

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Report

March 2021

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 2021

Initial Claims Drop 67.4% from Prior Year

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

March 2021 marked the first over-the-year decrease in initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, as initial claims fell by 67.4%. The pandemic began in March 2020 and initial claims peaked in April before steadily decreasing. Continued claims peaked in May and have also consistently decreased, but have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. This report focuses on the over-the-year change in initial and continued claims. See Figure 1 and Figure 2, page 4.

Initial Claims

Wyoming had 3,903 initial claims (see Definitions, page 9) in March 2021, down from 11,988 in March 2020 (-8,085 claims, or -67.4%). The number of claims declined

UI Claims Online

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

from the prior year in all industries, most notably in leisure & hospitality (-3,770, or -86.5%), education & health services (-965, or -81.5%), unclassified (-826, or -57.9%), mining (-496, or -65.7%), and construction (-414, or -33.4%). See Table 1 (page 5) and Figure 3 (page 6).

Initial claims decreased from prior-year levels in all counties, including Teton (-1,325, or -89.2%), Natrona (-1,239, or -64.0%), and Laramie (-1,030, or -65.3%)

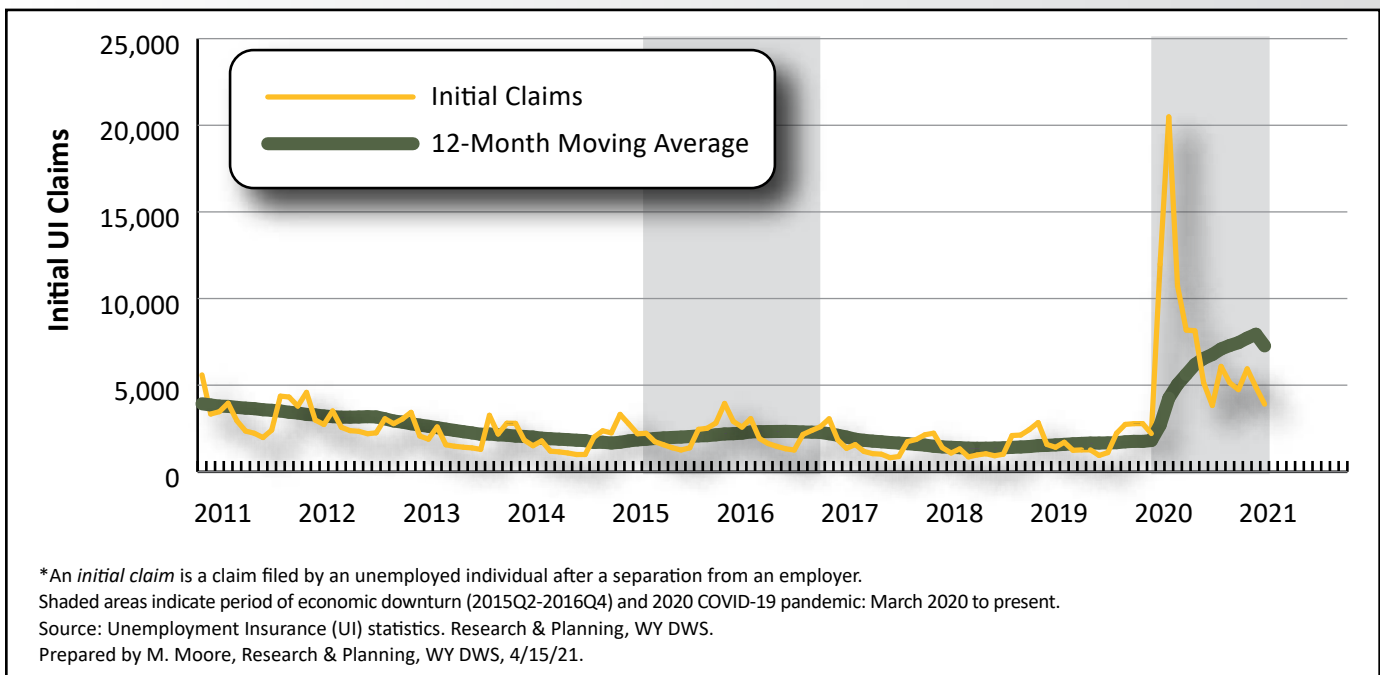


Figure 1: Total Number of Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Year and Month, January 2011 to March 2021

counties. The number of out-of-state claimants decreased by 864 (-61.0%). See Figure 4 (page 6) and Table 3 (page 9).

