

**STATE OF WYOMING**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND INFORMATION**  
**ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION**  
**2800 CENTRAL AVENUE**  
**CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002**  
**PH. (307) 777-7504 FAX (307) 632-1819**  
**E-mail: ai-ead-info@wyo.gov**



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 Contact: Dr. Wenlin Liu, Chief Economist

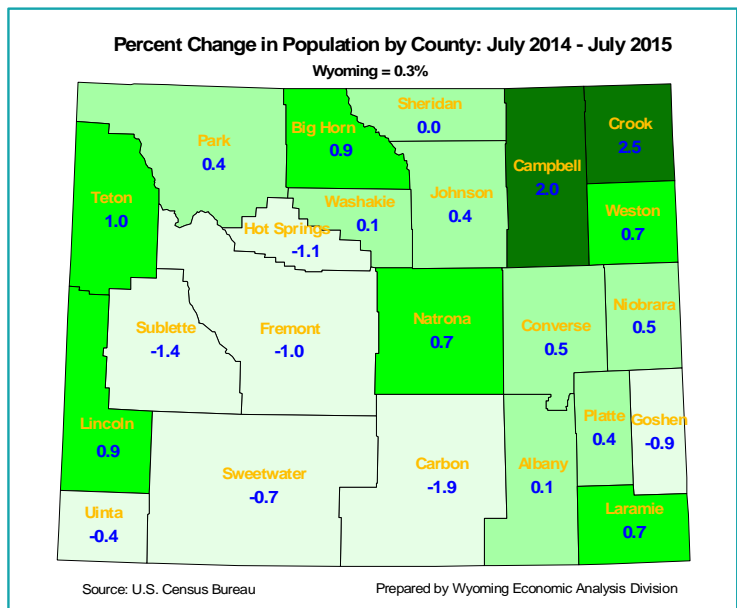
***Crook County's Population Grew the Fastest in 2015***

**CHEYENNE** -- Wyoming's total resident population reached 586,107 in July 2015, according to estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau. The annual increase from July 2014 was 1,803 persons, or 0.3 percent, slightly faster than the previous year's pace. There are two components for population change – natural increase and net migration. The natural increase (7,695 births less 4,606 deaths) was 3,089, but the estimated net migration (in-migration less outmigration) was about -1,200, which means that approximately 1,200 more persons left Wyoming than moved into the State between July 2014 and July 2015. In contrast, the annual population growth was 1,173 between July 2013 and July 2014, and the net outmigration was nearly 2,200 during the period.

Crook County led the state with the fastest population growth of 2.5 percent between July 2014 and July 2015. Campbell and Teton were the only two other counties that demonstrated increases of at least 1.0 percent, each. "Migration is mostly driven by changes in employment, which is particularly true for Wyoming," said Dr. Wenlin Liu, chief economist with State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division. People tend to move to areas where jobs are available, or conversely, may leave the areas where employment opportunities become limited. From 2010 to 2015, the fastest growing counties were Natrona (8.9%), Teton (8.6%), and Campbell (6.7%).

It appears that changes in employment always drive and lead the change in migration in the State. In other words, migration normally follows the employment change. Mainly due to the dramatic drop in both oil and natural gas prices in late 2014 and continuing depressed prices throughout 2015, the mining industry (including oil & gas extraction) in the state lost thousands of jobs. As a result, some mineral extraction workers responded and out-migration occurred. In addition, the labor market nationwide, particularly in neighboring states such as Colorado, Utah, and Idaho, showed strong expansion, which may have attracted some Wyoming energy workers and residents during that period.

Over half of Wyoming's counties experienced domestic net outmigration, meaning that more residents moved out than moved in between July 2014 and July 2015. Moderate growths in counties such as Laramie, Natrona, and Teton were mostly attributed to natural increases instead of migration. On the other hand, many rural counties with small total population, but a high proportion of older residents, such as Goshen, Hot Springs, Niobrara, Platte, Washakie, and Weston, births were either outnumbered or nearly outnumbered by deaths. Campbell and Crook were the only counties with positive net domestic migration of more than 100 individuals, respectively, and this probably occurred in the second half of 2014 when oil & gas drilling rigs were still very active.



"Until oil & gas demand and supply rebalance, and prices recover enough for mineral extraction businesses to drill again, the state may continue to experience negative net migration." Liu commented.

**Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Wyoming: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015**

