



ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION

Mark Gordon, **Governor** | Patricia L. Bach, **Director** | Wenlin Liu, **Administrator**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 31, 2024

Contact: Amy Bittner, Principal Economist

Wyoming Cost of Living Index for the Second Quarter of 2024

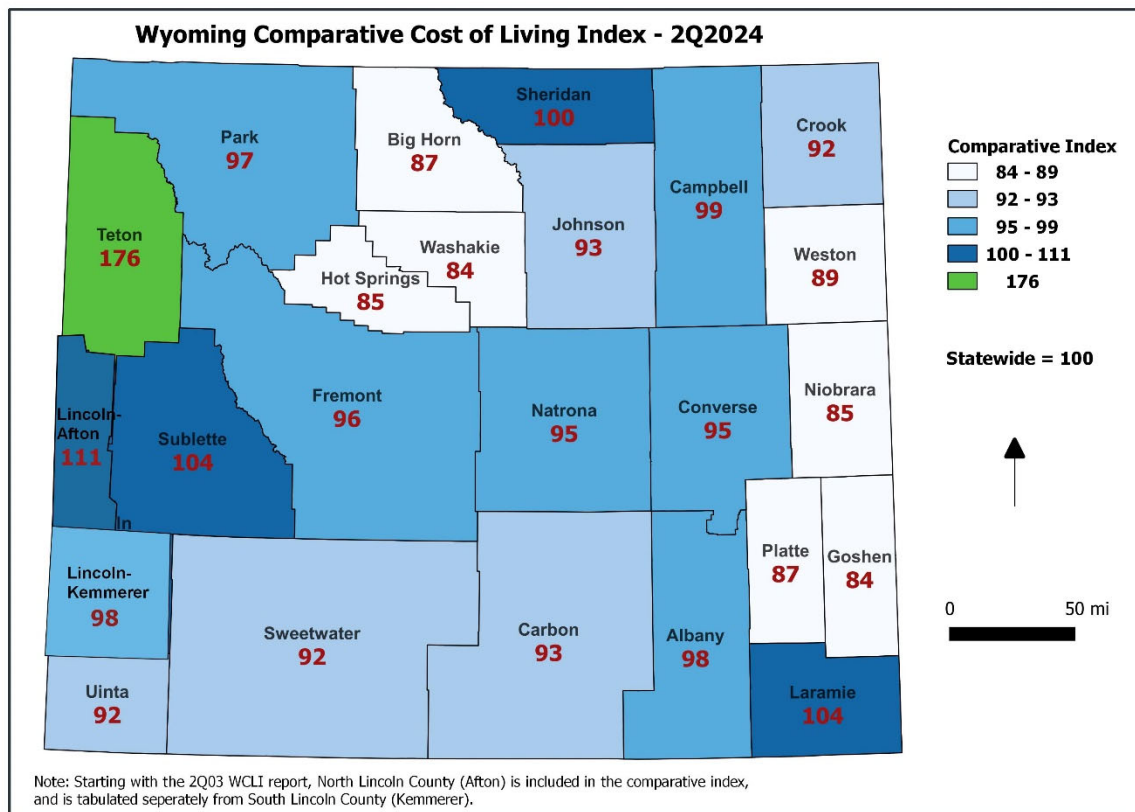
CHEYENNE - The second quarter of 2024 Wyoming Cost of Living Index (WCLI) is now available from the State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division. The WCLI consists of two parts, **Inflation**, which measures year-over-year change (annual) and the **Comparative Cost of Living Index** which compares each county's cost of living in one period (not over time) to the statewide average.

Inflation results:

- All Items Statewide inflation was 3.9%
- Statewide inflation by consumer category:
 - Food 5.8%
 - Housing 4.4%
 - Medical 4.3%
 - Recreation & Personal Care 3.2%
 - Apparel 1.3%
 - Transportation 1.2%
- Regional inflation rates:
 - Northwest 4.4%
 - Southwest 4.3%
 - Northeast 4.1%
 - Central 3.9%
 - Southeast 3.3%

U.S. inflation rate, CPI-U, from June 2023 to June 2024 was 3.0% (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, BLS - Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers).

