

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 14, 2024

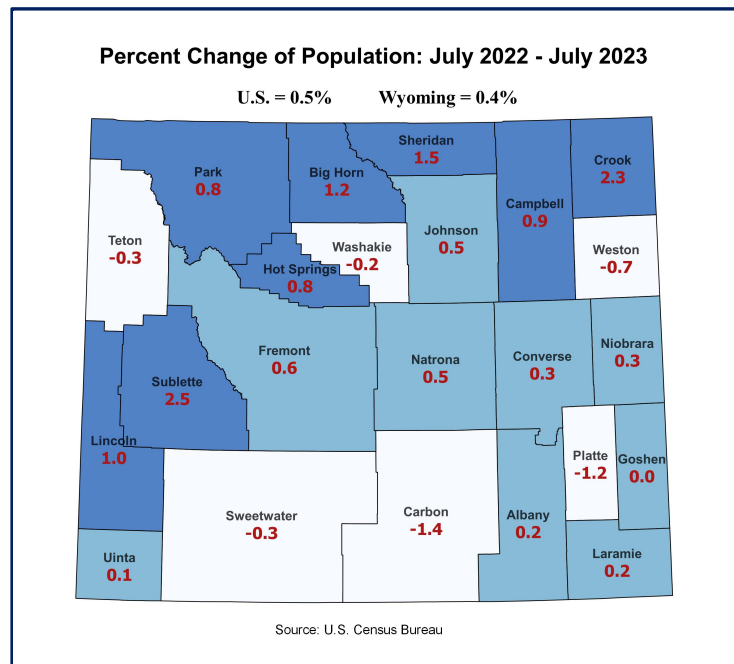
Contact: Dr. Wenlin Liu, Chief Economist

MOST WYOMING COUNTIES GAINED RESIDENTS IN 2023

CHEYENNE – Wyoming’s total resident population grew moderately to 584,057 as of July 2023, according to the U.S. Census Bureau estimate. The annual increase from July 2022 totaled 2,428 persons or 0.4 percent, slightly less than the U.S. growth rate of 0.5 percent.

Seventeen counties experienced population increases from July 2022 to July 2023. Sublette County led the state with the fastest growth rate (2.5%), followed by Crook (2.3%) and Sheridan (1.5%) counties. Carbon and Platte counties experienced the steepest decreases, -1.4 percent and -1.2 percent, respectively. Laramie and Natrona counties, the only two Metropolitan Statistics Areas (MSAs) in the state, grew moderately at 0.2 percent and 0.5 percent correspondingly.

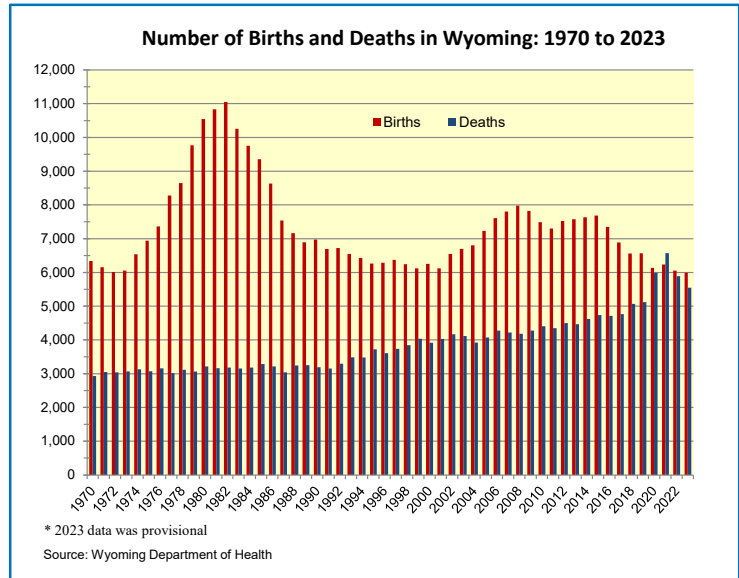
Two factors contribute to changes in population - natural change, which is the difference between the number of births and deaths, and net migration, the numerical difference between people moving into and out of an area. At the state level, the net migration was 2,338, meaning that 2,338 more people moved into Wyoming than moved out between July 2022 and July 2023. The natural change, was 103 (5,882 births and 5,779 deaths). “After an unprecedented occurrence (the number of deaths outnumbered births) in Wyoming’s history during the worst time of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, the natural change turned to positive, according to Wyoming Department of Health records,” commented Dr. Wenlin Liu, Chief Economist with the State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division.



