

TRENDS

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments Reach Record High in 2009

by: Sherry Wen, Senior Economist

Large layoffs occurred in all industries and counties in Wyoming in 2009, with the mining industry and mining-dominated counties most heavily affected. Men were laid off more frequently than women, and younger male workers were hit especially hard by the economic downturn.

As the national recession entered its second year in 2009, Wyoming also experienced a significant downturn in all industry sectors. The state unemployment rate rose to 7.5% by December 2009, more than double the December 2008 rate of 3.4%. A total of 37,312 individuals lost jobs in Wyoming (U.S. Department of Labor, 2010) and collected unemployment insurance during the year, the highest level since 1997 (when comparable records are available¹). The Wyoming Department of Employment paid more than \$161.4 million in Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits from the state UI

trust fund, the highest level since 1982. By the end of 2009, 12,069 individuals exhausted their regular UI benefits and had collected a total of \$39.9 million federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC).

There were a total of 54,460 new UI claims (initial claims) and 507,461 weeks of benefits claimed (continued claims) in 2009, over-the-year increases of 106.0% and 201.0%, respectively, compared with the levels in 2008 (26,422 new claims and 168,710 weeks claimed). Both initial and continued claims reached 23-year highs

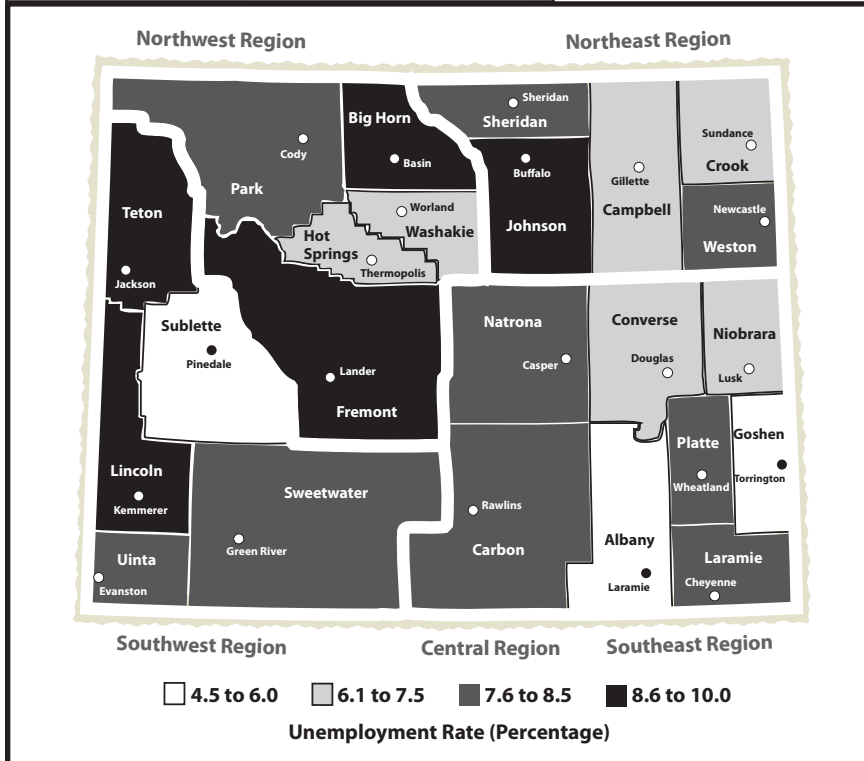
¹ Records for unique UI claimants and unique UI recipients are only available back to 1997, unlike records of UI claims, which go back farther.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed to 7.5% in December, up from 7.2% in November. Total employment decreased by 20,600 jobs from year-ago levels. ... *page 16*
- Initial unemployment insurance claims increased by 27.9% compared to December 2008, but initial claims in mining and manufacturing declined by more than 12% during the same period. ... *page 22*

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, December 2009 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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IN THIS ISSUE

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments Reach Record High in 2009	1
Employer Information Seminars Heading to Riverton May 20.....	13
Union Membership as a Percentage of Wage and Salary Workers by State, 2009	14
Union Representation as a Percentage of Wage and Salary Workers by State, 2009	14
Consumer Price Index January 2000 to December 2009 . . .	15
Wyoming Normalized Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims, All Industries, December 2007 to December 2009 ..	15
Occupation Spotlight	16
Wyoming Unemployment Rate Increases to 7.5% in December. .	16
State Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)	17
Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment. . .	18
Economic Indicators	20
Wyoming County Unemployment Rates	21
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims	22
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims	23

(Text continued from page 1)

(see Figure 1, page 3). New claims reflect individuals who were laid off. An individual could have more than one new claim if he or she was laid off more than once during the year. As shown in Figure 1, Wyoming initial claims lagged behind the U.S. by approximately one year in terms of large layoffs. With respect to larger layoffs, the last recession was also shorter for Wyoming than the U.S. (two years compared to three years). Whether Wyoming outperforms the U.S. economy during the current recession likely will depend on natural resources markets such as oil and gas and coal because of the state's strong relationship to energy-related commodities.

This article focuses on individual persons who received UI benefits in the

year and provides a detailed demographic analysis of these unemployed workers. The characteristics discussed include state of residence, pre-layoff industry, age, and education level. This information may help employers and work force development agencies find and identify potential labor sources.

Discussion

UI Recipients and Exhaustees

In 2009, there were 37,312 individuals who lost jobs in Wyoming and collected UI benefits (UI recipients; see Figure 2, page 4), the highest during the period dating back to 1997. Nearly one-third (12,069) had exhausted their regular benefits by

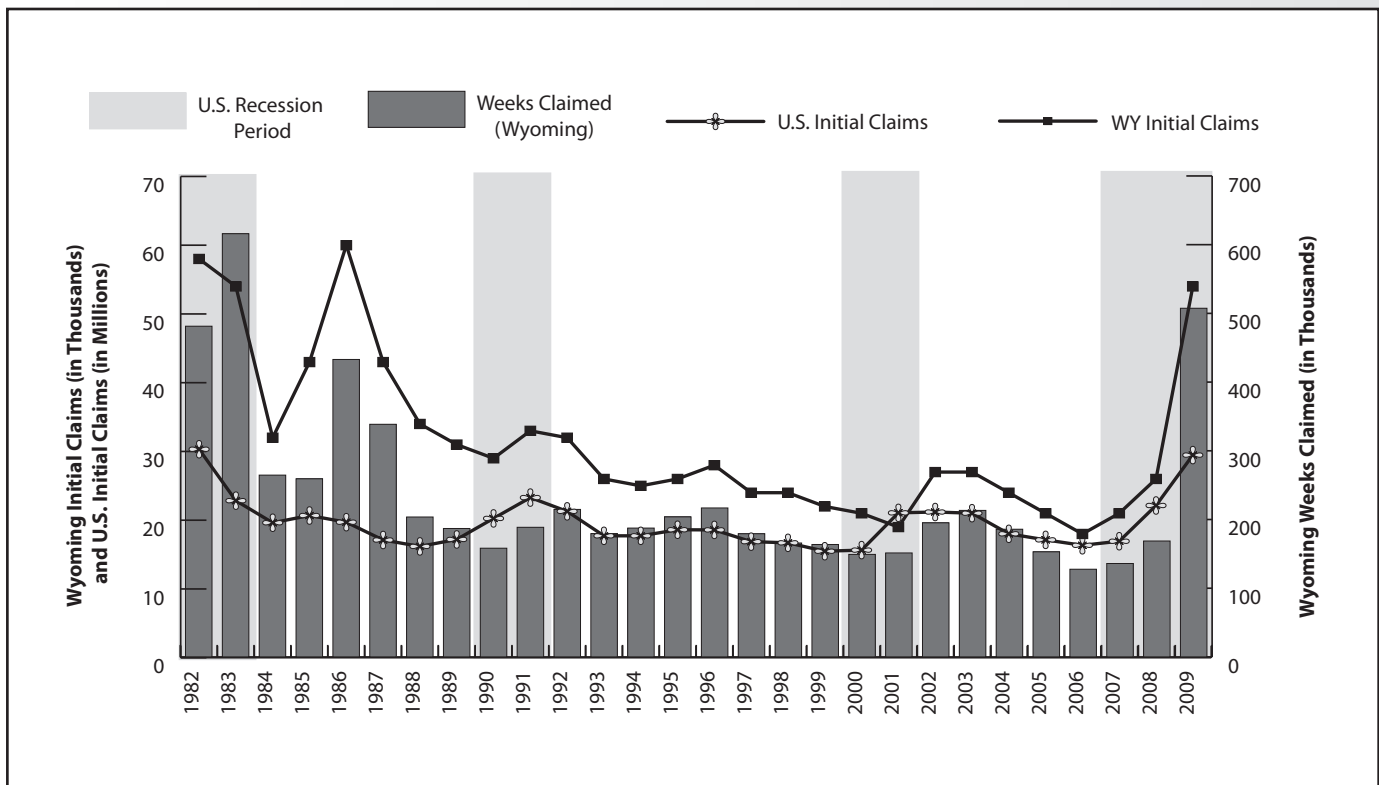


Figure 1: U.S. and Wyoming Annual Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims and Wyoming Weeks Claimed, 1982-2009

the end of the year. The exhaustion rate (exhaustees divided by the number of UI recipients) of 32.3% was also the highest in the past 13 years.

Industry Changes

Every industry experienced at least double-digit percentage increases in UI recipients from 2008 to 2009 (see Table 1, page 5); half of the industries sustained triple-digit increases. Mining had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in UI recipients (341.5%) from 1,380 workers in 2008 to 6,093 workers in 2009 who lost jobs. Wholesale trade and real estate and rental & leasing followed mining with increases of 199.1% and 176.6%, respectively. The largest share of UI recipients was in construction in both 2008 (33.1%, or 5,601) and 2009 (28.8%, or 10,756). Mining was second, with 16.3%

of total UI recipients in 2009, followed by accommodation & food services with 10.7%.