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 2024 represent the percent change in the price level of a standard basket of selected consumer items priced in the second quarter of 2024, compared with the price level of the same goods and services recorded one year ago (second quarter of 2023).



The Comparative Cost of Living Index represents each county's price level compared to the statewide average (100) during a single period. For the second quarter of 2024, the Comparative Cost of Living Index ranked Teton (176) as the county with the highest **All Items** value, which indicates that the cost of living in Teton County was estimated 76 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 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. Comparative Cost of Living Index data were also produced by consumer category for every county.

Survey Methodology

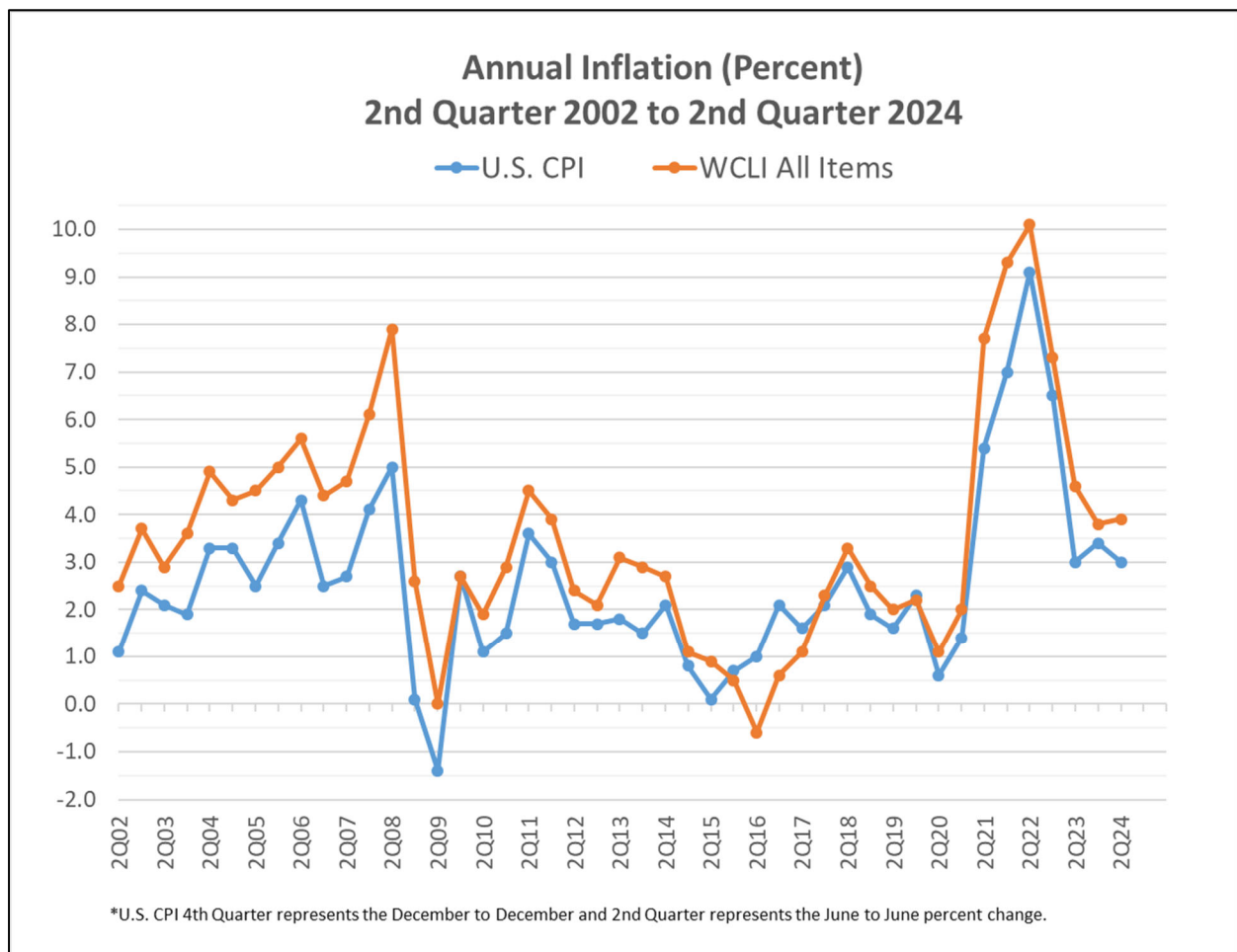
The WCLI is produced biannually, the second quarter and the fourth quarter. Price data are collected in twenty-eight cities and towns in Wyoming and the data are used to build a Comparative Cost of Living Index by county and to estimate overall inflation rates for Wyoming and the five designated regions of the State. A map of the twenty-eight cities and towns where price data were collected is displayed 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. Comparative Cost of Living Index numbers are reported separately for Afton and Kemmerer. 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 (50.5%), Transportation (15.9%), Food (13.6%), Recreation & Personal Care (8.9%), Medical (8.0%), and Apparel (3.2%).

