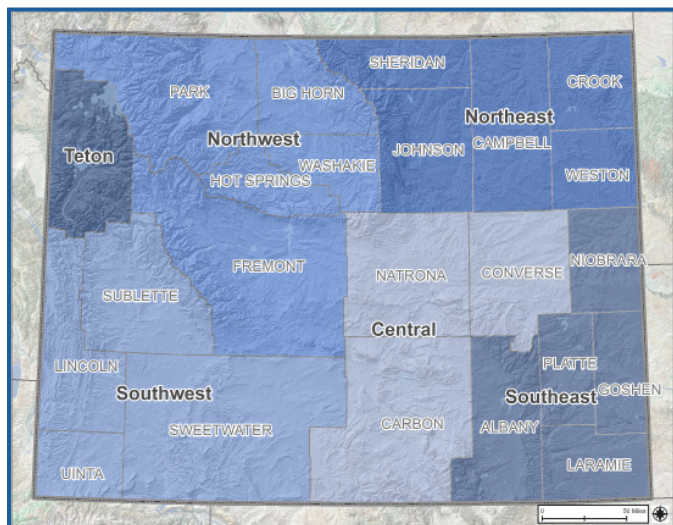


# Summary of the Central Region

## 2016 WYOMING PROFILE of Demographics, Economics, and Housing, Ending December 31, 2016

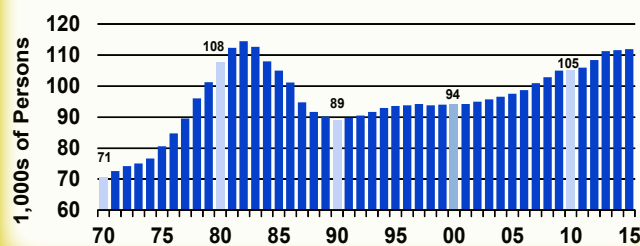
The **Wyoming Profile**, sponsored by the Wyoming Housing Database Partnership, is undertaken semi-annually to provide current, quality information about factors influencing the development, production, use, rehabilitation, demand, and need for **housing and related services** in Wyoming's communities. **This regional summary**, focusing on the Central Region, is one of six publications that inspect a group of counties in the state, as shown in the map presented below. The **Central Region** comprises Carbon, Converse, and Natrona counties.



### Demographics

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, between 2000 and 2010, the Central Region's population rose from 94,224 to 105,168, or by 11.6 percent. The most recent census estimate put the population of the Central Region at 111,973 as of July 1, 2015, which indicates an increase of 6.5 percent since 2010. The growth in population in the region can be attributed to the natural increase of the overall population, the net of births minus deaths, as well as the net migration. Changes in population in the Central Region are shown in Diagram 1.

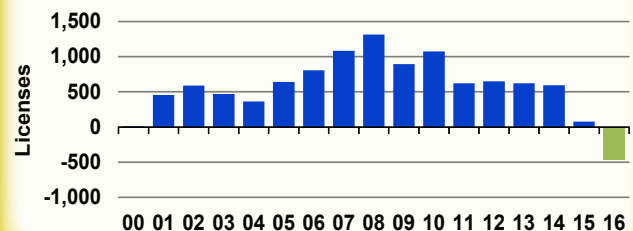
**Diagram 1. Central Region Population**  
1970–2015 Census Bureau Data



The Wyoming Housing Database Partnership utilizes quarterly data from the Wyoming Department of Transportation regarding driver's licenses of new or

departing residents to track changes in population. While the net of surrendered and exchanged driver's licenses was low in 2000 with only 12, there were substantial increases in the following years, with in-migration in 2015 totaling 78 persons and in-migration in 2016 representing a decrease of 463 persons, as shown in the chart below.

