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Economic Trends Report: Standing Rock Counties

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Foreword

The Kansas Center for Community Economic Development (KCCED) is a joint center of the Policy Research Institute at the University of Kansas and the Kansas Center for Rural Initiatives at Kansas State University. Its purpose is to enhance economic development efforts by bringing university expertise to rural areas.

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Economic Trends Update: Standing Rock

Introduction

The following report examines several key economic trends occurring in Standing Rock over the last few decades. We look at variables categorized under the following areas:

- population,
- employment,
- earnings and income, and
- education.

In this report, the geographical area of Standing Rock is defined as Sioux and Corson counties, the former located in North Dakota and the latter in South Dakota. Throughout, Standing Rock's trends are compared to the surrounding counties, separated by state. The northern surrounding counties are Adams, Grant, Morton, Burleigh and Emmons, and in South Dakota the surrounding counties are Campbell, Walworth, Dewey, Ziebach, and Perkins.

It is recognized that data on the county level most frequently fails to capture the nuanced economic conditions of the reservation area in specific or of the American Indian population exclusively. Furthermore, various externalities often make accurate or full reporting by the American Indian population problematic; for example, the perception that some answers to questions on the Census form could have potentially punitive consequences in terms of benefits or subsidized housing eligibility.

These difficulties notwithstanding, there is a value in examining long term trends on the county level, and there is little choice in any case when it comes to data availability. Though reflecting political boundaries set by a different governing authority than that of the autonomous Sioux peoples, and encompassing the fortunes of more than those affiliated with the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, nevertheless the direction of growth or lack of it on the county level, specifically in relation to the surrounding areas, can still serve as a reflection of the economic direction the tribe finds itself headed in.

POPULATION: KEY FINDINGS

- The combined population of Sioux and Corson counties (from now simply referred to as Standing Rock) reached a peak in the 1920's of over 14,000 residents. This was extremely rapid growth for an area which in 1900 had so few people it was not even surveyed. From then population fell but stabilized in the second half of the century. In 2002 the estimated Standing Rock area population stood at 8,508, which was nearly the same amount as in 1970 (Table 1 and 2).
- Population in Standing Rock increased 6.9 percent from 1990 to 2002, most of which was due to growth in Sioux County. Surrounding counties in North Dakota (Adams, Grant, Morton, Burleigh and Emmons) netted 10.7 percent population growth during the same time, while surrounding counties in South Dakota (Campbell, Walworth, Dewey, Ziebach, and Perkins) actually experienced a net decrease in population of 2 percent. Ironically, the state of North Dakota as a whole experienced population declines, while South Dakota grew 9.3 percent from 1990 to 2002. At least in terms of population, trends in the southern part of Standing Rock do not necessarily match those in the north, nor do those in the north and southern regions of Standing Rock necessarily follow the overall directions of the states in which they reside (Table 2, Figures 1a and 1b).
- For the last two decades population in North Dakota has fallen, while for the last three decades population in South Dakota has risen, though not always by very much. But not since the early years of the century have either experienced population growth approaching the same rate of national growth (Table 2).
- The largest age group segment in Standing Rock in 2000 was made up of people in the 5 to 17 year-old range. They comprised about 29 percent of the total population in 2000, a percentage little changed from ten years previous. In fact, none of the age category percentages in Standing Rock had changed much at all from 1990: the only noticeable difference was a 2 percent decrease in toddlers and infants which were made up by a 2 percent increase in the number of 18 to 24 year olds (Tables 3a and 3b, Figure 2a).
- There are marked differences in the age distribution of Standing Rock to those of North and South Dakota or the US. For example, in Standing Rock in 2000 only 43 percent of the population fell into the prime working years between the ages of 25 and 64: across the entire US, that same percentage was 52. Percentage-wise there are much fewer elderly in Standing Rock and many more young children and teenagers than the comparable distributions across the states (Table 3a and 3b, Figure 2b).
- Census race data from 2000 cannot be directly compared to data from previous years, due to a change in reporting which allowed people to select more than one race in 200. In the Standing Rock counties, 105 people indicated they belonged to two or more races. Therefore, the 2000 Census data figures for individual races

would have been slightly higher if the old categorization had been used. Nevertheless, the new data is still useful for indicating trends (Tables 4a and 4b).

- The population of Standing Rock quite naturally has a high American Indian population, which appears to be increasing. In 1990 61 percent of the population identified themselves as American Indian, but by 2000 the percentage had risen to 72.5 percent. The rest of the population is almost exclusively white. On the other hand, both North and South Dakota as a whole are fairly non-diverse: for both the racial makeup consists of approximately 90 percent whites (Tables 4a and 4b).
- Net migration is calculated as the change in population less the difference between births and deaths. A negative net migration indicates more people have moved out of the county than have moved in. From 1990 to 2000 total net migration in Standing Rock was a negative 895. This can sound confusing, for the Standing Rock counties actually grew in total population during that same time period. However, the majority of the population increase can be attributed to births, of which there were nearly two-thousand during the decade of the 1990's. This far exceeded the actual numerical increase of the total population: and the difference is accounted for by people who moved out of the counties, hence, the negative net migration. One positive indication in Standing Rock, however, was that the -11.2 net migration in the decade of the 1990's was less than half the -27.5 percent net population loss in the 1980's (Table 5).
- From 1990 to 2000 Sioux County moved up from being the 35th most populated county in North Dakota to the 31st, in a state of 53 counties. From 1990 to 2000 Corson County, South Dakota grew from being the 43rd most populated county to the 41st, in a state with 71 counties total.
- From 1990 to 2000, only six counties in North Dakota (out of 53 total) increased their populations. Nevertheless these counties were large enough to offset the declines in the remaining 47 counties, so that the overall population of North Dakota grew 0.5 percent for the decade. Sioux County ranked third across the state in terms of growth, or in other words, was one of the lucky six which expanded. On the South Dakota side many more counties experienced population growth from 1990 to 2000: 34 of the 71 total. Corson County, however, was not among them: it ranked 35th in terms of growth, having experienced a 0.3 percent population decline from 1990 to 2000 (Maps 1 and 2).

Table 1
Population Totals and Growth Rates
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota
1900-2002

Year	Standing Rock		North Dakota		South Dakota	
	Population Total	Growth Rate	Population Total	Growth Rate	Population Total	Growth Rate
1900	---		319,146		401,570	
1910	2,929		577,056	80.8	583,888	45.4
1920	10,557	260.4	646,872	12.1	636,547	9.0
1930	14,222	34.7	680,845	5.3	692,849	8.8
1940	11,174	-21.4	641,935	-5.7	642,961	-7.2
1950	9,864	-11.7	619,636	-3.5	652,740	1.5
1960	9,460	-4.1	632,446	2.1	680,514	4.3
1970	8,626	-8.8	617,761	-2.3	665,507	-2.2
1980	8,816	2.2	652,717	5.7	690,768	3.8
1990	7,956	-9.8	638,800	-2.1	696,004	0.8
2000	8,225	3.4	642,200	0.5	754,844	8.5
2002	8,508	3.4	634,110	-1.3	761,063	0.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 2
Population Growth Rates
Standing Rock and Surrounding Counties, North & South Dakota, U.S.
1970-2002

<u>Year</u>	<u>1970-1980</u>	<u>1980-1990</u>	<u>1990-2002</u>
Standing Rock	2.2	-9.8	6.9
Sioux Co.	-0.3	3.9	10.4
Corson Co.	4.0	-19.3	3.8
N. Surrounding Co.'s	21.6	1.8	10.7
S. Surrounding Co.'s	-5.4	-8.8	-2.0
North Dakota	5.7	-2.1	-0.7
South Dakota	3.7	0.8	9.3
United States	11.4	9.8	15.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Figure 1a
Rates of Population Change
Standing Rock and Surrounding Counties
1970-2002

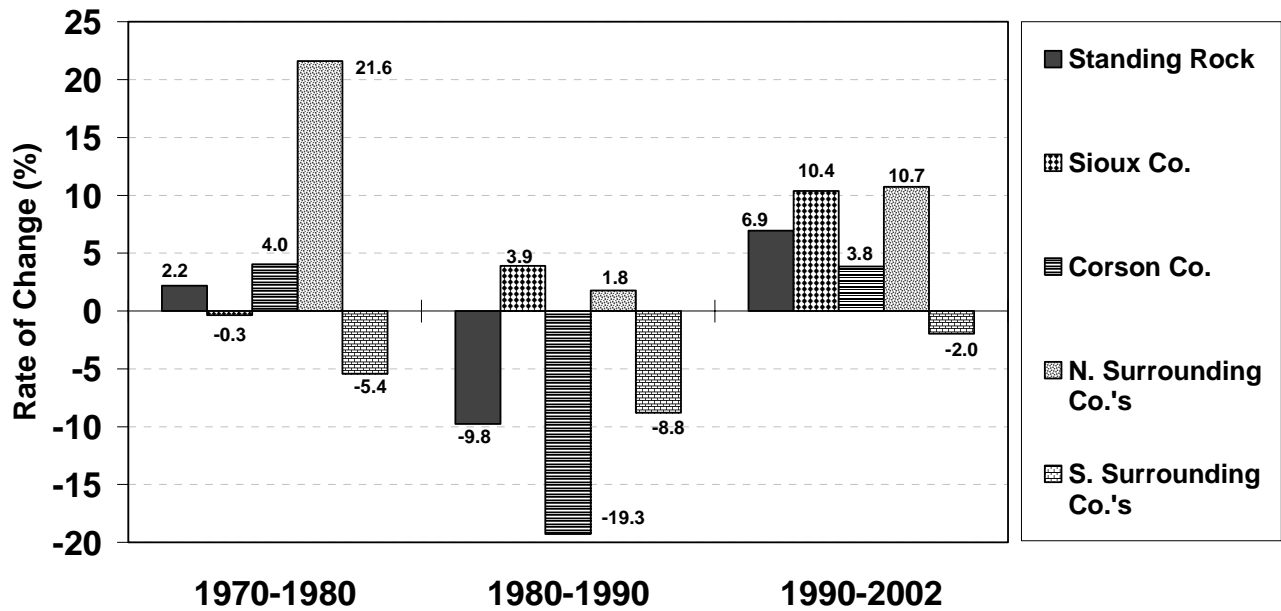


Figure 1b
Rates of Population Change
Standing Rock Counties, North & South Dakota, US
1970-2002

