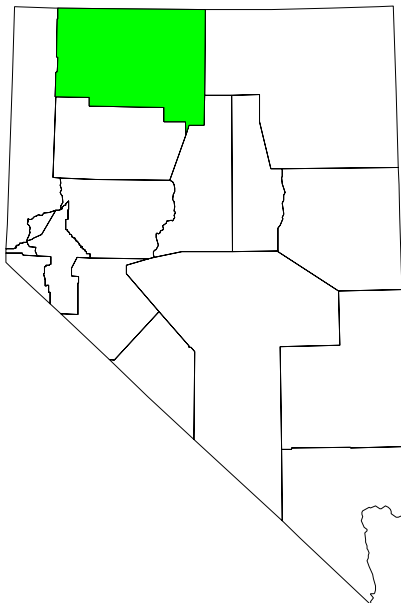


**ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA AND TRENDS FOR  
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, PART V:**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**



**ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA AND TRENDS FOR  
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, PART V:  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Thomas R. Harris

Elizabeth Fadali

Joan Wright

Thomas R. Harris is a Professor in the Department of Resource Economics and Director of the University Center for Economic Development at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Elizabeth Fadali is a Research Associate in the Department of Applied Economics and Statistics at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Joan Wright is a Graduate Research Assistant in the University Center for Economic Development, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources at the University of Nevada, Reno.

May 2006

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This publication, *Analysis of Socio-Economic Data and Trends for Humboldt County, Part V: Additional Information*, was published by the University Center for Economic Development in the Department of Resource Economics at the University of Nevada, Reno. Funds for this publication were provided by the United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration under University Centers Program contract #07-66-05359. This publication's statements, findings, conclusions, recommendations, and/or data represent solely the findings and views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Administration, Humboldt County Commissioners, State of Nevada Commission on Economic Development, University of Nevada, Reno, or any reference sources used or quoted by this study. Reference to research projects, programs, books, magazines, or newspaper articles does not imply an endorsement or recommendation by the authors unless otherwise stated. Correspondence regarding this document should be sent to:

Thomas R. Harris, Director  
University Center for Economic Development  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Department of Resource Economics  
Mail Stop 204  
Reno, Nevada 89557-0105  
Phone: 775/784-6499



UCED  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Nevada Cooperative Extension  
Department of Resource Economics

# **ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA AND TRENDS FOR HUMBOLDT COUNTY, PART V:**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The University Center for Economic Development conducted a study of socio-economic trends in Humboldt County. The results of this study can be used for background material for a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in Humboldt County and other county economic development issues.

### **AGRICULTURAL TRENDS**

Table 1 shows by Nevada counties the latest Census of Agriculture data (USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002). As to number of farms, Humboldt County had 233 farms in 2002 which ranks Humboldt County 6<sup>th</sup> among Nevada's 17 counties. Also from Table 1 are county values of production as to crops, livestock and poultry, and total value of production. In 2002, Humboldt County's crop value of production was \$37,599,000 which ranked Humboldt County 1<sup>st</sup> among Nevada's 17 counties. Also from Table 1, total value of livestock and poultry production for Humboldt County in 2002 was \$17,350,000 which ranked Humboldt County 5<sup>th</sup> among Nevada's 17 counties. Lastly, from Table 1 total value of agricultural production for Humboldt County in 2002 was \$54,949,000, which ranks Humboldt County 2<sup>nd</sup> among Nevada's seventeen counties.

**Table 1. Value of Agricultural Production for Counties of the State of Nevada.**

Nevada Counties	Farms (#)	Rank	2002 Value of Production				Overall Rank	
			Crops <sup>a</sup>	Rank	Livestock and Poultry <sup>a</sup>	Rank		Total Value <sup>a</sup>
Churchill	498	1	\$ 11,261	3	\$ 39,354	2	\$ 50,615	3
Clark	253	5	\$ 6,626	9	\$ 10,378	7	\$ 17,004	9
Douglas	178	7	\$ 4,233	11	\$ 4,900	11	\$ 9,133	13
Elko	397	2	\$ 1,680	15	\$ 43,631	1	\$ 45,311	4
Esmeralda <sup>c</sup>	18	15	\$ 2,759	13	\$ 718	15	\$ 3,478	14
Eureka	73	13	\$ 8,945	6	\$ 3,714	13	\$ 12,659	10
<b>Humboldt</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$ 37,599</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$ 17,350</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$ 54,949</b>	<b>2</b>
Lander	116	10	\$ 10,263	4	\$ 10,352	8	\$ 20,615	7
Lincoln	109	12	\$ 7,096	8	\$ 4,355	12	\$ 11,451	11
Lyon	330	4	\$ 36,723	2	\$ 37,748	3	\$ 74,471	1
Mineral <sup>c</sup>	17	16	\$ 2,606	14	\$ 678	16	\$ 3,284	15
Nye	172	8	\$ 4,370	10	\$ 18,049	4	\$ 22,419	6
Pershing	115	11	\$ 8,609	7	\$ 17,099	6	\$ 25,708	5
Storey <sup>c</sup>	6	17	\$ 920	16	\$ 239	17	\$ 1,159	16
Washoe	332	3	\$ 9,900	5	\$ 7,880	9	\$ 17,780	8
White Pine	121	9	\$ 3,938	12	\$ 6,087 <sup>b</sup>	10	\$ 10,025 <sup>b</sup>	12
Carson City	21	14	\$ 202	17	\$ 726	14	\$ 928	17
Nevada	2,989		\$157,730		\$ 223,259 <sup>b</sup>		\$380,989 <sup>b</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Value of production in \$1,000.

Data source: Table 1. County Summary Highlights: 2002. Census of Agriculture, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

<sup>b</sup> As per conversation with Martin Owens, NASS State Statistician, 12-27-04.

<sup>c</sup> All Esmeralda, Mineral and Storey dollar values are UCED estimates using Census of Agriculture data as base.

Table 2 shows some county agricultural indicators for Humboldt County. Total number of farms for Humboldt County decreased from 237 farms in 1997 to 233 farms in 2002. However, farm acreage in Humboldt County increased from 733,025 in 1997 to 761,109 in 2002 or a 3.8 percent increase in farm acreage in five years. Also, average farm size in Humboldt County increased from 3,093 acres in 1997 to 3,267 acres in 2002 or an increase of 5.6 percent. The number of full time farms in Humboldt County also increased from 150 farms to 164 farms, or a 9.3 percent increase in full time farms.

