



Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Report

April 2020

Information for Wyoming by Industry and County of Residence of Claimant

by: Sherry Wen, Principal Economist, and Michael Moore, Editor
Research & Planning, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services

Published May 15, 2020



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Published May 15, 2020.

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Who We Are

Research & Planning (R&P) functions as an exclusively statistical entity within the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. R&P collects, analyzes, and publishes timely and accurate labor market information (LMI) meeting established statistical standards. We work to make the labor market more efficient by providing the public and the public’s representatives with the information needed for evidence-based, informed decision making.



Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Report, April 2020

Initial, Continued Claims Reach Records Highs

by: Michael Moore, Editor, and Sherry Wen, Principal Economist

Wyoming had 19,199 initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims in April 2020, an increase of 60.2% over the month and 1,025.4% over the year. April marked the second month of unusually high UI claims due to the COVID-19 pandemic and substantial declines in the prices of oil & gas.

Weekly UI Claims

Weekly Unemployment Insurance claims for Wyoming are now available online. Click on the link at the top of Research & Planning's website, <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI>.

Initial Claims

The 19,199 new initial UI claims marked substantial increases from 1,706 in April 2019 (17,493, or 1,025.4%) and 11,987 in March 2020 (7,212, or 60.2%). Prior to March 2020, the one-month high for initial claims in Wyoming dating back to 1997 (the first year for which comparable data are available) was 5,975 in December 2009. See Figure 1.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wyoming's leisure & hospitality industry has

been hit hardest, with 4,473 initial claims in April, up 723.8% (3,930 claims) over the year. The number of initial claims in leisure & hospitality in April was very similar to the 4,347 claims in March, an increase of 126 claims, or 2.9%. All industries experienced large over-the-year increases in initial claims, led by leisure & hospitality. The industries with the next greatest increases were trade, transportation, warehousing, & utilities (2,625, or 1,262.0%), mining (1,856, or 1,767.6%), education & health services (1,720, or 2,866.7%), and construction (1,458, or

