

TRENDS

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Research & Planning

Unemployment Insurance Claims Drop in Second Half of 2016

by: Sherry Wen, Principal Economist

The purpose of this article is to provide a better understanding of Wyoming's most recent economic downturn by examining available employment and Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims statistics.

Wyoming has experienced an economic downturn since second quarter 2015 (2015Q2) due to constant low energy prices. Several large energy companies went into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection processes in early 2016 (Gruver, 2016), but exited bankruptcy late in the year or early 2017 (Rucinski, 2016, and Richards, 2017).

During the downturn, Wyoming crude oil first purchase price dropped to as low as \$23.45 per barrel in February 2016, the lowest since 2003 (EIA, 2017). By 2016Q4, Wyoming crude oil first purchase price had increased back to \$40 per barrel or higher. In addition, some coal companies showed a significant increase in production, from 60 million tons in 2016Q2 to almost 85 million tons in 2016Q3 (Associated Press, 2016).

State Employment Changes (Jobs Worked)

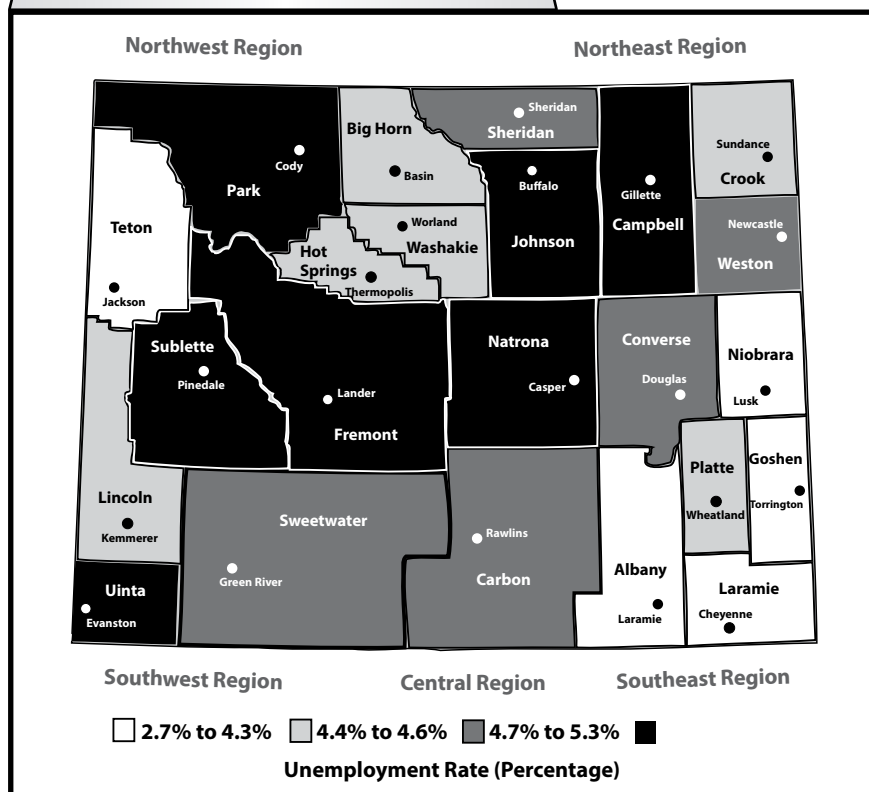
Based on data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Wyoming has experienced two periods of economic downturn in recent years (see Figure 1, page 3). For the purposes of this article, an *economic downturn* is defined as an over-the-year decrease in average monthly employment (jobs worked) and total wages for at least two consecutive quarters. The *previous downturn* lasted five quarters, from 2009Q1 to 2010Q1, and followed the national Great Recession, which lasted

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- From March 2016 to March 2017, unemployment rates decreased in 21 counties and were unchanged in Niobrara (3.6%) and Weston (4.8%) counties. ... *page 17*
- From March 2016 to March 2017, the total number of unique claimants decreased by 30.4% (-2,680 individuals) while the number of continued weeks claimed decreased by 30.7% (-11,026 weeks). ... *page 19*

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, March 2017 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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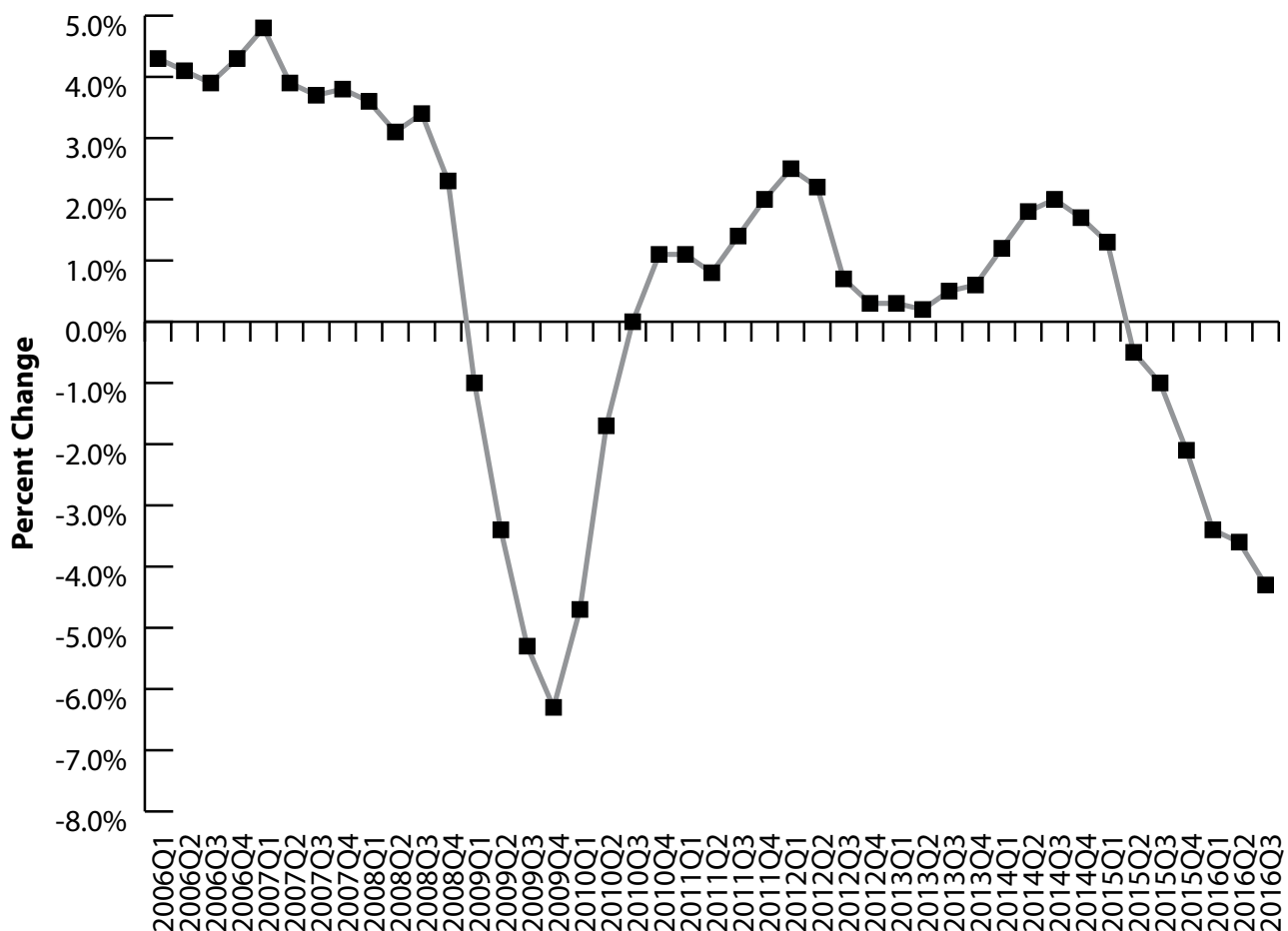
(Text continued from page 1)

from November 2007 to June 2009 (NBER, 2010). The *most recent downturn* has lasted at least seven quarters, beginning in 2015Q2 and persisting through at least 2016Q4 (Moore, 2017).

Wyoming's employment tends to follow a seasonal pattern, with employment peaking in the second and third quarters. Because of that, this research focuses on the third quarter during a downturn year

(2010Q3 and 2016Q3) and a pre-downturn year (2008Q3 and 2014Q3).

During the most recent downturn, from 2014Q3 to 2016Q3, Wyoming lost 15,475 jobs (-5.3%; see Table 1, page 4). Overall, the total job loss from the most recent downturn was similar to the total job loss during the previous downturn (-15,579, or -5.3%). However, the loss of overall wages was much greater during the most recent downturn (-\$215.1 million, or -6.5%) compared to the previous downturn



Source: Unemployment Insurance claims data.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/27/17.

Figure 1: Over-the-Year Percent Change in Average Monthly Employment for Wyoming by Year and Quarter, 2006Q1-2016Q3

(-\$121.5 million, or -4.1%; see Table 2, page 5). One of the main reasons for the greater loss of wages during the most recent downturn was the loss of more than one-third (35.1%) of higher paying mining jobs, compared to 14.5% of mining jobs lost during the previous downturn. During the most recent downturn, 10 of the 19 major private industries lost jobs, compared to 15 during the previous downturn.

Where Did the Workers Go?

