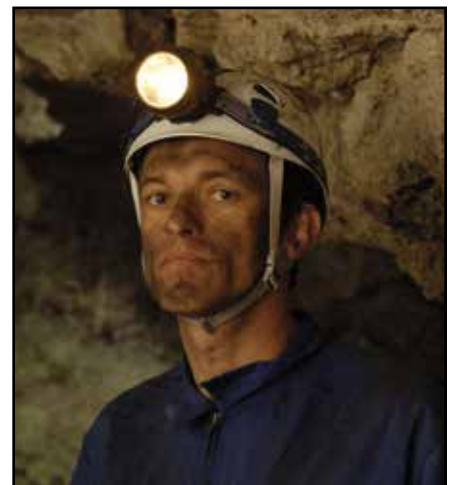


# 2021 Wyoming Workforce Annual Report



Prepared by the Research & Planning Section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, in Cooperation with the Wyoming Workforce Development Council



# 2021 Wyoming Workforce Annual Report

**Wyoming Department of Workforce Services**  
Robin Sessions Cooley, Director

**Research & Planning**

Tony Glover, Manager  
Carola Cowan, Bureau of Labor Statistics Programs Supervisor

**Prepared by:**

David Bullard, Carola Cowan, Tony Glover, Lisa Knapp, Aubrey Kofoed,  
Chris McGrath, Michael Moore, Sherry Wen, and Laura Yetter

**Editorial Committee:**

David Bullard, Matthew Halama, Lisa Knapp, Aubrey Kofoed,  
Chris McGrath, Michael Moore, and Laura Yetter

**Reviewed by:**

Wyoming Workforce Development Council

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**Research & Planning**

P.O. Box 2760  
Casper, WY 82602  
Phone: (307) 473-3807  
Fax: (307) 473-3834

**R&P Website:** <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/>

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**Contact information:** <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/rpstaff.htm>

**“Your Source for Wyoming Labor Market Information”**

## 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.



## Welcome

*Dear Reader,*

Welcome to the 2021 edition of the *Wyoming Workforce Annual Report*, produced by the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services in partnership with the Wyoming Workforce Development Council. This report provides an overview of Wyoming's economy and workforce during a difficult year for Wyoming and the nation, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced record job losses, at least temporarily.

Key findings from this year's report include:

- Wyoming's average monthly employment decreased more than 16,000 jobs (-5.9%) from 2019 to 2020. Substantial job losses were especially seen in leisure & hospitality and mining (see Chapter 2, page 8).
- Wyoming's estimated resident population increased over the year (0.4%) and over the decade (3.2%; see Chapter 3, page 20).
- Wyoming's average annual unemployment rate for 2020 was 5.8%, up from 3.7% in 2019 (see Chapter 4, page 22).
- A record 43,630 unemployed workers received UI benefits in 2020, a 231.9% increase from 2019 (see Chapter 5, page 24).

Thank you for taking the time to review this report. I encourage you to contact us with questions and comments, or to share your thoughts on future research.

Best Regards,  
Tony Glover, Manager  
Research & Planning, Wyoming  
Department of Workforce Services

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## Chapter 1: Introduction

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# Wyoming's Labor Market in 2020: Pandemic, Declining Energy Prices Force Historic Job Losses

by: Michael Moore, Editor

Wyoming endured unprecedented job losses in 2020, due in large part to the COVID-19 pandemic and rapidly declining energy prices.

This report from the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, in partnership with the Wyoming Workforce Development Council, provides a thorough look at Wyoming's labor market in 2020.

Research & Planning collects, analyzes, and publishes timely and accurate labor market information (LMI) meeting established statistical standards (see pages 6-7). Data are collected through various federal and state programs, and also are acquired through several memoranda of understanding (MOU) with state agencies in Wyoming and many other states.

R&P maintains numerous administrative databases and administers several surveys in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Different chapters in this publication examine Wyoming's labor market in 2020 from unique perspectives using various datasets. In addition, Chapter 9 provides short-term occupational employment projections, and Chapters 12 and 13 focus on workplace safety.

Economic struggles are not new to Wyoming, particularly over the last 12 years, when the state endured two periods of economic downturn. R&P defines an *economic downturn* as a period of at least

two consecutive quarters of over-the-year decreases in average monthly employment and total wages, based on data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

The first downturn lasted five quarters from first quarter 2009 (2009Q1) to first quarter 2010 (2010Q1), and closely followed the national Great Recession. The second downturn lasted seven quarters from 2015Q2 to 2016Q4 and resulted from a sharp decline in the demand for and cost of natural resources such as coal, oil, and natural gas. Both downturns were preceded by declining energy prices (see Figure 1.1, page 5).

As defined by the previously-mentioned criteria, 2020 marked a third period of economic downturn for Wyoming, as average monthly employment and total wages decreased from prior-year levels from 2020Q2 to 2020Q4, the most recent quarters for which data were available at the time of this publication.

The downturn in 2020 was similar to the two previous downturns in that it was preceded by declining oil prices (see Figure 1.1). However, the 2020 downturn was noticeably different due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced business closures and employee layoffs. The effects of the pandemic and declining energy prices are discussed throughout this publication.

As mentioned in Chapter 2, Wyoming lost more than 16,000 jobs from 2019 to



2020, and total wages decreased by over \$500 million, according to data from the QCEW. The greatest job losses were seen in leisure & hospitality (-4,778, or -12.9%) and mining (-4,441, or -21.4%). These two industries combined accounted for 61.4% of all jobs lost in Wyoming.

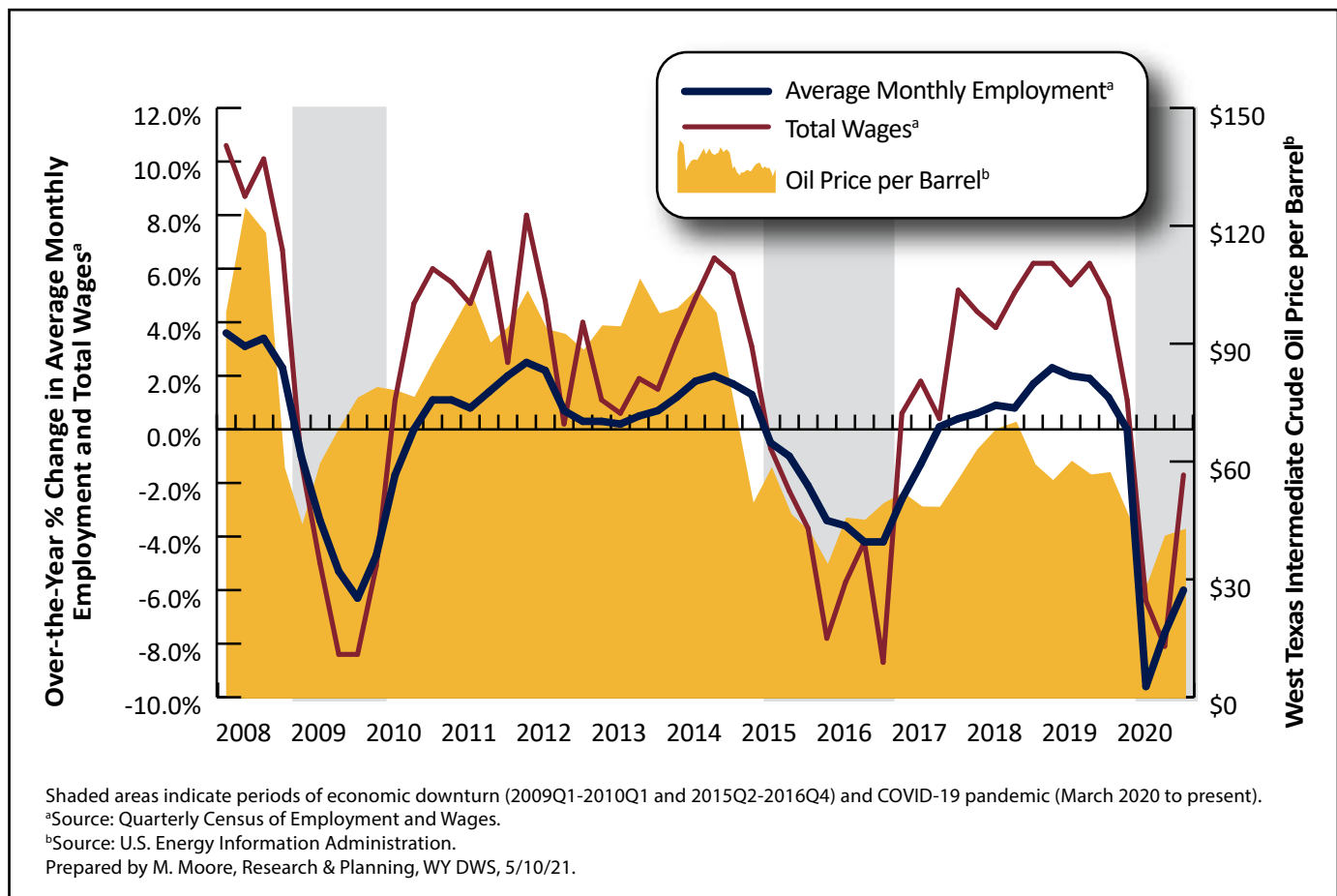
Wyoming's average annual unemployment rate for 2020 was 5.8%, up from 3.7% in 2019 (see Chapter 4). The highest unemployment rates were found in Natrona (7.8%), Sweetwater (7.4%) and Sublette (7.2%) counties, all of which are dependent on mining jobs.

A total of 43,630 unemployed workers received UI benefits in 2020, which marked

the highest number of UI claims over the last 24 years for which comparable data are available (see Chapter 5). The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services UI division paid a total of \$431.7 million in benefits to unemployed workers in 2020 — \$179.4 million from the state UI trust fund and \$252.3 million from other UI funds and the Federal CARES Act. The previous record high for UI benefit payments was \$161.5 million in 2009, during the economic downturn that followed the Great Recession.

In response to the demand for more current information during the pandemic, R&P began publishing weekly initial and

(Text continued on page 7)



**Figure 1.1: Over-the-Year Percent Change in Average Monthly Employment and Total Wages in Wyoming and West Texas Intermediate Crude Oil Cost per Barrel, 2008Q1 to 2020Q3**

## About Research & Planning: Who We Are, What We Do

by: *Chris McGrath, Senior Statistician*

**R**esearch & Planning (R&P) is an exclusively statistical entity within the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services with the purpose of compiling and analyzing data and making such information available to other government agencies, the public, businesses, and nongovernmental groups. The labor market information collected is used in policymaking, planning, program administration, selecting a career, and many other ways.

To help in collecting the most comprehensive data, R&P has established formal partnerships through memoranda of understanding with statewide entities such as the Wyoming Community College Commission, Wyoming Department of Education, Board of Nursing, and data sharing agreements with 11 states (Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah). The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is another entity R&P collaborates with in gathering material on employment and wages, earnings by industry, work-related non-fatal and fatal

injuries, occupational wages, and more.

Types of data R&P collects include:

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program publishes a quarterly count of employment and wages reported by Wyoming employers subject to Unemployment Insurance coverage. Data is based on employee's place of work, not place of residence, and organized by industry to include number of firms, monthly employment, and total wages.

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program produces monthly estimates of non-farm employment, hours, and earnings by industry for state and metropolitan areas.

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program develops monthly and annual data of the labor force, employed, and unemployed for the state and counties.

Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) are a listing of occupational wage data compiled from bi-annual

surveys of non-farm businesses.

The Wyoming New Hires Job Skills Survey collects information about the types of benefits (medical insurance, retirement plans, paid leave, etc.) Wyoming employers offer employees as well as important job skills, retention, and more.

Occupational Safety & Health is comprised of two programs that collect information on Wyoming fatal and non-fatal work related injuries and illnesses: Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) and Survey of Occupational Injuries & Illnesses (SOII).

Short- and long-term industry and occupational employment projections are estimates on the labor market and economy two and 10 years into the future designed to help individuals make informed career decisions as well as compare the outlook in other states.

Monthly Unemployment Insurance Claims Report details initial and continued claims for Wyoming by county of residence, industry,

(Text continued on page 7)

(Text continued from page 5)

continued UI claims data. Updated tables and figures are published each week and include industry, county, and gender claims data. Chapter 6 discusses trends in weekly UI claims. In general, initial and continued claims peaked in the spring during the first months of the pandemic.

In addition to weekly UI claims, R&P published research on UI claims by occupation for the first time using data from 2020. The research discussed in Chapter 7 includes the occupations with the greatest number of claims, along with those that had the longest duration in terms of weeks claimed, and the occupations that showed the greatest percentage increases over the year.

R&P publishes detailed demographics tables on an annual basis, the most current of which are available online at [https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/earnings\\_tables.htm](https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/earnings_tables.htm). Overall, the number of people working in Wyoming at any time during the year decreased by 22,833, or 6.4% (see Chapter 8).

Wyoming is projected to lose approximately 6,000 jobs (-2.2%) from 2020 to 2022, according to the most recent short-term industry and occupational employment projections. The projections are based on historical trends of how employment levels respond to market conditions, and the projections discussed in Chapter 9 were prepared during a period of decreased employment and wage changes for Wyoming.

(Text continued from page 6)

and selected demographics from the prior month.

The data collected by R&P staff contains material regarding individuals in the workforce such as skills and educational characteristics of the employed and unemployed, and barriers to employment and unemployment rates. It also pertains to employers looking at wage and benefit data, occupations, and skills. Some of the publications and products generated from the above resources include:

- A Study of the Disparity

in Wages Between Men and Women in Wyoming

- Directory of Licensed Occupations in Wyoming
- Health Care Workforce Needs in Wyoming
- Wyoming Benefits Survey 2018
- The Survey of Occupational Injuries & Illnesses Report, 2018
- Wyoming Youth and Populations with Barriers to Employment

Confidentiality is an important part of the

collection and distribution of data collected. All data that are gathered are used strictly to reveal statistical trends, not to identify individuals or businesses. Readers may notice that in the publications there are charts, tables, etc. that appear to have missing data. However, some of the data collected cannot be published because it would compromise the confidentiality of the persons or firms who provided the information.

For a complete listing of publications, research projects, and formal partnerships, please visit <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/>.

## Chapter 2: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

### Substantial Job Losses Seen in Mining, Leisure & Hospitality

by: Michael Moore, Editor

From 2019 to 2020, Wyoming lost more than 16,000 jobs, total wages decreased by more than \$500 million, and the state's average annual wage increased by \$1,099 (see Table 2.1).

Wyoming had experienced a period of moderate over-the-year job growth from 2018 to 2019 prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020 (see Figure 2.1).

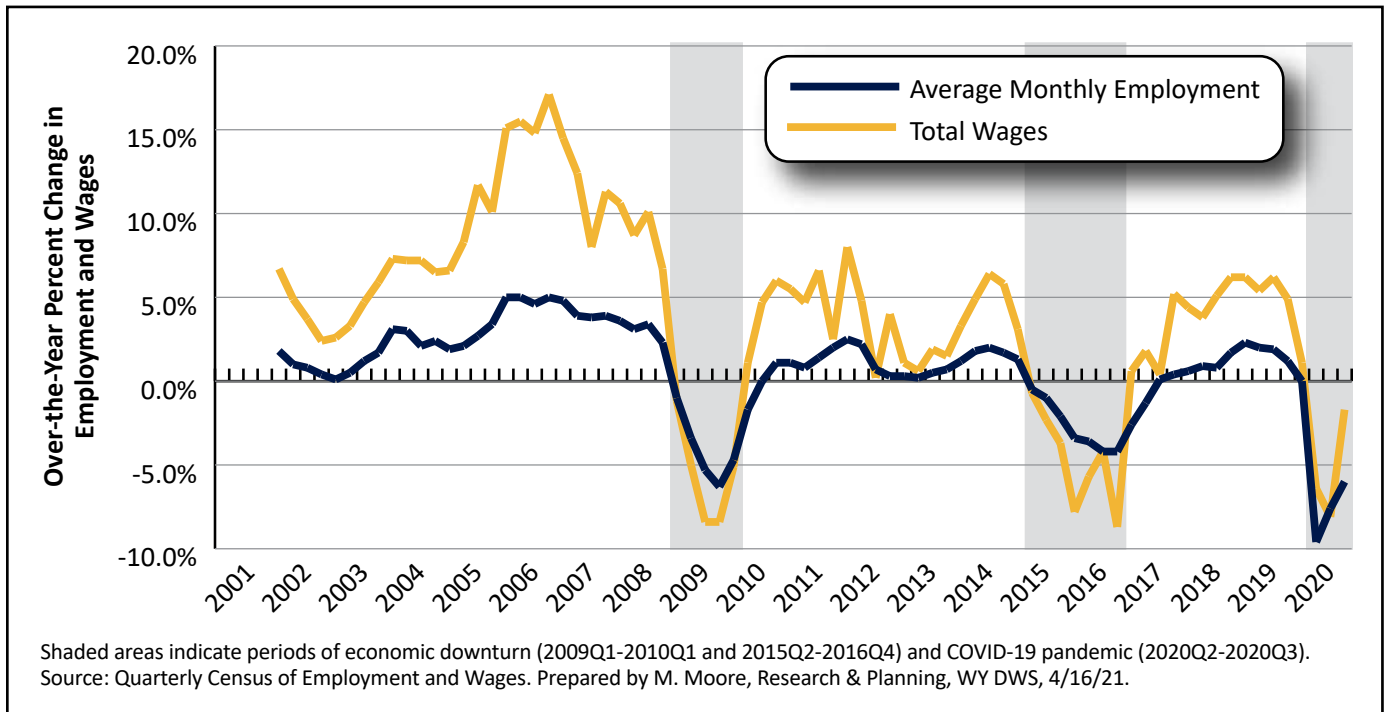
This chapter provides information on employment and wages at the state, industry, and county levels for Wyoming in 2020.

#### Introduction

Employment and wage information in this chapter are based on data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), a “near-census of

	2019	2020	Change, 2019-2020	
			N	%
Average Monthly Employment	277,115	260,880	-16,235	-5.9
Total Wages	\$13.8 Billion	\$13.3 Billion	-\$523.2 Million	-3.8
Average Annual Wage	\$49,880	\$50,979	\$1,099	2.2

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.  
Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/16/21.



**Figure 2.1: Over-the-Year Percent Change in Average Monthly Employment (Number of Jobs Worked) and Total Wages in Wyoming, 2001Q1-2020Q3**



employment in the states” (Manning and Saulcy, 2013). The QCEW is based on employers’ quarterly wage and employment reports to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. Approximately 91% of wage and salary employment is covered by Unemployment Insurance in Wyoming. This chapter includes annual and quarterly data.

The figures presented in this chapter contain quarterly data from 2001Q1 to 2020Q4, in order to display how job losses during the pandemic compared to other recent downturns. For the purposes of this report, *economic downturn* refers to a period of at least two consecutive quarters of over-the-year decline in average monthly employment (the number of jobs worked) and total wages according to data from the QCEW (see Figure 2.1, page 8). In recent years, Wyoming experienced two such

periods of economic downturn: 2009Q1 to 2010Q1 (*2009 downturn*) and 2015Q2 to 2016Q4 (*2015 downturn*). Both downturns were preceded by declining energy prices (Moore, 2019).

Following the 2015 downturn, employment increased moderately through 2019Q4, but never returned to pre-downturn levels (see Figure 2.2). Employment dropped substantially from 2020Q2 to 2020Q4, and Wyoming’s average monthly employment fell to levels not seen since 2004.

Wyoming’s average monthly employment in 2020 was 260,880, down from 277,115 in 2019 (-16,235 jobs, or -5.9%; see Table 2.2, page 11). Total wages decreased from \$13.8 billion to \$13.3 billion (-\$523.2 million, or -3.8%) and the state’s average annual wage increased from \$49,880 to \$50,979 (\$1,099, or 2.2%). The increase in the average annual

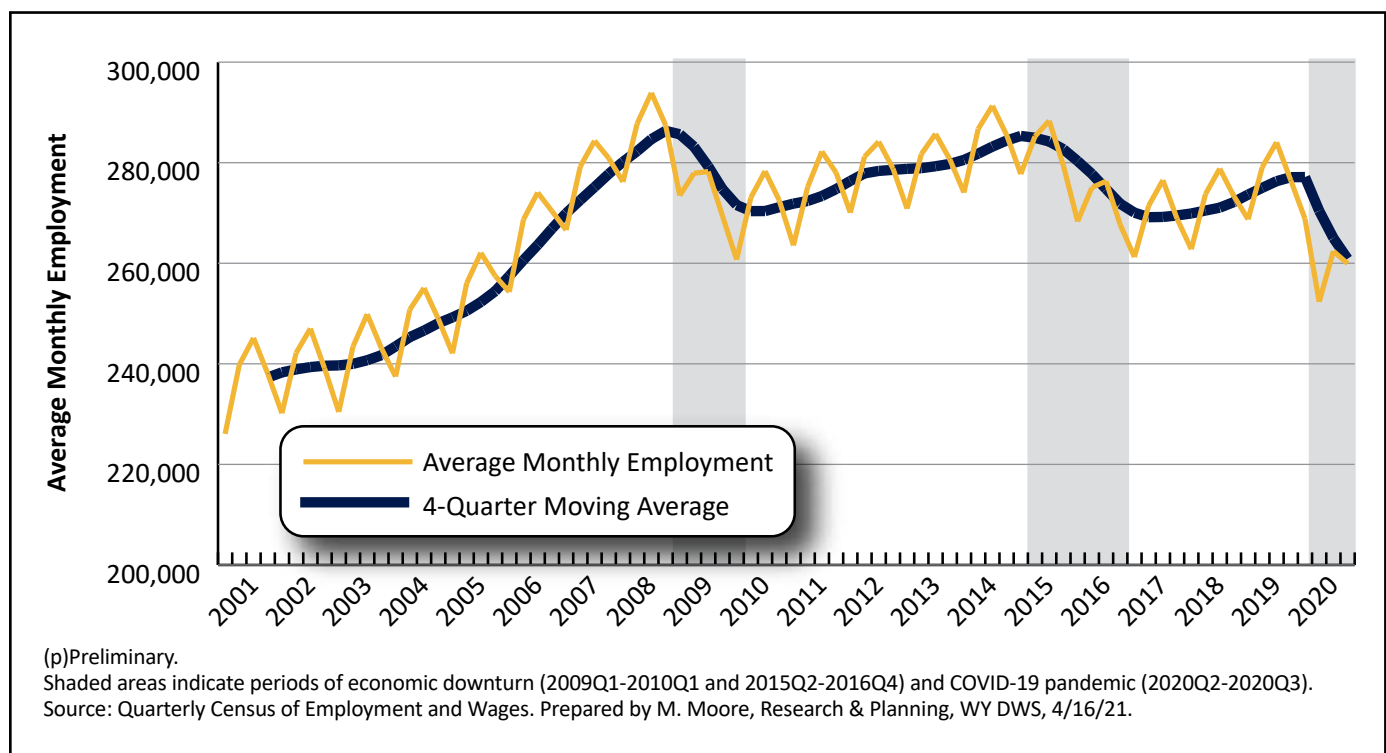


Figure 2.2: Average Monthly Employment (Number of Jobs Worked) in Wyoming, 2001Q1-2020Q3

wage may have been caused by the loss of a large number of lower-paying jobs in leisure & hospitality, which was hit especially hard by the pandemic.

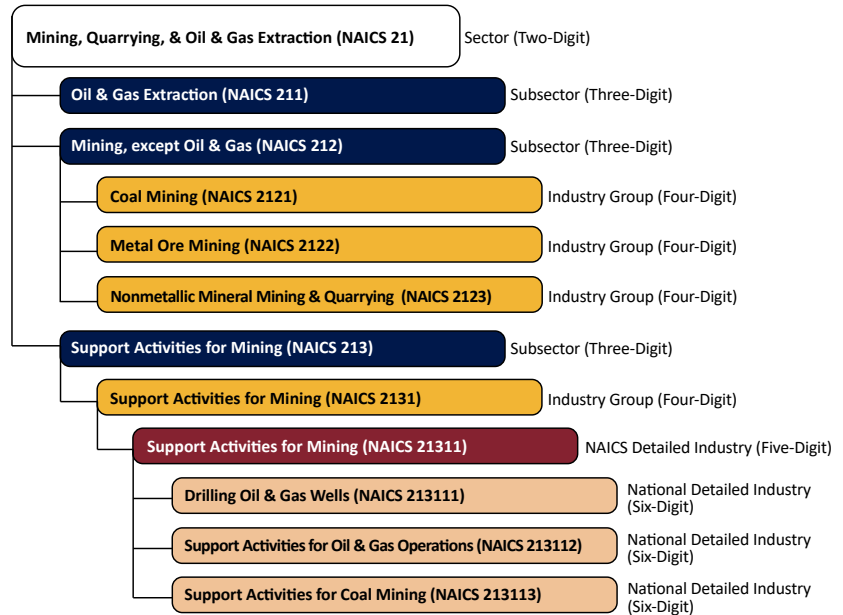
Wyoming's over-the-year job losses in 2020 were unprecedented, particularly in 2020Q2 during the start of the pandemic. That quarter Wyoming lost a record 26,826 jobs, a decrease of 9.6% (Moore, 2021). The previous record job losses occurred in 2009Q4, during the 2009 economic downturn, when Wyoming lost 18,039 jobs from the prior year, a decrease of 6.4% (Research & Planning, 2020a).

## Industry

This chapter primarily discusses industries at the two-digit sector level as defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS; see Box 2.1). Tables 2.3 and 2.4 provide more detailed information on mining, including oil & gas (NAICS 21) and leisure & hospitality (NAICS 71-72), respectively, including data by selected subsector (three-digit NAICS), industry (four-digit NAICS), industry group (four-digit NAICS), and detailed industry (six-digit NAICS). Similar detailed tables for each industry are available at

### Box 2.1: North American Industry Classification System Structure

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For example, mining, quarrying, & oil & gas extraction is an industry sector with the two-digit NAICS code 21. Within the mining sector are three subsectors: oil & gas extraction (NAICS 211), mining, except oil & gas (NAICS 212), and support activities for mining (NAICS 213). Within the support activities for mining subsector are several six-digit national detailed industry sectors, including drilling oil & gas wells (NAICS 213111), support activities for oil & gas operations (NAICS 213112), and support activities for coal mining (NAICS 213113).



Source: North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

**Figure: North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Structure of Selected Levels for Mining, Including Oil & Gas Sector (NAICS 21)**

[https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/2020\\_QCEW/toc.htm](https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/2020_QCEW/toc.htm).

Employment decreased from prior-year levels in nearly all industry sectors, led by leisure & hospitality (-4,778, or -12.9%) and mining (-4,441, or -21.4%; see Table 2.2). These two industries combined

accounted for 61.4% of all jobs lost in Wyoming; in other words, nearly two out of every three jobs lost were in mining or leisure & hospitality.

Other private sector industries that experienced substantial job losses included construction (-1,671 or

**Table 2.2: Average Monthly Employment (Jobs Worked) and Total Wages in Wyoming by Industry, 2019 and 2020**

NAICS <sup>a</sup> Code	Industry	Average Monthly Employment				Total Wages (in Millions of Dollars)			
		2019	2020	Change		2019	2020	Change	
				N	%			\$	%
<b>Private Sector</b>									
	<b>Total</b>	<b>211,747</b>	<b>196,728</b>	<b>-15,019</b>	<b>-7.1</b>	<b>\$10,488.1</b>	<b>\$9,880.7</b>	<b>-\$607.4</b>	<b>-5.8</b>
<b>Goods Producing Industries</b>	11 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	2,760	2,768	8	0.3	\$100.1	\$102.8	\$2.7	2.7
	21 Mining, Including Oil & Gas	20,764	16,323	-4,441	-21.4	\$1,933.9	\$1,482.9	-\$451.0	-23.3
	23 Construction	22,875	21,204	-1,671	-7.3	\$1,313.4	\$1,200.7	-\$112.7	-8.6
	31-33 Manufacturing	10,043	9,577	-466	-4.6	\$690.3	\$673.5	-\$16.8	-2.4
<b>Service Providing Industries</b>	42, 48-49, 22 Wholesale Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	20,982	19,850	-1,132	-5.4	\$1,346.9	\$1,266.1	-\$80.8	-6.0
	44-45 Retail Trade	28,920	28,676	-243	-0.8	\$869.1	\$909.9	\$40.8	4.7
	51 Information	3,424	3,000	-424	-12.4	\$167.9	\$163.4	-\$4.5	-2.7
	52-53 Financial Activities	11,180	10,909	-271	-2.4	\$680.3	\$702.7	\$22.4	3.3
	54-56 Professional & Business Services	19,196	18,353	-843	-4.4	\$1,079.9	\$1,104.6	\$24.8	2.3
	61 Educational Services	1,706	1,648	-58	-3.4	\$58.6	\$66.3	\$7.8	13.3
	62 Health Care & Social Assistance	25,619	25,271	-348	-1.4	\$1,146.0	\$1,181.0	\$35.0	3.1
	71-72 Leisure & Hospitality	37,041	32,264	-4,778	-12.9	\$814.7	\$743.5	-\$71.2	-8.7
	81 Other Services, Except Public Admin.	7,188	6,764	-424	-5.9	\$282.2	\$272.1	-\$10.1	-3.6
	99 Unclassified	50	121	71	58.8	\$4.8	\$11.1	\$6.3	56.8
<b>Government</b>									
	<b>Total</b>	<b>65,368</b>	<b>64,152</b>	<b>-1,216</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>\$3,334.5</b>	<b>\$3,418.7</b>	<b>\$84.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>
	Federal Government	7,556	7,785	228	3.0	\$517.6	\$547.6	\$30.1	5.8
	State Government	12,477	12,512	35	0.3	\$712.4	\$721.2	\$8.7	1.2
	Local Government	45,335	43,855	-1,479	-3.3	\$2,104.6	\$2,149.9	\$45.3	2.2
	Local Educational Services	22,611	21,714	-897	-4.0	\$977.1	\$986.4	\$9.3	1.0
	Local Health Care & Social Assistance	8,671	8,844	172	2.0	\$551.1	\$585.1	\$34.0	6.2
<b>Total, All Industries</b>									
	<b>Total</b>	<b>277,115</b>	<b>260,880</b>	<b>-16,235</b>	<b>-5.9</b>	<b>\$13,822.6</b>	<b>\$13,299.4</b>	<b>-\$523.2</b>	<b>-3.8</b>

<sup>a</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/16/21.