Approximately one-fifth (19.6% or 7,297) of total UI recipients in 2009 were non-Wyoming residents, up from 15.9% in 2008 (see Table 2, page 6). The majority (72.0%) worked in one of three industries before becoming unemployed: construction (37.3%), mining (19.8%), and accommodation & food services (14.9%; see Figure 3, page 7). This finding is consistent with previous research on the Wyoming work force (Jones 2009). During the economic expansion prior to 2009, many nonresidents worked in Wyoming. Consequently all industries contributed to the number of nonresident UI recipients. Nearly one-fourth (24.1%) of the 29 UI recipients from management of

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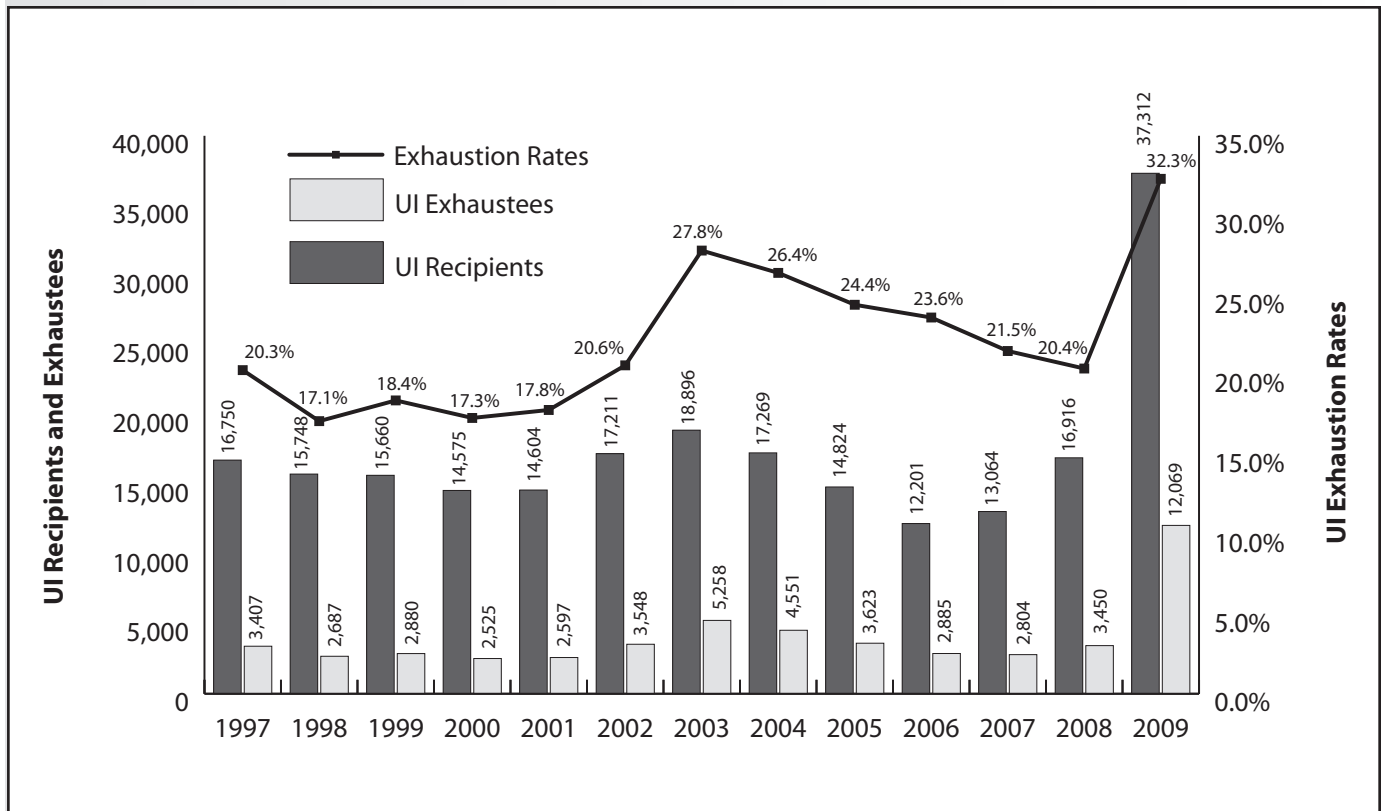


Figure 2: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Recipients, Exhaustees, and Exhaustion Rates, 1997-2009

Table 1: Unique Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients by Last Employer's Industry, 2008 and 2009

Industry	2008			2009			Total Recipients Over-the-Year Change		Nonresident Recipients Over-the-Year Change	
	Recipients	Col %	Nonresident %	Recipients	Col %	Nonresident %	n	%	n	%
Agriculture	140	0.8%	12.1%	243	0.7%	14.0%	103	73.6%	17	100.0%
Mining	1,380	8.2%	19.8%	6,093	16.3%	23.7%	4,713	341.5%	1,173	429.7%
Utilities	27	0.2%	14.8%	55	0.1%	16.4%	28	103.7%	5	125.0%
Construction	5,601	33.1%	16.3%	10,756	28.8%	25.3%	5,155	92.0%	1,810	198.0%
Manufacturing	988	5.8%	5.8%	1,995	5.3%	6.4%	1,007	101.9%	70	122.8%
Wholesale Trade	328	1.9%	8.8%	981	2.6%	11.3%	653	199.1%	82	282.8%
Retail Trade	1,160	6.9%	10.6%	2,606	7.0%	9.7%	1,446	124.7%	129	104.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	692	4.1%	10.1%	1,603	4.3%	14.3%	911	131.6%	159	227.1%
Information	142	0.8%	8.5%	234	0.6%	8.1%	92	64.8%	7	58.3%
Finance & Insurance	174	1.0%	4.6%	318	0.9%	9.4%	144	82.8%	22	275.0%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	171	1.0%	4.1%	473	1.3%	9.5%	302	176.6%	38	542.9%
Prof. & Technical Services	442	2.6%	19.5%	1,088	2.9%	22.0%	646	146.2%	153	177.9%
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	18	0.1%	27.8%	29	0.1%	24.1%	11	61.1%	2	40.0%
Administrative & Waste Services	971	5.7%	8.8%	1,836	4.9%	11.2%	865	89.1%	121	142.4%
Educational Services	228	1.3%	11.0%	441	1.2%	11.8%	213	93.4%	27	108.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	914	5.4%	5.8%	1,692	4.5%	6.3%	778	85.1%	53	100.0%
Arts, Ent., & Recreation	202	1.2%	8.4%	354	0.9%	13.0%	152	75.2%	29	170.6%
Accommodation & Food Svcs.	1,902	11.2%	28.0%	3,979	10.7%	27.3%	2,077	109.2%	552	103.6%
Other Svcs. (Except Public Admin.)	366	2.2%	17.5%	973	2.6%	10.8%	607	165.8%	41	64.1%
Public Administration	923	5.5%	27.3%	1,247	3.3%	24.7%	324	35.1%	56	22.2%
Nonclassified*	147	0.9%	36.1%	316	0.8%	37.0%	169	115.0%	64	120.8%
Total	16,916	100.0%	15.9%	37,312	100.0%	19.6%	20,396	120.6%	4610	171.6%

*No industry information available.

Table 2: Unique Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients by Place of Residence, 2008 and 2009

Industry	Number of UI Recipients			Over-the-Year Changes		Number of UI Exhaustees		Over-the-Year Changes		Exhaustion Rates				
	2008	% of Total	2009	% of Total	n	% Change	2008	% of Total	n	% Change	2008	2009		
Albany	566	3.3%	946	2.5%	380	67.1%	104	3.0%	291	2.4%	187	179.8%	18.4%	30.8%
Big Horn	283	1.7%	652	1.7%	369	130.4%	70	2.0%	234	1.9%	164	234.3%	24.7%	35.9%
Campbell	850	5.0%	2,889	7.7%	2,039	239.9%	93	2.7%	668	5.5%	575	618.3%	10.9%	23.1%
Carbon	438	2.6%	857	2.3%	419	95.7%	71	2.1%	311	2.6%	240	338.0%	16.2%	36.3%
Converse	251	1.5%	598	1.6%	347	138.2%	53	1.5%	178	1.5%	125	235.8%	21.1%	29.8%
Crook	148	0.9%	362	1.0%	214	144.6%	27	0.8%	74	0.6%	47	174.1%	18.2%	20.4%
Fremont	1,302	7.7%	2,228	6.0%	926	71.1%	293	8.5%	803	6.7%	510	174.1%	22.5%	36.0%
Goshen	282	1.7%	378	1.0%	96	34.0%	69	2.0%	98	0.8%	29	42.0%	24.5%	25.9%
Hot Springs	97	0.6%	204	0.5%	107	110.3%	26	0.8%	64	0.5%	38	146.2%	26.8%	31.4%
Johnson	194	1.1%	472	1.3%	278	143.3%	37	1.1%	119	1.0%	82	221.6%	19.1%	25.2%
Laramie	2,740	16.2%	4,230	11.3%	1,490	54.4%	597	17.3%	1,367	11.3%	770	129.0%	21.8%	32.3%
Lincoln	488	2.9%	957	2.6%	469	96.1%	93	2.7%	328	2.7%	235	252.7%	19.1%	34.3%
Natrona	1,806	10.7%	4,615	12.4%	2,809	155.5%	323	9.4%	1,321	10.9%	998	309.0%	17.9%	28.6%
Niobrara	45	0.3%	80	0.2%	35	77.8%	10	0.3%	18	0.1%	8	80.0%	22.2%	22.5%
Park	793	4.7%	1,439	3.9%	646	81.5%	170	4.9%	386	3.2%	216	127.1%	21.4%	26.8%
Platte	232	1.4%	334	0.9%	102	44.0%	55	1.6%	91	0.8%	36	65.5%	23.7%	27.2%
Sheridan	834	4.9%	1,741	4.7%	907	108.8%	132	3.8%	547	4.5%	415	314.4%	15.8%	31.4%
Sublette	168	1.0%	532	1.4%	364	216.7%	24	0.7%	158	1.3%	134	558.3%	14.3%	29.7%
Sweetwater	826	4.9%	2,541	6.8%	1,715	207.6%	139	4.0%	828	6.9%	689	495.7%	16.8%	32.6%
Teton	979	5.8%	1,969	5.3%	990	101.1%	88	2.6%	448	3.7%	360	409.1%	9.0%	22.8%
Uinta	476	2.8%	1,256	3.4%	780	163.9%	107	3.1%	407	3.4%	300	280.4%	22.5%	32.4%
Washakie	282	1.7%	411	1.1%	129	45.7%	49	1.4%	128	1.1%	79	161.2%	17.4%	31.1%
Weston	141	0.8%	307	0.8%	166	117.7%	23	0.7%	80	0.7%	57	247.8%	16.3%	26.1%
Out-of-State	2,687	15.9%	7,297	19.6%	4,610	171.6%	797	23.1%	3,092	25.6%	2,295	288.0%	29.7%	42.4%
Unclassified*	8	0.0%	17	0.0%	9	112.5%		0.0%	30.0	0.2%	30	N/A	0.0%	N/A
Total	16,916	100.0%	37,312	100.0%	20,396	120.6%	3,450	100.0%	12,069	100.0%	8,619	249.8%	20.4%	32.3%

*No county information available.

(Text continued from page 4)

companies & enterprises were out-of-state residents. Health care & social assistance and manufacturing had the lowest percentages of nonresident UI recipients (6.3% and 6.4%, respectively).

County Distribution

According to the research by Leonard (2009), many individuals commute from their county of residence to one or more counties to work in Wyoming. However, in order to help identify the labor supply in each county, this research is based on place of residence rather than place of work.

the most populous Wyoming counties with the largest employment. According to the Wyoming Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages for second quarter 2009, Natrona County accounted for 13.9% of employment while Laramie County accounted for 15.6%. Consequently, these counties had the most UI recipients in both 2008 and 2009. In 2008, a total of 2,740 recipients were from Laramie County (16.2%), while 1,806 resided in Natrona County (10.7%). By 2009, the number of Natrona County recipients more than doubled, rising to 4,615. In contrast, the percent of Laramie County UI recipients rose by 54.4% (1,490) from 2008 to 2009 to 4,230 recipients.

