

POPULATION

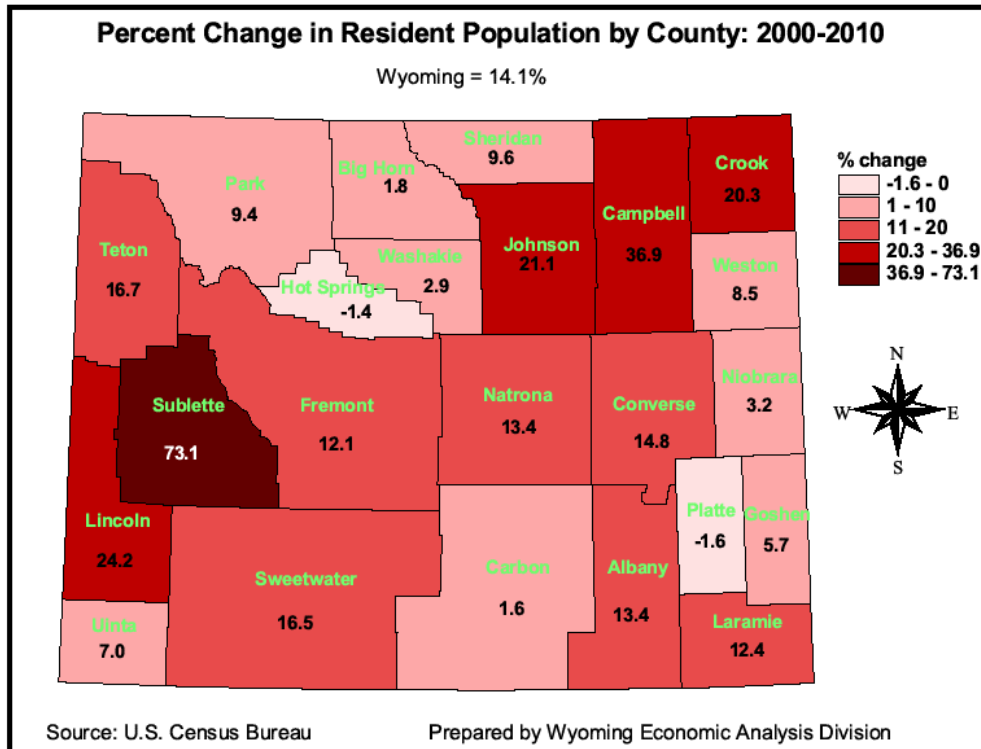
Introduction

How the town of Basin will change in the future depends a great deal on population numbers and characteristics such as age. Population change in immediately surrounding areas (such as within one mile of Basin) can also have a significant impact on the municipality, particularly if growth outside the town limits exerts pressure for annexation. At the current time residential development in a one-mile buffer area around Basin is relatively limited and scattered and is not included in the following analysis. This section examines historic trends as well as future population forecasts for the municipality of Basin, using data specific to the town of Basin wherever possible, supplemented with county-wide data.

Recent Trends

With a population of 1,285 per the 2010 census, Basin is the third largest municipality in Big Horn County. Lovell (population 2,360) is the largest and Greybull (population 1,847) is second largest.

Over the past 100 years, Basin's population peaked in 1980 at 1,349. Between 1980 and 1990, the population declined by 13% to 1,180 persons. Since 1990 population has been on a slow rise, with a net gain of 105 persons between 1990 and 2010.



Basin's growth in the past two decades has been steady; with increases of 4.9% between 1990 and 2000 and 3.8% between 2000 and 2010. By contrast, Big Horn County was more erratic, growing by nearly 10% between 1990 and 2000, and then slowing to 1.8% between 2000 and 2010. Big Horn County had

the fourth lowest population change of all Wyoming counties during the 2000-2010 decade. Basin's net gain of 47 persons between 2000 and 2010 accounted for nearly one-fourth of the total net population gain in Big Horn County.

Population change occurs in three ways – births, deaths, and movement in or out of the area of study. Referred to as “components of population change,” these statistics are collected annually as estimates and finalized with decennial census data every 10 years. The final counts for the 2010 census were not yet available at the time this report was written (Liu, 2011). Data are tracked by county. In the ten years from 2000 to 2009, natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for a cumulative increase of 88 persons. Net migration accounted for an additional 13 persons in the ten year period. There was significant net outmigration in the first four years (2000-2003), but in the last three years (2007-2009) there was positive net in-migration with annual estimates ranging from 78 to 132 persons.

