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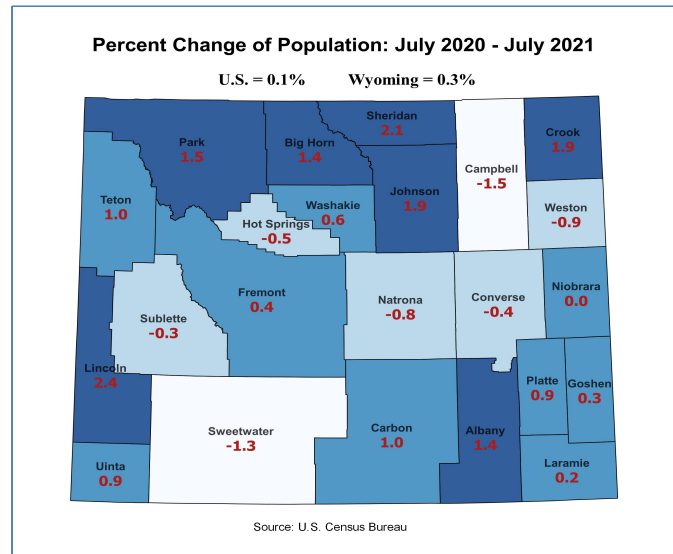
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MOST WYOMING COUNTIES GAINED POPULATION IN 2021

CHEYENNE – Wyoming’s total resident population grew slightly to 578,803 as of July 2021, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimate. The annual increase from July 2020 totaled 1,536 persons or 0.3 percent, higher than the U.S. average of 0.1 percent.

Fifteen counties experienced population increases from July 2020 to July 2021. Lincoln County led the state with the fastest growth rate of 2.4 percent, followed by Sheridan (2.1%), Crook (1.9%), and Johnson (1.9%) counties. Campbell and Sweetwater counties suffered the steepest decreases, -1.5 and -1.3 percent, respectively. Laramie, the largest county, grew 0.2 percent, while Natrona, the second largest county, lost 674 residents, -0.8 percent during the year. These two Metropolitan Statistics Areas (MSAs) in the state had added the most residents between 2010 and 2020.

Two factors contributed to the change in population - natural change, which is the difference between births and deaths, and net migration, the difference between people moving into and out of an area. At the state level, the net migration was 1,368, meaning that 1,368 more people moved into Wyoming than moved out between July 2020 and July 2021. The natural change accounted for only 171 (6,213 births less 6,042 deaths). “Wyoming’s population growth from natural change has already declined steadily between 2008 and 2019 as birth rates dropped and Baby Boomers aged with increased mortality,” according to Dr. Wenlin Liu, Chief Economist with State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division. In 2008, newborns were 8,134 while 4,183 residents died, leading to a natural increase of nearly 4,000 people. However, ten years later (prior to COVID-19), the natural increase was just below 1,500 as births decreased to 6,568 but deaths increased to 5,122 in 2019. Since then, the pandemic has further pulled down the number of births, but driven up the number of deaths to around 6,000 each annually in both 2020 and 2021. Across the state, most counties showed negative natural change (more deaths than births). In contrast, less than one-third counties experienced natural decrease in 2019.



The dramatic decline in energy prices and the subsequent economic downturn in the mid-2010s forced many residents to leave the state. As a result, the state experienced consecutive years of negative net migration (more people left than moved into the state) between 2014 and 2019. However, the direction of net migration reversed in both 2020 and 2021. “Employment opportunities have always been the driving factor for Wyoming’s migration trend, but the pandemic also played a significant role in the past a couple of years, said Dr. Liu. “Many people chose to relocate to less populated and lower cost areas during the pandemic, and the increased availability of remote work made this possible.” Over two-thirds of Wyoming counties showed positive net migration, led by Sheridan (729), followed by Park (530) and Lincoln (447). On the other hand, large negative net migration occurred in Campbell (-907), Natrona (-650), and Sweetwater (-621) counties. “The COVID-19 virus hit energy producing and serving areas especially hard as demand plummeted, and the rebound of the industry has been painfully slow, particularly in Wyoming,” stated Liu.

Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Wyoming: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021

Geographic Area	April 1, 2020 Estimates Base	Population Estimates		Chge, 7/1/20 to 7/1/21		Chge, 4/1/20 to 7/1/21	
		July 1, 2020	July 1, 2021	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Wyoming	576,851	577,267	578,803	1,536	0.3	1,952	0.3
Albany	37,066	37,079	37,608	529	1.4	542	1.5
Big Horn	11,521	11,467	11,632	165	1.4	111	1.0
Campbell	47,026	47,116	46,401	-715	-1.5	-625	-1.3
Carbon	14,537	14,499	14,649	150	1.0	112	0.8
Converse	13,751	13,724	13,672	-52	-0.4	-79	-0.6
Crook	7,181	7,178	7,315	137	1.9	134	1.9
Fremont	39,234	39,177	39,336	159	0.4	102	0.3
Goshen	12,498	12,503	12,537	34	0.3	39	0.3
Hot Springs	4,621	4,622	4,597	-25	-0.5	-24	-0.5
Johnson	8,447	8,459	8,623	164	1.9	176	2.1
Laramie	100,512	100,690	100,863	173	0.2	351	0.3
Lincoln	19,581	19,674	20,153	479	2.4	572	2.9
Natrona	79,955	80,229	79,555	-674	-0.8	-400	-0.5
Niobrara	2,467	2,439	2,438	-1	0.0	-29	-1.2
Park	29,624	29,656	30,108	452	1.5	484	1.6
Platte	8,605	8,623	8,699	76	0.9	94	1.1
Sheridan	30,921	30,996	31,646	650	2.1	725	2.3
Sublette	8,728	8,723	8,697	-26	-0.3	-31	-0.4
Sweetwater	42,272	42,158	41,614	-544	-1.3	-658	-1.6
Teton	23,331	23,347	23,575	228	1.0	244	1.0
Uinta	20,450	20,441	20,635	194	0.9	185	0.9
Washakie	7,685	7,658	7,705	47	0.6	20	0.3
Weston	6,838	6,809	6,745	-64	-0.9	-93	-1.4

Note: The estimates are developed from a base that incorporates the 2020 Census, Vintage 2020 estimates, and 2020 Demographic Analysis estimates. For population estimates methodology statements, see <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/methodology.html>. The estimates feature geographic boundaries from the Vintage 2020 estimates series; the geographic boundaries for these 2021 population estimates are as of January 1, 2020.

Table 2. Estimates of the Components of Population Change: July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021

Geographic Area	Total Population Change ¹	Natural Change			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration ²	Net Domestic Migration
Wyoming	1,536	171	6,213	6,042	1,368	116	1,252
Albany	529	95	351	256	431	33	398
Big Horn	165	-38	96	134	205	-2	207
Campbell	-715	198	583	385	-907	-1	-906
Carbon	150	-27	151	178	179	8	171
Converse	-52	18	155	137	-71	-1	-70
Crook	137	14	106	92	123	11	112
Fremont	159	-110	457	567	266	-1	267
Goshen	34	-82	118	200	115	0	115
Hot Springs	-25	-43	39	82	17	1	16
Johnson	164	-27	69	96	193	1	192
Laramie	173	129	1,125	996	26	11	15
Lincoln	479	36	222	186	447	-4	451
Natrona	-674	-29	901	930	-650	5	-655
Niobrara	-1	2	28	26	-2	0	-2
Park	452	-72	276	348	530	2	528
Platte	76	-15	89	104	91	0	91
Sheridan	650	-70	307	377	729	20	709
Sublette	-26	4	85	81	-30	4	-34
Sweetwater	-544	81	481	400	-621	18	-639
Teton	228	124	220	96	103	8	95
Uinta	194	60	226	166	134	3	131
Washakie	47	-39	76	115	87	0	87
Weston	-64	-38	52	90	-27	0	-27

Table 3. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021

Geographic Area	Total Population Change ¹	Natural Change			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration ²	Net Domestic Migration
Wyoming	1,952	314	7,856	7,542	1,651	120	1,531
Albany	542	117	431	314	421	33	388
Big Horn	111	-58	124	182	171	-2	173
Campbell	-625	276	747	471	-898	-3	-895
Carbon	112	-27	195	222	141	8	133
Converse	-79	17	190	173	-97	-2	-95
Crook	134	15	138	123	120	11	109
Fremont	102	-136	577	713	236	-1	237
Goshen	39	-86	151	237	127	0	127
Hot Springs	-24	-54	48	102	31	1	30
Johnson	176	-27	94	121	206	1	205
Laramie	351	188	1,447	1,259	146	13	133
Lincoln	572	70	282	212	507	-4	511
Natrona	-400	9	1,152	1,143	-414	6	-420
Niobrara	-29	-6	32	38	-22	0	-22
Park	484	-81	352	433	575	1	574
Platte	94	-29	103	132	125	0	125
Sheridan	725	-66	394	460	801	22	779
Sublette	-31	4	104	100	-34	4	-38
Sweetwater	-658	77	593	516	-733	19	-752
Teton	244	139	264	125	103	10	93
Uinta	185	61	276	215	123	3	120
Washakie	20	-53	94	147	74	0	74
Weston	-93	-36	68	104	-58	0	-58

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.

Where Counties are Growing

Percent Change in Population by County: 2020 to 2021

