

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Report

May 2021

Information for Wyoming by Industry and County of Residence of Claimant

by: Sherry Wen, Principal Economist, Chris McGrath, Senior Statistician, 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 2021

Continued Claims Drop 79.9% from Prior-Year High

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

In May 2021, Wyoming continued to experience substantial over-the-year decreases in the number of *initial* (-75.1%) and *continued* (-79.9%) Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims (see Definitions, page 9). Despite these decreases, the number of initial and continued claims remained higher than pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels.

Initial Claims

May 2021 marked the third consecutive month of over-the-year decreases in initial UI claims in Wyoming. There were 2,674 initial claims in May 2021, down from 10,741 in May 2020 (-8,067, or -75.1%). Initial claims peaked in April 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and have largely trended downward since. See Figure 1.

UI Claims Online

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

The number of claims declined from the prior year in all industries. In the private sector, substantial decreases were seen in leisure & hospitality (-1,218, or -77.3%), mining (-1,092, or -82.2%), education & health services (-549, or -74.5%), and retail trade (-439, or -70.2%), among others. The greatest decrease was seen among claimants working in an industry labeled *unclassified* (-2,051, or -84.0%). Initial claims in government decreased by 79.6%.

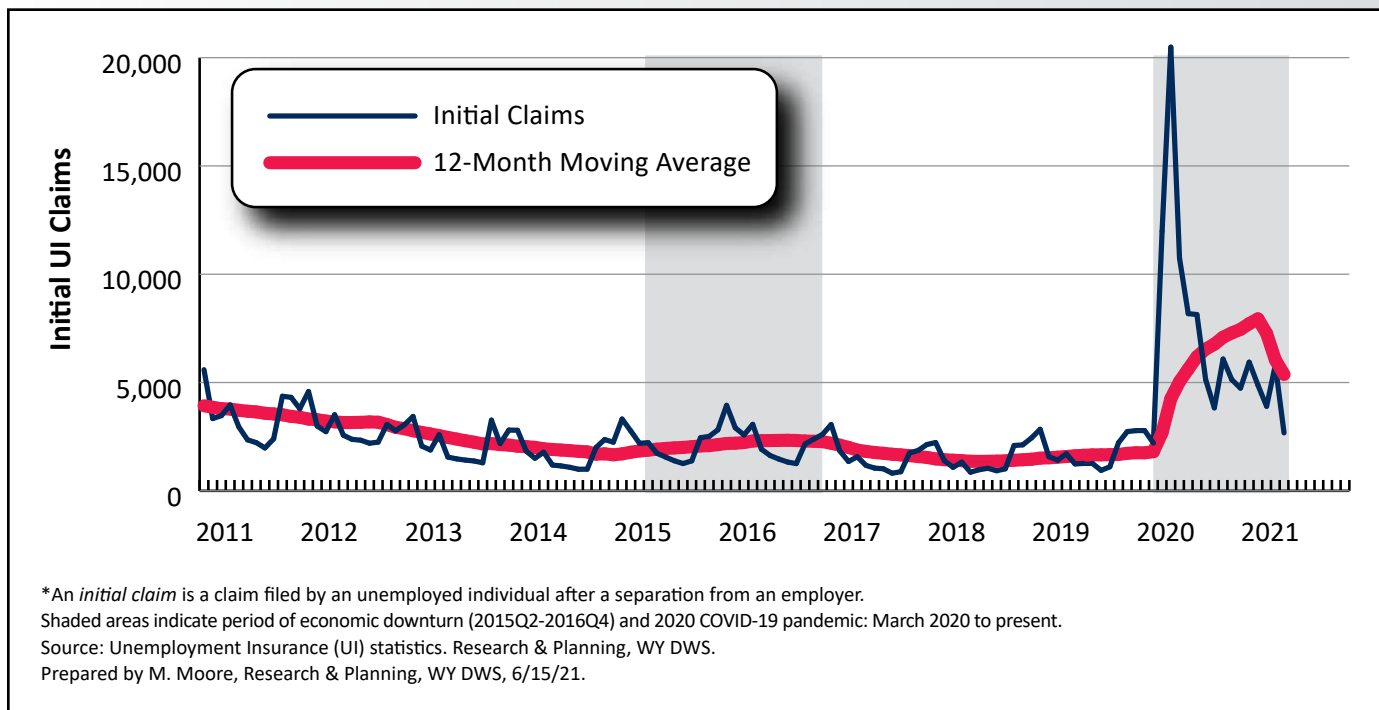


Figure 1: Total Number of Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Year and Month, January 2011 to May 2021

(-720 claims). See Table 1 (page 5) and Figure 3 (page 6).

