

TRENDS

Weekly Trends in Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims

by: Michael Moore, Editor

Beginning in the spring of 2020, Wyoming and the U.S. experienced record high levels of Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims. This article provides an introduction to weekly claims data for Wyoming at the industry, county, gender, and age levels through the end of May 2020. Updated datasets, tables, and figures are published weekly at <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI.htm>.

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 led to record high unemployment claims, as businesses and schools were shuttered beginning in the spring. For the week ending March 21, seasonally adjusted initial U.S. weekly Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims reached 3.3 million. The previous one-week high in initial UI claims was 695,000 in October 1982 (U.S. Department of Labor, 2020, July). Initial claims have remained at elevated levels ever since.

In Wyoming, precipitous increases in job losses and initial UI claims from the COVID-19 pandemic were compounded by job losses due to record low oil prices, as West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures for May plunged to -\$40.32 per

barrel (Sardana, 2020). Initial UI claims in Wyoming have remained at historically high levels since March.

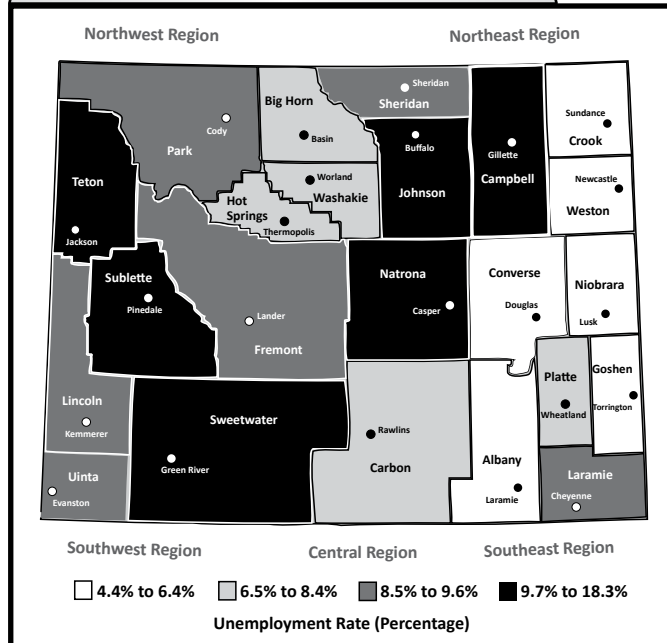
Due to increased interest in UI claims data from policymakers, the media, the general public, and others, the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services began publishing weekly UI claims data, tables, and figures, which are available at <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI.htm>. This article provides an introduction to initial weekly UI claims data for Wyoming through the week ending May 30, 2020, at the county and industry levels, along with demographic data of claimants such as

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of persons working in Wyoming at any time during the year increased by 1.7% from 2018 to 2019 as the number of out-of-state workers increased by nearly 9,000, or 24.2%. ... page 12
- The Baker Hughes Rig Count for Wyoming fell to nine in April 2020, a 55% decrease from its March level. ... page 16

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



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Wyoming Labor Force Trends

A monthly publication of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services,

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ISSN 0512-4409

(Text continued from page 1)

age and gender. Continued claims data are available online but are not discussed in this article.

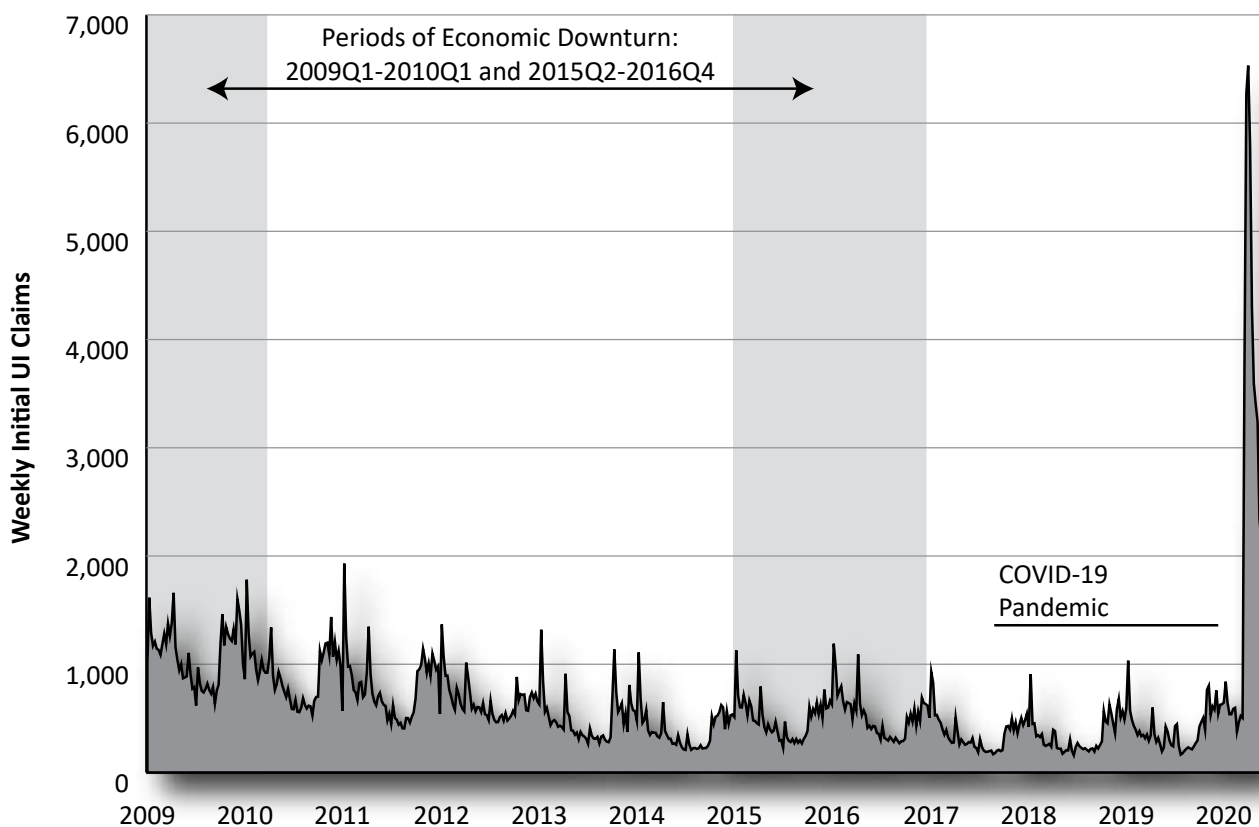
Introduction

For the week ending March 21, 2020, Wyoming had 3,731 initial UI claims, compared to 504 the prior week. An *initial claim* is a claim filed by an unemployed individual after a separation from an

employer. The previous one-week high for initial claims in Wyoming was 1,930 in January 2011.

Initial claims continued to increase the next two weeks, before peaking at 6,531 for the week ending April 4 (see Figure 1). Initial claims remained at high levels but decreased each week before increasing slightly at the end of May.

Wyoming experienced two relatively recent periods of economic downturn: the five quarters from 2009Q1 to 2010Q1 (*previous downturn*) and the seven



Shaded areas indicate periods of economic downturn: 2009Q1-2010Q1 and 2015Q2-2016Q4.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Outlined area indicates COVID-19 pandemic: Week ending March 21, 2020, to week ending May 30, 2020.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 8/11/20.

Figure 1: Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims in Wyoming, Weeks Ending January 3, 2009 to May 30, 2020

quarters from 2015Q2 to 2016Q4 (*recent downturn*). An *economic downturn* is defined by R&P as a period of at least two consecutive quarters of over-the-year decreases in average monthly employment and total wages based on data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Both downturns were preceded by declining energy prices, and the previous downturn coincided with the national Great Recession (Moore, 2019). The recent downturn was more specific to Wyoming; it resulted from a substantial decline in the demand for and prices of natural resources such as coal, oil, and natural gas (Gallagher, 2016), but occurred during a time of growth for many surrounding states.

