

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Report

March 2020

Information for Wyoming by Industry and County of Residence of Claimant

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

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Who We Are

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



Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Report, March 2020

Initial Claims Surpass 10,000 Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

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

Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims in Wyoming increased by 621.6% over the year in March 2020 as businesses and schools were shuttered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The total number of initial claims increased from 1,414 in March 2019 to 10,203 in March 2020 (8,789 more claims, or 621.6%).

There were more initial claims in Wyoming in March 2020 than in any other month dating back to 1997, the first year for which comparable data are available (see Figure 1). The 10,203 claims in March 2020 were nearly twice that of the previous high in December 2009 (5,975). In addition, the over-the-year increase of 8,789 new claims was the greatest since 1997. The previous record high over-the-year increase for one month was April

2009, when initial claims increased by 3,564, or 185.6%.

Initial Claims

Every industry experienced at least triple-digit percentage increases in initial claims over the year. Leisure & hospitality showed the greatest over-the-year increase, from 252 to 3,741 (3,489 more claims, or 1,384.5%). The increase of 3,489 more UI claims was more than triple the next closest industry: the unclassified industry increased by 1,082 claims, or 858.7%. The next largest increases were seen in educational & health services (870, or 1,225.4%) and construction (820, or 256.3%). Initial claims in mining increased from 86 to 652 (566, or 658.1%). The greatest percentage increase was seen in other services, which increased from 12 claims to

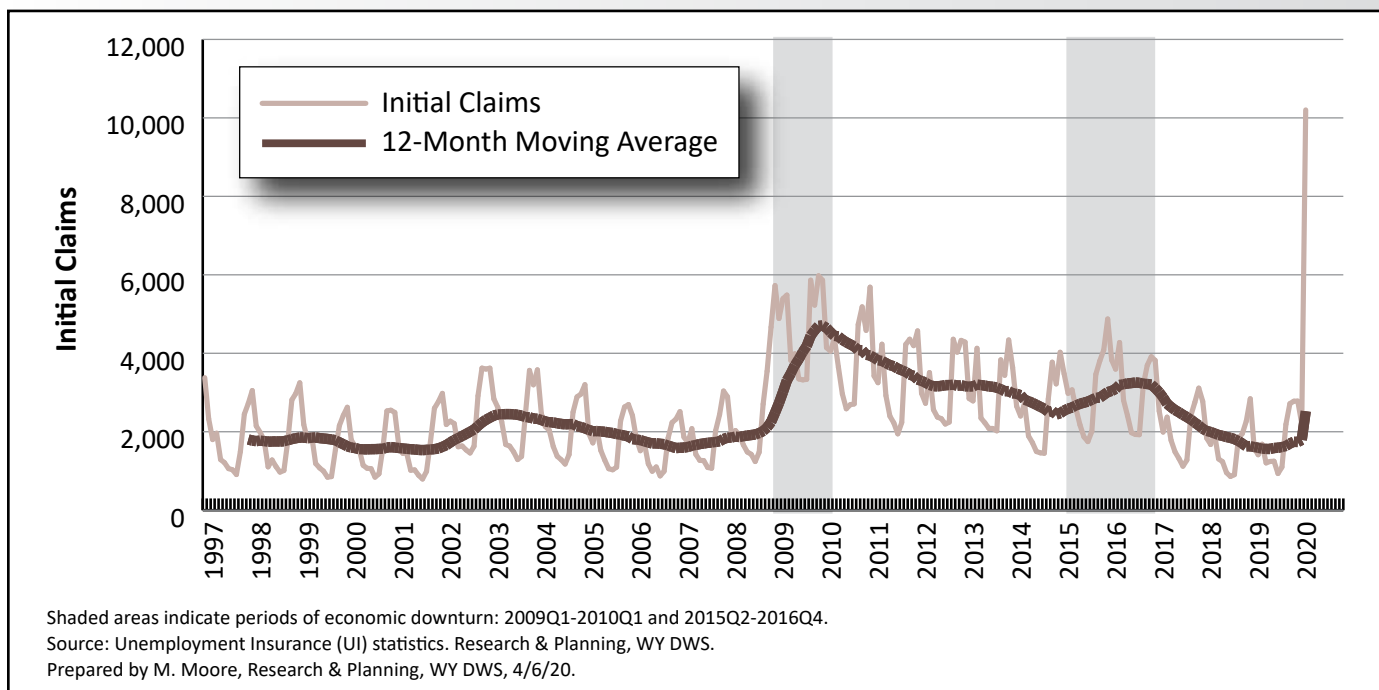


Figure 1: Total Number of Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Year and Month, January 1997 to March 2020

334 (322 claims, or 2,683.3%). See Table 1 (page 5) and Figure 3 (page 6).

At the county level, the greatest increases were seen in Natrona (1,423, or 649.8%), Teton (1,247, or 1,948.4%), and Laramie (1,171, or 676.3%) counties. Natrona and Laramie counties are the two most populous in the state, and Teton County has a large concentration of jobs in leisure & hospitality, the industry most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in March. The number of out-of-state claimants increased by 1,029, or 428.8%. Sublette County also experienced a substantial percentage increase (91 claims, or 1,011.1%). See Figure 4 (page 6) and Table 3 (page 8).

Continued Claims

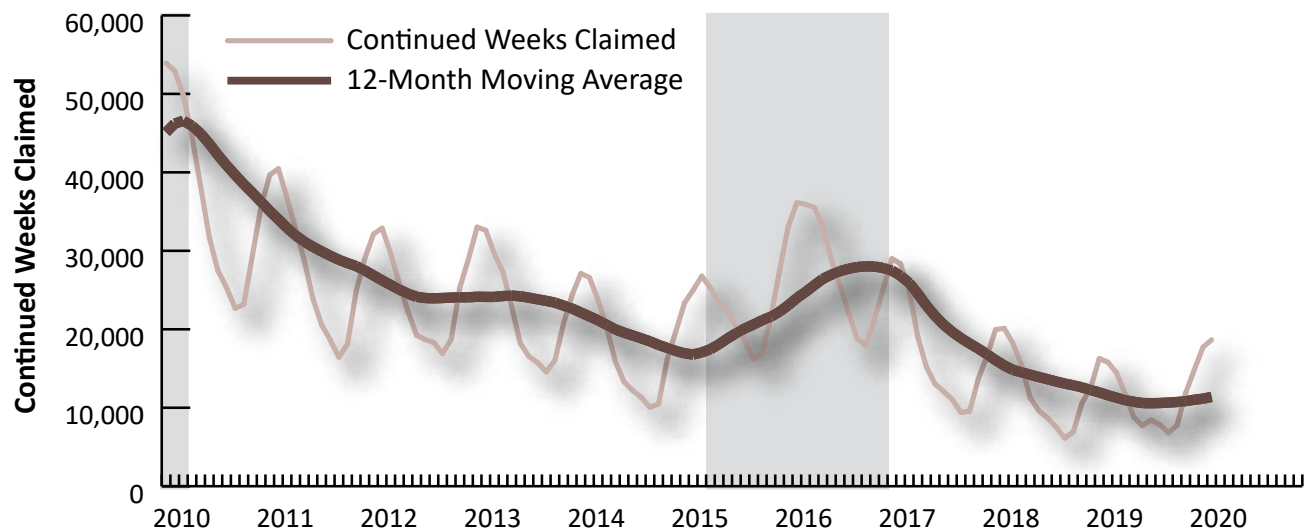
The total number of continued weeks claimed in Wyoming increased from 14,463 in March 2019 to 19,093 in March 2020 (4,630, or 32.0%). The total number of unique

Weekly UI Claims

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

claimants increased from 4,458 to 6,682 (2,224, or 49.9%) and the number of benefit exhaustees increased from 553 to 694 (141, or 25.5%). See Table 2 (page 7).

The greatest increases were seen in nonclassified (1,411, or 144.1%) and natural resources & mining (1,206, or 159.3%). The number of weeks claimed by out-of-state recipients increased by 1,457 (64.2%), and noticeable increases were also seen in Sweetwater (685, or 67.3%), Natrona (608, or 31.2%), Teton (449, or 150.2%), and Laramie (447, or 25.3%) counties, among others. See Figures 5 and 6 (page 9) and Table 4 (page 9).



Shaded areas indicate periods of economic downturn: 2009Q1-2010Q1 and 2015Q2-2016Q4.

Source: Unemployment Insurance (UI) statistics. Research & Planning, WY DWS.

Prepared by C. McGrath, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/23/20.

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

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

Industry	Initial Claims Filed			Percent Change		N Change
	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Over the Month	Over the Year	Over the Year
Total Claims Filed	10,203	2,206	1,414	362.5	621.6	8,789
Goods-Producing	2,118	1,150	545	84.2	288.6	1,573
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	677	194	102	249.0	563.7	575
Mining (21)	652	191	86	241.4	658.1	566
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	19	14	5	35.7	280.0	14
Construction (23)	1,140	850	320	34.1	256.3	820
Manufacturing (31-33)	298	105	122	183.8	144.3	176
Service-Providing	6,589	711	661	826.7	896.8	5,928
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	925	253	194	265.6	376.8	731
Wholesale Trade (42)	133	31	37	329.0	259.5	96
Retail Trade (44-45)	529	101	106	423.8	399.1	423
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	263	121	51	117.4	415.7	212
Information (51)	68	9	14	655.6	385.7	54
Financial Activities (52-53)	149	36	21	313.9	609.5	128
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	427	181	90	135.9	374.4	337
Education & Health Services (61-62)	941	68	71	1,283.8	1,225.4	870
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	3,741	121	252	2,991.7	1,384.5	3,489
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	334	36	12	827.8	2,683.3	322
Government	287	94	81	205.3	254.3	206
Federal Government	72	46	31	56.5	132.3	41
State Government	34	14	7	142.9	385.7	27
Local Government	180	33	42	445.5	328.6	138
Local Education	113	11	8	927.3	1,312.5	105
Unclassified	1,208	250	126	383.2	858.7	1,082
Laramie County						
Total Claims Filed	1,344	325	173	313.5	676.3	1,171
Goods-Producing	282	137	66	105.8	327.3	216
Construction	197	126	59	56.3	233.9	138
Service-Providing	864	140	81	517.1	966.7	783
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	150	64	37	134.4	305.4	113
Financial Activities (52, 53)	17	9	3	88.9	466.7	14
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	71	45	17	57.8	317.6	54
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	148	11	14	1,245.5	957.1	134
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	416	15	12	2,673.3	3,366.7	404
Government	34	8	8	325.0	325.0	26
Unclassified	162	38	17	326.3	852.9	145
Natrona County						
Total Claims Filed	1,642	336	219	388.7	649.8	1,423
Goods-Producing	357	191	93	86.9	283.9	264
Construction	162	140	64	15.7	153.1	98
Service-Providing	1,124	114	111	886.0	912.6	1,013
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	181	35	42	417.1	331.0	139
Financial Activities (52, 53)	31	9	3	244.4	933.3	28
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	74	31	18	138.7	311.1	56
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	160	17	16	841.2	900.0	144
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	553	11	22	4,927.3	2,413.6	531
Government	24	4	5	500.0	380.0	19
Unclassified	135	25	9	440.0	1,400.0	126

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

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

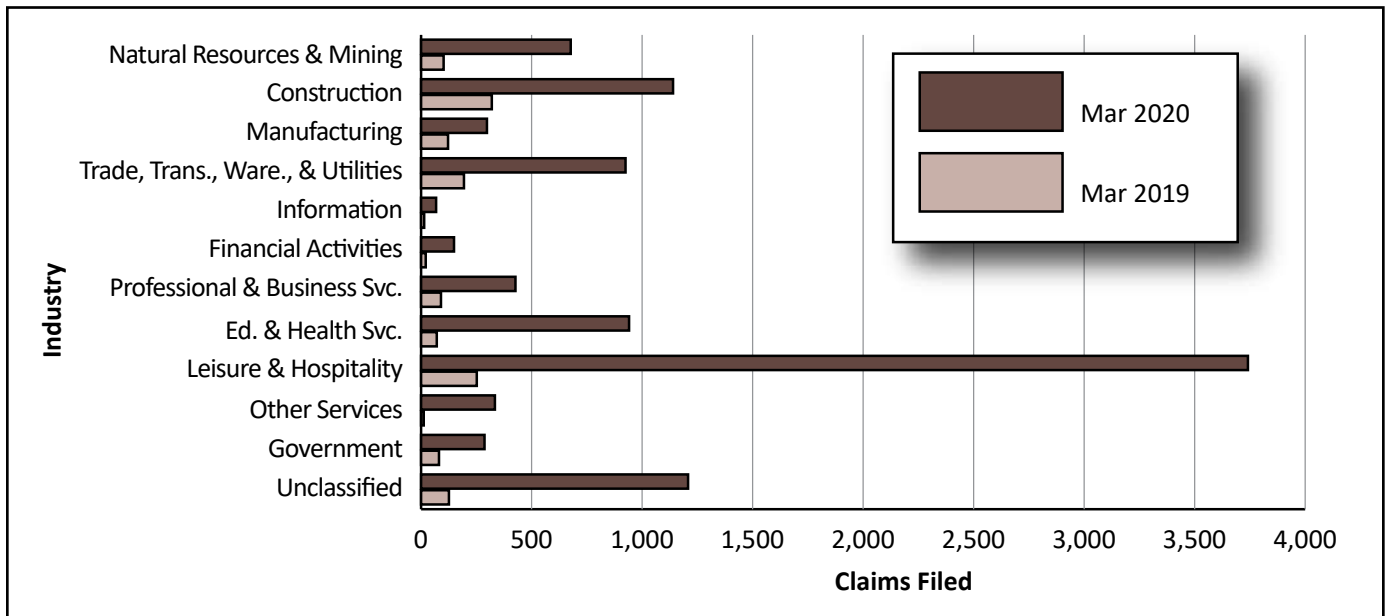


Figure 3: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, March 2019 to March 2020

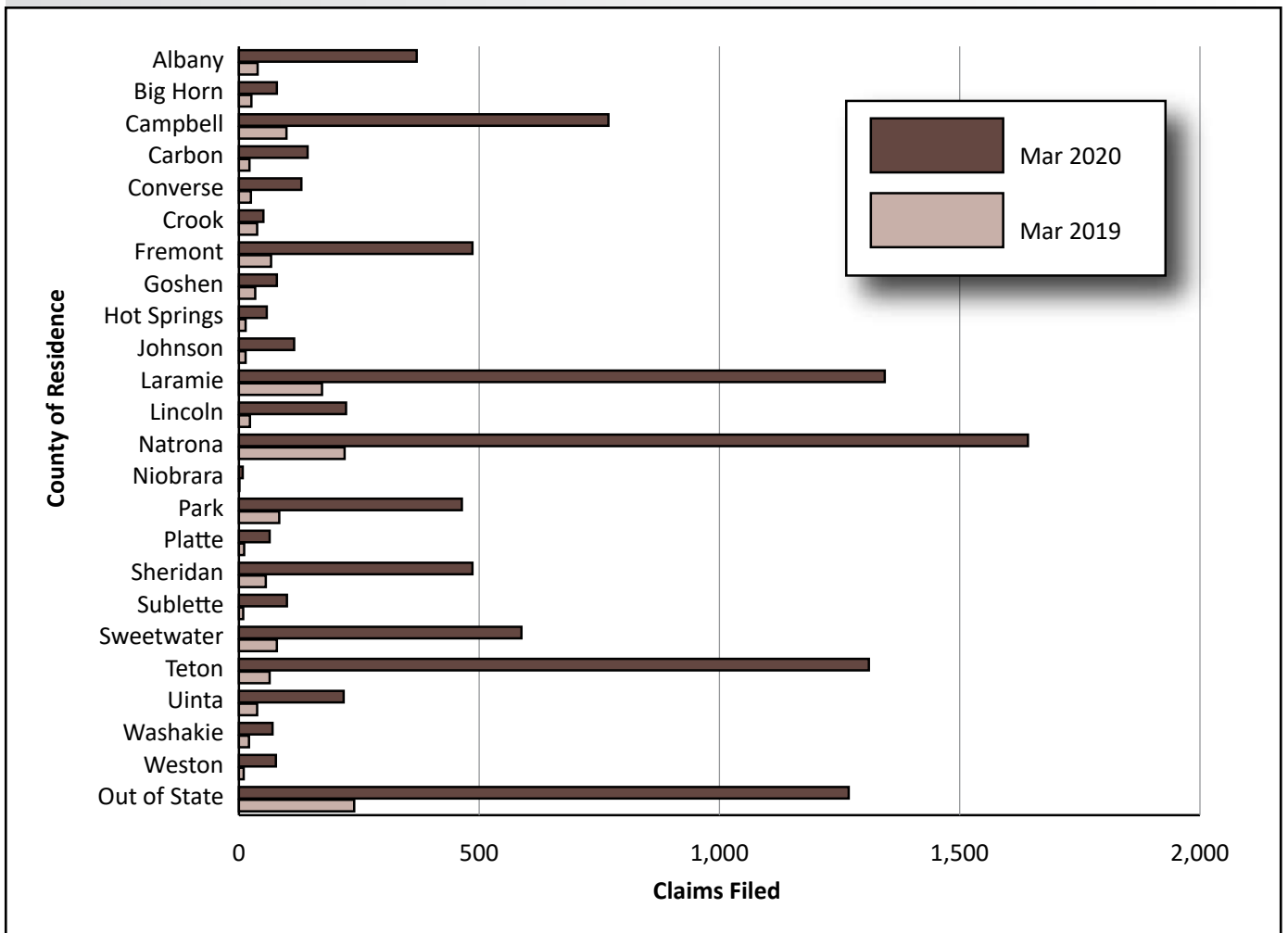


Figure 4: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence, March 2019 to March 2020

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

Industry	Continued Weeks Claimed			Percent Change		N Change
	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Over the Month	Over the Year	Over the Year
Total Continued Weeks Claimed	19,093	18,659	14,463	2.3	32.0	4,630
Total Unique Claimants	6,682	5,488	4,458	21.8	49.9	2,224
Benefit Exhaustions	694	571	553	21.5	25.5	141
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	10.4%	10.4%	12.4%	0.0%	-2.0%	
Goods-Producing	8,462	8,851	6,365	-4.4	32.9	2,097
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	1,963	1,804	757	8.8	159.3	1,206
Mining (21)	1,818	1,646	624	10.4	191.3	1,194
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	90	59	87	52.5	3.4	3
Construction (23)	5,721	6,316	4,798	-9.4	19.2	923
Manufacturing (31-33)	778	730	808	6.6	-3.7	-30
Service-Providing	6,881	5,982	5,741	15.0	19.9	1,140
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	1,801	1,746	1,586	3.2	13.6	215
Wholesale Trade (42)	295	263	244	12.2	20.9	51
Retail Trade (44-45)	775	765	871	1.3	-11.0	-96
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	731	718	471	1.8	55.2	260
Information (51)	89	101	162	-11.9	-45.1	-73
Financial Activities (52-53)	326	300	220	8.7	48.2	106
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	1,549	1,776	1,551	-12.8	-0.1	-2
Education & Health Services (61-62)	633	520	532	21.7	19.0	101
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	2,176	1,302	1,429	67.1	52.3	747
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	300	232	254	29.3	18.1	46
Government	1,358	1,511	1,376	-10.1	-1.3	-18
Federal Government	683	785	722	-13.0	-5.4	-39
State Government	156	145	107	7.6	45.8	49
Local Government	518	580	547	-10.7	-5.3	-29
Local Education	56	74	88	-24.3	-36.4	-32
Unclassified	2,390	2,313	979	3.3	144.1	1,411
Laramie County						
Total Claims Filed	2,214	2,347	1,767	-5.7	25.3	447
Total Unique Claimants	820	694	541	18.2	51.6	279
Goods-Producing	943	1,045	844	-9.8	11.7	99
Construction	840	954	803	-11.9	4.6	37
Service-Providing	861	889	718	-3.1	19.9	143
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	375	346	248	8.4	51.2	127
Financial Activities (52, 53)	44	52	26	-15.4	69.2	18
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	209	341	240	-38.7	-12.9	-31
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	117	96	117	21.9	0.0	0
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	154	76	56	102.6	175.0	98
Government	97	121	108	-19.8	-10.2	-11
Unclassified	311	291	96	6.9	224.0	215
Natrona County						
Total Claims Filed	2,559	2,557	1,951	0.1	31.2	608
Total Unique Claimants	902	762	614	18.4	46.9	288
Goods-Producing	1,223	1,336	828	-8.5	47.7	395
Construction	824	939	671	-12.2	22.8	153
Service-Providing	987	900	1,017	9.7	-2.9	-30
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	307	322	325	-4.7	-5.5	-18
Financial Activities (52, 53)	66	56	59	17.9	11.9	7
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	215	230	255	-6.5	-15.7	-40
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	119	111	135	7.2	-11.9	-16
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	184	121	154	52.1	19.5	30
Government	61	64	45	-4.7	35.6	16
Unclassified	286	255	60	12.2	376.7	226