Initial claims also decreased from prior-year levels in nearly all counties, including Natrona (-1,526, or -75.2%), Laramie (-991, or -71.2%), and Campbell (-869, or -78.0%) counties. The number of out-of-state claimants decreased by 869 (-70.7%). See Figure 4 (page 6) and Table 3 (page 9).

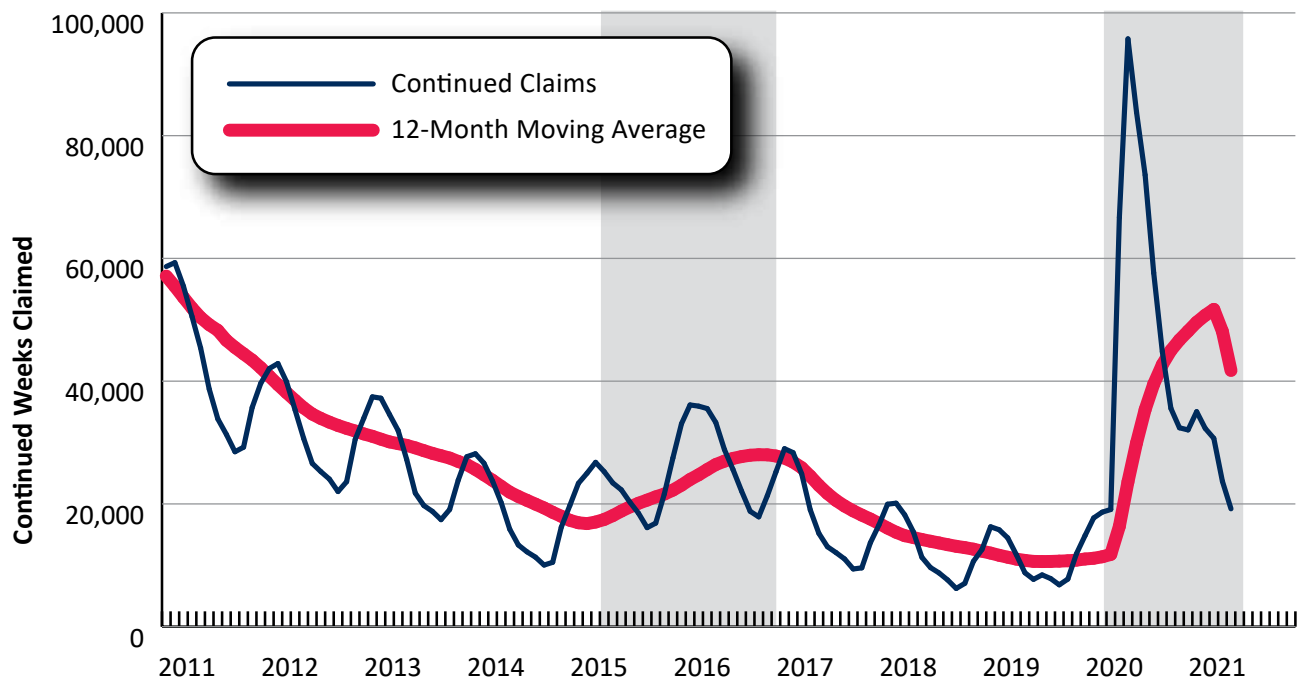
Continued Claims

The total number of continued weeks claimed decreased from a record high 95,769 in May 2020 to 19,205 in May 2021 (-76,564, or -79.9%). The number of unique claimants decreased from 27,505 to 6,383 (-21,122, or

-76.8%). See Figure 2 and Table 2, page 7.

