

# *Regional Review*

Quarterly labor market information across New Mexico

## **Agriculture The Eastern and Southwestern New Mexico Counties**

The Agriculture Industry

pg 3

Regional Business  
News

pg 22

County Employment &  
Unemployment

pg 27

Publication News

pg 37

# WHAT'S INSIDE

# ABOUT THE REVIEW

- 3 The Agriculture Industry
- 21 The 2012 New Mexico Employer Summit-Eastern Area
- 22 Regional Business News
- 27 County Employment and Unemployment
- 37 Publication News



The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions Economic Research & Analysis Bureau (ER&A) collects, develops, analyzes, and publishes labor market information for New Mexico. The Bureau produces statistical and analytical information about trends in industry employment, skill needs, unemployment, occupations in demand, and a range of labor market information used by employers, educators, workers, students, economic developers and policy makers at all levels. Information produced by ER&A is vital as we continue to identify and promote the workforce skills required to drive innovation and keep New Mexico businesses competitive.

The *Regional Review*, covering the four Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs), including Central, Eastern, Southwestern, and Northern, is a quarterly publication highlighting employment data, labor market information, and business news.

## COMING IN THE SUMMER ISSUE

The Summer 2012 Regional Review will focus on New Mexico regions in recovery. The publication will include general employment information for the fourth quarter of 2011 and recent business news for New Mexico's counties.

**Editor/Writer:** Ashley Leach, Economist  
**Content Editor:** Tracy Shaleen, Economist  
**Design/Layout:** Joy Forehand, Public Information Officer

New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions  
Business Services Division  
Deanna Wall, Division Director  
Economic Research & Analysis Bureau  
Mark Boyd, Bureau Chief  
Visit "Labor Market Information" at [www.dws.state.nm.us](http://www.dws.state.nm.us)  
for more information.

# THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

## *A STATEWIDE OVERVIEW AND FOCUS ON THE EASTERN AND SOUTHWESTERN COUNTIES OF NEW MEXICO*

New Mexico has a rich and diverse agricultural history, and agriculture continues to be a significant industry in the state. In 2009, the total value of agricultural output from production of crops and livestock was estimated at \$3 billion. That same year, the industry employed nearly 25,000 people. As of 2007, New Mexico was ranked 6th in the nation for dairy product production, 7th in milk production, and 8th in cheese production.<sup>1</sup> These rankings were driven by consistent and strong production of alfalfa crops. Crop production is widely diverse in New Mexico. The state was ranked 8th in fresh onion production in 2007 and is the leading producer of summer, non-storage onions in the US, providing about 85 percent of the nation's fresh onions in June. The state also has the largest concentration of pecan farms and is one of the top three pecan-producing states, and remains the largest producer of chile peppers in the nation.<sup>2</sup>

This article presents information on the agriculture industry in the state, and specifically in the southwestern and eastern counties. Data was gathered from the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 2007 Census of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (USDA-NASS) 2009 Agricultural Statistics bulletin (published jointly with New Mexico's Department of Agriculture). This is the most recent data available for the state and its

counties. Employment data was produced by the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solution's (NMDWS) Economic Research and Analysis Bureau (ER&A) using multiple sources.



<sup>1</sup> "New Mexico Milk Production: Estimated Impacts on the State's Economy," New Mexico State University, Dept. of Agriculture and Home Economics, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nasda.org/cms/8813.aspx>.

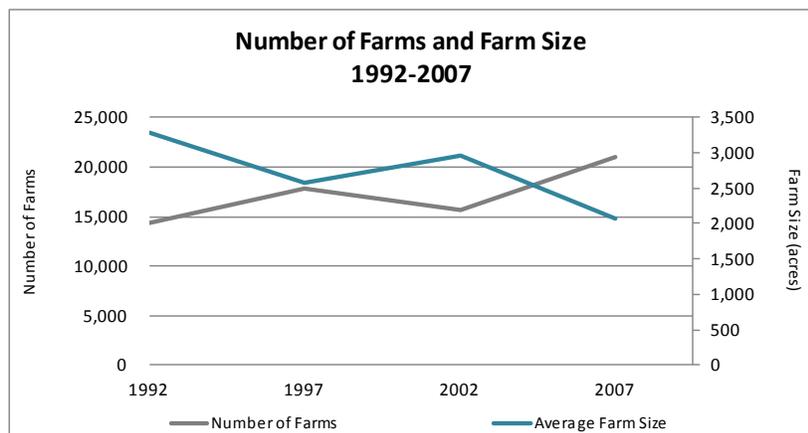
## Farm Statistics and Crop & Livestock Values (\$1,000), New Mexico

Statistic	1992	1997	2002	2007	% Change
					92-07
Number of Farms	14,279	17,876	15,710	20,930	46.6%
Farm Land (acres, rounded)	46,849,244	46,177,000	44,810,000	43,238,000	-7.7%
Average Farm Size (acres)	3,281	2,583	2,954	2,066	-37.0%
<b>Market Value Sold (\$1,000)</b>					
Crops	\$375,571	\$462,178	\$397,257	\$553,140	47.3%
Livestock	\$888,312	\$1,155,530	\$1,302,773	\$1,621,940	82.6%
Total Crops/Livestock	\$1,258,883	\$1,617,708	\$1,700,030	\$2,175,080	72.8%

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007 Censuses of Agriculture.

## Agriculture in New Mexico

The number of farms in New Mexico has fluctuated but ultimately grown over the years, while average size of farms has shrunk. In 2007, there were approximately 20,930 farms in New Mexico



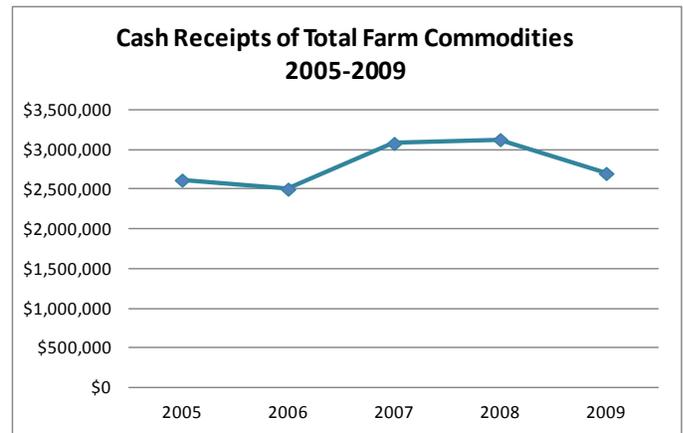
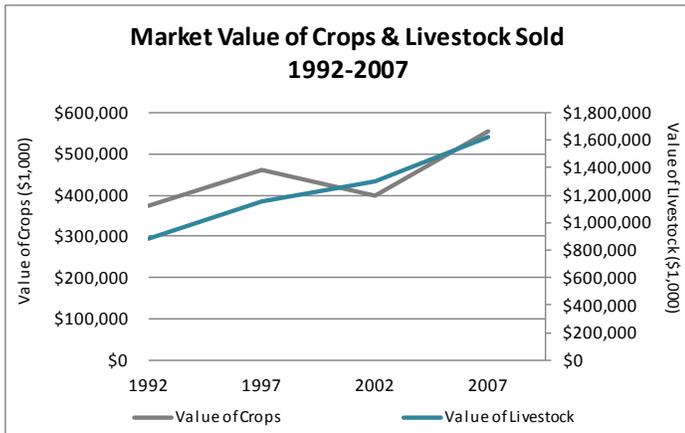
“Agriculture is a significant industry in New Mexico. Cash receipts of commodities sold totaled \$2.7 billion in 2009 and have been growing overall. Cattle and calves bring in the largest cash receipts in the state, followed by milk. New Mexico is ranked in the top 10 producing states for several commodities, including dairy products, pecans, chile peppers and fresh onions.”

on approximately 43.2 million acres (67,560 square miles and about 0.04 percent of total land). This represents a 47 percent increase in the number of farms since 1992 but an 8 percent decrease in acres of farm land. The average farm size declined 37 percent between 1992 and 2007.

While the average farm size has declined, the

market value of agricultural products sold has increased.<sup>3</sup> The market value and cash receipts of products sold serve as measurements of the health of the agriculture industry and its operations. Livestock production is a larger revenue generator than crop production in the state, bringing in approximately 75 percent of total agricultural production

<sup>3</sup> Note that market value of agricultural products sold represents the gross market value before taxes and production expenses of all agricultural products sold or removed from the place in 2007 regardless of who received the payment.



value in 2007 (note the different axis in the corresponding chart). Total value of crops and livestock sold increased by 73 percent over the 16-year period. Considering a dip in values in 2002, sales of crops increased overall by 47 percent. Livestock values increased by 83 percent and drove the aggressive increase in values of all agricultural products over the period.

