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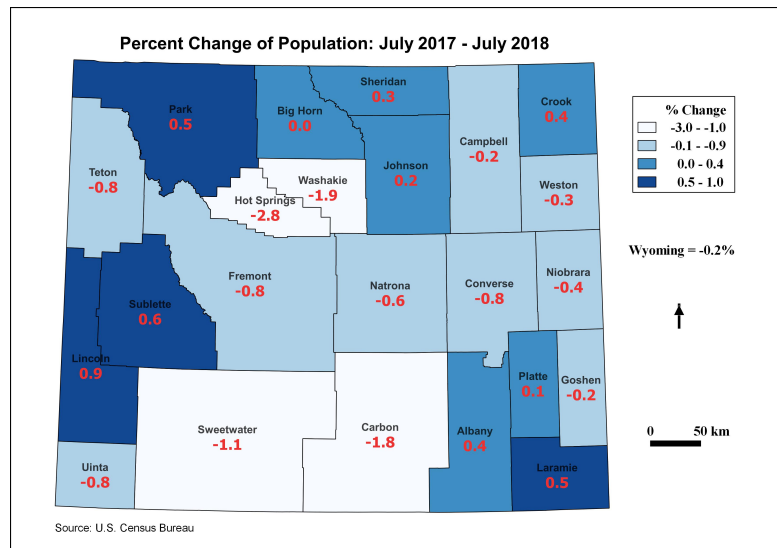
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Contact: Amy Bittner, Senior Economist

MORE THAN HALF OF WYOMING COUNTIES LOST POPULATION IN 2018

CHEYENNE – Wyoming’s total resident population contracted to 577,737 in July 2018, according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. The annual decrease from July 2017 was 1,197 persons, or 0.2 percent, which was the third consecutive year of decline. However, this decrease was a lot less than the previous year’s loss of 5,356 residents or 0.9 percent.

Thirteen counties experienced population declines from July 2017 to July 2018. Sweetwater County led the state with the largest numerical loss of 496 residents, while Hot Springs County suffered the steepest decrease, -2.8 percent. Carbon and Washakie counties also experienced a decline of nearly 2.0 percent, each. Lincoln was the only county that demonstrated an increase of close to 1.0 percent. Most 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 (8.4%), Laramie (7.7%), and Lincoln (7.3%). “Employment drives migration change, particularly for young adults,” said Amy Bittner, Senior Economist with State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division. “People tend to move to areas where jobs are available. Conversely, people may leave areas where employment opportunities become limited.” Even though Wyoming’s economy has been rebounding since late 2016, the speed of the recovery was still moderate. Between the second quarter of 2017 and the second quarter of 2018, about 2,000 or 0.7 percent payroll jobs were added. Campbell, Converse, and Sublette counties have gained the most jobs, but the overall labor force was still at a lower level than before the economic downturn. These counties have the most mineral activities and endured the heaviest employment losses during the downturn. In addition, the labor market nationwide, particularly in neighboring states such as Colorado, Utah, and Idaho, continued to show strong growth, which drew Wyoming workers and residents.



However, after six years of decline, the state’s labor force has finally stabilized or even ticked up by the end of 2018. With a current unemployment rate of below 4.0 percent, which is among the lowest rates in ten years, Wyoming’s job market is quite tight. As a result, average working hours in private industries have gradually been increasing to the level before the economic downturn, and growth in hourly earnings were particularly strong – the fastest in many years. “Wyoming’s current labor market environment is definitely providing opportunities and encouragement for people who are looking for jobs within the state,” Bittner commented.

Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Wyoming: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018