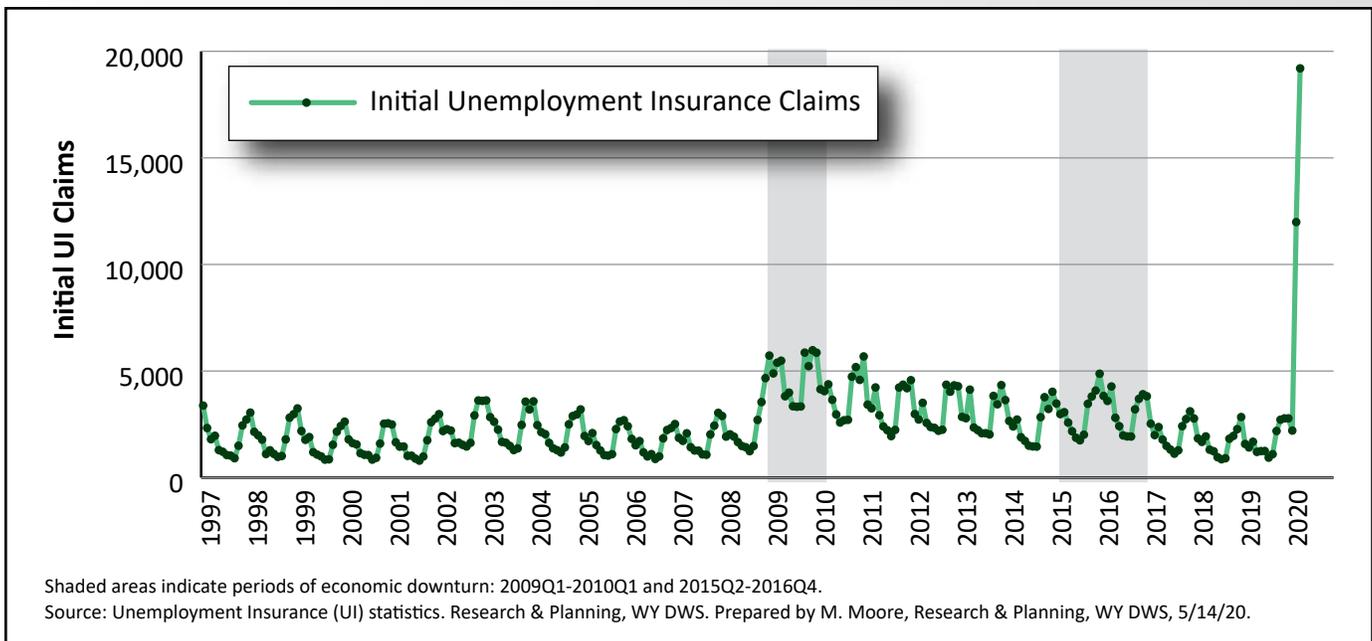


Figure 1: Total Number of Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Year and Month, January 1997 to April 2020

522.6%). See Table 1 (page 5) and Figure 3 (page 6).

At the county level, the greatest over-the-year increases were seen in Natrona (3,279, or 1,760.9), Laramie (2,574, or 1,306.6%), Campbell (1,539, or 1,799.7%), and Teton (1,104, or 276.4%) counties. The number of out-of-state claimants increased by 2,108, or 710.8%. See Figure 4 (page 6) and Table 3 (page 9).

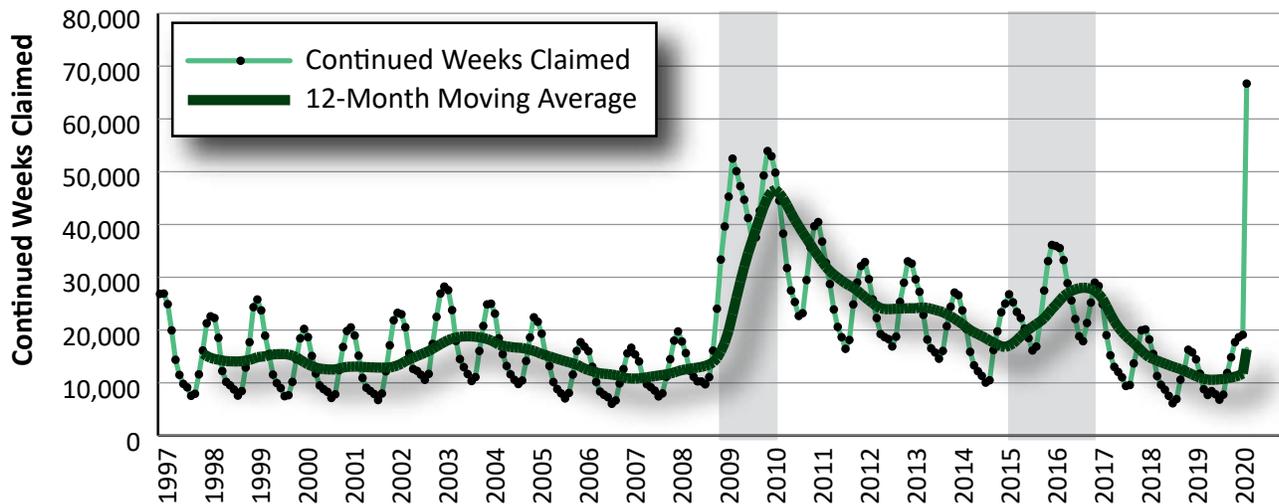
Continued Claims

The total number of continued weeks claimed in Wyoming also reached a record high level of 66,694 in April. The previous record high for one month in Wyoming was 53,920 in January 2010 during the state's economic downturn that began during the

national Great Recession. See Figure 2.

There were 17,631 unique claimants in April, up 336.6% (13,593 claimants) over the year. See Table 2 (page 7).

All industries saw a triple-digit percentage increase in continued claims over the year. The greatest increases were seen in leisure & hospitality (16,453 weeks, or 862.3%), unclassified (7,616, or 937.9%), and trade, transportation, warehousing, & utilities (6,331, or 421.8%). Natrona County had the greatest increase in continued claims (9,898, or 662.6%), followed by Laramie (7,331, or 536.6%), Teton (5,525, or 660.3%), and Campbell (4,367, or 725.6%) counties. Out-of-state claimants increased by 6,922 weeks, or 360.3%. See Figures 5 and 6 (page 8) and Table 4 (page 9).



