



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 2023

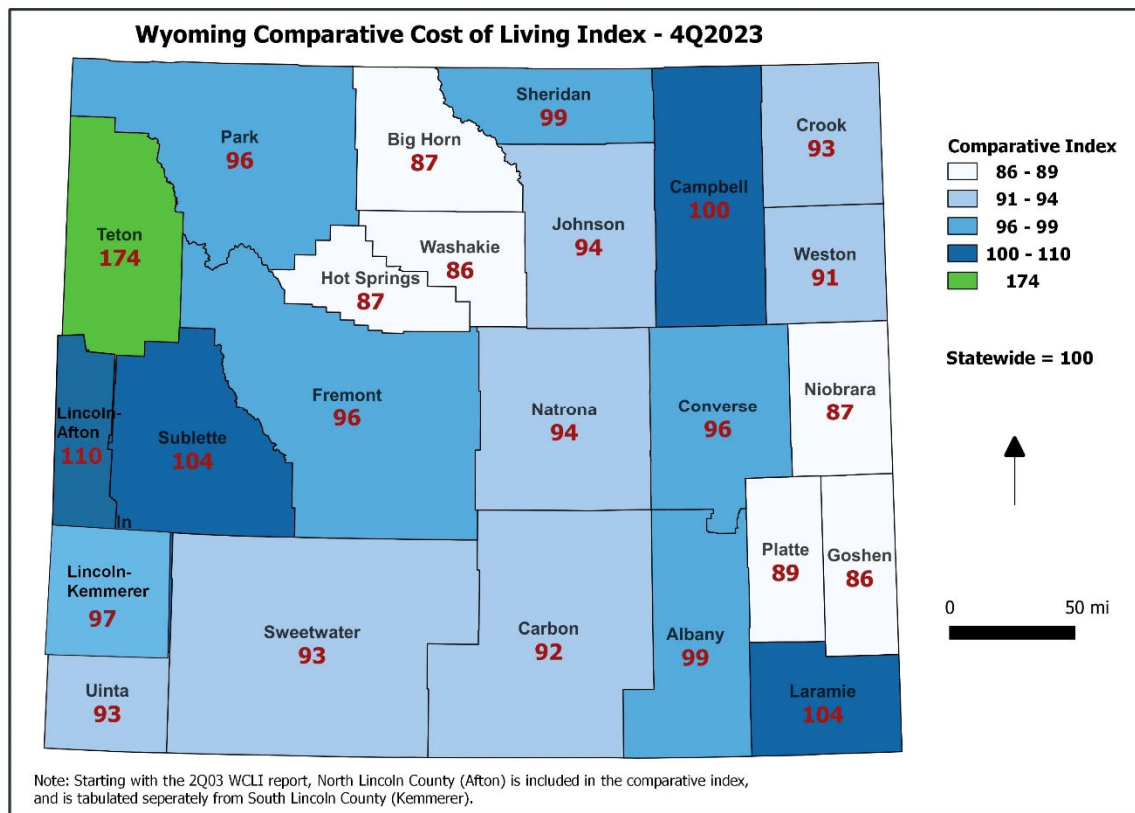
CHEYENNE - The fourth quarter of 2023 Wyoming Cost of Living Index (WCLI) is now available from the State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division. The WCLI consists of two parts, **Inflation**, which measures year-over-year change (annual) and the **Comparative Cost of Living Index** which compares each 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 2023 represent the percent change in the price level of a standard basket of selected consumer items priced in the fourth quarter of 2023, compared with the price level of the same goods and services recorded one year ago (fourth quarter of 2022).

Inflation results:

- All Items Statewide inflation was 3.8%, the lowest annual rate of inflation since the fourth quarter of 2020.
- Statewide inflation by consumer category:
 - Recreation & Personal Care 5.3%
 - Housing 4.2%
 - Medical 4.1%
 - Food 3.8%
 - Apparel 3.0%
 - Transportation 2.2%
- Regional inflation rates:
 - Northwest 5.1%
 - Southwest 5.0%
 - Northeast 4.1%
 - Southeast 3.3%
 - Central 2.7%

Nationally, the inflation rate from December 2022 to December 2023 was 3.4% (CPI-U), as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers.