Geographic Area	April 1, 2010		Population Estimates								Chge, 7/1/17 to 7/1/18		Chge, 4/1/10 to 7/1/18	
	Census	Estimates Base	July 1, 2011	July 1, 2012	July 1, 2013	July 1, 2014	July 1, 2015	July 1, 2016	July 1, 2017	July 1, 2018	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Wyoming	563,626	563,773	567,224	576,270	582,123	582,548	585,668	584,290	578,934	577,737	-1,197	-0.2	13,964	2.5
Albany	36,299	36,299	36,843	37,360	37,559	37,622	37,956	37,903	38,430	38,601	171	0.4	2,302	6.3
Big Horn	11,668	11,669	11,721	11,757	11,935	11,853	11,950	11,943	11,879	11,881	2	0.0	212	1.8
Campbell	46,133	46,133	46,543	47,855	48,038	48,132	49,269	48,746	46,251	46,140	-111	-0.2	7	0.0
Carbon	15,885	15,884	15,833	15,708	15,836	15,872	15,618	15,684	15,242	14,971	-271	-1.8	-913	-5.7
Converse	13,833	13,833	13,737	14,028	14,366	14,203	14,299	14,101	13,744	13,640	-104	-0.8	-193	-1.4
Crook	7,083	7,083	7,121	7,141	7,152	7,237	7,437	7,503	7,424	7,450	26	0.4	367	5.2
Fremont	40,123	40,123	40,511	41,009	40,908	40,562	40,228	40,223	39,834	39,531	-303	-0.8	-592	-1.5
Goshen	13,249	13,247	13,573	13,637	13,547	13,526	13,551	13,333	13,404	13,376	-28	-0.2	129	1.0
Hot Springs	4,812	4,812	4,805	4,829	4,830	4,786	4,717	4,654	4,686	4,555	-131	-2.8	-257	-5.3
Johnson	8,569	8,569	8,645	8,641	8,641	8,582	8,609	8,480	8,442	8,460	18	0.2	-109	-1.3
Laramie	91,738	91,885	92,561	94,690	95,706	96,038	97,006	97,978	98,460	98,976	516	0.5	7,091	7.7
Lincoln	18,106	18,106	18,009	17,942	18,316	18,563	18,738	19,062	19,259	19,434	175	0.9	1,328	7.3
Natrona	75,450	75,448	76,391	78,562	81,101	81,375	82,123	80,882	79,556	79,115	-441	-0.6	3,667	4.9
Niobrara	2,484	2,484	2,483	2,477	2,545	2,489	2,496	2,470	2,397	2,388	-9	-0.4	-96	-3.9
Park	28,205	28,207	28,446	28,804	29,047	28,962	28,925	29,207	29,189	29,324	135	0.5	1,117	4.0
Platte	8,667	8,667	8,695	8,727	8,709	8,772	8,797	8,667	8,561	8,566	5	0.1	-101	-1.2
Sheridan	29,116	29,119	29,244	29,518	29,728	29,848	29,886	29,963	30,132	30,233	101	0.3	1,114	3.8
Sublette	10,247	10,244	10,185	10,476	10,175	10,152	10,046	9,983	9,759	9,813	54	0.6	-431	-4.2
Sweetwater	43,806	43,806	43,981	45,005	45,162	44,957	44,754	44,275	43,547	43,051	-496	-1.1	-755	-1.7
Teton	21,294	21,298	21,414	21,625	22,318	22,777	23,016	23,161	23,261	23,081	-180	-0.8	1,783	8.4
Uinta	21,118	21,121	20,893	20,994	20,953	20,827	20,770	20,691	20,456	20,299	-157	-0.8	-822	-3.9
Washakie	8,533	8,528	8,448	8,408	8,414	8,275	8,280	8,168	8,035	7,885	-150	-1.9	-643	-7.5
Weston	7,208	7,208	7,142	7,077	7,137	7,138	7,197	7,213	6,986	6,967	-19	-0.3	-241	-3.3

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 2018 population estimates series except statistical area delineations are as of January 1, 2018. 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, 2017 to July 1, 2018

Geographic Area	Total Population Change ¹	Natural Change			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration ²	Net Domestic Migration
Wyoming	-1,197	1,893	6,840	4,947	-3,089	597	-3,686
Albany	171	188	382	194	-17	245	-262
Big Horn	2	-7	137	144	10	-1	11
Campbell	-111	301	615	314	-415	43	-458
Carbon	-271	41	188	147	-312	7	-319
Converse	-104	10	143	133	-115	13	-128
Crook	26	37	106	69	-9	22	-31
Fremont	-303	16	501	485	-319	4	-323
Goshen	-28	10	145	135	-39	33	-72
Hot Springs	-131	-32	47	79	-99	1	-100
Johnson	18	-12	75	87	31	0	31
Laramie	516	439	1,270	831	82	36	46
Lincoln	175	106	237	131	70	-5	75
Natrona	-441	250	986	736	-691	84	-775
Niobrara	-9	15	31	16	-25	0	-25
Park	135	-1	288	289	136	-9	145
Platte	5	-10	80	90	16	-1	17
Sheridan	101	-9	320	329	113	12	101
Sublette	54	37	97	60	16	-8	24
Sweetwater	-496	243	546	303	-743	59	-802
Teton	-180	155	230	75	-337	38	-375
Uinta	-157	129	276	147	-287	-1	-286
Washakie	-150	-11	74	85	-137	-5	-132
Weston	-19	-2	66	68	-18	30	-48

Table 3. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018

Geographic Area	Total Population Change ¹	Natural Change			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration ²	Net Domestic Migration
Wyoming	13,964	23,021	61,495	38,474	-9,463	3,049	-12,512
Albany	2,302	1,811	3,358	1,547	478	1,212	-734
Big Horn	212	41	1,169	1,128	169	-12	181
Campbell	7	3,973	6,041	2,068	-4,030	28	-4,058
Carbon	-913	579	1,674	1,095	-1,497	0	-1,497
Converse	-193	462	1,494	1,032	-678	57	-735
Crook	367	326	839	513	44	93	-49
Fremont	-592	1,158	4,744	3,586	-1,766	11	-1,777
Goshen	129	28	1,161	1,133	80	132	-52
Hot Springs	-257	-181	413	594	-76	-2	-74
Johnson	-109	3	727	724	-108	10	-118
Laramie	7,091	4,068	10,547	6,479	3,019	673	2,346
Lincoln	1,328	992	2,031	1,039	333	-45	378
Natrona	3,667	3,211	9,043	5,832	344	341	3
Niobrara	-96	7	216	209	-109	-2	-107
Park	1,117	290	2,558	2,268	829	45	784
Platte	-101	-98	704	802	-1	-12	11
Sheridan	1,114	152	2,729	2,577	978	132	846
Sublette	-431	606	1,012	406	-1,065	-24	-1,041
Sweetwater	-755	2,737	5,072	2,335	-3,566	168	-3,734
Teton	1,783	1,385	2,052	667	372	215	157
Uinta	-822	1,354	2,518	1,164	-2,207	-71	-2,136
Washakie	-643	42	755	713	-687	-25	-662
Weston	-241	75	638	563	-319	125	-444

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.