Normally, many workers who lose jobs file claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits right away and begin searching for new jobs. Some may return to school to learn new skills or further their education, while others may retire

Table 1: Change in Average Monthly Employment (Jobs Worked) And Total Wages in Wyoming by Industry, 2014Q3-2016Q3

NAICS ^a Code	Industry	2014Q3		2016Q3		Change, 2014Q3-2016Q3			
		AME	Total Wages (\$)	AME	Total Wages (\$)	AME		Total Wages	
						N	%	\$	%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	2,799	21,898,724	2,893	22,401,148	94	3.4	502,424	2.3
21	Mining	27,587	588,456,023	17,916	373,425,519	-9,671	-35.1	-215,030,504	-36.5
22	Utilities	2,510	52,832,501	2,562	58,691,486	52	2.1	5,858,985	11.1
23	Construction	26,095	338,490,637	22,357	291,658,951	-3,738	-14.3	-46,831,686	-13.8
31-33	Manufacturing	9,912	145,638,794	9,258	148,608,095	-654	-6.6	2,969,301	2.0
42	Wholesale Trade	9,585	140,815,223	8,287	117,086,431	-1,298	-13.5	-23,728,792	-16.9
44-45	Retail Trade	30,634	209,944,287	31,375	218,781,118	741	2.4	8,836,831	4.2
48-49	Transportation & Warehousing	10,700	133,405,045	9,421	118,005,045	-1,278	-11.9	-15,400,000	-11.5
Private Industry	51 Information	3,809	40,823,770	3,739	44,167,696	-70	-1.8	3,343,926	8.2
	52 Finance & Insurance	6,764	88,068,193	6,832	98,431,990	68	1.0	10,363,797	11.8
	53 Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,609	52,444,500	4,059	42,492,444	-550	-11.9	-9,952,056	-19.0
	54 Professional & Technical Services	9,587	148,223,672	8,801	125,824,873	-786	-8.2	-22,398,799	-15.1
	55 Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	1,027	22,965,209	879	18,979,186	-149	-14.5	-3,986,023	-17.4
	56 Administrative & Waste Services	8,656	67,861,322	8,859	71,868,477	203	2.3	4,007,155	5.9
	61 Educational Services	1,655	13,184,169	1,669	13,218,058	14	0.8	33,889	0.3
	62 Health Care & Social Assistance	24,012	244,104,901	24,722	266,666,940	710	3.0	22,562,039	9.2
	71 Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,782	20,126,172	4,080	23,336,431	298	7.9	3,210,259	16.0
	72 Accommodation & Food Services	36,648	177,164,338	36,901	190,570,662	252	0.7	13,406,324	7.6
Gov't	81 Other Services	7,972	69,622,830	7,366	63,078,438	-606	-7.6	-6,544,392	-9.4
	Federal Government	7,884	126,068,564	8,120	138,857,997	236	3.0	12,789,433	10.1
	State Government	13,364	176,866,480	13,135	180,692,809	-230	-1.7	3,826,329	2.2
	Local Government	41,717	438,617,407	42,604	475,651,608	887	2.1	37,034,201	8.4
Total		291,309	3,317,622,761	275,834	3,102,495,402	-15,475	-5.3	-215,127,359	-6.5

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims data.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/27/17.

or leave the labor market for another reason.

In Wyoming, workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own are eligible to file for UI benefits. When an individual files a new claim, that is referred to as an initial claim. If an individual experienced two layoffs in a year, that person would be counted

twice; the first claim is referred to as a *new initial claim* and subsequent claims are referred to as *additional claims*. If an individual loses a job but never files a claim for UI benefits, that person is not counted. While not a perfect measure, the number of initial claims can be seen as a representation of the number of individuals who lost jobs during a specific period.

Table 2: Change in Average Monthly Employment (Jobs Worked) And Total Wages in Wyoming by Industry, 2008Q3-2010Q3

		2008Q3		2010Q3		Change, 2008Q3-2010Q3			
NAICS ^a Code	Industry	AME	Total Wages (\$)	AME	Total Wages (\$)	AME		Total Wages	
						N	%	\$	%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	2,558	17,813,223	2,656	17,563,214	98	3.8	-250,009	-1.4
21	Mining	30,037	548,618,267	25,688	477,014,973	-4,349	-14.5	-71,603,294	-13.1
22	Utilities	2,527	44,130,768	2,495	47,360,811	-32	-1.3	3,230,043	7.3
23	Construction	30,517	364,384,015	24,617	293,302,820	-5,900	-19.3	-71,081,195	-19.5
31-33	Manufacturing	10,009	119,073,177	8,786	111,320,379	-1,223	-12.2	-7,752,798	-6.5
42	Wholesale Trade	9,200	120,051,031	8,495	113,267,547	-705	-7.7	-6,783,484	-5.7
44-45	Retail Trade	33,046	201,651,173	30,146	193,487,408	-2,900	-8.8	-8,163,765	-4.0
48-49	Transportation & Warehousing	9,624	106,865,470	9,179	104,014,887	-445	-4.6	-2,850,583	-2.7
Private Industry	51 Information	4,057	37,372,201	3,906	38,004,177	-151	-3.7	631,976	1.7
	52 Finance & Insurance	7,273	97,123,014	6,776	76,861,291	-497	-6.8	-20,261,723	-20.9
	53 Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,578	40,416,968	4,052	36,686,498	-526	-11.5	-3,730,470	-9.2
	54 Professional & Technical Services	9,975	122,278,406	9,233	117,157,363	-741	-7.4	-5,121,043	-4.2
	55 Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	814	13,834,732	866	16,973,699	52	6.4	3,138,967	22.7
	56 Administrative & Waste Services	8,875	64,461,001	8,238	57,984,657	-637	-7.2	-6,476,344	-10.0
	61 Educational Services	1,544	10,951,339	1,762	13,115,213	219	14.2	2,163,874	19.8
	62 Health Care & Social Assistance	22,143	208,257,383	23,227	227,763,912	1,085	4.9	19,506,529	9.4
	71 Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,572	17,393,066	3,475	18,525,113	-97	-2.7	1,132,047	6.5
	72 Accommodation & Food Services	35,432	151,593,558	34,197	149,101,258	-1,235	-3.5	-2,492,300	-1.6
Gov't	81 Other Services	8,574	68,070,876	8,131	78,408,810	-443	-5.2	10,337,934	15.2
	Federal Government	8,116	108,889,769	8,735	111,571,795	619	7.6	2,682,026	2.5
	State Government	12,913	158,032,484	13,552	171,647,004	639	4.9	13,614,520	8.6
	Local Government	38,511	364,509,373	40,102	393,151,311	1,591	4.1	28,641,938	7.9
Total		293,895	2,985,771,294	278,316	2,864,284,140	-15,579	-5.3	-121,487,154	-4.1

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims data.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/27/17.

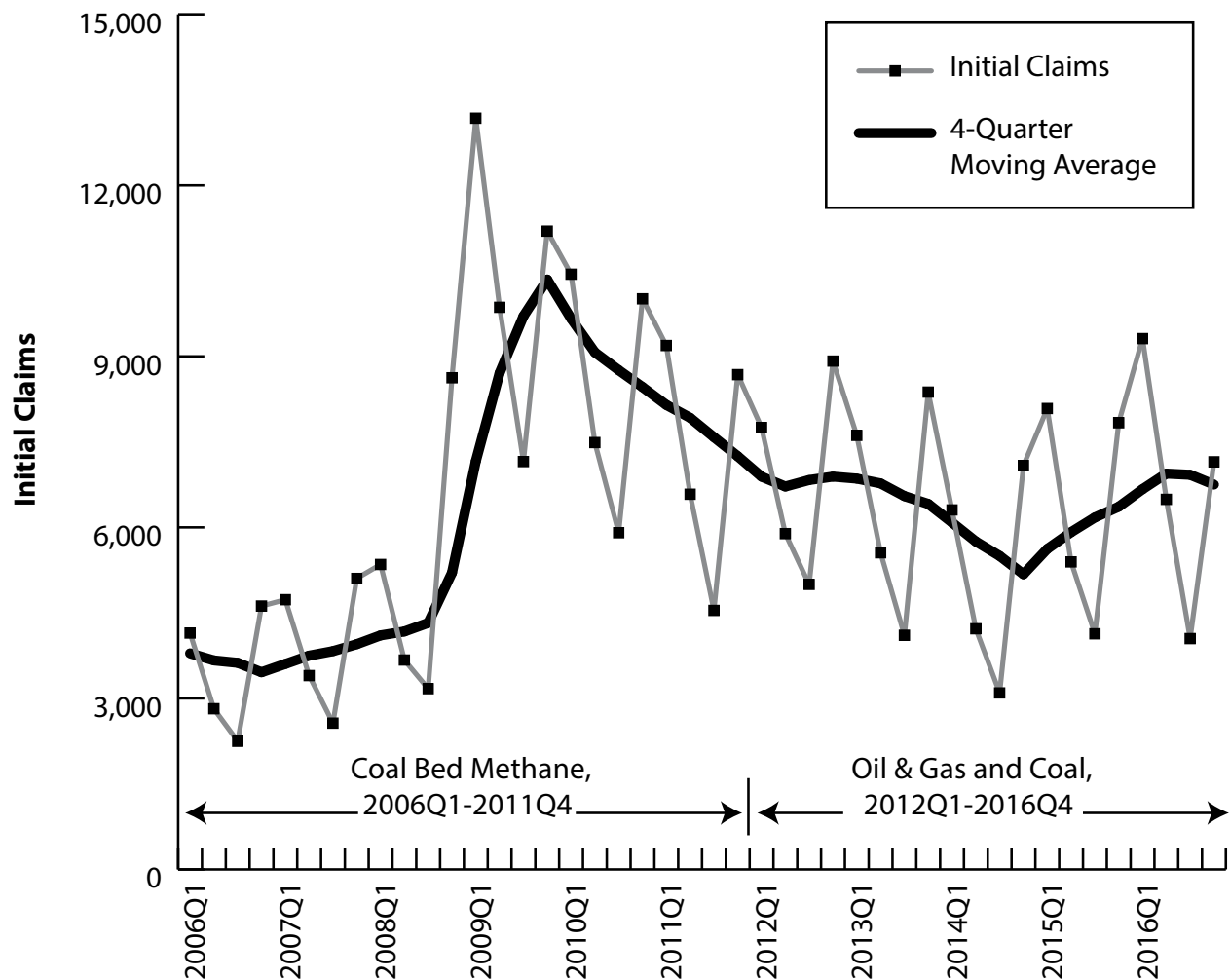
Table 3: Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims in Wyoming During Periods of Economic Downturn, 2009-2016

