

TRENDS

What Do Electricity Sales Data Reveal About Wyoming's Economy?

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Electricity sales can be divided into three broad categories: residential, commercial, and industrial. The industrial sector is closely tied to Wyoming's mining industry, and is the largest consumer of electricity in the state. However, from 1990 to 2025, its consumption grew at the slowest pace, and its share of electricity sales fell dramatically. The commercial sector is the second largest user of electricity in Wyoming, and its consumption grew at the fastest pace, more than doubling from 1990 to 2025. The residential sector is the smallest of the three sectors and its consumption growth fell in the middle of the other two sectors. This article also compares electricity sales trends in Wyoming to the U.S.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) publishes data on electricity sales by major sector for the U.S. and all 50 states. Data are available on a monthly and annual basis. This article reviews electricity sales for Wyoming and the U.S. from 1990 to 2025 and compares them to selected employment series.

The three main categories of electricity sales are residential, commercial, and industrial. According to EIA (2026), "the residential sector includes homes and apartments. The commercial sector includes offices, malls, stores, schools, hospitals, hotels, warehouses, restaurants, and

places of worship and public assembly. The industrial sector includes facilities and equipment used for manufacturing, agriculture, mining, and construction." Transportation makes up a very small proportion of retail electricity sales (less than one percent). It is not published separately for Wyoming, but it is published for the U.S.

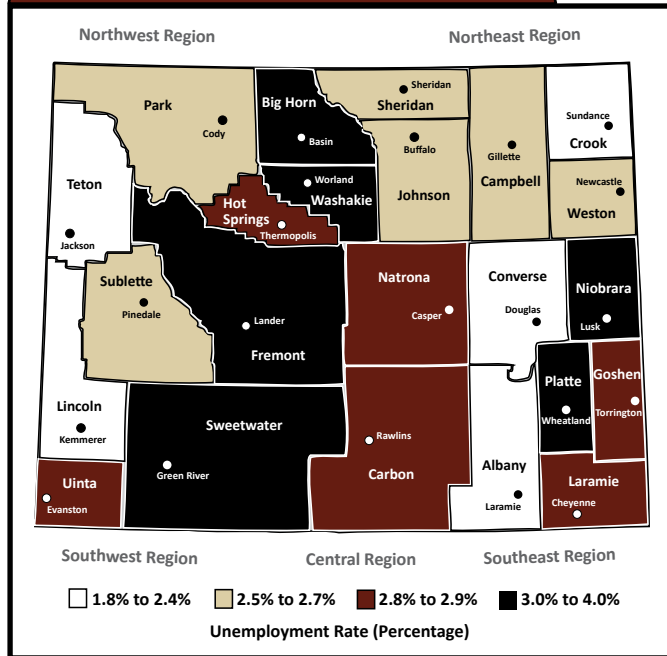
Figure 1 (see page 3) shows retail sales for electricity for the three main sectors for Wyoming from 1990 to 2025. Several things stand out. First, the industrial sector uses much more electricity than the

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- New research analyzes the average annual wages of those individuals employed in trades occupations in Natrona County as a way to possibly retain workers in Wyoming. ... page 8
- The 855 initial Unemployment Insurance claims in August 2026 marked the second fewest in any month in Wyoming dating back to at least 2007. ... page 18

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, August 2026 (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

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residential and commercial sectors. This is likely due to the large size of Wyoming's mining sector. Second, electricity usage in the industrial sector peaked in 2014 at 10.4 billion kilowatt hours and eventually declined to 8.7 billion kilowatt hours in 2025. Third, electricity sales increased in all three sectors from 1990 to 2025. The commercial sector had the largest increase (3.5 billion kilowatt hours, or 161.2%). It was followed by the residential sector (1.2 billion kilowatt hours, or 71.8%) and the industrial sector (1.0 billion kilowatt hours, or 12.5%).

Figure 2 (see page 4) shows electricity sales for the United States. Interestingly, for the U.S. as a whole, the residential sector is the largest user of electricity, while in Wyoming it is the smallest sector.

In the U.S. data, the Great Recession is clearly seen as a dip in electricity sales to the industrial sector in 2009, and the pandemic recession is seen as another dip in 2020. These recessions also affected the commercial sector with decreases in 2009 and 2020.

Figure 3 (see page 5) presents some of the same data in a different format. From these pie charts, it is apparent that from 1990 to 2025, Wyoming's industrial sector made up a smaller part of electricity sales (falling from 66.5% to 50.2%). The residential sector increased its share of sales slightly from 14.8% to 17.0%, while the commercial sector rose more prominently from 18.7% to 32.8%.

U.S. data (seen in Figure 4, page 5) shows a similar pattern. The residential sector increased slightly from 35.3% to 37.3% from 1990 to 2025, while the industrial sector fell from 36.1% to 25.7%.

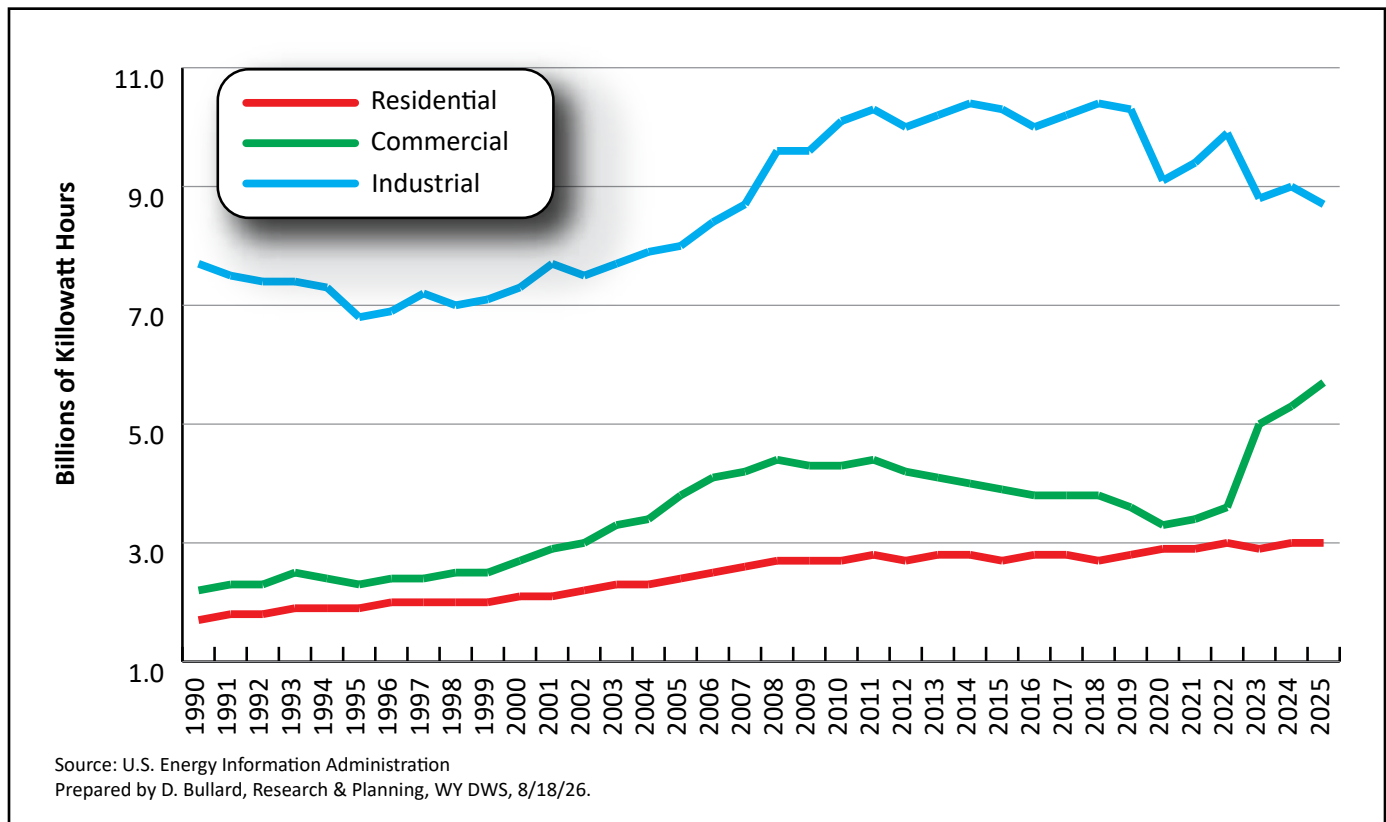


Figure 1: Retail Sales of Electricity by Sector in Billions of Kilowatt Hours in Wyoming 1990-2025

and the commercial sector grew from 28.7% to 36.8%. Decreasing electricity sales to the industrial sector is consistent with falling manufacturing employment in the U.S. (down 5.1 million jobs, or 28.6%, from 1990 to 2025). The shifts seen in Figures 3 and 4 seem to underscore the gradual transition of both the U.S. and Wyoming away from goods-producing toward more services-based economies.

Figure 5 (see page 6) is similar to Figure 1, except the industrial sector is excluded. This allows for a closer look at trends in the residential and commercial sectors. Here it is clear that electricity sales to the commercial sector increased sharply from 2022 to 2023 (up 39.7%) and then increased further in 2024 and 2025. This has led some analysts to wonder whether the recent increases in electricity sales to the commercial sector are related to data centers opening in the state.

Figure 6 (see page 7) illustrates the relationship between electricity sales to the industrial sector in Wyoming and natural resources & mining employment in the state. Employment nearly doubled from 15,500 jobs in 1999 to 29,300 jobs in 2008, while electricity sales rose rapidly over the same period. Later, as employment fell from 27,400 jobs in 2014 to 15,500 jobs in 2025, electricity sales decreased from their 2014 peak of 10.4 billion kilowatt hours to 8.7 billion kilowatt hours in 2025.