-7.3%), wholesale trade, transportation, warehousing, & utilities (-1,132, or -5.4%), and professional & business services (-843, or -4.4%). Local government lost 1,479 jobs (-3.3%), while federal government added 228 (3.0%). Employment in state government remained largely unchanged (35, or 0.3%).

### Mining, Including Oil & Gas (NAICS 21)

Wyoming's economy is driven in large

part by the mining industry. As previously mentioned, both recent downturns were preceded by declining energy prices and job losses in Wyoming's mining sector. Similarly, Wyoming experienced three consecutive quarters of job losses in mining from 2019Q3 to 2020Q1, even before the onset of the pandemic (Moore, 2021; see Figures 2.3 and 2.4, page 13).

The mining industry is made up of three subsectors: oil & gas extraction

**Table 2.3: Average Monthly Employment and Total Wages for Mining, Including Oil & Gas (NAICS 21) in Wyoming, 2019 and 2020**

NAICS <sup>a</sup> Code	Title	Average Monthly Employment				Total Wages (in Millions of Dollars)			
		2019	2020	Change		2019	2020	Change	
				N	%			\$	%
<b>21</b>	<b>Mining, Quarrying, &amp; Oil &amp; Gas Extraction</b>	<b>20,764</b>	<b>16,323</b>	<b>-4,441</b>	<b>-21.4</b>	<b>\$1,933.9</b>	<b>\$1,482.9</b>	<b>-\$451.0</b>	<b>-23.3</b>
211	Oil & Gas Extraction	2,939	2,757	-183	-6.2	\$361.8	\$323.8	-\$38.0	-10.5
211120	Crude Petroleum Extraction	1,668	1,444	-224	-13.4	\$203.9	\$163.5	-\$40.5	-19.9
211130	Natural Gas Extraction	1,272	1,313	41	3.2	\$157.9	\$160.4	\$2.5	1.6
212	Mining, Except Oil & Gas	7,844	7,509	-335	-4.3	\$745.7	\$700.5	-\$45.2	-6.1
2121	Coal Mining	5,102	4,781	-322	-6.3	\$479.0	\$438.8	-\$40.2	-8.4
2122	Metal Ore Mining	104	97	-7	-6.4	\$10.1	\$9.5	-\$0.6	-6.1
2123	Nonmetallic Mineral Mining & Quarrying	2,638	2,632	-6	-0.2	\$256.6	\$252.3	-\$4.3	-1.7
213	Support Activities For Mining	9,981	6,057	-3,924	-39.3	\$826.4	\$458.6	-\$367.9	-44.5
213111	Drilling Oil & Gas Wells	1,683	764	-919	-54.6	\$156.4	\$67.4	-\$89.0	-56.9
213112	Support Activities For Oil & Gas Operations	7,971	5,012	-2,959	-37.1	\$647.6	\$371.3	-\$276.3	-42.7
213113	Support Activities For Coal Mining	193	152	-41	-21.1	\$11.4	\$8.9	-\$2.5	-22.2
213114	Support Activities For Metal Mining	73	61	-12	-16.9	\$6.8	\$5.6	-\$1.2	-17.2
213115	Support Activities For Nonmetallic Minerals	61	68	7	11.6	\$4.2	\$5.4	\$1.1	26.6

<sup>a</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

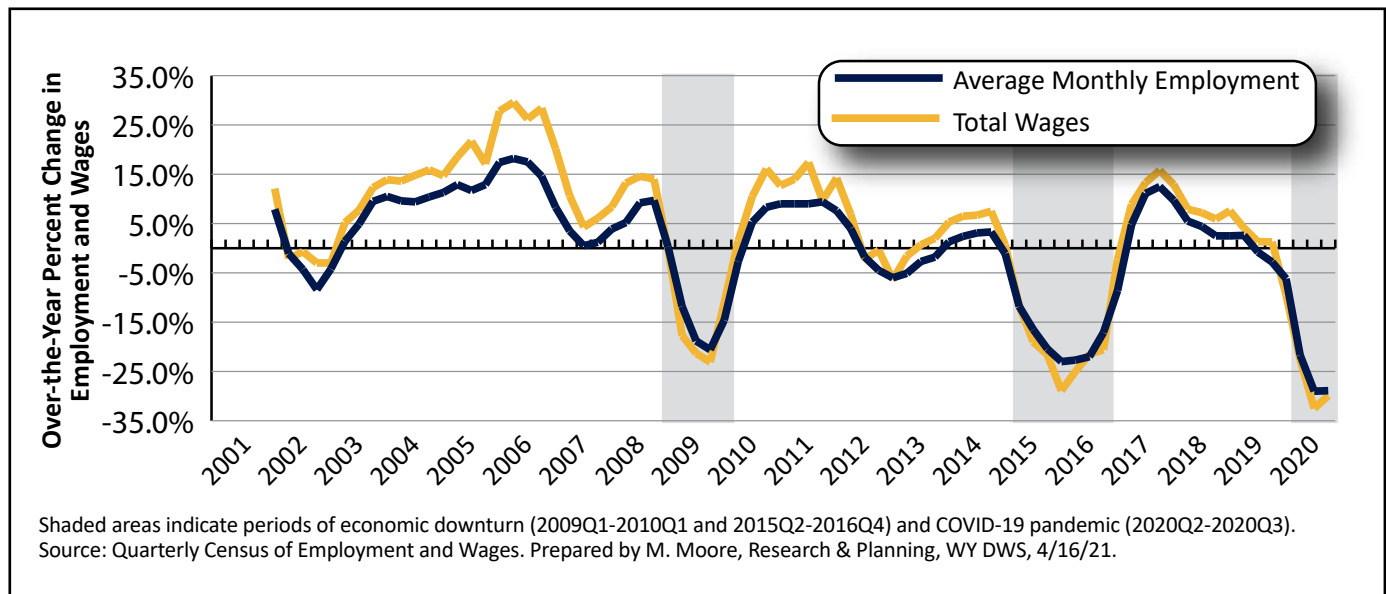
Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/16/21.



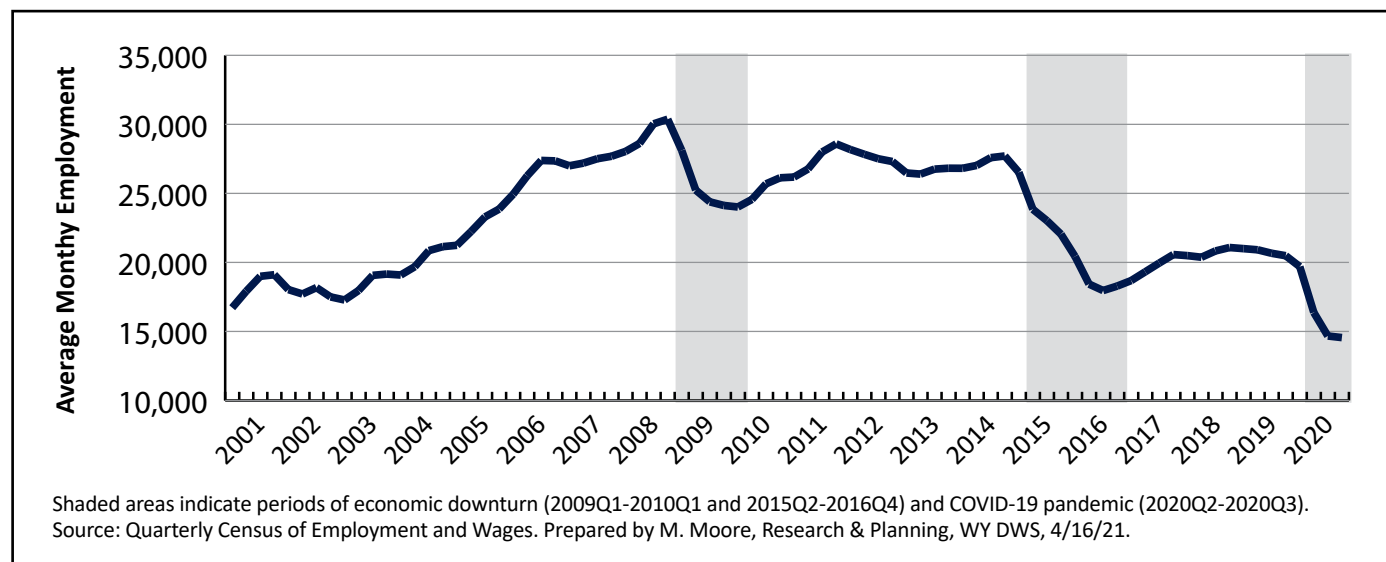
(NAICS 211), mining, except oil & gas (NAICS 212), and support activities for mining (NAICS 213). Employment data for mining at the subsector (three-digit NAICS) level, along with data for selected industries (four-digit NAICS) and detailed industries (six-digit NAICS) are shown in Table 2.3 (see page 12).

Overall, average annual employment

in mining decreased from 20,764 in 2019 to 16,323 in 2020 (-4,441 jobs, or -21.4%). Job losses were seen across all three subsectors, led by support activities for mining (NAICS 213; -3,924, or -39.3%), which includes activities such as drilling oil & gas wells. Oil & gas extraction (NAICS 211) lost 183 jobs (-6.2%), and mining, except oil & gas (NAICS 212) lost 335 jobs (-4.3%). Employment in coal



**Figure 2.3: Over-the-Year Percent Change in Average Monthly Employment and Total Wages in Mining, Including Oil & Gas (NAICS 21) in Wyoming, 2002Q1-2020Q3**



**Figure 2.4: Average Monthly Employment in Mining, Including Oil & Gas (NAICS 21) in Wyoming, 2001Q1-2020Q3**

mining (NAICS 2121) decreased by 322 jobs (-6.3%).

Total annual wages in mining fell from \$1.9 billion to \$1.5 billion (-\$451.0 million, or -23.3%). Mining accounted for 11.2% of the state's total wages in 2020; as recently as 2015Q1, mining had contributed as

much as 19.0% of the state's total wages, or \$1 of every \$5 (Research & Planning, 2020b).

### Leisure & Hospitality (NAICS 71-72)

The leisure & hospitality supersector is comprised of two sectors: arts, entertainment,

**Table 2.4: Average Monthly Employment and Total Wages in Private Leisure & Hospitality (NAICS 71-72) by Subsector (3-Digit) and Industry (4-Digit) in Wyoming, 2019 and 2020**

NAICS <sup>a</sup> Code	Industry	Average Monthly Employment				Total Wages (in Millions of Dollars)			
		2019	2020	Change		2019	2020	Change	
				N	%			\$	%
<b>71-72</b>	<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>37,041</b>	<b>32,264</b>	<b>-4,778</b>	<b>-12.9</b>	<b>\$814.7</b>	<b>\$743.5</b>	<b>-\$71.2</b>	<b>-8.7</b>
<b>71</b>	<b>Arts, Entertainment, &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>3,609</b>	<b>3,253</b>	<b>-356</b>	<b>-9.9</b>	<b>\$85.4</b>	<b>\$83.8</b>	<b>-\$1.6</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
711	Performing Arts & Spectator Sports	516	418	-98	-19.0	\$14.1	\$14.1	\$0.1	0.7
7111	Performing Arts Companies	140	130	-10	-6.8	\$2.9	\$3.3	\$0.4	14.7
7112	Spectator Sports	43	39	-3	-8.0	\$0.9	\$1.0	\$0.1	12.8
7113	Promoters Of Performing Arts & Sports	230	156	-75	-32.4	\$5.3	\$4.6	-\$0.8	-14.5
7114	Agents & Managers For Public Figures	5	5	0	5.0	\$1.4	\$0.9	-\$0.5	-33.9
7115	Independent Artists, Writers, & Performers	98	88	-11	-10.9	\$3.6	\$4.4	\$0.8	22.2
712	Museums, Historical Sites, Zoos, & Parks	411	381	-30	-7.2	\$13.4	\$13.7	\$0.3	1.9
7121	Museums, Historical Sites, Zoos, & Parks	411	381	-30	-7.2	\$13.4	\$13.7	\$0.3	1.9
713	Amusements, Gambling, & Recreation	2,682	2,454	-229	-8.5	\$58.0	\$56.0	-\$1.9	-3.3
7131	Amusement Parks & Arcades	28	23	-5	-18.0	\$0.3	\$0.3	\$0.0	3.2
7132	Gambling Industries	168	164	-4	-2.4	\$3.9	\$4.3	\$0.4	9.3
7139	Other Amusement & Recreation Industries	2,486	2,266	-219	-8.8	\$53.8	\$51.5	-\$2.3	-4.3
<b>72</b>	<b>Accommodation &amp; Food Services</b>	<b>33,432</b>	<b>29,011</b>	<b>-4,422</b>	<b>-13.2</b>	<b>\$729.3</b>	<b>\$659.6</b>	<b>-\$69.6</b>	<b>-9.6</b>
721	Accommodation	12,408	9,596	-2,812	-22.7	\$348.3	\$297.2	-\$51.1	-14.7
7211	Traveler Accommodation	11,074	8,474	-2,601	-23.5	\$301.9	\$250.9	-\$51.0	-16.9
7212	RV Parks & Recreational Camps	1,155	968	-187	-16.2	\$35.4	\$32.4	-\$3.0	-8.5
7213	Rooming & Boarding Houses	178	154	-24	-13.7	\$11.0	\$13.9	\$2.9	26.8
722	Food Services & Drinking Places	21,024	19,415	-1,609	-7.7	\$381.0	\$362.4	-\$18.6	-4.9
7223	Special Food Services	464	381	-83	-17.8	\$10.2	\$9.0	-\$1.2	-11.9
7224	Drinking Places, Alcoholic Beverages	2,000	1,807	-193	-9.6	\$32.9	\$31.3	-\$1.5	-4.7
7225	Restaurants & Other Eating Places	18,561	17,227	-1,334	-7.2	\$338.0	\$322.1	-\$15.8	-4.7

<sup>a</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

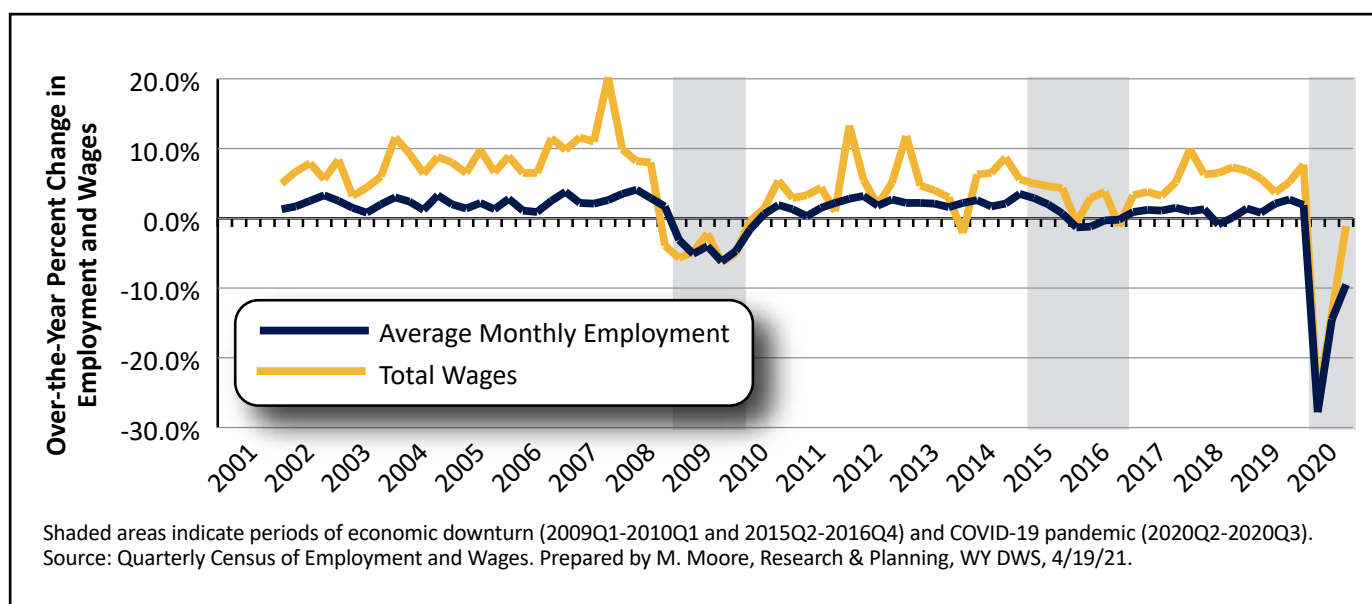
Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/16/21.

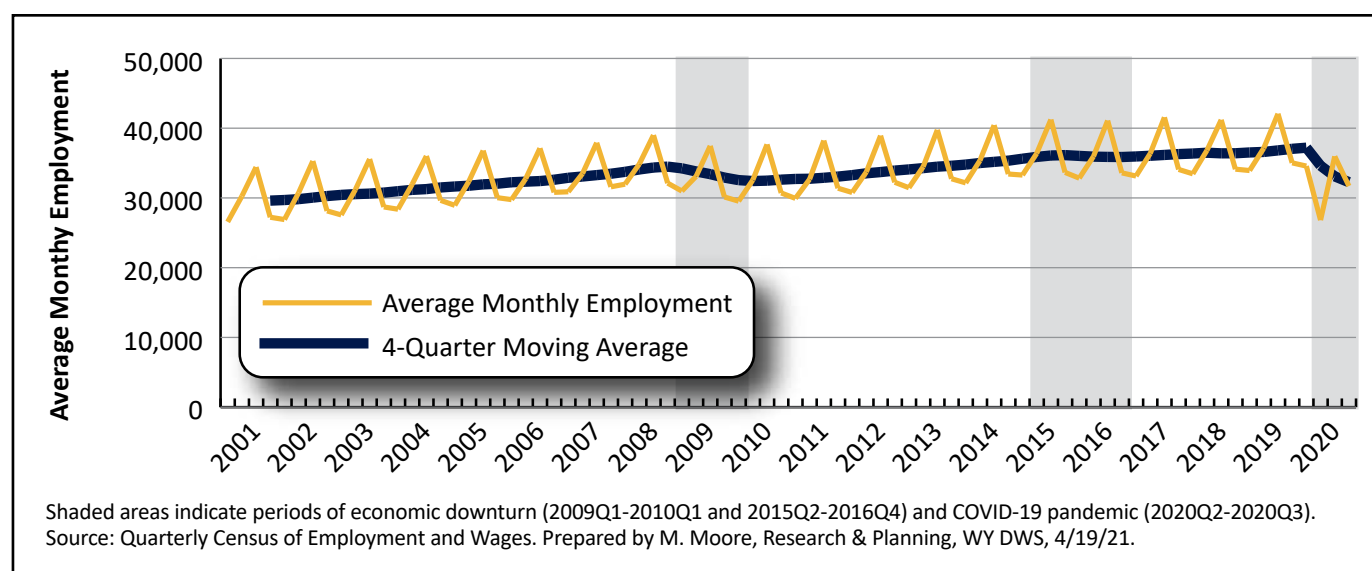
& recreation (NAICS 71) and accommodation & food services (NAICS 72; see Table 2.4, page 14). Average monthly employment in leisure & hospitality decreased from 37,041 in 2019 to 32,264 in 2020 (-4,778, or -12.9%). Substantial job losses were seen during the first two quarters of the pandemic, as employment fell over the year by 10,319 jobs (-27.8%) in 2020Q2 and 6,107 jobs

(-14.5%) in 2020Q3 (see Figures 2.5 and 2.6). Total annual wages in leisure & hospitality decreased by \$71.2 million (-8.7%).

As previously discussed, leisure & hospitality lost substantially more jobs than any other industry during 2020Q2. On March 20, a state health order called for the closure of “schools, theaters,



**Figure 2.5: Over-the-Year Percent Change in Average Monthly Employment and Total Wages in Leisure & Hospitality (NAICS 71-72) in Wyoming, 2002Q1-2020Q4**



**Figure 2.6: Average Monthly Employment in Mining, Including Oil & Gas (NAICS 21) in Wyoming, 2001Q1-2020Q4**

bars, nightclubs, coffee shops, employee cafeterias, self-serve buffets, salad bars, unpackaged self-serve food services, gyms, conference rooms and museums” through April 3, which was then extended through April 30 (Gordon, 2020). Many of these types of businesses are classified in the leisure & hospitality supersector.

Substantial over-the-year job losses were seen in accommodation (NAICS 721; -2,812, or -22.7%) and food services & drinking places (NAICS 722; -1,609, or -7.7%). Employment in restaurants & other eating places (NAICS 7225) decreased from 18,561 in 2019 to 17,227 in 2020 (-1,334, or -7.2%).

Leisure & hospitality in Wyoming historically has been somewhat immune to the sizable increases and decreases in employment seen during periods of rapid growth and contraction in industries such as mining and construction. Prior to the onset of the pandemic in 2020Q2, leisure & hospitality had never experienced an over-the-year decline in employment of more than 6.2% in any quarter over the last 20 years (2009Q4; see Figure 2.5, page 15).

Wyoming’s leisure & hospitality industry had largely seen slow, steady growth in employment over the last

**Table 2.5: Average Monthly Employment and Total Wages in Wyoming by County of Employment, 2019-2020**

County	Average Monthly Employment				Total Wages (in Millions of Dollars)			
	2019	2020	Change		2019	2020	Change	
			N	%			\$	%
Albany	15,674	15,363	-311	-2.0	\$656.7	\$685.1	\$28.4	4.3
Big Horn	4,119	4,096	-24	-0.6	\$168.9	\$177.6	\$8.7	5.1
Campbell	25,178	23,369	-1,809	-7.2	\$1,497.0	\$1,365.4	-\$131.5	-8.8
Carbon	7,045	6,898	-147	-2.1	\$351.1	\$361.6	\$10.6	3.0
Converse	7,346	6,178	-1,168	-15.9	\$431.3	\$360.4	-\$70.9	-16.4
Crook	2,468	2,484	16	0.6	\$112.9	\$117.7	\$4.8	4.2
Fremont	15,215	14,630	-584	-3.8	\$642.5	\$640.6	-\$1.8	-0.3
Goshen	4,154	4,005	-149	-3.6	\$161.2	\$162.5	\$1.3	0.8
Hot Springs	1,860	1,832	-28	-1.5	\$71.5	\$72.0	\$0.4	0.6
Johnson	3,227	3,048	-179	-5.6	\$125.7	\$124.1	-\$1.5	-1.2
Laramie	46,847	45,551	-1,296	-2.8	\$2,285.7	\$2,314.9	\$29.2	1.3
Lincoln	6,501	6,537	36	0.5	\$316.0	\$331.0	\$15.0	4.7
Natrona	39,131	36,487	-2,645	-6.8	\$2,035.5	\$1,852.9	-\$182.7	-9.0
Niobrara	868	851	-17	-2.0	\$32.5	\$33.3	\$0.8	2.5
Park	13,740	12,959	-781	-5.7	\$574.3	\$568.4	-\$5.8	-1.0
Platte	3,563	3,399	-164	-4.6	\$170.2	\$154.3	-\$15.9	-9.4
Sheridan	13,435	13,212	-223	-1.7	\$590.2	\$609.4	\$19.2	3.2
Sublette	3,978	3,638	-340	-8.6	\$223.4	\$199.1	-\$24.4	-10.9
Sweetwater	22,293	20,123	-2,170	-9.7	\$1,343.8	\$1,192.2	-\$151.6	-11.3
Teton	21,429	19,099	-2,330	-10.9	\$1,105.1	\$1,143.4	\$38.3	3.5
Uinta	8,292	7,846	-446	-5.4	\$348.5	\$334.9	-\$13.6	-3.9
Washakie	3,518	3,467	-51	-1.4	\$149.8	\$154.6	\$4.8	3.2
Weston	2,345	2,271	-74	-3.2	\$99.9	\$103.4	\$3.5	3.6
Nonclassified	4,892	3,539	-1,353	-27.7	\$328.8	\$240.4	-\$88.4	-26.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>277,115</b>	<b>260,880</b>	<b>-16,235</b>	<b>-5.9</b>	<b>\$13,822.6</b>	<b>\$13,299.4</b>	<b>-\$523.2</b>	<b>-3.8</b>

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/19/21.

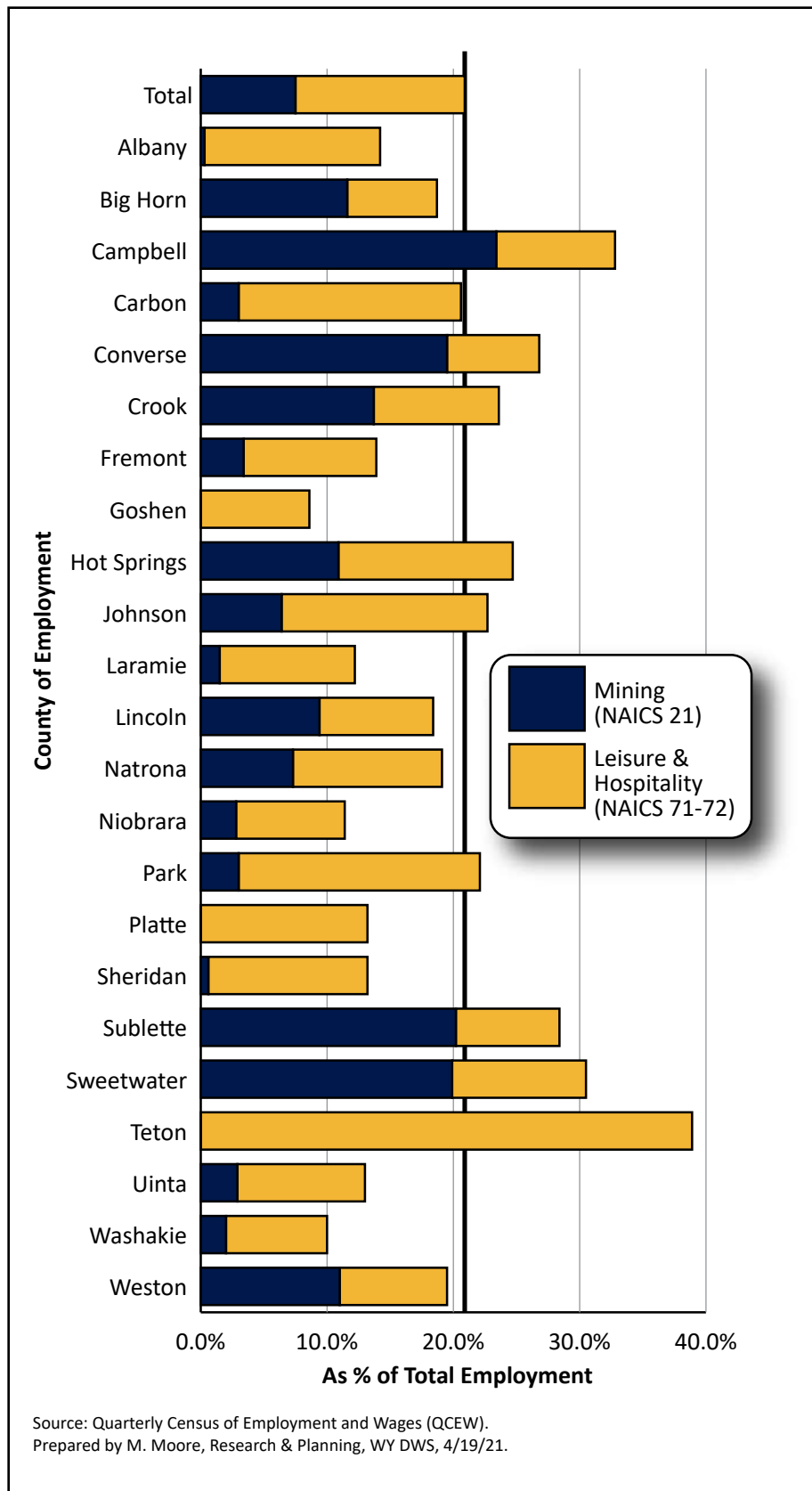


decade, with relatively few job losses during the 2015 downturn (see Figure 2.6, page 15).

