

TRENDS

Examining Unemployment Insurance Claims by Occupation

by: Michael Moore, Editor; Methodologist: Tony Glover, Manager

Wyoming unemployment claims reached unprecedented levels in 2020, due in large part to business closures forced by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and a sharp decline in energy prices. In total, 49,381 individuals received unemployment benefits from the Unemployment Insurance (UI) division of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services in 2020. Workers from nearly 800 different occupations received UI benefits. This article introduces statistics for UI claims data at the occupation level for 2019 and 2020.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) is “a program under which a person, who is unemployed through no fault of his or her own, is paid weekly benefits based upon his or her past wages in employment covered by state or federal laws” (Wyoming DWS, n.d.). In Wyoming, the UI program is managed by the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. The UI trust fund is financed through taxes paid by employers.

To receive UI benefits, a person must first file an initial claim after a separation from an employer (Moore and Wen, 2020). The claim requests a determination of basic eligibility for UI benefits. When that

UI Claims Data

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

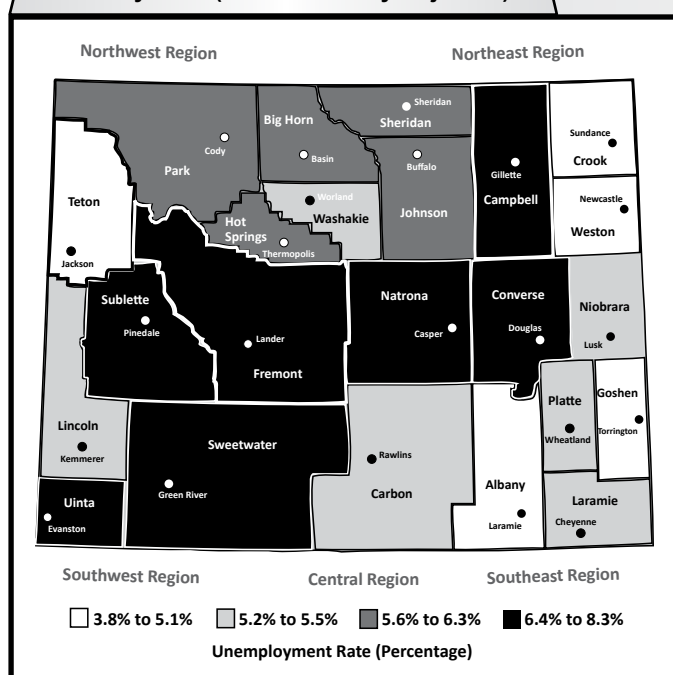
initial claim is approved, the unemployed individual who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment files a continued claim to receive benefits for that week of unemployment.

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Some occupational groups have reliably lower unemployment rates, even during times of economic downturn, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic ... page 13
- The number of building permits issued for single family homes increased 31.0% from a year earlier. ... page 20

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, January 2021 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



IN THIS ISSUE

Examining Unemployment Insurance Claims by Occupation	1
Unemployment Rates for Selected Occupational Groups During the Coronavirus Pandemic	13
Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 5.1% in January 2021	17
Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Internal Estimates, January 2020	18
State Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)	18
Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment	19
State Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)	19
Economic Indicators	20
County Unemployment Rates	21
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims	22
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims	23

Wyoming Labor Force Trends

A monthly publication of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services,

Robin Sessions Cooley,
Director

Research & Planning
P.O. Box 2760
Casper, WY 82602-2760
dws-researchplanning@wyo.gov
307-473-3807

Tony Glover, Manager

Carola Cowan, Bureau of Labor Statistics Programs Supervisor

Michael Moore, Editor

Editorial Committee: David Bullard, Matthew Halama, Lisa Knapp, Aubrey Kofoed, Chris McGrath, Michael Moore, and Laura Yetter

Contributors to *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* this month:

David Bullard, Carola Cowan, Tiffany Horn,
Michael Moore, and Sherry Wen

Print copies available free of charge.

© Copyright 2021 by the Wyoming

Department of Workforce Services, Research & Planning.

Material contained in this publication is in the public domain and may be reproduced without special permission provided that source credit is given to: **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Research & Planning

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.

Department of Workforce Services Nondiscrimination Statement

The Department of Workforce Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability. It is our intention that all individuals seeking services from our agency be given equal opportunity and that eligibility decisions be based upon applicable statutes, rules, and regulations.

Mission statement available at:
<https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/mission.pdf>

ISSN 0512-4409

Wyoming UI benefits have historically been available to individuals who met certain monetary and non-monetary criteria (Wen, 2020a). In 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits to those who did not qualify for regular UI benefits, such as self-employed individuals and independent contractors (U.S. Department of Labor, 2020). The PUA program provided up to 39 weeks of benefits, retroactively beginning in January 27, 2020, and ending on December 31, 2020.

Regular UI benefit recipients may receive benefits for a maximum of 26 weeks (Wen, 2020b). However, the CARES Act established the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program, which provided extended unemployment benefits for up to 13 weeks.

As part of their initial UI benefits claim, individuals self-report the occupation in which they most recently worked. The self-reported information was used in this research to determine UI claims benefits by occupation.

The term *industry* refers to the type of firm for which an individual works for and the production process those firms have (Knapp, 2021). Industries are identified by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The term *occupation* refers to a specific task or set of tasks a person performs at their job (Moore, 2011). Occupations are identified through the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Many occupations are found across multiple industries, such as accountants, truck drivers, and electricians. Some occupations are limited to a specific industry, such as roustabouts, oil & gas, in the mining industry.

The data discussed in this article include regular UI benefit recipients and those who received PUA benefits, but does not differentiate between the two. In addition, a person may be counted more than once in the total if they received benefits multiple times in 2020. For example, a person could have claimed benefits as a cashier in April, and then as a waiter & waitress in October.

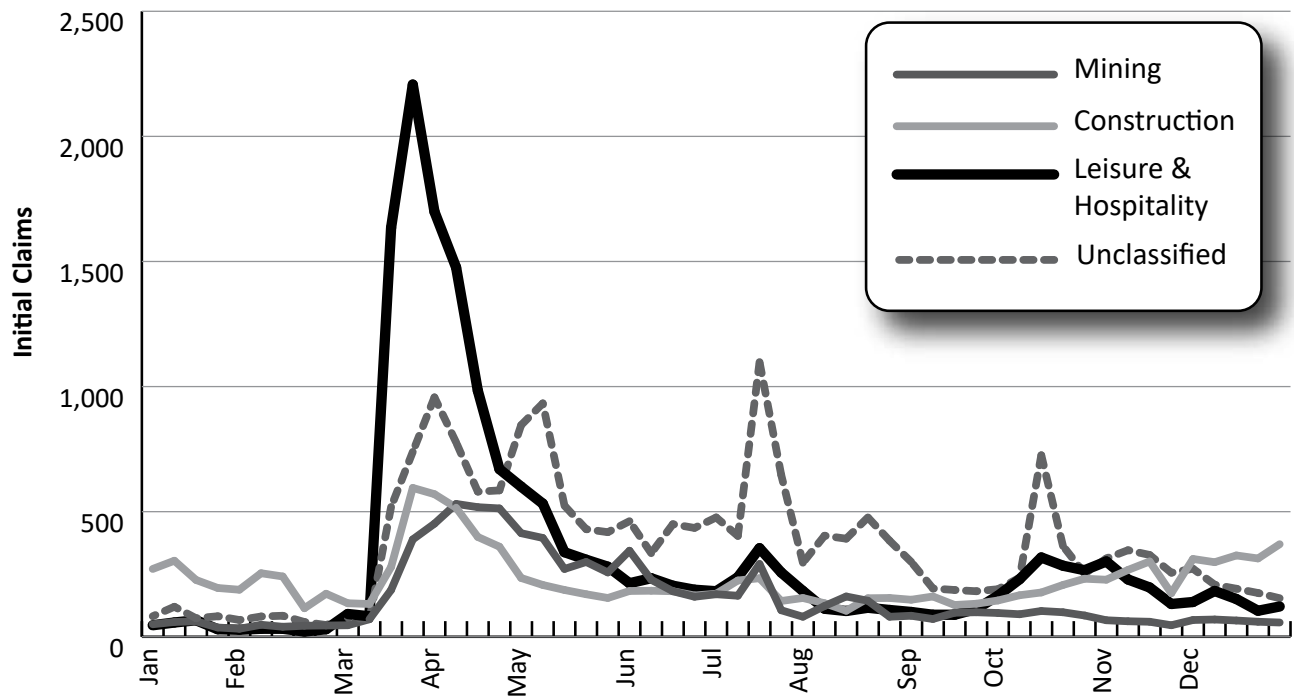
Discussion

Beginning in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closures of schools and businesses, which led to record job losses nationally and in Wyoming. A record 3.3 million individuals filed for unemployment benefits nationally during the week ending March 21; the previous one-week high was 695,000 in October 1982 (U.S. Department of Labor, 2020, July).

In Wyoming, initial claims increased from 504 for the week ending March 14 to 3,731 for the week ending March 21. Initial claims peaked at 6,531 for the week ending April 4; Wyoming's previous one-week high was 1,930 for the week ending January 8, 2011. Substantial job losses also resulted from the steep decline of energy prices.

