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Wyoming Cost of Living Index for the Second Quarter of 2015

Annual Statewide Inflation was 0.9%

CHEYENNE – The State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division reported that Wyoming experienced a 0.9% increase in annual (**All Items**) inflation from the second quarter of 2014 to the second quarter of 2015. Inflation is measured over six consumer categories in the Wyoming Cost of Living Index (WCLI). Statewide annual inflation rates by consumer category for the second quarter of 2015: Medical (4.7%), Apparel (2.5%), Housing (1.9%), Food (1.7%), Recreation & Personal Care (0.0%), and Transportation (-4.4%). The negative inflation in the Transportation category was due to lower transportation costs seen over the year, which tempered overall annual inflation in the second quarter of 2015.

Inflation rates were also reported for five regions in the State. The Northeast region recorded the highest annual increase (2.4%) followed by the Northwest (2.3%), Southeast (0.8%), and Central (0.7%), but the Southwest region experienced deflation (-1.1%). Over the year period, Wyoming did not experience an increase in total employment. Most industrial sectors exhibited employment growth from second quarter of 2014 to second quarter of 2015, however, Wyoming's dominant industry, mining, experienced a substantial employment decline over the year.

The Wyoming Cost of Living Index (WCLI) consists of two parts, **inflation**, which measures year-over-year change (annual) and the **Comparative Cost of Living Index** which compares each county's cost of living in one period (not over time). The inflation figures for the second quarter of 2015 represent the percent change in the price level of a standard basket of selected consumer items priced in the second quarter of 2015, compared with the price level of the same goods recorded one year ago (second quarter of 2014). The Comparative Cost of Living Index represents each county's price level compared to the statewide average (100) during a single time period, in this case, the second quarter of 2015.

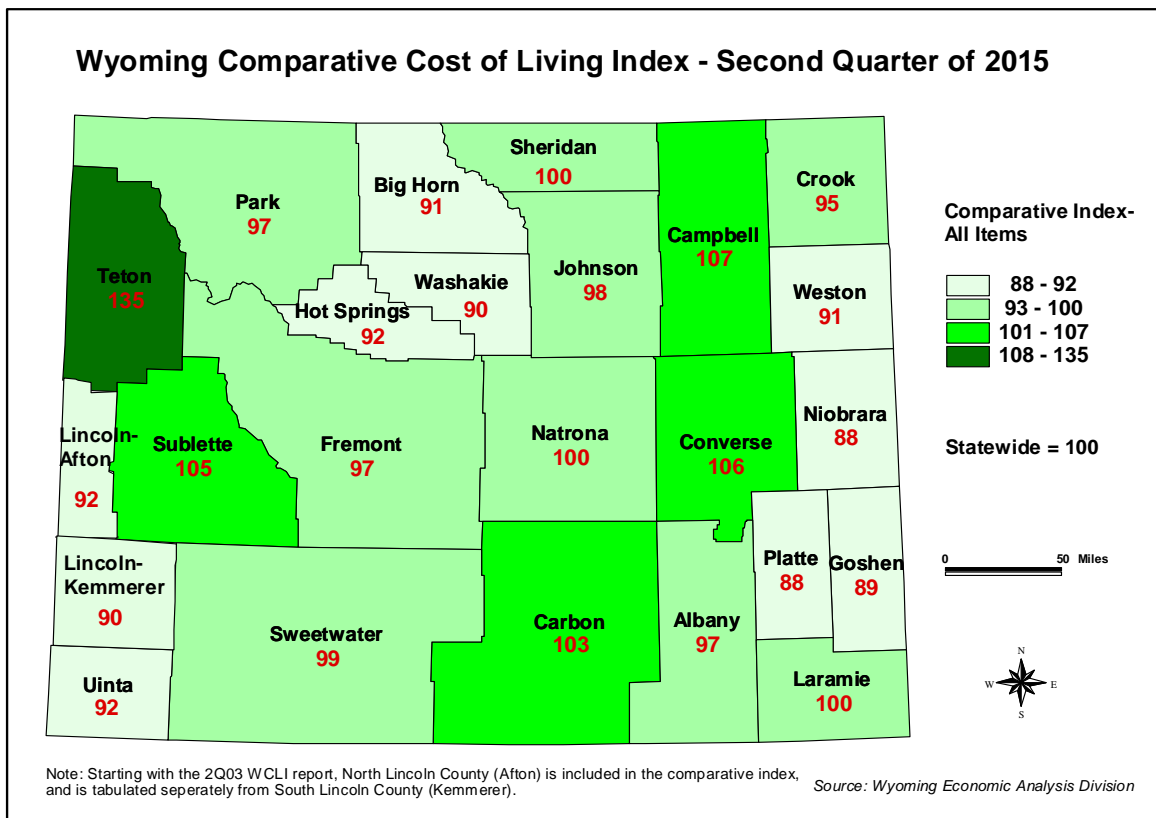
For the second quarter of 2015, the Comparative Cost of Living Index ranked Teton (135) as the county with the highest **All Items** value, which means that the cost of living in Teton County was an estimated 35% higher than the statewide average in the quarter. Campbell County ranked second in the **All Items** Comparative Cost of Living Index (107).