Natrona and Laramie counties were

Every county in the state experienced a large downturn in 2009 with double- or

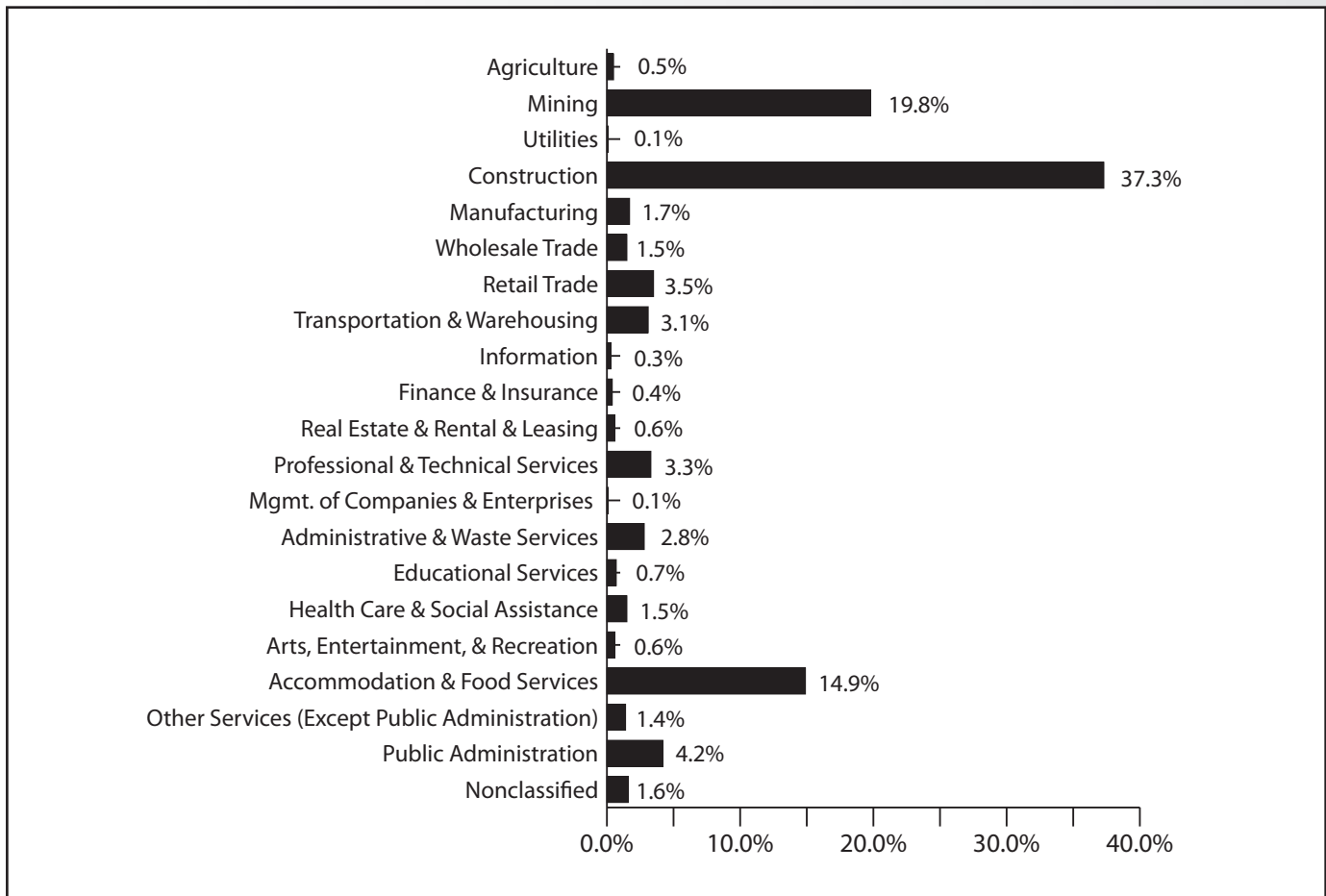


Figure 3: Wyoming Distribution of Nonresident Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients by Industry, 2009

triple-digit increases in UI-covered unemployed workers. Counties tied heavily to the mining industry were hit hardest. Campbell County experienced the largest increase in UI-covered unemployed workers (239.9%, or 2,039) compared to the year before. Sublette and Sweetwater counties followed with increases of 216.7% and 207% (364 and 1,715), respectively.

Exhaustion rates reflect the difficulty of finding employment. Exhaustion rates are typically higher during economic downturns and lower during expansions. All Wyoming counties had higher exhaustion rates in 2009 than in 2008. Carbon, Fremont, and Big Horn counties had the highest exhaustion rates in 2009 (36.3%, 36.0%, and 35.9%, respectively). Nonresident UI recipients had the highest exhaustion rate (42.4%) with nearly half (3,092) of them exhausting their regular UI benefits by the end of 2009 (see Table 2). This indicates that they may have more difficulty becoming reemployed following a layoff than those living in Wyoming.

Age and Education Level

More than one-third of

UI recipients were 34 years old or younger in both 2008 and 2009 (see Figure 4). The increase in the number of UI recipients in 2009 was more significant for younger than for older recipients. The percentage of UI recipients age 34 and younger rose from 35.9% of the total in

2008 to 42.0% in 2009.

Men accounted for more than two-thirds of the UI recipients in both years (see Figure 5). Additionally, the proportion of men increased significantly in 2009 for all age groups. In 2008, 68.6% of UI recipients 25 to 34

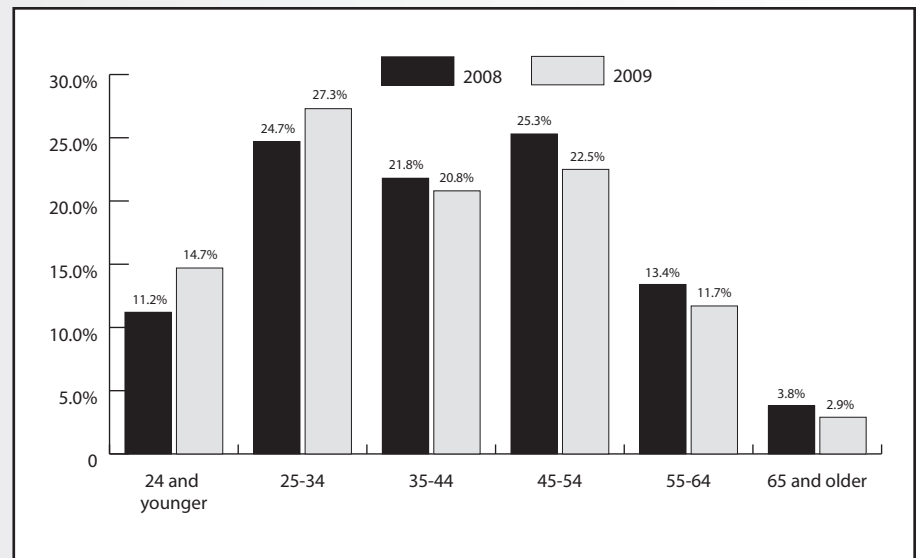


Figure 4: Wyoming Distribution of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients by Age, 2008 and 2009

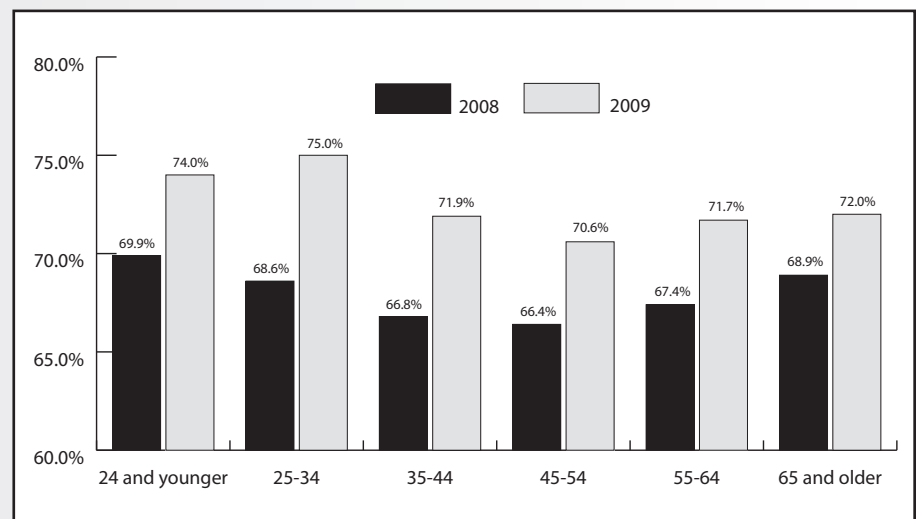


Figure 5: Wyoming Male Percentage of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients by Age, 2008 and 2009

years of age were men; in 2009 the proportion was 75.0%.

Among the 37,312 UI-covered unemployed workers in 2009, the majority (59.5%) had only a high school education; one-tenth (10.0%) had less than a high school

education, while 8.1% had an associate's degree and 9.0% had a bachelor's degree or higher education (see Figure 6). This is consistent with previous research that indicated the vast majority of covered employees have a high school diploma or less, and the majority of jobs

only required a high school diploma or less (Wyoming Department of Employment, R&P 2006). Table 3 shows that the downturn in 2009 hit every single level of education hard. The number of unemployed workers at least doubled for all education levels from 2008 to 2009, with the exception of workers with a master's degree (88.7% increase). Those with a doctorate had the greatest percentage increase (165.5%), followed by those with less than a high school education (141.7%).

UI Benefit Expenses

UI benefit expenses reached a record high in 2009. By the end of the year, expenses reached \$161.5 million, more than three times the previous year's expenses (\$49.9 million in 2008). In addition, a total of \$39.9 million in benefits were paid from the federal EUC program for those who exhausted their regular UI benefits. Table 4 and Figure 7 (see page 10) show the four most difficult 12-month periods of benefit expenses in Wyoming UI history. UI benefit expenses were significantly higher in all four quarters of 2009 compared with the three other periods of economic downturn.

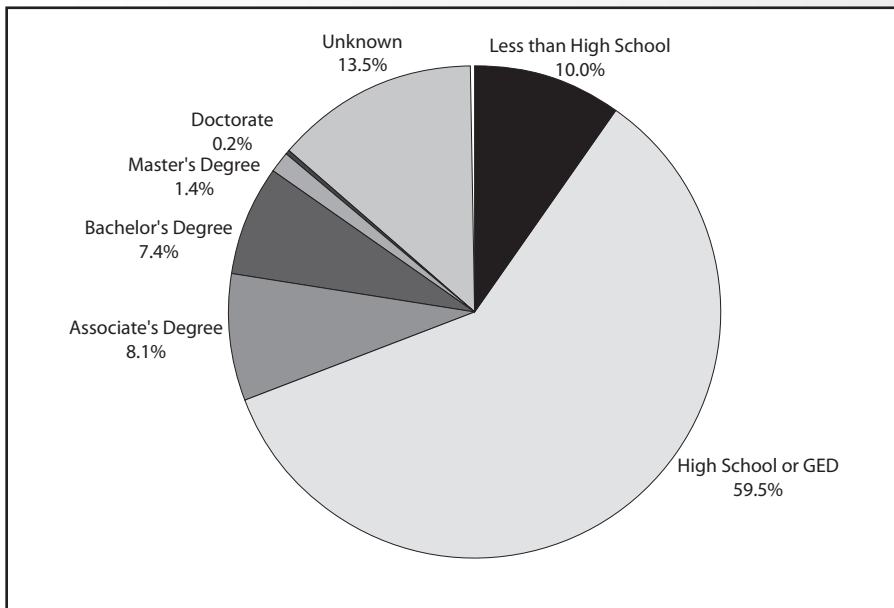


Figure 6: Wyoming UI Recipients by Education Level 2009

Table 3: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients by Education Level, 2008 and 2009

Education	2008	2009	Change	
			n	%
Less than High School	1,539	3,720	2,181	141.7%
High School or GED	9,693	22,194	12,501	129.0%
Associate's Degree	1,375	3,031	1,656	120.4%
Bachelor's Degree	1,373	2,746	1,373	100.0%
Master's Degree	275	519	244	88.7%
Doctorate	29	77	48	165.5%
Unknown*	2,632	5,025	2,393	90.9%
Total	16,916	37,312	20,396	

*No information available

There are three primary reasons for the record-high UI benefit expenses in 2009. First there was a large increase in the UI claims level. The weeks claimed for benefits rose by 201.0%, from 168,710 weeks in 2008 to 507,461 weeks in 2009. This large number of claims was last seen in 1983. Second, the maximum and minimum weekly benefit amount increased every year, as did the rising state average wages (Wyoming Employment Security Law, 2007), especially in the past few years when Wyoming's economy was quickly expanding. From state fiscal year 1994 to 2009, the maximum weekly benefit grew from \$220 to \$415, an 88.6% increase, while the minimum weekly benefit amount rose by 87.5%, from \$16 to \$30. More unemployed workers qualified for a higher weekly benefit due to the large increases in wages in recent years. State average wages increased by 11.0% in 2006, 7.1% in 2007, and 5.7% in 2008. Also, more high-paid workers claimed UI benefits in 2009. Mining claimants accounted for 16.3% of total UI recipients in 2009, up from 8.2% in 2008. The average weekly wage for mining workers was \$1,344 in second quarter 2009, compared to \$768 for workers in all industries (Wyoming Department of

Employment, R&P 2010). Figure 8 (see page 11) shows how many UI recipients in each industry qualified for maximum UI benefits. In 2009, the majority of UI recipients from mining

(83.4%), utilities (76.4%), and construction (64.3%) were eligible for the maximum weekly benefit. These three industries contributed nearly half (45.2%) of total UI recipients in 2009.

