



# A Report to Our Citizens

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A Statewide Elected Office established in the Wyoming Constitution at Statehood



Baby Bison

## Wyoming’s Leaders are working for:

- efficient, effective state government that improves services while holding down costs and size;
- economic growth to provide jobs and opportunities that will improve lives,
- environmental conservation that will be a legacy for the future, and
- strong communities that will continue to be great places for all our citizens to live and work.



### Plans

- A state energy strategy (scheduled for Spring 2013 release)
- Health care options tailored to Wyoming’s needs and characteristics
- Business recruitment efforts
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiatives like the University of Wyoming’s Mt. Moran and the Tier I Engineering School

## Demographic Information

	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012
Population	564,460	568,158
Per Capita Income	\$44,861	\$47,898
Visitors to State Parks and Historic Site	2,961,707	2,847,456
Public School Enrollment	87,420	89,476
State Government Employees	10,178	9,442
Unemployment Rate	7.0%	6.0%

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# Wyoming’s Progress In Fiscal Year 2012

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**Energy:** Wyoming has major coal, natural gas, oil, and uranium reserves and is a major producer of all these resources. Our state also has world-class wind energy resources and we expect to be home to the nation’s largest wind project (up to 1000 turbines) in the near future. We support research and development for the advanced energy technologies that will lead to

more products and more uses. The energy industry is Wyoming’s top industry, followed by tourism and agriculture, as our number two and three industries respectively. Many jobs, direct and indirect, and revenue for schools, communities and other beneficial purposes derive from our energy industry. We are rightly proud of our energy resources and our energy sector. We know that to promote energy development, while

at the same time protecting the environment and all its beauty and diversity, we need a thoughtful and forward-looking energy strategy. Having identified the need, in 2012, the Governor’s office with broad public input undertook developing such a strategy. With the Legislature’s help, the strategy will become an action plan for energy developments balanced with conservation.

**Environment:** Wyoming’s energy strategy emphasizes a balance between development of energy and stewardship of our natural resources. Reclamation and mitigation of land disturbances as a result of development constitute one of the four guiding principles of the strategy.

Wyoming supports the largest number of sage grouse within the range of the species, and our state is a leader in the conservation of sage

grouse. The Governor’s sage grouse core area strategy (Executive Order 2011-5) continues to serve as a model for sage grouse conservation among other state and federal jurisdictions.

In 2012, the gray wolf in Wyoming was removed from the Endangered Species List, returning wolves to State management. Wyoming held its first regulated wolf hunt this year.

The State has contributed to the acquisition of conservation ease-

ments, partnering with private land trusts in the State. These easements provided protections for sage grouse and other wildlife species while preserving open space, agriculture, and an important way of life for many private landowners. The State also continues to support the important work of the Wildlife Natural Resource Trust, which among other things illustrates the value of balance.

**Communities:** Wyoming is only as healthy as its component parts. Every goal and aspiration we hold for state government must, by definition, be our vision for local

government. Local government funding, especially for infrastructure and major maintenance, gets special attention. Recognizing, as does our Legislature, the importance of vibrant counties, cities, and towns,

this year like last year the State has supported funding for local governments and infrastructure projects. Our communities and Wyoming’s citizens are our strengths.

## Information

**Technology (IT):** The State of Wyoming has consolidated common IT services to the new Department of Enterprise Technology Services and has moved to a collaborative communication system through Google Apps for Government over the last year. A

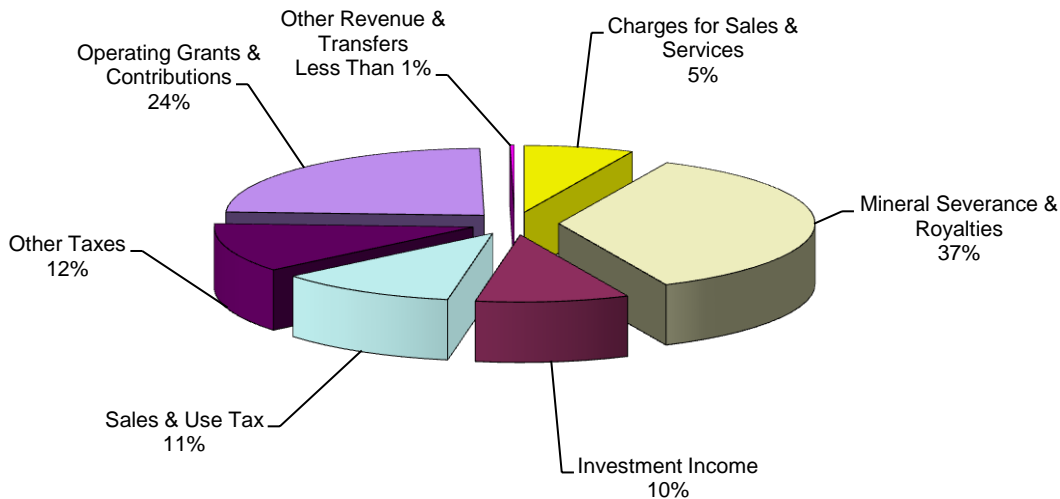
government cloud solution has been implemented, dramatically reducing the number of physical servers (often saving thousands of dollars) in use throughout State agencies, enhancing security and managing growth efficiently. Efforts are underway to move to a Unified Network for public school and State use. Combining network resources increases reliability, reduces

duplication and delivers higher bandwidth at less cost. Further, Wyoming is welcoming the construction of a new Microsoft data center, joining the just opened NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center in Cheyenne. Tech businesses are popping up all around the state and in 2012 Wyoming was ranked second as an emerging data center hub.

