

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

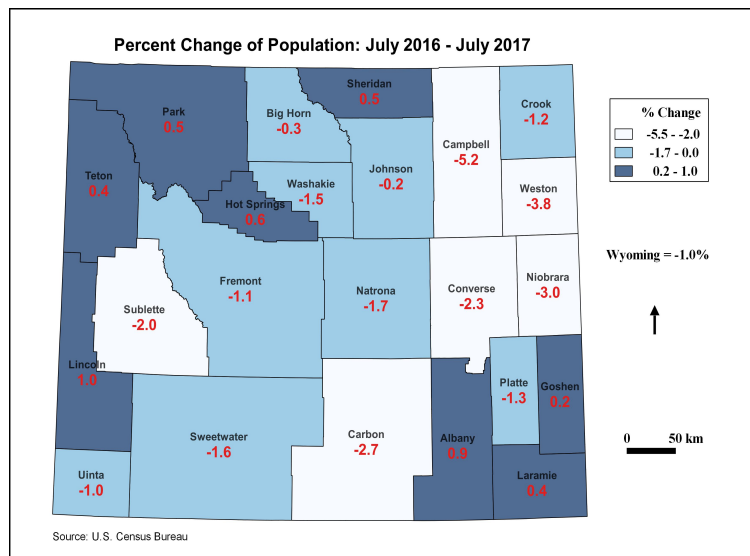
Thursday, March 22, 2018

Contact: Dr. Wenlin Liu, Chief Economist

**MANY COUNTIES EXPERIENCED LARGE POPULATION LOSSES IN 2017**

**CHEYENNE** -- Wyoming’s total resident population contracted to 579,315 in July 2017, according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. The annual decrease from July 2016 was 5,595 persons, or 1.0 percent, the largest decline since 1989. There are two components for population change. The natural increase (7,513 births less 4,847 deaths) was 2,666, but the estimated net migration (in-migration less outmigration) was about -8,300, which means that approximately 8,300 more persons left Wyoming than moved into the State between July 2016 and July 2017. In contrast, the net migration was about -4,000 between July 2015 and July 2016.

Campbell County led the state with the largest loss of 2,558 residents from July 2016 to July 2017. In terms of percentage, the decrease of 5.2 percent was the steepest among the nation’s 3,142 counties. Weston and Niobrara counties also experienced a decline of at least 3.0 percent, each. Lincoln was the only county that demonstrated an increase of 1.0 percent, and all other counties with moderate increases are located in the Northwest and the Southeast areas of the state where there are minimal energy extraction operations. Since 2010, the fastest growing counties were Teton (9.3%), Laramie (7.0%), and Lincoln (6.4%). “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.” Between the first quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2017, the state’s economy lost about 17,000 jobs or nearly 6.0 percent. Counties with the most mineral activities endured the heaviest losses such as Campbell, Converse, Natrona, and Sublette where employment shrunk around 15.0 percent, respectively. Only Teton and Lincoln counties showed job growth during the same two-year period. Substantial declines in employment, consequently, contributed to the increase in outmigration. In addition, the labor market nationwide, particularly in neighboring states such as Colorado, Utah, and Idaho, continued to show strong expansion, which attracted a number of Wyoming workers and residents.



However, since the beginning of 2017, the mining industry (including oil & gas extraction) in the state gained some ground and added approximately 2,000 jobs due to price stabilization and increased drilling. Industries and sectors closely related to mining, such as manufacturing, wholesale trade, transportation, and professional services are also benefiting. As a result, statewide total employment in the fourth quarter of 2017 grew 0.5 percent from the fourth quarter of 2016, the first year-over-year increase in nearly three years. The unemployment rate in Wyoming declined significantly since the summer of 2016, and the current level is similar to the U.S. average. Additionally, business layoffs are very low, and both average working hours and hourly earnings in the private industries are higher than last year. “Wyoming’s current labor market environment should provide encouragement for people who are looking for jobs within the state,” Liu commented.

**Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Wyoming: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017**

Geographic Area	April 1, 2010		Population Estimates								Chge, 7/1/16 to 7/1/17		Chge, 4/1/10 to 7/1/17	
	Census	Estimates Base	July 1, 2010	July 1, 2011	July 1, 2012	July 1, 2013	July 1, 2014	July 1, 2015	July 1, 2016	July 1, 2017	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>563,626</b>	<b>563,767</b>	<b>564,376</b>	<b>567,602</b>	<b>576,608</b>	<b>582,341</b>	<b>583,334</b>	<b>586,102</b>	<b>584,910</b>	<b>579,315</b>	<b>-5,595</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>15,548</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Albany	36,299	36,299	36,433	36,883	37,332	37,573	37,793	38,036	37,987	38,332	345	0.9	2,033	5.6
Big Horn	11,668	11,668	11,667	11,726	11,765	11,939	11,859	11,956	11,941	11,906	-35	-0.3	238	2.0
Campbell	46,133	46,133	46,233	46,560	47,861	48,051	48,192	49,293	48,800	46,242	-2,558	-5.2	109	0.2
Carbon	15,885	15,885	15,849	15,848	15,732	15,861	15,907	15,645	15,727	15,303	-424	-2.7	-582	-3.7
Converse	13,833	13,833	13,821	13,736	14,025	14,365	14,219	14,312	14,127	13,809	-318	-2.3	-24	-0.2
Crook	7,083	7,083	7,119	7,123	7,141	7,153	7,245	7,432	7,497	7,410	-87	-1.2	327	4.6
Fremont	40,123	40,123	40,195	40,520	41,022	40,911	40,573	40,237	40,245	39,803	-442	-1.1	-320	-0.8
Goshen	13,249	13,247	13,422	13,580	13,642	13,551	13,544	13,566	13,355	13,378	23	0.2	131	1.0
Hot Springs	4,812	4,812	4,809	4,808	4,833	4,834	4,789	4,717	4,669	4,696	27	0.6	-116	-2.4
Johnson	8,569	8,569	8,587	8,645	8,637	8,637	8,584	8,616	8,496	8,476	-20	-0.2	-93	-1.1
Laramie	91,738	91,881	92,219	92,587	94,704	95,731	96,123	97,005	97,968	98,327	359	0.4	6,446	7.0
Lincoln	18,106	18,106	18,094	18,009	17,938	18,312	18,567	18,736	19,076	19,265	189	1.0	1,159	6.4
Natrona	75,450	75,450	75,456	76,421	78,583	81,101	81,439	82,134	80,892	79,547	-1,345	-1.7	4,097	5.4
Niobrara	2,484	2,484	2,491	2,483	2,476	2,544	2,489	2,496	2,470	2,397	-73	-3.0	-87	-3.5
Park	28,205	28,205	28,248	28,546	28,933	29,170	29,119	29,110	29,412	29,568	156	0.5	1,363	4.8
Platte	8,667	8,667	8,664	8,695	8,730	8,707	8,776	8,797	8,675	8,562	-113	-1.3	-105	-1.2
Sheridan	29,116	29,116	29,123	29,254	29,528	29,735	29,888	29,940	30,049	30,210	161	0.5	1,094	3.8
Sublette	10,247	10,247	10,254	10,189	10,481	10,172	10,155	10,056	10,002	9,799	-203	-2.0	-448	-4.4
Sweetwater	43,806	43,806	43,569	44,013	45,042	45,145	44,981	44,732	44,245	43,534	-711	-1.6	-272	-0.6
Teton	21,294	21,294	21,295	21,476	21,709	22,326	22,817	23,029	23,180	23,265	85	0.4	1,971	9.3
Uinta	21,118	21,118	21,093	20,899	20,999	20,960	20,845	20,780	20,711	20,495	-216	-1.0	-623	-3.0
Washakie	8,533	8,533	8,537	8,460	8,421	8,427	8,288	8,296	8,188	8,064	-124	-1.5	-469	-5.5
Weston	7,208	7,208	7,198	7,141	7,074	7,136	7,142	7,181	7,198	6,927	-271	-3.8	-281	-3.9

