

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Report

August 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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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, August 2020

Initial Claims Drop 37% from July

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

Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims dropped 36.9% from July to August. While UI claims counts are substantially higher from the prior year, both initial and continued claims have decreased consistently after peaking in the spring. Total continued weeks claimed decreased by 21.7% over the month.

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.

Initial Claims

Wyoming had 5,134 initial claims (see Definitions, page 9) in August, down from 8,138 in July (-3,004, or -36.9%). Initial claims peaked at 20,485 in April, the highest one-month total since at least 1997, the first year for which comparable data are available. See Figure 1 and Table 1, page 5.

All industries saw double-digit percentage decreases from July to August. The greatest decreases were seen in leisure & hospitality (-586, or -56.2%), government (-237, or -51.3%), education & health services (-218, or -47.0%), and construction (-217, or -26.9%). See Table 1 (page 5) and Figure 3 (page 6).

All 23 counties also saw double-digit

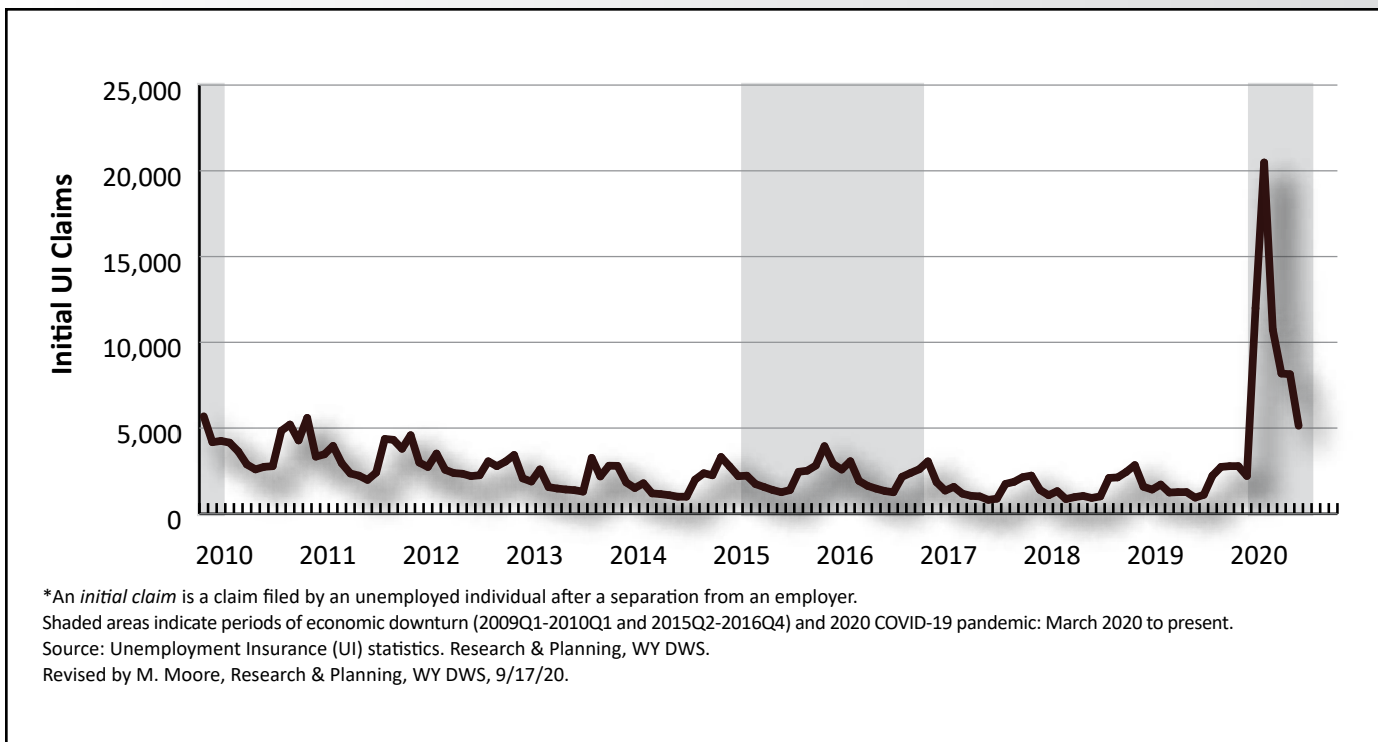


Figure 1: Total Number of Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Year and Month, January 2010 to August 2020