The **Housing** category carries the largest weight in a consumer's budget and typically drives the overall Comparative Cost of Living Index values. Comparative Cost of Living Index data were

also produced by consumer category for every county. Counties with **Housing** category index values above the statewide average in the second quarter of 2015 included Teton (162), Campbell (113), Converse (112), Laramie (104), Carbon (104), Sublette (103), and Natrona (102). Historically, counties in Wyoming with mineral extraction industries tend to rank towards the top in the Comparative Cost of Living Index.

Counties with lower **All Items** Comparative Cost of Living Index values in the second quarter of 2015 included Platte (88), Niobrara (88), and Goshen (89). These counties have small, rural populations, without much mineral extraction, and typically show lower **All Items** Comparative Cost of Living Index values.

Comparative Cost of Living Index values for all counties in Wyoming are listed in Table 1 on page 4. Movement in ranking from a previous survey does not indicate that the price level has increased or decreased in a particular county. Instead, these values reflect relative price levels in each county, *at the time of data collection*, compared with the statewide average of 100.



Survey Methodology

The WCLI is produced biannually, the second quarter and fourth quarter. Price data are collected in twenty-eight cities and towns in Wyoming and the data are used to build a Comparative Cost of Living Index by county and to estimate overall inflation rates for Wyoming and the five designated regions of the State. A map of the twenty-eight cities where price data were collected is on page 5.

Communities across the State are included in the WCLI based on the following criteria: First, the largest city or town in each county is priced; additionally, prices are collected in any city or town with populations greater than 5,000 or in cases of cities or towns having at least 80% of a county's largest community's population. In counties where only one community was priced, those prices were used to represent the entire county. In counties where two communities were surveyed, a population weighted average of the prices for the two communities was used for the entire county. Also, starting with the second quarter of 2003 WCLI report, Afton, in Lincoln County, was added as a sampling point through legislative action in 2003. Kemmerer is still priced. Afton and Kemmerer report separate Comparative Cost of Living Index numbers. Beginning with the second quarter of 2004, Afton, has been included in the inflation calculations.

The 140 consumer items surveyed were aggregated into six categories, which were then weighted using item weights from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), reflective of their overall importance in the average consumer's budget. These categories, and their respective weight components, include Housing (48.8%), Transportation (15.3%), Food (14.3%), Recreation & Personal Care (9.7%), Medical (7.7%), and Apparel (4.2%).

The data were weighted by population to more accurately represent the price changes experienced by the majority of consumers in Wyoming, which showed an overall, statewide inflation rate of 0.9% in the second quarter of 2015. Nationally, the inflation rate from June 2014 to June 2015 was 0.1% (CPI-U), as reported by the BLS in the Consumer Price Index.

The Division wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to all of the businesses and individuals whose cooperation and assistance made this survey possible.

The WCLI is available on the Division's homepage at <http://eadiv.state.wy.us>. Previous WCLI reports are available online as well as historical inflation figures. For additional information about the survey, please contact the Division, phone: (307) 777-7504 or email: ai-ead-info@wyo.gov.

**Table 1 - Wyoming Comparative Cost of Living Index - 2Q15
(Statewide Average = 100)**

COUNTY	Index Number by Category:						Recreation & Personal Care
	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical	
Teton	135	109	162	131	106	101	109
Campbell	107	105	113	101	99	103	104
Converse	106	102	112	94	102	102	99
Sublette	105	111	103	114	103	103	108
Carbon	103	98	104	96	99	116	98
Natrona	100	94	102	108	101	93	99
Laramie	100	98	104	84	97	97	96
Sheridan	100	108	94	121	100	97	110
Sweetwater	99	98	99	88	101	103	99
Johnson	98	110	90	126	100	93	110
Albany	97	100	97	101	98	94	97
Fremont	97	92	94	98	101	109	97
Park	97	104	90	105	100	109	99
Crook	95	113	85	109	102	98	104
Uinta	92	92	86	92	101	113	93
Hot Springs	92	105	81	98	99	104	103
Lincoln-Afton	92	94	83	93	103	92	108
Weston	91	101	82	97	101	103	97
Big Horn	91	111	78	107	101	97	98
Lincoln-Kemmerer	90	89	86	89	103	80	104
Washakie	90	100	78	105	100	97	106
Goshen	89	102	78	101	97	105	94
Niobrara	88	99	79	89	101	93	97
Platte	88	102	76	90	99	96	97

Starting with the 2Q03 Comparative Index, Lincoln-Afton was included.