U.S. data for electricity sales to the industrial sector are shown in Figure 7 (see page 7) along with U.S. manufacturing employment. From a peak in 2000, U.S. electricity sales fell to a low point in 2009. Manufacturing employment fell steadily from 1998 to 2010. While electricity sales

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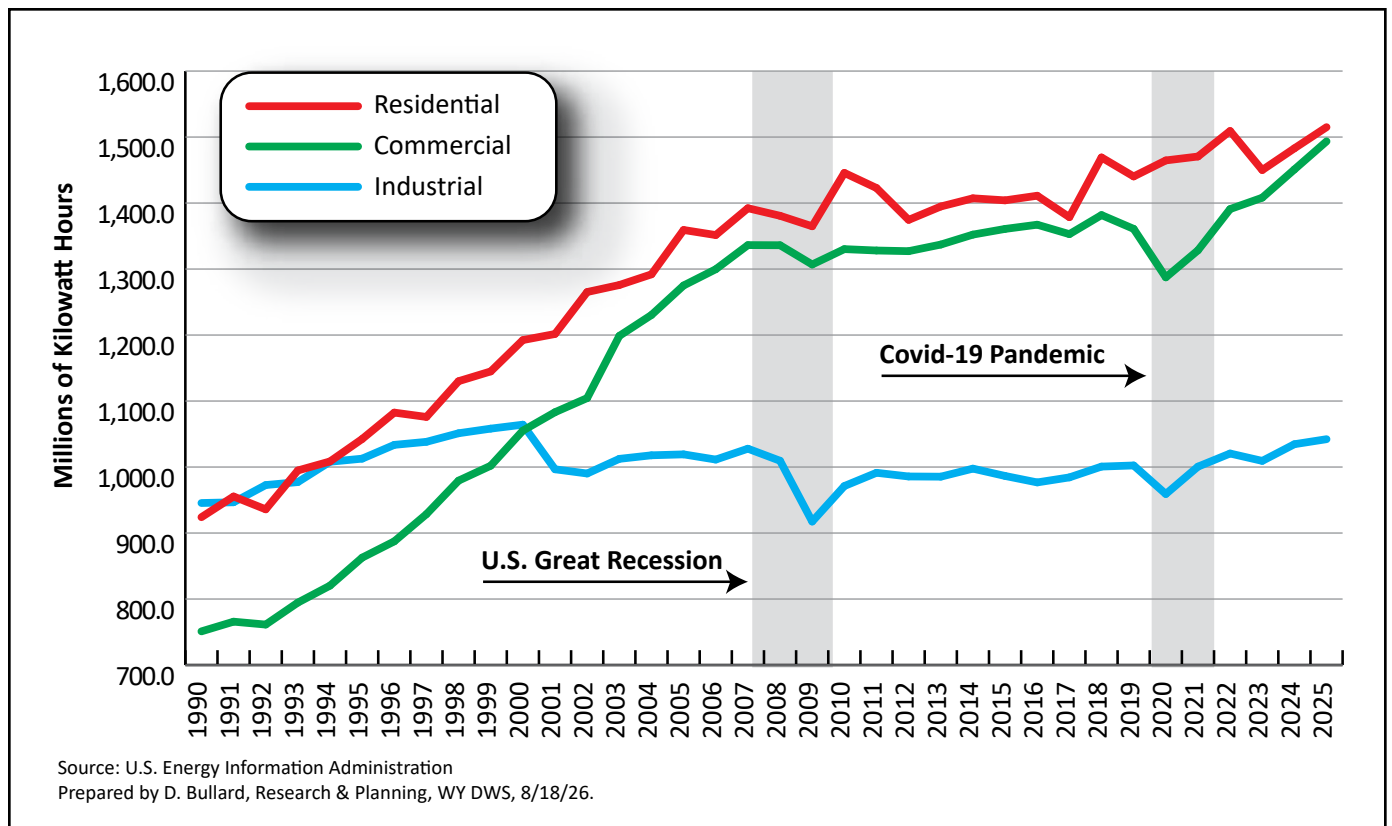


Figure 2: Retail Sales of Electricity in Millions of Kilowatt Hours by Sector in the U.S., 1990-2025

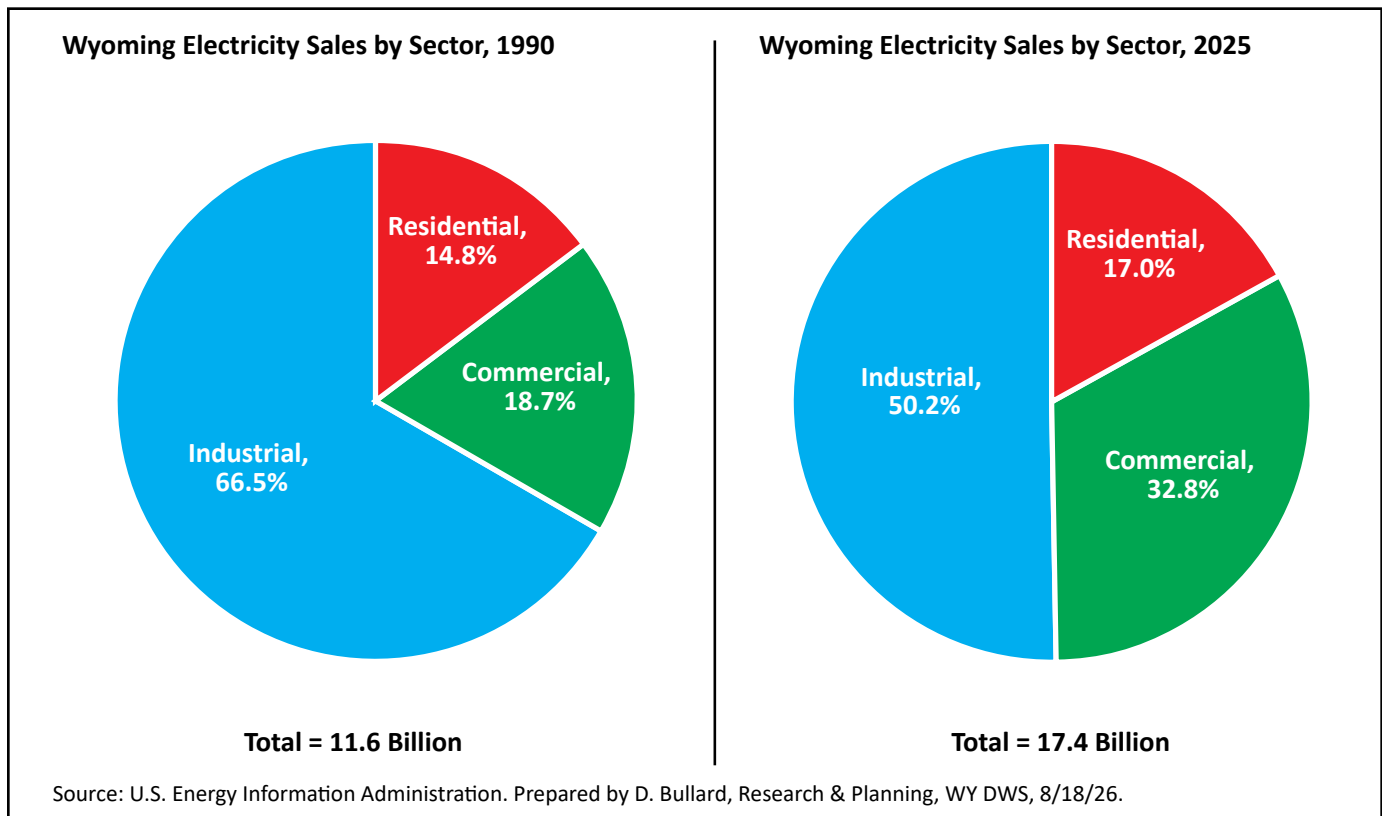


Figure 3: Wyoming Electricity Sales by Sector in Billions of Kilowatt Hours, 1990 and 2025

