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TRENDS

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Impact Evaluation of a Wyoming Employment Assistance Program

by: Patrick Harris, Principal Analyst

In January 2016, the Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services published the results of an impact evaluation study of the Wyoming Workforce Development Training Fund (WDTF). According to that research, the mean quarterly wage of WDTF participants from second quarter 2007 was significantly higher statistically than the mean quarterly wage of non-WDTF participants in a comparison group (Manning, 2016). This article presents a similar evaluation of Wyoming's JobAssist program conducted in 2013.

This evaluation reports on the effectiveness of the recently discontinued JobAssist Program on increasing wages and decreasing the use of government assistance usage. Over the past decade, the federal government has issued several memos regarding the need to evaluate government funded programs for effectiveness and the necessity of using scientific methods to make conclusions about such programs.

The key to this evaluation was employing matching techniques to form a comparison group of individuals with similar characteristics but who did not participate in the program. The analysis focused on the difference in quarterly wages, number of employers, and unemployment claims pre- and post-enrollment for both groups. Further, analyses were also completed for the use of government assistance after enrollment in the program.

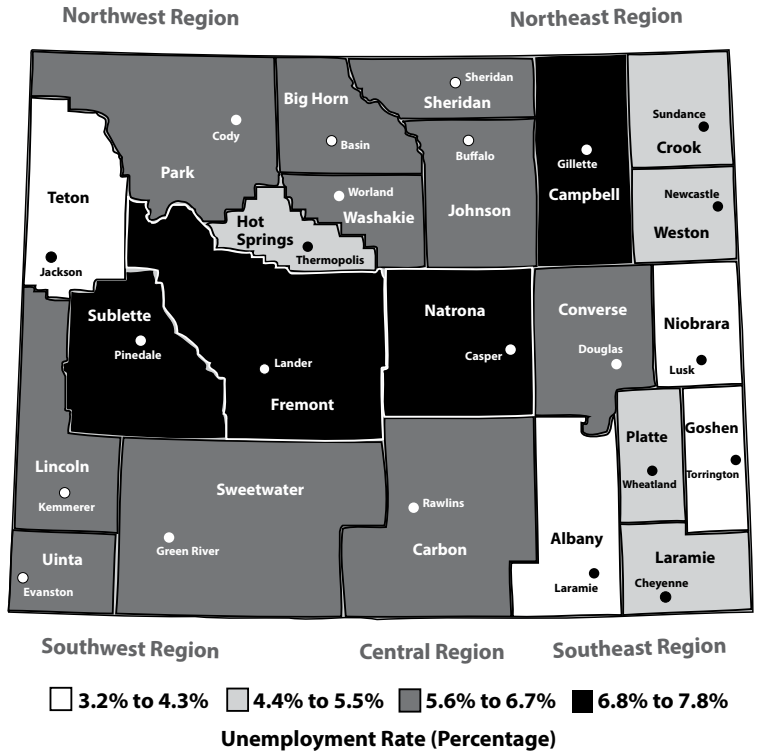
The full report from which this article was excerpted is available online at: http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/w_r_research/JobAssist_evaluation.pdf.

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Research & Planning (R&P) has published an article that illustrates R&P's ability to track University of Wyoming (UW) graduates into the labor market by linking UW data files with administrative databases for Wyoming and 11 partner states. … *page 7***
- **The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming fell from 30 in March 2015 to 9 in March 2016, a decrease of 70%. … *page 12***

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, March 2016 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



IN THIS ISSUE

Wyoming Labor Force Trends

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(Text continued from page 1)

The findings indicate that the JobAssist participants fared no better on either wages or the use of government assistance compared to the comparison group. For example, the second year after enrollment in the program, JobAssist participants and comparison group individuals did not have significantly different quarterly wages or reduced government assistance.

It is important to note that several limitations to the data collection techniques by Department of Workforce Services (DWS) coordinators and the private contractor involved in the JobAssist program have impacted the effectiveness of rigorous program evaluation. Several recommendations are given to help facilitate effective collection of data and the reasons why systematic data collection is necessary. These recommendations are available in the full research publication, available at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/w_r_research/JobAssist_evaluation.pdf.

The results of this evaluation provide useful information and insight into the effectiveness of the JobAssist program. However, it should be noted that an overall conclusion, in terms of policy implementation, may not be completely justified based on the results. This is discussed in the conclusion section of this article (see page 6).

Introduction and Background

In an effort to reduce the cost of public assistance programs and increase resident self-sufficiency, various Wyoming state agencies – including the departments of Health, Corrections, Family Services, Workforces Services, State Insurance Pool, and Administration and Information – began contributing data in 2003 to a data warehouse called the Wyoming Health Information Network (WHIN). The data provided information on certain populations that received services from one or more of the state agencies. Using these data to identify individuals using multiple public assistance programs, the private contractor began the Healthy Families Succeed (HFS) program in 2005, starting with the HealthAssist component. In conjunction with the Department of Workforce Services, the private contractor added the JobAssist component in 2008. In order to be eligible for JobAssist, individuals needed to be able to work, be 18 to 64 years old, and be utilizing at least two state services. Healthy Families Succeed began in Laramie County and with funds from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA); the program expanded to cover Natrona, Sheridan, Park, Sweetwater, and Teton counties. The goal of the HFS program was to link personal and family health, job skills, and employment in order to move toward self-sufficiency.

The process of enrolling in JobAssist began when the contractor selected potential participants from the WHIN data warehouse who met eligibility criteria using integrated risk analytics. Once a participant was selected by the contractor, his or her contact information was given to DWS coordinators, who contacted the individual to obtain written consent to participate in the program. If consent was given, the participant's confidential information was sent to the contractor. Because consent was required, the program should be considered voluntary.

In the spring of 2012, DWS program management approached the Research & Planning (R&P) section to evaluate the effectiveness of the JobAssist program

using administrative databases currently in place. R&P currently has access to administrative databases from multiple state agencies, including information on public assistance programs.

Results

One of the main objectives of this evaluation was to discover whether the JobAssist program increased employment and wages for participant. The number of individuals employed during a particular quarter has a significant effect on wages earned. As seen in Figure 1, the percentage of JobAssist and comparison group participants peaked three quarters prior to enrollment and then began to decline (Ashenfelter dip) and remained at about 60% for the fourth through eighth quarters after enrollment.

To test the difference in JobAssist participants' wages pre- (-8 to -5 quarters) and post- (5 to 8 quarters) enrollment, a paired-sampled t-test was performed with mean quarterly pre- and post-wages. The t-test revealed no significant differences between pre- (M = $2,264, SD = $2,095) and post- (M = $2,088, SD = $2,384) enrollment earnings, t(230) = .958 (two-tailed), p = .40. A statistically significant difference in the means (averages) of the two time periods would have resulted in a p-value of <.05. JobAssist participants saw a decrease in wages of $176, but this decrease was not statistically significant. Figure 2 presents the average quarterly earnings for JobAssist and comparison group participants by quarter after propensity score matching. After the dip at enrollment, wages increased over the first six quarters post-enrollment then leveled off for the JobAssist participants, while the comparison group's wages showed an increasing trend beginning with the fifth quarter after enrollment.

