

TRENDS

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Eligibility Status and Fund Solvency Analyses

by: Sherry Wen, Principal Economist

Approximately three-fourths of Wyoming workers would be eligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits if they became unemployed through no fault of their own. Wyoming's UI trust fund is currently at a solvent level based on the reserved fund level and cost experiences from past economic downturns.

With the recent COVID-19 pandemic-related business closures and low energy prices of coal, oil, & gas, Wyoming experienced a surge in unemployed workers in March and April 2020. The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services' Unemployment Insurance (UI) division has received and processed a historically large number of UI claims, raising concerns as to how the state UI system will be able to handle this unprecedented large number of unemployed workers and if the state has reserved enough funds to pay their UI benefits.

At this point, the pandemic-related business closures are more likely a temporary event, although it is uncertain how long this will continue. Some workers

who lost jobs during the pandemic — if not all — should be able to go back to work once the businesses reopen. Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act, 2020), the federal government has provided special funds to extend the UI benefit amount by an additional \$600 per week and the collection duration by 13 additional weeks for unemployed workers during this period.

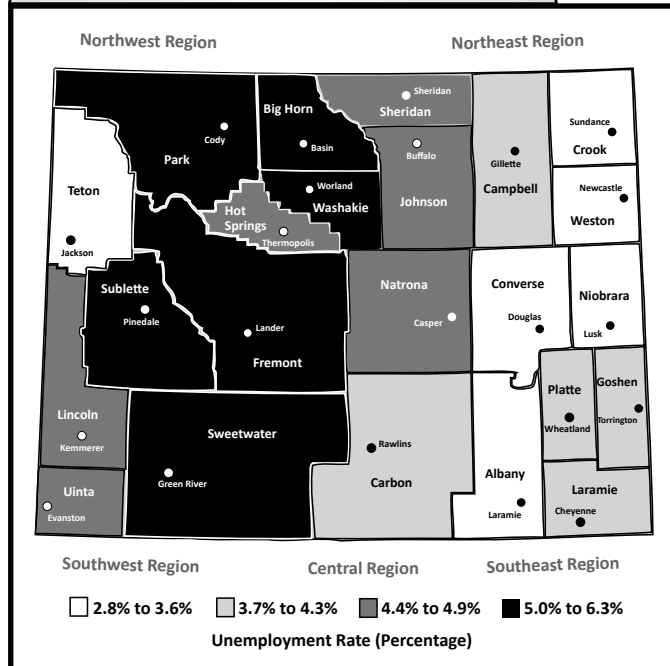
The research presented in this article only focuses on the regular state-provided UI benefits and state-reserved UI funds, and describes how well the Wyoming UI system will function in terms of providing

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Research & Planning is publishing weekly Unemployment Insurance claims data, available online at https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/weekly_UI_TOC.htm ... page 16
- The dollar amount of Unemployment Insurance benefits paid in March increased 86.6% from a year earlier. ... page 20

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, March 2020 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



IN THIS ISSUE

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Eligibility Status and Fund Solvency Analyses.	1
Now Online: Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims Data for Wyoming	16
Wyoming Unemployment Unchanged at 3.7% in March 2020	17
Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Internal Estimates, March 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

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(Text continued from page 1)

temporary financial support to the unemployed workers and maintain the labor supply in the state. This research used wage records from third quarter 2019 (2019Q3), which were the most current records available at the time, to explore the UI eligibility status of all individuals who worked in Wyoming that quarter and the potential cost associated with UI benefits. Wage Records is an administrative database collected by the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services and represents the wage history of workers and provides a count of the number of people working in Wyoming. The database is based on employers' quarterly wage and employment reports to the UI tax section.

According to Wyoming Employment Security Law (27-3-306), an unemployed worker has to meet two sets of requirements to qualify for regular UI benefits: nonmonetary and monetary criteria. Nonmonetary criteria require individuals to 1) have involuntarily separated from their employers or lost jobs through no fault of their own; 2) be able and available to work; 3) be actively seeking jobs. In general, an individual can control the nonmonetary eligibility criteria to some degree.

Monetary criteria basically require unemployed workers to have earned sufficient wage credits during their base period. The base period is the first four of the last five completed calendar

quarters preceding the one in which an unemployed worker filed an initial claim for UI benefits. There are two monetary criteria in Wyoming. First, the unemployed individual's base period wage has to be at least 8% of the statewide annual average

wage (minimum wage requirement). This minimum wage requirement changes in each state fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), and was \$3,800 for FY 2020. Second, the individual's total base period wage must be at least 1.4 times his or her high quarter wages

in the base period (high quarter wage requirement). These monetary criteria are not controllable by individual workers.

This research only focuses on monetary criteria with the express purpose of finding out what proportion of Wyoming workers would be able to receive UI benefits if they lost jobs, at what benefit level and for how long they would qualify. This article also discusses which industry's workers are more likely to qualify for higher UI benefits and the UI eligibility differences by gender and age.

Find More Online

<https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI.htm>

This page includes a variety of information, including weekly, monthly, and annual UI claims data tables and figures, reports, articles, trust fund balance, and more.

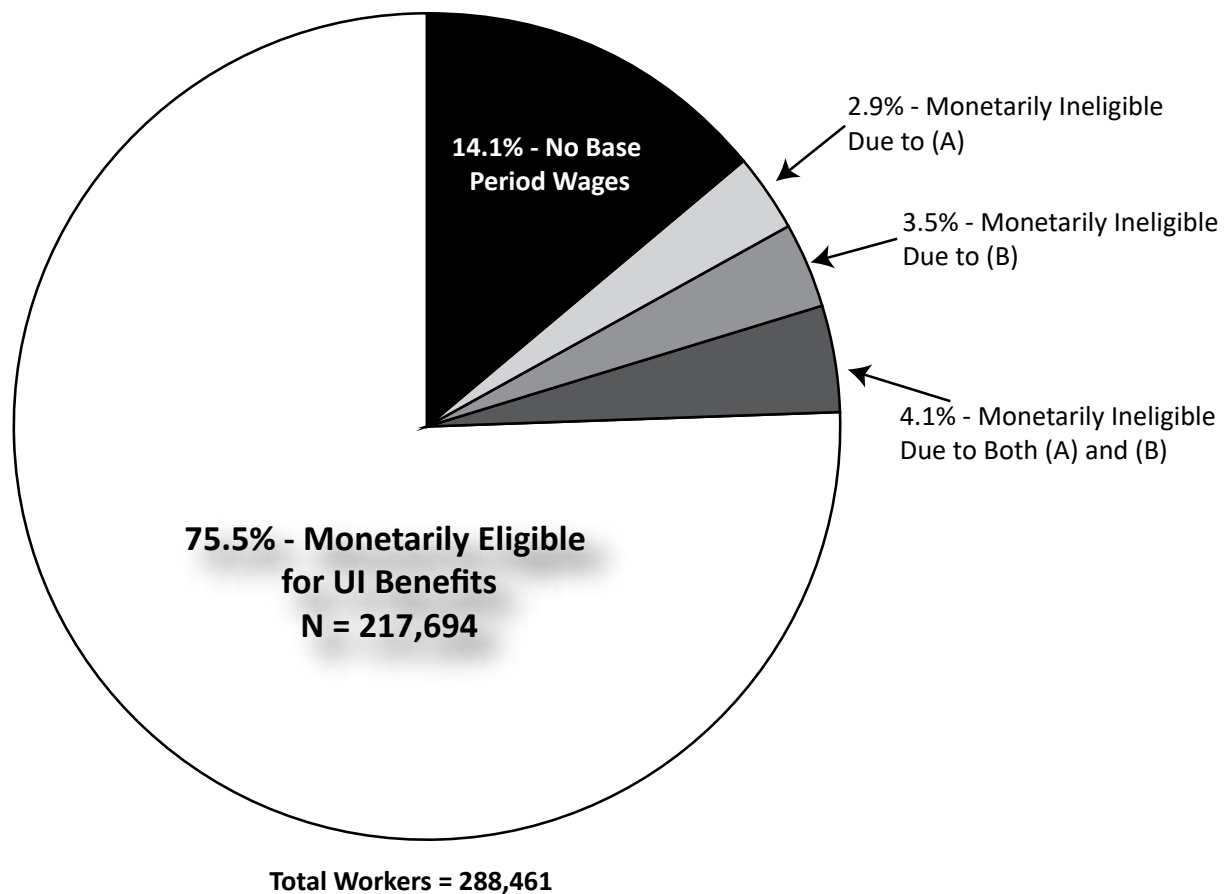
Overall UI Eligibility Situation

A total of 288,461 individuals worked and had wages at any time in Wyoming during 2019Q3. Assuming that they all lost jobs in 2019Q3 and needed to apply for UI benefits (a hypothetical worst-case scenario), then about three-fourths (75.5%, or 217,694 individuals) of Wyoming workers would be eligible for UI benefits (see Figure 1). In other words, nearly

one in four Wyoming workers would not qualify for UI benefits for one of the following reasons:

- 14.1% (40,578 workers) had no work and no wages at all during the base period (2018Q2 to 2019Q1)
- 2.9% (8,316 workers) did not meet the minimum base period wage requirement
- 3.5% (9,998 workers) did not meet the high quarter wage requirement
- 4.1% (11,875 workers) did not meet both minimum and high quarter wage requirements

This left 217,694 individuals eligible to receive UI benefits. The research presented in this article focuses on this group of workers.



(A) An unemployed worker must have earned at least 8% of the statewide average annual wage during the base period (Wyoming Employment Security Law 27-3-306(d)(i)(2014)). The minimum base period wage was \$3,800 in state fiscal year 2020.

(B) An unemployed worker's total base period wage must be at least 1.4 times his or her high quarter wages in the base period ((Wyoming Employment Security Law 27-3-306(d)(iii)(2014)).

Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to rounding.

Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

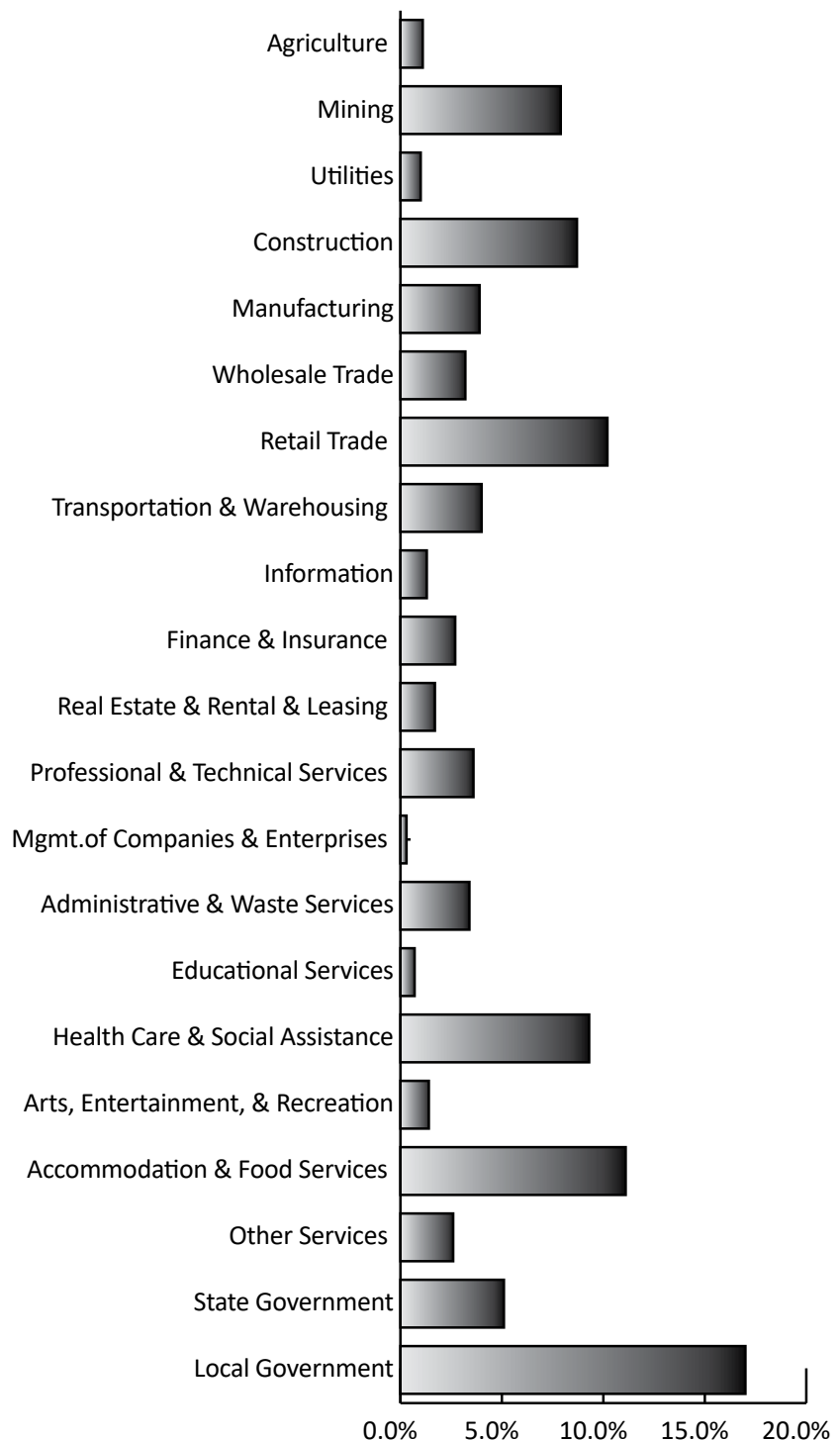
Figure 1: Percent Distribution of UI Covered Workers by Unemployment Insurance (UI) Monetary Eligibility for Wyoming 2019Q3

Employment Structure by Industry

The largest percentage (17.0%) of Wyoming workers were employed in local government in 2019Q3, which includes county and city governments, school districts, hospitals, fire districts, and others (see Figure 2). In terms of private industry, the sectors with the most workers were accommodation & food services (11.1%) and retail trade (10.2%), followed by health care & social assistance (9.3%), construction (8.7%), and mining (7.9%). In other words, these industries were the five largest private job providers in Wyoming.

UI Eligibility and Wage Replacement by Industry

Nine of the private industries would have 90% or more of their workers eligible to receive UI benefits: mining, utilities, manufacturing, wholesale trade, transportation & warehousing, finance & insurance, real estate & rental & leasing, health care & social assistance, and accommodation & food services.



Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database, Research & Planning, WY DWS.
Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

Figure 2: Percentage of Unemployment Insurance Covered Workers by Industry in Wyoming, 2019Q3

management of companies & enterprises, and health care & social assistance (see Table 1a). On the other hand, four private industries would have more than 20% of their workers not eligible for UI benefits: administrative & waste services, educational services, arts, entertainment, & recreation, and accommodation & food services.

Table 1b (see page 7) includes total wages and average weekly wages by industry and potential total UI benefits and average weekly UI benefit amount by industry. Usually, the higher wages an individual made before losing a job, the more difficult it is for UI benefits to make up her or his financial losses. Mining, utilities, and management of

companies & enterprises had the highest weekly wages (from \$1,568 per week to \$1,745 per week). They were also the three industries that would have the lowest wage replacement rate once their workers lost jobs (from 26.8% to 28.8%). Agriculture and accommodation & food services would be the only two industries for which UI benefits could potentially replace 45% or more of their average weekly wages. The statewide average wage replacement rate would be 37.3%.

The amount and duration of UI benefits an individual could be eligible to receive depends on how much this person earned during the base period. By law, the weekly UI benefit an eligible person could receive is equal to 4% of her or his high quarter

Table 1a: Unemployment Insurance Eligibility in Wyoming by Industry, 2019Q3

Industry	Eligible for UI		Not Eligible for UI		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Agriculture	2,205	82.7	462	17.3	2,667	100.0
Mining	18,375	93.5	1,280	6.5	19,655	100.0
Utilities	2,357	97.8	52	2.2	2,409	100.0
Construction	18,123	84.2	3,408	15.8	21,531	100.0
Manufacturing	9,120	93.6	623	6.4	9,743	100.0
Wholesale Trade	7,370	93.5	514	6.5	7,884	100.0
Retail Trade	21,719	85.8	3,603	14.2	25,322	100.0
Transportation & Warehousing	9,092	90.6	943	9.4	10,035	100.0
Information	2,824	89.6	327	10.4	3,151	100.0
Finance & Insurance	6,426	95.8	281	4.2	6,707	100.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,775	90.0	418	10.0	4,193	100.0
Professional & Technical Services	8,119	89.8	922	10.2	9,041	100.0
Mgmt.of Companies & Enterprises	564	91.0	56	9.0	620	100.0
Administrative & Waste Services	6,648	79.8	1,688	20.2	8,336	100.0
Educational Services	1,148	71.0	470	29.0	1,618	100.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	20,858	90.7	2,139	9.3	22,997	100.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,358	70.2	1,002	29.8	3,360	100.0
Accommodation & Food Services	20,845	75.9	6,612	24.1	27,457	100.0
Other Services	5,480	85.8	907	14.2	6,387	100.0
State Government	11,648	92.5	945	7.5	12,593	100.0
Local Government	38,585	91.6	3,526	8.4	42,111	100.0
Nonclassified	55	83.3	11	16.7	66	100.0
Total	217,694	87.8	30,189	12.2	247,883	100.0

Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database, Research & Planning, WY DWS.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

wage during the base period. The law limits the maximum weekly benefit to the 55% of the previous year's statewide average weekly wage, which changes every year. The maximum weekly benefit for state fiscal year 2020 was \$508. The maximum benefit an individual could receive for one year starting with the effective date of the initial claims is 30% of his or her base period wage, or 26 times the weekly benefit, whichever is less. The potential UI duration (the number of weeks an individual is able to receive UI benefits) is determined by the maximum benefit divided by the weekly benefit, up to a

maximum of 26 weeks in a benefit year.

In general, the greater the weekly benefit amount and the longer time eligible for receiving UI benefits, the easier it is for individuals to overcome the financial difficulties of unemployment. Increased benefits also afford more flexibility to receive reemployment services and look for jobs.

This research shows that less than half (47.3%) of the 217,694 UI eligible individuals would qualify for the maximum weekly benefit (\$508) if they

Table 1b: Total Wages, UI Benefits, and Wage Replacement in Wyoming by Industry, 2019Q3

Industry	Total Wages, 2019Q3	Average Weekly Wage	UI Potential Benefits ^a		
			Max Benefits	Average Weekly Amount	Average Wage Replace- ment Rate
Agriculture	\$20,514,180	\$716	\$19,132,275	\$333	46.5
Mining	\$397,551,664	\$1,664	\$228,968,612	\$479	28.8
Utilities	\$53,470,432	\$1,745	\$30,180,903	\$492	28.2
Construction	\$250,418,688	\$1,063	\$185,739,059	\$394	37.1
Manufacturing	\$155,740,516	\$1,314	\$102,282,189	\$431	32.8
Wholesale Trade	\$115,865,159	\$1,209	\$82,470,347	\$430	35.6
Retail Trade	\$186,814,192	\$662	\$165,523,693	\$293	44.3
Transportation & Warehousing	\$123,432,212	\$1,044	\$93,248,819	\$394	37.7
Information	\$38,527,661	\$1,049	\$28,824,149	\$392	37.4
Finance & Insurance	\$97,553,008	\$1,168	\$67,852,608	\$406	34.8
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	\$50,633,566	\$1,032	\$37,393,041	\$380	36.8
Professional & Technical Services	\$132,348,497	\$1,254	\$85,941,119	\$407	32.5
Mgmt.of Companies & Enterprises	\$11,494,492	\$1,568	\$6,165,531	\$420	26.8
Administrative & Waste Services	\$65,146,852	\$754	\$53,869,390	\$311	41.3
Educational Services	\$12,286,927	\$823	\$10,243,589	\$343	41.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$259,965,444	\$959	\$187,521,861	\$345	36.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	\$18,629,343	\$608	\$16,442,373	\$268	44.1
Accommodation & Food Services	\$142,121,530	\$524	\$128,049,815	\$236	45.0
Other Services	\$62,151,987	\$872	\$50,326,811	\$353	40.5
State Government	\$172,815,953	\$1,141	\$132,739,997	\$438	38.4
Local Government	\$454,619,314	\$906	\$395,007,632	\$393	43.4
Nonclassified	\$857,618	\$1,199	\$572,806	\$400	33.3
Total	\$2,822,959,234	\$998	\$2,108,496,619	\$373	37.3

^aPotential maximum benefit cost in 26 weeks if all jobs were lost.

Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.
Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

lost their jobs and applied for UI benefits in 2019Q3 (see Table 2 and Figure 3). Among the state's top five private job

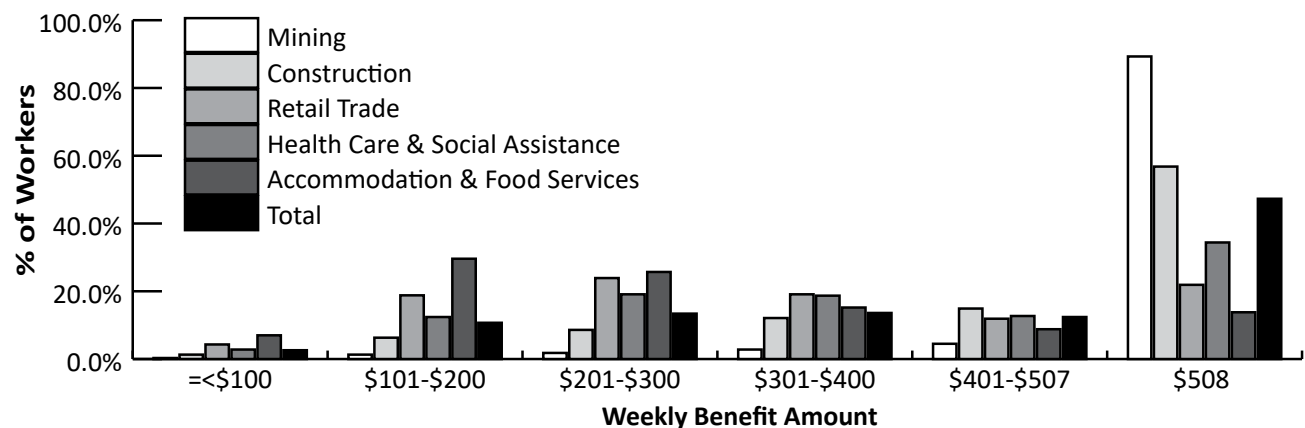
providing industries, mining would have the greatest proportion qualify for maximum UI benefits (89.3%), followed

Table 2: Percent Distribution of UI Covered Workers in Each Industry by UI Benefit Level for Wyoming, 2019Q3

Industry	UI Benefit Levels						Total Workers
	=<\$100	\$101-\$200	\$201-\$300	\$301-\$400	\$401-\$507	\$508	
Agriculture	4.4	12.9	15.6	18.6	16.2	32.2	2,205
Mining	0.3	1.3	1.8	2.8	4.5	89.3	18,375
Utilities	0.3	1.1	0.5	2.2	3.1	92.8	2,357
Construction	1.3	6.3	8.6	12.1	14.9	56.8	18,123
Manufacturing	0.9	4.3	7.4	10.5	10.8	66.2	9,120
Wholesale Trade	1.3	4.7	6.0	11.1	13.4	63.5	7,370
Retail Trade	4.3	18.8	23.9	19.1	11.9	21.9	21,719
Transportation & Warehousing	1.3	6.2	11.1	13.8	14.9	52.8	9,092
Information	3.6	8.5	9.5	14.9	14.9	48.6	2,824
Finance & Insurance	0.8	4.5	11.0	20.9	16.5	46.3	6,426
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	2.6	8.3	12.6	15.0	14.5	47.0	3,775
Professional & Technical Services	2.3	6.9	9.1	10.4	11.0	60.2	8,119
Mgmt.of Companies & Enterprises	1.2	6.9	11.7	6.9	6.2	67.0	564
Administrative & Waste Services	3.2	15.5	19.7	17.5	13.8	30.3	6,648
Educational Services	4.3	12.4	15.2	12.8	14.4	40.9	1,148
Health Care & Social Assistance	2.8	12.4	19.1	18.7	12.7	34.4	20,858
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	7.3	22.0	19.5	15.2	13.1	23.0	2,358
Accommodation & Food Services	7.0	29.6	25.7	15.2	8.8	13.8	20,845
Other Services	3.8	13.1	14.7	14.7	13.5	40.1	5,480
State Government	0.9	3.3	5.7	11.7	21.5	57.0	11,648
Local Government	2.1	8.5	11.9	13.2	13.0	51.4	38,585
Nonclassified	0.0	3.6	16.4	10.9	14.5	54.5	55
Total	2.6	10.7	13.4	13.6	12.4	47.3	217,694

Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.



Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

Figure 3: Distribution of Weekly UI Benefit Dollar Amount of Eligibility for the Five Largest Industries in Wyoming, 2019Q3

by construction (56.8%) and health care & social assistance (34.4%). Only 13.8% of accommodation & food services workers and 21.9% of retail trade workers would qualify for the maximum UI benefit. In fact, more than one-third (36.6%) of those working in accommodation & food services would only qualify for \$200 or less per week.

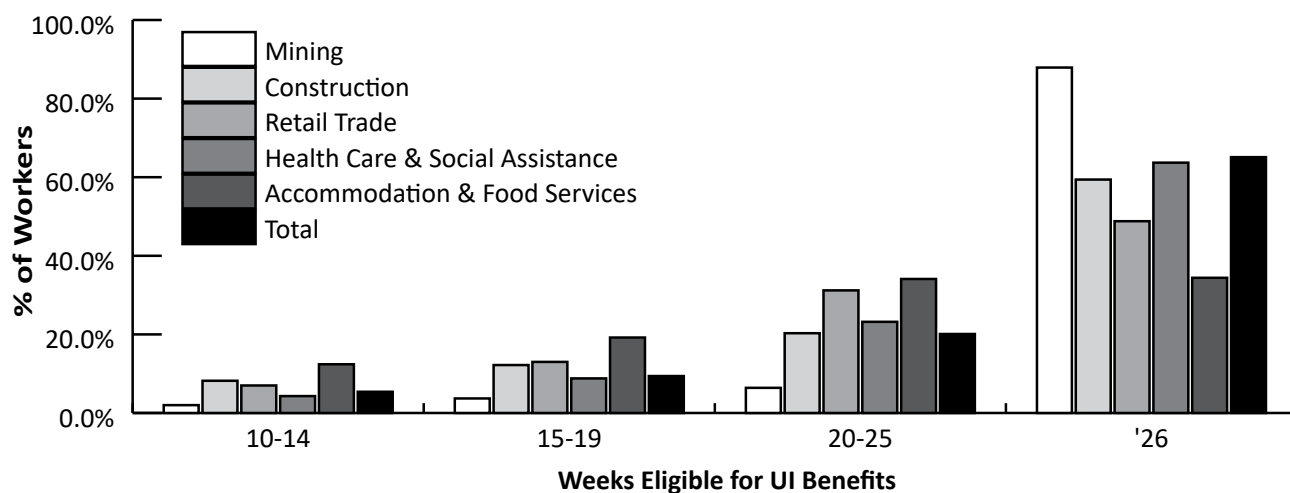
In terms of UI duration, 65.1% of state workers would be eligible for the maximum 26 weeks (see Table 3 and Figure 4). Mining would have the highest proportion of workers eligible for the maximum duration (87.9%), while accommodation & food services would have the lowest (34.4%).

Table 3: Percent Distribution of UI Covered Workers in Each Industry by Eligible Weeks for Wyoming, 2019Q3

Industry	Eligible UI Weeks				Total Workers
	10-14	15-19	20-25	26	
Agriculture	8.2	12.5	24.0	55.3	2,205
Mining	2.0	3.7	6.4	87.9	18,375
Utilities	0.9	1.4	2.7	95.0	2,357
Construction	8.2	12.2	20.3	59.4	18,123
Manufacturing	3.7	5.7	12.6	78.0	9,120
Wholesale Trade	2.8	5.9	13.4	78.0	7,370
Retail Trade	7.0	13.0	31.2	48.8	21,719
Trans. & Warehousing	4.5	9.8	23.3	62.4	9,092
Information	2.7	5.9	14.8	76.6	2,824
Finance & Insurance	2.5	3.7	17.4	76.4	6,426
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4.3	8.4	18.5	68.7	3,775
Pro. & Technical Services	4.2	7.1	16.6	72.1	8,119
Mgmt.of Companies & Ent.	3.4	4.1	10.5	82.1	564
Admin. & Waste Services	10.8	17.2	25.6	46.5	6,648
Educational Services	9.8	13.9	21.7	54.7	1,148
Health Care & Social Assist.	4.3	8.8	23.2	63.7	20,858
Arts, Ent., & Recreation	15.7	20.3	26.9	37.1	2,358
Accommodation & Food Services	12.4	19.2	34.1	34.4	20,845
Other Services	5.4	8.9	21.7	64.0	5,480
State Government	3.0	3.9	7.1	86.0	11,648
Local Government	3.3	7.2	18.1	71.4	38,585
Nonclassified	5.5	9.1	20.0	65.5	55
Total	5.4	9.4	20.1	65.1	217,694

Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.



Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.

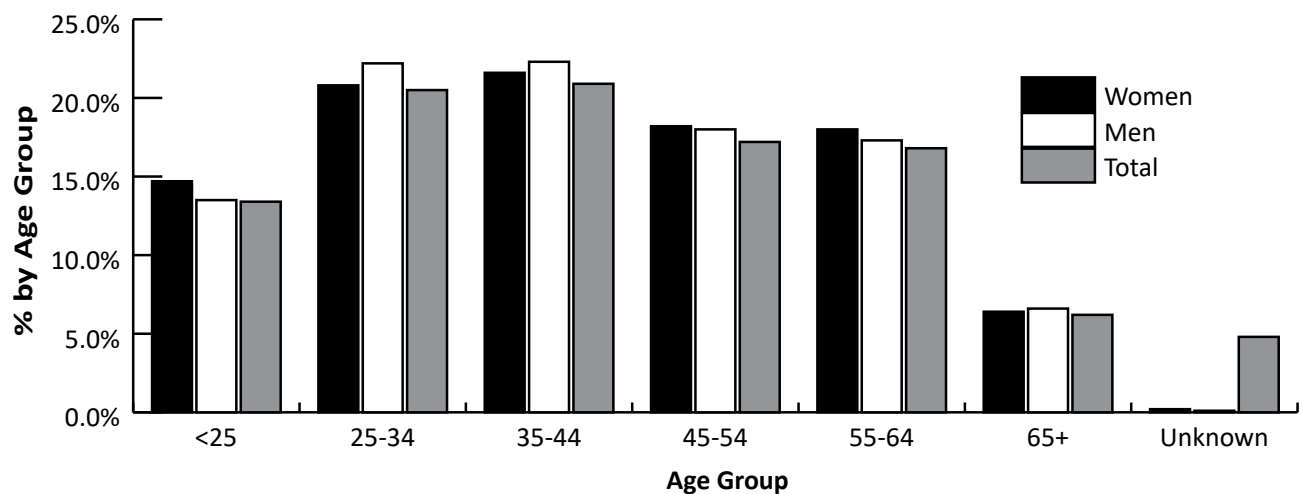
Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

Figure 4: Distribution of Weeks Eligible for UI Benefits for the Five Largest Industries in Wyoming, 2019Q3

Employment Structure by Gender and Age

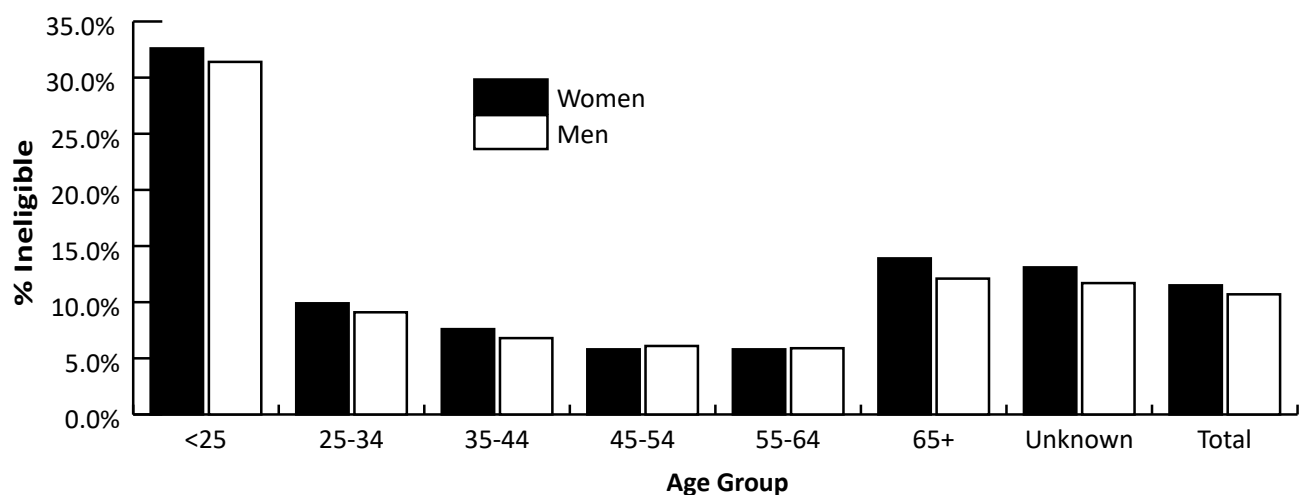
Figures 5 and 6 show the distribution of eligible Wyoming workers (worked in both 2019Q3 and base period) by gender and age.

