

# **Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Report**

**September 2021**

## **Information for Wyoming by Industry and County of Residence of Claimant**

by: Chris McGrath, Senior Statistician, Michael Moore, Editor, and Sherry Wen, Principal Economist  
Research & Planning, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services

Published October 21, 2021



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**Published October 21, 2021.**

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**URL for this report:** [https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/UI\\_Claims\\_0921.pdf](https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/UI_Claims_0921.pdf)

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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, September 2021

### Initial, Continued Claims Near Pre-Pandemic Levels

by: **Michael Moore, Editor**

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims were elevated to historic highs over the last two years, due in large part to the COVID-19 pandemic and declining energy prices. By September 2021, however, UI claims continued to decline to near pre-pandemic levels. This report compares UI claims data for September 2021 to September 2019 in order to examine current and pre-pandemic claims levels.

#### Initial Claims

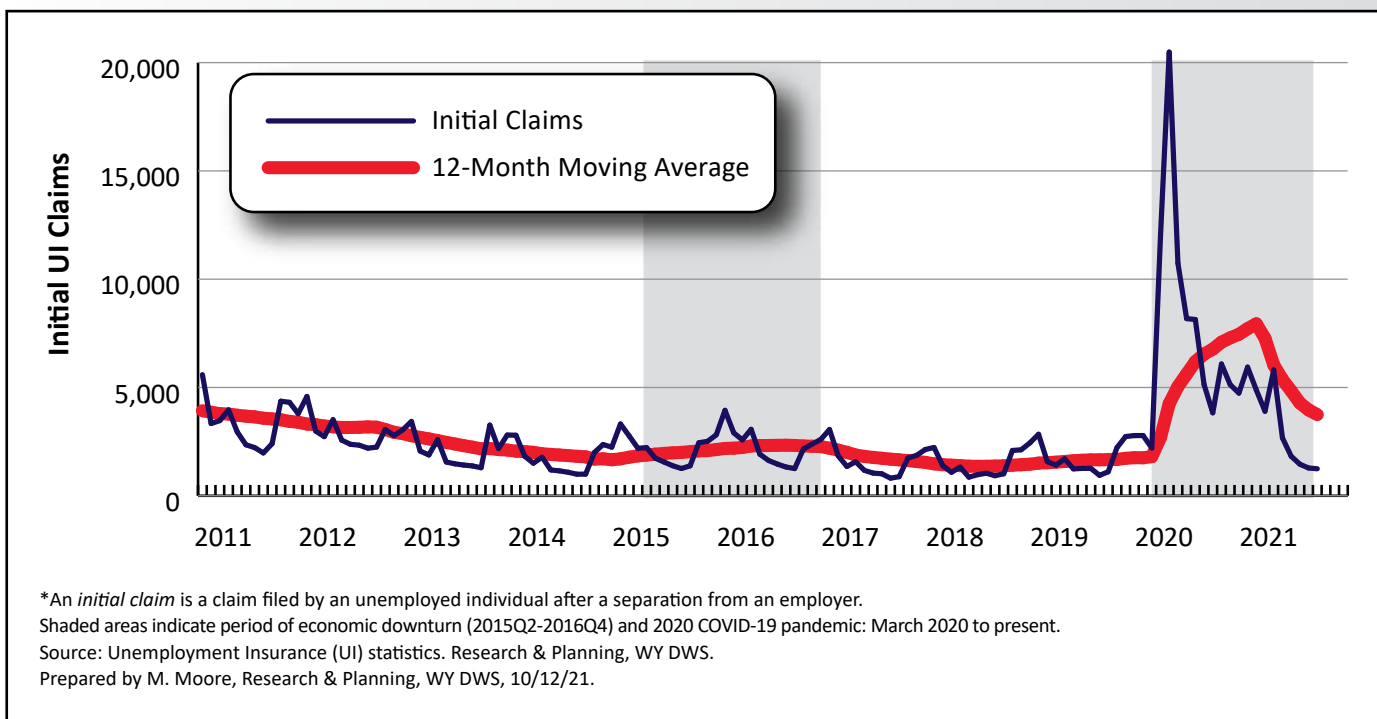
There were 1,247 initial claims (see Definitions, page 9) in September, compared to 1,109 in September 2019 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic; overall, initial claims were 12.4% higher. Initial claims have largely trended downward since peaking in April

#### UI Claims Online

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

2020, and September marked the seventh consecutive month of over-the-year decreases in initial claims. See Figure 1.

