

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Report

May 2020

Information for Wyoming by Industry and County of Residence of Claimant

by: Patrick Manning, Principal Economist; 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, May 2020

More than 25,000 People Claim Continued UI Benefits

by: *Patrick Manning, Principal Economist, and Michael Moore, Editor*

Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims dropped by nearly half from April to May 2020 in Wyoming. However, continued claims increased by 43.6% over the month and 990.1% over the year. See Box for definitions, page 9.

May marked the third straight month of unusually high UI claims due to the COVID-19 pandemic and substantial declines in the prices of oil & gas.

Initial Claims

Wyoming had 10,722 initial claims in May, down from 20,485 in April (-9,763, or -47.7%) but up from 1,241 (9,481, or 764.0%) in May 2019. Prior to March 2020, the one-month high for initial claims in Wyoming dating back to 1997 (the first year for which comparable data are

Weekly UI Claims

Weekly Unemployment Insurance claims for Wyoming are now available online at https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/weekly_UI_TOC.htm.

available) was 5,709 in October 2009. See Figure 1.

The unclassified industry had the most initial claims in May (2,485), followed by leisure & hospitality (1,568), trade, transportation, warehousing, & utilities, (1,478) and natural resources & mining (1,342). Over the year, initial claims increased across all major industries, with the greatest percentage increases seen in unclassified (1,970.8%) and wholesale trade (1,626.9%). See Table 1 (page 5) and Figure 3 (page 6).

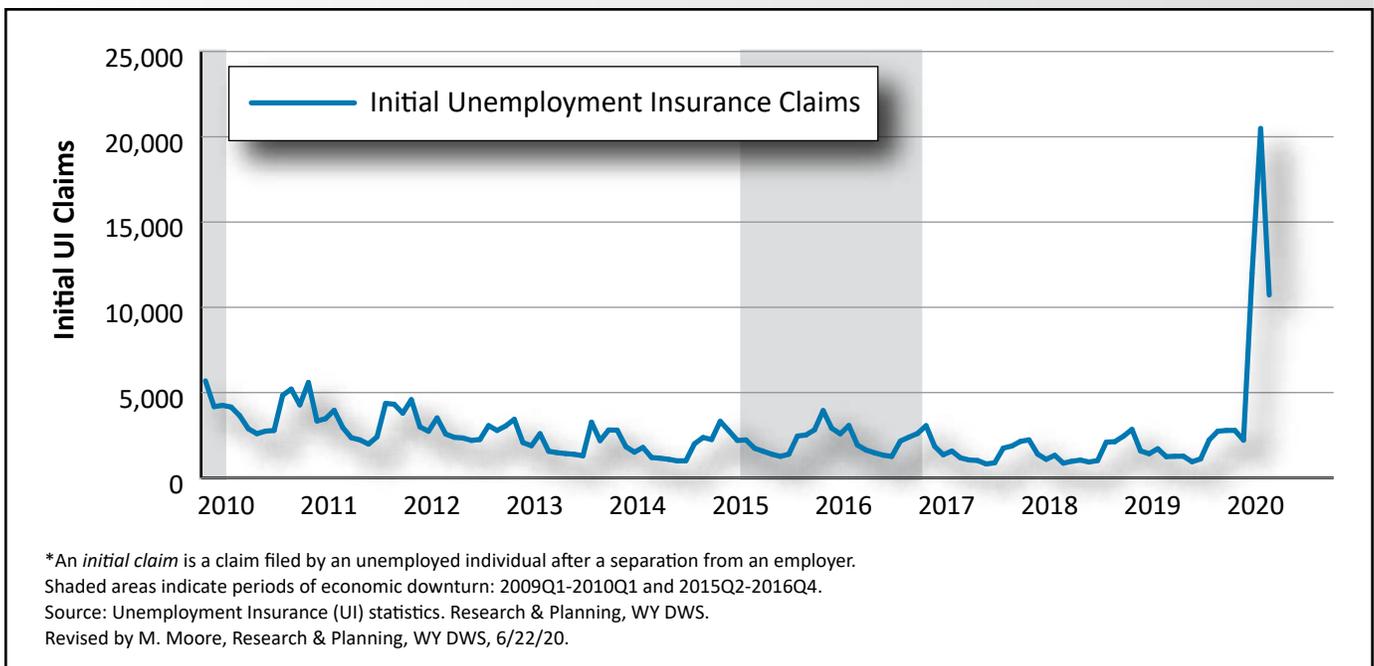


Figure 1: Total Number of Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Year and Month, January 2010 to May 2020

