

3.5 Economic Base

3.5.1 Employment

Energy resource development since 1970 has resulted in substantial economic expansion across the PRB. Total employment has expanded by 156 percent as 38,948 net new jobs were added (**Table 3-6**). The most rapid expansion occurred between 1975 and 1980 through the addition of 16,420 new jobs. More modest growth and even some declines occurred through the 1980s and into the mid-1990s due to the curtailment of development plans and the shutdown of a number of coal enhancement, uranium, and other anticipated projects. Led by increases in coal mine employment, including subcontractors, and CBNG development, growth resumed in the late 1990s. Across the six-county area, total employment was 63,871 in 2002.

Table 3-6
Total Employment by County (1970 – 2022)

Year	County						Six-county Area ¹
	Campbell	Converse	Crook	Johnson	Sheridan	Weston	
1970	6,026	2,763	2,084	2,640	8,460	2,950	24,923
1975	8,661	4,392	2,383	3,101	9,806	3,466	31,809
1980	16,904	7,729	2,909	3,757	12,727	4,203	48,229
1985	21,563	6,799	3,145	3,626	12,760	4,222	52,115
1990	18,735	5,887	3,005	3,825	13,181	4,433	49,066
1995	20,207	6,568	3,482	4,299	15,351	4,531	54,538
2000	23,441	7,088	3,671	4,886	16,586	4,841	60,513
2002	25,453	7,086	3,756	5,133	17,512	4,931	63,871
Absolute Change							
1970 to 1985	15,537	4,036	1,061	986	4,300	1,272	27,192
1985 to 2002	3,890	287	611	1,507	4,752	709	11,756
Total 1970 to 2002	19,427	4,323	1,672	2,493	9,052	1,981	38,948
CAGR ² 1970 to 2002 (percent)	4.6	3.0	1.9	2.1	2.3	1.6	3.0

¹Includes Campbell, Converse, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties.

²CAGR = Compounded Annual Growth Rate

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2004.

Nearly half of the net job gain has occurred in Campbell County, where total employment increased from 6,026 jobs in 1970 to 25,453 jobs in 2002. Strong gains also were posted in Sheridan County (9,052 jobs) and Converse county (4,323 jobs). Unlike the other four counties, job gains in Johnson and Sheridan counties since 1985 were larger than those between 1970 and 1985.

Gains in mining, including conventional oil and gas, and construction were the forces driving employment growth in the late 1970s and early 1980s (**Figure 3-21**). The economic stimulus associated with those gains and the population gains that accompanied the growth triggered secondary job gains in trade, services, and government.

Employment in trade, services, and government continued to grow into the 1990s, despite sharp cutbacks in the mining (oil and gas) and construction industries. Those industries have experienced a resurgence since 1999, lead by CBNG development and expansion in the coal mining sector, and the indirect impacts on construction.

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CAGR ² 1970 to 2002 (percent)	4.6	3.0	1.9	2.1	2.3	1.6	3.0

¹Includes Campbell, Converse, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties.

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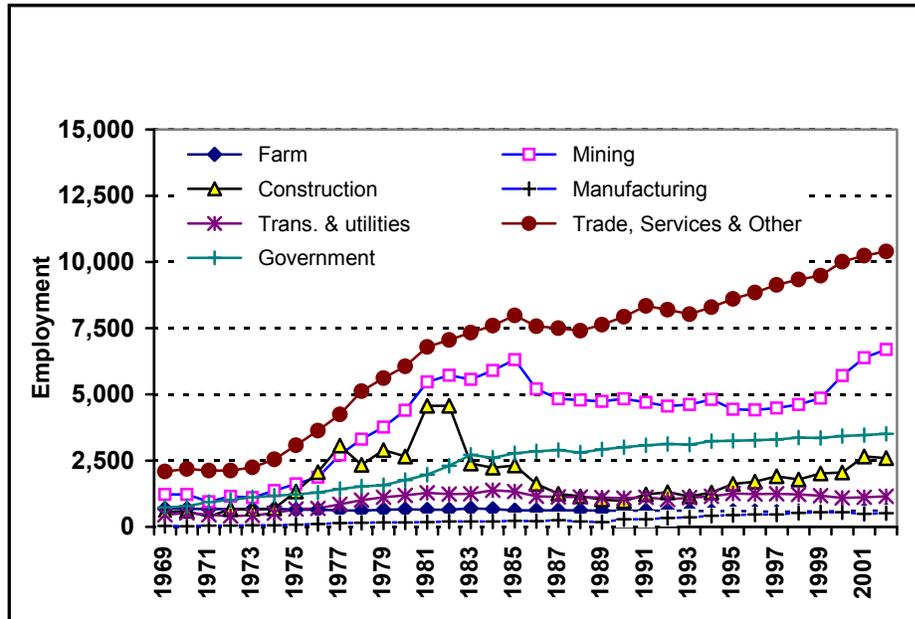
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2004.

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Employment in trade, services, and government continued to grow into the 1990s, despite sharp cutbacks in the mining (oil and gas) and construction industries. Those industries have experienced a resurgence since 1999, lead by CBNG development and expansion in the coal mining sector, and the indirect impacts on construction.

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Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2004.

