

TRENDS

Unemployment Insurance Benefits: What Proportion of Wyoming Workers Would be Eligible if They Lost Their Jobs?

by: Sherry Wen, Principal Economist

The purpose of this research is to determine what proportion of Wyoming workers would be eligible to receive Unemployment Insurance benefits if they lost their jobs, at what benefit level, and for how long their benefits would last. This article also explores the industries in which workers are more likely to qualify for higher UI benefits, and the UI eligibility differences by age and gender.

The price of crude oil has declined for more than a year, from more than \$100 per barrel to a low of \$45 (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2015). This downward trend is not likely to improve in the near future, due to an increase in supply and a decrease in international demand (Storrow, 2015) and the potential challenges from other forms of energy, such as solar and wind.

How will this drop in oil prices affect Wyoming's economy? Will it lead to another economic downturn like the one from 2009 to 2010? If so, how well will the Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) system be able to function, in terms of providing temporary financial support to unemployed

workers and maintaining the labor supply in the state? The research presented in this article uses UI wage records from the most recent quarter available, third quarter 2014 (2014Q3), to explore the UI eligibility status for all individuals who worked in Wyoming in that quarter, and the potential cost of UI benefits. The UI Wage Records administrative database is managed by the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. It is based on employers' quarterly wage and employment reports to the UI tax section.

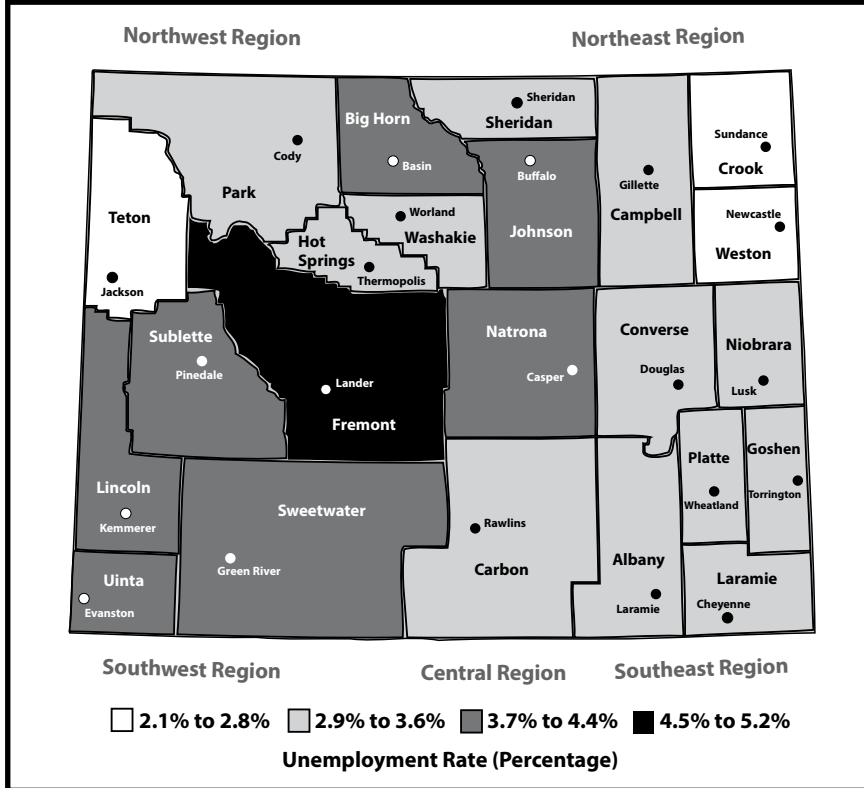
According to Wyoming Employment Security law (27-3-306), an unemployed

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HIGHLIGHTS

- The heavy & tractor-trailer truck drivers occupation is one of the top projected growth occupations in Wyoming for the next 10 years. This occupation is projected to have 82 annual openings due to growth and 113 due to replacement need through 2022. . . . page 16
- The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming fell from 52 in July 2014 to 21 in July 2015, a decrease of 59.6%. . . . page 20

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, July 2015 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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worker must meet nonmonetary and monetary requirements in order to qualify for UI benefits. *Nonmonetary criteria* require individuals to: 1) have involuntarily separated from their employers or lost jobs through no fault of their own; 2) be able and available to work; and 3) be actively seeking jobs. In general, an individual can control nonmonetary eligibility criteria to some

degree. For example, an individual who was laid off from a job because of budgetary cutbacks, was able to work, and continued to look for employment would meet these nonmonetary criteria.

Monetary criteria require unemployed workers to have earned sufficient wage credits during their base period. The base period is the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters preceding the one

in which an unemployed worker filed an initial claim for UI benefits. There are two monetary criteria in Wyoming. First, the unemployed individual's base period wage must be at least 8% of the statewide average annual wage (minimum wage requirement). This minimum wage requirement changes every state fiscal year, which lasts from July 1 to June 30; for fiscal year 2015, the minimum wage requirement was \$3,550. Second, the individual's total base period wage must be at least 1.4 times his or her high quarter wages in the base period (high quarter wage requirement). Individual workers have little to no control over these monetary criteria. This article only focuses on monetary criteria.

Overall UI Eligibility Situation

A total of 302,705 individuals worked and had wages at any time in Wyoming during 2014Q3. If they all lost their jobs in 2014Q3 and needed to apply for UI benefits (as a hypothetical worst case scenario), then nearly one-fourth of them would not qualify for UI benefits. As Figure 1 shows, 13.8% (41,908 workers) did not work and had no wages during the base period 2013Q2

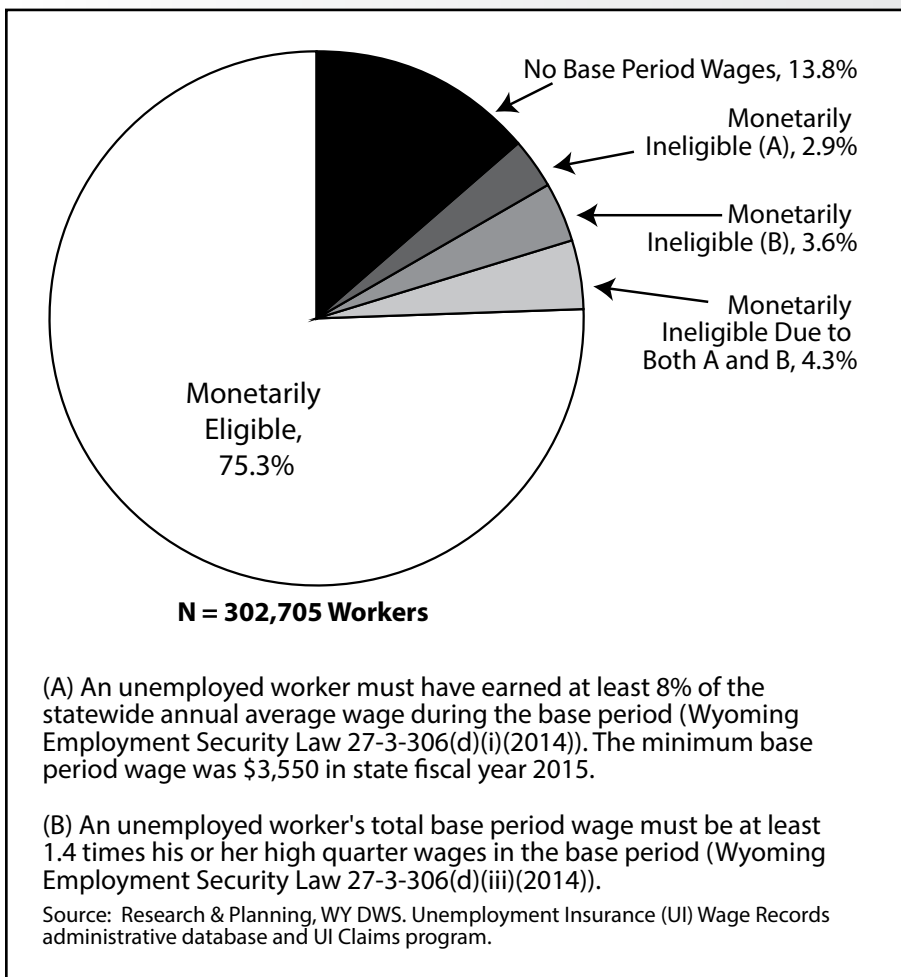


Figure 1: Percent Distribution of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Covered Workers by Monetary Eligibility for Wyoming, 2014Q3

to 2014Q1; 2.9% (8,873 workers) did not meet the minimum base period wage requirement; 3.6% (10,781 workers) did not meet the high quarter wage requirement; and 4.3% (13,146 workers) did not meet both minimum and high quarter wage requirements. In other words, about three-fourths of all Wyoming workers would be eligible for UI benefits if they all lost their jobs.

There were 260,797 individuals who worked in both 2014Q3 and their base period. The research presented in this article focuses on this group of workers. The other 41,908 workers who do not have base period wages may be selected for future studies.

Employment Structure by Industry

The largest percentage (16.4%) of Wyoming workers were employed by local government in 2014Q3 (see Figure 2), which includes county and city governments, school districts, hospitals, fire districts, and others. In terms of private industry, retail trade and accommodation & food services employed the highest percentage of individuals (10.9% and 10.7%, respectively), followed by mining (9.9%), construction (8.7%), and health care & social assistance (8.4%). In other words, these were the five largest private industries in Wyoming. These five industries are

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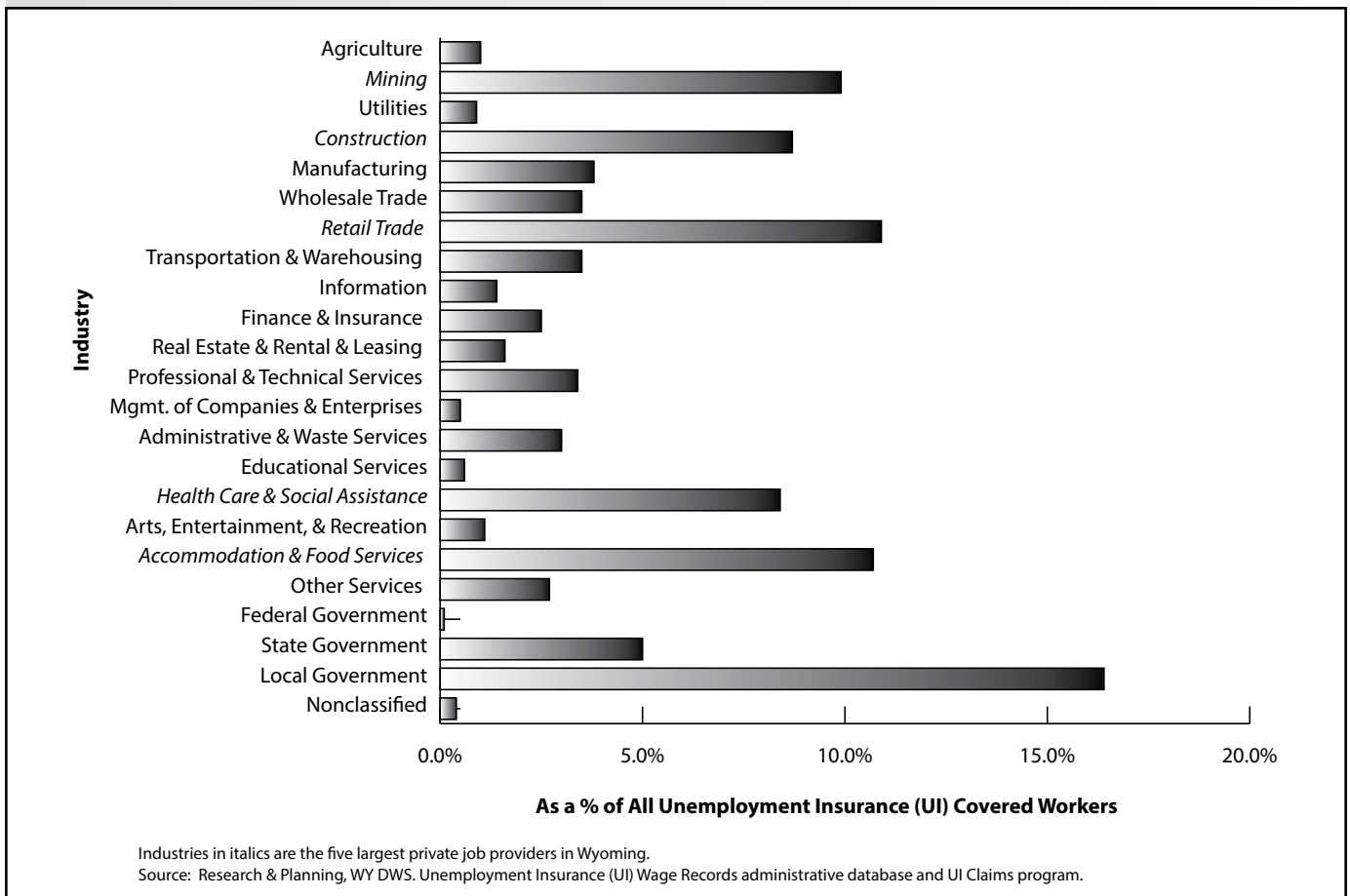


