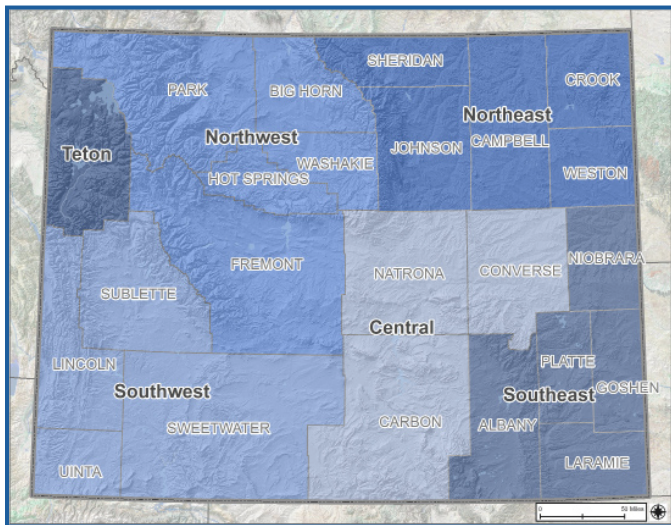


# Summary of the Southeast Region

## 2016 WYOMING PROFILE of Demographics, Economics, and Housing, Ending June 30, 2016

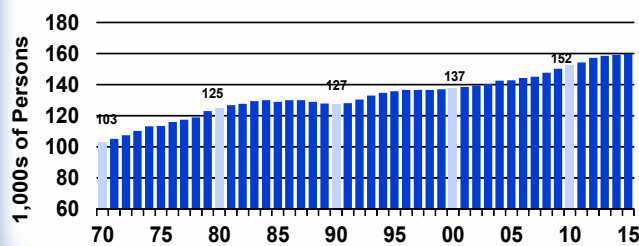
The **Wyoming Profile**, sponsored by the Wyoming Housing Database Partnership, is undertaken semi-annually to provide current, quality information about factors influencing the development, production, use, rehabilitation, demand, and need for **housing and related services** in Wyoming's communities.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



### Demographics

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, between 2000 and 2010, the Southeast Region's population rose from 137,373 to 152,437, or by 10.9 percent. Recent Census Bureau counts place the population of the Southeast Region at 159,814 as of July 1, 2015, which indicates a strong rate of growth of 4.8 percent since the 2010 Census. The growth in population can be attributed to the natural increase of the population, the net of births minus deaths, as well as the net migration. The changes in population in the Region are shown in Diagram 1.

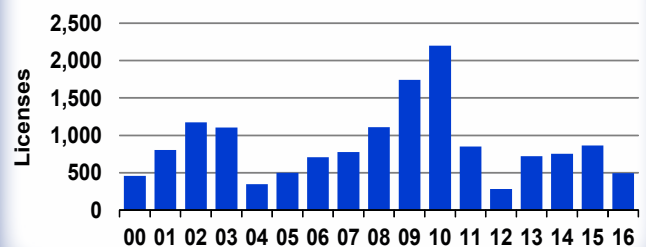
**Diagram 1. Southeast Region Population**  
1970–2015 Census Bureau Data



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

or departing residents to track changes in population. While the net of surrendered and exchanged driver's licenses fluctuated, there were substantial increases after 2004, with 2010 seeing 2,198 net in-migrants. However, in 2014 in-migration fell to 949 persons. Although, as of the first half of 2016, there is a net increase of 492. These data, shown in Diagram 2, also indicate that growth was moderate to strong in the Southeast Region until 2011, but is recovering.

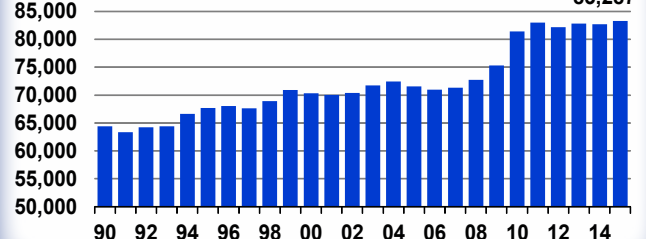
**Diagram 2. Southeast Region Migration**  
2000 – 2016: First Half WYDOT Data



### Economics

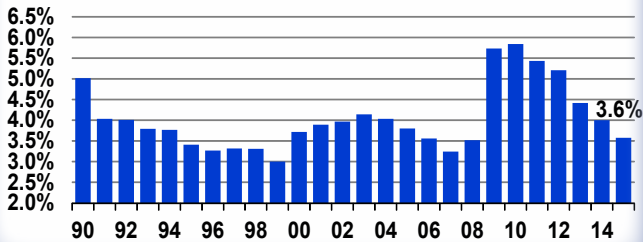
Economic growth in the region can be evaluated through labor force statistics data, which represent those persons working or seeking work as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The labor force in the Southeast Region expanded relatively modestly over the past 23 years at an average annual rate of 1.0 percent per year, as shown in Diagram 3. Between 2014 and 2015, the labor force increased by about 604 people. The number of persons working reached 80,305 in 2015.