Figure 3-21 Employment by Major Industrial Sector in the PRB (1969 to 2002)

The gains in trade, services, and government reflect not only responses to the gains in basic industrial activity and consumer household expenditures, but also underlying structural changes in the broader domestic economy where trade and services have been among the strongest growth sectors. As a consequence, the region's economic composition is substantially different than was anticipated in 1979. Trade and services were collectively referred to as business and consumer services in the 1979 analysis. At that time, employment in such services was anticipated to account for 46.5 percent of the 1990 employment, followed by mining at 19.1 percent and government at 18.7 percent (**Table 3-7**). In actuality, by 1990, business and consumer services accounted for 50.8 percent of jobs, while mining and government accounted for 11.6 percent and 16.5 percent of all jobs, respectively. Additional information regarding employment by major industrial sector is presented in **Table S-3** in the Appendix of this report.

Business and consumer service employment growth has continued such that its relative share had increased to 55.5 percent in 2002, while the relative shares accounted for by mining and government had declined.

Another important difference between the projected and actual composition of employment is in transportation. The 1979 projections anticipated relatively modest employment in transportation and utilities. In actuality, total employment in these categories stood at 5,256 in 1990 and 5,416 in 2000.

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Table 3-7
Employment by Industrial Sector in Eight-county Area¹

Sector	1979 Prediction for 1990	Actual			
		1990	1995	2000	2002
Number of Employees					
Business/Consumer Services	31,319	45,147	51,101	56,311	61,937
Mining	12,882	10,281	9,317	10,740	11,949
Government	12,646	14,671	15,460	16,167	16,217
Construction	4,843	5,109	6,219	7,925	9,081
Manufacturing,	3,337	3,475	3,760	3,841	3,282
Agriculture	1,698	4,964	5,360	5,791	5,256
Transportation and Utilities	660	5,256	5,476	5,416	3,926
Total	67,457	88,903	96,693	106,191	111,648
Percent of Total					
Business/Consumer Services	46.5	50.8	52.8	53.0	55.5
Mining	19.1	11.6	9.6	10.1	10.7
Government	18.7	16.5	16.0	15.2	14.5
Construction	7.2	5.7	6.4	7.5	8.1
Manufacturing	4.9	3.9	3.9	3.6	2.9
Agricultural	2.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	4.7
Transportation and Utilities	1.0	5.9	5.7	5.1	3.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100

¹Includes Campbell, Converse, Crook, Johnson, Niobrara, Natrona, Sheridan, and Weston counties, per SCTABLE6.WY of the 1996 Coal Development Status Check (BLM 1996).

Sources: BLM 1996; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2004; Wyoming Department of Employment 2004 (with estimates by Sammons/Dutton LLC).

Other economic parameters also can be used to describe economic conditions in the PRB (Table 3-8).

Table 3-8
Employment by Type and Type of Establishment (2002)

	County					
	Campbell	Converse	Crook	Johnson	Sheridan	Weston
Total Employment	25,453	7,086	3,756	5,133	17,512	4,931
Employment by Type						
Wage and Salary	22,978	5,104	2,297	3,251	12,821	2,612
Proprietors	2,475	1,982	1,459	1,882	4,691	2,319
Wage and Salary (percent)	90	72	61	63	73	53
Proprietors (percent)	10	28	39	37	27	47
Type of Establishment						
Farm	618	456	613	466	781	304
Non-farm Private	21,328	5,303	2,452	3,774	13,635	3,871
Government	3,507	1,327	691	893	3,096	756
Farm (percent)	2	6	16	9	4	6
Non-farm Private (percent)	84	75	65	74	78	79
Government (percent)	14	19	18	17	18	15

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2004.

- The majority of all jobs in Campbell County are wage and salary positions, with proprietors accounting for 10 percent of the total reported jobs. In contrast, proprietors account for between 27 and 47 percent of all jobs in the other counties.

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- Farms, ranches, and related agricultural industries, including landscaping and nurseries, still employ a sizeable number of individuals in all six counties, ranging from 304 jobs in Weston County to 781 jobs in Sheridan County.
- Broadly defined, farm employment accounts for about 2 percent of all jobs in Campbell County and 16 percent of all jobs in Crook County.
- Government accounts for between 14 and 18 percent of all jobs among the counties in the PRB.

3.5.2 Labor Force, Unemployment, and Commuting

Labor market conditions in the PRB generally reflect a healthy economy, with average annual unemployment rates ranging between 3.2 percent and 4.8 percent in 2003. Johnson County recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 3.2 percent and Converse County registered the higher rate at 4.8 percent (see **Table 3-9**). The statewide unemployment rate for the same period, buoyed by energy resource development in many different areas, was 4.4 percent. National unemployment for the year averaged 6.0 percent of the labor force.