Like the market value of agriculture products sold, cash receipts

from products sold has increased overall in recent years. Between 2005 and 2008, cash receipts grew by over 19 percent. Even with large losses in 2009 (14 percent), cash receipts were still above 2005 levels, with five-year growth totaling 3 percent.<sup>4</sup>

## AGRICULTURE IN THE COUNTIES

Cash receipts serve as a measurement of the strength of a county's agriculture production and the significance of individual commodities to the overall industry. A large percentage of agriculture production in New Mexico, in terms

of cash receipts, is concentrated in a select group of counties.<sup>5</sup> Curry County in 2009 ranked 1st in the state for cash receipts from agricultural products sold, with livestock production (1st in the state) accounting for 88.8 percent of its total. Doña Ana County ranked 2nd in cash receipts, with crop production (1st in the state) representing 49.9 percent of its total.

Several eastern counties—Chaves, Roosevelt, Union, Lea, and Eddy—followed Curry and Doña Ana counties in cash receipts.

**“Curry, Doña Ana, and Chaves County are the top agriculture counties in the state, bringing in a combined \$1.3 billion in cash receipts in 2009—nearly 50 percent of the statewide total. Cattle and milk are the major commodities, generating nearly 73 percent of total cash receipts.”**

<sup>4</sup> Historical data on cash receipts was gathered from the 2007, 2008, and 2009 NM Agricultural Statistics and data on number of farms, farm size, and market values were gathered from the 2002 and 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture.

<sup>5</sup> Note that this analysis looks at cash receipts of products sold and ranks counties based on these values. Data is from 2009 as opposed to 2007. Cash receipts represent gross income from sales rather than market value of products sold. Some counties may be ranked higher based on the average price of their main commodities, as opposed to amount produced. For example, a small pecan producer may generate greater cash receipts compared to a large wheat producer, based solely on commodity price. Generally, however, cash receipts do give a general idea of those major agriculture producing counties.

### Rank of New Mexico Counties by Cash Receipts, 2009

	Total Ag			Crops			Livestock		
	Sold (\$,1000)	% of State	Rank	Sold (\$,1000)	% of State	Rank	Sold (\$,1000)	% of State	Rank
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>\$2,698,392</b>	--	--	<b>\$700,943</b>	--	--	<b>\$1,997,449</b>	--	--
Curry	\$489,022	18.1%	1	\$54,733	7.8%	4	\$434,289	21.7%	1
Doña Ana	\$405,429	15.0%	2	\$202,365	28.9%	1	\$203,064	10.2%	4
Chaves	\$394,191	14.6%	3	\$56,885	8.1%	3	\$337,306	16.9%	2
Roosevelt	\$303,045	11.2%	4	\$37,811	5.4%	7	\$265,233	13.3%	3
Union	\$165,753	6.1%	5	\$18,950	2.7%	10	\$146,804	7.3%	5
Lea	\$139,580	5.2%	6	\$29,027	4.1%	8	\$110,553	5.5%	6
Eddy	\$101,034	3.7%	7	\$46,096	6.6%	6	\$54,938	2.8%	7
San Juan	\$81,275	3.0%	8	\$67,196	9.6%	2	\$14,079	0.7%	22
Luna	\$66,394	2.5%	9	\$46,724	6.7%	5	\$19,670	1.0%	16
Socorro	\$61,104	2.3%	10	\$9,072	1.3%	16	\$52,032	2.6%	8
Torrance	\$54,224	2.0%	11	\$19,985	2.9%	9	\$34,238	1.7%	10
Valencia	\$52,118	1.9%	12	\$13,061	1.9%	12	\$39,057	2.0%	9
Sierra	\$36,653	1.4%	13	\$13,188	1.9%	11	\$23,465	1.2%	12
Quay	\$30,347	1.1%	14	\$6,541	0.9%	20	\$23,807	1.2%	11
San Miguel	\$29,867	1.1%	15	\$9,239	1.3%	15	\$20,628	1.0%	14
McKinley	\$25,178	0.9%	16	\$4,518	0.6%	22	\$20,660	1.0%	13
Hidalgo	\$25,121	0.9%	17	\$12,970	1.9%	13	\$12,150	0.6%	26
De Baca	\$22,561	0.8%	18	\$5,934	0.8%	21	\$16,627	0.8%	19
Colfax	\$21,479	0.8%	19	\$3,389	0.5%	23	\$18,089	0.9%	17
Lincoln	\$21,255	0.8%	20	\$756	0.1%	29	\$20,499	1.0%	15
Otero	\$20,569	0.8%	21	\$9,418	1.3%	14	\$11,151	0.6%	27
Bernalillo	\$20,361	0.8%	22	\$6,617	0.9%	19	\$13,744	0.7%	23
Rio Arriba	\$19,952	0.7%	23	\$7,375	1.1%	17	\$12,577	0.6%	25
Guadalupe	\$17,690	0.7%	24	\$828	0.1%	28	\$16,863	0.8%	18
Grant	\$16,171	0.6%	25	\$556	0.1%	31	\$15,615	0.8%	20
Catron	\$14,827	0.5%	26	\$234	0.0%	32	\$14,593	0.7%	21
Harding	\$13,488	0.5%	27	\$625	--	30	\$12,863	--	24
Santa Fe	\$12,972	0.5%	28	\$7,225	1.0%	18	\$5,747	0.3%	31
Mora	\$11,262	0.4%	29	\$2,482	0.4%	26	\$8,780	0.4%	28
Cibola	\$9,185	--	30	\$899	--	27	\$8,287	--	29
Sandoval	\$9,083	0.3%	31	\$3,082	0.4%	25	\$6,001	0.3%	30
Taos	\$7,202	0.3%	32	\$3,163	0.5%	24	\$4,039	0.2%	32
Los Alamos	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Source: New Mexico and US Departments of Agriculture, 2009 Agriculture Statistics.

Note: Grey shading denotes eastern counties, while teal shading denotes southwestern counties in the top 10.

Livestock production is particularly strong in these five counties, but they are also major crop producers, with all five ranked in the top 10 for both commodity groups in 2009. Curry and Chaves counties are the two largest cattle and calves producers. Union also produces a large number of cattle/calves but does not generate as much gross income as Doña Ana or Roosevelt. Luna was the only other southwestern county to be ranked in the top 10 in cash receipts for 2009, with crop production, particularly in chile peppers, driving its ranking.

Interestingly, Valencia and Torrance counties are strong producers of both crops and livestock but their total cash receipts in 2009 kept them out of the top 10. Crop sales in San Juan and Luna counties were so great in 2007 that these counties were top 10 agricultural producers without incredibly strong livestock production. San Juan is a major producer of hay, while Luna is a major producer of chile peppers. Likewise, Socorro County livestock

production was so great that it was ranked in the top 10 producers without incredibly strong crop production.

Cattle and calves generated the largest cash receipts in 2009 (over \$1 billion), followed by milk, hay, pecans, corn, greenhouse nursery products, onions, chile, cotton, and wheat. Cattle and calves and milk far surpassed all other commodities in cash receipts. Hay was ranked 3rd and generated \$174.7 million in cash receipts in 2009, following milk at \$950.2 million in cash receipts.

### EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

The nature of the agriculture industry makes it very difficult to determine income,

“It is challenging to estimate employment in the agriculture industry due to the large number of self-employed, seasonal, and part-time workers. Employment has increased slightly statewide in recent years, reaching nearly 25,000 in 2009. Employment is projected to decline minimally between 2009 and 2019, following national trends.”

employment, and wages for farms and their workers. A large portion of agriculture workers are self-employed and counted as such by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Many are migrant workers who change their location of work frequently and/or work seasonally in crop production. There are several sources that gather information on employment in agriculture operations.

Three main sources are the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), the US Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Census of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Due to the many issues that arise in estimating employment in the agriculture industry, ER&A applies a method for estimation that uses factors from all three sources.

**Agriculture Employment, 2002 to 2009**

Region	Employment			Change 02-09	
	2002	2005	2009	Total	Pct.
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>24,224</b>	<b>24,759</b>	<b>24,673</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
Central	2,682	2,726	2,785	103	3.8%
Eastern	8,607	8,378	8,014	-593	-6.9%
Northern	8,065	8,494	8,704	639	7.9%
Southwestern	4,870	5,161	5,170	300	6.2%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

“Data shows that the number of certified organic agriculture operations, and designated acreage has grown significantly in recent years. The 2008 Farm Act, among other factors, may have contributed to this increase.”

