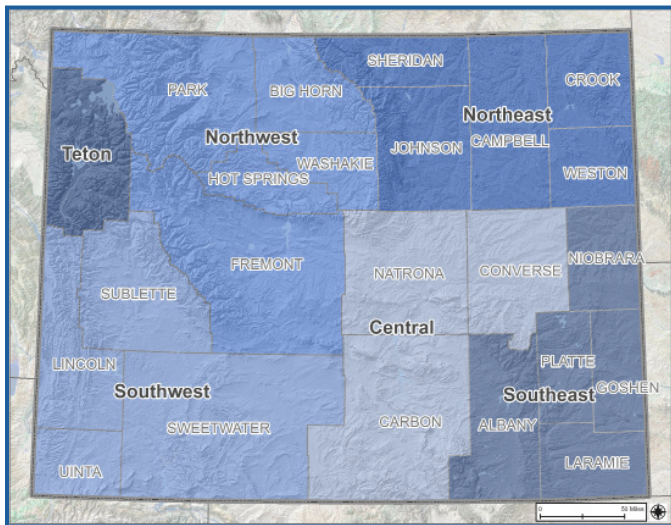


# Summary of the Central Region

## 2018 WYOMING PROFILE of Demographics, Economics, and Housing, Ending December 31, 2018

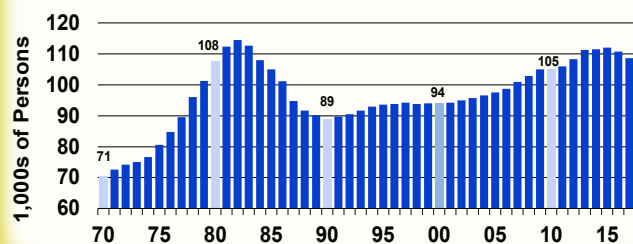
The **Wyoming Profile**, sponsored by the Wyoming Housing Database Partnership, is undertaken semi-annually to provide current, quality information about factors influencing the development, production, use, rehabilitation, demand, and need for **housing and related services** in Wyoming's communities. **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 108,659 as of July 1, 2017, which indicates an increase of 3.3 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.

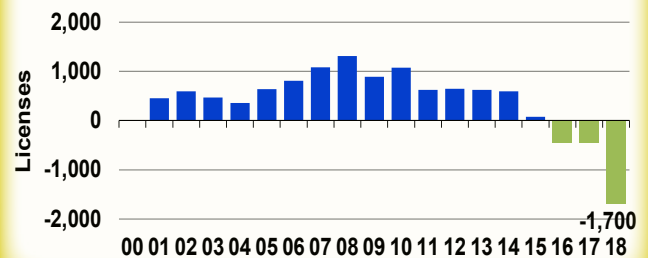
**Diagram 1. Central Region Population**  
1970–2017 Census Bureau Data



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 2010 totaling 1,073 persons with 2018 representing a decrease of 1,700 persons, as shown in the chart below.

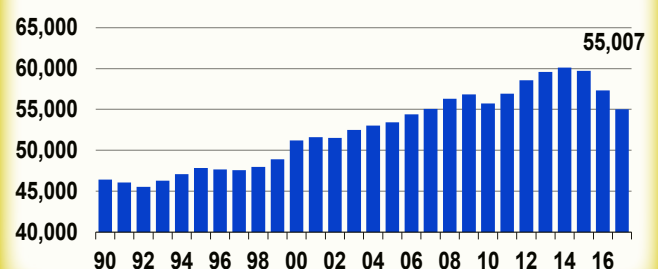
**Diagram 2. Central Region Migration**  
2000 – 2018: WYDOT Data



### Economics

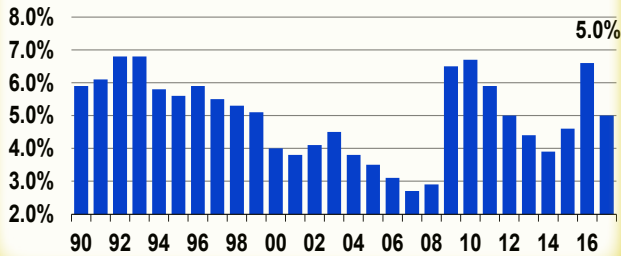
Economic growth in the region can be examined through labor force statistics. The labor force represents those persons working or seeking work, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). From 1990 to 2017, the labor force in the Central Region expanded relatively modestly at an average annual rate of 0.6 percent per year, as shown in Diagram 3. However, between 2016 and 2017, the labor force decreased by 4.0 percent to a level of 55,007 persons. The number of persons working also was 52,259 persons in 2017.