Table 3-9
Labor Market Conditions, 2003 Annual Averages

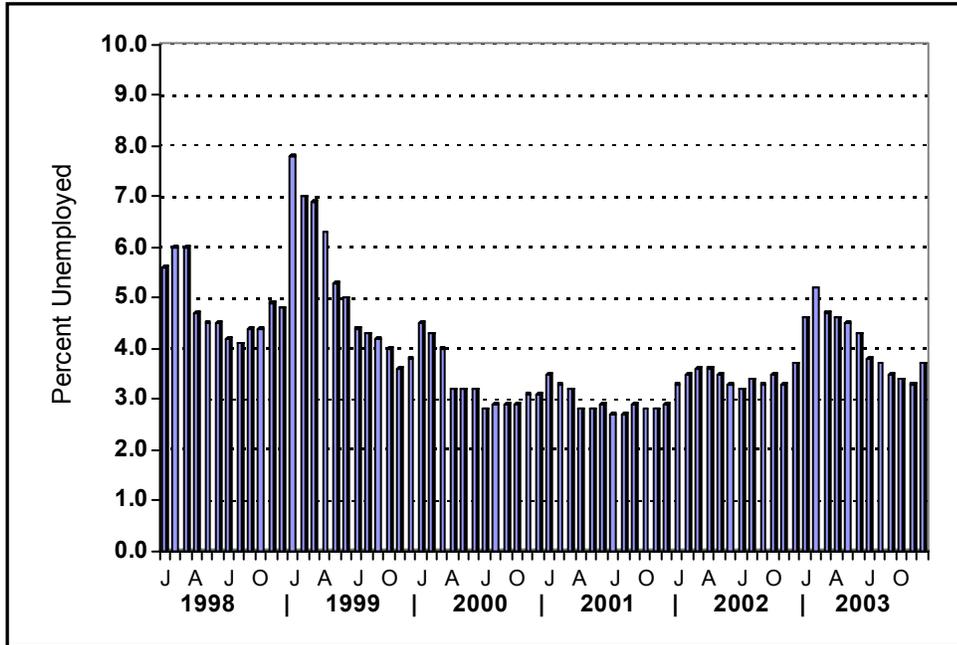
	County					
	Campbell	Converse	Crook	Johnson	Sheridan	Weston
Labor Force	22,820	6,582	2,901	4,121	14,820	3,194
Employed	21,888	6,265	3,032	3,988	14,189	3,069
Unemployed	932	317	131	133	631	125
Unemployment Rate (percent)	4.1	4.8	4.5	3.2	4.3	3.9

Source: Wyoming Department of Employment 2004.

Over time, both unemployment levels and unemployment rates have reflected the influences of a large, relatively stable employment base supported by the coal mining industry and the more transitory and variable influences of natural gas and other industries. Prior to the onset of CBNG development in 1999/2000, unemployment in Campbell County fluctuated between 4.8 and 5.3 percent (see **Figure 3-22**), slightly higher than the corresponding statewide averages.

The increased labor demand associated with CBNG development contributed to a decline in unemployment rates to below 3.0 in 2001. However, as the pace of development stabilized and more of the drilling and production shifted to more established energy firms, labor demand eased and the unemployment rates again climbed to a short-term peak of 5.2 percent in February 2003, before abating.

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Source: Wyoming Department of Employment 2004.

Figure 3-22 Monthly Unemployment Rate in Campbell County (1998 – 2003)

Changing labor market conditions are not only reflected in the unemployment rates, but also the underlying supply of labor. Increasing labor opportunity can entice additional individuals into the labor force, allow employers to increase the hours worked for part-time employees, overtime hours for full-time workers or convert part-time to full-time jobs, and trigger immigration of additional workers. The responses may vary based on the specific skills and job requirements, and lead to differential effects on population, secondary job and income impacts, and demands on local services.

Demographic and work force data for Campbell County indicate that immigration and an increase in labor force participation have both occurred during the current economic expansion. As shown in **Table 3-10**, estimated resident population, labor force, and the number of jobs each increased by more than 4,000 between 1997 and 2003 (2002 in the case of job counts), with the number of jobs increasing more than either the labor force or population. These data suggest that while immigration occurred, with a very high percentage of working age individuals among the immigrants, additional workers were enticed to join the labor force. Such patterns have the effect of reducing the population impacts, particularly to relatively short-term economic stimuli. As labor demand slackens, the reverse patterns can be expected (i.e., higher unemployment, out-migration, and withdrawal from the labor force).

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Table 3-10
Relationship of Labor Force to Total Population, Campbell County (1997 – 2003)

Variable	Absolute Values							Change 1997-2003
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
Population	32,098	32,452	32,844	33,984	34,628	36,240	36,119	4,021
Employment	21,085	21,447	22,022	23,441	24,969	25,423	NA	4,368
Labor Force	18,535	19,072	19,638	20,704	22,355	22,806	22,820	4,285
Unemployment	979	922	1,020	693	654	780	932	(47)
Population Labor Force (percent)	57.7	58.8	59.8	60.9	64.6	62.9	63.2	106.6
Variable	Year-to-Year Changes							Change 1997-2003
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03		
Population	354	392	1,140	644	1,612	(121)		4,021
Employment	362	575	1,419	1,528	484	NA		4,368
Labor Force	537	566	1,066	1,651	451	14		4,285
Unemployment	-57	98	-327	-39	126	152		(47)

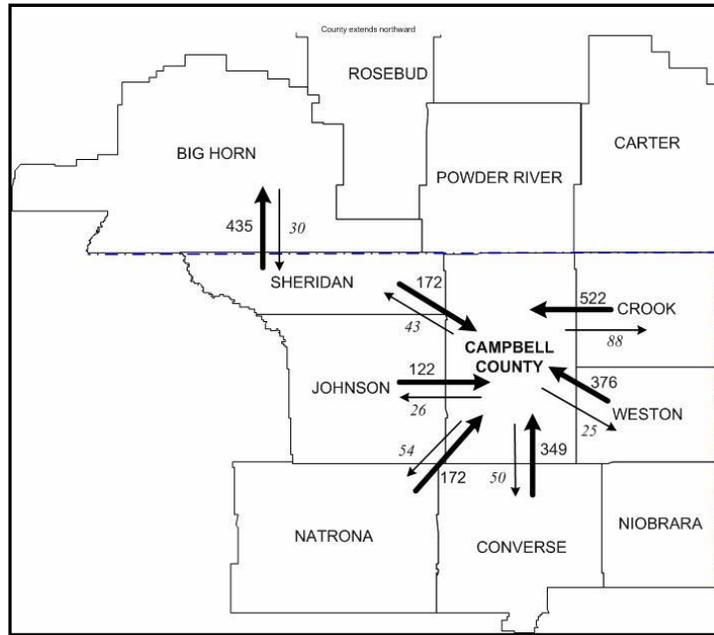
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2004a; Wyoming Department of Employment 2004.

