

BRIDGER-TETON REGION, COUNTY PROFILE SERIES

Fremont County, Wyoming: A Socio-Economic Profile

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INTRODUCTION

In a rapidly changing world, timely and accurate information is essential to good decision making. Federal agencies, local and state officials, and the general public need information on the structure and trends within the local economies in order to more effectively direct and participate in the public policy decision making process.

Information describing local economic conditions can aid in the public policy decision making process by providing a perspective on economic changes over time. In addition, the identification of long-term trends can help residents, local and state officials, and Federal agencies plan for the future. This report has been developed as part of the Bridger-Teton Region, County Profiles series to provide baseline information on the structure and trends of the Fremont County economy. This effort was funded by a supplemental grant from the U.S. Forest Service as part of the Bridger-Teton National Forest planning process.

Four types of information are discussed in this report, including: 1) Population, 2) Employment, 3) Personal Income, and 4) Local Government Finances. Population is an important variable because the ability to attract and retain individuals to live, work, play, and retire is critical to the survival of a community and its economy. Closely associated with population growth is employment growth. Providing jobs for residents is one of the primary functions of the local economy. While we have traditionally considered population growth to be a result of employment growth, in some cases, such as amenity migration, population growth may in fact be the cause rather than the effect of employment growth. Personal income is important because it represents the dollars that residents live on. While we tend to think of personal income primarily as labor earnings (wages, salaries, and proprietor income), it also includes investment income (dividends, interest, and rent), as well as government transfer payments (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, etc.). Finally, local government finances are an important aspect of the local economy because they determine local government's ability to meet the needs of residents in terms of public services and public infrastructure. Because of the availability of data, the focus of this section is on assessed valuation, sales tax revenue, county government revenues and costs, and county school revenues and costs.

Each type of information is discussed separately in the report. To put Fremont County's information in perspective, it is compared to corresponding data for Wyoming and the United States. The primary source of data for the population section was the U.S. Bureau of Census website. The primary source of data for the employment and personal income sections was the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (REIS). Finally, the primary source of county government information was various reports from the State of Wyoming. The most current data available from these data sources was used in the report. All time series data involving dollars were adjusted for inflation to 2000 dollars.

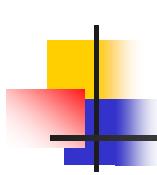
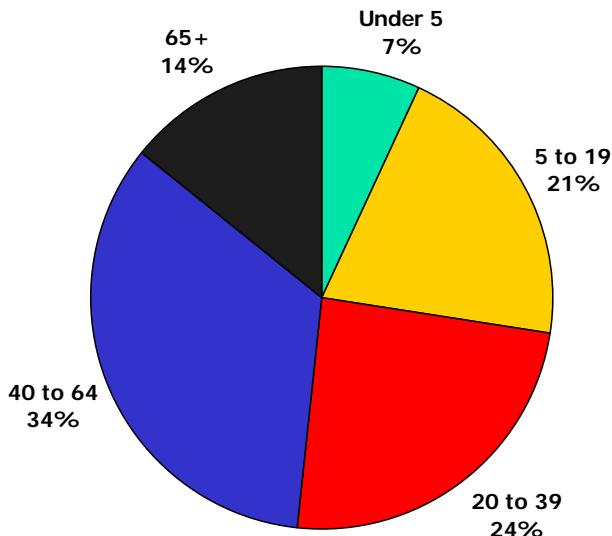


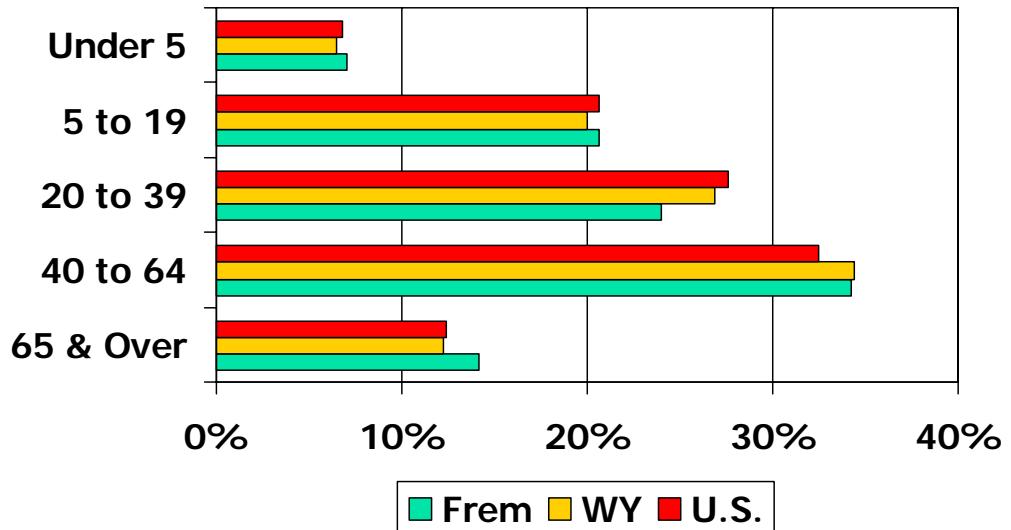
Figure 1. Age of Population in Fremont County, 2006



Key Points:

- The largest age category in Fremont County was the 40 to 64 age group. This category represented more than one-third of the total population in the county.
- Following the 40 to 64 age group in order of size was the 20 to 39 age group, the 5 to 19 age group, the 65 and over age group, and the under 5 age group.
- Fifty-eight percent of the county's population was working age adults (20 to 64).
- Twenty-eight percent of the county's population was under 20 years old.
- Fourteen percent of the county's population was retirement age (65 and older).
- The large proportion of the county population in the 40 to 64 age group suggests that the percent of the population that is retirement age (65 and older) will be increasing in the future.

Figure 2.
Comparison of Age of Population, 2006



Key Points:

- Fremont County has proportionately slightly more residents in the less than 20 age groups than either the U.S. or Wyoming. The percent of residents in the Under 5 age group was higher than either the U.S. or Wyoming (7.0 percent vs. 6.8 percent and 6.5 percent). The percent of residents in the 5 to 19 age group was the same as the U.S. but higher than for Wyoming (20.6 percent vs. 20.6 percent and 20.0 percent).
- In terms of the working age population, the percent of county residents in the young adult age group (20 to 39) was lower than either the U.S. or Wyoming (24.0 percent vs. 27.6 percent and 26.9 percent). However, the percent of county residents in the older adult age group (40 to 64) was higher than the U.S. but lower than Wyoming (34.2 percent vs. 32.5 percent and 34.4 percent).
- The percent of the county residents in the 65 and over age group was higher than either the U.S. or Wyoming (14.2 percent vs. 12.4 percent and 12.2 percent).
- Overall, the median age of the county's population was 38.4. This was slightly older than either the U.S. (36.4) or Wyoming (37.1). This primarily reflects the higher percentage of residents in the 65 & over age category.

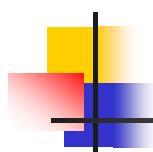
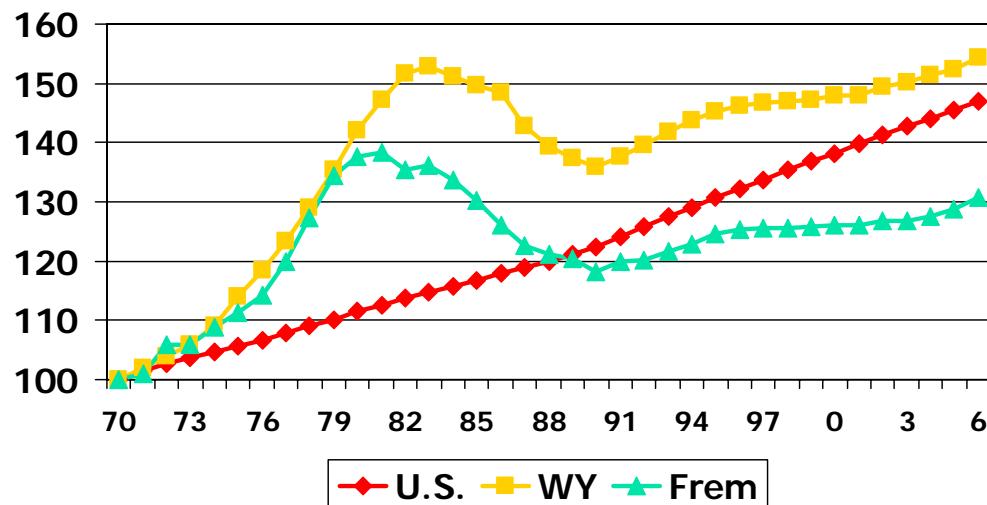


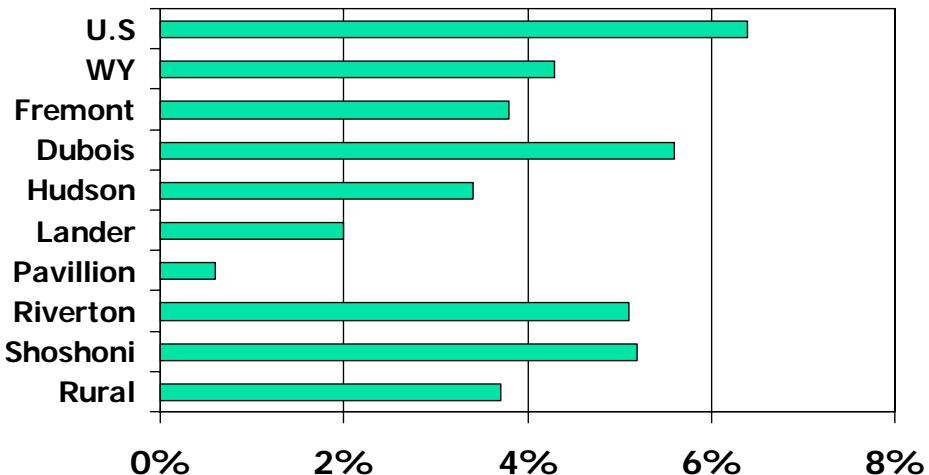
Figure 3.
Population Growth Index, 1970-2006 (1970 = 100)



Key Points:

- In 2006 the population of Fremont County was more than 30 percent larger than it was in 1970 (28,406 vs. 37,163). During this time period the population of the United States increased by 47 percent and the population of Wyoming increased by 54 percent. The county's population has fluctuated over time. After peaking at 39,071 in 1980 it declined by 14 percent between 1980 and 1990 to 33,565.
- Since 1990 the county population has increased by 11 percent to 37,163 in 2006. During this time period the U.S. population increased by 20 percent and the Wyoming population increased by 13 percent.
- After having substantial fluctuations in population prior to 1990, the county population has had fairly steady growth from 1990 through 2006. However, the rate of population growth for the county has been about one-half the rate for the U.S and was also below the Wyoming growth rate. The county's population in 2006 was still 5 percent below the peak in 1980 (37,163 vs. 39,071).