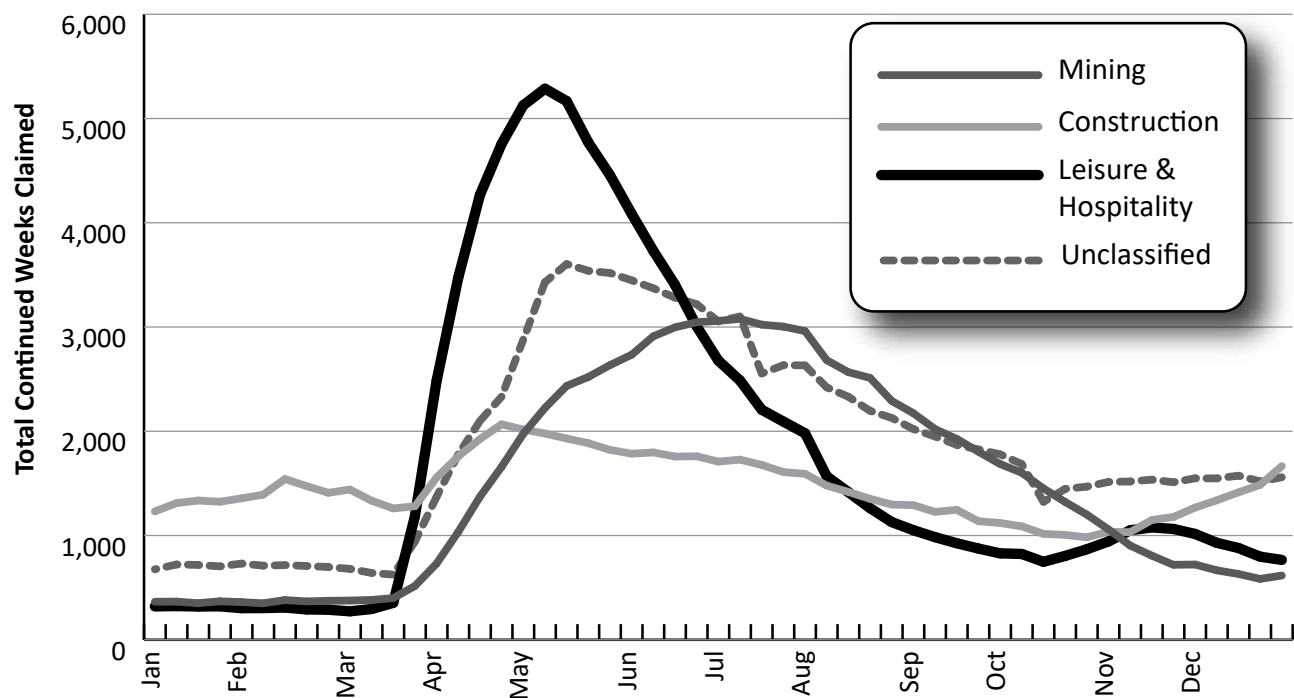
Notable increases in initial and continued UI claims were seen across all industries from 2019 to 2020, with some experiencing especially high increases. Leisure & hospitality (NAICS 71-72) had the largest one-week total of initial claims during the pandemic, with 2,207 for the week ending March 29 (see Figure 1, page 4). This was followed by a large increase in continued claims for a relatively brief period of time (see Figure 2, page 4).

(Text continued on page 5)



Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims database. Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 2/3/21.

Figure 1: Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Selected Industry in Wyoming, 2020



Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims database. Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 2/3/21.

Figure 2: Weekly Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Selected Industry in Wyoming, 2020

(Text continued from page 3)

Mining (NAICS 21) experienced a long duration of high continued claims throughout the spring and summer of 2020. This indicates that individuals who lost jobs in mining may have had difficulty finding work, and relied on UI benefits longer compared to claimants from other industries. Continued claims in construction (NAICS 23) trended downward after April but began increasing in October, which continued through December.

The industry labeled “unclassified” also saw large increases in both initial and continued claims, likely due in large part to the inclusion of self-employed workers and independent contractors who had not previously been eligible for UI benefits.

Claims by Occupation

Nearly three-fourths of all UI benefit recipients in Wyoming in 2020 worked in occupations requiring no formal education (29.1%) or a high school diploma or equivalent (42.9%; see Table 1). Occupations requiring a bachelor’s degree accounted for

the greatest proportion (11.9%) of occupations requiring some postsecondary education, followed by occupations requiring a postsecondary non-degree award (9.9%). Although the total number of benefit recipients increased substantially over the year, the distribution of claimants by education level remained similar between 2019 and 2020.

The average number of weeks claimed for all Wyoming UI benefit recipients in 2020 was 11.2, up from 8.7 in 2019 (see Table 2, page 6). This was similar across most educational requirements, from 10.1 weeks for occupations requiring a master’s degree to 11.8 weeks requiring a high school diploma or equivalent. The noted exceptions were occupations requiring a doctoral or professional degree (7.1 weeks) and postsecondary non-degree awards (9.6 weeks).

Tables showing UI benefits for all occupations by educational requirement and gender are available online at <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/ui.htm>.

Table 3 (see page 7) provides a list of the 20 occupations with the greatest number of UI benefit recipients in 2020. The occupation

Table 1: Total Number of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients by Educational Requirement of Occupation, 2019 and 2020

Education	2020		2019		Change, 2019-2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No Formal Education	14,380	29.1	3,900	25.7	10,480	268.7
High School Diploma or Equivalent	21,194	42.9	7,310	48.3	13,884	189.9
Some College, No Degree	824	1.7	259	1.7	565	218.1
Postsecondary Non-Degree Award	4,880	9.9	1,337	8.8	3,543	265.0
Associate’s Degree	1,214	2.5	337	2.2	877	260.2
Bachelor’s Degree	5,896	11.9	1,783	11.8	4,113	230.7
Master’s Degree	343	0.7	110	0.7	233	211.8
Doctoral or Professional Degree	337	0.7	71	0.5	266	374.6
Unknown	313	0.6	42	0.3	271	645.2
Total	49,381	100.0	15,149	100.0	34,232	226.0

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Database.
Revised by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 2/3/21.

with the greatest number of UI benefit claimants in 2020 was truck drivers, heavy & tractor-trailer, with 1,791 claimants and an average of 12.0 weeks claimed. This was followed by waiters & waitresses (1,790 claimants, 11.0 weeks claimed), operating engineers & other construction equipment operators (1,621 claimants, 12.3 weeks claimed), construction laborers (1,516 claimants, 11.4 weeks claimed), and welders, cutters, solderers, & brazers (959 claimants, 13.0 weeks claimed).

Many of the occupations presented in Table 3 are predominantly found in the previously discussed industries of mining, construction, and leisure & hospitality. For example, occupations such as heavy & tractor-trailer truck drivers, construction laborers, rotary drill operators, and roustabouts are typically found in the mining and construction industries. Occupations predominantly found in leisure & hospitality include waiters & waitresses, bartenders, cooks, and maids & housekeeping cleaners.

Many of the top 20 occupations with the largest number of claimants in 2020

were occupations that regularly have high turnover rates, and are among the occupations with the greatest number of claims each year. For example, operating engineers & other construction equipment operators (SOC 47-2073) had the largest number of claims in 2019 (948) and the third largest number of claims in 2020 (1,621). Data from Research & Planning's New Hires Job Skills Survey shows that of the 1,140 newly hired individuals for this occupation in 2018, approximately one in four (26.3%) were not working for that same employer one quarter later (Knapp, 2020). While many of these occupations have a large number of UI benefit recipients each year, the sheer volume of claimants was much greater in 2020. For more information, please see the related article on page 13.

In order to gain a better understanding of the pandemic's effects on Wyoming's labor market, special attention was given to occupations that showed the greatest percentage increases from 2019 to 2020 (see Table 4) and the occupations that

(Text continued on page 8)

Table 2: Average Weeks Claimed and Total Weeks Claimed by Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients by Educational Requirement of Occupation, 2019 and 2020

Education	Average Weeks Claimed				Total Weeks Claimed			
	2020	2019	N Change	% Change	2020	2019	N Change	% Change
No Formal Educational Credential	11.0	8.5	2.5	29.4	158,043	33,023	125,020	378.6
High School Diploma Or Equivalent	11.8	8.7	3.1	35.6	250,866	63,785	187,081	293.3
Some College, No Degree	10.9	8.8	2.1	23.9	9,002	2,278	6,724	295.2
Postsecondary Non-Degree Award	9.6	8.7	0.9	10.3	46,827	11,654	35,173	301.8
Associate's Degree	10.9	9.6	1.3	13.5	13,183	3,219	9,964	309.5
Bachelor's Degree	11.4	9.1	2.3	25.3	67,188	16,197	50,991	314.8
Master's Degree	10.1	9.4	0.7	7.4	3,468	1,035	2,433	235.1
Doctoral Or Professional Degree	7.1	9.0	-1.9	-21.1	2,396	639	1,757	275.0
Unknown	10.4	5.9	4.5	76.3	3,250	247	3,003	1,215.8
Total	11.2	8.7	2.5	28.7	554,223	132,077	422,146	319.6

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Database.
Revised by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 2/3/21.

Table 3: Top 20 Occupations with the Greatest Number of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Recipients in Wyoming, 2020

Rank	SOC ^a Code	Title	Education	N	Weeks Claimed		Average Wages*	
					Total	Average	Hourly	Annual
1	533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	Postsecondary non-degree award	1,791	21,507	12.0	\$25.29	\$52,600
2	353031	Waiters & Waitresses	No formal education	1,790	19,622	11.0	\$11.07	\$23,034
3	472073	Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	High school diploma ^b	1,621	19,966	12.3	\$28.16	\$58,569
4	472061	Construction Laborers	No formal education	1,516	17,336	11.4	\$17.91	\$37,255
5	514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	High school diploma ^b	959	12,499	13.0	\$29.64	\$61,651
6	519199	Production Workers, All Other	High school diploma ^b	949	13,033	13.7	\$22.73	\$47,281
7	353011	Bartenders	No formal education	908	9,790	10.8	\$11.60	\$24,122
8	352014	Cooks, Restaurant	No formal education	888	8,209	9.2	\$14.69	\$30,557
9	412031	Retail Salespersons	No formal education	772	7,089	9.2	\$13.98	\$29,073
10	395012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	Postsecondary non-degree award	769	4,427	5.8	\$16.33	\$33,966
11	111021	General & Operations Managers	Bachelor's degree	721	8,928	12.4	\$49.06	\$102,040
12	372012	Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	No formal education	650	6,539	10.1	\$12.59	\$26,179
13	475012	Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas	No formal education	623	9,544	15.3	\$33.75	\$70,203
14	511011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production & Operating Workers	High school diploma ^b	613	7,882	12.9	\$40.41	\$84,045
15	412011	Cashiers	No formal education	604	5,398	8.9	\$11.57	\$24,067
16	472111	Electricians	High school diploma ^b	564	6,440	11.4	\$28.88	\$60,074
17	499071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	High school diploma ^b	563	6,556	11.6	\$20.22	\$42,059
18	471011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Construction Trades & Extract. Workers	High school diploma ^b	543	7,456	13.7	\$35.83	\$74,523
19	434051	Customer Service Representatives	High school diploma ^b	514	5,587	10.9	\$17.64	\$36,681
20	475013	Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, & Mining	No formal education	481	7,125	14.8	\$25.88	\$53,835
Total, All Occupations				49,381	554,223	11.2	N/A	N/A

^aStandard Occupational Classification code.^bHigh school diploma or equivalent.

N/A = not available given the data sets used in this research.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims database.

*Wage source: Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program.

Revised by M. Moore and T. Glover, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 2/3/21.