Shaded areas indicate periods of economic downturn: 2009Q1-2010Q1 and 2015Q2-2016Q4. Source: Unemployment Insurance (UI) statistics. Research & Planning, WY DWS. Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/14/20.

Figure 2: Total Number of Unemployment Insurance Continued Weeks Claimed for Wyoming by Year and Month, January 2010 to April 2020

Note: The 11,987 initial claims in March presented in this report represent an increase of 1,784 over the 10,203 presented in the March 2020 Unemployment Insurance Claims Report published April 7. This difference is due mostly to wage request lag times for federal government, military, and combined wage claims. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a large increase in claims for all different UI systems, and it may take longer than usual to get wage information back for those claims and enable them to be active in the Wyoming UI system. During normal months, these types of lagging claims usually result in an increase of less than 2% once data are revised. For March 2020, however, these types of claims resulted in a 17.5% increase.

Table 1: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims in Wyoming, April 2020

Industry	Initial Claims Filed			Percent Change		N Change
	Apr 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2019	Over the Month	Over the Year	Over the Year
Total Claims Filed	19,199	11,987	1,706	60.2	1,025.4	17,493
Goods-Producing	4,231	2,371	461	78.4	817.8	3,770
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	1,995	777	113	156.8	1,665.5	1,882
Mining (21)	1,961	750	105	161.5	1,767.6	1,856
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	41	21	5	95.2	720.0	36
Construction (23)	1,737	1,236	279	40.5	522.6	1,458
Manufacturing (31-33)	497	358	68	38.8	630.9	429
Service-Providing	11,188	7,776	1,002	43.9	1,016.6	10,186
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	2,833	1,095	208	158.7	1,262.0	2,625
Wholesale Trade (42)	392	156	29	151.3	1,251.7	363
Retail Trade (44-45)	1,515	652	93	132.4	1,529.0	1,422
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	926	287	86	222.6	976.7	840
Information (51)	172	80	7	115.0	2,357.1	165
Financial Activities (52-53)	331	166	37	99.4	794.6	294
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	962	484	108	98.8	790.7	854
Education & Health Services (61-62)	1,780	1,172	60	51.9	2,866.7	1,720
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	4,473	4,347	543	2.9	723.8	3,930
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	631	426	33	48.1	1,812.1	598
Government	1,003	356	94	181.7	967.0	909
Federal Government	79	75	22	5.3	259.1	57
State Government	88	50	11	76.0	700.0	77
Local Government	835	229	59	264.6	1,315.3	776
Local Education	413	142	10	190.8	4,030.0	403
Unclassified	2,775	1,483	148	87.1	1,775.0	2,627
Laramie County						
Total Claims Filed	2,771	1,578	197	75.6	1,306.6	2,574
Goods-Producing	392	316	53	24.1	639.6	339
Construction	205	208	42	-1.4	388.1	163
Service-Providing	1,922	1,014	112	89.5	1,616.1	1,810
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	1,231	177	55	595.5	2,138.2	1,176
Financial Activities (52, 53)	35	18	8	94.4	337.5	27
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	127	77	35	64.9	262.9	92
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	294	177	9	66.1	3,166.7	285
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	516	481	10	7.3	5,060.0	506
Government	81	36	14	125.0	478.6	67
Unclassified	374	211	17	77.3	2,100.0	357
Natrona County						
Total Claims Filed	3,464	1,935	186	79.0	1,762.4	3,278
Goods-Producing	776	389	73	99.5	963.0	703
Construction	271	172	42	57.6	545.2	229
Service-Providing	2,234	1,314	97	70.0	2,203.1	2,137
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	605	216	45	180.1	1,244.4	560
Financial Activities (52, 53)	85	36	5	136.1	1,600.0	80
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	201	82	10	145.1	1,910.0	191
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	421	194	13	117.0	3,138.5	408
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	681	640	11	6.4	6,090.9	670
Government	83	30	3	176.7	2,666.7	80
Unclassified	370	201	11	84.1	3,263.6	359

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/13/20.