Initial UI claims in Wyoming during the COVID-19 pandemic have been considerably higher than at any point since at least 1997, the first year for which comparable data are available. As shown in Figure 1 (see page 3), weekly initial UI claims were substantially higher during

the COVID-19 pandemic than during the two periods of economic downturn. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the highest one-week total of initial UI claims in Wyoming was 1,930 for the week ending January 8, 2011. The highest single-week total during the previous downturn was 1,781 for the week ending January 9, 2010; the single-week high during the most recent downturn was 1,190 for the week ending January 9, 2016.

Claims by Industry

The data presented in Table 1 were used to create Figure 2 (see page 5), which illustrates how the three industries with the greatest numbers of initial weekly claims — leisure & hospitality, mining, and unclassified — compared to other industries, such as construction, retail trade, and health care & social assistance.

During the first few weeks of the

Table 1: Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming During the COVID-19 Pandemic by Selected Industry

Industry and NAICS ^a Code	Week Ending:										
	March 21	March 28	April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
Mining (21)	187	386	451	531	517	510	414	395	271	299	256
Construction (23)	279	594	570	516	399	360	235	207	187	170	155
Retail Trade (44-45)	147	417	560	489	330	245	195	163	154	145	114
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	351	687	757	478	329	342	291	219	155	175	191
Leisure & Hospitality (71-72)	1,635	2,207	1,699	1,476	984	670	600	532	338	308	280
Unknown	521	743	958	779	582	590	847	934	524	431	420
Total, All Industries	3,731	6,276	6,531	5,799	4,290	3,595	3,403	3,242	2,341	2,137	2,167

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 8/11/20.

pandemic, initial claims were substantially higher in leisure & hospitality than in any other industry. Leisure & hospitality includes establishments such as bars and restaurants, which were hit especially hard by the pandemic due to government closures. McCarthy (2020) indicated that close to 16,000 restaurants nationally had closed permanently by July.

For the week ending March 28, 2,207 (35.2%) of the state's total initial claims were in leisure & hospitality. The number of initial claims in leisure & hospitality then declined each week.

During the first part of the pandemic,

mining claims remained lower than most of the other industries presented in Table 1 and Figure 2. However, initial claims in mining increased as oil prices weakened and mining averaged about 500 initial claims per week in April. Throughout May, leisure & hospitality and mining had similar numbers of claims each week.

During each week in May, the greatest number of initial claims were in an industry identified as "unknown." Many of the claimants from this group likely were self-employed, independent contractors, or gig economy workers who historically were not eligible for UI benefits, but received assistance through the federal Pandemic

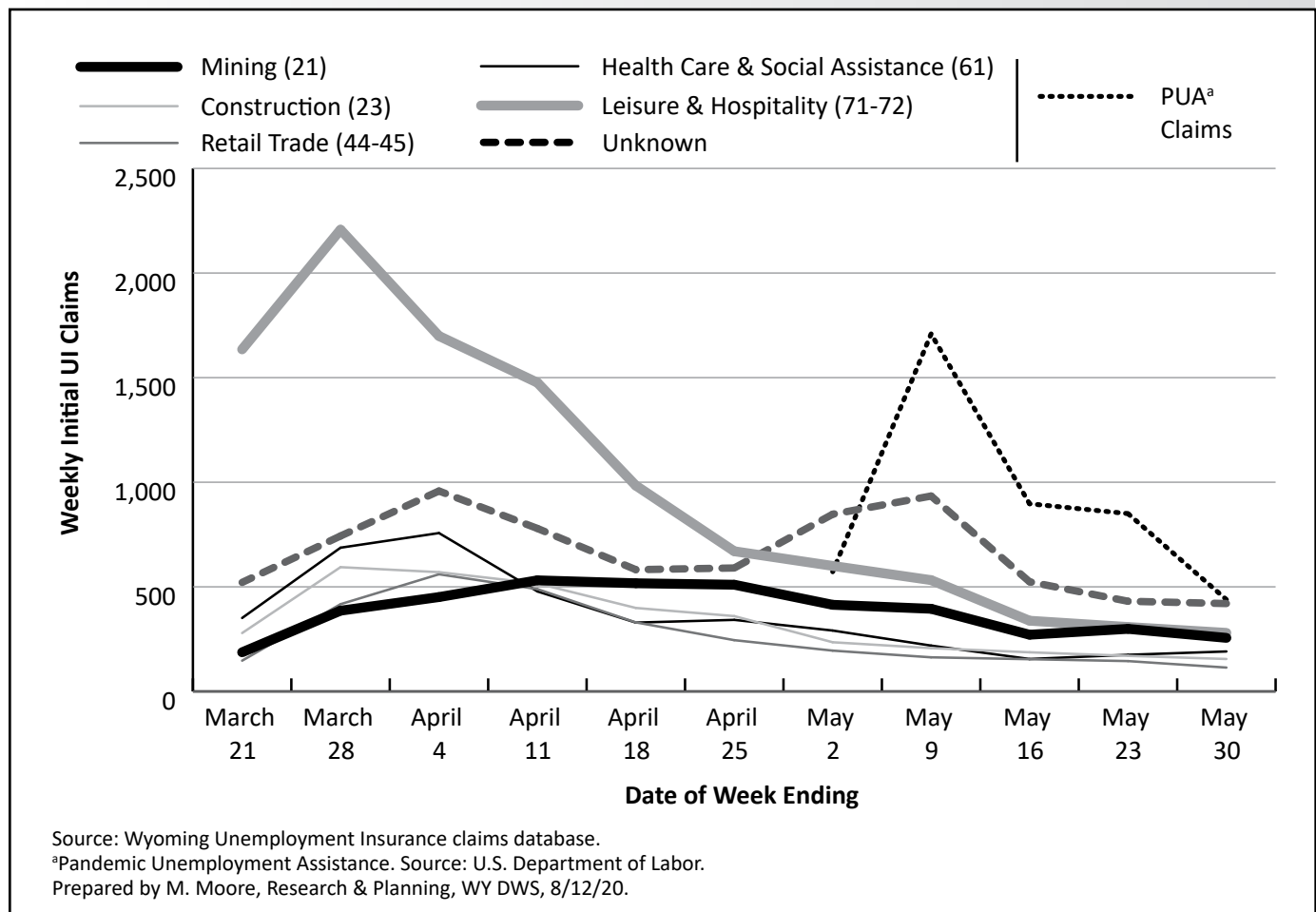


Figure 2: Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Selected Industry and NAICS Code in Wyoming for the Weeks Ending March 21, 2020, to May 30, 2020

Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program as a part of the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (U.S. Department of the Treasury, 2020). These PUA benefits were first available