However, initial claims remained substantially higher than pre-pandemic levels in some industries, such as education & health services (75.7% higher, or 37 more claims), unclassified (53.7%, or 73 more), retail trade (38.3%, or 31 more), and leisure



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

& hospitality (30.6%, or 34 more), among others. Claims were noticeably lower than in September 2019 in other industries, such as natural resources & mining (-45.8%, or 44 fewer) and professional & business services (-27.3%, or 33 fewer). See Table 1 (page 6) and Figure 4 (page 7).

Initial claims were less than or nearly equal to pre-pandemic levels in most counties. Initial claims were noticeably higher in other counties, such as Sheridan (144.8% higher, or 42 more) and Campbell (67.2%, or 43 more) counties. The number of out-of-state claimants was somewhat lower (-12.5%, or 25 fewer) in September 2021 compared to September 2019. See Figure 5 (page 7) and Table 3 (page 10).

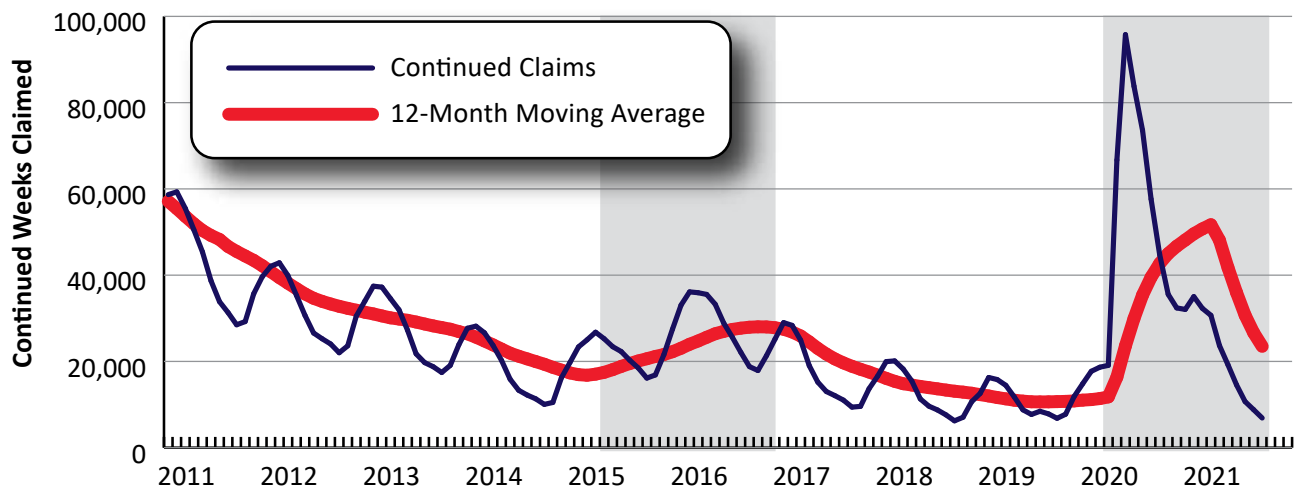
### Continued Claims

The total number of continued weeks claimed was 1.0% higher (68 more weeks) in September 2021 compared to September

2019, and the total number of unique claimants was 10.4% lower (244 fewer individuals). See Figure 2 and Table 2, page 8.

The overall decrease in continued claims was largely driven by substantial declines in Wyoming's goods-producing sectors, including natural resources & mining (-450, or -47.6%), construction (-199, or -16.8%), and manufacturing (-49, or -15.0%). Continued claims remained higher than pre-pandemic levels in industries such as unclassified (410, or 46.9%), trade, transportation, & utilities (159, or 16.4%), education & health services (147, or 31.8%), and leisure & hospitality (72, or 15.9%). See Table 2, page 8, and Figure 6, page 9.

Continued claims were substantially higher compared to pre-pandemic levels in counties such as Natrona (151, or 14.5%), Sheridan (136, or 69.7%), Laramie (97, or 10.6%), Albany (86, or 51.5%), and Carbon (81, or 68.1%). Conversely, continued claims



\*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, 10/19/21.

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

were lower in September 2021 in Campbell (-151, or -19.7%), Goshen (-81, or -55.9%), and Fremont (-57, or -11.6%) counties. See Table 4, page 10, and Figure 7, page 9.