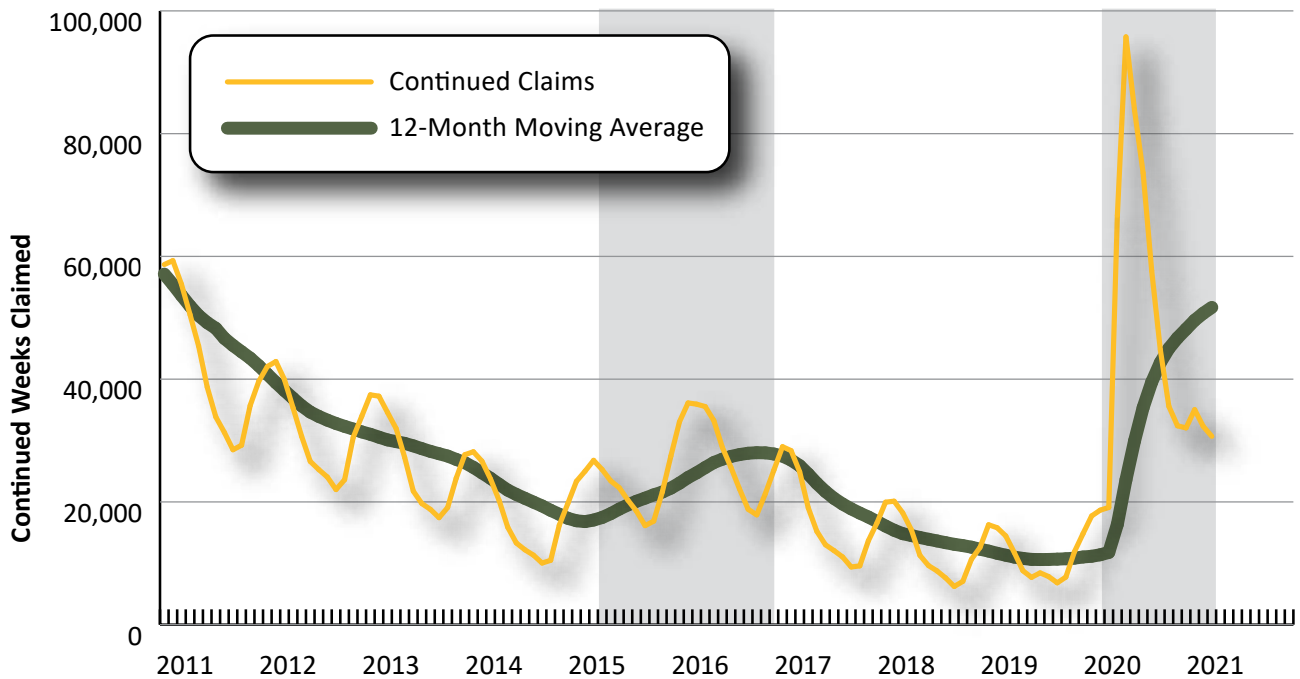
Continued Claims

As previously mentioned, continued claims have largely declined after peaking in May 2020, but still remain substantially higher than pre-pandemic levels. The total number of continued weeks claimed increased over the year, from 19,093 to 30,685 (11,592, or 60.7%). The total number of unique claimants increased from 7,169 to 7,749 (580, or 8.1%). See Figure 2 and Table 2, page 7.

Continued claims rose in every

industry over the year, with the greatest increases seen in unclassified (4,628, or 207.2%), construction (1,804, or 31.4%), and retail trade (767, or 97.3%). See Table 2, page 7, and Figure 5, page 8.