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 - 2Q24
(Statewide Average = 100)

COUNTY	Index Number by Category:						Recreation & Personal Care
	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical	
Teton	176	117	239	124	107	105	121
Lincoln-Afton	111	97	119	116	106	109	99
Laramie	104	100	110	91	97	93	101
Sublette	104	108	101	129	105	100	105
Sheridan	100	101	99	115	103	98	100
Campbell	99	100	98	101	100	97	101
Albany	98	97	98	110	98	90	95
Lincoln-Kemmerer	98	108	88	104	103	120	104
Park	97	104	91	97	103	101	104
Fremont	96	101	91	100	98	116	93
Natrona	95	99	92	91	98	100	100
Converse	95	103	89	104	99	106	97
Carbon	93	99	86	93	98	115	93
Johnson	93	108	82	121	103	93	100
Uinta	92	85	88	111	102	103	94
Sweetwater	92	90	87	90	101	105	99
Crook	92	102	80	109	105	110	102
Weston	89	104	73	110	100	117	99
Platte	87	101	76	106	101	81	97
Big Horn	87	112	72	85	102	94	99
Niobrara	85	105	70	95	100	97	101
Hot Springs	85	95	74	86	102	92	103
Goshen	84	99	73	92	97	93	92
Washakie	84	92	72	98	101	87	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	13.6	50.5	3.2	15.9	8.0	8.9
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
4Q20	2.0	2.7	3.2	4.0	-3.1	1.9	2.0
2Q21	7.7	1.9	5.5	4.6	23.3	3.6	8.0
4Q21	9.3	8.3	7.4	3.3	22.1	4.3	6.7
2Q22	10.1	15.6	8.6	3.2	16.4	3.9	5.6
4Q22	7.3	15.1	8.3	3.1	1.3	5.1	5.9
2Q23	4.6	7.0	6.1	8.2	-1.5	3.8	4.2
4Q23	3.8	3.8	4.2	3.0	2.2	4.1	5.3
2Q24	3.9	5.8	4.4	1.3	1.2	4.3	3.2

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
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
4Q20	1.4	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.7	0.9	2.1
2Q21	5.4	7.7	7.2	8.9	7.4	8.1	7.6
4Q21	7.0	9.3	10.2	9.2	7.4	10.4	9.1
2Q22	9.1	10.1	10.5	10.5	10.0	10.2	9.0
4Q22	6.5	7.3	7.2	8.2	7.4	6.7	7.0
2Q23	3.0	4.6	4.3	5.1	4.1	4.2	6.5
4Q23	3.4	3.8	3.3	5.0	2.7	4.1	5.1
2Q24	3.0	3.9	3.3	4.3	3.9	4.1	4.4

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.