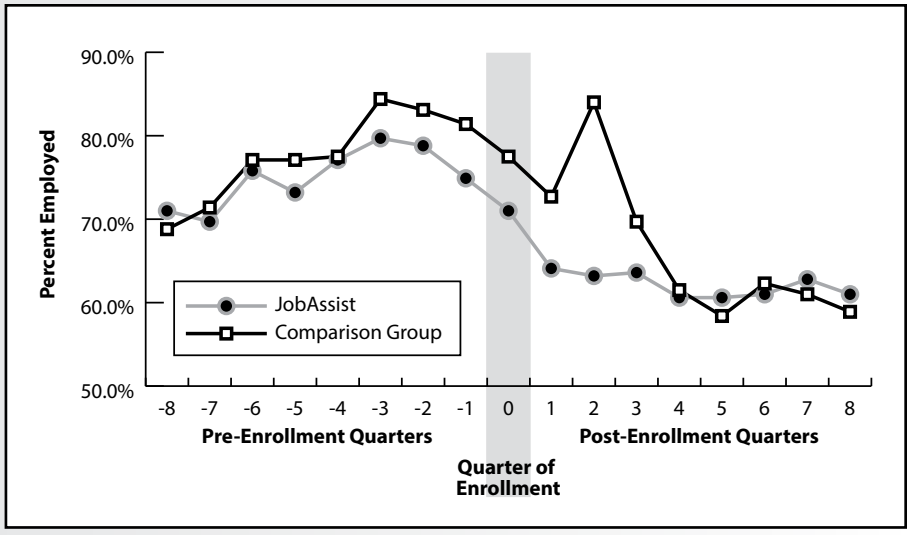


Figure 1: **Percentage of JobAssist Participants and Comparison Group Employed by Quarter**

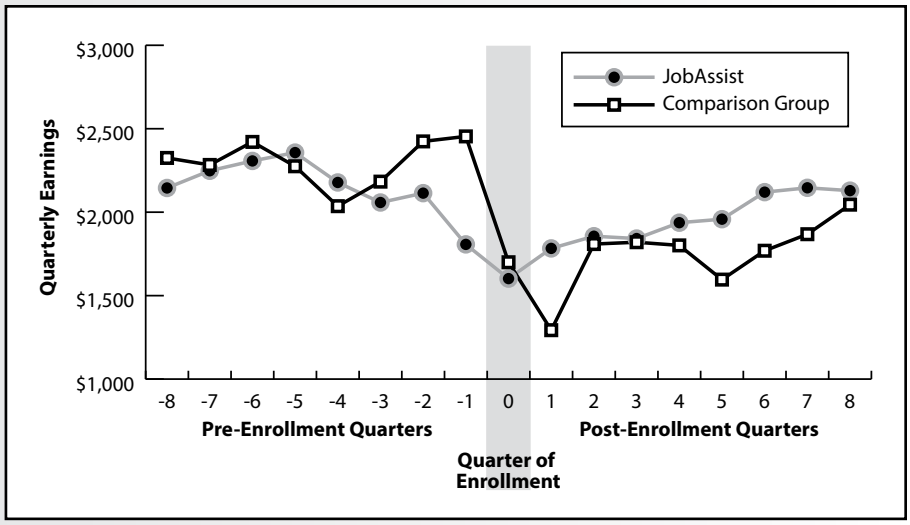


Figure 2: **Average Quarterly Earnings of JobAssist and Comparison Group Participants After Propensity Score Matching**

Comparing the mean wages pre- and post-enrollment between the JobAssist group and the comparison group allowed for a determination of the effectiveness of the JobAssist program on participant wages. If the JobAssist program was effective, R&P expected to find that their post-program wages were significantly higher statistically than those in the comparison group. A one-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was conducted with mean quarterly wages post-enrollment (5 to 8) as the dependent variable with group membership (JobAssist vs. Comparison) as the independent variable. An ANOVA is a statistical technique used to test for differences in means between groups. The ANOVA revealed that JobAssist participants' wages (M = $2,088, SD = $2,384) were not significantly different from the comparison group wages (M = $1,819, SD = $2,150), F (1, 460) = 1.62, p = .204.

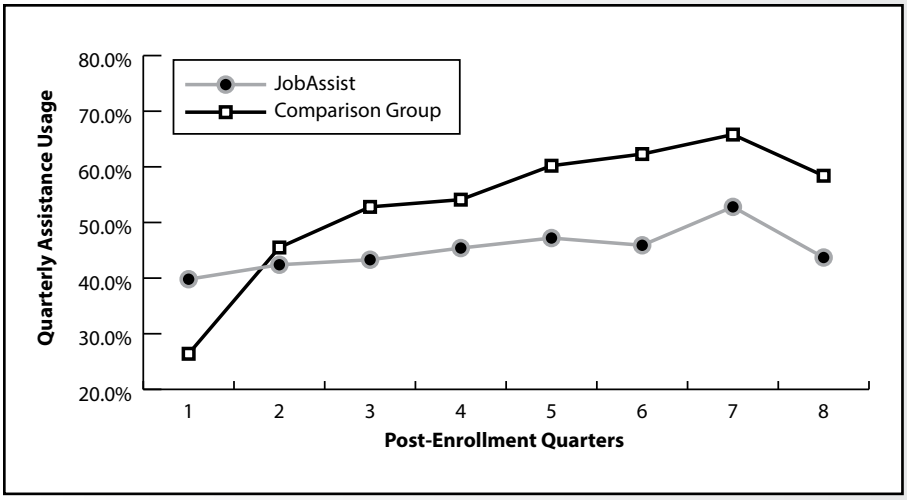


Figure 3: **Percentage of JobAssist Participants and Comparison Group Using Quarterly Government Assistance After Enrollment**

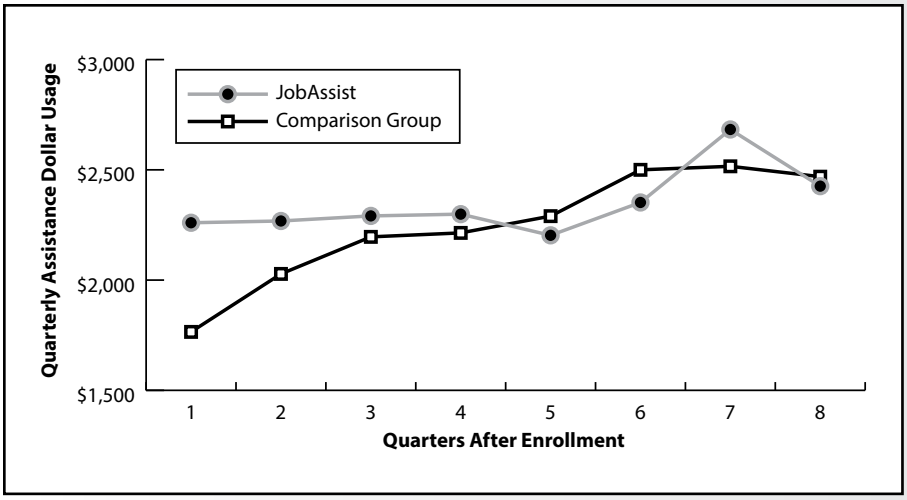


Figure 4: **Average Quarterly Government Assistance Dollar Usage for JobAssist Participants and Comparison Group After Enrollment**