Figure 2: Unemployment Insurance (UI) Covered Workers by Industry as a Percentage of All UI Covered Workers in Wyoming, 2014Q3

Table 1: Unemployment Insurance Benefit Eligibility, Wages, UI Benefits, and Wage Replacement by Industry for Wyoming Workers, 2014Q3

Industry	For Wyoming Workers Who Worked in Both 2014Q3 and Base Period				For Wyoming Workers Who Would be Eligible for UI Benefits if They Lost Their Jobs						
	Workers Eligible for UI Benefits		Workers Not Eligible for UI Benefits		Total		Total Wages	Average Weekly Wage	Max Benefits ^a	Average Weekly Benefit	Wage Replacement Rate ^b
	N	Row %	N	Row %	N	Column %					
Agriculture	2,121	83.1%	432	16.9%	2,553	1.0%	\$17,944,779	\$651	\$16,636,263	\$301	46.3%
Mining	24,055	93.2%	1,749	6.8%	25,804	9.9%	\$508,609,303	\$1,626	\$279,459,954	\$446	27.4%
Utilities	2,353	97.5%	61	2.5%	2,414	0.9%	\$49,903,560	\$1,631	\$28,035,608	\$458	28.1%
Construction	18,851	82.7%	3,931	17.3%	22,782	8.7%	\$236,080,618	\$963	\$177,471,839	\$362	37.6%
Manufacturing	9,129	93.1%	679	6.9%	9,808	3.8%	\$139,515,026	\$1,176	\$94,411,614	\$397	33.8%
Wholesale Trade	8,423	92.1%	724	7.9%	9,147	3.5%	\$128,437,640	\$1,173	\$87,738,280	\$400	34.1%
Retail Trade	24,172	85.0%	4,275	15.0%	28,447	10.9%	\$188,357,639	\$599	\$169,361,044	\$269	44.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	8,082	89.7%	927	10.3%	9,009	3.5%	\$107,144,064	\$1,020	\$79,648,133	\$379	37.2%
Information	3,146	88.5%	407	11.5%	3,553	1.4%	\$37,250,914	\$911	\$29,475,404	\$360	39.5%
Finance & Insurance	6,318	95.3%	310	4.7%	6,628	2.5%	\$83,903,650	\$1,022	\$59,801,249	\$364	35.6%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,628	88.6%	469	11.4%	4,097	1.6%	\$45,281,123	\$960	\$32,737,948	\$347	36.1%
Professional & Technical Services	7,878	89.7%	901	10.3%	8,779	3.4%	\$115,062,478	\$1,124	\$77,797,447	\$379	33.7%
Mgmt.of Companies & Enterprises	1,297	94.7%	72	5.3%	1,369	0.5%	\$27,529,888	\$1,633	\$14,747,747	\$437	26.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	6,263	78.8%	1,680	21.2%	7,943	3.0%	\$53,079,245	\$652	\$44,932,450	\$275	42.2%
Educational Services	1,229	74.0%	431	26.0%	1,660	0.6%	\$11,438,839	\$716	\$10,139,811	\$317	44.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	19,636	89.3%	2,350	10.7%	21,986	8.4%	\$220,277,711	\$863	\$161,454,643	\$316	36.6%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	1,887	66.6%	945	33.4%	2,832	1.1%	\$13,537,213	\$552	\$11,798,258	\$240	43.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	20,988	75.4%	6,855	24.6%	27,843	10.7%	\$124,270,180	\$455	\$112,052,832	\$205	45.0%
Other Services	5,956	85.0%	1,048	15.0%	7,004	2.7%	\$60,423,548	\$780	\$49,587,660	\$320	41.0%
Federal	237	80.3%	58	19.7%	295	0.1%	\$2,849,060	\$925	\$1,880,549	\$305	33.0%
State	12,231	94.7%	689	5.3%	12,920	5.0%	\$169,123,350	\$1,064	\$132,538,018	\$416	39.1%
Local Government	39,327	91.7%	3,559	8.3%	42,886	16.4%	\$413,577,638	\$809	\$373,043,843	\$364	45.0%
Nonclassified	790	76.1%	248	23.9%	1,038	0.4%	\$7,461,765	\$727	\$5,891,165	\$286	39.4%
Total	227,997	87.4%	32,800	12.6%	260,797	100.0%	\$2,761,059,230	\$932	\$2,050,641,759	\$346	37.1%

Industries in italics are the five largest private job providers in Wyoming.

^aPotential maximum benefit cost in 26 weeks if all workers lost their jobs.

^bWage replacement rate = average weekly benefit / average weekly wage.

Source: Research & Planning, WY DWS. Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records administrative database and UI Claims program.

(Text continued from page 4)

indicated in italics in the tables and figures that accompany this article.

UI Eligibility and Wage Replacement by Industry

Of the 260,797 individuals who worked in both 2014Q3 and their base period, 87.4% (227,997) would be monetarily eligible for UI benefits and 12.6% (32,800) would not (see Table 1, page 5). Six of Wyoming's private industries would have more than 90% of their workers eligible for UI benefits: mining, utilities, manufacturing, wholesale trade, finance & insurance, and management of companies & enterprises. On the other hand, four private industries would have over 20% of their workers not eligible for UI benefits: administrative & waste services; educational services; accommodation & food services; and arts, entertainment, & recreation.

Table 1 also shows total wages and average weekly wage by industry, and potential total UI benefits and average weekly UI benefit amount by industry. Typically, an individual with higher wages before a job loss will find it more difficult to make up his financial losses through UI benefits (wage replacement). Wage replacement is calculated by dividing the average weekly benefit by the average weekly wage for that industry. The three industries with the highest weekly wage were mining, utilities, and management of companies & enterprises (around \$1,600 per week). These were also the three industries that would have the lowest wage replacement rate if workers lost their jobs (27.4%, 28.1%, and 26.8%, respectively). The only industries in which potential weekly UI benefits could replace a little more than half of the average weekly wage (less than \$600 per week) were agriculture; educational

services; accommodation & food services; and arts, entertainment, & recreation.

An individual's UI benefits, including dollar amount and duration, are based on the wages he earned during the base period. By law, the weekly UI benefit an eligible person could receive is equal to 4% of his high quarter wage during the base period. The law limits the maximum weekly benefit to 55% of the previous year's statewide average weekly wage, which changes every year. In 2015, the maximum weekly benefit was \$475. The maximum benefit an individual could receive for one year starting with the effective date of the initial claim is 30% of his base period wage, or 26 times his weekly benefit, whichever is less. The potential UI duration (the number of weeks an individual is able to receive UI benefits) is determined by the maximum benefit divided by the weekly benefit, up to a maximum of 26 weeks in a benefit year.

In general, the greater the weekly benefit amount and the longer time one is eligible for receiving UI benefits, the easier it is for workers to overcome the financial difficulties of unemployment. Increased benefits also afford more flexibility to attend reemployment services and look for jobs.

Table 2 and Figure 3 (see page 7) show that less than half (46.9%) of the 227,997 UI eligible individuals would qualify for the maximum weekly benefit (\$475) if they lost their jobs and applied for UI in 2014Q3. Among Wyoming's top five private industries, mining would have the highest percentage of workers (88.9%) qualify for maximum UI benefits, followed by construction (54.0%) and health care & social assistance (32.9%).

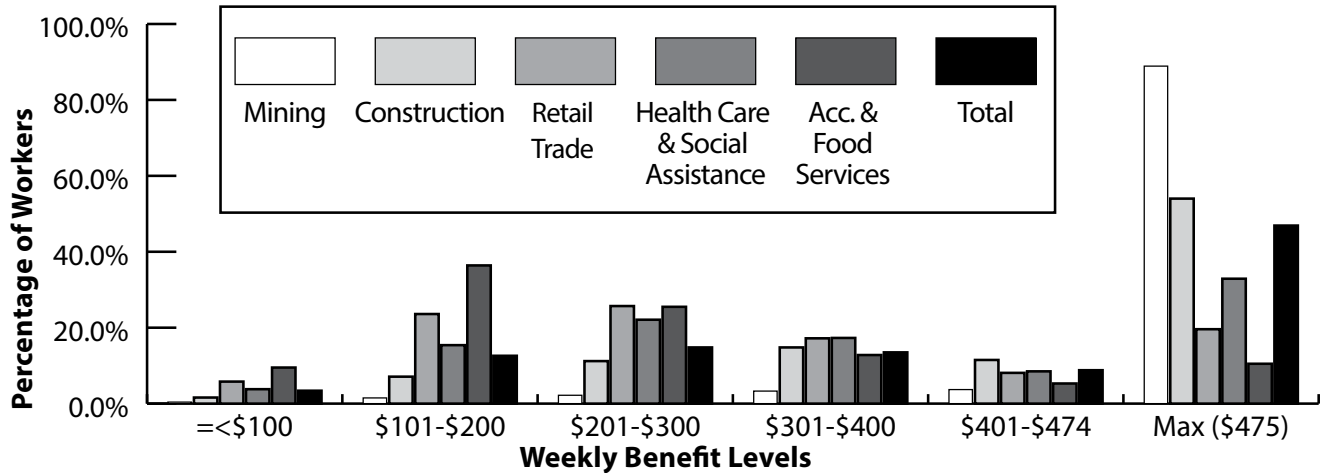
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Table 2: Percent Distribution of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Covered Workers in Each Industry by UI Benefit Level in Wyoming, 2014Q3

Industry	UI Benefit Levels						Number of Workers
	≤\$100	\$101-\$200	\$201-\$300	\$301-\$400	\$401-\$474	Max (\$475)	
Agriculture	4.1%	13.8%	20.3%	23.4%	11.0%	27.4%	2,121
<i>Mining</i>	0.4%	1.5%	2.2%	3.3%	3.7%	88.9%	24,055
Utilities	0.6%	1.2%	1.1%	2.5%	3.0%	91.7%	2,353
<i>Construction</i>	1.6%	7.1%	11.2%	14.8%	11.5%	54.0%	18,851
Manufacturing	1.2%	5.5%	9.6%	11.3%	8.5%	63.9%	9,129
Wholesale Trade	1.7%	5.6%	7.4%	11.6%	9.9%	63.9%	8,423
<i>Retail Trade</i>	5.8%	23.6%	25.7%	17.2%	8.1%	19.6%	24,172
Transportation & Warehousing	1.3%	7.3%	10.7%	13.4%	11.0%	56.2%	8,082
Information	3.5%	9.8%	13.6%	17.0%	10.9%	45.3%	3,146
Finance & Insurance	1.6%	6.6%	18.7%	19.7%	11.2%	42.3%	6,318
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.9%	10.1%	16.3%	14.9%	9.5%	45.5%	3,628
Professional & Technical Services	2.7%	7.5%	10.7%	11.9%	9.0%	58.2%	7,878
Mgmt.of Companies & Enterprises	0.6%	3.5%	4.6%	3.9%	3.1%	84.3%	1,297
Administrative & Waste Services	5.3%	19.8%	22.0%	17.6%	9.5%	25.8%	6,263
Educational Services	5.0%	12.7%	17.6%	17.9%	10.4%	36.4%	1,229
<i>Health Care & Social Assistance</i>	3.8%	15.4%	22.1%	17.3%	8.5%	32.9%	19,636
Arts, Ent., & Recreation	9.4%	25.4%	20.4%	16.2%	7.4%	21.1%	1,887
<i>Accommodation & Food Services</i>	9.5%	36.4%	25.5%	12.8%	5.3%	10.5%	20,988
Other Services	5.8%	15.8%	16.8%	14.0%	9.8%	37.8%	5,956
Federal	0.0%	0.8%	5.9%	36.7%	14.8%	41.8%	237
State	0.7%	2.8%	6.8%	14.1%	16.9%	58.7%	12,231
Local Government	2.7%	9.7%	13.6%	14.2%	9.3%	50.5%	39,327
Nonclassified	6.7%	19.4%	21.3%	11.6%	5.6%	35.4%	790
Total	3.4%	12.6%	14.8%	13.5%	8.8%	46.9%	227,997

Industries in italics are the five largest private job providers in Wyoming.

