



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 2019

CHEYENNE - The State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division has released the fourth 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 fourth quarter of 2019 represent the percent change in the price level of a standard basket of selected consumer items priced in the fourth quarter of 2019, compared with the price level of the same goods recorded one year ago (fourth quarter of 2018).

- All Items Statewide inflation 2.2%
- Statewide inflation by consumer category:
 - Apparel 7.1%
 - Medical 4.0%
 - Housing 2.7%
 - Transportation 1.4%
 - Food 0.9%
 - Recreation & Personal Care. -0.4%
- Regional inflation rates:
 - Northwest 2.5%
 - Southeast 2.5%
 - Central 2.3%
 - Northeast 1.9%
 - Southwest 1.6%

Nationally, the inflation rate from December 2018 to December 2019 was 2.3% (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 fourth quarter of 2019. For the fourth 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 - 4Q19
(Statewide Average = 100)

COUNTY	Index Number by Category:							Recreation & Personal Care
	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical		
Teton	161	111	219	134	104	99	103	
Laramie	104	100	108	93	99	94	105	
Sublette	103	111	98	107	103	99	116	
Converse	102	101	102	103	101	106	100	
Campbell	100	108	98	106	98	99	104	
Lincoln-Afton	100	99	96	106	102	103	112	
Albany	99	103	99	104	98	93	100	
Sheridan	99	102	96	111	101	96	103	
Carbon	98	98	95	91	101	120	90	
Park	98	104	93	115	103	102	95	
Crook	97	103	88	107	101	115	105	
Johnson	96	111	87	116	101	95	103	
Natrona	96	95	95	96	97	95	97	
Sweetwater	95	97	92	77	102	105	97	
Fremont	95	89	92	95	98	114	92	
Niobrara	92	99	83	96	100	100	108	
Weston	91	104	81	105	102	98	100	
Lincoln-Kemmerer	91	102	80	91	104	103	103	
Platte	91	98	82	102	101	100	102	
Uinta	91	82	85	92	101	108	95	
Hot Springs	90	103	79	106	101	102	96	
Big Horn	89	108	77	109	103	94	90	
Goshen	89	99	77	96	99	104	102	
Washakie	89	99	77	112	102	96	93	

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	
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	
4Q19	2.2	0.9	2.7	7.1	1.4	4.0	-0.4	

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
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
4Q19	2.3	2.2	2.5	1.6	2.3	1.9	2.5

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

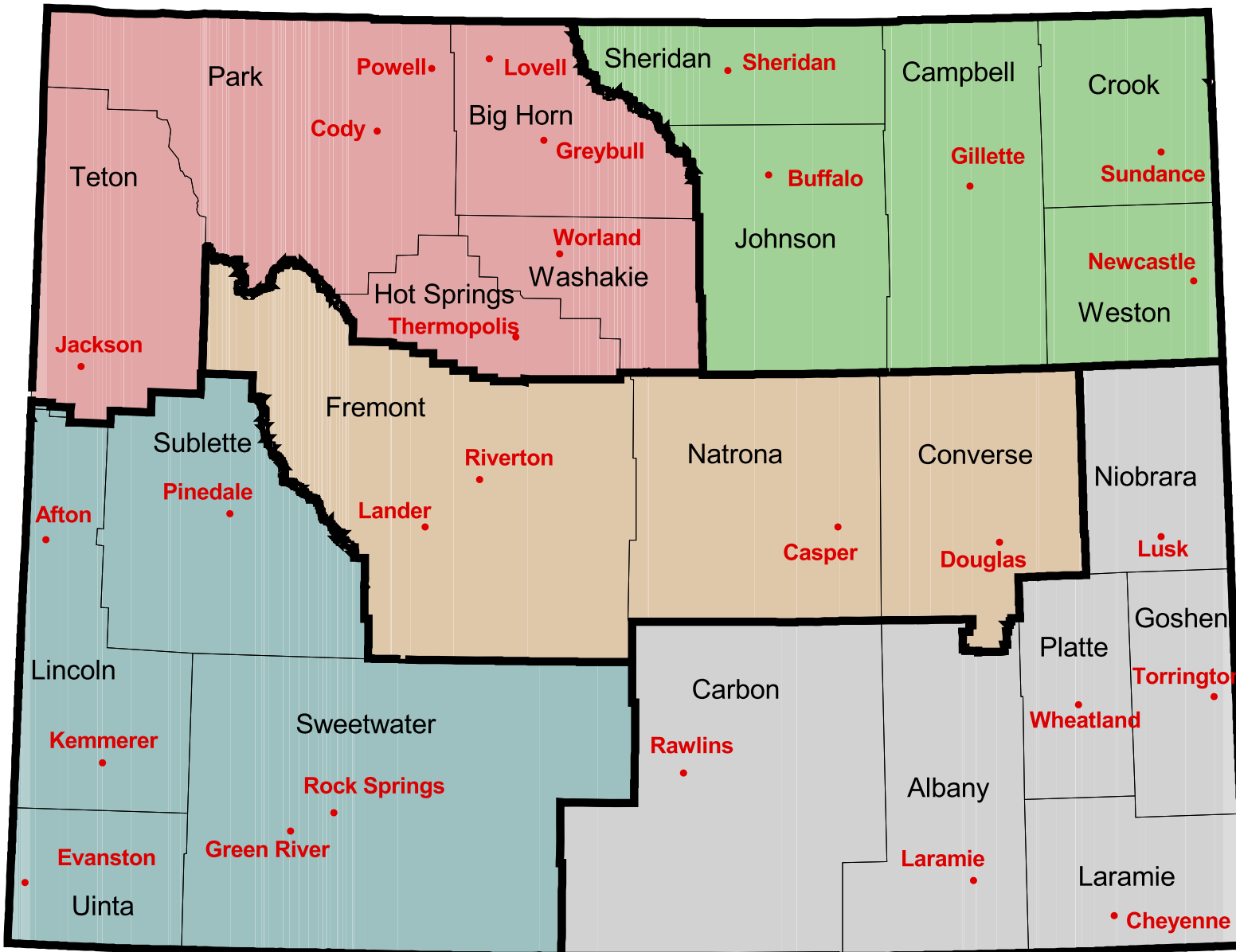
Previously, only 15 counties were used. Starting with the 2Q04 report, the inflation numbers include Lincoln-Afton.