**Diagram 3. Central Region Labor Force**  
1990–2017 BLS Data



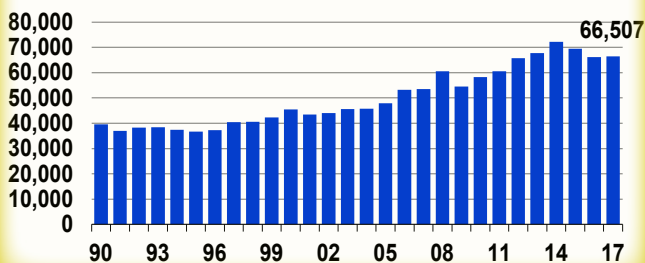
The national recession contributed to a rapid rise in unemployment between 2008 and 2010. Still, unemployment rates for the Central Region decreased in 2017 to 5.0 percent or by 1.6 percentage points since 2016, as shown in Diagram 4.

**Diagram 4. Central Region Unemployment Rate 1990–2017 BLS Data**



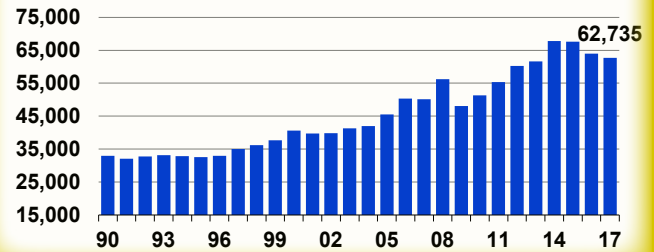
Low unemployment rates often cause upward wage pressure in the labor markets, and in turn, cause earnings to increase. In 1990, average earnings by place of work in the Central Region was \$39,532 in real 2017 dollars. Unfortunately, this level of earnings was not sustained, and the average declined. However, since 1990, earnings increased at an annual growth rate of 2.6 percent. As of 2017, 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 \$66,507, shown in Diagram 5.

**Diagram 5. Central Region Average Earnings Per Job: 1990–2017 BEA Data, Real 2017 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 2017 was \$62,735 and was roughly 24.8 percent higher than it was in 2010, as shown in Diagram 6, but still lower than seen in 2008.

**Diagram 6. Central Region Per Capita Income 1990–2017 BEA Data, Real 2017 Dollars**



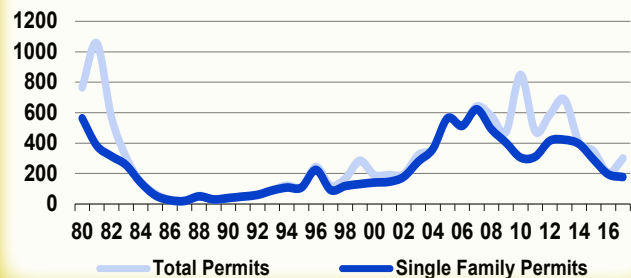
## Highlights...

- The population of the Central Region grew by 3.3 percent from 2010 to July 1, 2017, to 108,659.
- The unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in 2017, which compared to the state rate of 4.2 percent.

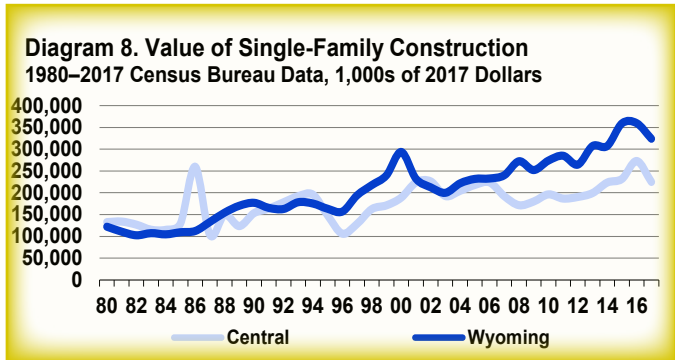
## Housing

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 177 in 2017, as shown in Diagram 7.

