

TRENDS

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Reach 22-Year High in First Quarter 2009; Benefit Payments Hit All-Time High

by: Sherry Wen, Senior Economist

All industries experienced large increases in the number of new Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims and benefit recipients. These increases indicate the recession is now impacting the state. Wyoming is not isolated from the modern, globalized economy, especially due to its ties to the world energy market. Fewer re-employment opportunities may exist in Wyoming's labor market in 2009 compared with previous years. Fortunately, Wyoming's UI trust fund is not facing solvency issues in the near future, as many states are.

The U.S. economy has been in recession for more than a year now. Large job reductions and mass layoffs have occurred month after month in many states. By mid-April 2009, the number of people remaining on unemployment insurance (UI) benefits exceeded 6 million, the highest on government records dating from 1967 (Associated Press, 2009). Several states' UI trust funds have run out of money, forcing the states to borrow millions or billions of dollars from the federal government to pay unemployed workers'

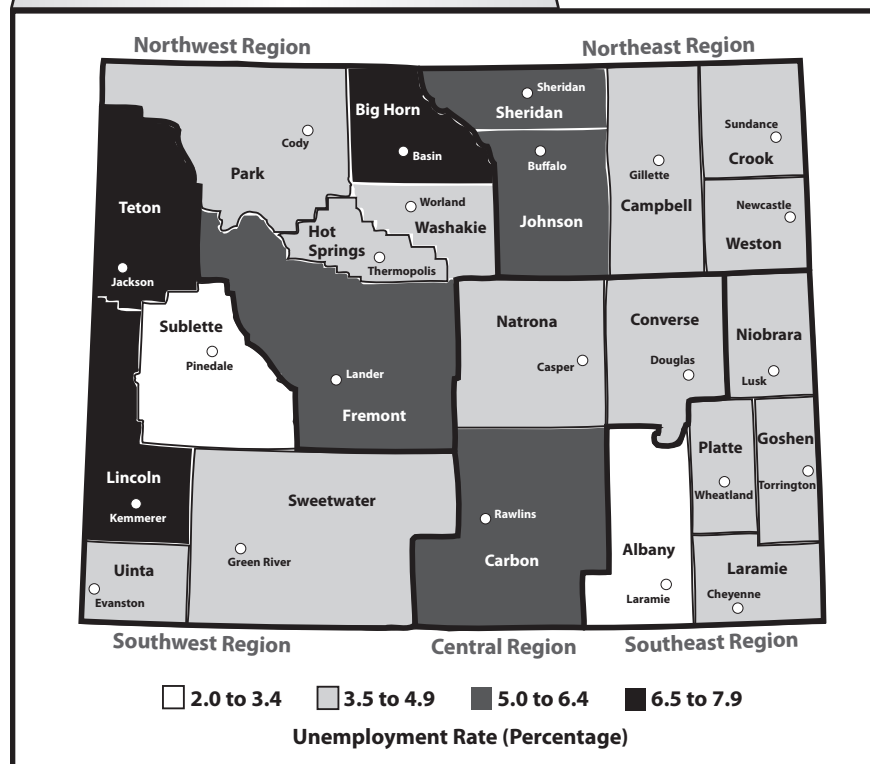
UI benefits. Meanwhile, the nation's unemployment rate reached 8.5% in March (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009). Until recently, Wyoming has not been affected as much as other states by this deep, long-lasting recession. However, Wyoming's good fortune could not last indefinitely, especially in a modern, globalized economy. Although Wyoming's unemployment rate of 4.5% in March 2009 still ranked as the second lowest in the nation, both its first quarter

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2007, Research & Planning distributed 27,395 print copies of its monthly Wyoming Labor Force Trends to customers, with 6,212 copies electronically downloaded from the website. . . . page 11
- Negatively impacted by low energy prices, Wyoming's natural resources & mining sector continued to shed jobs in April. From March to April employment in this sector decreased by 800 jobs, or 2.9%. Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged from March at 4.5% and remained much lower than the U.S. unemployment rate of 8.9%. . . . page 16

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, April 2009 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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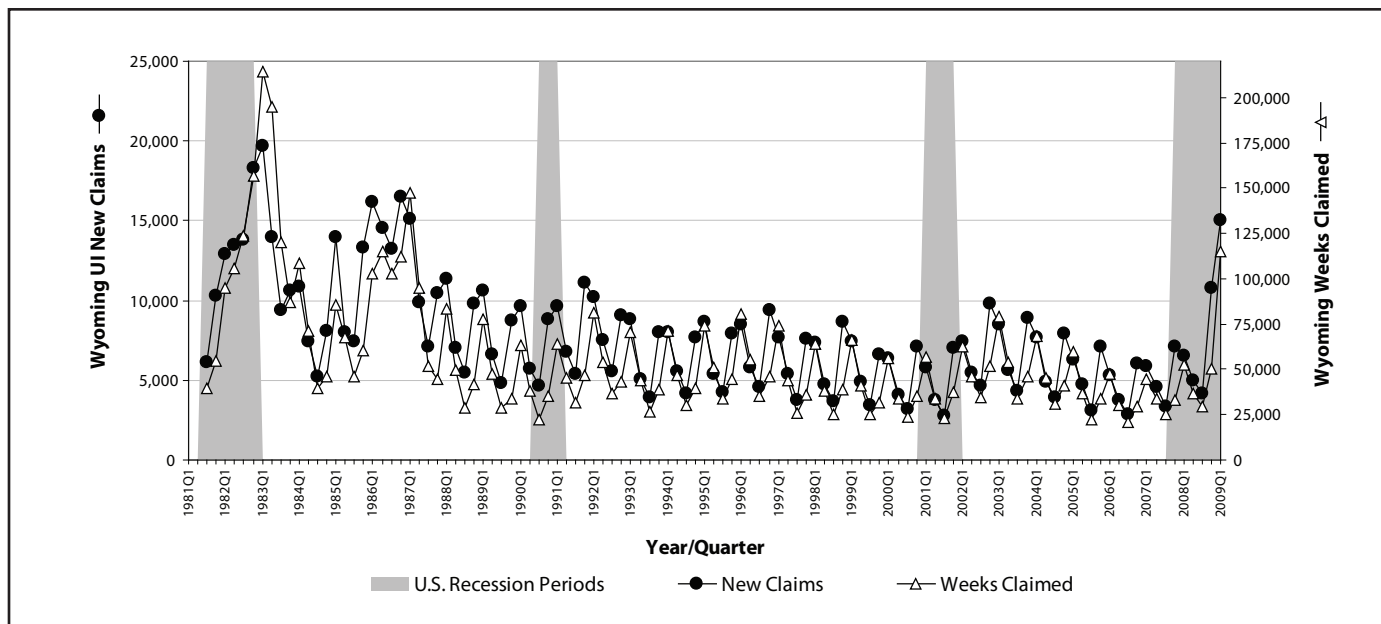


Figure 1: History of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims and U.S. Recession Periods, First Quarter 1981 to First Quarter 2009 (1981Q1 to 2009Q1)

(Text continued from page 1)

initial UI claims (14,803) and continued claims (103,502) reached 22 year-highs (see Figure 1). Meanwhile, the Wyoming Department of Employment paid more

than \$35.8 million in unemployment insurance benefits for this quarter, the largest quarterly payment since 1981Q3 (see Figure 2).

A total of 14,803 Wyoming workers who

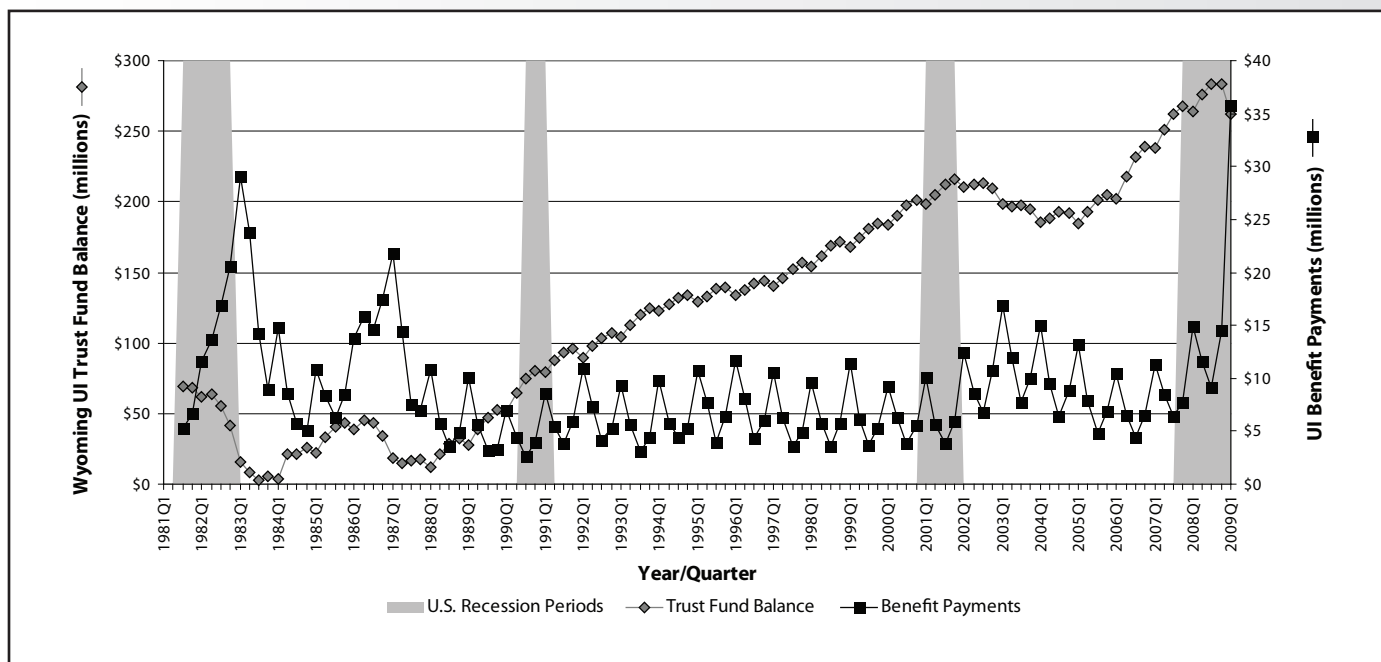


Figure 2: History of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance, Benefit Payments, and U.S. Recession Periods, First Quarter 1981 to First Quarter 2009 (1981Q1 to 2009Q1)