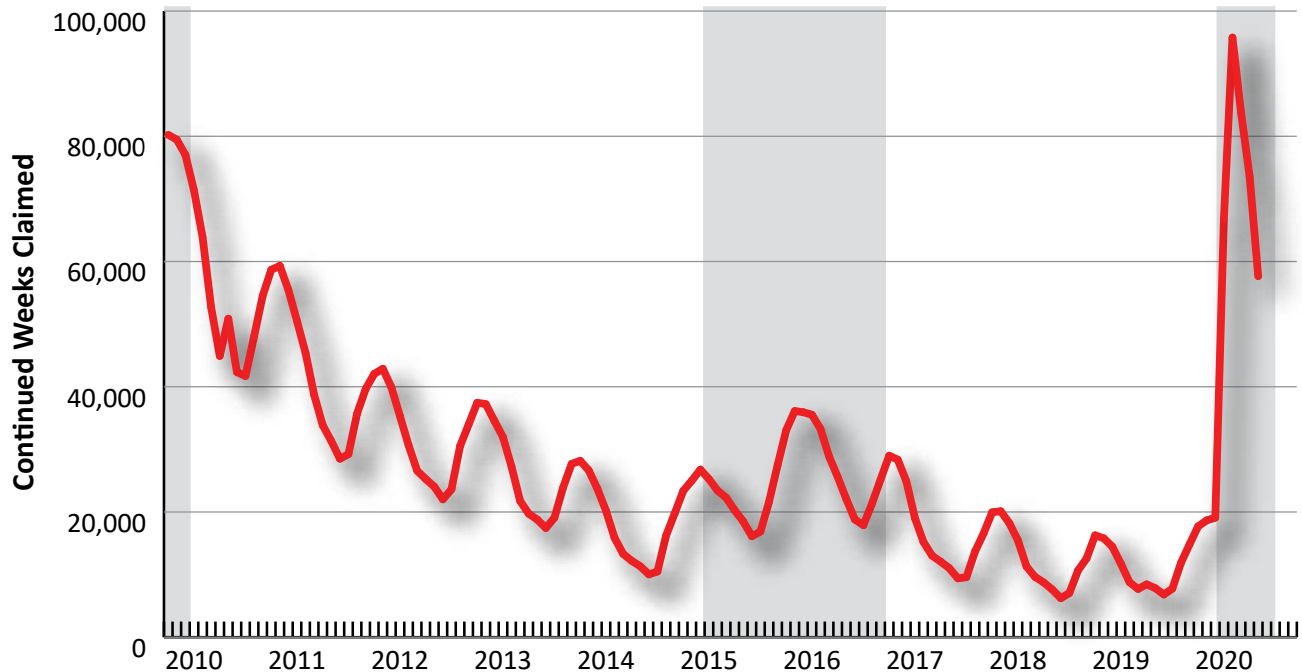
percentage decreases over the month. The greatest declines were found in Natrona (-627, or -43.9%), Laramie (-366, or -36.3%), Teton (-297, or -67.8%), and Sweetwater (-267, or -47.5%) counties. Initial out-of-state claims decreased by 206 (-15.0%). See Figure 4 (page 6) and Table 3 (page 9).

Continued Claims

The total number of continued weeks claimed decreased from 73,590 in July to 57,636 in August (-15,954, or -21.7%). The total number of unique claimants decreased from 20,898 to 15,909 (-4,989, or -23.9%). See Figure 2 and Table 2, page 7.

Continued claims decreased in all industries over the month. The greatest changes were seen in leisure & hospitality (-4,148, or -39.7%), mining (-2,296, or -16.8%), and construction (-1,229, or -16.3%). See Table 2, page 7, and Figure 5, page 8.

