

TRENDS

The Decline in Teen Drivers: What it May Mean for Wyoming

by: Michael Moore, Research Analyst

For several decades, obtaining a driver's license represented a milestone in the lives of youths ages 15-19. It was a goal towards which youths worked, which was rewarded with "freedom, independence, adventure, and responsibility" (Virginia DMV, n.d.). But that is changing among today's youths, nationally and in Wyoming. Obtaining a driver's license may no longer be a priority for many youths, and this trend has ramifications for employers, educators, business owners, and the general public, now and in the future.

Since 2000, the number and proportion of teenagers obtaining a driver's license have declined substantially in Wyoming and across the U.S. This article examines local and national trends and provides rich detail about young drivers in Wyoming.

National Changes

It is difficult to quantify the decline in young drivers nationally because there is not one universally accepted source for driver's license statistics. The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal

Highway Administration (FHA) annually publishes driver's license statistics for each state. However, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) cautioned that the statistics presented by the FHA were not suitable for research purposes "because of inconsistencies among states as to who qualifies as a licensed driver, and large, inexplicable year-to-year changes in counts in some states" (Shults and Williams, 2013).

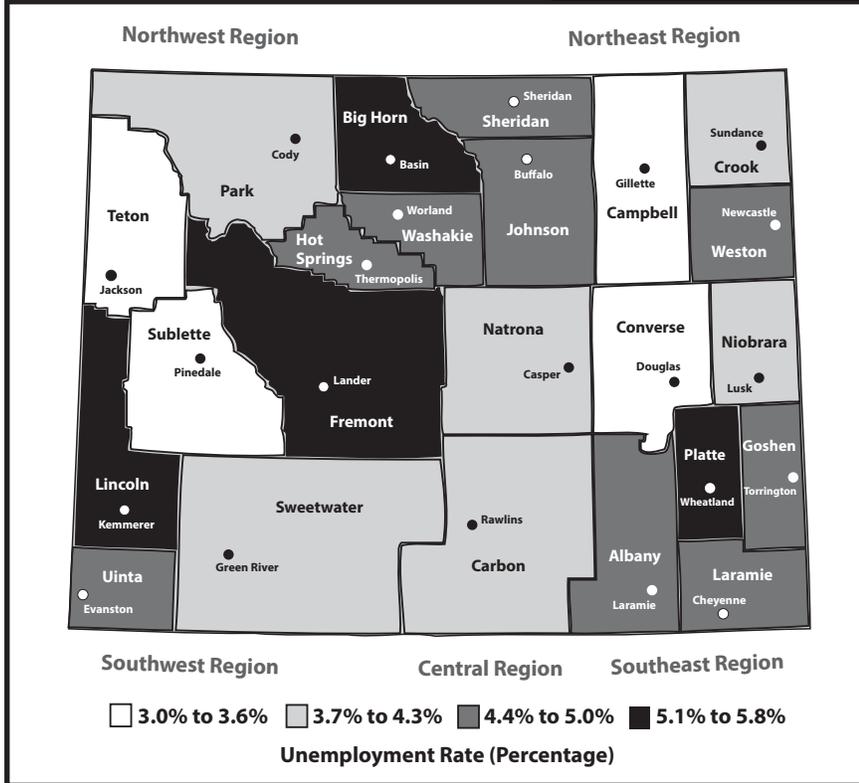
Due to this lack of a reliable source of national driver's license data, results vary from study to study. Nonprofit organizations, government agencies,

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of occupational fatalities fell from 35 in 2012 to 26 in 2013, a decrease of nine deaths. On average, from 1992-2013 there were 34 occupational fatalities each year. . . . *page 11*
- Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims decreased over the year by 28.3%, with large decreases in wholesale trade (-71.4%), other services, except public administration (-55.9%), and construction (-27.7%). . . . *page 18*

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, July 2014 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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(Text continued from page 1)

for-profit businesses, and colleges and universities have recently published studies on this decline of young drivers. While all of these studies have the potential for limitations and biases, they all point to a decline in the number and proportion of youths obtaining a driver's license nationally.

In 2012 the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety (AAA) surveyed 1,039 18- to 20-year-olds in the U.S. Of those surveyed, 44% said that they had obtained a driver's license within one year of the minimum age of licensing in their state, and 54% said they obtained a license before turning 18 (Grabowski, Tefft, and Williams, 2013).

Researchers from the CDC examined the results of the Monitoring the Future report from the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, which they found indicated the proportion of high school seniors in the U.S. who reported having a driver's license decreased from 85% in 1996 to 73% in 2010 (Shults and Williams, 2013).

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), a nonprofit research organization funded by the automotive insurance industry, found that the number of insured 14- to 16-year-old drivers declined 12% from 2006 to 2012 (IIHS, 2013).

Wyoming Statistics

The Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services has access to several administrative

databases, including Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage records and driver's license files. Wage records is "an administrative database used to calculate UI benefits for employees who have been laid-off through no fault of their own" (Gosar, 1995). With these resources, R&P is able to publish precise, accurate counts of the number of young licensed drivers in Wyoming and calculate the proportion of the youth population who are licensed drivers or working at any time – something that has yet to be accomplished nationally.

In Wyoming, applicants can obtain an instructional permit at age 15 (WYDOT, n.a.). An intermediate license with limited driving privileges is available at age 16. Full driving privileges are available to those 17 and older, or those who are 16-1/2 and have completed an approved driver education course and have held an intermediate license for six months. This type of tiered structure is referred to as a graduated driver's license (GDL). Wyoming adopted this GDL structure in 2005.

For the purposes of this article, young drivers are defined as those who are age 15-19 and have obtained a Wyoming driver's license. The research used in this article does not differentiate between an instructional permit, an intermediate license, or a license with full driving privileges.

Wyoming's youth population, the number of young drivers, and the number of resident youths working at any time all declined from 2000-2013 (see Figure 1, page 4). However, the number of young drivers (-23.5%) and the number of resident youths working at any time (-37.7%) decreased at much greater rates than the overall youth population (-9.8%). This indicates that a significant proportion

of Wyoming's youths had not obtained a driver's license by 2013, and an even greater proportion did not work at any time.

The Table (see page 5) shows the proportion of resident youths who were licensed Wyoming drivers and the proportion of resident youths working at any time in Wyoming. In 2000, 86.7% (36,412) of Wyoming's estimated youth

population of 42,004 were licensed drivers. By 2013, the estimated youth population was 37,905, and 73.5% (27,873) were licensed drivers. The decline in the proportion of youths working in Wyoming at any time was even greater. In 2000, 79.8% (33,511) of the estimated 42,004 youths worked in Wyoming at any time. In 2013, just 55.1% (20,884) of the estimated 37,905 youths were employed at any time in Wyoming.