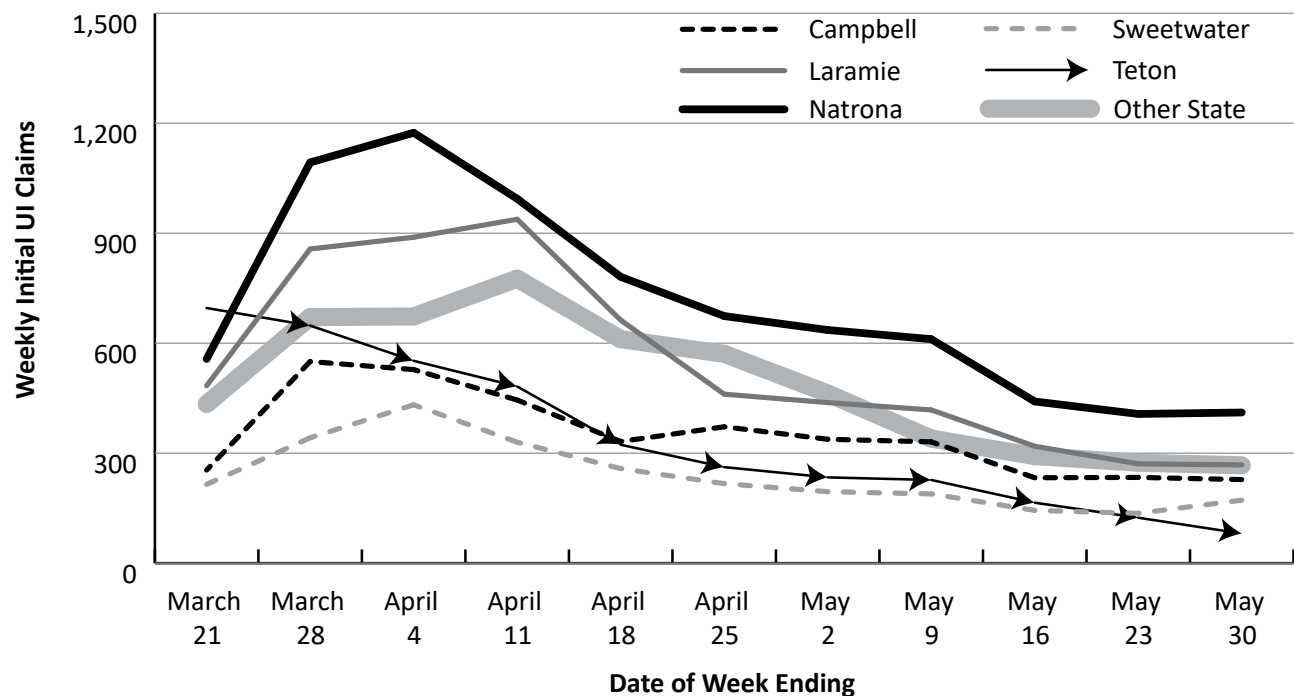
to Wyoming claimants during the week ending May 2. There were 572 initial PUA claims filed in Wyoming during that first week, which then increased to 1,709 for the week ending May 9 (see Figure 2).

Table 2: Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming During the COVID-19 Pandemic by Selected County of Residence

Industry and NAICS ^a Code	Week Ending:										
	March 21	March 28	April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
Campbell	254	550	528	445	332	372	338	331	233	234	228
Laramie	484	857	889	938	663	461	438	418	319	271	268
Natrona	557	1093	1174	994	781	674	636	611	441	407	411
Sweetwater	215	342	432	330	258	217	195	189	144	136	172
Teton	696	648	552	482	323	262	234	227	165	124	81
Other State	434	671	673	776	611	571	463	340	292	274	267
Total, Statewide	3,731	6,276	6,531	5,799	4,290	3,595	3,403	3,242	2,341	2,137	2,167

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 8/11/20.



Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 8/12/20.

Figure 3: Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Selected County of Residence in Wyoming for the Weeks Ending March 21, 2020, to May 30, 2020

Claims by County

Wyoming's two most populous counties — Laramie and Natrona — had the greatest number of initial weekly claims during much of the first 11 weeks of the pandemic (see Table 2 and Figure 3, page 6). After the first week of the COVID-19 pandemic, Natrona County consistently had more initial claims than any other county.

The large number of claims in Natrona County can be attributed in part to the county's relatively large population and the number of jobs in mining and leisure & hospitality, particularly food services & drinking places (NAICS 722). Natrona County's population in 2019 was 79,858, second only to the 99,500 in Laramie County (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020). Preliminary data from the QCEW for 2020Q1 (Moore, in press) show that Natrona County had the third highest number of mining jobs in the state (2,605) and the second highest number of jobs in food services & drinking places (3,302). As previously discussed and shown in Figure 2, mining and leisure & hospitality had some of the highest number of initial claims in Wyoming over the last several weeks.

Campbell and Sweetwater counties also had a relatively large number of claimants because of the proportion of mining jobs in those two counties. In 2020Q1, mining accounted for 7.3% of all jobs in the state, but 23.8% of all jobs in Campbell County and 19.0% of all jobs in Sweetwater County.

Residents of other states also accounted for a large share of all Wyoming UI claimants, which is not uncommon. Harris (2014) noted that from 2005 to 2012, more than one-third (36.0%) of all UI claimants in Wyoming were workers from other states. Mohondro (2016) explained that according to Wyoming Statute 27-3-504, UI benefits are awarded to eligible individuals based on the location of their former employer (UI claimants). Wyoming employers historically have relied on a large number of short-term, out-of-state workers. During the first 11 weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, approximately 12% of all initial claims in Wyoming were filed by workers from another state.

Claims by Gender

During the first two weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic in Wyoming, more women filed initial UI claims than men (see Table 3 and Figure 4, page 8). For the week

Table 3: Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming During the COVID-19 Pandemic by Gender

Industry and NAICS ^a Code	Week Ending:										
	March 21	March 28	April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
Women N	1,966	3,274	3,281	2,780	1,920	1,489	1,595	1,487	992	878	896
Men N	1,765	3,002	3,250	3,019	2,370	2,106	1,808	1,755	1,349	1,259	1,271
Total	3,731	6,276	6,531	5,799	4,290	3,595	3,403	3,242	2,341	2,137	2,167
Women %	52.7	52.2	50.2	47.9	44.8	41.4	46.9	45.9	42.4	41.1	41.3
Men %	47.3	47.8	49.8	52.1	55.2	58.6	53.1	54.1	57.6	58.9	58.7

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 8/13/20.

ending March 21, for example, more than half (52.7%) of the 3,731 total claimants were women.

Nationally, job losses brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic affected women at a greater rate than men. A study by the Pew Research Center estimated that 11.5 million women lost their jobs from February to May, compared to 9.0 million men (Kochhar, 2020). Data from the U.S. Department of Labor (2020) suggest that women made up 51.2% of all UI benefit claimants in April and 53.4% in May.

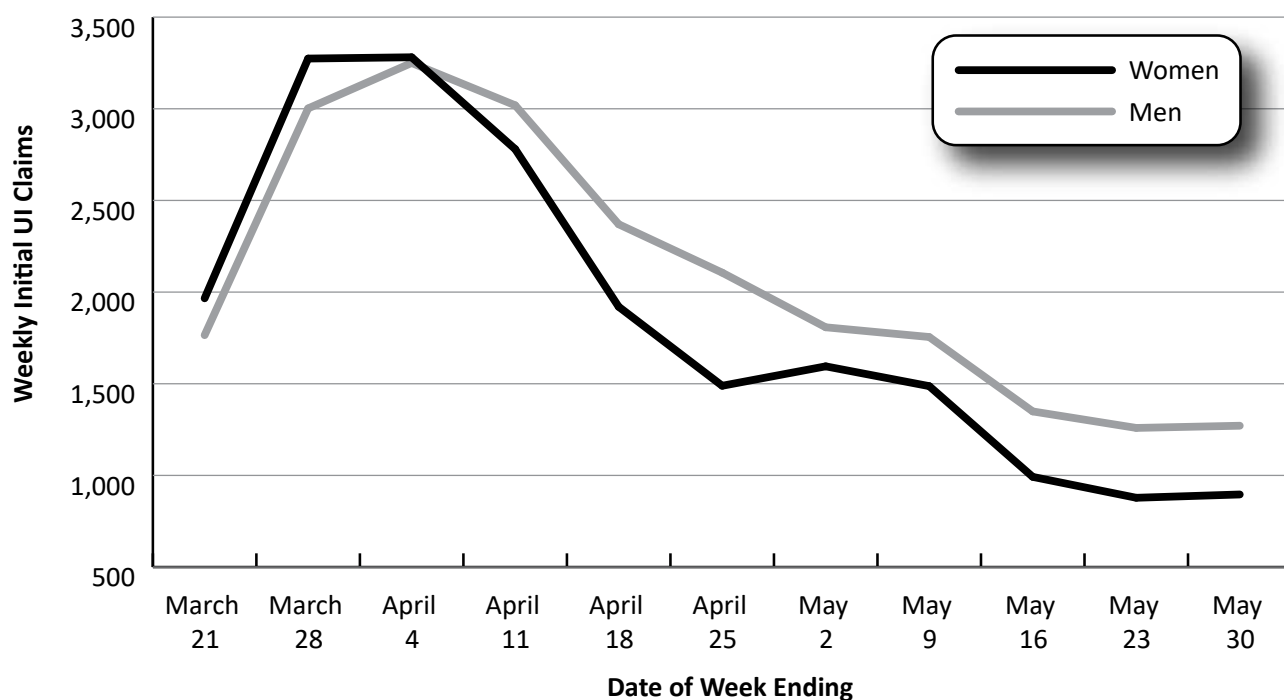
While women continued to make up a larger proportion of total UI claimants in Wyoming, more men filed claims for benefits than women each week since April 11.