A little over half (50.7%) of Wyoming workers were men, 44.6% were women, and 4.7% had no gender information. The age distributions were quite similar for male and female workers, with the majority (over 75%) between 25 and 64 years of age, a little over 13% younger than 25, and around 6% ages 65 or older.



Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.
Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

Figure 5: Percent Distribution of UI Covered Workers by Gender and Age for Wyoming 2019Q3



Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.
Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

Figure 6: Percent Distribution of UI Covered Workers Ineligible for UI Benefits by Gender and Age for Wyoming, 2019Q3

UI Eligibility by Gender and Age

Lower earnings in the youngest and oldest age groups contribute to the higher percentages of individuals ineligible for UI benefits. Overall, two age groups had substantially higher proportions of workers would be ineligible for UI benefits than others: younger than 25 (31.0%) and 65 or older (12.0%). Many of those younger than 25 are likely high school or college

students who only work part-time or summer jobs with relatively low wages. Table 4 shows that this youngest age group worked for 1.9 employers on average during the base period (the highest in all age groups) and had the lowest average weekly wage of \$486. It is also likely that a larger proportion of those 65 and older only worked on part-time jobs, and this group had the second lowest average weekly wage (\$851).

In most of the age groups, a slightly higher percentage of women were ineligible

Table 4: Wyoming Workers, Wages, UI Benefits, and Wage Replacement Rate by Gender and Age, 2019Q3

Workers by Gender							
Gender	Age	N	%	Employers ^a	Average Weekly Wage	Average Weekly UI Benefit	Wage Replacement Rate
Women	< 25	10,957	11.2	2.0	\$392	\$176	44.9
	25-34	20,764	21.2	1.6	\$699	\$333	47.7
	35-44	22,050	22.5	1.4	\$841	\$369	43.9
	45-54	18,968	19.4	1.4	\$882	\$378	42.8
	55-64	18,774	19.2	1.3	\$838	\$369	44.0
	65-up	6,120	6.3	1.2	\$612	\$288	47.1
	N/A	186	0.2	1.3	\$708	\$314	44.3
	Total	97,819	100.0	1.5	\$753	\$336	44.6
Men	< 25	11,641	10.4	1.9	\$575	\$230	40.0
	25-34	25,326	22.6	1.5	\$1,057	\$401	37.9
	35-44	26,110	23.3	1.3	\$1,386	\$446	32.2
	45-54	21,181	18.9	1.3	\$1,450	\$450	31.0
	55-64	20,494	18.3	1.2	\$1,385	\$440	31.8
	65-up	7,331	6.5	1.2	\$1,051	\$352	33.5
	N/A	68	0.1	1.5	\$1,082	\$428	39.6
	Total	112,151	100.0	1.4	\$1,217	\$407	33.4
Unknown	Total	7,724	100.0	1.4	\$899	\$319	35.5
Total	< 25	22,598	10.4	1.9	\$486	\$204	42.0
	25-34	46,090	21.2	1.6	\$895	\$370	41.3
	35-44	48,160	22.1	1.4	\$1,136	\$411	36.2
	45-54	40,149	18.4	1.3	\$1,182	\$416	35.2
	55-64	39,268	18.0	1.2	\$1,123	\$406	36.1
	65-up	13,451	6.2	1.2	\$851	\$323	37.9
	N/A	7,978	3.7	1.4	\$896	\$320	35.7
	Total	217,694	100.0	1.4	\$997	\$372	37.3

^aAverage base period employers.

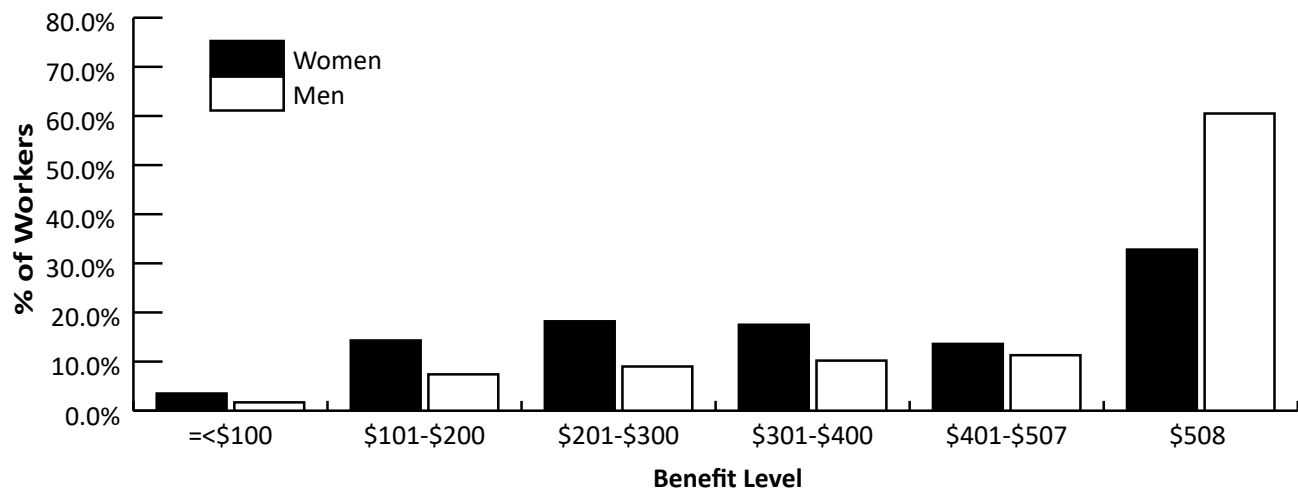
Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

for UI benefits than men, with the exception of the 45-54 and 55-64 age groups.

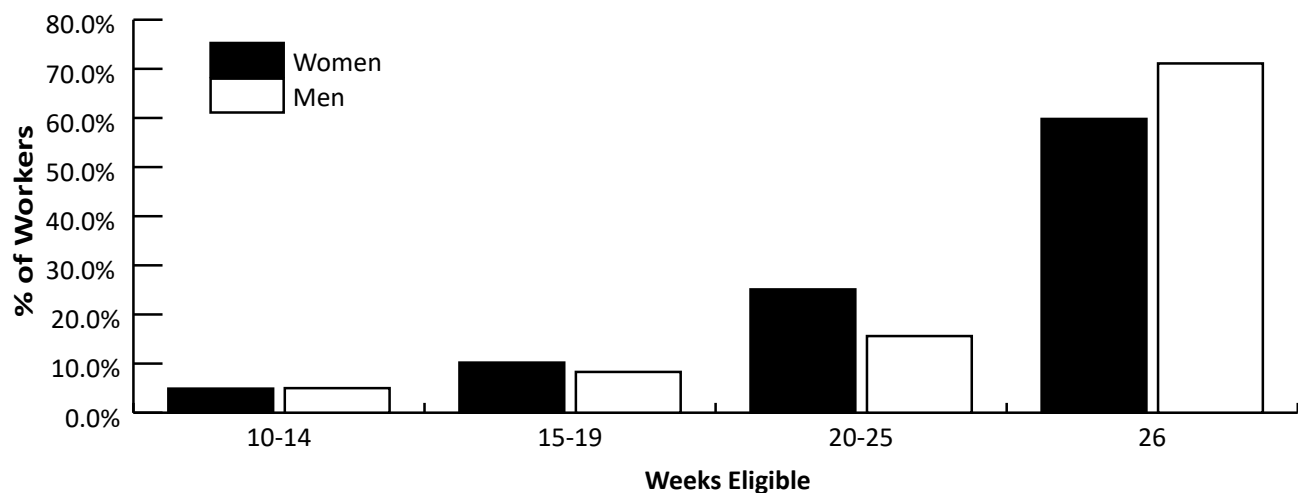
Among the UI eligible workers, 60.5% of male workers would be eligible for maximum UI benefits of \$508 per week, compared to 32.8% of female workers, while 17.8% of female workers would only

qualify for \$200 a week or less in benefits, compared to 9.1% of male workers (see Figure 7). This result indicates that more women may work in low-paying or part-time jobs than men. In terms of duration, 71.1% of male workers and 59.8% of female workers would be eligible for the maximum 26 weeks (see Figure 8).



Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.
Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

Figure 7: Percent Distribution of UI Covered Workers by UI Benefit Level and Gender for Wyoming, 2019Q3



Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.
Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

Figure 8: Percent Distribution of UI Covered Workers by Weeks Eligible for UI Benefit and Gender for Wyoming, 2019Q3

Male workers in Wyoming made much higher wages than female workers in every age group (see Table 4). The average weekly wages for male workers in 2019Q3 was \$1,217, or 61.6% more than the average weekly wage for female workers (\$753). As a result, the wage replacement rates from UI benefits would be much lower for men than women. This research shows that UI benefits could replace 44.6% of wages for women, compared to 33.4% of wages for men.

Potential UI Benefit Cost and Trust Fund Solvency

Wyoming's UI trust fund has two major incomes: UI tax revenue and interest on the fund balance. The UI trust fund is solely used to pay UI benefits to unemployed

workers. All fund incomes and expenses are in a dynamic process and change from time to time, as does the fund balance. Table 5 and Figure 9 (see page 14) present the history of UI trust fund year-ending balance and annual fund income and expenses. During the last two decades, Wyoming's UI program experienced three periods during which UI benefit expenses exceeded the fund incomes, resulting in the fund balance declining: 2002 to 2004, 2009 to 2010, and 2015 to 2016. These three periods were related to national recessions or economic downturns. The economic downturn of 2009 to 2010 was one of the costliest in Wyoming UI history (Wen, 2011), with a record \$161.5 million paid in benefit expenses from the state UI trust fund in 2009.