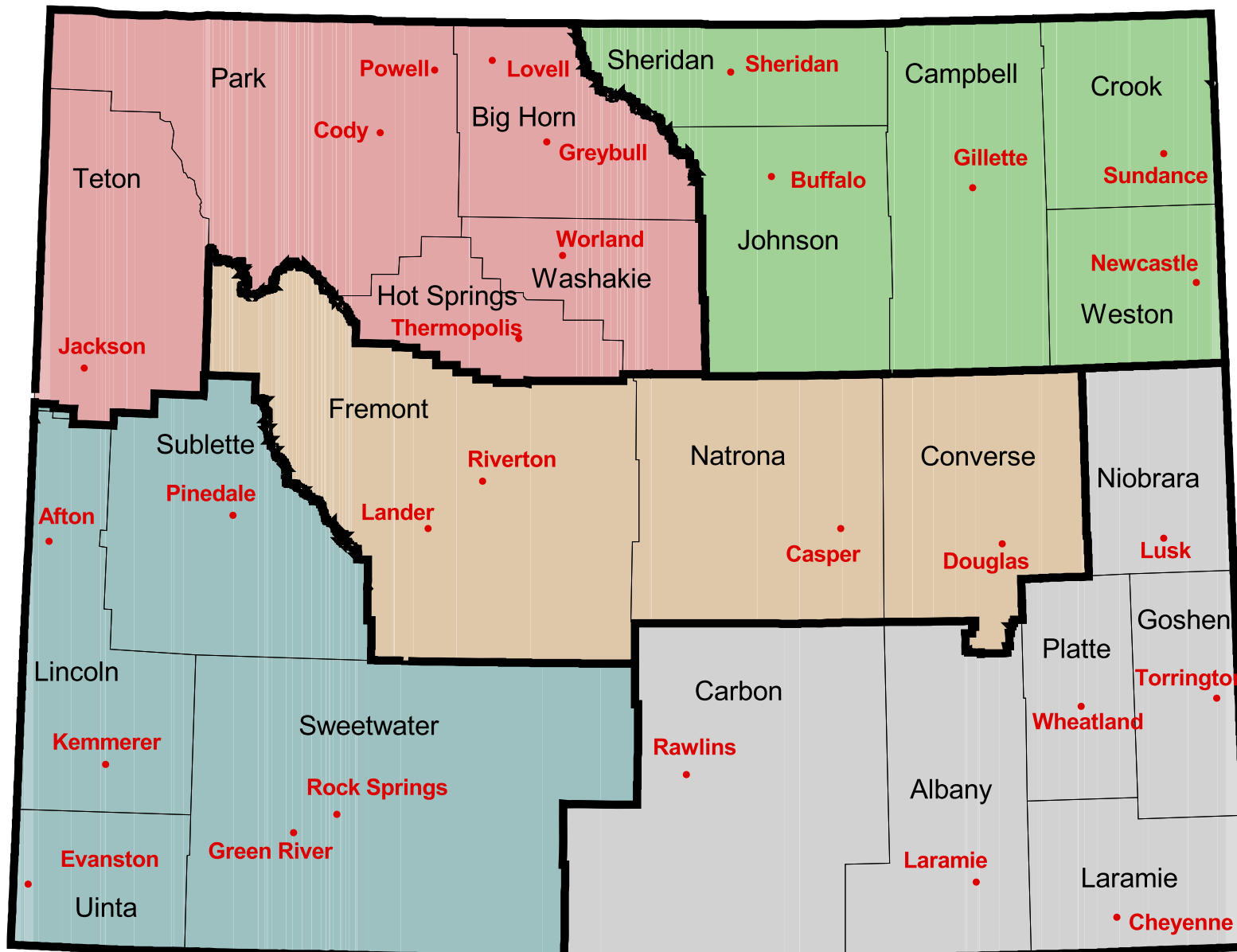
Southwest: Lincoln-Kemmerer, Lincoln-Afton, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.

Central: Converse, Fremont, and Natrona counties.

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

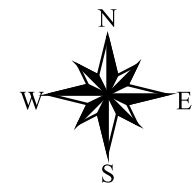
Northwest: Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, and Washakie counties.