Table 4: Comparison of Year-Long Continued High Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Expenses in Wyoming History

Year/Quarter	Benefit	12-Month Total
82:Q3	\$16,826,498	
82:Q4	\$20,550,442	
83:Q1	\$29,052,631	
83:Q2	\$23,700,333	\$90,129,903
86:Q2	\$15,921,290	
86:Q3	\$14,637,791	
86:Q4	\$17,503,781	
87:Q1	\$21,807,203	\$69,870,065
02:Q4	\$10,658,926	
03:Q1	\$16,873,973	
03:Q2	\$11,971,366	
03:Q3	\$7,719,607	\$47,223,872
09:Q1	\$35,776,806	
09:Q2	\$48,476,328	
09:Q3	\$37,903,353	
09:Q4	\$39,313,650	\$161,531,961

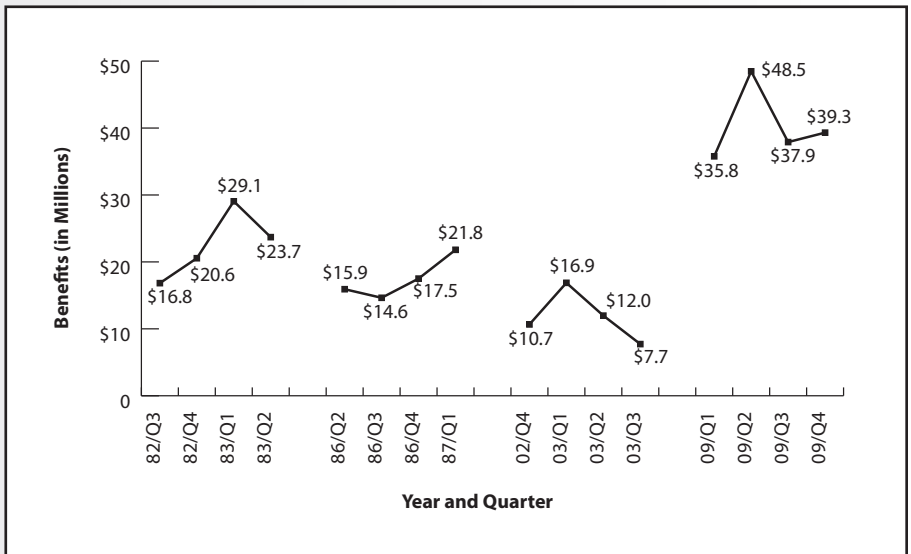


Figure 7: Comparison of the Four Year-Long Highest Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Expenses in Wyoming History by Quarter

By the end of third quarter 2009, the average weekly benefit amount in Wyoming was \$346, an increase of 14.6% from the 2008 level (\$302; U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, 2010). In 1982, it was only \$136.56 (U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, 1996). The average weekly benefit in 2009 was 2.5 times greater than in the 1980s. Consequently, the Wyoming Department of Employment needs to reserve two to three times as much money in its UI trust fund than it did in the 1980s

to cover the same number of UI claims.

Trust Fund Situation

After two years of economic recession and high unemployment rates, many states have run out of money in their state UI trust funds and have borrowed federal money to pay their UI claims. As of February 1, 2010, 27 states had borrowed a total of \$30.7 billion in federal money (U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, 2010). Two of

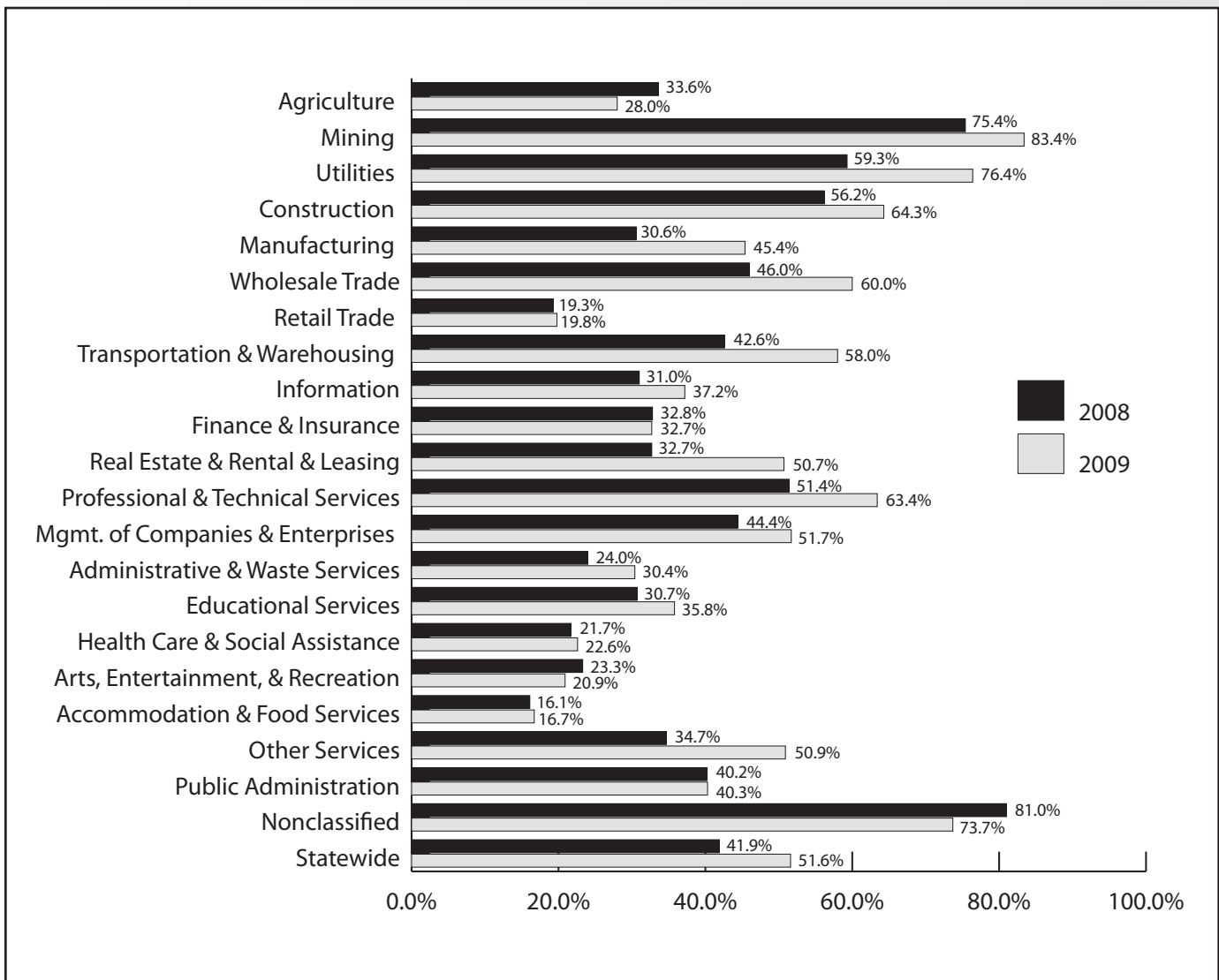


Figure 8: Percent of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients Eligible for Maximum Benefit by Industry, 2008 and 2009

Wyoming's neighboring states, Idaho and South Dakota, were among those that took out loans from the federal government. States that borrowed money from the federal government face the difficulty of repaying the loans promptly while rebuilding their own state UI trust funds. Businesses in those states may face years of large UI tax increases for that repayment and rebuilding to occur.

Compared with harder-hit states and the situation Wyoming faced in the early 1980s, Wyoming's UI trust fund is in much better condition with no immediate solvency issues (see Figure 9). At the end of 2009, Wyoming still had \$179.8 million available in the UI Trust Fund to pay UI benefits, down 36.5% (-\$103.3 million) from a year ago (\$283.1 million). In the scenario that Wyoming's 2009 UI experience continues into 2010 (\$161.5 million UI expenses in 2009), the current state UI trust fund should have sufficient funds

for another year. Based upon a projection conducted in January 2010, for the worst case, if 2009's UI experience continues, the current UI trust fund should be able to last about one and a half to two years, taking into account UI tax collections, the increased UI tax rate for 2010, and UI trust fund revenues.

Conclusion

Wyoming experienced record levels of UI benefit expenses, as well as the highest numbers of claimants in decades. Large layoffs occurred in all industries and counties. The mining industry and counties with substantial mining-related employment were most heavily affected. Men were laid off more frequently than women, with men under age 35 hit especially hard by layoffs. Double- or triple-digit increases in UI recipients happened across all education

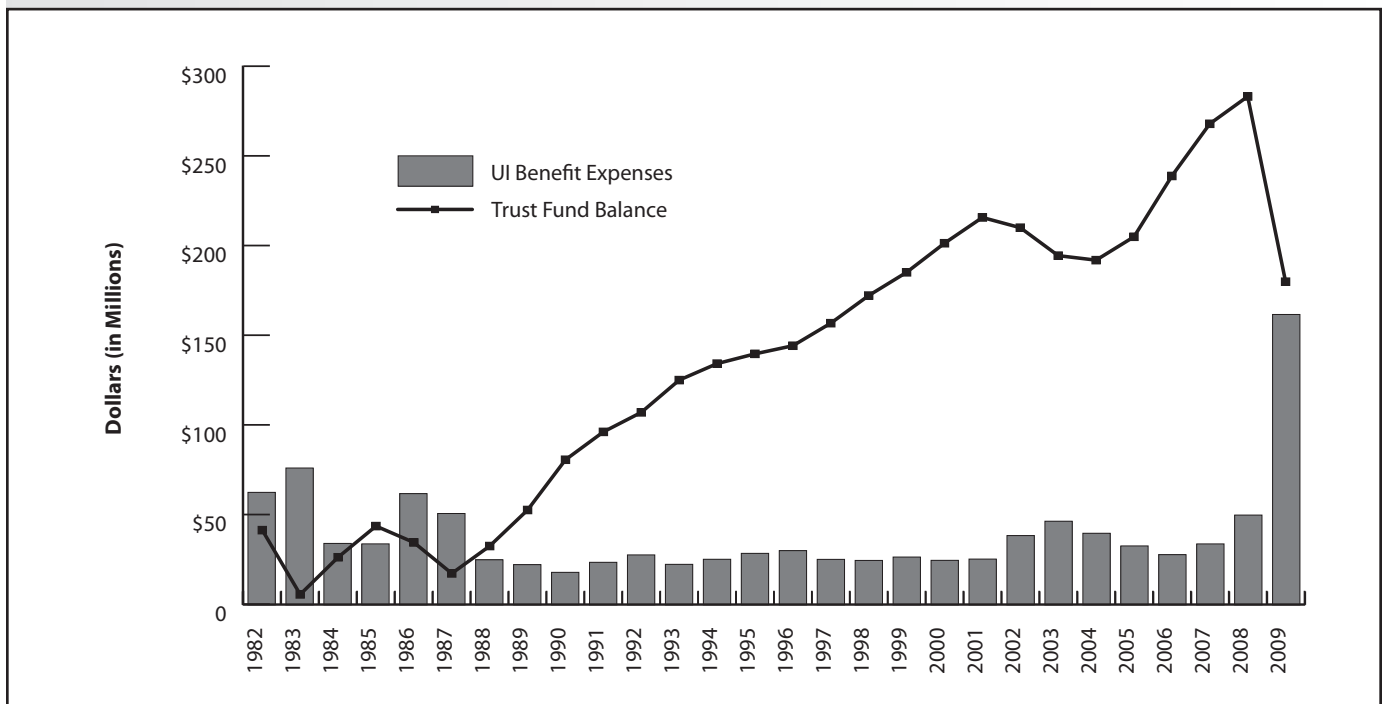


Figure 9: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund Balance at the End of Year and Annual UI Benefit Expenses, 1982-2009

levels. About one-fifth of the UI recipients were out-of-state residents, the majority of whom worked in construction, mining, and accommodation & food services prior to layoffs.