The UI trust fund balance at the end of 2008, right before the second downturn,

Table 5: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance, Income, and Expenses 2001 to 2019

Year	Year Ending Balance	Over-the-Year Change		Trust Fund Incomes			Over-the-Year % Change	UI Benefit Expenses	
		\$	%	UI Tax Contribution Collection	UI Trust Fund Interest Collection	Total Income		\$	Over-the-Year % Change
2001	\$215,645,924			\$27,428,219	\$12,105,212	\$39,533,431		\$25,455,845	
2002	\$209,950,216	-\$5,695,708	-2.6	\$20,504,313	\$12,503,767	\$33,008,080	-16.5	\$38,533,939	51.4
2003	\$194,367,590	-\$15,582,626	-7.4	\$19,382,514	\$11,495,488	\$30,878,002	-6.5	\$46,523,683	20.7
2004	\$191,851,552	-\$2,516,038	-1.3	\$26,591,680	\$10,068,739	\$36,660,419	18.7	\$39,816,356	-14.4
2005	\$204,878,612	\$13,027,060	6.8	\$35,655,397	\$9,135,413	\$44,790,810	22.2	\$32,783,056	-17.7
2006	\$238,797,780	\$33,919,168	16.6	\$51,522,114	\$8,919,129	\$60,441,243	34.9	\$27,917,448	-14.8
2007	\$267,882,953	\$29,085,173	12.2	\$51,796,131	\$10,615,657	\$62,411,788	3.3	\$33,901,474	21.4
2008	\$283,112,420	\$15,229,467	5.7	\$53,526,806	\$11,925,575	\$65,452,381	4.9	\$49,944,949	47.3
2009	\$179,839,606	-\$103,272,814	-36.5	\$48,343,577	\$10,609,154	\$58,952,731	-9.9	\$161,531,961	223.4
2010	\$155,150,542	-\$24,689,064	-13.7	\$85,875,248	\$5,867,365	\$91,742,613	55.6	\$119,947,743	-25.7
2011	\$194,651,075	\$39,500,533	25.5	\$118,624,689	\$4,961,329	\$123,586,018	34.7	\$86,822,007	-27.6
2012	\$266,652,426	\$72,001,351	37.0	\$136,797,911	\$4,947,673	\$141,745,584	14.7	\$77,512,786	-10.7
2013	\$328,508,410	\$61,855,984	23.2	\$133,310,481	\$6,026,006	\$139,336,487	-1.7	\$75,174,058	-3.0
2014	\$395,753,895	\$67,245,485	20.5	\$114,968,527	\$7,313,276	\$122,281,803	-12.2	\$56,027,276	-25.5
2015	\$389,352,732	-\$6,401,163	-1.6	\$71,708,169	\$8,210,263	\$79,918,432	-34.6	\$86,397,204	54.2
2016	\$340,679,814	-\$48,672,919	-12.5	\$57,395,590	\$7,372,889	\$64,768,479	-19.0	\$113,403,465	31.3
2017	\$349,473,781	\$8,793,967	2.6	\$60,758,824	\$6,602,001	\$67,360,825	4.0	\$60,150,361	-47.0
2018	\$384,647,341	\$35,173,560	10.1	\$69,319,986	\$7,038,823	\$76,358,810	13.4	\$42,364,518	-29.6
2019	\$423,283,629	\$38,636,288	10.0	\$74,275,700	\$8,278,038	\$82,553,738	8.1	\$43,848,588	3.5

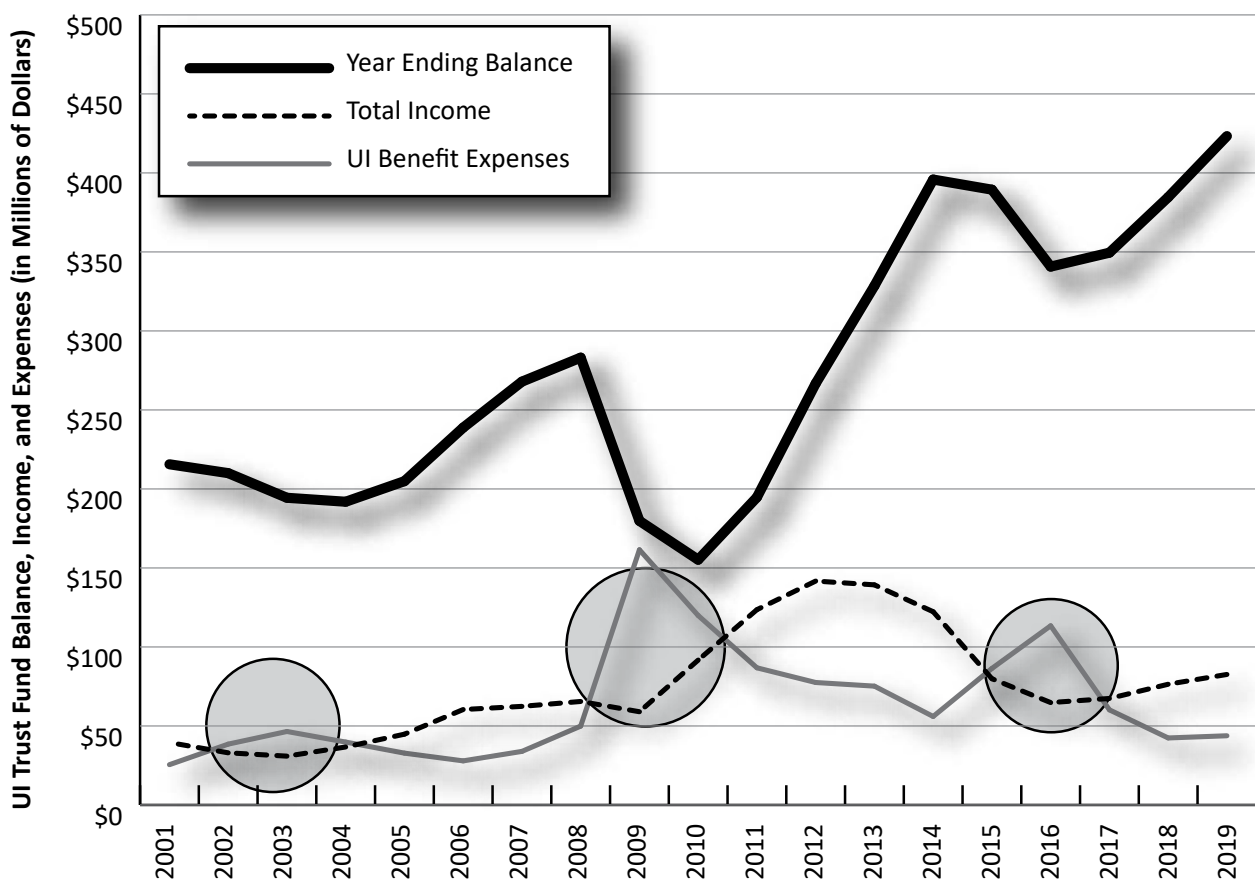
Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

was \$283.1 million. It dropped to \$155.2 million in 2010, and then continued on an upward trend from 2011 to 2014. By the end of 2014, the UI state trust fund balance was \$395.8 million, which then dropped again during the most recent downturn to \$340.7 million at the end of 2016. The UI trust fund balance then grew for three years and reached a record high \$423.3 million by the end of 2019. In other words, Wyoming's UI trust fund was better prepared than it was

prior to the last downturn year and could cover at least two and half years' expenses at the 2009 level, without considering the incoming UI tax revenues and interest.

Table 6 (see page 15) shows the potential UI costs under different scenarios, using the employment and wage structure from 2019Q3. For example, scenario 2 assumes that 20% of Wyoming workers lost jobs evenly across all industries and applied for



Circled areas indicate periods during which benefit expenses exceeded total income.

Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.

Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

Figure 9: Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance, Income, and Expenses for Wyoming, 2001-2019

UI benefits. In this scenario, the cost for an average of 17 weeks (the average duration from 2009) would be \$275.4 million, which would not cause UI fund solvency problems given the current fund balance. But if 30% of workers lost jobs (scenario 3), the cost would be \$413.1 million, which could lead to fund insolvency, depending on fund income and expenses.

One of the most commonly used measures of UI trust fund solvency is the average high cost multiple (AHCM; U.S. Department of Labor, n.d.), which is the reserve ratio (the UI

trust fund balance divided by total UI covered wages) divided by average cost rate of three high-cost years that include either three recessions or at least 20 years' history. The cost rate is the benefits paid in the year divided by the total covered wages in the same year. A detailed example of this calculation was presented in the March 2014 issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* (Wen, 2014). The Advisory Council on Unemployment Compensation recommends an AHCM of 1.0 as a safe level. The most recent UI financial report showed that Wyoming scored 2.32, the third healthiest state in the nation.

Table 6: Estimates of Unemployment Insurance Costs for Eligible Workers by Industry Under Different Economic Downturn Scenarios in Wyoming

Industry	N (Eligible Workers)	Average Weekly Wage ^a	Scenarios		
			Scenario 1: If 10% of Workers Lost Jobs and Claimed UI Benefits with 17-Week Average Duration	Scenario 2: If 20% of Workers Lost Jobs and Claimed UI Benefits with 17-Week Average Duration	Scenario 3: If 30% of Workers Lost Jobs and Claimed UI Benefits with 17-Week Average Duration
Agriculture	2,205	\$333	\$1,248,251	\$2,496,501	\$3,744,752
Mining	18,375	\$479	\$14,962,763	\$29,925,525	\$44,888,288
Utilities	2,357	\$492	\$1,971,395	\$3,942,790	\$5,914,184
Construction	18,123	\$394	\$12,138,785	\$24,277,571	\$36,416,356
Manufacturing	9,120	\$431	\$6,682,224	\$13,364,448	\$20,046,672
Wholesale Trade	7,370	\$430	\$5,387,470	\$10,774,940	\$16,162,410
Retail Trade	21,719	\$293	\$10,818,234	\$21,636,468	\$32,454,702
Trans. & Warehousing	9,092	\$394	\$6,089,822	\$12,179,643	\$18,269,465
Information	2,824	\$392	\$1,881,914	\$3,763,827	\$5,645,741
Finance & Insurance	6,426	\$406	\$4,435,225	\$8,870,450	\$13,305,676
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,775	\$380	\$2,438,650	\$4,877,300	\$7,315,950
Pro. & Technical Services	8,119	\$407	\$5,617,536	\$11,235,072	\$16,852,608
Mgmt. of Companies & Ent.	564	\$420	\$402,696	\$805,392	\$1,208,088
Admin. & Waste Services	6,648	\$311	\$3,514,798	\$7,029,595	\$10,544,393
Educational Services	1,148	\$343	\$669,399	\$1,338,798	\$2,008,196
Health Care & Social Assist.	20,858	\$345	\$12,233,217	\$24,466,434	\$36,699,651
Arts, Ent., & Recreation	2,358	\$268	\$1,074,305	\$2,148,610	\$3,222,914
Accommodation & Food Svcs.	20,845	\$236	\$8,363,014	\$16,726,028	\$25,089,042
Other Services	5,480	\$353	\$3,288,548	\$6,577,096	\$9,865,644
State	11,648	\$438	\$8,673,101	\$17,346,202	\$26,019,302
Local Government	38,585	\$393	\$25,778,639	\$51,557,277	\$77,335,916
Nonclassified	55	\$400	\$37,400	\$74,800	\$112,200
Total	217,694	\$373	\$137,707,383	\$275,414,766	\$413,122,149

^aBased on base period wages.