Continued weeks claimed decreased across all counties over the month as well. Large decreases were seen in counties such as Natrona (-2,993, or -19.8%), Laramie (-1,829, or -22.5%), Teton (-1,825, or -45.6%), and Campbell (-1,596, or -21.0%) counties. Total out-of-state claimants decreased by 1,561, or 14.5%. 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 periods of economic downturn (2009Q1-2010Q1 and 2015Q2-2016Q4) and 2020 COVID-19 pandemic: March 2020 to present.

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

Revised by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 9/17/20.

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

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

Industry	Initial Claims Filed			Over-the-Month Change		Over-the-Year Change	
	Aug 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2019	N	%	N	%
Total Claims Filed	5,134	8,138	755	-3,004	-36.9	4,379	580.0
Goods-Producing	1,280	1,757	254	-477	-27.1	1,026	403.9
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	565	720	61	-155	-21.5	504	826.2
Mining (21)	550	704	58	-154	-21.9	492	848.3
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	11	19	N/D	-8	-42.1	N/D	N/D
Construction (23)	591	808	162	-217	-26.9	429	264.8
Manufacturing (31-33)	124	227	30	-103	-45.4	94	313.3
Service-Providing	1,839	3,389	345	-1,550	-45.7	1,494	433.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	553	994	108	-441	-44.4	445	412.0
Wholesale Trade (42)	130	273	21	-143	-52.4	109	519.0
Retail Trade (44-45)	225	399	51	-174	-43.6	174	341.2
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	197	321	34	-124	-38.6	163	479.4
Information (51)	35	49	N/D	-14	-28.6	N/D	N/D
Financial Activities (52-53)	92	170	20	-78	-45.9	72	360.0
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	343	478	84	-135	-28.2	259	308.3
Education & Health Services (61-62)	246	464	50	-218	-47.0	196	392.0
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	457	1,043	61	-586	-56.2	396	649.2
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	110	189	12	-79	-41.8	98	816.7
Government	225	462	49	-237	-51.3	176	359.2
Federal Government	23	40	6	-17	-42.5	17	283.3
State Government	43	80	7	-37	-46.3	36	514.3
Local Government	158	341	34	-183	-53.7	124	364.7
Local Education	54	158	6	-104	-65.8	48	800.0
Unclassified	1,789	2,529	105	-740	-29.3	1,684	1,603.8
Laramie County							
Total Claims Filed	643	1,009	153	-366	-36.3	490	320.3
Goods-Producing	119	122	36	-3	-2.5	83	230.6
Construction	73	71	30	2	2.8	43	143.3
Service-Providing	311	495	91	-184	-37.2	220	241.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	79	139	22	-60	-43.2	57	259.1
Financial Activities (52, 53)	14	14	3	0	0.0	11	366.7
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	85	85	39	0	0.0	46	117.9
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	42	96	6	-54	-56.3	36	600.0
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	60	119	12	-59	-49.6	48	400.0
Government	32	61	8	-29	-47.5	24	300.0
Unclassified	179	329	16	-150	-45.6	163	1,018.8
Natrona County							
Total Claims Filed	801	1,428	112	-627	-43.9	689	615.2
Goods-Producing	182	339	41	-157	-46.3	141	343.9
Construction	86	124	26	-38	-30.6	60	230.8
Service-Providing	411	749	58	-338	-45.1	353	608.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	133	258	21	-125	-48.4	112	533.3
Financial Activities (52, 53)	29	53	N/D	-24	-45.3	N/D	N/D
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	63	86	6	-23	-26.7	57	950.0
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	51	83	16	-32	-38.6	35	218.8
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	79	171	6	-92	-53.8	73	1,216.7
Government	23	32	N/D	-9	-28.1	N/D	N/D
Unclassified	182	305	10	-123	-40.3	172	1,720.0

N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality.

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database. Reviewed by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 9/17/20.