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



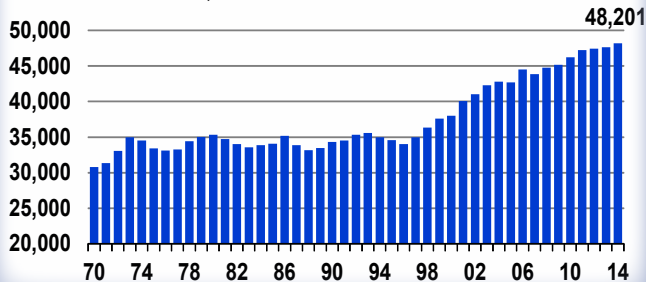
The national recession contributed to a rapid rise in unemployment between 2008 and 2010. Still, unemployment rates in the Southeast Region rose from 3.6 percent in 2008 to 5.8 percent in 2010, but fell to 3.6 percent in 2015, as noted in Diagram 4.

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



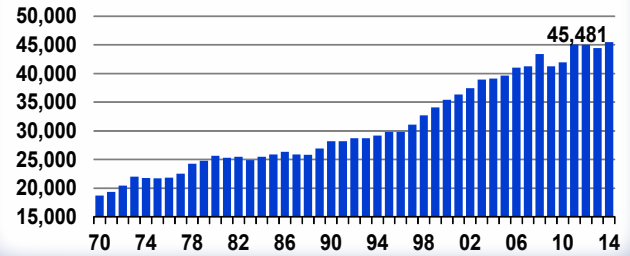
Low unemployment rates often cause upward wage pressure in the labor markets, and in turn, cause earnings to increase. In 1979, average earnings by place of work in the Southeast Region was \$34,478 in real 2013 dollars. This level of earnings remained steady until the late 1990's. Since 2010, earnings increased at an annual growth rate of 0.3 percent. As of 2013, the year for which the most recent data are available from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the earnings by place of work was \$47,376, shown in Diagram 5.

**Diagram 5. Southeast Region Average Earnings Per Job: 1970–2014 BEA Data, Real 2014 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. Real per capita income was about 10.4 percent higher than it was in 2010, and as of 2013, it stood at \$48,105, as shown in Diagram 6.

**Diagram 6. Southeast Region Per Capita Income 1970–2014 BEA Data, Real 2014 Dollars**



## Highlights...

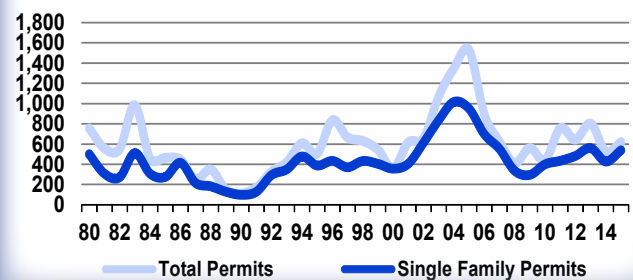
The population of the Southeast Region grew by 4.8 percent since the 2010 Census, to 159,814 persons.

The unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in 2015, higher than seen in 2008 but lower than in 2010.

## Housing

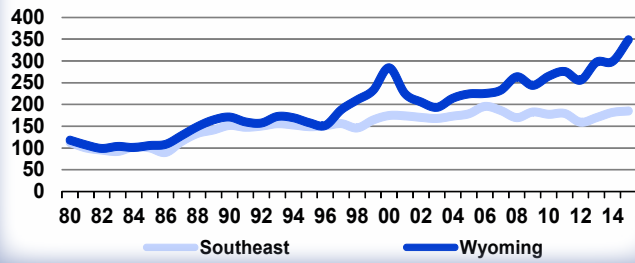
Consequences of economic change are often seen in the housing market. During the late 1970s, when incomes were increasing, there was a significant amount of housing construction in the Southeast Region. Like employment and income, the housing market fell sharply during the recession of the early 1980s; 1980 saw 756 total permits, of which about 500 were for single-family units, but by 1990 there were only 111 permits, 99 of which were for single-family units. The construction of single family units peaked in 2004 at 1,017 units. It then fell to about 296 units in 2009, fell to 439 in 2010, but rose to 539 in 2015, as shown in Diagram 7.