Source: Research & Planning, WY DWS. Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records administrative database and UI Claims program.



Source: Research & Planning, WY DWS. Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records administrative database and UI Claims program.

Figure 3: Distribution of Weekly Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Dollar Amount of Eligibility for the Five Largest Industries in Wyoming, 2014Q3

Table 3: Percent Distribution of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Covered Workers in Each Industry by Eligible Weeks in Wyoming, 2014Q3

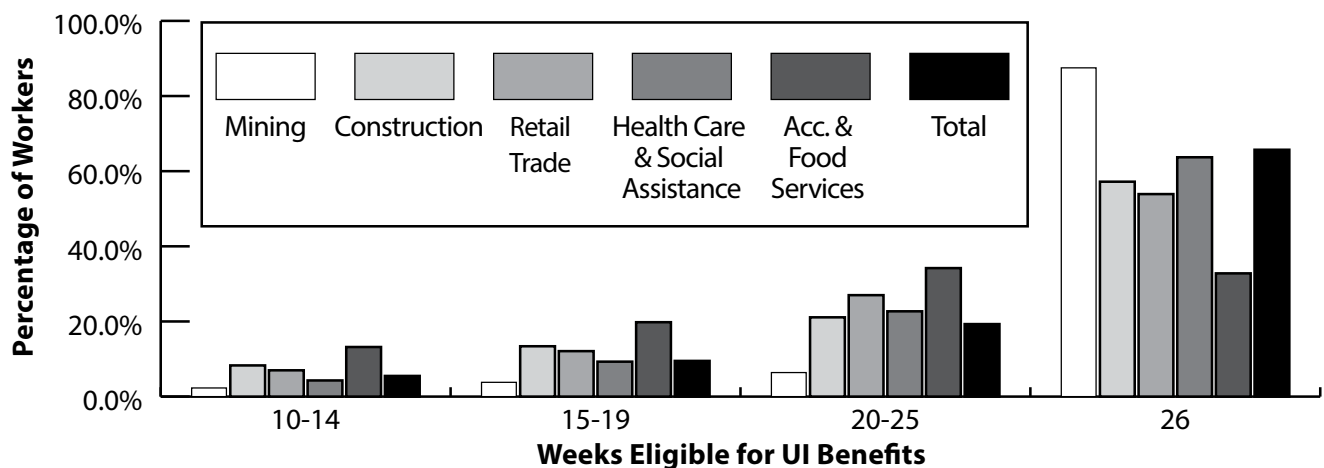
Industry	Eligible UI Weeks				Number of Workers
	10-14	15-19	20-25	26	
Agriculture	8.6%	13.8%	26.1%	51.6%	2,121
<i>Mining</i>	2.3%	3.8%	6.4%	87.5%	24,055
Utilities	1.2%	1.4%	3.1%	94.4%	2,353
<i>Construction</i>	8.3%	13.4%	21.1%	57.2%	18,851
Manufacturing	4.0%	5.8%	13.7%	76.6%	9,129
Wholesale Trade	3.2%	5.7%	13.9%	77.1%	8,423
<i>Retail Trade</i>	7.0%	12.1%	27.0%	53.9%	24,172
Transportation & Warehousing	4.9%	8.5%	17.5%	69.2%	8,082
Information	2.7%	6.3%	16.2%	74.8%	3,146
Finance & Insurance	2.2%	5.3%	19.7%	72.7%	6,318
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4.9%	8.3%	19.9%	67.0%	3,628
Professional & Technical Services	4.1%	7.4%	15.5%	73.1%	7,878
Mgmt.of Companies & Enterprises	2.1%	2.4%	6.7%	88.8%	1,297
Admin. & Waste Services	11.2%	18.1%	26.1%	44.7%	6,263
Educational Services	9.8%	13.8%	19.8%	56.6%	1,229
<i>Health Care & Social Assistance</i>	4.3%	9.3%	22.7%	63.7%	19,636
Arts, Ent., & Recreation	15.3%	21.9%	26.0%	36.7%	1,887
<i>Accommodation & Food Services</i>	13.2%	19.8%	34.2%	32.8%	20,988
Other Services	5.0%	10.2%	22.1%	62.7%	5,956
Federal	25.7%	28.7%	21.9%	23.6%	237
State	2.2%	3.2%	6.1%	88.5%	12,231
Local Government	3.3%	7.6%	18.9%	70.2%	39,327
Nonclassified	10.9%	15.4%	26.7%	47.0%	790
Total	5.5%	9.5%	19.3%	65.7%	227,997

Industries in italics are the five largest private job providers in Wyoming.

Source: Research & Planning, WY DWS. Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records administrative database and UI Claims program.

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In accommodation & food services and retail trade, only 10.5% and 19.6%, respectively, would qualify for the maximum weekly UI benefit. In fact, nearly half (45.9%) of those working in accommodation & food services would only qualify for \$200 or less per week. In terms of UI benefit duration, 65.7% of Wyoming's workers would be eligible for the maximum 26 weeks (see Table 3 and Figure 4). Among Wyoming's top five private industries, mining would have the highest percentage of workers (87.5%) qualify for the maximum duration and accommodation & food services would have the lowest (32.8%).



Source: Research & Planning, WY DWS. Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records administrative database and UI Claims program.

Figure 4: Distribution of Weeks Eligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits for the Five Largest Private Industries in Wyoming, 2014Q3

Employment Structure by Gender and Age

Table 4 and Figure 5 show the distribution of Wyoming workers by gender and age. A little over half (50.9%) of Wyoming workers were male, 42.7% were female, and no gender information was available for the remaining 6.4%. The age distributions for male and female workers were quite similar, with more than 75% between the ages of 25 and 64 years of age, a little over 10% younger than 25, and around 5% age 65 and older.

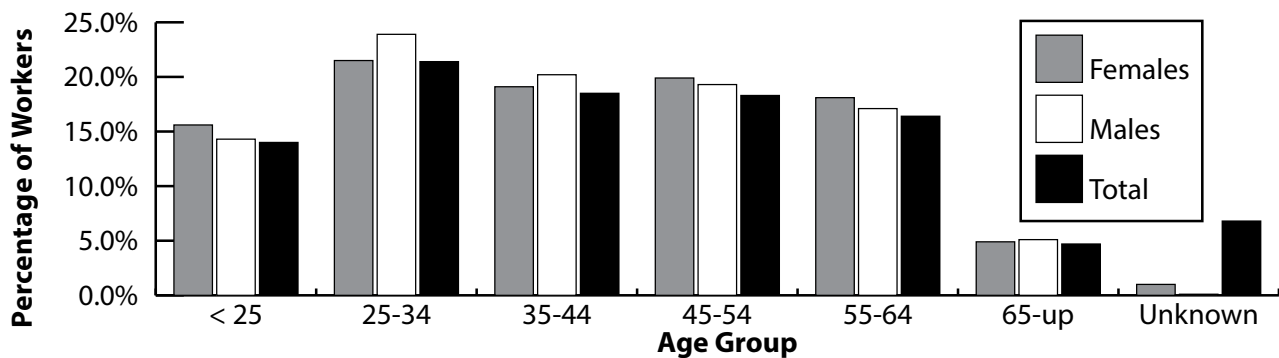
UI Eligibility by Gender and Age

In almost every age group, a slightly higher percentage of female workers than male workers would not be eligible for UI benefits if they were

Table 4: Wyoming Workers, Wages, Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits, and Wage Replacement Rate by Gender and Age, 2014Q3

Age Group	Workers		Average Base Period Employers	Average Weekly Wage	Average Weekly Benefit	Wage Replacement Rate
	N	Column %				
Females	98,180	42.7%	1.4	\$670	\$308	46.0%
< 25	11,772	12.0%	1.9	\$358	\$163	45.5%
25-34	21,322	21.7%	1.5	\$630	\$305	48.4%
35-44	19,555	19.9%	1.4	\$745	\$337	45.2%
45-54	20,900	21.3%	1.3	\$775	\$344	44.4%
55-64	19,012	19.4%	1.2	\$748	\$344	46.0%
65-up	4,620	4.7%	1.2	\$527	\$256	48.6%
Unknown	999	1.0%	1.3	\$701	\$319	45.5%
Total	98,180	100.0%	1.4	\$670	\$308	46.0%
Males	118,893	50.9%	1.4	\$1,153	\$381	33.0%
< 25	13,513	11.4%	1.9	\$596	\$227	38.1%
25-34	28,783	24.2%	1.5	\$1,054	\$380	36.1%
35-44	25,045	21.1%	1.4	\$1,293	\$416	32.2%
45-54	24,102	20.3%	1.3	\$1,332	\$418	31.4%
55-64	21,487	18.1%	1.2	\$1,330	\$414	31.1%
65-up	5,905	5.0%	1.2	\$946	\$319	33.7%
Unknown	58	0.0%	1.3	\$1,062	\$394	37.1%
Total	118,893	100.0%	1.4	\$1,153	\$381	33.0%
Unknown	10,924	6.4%	1.4	\$871	\$294	33.9%
Total	10,924	100.0%	1.4	\$871	\$295	33.9%
Total	227,997	100.0%	1.4	\$932	\$345	37.0%
< 25	25,287	11.1%	1.9	\$486	\$197	40.6%
25-34	50,114	22.0%	1.5	\$873	\$348	39.8%
35-44	44,614	19.6%	1.4	\$1,053	\$381	36.2%
45-54	45,009	19.7%	1.3	\$1,074	\$384	35.8%
55-64	40,513	17.8%	1.2	\$1,058	\$381	36.0%
65-up	10,529	4.6%	1.2	\$763	\$291	38.2%
Unknown	11,931	5.2%	1.4	\$849	\$297	35.0%

Source: Research & Planning, WY DWS. Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records administrative database and UI Claims program.



Source: Research & Planning, WY DWS. Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records administrative database and UI Claims program.