**Table 2. Number of Farms, Farm Acreage, Average Farm Size, and Number of Full Time Farms in Humboldt County, 1997 to 2002.**

Category	Year		
	2002	1997	Percent Change (%)
Total Number of Farms	233	237	-1.7
Acreage of Farms	761,109	733,025	3.8
Average Farm Size in Acreage	3,267	3,093	5.6
Number of Full Time Farms	164	150	9.3

Data source: Table 8. Farms, Land in Farms, Value of Land and Buildings, and Land Use: 2002 and 1997. Table 40. Tenure, Number of operators, Type of Organization, and Principal Operator Characteristics: 2002 and 1997. Census of Agriculture, County Data, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Table 3 shows average market value of land and buildings per farm, lands and buildings per acre, and value of machinery and equipment per farm. From Table 3, average market value of land and building per farm increased from \$796,287 in 1997 to \$1,212,650 in 2002, meaning that the nominal value per farm increased by over 50 percent. On a per acre basis, average market value of lands and buildings in Humboldt County increased from \$264 per acre in 1997 to \$380 per acre in 2002, or a 43.9 percent increase. As Table 3 shows, market value of machinery and equipment per farm increased from \$132,429 in 1997 to \$202,630 in 2002, or a 53.0 percent increase over five years.

**Table 3. Estimated Average Value of Land and Building and Machinery and Equipment in Humboldt County from 1997 to 2002.**

Category	Year		
	2002	1997	Percent Change (%)
Land and Buildings (per farm)	\$1,212,650	\$796,287	52.3
Land and Buildings (per acre)	\$380	\$264	43.9
Machinery and Equipment (per farm)	\$202,630	\$132,429	53.0

Data source. Table 8. Farms, Land in Farms, Value of Land and Buildings, and Land Use: 2002 and 1997. Table 38. Machinery and Equipment: 2002 and 1997. Census of Agriculture, County Data, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Table 4 shows market values of agricultural sales for all agricultural products and average per farm for Humboldt County from 1997 to 2002. The nominal market value of all agricultural products decreased from \$57,646,000 in 1997 to \$54,646,000 in 2002, or a 4.7 percent decrease. On a per farm basis, average market value of agricultural sales per farm in Humboldt County decreased from \$243,232 in 1997 to \$235,832 in 2002, or a 3.0 percent decrease.

**Table 4. Market Value of Agricultural Sales for Humboldt County from 1997 to 2002.**

Category	Year		
	2002	1997	Percent Change (%)
All Agricultural Products	\$54,949,000	\$57,646,000	-4.7%
Average Per Farm	\$235,832	\$243,232	-3.0%

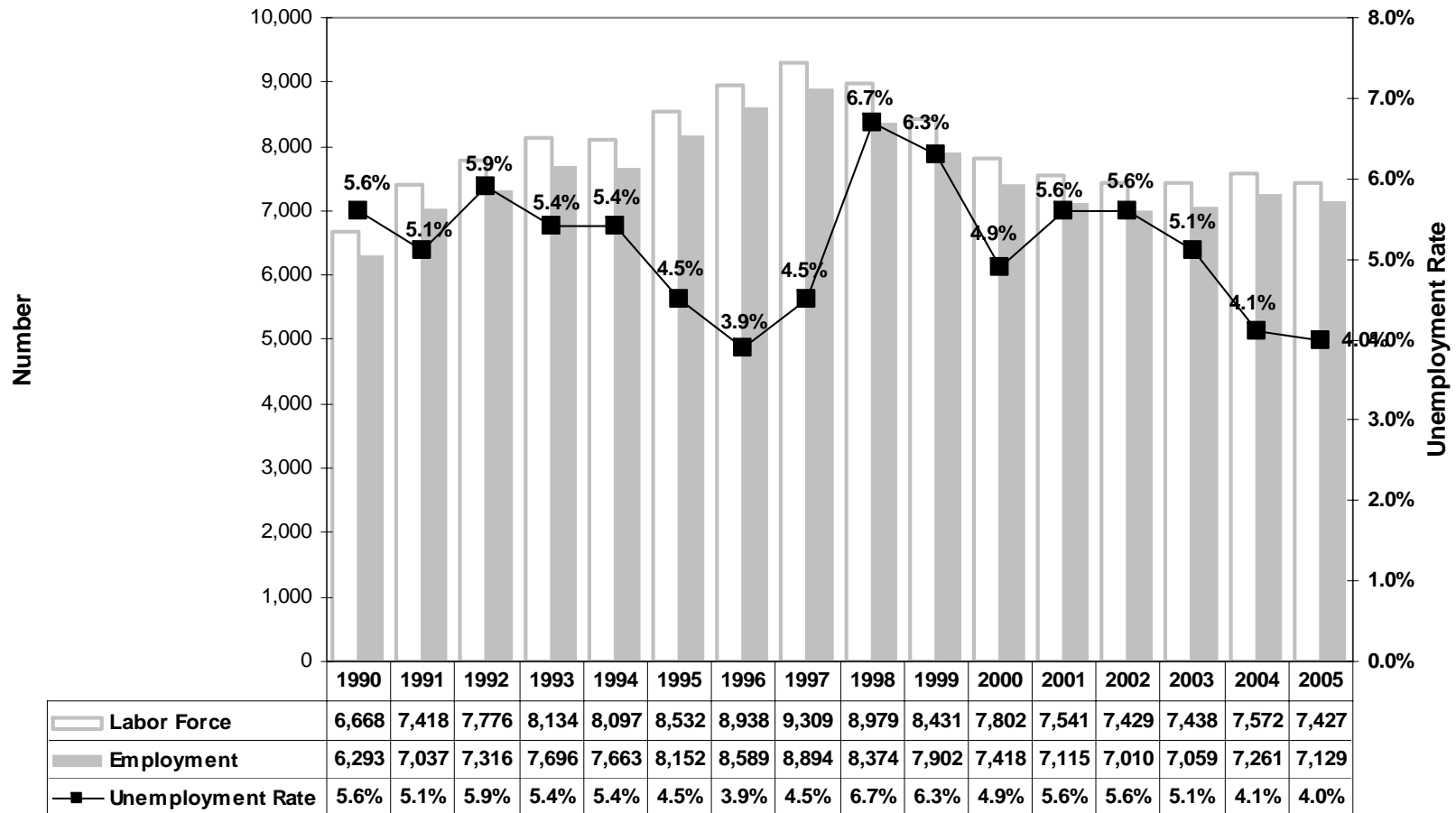
Data source: Table 2. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold Including Direct and Organic: 2002 and 1997. Census of Agriculture, County Data, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, <http://www.nass.usda.gov>.

