



ADMINISTRATION  
& INFORMATION

## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

CHEYENNE – The State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division reported that Wyoming experienced a 2.5 percent increase in annual (**All Items**) inflation from the fourth quarter of 2017 to the fourth 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 fourth quarter of 2018: Medical (4.8%), Apparel (4.7%), Transportation (2.8%), Food (2.6%), Housing (2.0%), and Recreation & Personal Care (1.2%). During this same time, the U.S. Consumer Price Index (U.S. CPI) reported inflation of 1.9 percent (December 2017 to December 2018).

Inflation figures are also available for five regions in the State. For the fourth quarter of 2018, the Northeast region recorded the highest annual increase (4.8%) followed by the Central (2.7%), Northwest (2.3%), Southeast (1.9%), and Southwest (1.0%). Inflation measures year-over-year prices changes. The inflation figures compare the fourth quarter of 2018 to the fourth quarter of 2017.

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

For the fourth quarter of 2018, 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. 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 fourth quarter of 2018 included Teton (213), Laramie (108), and Sublette (105).

Counties with lower **All Items** Comparative Cost of Living Index values in the fourth quarter of 2018 include Lincoln-Kemmerer, and Niobrara. 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 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.

### ***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 (48.1%), 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 2.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2018. Nationally, the inflation rate from December 2017 to December 2018 was 1.9 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 - 4Q18**  
**(Statewide Average = 100)**

| COUNTY           | Index Number by Category: |      |         |         |                |         |     | Recreation & Personal Care |
|------------------|---------------------------|------|---------|---------|----------------|---------|-----|----------------------------|
|                  | All Items                 | Food | Housing | Apparel | Transportation | Medical |     |                            |
| Teton            | 159                       | 115  | 213     | 125     | 103            | 97      | 113 |                            |
| Sublette         | 106                       | 112  | 105     | 114     | 101            | 102     | 113 |                            |
| Laramie          | 103                       | 101  | 108     | 93      | 98             | 93      | 102 |                            |
| Lincoln-Afton    | 101                       | 100  | 98      | 113     | 102            | 102     | 116 |                            |
| Sheridan         | 100                       | 109  | 98      | 116     | 99             | 99      | 100 |                            |
| Campbell         | 100                       | 103  | 98      | 105     | 102            | 101     | 98  |                            |
| Converse         | 100                       | 98   | 100     | 98      | 102            | 104     | 96  |                            |
| Albany           | 98                        | 98   | 99      | 108     | 97             | 95      | 99  |                            |
| Park             | 98                        | 104  | 93      | 118     | 102            | 102     | 100 |                            |
| Crook            | 98                        | 107  | 89      | 110     | 103            | 118     | 97  |                            |
| Carbon           | 97                        | 96   | 94      | 83      | 99             | 121     | 96  |                            |
| Johnson          | 97                        | 106  | 90      | 117     | 101            | 97      | 104 |                            |
| Sweetwater       | 96                        | 95   | 94      | 75      | 102            | 105     | 99  |                            |
| Fremont          | 96                        | 95   | 92      | 93      | 101            | 114     | 95  |                            |
| Natrona          | 95                        | 94   | 94      | 100     | 98             | 95      | 95  |                            |
| Platte           | 94                        | 107  | 84      | 100     | 102            | 102     | 99  |                            |
| Hot Springs      | 93                        | 105  | 81      | 106     | 101            | 99      | 108 |                            |
| Uinta            | 92                        | 91   | 85      | 89      | 100            | 110     | 107 |                            |
| Weston           | 91                        | 95   | 82      | 94      | 102            | 97      | 104 |                            |
| Goshen           | 90                        | 102  | 78      | 109     | 97             | 105     | 101 |                            |
| Washakie         | 90                        | 101  | 78      | 110     | 103            | 91      | 101 |                            |
| Big Horn         | 90                        | 105  | 77      | 106     | 102            | 92      | 98  |                            |
| Lincoln-Kemmerer | 89                        | 95   | 82      | 81      | 103            | 86      | 96  |                            |
| Niobrara         | 89                        | 94   | 79      | 93      | 100            | 100     | 100 |                            |