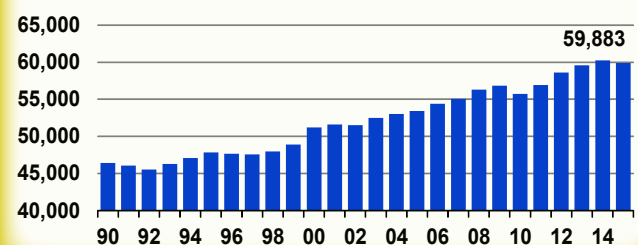
**Diagram 2. Central Region Migration**  
2000 – 2016: WYDOT Data



### Economics

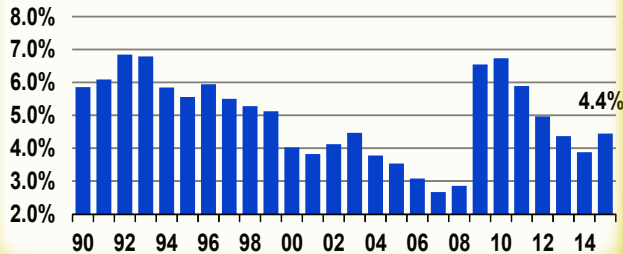
Economic growth in the region can be examined through labor force statistics. The labor force represents those persons working or seeking work, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). From 1990 to 2015, the labor force in the Central Region expanded relatively modestly at an average annual rate of 1.0 percent per year, as shown in Diagram 3. However, between 2014 and 2015, the labor force decreased by 0.6 percent to a level of 59,883 persons. The number of persons working also was 57,221 persons in 2015.

**Diagram 3. Central Region Labor Force**  
1990–2015 BLS Data



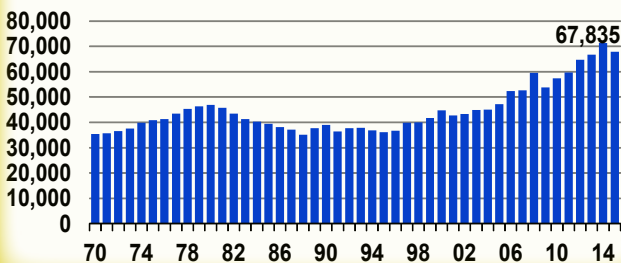
The national recession contributed to a rapid rise in unemployment between 2008 and 2010. Still, unemployment rates for the Central Region rose in 2015 to 4.4 percent or by an increase of 0.6 percent since 2014, as shown in Diagram 4.

**Diagram 4. Central Region Unemployment Rate**  
1990–2015 BLS Data



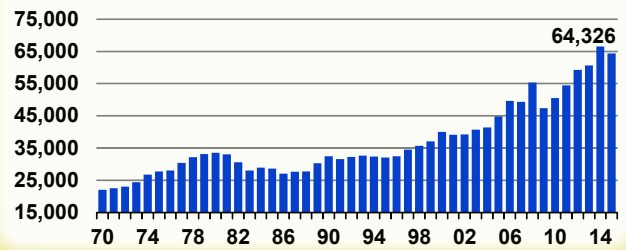
Low unemployment rates often cause upward wage pressure in the labor markets, and in turn, cause earnings to increase. In 1979, average earnings by place of work in the Central Region was \$46,385 in real 2015 dollars. Unfortunately, this level of earnings was not sustained, and the average declined. However, since 2010, earnings increased at an annual growth rate of 1.1 percent. As of 2015, the year for which the most recent data are available from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the average earnings by place of work was \$67,835 shown in Diagram 5.

**Diagram 5. Central Region Average Earnings Per Job:**  
1970–2015 BEA Data, Real 2015 Dollars



Personal income is made up of earnings and unearned income sources, such as dividends, interest, rent, and government transfer payments. Together these income sources, when divided by population, create per capita income. This income measure also shows that the rising economic welfare of the Central Region was adversely affected in 2009. Real per capita income in 2015 was \$64,326 and was roughly 27.3 percent higher than it was in 2010, as shown in Diagram 6.