## Conclusion

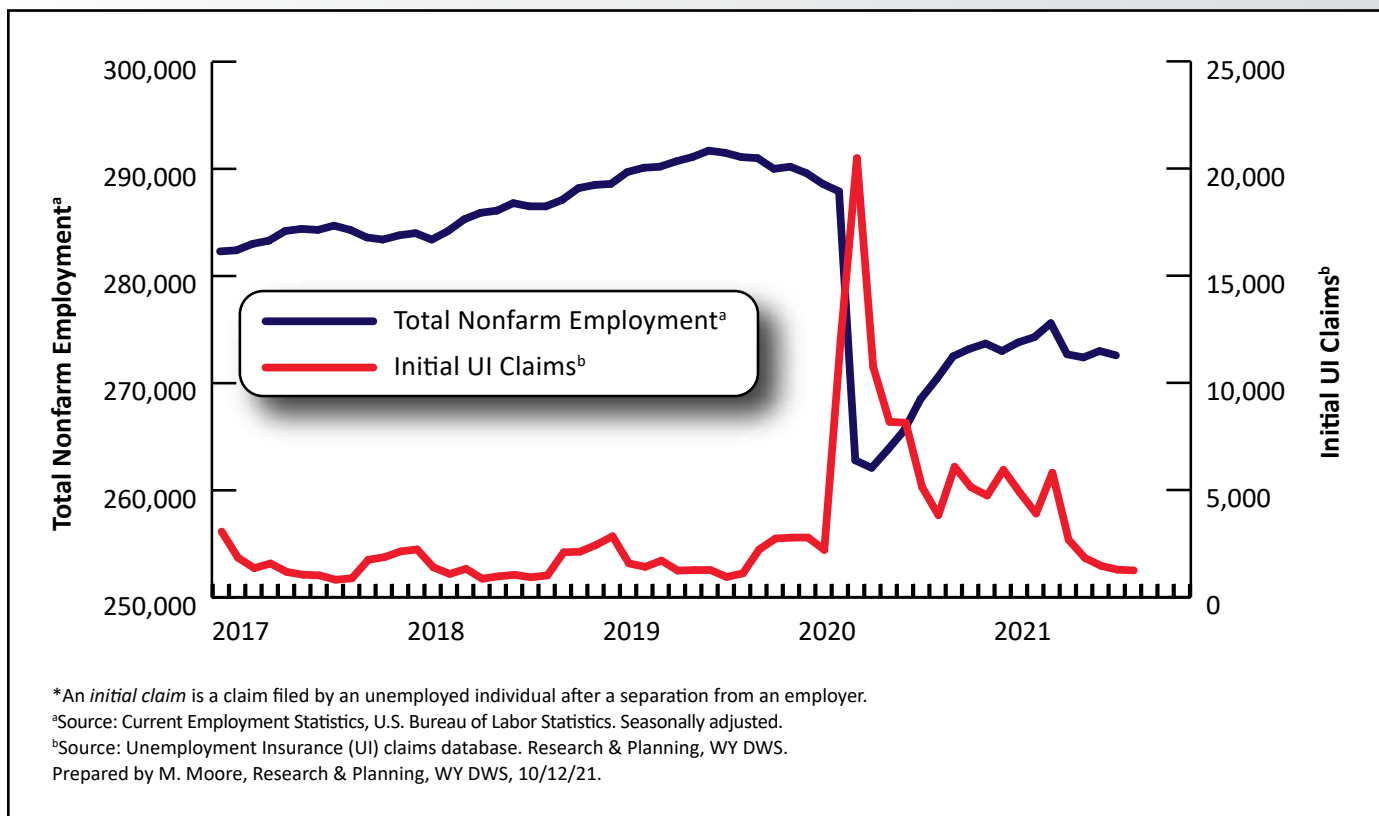
Wyoming UI claims have trended downward since peaking during the first months of the pandemic in the spring of 2020. By September 2021, claims were close to returning to pre-pandemic levels, with initial (12.4%) and continued claims (1.0%) slightly higher compared to September 2019.

The decline in UI claims largely is influenced by moderate job growth over the last few months. Data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program show

that Wyoming employment increased from prior year levels during each month from April to August. Estimated total covered employment for August 2021 was 272,600, an increase of 4,100 jobs (1.5%) compared to August 2020 (Bullard, 2021). While Wyoming has seen moderate job growth and UI claims have slowed in recent months, the state still has quite a way to go to return to pre-pandemic employment levels (see Figure 3).