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Wyoming Employment Security Law (27-3-303, page 18), 2007



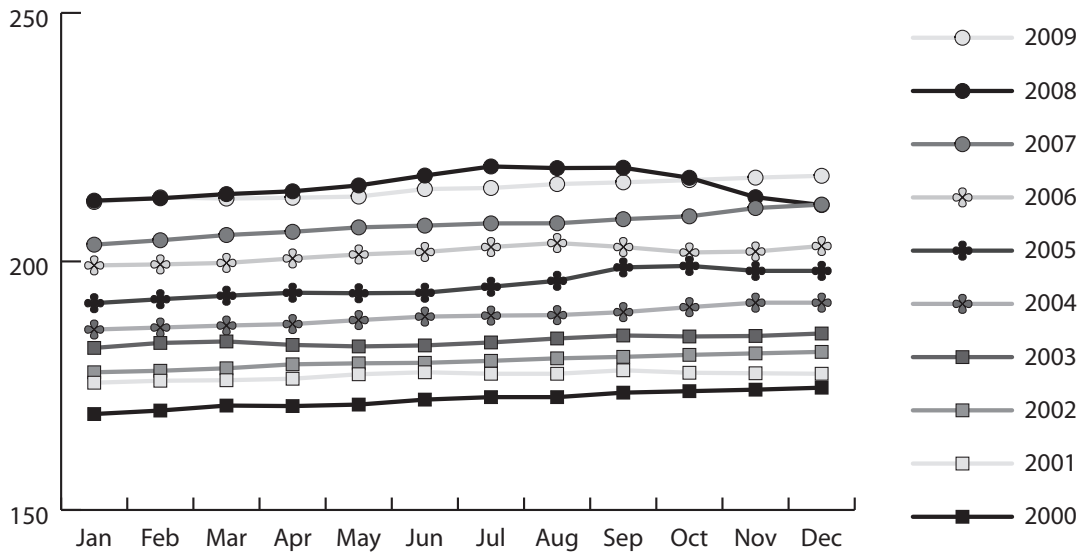
Employer Information Seminars Heading to Riverton May 20

The Wyoming Department of Employment is sponsoring the 2010 Employer Seminars, starting in Riverton on May 20.

The seminars provide information about workers' compensation, risk management, unemployment insurance, labor standards, and labor market information. The Riverton Seminar will be held on the Central

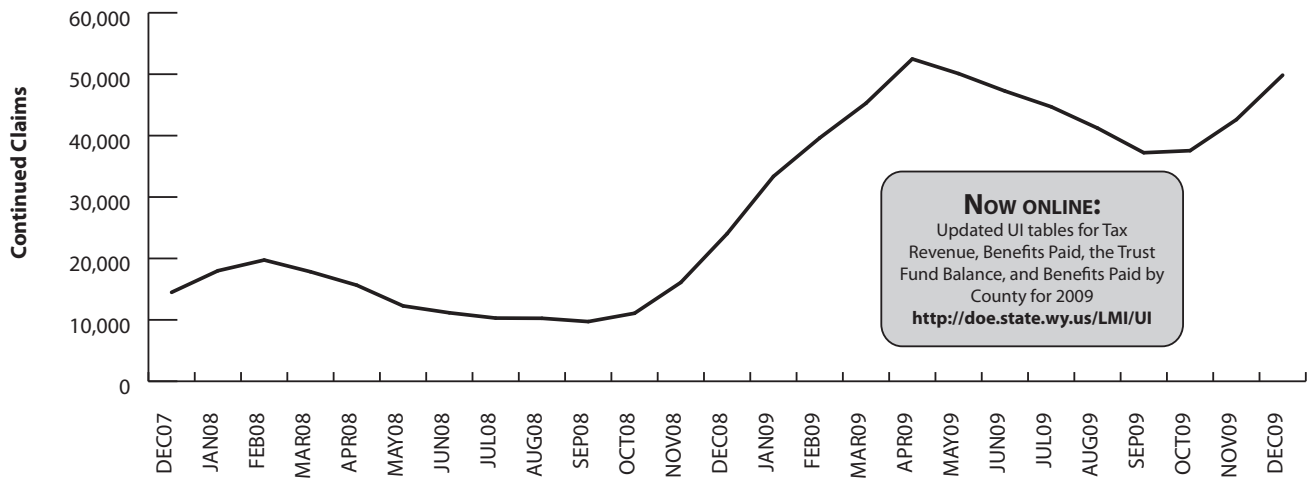
Wyoming College campus, in the Fremont Room, Student Center, SC103. Cost is \$16 per attendee, which includes lunch. Upcoming seminars are scheduled for Gillette (June 24), Rock Springs (August 19), and Cheyenne (October 21). Register online through the Department of Employment at <http://doe.state.wy.us/employerseminars/> or Call (307) 777-3581 or (307) 777-7672 to request registration information.

Consumer Price Index^a January 2000 to December 2009



^aAll items, U.S. city average, all urban consumers, 1982-84=100, 1-month percent change, seasonally adjusted.
 Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Economy at a Glance, Monthly Data.
 Retrieved March 23, 2010, from <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm>

Wyoming Normalized^a Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims, All Industries, December 2007 to December 2009



Now ONLINE:
 Updated UI tables for Tax Revenue, Benefits Paid, the Trust Fund Balance, and Benefits Paid by County for 2009
<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI>

^aFor an explanation of normalization see footnote, page 23.
 Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Statistics. From http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/NAICS_Statewide_Cont.htm

Occupation Spotlight

The estimated 3,100 carpenters working in Wyoming earn a mean wage of \$19.25 per hour across the state, with an average entry wage of \$13.73 per hour. Those in the 90th percentile in this occupation earn as much as \$26.39 per hour.

Wage data for specific occupations is available online at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/oes.htm>. Click on the “County and Regional Wages (estimates for Wyoming wages for September 2009)” link.



Carpenters

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Increases to 7.5% in December

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Employment has reported that the state’s seasonally adjusted¹ unemployment rate rose from 7.2% in November to 7.5% in December (not a statistically significant change). Despite this increase, Wyoming’s unemployment rate remained significantly lower than the U.S. rate of 10.0%. Over-the-year job losses were seen in all but two sectors (educational & health services and government).

Over the year, employment decreased by 20,600 jobs, or 6.9%. Construction (-6,800 jobs, or -24.8%) and natural resources & mining (including oil & gas; -5,800 jobs, or -19.2%) posted the largest job losses. Notable job losses were also seen in manufacturing (-700 jobs, or -7.1%), wholesale trade (-700 jobs, or -7.6%), retail trade (-2,000 jobs, or -6.0%), transportation & utilities (-800 jobs, or -5.3%), professional & business services (-1,700 jobs, or -9.4%), leisure & hospitality (-1,800 jobs, or -5.5%), and other services (-1,200

jobs, or -9.8%). Employment increased in educational & health services (900 jobs, or 3.6%) and government (including public schools, colleges, and hospitals; 800 jobs, or 1.1%).

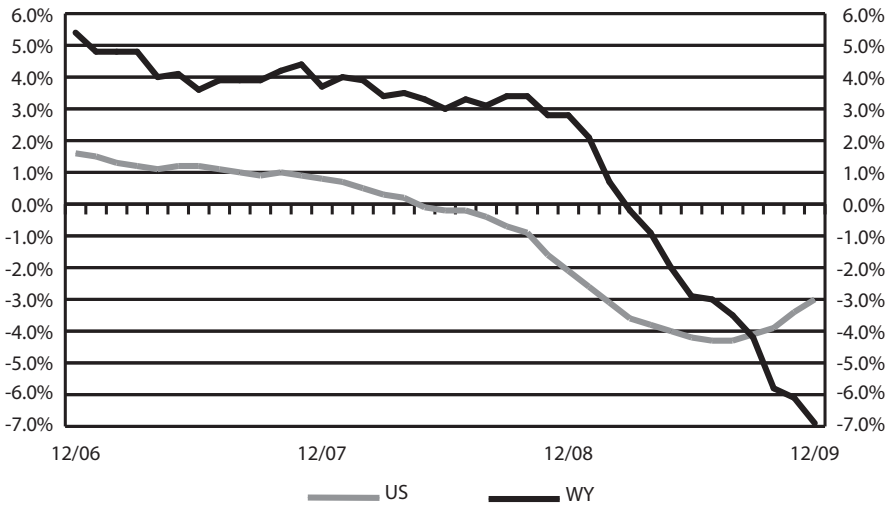
From November to December Wyoming lost 1,600 jobs, or 0.6%. This stands in contrast to the normal seasonal increase of approximately 1,200 jobs, or 0.4%. Larger than normal seasonal employment decreases were seen in construction (-3,100 jobs, or -13.1%) and professional & business services (-700 jobs, or -4.1%). Seasonal employment gains occurred in retail trade (400 jobs, or 1.3%), leisure & hospitality (1,700 jobs, or 5.8%), and government (300 jobs, or 0.4%).

Most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased from November to December. The highest unemployment rates were found in Johnson (9.3%), Teton (9.0%), Lincoln (8.8%), and Big Horn (8.8%) counties. Sublette County posted the lowest unemployment rate (4.5%) followed by Albany (4.6%) and Goshen (5.9%) counties.

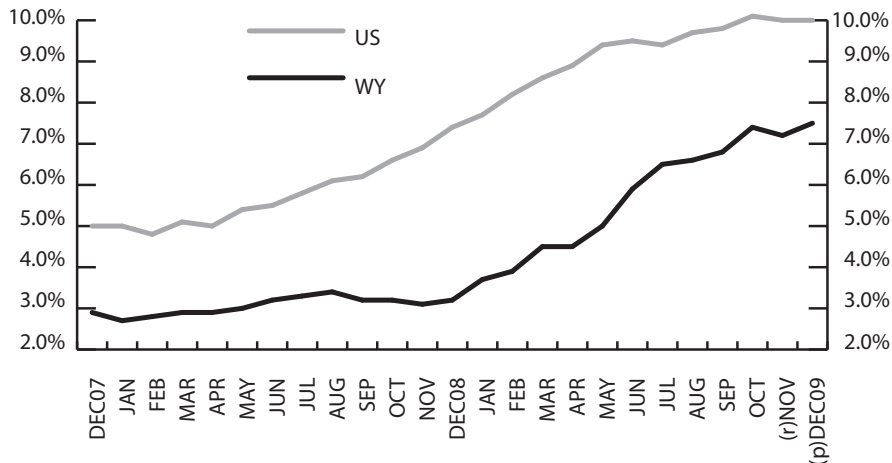


¹ Seasonal adjustment is a statistical procedure to remove the impact of normal regularly recurring events (such as weather, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools) from economic time series in order to obtain a better understanding of changes in economic conditions from month to month.