Wyoming has a large number of jobs in

goods-producing sectors like mining that are typically worked by men more often than women. In 2019, mining accounted for 7.5% of all jobs in Wyoming, compared to less than one-half of a percent nationally (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020). As claims in the mining industry increased while claims in leisure & hospitality slowed after the third week of the COVID-19 pandemic, men made up a greater share of initial claimants than women in Wyoming (see Figure 4).

Claims by Age Group

During the first 10 weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals ages 25-34 made up the greatest proportion of initial UI claimants (see Table 4 and Figure 5, page 9). This is consistent with prior



Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance claims database.
Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 8/13/20.

Figure 4: Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Gender in Wyoming for the Weeks Ending March 21, 2020, to May 30, 2020

research from R&P that showed younger workers, particularly males, are the most likely to lose their jobs during times of economic downturn (Harris, 2013, and Moore, 2017). As indicated by the U.S.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (2016), employers tend to retain older, more experienced workers and let go of younger, less experienced workers during these economic downturns.

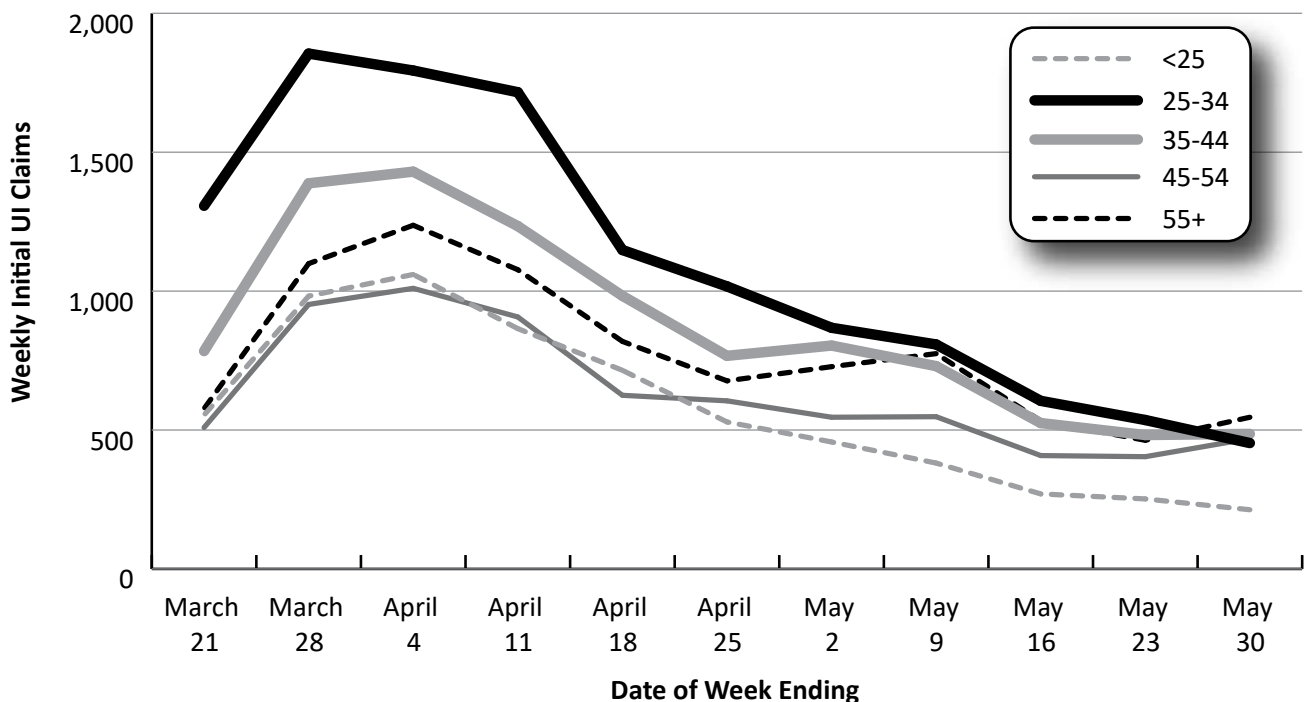
Table 4: Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims for Wyoming During the COVID-19 Pandemic by Age Group
Week Ending:

Age Group	March 21	March 28	April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
<25	554	982	1,060	865	715	529	457	381	270	252	213
25-34	1,307	1,855	1,794	1,716	1,148	1,017	868	808	605	536	453
35-44	784	1,388	1,430	1,234	983	767	804	730	525	482	486
45-54	509	952	1,010	907	625	605	546	548	408	404	469
55+	577	1,099	1,237	1,077	819	677	728	775	533	463	546
Total	3,731	6,276	6,531	5,799	4,290	3,595	3,403	3,242	2,341	2,137	2,167

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 8/13/20.



Source: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance claims database.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 8/13/20.

Figure 5: Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Age Group in Wyoming for the Weeks Ending March 21, 2020, to May 30, 2020

The large number of younger claimants likely is related to the number of younger individuals working in leisure & hospitality. In 2019, the 9,477 individuals ages 25-34 working in leisure & hospitality represented 17.1% of all persons working in that industry (Moore, 2020). While the largest number of individuals working in leisure & hospitality were younger than 25 (15,103, or 27.3%), it is likely that many of those individuals did not meet eligibility requirements to claim UI benefits. As noted by Wen (2020), only 811 individuals younger than 25 received UI benefits in Wyoming in 2019. Comprehensive information on UI benefit eligibility is available at <http://www.wyomingworkforce.org/workers/ui/faq/#03>.

Conclusion

Unemployment Insurance benefit claims reached record levels both nationally and in Wyoming due to businesses and schools being shut down because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, job losses caused by the substantial decline in the price of oil provided an even greater increase in UI benefit claims for Wyoming.

This article provides an introduction to the type of information published on a weekly basis with regard to UI benefit claims data at the industry, county, gender, and age group levels.

Wyoming UI claims data provide a near real-time look at the effects on Wyoming of the COVID-19 pandemic and substantial declines in price of oil. Updated data are published each week by R&P at <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI.htm>.

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Nonresident Worker Increase Continues in 2019

by: Michael Moore, Editor

Excerpted from the 2020 Wyoming Workforce Annual Report

The total number of persons working in Wyoming at any time during the year increased by 1.7% from 2018 to 2019 as the number of nonresident workers increased by nearly 9,000, or 24.2% (see Table 1). The term *nonresidents* refers to individuals for whom demographic data are not available; these are typically individuals who commute to Wyoming from another state or country for temporary work. The number of resident workers decreased by 0.9%,

marking the fourth time the number of resident workers has decreased from prior-year levels in the last five years.

From 2018 to 2019, Wyoming saw a decline in the number of resident men and women working in the state at any time during the year. There were 140,577 women working in Wyoming, down 1,590 (-1.1%) over the year, and 164,728 men, down 1,159 (-0.7%) over the year.

The number of persons

working in Wyoming at any time decreased for most age groups from 2018 to 2019, with the greatest losses seen in those ages 25-34 (-2,231, or -3.3%), younger than 25 (-804, or -1.5%), and 45-54 (-594, or -1.1%; see Table 1). Over-the-year increases were seen in those ages 35-44 (732, or 1.2%) and 55 or older (132, or 0.2%).

Table 1 also shows that in 2018 and 2019, there were more individuals ages 55 or older working in Wyoming than any other age group. The increase in older workers can be attributed to the large number of baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) moving into the 55 or older age group in recent years, and the fact that more individuals are working beyond the traditional retirement age of 65.