To understand the trends of government assistance over the course of the two years after enrollment, individuals were selected based on whether they had any government assistance during a given quarter. For example, an individual was included if he had some sort of government assistance (greater than zero) and excluded if the government assistance total was zero. Figure 3 presents the percentage of individuals who used government assistance during a given quarter. Over the course of five quarters after enrollment, both groups showed a steady increase in government assistance usage. In quarter eight, both groups showed a decline in usage. The percentage of individuals in the comparison group who used government assistance was higher compared to the JobAssist participants for all but the first quarter. Figure 4 shows the average amount of government assistance usage during a given quarter. Comparing the two figures, it can be concluded that even though the number of comparison group participants using government assistance

increased (see Figure 3), the actual dollar amount did not differ significantly compared to JobAssist participants. It should be noted that data from the eight quarters prior to enrollment were not available, so pre-post comparisons could not be conducted.

Conclusion

This evaluation examined the effectiveness of the JobAssist program in regards to wages and the use of government assistance for individuals who participated in the program. In this section, the implication of the findings and recommendations for future JobAssist evaluations are discussed. For both females and males, the average wage increase from eight quarters before (pre-enrollment earnings) and eight quarters after (post-enrollment earnings) were not significantly different statistically. Further, when the JobAssist participants were matched to the comparison group individuals, there was no significant difference in post-enrollment wages between the two groups. These findings show that after two years of enrolling in the JobAssist program, participants showed no significant gains in wages from two years prior to enrollment. Further, JobAssist participants fared no better compared to individuals who were also economically disadvantaged who did not participate in the program (comparison group).

JobAssist participants were also less likely to be employed both years after enrollment compared to the comparison group. However, a small percentage did transition from not being employed the first year after enrollment to being employed the second year after enrollment. The number of employers and the number employed in each group were similar in the post-enrollment quarters (4 to 8). JobAssist participants also had higher unemployment insurance claims filed starting the second year after enrollment compared to the comparison group. This may be explained by the high level of turnover seen at the year anniversary of enrollment when many JobAssist participants exited the program. The number of individuals who were actually paid UI benefits was small for both groups. This decrease may be due to means testing for other programs.

In terms of government assistance usage, there was no significant difference statistically between the JobAssist participants and the comparison group in the post-enrollment period. The number of JobAssist participants who used government assistance was lower than the comparison group; however, the actual dollar usage of government assistance was similar across groups. This finding shows that for those who participated in the JobAssist program, there was no difference in actual dollar usage compared to the comparison group.

The goal of the JobAssist program was to increase participant wages and employment outcomes while decreasing participants' reliance on government assistance programs. The motivation to conduct this evaluation was to answer the question of whether the JobAssist program did in fact accomplish these goals. Overall, there was no indication that the JobAssist program participants fared any better compared to similar individuals who did not participate in the program. However, several cautions should be recognized. First, no analyses of the various services provided by the JobAssist program were

conducted. The data were incomplete for many participants regarding which services they received, the duration, and what the exact purpose was during the service. For example, if a JobAssist coordinator documented one hour of a home/office visit, there was no indication of what actually occurred during the visit. Second, the amount of time a JobAssist coordinator spent referring a participant to a specific service was also largely unknown. Of the 3,702 hours of time JobAssist coordinators documented, 2,071 were unknown. The amount of time that is unknown makes analysis of the time spent coordinating certain services almost impossible.

The results of this evaluation provide useful information and insight into the effectiveness of the JobAssist program. However, it should be noted that an overall conclusion, in terms of policy implementation, may not be completely justified based on the results. The results suggest that those services provided by the JobAssist program did not have the intended effects of reducing government assistance usage and increasing wages compared to those who applied for UI benefits. Before any useful conclusions can be made regarding the effectiveness of the services provided by JobAssist, an in-depth evaluation of the services provided to each client will be needed. Some of the services that JobAssist provided may have had an effect on wages and government assistance outcomes, but since these were not well documented, no conclusions should be drawn on service effectiveness at this time.

Reference

Manning, P. (2016). Higher wages and more work: Impact evaluation of a state-funded incumbent worker training program. *Wyoming Labor Force Trends, 53*(1). Retrieved June 21, 2016, from http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/trends/0116/a1.htm

NEW

New from Research & Planning

Postsecondary Opportunities in Wyoming and 11 Other States

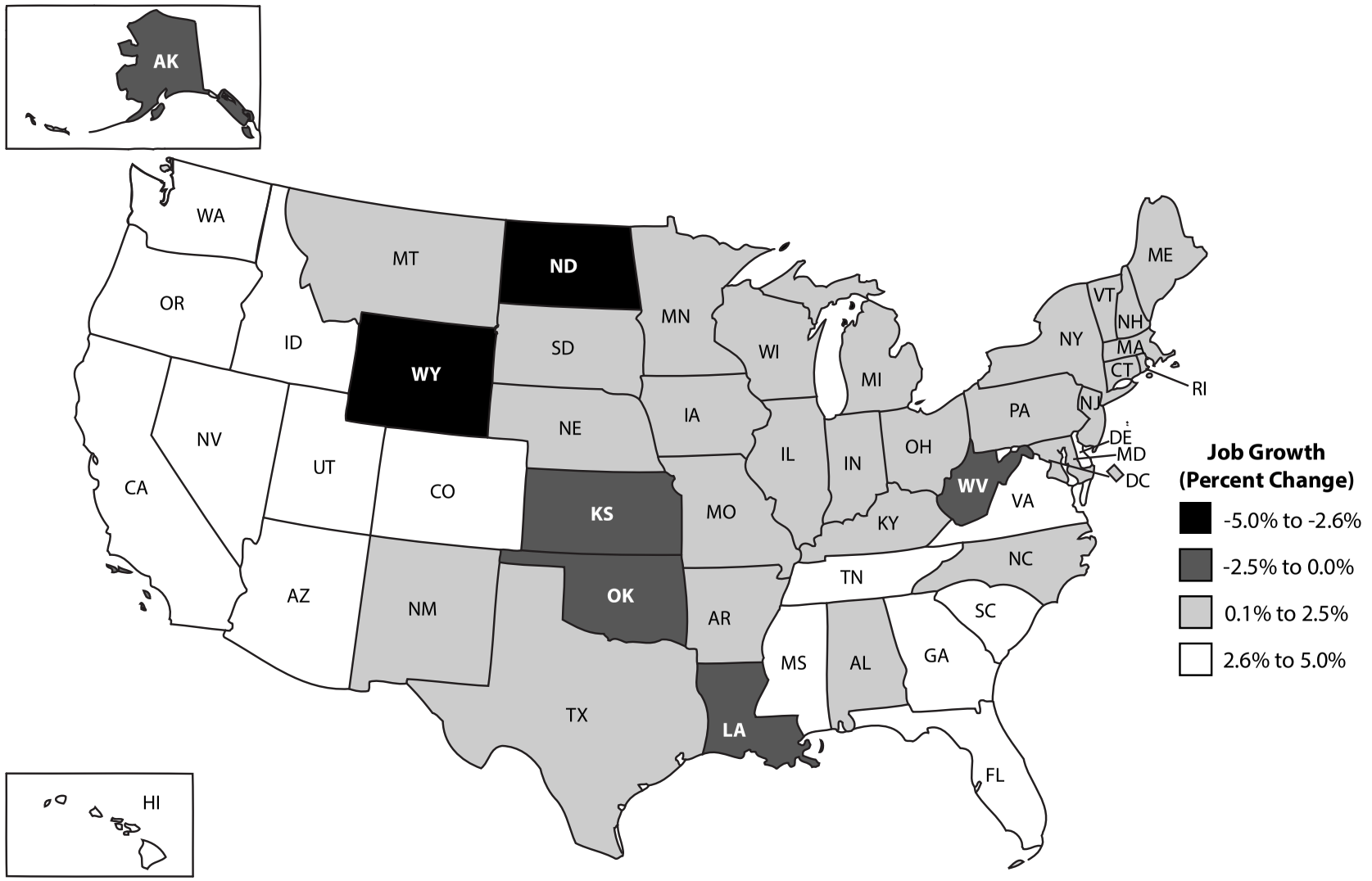
http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/education_we_connect/UW_Table.htm