Table 1: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims by Industry, First Quarter 2008 and First Quarter 2009 (2008Q1 and 2009Q1)

Industry	Initial Claims				Over-the-Year Changes		Out-of-State Initial Claims (Percentage of Industry Total)	
	2008Q1	% of Total	2009Q1	% of Total	n	%	2008Q1	2009Q1
Agriculture	70	1.0%	78	0.5%	8	11.4%	14.3%	12.8%
Mining	606	8.6%	3,036	20.5%	2,430	401.0%	12.7%	16.6%
Utilities	10	0.1%	13	0.1%	3	30.0%	10.0%	7.7%
Construction	2,527	36.1%	4,096	27.7%	1,569	62.1%	8.8%	11.8%
Manufacturing	496	7.1%	787	5.3%	291	58.7%	2.6%	5.2%
Wholesale Trade	116	1.7%	331	2.2%	215	185.3%	5.2%	4.8%
Retail Trade	491	7.0%	926	6.3%	435	88.6%	5.9%	8.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	319	4.6%	752	5.1%	433	135.7%	7.5%	13.6%
Information	31	0.4%	82	0.6%	51	164.5%	9.7%	4.9%
Finance & Insurance	55	0.8%	98	0.7%	43	78.2%	0.0%	9.2%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	56	0.8%	191	1.3%	135	241.1%	5.4%	9.9%
Professional & Technical Services	122	1.7%	333	2.2%	211	173.0%	12.3%	15.9%
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	4	0.1%	6	0.0%	2	50.0%	50.0%	33.3%
Administrative & Waste Services	319	4.6%	509	3.4%	190	59.6%	8.8%	5.7%
Educational Services	63	0.9%	100	0.7%	37	58.7%	4.8%	12.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	252	3.6%	460	3.1%	208	82.5%	5.6%	4.1%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	49	0.7%	82	0.6%	33	67.3%	6.1%	7.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	572	8.2%	1,109	7.5%	537	93.9%	28.0%	22.6%
Other Services (Except Public Admin.)	123	1.8%	253	1.7%	130	105.7%	7.3%	4.0%
Public Administration	140	2.0%	189	1.3%	49	35.0%	5.0%	3.2%
Nonclassified ^a	586	8.4%	1,372	9.3%	786	134.1%	43.5%	56.6%
Total	7,007	100.0%	14,803	100.0%	7,796	111.3%	12.6%	16.4%

^aIndustry information not available.

became unemployed in first quarter 2009 (2009Q1) applied for UI benefits, more than double that of 2008Q1 (7,007 initial claims; see Table 1). This number also surpassed the last two national recession-related levels in 1991Q4 and 2002Q4 of 11,126 and 9,806 claims, respectively. The initial claims level in 2009Q1 is a 22-year high for quarterly claims. The total number of UI recipients

(15,570) in 2009Q1 was also more than double the previous year's level (7,594 in

2008Q1; see Table 2, page 5). Additionally, there were 1,024 unemployed workers who exhausted

their regular UI benefits and were collecting Emergency Unemployment Compensation (Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, 2009a), which was funded by the federal government.

**See Unemployment Insurance
Terms and Definitions on page 6**

In this article, the focus is on regular Wyoming liable UI claims and benefits. No reimbursable or extended UI programs are evaluated here because they are not directly related to the state UI trust fund.

Industry

All industries showed double-digit increases in initial claims from 2008Q1 to

2009Q1. Mining experienced the largest increase at 401.0%, from 606 initial claims in 2008Q1 to 3,036 in 2009Q1. The majority (78.2%) of this increase was from two mining subsectors: support activities for oil & gas operations (49.5% of the total increase, or 1,202 initial claims) and drilling oil & gas wells (28.7%, or 699). Seven other industries also doubled or tripled their initial claims, including real estate & rental & leasing (241.1% increase, from 56 to 191), wholesale trade (185.3%,

Table 2: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients, Exhaustees, and Exhaustion Rates by Industry, First Quarter 2008 and First Quarter 2009 (2008Q1 and 2009Q1)

Industry	UI Benefit Recipients				UI Exhaustees				Exhaustion Rate	
	2008Q1	2009Q1	n	%	2008Q1	2009Q1	n	%	2008Q1	2009Q1
Agriculture	70	101	31	44.3%	9	19	10	111.1%	12.9%	18.8%
Mining	501	2,473	1,972	393.6%	43	86	43	100.0%	8.6%	3.5%
Utilities	4	15	11	275.0%		2	2	N/A	0.0%	13.3%
Construction	2,798	4,781	1,983	70.9%	187	413	226	120.9%	6.7%	8.6%
Manufacturing	477	948	471	98.7%	28	54	26	92.9%	5.9%	5.7%
Wholesale Trade	102	300	198	194.1%	13	25	12	92.3%	12.7%	8.3%
Retail Trade	440	903	463	105.2%	70	139	69	98.6%	15.9%	15.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	270	598	328	121.5%	27	41	14	51.9%	10.0%	6.9%
Information	42	101	59	140.5%	7	12	5	71.4%	16.7%	11.9%
Finance & Insurance	51	118	67	131.4%	10	14	4	40.0%	19.6%	11.9%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	55	157	102	185.5%	6	17	11	183.3%	10.9%	10.8%
Professional & Technical Services	140	395	255	182.1%	20	39	19	95.0%	14.3%	9.9%
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	7	9	2	28.6%	2	1	-1	-50.0%	28.6%	11.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	444	719	275	61.9%	73	136	63	86.3%	16.4%	18.9%
Educational Services	74	115	41	55.4%	15	30	15	100.0%	20.3%	26.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	308	472	164	53.2%	67	56	-11	-16.4%	21.8%	11.9%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	63	116	53	84.1%	13	29	16	123.1%	20.6%	25.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	581	1,097	516	88.8%	125	213	88	70.4%	21.5%	19.4%
Other Services (Except Public Admin.)	122	264	142	116.4%	20	36	16	80.0%	16.4%	13.6%
Public Administration	203	268	65	32.0%	45	64	19	42.2%	22.2%	23.9%
Nonclassified ^a	842	1,620	778	92.4%	140	238	98	70.0%	16.6%	14.7%
Total	7,594	15,570	7,976	105.0%	920	1,664	744	80.9%	12.1%	10.7%

^aIndustry information not available. N/A – Not applicable.

from 116 to 331), and professional & technical services (173.0%, from 122 to 333). The two industries responsible for the most layoffs were construction (4,096, or 27.7% of the total) and mining (3,036, or 20.5%).

Nonresident workers filed 16.4% of the total initial claims in 2009Q1, compared to 12.6% in 2008Q1. More than half (56.6%) of the nonclassified industry initial claims were from nonresident workers. The proportion of nonresident initial claims varies widely by industry. For example, it was 22.6% in accommodation & food services, 16.6% in mining, and 15.9% in professional & technical services, but only 3.2% in public

administration and 4.1% in health care & social assistance.

The number of UI benefit recipients also experienced double- or triple-digit increases across all industries (see Table 2). Mining led all industries with a 393.6% increase, from 501 individuals collecting UI benefits in 2008Q1 to 2,473 in 2009Q1. In nearly half of all industries, the number of UI recipients was double the previous year's level.

Among recipients, 1,664 individuals exhausted their regular UI benefits in 2009Q1, an 80.9% increase from 2008Q1. The statewide UI exhaustion rate (the number of exhaustees divided by the number of

UI recipients) was relatively low at only 10.7% in 2009Q1, primarily because a large number of UI recipients have just started to collect benefits (the denominator grew faster than the nominator in the formula of exhaustion rate (Wen, September 2008). If the economy continues to worsen, the exhaustion rate is expected to grow later in the year.

The large rise in UI exhaustees (in addition to the above-mentioned workers who were already on the EUC program) indicate that reemployment opportunities in Wyoming's labor market were declining in 2009Q1 compared with the previous year. February's current employment statistics

Unemployment Insurance Term

Definition

Initial Claims (or New Claims)	Persons who just lost their jobs and applied for UI benefits (best indicator of new layoffs although some unemployed workers choose not to apply for UI benefits)
Continued Claims (or Weeks Claimed)	Number of weeks claimed for UI benefits. Each person may claim more than one week of benefits during a specific time period.
Benefit Recipients	Persons who are actually receiving UI benefits. Not everyone who applied for UI benefits is eligible for it since there are some monetary and nonmonetary requirements (Wen, 2004).
Regular UI Benefits	Benefits to which a UI claimant was entitled based on his or her prelayoff wages and was paid from state UI Trust Fund.
Wyoming Liable	Claimant's benefit is paid by Wyoming state UI Trust Fund due to his/her majority prelayoff wages made from work done in Wyoming.
Benefit Exhaustees	Person who has collected all of his or her entitled regular UI benefits.

data show that the state nonagricultural employment grew at its slowest pace (1.5%) since October 2004 (Bullard, April 2009). Many Wyoming employers may not be confident enough about the

future to hire additional workers or expand their businesses. According to USA Today, “Nearly three-quarters of CEOs in the Business Roundtable expect to cut workers in the next six months”

(Hagenbaugh, 2009). Another possibility could be that more people may have come from other states to compete with Wyoming workers for finite job opportunities.

