# **Cheyenne Economic Indicators**

## WYOGOV

#### ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION • NOVEMBER 2019

#### Chart 1: Cheyenne Business-Cycle Index as of September 2019



#### Chart 2: Change in Business-Cycle Index — Last 6 Months



#### SUMMARY: The Cheyenne Business-Cycle Index (ChBCI) registered an index value of 106.10 in September of 2019 (see Chart 1), a slight increase compared to the August 2019 value of 105.72 but lower in comparison to the September 2018 value of 106.31.

As displayed in Chart 2, the April through September period indicated that the ChBCI had recorded year-over-year increases in each of the first four months but decreases the last two months with the September 2019 index value declining by 0.19 percent over the previous year.

As Chart 3 demonstrates, three of the four components of the ChBCI had modest increases in September. The unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in September, a decrease compared to the previous September value of 4.1 percent. The collection of the 4 percent sales and use tax attributed to taxable sales in Laramie County and the median price of homes also recorded nominal improvements, however, the decline in private wages of 1.25 percent more than offset the gains from the other three components.

#### Chart 3: Component Changes in the Index — September 2019



Note: Values in parentheses are the respective weights of each component.

➤ The total number of nonfarm payroll jobs in Cheyenne increased at a 0.9 percent pace in September in a year ago comparison as seen in Chart 4. The September job count was 47,400, higher than the September 2018 level by 400 jobs. The number of jobs in the government sector increased by 200 compared to a year ago. In the private sector, leisure & hospitality added 300 jobs in September to lead the way in job creation. Trade, transportation, & utilities saw the largest reduction in jobs, losing 200 from a year ago.

➤ NOTE: The Cheyenne Business-Cycle Index unites four city/county-level indicators to sum up current economic conditions in a single number. The indicators consist of (1) Laramie County's monthly unemployment rate, (2) private sector wages, estimated by multiplying the total number of private sector jobs in Cheyenne each month by the average hours worked per week and by the average hourly wage, (3) monthly sales and use tax collections which reflect taxable sales in Laramie County, and (4) monthly median sold price for Cheyenne single family homes. All data used in the determination of the ChBCI are seasonally adjusted; all dollar amounts are inflation adjusted.

SOURCES: Cheyenne business-cycle index: Economic Analysis Division; private sector wages and unemployment rate: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; sales and use taxes: WY Dept. of Revenue; median home price: Cheyenne Board of REALTORS.

#### Chart 4: September 2019 Employment Growth



Note: Values in parentheses represent share of total employment.



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#### Chart 5: Cheyenne Labor Market as of September 2019



Chart 6: Laramie County 4% Sales and Use Tax Collections

Chart 7: Cheyenne Home Sales and Median Home Prices



% Change YTD YoY Home Sales

Median Home Price

2016

2017

✤ Jobs associated with Cheyenne's private sector decreased in September by 400 compared to August (see Chart 5). The September 2019 private job count was 33,400, higher than the September 2018 level by 200. Cheyenne's weekly earnings decreased in September to \$749.92 compared to August's \$764.26 and was lower than the level attained in September 2018 of \$848.75. The weekly earnings indicator is a product of average weekly hours multiplied by average hourly earnings. Weekly hours fell to 33.3 in September 2019 from 35.0 in a year ago comparison. In addition, hourly earnings worsened, falling to \$22.52, lower than the \$24.25 achieved in September 2018.

✤ Laramie County's collection of the 4 percent sales and use tax reached \$8.9 million in September of 2019 (these are October 2019 collections that for the most part represent sales that took place in September 2019), \$0.7 million higher than collections from a year ago (see Chart 6). After nine months of calendar year 2019, total collections were ahead of the 3-year average over the same number of months by \$13.7 million or 21.5 percent.

✤ For the Cheyenne housing market, after a slow start, year-to-date home sales volume finally surpassed the 2018 pace while home prices continued trending upward over the first nine months of 2019.

The number of homes sold in September 2019 increased to 120 compared to 109 sold a year ago while total sales of homes for the first nine months of calendar year 2019 were 2.7 percent ahead last year's sales for the same number of months.

The median home price was \$270,000 in September of 2019, higher than August's price of \$254,000 and the \$256,200 price from one year ago.

▶ NOTE: The data used in the construction of charts 5, 6, and 7 are not seasonally adjusted and all dollar amounts are not inflation adjusted.