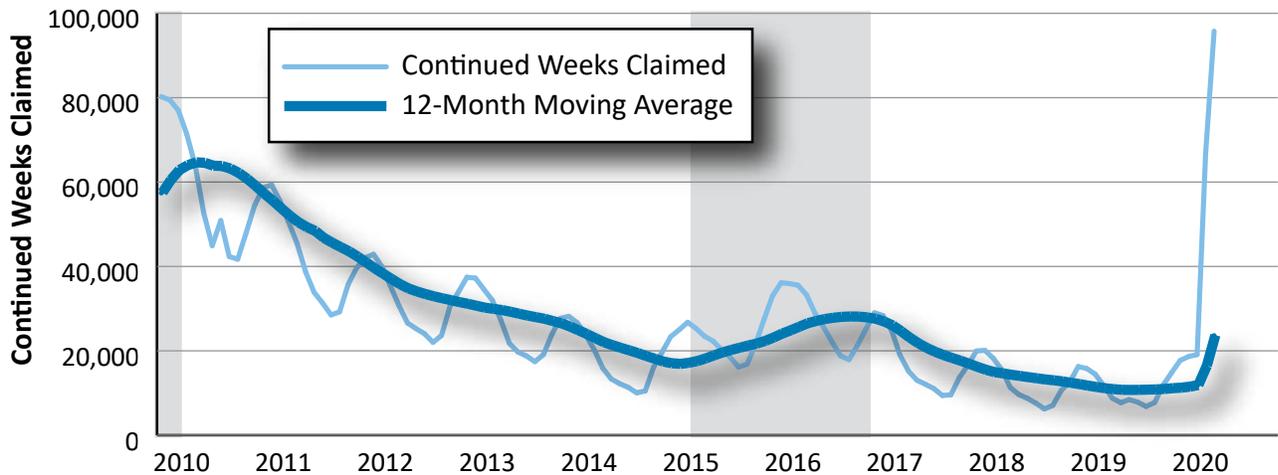
Natrona County had the most initial claims in May (2,022), followed by Laramie (1,385) and Campbell (1,114) counties. There were 1,230 initial claims by out-of-state workers. See Figure 4 (page 6) and Table 3 (page 9).

Continued Claims

Total continued weeks claimed reached 95,769 in May, the largest total since comparable data were collected beginning in 1997. The previous record high for one month in Wyoming was 80,239 in October 2010 during the state's economic downturn that began during the national Great Recession.

There were 25,409 unique claimants in May compared to 22,189 in April (an increase of 3,220, or 14.5%). See Figure 2 and Table 2, page 7.

Leisure & hospitality had the most continued weeks claimed (22,846), followed by unclassified (18,240), trade, transportation, warehousing, & utilities (12,219) and natural resources & mining (11,027). The counties with the most continued weeks claimed were Natrona (17,072), Laramie (12,421), and Teton (8,863). Wyoming paid continued benefits to 13,269 out-of-state individuals. See Figures 5 and 6 (page 9) 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 periods of economic downturn: 2009Q1-2010Q1 and 2015Q2-2016Q4.
 Source: Unemployment Insurance (UI) statistics. Research & Planning, WY DWS.
 Revised by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 6/22/20.

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

Note: The 20,485 initial claims in April presented in this report represent an increase of 1,286 over the 19,199 presented in the April 2020 Unemployment Insurance Claims Report published May 15. This difference is due mostly to wage request lag times for federal government, military, and combined wage claims. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a large increase in claims for all different UI systems, and it may take longer than usual to get wage information back for those claims and enable them to be active in the Wyoming UI system. During normal months, these types of lagging claims usually result in an increase of less than 2% once data are revised. For April 2020, however, these types of claims resulted in a 6.7% increase.