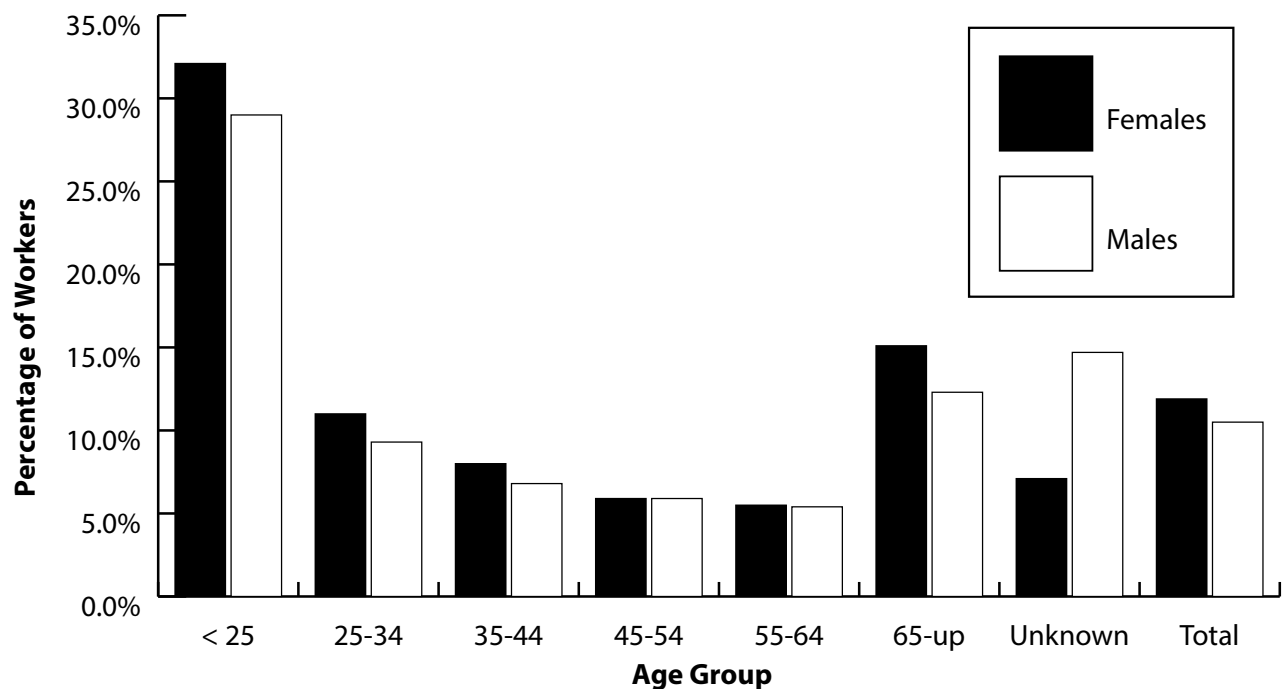
Figure 5: Percent Distribution of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Covered Workers by Gender and Age for Wyoming 2014Q3

unemployed (see Figure 6). For both males and females, the percentage of workers who would not be eligible for UI benefits decreases as age increases. Nearly 30% of Wyoming workers who were younger than 25 would not be eligible for UI benefits. For workers age 55 to 64, only 5.5% or less were not eligible for UI benefits. Among workers age 65 and older, 15.1% of females and 12.3% of males would not be eligible for UI benefits. Many of the workers younger than 25 are likely high school or college students who only work part-time or summer jobs with low wages. Table 4 shows that this youngest age group worked for 1.9 employers on average during the base period (the highest in all age groups) and made the lowest average weekly wage (\$486). It is also likely that a larger proportion of those in retirement age (65 and older) only worked part time;

the average weekly wage for this group (\$763) was the second lowest of all age groups. Lower wages in the youngest and oldest age groups contribute to the higher percentages of individuals ineligible for UI benefits.

Figure 7 (see page 11) shows that 60.8% of male workers would be eligible for maximum UI benefits (\$475 per week) compared to just 31.0% of female workers. Nearly one-fourth (22.1%) of all female workers would qualify for only \$200 a week or less, compared to 10.3% of male workers. This result indicates that more female workers may work low-paying or part-time jobs. The difference in duration of UI benefits for males (71.9%) and females (60.4%) was not as large (see Figure 8, page 11).

(Text continued on page 12)



Source: Research & Planning, WY DWS. Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records administrative database and UI Claims program.

Figure 6: Percent Distribution of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Covered Workers Ineligible for UI Benefits by Gender and Age in Wyoming, 2014Q3

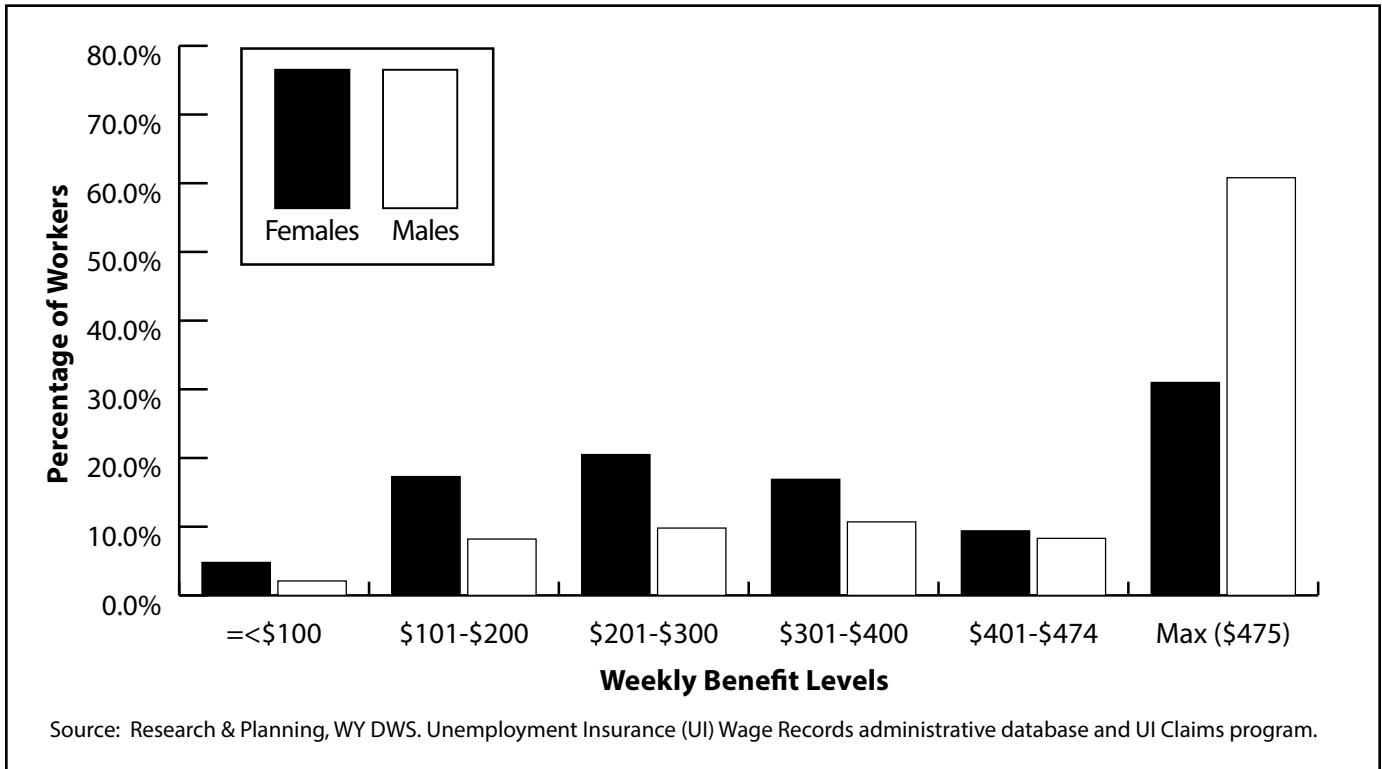


Figure 7: Percent Distribution of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Covered Workers by UI Benefit Levels and Gender in Wyoming, 2014Q3

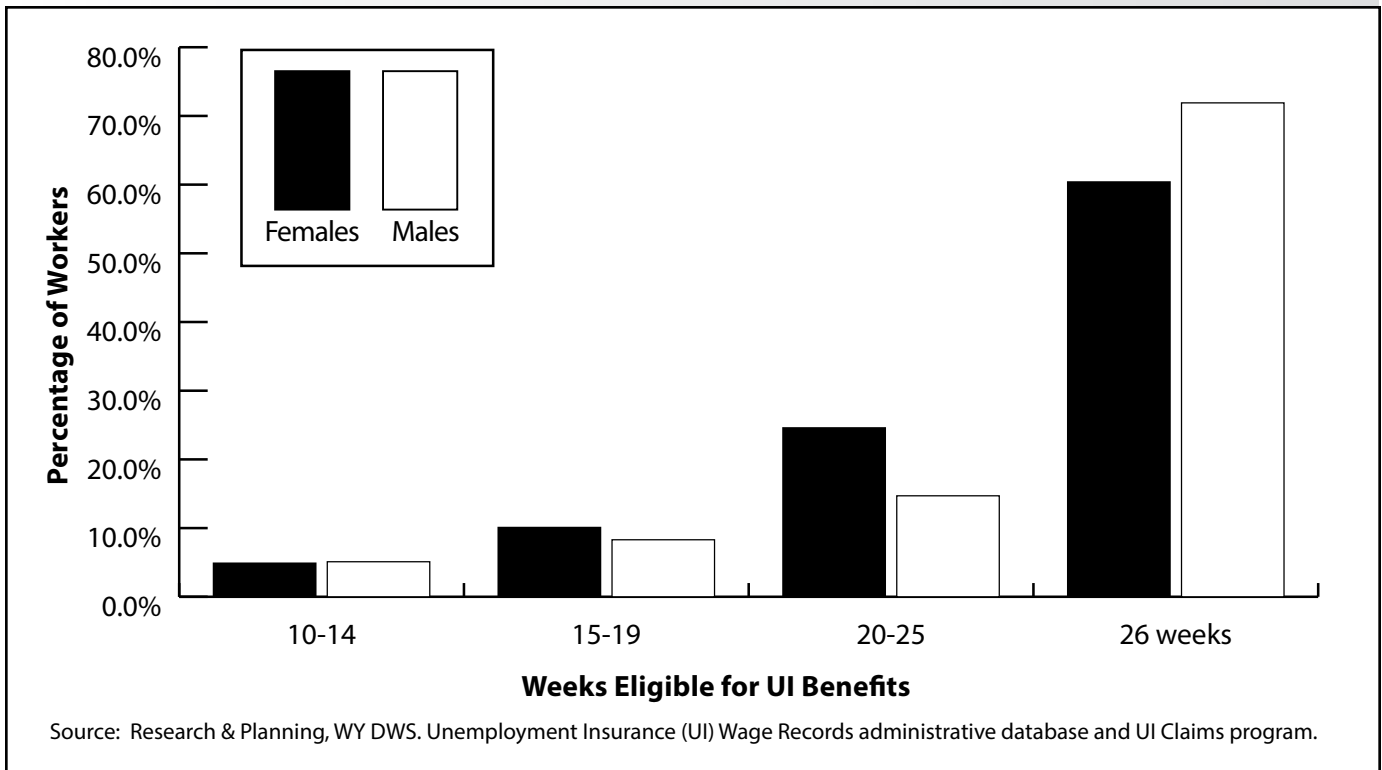


Figure 8: Percent Distribution of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Covered Workers by Weeks Eligible for UI Benefits and Gender in Wyoming, 2014Q3

(Text continued from page 10)

The average weekly wage for males was at least 66.4% higher than that for females in every age group (see Table 4). As a result, wage replacement rates from UI benefits would be much lower for male workers than females. On average, UI benefits could replace 46.0% of females' wages when unemployed, compared to 33.0% for males.

Potential UI Benefit Cost and Trust Fund Solvency

Benefits are paid from Wyoming's UI Trust Fund, which has two major sources of income: UI tax revenue and interest on the fund balance. All fund income and expenses are in a dynamic process and change from time to time, as does the trust fund balance. Table 5 and Figure 9 (see page 13) show the UI Trust Fund year-ending balance and annual fund income and expenses for

2001-2014. During that time, Wyoming's UI program experienced two downturns associated with the national recessions from 2002 to 2004 and from 2009 to 2010. During these two downturn periods, UI benefit expenses exceed the fund's income, resulting in a decline of the trust fund balance. In terms of UI cost, the last economic downturn was one of the costliest in Wyoming UI history (Wen, 2011). In total, \$161.5 million in UI benefits were paid to claimants in 2009, more than any other year in history.