This article illustrates R&P's ability to track University of Wyoming (UW) graduates into the labor market by linking UW data files with administrative databases for Wyoming and 11 partner states. This type of research helps inform students, jobseekers, educators, training providers, and others of employment and wage trends for specific areas of study.

The research explains how readers can use the accompanying detailed table to:

- gain an understanding of employment opportunities for different fields of study
- compare wages between different fields of study
- compare wages over time

Map: Job Growth: Over-the-Year Percentage Change in Total Number of Jobs Worked by State, March 2015 to March 2016



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics. Retrieved July 6, 2016.

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Rises to 5.2% in March 2016

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported that the state's seasonally adjusted[1] unemployment rate increased significantly from 5.0% in February to 5.2% in March. Wyoming's unemployment rate was considerably higher than its March 2015 level of 3.9% (a statistically significant increase) and slightly higher than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 5.0%.

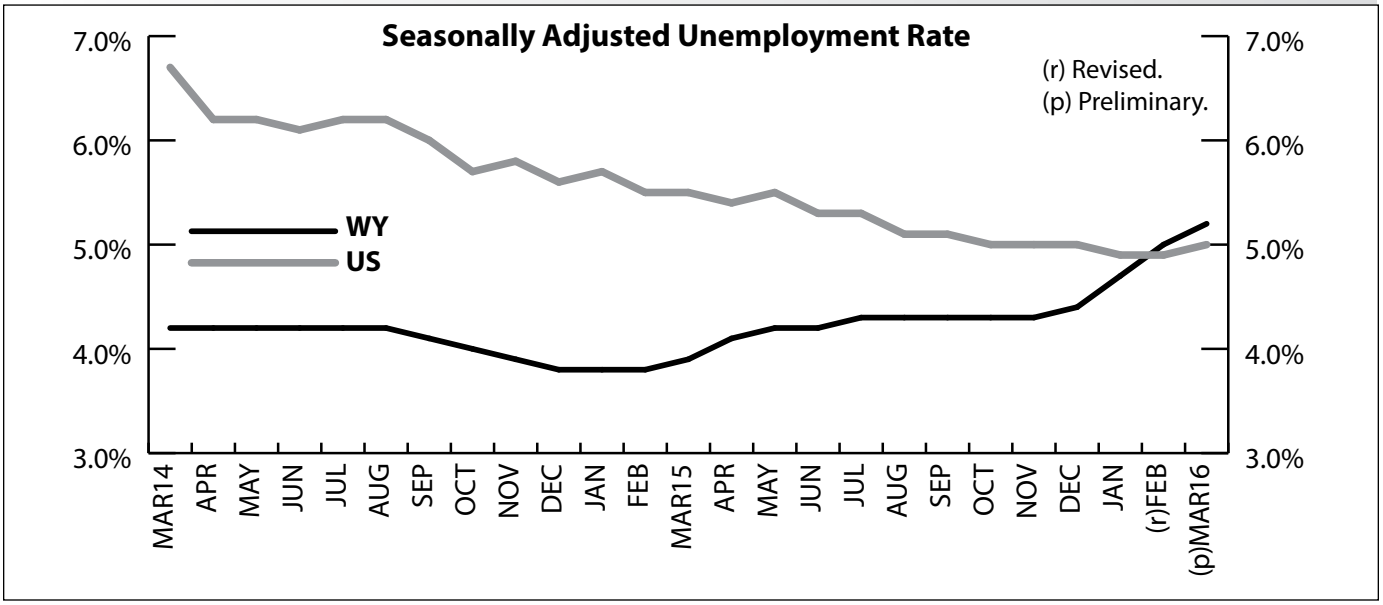
From February to March, unemployment rates rose in 11 counties, fell in ten counties, and were unchanged in two counties. The largest increases occurred in Sublette (up from 6.7% to 7.5%), Campbell (up from 6.4% to 7.1%), Teton (up from 3.0% to 3.5%), and Weston (up from 4.1% to 4.6%) counties. The largest decreases were seen in Johnson (down from 7.0% to 6.5%), and Hot Springs (down from 5.6% to 5.2%) counties.

From March 2015 to March 2016, unemployment rates rose in 21 counties, fell in one county, and were unchanged in one county. Large increases were found in Campbell (up from 3.8% to 7.1%), Natrona (up from 4.7% to 7.3%), and Converse (up from 3.7% to 6.2%) counties. Teton County's unemployment rate fell from 3.6% to 3.5% and Albany County's unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.2%.

Fremont County posted the highest unemployment rate in March (7.8%). It was followed by Sublette (7.5%) and Natrona (7.3%) counties. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Niobrara (3.2%), Albany (3.2%), and Teton (3.5%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (measured by place of work) fell from 286,900 in March 2015 to 277,400 in March 2016, a decrease of 9,500 jobs (or –3.3%; a statistically significant decrease).

1 Seasonal adjustment is a statistical procedure to remove the impact of normal regularly recurring events (such as weather, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools) from economic time series to better understand changes in economic conditions from month to month.