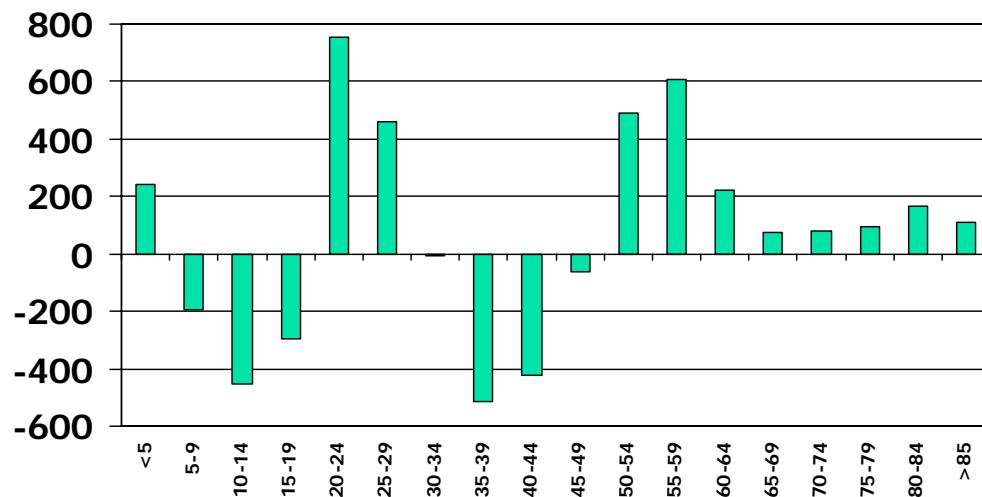
Figure 4.
Comparison of Population Growth, 2000-2006



Key Points:

- Between 2000 and 2006 the Fremont County population increased by less than 4 percent. During this time period the U.S. population increased by more than 6 percent and the Wyoming population increased by more than 4 percent.
- Dubois (+5.6 percent), Shoshoni (+5.2 percent), and Riverton (+5.1 percent) were the fastest growing areas in the county. All three areas had population growth rates exceeding the Wyoming rate but were lower than the national rate.
- Hudson (+3.4 percent), Lander (+2.0 percent), and Pavillion (+0.6 percent) had lower population growth rates. All three had population growth rates that were lower than either the Wyoming or national rate.
- The population in rural areas of the county increased by 3.7 percent between 2000 and 2006. Approximately 50 percent of the county population growth between 2000 and 2006 occurred in rural areas of the county.
- Between 2000 and 2006, the county's population growth was less than the U.S. or Wyoming. However, the population growth was not evenly distributed with some areas of the county (Dubious, Riverton, and Shoshoni) growing faster than the state rate.

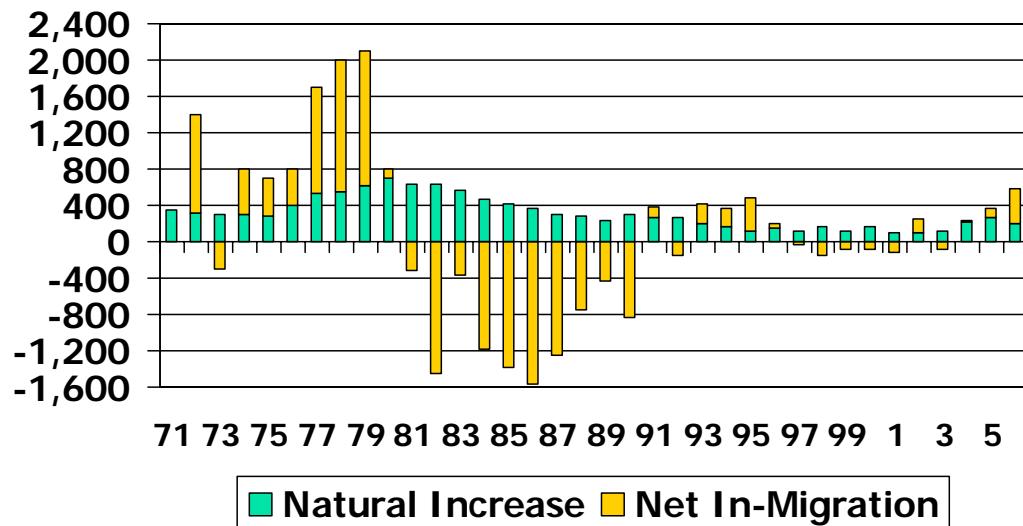
Figure 5.
**Population Change by Age Group for Fremont County,
 2000-2006**



Key Points:

- One of the largest increases in the Fremont County population was in the 20 through 29 age groups. Combined these age categories increased by 1,212 residents between 2000 and 2006. Some of these individuals probably were parents with young children since the less than 5 year old age group increased by 242 residents between 2000 and 2006. The other large increase in county population was in the 50 through 64 age groups. Combined these age categories increased by 1,325 residents between 2000 and 2006. All age categories over 50 had an increase in population from 2000 to 2006.
- Conversely there was a large decrease in the county population for the 5 through 19 age groups. Combined these age categories declined by 940 residents. The other large decrease in county population was in the 35 through 44 age groups. Combined these age categories declined by 935 residents between 2000 and 2006.
- While Wyoming has historically struggled to maintain the young adult population in its communities, the county had a substantial increase in the 20 through 29 age categories between 2000 and 2006. In addition all the age categories greater than 50 had increased population during the time period. Also the increase in the under 5 population may be important to county schools in the future.

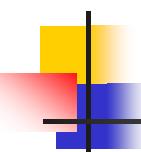
Figure 6.
**Sources of Population Change for Fremont County,
 1971-2006**

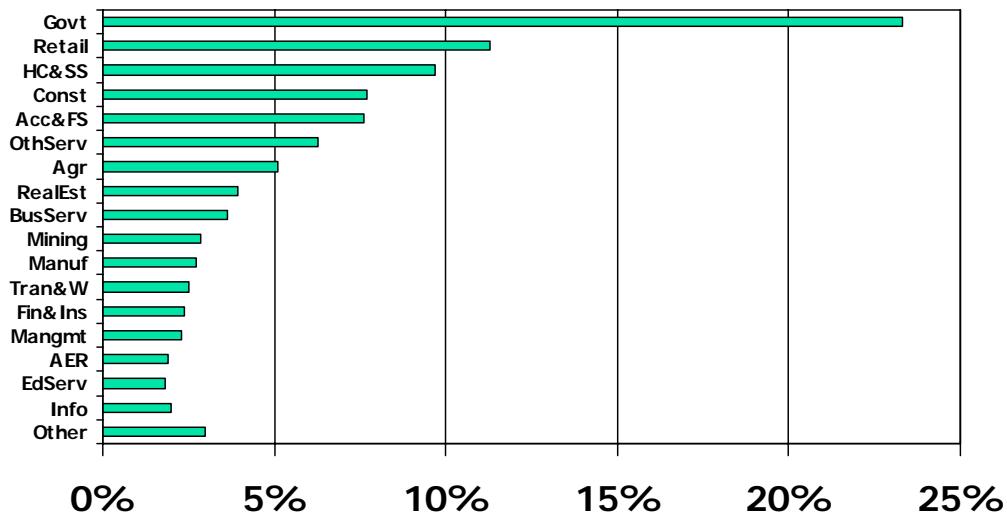


Key Points:

- Population growth comes from one of two sources: 1) natural increase (more births than deaths) or 2) net in-migration (more individuals moving in than moving out). Figure 6 summarizes both types of population change for Fremont County between 1971 and 2006.
- Historically, most of the population change for the county has been the result of net in-migration. Between 1971 and 1980 the county had substantial positive in-migration. However this trend reversed between 1980 and 1990 with the county had substantial negative in-migration. Since 1990, the county has returned to mostly positive net in-migration. However, the in-migration flows for the county since 1990 have been much more modest than those prior to 1990.
- Natural increase has remained positive throughout the time period. Since 1990 almost all the overall net increase in population has been due to natural increase.
- Still, changes in net in-migration have been the primary driver of population change in the county over the past 35 years.

SECTION 2: EMPLOYMENT

Figure 7.
Employment by Sector for Fremont County, 2005



Key Points:

- In 2005 there were a total of 22,766 jobs in Fremont County. Three sectors; Government (5,307), Retail (2,574) accounted, and Health Care & Social Services (2,202) accounted for 44 percent of the total jobs in the county. Of the three, Government was largest representing 23 percent of the total employment.
- Four other sectors, Construction (1,752), Accommodation & Food Service (1,730), Other Services (1,430), and Agriculture (1,159) accounted for another 27 percent of total county employment.
- The remaining 13 sectors represent 29 percent of the total jobs in the county. The largest of these sectors were Real Estate (895), Business Services (831), Mining (646), and Manufacturing (618).
- With over 40 percent of total employment in Government, Retail, and Health Care & Social Services, the county economy is particularly dependent on continued economic activity in these three sectors.

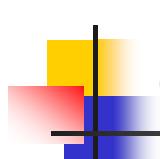
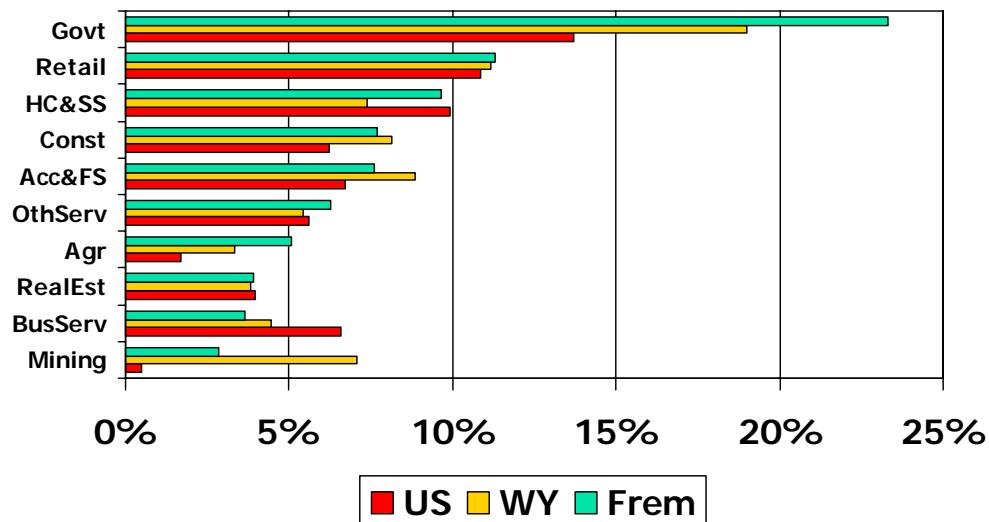


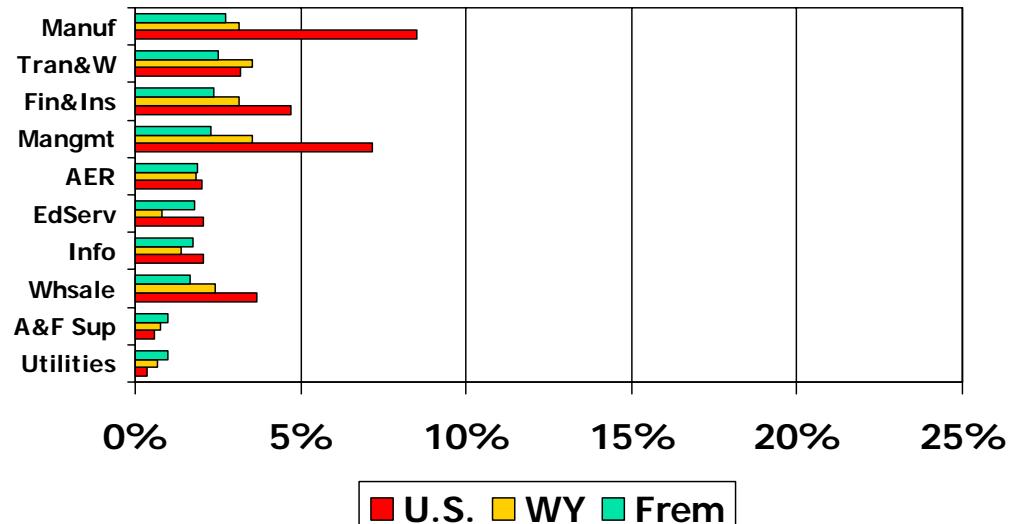
Figure 8A. Comparison of Employment by Sector, 2005



Key Points:

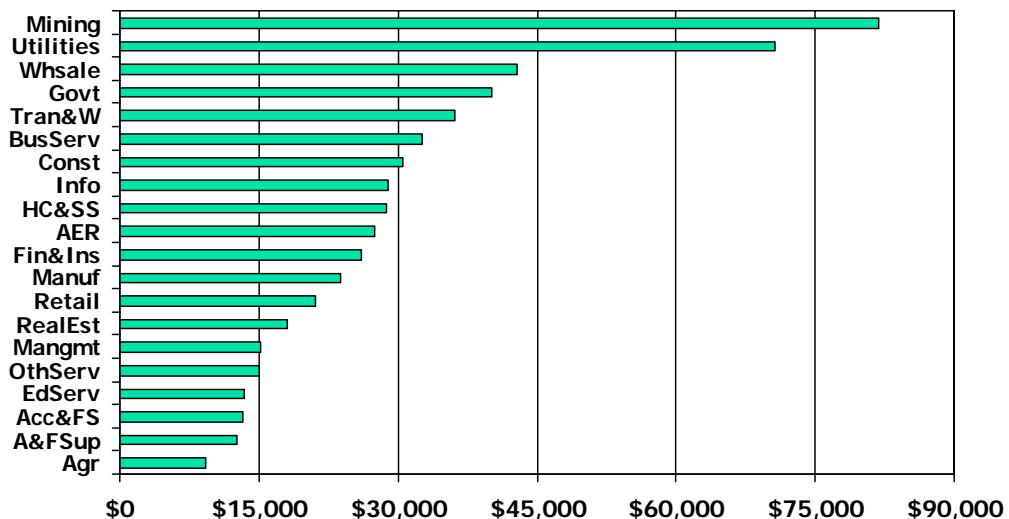
- Based on the percent of total employment in the county compared to the national economy, the Fremont County economy was specialized in the following sectors (specialized is defined as a Location Quotient of greater than 1.25):
 - Mining (county employment is 6.0 times the national average)
 - Agriculture (county employment is 3.0 times the national average)
 - Government (county employment is 1.7 times the national average)
- Compared to Wyoming, the percent of county employment in Mining was 40 percent of the state level, the percent of county employment in Agriculture was 1.5 times greater than the state level, and the percent of county employment in Government was 1.2 times greater than the state level.
- Compared to the national economy, the Fremont County economy is noticeably lacking in Business Service employment.

Figure 8B.
Comparison of Employment by Sector, 2005 (Continued)



- Among the smaller sectors, the Fremont County economy was specialized in Utilities (1.9 times the national average) and Agricultural & Forestry Support Services (1.5 times the national average).
- Compare to Wyoming, the percent of county employment in Utilities was the same as at the state level and county employment in Agricultural & Forestry Support Services was similar to the state level.
- Compared to the national economy, the Fremont County economy was noticeably lagging in terms of Manufacturing and Business Services employment.

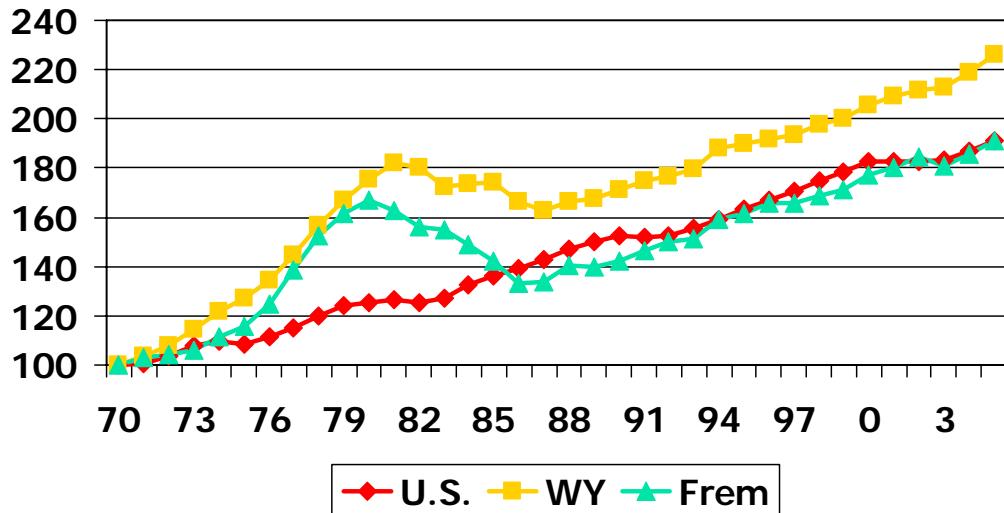
Figure 9.
Average Earnings Per Job for Fremont County, 2005



Key Points:

- The average earnings per job for Fremont County in 2005 were \$28,636. However, there was substantial variation in the average earnings per job by industry ranging from a low of \$9,345 for the Agricultural sector to a high of \$81,878 for the Mining sector.
- Following Mining in terms of average earnings per job was Utilities at \$70,627. In addition to Mining and Utilities, Wholesale Trade (\$42,824), Government (\$40,129), Transportation & Warehousing (\$36,192), Business Services (\$32,637), and Construction (\$30,606) all had average earnings per job greater than \$30,000.
- However, nearly 60 percent of the jobs in the county were in sectors where the average earnings per job were below \$30,000.
- The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services estimates that the self-sufficiency wage for a family of four in Fremont County was \$31,634 in 2005. Self-sufficiency is defined as being able to live without public assistance or subsidies.

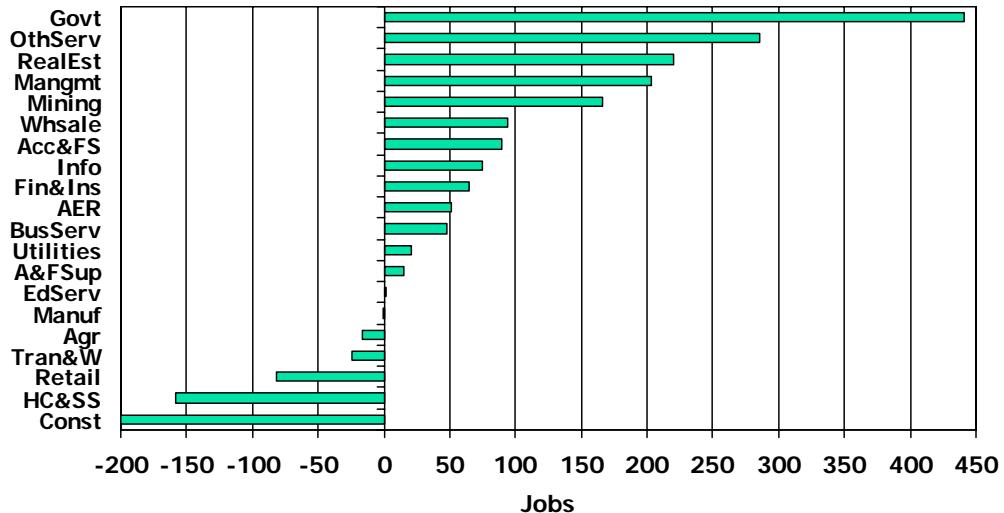
Figure 10.
Employment Growth Index, 1970-2005



Key Points:

- Employment in Fremont County increased by 1.9 times between 1970 and 2005 (11,914 jobs to 22,766 jobs). During this time period employment in the U.S. also increased by 1.9 times and employment in Wyoming increased by 2.3 times.
- Prior to 1986 the county had substantial fluctuations in employment. After peaking at 19,930 jobs in 1980, employed in the county declined by 20 percent to 15,884 jobs in 1986.
- Since 1986 the county's employment has been more stable increasing by 43 percent to 22,766 jobs in 2005. During this time period employment in the U.S. economy increased by 37 percent and employment in the Wyoming economy increased by 36 percent.
- After substantial fluctuation prior to 1986, the employment in the county since 1986 has been growing at a rate slightly above the U.S. and Wyoming rates.

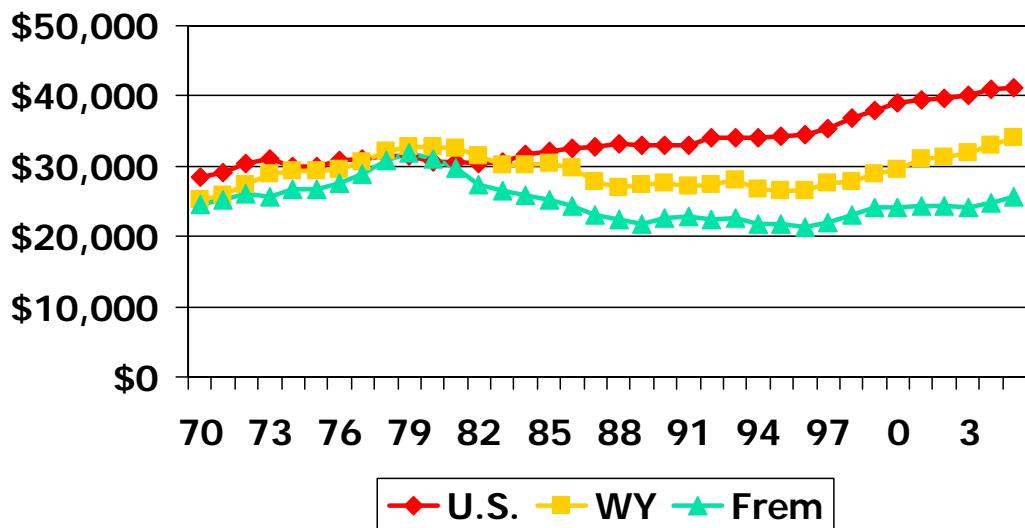
Figure 11.
**Change in Employment for Fremont County,
 2001 to 2005**



Key Points:

- Employment in Fremont County increased by 1,294 jobs from 2001 to 2005 (+6 percent). The largest growth was in Government which increased by 441 jobs. The second largest increase was in Other Services which increased by 285 jobs.
- In addition to Government and Other Services, two other sectors Real Estate & Rentals (+220) and Management Services (+203) increased by more than 200 jobs between 2001 and 2005. Mining increased by 166 jobs during the time period.
- On the other hand, six sectors lost employment from 2001 to 2005 including: Construction (-200), Health Care & Social Services (-158), Retail Trade (-82), Transportation & Warehousing (-24), Agriculture (-16), and Manufacturing (-1).
- Eighty percent of the growth in Government employment between 2001 and 2005 was in Local Government with 15 percent in State Government, and 5 percent in Federal Government.

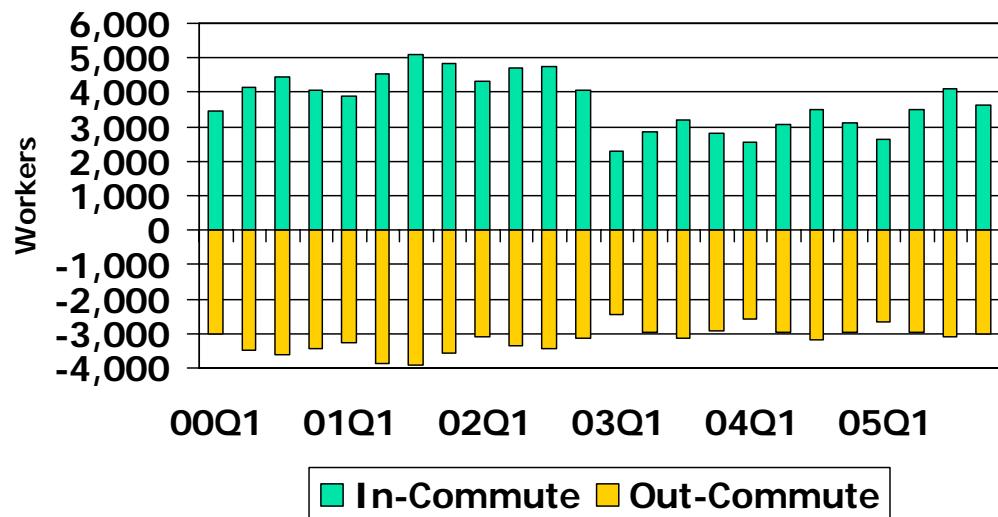
Figure 12.
Comparison of Average Earnings Per Job,
1970-2005 (Adjusted for Inflation)



Key Points:

- In 1970 average earnings per job in Fremont County were \$24,652 which was 14 percent below the U.S. average (\$28,543) and 2 percent below the Wyoming average (\$25,159).
- Between 1970 and 2005 the county's average earnings per job increased by 4 percent to \$25,662. In 2005 average earnings per job in the county were 38 percent below the U.S. average (\$41,059) and 25 percent below the Wyoming average (\$34,024).
- After peaking at \$31,792 in 1979, the county's average earnings per job declined by 30 percent to \$22,310 in 1988. County average earnings per job stayed in the \$22,000 range until 1998. Since 1998 county average earnings per job have increased by 12 percent. Since 1998, U.S. average earnings per job have increased by 12 percent and Wyoming average earning per job have increased by 22 percent.
- In 2000 average earning per job in the county were 81 percent of the Wyoming average while the cost-of-living was 94 percent of the Wyoming average. In 2005 average earnings per job in the county were 75 percent of the Wyoming average while the cost-of-living was again 94 percent of the Wyoming average.

Figure 13.
In-Commuting and Out-Commuting Workers for
Fremont County, 2000Q1 – 2005Q4



Key Points:

- Figure 13 is based on a Wyoming Department of Employment study of Wyoming Workers Commuting Patterns for the Wyoming Workforce Development Council (Doug Leonard, 2007). For the analysis residency determination was based on drivers license addresses.
- The number of in-commuting workers was seasonal in nature, increasing during the second and third quarters of the year and declining during the first and second quarters. On an annual basis the average number of workers in-commuting into the county was 14 percent lower in 2005 than in 2000 (16,154 vs. 13,832).
- The number of out-commuting workers was also seasonal in nature, increasing during the second and third quarter of year and declining during the first and second quarters. On an annual basis the average number of workers out-commuting from the county was 13 percent lower in 2005 than in 2000 (13,563 vs. 11,739).
- In five out of the six years between 2000 and 2005 the county was a net importer of labor (more in-commuting workers than out-commuting workers). The only exception was 2004.

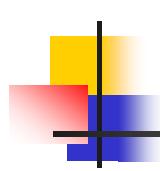
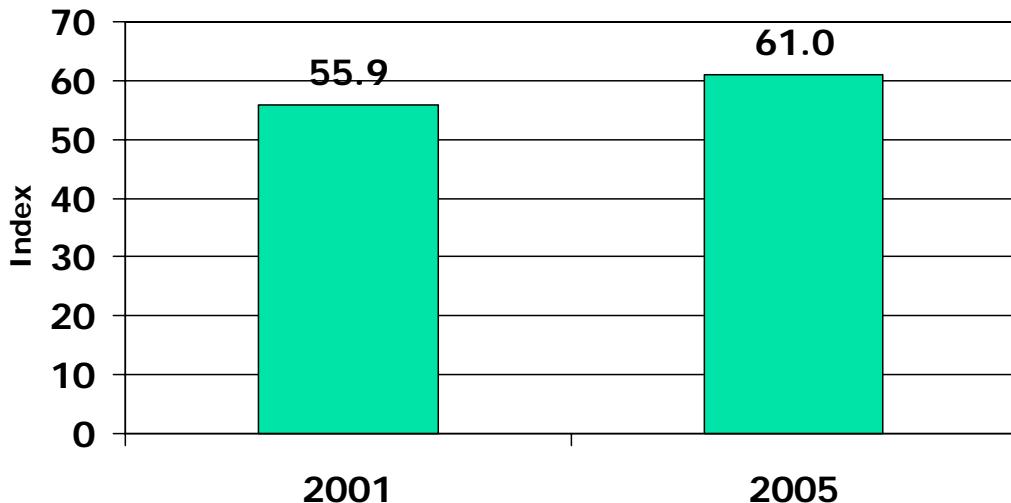


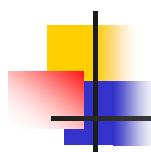
Figure 14. Fremont County Employment Diversity Index

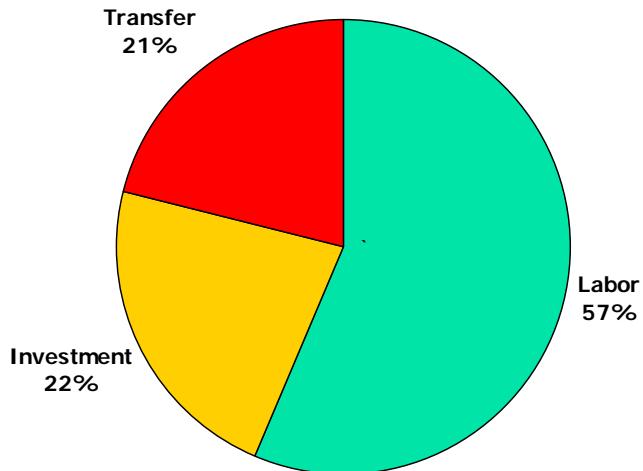


Key Points:

- In 2005, the employment diversity index for the Fremont County economy (61.0) was approximately 60 percent of the index for the U.S. economy (100.0). In addition, the county's index was very comparable to the Wyoming index (62.3). While Wyoming had the lowest diversity index of any state in the nation, the Fremont's index suggests a moderate degree of diversity at the county level.
- Between 2001 and 2005 the county's employment diversity index increased by 9 percent from 55.9 to 61.0. The increase was primarily due to changes in Construction, Manufacturing, and Health Care and Social Services at the national and county level.
- The difference between the county index and U.S. index in 2005 was primarily due to the relatively high county employment in Agriculture and Government. However, the difference was also due to the relatively low county employment in Manufacturing and Management Services.

SECTION 3: PERSONAL INCOME

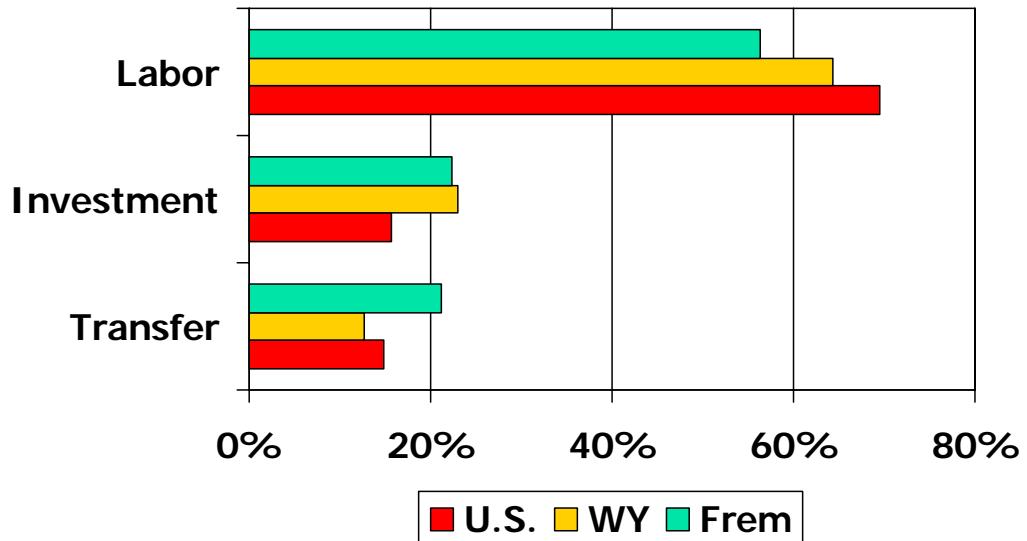
Figure 15.
Sources of Personal Income for Fremont County, 2005



Key Points:

- In 2005 the total personal income for Fremont County was more than \$1 billion (\$1.065 billion). Of this total the largest source was labor earnings (57 percent). Labor earnings include wages, salaries, and proprietor (self-employed) income.
- The second largest source of personal income for county residents in 2005 was investment income (22 percent). Investment income represents property income in the form of dividends, interest, and rents.
- The smallest source of personal income for county residents in 2005 was transfer payments (21 percent). Transfer payments represent payments from the government to individuals. They are primarily payments such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, but they also include various welfare program payments.
- Overall, nearly 60 percent of the personal income in Fremont County was work related (labor earnings) with approximately 40 percent being non-work related (investments and transfer payments).

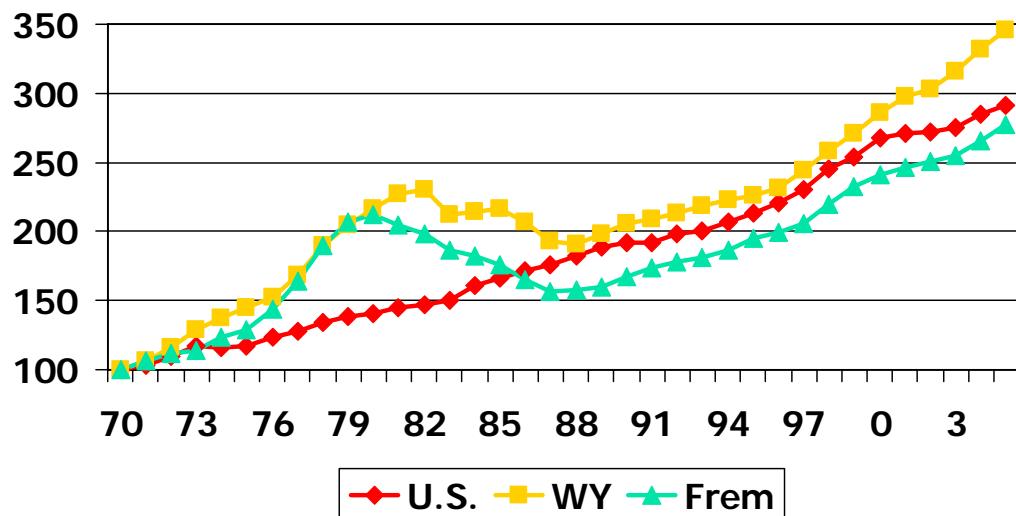
Figure 16.
Comparison of Sources of Personal Income, 2005



Key Points:

- The percent of personal income from labor earnings for Fremont County (57 percent) was 20 percent lower than the percent for the U.S. (70 percent) and was 12 percent lower than the percent for Wyoming (64 percent).
- The percent of personal income from investment income for the county (22 percent) was 1.4 times greater than the percent for the U.S. (16 percent), but similar to the percent for Wyoming (23 percent).
- The percent of personal income from transfer payments for the county (21 percent) was 1.4 times the percent for the U.S. (15 percent) and was 1.7 times the percent for Wyoming (13 percent).
- Overall, county residents received a lower percentage of their personal income from labor earning than either the U.S. or Wyoming, but a higher percent than either the U.S. or Wyoming from transfer payments. In terms of investment income, county residents received a higher percentage of their personal income from investment income than the percentage for the U.S. but the county percentage similar to that for Wyoming.

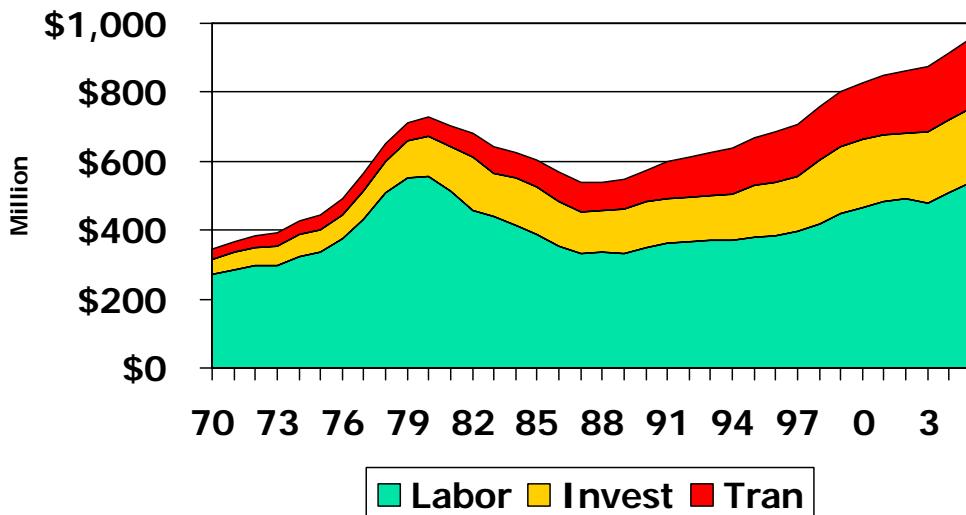
Figure 17.
Personal Income Growth Index, 1970-2005
(Adjusted for Inflation)



Key Points:

- From 1970 to 2005 personal income in Fremont County increased by 2.8 times from \$343.7 million to \$954.7 million. During this time period personal income in the U.S. increased by 2.9 times and personal income in Wyoming increased by 3.5 times.
- Prior to 1988 the county had substantial fluctuations in personal income. After peaking at \$729.6 million in 1980, personal income in the county declined by 26 percent to \$536.8 million in 1987.
- Since 1987 personal income growth in the county has been stable, increasing by 78 percent between 1987 and 2005. During this time period personal income in the U.S. increased by 65 percent and personal income in Wyoming increased by 78 percent.
- After substantial fluctuation prior to 1986, the personal income in the county since 1986 has been growing at a higher rate than the U.S. rate and similar to the Wyoming rate.

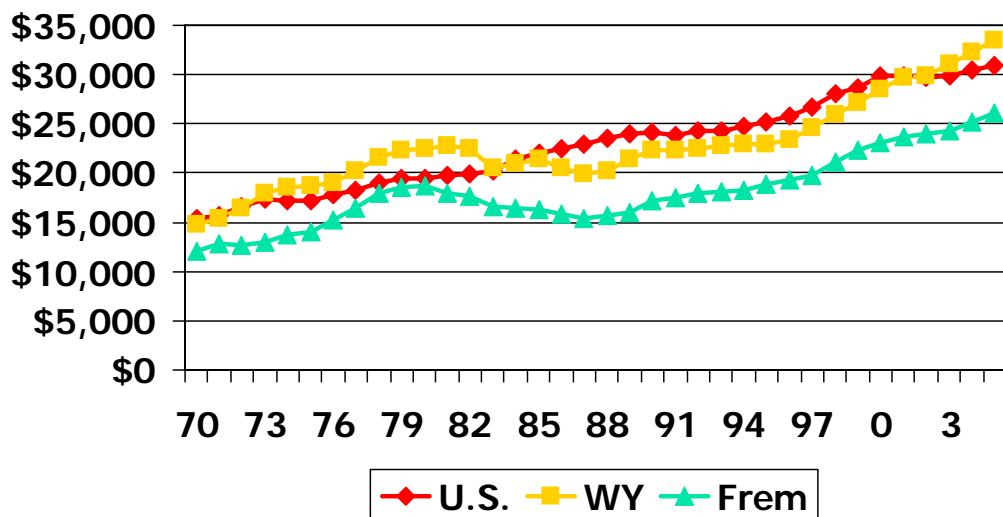
Figure 18.
Change in Sources of Personal Income for Fremont County, 1970-2005



Key Points:

- In 1970 labor earnings accounted for nearly 80 percent of the total personal income in Fremont County. At that time investment income represented 13 percent and government transfer payments represented 8 percent of county total personal income.
- Between 1970 and 2005 labor earnings in the county nearly double. However, due to more rapid growth in the other sources of personal income, the percent of total personal income in the county from labor earnings decreased to 56 percent in 2005.
- Between 1970 and 2005 investment income in the county increased by 4.7 times. As a result, the percent of total personal income in the county from investment income increased to 22 percent in 2005.
- Between 1970 and 2005 transfer payments in the county increased by 7.5 times. As a result, the percent of total personal income in the county from transfer payments increased to 21 percent in 2005.
- From 1970 to 2005 investment income and transfer payments increased in importance as a source of personal income in the county. However, the majority of county total personal income still came from labor earnings.

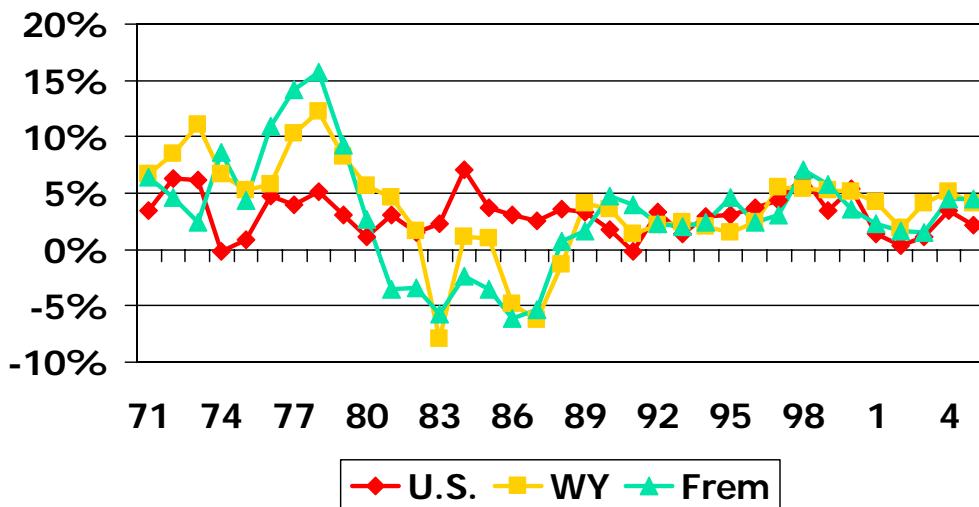
Figure 19.
Comparison of Per Capita Income, 1970-2005
(Adjusted for Inflation)



Key Points:

- In 1970 per capita income in Fremont County (\$12,099) was 78 percent of the U.S. average (\$15,445) and 82 percent of the Wyoming average (\$14,761).
- By 2005 per capita income in the county had increased to \$26,100 which was 2.2 times than the 1970 level. In 2005 county per capita income was 84 percent of the U.S. average and 78 percent of the Wyoming average.
- Per capita income in the county has fluctuated over time. After peaking in 1980 at \$18,676, per capita income fell by 17 percent to \$15,407 in 1987. Since 1987 county per capita income has increased by 69 percent. During this time period U.S. per capita income increased by 35 percent and Wyoming per capita income increased by 67 percent.
- In 1980 per capita income in the county was 96 percent of the U.S. average. However, since 1980 the county per capita income has been substantially below both the U.S. and Wyoming averages. Although the county's per capita income has been increasing since 1987, this gap remains.

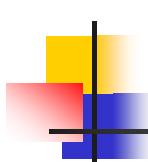
Figure 20.
Comparison of Annual Percent Change in Total Personal Income, 1970-2005

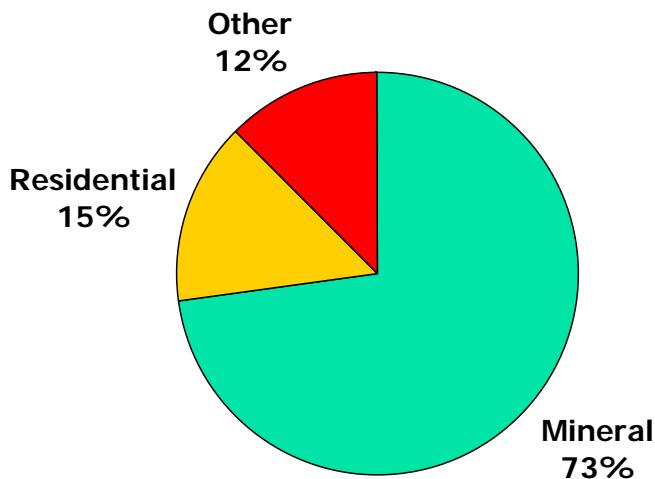


Key Points:

- A comparison of the annual percent change in total personal income illustrates the variability of the Fremont economy. From 1976 to 1978 the annual percentage growth in the county was between 11 and 16 percent. By comparison, the largest annual percent change during the time period for the U.S. economy was 6 percent and for the Wyoming economy was 12 percent.
- Although the average annual percent change in total personal income for the county was similar to both the U.S. and Wyoming between 1971 and 2005, the variability in income was 2.8 times the variability for the U.S. economy and 1.2 times the variability for the Wyoming economy.
- Most of the income variability in the county's economy occurred prior to 1989. Since 1989 the variability in the county's economy has been comparable to both the U.S. and Wyoming economies.

SECTION 4: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES

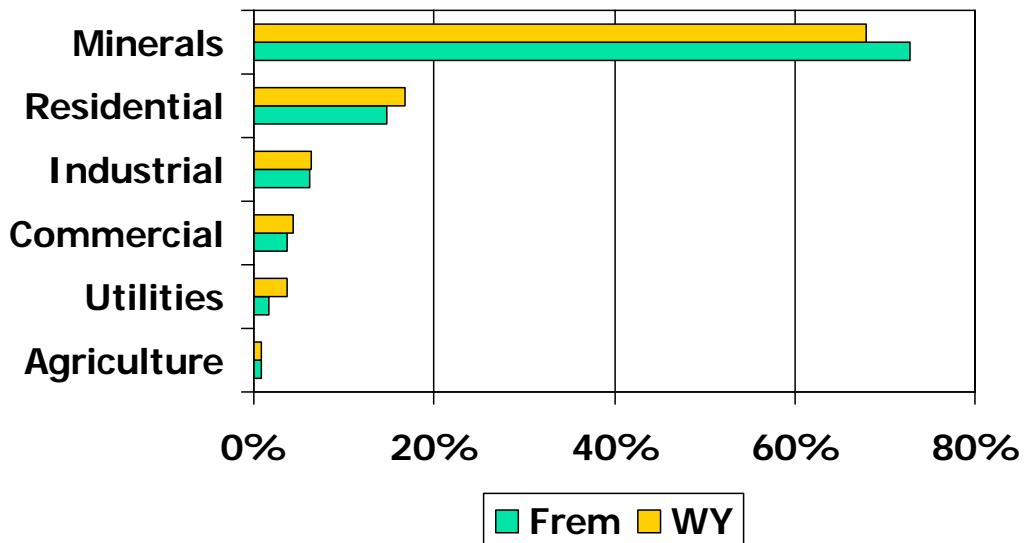
 **Figure 21.**
Assessed Valuation for Fremont County, 2007



Key Points:

- In 2007 the assessed valuation for Fremont County was more than \$1 billion (\$1.2 billion). This valuation was 6 percent of the total valuation for the state and was the fourth highest valuation among Wyoming Counties following Campbell (\$4.5 billion), Sublette (\$4.1 billion), and Sweetwater (\$2.4 billion).
- The largest source of assessed valuation for the county was Minerals which represented 73 percent of the total. Following Minerals was Residential land, improvements, and personal property which represented 15 percent of total valuation. Under “Other” the largest category was Industrial property at 6 percent, Commercial property at 4 percent, Utilities at 2 percent, and Agriculture at 1 percent.
- The combination of Minerals and Residential property represented 88 percent of the total assessed valuation for the county.