### **LABOR FORCE DYNAMICS FROM 1990 - 2005**

As seen from Figure 1, annual average labor force and employment in Humboldt County both reached a peak in 1997 when 9,309 individuals were in the labor force and 8,894 of them were employed. Humboldt County labor force declined steadily to 7,429 in 2002 then rose somewhat to 7,572 in 2004 and fell again to 7,427 in 2005. Also, employment in Humboldt County had declined to 7,129 in 2005. The unemployment rate declined from 6.7 percent in 1998 to 4.0 percent in 2005.

A low unemployment rate may indicate an expanding or successful local economy. However, the real viability of a Mountain West economy is shown in its employment and labor force value. From 1997 to 2005, county employment declined by approximately 20 percent, while the county labor force also declined by approximately 20 percent

**Figure 1. Humboldt County Labor Force Dynamics 1990 to 2005**



Data source: Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation. [Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment, and Unemployment Rates \(LAUS\)](#).



## MINERAL SECTOR DATA

Mineral production activity in Humboldt County consisted primarily of gold and silver extraction. In addition to gold and silver, Humboldt County produced mercury, opals, limestone and dolomite. Figures 2 and 3 show trends in mineral sector production in Humboldt County. Figure 2 shows extracted gold in thousands of ounces and price of gold in dollars per ounce from 1989 to 2004. Gold extraction over the period peaked in 1998 when approximately 1,524,000 ounces were produced. Nominal average annual commodity price per ounce over the 1989 to 2003 period peaked earlier in 1996 at approximately \$389. In 1999 gold production dropped to 1,088,000 ounces. Over the period from 2000 to 2003, production rose slowly to 1,368,000 ounces in 2003. In 2004, gold extraction in Humboldt County decreased to approximately 1,154,000 ounces, largely due to a drop in production at the Twin Creeks Mine. Gold prices had rebounded to an average of \$365 per ounce in 2003. The average annual price of gold in 2004 was at a new nominal high for the time period since 1989 at about \$411 per troy ounce. Gold prices have continued to climb in 2005.

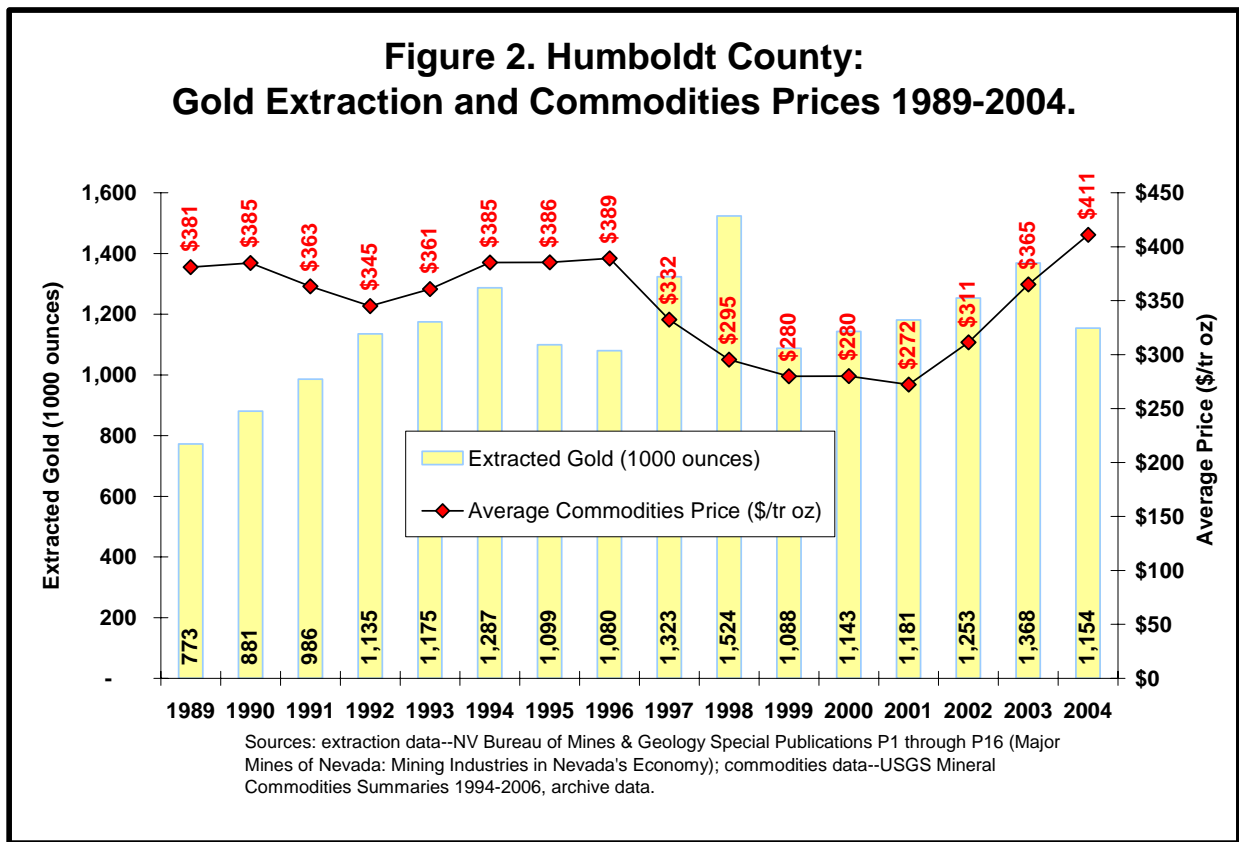


Figure 3 shows extracted silver in thousands of ounces and price of silver in troy ounces from 1989 to 2004. The extraction of silver was at its highest in 1995 at about 865,000 ounces with almost half of this amount extracted from the Crofoot-Lewis Mine. In 2001, extraction of silver reached a low of around 128,000 ounces. In 2004, extraction of silver had increased somewhat to 242,000 ounces.

The average annual nominal price of silver has fluctuated around an average of approximately \$4.80 per troy ounce over the 1990 to 2003 time period, peaking in 1998 at \$5.54 per troy ounce. In 2004 silver prices climbed to a new nominal average annual high for the period of \$6.69 per troy ounce. Prices have continued to climb in 2005.

