

TRENDS

The Recent Labor Market Downturn as a Natural Experiment, Part 1: Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimant Labor Market Behavior: Length of Benefit Collection and the Likelihood of Exiting the Labor Market

by: Patrick Harris, Principal Analyst

Increasing the maximum number of weeks an individual can claim Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits has been shown to increase the time spent unemployed, which can have negative consequences on the unemployment rate (Rothstein, 2011). On the other hand, an extension of UI benefits allows the unemployed worker more time to search for suitable employment with higher wages that better matches their knowledge and skills (Kahn, 2011). Using UI claims data before, during, and after the recent economic downturn, we found that the length of UI benefit collection affects the likelihood of leaving Wyoming's labor market. Further, we found that the possibility of collecting extended UI benefits has little effect on a person's work search intensity. We discuss workforce agency initiatives and program evaluation implications.

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER, 2010), the recent national recession lasted from December 2007 to June 2009. From 2005 to 2013, the amount of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits paid varied across the nation. In Wyoming, the UI trust fund remained solvent after it paid out \$665.5 million between 2005 and 2013, while

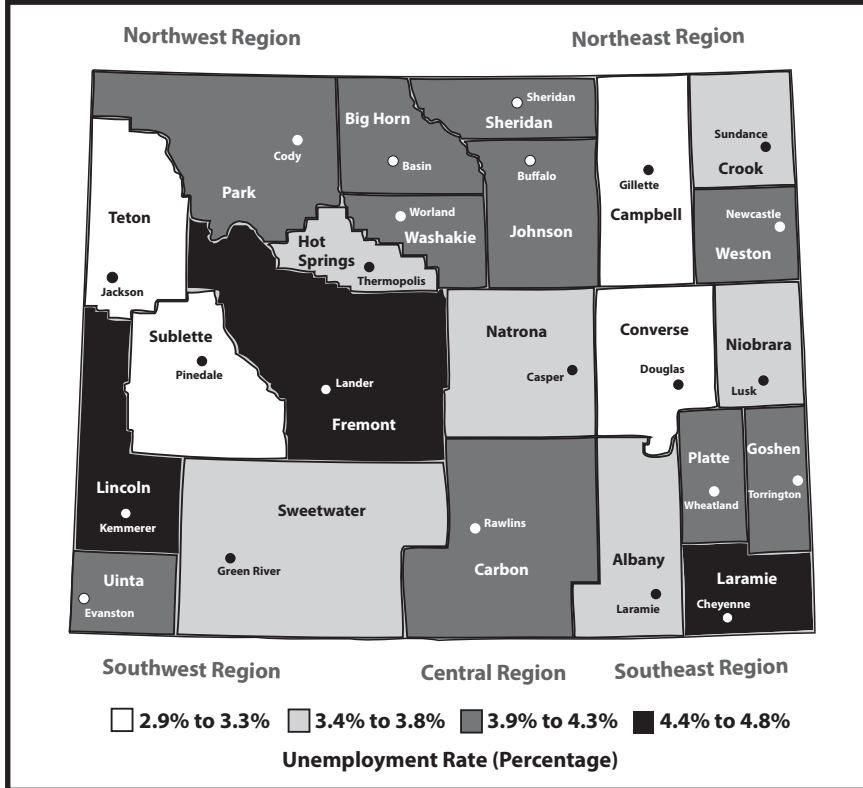
several other states borrowed money from the federal government to pay UI benefits. The research presented here is the first article in a three-part series examining UI claimants prior to, during, and after the recent downturn. The purpose of this article is to examine people who exit

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Although there is no established labor shortage for the U.S. labor market as a whole, there may be shortages in particular sectors, such as construction. ... *page 16*
- Initial unemployment insurance claims decreased by 28.3% over the year with a slight decrease (-0.8%) over the month. Construction (-44.3%) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-43.3%) saw the largest decreases over the year. ... *page 22*

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



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Wyoming's labor market (leavers) after UI benefit collection. Part II will examine the characteristics of those claimants who will use the UI system again in the future (repeat claimants). Part III will examine UI benefit duration and re-employment outcomes after UI benefit collection.

The purpose of this series is two-fold. First, in order to conduct successful and useful workforce program evaluation, UI claimant behavior should be understood in terms of individual labor market histories and the economic conditions when a claimant collects UI benefits. From a program evaluation standpoint, comparing groups across time will lead to bias due to unobserved characteristics between claimants, and capturing these characteristics strengthens program evaluation research. Second, the financial and human resources of workforce agencies are limited, and focusing on claimants who are likely to benefit from services should be a primary goal.

The results in this article suggest that claimants behave differently depending on economic and individual characteristics, which will influence workforce agency service direction. The three articles in this series explore UI claimant behavior in times of differing economic conditions and the effects of large-scale policy changes that affect the labor force, such as extended benefits.

A key responsibility of state workforce agencies is to assist unemployed individuals in finding work during unemployment. From a policy and statistical standpoint, the period examined in this article (2005 to 2012) provides a unique evaluation of the UI system and the effectiveness of state workforce agency services due to the high

degree of variability in the number and length of UI benefit collection. Specifically, this includes a period of economic expansion (2005Q1 to 2008Q4), economic downturn (2009Q1 to 2010Q2), and gradual economic recovery (2010Q3 to 2012Q4). During these periods, policy changes to the UI system were implemented in response to changes in economic conditions. Due to the variability in the use of UI prior to, during, and after the recent economic downturn, many authors deem it a natural experiment (Kahn, 2011; Rothstein, 2011). A natural experiment is one where clusters of individuals are exposed to treatment or control conditions that are determined by nature or laws and not induced by a researcher. A natural experiment is one way to evaluate large-scale policy changes and their effects on labor market activity (van Ours & Vodopivec, 2006).

In this article, the number of Wyoming's UI claimants who left Wyoming's labor market after UI benefit collection (leavers) is examined. Leavers are defined as those claimants who do not appear in Wyoming wage records again after the quarter in which they began receiving benefits. The lever rate is the number of leavers divided by the total number of UI claimants. In order to understand the interstate migration patterns of individuals collecting Wyoming UI benefits, the number of leavers who appeared in partner states' wage records is examined.

The number of UI claimants who permanently left Wyoming's labor market grew from 15.0% in 2005 to 33.6% in 2012; local and regional economic conditions were likely contributing factors. This increase may also be due in part to the fact that claimants who left Wyoming's labor market in more recent years have not had as much time to establish re-employment. Results presented in this article suggest that the

length of UI benefit collection may affect re-employment efforts. Just after eight weeks of UI benefit collection and just before benefit exhaustion, the number of claimants who leave the labor market increases. Workforce agencies should consider focusing their services on claimants who can truly benefit from services and implementing sound program evaluation to better allocate resources.

Overview of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Program

The UI system is designed to assist individuals and households affected by job loss with supplemental income during unemployment, allowing the individual to invest time and money searching for work. Several criteria are required in order for an individual to be eligible to receive UI benefits. First, an individual must earn adequate wages during the base period (the first four of the last five calendar quarters). Second, the job loss occurred through no fault of the individual; for example, those individuals who quit a job are not eligible. Third, the individual must be able, available, and actively seeking employment during the time of benefit collection.

Throughout the UI system there are several types of claims. The two types of claims used in this article are initial claims and continued weeks claimed. An initial claim occurs when an individual approaches the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) regarding eligibility for UI benefits. If an individual is considered eligible for UI benefits and begins to receive those benefits, then each week is considered a continued claim week. Normally, the maximum number of weeks an individual is able to

claim during his benefit year in Wyoming is 26 weeks. It should be noted that the number of benefit weeks depends upon individual circumstances, such as wages prior to initial claim, and may not reach the maximum of 26 weeks.

Literature Review

According to Wen (2010), 37,312 individuals in Wyoming lost their jobs and collected UI benefits in 2009. More than two-thirds of these individuals were men, and 59.5% of all claimants had only a high school education. Geographical locations where mining is a substantial piece of economic activity were hit especially hard. UI benefits not only assist in sustaining the individual and household during job loss but also offset the negative economic impact during a downturn by retaining jobs in a particular local economy. Leonard (2010) found that UI benefit payments paid to claimants in 2009 were estimated to account for approximately 990 jobs retained as a result of UI claimants' ability to continue to spend in the state.

Given that UI benefits help the individual and the economy as a whole, research on individual labor market behavior before and after UI benefit collection has received much attention. Past research suggests that interacting with the UI system (and the unemployment experience itself) alters future employment, unemployment, and use of unemployment insurance (Corak, 1993; Heckman & Borjas, 1980). Using UI program data from 1971 to 1990, Corak found the number of past UI claims filed may contribute to a "scarring" effect on claimants' future interaction with the unemployment insurance system. The author noted that this result is possibly due to the eroded stigma associated with collecting UI benefits and

also an increased familiarity with the UI system, application, dispute, and job search processes. This “scarring” is the lasting effect unemployment has on future labor market success and possible changes in psychological well-being (Knabe & Ratzel, 2009).