Continued claims declined in all industries over the year, including leisure & hospitality (-19,974, or -87.3%), mining (-9,689, or -88.6%), construction (-5,491, or -61.6%), and retail trade (-4,760, or -78.8%). Claims in the unclassified industry decreased by 78.6% (-13,970).

Continued claims also fell in every county, with the greatest decreases seen in Natrona (-13,992, or -82.0%), Laramie (-9,965, or -80.2%), and Teton (-7,581, or -85.5%) counties. The number of total weeks claimed by out-of-state recipients decreased by 10,541 (-79.4%). See Table 2, page 7, and Figure 5, page 8.



*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, 6/16/21.

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

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

Industry	Initial Claims Filed			Over-the-Month Change		Over-the-Year Change	
	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	N	%	N	%
Total Claims Filed	2,674	5,807	10,741	-3,133	-54.0	-8,067	-75.1
Goods-Producing	824	1,572	2,413	-748	-47.6	-1,589	-65.9
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	247	470	1,350	-223	-47.4	-1,103	-81.7
Mining (21)	237	438	1,329	-201	-45.9	-1,092	-82.2
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	21	20	43	1	5.0	-22	-51.2
Construction (23)	474	937	785	-463	-49.4	-311	-39.6
Manufacturing (31-33)	102	164	277	-62	-37.8	-175	-63.2
Service-Providing	1,274	2,796	4,980	-1,522	-54.4	-3,706	-74.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	402	683	1,489	-281	-41.1	-1,087	-73.0
Wholesale Trade (42)	87	133	452	-46	-34.6	-365	-80.8
Retail Trade (44-45)	186	324	625	-138	-42.6	-439	-70.2
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	128	225	411	-97	-43.1	-283	-68.9
Information (51)	14	33	88	-19	-57.6	-74	-84.1
Financial Activities (52-53)	49	81	220	-32	-39.5	-171	-77.7
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	210	412	565	-202	-49.0	-355	-62.8
Education & Health Services (61-62)	188	287	737	-99	-34.5	-549	-74.5
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	358	1,173	1,576	-815	-69.5	-1,218	-77.3
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	50	124	303	-74	-59.7	-253	-83.5
Government	184	303	904	-119	-39.3	-720	-79.6
Federal Government	25	75	55	-50	-66.7	-30	-54.5
State Government	21	34	171	-13	-38.2	-150	-87.7
Local Government	136	192	678	-56	-29.2	-542	-79.9
Local Education	62	61	344	1	1.6	-282	-82.0
Unclassified	391	1,135	2,442	-744	-65.6	-2,051	-84.0
Laramie County							
Total Claims Filed	400	690	1,391	-290	-42.0	-991	-71.2
Goods-Producing	136	199	201	-63	-31.7	-65	-32.3
Construction	110	162	88	-52	-32.1	22	25.0
Service-Providing	190	323	730	-133	-41.2	-540	-74.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	61	97	219	-36	-37.1	-158	-72.1
Financial Activities (52, 53)	9	9	23	0	0.0	-14	-60.9
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	43	67	88	-24	-35.8	-45	-51.1
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	28	43	132	-15	-34.9	-104	-78.8
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	35	80	197	-45	-56.3	-162	-82.2
Government	25	29	125	-4	-13.8	-100	-80.0
Unclassified	47	138	333	-91	-65.9	-286	-85.9
Natrona County							
Total Claims Filed	502	962	2,028	-460	-47.8	-1,526	-75.2
Goods-Producing	132	277	458	-145	-52.3	-326	-71.2
Construction	69	147	103	-78	-53.1	-34	-33.0
Service-Providing	282	484	1,138	-202	-41.7	-856	-75.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	117	192	394	-75	-39.1	-277	-70.3
Financial Activities (52, 53)	12	17	50	-5	-29.4	-38	-76.0
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	41	74	122	-33	-44.6	-81	-66.4
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	37	67	177	-30	-44.8	-140	-79.1
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	60	93	254	-33	-35.5	-194	-76.4
Government	11	35	61	-24	-68.6	-50	-82.0
Unclassified	75	164	369	-89	-54.3	-294	-79.7

N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality.

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database. Reviewed by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 6/15/21.