**Diagram 6. Central Region Per Capita Income**  
1970–2015 BEA Data, Real 2015 Dollars



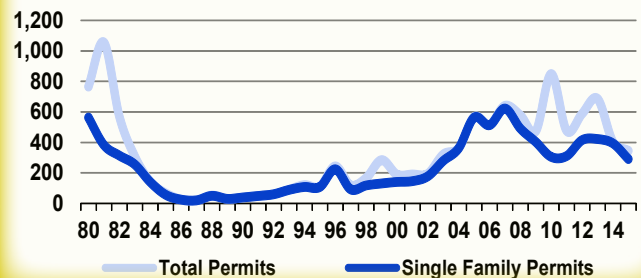
## Highlights...

- The population of the Central Region grew by 6.5 percent from 2010 to July 1, 2015, to 111,973.
- The unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in 2015; a decrease of 0.6 percentage points since 2014.

## Housing

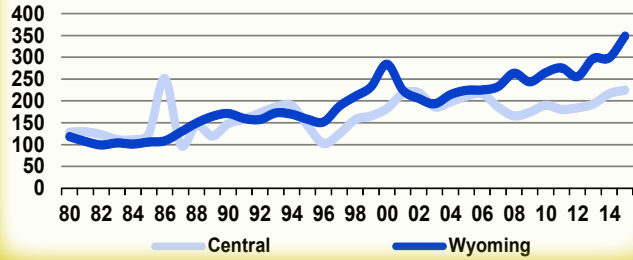
Consequences of economic change are often seen in the housing market. During the late 1970s, when incomes were increasing, the housing sector was very active and there was a significant amount of housing construction in the Central Region. Like employment and income, the housing market fell sharply during the recession of the early 1980s; 1981 saw 1,055 total permits, of which 383 were for single-family units, but by 1987, there were only 20 permits, all of which were for single-family units. The issuance of single-family unit permits reached a peak of 622 in 2007, fell to 305 in 2010, and were at 291 in 2015, as shown in Diagram 7.

**Diagram 7. Central Region Residential Permits**  
1980–2015 Census Bureau Data



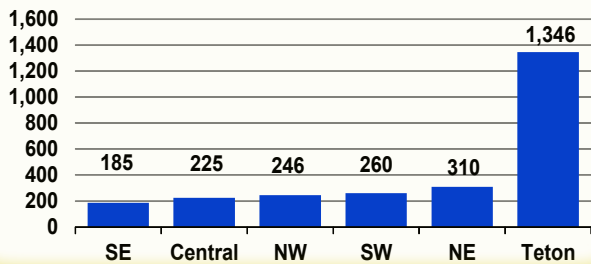
From 1980 to 2015 the real value of construction, representing only the cost of building the unit and not the land and infrastructure, increased in the Central Region and in Wyoming, with the statewide average rising to \$348,580 and the Central Region's average rising to \$225,000 in 2015, as shown in Diagram 8.

**Diagram 8. Value of Single-Family Construction 1980–2015 Census Bureau Data, 1,000s of 2015 Dollars**



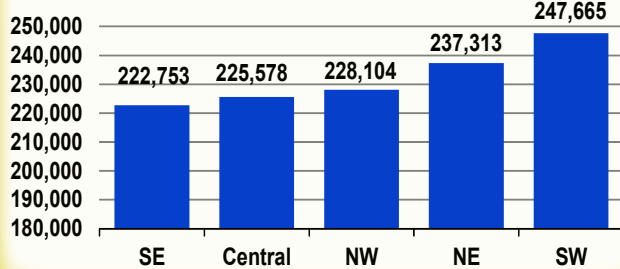
Still the average real value of new construction in the Central region was the second lowest of all regions in the state in 2015, as shown in Diagram 9.

**Diagram 9. Value of Single-Family Construction 2015 Census Bureau Data, 1,000s of 2015 Dollars**



County tax assessors in Wyoming report housing prices for existing homes sold on 10 acres or less throughout the state to the Wyoming Department of Revenue (DOR). As shown in Diagram 10, the Central Region had an average existing price of \$225,578 in 2015, which was the second lowest of all other regions in the state; the Teton Region, which is not shown, had an average price of \$1.4 million. In the Central Region, existing housing had higher values than did new construction.