**Nonagricultural Employment Growth
(Percentage Change Over Previous Year)**

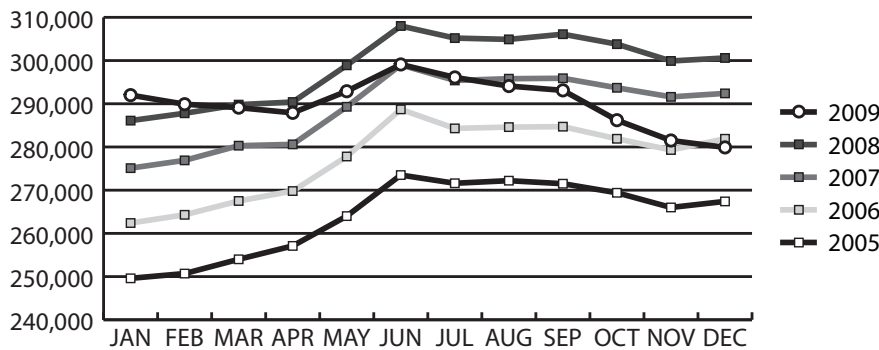


Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (Percentage)



(r) Revised.
(p) Preliminary.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



**State Unemployment Rates
December 2009
(Seasonally Adjusted)**

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	15.0
Michigan	14.6
Nevada	13.0
Rhode Island	12.9
South Carolina	12.6
California	12.4
District of Columbia	12.1
Florida	11.8
North Carolina	11.2
Illinois	11.1
Alabama	11.0
Oregon	11.0
Ohio	10.9
Tennessee	10.9
Kentucky	10.7
Mississippi	10.6
Georgia	10.3
New Jersey	10.1
United States	10.0
Indiana	9.9
Missouri	9.6
Washington	9.5
Massachusetts	9.4
Arizona	9.1
Idaho	9.1
West Virginia	9.1
Delaware	9.0
New York	9.0
Connecticut	8.9
Pennsylvania	8.9
Alaska	8.8
Wisconsin	8.7
Maine	8.3
New Mexico	8.3
Texas	8.3
Arkansas	7.7
Colorado	7.5
Louisiana	7.5
Maryland	7.5
Wyoming	7.5
Minnesota	7.4
New Hampshire	7.0
Hawaii	6.9
Vermont	6.9
Virginia	6.9
Montana	6.7
Utah	6.7
Iowa	6.6
Kansas	6.6
Oklahoma	6.6
Nebraska	4.7
South Dakota	4.7
North Dakota	4.4

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Seasonal over-the-month employment gains occurred in retail trade (400 jobs, or 1.3%), leisure & hospitality (1,700 jobs, or 5.8%), and government (300 jobs, or 0.4%).

	% Change						% Change				
	Employment in Thousands			Total Employment			Employment in Thousands			Total Employment	
	Dec 09(p)	Nov 09(r)	Dec 08	Dec 09	Dec 09		Dec 09(p)	Nov 09(r)	Dec 08	Dec 09	Dec 09
WYOMING STATEWIDE						LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	279.9	281.5	300.5	-0.6	-6.9	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	43.8	44.0	45.2	-0.5	-3.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	207.0	208.9	228.4	-0.9	-9.4	TOTAL PRIVATE	29.9	30.1	31.4	-0.7	-4.8
GOODS PRODUCING	54.2	57.4	67.5	-5.6	-19.7	GOODS PRODUCING	4.2	4.4	4.9	-4.5	-14.3
Natural Resources & Mining	24.4	24.4	30.2	0.0	-19.2	Natural Res., Mining, & Const.	2.7	2.9	3.2	-6.9	-15.6
Mining	24.3	24.2	30.1	0.4	-19.3	Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.7	0.0	-11.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.1	4.1	4.6	0.0	-10.9	SERVICE PROVIDING	39.6	39.6	40.3	0.0	-1.7
Mining Except Oil & Gas	9.7	9.7	9.9	0.0	-2.0	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	9.4	9.3	9.8	1.1	-4.1
Coal Mining	7.2	7.1	7.0	1.4	2.9	Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
Support Activities for Mining	10.5	10.4	15.6	1.0	-32.7	Retail Trade	5.5	5.4	5.8	1.9	-5.2
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	8.6	8.6	11.6	0.0	-25.9	Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0
Construction	20.6	23.7	27.4	-13.1	-24.8	Information	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Construction of Buildings	3.5	3.8	4.8	-7.9	-27.1	Financial Activities	2.1	2.1	2.2	0.0	-4.5
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	7.5	9.0	9.0	-16.7	-16.7	Professional & Business Services	3.0	3.1	3.2	-3.2	-6.3
Specialty Trade Contractors	9.6	10.9	13.6	-11.9	-29.4	Educational & Health Services	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	2.5
Manufacturing	9.2	9.3	9.9	-1.1	-7.1	Leisure & Hospitality	4.4	4.4	4.5	0.0	-2.2
Durable Goods	4.6	4.6	5.1	0.0	-9.8	Other Services	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
Nondurable Goods	4.6	4.7	4.8	-2.1	-4.2	TOTAL GOVERNMENT	13.9	13.9	13.8	0.0	0.7
SERVICE PROVIDING	225.7	224.1	233.0	0.7	-3.1	Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	53.9	53.3	57.4	1.1	-6.1	State Government	4.0	4.0	4.1	0.0	-2.4
Wholesale Trade	8.5	8.5	9.2	0.0	-7.6	Local Government	7.2	7.2	7.1	0.0	1.4
Merch. Wholesalers, Durable	5.7	5.7	5.9	0.0	-3.4	Local Education	3.7	3.8	3.6	-2.6	2.8
Retail Trade	31.2	30.8	33.2	1.3	-6.0	NATRONA COUNTY					
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.1	4.1	4.5	0.0	-8.9	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	38.7	38.5	41.4	0.5	-6.5
Food & Beverage Stores	4.6	4.6	4.7	0.0	-2.1	TOTAL PRIVATE	32.0	32.1	35.0	-0.3	-8.6
Grocery Stores	3.9	3.9	4.0	0.0	-2.5	GOODS PRODUCING	6.8	7.0	8.4	-2.9	-19.0
Gasoline Stations	3.9	3.9	4.0	0.0	-2.5	Natural Resources & Mining	2.7	2.7	3.6	0.0	-25.0
General Merchandise Stores	6.8	6.7	7.1	1.5	-4.2	Construction	2.6	2.7	2.9	-3.7	-10.3
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	-5.3	Manufacturing	1.5	1.6	1.9	-6.3	-21.1
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	14.2	14.0	15.0	1.4	-5.3	SERVICE PROVIDING	31.9	31.5	33.0	1.3	-3.3
Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.7	8.5	9.5	2.4	-8.4
Transp. & Warehousing	11.7	11.5	12.5	1.7	-6.4	Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.3	2.7	4.3	-11.1
Truck Transportation	4.2	4.2	4.6	0.0	-8.7	Retail Trade	5.2	5.1	5.7	2.0	-8.8
Information	4.0	4.0	4.1	0.0	-2.4	Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	11.0	11.0	11.7	0.0	-6.0	Information	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Finance & Insurance	7.0	7.0	7.3	0.0	-4.1	Financial Activities	1.9	1.9	2.1	0.0	-9.5
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4.0	4.0	4.4	0.0	-9.1	Professional & Business Services	2.6	2.7	2.8	-3.7	-7.1
Professional & Business Services	16.4	17.1	18.1	-4.1	-9.4	Educational & Health Services	5.6	5.6	5.4	0.0	3.7
Prof., Scientific, & Tech. Services	9.1	9.3	9.7	-2.2	-6.2	Leisure & Hospitality	3.9	3.9	4.0	0.0	-2.5
Architect., Engineering, & Rel.	2.7	2.7	3.0	0.0	-10.0	Other Services	2.0	2.0	2.3	0.0	-13.0
Mgmt. of Co.s & Enterprises	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-12.5	TOTAL GOVERNMENT	6.7	6.4	6.4	4.7	4.7
Admin., Support, & Waste Svcs.	6.6	7.1	7.6	-7.0	-13.2	Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.0	16.7
Educational & Health Services	25.7	25.7	24.8	0.0	3.6	State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Educational Services	2.7	2.7	2.2	0.0	22.7	Local Government	5.3	5.0	5.1	6.0	3.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	23.0	23.0	22.6	0.0	1.8	Local Education	3.4	3.1	3.6	9.7	-5.6
Ambulatory Health Care	8.6	8.5	8.4	1.2	2.4						
Offices of Physicians	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-3.1						
Hospitals	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0						
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.5	4.5	4.6	0.0	-2.2						
Social Assistance	6.6	6.7	6.3	-1.5	4.8						
Leisure & Hospitality	30.8	29.1	32.6	5.8	-5.5						
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	2.3	2.1	2.4	9.5	-4.2						
Accommodation & Food Svcs.	28.5	27.0	30.2	5.6	-5.6						
Accommodation	10.5	8.9	11.0	18.0	-4.5						
Food Svcs. & Drinking Places	18.0	18.1	19.2	-0.6	-6.3						
Other Services	11.0	11.3	12.2	-2.7	-9.8						
Repair & Maintenance	3.7	3.7	4.1	0.0	-9.8						
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	72.9	72.6	72.1	0.4	1.1						
Federal Government	7.2	7.2	7.1	0.0	1.4						
State Government	16.5	16.5	16.6	0.0	-0.6						
State Government Education	7.2	7.3	7.4	-1.4	-2.7						
Local Government	49.2	48.9	48.4	0.6	1.7						
Local Government Education	25.5	25.2	25.4	1.2	0.4						
Hospitals	6.6	6.5	6.6	1.5	0.0						

Note: Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week that includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Data for Wyoming, Laramie County, and Natrona County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

	% Change Total				
	Employment in Thousands			Employment	
	Dec 09	Nov 09	Dec 08	Dec 09	Dec 09
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.3	29.5	30.6	-0.7	-4.2
TOTAL PRIVATE	24.9	25.0	26.3	-0.4	-5.3
GOODS PRODUCING	12.5	12.6	13.4	-0.8	-6.7
Natural Resources & Mining	7.7	7.7	8.5	0.0	-9.4
Construction	4.2	4.3	4.3	-2.3	-2.3
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.8	16.9	17.2	-0.6	-2.3
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.6	5.6	5.8	0.0	-3.4
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-12.5
Professional & Bus. Services	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.0	-5.0
Educational & Health Serv.	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Other Services	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	-9.1
GOVERNMENT	4.4	4.5	4.3	-2.2	2.3

	% Change Total				
	Employment in Thousands			Employment	
	Dec 09	Nov 09	Dec 08	Dec 09	Dec 09
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	23.6	23.9	26.5	-1.3	-10.9
TOTAL PRIVATE	18.8	19.2	21.9	-2.1	-14.2
GOODS PRODUCING	7.4	7.8	9.5	-5.1	-22.1
Natural Resources & Mining	4.8	4.9	6.3	-2.0	-23.8
Construction	1.3	1.6	1.9	-18.8	-31.6
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.2	16.1	17.0	0.6	-4.7
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.1	5.1	5.5	0.0	-7.3
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	-10.0
Professional & Bus. Services	0.9	1.0	1.2	-10.0	-25.0
Educational & Health Serv.	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.4	2.4	2.7	0.0	-11.1
Other Services	0.8	0.7	0.8	14.3	0.0
GOVERNMENT	4.8	4.7	4.6	2.1	4.3