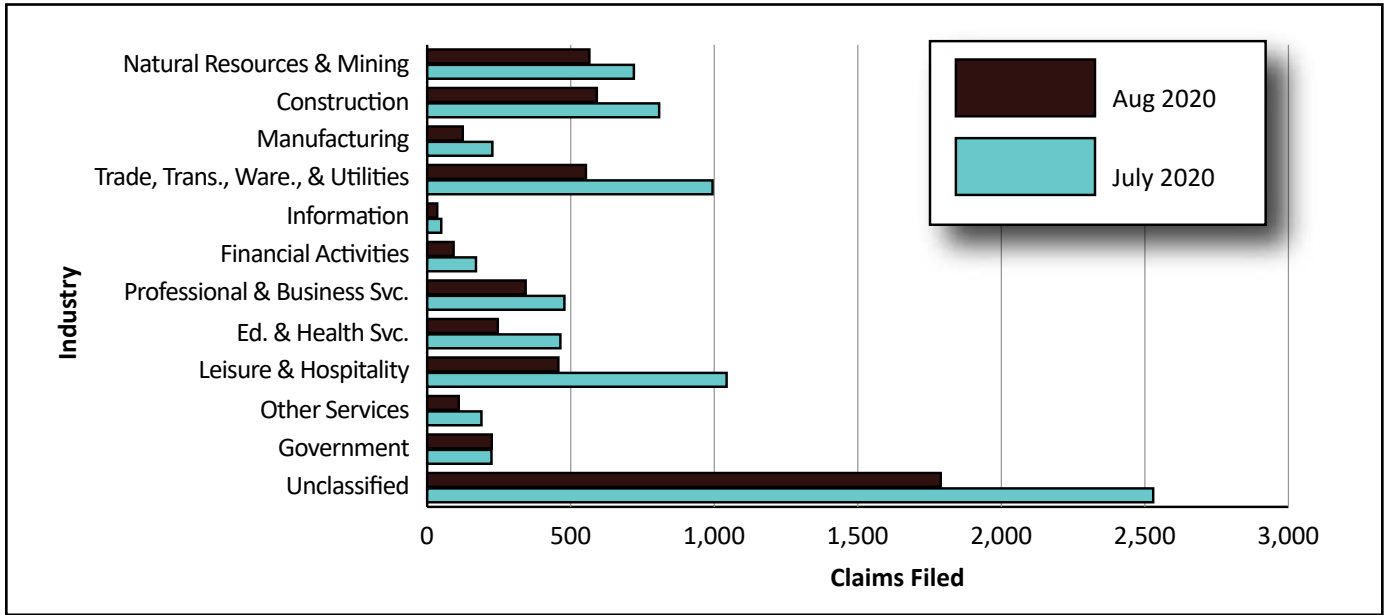


Figure 3: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, July and August 2020

