

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Report

August 2021

Information for Wyoming by Industry and County of Residence of Claimant

by: Chris McGrath, Senior Statistician, Michael Moore, Editor, and Laura Yetter, Senior Economist
Research & Planning, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services

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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, August 2021

Initial Claims Decline for Sixth Straight Month

by: *Laura Yetter, Senior Economist*

The number of Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims in Wyoming continued to decline from prior-year levels in August, as initial claims decreased by 75.0% and continued claims decreased by 84.7% (see Definitions, page 9). Despite these decreases, the number of initial and continued claims remained higher than pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels.

Initial Claims

August 2021 marked the sixth consecutive month of over-the-year decreases in initial UI claims in Wyoming. There were 1,282 initial claims in August 2021, down from 5,138 in August 2020 (-3,856, or -75%). This amount is getting

UI Claims Online

Weekly, monthly, and annual Unemployment Insurance claims for Wyoming are available online at <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI.htm>.

closer to pre-pandemic levels of 943 initial claims in August 2019. See Figure 1.

The number of initial claims declined from the prior year in all industries. In the private sector, substantial decreases were seen in natural resources & mining (-494, or -87.4%), construction (-380, or -63.9%), leisure & hospitality (-312, or -67.4%), and professional & business services (-236, or

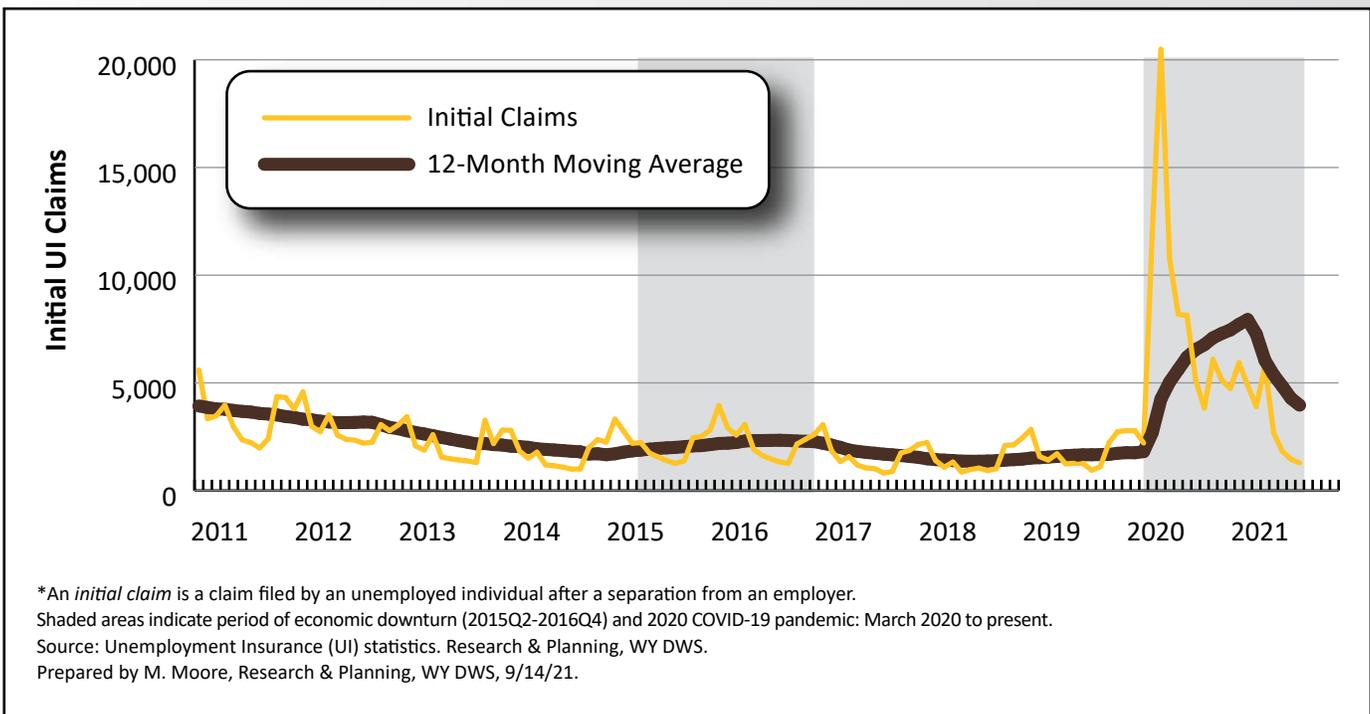


Figure 1: Total Number of Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Year and Month, January 2011 to August 2021

-68.6%), among others. The industry labeled unclassified continued to be see one of the greatest decreases of initial claims (-1,584, or -89.1%). Initial claims in government decreased by 58.8% (-133 claims). See Table 1 (page 5) and Figure 3 (page 6).