Source: Wyoming Wage Records Database and Unemployment Insurance Claims program, Research & Planning, WY DWS.
Prepared by S. Wen, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 5/6/20.

Conclusion

In sum, nearly three-fourths (75.5%) of Wyoming workers would be eligible for UI benefits if they were unemployed through no fault of their own. Individuals who worked for high-paying industries or jobs would be more likely to qualify for higher UI benefits, but with a lower wage replacement rate. Female workers were more likely to qualify for lower UI benefits than male workers. Workers younger than 25 or older than 65 were more likely to be ineligible for UI benefits or to be eligible for a lower UI benefit than any other age groups.

Wyoming's UI trust fund is currently at a solvent level and ready to face another potential economic crisis based on the reserved fund level and the cost experiences of past downturns.

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Now Online: Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims Data for Wyoming

https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/weekly_UI_TOC.htm

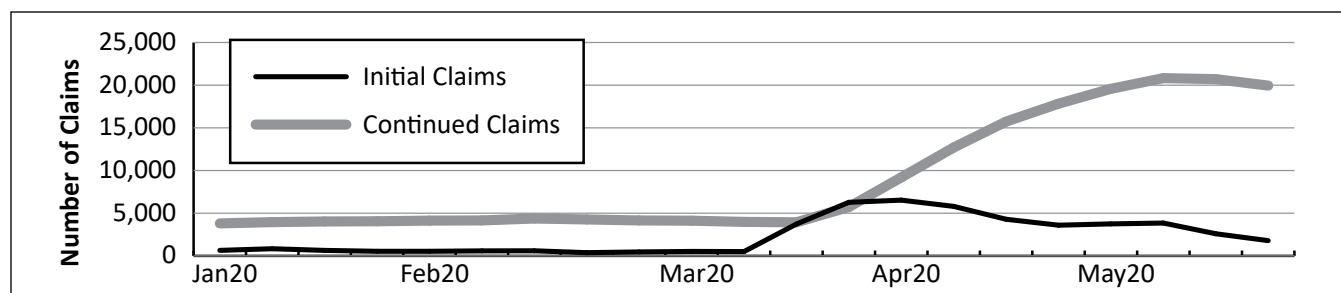


Figure: Weekly Initial and Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming, 2020

Wyoming Unemployment Unchanged at 3.7% in March 2020

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 was unchanged from February to March at 3.7%. The unemployment estimates included in this report represent the labor force status of Wyoming residents during the week of March 8-14. Layoffs or other events which took place after March 14 are not reflected in this data. During the spring, Wyoming's economy experienced large disruptions due to the coronavirus. Therefore, economic conditions in April likely differ significantly from the March unemployment estimates presented here.

From March 2019 to March 2020, unemployment rates rose in 17 counties, fell in five counties, and remained unchanged in Washakie County. The largest increases occurred in the Southwest region of the state. Sublette County's unemployment rate rose from 4.9% to 6.3%, Sweetwater County's rate

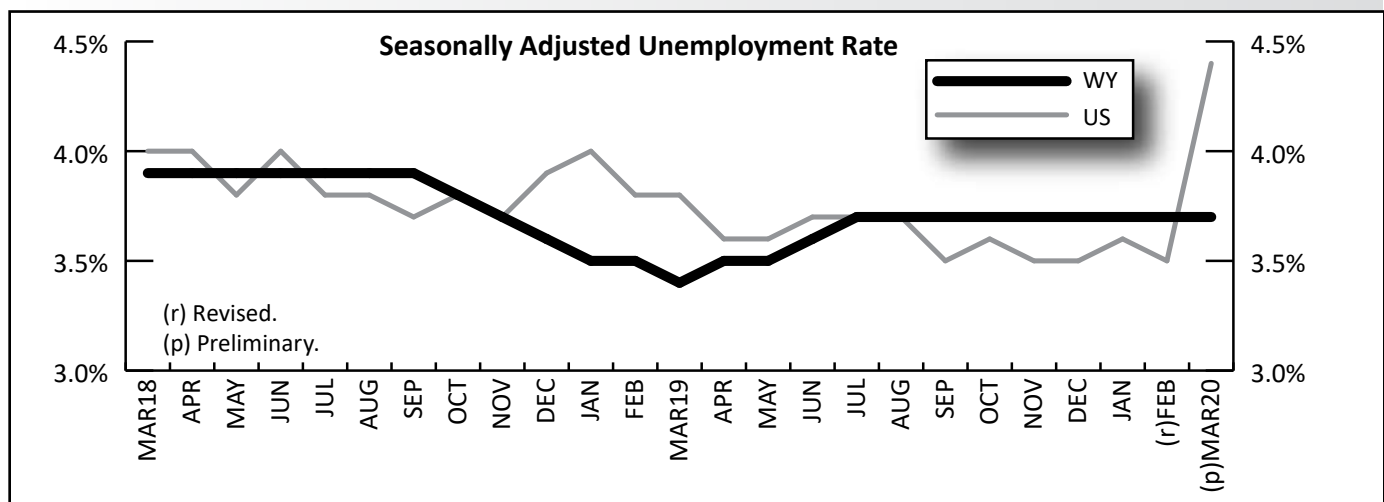
rose from 4.1% to 5.4%, Lincoln County's rate rose from 3.6% to 4.5%, and Uinta County's rate rose from 4.0% to 4.9%. Unemployment rates fell in Crook (down from 4.3% to 3.6%) and Johnson (down from 4.7% to 4.4%) counties.

Most county unemployment rates rose slightly from February to March. The largest increases were seen in Crook (up from 3.3% to 3.6%), Lincoln (up from 4.2% to 4.5%), and Uinta (up from 4.6% to 4.9%) counties. Jobless rates fell in Niobrara (down from 3.6% to 2.8%), Platte (down from 4.7% to 4.3%), and Carbon (down from 4.4% to 4.0%) counties.

The highest unemployment rates in March were reported in Sublette County at 6.3%, Big Horn County at 5.4%, and Sweetwater County at 5.4%. The lowest rates were found in Teton County and Niobrara County, each at 2.8%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 283,700 in March 2019 to 282,400 in March 2020, a decline of 1,300 jobs (-0.5%).

1 Seasonal adjustment is a statistical procedure to remove the impact of normal regularly recurring events (such as weather, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools) from economic time series to better understand changes in economic conditions from month to month.



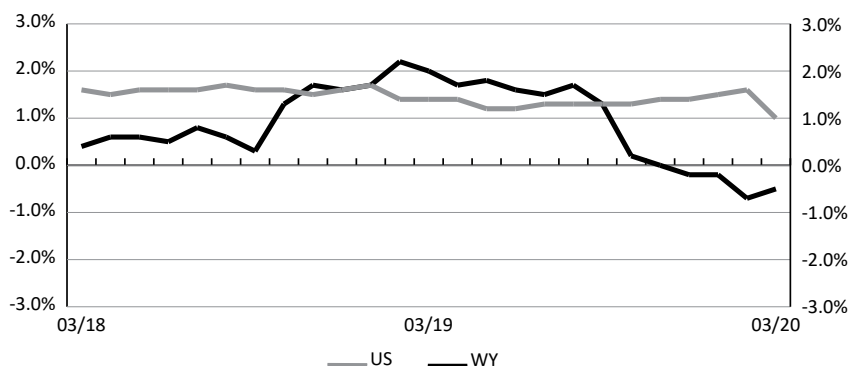
Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Internal Estimates, March 2020

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

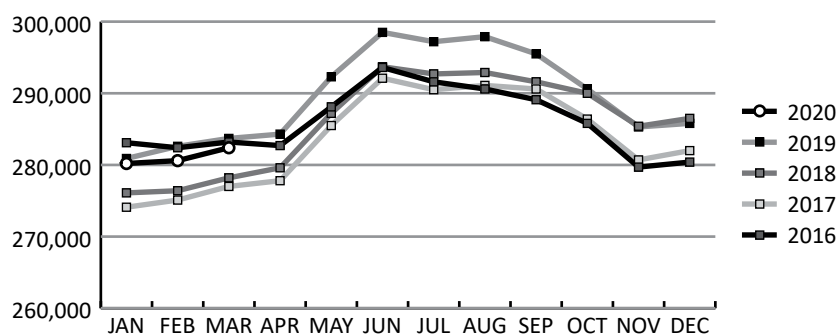
Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Internal Estimates	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm Employment	282,390	282,400	10	0.0%
Natural Resources & Mining	19,155	19,900	745	3.7%
Construction	20,792	20,700	-92	-0.4%
Manufacturing	9,759	10,000	241	2.4%
Wholesale Trade	8,308	8,100	-208	-2.6%
Retail Trade	27,701	28,000	299	1.1%
Transportation & Utilities	14,731	14,800	69	0.5%
Information	3,365	3,300	-65	-2.0%
Financial Activities	11,251	11,200	-51	-0.5%
Professional & Business Services	18,266	17,600	-666	-3.8%
Educational & Health Services	29,251	29,500	249	0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	34,452	33,800	-652	-1.9%
Other Services	16,086	16,000	-86	-0.5%
Government	69,273	69,500	227	0.3%

Projections were run in April 2020 and based on QCEW data through December 2019.