The majority of employment in the agriculture industry is located in the eastern and northern counties. While large employment is expected in the eastern counties, large employment in the north does not correspond with data on cash receipts and market value of agricultural products sold or the overall industry presence in the different areas of the state. San Juan’s significant crop production creates a larger number of jobs. The large employment in McKinley is due to incorporation

of data from the 2007 Census of Agriculture. There was a significant increase in family or individual farms between 2002 and 2007 that likely resulted from targeted outreach in the Census process to capture minority owned farms (particularly American Indian owned) that had not been captured in previous years. The number of American Indian owned farms was responsible for 97 percent of the increase. This has not translated to cash receipts or market value of products sold, partially due to the nature of family and individual farms that are not typically operated as large scale businesses.

In recent years, employment in agriculture has been experiencing minor growth in New Mexico and most of the individual regions, based on QCEW data. Between 2002 and 2009, employment grew by 1.9 percent in the state. Employment grew the most in the northern counties and declined only in the eastern counties. The largest increases in employment occurred in Rio Arriba, Doña Ana, and McKinley counties, while the

largest losses occurred in Lea, San Juan, and Union counties. Due to the changes in data captured for American Indian owned farms in 2007, it is likely that a portion of this growth solely represents changes in data collection and not new farming operations or employment.

New Mexico’s employment outlook is brighter than that of the nation as a whole. Nationally, agricultural employment has been declining over many years. Recent projections at the national level show employment not changing or seeing small declines. In New Mexico, employment in agriculture is projected to decline in general between 2009 and 2019 (by about 0.8 percent annually). Unlike recent employment trends, agricultural employment in the Southwestern region is projected to experience employment losses, potentially due to continued automation of chile harvesting and increased foreign competition, among other factors. Minor losses are projected in the central counties, while the northern and eastern counties are

### Organic Agriculture Statistics for New Mexico

	2000	2006	2007	2008	% Change	
					00-08	06-08
Number of certified operations	123	152	188	197	60%	30%
Crops (acres)	7,291	23,208	30,858	44,602	512%	92%
Pasture & rangeland (acres)	33,535	39,319	318,566	314,708	838%	700%
<b>Total acres</b>	<b>40,826</b>	<b>62,527</b>	<b>349,424</b>	<b>359,310</b>	<b>780%</b>	<b>475%</b>

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, based on information from USDA-accredited State and private organic certifiers.

projected to experience slight increases in employment.<sup>6</sup> Based on historical and projected growth, it appears agriculture is strengthening in the northern counties.

There are many factors that have contributed to a shrinking agriculture workforce. First, science and technology have created major changes in farming. Bioengineered crops, more resistant to pests and weather conditions, allow farmers to produce more with less effort. Technological changes in farming equipment and process automation have made production more efficient and less dependent on field workers. In ranching, branding and vaccinating of herds is mostly mechanized, while the use of GPS and improved transportation

systems has reduced the time needed for many ranching tasks.<sup>7</sup>

The agriculture industry continues to evolve and change. A more recent change is the production of energy from certain crops, particularly corn. The impacts of this type of production, including increases in corn prices and potential reduction in some crops in favor of corn, are just starting to be evaluated. Another change in the agriculture industry is the growth of organic farming.<sup>8</sup> Consumer demand and recent legislation have helped generate momentum in organic farming. The 2008 Farm Act provided some funding to farmers to convert their operations to organic agriculture. The 2012 Farm Bill is currently being created, and the results of the bill

are not yet known. Additionally, estimation and analysis of organic farming operations is evolving. The USDA completed a comprehensive survey in 2008 on organic farmland and will continue to gather data, allowing for accurate historical growth of organic farming operations. Historical data from the USDA shows the number of certified organic operations grew by 60 percent between 2000 and 2008. Organic crop acreage increased more than six-fold and pasture and rangeland acreage more than nine-fold. The diversity of New Mexico's crops has contributed to a growth in local farmer's markets along with organic produce production. New Mexico currently has 50 registered farmer's markets and 19 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) systems.



<sup>6</sup> Projection data is not explicitly shown because, due to the difficulty of estimating agriculture employment, the base employment differs from the employment estimates generated by ER&A. Growth rates, however, provide a general idea of the directionality and significance of employment changes in the coming years.

<sup>7, 8</sup> US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## The Southwest and the East

Southwestern New Mexico counties (Catron, Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Sierra, and Socorro) are major players in the agriculture industry. As of 2007, 17 percent of farms (3,520) and 18 percent of farm land (7.7 million acres) were located in southwestern counties. Of the seven counties, Doña Ana and Luna were ranked in the top 10 for total value of agricultural products sold (Doña Ana ranked 1st and Luna 9th). As mentioned previously, Doña Ana has one of the strongest, if not the strongest, agricultural industries in the state, based on the market value of its products sold. Doña Ana agriculture commodities



have been produced using the greatest number of farms and yet the least amount of farm land. Counter to Doña Ana is Hidalgo, which has the fewest farms spreading across the largest amount of acreage. While the total market value of commodities produced in Hidalgo has not come close to that of Doña Ana, it is still a strong producer of several crops, including chile and hay.

The region as a whole generated 40 percent of the total market value of crops, 20 percent of the total value of livestock, and 25 percent of the total market value of all agricultural products sold in New Mexico in 2007. The southwestern counties were only surpassed by the eastern counties, which generated over 60 percent of the total value of all agricultural products produced in the state. The

## WIA REGIONS

### WHAT ARE THE NEW MEXICO WIA REGIONS?

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) reformed federal employment, training, adult education, and vocational rehabilitation programs by creating an integrated “one-stop” system of workforce investment and education services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth.

The New Mexico workforce system comprises 4 local workforce investment areas (WIA), each under the direction of local workforce development boards. Each workforce area utilizes a network of over 20 New Mexico Workforce Connection Centers statewide to provide services to employers and job seekers.

### Workforce Investment Act Regions



eastern region's strength in livestock production, particularly cattle and calves, positions it to dominate in total value of commodities sold.

Of the seven counties, crop production is most prominent in the most southern counties of Doña Ana, Hidalgo, and Luna, while livestock production is large in Catron, Grant, Sierra, and Socorro counties. While 75 percent of the total value of commodities sold in New Mexico was generated by livestock production in 2007, only 60 percent of the southwest region's agriculture gross income came from livestock.

The large presence of crop production in the southwest counties, particularly Doña Ana, drives the market values of the southwestern region. The market value of commodities produced in Doña Ana comprised 76 percent of crop, 70 percent of livestock, and 72 percent of the southwestern region's total commodity market values in 2007. Luna followed Doña Ana in crop market values (14 percent of SWIA), while Socorro followed Doña Ana in livestock market values (11 percent).

“The southwestern counties benefit from large and diverse crop production. As of 2009, Doña Ana County was ranked 1st in the state for total market value of commodities sold. The region as a whole generated 25 percent of the total market value of all agriculture products sold in the state, with the southern-most counties having the strongest agriculture industries.”

Farm Statistics and Crop & Livestock Values, Southwestern Counties 2007

Statistic	Catron	Doña Ana	Grant	Hidalgo	Luna	Sierra	Socorro	Total SWIA	New Mexico
<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>3,517</b>	<b>20,930</b>
<i>% of State</i>	1.2%	8.4%	1.6%	0.8%	1.0%	1.3%	2.6%	16.8%	100.0%
<b>Farm Land (1,000 acres, rounded)</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>7,742</b>	<b>43,238</b>
<i>% of State Farm Land</i>	3.4%	1.4%	2.8%	2.4%	1.5%	3.1%	3.3%	17.9%	100.0%
<i>Farm Land % of County Total Area</i>	0.03%	0.02%	0.05%	0.05%	0.03%	0.05%	0.03%	0.04%	
<b>Average Farm Size (acres)</b>	<b>5,724</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>3,711</b>	<b>6,349</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>5,073</b>	<b>2,668</b>	<b>2,201</b>	<b>2,066</b>
<b>Market Value of Crops Sold (\$1,000)</b>	<b>\$269</b>	<b>\$167,850</b>	<b>\$120</b>	<b>\$10,121</b>	<b>\$30,817</b>	<b>\$6,210</b>	<b>\$6,264</b>	<b>\$221,651</b>	<b>\$553,140</b>
<i>% of total county crop/livestock</i>	2.4%	43.2%	1.5%	57.7%	63.0%	26.4%	15.6%	41.2%	25.4%
<i>% of SWIA</i>	0.1%	75.7%	0.1%	4.6%	13.9%	2.8%	2.8%	100.0%	--
<i>State Rank/% of State</i>	30	1	32	11	8	17	16	40.1%	--
<b>Market Value of Livestock Sold (\$1,000)</b>	<b>\$10,761</b>	<b>\$220,937</b>	<b>\$7,698</b>	<b>\$7,411</b>	<b>\$18,074</b>	<b>\$17,346</b>	<b>\$33,837</b>	<b>\$316,064</b>	<b>\$1,621,940</b>
<i>% of total county crop/livestock</i>	97.6%	56.8%	98.5%	42.3%	37.0%	73.6%	84.4%	58.8%	74.6%
<i>% of SWIA</i>	3.4%	69.9%	2.4%	2.3%	5.7%	5.5%	10.7%	100.0%	--
<i>State Rank/% of State</i>	20	3	24	25	13	14	8	19.5%	--
<b>Total Crops/Livestock Sold (\$1,000)</b>	<b>\$11,030</b>	<b>\$388,787</b>	<b>\$7,818</b>	<b>\$17,532</b>	<b>\$48,891</b>	<b>\$23,556</b>	<b>\$40,101</b>	<b>\$537,715</b>	<b>\$2,175,080</b>
<i>% of SWIA</i>	2.1%	72.3%	1.5%	3.3%	9.1%	4.4%	7.5%	100.0%	--
<i>State Rank/% of State</i>	25	1	29	18	9	15	11	24.7%	--

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007 Census of Agriculture.