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

| Industry | Initial Claims Filed | | | Percent Change | | N Change |
|---|----------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | May 2020 | Apr 2020 | May 2019 | Over the Month | Over the Year | Over the Year |
| Total Claims Filed | 10,722 | 20,485 | 1,241 | -47.7 | 764.0 | 9,481 |
| Goods-Producing | 2,395 | 4,453 | 491 | -46.2 | 387.8 | 1,904 |
| Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21) | 1,342 | 2,135 | 90 | -37.1 | 1,391.1 | 1,252 |
| Mining (21) | 1,320 | 2,099 | 83 | -37.1 | 1,490.4 | 1,237 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction (211) | 43 | 45 | 18 | -4.4 | 138.9 | 25 |
| Construction (23) | 777 | 1,800 | 367 | -56.8 | 111.7 | 410 |
| Manufacturing (31-33) | 276 | 517 | 34 | -46.6 | 711.8 | 242 |
| Service-Providing | 4,936 | 11,738 | 540 | -57.9 | 814.1 | 4,396 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49) | 1,478 | 2,972 | 182 | -50.3 | 712.1 | 1,296 |
| Wholesale Trade (42) | 449 | 433 | 26 | 3.7 | 1,626.9 | 423 |
| Retail Trade (44-45) | 621 | 1,577 | 85 | -60.6 | 630.6 | 536 |
| Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49) | 408 | 961 | 70 | -57.5 | 482.9 | 338 |
| Information (51) | 88 | 183 | 6 | -51.9 | 1,366.7 | 82 |
| Financial Activities (52-53) | 218 | 356 | 19 | -38.8 | 1,047.4 | 199 |
| Professional & Business Services (54-56) | 553 | 1,019 | 91 | -45.7 | 507.7 | 462 |
| Education & Health Services (61-62) | 729 | 1,859 | 79 | -60.8 | 822.8 | 650 |
| Leisure & Hospitality (71-72) | 1,568 | 4,685 | 140 | -66.5 | 1,020.0 | 1,428 |
| Other Services, except Public Admin. (81) | 298 | 661 | 20 | -54.9 | 1,390.0 | 278 |
| Government | 904 | 1,093 | 89 | -17.3 | 915.7 | 815 |
| Federal Government | 55 | 82 | 11 | -32.9 | 400.0 | 44 |
| State Government | 171 | 97 | 10 | 76.3 | 1,610.0 | 161 |
| Local Government | 678 | 913 | 67 | -25.7 | 911.9 | 611 |
| Local Education | 344 | 451 | 22 | -23.7 | 1,463.6 | 322 |
| Unclassified | 2,485 | 3,199 | 120 | -22.3 | 1,970.8 | 2,365 |
| Laramie County | | | | | | |
| Total Claims Filed | 1,385 | 2,937 | 186 | -52.8 | 644.6 | 1,199 |
| Goods-Producing | 198 | 411 | 85 | -51.8 | 132.9 | 113 |
| Construction | 86 | 213 | 78 | -59.6 | 10.3 | 8 |
| Service-Providing | 726 | 1,995 | 69 | -63.6 | 952.2 | 657 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49) | 218 | 818 | 22 | -73.3 | 890.9 | 196 |
| Financial Activities (52, 53) | 23 | 38 | 6 | -39.5 | 283.3 | 17 |
| Professional & Business Services (54 - 56) | 87 | 136 | 14 | -36.0 | 521.4 | 73 |
| Educational & Health Services (61 - 62) | 132 | 307 | 10 | -57.0 | 1,220.0 | 122 |
| Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72) | 194 | 536 | 11 | -63.8 | 1,663.6 | 183 |
| Government | 125 | 101 | 19 | 23.8 | 557.9 | 106 |
| Unclassified | 335 | 429 | 12 | -21.9 | 2,691.7 | 323 |
| Natrona County | | | | | | |
| Total Claims Filed | 2,022 | 3,696 | 199 | -45.3 | 916.1 | 1,823 |
| Goods-Producing | 454 | 816 | 80 | -44.4 | 467.5 | 374 |
| Construction | 102 | 278 | 62 | -63.3 | 64.5 | 40 |
| Service-Providing | 1,124 | 2,358 | 107 | -52.3 | 950.5 | 1,017 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49) | 391 | 641 | 37 | -39.0 | 956.8 | 354 |
| Financial Activities (52, 53) | 49 | 95 | 3 | -48.4 | 1,533.3 | 46 |
| Professional & Business Services (54 - 56) | 117 | 216 | 22 | -45.8 | 431.8 | 95 |
| Educational & Health Services (61 - 62) | 176 | 443 | 20 | -60.3 | 780.0 | 156 |
| Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72) | 250 | 714 | 19 | -65.0 | 1,215.8 | 231 |
| Government | 61 | 88 | 3 | -30.7 | 1,933.3 | 58 |
| Unclassified | 381 | 433 | 7 | -12.0 | 5,342.9 | 374 |

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Revised by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 6/22/20.