County-Level UI Statistics

Table 3: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Initial Claims by Place of Residence, First Quarter 2008 and First Quarter 2009 (2008Q1 and 2009Q1)

County	Number of Initial Claims				Over-the-Year Change	
	2008Q1	% of Total	2009Q1	% of Total	n	%
Albany	232	3.3%	345	2.3%	113	48.7%
Big Horn	150	2.1%	399	2.7%	249	166.0%
Campbell	438	6.3%	1,135	7.7%	697	159.1%
Carbon	173	2.5%	354	2.4%	181	104.6%
Converse	110	1.6%	242	1.6%	132	120.0%
Crook	82	1.2%	139	0.9%	57	69.5%
Fremont	552	7.9%	986	6.7%	434	78.6%
Goshen	155	2.2%	167	1.1%	12	7.7%
Hot Springs	46	0.7%	102	0.7%	56	121.7%
Johnson	92	1.3%	222	1.5%	130	141.3%
Laramie	1,112	15.9%	1,723	11.6%	611	54.9%
Lincoln	204	2.9%	426	2.9%	222	108.8%
Natrona	894	12.8%	1,965	13.3%	1,071	119.8%
Niobrara	19	0.3%	26	0.2%	7	36.8%
Park	342	4.9%	594	4.0%	252	73.7%
Platte	90	1.3%	106	0.7%	16	17.8%
Sheridan	407	5.8%	773	5.2%	366	89.9%
Sublette	47	0.7%	204	1.4%	157	334.0%
Sweetwater	374	5.3%	1,046	7.1%	672	179.7%
Teton	182	2.6%	619	4.2%	437	240.1%
Uinta	195	2.8%	509	3.4%	314	161.0%
Washakie	161	2.3%	182	1.2%	21	13.0%
Weston	49	0.7%	93	0.6%	44	89.8%
Out-of-State	885	12.6%	2,435	16.4%	1,550	175.1%
Unclassified ^a	16	0.2%	11	0.1%	-5	-31.3%
Total	7,007	100.0%	14,803	100.0%	7,796	111.3%

^aCounty information not available.

Some UI claimants live in one county but work for an employer in another county. The following is based on the claimant's county of residence rather than the employer's county because one person could have worked for several different employers in different counties in a specific time period. This also helps to identify the labor supply each county has.

The largest number of people who lost jobs in 2009Q1 were from Wyoming's most populous counties: Natrona County (1,965 or 13.3% of total) and Laramie County (1,723 or 11.6%; see Table 3). Employment is also highest in these counties (Bullard, 2009). Other counties with high initial claims were Campbell (1,135 or 7.7%) and Sweetwater (1,046 or 7.1%). However, the most new claims occurred among out-of-state workers

(2,435 or 16.4% of total). More than half of all counties experienced triple-digit gains. The remainder experienced double-digit increases, with the exception of Goshen County. Initial claims rose by 1,550 for out-of-state workers and by 1,071 for Natrona County from 2008Q1 to 2009Q1, the highest numeric increases across all areas.

The lowest percentage increase in UI recipients was in Washakie County (9.8%; see Table 4). Consistent with initial claims, Sublette and Teton counties showed the highest over-the-year percentage increases in UI recipients (271.7% and 270.5%, respectively), followed by Sweetwater (177.4%) and Campbell (172.0%). The highest percentages of UI recipients

Table 4: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Recipients, Exhaustees, and Exhaustion Rates by County, First Quarter 2008 and First Quarter 2009 (2008Q1 and 2009Q1)

County	Benefit Recipients					Benefit Exhaustees			Exhaustion Rate		
	2008Q1	2009Q1	% of Total	Change n	%	2008Q1	2009Q1	%	2008Q1	2009Q1	%
Albany	260	427	2.7%	167	64.2%	30	57	90.0%	11.5%	13.3%	15.7%
Big Horn	162	401	2.6%	239	147.5%	25	28	12.0%	15.4%	7.0%	-54.8%
Campbell	368	1,001	6.4%	633	172.0%	26	34	30.8%	7.1%	3.4%	-51.9%
Carbon	161	420	2.7%	259	160.9%	19	54	184.2%	11.8%	12.9%	8.9%
Converse	117	254	1.6%	137	117.1%	13	28	115.4%	11.1%	11.0%	-0.8%
Crook	87	141	0.9%	54	62.1%	10	13	30.0%	11.5%	9.2%	-19.8%
Fremont	657	1,090	7.0%	433	65.9%	88	121	37.5%	13.4%	11.1%	-17.1%
Goshen	163	195	1.3%	32	19.6%	18	22	22.2%	11.0%	11.3%	2.2%
Hot Springs	53	102	0.7%	49	92.5%	7	11	57.1%	13.2%	10.8%	-18.3%
Johnson	94	183	1.2%	89	94.7%	16	8	-50.0%	17.0%	4.4%	-74.3%
Laramie	1,316	2,055	13.2%	739	56.2%	151	270	78.8%	11.5%	13.1%	14.5%
Lincoln	206	516	3.3%	310	150.5%	20	54	170.0%	9.7%	10.5%	7.8%
Natrona	886	1,763	11.3%	877	99.0%	60	122	103.3%	6.8%	6.9%	2.2%
Niobrara	24	29	0.2%	5	20.8%	2	6	200.0%	8.3%	20.7%	148.3%
Park	402	667	4.3%	265	65.9%	48	78	62.5%	11.9%	11.7%	-2.1%
Platte	126	162	1.0%	36	28.6%	19	20	5.3%	15.1%	12.3%	-18.1%
Sheridan	406	847	5.4%	441	108.6%	46	70	52.2%	11.3%	8.3%	-27.1%
Sublette	53	197	1.3%	144	271.7%	4	12	200.0%	7.5%	6.1%	-19.3%
Sweetwater	328	910	5.8%	582	177.4%	29	62	113.8%	8.8%	6.8%	-22.9%
Teton	183	678	4.4%	495	270.5%	19	69	263.2%	10.4%	10.2%	-2.0%
Uinta	191	523	3.4%	332	173.8%	16	38	137.5%	8.4%	7.3%	-13.3%
Washakie	173	190	1.2%	17	9.8%	10	13	30.0%	5.8%	6.8%	18.4%
Weston	54	131	0.8%	77	142.6%	8	14	75.0%	14.8%	10.7%	-27.9%
Out-of-State	1,113	2,679	17.2%	1,566	140.7%	236	457	93.6%	21.2%	17.1%	-19.5%
Unclassified ^a	11	9	0.1%	-2	-18.2%	0	3	N/A	0.0%	33.3%	N/A
Total	7,594	15,570	100.0%	7,976	105.0%	920	1,664	80.9%	12.1%	10.7%	-11.8%

^aCounty information not available.

N/A – Not Available.

were from out of state and Laramie and Natrona counties (17.2%, 13.2%, and 11.3% respectively).

The number of UI benefit exhaustees rose in all counties except Johnson. However, the exhaustion rate fell in most counties, for the same reason mentioned above: a large proportion of UI recipients were new layoffs and just beginning to collect UI benefits.

UI Benefit Expenses and Trust Fund

The Wyoming Department of Employment (DOE) paid a total of \$35.8 million in regular UI benefits to unemployed workers in 2009Q1, the highest on quarterly payment records since 1981Q3. This amount was a 140.3% increase from the 2008Q1 level of \$14.9 million. There were three reasons for the increase in UI benefit expenses. One was the steep rise in UI claims. The number of continued claims (or weeks claimed) for benefits in 2009Q1 was 103,502, nearly double the previous year's level of 52,616 weeks in 2008Q1, a 96.7% increase. This level was last seen in 1987Q1.

The second reason was the increase in average weekly benefit amount (AWBA), which mainly resulted from wage increases over the years. How much of a weekly UI benefit an individual can receive is based on his or her pre-layoff wages (Wen, 2004). In 1987, the AWBA was \$164.18 (U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, 1996). By 2008 it was \$307.52 (U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, 2009b), nearly double the 1987 AWBA. In order to cover the same amount of UI claims as in the 1980s, the Department of Employment must have twice the level of funds.

The third reason was that the proportion of high-wage UI claimants increased dramatically in 2009Q1. With more claims from high-wage industries such as mining, more UI claimants were eligible for higher weekly benefits.

Unlike the situation faced in the 1980s, Wyoming's UI Trust Fund in 2009 is solvent (see Figure 2). By the end of 2009Q1, Wyoming had \$257 million in the UI Trust Fund available to pay UI benefits. If current levels are maintained, and based on 2009Q1's UI cost, Wyoming should have a solvent UI Trust Fund for at least another two years.

Wyoming's UI Trust Fund condition is much better than that of many other states. As of April 22, 2009, 14 states had run out of money in their trust funds and borrowed millions or billions of dollars from the Federal Unemployment Account to pay their unemployed workers (U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, 2009c). An increasing number of states are likely to face fund shortages as the recession continues. Two of Wyoming's neighbors, South Dakota and Idaho, have indicated that their state UI trust funds are likely to become insolvent late this year (Bob Mercer, 2009; Spence, 2009). If states that borrowed money from the federal government cannot repay the loans promptly, employers in those states will have to pay higher federal and state UI taxes to restore the funds' solvency. This could compound problems for businesses that are already experiencing financial trouble as a result of the recession.