Continued claims increased over the year in each county. The greatest increases were seen in Wyoming's most populous counties, such as Natrona (2,915, or 113.9%), Laramie (1,747, or 78.9%), and Campbell (1,271, or 126.8%) counties. The greatest over-the-year percentage increases were seen in Niobrara (190.0%), Converse (153.9%), and Albany (133.9%) counties. See Figure 6, page 8, and Table 4, page 9.



*A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment then files a *continued claim* to claim benefits for that week of unemployment.
 Shaded areas indicate period of economic downturn (2015Q2-2016Q4) and 2020 COVID-19 pandemic: March 2020 to present.
 Source: Unemployment Insurance (UI) statistics. Research & Planning, WY DWS.
 Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/15/21.

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

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

Industry	Initial Claims Filed			Over-the-Month Change		Over-the-Year Change	
	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	N	%	N	%
Total Claims Filed	3,903	4,883	11,988	-980	-20.1	-8,085	-67.4
Goods-Producing	1,264	1,776	2,384	-512	-28.8	-1,120	-47.0
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	280	356	782	-76	-21.3	-502	-64.2
Mining (21)	259	336	755	-77	-22.9	-496	-65.7
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	17	12	21	5	41.7	-4	-19.0
Construction (23)	827	1,192	1,241	-365	-30.6	-414	-33.4
Manufacturing (31-33)	155	227	360	-72	-31.7	-205	-56.9
Service-Providing	1,811	1,900	7,814	-89	-4.7	-6,003	-76.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	542	594	1,106	-52	-8.8	-564	-51.0
Wholesale Trade (42)	81	74	158	7	9.5	-77	-48.7
Retail Trade (44-45)	278	308	655	-30	-9.7	-377	-57.6
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	182	211	292	-29	-13.7	-110	-37.7
Information (51)	29	20	80	9	45.0	-51	-63.8
Financial Activities (52-53)	64	73	167	-9	-12.3	-103	-61.7
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	284	363	487	-79	-21.8	-203	-41.7
Education & Health Services (61-62)	219	235	1,184	-16	-6.8	-965	-81.5
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	588	538	4,358	50	9.3	-3,770	-86.5
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	82	74	430	8	10.8	-348	-80.9
Government	226	270	362	-44	-16.3	-136	-37.6
Federal Government	74	83	79	-9	-10.8	-5	-6.3
State Government	25	40	50	-15	-37.5	-25	-50.0
Local Government	126	147	232	-21	-14.3	-106	-45.7
Local Education	45	49	142	-4	-8.2	-97	-68.3
Unclassified	600	935	1,426	-335	-35.8	-826	-57.9
Laramie County							
Total Claims Filed	548	633	1,578	-85	-13.4	-1,030	-65.3
Goods-Producing	200	205	318	-5	-2.4	-118	-37.1
Construction	159	167	210	-8	-4.8	-51	-24.3
Service-Providing	245	273	1,017	-28	-10.3	-772	-75.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	65	76	153	-11	-14.5	-88	-57.5
Financial Activities (52, 53)	15	10	19	5	50.0	-4	-21.1
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	54	79	79	-25	-31.6	-25	-31.6
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	30	29	178	1	3.4	-148	-83.1
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	63	57	482	6	10.5	-419	-86.9
Government	22	37	36	-15	-40.5	-14	-38.9
Unclassified	78	115	205	-37	-32.2	-127	-62.0
Natrona County							
Total Claims Filed	696	836	1,935	-140	-16.7	-1,239	-64.0
Goods-Producing	223	303	395	-80	-26.4	-172	-43.5
Construction	161	224	172	-63	-28.1	-11	-6.4
Service-Providing	372	361	1,321	11	3.0	-949	-71.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	142	123	220	19	15.4	-78	-35.5
Financial Activities (52, 53)	11	16	36	-5	-31.3	-25	-69.4
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	56	62	83	-6	-9.7	-27	-32.5
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	51	41	195	10	24.4	-144	-73.8
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	84	98	640	-14	-14.3	-556	-86.9
Government	20	28	30	-8	-28.6	-10	-33.3
Unclassified	79	143	188	-64	-44.8	-109	-58.0

N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality.

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database. Reviewed by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/15/21.

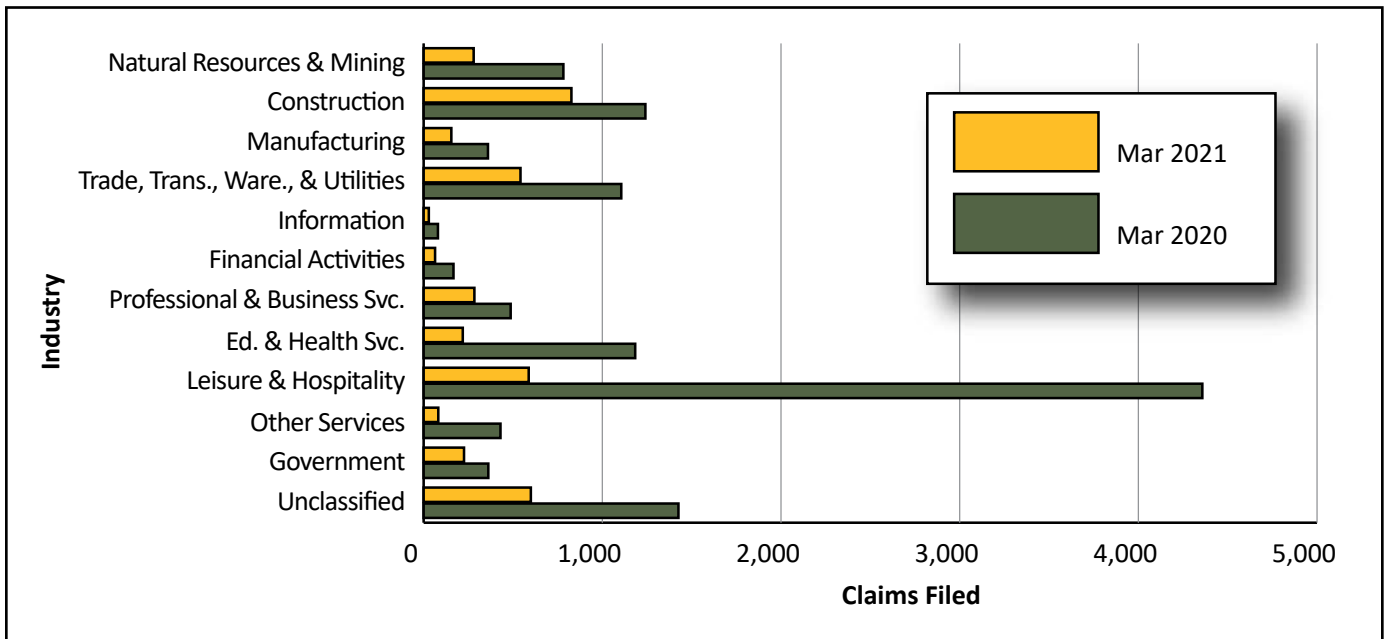


Figure 3: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, March 2020 and March 2021

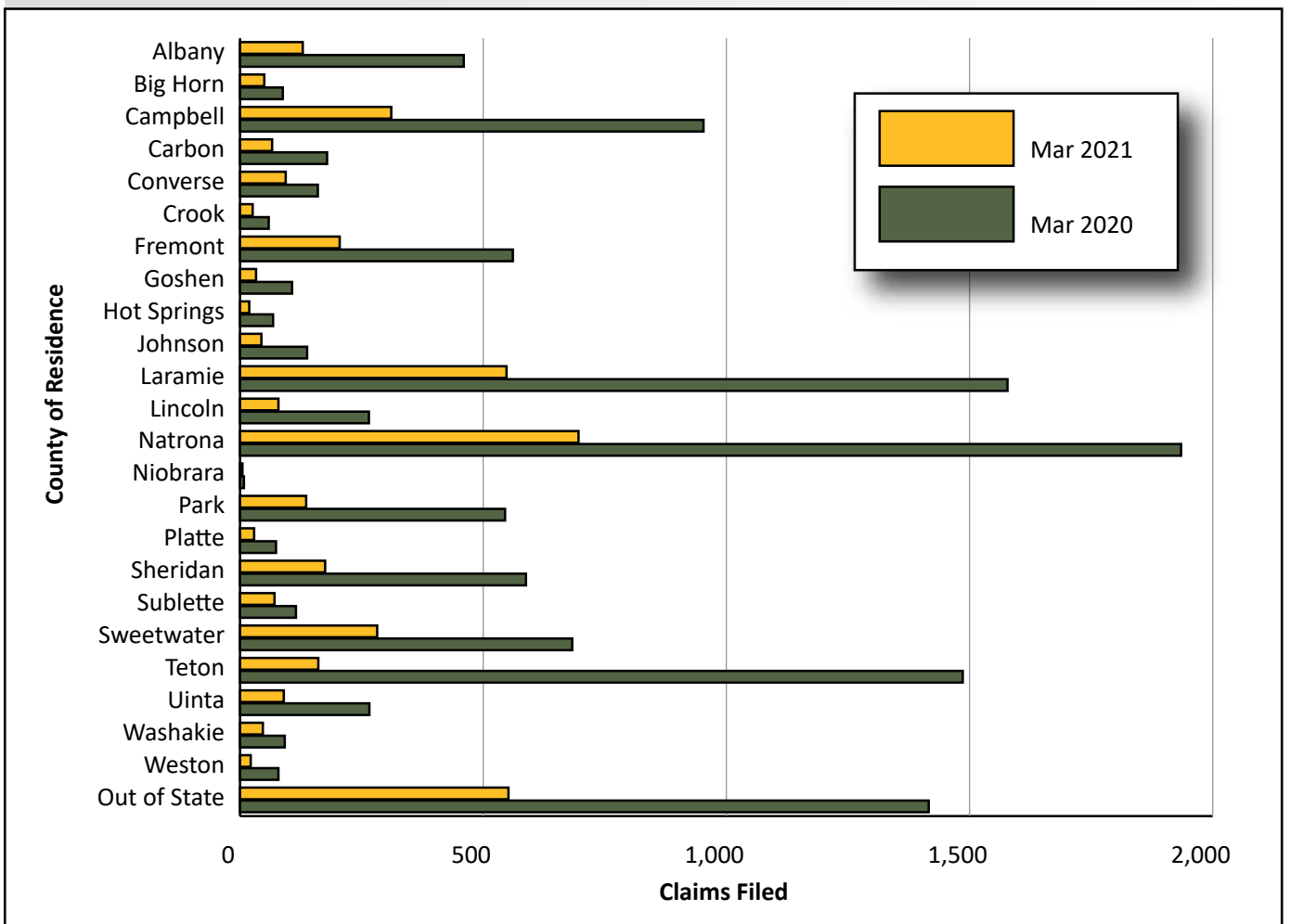


Figure 4: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence, March 2020 and March 2021

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

Industry	Continued Weeks Claimed			Over-the-Month Change		Over-the-Year Change	
	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2020	N	%	N	%
Total Continued Weeks Claimed	30,685	32,305	19,093	-1,620	-5.0	11,592	60.7
Total Unique Claimants	7,749	9,727	7,169	-1,978	-20.3	580	8.1
Goods-Producing	10,749	12,400	8,521	-1,651	-13.3	2,228	26.1
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	2,065	2,534	1,991	-469	-18.5	74	3.7
Mining (21)	1,906	2,343	1,843	-437	-18.7	63	3.4
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	213	213	103	0	0.0	110	106.8
Construction (23)	7,548	8,679	5,744	-1,131	-13.0	1,804	31.4
Manufacturing (31-33)	1,135	1,186	784	-51	-4.3	351	44.8
Service-Providing	11,025	11,954	6,962	-929	-7.8	4,063	58.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	3,365	3,472	1,832	-107	-3.1	1,533	83.7
Wholesale Trade (42)	613	725	304	-112	-15.4	309	101.6
Retail Trade (44-45)	1,555	1,464	788	91	6.2	767	97.3
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	1,195	1,282	740	-87	-6.8	455	61.5
Information (51)	159	151	89	8	5.3	70	78.7
Financial Activities (52-53)	526	573	331	-47	-8.2	195	58.9
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	2,342	2,719	1,578	-377	-13.9	764	48.4
Education & Health Services (61-62)	1,298	1,309	644	-11	-0.8	654	101.6
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	2,834	3,180	2,180	-346	-10.9	654	30.0
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	499	546	306	-47	-8.6	193	63.1
Government	2,048	2,232	1,374	-184	-8.2	674	49.1
Federal Government	855	1,018	693	-163	-16.0	162	23.4
State Government	270	270	156	0	0.0	114	73.1
Local Government	922	942	523	-20	-2.1	399	76.3
Local Education	245	261	56	-16	-6.1	189	337.5
Unclassified	6,862	5,718	2,234	1,144	20.0	4,628	207.2
Laramie County							
Total Claims Filed	3,961	4,045	2,214	-84	-2.1	1,747	78.9
Total Unique Claimants	1,017	1,229	881	-212	-17.2	136	15.4
Goods-Producing	1,378	1,519	951	-141	-9.3	427	44.9
Construction	1,079	1,270	847	-191	-15.0	232	27.4
Service-Providing	1,493	1,625	874	-132	-8.1	619	70.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	452	476	259	-24	-5.0	193	74.5
Financial Activities (52, 53)	92	94	45	-2	-2.1	47	104.4
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	393	428	214	-35	-8.2	179	83.6
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	212	233	117	-21	-9.0	95	81.2
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	277	309	154	-32	-10.4	123	79.9
Government	209	211	97	-2	-0.9	112	115.5
Unclassified	879	688	291	191	27.8	588	202.1
Natrona County							
Total Claims Filed	5,474	5,849	2,559	-375	-6.4	2,915	113.9
Total Unique Claimants	1,359	1,736	975	-377	-21.7	384	39.4
Goods-Producing	1,872	2,142	1,229	-270	-12.6	643	52.3
Construction	1,324	1,431	824	-107	-7.5	500	60.7
Service-Providing	2,370	2,653	993	-283	-10.7	1,377	138.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	814	907	313	-93	-10.3	501	160.1
Financial Activities (52, 53)	121	147	67	-26	-17.7	54	80.6
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	458	503	215	-45	-8.9	243	113.0
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	288	287	119	1	0.3	169	142.0
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	471	542	185	-71	-13.1	286	154.6
Government	177	202	61	-25	-12.4	116	190.2
Unclassified	1,054	851	273	203	23.9	781	286.1

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.
Reviewed by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/15/21.