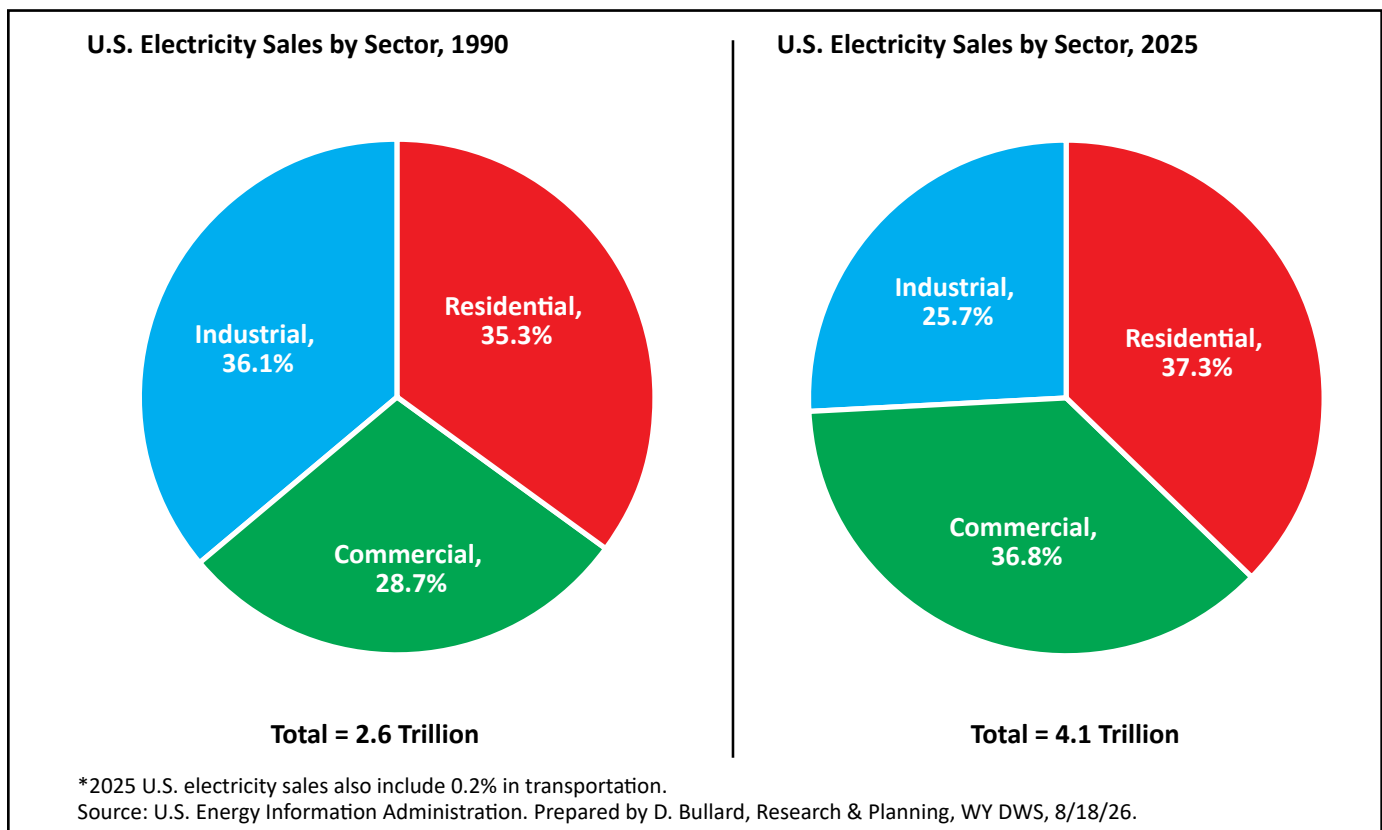


Figure 4: U.S. Electricity Sales by Sector, 1990 and 2025

(Text continued from page 4)

rebounded somewhat from their 2009 low point, employment only increased marginally. Rising output per worker, or in other words, higher productivity, may help explain weak employment growth in the U.S. manufacturing sector.

Conclusions

What are some key takeaways from the electricity sales data for Wyoming and the U.S.? First, compared to the U.S., Wyoming's industrial sector consumes a much larger share of electricity (50.2% in Wyoming and 25.7% in the U.S. in 2025). This is likely due to the large size of Wyoming's mining sector. Additionally, electricity sales to Wyoming's industrial sector appear correlated with

natural resources & mining employment. When employment decreases, electricity sales tend to decrease as well.

In both the U.S. and Wyoming, sales of electricity to the industrial sector have been growing at a much slower pace than sales to the residential and commercial sectors. In Wyoming, electricity sales to the commercial sector increased sharply in 2023 and then continued to increase in 2024 and 2025. It is possible that this increase was related to data centers opening in the state.

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U.S. Energy Information Administration. (n.d.). Energy use basics. Retrieved June 30, 2026, from <https://www.eia.gov/kids/using-and-saving-energy/energy-use-basics.php>

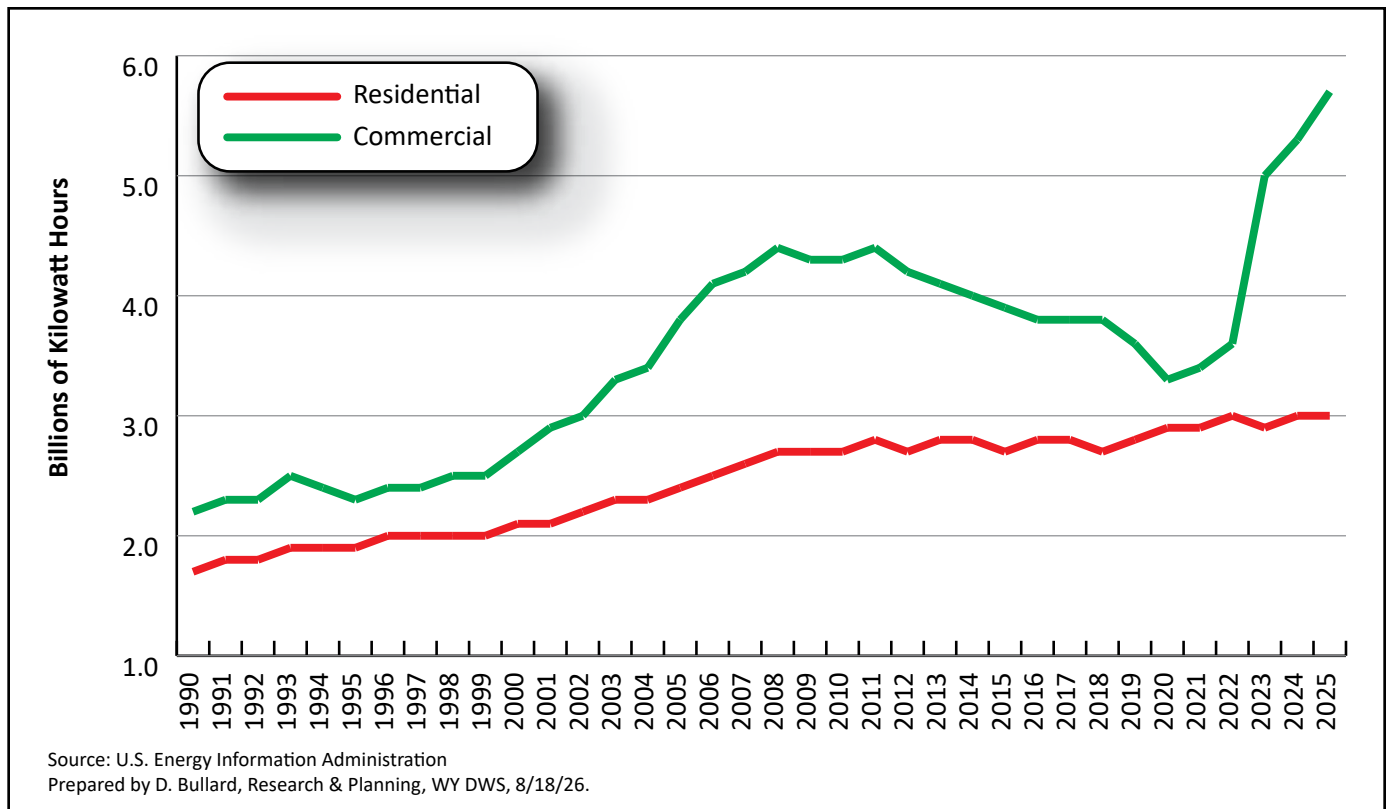


Figure 5: Retail Sales of Electricity for Residential and Commercial Sectors, Wyoming 1990-2025

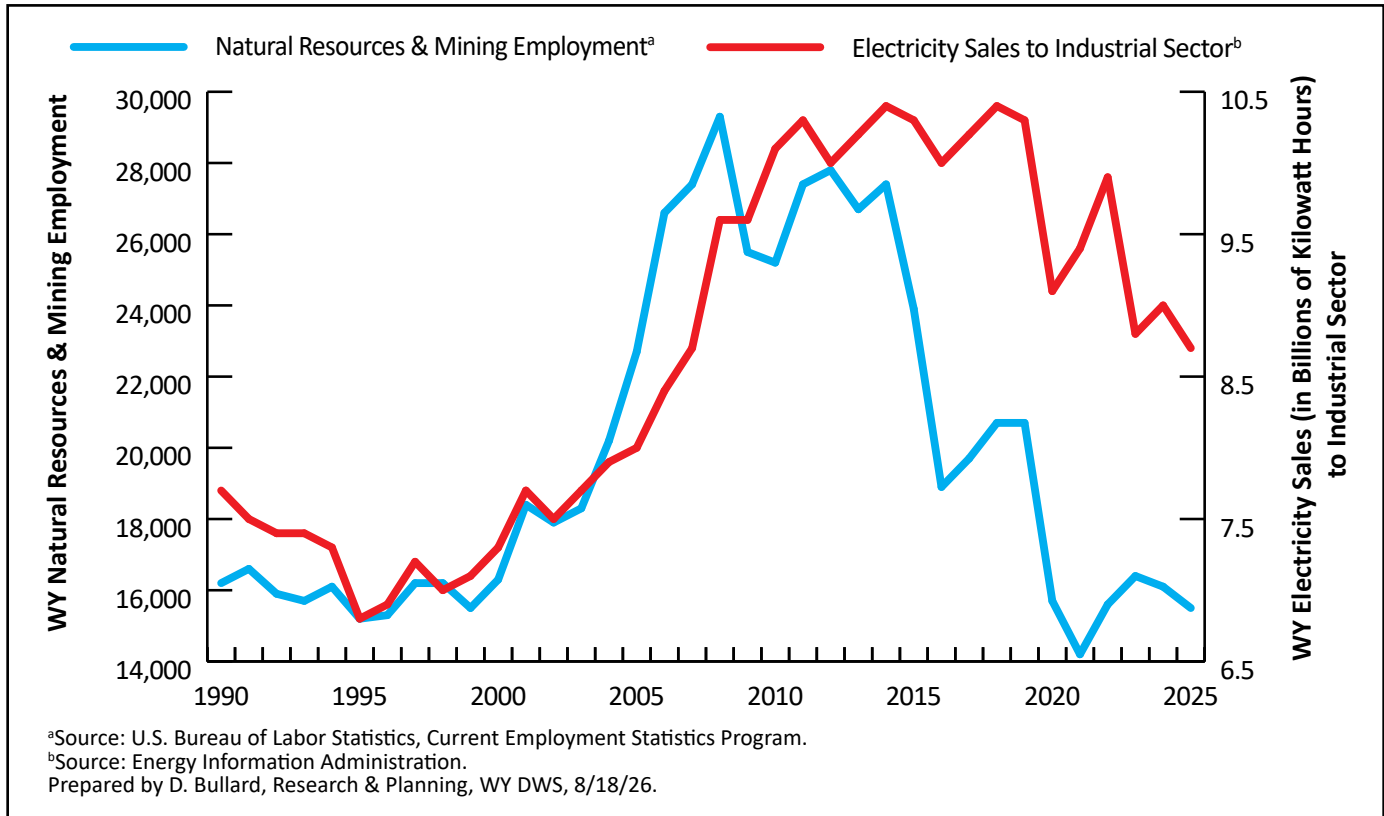


Figure 6: Retail Sales of Electricity to Industrial Sector and Natural Resources & Mining Employment in Wyoming, 1990-2025