## Reference

Bullard, D. (2021, September 20). Wyoming unemployment falls to 4.9% in August 2021. Research & Planning, Wyoming DWS. Retrieved October 19, 2021, from <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/news.htm>



**Figure 3: Total Nonfarm Employment and Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by Year and Month, January 2017 to September 2021**

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

Industry	Initial Claims Filed			Over-the-Month Change		2-Year Change (2019-2021)	
	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2019	N	%	N	%
<b>Total Claims Filed</b>	<b>1,247</b>	<b>1,282</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>-35</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>12.4</b>
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>-3.4</b>
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	52	71	96	-19	-26.8	-44	-45.8
Mining (21)	45	58	86	-13	-22.4	-41	-47.7
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	6	7	2	-1	-14.3	4	200.0
Construction (23)	261	215	234	46	21.4	27	11.5
Manufacturing (31-33)	57	44	53	13	29.5	4	7.5
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>-102</b>	<b>-15.4</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>13.8</b>
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	191	210	163	-19	-9.0	28	17.2
Wholesale Trade (42)	26	31	30	-5	-16.1	-4	-13.3
Retail Trade (44-45)	112	122	81	-10	-8.2	31	38.3
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	51	56	51	-5	-8.9	0	0.0
Information (51)	4	6	9	-2	-33.3	-5	-55.6
Financial Activities (52-53)	25	27	23	-2	-7.4	2	8.7
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	88	108	121	-20	-18.5	-33	-27.3
Education & Health Services (61-62)	86	125	49	-39	-31.2	37	75.5
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	145	151	111	-6	-4.0	34	30.6
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	19	35	15	-16	-45.7	4	26.7
<b>Government</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9.6</b>
Federal Government	19	20	21	-1	-5.0	-2	-9.5
State Government	10	6	10	4	66.7	0	0.0
Local Government	73	66	61	7	10.6	12	19.7
Local Education	22	21	11	1	4.8	11	100.0
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>53.7</b>
<b>Laramie County</b>							
<b>Total Claims Filed</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16.1</b>
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>45.5</b>
Construction	54	36	37	18	50.0	17	45.9
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>-14.7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	32	29	17	3	10.3	15	88.2
Financial Activities (52, 53)	4	6	5	-2	-33.3	-1	-20.0
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	29	41	42	-12	-29.3	-13	-31.0
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	21	18	7	3	16.7	14	200.0
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	7	16	8	-9	-56.3	-1	-12.5
<b>Government</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-40.0</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>-35.7</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27.3</b>
<b>Natrona County</b>							
<b>Total Claims Filed</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>-7.8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9.8</b>
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>-23.8</b>
Construction	42	24	49	18	75.0	-7	-14.3
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>-41</b>	<b>-27.3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25.3</b>
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	41	43	30	-2	-4.7	11	36.7
Financial Activities (52, 53)	6	3	4	3	100.0	2	50.0
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	9	17	20	-8	-47.1	-11	-55.0
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	25	40	10	-15	-37.5	15	150.0
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	22	35	11	-13	-37.1	11	100.0
<b>Government</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>125.0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>50.0</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-9.4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>93.3</b>

N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality.

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database. Prepared by C. McGrath, Research &amp; Planning, WY DWS, 10/12/21.