Nonagricultural Employment Growth (Percentage Change Over Previous Year)



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



State Unemployment Rates March 2020 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	-
Louisiana	6.9
Nevada	6.3
West Virginia	6.1
District of Columbia	6.0
Pennsylvania	6.0
New Mexico	5.9
Kentucky	5.8
Alaska	5.6
Arizona	5.5
Ohio	5.5
California	5.3
Mississippi	5.3
Delaware	5.1
Washington	5.1
Arkansas	4.8
Texas	4.7
Illinois	4.6
Rhode Island	4.6
Colorado	4.5
Missouri	4.5
New York	4.5
North Carolina	4.4
United States	4.4
Florida	4.3
Georgia	4.2
Nebraska	4.2
Michigan	4.1
New Jersey	3.8
Connecticut	3.7
Iowa	3.7
Wyoming	3.7
Utah	3.6
Alabama	3.5
Montana	3.5
Tennessee	3.5
Wisconsin	3.4
Maryland	3.3
Oregon	3.3
South Dakota	3.3
Virginia	3.3
Indiana	3.2
Maine	3.2
Vermont	3.2
Kansas	3.1
Minnesota	3.1
Oklahoma	3.1
Massachusetts	2.9
Hawaii	2.6
Idaho	2.6
New Hampshire	2.6
South Carolina	2.6
North Dakota	2.2

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

State Unemployment Rates March 2020 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Mar 20	Feb 20	Mar 19	Mar 20 Feb 20	Mar 20 Mar 19
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	25.7	25.7	25.4	0.0	1.2
TOTAL PRIVATE	20.5	20.5	20.3	0.0	1.0
GOODS PRODUCING	8.2	8.3	8.3	-1.2	-1.2
Natural Resources & Mining	6.0	6.1	6.0	-1.6	0.0
Construction	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	-5.6
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	17.5	17.4	17.1	0.6	2.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.5	5.5	5.3	0.0	3.8
Information	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	-33.3
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.4	2.3	2.2	4.3	9.1
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	5.2	5.2	5.1	0.0	2.0

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Mar 20	Feb 20	Mar 19	Mar 20 Feb 20	Mar 20 Mar 19
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	22.3	22.2	22.8	0.5	-2.2
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.5	17.4	18.0	0.6	-2.8
GOODS PRODUCING	7.0	7.0	7.4	0.0	-5.4
Natural Resources & Mining	4.4	4.4	4.7	0.0	-6.4
Construction	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.0	-7.1
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.3	15.2	15.4	0.7	-0.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.5	4.4	4.5	2.3	0.0
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	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.2	2.2	2.3	0.0	-4.3
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Mar 20	Feb 20	Mar 19	Mar 20 Feb 20	Mar 20 Mar 19
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	20.1	20.3	20.2	-1.0	-0.5
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.5	17.7	17.6	-1.1	-0.6
GOODS PRODUCING	2.1	2.1	2.2	0.0	-4.5
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.0	-5.0
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	18.0	18.2	18.0	-1.1	0.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.6	2.6	2.7	0.0	-3.7
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	7.9	8.1	7.8	-2.5	1.3
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	-
Nevada	6.4
Louisiana	6.1
West Virginia	6.1
Pennsylvania	6.0
District of Columbia	5.9
New Mexico	5.9
Alaska	5.8
Kentucky	5.7
California	5.6
Ohio	5.6
Arizona	5.3
Washington	5.3
Rhode Island	5.1
Delaware	5.0
Mississippi	5.0
Colorado	4.8
Arkansas	4.7
Texas	4.7
Missouri	4.5
United States	4.5
Illinois	4.4
New York	4.4
Florida	4.3
Georgia	4.3
Nebraska	4.3
Wyoming	4.3
Michigan	4.2
North Carolina	4.2
Montana	4.1
Connecticut	3.9
Minnesota	3.9
New Jersey	3.9
Iowa	3.8
Maine	3.8
Oregon	3.8
Utah	3.8
Tennessee	3.7
Maryland	3.5
Wisconsin	3.5
Indiana	3.4
Massachusetts	3.4
South Dakota	3.4
Vermont	3.4
Alabama	3.3
Virginia	3.3
Kansas	3.1
South Carolina	3.0
Idaho	2.9
New Hampshire	2.8
Oklahoma	2.8
North Dakota	2.7
Hawaii	2.2

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The dollar amount of Unemployment Insurance benefits paid in March increased 86.6% from a year earlier.

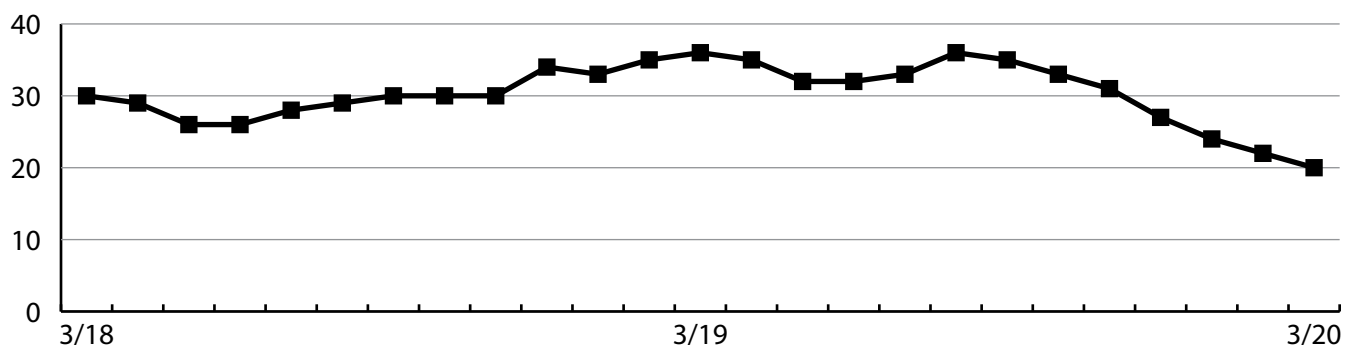
	Mar 2020 (p)	Feb 2020 (r)	Mar 2019 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	282,400	280,600	283,700	0.6	-0.5
Wyoming State Government	14,500	14,400	15,300	0.7	-5.2
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	47,100	46,600	46,800	1.1	0.6
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	38,400	38,200	38,900	0.5	-1.3
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,358,000	8,181,000	8,047,000	-10.1	-8.6
As a percent of all workers	4.7%	5.2%	5.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	514,000	421,000	412,000	22.1	24.8
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	5,879,000	4,600,000	4,621,000	27.8	27.2
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	21,100	15,858	12,182	33.1	73.2
Benefits Paid	\$8,576,790	\$6,539,708	\$4,595,533	31.1	86.6
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$406.48	\$412.39	\$377.24	-1.4	7.8
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	260,825	259,023	257,965	0.7	1.1
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	258.1	258.7	254.2	-0.2	1.5
Food & Beverages	262.3	261.5	257.4	0.3	1.9
Housing	270.3	270.3	263.9	0.0	2.4
Apparel	123.8	124.4	125.8	-0.5	-1.6
Transportation	203.9	207.8	208.8	-1.9	-2.4
Medical Care	515.6	513.9	492.3	0.3	4.7
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	122.3	122.1	120.7	0.2	1.3
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	139.2	139.3	137.1	0.0	1.5
Other Goods & Services	461.5	460.1	448.5	0.3	2.9
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	193.8	196.5	200.8	-1.4	-3.5
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	123	103	138	19.4	-10.9
Valuation	\$44,617,000	\$29,402,000	\$37,154,000	51.7	20.1
Single Family Homes	101	85	114	18.8	-11.4
Valuation	\$42,126,000	\$27,171,000	\$34,529,000	55.0	22.0
Casper MSA ² Building Permits	10	7	24	42.9	-58.3
Valuation	\$2,289,000	\$897,000	\$4,194,000	155.2	-45.4
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	40	44	50	-9.1	-20.0
Valuation	\$6,407,000	\$7,572,000	\$8,319,000	-15.4	-23.0
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	20	22	36	-9.1	-44.4

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

¹Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates.

²Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: **Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor**

From March 2019 to March 2020, unemployment rates rose in 17 counties, fell in five counties, and remained unchanged in Washakie County.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019
	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	45,109	45,141	44,091	42,794	42,792	41,940	2,315	2,349	2,151	5.1	5.2	4.9
Big Horn	5,279	5,303	5,005	4,996	5,011	4,766	283	292	239	5.4	5.5	4.8
Fremont	19,014	18,958	18,626	18,016	17,928	17,728	998	1,030	898	5.2	5.4	4.8
Hot Springs	2,168	2,161	2,195	2,073	2,064	2,112	95	97	83	4.4	4.5	3.8
Park	14,768	14,802	14,359	14,029	14,069	13,630	739	733	729	5.0	5.0	5.1
Washakie	3,880	3,917	3,906	3,680	3,720	3,704	200	197	202	5.2	5.0	5.2
NORTHEAST	51,177	51,105	50,058	49,118	49,097	48,119	2,059	2,008	1,939	4.0	3.9	3.9
Campbell	23,928	23,789	23,170	22,993	22,875	22,333	935	914	837	3.9	3.8	3.6
Crook	3,601	3,673	3,510	3,471	3,553	3,359	130	120	151	3.6	3.3	4.3
Johnson	4,069	4,080	4,032	3,889	3,908	3,843	180	172	189	4.4	4.2	4.7
Sheridan	15,753	15,734	15,563	15,062	15,055	14,929	691	679	634	4.4	4.3	4.1
Weston	3,826	3,829	3,783	3,703	3,706	3,655	123	123	128	3.2	3.2	3.4
SOUTHWEST	58,873	58,691	58,322	56,170	56,093	56,208	2,703	2,598	2,114	4.6	4.4	3.6
Lincoln	8,865	8,856	8,761	8,466	8,485	8,442	399	371	319	4.5	4.2	3.6
Sublette	4,168	4,205	3,935	3,906	3,950	3,743	262	255	192	6.3	6.1	4.9
Sweetwater	21,754	21,483	21,629	20,574	20,317	20,751	1,180	1,166	878	5.4	5.4	4.1
Teton	15,192	15,358	14,898	14,765	14,955	14,539	427	403	359	2.8	2.6	2.4
Uinta	8,894	8,789	9,099	8,459	8,386	8,733	435	403	366	4.9	4.6	4.0
SOUTHEAST	82,500	82,263	81,865	79,439	79,126	79,010	3,061	3,137	2,855	3.7	3.8	3.5
Albany	20,696	20,673	20,725	20,016	20,031	20,104	680	642	621	3.3	3.1	3.0
Goshen	6,561	6,637	6,476	6,309	6,400	6,237	252	237	239	3.8	3.6	3.7
Laramie	49,529	49,166	48,713	47,629	47,167	46,918	1,900	1,999	1,795	3.8	4.1	3.7
Niobrara	1,183	1,229	1,199	1,150	1,185	1,163	33	44	36	2.8	3.6	3.0
Platte	4,531	4,558	4,752	4,335	4,343	4,588	196	215	164	4.3	4.7	3.5
CENTRAL	56,493	56,552	55,468	54,087	54,066	53,316	2,406	2,486	2,152	4.3	4.4	3.9
Carbon	7,924	7,959	7,547	7,605	7,606	7,262	319	353	285	4.0	4.4	3.8
Converse	9,089	9,061	8,407	8,796	8,776	8,173	293	285	234	3.2	3.1	2.8
Natrona	39,480	39,532	39,514	37,686	37,684	37,881	1,794	1,848	1,633	4.5	4.7	4.1
STATEWIDE	294,153	293,750	289,806	281,609	281,172	278,595	12,544	12,578	11,211	4.3	4.3	3.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.7	3.7	3.4
U.S.										4.5	3.8	3.9
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										4.4	3.5	3.8

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/2020 Run Date 04/2020.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