# Wyoming’s Finances: Revenues and Expenses

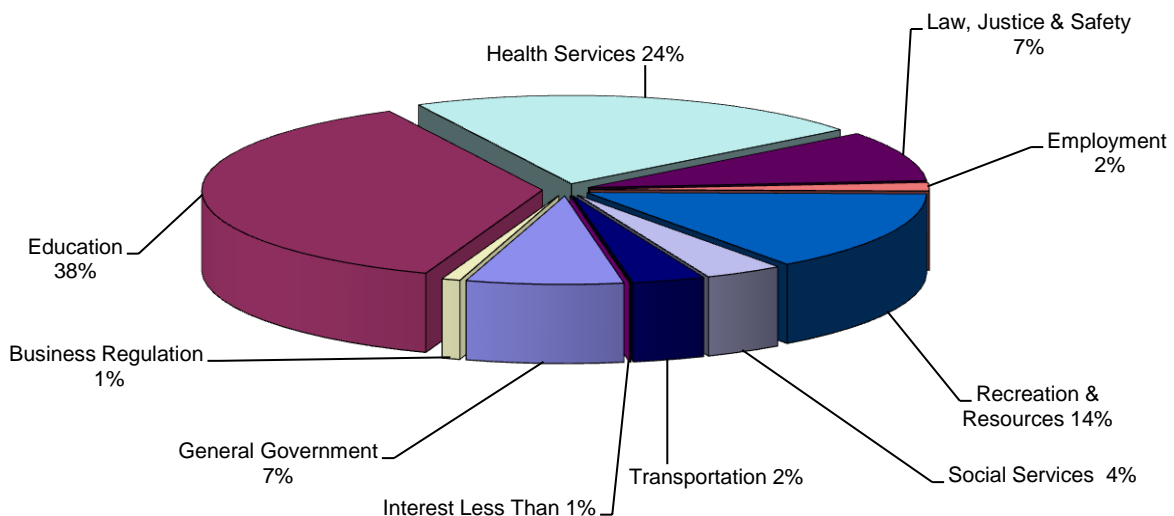
## Primary Government Sources of Revenues

FY 2012 Revenues by Source



## Primary Government Functional Expenses

FY 2012 Expenses by Function



*An independent audit of the State’s financial statements resulted in an unqualified audit opinion, which is best possible audit opinion. Financial information in this report is derived from Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) data in the State’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report prepared by the State Auditor’s Office. To see the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, visit: <http://sao.state.wy.us>.*

## 2013 and Beyond Challenges and Opportunities

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### Wyoming’s Elected Officials

Governor:  
Matthew H. Mead

Secretary of State:  
Max Maxfield

State Auditor:  
Cynthia I. Cloud

State Treasurer:  
Mark Gordon

Superintendent of Public  
Instruction:  
Cindy Hill

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**Thank you, Governor  
Mead, for contributing  
information contained  
in this report.**



Photos courtesy of Vince Meyer

We are fortunate in Wyoming to have a wealth of resources. These resources include not only energy resources like oil, gas, coal and uranium but also treasures of nature like wildlife, clean air, clean water, and amazing sites, views, and open spaces. The beauty of our geography, the hospitality of our people, our vibrant communities, and the recreational activities available - all contribute to the strength of our state. It is easy to see why Wyoming attracts so many visitors from near and far.

We are proud of our frontier heritage, which is deeply rooted in agriculture. Our farms and ranches, about 11,000 of them, contribute a billion dollars annually to the economy. More than money, though, they provide the outdoor experience – the look, feel, and use of the land – that we love about Wyoming and want to pass along to future generations. We are responsible stewards and thankful for the many benefits we enjoy as Wyoming residents.

We are, by our nature and our history, fiscally disciplined folks. We have a budget and it is always a balanced one. We do not outspend our revenue. We have earned a AAA Bond Rating, Standard & Poor’s highest, largely due to our conservative budgeting and conservative forecasting.

Wyoming is on solid ground. During the recession and now, our state unemployment rate has remained far below the national rate. We have a beneficial tax structure, a business friendly climate, and a growing economy. But we are not an island. We are affected by what happens elsewhere. Indeed, events elsewhere present the most significant challenges to our state going forward. A few examples are illustrative. The national debt and deficit will affect us as long as the federal government does not solve the problems created by them. In addition, federal regulators seem to have a tenuous grasp on the details of the Affordable Care Act, fashioning them as they go along. This creates not just the uncertainty about what comes next but also the certainty that this massive new federal health care program will be costly for our nation and our state. Federal funds for highways and in other areas are also expected to be less in the future.

Wherever challenges come from, as a state, we must confront them ... and we will. We will see challenges as opportunities to find the solutions that are right for Wyoming. We understand our infrastructure needs – highway maintenance, aging landfills, water development projects, for example – and we will find the appropriate funding mechanisms. We understand that our state, which is geographically large and predominantly rural, with a small widely dispersed population, has unique health care needs. We will continue to look for ways, tailored to our state, to provide health care access for all our citizens. We have the funding for education at every level; now we must look for results that match our investment in grades K-12 and seek a long-term path towards educational excellence.

We see the opportunities for both energy development and environmental conservation and have put together an energy strategy to advance them. Given our cool climate, abundant electricity, and space availability, Wyoming is making a name for itself in the technology area. We expect to build on recent successes and keep after our objective – economic diversification. We see the value in developing a Tier I Engineering School and integrating that program with the NCAR supercomputer, Mt. Moran computer at the University of Wyoming, and other STEM initiatives, and we are pursuing those initiatives. Our state is positive about future prospects and positively working hard to achieve them.