Labor force commuting is another means of maintaining equilibrium in the local labor market. The presence of coal mining in the PRB, the long-term, well-paying employment opportunities it supports, and extended shift work schedules permit some workers to choose to live at some distance from the mines and commute to work. Such decisions may be promoted by consideration of employment opportunities for a spouse, differences in the cost of living, social setting, availability of the desired type of housing, or other factors. Whatever the motivation, such commuting redistributes or shifts some secondary economic, population and social effects of mining from Campbell County to nearby communities. As shown in **Figure 3-23**, the 2000 census enumerated 1,713 workers who commute to work in Campbell County from other Wyoming counties. Another 786 workers who regularly work in Campbell County live elsewhere. In contrast, 597 Campbell County residents commute to work outside the county, 286 to surrounding counties and 321 elsewhere. Monetary flows related to wages and salaries are associated with such commuting, with implications for the local economies as well.

The largest inflow of workers is from Crook (522 workers), Weston (376 workers), and Converse (349 workers) counties. Sheridan County, in addition to supporting residents commuting to Campbell County, also supports a substantial outflow to Big Horn County, Montana, associated with coal mining in that region.

The level of work force commuting into Campbell County has grown substantially over time, from 529 in 1970 to 2,335 in 2000, while the level of out-commuting has fluctuated within the much narrower range of 381 to 583 since 1970 as shown in **Figure 3-24** and **Tables S-4** through **S-7** in the Appendix of this report.

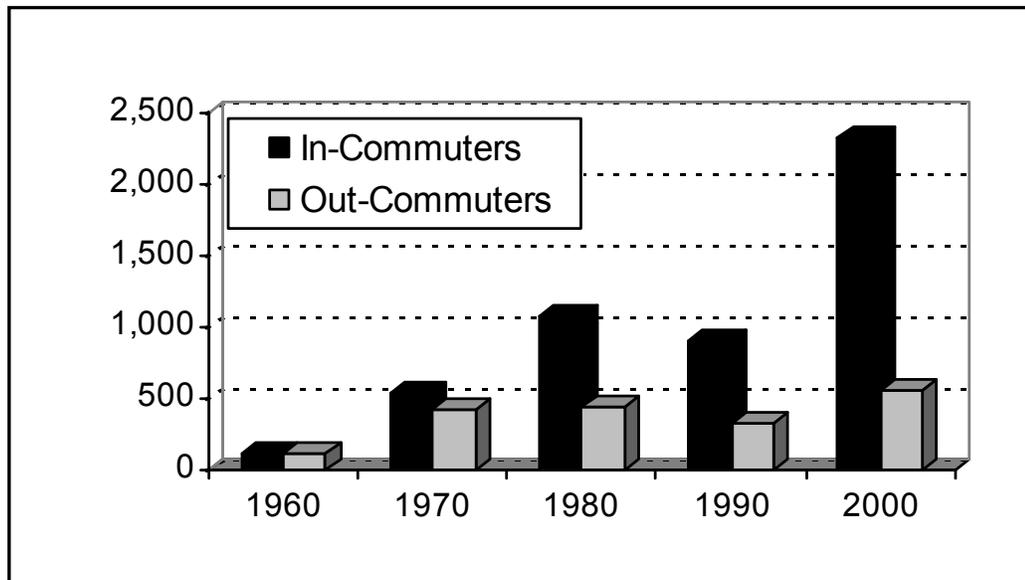
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Note: The arrows show the direction of flows from a worker's place of residence to the place of work. The numeric values indicate the number of workers corresponding to the arrows.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2001.

Figure 3-23 Work Force Commuting to/from Campbell County in 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, various years.

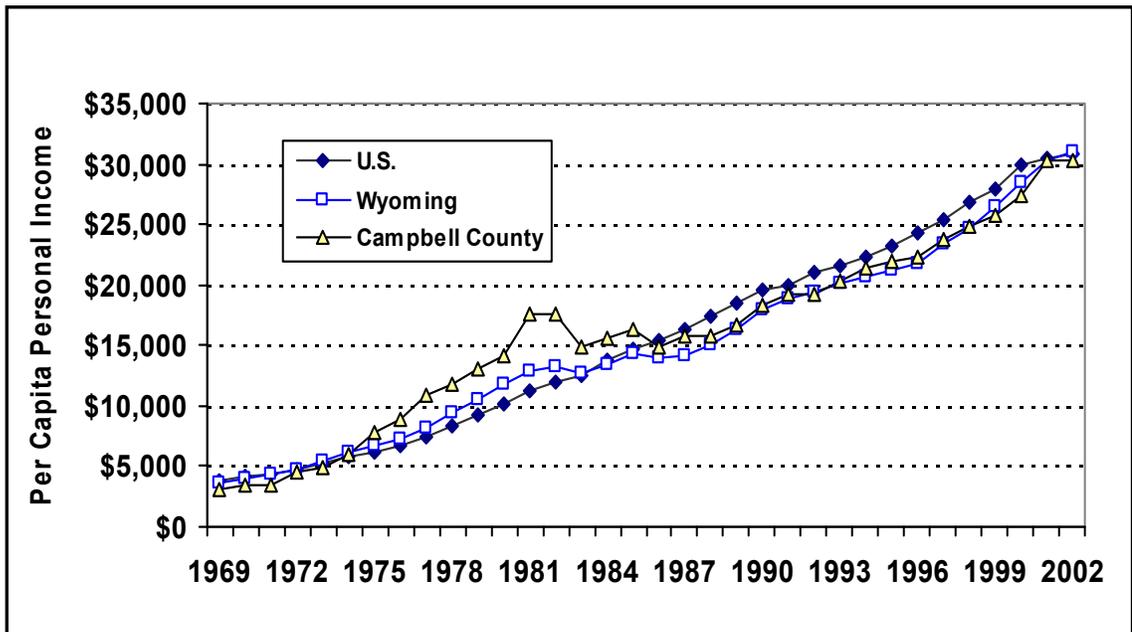
Figure 3-24 Work Force Commuting Flows to/from Campbell County (1960 – 2000)

