



ADMINISTRATION  
& INFORMATION

## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Wyoming Cost of Living Index for the Second Quarter of 2020

CHEYENNE - The second quarter of 2020 Wyoming Cost of Living Index (WCLI) is now available from the State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division. The 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.

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 2020 represent the percent change in the price level of a standard basket of selected consumer items priced in the second quarter of 2020, compared with the price level of the same goods recorded one year ago (second quarter of 2019).

- All Items Statewide inflation 1.1%
  
- Statewide inflation by consumer category:
  - Food 4.9%
  - Medical 3.0%
  - Apparel 2.7%
  - Housing 2.6%
  - Recreation & Personal Care. -1.0%
  - Transportation -7.3%
  
- Regional inflation rates:
  - Southeast 1.8%
  - Central 1.7%
  - Northwest 0.8%
  - Southwest 0.2%
  - Northeast -0.2%

Nationally, the inflation rate from June 2019 to June 2020 was 0.6% (CPI-U), as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the Consumer Price Index.

The Comparative Cost of Living Index represents each county's price level compared to the statewide average (100) during a single period, in this case, the second quarter of 2020. For the second quarter of 2020, the Comparative Cost of Living Index ranked Teton (159) as the county with the highest **All Items** value, which indicates that the cost of living in Teton County was estimated 59 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 the 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 (15.7%), Food (13.8%), Recreation & Personal Care (9.6%), Medical (8.8%), and Apparel (3.6%).

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 - 2Q20**  
**(Statewide Average = 100)**

COUNTY	Index Number by Category:							Recreation & Personal Care
	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical		
Teton	159	111	212	128	106	99	110	
Laramie	104	100	111	91	99	95	100	
Campbell	101	111	98	106	99	99	107	
Albany	100	104	98	114	99	94	109	
Converse	100	96	101	106	97	108	97	
Sublette	100	107	95	117	104	98	102	
Lincoln-Afton	100	95	97	116	103	100	108	
Sheridan	98	98	97	105	101	96	97	
Park	98	107	92	114	101	100	97	
Carbon	97	96	93	89	101	117	94	
Sweetwater	96	93	93	83	102	105	99	
Natrona	96	96	96	92	98	96	94	
Crook	95	103	86	106	103	109	102	
Johnson	95	108	86	119	100	94	102	
Fremont	95	95	90	86	99	110	97	
Lincoln-Kemmerer	91	97	79	100	102	117	103	
Niobrara	91	99	81	104	99	101	102	
Hot Springs	91	105	79	106	100	104	97	
Platte	90	93	82	100	100	99	103	
Weston	90	100	79	106	101	105	97	
Uinta	90	83	82	103	101	108	100	
Big Horn	90	110	78	108	101	92	92	
Washakie	89	104	76	111	101	94	97	
Goshen	88	97	76	101	98	104	102	

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	13.8	48.4	3.6	15.7	8.8	9.6	
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	
4Q19	2.2	0.9	2.7	7.1	1.4	4.0	-0.4	
2Q20	1.1	4.9	2.6	2.7	-7.3	3.0	-1.0	

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
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
4Q19	2.3	2.2	2.5	1.6	2.3	1.9	2.5
2Q20	0.6	1.1	1.8	0.2	1.7	-0.2	0.8

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.