At the end of 2008 – just before the economic downturn – the UI Trust Fund balance was \$283.2 million. It dropped to \$155.2 million by 2010, then began to increase in 2011. By the end of 2014, the UI Trust Fund balance reached \$393.4 million, the highest in history. In other words, Wyoming's UI Trust Fund was in better shape at the end of 2014 than it was at the end of 2008, and could handle at

Table 5: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund Balance, Income, and Expenses, 2001 to 2014

Year	UI Trust Fund Balance		Trust Fund Income				UI Benefit Expenses	
	Year-Ending Balance	Over-the-Year Change	UI Tax Contribution	UI Trust Fund Interest	Total Income	Over-the-Year % Change	Expenses	Over-the-Year % Change
	\$	%						
2001	\$215,645,924		\$27,428,219	\$12,105,212	\$39,533,431		\$25,455,845	
2002	\$209,950,216	-\$5,695,708	\$20,504,313	\$12,503,767	\$33,008,080	-16.5%	\$38,533,939	51.4%
2003	\$194,367,590	-\$15,582,626	\$19,382,514	\$11,495,488	\$30,878,002	-6.5%	\$46,523,683	20.7%
2004	\$191,851,552	-\$2,516,038	\$26,591,680	\$10,068,739	\$36,660,419	18.7%	\$39,816,356	-14.4%
2005	\$204,878,612	\$13,027,060	\$35,655,397	\$9,135,413	\$44,790,810	22.2%	\$32,783,056	-17.7%
2006	\$238,797,780	\$33,919,168	\$51,522,114	\$8,919,129	\$60,441,243	34.9%	\$27,917,448	-14.8%
2007	\$267,882,953	\$29,085,173	\$51,796,131	\$10,615,657	\$62,411,788	3.3%	\$33,901,474	21.4%
2008	\$283,112,420	\$15,229,467	\$53,526,806	\$11,925,575	\$65,452,381	4.9%	\$49,944,949	47.3%
2009	\$179,839,606	-\$103,272,814	\$48,343,577	\$10,609,154	\$58,952,731	-9.9%	\$161,531,961	223.4%
2010	\$155,150,542	-\$24,689,064	\$85,875,248	\$5,867,365	\$91,742,613	55.6%	\$119,947,743	-25.7%
2011	\$194,651,075	\$39,500,533	\$118,624,689	\$4,961,329	\$123,586,018	34.7%	\$86,822,007	-27.6%
2012	\$266,652,426	\$72,001,351	\$136,797,911	\$4,947,673	\$141,745,584	14.7%	\$77,512,786	-10.7%
2013	\$328,508,410	\$61,855,985	\$133,310,481	\$6,026,006	\$139,336,487	-1.7%	\$75,174,058	-3.0%
2014	\$393,369,724	\$64,861,313	\$114,968,527	\$7,313,276	\$122,281,803	-12.2%	\$56,027,276	-25.5%

Source: Research & Planning, WY DWS. Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records administrative database and UI Claims program.

least two years of 2009-level UI expenses, even without receiving additional UI tax revenues and interest.

Table 6 (see page 14) shows three different scenarios based on the 2014Q3 wage and employment structure. For example, Scenario 2 assumes that 20% of all workers lost jobs evenly across all industries and applied for UI benefits. Under this scenario, the cost for an average of 17 weeks (the average duration for 2009) would be \$267.8 million, which would not cause fund solvency problems given the current UI Trust Fund balance. But if 30% of all workers lost their jobs and applied for UI benefits (as presented

in Scenario 3), the cost would be \$401.6 million, which could lead to a situation of fund insolvency, depending on fund income and expenses.

One of the most commonly used measures of UI Trust Fund solvency is the average high cost multiple (AHCM; Department of Labor, ETA), which is the reserve ratio (the UI Trust Fund balance divided by total UI covered wages) divided by average cost rate of three high-cost years that include either three recessions or at least 20 years' history. The cost rate is the total amount of benefits paid in the

(Text continued on page 15)

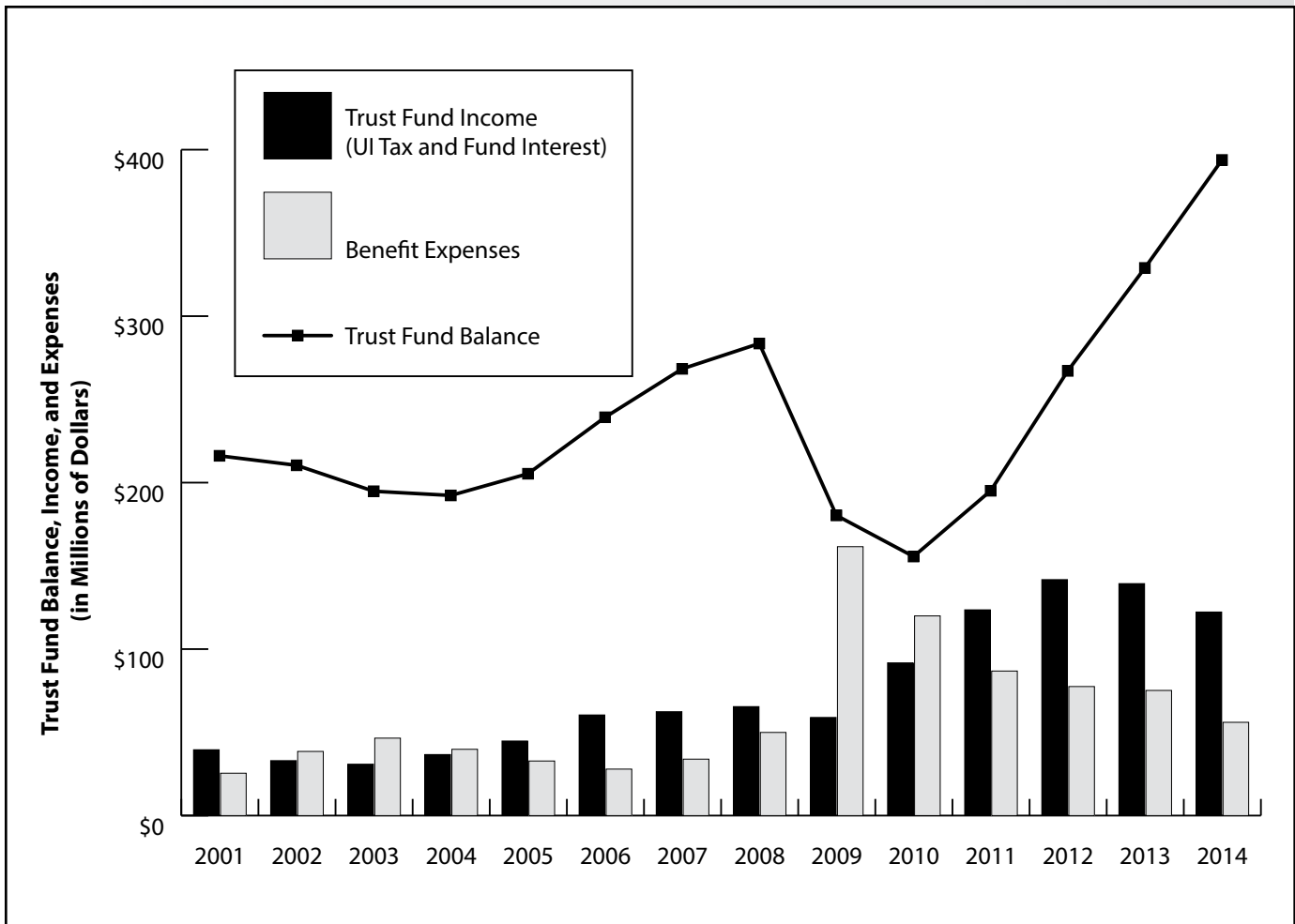


Figure 9: Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund Balance, Income, and Expenses for Wyoming, 2001-2014

Table 6: Estimates of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Costs Under Different Economic Downturn Scenarios

Industry	Wyoming Workers Who Worked During Both 2014Q3 and Base Period			Scenario 1: If 10% of Workers in this Industry Lost Jobs and Claimed UI Benefits with an Average Duration of 17 Weeks	Scenario 2: If 20% of Workers in this Industry Lost Jobs and Claimed UI Benefits with an Average Duration of 17 Weeks	Scenario 3: If 30% of Workers in this Industry Lost Jobs and Claimed UI Benefits with an Average Duration of 17 Weeks
	Workers	% Eligible for UI Benefits	Potential Average Weekly Benefit ^a	UI Cost	UI Cost	UI Cost
Agriculture	2,553	83.1%	\$301	\$1,085,316	\$2,170,631	\$3,255,947
Mining	25,804	93.2%	\$446	\$18,238,501	\$36,477,002	\$54,715,503
Utilities	2,414	97.5%	\$458	\$1,832,046	\$3,664,092	\$5,496,137
Construction	22,782	82.7%	\$362	\$11,600,905	\$23,201,811	\$34,802,716
Manufacturing	9,808	93.1%	\$397	\$6,161,162	\$12,322,324	\$18,483,486
Wholesale Trade	9,147	92.1%	\$400	\$5,727,640	\$11,455,280	\$17,182,920
Retail Trade	28,447	85.0%	\$269	\$11,053,856	\$22,107,711	\$33,161,567
Transportation & Warehousing	9,009	89.7%	\$379	\$5,207,233	\$10,414,465	\$15,621,698
Information	3,553	88.5%	\$360	\$1,925,352	\$3,850,704	\$5,776,056
Finance & Insurance	6,628	95.3%	\$364	\$3,909,578	\$7,819,157	\$11,728,735
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,097	88.6%	\$347	\$2,140,157	\$4,280,314	\$6,420,472
Professional & Technical Services	8,779	89.7%	\$379	\$5,075,795	\$10,151,591	\$15,227,386
Mgmt.of Companies & Enterprises	1,369	94.7%	\$437	\$963,541	\$1,927,083	\$2,890,624
Administrative & Waste Services	7,943	78.8%	\$275	\$2,927,953	\$5,855,905	\$8,783,858
Educational Services	1,660	74.0%	\$317	\$662,308	\$1,324,616	\$1,986,924
Health Care & Social Assistance	21,986	89.3%	\$316	\$10,548,459	\$21,096,918	\$31,645,378
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,832	66.6%	\$240	\$769,896	\$1,539,792	\$2,309,688
Accommodation & Food Services	27,843	75.4%	\$205	\$7,314,318	\$14,628,636	\$21,942,954
Other Services	7,004	85.0%	\$320	\$3,240,064	\$6,480,128	\$9,720,192
Federal	295	80.3%	\$305	\$122,885	\$245,769	\$368,654
State	12,920	94.7%	\$416	\$8,649,763	\$17,299,526	\$25,949,290
Local	42,886	91.7%	\$364	\$24,335,548	\$48,671,095	\$73,006,643
Government						
Nonclassified	1,038	76.1%	\$286	\$384,098	\$768,196	\$1,152,294
Total	260,797	87.4%	\$346	\$133,876,374	\$267,752,747	\$401,629,121

^aBased on base period wages.

Source: Research & Planning, WY DWS. Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records administrative database and UI Claims program.

(Text continued from page 13)

year divided by the total covered wages in the same year. A detailed example of this calculation was presented in *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* in March 2014 (Wen, 2014). The Advisory Council on Unemployment Compensation recommends an AHCM at 1.0 as a safe level. The most recent UI financial report shows that Wyoming scored 1.18.