Initial claims also decreased from prior-year levels in all counties, including Natrona (-572, or -71.3%), Campbell (-475, or -81.1%), Laramie (-441, or -68.6%), and Sweetwater (-215, or -72.6%). The number of out-of-state claimants decreased by 1,011 (-86.5%). See Figure 4 (page 6) and Table 3 (page 9).

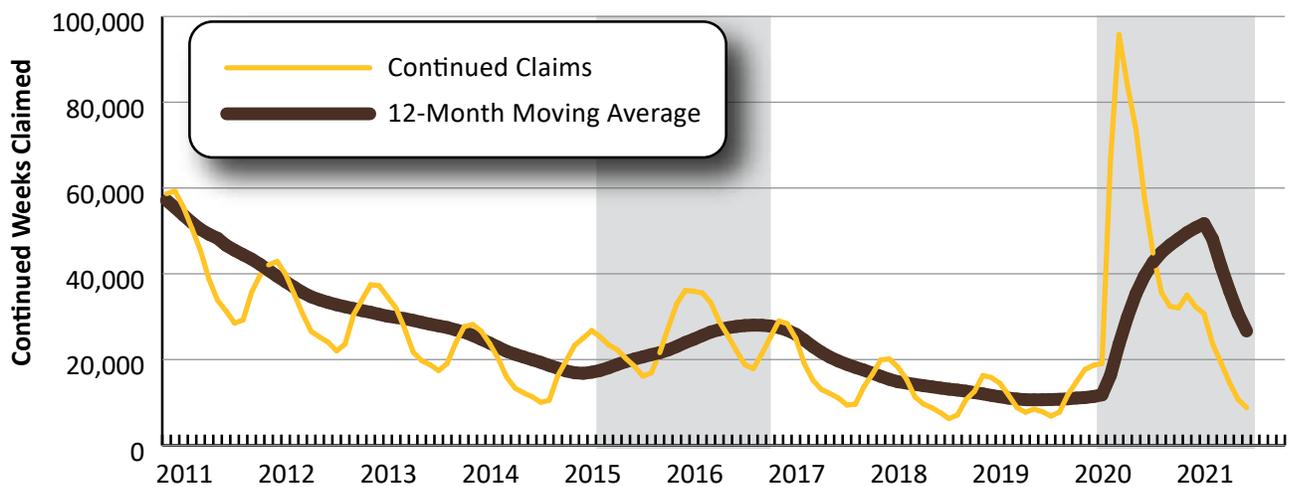
Continued Claims

The total number of continued weeks claimed decreased from 57,636 in August 2020 to 8,807 in August 2021 (-48,829, or -84.7%). The number of unique claimants decreased from 17,221 to 2,869 (-14,352, or -83.3%). There were 7,837 total continued weeks claimed in August 2019, so current

levels are still 12.4% higher than pre-pandemic levels. See Figure 2 and Table 2, page 7.

Continued claims declined in all industries over the year, including natural resources & mining (-10,852, or -94.3%), leisure & hospitality (-5,565, or -88.2%), construction (-5,129, or 80.7%), and professional & business services (-3,395 or -84.0%), among others. Claims in the unclassified industry decreased by 84.7% (-9,061). See Table 2, page 7, and Figure 5, page 8.

Continued claims also fell in every county, with the greatest decreases seen in Natrona (-10,640, or -87.8%), Campbell (-5,213, or -86.8%), Laramie (-5,144, or -81.6%), and Sweetwater (-4,167, or -86.7%). The number of total weeks claimed by out-of-state recipients decreased by 7,823 (-85.1%). See Table 4, page 9, and Figure 6, page 8.