	Year	Annual Initial Claims
Previous Downturn Years (2009-2010)	2009	56,359
	2010	47,307
	Total	103,666
Most Recent Downturn Years (2015-2016)	2015	35,141
	2016	38,190
	Total	73,331
Annual Average, 2011-2014	Total	36,667

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims data.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/27/17.

The total number of initial claims in Wyoming was 38,190 in 2016, an increase of 8.7% compared to 2015. The 2015-2016 two-year total of initial claims (73,331) was much lower than the two-year total from 2009-2010 (103,666) during the previous downturn (see Table 3). This is illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 (see page 6), which show that the number of initial claims increased over the year during each quarter from 2015Q1 to 2016Q2, but were flat in 2016Q3 and then decreased in 2016Q4.



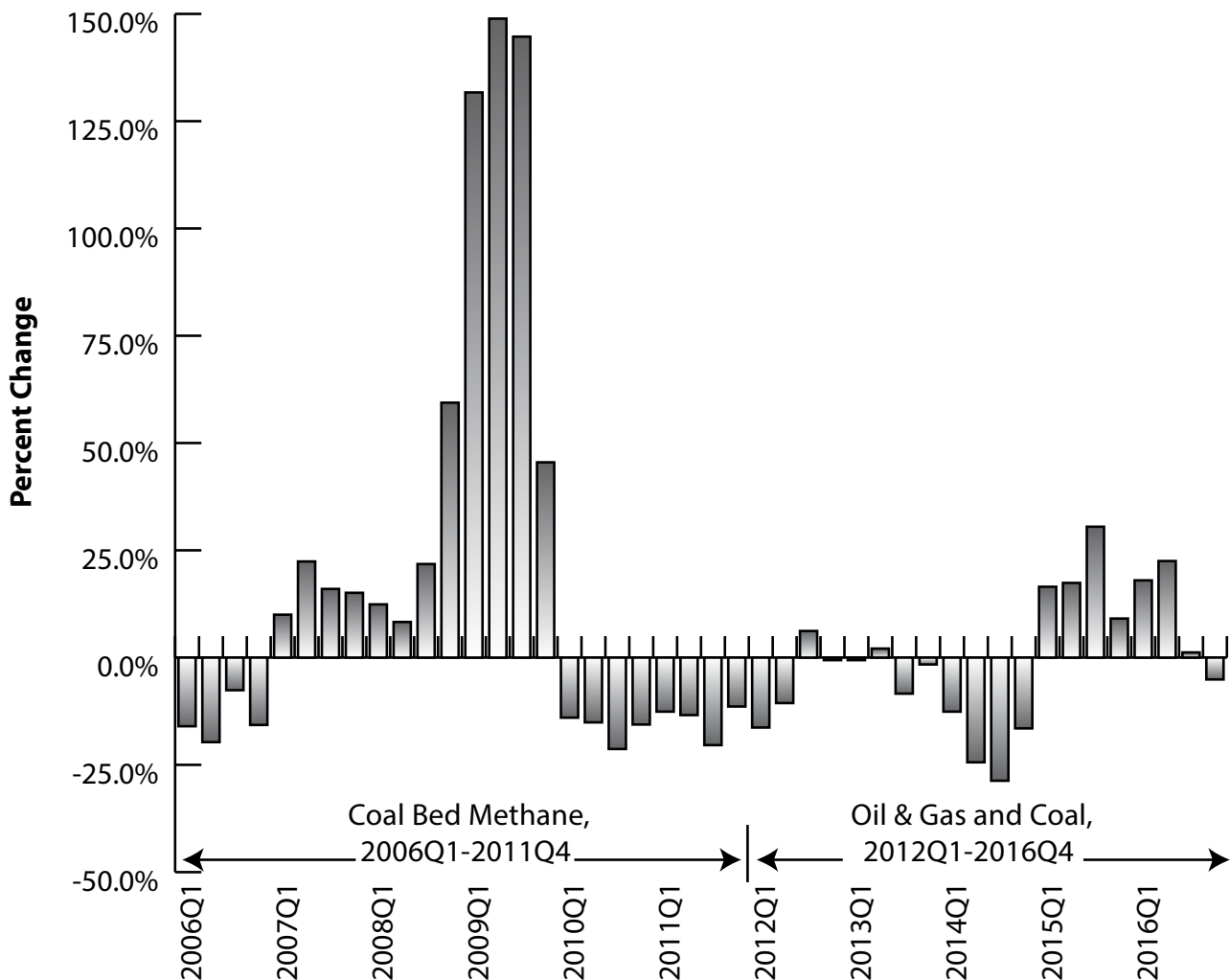
Source: Unemployment Insurance claims data.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/27/17.

Figure 2: New Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims in Wyoming, 2006Q1-2016Q4

As previously mentioned, the mining industry contributed the greatest number of job losses during the most recent downturn. As shown in Figure 4 (see page 7), initial claims were much higher than normal in oil & gas from 2015Q1 to 2016Q1, but dropped to lower-than-normal levels in 2016Q3 and 2016Q4. Initial claims

in coal mining also returned to normal levels by 2016Q3. These declines in initial claims in the mining industry could be an indication that mass layoffs have stopped and the industries have begun to stabilize, or that individuals who lost jobs in these industries are having an easier time finding work in Wyoming or other states.



Source: Unemployment Insurance claims data.

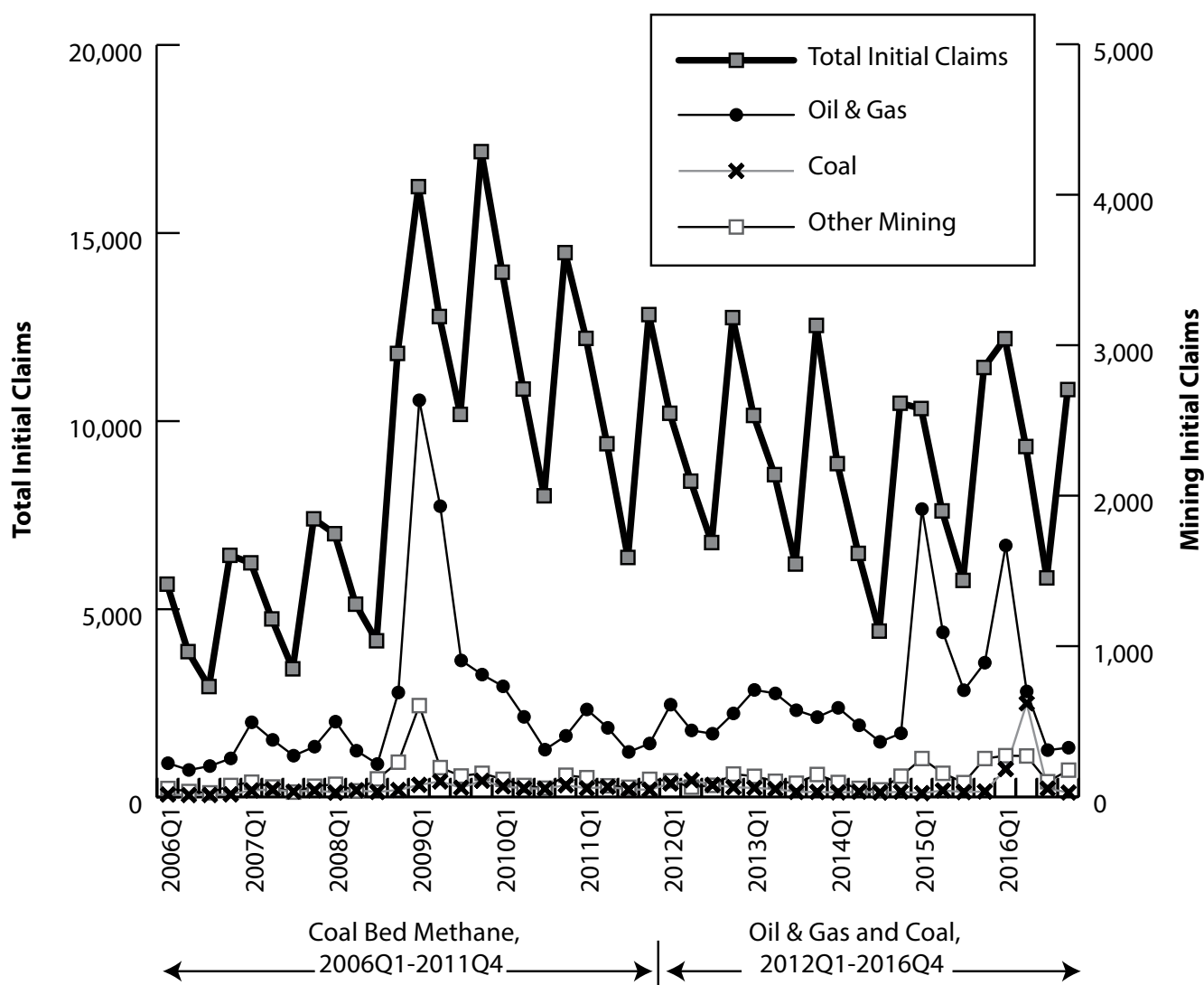
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Figure 3: Over-the-Year Percent Change in New Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims in Wyoming, 2006Q1-2016Q4

UI Recipients and Exhaustees

Filing an initial UI claim does not necessarily mean that an individual was eligible to receive UI benefits; monetary and non-monetary requirements in UI law determine eligibility. Individuals who receive UI benefits are referred to as UI recipients.

In Wyoming, UI claimants can receive full benefits for no longer than 26 weeks during the claimant's benefit year, which ends one year from the effective date of the claim. Exhaustees are individuals who exhausted their UI benefits before finding another job. The exhaustion rate is calculated by dividing the number of exhaustees by the total number of UI recipients. A higher exhaustion rate



Source: Unemployment Insurance claims data.
Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/27/17.

Figure 4: New Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims in Wyoming Across All Industries and in Selected Mining Sectors, 2006Q1-2016Q4

indicates that more people are having difficulty finding work.

The number of UI recipients and exhaustees, along with the exhaustion rate, were much lower during the most recent downturn compared to the previous downturn. In 2016, 26,101 individuals received UI benefits, an increase of 14.7% from 2015 (see Figure 5). The exhaustion rates for 2015 and 2016 were 21.4% and 25.8%, respectively. By comparison, 37,251 individuals received UI benefits in 2009, and 34,388 individuals received benefits in 2010.

During both 2009 and 2010, approximately one-third of all recipients exhausted their benefits. These numbers indicate that during the most recent downturn, unemployed Wyoming workers may have found work in surrounding states with growing economies. By comparison, during the previous downturn, unemployed Wyoming workers did not have the option of finding work in another state as the country recovered from the Great Recession.

Figure 6 (see page 10) shows Wyoming UI recipients and exhaustion rate by age.

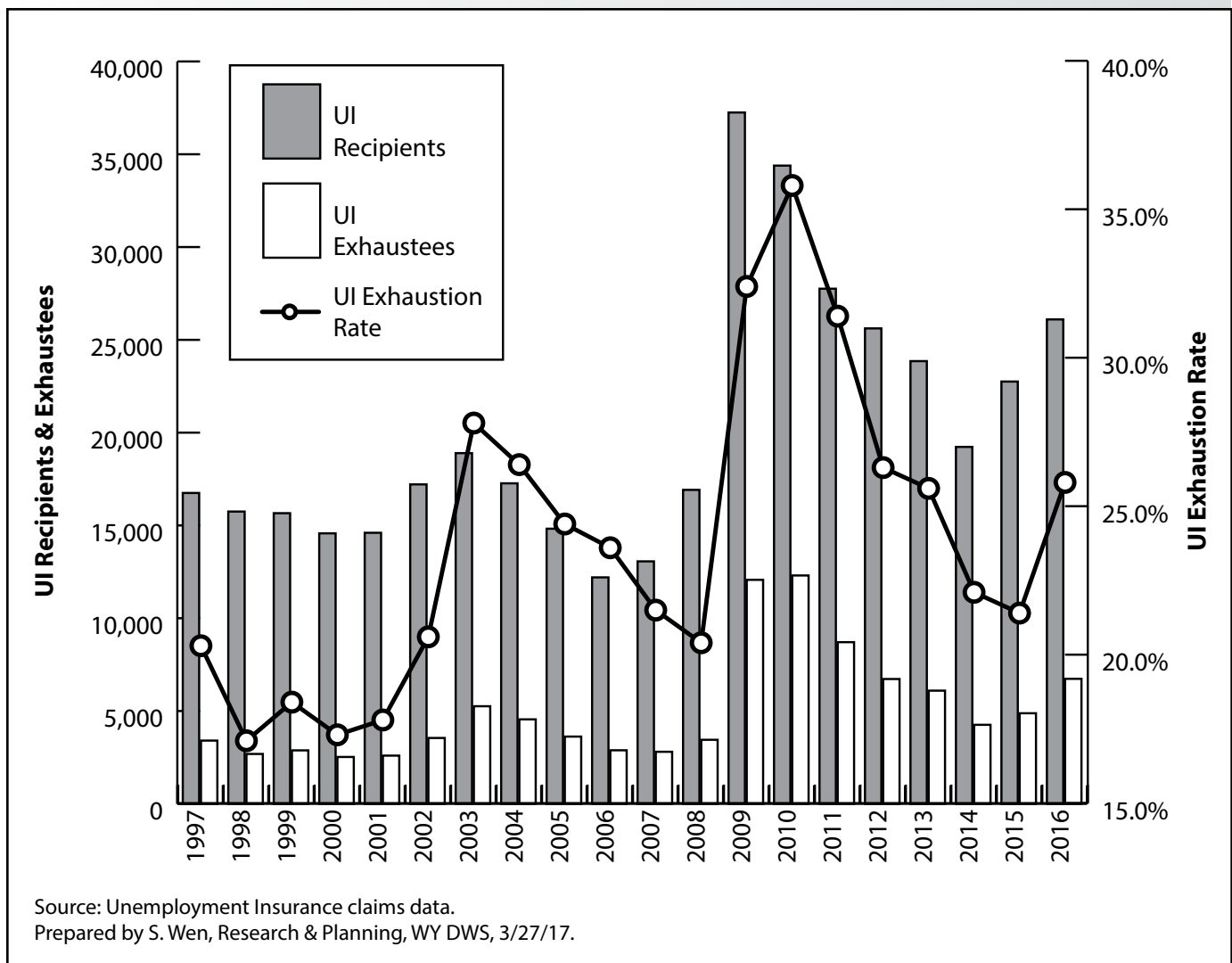


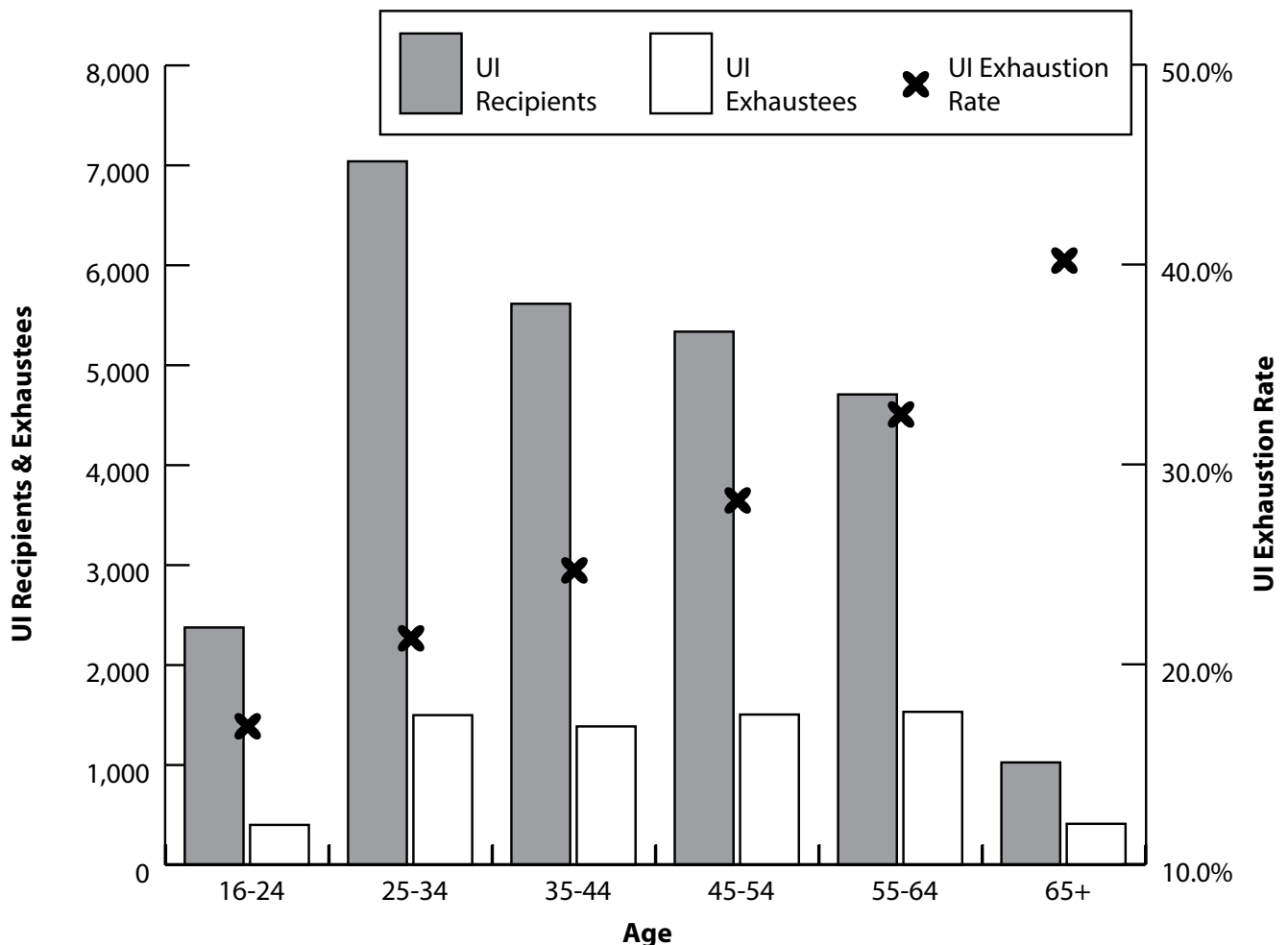
Figure 5: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients, Exhaustees, and Exhaustion Rate, 1997-2016

More than half (57.6%) of all UI recipients in 2016 were 44 and younger, and only about one-fifth (21.9%) were 55 and older. Older individuals were more likely to exhaust their benefits than younger individuals; only 21.3% of UI benefit recipients ages 25 to 34 exhausted their benefits, compared to 32.5% of recipients ages 55 to 64. Younger individuals may have an easier time finding a job in another state because they are able to quickly learn a new skill and have less

difficulty relocating than older individuals with families.

UI Benefits Expenses

The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services (DWS) paid a total of \$121.3 million in UI benefits to unemployed workers in 2016 (see Table 4, page 11), a 28.9% increase from \$94.1 million in 2015.



Source: Unemployment Insurance claims data.
Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/27/17.

Figure 6: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients, Exhaustees, and Exhaustion Rate by Age, 2016

The industries accounting for the greatest proportion of benefits paid in 2016 were construction (\$33.0 million, or 27.2%), mining (\$21.4 million, or 17.6%), accommodation & food services (\$8.6 million, or 7.1%), and administrative & waste services (\$7.7 million, or 6.3%).

Figure 7 (see page 12) presents historical UI benefit expense data from 1997 to 2016. During the most recent downturn years of 2015 and 2016, Wyoming DWS paid out a total of \$215.4 million in UI benefits. By comparison, total UI benefits paid during previous downturn years (2009 and 2010) were \$449.1 million, including \$119.0 million from the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) fund. In other words, UI benefits paid during the most recent downturn have been approximately half of those from the previous downturn.

Summary

Average monthly employment in Wyoming continued to decline in 2016Q4 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). While it is not known if Wyoming has reached the bottom of the most recent economic downturn, there are some positive signs for the state, such as large energy companies emerging from bankruptcy and the increase in the price of crude oil. In addition, the decline in new initial UI claims seems to indicate that mass layoffs in the mining industry have ceased.

Wyoming lost a similar number of jobs during the previous and most recent downturns (approximately 15,500 jobs). However, the mining industry suffered more during the most recent downturn,

losing one-third of its jobs compared to 2014Q3 and nearly twice as many jobs compared to the previous downturn. Job losses seem to have stabilized since 2016Q2.

The UI claims data presented in this article show that there were far fewer claimants and recipients compared to the previous downturn, and that exhaustion rates and the amount of benefits paid were significantly lower. These numbers indicate that the stronger national economy, especially in neighboring states

Table 4: Unemployment Insurance Benefit Expenses for Wyoming by Major Industry, 2016

NAICS ^a Code	Industry	UI Benefit Expenses	
		\$	%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	790,329	0.7
21	Mining	21,402,745	17.6
22	Utilities	431,130	0.4
23	Construction	32,972,630	27.2
31-33	Manufacturing	4,641,829	3.8
42	Wholesale Trade	5,191,245	4.3
44-45	Retail Trade	6,866,687	5.7
48-49	Transportation & Warehousing	6,438,019	5.3
51	Information	729,174	0.6
52	Finance & Insurance	798,340	0.7
53	Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	2,264,761	1.9
54	Professional & Technical Services	3,817,752	3.1
55	Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	221,564	0.2
56	Administrative & Waste Services	7,678,125	6.3
61	Educational Services	1,832,742	1.5
62	Health Care & Social Assistance	4,656,167	3.8
71	Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	990,464	0.8
72	Accommodation & Food Services	8,613,415	7.1
81	Other Services	3,289,417	2.7
92	Public Administration	5,371,444	4.4
	Nonclassified	2,289,384	1.9
Total		121,287,363	100.0

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims data.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/27/17.

that are experiencing growth, may have helped Wyoming's unemployed workers find jobs elsewhere.

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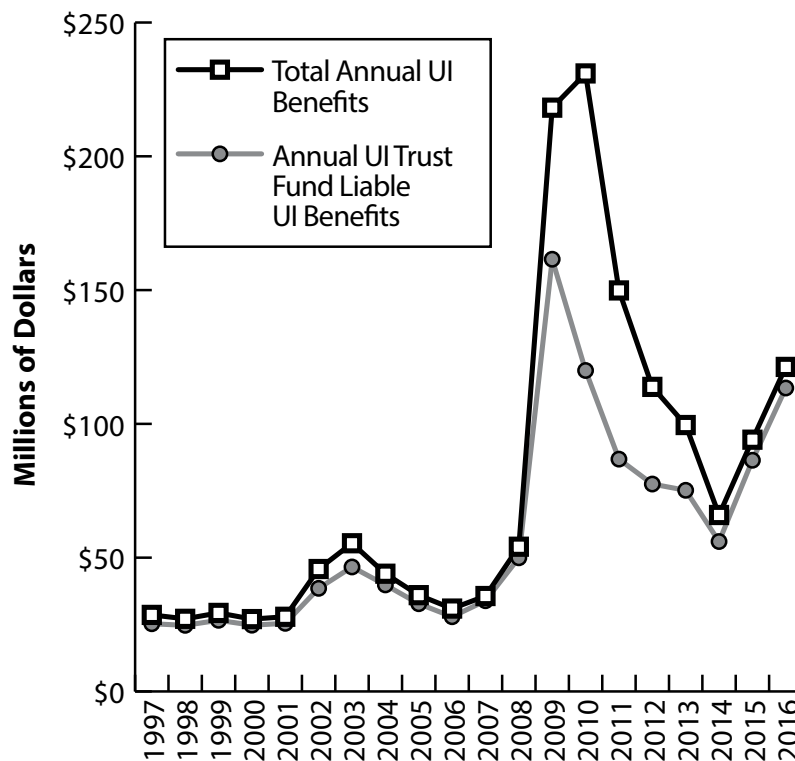
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Source: Unemployment Insurance claims data.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/27/17.

Figure 7: Annual Unemployment Insurance Benefit Expenses for Wyoming, 1997-2016

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Falls to 4.5% in March 2017

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 significantly from 4.7% in February to 4.5% in March. Wyoming's unemployment rate was also significantly lower than its March 2016 level of 5.5%. Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents increased slightly from February to March, rising by an estimated 1,109 individuals (0.4%).

From February to March, most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and decreased slightly. Employment often rises in March, with seasonal job gains in construction, professional & business services, and government. The counties with the largest unemployment rate decreases were Natrona (down from 6.8% to 6.1%), Fremont (down from 6.9% to 6.4%),

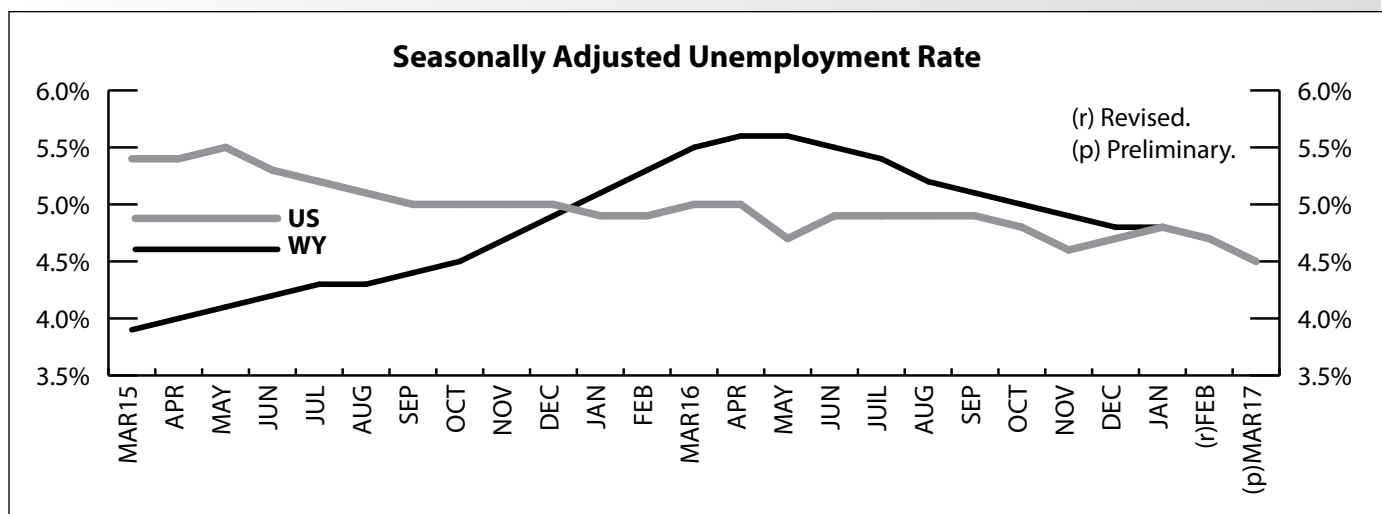
Sweetwater (down from 5.6% to 5.2%), Converse (down from 5.3% to 4.9%), and Campbell (down from 6.1% to 5.7%).