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 - 2Q24 & 2Q23

County	APARTMENT (1)			MOBILE HOME LOT (2)			HOUSE (3)			MOBILE HOME (4)		
	2Q24	2Q23	Percent Change	2Q24	2Q23	Percent Change	2Q24	2Q23	Percent Change	2Q24	2Q23	Percent Change
Albany	\$928	\$839	10.6%	\$530	\$524	1.1%	\$1,453	\$1,468	-1.0%	\$943	\$889	6.0%
Big Horn	\$628	\$603	4.1%	NA	NA	NA	\$840	\$847	-0.8%	\$600	\$599	0.1%
Campbell	\$899	\$857	5.0%	\$540	\$515	4.8%	\$1,534	\$1,461	4.9%	\$1,016	\$968	4.9%
Carbon	\$789	\$767	2.8%	\$428	\$411	4.3%	\$1,064	\$1,019	4.3%	\$1,014	\$951	6.7%
Converse	\$820	\$813	0.9%	\$313	\$313	0.2%	\$1,238	\$1,215	1.9%	\$846	\$903	-6.3%
Crook	\$750	\$700	7.1%	NA	NA	NA	\$984	\$994	-1.0%	NA	NA	NA
Fremont	\$909	\$830	9.6%	\$324	\$276	17.4%	\$1,145	\$1,095	4.6%	\$1,036	\$985	5.1%
Goshen	\$622	\$625	-0.5%	NA	NA	NA	\$910	\$850	7.1%	NA	NA	NA
Hot Springs	\$670	\$664	0.9%	\$377	\$369	2.2%	\$852	\$778	9.5%	NA	NA	NA
Johnson	\$674	\$643	4.9%	\$300	\$287	4.6%	\$1,336	\$1,269	5.3%	\$675	\$653	3.4%
Laramie	\$1,187	\$1,113	6.7%	\$596	\$559	6.7%	\$1,658	\$1,653	0.4%	\$1,156	\$1,230	-6.0%
Lincoln (Kemmerer)	\$755	\$719	5.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,018	\$925	10.0%	NA	NA	NA
Lincoln (Afton)	\$1,159	\$1,113	4.1%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,621	\$1,473	10.0%	NA	NA	NA
Natrona	\$965	\$914	5.6%	\$527	\$496	6.3%	\$1,262	\$1,223	3.2%	\$741	\$739	0.3%
Niobrara	\$547	\$506	8.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$817	\$838	-2.6%	NA	NA	NA
Park	\$851	\$774	10.0%	\$408	\$376	8.4%	\$1,260	\$1,243	1.3%	\$923	\$866	6.5%
Platte	\$688	\$672	2.4%	NA	NA	NA	\$896	\$933	-4.0%	NA	NA	NA
Sheridan	\$836	\$808	3.5%	\$557	\$501	11.1%	\$1,509	\$1,474	2.4%	\$1,167	\$901	29.5%
Sublette	\$983	\$890	10.4%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,437	\$1,458	-1.5%	NA	NA	NA
Sweetwater	\$743	\$735	1.1%	\$518	\$516	0.3%	\$1,114	\$1,110	0.4%	\$1,015	\$946	7.3%
Teton	\$3,354	\$3,168	5.9%	\$897	\$869	3.2%	\$4,037	\$3,887	3.8%	\$1,687	\$1,561	8.1%
Uinta	\$856	\$838	2.1%	\$368	\$350	5.0%	\$1,191	\$1,103	8.0%	\$982	\$905	8.5%
Washakie	\$626	\$575	8.9%	NA	NA	NA	\$918	\$830	10.6%	NA	NA	NA
Weston	\$663	\$644	2.9%	\$200	\$180	11.1%	\$825	\$785	5.1%	\$682	\$693	-1.5%
Southeast	\$1,026	\$961	6.7%	\$540	\$506	6.7%	\$1,465	\$1,459	0.4%	\$1,045	\$1,060	-1.4%
Southwest	\$839	\$813	3.2%	\$475	\$468	1.7%	\$1,208	\$1,161	4.0%	\$1,051	\$961	9.4%
Central	\$933	\$878	6.3%	\$444	\$411	8.0%	\$1,225	\$1,184	3.4%	\$840	\$829	1.3%
Northeast	\$834	\$798	4.5%	\$475	\$444	7.1%	\$1,422	\$1,370	3.8%	\$991	\$884	12.2%
Northwest	\$1,526	\$1,431	6.6%	\$501	\$480	4.4%	\$1,961	\$1,898	3.3%	\$1,066	\$1,009	5.7%
Statewide Average	\$1,009	\$953	5.8%	\$490	\$462	5.9%	\$1,428	\$1,392	2.6%	\$992	\$954	4.1%
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.					