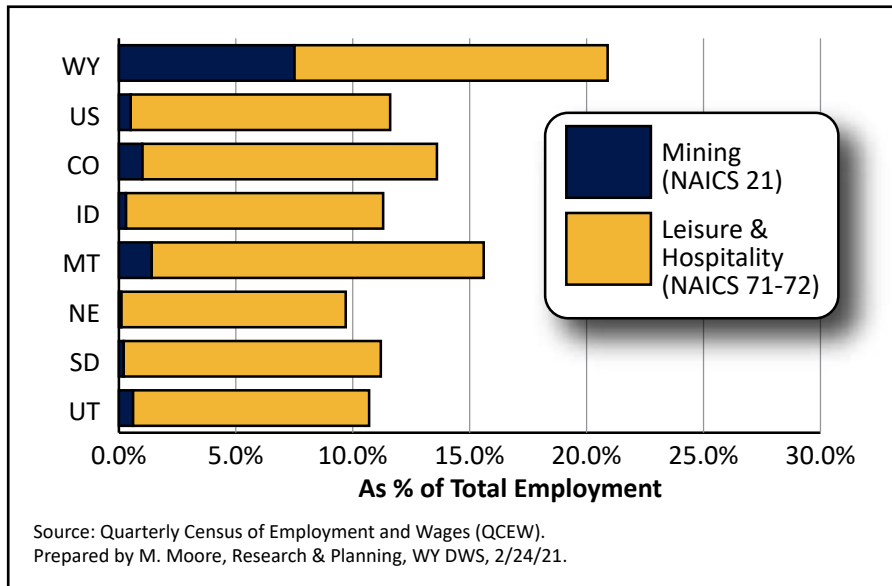
### County

Employment decreased in nearly all counties from 2019 to 2020, with the largest decreases seen in Natrona (-2,645, or -6.8%), Teton (-2,330, or -10.9%), Sweetwater (-2,170, or -9.7%), and Campbell (-1,809, or -7.2%) counties (see Table 2.5, page 16).

The counties with the greatest losses of employment and wages generally were those in which mining or leisure & hospitality typically account for a relatively large proportion of total jobs (see Figure 2.7). On average, mining accounted for 7.5% of all jobs in the state and leisure & hospitality accounted for 13.4% in 2019, for a combined 20.8%. In other words, these two industries accounted for approximately one in five jobs in Wyoming in 2019. Teton County, where leisure & hospitality made up 38.9% of all jobs in 2019, lost 2,330 jobs over the year, or -10.9%. In Campbell County, where mining and leisure & hospitality made up 32.8% of all jobs, total



**Figure 2.7: Mining (NAICS 21) and Leisure & Hospitality (NAICS 71-72) as a Percent of Total Employment in Wyoming by County, 2019**

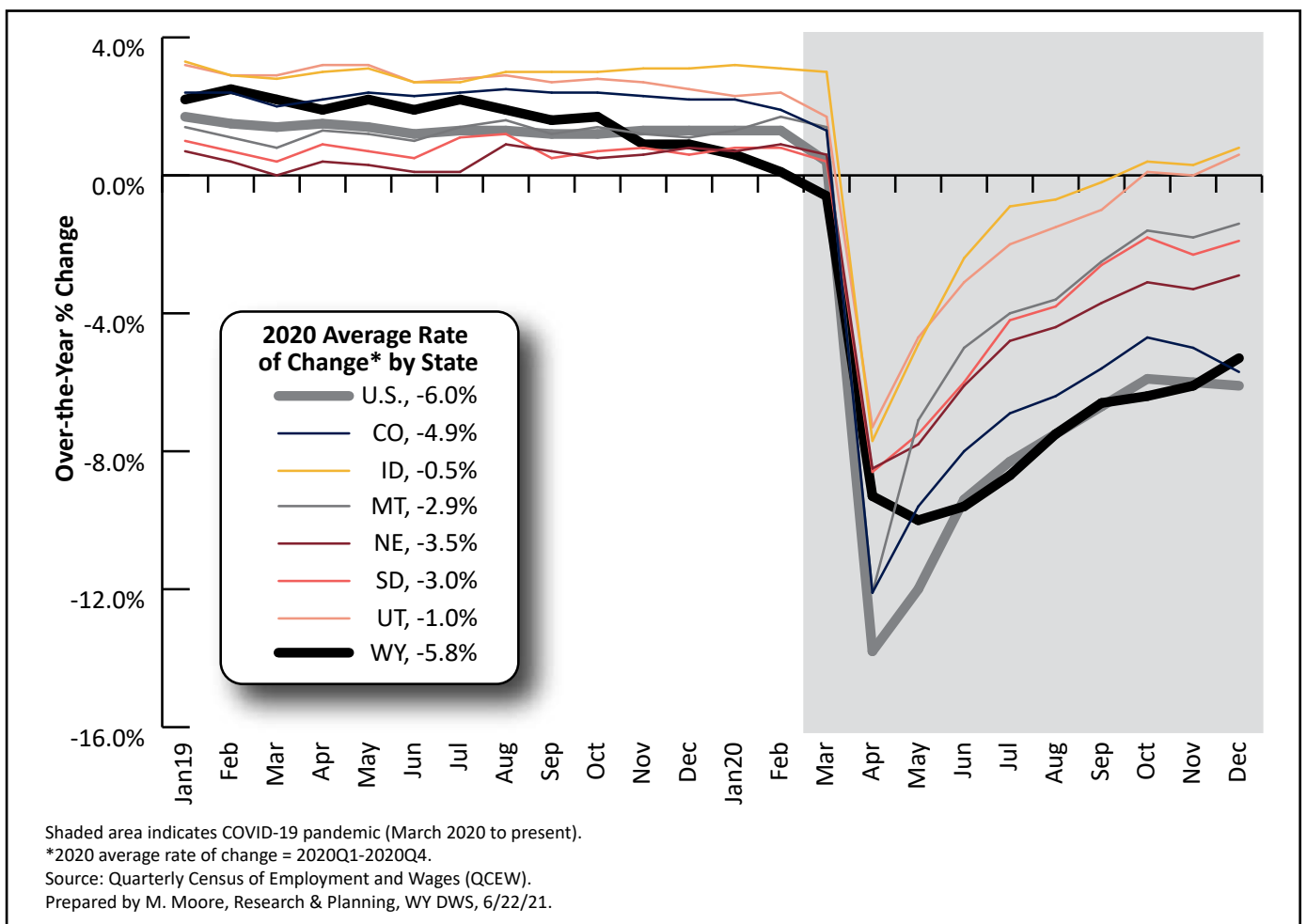


wages decreased by \$131.5, or -8.8%.

### Surrounding States

In 2019, mining and leisure & hospitality combined made up 20.8% of total employment in Wyoming, more than the national average or any surrounding state (see Figure 2.8). Mining made up 1.4% of Montana's total employment

**Figure 2.8: Mining (NAICS 21) and Leisure & Hospitality (NAICS 71-72) as a Percent of Total Employment in Wyoming, the U.S., and Surrounding States, 2019**



**Figure 2.9: Over-the-Year Percent Change in Average Monthly Employment (Number of Jobs Worked) in Wyoming, Surrounding States, and the U.S., January 2019 to December 2020**

compared to 7.5% in Wyoming, and Montana was the only surrounding state in which leisure & hospitality accounted for a greater percentage of total employment (14.2%) compared to Wyoming (13.4%). Wyoming lost jobs at a greater rate during the course of the pandemic (-5.8%) than any surrounding state (see Figure 2.9, page 18).

## Conclusion

Wyoming experienced unprecedented job losses in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued decline of energy prices. The mining and leisure & hospitality industries lost the greatest number of jobs, as did the counties in which those industries make up substantial employment. Job losses persisted at greater rates in Wyoming than in surrounding states like Idaho, Utah, and Montana.

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## ► Find it Online

**Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages for Wyoming**

[https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/toc\\_202.htm](https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/toc_202.htm)

**Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages by State**

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## Chapter 3: Population Estimates

### Wyoming Population Grows from 2010 to 2020

by: Michael Moore, Editor

Wyoming's estimated resident population in 2020 was 582,328, up from 580,116 in 2019 (2,212, or 0.4%) and from 564,531 in 2010 (17,797, or 3.2%), according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau (2021; see Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1)<sup>1</sup>.

Two factors contribute to population change: *natural change* (the number of births minus the number of deaths) and *net migration* (the number of people moving into Wyoming minus the number moving out; Liu, 2021). Over the decade, Wyoming's natural increase was about 25,000 (72,000 births minus 47,000 deaths), but *net migration* (in-migration minus out-migration) was about -11,775. This means that nearly 12,000 more residents left Wyoming than moved into the state from 2010 to 2020. Liu

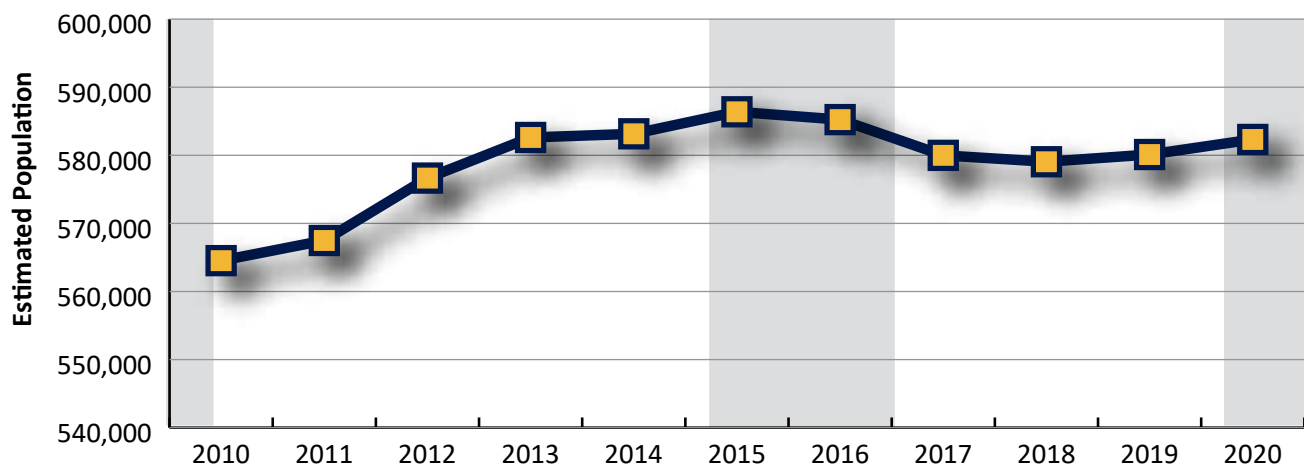
noted that Wyoming had the seventh slowest growth rate in the U.S., and the state's slowest growth rate since the 1980s.

**Table 3.1: Wyoming's Estimated Resident Population and Over-the-Year Change, 2010-2020**

Year	Population	Over-the-Year Change	
		N	%
2010	564,531		
2011	567,491	2,960	0.5
2012	576,656	9,165	1.6
2013	582,620	5,964	1.0
2014	583,159	539	0.1
2015	586,389	3,230	0.6
2016	585,243	-1,146	-0.2
2017	579,994	-5,249	-0.9
2018	579,054	-940	-0.2
2019	580,116	1,062	0.2
2020	582,328	2,212	0.4
<b>Change, 2019-2020</b>		<b>2,212</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Change, 2010-2020</b>		<b>17,797</b>	<b>3.2</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.  
Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/10/21.

<sup>1</sup> The data presented in this chapter are annual estimates, which may differ from official 2020 Census results.



Shaded areas indicate periods of economic downturn (2009Q1-2010Q1 and 2015Q2-2016Q4) and COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020-present).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/10/21.

**Figure 3.1: Estimated Resident Population of Wyoming, 2010-2020**



Over the year, the greatest population increases were seen in Natrona (1,081, or 1.4%), Laramie (730, or 0.7%), and Lincoln (319, or 1.6%) counties. The greatest decreases were seen in Sweetwater (-244, or -0.6%), Big Horn (-171, or -1.5%), and Fremont (-150, or -0.4%) counties (see Table 3.2).

From 2010 to 2020, the counties that saw the greatest percentage increases in population were Lincoln (2,147, or 11.9%), Teton (2,199, or 10.3%), and Laramie (8,710, or 9.5%) counties. The greatest percentage decreases were seen in some of Wyoming's least populous counties, including Washakie (-768, or -9.0%), Niobrara (-209, or -8.4%), and Hot Springs (-387, -8.0%) counties.

## References

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**Table 3.2: Resident Population Estimates for Wyoming by County, 2010-2020**

County	2010	2019	2020	Change 2019-2020		Change 2010-2020	
				N	%	N	%
Albany	36,299	38,819	38,950	131	0.3	2,651	7.3
Big Horn	11,669	11,746	11,575	-171	-1.5	-94	-0.8
Campbell	46,133	46,420	46,676	256	0.6	543	1.2
Carbon	15,884	14,832	14,711	-121	-0.8	-1,173	-7.4
Converse	13,833	13,865	13,804	-61	-0.4	-29	-0.2
Crook	7,080	7,573	7,593	20	0.3	513	7.2
Fremont	40,123	39,467	39,317	-150	-0.4	-806	-2.0
Goshen	13,247	13,225	13,235	10	0.1	-12	-0.1
Hot Springs	4,812	4,415	4,425	10	0.2	-387	-8.0
Johnson	8,569	8,548	8,588	40	0.5	19	0.2
Laramie	91,885	99,865	100,595	730	0.7	8,710	9.5
Lincoln	18,106	19,934	20,253	319	1.6	2,147	11.9
Natrona	75,448	79,734	80,815	1,081	1.4	5,367	7.1
Niobrara	2,484	2,340	2,275	-65	-2.8	-209	-8.4
Park	28,207	29,192	29,331	139	0.5	1,124	4.0
Platte	8,667	8,475	8,578	103	1.2	-89	-1.0
Sheridan	29,124	30,597	30,863	266	0.9	1,739	6.0
Sublette	10,244	9,867	9,856	-11	-0.1	-388	-3.8
Sweetwater	43,806	42,917	42,673	-244	-0.6	-1,133	-2.6
Teton	21,298	23,385	23,497	112	0.5	2,199	10.3
Uinta	21,121	20,196	20,215	19	0.1	-906	-4.3
Washakie	8,528	7,824	7,760	-64	-0.8	-768	-9.0
Weston	7,208	6,880	6,743	-137	-2.0	-465	-6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>563,775</b>	<b>580,116</b>	<b>582,328</b>	<b>2,212</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>18,553</b>	<b>3.3</b>

Source: Annual Resident Population Estimates, Estimated Components of Resident Population Change, and Rates of the Components of Resident Population Change for States and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2020. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/10/21.

## Chapter 4: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

### Unemployment Rate Increases in All Wyoming Counties

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

Wyoming's average annual unemployment rate for 2020 was 5.8%, up from 3.7% in 2019

(see Table 4.1). The large increase can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and a substantial decline in energy prices.

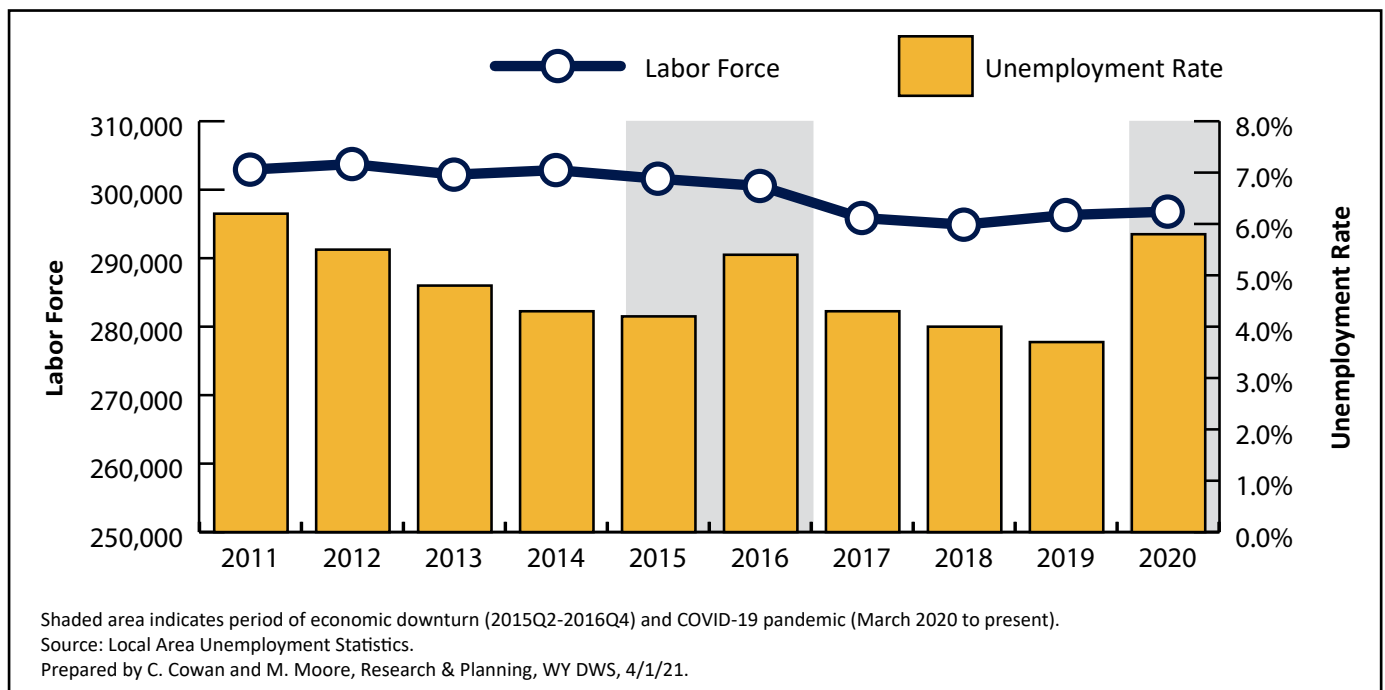
Over the last 10 years, the unemployment rate steadily declined from a high of 6.2% in 2011 to 4.2% in 2015 (see Figure 4.1). In 2016, the unemployment rate increased to 5.4% after large layoffs in Wyoming's energy sector. The unemployment rate dropped to 4.3% in 2017, which was associated with a large decline in the labor force that continued in 2018. Wyoming's labor force saw a steady decline from a high of 303,748 in 2012 to 294,892 in 2018. Wyoming's labor force then increased over the next two years, rising to 296,801 in 2020.

**Table 4.1: Wyoming Labor Force and Unemployment Rate, 2011-2020**

Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2011	302,932	284,273	18,659	6.2
2012	303,748	287,110	16,638	5.5
2013	302,201	287,792	14,409	4.8
2014	302,865	289,694	13,171	4.3
2015	301,608	288,894	12,714	4.2
2016	300,546	284,439	16,107	5.4
2017	295,869	283,165	12,704	4.3
2018	294,892	282,956	11,936	4.0
2019	296,299	285,292	11,007	3.7
2020	296,801	279,462	17,339	5.8

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

Prepared by C. Cowan, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/30/21.



**Figure 4.1: Wyoming Labor Force and Unemployment Rate, 2011-2020**

In 2020, Niobrara (3.8%), Crook (3.9%), and Weston (3.9%) counties had the lowest average annual unemployment

rates (see Table 4.2). Natrona (7.8%), Sweetwater (7.4%), and Sublette (7.2%) counties had the highest average annual unemployment rates. The counties with the lowest unemployment rates were rural counties, whereas the counties with the largest unemployment rates were heavily dependent on the energy sector.

**Table 4.2: Wyoming Unemployment Rate by County, 2019-2020**

County	2019	2020	% Point Change
Albany	3.2	4.0	0.8
Big Horn	4.4	5.0	0.6
Campbell	3.8	6.9	3.1
Carbon	3.5	4.5	1.0
Converse	2.9	6.0	3.1
Crook	3.3	3.9	0.6
Fremont	4.5	6.2	1.7
Goshen	3.8	4.3	0.5
Hot Springs	3.5	5.0	1.5
Johnson	3.7	5.5	1.8
Laramie	3.5	5.1	1.6
Lincoln	3.4	5.0	1.6
Natrona	4.0	7.8	3.8
Niobrara	2.8	3.8	1.0
Park	4.2	5.4	1.2
Platte	3.6	5.0	1.4
Sheridan	3.6	4.9	1.3
Sublette	4.7	7.2	2.5
Sweetwater	4.0	7.4	3.4
Teton	2.8	6.0	3.2
Uinta	4.0	6.3	2.3
Washakie	4.1	5.3	1.2
Weston	3.0	3.9	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>2.1</b>

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

Prepared by C. Cowan, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/30/21.

All counties saw increases in their average annual unemployment rates from the previous year due to the pandemic. The counties that showed the largest increase in percentage point changes were Natrona County (3.8%), Sweetwater County (3.4%), and Teton County (3.2%). Natrona and Sweetwater counties are both largely dependent on mining, while Teton County is largely dependent on leisure & hospitality.

The smallest increases were seen in rural counties such as Goshen (0.5%), Big Horn (0.6%), and Crook (0.6%).

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Local Area Unemployment Statistics

<https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/LAUS.htm>

## Box 4.1: Calculating the Unemployment Rate

The *unemployment rate* is one of the most important economic indicators on which to measure the health of economies. The unemployment rate is calculated by taking the number of unemployed and dividing it by the total number of people in the labor force. The *labor force* is defined as the number of employed plus the number of unemployed individuals. Individuals less than 16 years of age, inmates of institutions, or members of the Armed Forces are excluded from the labor force, as are people who don't have a job and are not looking for employment. The number of unemployed is counted by place of residence. If a person loses their job in Wyoming and moves out of state, they are not included in Wyoming's unemployment rate, but in the state to which they moved.

## Chapter 5: Unemployment Insurance — Annual Data

### UI Benefit Recipients, Payments Reach Historic High in 2020

by: Sherry Wen, Principal Economist

Wyoming experienced a record high number of Unemployment Insurance (UI) recipients and benefit payments in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic-related business closures and restrictions, along with declining energy prices. The number of regular UI benefit exhaustees also increased significantly in 2020 compared with the previous year. This chapter examines selected UI statistics and provides additional information for a better understanding of Wyoming's current economy.

#### Benefit Recipients and Exhaustees

Statewide, a total of 43,630 unemployed workers received UI benefits in 2020, an increase of 231.9% (or more than three times higher) from the previous year's level of 13,144 (see Figure 5.1, page 25). This marked the highest level of UI claims in the past 24 years for which comparable data are available. The numbers discussed in this chapter include regular UI-covered unemployed workers

and those individuals who were not covered by UI, but received unemployment benefits through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

The number of UI recipients who exhausted their eligible regular UI

benefits increased by 330.4%, from 2,163 exhaustees in 2019 to 9,309 in 2020. The exhaustion rate increased from 16.5% in 2019 to 22.5% in 2020. These statistics indicate that a larger number of Wyoming workers experienced job losses and needed to collect UI benefits as their temporary financial

**Table 5.1: Unemployment Insurance Recipients in Wyoming by County of Residence of Claimant, 2019 and 2020**

County	2019		2020		Change, 2019-2020	
	N	Column %	N	Column %	N	Row %
Albany	353	2.7	1,247	2.9	894	253.3
Big Horn	196	1.5	403	0.9	207	105.6
Campbell	1,024	7.8	3,840	8.8	2,816	275.0
Carbon	236	1.8	668	1.5	432	183.1
Converse	185	1.4	925	2.1	740	400.0
Crook	118	0.9	248	0.6	130	110.2
Fremont	935	7.1	2,349	5.4	1,414	151.2
Goshen	173	1.3	405	0.9	232	134.1
Hot Springs	76	0.6	228	0.5	152	200.0
Johnson	165	1.3	423	1.0	258	156.4
Laramie	1,598	12.2	5,408	12.4	3,810	238.4
Lincoln	251	1.9	1,071	2.5	820	326.7
Natrona	1,762	13.4	7,693	17.6	5,931	336.6
Niobrara	23	0.2	59	0.1	36	156.5
Park	676	5.1	1,690	3.9	1,014	150.0
Platte	142	1.1	389	0.9	247	173.9
Sheridan	532	4.0	1,495	3.4	963	181.0
Sublette	169	1.3	552	1.3	383	226.6
Sweetwater	858	6.5	3,043	7.0	2,185	254.7
Teton	648	4.9	2,914	6.7	2,266	349.7
Uinta	272	2.1	1,054	2.4	782	287.5
Washakie	170	1.3	403	0.9	233	137.1
Weston	71	0.5	263	0.6	192	270.4
Out-of-State	2,450	18.6	6,613	15.2	4,163	169.9
Unclassified	61	0.5	247	0.6	186	304.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,144</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>43,630</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30,486</b>	<b>231.9</b>

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims database.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/1/21.

support during the pandemic. The higher number of exhaustees and exhaustion rate (number of exhaustees divided by number of UI recipients) indicates that it was more difficult for people to find reemployment in 2020.

Each county experienced a triple-digit percentage increase of UI recipients from 2019 to 2020 (see Table 5.1, page 24). Natrona County had the largest increase with 5,931 more UI recipients (336.6%), followed by Laramie (3,810, or 238.4%) and Campbell (2,816, or 275.0%) counties. Teton and Sweetwater counties also each added more than 2,000 more UI recipients in 2020.

Out-of-state UI recipients made up 15.2% of the total in 2020, the second largest share behind Natrona County (17.6%) and ahead of Laramie County (12.4%). Over the year, the number of out-of-state UI recipients increased

by 4,163, or 169.9%.

At the industry level (see Table 5.2, page 26), accommodation & food services had the greatest share of UI claimants with 7,971 individuals, or 18.3% of the total, followed by construction (6,871, or 15.7%), mining (4,939, or 11.3%), and health care & social assistance (3,774, or 8.7%). Table 5.2 also shows that four industries had more than one in five (20.0%) UI recipients who resided in another state: mining, construction, professional & technical services, and management of companies & enterprises.

Compared with the previous year, UI recipients increased by triple-digit percentages in nearly all industries (see Table 5.3, page 27). The largest increase was seen in accommodation & food services (6,228 more recipients, or 357.3%), followed by mining (3,651, or 283.5%), construction

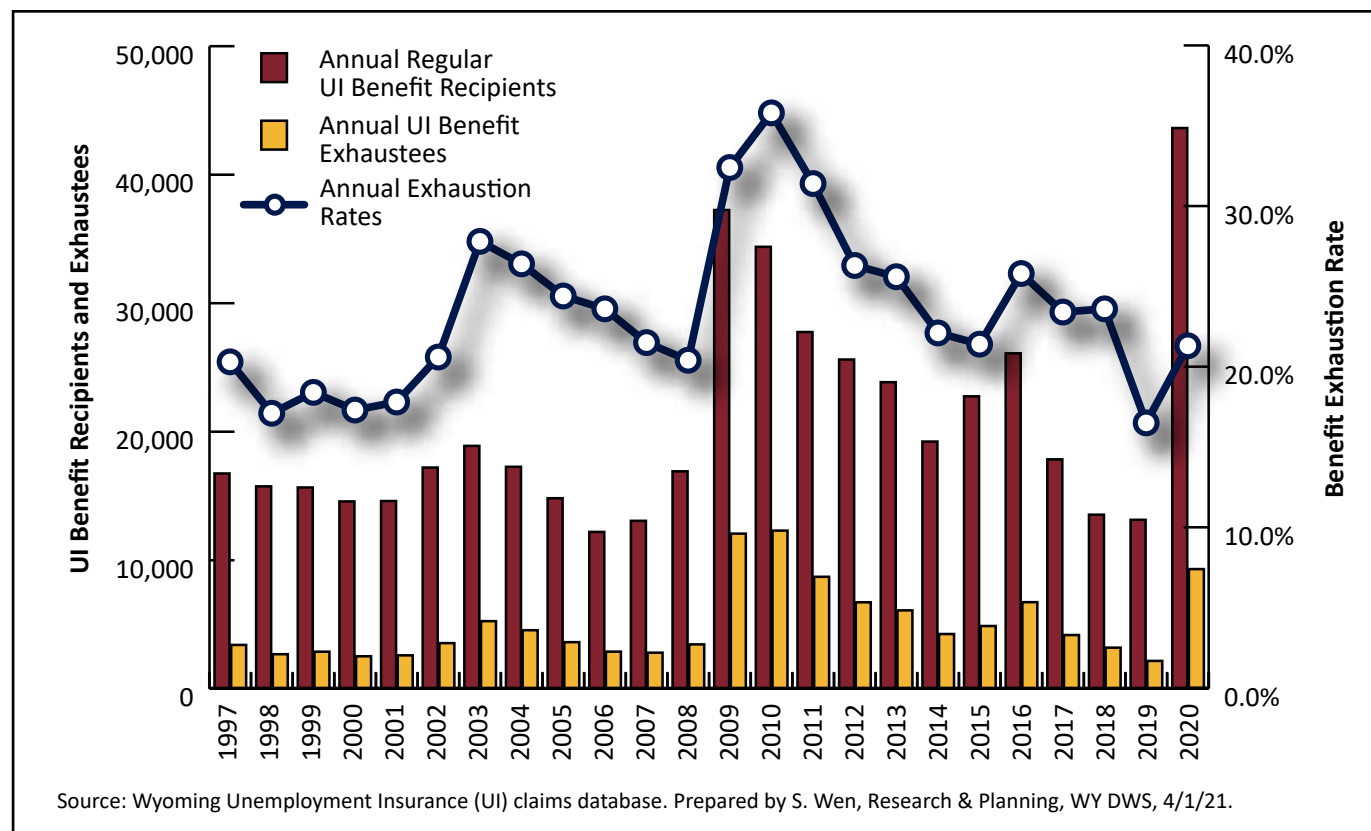


Figure 5.1: Wyoming Annual UI Benefit Recipients, Exhaustees, and Exhaustion Rates, 1997-2020



(3,170, or 85.7%), and health care & social assistance (3,056, or 425.6%).