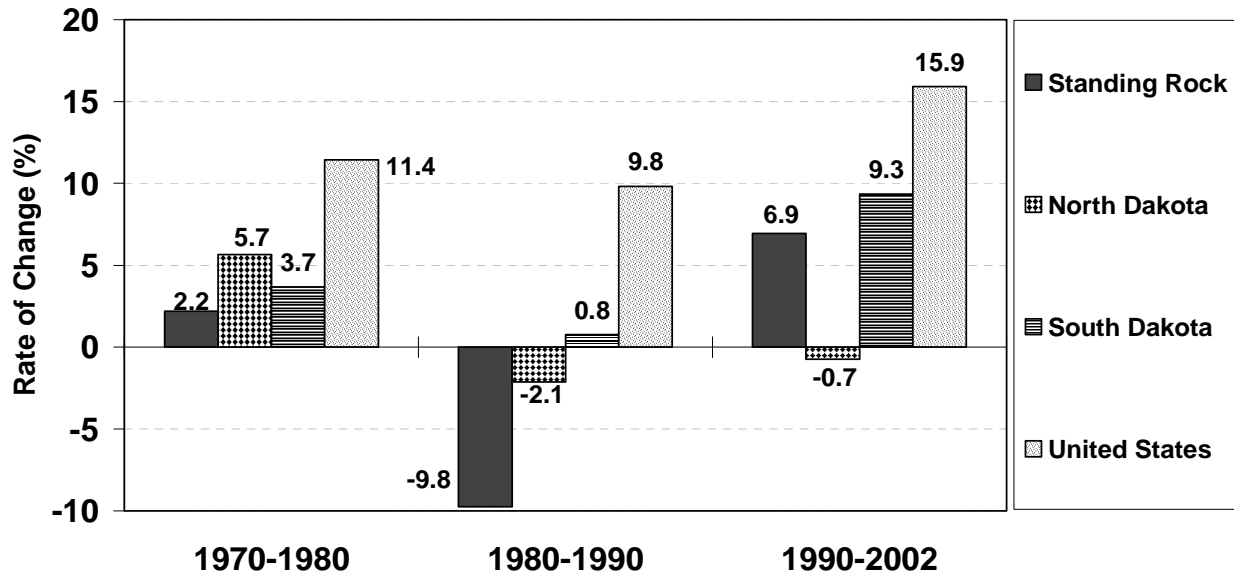


Table 3a
Population by Selected Age Groups
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota, US
1990-2000

	Age:	<u>0-4</u>	<u>5-17</u>	<u>18-24</u>	<u>25-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65 and over</u>
Standing Rock	1990	932	2,306	665	2,036	1,318	699
	2000	804	2,370	856	2,103	1,427	665
North Dakota	1990	48,510	127,242	68,331	193,645	110,133	90,939
	2000	39,400	121,449	73,118	174,891	138,864	94,478
South Dakota	1990	55,324	143,649	68,374	204,404	122,139	102,114
	2000	51,069	151,580	77,634	206,399	160,031	108,131
United States	1990	18,765,000	45,184,000	26,961,000	80,618,000	46,178,000	31,083,000
	2000	19,175,798	53,118,014	27,143,454	85,040,251	61,952,636	34,991,753

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 3b
Population by Selected Age Groups as Percent of Total
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota, US
1990-2000

	Age:	<u>0-4</u>	<u>5-17</u>	<u>18-24</u>	<u>25-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65 and over</u>
Standing Rock	1990	11.7 %	29.0 %	8.4 %	25.6 %	16.6 %	8.8 %
	2000	9.8	28.8	10.4	25.6	17.3	8.1
North Dakota	1990	7.6	19.9	10.7	30.3	17.2	14.2
	2000	6.1	18.9	11.4	27.2	21.6	14.7
South Dakota	1990	7.9	20.6	9.8	29.4	17.5	14.7
	2000	6.8	20.1	10.3	27.3	21.2	14.3
United States	1990	7.5	18.2	10.8	32.4	18.6	12.5
	2000	6.8	18.9	9.6	30.2	22.0	12.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Figure 2a
Population by Age Group as Percent of Total Population
Standing Rock
1990-2000

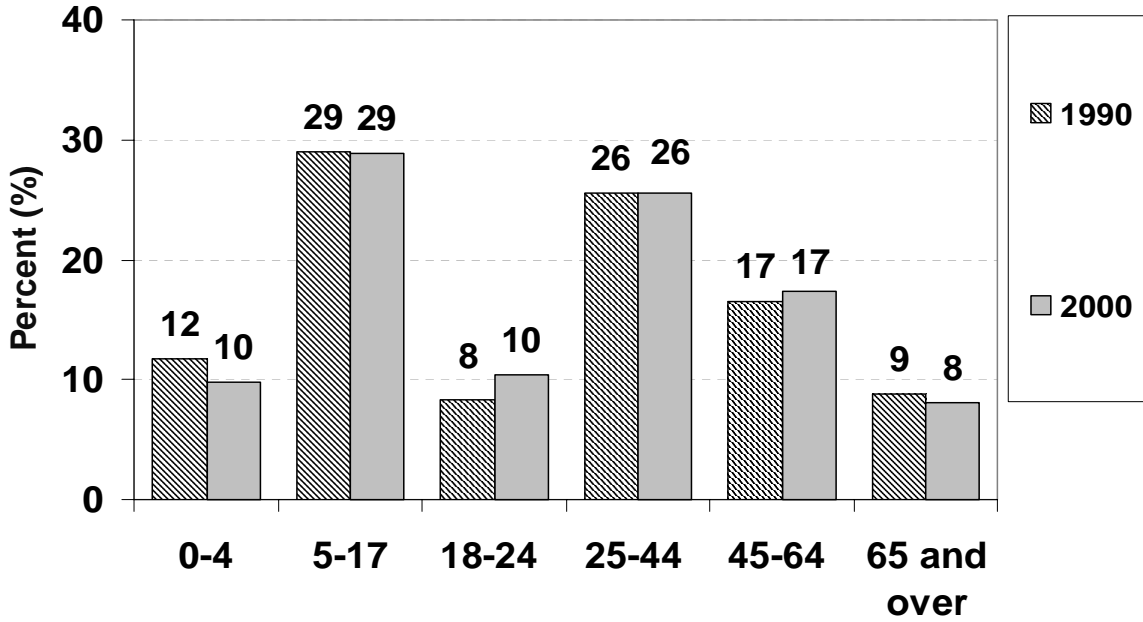


Figure 2b
Population by Age Group as Percent of Total Population
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota, US
2000

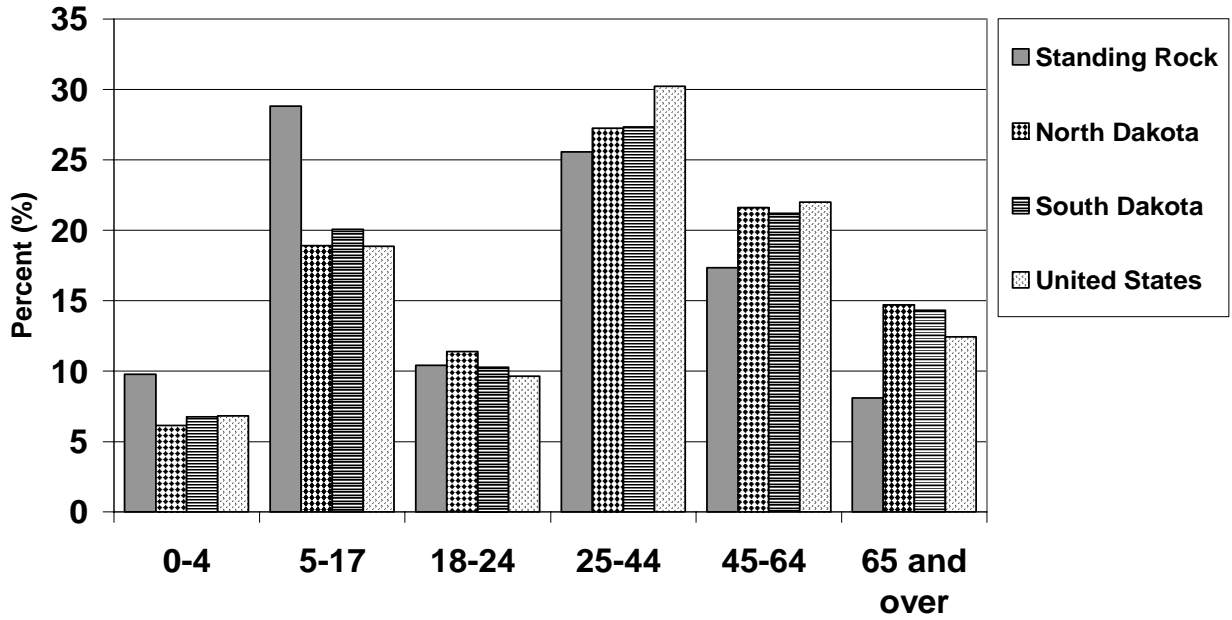


Table 4a
Population by Race
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota
1990-2000

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>American Indian</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Other</u>
Standing Rock	1990	7,956	4,870	3,057	4	25
	2000 *	8,225	5,963	2,135	5	122
North Dakota	1990	638,800	25,917	604,142	3,524	5,217
	2000 *	642,200	31,329	593,181	3,916	13,774
South Dakota	1990	696,004	50,575	637,515	3,258	4,656
	2000 *	754,844	62,283	669,404	4,685	18,472

* 2000 race data is not comparable to previous years due to changes in reporting. See text for more.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 4b
Population by Race as Percent of Total
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota
1990-2000

	<u>Year</u>	<u>American Indian</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Other</u>
Standing Rock	1990	61.2	38.4	0.1	0.3
	2000	72.5	26.0	0.1	1.5
North Dakota	1990	4.1	94.6	0.6	0.8
	2000	4.9	92.4	0.6	2.1
South Dakota	1990	7.3	91.6	0.5	0.7
	2000	8.3	88.7	0.6	2.4