(Text continued from page 6)

had the longest duration of average weeks claimed in 2020 (see Table 5, page 9). Occupations with fewer than 50 UI benefit recipients in 2020 were excluded from this portion of the analysis.

The 20 occupations with the largest

over-the-year percentage increases in the number of UI benefit recipients are shown in Table 4. Many of these occupations were worked by individuals who typically have not qualified for regular UI benefits, but were able to receive PUA benefits.

The number of hairdressers, hairstylists, & cosmetologists receiving benefits

Table 4: Top 20 Occupations with the Largest Percentage Increase in UI Benefit Recipients in Wyoming, 2019 to 2020

SOC ^a Code	Title	Education	Total UI Benefit Recipients			
			2019	2020	N Change	% Change
39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	Postsecondary non-degree award	12	769	757	6,308.3
39-5092	Manicurists & Pedicurists	Postsecondary non-degree award	4	183	179	4,475.0
39-9011	Childcare Workers	High school diploma ^b	13	412	399	3,069.2
25-3097	Tutors & Teachers & Instructors, All Other	Bachelor's degree	10	256	246	2,460.0
39-5094	Skincare Specialists	Postsecondary non-degree award	3	67	64	2,133.3
39-9031	Fitness Trainers & Aerobics Instructors	High school diploma ^b	4	87	83	2,075.0
31-9091	Dental Assistants	Postsecondary non-degree award	18	330	312	1,733.3
41-9022	Real Estate Sales Agents	High school diploma ^b	3	50	47	1,566.7
27-2022	Coaches & Scouts	Bachelor's degree	9	132	123	1,366.7
49-9041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	High school diploma ^b	6	67	61	1,016.7
35-9031	Hosts & Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, & Coffee Shop	No formal education	15	163	148	986.7
27-4021	Photographers	High school diploma ^b	7	74	67	957.1
27-1024	Graphic Designers	Bachelor's degree	8	69	61	762.5
51-2041	Structural Metal Fabricators & Fitters	High school diploma ^b	14	114	100	714.3
39-3091	Amusement & Recreation Attendants	No formal education	12	94	82	683.3
35-3023	Fast Food & Counter Workers	No formal education	19	148	129	678.9
13-1198	Project Mgmt. Specialists & Business Ops. Specialists, All Other	Bachelor's degree	9	70	61	677.8
35-3011	Bartenders	No formal education	122	908	786	644.3
43-6013	Medical Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	High school diploma ^b	27	187	160	592.6
53-3041	Taxi Drivers & Chauffeurs	No formal education	17	117	100	588.2
Total, All Occupations			15,149	49,381	34,232	226.0

Only includes occupations with at least 50 UI benefit recipients in 2020.

^aStandard Occupational Classification code.

^bHigh school diploma or equivalent.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims database.

Revised by M. Moore and T. Glover, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 2/3/21.

increased from 12 in 2019 to 769 in 2020 (757, or 6,308.3%). Large over-the-year increases were also seen in other personal care & service occupations, including manicurists & pedicurists (4,475.0%), childcare workers (3,069.2%), and skincare specialists (2,133.3%). Oftentimes, these

personal care & service occupations are worked by self-employed individuals. For example, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2020) estimated that nationally, 41.0% of all hairdressers, hairstylists, & cosmetologists were self-employed in 2019, as were 41.0% of all fitness trainers & aerobics instructors.

Table 5: Top 20 Occupations with the Greatest Number of Average Weeks of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients in Wyoming, 2020

SOC ^a Code	Title	Education	N	Total Weeks Claimed	Average Weeks Claimed
17-2171	Petroleum Engineers	Bachelor's degree	177	3,067	17.3
43-4111	Interviewers, Except Eligibility & Loan	High school diploma ^b	79	1,349	17.1
47-4011	Construction & Building Inspectors	High school diploma ^b	87	1,355	15.6
47-5012	Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas	No formal education	623	9,544	15.3
19-5011	Occupational Health & Safety Specialists	Associate's degree	78	1,190	15.3
47-5011	Derrick Operators, Oil & Gas	No formal education	129	1,930	15.0
53-7072	Pump Operators, Except Wellhead Pumpers	High school diploma ^b	74	1,111	15.0
47-5013	Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, & Mining	No formal education	481	7,125	14.8
53-7073	Wellhead Pumpers	High school diploma ^b	236	3,476	14.7
49-2094	Electrical & Electronics Repairers, Commercial & Industrial Equipment	Postsecondary non-degree award	123	1,800	14.6
51-9061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	High school diploma ^b	323	4,674	14.5
47-5097	Earth Drillers, Except Oil & Gas; & Explosives Workers, Ordinance Handling Experts, & Blasters	High school diploma ^b	74	1,069	14.4
47-3015	Helpers--Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters	High school diploma ^b	100	1,428	14.3
17-3022	Civil Engineering Technologists & Technicians	Associate's degree	92	1,314	14.3
47-5071	Roustabouts, Oil & Gas	No formal education	464	6,555	14.1
11-3071	Transportation, Storage, & Distribution Managers	High school diploma ^b	98	1,382	14.1
51-2041	Structural Metal Fabricators & Fitters	High school diploma ^b	114	1,594	14.0
41-4012	Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Except Technical & Scientific Products	High school diploma ^b	206	2,865	13.9
47-5098	Underground Mining Machine Operators & Extraction Workers, All Other	High school diploma ^b	146	2,009	13.8
53-3041	Taxi Drivers & Chauffeurs	No formal education	117	1,620	13.8
Total			49,381	554,223	11.2

Only includes occupations with at least 50 benefit recipients in 2020.

^aStandard Occupational Classification code.

^bHigh school diploma or equivalent.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims database.

Revised by M. Moore and T. Glover, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 2/3/21.

Substantial over-the-year increases in claimants were also seen in several occupations that are predominantly found in leisure & hospitality, which was hit harder than any other industry at the start of the pandemic. Such occupations included hosts & hostesses, restaurant, lounge, & coffee shop (986.7%), fast food & counter workers (678.9%), and bartenders (644.3%).

Several mining-related occupations had the highest number of average weeks claimed in 2020 (see Table 5, page 9). Petroleum engineers had the greatest number of weeks claimed on average (17.3), followed by several other mining-related occupations such as rotary drill operators, oil & gas (15.3), derrick operators, oil & gas (15.0), and pump operators, except wellhead pumpers (15.0). As previously mentioned, Wyoming's mining industry endured an extended period of high continued weeks claimed throughout the year. This indicates that individuals who lost jobs in mining in 2020 may have had a more difficult time finding work compared to those who lost jobs in other industries.

Occupations and Claims by Gender

Men accounted for 58.4% of all UI benefit recipients in 2020, and 41.6% of

recipients were women (see Table 6). The number of average weeks claimed for men was 11.8, compared to 10.4 for women.

In prior years, men often accounted for a two-to-one ratio of UI recipients or greater (Wen, 2020b). In 2019, for example, men made up 66.2% of all claimants, while women accounted for 33.8%. From 2019 to 2020, the number of women receiving UI benefits increased at a greater rate (301.2%) compared to men (187.6%; see Table 6). The increase in female benefit recipients is likely due in part to the number of women working in jobs in the leisure & hospitality industry and in personal care & service occupations (see Table 7, page 11). As previously mentioned, many personal care & service occupations are often worked by self-employed individuals who have not historically qualified for Wyoming UI benefits, but may have been able to receive benefits through programs such as PUA.

Prior research from R&P has shown how men and women often work different types of jobs in Wyoming (Glover, et al., 2018). The occupations with the greatest number of UI claimants varied accordingly by gender (see Table 7, page 11). The occupations with the greatest number of UI benefit recipients for men were primarily related to the mining

Table 6: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Recipients in Wyoming by Gender, 2019-2020

		2020			2019			Change, 2019-2020		
		Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
UI Benefit	N	20,518	28,863	49,381	5,114	10,035	15,149	15,404	18,828	34,232
Recipients	%	41.6	58.4	100.0	33.8	66.2	100.0	301.2	187.6	226.0
Total Weeks	N	212,896	341,327	554,223	46,285	85,792	132,077	166,611	255,535	422,146
Claimed	%	38.4	61.6	100.0	35.0	65.0	100.0	360.0	297.9	319.6
Average Weeks	N	10.4	11.8	11.2	9.1	8.5	8.7	1.3	3.3	2.5
Claimed										

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims database.

Revised by M. Moore and T. Glover, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/3/21.

and construction industries, such as truck drivers, construction laborers, welders, electricians, and rotary drill operators, oil & gas. In contrast, many of the occupations with the greatest claims for women were those in leisure & hospitality related jobs or personal care occupations, such as waiters & waitresses, hairdressers, bartenders, and maids & housekeeping cleaners.

Conclusion

There were more people out of work in Wyoming in 2020 compared to recent years, and for longer periods of time. The total number of UI benefit recipients increased from 15,149 to 49,381 over the year, while the average number of weeks claimed increased

Table 7: Top 10 Occupations with the Greatest Number of Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients in Wyoming by Gender, 2020

Women						
Rank	SOC ^a Code	Title	Educational Requirement	N	Weeks Claimed	
					Total	Average
1	35-3031	Waiters & Waitresses	No formal education	1,394	15,282	8.5
2	39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	Postsecondary non-degree award	705	4,104	5.3
3	35-3011	Bartenders	No formal education	624	6,727	7.4
4	37-2012	Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	No formal education	573	5,779	8.9
5	41-2031	Retail Salespersons	No formal education	556	4,959	6.4
6	41-2011	Cashiers	No formal education	470	4,253	7.0
7	43-6014	Secretaries, Except Legal, Medical, & Exec.	High school diploma ^b	432	5,202	11.7
8	43-9061	Office Clerks, General	High school diploma ^b	411	4,949	11.3
9	39-9011	Childcare Workers	High school diploma ^b	403	3,693	9.0
10	43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	High school diploma ^b	379	4,265	8.3
Total				20,518	212,896	10.4

Men						
Rank	SOC ^a Code	Title	Educational Requirement	N	Weeks Claimed	
					Total	Average
1	53-3032	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	Postsecondary non-degree award	1,632	19,570	10.9
2	47-2073	Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	High school diploma ^b	1,508	18,526	11.4
3	47-2061	Construction Laborers	No formal education	1,365	15,397	10.2
4	51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	High school diploma ^b	916	11,900	12.4
5	51-9199	Production Workers, All Other	High school diploma ^b	803	11,113	11.7
6	35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	No formal education	638	5,522	6.2
7	47-5012	Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas	No formal education	620	9,511	15.3
8	51-1011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production & Operating Workers	High school diploma ^b	563	7,304	11.9
9	47-2111	Electricians	High school diploma ^b	543	6,082	10.8
10	49-9071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	High school diploma ^b	519	5,966	10.6
Total				28,863	341,327	11.8

^aStandard Occupational Classification Code.