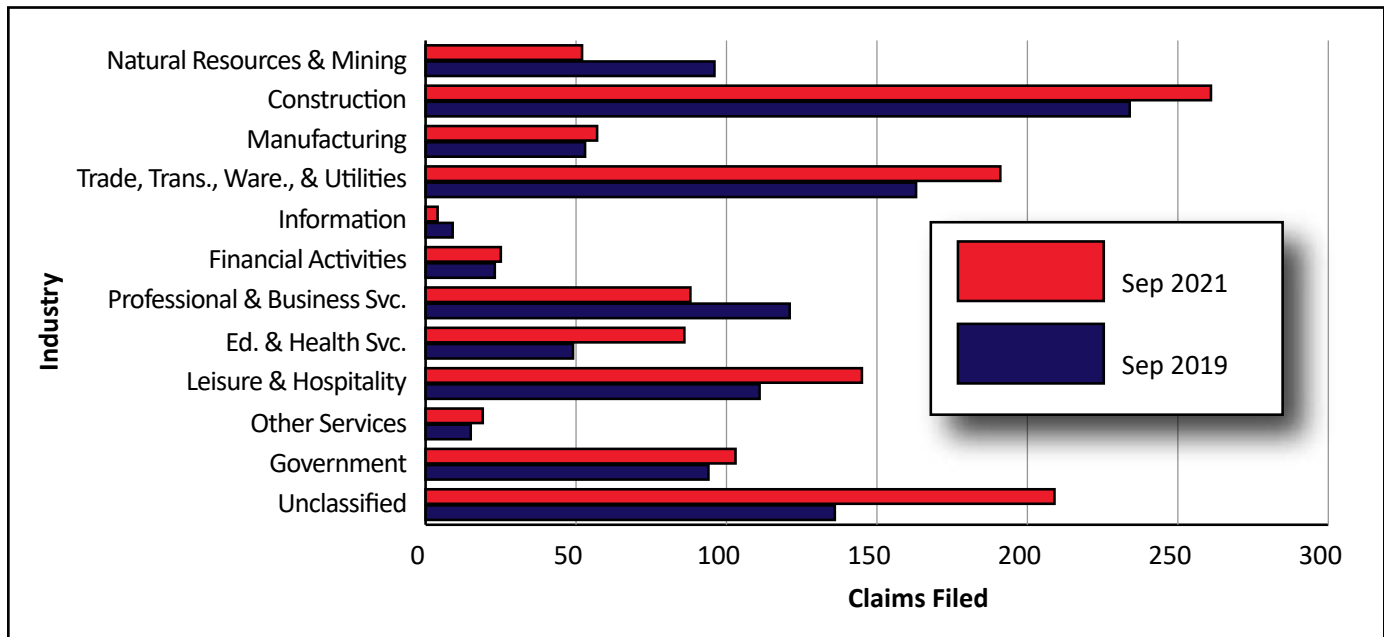


Figure 4: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, September 2019 and September 2021

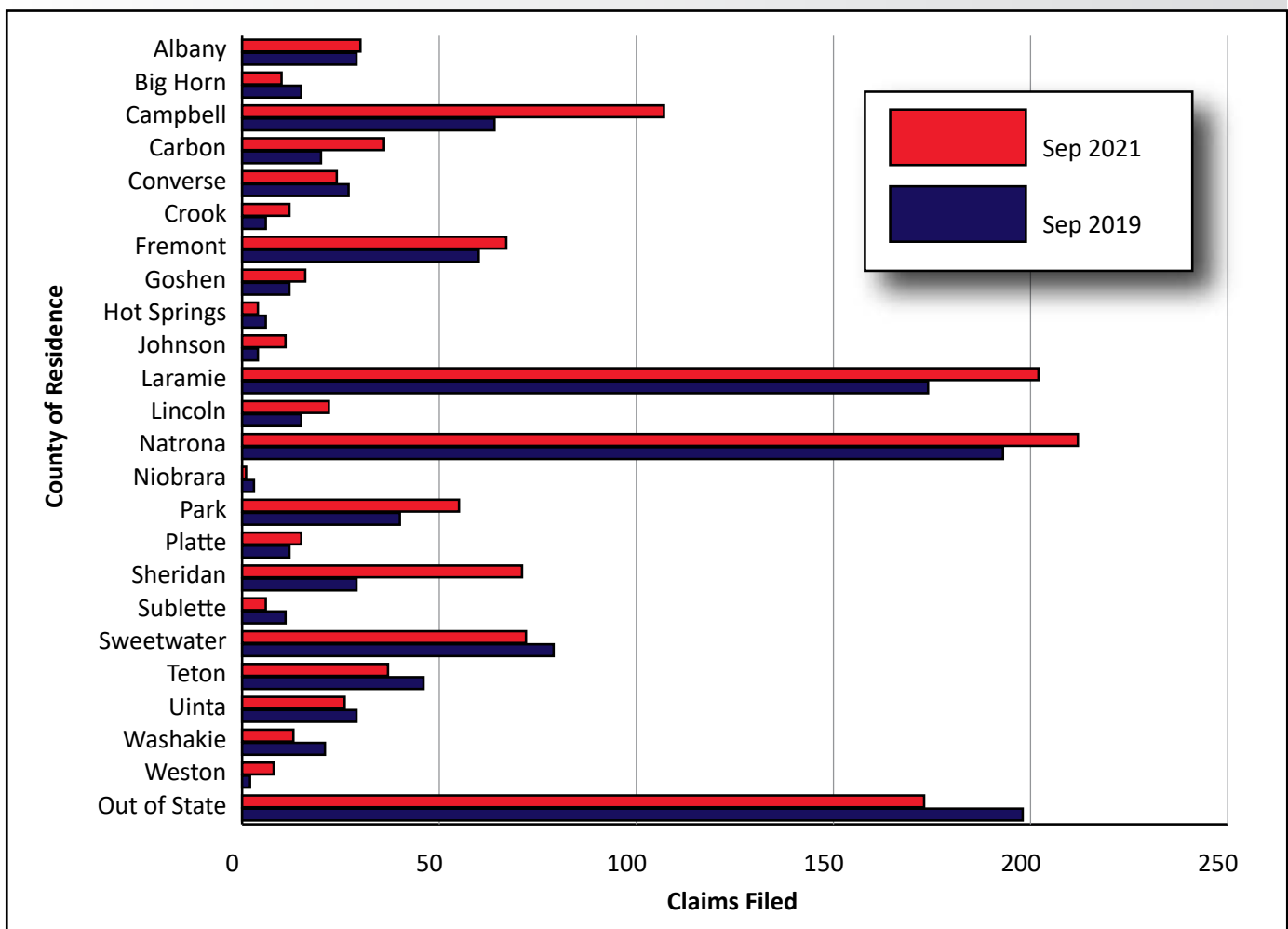


Figure 5: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence, September 2019 and September 2021

