

CROOK COUNTY

CHAPTER ONE

DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC TRENDS

1.1 LOCATION

Crook County, Wyoming is situated in the northeast corner of Wyoming and the scenic Black Hills region (Figure 1-1). The county seat of Sundance is located about 61 miles northeast of Gillette, Wyoming.

1.2 POPULATION SIZE AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

The resident population of Crook County included 5,887 residents in April 2000 (Table 1-1). The county seat of Sundance comprised almost 20 percent of the county population. Moorcroft accounted for about 14 percent of the resident population. Hulett included approximately seven percent of the population while almost four percent resided in Pine Haven.

The remaining 56 percent of the resident population resided throughout various parts of the unincorporated area of Crook County. The unincorporated area includes several unincorporated communities such as Alva, Aladdin, Beulah, Carlile, Colony, and New Haven,

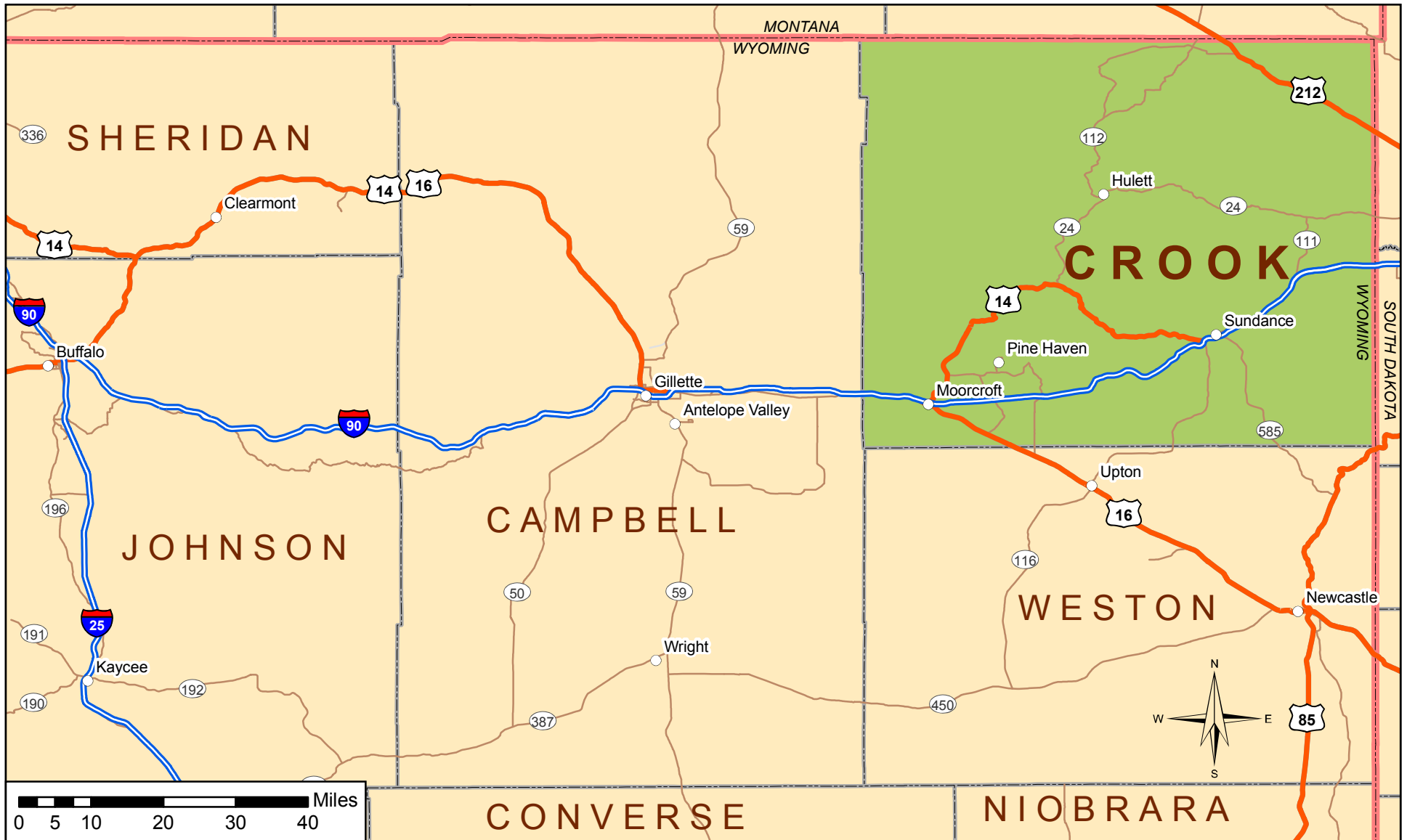
Hulett	408	6.9
Moorcroft	807	13.7
Pine Haven	222	3.8
Sundance	1,161	19.7
Unincorporated Area	3,289	55.9
Crook County	5,887	100.0
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.		

1.3 RECENT POPULATION GROWTH

Available natural growth and driver license surrender data for Crook County provides some insights concerning recent population growth. The number of births and deaths in Crook County that occurred from May 2000 through December 2005 represents a net increase of 65 persons (Table 1-2).

Available driver's license surrender data, which provides a general indication of in and out-migration, suggests a net migration of approximately 236 new residents into Crook County from May 2000 through December 2005 (Table 1-3). It is important to note that this data does not reflect the in or out-migration of persons less than 16 years of age. Consequently, actual net migration to Crook County represents a greater number of incoming residents.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Natural Growth</i>
2000 ^(a)	59	57	2
2001	39	48	-9
2002	72	58	14
2003	72	53	19
2004	68	42	26
2005 ^(b)	78	65	13
Total	388	323	65
Notes: a) 2000 natural growth data includes births and deaths from May through December 2000 in order to correlate the data with U.S. Census estimates of April 2000; b) 2005 data estimated by Wyoming Department of Health.			
Source: Wyoming Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2006.			



Wyoming Workforce Child Care Needs Assessment

Regional Location Crook County

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Figure 1-1

TABLE 1-3 POPULATION GROWTH CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING MAY 2000 THROUGH DECEMBER 2005			
<i>Year</i>	<i>Natural Growth</i>	<i>Net Migration</i>	<i>Population</i>
2000 ^(a)			5,887
2000 ^(b)	2	20	5,909
2001	-9	56	5,956
2002	14	60	6,030
2003	19	32	6,081
2004	26	27	6,134
2005 ^(c)	13	41	6,188
Total		236	
Notes: a) Population from April 2000 Census; b) 2000 natural growth data includes births and deaths from May through December 2000 in order to correlate the data with U.S. Census estimates of April 2000; c) 2005 data estimated by Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.			
Source: Wyoming Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2006.			

Available driver's license surrender data for 2005 indicates that more recent migration into Crook County primarily includes persons in the 26-55 year old age group. Positive net migration is also evident for the 56-65 year old age group. Consequently, it appears that new residents of Crook County primarily includes persons in the primary working age population, as well as persons nearing or in their younger retirement years.