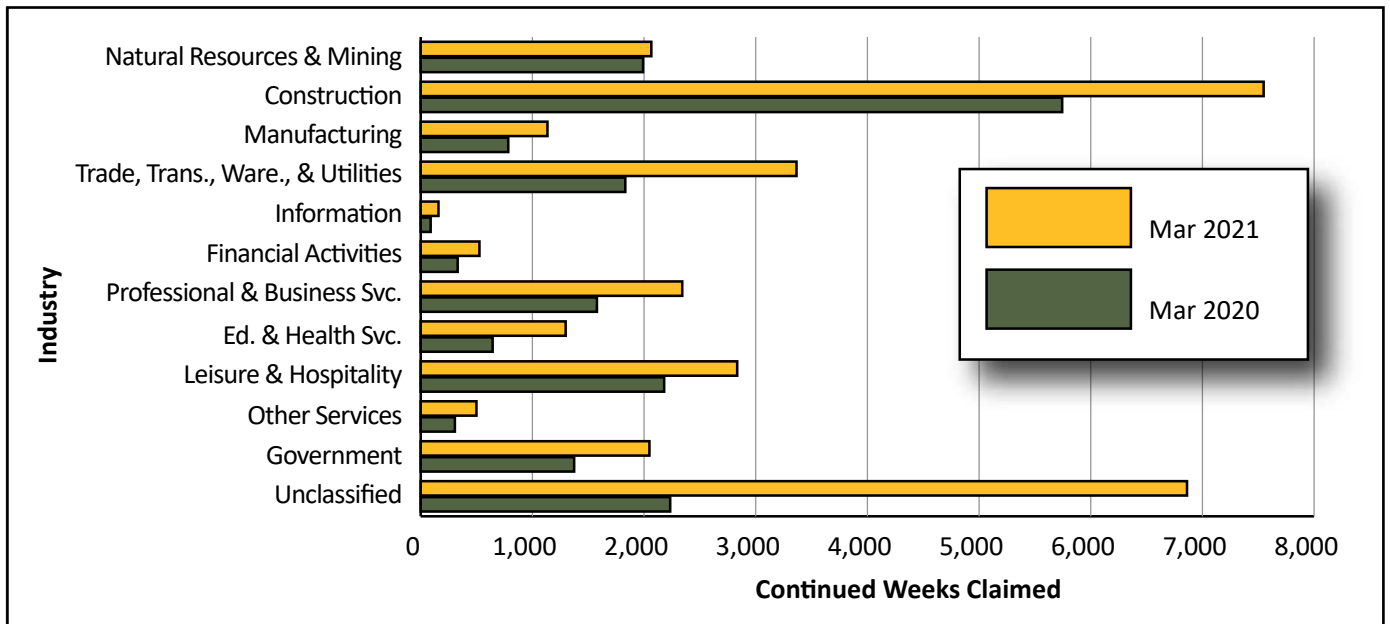


Figure 5: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, March 2020 and March 2021