In terms of UI exhaustion rate, at least 30.0% of all UI recipients exhausted their benefits in finance & insurance, mining, and administrative & waste services. In contrast, only 11.9% from health care & social assistance exhausted their benefits.

In summary, accommodation & food services, construction, and mining were the three industries that experienced the largest increase in UI recipients in 2020, but the UI benefit exhaustion rates for those three industries were quite different, with 19.1%, 25.1%, and 30.9%, respectively. This may indicate that most of the unemployed workers in accommodation

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**Unemployment Insurance Claims Data**

<https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI.htm>

& food services in 2020 were impacted by the temporary COVID-19 business closure executive order, while those UI recipients from mining were more impacted by long-lasting low energy prices and demands, which led to longer term or even permanent job losses.

Other demographic trends of UI recipients and the relationship with the

**Table 5.2: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients by Industry and Residency, 2020**

NAICS <sup>a</sup> Code	Industry	Wyoming Residents		Out-of-State Residents		Total	
		N	Row %	N	Row %	N	Column %
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	175	89.3	21	10.7	196	0.4
21	Mining, Quarrying, & Oil & Gas Extraction	3,674	74.4	1,265	25.6	4,939	11.3
22	Utilities	43	93.5	3	6.5	46	0.1
23	Construction	5,319	77.4	1,552	22.6	6,871	15.7
31-33	Manufacturing	1,351	94.3	82	5.7	1,433	3.3
42	Wholesale Trade	1,172	93.2	86	6.8	1,258	2.9
44-45	Retail Trade	2,926	92.3	243	7.7	3,169	7.3
48-49	Transportation & Warehousing	1,820	90.1	201	9.9	2,021	4.6
51	Information	303	91.8	27	8.2	330	0.8
52	Finance & Insurance	203	91.4	19	8.6	222	0.5
53	Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	591	89.1	72	10.9	663	1.5
54	Professional & Technical Services	840	75.1	278	24.9	1,118	2.6
55	Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	16	66.7	8	33.3	24	0.1
56	Administrative & Waste Services	1,699	89.0	210	11.0	1,909	4.4
61	Educational Services	1,210	89.6	140	10.4	1,350	3.1
62	Health Care & Social Assistance	3,579	94.8	195	5.2	3,774	8.7
71	Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	709	89.9	80	10.1	789	1.8
72	Accommodation & Food Services	6,517	81.8	1,454	18.2	7,971	18.3
81	Other Services	1,203	94.1	75	5.9	1,278	2.9
92	Public Administration	694	91.6	64	8.4	758	1.7
	Nonclassified	2,875	81.9	636	18.1	3,511	8.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>36,919</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>6,711</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>43,630</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims database.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/1/21.

UI exhaustion rates seem more consistent over time (see Table 5.4, page 28). For example, the data show that older age groups had higher exhaustion rates, which indicates in general that older unemployed workers had more difficulty finding reemployment than younger individuals in Wyoming. Table 5.4 also shows that in general, individuals with the higher wages had lower UI exhaustion rates.

A higher pre-layoff wage would qualify an individual for more weeks of UI benefits. The maximum number of weeks an individual can collect regular UI benefit in Wyoming is 26 weeks. Claimants with more eligible weeks have a lower exhaustion rate, since the longer duration provides them with more time to find a job

before exhausting their benefits.

## UI Benefits Expenses

The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services UI division paid a total of \$431.7 million in benefits to unemployed workers in 2020. This included \$179.4 million from the state UI trust fund and \$252.3 million from other UI funds and the Federal CARES Act (see Figure 5.2, page 29). Focusing just on the UI state trust fund, UI benefit expenses increased \$135.6 million, or 309.6%, from \$43.8 million in 2019 to a record \$179.4 million in 2020. The second highest level in history was \$161.5 million in 2009 during the Great Recession.

**Table 5.3: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients and Benefit Exhaustion Rates by Industry, 2019-2020**

NAICS <sup>a</sup> Code	Industry	UI Recipients		Change		Exhaustion Rate	
		2019	2020	N	%	2019	2020
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	127	196	69	54.3	21.3	25.6
21	Mining, Quarrying, & Oil & Gas Extraction	1,288	4,939	3,651	283.5	8.2	30.9
22	Utilities	21	46	25	119.0	38.1	16.7
23	Construction	3,701	6,871	3,170	85.7	12.9	25.1
31-33	Manufacturing	606	1,433	827	136.5	18.5	22.8
42	Wholesale Trade	268	1,258	990	369.4	19.0	29.9
44-45	Retail Trade	741	3,169	2,428	327.7	22.1	21.3
48-49	Transportation & Warehousing	538	2,021	1,483	275.7	13.9	24.0
51	Information	121	330	209	172.7	28.1	19.4
52	Finance & Insurance	92	222	130	141.3	19.6	31.3
53	Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	129	663	534	414.0	29.5	26.1
54	Professional & Technical Services	424	1,118	694	163.7	16.3	29.8
55	Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	7	24	17	242.9	42.9	13.8
56	Administrative & Waste Services	865	1,909	1,044	120.7	23.2	30.6
61	Educational Services	172	1,350	1,178	684.9	21.5	20.5
62	Health Care & Social Assistance	718	3,774	3,056	425.6	18.2	11.9
71	Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	152	789	637	419.1	21.7	18.5
72	Accommodation & Food Services	1,743	7,971	6,228	357.3	17.2	19.1
81	Other Services	238	1,278	1,040	437.0	24.4	20.0
92	Public Administration	409	758	349	85.3	22.7	27.5
	Nonclassified	784	3,511	2,727	347.8	16.3	9.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,144</b>	<b>43,630</b>	<b>30,486</b>	<b>231.9</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>22.5</b>

<sup>a</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims database.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/1/21.

Nearly half of all UI benefit expenses in 2020 were paid to those who worked in accommodation & food services, mining, and construction (48.3%, or \$208.6 million; see Table 5.5, page 29). Benefit recipients from accommodation & food services collected 16.8% of the total, or \$72.3 million, followed by those from mining (16.0%, or \$69.2 million) and construction (15.5%, or \$67.0 million).

Each industry showed three- or four-digit percentage increases in benefit expenses from 2019 to 2020. The largest increases were in accommodation & food services (1,260.6%, or \$67.0 million), mining (1,477.3%, or \$64.8 million), and construction (335.7%, or \$51.7 million).

(Text continued on page 30)

Category		2019			2020		
		UI Benefit Recipients	UI Benefit Exhaustees	Exhaustion Rate	UI Benefit Recipients	UI Benefit Exhaustees	Exhaustion Rate
Age	16-24	811	94	11.6	4,692	703	15.0
	25-34	3,093	387	12.5	11,045	2,133	19.3
	35-44	3,035	431	14.2	9,485	2,081	21.9
	45-54	2,663	463	17.4	7,063	1,721	24.4
	55-64	2,722	531	19.5	6,671	1,850	27.7
	65+	820	257	31.3	2,352	821	34.9
	Unknown	N/D	N/D	N/D	2,322	N/A	N/A
Gender	Men	8,825	1,302	14.8	24,748	6,087	24.6
	Women	4,319	861	19.9	16,560	3,222	19.5
	Unknown	0	0	0.0	2,322	N/A	N/A
Total Base Period Wages <sup>a</sup>	\$0-\$9,999	713	200	28.1	7,039	2,822	40.1
	\$10,000-\$19,999	2,378	598	25.1	6,985	1,581	22.6
	\$20,000-\$29,999	2,641	541	20.5	6,526	1,327	20.3
	\$30,000-\$39,999	2,148	321	14.9	5,428	888	16.4
	\$40,000-\$49,999	1,703	173	10.2	4,124	694	16.8
	\$50,000-\$59,999	1,146	122	10.6	2,966	471	15.9
	\$60,000+	2,415	208	8.6	8,240	1,526	18.5
	Unknown	N/D	N/D	N/D	2,322	N/A	N/A
Weeks Eligible for Benefit	0-9	6	N/D	N/D	3,878	2,163	55.8
	10-14	975	368	37.7	2,973	982	33.0
	15-19	2,046	568	27.8	4,986	1,313	26.3
	20-25	3,296	476	14.4	8,885	1,538	17.3
	Maximum = 26	6,821	750	11.0	20,586	3,313	16.1
	Unknown	N/D	N/D	N/D	2,322	N/A	N/A
Number of Employers in Base Period <sup>a</sup>	1	7,261	1,154	15.9	21,538	3,800	17.6
	2	3,403	588	17.3	10,114	1,994	19.7
	3	1,475	248	16.8	3,930	823	20.9
	4	609	105	17.2	1,582	337	21.3
	5 or More	395	68	17.2	907	214	23.6
	Unknown	N/D	N/D	N/D	5,559	2,141	38.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,144</b>	<b>2,163</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>43,630</b>	<b>9,309</b>	<b>21.3</b>

<sup>a</sup>The *base period* refers to the earliest four of the five complete calendar quarters before an individual filed a benefits claim. N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality. N/A = Not available.  
 Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims database.  
 Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/1/21.

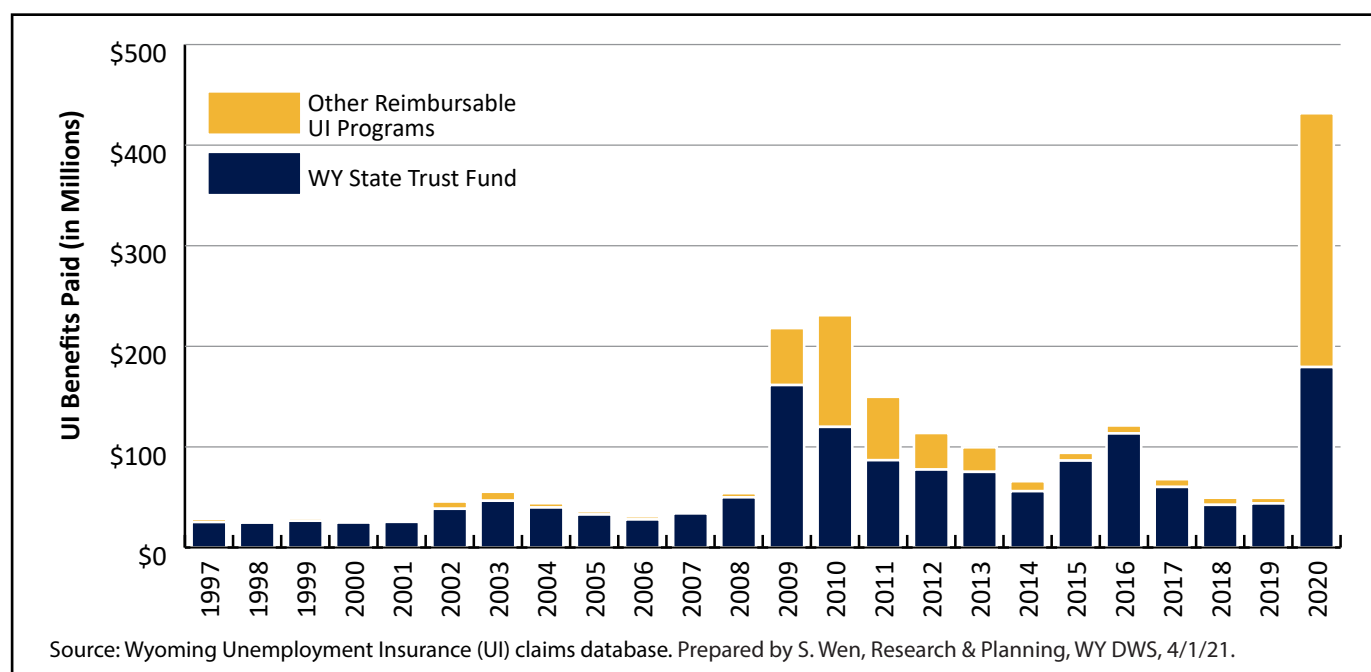


Figure 5.2: Unemployment Insurance Benefits Paid in Wyoming, 1997 to 2020

Table 5.5: Unemployment Insurance Benefit Expenses for Wyoming by Industry, 2019-2020

County	2019		2020		Change, 2019-2020	
	UI Benefit	Column %	UI Benefit	Column %	\$	Row %
Agriculture	\$475,025	1.0	\$1,575,292	0.4	\$1,100,267	231.6
Mining	\$4,388,026	8.9	\$69,212,145	16.0	\$64,824,119	1,477.3
Utilities	\$114,027	0.2	\$390,367	0.1	\$276,340	242.3
Construction	\$15,388,334	31.1	\$67,044,737	15.5	\$51,656,403	335.7
Manufacturing	\$2,115,536	4.3	\$14,081,185	3.3	\$11,965,649	565.6
Wholesale Trade	\$1,058,910	2.1	\$14,627,737	3.4	\$13,568,827	1,281.4
Retail Trade	\$2,560,758	5.2	\$26,711,639	6.2	\$24,150,881	943.1
Transportation & Warehousing	\$1,984,139	4.0	\$21,089,731	4.9	\$19,105,592	962.9
Information	\$479,496	1.0	\$3,268,396	0.8	\$2,788,900	581.6
Finance & Insurance	\$459,297	0.9	\$2,196,200	0.5	\$1,736,903	378.2
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	\$596,827	1.2	\$7,213,101	1.7	\$6,616,274	1,108.6
Professional & Technical Services	\$1,607,181	3.2	\$13,063,577	3.0	\$11,456,396	712.8
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	\$41,540	0.1	\$247,417	0.1	\$205,877	495.6
Administrative & Waste Services	\$3,375,917	6.8	\$18,514,698	4.3	\$15,138,781	448.4
Educational Services	\$883,338	1.8	\$13,234,383	3.1	\$12,351,045	1,398.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$2,568,985	5.2	\$26,017,375	6.0	\$23,448,390	912.7
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	\$561,317	1.1	\$6,949,239	1.6	\$6,387,922	1,138.0
Accommodation & Food Services	\$5,316,695	10.7	\$72,339,777	16.8	\$67,023,082	1,260.6
Other Services (except Public Admin.)	\$988,206	2.0	\$11,924,821	2.8	\$10,936,615	1,106.7
Public Administration	\$1,728,901	3.5	\$6,993,981	1.6	\$5,265,080	304.5
Nonclassified	\$2,783,235	5.6	\$35,043,394	8.1	\$32,260,159	1,159.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49,475,690</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$431,739,192</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$382,263,502</b>	<b>772.6</b>

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims database.  
Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/1/21.

(Text continued from page 28)

The *UI benefit wage replacement rate* refers to the amount of a person's average weekly wage that is covered by the benefit amount. For example, the average weekly wage replacement rate of 46.2% in mining in 2020 means that the average weekly benefit replaced nearly half of the average weekly wage for a claimant in that industry. Wyoming saw a substantial increase in UI benefit wage replacement rate from 2019 to 2020, due to the federal CARES Act funds (see Table 5.6).

High-paying industries usually have a low wage replacement rate, and low-paying industries have a higher wage replacement rate. A higher wage replacement rate

makes it easier for the unemployed workers and their families to cover expenses.

Statewide, the average wage replacement rate increased from 44.9% in 2019 to 76.5% in 2020. Seven industries had a wage replacement rate of over 100.0% in 2020; in other words, these individuals received a weekly UI benefit that was greater than their average weekly wages. These industries were agriculture, retail trade, administrative & waste services, educational services, arts, entertainment, & recreation, accommodation & food services, and other services.

Each of Wyoming's 23 counties experienced a substantial increase in UI

**Table 5.6: Average Weekly Wage, Average Weekly Benefit, and Benefit Replacement Rates for Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients in Wyoming, 2019 and 2020**

Industry	Average Weekly Wage		Average Weekly Benefit Amount		Average Weekly Wage Replacement Rate	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Agriculture	\$693	\$701	\$450	\$910	64.9	129.9
Mining	\$1,735	\$1,791	\$481	\$828	27.7	46.2
Utilities	\$1,772	\$1,822	\$498	\$1,138	28.1	62.5
Construction	\$1,029	\$1,103	\$521	\$833	50.7	75.5
Manufacturing	\$1,290	\$1,322	\$386	\$723	30.0	54.7
Wholesale Trade	\$1,224	\$1,263	\$460	\$782	37.6	61.9
Retail Trade	\$559	\$578	\$382	\$855	68.4	147.9
Transportation & Warehousing	\$1,013	\$1,054	\$484	\$892	47.8	84.7
Information	\$857	\$885	\$384	\$825	44.7	93.3
Finance & Insurance	\$1,208	\$1,292	\$481	\$685	39.8	53.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	\$935	\$967	\$458	\$803	49.0	83.0
Professional & Technical Services	\$1,233	\$1,316	\$431	\$764	34.9	58.0
Mgmt.of Companies & Enterprises	\$1,987	\$1,940	\$378	\$937	19.0	48.3
Administrative & Waste Services	\$689	\$729	\$429	\$869	62.3	119.2
Educational Services	\$841	\$853	\$610	\$897	72.5	105.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$940	\$973	\$396	\$824	42.1	84.7
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	\$570	\$582	\$410	\$881	71.9	151.4
Accommodation & Food Services	\$409	\$424	\$394	\$804	96.3	189.8
Other Services (except Public Admin.)	\$705	\$744	\$466	\$814	66.1	109.5
Public Administration	\$1,007	\$1,015	\$448	\$865	44.5	85.3
Nonclassified	\$1,226	\$1,856	\$167	\$327	13.6	17.6
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>\$924</b>	<b>\$959</b>	<b>\$415</b>	<b>\$734</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>76.5</b>

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims database.  
Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/1/21.



benefit expenses from 2019 to 2020 (see Table 5.7). Natrona County showed the largest increase (\$73.9 million, or 1,163.6%), followed by Laramie (\$41.6 million, or 738.4%) and Campbell (\$34.6 million, or 968.5%) counties. Out-of-state UI recipients collected \$66.7 million more in benefits from 2019 to 2020, a 616.0% increase.

Among Wyoming counties, unemployed workers in Natrona County collected the largest share of UI benefits in 2020 (\$80.2 million, or 18.6%), followed by out-of-state recipients (\$77.5 million, or 17.9%), and Laramie County (\$47.3 million, or 10.9%).

## Conclusion

Both the number of Wyoming UI benefit recipients and UI benefit expenses reached historical highs in 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and declining energy prices and demand. All industries and most counties experienced triple-digit percentage increases in UI recipients from the previous year. The higher exhaustion rate indicates unemployed workers had more difficulty finding reemployment in 2020.

**Table 5.7: Unemployment Insurance Benefit Expenses by County for Wyoming, 2019-2020**

County	2019		2020		Change, 2019-2020	
	UI Benefit	Column %	UI Benefit	Column %	\$	Row %
Albany	\$1,362,808	2.8	\$10,216,657	2.4	\$8,853,849	649.7
Big Horn	\$756,804	1.5	\$3,514,194	0.8	\$2,757,390	364.3
Campbell	\$3,569,010	7.2	\$38,136,510	8.8	\$34,567,500	968.5
Carbon	\$916,716	1.9	\$6,054,344	1.4	\$5,137,628	560.4
Converse	\$687,125	1.4	\$10,903,767	2.5	\$10,216,642	1,486.9
Crook	\$316,156	0.6	\$2,244,153	0.5	\$1,927,997	609.8
Fremont	\$3,471,809	7.0	\$22,272,963	5.2	\$18,801,154	541.5
Goshen	\$716,997	1.4	\$3,134,137	0.7	\$2,417,140	337.1
Hot Springs	\$238,580	0.5	\$2,127,991	0.5	\$1,889,411	791.9
Johnson	\$543,342	1.1	\$3,940,030	0.9	\$3,396,688	625.1
Laramie	\$5,636,145	11.4	\$47,254,080	10.9	\$41,617,935	738.4
Lincoln	\$919,378	1.9	\$8,526,118	2.0	\$7,606,740	827.4
Natrona	\$6,347,534	12.8	\$80,209,852	18.6	\$73,862,318	1,163.6
Niobrara	\$68,058	0.1	\$538,291	0.1	\$470,233	690.9
Park	\$2,330,927	4.7	\$13,789,547	3.2	\$11,458,620	491.6
Platte	\$522,737	1.1	\$3,842,869	0.9	\$3,320,132	635.1
Sheridan	\$1,973,324	4.0	\$12,128,282	2.8	\$10,154,958	514.6
Sublette	\$685,866	1.4	\$5,717,744	1.3	\$5,031,878	733.7
Sweetwater	\$3,384,527	6.8	\$32,599,906	7.6	\$29,215,379	863.2
Teton	\$2,272,692	4.6	\$29,359,776	6.8	\$27,087,084	1,191.9
Uinta	\$1,015,870	2.1	\$10,322,657	2.4	\$9,306,787	916.1
Washakie	\$492,891	1.0	\$3,415,528	0.8	\$2,922,637	593.0
Weston	\$295,824	0.6	\$2,513,100	0.6	\$2,217,276	749.5
Unknown (WY)	\$128,040	0.3	\$1,483,484	0.3	\$1,355,444	1,058.6
Out-of-State	\$10,822,530	21.9	\$77,493,212	17.9	\$66,670,682	616.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49,475,690</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$431,739,192</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$382,263,502</b>	<b>772.6</b>

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims database.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/1/21.

## Chapter 6: Unemployment Insurance — Weekly Claims Data

### Weekly Trends in UI Claims in Wyoming During the Pandemic

by: Michael Moore, Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 led to record high unemployment claims, as businesses and schools were shuttered beginning in the spring. For the week ending March 21, seasonally adjusted initial U.S. weekly Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims reached 3.3 million. The previous one-week high in initial UI claims was 695,000 in October 1982 (U.S. Department of Labor, 2020, July). Initial claims have remained at elevated levels ever since.

In Wyoming, the increases in job losses and initial UI claims from the COVID-19 pandemic were compounded by job losses due to record low oil prices, as West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures for May plunged to -\$40.32 per barrel (Sardana, 2020). Initial UI claims in Wyoming have remained at historically high levels since March.

In response to the demand for more current information, the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services began publishing weekly initial and continued UI claims data. Updated tables and figures are published each week and include industry, county, and gender claims data.

This chapter provides an introduction to the types of data that are available at <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI.htm>.

#### Total Claims

To receive UI benefits, a person must

#### ► Find it Online

##### Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims Data

[https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/weekly\\_UI\\_TOC.htm](https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/weekly_UI_TOC.htm)

first file an *initial claim* after a separation from an employer. The claim requests a determination of basic eligibility for UI benefits. When that initial claim is approved, the unemployed individual who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment files a *continued claim* to receive benefits for that week of unemployment.

Initial claims increased from 504 for the week ending March 14, 2020, to 3,731 for the week ending March 21, an increase of 3,227 claims, or 640.3%. Initial claims peaked at 6,531 for the week ending April 4 (see Figure 6.1, page 33); the previous one-week high for initial claims in Wyoming was 1,930 in January 2011, during the state's previous economic downturn (see Chapter 1). Initial claims mostly decreased throughout the year with a couple spikes in the summer and fall. These spikes could be due to a variety of factors, such as the availability of Public Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits beginning in May and the typical increase in claims seen in the fall when seasonal jobs in industries such as construction and leisure & hospitality come to an end.

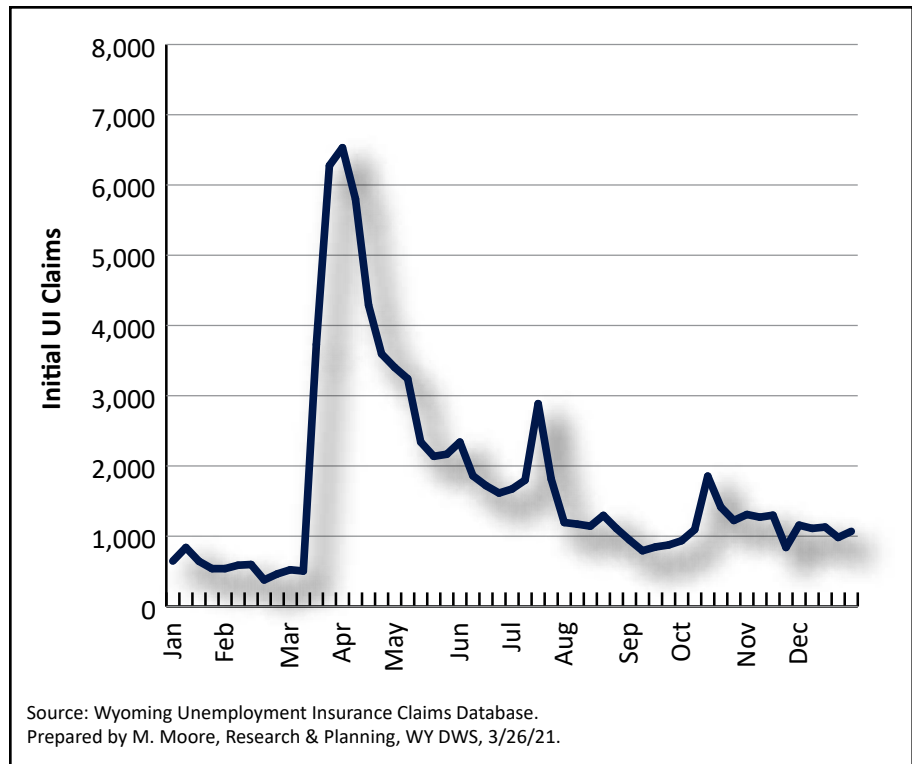
The number of total continued weeks claimed increased during the first few months of the pandemic, peaking at 20,827 during the week ending May 9. Prior to the pandemic, the one-week high for continued claims in Wyoming was 9,884 for the week ending January 16, 2010.

Continued claims trended down from May through September, indicating that those individuals who lost jobs either returned to work, left the labor force, or exhausted their benefits. Continued claims leveled off during the last quarter of 2020 (see Figure 6.2), which could indicate that those people who lost their jobs and filed initial claims in the fall continued to receive UI benefits for an extended period of time.

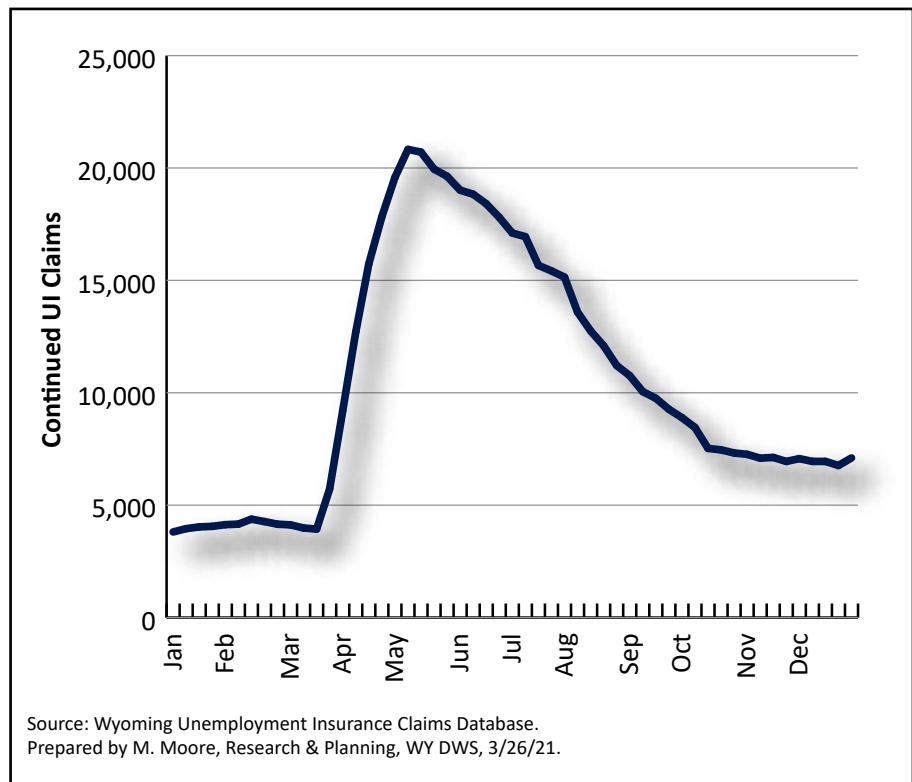
## Gender

During the first two weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic in Wyoming, more women filed initial UI claims than men (see Figure 6.3, page 34). During the week ending March 21, more than half (52.7%) of the 3,731 total claimants were women.