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

Industry	Continued Weeks Claimed			Over-the-Month Change		2-Year Change (2019-2021)	
	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2021	N	%	N	%
<b>Total Continued Weeks Claimed</b>	<b>6,882</b>	<b>8,807</b>	<b>6,814</b>	<b>-1,925</b>	<b>-21.9</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Total Unique Claimants	2,105	2,869	2,349	-764	-26.6	-244	-10.4
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>2,233</b>	<b>2,456</b>	<b>-475</b>	<b>-21.3</b>	<b>-698</b>	<b>-28.4</b>
Natural Resources & Mining (11, 21)	495	657	945	-162	-24.7	-450	-47.6
Mining (21)	447	610	895	-163	-26.7	-448	-50.1
Oil & Gas Extraction (211)	75	85	35	-10	-11.8	40	114.3
Construction (23)	985	1,224	1,184	-239	-19.5	-199	-16.8
Manufacturing (31-33)	277	351	326	-74	-21.1	-49	-15.0
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>3,283</b>	<b>4,204</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>-921</b>	<b>-21.9</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>11.8</b>
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22, 42, 44-45, 48-49)	1,130	1,290	971	-160	-12.4	159	16.4
Wholesale Trade (42)	268	294	205	-26	-8.8	63	30.7
Retail Trade (44-45)	571	646	473	-75	-11.6	98	20.7
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (22, 44-49)	290	349	292	-59	-16.9	-2	-0.7
Information (51)	81	88	83	-7	-8.0	-2	-2.4
Financial Activities (52-53)	245	263	204	-18	-6.8	41	20.1
Professional & Business Services (54-56)	546	649	610	-103	-15.9	-64	-10.5
Education & Health Services (61-62)	609	995	462	-386	-38.8	147	31.8
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	526	741	454	-215	-29.0	72	15.9
Other Services, except Public Admin. (81)	143	175	150	-32	-18.3	-7	-4.7
<b>Government</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>-171</b>	<b>-23.6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Federal Government	68	81	47	-13	-16.0	21	44.7
State Government	47	67	87	-20	-29.9	-40	-46.0
Local Government	439	578	410	-139	-24.0	29	7.1
Local Education	127	202	110	-75	-37.1	17	15.5
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>-358</b>	<b>-21.8</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>46.9</b>
<b>Laramie County</b>							
<b>Total Claims Filed</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>-148</b>	<b>-12.7</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>10.6</b>
Total Unique Claimants	326	394	321	-68	-17.3	5	1.6
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Construction	142	129	147	13	10.1	-5	-3.4
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>-108</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	191	214	173	-23	-10.7	18	10.4
Financial Activities (52, 53)	45	40	55	5	12.5	-10	-18.2
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	125	127	102	-2	-1.6	23	22.5
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	97	122	90	-25	-20.5	7	7.8
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	47	103	59	-56	-54.4	-12	-20.3
<b>Government</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>-33</b>	<b>-38.8</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>-43.5</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>124.0</b>
<b>Natrona County</b>							
<b>Total Claims Filed</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>-291</b>	<b>-19.6</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>14.5</b>
Total Unique Claimants	376	487	369	-111	-22.8	7	1.9
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>-13.8</b>	<b>-74</b>	<b>-22.8</b>
Construction	131	151	165	-20	-13.2	-34	-20.6
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>-198</b>	<b>-21.7</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>22.5</b>
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (22,42,44-45,48-49)	256	347	201	-91	-26.2	55	27.4
Financial Activities (52, 53)	51	53	30	-2	-3.8	21	70.0
Professional & Business Services (54 - 56)	71	84	108	-13	-15.5	-37	-34.3
Educational & Health Services (61 - 62)	148	206	127	-58	-28.2	21	16.5
Leisure & Hospitality (71 - 72)	122	160	62	-38	-23.8	60	96.8
<b>Government</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>-27.7</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>61.9</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>-27</b>	<b>-14.4</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>73.1</b>

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by C. McGrath, Research &amp; Planning, WY DWS, 10/12/21.



