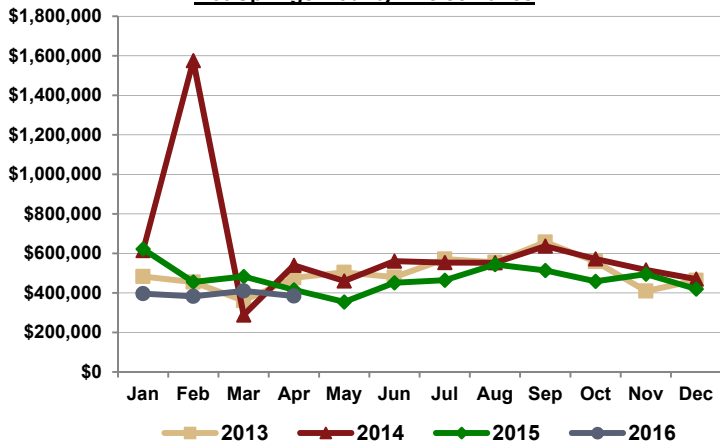
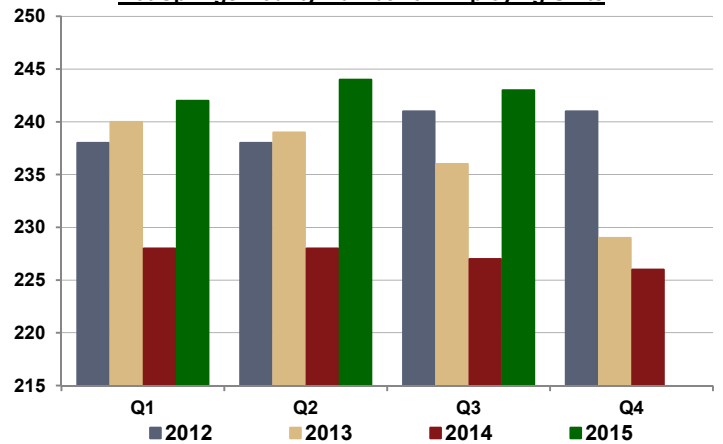


Hot Springs County Excise Taxes



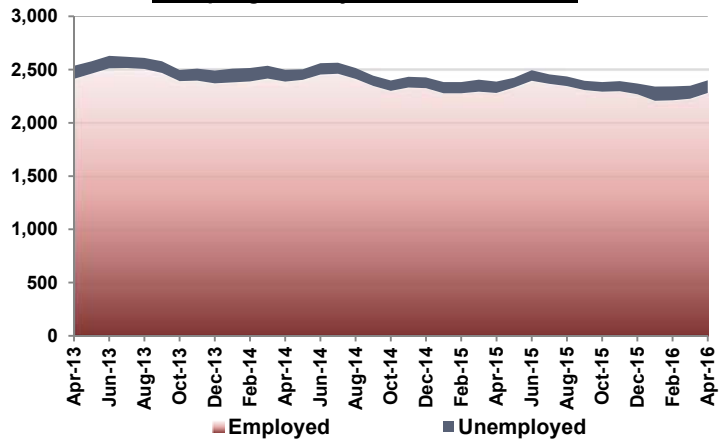
April 2016 = \$383,687 (7.8% less than April 2015).
 Calendar YTD 2016 = \$1,572,262 (20.4% less than YTD 2015).

Hot Springs County Number of Employing Units



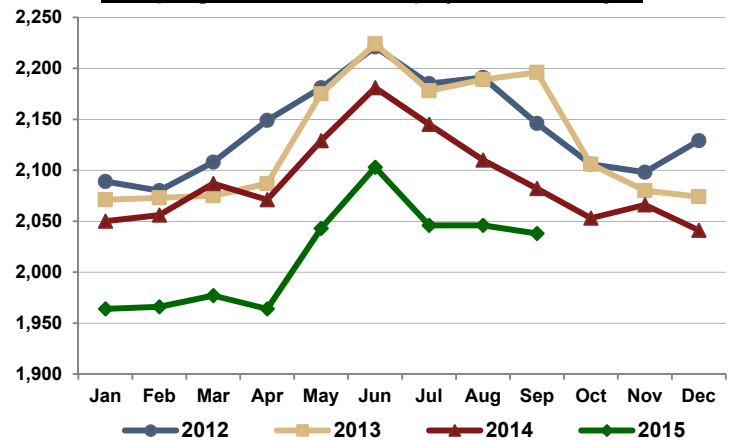
3Q15 Employing Units = 243 (7.0% more than 3Q14).
 Calendar YTD 2015 Avg. = 243 (6.7% more than 2014 YTD).