**Diagram 10. Average Sales Prices by Region 2015 DOR Data**



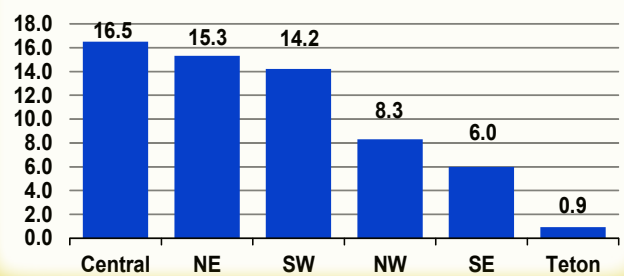
Every six months since 2001, the Wyoming Housing Database Partnership has conducted a survey of rental properties throughout the state. By December 2016, the survey covered 7,938 rental units in the Central Region. Rental vacancy rates rose to 16.5 percent in the second half of 2016, as seen in Table 1.

**Table 1. Central Region Rental Vacancy Rates**

| Rental Vacancy Survey Data ( a = June, b = December) |        |             |              |              |
|--|--------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Year   | Sample | Total Units | Vacant Units | Vacancy Rate |
| 2005a  | 68     | 3,298       | 117          | 3.5%         |
| 2005b  | 75     | 6,267       | 139          | 2.2%         |
| 2006a  | 71     | 3,991       | 83           | 2.1%         |
| 2006b  | 78     | 4,363       | 68           | 1.6%         |
| 2007a  | 97     | 5,403       | 33           | 0.6%         |
| 2007b  | 100    | 5,151       | 58           | 1.1%         |
| 2008a  | 104    | 5,794       | 69           | 1.2%         |
| 2008b  | 109    | 5,057       | 110          | 2.2%         |
| 2009a  | 124    | 4,321       | 240          | 5.6%         |
| 2009b  | 162    | 5,643       | 360          | 6.4%         |
| 2010a  | 180    | 6,874       | 342          | 5.0%         |
| 2010b  | 174    | 5,995       | 348          | 5.8%         |
| 2011a  | 208    | 6,067       | 234          | 3.9%         |
| 2011b  | 197    | 6,238       | 421          | 6.7%         |
| 2012a  | 207    | 6,540       | 163          | 2.5%         |
| 2012b  | 211    | 7,193       | 140          | 1.9%         |
| 2013a  | 203    | 7,406       | 287          | 3.9%         |
| 2013b  | 207    | 7,387       | 303          | 4.1%         |
| 2014a  | 221    | 7,717       | 242          | 3.1%         |
| 2014b  | 235    | 7,951       | 316          | 4.0%         |
| 2015a  | 254    | 8,550       | 506          | 5.9%         |
| 2015b  | 250    | 8,535       | 622          | 7.3%         |
| 2016a  | 240    | 7,541       | 1,092        | 14.5%        |
| 2016b  | 259    | 7,938       | 1,309        | 16.5%        |

The Central Region had the highest vacancy rate compared to the state rate of 11.1 percent. The vacancy rates for each region in Wyoming can be seen in Diagram 11.

**Diagram 11. Rental Vacancy Rates by Region December 2016 Rental Vacancy Survey Data**



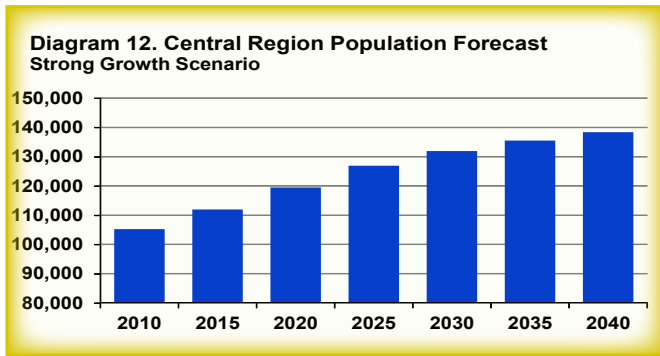
### Highlights...