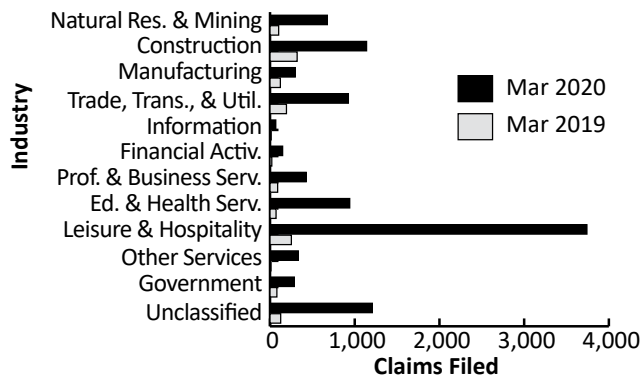
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

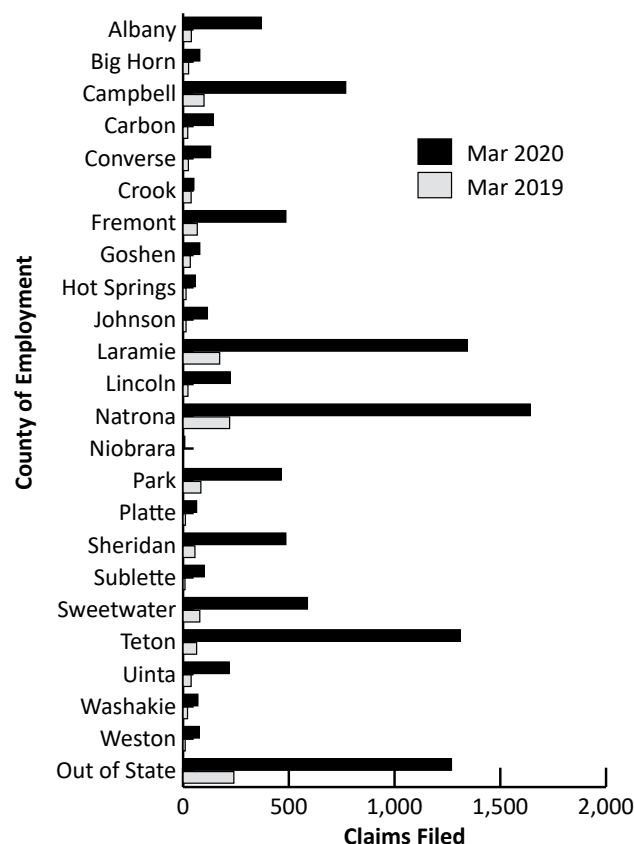
by: Sherry Wen, Principal Economist

Initial claims in Wyoming increased by 621.6% over the year in March 2020 as businesses and schools were shuttered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Initial Unemployment Insurance
Claims by Industry, March 2020**



**Initial Unemployment Insurance
Claims by County, March 2020**



Initial Claims

Initial Claims	Percent Change Claims Filed				
	Claims Filed			Mar 20	Mar 20
	Mar 20	Feb 20	Mar 19	Feb 20	Mar 19
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	10,203	2,206	1,414	362.5	621.6
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	2,118	1,150	545	84.2	288.6
Natural Res. & Mining	677	194	102	249.0	563.7
Mining	652	191	86	241.4	658.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	19	14	5	35.7	280.0
Construction	1,140	850	320	34.1	256.3
Manufacturing	298	105	122	183.8	144.3
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	6,589	711	661	826.7	896.8
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	925	253	194	265.6	376.8
Wholesale Trade	133	31	37	329.0	259.5
Retail Trade	529	101	106	423.8	399.1
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	263	121	51	117.4	415.7
Information	68	9	14	655.6	385.7
Financial Activities	149	36	21	313.9	609.5
Prof. and Business Svcs.	427	181	90	135.9	374.4
Educational & Health Svcs.	941	68	71	1,283.8	1,225.4
Leisure & Hospitality	3,741	121	252	2,991.7	1,384.5
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	334	36	12	827.8	2,683.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	287	94	81	205.3	254.3
Federal Government	72	46	31	56.5	132.3
State Government	34	14	7	142.9	385.7
Local Government	180	33	42	445.5	328.6
Local Education	113	11	8	927.3	1,312.5
UNCLASSIFIED	1,208	250	126	383.2	858.7

Laramie County

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,344	325	173	313.5	676.9
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	282	137	66	105.8	327.3
Construction	197	126	59	56.3	233.9
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	864	140	81	517.1	966.7
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	150	64	37	134.4	305.4
Financial Activities	17	9	3	88.9	466.7
Prof. & Business Svcs.	71	45	17	57.8	317.6
Educational & Health Svcs.	148	11	14	1,245.5	957.1
Leisure & Hospitality	416	15	12	2,673.3	3,366.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	34	8	8	325.0	325.0
UNCLASSIFIED	162	38	17	326.3	852.9

Natrona County

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,642	336	219	388.7	649.8
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	357	191	93	86.9	283.9
Construction	162	140	64	15.7	153.1
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,124	114	111	886.0	912.6
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	181	35	42	417.1	331.0
Financial Activities	31	9	3	244.4	933.3
Prof. & Business Svcs.	74	31	18	138.7	311.1
Educational & Health Svcs.	160	17	16	841.2	900.0
Leisure & Hospitality	553	11	22	4,927.3	2,413.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	24	4	5	500.0	380.0
UNCLASSIFIED	135	25	9	440.0	1,400.0

^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

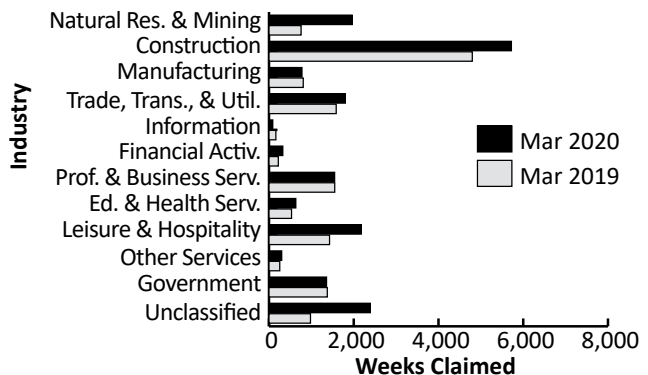
The total number of continued weeks claimed in Wyoming increased from 14,463 in March 2019 to 19,093 in March 2020 (4,630, or 32.0%).

Continued Claims

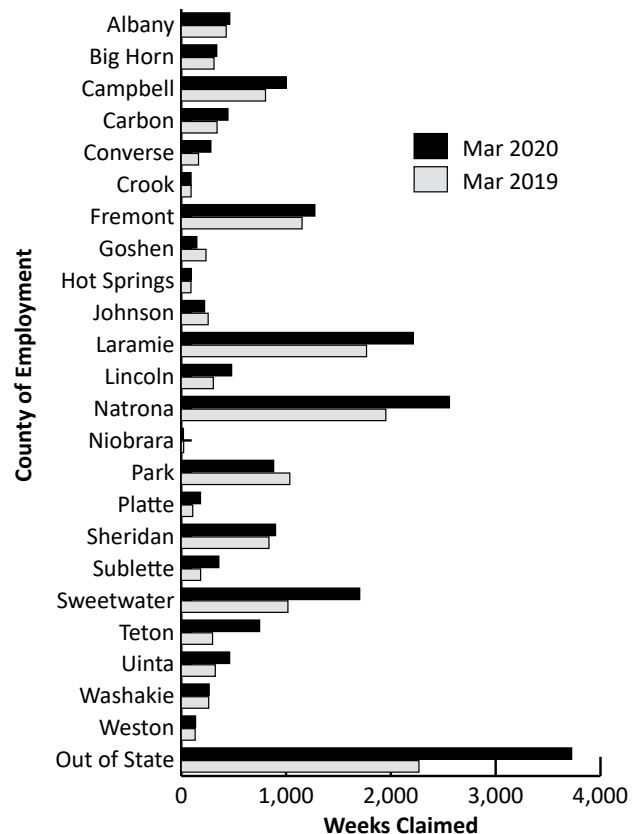
	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Mar 20	Feb 20	Mar 19	Feb 20	Mar 19
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	19,093	18,659	14,463	2.3	32.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	6,682	5,488	4,458	21.8	49.9
Benefit Exhaustions	694	571	553	21.5	25.5
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	10.4%	10.4%	12.4%	0.0%	-2.0%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	8,462	8,851	6,365	-4.4	32.9
Natural Res. & Mining	1,963	1,804	757	8.8	159.3
Mining	1,818	1,646	624	10.4	191.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	90	59	87	52.5	3.4
Construction	5,721	6,316	4,798	-9.4	19.2
Manufacturing	778	730	808	6.6	-3.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	6,881	5,982	5,741	15.0	19.9
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	1,801	1,746	1,586	3.2	13.6
Wholesale Trade	295	263	244	12.2	20.9
Retail Trade	775	765	871	1.3	-11.0
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	731	718	471	1.8	55.2
Information	89	101	162	-11.9	-45.1
Financial Activities	326	300	220	8.7	48.2
Prof. & Business Services	1,549	1,776	1,551	-12.8	-0.1
Educational & Health Svcs.	633	520	532	21.7	19.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2,176	1,302	1,429	67.1	52.3
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	300	232	254	29.3	18.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	1,358	1,511	1,376	-10.1	-1.3
Federal Government	683	785	722	-13.0	-5.4
State Government	156	145	107	7.6	45.8
Local Government	518	580	547	-10.7	-5.3
Local Education	56	74	88	-24.3	-36.4
UNCLASSIFIED	2,390	2,313	979	3.3	144.1
Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,214	2,347	1,767	-5.7	25.3
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	820	694	541	18.2	51.6
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	943	1,045	844	-9.8	11.7
Construction	840	954	803	-11.9	4.6
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	861	889	718	-3.1	19.9
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	375	346	248	8.4	51.2
Financial Activities	44	52	26	-15.4	69.2
Prof. & Business Svcs.	209	341	240	-38.7	-12.9
Educational and Health Svcs.	117	96	117	21.9	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	154	76	56	102.6	175.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	97	121	108	-19.8	-10.2
UNCLASSIFIED	311	291	96	6.9	224.0
Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,559	2,557	1,951	0.1	31.2
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	902	762	614	18.4	46.9
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,223	1,336	828	-8.5	47.7
Construction	824	939	671	-12.2	22.8
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	987	900	1,017	9.7	-2.9
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	307	322	325	-4.7	-5.5
Financial Activities	66	56	59	17.9	11.9
Professional & Business Svcs.	215	230	255	-6.5	-15.7
Educational & Health Svcs.	119	111	135	7.2	-11.9
Leisure & Hospitality	184	121	154	52.1	19.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	61	64	45	-4.7	35.6
UNCLASSIFIED	286	255	60	12.2	376.7

^aAn average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, March 2020



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, March 2020



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

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