



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Wyoming Cost of Living Index for the Second Quarter of 2017

CHEYENNE – The State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division reported that Wyoming experienced a 1.1 percent increase in annual (**All Items**) inflation from the second quarter of 2016 to the second quarter of 2017. 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 2017: Apparel (5.4%), Food (3.8%), Medical (3.3%), Recreation & Personal Care (1.3%), Transportation (1.1%), and Housing (-0.3%).

Inflation figures are also available for five regions in the State. For the second quarter of 2017, the Northwest region recorded the highest annual increase (2.7%) followed by the Southeast (1.7%), Southwest (1.1%), Northeast (0.4%), and Central (0.2%). Wyoming's statewide **All Items** inflation rate of 1.1 percent marked the first time since the fourth quarter of 2014 that the state has experienced an inflation rate of over 1 percent. In addition, the last time all regions of the state registered inflation was in the second quarter of 2014. Since early 2015, Wyoming has been enduring the effects of an economic downturn. Wyoming has been plagued with employment losses, decreases in sales tax collections, and a reduction in mineral extraction activities. The total year-over-year employment declines recorded in the second quarter of 2017 were smaller than in previous quarters and for the first time in two years mineral sector employment has improved. Sales tax collections in Wyoming were also up over the year.

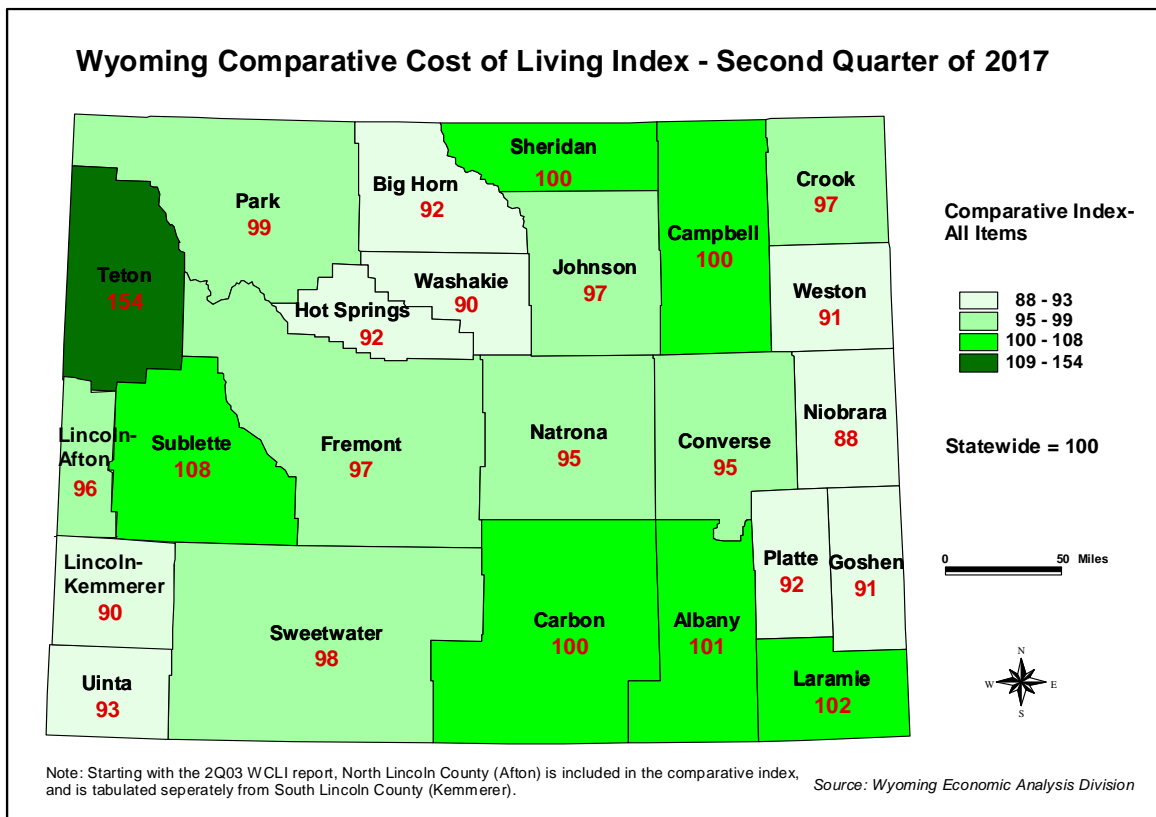
The Wyoming Cost of Living Index (WCLI) consists of two parts, **Inflation**, which measures year-over-year change (annual) and the **Comparative Cost of Living Index** which compares each county's cost of living in one period (not over time) to the statewide average. The inflation figures for the second quarter of 2017 represent the percent change in the price level of a standard basket of selected consumer items priced in the second quarter of 2017, compared with the price level of the same goods recorded one year ago (second quarter of 2016). 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 2017.

