



## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Wyoming Cost of Living Index for the Second Quarter of 2019

CHEYENNE - The State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division has released the second quarter of 2019 Wyoming Cost of Living Index (WCLI). Inflation is reported for the State, by consumer category, and for five regions in the State. Inflation measures year-over-year price changes in six consumer categories. The inflation figures for the second quarter of 2019 represent the percent change in the price level of a standard basket of selected consumer items priced in the second quarter of 2019, compared with the price level of the same goods recorded one year ago (second quarter of 2018).

- All Items Statewide inflation 2.0%
- Statewide inflation by consumer category:
  - Medical 5.0%
  - Apparel 3.6%
  - Housing 2.7%
  - Food 2.3%
  - Recreation & Personal Care -0.3%
  - Transportation -0.8%
- Regional inflation rates:
  - Northeast 2.3%
  - Central 2.3%
  - Southwest 2.2%
  - Northwest 1.9%
  - Southeast 1.7%

Nationally, the inflation rate from June 2018 to June 2019 was 1.6 percent (CPI-U), as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the Consumer Price Index.

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 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 2019.

For the second quarter of 2019, the Comparative Cost of Living Index ranked Teton (161) as the county with the highest **All Items** value, which indicates that the cost of living in Teton County was estimated 61 percent higher than the statewide average in the quarter.

Comparative Cost of Living Index values for all counties in Wyoming are listed in Table 1 on page 3. 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. Comparative Cost of Living Index data were also produced by consumer category for every county.

### ***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 4.

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 (48.4%), Transportation (16.3%), Food (13.3%), 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.

**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 - 2Q19**  
**(Statewide Average = 100)**

COUNTY	Index Number by Category:							Recreation & Personal Care
	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical		
Teton	161	115	217	123	104	97	113	
Sublette	107	114	105	115	104	100	115	
Laramie	103	98	109	97	99	93	97	
Campbell	101	109	99	99	102	100	102	
Converse	101	98	102	108	99	104	99	
Sheridan	101	107	98	111	101	99	108	
Park	98	101	93	120	102	100	101	
Albany	98	102	97	105	97	95	99	
Lincoln-Afton	98	98	91	111	102	102	113	
Carbon	98	98	94	83	99	121	94	
Crook	97	109	86	104	103	115	110	
Sweetwater	96	97	94	76	102	104	99	
Fremont	95	97	91	90	99	113	92	
Johnson	95	109	85	118	102	96	101	
Natrona	94	92	93	97	98	94	98	
Platte	93	104	85	111	100	102	95	
Hot Springs	93	110	80	115	101	103	100	
Uinta	92	91	84	94	100	110	106	
Weston	90	96	81	106	101	98	100	
Lincoln-Kemmerer	90	94	80	83	102	106	98	
Washakie	90	98	78	114	101	97	98	
Niobrara	90	98	79	102	99	98	104	
Big Horn	89	105	77	107	102	93	97	
Goshen	88	98	77	106	99	105	96	

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	13.3	48.4	3.8	16.3	8.7	9.5	
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	
4Q18	2.5	2.6	2.0	4.7	2.8	4.8	1.2	
2Q19	2.0	2.3	2.7	3.6	-0.8	5.0	-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	
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	
4Q18	1.9	2.5	1.9	1.0	2.7	4.8	2.3	
2Q19	1.6	2.0	1.7	2.2	2.3	2.3	1.9	