- According to DOR data, the average home price in the Central Region was \$225,578 in 2015.
- The December 2016 rental vacancy survey revealed a vacancy rate of 16.5 percent, as compared to the state rate of 11.1 percent.

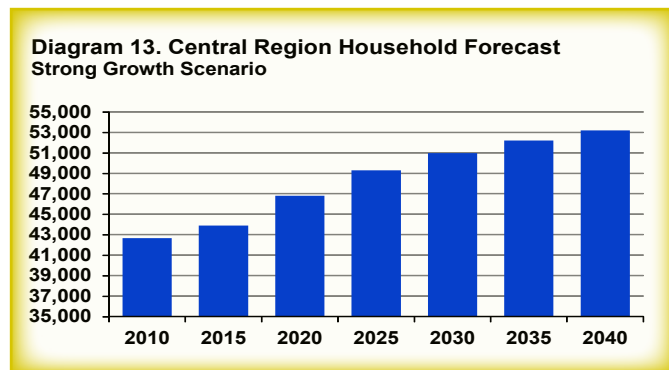
### WCDA Housing Needs Forecast

The 2016 Wyoming Housing Needs Forecast modeled three separate growth scenarios: moderate, strong, and very strong. Only the strong growth scenario is presented

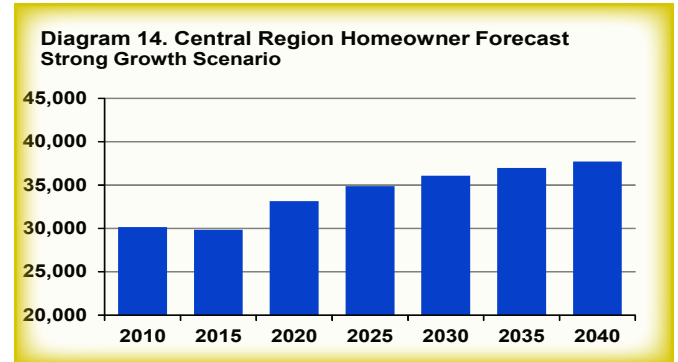
here. In the strong growth scenario, population is forecasted to increase at an average annual rate of 0.9 percent to 138,432 persons in 2040, as shown below.



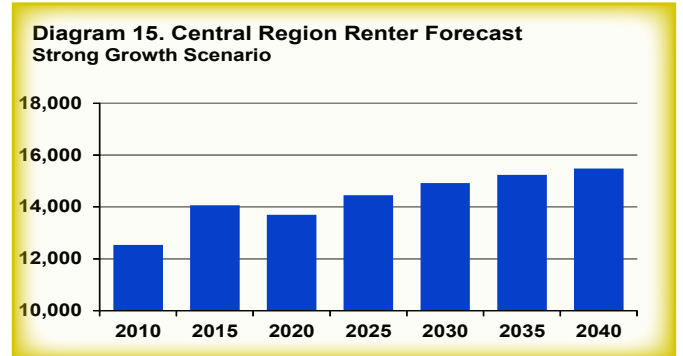
The Wyoming Housing Needs Forecast also modeled household formation, which was computed using forecasted values of persons per households and population. The strong growth scenario household formation forecast estimates an increase of 10,525 households between 2010 and 2040. This represents an increase of 24.7 percent from the 2010 level, or an average annual growth rate of 0.7 percent, as shown below.



The 2015 Wyoming Housing Needs Forecast separated forecasted households into owner- and renter-occupied households. Owner-occupied households were forecasted to increase from 30,143 households in 2010 to 37,722 households in 2040. This represents an increase of 7,579 owner-occupied households and an average annual growth rate of 0.8 percent, as shown in Diagram 14.



Renter-occupied households were forecasted to increase from 12,534 households in 2010 to 15,479 households in 2040. This represents an increase of 2,945 renter-occupied households and an average annual growth rate of 0.7 percent, as shown in Diagram 15.



*This regional summary was prepared for the Wyoming Housing Database Partnership. The complete 2016 Wyoming profile is available online on the WCDA website, [www.WyomingCDA.com](http://www.WyomingCDA.com).*

