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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 29, 2008

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***Wyoming's Median Household Income Increased the Fastest in the Nation
(But, Gender Earnings Gap was Widest in the U.S.)***

CHEYENNE -- According to the U.S. Census Bureau's newly released data on Income, Earnings, and Poverty from the 2007 American Community Survey (ACS), Wyoming's real median household income jumped 5.4 percent between the 2006 ACS and the 2007 ACS, the fastest in the U.S. For the nation, the real median household income increased 1.9 percent during the same period. "The speed of the increase was truly substantial and tremendous. It indicated that the average Wyoming resident is benefitting from the mineral development in recent years, resulting in strong employment and increased income," said Dr. Wenlin Liu, senior economist with the Economic Analysis Division. Indeed, both the 5.1 percent job growth and the 10.3 percent increase in the annual wage rate in 2006 were the largest in the nation, and both figures were also near the top in 2007. Wyoming's 2007 median household income reached to \$51,731 and ranked 20th highest in the nation (in comparison to 36th in 2000), and it surpassed the U.S. level of \$50,740. The last time that the Wyoming's median household income was higher than the U.S. was in 1984. "Wyoming's household income climbed and exceeded the U.S. level during the oil boom in the 1970s, but it quickly dropped below the national average following the bust years of the mid-1980s," said Dr. Liu. Thirty-three states experienced annual increases in median household income, while Michigan's income actually declined from 2006.

Household income includes the income of the householder and all other people 15 years and older in the household. Median household income is the point that divides the household income into halves, one half with income above the median and the other half with income below the median. The median is based on the income distribution of all households, including those with no income. The information on income and earnings from the 2007 ACS was collected between January and December 2007. People were asked about income for the previous 12-month period, yielding a total time span covering 23 months. All income data were inflation-adjusted to reflect calendar year 2007 dollars.

**HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2007 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS):
2007 American Community Survey**

Wyoming	Households	Margin of Error
Total:	206,136	+/-3,069
Less than \$10,000	10,546	+/-1,533
\$10,000 to \$14,999	10,563	+/-1,835
\$15,000 to \$24,999	23,673	+/-2,345
\$25,000 to \$34,999	22,467	+/-2,389
\$35,000 to \$49,999	31,882	+/-2,849
\$50,000 to \$74,999	41,146	+/-2,785
\$75,000 to \$99,999	28,751	+/-2,274
\$100,000 to \$149,999	24,563	+/-1,957
\$150,000 to \$199,999	7,236	+/-1,102
\$200,000 or more	5,309	+/-962
Median household income (in 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars)	\$51,731	+/-1,322

Wyoming's poverty rate in 2007 remained flat from the previous year. In 2007, the percent of people living in poverty in the State was 8.7 percent. For the U.S., the poverty rate was 13.0 percent. Wyoming is one of fifteen states that registered a poverty rate of less than 11.0 percent and ranked 46th in the nation in terms of the percent of people living in poverty. The overall trend for Wyoming's poverty rate has been declining since 2000, while for the U.S., the poverty rate in 2007 was higher than 2000. "Even workers with lower earnings probably enjoyed decent wage increases and ample job opportunities due to the State's tight labor market in recent years," said Amy Bittner, an economist with the Economic Analysis Division. New Hampshire had the lowest poverty rate in 2007, 7.1 percent. The States with the highest rates of poverty include many of those in the Southern U.S. Poverty data were also released for different age groups. Wyoming had a smaller number of children living in poverty in comparison to the other states, 11.6 percent or 44th in the U.S. Child poverty rates were higher than the overall poverty rates in almost all states. In addition, the percent of people age 65 years and over living in poverty in Wyoming was 5.3 percent in 2007, which was the lowest in the nation. People 65 and over tend to have lower rates of poverty due to the income received from Social Security payments.

The U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than that family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps). For example, the poverty threshold for a family of three including one related child under 18 years old was \$16,689 in 2007.

RATIO OF INCOME TO POVERTY LEVEL IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS: 2007 ACS

Wyoming	Household Population	Margin of Error
Total:	508,840	+/-773
Under .50	18,484	+/-4,015
.50 to .74	14,321	+/-3,436
.75 to .99	11,259	+/-2,618
1.00 to 1.24	16,202	+/-3,219
1.25 to 1.49	21,912	+/-3,377
1.50 to 1.74	24,046	+/-3,985
1.75 to 1.84	9,928	+/-2,497
1.85 to 1.99	17,077	+/-3,599
2.00 to 2.99	91,365	+/-7,655
3.00 to 3.99	82,884	+/-6,138
4.00 to 4.99	61,128	+/-5,690
5.00 and over	140,234	+/-7,135

On the other side of the spectrum, Wyoming did not report positive results for median earnings for women in comparison to men. Earnings are the sum of wage and salary income as well as self-employment income and are often the largest component of overall income. In Wyoming, for 2007, women's median earnings were \$28,540 or 63.0 percent of men's median earnings, \$45,310. Wyoming's earnings gap between men and women was the largest in the nation. "The principal reason was the dominance of mining industry (including oil and gas extraction) in the State. While the annual wage in the mining industry was nearly twice as much as overall wage rate, the number of male workers in this high paying industry out-numbered female workers almost 7 to 1. Other higher paying industries such as utilities, wholesale trade, and transportation in Wyoming also have big gaps in mixture of workers by gender," said Dr. Liu. Overall, in the U.S., women's earnings as a percent of men's earnings was 77.5, which is the highest it has ever been.

The ACS is the largest survey in the nation and will produce the same in-depth socioeconomic data as the decennial census long-form, 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. A second release on September 23 will include estimates covering a broad range of social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics.