



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WYOMING'S POPULATION EXPERIENCES ITS FASTEST DECENNIAL GROWTH SINCE 1980**

**CHEYENNE** – Today, the U.S. Census Bureau released the 2010 Census state population counts. This is the first set of population data released from the 2010 Census, which was conducted during the spring and summer months in order to count every person living in the United States. This count is mandated by the U.S. Constitution to occur every ten years. Wyoming's total resident population reached 563,626 on April 1, 2010. Wyoming gained 69,844 persons over the decade, or a 14.1% increase since 2000. This is the strongest growth Wyoming has seen since 1980. From 1970 to 1980, Wyoming's population grew by 41.3%. Wyoming experienced an energy boom during the 1970s and early 1980s. When the last recession hit Wyoming, in the mid-1980s, the State endured heavy out-migration and the population declined 3.4% from 1980 to 1990. In 2010, the U.S. population reached 308.7 million, an increase of 9.7% from 2000.

The U.S. Census Bureau measures the resident population living in housing units, group quarters (military barracks, prisons, dormitories, nursing homes), and persons experiencing homelessness.

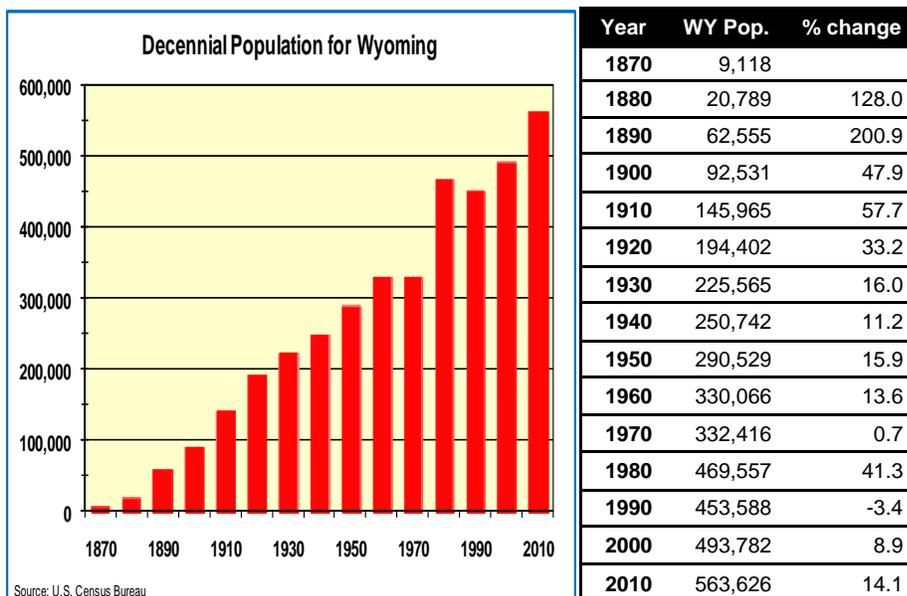
There are three components that determine population change, the number of births and deaths, and migration (people moving in and out of an area). After accounting for the number of births and deaths, over half of Wyoming's population growth during the decade was due to net in-migration (more people moving into the State than leaving), which mostly occurred in the last half of the decade.

"Starting in 2004, Wyoming's population growth really started to excel. This growth was attributed to the economic activity in the mining sector," stated Amy Bittner, an economist with the Economic Analysis Division. Job opportunities offering high paying wages in the State's energy sector drove many people to relocate to Wyoming. Wyoming saw workers move in from other states such as Michigan, California, and Nevada. From 2000 to 2009, the number of jobs in Wyoming increased 20.0%. Wyoming ranked at the top in the nation in terms of annual job growth in 2006-2008. "Not only did workers move to the State, but some relocated with their families or started families while in Wyoming, which is evidenced by the increase in the number of births during the decade," Bittner commented.