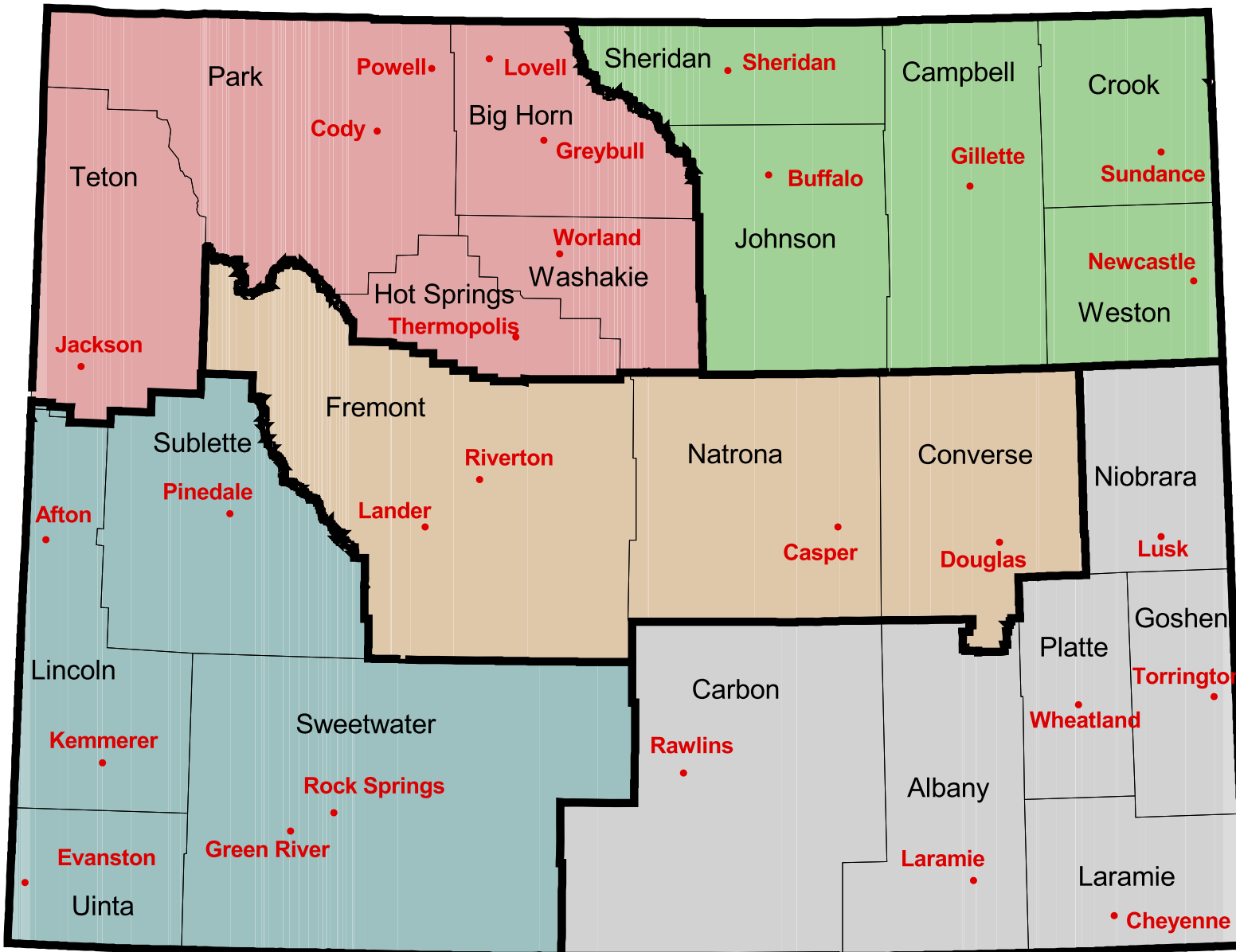
**Southwest:** Lincoln-Kemmerer, Lincoln-Afton, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.

**Central:** Converse, Fremont, and Natrona counties.

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

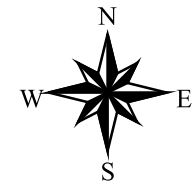
**Northwest:** Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, and Washakie counties.