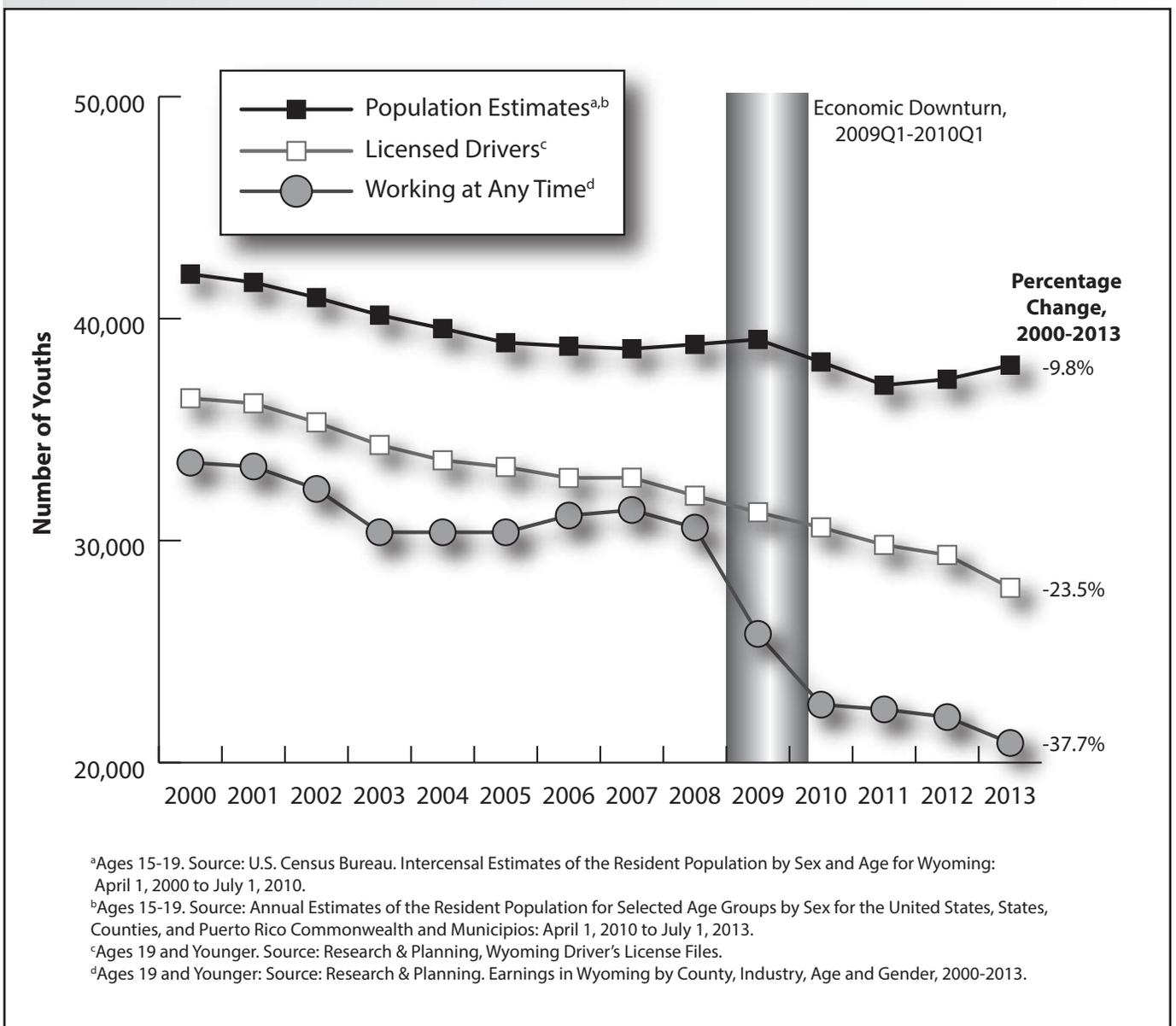


Figure 1: Wyoming Youths: Population, Licensed Drivers, and Number Working at Any Time, 2000-2013

In a rural state like Wyoming, employment opportunities are often linked to the ability to travel for work. As noted by Leonard (2010), “in a mobile environment, labor markets do not respect county or state boundaries.” R&P publishes intracounty, intercounty, and interstate commuting data at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/commute.htm>. One example from these data shows that in third quarter 2011 (2011Q3), 10,880 individuals commuted into

Natrona County for work from another county or state (inflow), while 3,923 individuals commuted out of Natrona County for work (outflow). The lack of a driver’s license and the inability to travel may limit employment opportunities for Wyoming youths.

Why the Decline?

Several theories have been published regarding the shrinking proportion of

young licensed drivers nationally. The CDC, IIHS, and AAA all cited national economic reasons for the decline in young licensed drivers. The Great Recession lasted from December 2007 to June 2009 (NBER, 2010) and many studies referenced in this article suggest that the decline in young licensed drivers began during this period. In AAA’s *Timing of Driver’s License Acquisition and Reasons for Delay Among Young People in the United States, 2012*, economic challenges were selected as three of the top five reasons by respondents as to why they did not have a learner’s permit before their 18th birthday (Grabowski, Tefft, and Williams, 2013). Of the 458 respondents, 33% identified “did not have a car” as a “very important reason” or “somewhat important reason” as to why they had not obtained a learner’s permit; 35% said “gas was too expensive” and 38% said “driving was too expensive.”

This theory is consistent with previous findings from R&P regarding the employment of Wyoming’s resident youths. Wyoming experienced an economic downturn that began in first quarter 2009 (2009Q1) and lasted through first quarter

Table: Licensed Drivers and Resident Youths Working in Wyoming at Any Time as a Percentage of Estimated Population Ages 15-19, 2000-2013

Year	Population ^{a,b}	Licensed Drivers ^c		Working at Any Time ^d	
	N	N	Row %	N	Row %
2000	42,004	36,412	86.7%	33,511	79.8%
2001	41,632	36,186	86.9%	33,340	80.1%
2002	40,947	35,326	86.3%	32,328	79.0%
2003	40,157	34,308	85.4%	30,377	75.6%
2004	39,553	33,618	85.0%	30,375	76.8%
2005	38,916	33,317	85.6%	30,375	78.1%
2006	38,760	32,822	84.7%	31,130	80.3%
2007	38,640	32,832	85.0%	31,379	81.2%
2008	38,839	32,024	82.5%	30,586	78.8%
2009	39,062	31,277	80.1%	25,797	66.0%
2010	38,047	30,596	80.4%	22,611	59.4%
2011	37,003	29,807	80.6%	22,398	60.5%
2012	37,270	29,354	78.8%	22,051	59.2%
2013	37,905	27,873	73.5%	20,884	55.1%

Sources:

^aAges 15-19. Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Intercensal Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex and Age for Wyoming: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2010.

^bAges 15-19. Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013.

^cAges 19 and Younger. Source: Research & Planning, Wyoming Driver’s License Files.

^dAges 19 and Younger. Source: Research & Planning. Earnings in Wyoming by County, Industry, Age and Gender, 2000-2013.

2010 (2010Q1). During this downturn, younger workers were more likely to be affected by job loss than other age groups (Harris, 2013). This is illustrated in Figure 1 and the Table, which show that both the number and the proportion of resident youths working in Wyoming at any time declined substantially from 2008 to 2009. Since then, the proportion of resident youths working in Wyoming has continued to decline, and dropped nearly 25% from 2000 (79.8%) to 2013 (55.1%). Wyoming resident youths are competing for jobs with other segments of the population, such as older workers and nonresidents (Moore, 2013). If Wyoming youths are not working, it is not clear how they will pay for a vehicle, gas, insurance, maintenance, and other costs.

Financial constraints are not limited just to the driver's license applicant; household income also appears to play a factor in youths ability to obtain driver's licenses. The national median household income declined from \$56,100 in July of 2007, prior to the Great Recession, to \$52,300 in October 2013, nearly five years after the end of the Great Recession (Thompson and Smeeding, 2014). A lower household income may result in fewer opportunities to drive for youths who are dependent on their parents for financial support. Grabowski, Tefft, and Williamson (2013) found that young adults who were part of families with an annual household income of at least \$40,000 were more likely to obtain a driver's license or learner's permit than those whose families had an average annual income of under \$40,000. Of the 159 respondents with an annual household income of \$40,000-\$59,999, 87% had either a driver's license or learner's permit. By comparison, of the 230 respondents with an annual household income of \$20,000-\$39,999, 68% had either a driver's license or learner's permit.

Others have suggested that new and evolving technologies and changing social attitudes may also play a role in the decline of young drivers. Schoettle and Sivak (2011) studied driving trends in the U.S. and 14 other countries and found that countries with a higher proportion of Internet users also had lower licensure rates among young persons. The authors stated that, "access to virtual contact reduces the need for actual contact among young people." Youths who communicate electronically via social media may be interacting with their peers in different ways than in past decades.

Graduated driver's license (GDL) laws also may have an effect on whether youths obtain a driver's license. As stated earlier, in Wyoming an applicant can obtain a learner's permit at 15, a license with limited privileges at 16, and then must take a certified driver's education course before obtaining a full license. However, that same applicant could wait until he or she turned 17 and obtain a full license without first getting a provisional license. It is possible that youths could wait an extra year to obtain a driver's license in order to bypass GDL regulations.