From March 2016 to March 2017, unemployment rates decreased in 21 counties and were unchanged in Niobrara (3.6%) and Weston (4.8%) counties. The largest decreases occurred in Sublette (down from 8.4% to 5.6%), Fremont (down from 8.3% to 6.4%), Campbell (down from 7.6% to 5.7%), and Converse (down from 6.7% to 4.9%) counties.

Teton County posted the lowest unemployment rate in March (2.7%). It was followed by Goshen (3.0%), Albany (3.0%), and Niobrara (3.6%) counties. The highest unemployment rates were found in Fremont (6.4%), Natrona (6.1%), and Campbell (5.7%) counties.

The estimate of total nonfarm jobs (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) fell from 278,300 in March 2016 to 272,000 in March 2017, a decrease of 6,300 jobs (or -2.3%; a statistically significant decrease).

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.



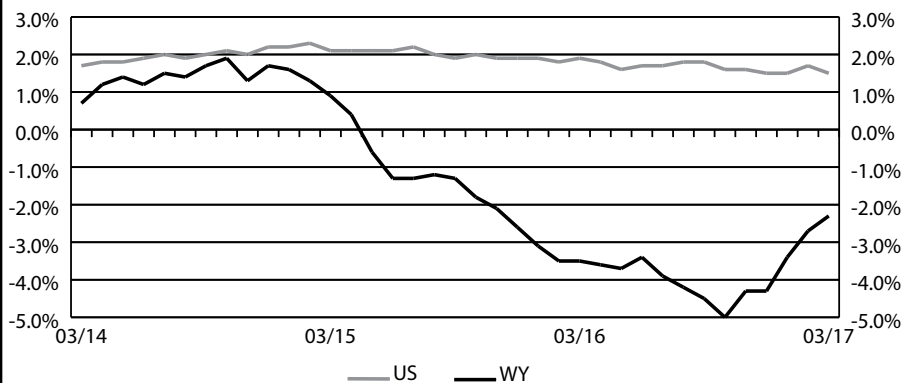
Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections, March 2017

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

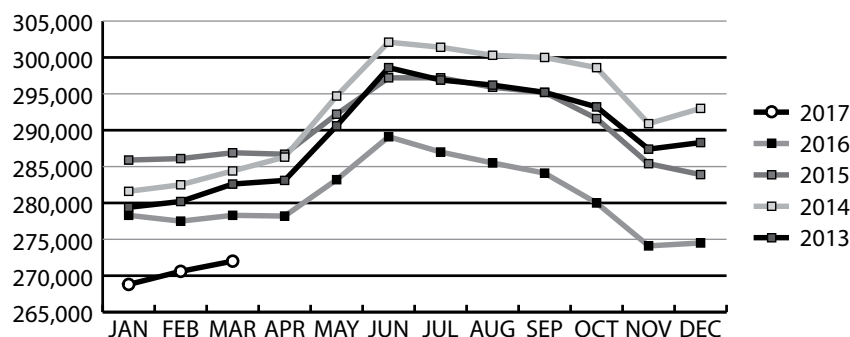
Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm Employment	270,904	272,000	1,096	0.4%
Natural Resources & Mining	17,188	18,700	1,512	8.1%
Construction	17,960	19,100	1,140	6.0%
Manufacturing	8,748	9,000	252	2.8%
Wholesale Trade	8,128	8,100	-28	-0.3%
Retail Trade	29,497	29,100	-397	-1.4%
Transportation & Utilities	14,004	14,300	296	2.1%
Information	3,659	3,700	41	1.1%
Financial Activities	10,554	10,400	-154	-1.5%
Professional & Business Services	16,993	16,700	-293	-1.8%
Educational & Health Services	28,176	28,100	-76	-0.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	32,959	32,100	-859	-2.7%
Other Services	10,845	11,000	155	1.4%
Government	72,193	71,700	-493	-0.7%

Projections were run in February 2017 and based on QCEW data through September 2016.

Nonagricultural Employment Growth (Percentage Change Over Previous Year)



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



State Unemployment Rates March 2017 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.5
New Mexico	6.7
Alaska	6.4
Alabama	5.8
District of Columbia	5.8
Louisiana	5.7
Georgia	5.1
Michigan	5.1
Ohio	5.1
Tennessee	5.1
Arizona	5.0
Kentucky	5.0
Mississippi	5.0
Texas	5.0
California	4.9
Illinois	4.9
North Carolina	4.9
West Virginia	4.9
Connecticut	4.8
Florida	4.8
Nevada	4.8
Pennsylvania	4.8
Washington	4.7
Delaware	4.5
United States	4.5
Wyoming	4.5
South Carolina	4.4
Maryland	4.3
New York	4.3
Oklahoma	4.3
Rhode Island	4.3
New Jersey	4.2
Indiana	3.9
Missouri	3.9
Kansas	3.8
Minnesota	3.8
Montana	3.8
Oregon	3.8
Virginia	3.8
Arkansas	3.6
Massachusetts	3.6
Idaho	3.5
Wisconsin	3.4
Iowa	3.1
Nebraska	3.1
Utah	3.1
Maine	3.0
Vermont	3.0
New Hampshire	2.8
North Dakota	2.8
South Dakota	2.8
Hawaii	2.7
Colorado	2.6

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

State Unemployment Rates March 2017 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16	Mar 17 Feb 17	Mar 17 Mar 16
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	23.8	23.9	26.4	-0.4	-9.8
TOTAL PRIVATE	18.5	18.6	21.0	-0.5	-11.9
GOODS PRODUCING	7.3	7.4	8.9	-1.4	-18.0
Natural Resources & Mining	5.3	5.4	6.4	-1.9	-17.2
Construction	1.6	1.6	2.0	0.0	-20.0
Manufacturing	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	-20.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.5	16.5	17.5	0.0	-5.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.0	5.0	5.6	0.0	-10.7
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	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	-9.1
Leisure & Hospitality	2.1	2.1	2.3	0.0	-8.7
Other Services	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	5.3	5.3	5.4	0.0	-1.9

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16	Mar 17 Feb 17	Mar 17 Mar 16
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	22.3	22.2	23.0	0.5	-3.0
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.5	17.5	18.1	0.0	-3.3
GOODS PRODUCING	7.1	7.1	7.3	0.0	-2.7
Natural Resources & Mining	4.2	4.2	4.5	0.0	-6.7
Construction	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.0	7.1
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.2	15.1	15.7	0.7	-3.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.5	4.5	4.7	0.0	-4.3
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-12.5
Professional & Business Services	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.2	2.2	2.3	0.0	-4.3
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	4.8	4.7	4.9	2.1	-2.0

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16	Mar 17 Feb 17	Mar 17 Mar 16
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	19.2	19.1	18.8	0.5	2.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	16.6	16.5	16.3	0.6	1.8
GOODS PRODUCING	2.0	1.9	2.2	5.3	-9.1
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	1.9	1.8	2.0	5.6	-5.0
Manufacturing	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	-50.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	17.2	17.2	16.6	0.0	3.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Professional & Business Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.2	1.2	8.3	8.3
Leisure & Hospitality	7.3	7.4	7.0	-1.4	4.3
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.0	4.0

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.0
Alaska	7.2
New Mexico	6.6
District of Columbia	5.7
West Virginia	5.6
Alabama	5.4
Kentucky	5.4
Louisiana	5.4
Ohio	5.3
California	5.1
Connecticut	5.1
Pennsylvania	5.1
Texas	5.0
Washington	4.9
Georgia	4.8
Michigan	4.8
Wyoming	4.8
Illinois	4.7
Nevada	4.7
North Carolina	4.7
Rhode Island	4.7
Arizona	4.6
Delaware	4.6
Mississippi	4.6
Tennessee	4.6
United States	4.6
Minnesota	4.4
New York	4.4
Florida	4.3
Maryland	4.3
Montana	4.3
New Jersey	4.3
Missouri	4.2
Oklahoma	4.2
Oregon	4.1
South Carolina	4.0
Idaho	3.9
Massachusetts	3.9
Indiana	3.8
Virginia	3.8
Kansas	3.7
Wisconsin	3.7
Arkansas	3.6
Maine	3.6
Vermont	3.5
Iowa	3.4
North Dakota	3.4
Utah	3.4
New Hampshire	3.2
South Dakota	3.2
Nebraska	3.1
Hawaii	2.6
Colorado	2.5

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The number of discouraged workers in the United States fell 21.4% from March 2016 to March 2017.