Conclusion

Wyoming's UI claims and benefits payments reached 22-year highs in 2009Q1. All industries experienced substantial increases in the number of new

layoffs and UI benefit recipients. Nearly all counties in the state were impacted. The significant increases in UI claimants suggest that fewer re-employment opportunities existed in Wyoming's labor market in early 2009 than in previous years. Fortunately, Wyoming is not facing insolvency in its UI trust fund in the near future, unlike many other states.

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Research & Planning Data Reach Wide Audience: Customer Contacts, Media Coverage, and Internet Downloads for 2007

by: Jodi Davey, Administrative Specialist

To better understand and anticipate customer needs, Research & Planning (R&P) in 2004 began tracking customer contacts from the public. A contact is defined as any phone call, letter, or e-mail to R&P, as well as any visit to R&P's Labor Market Information (LMI) websites – excluding regularly scheduled and periodic contacts with customers, such as the Wyoming Department of Administration and Information's Economic Analysis Division, the Wyoming Healthcare Commission, community college staff, the Wyoming Board of Nursing, and others.

The number of direct phone calls and e-mails were low, but visits and downloads from the LMI website typically show a high level of interest. Direct customer contacts are self-reported by R&P staff. Approximately 200 phone calls or e-mails from the public were received concerning LMI in 2007. R&P has made more publications available on the Internet rather than in print, which results in a reduction of printing and mailing costs. R&P in 2007 distributed 27,395 print copies of its monthly *Wyoming Labor Force*

Trends to customers, with 6,212 copies electronically downloaded from the website.

R&P continually looks for ways to reach more customers. The Quarterly Connection is a newsletter sent to all employers registered with the Wyoming Department of Employment's Unemployment Insurance Tax Division and Workers' Compensation Division. R&P began contributing content for each newsletter as a way to familiarize more customers with R&P data and research. In 2007, 108,000 hard copies of the Quarterly Connection were sent out, while 1,095 electronic copies were downloaded.

During the year, 1,594 news releases regarding the state's unemployment rates and other employment data were sent out, primarily to the media, but also to other subscribers on a monthly basis. These news releases prompted 291 interviews by the media, ranging from newspapers to on-air television interviews with R&P staff.

Each article in a Wyoming newspaper had the potential to reach more than

30,000 readers depending on that newspaper's circulation.¹ R&P data were also published in national media such as USA Today and the Wall Street Journal. In addition, interviews or R&P data were often published on media websites, allowing online readers access to this data.

Visitors to the LMI Website

An older version of WebTrends software had been used to track LMI website activity from 2004 through third quarter 2008. New software, WebTrends Marketing Lab, was installed during fourth quarter 2008. With the new software weeding out irrelevant bots and spiders (computer programs that automatically browse the World Wide Web, usually searching for links) from the data, R&P will be getting a more accurate picture of its customers' interests.

A total of 171,032 visits were made to the LMI website during 2007. A visit is a series of actions that begins when a visitor views his or her first page from the server and ends when the visitor leaves the site or remains idle beyond the idle-time limit.

When determining the number and type of visitors, only visitors identified by *cookies* are counted. A cookie is a string of text that is stored by a browser on a user's computer to track visits to a website. New visitors are users whose visits begin without any cookie information but acquire a cookie

¹ Circulation numbers presented are estimates, and do not include single-copy purchasers or "pass-along" readers (those who read a copy of a newspaper that was purchased by another person).

or multiple cookies during the visit. Returning visitors are users who already have a cookie from a previous visit to R&P's website. Many users' browsers are set to refuse to accept cookies; there is no way to determine if these new visitors are new or returning.

New Versus Returning Visitors	Visits
Visitors Not Accepting Cookies	164,737
Returning Visitors	4,723
New Visitors	1,562
Total	171,022

Most Downloaded Files

The downloading of a file from a website is a clear indication of the user's interest in that specific data. Data from the LMI website were downloaded a total of 58,514 times in 2007.

A review of the most downloaded files shows R&P's customers were interested in using R&P data regarding Occupational Employment Statistics and Wyoming wages and benefits. A total of 10,600 such files were downloaded from the LMI website during 2007.

An almost equal level of interest was shown by customers in files related to commuting and occupational information, as shown by the downloading of more than 10,000 files in each area.

Health care (<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/health.htm>) and projections (<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/projections.htm>) continued to be issues of high interest with approximately 4,000 files downloaded relating to each area.



The Employment Situation in Surrounding States

excerpts of Labor Market Information news releases

compiled by: Phil Ellsworth, Editor

Colorado

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Colorado edged down one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.4 percent in April, according to Donald J. Mares, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. "While this marks the first time since October 2007 that the unemployment rate has fallen, continued job losses will likely push Colorado's unemployment rate still higher in the upcoming months," cautioned Mares. One year ago the rate of joblessness stood at 4.7 percent.

Because results from the monthly household survey can be volatile, several months of labor force data are needed to confirm or establish trends in the estimates. After adjusting for normal seasonal labor force movements, the estimated number of employed Coloradans rose 13,200 during the month to 2,534,800. Despite this month's increase, total employment has fallen 62,900 over the past 12 months. Unemployment declined by 2,200 during the month to 201,300. The number of Colorado residents unsuccessfully seeking work has risen 74,000 since last April. (Source: <http://www.coworkforce.com/lmi/ali/APR09PR.HTM>)

Montana

Montana's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate decreased slightly to 6.0% for April 2009 from 6.1% in March. The national rate rose over the month, increasing from 8.5% to 8.9%.

Montana's seasonally-adjusted, nonagricultural payroll employment grew by 1,500 jobs (+0.3%) from March to April 2009. The total government sector showed the largest gains, with 1,000 jobs (+1.1%) added over the month. Professional and Business Services also experienced a significant increase with 600 new jobs (+1.6%). (Source: http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/admin/uploadedPublications/3512_eag_apr09.pdf)

Utah

Utah's nonfarm wage and salaried job count for April 2009, as generated by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), contracted by 3.2 percent. Approximately 39,800 jobs have been removed from the Utah economy over the past year, lowering total wage and salary employment to 1,219,100. March's employment contraction has been revised downward, from -2.6 percent initially reported, to -2.7 percent.

Utah's other primary indicator of current labor market conditions, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, held steady at 5.2 percent in April. Last April, the state's rate was 3.3 percent, a 1.9 percentage-point increase over the past 12 months. Approximately 71,100 Utahns were considered unemployed in April 2009, compared against 45,700 last April, an increase of 25,400 unemployed workers. The United States unemployment rate continued to rise, reaching 8.9 percent for April.

Mark Knold, chief economist for

the Department of Workforce Services, commented, “At this point, it is just a matter of sitting back and letting time progress. The economy is performing as anticipated by this time of year—that is, more job losses with more to come. We anticipate that the job losses will show a marked slowdown by the late fall of this year, therefore it’s just a matter of riding out the summer. We do believe that the worst of the economic problems are behind us, but there is no imminent economic recovery in front of us either. The credit markets are just not ready to finance that yet, and Utah’s housing market still has more adjustments to work through. 2010 offers the first opportunity for economic revival, so it’s just a matter of marking time.” (Source: <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/press/2001press/ratemay09.pdf>)

Idaho

Coming off of the lowest February-to-March growth since World War II, Idaho had a welcome seasonal increase in April. Employers added 3,000 jobs to their payrolls, bringing total nonfarm jobs in the state to 614,800. But the increase of 0.49 percent was just half the average 0.98 percent Idaho has been used to for the past several few years. Year-over-year the state is down more than 30,000 jobs, or 4.75 percent.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, construction added 1,400 jobs. The 3.84 percent increase was just one full percentage point below the five-year average of 4.93 percent, something that has not occurred since construction experienced seven consecutive months of jobs lost before April. Even with the

seasonal increase, there were 6,800 fewer jobs in construction than last year, and the 38,000 jobs remaining in that sector left construction at a level last seen in 2004.

Construction’s good news was tempered with the performance of manufacturing, impacted by persisting layoffs in the high technology sector. The 300 jobs lost in April represented another half-percentage point decline from March, leaving manufacturing 7,000 jobs short of a year ago. Since August 2007, when high-tech employment began to slide, the state has lost 10,500 manufacturing jobs to drop below 57,000. Manufacturing in Idaho is now at the level reported in April 1992. (Source: <http://labor.idaho.gov/lmi/pubs/ideempnews/iecur.pdf>)

Nebraska

Nebraska’s estimated seasonally adjusted state unemployment rate decreased to 4.4% in April 2009, according to data released today by the Nebraska Workforce Development – Department of Labor. The rate reflects an increase of 1.1% over last year’s April 2008 rate.

The national rate for April 2009 increased to 8.9%. This is 3.9% higher than last year’s April 2008 rate of 5.0%.

Labor Commissioner Catherine D. Lang said, “Over the year, Educational and Health Services (+1,764 jobs, +1.3%) was the only major private industry to show growth. All other industries declined over the year with Manufacturing (-7,971 jobs, -7.8%) and Professional & Business Services (-7,015, -6.6%) having the largest decreases.” (Source: <http://www.dol.state.ne.us/nwd/pdf/apr09pr.pdf>)

South Dakota

South Dakota's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8% in April 2009, compared to the revised March 2009 rate of 4.9%. This slight drop is related to a decrease in the number of unemployed. (See related

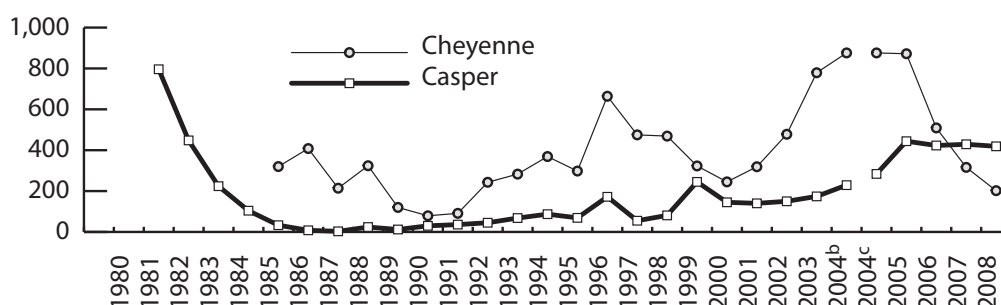
data.) Meanwhile, the national unemployment rate continued to rise, increasing over the month from 8.5% in March to 8.9% in April.

