

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Wyoming Cost of Living Index for the Second Quarter of 2018

CHEYENNE – The State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division reported that Wyoming experienced a 3.3 percent increase in annual (**All Items**) inflation from the second quarter of 2017 to the second quarter of 2018. 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 2018: Transportation (8.7%), Apparel (6.6%), Medical (3.6%), Housing (2.1%), Food (2.1%), and Recreation & Personal Care (-0.3%). Higher gasoline prices contributed to the year-over-year Transportation inflation. Consumers saw higher prices at the pump due to increased oil prices. During this same time, the U.S. Consumer Price Index (U.S. CPI) reported inflation of 2.9 percent (June 2017 to June 2018).

Inflation figures are also available for five regions in the State. For the second quarter of 2018, the Northeast region recorded the highest annual increase (4.1%) followed by the Central (3.6%), Southeast (3.2%), Northwest (3.2%), and Southwest (1.8%). Inflation measures year-over-year prices changes. The inflation figures compare the second quarter of 2018 to the second quarter of 2017. An economic downturn in Wyoming began in early 2015. At this time, the State experienced heavy employment losses and reductions in revenue due to decreased mineral extraction activities. Wyoming lost one percent of its population from July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2017. It was not until the end of 2016 that things started to pick up in the State's mining industry (including oil and gas extraction). Wyoming's total employment in the second quarter of 2018 increased by 1.4 percent from one year earlier. This growth was the largest year-over-year increase since the fourth quarter of 2014.

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 2018 represent the percent change in the price level of a standard basket of selected consumer items priced in the second quarter of 2018, compared with the price level of the same goods recorded one year ago (second quarter of 2017). 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 2018.

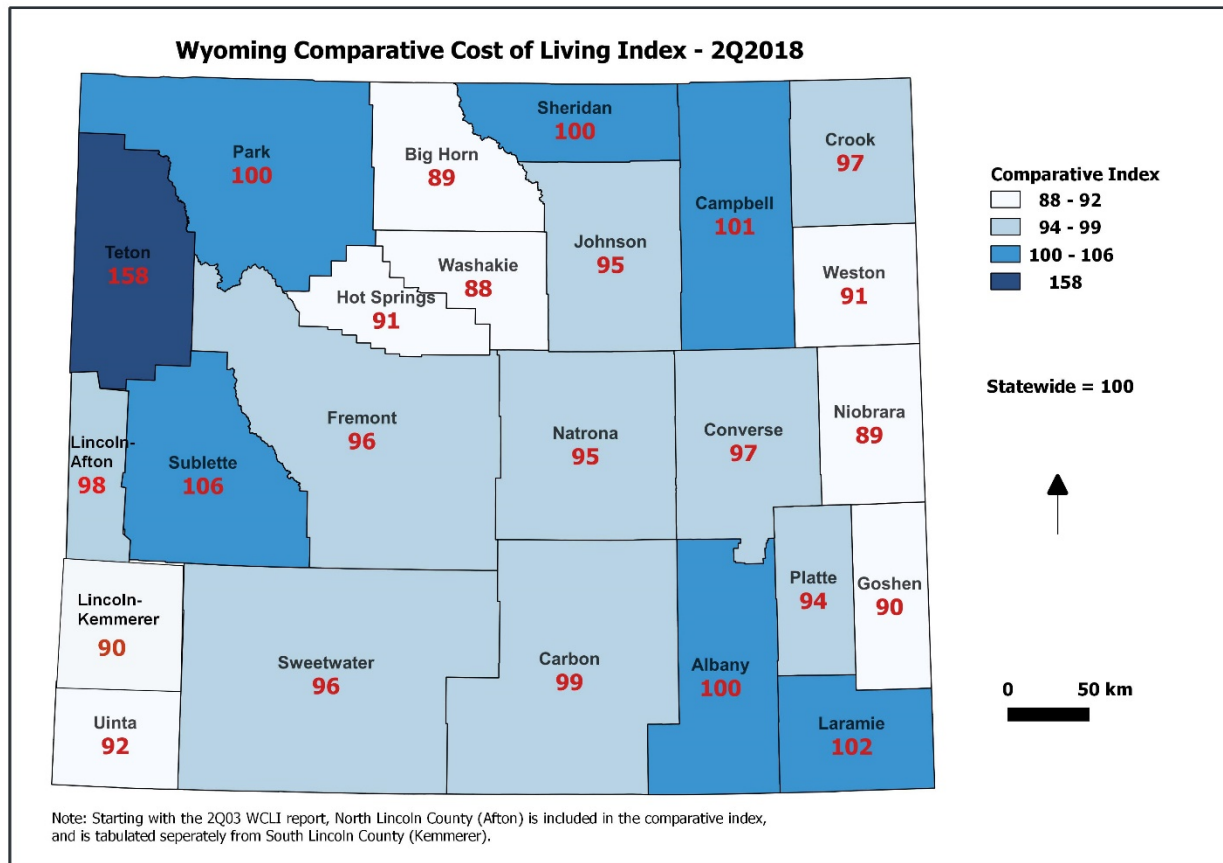
For the second quarter of 2018, the Comparative Cost of Living Index ranked Teton (158) as the county with the highest **All Items** value, which indicates that the cost of living in Teton County