1.4 AGE CHARACTERISTICS

The age characteristics of the Crook County population in April 2000 provide some general insight to the size of the 0 to 12 year old age group that could potentially require some form of child care. In April 2000, children from 0 to 12 years of age included approximately 974 persons, or almost 17 percent of the total county population (Table 1-4 and Figure 1-2).



The age distribution of the county population also indicates some other trends important to the community. The primary working age population, which includes persons between 25 and 54 years of age, represented about 40 percent of the total population (Table 1-4).

Residents nearing or in their retirement years, who are over 54 years of age, comprised 26 percent of the total resident population (Figure 1-2). The size of this age group is somewhat less than the proportion found in other Wyoming communities.

TABLE 1-4 POPULATION BY AGE GROUP CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING APRIL 2000	
<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Population</i>
Under 1 year	61
1 to 2 years	118
3 to 5 years	194
6 to 12 years	601
13 to 19 years	752
20 to 24 years	245
25 to 34 years	492
35 to 44 years	956
45 to 54 years	916
55 to 64 years	684
65 to 84 years	751
85 years and over	117
Total	5,887
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.	

**FIGURE 1-2
AGE CHARACTERISTICS
CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING
APRIL 2000**

AGE	Proportion of Total Population (percent)													
	12	10	8	6	4	2	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	
85 years and over								1	1					
65 to 84 years				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
55 to 64 years				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
45 to 54 years			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
35 to 44 years			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
25 to 34 years					1	1	1	1	1	1				
20 to 24 years						1	1	1	1					
13 to 19 years				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
6 to 12 years				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
3 to 5 years							1	1						
1 to 2 years							1	1						
Under 1 year							1	1						

Key
 = Male
 = Female

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

1.5 FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

In April 2000, there were 2,308 households within Crook County. About 71 percent of these households were family households, or households with children. Almost four percent of the households (87 households) included single mothers, i.e., no husband present, residing with children under 18 years of age (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

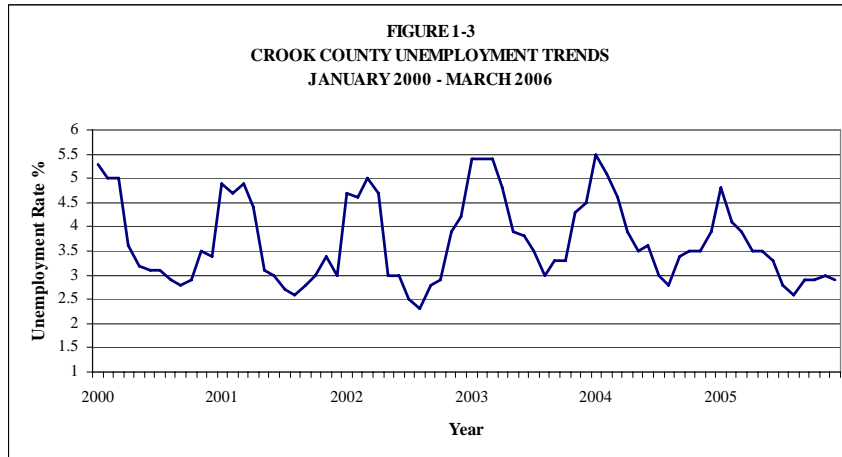
The average household size in Crook County was 2.51 persons. The average size of families (households with children under 18 years of age) was 3.01 persons.

1.6 WORKFORCE TRENDS

1.6.1 Employed Workforce

In June 2006, the workforce of Crook County included 3,628 persons who were 16 years of age or older in 2000 (Wyoming Department of Employment, 2006). About 3,535 residents of the county were employed at that time.

Unemployment rates in Crook County between 2000 and 2005 (Figure 1-3) ranged between 2.3 in August 2002 and 5.5 percent in January 2004 (Wyoming Department of Employment, Research and Planning Division, 2005). Higher unemployment rates were particularly evident during 1Q 2003 and 1Q 2004. The rate of unemployment during the summer months typically ranged between 2.5 and 4.0 percent.



Source: Wyoming Department of Employment, Research and Planning Division, 2005.

Available data suggests that Crook County regularly experiences seasonal increases in employment during the summer months. Increased summer employment is likely associated with agriculture, mining (including oil and gas), retail trade, as well as accommodations and food services.

An economy that is characterized by an unemployment rate of three percent or less is generally considered to be “fully employed” as those persons, who wish to work, are actively working in the local economy (U.S. Census Bureau). Even though the rate of unemployment has generally declined since 2004, available unemployment data suggests that the employed workforce could continue to support some economic expansion in Crook County.

1.6.2 Primary Sources of Employment

The Crook County workforce is employed in a variety of industries within the local economy (Table 1-5). The predominant sources of employment for local residents in 2004 included:

- Government;
- Agriculture;
- Construction;
- Retail trade;
- Mining; and,
- Accommodations and food services.

Government operations in Crook County provided the greatest amount of full and part-time employment in 2004. These jobs represented about 19 percent of total employment in 2004. County and municipal governmental agencies are the predominant source of governmental employment.

Agriculture is an important industry within the county economy. There were approximately 440 farms or ranches in the county in 2002 (U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2004). This industry provided almost 16 percent of total full and part-time employment in 2004 (Table 1-5). Important crops that are produced in the county include spring and winter wheat, barley, as well as alfalfa and other hay. Livestock production primarily includes cattle and sheep (U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2005).

**TABLE 1-5
TOTAL FULL AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT
CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING
2001 - 2004**

<i>Employment Sector</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>
	<i>Number of Jobs</i>			
Wage and Salary Employment	2,219	2,286	2,288	2,377
Proprietors' Employment	1,444	1,402	1,422	1,462
Farm Proprietors	474	482	471	471
Nonfarm Proprietors	970	920	951	991
TOTAL FULL AND PART-TIME JOBS	3,663	3,688	3,710	3,839
Farm	611	623	603	606
Private Employment	2,372	2,371	2,416	2,515
Forestry, Fishing, Related Activities, and Other	164	145	129	123
Mining	243	201	236	297
Utilities	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Construction	287	341	332	346
Manufacturing	145	176	167	170
Wholesale Trade	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Retail Trade	348	293	298	302
Transportation and Warehousing	129	133	131	130
Information	21	18	19	17
Finance and Insurance	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Professional and Technical Services	87	89	92	94
Management of Companies and Enterprises	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Administrative and Waste Services	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Educational Services	(D)	(D)	(L)	(L)
Health Care and Social Assistance	(D)	(D)	125	139
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	87	98	90	92
Accommodation and Food Services	248	266	287	297
Other Services, Except Public Administration	144	156	164	155
Government and Government Enterprises	680	694	691	718
Federal, civilian	80	85	84	89
Military	33	33	33	34
State Government	80	82	79	77
Local Government	487	494	495	518
TOTAL FARM, PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT	3,663	3,688	3,710	3,839

Notes: (D) - Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information, but the estimates for this item are included in the total number of jobs. (L) - Less than 10 jobs, but the estimates for this item are included in the total number of jobs.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, 2006.