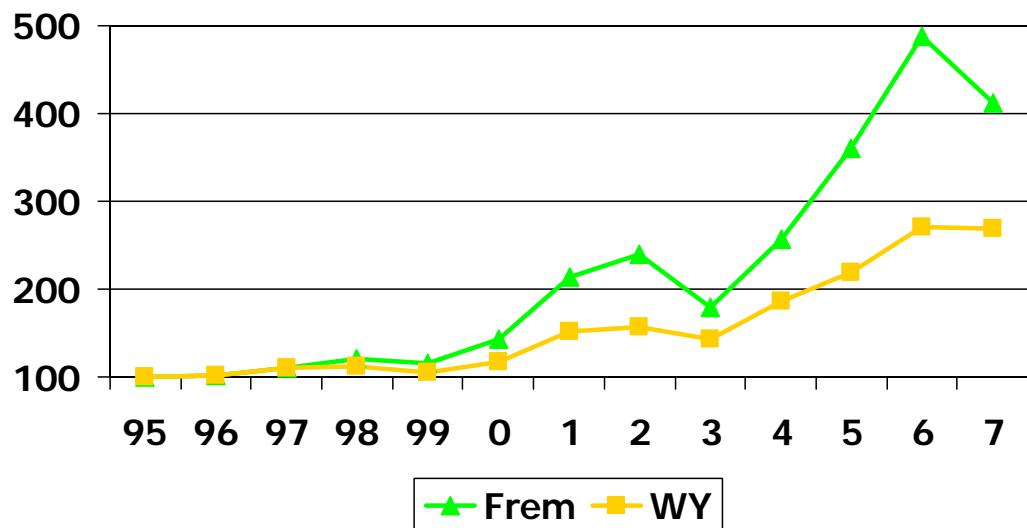
Figure 22.
Comparison of Assessed Valuation, 2005



Key Points:

- The proportion of the Fremont County's tax base from minerals was slightly higher than the percentage for Wyoming (73 percent vs. 68 percent).
- The proportion of the county's tax base from residential property was slightly lower than the percentage for Wyoming (15 percent vs. 17 percent).
- The proportion of the county's tax base from industrial property was the same as the percentage for Wyoming (6 percent vs. 6 percent). This was true for the proportion of the county tax base from commercial property (4 percent vs. 4 percent).
- The proportion of the county's tax base from Utilities was one-half the percentage for Wyoming (2 percent vs. 4 percent).
- The proportion of the county's tax base from Agriculture was the same as the percentage for Wyoming (1 percent vs. 1 percent).
- Overall, the structure of the county's tax base was very similar on a percentage basis to the structure for Wyoming.

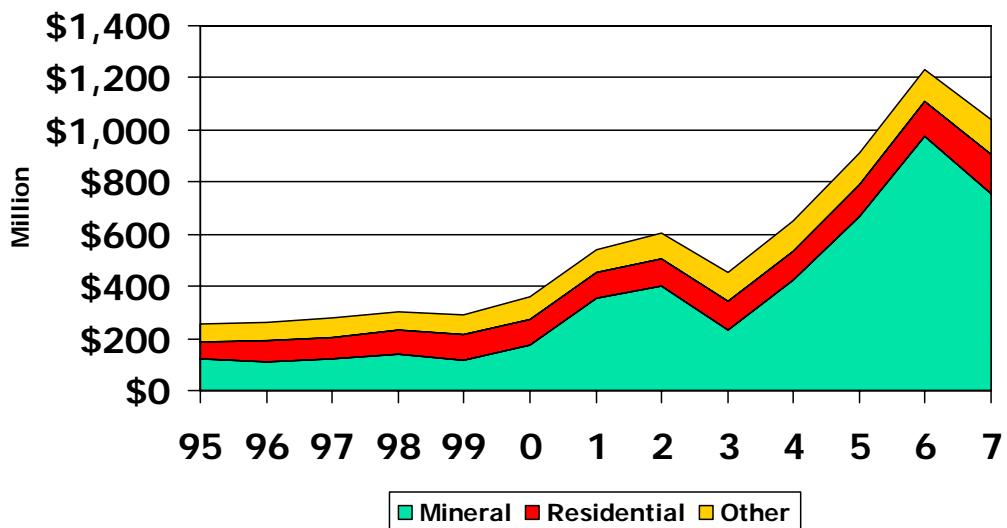
Figure 23.
Assessed Valuation Growth Index, 1995-2007
(Adjusted for Inflation)



Key Points:

- In 2007 the assessed valuation for Fremont County was more than 4 times larger than it was in 1995 (\$252.4 million to \$1,038.2 million). During this time period the assessed valuation for Wyoming increased by 2.7 times.
- Between 2003 and 2006 the assessed valuation for the county increased at an average rate of 40 percent per year. In comparison, the statewide assessed valuation increased at an average rate of 23 percent per year during this time period.
- In 2007, the assessed valuation for the county declined by 16 percent (\$1.2 billion to \$1.0 billion). The decline in the county's assessed valuation between 2006 and 2007 and the one between 2002 and 2003 (-25 percent) illustrates the variability in the county's assessed valuation.
- Over time, the growth in the county's assessed valuation has substantially exceeded the growth at the state level. However, the declines in 2002-2003 and 2006-2007 were proportionately much greater for the county than for the state.

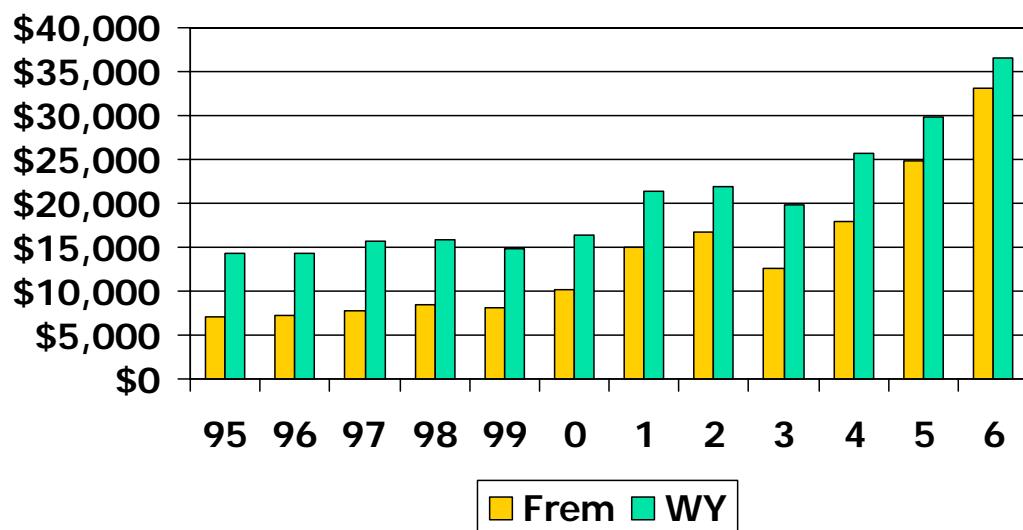
Figure 24.
**Change in Assessed Valuation for Fremont County,
 1995-2007 (Adjusted for Inflation)**



Key Points:

- Increases in assessed valuation for Minerals accounted for more than 80 percent of the growth in assessed valuation for Fremont County between 1995 and 2007. The assessed valuation for Minerals increased by more than 6 times during this time period. As a result Minerals increased from 48 percent of the county's total assessed valuation in 1995 to 73 percent in 2007.
- Increases in the valuation for Residential property accounted for 11 percent of the growth in assessed valuation for Fremont County between 1995 and 2007. The valuation for Residential property increased by 2.4 times during this time period. However, due to the rapid growth in Minerals, Residential property decreased from 25 percent of the county's total assessed valuation in 1995 to 15 percent in 2007.
- Increases in the valuation for "Other" property accounted for 8 percent of the growth in the valuation for Fremont County between 1995 and 2007. The valuation for "Other" property increased by 1.9 times during this time period. However, due to the rapid growth in Minerals, "Other" property decreased from 27 percent of the county's total assessed valuation in 1995 to 12 percent in 2007.

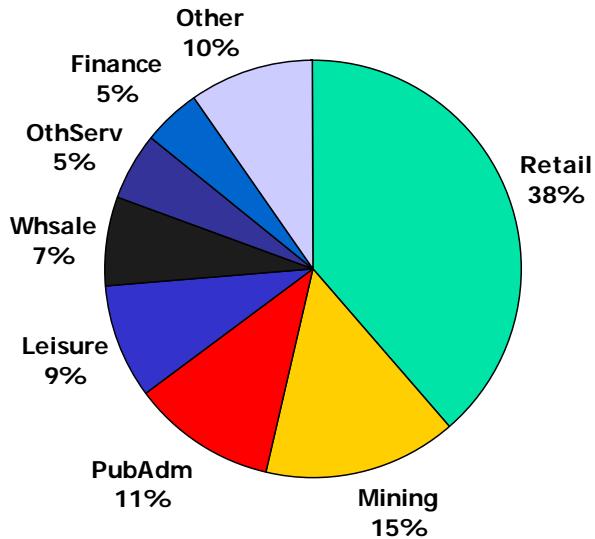
Figure 25.
Per Capita Assessed Valuation, 1995-2006 (Adjusted for Inflation)



Key Points:

- Between 1995 and 2006 the per capita assessed valuation for Fremont County increased by 4.6 times from \$7,126 in 1995 to \$33,172 in 2006. During this time period the overall per capital assessed valuation for Wyoming increased by 2.5 times from \$14,327 in 1995 to \$36,505 in 2006.
- In 1995 the county's per capita assessed valuation was one-half the per capita assessed valuation for the entire state (\$7,126 vs. \$14,327). By 2006 the county's per capita assessed valuation had increased to 91 percent of the assessed valuation for the entire state (\$37,163 vs. \$36,505).
- Historically, the county's per capita assessed valuation has been substantially lower than per capita assessed valuation for the entire state. However, in recent years the difference has decreased due to more rapid growth in assessed valuation at the county level.

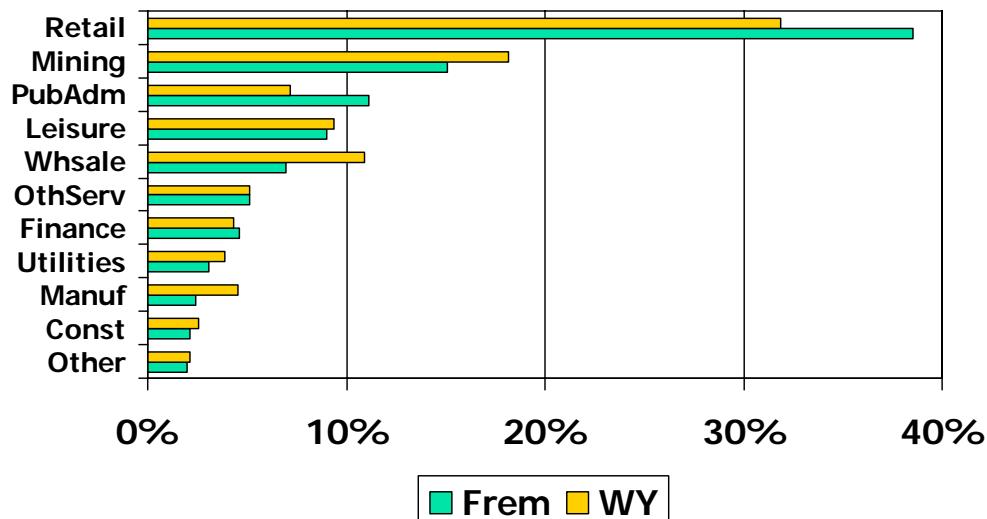
Figure 26.
Sales Tax Revenue for Fremont County, 2007



Key Points:

- In 2007 sales tax revenue from Fremont County was \$30.0 million. This total represented 4 percent of the total sales tax revenue in the state and was the 9th highest among Wyoming counties, following Campbell (\$137.8 million), Sweetwater (\$111.4 million), Natrona (93.4 million), Laramie (\$79.1 million), Sublette (\$68.6 million), Teton (\$55.9 million), Carbon (\$32.2 million), and Sheridan (\$31.2 million).
- Nearly 40 percent of the county's sales tax revenue came from the Retail sector. An additional 15 percent came from Mining, with 11 percent for Public Administration, 9 percent from Leisure/Hospitality, 7 percent for Wholesale, 5 percent from Other Services, 5 percent from Financial, and 10 percent from “Other”.
- Among the “Other” category the largest sectors were Utilities at 3 percent, Manufacturing at 2 percent and Construction at 2 percent.
- In 2007 the State of Wyoming retained 67 percent of the sales tax revenue from the county (\$20.3 million) and returned 33 percent to local governments in the county (\$9.7 million). Of the amount returned, 55 percent went to Fremont County government and 45 percent went to municipalities in the county.