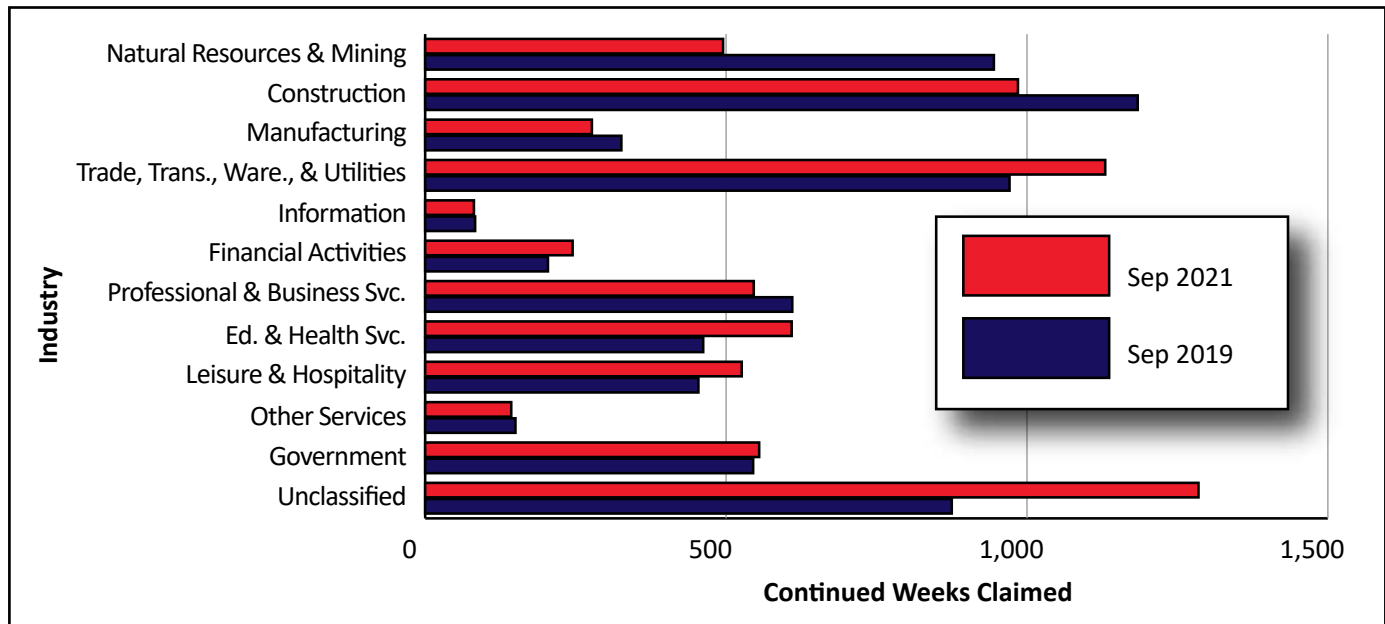


Figure 6: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Major Industry in Wyoming, September 2019 and September 2021