This article was excerpted from Chapter 7 of the 2020 Wyoming Workforce Annual Report, which is available online at <https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/publications.htm>.

A comprehensive article on the demographics of Wyoming's workforce will be published in the August 2020 issue of Wyoming Labor Force Trends.

Table 1: Selected Demographics of Persons Working in Wyoming at Any Time by Gender, 2018-2019

Gender				
Gender	2019	2018	Over-the-Year Change	
			N	%
Residents	305,305	308,054	-2,749	-0.9
Women	140,577	142,167	-1,590	-1.1
Men	164,728	165,887	-1,159	-0.7
Nonresidents ^a	44,887	36,146	8,741	24.2
Total	350,192	344,200	5,992	1.7
Age				
Age Group	2019	2018	Over-the-Year Change	
			N	%
<25	51,571	52,375	-804	-1.5
25-34	66,212	68,443	-2,231	-3.3
35-44	63,825	63,093	732	1.2
45-54	51,718	52,312	-594	-1.1
55+	71,523	71,391	132	0.2
Nonresidents ^a	45,343	36,586	8,757	23.9
Total	350,192	344,200	5,992	1.7

^aNonresidents are individuals for whom demographic data are not available.

Source: Demographics and Earnings of Persons Working in Wyoming by County, Industry, Age, & Gender, 2000-2019.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/20/20.

Wyoming Unemployment Rises to 9.2% in April 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 rose from 3.8% in March to 9.2% in April. Given the large number of layoffs and other economic disruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the increase in unemployment was widely expected. Job losses were seen across all areas of the state and in every major industry with the hardest hit sectors being leisure & hospitality, natural resources & mining, and retail trade. Despite the large increase from March to April, Wyoming's unemployment rate was significantly lower than the current U.S. rate of 14.7%.

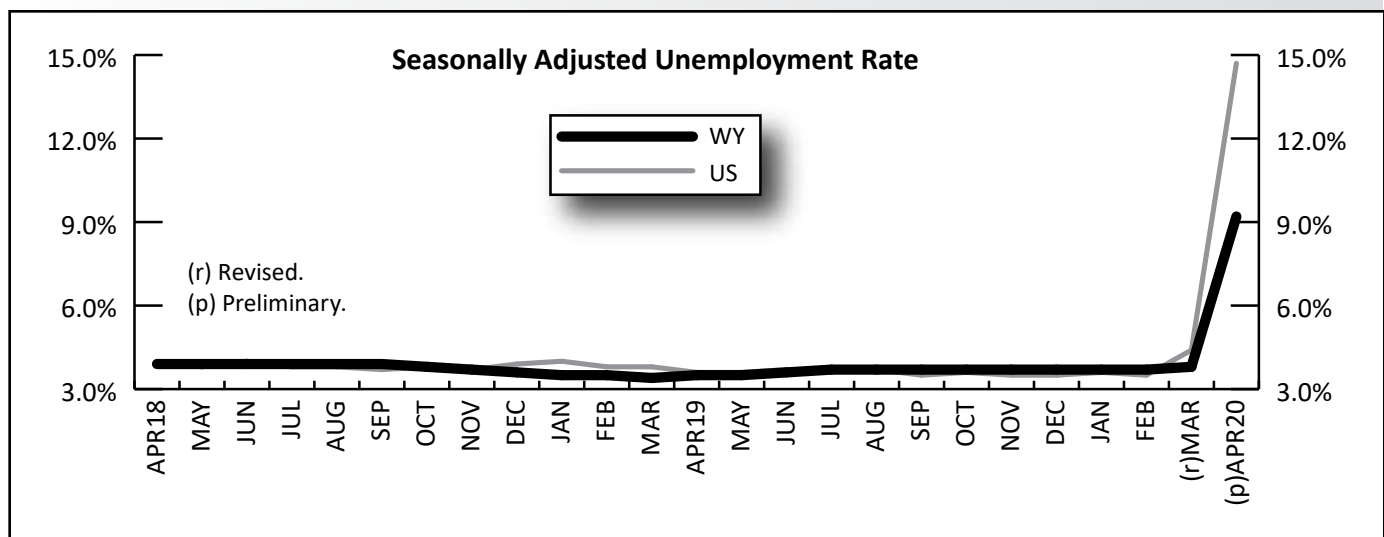
Unemployment rates rose from year-ago levels in every Wyoming county. The largest increases occurred in Teton (up from 4.0% to 18.3%), Natrona (up from 3.6% to 12.7%), Sublette (up from 4.0% to 11.3%), Campbell (up from 3.1% to 10.2%), and Sweetwater

(up from 3.7% to 10.5%) counties. The smallest increases were seen in Niobrara County (up from 2.4% to 4.4%) and Big Horn County (up from 4.6% to 6.6%).

At 18.3% in April, Teton County reported the highest unemployment rate in the state. It was followed by Natrona County at 12.7%, Sublette County at 11.3%, Sweetwater County at 10.5%, and Campbell County at 10.2%. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Niobrara County at 4.4%, Albany County at 5.4%, Weston County at 5.7%, and Crook County at 5.8%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) decreased from 284,300 in April 2019 to 257,900 in April 2020, a decline of 26,400 jobs (-9.3%). The largest job losses occurred in leisure & hospitality (-13,800 jobs, or -41.4%), natural resources & mining (-2,600 jobs, or -12.6%), retail trade (-1,700 jobs, or -6.0%), and government (including public schools, colleges, and hospitals -1,700 jobs, or -2.5%).

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.



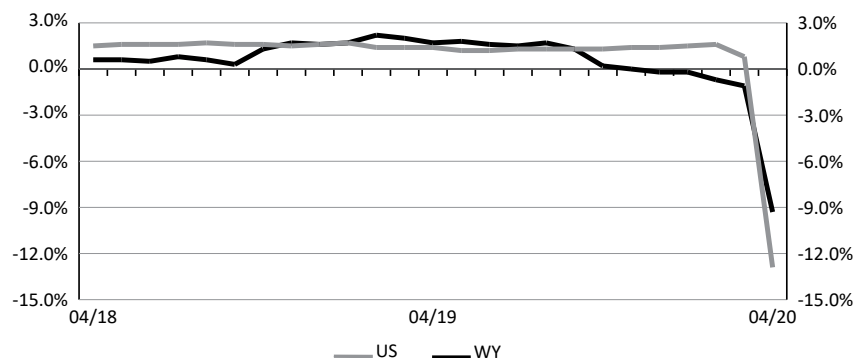
Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Internal Estimates, April 2020

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

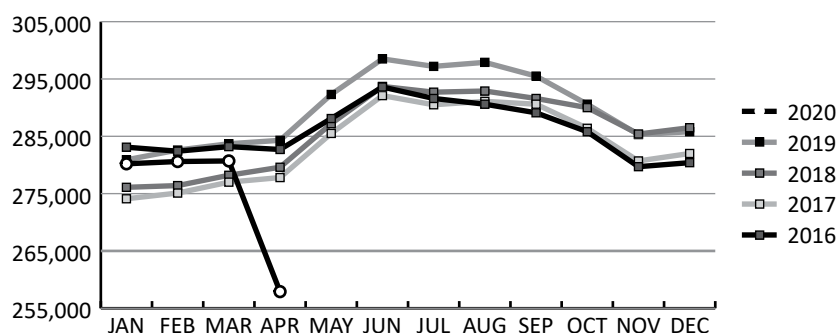
Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Internal Estimates	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm Employment	283,528	257,900	-25,628	-9.9%
Natural Resources & Mining	18,786	18,100	-686	-3.8%
Construction	22,193	20,800	-1,393	-6.7%
Manufacturing	9,684	9,700	16	0.2%
Wholesale Trade	8,343	7,900	-443	-5.6%
Retail Trade	27,848	26,600	-1,248	-4.7%
Transportation & Utilities	14,735	14,300	-435	-3.0%
Information	3,361	3,200	-161	-5.0%
Financial Activities	11,299	10,900	-399	-3.7%
Professional & Business Services	18,783	17,400	-1,383	-7.9%
Educational & Health Services	29,219	27,400	-1,819	-6.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	33,947	19,500	-14,447	-74.1%
Other Services	16,156	14,400	-1,756	-12.2%
Government	69,174	67,700	-1,474	-2.2%