*A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment then files a *continued claim* to claim benefits for that week of unemployment.
 Shaded areas indicate period of economic downturn (2015Q2-2016Q4) and 2020 COVID-19 pandemic: March 2020 to present.
 Source: Unemployment Insurance (UI) statistics. Research & Planning, WY DWS.
 Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 9/14/21.

Figure 2: Total Number of Unemployment Insurance Continued Weeks Claimed for Wyoming by Year and Month, January 2011 to August 2021

Table 1: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims in Wyoming, August 2021

Industry	Initial Claims Filed			Over-the-Month Change		Over-the-Year Change	
	Aug 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2020	N	%	N	%
Total Claims Filed	1,282	1,457	5,138	-175	-12.0	-3,856	-75.0
Goods-Producing	331	377	1,284	-46	-12.2	-953	-74.2
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	71	74	565	-3	-4.1	-494	-87.4
Mining (21)	58	63	550	-5	-7.9	-492	-89.5
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	7	10	11	-3	-30.0	-4	-36.4
Construction (23)	215	234	595	-19	-8.1	-380	-63.9
Manufacturing (31-33)	44	68	124	-24	-35.3	-80	-64.5
Service-Providing	664	696	1,849	-32	-4.6	-1,185	-64.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	210	216	555	-6	-2.8	-345	-62.2
Wholesale Trade (42)	31	41	132	-10	-24.4	-101	-76.5
Retail Trade (44-45)	122	115	226	7	6.1	-104	-46.0
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	56	59	197	-3	-5.1	-141	-71.6
Information (51)	6	12	35	-6	-50.0	-29	-82.9
Financial Activities (52-53)	27	33	92	-6	-18.2	-65	-70.7
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	108	122	344	-14	-11.5	-236	-68.6
Education & Health Services (61-62)	125	128	247	-3	-2.3	-122	-49.4
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	151	153	463	-2	-1.3	-312	-67.4
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	35	28	111	7	25.0	-76	-68.5
Government	93	102	226	-9	-8.8	-133	-58.8
Federal Government	20	12	23	8	66.7	-3	-13.0
State Government	6	8	43	-2	-25.0	-37	-86.0
Local Government	66	81	159	-15	-18.5	-93	-58.5
Local Education	21	24	54	-3	-12.5	-33	-61.1
Unclassified	193	280	1,777	-87	-31.1	-1,584	-89.1
Laramie County							
Total Claims Filed	202	202	643	0	0.0	-441	-68.6
Goods-Producing	45	31	119	14	45.2	-74	-62.2
Construction	36	24	73	12	50.0	-37	-50.7
Service-Providing	116	125	315	-9	-7.2	-199	-63.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	29	40	79	-11	-27.5	-50	-63.3
Financial Activities (52, 53)	6	9	14	-3	-33.3	-8	-57.1
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	41	25	86	16	64.0	-45	-52.3
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	18	22	42	-4	-18.2	-24	-57.1
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	16	20	62	-4	-20.0	-46	-74.2
Government	15	9	32	6	66.7	-17	-53.1
Unclassified	24	35	176	-11	-31.4	-152	-86.4
Natrona County							
Total Claims Filed	230	243	802	-13	-5.3	-572	-71.3
Goods-Producing	43	53	182	-10	-18.9	-139	-76.4
Construction	24	20	86	4	20.0	-62	-72.1
Service-Providing	150	130	412	20	15.4	-262	-63.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	43	54	133	-11	-20.4	-90	-67.7
Financial Activities (52, 53)	3	6	29	-3	-50.0	-26	-89.7
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	17	22	63	-5	-22.7	-46	-73.0
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	40	24	51	16	66.7	-11	-21.6
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	35	18	79	17	94.4	-44	-55.7
Government	4	17	23	-13	-76.5	-19	-82.6
Unclassified	32	42	182	-10	-23.8	-150	-82.4

N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality.

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database. Prepared by C. McGrath, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 9/14/21.