was estimated 58 percent higher than the statewide average in the quarter. Sublette County ranked second in the **All Items** Comparative Cost of Living Index (106).

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 2018 included Teton (212), Laramie (107), and Sublette (105).

Counties with lower **All Items** Comparative Cost of Living Index values in the second quarter of 2018 included Washakie, Niobrara, and Big Horn. 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. In addition, 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 (48.1%), Transportation (16.5%), Food (13.4%), Recreation & Personal Care (9.5%), Medical (8.7%), and Apparel (3.8%).

The data are 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 3.3 percent in the second quarter of 2018. Nationally, the inflation rate from June 2017 to June 2018 was 2.9 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 - 2Q18**  
(Statewide Average = 100)

COUNTY	Index Number by Category:						Recreation & Personal Care
	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical	
Teton	158	116	212	131	105	98	106
Sublette	106	112	105	114	104	103	110
Laramie	102	100	107	96	98	94	100
Campbell	101	103	99	102	102	100	107
Albany	100	110	99	109	97	92	103
Park	100	105	95	112	102	106	102
Sheridan	100	107	97	113	101	94	98
Carbon	99	97	97	96	99	120	94
Lincoln-Afton	98	97	93	111	103	101	110
Crook	97	106	86	107	102	120	109
Converse	97	100	94	99	99	105	94
Fremont	96	97	92	91	99	114	96
Sweetwater	96	90	96	75	101	106	97
Natrona	95	91	93	100	98	96	96
Johnson	95	101	88	109	102	94	103
Platte	94	97	86	108	101	102	99
Uinta	92	91	85	90	101	109	96
Hot Springs	91	105	79	101	101	102	101
Weston	91	97	82	87	102	96	105
Goshen	90	104	78	106	97	104	104
Lincoln-Kemmerer	90	98	83	86	103	89	93
Big Horn	89	103	77	99	101	94	103
Niobrara	89	95	80	99	99	92	100
Washakie	88	98	76	102	101	95	99

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	13.4	48.1	3.8	16.5	8.7	9.5
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
4Q17	2.3	3.5	1.7	1.9	2.8	3.2	2.1
2Q18	3.3	2.1	2.1	6.6	8.7	3.6	-0.3

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	Inflation Rate By Region (All Items):				
		All Items	Southeast	Southwest	Central	Northeast	Northwest
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
4Q17	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.9	1.9	1.2	3.9
2Q18	2.9	3.3	3.2	1.8	3.6	4.1	3.2

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.