Wyoming's neighboring states also experienced strong growth throughout the decade including Colorado, Utah, and Idaho. "Although Wyoming's growth rate was smaller than some of its neighbors, the State experienced the fastest annual population growth in the U.S. between 2008 and 2009. Even during the recession more people moved into Wyoming than out of the State. The economic conditions in other areas of the U.S. may have spurred people to relocate to Wyoming, and it also prevented Wyomingites from moving elsewhere," according to Bittner. Wyoming's growth over the decade ranked the 12<sup>th</sup> fastest in the nation. Even though Wyoming experienced tremendous growth since 2000, it is still the least populated state in the U.S.

The 2010 Census population counts for counties and municipalities will be released in February or March 2011.

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



**Resident population of the 50 states and the District of Columbia: 2010 Census and Census 2000**

| Area                 | April 1, 2010      | April 1, 2000      | Numeric change    | Percent change | State Rank based on numeric change | State rank based on percent change |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Alabama              | 4,779,736          | 4,447,100          | 332,636           | 7.5            | 23                                 | 27                                 |
| Alaska               | 710,231            | 626,932            | 83,299            | 13.3           | 40                                 | 14                                 |
| Arizona              | 6,392,017          | 5,130,632          | 1,261,385         | 24.6           | 6                                  | 2                                  |
| Arkansas             | 2,915,918          | 2,673,400          | 242,518           | 9.1            | 28                                 | 22                                 |
| California           | 37,253,956         | 33,871,648         | 3,382,308         | 10.0           | 2                                  | 20                                 |
| Colorado             | 5,029,196          | 4,301,261          | 727,935           | 16.9           | 9                                  | 9                                  |
| Connecticut          | 3,574,097          | 3,405,565          | 168,532           | 4.9            | 32                                 | 35                                 |
| Delaware             | 897,934            | 783,600            | 114,334           | 14.6           | 38                                 | 11                                 |
| District of Columbia | 601,723            | 572,059            | 29,664            | 5.2            | (NA)                               | (NA)                               |
| Florida              | 18,801,310         | 15,982,378         | 2,818,932         | 17.6           | 3                                  | 8                                  |
| Georgia              | 9,687,653          | 8,186,453          | 1,501,200         | 18.3           | 4                                  | 7                                  |
| Hawaii               | 1,360,301          | 1,211,537          | 148,764           | 12.3           | 34                                 | 17                                 |
| Idaho                | 1,567,582          | 1,293,953          | 273,629           | 21.1           | 27                                 | 4                                  |
| Illinois             | 12,830,632         | 12,419,293         | 411,339           | 3.3            | 16                                 | 42                                 |
| Indiana              | 6,483,802          | 6,080,485          | 403,317           | 6.6            | 18                                 | 31                                 |
| Iowa                 | 3,046,355          | 2,926,324          | 120,031           | 4.1            | 36                                 | 40                                 |
| Kansas               | 2,853,118          | 2,688,418          | 164,700           | 6.1            | 33                                 | 33                                 |
| Kentucky             | 4,339,367          | 4,041,769          | 297,598           | 7.4            | 26                                 | 28                                 |
| Louisiana            | 4,533,372          | 4,468,976          | 64,396            | 1.4            | 43                                 | 48                                 |
| Maine                | 1,328,361          | 1,274,923          | 53,438            | 4.2            | 45                                 | 39                                 |
| Maryland             | 5,773,552          | 5,296,486          | 477,066           | 9.0            | 14                                 | 23                                 |
| Massachusetts        | 6,547,629          | 6,349,097          | 198,532           | 3.1            | 30                                 | 43                                 |
| Michigan             | 9,883,640          | 9,938,444          | -54,804           | -0.6           | 50                                 | 50                                 |
| Minnesota            | 5,303,925          | 4,919,479          | 384,446           | 7.8            | 21                                 | 26                                 |
| Mississippi          | 2,967,297          | 2,844,658          | 122,639           | 4.3            | 35                                 | 38                                 |