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2018

2013

2014

Homes sold

50%

40%

30%

20%

10%

0%

-10%

-20%

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2015

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Thousands of dollars

\$300

\$250

\$200

\$150

\$100

\$50

\$0

2019

			YOY		+		YOY		+		YOY
Year	Month	Index	Change	Year	Month	Index	Change	Year	Month	Index	Chang
2007	Jan	100.00	change	2013	Jan	99.93	0.78%	2019	Jan	107.88	1.53
2007	Feb	100.14		2013	Feb	99.46	0.71%	2019	Feb	109.08	2.7
2007	Mar	100.14		2013	Mar	100.18	1.03%	2019	Mar	105.00	2.7
2007	Apr	100.34		2013	Apr	99.98	0.54%	2019	Apr	108.46	2.5
2007	May	100.14		2013	May	100.64	1.15%	2019	May	107.67	1.6
2007	Jun	100.14		2013	Jun	100.04	2.32%	2019	Jun	106.81	0.7
2007	Jul	100.33		2013	Jul	101.83	2.32%	2019	Jul	106.36	0.7
2007		99.95		2013	Aug	101.43	2.13%	2019		105.72	-0.0
2007	Aug Sep	99.95		2013	Sep	101.49	2.78%	2019	Aug Sep	105.72	-0.0
2007		99.90		2013	Oct	101.39	2.33%	2019	Oct	100.10	-0.1
2007	Oct Nov	100.11		2013	Nov		1.88%	2019	Nov		
2007	+ +	99.90		2013	Dec	101.42 101.82	1.88%	2019	Dec		
	Dec		0.000/								
2008	Jan	99.92	-0.08%	2014	Jan	102.08	2.15%	2020	Jan		
2008	Feb	100.08	-0.07%	2014	Feb	101.93	2.48%	2020	Feb		
2008	Mar	100.11	0.04%	2014	Mar	103.19	3.01%	2020	Mar		
2008	Apr	100.12	-0.22%	2014	Apr	102.78	2.80%	2020	Apr		
2008	May	99.97	-0.17%	2014	May	102.61	1.95%	2020	May		
2008	Jun	99.37	-0.97%	2014	Jun	103.30	1.38%	2020	Jun		
2008	Jul	99.62	-1.02%	2014	Jul	102.65	1.20%	2020	Jul		
2008	Aug	99.98	0.03%	2014	Aug	103.51	1.99%	2020	Aug		
2008	Sep	99.74	-0.01%	2014	Sep	104.01	2.59%	2020	Sep		
2008	Oct	99.39	-0.51%	2014	Oct	103.50	2.08%	2020	Oct		
2008	Nov	99.46	-0.65%	2014	Nov	103.09	1.64%	2020	Nov		
2008	Dec	99.31	-0.60%	2014	Dec	103.73	1.88%	2020	Dec		
2009	Jan	98.91	-1.01%	2015	Jan	103.85	1.73%	2021	Jan		
2009	Feb	99.49	-0.58%	2015	Feb	104.34	2.37%	2021	Feb		
2009	Mar	99.20	-0.91%	2015	Mar	104.49	1.25%	2021	Mar		
2009	Apr	98.05	-2.06%	2015	Apr	104.98	2.14%	2021	Apr		
2009	May	97.77	-2.21%	2015	May	103.75	1.11%	2021	May		
2009	Jun	97.57	-1.82%	2015	Jun	103.65	0.34%	2021	Jun		
2009	Jul	97.40	-2.22%	2015	Jul	103.35	0.68%	2021	Jul		
2009	Aug	97.22	-2.76%	2015	Aug	103.31	-0.20%	2021	Aug		
2009	Sep	96.48	-3.28%	2015	Sep	102.84	-1.13%	2021	Sep		
2009	Oct	96.58	-2.83%	2015	Oct	102.93	-0.55%	2021	Oct		
2009	Nov	96.92	-2.55%	2015	Nov	102.71	-0.37%	2021	Nov		
2009	Dec	95.63	-3.70%	2015	Dec	101.81	-1.85%	2021	Dec		
2010	Jan	97.09	-1.85%	2016	Jan	101.94	-1.84%	2022	Jan		
2010	Feb	97.68	-1.82%	2016	Feb	101.95	-2.29%	2022	Feb		
2010	Mar	97.18	-2.03%	2016	Mar	102.15	-2.23%	2022	Mar		
2010	Apr	97.38	-0.69%	2016	Apr	101.84	-2.99%	2022	Apr		
2010	May	97.78	0.02%	2016	May	101.91	-1.77%	2022	May		
2010	Jun	97.51	-0.06%	2016	Jun	102.14	-1.46%	2022	Jun		
2010	Jul	98.15	0.76%	2016	Jul	102.08	-1.22%	2022	Jul		
2010	Aug	97.85	0.65%	2016	Aug	101.91	-1.35%	2022	Aug		
2010	Sep	98.20	1.79%	2016	Sep	102.00	-0.81%	2022	Sep		
2010	Oct	98.21	1.68%	2016	Oct	102.71	-0.21%	2022	Oct		
2010	Nov	97.36	0.45%	2016	Nov	103.20	0.48%	2022	Nov		
2010	Dec	98.00	2.47%	2016	Dec	103.20	1.37%	2022	Dec		
2011	Jan	97.91	0.85%	2017	Jan	103.90	1.92%	2023	Jan		
2011	Feb	98.40	0.73%	2017	Feb	104.07	2.08%	2023	Feb		
2011	Mar	97.19	0.01%	2017	Mar	104.06	1.86%	2023	Mar		
2011	Apr	97.69	0.32%	2017	Apr	104.89	3.00%	2023	Apr		
2011	May	98.10	0.33%	2017	May	105.19	3.21%	2023	May		
2011	Jun Jun	97.37	-0.14%	2017	Jun	104.96	2.77%	2023	Jun J		
2011	Jul	97.82	-0.33%	2017	Jul	105.38	3.23%	2023	Jul		
2011	Aug	98.29	0.45%	2017	Aug	105.75	3.76%	2023	Aug		
2011	Sep	98.18	-0.03%	2017	Sep	105.91	3.83%	2023	Sep		
2011	Oct	98.67	0.03%	2017	Oct	105.30	2.52%	2023	Oct		
2011	Nov	98.41	1.07%	2017	Nov	105.01	1.75%	2023	Nov		
2011	Dec	98.27	0.28%	2017	Dec	105.16	1.89%	2023	Dec		
2011	Jan	99.16	1.28%	2017	Jan	105.10	2.26%	2023	Jan		
2012	Feb	98.75	0.36%	2018	Feb	106.16	2.20%	2024	Feb		
2012	Mar	99.16	2.03%	2018	Mar	106.37	2.01%	2024	Mar		
2012	Apr	99.10	1.79%	2018	Apr	105.78	0.85%	2024	Apr		
	- · · ·	99.44			· · ·			2024	+ · · · ·		
2012	May		1.42%	2018	May	105.89	0.67%		May		
2012	Jun	99.58	2.27%	2018	Jun	106.02	1.01%	2024	Jun		
2012	Jul	99.30	1.51%	2018	Jul	105.63	0.24%	2024	Jul		
2012	Aug	98.74	0.46%	2018	Aug	105.73	-0.02%	2024	Aug		
2012	Sep	99.05	0.89%	2018	Sep	106.31	0.37%	2024	Sep		
2012	Oct	98.97	0.31%	2018	Oct	105.90	0.57%	2024	Oct		
2012	Nov	99.55	1.17%	2018	Nov	106.21	1.15%	2024	Nov		