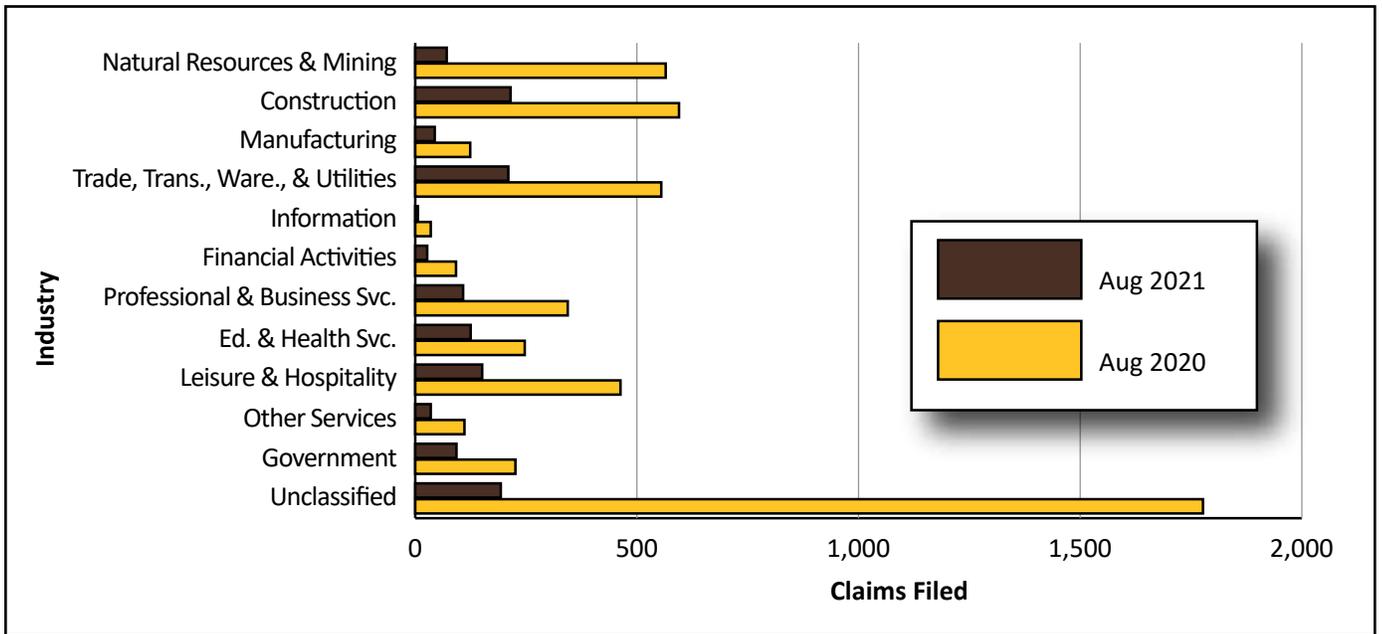


Figure 3: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, August 2020 and August 2021