The construction industry of Crook County provided nine percent of total full and part-time employment in 2004. Energy Electric is one of the primary construction companies in the county.

Retail trade establishments serve both residents of Crook County, as well as a seasonal influx of visitors. In 2004, retail trade employment comprised almost eight percent of total full and part-time employment.

Jobs associated with the mineral or mining industry in Crook County represented almost eight percent of total county employment in 2004. This employment primarily included jobs in oil production, as well as coal mining in the Powder River Basin.

Accommodations and food services also employed almost eight percent of total full and part-time employment in 2004. While these services serve both residents and visitors, they provide some indication of the importance of seasonal tourism within the local economy.

1.7 INDUSTRY TRENDS

1.7.1 Forestry Products and Manufacturing

The primary engine of the regional Crook County economy is forestry products and related manufacturing operations.

Devil's Tower Forest Products near Hulett annually processes 40 to 45 million board feet of Ponderosa Pine timber. This sawmill operation manufactures, markets and distributes various types and sizes of dimensional lumber.

Bearlodge Forest Products, Inc. near Hulett, Wyoming annually produces over 6.0 million board feet of timber and lumber products. These products including log siding, custom sawn lumber and timber, wood pallets, and firewood that are derived from Ponderosa pine.

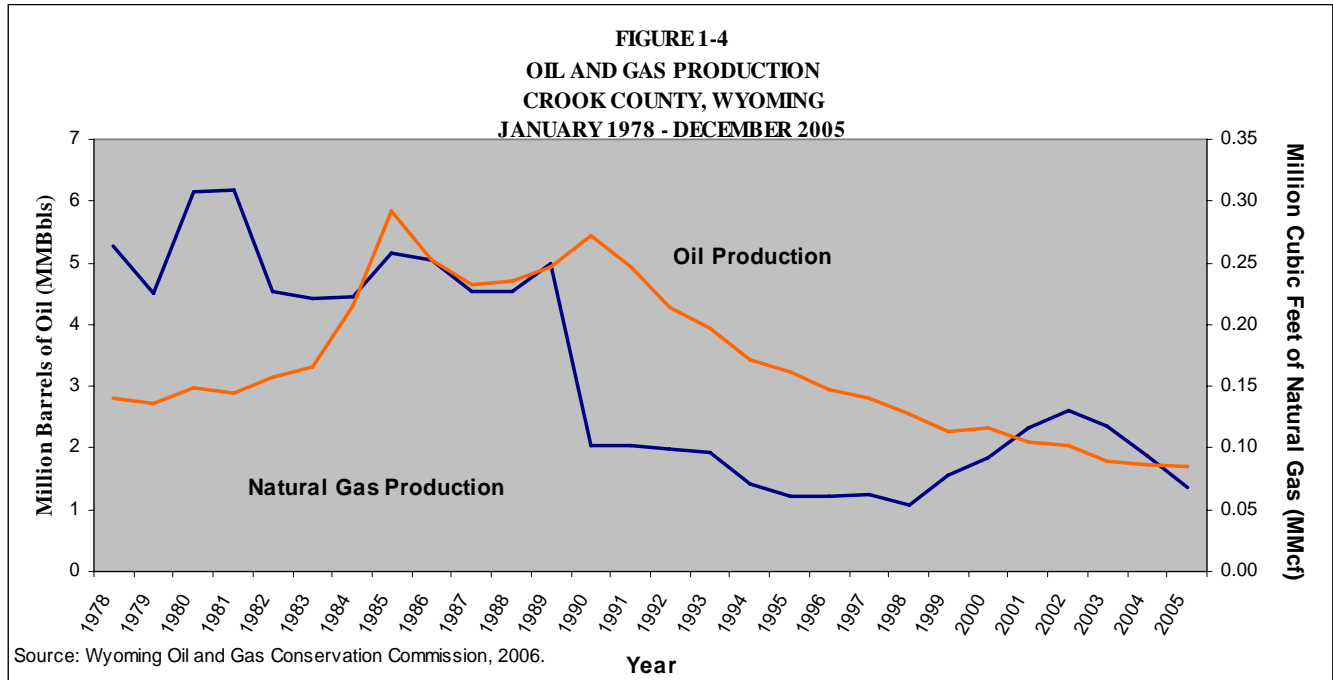
Hulett Post and Pole is another forestry related operation in Hulett. This company manufactures and distributes post and pole products.

The future viability and stability of the forest products and manufacturing industries in Crook County lies in the availability of Ponderosa Pine timber from the Black Hills National Forest. While the future availability of timber remains uncertain, it is assumed that these industries will continue to operate during the next decade.

1.7.2 Oil and Gas Production

In 2005, oil companies produced almost 1,690,932 barrels of oil in Crook County (Figure 1-4). Since peak production around 1990, oil production has steadily declined (Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, 2006).

Natural gas production neared 0.24 million cubic feet in 1989. However, natural gas production sharply fell around 1990, rose somewhat in 2002 and 2003, but declined again in 2004 and 2005. Natural gas production was about 0.067 MMcf in 2005.



Future employment associated with oil and gas production may decline slightly during the next decade if oil production continues to slide downward. At the same time, increased opportunities associated coal bed natural gas development in the Powder River Basin may encourage some of these workers to take jobs in the Powder River Basin. Some of the regional in-migration associated with coal bed natural gas development may also encourage the relocation of some workers to Crook County.

1.7.3 Coal Mining

The increasing demand for energy in the United States continues to stimulate greater coal production in the Wyoming portion of the Powder River Basin. Coal supplies roughly 52 percent of the fuel needed to support electrical power generation (Wyoming Mining Association, 2005). Coal companies operating in the Powder River Basin produced 390.2 million tons of coal in 2005.

A growing demand for coal continues as larger power generation and distribution companies seek a less expensive source of energy. In response to these demands, some of the major coal companies in the Powder River Basin plan various coal mine expansions.

- Peabody Energy plans additional coal development about 60 miles south of Gillette at its planned School Creek mine. This mining operation is expected to come on-line in late 2008 and produce roughly 30 million to 40 million short tons of coal per year. Peabody Energy envisions that this mining operation will gradually employ up to about 325 workers by 2013 (Tew, 2006).
- Peabody Energy’s North Antelope/Rochelle Complex Mine employed 825 persons in 2005 (Wyoming Mining Association, 2006). In 2006, about roughly 55-65 percent of this workforce lived in Campbell County. Peabody Energy anticipates an expanded workforce at this facility in the next several years (Tew, 2006).

