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Goshen County's Population Grew the Fastest in 2011

CHEYENNE -- Wyoming's total resident population reached 568,158 in July 2011, according to estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau. The increase from April 1, 2010 was 4,532 persons, or 0.8 percent. The estimated net migration, after accounting for the natural change (births and deaths), indicated that about 460 more persons moved into Wyoming than left the State since the 2010 Census. Wyoming's growth rate ranked the 28th fastest in the nation. In contrast, from 2006 to 2009, the annual net migration ranged between 5,000 and 10,000.

Across the State, the counties in the Northeast and Southwest that have more mineral extraction, particularly natural gas, experienced a tremendous slowdown in both employment and population growth since 2009. On the other hand, the Southeast and Northwest areas without much natural gas activities demonstrated higher population growth during the period. Mainly attributed to the opening of the new Medium Correctional Institution in Torrington, Goshen County showed the fastest increase. There were eight counties in the State that suffered population declines since the April 1, 2010 Census count. This is the first set of county population estimates to be published since the official 2010 Census population counts were released a year ago.

"Overall, a recession slows population movement across states," said Dr. Wenlin Liu, senior economist with the Economic Analysis Division. With the rapid loss of jobs and a jump in the unemployment rate in 2009, the State experienced the worst economic recession since the late 1980s. As a result, in-migration slowed down significantly after 2009. "People tend to move to areas where economies are viable, and this is particularly true for Wyoming."

Despite the State's energy led economic recovery since early 2010, out-of-state residents were still hesitant to move in, mainly due to the gradual improvement of job opportunities and slow housing market in the rest of the nation. The 0.8 percent growth rate was the State's weakest since 2001, and was slower than its neighboring states. "During the past couple of years, Wyoming attracted only a portion of the in-migrants that it did before 2010 from states like California and Michigan. On the other hand,

many workers with mining skills relocated to other states where the energy exploration was more active such as North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania," noted Dr. Liu. Partially due to the recession and weak economy, the number of births in the State declined nearly 6 percent since 2008. Attributed to population aging, the number of deaths increased more than 6 percent during the same period.

"It appears that the population and migration growth is always lagging behind the employment change in Wyoming. As long as the State's labor market performs better than the U.S., Wyoming's residents should still be discouraged from leaving, and people from other states may steadily move into the State again," said Dr. Liu.

The complete figures are available online, <http://eadiv.state.wy.us/> or U.S. Census Bureau's website, <http://www.census.gov/>

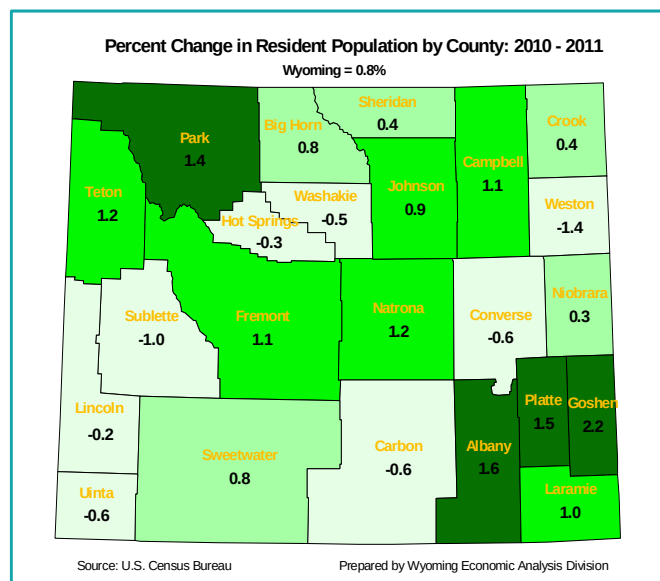


Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Wyoming: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011