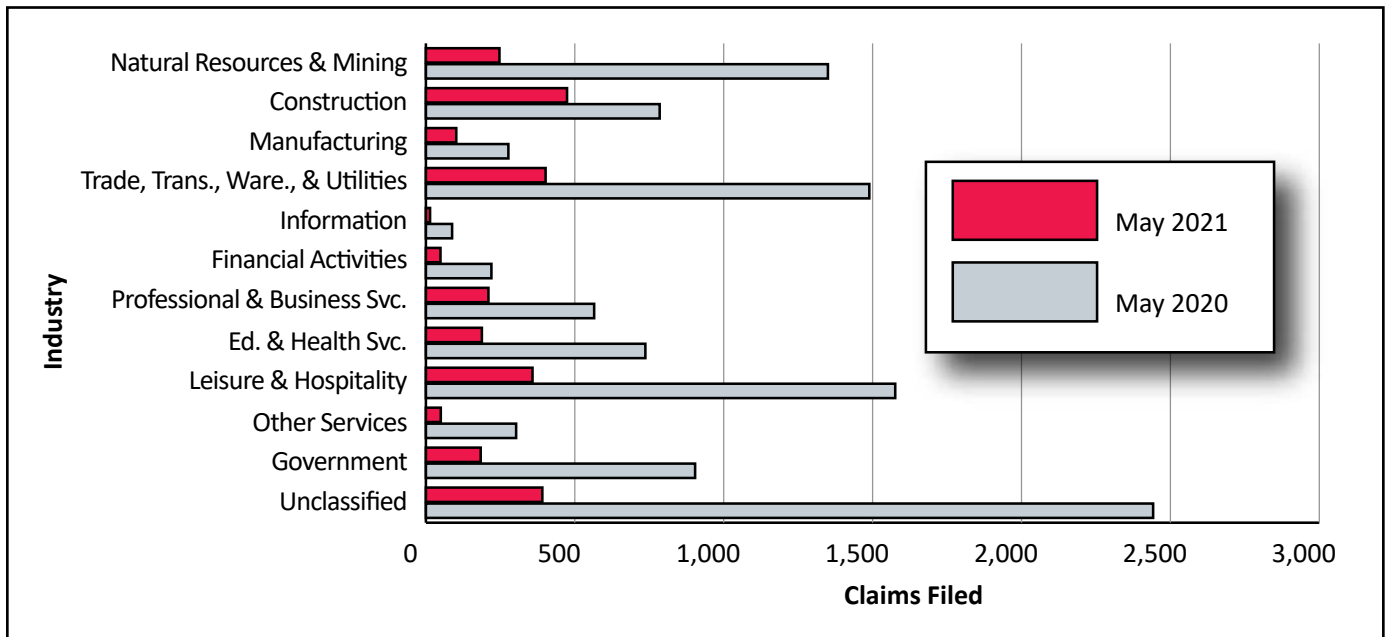


Figure 3: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, May 2020 and May 2021

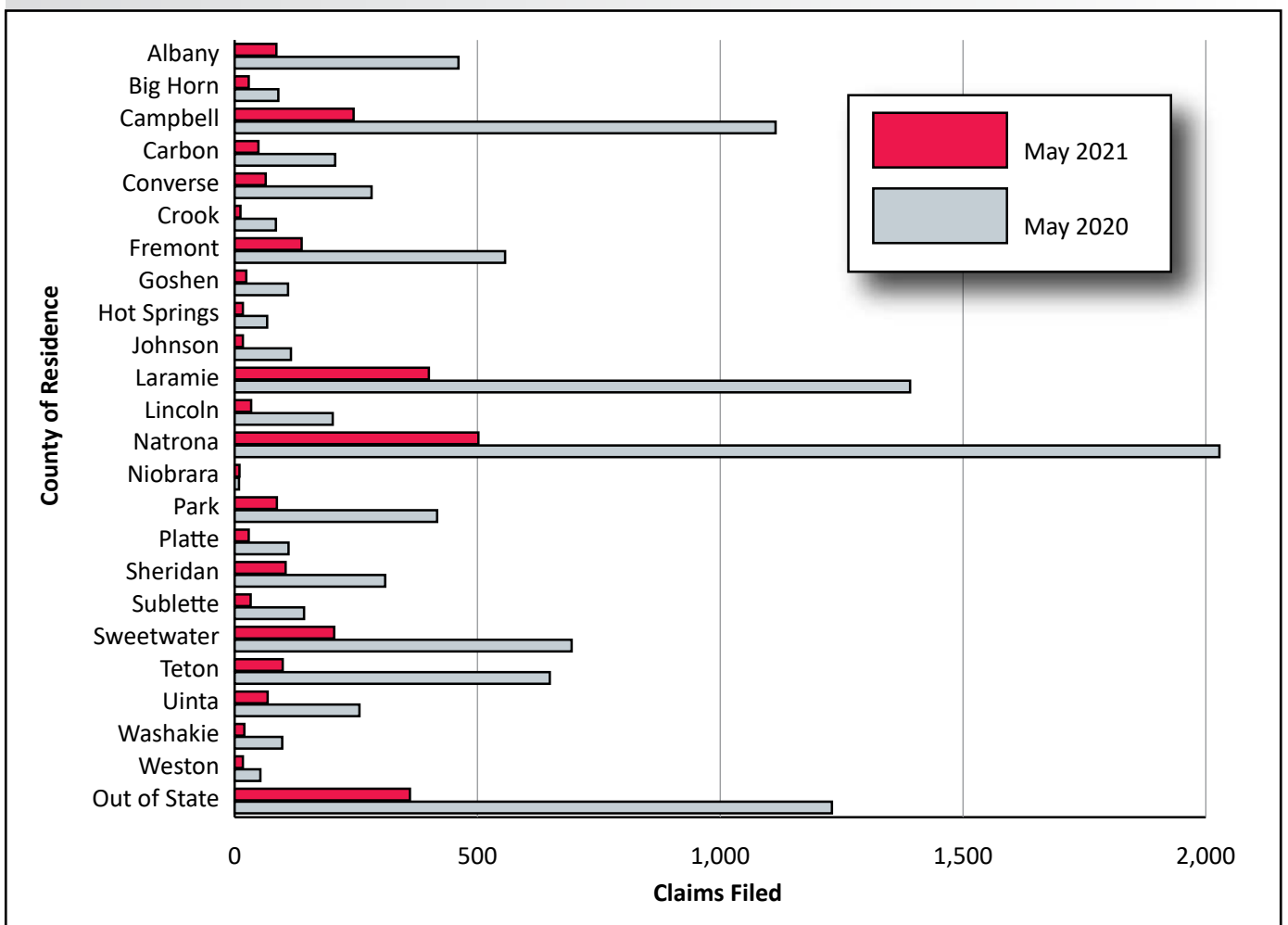


Figure 4: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence, May 2020 and May 2021

