



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 2021

CHEYENNE - The fourth quarter of 2021 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 fourth quarter of 2021 represent the percent change in the price level of a standard basket of selected consumer items priced in the fourth quarter of 2021, compared with the price level of the same goods recorded one year ago (fourth quarter of 2020).

- **All Items Statewide inflation 9.3%**
(The last time statewide inflation was higher was in the third quarter of 1981, 11.8%. The WCLI is currently only produced for the 2nd and 4th quarter).
- Statewide inflation by consumer category:
 - Transportation 22.1%
 - Food 8.3%
 - Housing 7.4%
 - Recreation & Personal Care 6.7%
 - Medical 4.3%
 - Apparel 3.3%
- Regional inflation rates:
 - Northeast 10.4%
 - Southeast 10.2%
 - Southwest 9.2%
 - Northwest 9.1%
 - Central 7.4%

Nationally, the inflation rate from December 2020 to December 2021 was 7.0% (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, for this report, the fourth quarter of 2021. For the fourth quarter of 2021, the Comparative Cost of Living Index ranked Teton (168) as the county with the highest **All Items** value, which indicates that the cost of living in Teton County was estimated 68 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 (48.7%), Transportation (15.2%), Food (14.1%), Recreation & Personal Care (9.7%), Medical (8.9%), and Apparel (3.4%).

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 - 4Q21
(Statewide Average = 100)**

COUNTY	Index Number by Category:							Recreation & Personal Care
	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical		
Teton	168	114	230	127	104	102	104	
Lincoln-Afton	108	98	114	104	102	99	104	
Laramie	105	100	111	101	99	95	104	
Sublette	103	115	101	109	104	99	97	
Sheridan	100	103	99	100	100	103	99	
Campbell	100	110	97	102	98	98	105	
Albany	98	105	98	100	97	93	98	
Converse	97	106	92	102	100	104	96	
Park	97	105	91	115	102	98	98	
Carbon	96	99	92	88	100	117	93	
Johnson	96	114	85	116	101	96	109	
Natrona	94	93	92	93	99	97	100	
Fremont	94	91	89	94	101	114	96	
Crook	94	101	85	103	103	107	103	
Sweetwater	94	94	89	83	101	104	96	
Lincoln-Kemmerer	91	100	79	102	102	116	98	
Uinta	90	84	85	94	101	104	98	
Hot Springs	90	110	76	110	101	102	100	
Platte	89	96	80	105	100	85	102	
Weston	88	98	75	107	100	110	98	
Big Horn	88	111	74	109	102	93	91	
Washakie	87	98	76	109	102	87	99	
Niobrara	87	97	75	103	100	99	99	
Goshen	85	93	75	89	98	90	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	14.1	48.7	3.4	15.2	8.9	9.7	
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	
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	

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
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
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

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.

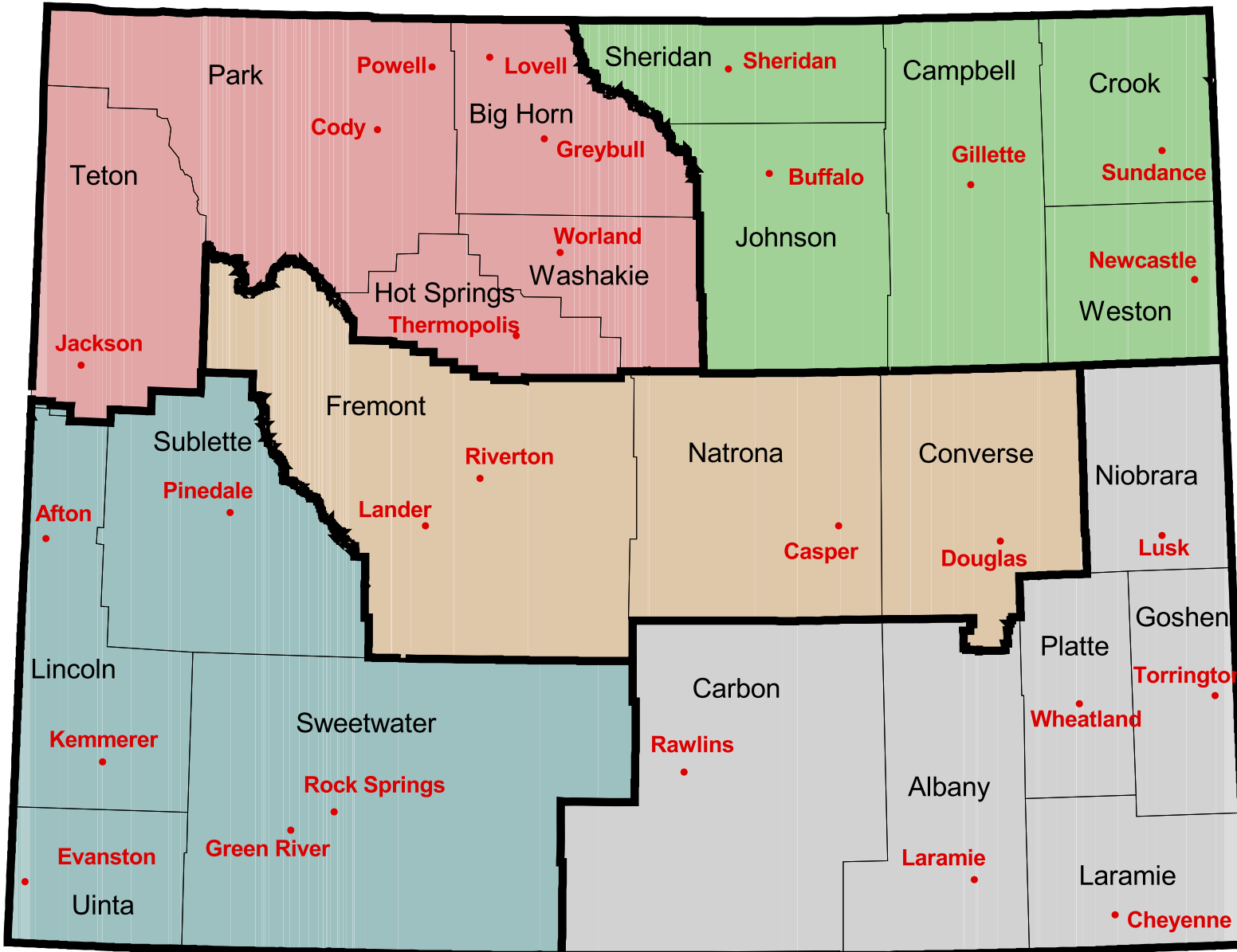
Southwest: Lincoln-Kemmerer, Lincoln-Afton, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.