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



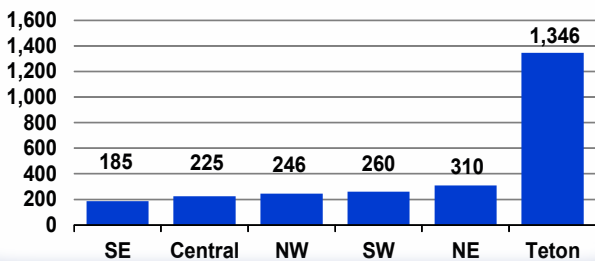
From 1980 to 2015, the real value of construction, representing only the cost of building the unit and not the land and lot costs, was stable in the region. The value in the Southeast Region stood at \$185,100 in 2015 while the statewide average was \$348,580, as noted in Diagram 8.

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



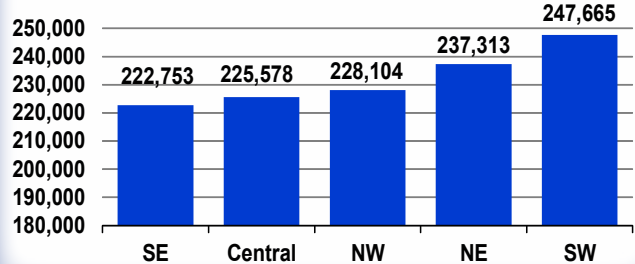
Still, the average real value of new construction in the Southeast Region was the lowest in the state, as shown in Diagram 9.

**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 Southeast Region had an average existing price of \$222,753 in 2015, which was the lowest compared to the regions in the state with the exception of the Teton Region, which is not shown but had an average price of \$1.4 million. In the Southeast Region, existing housing was more expensive than new construction.

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



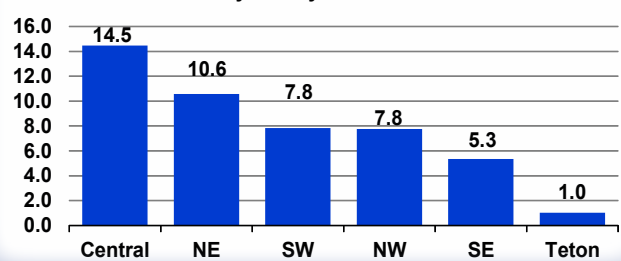
Every six months since 2001, the Wyoming Housing Database Partnership has conducted a survey of rental properties throughout the state. In June 2016, the survey covered 11,390 rental units in the Southeast Region. Data from this survey showed rental vacancy rates rose to 5.3 percent in the first half of 2016, as shown in Table 1.

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

Rental Vacancy Survey Data (a = December, b = June)				
Year	Sample	Total Units	Vacant Units	Vacancy Rate
2004b	88	4,912	212	4.3%
2005a	109	4,829	188	3.9%
2005b	105	6,442	348	5.4%
2006a	108	5,964	263	4.4%
2006b	147	6,941	321	4.6%
2007a	149	6,965	179	2.6%
2007b	159	7,720	193	2.5%
2008a	227	7,197	263	3.7%
2008b	278	7,100	313	4.4%
2009a	258	7,291	475	6.5%
2009b	326	6,769	312	4.6%
2010a	333	7,399	302	4.1%
2010b	325	7,842	319	4.1%
2011a	355	8,810	238	2.7%
2011b	368	8,788	285	3.2%
2012a	422	9,166	250	2.7%
2012b	439	10,103	272	2.7%
2013a	434	10,691	375	3.5%
2013b	454	12,201	637	5.2%
2014a	463	12,341	527	4.3%
2014b	502	11,547	603	5.2%
2015a	536	11,778	608	5.2%
2015b	452	11,441	587	5.1%
2016a	458	11,390	609	5.3%

The Southeast Region had the second lowest vacancy rate as compared to other regions in Wyoming, as shown in Diagram 11. The statewide vacancy rate was 8.6 percent.