Conclusion and Future Studies

Approximately three-fourths (75.3%) of Wyoming workers would be eligible for UI benefits if they were unemployed through no fault of their own. Individuals who worked in high-paying industries or jobs would be more likely to qualify for higher UI benefits, but with a lower wage replacement rate. Female workers were more likely to qualify for lower UI benefits than male workers. Workers younger than 25 or older than 65 were more likely to be ineligible for UI benefits or eligible for a lower UI benefit than any other age groups.

Wyoming's UI Trust Fund is currently at a solvent level and ready to face another potential economic crisis based on the reserved fund level and the past downturns cost experiences.

Future studies may address questions such as:

Is Wyoming's UI system offering sufficient worker protection?

How would the 41,908 workers in 2014Q3 who were ineligible for UI benefits fare in terms of UI eligibility in the future?

Is the quarter used for this research (2014Q3) representative of other quarters of the year, or is it affected by seasonality?

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Occupation Spotlight: Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers

Occupational Employment Statistics

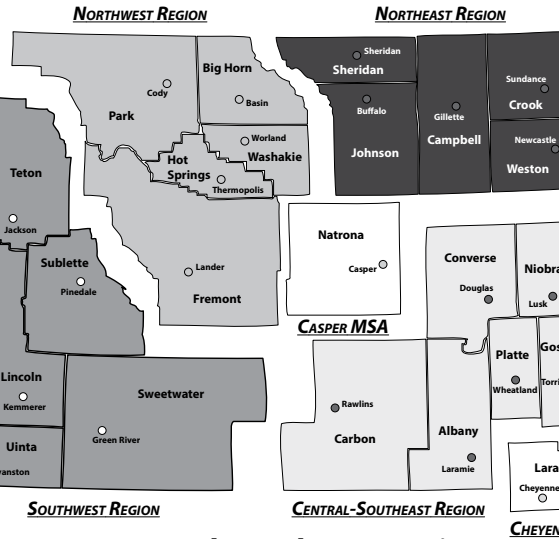
Standard Occupational Classification Code: 53-3032.

Drive a tractor-trailer combination or a truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). May be required to unload truck. Requires commercial driver's license.

Statewide Employment: 6,980
Mean Hourly Wage: \$23.70

Northwest Region

Employment: **880**
 Mean Hourly Wage: **\$20.85**



Northeast Region

Employment: 1,570
 Mean Hourly Wage: **\$25.07**

Casper MSA

Employment: 960
 Mean Hourly Wage: **\$26.57**

Southwest Region

Employment: **1,730**
 Mean Hourly Wage: **\$23.78**

Cheyenne MSA

Employment: 860
 Mean Hourly Wage: **\$21.32**

Central-Southeast Region

Employment: **900**
 Mean Hourly Wage: **\$23.59**

Source: Occupational Employment Statistics, March 2015 (<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/oes.htm>).

Projections

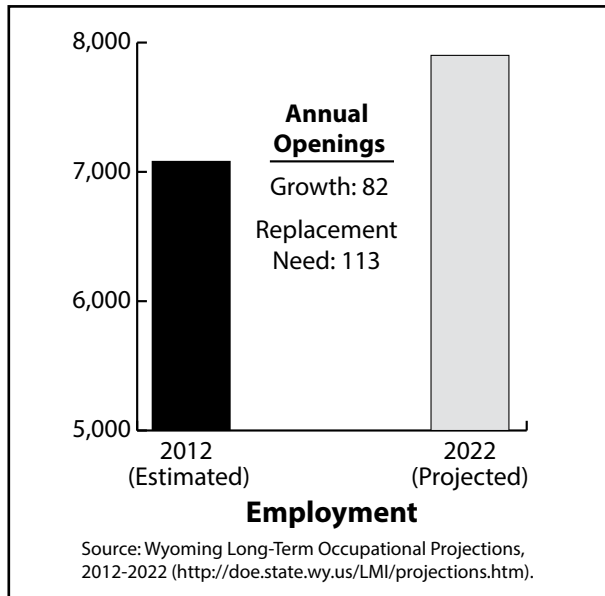


Figure: Long-Term Projected Growth for Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers in Wyoming, 2012-2022

New Hires

Table: Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers New Hires^a in Wyoming, 2014

Estimated N	4,482
Mean Hourly Wage	\$19.00
Retention Rate ^b	77.8
Gender	100.0
Females	6.7
Males	81.6
Nonresidents	11.7

^aNew hires are defined as workers who had not previously worked for a particular employer since 1992, the first year for which wage records are available for analyses.

^bPercent still working for the same employer one quarter after hire.

Source: New Hires Job Skills Survey (<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/newhires.htm>).

Wyoming Unemployment Rate at 4.1% in July 2015

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported that the state's seasonally adjusted¹ unemployment rate fell very slightly from 4.2% in June (as revised) to 4.1% in July. Wyoming's unemployment rate has remained within the narrow range of 4.0% to 4.2% in each of the past eight months. Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents increased slightly, rising by an estimated 844 individuals (0.3%) from June to July. This level of over-the-month employment growth is a normal change.

From June to July, most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and decreased. Typically, employment rises in many sectors in July, including leisure & hospitality, construction, and professional & business services. The largest unemployment rate decreases were seen in Uinta (down from 4.8% to 4.2%), Teton (down from 2.7% to 2.1%), Goshen (down from 3.5% to 3.0%), Crook (down from 3.2% to 2.7%), and Converse (down from 3.6% to 3.1%)

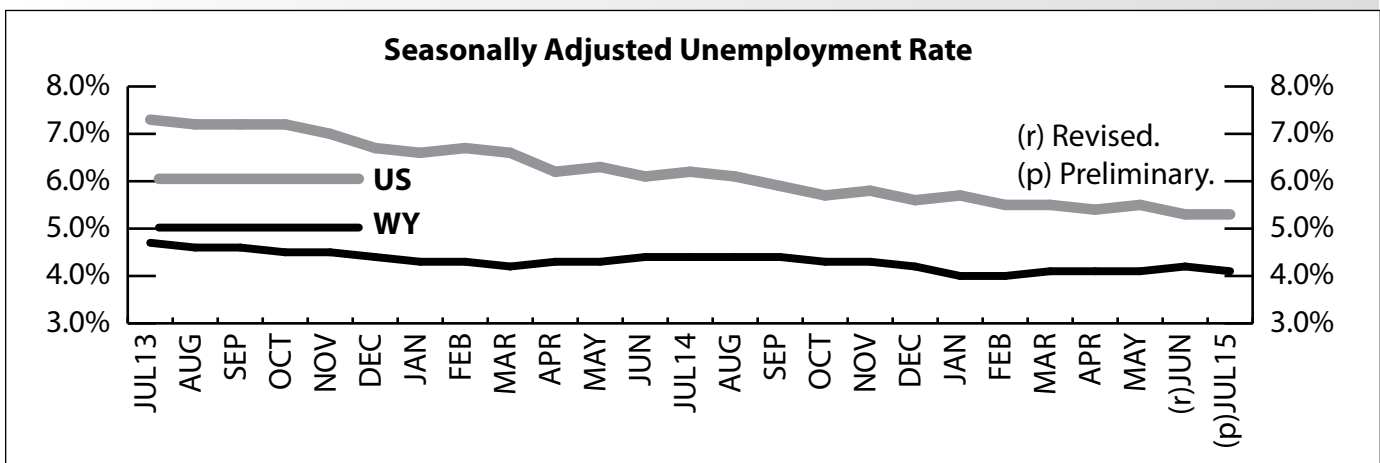
counties. Niobrara County's unemployment rate rose modestly from 2.8% to 3.1%.

From July 2014 to July 2015, unemployment rates fell in 17 counties, rose in five counties and remained unchanged in Converse County. The largest decreases occurred in Crook (down from 3.7% to 2.7%), Platte (down from 4.3% to 3.4%), Teton (down from 2.9% to 2.1%), Lincoln (down from 4.5% to 3.7%), Albany (down from 3.8% to 3.0%), and Goshen (down from 3.8% to 3.0%) counties. Unemployment rates increased in Natrona (up from 3.9% to 4.4%), Campbell (up from 3.3% to 3.5%), Fremont (up from 5.0% to 5.2%), and Sweetwater (up from 4.1% to 4.3%) counties.

The highest unemployment rates were found in Fremont (5.2%), Natrona (4.4%), Sweetwater (4.3%), and Uinta (4.2%) counties. Teton County had the lowest unemployment rate (2.1%). It was followed by Crook (2.7%), Weston (2.8%), Goshen (3.0%), and Albany (3.0%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (measured by place of work) rose from 301,400 in July 2014 to 302,600 in July 2015, a gain of 1,200 jobs (0.4%; not a statistically significant change).

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



Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections, July 2015

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

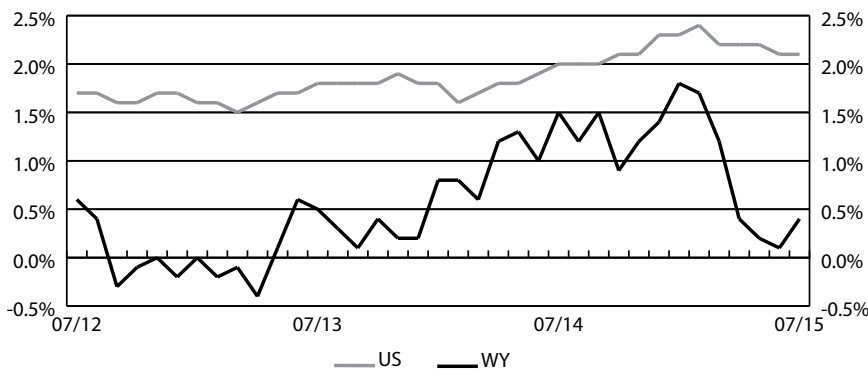
Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm	300,661	302,600	1,939	0.6%
Natural Resources & Mining	25,127	23,600	-1,527	-6.5%
Construction	25,720	25,300	-420	-1.7%
Manufacturing	9,978	10,000	22	0.2%
Wholesale Trade	9,867	9,800	-67	-0.7%
Retail Trade	31,368	30,600	-768	-2.5%
Transportation & Utilities	16,324	15,900	-424	-2.7%
Information	3,860	3,800	-60	-1.6%
Financial Activities	11,497	12,100	603	5.0%
Professional & Business Services	19,637	20,000	363	1.8%
Educational & Health Services	26,267	27,500	1,233	4.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	42,392	45,100	2,708	6.0%
Other Services	10,041	9,700	-341	-3.5%
Government	68,583	69,200	617	0.9%

Projections were run in July 2015 and based on QCEW data through March 2015.