“The southwestern counties grow a diverse set of crops, with forage, vegetables, pecans, and cotton dominating crop acreage. Livestock commodities are also diverse, with production of mules, pullets, bison, broilers, ducks, and quail in addition to the traditional cattle, horses, goats, and layers.”

## AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES

The southwestern counties produce a wide variety of crops and livestock. While mostly known for their pecan and chile pepper production, forage, vegetables, apples, cotton, and corn are also top crops in the region. Doña Ana is a major pecan producer, while Luna is the largest chile pepper producer.

Cattle and calves are the major livestock commodities. While the southwest does not have as many cattle and calves as the eastern part of the state, they are still a significant producer. Additionally, the southwestern counties have a more diverse production of livestock. In addition to cattle and calves, the counties produce horses and ponies; goats; layers

**Crop Commodities by County, 2007**

	Catron	Doña Ana	Grant	Hidalgo	Luna	Sierra	Socorro	New Mexico
Top Crop Items --- (acres)	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 810	<u>Pecans, all</u> 27,289	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 442	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 5,480	<u>Vegetables<sup>2</sup></u> 3,449	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 2,660	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 10,826	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 365,843
	<u>Oats-grain</u> D	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 21,447	<u>Apples</u> 52	<u>Corn for grain</u> D	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 4,232	<u>Vegetables<sup>2</sup></u> 1,070	<u>Corn-silage</u> 411	<u>Wheat-grain</u> 302,958
	<u>Christmas trees</u> D	<u>Cotton, all</u> 14,295	<u>Vegetables<sup>2</sup></u> 13	<u>Vegetables<sup>2</sup></u> 737	<u>Cotton, all</u> 3,469	<u>Peppers, no bell</u> 854	<u>Wheat-grain</u> 294	<u>Corn-silage</u> 79,141
	<u>Pecans, all</u> D	<u>Vegetables<sup>2</sup></u> 10,118	<u>Pecans, all</u> 13	<u>Peppers, no bell</u> 641	<u>Peppers, no bell</u> 3,193	<u>Pecans, all</u> 617	<u>Vegetables<sup>2</sup></u> 143	<u>Sorghum-grain</u> 73,048
	<u>Apples</u> 2	<u>Corn for silage</u> 9,110	<u>Pears, all</u> D	<u>Cotton, all</u> D	<u>Corn-silage</u> 2,262	<u>Corn-silage</u> 461	<u>Peppers, no bell</u> D	<u>Corn-grain</u> 53,851

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Note: "D" represents undisclosable data.

(1) Forage - land used for hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop, (2) Vegetables harvested for sale.

**Livestock Commodities by County, 2007**

	Catron	Doña Ana	Grant	Hidalgo	Luna	Sierra	Socorro	New Mexico
Top Livestock Items --- (numbers)	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 26,605	<u>Layers</u> D	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 25,399	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 22,851	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 23,857	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 23,878	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 44,134	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 1,525,976
	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 1,036	<u>Pullets<sup>1</sup></u> D	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 1,250	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 626	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 559	<u>Bison</u> D	<u>Broilers<sup>2</sup></u> D	<u>Layers</u> D
	<u>Goats,all</u> 124	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 110,928	<u>Layers</u> 302	<u>Quail</u> 240	<u>Layers</u> 365	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 863	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 1,813	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 126,928
	<u>Mules<sup>3</sup></u> 114	<u>Colonies of bees</u> 9,262	<u>Goats, all</u> 141	<u>Goats, all</u> 206	<u>Ducks</u> D	<u>Layers</u> 518	<u>Layers</u> 1,009	<u>Pullets<sup>1</sup></u> D
	<u>Layers</u> 113	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 2,206	<u>Mules<sup>3</sup></u> 120	<u>Layers</u> 135	<u>Bison</u> D	<u>Quail</u> 500	<u>Sheep &amp; lambs</u> 666	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 53,616

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Note: "D" represents undisclosable data.

(1) Pullets for laying flock replacement, (2) Broilers and other meat-type chickens, (3) Mules, burros, and donkeys.

(chickens); and mules, burros, and donkeys. Doña Ana is unique in the region in that it is a larger producer of colonies of bees, while Luna produces ducks and bison, Sierra produces quail, and Socorro produces sheep and lambs.

### AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

The USDA Census of Agriculture compiles agricultural statistics on farm income, workers, and payroll. In the southwestern counties, the average net cash farm income was \$12.6 million in 2007. This was lower than the average for the state (\$17.6 million). Of the southwestern counties, Doña Ana

had the largest average net cash farm income, followed by Hidalgo and Socorro. Catron and Grant counties had negative average net cash farm incomes in 2007. Surprisingly, only 47.5 percent of all farm operators categorized farming as their primary occupation, indicating that another occupation supplemented the average net cash income they earned from their farming operations.

As mentioned previously, estimating agricultural employment is challenging for many reasons. Based on the employment estimation methodology used by ER&A, approximately 5,170 persons were employed in agriculture

“There were approximately 5,170 workers in agriculture in the southwestern counties in 2009. Average net farm income is lower in the southwestern counties than the state as a whole. Doña Ana boasts the largest income, likely due to the diversity and overall size of its crop and livestock production.”

in the southwestern counties in 2009.<sup>9</sup> This represents a growth of 6 percent between 2002 and 2009. The largest number of workers were employed in Doña Ana County. All counties, excluding Hidalgo, experienced employment growth between 2002 and 2009. Socorro experienced

the largest percentage employment growth while Catron experienced the smallest growth.

Based on USDA data, it appears that a larger percentage of farms in Hidalgo and Luna hire workers in comparison with other counties, especially Grant and

Farm Income, Workers & Worker Pay, Southwestern Counties

Statistic	Catron	Doña Ana	Grant	Hidalgo	Luna	Sierra	Socorro	Total SWIA	New Mexico
Number of Farms	259	1,762	327	162	206	265	536	3,517	20,930
Farming as Primary Occupation <i>% of Total</i>	135 52.1%	729 41.4%	183 56.0%	84 51.9%	123 59.7%	153 57.7%	265 49.4%	1,672 47.5%	10,040 48.0%
Avg. Net Cash Farm Income (\$1,000)	(\$1,075)	\$57,075	(\$955)	\$11,145	\$6,265	\$6,991	\$8,488	\$12,562	\$17,558
Farms with Hired Workers <i>% of Total</i>	76 29.3%	543 30.8%	80 24.5%	59 36.4%	74 35.9%	79 29.8%	141 26.3%	1,052 29.9%	4,773 22.8%
Number of Hired Workers	241	4,867	234	351	658	492	528	7,371	22,996
Payroll of Hired Workers (\$1,000)	\$1,099	\$50,786	\$801	\$2,914	\$6,621	\$3,119	\$4,379	\$9,960	\$218,193
Avg. Pay per Hired Worker	\$4,560	\$10,435	\$3,423	\$8,302	\$10,062	\$6,339	\$8,294	\$1,351	\$9,488

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007 Census of Agriculture

Note: Number of hired workers differs from estimates generated by DWS due to atypical estimation methods that account for multiple data sources.

<sup>9</sup> Note that this estimate cannot be directly compared to the 2007 Census of Agriculture estimate as they are two different data sources with differing methodologies.

### Agriculture Employment, 2002 to 2009

County	Employment			Change 02-09	
	2002	2005	2009	Total	Pct.
<b>SWIA</b>	<b>4,870</b>	<b>5,161</b>	<b>5,170</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>6%</b>
Catron	255	254	258	3	1%
Doña Ana	2,877	3,087	3,046	169	6%
Grant	305	300	317	12	4%
Hidalgo	242	226	208	-34	-14%
Luna	336	368	368	32	10%
Sierra	344	363	368	24	7%
Socorro	511	563	605	94	18%

Source: NMDWS ER&A utilizing multiple data sources.

Socorro. The average pay per hired worker was \$1,351 (based on USDA employment estimates). This may seem low, but it is important to remember that many workers are seasonal or part-time.