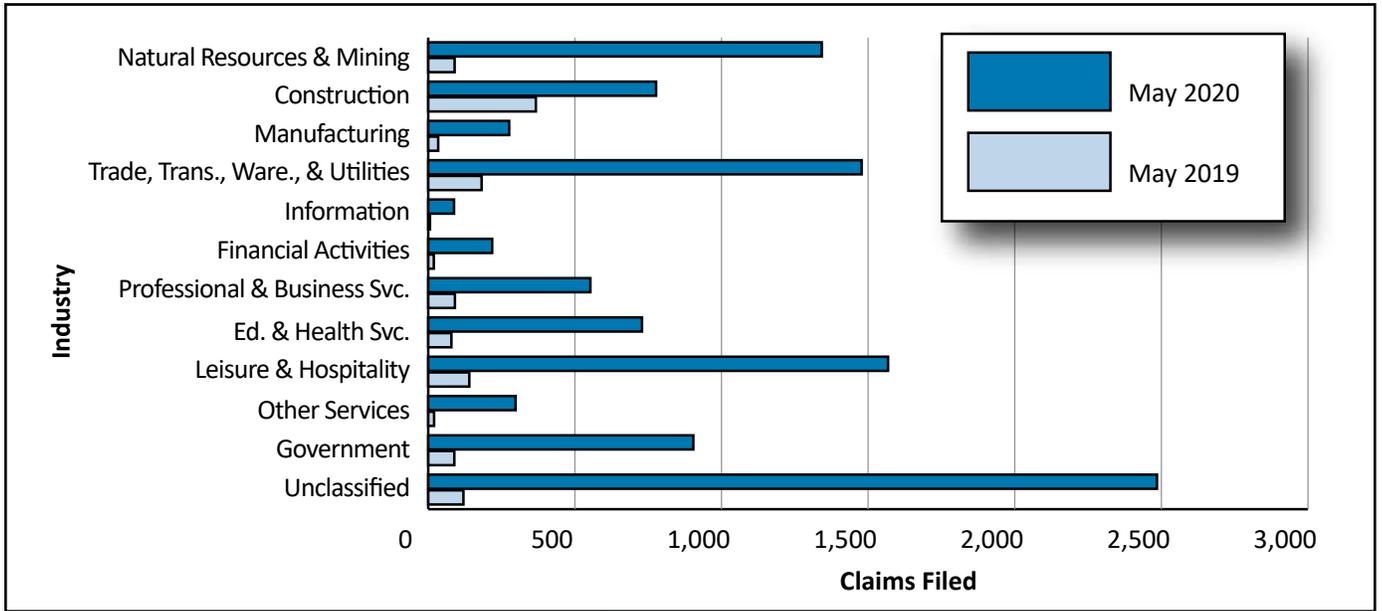


Figure 3: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, May 2019 and May 2020