Table 2 - Annual Inflation Rates by Category

QUARTER:	Inflation Rate by Category (Statewide Average):						Recreation & Personal Care
	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical	
WEIGHTS:	100.0	14.3	48.8	4.2	15.3	7.7	9.7
2Q09	0.0	1.7	1.1	2.4	-11.2	5.3	5.2
4Q09	2.7	-0.8	-0.6	1.7	16.9	2.8	2.6
2Q10	1.9	1.5	0.8	0.1	5.4	4.0	1.5
4Q10	2.9	4.2	2.1	1.0	5.0	5.4	0.7
2Q11	4.5	6.9	2.2	5.4	11.5	5.4	-0.8
4Q11	3.9	7.0	3.1	5.4	5.1	5.8	-0.4
2Q12	2.4	2.6	3.4	2.3	0.3	3.1	0.7
4Q12	2.1	1.3	3.1	4.5	-1.0	3.9	0.6
2Q13	3.1	1.6	4.0	5.4	1.8	4.3	1.1
4Q13	2.9	0.4	3.6	2.9	3.3	4.9	0.7
2Q14	2.7	3.0	3.9	7.8	-2.1	4.2	1.1
4Q14	1.1	4.1	3.7	3.7	-11.5	4.7	0.9
2Q15	0.9	1.7	1.9	2.5	-4.4	4.7	0.0

Note: Item weights may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Note: The 2Q99 inflation calculations mark the first time the WCLI used all 23 counties to calculate the inflation rates.

Previously, only 15 counties were used. Starting with the 2Q04 report, the inflation numbers include Lincoln-Afton.

Table 3 - Annual Inflation Rates by Region

QUARTER:	U.S. CPI*	Statewide All Items	Inflation Rate By Region (All Items):				
			Southeast	Southwest	Central	Northeast	Northwest
2Q09	-1.4	0.0	0.2	-0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.5
4Q09	2.7	2.7	3.4	1.5	2.7	3.0	2.1
2Q10	1.1	1.9	2.6	1.6	1.9	1.0	2.1
4Q10	1.5	2.9	3.2	2.1	3.4	1.7	3.8
2Q11	3.6	4.5	5.0	3.6	4.7	4.5	4.5
4Q11	3.0	3.9	4.1	3.3	4.8	2.7	4.2
2Q12	1.7	2.4	2.0	2.8	2.5	1.5	3.8
4Q12	1.7	2.1	3.4	1.6	1.8	0.3	2.1
2Q13	1.8	3.1	4.5	2.8	4.1	0.3	2.3
4Q13	1.5	2.9	3.4	1.9	2.9	2.7	3.0
2Q14	2.1	2.7	3.2	0.8	2.8	3.8	2.7
4Q14	0.8	1.1	0.3	-0.9	3.1	1.9	0.8
2Q15	0.1	0.9	0.8	-1.1	0.7	2.4	2.3

Note: The 2Q99 inflation calculations mark the first time the WCLI used all 23 counties to calculate the inflation rates.