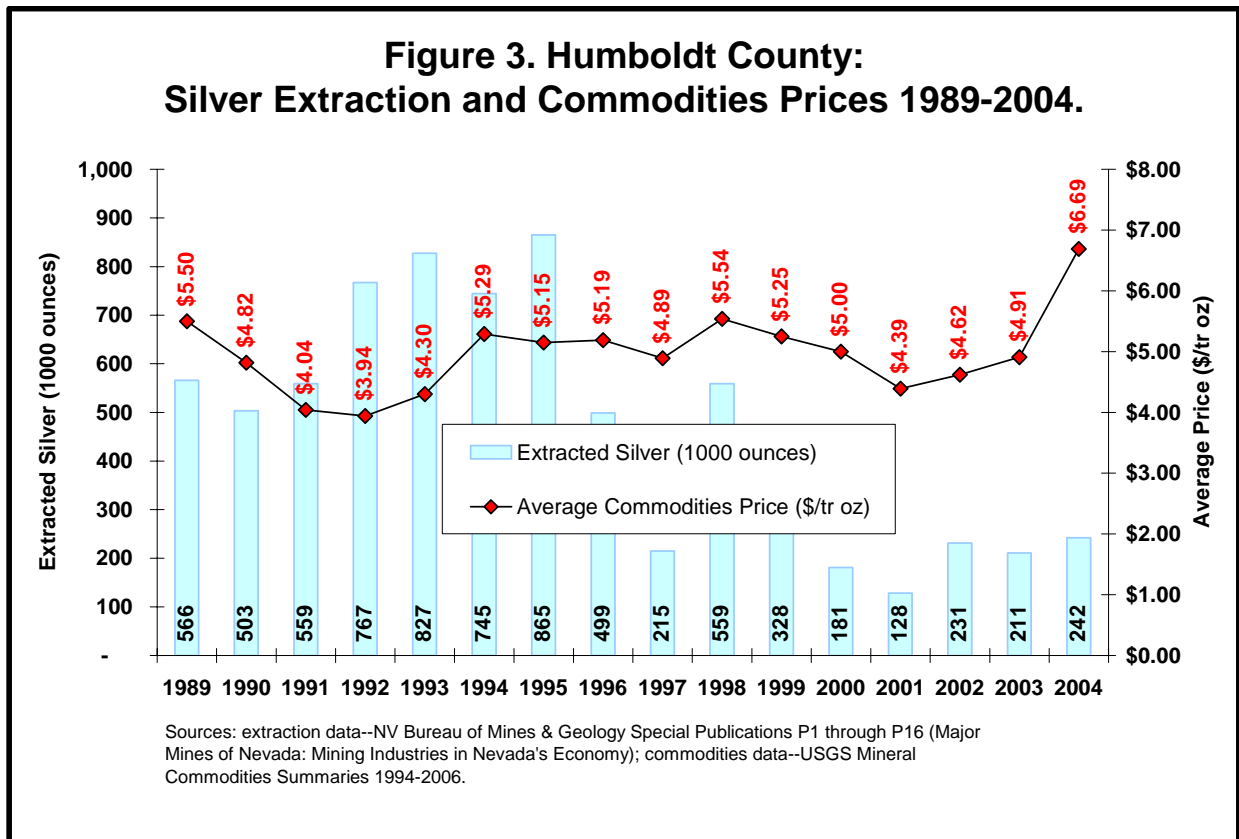
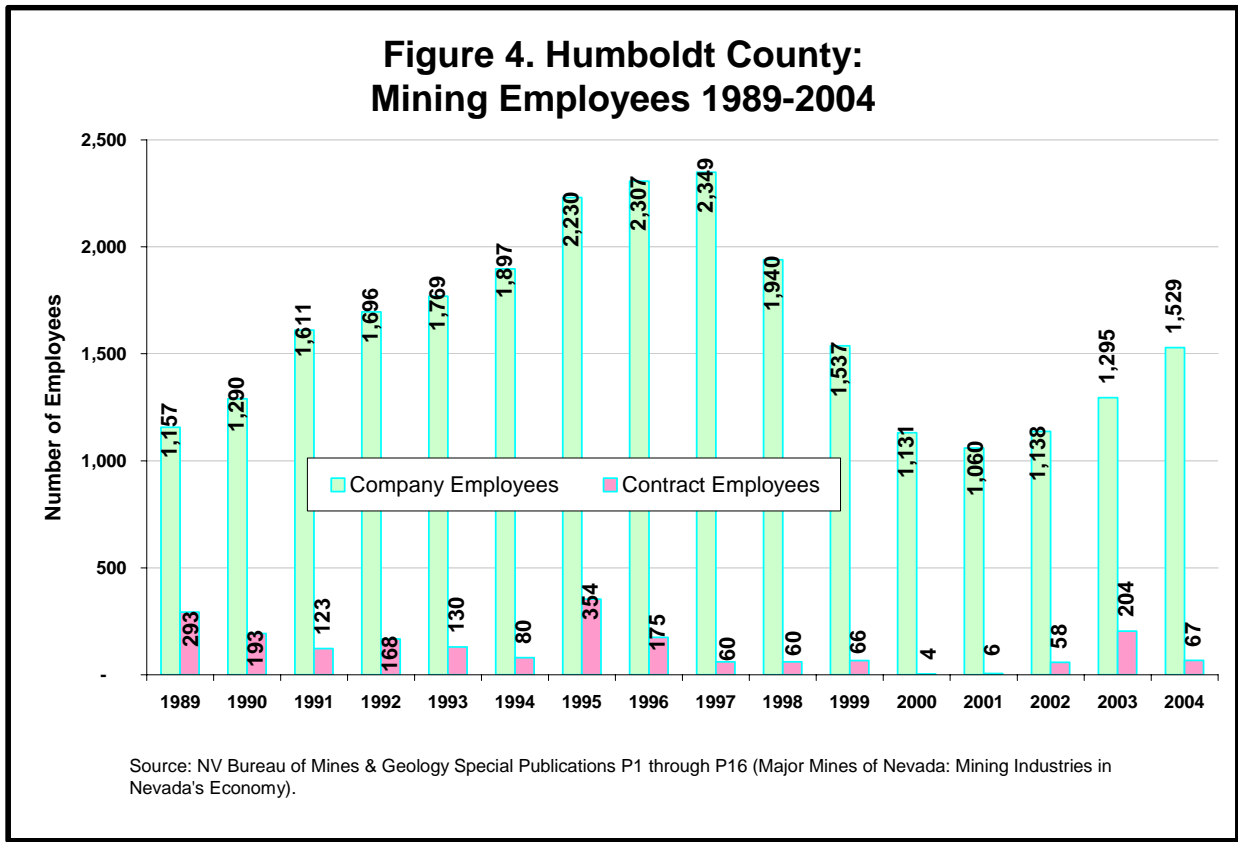


Figure 4 shows company and contract mining employment from 1989 to 2004 for Humboldt County. As Figure 4 shows, mining employment in Humboldt County has been variable. In 1989, mining employed an average of 1,450 individuals. In 1995, Humboldt County reached a peak average of 2,584 mining employees. The lowest average mining employment for the period was in 2001, when mining employment declined to 1,066. Subsequently, mining employment has increased somewhat to nearly 1,600 in 2004.