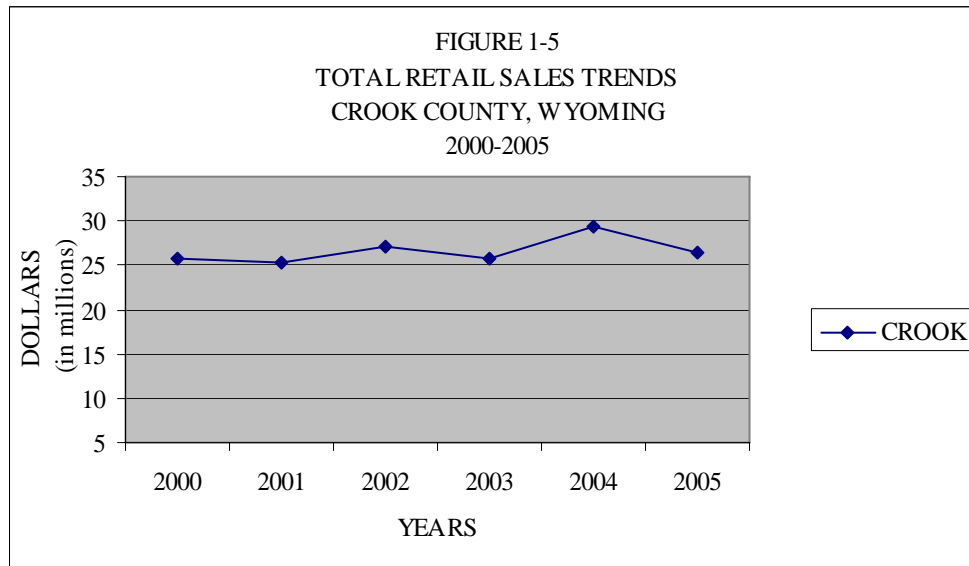
- Arch Coal expects to re-open its Coal Creek mine in late 2006. The company expects to employ 150 people to support mine operations. Some of this workforce will be acquired through the transfer of Arch Coal personnel from other mining operations (Casper Star Tribune, 2006).

The ongoing expansion of coal mining in the Powder River Basin suggests a potential significant increase in the amount of regional coal mining employment during the next decade. A small portion of this workforce is expected to come from coal miners and their dependents that choose to reside in Crook County.

1.7.4 Retail Trade

Between 2000 and 2005, retail expenditures rose from \$25.8 million to almost \$29.4 million (Figure 1-5 and Table 1-6). This growth represented an overall growth of 14 percent.

The growth in retail sales reflects significant increases in retail expenditures associated with general merchandise and home furnishings. However, retail sales for auto dealer and gas services, as well as miscellaneous retail items, declined during the same period.



Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue, 2005.

Future growth of retail trade in Crook County will primarily be generated from residents of Crook County and, secondarily, from seasonal visitor traffic. Nominal in-migration is expected to be more of a factor than future visitor traffic. The extent of growth in future retail trade will depend largely upon the quality of services provided, as well as the type and cost of merchandise that is carried by local merchants.

**TABLE 1-6
RETAIL SALES TRENDS
CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING
2000 - 2004**

<i>Merchandise Group</i>	<i>Total Retail Sales</i>					<i>Percent Change</i>
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	
Building Material and Hardware	3,954,346	3,814,278	4,139,735	3,789,151	4,068,147	3
General Merchandise	258,578	277,726	263,687	596,869	1,572,792	508
Food Stores	5,768,076	5,968,386	5,919,814	6,008,541	6,806,679	18
Auto Dealer and Gas Services	4,683,984	4,123,380	4,183,650	4,549,915	4,377,238	-7
Apparel and Accessory	54,030	56,990	46,572	48,321	54,915	2
Home Furnishings	657,320	685,334	1,002,676	853,861	1,544,647	135
Restaurants	3,329,764	3,276,262	3,592,918	3,944,050	4,027,465	21
Miscellaneous Retail	7,099,596	7,156,704	7,902,429	6,046,951	6,904,153	-3
Total Retail Trade	25,805,694	25,359,060	27,051,482	25,837,659	29,356,035	14

Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue, 2005.

1.8 WORKER COMMUTER PATTERNS

In April 2000, almost 71 percent of the employed workforce in Crook County commuted to jobs inside the county. The remaining 2 percent did not commute to work (Table 1-7).

Over 18 percent of the employed workforce traveled to jobs in Campbell County. Another four percent commuted to jobs in Lawrence County, South Dakota. The remaining workers commuted to other counties in Wyoming, South Dakota, and Montana.

These trends indicate that employment outside of Crook County is important to the employed workforce. During the next decade, it is likely that a greater proportion of the employed workforce will commute to job opportunities in Campbell County with anticipated coal mine expansions, coal bed natural gas development and power plant construction.

**TABLE 1-7
CROOK COUNTY
WORKER COMMUTER PATTERNS
BY COUNTY OF WORKPLACE
APRIL 2000**

<i>Location of Work Place</i>	<i>Number of Workers</i>	<i>Proportion of Employed County Workforce (percent)</i>
Crook	2,011	70.8
Campbell	522	18.4
Weston	22	0.8
Carter County, Montana	26	0.9
Butte County, South Dakota	26	0.9
Lawrence County, S. Dakota	116	4.1
Other Locations	59	2.1
Commuting Workers	2,782	98.0
Non-Commuting Workers	57	2.0
Total	2,839	100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003.

1.9 COST OF LIVING

When compared to other Wyoming counties, Crook County is a relatively inexpensive place to live. During 4Q 2005, available cost-of-living index data indicates that Crook County was one of only several Wyoming counties where overall consumer costs were considerably lower than the statewide average (Table 1-8).

Housing costs were especially low with an index of 81. Lower housing costs were offset by higher apparel costs. Transportation costs, as well as costs for recreation and personal care, were comparable or close to the statewide average. Food and medical costs were considerably lower than the statewide average.

<i>County</i>	<i>Index Number by Category</i>						
	<i>All Items</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Apparel</i>	<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Medical</i>	<i>Recreation & Personal Care</i>
Teton	139	104	173	127	105	111	108
Sublette	112	102	118	125	101	99	114
Sheridan	105	109	103	129	98	109	105
Campbell	104	103	108	98	101	95	102
Lincoln-Afton	103	94	107	101	101	103	106
Laramie	103	109	108	86	98	99	93
Albany	102	90	107	103	100	101	99
Sweetwater	102	99	104	95	101	104	98
Johnson	100	108	95	136	100	91	98
Natrona	98	99	96	100	100	95	103
Carbon	96	103	91	90	101	105	100
Park	95	100	90	101	100	103	99
Fremont	94	92	89	90	102	101	104
Converse	93	95	88	87	100	98	104
Uinta	93	93	90	94	99	93	94
Hot-Springs	91	108	76	121	101	103	96
Lincoln-Kemmerer	90	89	83	100	100	88	111
Crook	90	92	81	112	101	94	100
Platte	90	100	78	105	99	106	101
Big Horn	89	96	77	118	100	99	102
Niobrara	89	94	78	109	102	101	94
Crook	88	95	73	115	100	101	106
Goshen	88	91	78	93	99	104	96
Weston	86	87	76	92	100	102	99

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Administration and Information, Economic Analysis Division, 2006.