	% Change Total				
	Employment in Thousands			Employment	
	Dec 09	Nov 09	Dec 08	Dec 09	Dec 09
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	16.1	14.8	17.5	8.8	-8.0
TOTAL PRIVATE	13.8	12.5	15.2	10.4	-9.2
GOODS PRODUCING	1.9	2.1	2.6	-9.5	-26.9
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	1.7	1.9	2.4	-10.5	-29.2
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.2	12.7	14.9	11.8	-4.7
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.3	2.2	2.5	4.5	-8.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
Professional & Bus. Services	1.5	1.5	1.7	0.0	-11.8
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	5.8	4.4	5.9	31.8	-1.7
Other Services	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	-20.0
GOVERNMENT	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0

State Unemployment Rates December 2009 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Michigan	14.3
Puerto Rico	14.3
Nevada	12.8
South Carolina	12.5
Rhode Island	12.3
California	12.1
District of Columbia	11.9
Florida	11.6
North Carolina	10.9
Illinois	10.8
Oregon	10.8
Ohio	10.7
Alabama	10.6
Tennessee	10.6
Kentucky	10.4
Mississippi	10.3
Georgia	10.0
Indiana	9.8
New Jersey	9.8
United States	9.7
Washington	9.5
Missouri	9.2
Idaho	9.1
Massachusetts	9.1
Alaska	9.0
Arizona	8.8
New York	8.8
Delaware	8.6
West Virginia	8.6
Connecticut	8.5
Pennsylvania	8.5
Wisconsin	8.3
Maine	8.2
Texas	8.0
New Mexico	7.9
Arkansas	7.6
Wyoming	7.6
Colorado	7.3
Minnesota	7.3
Louisiana	7.2
Maryland	7.2
Montana	6.8
Iowa	6.7
New Hampshire	6.7
Virginia	6.7
Vermont	6.6
Hawaii	6.5
Oklahoma	6.5
Utah	6.4
Kansas	6.3
South Dakota	4.8
Nebraska	4.5
North Dakota	4.3

Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

The number of unemployed individuals in Wyoming increased from 10,457 in December 2008 to 22,047 in December 2009.

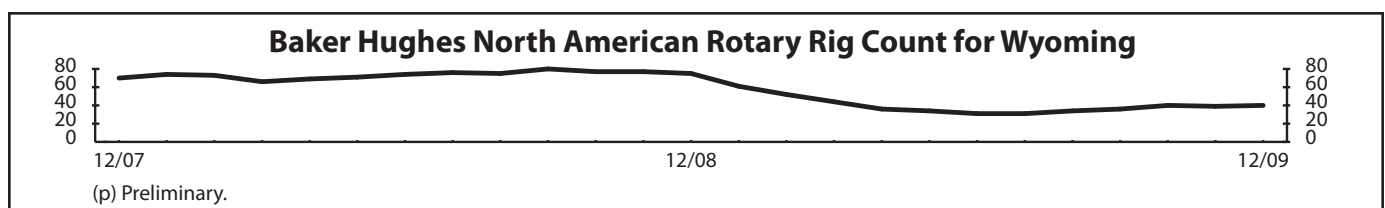
	Dec 2009 (p)	Nov 2009 (r)	Dec 2008 (b)	Percent Change	
				Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force¹	290,109	291,177	291,497	-0.4	-0.5
Unemployed	22,047	20,464	10,457	7.7	110.8
Employed	268,062	270,713	281,040	-1.0	-4.6
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	7.6%/7.5%	6.8%/7.4%	3.6%/3.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	9.7%/10.0%	9.4%/10.0%	7.1/7.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	6,886,000	7,222,000	7,432,000	-4.7	-7.3
As a percent of all workers	5.0%	5.2%	5.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	929,000	861,000	642,000	7.9	44.7
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	9,354,000	8,894,000	8,250,000	5.2	13.4
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$839.27	\$836.79	\$892.93	0.3	-6.0
Average Weekly Hours	40.9	40.7	42.5	0.5	-3.8
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$743.36	\$743.76	\$716.60	-0.1	3.7
Average Weekly Hours	40.4	40.4	39.9	0.0	1.3
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	50,922	34,971	23,539	45.6	116.3
Benefits Paid	\$17,079,739	\$11,749,825	\$7,315,913	45.4	133.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$335.41	\$335.99	\$310.80	-0.2	7.9
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	260,523	260,399	271,835	0.0	-4.2
Insured Unemployment Rate	3.3%	2.8%	1.7%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers					
(1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	215.9	216.3	210.2	-0.2	2.7
Food & Beverages	218.0	217.7	218.8	0.1	-0.4
Housing	215.5	215.8	216.1	-0.1	-0.3
Apparel	119.4	122.5	117.1	-2.5	1.9
Transportation	188.3	188.6	164.6	-0.1	14.4
Medical Care	379.5	379.6	367.1	0.0	3.4
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	113.2	113.8	113.7	-0.5	-0.4
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	128.9	128.8	125.9	0.0	2.4
Other Goods & Services	377.3	376.7	349.2	0.2	8.0
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	178.1	177.7	170.9	0.2	4.2
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	88	86	103	2.3	-14.6
Valuation	\$18,431,000	\$22,811,000	\$19,032,000	-19.2	-3.2
Single Family Homes	64	86	79	-25.6	-19.0
Valuation	\$17,231,000	\$22,811,000	\$17,983,000	-24.5	-4.2
Casper MSA ² Building Permits	26	11	1	136.4	2,500.0
Valuation	\$4,196,000	\$3,702,000	\$762,000	13.3	450.7
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	22	8	8	175.0	175.0
Valuation	\$3,572,000	\$2,527,000	\$692,000	41.4	416.2
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	40	39	75	2.6	-46.7

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

¹Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates.

²Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Note: Hours and earnings data for mining have been dropped from the Economic Indicators page as data for Wyoming mining are no longer available.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

Most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased from November to December.

REGION	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Dec 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2008
County	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	44,524	43,891	43,660	40,863	40,546	41,730	3,661	3,345	1,930	8.2	7.6	4.4
Big Horn	5,090	4,774	4,966	4,644	4,371	4,751	446	403	215	8.8	8.4	4.3
Fremont	18,753	18,832	18,346	17,138	17,364	17,475	1,615	1,468	871	8.6	7.8	4.7
Hot Springs	2,335	2,392	2,378	2,182	2,242	2,283	153	150	95	6.6	6.3	4.0
Park	13,998	13,518	13,562	12,828	12,455	12,959	1,170	1,063	603	8.4	7.9	4.4
Washakie	4,348	4,375	4,408	4,071	4,114	4,262	277	261	146	6.4	6.0	3.3
NORTHEAST	55,157	55,369	53,896	51,040	51,789	52,320	4,117	3,580	1,576	7.5	6.5	2.9
Campbell	28,238	28,924	27,322	26,262	27,158	26,747	1,976	1,766	575	7.0	6.1	2.1
Crook	3,385	3,423	3,413	3,161	3,218	3,286	224	205	127	6.6	6.0	3.7
Johnson	3,957	3,788	4,008	3,590	3,491	3,833	367	297	175	9.3	7.8	4.4
Sheridan	16,332	16,032	15,919	15,023	14,922	15,342	1,309	1,110	577	8.0	6.9	3.6
Weston	3,245	3,202	3,234	3,004	3,000	3,112	241	202	122	7.4	6.3	3.8
SOUTHWEST	63,436	62,264	64,662	58,575	57,256	62,489	4,861	5,008	2,173	7.7	8.0	3.4
Lincoln	8,217	7,985	7,933	7,494	7,334	7,532	723	651	401	8.8	8.2	5.1
Sublette	7,467	6,718	7,018	7,134	6,383	6,866	333	335	152	4.5	5.0	2.2
Sweetwater	23,134	23,855	24,128	21,360	22,143	23,438	1,774	1,712	690	7.7	7.2	2.9
Teton	12,693	12,527	13,836	11,549	11,067	13,312	1,144	1,460	524	9.0	11.7	3.8
Uinta	11,925	11,179	11,747	11,038	10,329	11,341	887	850	406	7.4	7.6	3.5
SOUTHEAST	72,170	74,512	73,027	67,127	70,018	70,149	5,043	4,494	2,878	7.0	6.0	3.9
Albany	19,556	20,376	19,553	18,661	19,538	19,037	895	838	516	4.6	4.1	2.6
Goshen	5,950	6,275	6,164	5,600	5,950	5,933	350	325	231	5.9	5.2	3.7
Laramie	41,695	42,660	42,331	38,296	39,681	40,436	3,399	2,979	1,895	8.2	7.0	4.5
Niobrara	1,120	1,208	1,200	1,049	1,144	1,147	71	64	53	6.3	5.3	4.4
Platte	3,849	3,993	3,779	3,521	3,705	3,596	328	288	183	8.5	7.2	4.8
CENTRAL	54,823	55,140	56,253	50,458	51,105	54,353	4,365	4,035	1,900	8.0	7.3	3.4
Carbon	8,043	7,569	7,924	7,425	7,004	7,555	618	565	369	7.7	7.5	4.7
Converse	7,324	7,388	7,281	6,824	6,927	7,053	500	461	228	6.8	6.2	3.1
Natrona	39,456	40,183	41,048	36,209	37,174	39,745	3,247	3,009	1,303	8.2	7.5	3.2
STATEWIDE	290,109	291,177	291,497	268,062	270,713	281,040	22,047	20,464	10,457	7.6	7.0	3.6
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										7.5	7.2	3.2
U.S.....										9.7	9.4	7.1
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										10.0	10.0	7.4

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/2009. Run Date 1/2010.