Potential Consequences

The decline of young licensed drivers in Wyoming and nationally could affect a variety of sectors, including employers, businesses, public safety organizations, and researchers.

Fewer Wyoming youths are driving or working. This could result in several challenges for Wyoming employers. If youths do not drive, it is unclear how they can reliably get to work. When youths don't work during their formative years, they may not develop the tools they need

to succeed in the workforce. They may not develop soft skills, which include communication, enthusiasm and attitude, teamwork, networking, problem solving and critical thinking, and professionalism (U.S. DOL, n.d.). They may not learn how to develop a regular work routine or how to balance school and work responsibilities.

Research & Planning has conducted a New Hires Job Skills Survey since 2009. A new hire is defined as an employee who, during a particular quarter, started working for an employer he or she had not worked for since at least 1992, the first year for which R&P has wage records (Knapp, 2011). As a part of this survey, employers are asked, “How would you rate your overall satisfaction with this employee’s work skills (for example, cooking, customer service skills, welding, teaching skills, heavy lifting skills)?” Employers are given four choices: satisfied, unsatisfied, neither satisfied nor unsatisfied, or other. Through the New Hires Job Skills Survey, R&P has found statistical and anecdotal evidence that employers are not satisfied with the lack of soft skills in some of Wyoming’s younger workers.

From 2011Q4 through 2013Q3, the most recent period for which New Hires Survey data are available, Wyoming employers added an estimated 218,308 new hires; of those, an estimated 11.8% (25,760) were Wyoming youths age 19 and younger. For new hires age 19 and younger across all industries, 57.2% of employers said they were satisfied with the skills of those new hires, compared to 60.1% for all new hires across all industries.

New Hires Job Skills Survey results are available at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/newhires.htm>.

R&P has demonstrated that within the next 10 years, there may be many opportunities in industries that traditionally pay well and have a high proportion of jobs that require a bachelor’s degree (Knapp, 2013). For example, as shown in Figure 2 (see page 8), an estimated 67.2% of all workers in Wyoming’s educational services industry had a bachelor’s degree in 2012 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012); however, 29.7% of those working in this industry were age 55 or older in 2013 (R&P, 2013). This means that within the next 10 years, nearly one in three workers in this industry will reach the traditional retirement age of 65, which could result in a substantial number of job opportunities. Other industries will experience this as well, such as public administration and health care & social assistance. If young workers are not developing soft skills and a strong work ethic in jobs earlier in life, they may not be ready to fill these types of jobs when the opportunities arise.

Businesses that rely on the patronage of younger customers may also be affected by the drop in young drivers. If youths are not driving, they may spend less time and money at places such as movie theaters and restaurants. A decline in young drivers could also mean a decline in automobile sales. In 2007, adults age 18-34 accounted for approximately 15% of all new car buyers; by 2011, this age group made up approximately 10% of all new car buyers (Plache, 2012). According to Plache, “with higher unemployment, lower income, and less education than previous generations at this age, it hardly comes as a surprise that these younger adults have failed to buy new cars at the same rate as their predecessors.” This decline in automobile sales appears to support the idea that the decline in young drivers is related to economic challenges faced by young drivers and their families.

The decrease in young drivers may also pose a threat to public safety. According to the CDC (2012), GDL systems “are designed to delay full licensure while allowing teens to get their initial driving experience under low-risk conditions.” However, if Wyoming teens can wait until they turn 17 and obtain a driver’s license without first obtaining a learner’s permit or provisional license, is the state’s GDL

program succeeding in making young drivers safer drivers?

Finally, the decline in Wyoming youths obtaining driver’s licenses may impact the quality of the data published by R&P, which has been tasked with the “collection and analysis of data necessary for the long-term effects of the Hathaway student scholarship program on Wyoming high school students”

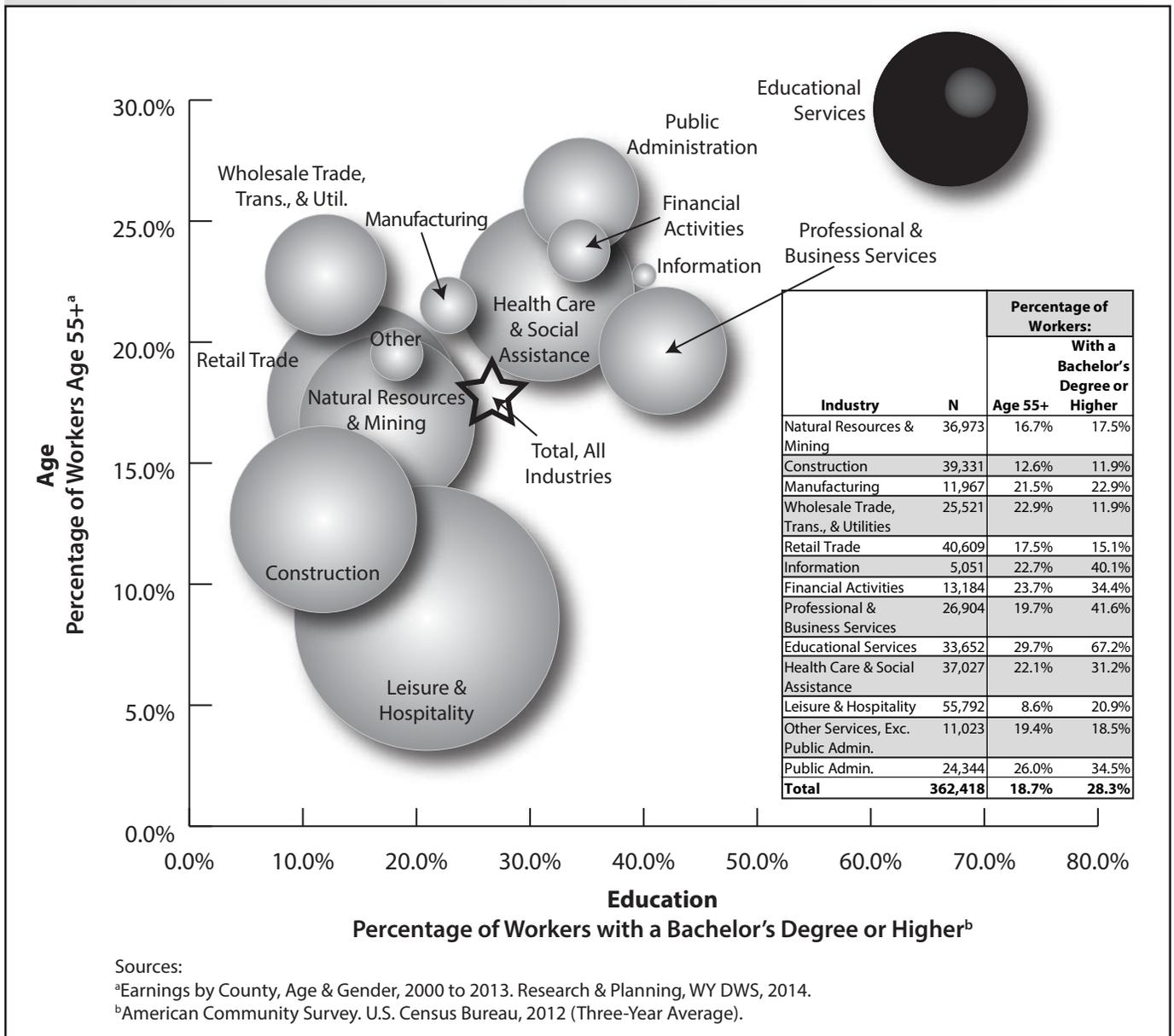


Figure 2: Percentage of Workers Age 55 and Older (2013) and Percentage of Workers with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher by Industry in Wyoming (2012)

(HB0001-General government appropriations, Section 326 [d]). The intent of the collection and analysis of these data is to learn more about the “employment, location of employment, and earnings level after leaving a post-secondary education program at a college or the university” (Session Laws of Wyoming, 2008, Ch. 95). If youths do not obtain a Wyoming driver’s license, tracking their progress into Wyoming’s workforce will present a challenge to R&P. This could make it more difficult to evaluate the success of programs such as the Hathaway Scholarship.