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3.5.3 Personal Income and Earnings

A benefit often associated with economic expansion or economic development of any sort is the increase in total and per capita personal income that results. Higher than average wages and salaries are a recognized characteristic of energy resource development, whether it is in mineral mining or oil and gas.

Per capita income trends in Campbell County display the rising income that has accompanied the onset and expansion of coal mining (**Figure 3-25**). Of particular note are the gains during the late 1970s and early 1980s, a time marked by strong construction activity, initial mine startup, and traditional oil and gas development in the region. Labor shortages, high wages, overtime pay, and relatively fewer family households all contributed to above-average income growth such that per capita incomes (in nominal terms), which had previously lagged both the statewide and national averages, now exceeded those norms. In 1981, per capita personal income in Campbell County was \$17,520, 55 percent above the national average of \$11,280, and 38 percent above the statewide average of \$12,879.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2004.

Figure 3-25 Per Capita Income U.S., Wyoming, and Campbell County in Nominal Dollars

Following several years of decline and relative stagnation, per capita personal income (nominal) in Campbell County resumed a positive growth trend in 1987 until reaching \$30,253 in 2002. Those gains notwithstanding, per capita income among the county's residents is slightly below the statewide and national norms. On a per capita basis, Campbell County also lags Sheridan (\$32,563) and Weston (\$31,388) counties in per capita income (**Table 3-11**).

A slightly different perspective on the effects of the mining industry's expansion is provided if personal income trends are examined in 2003 constant dollars. Per capita incomes lagged both the statewide and national norms by as much as 22 percent prior to the expansion. Growth in per capita

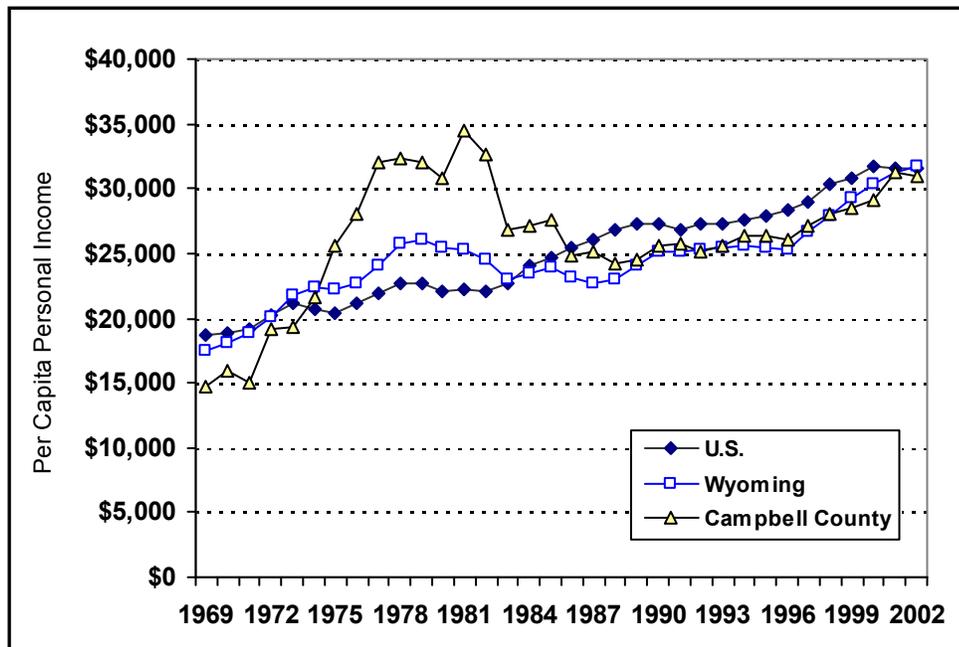
3.0 Description of Current Social and Economic Conditions

income then averaged 10.4 percent in Campbell County, on a CAGR basis, between 1970 and 1977, such that real per capita income (2003 constant dollars) exceeded the national average by 46 percent. As the industry transitioned from construction and development to operations, reductions in labor demand triggered reductions in income. By 1986, local per capita income again had fallen below the national average but remained above the statewide average, after which it then entered a sustained period of limited growth (**Figure 3-26**). Real per capita income growth in Campbell County resumed in 1996, outpacing increases at the national level.