CROOK COUNTY

CHAPTER TWO

AVAILABLE CHILD CARE SERVICES

2.1 GENERAL

Title 14, Chapter 4, of the Wyoming Statutes requires child care facilities in Wyoming to be certified by the Wyoming Department of Family Services. At the same time, Title 14 also recognizes and exempts various types of child care facilities.

2.1.1 Licensed Facilities

There are three different types of licensed child care facilities in Wyoming:

1. A family child care home (FCCH) is a home of a child care provider that is used concurrently to provide child care for part of a day for 3 to 10 children.
2. A family child care center (FCCC) is a facility used to provide child care for 3 to 15 children, for part of a day, in a residential or commercial structure.
3. A child care center (CCC) is a facility used for part of a day to provide child care for 16 or more children (Wyoming Department of Family Services, 2005).

In addition to the three types of facilities described above, some child care centers (CCC) and family child care centers (FCCC) provide services in more than one facility. These child care facilities are identified as a multiple location facility child care center (MLFCCC) and a multiple location facility family child care center (MLFFCCC).

Licensed child care facilities are required to operate under the administrative rules of the Wyoming Department of Family Services. The administrative rules are outlined in Chapters 1 through 12 of the Wyoming Department of Family Service administrative rules for certification of child care facilities.

2.1.2 Exempt Facilities

There are several possible exemptions to the licensing of a child care operation. However, an individual may claim no more than one of the following possible exemptions:

1. The care of a child is made by a legal parent or legal relative.
2. Child care is occasionally provided by a neighbor or friend of the child's parents.
3. Parents cooperatively exchange child care.
4. Child care is provided by a person employed who comes to the home of a child's parents or guardian.
5. Child care services within a facility are provided to not more than two unrelated children.
6. Child care facilities that are supervised by the State of Wyoming, local government, a school district, agency or other political subdivision.
7. Child care facilities that provide care to the children of only one immediate family unit (Wyoming Department of Family Services, 2005).

If two or more of the preceding potential exemptions pertain to a particular child care operation, then the facility must be licensed by the Wyoming Department of Family Services.

2.1.3 Illegal Facilities

These child care facilities, which are privately operated by local residents, provide child care to more than two unrelated children. Further, they have no license to operate from the Wyoming Department of Family Services.

Any non-exempt child care facility that operates without certification from the Wyoming Department of Family Services is operating illegally. These facilities can be fined between \$50 and \$200 per day for each day that it operates without certification (Wyoming Department of Family Services, 2005).

2.2 CHILD CARE IN CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING

2.2.1 Type and Location of Facilities

2.2.1.1 Licensed Child Care Facilities

Available data indicates that eight licensed child care facilities were operating in Crook County in the second quarter of 2006 (Table 2-1). The facilities were located in the communities of Hulett, Moorcroft, and Sundance.

2.2.1.2 Exempt Child Care Facilities

Five exempt child care facilities were operating in Crook County in the second quarter of 2006. All five exempt facilities were located in public schools (Table 2-1).

2.2.1.3 Illegal Child Care Facilities

When the Wyoming Department of Family Services (WDFS) becomes aware of a potential illegal operation, the regional licensing representative typically visits the facility and informs the operator of applicable Wyoming State statutes and related administrative rules associated with the certification of child care facilities. The licenser provides the operator with appropriate forms and other related information to become licensed, and tries to assist those operators who are sincerely interested in becoming licensed. Crook County probably has its share of illegal child care operations.

2.2.2 Available Child Care Services and Enrollment

2.2.2.1 Available Services

Licensed and exempt child care facilities in Crook County provide child care for four age groups. These include:

1. infant care for children ranging from birth to 12 months of age;
2. toddlers between 1 and 3 years of age;
3. preschool for children from 3 through 5 years of age;
4. school age children from 6 through 12 years of age.

A total of 174 children were enrolled in licensed and exempt child care facilities in Crook County in the second quarter of 2006 (Table 2-1). The majority of these children (130 children) were enrolled in licensed facilities during this time period. More than 44 children were enrolled in exempt facilities.

**TABLE 2-1
CAPACITY, ENROLLMENT, AND HOURS OF OPERATION
CHILD CARE FACILITIES
CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING
SECOND QUARTER 2006**

No.	Location/Facility	Hours of Operation Mon through Fri except holidays unless specified otherwise	^{a)} WDFS Type	^{a)} WDFS Capacity	Total Enrollment	Infants Birth to 12 months	Toddler 12 to 36 months	Preschool 3 to 5 years	School Age 6 to 12 years	
Hulett										
1	Hulett Elementary School, K-6	3:22-4:30 pm	Exempt	NP	10	NP	NP	NP	10	
2	Hulett Preschool	8:00-11:30 am	CCC	32	16	0	0	16	0	
3	Madison Daycare	7:00 am-5:30 pm	FCCH	10	10	2	1	5	2	
Hulett			Subtotals	42	36	2	1	21	12	
Moorcroft										
4	Moorcroft Elementary School, K-6	MTWTh 3:10-4:30 pm	Exempt	NP	8	NP	NP	NP	8	
5	Moorcroft Jr. High School, 7-8	MWTh 4-5:30 pm	Exempt	NP	11	NP	NP	NP	11	
6	Janie Butler's Day Care	N/A	FCCH	10	0	0	0	0	0	
7	Little Angels Childcare	6:00 am-6:00 pm	FCCH	10	10	2	3	5	0	
8	Tot Time Preschool	8:15-11:15 am	CCC	21	28	0	0	28	0	
Moorcroft			Subtotals	41	57	2	3	33	19	
Sundance										
9	Sundance Elementary School, 4-6	MTWTh after school til 5 pm	Exempt	NP	15	NP	NP	NP	15	
10	Sundance Jr. High School, 7-8	MTWTh 3:20-4:20 pm	Exempt	NP	0	NP	NP	NP	N/A	
11	Crook County Head Start	8:30 am-12:30 pm	CCC	11	11	0	0	11	0	
12	Sundance Kids Daycare	7:30 am-5:30 pm	CCC	36	27	0	5	16	6	
13	Terri's Tenderheart Daycare	7:30 am-5:30 pm	FCCC	13	28	2	7	13	6	
Sundance			Subtotals	60	81	2	12	40	27	
CROOK COUNTY				TOTALS	143	174	6	16	94	58
Notes: a) WDFS-State of Wyoming, Department of Family Services; CCC-Child Care Center; FCCC-Family Child Care Center; FCCH-Family Child Care Home. NP - Not Applicable. N/A - Not Available.										
Sources: Children and Nutrition Services (CNS), 2006; Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.										

2.2.2.2 Infant Care

There were six infants enrolled in licensed and exempt child care facilities in Crook County in the second quarter of 2006 (Table 2-1). Infant enrollment represented less than four percent of total child care enrollment in Crook County.

