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Natrona County's Population Grew the Fastest in 2012

CHEYENNE -- Wyoming's total resident population reached 576,412 in July 2012, according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. The annual increase from July 2011 was 9,056 persons, or 1.6 percent, the fastest in three years. The estimated net migration, after accounting for the natural change (7,426 births and 4,426 deaths), indicated that about 6,000 more persons moved into Wyoming than left the State between July 2011 and July 2012. In contrast, the annual net migration was slightly negative from July 2010 to July 2011, which means that more Wyomingites left the state than people moved in over the year. The U.S. population increased 0.7 percent from July 2011 to July 2012. Wyoming's growth rate ranked the 4th fastest in the nation, only slower than North Dakota (2.2%), Washington D.C. (2.1%), and Texas (1.7%).

Natrona County led the state with the largest population growth of 2,265, or 3.0 percent between July 2011 and July 2012. Campbell, Converse, Laramie, Sublette, and Sweetwater counties also experienced strong increases of at least 2.0 percent, each. Migration is mostly driven by change in employment, and people tend to move to areas where there are jobs available. The severe recession in 2009 caused the slow population growth in 2010 and 2011 for the state. However, Wyoming's energy driven economy recovered well, and performed quite robustly during the second half of 2011 and the first six months of 2012. The annual employment growth rates of over 2.0 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011 and the first six months of 2012 were the fastest since the fourth quarter of 2008.

There were five counties in the State that showed population contractions during the year, led by the 1.3 percent decline in Niobrara County.

For Wyoming, in-migration growth is always led by increase in employment. Caused by the oversupply and low demand of natural gas and coal, and therefore weak prices for both minerals, the state's job market has been getting softer since the early summer of 2012. As a result, the current in-migration for Wyoming is probably more moderate. However, the oil drilling in the Niobrara shale inside Wyoming (mainly in Northern Converse County) continues to be very active. Consequently, Casper, as an energy hub for the regional mineral extraction services, has recently become an economic hotspot in the state. In addition, Wyoming's overall energy market is expected to improve as the private sector of U.S. economy continues to pick up speed in 2013, so the uptrend of population movement to the state may follow.

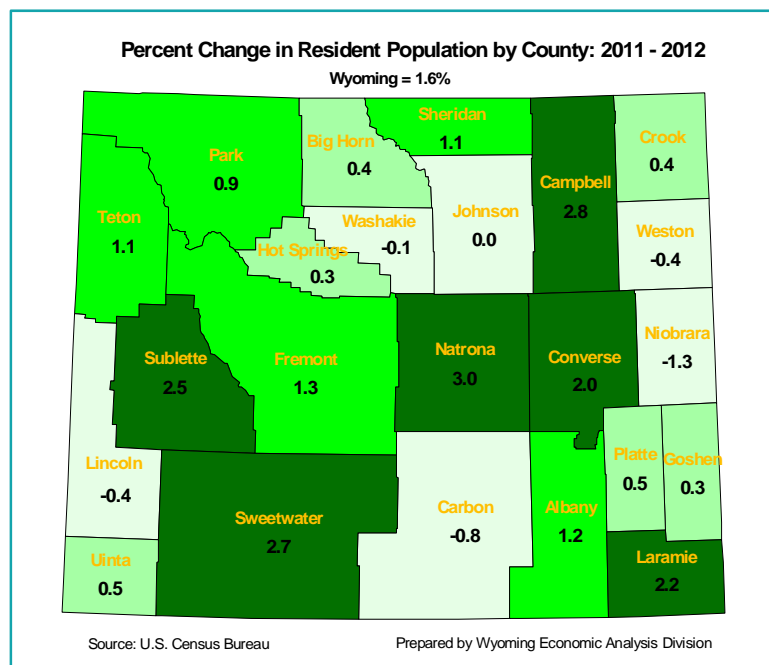


Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Wyoming: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012