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

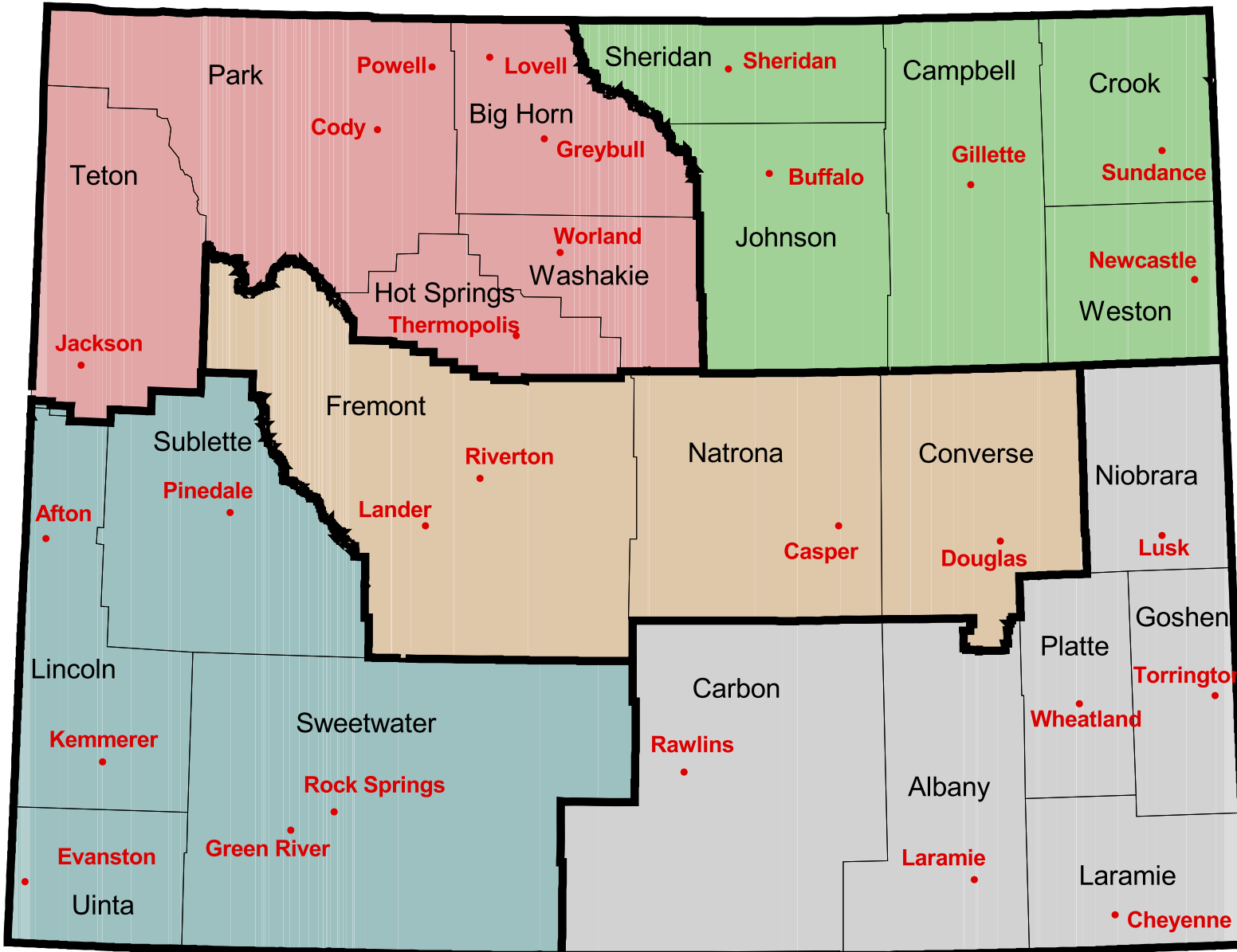
Previously, only 15 counties were used. Starting with the 2Q04 report, the inflation numbers include Lincoln-Afton.

\* 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:**

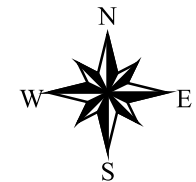
- Southeast: Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte counties.
- Southwest: Lincoln-Kemmerer, Lincoln-Afton, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.
- Central: Converse, Fremont, and Natrona counties.
- Northeast: Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties.
- Northwest: Big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