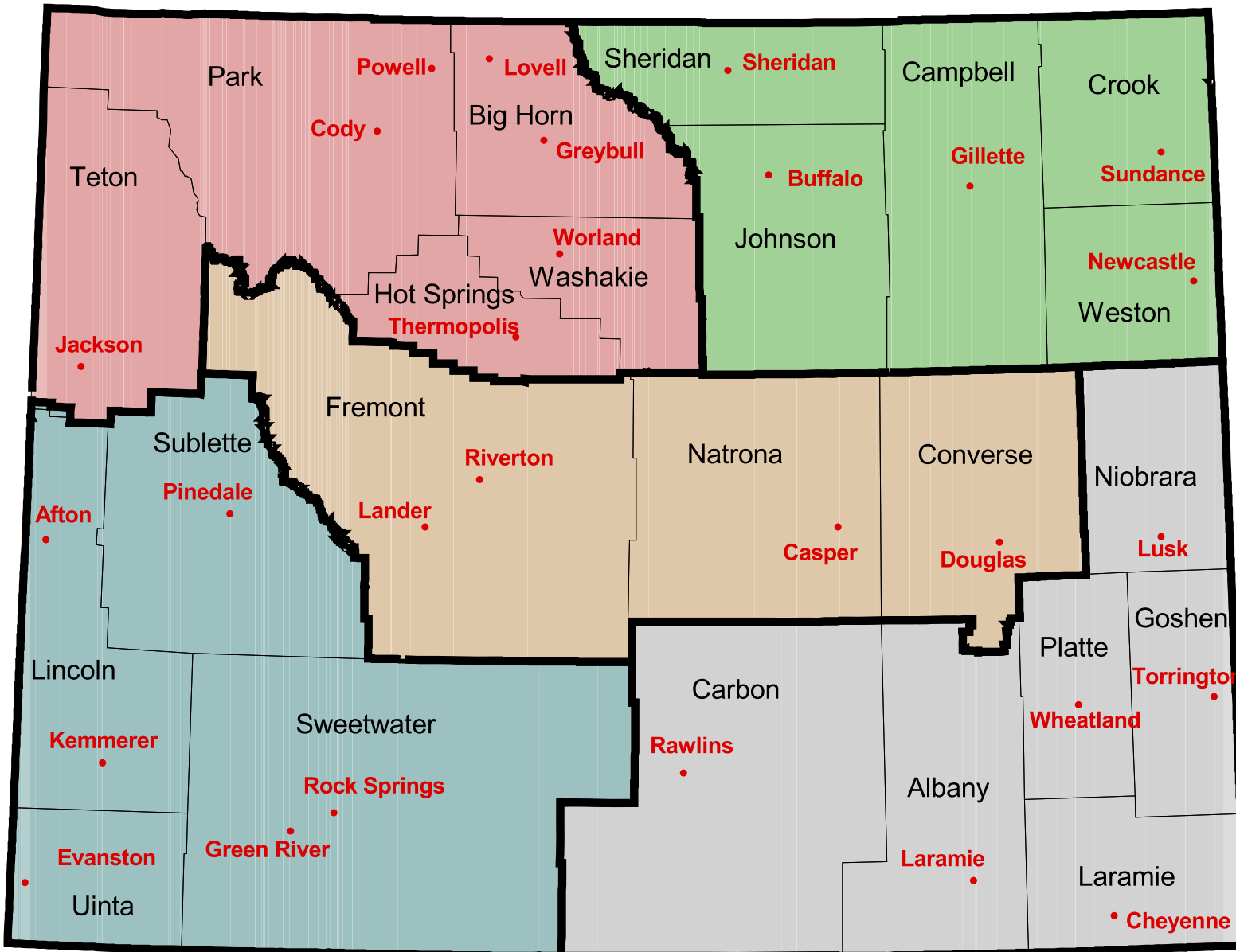
Previously, only 15 counties were used. Starting with the 2Q04 report, the inflation numbers include Lincoln-Afton.

* 4th Quarter represents the December to December and 2nd Quarter represents the June to June percent change in the US CPI-U.

Regional Composition for Inflation Estimate:

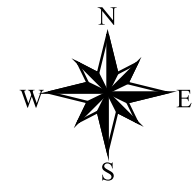
- Southeast: Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte counties.
- Southwest: Lincoln-Kemmerer, Lincoln-Afton, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.
- Central: Converse, Fremont, and Natrona counties.
- Northeast: Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties.
- Northwest: Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, and Washakie counties.

Surveyed Communities and WCLI Regions



WCLI Regions

- Southeast: Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte
- Southwest: Lincoln (Kemmerer), Lincoln (Afton), Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta
- Central: Converse, Fremont, and Natrona
- Northeast: Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston
- Northwest: Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, and Washakie



Note: Starting with the 2Q03 WCLI report, North Lincoln County (Afton) is included in the comparative index, and is tabulated separately from South Lincoln County (Kemmerer).