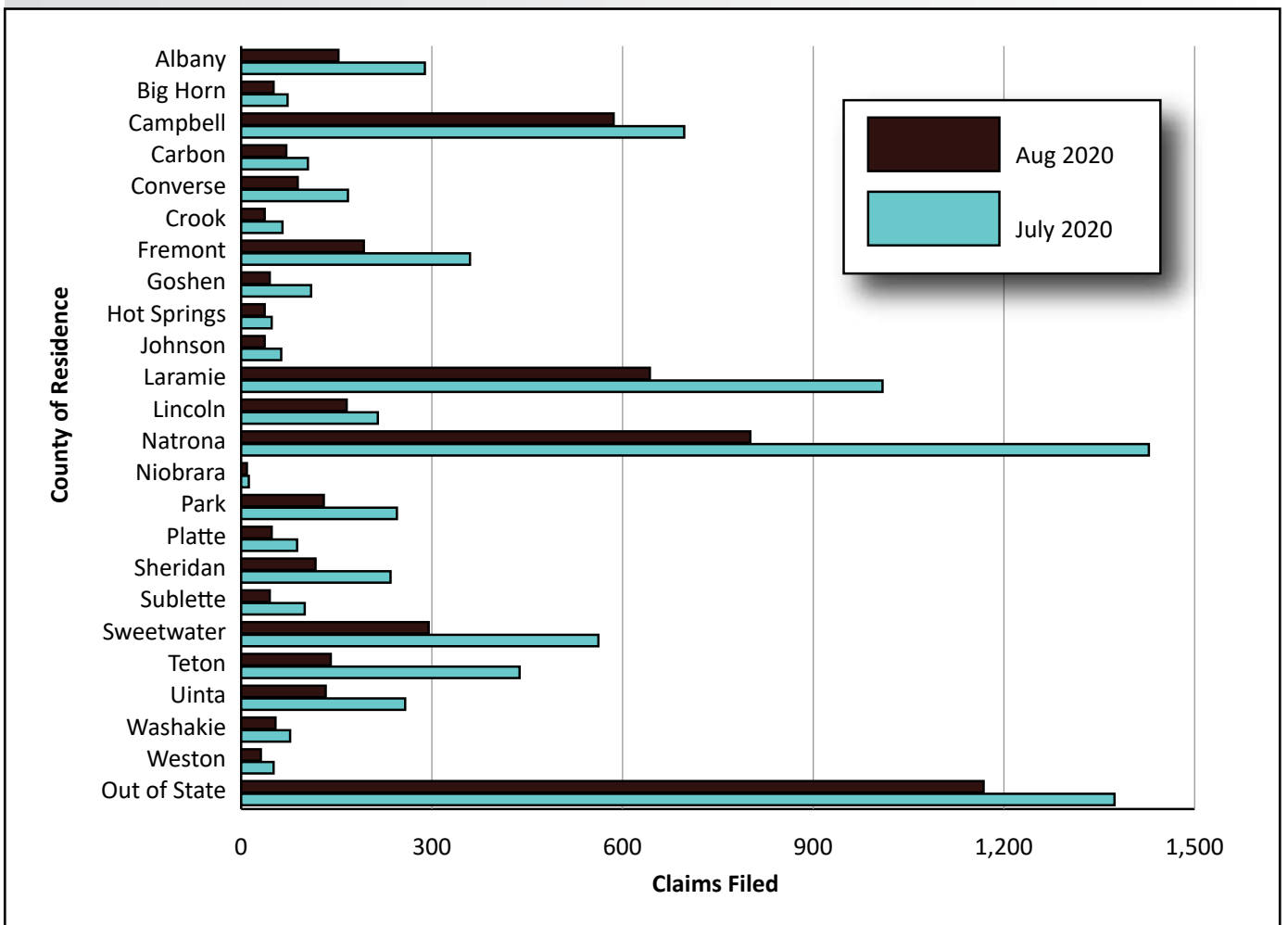


Figure 4: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence, July and August 2020