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed in February of 2009, allocated federal money to provide up to 13 weeks of extended benefits. Extending UI benefits has received much attention by researchers and policy-makers in terms of its effects on the unemployment rate, job creation, and re-employment of UI claimants. Card and Levine (2000) found that after New Jersey implemented a 13-week benefit extension, UI benefit collection increased by one week over the course of the claim. The authors found that when claimants knew they could receive an increase in the maximum number of UI benefits, they reduced their job search intensity and continued to claim more benefit weeks. The authors expected that the spike in the UI leaving rate (the number of claimants who leave UI for employment) just before benefit exhaustion in the presence of extended benefits would be less pronounced due to the possibility of receiving further UI benefits. However, the authors found notable spikes in leaving UI just prior to benefit exhaustion both in the presence and absence of extended benefits. These results indicate that the UI leaving rate declines over the course of the claim, and that other factors besides job search intensity are contributing to the spike in the UI leaving rate in the weeks prior to benefit exhaustion during a time when extended benefits are available compared to when they are not.

Using data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is a monthly household survey conducted by the Census Bureau

for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) designed to gather data on labor force participation (employment and unemployment) and other labor force characteristics, Rothstein (2011) found that extended UI benefits reduced the rate of re-employment, but the effect was relatively small. Rothstein suggests that extending UI benefits during tough economic times allows a worker enough time to find employment when jobs are scarce. Further, the quality of job matches when economic conditions are poor are typically lower compared to good economic times (Davis, Haltiwanger, & Schuh, 1996), and several researchers suggest that an increase in benefit length allows an unemployed worker more time to find employment which best matches their human capital (Bowlus, 1995; Kahn, 2011).

The research discussed above forms two different interpretations of the use of the UI system and implementation of extended benefits. On the one hand, increasing the maximum number of weeks an individual can claim benefits has been shown to increase the time spent unemployed which can have negative consequences on the unemployment rate (Rothstein, 2011). On the other hand, an extension of UI benefits allows the unemployed worker enough time to search for suitable employment with higher wages that better matches their knowledge and skills (Kahn, 2011).

Methodology

The data used in this article are initial and continued UI claims for which a claimant collected at least one week of UI benefits between first quarter 2005 (2005Q1) and fourth quarter 2012 (2012Q4). Literature suggests that interacting with the UI system, and the unemployment experience itself,

alters future employment, unemployment, and use of unemployment insurance (Heckman & Borjas, 1980). In an attempt to limit the sample to first time UI claimants, all individuals who received Wyoming UI benefits prior to 2005 were excluded from these analyses. However, controlling for prior use of UI in another state is not possible with current Research & Planning (R&P) datasets.

R&P maintains a UI Wage Records database, which includes quarterly wages for approximately 92% of Wyoming workers. Wage data were used to compile labor market participation before and after collecting UI benefits. If a claimant was not re-employed

by 2013Q3, his wage data was set to zero. Further, R&P currently has data sharing agreements with 10 partner states (Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah), which allows R&P to monitor Wyoming's labor into and out of other states. Wage records from other states include wages through 2012Q4, with the exception of Oklahoma, which only includes wages through 2011Q4. If an individual had wage records in another state after the quarter in which he began receiving UI benefits, he was considered employed in that state.

Figure 1 shows the number of unique

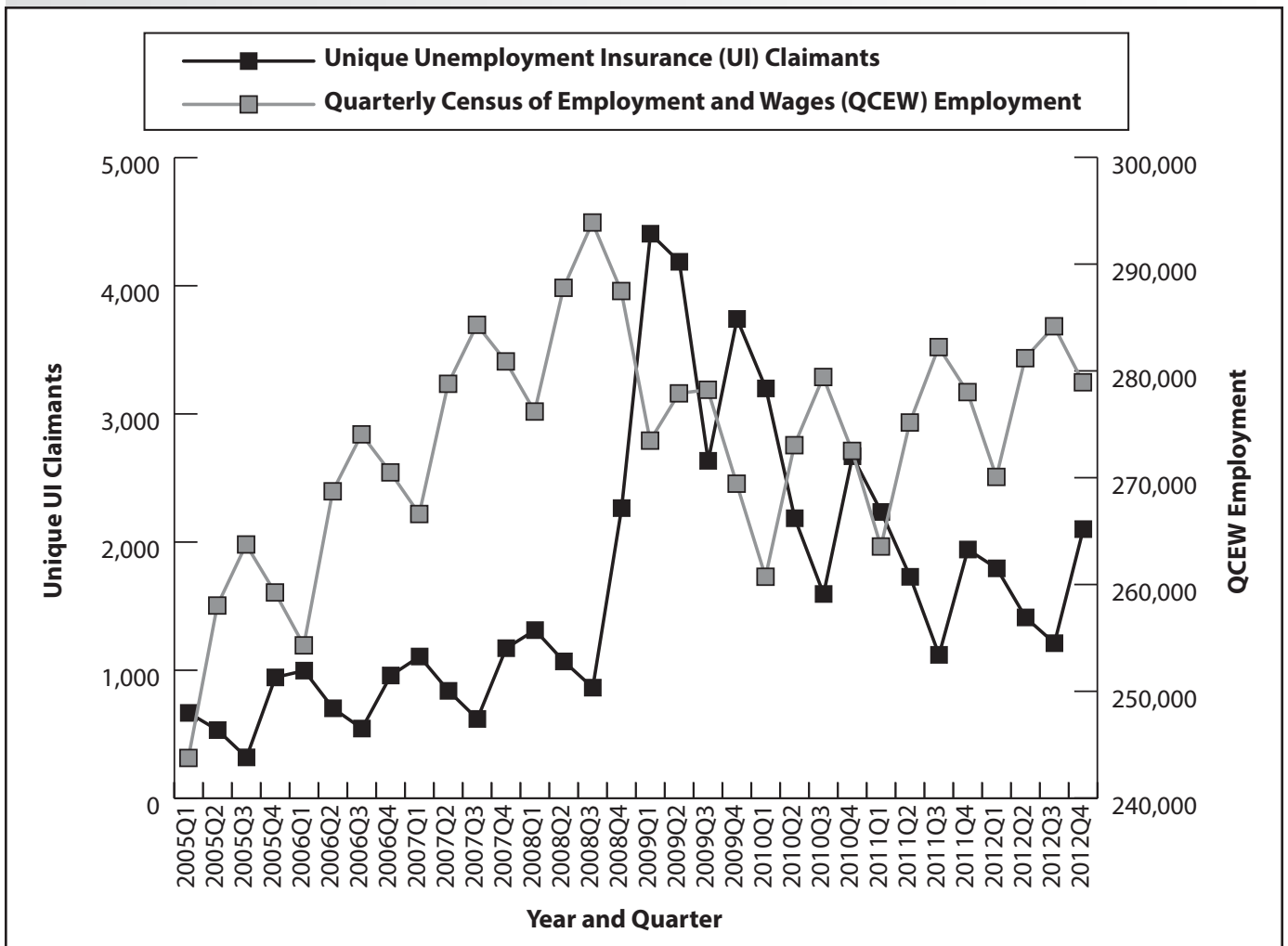


Figure 1: Count of Unique Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants Who Were Paid at Least One UI Benefit by Year and Quarter and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Employment, 2005-2012

claimants by year and quarter who were paid at least one week of UI benefits, as well as the level of employment measured by the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). The pattern of seasonality in Wyoming’s labor market is clear, with increases and decreases depending upon time of year, particularly between 2005Q1 and 2008Q2. From 2005Q1 to 2012Q4, 2009Q1 saw the largest number of individuals who claimed at least one week of UI benefits (4,406). The number of individuals with at least one week of UI benefits remained over 1,500 through quarter 2011Q2. A total of 53,080 unique individuals were included in the analyses.

Results

In this article, *leavers* are defined as Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants who did not appear in Wyoming wage records again after the quarter they began receiving benefits. The *leaver rate* is the number of leavers divided by the total

number of UI claimants.

The number of leavers and the percentage of those leavers by gender who were found in partner states’ wage records are shown in Table 1 and Figure 2 (see page 8). In 2005, 58.1% of all leavers with wages in partner states were males, and 41.9% were females. In 2009, the proportion of male leavers with wages in other states (83.1%) was higher than in any other year, while the proportion of females with wages in other states (16.9%) was lower than in any other year. For female leavers, the proportion peaked in 2005 (41.9%), steadily declined to a low in 2009 (16.9%), and has remained flat since 2010. Again, this may be due in part to the fact that claimants in earlier years had more time to become re-employed in Wyoming than claimants in more recent years.

For those claimants who filed a claim under an unclassified industry, 58.7% would become leavers after UI benefit collection (see Table 2, page 9). The unclassified industry designation is used when the firm does not provide information

Table 1: Exit Rate of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants Who Left Wyoming’s Labor Market (Leavers) and Employment in Partner States by Gender, 2005-2012

Year Claim Filed	Total UI Claimants	Total Claimants Who Left Wyoming’s Labor Market (Leavers)		Male Leavers Who Had Wages in Partner States		Female Leavers Who Had Wages in Partner States	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
2005	2,464	369	15.0%	111	30.1%	80	21.7%
2006	3,204	526	16.4%	175	33.3%	102	19.4%
2007	3,738	634	17.0%	238	37.5%	89	14.0%
2008	5,511	1,126	20.4%	456	40.5%	150	13.3%
2009	14,968	3,682	24.6%	1,806	49.0%	367	10.0%
2010	9,650	2,530	26.2%	1,160	45.8%	292	11.5%
2011	7,026	2,216	31.5%	994	44.9%	259	11.7%
2012	6,519	2,188	33.6%	913	41.7%	262	12.0%
Total	53,080	13,271	25.0%	5,853	44.1%	1,601	12.1%

Leavers are Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants who left Wyoming’s labor market.