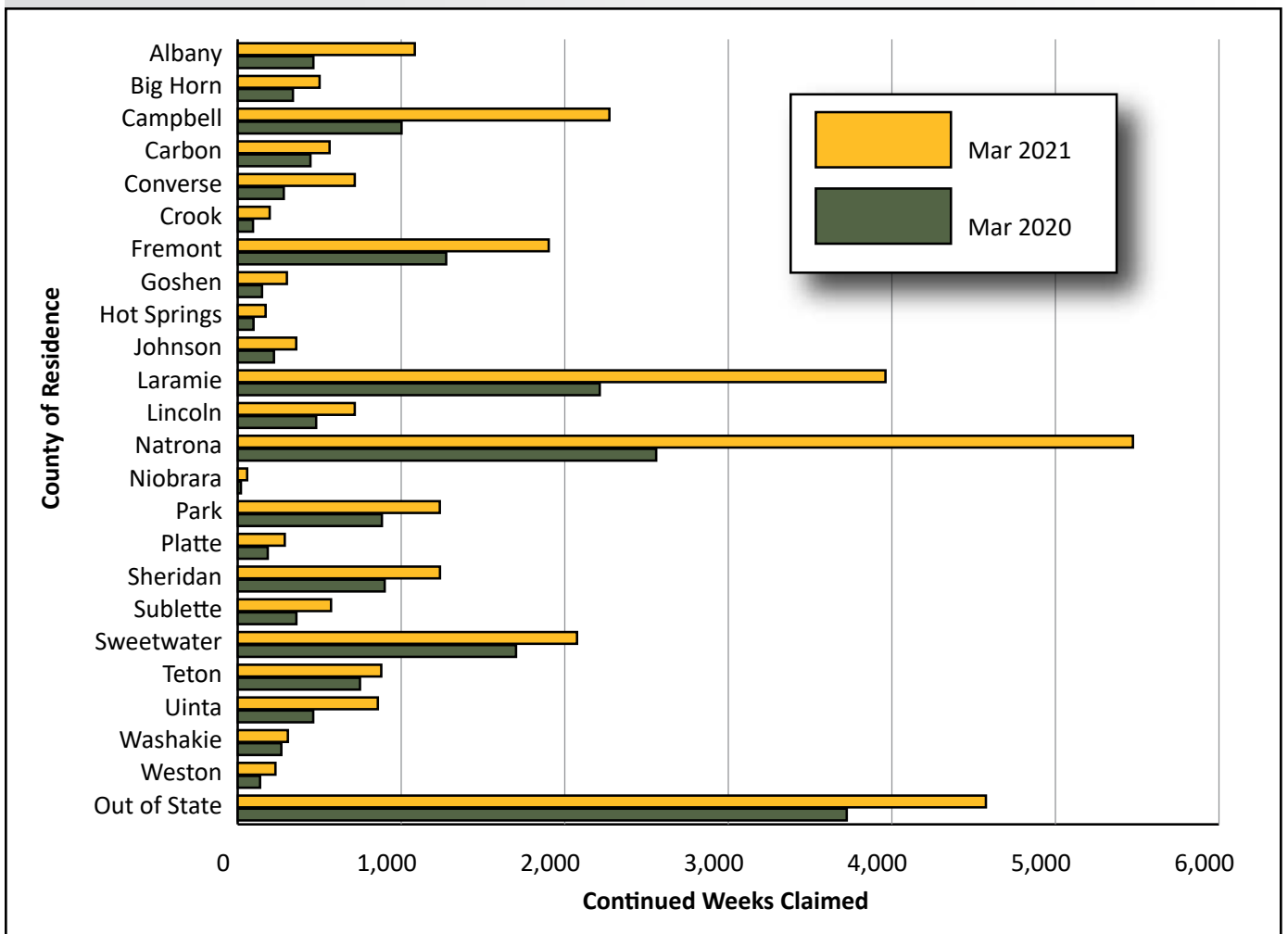


Figure 6: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence in Wyoming, March 2020 and March 2021

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

County	Mar 2021	Mar 2020	Change	
			N	%
Albany	129	460	-331	-72.0
Big Horn	50	88	-38	-43.2
Campbell	311	953	-642	-67.4
Carbon	66	179	-113	-63.1
Converse	94	160	-66	-41.3
Crook	26	59	-33	-55.9
Fremont	205	561	-356	-63.5
Goshen	33	107	-74	-69.2
Hot Springs	19	68	-49	-72.1
Johnson	44	138	-94	-68.1
Laramie	548	1,578	-1,030	-65.3
Lincoln	79	265	-186	-70.2
Natrona	696	1,935	-1,239	-64.0
Niobrara	5	8	-3	-37.5
Park	136	545	-409	-75.0
Platte	29	74	-45	-60.8
Sheridan	175	588	-413	-70.2
Sublette	71	115	-44	-38.3
Sweetwater	282	683	-401	-58.7
Teton	161	1,486	-1,325	-89.2
Uinta	90	266	-176	-66.2
Washakie	47	92	-45	-48.9
Weston	22	79	-57	-72.2
Unknown	20	74	-54	-73.0
Out of State	552	1,416	-864	-61.0
Total	3,903	11,988	-8,085	-67.4

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Reviewed by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/15/21.

Box: Definitions

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

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

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

County	Mar 2021	Mar 2020	Change	
			N	%
Albany	1,083	463	620	133.9
Big Horn	501	338	163	48.2
Campbell	2,273	1,002	1,271	126.8
Carbon	562	445	117	26.3
Converse	716	282	434	153.9
Crook	196	94	102	108.5
Fremont	1,902	1,275	627	49.2
Goshen	301	149	152	102.0
Hot Springs	171	97	74	76.3
Johnson	358	222	136	61.3
Laramie	3,961	2,214	1,747	78.9
Lincoln	716	480	236	49.2
Natrona	5,474	2,559	2,915	113.9
Niobrara	58	20	38	190.0
Park	1,236	882	354	40.1
Platte	288	184	104	56.5
Sheridan	1,237	899	338	37.6
Sublette	571	359	212	59.1
Sweetwater	2,075	1,702	373	21.9
Teton	878	748	130	17.4
Uinta	857	462	395	85.5
Washakie	307	267	40	15.0
Weston	231	137	94	68.6
Unknown	146	77	69	89.6
Out of State	4,575	3,724	851	22.9
Normalized Total^a	30,685	19,093	11,592	60.7

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

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

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

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Reviewed by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/15/21.



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

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