^bHigh school diploma or equivalent.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims database.

Revised by M. Moore & T. Glover, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 3/3/21.

from 8.7 to 11.2. The occupations with the greatest number of benefit recipients were most often found in occupations related to mining, construction, and leisure & hospitality. In addition, self-employed individuals and others who have not traditionally qualified for regular UI benefits were able to receive some benefits through the CARES Act.

A forthcoming article from R&P will address other aspects of UI benefits in 2020, such as demographics, exhaustion rates, expenses, and more. Weekly, monthly, and annual UI data and statistics are available online at <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI.htm>.

References

- Glover, T., et al. (2018, October). *A Study of the Disparity in Wages Between Men and Women in Wyoming: Update 2018*. Research & Planning, WY DWS. Retrieved March 8, 2021, from <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/WYWageGap2018.htm>
- Knapp, L. (2020, December). Wyoming New Hires Job Skills Survey Results. Retrieved February 9, 2021, from https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/new_hires/2018/00_All_Industrues_2018_NH.pdf#page=1
- Knapp, L. (2021, February). Wyoming New Hires Job Skills Survey results part 2: Comparing new hires occupations across industries. *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, 58(2). Retrieved February 16, 2021.
- Moore, M. (2011, May). What is the difference between an industry and an occupation? *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, 48(5). Retrieved December 7, 2020, from <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0511/0511.pdf>
- Moore, M., and Wen, S. (2021, January). Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims Report, December 2020. Research & Planning, WY DWS. Retrieved February 3, 2021, from https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/UI_Claims_1220.pdf
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2020). Employment projections for self-employed workers. National Employment Matrix. Retrieved February 3, 2021, from <https://data.bls.gov/projections/nationalMatrix?queryParams=TE1100&iotype=i>
- U.S. Department of Labor. (2020). Unemployment insurance relief during COVID-19 outbreak. Retrieved February 3, 2021, from <https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus/unemployment-insurance>
- U.S. Department of Labor. (2020, July 9). Unemployment Insurance weekly claims. Retrieved August 11, 2020, from <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/OPA/newsreleases/ui-claims/20201364.pdf>
- Wen, S. (2020a, May). Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit eligibility status and fund solvency analyses. *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, 57(5). Research & Planning, WY DWS. Retrieved February 5, 2021, from <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/trends/0520/0520.pdf>
- Wen, S. (2020b, February). Wyoming Unemployment Insurance benefit recipient demographics, 2001-2019. Research & Planning, Wyoming DWS. Retrieved March 3, 2021, from <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/demo.htm#gender>
- Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. (n.d.). Frequently asked questions. Retrieved February 3, 2021, from <http://wyomingworkforce.org/workers/ui/faq/>

Unemployment Rates for Selected Occupational Groups During the Coronavirus Pandemic

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Unemployment rates are among the most discussed economic indicators, with data at the national, state, and local levels reported each month. In addition to these total unemployment rates, media reports often mention rates for certain demographic groups, such as teenagers, men, women, and different racial and ethnic groups. This article instead focuses on unemployment rates for the United States broken out by occupational group, such as computer & mathematical occupations, and sales & related occupations. These data are collected each month as part of the Current Population Survey (CPS) and published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Unemployment rates for five selected occupational groups are examined and their experiences during the coronavirus pandemic are compared.

The information presented in this article might be useful for people who are considering different careers. The fact that some occupational groups have reliably lower unemployment rates even during recessions or pandemics could make them more attractive to jobseekers. On the other hand, individuals might choose to avoid careers in occupational groups that often have high jobless rates. This article only reviews the unemployment rate experiences of five occupational groups, but the BLS publishes monthly unemployment data for more than 20 groups at <https://stats.bls.gov/web/empsit/cpseea30.htm> and those data are also broken out by gender.

The unemployment rate for food preparation & serving related occupations has consistently been higher than the U.S.

unemployment rate (see Figure 1, page 14) and it has generally followed the U.S. unemployment rate up in recessions and down during expansions. From 2000 to 2019, unemployment for food preparation & serving related occupations reached a high of 13.9% in January 2010 and then gradually fell to a low of 4.5% in September 2019. In April 2020, as the coronavirus struck and many restaurants closed or limited their services, unemployment among workers in these occupations spiked to 41.8%. It then fell to 22.3% in August, the most recent month available at the time this article was written.

Computer & mathematical occupations have tended to have a lower-than-average unemployment rate for many years (see Figure 2, page 15). This may be related to strong demand for these occupations by employers and a limited supply of workers. Although unemployment for these occupations increased to 4.6% during the pandemic, it was still considerably lower than during the Great Recession, when it peaked at 6.5%. It appears that people working in computer & mathematical occupations were largely unaffected by the pandemic. Many of these individuals may have taken advantage of opportunities to work from home.

The unemployment rate for healthcare practitioners & technical occupations is illustrated in Figure 3 (see page 15). Similar to computer & mathematical occupations, unemployment for these occupations was much lower than the U.S. average, with their jobless rate hovering between 1% and 2% for long periods. It appears likely that the high educational requirements for many of

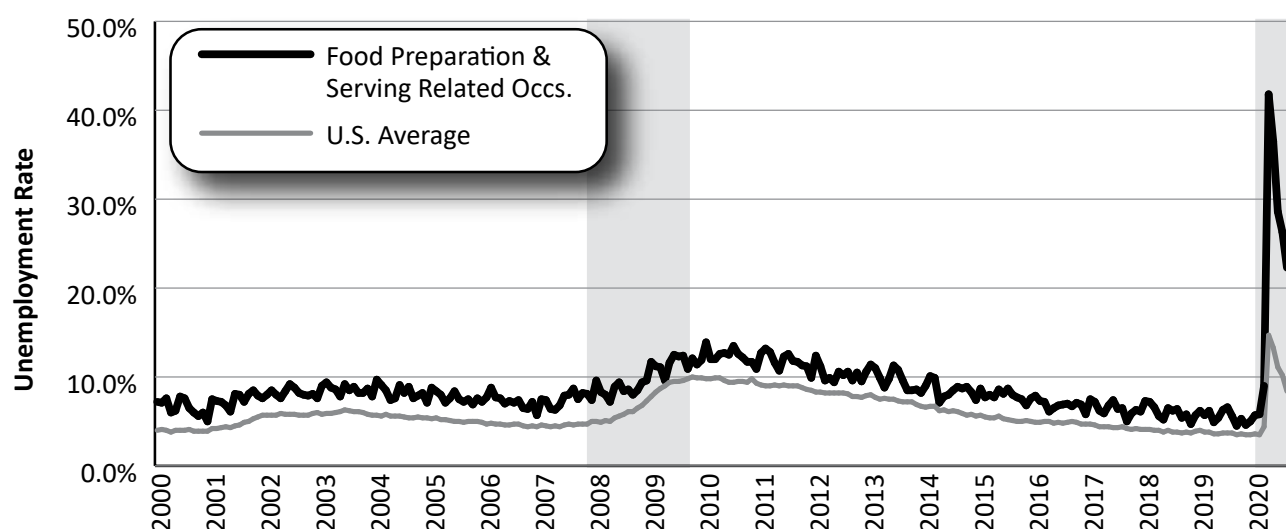
these occupations may have limited the supply of workers, which has helped keep unemployment low. These occupations, however, did see an increase in unemployment in 2020 with their unemployment rate rising to 6.7% in April. By August, unemployment fell to 3.3%.

Unlike the other occupations, unemployment among farming, fishing, & forestry occupations has a strong, easily observable seasonal pattern (see Figure 4, page 16). The unemployment rate for these occupations has tended to be high during the winter months and low during the summer months, and has been generally higher than the U.S. rate. It appears that workers in this occupational group have been largely unaffected by the coronavirus pandemic, as their unemployment rate in 2020 looked very similar to previous years.

The unemployment rate for sales & related occupations was very similar to the

overall U.S. rate from 2000 to 2019, following the U.S. rate through the ups and downs of recession and expansion (see Figure 5, page 16). In April 2020, however, as pandemic-related restrictions caused many retail stores to close, the unemployment rate for sales & related occupations rose to 17.1%, which was higher than the U.S. rate of 14.7%.

Of the five occupational groups examined in this article, it appears that computer & mathematical occupations and farming, fishing, & forestry occupations were the least affected by the coronavirus pandemic. On the other hand, unemployment rates spiked for food preparation & serving related occupations, exceeding 40%, and sales & related occupations, exceeding 17%. Unemployment also increased for healthcare practitioners & technical occupations, but remained lower than the average U.S. rate. On a positive note, the occupational groups that saw large increases in unemployment in April also experienced large decreases in the following four months.

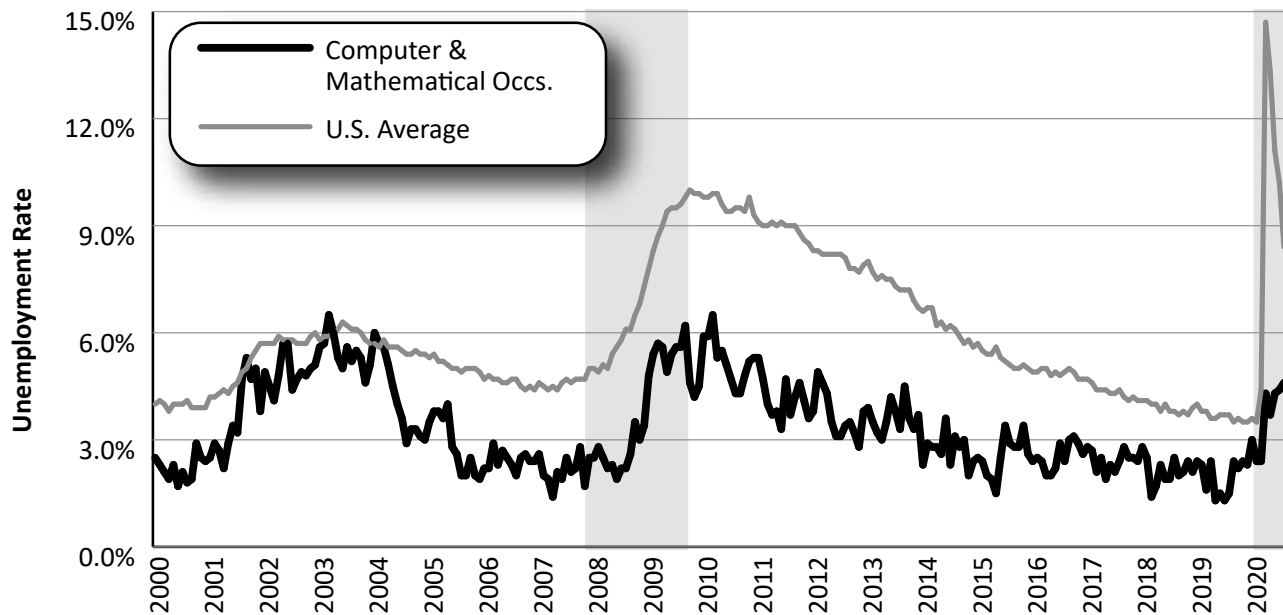


Shaded areas indicate Great Recession (December 2007 to June 2009) and COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020 to present).