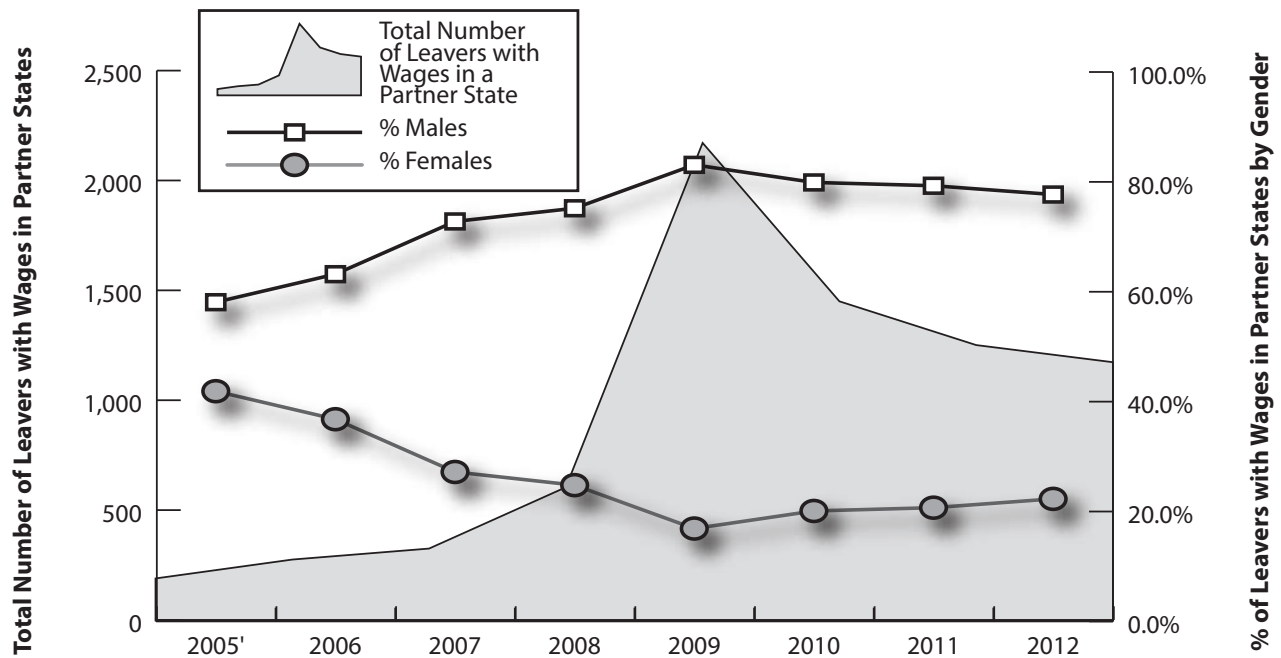
Partner states are state labor market information (LMI) offices with which Research & Planning has data-sharing agreements. These states are Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah.

for proper North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) coding. Most of the firms in the “unclassified” industry are out-of-state companies. This large percentage can be partly explained by the number of nonresidents in an unclassified industry (91.5%) during this time period (not shown in Table 1). Nonresidents are defined as “individuals without a Wyoming-issued driver’s license or at least four quarters of work history in Wyoming” (Jones, 2002). This indicates that nonresidents may have migrated back to their home state after UI benefit collection.

For leavers in educational & health services, the median age was 42.2, which supports past R&P research that educational & health services has an older

labor force compared to other industries (see Teacher Salaries in Wyoming which can be found at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/occasional/occ7.pdf>).

Harris (2012) found that when older individuals become unemployed and file for UI benefits, they are less likely to find employment after their claim than younger individuals. A total of 697 claimants in educational and health services left the labor force and less than half went to work in a partner state, which may indicate that these claimants decided to retire after UI benefit collection. Additionally, 60.7% of all leavers were nonresidents and of those, 63.5% had wages in partner states. By comparison, 39.3% of all leavers were residents, 44.9% of whom had wages in a partner state.



Leavers are Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants who did not appear in Wyoming wage records again after the quarter they began receiving benefits.
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Figure 2: Percentage of Leavers Who Had Wages in a Partner State by Gender, 2005-2012

As shown in Table 2 (see page 8), the median age of leavers in leisure & hospitality was 32.1. This industry accounted for 17.1% of all leavers. The highest rates of leavers who had wages in a partner state were found in natural resources & mining (61.5%) and construction (60.3%), while the lowest was found in public administration (36.1%). This suggests that there were more employment opportunities in a partner state for leavers from natural resource & mining and construction compared to other industries.

The data in Table 3 (see page 10) illustrate the differences in exit rate within Wyoming’s 23 counties. The largest exit rate was for those claimants who had an out-of-state address (57.4%). Again, this large percentage indicates that workers who came to Wyoming from another state were more than half as likely to leave the state after claiming benefits. Further, 63.5% of non-residents who left

had wages in partner states, indicating that nonresidents looked for work in other states.

In terms of Wyoming’s counties, Sublette County had the highest leaver rate (19.1%), and 48.6% of all leavers from Sublette County had wages in partner states. Due to the energy production in Sublette County, companies may have moved jobs to partner states as energy production decreased in Sublette County and increased in other states. For example, in the northwestern region of North Dakota, the oil boom from the Bakken formation began to have substantial impacts on the average wage beginning in 2005 compared to surrounding counties up to 400 miles away (Batbold & Grunewald, 2013), which may have enticed workers to migrate to North Dakota.

In 17 of Wyoming’s 23 counties, females claimed more benefit weeks than males on average. Goshen and Platte counties

Table 2: Exit Rate of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants Who Left Wyoming’s Labor Market (Leavers) and Employment in Partner States by Industry and Median Age, 2005-2012

Industry	Total UI Claimants	Total Leavers			Leavers Who Had Wages in Partner States	
		N	%	Median Age of Leavers	N	%
Natural Resources & Mining	5,410	1,198	22.1%	35.6	737	61.5%
Construction	12,348	2,733	22.1%	37.7	1,648	60.3%
Manufacturing	2,232	317	14.2%	40.9	156	49.2%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	6,820	1,231	18.0%	41.7	564	45.8%
Information & Financial Activities	1,163	214	18.4%	39.9	84	39.3%
Professional & Business Services	4,123	883	21.4%	39.2	465	52.7%
Educational & Health Services	3,424	697	20.4%	42.2	319	45.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	6,960	1,189	17.1%	32.1	542	45.6%
Other Services	1,377	303	22.0%	40.1	141	46.5%
Public Administration	2,929	814	27.8%	33.0	294	36.1%
Unclassified	6,294	3,692	58.7%	38.1	2,504	67.8%
Total	53,080	13,271	23.84%	37.9	7,454	50.1%

Leavers are Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants who left Wyoming’s labor market.

Partner states are state labor market information (LMI) offices with which Research & Planning has data-sharing agreements. These states are Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah.

saw the largest difference in length of UI benefit collection between males and females (a difference of 11.9 and 10.2 weeks, respectively). Past research has shown that females remain unemployed for longer periods of time, which may be due to Wyoming's economy being dominated largely by male dependent industries such as natural resources & mining and construction (Harris, 2012). Further, females could be collecting UI for longer periods due to family responsibilities

and other outside influences rather than economic conditions. Females are also less likely to search for and accept jobs that are gender-atypical and stereotypically performed by males (Kulik, 2000).

In order to examine whether length of benefit collection affects the exit rate during different economic and policy conditions, three periods were used: prior to (2005Q1 to 2008Q4), during (2009Q1 to 2010Q2), and after (2010Q3 to 2012Q4)

Table 3: Exit Rate of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants Who Left Wyoming's Labor Market (Leavers) and Employment in Partner States by County of Residence, 2005-2012

County of Claim	Total UI Claimants	Total Leavers		Average Weeks of Benefits Claimed for Leavers		Leavers Who Had Wages in Partner States	
		N	%	Males	Females	N	%
Albany	1,467	252	17.2%	26.5	30.3	121	48.0%
Big Horn	718	97	13.5%	26.8	29.2	42	43.3%
Campbell	3,036	401	13.2%	27.0	32.9	188	46.9%
Carbon	1,144	170	14.9%	26.9	30.3	85	50.0%
Converse	719	94	13.1%	28.1	26.4	42	44.7%
Crook	350	53	15.1%	32.4	31.5	24	45.3%
Fremont	2,945	346	11.7%	27.6	32.7	146	42.2%
Goshen	629	104	16.5%	18.9	30.8	63	60.6%
Hot Springs	277	38	13.7%	38.4	32.1	12	31.6%
Johnson	648	90	13.9%	27.0	33.2	34	37.8%
Laramie	6,200	887	14.3%	28.6	32.3	385	43.4%
Lincoln	1,213	159	13.1%	26.1	33.5	71	44.7%
Natrona	5,507	631	11.5%	32.5	34.4	225	35.7%
Niobrara	100	15	15.0%	17.0	33.9	9	60.0%
Park	2,029	277	13.7%	24.2	31.4	125	45.1%
Platte	488	53	10.9%	24.4	34.6	24	45.3%
Sheridan	2,463	329	13.4%	30.9	32.5	142	43.2%
Sublette	743	142	19.1%	27.8	31.9	69	48.6%
Sweetwater	2,920	441	15.1%	31.5	31.2	226	51.2%
Teton	3,068	306	10.0%	25.7	24.5	132	43.1%
Uinta	1,412	220	15.6%	28.9	32.5	129	58.6%
Washakie	573	61	10.6%	23.6	30.9	23	37.7%
Weston	327	34	10.4%	40.1	39.4	16	47.1%
Out of State	14,046	8,058	57.4%	22.2	22.3	5,115	63.5%
Unknown (WY)	58	13	22.4%	16.9	16.3	6	46.2%
Total	38,976	5,200	13.3%	27.9	31.8	2,333	45.8%

Leavers are Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants who left Wyoming's labor market.