## COUNTY FISCAL OBSERVATION

The “boom-bust” cycles of Humboldt County’s natural resource industry, i.e.; agriculture and mining, have been a focus of economic development and diversification efforts in rural Nevada counties such as Humboldt. In Humboldt County, the mining industry is one of the largest employers and export sectors. The fluctuations in agriculture and mining impact the fiscal strength of Humboldt County.

### *Humboldt County General Fund Revenue and Expenditure, 1994-2004*

Table 5 shows the nominal changes in fiscal condition for Humboldt County government. Estimated Humboldt County population peaked in fiscal year (FY) 1999-2000 at 18,149, decreasing to 16,164 in FY 2001-2002 and then increasing somewhat to 16,457 for FY 2003-04. Population first increased 11.5 percent then decreased 9.3 percent. Overall increase for the time period from FY 1994-95 to FY 2003-04 was about 2.6 percent (State of Nevada Demographer, 2006).

Humboldt County nominal revenues peaked at \$10.5 million in FY 1996-97 as mineral industry activity peaked. Nominal revenues then decreased to \$8.9 million in FY 1999-2000 before increasing again to nearly \$10,000,000 in FY 2003-04. Also from Table 5, nominal general fund expenditure has fluctuated. Nominal general fund expenditures decreased from a peak of \$9.7 million during fiscal year 1999-2000 to \$9.4 million in fiscal year 2003-2004.

Data and information shown in Table 5 are nominal figures; that is, data that has inflation. Table 6 shows changes in fiscal values net of inflation. All fiscal data has been discounted to 2000 prices using the gross domestic price deflator. Table 6 also shows real per capita fiscal indicators. Per capita indicators take into account population in the given year. Real and real per capita revenues and expenditures are also displayed graphically in Figures 5 and 6.

As seen from Table 6, real general fund revenues peaked in FY 1996-97 when mineral industry activity peaked. When inflation is taken into account, general fund revenues have decreased 3.5 percent over the period from FY 1994-95 to FY 2003-04. Over the same period real general fund expenditures have increased 21 percent. As seen in Figure 5, expenditures exceeded revenues from FY 1999-2000 to FY 2001-02, the same time period that mining employment (Figure 4) was at its lowest. Real per capita general fund revenues decreased from \$583 in FY 1994-95 to \$548 in FY 2003-2004, a decrease of 6.0 percent. Over the same time period, real per capita expenditures increased 40.5 percent.

**Table 5. Humboldt County, Nevada Nominal General Fund Revenue and Expenditure<sup>a</sup>.**

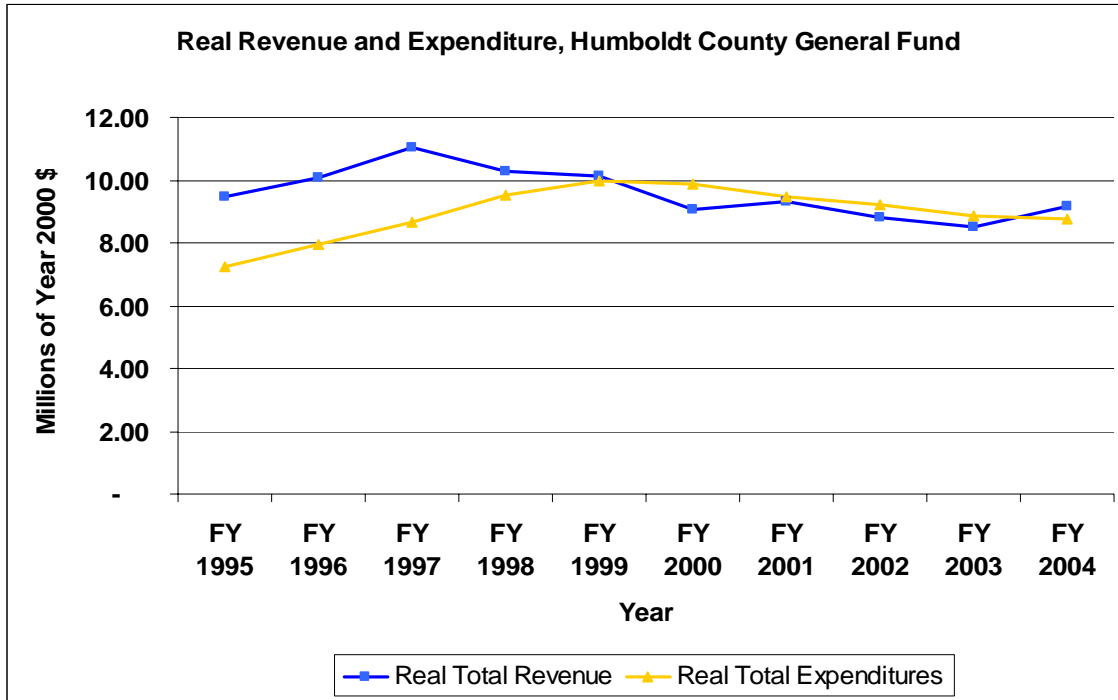
	<b>FY 94-95</b>	<b>FY 95-96</b>	<b>FY 96-97</b>	<b>FY 97-98</b>	<b>FY 98-99</b>	<b>FY 99-00</b>	<b>FY 00-01</b>	<b>FY 01-02</b>	<b>FY 02-03</b>	<b>FY 03-04</b>
General Fund Revenue <sup>b</sup>	\$8,653,144	\$9,368,546	\$10,471,182	\$9,840,172	\$9,821,854	\$8,947,044	\$9,406,397	\$9,084,606	\$8,958,569	\$9,793,329
Percent Change		8.3%	11.8%	-6.0%	-0.2%	-8.9%	5.1%	-3.4%	-1.4%	9.3%
General Fund Expenditures <sup>c</sup>	\$6,597,786	\$7,415,157	\$8,192,265	\$9,112,717	\$9,687,867	\$9,741,387	\$9,585,556	\$9,534,266	\$9,293,324	\$9,376,184
Percent Change		12.4%	10.5%	11.2%	6.3%	0.6%	-1.6%	-0.5%	-2.5%	0.9%
Population	16,270	16,460	17,520	17,970	18,090	18,149	16,197	16,164	16,308	16,457
Percent Change		1.2%	6.4%	2.6%	0.7%	0.3%	-5.3%	-0.2%	0.9%	0.9%

<sup>a</sup>Data source: Nevada Department of Taxation<sup>b</sup>General Fund Revenue does not include beginning fund balance.<sup>c</sup>General Fund Expenditures do not include ending fund balance.**Table 6. Humboldt County, Nevada Real and Per Capita Nominal General Fund Revenue and Expenditure<sup>a</sup>.**