Hot Springs County Resident Labor Force



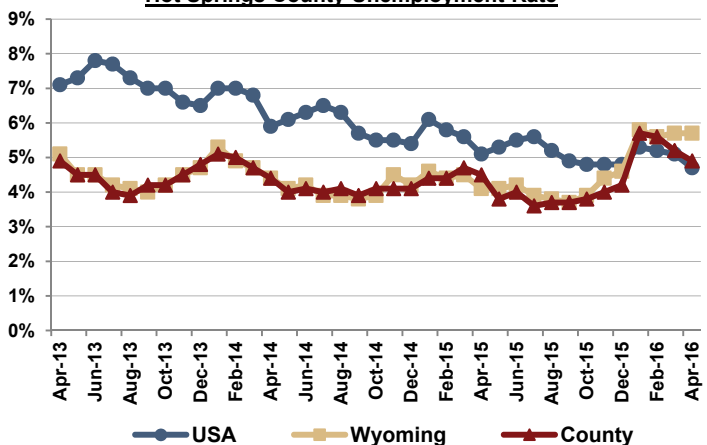
April 2016 Employed = 2,281 (2.5% more than March 2016).
 Calendar YTD 2016 Avg. = 2,231 (2.2% less than YTD 2015).

Hot Springs Co. Number of Employees Covered by UI



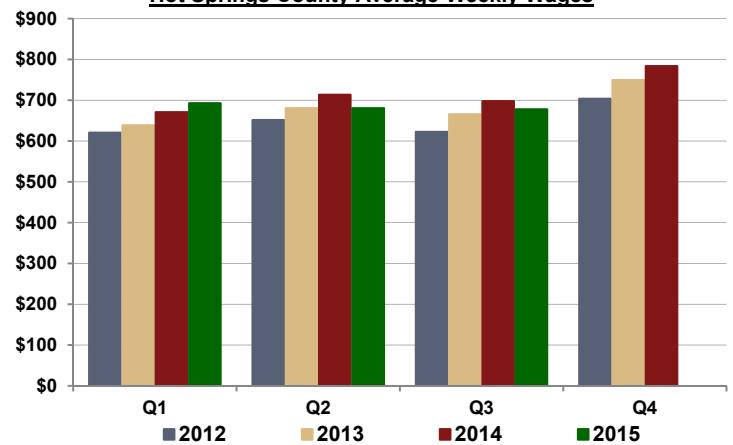
3Q15 Average Employees = 2,043 (3.3% less than 3Q14).
 Calendar YTD 2015 Avg. = 2,016 (4.0% less than YTD 2014).

Hot Springs County Unemployment Rate



April 2016 Unemployment = 4.9% (March 2016 was 5.2%).
 Calendar YTD 2016 Avg. = 5.4% (2015 YTD Avg. was 4.5%).