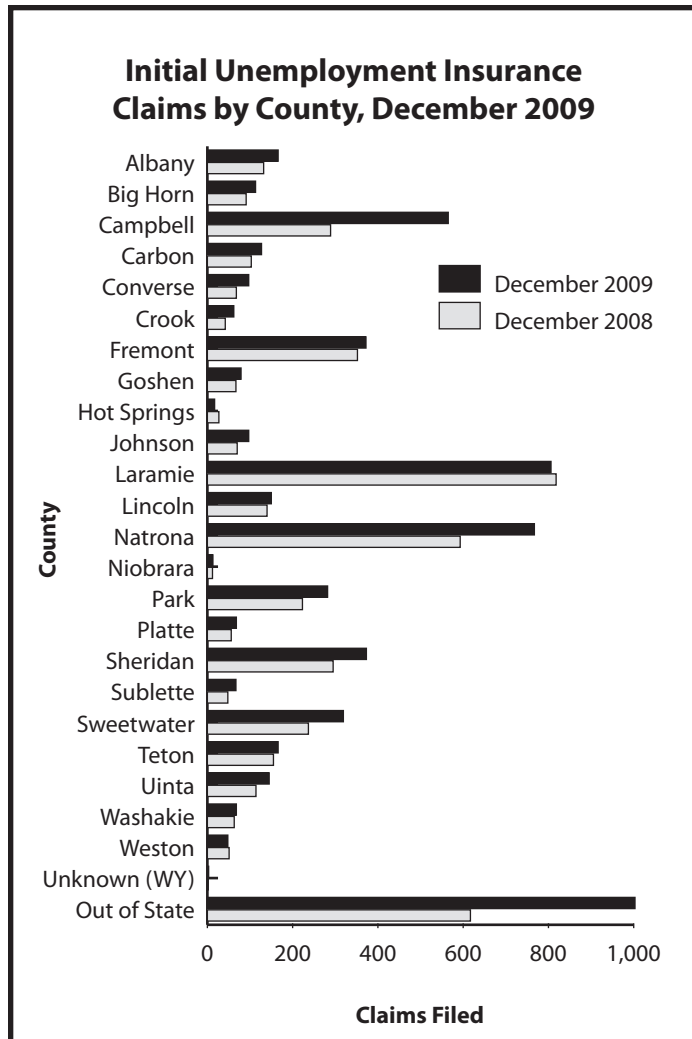
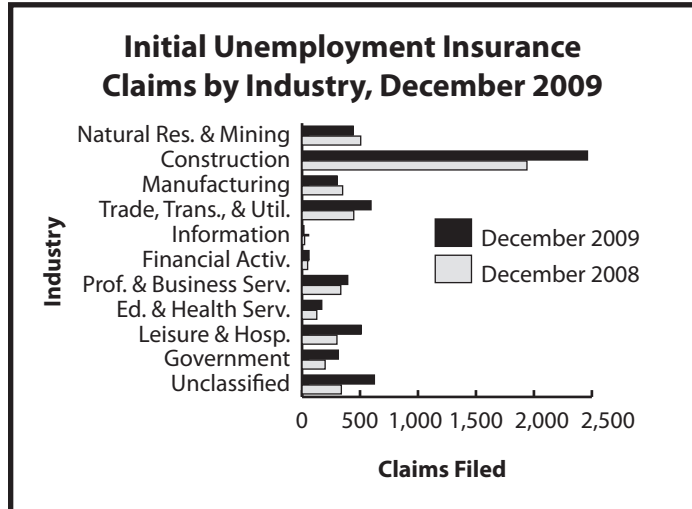
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

Although statewide initial claims increased by 27.9% compared to a year ago, claims in mining and manufacturing declined by more than 12% during the same period.



Initial Claims	Claims Filed		Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Dec 09	Nov 09	Dec 08	Nov 09
	Dec 09	Nov 09	Dec 08	Nov 09

Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	5,973	5,227	4,669	14.3	27.9
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	3,205	2,004	2,796	59.9	14.6
Natural Res. & Mining	441	302	506	46.0	-12.8
Mining	406	268	479	51.5	-15.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	18	28	80	-35.7	-77.5
Construction	2,462	1,482	1,940	66.1	26.9
Manufacturing	302	220	350	37.3	-13.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,831	2,217	1,335	-17.4	37.2
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	595	557	446	6.8	33.4
Wholesale Trade	78	71	55	9.9	41.8
Retail Trade	333	324	223	2.8	49.3
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	184	162	168	13.6	9.5
Information	16	22	22	-27.3	-27.3
Financial Activities	60	76	48	-21.1	25.0
Prof. and Business Svcs.	394	479	334	-17.7	18.0
Educational & Health Svcs.	170	144	127	18.1	33.9
Leisure & Hospitality	509	831	301	-38.7	69.1
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	87	108	57	-19.4	52.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	313	444	199	-29.5	57.3
Federal Government	149	249	96	-40.2	55.2
State Government	23	32	13	-28.1	76.9
Local Government	141	163	90	-13.5	56.7
Local Education	28	32	20	-12.5	40.0
UNCLASSIFIED	624	562	339	11.0	84.1

Laramie County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	806	601	818	34.1	-1.5
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	455	297	491	53.2	-7.3
Construction	380	266	366	42.9	3.8
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	296	257	275	15.2	7.6
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	121	85	91	42.4	33.0
Financial Activities	12	18	12	-33.3	0.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	75	74	76	1.4	-1.3
Educational & Health Svcs.	27	30	33	-10.0	-18.2
Leisure & Hospitality	48	43	44	11.6	9.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	27	31	24	-12.9	12.5
UNCLASSIFIED	28	16	28	75.0	0.0

Natrona County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	767	538	596	42.6	28.7
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	483	233	412	107.3	17.2
Construction	377	169	287	123.1	31.4
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	250	268	159	-6.7	57.2
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	86	93	54	-7.5	59.3
Financial Activities	8	10	5	-20.0	60.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	59	69	39	-14.5	51.3
Educational & Health Svcs.	32	26	26	23.1	23.1
Leisure & Hospitality	50	41	23	22.0	117.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	17	23	11	-26.1	54.5
UNCLASSIFIED	17	14	14	21.4	21.4

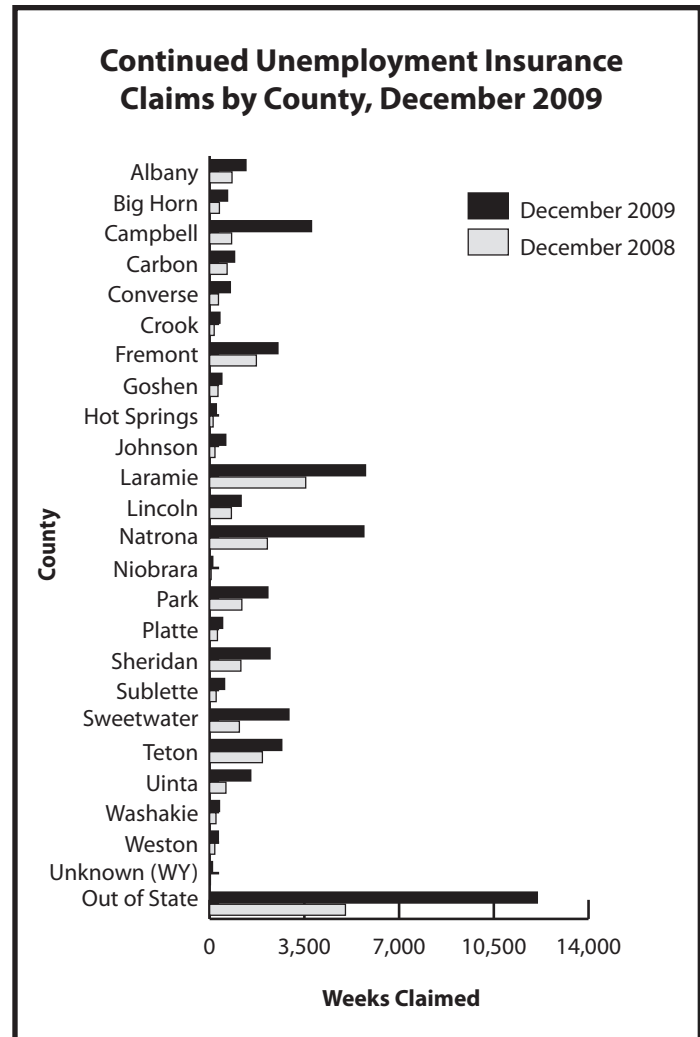
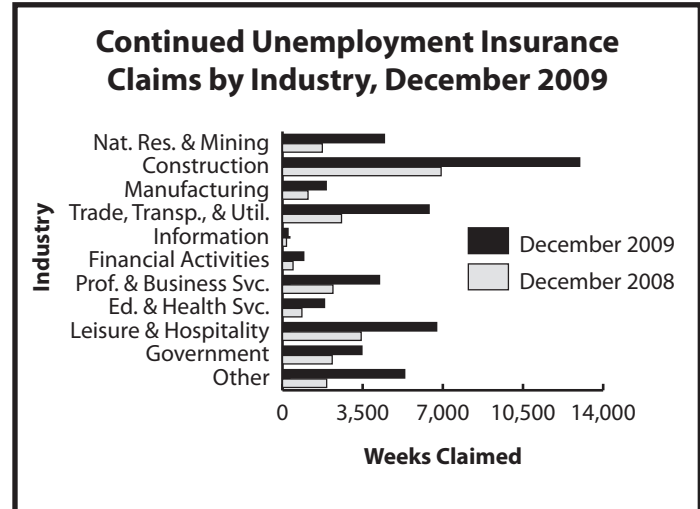
^aAn average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

The statewide continued weeks claimed level remained at more than double that of December 2008's level. Wholesale trade had the greatest over-the-year percentage increase (211.0%).

Continued Claims	Percent Change				
	Continued Weeks Claimed			Weeks Claimed	
	Dec09	Nov09	Dec08	Nov09	Dec08
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	49,842	42,604	24,037	17.0	107.4
EXTENDED WEEKS CLAIMED	25,057	22,412	N/A	11.8	N/A
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS^b	12,356	12,272	6,289	0.7	96.5
<i>Benefit Exhaustions</i>	1,294	1,257	359	2.9	260.4
<i>Benefit Exhaustion Rates</i>	10.5%	10.2%	5.7%	0.2%	4.8%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	19,338	15,386	9,781	25.7	97.7
Natural Res. & Mining	4,451	4,804	1,740	-7.3	155.8
Mining	4,134	4,553	1,574	-9.2	162.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	279	301	375	-7.3	-25.6
Construction	12,976	8,949	6,926	45.0	87.4
Manufacturing	1,911	1,633	1,115	17.0	71.4
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	21,698	20,146	10,156	7.7	113.6
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	6,402	5,885	2,577	8.8	148.4
Wholesale Trade	1,129	1,192	363	-5.3	211.0
Retail Trade	3,511	3,055	1,547	14.9	127.0
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	1,762	1,638	667	7.6	164.2
Information	243	219	175	11.0	38.9
Financial Activities	930	943	461	-1.4	101.7
Prof. & Business Svcs.	4,237	3,547	2,203	19.5	92.3
Educational & Health Svcs.	1,836	1,688	848	8.8	116.5
Leisure and Hospitality	6,732	6,597	3,436	2.0	95.9
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	1,318	1,267	456	4.0	189.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	3,469	2,861	2,171	21.3	59.8
Federal Government	1,498	1,091	1,095	37.3	36.8
State Government	413	383	180	7.8	129.4
Local Government	1,558	1,387	896	12.3	73.9
Local Education	412	403	197	2.2	109.1
UNCLASSIFIED	5,337	4,211	1,929	26.7	176.7
Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	5,760	4,576	3,551	25.9	62.2
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	1,446	1,362	970	6.2	49.1
Total Goods-Producing	2,283	1,681	1,456	35.8	56.8
Construction	1,938	1,365	1,139	42.0	70.1
Total Service-Providing	2,899	2,391	1,659	21.2	74.7
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	1,042	831	527	25.4	97.7
Financial Activities	174	175	88	-0.6	97.7
Prof. & Business Svcs.	704	558	537	26.2	31.1
Educational and Health Svcs.	357	333	202	7.2	76.7
Leisure & Hospitality	433	319	182	35.7	137.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	420	370	263	13.5	59.7
UNCLASSIFIED	158	134	173	17.9	-8.7
Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	5,699	5,065	2,132	12.5	167.3
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	1,431	1,460	563	-2.0	154.2
Total Goods-Producing	2,341	1,938	1,072	20.8	118.4
Construction	1,429	892	653	60.2	118.8
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	3,009	2,833	919	6.2	227.4
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	1,030	1,011	269	1.9	282.9
Financial Activities	127	143	59	-11.2	115.3
Professional & Business Svcs.	522	420	202	24.3	158.4
Educational & Health Svcs.	391	328	168	19.2	132.7
Leisure & Hospitality	437	398	105	9.8	316.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	232	207	93	12.1	149.5
UNCLASSIFIED	117	87	48	34.5	143.8



^aAn average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.
^bDoes not include claimants receiving extended benefits.

**Wyoming Department
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