Figure 27.
Comparison of Sales Tax Revenues, 2007



Key Points:

- Compared to Wyoming, Fremont County received proportionately more sales tax revenue from Retail (38 percent vs. 32 percent), Public Administration (11 percent vs. 7 percent), and Financial (5 percent vs. 4 percent).
- Compared to Wyoming, the county received proportionately less sales tax revenue from Mining (15 percent vs. 18 percent), Utilities (3 percent vs. 4 percent), Manufacturing (2 percent vs. 4 percent), and Construction (2 percent vs. 3 percent).
- Compared to Wyoming, the county received proportionately similar sales tax revenue from Leisure/Hospitality (9 percent vs. 9 percent), Other Services (5 percent vs. 5 percent), and “Others” (2 percent vs. 2 percent).
- Overall, the sources of the county’s sales tax revenue were similar on a percentage basis to the sources for Wyoming.

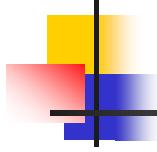
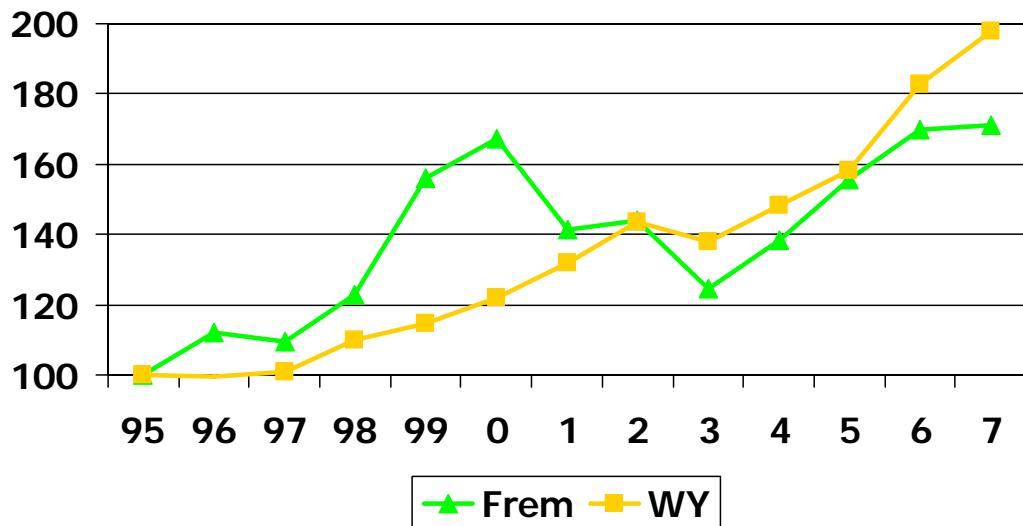


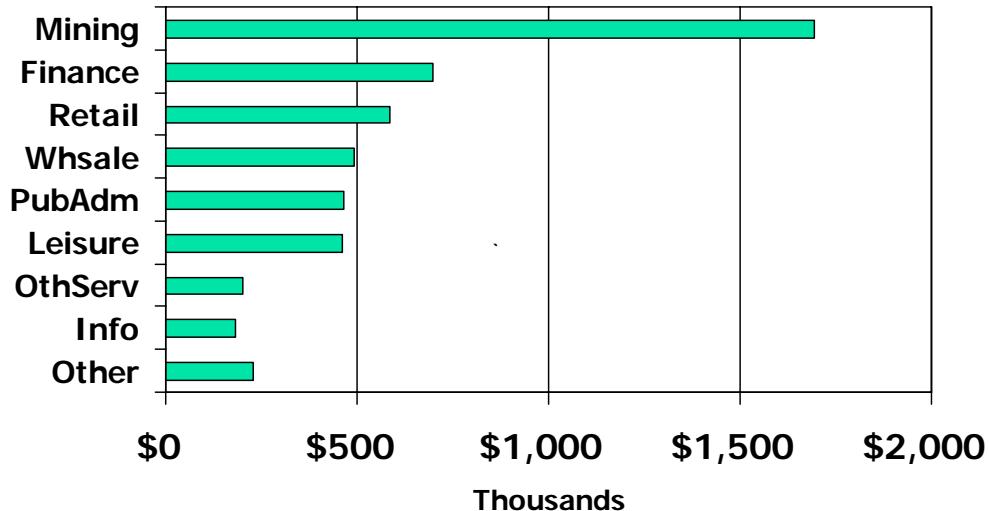
Figure 28. Sales Tax Revenue Growth Index, 1995-2007
(Adjusted for Inflation)



Key Points:

- In 2007 sales tax revenue for Fremont County was 1.7 times higher than it was in 1995 (\$15.3 million vs. \$26.2 million). During this time period sales tax revenue for the entire state nearly doubled.
- Between 2003 and 2006 sales tax revenue for the county increased by 11 percent per year. In comparison, state sales tax revenue increased by 10 percent per year during this time period. From 2006 to 2007 the county sales tax revenue increase slowed to less than 1 percent, while state sales tax revenue increased by 8 percent. Most of the slowdown in county sales tax revenue was the result of a decline in Retail sales tax revenue in 2007.
- The spike in county sales tax revenue in 1999 and 2000 reflect the imposition of a one percent optional sales tax by the county in 1999 and 2000.
- Although both the county and state sales tax revenues have increased substantially since 2003, the growth in county sales tax revenue tapered off in 2007.

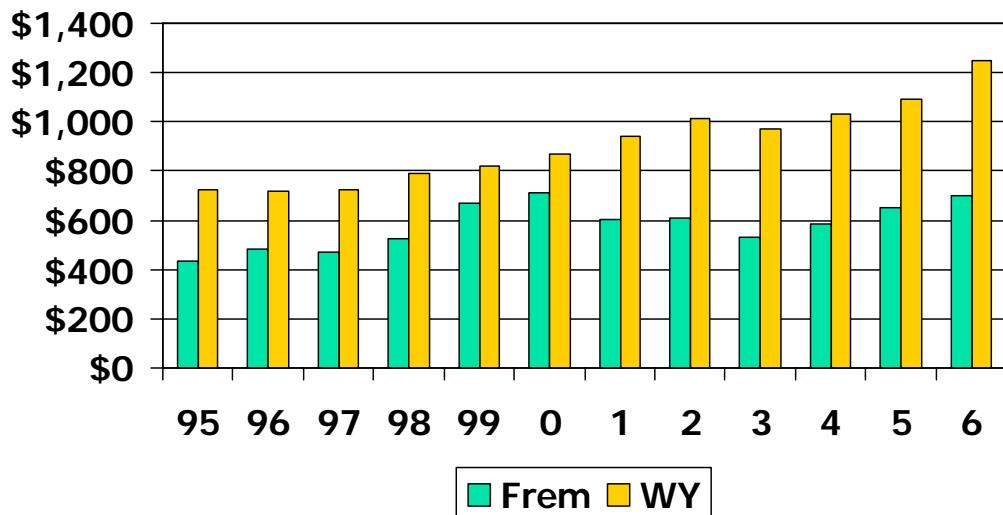
Figure 29.
**Change in Sales Tax Revenue for Fremont County,
 2004-2007 (Adjusted for Inflation)**



Key Points:

- Between 2004 and 2007 sales tax revenue in all sectors of the Fremont economy had increases in sales tax revenue. The largest increase was in Mining which increased by \$1.7 million during the time period.
- Two other sectors, Financial (+\$697.4 thousand) and Retail (+\$584.7 million) also had increased sales tax revenues of more than \$500,000.
- Three other sectors Wholesale (+\$492.7 thousand), Public Administration (+\$466.9 million), and Leisure/Hospitality (+\$462.0 thousand) also had increased sales tax revenue approaching \$500,000.
- These six sectors; Mining, Financial, Retail, Wholesale, Public Administration, and Leisure/Hospitality account for nearly 90 percent of the total increase in county sales tax revenue between 2004 and 2007.

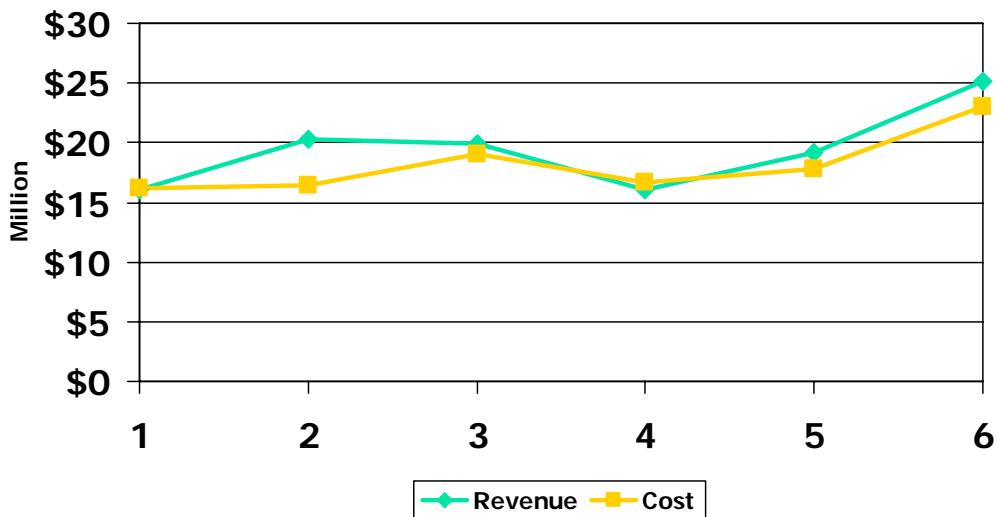
Figure 30.
Per Capita Sales Tax Revenues, 1995-2006
(Adjusted for Inflation)



Key Points:

- Between 1995 and 2006 per capita sales tax revenue for Fremont County increased by 62 percent from \$432 in 1995 to \$699 in 2006. During this same time period per capita sales tax revenue at the state level increased by 72 percent from \$726 in 1995 to \$1,251 in 2006.
- Due to slower sales tax revenue growth in the county, the county's per capita sales tax revenue decreased from 60 percent of the state average in 1995 to 56 percent of the state average in 2006.
- Historically the county's per capita sales tax revenue has been substantially lower than the state average. One of the reasons for this is that the county sales tax rate was lower than most of the rest of the state (4.0 percent vs. 5.2 percent in 2006) during most of this time period. The only exception was 1999 and 2000 when the optional one percent sales tax was in effect.