The state's April 2009 unemployment rate of 4.8% has increased nearly two full percentage points compared to the April 2008 rate of 2.9%.

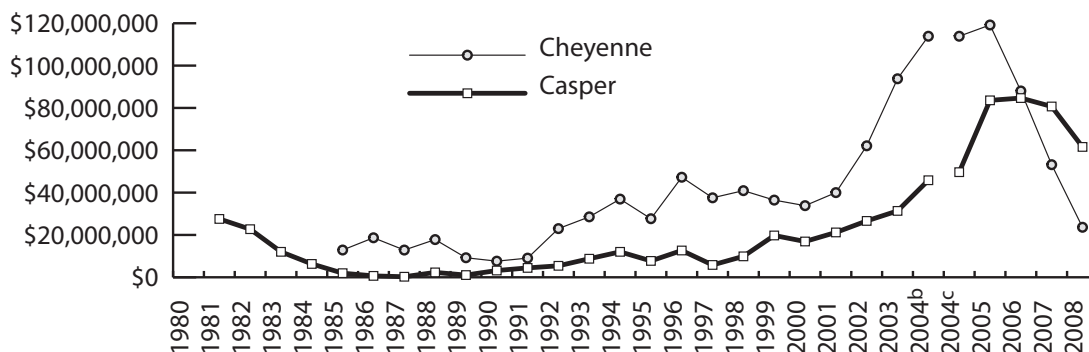
The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labor force. People are classified as unemployed if they do not have jobs, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks and are currently available for work. (Source: <http://dol.sd.gov/lmic/overview.aspx>)

Building Permits in Casper and Cheyenne, 1981-2008

Building Permits Issued for Casper and Cheyenne Metropolitan Statistical Areas,^a 1981-2008



Valuation of Building Permits Issued for Casper and Cheyenne Metropolitan Statistical Areas,^a 1981-2008



^aMetropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas (metro and micro areas) are geographic entities defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for use by federal statistical agencies in collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal statistics.

^bThe standards for defining metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas are reviewed and revised once every 10 years, prior to each decennial census. 1994-2004(b) data are based on the 19,000-Place Series.

^cData for 2004(c)-2007 based on the 20,000-Place Series.

Source: <http://www.census.gov/construction/www/C40/table3.html#annual>

R&P Website Shows Wages by Occupation at County and State Level

The Wyoming Wage Survey website (http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/OES_toc.htm) is the place to look for the most current Wyoming wage data by occupation at the Metropolitan Statistical Area, county, or state level. Whether you're an employer, human resources professional, or job seeker, you'll see why the Wage Survey continues to be one of Research & Planning's most frequently visited websites.



Natural Resources & Mining Job Losses Continue in April

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Negatively impacted by low energy prices, Wyoming's natural resources & mining sector continued to shed jobs in April. From March to April employment in this sector decreased by 800 jobs, or 2.9%. Despite job losses in many sectors, Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged from March at 4.5% and remained much lower than the U.S. unemployment rate of 8.9%.

From March to April, Wyoming employment decreased by 900 jobs (-0.3%). The normal seasonal pattern is for employment to increase by approximately 2,000 jobs. Job losses in natural resources & mining (-800 jobs, or -2.9%), retail trade (-200 jobs, or -0.6%), leisure & hospitality (-700 jobs, or -2.2%), and government (-200 jobs, or -0.3%) were partially offset by gains in construction (500 jobs, or 2.1%), professional & business services (400 jobs, or 2.3%), and other services (200 jobs, or 1.7%).

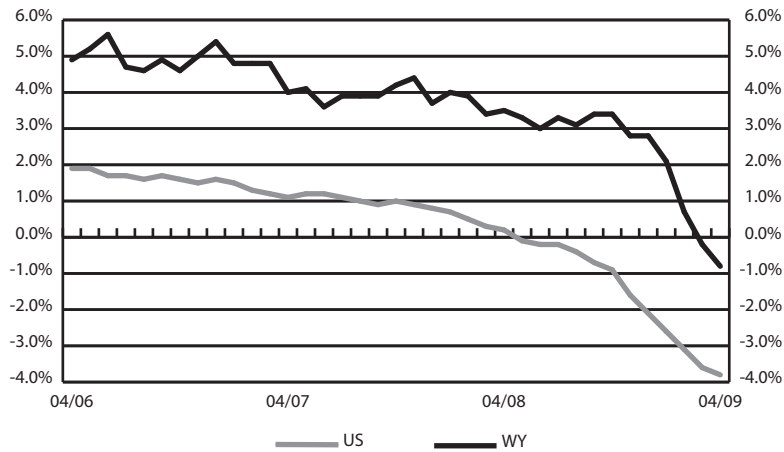
Over the year, Wyoming employment decreased by 2,200 jobs, or 0.8%. April

marked the largest over-the-year job loss since 1987. Construction employment fell by 2,500 jobs (-9.3%), natural resources & mining fell by 900 jobs (-3.2%), professional & business services fell by 700 jobs (-3.8%), retail trade fell by 400 jobs (-1.3%), leisure & hospitality fell by 400 jobs (-1.3%), and manufacturing fell by 200 jobs (-2.0%). Job gains were seen in government (including public schools, colleges, & hospitals; 2,000 jobs, or 2.9%), educational & health services (700 jobs, or 2.9%), wholesale trade (100 jobs, or 1.1%), and transportation & utilities (100 jobs, or 0.7%).

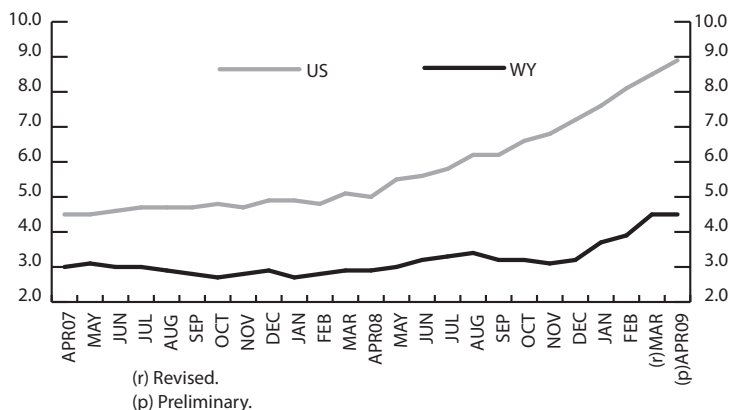
Most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and decreased from March to April. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Albany (2.6%), Sublette (3.2%), and Niobrara (3.5%) counties. Big Horn County posted the highest unemployment rate (7.9%), followed by Teton (7.8%), Lincoln (6.6%), and Johnson (6.3%) counties.



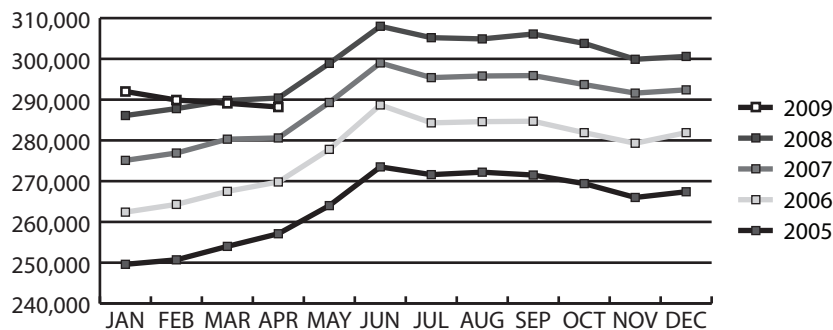
Nonagricultural Employment Growth (Percentage Change Over Previous Year)



Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (Percentage)



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



State Unemployment Rates April 2009 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	15.4
Michigan	12.9
Oregon	12.0
South Carolina	11.5
Rhode Island	11.1
California	11.0
North Carolina	10.8
Nevada	10.6
Ohio	10.2
District of Columbia	9.9
Indiana	9.9
Tennessee	9.9
Kentucky	9.8
Florida	9.6
Illinois	9.4
Georgia	9.3
Mississippi	9.1
Washington	9.1
Alabama	9.0
United States	8.9
Wisconsin	8.6
New Jersey	8.4
Minnesota	8.1
Missouri	8.1
Alaska	8.0
Massachusetts	8.0
Connecticut	7.9
Maine	7.9
Pennsylvania	7.8
Arizona	7.7
New York	7.7
Delaware	7.5
West Virginia	7.5
Colorado	7.4
Vermont	7.1
Idaho	7.0
Hawaii	6.9
Maryland	6.8
Virginia	6.8
Texas	6.7
Arkansas	6.5
Kansas	6.4
New Hampshire	6.3
Louisiana	6.2
Oklahoma	6.2
Montana	6.0
New Mexico	5.8
Utah	5.2
Iowa	5.1
South Dakota	4.8
Wyoming	4.5
North Dakota	4.4
Nebraska	4.0

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

From March to April, Wyoming employment decreased by 900 jobs (-0.3%). The normal seasonal pattern is for employment to increase by approximately 2,000 jobs.