The Comparative Cost of Living Index represents each county's price level compared to the statewide average (100) during a single period. For the fourth quarter of 2023, the Comparative Cost of Living Index ranked Teton (174) as the county with the highest **All Items** value, which indicates that the cost of living in Teton County was estimated 74 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

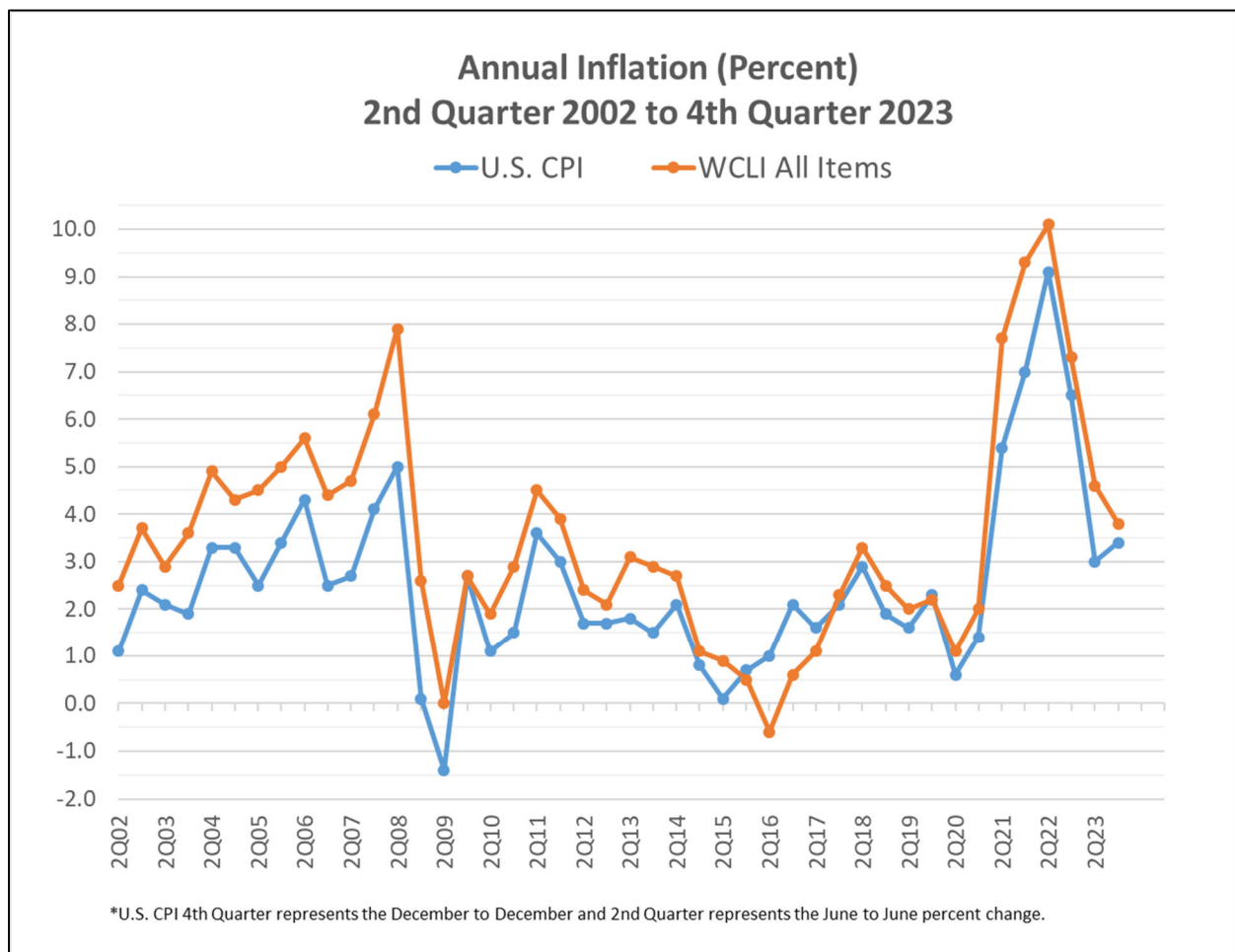
The WCLI is produced biannually, the second quarter and the fourth quarter. Price data are collected in twenty-eight cities and towns in Wyoming and the data are used to build a Comparative Cost of Living Index by county and to estimate overall inflation rates for Wyoming and the five designated regions 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 (49.8%), Transportation (16.7%), Food (13.5%), Recreation & Personal Care (8.7%), Medical (8.1%), and Apparel (3.1%).

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 - 4Q23
(Statewide Average = 100)

COUNTY	Index Number by Category:							Recreation & Personal Care
	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical		
Teton	174	116	235	129	108	105	119	
Lincoln-Afton	110	98	119	113	103	105	96	
Laramie	104	99	111	96	97	92	101	
Sublette	104	101	104	121	105	99	104	
Campbell	100	105	99	101	99	97	109	
Sheridan	99	102	97	89	102	98	102	
Albany	99	105	97	110	98	92	99	
Lincoln-Kemmerer	97	110	88	103	102	117	100	
Park	96	103	90	110	105	98	100	
Converse	96	103	91	101	101	106	92	
Fremont	96	96	92	102	101	112	91	
Johnson	94	111	82	116	106	93	107	
Natrona	94	96	90	101	97	102	95	
Uinta	93	84	90	85	99	109	102	
Sweetwater	93	91	89	85	101	106	95	
Crook	93	99	83	81	103	110	105	
Carbon	92	92	87	91	97	116	93	
Weston	91	111	76	101	100	116	103	
Platte	89	101	79	102	102	84	103	
Big Horn	87	108	73	91	104	95	95	
Hot Springs	87	94	75	101	104	94	104	
Niobrara	87	114	70	99	102	97	97	
Goshen	86	104	74	100	99	89	98	
Washakie	86	99	72	105	101	90	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	13.5	49.8	3.1	16.7	8.1	8.7	
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	
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	