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prepared by D. Bullard, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 10/1/20.

Figure 1: Unemployment Rate for Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations and U.S. Unemployment Rate, January 2000-August 2020

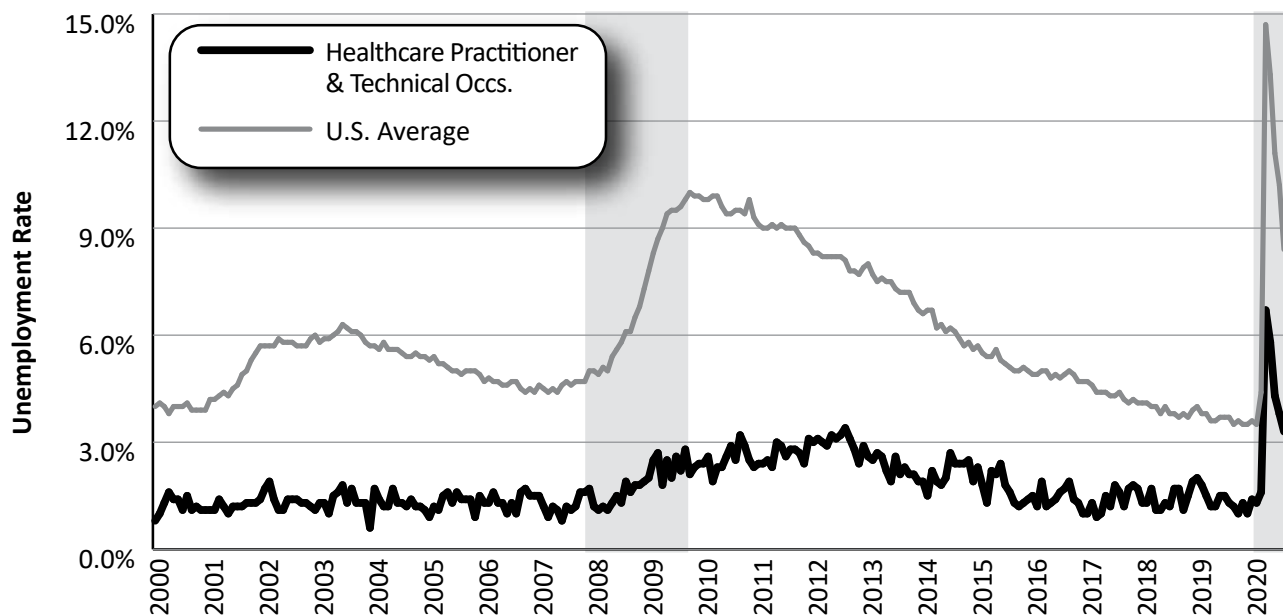


Shaded areas indicate Great Recession (December 2007 to June 2009) and COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020 to present).

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prepared by D. Bullard, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 10/1/20.

Figure 2: Unemployment Rate for Computer & Mathematical Occupations and U.S. Unemployment Rate, January 2000-August 2020

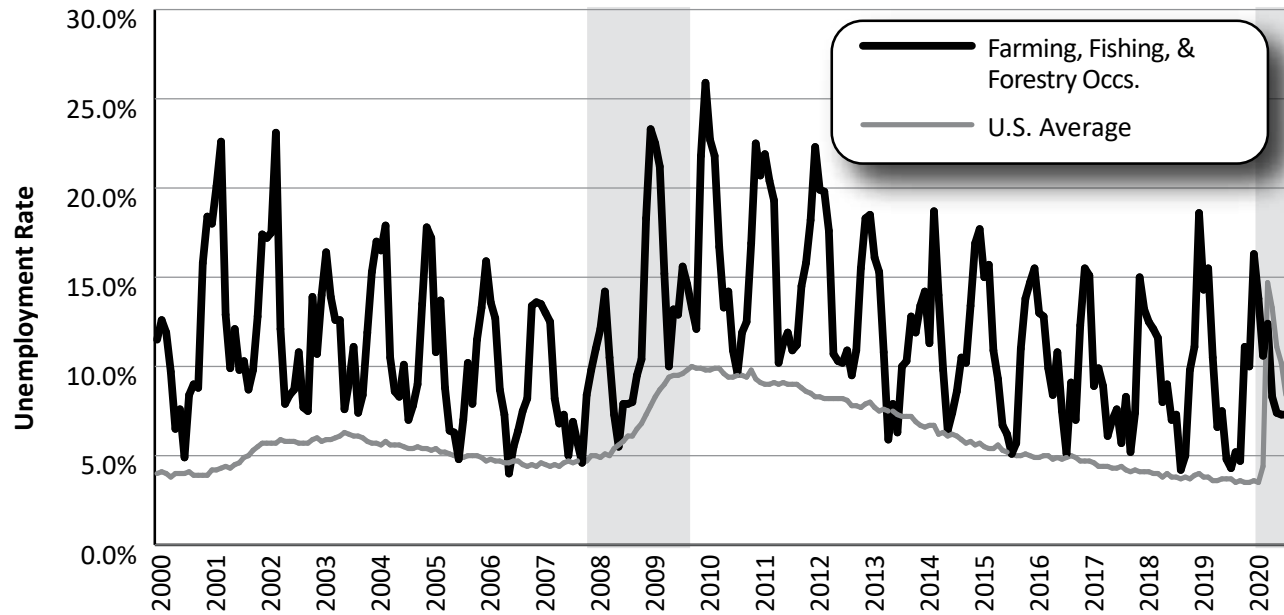


Shaded areas indicate Great Recession (December 2007 to June 2009) and COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020 to present).

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prepared by D. Bullard, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 10/1/20.

Figure 3: Unemployment Rate for Healthcare Practitioner & Technical Occupations and U.S. Unemployment Rate, January 2000-August 2020

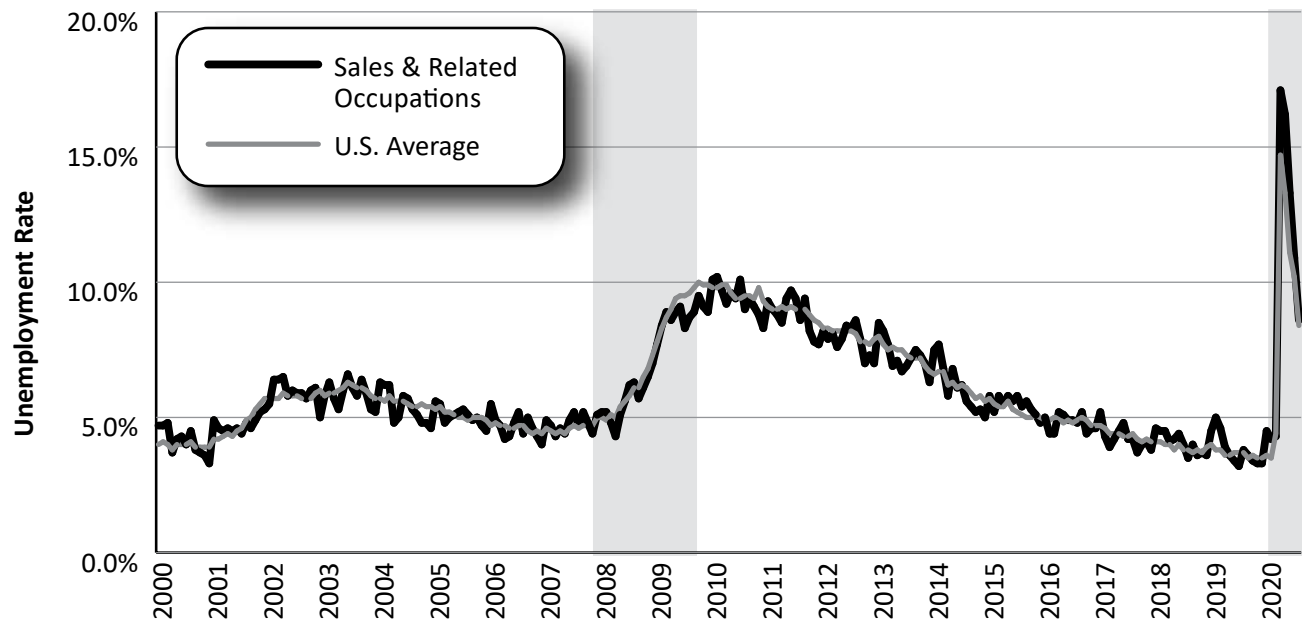


Shaded areas indicate Great Recession (December 2007 to June 2009) and COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020 to present).

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prepared by D. Bullard, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 10/1/20.

Figure 4: Unemployment Rate for Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations and U.S. Unemployment Rate, January 2000-August 2020



Shaded areas indicate Great Recession (December 2007 to June 2009) and COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020 to present).

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prepared by D. Bullard, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 10/1/20.

Figure 5: Unemployment Rate for Sales & Related Occupations and U.S. Unemployment Rate, January 2000-August 2020

Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 5.1% in January 2021

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 from 5.2% in December to 5.1% in January. Wyoming has recently completed a comprehensive annual revision of its unemployment data. The revised data show that the state's unemployment rate peaked at 8.5% in May 2020 and has steadily decreased since then. Wyoming's January unemployment rate of 5.1% was much lower than the U.S. rate of 6.3%.

Most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased from December to January. Unemployment rates often rise in January as seasonal job losses are seen in many sectors, including construction, retail trade, transportation & warehousing, leisure & hospitality, and government. The largest jobless rate increases were seen in Sublette (up from 6.7% to 8.3%), Big Horn (up from 4.7% to 6.2%), Niobrara (up from 3.9% to 5.2%), and

Hot Springs (up from 4.4% to 5.6%) counties.