* 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:

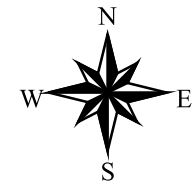
- Southeast: Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte counties.
- Southwest: Lincoln-Kemmerer, Lincoln-Afton, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.
- Central: Converse, Fremont, and Natrona counties.
- Northeast: Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties.
- Northwest: Big 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 - 4Q19 & 4Q18

County	APARTMENT (1)			MOBILE HOME LOT (2)			HOUSE (3)			MOBILE HOME (4)		
	4Q19	4Q18	Percent Change	4Q19	4Q18	Percent Change	4Q19	4Q18	Percent Change	4Q19	4Q18	Percent Change
Albany	\$727	\$712	2.0%	\$410	\$359	14.5%	\$1,055	\$1,060	-0.4%	\$806	\$789	2.0%
Big Horn	\$498	\$514	-3.1%	\$194	\$189	2.9%	\$685	\$629	8.9%	\$470	\$446	5.3%
Campbell	\$693	\$676	2.5%	\$466	\$473	-1.4%	\$1,142	\$1,059	7.8%	\$713	\$772	-7.7%
Carbon	\$694	\$689	0.7%	\$378	\$369	2.5%	\$996	\$925	7.7%	\$892	\$863	3.3%
Converse	\$794	\$708	12.2%	\$205	\$205	0.0%	\$1,207	\$1,145	5.3%	\$761	\$726	4.9%
Crook	\$628	\$628	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$734	\$775	-5.3%	NA	NA	NA
Fremont	\$707	\$674	4.9%	\$251	\$198	26.6%	\$938	\$888	5.7%	\$680	\$659	3.2%
Goshen	\$596	\$554	7.6%	NA	NA	NA	\$631	\$633	-0.3%	\$503	\$500	0.6%
Hot Springs	\$540	\$512	5.5%	NA	\$209	NA	\$684	\$723	-5.3%	\$589	NA	NA
Johnson	\$584	\$607	-3.7%	\$228	\$235	-3.2%	\$1,001	\$1,021	-1.9%	\$583	\$513	13.6%
Laramie	\$846	\$803	5.3%	\$454	\$444	2.2%	\$1,257	\$1,227	2.5%	\$951	\$904	5.3%
Lincoln (Kemmerer)	\$515	\$506	1.8%	NA	NA	NA	\$603	\$608	-0.9%	\$671	\$667	0.6%
Lincoln (Afton)	\$627	\$563	11.4%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,062	\$1,005	5.6%	NA	NA	NA
Natrona	\$719	\$686	4.8%	\$400	\$377	6.1%	\$1,058	\$1,078	-1.9%	\$711	\$610	16.7%
Niobrara	\$564	\$556	1.6%	NA	NA	NA	\$882	\$680	29.7%	NA	NA	NA
Park	\$648	\$636	1.9%	\$311	\$295	5.3%	\$965	\$921	4.8%	\$753	\$693	8.7%
Platte	\$575	\$631	-8.9%	NA	NA	NA	\$764	\$699	9.3%	NA	\$647	NA
Sheridan	\$670	\$684	-1.9%	\$338	\$346	-2.2%	\$1,154	\$1,105	4.4%	\$651	\$601	8.3%
Sublette	\$733	\$827	-11.5%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,102	\$1,104	-0.1%	NA	NA	NA
Sweetwater	\$618	\$601	2.9%	\$441	\$413	6.8%	\$941	\$969	-3.0%	\$805	\$844	-4.6%
Teton	\$2,276	\$2,138	6.5%	\$660	\$576	14.6%	\$2,768	\$2,696	2.7%	\$1,310	\$1,188	10.3%
Uinta	\$601	\$599	0.3%	\$300	\$296	1.4%	\$881	\$854	3.2%	\$661	\$649	2.0%
Washakie	\$531	\$509	4.3%	NA	NA	NA	\$688	\$708	-2.8%	NA	NA	NA
Weston	\$575	\$576	-0.2%	\$172	\$166	3.9%	\$695	\$711	-2.2%	\$527	\$522	0.9%
Southeast	\$771	\$743	3.8%	\$407	\$390	4.4%	\$1,115	\$1,087	2.6%	\$860	\$827	4.0%
Southwest	\$615	\$610	0.8%	\$396	\$378	4.7%	\$915	\$918	-0.3%	\$711	\$717	-0.9%
Central	\$723	\$685	5.6%	\$336	\$306	9.6%	\$1,037	\$1,028	0.9%	\$707	\$636	11.1%
Northeast	\$664	\$662	0.3%	\$364	\$369	-1.4%	\$1,072	\$1,024	4.6%	\$655	\$659	-0.7%
Northwest	\$1,096	\$1,048	4.6%	\$387	\$348	11.1%	\$1,419	\$1,376	3.1%	\$839	\$775	8.3%
Statewide Average	\$760	\$735	3.4%	\$379	\$360	5.3%	\$1,098	\$1,074	2.2%	\$763	\$730	4.5%

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.