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***Wyoming's Median Home Value Increased 15.7% in 2007 to \$172,300,
the 2nd Fastest in the Nation***

CHEYENNE -- According to the U.S. Census Bureau's annual release of American Community Survey (ACS) data about the social, economic and housing characteristics of the nation's population, Wyoming's median home value jumped 15.7 percent between the 2006 ACS and the 2007 ACS. This was the second fastest increase in the U.S., just behind Utah's 16.0 percent. For the nation, the median home value increased only 4.9 percent during the same period, the lowest since 2003. "Mainly driven by energy development, the speed of the increase was substantial. Though Wyoming's median household income also experienced the fastest growth in the nation, the housing affordability still degraded fast in certain areas of the State, particularly for workers in low paying industries," said Dr. Wenlin Liu, senior economist with the State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division. Wyoming's 2007 median home value reached \$172,300 and ranked 26th highest in the nation (in comparison to 34th in 2000), and was still well below the U.S. level of \$194,300.

Other findings from the 2007 ACS available for Wyoming include the following:

- Percent of population that was foreign born was 3.1%, compared with U.S. level of 12.6%, and it ranked the 44th highest in the nation.
- Percent of population born in their state of residence was 43.4%, compared with U.S. level of 67.4%, and it ranked the 47th highest in the nation.
- Percent of population who lived in a different house from one year ago was 20.0%, compared with U.S. level of 15.4%, and it ranked the 2nd highest in the nation.
- Percent of population who lived in a different state from one year ago was 5.6%, compared with U.S. level of 2.5%, and it ranked the 2nd highest in the nation.
- Mean travel time to work for workers who did not work at home was 18.6 minutes, compared with U.S. level of 25.3 minutes, and it ranked the 45th highest in the nation.
- Percent of households that are married-couple families was 51.6%, compared with U.S. level of 49.7%, and it ranked the 17th highest in the nation.
- Average household size was 2.47, compared with U.S. level of 2.61, and it ranked the 38th highest in the nation.
- Percent of people 25 years and over who have completed high school was 91.2%, compared with U.S. level of 84.5%, and it ranked 1st in the nation.

- Percent of people 25 years and over who have a bachelor's degree was 23.4%, compared with U.S. level of 27.5%, and it ranked the 41st highest in the nation.
- Percent of civilian population 18 years and over who are veterans was 13.1%, compared with U.S. level of 10.1%, and it ranked the 4th highest in the nation.
- Percent of people 5 years and over who speak English less than "very well" was 2.0%, compared with U.S. level of 8.7%, and it ranked the 42nd highest in the nation.
- Percent of people 16 to 64 years who are in the labor force was 80.5%, compared with U.S. level of 74.3%, and it ranked the 5th highest in the nation.
- Percent of children under 6 years old with all parents in the labor force was 66.2%, compared with U.S. level of 61.7%, and it ranked the 14th highest in the nation.
- Percent of housing units that are mobile homes was 14.7%, compared with U.S. level of 6.7%, and it ranked the 5th highest in the nation.
- Percent of occupied housing units with gas as principal heating fuel was 72.5%, compared with U.S. level of 55.7%, and it ranked the 13th highest in the nation.
- Percent of occupied housing units that are owner-occupied was 69.3%, compared with U.S. level of 67.2%, and it ranked the 29th highest in the nation.
- Percent of mortgaged owners spending 30% or more of household income on mortgage and utilities was 24.4%, compared with U.S. level of 37.5%, and it ranked the 50th highest in the nation.
- Percent of renter-occupied housing units spending 30% or more of household income on rent and utilities was 28.3%, compared with U.S. level of 45.6%, and it ranked the 51st highest in the nation.
- Percent of children under 18 years below poverty level was 11.6%, compared with U.S. level of 18.0%, and it ranked the 44th highest in the nation.
- Ratio of unmarried men age 15 to 44 years per 100 unmarried women age 15 to 44 years was 129.9, compared with U.S. level of 112.6, and it ranked the 2nd highest in the nation.

You may obtain Wyoming's ACS profiles from the Economic Analysis Division's website,

<http://eadiv.state.wy.us/ACS/ACS.html>

Or you may access the detailed ACS data sets from U.S. Census Bureau's American Fact Finder program, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

The ACS is the largest survey in the nation and will produce the same in-depth socioeconomic data as the decennial census long-form questionnaire, but on an annual basis. The ACS provides sub-national statistics on a variety of topics, such as income, earnings, poverty, educational attainment, housing type, median age, and household population.

The Census Bureau will release the first set of three-year estimates for all areas with populations of 20,000 or more on December 9, 2008 — the first time detailed census socioeconomic and housing data will be available for these smaller entities since Census 2000. Similar data will be released in 2010 for all other small geographic areas.