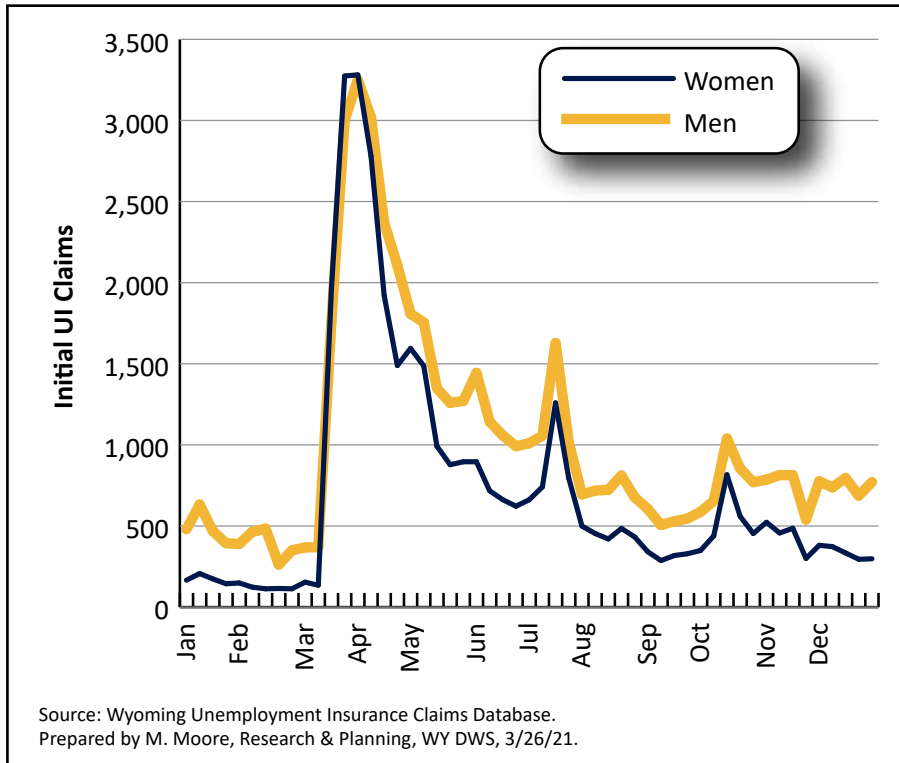
Nationally, job losses



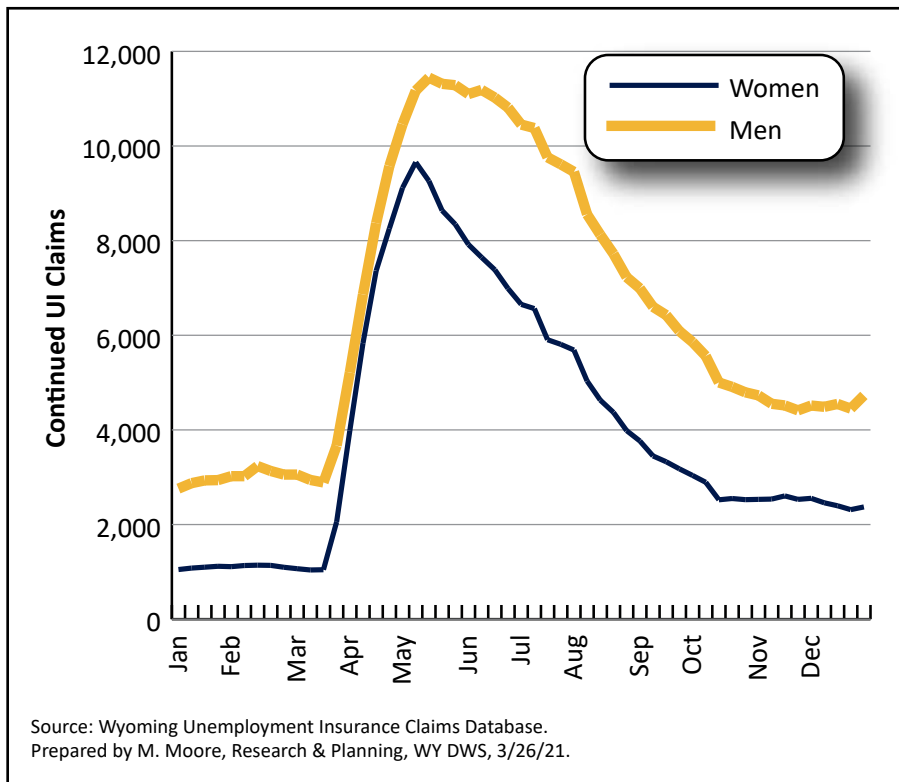
**Figure 6.1: Total Initial Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming, 2020**



**Figure 6.2: Total Continued Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming, 2020**



**Figure 6.3: Total Initial Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Gender, 2020**



**Figure 6.4: Total Continued Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Gender, 2020**

brought on by the pandemic affected women at a greater rate than men during the first several months. A study by the Pew Research Center estimated that 11.5 million women lost their jobs from February to May, compared to 9.0 million men (Kochhar, 2020). Data from the U.S. Department of Labor (2020) suggest that women made up 51.2% of all UI benefit claimants in April and 53.4% in May.

Throughout 2020, women continued to make up a larger proportion of total UI claimants in Wyoming than has historically been the case. However, more men filed claims for benefits than women each week since April 11.

Wyoming has a large number of jobs in goods-producing sectors like mining that are typically worked by men more often than women. In 2019, mining accounted for 7.5% of all jobs in Wyoming, compared to less than one-half of a percent nationally (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020). As claims in the mining industry increased while claims in leisure & hospitality slowed after the third week of the COVID-19 pandemic, men made up a greater share

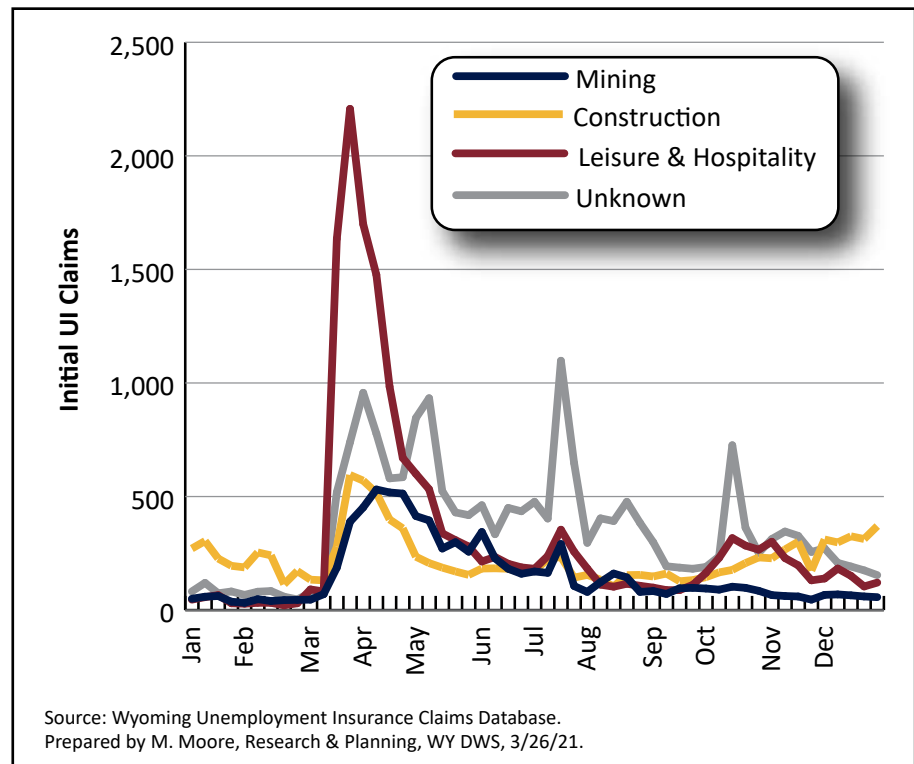
of initial claimants than women in Wyoming (see Figure 6.3).

Similarly, a substantially large number of men received continued benefits throughout the year (see Figure 6.4, page 34).

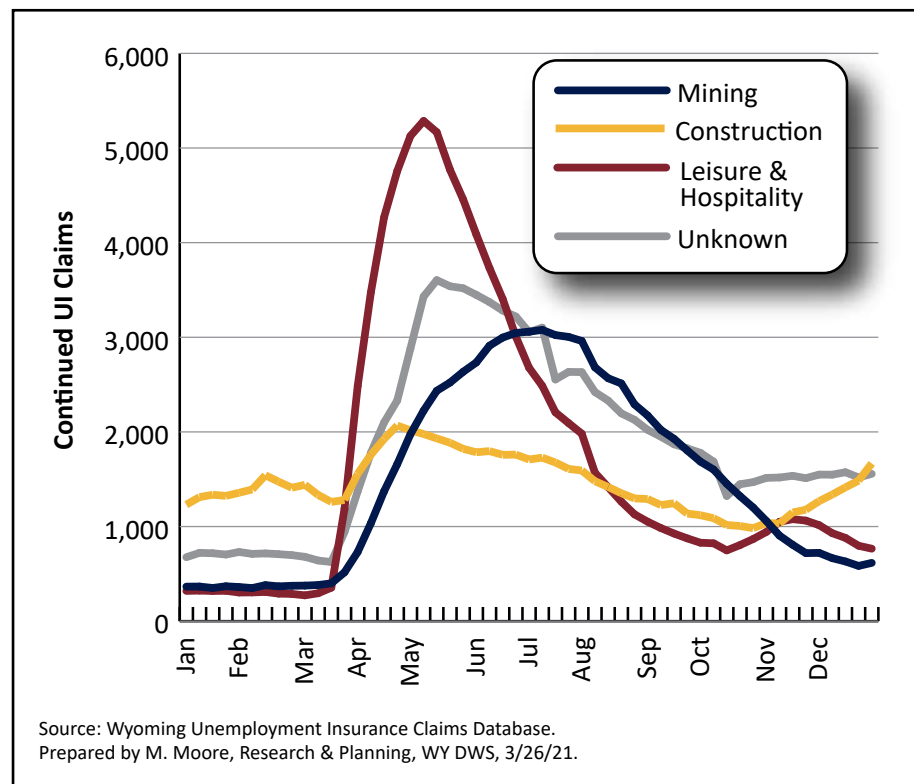
## Industry

During the first few weeks of the pandemic, initial claims were substantially higher in leisure & hospitality than in any other industry. Leisure & hospitality includes establishments such as bars and restaurants, which were hit especially hard by the pandemic due to mandated government closures. Initial claims in leisure & hospitality peaked during the week ending March 28 at 2,207, or 35.2% of all initial claims (see Figure 6.5).

Initial claims in leisure & hospitality decreased fairly steadily after the early peak, while claims in mining and construction remained relatively high during the spring and summer months. Initial claims in the industry labeled *unknown* spiked several times throughout the year and regularly led



**Figure 6.5: Total Initial Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Selected Industry, 2020**



**Figure 6.6: Total Continued Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Selected Industry, 2020**



all industries. Many of the claimants from this group likely were self-employed, independent contractors, or gig economy workers who historically were not eligible for UI benefits, but received federal PUA assistance.

The mining sector experienced a relatively lengthy period of high continued claims throughout the year (see Figure 6.6, page 35), indicating that people who lost jobs in mining may have had a difficult time

returning to work, and relied on UI benefits for longer periods compared to claimants from other industries. Continued claims in construction trended downward after April but increased beginning in October, which may be due in part to seasonal job losses.

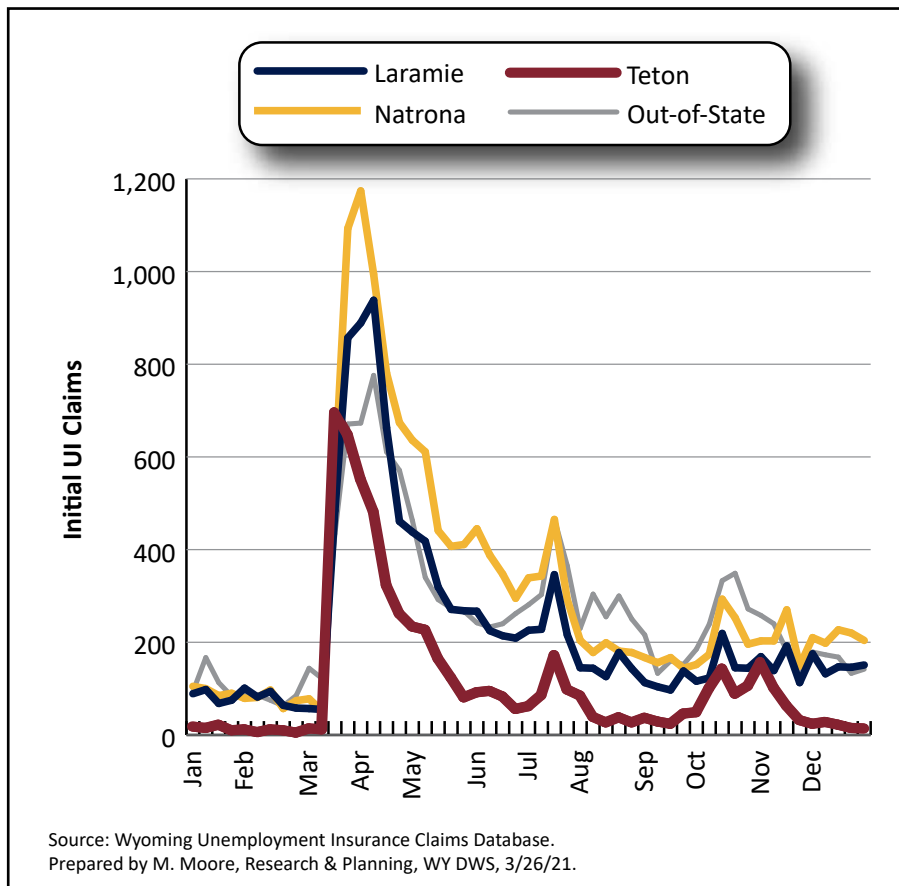
### County of Residence

Teton County had the greatest number of initial

claims during the early part of the pandemic due to the large number of job losses in leisure & hospitality (see Figure 6.7).

After the first week of the COVID-19 pandemic, Natrona County consistently had more initial claims than any other county. The large number of claims in Natrona County can be attributed in part to the county's relatively large population and the number of jobs in mining and leisure & hospitality, particularly food services & drinking places. As noted by Moore (2020), Natrona County's estimated population for 2019 was 79,858, second largest in the state, and in 2020Q1, Natrona County had the third highest number of mining jobs in the state (2,605) and the second highest number of jobs in food services & drinking places (3,302).

Natrona County also had the greatest number of continued claims throughout the year (see Figure 6.8, page 37). Wyoming has historically relied on a large number of nonresident workers to fill jobs in industries such as construction and leisure & hospitality, and out-of-state UI claimants accounted for the second largest number



**Figure 6.7: Total Initial Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Selected County of Residence, 2020**

of total continued weeks claimed behind Natrona County.

## Conclusion

In 2020, weekly UI claims data provided a near real-time look at factors like the pandemic and declining energy prices had on Wyoming employment. These data will continue to be updated weekly and published online at <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI.htm>.

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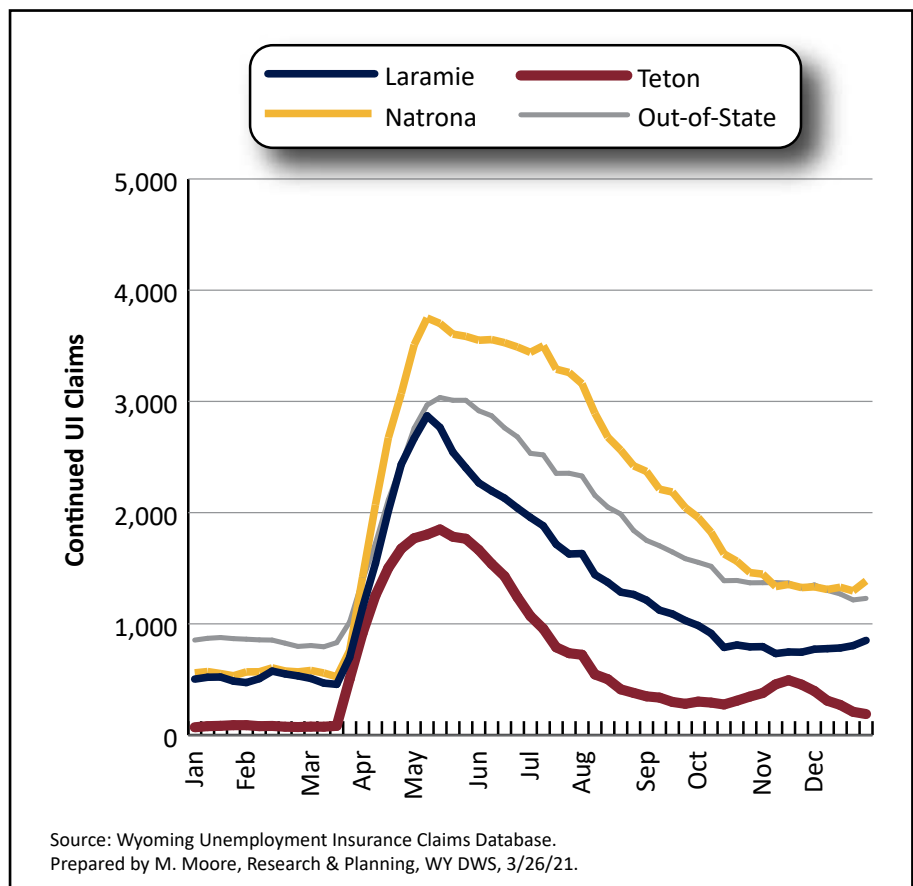
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**Figure 6.8: Total Continued Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Selected County of Residence, 2020**

## Chapter 7: Unemployment Insurance — Claims Data by Occupation

### Identifying Occupations with the Most UI Claims in 2020

by: Michael Moore, Editor

As discussed in the two previous chapters, Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims reached unprecedented levels in 2020, due in large part to business closures forced by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and a sharp decline in energy prices.

While the last two chapters have included information on UI claims at the industry level, this chapter introduces discussion on claims at the occupation level. The term *industry* refers to the type of firm for which an individual works for and the production process those firms have (Knapp, 2021). Industries are identified by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The term *occupation* refers to a specific task or set of tasks a person performs at their job (Moore, 2011). Occupations are identified through the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Many occupations are found across multiple industries, such as accountants, truck drivers, and electricians. On the other hand, some occupations are limited to a specific industry, such as roustabouts, oil & gas, in the mining industry.

The data discussed in this article include regular UI benefit recipients and those who received benefits through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, but does not differentiate between the two. In contrast to Chapter 5, a person may be counted more than once in the total presented in this chapter if they received benefits multiple times in 2020. For example, a person could have claimed benefits as a cashier in April, and then as a waiter & waitress in October.

#### ► Find it Online

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance  
Claims Data by Occupation

[https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/  
UI\\_Occupations.htm](https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/UI_Occupations.htm)

As noted by Wen in Chapter 5, industries such as leisure & hospitality, mining, and construction had especially high volumes of claims in 2020. Accordingly, the occupations with the greatest number of claims in 2020 were those that are often associated with these three industries. In addition to industries like mining and leisure & hospitality, the industry labeled *unclassified* also saw large increases in UI claims, likely due to the inclusion of self-employed workers and independent contractors who had not previously been eligible for UI benefits, but were able to receive assistance through the CARES Act.

Nearly three-fourths of all UI benefit recipients in Wyoming in 2020 worked in occupations requiring no formal education (29.1%) or a high school diploma or equivalent (42.9%; see Table 7.1 and Figure 7.1, page 39). Occupations requiring a bachelor's degree accounted for the greatest proportion (11.9%) of occupations requiring some postsecondary education, followed by occupations requiring a postsecondary non-degree award (9.9%). Although the total number of benefit recipients increased substantially over the year, the distribution of claimants by

education level remained similar between 2019 and 2020.

Table 7.2 (see page 40) provides a list of the 20 occupations with the greatest number of UI benefit recipients in 2020. The occupation with the greatest number of UI benefit claimants in 2020 was

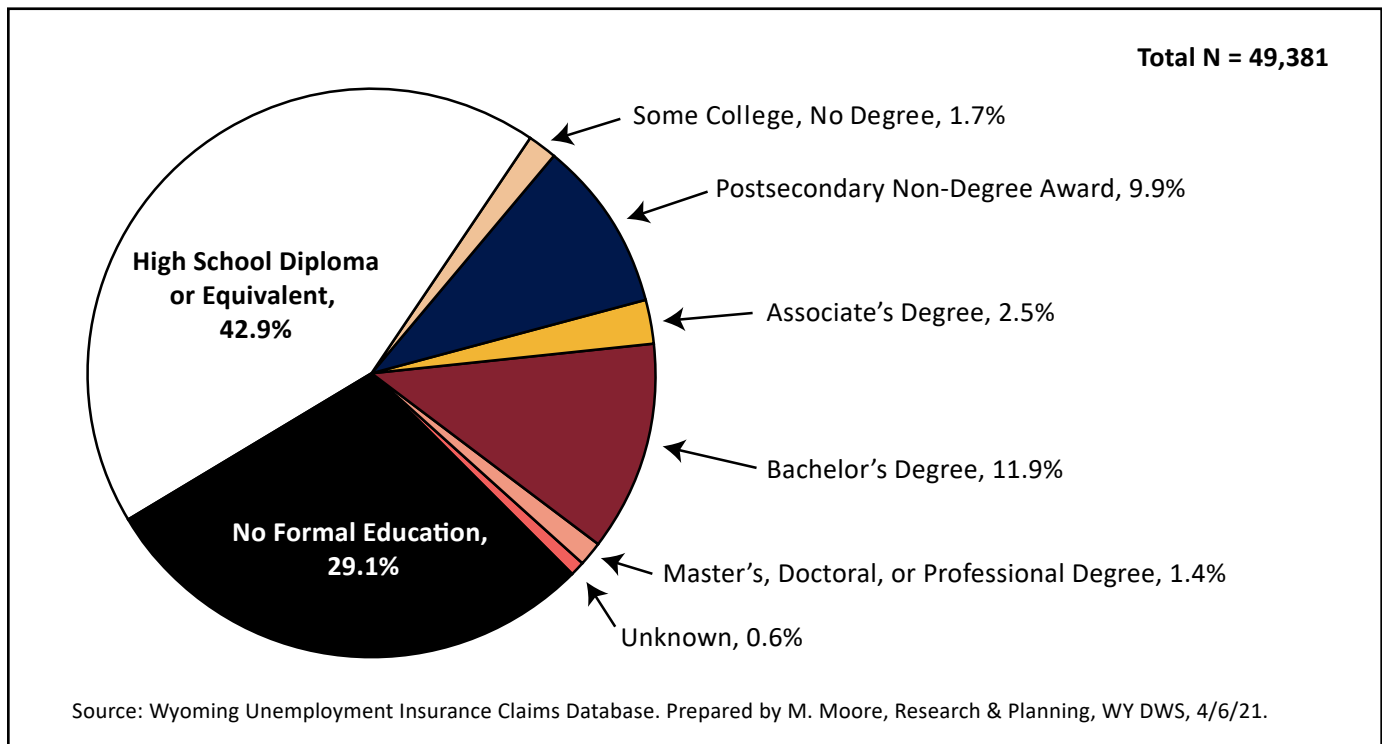
truck drivers, heavy & tractor-trailer, with 1,791 claimants and an average of 12.0 weeks claimed. This was followed by waiters & waitresses (1,790 claimants, 11.0 weeks claimed), operating engineers & other construction equipment operators

(Text continued on page 41)

**Table 7.1: Total Number of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients by Educational Requirement of Occupation, 2019 and 2020**

Education	2019		2020		Change, 2019-2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No Formal Education	3,900	25.7	14,380	29.1	10,480	268.7
High School Diploma or Equivalent	7,310	48.3	21,194	42.9	13,884	189.9
Some College, No Degree	259	1.7	824	1.7	565	218.1
Postsecondary Non-Degree Award	1,337	8.8	4,880	9.9	3,543	265.0
Associate's Degree	337	2.2	1,214	2.5	877	260.2
Bachelor's Degree	1,783	11.8	5,896	11.9	4,113	230.7
Master's Degree	110	0.7	343	0.7	233	211.8
Doctoral or Professional Degree	71	0.5	337	0.7	266	374.6
Unknown	42	0.3	313	0.6	271	645.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,149</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>49,381</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>34,232</b>	<b>226.0</b>

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Database.  
Revised by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 2/3/21.



**Figure 7.1: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients by Educational Requirement of Occupation, 2020**

**Table 7.2: Top 20 Occupations with the Greatest Number of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Recipients in Wyoming, 2020**

Rank	SOC <sup>a</sup> Code	Title	Education	N	Weeks Claimed		Average Wages*	
					Total	Average	Hourly	Annual
1	533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	Postsecondary non-degree award	1,791	21,507	12.0	\$25.29	\$52,600
2	353031	Waiters & Waitresses	No formal education	1,790	19,622	11.0	\$11.07	\$23,034
3	472073	Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	1,621	19,966	12.3	\$28.16	\$58,569
4	472061	Construction Laborers	No formal education	1,516	17,336	11.4	\$17.91	\$37,255
5	514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	959	12,499	13.0	\$29.64	\$61,651
6	519199	Production Workers, All Other	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	949	13,033	13.7	\$22.73	\$47,281
7	353011	Bartenders	No formal education	908	9,790	10.8	\$11.60	\$24,122
8	352014	Cooks, Restaurant	No formal education	888	8,209	9.2	\$14.69	\$30,557
9	412031	Retail Salespersons	No formal education	772	7,089	9.2	\$13.98	\$29,073
10	395012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	Postsecondary non-degree award	769	4,427	5.8	\$16.33	\$33,966
11	111021	General & Operations Managers	Bachelor's degree	721	8,928	12.4	\$49.06	\$102,040
12	372012	Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	No formal education	650	6,539	10.1	\$12.59	\$26,179
13	475012	Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas	No formal education	623	9,544	15.3	\$33.75	\$70,203
14	511011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production & Operating Workers	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	613	7,882	12.9	\$40.41	\$84,045
15	412011	Cashiers	No formal education	604	5,398	8.9	\$11.57	\$24,067
16	472111	Electricians	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	564	6,440	11.4	\$28.88	\$60,074
17	499071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	563	6,556	11.6	\$20.22	\$42,059
18	471011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Construction Trades & Extract. Workers	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	543	7,456	13.7	\$35.83	\$74,523
19	434051	Customer Service Representatives	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	514	5,587	10.9	\$17.64	\$36,681
20	475013	Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, & Mining	No formal education	481	7,125	14.8	\$25.88	\$53,835
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>				<b>49,381</b>	<b>554,223</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification code.<sup>b</sup>High school diploma or equivalent.

N/A = not available given the data sets used in this research.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims database.

\*Wage source: Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program.

Revised by M. Moore and T. Glover, Research &amp; Planning, WY DWS, 2/3/21.



(Text continued from page 39)

(1,621 claimants, 12.3 weeks claimed), construction laborers (1,516 claimants, 11.4 weeks claimed), and welders, cutters, solderers, & brazers (959 claimants, 13.0 weeks claimed).

Many of the top 20 occupations with the largest number of claimants in 2020 were occupations that regularly have high turnover rates, and are among the occupations with the greatest number of claims each year. For example, operating engineers & other construction equipment operators (SOC 47-2073) had the largest number of claims in 2019 (948) and the third largest number of claims in 2020 (1,621). While many of these occupations have a large number of UI benefit recipients each year, the sheer volume of claimants was much greater in 2020.

Several mining-related occupations had the highest number of average weeks claimed in 2020 (see Table 7.3, page 42). Petroleum engineers had the greatest number of weeks claimed on average (17.3), followed by several other mining-related occupations such as rotary drill operators, oil & gas (15.3), derrick operators, oil & gas (15.0), and pump operators, except wellhead pumpers (15.0). This indicates that individuals who lost jobs in mining in 2020 may have had a more difficult time finding work compared to those who lost jobs in other industries. This is consistent with data presented in Chapter 5.

The 20 occupations with the largest over-the-year percentage increases in the number of UI benefit recipients are shown in Table 7.4 (see page 43). Many of these occupations were worked by individuals who typically have not qualified for regular UI benefits, but were able to receive CARES Act benefits.