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

Industry	Continued Weeks Claimed			Over-the-Month Change		Over-the-Year Change	
	May 2021	Apr 2021	May 2020	N	%	N	%
Total Continued Weeks Claimed	19,205	23,687	95,769	-4,482	-18.9	-76,564	-79.9
Total Unique Claimants	6,383	7,958	27,505	-1,575	-19.8	-21,122	-76.8
Goods-Producing	5,462	7,427	22,650	-1,965	-26.5	-17,188	-75.9
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	1,342	1,593	11,116	-251	-15.8	-9,774	-87.9
Mining (21)	1,241	1,477	10,930	-236	-16.0	-9,689	-88.6
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	155	179	348	-24	-13.4	-193	-55.5
Construction (23)	3,421	5,022	8,912	-1,601	-31.9	-5,491	-61.6
Manufacturing (31-33)	698	810	2,621	-112	-13.8	-1,923	-73.4
Service-Providing	8,721	9,995	50,259	-1,274	-12.7	-41,538	-82.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	2,452	2,929	12,309	-477	-16.3	-9,857	-80.1
Wholesale Trade (42)	409	527	2,214	-118	-22.4	-1,805	-81.5
Retail Trade (44-45)	1,282	1,428	6,042	-146	-10.2	-4,760	-78.8
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	760	973	4,051	-213	-21.9	-3,291	-81.2
Information (51)	135	176	631	-41	-23.3	-496	-78.6
Financial Activities (52-53)	433	467	1,747	-34	-7.3	-1,314	-75.2
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	1,266	1,660	4,879	-394	-23.7	-3,613	-74.1
Education & Health Services (61-62)	1,179	1,179	5,070	0	0.0	-3,891	-76.7
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	2,905	3,215	22,879	-310	-9.6	-19,974	-87.3
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	348	366	2,741	-18	-4.9	-2,393	-87.3
Government	1,213	1,668	5,081	-455	-27.3	-3,868	-76.1
Federal Government	270	653	600	-383	-58.7	-330	-55.0
State Government	171	188	374	-17	-9.0	-203	-54.3
Local Government	771	825	4,105	-54	-6.5	-3,334	-81.2
Local Education	202	250	2,074	-48	-19.2	-1,872	-90.3
Unclassified	3,808	4,596	17,778	-788	-17.1	-13,970	-78.6
Laramie County							
Total Claims Filed	2,456	2,858	12,421	-402	-14.1	-9,965	-80.2
Total Unique Claimants	797	964	3,691	-167	-17.3	-2,894	-78.4
Goods-Producing	651	870	2,051	-219	-25.2	-1,400	-68.3
Construction	458	636	998	-178	-28.0	-540	-54.1
Service-Providing	1,182	1,262	7,645	-80	-6.3	-6,463	-84.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	401	372	2,826	29	7.8	-2,425	-85.8
Financial Activities (52, 53)	82	87	180	-5	-5.7	-98	-54.4
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	264	294	691	-30	-10.2	-427	-61.8
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	165	168	886	-3	-1.8	-721	-81.4
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	193	263	2,491	-70	-26.6	-2,298	-92.3
Government	173	188	473	-15	-8.0	-300	-63.4
Unclassified	449	538	2,251	-89	-16.5	-1,802	-80.1
Natrona County							
Total Claims Filed	3,080	4,095	17,072	-1,015	-24.8	-13,992	-82.0
Total Unique Claimants	1,028	1,336	5,029	-308	-23.1	-4,001	-79.6
Goods-Producing	877	1,334	4,374	-457	-34.3	-3,497	-79.9
Construction	563	906	1,379	-343	-37.9	-816	-59.2
Service-Providing	1,524	1,937	9,551	-413	-21.3	-8,027	-84.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	594	783	2,677	-189	-24.1	-2,083	-77.8
Financial Activities (52, 53)	76	85	465	-9	-10.6	-389	-83.7
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	218	308	936	-90	-29.2	-718	-76.7
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	220	258	983	-38	-14.7	-763	-77.6
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	289	351	3,428	-62	-17.7	-3,139	-91.6
Government	123	142	455	-19	-13.4	-332	-73.0
Unclassified	555	679	2,690	-124	-18.3	-2,135	-79.4

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.
Reviewed by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 6/18/21.