Table 3-11
Selected Characteristics of Personal Income (2002)

	County					
	Campbell	Converse	Crook	Johnson	Sheridan	Weston
Total Personal Income	\$1,092,717	\$347,794	\$177,797	\$205,352	\$878,018	\$208,103
Per Capita Personal Income	\$30,253	\$28,136	\$30,284	\$27,750	\$32,563	\$31,388
Earnings by Place of Work	\$1,088,748	\$219,556	\$89,188	\$111,325	\$492,788	\$130,390
Adjustment for Residence	\$(113,666)	\$41,087	\$36,500	\$7,330	\$34,262	\$23,757
Residency Adjustment/ Earnings, by Place of Work (percent)	-10.4	18.7	40.9	6.6	7.0	18.2
Mining/Total Earnings, by Place of Work (percent)	41.6	25.9	11.4	8.9	3.5	28.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2004.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2004.

Figure 3-26 Per Capita Income U.S., Wyoming, and Campbell County in 2003 Constant Dollars

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In terms of total personal income, Campbell County leads the six-county region with \$1.093 billion in 2002. Sheridan county residents recorded aggregate personal income of \$878 million in 2002. The other counties were substantially less affluent in terms of total personal income, ranging from \$177.8 million in Crook County to \$347.8 million in Converse County.

The earnings of individuals employed in Campbell County but who reside elsewhere play an important role in the regional economy. The total wages and salaries paid by employers in Campbell County exceed the combined total of employers in the other five counties. However, more than 10 percent of the total paid by employers in Campbell County is to residents of other counties. At the same time, the net inflow of earnings by residents employed outside their respective counties ranges from 6.6 percent (\$7.3 million) in Johnson County to 40.9 percent (\$36.5 million) in Crook County.

Earnings data also reveal the region's heavy economic dependence on the mining sector, including conventional oil and gas and CBNG oil and gas development. In 2002, wages and salaries paid in the mining sector accounted for 41.6 percent of total labor earnings in Campbell County. Converse and Weston counties also relied heavily on mining, as that sector accounted for 25.9 percent and 28.2 percent of the respective total earnings in 2002. In relative terms, net labor earnings accounted for between 52.0 percent (Johnson) and 77.5 percent (Campbell) of all income in the various county economies. Additional information on the composition of personal earnings is presented in **Table 3-12**.

Non-labor earnings in the form of dividends, interest, and rents, and transfer payments such as unemployment, retirement, and social security, also play an important role in the local economy. In absolute terms, those sources of income contributed between \$29.6 million in Niobrara County and \$406.0 million in Sheridan County. The latter is the key factor underlying the high per capita income in Sheridan County and reflects a trend of retirement-related migration to Sheridan. Non-labor earnings, in 2003 constant dollars, exhibit less variability than net earnings. This is due in part to the fact that adjustments in social security and some other benefits are tied to inflation, and that some sources of such income are more generally a function of population and demographics, rather than employment. As shown in **Figure 3-27**, the contribution of net earnings to total income in Campbell County parallels local employment trends while non-labor income has trended steadily upward over time. Trends in Sheridan County exhibit a much different pattern, with little growth in net earnings (2003 constant dollars) through much of the 1990s while total non-labor earnings increased substantially.

Between 1998 and 2000, residents of Sheridan County derived more total income from non-labor sources than they did from net labor earnings. Since then, increases in local labor earnings in 2001 and 2002 have outpaced the gains in non-labor earnings in Sheridan County such that non-labor income accounted for about 46 percent of total personal income in 2002. Non-labor earnings also accounted for more than 45 percent of total income in Johnson and Niobrara counties in 2002.

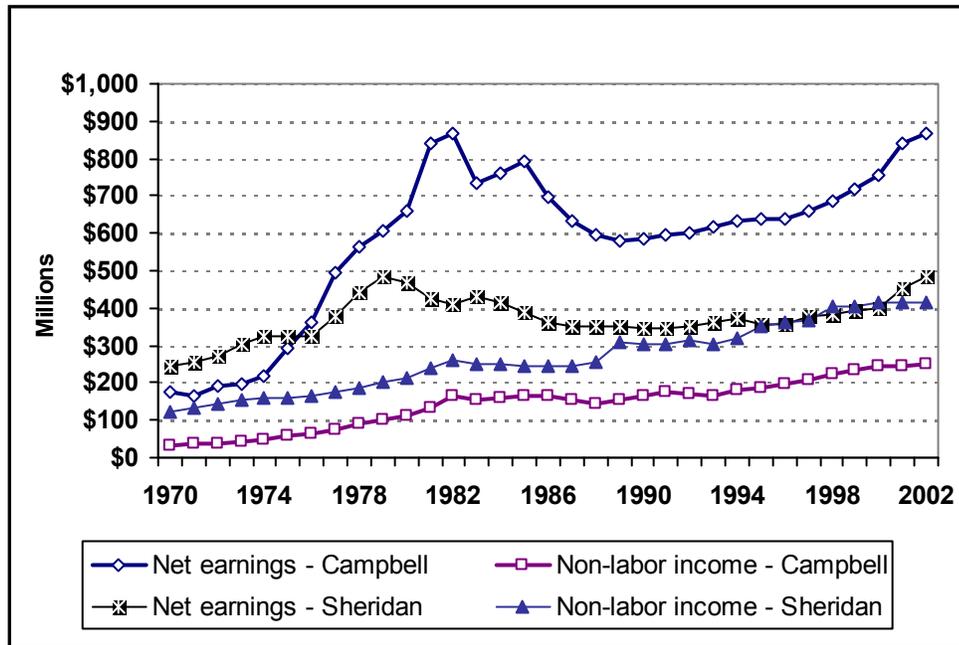
3.0 Description of Current Social and Economic Conditions