Geographic Area	April 1, 2010		Population Estimates						Change, 7/1/14 to 7/1/15		Change, 4/1/10 to 7/1/15	
	Census	Estimates Base	July 1, 2010	July 1, 2011	July 1, 2012	July 1, 2013	July 1, 2014	July 1, 2015	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>563,626</b>	<b>563,767</b>	<b>564,516</b>	<b>567,768</b>	<b>577,080</b>	<b>583,131</b>	<b>584,304</b>	<b>586,107</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>22,340</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Albany	36,299	36,299	36,428	36,908	37,396	37,647	37,918	37,956	38	0.1	1,657	4.6
Big Horn	11,668	11,668	11,672	11,745	11,785	12,002	11,919	12,022	103	0.9	354	3.0
Campbell	46,133	46,133	46,244	46,600	47,881	48,121	48,243	49,220	977	2.0	3,087	6.7
Carbon	15,885	15,885	15,837	15,817	15,678	15,787	15,856	15,559	-297	-1.9	-326	-2.1
Converse	13,833	13,833	13,826	13,728	14,025	14,343	14,172	14,236	64	0.5	403	2.9
Crook	7,083	7,083	7,114	7,129	7,148	7,160	7,264	7,444	180	2.5	361	5.1
Fremont	40,123	40,123	40,222	40,591	41,129	41,024	40,717	40,315	-402	-1.0	192	0.5
Goshen	13,249	13,247	13,408	13,597	13,666	13,565	13,509	13,383	-126	-0.9	136	1.0
Hot Springs	4,812	4,812	4,813	4,818	4,846	4,846	4,793	4,741	-52	-1.1	-71	-1.5
Johnson	8,569	8,569	8,581	8,636	8,610	8,619	8,552	8,585	33	0.4	16	0.2
Laramie	91,738	91,881	92,271	92,663	94,894	96,006	96,469	97,121	652	0.7	5,240	5.7
Lincoln	18,106	18,106	18,091	18,022	17,943	18,328	18,564	18,722	158	0.9	616	3.4
Natrona	75,450	75,450	75,472	76,420	78,699	81,156	81,603	82,178	575	0.7	6,728	8.9
Niobrara	2,484	2,484	2,492	2,485	2,475	2,548	2,530	2,542	12	0.5	58	2.3
Park	28,205	28,205	28,259	28,473	28,863	29,237	29,126	29,228	102	0.4	1,023	3.6
Platte	8,667	8,667	8,678	8,701	8,732	8,728	8,776	8,812	36	0.4	145	1.7
Sheridan	29,116	29,116	29,146	29,275	29,594	29,794	30,020	30,009	-11	0.0	893	3.1
Sublette	10,247	10,247	10,244	10,142	10,418	10,086	10,039	9,899	-140	-1.4	-348	-3.4
Sweetwater	43,806	43,806	43,593	44,041	45,104	45,162	44,925	44,626	-299	-0.7	820	1.9
Teton	21,294	21,294	21,297	21,482	21,697	22,347	22,905	23,125	220	1.0	1,831	8.6
Uinta	21,118	21,118	21,102	20,912	20,989	21,022	20,903	20,822	-81	-0.4	-296	-1.4
Washakie	8,533	8,533	8,545	8,469	8,443	8,443	8,316	8,328	12	0.1	-205	-2.4
Weston	7,208	7,208	7,181	7,114	7,065	7,160	7,185	7,234	49	0.7	26	0.4

Note: The estimates are based on the 2010 Census and reflect changes to the April 1, 2010 population due to the Count Question Resolution program and geographic program revisions. See Geographic Terms and Definitions at <http://www.census.gov/popest/about/geo/terms.html> for a list of the states that are included in each region and division.

**Table 2. Estimates of the Components of Population Change: July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2015**

Geographic Area	Total Population Change <sup>1</sup>	Natural Change			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration <sup>2</sup>	Net Domestic Migration
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>3,089</b>	<b>7,695</b>	<b>4,606</b>	<b>-1,224</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>-1,885</b>
Albany	38	254	428	174	-196	180	-376
Big Horn	103	22	144	122	66	5	61
Campbell	977	451	737	286	535	3	532
Carbon	-297	91	224	133	-355	11	-366
Converse	64	89	206	117	16	17	-1
Crook	180	49	105	56	142	5	137
Fremont	-402	117	583	466	-541	13	-554
Goshen	-126	12	154	142	-143	17	-160
Hot Springs	-52	-24	49	73	-27	-1	-26
Johnson	33	15	92	77	8	0	8
Laramie	652	487	1,263	776	162	135	27
Lincoln	158	132	248	116	31	2	29
Natrona	575	488	1,194	706	65	70	-5
Niobrara	12	7	25	18	19	0	19
Park	102	60	313	253	25	109	-84
Platte	36	-1	90	91	37	-4	41
Sheridan	-11	20	338	318	-66	33	-99
Sublette	-140	77	128	51	-206	22	-228
Sweetwater	-299	358	620	262	-630	8	-638
Teton	220	193	269	76	35	48	-13
Uinta	-81	179	316	137	-263	-10	-253
Washakie	12	11	90	79	12	-2	14
Weston	49	2	79	77	50	0	50

**Table 3. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015**

Geographic Area	Total Population Change <sup>1</sup>	Natural Change			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration <sup>2</sup>	Net Domestic Migration
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>22,340</b>	<b>16,110</b>	<b>39,862</b>	<b>23,752</b>	<b>6,061</b>	<b>2,932</b>	<b>3,129</b>
Albany	1,657	1,240	2,212	972	425	782	-357
Big Horn	354	36	739	703	304	19	285
Campbell	3,087	2,621	3,940	1,319	438	17	421
Carbon	-326	427	1,072	645	-726	41	-767
Converse	403	378	1,005	627	51	64	-13
Crook	361	195	516	321	193	24	169
Fremont	192	863	3,149	2,286	-690	62	-752
Goshen	136	21	739	718	96	70	26
Hot Springs	-71	-82	270	352	16	7	9
Johnson	16	83	497	414	-90	3	-93
Laramie	5,240	2,680	6,656	3,976	2,566	638	1,928
Lincoln	616	667	1,292	625	-48	6	-54
Natrona	6,728	2,232	5,867	3,635	4,437	301	4,136
Niobrara	58	3	121	118	65	0	65
Park	1,023	254	1,636	1,382	748	458	290
Platte	145	-60	453	513	220	-16	236
Sheridan	893	186	1,767	1,581	609	166	443
Sublette	-348	447	688	241	-827	107	-934
Sweetwater	820	1,904	3,308	1,404	-1,043	31	-1,074
Teton	1,831	945	1,344	399	870	217	653
Uinta	-296	950	1,656	706	-1,270	-53	-1,217
Washakie	-205	61	505	444	-249	-11	-238
Weston	26	59	430	371	-34	-1	-33

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 for the United States 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. Net international migration for Puerto Rico includes the migration of native and foreign-born populations between the United States and Puerto Rico.