| Missouri             | 5,988,927          | 5,595,211          | 393,716           | 7.0            | 20                                 | 29                                 |
| Montana              | 989,415            | 902,195            | 87,220            | 9.7            | 39                                 | 21                                 |
| Nebraska             | 1,826,341          | 1,711,263          | 115,078           | 6.7            | 37                                 | 30                                 |
| Nevada               | 2,700,551          | 1,998,257          | 702,294           | 35.1           | 10                                 | 1                                  |
| New Hampshire        | 1,316,470          | 1,235,786          | 80,684            | 6.5            | 41                                 | 32                                 |
| New Jersey           | 8,791,894          | 8,414,350          | 377,544           | 4.5            | 22                                 | 37                                 |
| New Mexico           | 2,059,179          | 1,819,046          | 240,133           | 13.2           | 29                                 | 15                                 |
| New York             | 19,378,102         | 18,976,457         | 401,645           | 2.1            | 19                                 | 46                                 |
| North Carolina       | 9,535,483          | 8,049,313          | 1,486,170         | 18.5           | 5                                  | 6                                  |
| North Dakota         | 672,591            | 642,200            | 30,391            | 4.7            | 47                                 | 36                                 |
| Ohio                 | 11,536,504         | 11,353,140         | 183,364           | 1.6            | 31                                 | 47                                 |
| Oklahoma             | 3,751,351          | 3,450,654          | 300,697           | 8.7            | 25                                 | 24                                 |
| Oregon               | 3,831,074          | 3,421,399          | 409,675           | 12.0           | 17                                 | 18                                 |
| Pennsylvania         | 12,702,379         | 12,281,054         | 421,325           | 3.4            | 15                                 | 41                                 |
| Rhode Island         | 1,052,567          | 1,048,319          | 4,248             | 0.4            | 49                                 | 49                                 |
| South Carolina       | 4,625,364          | 4,012,012          | 613,352           | 15.3           | 12                                 | 10                                 |
| South Dakota         | 814,180            | 754,844            | 59,336            | 7.9            | 44                                 | 25                                 |
| Tennessee            | 6,346,105          | 5,689,283          | 656,822           | 11.5           | 11                                 | 19                                 |
| Texas                | 25,145,561         | 20,851,820         | 4,293,741         | 20.6           | 1                                  | 5                                  |
| Utah                 | 2,763,885          | 2,233,169          | 530,716           | 23.8           | 13                                 | 3                                  |
| Vermont              | 625,741            | 608,827            | 16,914            | 2.8            | 48                                 | 44                                 |
| Virginia             | 8,001,024          | 7,078,515          | 922,509           | 13.0           | 7                                  | 16                                 |
| Washington           | 6,724,540          | 5,894,121          | 830,419           | 14.1           | 8                                  | 13                                 |
| West Virginia        | 1,852,994          | 1,808,344          | 44,650            | 2.5            | 46                                 | 45                                 |
| Wisconsin            | 5,686,986          | 5,363,675          | 323,311           | 6.0            | 24                                 | 34                                 |
| <b>Wyoming</b>       | <b>563,626</b>     | <b>493,782</b>     | <b>69,844</b>     | <b>14.1</b>    | <b>42</b>                          | <b>12</b>                          |
| <b>United States</b> | <b>308,745,538</b> | <b>281,421,906</b> | <b>27,323,632</b> | <b>9.7</b>     |                                    |                                    |
| Northeast            | 55,317,240         | 53,594,378         | 1,722,862         | 3.2            |                                    |                                    |
| Midwest              | 66,927,001         | 64,392,776         | 2,534,225         | 3.9            |                                    |                                    |
| South                | 114,555,744        | 100,236,820        | 14,318,924        | 14.3           |                                    |                                    |
| West                 | 71,945,553         | 63,197,932         | 8,747,621         | 13.8           |                                    |                                    |