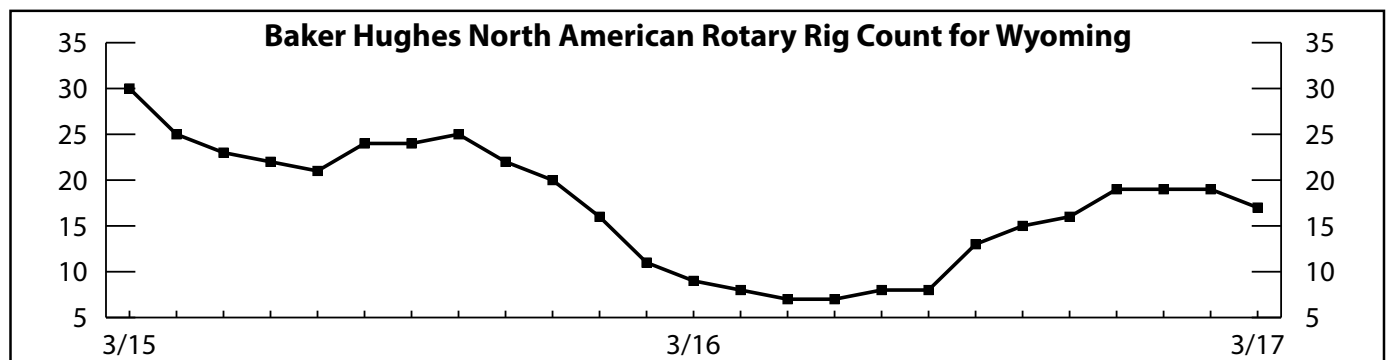
	Mar 2017 (p)	Feb 2017 (r)	Mar 2016 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	272,000	270,000	278,300	0.7	-2.3
Wyoming State Government	15,300	15,200	16,000	0.7	-4.4
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	45,900	46,000	46,300	-0.2	-0.9
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	36,600	36,000	39,300	1.7	-6.9
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	8,137,000	7,980,000	7,592,000	2.0	7.2
As a percent of all workers	5.3%	5.3%	5.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	460,000	522,000	585,000	-11.9	-21.4
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	5,552,000	5,773,000	6,138,000	-3.8	-9.5
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	21,178	22,909	35,922	-7.6	-41.0
Benefits Paid	\$7,967,561	\$8,712,098	\$14,483,652	-8.5	-45.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$376.22	\$380.29	\$403.20	-1.1	-6.7
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	254,214	252,394	257,657	0.7	-1.3
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.6%	3.0%	4.0%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	243.8	243.6	238.1	0.1	2.4
Food & Beverages	249.0	248.6	247.7	0.1	0.5
Housing	249.0	248.7	241.5	0.1	3.1
Apparel	128.3	126.1	127.4	1.7	0.6
Transportation	200.1	199.1	191.3	0.5	4.6
Medical Care	474.6	474.5	458.6	0.0	3.5
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	118.6	118.4	117.1	0.2	1.3
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	136.2	138.8	139.3	-1.8	-2.2
Other Goods & Services	428.3	428.0	420.6	0.1	1.8
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	191.3	191.1	182.1	0.1	5.1
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	160	111	138	44.1	15.9
Valuation	\$54,016,000	\$34,221,000	\$50,616,000	57.8	6.7
Single Family Homes	141	95	121	48.4	16.5
Valuation	\$51,812,000	\$32,350,000	\$49,299,000	60.2	5.1
Casper MSA ² Building Permits	12	7	15	71.4	-20.0
Valuation	\$2,579,000	\$1,539,000	\$3,584,000	67.6	-28.0
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	48	37	32	29.7	50.0
Valuation	\$8,343,000	\$6,382,000	\$5,770,000	30.7	44.6
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	17	19	9	-10.5	88.9

(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 March 2016 to March 2017, unemployment rates decreased in 21 counties and were unchanged in Niobrara (3.6%) and Weston (4.8%) counties.

REGION	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016
County	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	47,877	47,646	47,159	45,190	44,800	43,871	2,687	2,846	3,288	5.6	6.0	7.0
Big Horn	5,442	5,392	5,429	5,189	5,139	5,100	253	253	329	4.6	4.7	6.1
Fremont	20,260	20,165	20,228	18,958	18,766	18,549	1,302	1,399	1,679	6.4	6.9	8.3
Hot Springs	2,505	2,493	2,412	2,396	2,376	2,283	109	117	129	4.4	4.7	5.3
Park	15,437	15,354	14,937	14,609	14,484	14,039	828	870	898	5.4	5.7	6.0
Washakie	4,233	4,242	4,153	4,038	4,035	3,900	195	207	253	4.6	4.9	6.1
NORTHEAST	51,891	51,783	53,185	49,197	48,924	49,662	2,694	2,859	3,523	5.2	5.5	6.6
Campbell	23,882	23,904	25,536	22,527	22,448	23,600	1,355	1,456	1,936	5.7	6.1	7.6
Crook	3,616	3,607	3,516	3,451	3,436	3,326	165	171	190	4.6	4.7	5.4
Johnson	4,126	4,084	4,054	3,902	3,857	3,779	224	227	275	5.4	5.6	6.8
Sheridan	16,250	16,196	16,130	15,492	15,379	15,196	758	817	934	4.7	5.0	5.8
Weston	4,017	3,992	3,949	3,825	3,804	3,761	192	188	188	4.8	4.7	4.8
SOUTHWEST	60,047	59,975	59,271	57,311	57,105	55,785	2,736	2,870	3,486	4.6	4.8	5.9
Lincoln	8,827	8,829	8,518	8,435	8,421	8,013	392	408	505	4.4	4.6	5.9
Sublette	4,237	4,257	4,174	3,999	4,011	3,823	238	246	351	5.6	5.8	8.4
Sweetwater	22,648	22,519	22,619	21,469	21,263	21,147	1,179	1,256	1,472	5.2	5.6	6.5
Teton	15,015	15,086	14,391	14,603	14,658	13,878	412	428	513	2.7	2.8	3.6
Uinta	9,320	9,284	9,569	8,805	8,752	8,924	515	532	645	5.5	5.7	6.7
SOUTHEAST	85,555	85,344	83,783	82,389	82,219	80,205	3,166	3,125	3,578	3.7	3.7	4.3
Albany	21,865	21,733	21,646	21,199	21,116	20,921	666	617	725	3.0	2.8	3.3
Goshen	7,037	6,998	6,946	6,826	6,800	6,676	211	198	270	3.0	2.8	3.9
Laramie	50,576	50,622	49,237	48,550	48,569	46,977	2,026	2,053	2,260	4.0	4.1	4.6
Niobrara	1,322	1,310	1,283	1,275	1,267	1,237	47	43	46	3.6	3.3	3.6
Platte	4,755	4,681	4,671	4,539	4,467	4,394	216	214	277	4.5	4.6	5.9
CENTRAL	56,597	56,121	58,324	53,338	52,593	54,028	3,259	3,528	4,296	5.8	6.3	7.4
Carbon	8,363	8,321	8,034	7,971	7,921	7,525	392	400	509	4.7	4.8	6.3
Converse	7,778	7,761	8,072	7,394	7,352	7,531	384	409	541	4.9	5.3	6.7
Natrona	40,456	40,039	42,218	37,973	37,320	38,972	2,483	2,719	3,246	6.1	6.8	7.7
STATEWIDE	301,965	300,869	301,721	287,426	285,640	283,549	14,539	15,229	18,172	4.8	5.1	6.0
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.5	4.7	5.5
U.S.										4.6	4.9	5.1
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										4.5	4.7	5.0

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/2017. Run Date 04/2017.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

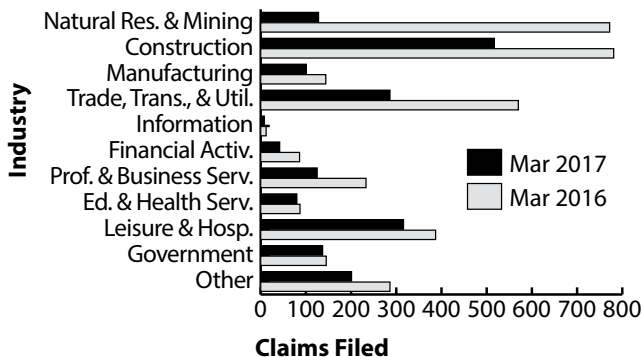
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

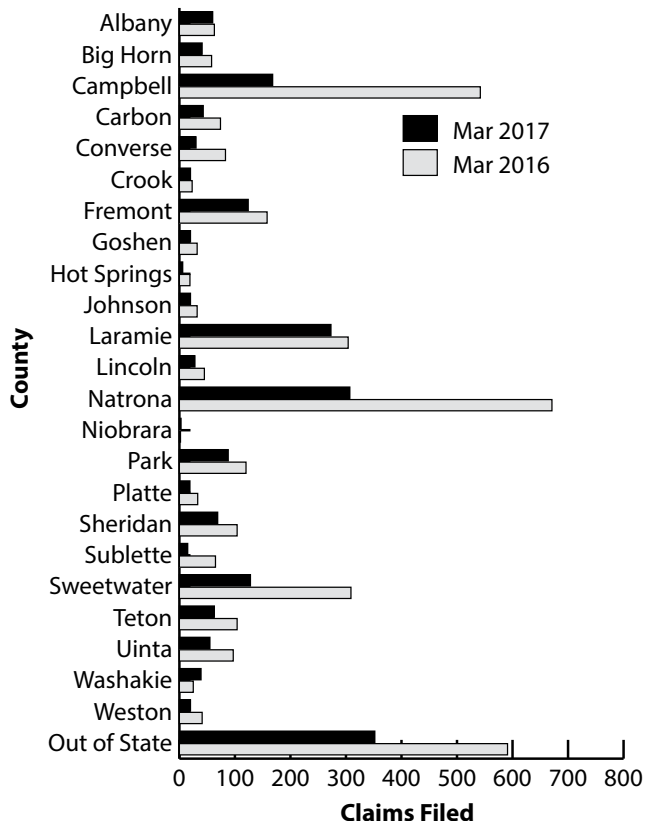
by: Patrick Manning, Principal Economist

Total initial claims decreased by 44.6% (-1,604 claims) from March 2016 to March 2017.