Based on regional employment projections produced by ER&A, employment in the agriculture industry in the southwestern counties is anticipated to decline by approximately 21 percent between 2009 and 2019. These declines are most likely due in part to scientific and technological advances in both crop and livestock production.

The eastern region of New Mexico, comprising Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Guadalupe, Harding, Lea, Lincoln, Otero, Quay, Roosevelt, and Union counties, has a strong agriculture industry, especially in livestock production.

Twenty seven percent of farms (5,725) and 42 percent of farm land (18.3 million acres) were located in eastern counties as of 2007. Of the 12 counties, six were ranked in the top seven for total market value of agricultural products sold (Doña Ana, in the southwestern region, was ranked 1st). Livestock production (70 percent of total market value) drove those rankings, although all six counties were strong crop producers as well (41 percent of total state

gross revenue). Total agriculture production in the eastern counties accounted for over 60 percent of the state's total market value of products sold, the largest of all four regions. The majority of that income (83 percent) came from sale of livestock.

It is important to note that livestock production, and ultimately all agriculture production, is consolidated in seven to eight of the region's counties. Four counties—Guadalupe, Lincoln, Harding, and Otero—were ranked in the bottom half of all counties for market value of commodities sold. These counties tend to have fewer and larger farms (excluding Otero).

Curry and Chaves counties' agriculture commodities had the largest market value and were ranked 1st and 2nd in the state for livestock, respectively, in 2007. Curry County generated 27 percent and Chaves County generated 26 percent of the region's total market value of livestock. Interestingly, total agriculture production in Curry County operated on fewer farms and less farm acres and on smaller farms than any other eastern county. Comparatively, Chaves County agricultural production operated on the largest amount of farm acres and the largest farms in the region. This illustrates that significant variations exist in the characteristics of farming activities

**“Over 60 percent of the total market value of agriculture commodities sold was generated in the eastern counties of New Mexico in 2007. Livestock production is dominant in the region, particularly in Curry and Chaves counties, and represented 83 percent of the region's total gross receipts.”**

**Farm Statistics and Crop & Livestock Values, Eastern Counties 2007**

Statistic	Chaves	Curry	De Baca	Eddy	Guadalupe	Harding	Lea
<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>572</b>
<i>% of State</i>	2.8%	3.3%	0.8%	2.6%	1.2%	0.8%	2.7%
<b>Farm Land (1,000 acres, rounded)</b>	<b>2,455</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>2,365</b>
<i>% of State Farm Land</i>	5.7%	2.1%	2.5%	2.6%	3.2%	2.2%	5.5%
<i>Farm Land % of County Total Area</i>	0.06%	0.10%	0.07%	0.04%	0.07%	0.07%	0.08%
<b>Average Farm Size (acres)</b>	<b>4,203</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>6,188</b>	<b>2,040</b>	<b>5,446</b>	<b>5,621</b>	<b>4,135</b>
<b>Market Value of Crops Sold (\$1,000)</b>	<b>\$41,246</b>	<b>\$37,377</b>	<b>\$5,216</b>	<b>\$40,267</b>	<b>\$179</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>\$17,037</b>
<i>% of total county crop/livestock</i>	12.2%	10.8%	26.2%	42.5%	1.6%	D	18.2%
<i>% of EWIA</i>	18.1%	16.4%	2.3%	17.7%	0.1%	D	7.5%
<i>State Rank/% of State</i>	3	5	20	4	31	27	9
<b>Market Value of Livestock Sold (\$1,000)</b>	<b>\$297,842</b>	<b>\$309,946</b>	<b>\$14,685</b>	<b>\$54,579</b>	<b>\$10,672</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>\$76,607</b>
<i>% of total county crop/livestock</i>	87.8%	89.2%	73.8%	57.5%	98.4%	D	81.8%
<i>% of EWIA</i>	26.3%	27.4%	1.3%	4.8%	0.9%	D	6.8%
<i>State Rank/% of State</i>	2	1	16	7	21	17	6
<b>Total Crops/Livestock Sold (\$1,000)</b>	<b>\$339,088</b>	<b>\$347,323</b>	<b>\$19,901</b>	<b>\$94,848</b>	<b>\$10,850</b>	<b>\$13,361</b>	<b>\$93,644</b>
<i>% of EWIA</i>	24.7%	25.3%	1.4%	6.9%	0.8%	1.0%	6.8%
<i>State Rank</i>	3	2	16	6	26	21	7

Statistic	Lincoln	Otero	Quay	Roosevelt	Union	Total EWIA*	New Mexico
<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>5,725</b>	<b>20,930</b>
<i>% of State</i>	1.7%	2.4%	3.0%	4.2%	1.8%	27.4%	100.0%
<b>Farm Land (1,000 acres, rounded)</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>1,126</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>18,288</b>	<b>43,238</b>
<i>% of State</i>	4.0%	2.6%	3.4%	3.5%	5.1%	42.3%	100.0%
<i>Farm Land as % of Total Area</i>	0.06%	0.03%	0.08%	0.10%	0.09%	0.07%	0.04%
<b>Average Farm Size (acres)</b>	<b>4,819</b>	<b>2,285</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>5,770</b>	<b>3,194</b>	<b>2,066</b>
<b>Market Value of Crops Sold (\$1,000)</b>	<b>\$527</b>	<b>\$9,140</b>	<b>\$9,159</b>	<b>\$35,895</b>	<b>\$31,757</b>	<b>\$227,800</b>	<b>\$553,140</b>
<i>% of total county crop/livestock</i>	4.0%	60.0%	25.5%	14.1%	23.2%	16.6%	25.4%
<i>% of EWIA</i>	0.2%	4.0%	4.0%	15.8%	13.9%	100.0%	--
<i>State Rank/% of State</i>	28	13	12	6	7	41.2%	--
<b>Market Value of Livestock Sold (\$1,000)</b>	<b>\$12,742</b>	<b>\$6,088</b>	<b>\$26,743</b>	<b>\$218,055</b>	<b>\$105,214</b>	<b>\$1,133,173</b>	<b>\$1,621,940</b>
<i>% of total county crop/livestock</i>	96.0%	40.0%	74.5%	85.9%	76.8%	82.5%	74.6%
<i>% of EWIA</i>	1.1%	0.5%	2.4%	19.2%	9.3%	100.0%	--
<i>State Rank/% of State</i>	18	27	11	4	5	69.9%	--
<b>Total Crops/Livestock Sold (\$1,000)</b>	<b>\$13,269</b>	<b>\$15,227</b>	<b>\$35,903</b>	<b>\$253,950</b>	<b>\$136,971</b>	<b>\$1,374,335</b>	<b>\$2,175,080</b>
<i>% of EWIA</i>	1.0%	1.1%	2.6%	18.5%	10.0%	100.0%	--
<i>State Rank/% of State</i>	22	20	13	4	5	63.2%	--

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Note: The EWIA total represents an approximation as some data for Harding is suppressed and therefore not included in the summation.

"D" represents undisclosable data.



“Six of the 12 eastern counties were among the top 10 counties in the state for both crop and livestock production. The five dominant crop and livestock commodities are the same as those for the state as a whole. Lincoln and Otero County boast diverse crop production, while Roosevelt’s livestock commodities differ from most in the region.”

amongst the major livestock producing counties.

Chaves, Eddy and Curry counties each generated over 15 percent of the region’s market value of commodities sold in 2007. Otero County stands out among the other eastern counties as a much stronger crop rather than livestock producer. Otero was ranked 13th in the state

for market value of crops sold and 27th in livestock sold. Eddy is the only other county that generated greater market values from crop production, although market values of crops and livestock sold were fairly even. And, even though Otero crop production was stronger than livestock, it only represented 4 percent of total market values of crops sold in 2007.