**TABLE 4 - AVERAGE RENTAL RATES - 2Q19 & 2Q18**

County	APARTMENT (1)			MOBILE HOME LOT (2)			HOUSE (3)			MOBILE HOME (4)		
	2Q19	2Q18	Percent Change	2Q19	2Q18	Percent Change	2Q19	2Q18	Percent Change	2Q19	2Q18	Percent Change
Albany	\$696	\$661	5.3%	\$368	\$354	3.8%	\$1,067	\$1,040	2.6%	\$803	\$819	-1.9%
Big Horn	\$504	\$494	2.0%	\$189	\$192	-1.5%	\$659	\$639	3.1%	\$451	\$463	-2.6%
Campbell	\$696	\$660	5.4%	\$478	\$462	3.4%	\$1,115	\$1,100	1.3%	\$746	\$750	-0.6%
Carbon	\$690	\$706	-2.3%	\$369	\$361	2.2%	\$984	\$969	1.6%	\$848	\$841	0.9%
Converse	\$774	\$667	16.0%	\$205	\$205	0.0%	\$1,223	\$966	26.6%	\$744	\$704	5.6%
Crook	\$629	\$629	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$730	\$738	-1.0%	NA	NA	NA
Fremont	\$677	\$676	0.2%	\$207	\$204	1.2%	\$941	\$889	5.8%	\$673	\$643	4.7%
Goshen	\$549	\$564	-2.8%	NA	\$195	NA	\$669	\$614	9.0%	\$488	\$500	-2.5%
Hot Springs	\$506	\$505	0.1%	\$245	\$215	14.0%	\$715	\$635	12.6%	\$586	\$553	6.0%
Johnson	\$566	\$592	-4.5%	\$235	\$231	1.6%	\$990	\$952	3.9%	\$505	\$545	-7.2%
Laramie	\$831	\$779	6.8%	\$442	\$455	-2.9%	\$1,311	\$1,215	7.9%	\$915	\$882	3.7%
Lincoln (Kemmerer)	\$515	\$502	2.7%	NA	NA	NA	\$603	\$609	-1.0%	\$671	\$667	0.6%
Lincoln (Afton)	\$562	\$551	2.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$959	\$954	0.5%	NA	NA	NA
Natrona	\$723	\$705	2.6%	\$349	\$405	-13.8%	\$1,040	\$996	4.4%	\$605	\$613	-1.2%
Niobrara	\$564	\$572	-1.3%	NA	NA	NA	\$683	\$682	0.1%	NA	NA	NA
Park	\$665	\$648	2.6%	\$299	\$274	9.2%	\$933	\$916	1.9%	\$728	\$772	-5.7%
Platte	\$619	\$621	-0.4%	NA	NA	NA	\$782	\$754	3.7%	NA	NA	NA
Sheridan	\$676	\$688	-1.7%	\$362	\$353	2.5%	\$1,178	\$1,055	11.7%	\$619	\$584	6.0%
Sublette	\$839	\$838	0.1%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,136	\$1,108	2.6%	NA	NA	NA
Sweetwater	\$639	\$620	3.1%	\$417	\$417	0.0%	\$988	\$1,002	-1.4%	\$810	\$824	-1.7%
Teton	\$2,274	\$2,092	8.7%	\$590	\$581	1.5%	\$2,761	\$2,695	2.5%	\$1,232	\$1,168	5.5%
Uinta	\$603	\$600	0.5%	\$296	\$294	0.7%	\$858	\$853	0.6%	\$654	\$641	2.0%
Washakie	\$527	\$467	12.8%	NA	NA	NA	\$718	\$706	1.8%	NA	NA	NA
Weston	\$570	\$563	1.3%	\$166	\$163	2.2%	\$679	\$675	0.6%	\$530	\$526	0.7%
Southeast	\$755	\$720	4.8%	\$390	\$392	-0.4%	\$1,147	\$1,081	6.2%	\$834	\$820	1.8%
Southwest	\$631	\$618	2.0%	\$380	\$380	-0.1%	\$926	\$929	-0.3%	\$706	\$691	2.1%
Central	\$715	\$692	3.2%	\$291	\$324	-10.1%	\$1,029	\$961	7.1%	\$640	\$631	1.3%
Northeast	\$665	\$654	1.7%	\$376	\$366	3.0%	\$1,064	\$1,017	4.7%	\$652	\$647	0.9%
Northwest	\$1,100	\$1,031	6.7%	\$361	\$342	5.5%	\$1,406	\$1,370	2.6%	\$803	\$802	0.2%
Statewide Average	\$756	\$727	3.9%	\$360	\$363	-1.0%	\$1,105	\$1,056	4.6%	\$734	\$724	1.4%

Regions:

**Southeast:** Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte

**Southwest:** Lincoln (Afton), Lincoln (Kemmerer), Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta

**Central:** Converse, Fremont, Natrona

**Northeast:** Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, Weston

**Northwest:** Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, Washakie

(1) - Two-bedroom, unfurnished, excluding gas and electric.

(2) - Single-wide, including water.

(3) - Two or three-bedroom, single family, excluding gas and electric.

(4) - Two or three-bedroom, including lot rent.

Note: The regional averages are weighted by population within the region.

(NA) - There were too few observations to report the data.