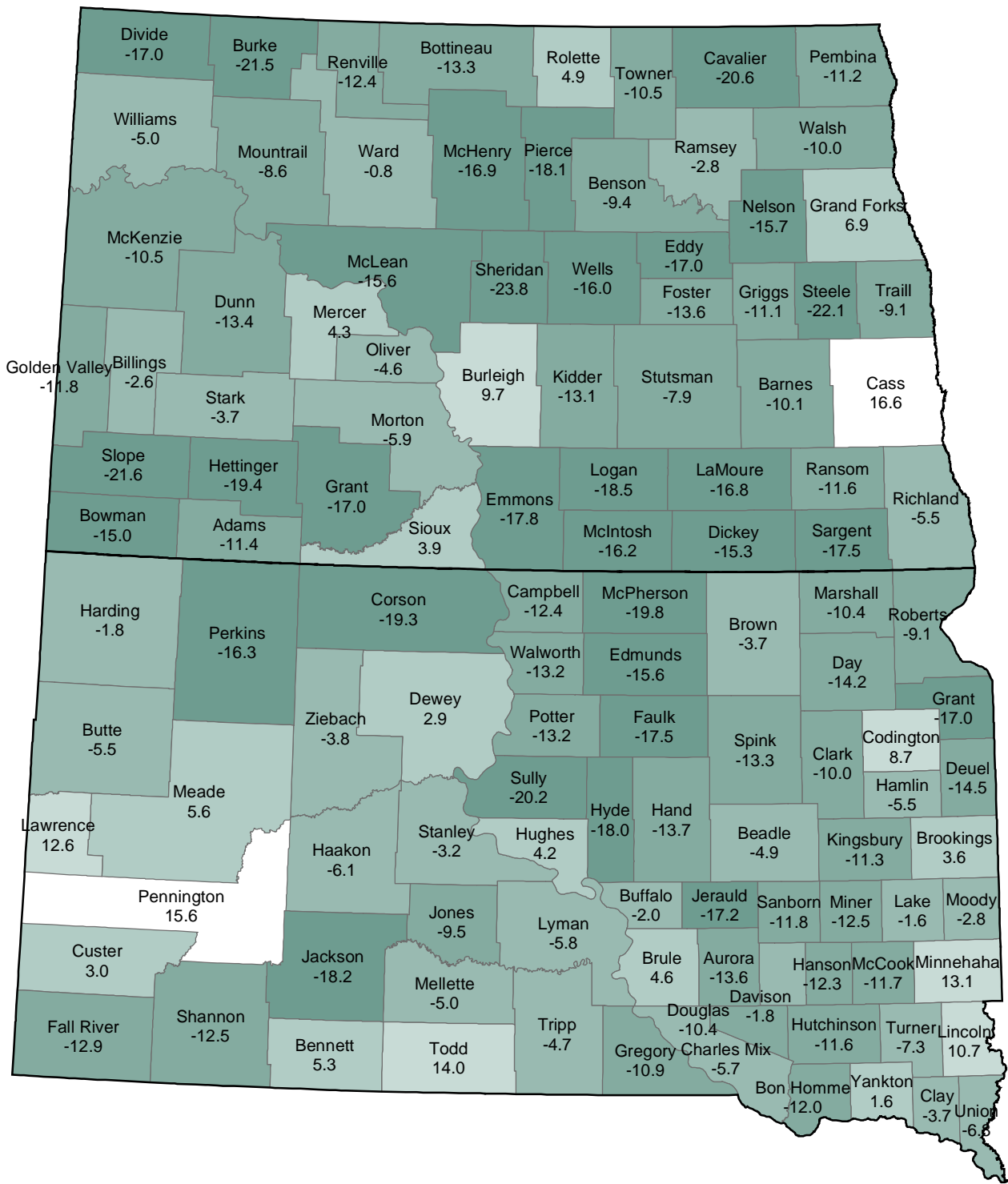
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

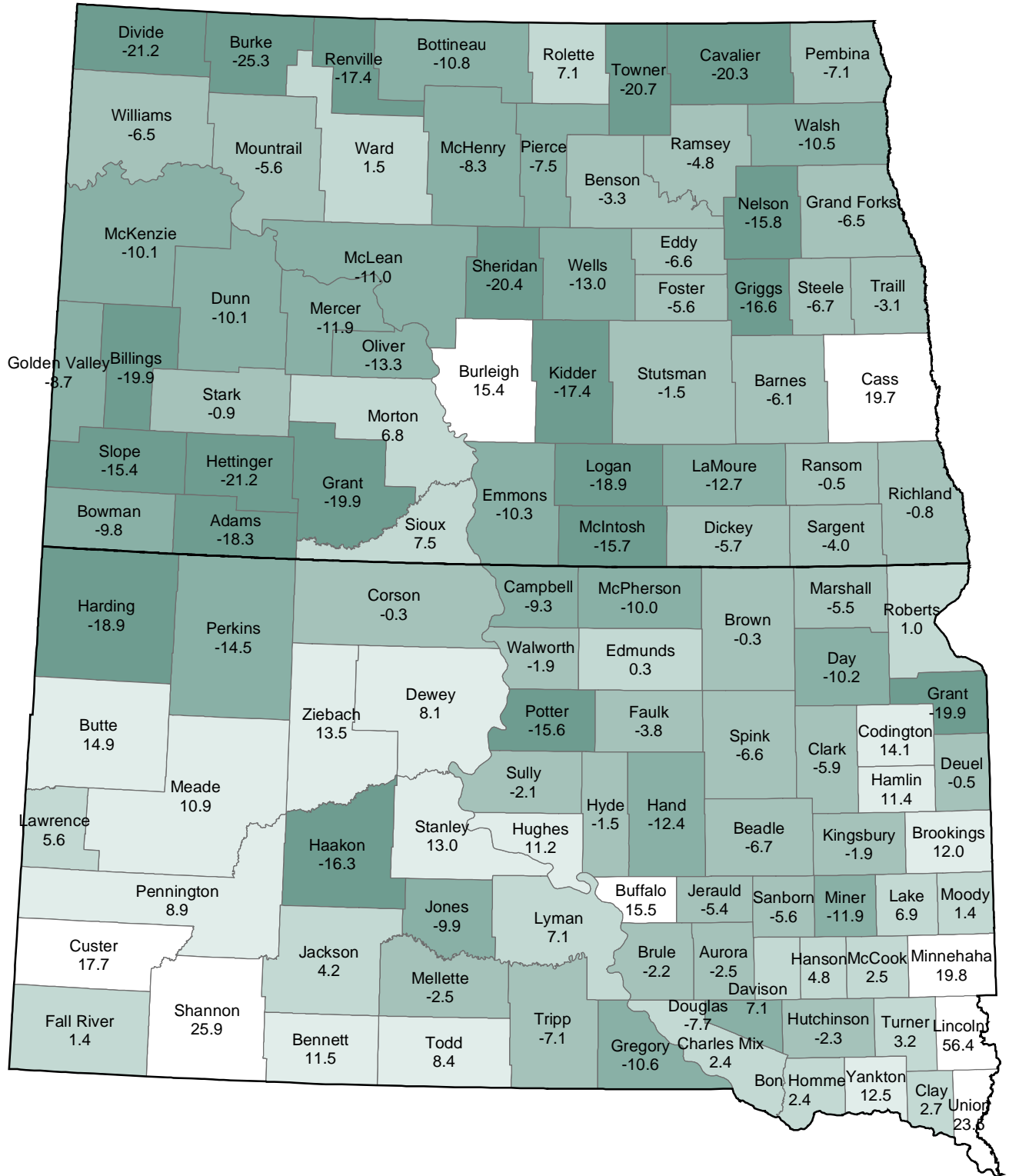
Table 5
Net Migration, Decade Ending
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota
1990-2000

<u>Standing Rock</u>							
<u>Decade Ending</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Population Change</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Births - Deaths</u>	<u>Net Migration</u>	<u>% Net Migration</u>
1990	7,956	-860	2,318	758	1,560	-2,420	-27.5
2000	8,225	269	1,844	680	1,164	-895	-11.2
<u>North Dakota</u>							
<u>Decade Ending</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Population Change</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Births - Deaths</u>	<u>Net Migration</u>	<u>% Net Migration</u>
1990	638,800	-13,917	113,214	55,179	58,035	-71,952	-11.0
2000	642,200	3,400	86,438	60,107	26,331	-22,931	-3.6
<u>South Dakota</u>							
<u>Decade Ending</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Population Change</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Births - Deaths</u>	<u>Net Migration</u>	<u>% Net Migration</u>
1990	696,004	5,236	120,868	65,811	55,057	-49,821	-7.2
2000	754,844	58,840	108,364	69,915	38,449	20,391	2.9

Note: net migration = population change - (births - deaths)

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.





EMPLOYMENT

The economic vitality of every community is reflected in the employment situation. The number of people who are either working or willing to work determines the size of the labor force. This number is influenced not only by the size of population but also by the perceptions of individuals that suitable job opportunities exist within the community. Diverse healthy economies tend to offer the widest variety of job opportunities and thereby attract a large number of job seekers, which increases the size of the labor force. The unemployment level reflects the amount of economic activity within an area and how well the local market is able to match the supply and demand for labor.