	Employment in Thousands		Percentage Change Total Employment				Employment in Thousands		Percentage Change Total Employment		
	Apr09(p)	Mar09(r)	Apr08	Mar09	Apr09		Apr09(p)	Mar09(r)	Apr08	Mar09	Apr09
WYOMING STATEWIDE						LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	288.2	289.1	290.4	-0.3	-0.8	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	44.6	44.5	44.9	0.2	-0.7
TOTAL PRIVATE	216.7	217.4	220.9	-0.3	-1.9	TOTAL PRIVATE	30.6	30.4	31.4	0.7	-2.5
GOODS PRODUCING	61.0	61.3	64.6	-0.5	-5.6	GOODS PRODUCING	4.6	4.5	5.1	2.2	-9.8
Natural Resources & Mining	27.1	27.9	28.0	-2.9	-3.2	Natural Res., Mining, & Construction	3.0	2.9	3.4	3.4	-11.8
Mining	27.0	27.8	27.9	-2.9	-3.2	Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.4	4.5	4.5	-2.2	-2.2						
Mining Except Oil & Gas	9.9	9.8	9.5	1.0	4.2	SERVICE PROVIDING	40.0	40.0	39.8	0.0	0.5
Coal Mining	7.1	7.0	6.7	1.4	6.0	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	9.4	9.4	9.7	0.0	-3.1
Support Activities for Mining	12.7	13.5	13.9	-5.9	-8.6	Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	10.6	11.0	10.4	-3.6	1.9	Retail Trade	5.4	5.4	5.5	0.0	-1.8
Construction	24.3	23.8	26.8	2.1	-9.3	Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	3.1	3.1	3.3	0.0	-6.1
Construction of Buildings	3.9	4.0	4.8	-2.5	-18.8	Information	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	8.4	8.0	8.7	5.0	-3.4	Financial Activities	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Specialty Trade Contractors	12.0	11.8	13.3	1.7	-9.8	Professional & Business Services	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.2	-8.6
Manufacturing	9.6	9.6	9.8	0.0	-2.0	Educational & Health Services	4.1	4.1	3.9	0.0	5.1
Durable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.2	0.0	-1.9	Leisure & Hospitality	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4.5	4.5	4.6	0.0	-2.2	Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	227.2	227.8	225.8	-0.3	0.6	TOTAL GOVERNMENT	14.0	14.1	13.5	-0.7	3.7
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	54.5	54.8	54.7	-0.5	-0.4	Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.0	4.0
Wholesale Trade	9.1	9.1	9.0	0.0	1.1	State Government	4.1	4.2	4.0	-2.4	2.5
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable	6.0	6.0	5.8	0.0	3.4	Local Government	7.3	7.3	7.0	0.0	4.3
Retail Trade	30.8	31.0	31.2	-0.6	-1.3	Local Education	3.8	3.7	3.7	2.7	2.7
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.4	4.5	4.6	-2.2	-4.3						
Food & Beverage Stores	4.5	4.6	4.5	-2.2	0.0	NATRONA COUNTY					
Grocery Stores	3.8	3.9	3.9	-2.6	-2.6	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	40.1	40.0	40.1	0.3	0.0
Gasoline Stations	3.9	4.0	4.0	-2.5	-2.5	TOTAL PRIVATE	33.7	33.6	34.2	0.3	-1.5
General Merchandise Stores	6.4	6.8	6.2	-5.9	3.2	GOODS PRODUCING	8.0	7.9	8.4	1.3	-4.8
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6	Natural Resources & Mining	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.0	-5.7
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	14.6	14.7	14.5	-0.7	0.7	Construction	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.6	-3.3
Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	Manufacturing	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	-5.3
Transportation & Warehousing	12.1	12.2	12.0	-0.8	0.8						
Truck Transportation	4.4	4.5	4.3	-2.2	2.3	SERVICE PROVIDING	32.1	32.1	31.7	0.0	1.3
Information	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.9	8.9	9.0	0.0	-1.1
Financial Activities	11.5	11.5	11.5	0.0	0.0	Wholesale Trade	2.7	2.7	2.8	0.0	-3.6
Finance & Insurance	7.2	7.2	7.2	0.0	0.0	Retail Trade	5.1	5.1	5.1	0.0	0.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0	Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	17.6	17.2	18.3	2.3	-3.8	Information	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.0	-16.7
Prof., Scientific, & Tech. Services	9.6	9.6	9.9	0.0	-3.0	Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Architect., Engineering, & Rel.	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	Professional & Business Services	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.7	-6.7
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-12.5	Educational & Health Services	5.4	5.5	5.2	-1.8	3.8
Admin., Support, & Waste Services	7.3	6.9	7.6	5.8	-3.9	Leisure & Hospitality	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	24.9	24.9	24.2	0.0	2.9	Other Services	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8
Educational Services	2.3	2.3	2.4	0.0	-4.2						
Health Care & Social Assistance	22.6	22.6	21.8	0.0	3.7	TOTAL GOVERNMENT	6.4	6.4	5.9	0.0	8.5
Ambulatory Health Care	8.4	8.4	8.1	0.0	3.7	Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Offices of Physicians	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	3.2	State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Hospitals	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	3.1	Local Government	5.1	5.1	4.6	0.0	10.9
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.5	4.5	4.4	0.0	2.3	Local Education	3.3	3.3	3.1	0.0	6.5
Social Assistance	6.4	6.4	6.1	0.0	4.9						
Leisure & Hospitality	31.2	31.9	31.6	-2.2	-1.3						
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2.3	2.3	2.5	0.0	-8.0						
Accommodation & Food Services	28.9	29.6	29.1	-2.4	-0.7						
Accommodation	10.3	10.8	10.5	-4.6	-1.9						
Food Services & Drinking Places	18.6	18.8	18.6	-1.1	0.0						
Other Services	12.0	11.8	12.0	1.7	0.0						
Repair & Maintenance	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0						
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	71.5	71.7	69.5	-0.3	2.9						
Federal Government	6.9	6.9	6.9	0.0	0.0						
State Government	16.8	16.8	15.8	0.0	6.3						
State Government Education	7.5	7.4	6.6	1.4	13.6						
Local Government	47.8	48.0	46.8	-0.4	2.1						
Local Government Education	25.1	25.4	24.6	-1.2	2.0						
Hospitals	6.6	6.6	6.2	0.0	6.5						

Note: Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week that includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Wyoming and Laramie County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

	Employment in Thousands		Percentage Change Total Employment		
	Apr09	Mar09	Apr08	Mar09 Apr09	Apr08 Apr09
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.4	30.3	28.8	0.3	5.6
TOTAL PRIVATE	26.1	26.0	24.6	0.4	6.1
GOODS PRODUCING	13.3	13.2	12.3	0.8	8.1
Natural Resources & Mining	8.4	8.4	7.9	0.0	6.3
Construction	4.3	4.2	3.8	2.4	13.2
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	17.1	17.1	16.5	0.0	3.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.7	5.7	5.5	0.0	3.6
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
Professional & Business Services	2.1	2.0	2.0	5.0	5.0
Educational & Health Services	0.9	1.0	0.9	-10.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Other Services	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	26.4	26.2	25.6	0.8	3.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	21.8	21.6	21.2	0.9	2.8
GOODS PRODUCING	9.5	9.4	9.4	1.1	1.1
Natural Resources & Mining	6.2	6.3	5.8	-1.6	6.9
Construction	2.0	1.8	2.3	11.1	-13.0
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.9	16.8	16.2	0.6	4.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.4	5.4	5.3	0.0	1.9
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Professional & Business Services	1.2	1.1	1.2	9.1	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Leisure & Hospitality	2.7	2.7	2.5	0.0	8.0
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.6	4.6	4.4	0.0	4.5
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	16.3	17.0	16.6	-4.1	-1.8
TOTAL PRIVATE	14.2	14.8	14.5	-4.1	-2.1
GOODS PRODUCING	2.4	2.3	2.4	4.3	0.0
Natural Res., Mining, & Construction	2.3	2.2	2.3	4.5	0.0
Manufacturing	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.9	14.7	14.2	-5.4	-2.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.2	2.3	2.4	-4.3	-8.3
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	-10.0
Professional & Business Services	1.7	1.5	1.6	13.3	6.2
Educational & Health Services	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	5.4	6.2	5.5	-12.9	-1.8
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.1	2.2	2.1	-4.5	0.0

State Unemployment Rates April 2009 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	14.7
Michigan	12.7
Oregon	12.1
Rhode Island	11.3
South Carolina	11.1
California	10.9
Nevada	10.5
North Carolina	10.5
Ohio	10.2
Indiana	9.9
Kentucky	9.7
Tennessee	9.7
District of Columbia	9.3
Florida	9.3
Illinois	9.3
Georgia	9.1
Washington	9.0
Wisconsin	8.8
Mississippi	8.6
United States	8.6
Alabama	8.4
Alaska	8.4
Maine	8.3
Minnesota	8.2
New Jersey	8.2
Connecticut	7.8
Massachusetts	7.8
West Virginia	7.8
Missouri	7.7
Vermont	7.7
Pennsylvania	7.6
Delaware	7.5
New York	7.5
Arizona	7.4
Colorado	7.3
Idaho	7.3
Hawaii	6.8
Maryland	6.6
Virginia	6.6
Arkansas	6.4
New Hampshire	6.4
Texas	6.4
Kansas	6.1
Montana	6.1
Oklahoma	5.9
Louisiana	5.7
New Mexico	5.7
Iowa	5.1
Utah	5.1
South Dakota	4.8
Wyoming	4.7
Nebraska	4.4
North Dakota	4.2

Economic Indicators

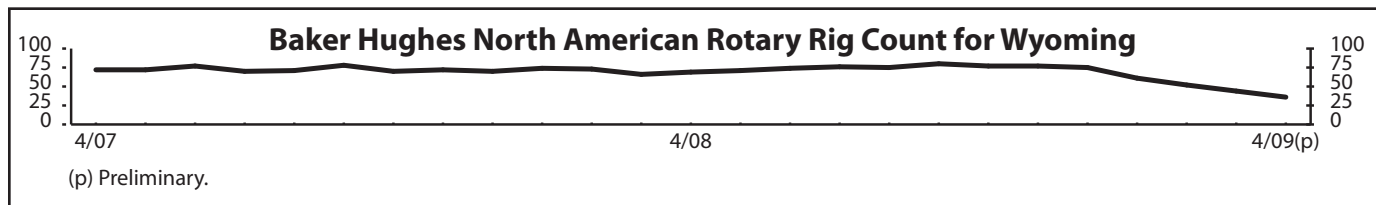
by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

The Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming declined from 44 in March 2009 to 36 in April, slightly less than half the count for April 2008 and the lowest since January 2003.