2.2.2.3 Toddler Care

In the second quarter of 2006, 16 toddlers were enrolled in licensed and exempt child care facilities in Crook County (Table 2-1). Toddlers represented about nine percent of the total child care enrollment of Crook County.

2.2.2.4 Preschool Care

The preschool age group represented about 54 percent of the total child care enrollment in Crook County in 2Q 2006. The 94 enrolled preschoolers represented the largest enrollment of the four child care age groups (Table 2-1).

2.2.2.5 School Age Care

Licensed and exempt child care facilities in Crook County provide school age care for more than 58 children from 6 through 12 years of age (Table 2-1). School age care represented approximately 33 percent of the total child care enrollment of children in child care facilities in Crook County, the second highest enrollment of the four child care age groups.

All public schools in Crook County offer an after school study hall or tutor program that extends for about an hour. The number of children who participate in after school programs (Table 2-1) represents the average number of children that attend on any given school day. Nevertheless, these programs provide a valuable form of child care.

Summer school classes are provided by some of the public schools for several weeks in the summer. Enrollment sizes and the length of these classes vary. At Sundance Elementary School, for example, a four week Summer School is held for Kindergarten through grade 6 children. Average daily participation for this Summer School was 30 children (Baron, 2006). Summer school enrollments are not included in Table 2-1.

2.2.3 Authorized Facility Capacity

The facility capacity authorized by the Wyoming Department of Family Services (WDFS) is the number of children that can be served by a licensed child care facility at any given time. Because many parents use child care services on a part-time or hourly basis for selected days of the week, many licensed child care facilities in Wyoming provide service to a greater number of children.

In Crook County in the second quarter of 2006, five licensed child care facilities were operating at or above their capacity while the remaining three licensed facilities had available child care slots. One child care operation in Moorcroft had no children enrolled

2.2.4 Hours of Operation

Child care facilities in Crook County typically operate Monday through Friday (Table 2-1). In Crook County, child care providers generally operate for about 10 hours during any weekday. Child care facilities typically open between 6:00 and 7:30 am and close at 5:30 pm.

Child care facilities that provide structured preschool classes typically offer multiple sessions during specific days of the week. Each session typically extends for about two hours.

2.2.5 Planned Child Care Facilities

At the time of this report, no private investors or non-profit organization have announced plans for any new child care facility in Crook County.

2.2.6 Cost of Child Care Services

2.2.6.1 General

The average cost of child care services in Crook County is presented in Table 2-2. It should be noted that average daily care costs provide only a general picture of child care service fees. The cost of child care services are sometimes discounted as some child care operators offer discounted rates for clients who bring more than one child to the child care facility. Most child care providers will also offer discounted weekly and monthly rates. In addition, some parents use child care services for only a few hours of the day and/or selected days of the week.

TABLE 2-2 AVERAGE DAILY CHILD CARE COSTS CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING SECOND QUARTER 2006 (in dollars)				
	Infants Birth to 12 months	Toddler 12 to 36 months	Preschool 3 to 5 years	School Age 6 to 12 years
Crook County	19.60	19.52	18.72	18.00
Hulett	16.00	16.00	14.00	14.00
Moorcroft	19.04	19.04	19.04	18.00
Sundance	22.00	21.04	20.00	20.00
<small>Source: Children and Nutrition Services (CNS), 2006; Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.</small>				

Child care costs vary from \$14.00 to \$22.00 per day, and are largely dependent upon the age of children brought to a child care facility (Table 2-2). Variable staff:child ratios required by the Wyoming Department of Family Services significantly influence the cost of delivering child care services. Consequently, variable child care rates reflect the differences in required staffing, as well as other direct operational costs.

2.2.6.2 Infant Care

Infant care costs average \$19.60 per day in Crook County and vary from \$16.00 to \$22.00 per day (Table 2-2). Infant care service rates are higher than the cost of care for other child age groups. Higher costs primarily reflect higher required staff-child ratios, a lower maximum allowable group size, an increased level of responsibility, and other direct operating costs.

2.2.6.3 Toddler Care

Somewhat lower costs for toddler care, i.e., \$19.52 per day, are offered in Crook County (Table 2-2). Staff:child ratios for toddler care are somewhat less than those required for infants. Maximum allowable group sizes are also larger, particularly for toddlers between 24 and 36 months of age.

2.2.6.4 Preschool Care

The average cost of child care for preschool children is \$18.72 per day, somewhat lower than child care rates for infants and toddlers (Table 2-2). Staff-child ratios are considerably lower for both 3-year olds, as well as children that are 4 and 5 years of age. In addition, allowable maximum group sizes increase considerably.

2.2.6.5 School Age Care

School age children, between 6 and 12 years of age, are brought to some child care facilities for after-school care. These costs vary during the course of the year because of changing needs.

In the summer months, children on vacation from school may come to a child care facility on one or more days of the week. The average cost for the care of school age children is \$18.00 per day (Table 2-2).

There is no cost for school age children that participate in after school activities at public schools.

CROOK COUNTY

CHAPTER THREE

ANTICIPATED CHILD CARE DEMAND

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The quantification of anticipated child care demands provides some insight concerning potential child care needs. Chapter Three presents anticipated demands for infant, toddler, preschool and school age care. Overall child care demands for the county are also correlated with child care enrollments in July 2006 to calculate the extent of unmet child care needs.

The general methodology used to calculate anticipated child care demands is described more fully in the Introduction section of the overall report.

3.2 RESIDENT POPULATION OF CROOK COUNTY

The resident population of Crook County included an estimated 6,188 residents in 2005 (see Chapter One). During the next decade, some limited population growth is anticipated. This growth will be derived from a nominal immigration of some natural gas exploration and production workers, coal miners, construction workers, and some dependents. This workforce will likely commute to Campbell County and the Powder River Basin where these job opportunities are anticipated.

The application of these assumptions suggests that annual population growth rates will range between roughly 0.70 and 1.3 percent during the next decade. This anticipated growth could boost the size of the county’s resident population to about 6,800 persons in 2016 (Table 3-1).

3.3 FUTURE CHILD CARE DEMAND

3.3.1 Low End of the Anticipated Demand Range

The low end of the anticipated demand range suggests a growing demand for child care services in Crook County. It is anticipated that these demands will include, at least, 175 Crook County children in 2007. By 2016, these demands are expected to gradually rise to about 189 children between 0 and 12 years of age (Table 3-2).