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the economic downturn in Wyoming. As is typical during economic downturns, policy was enacted to extend the length of UI benefits at either the state and/or federal level. As outlined in the introduction of this article, the possibility of collecting an increased number of UI benefit weeks may have an effect on job search intensity.

suggests that when economic times are tough, claimants may try to look for work at the beginning of the claim and then decide to search for employment in other labor markets or leave for other reasons – such as retirement or returning to school – due to poor job prospects in their current labor market.

Figure 3 shows that the period after the downturn (2010Q3 to 2012Q4) saw a higher leaver rate than the other two periods. The results displayed in Figure 3 may be due in part to the fact that claimants in later years had less time to find re-employment in Wyoming than claimants in earlier years. During weeks three through eight of UI benefit collection, the leaver rate remained relatively stable within the three periods. Just after eight weeks (two months) of collecting benefits during the downturn, the leaver rate increased by 6.7% with smaller increases in the other two periods. This

As mentioned previously, an individual is notified two weeks before benefit exhaustion as to whether he can potentially receive extended benefits. For claimants who are eligible for 26 weeks of unemployment benefits, this notification would occur during the 12th week of benefit collection. As seen in Figure 3, between the 12th and 21st week of UI collection for all periods, the leaver rate shows little change. During the downturn, the leaver rate shows the least variability between UI weeks claimed. This result suggests that if individuals are notified that they may receive additional benefits

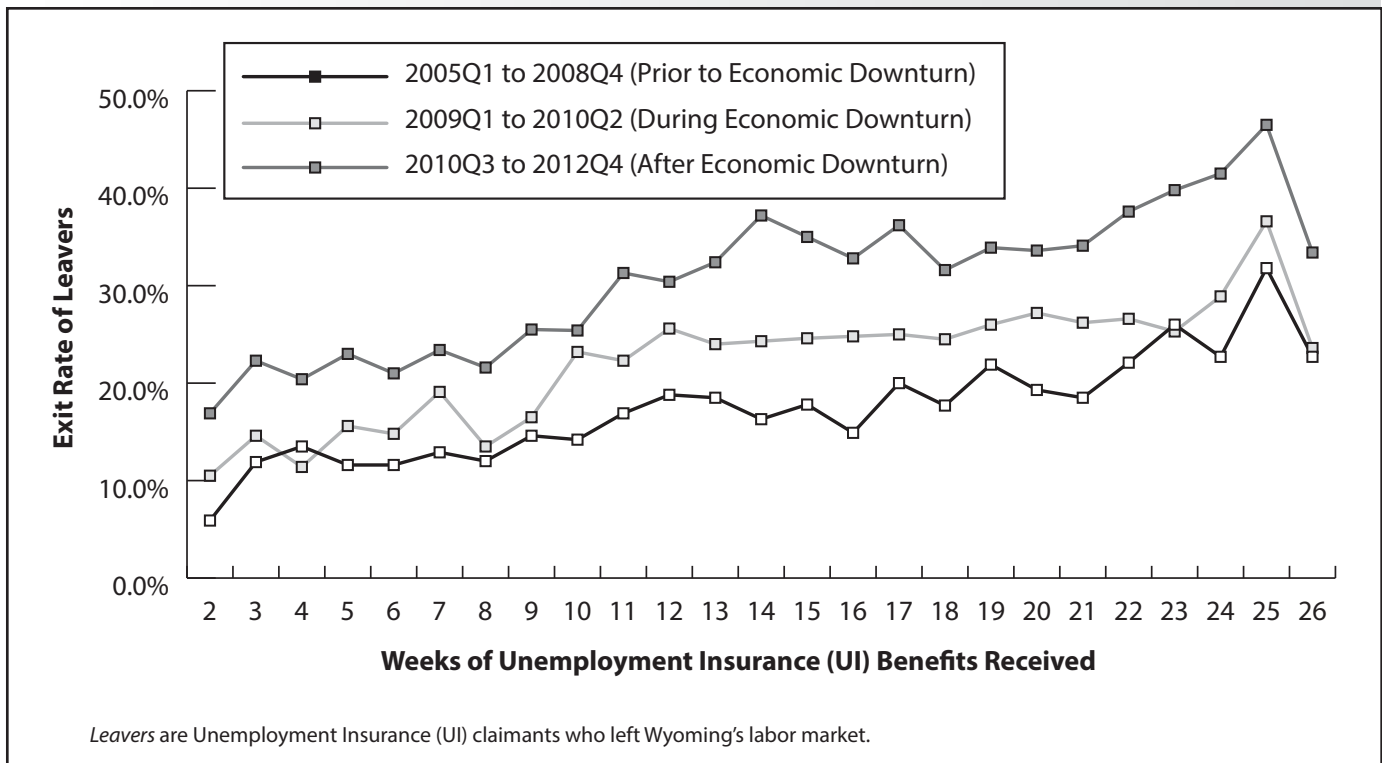


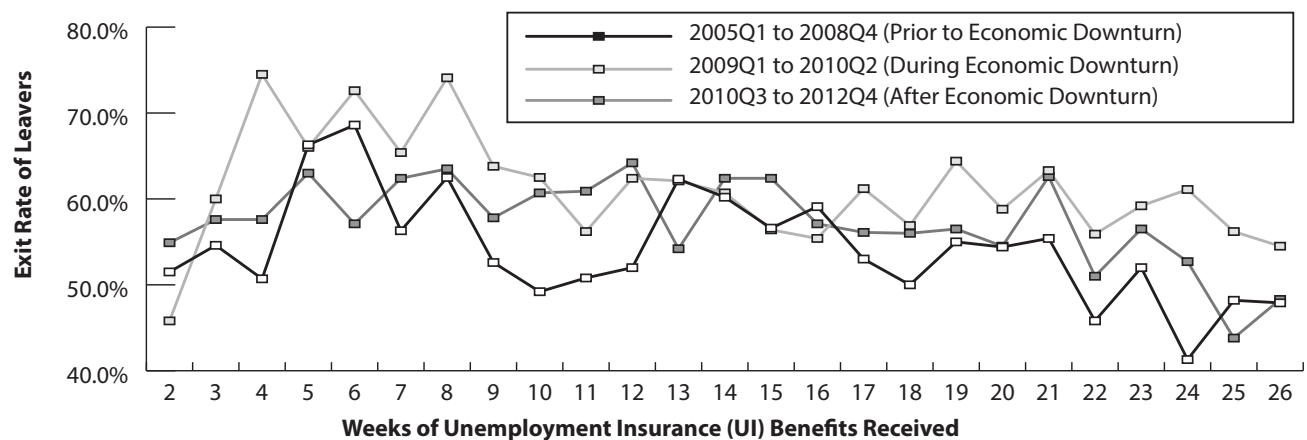
Figure 3: Exit Rate of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants Who Left Wyoming's Labor Market (Leavers) by Weeks of UI Benefits Received and Time Period, 2005Q1 to 2012Q4

after exhaustion, claimants show a certain level of inactivity when deciding to exit the labor market during tough economic times. This may be due to the prospect of receiving extended benefits or the limited number of jobs available during an economic downturn.

Both before and after the downturn (during times of better or improving economic conditions), individuals begin to exit the labor market at an increasing rate five weeks before benefit exhaustion (21 weeks). Strong spikes in leaver rate just prior to UI benefit exhaustion (25 weeks) were observed before (9.1%) and during (7.7%) the downturn. However, the spike after the downturn was smaller (5.0%), indicating that when economic times are improving and extended benefits are available, such as after the downturn, claimants are less likely to leave the labor market when facing exhaustion. Due to more weeks available, claimants have more time available to search for a job before they lose UI benefits and may continue to look for

better job matches as job growth improves.

Figure 4 shows the percentage of leavers who had wages in partner states by time period and length of UI benefit collection. Prior to and after the downturn, there was a substantial increase in the percentage of leavers just after the first month (fifth week) of UI benefit collection. However, during the downturn this increase occurred at the fourth week (one month) of UI benefit collection, one week sooner and was more pronounced. The percentage of leavers who had wages in other states increased from 45.8% in the second week to 74.5% in the fourth week during the downturn. The rate of employment in other states fluctuated substantially between the first 12 weeks of benefit collection both prior to (ranging from -12.3% to 15.6%) and during (ranging from -10.3% to 14.5%) the downturn. However, the rate of employment in a partner state after the downturn had only minor fluctuations ranging from -5.9% to 5.4%.



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Partner states are state labor market information (LMI) offices with which Research & Planning has data-sharing agreements. These states are Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah.

Figure 4: Percent of Wyoming Leavers who Had Wages in Partner States by Time Period, 2005Q1 to 2012Q4

Just prior to benefit exhaustion, the number of individuals who gained employment in a partner state steadily decreased both prior to and after the downturn. These results indicate that an individual's job search behavior is not altered by the availability of extended benefits. This effect also indicates that claimants continue to look for suitable employment that matches their knowledge and skills or remain in their current labor market until the number of jobs begins to increase. During the downturn and after 16 weeks of benefit collection (four months), employment in a partner state was higher than the other two periods. This finding suggests that people may be taking lower quality jobs in surrounding labor markets due to a declining economy, scarcity of jobs, and perception of fleeting opportunities.