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/programs-surveys/popest/guidance-geographies/terms-and-definitions.html> for a list of the states that are included in each region and division. All geographic boundaries for the 2017 population estimates series except statistical area delineations are as of January 1, 2017. The Office of Management and Budget's statistical area delineations for metropolitan, micropolitan, and combined statistical areas, as well as metropolitan divisions, are those issued by that agency in July 2015. For population estimates methodology statements, see <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/methodology.html>

**Table 2. Estimates of the Components of Population Change: July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2017**

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>-5,595</b>	<b>2,666</b>	<b>7,513</b>	<b>4,847</b>	<b>-8,285</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>-8,613</b>
Albany	345	195	393	198	150	173	-23
Big Horn	-35	24	149	125	-58	-2	-56
Campbell	-2,558	455	747	292	-3,027	5	-3,032
Carbon	-424	79	217	138	-504	-1	-503
Converse	-318	72	191	119	-393	14	-407
Crook	-87	54	119	65	-141	10	-151
Fremont	-442	70	545	475	-513	2	-515
Goshen	23	-7	133	140	31	24	7
Hot Springs	27	-24	45	69	50	-2	52
Johnson	-20	-6	77	83	-14	4	-18
Laramie	359	472	1,317	845	-107	-3	-104
Lincoln	189	126	260	134	64	-11	75
Natrona	-1,345	373	1,094	721	-1,727	34	-1,761
Niobrara	-73	15	31	16	-89	0	-89
Park	156	63	330	267	96	21	75
Platte	-113	0	85	85	-112	-3	-109
Sheridan	161	-12	331	343	175	33	142
Sublette	-203	68	119	51	-271	-1	-270
Sweetwater	-711	308	607	299	-1,024	14	-1,038
Teton	85	180	262	82	-95	9	-104
Uinta	-216	155	295	140	-373	-1	-372
Washakie	-124	1	86	85	-125	0	-125
Weston	-271	5	80	75	-278	9	-287

**Table 3. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017**

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>15,548</b>	<b>21,460</b>	<b>55,071</b>	<b>33,611</b>	<b>-6,275</b>	<b>2,563</b>	<b>-8,838</b>
Albany	2,033	1,640	2,992	1,352	379	980	-601
Big Horn	238	74	1,040	966	161	-8	169
Campbell	109	3,684	5,500	1,816	-3,627	-32	-3,595
Carbon	-582	571	1,503	932	-1,159	6	-1,165
Converse	-24	498	1,382	884	-542	63	-605
Crook	327	299	746	447	29	47	-18
Fremont	-320	1,113	4,262	3,149	-1,446	14	-1,460
Goshen	131	-4	1,001	1,005	114	116	-2
Hot Springs	-116	-132	366	498	16	-9	25
Johnson	-93	33	653	620	-122	26	-148
Laramie	6,446	3,619	9,318	5,699	2,824	521	2,303
Lincoln	1,159	904	1,816	912	249	-52	301
Natrona	4,097	2,987	8,110	5,123	1,013	195	818
Niobrara	-87	2	187	185	-94	-2	-92
Park	1,363	348	2,300	1,952	1,020	300	720
Platte	-105	-85	625	710	-16	-12	-4
Sheridan	1,094	155	2,419	2,264	952	226	726
Sublette	-448	587	930	343	-1,059	4	-1,063
Sweetwater	-272	2,541	4,560	2,019	-2,880	26	-2,906
Teton	1,971	1,257	1,847	590	689	156	533
Uinta	-623	1,233	2,247	1,014	-1,886	-51	-1,835
Washakie	-469	58	687	629	-528	1	-529
Weston	-281	78	580	502	-362	48	-410

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/programs-surveys/popest/about/glossary.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.