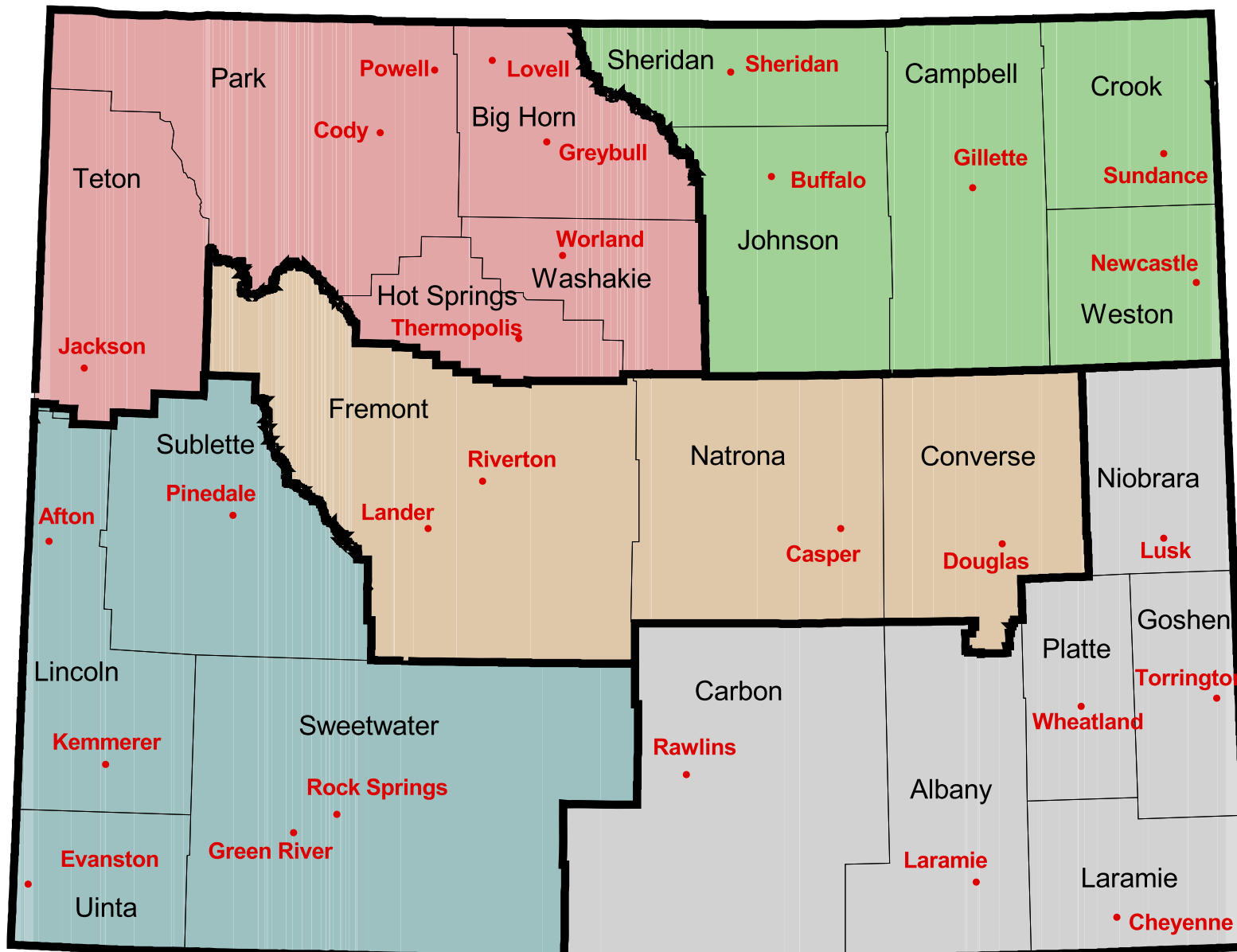
Southwest: Lincoln-Kemmerer, Lincoln-Afton, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.

Central: Converse, Fremont, and Natrona counties.

Northeast: Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties.

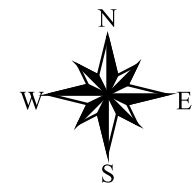
Northwest: Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, and Washakie counties.