Geographic Area	Census	Population Estimates		Change, 7/1/10 to 7/1/11		Change, 4/1/10 to 7/1/11	
	April 1, 2010	July 1, 2010	July 1, 2011	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Wyoming	563,626	564,554	568,158	3,604	0.6	4,532	0.8
Albany	36,299	36,444	36,889	445	1.2	590	1.6
Big Horn	11,668	11,696	11,759	63	0.5	91	0.8
Campbell	46,133	46,228	46,618	390	0.8	485	1.1
Carbon	15,885	15,834	15,786	-48	-0.3	-99	-0.6
Converse	13,833	13,830	13,755	-75	-0.5	-78	-0.6
Crook	7,083	7,115	7,111	-4	-0.1	28	0.4
Fremont	40,123	40,273	40,579	306	0.8	456	1.1
Goshen	13,249	13,423	13,536	113	0.8	287	2.2
Hot Springs	4,812	4,809	4,799	-10	-0.2	-13	-0.3
Johnson	8,569	8,577	8,642	65	0.8	73	0.9
Laramie	91,738	92,130	92,680	550	0.6	942	1.0
Lincoln	18,106	18,100	18,071	-29	-0.2	-35	-0.2
Natrona	75,450	75,474	76,366	892	1.2	916	1.2
Niobrara	2,484	2,490	2,491	1	0.0	7	0.3
Park	28,205	28,269	28,592	323	1.1	387	1.4
Platte	8,667	8,695	8,796	101	1.2	129	1.5
Sheridan	29,116	29,147	29,239	92	0.3	123	0.4
Sublette	10,247	10,237	10,146	-91	-0.9	-101	-1.0
Sweetwater	43,806	43,623	44,175	552	1.3	369	0.8
Teton	21,294	21,313	21,548	235	1.1	254	1.2
Uinta	21,118	21,117	20,985	-132	-0.6	-133	-0.6
Washakie	8,533	8,552	8,487	-65	-0.8	-46	-0.5
Weston	7,208	7,178	7,108	-70	-1.0	-100	-1.4

Table 2. Estimates of the Components of Population Change: July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011

Geographic Area	Total Population Change ¹	Natural Change			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration ²	Net Domestic Migration
Wyoming	3,604	3,122	7,555	4,433	485	460	25
Albany	445	248	424	176	197	95	102
Big Horn	63	12	133	121	51	14	37
Campbell	390	493	776	283	-103	8	-111
Carbon	-48	53	206	153	-100	-1	-99
Converse	-75	61	178	117	-136	2	-138
Crook	-4	32	95	63	-35	-	-35
Fremont	306	218	609	391	90	13	77
Goshen	113	-5	134	139	117	1	116
Hot Springs	-10	-31	45	76	21	-	21
Johnson	65	16	102	86	49	3	46
Laramie	550	544	1,264	720	11	43	-32
Lincoln	-29	147	262	115	-177	10	-187
Natrona	892	366	1,033	667	523	22	501
Niobrara	1	-3	18	21	5	-	5
Park	323	51	290	239	269	12	257
Platte	101	-25	64	89	126	-1	127
Sheridan	92	50	349	299	44	19	25
Sublette	-91	77	129	52	-168	15	-183
Sweetwater	552	415	664	249	138	85	53
Teton	235	188	266	78	48	84	-36
Uinta	-132	192	332	140	-328	29	-357
Washakie	-65	10	98	88	-75	2	-77
Weston	-70	13	84	71	-82	5	-87

Table 3. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011

Geographic Area	Total Population Change ¹	Natural Change			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration ²	Net Domestic Migration
Wyoming	4,532	4,055	9,410	5,355	461	610	-149
Albany	590	318	532	214	271	118	153
Big Horn	91	16	160	144	76	17	59
Campbell	485	603	963	360	-119	10	-129
Carbon	-99	68	250	182	-167	-1	-166
Converse	-78	97	222	125	-175	3	-178
Crook	28	51	120	69	-22	-	-22
Fremont	456	293	763	470	164	15	149
Goshen	287	3	165	162	278	1	277
Hot Springs	-13	-26	55	81	14	-	14
Johnson	73	27	127	100	46	4	42
Laramie	942	702	1,582	880	242	88	154
Lincoln	-35	204	331	127	-240	13	-253
Natrona	916	452	1,286	834	461	27	434
Niobrara	7	-1	23	24	9	-	9
Park	387	52	359	307	333	15	318
Platte	129	-17	81	98	146	-1	147
Sheridan	123	59	437	378	67	23	44
Sublette	-101	100	161	61	-201	18	-219
Sweetwater	369	509	824	315	-148	111	-259
Teton	254	253	339	86	1	104	-103
Uinta	-133	247	407	160	-385	37	-422
Washakie	-46	26	122	96	-72	2	-74
Weston	-100	19	101	82	-118	6	-124

1. Total population change includes a residual. This residual represents the change in population that cannot be attributed to any specific demographic component. See Population Estimates Terms and Definitions at <http://www.census.gov/popest/about/terms.html>.

2. Net international migration includes the international migration of both native and foreign-born populations. Specifically, it includes: (a) the net international migration of the foreign born, (b) the net migration between the United States and Puerto Rico, (c) the net migration of natives to and from the United States, and (d) the net movement of the Armed Forces population between the United States and overseas.

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

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