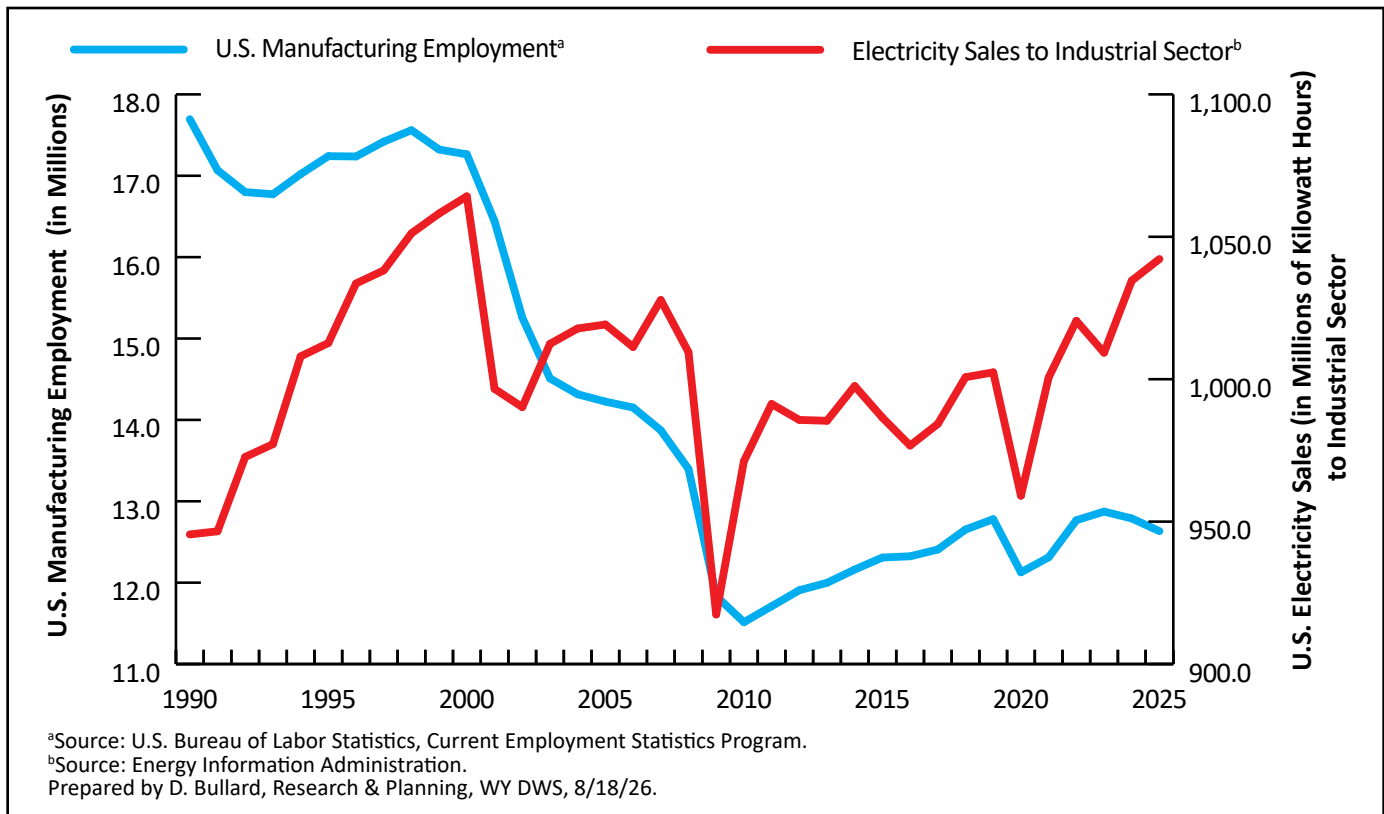


Figure 7: Retail Sales of Electricity to Industrial Sector and Manufacturing Employment in the U.S., 1990-2025

Employment and Wages of the Trades in Natrona County

by: *Matthew Halama, Senior Economist*

Wyoming has struggled with youth leaving the state in search of better economic opportunity. Recent news articles have highlighted if jobs at data centers could stop young adults from leaving Wyoming (Jean, 2026), or how there aren't enough workers to fill new jobs in Wyoming (Shosh, 2026). Could employment in trades occupations — electrical, mechanical (HVAC), and plumbing — help retain young Wyoming workers? This article analyzes the average annual wages of those individuals employed in those trades occupations, specifically in Natrona County, Wyoming.

The research in this article was prepared by linking administrative wage data to county-level license data supplied to the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services by Natrona County. Previous articles have forecasted job openings in the trades through long-term projections, or used Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) estimates to show employment and wages in the trades. The reliance of survey data is beneficial if administrative data are unobtainable. One drawback is that survey data focuses on the aggregate, in this case, the wages of all electricians, all mechanics (HVAC), or all plumbers. By combining administrative data from the state and county, R&P is able to examine trade data by the level of expertise (i.e. apprentice, journeyman, or master).

This study provides new insights into the average annual wages of those working in electrical, mechanical, and plumbing trades. The research could be highlighted by guidance counselors in schools to show good paying jobs can

be found in the trades here in Wyoming. Businesses that operate in the trades could partner with local high schools to promote apprenticeships. This study could lead to acquiring data from other counties to show wage data. This article is divided into three parts. The first part discusses the methodology, namely where the data came from, and how they were collected. The second section deals with the results of the data analysis, while the third part presents some conclusions.

Methodology

R&P was provided a list of individuals from the years 2022-2025 that filled out a contractor license application. The variables included the applicant name (labeled `applicant_name`), licensee first name (labeled `licensee_first_name`), middle name (labeled `middle_name`), last name (labeled `last_name`), suffix (labeled `suffix`), record number (labeled `record_number`), record status (labeled `record_status`), license expiration licensee (labeled `license_expiration_licensee`), licensee DBA (labeled `licensee_DBA`), record (i.e. contractors or license) (labeled `record`), type (i.e. electrical, mechanical, or plumbing) (labeled as `type`), and level (i.e. apprentice, journeyman, or master) (labeled as `level`). Apprentice is defined as an entry-level worker who has insufficient qualifications to work independently and is registered with the state while learning the trade. During that time, an apprentice must work under the direct supervision of a licensed journeyman or master tradesperson. Journeyman is a fully qualified, licensed professional who has completed the

required apprenticeship hours and passed a state certification exam. A journeyman can work independently without supervision and can train and supervise apprentices. A master is the highest level of licensing and expertise in the trade, requiring extensive industry experience beyond a journeyman license.

The enhanced quarterly unemployment insurance (EQUI) database relied on the following variables: Unemployment Insurance (labeled UI) number, federal employment insurance number (FEIN) number (labeled fed), legal name of the business (labeled legal name), trade name of the business (labeled trade name), and year.

The driver's license database from the Wyoming Department of Transportation relied on the following variables: ssn, first name, middle name, and last name. R&P collects and maintains quarterly wage record data through the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system from 1992 to present, which includes approximately 92% of Wyoming jobs. The variables used from the wage record database are social security number (ssn), year, UI number, and wages.

In order to create the tables needed for this research, it was necessary to create a new variable from the contractor list named year. This was from the existing variable license expiration licensee, only it contained the year in which the license was good for. Doing this allowed R&P to add the UI number and legal name from the EQUI database to the contractor list by legal name and year. Next, the license_DBA variable was conformed to match the legal name variable in the EQUI database due to incorrect spelling or missing LLC or INC etc. There were 143 businesses

that had to be updated to conform to the EQUI database. Some businesses in the contractor list had apostrophes or other errors which couldn't be matched using the EQUI database and had to be corrected by inserting the UI number. Thirteen businesses had to be corrected using this technique. Following these two steps, there were businesses in the contractor list that couldn't be matched to the EQUI database or had NULL values. These businesses were classified as non-liable meaning they had no employees except the owner. All other businesses in the contractor list were categorized as liable. From there the only selection were those that were in electrical, mechanical, or plumbing, and were considered liable with a UI number. This table was named #contractor5.

The next step was utilizing the Wage Records database to get the year, ssn, UI number, and summing the wages to create a new variable named annual wages. The filter for this table was that the year selected was 2022 or greater and had a UI number from the previous table that had only those in electrical, mechanical, or plumbing and were considered liable with a UI number. This new table labeled annualwages added the following variables from the driver's license database: first and last name, ssn as ssncheck to make sure that the ssn numbers matched. This new table was titled annualwages1.

Annualwages1 and #contractor5 were joined together by multiple variables including year, UI number, first name, and last name. Before the creation of the table named #contractor6 licensee_first_name from #contractor5 was updated so it matched the first name from #annualwages1 which subsequently came from the driver's license file. One-hundred and sixty names had to

be updated to match records from the driver's license database. The table was named #contractor6 and then the #contractor6 table filtered out ssns that were NULL which was named #contractor7.

This same process was done for those that already had a legal name that matched the EQUI database. Within this table, 10 names had to be updated to match the driver's license database in order to get annual wages. This table was labeled #contractor8. The tables #contractor7 and #contractor8 were

then joined together where the variable record status was marked complete. The final table was named #finishedcontractor and table was used for the results section. There were 1,595 licensee applications provided by Natrona County between 2022-2025 for electrical, mechanical, and plumbing. Of those, 935 licensed workers were found in wage records. Explanations for the remaining 660 licensed workers not found in the wage record database range from non-working retirees keeping their license active to licensees that run non-

liable businesses and wouldn't have records in the wage record database.

Results

Wages for journeyman and masters in the trades were noticeably higher than Natrona County's 2025 average annual wage of \$63,373, according to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

The average annual wage of journeyman electricians in Natrona County was \$67,378, which steadily increased to \$75,082 by 2025 — an increase of \$7,704, or 11.4%. There were 87 journeyman electricians in 2022 and 82 in 2025 (see Table 1). The average age of journeyman electricians hovered between 40 and 42 years between 2022 and 2025. Master electricians had an annual average wage of \$95,091 in 2022, which increased to \$105,817 in 2025 (\$10,725, or 11.3%). There were 37 master electricians in 2022, which increased to 39 in 2025. The average age of master electricians was 51-53 years between 2022 and 2025. Apprentice electrical licensee data for Natrona County workers were unavailable.

Table 1: Number, Average Age, and Wages for Electricians in Natrona County by Level, 2022-2025

Journeyman				
Year	N	Average Age	Annual Wages	
			Median	Mean
2022	87	42	\$70,293	\$67,378
2023	77	40	\$75,665	\$70,115
2024	73	41	\$78,457	\$72,318
2025	82	42	\$74,035	\$75,082
Change, 2022-2025 N	-5	0	\$3,743	\$7,704
%	-5.7	0.0	5.3	11.4
Master				
Year	N	Average Age	Annual Wages	
			Median	Mean
2022	37	53	\$94,750	\$95,091
2023	44	51	\$76,986	\$84,056
2024	39	52	\$73,440	\$87,454
2025	39	51	\$88,897	\$105,817
Change, 2022-2025 N	2	-2	-\$5,853	\$10,725
%	5.4	-3.8	-6.2	11.3

Note: Data for apprentices were unavailable.

Source: Custom extract from Wage Records and licensure data provided by Natrona County.

Prepared by M. Halama, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 7/31/26.

Master mechanical (HVAC) workers had an average annual wage of \$78,724 in 2022, which increased to \$110,049 in 2025 (\$31,325, or 39.8%; see Table 2, page 11). There were 29 master mechanical workers in 2022 and 25 in 2025. The average age of master HVAC workers was between 50 and 52. Apprentice and journeyman mechanical licensee data for Natrona County workers were unavailable.

Finally, apprentice level plumbers had an average annual wage of \$41,634 in 2022, increasing to \$45,026 in 2025 (\$3,392, or 8.1%; see Table 3). There were 19 apprentice plumbers in 2022 and 29 in 2025. The average age of apprentice level plumbers was 30-31. The average annual wages of journeyman plumbers in 2022 was \$56,893, which increased to \$60,155 in 2025 (\$3,262, or 5.7%). There were 28 journeyman plumbers in 2022 and 32 in 2025. Journeyman plumbers had an average age between 41 and 43. Master level plumbers had an annual average wage of \$79,966 in 2022, increasing to \$87,901 in 2025, (\$7,935, or 9.9%). There were 27 master plumbers in 2022 and 28 in 2025. The average age of master level plumbers was 51-52.

Table 2: Number, Average Age, and Wages for Master Mechanical (HVAC) Workers in Natrona County, 2022-2025

Master			Annual Wages	
Year	N	Average Age	Median	Mean
2022	29	52	\$70,133	\$78,724
2023	26	50	\$79,753	\$87,439
2024	22	52	\$84,995	\$109,303
2025	25	52	\$88,380	\$110,049
Change, 2022-2025 N	-4	0	\$18,247	\$31,325
%	-13.8	0.0	26.0	39.8

Note: Data for apprentices and journeyman were unavailable.

Source: Custom extract from Wage Records and licensure data provided by Natrona County.

Prepared by M. Halama, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 7/31/26.

Table 3: Number, Average Age, and Wages for Plumbers in Natrona County by Level, 2022-2025

Apprentice			Annual Wages	
Year	N	Average Age	Median	Mean
2022	19	31	\$44,293	\$41,634
2023	24	31	\$41,981	\$42,252
2024	27	30	\$40,982	\$43,593
2025	29	31	\$44,104	\$45,026
Change, 2022-2025 N	10	0	-\$189	\$3,392
%	52.6	0.0	-0.4	8.1

Journeyman			Annual Wages	
Year	N	Average Age	Median	Mean
2022	28	42	\$59,308	\$56,893
2023	33	43	\$60,625	\$62,483
2024	29	43	\$59,038	\$59,478
2025	32	41	\$62,160	\$60,155
Change, 2022-2025 N	4	-1	\$2,852	\$3,262
%	14.3	-2.4	4.8	5.7

Master			Annual Wages	
Year	N	Average Age	Median	Mean
2022	27	51	\$61,024	\$79,966
2023	23	52	\$64,278	\$79,415
2024	26	50	\$71,959	\$96,828
2025	28	52	\$73,981	\$87,901
Change, 2022-2025 N	1	1	\$12,957	\$7,935
%	3.7	2.0	21.2	9.9

Source: Custom extract from Wage Records and licensure data provided by Natrona County.

Prepared by M. Halama, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 7/31/26.

Conclusions

This article was written to serve multiple purposes. First, R&P sought licensee data in different trades from Natrona County to match with Wage Records. By linking these data, R&P was able to use administrative data to show the number of tradesmen per year, average annual wages of those in the trades (electricians, HVAC, and plumbers) by level (apprentice, journeyman, master) and year, the average age by level and year, and changes from 2022-2025.

In conjunction with obtaining and presenting administrative wage data on the trades, this article may encourage those who feel that college may not be an option or those wanting to leave the state for employment opportunities to consider a career in the trades. Past research articles have focused on average annual wages by educational attainment (i.e., high school graduates against various degree holders). The issue with this approach is twofold; first is that those in the trades have specialized training that would set them apart from those with a high school graduate like any degree holder would. Including the average annual wages of high school graduates with high school graduates that are employed in the trades wouldn't provide accurate average annual wage information. Also, separating average annual wages from those in the trades and high school graduates from an overall high school graduates more than likely would show those in the trades having a higher average annual wage than the overall, while those not in the trades may have a lower average annual wage than the overall.

This research article was conceived as an entry point into potential future research articles by merging trades information at the

county level with statewide wage record data. R&P appreciates the assistance from Natrona County in providing a list of licensees in the trades. Some limitations include not having apprentice level data for electricians, and apprentice and journeyman level data for mechanical trades. Also, R&P isn't aware of the formatting of other county license applications, but it would be beneficial for research purposes if it were streamlined between counties. Possible suggestions would be to include the UI number of the business and having the applicant fill out information that would be on their drivers license to reduce the amount of time cleaning the data.

Future research may include replicating this study to include all counties to be able to provide average annual wages by trade and their respective level, county, and year. This would also provide a distinction between rural and urban areas within the state to see differences in average annual wages within the trades.

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Wyoming Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 3.0% in August 2026

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 remained unchanged from July to August at 3.0%. Wyoming's unemployment rate is somewhat lower than its August 2025 level of 3.3% and much lower than the current U.S. rate of 4.1%.

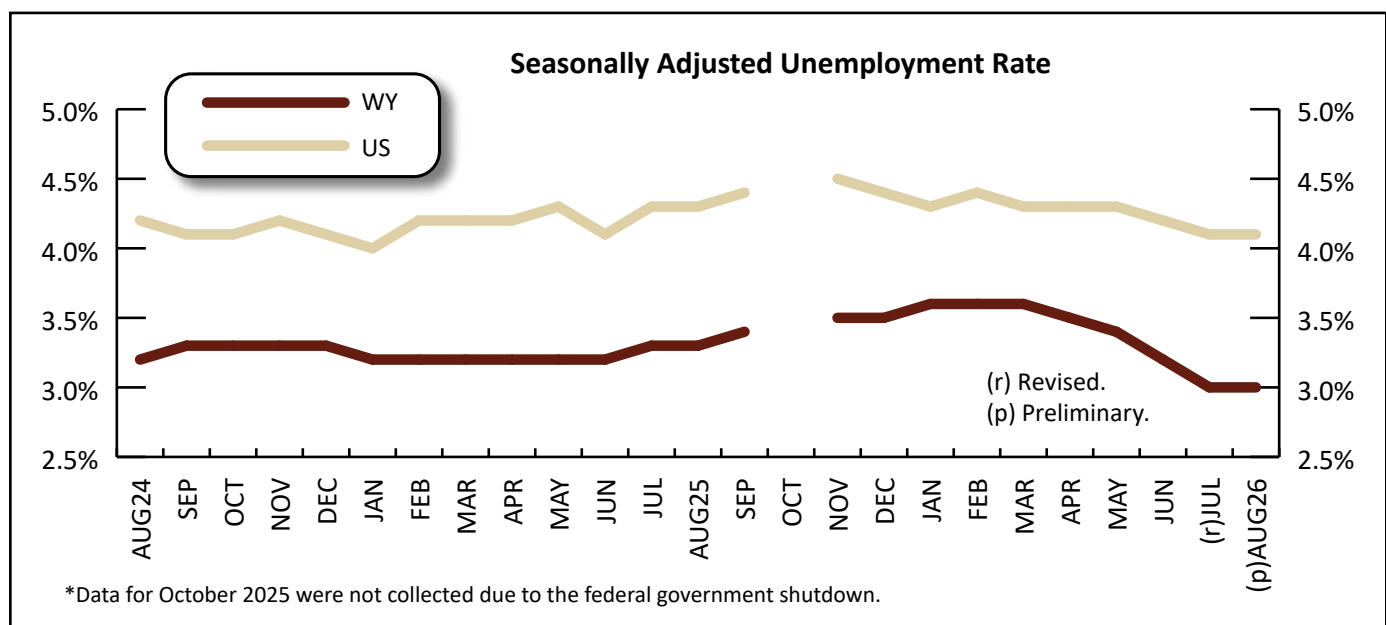
From July to August, most county jobless rates rose slightly. The largest increases were found in Niobrara (up from 3.1% to 4.0%), Platte (up from 3.0% to 3.5%), Carbon (up from 2.5% to 2.9%), and Hot Springs (up from 2.5% to 2.9%) counties. Fremont County's unemployment rate fell from 3.5% to 3.4%, and unemployment rates held steady in Sweetwater (3.4%), Converse (2.4%), and Albany (2.2%) counties.

Compared to a year earlier, unemployment rates rose in eight counties, fell in 14 counties and remained unchanged in Crook County. The largest increases occurred in Johnson (up from 2.2% to 2.5%) and Teton (up from 1.5% to 1.8%) counties. The largest decreases were seen in Goshen (down from 3.4% to 2.8%), Big Horn (down from 3.8% to 3.2%), and Uinta (down from 3.3% to 2.8%) counties.

In August, the lowest unemployment rates were reported in Teton County at 1.8% and Albany County at 2.2%. The highest unemployment rates were found in Niobrara County at 4.0% and Platte County at 3.5%.

Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates show that total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 300,100 in August 2025 to 300,600 in August 2026, an increase of 500 jobs, or 0.2%.

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.



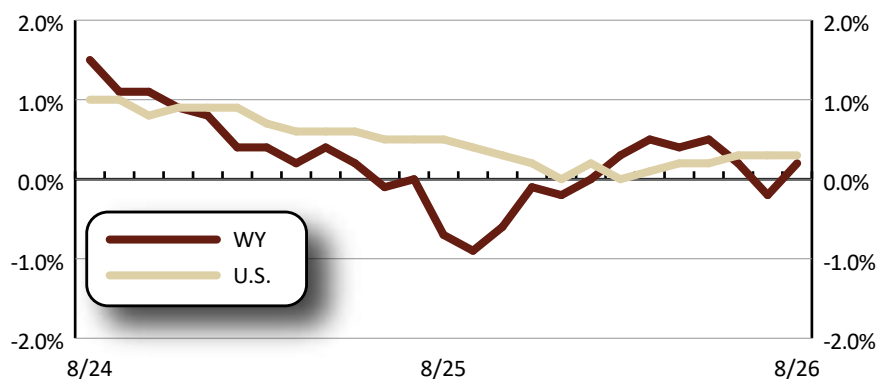
Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Internal Estimates, August 2026

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

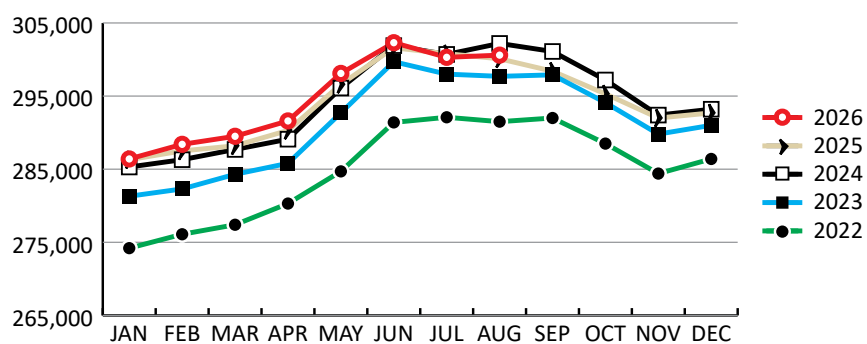
Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Internal Estimates	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm	303,676	300,600	-3,076	-1.0%
Natural Resources & Mining	15,000	15,500	500	3.2%
Construction	25,684	25,300	-384	-1.5%
Manufacturing	10,492	10,400	-92	-0.9%
Wholesale Trade	7,968	8,100	132	1.6%
Retail Trade	31,119	31,000	-119	-0.4%
Transportation & Utilities	14,908	14,100	-808	-5.7%
Information	3,034	2,900	-134	-4.6%
Financial Activities	11,364	11,600	236	2.0%
Professional & Business Services	23,350	22,600	-750	-3.3%
Educational & Health Services	29,719	29,400	-319	-1.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	44,369	44,700	331	0.7%
Other Services	16,703	16,500	-203	-1.2%
Government	69,966	68,500	-1,466	-2.1%

Internal Estimates were run in July 2026 and based on QCEW data through December 2025.

Nonagricultural Employment Growth (Percentage Change Over Previous Year)



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



State Unemployment Rates August 2026 Seasonally Adjusted

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	6.1
District of Columbia	5.7
California	5.1
Connecticut	5.1
Oregon	5.1
Michigan	5.0
Arizona	4.9
Washington	4.9
Nevada	4.8
Delaware	4.7
Illinois	4.7
Kentucky	4.7
New Mexico	4.7
Florida	4.5
Minnesota	4.4
Texas	4.4
Alaska	4.3
Massachusetts	4.3
New Jersey	4.3
New York	4.3
Oklahoma	4.3
Louisiana	4.2
Maryland	4.1
South Carolina	4.1
United States	4.1
Colorado	4.0
West Virginia	4.0
Arkansas	3.9
Kansas	3.8
Pennsylvania	3.7
Rhode Island	3.7
Idaho	3.6
Virginia	3.6
Missouri	3.5
North Carolina	3.5
Utah	3.5
Alabama	3.4
Mississippi	3.4
Tennessee	3.4
Indiana	3.3
Ohio	3.3
Georgia	3.2
Iowa	3.2
Maine	3.2
Montana	3.2
Wisconsin	3.2
Wyoming	3.0
Nebraska	2.9
New Hampshire	2.8
Hawaii	2.7
Vermont	2.6
North Dakota	2.2
South Dakota	2.0

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	Jul 26 Aug 26	Aug 25 Aug 26
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	25.4	25.0	25.6	1.6	-0.8
TOTAL PRIVATE	20.2	20.1	20.5	0.5	-1.5
GOODS PRODUCING	7.4	7.3	7.6	1.4	-2.6
Natural Resources & Mining	4.5	4.5	4.8	0.0	-6.3
Construction	2.4	2.3	2.3	4.3	4.3
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	18.0	17.7	18.0	1.7	0.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.1	5.1	5.2	0.0	-1.9
Information	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
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	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	5.2	4.9	5.1	6.1	2.0

	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	Jul 26 Aug 26	Aug 25 Aug 26
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	21.0	20.7	21.2	1.4	-0.9
TOTAL PRIVATE	16.6	16.5	16.8	0.6	-1.2
GOODS PRODUCING	5.9	5.8	6.1	1.7	-3.3
Natural Resources & Mining	3.1	3.1	3.3	0.0	-6.1
Construction	1.4	1.3	1.4	7.7	0.0
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.1	14.9	15.1	1.3	0.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	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	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.8	0.0

	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	Jul 26 Aug 26	Aug 25 Aug 26
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	27.8	27.9	27.5	-0.4	1.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	24.7	24.8	24.5	-0.4	0.8
GOODS PRODUCING	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	24.7	24.8	24.4	-0.4	1.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	3.3	3.4	3.2	-2.9	3.1
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.0	-7.1
Leisure & Hospitality	11.9	11.9	11.7	0.0	1.7
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.3

State Unemployment Rates August 2026 Not Seasonally Adjusted

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	6.5
District of Columbia	5.8
Arizona	5.6
California	5.4
Michigan	5.2
Oregon	5.1
Delaware	4.9
Illinois	4.9
New Mexico	4.9
Minnesota	4.8
Connecticut	4.7
New Jersey	4.7
Washington	4.7
Colorado	4.6
Florida	4.6
New York	4.6
Texas	4.6
Nevada	4.5
Kansas	4.4
Massachusetts	4.4
Kentucky	4.3
South Carolina	4.3
United States	4.3
Oklahoma	4.1
Pennsylvania	4.1
West Virginia	4.1
Maryland	3.9
Missouri	3.9
Rhode Island	3.8
Utah	3.8
Arkansas	3.7
Louisiana	3.7
Tennessee	3.7
Alabama	3.6
Indiana	3.6
Iowa	3.6
North Carolina	3.6
Virginia	3.6
Alaska	3.5
Idaho	3.5
Georgia	3.4
Wisconsin	3.4
Ohio	3.3
Mississippi	3.2
Maine	3.1
Montana	3.0
Hawaii	2.9
Nebraska	2.8
New Hampshire	2.8
Wyoming	2.7
Vermont	2.5
North Dakota	2.2
South Dakota	2.2

Economic Indicators

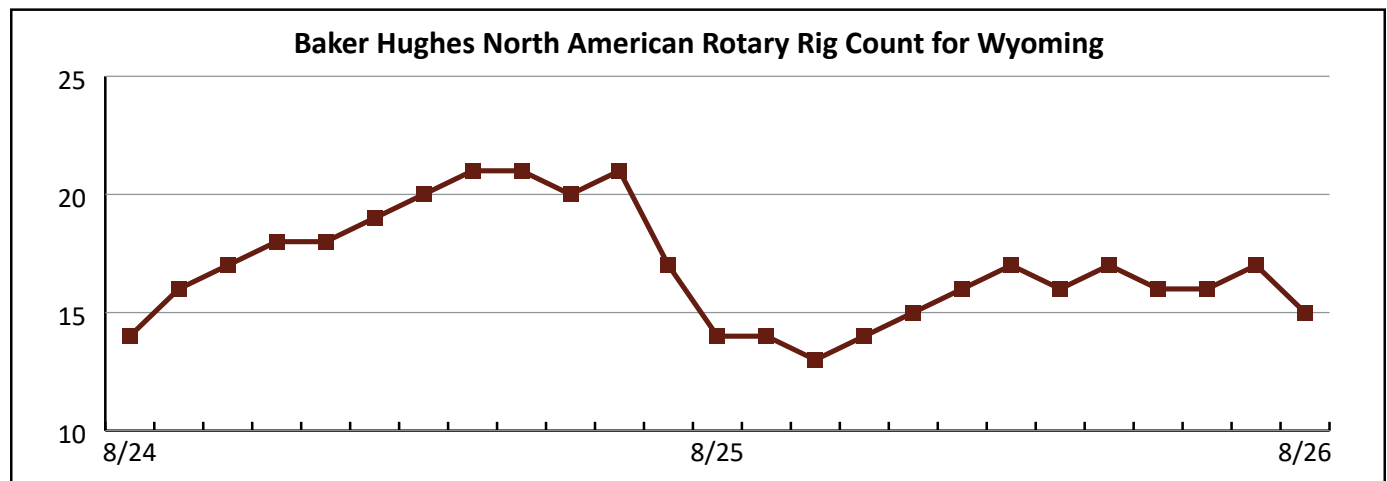
by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Benefits paid by Wyoming Unemployment Insurance fell 12.3% from August 2025 to August 2026.

	Aug 2026 (p)	Jul 2026 (r)	Aug 2025 (b)	Percent Change Month	Percent Change Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	300,600	300,300	300,100	0.1	0.2
Wyoming State Government	14,700	14,500	14,700	1.4	0.0
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	49,100	49,400	50,000	-0.6	-1.8
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	40,100	40,700	41,400	-1.5	-3.1
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	8,505,000	8,585,000	8,479,000	-0.9	0.3
As a percent of all workers	5.2%	5.3%	5.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	411,000	503,000	492,000	-18.3	-16.5
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	4,316,000	4,954,000	4,684,000	-12.9	-7.9
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	5,770	6,456	6,629	-10.6	-13.0
Benefits Paid	\$2,985,179	\$3,293,416	\$3,402,901	-9.4	-12.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$517.36	\$510.13	\$513.34	1.4	0.8
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	335.0	333.9	324.0	0.3	3.4
Food & Beverages	347.2	346.9	338.4	0.1	2.6
Housing	360.2	359.6	349.3	0.2	3.1
Apparel	136.8	134.2	132.0	1.9	3.6
Transportation	290.8	289.4	273.9	0.5	6.2
Medical Care	593.0	593.8	583.9	-0.1	1.6
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	145.2	145.2	141.4	0.0	2.7
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	150.3	147.5	147.2	1.9	2.1
Other Goods & Services	608.0	607.4	583.3	0.1	4.2
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	287.9	285.2	262.1	1.0	9.9
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	183	166	153	10.2	19.6
Valuation	111,730,000	67,196,000	\$58,786,000	66.3	90.1
Single Family Homes	132	140	131	-5.7	0.8
Valuation	53,222,000	63,182,000	\$55,985,000	-15.8	-4.9
Casper MSA ¹ Building Permits	18	9	13	100.0	38.5
Valuation	5,950,000	3,582,000	\$3,106,000	66.1	91.6
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	16	47	42	-66.0	-61.9
Valuation	3,619,000	9,988,000	\$8,221,000	-63.8	-56.0
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	15	17	14	-11.8	7.1

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

¹Metropolitan Statistical Area.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

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

In August, the highest unemployment rates were found in Niobrara (4.0%) and Platte (3.5%) counties.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Aug 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2025
	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	43,035	43,178	43,228	41,725	41,905	41,877	1,310	1,273	1,351	3.0	2.9	3.1
Big Horn	4,947	5,038	4,913	4,787	4,885	4,725	160	153	188	3.2	3.0	3.8
Fremont	16,936	16,767	17,100	16,363	16,184	16,532	573	583	568	3.4	3.5	3.3
Hot Springs	2,136	2,160	2,196	2,074	2,107	2,124	62	53	72	2.9	2.5	3.3
Park	15,221	15,364	15,177	14,818	14,984	14,772	403	380	405	2.6	2.5	2.7
Washakie	3,795	3,849	3,842	3,683	3,745	3,724	112	104	118	3.0	2.7	3.1
NORTHEAST	50,355	50,297	50,421	49,051	49,082	49,118	1,304	1,215	1,303	2.6	2.4	2.6
Campbell	23,441	23,291	23,467	22,816	22,703	22,847	625	588	620	2.7	2.5	2.6
Crook	3,749	3,791	3,812	3,659	3,709	3,719	90	82	93	2.4	2.2	2.4
Johnson	4,305	4,401	4,449	4,199	4,301	4,351	106	100	98	2.5	2.3	2.2
Sheridan	15,897	15,871	15,666	15,494	15,498	15,252	403	373	414	2.5	2.4	2.6
Weston	2,963	2,943	3,027	2,883	2,871	2,949	80	72	78	2.7	2.4	2.6
SOUTHWEST	61,662	61,434	62,671	60,073	59,958	61,058	1,589	1,476	1,613	2.6	2.4	2.6
Lincoln	10,345	10,475	10,410	10,101	10,248	10,172	244	227	238	2.4	2.2	2.3
Sublette	4,059	4,062	4,237	3,954	3,968	4,120	105	94	117	2.6	2.3	2.8
Sweetwater	19,223	18,841	19,632	18,572	18,208	18,986	651	633	646	3.4	3.4	3.3
Teton	18,331	18,432	18,424	18,009	18,146	18,141	322	286	283	1.8	1.6	1.5
Uinta	9,704	9,624	9,968	9,437	9,388	9,639	267	236	329	2.8	2.5	3.3
SOUTHEAST	78,775	78,824	78,295	76,597	76,829	76,010	2,178	1,995	2,285	2.8	2.5	2.9
Albany	22,456	22,102	20,784	21,952	21,616	20,281	504	486	503	2.2	2.2	2.4
Goshen	5,136	5,204	5,160	4,993	5,071	4,986	143	133	174	2.8	2.6	3.4
Laramie	46,987	47,161	48,084	45,607	45,916	46,639	1,380	1,245	1,445	2.9	2.6	3.0
Niobrara	781	800	816	750	775	785	31	25	31	4.0	3.1	3.8
Platte	3,415	3,557	3,451	3,295	3,451	3,319	120	106	132	3.5	3.0	3.8
CENTRAL	52,959	53,433	54,040	51,477	52,061	52,458	1,482	1,372	1,582	2.8	2.6	2.9
Carbon	6,282	6,238	6,107	6,097	6,079	5,903	185	159	204	2.9	2.5	3.3
Converse	6,582	6,569	6,574	6,421	6,410	6,389	161	159	185	2.4	2.4	2.8
Natrona	40,095	40,626	41,359	38,959	39,572	40,166	1,136	1,054	1,193	2.8	2.6	2.9
STATEWIDE	286,785	287,164	288,658	278,923	279,834	280,521	7,862	7,330	8,137	2.7	2.6	2.8
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.0	3.0	3.3
U.S.										4.3	4.4	4.5
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										4.1	4.1	4.3

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 3/2026. Run Date 9/2026.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

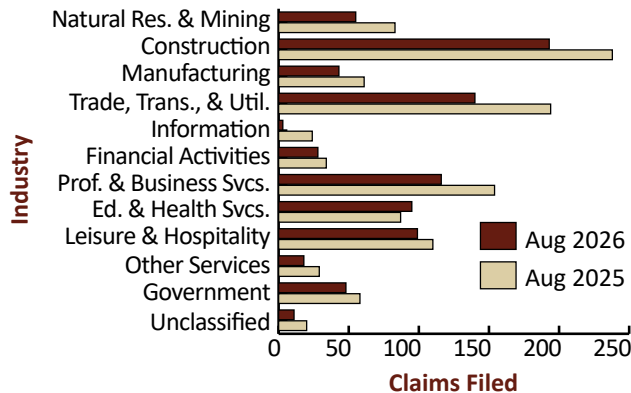
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

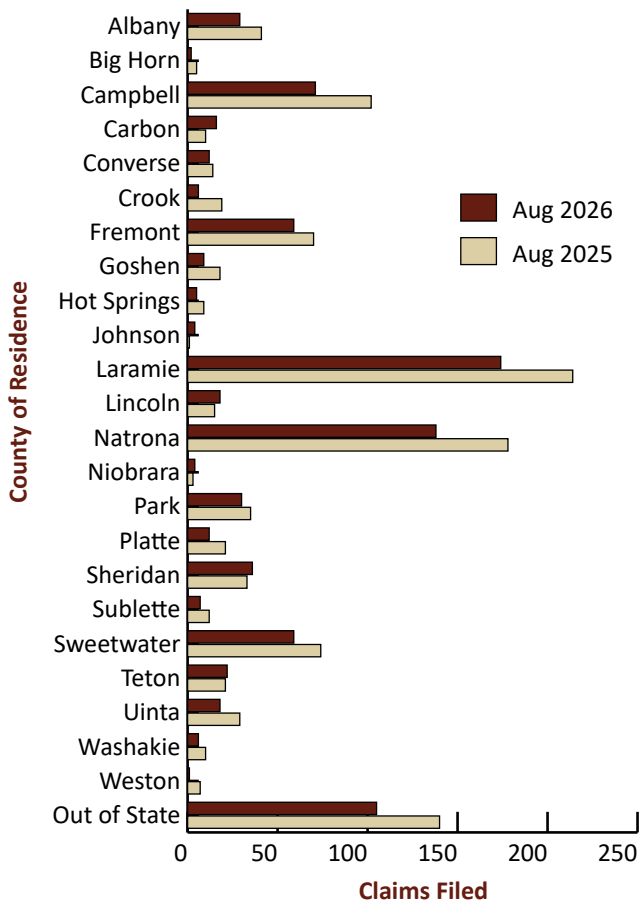
by: Laura Yetter, Senior Economist

The 855 initial claims in August 2026 marked the second fewest in any month dating back to at least 2007.