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  |                            |
| 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 |                            |
| 4Q18     | 2.5   | 2.6  | 2.0     | 4.7     | 2.8            | 4.8     | 1.2  |                            |

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 |
| 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       |
| 4Q18     | 1.9       | 2.5   | 1.9       | 1.0       | 2.7     | 4.8       | 2.3       |

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

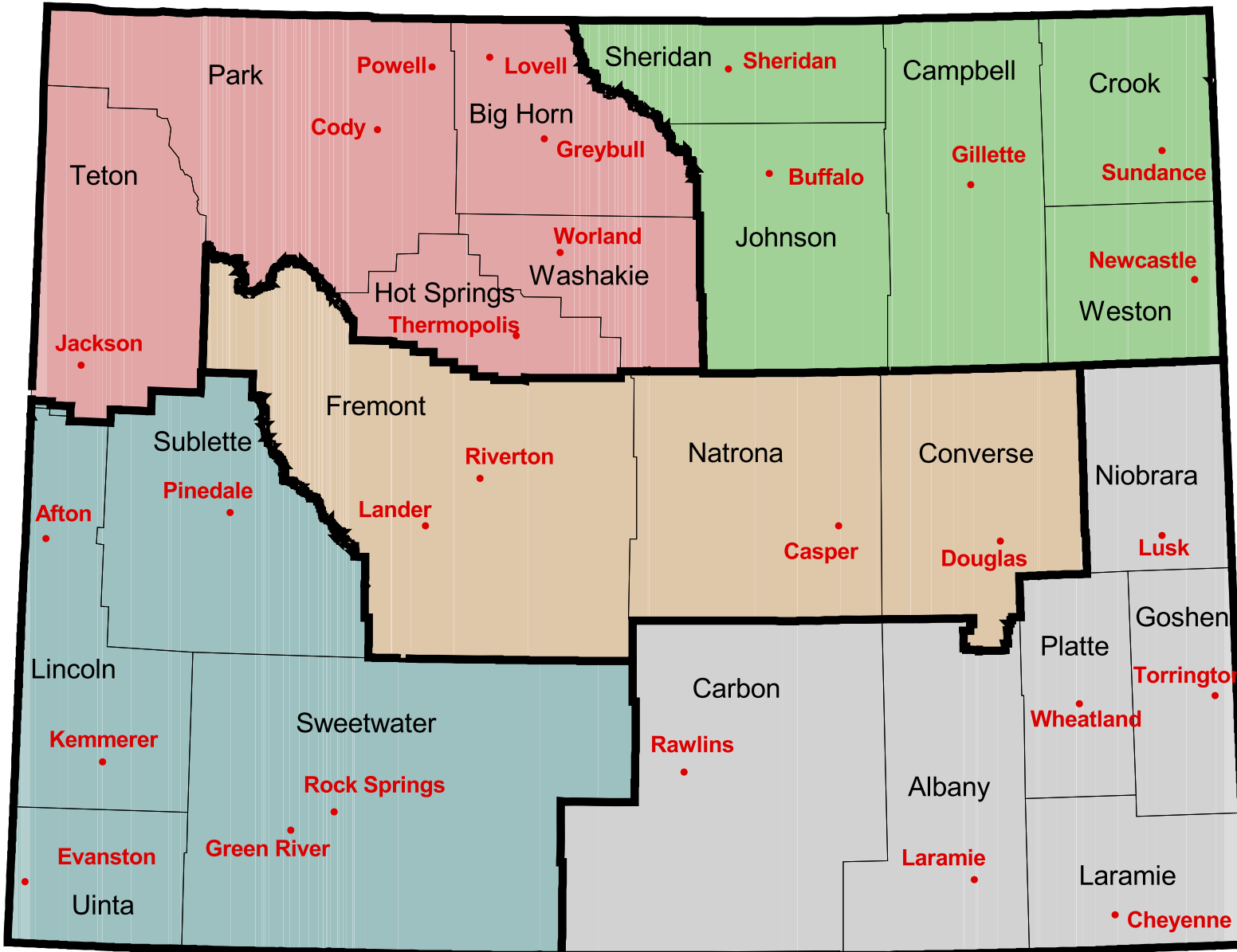
Previously, only 15 counties were used. Starting with the 2Q04 report, the inflation numbers include Lincoln-Afton.