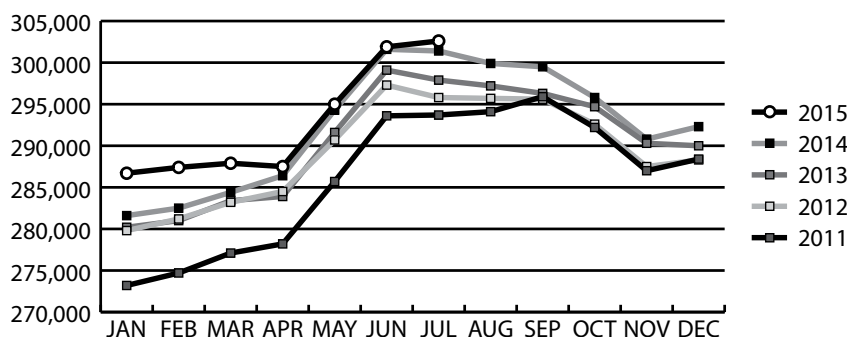
State Unemployment Rates July 2015 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.9
West Virginia	7.5
District of Columbia	6.8
Nevada	6.8
Alaska	6.7
Mississippi	6.5
New Mexico	6.5
South Carolina	6.4
Alabama	6.2
California	6.2
Louisiana	6.2
Arizona	6.1
Georgia	6.0
New Jersey	5.9
North Carolina	5.9
Oregon	5.9
Illinois	5.8
Missouri	5.8
Rhode Island	5.8
Tennessee	5.7
Arkansas	5.6
Connecticut	5.4
Florida	5.4
New York	5.4
Pennsylvania	5.4
Michigan	5.3
United States	5.3
Washington	5.3
Kentucky	5.2
Maryland	5.2
Ohio	5.0
Virginia	4.8
Delaware	4.7
Indiana	4.7
Massachusetts	4.7
Kansas	4.6
Maine	4.6
Wisconsin	4.6
Oklahoma	4.5
Colorado	4.3
Texas	4.2
Idaho	4.1
Wyoming	4.1
Minnesota	4.0
Montana	4.0
Iowa	3.8
South Dakota	3.8
Hawaii	3.7
New Hampshire	3.7
Utah	3.6
Vermont	3.6
North Dakota	3.0
Nebraska	2.7

Nonagricultural Employment Growth (Percentage Change Over Previous Year)



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

State Unemployment Rates July 2015 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14	Jul 15 Jun 15	Jul 15 Jul 14
	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14	Jun 15	Jul 14
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	28.8	29.2	29.5	-1.4	-2.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	23.9	23.8	24.7	0.4	-3.2
GOODS PRODUCING	11.0	10.9	11.8	0.9	-6.8
Natural Resources & Mining	7.7	7.7	8.2	0.0	-6.1
Construction	2.7	2.6	3.0	3.8	-10.0
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	17.8	18.3	17.7	-2.7	0.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.9	5.9	5.9	0.0	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	-5.6
Educational & Health Services	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.5	2.5	2.3	0.0	8.7
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
GOVERNMENT	4.9	5.4	4.8	-9.3	2.1
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	24.3	24.9	24.5	-2.4	-0.8
TOTAL PRIVATE	20.3	20.3	20.5	0.0	-1.0
GOODS PRODUCING	8.3	8.4	8.8	-1.2	-5.7
Natural Resources & Mining	5.2	5.3	5.6	-1.9	-7.1
Construction	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	-5.6
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.0	16.5	15.7	-3.0	1.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.2	5.2	5.1	0.0	2.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Leisure & Hospitality	2.6	2.5	2.5	4.0	4.0
Other Services	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	4.0	4.6	4.0	-13.0	0.0
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	23.3	22.2	22.6	5.0	3.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	21.0	19.5	20.3	7.7	3.4
GOODS PRODUCING	2.5	2.3	2.3	8.7	8.7
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	2.3	2.2	2.1	4.5	9.5
Manufacturing	0.2	0.1	0.2	100.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	20.8	19.9	20.3	4.5	2.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	3.2	3.0	3.1	6.7	3.2
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.0	0.9	1.0	11.1	0.0
Professional & Business Services	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.2	1.1	8.3	18.2
Leisure & Hospitality	10.3	9.4	10.1	9.6	2.0
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	2.3	2.7	2.3	-14.8	0.0

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.2
West Virginia	7.6
New Mexico	7.1
District of Columbia	7.0
Mississippi	6.9
Nevada	6.9
Alabama	6.8
Arizona	6.8
Louisiana	6.6
California	6.5
Georgia	6.5
South Carolina	6.4
Tennessee	6.4
North Carolina	6.3
Oregon	6.3
New Jersey	6.2
Michigan	6.1
Alaska	5.9
Illinois	5.9
Missouri	5.9
Pennsylvania	5.9
Arkansas	5.8
Rhode Island	5.8
Florida	5.7
Connecticut	5.6
Kentucky	5.6
United States	5.6
Maryland	5.4
New York	5.4
Washington	5.4
Kansas	5.1
Ohio	5.0
Massachusetts	4.9
Delaware	4.8
Indiana	4.8
Virginia	4.7
Texas	4.6
Oklahoma	4.5
Wisconsin	4.5
Colorado	4.0
Maine	4.0
Idaho	3.9
Utah	3.9
Minnesota	3.8
Montana	3.8
New Hampshire	3.6
Vermont	3.6
Wyoming	3.6
Iowa	3.5
Hawaii	3.3
South Dakota	3.3
Nebraska	3.0
North Dakota	2.6

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming fell from 52 in July 2014 to 21 in July 2015, a decrease of 59.6%.

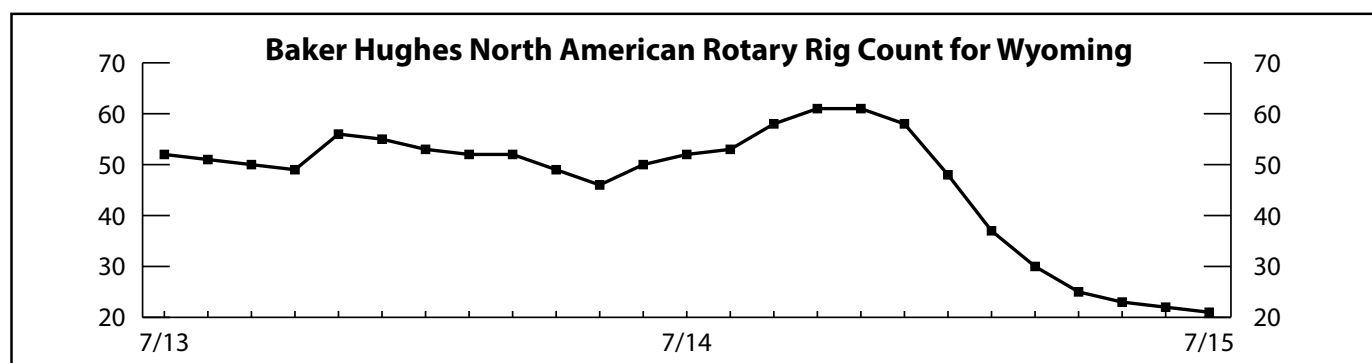
	Jul 2015 (p)	Jun 2015 (r)	Jul 2014 (b)	Percent Change Month	Percent Change Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	302,600	301,900	301,400	0.2	0.4
Wyoming State Government	15,100	15,100	14,900	0.0	1.3
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	47,700	48,200	47,500	-1.0	0.4
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	42,700	43,400	43,200	-1.6	-1.2
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	6,997,000	7,025,000	6,787,000	-0.4	3.1
As a percent of all workers	4.7%	4.7%	4.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	668,000	653,000	741,000	2.3	-9.9
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	6,511,000	6,776,000	7,665,000	-3.9	-15.1
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	17,456	21,442	11,741	-18.6	48.7
Benefits Paid	\$7,055,061	\$8,671,061	\$4,238,442	-18.6	66.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$404.16	\$404.40	\$360.99	-0.1	12.0
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	281,008	285,643	277,680	-1.6	1.2
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.3%	2.5%	1.4%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	238.7	238.6	238.3	0.0	0.2
Food & Beverages	246.6	246.2	242.7	0.1	1.6
Housing	239.1	238.6	234.5	0.2	2.0
Apparel	122.6	125.0	124.6	-1.9	-1.6
Transportation	207.2	208.0	221.9	-0.4	-6.6
Medical Care	446.8	446.3	435.9	0.1	2.5
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	116.4	116.4	115.8	0.0	0.4
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	137.6	137.4	137.5	0.1	0.1
Other Goods & Services	415.4	415.0	408.5	0.1	1.7
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	194.0	194.7	208.0	-0.4	-6.7
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	203	207	173	-1.9	17.3
Valuation	\$57,024,000	\$51,109,000	\$54,416,000	11.6	4.8
Single Family Homes	181	168	157	7.7	15.3
Valuation	\$54,790,000	\$48,296,000	\$53,037,000	13.4	3.3
Casper MSA ² Building Permits	24	30	22	-20.0	9.1
Valuation	\$6,094,000	\$7,770,000	\$5,108,000	-21.6	19.3
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	76	44	41	72.7	85.4
Valuation	\$12,204,000	\$6,073,000	\$8,123,000	101.0	50.2
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	21	22	52	-4.5	-59.6

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

¹Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates.

²Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Note: Production worker hours and earnings data have been dropped from the Economic Indicators page because of problems with accuracy due to a small sample size and high item nonresponse. The Bureau of Labor Statistics will continue to publish these data online at <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.wy.htm>.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

From June to July, most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and decreased.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Jul 2015 (p)	Jun 2015 (r)	Jul 2014 (b)	Jul 2015 (p)	Jun 2015 (r)	Jul 2014 (b)	Jul 2015 (p)	Jun 2015 (r)	Jul 2014 (b)	Jul 2015 (p)	Jun 2015 (r)	Jul 2014 (b)
NORTHWEST	51,200	51,425	50,536	49,107	49,234	48,350	2,093	2,191	2,186	4.1	4.3	4.3
Big Horn	5,850	5,911	5,821	5,624	5,676	5,577	226	235	244	3.9	4.0	4.2
Fremont	20,617	20,936	20,442	19,553	19,869	19,427	1,064	1,067	1,015	5.2	5.1	5.0
Hot Springs	2,494	2,555	2,564	2,408	2,459	2,461	86	96	103	3.4	3.8	4.0
Park	17,788	17,603	17,374	17,230	16,988	16,727	558	615	647	3.1	3.5	3.7
Washakie	4,451	4,420	4,335	4,292	4,242	4,158	159	178	177	3.6	4.0	4.1
NORTHEAST	55,162	56,378	55,117	53,280	54,324	53,120	1,882	2,054	1,997	3.4	3.6	3.6
Campbell	26,410	26,965	26,696	25,480	25,943	25,826	930	1,022	870	3.5	3.8	3.3
Crook	3,895	4,010	3,744	3,790	3,883	3,604	105	127	140	2.7	3.2	3.7
Johnson	4,565	4,809	4,635	4,388	4,621	4,446	177	188	189	3.9	3.9	4.1
Sheridan	16,336	16,570	16,149	15,777	15,980	15,485	559	590	664	3.4	3.6	4.1
Weston	3,956	4,024	3,893	3,845	3,897	3,759	111	127	134	2.8	3.2	3.4
SOUTHWEST	64,037	63,637	63,247	61,743	61,042	60,769	2,294	2,595	2,478	3.6	4.1	3.9
Lincoln	8,734	8,866	8,400	8,413	8,514	8,020	321	352	380	3.7	4.0	4.5
Sublette	4,996	5,297	4,980	4,790	5,071	4,782	206	226	198	4.1	4.3	4.0
Sweetwater	22,977	23,187	23,120	21,994	22,098	22,175	983	1,089	945	4.3	4.7	4.1
Teton	17,074	16,205	16,597	16,718	15,765	16,116	356	440	481	2.1	2.7	2.9
Uinta	10,256	10,082	10,150	9,828	9,594	9,676	428	488	474	4.2	4.8	4.7
SOUTHEAST	82,943	82,687	82,024	80,243	79,757	78,731	2,700	2,930	3,293	3.3	3.5	4.0
Albany	19,506	19,542	19,185	18,914	18,895	18,450	592	647	735	3.0	3.3	3.8
Goshen	7,237	7,325	7,117	7,017	7,072	6,849	220	253	268	3.0	3.5	3.8
Laramie	49,696	49,326	49,655	48,027	47,514	47,621	1,669	1,812	2,034	3.4	3.7	4.1
Niobrara	1,416	1,456	1,364	1,372	1,415	1,312	44	41	52	3.1	2.8	3.8
Platte	5,088	5,038	4,703	4,913	4,861	4,499	175	177	204	3.4	3.5	4.3
CENTRAL	60,966	61,021	60,779	58,494	58,343	58,485	2,472	2,678	2,294	4.1	4.4	3.8
Carbon	8,593	8,870	8,657	8,326	8,572	8,339	267	298	318	3.1	3.4	3.7
Converse	8,554	8,718	8,329	8,291	8,403	8,070	263	315	259	3.1	3.6	3.1
Natrona	43,819	43,433	43,793	41,877	41,368	42,076	1,942	2,065	1,717	4.4	4.8	3.9
STATEWIDE	314,311	315,147	311,698	302,870	302,701	299,453	11,441	12,446	12,245	3.6	3.9	3.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.1	4.2	4.4
U.S.										5.6	5.5	6.5
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										5.3	5.3	6.2

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/2015. Run Date 08/2015.