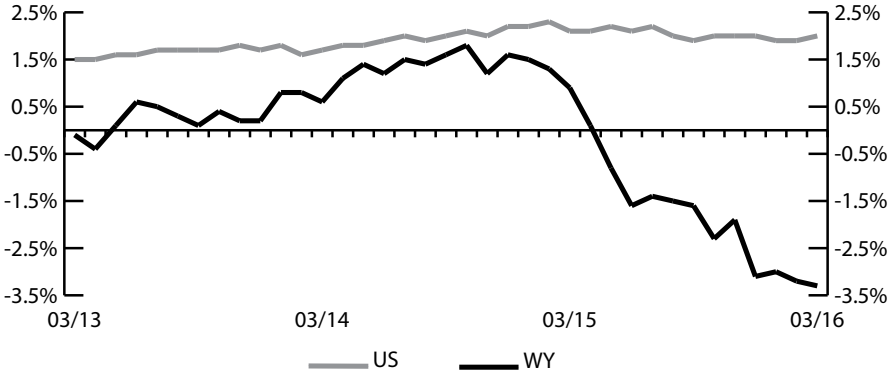
Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections, March 2016

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

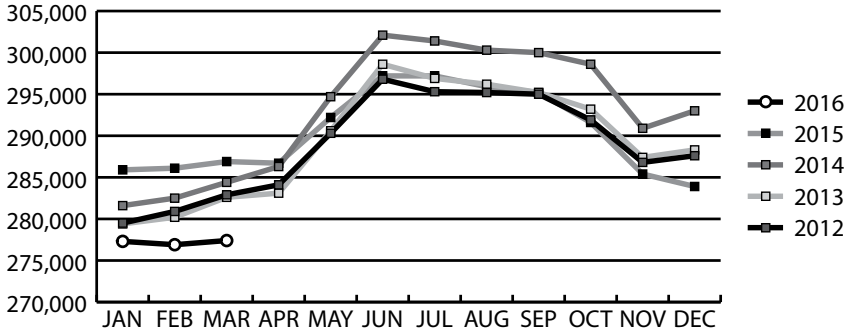
Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm Employment	**278,477**	**277,400**	**-1,077**	**-0.4%**
Natural Resources & Mining	20,731	20,300	-431	-2.1%
Construction	20,373	19,800	-573	-2.9%
Manufacturing	9,289	9,400	111	1.2%
Wholesale Trade	9,254	8,900	-354	-4.0%
Retail Trade	29,427	30,100	673	2.2%
Transportation & Utilities	15,196	14,500	-696	-4.8%
Information	3,703	3,700	-3	-0.1%
Financial Activities	10,773	10,700	-73	-0.7%
Professional & Business Services	17,208	17,700	492	2.8%
Educational & Health Services	27,258	27,800	542	1.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	33,356	31,600	-1,756	-5.6%
Other Services	9,792	10,100	308	3.0%
Government	72,117	72,800	683	0.9%

Projections were run in February 2016 and based on QCEW data through September 2015.

Nonagricultural Employment Growth (Percentage Change Over Previous Year)



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



State Unemployment Rates March 2016 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.8
Alaska	6.6
District of Columbia	6.5
Illinois	6.5
West Virginia	6.5
Mississippi	6.3
Alabama	6.2
New Mexico	6.2
Louisiana	6.1
Nevada	5.8
Washington	5.8
Connecticut	5.7
South Carolina	5.7
Kentucky	5.6
Georgia	5.5
North Carolina	5.5
Arizona	5.4
California	5.4
Rhode Island	5.4
Wyoming	**5.2**
Ohio	5.1
Indiana	5.0
United States	**5.0**
Florida	4.9
Pennsylvania	4.9
Michigan	4.8
New York	4.8
Maryland	4.7
Oregon	4.5
Tennessee	4.5
Wisconsin	4.5
Delaware	4.4
Massachusetts	4.4
New Jersey	4.4
Oklahoma	4.4
Montana	4.3
Texas	4.3
Missouri	4.2
Arkansas	4.0
Virginia	4.0
Kansas	3.9
Idaho	3.8
Iowa	3.8
Minnesota	3.7
Utah	3.5
Maine	3.4
Vermont	3.3
Hawaii	3.1
North Dakota	3.1
Nebraska	3.0
Colorado	2.9
New Hampshire	2.6
South Dakota	2.5

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Mar 16	Feb 16	Mar 15	Mar 16 Feb 16	Mar 16 Mar 15
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**27.1**	**27.0**	**28.6**	**0.4**	**-5.2**
TOTAL PRIVATE	21.7	21.7	23.4	0.0	-7.3
GOODS PRODUCING	9.4	9.5	10.8	-1.1	-13.0
Natural Resources & Mining	6.6	6.7	7.8	-1.5	-15.4
Construction	2.2	2.2	2.4	0.0	-8.3
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	17.7	17.5	17.8	1.1	-0.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.7	5.6	5.8	1.8	-1.7
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	-9.1
Leisure & Hospitality	2.4	2.3	2.4	4.3	0.0
Other Services	0.7	0.8	0.8	-12.5	-12.5
GOVERNMENT	5.4	5.3	5.2	1.9	3.8

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Mar 16	Feb 16	Mar 15	Mar 16 Feb 16	Mar 16 Mar 15
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**23.4**	**23.2**	**24.3**	**0.9**	**-3.7**
TOTAL PRIVATE	18.5	18.5	19.4	0.0	-4.6
GOODS PRODUCING	7.5	7.5	8.0	0.0	-6.3
Natural Resources & Mining	4.6	4.7	5.3	-2.1	-13.2
Construction	1.6	1.5	1.4	6.7	14.3
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.9	15.7	16.3	1.3	-2.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.8	4.8	5.1	0.0	-5.9
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
Professional & Business Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	4.9	4.7	4.9	4.3	0.0

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Mar 16	Feb 16	Mar 15	Mar 16 Feb 16	Mar 16 Mar 15
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**18.7**	**18.7**	**18.3**	**0.0**	**2.2**
TOTAL PRIVATE	16.2	16.2	15.8	0.0	2.5
GOODS PRODUCING	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.8	16.8	16.4	0.0	2.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.8	2.7	2.6	3.7	7.7
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Educational & Health Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	7.0	7.1	6.9	-1.4	1.4
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0

State Unemployment Rates March 2016 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.2
Alaska	7.3
West Virginia	7.2
Illinois	6.8
District of Columbia	6.3
Alabama	6.2
Connecticut	6.2
Louisiana	6.1
New Mexico	6.1
Rhode Island	6.0
Washington	6.0
Nevada	5.9
Kentucky	5.8
Wyoming	**5.7**
California	5.6
Mississippi	5.6
South Carolina	5.6
Indiana	5.5
Pennsylvania	5.5
Georgia	5.4
North Carolina	5.4
Ohio	5.4
New York	5.2
Arizona	5.1
Michigan	5.1
United States	**5.1**
New Jersey	5.0
Wisconsin	5.0
Montana	4.9
Oregon	4.9
Maryland	4.8
Missouri	4.8
Florida	4.7
Massachusetts	4.6
Minnesota	4.6
Oklahoma	4.5
Texas	4.5
Delaware	4.4
Idaho	4.2
Iowa	4.2
Maine	4.2
Tennessee	4.2
Virginia	4.2
Arkansas	4.0
Kansas	4.0
North Dakota	3.9
Utah	3.8
Colorado	3.5
Vermont	3.5
Nebraska	3.3
Hawaii	3.2
New Hampshire	3.0
South Dakota	2.9

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming fell from 30 in March 2015 to 9 in March 2016, a decrease of 70%.