For the second quarter of 2017, the Comparative Cost of Living Index ranked Teton (154) as the county with the highest **All Items** value, which indicates that the cost of living in Teton County was estimated 54 percent higher than the statewide average in the quarter. Sublette County ranked second in the **All Items** Comparative Cost of Living Index (108).

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 2017 included Teton (199), Sublette (109), and Laramie (108).

Counties with lower **All Items** Comparative Cost of Living Index values in the second quarter of 2017 included Niobrara (88), Washakie (90) and Lincoln-Kemmerer (90). These counties have small, rural populations 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 a city or town having at least 80 percent 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 (49.2%), Transportation (15.3%), Food (13.7%), Recreation & Personal Care (9.4%), Medical (8.5%), and Apparel (3.8%).

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 1.1 percent in the second quarter of 2017. Nationally, the inflation rate from June 2016 to June 2017 was 1.6 percent (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.**

**Table 1 - Wyoming Comparative Cost of Living Index - 2Q17  
(Statewide Average = 100)**

COUNTY	Index Number by Category:						Recreation & Personal Care
	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical	
Teton	154	119	199	134	107	102	104
Sublette	108	106	109	116	105	102	110
Laramie	102	100	108	91	97	96	96
Albany	101	106	100	102	97	94	109
Sheridan	100	103	98	110	101	93	106
Carbon	100	96	100	94	99	114	96
Campbell	100	104	96	102	102	101	109
Park	99	104	95	116	103	105	98
Sweetwater	98	95	97	91	102	103	100
Fremont	97	95	95	99	99	114	97
Johnson	97	108	91	123	102	98	97
Crook	97	110	88	106	104	92	111
Lincoln-Afton	96	94	90	111	106	90	111
Converse	95	98	92	85	97	106	96
Natrona	95	94	93	93	98	95	97
Uinta	93	92	87	92	101	108	98
Platte	92	97	84	99	103	103	94
Hot Springs	92	103	81	110	101	103	99
Big Horn	92	110	80	107	103	100	94
Goshen	91	101	80	103	99	108	94
Weston	91	95	82	97	102	97	101
Lincoln-Kemmerer	90	88	85	86	104	92	96
Washakie	90	101	79	114	101	95	96
Niobrara	88	96	79	96	101	95	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	13.7	49.2	3.8	15.3	8.5	9.4
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
4Q15	0.5	2.2	-0.3	5.9	-1.4	5.0	-0.5
2Q16	-0.6	0.1	-0.6	-2.0	-2.7	4.3	-1.6
4Q16	0.6	1.4	-1.2	3.2	4.5	3.7	-1.5
2Q17	1.1	3.8	-0.3	5.4	1.1	3.3	1.3

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
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
4Q15	0.7	0.5	1.1	1.1	-2.1	0.9	2.7
2Q16	1.0	-0.6	1.0	-0.1	-3.2	-2.2	2.2
4Q16	2.1	0.6	3.1	-0.5	-1.3	-1.2	1.9
2Q17	1.6	1.1	1.7	1.1	0.2	0.4	2.7