Central: Converse, Fremont, and Natrona counties.

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

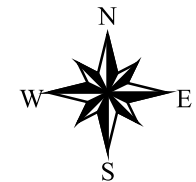
Northwest: Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, and Washakie counties.

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 - 4Q21 & 4Q20

County	APARTMENT (1)			MOBILE HOME LOT (2)			HOUSE (3)			MOBILE HOME (4)		
	4Q21	4Q20	Percent Change	4Q21	4Q20	Percent Change	4Q21	4Q20	Percent Change	4Q21	4Q20	Percent Change
Albany	\$779	\$726	7.3%	\$475	\$431	10.4%	\$1,233	\$1,130	9.0%	\$842	\$794	6.0%
Big Horn	\$505	\$498	1.3%	\$221	\$204	8.2%	\$781	\$725	7.7%	\$505	\$500	1.1%
Campbell	\$744	\$709	4.9%	\$491	\$487	0.7%	\$1,219	\$1,118	9.0%	\$891	\$752	18.5%
Carbon	\$741	\$636	16.6%	\$379	\$383	-0.9%	\$1,039	\$977	6.4%	\$943	\$911	3.6%
Converse	\$752	\$776	-3.1%	\$281	\$222	26.5%	\$1,088	\$1,136	-4.3%	\$752	\$778	-3.3%
Crook	\$639	\$639	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$813	\$736	10.4%	NA	NA	NA
Fremont	\$743	\$724	2.6%	\$275	\$268	2.7%	\$1,038	\$942	10.2%	\$800	\$716	11.6%
Goshen	\$622	\$621	0.1%	NA	NA	NA	\$723	\$686	5.4%	NA	\$511	NA
Hot Springs	\$615	\$580	6.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$673	\$651	3.4%	NA	NA	NA
Johnson	\$595	\$599	-0.7%	\$277	\$235	17.7%	\$1,109	\$1,053	5.4%	\$644	\$642	0.2%
Laramie	\$974	\$907	7.4%	\$490	\$470	4.3%	\$1,508	\$1,370	10.1%	\$1,027	\$965	6.3%
Lincoln (Kemmerer)	\$565	\$516	9.5%	NA	NA	NA	\$671	\$606	10.6%	\$674	\$671	0.4%
Lincoln (Afton)	\$980	\$745	31.5%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,369	\$1,120	22.3%	NA	NA	NA
Natrona	\$771	\$729	5.8%	\$453	\$422	7.5%	\$1,147	\$1,073	6.9%	\$707	\$709	-0.2%
Niobrara	\$550	\$550	0.0%	NA	NA	NA	\$744	\$826	-9.9%	NA	NA	NA
Park	\$718	\$672	6.7%	\$327	\$314	4.0%	\$1,051	\$964	9.0%	\$776	\$777	-0.2%
Platte	\$617	\$581	6.2%	NA	NA	NA	\$845	\$749	12.9%	NA	NA	NA
Sheridan	\$700	\$688	1.7%	\$429	\$351	22.1%	\$1,378	\$1,211	13.8%	\$825	\$646	27.8%
Sublette	\$900	\$768	17.2%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,238	\$1,121	10.5%	NA	NA	NA
Sweetwater	\$658	\$644	2.1%	\$456	\$449	1.4%	\$1,016	\$1,017	-0.1%	\$878	\$810	8.5%
Teton	\$2,780	\$2,472	12.4%	\$815	\$730	11.6%	\$3,291	\$2,877	14.4%	\$1,460	\$1,420	2.8%
Uinta	\$720	\$624	15.4%	\$314	\$304	3.2%	\$926	\$893	3.7%	\$689	\$687	0.4%
Washakie	\$553	\$523	5.7%	NA	NA	NA	\$779	\$738	5.6%	NA	NA	NA
Weston	\$608	\$575	5.7%	\$178	\$186	-4.2%	\$650	\$671	-3.1%	NA	\$543	NA
Southeast	\$865	\$805	7.5%	\$449	\$422	6.3%	\$1,312	\$1,200	9.4%	\$922	\$871	5.8%
Southwest	\$717	\$647	10.8%	\$433	\$409	5.9%	\$1,014	\$963	5.3%	\$802	\$743	8.0%
Central	\$761	\$732	3.9%	\$383	\$356	7.6%	\$1,109	\$1,041	6.5%	\$739	\$718	2.9%
Northeast	\$701	\$679	3.2%	\$410	\$381	7.5%	\$1,191	\$1,083	9.9%	\$805	\$684	17.6%
Northwest	\$1,290	\$1,173	10.0%	\$448	\$412	8.6%	\$1,641	\$1,468	11.8%	\$915	\$891	2.8%
Statewide Average	\$846	\$790	7.0%	\$424	\$396	7.0%	\$1,241	\$1,141	8.7%	\$840	\$786	6.9%
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.					