Initial UI Claims by Industry, August 2026



Initial UI Claims by County of Residence, August 2026



Initial Claims

	Claims Filed			% Change	
	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	Over the Month	Over the Year
Wyoming Statewide					
Total Claims Filed	855	929	1,098	-8.0	-22.1
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	292	284	383	2.8	-23.8
Natural Resources & Mining	55	60	83	-8.3	-33.7
Mining	50	57	82	-12.3	-39.0
Construction	193	177	238	9.0	-18.9
Manufacturing	43	46	61	-6.5	-29.5
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	502	542	636	-7.4	-21.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	140	144	194	-2.8	-27.8
Wholesale Trade	21	26	40	-19.2	-47.5
Retail Trade	81	78	82	3.8	-1.2
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	37	38	72	-2.6	-48.6
Information	3	10	24	-70.0	-87.5
Financial Activities	28	31	34	-9.7	-17.6
Professional & Business Services	116	90	154	28.9	-24.7
Educational & Health Services	95	138	87	-31.2	9.2
Leisure & Hospitality	99	100	110	-1.0	-10.0
Other Services, except Public Admin.	18	26	29	-30.8	-37.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	48	82	58	-41.5	-17.2
Federal Government	8	11	9	-27.3	-11.1
State Government	5	8	11	-37.5	-54.5
Local Government	34	62	36	-45.2	-5.6
Local Education	10	25	10	-60.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	11	19	20	-42.1	-45.0
Laramie County					
Total Claims Filed	174	163	214	6.7	-18.7
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	56	47	55	19.1	1.8
Construction	48	39	43	23.1	11.6
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	105	99	149	6.1	-29.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	20	25	40	-20.0	-50.0
Financial Activities	7	9	7	-22.2	0.0
Professional & Business Services	37	26	64	42.3	-42.2
Educational & Health Services	19	13	14	46.2	35.7
Leisure & Hospitality	14	20	15	-30.0	-6.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	10	10	7	0.0	42.9
Natrona County					
Total Claims Filed	138	124	178	11.3	-22.5
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	56	30	69	86.7	-18.8
Construction	38	14	46	171.4	-17.4
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	77	90	101	-14.4	-23.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	24	27	28	-11.1	-14.3
Financial Activities	5	4	9	25.0	-44.4
Professional & Business Services	7	10	14	-30.0	-50.0
Educational & Health Services	19	23	17	-17.4	11.8
Leisure & Hospitality	18	15	21	20.0	-14.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2	2	5	0.0	-60.0

N/D = Not discloseable due to confidentiality.

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

The full UI claims report for August 2026 is available at https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/0826_UI.pdf.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

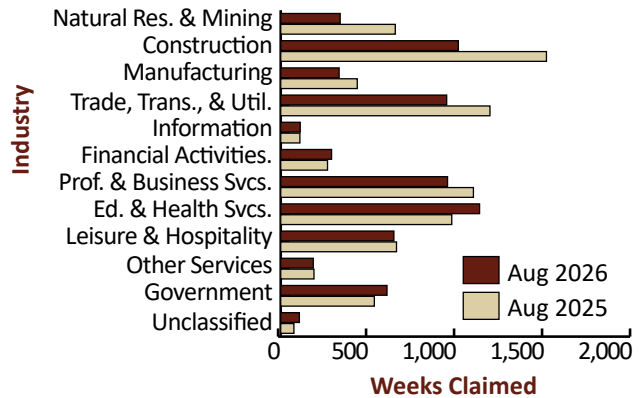
by: *Laura Yetter, Senior Economist*

There were 2,303 unique claimants in August 2026, down over the year (-328, or -12.5%) but up over the month (224, or 10.8%).

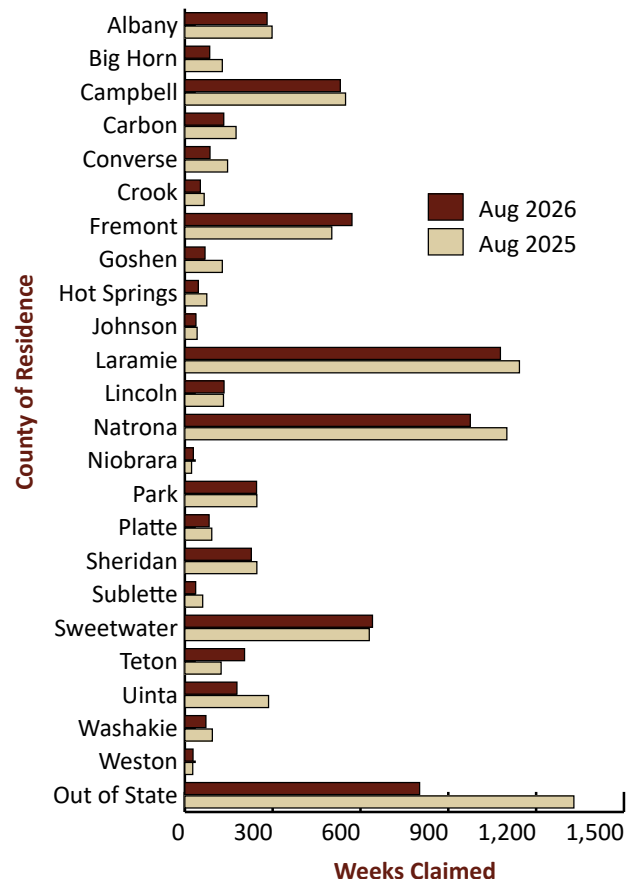
Continued Claims	Claims Filed			% Change	
	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	Over the Month	Over the Year
Wyoming Statewide					
Total Weeks Claimed	6,642	7,231	7,685	-8.1	-13.6
Total Unique Claimants	2,303	2,079	2,631	10.8	-12.5
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,681	1,842	2,596	-8.7	-35.2
Natural Resources & Mining	338	346	651	-2.3	-48.1
Mining	320	325	636	-1.5	-49.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	15	12	47	25.0	-68.1
Construction	1,009	1,121	1,510	-10.0	-33.2
Manufacturing	332	374	435	-11.2	-23.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	4,250	4,649	4,480	-8.6	-5.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	943	1,026	1,189	-8.1	-20.7
Wholesale Trade	197	201	246	-2.0	-19.9
Retail Trade	506	553	556	-8.5	-9.0
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	240	271	386	-11.4	-37.8
Information	111	105	109	5.7	1.8
Financial Activities	289	306	266	-5.6	8.6
Professional & Business Services	948	961	1,095	-1.4	-13.4
Educational & Health Services	1,130	1,297	972	-12.9	16.3
Leisure & Hospitality	643	756	658	-14.9	-2.3
Other Services, except Public Admin.	185	196	189	-5.6	-2.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	604	638	532	-5.3	13.5
Federal Government	18	38	58	-52.6	-69.0
State Government	67	83	62	-19.3	8.1
Local Government	518	516	411	0.4	26.0
Local Education	178	201	105	-11.4	69.5
UNCLASSIFIED	106	100	75	6.0	41.3
Laramie County					
Total Weeks Claimed	1,078	1,098	1,143	-5.4	-5.7
Total Unique Claimants	382	336	402	-17.0	-5.0
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	241	250	206	-14.4	17.0
Construction	215	208	168	-4.6	28.0
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	697	719	838	-5.8	-16.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	153	168	213	-12.5	-28.2
Financial Activities	68	72	85	-10.0	-20.0
Professional & Business Services	225	196	291	16.0	-22.7
Educational & Health Services	147	170	132	-0.6	11.4
Leisure & Hospitality	57	66	79	-31.3	-27.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	107	104	74	7.2	44.6
UNCLASSIFIED	32	24	22	200.0	45.5
Natrona County					
Total Weeks Claimed	975	1,012	1,100	-1.8	-11.4
Total Unique Claimants	334	290	383	13.7	-12.8
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	226	247	309	-3.6	-26.9
Construction	85	89	132	3.4	-35.6
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	709	720	757	-3.1	-6.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	186	183	265	-8.9	-29.8
Financial Activities	41	51	44	-5.6	-6.8
Professional & Business Services	137	149	128	14.8	7.0
Educational & Health Services	210	207	135	-13.5	55.6
Leisure & Hospitality	93	75	95	-13.6	-2.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	31	39	22	2.9	40.9
UNCLASSIFIED	4	4	9	33.3	-20.0

^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.

Continued UI Claims by Industry, August 2026



Continued UI Claims by County of Residence, August 2026



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

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