Part 1 of this article focused on UI claimants who left Wyoming's labor market after benefit collection and those who will become claimants again in the future by utilizing the natural experiment the recent economic downturn produced.

Professor Steven Davis of the University of Chicago expressed disappointment in the federal government's willingness to extend unemployment benefits during the recent economic downturn without instituting new workforce programs and requiring rigorous experimentation to evaluate new and existing programs for their effectiveness at putting people back to work (Davis, 2009).

Workforce agencies often have limited resources to assist claimants in finding work during and after UI benefit collection and channeling those resources to claimants that could use services would likely result in more effective workforce programs. For example, claimants exit the labor market at

an increasing rate after the first two months of UI benefit collection and when extended benefits are available this rate is even higher. Further, just before a claimant exhausts benefits, the rate of labor market exit spikes. Evaluating specific workforce programs on their success of keeping workers in a particular labor market may be warranted. As Wyoming's population continues to age, program evaluation of this type would be especially useful to help prevent the outflow of younger workers who become discouraged looking for work within the state. For example, do those claimants who receive certain services at a specific intensity find suitable (and long lasting) employment in Wyoming compared to claimants who receive little or no services?

A final implication of the current research is the applicability of using UI claimant data in other types of program evaluation. Currently, R&P is in the process of conducting an evaluation of the Hathaway Scholarship Program, a merit-based scholarship which was made available to high school graduates beginning in 2006/07 and provides funding to attend post-secondary institutions in Wyoming. The primary goals of the Hathaway Scholarship Program, as with many merit-based scholarships, are to improve secondary and post-secondary student outcomes, and retain educated youth in the labor market after they graduate from their post-secondary institution. The Wyoming legislature has mandated that the Hathaway Scholarship Program be evaluated for its effectiveness in reaching these goals. R&P can investigate Hathaway Scholarship Program graduates who enter the labor force and become UI claimants. A potential research question may include: are Hathaway Scholarship Program graduates performing better (e.g., earning higher wages, increased employer

tenure) in the labor market compared to individuals who received other types of funding (e.g., federal loans, other scholarships)? However, as the present research demonstrates, knowledge of the specific economic conditions and claimant history is crucial in understanding the inflow and outflow of labor within the UI system.

The program evaluation methods mentioned above are often completed using quasi-experimental research designs. Quasi-experimental designs differ from true experiments in that participants are not randomly assigned to receive the treatment – in this case, receive services. The U.S. Department of Labor requires state use of UI wage record data for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program evaluation. The Government Accounting Office (GAO) found that using UI wage record information to provide outcome information was reliable and Congress may wish to consider requiring all WIA participants be tracked this way (GAO, 2004). In 2009, the GAO published a report recommending the use of quasi-experimental designs as the most practical and rigorous method to evaluate the effectiveness of governmental programs.

More on Migration and Unemployment Duration

Using data from the American Community Survey (ACS), Goetz (2014) used regression analysis to determine if individuals who move for re-employment opportunities experienced a decrease in the duration of unemployment and a higher probability of re-employment. The author found that those who migrate spend significantly less time unemployed compared to those who remain in the same area. Further, it was found that they experienced a higher probability of becoming re-employed. The author posits that relocating would need to have a significant incentive (e.g., much higher wages) due to the cost of moving and an increased incentive to find work.

Reference

Goetz, C. (2014). Unemployment duration and geographic mobility: Do movers fare better than stayers? In *Working Paper 14-41*. N.p.: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Retrieved November 28, 2014, from <https://ideas.repec.org/p/cen/wpaper/14-41.html>

Further, proper training of DWS staff on general research methods and statistical concepts is warranted so critical interpretation of labor market research is performed.

It should be noted that the analyses presented in this article were performed using data from Wyoming and partner states only. Around the country, labor markets do not function the same way, so caution should be taken when generalizing results to different labor market populations. Further, R&P

could not control fully for claimants who have used UI systems in other states, which limited the ability to fully ensure that individuals were first-time claimants.

The second article in this series will examine the repeat use of the UI system and employment outcomes.

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Now Online: Labor Shortages in Wyoming and the Nation

Excerpted from the forthcoming white paper, Occupational Shortages in the Construction Industry

Recent media coverage of the construction industry suggests a shortage of workers, especially subcontractors, in the Rocky Mountain and High Plains region. The Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services recently published the results of a new study on the issues surrounding occupational shortages. *Occupational Shortages in the Construction Industry* by Katelynd Faler can be found at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/w_r_research/constr_2014.pdf.

R&P found that although there is no established labor shortage for the U.S. labor market as a whole, there may be shortages in particular sectors. According to the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, average annual seasonally adjusted employment decreased in the construction industry 3.1% from 2009 to 2013, in contrast to the overall employment increase of 4.2%. As a percentage of average total covered employment measured by the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Current Employment Statistics

Occupational Shortages in the Construction Industry

http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/w_r_research/constr_2014.pdf

show the construction industry composed less of total employment in 2013 (4.4%) than in 2009 (4.7%).

In inflation-adjusted dollars, the construction sector's median hourly wage declined 1.7% between 2009 and 2013, a slower decline than the change in the median hourly wage of all occupations of -2.6%. Over this time, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey data show the median hourly wage for those employed in the construction sector was consistently about 14.8% higher than wages overall; the weighted median hourly wages in construction were \$20.29 compared to \$17.13 for all occupations. These relatively higher wages may attract labor to the construction industry, should there be a demand for it.

Wyoming Unemployment Rate at 4.7% in September 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 4.6% in August to 4.7% in September (not a statistically significant change). Wyoming’s unemployment rate was up slightly from its September 2013 level of 4.6%, but significantly lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 5.9%. Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents decreased slightly, falling by an estimated 242 individuals (-0.1%).

Most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and decreased from August to September. The largest decreases occurred in Niobrara (down from 4.0% to 3.4%), Albany (down from 4.3% to 3.7%), and Goshen (down from 4.6% to 4.1%) counties. Unemployment increased very slightly in Sublette (up from 2.8% to

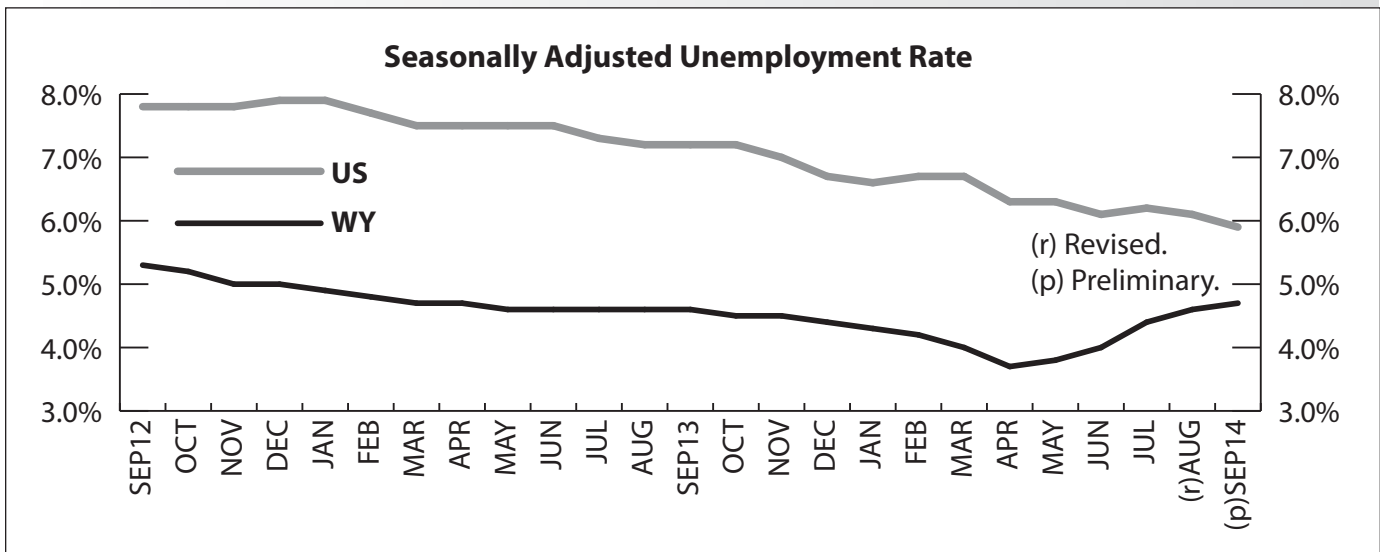
2.9%) and Teton (up from 3.0% to 3.1%) counties.

From September 2013 to September 2014, unemployment rates fell in 10 counties, rose slightly in eight counties and were unchanged in five counties. The largest decreases were seen in Johnson (down from 4.5% to 4.1%), Fremont (down from 5.2% to 4.8%), Washakie (down from 4.4% to 4.1%), and Teton (down from 3.4% to 3.1%) counties. Unemployment rose slightly in Weston (up from 3.5% to 4.1%), Albany (up from 3.5% to 3.7%), and Uinta (up from 4.1% to 4.3%) counties.