Employment: Key Findings

- Average decade employment from 1970 through 2000 grew by 8 percent in Standing Rock, but this was almost entirely due to employment growth in Sioux County, while Corson actually struggled to maintain a steady level. Reflecting the difference across state lines, the northern surrounding counties increased employment by nearly 63 percent over the last three decades, while surrounding counties on the southern side only grew 2.2 percent. Quite likely the majority of the difference there can be explained by the presence of Bismarck in Burleigh County, while none of the southern surrounding counties have a large population center. Looking at the state totals, South Dakota actually experienced higher population growth at 47 percent since 1970, while North Dakota grew 38 percent (Table 6a and Figure 3a).
- Narrowing our focus to the more recent past gives us a somewhat more positive picture. From 1991 to 2001 employment in Standing Rock grew an impressive 51 percent, and although again most of that growth came from Sioux County, Corson's employment was increasing as well. As with the longer range view, the northern surrounding counties experience employment growth which exceeded those of the southern surrounding counties, though yet again South Dakota as a whole grew more than North Dakota (Table 6b and Figure 3b).
- In 2002 the unemployment rate in Sioux County stood at 6.0 percent, and in Corson it was 6.4 percent. The average unemployment rate across all of North Dakota came to 4.0 percent while in South Dakota it was a very low 3.1 percent (Map 3).
- The unemployment rate, however, only captures those people without a job who have actively looked for one in the last four weeks. If a person hasn't done so, they aren't considered a participant in the labor force, and are no longer counted as unemployed: they are simply considered to be uninterested in work. This is nevertheless not always the realistic case for everyone, and the unemployment rate can often seriously underestimate or simply fail to capture the true degree of *underemployment* in an area. Particularly in areas where for long periods of time job availability has been chronically low, many people may still be available for work and

would like to hold a job, but they simply know none are available, therefore, they've had no need to spend time seeking one in the last four weeks. This doesn't mean they wouldn't still be potential laborers if opportunities presented themselves. One method that attempts to quantify these people is to calculate the labor force participation rate. This is the number of people who are in the labor force (either currently employed or actively looking for work) as a percentage of the total population in an area. If the labor force participation rate is very low, it is quite likely that many residents who aren't being counted by the unemployment rate would still like to hold a job, but not enough jobs exist and they have quit looking. Table 7a shows the labor force participation rate in 1990 and 2002 for the Standing Rock counties and the comparative areas. In 1990 the combined rate for Sioux and Corson was 43.7 percent, by 2002 it had dropped to 39 percent. The labor force participation rate is significantly lower in Corson County than it is in Sioux, but the rates in both counties decreased nearly the same percentage over the time period. In comparison, the participation rate for the surrounding counties, for the states of North and South Dakota as a whole, and for the entire US all increased from 1990 to 2002. And except for the surrounding counties on the South Dakota side, all the areas used for comparison have rates over 50 percent: in other words, over half of their total population is in the labor force (Table 7 and Figure 4).

- As was noted in the introduction to this report, many data sets provided by federal agencies on the county level can be suspected of severely misrepresenting the state of economic conditions among the tribal members living in those counties, since the data measures all people in the county, not just tribal members. When specific data from the Bureau of Indian Affairs or other sources is available, they provide a much better picture of the tribal situation. Table 7b lists labor force information for strictly Standing Rock Sioux tribal members in 1999.¹ Of the 8,890 enrolled members reporting that year, nearly 57 percent are available for work, or in other words, could be considered in the labor force. This is a much higher figure than the 39 percent reported for Sioux and Corson counties above. However, only 1,458 were employed, which brings the unemployment rate up to 71% for tribal members: a staggering amount (and much higher than the 6 or so percent measured in Map 3). Furthermore, of those that did hold jobs, 62 percent still earned so little they were considered below federal poverty guidelines (Table 7b). However, this was down from 81 percent in 1997, the only other year for which that measurement is available. All the same, these indicators paint a much more negative picture than the county-level labor force data above. (Incidentally, the BIA releases a labor force report every two years, but the 2001 edition has been recalled and is unavailable.)
- The total number of firms located in Standing Rock decreased somewhat from 1998 to 2001. Three small businesses employing less than 20 people were lost, although one large employer was added (Table 8a). These numbers come from the Census Bureau's *County Business Patterns* survey. A different study, the *Standing Rock Sioux Tribe-Reservation Statistical Profile*,² gives a more positive report. It indicates

¹ US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, *Indian Labor Force Report 1999*.

² Al Nygard Consulting, *Standing Rock Sioux Tribe-Reservation Statistical Profile 2002*.

that in 2000 there were approximately 34 Native-American owned local business on the Standing Rock reservation, and by 2002, this number had increased to 71: a doubling of the amount in only 2 years.

- The patterns of distribution of firms by the number of employees are quite nearly the same in the Standing Rock counties as they are across both North and South Dakota. In all cases around 90 percent of businesses employ fewer than 20 people, about 9 to 10 percent employ between 20 and 100 people, and the remaining one or two percent of establishments provide over 100 jobs. This serves to illustrate the importance of the small business to the economy of these areas (Table 8b).
- Total industry-level employment for Standing Rock rose 25 percent from 1990 to 2000, a net increase of 680 jobs in ten years. This compared to a 19 percent increase in North Dakota and a 26.7 percent growth rate in South Dakota over the same time period (Table 9a). While these numbers are collected by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, who also collects the annual employment figures cited in Tables 6a and b, the totals will be noticed to differ. This is due to the different methods and reporting accuracies of the separate surveys used to collect wage and salary employment as compared to industry-wide figures.
- Examining individual industries growth trends in Standing Rock is problematic. Most industries employ so few people that the BEA is required to suppress their numbers for confidentiality reasons. What is clear is that the largest employer in the Standing Rock counties is the Services sector, followed quite closely by Government employment, and in third place Farming. In 2000 there were nearly 1,400 Service sector jobs in the two counties, 803 Government positions, and 653 Farming jobs. Although 1990 data for Service sector employment in Standing Rock is unavailable, because both North and South Dakota saw strong Service sector increases during the last decade, and because many of the jobs at the Prairie Knights Casino would fall into the Services categorization, it is quite likely that this has been a growing area of the Standing Rock economy. Government and Farming positions have both declined in the last decade, however, as have the two smaller industries for which data is available, Retail Trade and Wholesale Trade (Table 9a and Figure 5).
- Calculating each industry's employment share as a percent of the total shows that in Standing Rock, Service employment accounts for 41 percent of the total. The Government sector fulfills another 23.6 percent, and Farming about 20 percent. These percentages are much higher in Standing Rock than across North or South Dakota as a whole, for the statewide employment picture is rather more diverse. For example, in Standing Rock there are six industry classifications which each provide less than 2 percent of the total employment. Across both North and South Dakota, there are only two industry sectors as small percentage-wise (Table 9b and Figures 6a-c).
- The Census Bureau measures commuting patterns every decennial census. In 2000 they estimated that 255 people who live in the Standing Rock counties actually work

in a different county. These are termed out-commuters (Map 4). The majority of these were headed to jobs in Walworth and Perkins counties in South Dakota. On the other hand, a total of 432 people who don't live in the Standing Rock counties travel in to work there. These are called in-commuters, and the counties which send the most are Burleigh and Morton in North Dakota and Walworth from South Dakota (Map 5). Finally, there were 2,108 people who lived in the Standing Rock counties who didn't commute out at all: they work in the place they live, hence, they are listed on both maps. However, since Standing Rock does encompass two counties, it isn't entirely correct to say that none of them commuted at all: 39 residents of Sioux County commuted to Corson to work, and 185 from Corson commute to Sioux to work (not shown on maps).

Table 6a
Wage and Salary Employment and Growth Rates, by Decade
Standing Rock and Surrounding Counties, North & South Dakota, U.S.
Place of Work Data
1970-2000

	Average Decade Employment			% Employment Growth		
	1970's	1980's	1990's	70's-80's	80's-90's	70's-90's
Standing Rock	1,997	1,769	2,158	-11.4 %	22.0 %	8.0 %
Sioux Co.	1,032	952	1,336	-7.8	40.4	29.4
Corson Co.	965	817	822	-15.3	0.6	-14.9
N. Surrounding Co.'s	31,523	41,277	51,308	30.9	24.3	62.8
S. Surrounding Co.'s	6,441	6,180	6,586	-4.1	6.6	2.2
North Dakota	229,637	275,181	317,039	19.8	15.2	38.1
South Dakota	239,213	270,728	352,681	13.2	30.3	47.4
United States (Thou)	86,280	104,703	124,424	21.4	18.8	44.2

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CA34 "Wage and Salary Employment." Place of work data.

Figure 3a
Employment Growth Rates by Decade
Standing Rock, Surrounding Counties, North & South Dakota, US
1970-2000

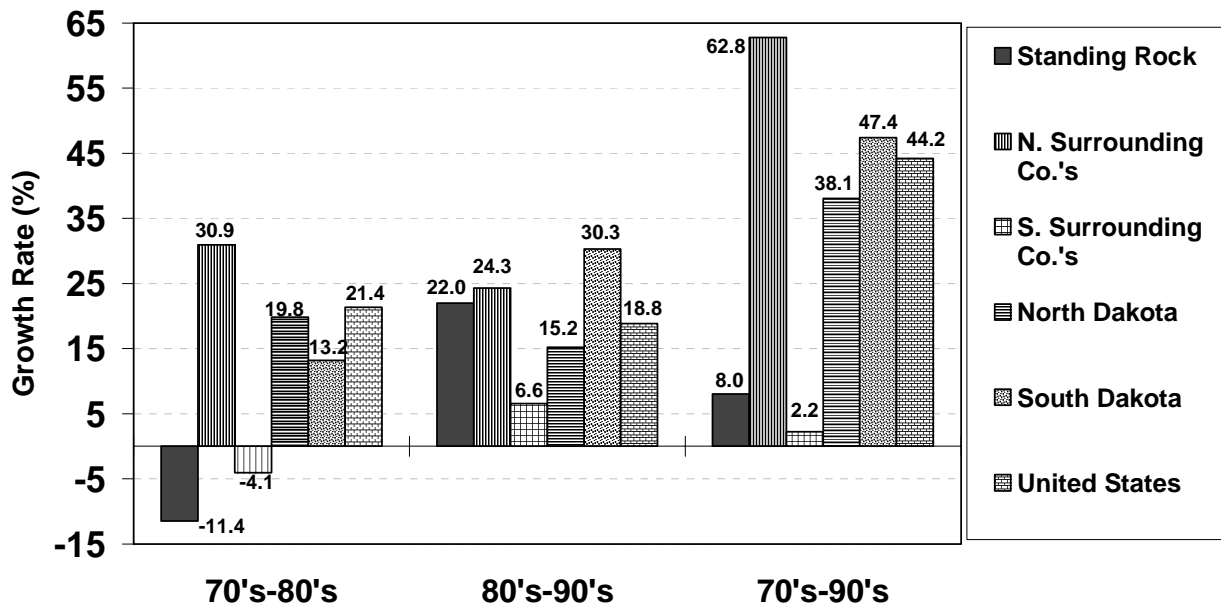


Table 6b
Wage and Salary Employment and Growth Rates, by Selected Years
Standing Rock and Surrounding Counties, North & South Dakota, U.S.
Place of Work Data
1991-2001

	Average Annual Employment			% Employment Growth		
	1991	1996	2001	1991-1996	1996-2001	1991-2001
Standing Rock	1,747	2,312	2,639	32.3 %	14.1 %	51.1 %
Sioux Co.	1,029	1,470	1,753	42.9	19.3	70.4
Corson Co.	718	842	886	17.3	5.2	23.4
N. Surrounding Co.'s	46,559	52,994	58,178	13.8	9.8	25.0
S. Surrounding Co.'s	6,279	6,673	6,984	6.3	4.7	11.2
North Dakota	290,861	330,450	349,386	13.6	5.7	20.1
South Dakota	317,521	368,349	400,944	16.0	8.8	26.3
United States (Thou)	116,137	127,264	139,165	9.6	9.4	19.8

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CA34 "Wage and Salary Employment." Place of work data.