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

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

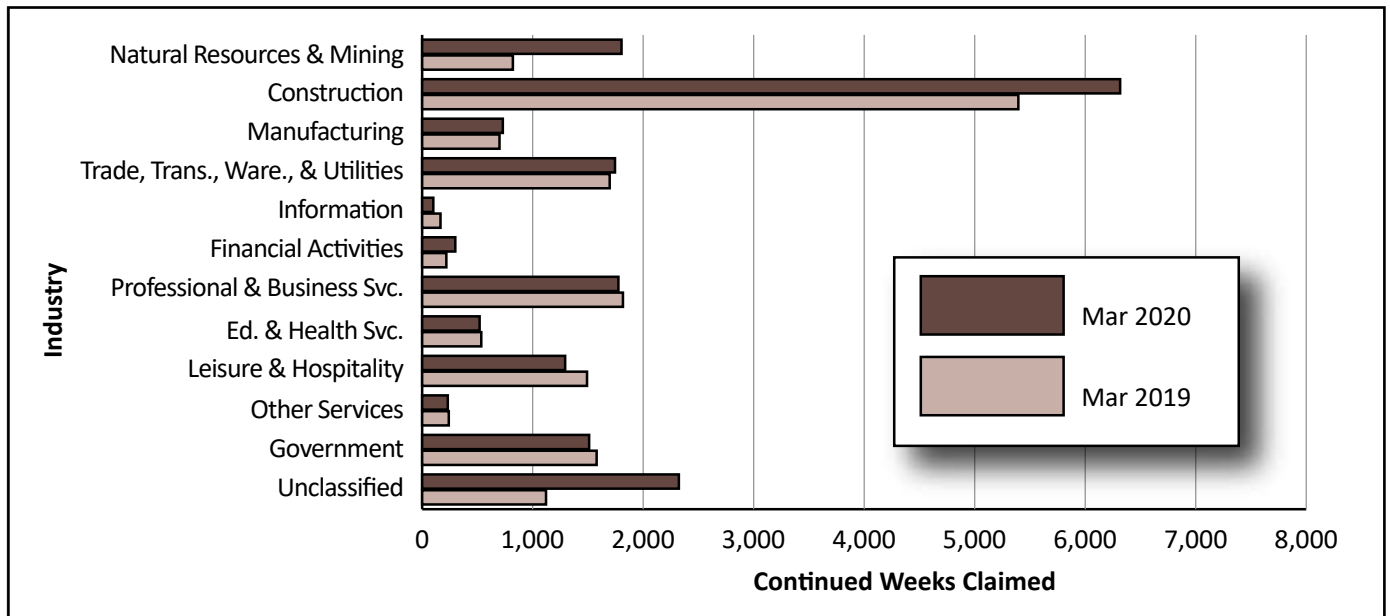


Figure 5: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, March 2019 to March 2020