Hot Springs County Average Weekly Wages



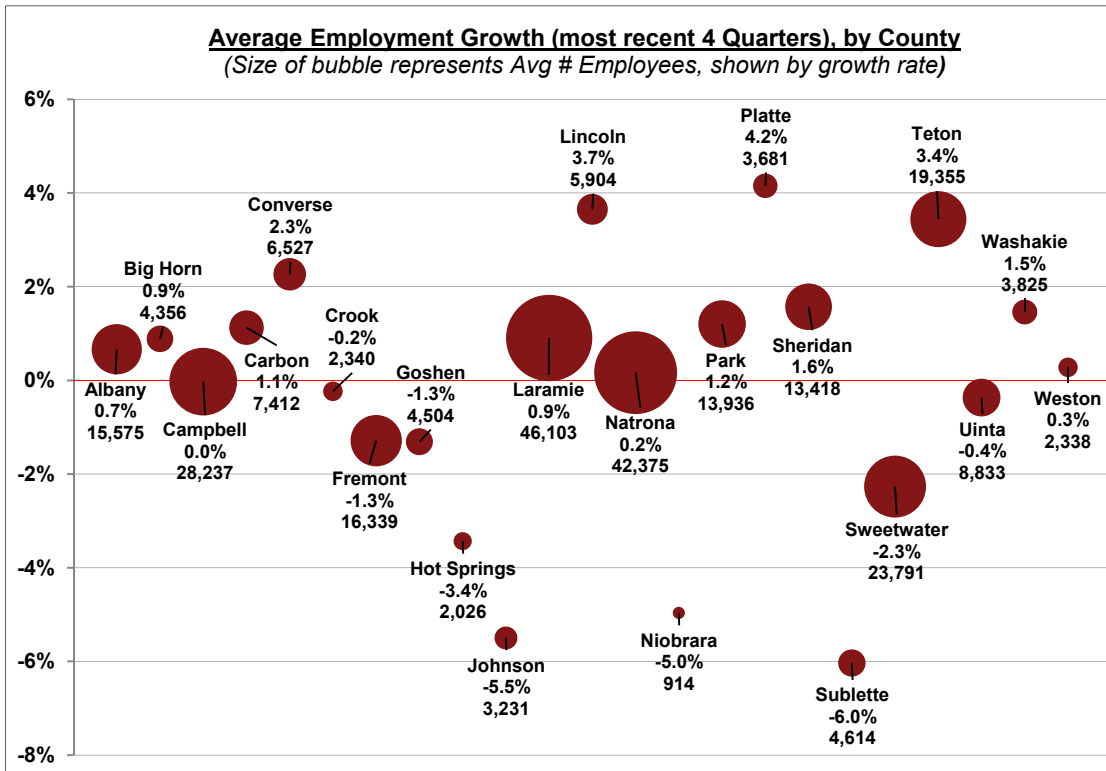
3Q15 Average Weekly Wages = \$678 (2.9% less than 3Q14).
 Calendar YTD 2015 Avg. = \$684 (1.5% less than YTD 2014).



Growth in Average Number of Employees (QCEW)

CBI frequently uses two different measures of employment. The first employment measure is the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, which creates monthly *estimates* of the entire labor force and unemployment rate for workers residing in a particular county, using Census counts, population estimates, and Wyoming's unemployment insurance (UI) system. The second measure, the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, tracks jobs (not workers) by place of work. QCEW is a compilation of *actual* UI wage records filed by employers. Although QCEW data collection and reporting takes months to complete, and even though it includes only workers who have UI coverage, QCEW data compilations reflect the exact number of employing units, employees, average weekly wages, and the total amount of wages paid in each county. The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services (DWS) Research & Planning Office administers both the LAUS and the QCEW programs.

Average Employment Growth rates (from QCEW) reveal which counties are gaining jobs, and which are losing them. By averaging the most recent four quarters of data (4Q2014 through 3Q2015) and comparing those average numbers of employees with average numbers from the previous four quarters (4Q2013 through 3Q2014), we can get a better idea of actual growth without needing to make seasonal adjustments.



Platte County has led all counties in job growth rate for the most recent four quarters, with the number of jobs there growing by 4.2%, followed by Lincoln (3.7%), and Teton (3.4%) Counties. Other counties around the state have not fared so well. Sublette County (-6.0%), Johnson County (-5.5%), and Niobrara County (-5.0%) have endured job losses during the last four quarters. In fact, 10 of Wyoming's 23 counties lost jobs during those four quarters.

Teton County added the most jobs (644), followed by Laramie County (413) and Lincoln County (208) during the most recent four quarters. Statewide, 1,004 new jobs were added, which represents an annualized growth rate of 0.4%, bringing the average number of jobs in Wyoming to 284,183. Again, QCEW data includes only the jobs that are covered by UI. According to DWS, the UI-covered payroll included in the QCEW data represents approximately 91.5% of all wage and salary disbursements and 43.8% of personal income in the state.

Community Builders, Inc. (CBI) can provide you with much deeper analysis of the topics presented in this newsletter, and many others as well. We have 60+ years of experience with community and economic development. CBI provides business plans, feasibility studies, grant writing, strategic planning, facilitation, training, and other consulting services.

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Sweetwater County lost the most jobs (-552) during the last four quarters, shrinking its job base by 2.3%. Sublette County (-296 jobs) and Fremont County (-213 jobs) followed.

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CHANGING THE WAY WYOMING FINDS HELP

2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers, at no cost, to information about critical health and human services available in communities around Wyoming.

By dialing 2-1-1, callers can find information and receive referrals on:

- ✓ Rent/Utility Assistance
- ✓ Mental Health Resources
- ✓ Food Banks/Pantries
- ✓ Soup Kitchens
- ✓ Homeless Shelters
- ✓ Clothing/Household Goods
- ✓ Health Clinics
- ✓ Youth Programs
- ✓ Legal Assistance
- ✓ Job Training/Assistance
- ✓ Senior Services
- ✓ and more!