Figure 3b
Employment Growth Rates by Selected Years
Standing Rock, Surrounding Counties, North & South Dakota, US
1991-2001

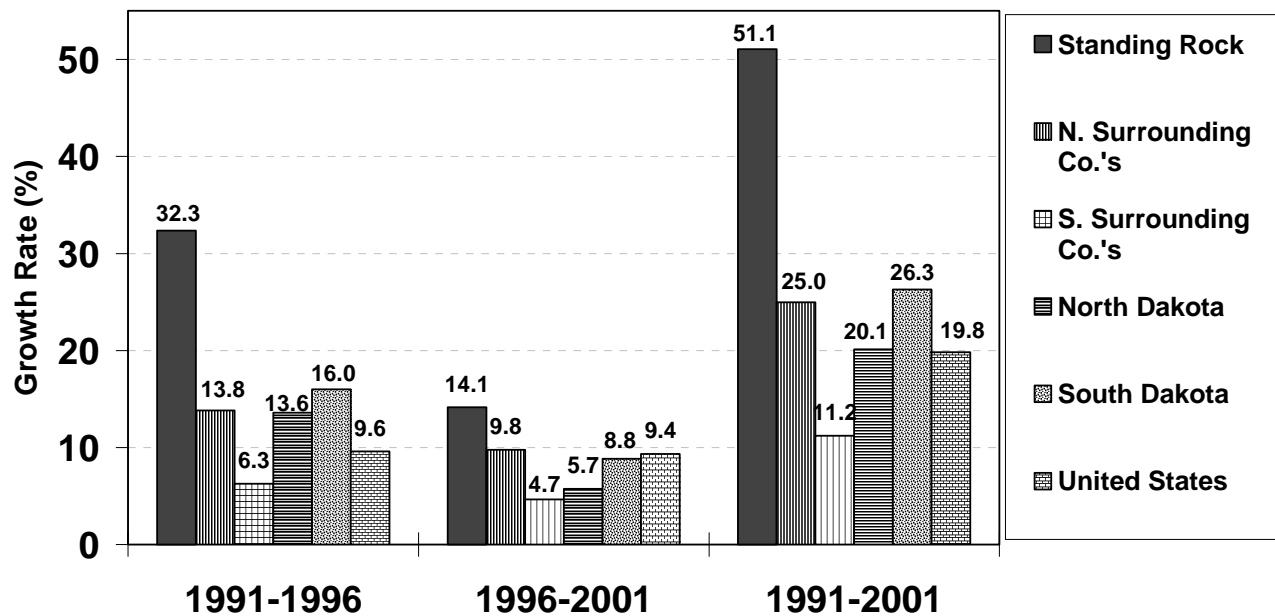


Table 7a
Labor Force Participation Rates
Standing Rock and Surrounding Counties, North & South Dakota, U.S.
1990-2002

	Labor Force Participation Rate		% Change
	1990	2002	1990-2002
Standing Rock	43.7	39.4	-9.7 %
Sioux Co.	48.4	43.7	-9.8
Corson Co.	39.5	35.4	-10.3
N. Surrounding Co.'s	53.9	56.9	5.6
S. Surrounding Co.'s	45.2	47.7	5.6
North Dakota	49.8	54.6	9.6
South Dakota	49.9	55.3	10.8
United States	66.5	66.6	0.2

Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Bureau of the Census.

Figure 4
Labor Force Participation Rate
Standing Rock, Surrounding Counties, North and South Dakota, US
1990-2002

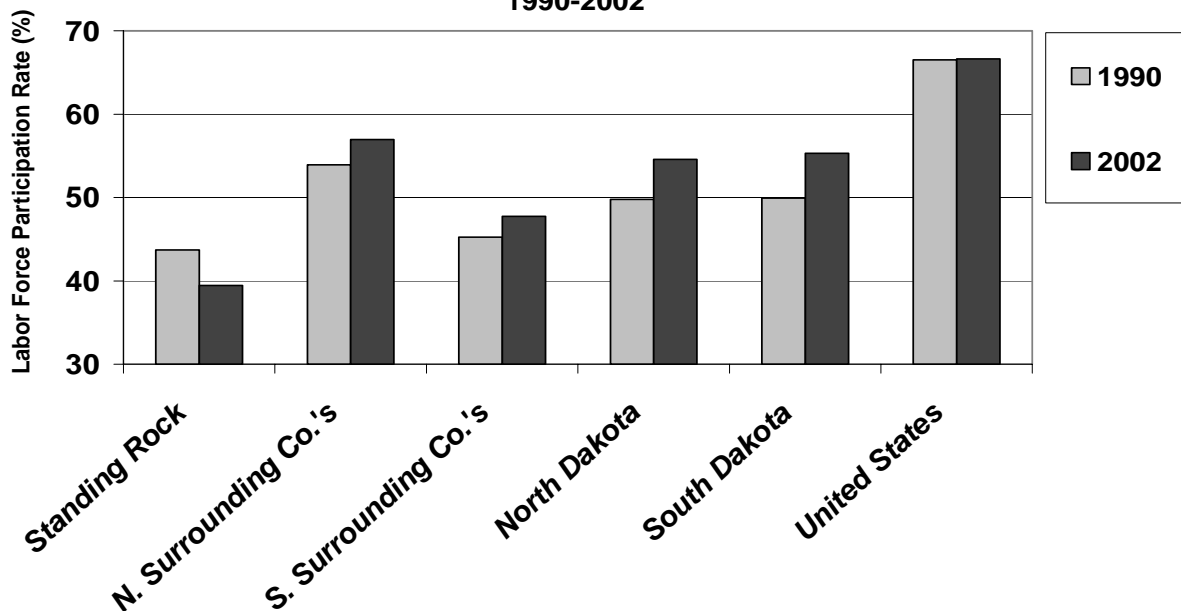


Table 7b
Bureau of Indian Affairs Labor Force Data for Tribal Members
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
1999

	<u>Tribal Enrollment</u>	<u>Available for Work</u>	<u>Labor Force Participation</u>	<u>Number Employed</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>		<u>Employed, but Below Poverty Guidelines*</u>	
					<u>(#)</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>(#)</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Standing Rock Total	8,890	5,020	56.5%	1,458	3,562	71.0%	900	61.7%
Standing Rock, ND	3,645	2,090	57.3%	1,041	1,049	50.2%	638	61.3%
Standing Rock, SD	5,245	2,930	55.9%	417	2,513	85.8%	262	62.8%

* Poverty guidelines came from the Department of Health and Human Service's Poverty Guidelines for 1999. For a family of four, this was \$13,650.

Source: US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, *Indian Labor Force Report 1999*.

Table 8a
Number of Firms, by Number of Employees
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota
1998-2001

Employees	Standing Rock			North Dakota			South Dakota		
	1998	2001	% Change	1998	2001	% Change	1998	2001	% Change
1 -- 19	73	70	-4.1 %	17,815	17,682	-0.7 %	20,842	21,168	1.6 %
20 -- 99	7	7	0.0	2,101	2,150	2.3	2,283	2,431	6.5
100 -- 499	1	2	100.0	346	347	0.3	361	394	9.1
500+	0	0	-	26	27	3.8	35	39	11.4
Total	81	79	-2.5	20,288	20,206	-0.4	23,521	24,032	2.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "County Business Patterns," NAICS.

Table 8b
Percentage Distribution of Firms, by Number of Employees
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota
1998-2001

Employees	Standing Rock		North Dakota		South Dakota	
	1998	2001	1998	2001	1998	2001
0 - 19	90.1 %	88.6 %	87.8 %	87.5 %	88.6 %	88.1 %
20 - 99	8.6	8.9	10.4	10.6	9.7	10.1
100 - 499	1.2	2.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.6
500+	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "County Business Patterns," NAICS. Due to numbers being rounded up, percentages may not equal 100%.

Table 9a
Employment Levels by Industry
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota
Place of Work Data
1990-2000

Industry	Standing Rock			North Dakota			South Dakota		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
Ag. Services	27	s	/ %	3,568	6,830	91.4 %	4,348	7,705	77.2 %
Mining	s	0	/	4,934	4,363	-11.6	3,200	1,552	-51.5
Construction	70	s	/	15,865	23,229	46.4	18,504	27,956	51.1
Manufacturing	s	s	/	18,283	26,492	44.9	35,951	52,030	44.7
Transportation	89	s	/	20,177	23,797	17.9	17,503	22,727	29.8
Wholesale Trade	104	103	-1.0	20,443	22,606	10.6	19,909	21,652	8.8
Retail Trade	189	161	-14.8	62,003	74,229	19.7	71,634	89,412	24.8
Finance, Insur., Real Est.	s	s	/	22,291	27,852	24.9	27,069	42,523	57.1
Services	s	1,390	/	94,645	130,149	37.5	101,576	147,400	45.1
Gov't. and Gov't. Services	840	803	-4.4	72,426	71,783	-0.9	69,928	70,720	1.1
Subtotal -- Non-Farm	1,918	2,748	43.3	334,635	411,330	22.9	369,622	483,677	30.9
Farm Employment	803	653	-18.7	41,704	37,212	-10.8	41,912	37,659	-10.1
Total Employment	2,721	3,401	25.0	376,339	448,542	19.2	411,534	521,336	26.7

* Note: 'S' means data was suppressed due to low numbers

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (REIS), table CA25.