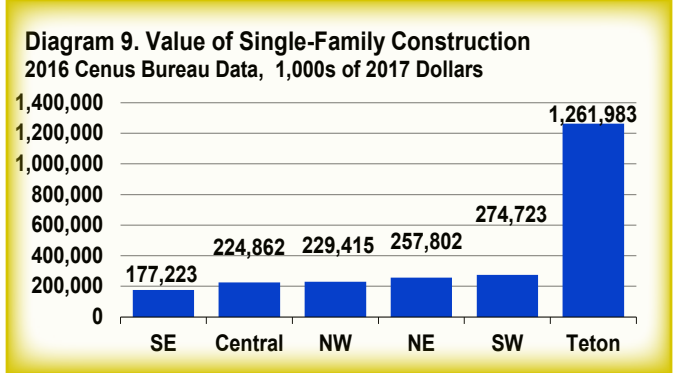
**Diagram 7. Central Region Residential Permits 1980–2017 Census Bureau Data**



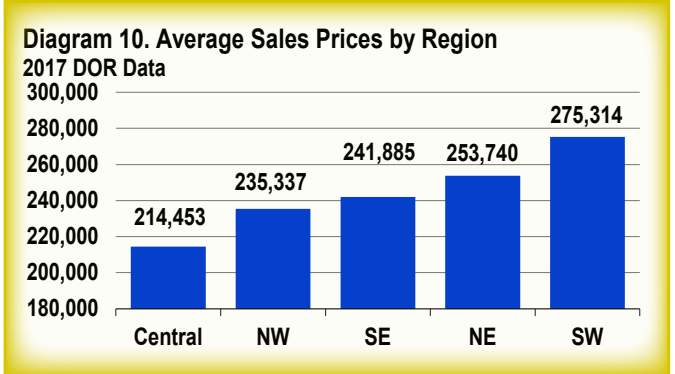
From 1980 to 2017 the real value of construction, representing only the cost of building the unit and not the land and infrastructure, increased in the Central Region and in Wyoming, with the statewide average rising to \$324,025 and the Central Region's average rising to \$224,862 in 2017, as shown in Diagram 8.



Still the average real value of new construction in the Central region was the second lowest of all regions in the state in 2017, as shown in Diagram 9.



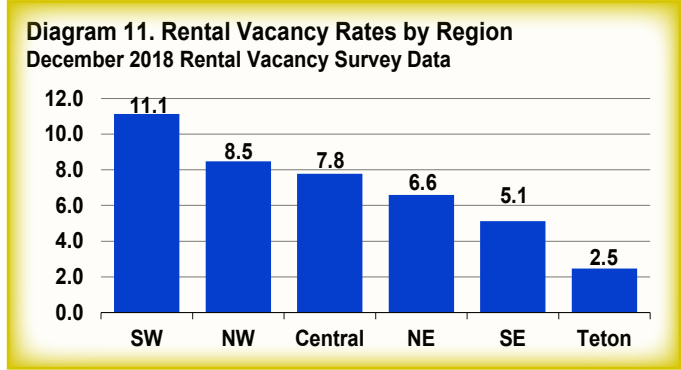
County tax assessors in Wyoming report housing prices for existing homes sold on 10 acres or less throughout the state to the Wyoming Department of Revenue (DOR). As shown in Diagram 10, the Central Region had an average existing price of \$214,456 in 2017, which was the lowest of all other regions in the state; the Teton Region, which is not shown, had an average price of \$1.85 million. In the Central Region, existing housing had lower values than did new construction.



Every six months since 2001, the Wyoming Housing Database Partnership has conducted a survey of rental properties throughout the state. By December 2018, the survey covered 6,522 rental units in the Central Region. Rental vacancy rates decreased to 7.8 percent in the second half of 2018 from 8.1 percent in the first half of 2018, 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
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%
2017a	250	7,199	908	12.6%
2017b	202	6,465	599	9.3%
2018a	252	7,756	632	8.1%
2018b	214	6,522	508	7.8%

The Central Region had the third highest vacancy rate and compared to the state rate of 7.0 percent. The vacancy rates for each region in Wyoming can be seen in Diagram 11.



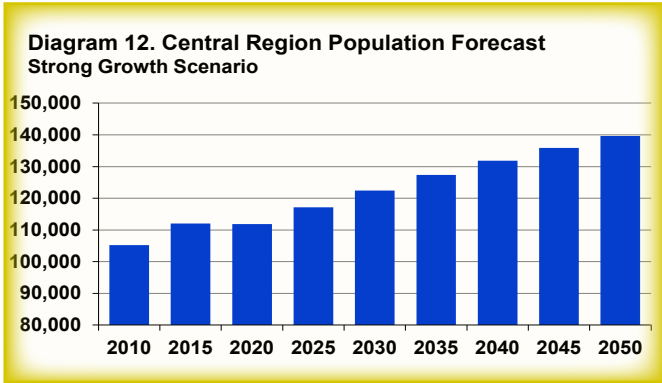
### Highlights...