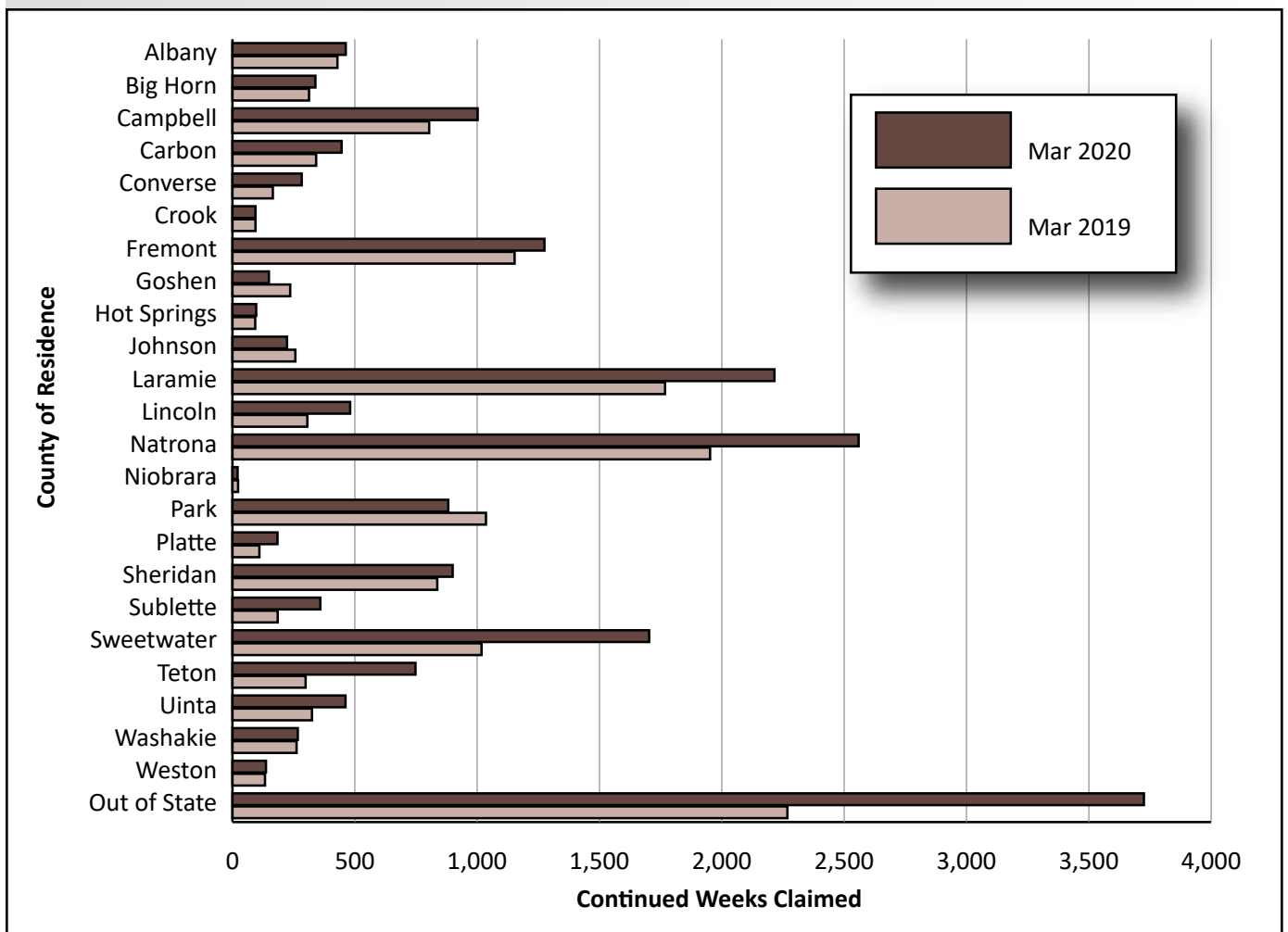


Figure 6: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence in Wyoming, March 2019 to March 2020

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

County	Mar 2020	Mar 2019	Over-the-Year Change	
			N	%
Albany	370	39	331	850.0
Big Horn	79	26	53	204.2
Campbell	769	99	670	680.2
Carbon	143	22	121	560.0
Converse	130	25	105	421.7
Crook	51	38	13	34.3
Fremont	486	67	419	624.2
Goshen	79	34	45	135.5
Hot Springs	58	14	44	315.4
Johnson	115	14	101	715.4
Laramie	1,344	173	1,171	676.3
Lincoln	223	23	200	881.0
Natrona	1,642	220	1,422	649.8
Niobrara	8	1	6	600.0
Park	464	84	380	450.0
Platte	64	11	53	490.0
Sheridan	486	56	430	763.5
Sublette	100	9	91	1,050.0
Sweetwater	588	79	509	643.8
Teton	1,311	64	1,247	1,952.5
Uinta	218	38	180	474.3
Washakie	70	21	50	242.1
Weston	77	10	67	688.9
Unknown	61	10	51	522.2
Out of State	1,269	240	1,028	427.9
Total	10,203	1,414	8,789	362.5

N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality.

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

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

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

County	Mar 2020	Mar 2019	Over-the-Year Change	
			N	%
Albany	463	429	35	8.1
Big Horn	339	313	26	8.3
Campbell	1,002	804	198	24.6
Carbon	446	342	104	30.4
Converse	283	165	118	71.7
Crook	94	94	0	0.0
Fremont	1,275	1,153	122	10.6
Goshen	149	236	-87	-36.7
Hot Springs	97	93	4	4.7
Johnson	223	257	-34	-13.1
Laramie	2,215	1,768	447	25.3
Lincoln	481	306	174	56.9
Natrona	2,559	1,952	608	31.2
Niobrara	21	23	-2	-9.5
Park	882	1,036	-154	-14.8
Platte	184	110	74	66.7
Sheridan	900	837	63	7.5
Sublette	359	185	174	94.2
Sweetwater	1,703	1,018	685	67.3
Teton	748	299	449	150.4
Uinta	462	325	137	42.3
Washakie	267	262	5	2.1
Weston	137	133	4	3.3
Unknown	78	57	21	35.8
Out of State	3,725	2,268	1,457	64.2
Normalized Total^a	19,093	14,463	4,630	32.0
Real Total^b	17,638	13,361	4,277	32.0

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

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

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

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

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

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