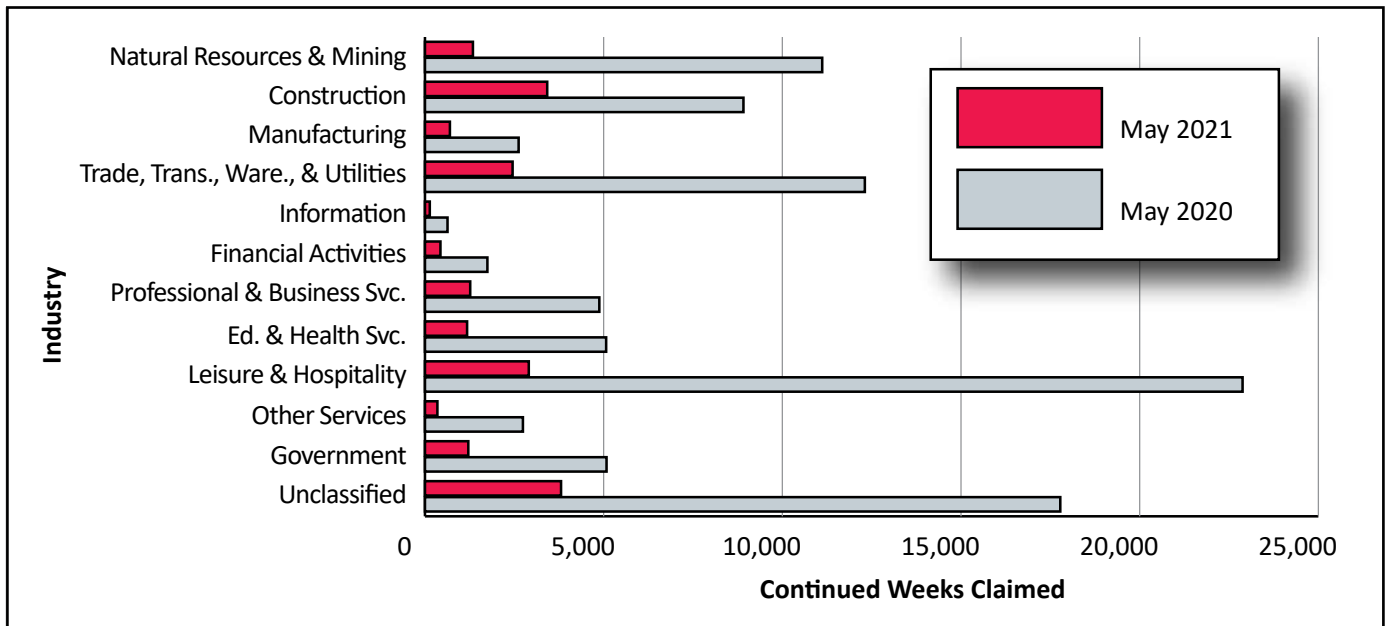


Figure 5: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, May 2020 and May 2021