Figure 31.
Fremont County Revenue and Cost, 2001-2006
(Adjusted for Inflation)

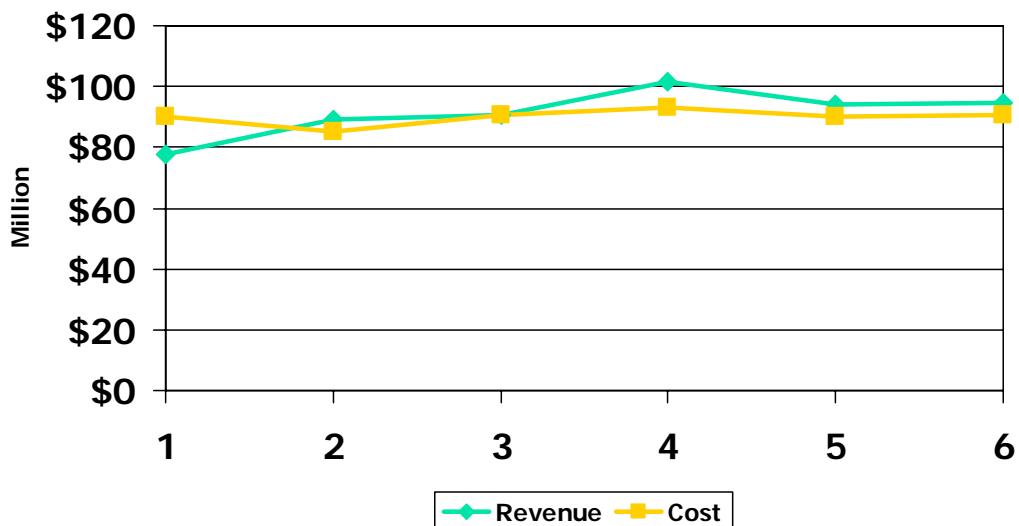


Key Points:

- The information in Figure 32 is based on data from the Wyoming Department of Audit. Although there has been some variation, total revenue for Fremont County government increased from \$16.1 million in 2001 to \$25.2 million in 2006. This represented a 57 percent increase. Taking into account population changes during this time period per capita revenue increased from \$1,090 per capita in 2001 to \$1,537 per capita in 2006. This represents a 41 percent increase.
- Total costs for Fremont County government increased from \$16.1 million in 2001 to \$23.1 million in 2006. County costs were 43 percent higher in 2006 than in 2001. Taking into account population changes during this time period per capita costs increased from \$1,094 per capita in 2001 to \$1,408 per capita in 2006. This represents a 29 percent increase.
- In 2001 the statewide average per capita cost for county government, excluding hospitals, was \$539. By 2006 the statewide average, excluding hospitals, had increased by 82 percent to \$983 per capita.

Figure 32.

**Fremont School Revenue and Cost, 2001-2006
(Adjusted for Inflation)**



Key Points:

- The information in Figure 32 is from the Wyoming Department of Education. From 2001 to 2006 total revenue for Fremont County's school districts increased by 22 percent from \$77.8 million in 2001 to \$94.7 million in 2006. Considering changes in student numbers revenue per average daily membership increased by 28 percent from \$11,664 in 2001 to \$14,985 in 2006.
- From 2001 to 2006 total cost for Fremont County school district increased by less than 1 percent from \$90.2 million in 2001 to \$90.5 million in 2006. Considering changes in student numbers cost per average daily membership increased by 6 percent from \$13,537 in 2001 to \$14,312 in 2006.
- Between 2001 and 2006 average daily membership decreased by 5 percent, October 1 enrollment also decreased by slightly less than 5 percent, and staff FTE's decreased by 2 percent.
- In 2001 the statewide average per capita cost per average daily membership was \$8,817. By 2006 the statewide average had increased by 55 percent to \$13,714 per average daily membership.

SUMMARY

Population:

- Fifty-eight percent of the county's population was working age adults (20 to 64). Twenty-eight percent of the county's population was under 20 years old. Fourteen percent of the county's population was retirement age (65 and older).
- Overall, the median age of the county's population was 38.4. This was slightly older than either the U.S. (36.4) or Wyoming (37.1). This primarily reflects the higher percentage of residents in the 65 & over age category.
- In 2006 the population of Fremont County was more than 30 percent larger than it was in 1970 (28,406 vs. 37,163). During this time period the population of the United States increased by 47 percent and the population of Wyoming increased by 54 percent.
- Between 2000 and 2006, the county's population growth was less than the U.S. or Wyoming. However, the population growth was not evenly distributed with some areas of the county (Dubious, Riverton, and Shoshoni) growing faster than the state rate.
- While Wyoming has historically struggled to maintain the young adult population in its communities, the county had a substantial increase in the 20 through 29 age categories between 2000 and 2006. In addition all the age categories greater than 50 had increased population during the time period. Also the increase in the under 5 population may be important to county schools in the future.
- Population growth comes from one of two sources: 1) natural increase (more births than deaths) or 2) net in-migration (more individuals moving in than moving out). Natural increase has remained positive throughout the time period. Since 1990 almost all the overall net increase in population has been due to natural increase. Still, changes in net in-migration have been the primary driver of population change in the county over the past 35 years.

Employment:

- With over 40 percent of total employment in Government, Retail, and Health Care & Social Services, the county economy is particularly dependent on continued economic activity in these three sectors.
- Based on the percent of total employment in the county compared to the national economy, the Fremont County economy was specialized in the following sectors (specialized is defined as a Location Quotient of greater than 1.25):

- Mining (county employment is 6.0 times the national average)
 - Agriculture (county employment is 3.0 times the national average)
 - Government (county employment is 1.7 times the national average)
- Among the smaller sectors, the Fremont County economy was specialized in Utilities (1.9 times the national average) and Agricultural & Forestry Support Services (1.5 times the national average).
- The average earnings per job for Fremont County in 2005 were \$28,636. However, there was substantial variation in the average earnings per job by industry ranging from a low of \$9,345 for the Agricultural sector to a high of \$81,878 for the Mining sector.
- Employment in Fremont County increased by 1.9 times between 1970 and 2005 (11,914 jobs to 22,766 jobs). During this time period employment in the U.S. also increased by 1.9 times and employment in Wyoming increased by 2.3 times.
- Employment in Fremont County increased by 1,294 jobs from 2001 to 2005 (+6 percent). The largest growth was in Government which increased by 441 jobs. The second largest increase was in Other Services which increased by 285 jobs.
- Between 1970 and 2005 the county's average earnings per job increased by 4 percent from \$24,652 to \$25,662. In 2005 average earnings per job in the county were 38 percent below the U.S. average (\$41,059) and 25 percent below the Wyoming average (\$34,024).
- The number of in-commuting workers was seasonal in nature, increasing during the second and third quarters of the year and declining during the first and second quarters. On an annual basis the average number of workers in-commuting into the county was 14 percent lower in 2005 than in 2000 (16,154 vs. 13,832).
- The number of out-commuting workers was also seasonal in nature, increasing during the second and third quarter of year and declining during the first and second quarters. On an annual basis the average number of workers out-commuting from the county was 13 percent lower in 2005 than in 2000 (13,563 vs. 11,739).
- In 2005, the employment diversity index for the Fremont County economy (61.0) was approximately 60 percent of the index for the U.S. economy (100.0). In addition, the county's index was very comparable to the Wyoming index (62.3). While Wyoming had the lowest diversity index of any state in the nation, the Fremont's index suggests a moderate degree of diversity at the county level.

Personal Income:

- Overall, nearly 60 percent of the personal income in Fremont County was work related (labor earnings) with approximately 40 percent being non-work related (investments and transfer payments).
- Overall, county residents received a lower percentage of their personal income from labor earning than either the U.S. or Wyoming, but a higher percent than either the U.S. or Wyoming from transfer payments. In terms of investment income, county residents received a higher percentage of their personal income from investment income than the percentage for the U.S. but the county percentage similar to that for Wyoming.
- From 1970 to 2005 personal income in Fremont County increased by 2.8 times from \$343.7 million to \$954.7 million. During this time period personal income in the U.S. increased by 2.9 times and personal income in Wyoming increased by 3.5 times.
- From 1970 to 2005 investment income and transfer payments increased in importance as a source of personal income in the county. However, the majority of county total personal income still came from labor earnings.
- By 2005 per capita income in the county had increased to \$26,100 which was 2.2 times the 1970 level. In 2005 county per capita income was 84 percent of the U.S. average and 78 percent of the Wyoming average.
- A comparison of the annual percent change in total personal income illustrates the variability of the Fremont economy. From 1976 to 1978 the annual percentage growth in the county was between 11 and 16 percent. By comparison, the largest annual percent change during the time period for the U.S. economy was 6 percent and for the Wyoming economy was 12 percent.

Local Government Finances

- In 2007 the assessed valuation for Fremont County was more than \$1 billion (\$1.2 billion). This valuation was 6 percent of the total valuation for the state and was the fourth highest valuation among Wyoming Counties. The combination of Minerals and Residential property represented 88 percent of the total assessed valuation for the county.
- In 2007 the assessed valuation for Fremont County was more than 4 times larger than it was in 1995 (\$252.4 million to \$1,038.2 million). During this time period the assessed valuation for Wyoming increased by 2.7 times.
- In 2007 the assessed valuation for Fremont County was more than 4 times larger than it was in 1995 (\$252.4 million to \$1,038.2 million). During this time period the assessed valuation for Wyoming increased by 2.7 times.

- Increases in assessed valuation for Minerals accounted for more than 80 percent of the growth in assessed valuation for Fremont County between 1995 and 2007. The assessed valuation for Minerals increased by more than 6 times during this time period. As a result Minerals increased from 48 percent of the county's total assessed valuation in 1995 to 73 percent in 2007.
- Between 1995 and 2006 the per capita assessed valuation for Fremont County increased by 4.6 times from \$7,126 in 1995 to \$33,172 in 2006. During this time period the overall per capital assessed valuation for Wyoming increased by 2.5 times from \$14,327 in 1995 to \$36,505 in 2006.
- In 2007 sales tax revenue from Fremont County was \$30.0 million. This total represented 4 percent of the total sales tax revenue in the state and was the 9th highest among Wyoming counties. Nearly 40 percent of the county's sales tax revenue came from the Retail sector.
- In 2007 sales tax revenue for Fremont County was 1.7 times higher than it was in 1995 (\$15.3 million vs. \$26.2 million). During this time period sales tax revenue for the entire state nearly doubled.
- Between 2004 and 2007 sales tax revenue in all sectors of the Fremont economy had increases in sales tax revenue. The largest increase was in Mining which increased by \$1.7 million during the time period.
- Between 1995 and 2006 per capita sales tax revenue for Fremont County increased by 62 percent from \$432 in 1995 to \$699 in 2006. During this same time period per capita sales tax revenue at the state level increased by 72 percent from \$726 in 1995 to \$1,251 in 2006.
- Although there has been some variation, total revenue for Fremont County government increased from \$16.1 million in 2001 to \$25.2 million in 2006. Total costs for Fremont County government increased from \$16.1 million in 2001 to \$23.1 million in 2006.
- From 2001 to 2006 total revenue for Fremont County's school districts increased by 22 percent from \$77.8 million in 2001 to \$94.7 million in 2006. From 2001 to 2006 total cost for Fremont County school district increased by less than 1 percent from \$90.2 million in 2001 to \$90.5 million in 2006.

DISCUSSION

Fremont County is on the periphery of the Bridger-Teton region. So although there are 135,172 acres (4.0 percent) of the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Fremont County, the centers of population are far enough away and separated by the spine of the Wind River Range, that there is an effective barrier for most economic activity. Some agricultural commerce does take place between Fremont and Sublette Counties, but unlike the other Bridger-Teton region counties, there is very little daily commuting between Fremont County and the rest of the Bridger-Teton region.

Fremont County's economy does share some of the traits of Sublette County in that it has recently been a net importer of labor. Minerals and mining jobs are important and becoming more so, but not to the same extent as Sublette County. Mining, in particular is becoming more important to Fremont County as there is renewed interest in Uranium in the east central parts of the county.

Agriculture is significantly more important in Fremont County than any of the other Bridger-Teton region counties. Fremont County's lower elevation (on the plains) and significant water developments enable more crops to be grown. And although most of the land area is publically owned, summer grazing on public lands in combination with irrigated feed crops from private lands, particularly alfalfa, have allowed for a more vibrant agricultural sector to develop.

Government employment is particularly prominent in Fremont County. This is not surprising considering the vast tracts of public land and Wyoming's only Indian reservation are located in Fremont County. Also, the Shoshone National Forest has significantly more acres in Fremont County than the Bridger-Teton NF. In addition, numerous state agencies have offices in the county and the large size and dispersed population of the county result in substantial employment by local government.