

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

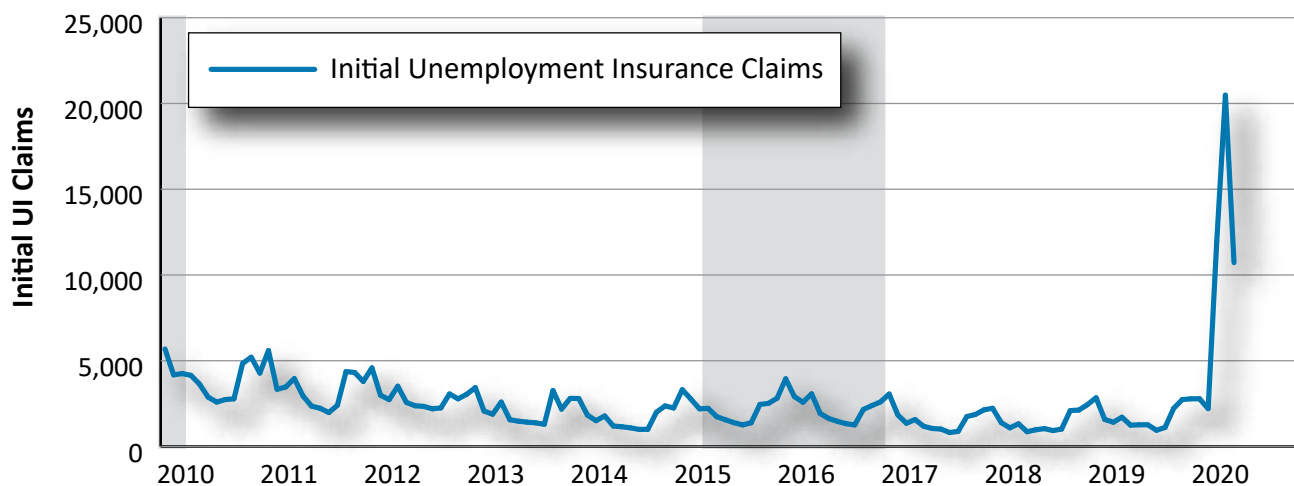
Wyoming had 10,722 initial claims in May, down from 20,485 in April (-9,763, or -47.7%) but up from 1,241 (9,481, or 764.0%) in May 2019. Prior to March 2020, the one-month high for initial claims in Wyoming dating back to 1997 (the first year for which comparable data are

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).



*An *initial claim* is a claim filed by an unemployed individual after a separation from an employer.
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 1: Total Number of Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Year and Month, January 2010 to May 2020

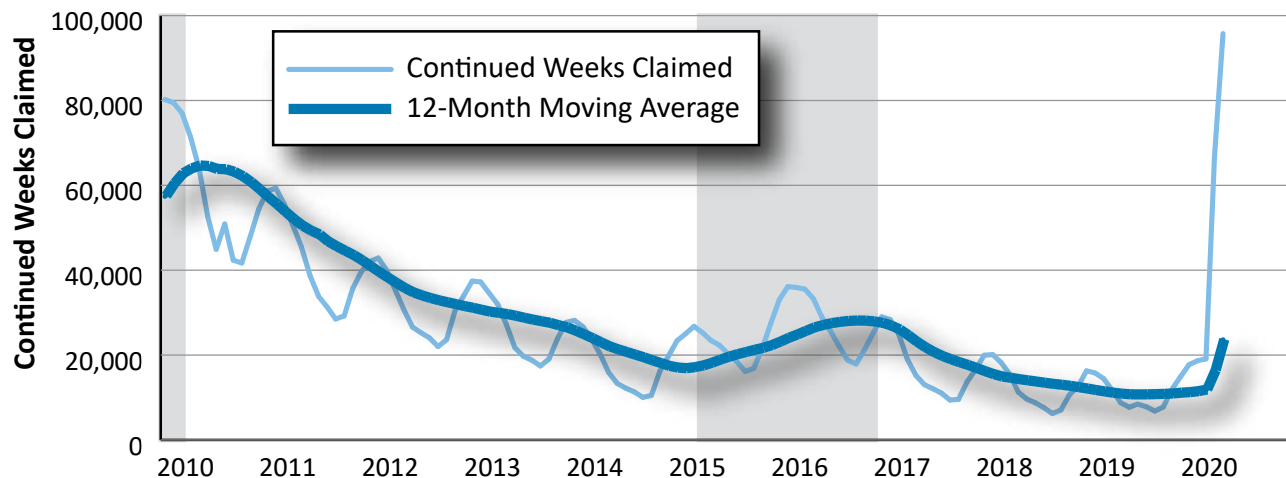
Natrona County had the most initial claims in May (2,022), followed by Laramie (1,385) and Campbell (1,114) counties. There were 1,230 initial claims by out-of-state workers. See *Figure 4 (page 6) and Table 3 (page 9)*.

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.

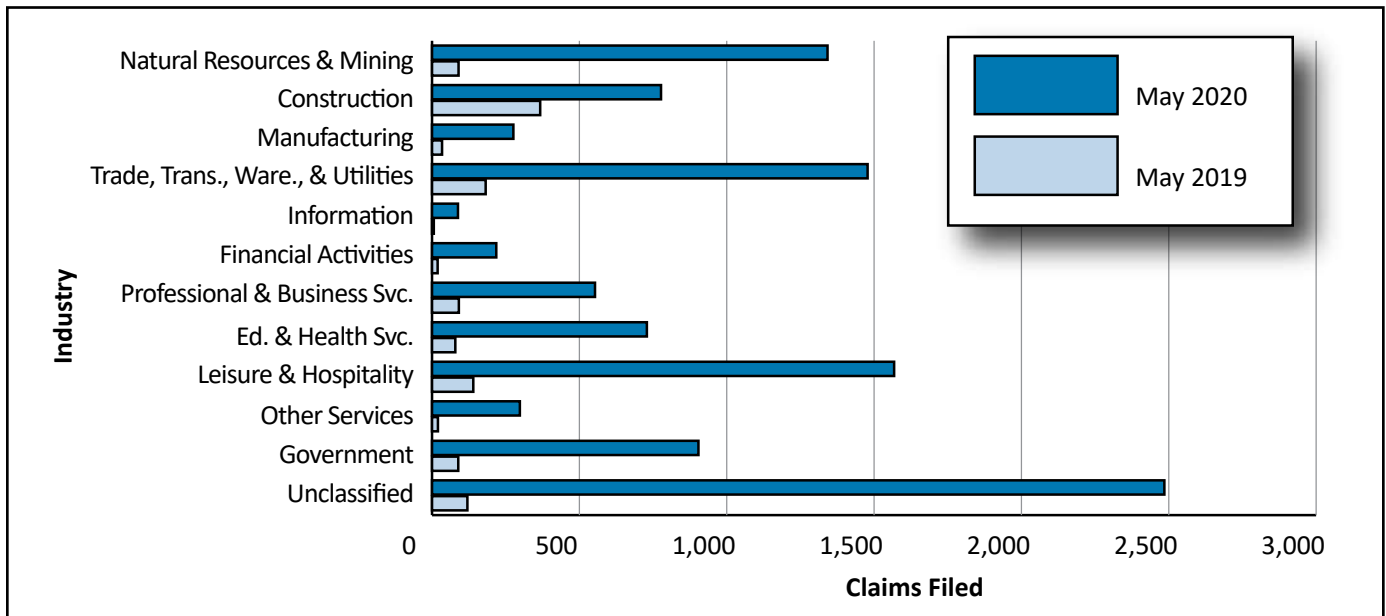


Figure 3: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, May 2019 and May 2020

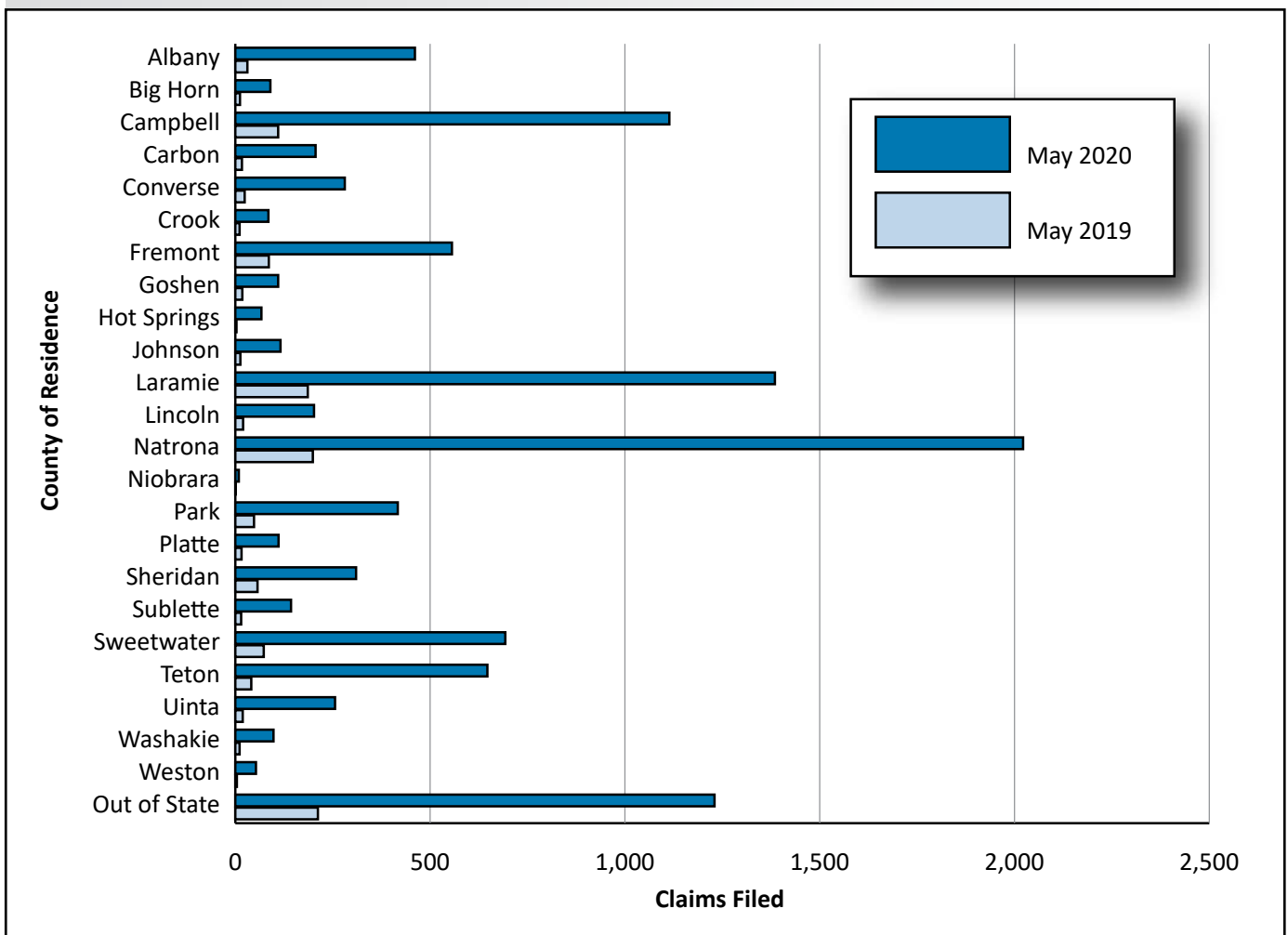


Figure 4: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence, May 2019 and May 2020

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.

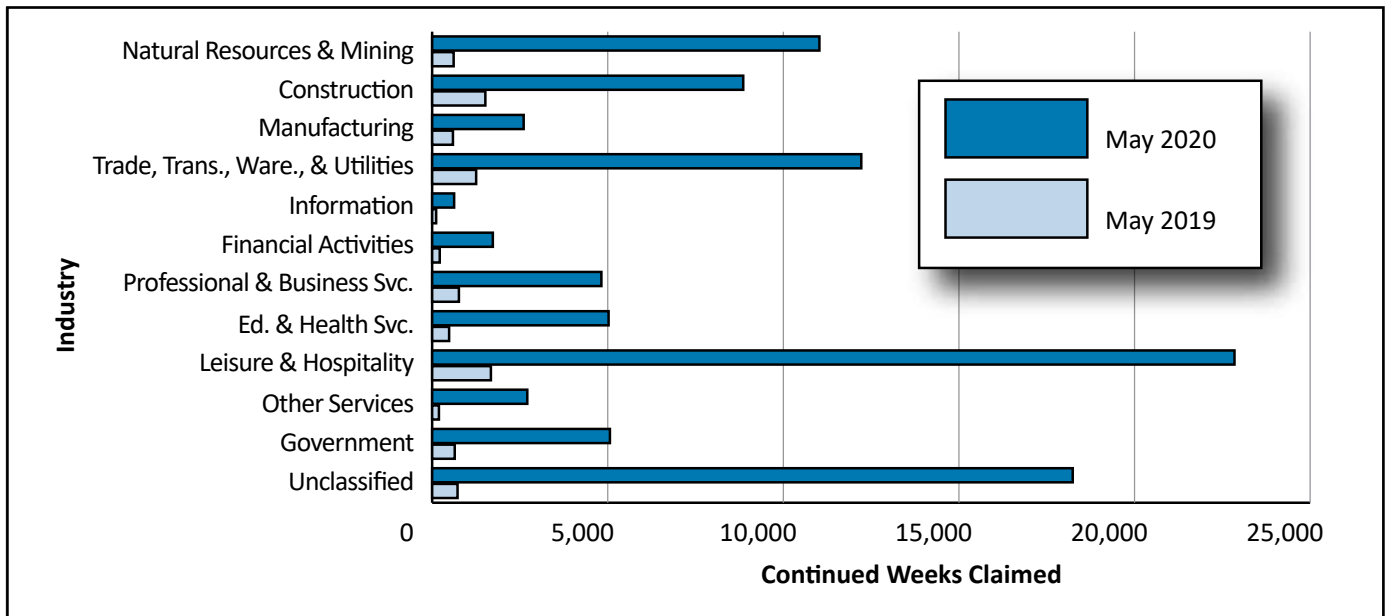


Figure 5: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, May 2019 and May 2020

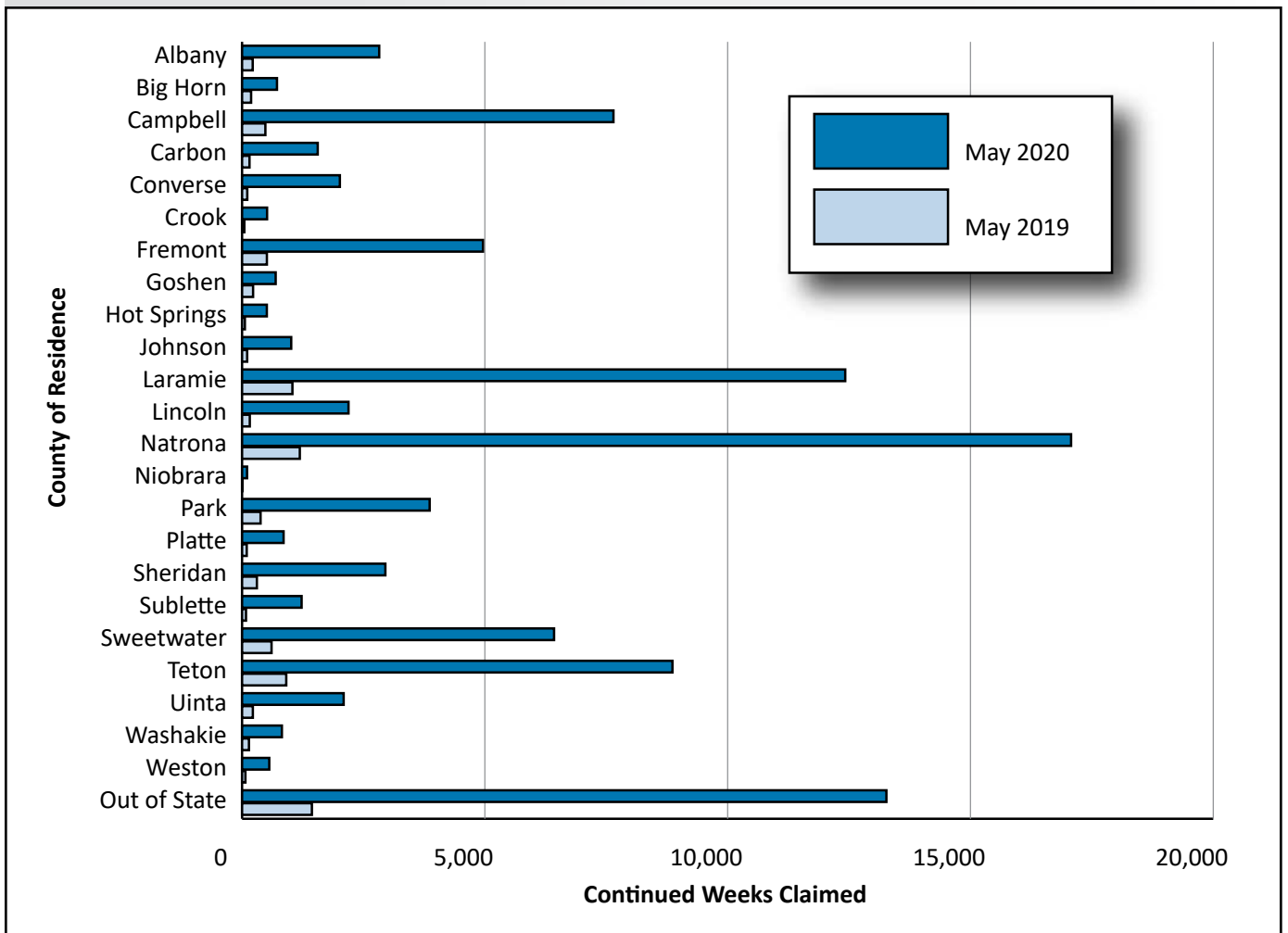


Figure 6: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence in Wyoming, May 2019 and May 2020

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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