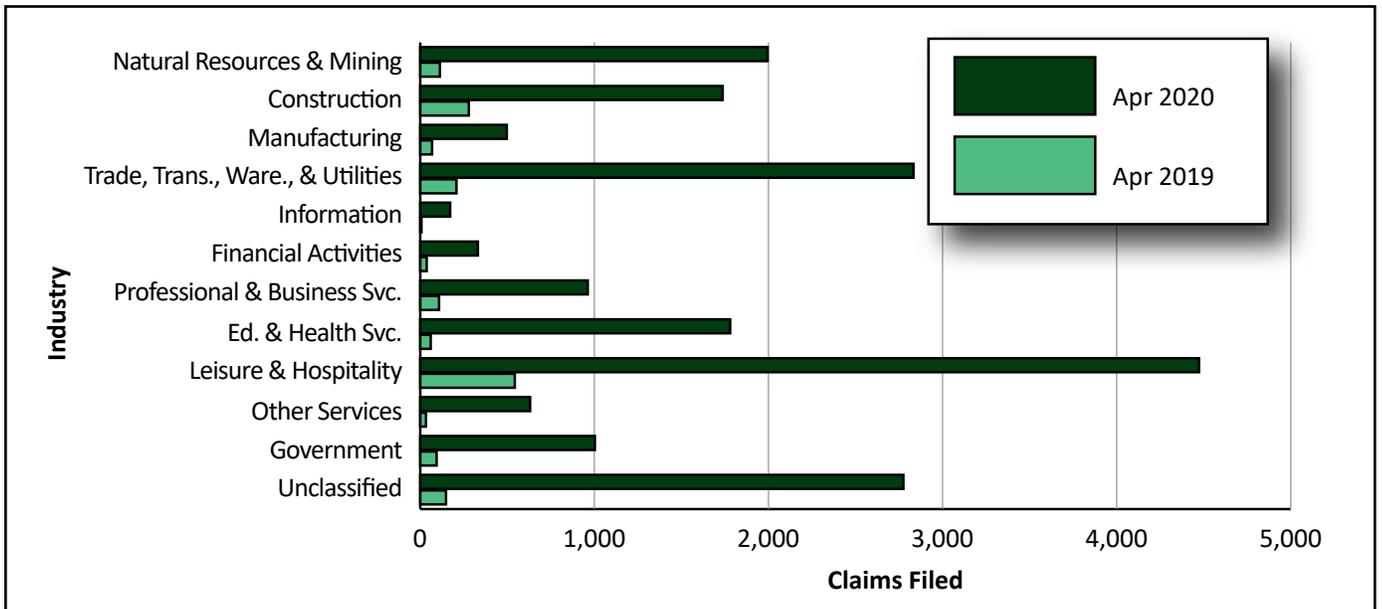


Figure 3: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, April 2019 to April 2020