	<b>FY 94-95</b>	<b>FY 95-96</b>	<b>FY 96-97</b>	<b>FY 97-98</b>	<b>FY 98-99</b>	<b>FY 99-00</b>	<b>FY 00-01</b>	<b>FY 01-02</b>	<b>FY 02-03</b>	<b>FY 03-04</b>
Real GF Revenue <sup>b</sup>	\$9,486,250	\$10,073,462	\$11,061,273	\$10,257,712	\$10,111,654	\$9,048,683	\$9,298,189	\$8,793,816	\$8,526,002	\$9,152,430
% Change		6.2%	9.8%	-7.3%	-1.4%	-10.5%	2.8%	-5.4%	-3.0%	7.3%
Real GF Expenditures <sup>c</sup>	\$7,233,007	\$7,973,094	\$8,653,931	\$9,499,390	\$9,973,714	\$9,852,050	\$9,475,287	\$9,229,083	\$8,844,594	\$8,762,584
% Change		10.2%	8.5%	9.8%	5.0%	-1.2%	-3.8%	-2.6%	-4.2%	-0.9%
Real PC GF Revenue <sup>b</sup>	\$583	\$612	\$631	\$571	\$559	\$499	\$575	\$539	\$518	\$548
% Change		5.0%	3.2%	-9.6%	-2.1%	-10.8%	15.4%	-6.3%	-3.9%	5.8%
Real PC GF Expenditures <sup>c</sup>	\$406	\$450	\$468	\$507	\$536	\$537	\$593	\$585	\$565	\$570
% Change		11.1%	3.8%	8.5%	5.6%	0.2%	10.5%	-1.4%	-3.4%	0.9%

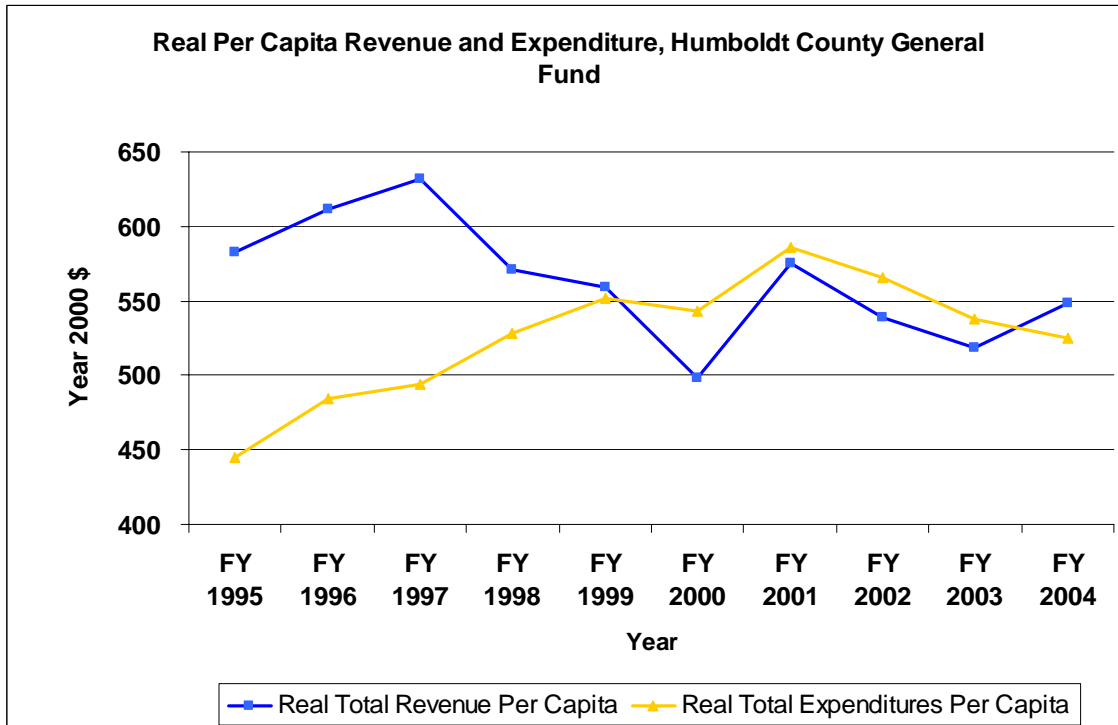
<sup>a</sup>Data source: Nevada Department of Taxation<sup>b</sup>General Fund Revenue does not include beginning fund balance.<sup>c</sup>General Fund Expenditures do not include ending fund balance.

**Figure 5. Real Revenue and Expenditure for Humboldt County General Fund, FY 1995- FY 2004**



Data source: Nevada Department of Taxation, real value is derived from Gross Domestic Product where 2000 = 100. Population data from State of Nevada Demographer (2005).

**Figure 6. Real Per Capita Revenue and Expenditure Time for Humboldt County General Fund, FY 1995- FY 2004**



Data source: Nevada Department of Taxation, real value is derived from Gross Domestic Product where 2000 = 100, and population from State of Nevada Demographer (2006).

## *Revenue Sources*

Figure 7 shows sources of revenue for the Humboldt County general fund. The top three revenue sources in 2004 were the ad valorem (property) taxes, intergovernmental transfers, and licenses and permits. The ad valorem tax category includes net proceeds of minerals taxes as well as property taxes paid by residents and businesses. The largest portion of intergovernmental transfers is the consolidated tax distribution which includes sales tax, cigarette and liquor tax, the real property transfer tax and motor vehicle tax. These county sales and use taxes are collected by the State and redistributed to counties and cities. Intergovernmental transfers also include money from state and federal grants and redistributed state gaming license fees. Licenses and permits largest contribution was from franchise fees. The next largest contributions included in the licenses and permits revenues were gaming and business licenses and building permits<sup>1</sup>.

Of the total \$9.8 million 2004 general fund revenue, approximately \$1.3 million (13%) was from property taxes, \$5.6 million (57%) was from intergovernmental transfers and \$1.2 million (12%) was from licenses and permits. Other revenue sources were approximately \$1.8 million and were from charges for services, fines and forfeits, special assessments, miscellaneous revenue, and other sources.

Table 7 shows the Humboldt County nominal general fund revenue by source for the period from FY 1994-95 to FY 2003-04. Figure 8 shows the percentage contribution of each type of revenue over the same time period.

From Table 7, general fund revenues from nominal ad valorem (property) taxes have decreased 55.7 percent from FY 1994-95 to FY 2003-04 from \$2.9 million to \$1.3 million. Over the same time period, revenue from nominal intergovernmental tax transfers increased 42.2 percent from \$3.9 million to \$5.6 million. License and permit revenue increased 66.7 percent and other types of revenue increased 56.8 percent.