## Crop Commodities by County, 2007

Top Crop Items --- (acres)	Chaves	Curry	De Baca	Eddy	Guadalupe	Harding	New Mexico	
	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 3,143	<u>Wheat-grain</u> 124,605	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 5,781	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 39,890	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 1,310	<u>Wheat-grain</u> D		<u>Forage</u> 365,843 <u>Wheat-grain</u> 302,958 <u>Corn-silage</u> 79,141 <u>Sorghum-grain</u> 73,048 <u>Corn-grain</u> 53,851
	<u>Corn-silage</u> 18,446	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 29,958	<u>Corn-silage</u> D	<u>Cotton, all</u> 4,960	<u>Wheat-grain</u> 111	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 1,493		
	<u>Pecans, all</u> D	<u>Sorghum-grain</u> 24,341	<u>Nursery stock</u> D	<u>Pecans, all</u> 3,656	<u>Oats for grain</u> 42	<u>Oats for grain</u> D		
	<u>Cotton, all</u> 2,311	<u>Corn-silage</u> 15,405	<u>Triticale</u> D	<u>Corn-silage</u> 2,279	<u>Vegetables<sup>2</sup></u> D			
	<u>Sorghum-grain</u> 1,295	<u>Sorghum-silage</u> 7,602	<u>Sorghum-silage</u> D	<u>Vegetables<sup>2</sup></u> 706	<u>Vegetables<sup>2</sup></u> 7			
	Lea	Lincoln	Otero	Quay	Roosevelt	Union		
	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 13,727	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 300	<u>Pecans, all</u> 1,737	<u>Wheat-grain</u> 56,624	<u>Wheat-grain</u> 87,751	<u>Corn-grain</u> 28,680		
	<u>Cotton, all</u> 12,089	<u>Pecans, all</u> 118	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 1,170	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 10,871	<u>Sorghum-grain</u> 37,903	<u>Wheat-grain</u> 13,691		
	<u>Wheat-grain</u> 3,665	<u>Apples</u> 117	<u>Pistachios</u> D	<u>Sorghum-grain</u> 7,099	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 35,147	<u>Forage<sup>1</sup></u> 6,316		
<u>Corn-silage</u> 3,022	<u>Nursery stock</u> D	<u>Apples</u> 345	<u>Corn-silage</u> 478	<u>Corn-silage</u> 13,183	<u>Corn-silage</u> 1,065			
<u>Peanuts</u> D	<u>Peaches</u> 22	<u>Grapes</u> 154	<u>Cotton, all</u> D	<u>Peanuts</u> 7,859	<u>Sorghum-grain</u> 440			

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Note: "D" represents undisclosable data.

(1) Forage - land used for hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop, (2) Vegetables harvested for sale.

## AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES

While the southwestern counties produce a wide variety of crops and livestock, agriculture production in the eastern counties tends to be less varied. Wheat for grain and forage are the main crop commodities produced in the eastern region of the state. Sorghum and corn for both grain and silage, and

cotton follow as major commodities. The region also has a large number of pecan and vegetable acres. Peanuts are more abundant in Lea and Roosevelt counties; pecans are grown in Chaves and Eddy counties; while Lincoln and Otero counties are the only two counties that do not produce large quantities of wheat, corn, or sorghum. Crop commodities that are

unique to Lincoln and Otero include apples, peaches, grapes, pistachios, and nursery stock.

The eastern counties are major livestock producers, but as with crop production, the major commodities produced are less diverse. Cattle and calves far surpass other livestock commodities, with close to 1 million head in 2007. Sheep

and lambs, horses and ponies, goats, and layers are the other top livestock commodities. The only county that produces commodities beyond these top five is Roosevelt. Roosevelt was ranked 5th in the state for livestock production in 2007, with ducks, turkeys, geese, cattle, and layers all contributing to its total.

**Livestock Commodities by County, 2007**

Top Livestock Items --- (numbers)	Chaves	Curry	De Baca	Eddy	Guadalupe	Harding	New Mexico	
	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 179,352	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 211,427	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 25,041	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 49,107	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 27,595	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 26,686		
	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 16,981	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 1,387	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 807	<u>Goats, all</u> 2,872	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 3,522	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 442		
	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 1,766	<u>Goats, all</u> 564	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 530	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 2,243	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 705	<u>Layers</u> 181		
	<u>Goats, all</u> 915	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 441	<u>Goats, all</u> 223	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 1,308	<u>Layers</u> 508	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 94		<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 1,525,976
	<u>Layers</u> 825	<u>Layers</u> 239	<u>Layers</u> 73	<u>Layers</u> 557	<u>Goats, all</u> 55	<u>Goats, all</u> 56		<u>Layers</u> D
	Lea	Lincoln	Otero	Quay	Roosevelt	Union		<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 126,928
	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 82,199	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 31,874	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 16,657	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 42,729	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 130,462	<u>Cattle/Calves</u> 135,884		<u>Pullets</u> D
	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 2,304	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 13,099	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 5,343	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 1,161	<u>Layers</u> D	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 1,095		<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 53,616
	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 2,067	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 1,443	<u>Horses/Ponies</u> 1,485	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 1,034	<u>Ducks</u> D	<u>Layers</u> 455		
<u>Layers</u> 1,010	<u>Layers</u> 523	<u>Layers</u> 1,316	<u>Layers</u> 420	<u>Turkeys</u> D	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u> 170			
<u>Goats, all</u> 645	<u>Goats, all</u> 520	<u>Goats, all</u> 666	<u>Goats, all</u> 301	<u>Geese</u> D	<u>Goats, all</u> 141			

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Note: "D" represents undisclosable data.

(1) Pullets for laying flock replacement.

**AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME**

In the eastern counties, the average net cash farm income was \$36.4 million in 2007. This was much higher than the average for the state (\$17.6 million). Of the eastern counties, Curry and Chaves had, by far, the largest average net cash farm income. Lincoln was the only county to have a negative average net cash farm income. Over one-half of all farm

operators categorized farming as their primary occupation. This was higher than in the southwestern counties and for the state as a whole and may be tied to the nature of livestock ranching.

Estimating agricultural employment is challenging for many reasons. Based on the employment estimation methodology used by ER&A, and described early in this article, approximately 8,014 persons

were employed in agriculture in the eastern counties in 2009.<sup>10</sup> This represents a loss in employment of 7 percent between 2002 and 2009. The largest numbers of workers were employed in Roosevelt, Chaves, and Curry counties. Most of the eastern counties experienced job losses between 2002 and 2009. Lea, Union, and Otero experienced the largest number of job losses and the largest percentage losses. Guadalupe, Harding, and Roosevelt were

<sup>10</sup> Note that this estimate cannot be directly compared to the 2007 Census of Agriculture estimate as they are two different data sources.

“There were approximately 8,014 people employed in the agriculture industry in the eastern counties in 2009. Average net cash farm income was much higher in the eastern counties than that of the state as a whole. The largest livestock producers—Curry and Chaves counties—generated the highest net farm income, paid a higher average wage per hired worker, and employed more workers than the remaining counties.”

#### Farm Income, Workers & Worker Pay, Eastern Counties

Statistic	Chaves	Curry	De Baca	Eddy	Guadalupe	Harding	Lea
Number of Farms	584	681	173	543	258	168	572
Farming as Primary Occupation <i>% of Total</i>	293 50.2%	292 42.9%	96 55.5%	729 134.3%	135 52.3%	94 56.0%	230 40.2%
Avg. Net Cash Farm Income (\$1,000)	\$106,675	\$137,119	\$16,652	\$57,075	\$326	\$1,968	\$21,711
Farms with Hired Workers <i>% of Total</i>	213 36.5%	145 21.3%	67 38.7%	168 30.9%	70 27.1%	54 32.1%	138 24.1%
Number of Hired Workers	1,718	1,258	221	999	226	220	664
Payroll of Hired Workers (\$1,000)	\$28,912	\$24,126	\$1,862	\$13,029	\$1,464	\$1,179	\$9,472
Avg. Pay per Hired Worker	\$16,829	\$19,178	\$8,425	\$13,042	\$6,478	\$5,359	\$14,265
Statistic	Lincoln	Otero	Quay	Roosevelt	Union	Total EWIA	New Mexico
Number of Farms	361	493	636	876	380	5,725	20,930
Farming as Primary Occupation <i>% of Total</i>	180 49.9%	215 43.6%	302 47.5%	377 43.0%	215 56.6%	3,158 55.2%	10,040 48.0%
Avg. Net Cash Farm Income (\$1,000)	(\$1,020)	\$13,095	\$16,120	\$50,298	\$16,942	\$36,413	\$17,558
Farms with Hired Workers <i>% of Total</i>	96 26.6%	104 21.1%	154 24.2%	175 20.0%	139 36.6%	1,523 26.6%	4,773 22.8%
Number of Hired Workers	285	504	486	1,483	510	8,574	22,996
Payroll of Hired Workers (\$1,000)	\$1,844	\$2,466	\$2,056	\$21,952	\$5,045	\$113,407	\$218,193
Avg. Pay per Hired Worker	\$6,470	\$4,893	\$4,230	\$14,802	\$9,892	\$13,227	\$9,488

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007 Census of Agriculture.

the only counties to experience increases in employment and those increases were small in number.

Based on USDA data, the average pay per hired worker was \$13,277 in 2007. This estimate was higher than the statewide average, possibly reflecting the larger gross incomes of farms in the eastern counties. This larger average may also have resulted from the large livestock industry. Livestock production is not nearly as seasonal as crop production, and therefore may generate larger incomes with less part-time and temporary work.

Regional employment projections produced by ER&A are not available for the eastern counties due to data suppression issues. It is known that agricultural employment is anticipated to grow slightly between 2009 and 2019. 