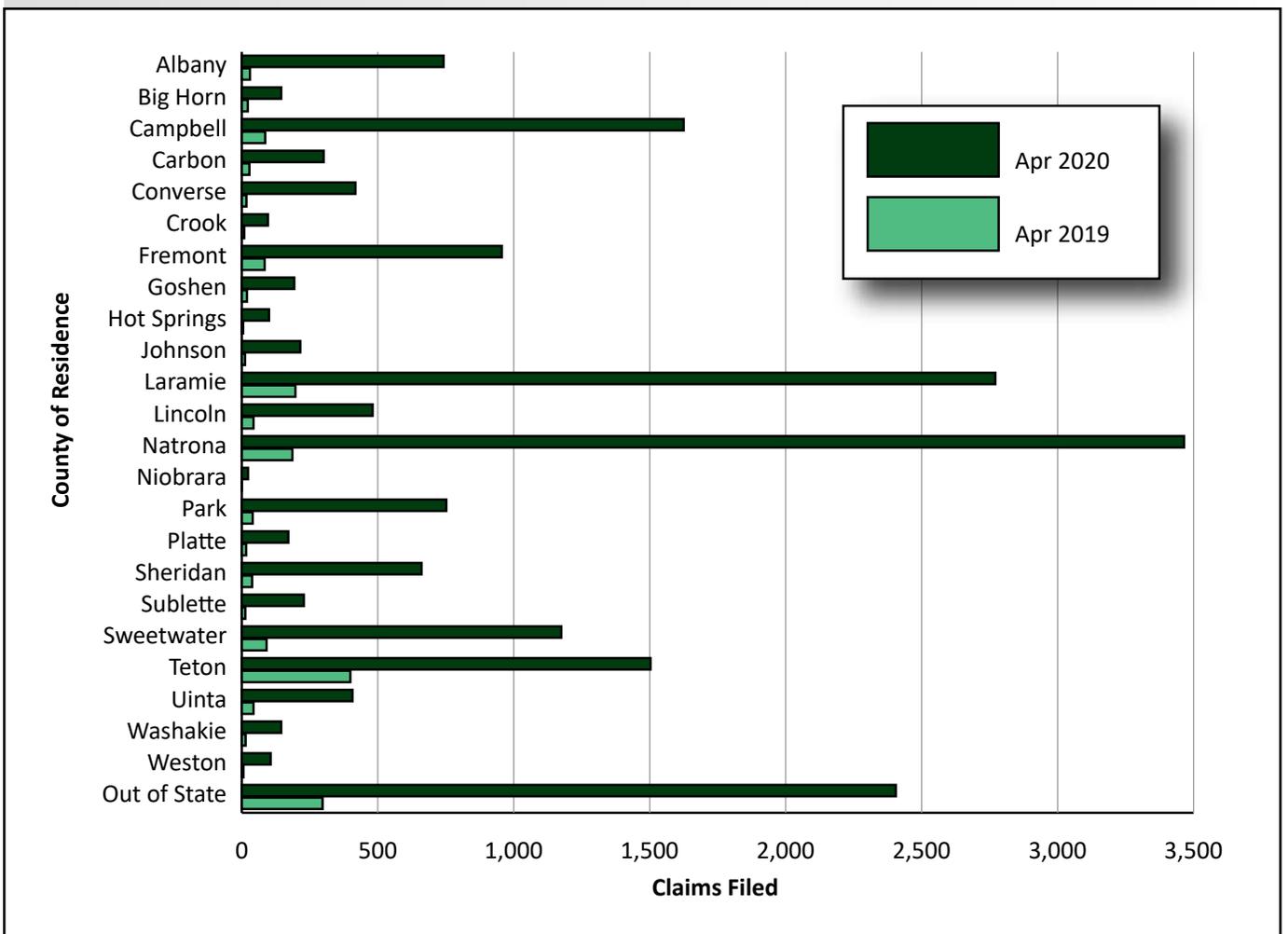


Figure 4: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence, April 2019 to April 2020