**Table 3-12
Summary of PRB Personal Income
(2002)**

	County									
	Campbell	Converse	Crook	Johnson	Natrona	Niobrara	Sheridan	Weston		
Total Personal Income	\$1,092,717	\$347,794	\$177,797	\$205,352	\$2,294,463	\$63,998	\$878,018	\$208,103		
Per Capita Personal Income	\$30,253	\$28,136	\$30,284	\$27,750	\$34,018	\$28,205	\$32,563	\$31,388		
Derivation of Income by Major Source										
Earnings by Place of Work	\$1,088,748	\$219,556	\$89,188	\$111,325	\$1,670,730	\$33,464	\$492,788	\$130,390		
less: Contribution for government social insurance	\$128,446	\$26,273	\$8,910	\$11,826	\$171,066	\$3,695	\$54,992	\$12,846		
plus: Adjustment for residence equals: Net earnings by place of residence	\$(113,666)	\$41,087	\$36,500	\$7,330	\$2,218	\$4,585	\$34,262	\$23,757		
plus: Dividends, interest, and rent	\$846,636	\$234,370	\$116,778	\$106,829	\$1,501,882	\$34,354	\$472,058	\$141,301		
plus: Personal current transfer receipts equals: Total Personal Income	\$157,105	\$69,316	\$39,492	\$67,134	\$500,280	\$17,926	\$288,033	\$36,760		
	\$88,976	\$44,108	\$21,527	\$31,389	\$292,301	\$11,718	\$117,927	\$30,042		
	\$1,092,717	\$347,794	\$177,797	\$205,352	\$2,294,463	\$63,998	\$878,018	\$208,103		
Derivation of Earnings by Place of Work										
Wage and salary disbursements	\$854,602	\$148,872	\$56,180	\$71,613	\$1,040,316	\$21,065	\$337,052	\$69,369		
Supplements to wages and salaries	\$171,247	\$33,805	\$12,327	\$15,449	\$203,319	\$4,922	\$73,492	\$16,517		
Proprietors' income	\$62,899	\$36,879	\$20,681	\$24,263	\$427,095	\$7,477	\$82,244	\$44,504		
Earnings By Type of Establishment										
Farm	\$1,411	\$2,012	\$4,352	\$(779)	\$663	\$3,154	\$2,912	\$3,942		
Non-farm private	\$956,932	\$172,724	\$61,985	\$80,864	\$1,443,852	\$19,230	\$356,258	\$101,178		
Government	\$130,405	\$44,820	\$22,851	\$31,240	\$226,215	\$11,080	\$133,618	\$25,270		
Personal Income By Major Category (percent)										
Net Earnings	77.5	67.4	65.7	52.0	65.5	53.7	53.8	67.9		
Dividends, interest, and rent	14.4	19.9	22.2	32.7	21.8	28.0	32.8	17.7		
Personal current transfer receipts	8.1	12.7	12.1	15.3	12.7	18.3	13.4	14.4		
Residency Adjustment / Earnings by Placement of Work (percent)										
Mining/Total Earnings by Place of Work (percent)	-10.4	18.7	40.9	6.6	0.1	13.7	7.0	18.2		
	41.6	25.9	11.4	8.9	18.4	na	3.5	28.2		

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2004.

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Source: Based on U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2004.

Figure 3-27 Trends in Net Earnings and Non-labor Income in Campbell and Sheridan Counties (2003 Constant Dollars)

3.5.4 Farming and Ranching

Farming and ranching serve an important role in the settlement and economic development of the Rocky Mountain west and are still viewed as one of the economic and social cornerstones of many local western economies. In recent years, however, agriculture has faced many challenges including changes in federal management of public lands, competition from foreign imports and limitations on exports, changes in consumer attitudes and consumption patterns, and drought. Farmers and ranchers also face challenges associated with energy resource development stemming from split estate issues or pressures or opportunities to sell land at prices above those supportable as an ongoing agricultural enterprise.

These and other factors have affected the local farming and ranching industry in a multitude of ways. Two direct characteristics of the local industry that are perhaps the most enlightening are the total number of “farms”⁴ and the total amount of land involved in agricultural pursuits.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture enumerated 2,365 farms in the 6-county PRB area, 128 fewer than in 1997 but 88 more than in 1992. Of the 2002 total, 532 or 22.5 percent were in Campbell County (see **Table 3-13** and **Table S-8** in the Appendix of this report). Declines in the total number of farms were registered in the other five counties, with the total declines ranging between 7 (Sheridan) and 58 (Crook) operations. However, the total acreage of land involved in agriculture increased in five of the counties, including Campbell, and across the PRB as a whole. The 2002 Census of Agriculture

⁴ The U.S. Census Bureau uses the term “farms” to refer to all agricultural operations, irrespective of whether their production is primarily in crops or from livestock.

3.0 Description of Current Social and Economic Conditions

estimated 12,426,140 acres involved in farming, with the average size of farming operations climbing from 4,937 acres to 5,254 acres. Increases in the average sizes were registered for all six counties, with increases ranging from 69 acres in Campbell and Crook counties to 1,168 acres in Weston County.