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population (persons)</i>	<i>Estimated Rate of Growth (percent)</i>
April 2000 Census	5,887	
2001	5,956	1.17
2002	6,030	1.24
2003	6,081	0.85
2004	6,134	0.87
2005 Base Year	6,188	0.88
2006	6,244	0.90
2007	6,288	0.71
2008	6,347	0.94
2009	6,427	1.27
2010	6,492	1.02
2011	6,575	1.28
2012	6,610	0.54
2013	6,662	0.78
2014	6,708	0.70
2015	6,754	0.69
2016	6,800	0.69

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

3.3.2 High End of the Anticipated Demand Range

The high end of the demand range represents 420 Crook County children in 2007 and 455 children in 2016 (Table 3-3). While the size of the anticipated child care age population is considerably higher, the high end of the demand range is strongly influenced by:

1. the lack of affordability to roughly 38 percent of Crook County households, and,
2. the intention or desire of some Crook County parents, i.e., 22 percent, to provide infant, toddler and school age care for their own children at home, or obtain those services from families or friends.
3. the desire of all parents to seek preschool care even if their children are cared for at home.

Consequently, the potential demand for child care services represents almost 40 percent of the anticipated child care population from 0 through 12 years of age.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Anticipated Low-End Demand (children)</i>
2006	174
2007	175
2008	177
2009	179
2010	181
2011	183
2012	184
2013	185
2014	186
2015	188
2016	189

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Anticipated Child Care Population</i>	<i>(-) Children Receiving Other Means of Child Care</i>	<i>(-) Suppressed Demand Due to Affordability</i>	<i>(=) High-End Child Care Demand</i>
2006	1,033	225	391	417
2007	1,040	226	394	420
2008	1,050	228	397	425
2009	1,064	231	402	431
2010	1,074	233	406	435
2011	1,088	236	412	440
2012	1,093	237	413	443
2013	1,103	239	417	447
2014	1,110	241	420	449
2015	1,118	243	422	453
2016	1,124	244	425	455

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

3.3.3 Types of Services

The greatest demand for child care services appears to be for school age children between 6 and 12 years of age. The demands for this age group are considerably more than the demands for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers because, on a comparative basis, it includes a much larger segment of the total county population (Table 3-4).

**TABLE 3-4
ANTICIPATED CHILD CARE DEMAND
CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING
2006 - 2016**

Year	Infant Child Care (birth to 12 months)		Toddler Child Care (12 to 36 months)		Preschool Child Care (3 to 5 years)		School Age Child Care (6 to 12 years)		Net Child Care Demand	
	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End
2006	6	22	16	44	94	128	58	223	174	417
2007	6	22	16	44	95	129	58	225	175	420
2008	6	23	16	45	96	130	59	227	177	425
2009	6	24	16	45	97	132	60	230	179	431
2010	6	24	17	46	98	133	60	232	181	435
2011	6	24	17	46	99	135	61	235	183	440
2012	6	24	17	46	100	136	61	237	184	443
2013	6	24	17	47	100	137	62	239	185	447
2014	6	25	17	47	101	137	62	240	186	449
2015	6	25	17	47	102	139	63	242	188	453
2016	7	25	17	48	102	139	63	243	189	455

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006

Child care demands for the 6 to 12 year old group are probably the most difficult to discern. Older children generally have more skills, abilities and experience that enable them to be more self-sufficient in the absence of their parents. Many children in this age are also involved in various organized after-school activities such as sports, girl scouts, and 4-H. Those children not participating in various after-school programs need some adult supervision to monitor, at least, the type and location of their after-school activities, as well as other children whom they may choose to spend time with.

Substantive demand is also evident for preschool children, or children from three through five years of age. Increased demand is also anticipated for toddler and infant care, but these demands are considerably less than those expected for preschool care.

3.3.4 Correlation of Anticipated Demand Range with Existing Facility Enrollment

The correlation of the anticipated child care demand range with 2006 facility enrollment (Table 3-5) provides insights to the extent of potential unmet child care needs in Crook County between 2007 and 2016. Potential unmet needs represent the number of children which, as of 2006, could not be served unless additional private and/or public investments are made for the expansion of existing facilities or the development of new child care facilities.

This correlation reveals that there is insufficient facility capacity in Crook County to support anticipated future child care needs. If the potential demand in 2016 conservatively falls near a midpoint of the low and high ends of the anticipated unmet demand range (approximately 148 children), it can be concluded that the potential child care demands in Crook County warrant the development of, at least, the following facilities by 2016:

- one child care center in the vicinity of Sundance that has an enrollment of, at least, 75 children;
- two family child care centers in Moorcroft and one in Pine Haven that each would accommodate 15 children; and,
- four family child care homes, which each serve about 10 children, that would be located in Sundance, Moorcroft and Pine Haven.

TABLE 3-5 ANTICIPATED UNMET CHILD CARE DEMAND CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING 2006 - 2016					
<i>Year</i>	<i>2006 Enrollment</i>	<i>Net Child Care Demand</i>		<i>Unmet Demand</i>	
		<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>	<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>
2006	174	174	417	0	243
2007	174	175	420	1	246
2008	174	177	425	3	251
2009	174	179	431	5	257
2010	174	181	435	7	261
2011	174	183	440	9	266
2012	174	184	443	10	269
2013	174	185	447	11	273
2014	174	186	449	12	275
2015	174	188	453	14	279
2016	174	189	455	15	281

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

CROOK COUNTY

CHAPTER FOUR

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF EXPANDED CHILD CARE SERVICES

4.1 GENERAL

The potential expansion of existing facilities and the development of new child care facilities in Crook County can generate significant economic benefits to the local economy. Potential employment in the child care industry creates new jobs and increased personal income for child care workers. The delivery of child care services also generates revenues to small business proprietors and other child care service providers.

Employment, personal income, and service revenues generated by the child care industry represent direct economic impacts. The direct economic impact of the child care industry in 2006, as well as the potential impact of the industry in 2016, is discussed more fully in sections 4.2 through 4.4.

The child care industry also generates indirect economic impacts upon other industries that serve the child care industry, e.g., retail trade, in the Wyoming economy. These industries provides goods and services that child care providers purchase to deliver child care services.

Employment and income that are created in the child care industry and other industries serving the child care industry further generate personal expenditures in other industries of the Wyoming economy. These expenditures also create more jobs and income. These economic impacts are referred to as induced economic impacts.

The methodology used to calculate the anticipated amount of direct employment, personal income generation and child care service revenues is summarized in the Introduction section of the overall report. The indirect and induced impacts associated with the child care industry in 2006, as well as the potential impact of the industry in 2016, are presented on a statewide basis in the Executive Summary.

4.2 DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACTS

4.2.1 Anticipated Direct Employment

The analysis of potential direct employment considers and identifies the anticipated number of child care jobs that would be needed to address future child care demands. Anticipated staff requirements include those jobs needed to support the operation of child care centers, family child care centers, and family child care homes.

The estimated amount of direct employment that could be derived from anticipated child care demands in Crook County could generate the development of 23-52 child care jobs in 2007. The anticipated number of jobs annually required, between 2007 and 2016, is expected to gradually increase with growing demands for child care services. By 2016, the number of child care jobs is expected to rise to roughly 24 to 62 jobs (Table 4-1).