Table 2: Unemployment Insurance Continued Weeks Claimed in Wyoming, April 2020

Industry	Continued Weeks Claimed			Percent Change		N Change
	Apr 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2019	Over the Month	Over the Year	Over the Year
Total Continued Weeks Claimed	66,694	19,093	11,738	249.3	468.2	54,956
Total Unique Claimants	17,631	6,682	4,038	163.9	336.6	13,593
Benefit Exhaustions	1,887	694	531	171.9	255.4	1,356
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	10.7%	10.4%	13.2%	0.3%	-2.4%	
Goods-Producing	16,366	8,472	4,233	93.2	286.6	12,133
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	6,093	1,967	722	209.8	743.9	5,371
Mining (21)	5,904	1,822	621	224.0	850.7	5,283
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	199	90	92	121.1	116.3	107
Construction (23)	8,138	5,726	2,803	42.1	190.3	5,335
Manufacturing (31-33)	2,133	778	706	174.2	202.1	1,427
Service-Providing	39,024	6,893	5,680	466.1	587.0	33,344
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	7,832	1,804	1,501	334.1	421.8	6,331
Wholesale Trade (42)	1,176	295	254	298.6	363.0	922
Retail Trade (44-45)	4,322	778	801	455.5	439.6	3,521
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	2,334	731	446	219.3	423.3	1,888
Information (51)	436	89	172	389.9	153.5	264
Financial Activities (52-53)	1,152	326	208	253.4	453.8	944
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	3,375	1,552	1,136	117.5	197.1	2,239
Education & Health Services (61-62)	5,644	635	555	788.8	916.9	5,089
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	18,361	2,179	1,908	742.6	862.3	16,453
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	2,218	300	195	639.3	1,037.4	2,023
Government	2,874	1,358	1,011	111.6	184.3	1,863
Federal Government	750	683	518	9.8	44.8	232
State Government	251	156	80	60.9	213.8	171
Local Government	1,872	518	412	261.4	354.4	1,460
Local Education	887	56	77	1,483.9	1,051.9	810
Unclassified	8,428	2,368	812	255.9	937.9	7,616
Laramie County						
Total Claims Filed	8,697	2,214	1,366	292.8	536.7	7,331
Total Unique Claimants	2,394	820	486	192.0	392.6	1,908
Goods-Producing	1,499	949	483	58.0	210.4	1,016
Construction	966	845	458	14.3	110.9	508
Service-Providing	5,811	861	684	574.9	749.6	5,127
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	2,504	375	227	567.7	1,003.1	2,277
Financial Activities (52, 53)	134	44	34	204.5	294.1	100
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	513	209	220	145.5	133.2	293
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	965	117	121	724.8	697.5	844
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	1,967	154	58	1,177.3	3,291.4	1,909
Government	220	97	92	126.8	139.1	128
Unclassified	1,164	306	106	280.4	998.1	1,058
Natrona County						
Total Claims Filed	11,391	2,559	1,493	345.1	663.0	9,898
Total Unique Claimants	3,074	902	492	240.8	524.8	2,582
Goods-Producing	2,893	1,223	513	136.5	463.9	2,380
Construction	1,275	824	371	54.7	243.7	904
Service-Providing	7,037	987	890	613.0	690.7	6,147
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	1,557	307	319	407.2	388.1	1,238
Financial Activities (52, 53)	251	66	38	280.3	560.5	213
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	548	215	174	154.9	214.9	374
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	1,080	119	141	807.6	666.0	939
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	2,850	184	147	1,448.9	1,838.8	2,703
Government	228	61	48	273.8	375.0	180
Unclassified	1,232	286	41	330.8	2,904.9	1,191

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/6/20.