**WYOMING COST OF LIVING INDEX - TABLE 4
AVERAGE RENTAL RATES - 2Q15 & 2Q14**

County	APARTMENT (1)			MOBILE HOME LOT (2)			HOUSE (3)			MOBILE HOME (4)		
	2Q15	2Q14	Percent Change	2Q15	2Q14	Percent Change	2Q15	2Q14	Percent Change	2Q15	2Q14	Percent Change
Albany	\$680	\$674	0.8%	\$345	\$325	5.9%	\$948	\$987	-3.9%	\$736	\$756	-2.7%
Big Horn	\$467	\$454	2.9%	\$172	\$170	1.5%	\$663	\$577	14.8%	\$436	\$450	-3.0%
Campbell	\$788	\$746	5.6%	\$435	\$425	2.3%	\$1,291	\$1,154	11.8%	\$903	\$851	6.1%
Carbon	\$809	\$768	5.4%	\$323	\$277	16.7%	\$1,031	\$928	11.1%	\$910	\$840	8.3%
Converse	\$885	\$871	1.6%	\$207	\$228	-9.4%	\$1,229	\$1,403	-12.4%	\$888	\$937	-5.2%
Crook	\$586	\$571	2.7%	NA	NA	NA	\$656	\$621	5.6%	NA	NA	NA
Fremont	\$675	\$578	16.8%	\$192	\$193	-0.8%	\$896	\$934	-4.1%	\$726	\$741	-2.1%
Goshen	\$574	\$556	3.2%	\$167	\$175	-4.8%	\$666	\$651	2.3%	\$514	\$498	3.4%
Hot Springs	\$555	\$488	13.9%	\$208	\$183	13.6%	\$685	\$622	10.2%	NA	NA	NA
Johnson	\$610	\$631	-3.2%	\$307	\$319	-3.7%	\$960	\$812	18.2%	\$534	\$601	-11.2%
Laramie	\$786	\$769	2.3%	\$396	\$363	9.2%	\$1,126	\$1,143	-1.5%	\$817	\$809	1.0%
Lincoln (Kemmerer)	\$508	\$546	-7.0%	\$409	\$399	2.5%	\$647	\$631	2.5%	\$735	NA	NA
Lincoln (Afton)	\$503	\$483	4.2%	NA	NA	NA	\$723	\$713	1.3%	NA	NA	NA
Natrona	\$829	\$837	-1.0%	\$294	\$305	-3.3%	\$1,139	\$1,167	-2.4%	\$610	\$609	0.1%
Niobrara	\$564	\$579	-2.5%	NA	NA	NA	\$644	\$677	-4.8%	NA	NA	NA
Park	\$591	\$569	3.8%	\$253	\$235	7.7%	\$884	\$850	4.0%	\$761	\$700	8.6%
Platte	\$578	\$580	-0.3%	\$142	\$138	2.7%	\$614	\$558	10.0%	\$416	\$462	-10.0%
Sheridan	\$673	\$645	4.4%	\$335	\$354	-5.5%	\$995	\$987	0.8%	\$554	\$502	10.2%
Sublette	\$829	\$809	2.4%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,104	\$1,153	-4.3%	NA	NA	NA
Sweetwater	\$689	\$706	-2.5%	\$367	\$365	0.4%	\$984	\$1,097	-10.3%	\$826	\$825	0.1%
Teton	\$1,289	\$1,262	2.1%	\$430	\$400	7.5%	\$2,115	\$1,859	13.8%	\$948	\$917	3.4%
Uinta	\$598	\$602	-0.6%	\$269	\$269	0.0%	\$818	\$764	7.1%	\$663	\$622	6.5%
Washakie	\$483	\$474	1.8%	NA	\$200	NA	\$686	\$639	7.2%	NA	NA	NA
Weston	\$579	\$572	1.2%	\$151	\$139	8.4%	\$665	\$685	-2.9%	\$513	\$480	6.8%
Southeast	\$735	\$720	2.2%	\$348	\$321	8.3%	\$1,011	\$1,016	-0.5%	\$759	\$754	0.7%
Southwest	\$648	\$657	-1.5%	\$334	\$332	0.7%	\$900	\$945	-4.7%	\$702	\$708	-0.8%
Central	\$789	\$763	3.3%	\$255	\$263	-3.3%	\$1,076	\$1,122	-4.1%	\$673	\$683	-1.4%
Northeast	\$710	\$682	4.1%	\$353	\$354	-0.3%	\$1,085	\$1,004	8.1%	\$712	\$676	5.3%
Northwest	\$766	\$742	3.1%	\$285	\$267	6.6%	\$1,183	\$1,071	10.4%	\$721	\$686	5.1%
Statewide Average	\$733	\$716	2.4%	\$316	\$308	2.7%	\$1,044	\$1,034	0.9%	\$717	\$707	1.3%
Regions:							(1) - Two-bedroom, unfurnished, excluding gas and electric.					
Southeast: Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte							(2) - Single-wide, including water.					
Southwest: Lincoln (Afton), Lincoln (Kemmerer), Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta							(3) - Two or three-bedroom, single family, excluding gas and electric.					
Central: Converse, Fremont, Natrona							(4) - Two or three-bedroom, including lot rent.					
Northeast: Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, Weston							Note: The regional averages are weighted by population within the region.					
Northwest: Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, Washakie							(NA) - There were too few observations to report the data.					