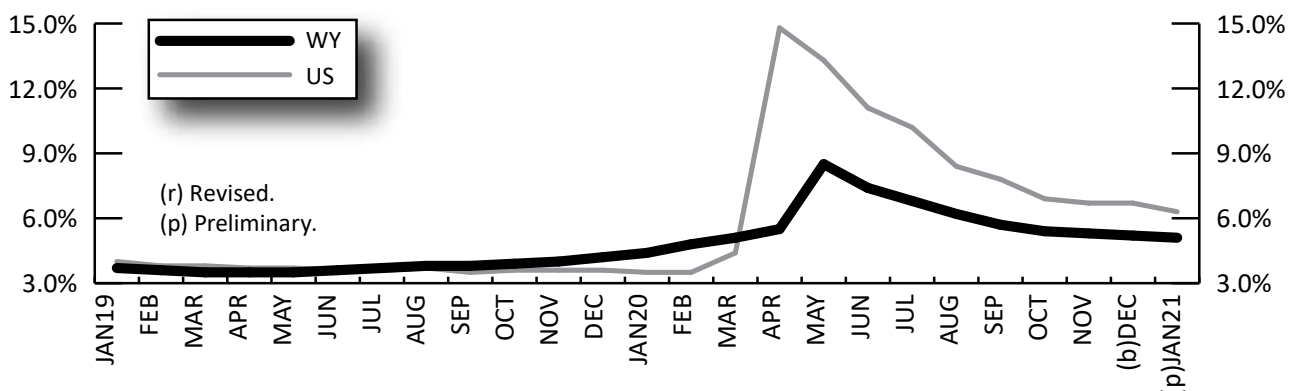
From January 2020 to January 2021, unemployment rates rose in nearly every county. The largest increases were seen in areas of the state dominated by the energy sector. Converse County's unemployment rate rose from 3.5% to 6.7%, Natrona County's rate rose from 5.2% to 8.2%, Campbell County's rate rose from 4.4% to 7.0%, and Sweetwater County's rate rose from 6.2% to 7.7%. In contrast to those increases, Big Horn County's unemployment rate was unchanged from a year earlier at 6.2%.

The lowest unemployment rates in Wyoming were found in Weston County at 3.8%, Crook County at 4.0%, and Teton County at 4.2%. Sublette County reported the highest unemployment rate at 8.3%. It was followed by Natrona County at 8.2%, Sweetwater County at 7.7%, Campbell County at 7.0%, and Converse County at 6.7%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 282,400 in January 2020 to 265,900 in January 2021, a decline of 16,500 jobs (-5.8%).

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.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate



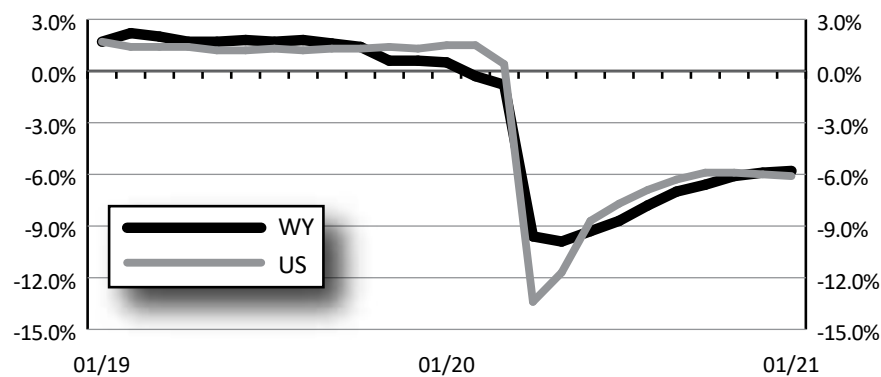
Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Internal Estimates, January 2021

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

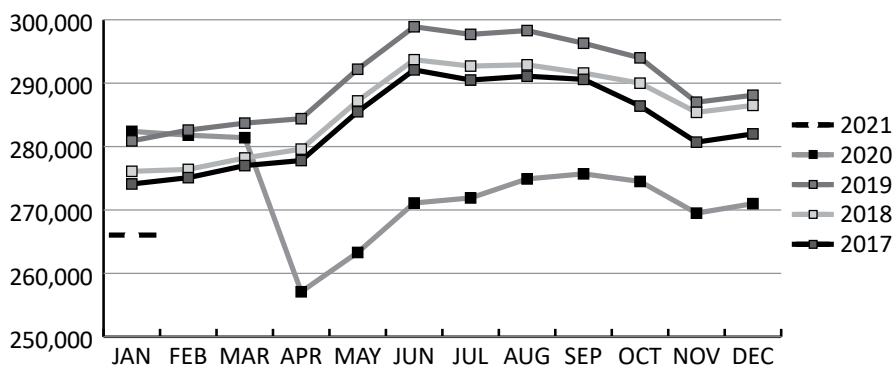
Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Internal Estimates	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm	261,429	265,900	4,472	1.7%
Natural Resources & Mining	14,370	14,700	331	2.2%
Construction	17,959	18,600	641	3.4%
Manufacturing	9,085	9,100	15	0.2%
Wholesale Trade	7,209	7,100	-109	-1.5%
Retail Trade	27,926	28,700	774	2.7%
Transportation & Utilities	13,920	14,100	180	1.3%
Information	2,770	2,800	30	1.1%
Financial Activities	10,687	10,900	213	2.0%
Professional & Business Services	17,070	18,400	1,330	7.2%
Educational & Health Services	28,756	28,700	-56	-0.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	31,360	32,600	1,240	3.8%
Other Services	15,515	15,300	-215	-1.4%
Government	64,802	64,900	98	0.2%

Internal Estimates were run in February 2021 and based on QCEW data through September 2020.

Nonagricultural Employment Growth (Percentage Change Over Previous Year)



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



State Unemployment Rates January 2021 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Hawaii	10.2
Puerto Rico	9.3
California	9.0
New York	8.8
New Mexico	8.7
District of Columbia	8.4
Connecticut	8.1
Nevada	8.1
New Jersey	7.9
Massachusetts	7.8
Illinois	7.7
Louisiana	7.6
Pennsylvania	7.3
Rhode Island	7.2
Texas	6.8
Arizona	6.7
Alaska	6.6
Colorado	6.6
West Virginia	6.5
Maryland	6.4
Mississippi	6.4
United States	6.3
Oregon	6.2
Delaware	6.0
Washington	6.0
North Carolina	5.9
Michigan	5.7
Kentucky	5.3
Ohio	5.3
South Carolina	5.3
Virginia	5.3
Maine	5.2
Georgia	5.1
Tennessee	5.1
Wyoming	5.1
Florida	4.8
Arkansas	4.6
Minnesota	4.5
North Dakota	4.5
Alabama	4.3
Missouri	4.3
Oklahoma	4.3
Indiana	4.2
Montana	4.0
Wisconsin	3.8
New Hampshire	3.6
Iowa	3.5
Kansas	3.5
Idaho	3.4
Nebraska	3.2
Vermont	3.2
South Dakota	3.1
Utah	3.1

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

State Unemployment Rates January 2021 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Jan 21	Dec 20	Jan 20	Jan 21 Dec 20	Jan 21 Jan 20
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	22.5	23.2	25.4	-3.0	-11.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.9	18.5	20.5	-3.2	-12.7
GOODS PRODUCING	6.5	6.8	8.4	-4.4	-22.6
Natural Resources & Mining	4.5	4.6	5.9	-2.2	-23.7
Construction	1.5	1.7	1.9	-11.8	-21.1
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.0	-16.7
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.0	16.4	17.0	-2.4	-5.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.1	5.2	5.4	-1.9	-5.6
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	1.4	1.4	1.6	0.0	-12.5
Educational & Health Services	1.1	1.2	1.1	-8.3	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.1	2.2	2.3	-4.5	-8.7
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	4.6	4.7	4.9	-2.1	-6.1

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Jan 21	Dec 20	Jan 20	Jan 21 Dec 20	Jan 21 Jan 20
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	20.6	21.2	21.9	-2.8	-5.9
TOTAL PRIVATE	15.9	16.4	17.2	-3.0	-7.6
GOODS PRODUCING	5.8	5.9	6.8	-1.7	-14.7
Natural Resources & Mining	3.5	3.5	4.1	0.0	-14.6
Construction	1.1	1.2	1.4	-8.3	-21.4
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.0	-7.7
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.8	15.3	15.1	-3.3	-2.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.3	4.4	4.4	-2.3	-2.3
Information	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	0.9	1.0	1.0	-10.0	-10.0
Educational & Health Services	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.3	2.4	2.3	-4.2	0.0
Other Services	0.5	0.6	0.6	-16.7	-16.7
GOVERNMENT	4.7	4.8	4.7	-2.1	0.0

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Jan 21	Dec 20	Jan 20	Jan 21 Dec 20	Jan 21 Jan 20
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	18.2	17.9	20.7	1.7	-12.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	15.7	15.3	18.1	2.6	-13.3
GOODS PRODUCING	2.2	2.4	2.4	-8.3	-8.3
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	2.0	2.2	2.2	-9.1	-9.1
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.0	15.5	18.3	3.2	-12.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.4	2.4	2.6	0.0	-7.7
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.8	1.9	1.8	-5.3	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	6.1	5.4	8.1	13.0	-24.7
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	2.5	2.6	2.6	-3.8	-3.8

State	Unemp. Rate
Hawaii	9.8
New York	9.4
California	9.2
New Mexico	9.0
Puerto Rico	9.0
Connecticut	8.5
Illinois	8.5
Nevada	8.5
Rhode Island	8.4
Pennsylvania	8.1
District of Columbia	7.9
New Jersey	7.9
Louisiana	7.6
Massachusetts	7.5
Texas	7.3
West Virginia	7.1
Oregon	7.0
Colorado	6.9
Alaska	6.8
Arizona	6.8
Washington	6.8
United States	6.8
Delaware	6.4
Maine	6.4
Maryland	6.3
Mississippi	6.2
Michigan	6.1
Ohio	6.1
Wyoming	6.1
North Carolina	6.0
Virginia	5.7
Kansas	5.4
South Carolina	5.4
Tennessee	5.4
Florida	5.3
Kentucky	5.3
Arkansas	5.1
Minnesota	5.1
Missouri	5.1
North Dakota	5.1
Georgia	5.0
Montana	5.0
Oklahoma	5.0
Indiana	4.7
Iowa	4.6
Wisconsin	4.5
Idaho	4.4
New Hampshire	4.1
Alabama	4.0
Vermont	3.7
Utah	3.4
South Dakota	3.3
Nebraska	3.1