The number of hairdressers, hairstylists, & cosmetologists receiving benefits increased from 12 in 2019 to 769 in 2020 (757, or 6,308.3%). Large over-the-year increases were also seen in other personal care & service occupations, including manicurists & pedicurists (4,475.0%), childcare workers (3,069.2%), and skincare specialists (2,133.3%). Oftentimes, these personal care & service occupations are worked by self-employed individuals. For example, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2020) estimated that nationally, 41.0% of all hairdressers, hairstylists, & cosmetologists were self-employed in 2019, as were 41.0% of all fitness trainers & aerobics instructors.

Prior research from R&P has shown how men and women often work different types of jobs in Wyoming (Glover, et al., 2018). The occupations with the greatest number of UI claimants varied accordingly by gender (see Table 7.5, page 44). The occupations with the greatest number of UI benefit recipients for men were primarily related to the mining and construction industries, such as truck drivers, construction laborers, welders, electricians, and rotary drill operators, oil & gas. In contrast, many of the occupations with the highest number of claims for women were those in leisure & hospitality related jobs or personal care occupations, such as waiters & waitresses, hairdressers, bartenders, and maids & housekeeping cleaners.

## Conclusion

The occupations with the greatest number of benefit recipients were most often those related to mining, construction, and leisure & hospitality. In

addition, self-employed individuals and others who have not traditionally qualified for regular UI benefits were able to receive some benefits through the CARES Act.

A more detailed article on UI claims by occupation was published in the March 2021 issue of *Wyoming*

*Labor Force Trends*, which is available online at <https://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/trends/0321/0321.pdf>.

In addition, detailed tables showing UI claims for occupations by educational requirements were published at [https://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/UI/UI\\_Occupations.htm](https://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/UI/UI_Occupations.htm).

**Table 7.3: Top 20 Occupations with the Greatest Number of Average Weeks of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients in Wyoming, 2020**

SOC <sup>a</sup> Code	Title	Education	N	Total Weeks Claimed	Average Weeks Claimed
17-2171	Petroleum Engineers	Bachelor's degree	177	3,067	17.3
43-4111	Interviewers, Except Eligibility & Loan	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	79	1,349	17.1
47-4011	Construction & Building Inspectors	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	87	1,355	15.6
47-5012	Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas	No formal education	623	9,544	15.3
19-5011	Occupational Health & Safety Specialists	Associate's degree	78	1,190	15.3
47-5011	Derrick Operators, Oil & Gas	No formal education	129	1,930	15.0
53-7072	Pump Operators, Except Wellhead Pumpers	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	74	1,111	15.0
47-5013	Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, & Mining	No formal education	481	7,125	14.8
53-7073	Wellhead Pumpers	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	236	3,476	14.7
49-2094	Electrical & Electronics Repairers, Commercial & Industrial Equipment	Postsecondary non-degree award	123	1,800	14.6
51-9061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	323	4,674	14.5
47-5097	Earth Drillers, Except Oil & Gas; & Explosives Workers, Ordinance Handling Experts, & Blasters	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	74	1,069	14.4
47-3015	Helpers--Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	100	1,428	14.3
17-3022	Civil Engineering Technologists & Technicians	Associate's degree	92	1,314	14.3
47-5071	Roustabouts, Oil & Gas	No formal education	464	6,555	14.1
11-3071	Trans., Storage, & Distribution Managers	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	98	1,382	14.1
51-2041	Structural Metal Fabricators & Fitters	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	114	1,594	14.0
41-4012	Sales Reps., Wholesale & Manufacturing, Except Tech. & Scientific Products	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	206	2,865	13.9
47-5098	Underground Mining Machine Operators & Extraction Workers, All Other	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	146	2,009	13.8
53-3041	Taxi Drivers & Chauffeurs	No formal education	117	1,620	13.8
<b>Total</b>			<b>49,381</b>	<b>554,223</b>	<b>11.2</b>

Only includes occupations with at least 50 benefit recipients in 2020.

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification code.

<sup>b</sup>High school diploma or equivalent.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims database.

Revised by M. Moore and T. Glover, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 2/3/21.

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**Table 7.4: Top 20 Occupations with the Largest Percentage Increase in UI Benefit Recipients in Wyoming, 2019 to 2020**

SOC <sup>a</sup> Code	Title	Education	Total UI Benefit Recipients			
			2019	2020	N Change	% Change
39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	Postsecondary non-degree award	12	769	757	6,308.3
39-5092	Manicurists & Pedicurists	Postsecondary non-degree award	4	183	179	4,475.0
39-9011	Childcare Workers	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	13	412	399	3,069.2
25-3097	Tutors & Teachers & Instructors, All Other	Bachelor's degree	10	256	246	2,460.0
39-5094	Skincare Specialists	Postsecondary non-degree award	3	67	64	2,133.3
39-9031	Fitness Trainers & Aerobics Instructors	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	4	87	83	2,075.0
31-9091	Dental Assistants	Postsecondary non-degree award	18	330	312	1,733.3
41-9022	Real Estate Sales Agents	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	3	50	47	1,566.7
27-2022	Coaches & Scouts	Bachelor's degree	9	132	123	1,366.7
49-9041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	6	67	61	1,016.7
35-9031	Hosts & Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, & Coffee Shop	No formal education	15	163	148	986.7
27-4021	Photographers	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	7	74	67	957.1
27-1024	Graphic Designers	Bachelor's degree	8	69	61	762.5
51-2041	Structural Metal Fabricators & Fitters	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	14	114	100	714.3
39-3091	Amusement & Recreation Attendants	No formal education	12	94	82	683.3
35-3023	Fast Food & Counter Workers	No formal education	19	148	129	678.9
13-1198	Project Mgmt. Specialists & Business Ops. Specialists, All Other	Bachelor's degree	9	70	61	677.8
35-3011	Bartenders	No formal education	122	908	786	644.3
43-6013	Medical Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	27	187	160	592.6
53-3041	Taxi Drivers & Chauffeurs	No formal education	17	117	100	588.2
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>			<b>15,149</b>	<b>49,381</b>	<b>34,232</b>	<b>226.0</b>

Only includes occupations with at least 50 UI benefit recipients in 2020.

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification code.

<sup>b</sup>High school diploma or equivalent.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims database.

Revised by M. Moore and T. Glover, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 2/3/21.

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**Table 7.5: Top 10 Occupations with the Greatest Number of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients in Wyoming by Gender, 2020**

Women						
Rank	SOC <sup>a</sup> Code	Title	Educational Requirement	N	Weeks Claimed	
					Total	Average
1	35-3031	Waiters & Waitresses	No formal education	1,394	15,282	8.5
2	39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	Postsecondary non-degree award	705	4,104	5.3
3	35-3011	Bartenders	No formal education	624	6,727	7.4
4	37-2012	Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	No formal education	573	5,779	8.9
5	41-2031	Retail Salespersons	No formal education	556	4,959	6.4
6	41-2011	Cashiers	No formal education	470	4,253	7.0
7	43-6014	Secretaries, Except Legal, Medical, & Exec.	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	432	5,202	11.7
8	43-9061	Office Clerks, General	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	411	4,949	11.3
9	39-9011	Childcare Workers	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	403	3,693	9.0
10	43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	379	4,265	8.3
<b>Total</b>				<b>20,518</b>	<b>212,896</b>	<b>10.4</b>

Men						
Rank	SOC <sup>a</sup> Code	Title	Educational Requirement	N	Weeks Claimed	
					Total	Average
1	53-3032	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	Postsecondary non-degree award	1,632	19,570	10.9
2	47-2073	Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	1,508	18,526	11.4
3	47-2061	Construction Laborers	No formal education	1,365	15,397	10.2
4	51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	916	11,900	12.4
5	51-9199	Production Workers, All Other	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	803	11,113	11.7
6	35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	No formal education	638	5,522	6.2
7	47-5012	Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas	No formal education	620	9,511	15.3
8	51-1011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production & Operating Workers	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	563	7,304	11.9
9	47-2111	Electricians	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	543	6,082	10.8
10	49-9071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	High school diploma <sup>b</sup>	519	5,966	10.6
<b>Total</b>				<b>28,863</b>	<b>341,327</b>	<b>11.8</b>

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification Code.

<sup>b</sup>High school diploma or equivalent.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims database.

Revised by M. Moore & T. Glover, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/3/21.

## Chapter 8: Demographics of Wyoming's Workforce

### Number of Persons Working in Wyoming Drops 6.4% in 2020

by: Lisa Knapp, Senior Research Analyst

The Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services publishes detailed demographics tables on an annual basis. These tables contain information such as total number of workers, average annual wage, average number of quarters worked, and average number of employers worked for by gender and age group, and presented by county and industry. The data discussed in this article represent the number of persons working in Wyoming at any time during the year, for any duration of time.

These tables can be viewed at [https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/earnings\\_tables.htm](https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/earnings_tables.htm). Selected data from these tables are used in this article to provide a demographic overview of the state's workforce.

The number of men, women, and nonresident workers all declined from 2019 to 2020 (see Table 8.1). The term *nonresidents* refers to individuals for whom demographic data are not available; these are typically individuals who commute to

Wyoming from another state or country for work.

Overall, the number of people working in Wyoming at any time during the year

decreased by 22,833, or 6.4%. The number of men working in Wyoming at any time during the year declined

(Text continued on page 47)

#### ► Find it Online

Demographics and Earnings of Persons Working in Wyoming by County, Industry, Age, & Gender

[https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/earnings\\_tables.htm](https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/earnings_tables.htm)

**Table 8.1: Selected Demographics of Persons Working in Wyoming at Any Time by Gender, 2019-2020**

Gender				
Gender	2019	2020	Over-the-Year Change	
			N	%
Residents	312,361	294,596	-17,765	-5.7
Women	143,317	136,941	-6,376	-4.4
Men	169,044	157,655	-11,389	-6.7
Nonresidents <sup>a</sup>	42,405	37,337	-5,068	-12.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>354,766</b>	<b>331,933</b>	<b>-22,833</b>	<b>-6.4</b>

Age				
Age Group	2019	2020	Over-the-Year Change	
			N	%
Under 20	21,427	19,515	-1,912	-8.9
20-24	32,241	30,284	-1,957	-6.1
25-34	68,377	63,435	-4,942	-7.2
35-44	65,111	62,602	-2,509	-3.9
45-54	52,529	50,142	-2,387	-4.5
55+	72,240	68,237	-4,003	-5.5
Unknown	42,841	37,718	-5,123	-12.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>354,766</b>	<b>331,933</b>	<b>-22,833</b>	<b>-6.4</b>

<sup>a</sup>Nonresidents are individuals for whom demographic data are not available.

Source: Demographics and Earnings of Persons Working in Wyoming by County, Industry, Age, & Gender, 2000-2020.

Prepared by L. Knapp and M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/10/21.

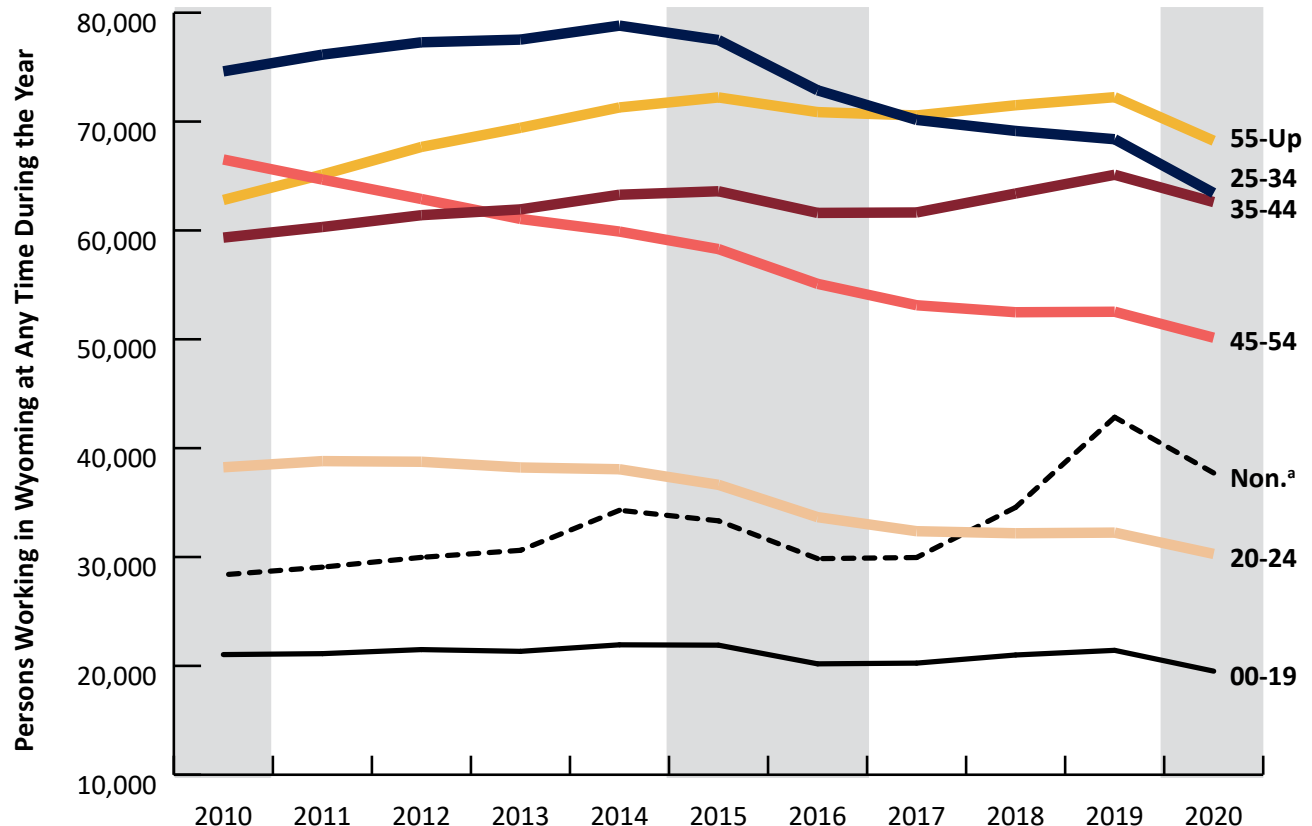


Table 8.2: Total Number of Persons Working in Wyoming at Any Time During the Year by Gender, 2010-2020

	Women			Men			Nonresidents			Total		
	N	Over-the-Year Change	%	N	Over-the-Year Change	%	N	Over-the-Year Change	%	N	Over-the-Year Change	%
2010	145,484	-1,035	-0.7	177,772	-2,165	-1.2	27,653	-901	-3.2	350,909	-4,101	-1.2
2011	146,382	898	0.6	180,478	2,706	1.5	28,403	750	2.7	355,263	4,354	1.2
2012	148,072	1,690	1.2	182,031	1,553	0.9	29,342	939	3.3	359,445	4,182	1.2
2013	148,214	142	0.1	181,884	-147	-0.1	30,017	675	2.3	360,115	670	0.2
2014	149,179	965	0.7	184,743	2,859	1.6	33,650	3,633	12.1	367,572	7,457	2.1
2015	149,247	68	0.0	181,495	-3,248	-1.8	32,703	-947	-2.8	363,445	-4,127	-1.1
2016	144,896	-4,351	-2.9	169,951	-11,544	-6.4	29,294	-3,409	-10.4	344,141	-19,304	-5.3
2017	142,726	-2,170	-1.5	165,885	-4,066	-2.4	29,455	161	0.5	338,066	-6,075	-1.8
2018	142,989	263	0.2	167,158	1,273	0.8	34,107	4,652	15.8	344,254	6,188	1.8
2019	143,317	328	0.2	169,044	1,886	1.1	42,405	8,298	24.3	354,766	10,512	3.1
2020	136,941	-6,376	-4.4	157,655	-11,389	-6.7	37,337	-5,068	-12.0	331,933	-22,833	-6.4

Source: Demographics and Earnings of Persons Working in Wyoming by County, Industry, Age, & Gender, 2000-2020.

Prepared by L. Knapp and M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/10/21.



<sup>a</sup>Nonresidents - individuals for whom demographic data are not available.

Shaded areas indicate periods of economic downturn (2009Q1-2010Q1 and 2015Q2-2016Q4) and COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020 to present).

Source: Wyoming Wage Records, Research & Planning, WY DWS.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/10/21.

Figure 8.1: Total Number of Persons Working in Wyoming at Any Time by Age, 2010-2019

(Text continued from page 45)

by a slightly greater rate (-6.7%, or -11,389 individuals) compared to women (-4.4%, or -6,376). The number of nonresidents declined by 12.0% (-5,068), marking the first over-the-year decrease in nonresident workers in the state since 2016 (see Table 8.2).

The number of persons working in Wyoming decreased for all age groups from 2019 to 2020. Figure 8.1 illustrates trends in persons working in Wyoming between 2010 and 2020 by age group. Although the number of persons working increased in several age groups between 2010 and 2015, this number has slowly declined since then.

The exceptions include those ages 35 to 44, 55 and older, and nonresidents, all of whom showed some gains in recent years. However, as noted earlier, even these groups showed declines between 2019 and 2020.

Individuals age 55 and older made up approximately 20% of all persons working in 2020, or one in every five persons. As shown in Table 8.3, the largest proportion of persons working in nearly every industry were in this age group. For example, 27.4% of persons working in public administration, 27.1% of persons working in educational services, and 27.1% of persons working in agriculture were age 55 or older.

**Table 8.3: Total Persons Working in Wyoming by Industry and Age, 2020**

NAICS <sup>a</sup> Code	Industry	Under 25		25-34		35-44		45-54		55 or Older		Nonresidents <sup>b</sup>		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
11	Agriculture	612	15.9	598	15.5	527	13.7	444	11.5	1,044	27.1	621	16.1	3,846	100.0
21	Mining	1,134	5.3	4,551	21.1	5,761	26.7	3,959	18.4	4,605	21.4	1,555	7.2	21,565	100.0
23	Construction	4,178	12.0	6,511	18.7	6,023	17.3	4,424	12.7	5,280	15.2	8,371	24.1	34,787	100.0
31-33	Manufacturing	1,228	10.2	2,540	21.2	2,686	22.4	2,053	17.1	2,647	22.1	839	7.0	11,993	100.0
42, 48-49, 22	Wholesale Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	2,305	9.0	4,826	18.8	5,493	21.4	4,511	17.6	6,309	24.6	2,187	8.5	25,631	100.0
44-45	Retail Trade	9,587	25.7	6,920	18.5	5,377	14.4	4,608	12.3	7,553	20.2	3,278	8.8	37,323	100.0
51	Information	420	12.1	703	20.2	692	19.9	633	18.2	787	22.7	238	6.9	3,473	100.0
52-53	Financial Activities	1,142	8.8	2,776	21.3	2,737	21.0	2,322	17.8	3,227	24.8	806	6.2	13,010	100.0
54-56	Professional & Business Services	3,170	12.4	4,961	19.3	4,607	18.0	3,776	14.7	5,330	20.8	3,801	14.8	25,645	100.0
61	Educational Services	2,096	6.9	5,220	17.2	7,179	23.6	6,236	20.5	8,222	27.1	1,438	4.7	30,391	100.0
62	Health Care & Social Assistance	4,923	13.2	8,359	22.3	7,810	20.9	6,129	16.4	8,052	21.5	2,148	5.7	37,421	100.0
71-72	Leisure & Hospitality	14,607	29.5	8,612	17.4	5,953	12.0	4,061	8.2	5,407	10.9	10,824	21.9	49,464	100.0
81	Other Services	1,358	16.1	1,627	19.3	1,511	17.9	1,225	14.5	1,839	21.8	883	10.5	8,443	100.0
92	Public Administration	3,031	10.5	5,200	18.1	6,214	21.6	5,725	19.9	7,894	27.4	698	2.4	28,762	100.0
99	Unclassified	8	4.5	31	17.3	32	17.9	36	20.1	41	22.9	31	17.3	179	100.0
<b>Total, All Industries</b>		<b>49,799</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>63,435</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>62,602</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>50,142</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>68,237</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>37,718</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>331,933</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

<sup>b</sup>Nonresidents are individuals for whom demographic data are not available.

Source: Demographics and Earnings of Persons Working in Wyoming by County, Industry, Age, & Gender, 2000-2020.

Prepared by L. Knapp and M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/10/21.

There were six industries where the largest proportion of persons working were not age 55 or older. The 35-44 age group accounted for the greatest proportion of persons working in mining (26.7%) and manufacturing (22.4%). In health care & social assistance, the greatest proportion of workers (22.3%) were ages 25-34. Individuals younger than 25 made up the greatest proportion of persons working in leisure & hospitality (29.5%) and retail trade (25.7%). Nonresidents made up the greatest proportion of persons working in construction (24.1%).

In 15 counties, at least one-fourth of the

workforce was age 55 or older (see Table 8.4). This included Niobrara County (31.9%), Washakie County (29.6%), Hot Springs County (27.0%), Weston County (26.6%), and Johnson County (26.0%), among others. Counties with large proportions of older workers could face problems in the future as those workers retire, as there may not be enough younger workers to fill those empty positions. In Albany County (22.4%) and Natrona County (20.5%), the largest proportion of workers were age 25 to 34. Teton County had the largest proportion of nonresident workers (29.9%). This likely coincides with having a large number of leisure & hospitality jobs.

**Table 8.4: Total Persons Working in Wyoming by County of Employment and Age, 2020**

County	Under 25		25-34		35-44		45-54		55 or Older		Non-residents <sup>b</sup>		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Albany	4,209	22.1	4,279	22.4	3,108	16.3	2,339	12.3	3,223	16.9	1,922	10.1	19,080	100.0
Big Horn	763	15.1	874	17.3	944	18.7	794	15.7	1,269	25.2	399	7.9	5,043	100.0
Campbell	4,501	14.8	6,191	20.4	6,598	21.7	4,790	15.8	5,883	19.4	2,430	8.0	30,393	100.0
Carbon	1,219	13.3	1,647	18.0	1,460	16.0	1,241	13.6	1,836	20.1	1,748	19.1	9,151	100.0
Converse	1,113	13.7	1,565	19.3	1,508	18.6	1,246	15.4	1,606	19.8	1,069	13.2	8,107	100.0
Crook	467	14.4	473	14.6	505	15.6	470	14.5	821	25.4	500	15.5	3,236	100.0
Fremont	2,571	14.1	3,476	19.0	3,521	19.3	2,887	15.8	4,458	24.4	1,363	7.5	18,276	100.0
Goshen	721	14.5	865	17.5	890	18.0	781	15.8	1,234	24.9	466	9.4	4,957	100.0
Hot Springs	354	15.6	379	16.7	421	18.6	355	15.7	613	27.0	146	6.4	2,268	100.0
Johnson	569	15.2	582	15.5	692	18.5	644	17.2	974	26.0	288	7.7	3,749	100.0
Laramie	8,935	15.4	11,596	20.0	10,761	18.6	8,889	15.4	11,658	20.1	6,044	10.4	57,883	100.0
Lincoln	1,375	16.1	1,265	14.8	1,610	18.8	1,406	16.4	1,830	21.4	1,074	12.5	8,560	100.0
Natrona	7,330	15.3	9,836	20.5	9,814	20.5	7,389	15.4	9,524	19.9	4,033	8.4	47,926	100.0
Niobrara	129	13.1	145	14.8	162	16.5	162	16.5	313	31.9	70	7.1	981	100.0
Park	2,520	16.1	2,734	17.5	2,681	17.1	2,347	15.0	4,019	25.7	1,363	8.7	15,664	100.0
Platte	573	13.2	731	16.9	772	17.8	766	17.7	1,075	24.8	421	9.7	4,338	100.0
Sheridan	2,537	16.4	2,885	18.6	2,860	18.5	2,449	15.8	3,613	23.3	1,149	7.4	15,493	100.0
Sublette	652	13.6	826	17.2	1,001	20.8	803	16.7	1,039	21.6	481	10.0	4,802	100.0
Sweetwater	3,825	15.0	4,863	19.1	5,489	21.6	4,068	16.0	4,788	18.8	2,432	9.6	25,465	100.0
Teton	2,555	9.1	5,158	18.4	4,324	15.4	3,478	12.4	4,146	14.8	8,376	29.9	28,037	100.0
Uinta	1,688	16.8	1,715	17.0	1,979	19.7	1,546	15.4	2,038	20.3	1,098	10.9	10,064	100.0
Washakie	650	15.7	637	15.4	758	18.3	679	16.4	1,226	29.6	197	4.8	4,147	100.0
Weston	441	15.8	473	17.0	530	19.0	405	14.5	741	26.6	196	7.0	2,786	100.0
Unknown	102	6.7	240	15.7	214	14.0	208	13.6	310	20.3	453	29.7	1,527	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,799</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>63,435</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>62,602</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>50,142</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>68,237</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>37,718</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>331,933</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup>Nonresidents are individuals for whom demographic data are not available.

Source: Demographics and Earnings of Persons Working in Wyoming by County, Industry, Age, & Gender, 2000-2020.

Prepared by L. Knapp and M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/10/21.

## Chapter 9: Short-Term Employment Projections — 2020-2022

### Short-Term Projections Show Job Losses for Wyoming

by: *Laura Yetter, Senior Economist*

Wyoming is projected to lose approximately 6,000 jobs from first quarter 2020 (2020Q1) to first quarter 2022 (2022Q1), according to the most recent short-term industry and occupational employment projections from the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. This is a 2.2% decrease in the number of jobs in Wyoming. The COVID-19 pandemic and declining oil & gas prices contributed to this projected decrease.

Projections are based on historical trends of how employment levels respond to market conditions. Wyoming experienced two periods of economic downturn over the last 12 years: 2009Q1 to 2010Q1 and 2015Q2 to 2016Q4. An *economic downturn* is defined by R&P as a period of at least two consecutive quarters of over-the-year decrease in average monthly employment and total wages based on data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

Projections cannot account for unforeseeable circumstances, such as the coronavirus pandemic. Businesses, schools, and public events were closed or canceled in mid-March 2020. These projections were completed in February 2021, almost a year after the start of the coronavirus pandemic in the U.S. and Wyoming, which led to job losses in practically all sectors of the economy with record Unemployment Insurance claims (Moore, 2020).

Additionally, the decrease in oil

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Short-Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2019-2021

<https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/projections.htm>

demand and rapid increase in supply caused oil prices to drop abruptly in March 2020. The U.S. Energy Information Administration, Independent Statistics & Analysis (2021) reported a \$28.96 price per barrel on March 16, 2020. This price steadily decreased with a low of -\$36.98 on April 20, 2020. Almost a year later, prices rose to \$65.36 per barrel on March 15, 2021.

#### Industry Projections

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Industry projections are developed at the three-digit NAICS subsector level and then summed to the two-digit major industries shown in Table 9.1 (see page 50). For more information on the NAICS structure, please see Chapter 2.

Short-term industry projections indicate that Wyoming's employment is expected to decrease by 2.2%, or 5,832 jobs, from 2020Q1 to 2022Q1. At the two-digit sector level, the largest projected

increase in employment is in health care & social assistance (3.4%), and the largest projected employment decrease is in mining (-16.2%).

## Occupational Projections

Occupations are classified using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Short-term occupational projections include growth and anticipated openings due to individuals leaving the workforce (*exits*) and changing occupations (*transfers*). The total number of openings is the sum of projected growth or decline in the number of jobs in a given occupation, plus the number of exits and transfers.

Projected growth is a small component of total openings, which are largely a function of the number of exits and transfers in a given occupation. Table 9.2 (see page 51) shows the 10 occupations with the greatest projected growth from 2020Q1 to 2022Q1. Personal care aides are projected to have 117 openings due to growth, while cooks, restaurant will add a projected 109.

Occupational projections also include the educational requirement for each occupation. Of the 59,666 total projected openings in the next two years, the majority (72.7%) are in occupations requiring a high school diploma or less (see Figure 9.1, page 52). Approximately 13.6% require a bachelor's degree, and 8.8% require a postsecondary non-degree

award, or some college, no degree. Approximately 2.8% of projected openings are in occupations requiring more than a bachelor's degree, and 2.1% are in occupations requiring an associate's degree.

Table 9.3 (see page 53) displays the top five occupations by total projected openings for each educational requirement.

**Table 9.1: Short-Term Industry Projections for Wyoming, 2020Q1-2022Q1**

NAICS <sup>a</sup> Code	Industry	Base 2020Q1	Projected 2022Q1	Change, 2020-2021	
				N	%
11	Agriculture	2,409	2,520	111	4.6
21	Mining	19,695	16,495	-3,200	-16.2
22	Utilities	2,411	2,412	1	0.0
23	Construction	20,694	20,048	-646	-3.1
31-33	Manufacturing	9,843	9,380	-463	-4.7
42	Wholesale Trade	8,236	7,541	-695	-8.4
44-45	Retail Trade	28,037	27,580	-457	-1.6
48-49	Transportation & Warehousing	12,986	12,535	-451	-3.5
51	Information	3,240	3,071	-169	-5.2
52	Finance & Insurance	7,011	7,051	40	0.6
53	Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,126	3,955	-171	-4.1
54	Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	9,605	9,616	11	0.1
55	Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	756	731	-25	-3.3
56	Admin & Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	7,649	7,226	-423	-5.5
61	Educational Services	29,267	29,578	311	1.1
62	Health Care & Social Assistance	33,583	34,741	1,158	3.4
71	Arts, Ent., & Recreation	3,166	3,289	123	3.9
72	Accommodation & Food Services	31,498	31,742	244	0.8
81	Other Services (except Government)	7,069	6,752	-317	-4.5
99	Government	29,443	28,629	-814	-2.8
<b>Total Industries</b>		<b>270,724</b>	<b>264,892</b>	<b>-5,832</b>	<b>-2.2</b>

<sup>a</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

Source: Wyoming Short-Term Industry and Occupational Employment Projections, 2020Q1-2022Q1.