Summary

The decline in young drivers in Wyoming could have very real consequences for this state. As demonstrated in this article, a decline in licensed young drivers and workers may affect employers, businesses, public safety organizations, and researchers, among others. An individual who delays obtaining a driver’s license through his formative years may be passing up valuable learning experiences. Likewise, an individual who does not gain work experience as a teenager may limit her professional growth if she does not develop a strong work ethic and learn the soft skills that employers require. This topic will continue to be an area of study for R&P.

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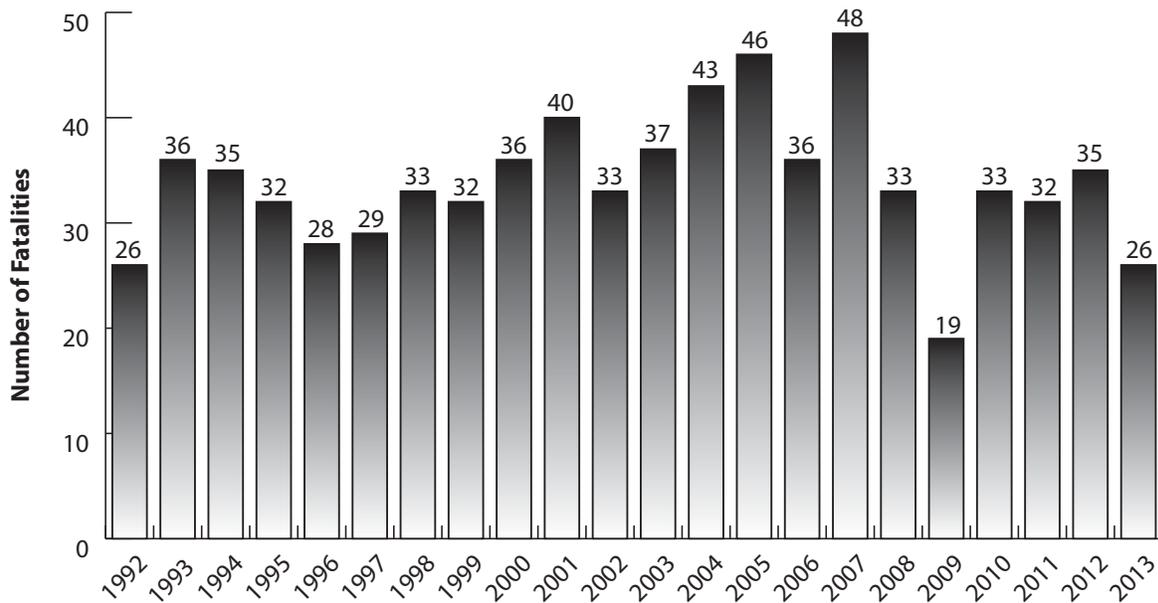
Wyoming Occupational Fatalities Decrease to 26 in 2013

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services has reported that the number of occupational fatalities fell from 35 in 2012 to 26 in 2013, a decrease of nine deaths (-25.7%; see Figure 1). On average, from 1992-2013 there were 34 occupational fatalities each year. Variations in fatalities from year to year are to some extent the result of the random nature of work-related accidents. Furthermore, there is not always a direct relationship between workplace fatalities and workplace safety. For example, suicides and homicides that occur in the workplace are included as occupational fatalities. In other cases, a sudden illness may be nearly coincidental with an accident that results in a workplace fatality. Occupational fatalities are counted in the state where the injury

occurred, not necessarily the state of residence or the state of death.

The fatality counts featured in this release are compiled by the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program (a joint effort of R&P and the Bureau of Labor Statistics or BLS) and may not match those from other programs, such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) because of differences in scope and methodology. In addition to regular wage and salary employees, CFOI counts include volunteer workers and self-employed individuals. The CFOI program utilizes a wide variety of data sources, such as OSHA reports, workers' compensation data, vital records, coroner's reports, media reports, and police reports of vehicle crashes. Additionally, similar data sources from other states are routinely used



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies.
 Note: Data for 2013 are preliminary. Data for all other years are revised and final.

Figure 1: Wyoming Occupational Fatalities, 1992-2013

to identify workplace fatalities. For example, a worker fatally injured in a highway incident in Wyoming may be covered by workers' compensation in another state. That information is made available to R&P as part of data sharing agreements between the states and federal government (BLS).

In 2013, the largest number of deaths occurred in natural resources & mining (nine, or 34.6% of all deaths; see Table). Within that category, five deaths were in agriculture (19.2%) and four deaths (15.4%) were in mining (including oil & gas). Four deaths occurred in manufacturing (15.4%), four deaths in transportation & warehousing (15.4%), and three in retail trade (11.5%). Half (50.0%) of workplace fatalities were the result of transportation incidents (see Figure 2).

From 2003-2013, transportation incidents made up 59.5% of all workplace deaths. Transportation incidents include

highway crashes as well as incidents involving aircraft and other vehicles.

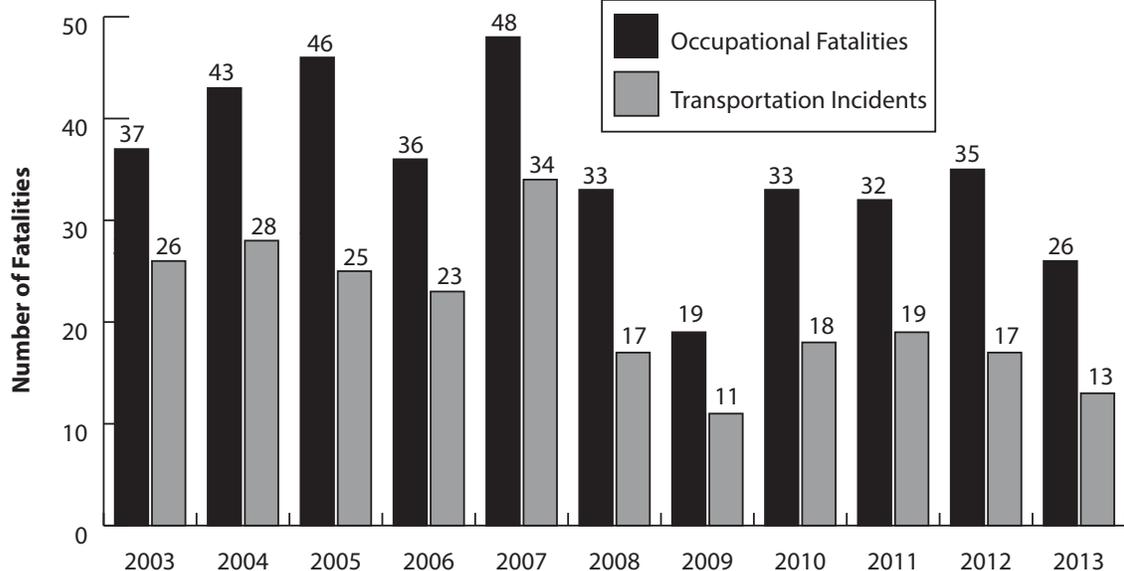
For official definitions used in the CFOI program, please visit <http://stats.bls.gov/iif/oshcdef.htm>.

Table: Wyoming Occupational Fatalities by Selected Industry, 2013

Industry	N	%
Natural Resources & Mining	9	34.6%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	5	19.2%
Mining, Quarrying, & Oil & Gas Extraction	4	15.4%
Manufacturing	4	15.4%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	7	26.9%
Retail Trade	3	11.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	4	15.4%
All Other Industries	6	23.1%
Total	26	100.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies, (Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries).

Note: Data for 2013 are preliminary.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies.

Note: Data for 2013 are preliminary. Data for all other years are revised and final.

From 2003 to 2010 transportation incidents are based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS).