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

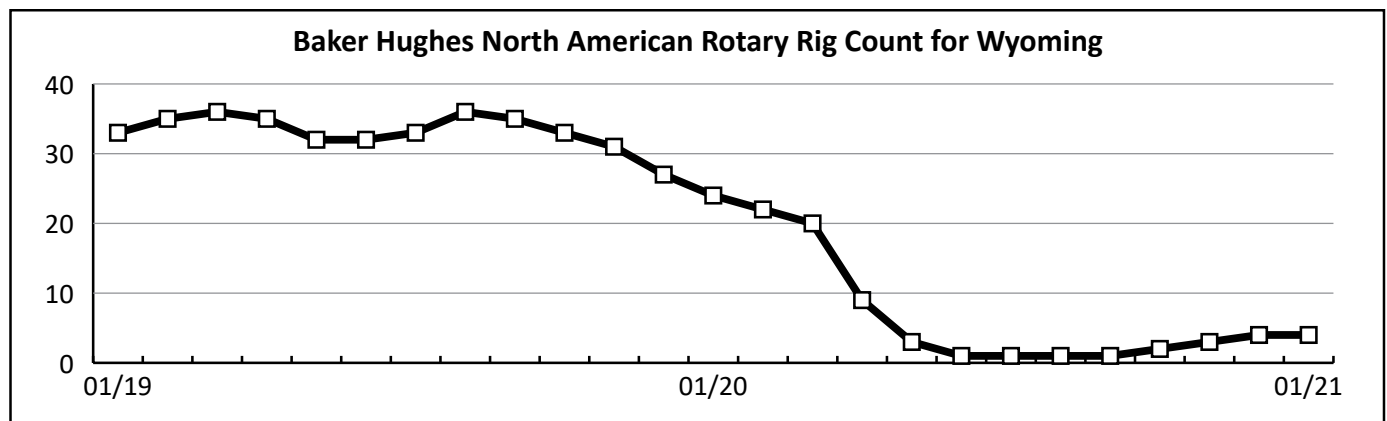
The number of building permits issued for single family homes increased 31.0% from a year earlier.

	Jan 2021 (p)	Dec 2020 (r)	Jan 2020 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	265,900	271,000	282,400	-1.9	-5.8
Wyoming State Government	12,700	13,100	14,100	-3.1	-9.9
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	45,300	46,000	47,600	-1.5	-4.8
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	36,100	36,900	39,100	-2.2	-7.7
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	6,535,000	6,496,000	8,083,000	0.6	-19.2
As a percent of all workers	4.4%	4.3%	5.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	638,000	661,000	350,000	-3.5	82.3
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	6,404,000	6,245,000	4,732,000	2.5	35.3
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	21,396	23,732	15,558	-9.8	37.5
Benefits Paid	\$9,016,117	\$9,979,055	\$6,400,982	-9.6	40.9
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$421.39	\$420.49	\$411.43	0.2	2.4
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	261.6	260.5	258.0	0.4	1.4
Food & Beverages	270.3	269.4	260.6	0.3	3.7
Housing	274.3	273.7	269.5	0.2	1.8
Apparel	117.8	114.4	120.9	2.9	-2.5
Transportation	205.6	203.6	208.3	1.0	-1.3
Medical Care	522.1	518.8	512.1	0.6	1.9
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	122.1	122.7	122.0	-0.4	0.1
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	141.6	141.5	139.1	0.0	1.7
Other Goods & Services	468.0	466.3	458.3	0.4	2.1
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	204.3	200.6	199.3	1.8	2.5
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	184	214	103	-14.0	78.6
Valuation	\$53,627,000	\$63,353,000	\$29,381,000	-15.4	82.5
Single Family Homes	114	122	87	-6.6	31.0
Valuation	\$47,084,000	\$48,605,000	\$28,181,000	-3.1	67.1
Casper MSA ¹ Building Permits	7	13	9	-46.2	-22.2
Valuation	\$1,887,000	\$2,591,000	\$2,682,000	-27.2	-29.6
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	76	109	51	-30.3	49.0
Valuation	\$10,723,000	\$19,415,000	\$8,266,000	-44.8	29.7
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	4	4	24	0.0	-83.3

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

¹Metropolitan 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*

The lowest unemployment rates were found in Weston (3.8%), Crook (4.0%), and Teton (4.2%) counties.

REGION	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Jan 2021	Dec 2020	Jan 2020	Jan 2021	Dec 2020	Jan 2020	Jan 2021	Dec 2020	Jan 2020	Jan 2021	Dec 2020	Jan 2020
County	(p)	(b)	(b)	(p)	(b)	(b)	(p)	(b)	(b)	(p)	(b)	(b)
NORTHWEST	45,605	45,423	45,440	42,796	43,088	42,723	2,809	2,335	2,717	6.2	5.1	6.0
Big Horn	5,294	5,280	5,235	4,966	5,031	4,909	328	249	326	6.2	4.7	6.2
Fremont	19,236	19,187	19,092	18,006	18,141	17,896	1,230	1,046	1,196	6.4	5.5	6.3
Hot Springs	2,248	2,247	2,222	2,122	2,148	2,119	126	99	103	5.6	4.4	4.6
Park	14,784	14,697	14,824	13,880	13,941	13,940	904	756	884	6.1	5.1	6.0
Washakie	4,043	4,012	4,067	3,822	3,827	3,859	221	185	208	5.5	4.6	5.1
NORTHEAST	51,039	50,769	51,364	47,980	48,132	49,057	3,059	2,637	2,307	6.0	5.2	4.5
Campbell	23,062	22,955	23,752	21,447	21,540	22,700	1,615	1,415	1,052	7.0	6.2	4.4
Crook	3,880	3,814	3,712	3,726	3,680	3,581	154	134	131	4.0	3.5	3.5
Johnson	4,082	4,063	4,075	3,844	3,864	3,863	238	199	212	5.8	4.9	5.2
Sheridan	16,179	16,119	15,910	15,274	15,361	15,136	905	758	774	5.6	4.7	4.9
Weston	3,836	3,818	3,915	3,689	3,687	3,777	147	131	138	3.8	3.4	3.5
SOUTHWEST	58,096	57,848	59,121	54,492	54,659	56,132	3,604	3,189	2,989	6.2	5.5	5.1
Lincoln	9,442	9,327	9,145	8,948	8,931	8,719	494	396	426	5.2	4.2	4.7
Sublette	3,945	3,890	4,064	3,619	3,628	3,775	326	262	289	8.3	6.7	7.1
Sweetwater	20,516	20,645	21,267	18,945	19,248	19,946	1,571	1,397	1,321	7.7	6.8	6.2
Teton	14,938	14,654	15,610	14,314	14,033	15,129	624	621	481	4.2	4.2	3.1
Uinta	9,255	9,332	9,035	8,666	8,819	8,563	589	513	472	6.4	5.5	5.2
SOUTHEAST	82,595	82,362	82,788	78,356	78,790	79,233	4,239	3,572	3,555	5.1	4.3	4.3
Albany	19,120	19,212	20,149	18,255	18,471	19,388	865	741	761	4.5	3.9	3.8
Goshen	6,662	6,625	6,570	6,345	6,348	6,297	317	277	273	4.8	4.2	4.2
Laramie	50,814	50,684	50,165	48,085	48,397	47,930	2,729	2,287	2,235	5.4	4.5	4.5
Niobrara	1,284	1,246	1,235	1,217	1,198	1,187	67	48	48	5.2	3.9	3.9
Platte	4,715	4,595	4,669	4,454	4,376	4,431	261	219	238	5.5	4.8	5.1
CENTRAL	56,672	56,406	57,311	52,355	52,625	54,485	4,317	3,781	2,826	7.6	6.7	4.9
Carbon	8,113	8,077	7,804	7,673	7,712	7,417	440	365	387	5.4	4.5	5.0
Converse	7,854	7,778	8,967	7,325	7,310	8,654	529	468	313	6.7	6.0	3.5
Natrona	40,705	40,551	40,540	37,357	37,603	38,414	3,348	2,948	2,126	8.2	7.3	5.2
STATEWIDE	294,006	292,809	296,026	275,978	277,297	281,630	18,028	15,512	14,396	6.1	5.3	4.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										5.1	5.2	4.4
U.S.										6.8	6.5	4.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										6.3	6.7	3.5

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/2021. Run Date 03/2021.

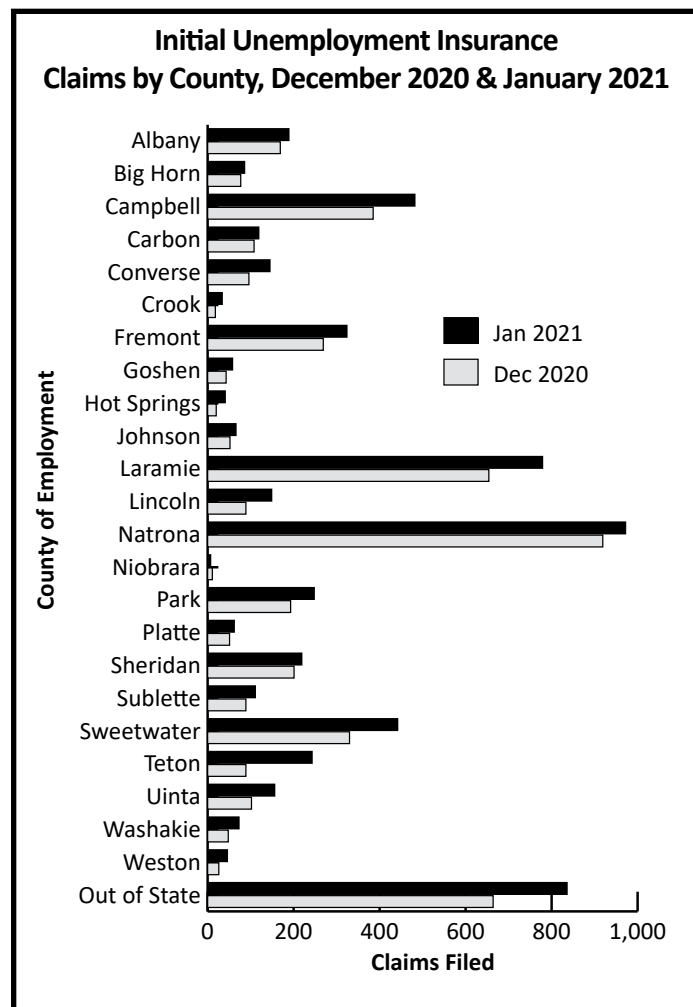
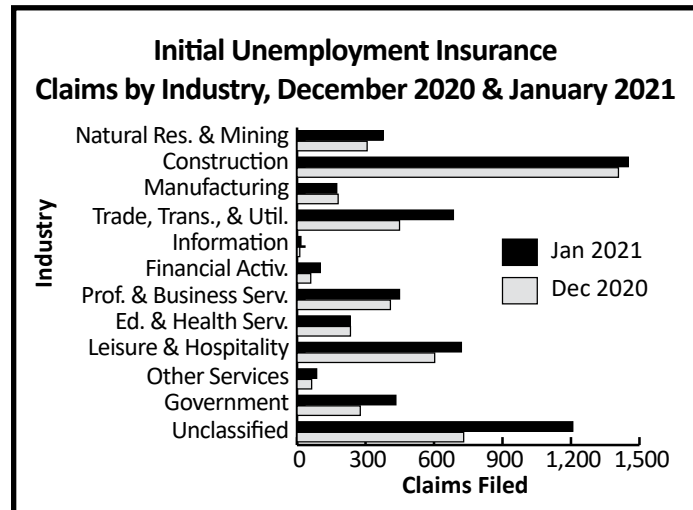
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Sherry Wen, Principal Economist