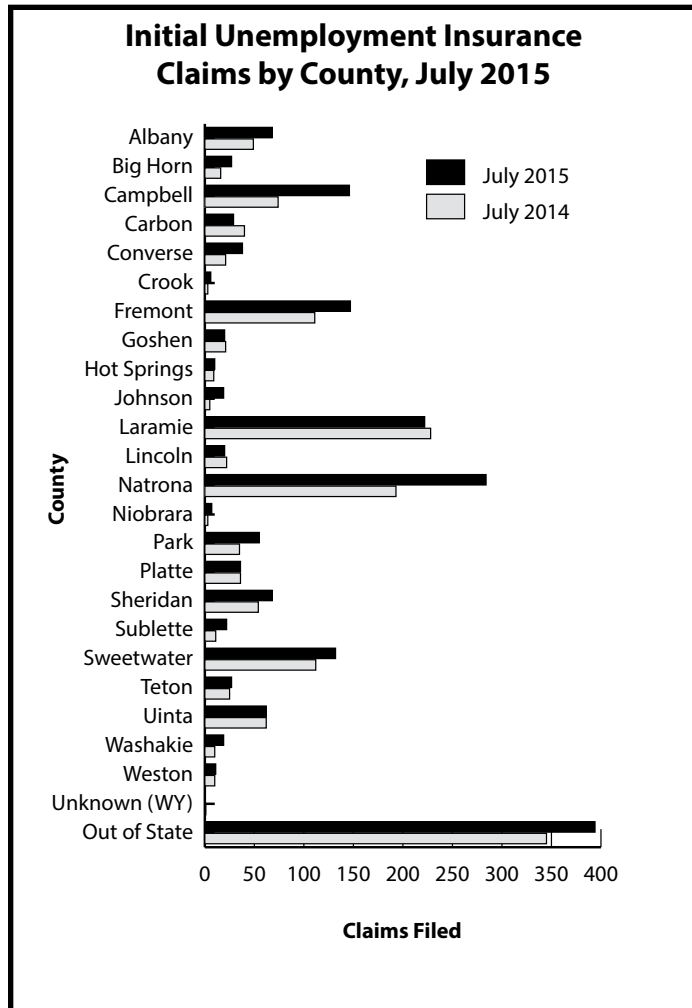
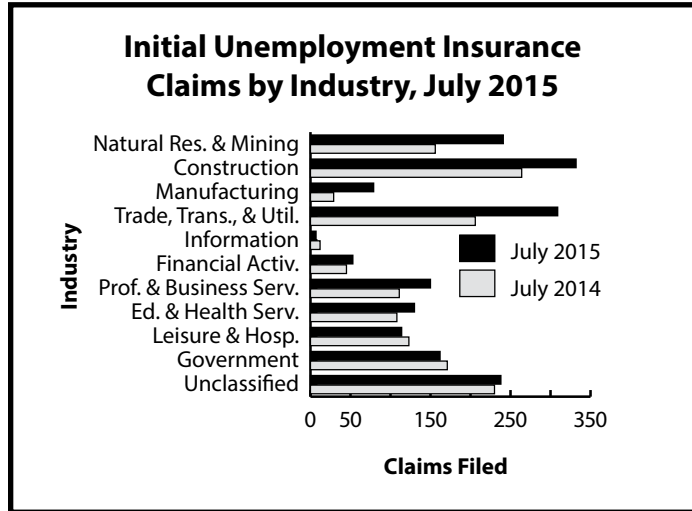
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Sherry Wen, Principal Economist

Initial claims increased 24.9% from July 2014. The largest percentage increases were seen in manufacturing (172.4%) and transportation, warehousing, & utilities (108.8%).



Initial Claims	Claims Filed		Percent Change Claims Filed		
	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14	Jun 15	
	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14	Jun 15	
Wyoming Statewide	1,868	2,174	1,495	-14.1	24.9
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED					
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	653	824	451	-20.8	44.8
Natural Res. & Mining	241	308	156	-21.8	54.5
Mining	236	297	139	-20.5	69.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	33	15	6	120.0	450.0
Construction	332	451	264	-26.4	25.8
Manufacturing	79	63	29	25.4	172.4
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	814	869	642	-6.3	26.8
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	309	289	206	6.9	50.0
Wholesale Trade	68	70	40	-2.9	70.0
Retail Trade	122	101	109	20.8	11.9
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	119	118	57	0.8	108.8
Information	7	15	12	-53.3	-41.7
Financial Activities	53	53	45	0.0	17.8
Prof. and Business Svcs.	150	140	111	7.1	35.1
Educational & Health Svcs.	130	189	108	-31.2	20.4
Leisure & Hospitality	114	136	123	-16.2	-7.3
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	45	41	30	9.8	50.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	162	180	171	-10.0	-5.3
Federal Government	24	29	34	-17.2	-29.4
State Government	20	15	15	33.3	33.3
Local Government	117	136	121	-14.0	-3.3
Local Education	34	77	32	-55.8	6.3
UNCLASSIFIED	238	299	230	-20.4	3.5

Laramie County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	221	276	227	-19.9	-2.6
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	65	87	56	-25.3	16.1
Construction	43	81	43	-46.9	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	131	141	132	-7.1	-0.8
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	38	43	36	-11.6	5.6
Financial Activities	11	11	14	0.0	-21.4
Prof. & Business Svcs.	69	53	49	30.2	40.8
Educational & Health Svcs.	14	29	13	-51.7	7.7
Leisure & Hospitality	11	17	17	-35.3	-35.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	14	29	22	-51.7	-36.4
UNCLASSIFIED	9	17	16	-47.1	-43.8

Natrona County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	284	312	193	-9.0	47.2
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	108	142	58	-23.9	86.2
Construction	31	60	25	-48.3	24.0
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	160	152	116	5.3	37.9
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	68	57	32	19.3	112.5
Financial Activities	8	10	11	-20.0	-27.3
Prof. & Business Svcs.	38	39	22	-2.6	72.7
Educational & Health Svcs.	28	25	26	12.0	7.7
Leisure & Hospitality	15	13	14	15.4	7.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	7	5	12	40.0	-41.7
UNCLASSIFIED	7	11	6	-36.4	16.7

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

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Sherry Wen, Principal Economist

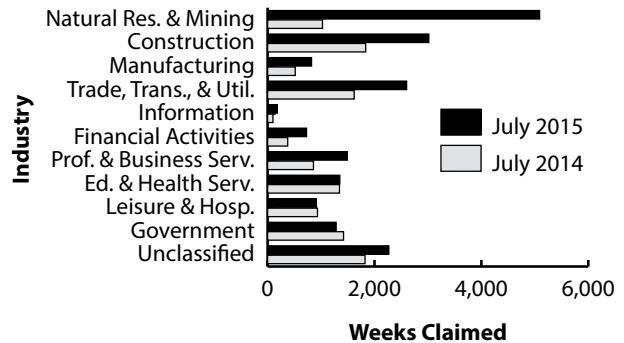
Continued claims in goods-producing industries increased 164.2% over the year from July 2014.

Continued Claims

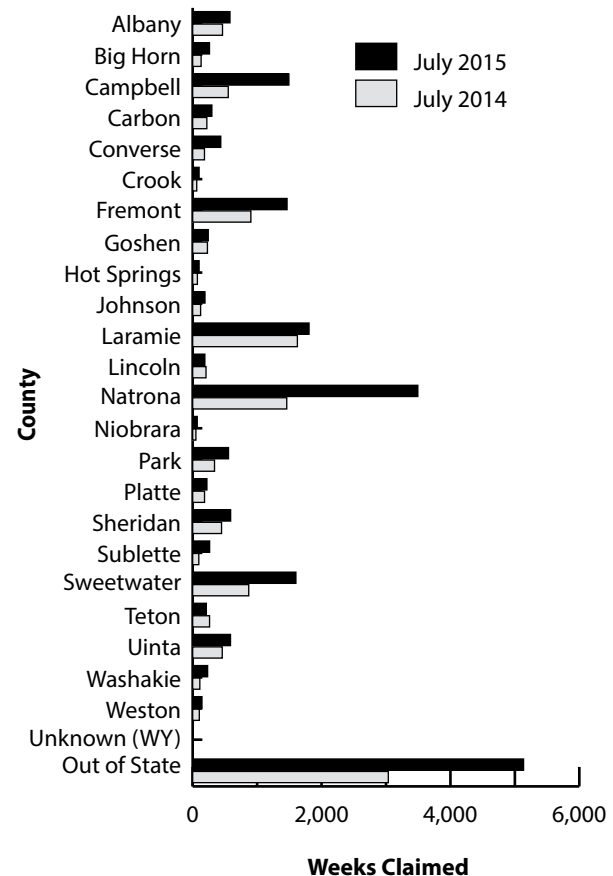
	Percent Change Claims Filed				
	Claims Filed		Jul 15		Jul 14
	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14	Jun 15	Jul 14
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	20,274	22,293	12,200	-9.1	66.2
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS^b	4,824	6,431	2,990	-25.0	61.3
Benefit Exhaustions	419	346	263	21.1	59.3
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	8.7%	5.4%	8.8%	3.3%	-0.1%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	8,929	10,568	3,380	-15.5	164.2
Natural Res. & Mining	5,089	5,898	1,027	-13.7	395.5
Mining	5,015	5,778	950	-13.2	427.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	474	480	92	-1.3	415.2
Construction	3,016	3,712	1,835	-18.8	64.4
Manufacturing	822	956	517	-14.0	59.0
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	7,794	8,329	5,573	-6.4	39.9
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	2,601	2,715	1,620	-4.2	60.6
Wholesale Trade	766	716	317	7.0	141.6
Retail Trade	783	819	841	-4.4	-6.9
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	1,052	1,180	462	-10.8	127.7
Information	182	203	100	-10.3	82.0
Financial Activities	729	719	376	1.4	93.9
Prof. & Business Svcs.	1,491	1,643	858	-9.3	73.8
Educational & Health Svcs.	1,351	1,123	1,345	20.3	0.4
Leisure and Hospitality	912	1,330	933	-31.4	-2.3
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	521	587	332	-11.2	56.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	1,283	1,133	1,421	13.2	-9.7
Federal Government	219	235	290	-6.8	-24.5
State Government	202	206	202	-1.9	0.0
Local Government	860	690	929	24.6	-7.4
Local Education	269	173	245	55.5	9.8
UNCLASSIFIED	2,268	2,261	1,823	0.3	24.4
Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,806	2,028	1,625	-10.9	11.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	445	609	407	-26.9	9.3
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	432	613	297	-29.5	45.5
Construction	264	375	189	-29.6	39.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,053	1,109	1,056	-5.0	-0.3
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	328	340	353	-3.5	-7.1
Financial Activities	87	82	102	6.1	-14.7
Prof. & Business Svcs.	280	288	236	-2.8	18.6
Educational and Health Svcs.	240	249	254	-3.6	-5.5
Leisure & Hospitality	90	114	113	-21.1	-20.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	209	195	209	7.2	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	111	109	62	1.8	79.0
Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	3,494	3,873	1,460	-9.8	139.3
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	815	1,093	364	-25.4	123.9
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,764	2,019	478	-12.6	269.0
Construction	349	441	144	-20.9	142.4
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,576	1,652	898	-4.6	75.5
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	578	636	236	-9.1	144.9
Financial Activities	159	165	63	-3.6	152.4
Professional & Business Svcs.	466	544	221	-14.3	110.9
Educational & Health Svcs.	214	199	283	7.5	-24.4
Leisure & Hospitality	126	116	105	8.6	20.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	71	82	41	-13.4	73.2
UNCLASSIFIED	83	117	40	-29.1	107.5

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

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, July 2015



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, July 2015



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

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