Figure 5
Percent Change in Employment by Industry
1990-2000

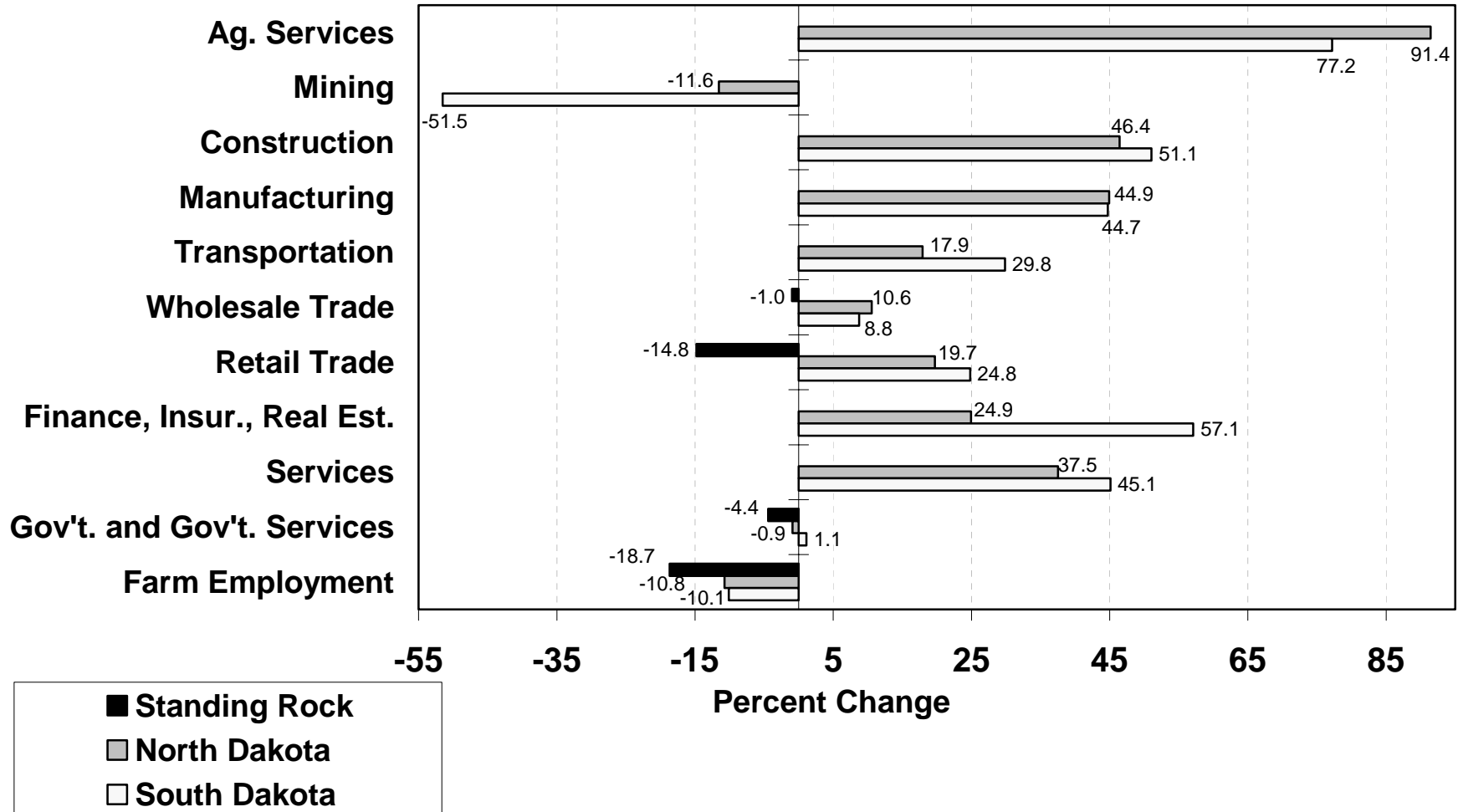


Table 9b
Employment Percent Share by Industry
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota
Place of Work Data
1990-2000

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Standing Rock</u>			<u>North Dakota</u>			<u>South Dakota</u>		
	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Change</u>
Ag. Services	1.0	/	/ %	0.9	1.5	0.6 %	1.1 #	1.5	0.4 %
Mining	/	0.0	/	1.3	1.0	-0.3	0.8	0.3	-0.5
Construction	2.6	/	/	4.2	5.2	1.0	4.5	5.4	0.9
Manufacturing	/	/	/	4.9	5.9	1.0	8.7	10.0	1.2
Transportation	3.3	/	/	5.4	5.3	-0.1	4.3	4.4	0.1
Wholesale Trade	3.8	3.0	-0.8	5.4	5.0	-0.4	4.8	4.2	-0.7
Retail Trade	6.9	4.7	-2.2	16.5	16.5	0.1	17.4	17.2	-0.3
Finance, Insur., Real Est.	/	/	/	5.9	6.2	0.3	6.6	8.2	1.6
Services	/	40.9	/	25.1	29.0	3.9	24.7	28.3	3.6
Gov't. and Gov't. Services	30.9	23.6	-7.3	19.2	16.0	-3.2	17.0	13.6	-3.4
Subtotal -- Non-Farm	70.5	80.8	10.3	88.9	91.7	2.8	89.8	92.8	3.0
Farm Employment	29.5	19.2	-10.3	11.1	8.3	-2.8	10.2	7.2	-3.0

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (REIS), table CA25.

Figure 6a
Employment Percent Share by Industry
Standing Rock, 2000

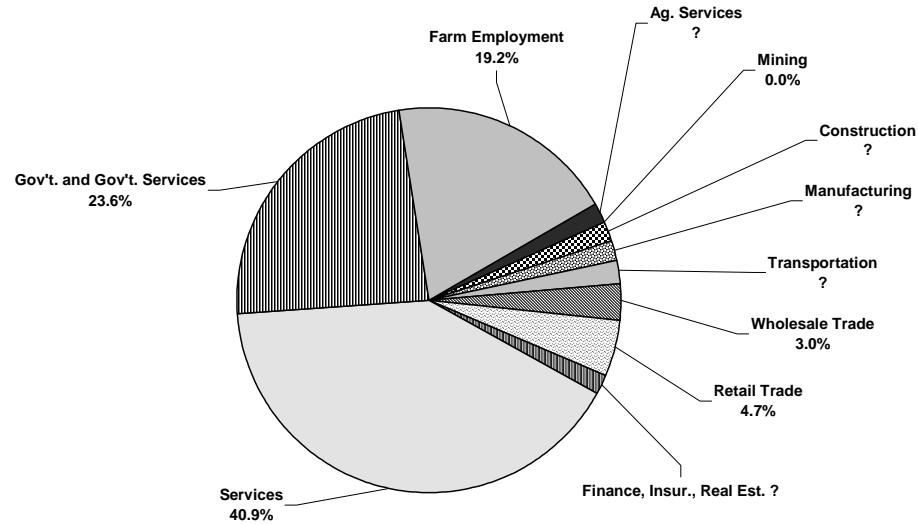


Figure 6b
Employment Percent Share by Industry
North Dakota, 2000

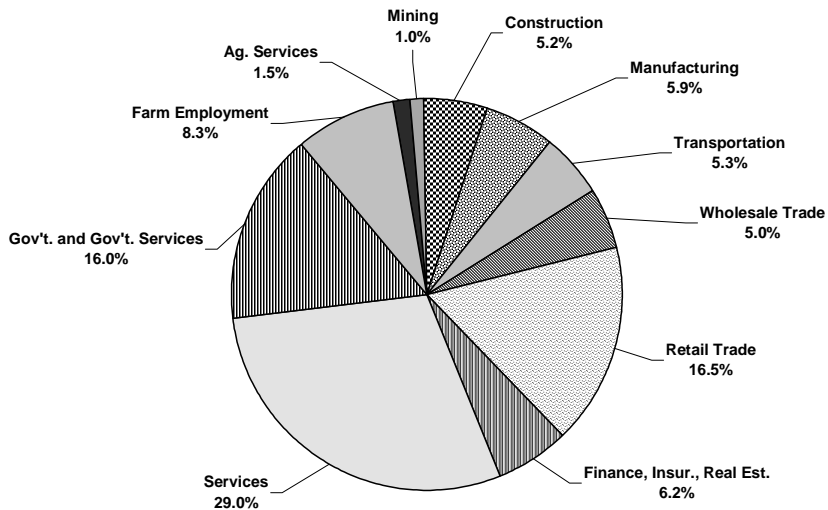
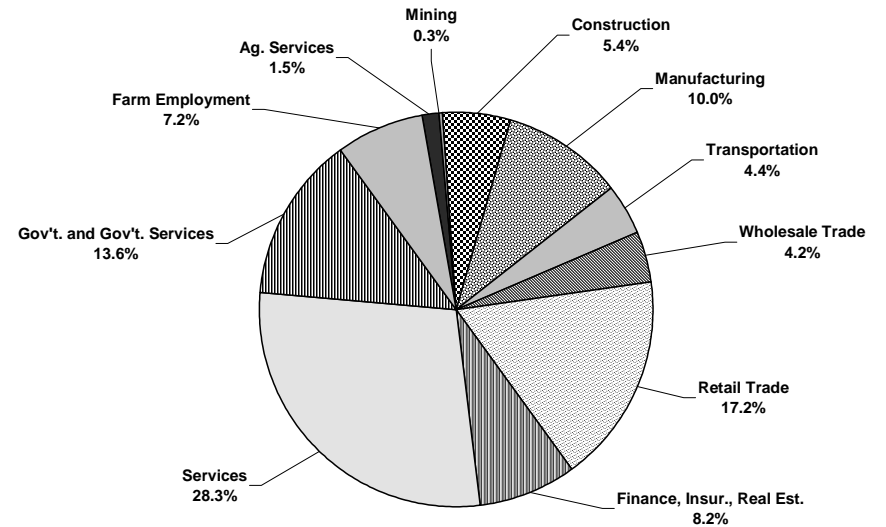


Figure 6c
Employment Percent Share by Industry
South Dakota, 2000



Map 3
County Unemployment Rates: 2002

Note: Employment data are based on an individual's place of residence.
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Map 4: Place of work by residents in Standing Rock (Out-commuters)

Map 5: Place of residence by work in Standing Rock (In-commuters).