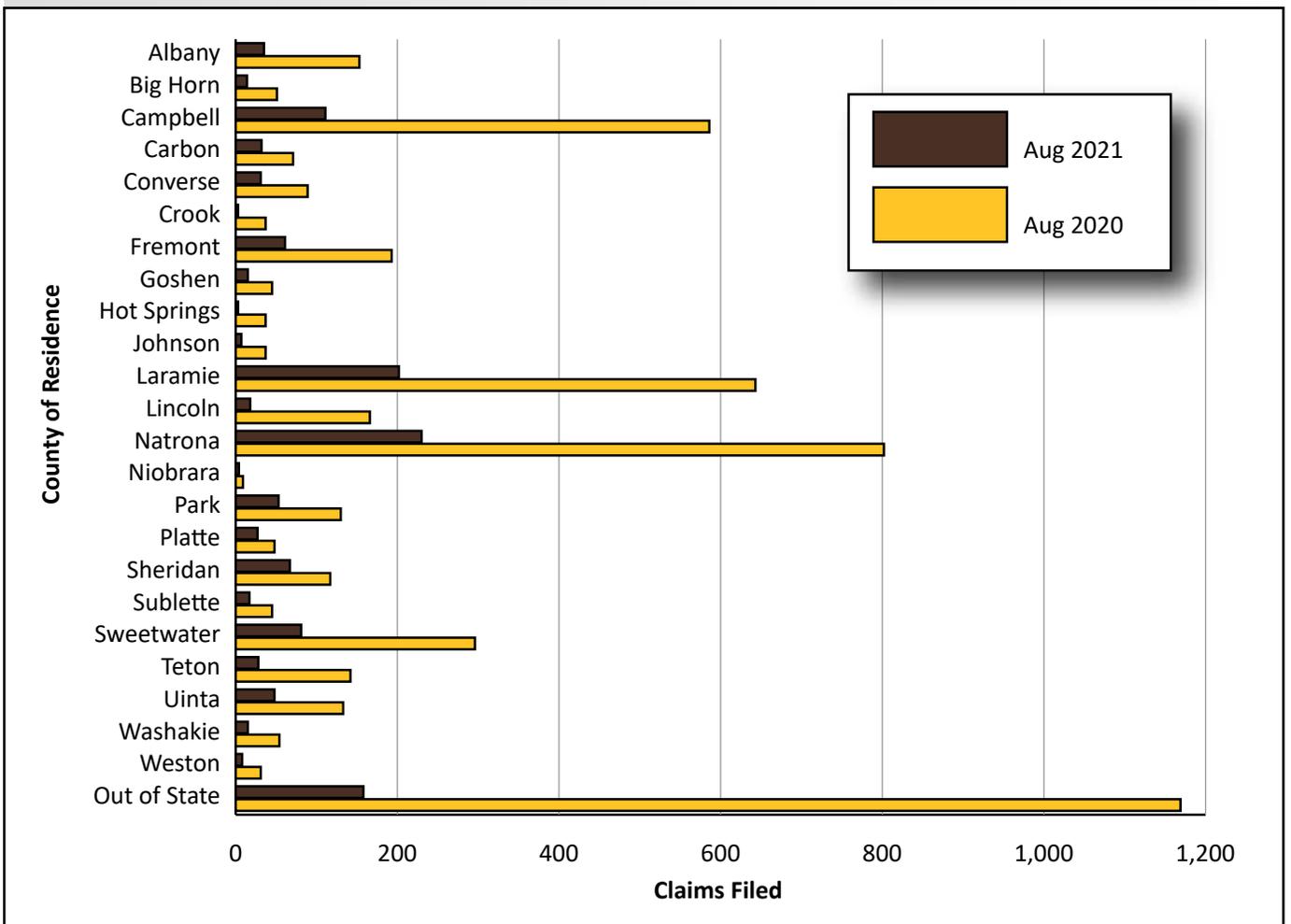


Figure 4: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence, August 2020 and August 2021