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

Industry	Continued Weeks Claimed			Over-the-Month Change		Over-the-Year Change	
	Aug 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2019	N	%	N	%
Total Continued Weeks Claimed	57,636	73,590	6,269	-15,954	-21.7	51,367	819.4
Total Unique Claimants	15,909	20,898	2,443	-4,989	-23.9	13,466	551.2
Goods-Producing	19,784	23,797	2,239	-4,013	-16.9	17,545	783.6
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	11,435	13,777	1,008	-2,342	-17.0	10,427	1,034.4
Mining (21)	11,337	13,633	956	-2,296	-16.8	10,381	1,085.9
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	297	381	44	-84	-22.0	253	575.0
Construction (23)	6,312	7,541	946	-1,229	-16.3	5,366	567.2
Manufacturing (31-33)	2,037	2,478	284	-441	-17.8	1,753	617.3
Service-Providing	23,942	32,543	2,678	-8,601	-26.4	21,264	794.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	7,592	9,644	833	-2,052	-21.3	6,759	811.4
Wholesale Trade (42)	2,460	2,938	193	-478	-16.3	2,267	1,174.6
Retail Trade (44-45)	2,780	3,702	453	-922	-24.9	2,327	513.7
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	2,351	3,004	186	-653	-21.7	2,165	1,164.0
Information (51)	305	435	67	-130	-29.9	238	355.2
Financial Activities (52-53)	1,383	1,796	155	-413	-23.0	1,228	792.3
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	4,011	4,526	514	-515	-11.4	3,497	680.4
Education & Health Services (61-62)	2,901	3,866	499	-965	-25.0	2,402	481.4
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	6,288	10,436	467	-4,148	-39.7	5,821	1,246.5
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	1,460	1,836	140	-376	-20.5	1,320	942.9
Government	2,855	4,037	549	-1,182	-29.3	2,306	420.0
Federal Government	222	268	42	-46	-17.2	180	428.6
State Government	305	381	63	-76	-19.9	242	384.1
Local Government	2,327	3,387	443	-1,060	-31.3	1,884	425.3
Local Education	1,179	1,948	111	-769	-39.5	1,068	962.2
Unclassified	11,053	13,212	802	-2,159	-16.3	10,251	1,278.2
Laramie County							
Total Claims Filed	6,306	8,135	788	-1,829	-22.5	5,518	700.3
Total Unique Claimants	1,742	2,350	322	-608	-25.9	1,420	441.0
Goods-Producing	1,316	1,675	116	-359	-21.4	1,200	1,034.5
Construction	504	695	101	-191	-27.5	403	399.0
Service-Providing	3,184	4,388	507	-1,204	-27.4	2,677	528.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	954	1,263	143	-309	-24.5	811	567.1
Financial Activities (52, 53)	177	226	38	-49	-21.7	139	365.8
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	515	586	133	-71	-12.1	382	287.2
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	488	591	90	-103	-17.4	398	442.2
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	831	1,355	55	-524	-38.7	776	1,410.9
Government	384	486	84	-102	-21.0	300	357.1
Unclassified	1,421	1,584	80	-163	-10.3	1,341	1,676.3
Natrona County							
Total Claims Filed	12,125	15,118	856	-2,993	-19.8	11,269	1,316.5
Total Unique Claimants	3,262	4,201	327	-939	-22.4	2,935	897.6
Goods-Producing	3,892	4,680	211	-788	-16.8	3,681	1,744.5
Construction	985	1,185	109	-200	-16.9	876	803.7
Service-Providing	5,977	7,737	558	-1,760	-22.7	5,419	971.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	2,373	2,815	190	-442	-15.7	2,183	1,148.9
Financial Activities (52, 53)	458	582	38	-124	-21.3	420	1,105.3
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	889	991	89	-102	-10.3	800	898.9
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	559	761	130	-202	-26.5	429	330.0
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	1,046	1,807	70	-761	-42.1	976	1,394.3
Government	221	372	27	-151	-40.6	194	718.5
Unclassified	2,032	2,327	58	-295	-12.7	1,974	3,403.4

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Reviewed by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 9/17/20.