\* 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:**

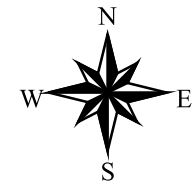
- Southeast: Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte counties.
- Southwest: Lincoln-Kemmerer, Lincoln-Afton, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.
- Central: Converse, Fremont, and Natrona counties.
- Northeast: Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties.
- Northwest: Big 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 - 4Q18 & 4Q17**

| County             | APARTMENT (1)   |         |                | MOBILE HOME LOT (2) |       |                | HOUSE (3)  |         |                | MOBILE HOME (4) |         |                |
|--------------------|---|---------|----------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|--|---------|----------------|-----------------|---------|----------------|
|                    | 4Q18  | 4Q17    | Percent Change | 4Q18                | 4Q17  | Percent Change | 4Q18   | 4Q17    | Percent Change | 4Q18            | 4Q17    | Percent Change |
| Albany             | \$712   | \$669   | 6.4%           | \$359               | \$348 | 3.0%           | \$1,060  | \$968   | 9.4%           | \$789           | \$806   | -2.1%          |
| Big Horn           | \$514   | \$489   | 5.1%           | \$189               | \$195 | -3.4%          | \$629  | \$591   | 6.4%           | \$446           | \$457   | -2.3%          |
| Campbell           | \$676   | \$641   | 5.4%           | \$473               | \$462 | 2.3%           | \$1,059  | \$1,010 | 4.9%           | \$772           | \$768   | 0.6%           |
| Carbon             | \$689   | \$703   | -2.0%          | \$369               | \$364 | 1.3%           | \$925  | \$967   | -4.4%          | \$863           | \$874   | -1.3%          |
| Converse           | \$708   | \$607   | 16.7%          | \$205               | \$205 | 0.0%           | \$1,145  | \$971   | 18.0%          | \$726           | \$713   | 1.7%           |
| Crook              | \$628   | \$632   | -0.6%          | NA                  | NA    | NA             | \$775  | \$697   | 11.2%          | NA              | NA      | NA             |
| Fremont            | \$674   | \$674   | 0.0%           | \$198               | \$209 | -5.0%          | \$888  | \$863   | 2.8%           | \$659           | \$661   | -0.3%          |
| Goshen             | \$554   | \$559   | -1.0%          | NA                  | \$212 | NA             | \$633  | \$683   | -7.3%          | \$500           | \$474   | 5.6%           |
| Hot Springs        | \$512   | \$505   | 1.4%           | \$209               | \$206 | 1.2%           | \$723  | \$665   | 8.7%           | NA              | \$608   | NA             |
| Johnson            | \$607   | \$597   | 1.6%           | \$235               | \$228 | 3.3%           | \$1,021  | \$970   | 5.3%           | \$513           | \$535   | -4.1%          |
| Laramie            | \$803   | \$785   | 2.3%           | \$444               | \$452 | -1.6%          | \$1,227  | \$1,180 | 3.9%           | \$904           | \$868   | 4.1%           |
| Lincoln (Kemmerer) | \$506   | \$479   | 5.6%           | NA                  | \$424 | NA             | \$608  | \$663   | -8.2%          | \$667           | \$665   | 0.4%           |
| Lincoln (Afton)    | \$563   | \$536   | 5.1%           | NA                  | NA    | NA             | \$1,005  | \$950   | 5.8%           | NA              | NA      | NA             |
| Natrona            | \$686   | \$691   | -0.7%          | \$377               | \$380 | -0.7%          | \$1,078  | \$1,022 | 5.5%           | \$610           | \$609   | 0.1%           |
| Niobrara           | \$556   | \$578   | -3.9%          | NA                  | NA    | NA             | \$680  | \$678   | 0.4%           | NA              | NA      | NA             |