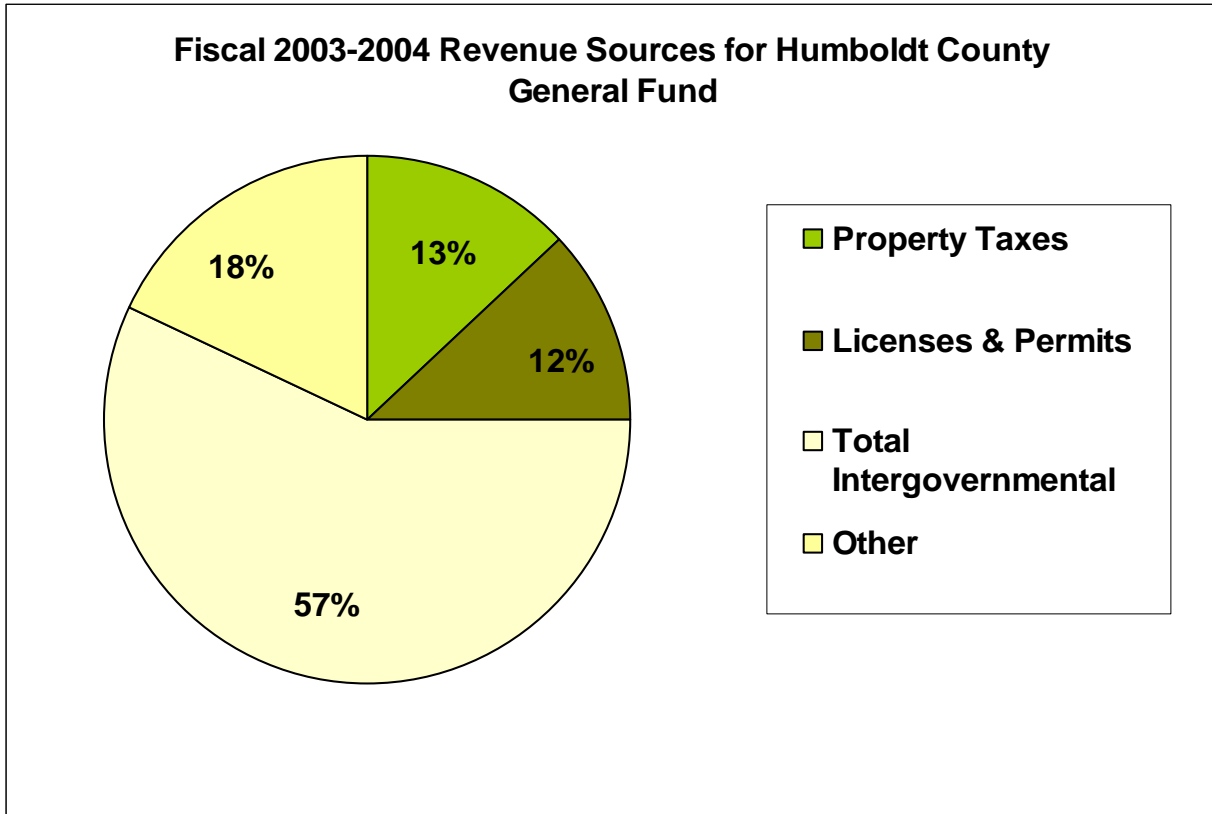
The largest percentage of county general fund revenues has been intergovernmental transfers (Figure 8). From FY 1994-95 to FY 2003-04 intergovernmental transfers have increased from 45.4 percent of county general fund revenue to 57.0 percent. Ad valorem taxes, on the other hand, have decreased from 33.6 percent of revenue to 13.2 percent. Licenses and

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<sup>1</sup> Brooks, Bruce. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Humboldt County, Nevada For the fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2005. Humboldt County Comptroller's Office. <http://www.hcnv.us/comptroller/comptroller.htm>

permits increased its share of revenue from 8.0 percent to 11.8 percent and other income increased its share as well from 13 to 18 percent of the total revenue.