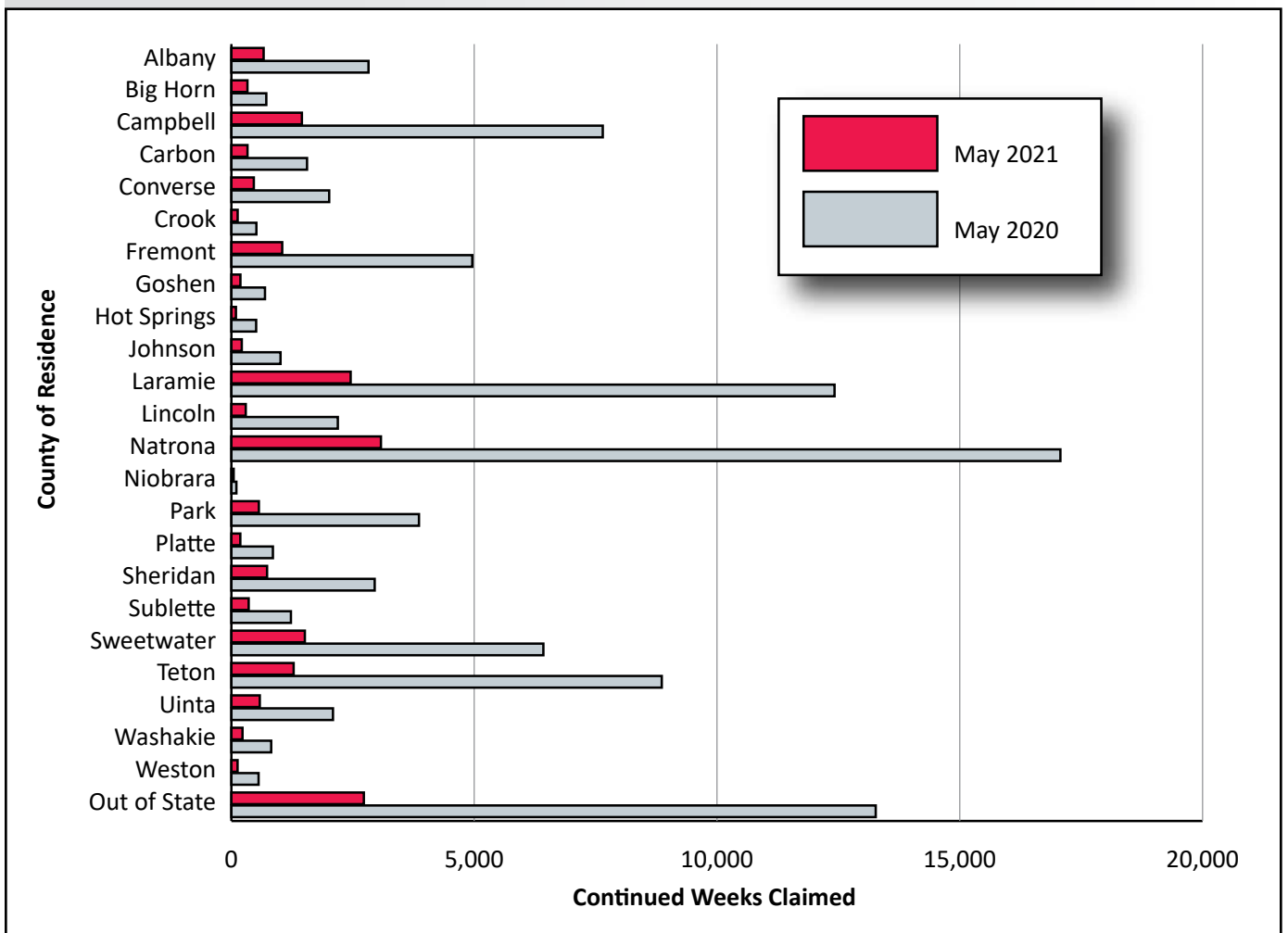


Figure 6: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence in Wyoming, May 2020 and May 2021

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

County	May 2021	May 2020	Change	
			N	%
Albany	86	461	-375	-81.3
Big Horn	29	90	-61	-67.8
Campbell	245	1,114	-869	-78.0
Carbon	49	207	-158	-76.3
Converse	64	282	-218	-77.3
Crook	12	85	-73	-85.9
Fremont	138	557	-419	-75.2
Goshen	24	110	-86	-78.2
Hot Springs	17	67	-50	-74.6
Johnson	17	116	-99	-85.3
Laramie	400	1,391	-991	-71.2
Lincoln	34	202	-168	-83.2
Natrona	502	2,028	-1,526	-75.2
Niobrara	10	9	1	11.1
Park	87	417	-330	-79.1
Platte	29	111	-82	-73.9
Sheridan	105	310	-205	-66.1
Sublette	33	143	-110	-76.9
Sweetwater	205	694	-489	-70.5
Teton	99	649	-550	-84.7
Uinta	68	257	-189	-73.5
Washakie	20	98	-78	-79.6
Weston	17	53	-36	-67.9
Unknown	10	46	-36	-78.3
Out of State	361	1,230	-869	-70.7
Total	2,674	10,741	-8,067	-75.1

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by C. McGrath, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 6/15/21.

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, May 2020 and May 2021

County	May 2021	May 2020	Change	
			N	%
Albany	664	2,824	-2,160	-76.5
Big Horn	331	719	-388	-54.0
Campbell	1,452	7,648	-6,196	-81.0
Carbon	332	1,558	-1,226	-78.7
Converse	462	2,014	-1,552	-77.1
Crook	129	515	-386	-75.0
Fremont	1,047	4,961	-3,914	-78.9
Goshen	186	692	-506	-73.1
Hot Springs	94	510	-416	-81.6
Johnson	214	1,012	-798	-78.9
Laramie	2,456	12,421	-9,965	-80.2
Lincoln	296	2,192	-1,896	-86.5
Natrona	3,080	17,072	-13,992	-82.0
Niobrara	47	103	-56	-54.4
Park	566	3,863	-3,297	-85.3
Platte	184	855	-671	-78.5
Sheridan	735	2,951	-2,216	-75.1
Sublette	356	1,226	-870	-71.0
Sweetwater	1,513	6,425	-4,912	-76.5
Teton	1,282	8,863	-7,581	-85.5
Uinta	585	2,092	-1,507	-72.0
Washakie	229	820	-591	-72.1
Weston	127	560	-433	-77.3
Unknown	99	592	-493	-83.3
Out of State	2,728	13,269	-10,541	-79.4
Normalized Total^a	19,205	95,769	-76,564	-79.9

^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.

Prepared by C. McGrath, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 6/15/21.



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