Wyoming’s population growth from natural change already declined steadily between 2008 and 2019 as birth rates dropped and Baby Boomers aged with increased mortality. The natural change was near 4,000 (8,134 births and 4,133 deaths) in 2008, but it dropped below 1,500 (6,568 births and 5,122 deaths) in 2019 (prior to COVID-19). Since then, the pandemic further pulled down the number of births to around 6,000 annually for the past four years and it’s not recovering even after the pandemic. As a result, across the state, more than half of the counties still showed negative natural change (more deaths than births) during the year between July 2022 and July 2023; in contrast, less than one-third of the counties experienced a natural decrease in 2019.

The state experienced nearly six consecutive years of negative net migration (more people left than moved into the state) between 2014 and 2019 due to the energy downturn. However, the direction of net migration has since reversed. “Energy driven employment opportunity is always the leading factor for Wyoming’s migration trend, however the pandemic specifically played a larger role in recent years, said Dr. Liu. “A number of professionals with higher income and telework capabilities chose to relocate to less populated and lower cost areas during the pandemic.” Nearly three-fourths of

Wyoming’s counties showed positive net migration from 2022 to 2023, led by Sheridan (542), similar to the trends seen in the previous a couple of years. Only six counties experienced negative net migration led by Carbon (-193), Sweetwater (-192), and Teton (-166). “Nationwide, the pandemic induced migration trend (moving from large metros to suburban and non-metro areas) slowed down in 2023, but this movement did not fade much for Wyoming,” Liu continued. “People continued to relocate to the state’s sparsely populated areas in the northern region such as Park, Big Horn, Sheridan, and Crook counties, as well as in the western areas including Lincoln and Sublette counties.”



Since the 2020 Census (April 1, 2020), Wyoming’s population has increased by 7,207 or 1.2 percent, which is faster than the U.S. rate of 1.0 percent. Sheridan and Lincoln counties demonstrated the largest growth, adding 1,602 (5.2%) and 1,296 (6.6%) residents, respectively. Sweetwater County lost the most population (-1,022, or -2.4%). Laramie County, the most populous county in the state, grew 0.5 percent, while Natrona, the second most populous county, decreased by 25 residents. In contrast, these two MSAs added the most residents between 2010 and 2020, 8,774 and 4,505, respectively.