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 April 2020 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	-
Nevada	28.2
Michigan	22.7
Hawaii	22.3
Rhode Island	17.0
Indiana	16.9
Ohio	16.8
Illinois	16.4
New Hampshire	16.3
Vermont	15.6
California	15.5
Kentucky	15.4
Mississippi	15.4
Washington	15.4
New Jersey	15.3
West Virginia	15.2
Massachusetts	15.1
Pennsylvania	15.1
Tennessee	14.7
United States	14.7
Louisiana	14.5
New York	14.5
Delaware	14.3
Oregon	14.2
Wisconsin	14.1
Oklahoma	13.7
Alabama	12.9
Alaska	12.9
Florida	12.9
Texas	12.8
Arizona	12.6
North Carolina	12.2
South Carolina	12.1
Georgia	11.9
Idaho	11.5
Colorado	11.3
Montana	11.3
New Mexico	11.3
Kansas	11.2
District of Columbia	11.1
Maine	10.6
Virginia	10.6
Arkansas	10.2
Iowa	10.2
South Dakota	10.2
Maryland	9.9
Missouri	9.7
Utah	9.7
Wyoming	9.2
North Dakota	8.5
Nebraska	8.3
Minnesota	8.1
Connecticut	7.9

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

State Unemployment Rates April 2020 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	-
Nevada	29.8
Michigan	23.8
Hawaii	23.5
Rhode Island	17.8
Ohio	17.4
New Hampshire	17.2
Indiana	17.1
Illinois	16.9
Vermont	16.8
California	16.1
Kentucky	16.1
Massachusetts	15.9
New Jersey	15.9
Washington	15.8
West Virginia	15.8
Mississippi	15.6
Pennsylvania	15.5
New York	15.0
Tennessee	15.0
Delaware	14.8
Oregon	14.8
Wisconsin	14.6
Louisiana	14.5
United States	14.4
Oklahoma	14.3
Alaska	13.7
Alabama	13.3
Florida	13.3
Texas	13.0
Arizona	12.9
North Carolina	12.5
Georgia	12.2
South Carolina	12.2
Colorado	12.0
Montana	11.9
Idaho	11.8
Kansas	11.6
New Mexico	11.4
Maine	11.3
District of Columbia	11.1
South Dakota	11.0
Virginia	10.8
Iowa	10.7
Arkansas	10.3
Utah	10.3
Maryland	10.1
Missouri	9.8
Wyoming	9.6
North Dakota	9.2
Minnesota	8.6
Nebraska	8.6
Connecticut	8.0

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Apr 20	Mar 20	Apr 19	Apr 20 Mar 20	Apr 20 Apr 19
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	25.4	25.4	25.6	0.0	-0.8
TOTAL PRIVATE	20.3	20.3	20.5	0.0	-1.0
GOODS PRODUCING	8.0	8.1	8.4	-1.2	-4.8
Natural Resources & Mining	5.6	5.8	5.9	-3.4	-5.1
Construction	1.9	1.8	2.0	5.6	-5.0
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	17.4	17.3	17.2	0.6	1.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.4	5.4	5.4	0.0	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.7	0.7	14.3	14.3
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	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	5.1	5.1	5.1	0.0	0.0

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Apr 20	Mar 20	Apr 19	Apr 20 Mar 20	Apr 20 Apr 19
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	22.1	21.9	22.8	0.9	-3.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.3	17.1	18.0	1.2	-3.9
GOODS PRODUCING	6.8	6.7	7.4	1.5	-8.1
Natural Resources & Mining	3.9	4.0	4.5	-2.5	-13.3
Construction	1.5	1.3	1.6	15.4	-6.3
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	7.7
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.3	15.2	15.4	0.7	-0.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.4	4.4	4.5	0.0	-2.2
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	1.0	1.1	10.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
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	
	Apr 20	Mar 20	Apr 19	Apr 20 Mar 20	Apr 20 Apr 19
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	18.3	19.9	18.4	-8.0	-0.5
TOTAL PRIVATE	15.7	17.3	15.9	-9.2	-1.3
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	16.2	17.8	16.2	-9.0	0.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.4	2.5	2.5	-4.0	-4.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
Professional & Business Services	1.9	1.8	1.8	5.6	5.6
Educational & Health Services	1.2	1.3	1.2	-7.7	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	6.2	7.7	6.4	-19.5	-3.1
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.0	4.0

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Baker Hughes Rig Count for Wyoming fell to nine in April 2020, a 55% decrease from its March level.

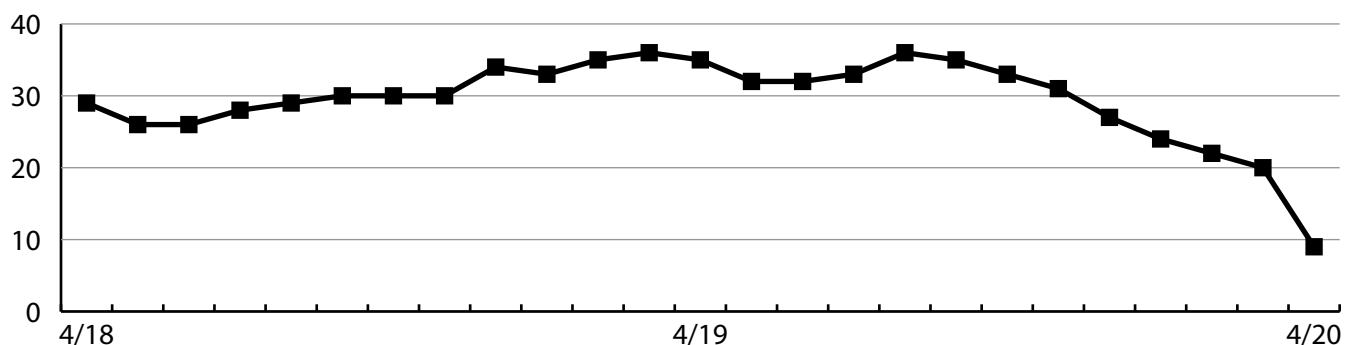
	Apr 2020 (p)	Mar 2019 (r)	Apr 2019 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	257,900	280,700	284,300	-8.1	-9.3
Wyoming State Government	14,500	14,500	15,300	0.0	-5.2
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	44,800	47,000	47,200	-4.7	-5.1
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	34,700	38,200	39,300	-9.2	-11.7
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	5,360,000	7,358,000	7,765,000	-27.2	-31.0
As a percent of all workers	4.0%	4.7%	5.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	585,000	514,000	454,000	13.8	28.9
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	10,684,000	5,879,000	4,483,000	81.7	138.3
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	60,318	21,100	11,503	185.9	424.4
Benefits Paid	\$22,277,999	\$8,576,790	\$4,358,207	159.7	411.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$369.34	\$406.48	\$378.88	-9.1	-2.5
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	261,338	260,825	258,421	0.2	1.1
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers					
(1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	256.4	258.1	255.5	-0.7	0.3
Food & Beverages	266.1	262.3	257.4	1.5	3.4
Housing	270.2	270.3	264.5	0.0	2.2
Apparel	118.4	123.8	125.5	-4.4	-5.7
Transportation	193.7	203.9	214.1	-5.0	-9.5
Medical Care	517.1	515.6	493.3	0.3	4.8
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	121.9	122.3	120.8	-0.3	0.9
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	139.4	139.2	137.2	0.1	1.6
Other Goods & Services	461.3	461.5	448.7	0.0	2.8
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	186.0	193.8	202.1	-4.0	-8.0
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	218	123	207	77.2	5.3
Valuation	\$52,560,000	\$44,617,000	\$78,735,000	17.8	-33.2
Single Family Homes	129	101	166	27.7	-22.3
Valuation	\$45,029,000	\$42,126,000	\$74,444,000	6.9	-39.5
Casper MSA ² Building Permits	61	10	35	510.0	74.3
Valuation	\$7,964,000	\$2,289,000	\$7,095,000	247.9	12.2
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	33	40	57	-17.5	-42.1
Valuation	\$5,719,000	\$6,407,000	\$9,393,000	-10.7	-39.1
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	9	20	35	-55.0	-74.3

(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**

In April 2020, the highest unemployment rate was found in Teton County (18.3%).