Earnings and Income

The economic base of the community is determined by the income of the community's residents. There are two major components of earnings and income: average wage per job and per capita personal income. Average wage per job reflects the productivity of local labor and the performance of local businesses. Per capita personal income indicates the relative wealth of the area compared to the state.

Earnings and Income: Key Findings

- In 2001 the average wage per job in Standing Rock was \$22,404, but there was quite a disparity in the wages between the two counties which comprise the Standing Rock area: the Sioux County average wage stood at \$25,020 while in Corson the level was only \$19,787. The Standing Rock average was a bit less than \$3,000 under the averages for both North Dakota and South Dakota (Table 10 and Figure 7).
- The average wage per job in Sioux County in 2001 exceeded the average wages of all the surrounding counties on either side of the state line. The wages in Corson County were lower than the averages for all the surrounding counties (Table 10 and Figure 7).
- Per capita personal income in Standing Rock in 2001 was \$14,917. This figure is calculated by taking total incomes in the area and dividing by total population. The number equates to the amount each person would get if all the incomes in the Standing Rock counties were split up equally among all the residents, even those who don't work. This is different from the average wage in that the latter is essentially equivalent to what each person would get if incomes were split and distributed equally to all *workers*. That measure gets at the quality of jobs. The per capita income measure more the quality of life. Another difference that should be noted is that the average wage per job considers only wages earned through one's job. The "income" in per capita personal income also includes wages, but in addition counts other sources of revenue: these include such incomes as earnings on interest-bearing accounts or money from the Government in the form of Social Security or other subsidy-program checks. In the case of Standing Rock it is clear that what money there is, is spread very thin. The per capita income level for both North and South Dakota as states exceeded the level in Standing Rock by over ten thousand dollars (Table 11, Figure 8, and Map 6).
- According to the Census Bureau's 2000 census, 33 percent of all families in the Standing Rock tribe lived below the federal poverty level. Of the families with only a mother present as the householder, fully half lived below the poverty line. In addition, 40 percent of all individuals (those not living with their family) fell below the poverty line as well. These figures are for Standing Rock tribal members only, rather than all of the residents of Sioux and Corson counties (not shown in figures).

Table 10
Average Annual Wage Per Job
Standing Rock and Surrounding Counties, North & South Dakota, U.S.
1991-2001

	<u>Average Wage per Job (Nominal Dollars)</u>			<u>% Growth</u>		
	<u>1991</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>91-96</u>	<u>96-01</u>	<u>91-01</u>
Standing Rock (Avg.)	15,194	17,550	22,404	15.5	27.7	47.4
Sioux Co.	16,732	19,905	25,020	19.0	25.7	49.5
Corson Co.	13,656	15,195	19,787	11.3	30.2	44.9
N. Surrounding Co.'s	15,167	18,151	22,013	19.7	21.3	45.1
S. Surrounding Co.'s	13,211	16,320	20,073	23.5	23.0	51.9
North Dakota	17,864	20,956	25,332	17.3	20.9	41.8
South Dakota	17,021	20,303	25,061	19.3	23.4	47.2
United States	24,216	28,469	35,550	17.6	24.9	46.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (1969-2000), Regional Economic Profile, Table CA34.

Figure 7
Average Wage per Job
Standing Rock, Surrounding Counties, North & South Dakota, US
1991-2001

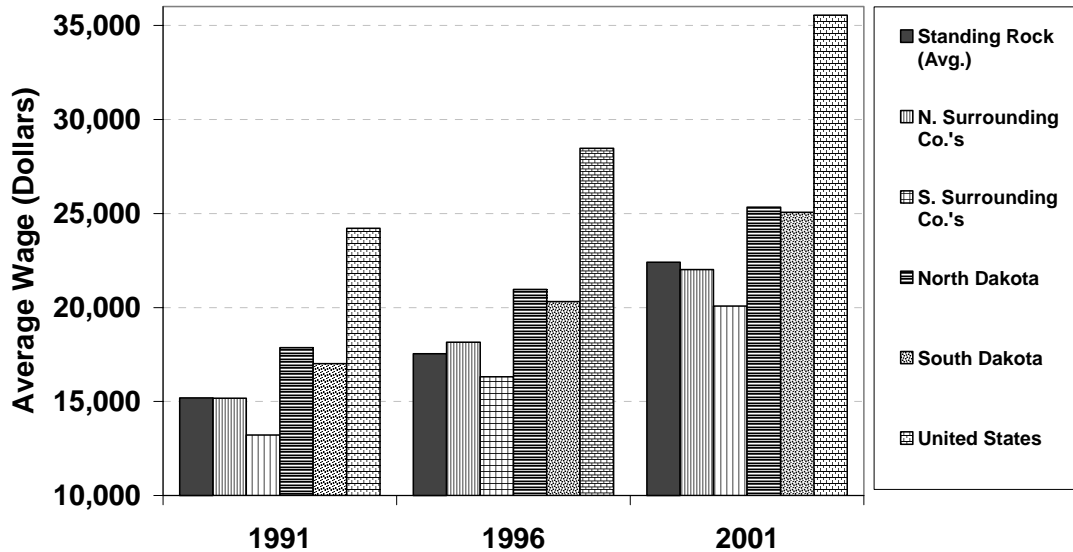
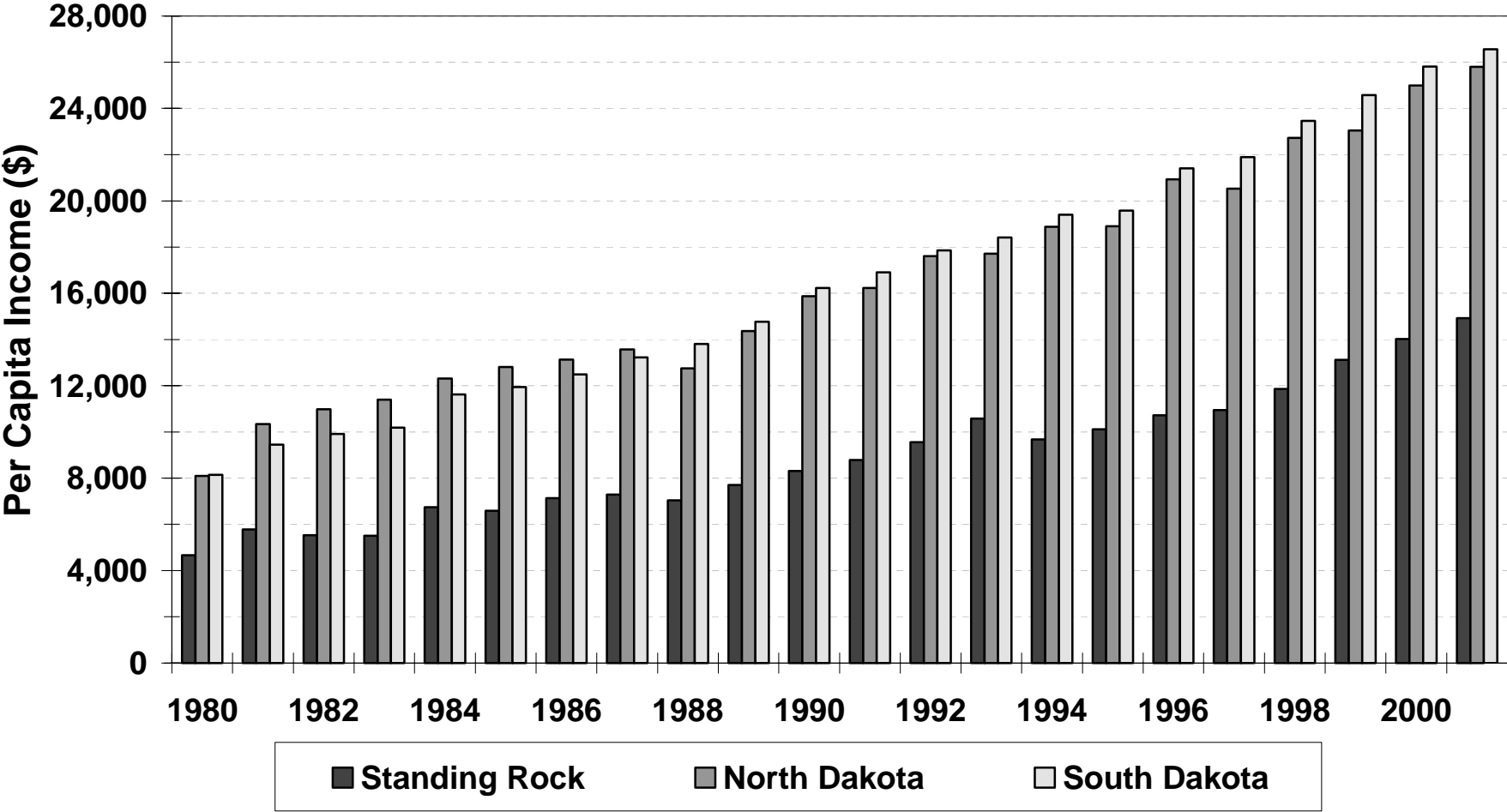


Table 11
Per Capita Personal Income
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota
1980-2001

	Income (\$)			Growth Rates (%)		
	Standing Rock	N. Dakota	S. Dakota	Standing Rock	N. Dakota	S. Dakota
1980	4,660	8,095	8,142			
1981	5,782	10,342	9,451	24.1	27.8	16.1
1982	5,532	10,990	9,915	-4.3	6.3	4.9
1983	5,505	11,386	10,195	-0.5	3.6	2.8
1984	6,742	12,307	11,619	22.5	8.1	14.0
1985	6,586	12,811	11,942	-2.3	4.1	2.8
1986	7,138	13,126	12,486	8.4	2.5	4.6
1987	7,288	13,565	13,217	2.1	3.3	5.9
1988	7,036	12,745	13,807	-3.5	-6.0	4.5
1989	7,704	14,357	14,767	9.5	12.6	7.0
1990	8,313	15,872	16,227	7.9	10.6	9.9
1991	8,789	16,230	16,907	5.7	2.3	4.2
1992	9,559	17,614	17,862	8.8	8.5	5.6
1993	10,583	17,719	18,413	10.7	0.6	3.1
1994	9,678	18,885	19,399	-8.6	6.6	5.4
1995	10,116	18,899	19,588	4.5	0.1	1.0
1996	10,720	20,921	21,399	6.0	10.7	9.2
1997	10,955	20,520	21,885	2.2	-1.9	2.3
1998	11,856	22,716	23,453	8.2	10.7	7.2
1999	13,119	23,046	24,576	10.6	1.5	4.8
2000	14,021	24,990	25,815	6.9	8.4	5.0
2001	14,917	25,798	26,566	6.4	3.2	2.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (1989-2001), Table CA13.