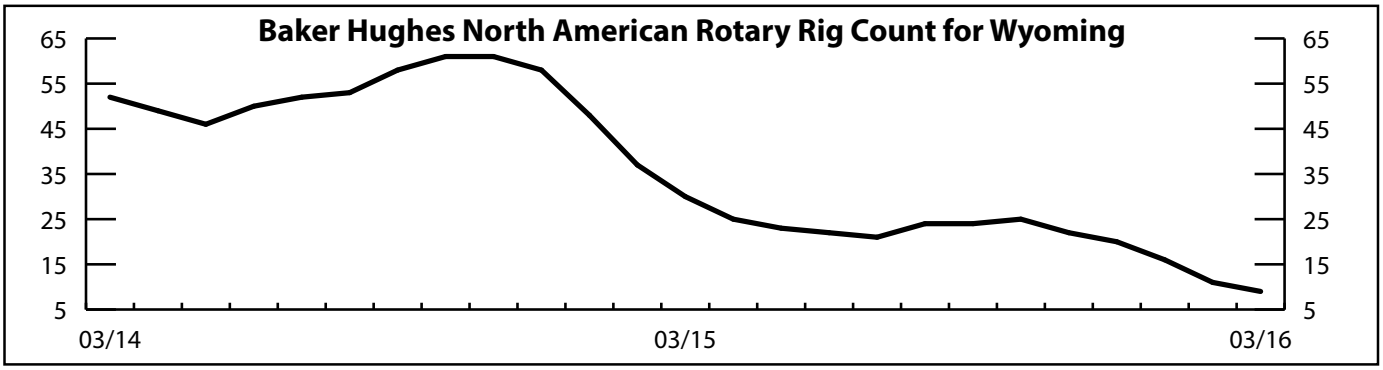
	Mar 2016 (p)	Feb 2016 (r)	Mar 2015 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	**277,400**	**276,900**	**286,900**	**0.2**	**-3.3**
Wyoming State Government	15,900	15,800	15,800	0.6	0.6
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	46,800	46,200	46,700	1.3	0.2
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	40,000	39,800	43,100	0.5	-7.2
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,592,000	7,454,000	7,264,000	1.9	4.5
As a percent of all workers	5.0%	5.0%	4.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	585,000	599,000	738,000	-2.3	-20.7
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	6,138,000	6,106,000	6,672,000	0.5	-8.0
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	35,922	29,447	24,903	22.0	44.2
Benefits Paid	$14,483,652	$11,745,479	$9,704,794	23.3	49.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$403.20	$398.87	$389.70	1.1	3.5
State Insured Covered Jobs[1]	266,556	264,665	267,428	0.7	-0.3
Insured Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.0%	2.9%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers					
(1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	238.1	237.1	236.1	0.4	0.9
Food & Beverages	247.7	248.5	245.7	-0.3	0.8
Housing	241.5	241.0	236.4	0.2	2.1
Apparel	127.4	125.6	128.2	1.5	-0.6
Transportation	191.3	187.3	199.4	2.1	-4.1
Medical Care	458.6	458.3	444.0	0.1	3.3
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	117.1	116.6	115.8	0.4	1.1
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	139.3	139.2	137.6	0.0	1.2
Other Goods & Services	420.6	419.6	412.4	0.2	2.0
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	182.4	181.5	191.5	0.5	-4.8
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	138	89	178	55.1	-22.5
Valuation	$50,616,000	$37,225,000	$54,579,000	36.0	-7.3
Single Family Homes	121	87	173	39.1	-30.1
Valuation	$49,299,000	$36,932,000	$54,151,000	33.5	-9.0
Casper MSA[2] Building Permits	15	11	20	36.4	-25.0
Valuation	$3,584,000	$2,469,000	$4,998,000	45.2	-28.3
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	32	13	48	146.2	-33.3
Valuation	$5,770,000	$2,671,000	$8,900,000	116.0	-35.2
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	9	11	30	-18.2	-70.0

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

[1]Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates.

[2]Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Note: Production worker hours and earnings data have been dropped from the Economic Indicators page because of problems with accuracy due to a small sample size and high item nonresponse. The Bureau of Labor Statistics will continue to publish these data online at http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.wy.htm.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

From March 2015 to March 2016, Teton County's unemployment rate fell from 3.6% to 3.5% and Albany County's unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.2%.

	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
REGION	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015
County	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	**46,986**	**46,969**	**47,299**	**43,884**	**43,753**	**44,735**	**3,102**	**3,216**	**2,564**	**6.6**	**6.8**	**5.4**
Big Horn	5,289	5,281	5,470	4,978	4,967	5,180	311	314	290	5.9	5.9	5.3
Fremont	20,348	20,304	20,345	18,757	18,667	19,146	1,591	1,637	1,199	7.8	8.1	5.9
Hot Springs	2,347	2,342	2,405	2,225	2,211	2,292	122	131	113	5.2	5.6	4.7
Park	14,824	14,842	14,848	13,982	13,948	14,093	842	894	755	5.7	6.0	5.1
Washakie	4,178	4,200	4,231	3,942	3,960	4,024	236	240	207	5.6	5.7	4.9
NORTHEAST	**52,348**	**52,310**	**53,763**	**49,047**	**49,163**	**51,451**	**3,301**	**3,147**	**2,312**	**6.3**	**6.0**	**4.3**
Campbell	25,421	25,350	26,323	23,614	23,739	25,313	1,807	1,611	1,010	7.1	6.4	3.8
Crook	3,470	3,481	3,533	3,291	3,308	3,387	179	173	146	5.2	5.0	4.1
Johnson	3,970	3,974	4,133	3,711	3,694	3,890	259	280	243	6.5	7.0	5.9
Sheridan	15,590	15,623	15,832	14,712	14,699	15,069	878	924	763	5.6	5.9	4.8
Weston	3,897	3,882	3,942	3,719	3,723	3,792	178	159	150	4.6	4.1	3.8
SOUTHWEST	**58,214**	**58,047**	**60,115**	**54,915**	**54,936**	**57,269**	**3,299**	**3,111**	**2,846**	**5.7**	**5.4**	**4.7**
Lincoln	8,165	8,194	8,227	7,687	7,704	7,763	478	490	464	5.9	6.0	5.6
Sublette	4,423	4,396	4,595	4,090	4,101	4,329	333	295	266	7.5	6.7	5.8
Sweetwater	22,399	22,294	23,319	21,006	20,957	22,211	1,393	1,337	1,108	6.2	6.0	4.8
Teton	13,959	13,944	13,994	13,476	13,527	13,496	483	417	498	3.5	3.0	3.6
Uinta	9,268	9,219	9,980	8,656	8,647	9,470	612	572	510	6.6	6.2	5.1
SOUTHEAST	**83,027**	**82,787**	**83,659**	**79,663**	**79,371**	**80,429**	**3,364**	**3,416**	**3,230**	**4.1**	**4.1**	**3.9**
Albany	21,581	21,525	21,130	20,896	20,856	20,446	685	669	684	3.2	3.1	3.2
Goshen	6,904	6,929	6,947	6,652	6,679	6,713	252	250	234	3.7	3.6	3.4
Laramie	48,470	48,292	49,321	46,343	46,102	47,237	2,127	2,190	2,084	4.4	4.5	4.2
Niobrara	1,224	1,228	1,270	1,185	1,185	1,235	39	43	35	3.2	3.5	2.8
Platte	4,848	4,813	4,991	4,587	4,549	4,798	261	264	193	5.4	5.5	3.9
CENTRAL	**58,441**	**58,562**	**60,633**	**54,395**	**54,602**	**57,901**	**4,046**	**3,960**	**2,732**	**6.9**	**6.8**	**4.5**
Carbon	8,567	8,564	8,021	8,085	8,088	7,662	482	476	359	5.6	5.6	4.5
Converse	8,289	8,271	8,426	7,776	7,788	8,116	513	483	310	6.2	5.8	3.7
Natrona	41,585	41,727	44,186	38,534	38,726	42,123	3,051	3,001	2,063	7.3	7.2	4.7
STATEWIDE	**299,015**	**298,674**	**305,469**	**281,904**	**281,825**	**291,784**	**17,111**	**16,849**	**13,685**	**5.7**	**5.6**	**4.5**
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										5.2	5.0	3.9
U.S.										5.1	5.2	5.6
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										5.0	4.9	5.5

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/2016. Run Date 04/2016.