REGION	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Apr 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2019	Apr 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2019	Apr 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2019	Apr 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2019
County	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	44,833	45,029	44,165	40,901	42,680	42,389	3,932	2,349	1,776	8.8	5.2	4.0
Big Horn	5,107	5,189	5,162	4,768	4,903	4,922	339	286	240	6.6	5.5	4.6
Fremont	18,930	19,127	18,419	17,173	18,115	17,679	1,757	1,012	740	9.3	5.3	4.0
Hot Springs	2,157	2,227	2,146	2,008	2,130	2,079	149	97	67	6.9	4.4	3.1
Park	14,864	14,646	14,544	13,456	13,894	13,964	1,408	752	580	9.5	5.1	4.0
Washakie	3,775	3,840	3,894	3,496	3,638	3,745	279	202	149	7.4	5.3	3.8
NORTHEAST	50,748	50,791	50,099	46,193	48,680	48,479	4,555	2,111	1,620	9.0	4.2	3.2
Campbell	23,587	23,566	23,133	21,190	22,600	22,410	2,397	966	723	10.2	4.1	3.1
Crook	3,560	3,581	3,547	3,355	3,449	3,435	205	132	112	5.8	3.7	3.2
Johnson	4,109	4,033	4,054	3,706	3,849	3,902	403	184	152	9.8	4.6	3.7
Sheridan	15,770	15,795	15,546	14,431	15,091	15,031	1,339	704	515	8.5	4.5	3.3
Weston	3,722	3,816	3,819	3,511	3,691	3,701	211	125	118	5.7	3.3	3.1
SOUTHWEST	58,525	58,326	57,000	51,398	55,586	54,858	7,127	2,740	2,142	12.2	4.7	3.8
Lincoln	8,846	8,992	8,580	8,061	8,588	8,302	785	404	278	8.9	4.5	3.2
Sublette	4,014	4,050	3,923	3,559	3,785	3,766	455	265	157	11.3	6.5	4.0
Sweetwater	21,198	21,297	21,472	18,978	20,097	20,684	2,220	1,200	788	10.5	5.6	3.7
Teton	15,531	14,961	13,995	12,696	14,527	13,434	2,835	434	561	18.3	2.9	4.0
Uinta	8,936	9,026	9,030	8,104	8,589	8,672	832	437	358	9.3	4.8	4.0
SOUTHEAST	83,960	83,497	82,096	77,522	80,387	79,549	6,438	3,110	2,547	7.7	3.7	3.1
Albany	21,227	22,029	20,830	20,084	21,339	20,259	1,143	690	571	5.4	3.1	2.7
Goshen	6,312	6,433	6,518	5,923	6,180	6,291	389	253	227	6.2	3.9	3.5
Laramie	50,631	49,303	48,719	46,103	47,371	47,143	4,528	1,932	1,576	8.9	3.9	3.2
Niobrara	1,169	1,183	1,205	1,117	1,148	1,176	52	35	29	4.4	3.0	2.4
Platte	4,621	4,549	4,824	4,295	4,349	4,680	326	200	144	7.1	4.4	3.0
CENTRAL	56,242	55,962	55,364	50,087	53,517	53,468	6,155	2,445	1,896	10.9	4.4	3.4
Carbon	7,536	7,655	7,537	7,029	7,328	7,283	507	327	254	6.7	4.3	3.4
Converse	8,782	8,997	8,404	8,221	8,700	8,185	561	297	219	6.4	3.3	2.6
Natrona	39,924	39,310	39,423	34,837	37,489	38,000	5,087	1,821	1,423	12.7	4.6	3.6
STATEWIDE	294,311	293,605	288,723	266,103	280,851	278,743	28,208	12,754	9,980	9.6	4.3	3.5
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										9.2	3.8	3.5
U.S.										14.4	4.5	3.3
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										14.7	4.4	3.6

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/2020 Run Date 05/2020.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

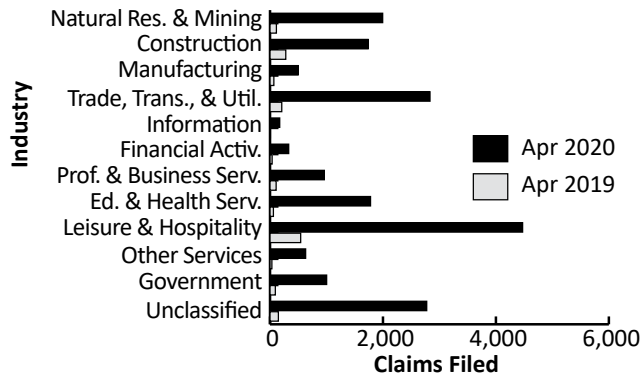
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: **Patrick Manning, Principal Economist**

Wyoming had 19,199 initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims in April 2020, an increase of 60.2% over the month and 1,025.4% over the year.

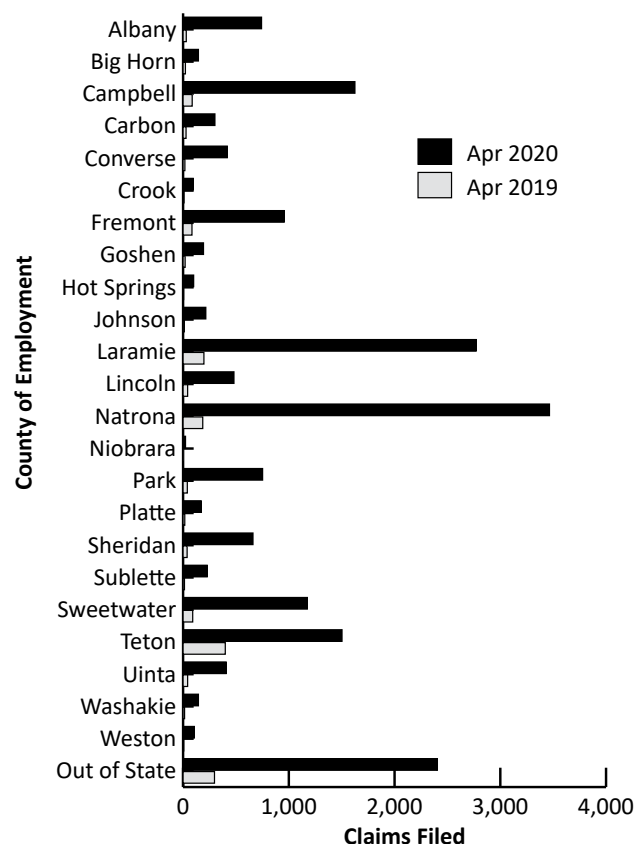
**Initial Unemployment Insurance
Claims by Industry, April 2020**