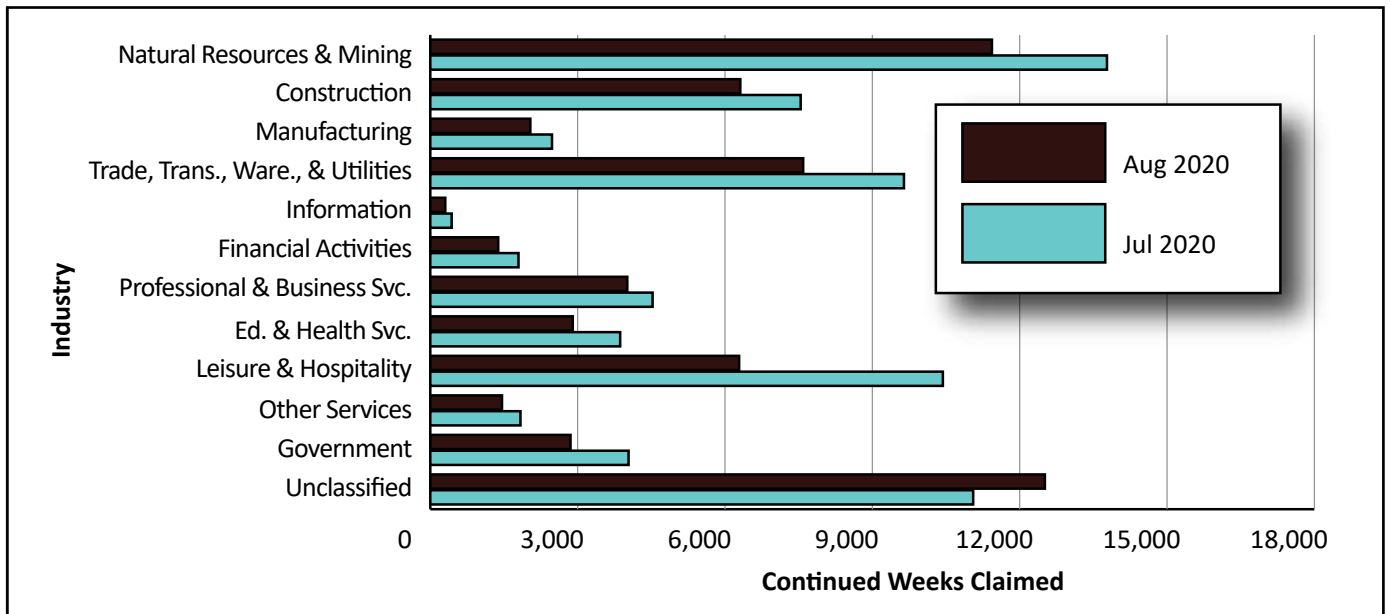


Figure 5: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, July and August 2020