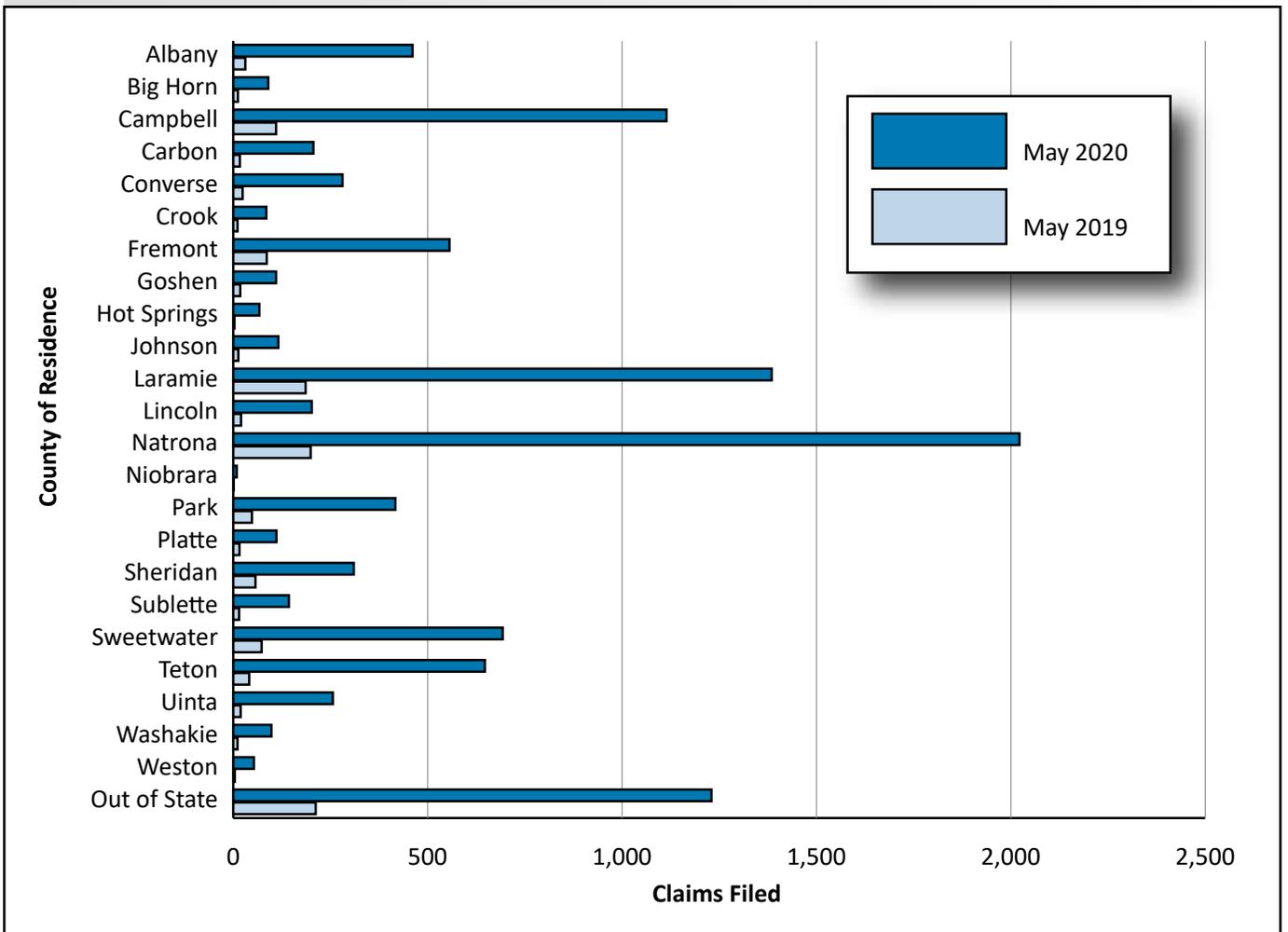


Figure 4: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence, May 2019 and May 2020