Initial Claims

	Claims Filed		Percent Change		
	Apr 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	Mar 20	
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	19,199	11,987	1,706	60.2	1,025.4
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	4,231	2,371	461	78.4	817.8
Natural Res. & Mining	1,995	777	113	156.8	1,665.5
Mining	1,961	750	105	161.5	1,767.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	41	21	5	95.2	720.0
Construction	1,737	1,236	279	40.5	522.6
Manufacturing	497	358	68	38.8	630.9
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	11,188	7,776	1,002	43.9	1,016.6
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	2,833	1,095	208	158.7	1,262.0
Wholesale Trade	392	156	29	151.3	1,251.7
Retail Trade	1,515	652	93	132.4	1,529.0
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	926	287	86	222.6	976.7
Information	172	80	7	115.0	2,357.1
Financial Activities	331	166	37	99.4	794.6
Prof. and Business Svcs.	962	484	108	98.8	790.7
Educational & Health Svcs.	1,780	1,172	60	51.9	2,866.7
Leisure & Hospitality	4,473	4,347	543	2.9	723.8
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	631	426	33	48.1	1,812.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	1,003	356	94	181.7	967.0
Federal Government	79	75	22	5.3	259.1
State Government	88	50	11	76.0	700.0
Local Government	835	229	59	264.6	1,315.3
Local Education	413	142	10	190.8	4,030.0
UNCLASSIFIED	2,775	1,483	148	87.1	1,775.0

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



Laramie County

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,771	1,578	197	75.6	1,306.6
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	392	316	53	24.1	639.6
Construction	205	208	42	-1.4	388.1
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,922	1,014	112	89.5	1,616.1
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	1,231	177	55	595.5	2,138.2
Financial Activities	35	18	8	94.4	337.5
Prof. & Business Svcs.	127	77	35	64.9	262.9
Educational & Health Svcs.	294	177	9	66.1	3,166.7
Leisure & Hospitality	516	481	10	7.3	5,060.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	81	36	14	125.0	478.6
UNCLASSIFIED	374	211	17	77.3	2,100.0

Natrona County

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	3,464	1,935	186	79.0	1,762.4
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	776	389	73	99.5	963.0
Construction	271	172	42	57.6	545.2
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	2,234	1,314	97	70.0	2,203.1
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	605	216	45	180.1	1,244.4
Financial Activities	85	36	5	136.1	1,600.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	201	82	10	145.1	1,910.0
Educational & Health Svcs.	421	194	13	117.0	3,138.5
Leisure & Hospitality	681	640	11	6.4	6,090.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	83	30	3	176.7	2,666.7
UNCLASSIFIED	370	201	11	84.1	3,263.6

^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: Patrick Manning, Principal Economist

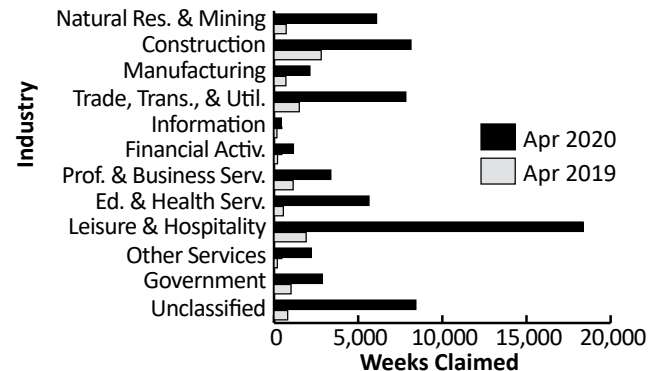
There were 17,631 unique continued claimants in April, up 336.6% (13,593 claimants) over the year.

Continued Claims

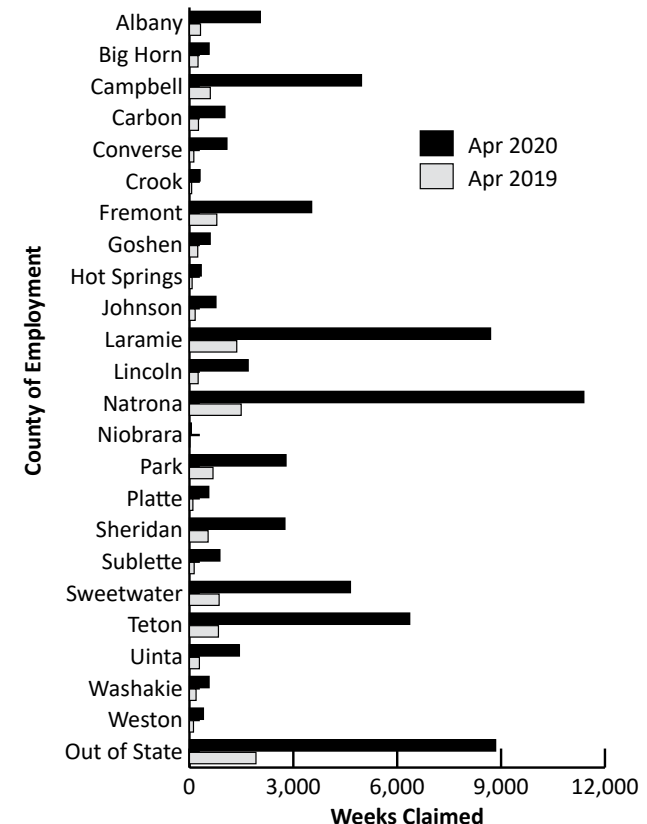
	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Apr 20	Mar 20	Apr 19	Mar 20	Apr 19
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	66,694	19,093	11,738	249.3	468.2
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	17,631	6,682	4,038	163.9	336.6
Benefit Exhaustions	1,887	694	531	171.9	255.4
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	10.7%	10.4%	13.2%	0.3%	-2.4%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING					
Natural Res. & Mining	6,093	1,967	722	209.8	743.9
Mining	5,904	1,822	621	224.0	850.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	199	90	92	121.1	116.3
Construction	8,138	5,726	2,803	42.1	190.3
Manufacturing	2,133	778	706	174.2	202.1
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING					
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	39,024	6,893	5,680	466.1	587.0
Wholesale Trade	7,832	1,804	1,501	334.1	421.8
Retail Trade	1,176	295	254	298.6	363.0
Retail Trade	4,322	778	801	455.5	439.6
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	2,334	731	446	219.3	423.3
Information	436	89	172	389.9	153.5
Financial Activities	1,152	326	208	253.4	453.8
Prof. & Business Svcs.	3,375	1,552	1,136	117.5	197.1
Educational & Health Svcs.	5,644	635	555	788.8	916.9
Leisure and Hospitality	18,361	2,179	1,908	742.6	862.3
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	2,218	300	195	639.3	1037.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT					
Federal Government	2,874	1,358	1,011	111.6	184.3
State Government	750	683	518	9.8	44.8
Local Government	251	156	80	60.9	213.8
Local Education	1,872	518	412	261.4	354.4
Local Education	887	56	77	1483.9	1051.9
UNCLASSIFIED	8,428	2,368	812	255.9	937.9
Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	8,697	2,214	1,366	292.8	536.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	2,394	820	486	192.0	392.6
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING					
Construction	1,499	949	483	58.0	210.4
Manufacturing	966	845	458	14.3	110.9
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING					
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	5,811	861	684	574.9	749.6
Financial Activities	2,504	375	227	567.7	1003.1
Prof. & Business Svcs.	134	44	34	204.5	294.1
Educational and Health Svcs.	513	209	220	145.5	133.2
Leisure & Hospitality	965	117	121	724.8	697.5
Leisure & Hospitality	1,967	154	58	1177.3	3291.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT					
UNCLASSIFIED	220	97	92	126.8	139.1
UNCLASSIFIED	1,164	306	106	280.4	998.1
Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	11,391	2,559	1,493	345.1	663.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	3,074	902	492	240.8	524.8
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING					
Construction	2,893	1,223	513	136.5	463.9
Manufacturing	1,275	824	371	54.7	243.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING					
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	7,037	987	890	613.0	690.7
Financial Activities	1,557	307	319	407.2	388.1
Professional & Business Svcs.	251	66	38	280.3	560.5
Educational & Health Svcs.	548	215	174	154.9	214.9
Educational & Health Svcs.	1,080	119	141	807.6	666.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2,850	184	147	1448.9	1838.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT					
UNCLASSIFIED	228	61	48	273.8	375.0
UNCLASSIFIED	1,232	286	41	330.8	2904.9

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

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, April 2020



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, April 2020



**Wyoming Department of Workforce
Services, Research & Planning
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