**Figure 7. Sources of Revenue, 2003-2004 Humboldt County General Fund**



Data source: Nevada Department of Taxation

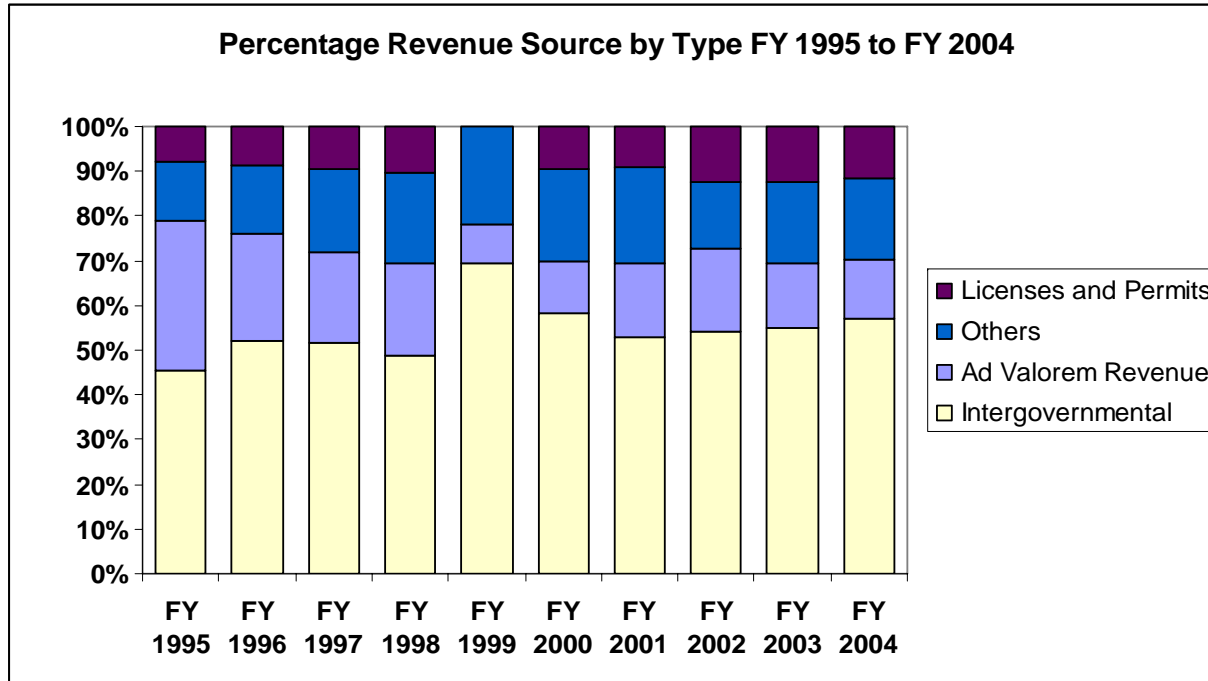


**Table 7. Humboldt County General Fund.**

	<b>FY 94-95</b>	<b>FY 95-96</b>	<b>FY 96-97</b>	<b>FY 97-98</b>	<b>FY 98-99</b>	<b>FY 99-00</b>	<b>FY 00-01</b>	<b>FY 01-02</b>	<b>FY 02-03</b>	<b>FY 03-04</b>
Ad Valorem Revenue	\$2,906,033	\$2,270,117	\$2,143,061	\$2,028,508	\$ 758,263	\$1,058,432	\$1,575,859	\$1,708,705	\$1,285,298	\$1,288,745
% total	33.6%	24.2%	20.5%	20.6%	7.7%	11.8%	16.8%	18.8%	14.3%	13.2%
Intergovernmental	\$3,929,783	\$4,859,908	\$5,392,026	\$4,784,904	\$ 6,148,706	\$5,195,483	\$4,964,440	\$4,915,962	\$4,939,884	\$5,586,790
% total	45.4%	51.9%	51.5%	48.6%	62.6%	58.1%	52.8%	54.1%	55.1%	57.0%
Licenses and Permits	\$ 691,369	\$ 796,541	\$ 987,685	\$1,034,456		\$ 857,008	\$ 868,693	\$1,118,510	\$1,123,411	\$1,152,732
% total	8.0%	8.5%	9.4%	10.5%	0.0%	9.6%	9.2%	12.3%	12.5%	11.8%
Others	\$1,125,959	\$1,441,980	\$1,948,410	\$1,992,304	\$ 1,924,188	\$1,836,121	\$1,997,405	\$1,341,429	\$1,609,976	\$1,765,062
% total	13.0%	15.4%	18.6%	20.2%	19.6%	20.5%	21.2%	14.8%	18.0%	18.0%

Data source: Nevada Department of Taxation

**Figure 8. Humboldt County General Fund Percentage Revenue by Source, FY 1994-95 to FY 2003-04.**

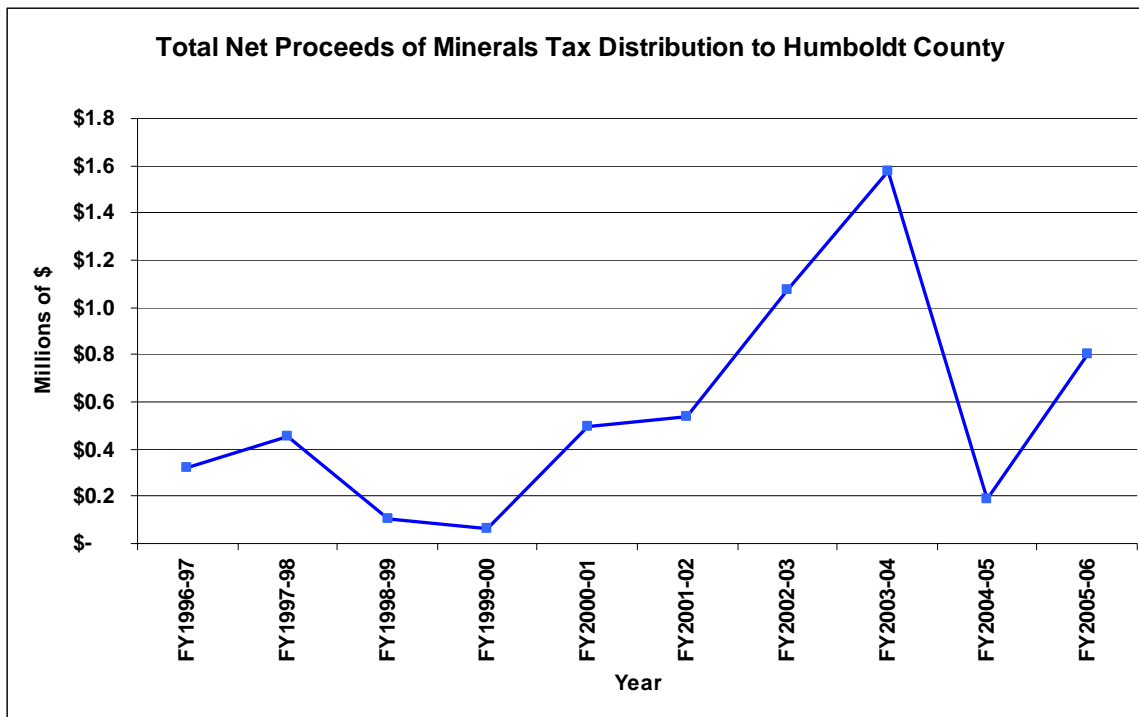


Data source: Nevada Department of Taxation

### *Total Net Proceeds of Mineral Tax Distributions to Humboldt County*

In fiscal year 2003, net proceeds of minerals tax distributions contributed \$153,145 to the Humboldt County general fund or approximately 1.7 percent of the total general fund revenues. Total net proceeds of minerals tax distributions to county entities including City of Winnemucca, special tax districts and the school district in 2003 totaled \$1,076,800. The net proceeds of mineral tax distribution to Humboldt County can fluctuate widely. According to the Economic Overview of the Nevada Mining Industry<sup>2</sup>, low gold prices prevalent from the late 1990's until 2002 reduced net proceeds and net proceeds of minerals receipts in the state of Nevada. In 2003 the net proceeds of minerals tax receipts rebounded, increasing nearly 34 percent over 2002 and remained near the higher 2003 level in 2004. The large increase in 2003 was due to increased gold prices. In 2004, however, the increasing gold prices motivated large amount of exploration and investment. A change in Nevada business taxes also increased costs for the mines. Because of these increases in production costs, net proceeds did not increase significantly over 2003.

**Figure 9. Total Net Proceeds of Minerals Tax Distribution to Humboldt County**



Nevada Department of Taxation, Annual Report Series “Net Proceeds of Minerals Tax Distribution” <http://tax.state.nv.us/pubs.htm#annual%20report> , real value is derived from Gross Domestic Product where 2000 = 100, and population from State of Nevada Demographer (2006) .

<sup>2</sup> Dobra, John L. Economic Overview of the Nevada Mining Industry, 2004. Exploration: the Key to Nevada’s Mining Future. Nevada Mining Association. 2005. Reno, Nevada.