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

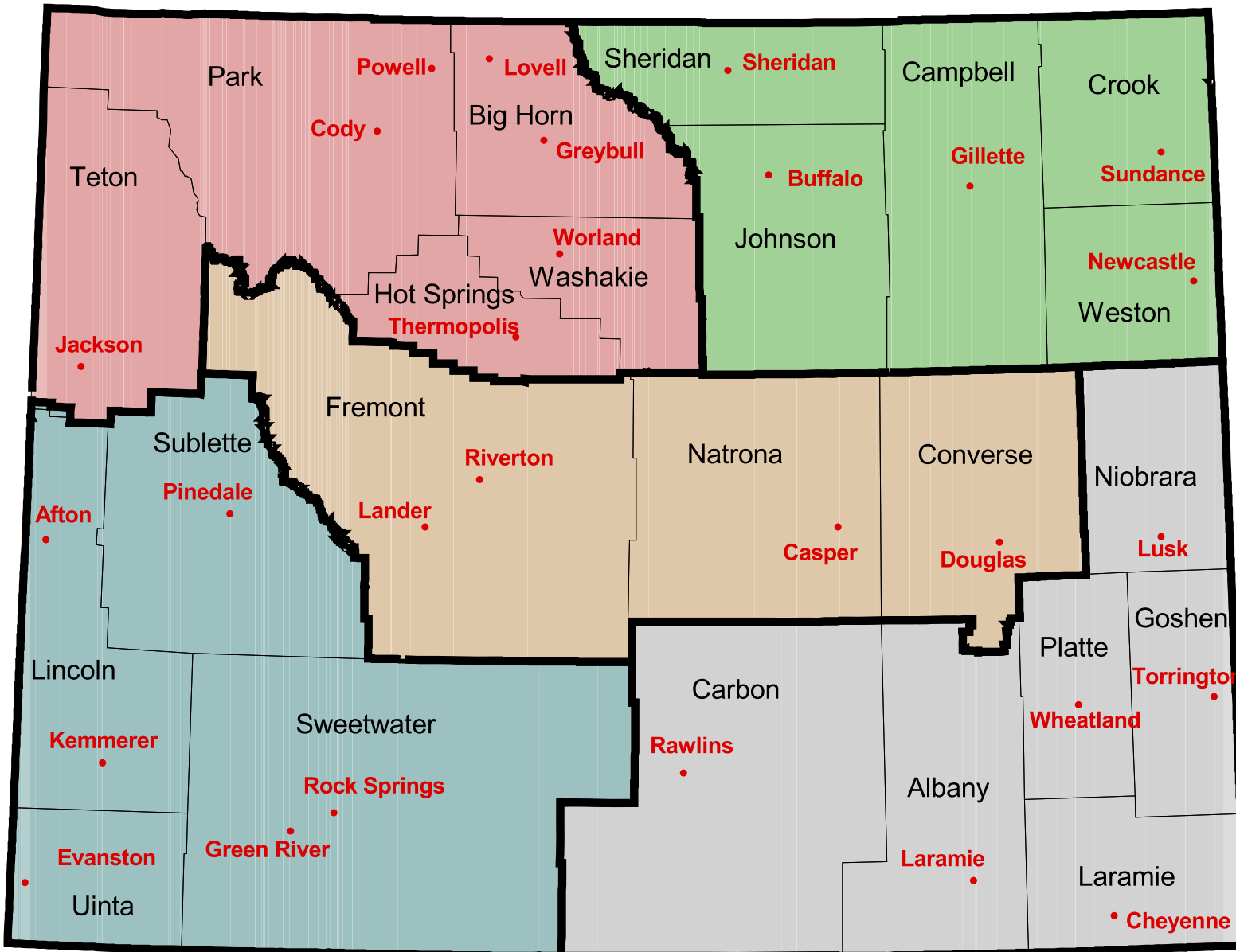
Previously, only 15 counties were used. Starting with the 2Q04 report, the inflation numbers include Lincoln-Afton.

\* 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:**

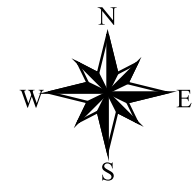
- Southeast: Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte counties.
- Southwest: Lincoln-Kemmerer, Lincoln-Afton, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.
- Central: Converse, Fremont, and Natrona counties.
- Northeast: Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties.
- Northwest: Big 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 - 2Q17 & 2Q16**