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

| Industry | Continued Weeks Claimed | | | Percent Change | | N Change |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | May 2020 | Apr 2020 | May 2019 | Over the Month | Over the Year | Over the Year |
| Total Continued Weeks Claimed | 95,769 | 66,694 | 8,785 | 43.6 | 990.1 | 86,984 |
| Total Unique Claimants | 25,409 | 22,189 | 3,286 | 14.5 | 673.3 | 22,123 |
| Goods-Producing | 22,492 | 16,386 | 2,720 | 37.3 | 726.9 | 19,772 |
| Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21) | 11,027 | 6,108 | 612 | 80.5 | 1,701.8 | 10,415 |
| Mining (21) | 10,841 | 5,919 | 539 | 83.2 | 1,911.3 | 10,302 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction (211) | 344 | 202 | 96 | 70.3 | 258.3 | 248 |
| Construction (23) | 8,858 | 8,142 | 1,515 | 8.8 | 484.7 | 7,343 |
| Manufacturing (31-33) | 2,606 | 2,134 | 592 | 22.1 | 340.2 | 2,014 |
| Service-Providing | 49,974 | 39,070 | 4,698 | 27.9 | 963.7 | 45,276 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49) | 12,219 | 7,851 | 1,253 | 55.6 | 875.2 | 10,966 |
| Wholesale Trade (42) | 2,174 | 1,176 | 185 | 84.9 | 1,075.1 | 1,989 |
| Retail Trade (44-45) | 6,019 | 4,329 | 668 | 39.0 | 801.0 | 5,351 |
| Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49) | 4,024 | 2,345 | 400 | 71.6 | 906.0 | 3,624 |
| Information (51) | 626 | 436 | 114 | 43.6 | 449.1 | 512 |
| Financial Activities (52-53) | 1,728 | 1,152 | 216 | 50.0 | 700.0 | 1,512 |
| Professional & Business Services (54-56) | 4,819 | 3,384 | 762 | 42.4 | 532.4 | 4,057 |
| Education & Health Services (61-62) | 5,024 | 5,661 | 483 | -11.3 | 940.2 | 4,541 |
| Leisure & Hospitality (71-72) | 22,846 | 18,360 | 1,673 | 24.4 | 1,265.6 | 21,173 |
| Other Services, except Public Admin. (81) | 2,709 | 2,223 | 193 | 21.9 | 1,303.6 | 2,516 |
| Government | 5,062 | 2,879 | 643 | 75.8 | 687.2 | 4,419 |
| Federal Government | 596 | 755 | 191 | -21.1 | 212.0 | 405 |
| State Government | 374 | 252 | 79 | 48.4 | 373.4 | 295 |
| Local Government | 4,091 | 1,872 | 372 | 118.5 | 999.7 | 3,719 |
| Local Education | 2,074 | 887 | 71 | 133.8 | 2,821.1 | 2,003 |
| Unclassified | 18,240 | 8,357 | 723 | 118.3 | 2,422.8 | 17,517 |
| Laramie County | | | | | | |
| Total Claims Filed | 12,421 | 8,697 | 1,037 | 42.8 | 1,097.8 | 11,384 |
| Total Unique Claimants | 3,410 | 3,007 | 392 | 13.4 | 769.9 | 3,018 |
| Goods-Producing | 2,041 | 1,499 | 278 | 36.2 | 634.2 | 1,763 |
| Construction | 995 | 966 | 260 | 3.0 | 282.7 | 735 |
| Service-Providing | 7,595 | 5,812 | 572 | 30.7 | 1,227.8 | 7,023 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49) | 2,813 | 1,731 | 153 | 62.5 | 1,738.6 | 2,660 |
| Financial Activities (52, 53) | 180 | 135 | 51 | 33.3 | 252.9 | 129 |
| Professional & Business Services (54 - 56) | 670 | 514 | 141 | 30.4 | 375.2 | 529 |
| Educational & Health Services (61 - 62) | 882 | 966 | 121 | -8.7 | 628.9 | 761 |
| Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72) | 2,485 | 1,967 | 51 | 26.3 | 4,772.5 | 2,434 |
| Government | 473 | 220 | 90 | 115.0 | 425.6 | 383 |
| Unclassified | 2,311 | 1,163 | 95 | 98.7 | 2,332.6 | 2,216 |
| Natrona County | | | | | | |
| Total Claims Filed | 17,072 | 11,391 | 1,189 | 49.9 | 1,335.8 | 15,883 |
| Total Unique Claimants | 4,646 | 3,870 | 451 | 20.1 | 930.2 | 4,195 |
| Goods-Producing | 4,319 | 2,895 | 336 | 49.2 | 1,185.4 | 3,983 |
| Construction | 1,374 | 1,276 | 174 | 7.7 | 689.7 | 1,200 |
| Service-Providing | 9,472 | 7,043 | 759 | 34.5 | 1,148.0 | 8,713 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49) | 2,644 | 1,563 | 309 | 69.2 | 755.7 | 2,335 |
| Financial Activities (52, 53) | 465 | 252 | 45 | 84.5 | 933.3 | 420 |
| Professional & Business Services (54 - 56) | 929 | 549 | 116 | 69.2 | 700.9 | 813 |
| Educational & Health Services (61 - 62) | 982 | 1,082 | 102 | -9.2 | 862.7 | 880 |
| Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72) | 3,413 | 2,851 | 130 | 19.7 | 2,525.4 | 3,283 |
| Government | 455 | 228 | 43 | 99.6 | 958.1 | 412 |
| Unclassified | 2,824 | 1,223 | 49 | 130.9 | 5,663.3 | 2,775 |

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Revised by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 6/22/20.