Table 2: Unemployment Insurance Continued Weeks Claimed in Wyoming, August 2021

Industry	Continued Weeks Claimed			Over-the-Month Change		Over-the-Year Change	
	Aug 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2020	N	%	N	%
Total Continued Weeks Claimed	8,807	10,691	57,636	-1,884	-17.6	-48,829	-84.7
Total Unique Claimants	2,869	3,506	17,221	-637	-18.2	-14,352	-83.3
Goods-Producing	2,233	2,883	19,932	-650	-22.5	-17,699	-88.8
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	657	835	11,509	-178	-21.3	-10,852	-94.3
Mining (21)	610	811	11,410	-201	-24.8	-10,800	-94.7
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	85	103	304	-18	-17.5	-219	-72.0
Construction (23)	1,224	1,650	6,353	-426	-25.8	-5,129	-80.7
Manufacturing (31-33)	351	397	2,069	-46	-11.6	-1,718	-83.0
Service-Providing	4,204	5,243	24,125	-1,039	-19.8	-19,921	-82.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	1,290	1,605	7,676	-315	-19.6	-6,386	-83.2
Wholesale Trade (42)	294	401	2,512	-107	-26.7	-2,218	-88.3
Retail Trade (44-45)	646	773	2,798	-127	-16.4	-2,152	-76.9
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	349	429	2,365	-80	-18.6	-2,016	-85.2
Information (51)	88	84	305	4	4.8	-217	-71.1
Financial Activities (52-53)	263	312	1,392	-49	-15.7	-1,129	-81.1
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	649	750	4,044	-101	-13.5	-3,395	-84.0
Education & Health Services (61-62)	995	1,290	2,919	-295	-22.9	-1,924	-65.9
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	741	1,007	6,306	-266	-26.4	-5,565	-88.2
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	175	192	1,481	-17	-8.9	-1,306	-88.2
Government	726	864	2,874	-138	-16.0	-2,148	-74.7
Federal Government	81	76	229	5	6.6	-148	-64.6
State Government	67	116	305	-49	-42.2	-238	-78.0
Local Government	578	671	2,339	-93	-13.9	-1,761	-75.3
Local Education	202	246	1,183	-44	-17.9	-981	-82.9
Unclassified	1,643	1,699	10,704	-56	-3.3	-9,061	-84.7
Laramie County							
Total Claims Filed	1,162	1,392	6,306	-230	-16.5	-5,144	-81.6
Total Unique Claimants	394	453	1,885	-59	-13.0	-1,491	-79.1
Goods-Producing	195	241	1,330	-46	-19.1	-1,135	-85.3
Construction	129	155	508	-26	-16.8	-379	-74.6
Service-Providing	650	809	3,215	-159	-19.7	-2,565	-79.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	214	260	963	-46	-17.7	-749	-77.8
Financial Activities (52, 53)	40	53	181	-13	-24.5	-141	-77.9
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	127	126	522	1	0.8	-395	-75.7
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	122	184	488	-62	-33.7	-366	-75.0
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	103	128	836	-25	-19.5	-733	-87.7
Government	85	107	384	-22	-20.6	-299	-77.9
Unclassified	230	233	1,376	-3	-1.3	-1,146	-83.3
Natrona County							
Total Claims Filed	1,485	1,801	12,125	-316	-17.5	-10,640	-87.8
Total Unique Claimants	487	599	3,531	-112	-18.7	-3,044	-86.2
Goods-Producing	290	410	3,939	-120	-29.3	-3,649	-92.6
Construction	151	210	987	-59	-28.1	-836	-84.7
Service-Providing	912	1,078	6,042	-166	-15.4	-5,130	-84.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	347	402	2,413	-55	-13.7	-2,066	-85.6
Financial Activities (52, 53)	53	58	458	-5	-8.6	-405	-88.4
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	84	138	889	-54	-39.1	-805	-90.6
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	206	233	562	-27	-11.6	-356	-63.3
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	160	185	1,051	-25	-13.5	-891	-84.8
Government	94	97	226	-3	-3.1	-132	-58.4
Unclassified	188	215	1,917	-27	-12.6	-1,729	-90.2

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.
Prepared by C. McGrath, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 9/14/21.