	April 2009 (p)	Mar 2009 (r)	April 2008 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force ^a	288,538	288,962	289,908	-0.1	-0.5
Unemployed	13,692	15,256	8,111	-10.3	68.8
Employed	274,846	273,706	281,797	0.4	-2.5
Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	4.7%/4.5%	5.3%/4.5%	2.8%/2.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	8.6%/8.9%	9.0%/8.5%	4.8%/5.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,781,000	7,723,000	7,630,000	0.8	2.0
As a percentage of all workers	5.5%	5.5%	5.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	740,000	685,000	412,000	8.0	79.6
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	8,648,000	9,305,000	5,071,000	-7.1	70.5
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining	Hours and earnings data for Wyoming mining not available.				
Average Weekly Earnings					
Average Weekly Hours					
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,017.97	\$1,029.66	\$991.90	-1.1	2.6
Average Weekly Hours	42.7	43.1	44.6	-0.9	-4.3
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$833.28	\$830.02	\$816.90	0.4	2.0
Average Weekly Hours	40.1	39.3	42.0	2.0	-4.5
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$706.04	\$709.13	\$723.24	-0.4	-2.4
Average Weekly Hours	38.9	39.2	41.0	-0.8	-5.1
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	46,076	45,379	15,603	1.5	195.3
Benefits Paid	\$15,928,628	\$15,334,042	\$4,719,531	3.9	237.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$345.70	\$337.91	\$302.48	2.3	14.3
State Insured Covered Jobs ^a	273,145	269,992	266,064	1.2	2.7
Insured Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.2%	1.1%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) – All Items	213.2	212.7	214.8	0.2	-0.7
Food & Beverages	218.4	218.8	211.4	-0.2	3.3
Housing	217.1	217.4	214.9	-0.1	1.0
Apparel	123.2	122.5	122.1	0.5	0.9
Transportation	172.0	169.6	198.6	1.4	-13.4
Medical Care	374.2	373.2	363.2	0.3	3.0
Recreation (Dec. 1997 = 100)	114.3	114.6	112.9	-0.3	1.2
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997 = 100)	126.3	126.2	122.1	0.1	3.
Other Goods & Services	370.6	361.2	343.4	2.6	7.9
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) – All Commodities	168.7	168.1	190.9	0.4	-11.6
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	116	94	274	23.4	-57.7
Valuation	\$23,964,000	\$19,890,000	\$52,814,000	20.5	-54.6
Single Family Homes	99	79	227	25.3	-56.4
Valuation	\$22,586,000	\$19,331,000	\$50,397,000	16.8	-55.2
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	36	44	69	-18.2	-47.8

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

^aLocal Area Unemployment Statistics program estimates.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

Most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and decreased from March to April. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Albany (2.6%), Sublette (3.2%), and Niobrara (3.5%) counties. Big Horn County posted the highest unemployment rate (7.9%), followed by Teton (7.8%), Lincoln (6.6%), and Johnson (6.3%) counties.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Apr 2009 (p)	Mar 2009 (r)	Apr 2008 (b)	Apr 2009 (p)	Mar 2009 (r)	Apr 2008 (b)	Apr 2009 (p)	Mar 2009 (r)	Apr 2008 (b)	Apr 2009 (p)	Mar 2009 (r)	Apr 2008 (b)
NORTHWEST	43,813	43,585	43,545	41,339	40,686	42,021	2,474	2,899	1,524	5.6	6.7	3.5
Big Horn	4,976	4,938	4,908	4,585	4,493	4,716	391	445	192	7.9	9.0	3.9
Fremont	18,468	18,537	18,258	17,352	17,252	17,600	1,116	1,285	658	6.0	6.9	3.6
Hot Springs	2,343	2,316	2,444	2,232	2,190	2,365	111	126	79	4.7	5.4	3.2
Park	13,819	13,593	13,700	13,156	12,790	13,237	663	803	463	4.8	5.9	3.4
Washakie	4,207	4,201	4,235	4,014	3,961	4,103	193	240	132	4.6	5.7	3.1
NORTHEAST	54,497	54,205	53,838	52,009	51,539	52,534	2,488	2,666	1,304	4.6	4.9	2.4
Campbell	27,620	27,535	27,030	26,557	26,423	26,521	1,063	1,112	509	3.8	4.0	1.9
Crook	3,441	3,410	3,526	3,279	3,231	3,415	162	179	111	4.7	5.2	3.1
Johnson	4,090	4,023	4,001	3,831	3,775	3,864	259	248	137	6.3	6.2	3.4
Sheridan	16,161	16,033	16,014	15,306	15,077	15,565	855	956	449	5.3	6.0	2.8
Weston	3,185	3,204	3,267	3,036	3,033	3,169	149	171	98	4.7	5.3	3.0
SOUTHWEST	63,973	64,237	63,424	60,545	60,910	61,821	3,428	3,327	1,603	5.4	5.2	2.5
Lincoln	8,042	8,060	8,271	7,515	7,430	8,012	527	630	259	6.6	7.8	3.1
Sublette	7,105	7,058	6,676	6,881	6,819	6,587	224	239	89	3.2	3.4	1.3
Sweetwater	24,403	24,296	23,922	23,305	23,155	23,403	1,098	1,141	519	4.5	4.7	2.2
Teton	13,225	13,727	13,233	12,197	13,032	12,805	1,028	695	428	7.8	5.1	3.2
Uinta	11,198	11,096	11,322	10,647	10,474	11,014	551	622	308	4.9	5.6	2.7
SOUTHEAST	71,543	72,109	73,337	68,807	68,623	71,101	2,736	3,486	2,236	3.8	4.8	3.0
Albany	19,163	19,353	19,049	18,667	18,712	18,637	496	641	412	2.6	3.3	2.2
Goshen	6,025	5,968	6,214	5,795	5,680	6,005	230	288	209	3.8	4.8	3.4
Laramie	41,247	41,667	42,668	39,428	39,385	41,233	1,819	2,282	1,435	4.4	5.5	3.4
Niobrara	1,220	1,232	1,250	1,177	1,174	1,207	43	58	43	3.5	4.7	3.4
Platte	3,888	3,889	4,156	3,740	3,672	4,019	148	217	137	3.8	5.6	3.3
CENTRAL	54,712	54,828	55,764	52,144	51,949	54,321	2,568	2,879	1,443	4.7	5.3	2.6
Carbon	7,688	7,692	8,161	7,273	7,176	7,920	415	516	241	5.4	6.7	3.0
Converse	7,204	7,187	7,342	6,886	6,827	7,176	318	360	166	4.4	5.0	2.3
Natrona	39,820	39,949	40,261	37,985	37,946	39,225	1,835	2,003	1,036	4.6	5.0	2.6
STATEWIDE	288,538	288,962	289,908	274,846	273,706	281,797	13,692	15,256	8,111	4.7	5.3	2.8
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.5	4.5	2.9
U.S.....										8.6	9.0	4.8
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										8.9	8.5	5.0

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/2009. Run date 05/2009.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

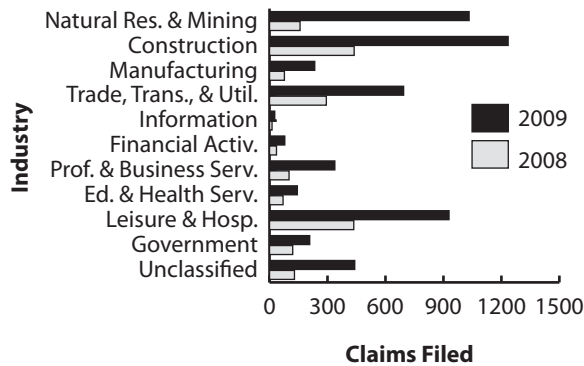
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

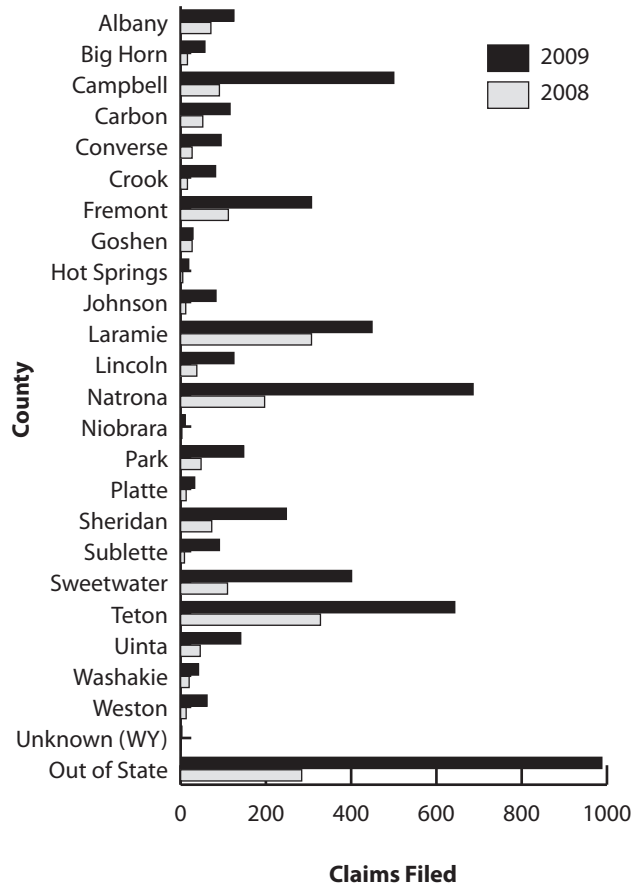
by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

Statewide initial claims increased both over the month (1.7%) and over the year (185.6%). The over the month percentage increase was in line with the prior 11 year historic average.

