

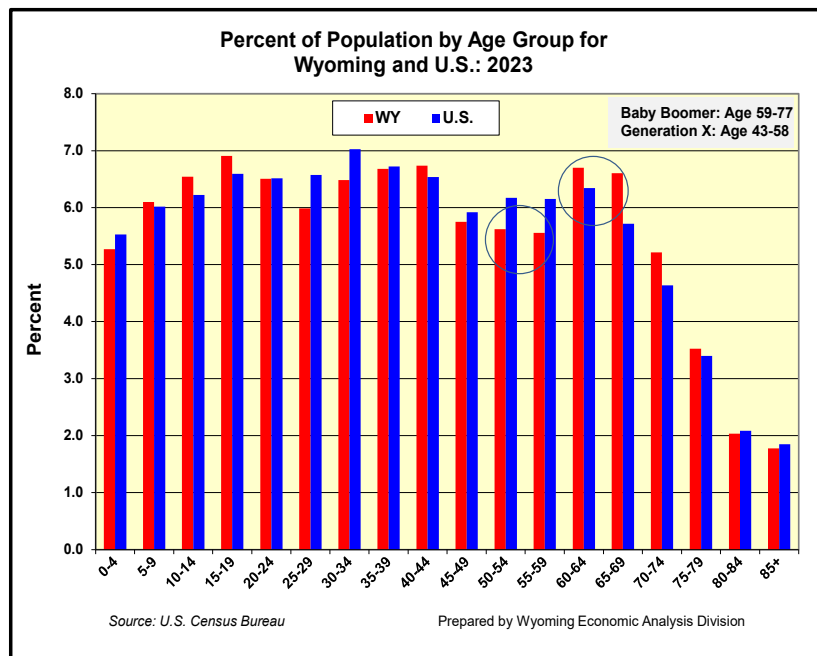
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Thursday, June 27, 2024

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Wyoming Experienced the Fastest Population Aging in the U.S. between 2022 and 2023

CHEYENNE – The elderly population (age 65 and over) in the state grew 3.5 percent between July 2022 and July 2023, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. In comparison, Wyoming’s total population only grew 0.4 percent during the year. The median age (half of the population is younger, and the other half older) rose 0.4 to 39.7 years, while it increased from 38.9 to 39.1 from 2022 to 2023 for the U.S. The new data indicate that the aging of Wyoming’s population continued to be speedy, and the pace was the most rapid in the country. “Though the impact from Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) aging was the main reason, outmigration of young people and decline in fertility rate also played roles,” said Dr. Wenlin Liu, Chief Economist with the State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division. Since the initial Baby Boomer cohort reached the age of 65 in 2011, there has been a precipitous increase in the size of the older population. With the quick aging, Wyoming’s median age increased to the 20th highest compared to other states in 2023, and eclipsed all neighboring states except Montana.



Wyoming has one of the highest proportions of the Baby Boom (age 59-77 in 2023) population, and one of the lowest proportion of Generation X (age 43 to 58 in 2023) in the country.

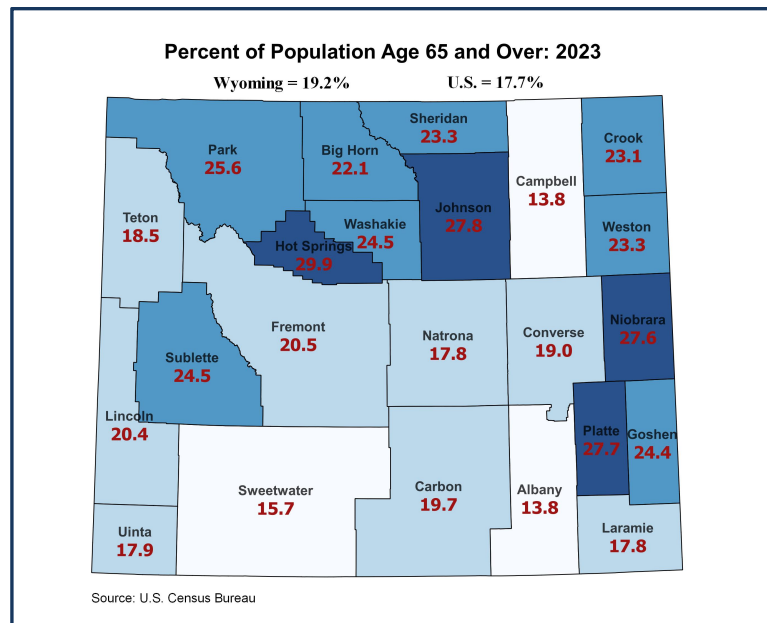
For example, the number of residents age 50-59 was 12,400 (or 16.0%) less than age 60-69 group. “The state is facing a labor shortage as the number of resident workers is insufficient to fill the positions vacated by retiring Baby Boomers under normal economic circumstances,” Liu commented. Wyoming’s demographic transition and labor market environment provides excellent opportunity and encouragement for unemployed residents who are looking for jobs within the state as many Baby Boomers are exiting the labor force. Wyoming’s population age 65 and older increased from 99,769 in 2020 to 111,865 in 2023, or 12.1 percent, higher than the U.S. growth rate of 9.4 percent during the same period. The share of the State’s elderly population (65 and over) grew to 19.2 percent in 2023, higher than the U.S. level of 17.7 percent. “The population age 65 and older in Wyoming is expected to expand by 13.0 percent from 2023 to 2030, while the number of total residents is projected to increase only 2.6 percent during that period.”