County	APARTMENT (1)			MOBILE HOME LOT (2)			HOUSE (3)			MOBILE HOME (4)		
	2Q17	2Q16	Percent Change	2Q17	2Q16	Percent Change	2Q17	2Q16	Percent Change	2Q17	2Q16	Percent Change
Albany	\$690	\$666	3.6%	\$340	\$322	5.8%	\$987	\$1,026	-3.8%	\$796	\$777	2.4%
Big Horn	\$520	\$507	2.6%	\$192	\$177	8.0%	\$656	\$667	-1.7%	\$478	\$455	5.1%
Campbell	\$630	\$700	-10.0%	\$455	\$452	0.7%	\$987	\$1,146	-13.9%	\$732	\$824	-11.1%
Carbon	\$706	\$810	-12.8%	\$334	\$343	-2.6%	\$992	\$1,014	-2.1%	\$839	\$941	-10.8%
Converse	\$609	\$661	-7.9%	\$201	\$201	0.0%	\$956	\$981	-2.5%	\$683	\$761	-10.3%
Crook	\$625	\$628	-0.4%	NA	NA	NA	\$763	\$658	15.8%	NA	NA	NA
Fremont	\$679	\$671	1.2%	\$208	\$200	4.3%	\$901	\$891	1.1%	\$655	\$712	-8.0%
Goshen	\$550	\$556	-1.1%	\$185	\$197	-5.9%	\$666	\$637	4.4%	\$513	NA	NA
Hot Springs	\$516	\$544	-5.2%	\$206	\$222	-7.2%	\$688	\$632	8.9%	\$543	NA	NA
Johnson	\$600	\$612	-1.9%	NA	NA	NA	\$991	\$978	1.3%	\$516	\$531	-2.7%
Laramie	\$782	\$779	0.4%	\$416	\$398	4.7%	\$1,164	\$1,141	2.0%	\$882	\$864	2.1%
Lincoln (Kemmerer)	\$474	\$476	-0.3%	\$424	\$417	1.8%	\$655	\$675	-2.8%	\$735	\$735	0.0%
Lincoln (Afton)	\$525	\$525	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$806	\$818	-1.5%	NA	NA	NA
Natrona	\$677	\$724	-6.5%	\$355	\$339	4.6%	\$968	\$1,029	-6.0%	\$604	\$611	-1.1%
Niobrara	\$564	\$594	-5.1%	NA	NA	NA	\$682	\$606	12.5%	NA	NA	NA
Park	\$630	\$592	6.3%	\$296	\$256	15.7%	\$910	\$859	6.0%	\$737	\$747	-1.4%
Platte	\$599	\$573	4.5%	NA	NA	NA	\$741	\$680	9.0%	NA	NA	NA
Sheridan	\$687	\$681	0.9%	\$318	\$296	7.6%	\$1,031	\$1,018	1.3%	\$568	\$517	9.9%
Sublette	\$853	\$813	5.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,100	\$1,108	-0.7%	NA	NA	NA
Sweetwater	\$637	\$653	-2.5%	\$407	\$381	7.0%	\$982	\$947	3.7%	\$742	\$781	-4.9%
Teton	\$1,842	\$1,826	0.9%	\$491	\$430	14.2%	\$2,468	\$2,310	6.8%	\$1,058	\$1,012	4.6%
Uinta	\$601	\$601	0.0%	\$281	\$281	0.0%	\$850	\$812	4.6%	\$673	\$647	3.9%
Washakie	\$473	\$493	-4.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$713	\$692	3.0%	NA	\$525	NA
Weston	\$583	\$591	-1.2%	\$159	\$158	0.6%	\$625	\$708	-11.8%	\$523	\$563	-7.2%
Southeast	\$726	\$728	-0.3%	\$361	\$348	3.7%	\$1,045	\$1,036	0.8%	\$813	\$813	0.0%
Southwest	\$623	\$626	-0.6%	\$359	\$348	3.3%	\$911	\$891	2.3%	\$682	\$691	-1.3%
Central	\$671	\$702	-4.4%	\$295	\$283	4.2%	\$947	\$983	-3.7%	\$627	\$656	-4.4%
Northeast	\$641	\$674	-4.9%	\$353	\$343	2.7%	\$958	\$1,028	-6.8%	\$633	\$661	-4.3%
Northwest	\$952	\$935	1.9%	\$323	\$288	12.1%	\$1,303	\$1,232	5.7%	\$761	\$748	1.7%
Statewide Average	\$712	\$723	-1.6%	\$339	\$324	4.5%	\$1,020	\$1,025	-0.5%	\$711	\$722	-1.6%
Regions:							(1) - Two-bedroom, unfurnished, excluding gas and electric.					
<b>Southeast:</b> Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte							(2) - Single-wide, including water.					
<b>Southwest:</b> Lincoln (Afton), Lincoln (Kemmerer), Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta							(3) - Two or three-bedroom, single family, excluding gas and electric.					
<b>Central:</b> Converse, Fremont, Natrona							(4) - Two or three-bedroom, including lot rent.					
<b>Northeast:</b> Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, Weston							Note: The regional averages are weighted by population within the region.					
<b>Northwest:</b> Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, Washakie							(NA) - There were too few observations to report the data.					