Initial claims followed their usual seasonal trends from December 2020 to January 2021, increasing 25.3%.



Initial Claims

	Claims Filed			% Change	
	Jan 21	Dec 20	Jan 20	Over the Month	Over the Year
Wyoming Statewide					
Total Claims Filed	5,940	4,740	2,781	25.3	113.6
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	2,003	1,896	1,375	5.6	45.7
Natural Resources & Mining	377	307	228	22.8	65.4
Mining	337	276	208	22.1	62.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	23	20	7	15.0	228.6
Construction	1,451	1,408	1,033	3.1	40.5
Manufacturing	174	180	113	-3.3	54.0
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	2,295	1,835	950	25.1	141.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	685	449	320	52.6	114.1
Wholesale Trade	95	77	38	23.4	150.0
Retail Trade	325	218	150	49.1	116.7
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	264	153	131	72.5	101.5
Information	17	12	8	41.7	112.5
Financial Activities	102	60	41	70.0	148.8
Professional & Business Services	449	409	252	9.8	78.2
Educational & Health Services	233	234	90	-0.4	158.9
Leisure & Hospitality	720	603	193	19.4	273.1
Other Services, except Public Admin.	86	64	43	34.4	100.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	433	277	177	56.3	144.6
Federal Government	200	142	86	40.8	132.6
State Government	50	30	17	66.7	194.1
Local Government	181	105	73	72.4	147.9
Local Education	69	43	14	60.5	392.9
UNCLASSIFIED	1,208	730	277	65.5	336.1
Laramie County					
Total Claims Filed	779	654	375	19.1	107.7
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	244	273	160	-10.6	52.5
Construction	216	243	142	-11.1	52.1
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	339	257	158	31.9	114.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	99	55	46	80.0	115.2
Financial Activities	25	13	7	92.3	257.1
Professional & Business Services	80	63	56	27.0	42.9
Educational & Health Services	46	52	20	-11.5	130.0
Leisure & Hospitality	71	57	19	24.6	273.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	42	23	23	82.6	82.6
UNCLASSIFIED	152	100	33	52.0	360.6
Natrona County					
Total Claims Filed	972	919	397	5.8	144.8
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	337	350	213	-3.7	58.2
Construction	229	264	160	-13.3	43.1
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	430	433	151	-0.7	184.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	141	119	55	18.5	156.4
Financial Activities	19	9	7	111.1	171.4
Professional & Business Services	95	91	40	4.4	137.5
Educational & Health Services	46	71	17	-35.2	170.6
Leisure & Hospitality	99	125	20	-20.8	395.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	42	25	4	68.0	950.0
UNCLASSIFIED	161	109	28	47.7	475.0

N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality.

^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: Sherry Wen, Principal Economist

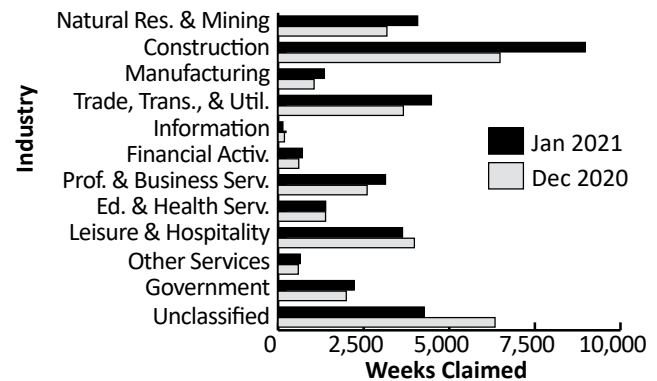
The total number of continued weeks claimed increased from 32,057 to 35,032 (2,975, or 9.3%) from December to January. The total number of unique claimants increased from 8,895 to 11,450 (2,555, or 28.7%).

Continued Claims

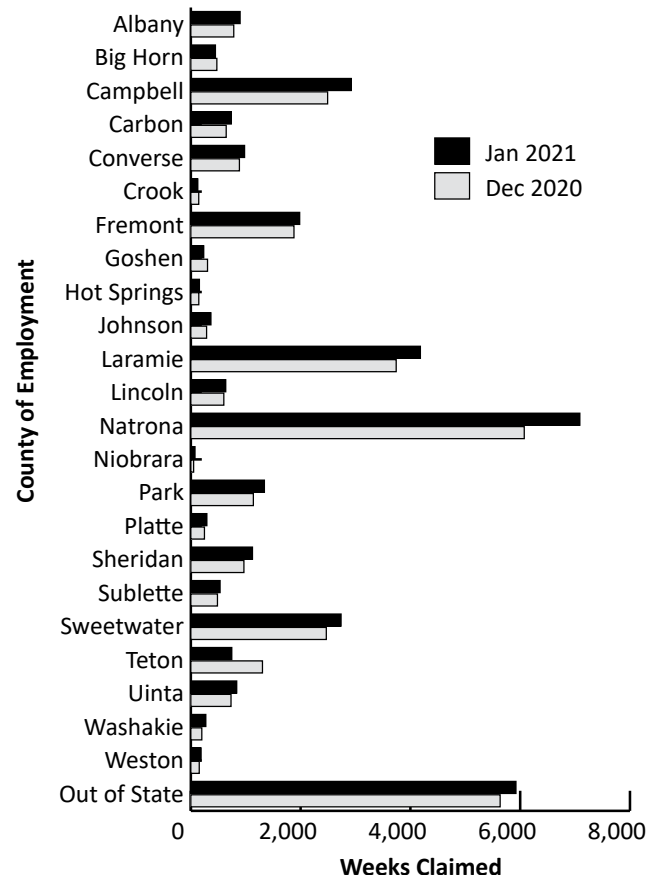
	Claims Filed			% Change	
	Jan 21	Dec 20	Jan 20	Over the Month	Over the Year
Wyoming Statewide					
Total Weeks Claimed	35,032	32,057	17,707	9.3	97.8
Total Unique Claimants	11,450	8,895	4,917	28.7	132.9
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	14,401	10,714	8,235	34.4	74.9
Natural Resources & Mining	4,077	3,179	1,794	28.2	127.3
Mining	3,846	3,052	1,617	26.0	137.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	244	193	83	26.4	194.0
Construction	8,970	6,482	5,788	38.4	55.0
Manufacturing	1,353	1,052	652	28.6	107.5
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	14,140	13,013	5,725	8.7	147.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4,479	3,660	1,531	22.4	192.6
Wholesale Trade	1,193	970	245	23.0	386.9
Retail Trade	1,805	1,498	709	20.5	154.6
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,479	1,191	576	24.2	156.8
Information	141	186	90	-24.2	56.7
Financial Activities	710	604	282	17.5	151.8
Professional & Business Services	3,138	2,601	1,633	20.6	92.2
Educational & Health Services	1,391	1,387	555	0.3	150.6
Leisure & Hospitality	3,635	3,981	1,395	-8.7	160.6
Other Services, except Public Admin.	645	591	236	9.1	173.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,221	1,992	1,569	11.5	41.6
Federal Government	926	775	852	19.5	8.7
State Government	267	242	122	10.3	118.9
Local Government	1,027	975	594	5.3	72.9
Local Education	290	305	103	-4.9	181.6
UNCLASSIFIED	4,269	6,337	2,176	-32.6	96.2
Laramie County					
Total Weeks Claimed	4,182	3,741	2,206	11.8	89.6
Total Unique Claimants	1,354	1,046	626	29.4	116.3
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,644	1,119	1,150	46.9	43.0
Construction	1,321	825	1,030	60.1	28.3
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,851	1,672	668	10.7	177.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	527	463	203	13.8	159.6
Financial Activities	107	87	48	23.0	122.9
Professional & Business Services	427	368	183	16.0	133.3
Educational & Health Services	290	296	78	-2.0	271.8
Leisure & Hospitality	378	361	80	4.7	372.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	215	190	123	13.2	74.8
UNCLASSIFIED	471	758	263	-37.9	79.1
Natrona County					
Total Weeks Claimed	7,087	6,074	2,497	16.7	183.8
Total Unique Claimants	2,352	1,714	718	37.2	227.6
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	2,736	2,018	1,270	35.6	115.4
Construction	1,481	1,067	892	38.8	66.0
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	3,481	2,901	958	20.0	263.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	1,301	1,026	306	26.8	325.2
Financial Activities	228	210	51	8.6	347.1
Professional & Business Services	648	514	273	26.1	137.4
Educational & Health Services	335	296	110	13.2	204.5
Leisure & Hospitality	657	546	143	20.3	359.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	187	174	72	7.5	159.7
UNCLASSIFIED	681	981	195	-30.6	249.2

^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, December 2020 & January 2021



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, December 2020 & January 2021



**Wyoming Department of Workforce
Services, Research & Planning
P.O. Box 2760
Casper, WY 82602**

**Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300
Return Service Requested**

**PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
CASPER WY
PERMIT NO. 100**

[]