| Park               | \$635   | \$634   | 0.2%           | \$295               | \$300 | -1.6%          | \$920  | \$920   | 0.1%           | \$692           | \$711   | -2.7%          |
| Platte             | \$631   | \$611   | 3.3%           | NA                  | NA    | NA             | \$699  | \$720   | -3.0%          | \$647           | NA      | NA             |
| Sheridan           | \$684   | \$697   | -1.9%          | \$346               | \$323 | 7.2%           | \$1,105  | \$1,034 | 6.9%           | \$601           | \$584   | 2.9%           |
| Sublette           | \$827   | \$853   | -3.0%          | NA                  | NA    | NA             | \$1,104  | \$1,112 | -0.8%          | NA              | NA      | NA             |
| Sweetwater         | \$601   | \$626   | -3.9%          | \$413               | \$414 | -0.2%          | \$969  | \$1,009 | -4.0%          | \$844           | \$821   | 2.8%           |
| Teton              | \$2,138   | \$1,915 | 11.7%          | \$576               | \$551 | 4.5%           | \$2,696  | \$2,565 | 5.1%           | \$1,188         | \$1,118 | 6.3%           |
| Uinta              | \$599   | \$600   | -0.2%          | \$296               | \$294 | 0.7%           | \$854  | \$858   | -0.5%          | \$649           | \$646   | 0.4%           |
| Washakie           | \$509   | \$470   | 8.2%           | NA                  | NA    | NA             | \$708  | \$713   | -0.7%          | NA              | NA      | NA             |
| Weston             | \$576   | \$566   | 1.8%           | \$166               | \$160 | 3.6%           | \$711  | \$638   | 11.5%          | \$522           | \$529   | -1.2%          |
| Southeast          | \$743   | \$725   | 2.6%           | \$389               | \$390 | -0.2%          | \$1,086  | \$1,049 | 3.5%           | \$827           | \$811   | 2.0%           |
| Southwest          | \$610   | \$619   | -1.4%          | \$378               | \$374 | 1.1%           | \$918  | \$940   | -2.4%          | \$718           | \$691   | 3.9%           |
| Central            | \$685   | \$677   | 1.2%           | \$306               | \$311 | -1.5%          | \$1,028  | \$969   | 6.1%           | \$636           | \$635   | 0.1%           |
| Northeast          | \$662   | \$648   | 2.1%           | \$369               | \$356 | 3.8%           | \$1,024  | \$964   | 6.2%           | \$660           | \$659   | 0.1%           |
| Northwest          | \$1,047   | \$971   | 7.8%           | \$348               | \$343 | 1.4%           | \$1,374  | \$1,326 | 3.6%           | \$774           | \$763   | 1.5%           |
| Statewide Average  | \$735   | \$717   | 2.6%           | \$359               | \$357 | 0.6%           | \$1,074  | \$1,036 | 3.7%           | \$730           | \$719   | 1.6%           |
| Regions:           | <b>Southeast:</b> Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte<br><b>Southwest:</b> Lincoln (Afton), Lincoln (Kemmerer), Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta<br><b>Central:</b> Converse, Fremont, Natrona<br><b>Northeast:</b> Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, Weston<br><b>Northwest:</b> Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, Washakie |         |                |                     |       |                | (1) - Two-bedroom, unfurnished, excluding gas and electric.<br>(2) - Single-wide, including water.<br>(3) - Two or three-bedroom, single family, excluding gas and electric.<br>(4) - Two or three-bedroom, including lot rent.<br>Note: The regional averages are weighted by population within the region.<br>(NA) - There were too few observations to report the data. |         |                |                 |         |                |