From 2011 to 2013 transportation incidents are based on OIICS 2.01. Due to substantial differences between OIICS 2.01 and the original OIICS structure, data for transportation incidents from 2011 forward should not be compared to prior years.

Figure 2: Wyoming Occupational Fatalities and Transportation Incidents, 2003-2013

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Rises to 4.4% in July 2014

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 4.0% in June to 4.4% in July 2014 (this is a statistically significant increase). It is normal to see some fluctuations in unemployment rates. After trending down for more than four years, the recent rise in unemployment is not corroborated by other labor market measures, such as claims for unemployment insurance benefits. Unemployment in Wyoming was slightly lower than its July 2013 level of 4.6% and significantly lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 6.2%. Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents decreased, falling by an estimated 1,978 individuals (-0.7%) from June to July.

Most county unemployment rates were quite stable from June to July, rising or falling by 0.1% or less. Unemployment rates fell in Teton (down from 3.3% to 3.0%), Sublette (down from 3.3% to 3.1%), and

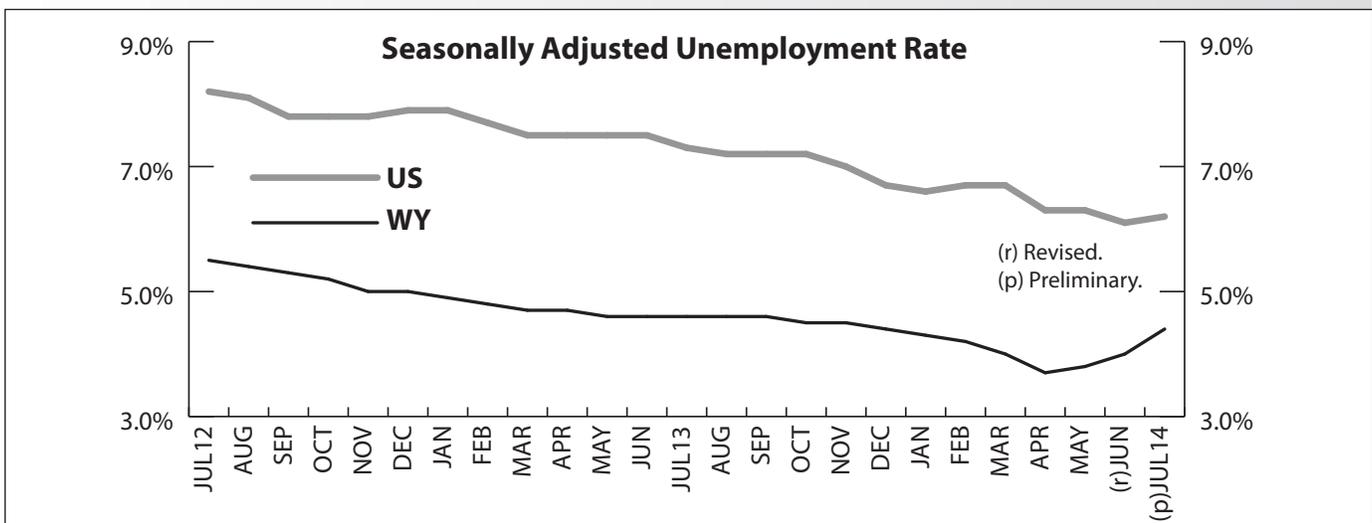
Carbon (down from 4.4% to 4.2%) counties. The largest unemployment rate increases were found in Platte (up from 4.9% to 5.3%), Fremont (up from 5.5% to 5.8%), and Big Horn (up from 5.0% to 5.2%) counties.

From July 2013 to July 2014, unemployment rates increased slightly in 15 counties, fell in six counties, and were unchanged in two counties. The largest decreases were seen in Goshen (down from 5.1% to 4.7%), Teton (down from 3.2% to 3.0%), Fremont (down from 6.0% to 5.8%), and Campbell (down from 3.7% to 3.5%) counties.

Teton County posted the lowest unemployment rate in July (3.0%). It was followed by Sublette (3.1%), Converse (3.4%), and Campbell (3.5%) counties. The highest unemployment rates were found in Fremont (5.8%), Platte (5.3%), and Big Horn (5.2%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (measured by place of work) rose from 297,900 in July 2013 to 302,600 in July 2014, a gain of 4,700 jobs (1.6%).

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 Short-Term Projections, July 2014

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

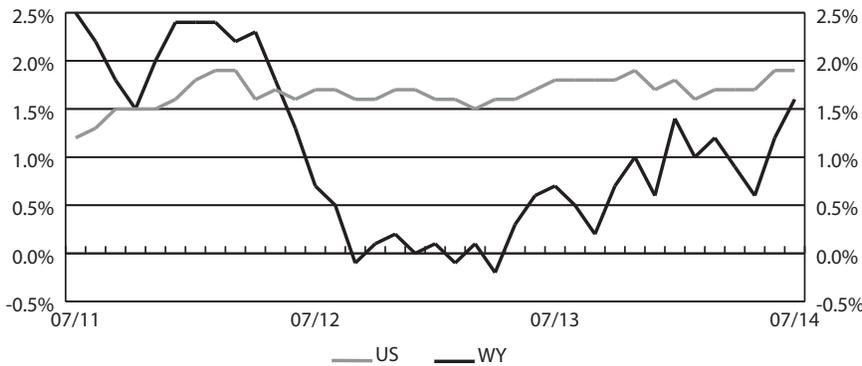
Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections	Current Employment Statistics (CES)	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm	301,527	302,600	1,073	0.4%
Natural Resources & Mining	27,424	27,400	-24	-0.1%
Construction	24,894	24,200	-694	-2.9%
Manufacturing	9,926	9,800	-126	-1.3%
Wholesale Trade	9,470	9,400	-70	-0.7%
Retail Trade	31,160	32,700	1,540	4.7%
Transportation & Utilities	15,839	15,700	-139	-0.9%
Information	3,853	3,900	47	1.2%
Financial Activities	11,374	11,500	126	1.1%
Professional & Business Services	19,274	19,300	26	0.1%
Educational & Health Services	26,243	26,300	57	0.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	41,385	42,100	715	1.7%
Other Services	11,630	12,300	670	5.4%
Government	69,055	68,000	-1,055	-1.6%

Projections were run in August 2014 and based on QCEW data through March 2014.

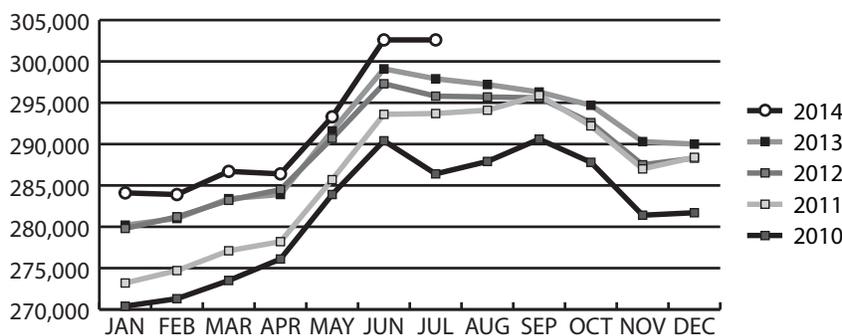
State Unemployment Rates July 2014 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	13.1
Mississippi	8.0
Georgia	7.8
Michigan	7.7
Nevada	7.7
Rhode Island	7.7
California	7.4
District of Columbia	7.4
Kentucky	7.4
Tennessee	7.1
Alabama	7.0
Arizona	7.0
Oregon	6.9
Illinois	6.8
Connecticut	6.6
New Mexico	6.6
New York	6.6
Alaska	6.5
Missouri	6.5
New Jersey	6.5
North Carolina	6.5
West Virginia	6.3
Arkansas	6.2
Delaware	6.2
Florida	6.2
United States	6.2
Maryland	6.1
Indiana	5.9
Wisconsin	5.8
Ohio	5.7
Pennsylvania	5.7
South Carolina	5.7
Massachusetts	5.6
Washington	5.6
Maine	5.5
Louisiana	5.4
Virginia	5.4
Colorado	5.3
Texas	5.1
Kansas	4.9
Idaho	4.8
Montana	4.6
Oklahoma	4.6
Iowa	4.5
Minnesota	4.5
Hawaii	4.4
New Hampshire	4.4
Wyoming	4.4
South Dakota	3.7
Vermont	3.7
Nebraska	3.6
Utah	3.6
North Dakota	2.8