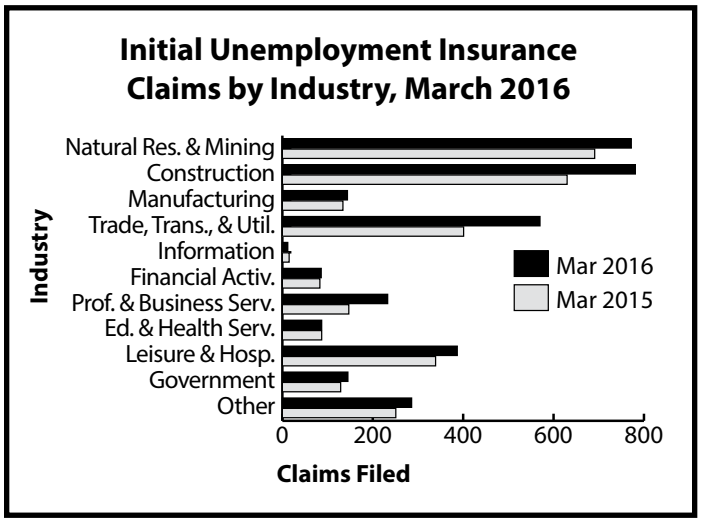
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

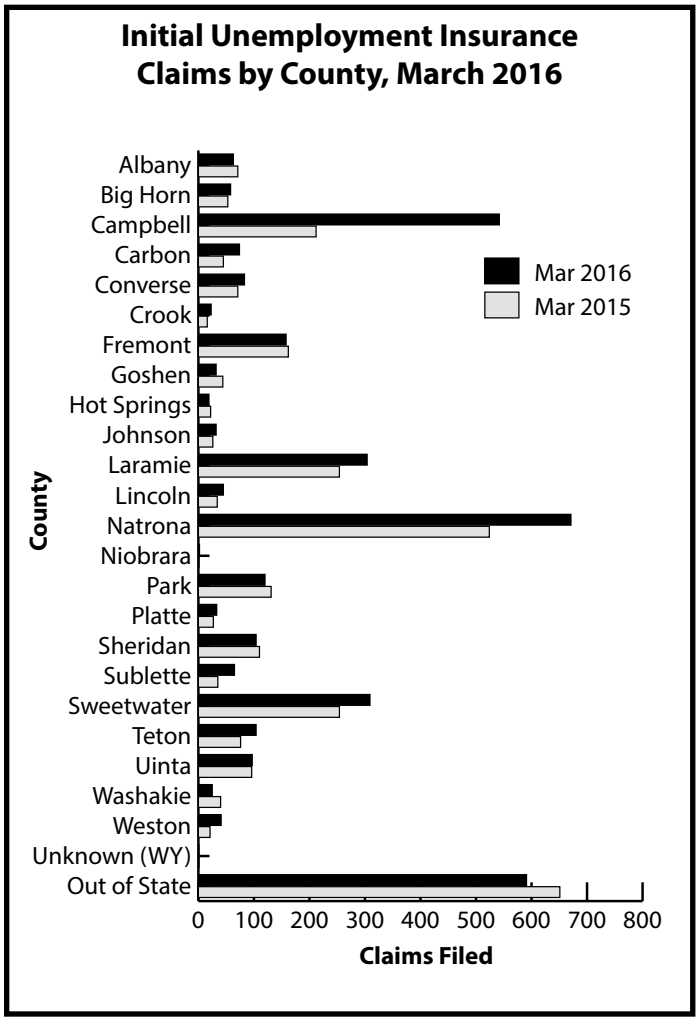
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized[a] Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Patrick Manning, Principal Economist

The total number of initial unemployment insurance claims increased 20.7% (616 claims) from March 2015 to March 2016.





Initial Claims

	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Mar 16	Feb 16	Mar 15	Feb 16	Mar 15
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	**3,595**	**3,829**	**2,979**	**-6.1**	**20.7**
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,699	2,017	1,455	-15.8	16.8
Natural Res. & Mining	772	775	691	-0.4	11.7
Mining	758	758	676	0.0	12.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	74	32	37	131.3	100.0
Construction	781	1,043	630	-25.1	24.0
Manufacturing	144	198	134	-27.3	7.5
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,463	1,330	1,142	10.0	28.1
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	570	554	401	2.9	42.1
Wholesale Trade	178	156	92	14.1	93.5
Retail Trade	156	179	121	-12.8	28.9
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	236	219	188	7.8	25.5
Information	12	12	15	0.0	-20.0
Financial Activities	86	85	83	1.2	3.6
Prof. and Business Svcs.	233	281	147	-17.1	58.5
Educational & Health Svcs.	87	99	87	-12.1	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	387	208	339	86.1	14.2
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	79	84	66	-6.0	19.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	145	166	129	-12.7	12.4
Federal Government	62	51	48	21.6	29.2
State Government	12	19	20	-36.8	-40.0
Local Government	70	95	60	-26.3	16.7
Local Education	20	16	15	25.0	33.3
UNCLASSIFIED	286	315	251	-9.2	13.9
Laramie County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	**303**	**449**	**254**	**-32.5**	**19.3**
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	151	217	116	-30.4	30.2
Construction	103	147	75	-29.9	37.3
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	124	198	107	-37.4	15.9
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	49	80	41	-38.8	19.5
Financial Activities	6	7	11	-14.3	-45.5
Prof. & Business Svcs.	28	54	19	-48.1	47.4
Educational & Health Svcs.	12	20	12	-40.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	14	20	11	-30.0	27.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	17	18	17	-5.6	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	10	15	12	-33.3	-16.7
Natrona County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	**671**	**650**	**523**	**3.2**	**28.3**
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	335	346	297	-3.2	12.8
Construction	156	162	121	-3.7	28.9
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	312	277	202	12.6	54.5
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	157	123	95	27.6	65.3
Financial Activities	21	23	16	-8.7	31.3
Prof. & Business Svcs.	44	46	35	-4.3	25.7
Educational & Health Svcs.	24	21	25	14.3	-4.0
Leisure & Hospitality	30	24	11	25.0	172.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	9	9	12	0.0	-25.0
UNCLASSIFIED	13	17	10	-23.5	30.0