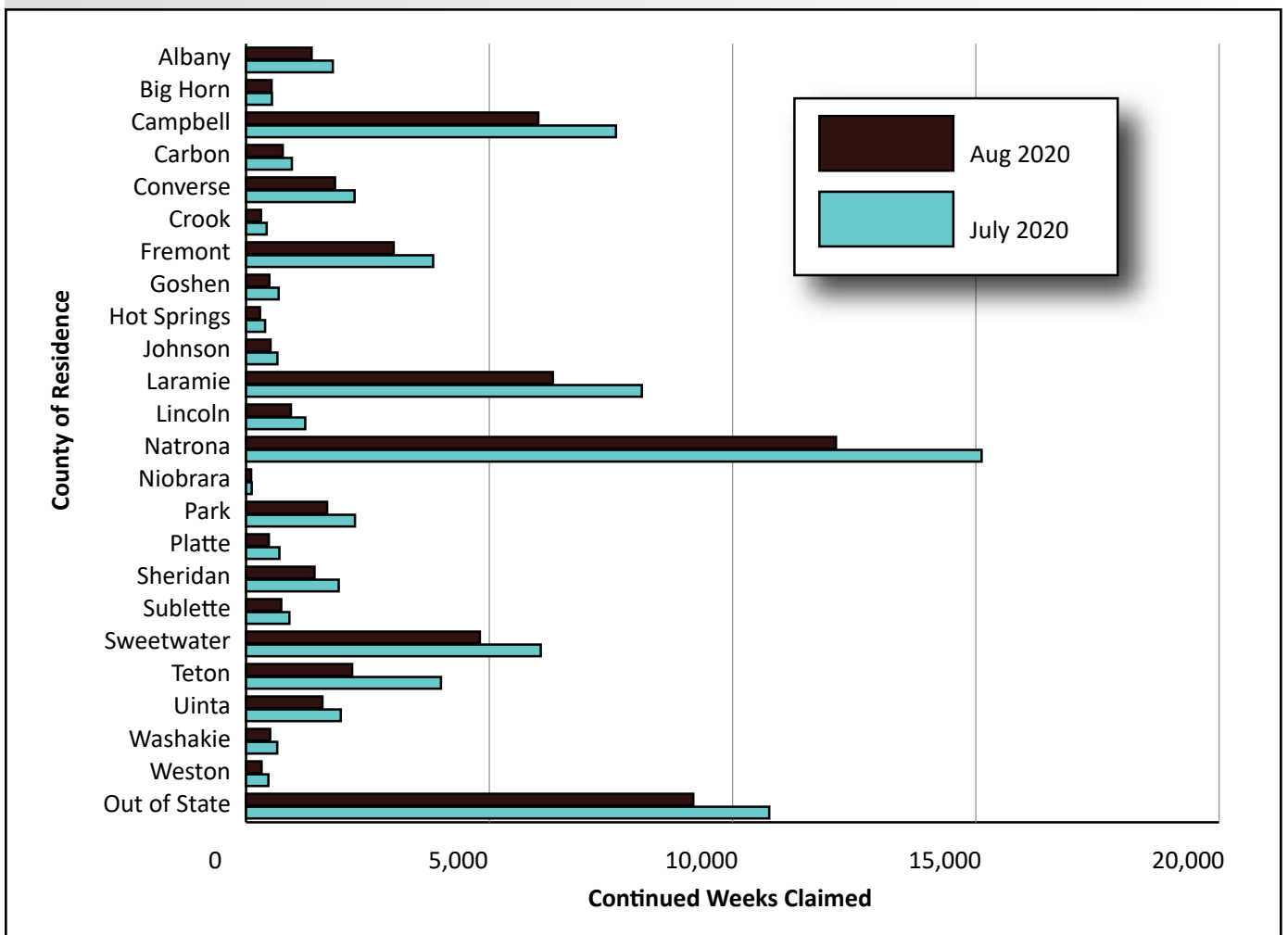


Figure 6: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence in Wyoming, July and August 2020

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

County	Aug 2020	Jul 2020	Change	
			N	%
Albany	153	289	-136	-47.1
Big Horn	51	73	-22	-30.1
Campbell	586	697	-111	-15.9
Carbon	71	105	-34	-32.4
Converse	89	168	-79	-47.0
Crook	37	65	-28	-43.1
Fremont	193	360	-167	-46.4
Goshen	45	110	-65	-59.1
Hot Springs	37	48	-11	-22.9
Johnson	37	63	-26	-41.3
Laramie	643	1,009	-366	-36.3
Lincoln	166	215	-49	-22.8
Natrona	801	1,428	-627	-43.9
Niobrara	9	12	-3	-25.0
Park	130	245	-115	-46.9
Platte	48	88	-40	-45.5
Sheridan	117	235	-118	-50.2
Sublette	45	100	-55	-55.0
Sweetwater	295	562	-267	-47.5
Teton	141	438	-297	-67.8
Uinta	133	258	-125	-48.4
Washakie	54	77	-23	-29.9
Weston	31	51	-20	-39.2
Unknown	40	56	-16	-28.6
Out of State	1,168	1,374	-206	-15.0
Total	5,134	8,138	-3,004	-36.9

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.
Reviewed by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 9/17/20.

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, July 2020 to August 2020


County	Aug 2020	Jul 2020	Change	
			N	%
Albany	1,348	1,784	-436	-24.4
Big Horn	525	533	-8	-1.5
Campbell	6,007	7,603	-1,596	-21.0
Carbon	755	943	-188	-19.9
Converse	1,829	2,231	-402	-18.0
Crook	308	424	-116	-27.4
Fremont	3,035	3,846	-811	-21.1
Goshen	481	671	-190	-28.3
Hot Springs	287	392	-105	-26.8
Johnson	504	645	-141	-21.9
Laramie	6,306	8,135	-1,829	-22.5
Lincoln	923	1,217	-294	-24.2
Natrona	12,125	15,118	-2,993	-19.8
Niobrara	105	116	-11	-9.5
Park	1,667	2,239	-572	-25.5
Platte	469	686	-217	-31.6
Sheridan	1,407	1,905	-498	-26.1
Sublette	724	891	-167	-18.7
Sweetwater	4,806	6,057	-1,251	-20.7
Teton	2,181	4,006	-1,825	-45.6
Uinta	1,570	1,947	-377	-19.4
Washakie	496	641	-145	-22.6
Weston	319	460	-141	-30.7
Unknown	256	335	-79	-23.6
Out of State	9,192	10,753	-1,561	-14.5
Normalized Total^a	57,636	73,590	-15,954	-21.7

^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, 9/17/20.



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

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