Prepared by D. Bullard and L. Yetter, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 2/17/21.



For those occupations that require a high school diploma or less, cashiers have the greatest number of projected openings (2,219), followed by retail salespersons (2,208) and combined food preparation servers & fast food workers (1,967).

Among occupations requiring a postsecondary non-degree award or some college, no degree, truck drivers, heavy & tractor-trailer have the greatest number of total openings (1,059), followed by nursing assistants (860) and teacher assistants (818).

For occupations requiring an associate's degree, the occupations with the greatest number of projected openings are preschool teachers, except special education (168), followed by forest & conservation technicians (126) and paralegals and legal assistants (112).

General & operations managers lead occupations requiring a bachelor's degree with 720 total openings, followed by registered nurses (662) and substitute teachers (612). Of occupations requiring an advanced degree (master's, doctoral,

**Table 9.2: Employment for the 10 Occupations with the Greatest Projected Growth in Wyoming, 2020Q1-2022Q1**

SOC <sup>a</sup> Code	Title	Employment		Change (Growth)		Openings Due to:				Educational Requirement
		2020Q1	2022Q2	N	%	Exits	Transfers	Growth	Total	
00-0000	Total, All Occupations	288,315	282,191	-6,124	-2.1	24,876	40,914	-6,124	59,666	
39-9021	Personal Care Aides	2,564	2,681	117	4.6	388	343	117	848	High school diploma or equivalent
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	3,061	3,170	109	3.6	331	551	109	991	No formal education
29-1141	Registered Nurses	5,136	5,244	108	2.1	288	266	108	662	Bachelor's degree
31-1014	Nursing Assistants	3,434	3,515	81	2.4	374	405	81	860	Postsecondary non-degree award
11-9013	Farmers, Ranchers, & Other Agricultural Managers	1,737	1,805	68	3.9	220	132	68	420	High school diploma or equivalent
11-9111	Medical & Health Services Managers	906	963	57	6.3	46	102	57	205	Bachelor's degree
25-9041	Teacher Assistants	3,630	3,678	48	1.3	388	382	48	818	Some college, no degree
43-6013	Medical Secretaries	1,518	1,562	44	2.9	158	187	44	389	High school diploma or equivalent
45-2093	Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, & Aquacultural Animals	1,133	1,168	35	3.1	91	284	35	410	No formal education
31-9092	Medical Assistants	686	719	33	4.8	55	100	33	188	Postsecondary non-degree award

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification.

Transfers are openings due to workers changing jobs.

Exits are openings due to individuals leaving the workforce.

Total openings = Change + Exits + Transfers.

Source: Wyoming Short-Term Occupational Projections, 2020Q1-2022Q1.

Prepared by D. Bullard, and L. Yetter, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 2/17/21.

or professional degree), educational, guidance, school, & vocational counselors had the greatest number of projected total openings at 148, followed by lawyers (91).

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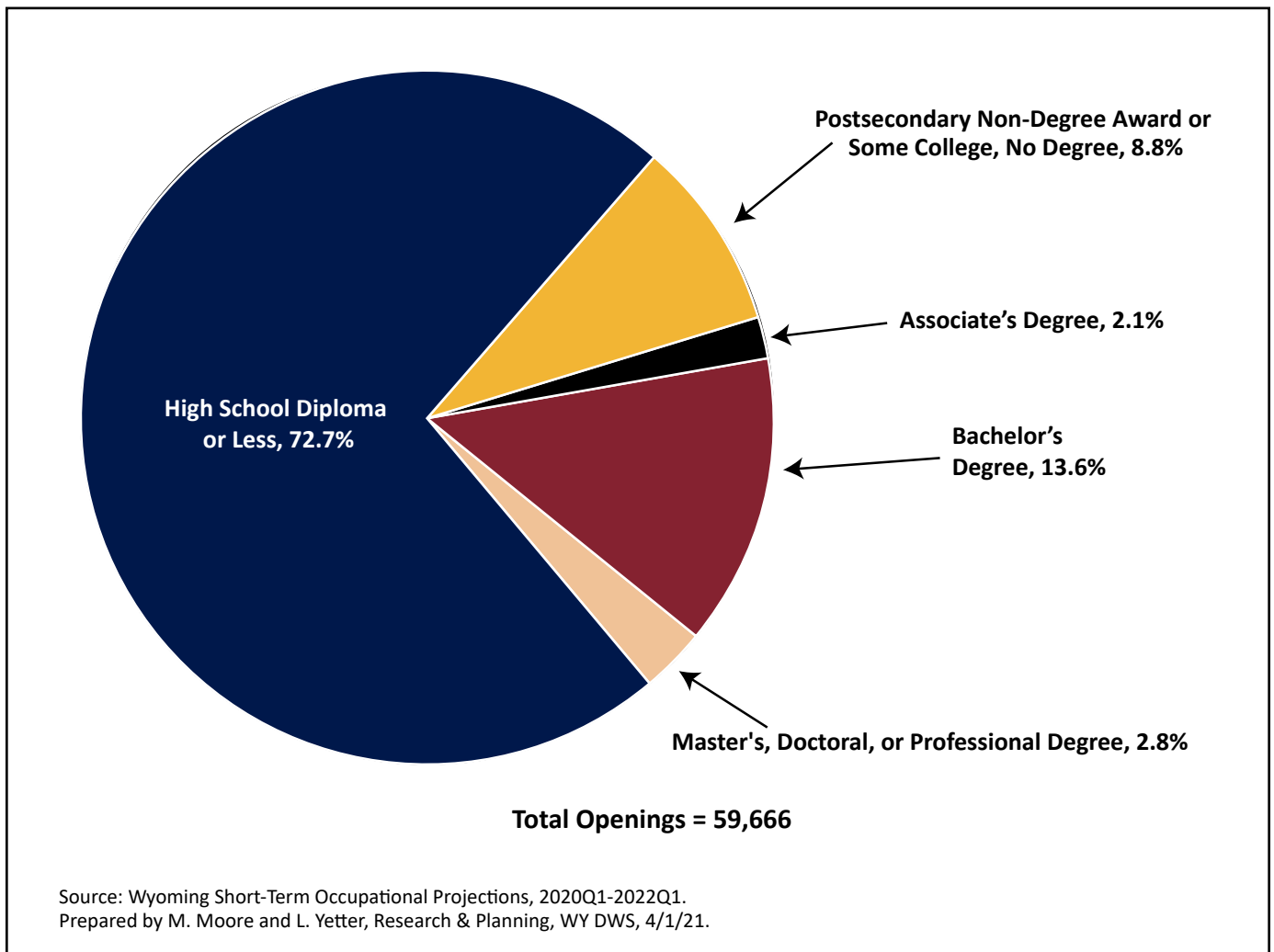


Figure 9.1: Projected Total Job Openings in Wyoming by Educational Requirement, 2019-2021

Table 9.3: Top 5 Occupations by Total Projected Openings for Wyoming by Educational Requirement, 2020-2022

		Employment		Openings Due to:			
SOC <sup>a</sup> Code	Occupation	2020Q1	2022Q1	Exits	Transfers	Growth	Total
High School Diploma or Less							
41-2011	Cashiers	6,478	6,289	1,139	1,269	-189	2,219
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	7,981	7,873	911	1,405	-108	2,208
35-3021	Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	5,439	5,465	869	1,072	26	1,967
35-3031	Waiters & Waitresses	4,892	4,890	679	1,199	-2	1,876
43-9061	Office Clerks, General	7,556	7,211	825	942	-345	1,422
Occupations Requiring a High School Diploma or Less		192,432	186,915	18,593	30,248	-5,517	43,324
Postsecondary Non-Degree Award or Some College, No Degree							
53-3032	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	6,910	6,450	550	969	-460	1,059
31-1014	Nursing Assistants	3,434	3,515	374	405	81	860
25-9041	Teacher Assistants	3,630	3,678	388	382	48	818
43-3031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	3,172	3,059	379	347	-113	613
49-3023	Automotive Service Tech. & Mechanics	1,638	1,532	86	223	-106	203
Occupations Requiring a Postsecondary Non-Degree Award or Some College, No Degree		294,141	286,427	29,725	47,087	-7,714	69,098
Associate's Degree							
25-2011	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	829	830	66	101	1	168
19-4093	Forest & Conservation Technicians	584	572	32	106	-12	126
23-2011	Paralegals & Legal Assistants	524	525	35	76	1	112
29-2021	Dental Hygienists	453	473	39	23	20	82
15-1152	Computer Network Support Specialists	343	347	13	44	4	61
Occupations Requiring an Associate's Degree		6,964	6,937	429	877	-27	1,279
Bachelor's Degree							
11-1021	General & Operations Managers	5,234	5,060	216	678	-174	720
29-1141	Registered Nurses	5,136	5,244	288	266	108	662
25-3098	Substitute Teachers	2,540	2,570	295	287	30	612
25-2021	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	2,611	2,641	163	224	30	417
13-2011	Accountants & Auditors	1,997	1,975	112	258	-22	348
Occupations Requiring a Bachelor's Degree		50,165	49,932	2,829	5,540	-233	8,136
Master's, Doctoral, or Professional Degree							
21-1012	Educational, Guidance, School, & Vocational Counselors	652	665	43	92	13	148
23-1011	Lawyers	1,028	1,021	44	54	-7	91
11-9032	Education Administrators, Elementary & Secondary School	427	434	22	45	7	74
19-3031	Clinical, Counseling, & School Psychologists	438	447	20	42	9	71
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	299	332	12	21	33	66
Occupations Requiring a Master's, Doctoral, or Professional Degree		11,216	11,425	614	873	209	1,696
Total, All Occupations							
Total, All Occupations		288,315	282,191	24,876	40,914	-6,124	59,666

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification.

Source: Wyoming Short-Term Occupational Projections, 2020Q1-2022Q1.

Prepared by L. Yetter, Research &amp; Planning, WY DWS, 3/29/21.

## Chapter 10: Occupational Employment Statistics

### Does Wyoming Reward a Postsecondary Education?

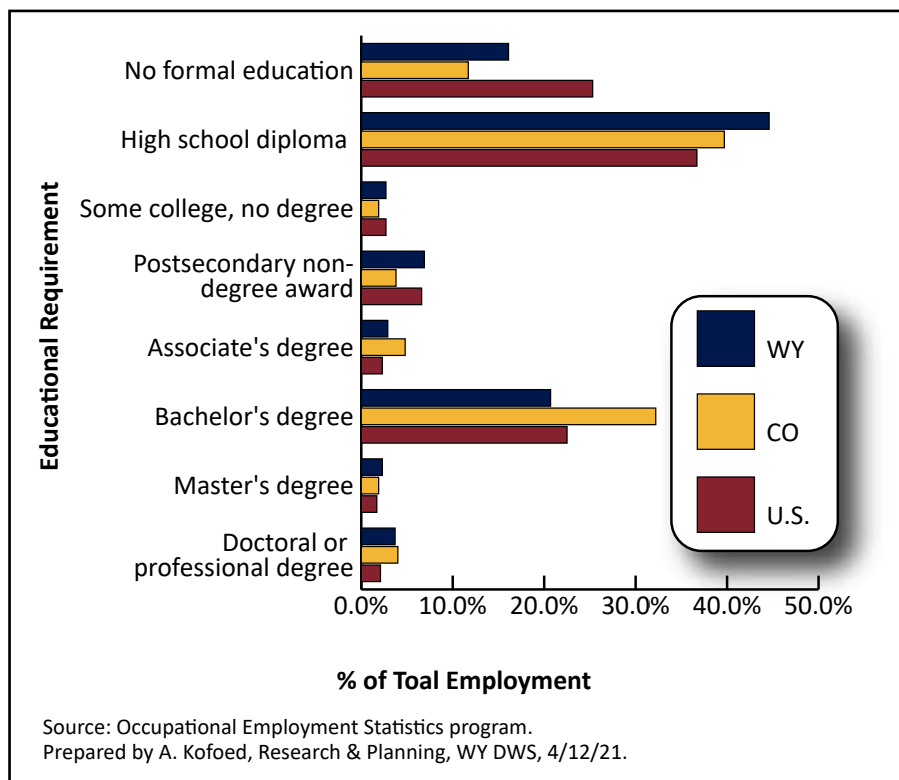
by: Aubrey Kofoed, Senior Economist

**J**obs requiring any type of postsecondary education made up a smaller portion of total jobs in Wyoming than all other states in 2019 except Louisiana, according to a forthcoming article from the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services.

In 2019, 60.7% of all jobs in Wyoming required a high school diploma or

less, while the remaining 39.3% required some form of postsecondary education. In surrounding states, occupations requiring some postsecondary education ranged from 50.8% of all jobs in Utah to 43.3% of jobs in Montana (see Table 10.1).

The forthcoming article also uses data collected through the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program



**Figure 10.1: Employment by Educational Requirement as a Percent of Total Employment in Wyoming, 2019**

**Table 10.1: Percent of Total Jobs Requiring Any Type of Postsecondary Education by State, 2019**

State	% of Total Jobs Requiring Some Postsecondary Education
Louisiana	39.2
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>39.3</b>
Mississippi	41.2
West Virginia	41.9
Hawaii	41.9
Nevada	42.2
North Dakota	42.4
Oklahoma	42.4
Montana	43.3
South Dakota	44.1
New Mexico	44.2
Idaho	44.4
Maine	44.5
Arkansas	44.6
Alabama	45.1
Alaska	45.1
Kentucky	46.2
Nebraska	46.2
Kansas	46.6
Delaware	46.8
Indiana	46.8
New Hampshire	47.2
Vermont	47.3
Iowa	47.6
Michigan	48.3
Ohio	48.4
Wisconsin	48.6
Colorado	48.6
South Carolina	48.7
Tennessee	48.8
New Jersey	48.9
Oregon	48.9
Arizona	49.0
Virginia	49.5
Connecticut	49.6
Rhode Island	50.0
New York	50.3
Missouri	50.3
Texas	50.3
Florida	50.6
California	50.6
Utah	50.8
Georgia	50.9
Pennsylvania	51.1
Washington	51.3
Massachusetts	51.4
Maryland	51.5
North Carolina	51.7
Illinois	51.9
Minnesota	52.0
District of Columbia	60.8

Source: Occupational Employment Statistics.

Prepared by A. Kofoed and M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/9/21.

to compare Wyoming's distribution of jobs by educational requirement to Colorado and the U.S. For example, occupations that require a high school diploma or equivalent make up a greater share of jobs in Wyoming (44.6%) than in Colorado (39.7%) and the U.S. (36.7%; see Figure 10.1, page 54). Jobs that require a bachelor's degree make up a smaller share of jobs in Wyoming (20.7%) than in Colorado (32.2%) and the U.S. (22.5%).

The research also identified 17 occupations in which Wyoming had a higher average annual wage than any other state (see Table 10. 2). Several of these were occupations requiring a high school diploma or equivalent associated with the mining sector, such as derrick operators, oil & gas (\$58,890) and continuous mining

machine operators (\$80,700).

In addition, Wyoming had the highest average annual wage for three occupations requiring more than a high school diploma: anesthesiologists (doctoral or professional degree; \$281,070), nurse anesthetists (master's degree; \$243,310), and sales representatives, wholesale & manufacturing, technical & scientific products (bachelor's degree; \$123,170). The article discussed in this chapter will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* and posted online at <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/trends.htm>.

Employment and wage estimates by occupation are updated twice annually and published online at <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/oes.htm>.

**Table 10.2: Occupations for Which Wyoming Had a Higher Average Annual Wage than Any Other State, 2019.**

SOC <sup>a</sup> Code	Occupation Title	Average Annual Wage
<b>Occupations Requiring a High School Diploma Or Less</b>		
47-5011	Derrick Operators, Oil & Gas <sup>b</sup>	\$58,890
47-5041	Continuous Mining Machine Operators <sup>b</sup>	\$80,700
47-5043	Roof Bolters, Mining	\$90,990
49-3041	Farm Equipment Mechanics & Service Technicians	\$53,350
49-3091	Bicycle Repairers	\$36,460
49-9041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$68,830
51-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	\$84,040
51-8091	Chemical Plant & System Operators	\$75,770
51-9011	Chemical Equipment Operators & Tenders	\$76,060
51-9012	Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, & Still Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	\$79,030
51-9021	Crushing, Grinding, & Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	\$63,170
51-9111	Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	\$46,560
51-9198	Helpers--Production Workers	\$36,830
53-4031	Railroad Conductors & Yardmasters	\$77,080
<b>Occupations Requiring More than a High School Diploma</b>		
29-1151	Nurse Anesthetists <sup>d</sup>	\$243,310
29-1211	Anesthesiologists <sup>e</sup>	\$281,070
41-4011	Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Technical & Scientific Products <sup>c</sup>	\$123,710

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification.

<sup>b</sup>No formal educational requirement.

<sup>c</sup>Bachelor's degree.

<sup>d</sup>Master's degree.

<sup>e</sup>Doctoral or professional degree.

Prepared by A. Kofoed, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/12/21.



## Chapter 11: Wyoming New Hires Job Skills Survey

### Wyoming Employers Add Nearly 100,000 New Hires in 2019

by: Lisa Knapp, Senior Research Analyst

The Wyoming Job Skills Survey, also referred to as the *New Hires Survey*, is conducted on a quarterly basis by the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. This survey is based on a random sample of *new hires*, or individuals who were hired by an employer they had never worked for in the past. The survey is designed to collect information about these jobs that is not otherwise readily available, such as occupation, wages and benefits, license and certification requirements, and necessary job skills.

This article examines the characteristics of new hires in the 10 occupations with the largest number of new hires in 2019. To see data for all occupations, please see <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/newhires.htm>.

There were an estimated 97,864 new hires in 2019. The largest number of these new hires were truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer (4,469), followed by combined food preparation & serving workers (4,372), retail salespersons (3,855), and waiters & waitresses (3,829). The median hourly wage for all new hires was \$13.25. Among new hires in the 10 largest occupations, the median hourly wage ranged from \$20.00 for truck drivers, heavy & tractor-trailer and \$16.00 for construction laborers to \$4.50 for waiters & waitresses and \$8.00 for bartenders.

Table 11.1 (see pages 57-58) shows selected characteristics of the 10 largest occupations. Overall, just over half

#### ► Find it Online

##### Wyoming New Hires Job Skills Survey

<https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/newhires.htm>

(53.1%) of all new hires were employed full-time, while 39.0% were employed part-time and 6.6% were considered temporary or substitute employees. The occupations with the greatest proportion of new hires working full-time were truck drivers, heavy & tractor-trailer (88.4%), construction laborers (82.8%), and landscaping & groundskeeping workers (51.5%). In comparison, 92.4% of bartenders, 88.1% of combined food preparation & serving workers, and 83.6% of waiters & waitresses were employed on a part-time basis.

A little more than half of all new hires were men (55.5%), while slightly less than half were women (44.5%). Occupations with the largest proportion of women included waiters & waitresses (72.8%), maids & housekeeping cleaners (75.9%), and bartenders (70.2%). In comparison, the occupations with the largest proportion of male new hires included construction laborers (94.1%), truck drivers, heavy & tractor-trailer (88.0%), and landscaping & groundskeeping workers (80.1%).

Individuals ages 25-34 made up the greatest proportion of all new hires (27.9%). Combined food preparation

& serving workers had the largest proportion of the youngest workers (16-19 years old; 41.1%), while truck drivers, heavy & tractor-trailer, had the largest proportion of new hires ages 55-64 (15.1%).

The New Hires Survey contains five questions where employers were asked to rate the level of importance of selected job skills (see Box 11.1, page 58) in terms of new hires performing a job's duties and activities. Overall, 76.8% of employers felt service orientation was important for the

jobs new hires filled. Critical thinking was considered important by 79.3% of employers, reading comprehension was considered important by 64.4% of employers, technology & design was selected as important by 35.8% of employers, and operation & control was considered important by 58.2% of employers.

Among the largest occupations, service orientation was marked as important by more than half of employers in every occupation. The largest proportion of

**Table 11.1: Selected Characteristics of Top 10 Most Frequently Occurring Occupations for New Hires in Wyoming, 2019**

		Occupation and SOC <sup>a</sup> Code					
Selected Characteristics	Title	Total All Occupations (00-0000)	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer (53-3032)	Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers (35-3021)	Retail Salespersons (41-2031)	Waiters & Waitresses (35-3031)	Construction Laborers (47-2061)
Employment and Wages	N	97,864	4,469	4,372	3,855	3,829	3,756
	Median Wage	\$13.25	\$20.00	\$9.00	\$10.00	\$4.50	\$16.00
Work Status	Full-Time	53.1	88.4	7.5	36.6	13.0	82.8
	Part-Time	39.0	7.2	88.1	57.6	83.6	7.7
	Temp or Sub	6.6	4.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	6.6
Gender (%)	Women	44.5	12.0	61.0	56.4	72.8	5.9
	Men	55.5	88.0	39.0	43.6	27.2	94.1
Age (%)	16-19	13.9	2.4	41.1	17.0	24.5	12.1
	20-24	17.8	8.2	19.1	19.8	24.1	25.6
	25-34	27.9	27.8	17.4	31.2	26.7	23.9
	35-44	17.3	20.2	11.9	13.3	13.4	20.2
	45-54	12.6	20.9	7.4	7.6	4.9	12.6
	55-64	7.5	15.1	1.6	5.8	5.1	4.6
	65+	2.3	5.5	0.5	3.4	0.1	1.0
	Age Unknown	0.6	0.0	1.0	1.7	1.1	0.0
% of Employers Who Identified Selected Job Skills as Important	Service Orientation	76.8	63.5	97.7	96.1	93.1	52.5
	Critical Thinking	79.3	88.4	69.1	70.2	80.8	75.9
	Reading Comprehension	64.4	72.4	65.4	69.6	68.9	39.7
	Technology Design	35.8	42.3	22.8	31.3	26.4	23.0
	Operation and Control	58.2	96.0	57.0	41.3	27.3	61.3

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification.

Source: Wyoming New Hires Job Skills Survey.

Prepared by L. Knapp, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/12/21.

(Table continued on page 58)

employers who indicated critical thinking was important employed truck drivers, heavy & tractor-trailer (88.4%) and waiters & waitresses (80.8%). Approximately one-third (35.8%) of employers overall felt technology & design was important. Both reading comprehension (64.4%) and operation & control (58.2%) were marked as important by more than half of employers.

### Box 11.1: New Hires Job Skills Definitions

Service Orientation Actively looking for ways to help people.

Critical Thinking Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

Reading Comprehension Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.

Technology Design Generating or adapting equipment and technology to serve user needs.

Operation & Control Controlling operations of equipment or systems.

Source: O\*Net Online.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 12/3/20.

**Table 11.1: Selected Characteristics of Top 10 Most Frequently Occurring Occupations for New Hires in Wyoming, 2019**

(Table continued from page 57)

		Occupation and SOC <sup>a</sup> Code				
Selected Characteristics	Title	Cashiers (41-2011)	Bartenders (35-3011)	Cooks, Restaurant (35-2014)	Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers (37-3011)	Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners (37-2012)
<b>Employment and Wages</b>	N	3,691	2,921	2,906	2,874	2,744
	Median Wage	\$9.00	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$13.00	\$9.50
<b>Work Status</b>	Full-Time	18.4	3.0	31.6	51.5	31.6
	Part-Time	77.7	92.4	68.0	27.0	59.0
	Temp or Sub	3.9	4.4	0.4	20.0	9.4
<b>Gender (%)</b>	Women	59.8	70.2	39.0	19.9	75.9
	Men	40.2	29.8	61.0	80.1	24.1
<b>Age (%)</b>	16-19	29.1	14.5	25.8	24.2	15.4
	20-24	18.2	20.0	19.9	14.7	15.2
	25-34	17.2	44.6	22.7	26.0	43.2
	35-44	19.9	7.2	16.3	11.8	13.6
	45-54	9.2	12.0	7.8	9.8	11.7
	55-64	6.1	1.3	3.0	6.7	0.8
	65+	0.1	0.4	4.5	3.0	0.1
	Age Unknown	0.2	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0
<b>% of Employers Who Identified Selected Job Skills as Important</b>	Service Orientation	94.6	93.7	55.0	60.0	74.1
	Critical Thinking	70.6	69.0	59.1	73.8	44.1
	Reading Comprehension	60.7	40.8	42.0	37.0	29.8
	Technology Design	24.6	23.3	18.2	25.5	6.0
	Operation and Control	46.7	22.4	47.2	65.8	22.9

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification.

Source: Wyoming New Hires Job Skills Survey.

Prepared by L. Knapp, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/12/21.

## Chapter 12: Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

### Wyoming Occupational Fatalities Increase to 32 in 2019

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

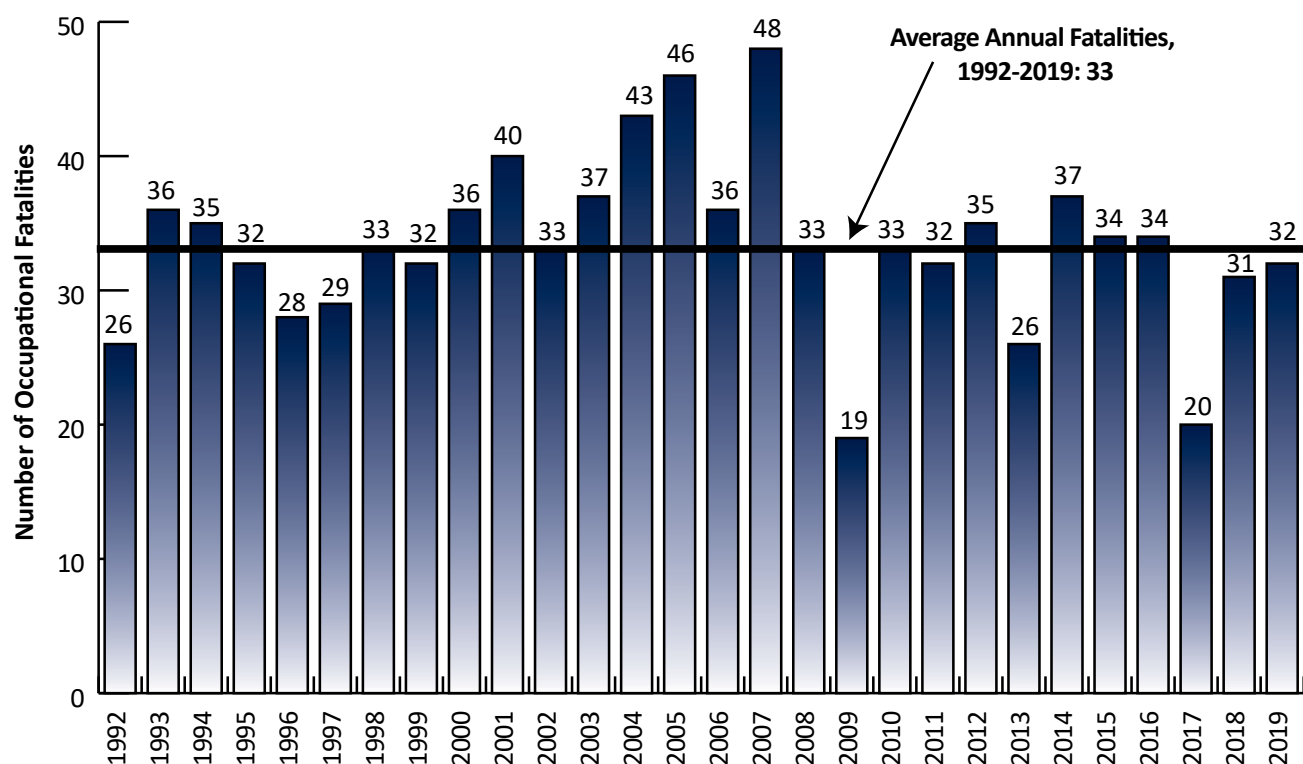
The number of occupational fatalities in Wyoming rose slightly from 31 in 2018 to 32 in 2019 (an increase of one death, or 3.2%; see Figure 12.1). From 1992 to 2019, Wyoming averaged 33 occupational fatalities each year, making the 32 deaths that occurred in 2019 slightly lower than average. Variations in fatalities from year to year are, to some extent, the result of the random nature of work-related accidents. Furthermore, there is not always a direct relationship between workplace fatalities and workplace safety. For example, suicides and homicides that occur in the workplace are included as occupational fatalities. Workplace fatalities

**Table 12.1: Wyoming Occupational Fatalities by Selected Industry, 2019**

Industry	N	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Total Private	32	100.0
Natural Resources & Mining	8	25.0
Mining, Quarrying, & Oil & Gas Extraction	6	18.8
Construction	3	9.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	15	46.9
Wholesale Trade	3	9.4
Transportation & Warehousing	12	37.5
Leisure & Hospitality	3	9.4
All Other Industries	3	9.4

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Prepared by D. Bullard, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/9/21.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies.