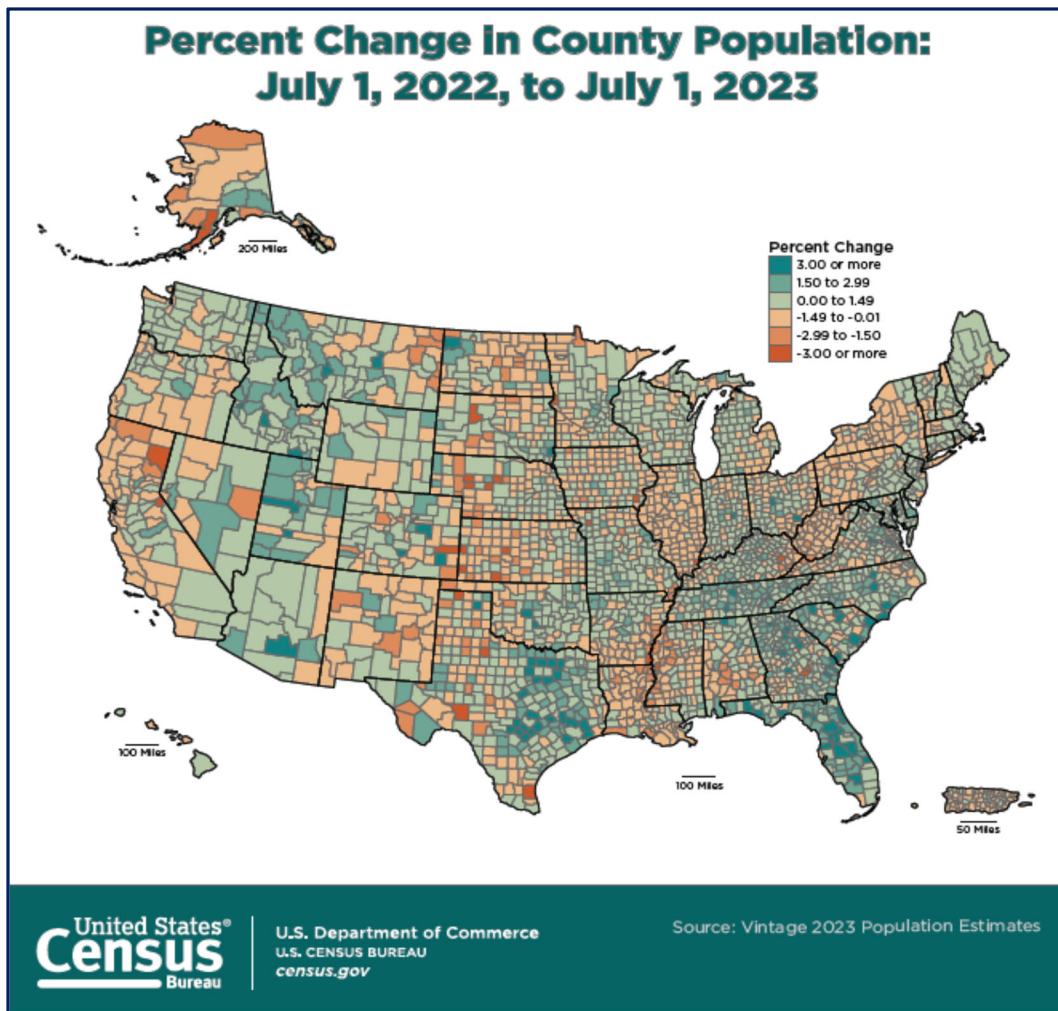


Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Wyoming: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023

Geographic Area	April 1, 2020 Estimates Base	Population Estimates				Change, 7/1/22 to 7/1/23		Change, 4/1/20 to 7/1/23	
		July 1, 2020	July 1, 2021	July 1, 2022	July 1, 2023	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Wyoming	576,850	577,664	579,548	581,629	584,057	2,428	0.4	7,207	1.2
Albany	37,069	37,112	37,854	38,178	38,257	79	0.2	1,188	3.2
Big Horn	11,523	11,484	11,643	11,879	12,018	139	1.2	495	4.3
Campbell	47,030	47,147	46,543	47,059	47,498	439	0.9	468	1.0
Carbon	14,535	14,509	14,714	14,538	14,334	-204	-1.4	-201	-1.4
Converse	13,751	13,746	13,662	13,765	13,809	44	0.3	58	0.4
Crook	7,176	7,178	7,308	7,419	7,592	173	2.3	416	5.8
Fremont	39,235	39,202	39,416	39,566	39,815	249	0.6	580	1.5
Goshen	12,504	12,515	12,568	12,636	12,642	6	0.0	138	1.1
Hot Springs	4,619	4,621	4,595	4,623	4,661	38	0.8	42	0.9
Johnson	8,450	8,467	8,624	8,719	8,759	40	0.5	309	3.7
Laramie	100,512	100,730	100,827	100,781	100,984	203	0.2	472	0.5
Lincoln	19,582	19,658	20,173	20,671	20,880	209	1.0	1,298	6.6
Natrona	79,966	80,299	79,635	79,523	79,941	418	0.5	-25	0.0
Niobrara	2,471	2,454	2,416	2,348	2,354	6	0.3	-117	-4.7
Park	29,627	29,669	30,141	30,505	30,735	230	0.8	1,108	3.7
Platte	8,601	8,631	8,677	8,652	8,546	-106	-1.2	-55	-0.6
Sheridan	30,917	31,000	31,653	32,035	32,519	484	1.5	1,602	5.2
Sublette	8,726	8,736	8,722	8,752	8,969	217	2.5	243	2.8
Sweetwater	42,271	42,197	41,626	41,374	41,249	-125	-0.3	-1,022	-2.4
Teton	23,323	23,379	23,605	23,297	23,232	-65	-0.3	-91	-0.4
Uinta	20,445	20,457	20,681	20,727	20,745	18	0.1	300	1.5
Washakie	7,679	7,657	7,719	7,724	7,710	-14	-0.2	31	0.4
Weston	6,838	6,816	6,746	6,858	6,808	-50	-0.7	-30	-0.4