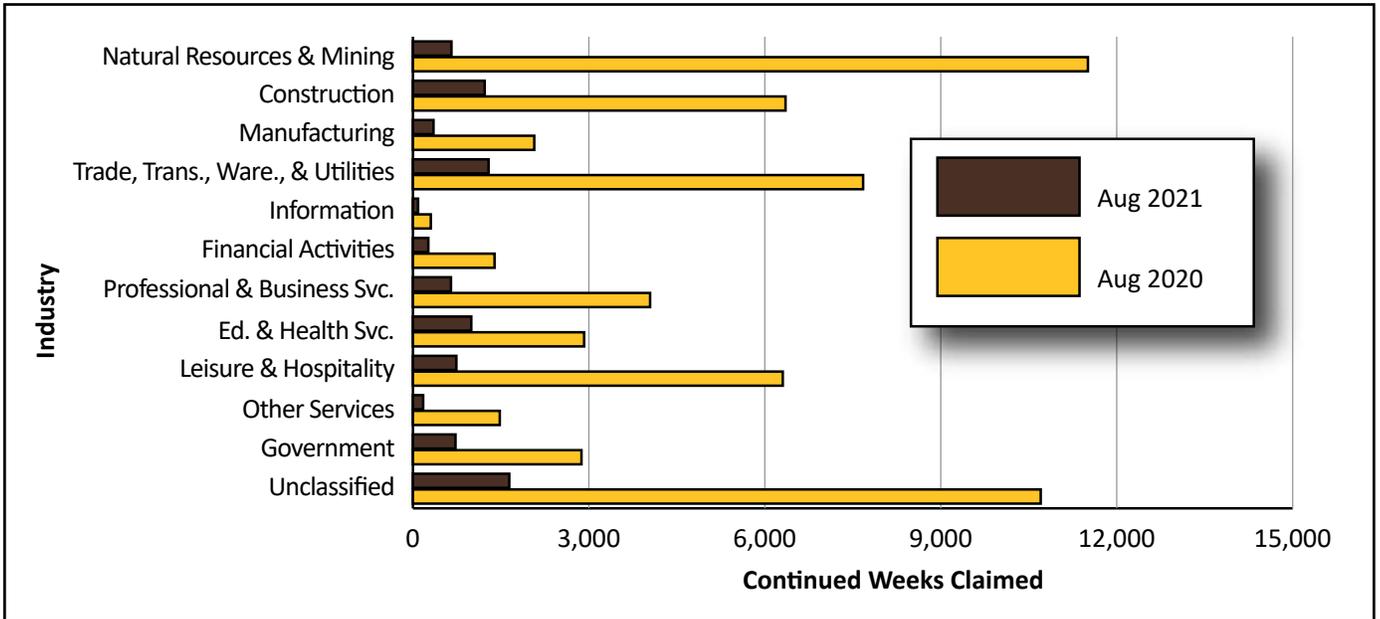


Figure 5: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, August 2020 and August 2021