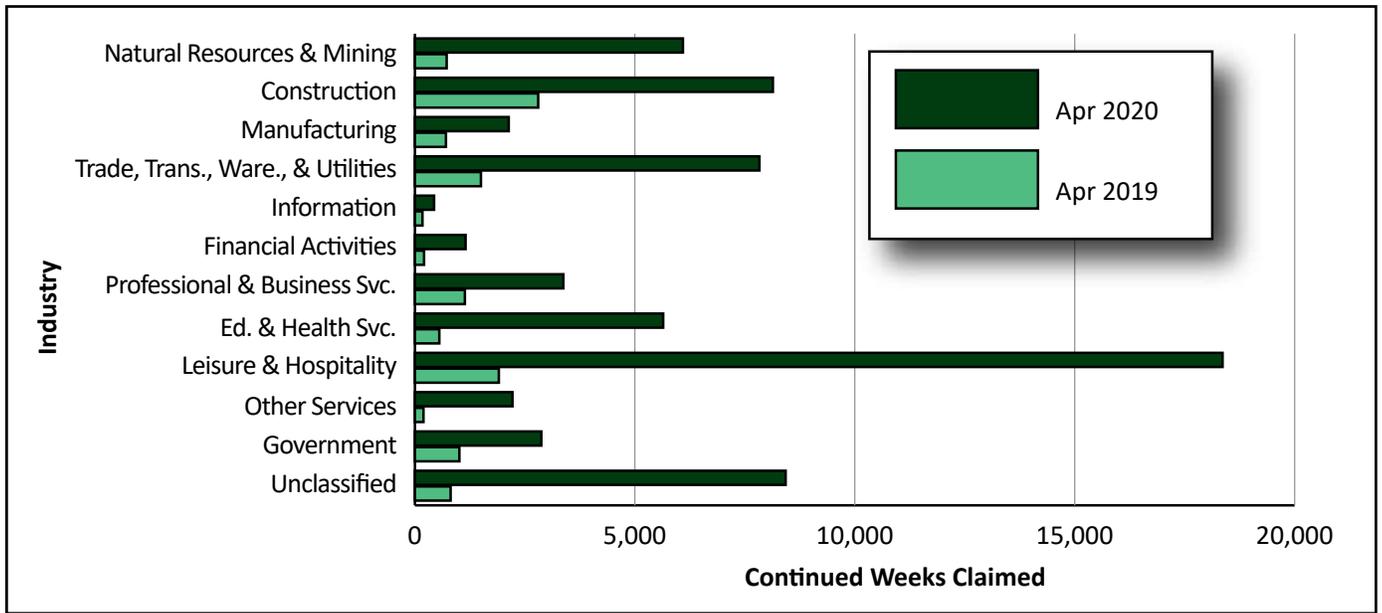


Figure 5: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, April 2019 to April 2020