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, April 2009



Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, April 2009



Initial Claims

WYOMING STATEWIDE

	Claims Filed			Percentage Change	
	Apr09	Mar09	Apr08	Mar09	Apr08
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	5,483	5,391	1,920	1.7	185.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	2,502	2,897	673	-13.6	271.8
Natural Resources & Mining	1,033	1,302	158	-20.7	553.8
Mining	1,002	1,267	135	-20.9	642.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	74	141	7	-47.5	957.1
Construction	1,235	1,364	438	-9.5	182.0
Manufacturing	234	231	77	1.3	203.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	2,332	1,906	998	22.4	133.7
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	694	727	294	-4.5	136.1
Wholesale Trade	136	135	49	0.7	177.6
Retail Trade	326	276	138	18.1	136.2
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	232	316	107	-26.6	116.8
Information	27	15	13	80.0	107.7
Financial Activities	79	119	36	-33.6	119.4
Professional & Business Serv.	338	284	101	19.0	234.7
Educational & Health Services	144	166	70	-13.3	105.7
Leisure & Hospitality	929	508	436	82.9	113.1
Other Services	121	87	48	39.1	152.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	208	194	120	7.2	73.3
Federal Government	62	65	49	-4.6	26.5
State Government	30	22	16	36.4	87.5
Local Government	116	107	55	8.4	110.9
Local Education	19	18	13	5.6	46.2
UNCLASSIFIED	441	394	129	11.9	241.9

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	449	532	308	-15.6	45.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	172	232	109	-25.9	57.8
Construction	146	186	92	-21.5	58.7
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	218	243	168	-10.3	29.8
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	87	91	75	-4.4	16.0
Financial Activities	8	13	5	-38.5	60.0
Professional & Business Serv.	44	39	30	12.8	46.7
Educational & Health Services	28	33	24	-15.2	16.7
Leisure & Hospitality	43	55	23	-21.8	87.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	33	35	21	-5.7	57.1
UNCLASSIFIED	26	22	10	18.2	160.0

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	687	773	199	-11.1	245.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	342	443	96	-22.8	256.3
Construction	137	227	54	-39.6	153.7
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	314	299	93	5.0	237.6
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	129	137	34	-5.8	279.4
Financial Activities	16	22	5	-27.3	220.0
Professional & Business Serv.	47	49	16	-4.1	193.8
Educational & Health Services	21	24	11	-12.5	90.9
Leisure & Hospitality	55	36	16	52.8	243.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16	6	7	166.7	128.6
UNCLASSIFIED	15	25	3	-40.0	400.0

^aAn average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

Continued weeks claimed for April 2009 were more than triple the amount reported in April 2008.

Continued Claims

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed		Percentage Change		
	Apr09	Mar09	Apr08	Mar09	Apr08
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	52,479	45,273	15,643	15.9	235.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	12,942	12,848	4,215	0.7	207.0
Benefit Exhaustions	504	446	293	13.0	72.0
Benefit Exhaustions Rates	3.9%	3.5%	7.0%	0.4%	-3.1%
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	27,766	24,018	6,672	15.6	316.2
Natural Resources & Mining	11,221	8,280	1,322	35.5	748.8
Mining	10,927	8,001	1,149	36.6	851.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	801	862	92	-7.1	770.7
Construction	13,753	13,189	4,411	4.3	211.8
Manufacturing	2,792	2,549	939	9.5	197.3
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	18,040	14,955	6,655	20.6	171.1
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	6,528	5,405	2,147	20.8	204.1
Wholesale Trade	1,254	955	276	31.3	354.3
Retail Trade	3,004	2,717	1,125	10.6	167.0
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	2,270	1,733	746	31.0	204.3
Information	309	344	91	-10.2	239.6
Financial Activities	1,022	869	287	17.6	256.1
Professional & Business Serv.	3,347	3,237	1,217	3.4	175.0
Educational & Health Serv.	1,389	1,190	545	16.7	154.9
Leisure & Hospitality	4,560	3,134	2,017	45.5	126.1
Other Services	885	776	351	14.0	152.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,248	2,327	1,303	-3.4	72.5
Federal Government	792	913	597	-13.3	32.7
State Government	283	277	195	2.2	45.1
Local Government	1,173	1,137	511	3.2	129.5
Local Education	184	221	120	-16.7	53.3
UNCLASSIFIED	4,425	3,973	1,013	11.4	336.8

LARAMIE COUNTY

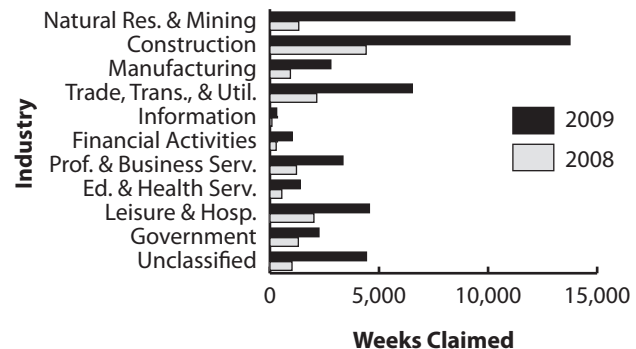
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	5,199	5,243	2,541	-0.8	104.6
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	1,309	1,528	694	-14.3	88.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	2,073	2,269	962	-8.6	115.5
Construction	1,498	1,664	823	-10.0	82.0
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	2,510	2,416	1,288	3.9	94.9
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	1,038	989	560	5.0	85.4
Financial Activities	130	133	77	-2.3	68.8
Professional & Business Serv.	435	501	251	-13.2	73.3
Educational & Health Serv.	304	278	156	9.4	94.9
Leisure & Hospitality	425	331	177	28.4	140.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	356	307	200	16.0	78.0
UNCLASSIFIED	260	251	91	3.6	185.7

NATRONA COUNTY

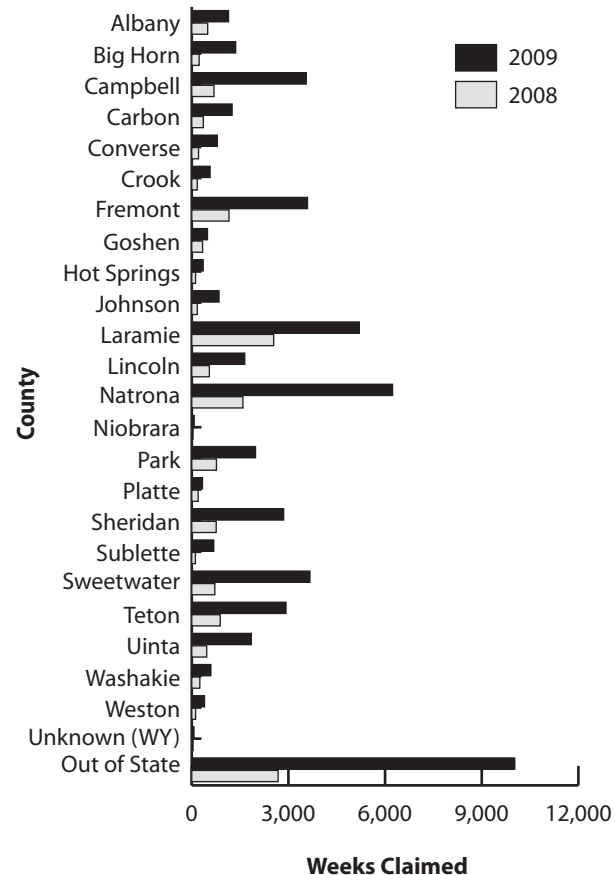
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	6,231	4,967	1,589	25.4	292.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	1,536	1,440	417	6.7	268.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3,450	2,774	732	24.4	371.3
Construction	1,510	1,353	437	11.6	245.5
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	2,475	1,908	769	29.7	221.8
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	1,010	663	247	52.3	308.9
Financial Activities	162	146	74	11.0	118.9
Professional & Business Serv.	428	374	165	14.4	159.4
Educational & Health Serv.	249	221	77	12.7	223.4
Leisure & Hospitality	336	268	109	25.4	208.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	115	132	52	-12.9	121.2
UNCLASSIFIED	191	153	36	24.8	430.6

^aAn average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, April 2009



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, April 2009



**Wyoming Department
of Employment
Research & Planning
P.O. Box 2760
Casper, WY 82602**

**Official Business
Penalty for Private
Use \$300
Return Service
Requested**