### Agriculture Employment, 2002-2009

County	Employment			Change 02-09	
	2002	2005	2009	Total	Pct.
<b>EWIA</b>	<b>8,607</b>	<b>8,378</b>	<b>8,014</b>	<b>-593</b>	<b>-6.9%</b>
Chaves	1,438	1,456	1,334	-104	-7.2%
Curry	1,164	1,187	1,136	-28	-2.4%
De Baca	249	225	206	-43	-17.3%
Eddy	870	858	815	-55	-6.3%
Guadalupe	240	245	258	18	7.5%
Harding	164	173	182	18	11.0%
Lea	917	817	740	-177	-19.3%
Lincoln	380	374	378	-2	-0.5%
Otero	659	568	544	-115	-17.5%
Quay	629	602	615	-14	-2.2%
Roosevelt	1,305	1,360	1,340	35	2.7%
Union	592	513	466	-126	-21.3%

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007 Census of Agriculture.





# 2012 New Mexico Employer Summit

Thursday, April 26, 2012 • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

\$25 per person - Advanced reservations required, seating is limited

## Agenda will include:

- “How to Align Business Practices with Unemployment Insurance Policy”
- “Readily Available Business Resources and Services”
- “How Employment & Labor Laws Apply to Your Business”

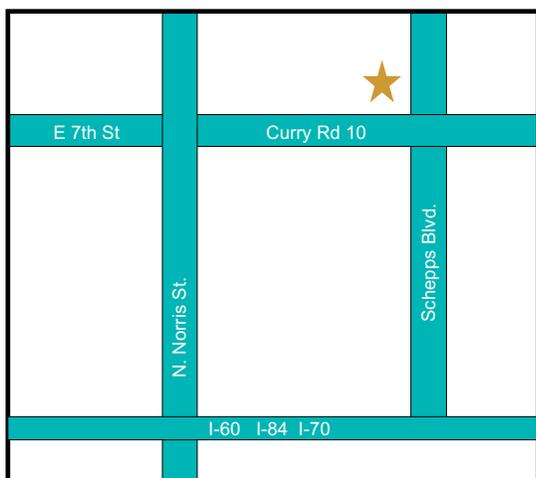
Register online

<http://2012nmsummit-east.eventbrite.com>  
by April 20, 2012

## Clovis Civic Center

801 Schepps Blvd  
Clovis, NM 88101

[www.clovisciviccenter.com](http://www.clovisciviccenter.com)



## Event check-in begins at 9:00 a.m.

The 2012 New Mexico Employer Summit - Eastern Area will include a luncheon focused on New Mexico’s veterans and the workforce. The day will also include keynote speakers and exhibit booths.



For more information, visit:  
<http://2012nmsummit-east.eventbrite.com>  
or call (505) 841-9004.



REGIONAL GROWTH  
PLANNING OFFICE

New Mexico  
Workforce Connection  
EASTERN AREA



*The latest economic news (as of January 2012) gathered from published articles, government documents, private- and public-sector news releases, and reports from local New Mexico Workforce Connection Centers. In most cases, no attempt is made to verify accuracy of information.*

## Statewide

Home Depot announced plans to hire about 450 seasonal workers statewide—250 in Albuquerque—for its busy spring season. Most of the company's 13 New Mexico stores will add 30 to 35 employees.

Pizza 9 has expanded to nine Albuquerque-area locations, with the average store employing 12 to 20 people. Pizza 9 Franchise Corp. hopes to add nearly 50 locations statewide over the next two to three years.

PNM dedicated a new solar photovoltaic generating facility on January 11 in Las Vegas, the last of five such plants it has brought online within the past year. Each facility was expected to create 80 to 100 construction jobs.

The feature film "Jackie" was scheduled to shoot from mid-November through December in and around western New Mexico, employing about 70 New Mexico crew member and more than 150 principal actors and extras.

Just Like a Film LLC completed principal photography on July 29 for its independent feature film "Just Like a Woman," starring

Sienna Miller. The production was expected to take place in multiple locations, employing about 130.

The new Coen Brothers' production, "Gambit," starring Colin Firth and Cameron Diaz, was scheduled to film in July in multiple locations, employing at least 130 New Mexico crew members and more than 400 principal actors and extras.

The Bureau of Reclamation expects work to begin this year on a long-term project to pump water to the Navajo Nation, the city of Gallup, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation. Construction will create 400 to 500 jobs initially and up to 650 by next October.

Pegasus Global Holdings will conduct a feasibility study to determine a specific location for its planned \$200 million, 20-square-mile technology testing and evaluation center that is expected to employ about 350 initially.

The independent feature film "Stars" was scheduled to shoot throughout November in Santa Fe, Española, Galisteo, and Pecos, employing about 45 New Mexico crew member and more than 125 principal actors and extras.

SunEdison has activated the first three of five solar power plants that make up a 53.5-megawatt project in Eddy and Lea counties. All facilities were to be built, financed, and maintained by SunEdison under a 20-year

agreement with Xcel Energy. The planned SunZia Southwest Transmission Project, a \$1.5 billion high-voltage transmission system, would create 3,900 construction jobs and 40 permanent positions in New Mexico. Construction is to begin in 2013 and initial operations in 2016.

The television pilot "Tin Star" was scheduled to film in Galisteo, La Cienega, and the Valles Caldera between late October and early November, employing about 130 New Mexico crew members and more than 350 principal actors and extras.

The Air Force announced plans to cut 9,000 civilian positions at bases nationwide, including 82 at Kirtland, 57 at Holloman, and 49 at Cannon, to control costs and restructure its civilian force. Some affected positions are currently vacant.

The four Borders bookstores still operating in New Mexico—two in Albuquerque, one in Gallup, and one in Santa Fe—were slated to close as part of a nationwide liquidation. LASER lists an employee size range of 20 to 49 for the typical location.

Mosaic, a health care provider to people with intellectual disabilities, planned to close all three of its New Mexico offices, located in Farmington, Gallup, and Santa Fe. Workers may secure positions with new providers as client services are transferred.

## Central Region

### **BERNALILLO COUNTY**

Sandia National Laboratories' workforce increased to 8,683 in fiscal year 2011 from 8,245 in fiscal year 2010, despite an atypically high number of retirements prompted by a benefits change.

Sitel scheduled a job fair for September 16 to add 140 customer care specialists, for both seasonal and longer-term positions, at its Albuquerque call center.

Tempur-Pedic will expand operations and add 100 jobs, starting with 51 new positions in January and February, at its 800,000-square-foot factory on Albuquerque's West Side. The LASER system lists a current employee size range of 50 to 99.

Two new Jimmy John's sandwich shops recently opened in Albuquerque with combined employment of about 100. The separate franchise owners each expect to open 15 to 20 stores in the city over the next five years.

Los Cuates opened new restaurants in the former Garduños space at the Sunport and at the former Copeland's of New Mexico site near Cottonwood Mall. LASER lists an employee size range of 50 to 99 for the company's Menaul Boulevard location.

Home improvement retailer Lowe's will open a customer support center in the Albuquerque location once occupied by AOL and more recently by Convergys. The Lowe's operation will employ 250 by March 2012 and 600 by the end of 2013.

The City Council approved changes that will allow Target to proceed with plans for an "elevated" store south of ABQ Uptown that will likely open in 2013. The LASER system lists an employee size range of 100 to 249 for the typical Target store.

Wal-Mart will soon begin construction on a Neighborhood Market in the former Wild Oats location at Juan Tabo and Menaul NE in Albuquerque. Company officials hope to open the store this fall, creating about 100 jobs.

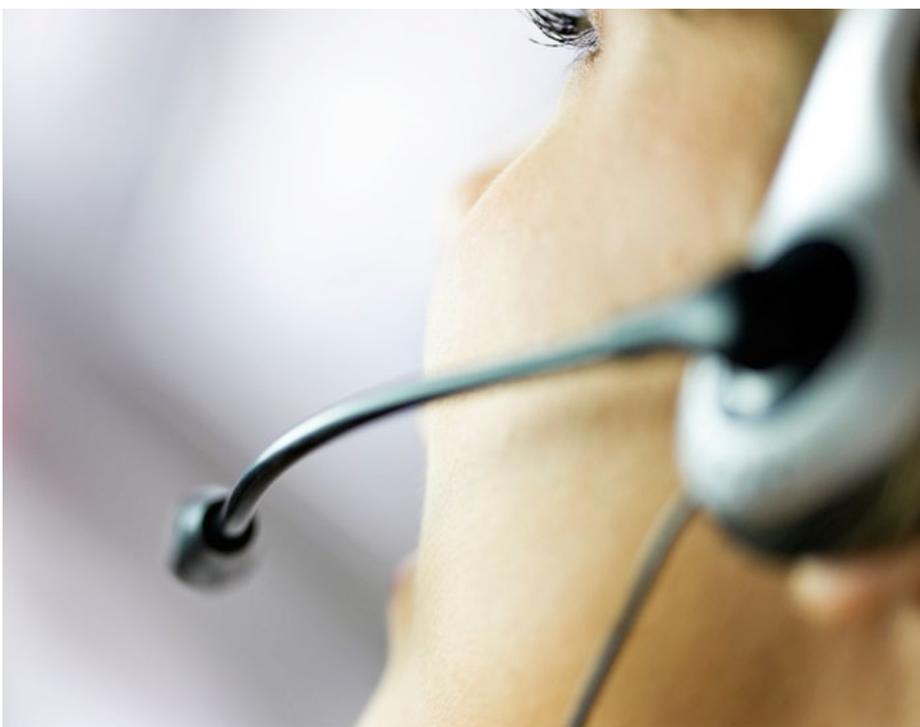
Xilinx, a semiconductor company, has closed its research and development operation in Journal Center, eliminating most of the 50 jobs there. A small aerospace and defense marketing group will remain in Albuquerque.