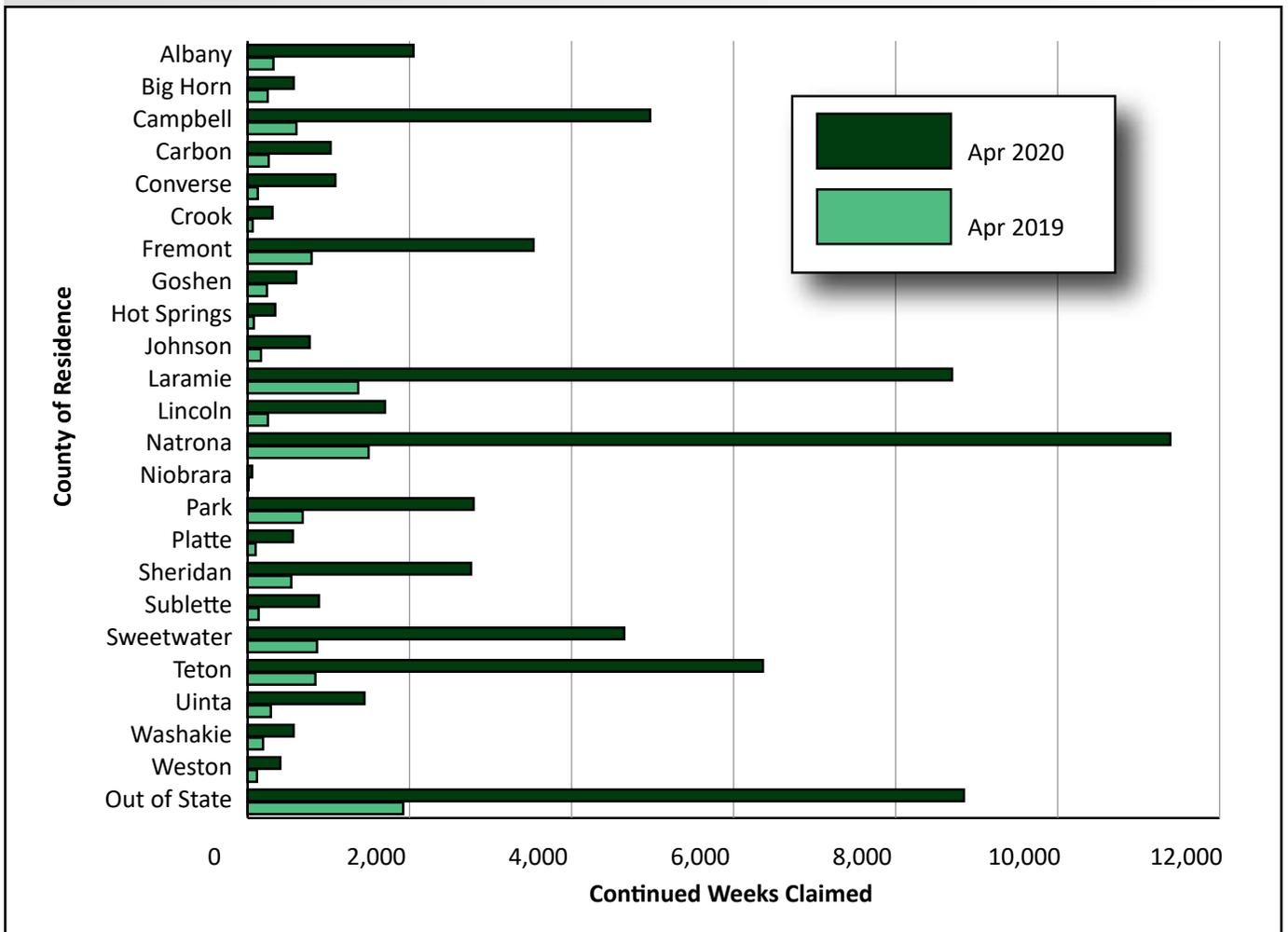


Figure 6: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence in Wyoming, April 2019 to April 2020

Table 3: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by County of Residence, April 2019 to April 2020

County	Apr 2020	Apr 2019	Over-the-Year Change	
			N	%
Albany	742	30	712	2,348.6
Big Horn	145	22	123	568.0
Campbell	1,625	86	1,539	1,799.7
Carbon	301	28	272	967.7
Converse	418	17	401	2,315.0
Crook	96	9	87	1,010.0
Fremont	956	84	872	1,032.3
Goshen	193	19	174	891.1
Hot Springs	100	5	94	1,740.0
Johnson	215	12	203	1,703.6
Laramie	2,771	197	2,574	1,306.6
Lincoln	481	43	437	1,010.0
Natrona	3,465	186	3,279	1,760.9
Niobrara	23	0	23	--
Park	752	40	712	1,776.8
Platte	171	16	154	950.7
Sheridan	661	38	623	1,644.0
Sublette	228	13	215	1,653.3
Sweetwater	1,175	91	1,084	1,192.4
Teton	1,503	399	1,104	276.4
Uinta	407	43	364	840.0
Washakie	145	14	131	933.8
Weston	106	6	99	1,526.7
Unknown	118	9	109	1,260.0
Out of State	2,405	297	2,108	710.8
Total	19,199	1,706	17,493	1,025.4

N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality.

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/13/20.

Table 4: Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Statistics: Continued Claims by County of Residence, April 2019 to April 2020

County	Apr 2020	Apr 2019	Over-the-Year Change	
			N	%
Albany	2,048	319	1,729	541.4
Big Horn	569	248	321	129.5
Campbell	4,969	602	4,367	725.6
Carbon	1,025	260	766	294.7
Converse	1,083	126	958	762.8
Crook	307	63	244	388.3
Fremont	3,530	790	2,740	346.7
Goshen	600	239	361	150.9
Hot Springs	341	77	264	343.9
Johnson	766	165	602	365.8
Laramie	8,697	1,366	7,331	536.6
Lincoln	1,697	251	1,446	575.9
Natrona	11,391	1,494	9,898	662.6
Niobrara	56	12	44	372.7
Park	2,790	680	2,110	310.4
Platte	559	99	461	467.9
Sheridan	2,758	539	2,219	411.6
Sublette	880	136	743	545.1
Sweetwater	4,650	857	3,793	442.4
Teton	6,362	837	5,525	660.3
Uinta	1,443	287	1,156	402.9
Washakie	568	191	378	198.2
Weston	404	116	288	248.4
Unknown	355	65	290	446.7
Out of State	8,844	1,921	6,922	360.3
Normalized Total^a	66,694	11,739	54,955	468.1
Real Total^b	77,014	10,844	66,170	610.2

^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.

^bRaw claims data that have not been multiplied by the normalization factor.

All totals are subject to rounding error and may not add to the sum of their respective components.

The table above conforms to Wyoming Employment Security Law - Wyoming Statute 27-3-603 regarding confidentiality.

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/13/20.



This publication was produced by the Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services.

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