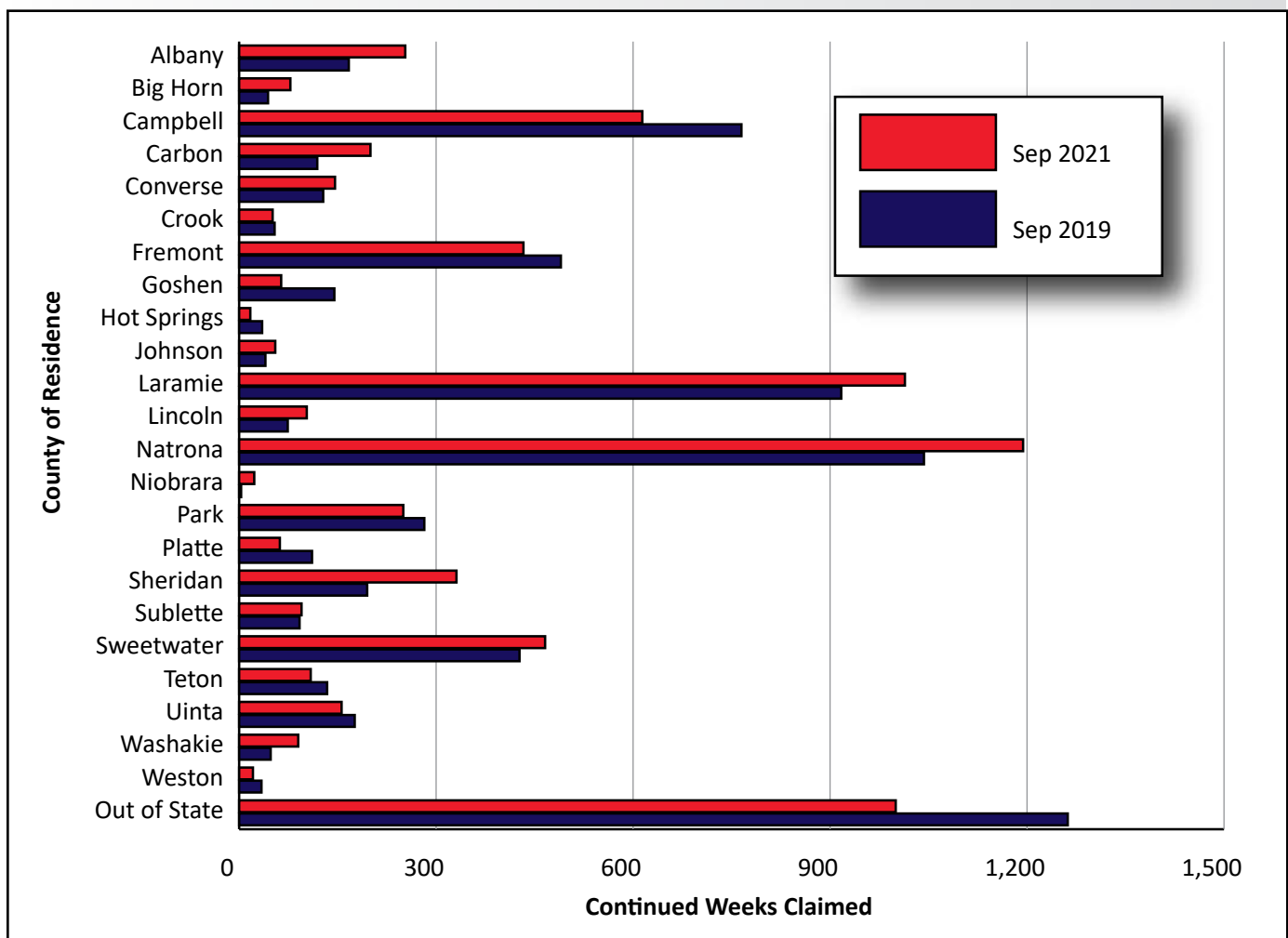


Figure 7: Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County of Residence in Wyoming, September 2019 and September 2021

**Table 3: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming by County of Residence, September 2019 and September 2021**

County	Sep 2021	Sep 2019	Change	
			N	%
Albany	30	29	1	3.4
Big Horn	10	15	-5	-33.3
Campbell	107	64	43	67.2
Carbon	36	20	16	80.0
Converse	24	27	-3	-11.1
Crook	12	6	6	100.0
Fremont	67	60	7	11.7
Goshen	16	12	4	33.3
Hot Springs	4	6	-2	-33.3
Johnson	11	4	7	175.0
Laramie	202	174	28	16.1
Lincoln	22	15	7	46.7
Natrona	212	193	19	9.8
Niobrara	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D
Park	55	40	15	37.5
Platte	15	12	3	25.0
Sheridan	71	29	42	144.8
Sublette	6	11	-5	-45.5
Sweetwater	72	79	-7	-8.9
Teton	37	46	-9	-19.6
Uinta	26	29	-3	-10.3
Washakie	13	21	-8	-38.1
Weston	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D
Unknown	6	4	2	50.0
Out of State	173	198	-25	-12.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,247</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>12.4</b>

Source: Unemployment Insurance claims database.

N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality.

Prepared by C. McGrath, Research &amp; Planning, WY DWS, 10/12/21.

**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<sup>a</sup> Unemployment Statistics: Continued Claims by County of Residence, September 2019 and September 2021**

County	Sep 2021	Sep 2019	Change	
			N	%
Albany	253	167	86	51.5
Big Horn	78	44	34	77.3
Campbell	614	765	-151	-19.7
Carbon	200	119	81	68.1
Converse	146	128	18	14.1
Crook	51	54	-3	-5.6
Fremont	433	490	-57	-11.6
Goshen	64	145	-81	-55.9
Hot Springs	17	35	-18	-51.4
Johnson	55	40	15	37.5
Laramie	1,014	917	97	10.6
Lincoln	103	74	29	39.2
Natrona	1,194	1,043	151	14.5
Niobrara	23	3	20	666.7
Park	250	282	-32	-11.3
Platte	62	111	-49	-44.1
Sheridan	331	195	136	69.7
Sublette	95	92	3	3.3
Sweetwater	466	427	39	9.1
Teton	109	134	-25	-18.7
Uinta	156	176	-20	-11.4
Washakie	90	48	42	87.5
Weston	21	34	-13	-38.2
Unknown	43	18	25	138.9
Out of State	1,000	1,262	-262	-20.8
<b>Normalized Total<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>6,882</b>	<b>6,814</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1.0</b>

<sup>a</sup>An 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 &amp; Planning, WY DWS, 10/12/21.

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

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