# 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 - 2Q20 & 2Q19

County	APARTMENT (1)			MOBILE HOME LOT (2)			HOUSE (3)			MOBILE HOME (4)		
	2Q20	2Q19	Percent Change	2Q20	2Q19	Percent Change	2Q20	2Q19	Percent Change	2Q20	2Q19	Percent Change
Albany	\$720	\$696	3.4%	\$410	\$368	11.6%	\$1,123	\$1,067	5.2%	\$802	\$803	-0.1%
Big Horn	\$509	\$504	0.9%	\$205	\$189	8.7%	\$704	\$659	6.9%	\$477	\$451	5.8%
Campbell	\$699	\$696	0.4%	\$478	\$478	0.0%	\$1,128	\$1,115	1.2%	\$732	\$746	-1.8%
Carbon	\$646	\$690	-6.4%	\$383	\$369	3.8%	\$989	\$984	0.5%	\$910	\$848	7.3%
Converse	\$795	\$774	2.8%	\$222	\$205	8.5%	\$1,139	\$1,223	-6.9%	\$778	\$744	4.5%
Crook	\$639	\$629	1.6%	NA	NA	NA	\$739	\$730	1.2%	NA	NA	NA
Fremont	\$720	\$678	6.2%	\$264	\$206	27.8%	\$935	\$942	-0.7%	\$685	\$673	1.7%
Goshen	\$570	\$549	4.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$653	\$669	-2.4%	\$518	\$488	6.3%
Hot Springs	\$562	\$506	11.1%	NA	\$245	NA	\$664	\$715	-7.1%	\$550	\$586	-6.2%
Johnson	\$612	\$566	8.1%	\$235	\$235	0.0%	\$954	\$990	-3.6%	\$563	\$505	11.5%
Laramie	\$906	\$831	9.0%	\$468	\$442	5.9%	\$1,347	\$1,311	2.7%	\$928	\$915	1.5%
Lincoln (Kemmerer)	\$515	\$515	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$604	\$603	0.3%	\$671	\$671	0.0%
Lincoln (Afton)	\$710	\$562	26.3%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,061	\$959	10.6%	NA	NA	NA
Natrona	\$754	\$723	4.2%	\$400	\$349	14.8%	\$1,110	\$1,040	6.7%	\$717	\$605	18.5%
Niobrara	\$550	\$564	-2.5%	NA	NA	NA	\$864	\$683	26.5%	NA	NA	NA
Park	\$668	\$665	0.5%	\$313	\$299	4.8%	\$952	\$934	1.9%	\$760	\$729	4.3%
Platte	\$575	\$619	-7.1%	NA	NA	NA	\$798	\$782	2.0%	NA	NA	NA
Sheridan	\$684	\$676	1.1%	\$338	\$362	-6.6%	\$1,204	\$1,178	2.2%	\$649	\$619	4.9%
Sublette	\$725	\$839	-13.6%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,095	\$1,136	-3.6%	NA	NA	NA
Sweetwater	\$633	\$639	-1.0%	\$445	\$417	6.7%	\$1,029	\$988	4.2%	\$816	\$810	0.8%
Teton	\$2,276	\$2,274	0.1%	\$696	\$590	18.0%	\$2,808	\$2,761	1.7%	\$1,373	\$1,232	11.4%
Uinta	\$608	\$603	0.8%	\$300	\$296	1.4%	\$843	\$858	-1.7%	\$648	\$654	-0.9%
Washakie	\$542	\$527	3.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$707	\$718	-1.6%	NA	NA	NA
Weston	\$578	\$570	1.3%	\$175	\$166	5.1%	\$638	\$679	-6.1%	\$528	\$530	-0.3%
Southeast	\$798	\$755	5.7%	\$415	\$391	6.3%	\$1,183	\$1,149	3.0%	\$850	\$835	1.8%
Southwest	\$630	\$630	-0.1%	\$400	\$380	5.3%	\$946	\$925	2.2%	\$721	\$704	2.3%
Central	\$748	\$715	4.6%	\$341	\$292	17.0%	\$1,061	\$1,030	3.0%	\$714	\$640	11.6%
Northeast	\$674	\$665	1.3%	\$370	\$376	-1.7%	\$1,073	\$1,064	0.8%	\$667	\$652	2.3%
Northwest	\$1,117	\$1,109	0.7%	\$402	\$363	10.9%	\$1,440	\$1,416	1.7%	\$864	\$807	7.1%
Statewide Average	\$781	\$757	3.1%	\$386	\$360	7.3%	\$1,133	\$1,107	2.3%	\$768	\$734	4.7%

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  
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(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.