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
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
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

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

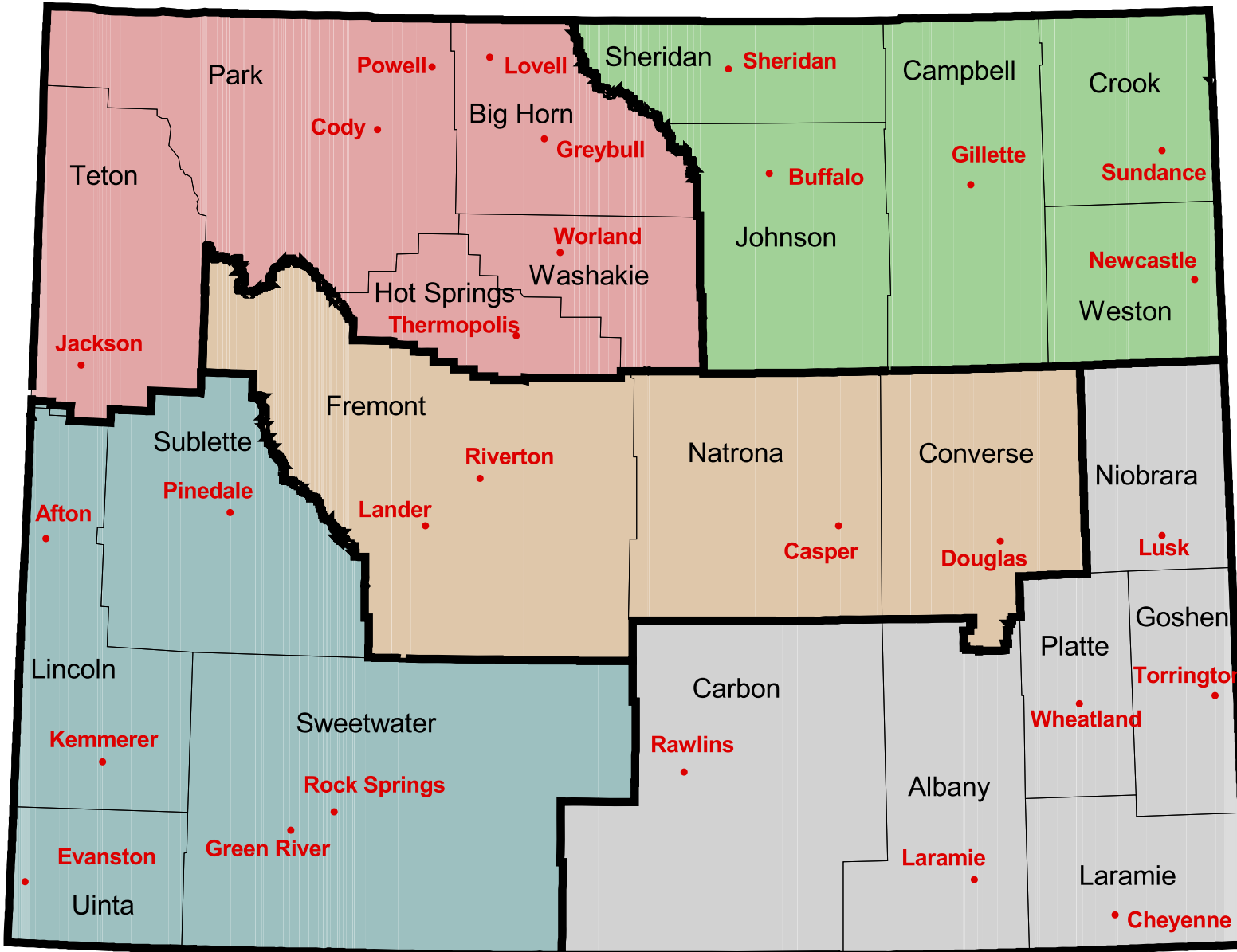
Previously, only 15 counties were used. Starting with the 2Q04 report, the inflation numbers include Lincoln-Afton.

* 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:

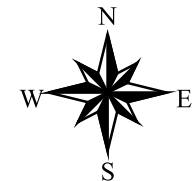
- Southeast: Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte counties.
- Southwest: Lincoln-Kemmerer, Lincoln-Afton, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.
- Central: Converse, Fremont, and Natrona counties.
- Northeast: Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties.
- Northwest: Big 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 - 4Q23 & 4Q22

County	APARTMENT (1)			MOBILE HOME LOT (2)			HOUSE (3)			MOBILE HOME (4)		
	4Q23	4Q22	Percent Change	4Q23	4Q22	Percent Change	4Q23	4Q22	Percent Change	4Q23	4Q22	Percent Change
Albany	\$893	\$809	10.4%	\$525	\$504	4.2%	\$1,375	\$1,379	-0.3%	\$921	\$876	5.1%
Big Horn	\$611	\$566	7.9%	NA	NA	NA	\$864	\$814	6.1%	\$595	\$543	9.6%
Campbell	\$882	\$798	10.5%	\$523	\$497	5.3%	\$1,487	\$1,380	7.7%	\$962	\$908	6.0%
Carbon	\$762	\$744	2.5%	\$413	\$411	0.5%	\$1,057	\$1,043	1.3%	\$972	\$923	5.3%
Converse	\$820	\$813	0.9%	\$313	\$300	4.2%	\$1,216	\$1,218	-0.2%	\$903	\$816	10.7%
Crook	\$750	\$697	7.5%	NA	NA	NA	\$942	\$970	-2.9%	NA	NA	NA
Fremont	\$842	\$797	5.7%	\$323	\$272	18.8%	\$1,137	\$1,101	3.2%	\$1,006	\$941	6.8%
Goshen	\$617	\$618	-0.1%	NA	NA	NA	\$839	\$800	4.9%	NA	NA	NA
Hot Springs	\$679	\$607	11.8%	\$369	\$369	0.0%	\$823	\$752	9.5%	NA	NA	NA
Johnson	\$652	\$646	0.9%	\$300	\$290	3.4%	\$1,325	\$1,234	7.3%	\$659	\$618	6.7%
Laramie	\$1,163	\$1,099	5.8%	\$583	\$529	10.2%	\$1,630	\$1,639	-0.6%	\$1,136	\$1,166	-2.6%
Lincoln (Kemmerer)	\$731	\$695	5.2%	NA	NA	NA	\$950	\$861	10.3%	NA	NA	NA
Lincoln (Afton)	\$1,172	\$1,025	14.3%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,569	\$1,412	11.2%	NA	NA	NA
Natrona	\$911	\$881	3.4%	\$492	\$474	3.7%	\$1,260	\$1,194	5.5%	\$752	\$745	0.9%
Niobrara	\$506	\$521	-2.9%	NA	NA	NA	\$845	\$784	7.8%	NA	NA	NA
Park	\$800	\$760	5.3%	\$389	\$367	5.8%	\$1,269	\$1,195	6.3%	\$863	\$811	6.4%
Platte	\$674	\$600	12.4%	NA	NA	NA	\$947	\$906	4.5%	NA	NA	NA
Sheridan	\$823	\$731	12.6%	\$557	\$456	22.1%	\$1,514	\$1,461	3.6%	\$916	\$898	1.9%
Sublette	\$953	\$894	6.6%	NA	NA	NA	\$1,410	\$1,350	4.5%	NA	NA	NA
Sweetwater	\$749	\$730	2.6%	\$526	\$499	5.3%	\$1,103	\$1,129	-2.3%	\$1,009	\$934	8.1%
Teton	\$3,256	\$2,893	12.6%	\$880	\$850	3.5%	\$3,951	\$3,730	5.9%	\$1,676	\$1,547	8.4%
Uinta	\$842	\$826	2.0%	\$350	\$337	4.0%	\$1,160	\$951	22.0%	\$991	\$826	20.1%
Washakie	\$561	\$563	-0.4%	NA	NA	NA	\$916	\$835	9.7%	NA	NA	NA
Weston	\$657	\$644	2.1%	\$225	\$188	19.7%	\$838	\$770	8.8%	\$706	NA	NA
Southeast	\$1,001	\$941	6.3%	\$544	\$500	8.8%	\$1,428	\$1,427	0.0%	\$1,016	\$1,015	0.1%
Southwest	\$834	\$795	4.8%	\$451	\$474	-4.7%	\$1,178	\$1,109	6.2%	\$1,034	\$918	12.6%
Central	\$881	\$849	3.8%	\$423	\$396	6.8%	\$1,219	\$1,169	4.2%	\$843	\$811	4.0%
Northeast	\$819	\$746	9.8%	\$469	\$422	11.2%	\$1,398	\$1,322	5.7%	\$887	\$837	6.1%
Northwest	\$1,474	\$1,339	10.1%	\$489	\$472	3.7%	\$1,947	\$1,832	6.3%	\$1,036	\$973	6.5%
Statewide Average	\$979	\$916	6.8%	\$480	\$455	5.3%	\$1,405	\$1,354	3.8%	\$959	\$916	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
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.