The counties with the lowest unemployment rates were Sublette (2.9%), Converse (3.0%), Campbell (3.0%), and Teton (3.1%). The highest unemployment rates were found in Fremont (4.8%), Lincoln (4.5%), and Laramie (4.4%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (measured by place of work) rose from 296,300 in September 2013 to 302,000 in September 2014, a gain of 5,700 jobs (1.9%).

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, September 2014

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

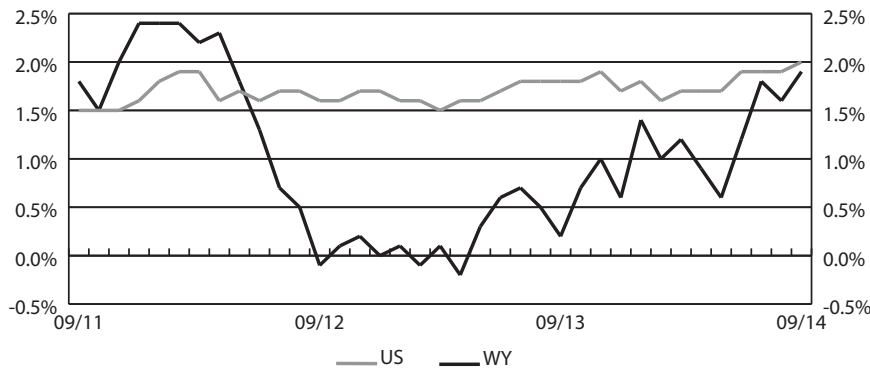
Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm Employment	301,139	302,000	861	0.3%
Natural Resources & Mining	27,453	27,400	-53	-0.2%
Construction	24,952	23,900	-1,052	-4.4%
Manufacturing	10,002	9,800	-202	-2.1%
Wholesale Trade	9,411	9,400	-11	-0.1%
Retail Trade	30,275	31,700	1,425	4.5%
Transportation & Utilities	15,795	15,600	-195	-1.3%
Information	3,801	3,800	-1	0.0%
Financial Activities	11,234	11,300	66	0.6%
Professional & Business Services	18,779	19,300	521	2.7%
Educational & Health Services	27,310	27,200	-110	-0.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	38,436	37,900	-536	-1.4%
Other Services	11,442	12,300	858	7.0%
Government	72,249	72,400	151	0.2%

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

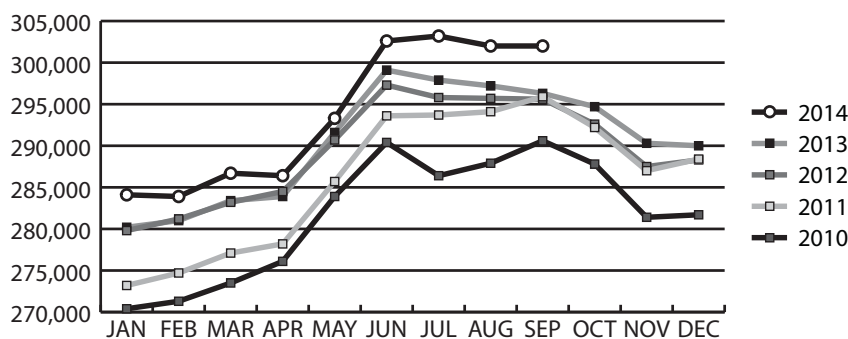
State Unemployment Rates September 2014 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	14.1
Georgia	7.9
District of Columbia	7.7
Mississippi	7.7
Rhode Island	7.6
California	7.3
Nevada	7.3
Tennessee	7.3
Michigan	7.2
Oregon	7.1
Arizona	6.9
Alaska	6.8
Kentucky	6.7
North Carolina	6.7
Alabama	6.6
Illinois	6.6
New Mexico	6.6
South Carolina	6.6
West Virginia	6.6
Delaware	6.5
New Jersey	6.5
Connecticut	6.4
Maryland	6.3
Missouri	6.3
Arkansas	6.2
New York	6.2
Florida	6.1
Louisiana	6.0
Massachusetts	6.0
United States	5.9
Maine	5.8
Indiana	5.7
Pennsylvania	5.7
Washington	5.7
Ohio	5.6
Virginia	5.5
Wisconsin	5.5
Texas	5.2
Kansas	4.8
Colorado	4.7
Oklahoma	4.7
Wyoming	4.7
Iowa	4.6
Montana	4.6
Idaho	4.5
Vermont	4.4
New Hampshire	4.3
Hawaii	4.2
Minnesota	4.1
Nebraska	3.6
Utah	3.5
South Dakota	3.4
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 September 2014 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Sep 14	Aug 14	Sep 13	Sep 14	Sep 14
	Sep 14	Aug 14	Sep 13	Aug 14	Sep 13
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.4	28.9	28.3	1.7	3.9
TOTAL PRIVATE	24.2	24.6	23.2	-1.6	4.3
GOODS PRODUCING	11.6	11.8	10.7	-1.7	8.4
Natural Resources & Mining	8.2	8.3	7.8	-1.2	5.1
Construction	2.8	2.9	2.3	-3.4	21.7
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	17.8	17.1	17.6	4.1	1.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.7	5.8	5.6	-1.7	1.8
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	1.7	1.8	1.7	-5.6	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	5.2	4.3	5.1	20.9	2.0

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Sep 14	Aug 14	Sep 13	Sep 14	Sep 14
	Sep 14	Aug 14	Sep 13	Aug 14	Sep 13
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	25.5	25.6	25.6	-0.4	-0.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	20.6	21.0	20.7	-1.9	-0.5
GOODS PRODUCING	9.1	9.0	8.8	1.1	3.4
Natural Resources & Mining	5.8	5.8	5.8	0.0	0.0
Construction	1.9	1.8	1.6	5.6	18.8
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.4	16.6	16.8	-1.2	-2.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.1	5.2	5.1	-1.9	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	-10.0
Professional & Business Services	1.1	1.2	1.2	-8.3	-8.3
Educational & Health Services	1.1	1.2	1.2	-8.3	-8.3
Leisure & Hospitality	2.4	2.5	2.5	-4.0	-4.0
Other Services	0.7	0.8	0.7	-12.5	0.0
GOVERNMENT	4.9	4.6	4.9	6.5	0.0

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Sep 14	Aug 14	Sep 13	Sep 14	Sep 14
	Sep 14	Aug 14	Sep 13	Aug 14	Sep 13
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	20.7	22.3	20.0	-7.2	3.5
TOTAL PRIVATE	18.2	20.0	17.5	-9.0	4.0
GOODS PRODUCING	2.2	2.3	2.0	-4.3	10.0
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	2.0	2.1	1.9	-4.8	5.3
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	100.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	18.5	20.0	18.0	-7.5	2.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.7	3.0	2.6	-10.0	3.8
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	2.0	1.9	-5.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.2	1.3	1.1	-7.7	9.1
Leisure & Hospitality	8.6	9.8	8.3	-12.2	3.6
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	2.5	2.3	2.5	8.7	0.0

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	15.0
District of Columbia	7.8
Georgia	7.5
Mississippi	7.3
Rhode Island	7.3
Nevada	7.0
California	6.9
Arizona	6.8
Michigan	6.7
South Carolina	6.6
Tennessee	6.6
New Jersey	6.3
Delaware	6.2
Illinois	6.2
Massachusetts	6.2
Alabama	6.1
Florida	6.1
Louisiana	6.1
New Mexico	6.1
North Carolina	6.1
Oregon	6.1
Kentucky	6.0
Missouri	6.0
Alaska	5.9
Connecticut	5.9
West Virginia	5.9
Arkansas	5.7
United States	5.7
Maryland	5.6
New York	5.6
Washington	5.4
Maine	5.2
Virginia	5.2
Indiana	5.1
Ohio	5.1
Texas	5.0
Pennsylvania	4.9
Wisconsin	4.7
Kansas	4.4
Oklahoma	4.4
Hawaii	4.3
Iowa	4.2
Vermont	4.2
Colorado	4.0
New Hampshire	4.0
Wyoming	3.9
Montana	3.8
Minnesota	3.6
Idaho	3.5
Utah	3.3
Nebraska	3.2
South Dakota	3.0
North Dakota	2.2

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming rose from 50 in September 2013 to 58 in September 2014, an increase of 16.0%.