**TABLE 4-1
ANTICIPATED CHILD CARE STAFF REQUIREMENTS
CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING
2006 - 2016**

Year	Teachers		Assistant Teachers		Classroom Aides		Full Time Directors		Net Staff Demand	
	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End
2006	14	26	5	10	3	15	1	1	23	52
2007	14	26	5	10	3	15	1	1	23	52
2008	14	26	5	10	3	15	1	1	23	52
2009	14	26	5	10	3	15	1	1	23	52
2010	14	27	5	11	4	16	1	1	24	55
2011	14	27	5	11	4	16	1	1	24	55
2012	14	29	5	11	4	17	1	1	24	58
2013	14	29	5	11	4	17	1	1	24	58
2014	14	29	5	11	4	17	1	1	24	58
2015	14	30	5	12	4	18	1	2	24	62
2016	14	30	5	12	4	18	1	2	24	62

Notes: Cumulative staff requirements include those needed to support child care centers, family child care centers, and family child care homes.
Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

4.2.2 Anticipated Personal Income Generation

The anticipated personal income generation that is expected from direct employment in Crook County's child care industry is presented in Table 4-2 and Table 4-3. The information presented in these statistical tables provides a range of potential income generation. Both low mean and high mean income data from 2Q 2006 were applied to the anticipated child care staff demand range to calculate the amount of potential wages that would be generated from the variable staff requirements.

**TABLE 4-2
ANTICIPATED PERSONAL INCOME GENERATION
FROM LOW MEAN ANNUAL WAGES
CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING
2006 - 2016
(dollars)**

Year	Teachers		Assistant Teachers		Classroom Aides		Directors		Net Staff Demand	
	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End	Low End	High End
2006	87,504	162,507	69,749	139,499	32,136	160,680	9,220	18,439	198,608	481,124
2007	87,504	162,507	69,749	139,499	32,136	160,680	9,220	18,439	198,608	481,124
2008	87,504	162,507	69,749	139,499	32,136	160,680	9,220	18,439	198,608	481,124
2009	87,504	162,507	69,749	139,499	32,136	160,680	9,220	18,439	198,608	481,124
2010	87,504	168,757	69,749	153,449	42,848	171,392	9,220	18,439	209,320	512,037
2011	87,504	168,757	69,749	153,449	42,848	171,392	9,220	18,439	209,320	512,037
2012	87,504	181,257	69,749	153,449	42,848	182,104	9,220	18,439	209,320	535,249
2013	87,504	181,257	69,749	153,449	42,848	182,104	9,220	18,439	209,320	535,249
2014	87,504	181,257	69,749	153,449	42,848	182,104	9,220	18,439	209,320	535,249
2015	87,504	187,508	69,749	167,398	42,848	192,816	9,220	23,049	209,320	570,771
2016	87,504	187,508	69,749	167,398	42,848	192,816	9,220	23,049	209,320	570,771

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

**TABLE 4-3
ANTICIPATED PERSONAL INCOME GENERATION
FROM HIGH MEAN ANNUAL WAGES
CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING
2006 - 2016
(dollars)**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Teachers</i>		<i>Assistant Teachers</i>		<i>Classroom Aides</i>		<i>Directors</i>		<i>Net Staff Demand</i>	
	<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>	<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>	<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>	<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>	<i>Low End</i>	<i>High End</i>
2006	105,000	195,000	76,787	153,573	32,136	160,680	9,220	18,439	223,142	527,693
2007	105,000	195,000	76,787	153,573	32,136	160,680	9,220	18,439	223,142	527,693
2008	105,000	195,000	76,787	153,573	32,136	160,680	9,220	18,439	223,142	527,693
2009	105,000	195,000	76,787	153,573	32,136	160,680	9,220	18,439	223,142	527,693
2010	105,000	202,500	76,787	168,931	42,848	171,392	9,220	18,439	233,854	561,262
2011	105,000	202,500	76,787	168,931	42,848	171,392	9,220	18,439	233,854	561,262
2012	105,000	217,500	76,787	168,931	42,848	182,104	9,220	18,439	233,854	586,974
2013	105,000	217,500	76,787	168,931	42,848	182,104	9,220	18,439	233,854	586,974
2014	105,000	217,500	76,787	168,931	42,848	182,104	9,220	18,439	233,854	586,974
2015	105,000	225,000	76,787	184,288	42,848	192,816	9,220	23,049	233,854	625,153
2016	105,000	225,000	76,787	184,288	42,848	192,816	9,220	23,049	233,854	625,153

Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.

The anticipated personal income generation derived from low mean annual wages would generate annual personal incomes ranging from almost \$0.2 million to \$0.5 million in 2007. By 2016, it is expected that personal income generation would rise from \$0.2 to almost \$0.6 million per year (Table 4-2).

When anticipated direct employment is applied to high mean annual wages, potential income generation in 2007 would range between roughly \$0.2 million to \$0.5 million per year. The annual personal income generation in 2016 would range between roughly \$0.2 million and \$0.6 million (Table 4-3).

The mid points of the low and high mean annual wages in 2016 suggest that annual personal income generation will increase to about \$0.4 million during the next decade.

4.2.3 Child Care Service Revenues

In 2006, the child care industry of Crook County earned approximately \$465,000 in revenues that were derived from the delivery of child care services. Should the industry address the anticipated child care demands in 2016, child care service revenues are expected to rise to roughly \$800,000 in 2016 (Table 4-4).

TABLE 4-4 ANTICIPATED CHILD CARE SERVICE REVENUES CROOK COUNTY 2006 and 2016 (In Dollars)		
<i>Child Care Group</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2016</i>
Infants (0 to 12 months)	28,665	76,440
Toddlers (1 to 3 years)	76,128	154,635
Preschool (3 to 5 years)	285,948	366,561
School Age (6 to 12 years)	74,385	196,223
TOTAL COUNTY REVENUES	465,126	793,859
Source: Pedersen Planning Consultants, 2006.		

4.3 INDIRECT AND INDUCED ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The indirect and induced impacts associated with the child care industry in 2006, as well as the potential impact of the industry in 2016, are presented on a statewide basis in the Executive Summary of this report.

4.4 EMPLOYEE RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT

An Employer Survey associated with the Wyoming Workforce Child Care Needs Assessment was distributed to employers throughout the state of Wyoming in June 2006. Twenty percent of the employer representatives from Crook County, which responded to the Employer Survey between June and August 2006, reported that the availability of child care facilities hampered their company's ability to recruit employees (Appendix A). In contrast, no employer representatives indicated that the availability of child care facilities hampered their retention of good employees.

The expansion and development of new child care facilities in Crook County would only improve the future recruitment of company employees of both larger community employers and small businesses in Crook County. When the capacity of existing facilities is sufficient to meet future child care demands, employers can identify available child care facilities as a community asset to those individuals they desire to hire.

Expanded child care facilities would also influence the future retention of company and small business employees. The availability of a greater number of child care facilities would reduce the loss of employees that otherwise might be lost to the unavailability of child care facilities.