Geographic Area	Census	Population Estimates			Change, 7/1/11 to 7/1/12		Change, 4/1/10 to 7/1/12	
	April 1, 2010	July 1, 2010	July 1, 2011	July 1, 2012	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Wyoming	563,626	564,367	567,356	576,412	9,056	1.6	12,786	2.3
Albany	36,299	36,422	36,848	37,276	428	1.2	977	2.7
Big Horn	11,668	11,680	11,746	11,794	48	0.4	126	1.1
Campbell	46,133	46,241	46,590	47,874	1,284	2.8	1,741	3.8
Carbon	15,885	15,815	15,789	15,666	-123	-0.8	-219	-1.4
Converse	13,833	13,825	13,738	14,008	270	2.0	175	1.3
Crook	7,083	7,112	7,127	7,155	28	0.4	72	1.0
Fremont	40,123	40,238	40,575	41,110	535	1.3	987	2.5
Goshen	13,249	13,412	13,597	13,636	39	0.3	387	2.9
Hot Springs	4,812	4,809	4,808	4,822	14	0.3	10	0.2
Johnson	8,569	8,566	8,616	8,615	-1	0.0	46	0.5
Laramie	91,738	92,120	92,487	94,483	1,996	2.2	2,745	3.0
Lincoln	18,106	18,091	18,037	17,961	-76	-0.4	-145	-0.8
Natrona	75,450	75,485	76,356	78,621	2,265	3.0	3,171	4.2
Niobrara	2,484	2,503	2,489	2,456	-33	-1.3	-28	-1.1
Park	28,205	28,270	28,439	28,702	263	0.9	497	1.8
Platte	8,667	8,683	8,716	8,756	40	0.5	89	1.0
Sheridan	29,116	29,147	29,260	29,596	336	1.1	480	1.6
Sublette	10,247	10,230	10,118	10,368	250	2.5	121	1.2
Sweetwater	43,806	43,614	44,078	45,267	1,189	2.7	1,461	3.3
Teton	21,294	21,289	21,445	21,675	230	1.1	381	1.8
Uinta	21,118	21,101	20,919	21,025	106	0.5	-93	-0.4
Washakie	8,533	8,542	8,469	8,464	-5	-0.1	-69	-0.8
Weston	7,208	7,172	7,109	7,082	-27	-0.4	-126	-1.7

Table 2. Estimates of the Components of Population Change: July 1, 2011 to July 1, 2012

Geographic Area	Total Population Change ¹	Natural Change			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration ²	Net Domestic Migration
Wyoming	9,056	3,000	7,426	4,426	5,964	442	5,522
Albany	428	241	419	178	188	60	128
Big Horn	48	23	142	119	26	5	21
Campbell	1,284	504	793	289	766	7	759
Carbon	-123	62	207	145	-186	-4	-182
Converse	270	61	175	114	206	-3	209
Crook	28	29	92	63	-1	-1	0
Fremont	535	203	599	396	328	-2	330
Goshen	39	5	141	136	34	1	33
Hot Springs	14	-36	43	79	49	8	41
Johnson	-1	18	100	82	-17	9	-26
Laramie	1,996	487	1,215	728	1,487	215	1,272
Lincoln	-76	126	241	115	-201	8	-209
Natrona	2,265	353	1,018	665	1,873	4	1,869
Niobrara	-33	-4	16	20	-27	0	-27
Park	263	69	308	239	193	6	187
Platte	40	-21	65	86	61	0	61
Sheridan	336	49	347	298	288	27	261
Sublette	250	63	115	52	184	17	167
Sweetwater	1,189	424	669	245	751	38	713
Teton	230	160	239	79	72	36	36
Uinta	106	179	314	135	-73	4	-77
Washakie	-5	-3	89	92	-2	8	-10
Weston	-27	8	79	71	-35	-1	-34

Table 3. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012

Geographic Area	Total Population Change ¹	Natural Change			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration ²	Net Domestic Migration
Wyoming	12,786	6,720	16,657	9,937	5,881	734	5,147
Albany	977	521	943	422	451	127	324
Big Horn	126	25	311	286	103	9	94
Campbell	1,741	1,108	1,719	611	610	10	600
Carbon	-219	132	442	310	-358	-8	-350
Converse	175	159	400	241	3	-6	9
Crook	72	65	207	142	8	-2	10
Fremont	987	485	1,351	866	483	-5	488
Goshen	387	-14	296	310	389	0	389
Hot Springs	10	-56	106	162	65	19	46
Johnson	46	21	221	200	29	19	10
Laramie	2,745	1,151	2,791	1,640	1,610	269	1,341
Lincoln	-145	290	563	273	-429	17	-446
Natrona	3,171	802	2,272	1,470	2,325	8	2,317
Niobrara	-28	-13	38	51	-13	0	-13
Park	497	124	677	553	375	14	361
Platte	89	-38	163	201	119	-1	120
Sheridan	480	95	774	679	367	56	311
Sublette	121	159	275	116	-68	34	-102
Sweetwater	1,461	914	1,466	552	514	77	437
Teton	381	365	552	187	20	74	-54
Uinta	-93	409	705	296	-509	8	-517
Washakie	-69	0	210	210	-70	17	-87
Weston	-126	16	175	159	-143	-2	-141

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.