Since 2020, the population under 18 years decreased 3.3 percent where pre-school children (under 5 years) declined 8.2 percent. The age 18-64 group dropped slightly, -0.1 percent during the span. Wyoming’s total minority population reached 98,872 in July 2023. Minority is defined as any group other than single-race, Non-Hispanic White. The annual growth of minorities was 1,428 persons, or 1.5 percent, compared with 0.4 percent increase for the State’s total population in 2023. In fact, it’s the addition of the minority population that contributes most to the state’s population

growth in recent years. Hispanic was the largest minority group with 62,798 in July 2023, an annual increase of 1.5 percent. The Black or African-American population decreased 1.3 percent to 5,920. Other minority races, such as American Indian and Two-or-More Races grew slightly, while Asian recorded 4.1 percent growth rate. The majority, Non-Hispanic White, grew only 0.2 percent. With 16.9 percent of the State’s total population, the proportion of minorities in Wyoming was still ranked the 7th lowest in the nation, while 41.6 percent of U.S. residents are minorities. “The demographic makeup of the United States, as well as the state of Wyoming, is becoming increasingly diverse in terms of race and ethnicity,” said Dr. Liu.

The U.S. Census Bureau also released 2023 county population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. Here are some highlights:

- The Black or African-American population in Teton County in 2023 was 12.4 percent higher than a year ago. Campbell and Converse counties also experienced double-digit growth rates during the year.
- The Hispanic population increased the fastest in Crook and Niobrara, both at 9.5 percent between 2022 and 2023, followed by Sublette and Hot Springs counties, 8.5 and 8.2 percent, respectively.
- Fremont County had the highest percentage minority population in 2023 at 29.9 percent, which dominated by the American Indian population. Carbon (23.0%), Laramie (22.5%), Sweetwater (21.4%), and Teton (20.2%) counties followed, where most of the minority population was Hispanic.
- The largest county, Laramie, also had the largest minority population in 2023, including 16,074 Hispanic, 2,010 African-American, 1,288 Asian, and 2,625 Two or More Races. They made up of 25.6 percent, 34.0 percent, 20.9 percent, and 22.8 percent of the state’s total Hispanic, Black, Asian, and Two or More Races population, respectively.
- Counties with the smallest proportion of minority population in 2023 were Crook (6.1%), followed by Johnson (8.8%).
- The State’s oldest county was Hot Springs. With a median age of 49.5 years, 29.9 percent of its population was 65 and over in 2023. Other counties with a higher proportion of elderly population (65 and over) were Johnson (27.8%), Platte (27.7%), and Niobrara (27.6%). These counties also tend to have the smallest proportion of children population and their median ages were all higher than 45.0 years.
- The youngest county was Albany, with median age of 28.5 in 2023, followed by Campbell (36.7), Sweetwater (38.2), and Uinta (38.6). The median age in the state’s two largest counties, Laramie and Natrona, were 38.5 and 38.9 years each.
- Crook and Campbell counties had the highest percentage of preschool age (under 5 years) population (6.5% and 6.4%, each) in 2023, followed by Fremont (5.8%), and Uinta (5.7%). The statewide proportion in 2023 was 5.3 percent.
- Albany and Campbell counties had the lowest percentage of population age 65 or older, 13.8 percent each, followed by Sweetwater (15.7%) County.



Complete population figures are available online at <http://cadv.state.wy.us/pop/> or the U.S. Census Bureau’s website at <http://www.census.gov/>.