**Table 3-13
Selected Farm Statistics (1997 – 2002)**

	County						
	Campbell	Converse	Crook	Johnson	Sheridan	Weston	Combined
Number of Farms - 2002	532	339	440	272	561	221	2,365
Number of Farms - 1997	531	348	498	315	568	233	2,493
Change	1	(9)	(58)	(43)	(7)	(12)	(128)
Acres in Farms - 2002	2,985,945	2,517,920	1,523,198	2,155,277	1,638,163	1,605,637	12,426,140
Acres in Farms - 1997	2,943,628	2,515,290	1,689,572	2,131,595	1,608,206	1,420,632	12,308,923
Change	42,317	2,630	(166,374)	23,682	29,957	185,005	117,217
Average Size (Acres) – 2002	5,613	7,427	3,462	7,924	2,920	7,265	5,254
Average Size (Acres) - 1997	5,544	7,228	3,393	6,797	2,831	6,097	4,937
Change	69	199	69	1,127	89	1,168	317

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service 2004.

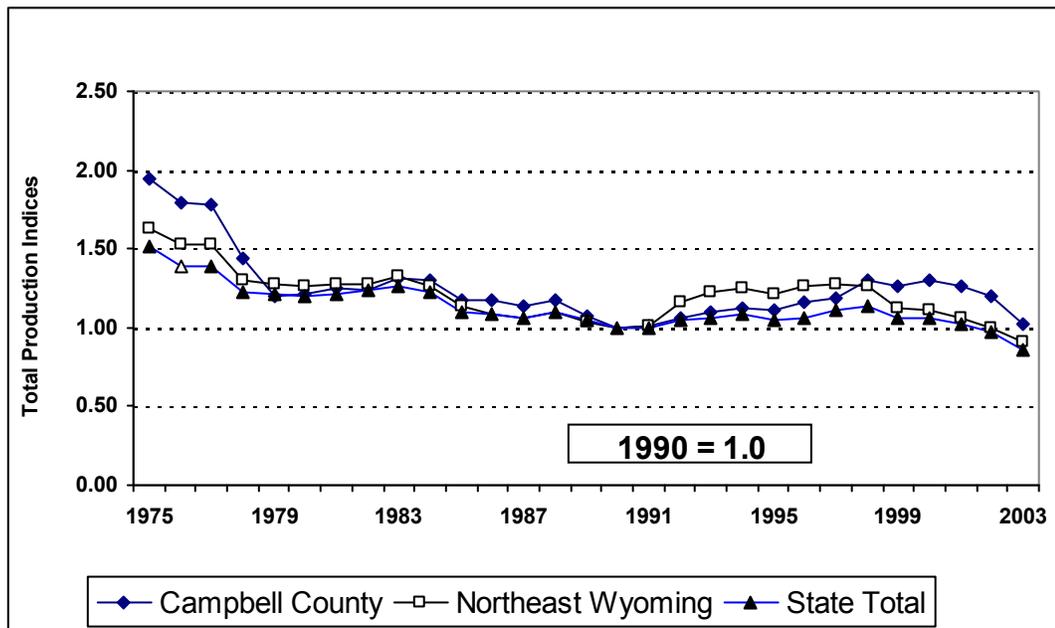
Other selected characteristics include the following, with additional information about the local agricultural industry presented in **Table S-8** in the Appendix of this report.

- The average value of land and buildings per farming operation ranges from \$1.13 million in Campbell County to \$2.14 million in Johnson County.
- Following several years of extended drought, the aggregate receipts from crop and livestock sales was \$195.4 million in 2002. Farm operators in Campbell County garnered \$33.1 million.
- Gross income from farm-related sources was \$12.2 million, a rather modest gross profit margin of 6.4 percent of sales.
- As can be inferred from **Table 3-13**, most farms and ranches in the PRB are large. Nevertheless, there are numerous so-called hobby-farms, with 347 operations of less than 50 acres in size in the region. Smaller farms are most common in Sheridan (148 farms) and Campbell (86 farms) counties.
- There were 1,412 farms of 500 or more acres in the PRB, 329 of which were in Campbell County.
- Almost 35 percent of all farms in the PRB had sales of less than \$5,000 in 2002, while 771 (33 percent) had sales of \$50,000 or more. The largest number in the latter group was in Campbell County.

3.5 Economic Base

- Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of all farm operators across the PRB list farming or ranching as their principal occupation, with 875 operators listing a different, non-farm occupation.

Although the total number of farms in the region has not changed appreciably in recent times, livestock and crop production in northeastern Wyoming has declined substantially over time. Using livestock inventory data from the National Agricultural Statistics Service as a proxy for production illustrates the declines in Campbell County, the 5-county Northeast Wyoming region, and across the entire state (see **Figure 3-28**). The annual livestock production index value reflects the ratio of the total head of cattle and sheep being raised in the county, region, or state to the corresponding numbers in 1990. For instance, the statewide index value of 1.51 for 1975 is the ratio of the combined 2,916,000 head of cattle and sheep in 1975 to the 1,925,000 head in 1990.



Note: The livestock production indices are the ratio of the total head of cattle and sheep compared to the corresponding 1990 totals.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, various years.

Figure 3-28 Livestock Production Indices

As shown, livestock production indices were substantially higher in 1975 than in 1990 or 2003 for all three instances. The largest relative declines have occurred in Campbell County, principally in the latter half of the 1970s, following a reduction of 56,000 head (a 49 percent reduction) in the total number of sheep and lambs in the county. Substantial reductions, though of a relatively lower magnitude, also occurred throughout the region. Since that time, however, overall livestock production has fluctuated in a narrower range, characterized by further declines through the 1980s, gains through much of the 1990s, and recent declines as drought and other factors. Through the 1990s, the relative gains in livestock production in Campbell County actually outpaced those in the remainder of the region and across the state. Furthermore, Campbell County's share of total regional and statewide livestock production has improved slightly over time following the initial decline in the 1970s.