

Community Builders, Inc. (CBI) is a Wyoming-based consulting firm that specializes in the development of businesses, organizations, and communities. Each monthly *CBI Focus* newsletter provides current economic data and analytical graphs for one of Wyoming's 23 counties (plus one covering the entire state). The *CBI Focus* newsletter archive, source notes, and data explanations are online at www.consultCBI.com. CBI principal consultants are Bobbe Fitzhugh and Joe Coyne. Contact CBI at 873 Esterbrook Road, Douglas, WY 82633; email Joe@consultCBI.com; or call (307) 359-1640. © 2016 Community Builders, Inc.

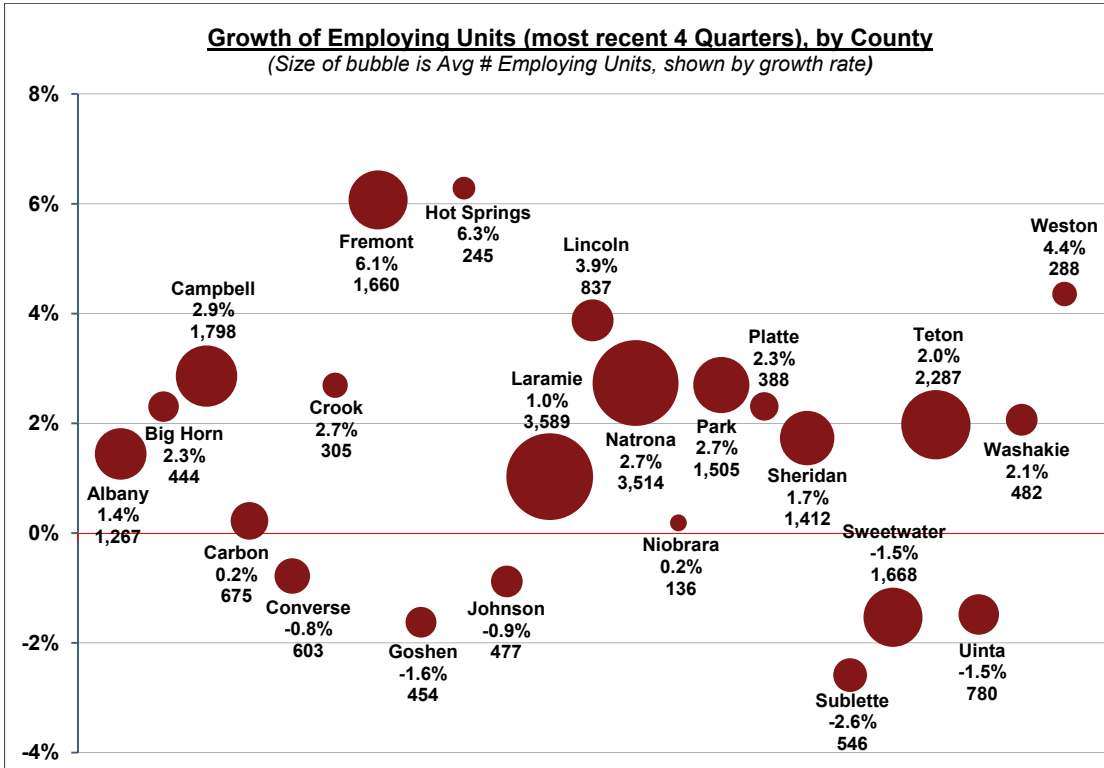


Employing Units

CBI frequently uses two different measures of employment. The first employment measure is the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, which creates monthly *estimates* of the entire labor force and unemployment rate for workers residing in a particular county, using Census counts, population estimates, and Wyoming's unemployment insurance (UI) system.

The second measure, the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, tracks jobs by place of work. QCEW is a compilation of *actual* UI wage records filed by employers. Although QCEW data collection and analysis takes months to complete, and it only includes workers who have UI coverage, it compiles the exact number of employees, employing units, average weekly wages, and the total amount of wages paid in each county.

The number of Employing Units includes the number of companies, firms, and establishments that employ workers who are covered by Unemployment Insurance. It



is an important statistic for identifying whether the local economy is attracting and developing new businesses, or losing them.

According to the QCEW data, Wyoming added 480 more Employing Units (representing 1.9% growth) during the last 4 quarters (i.e., 2Q2015 to 1Q2016). The average number of Employing Units statewide is 26,130 for the most recent four quarters. Employing Unit growth rates for the last four quarters compared to the previous four quarters range from -6.3% (Hot Springs County) to -2.6% (Sublette County), as shown in the chart above. During the last 4 quarters, Fremont County added the most Employing Units (95 more), followed by Natrona County (94 more), and Campbell County (50 more). Meanwhile, Sweetwater County (-26 units), Sublette County (-15 units), and Uinta County (-12 units) lost the most employers.



Community Builders, Inc. (CBI) can provide you with much deeper analysis of the topics presented in this newsletter, and many others as well. We have 60+ years experience with community and economic development, and provide business plans, feasibility studies, grant writing, strategic planning, project development, facilitation, and other services.

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Statewide, the number of Employing Units for 1Q2016 is up 0.6% compared to 4Q2015. Most Counties grew during the quarter, adding a total of 30 new Employing Units statewide. Four Counties added 10 new employers: Albany, Big Horn, Laramie, and Sheridan. A few Counties lost some employers during the most recent quarter: Sweetwater and Campbell Counties each lost 16 employing units, followed by Sublette County (-12 units).

According to preliminary data, employment declined in 2Q2016. Total payroll fell by \$182.6 million (-5.7%) and employment decreased by 10,500 jobs (-3.7%), compared to 2Q2015.