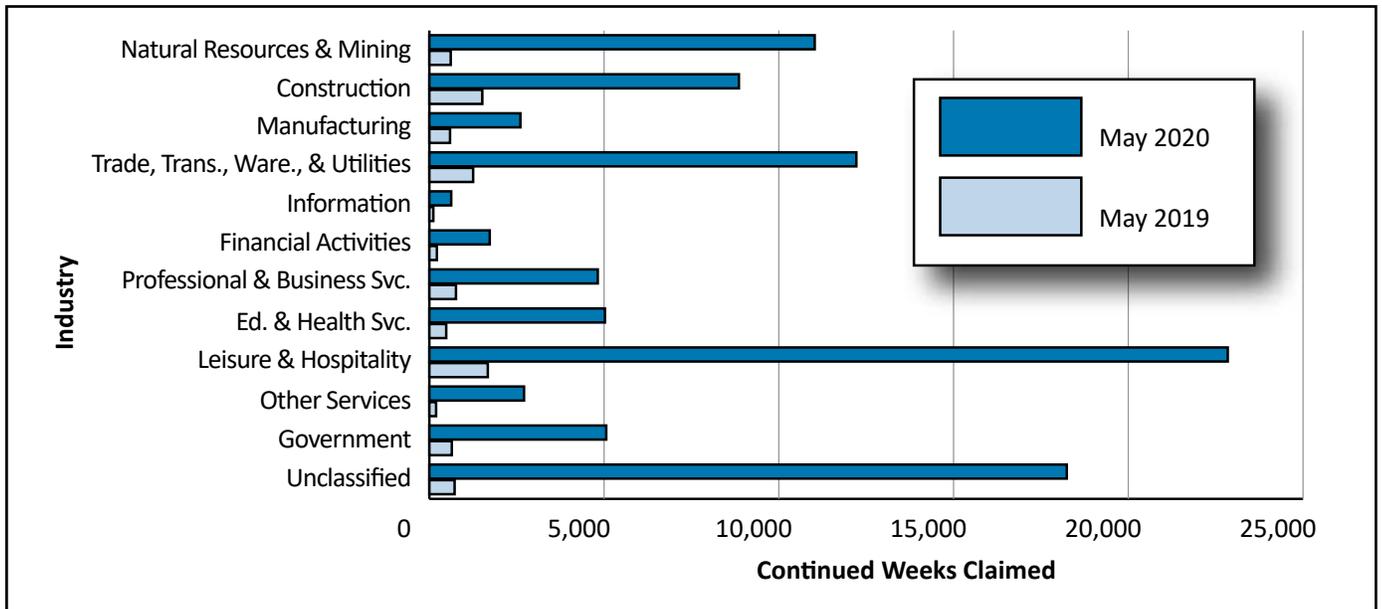


Figure 5: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, May 2019 and May 2020

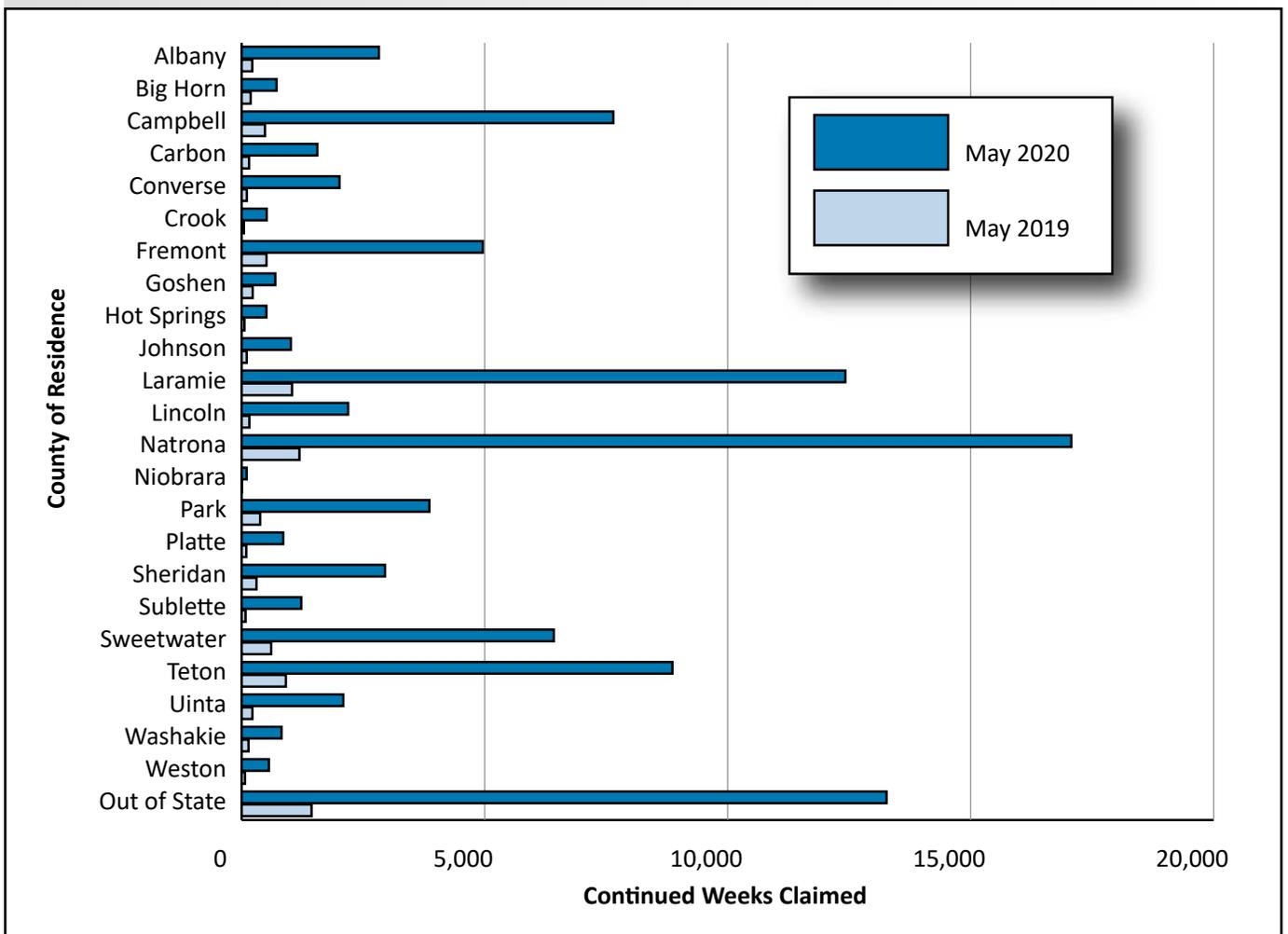


Figure 6: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence in Wyoming, May 2019 and May 2020