**Figure 12.1: Wyoming Occupational Fatalities, 1992-2019**

**Table 12.2: Wyoming Total Occupational Fatalities and Transportation Incidents, 2003-2019**

Year	Total N	Transportation Incidents	
		N	as % of Total
2003	37	26	70.3
2004	43	28	65.1
2005	46	25	54.3
2006	36	23	63.9
2007	48	34	70.8
2008	33	17	51.5
2009	19	11	57.9
2010	33	18	54.5
2011	32	19	59.4
2012	35	17	48.6
2013	26	13	50.0
2014	37	16	43.2
2015	34	17	50.0
2016	34	14	41.2
2017	20	11	55.0
2018	31	19	61.3
2019	32	21	65.6
<b>Average, 2003-2019</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>57.1</b>

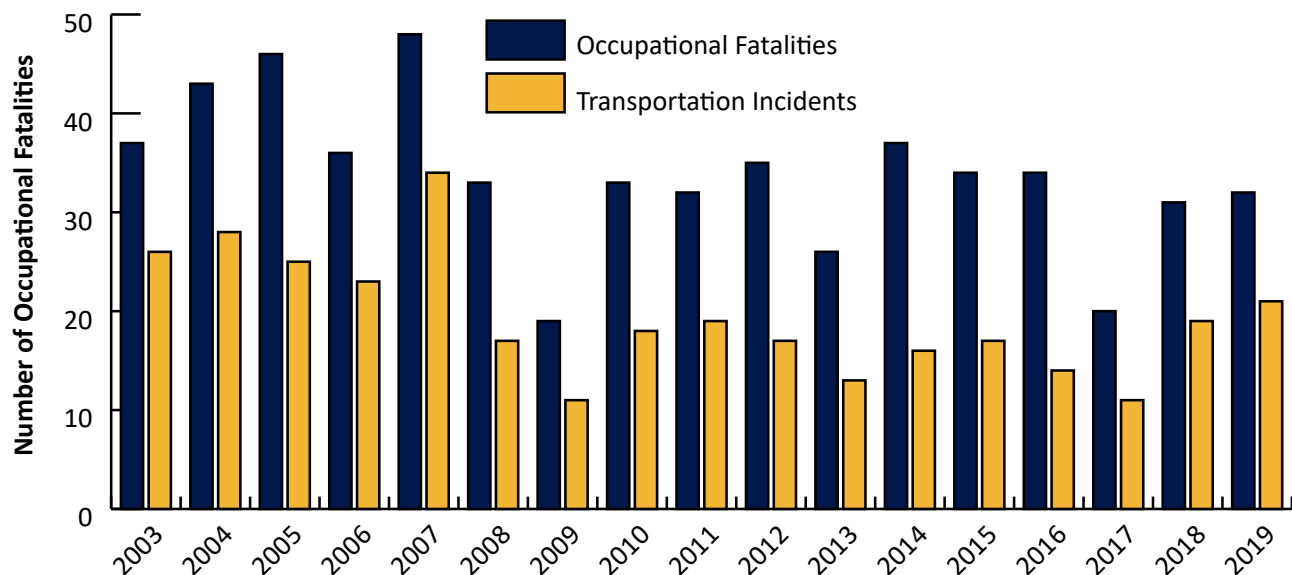
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies.

Prepared by D. Bullard, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/9/21.

are counted in the state where the injury occurred, not necessarily the state of residence or the state of death.

In 2019, 15 deaths occurred in trade, transportation, & utilities (or 46.9% of all deaths; see Table 12.1, page 59). Twelve deaths were reported in transportation & warehousing (37.5%) and eight deaths were reported in natural resources & mining (25.0%). Construction, wholesale trade, and leisure & hospitality each had three deaths (9.4%).

Across all industries, nearly two-thirds of 2019 deaths (65.6%) were the result of transportation incidents (see Table 12.2 and Figure 12.2). From 2003 to 2019, transportation incidents made up 57.1% of all workplace deaths. Transportation incidents include highway crashes, pedestrian vehicular incidents, aircraft incidents, and water vehicle incidents.



Note: From 2003 to 2010 transportation incidents are based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS). From 2011 to 2019 transportation incidents are based on OIICS 2.01. Due to substantial differences between OIICS 2.01 and the original OIICS structure, data for transportation incidents from 2011 forward should not be compared to prior years.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies. Prepared by D. Bullard, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/9/21.

**Figure 12.2: Wyoming Occupational Fatalities and Transportation Incidents, 2003-2019**



Table 12.3 shows a breakout of occupational fatalities by employee status. In 2019, wage & salary workers accounted for 21 fatalities, while there were 11 deaths among self-employed individuals. At the national level, the 2019 fatal injury rate for the self-employed was 13.2, while the rate for wage & salary workers was 2.9 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020), which suggests that self-employment was more than four times as dangerous as wage & salary work.

The fatality counts featured in this release are compiled by the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program (a joint effort of Research & Planning and the Bureau of Labor Statistics) and may not match those from other programs, such as data published by Wyoming's State Occupational Epidemiologist. One major reason for differences is that CFOI is a national program with data being collected for all 50 states. States routinely share information in order to obtain the most complete counts of workplace fatalities.

The State Occupational Epidemiologist Program and the CFOI program complement each other with their two different goals: the State-run program allows for a more detailed look at workplace deaths, while the CFOI program allows for the collection of national data across states.

Reports from the State Occupational Epidemiologist are available at <http://wyomingworkforce.org/data/epidemiology/>.

For official definitions used in the CFOI program, please visit <https://stats.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm>.

## Reference

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2020). Fatal occupational injuries, total hours worked, and rates of fatal occupational injuries by selected worker characteristics, occupations, and industries, civilian workers, 2019. Retrieved March 9, 2021, from [https://stats.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfoi\\_rates\\_2019hb.xlsx](https://stats.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfoi_rates_2019hb.xlsx)

## ► Find it Online

### Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

<https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/CFOI/toc.htm>

**Table 12.3: Wyoming Workplace Fatalities by Employee Status, 2003-2019**

Year	Total	Wage and Salary		Self-Employed	
	N	N	%	N	%
2003	37	33	89.2	4	10.8
2004	43	36	83.7	7	16.3
2005	46	40	87.0	6	13.0
2006	36	N/D	N/D	ND	N/D
2007	48	41	85.4	7	14.6
2008	33	27	81.8	6	18.2
2009	19	14	73.7	5	26.3
2010	33	27	81.8	6	18.2
2011	32	23	71.9	9	28.1
2012	35	25	71.4	10	28.6
2013	26	20	76.9	6	23.1
2014	37	29	78.4	8	21.6
2015	34	26	76.5	8	23.5
2016	34	27	79.4	7	20.6
2017	20	17	85.0	3	15.0
2018	31	23	74.2	8	25.8
2019	32	21	65.6	11	34.4

N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies.

Prepared by D. Bullard, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/9/21.

## Chapter 13: Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

### Wyoming's Nonfatal Occupational Injury and Illness Incidence Rate for 2019

by: *Chris McGrath, Senior Statistician*

Wyoming's nonfatal occupational injury and illness incidence rate for all industries in 2019 was 3.4, according to the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII). Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers. The Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services conducts the SOII for Wyoming in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) annually as part of a nationwide data collection effort.

#### ► Find it Online

Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

<https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/OSH/toc.htm>

Goods-producing industries include mining, construction, and manufacturing. Within private industry, Wyoming's goods-producing sectors had an incidence rate

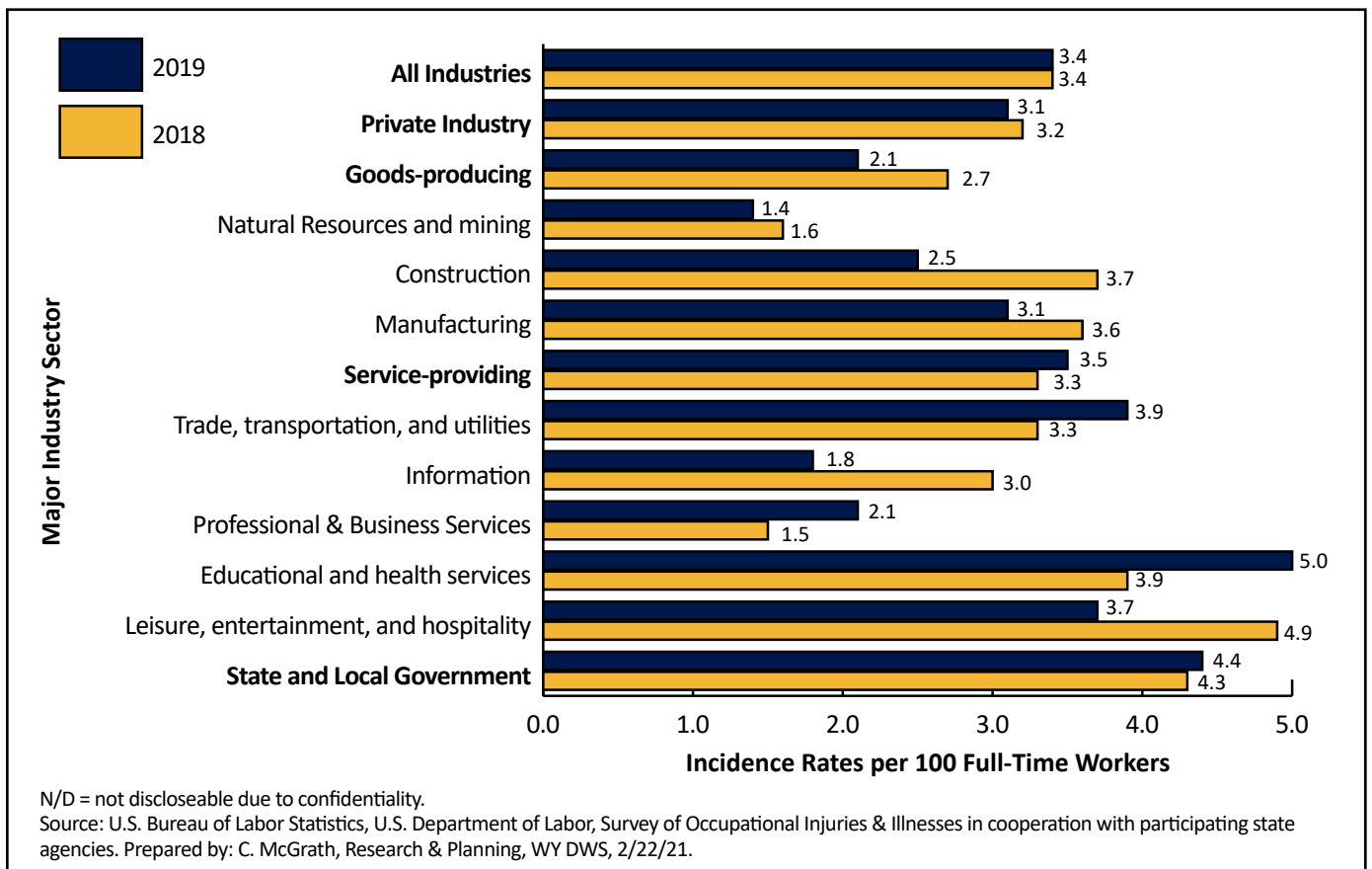


Figure 13.1: Incidence Rates per 100 Full-Time Workers for Total Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses by Industry in Wyoming, 2018 and 2019

of 2.1 in 2019 and 2.7 in 2018 (see Figure 13.1). Injury and illness incidence rates among these sectors in 2019 ranged from 1.4 in natural resources & mining to 3.1 in manufacturing. Construction had an incidence rate of 2.5 in 2019 and 3.7 in 2018.

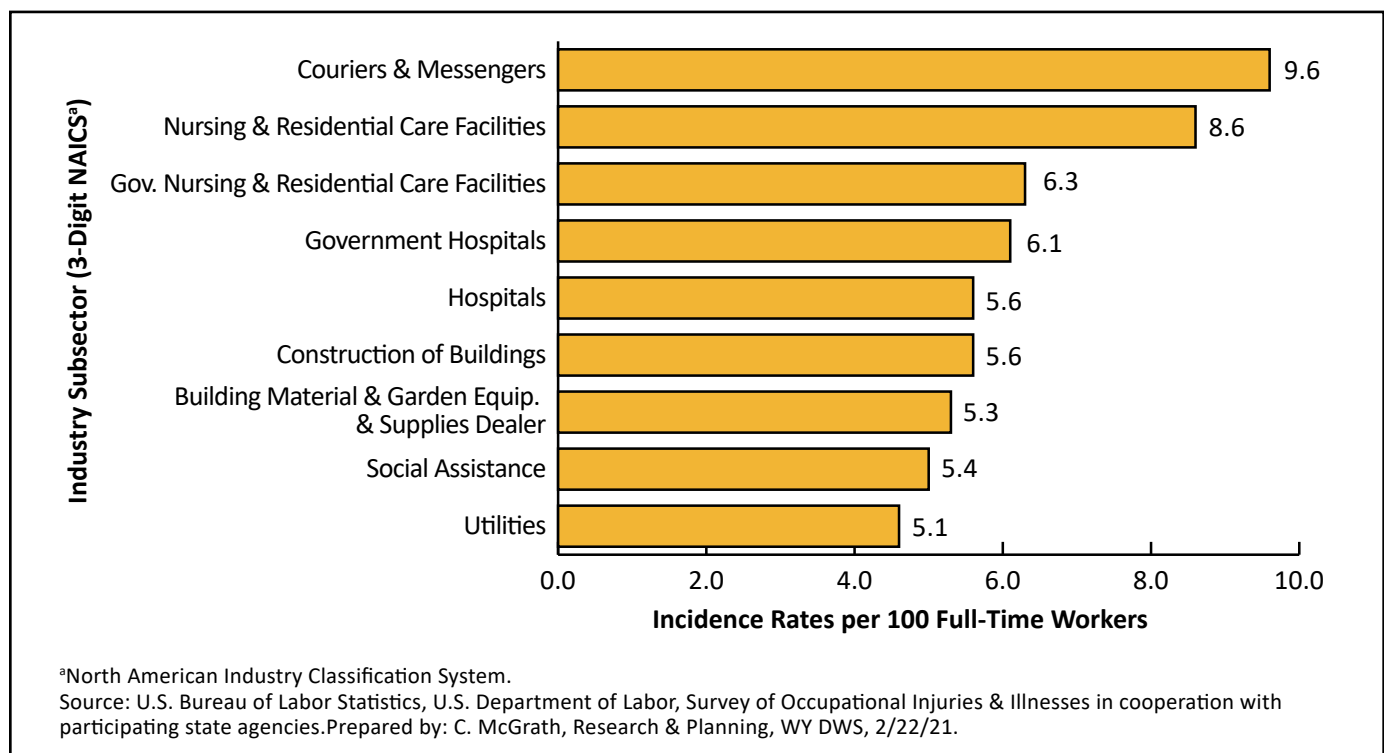
Within private industry, Wyoming's service-providing sectors (such as trade, transportation, & utilities and education & health services) had an incidence rate of 3.5 per 100 full-time workers in 2019. Rates among these sectors varied from 1.8 in information to 5.0 in education & health services. Leisure & hospitality had an incidence rate of 3.7 in 2019 and 4.9 in 2018 (see Figure 13.1).

At the NAICS three-digit subsector level in Wyoming, couriers & messengers had an incidence rate of 9.6, followed by nursing & residential care facilities with a rate of 8.6. Local government nursing & residential

care facilities recorded an incidence rate of 6.3 in 2019 (see Figure 13.2).

These estimates are all recordable nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses, which include days away from work cases, days of job transfer or restriction cases, and other recordable cases. For example, an estimated 1,980 nonfatal occupational injury and illness cases with days away from work occurred in private industry in Wyoming in 2019. Non-recordable cases include, but are not limited to, first aid cases, such as an adhesive strip on a cut, or a water flush of an eye to remove a foreign object. For further information on recordable and non-recordable cases, visit <https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshdef.htm>.

For additional Wyoming data from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, please see <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/OSH/toc.htm>.



**Figure 13.2: Incidence Rates per 100 Full-Time Workers for Total Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses by Major Industry Sector in Wyoming and the U.S., 2019**

# Just the Facts

**Table 1: Wyoming State Facts**

State Capital	Cheyenne
Governor	Governor Mark Gordon, 33rd Governor, Assumed Office Jan. 7, 2019 – Cheyenne
Most Liveable State – National Ranking <sup>1</sup>	13th in 2020   8th in 2019
Nicknames	Equality State – Big Wyoming – Cowboy State
State Dinosaur & State Fossil	Triceratops & Knightia
State Flower & State Tree	Indian Paintbrush & Plains Cottonwood
State Bird & State Fish	Western Meadowlark & Cutthroat Trout
State Butterfly & Reptile	Sheridan's Green Hairstreak & Horned Toad
State Mammal & State Gemstone	Bison & Jade
1st National Park	Yellowstone - Established March 1, 1872
1st National Monument	Devils Tower - Established September 24, 1906
Admitted to Statehood - Date & Rank	July 10, 1890 – 44th State

Excerpted from *Wyoming 2020 – Just the Facts*, published December 2020, by the Wyoming Department of Administration & Information, Economic Analysis Division. Prepared by Amy Bittner, Senior Economist. See page 67 for footnotes.

**Table 2: Selected Vital Statistics for Wyoming, 2015-2019**

Year	Vital Events <sup>a</sup>				Teenage Birth Rate (per 1,000) <sup>b</sup>		Death Rate (per 100,000) <sup>a</sup>	
	Births	Deaths	Marriages	Divorces	WY	U.S.	WY	U.S.
2015	7,716	4,744	4,306	2,434	27.8	22.3	809	828.0
2016	7,384	4,706	4,145	2,462	26.2	20.3	804	844.0
2017	6,904	4,767	4,133	2,300	24.6	18.8	823	863.8
2018	6,549	5,070	4,124	2,170	20.8	17.4	878	868.0
2019	6,566	5,121	4,056	2,199	19.4	Not Available	884.8	Not Available

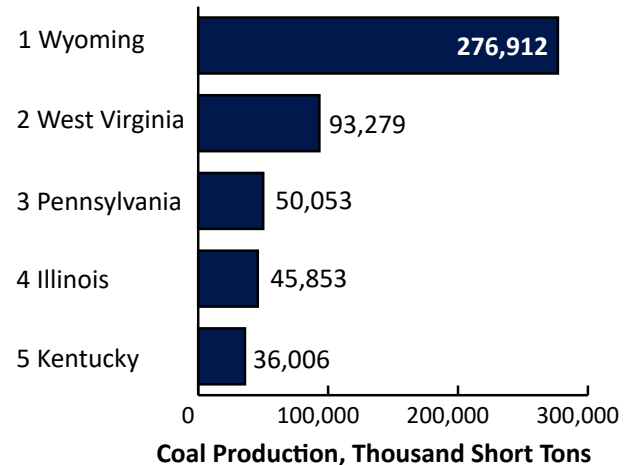
<sup>a</sup>Source: Vital Statistics Services, Wyoming Department of Health, 2020.

<sup>b</sup>Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control, 2020.

**Table 3: Wyoming Rank in U.S. in Energy Consumption, Expenditures, Production, Prices, & Environment**

	Wyoming Rank
<b>Consumption</b>	
Total Energy per Capita	1
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Total Energy per Capita	1
<b>Production</b>	
Total Energy	3
Crude Oil	8
Natural Gas	9
Coal	1
Electricity	31
<b>Prices</b>	
Natural Gas	37
Electricity	40
<b>Environment</b>	
Carbon Dioxide Emissions	31

Source: Energy Information Administration. Retrieved from <http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=WY>. Updated April 6, 2021.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration. Retrieved March 12, 2021, from <http://www.eia.gov/state/rankings/#/series/48>

**Figure 1: Ranking of Top 5 Coal-Producing States in the U.S., 2019**

# Just the Facts

	Most Recent Period		
	Year	Value	Rank
<b>Demography</b>			
Total Population <sup>2</sup>	2019	578,759	50
Total Male Population <sup>2</sup>	2019	294,730	50
Total Female Population <sup>2</sup>	2019	284,029	50
% of Population - Under 18 Years Old <sup>2</sup>	2019	23.2%	15
% of Population - 65 Years & Older <sup>2</sup>	2019	17.1%	24
Median Age <sup>2</sup>	2019	38.4	30
Note: Population data are July 1 estimates.			
<b>Weather &amp; Geography</b>			
Total Area (sq. miles) <sup>2</sup>	2010	97,813	10
Water Area (sq. miles) <sup>2</sup>	2010	720	37
Mean Elevation (ft) <sup>5</sup>	2019	6,700	2
% of Land in Rural Areas <sup>2</sup>	2010	99.8%	2
% of Land Owned by the Federal Government <sup>5</sup>	2019	47.5%	6
% of Land Owned by State Government <sup>5</sup>	2019	6.2%	--
<b>Recreation &amp; Tourism</b>			
Land Ownership in Wyoming (million square miles):			
National Park Service <sup>7</sup>	2020	3,744	5
U.S. Forest Service <sup>8</sup>	2020	14,415	10
Bureau of Land Management <sup>9</sup>	2019	27,334	4
Visitors to State Parks & Recreational Areas <sup>10</sup>	2019	4,118,209	--
WY Lodging Sales (millions of dollars) <sup>11</sup>	FY2019	\$680.0	--
<b>Crime &amp; Law Enforcement</b>			
Crimes <sup>14</sup>	2018	11,539	49
Crimes per 100,000 Persons <sup>14</sup>	2018	1,997	36
Violent Crimes per 100,000 Persons <sup>14</sup>	2018	212.2	43
<b>Education</b>			
% of Population, 25 yrs. & older, Completed High-School <sup>4</sup>	2019	94.5%	1
% of Population, 25 yrs. & older, with a Bachelor's Degree <sup>4</sup>	2019	29.1%	38
ACT Average Composite Score (range 1-36) <sup>17</sup>	2019	19.8	36
Estimated Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Public Schools <sup>18</sup>	2019	19.8	36
Estimated Average Salary of Public School Teachers (\$) <sup>19</sup>	2019	\$58,618	17
Average Teacher's Salary as % of Average Annual Pay for All Workers <sup>18</sup>	2018	121.7%	6
<b>Health &amp; Social Welfare</b>			
% of Persons Without Health Insurance Coverage <sup>4</sup>	2019	12.3%	6
% of Private Sector Establishments that Offer Health Insurance <sup>23</sup>	2018	38.4%	45
Physicians per 100,000 Persons <sup>24</sup>	2019	203	48
Registered Nurses per 100,000 Persons <sup>25</sup>	2018	867	34
% of Population Enrolled in Medicare <sup>27</sup>	2018	18.4%	28
% of Population Below Poverty Level <sup>4</sup>	2019	10.1%	37
% of Pop. Receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assist. Prog. Benefits <sup>31</sup>	2019	4.2%	49
Rankings are highest to lowest except where noted.			
*Ranking lowest to highest.			
Excerpted from <i>Wyoming 2020 – Just the Facts</i> , published December 2020 by the Wyoming Department of Administration & Information, Economic Analysis Division. Prepared by Amy Bittner, Senior Economist.			
See footnotes, page 67.			
(Table continued on page 66)			

# Just the Facts

(Table continued from page 65)

	Most Recent Period		
	Year	Value	Rank
<b>Housing</b>			
Residential Building Permits <sup>2</sup>	2019	1,708	48
Median Housing Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units (\$) <sup>4</sup>	2019	\$235,200	24
Homeownership Rate <sup>2</sup>	2019	71.3%	10
<b>Wyoming's Economy</b>			
Median Household Income <sup>4</sup>	2019	\$65,003	20
Wyoming Annual Inflation Rate <sup>33</sup>	2020Q2	1.1%	--
<b>Employment &amp; Labor</b>			
Average Annual Pay (\$) <sup>38</sup>	2019	\$49,756	32
State Minimum Wage Rate (\$ per hour) <sup>39</sup>	2020	\$7.25	30
Civilian Labor Force <sup>40</sup>	2019	292,258	50
Employed <sup>40</sup>	2019	281,730	50
Unemployed <sup>40</sup>	2019	10,528	48
Unemployment Rate <sup>38,40</sup>	2019	3.6%	28
Total Non-farm Employment (Jobs) <sup>38,40</sup>	2019	289,600	50
% of Jobs in Mining <sup>38,40</sup>	2019	7.2%	1
<b>Tax Environment</b>			
Individual Income Tax Rate <sup>32, 41</sup>	2020	0.0%	50
Corporate Income Tax Rate <sup>32, 41</sup>	2020	0.0%	48
State Sales Tax Rate <sup>32, 41</sup>	2020	4.0%	40
Gasoline Tax Rate (\$/gallon) <sup>32, 41</sup>	2020	\$0.24	38
Cigarette Tax Rate (\$/pack) <sup>32, 41</sup>	2020	\$0.60	43
State & Local General Sales Tax Collections Per Capita <sup>2, 41</sup>	FY2017	\$351	47
Estimated Burden of Major Taxes for a 3-Person Family with Income of \$50,000 - Cheyenne <sup>42</sup>	2018	\$2,650	49
<b>Mining, Energy &amp; the Environment</b>			
Coal Production (millions of short tons) <sup>43</sup>	2019	277.1	1
Natural Gas Production (billions of cubic feet) <sup>44, 45</sup>	2019	1,603	9
Crude Oil Production (millions of barrels) <sup>44, 45</sup>	2019	102.2	8
Trona Production (millions of short tons) <sup>43</sup>	2019	18.1	1
Average Price Paid for WY Coal (\$/short ton) <sup>32</sup>	2019	\$12.25	--
Average Price Paid for Natural Gas (\$/MCF) <sup>32</sup>	2019	\$2.91	--
Average Price Paid for Wyoming Oil (\$/barrel) <sup>32</sup>	2019	\$51.81	--
Average Price Paid for Trona (\$/short ton) <sup>32</sup>	2019	\$138.69	--
% of Electricity Generated Through Renewable Resources <sup>45</sup>	2018	10.9%	28
Toxic Releases: Total Pollution Released (millions of pounds) <sup>46</sup>	2018	21.4	35
<b>Agriculture</b>			
Number of Farms and Ranches <sup>50</sup>	2019	12,000	39
Average Farm Size (acres) <sup>50</sup>	2019	2,417	1
U.S. Agriculture Exports (millions \$) <sup>51</sup>	2018	\$339.4	39

Rankings are highest to lowest except where noted.

\*Ranking lowest to highest.

Excerpted from *Wyoming 2020 – Just the Facts*, published December 2020 by the Wyoming Department of Administration & Information, Economic Analysis Division. Prepared by Amy Bittner, Senior Economist.

See footnotes, page 67.



# Just the Facts - Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>CQ Press, State Rankings.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>4</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year estimates.

<sup>5</sup>U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey.

<sup>7</sup>U.S. National Park Service.

<sup>8</sup>U.S. Forest Service.

<sup>9</sup>U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

<sup>10</sup>Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails.

<sup>11</sup>Wyoming Economic Analysis Division using data from WY Dept. of Revenue

<sup>14</sup>CQ Press using data from Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

<sup>17</sup>The American College Testing Program.

<sup>18</sup>CQ Press using data from National Education Association, Washington D.C.

<sup>19</sup>National Education Association (NEA), Washington D.C.

<sup>23</sup>U.S. Department of HHS, Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality.

<sup>24</sup>CQ Press using data from American Medical Assoc. (Chicago, IL).

<sup>25</sup>CQ Press using data from U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

<sup>27</sup>U.S. Department of HHS, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

<sup>31</sup>CQ Press using data from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA), Food, Nutrition, & Consumer Services.

<sup>32</sup>Wyoming Department of Revenue.

<sup>33</sup>Wyoming Economic Analysis Division.

<sup>38</sup>U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

<sup>39</sup>U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment Standards Administration.

<sup>40</sup>Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Research & Planning.

<sup>41</sup>Tax Foundation.

<sup>42</sup>Government of the District of Columbia, Tax Rates and Tax Burdens publication. Compares the largest city in each state. Major taxes include state income, property, sales, and auto.

<sup>43</sup>Wyoming State Inspector of Mines & Toxics Info.Mgmt.

<sup>44</sup>Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

<sup>45</sup>U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration.

<sup>46</sup>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pollution, Prevention & Toxics Info. Mgmt.

<sup>50</sup>USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

<sup>51</sup>USDA, Economic Research Service.

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**Wyoming Department of Workforce  
Services, Research & Planning  
P.O. Box 2760  
Casper, WY 82602**

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