Nonagricultural Employment Growth (Percentage Change Over Previous Year)



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

State Unemployment Rates July 2014 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Jul 14	Jun 14	Jul 13	Jul 14	Jul 14
	Jul 14	Jun 14	Jul 13	Jun 14	Jul 13
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	28.1	29.1	27.4	-3.4	2.6
TOTAL PRIVATE	24.0	23.8	23.4	0.8	2.6
GOODS PRODUCING	11.2	11.0	10.7	1.8	4.7
Natural Resources & Mining	8.0	7.9	7.8	1.3	2.6
Construction	2.6	2.5	2.3	4.0	13.0
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.9	18.1	16.7	-6.6	1.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.8	5.8	5.6	0.0	3.6
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
GOVERNMENT	4.1	5.3	4.0	-22.6	2.5
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	24.9	25.4	25.0	-2.0	-0.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	20.8	20.5	20.9	1.5	-0.5
GOODS PRODUCING	8.6	8.6	9.0	0.0	-4.4
Natural Resources & Mining	5.6	5.6	5.9	0.0	-5.1
Construction	1.5	1.5	1.6	0.0	-6.3
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.3	16.8	16.0	-3.0	1.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.2	5.2	5.2	0.0	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Professional & Business Services	1.2	1.1	1.2	9.1	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
Leisure & Hospitality	2.6	2.5	2.6	4.0	0.0
Other Services	0.8	0.7	0.7	14.3	14.3
GOVERNMENT	4.1	4.9	4.1	-16.3	0.0
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	22.1	21.4	21.4	3.3	3.3
TOTAL PRIVATE	19.8	18.8	19.2	5.3	3.1
GOODS PRODUCING	2.2	2.1	2.0	4.8	10.0
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	2.1	2.0	1.9	5.0	10.5
Manufacturing	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	19.9	19.3	19.4	3.1	2.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.4	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
Leisure & Hospitality	9.9	9.1	9.5	8.8	4.2
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.0	-16.7
GOVERNMENT	2.3	2.6	2.2	-11.5	4.5

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	13.9
Michigan	8.6
Mississippi	8.6
Georgia	8.3
Nevada	8.0
Rhode Island	8.0
District of Columbia	7.9
California	7.8
Tennessee	7.8
Alabama	7.7
Kentucky	7.5
Arizona	7.4
New Mexico	7.3
New Jersey	7.1
Illinois	7.0
Oregon	7.0
North Carolina	6.9
Connecticut	6.8
New York	6.8
Arkansas	6.7
Missouri	6.7
Florida	6.6
Maryland	6.5
United States	6.5
Delaware	6.4
South Carolina	6.4
Louisiana	6.2
West Virginia	6.2
Alaska	6.1
Massachusetts	6.1
Pennsylvania	6.1
Ohio	6.0
Indiana	5.8
Wisconsin	5.8
Texas	5.6
Kansas	5.4
Virginia	5.4
Washington	5.4
Colorado	5.3
Maine	5.2
Oklahoma	4.7
Hawaii	4.6
Idaho	4.5
Iowa	4.4
Montana	4.4
New Hampshire	4.4
Wyoming	4.4
Minnesota	4.3
Vermont	4.0
Nebraska	3.9
Utah	3.9
South Dakota	3.3
North Dakota	2.7

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Total nonfarm employment (measured by place of work) rose by 1.6% from July 2013 to July 2014.

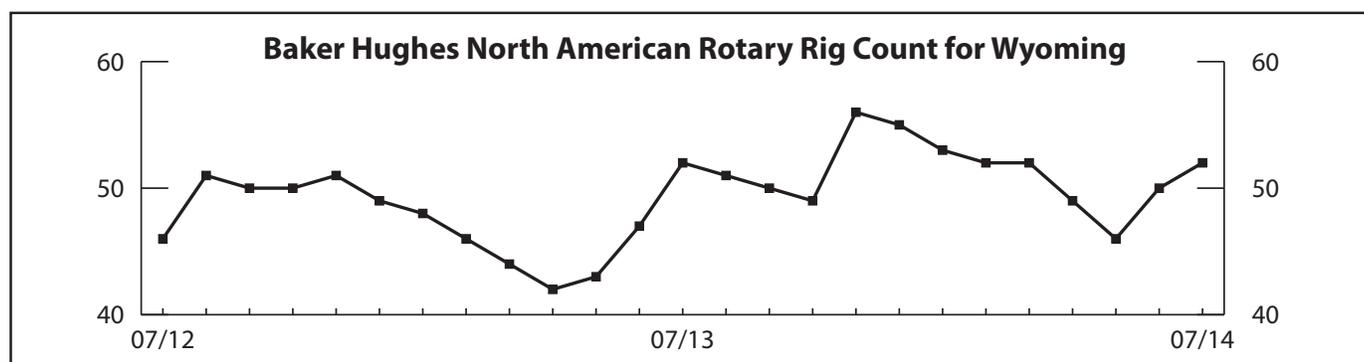
	Jul 2014 (p)	Jun 2014 (r)	Jul 2013 (b)	Percent Change Month	Percent Change Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	302,600	302,600	297,900	0.0	1.6
Wyoming State Government	14,900	14,900	15,100	0.0	-1.3
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	46,900	46,600	47,300	0.6	-0.8
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	42,700	42,500	42,300	0.5	0.9
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	6,787,000	6,960,000	6,897,000	-2.5	-1.6
As a percent of all workers	4.6%	4.7%	4.8%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	741,000	676,000	988,000	9.6	-25.0
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	7,665,000	7,805,000	8,324,000	-1.8	-7.9
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	11,741	10,601	16,013	10.8	-26.7
Benefits Paid	\$4,238,442	\$3,825,442	\$5,766,129	10.8	-26.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$360.99	\$360.86	\$360.09	0.0	0.2
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	276,400	281,075	272,756	-1.7	1.3
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.4%	1.5%	1.9%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	238.3	238.3	233.6	0.0	2.0
Food & Beverages	242.7	242.0	237.0	0.3	2.4
Housing	234.5	233.9	228.4	0.2	2.7
Apparel	124.6	127.3	124.2	-2.1	0.3
Transportation	221.9	223.5	220.0	-0.7	0.9
Medical Care	435.9	435.4	424.8	0.1	2.6
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	115.8	116.0	115.4	-0.2	0.4
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	137.5	137.3	135.3	0.2	1.6
Other Goods & Services	408.5	408.0	401.5	0.1	1.8
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	208.0	208.3	204.4	-0.1	1.8
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	173	189	193	-8.5	-10.4
Valuation	\$54,416,000	\$62,369,000	\$50,108,000	-12.8	8.6
Single Family Homes	157	179	160	-12.3	-1.9
Valuation	\$53,037,000	\$61,111,000	\$47,947,000	-13.2	10.6
Casper MSA ² Building Permits	22	26	51	-15.4	-56.9
Valuation	\$5,108,000	\$5,589,000	\$7,348,000	-8.6	-30.5
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	41	55	54	-25.5	-24.1
Valuation	\$8,123,000	\$8,903,000	\$7,942,000	-8.8	2.3
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	52	50	52	4.0	0.0

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

¹Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates.

²Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Note: Production worker hours and earnings data have been dropped from the Economic Indicators page because of problems with accuracy due to a small sample size and high item nonresponse. The Bureau of Labor Statistics will continue to publish these data online at <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.wy.htm>.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

From July 2013 to July 2014, unemployment rates increased slightly in 15 counties, fell in six counties, and were unchanged in two counties.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Jul 2014 (p)	Jun 2014 (r)	Jul 2013 (b)	Jul 2014 (p)	Jun 2014 (r)	Jul 2013 (b)	Jul 2014 (p)	Jun 2014 (r)	Jul 2013 (b)	Jul 2014 (p)	Jun 2014 (r)	Jul 2013 (b)
NORTHWEST	49,577	49,751	48,948	47,126	47,359	46,521	2,451	2,392	2,427	4.9	4.8	5.0
Big Horn	5,286	5,422	5,244	5,013	5,151	4,984	273	271	260	5.2	5.0	5.0
Fremont	19,899	20,104	19,552	18,752	19,006	18,388	1,147	1,098	1,164	5.8	5.5	6.0
Hot Springs	2,632	2,676	2,658	2,516	2,564	2,551	116	112	107	4.4	4.2	4.0
Park	17,409	17,185	17,108	16,695	16,480	16,406	714	705	702	4.1	4.1	4.1
Washakie	4,351	4,364	4,386	4,150	4,158	4,192	201	206	194	4.6	4.7	4.4
NORTHEAST	56,325	57,699	54,839	54,073	55,416	52,583	2,252	2,283	2,256	4.0	4.0	4.1
Campbell	28,030	28,845	27,374	27,053	27,865	26,356	977	980	1,018	3.5	3.4	3.7
Crook	3,742	3,844	3,531	3,585	3,678	3,390	157	166	141	4.2	4.3	4.0
Johnson	4,388	4,436	4,249	4,175	4,218	4,046	213	218	203	4.9	4.9	4.8
Sheridan	16,806	17,160	16,525	16,054	16,397	15,758	752	763	767	4.5	4.4	4.6
Weston	3,359	3,414	3,160	3,206	3,258	3,033	153	156	127	4.6	4.6	4.0
SOUTHWEST	68,427	68,415	67,505	65,669	65,609	64,896	2,758	2,806	2,609	4.0	4.1	3.9
Lincoln	8,247	8,467	7,970	7,823	8,033	7,572	424	434	398	5.1	5.1	5.0
Sublette	7,218	7,189	6,933	6,991	6,954	6,713	227	235	220	3.1	3.3	3.2
Sweetwater	24,732	25,127	25,111	23,672	24,068	24,127	1,060	1,059	984	4.3	4.2	3.9
Teton	17,052	16,406	16,612	16,536	15,863	16,086	516	543	526	3.0	3.3	3.2
Uinta	11,178	11,226	10,879	10,647	10,691	10,398	531	535	481	4.8	4.8	4.4
SOUTHEAST	77,649	77,739	77,189	73,948	74,002	73,761	3,701	3,737	3,428	4.8	4.8	4.4
Albany	18,034	18,375	17,863	17,208	17,526	17,130	826	849	733	4.6	4.6	4.1
Goshen	6,555	6,702	6,350	6,244	6,378	6,029	311	324	321	4.7	4.8	5.1
Laramie	47,270	46,731	47,416	44,993	44,442	45,299	2,277	2,289	2,117	4.8	4.9	4.5
Niobrara	1,498	1,511	1,358	1,439	1,454	1,308	59	57	50	3.9	3.8	3.7
Platte	4,292	4,420	4,202	4,064	4,202	3,995	228	218	207	5.3	4.9	4.9
CENTRAL	63,395	63,341	62,346	60,824	60,732	59,902	2,571	2,609	2,444	4.1	4.1	3.9
Carbon	8,753	8,954	8,658	8,385	8,563	8,332	368	391	326	4.2	4.4	3.8
Converse	8,700	8,800	8,218	8,408	8,503	7,941	292	297	277	3.4	3.4	3.4
Natrona	45,942	45,587	45,470	44,031	43,666	43,629	1,911	1,921	1,841	4.2	4.2	4.0
STATEWIDE	315,372	316,944	310,828	301,640	303,116	297,662	13,732	13,828	13,166	4.4	4.4	4.2
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.4	4.0	4.6
U.S.										6.5	6.3	7.7
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										6.2	6.1	7.3

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/2014. Run Date 08/2014.

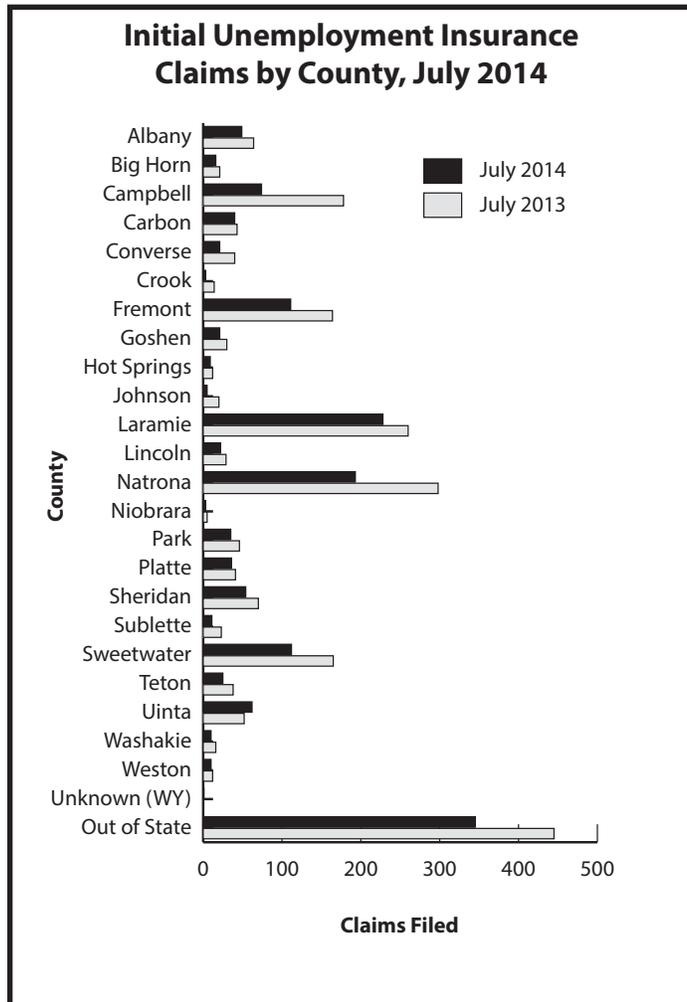
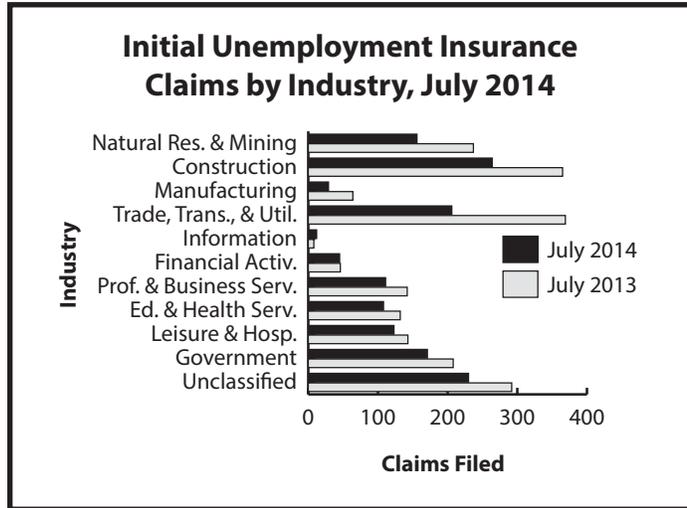
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Patrick Harris, Principal Economist

Initial claims decreased over the year by 28.3%, with large decreases in wholesale trade (-71.4%), other services, except public administration (-55.9%), and construction (-27.7%).



Initial Claims	Percent Change Claims Filed				
	Claims Filed		Percent Change		
	Jul 14	Jun 14	Jul 13	Jun 14	Jul 13
Wyoming Statewide	1,495	1,721	2,085	-13.1	-28.3
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED					
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	451	544	668	-17.1	-32.5
Natural Res. & Mining	156	160	237	-2.5	-34.2
Mining	139	152	233	-8.6	-40.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	6	8	13	-25.0	-53.8
Construction	264	327	365	-19.3	-27.7
Manufacturing	29	55	64	-47.3	-54.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	642	712	915	-9.8	-29.8
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	206	183	369	12.6	-44.2
Wholesale Trade	40	28	140	42.9	-71.4
Retail Trade	109	98	152	11.2	-28.3
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	57	57	77	0.0	-26.0
Information	12	7	8	71.4	50.0
Financial Activities	45	44	46	2.3	-2.2
Prof. and Business Svcs.	111	93	142	19.4	-21.8
Educational & Health Svcs.	108	214	132	-49.5	-18.2
Leisure & Hospitality	123	132	143	-6.8	-14.0
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	30	32	68	-6.3	-55.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	171	177	208	-3.4	-17.8
Federal Government	34	22	39	54.5	-12.8
State Government	15	18	27	-16.7	-44.4
Local Government	121	136	141	-11.0	-14.2
Local Education	32	63	40	-49.2	-20.0
UNCLASSIFIED	230	286	292	-19.6	-21.2

Laramie County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	227	212	259	7.1	-12.4
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	56	68	71	-17.6	-21.1
Construction	43	53	55	-18.9	-21.8
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	132	114	148	15.8	-10.8
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	36	42	52	-14.3	-30.8
Financial Activities	14	9	14	55.6	0.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	49	20	37	145.0	32.4
Educational & Health Svcs.	13	20	30	-35.0	-56.7
Leisure & Hospitality	17	14	12	21.4	41.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	22	20	25	10.0	-12.0
UNCLASSIFIED	16	8	14	100.0	14.3

Natrona County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	193	225	297	-14.2	-35.0
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	58	98	92	-40.8	-37.0
Construction	25	43	34	-41.9	-26.5
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	116	114	187	1.8	-38.0
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	32	25	80	28.0	-60.0
Financial Activities	11	7	1	57.1	1,000.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	22	27	23	-18.5	-4.3
Educational & Health Svcs.	26	41	25	-36.6	4.0
Leisure & Hospitality	14	10	41	40.0	-65.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12	3	8	300.0	50.0
UNCLASSIFIED	6	8	8	-25.0	-25.0

^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: Patrick Harris, Principal Economist

Continued claims decreased over the year by 26.2% with large decreases in other services, except public administration (-49.8%), natural resources & mining (-40.9%), and construction (-28.9%).

Continued Claims

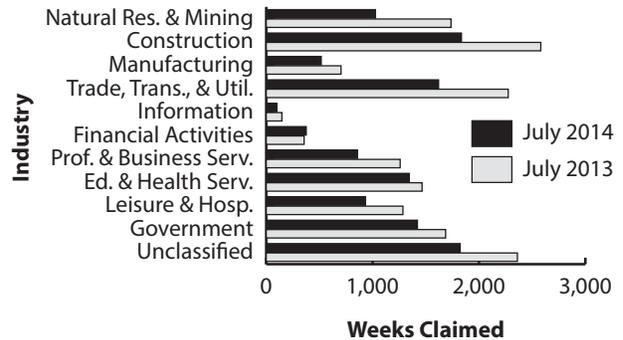
	Percent Change Claims Filed				
	Claims Filed			Claims Filed	
	Jul 14	Jun 14	Jul 13	Jun 14	Jul 13
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	12,200	13,312	16,525	-8.4	-26.2
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS^b	2,990	3,982	4,087	-24.9	-26.8
Benefit Exhaustions	263	320	440	-17.8	-40.2
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	8.8%	8.0%	10.8%	0.8%	-2.0%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	3,380	4,095	5,022	-17.5	-32.7
Natural Res. & Mining	1,027	1,139	1,737	-9.8	-40.9
Mining	950	1,029	1,628	-7.7	-41.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	92	88	149	4.5	-38.3
Construction	1,835	2,261	2,581	-18.8	-28.9
Manufacturing	517	693	703	-25.4	-26.5
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	5,573	6,336	7,455	-12.0	-25.2
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	1,620	1,839	2,275	-11.9	-28.8
Wholesale Trade	317	320	445	-0.9	-28.8
Retail Trade	841	958	1,218	-12.2	-31.0
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	462	561	612	-17.6	-24.5
Information	100	89	147	12.4	-32.0
Financial Activities	376	392	356	-4.1	5.6
Prof. & Business Services	858	926	1,259	-7.3	-31.9
Educational & Health Svcs.	1,345	1,153	1,465	16.7	-8.2
Leisure and Hospitality	933	1,557	1,285	-40.1	-27.4
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	332	374	661	-11.2	-49.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	1,421	1,209	1,686	17.5	-15.7
Federal Government	290	305	297	-4.9	-2.4
State Government	202	187	196	8.0	3.1
Local Government	929	716	1,192	29.7	-22.1
Local Education	245	139	420	76.3	-41.7
UNCLASSIFIED	1,823	1,671	2,361	9.1	-22.8

Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,625	1,781	1,905	-8.8	-14.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	407	516	465	-21.1	-12.5
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	297	387	355	-23.3	-16.3
Construction	189	263	259	-28.1	-27.0
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,056	1,156	1,214	-8.7	-13.0
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	353	396	385	-10.9	-8.3
Financial Activities	102	105	72	-2.9	41.7
Prof. & Business Svcs.	236	279	307	-15.4	-23.1
Educational and Health Svcs.	254	256	309	-0.8	-17.8
Leisure & Hospitality	113	135	166	-16.3	-31.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	209	192	252	8.9	-17.1
UNCLASSIFIED	62	45	81	37.8	-23.5

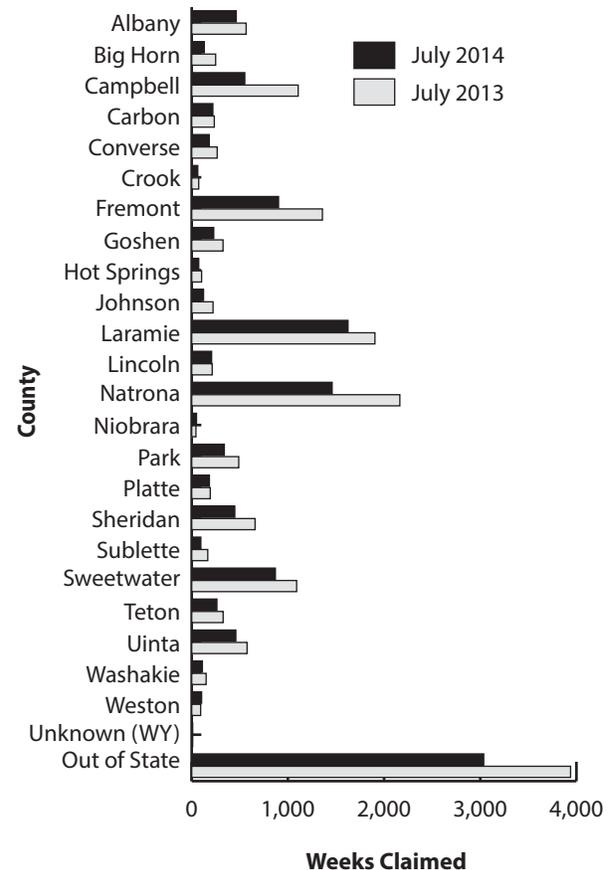
Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,460	1,628	2,164	-10.3	-32.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	364	478	530	-23.8	-31.3
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	478	572	685	-16.4	-30.2
Construction	144	213	226	-32.4	-36.3
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	898	946	1,344	-5.1	-33.2
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	236	275	324	-14.2	-27.2
Financial Activities	63	55	68	14.5	-7.4
Professional & Business Svcs.	221	265	332	-16.6	-33.4
Educational & Health Svcs.	283	255	241	11.0	17.4
Leisure & Hospitality	105	140	160	-25.0	-34.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	41	57	84	-28.1	-51.2
UNCLASSIFIED	40	51	51	-21.6	-21.6

^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.
^bDoes not include claimants receiving extended benefits.

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, July 2014



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, July 2014



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