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, March 2017



Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, March 2017



Initial Claims

	Claims Filed		Percent Change	
	Mar 17	Mar 16	Mar 17	Mar 16
Wyoming Statewide	1,991	2,527	-21.2	-44.6
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,991	2,527	-21.2	-44.6
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	747	1,045	-28.5	-56.0
Natural Res. & Mining	128	772	0.0	-83.4
Mining	115	121	-5.0	-84.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	11	17	-35.3	-85.1
Construction	517	793	-34.8	-33.8
Manufacturing	101	123	-17.9	-29.9
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	904	1,070	-15.5	-38.2
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	286	352	-18.8	-49.8
Wholesale Trade	36	34	5.9	-79.8
Retail Trade	148	199	-25.6	-5.1
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	102	119	-14.3	-56.8
Information	8	23	-65.2	-33.3
Financial Activities	42	46	-8.7	-51.2
Prof. and Business Svcs.	125	196	-36.2	-46.4
Educational & Health Svcs.	80	93	-14.0	-8.0
Leisure & Hospitality	316	310	1.9	-18.3
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	40	42	-4.8	-49.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	137	145	-5.5	-5.5
Federal Government	48	57	-15.8	-22.6
State Government	15	10	50.0	25.0
Local Government	73	76	-3.9	4.3
Local Education	17	14	21.4	-15.0
UNCLASSIFIED	201	266	-24.4	-29.7

Laramie County

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	272	356	-23.6	-10.2
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	102	132	-22.7	-32.5
Construction	87	99	-12.1	-15.5
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	139	191	-27.2	12.1
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	47	64	-26.6	-4.1
Financial Activities	17	9	88.9	183.3
Prof. & Business Svcs.	29	69	-58.0	3.6
Educational & Health Svcs.	20	18	11.1	66.7
Leisure & Hospitality	16	20	-20.0	14.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	18	11	63.6	5.9
UNCLASSIFIED	12	20	-40.0	20.0

Natrona County

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	307	363	-15.4	-54.2
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	128	175	-26.9	-61.8
Construction	94	130	-27.7	-39.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	160	165	-3.0	-48.7
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	54	70	-22.9	-65.6
Financial Activities	8	7	14.3	-61.9
Prof. & Business Svcs.	29	28	3.6	-34.1
Educational & Health Svcs.	17	16	6.3	-29.2
Leisure & Hospitality	30	26	15.4	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	10	5	100.0	11.1
UNCLASSIFIED	8	17	-52.9	-38.5

^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.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Patrick Manning, Principal Economist

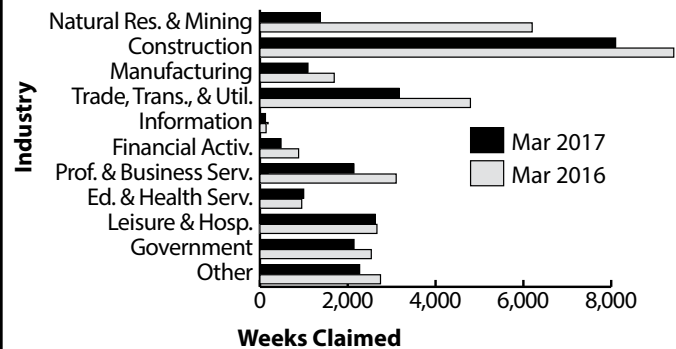
From March 2016 to March 2017, the total number of unique claimants decreased by 30.4% (-2,680 individuals) while the number of continued weeks claimed decreased by 30.7% (-11,026 weeks).

Continued Claims

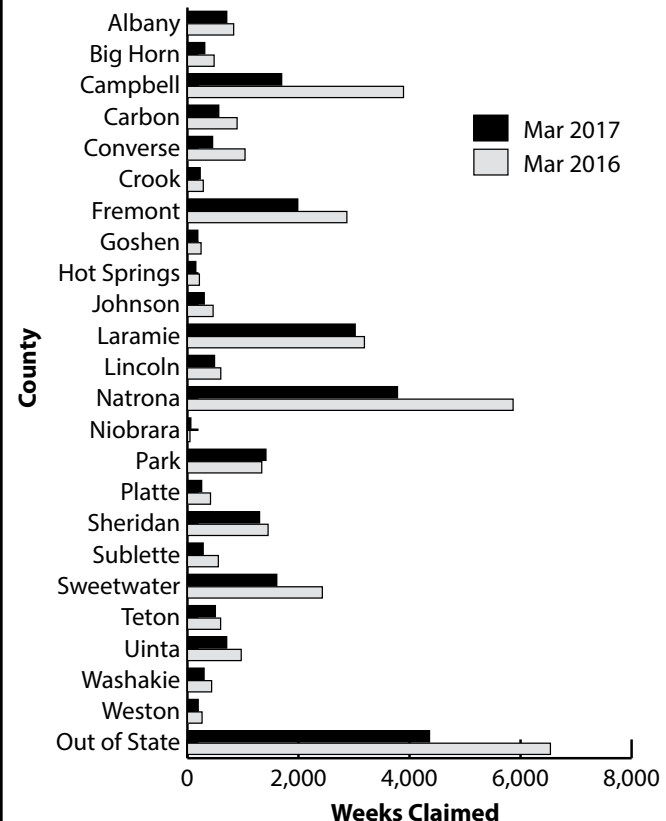
	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16	Mar 17	Mar 16
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	24,904	28,356	35,930	-12.2	-30.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	6,132	8,068	8,812	-24.0	-30.4
Benefit Exhaustions	549	508	622	8.1	-11.7
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	9.0%	6.3%	7.1%	2.7%	1.9%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	10,572	12,388	17,319	-14.7	-39.0
Natural Res. & Mining	1,375	1,566	6,200	-12.2	-77.8
Mining	1,174	1,326	6,004	-11.5	-80.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	199	194	527	2.6	-62.2
Construction	8,101	9,661	9,425	-16.1	-14.0
Manufacturing	1,094	1,160	1,692	-5.7	-35.3
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	9,917	10,665	13,328	-7.0	-25.6
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	3,169	3,376	4,794	-6.1	-33.9
Wholesale Trade	489	561	1,300	-12.8	-62.4
Retail Trade	1,755	1,824	1,621	-3.8	8.3
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	925	991	1,873	-6.7	-50.6
Information	126	108	140	16.7	-10.0
Financial Activities	481	449	881	7.1	-45.4
Prof. & Business Svcs.	2,141	2,472	3,103	-13.4	-31.0
Educational & Health Svcs.	997	996	952	0.1	4.7
Leisure and Hospitality	2,625	2,838	2,665	-7.5	-1.5
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	370	420	787	-11.9	-53.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,143	2,486	2,536	-13.8	-15.5
Federal Government	983	1,181	892	-16.8	10.2
State Government	217	226	285	-4.0	-23.9
Local Government	942	1,079	1,357	-12.7	-30.6
Local Education	194	200	152	-3.0	27.6
UNCLASSIFIED	2,271	2,815	2,746	-19.3	-17.3
Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	3,023	3,331	3,187	-9.2	-5.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	768	971	834	-20.9	-7.9
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,339	1,668	1,563	-19.7	-14.3
Construction	1,203	1,519	1,229	-20.8	-2.1
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,414	1,392	1,247	1.6	13.4
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	571	515	483	10.9	18.2
Financial Activities	102	68	107	50.0	-4.7
Prof. & Business Svcs.	378	438	311	-13.7	21.5
Educational and Health Svcs.	182	158	163	15.2	11.7
Leisure & Hospitality	135	152	94	-11.2	43.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	142	142	255	0.0	-44.3
UNCLASSIFIED	127	128	120	-0.8	5.8
Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	3,784	4,390	5,866	-13.8	-35.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	930	1,236	1,478	-24.8	-37.1
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,822	2,153	3,025	-15.4	-39.8
Construction	1,397	1,684	1,337	-17.0	4.5
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,736	1,985	2,621	-12.5	-33.8
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	600	675	1,110	-11.1	-45.9
Financial Activities	81	78	208	3.8	-61.1
Professional & Business Svcs.	379	462	502	-18.0	-24.5
Educational & Health Svcs.	227	245	208	-7.3	9.1
Leisure & Hospitality	345	394	322	-12.4	7.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	115	126	90	-8.7	27.8
UNCLASSIFIED	110	125	129	-12.0	-14.7

^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.

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, March 2017



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, March 2017



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Services, Research & Planning
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