Prepared by: Economic Analysis Division, Dept. of Administration & Information, WY State Government

#### Cheyenne Business-Cycle Index Addendum

The Cheyenne Business-Cycle Index (ChBCI) is a coincident economic indicator and is designed to provide a current assessment of Cheyenne's economy. There are four main components of the ChBCI. Two of these components, unemployment rate and private sector weekly wages, are included to capture labor market activity for Cheyenne. The third component, sales and use tax collections, gauges economic activity related to taxable sales in the Laramie County while the fourth component, median home prices, serves as a proxy for the housing market.

Unemployment Rate: The first component of the ChBCI is the unemployment rate. This statistic measures the percentage of people in Laramie County who want to work but don't have jobs. Within the ChBCI model, the employment rate statistic (1.00 or 100% minus the unemployment rate) is indexed rather than the unemployment rate because an increase in the employment rate, similar to increases in private wages, sales and use tax collections, and median home prices, is considered to be a positive impact on the economy. This statistic is available monthly from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (not seasonally adjusted). The data are then seasonally adjusted. It is included as a component because it provides an assessment of the Laramie County's labor market.

Private Sector Weekly Wages: The second component of the ChBCI is total private sector weekly wages. This component is estimated by multiplying the number of private sector jobs in Cheyenne each month by the average weekly hours and then multiplying this product by the average hourly earnings to achieve a dollar value of private sector jobs in Cheyenne. These statistics are available monthly from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (not seasonally adjusted). All dollar amounts have been converted to constant dollars using the Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers database and then the data are seasonally adjusted. This indicator is included because it is another measure of the Laramie County's labor market health.

Sales and Use Taxes: The third component of the ChBCI is Laramie County's sales and use tax collections associated with the state's 4 percent tax rate. Because sales and use tax collections received by the county for a given month represent transactions that took place 4 to 6 weeks prior, the data is lagged one month for use in the ChBCI model. This statistic is available monthly from the State of Wyoming's Department of Revenue (not seasonally adjusted). All dollar amounts have been converted to constant dollars using the Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers database and then the data are seasonally adjusted. This indicator is included because it represents taxable sales activity in Laramie County.

Median Home Prices: The fourth component of the ChBCI is the Cheyenne median home price. This statistic is compiled by the Cheyenne Board of REALTORS and is available monthly (not seasonally adjusted). The home price statistic is defined as the median sales price for a single family, non-rural residence. All dollar amounts have been converted to constant dollars using the Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers database and then the data are seasonally adjusted. Median home prices are included because they capture another critical part of Cheyenne's economy – housing.

Methodology: After the data for each component have been adjusted as noted above, each series is then standardized starting in January 2007 resulting in a value of 100.00 for each component and the ChBCI in that month. As the components change from month to month, so does the value of the ChBCI. Monthly index values for each of the components not including the unemployment rate are then smoothed using a weighted moving average. The unemployment rate is excluded from this treatment because the data are relatively stable to begin with. Next, the standard deviation of each component's monthly standardized values is determined followed by the calculation of the inverse of each component's standard deviation. Finally, the individual inverse standard deviations are standardized resulting in weights that sum to 1.00. The rationale for this weighting approach is the same used by the U.S. Conference Board implying that those components that are more stable over time will generate a smaller standard deviation but a larger inverse standard deviation, and thus, a larger weight. A substantial shift in a traditionally stable data series would provide a more compelling signal of economic change than a large shift in a series that commonly has large shifts.