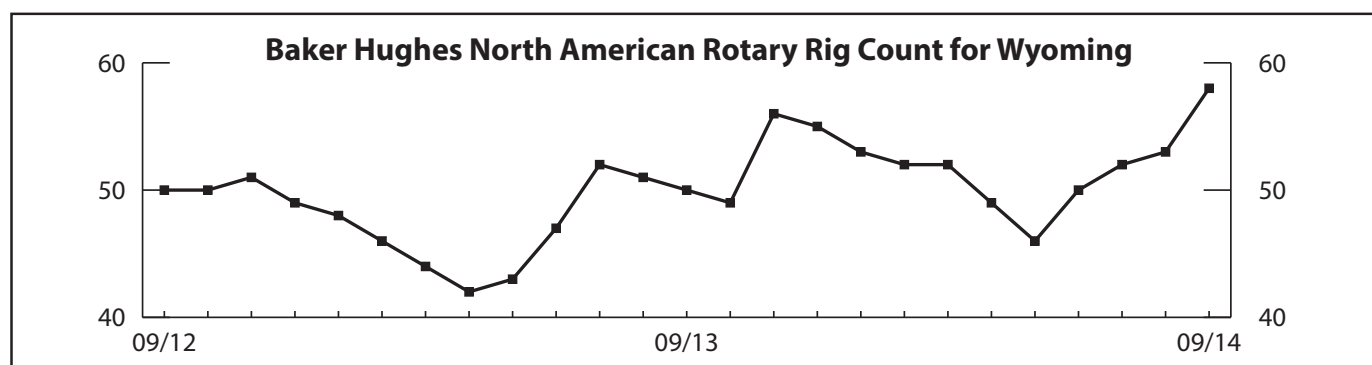
	Sep 2014 (p)	Aug 2014 (r)	Sep 2013 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	302,000	302,000	296,300	0.0	1.9
Wyoming State Government	15,800	14,700	15,900	7.5	-0.6
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	46,800	46,800	46,400	0.0	0.9
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	42,900	42,700	42,500	0.5	0.9
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,100,000	6,819,000	6,952,000	4.1	2.1
As a percent of all workers	4.8%	4.7%	4.8%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	698,000	775,000	852,000	-9.9	-18.1
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	6,711,000	7,083,000	7,522,000	-5.3	-10.8
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	8,981	9,102	11,267	-1.3	-20.3
Benefits Paid	\$3,318,009	\$3,289,119	\$4,160,714	0.9	-20.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$369.45	\$361.36	\$369.28	2.2	0.0
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	278,338	277,205	274,144	0.4	1.5
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.1%	1.3%	1.6%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	238.0	237.9	234.1	0.1	1.7
Food & Beverages	244.3	243.5	237.4	0.3	2.9
Housing	234.7	234.6	228.8	0.0	2.6
Apparel	130.3	125.7	129.7	3.7	0.5
Transportation	216.4	218.3	218.1	-0.9	-0.8
Medical Care	436.6	435.8	428.0	0.2	2.0
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	115.3	115.3	115.2	0.0	0.1
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	138.5	138.1	136.7	0.2	1.3
Other Goods & Services	409.1	408.9	402.7	0.0	1.6
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	206.5	206.8	203.9	-0.1	1.3
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	130	124	162	4.8	-19.8
Valuation	\$40,783,000	\$33,638,000	\$36,606,000	21.2	11.4
Single Family Homes	124	117	124	6.0	0.0
Valuation	\$40,269,000	\$32,965,000	\$35,584,000	22.2	13.2
Casper MSA ² Building Permits	24	22	33	9.1	-27.3
Valuation	\$6,425,000	\$8,645,000	\$7,733,000	-25.7	-16.9
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	20	22	61	-9.1	-67.2
Valuation	\$3,298,000	\$4,223,000	\$7,071,000	-21.9	-53.4
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	58	53	50	9.4	16.0

(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

The highest unemployment rates in September 2014 were found in Fremont (4.8%), Lincoln (4.5%), and Laramie (4.4%) counties.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Sep 2014	Aug 2014	Sep 2013	Sep 2014	Aug 2014	Sep 2013	Sep 2014	Aug 2014	Sep 2013	Sep 2014	Aug 2014	Sep 2013
	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	47,748	48,873	47,594	45,675	46,632	45,430	2,073	2,241	2,164	4.3	4.6	4.5
Big Horn	5,174	5,216	5,187	4,950	4,971	4,946	224	245	241	4.3	4.7	4.6
Fremont	19,799	19,801	19,650	18,851	18,781	18,629	948	1,020	1,021	4.8	5.2	5.2
Hot Springs	2,543	2,591	2,607	2,446	2,481	2,502	97	110	105	3.8	4.2	4.0
Park	16,002	17,009	15,899	15,371	16,322	15,288	631	687	611	3.9	4.0	3.8
Washakie	4,230	4,256	4,251	4,057	4,077	4,065	173	179	186	4.1	4.2	4.4
NORTHEAST	56,293	56,343	54,787	54,328	54,239	52,798	1,965	2,104	1,989	3.5	3.7	3.6
Campbell	28,520	28,364	27,697	27,673	27,444	26,790	847	920	907	3.0	3.2	3.3
Crook	3,631	3,680	3,524	3,500	3,535	3,397	131	145	127	3.6	3.9	3.6
Johnson	4,177	4,297	4,008	4,005	4,106	3,828	172	191	180	4.1	4.4	4.5
Sheridan	16,567	16,659	16,190	15,890	15,950	15,534	677	709	656	4.1	4.3	4.1
Weston	3,398	3,343	3,368	3,260	3,204	3,249	138	139	119	4.1	4.2	3.5
SOUTHWEST	66,984	68,826	66,227	64,518	66,223	63,808	2,466	2,603	2,419	3.7	3.8	3.7
Lincoln	8,147	8,208	7,930	7,778	7,810	7,580	369	398	350	4.5	4.8	4.4
Sublette	7,029	7,151	6,942	6,826	6,949	6,744	203	202	198	2.9	2.8	2.9
Sweetwater	25,025	25,332	25,207	24,101	24,334	24,303	924	998	904	3.7	3.9	3.6
Teton	15,571	16,890	15,118	15,082	16,386	14,603	489	504	515	3.1	3.0	3.4
Uinta	11,212	11,245	11,030	10,731	10,744	10,578	481	501	452	4.3	4.5	4.1
SOUTHEAST	77,709	76,930	77,107	74,488	73,404	73,954	3,221	3,526	3,153	4.1	4.6	4.1
Albany	19,438	17,850	19,255	18,725	17,079	18,577	713	771	678	3.7	4.3	3.5
Goshen	6,447	6,477	6,440	6,181	6,182	6,165	266	295	275	4.1	4.6	4.3
Laramie	46,127	46,926	45,865	44,117	44,723	43,892	2,010	2,203	1,973	4.4	4.7	4.3
Niobrara	1,464	1,479	1,332	1,414	1,420	1,287	50	59	45	3.4	4.0	3.4
Platte	4,233	4,198	4,215	4,051	4,000	4,033	182	198	182	4.3	4.7	4.3
CENTRAL	62,370	62,939	61,311	60,083	60,513	59,036	2,287	2,426	2,275	3.7	3.9	3.7
Carbon	8,568	8,648	8,154	8,225	8,302	7,832	343	346	322	4.0	4.0	3.9
Converse	8,615	8,680	8,289	8,358	8,409	8,034	257	271	255	3.0	3.1	3.1
Natrona	45,187	45,611	44,868	43,500	43,802	43,170	1,687	1,809	1,698	3.7	4.0	3.8
STATEWIDE	311,102	313,914	307,026	299,093	301,011	295,025	12,009	12,903	12,001	3.9	4.1	3.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.7	4.6	4.6
U.S.										5.7	6.3	7.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										5.9	6.1	7.2

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/2014. Run Date 10/2014.

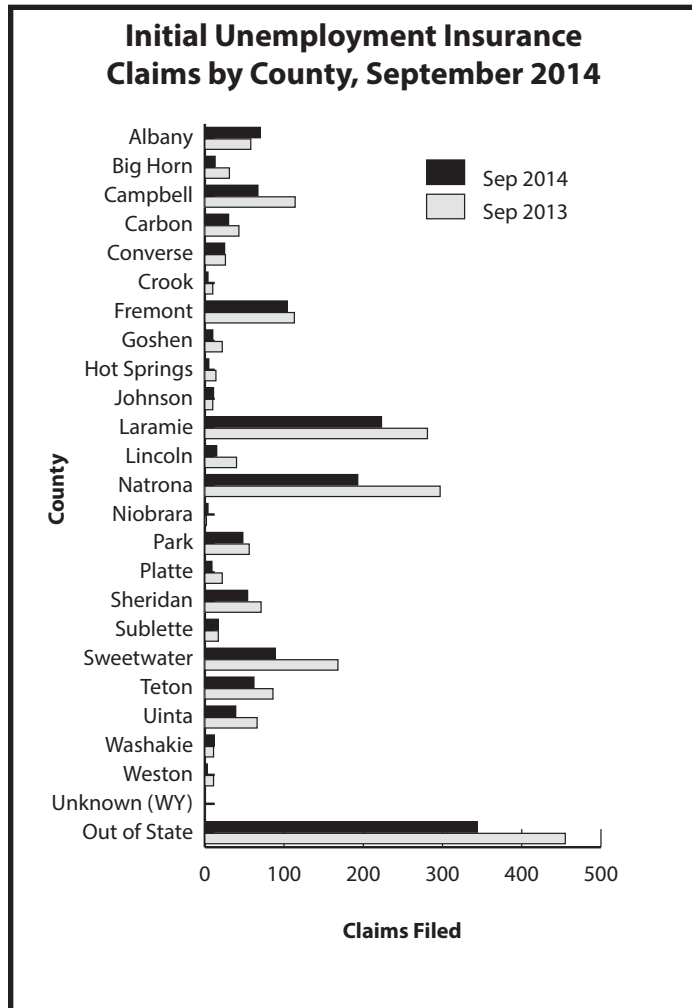
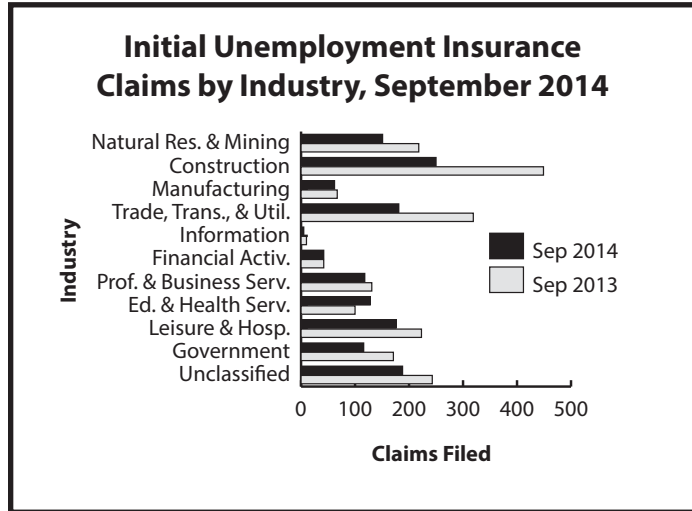
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Patrick Harris, Principal Analyst

Initial claims decreased by 28.3% over the year with a slight decrease (-0.8%) over the month. Construction (-44.3%) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-43.3%) saw the largest decreases over the year.