Note: The estimates are developed from a base that integrates the 2020 Census, Vintage 2020 estimates, and 2020 Demographic Analysis estimates. For population estimates methodology statements, see <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/methodology.html>. All geographic boundaries for the 2023 population estimates series are as of January 1, 2023.

Table 2. Estimates of the Components of Population Change: July 1, 2022 to July 1, 2023

Geographic Area	Total Population Change ¹	Vital Events			Net Migration		
		Natural Change	Births	Deaths	Total	International ²	Domestic
Wyoming	2,428	103	5,882	5,779	2,338	322	2,016
Albany	79	70	307	237	11	231	-220
Big Horn	139	-23	132	155	161	4	157
Campbell	439	232	567	335	206	1	205
Carbon	-204	-10	144	154	-193	16	-209
Converse	44	-18	127	145	63	1	62
Crook	173	3	87	84	171	-3	174
Fremont	249	-72	442	514	323	4	319
Goshen	6	-66	110	176	73	2	71
Hot Springs	38	-50	34	84	89	0	89
Johnson	40	-26	76	102	67	-8	75
Laramie	203	67	1,121	1,054	136	15	121
Lincoln	209	57	209	152	153	-1	154
Natrona	418	35	827	792	381	0	381
Niobrara	6	-12	21	33	19	0	19
Park	230	-86	266	352	319	7	312
Platte	-106	-75	70	145	-30	15	-45
Sheridan	484	-57	296	353	542	9	533
Sublette	217	2	75	73	217	-3	220
Sweetwater	-125	64	430	366	-192	-12	-180
Teton	-65	100	190	90	-166	55	-221
Uinta	18	47	229	182	-29	-6	-23
Washakie	-14	-37	72	109	24	-1	25
Weston	-50	-42	50	92	-7	-4	-3

Table 3. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023

Geographic Area	Total Population Change ¹	Vital Events			Net Migration		
		Natural Change	Births	Deaths	Total	International ²	Domestic
Wyoming	7,207	-323	19,676	19,999	7,529	838	6,691
Albany	1,188	191	1,012	821	1,006	458	548
Big Horn	495	-133	394	527	623	7	616
Campbell	468	782	1,917	1,135	-289	18	-307
Carbon	-201	-10	500	510	-188	30	-218
Converse	58	-48	445	493	104	9	95
Crook	416	13	309	296	405	11	394
Fremont	580	-336	1,462	1,798	893	4	889
Goshen	138	-208	390	598	345	7	338
Hot Springs	42	-162	120	282	198	0	198
Johnson	309	-90	253	343	397	-18	415
Laramie	472	6	3,651	3,645	416	17	399
Lincoln	1,298	176	722	546	1,131	-3	1,134
Natrona	-25	-128	2,767	2,895	128	-2	130
Niobrara	-117	-35	77	112	-83	0	-83
Park	1,108	-348	894	1,242	1,460	71	1,389
Platte	-55	-218	248	466	166	27	139
Sheridan	1,602	-217	988	1,205	1,837	36	1,801
Sublette	243	35	275	240	207	-6	213
Sweetwater	-1,022	154	1,440	1,286	-1,160	61	-1,221
Teton	-91	350	656	306	-456	132	-588
Uinta	300	157	753	596	136	-12	148
Washakie	31	-119	233	352	156	-2	158
Weston	-30	-135	170	305	97	-7	104

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 <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/about/glossary.html>.

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