- According to DOR data, the average home price in the Central Region was \$214,453 in 2017.
- The December 2018 rental vacancy survey revealed a vacancy rate of 7.8 percent, as compared to the state rate of 7.0 percent.

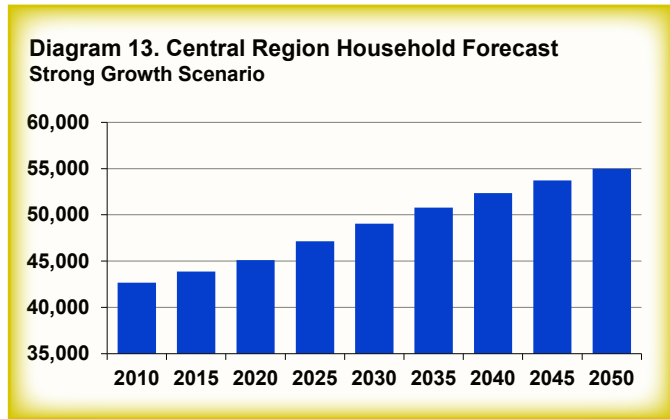
### WCDA Housing Needs Forecast

The 2018 Wyoming Housing Needs Forecast modeled three separate growth scenarios: moderate, strong, and very strong. Only the strong growth scenario is presented

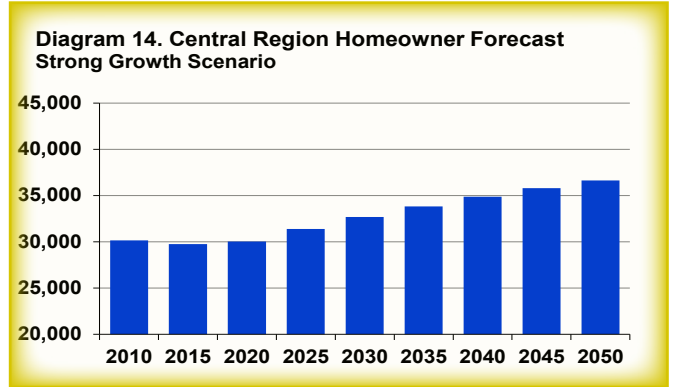
here. In the strong growth scenario, population is forecasted to increase at an average annual rate of 0.7 percent to 139,602 persons in 2050, as shown below.



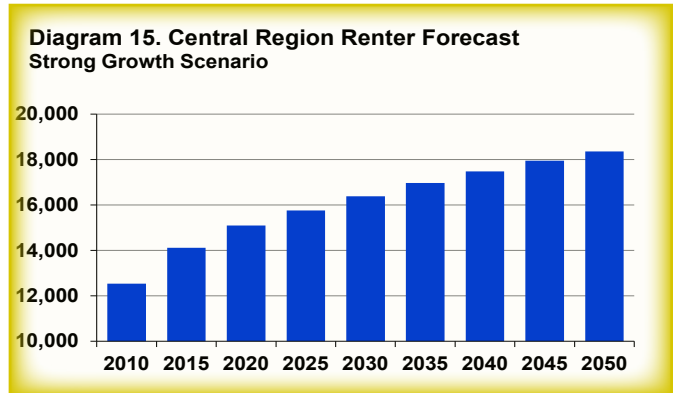
The Wyoming Housing Needs Forecast also modeled household formation, which was computed using forecasted values of persons per households and population. The strong growth scenario household formation forecast estimates an increase of 9,671 households between 2010 and 2050. This represents an increase of 22.7 percent from the 2010 level, or an average annual growth rate of 0.7 percent, as shown below.



The 2017 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 36,640 households in 2050. This represents an increase of 6,497 owner-occupied households and an average annual growth rate of 0.5 percent, as shown in Diagram 14.



Renter-occupied households were forecasted to increase from 12,534 households in 2010 to 18,358 households in 2050. This represents an increase of 5,824 renter-occupied households and an average annual growth rate of 1.3 percent, as shown in Diagram 15.



*This regional summary was prepared for the Wyoming Housing Database Partnership. The complete 2018 Wyoming profile is available online on the WCDA website, [www.WyomingCDA.com](http://www.WyomingCDA.com).*