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



## Highlights...

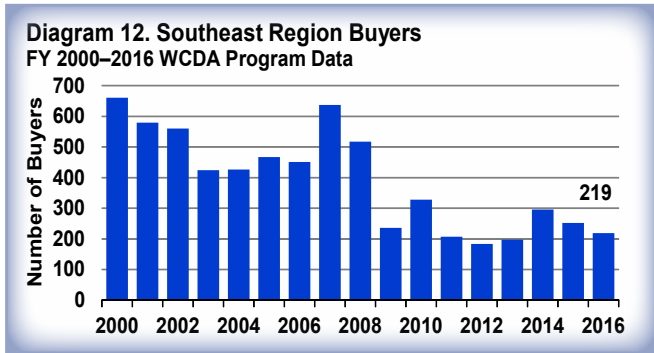
According to DOR data, the average home price in the Southeast Region was \$222,753 in 2015.

The June 2016 rental vacancy survey revealed a vacancy rate of 5.3 percent, as compared to the state rate of 8.6 percent.

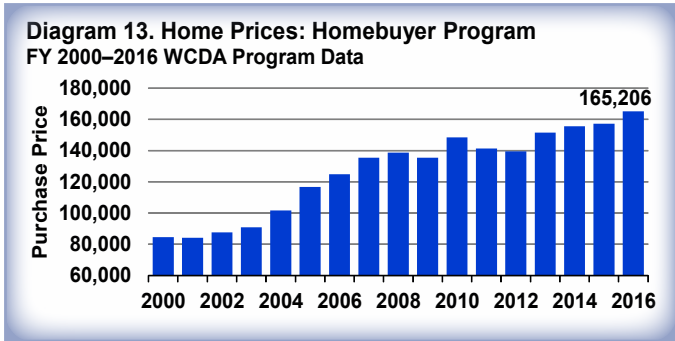
## WCDA Home Buyer Program

Since 1979, the Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA) has helped more than 50,000 householders become homeowners in Wyoming. From 2000 to 2016, the WCDA assisted between 100 and

600 Southeast Region householders per year with the purchase of their home through a homebuyer program. In Fiscal 2016, the WCDA programs served 219 participants, as shown below.

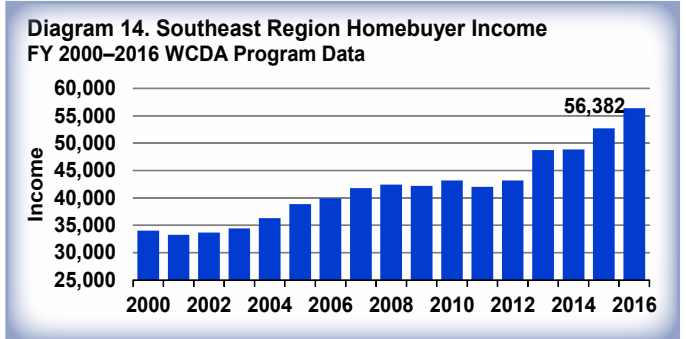


WCDA homebuyer programs provide assistance to firsttime and low-income homebuyers in a complicated housing market. From 2000 to 2016, the Southeast Region-wide average for all home sales as reported to the DOR by each county's tax assessor, rose 4.2 percent per year. However, prices of homes purchases by participants in WCDA homebuyer program increased by 4.3 percent per year from fiscal 2000 to 2016, as shown in Diagram 13.

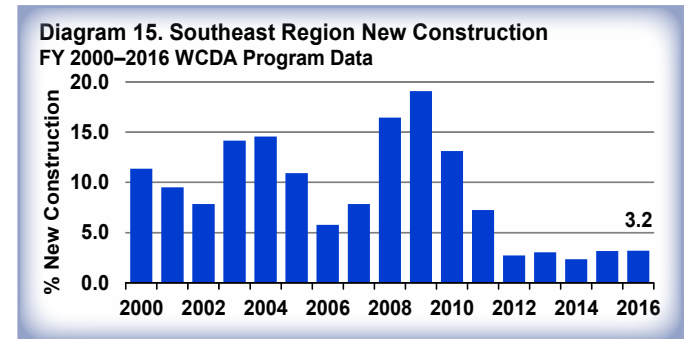


The need for the housing programs is very evident, as household incomes for participants in the programs have

not been keeping pace with increases in housing costs. The average household income for Southeast Region households participating in the WCDA homebuyer programs rose from \$34,012 in 2000 to \$56,382 in 2016, at an average increase of 3.2 percent per year, as noted in Diagram 14.



This is less than half as fast as the growth in housing prices. The WCDA increased its efforts to support the purchase of newly constructed affordable homes in Wyoming from 2000 to 2016. Consequently, the share of new construction purchased in the Northeast Region by WCDA homebuyer program participants was much higher in 2009 and 2010 than it was in the early 2000s; it rose from 7.9 percent in fiscal 2002 to 19.1 percent in 2009, though the most recent economic climate caused it to fall to 3.2 percent in 2016, 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).*



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