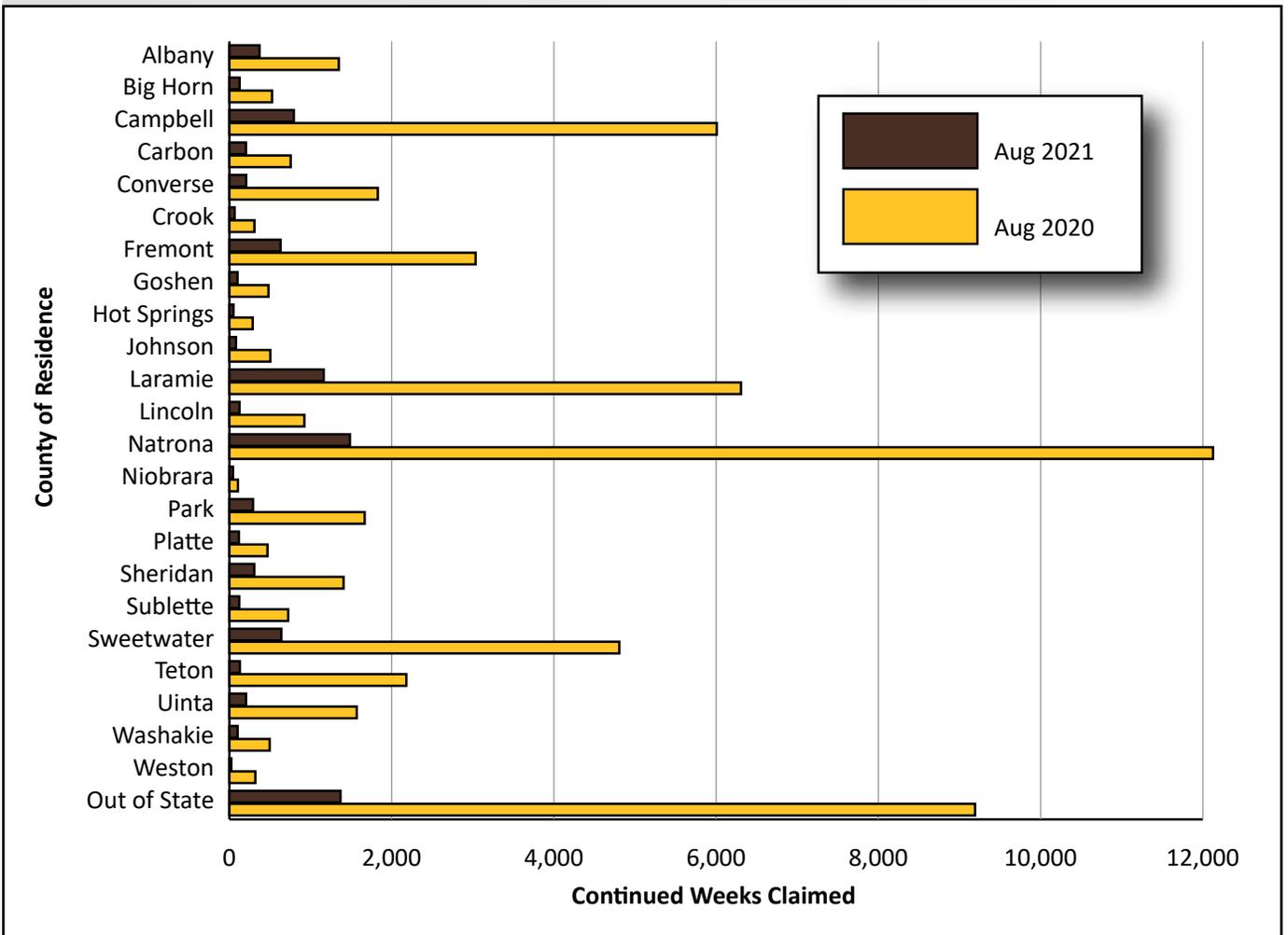


Figure 6: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence in Wyoming, August 2020 and August 2021

Table 3: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by County of Residence, August 2020 and August 2021

County	Aug 2021	Aug 2020	Change	
			N	%
Albany	35	153	-118	-77.1
Big Horn	14	51	-37	-72.5
Campbell	111	586	-475	-81.1
Carbon	32	71	-39	-54.9
Converse	31	89	-58	-65.2
Crook	3	37	-34	-91.9
Fremont	61	193	-132	-68.4
Goshen	15	45	-30	-66.7
Hot Springs	3	37	-34	-91.9
Johnson	7	37	-30	-81.1
Laramie	202	643	-441	-68.6
Lincoln	18	166	-148	-89.2
Natrona	230	802	-572	-71.3
Niobrara	4	9	-5	-55.6
Park	53	130	-77	-59.2
Platte	27	48	-21	-43.8
Sheridan	67	117	-50	-42.7
Sublette	17	45	-28	-62.2
Sweetwater	81	296	-215	-72.6
Teton	28	142	-114	-80.3
Uinta	48	133	-85	-63.9
Washakie	15	54	-39	-72.2
Weston	8	31	-23	-74.2
Unknown	6	40	-34	-85.0
Out of State	158	1,169	-1,011	-86.5
Total	1,282	5,138	-3,856	-75.0

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by C. McGrath, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 9/14/21.

Box: Definitions

Initial Claim: An initial claim is filed by an unemployed individual after a separation from an employer. The claim requests a determination of basic eligibility for the Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Continued Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks of UI benefits claimed during the reference period. An unemployed individual who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment and then filed a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment.

Table 4: Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Statistics: Continued Claims by County of Residence, August 2020 and August 2021

County	Aug 2021	Aug 2020	Change	
			N	%
Albany	371	1,348	-977	-72.5
Big Horn	126	525	-399	-76.0
Campbell	794	6,007	-5,213	-86.8
Carbon	204	755	-551	-73.0
Converse	207	1,829	-1,622	-88.7
Crook	64	308	-244	-79.2
Fremont	630	3,035	-2,405	-79.2
Goshen	100	481	-381	-79.2
Hot Springs	50	287	-237	-82.6
Johnson	81	504	-423	-83.9
Laramie	1,162	6,306	-5,144	-81.6
Lincoln	124	923	-799	-86.6
Natrona	1,485	12,125	-10,640	-87.8
Niobrara	44	105	-61	-58.1
Park	291	1,667	-1,376	-82.5
Platte	117	469	-352	-75.1
Sheridan	306	1,407	-1,101	-78.3
Sublette	121	724	-603	-83.3
Sweetwater	639	4,806	-4,167	-86.7
Teton	129	2,181	-2,052	-94.1
Uinta	205	1,570	-1,365	-86.9
Washakie	101	496	-395	-79.6
Weston	24	319	-295	-92.5
Unknown	49	256	-207	-80.9
Out of State	1,369	9,192	-7,823	-85.1
Normalized Total^a	8,807	57,636	-48,829	-84.7

^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.

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 C. McGrath, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 9/14/21.

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