Figure 8
Per Capita Personal Income
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota
1980-2001



Map 6
Per Capita Personal Income: 2001

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA13.

EDUCATION

The educational level of residents is likely to influence the well-being of the whole community. Communities able to provide a higher skilled workforce are more likely to benefit from new developing industries. Residents who have a good educational background will be more employable and able to command higher salaries. Employers will benefit as well because they will most likely experience lower turnover and training costs.

Education: Key Findings

- Compared to the states of North and South Dakota, the Standing Rock counties have a higher amount of both high school graduates and high school drop-outs among its over 25 population. In 1990, 35 percent of the residents in the combined area of Sioux and Corson over the age of 25 had failed to complete high-school. By 2000 this percentage had been reduced to 23 percent, but nevertheless the equivalent percentage in 2000 in North Dakota was 16 percent and in South Dakota 15 percent. On the other hand, in 2000 slightly over 35 percent of Standing Rock's population had completed high school, compared to 28 percent for North Dakota overall and 33 percent for South Dakota. The area where Standing Rock had fewer residents percentage-wise was for those with college degrees. In 2000 not quite 21 percent of the population in those counties had completed either an associate's, bachelor's or graduate degree (though this was up from 18 percent in 1990). Across the entire state of North Dakota the percentage was 31.5, and in South Dakota 28.6 percent (Table 12).

Table 12
Educational Attainment of Persons over 25
As a Percentage of the Population of Persons over 25
Standing Rock, North and South Dakota
1990-2000

		<u>Completed Less Than 9th Grade</u>	<u>9-12th Grade No Diploma</u>	<u>High School Diploma</u>	<u>Some College</u>	<u>Associate Degree</u>	<u>Bachelor's Degree</u>	<u>Graduate Degree</u>
<i>As a Percent of Population of Persons over 25:</i>								
Standing Rock	1990	18.0%	17.0%	33.4%	15.1%	7.6%	7.8%	2.6%
	2000	8.9%	14.0%	35.2%	21.2%	9.5%	8.6%	2.6%
North Dakota	1990	15.0%	8.4%	28.2%	20.6%	10.1%	13.6%	4.6%
	2000	8.7%	7.4%	27.9%	24.5%	9.4%	16.5%	5.5%
South Dakota	1990	13.5%	9.6%	33.8%	18.9%	7.5%	12.3%	4.9%
	2000	7.5%	8.0%	32.9%	23.0%	7.1%	15.5%	6.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

CONCLUSION

The Standing Rock counties, Sioux and Corson combined, are experiencing economic growth on several levels. Although population changes seem to fluctuate up and down with each decade, from 1990 to 2002 the population of the two counties grew a combined 6.9 percent: a net increase of over 500 people. The majority of these, however, were attributed to new births rather than people moving in, for in fact more people have been moving out of the counties than in for several decades (though even there, the exodus appears to be tapering). Employment has also grown, by over 50 percent from 1991 to 2001 according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

However, these trends are based on county-level data, not tribal-level. From the few indicators available that measure strictly Standing Rock Sioux's economic trends there emerges a bleaker picture: unemployment rates ranging from 50 to 80 percent depending on the location within the reservation, and many of even the employed still earning wages below the federal poverty line. Unfortunately there is little historical data available, and the litigation surrounding the Interior Department's handling of the Indian Trust Fund has made it difficult to obtain even recent data.

Even without perfect data on the tribal population, what is clear is that economic activity is taking place in Sioux and Corson counties. Growth in employment as well as the concomitant improvement in people's quality of lives is possible, and it is happening in that very region. Although this report has not identified or addressed any of the very real challenges and obstacles that exist on the path to growth, it is hoped that tribal members will collectively choose to act proactively for their future, and close the disparity gap that currently exists in the Standing Rock counties.

APPENDIX A: GROWTH RELATIVE TO MISSOURI RIVER

This section compares growth in population and employment by county location relative to the Missouri River. Currently, access from the Standing Rock counties to the east side of the Missouri is accomplished by bridge at either the city of Bismarck to the north of Sioux County (the bridge connects Morton and Burleigh counties), or in the southeast corner of Corson County by way of the overpass into the city of Mobridge. The distance between these two access points is over 100 miles. Fort Yates, one of Standing Rock's primary cities, sits about equidistant between these two points.

The counties referred to as 'selected counties' in the following tables and graphs are the same list of counties as used in the rest of the report, but rather than split by the state line they are arranged according to their location relative the river. The selected counties west of the river are defined as Adams, Grant, Morton, and Sioux in North Dakota; and Dewey, Ziebach, Perkins, and Corson in South Dakota. East of the river the counties are Burleigh, and Emmons in North Dakota and Campbell and Walworth in South Dakota.

Key Findings

- In the last three decades, population in the selected counties east of the Missouri river has consistently grown at a much higher rate than those to the west. For example, from 1990 to 2002 the selected western counties experienced a combined population growth rate of 1.6 percent, whereas those to the east grew 13 percent. This was about the same magnitude of difference in growth rates observed in the 1970's and 80's as well (Table A1 and Figure A1).
- The employment trends for the past thirty years have been quite similar to those of population mentioned above. For selected counties east of the river, employment levels have consistently grown at twice the rate of those selected counties west of the river. From 1990 to 2001, the western counties experienced a 15.6 percent increase in employment, while the eastern counties grew by 32 percent (Table A2 and Figure A2).
- Standing Rock's growth has traditionally lagged behind even the rates in the western surrounding counties, until the decade of the 1990's when it bested them. Creating closer linkages with the growth centers east of the Missouri River might increase the stability of the region as an economic growth base, and a bridge in Fort Yates would certainly help to facilitate that. Not only would it benefit merchants and consumers in both Standing Rock as well as in the counties across the river, it could have positive impacts over time on the counties bordering Standing Rock to the west as well.

**Table A1
Population Growth Rates
By Location Relative to Missouri River
1970-2002**

	<u>1970-1980</u>	<u>1980-1990</u>	<u>1990-2002</u>
Standing Rock	2.2 %	-9.8 %	6.9 %
Selected Counties:			
West of River	8.6	-7.7	1.6
East of River	19.3	4.4	13.1
All Dakota Counties	4.6	-0.6	4.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

**Figure A1
Population Growth Rate by Location Relative to River
Standing Rock, Selected Counties East and West
1970-2002**

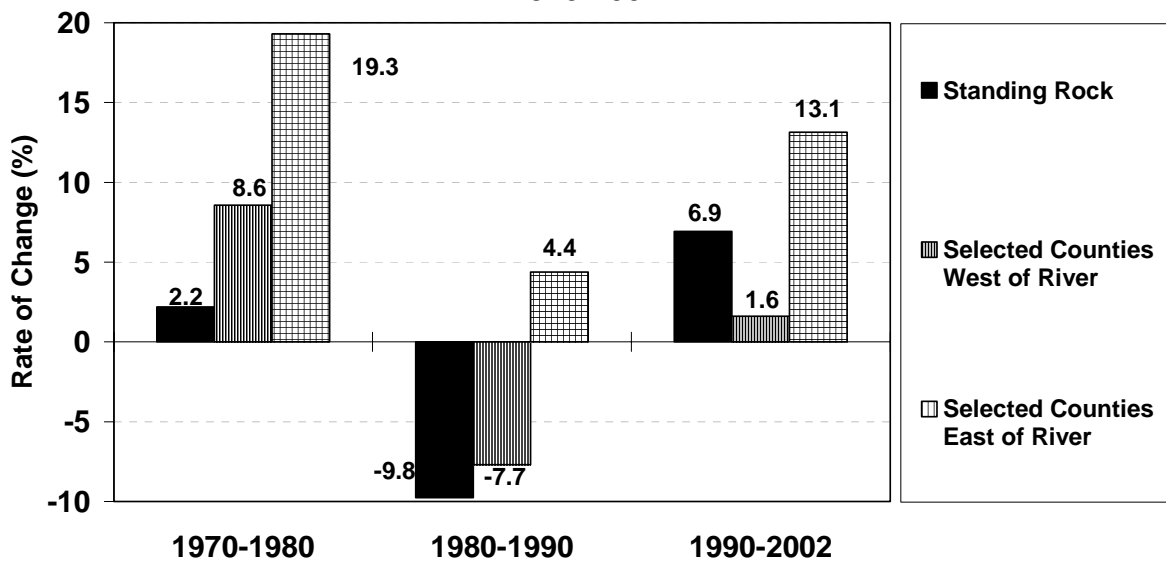


Table A2
Employment Growth Rates
By Location Relative to Missouri River
Place of Work Data
1970-2001

	<u>1970-1980</u>	<u>1980-1990</u>	<u>1990-2001</u>
Standing Rock	-0.1 %	-12.3 %	51.6 %
Selected Counties:			
West of River	29.6	-5.3	15.6
East of River	59.2	15.5	32.0
All Dakota Counties	28.7	5.9	33.3

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CA34 "Wage and Salary Employment." Place of work data.

Figure A2
Employment Growth Rates by Location Relative to Missouri River
Standing Rock, Selected Counties East and West
1970-2001