Big Horn County: Components of Population Change 2000-2009											
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total 2000- 2009
Births	147	125	149	127	151	152	138	147	144	148	1,428
Deaths	133	138	137	104	122	143	141	149	156	117	1,340
Natural Increase	14	-13	12	23	29	9	-3	-2	-12	31	88
Net Migration	-33	-215	-59	-107	129	-51	30	132	78	109	13
Net gain/loss	-19	-228	-47	-84	158	-42	27	130	66	140	101
<i>Source: Wyoming Economic Analysis Division website accessed August 2011</i>											
Net Migration is defined as the difference between immigration and outmigration.											
Net Migration was derived by Wyoming Economic Analysis Division based on U.S. Census Bureau's population estimation and vital stats above.											

Age Characteristics

The distribution of ages within the population can make significant differences in the range of needed or desired public services. For example a community with a large number of children increases demand for public schools and recreation facilities such as playgrounds, ball fields, etc.

Proportionately, there are fewer young people and more old people in Basin, when compared to the county, the state, and the nation. Median age is the age at which half of the population is less than that age and half is older. In 2010, the median age in Basin was 46.4 years. Median age in the county was 41.8, in the state 36.8, and in the nation 35.4. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, 2010)

In Basin in 2010, approximately 20% of the total population was under the age of 18, compared to 24% 65 years or older. The trend has been for decreasing younger population and increasing older population. This is corroborated in part by recent trends in school enrollment. Enrollment in Big Horn

County School District #4, which includes Manderson and Basin, dropped from 363 students in 2003 to 300 in 2011. (Big Horn County School District #4, 2011)

2010 Population by Age Group for Basin and Big Horn County				
	Basin		Big Horn County	
	#	%	#	%
Total population	1,285	100.0	11,668	100.0
Under 5 years	70	5.4	787	6.7
5 to 9 years	70	5.4	804	6.9
10 to 14 years	71	5.5	871	7.5
15 to 19 years	74	5.8	823	7.1
20 to 24 years	60	4.7	545	4.7
25 to 29 years	86	6.7	595	5.1
30 to 34 years	59	4.6	578	5.0
35 to 39 years	53	4.1	606	5.2
40 to 44 years	79	6.1	639	5.5
45 to 49 years	80	6.2	795	6.8
50 to 54 years	91	7.1	835	7.2
55 to 59 years	94	7.3	880	7.5
60 to 64 years	85	6.6	802	6.9
65 to 69 years	75	5.8	666	5.7
70 to 74 years	79	6.1	519	4.4
75 to 79 years	59	4.6	375	3.2
80 to 84 years	51	4.0	296	2.5
85 to 89 years	32	2.5	157	1.3
90 years and over	17	1.3	95	0.8
Under 18 years	258	20.1	3013	25.8
65 years and over	313	24.4	2108	18.1
Median age (years)	46.4		41.8	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

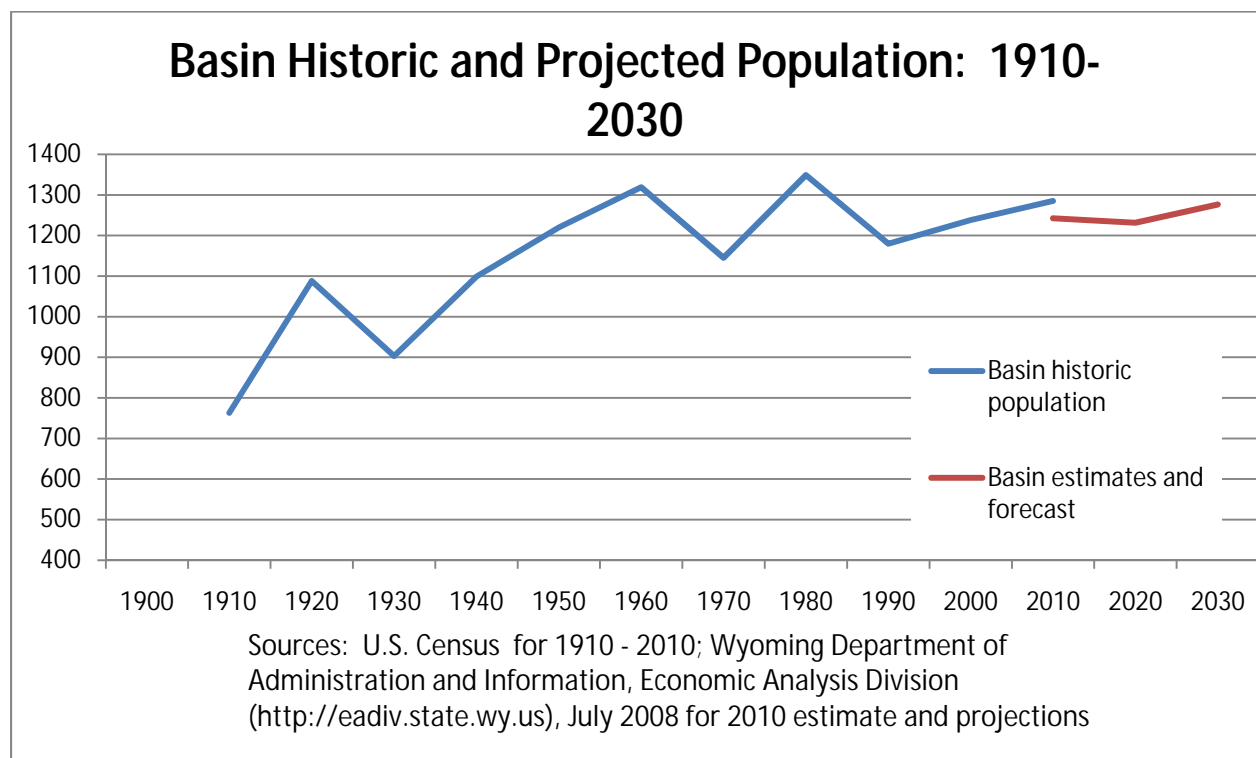
2010 Census Summary File 1, Tables P12, P13, and PCT12.