Initial Claims	Claims Filed		Percent Change		
	Sep 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Sep 13	
Wyoming Statewide	1,451	1,462	2,023	-0.8	-28.3
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED					
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	465	512	735	-9.2	-36.7
Natural Res. & Mining	151	162	218	-6.8	-30.7
Mining	140	156	212	-10.3	-34.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	8	8	6	0.0	33.3
Construction	250	304	449	-17.8	-44.3
Manufacturing	62	44	67	40.9	-7.5
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	680	611	873	11.3	-22.1
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	181	176	319	2.8	-43.3
Wholesale Trade	34	43	83	-20.9	-59.0
Retail Trade	92	92	138	0.0	-33.3
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	55	41	98	34.1	-43.9
Information	5	9	10	-44.4	-50.0
Financial Activities	42	33	42	27.3	0.0
Prof. and Business Svcs.	118	142	131	-16.9	-9.9
Educational & Health Svcs.	128	108	100	18.5	28.0
Leisure & Hospitality	176	111	223	58.6	-21.1
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	24	24	43	0.0	-44.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	116	110	171	5.5	-32.2
Federal Government	36	31	54	16.1	-33.3
State Government	21	10	20	110.0	5.0
Local Government	58	68	96	-14.7	-39.6
Local Education	12	21	21	-42.9	-42.9
UNCLASSIFIED	188	228	243	-17.5	-22.6

Laramie County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	222	206	281	7.8	-21.0
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	66	68	126	-2.9	-47.6
Construction	47	55	116	-14.5	-59.5
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	130	106	129	22.6	0.8
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	36	28	54	28.6	-33.3
Financial Activities	9	6	6	50.0	50.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	60	58	37	3.4	62.2
Educational & Health Svcs.	17	12	18	41.7	-5.6
Leisure & Hospitality	17	16	11	6.3	54.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	14	18	19	-22.2	-26.3
UNCLASSIFIED	11	14	5	-21.4	120.0

Natrona County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	192	186	296	3.2	-35.1
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	86	63	142	36.5	-39.4
Construction	46	42	68	9.5	-32.4
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	90	111	136	-18.9	-33.8
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	32	31	58	3.2	-44.8
Financial Activities	8	8	6	0.0	33.3
Prof. & Business Svcs.	17	28	22	-39.3	-22.7
Educational & Health Svcs.	15	25	17	-40.0	-11.8
Leisure & Hospitality	13	17	24	-23.5	-45.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5	6	10	-16.7	-50.0
UNCLASSIFIED	9	4	6	125.0	50.0

^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

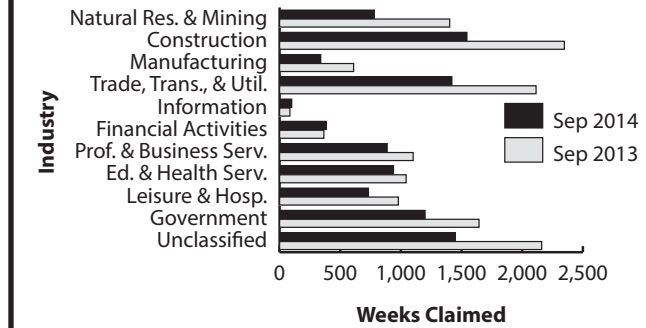
by: Patrick Harris, Principal Analyst

Continued claims decreased over-the-year by 31.1%. Other services (-63.6%), mining (-46.1%), and manufacturing (-44.4%) saw the largest over-the-year decreases.

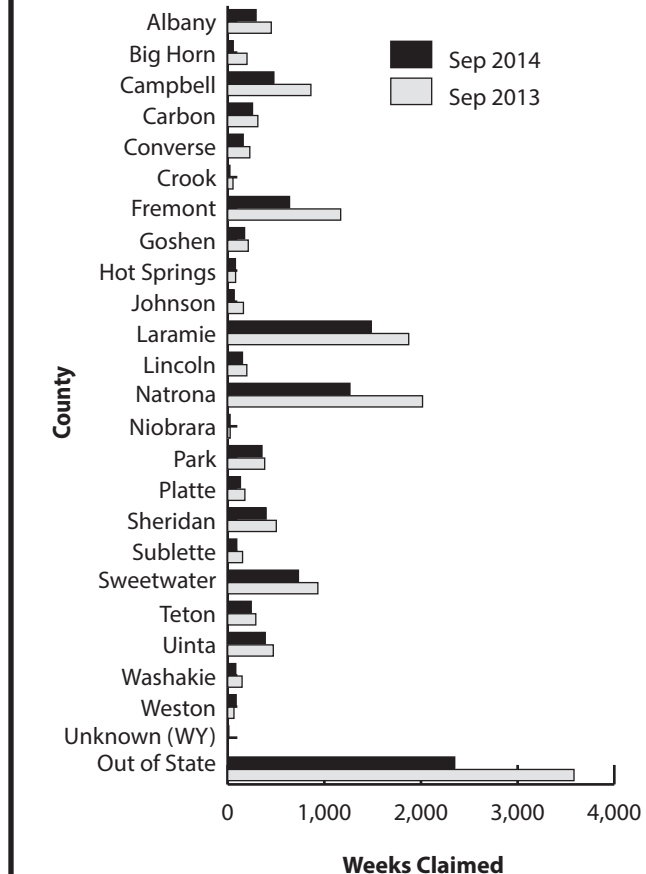
Continued Claims

	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Sep 14	Aug 14	Sep 13	Aug 14	Sep 13
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	10,041	11,325	14,567	-11.3	-31.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS^b	2,915	3,213	4,231	-9.3	-31.1
Benefit Exhaustions	225	252	329	-10.7	-31.6
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	7.7%	7.8%	7.8%	-0.1%	-0.1%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING					
Natural Res. & Mining	2,666	2,927	4,361	-8.9	-38.9
Mining	781	890	1,402	-12.2	-44.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	726	822	1,346	-11.7	-46.1
Other	86	86	122	0.0	-29.5
Construction	1,544	1,654	2,347	-6.7	-34.2
Manufacturing	339	382	610	-11.3	-44.4
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING					
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	4,726	5,390	6,400	-12.3	-26.2
Wholesale Trade	1,420	1,583	2,114	-10.3	-32.8
Retail Trade	308	279	456	10.4	-32.5
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	714	873	1,103	-18.2	-35.3
Information	398	431	555	-7.7	-28.3
Financial Activities	100	112	85	-10.7	17.6
Prof. & Business Svcs.	386	426	365	-9.4	5.8
Educational & Health Svcs.	887	873	1,101	1.6	-19.4
Leisure and Hospitality	939	1,251	1,043	-24.9	-10.0
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	732	824	979	-11.2	-25.2
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	257	315	706	-18.4	-63.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT					
Federal Government	1,199	1,402	1,644	-14.5	-27.1
State Government	253	265	306	-4.5	-17.3
Local Government	184	194	237	-5.2	-22.4
Local Education	762	942	1,100	-19.1	-30.7
Local Education	192	243	290	-21.0	-33.8
UNCLASSIFIED	1,449	1,604	2,160	-9.7	-32.9
Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,486	1,657	1,872	-10.3	-20.6
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	431	476	543	-9.5	-20.6
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING					
Construction	340	308	453	10.4	-24.9
Construction	214	174	334	23.0	-35.9
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING					
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	884	1,087	1,093	-18.7	-19.1
Financial Activities	293	348	366	-15.8	-19.9
Prof. & Business Svcs.	109	115	89	-5.2	22.5
Educational and Health Svcs.	249	317	270	-21.5	-7.8
Leisure & Hospitality	171	232	239	-26.3	-28.5
Leisure & Hospitality	72	116	121	-37.9	-40.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT					
Local Government	200	199	252	0.5	-20.6
UNCLASSIFIED	60	61	73	-1.6	-17.8
Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,265	1,389	2,015	-8.9	-37.2
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	388	401	617	-3.2	-37.1
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING					
Construction	333	355	644	-6.2	-48.3
Construction	164	139	215	18.0	-23.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING					
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	827	928	1,236	-10.9	-33.1
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	239	248	366	-3.6	-34.7
Financial Activities	50	77	45	-35.1	11.1
Professional & Business Svcs.	228	218	262	4.6	-13.0
Educational & Health Svcs.	214	275	170	-22.2	25.9
Leisure & Hospitality	101	107	156	-5.6	-35.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT					
Local Government	56	62	83	-9.7	-32.5
UNCLASSIFIED	48	43	51	11.6	-5.9

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, September 2014



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, September 2014



^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.

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