

## Future Employment

Expansion of employment opportunities should continue during the planning period based on several factors. South Dakota offers a favorable tax climate which prospective employers will find attractive. The area will continue to offer a high quality of life and sound work ethic. As the population both expands and ages, the demands upon the service sector will grow. The community's position as a regional health care center will also contribute to expansion of service related employment. Regional air and highway transportation systems will support further economic development.

The percentage of the population which comprises the work force has steadily increased from 36.34% in 1970 to 49.62% in 1980 and 64.06% in 1990. The increase in two income families, baby boomers moving into the work force, and more high school students with jobs all contributed to this trend. The percentage of the population in the work force can be expected to slow and may even begin to decline, especially after 2010 as the baby boomers begin to retire.

Employment in the service industry should continue to show the most rapid gains. Historically, the wholesale and retail industry has served as the largest employer. However, the rapid increase in service jobs should make this sector the top employer in the region.