Population Projections

Projections indicate Basin's population will grow slightly. Projections prepared by the Wyoming Economic Analysis Division have not yet been updated with 2010 census data. The estimates through 2010 were lower than the actual 2010 count. In 2008, when the projections were last updated, the Division estimated Basin's population in 2010 at 1,242. The actual 2010 census count was 1,285. The Division projected a slight population increase of about 34 people between 2010 and 2030. The "Town

of Basin Community Assessment” released in July 2011 by the Wyoming Rural Development Council included population projections through 2016, and an estimated future population of 1,346 by that time. Based on the 2010 census, the Wyoming Economic Analysis Division’s projections are too low (by about 40 persons for 2010) and the Wyoming Rural Development’s projections may be too high (by about 30 persons when comparing their 2011 estimate to the 2010 census actual). Both projections, however, do anticipate population growth in Basin. (Wyoming Economic Analysis Division, 2008) (Wyoming Rural Development Council, 2011)

Projections from both sources indicate that the proportion of persons age 65 and older will increase in relation to the overall population. The Wyoming Economic Analysis Division estimated that this group would comprise 21.4% of the total Big Horn County population in 2030, whereas it comprised 18.1% in 2010. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, 2010) (Wyoming Economic Analysis Division, 2008) Both the Wyoming Rural Development Council and Wyoming Economic Analysis Division indicate that the proportion of persons under the age of 18 will remain relatively static between 2010 and 2030.



Conclusions

Basin has had a relatively slow and steady population increase over the past 20 years, at a time when other places, including Big Horn County, had more erratic population changes. Basin has a much higher proportion of residents 65 years and older compared to the county, state, and nation; and the older age

group will continue to increase in the future. The aging population is a nation-wide trend and one with implications for housing, transportation, and medical care to name a few. Although actual population numbers can differ from forecasts depending on unique and unforeseen circumstances, current estimates indicate future population growth in Basin. Estimates (which could be low) indicate significant positive net in-migration to the county over the last three years, reversing a trend of outmigration from 2000 to 2005. Based on trends from the last two decades, net population increases of 50 to 70 persons per decade are likely.

Sources Cited:

Big Horn County School District #4. (2011). *Report Card and Strategic Initiative 2010-2011*.

Liu, W. (2011, August). Senior Economist, Wyoming Economic Analysis Division. (A. Cossitt, Interviewer)

U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census. (2010). *American FactFinder*. Retrieved July and August 2011, from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

Wyoming Economic Analysis Division. (2008, July). *Population for Wyoming, Counties, Cities, and Towns: 2000 to 2030*. Retrieved July-August 2011, from <http://eadiv.state.wy.us/pop/wyc&sc30.htm>

Wyoming Economic Analysis Division. (2008, July 11). *Wyoming and County Population Projections by Age: 2008 TO 2030*. Retrieved August 2011, from http://eadiv.state.wy.us/pop/AGEPROJ_2030.htm

Wyoming Rural Development Council. (2011, July). *Town of Basin Community Assessment 2011*. Retrieved July-August 2011, from www.wyomingbusiness.org