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

| County | May 2020 | May 2019 | Change | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | N | % |
| Albany | 461 | 31 | 430 | 1,387.1 |
| Big Horn | 90 | 12 | 78 | 650.0 |
| Campbell | 1,114 | 110 | 1,004 | 912.7 |
| Carbon | 206 | 17 | 189 | 1,111.8 |
| Converse | 281 | 24 | 257 | 1,070.8 |
| Crook | 85 | 11 | 74 | 672.7 |
| Fremont | 556 | 86 | 470 | 546.5 |
| Goshen | 110 | 18 | 92 | 511.1 |
| Hot Springs | 67 | 3 | 64 | 2,133.3 |
| Johnson | 116 | 13 | 103 | 792.3 |
| Laramie | 1,385 | 186 | 1,199 | 644.6 |
| Lincoln | 202 | 20 | 182 | 910.0 |
| Natrona | 2,022 | 199 | 1,823 | 916.1 |
| Niobrara | 9 | 1 | 8 | 800.0 |
| Park | 417 | 48 | 369 | 768.8 |
| Platte | 111 | 16 | 95 | 593.8 |
| Sheridan | 310 | 57 | 253 | 443.9 |
| Sublette | 143 | 15 | 128 | 853.3 |
| Sweetwater | 693 | 73 | 620 | 849.3 |
| Teton | 647 | 41 | 606 | 1,478.0 |
| Uinta | 256 | 19 | 237 | 1,247.4 |
| Washakie | 98 | 11 | 87 | 790.9 |
| Weston | 53 | 4 | 49 | 1,225.0 |
| Unknown | 46 | 3 | 43 | 1,433.3 |
| Out of State | 1,230 | 212 | 1,018 | 480.2 |
| Total | 10,722 | 1,241 | 9,481 | 764.0 |

N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality.

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Revised by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 6/22/20.

Box: Definitions

Initial Claim: An initial claim is a claim filed by an unemployed individual after a separation from an employer.

Continued Weeks Claimed: 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. Continued claims reflect the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

| County | May 2020 | May 2019 | Over-the-Year Change | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | | | N | % |
| Albany | 2,824 | 219 | 2,605 | 1,189.5 |
| Big Horn | 719 | 186 | 533 | 286.6 |
| Campbell | 7,648 | 480 | 7,168 | 1,493.3 |
| Carbon | 1,558 | 153 | 1,405 | 918.3 |
| Converse | 2,014 | 107 | 1,907 | 1,782.2 |
| Crook | 515 | 47 | 468 | 995.7 |
| Fremont | 4,961 | 511 | 4,450 | 870.8 |
| Goshen | 692 | 227 | 465 | 204.8 |
| Hot Springs | 510 | 58 | 452 | 779.3 |
| Johnson | 1,012 | 105 | 907 | 863.8 |
| Laramie | 12,421 | 1,037 | 11,384 | 1,097.8 |
| Lincoln | 2,192 | 159 | 2,033 | 1,278.6 |
| Natrona | 17,072 | 1,189 | 15,883 | 1,335.8 |
| Niobrara | 103 | 8 | 95 | 1,187.5 |
| Park | 3,863 | 381 | 3,482 | 913.9 |
| Platte | 855 | 96 | 759 | 790.6 |
| Sheridan | 2,951 | 305 | 2,646 | 867.5 |
| Sublette | 1,226 | 81 | 1,145 | 1,413.6 |
| Sweetwater | 6,425 | 607 | 5,818 | 958.5 |
| Teton | 8,863 | 910 | 7,953 | 874.0 |
| Uinta | 2,092 | 222 | 1,870 | 842.3 |
| Washakie | 820 | 142 | 678 | 477.5 |
| Weston | 560 | 69 | 491 | 711.6 |
| Unknown | 592 | 36 | 556 | 1,544.4 |
| Out of State | 13,269 | 1,438 | 11,831 | 822.7 |
| Normalized Total^a | 95,769 | 8,785 | 86,984 | 990.1 |

^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.

Revised by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 6/22/20.



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