# 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 - 2Q18 & 2Q17**

County	APARTMENT (1)			MOBILE HOME LOT (2)			HOUSE (3)			MOBILE HOME (4)		
	2Q18	2Q17	Percent Change	2Q18	2Q17	Percent Change	2Q18	2Q17	Percent Change	2Q18	2Q17	Percent Change
Albany	\$661	\$690	-4.2%	\$354	\$340	4.1%	\$1,040	\$987	5.3%	\$819	\$796	2.9%
Big Horn	\$494	\$520	-5.0%	\$192	\$192	0.0%	\$639	\$656	-2.6%	\$463	\$478	-3.2%
Campbell	\$660	\$630	4.7%	\$462	\$455	1.6%	\$1,100	\$987	11.5%	\$750	\$732	2.4%
Carbon	\$706	\$706	0.1%	\$361	\$334	8.1%	\$969	\$992	-2.4%	\$841	\$839	0.2%
Converse	\$667	\$609	9.5%	\$205	\$201	1.9%	\$966	\$956	1.1%	\$704	\$683	3.1%
Crook	\$629	\$625	0.6%	NA	NA	NA	\$738	\$763	-3.3%	NA	NA	NA
Fremont	\$676	\$678	-0.3%	\$204	\$208	-2.1%	\$889	\$900	-1.2%	\$643	\$655	-1.8%
Goshen	\$564	\$550	2.6%	\$195	\$185	5.4%	\$614	\$666	-7.7%	\$500	\$513	-2.5%
Hot Springs	\$505	\$516	-2.0%	\$215	\$206	4.2%	\$635	\$688	-7.8%	\$553	\$543	1.9%
Johnson	\$592	\$600	-1.3%	\$231	NA	NA	\$952	\$991	-3.9%	\$545	\$516	5.5%
Laramie	\$779	\$782	-0.4%	\$455	\$416	9.2%	\$1,215	\$1,164	4.4%	\$882	\$882	-0.1%
Lincoln (Kemmerer)	\$502	\$474	5.7%	NA	\$424	NA	\$609	\$655	-7.1%	\$667	\$735	-9.2%
Lincoln (Afton)	\$551	\$525	5.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$954	\$806	18.4%	NA	NA	NA
Natrona	\$705	\$677	4.1%	\$405	\$355	14.0%	\$996	\$968	2.9%	\$613	\$604	1.4%
Niobrara	\$572	\$564	1.3%	NA	NA	NA	\$682	\$682	0.1%	NA	NA	NA
Park	\$648	\$630	2.9%	\$274	\$296	-7.6%	\$915	\$910	0.5%	\$771	\$737	4.7%
Platte	\$621	\$599	3.8%	NA	NA	NA	\$754	\$741	1.7%	NA	NA	NA
Sheridan	\$688	\$687	0.1%	\$353	\$318	11.1%	\$1,055	\$1,031	2.3%	\$584	\$568	2.8%
Sublette	\$838	\$853	-1.8%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,108	\$1,100	0.8%	NA	NA	NA
Sweetwater	\$620	\$637	-2.6%	\$417	\$407	2.4%	\$1,003	\$983	2.0%	\$824	\$742	11.1%
Teton	\$2,092	\$1,842	13.5%	\$581	\$491	18.3%	\$2,695	\$2,468	9.2%	\$1,168	\$1,058	10.5%
Uinta	\$600	\$601	-0.1%	\$294	\$281	4.4%	\$853	\$850	0.4%	\$641	\$673	-4.7%
Washakie	\$467	\$473	-1.4%	NA	NA	NA	\$706	\$713	-1.0%	NA	NA	NA
Weston	\$563	\$583	-3.6%	\$163	\$159	2.6%	\$675	\$625	8.0%	\$526	\$523	0.5%
Southeast	\$720	\$726	-0.8%	\$392	\$361	8.4%	\$1,080	\$1,045	3.3%	\$819	\$813	0.8%
Southwest	\$618	\$623	-0.6%	\$380	\$359	6.0%	\$929	\$911	2.0%	\$692	\$681	1.6%
Central	\$692	\$671	3.2%	\$324	\$295	9.7%	\$961	\$946	1.6%	\$631	\$627	0.6%
Northeast	\$654	\$641	1.9%	\$366	\$351	4.3%	\$1,017	\$959	6.1%	\$647	\$631	2.5%
Northwest	\$1,030	\$954	8.0%	\$342	\$323	5.9%	\$1,368	\$1,305	4.9%	\$801	\$762	5.1%
Statewide Average	\$727	\$713	2.1%	\$363	\$339	7.2%	\$1,056	\$1,021	3.5%	\$724	\$711	1.7%
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.					