[a]An 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

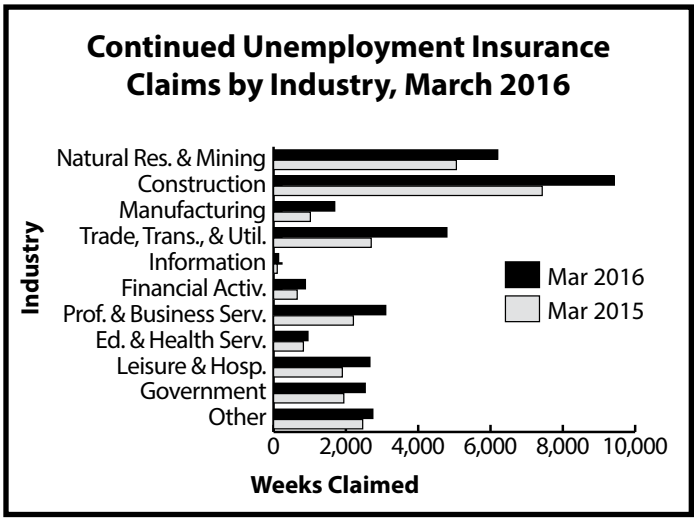
by: Patrick Manning, Principal Economist

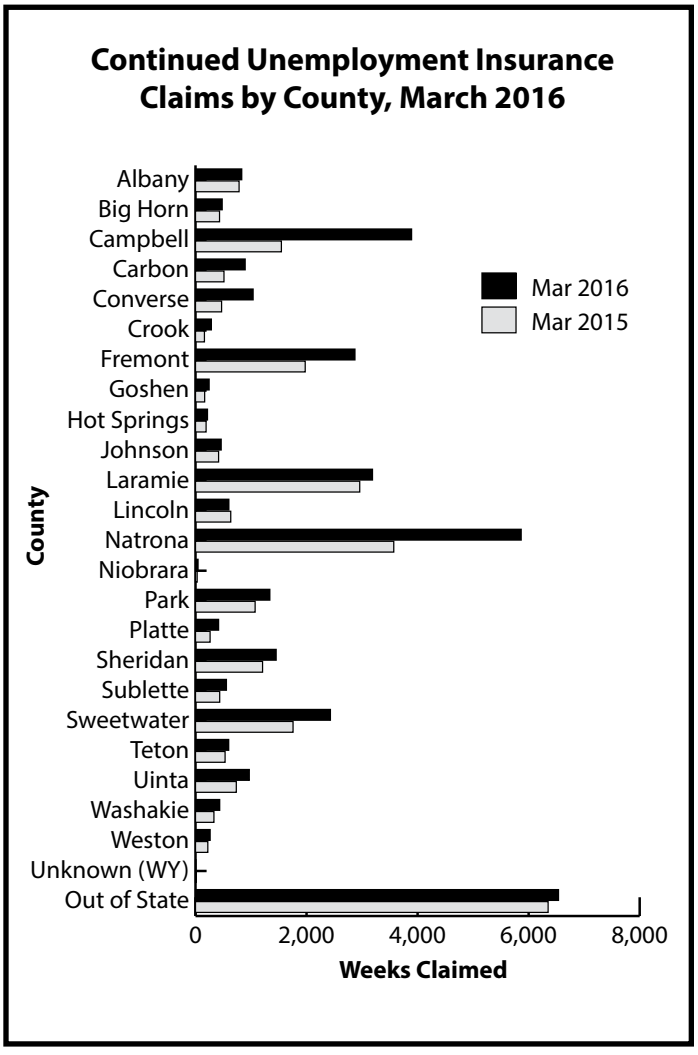
From March 2015 to March 2016, total continued weeks claimed increased 34.2% (9,155 weeks). The number of unique claimants with continued claims increased 12.8% (1,001 individuals).

Continued Claims

	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Mar 16	Feb 16	Mar 15	Mar 16 Feb 16	Mar 16 Mar 15
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	**35,930**	**36,124**	**26,775**	**-0.5**	**34.2**
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	8,812	10,297	7,811	-14.4	12.8
Benefit Exhaustions	622	544	401	14.3	55.1
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	7.1%	5.3%	5.1%	1.8%	1.9%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	17,319	17,247	13,506	0.4	28.2
Natural Res. & Mining	6,200	4,990	5,056	24.2	22.6
Mining	6,004	4,793	4,888	25.3	22.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	527	491	389	7.3	35.5
Construction	9,425	10,621	7,430	-11.3	26.9
Manufacturing	1,692	1,635	1,018	3.5	66.2
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	13,328	12,926	8,860	3.1	50.4
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	4,794	4,422	2,701	8.4	77.5
Wholesale Trade	1,300	1,059	533	22.8	143.9
Retail Trade	1,621	1,591	1,000	1.9	62.1
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	1,873	1,772	1,168	5.7	60.4
Information	140	158	102	-11.4	37.3
Financial Activities	881	816	654	8.0	34.7
Prof. & Business Services	3,103	3,116	2,208	-0.4	40.5
Educational & Health Svcs.	952	997	825	-4.5	15.4
Leisure and Hospitality	2,665	2,672	1,902	-0.3	40.1
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	787	736	460	6.9	71.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,536	2,792	1,943	-9.2	30.5
Federal Government	892	1,104	1,008	-19.2	-11.5
State Government	285	286	215	-0.3	32.6
Local Government	1,357	1,401	718	-3.1	89.0
Local Education	152	166	105	-8.4	44.8
UNCLASSIFIED	2,746	3,157	2,465	-13.0	11.4
Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	**3,187**	**3,602**	**2,958**	**-11.5**	**7.7**
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**834**	**1,048**	**897**	**-20.4**	**-7.0**
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,563	1,993	1,366	-21.6	14.4
Construction	1,229	1,639	1,071	-25.0	14.8
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,247	1,215	1,214	2.6	2.7
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	483	472	411	2.3	17.5
Financial Activities	107	105	88	1.9	21.6
Prof. & Business Svcs.	311	299	325	4.0	-4.3
Educational and Health Svcs.	163	149	209	9.4	-22.0
Leisure & Hospitality	94	110	120	-14.5	-21.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	255	263	234	-3.0	9.0
UNCLASSIFIED	120	129	142	-7.0	-15.5
Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	**5,866**	**5,934**	**3,571**	**-1.1**	**64.3**
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**1,478**	**1,725**	**1,067**	**-14.3**	**38.5**
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	3,025	3,128	2,019	-3.3	49.8
Construction	1,337	1,742	909	-23.2	47.1
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	2,621	2,567	1,316	2.1	99.2
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	1,110	1,049	483	5.8	129.8
Financial Activities	208	187	94	11.2	121.3
Professional & Business Svcs.	502	548	309	-8.4	62.5
Educational & Health Svcs.	208	189	183	10.1	13.7
Leisure & Hospitality	322	377	153	-14.6	110.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	90	96	113	-6.3	-20.4
UNCLASSIFIED	129	141	121	-8.5	6.6

[a]An 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.





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