### **SANDOVAL COUNTY**

Stream Global Services is recruiting to fill 300 new positions at its Rio Rancho site, which provides warranty and sales support for a large telecommunications provider.

The developer for The Village at Rio Rancho, to be located just north of the Rust Medical Center, has delayed until next year plans for construction of a mixed-use retail center that would include as its first building a 12-screen theater complex.

The 68-bed, \$190 million Presbyterian Rust Medical Center opened in Rio Rancho on October 22. About half of



the facility's 485 positions were to be filled internally from other Presbyterian sites.

The 72-bed Sandoval Regional Medical Center is nearing completion in Rio Rancho's City Center and is set to open in mid-summer 2012, employing 325 initially.

### **TORRANCE COUNTY**

Silverado Power received county approval to build a utility-scale solar power facility just outside Estancia that would generate 50 megawatts of energy. The project is expected to create up to 160 construction jobs and six to eight permanent positions.

### **VALENCIA COUNTY**

Masco Cabinetry planned to idle its Merillat Los Lunas manufacturing facility on August 12, eliminating 135 jobs. A company official cited the decline in the housing market as reason for the closure.

## **Eastern Region**

### **CHAVES COUNTY**

Impact Confections intended to close its Roswell manufacturing facility at the end of September to consolidate operations at its Wisconsin site, eliminating about 80 jobs.

### **CURRY COUNTY**

Clovis city officials approved a \$3 million interest-free forgivable loan to manufacturing company Beauty Health and Science Innovations intended to create

350 area jobs over the next five years.

A recent groundbreaking marked the beginning of a \$12.8 million renovation of Hotel Clovis that will include apartments and business space, creating 150 construction jobs. The project is expected to be completed by December 2012.

Construction could begin in early 2012 on the first phase of Tres Amigas' \$1.5 billion high-voltage interconnection project near Clovis, generating hundreds of temporary jobs. At least 100 permanent positions will be created upon completion of this phase.

### **EDDY COUNTY**

Washington TRU Solutions, managing contractor for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, announced plans to lay off 65 workers by mid-October. The company eliminated 51 jobs through voluntary separation earlier this year.

Lowe's was scheduled to open a new 94,000-square-foot home improvement store in Carlsbad on October 28 with about 120 mostly full-time employees.

### **GUADALUPE COUNTY**

GA Solar planned to begin construction by early 2013 on a \$1 billion, 300-megawatt solar photovoltaic generating plant south of Santa Rosa that would employ 300 construction workers and 75 permanent workers.

### **LEA COUNTY**

Construction began April 26 on LCEC's \$50 million natural gas-fired power generation plant near Lovington, with the facility set to come online in January 2012 and be fully operational by June. Recent construction activity employed about 80 workers. Santa Fe-based Eldorado Biofuels began growing algae in June and harvesting it in July at a one-acre site in Jal. The company planned to employ 100 by the end of 2011.

Intercontinental Potash has begun the environmental permitting work necessary to open and operate a planned potash mine in Lea County that is expected to be operational in 2014, employing 450 full-time workers.

International Isotopes finalized agreements on a \$72 million IRB and a 640-acre land acquisition for its planned uranium deconversion facility west of Hobbs. The plant is expected to employ 125 to 150 when operational in 2013.

Joule Unlimited broke ground on a five-acre renewable fuels demonstration facility in Hobbs that will convert sunlight, saline water, and carbon dioxide into ethanol and diesel fuel. The company expects to employ more than 100 when it moves to commercial production.

### **LINCOLN COUNTY**

Grace O'Malley's Irish Pub



opened at 2331 Sudderth Drive in Ruidoso, employing 96. The pub serves traditional Irish and American cuisine and offers patrons an array of draft beers and a full bar.

**OTERO COUNTY**

Carino’s Italian Restaurant is set to begin construction on a new Alamogordo location scheduled to open in March 2012, employing about 100. The owners currently operate two Carino’s restaurants in El Paso.

**Northern Region**

**CIBOLA COUNTY**

A \$2 million, 20,000-square-foot expansion was nearing completion as of early August at Laguna Pueblo’s Dancing Eagle Casino. The new conference and event center, bingo hall, and diner were expected to add a combined 40 to 50 employees.

**RIO ARRIBA COUNTY**

Sandia Productions began principal photography in Rio Arriba County for the dramatic thriller “Blaze You Out.” The film was expected to shoot for four weeks in the area, employing 80 crew members and more than 100 principal and background talent.

**SAN JUAN COUNTY**

The Navajo Nation held a grand opening January 16 at its 86,000-square-foot Northern Edge Navajo Casino in Upper Fruitland, near the southwest corner of Farmington. The facility is expected to create 375 full-time jobs with an annual payroll of \$12 million.

**SANTA FE COUNTY**

Drury Hotels could begin construction by the end of this year at the site of its planned 181-room hotel and 30-room inn complex in downtown Santa Fe.

Employment information was not immediately available.

The Wal-Mart Supercenter at 5701 Herrera Drive in Santa Fe, near Interstate 25 and Cerrillos Road, opened October 12 with about 300 employees and may soon add as many as 50 more.

**Southwestern Region**

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY**

Electronics manufacturer TE Connectivity announced plans to merge its El Paso distribution and manufacturing operation into its Santa Teresa facility, bringing 85 additional jobs to New Mexico initially and possibly 250 eventually.

L&M Radiator recently employed 138 at its Las Cruces manufacturing facility, but planned to increase its workforce

by about 30 percent to meet demand. The plant is expected to grow to 200 workers eventually.

NextEra Energy's 5-megawatt concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) project in the Hatch Industrial Park came online July 2. The project employed about 60 workers during construction.

NRG Solar's 20-megawatt Roadrunner Solar Generating Facility near Santa Teresa is now operational and capable of producing enough electricity to power up to 6,600 homes. Construction of the plant created more than 200 jobs over nine months.

Pro's Ranch Markets, a retailer of fresh Hispanic food and baked goods, opened its second New Mexico location November 9 at El Paseo Road and Wyatt Drive in Las Cruces. The store was expected to employ about 300.

Union Pacific broke ground August 8 on a \$500 million intermodal railyard near Santa Teresa that was expected to create 3,000 jobs during construction and 600 permanent positions when the facility is operating at full capacity in 2025.

Wal-Mart is proceeding with plans for a third Las Cruces location that would open in late 2012 on the city's East Mesa. Wal-Mart discount stores typically employ about 225 associates and supercenters 350 or more.

Vangent laid off about half of the employees at its Las Cruces call center, but expects to refill positions as it adjusts staffing levels. The operation originally employed about 100.

#### **HIDALGO COUNTY**

Lightning Dock Geothermal signed a \$65 million engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract related to its planned geothermal plant near Animas that is expected to come online in 2013. Forecast employment was not immediately available.

#### **LUNA COUNTY**

Element Power announced the completion of construction at its Macho Springs Wind Project located in northeastern Luna County near Nutt. The project

created about 150 temporary construction jobs and six permanent positions.

Sapphire Energy received a USDA loan guarantee allowing it proceed with plans for a biofuels plant near Columbus that is expected to employ 60. The company currently operates a Las Cruces facility with close ties to NMSU.

#### **SIERRA COUNTY**

New Mexico and Virgin Galactic officials participated in the October 17 dedication of a combined terminal and hangar facility that is the company's new home at Spaceport America. Virgin expects to employ 75 to 100 people in New Mexico eventually.



# COUNTY EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT<sup>1</sup>

This section evaluates changes in employment and the unemployment rate for all of New Mexico's counties. Year-over-year employment changes in the third quarter of 2011 are provided and compared to changes experienced in the second quarter. The unemployment rate is also provided, along with changes over the last six months and over the previous year. County-level employment information is available for third quarter 2011 from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) and non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates are available for December 2011 from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS).

## Central Region County News

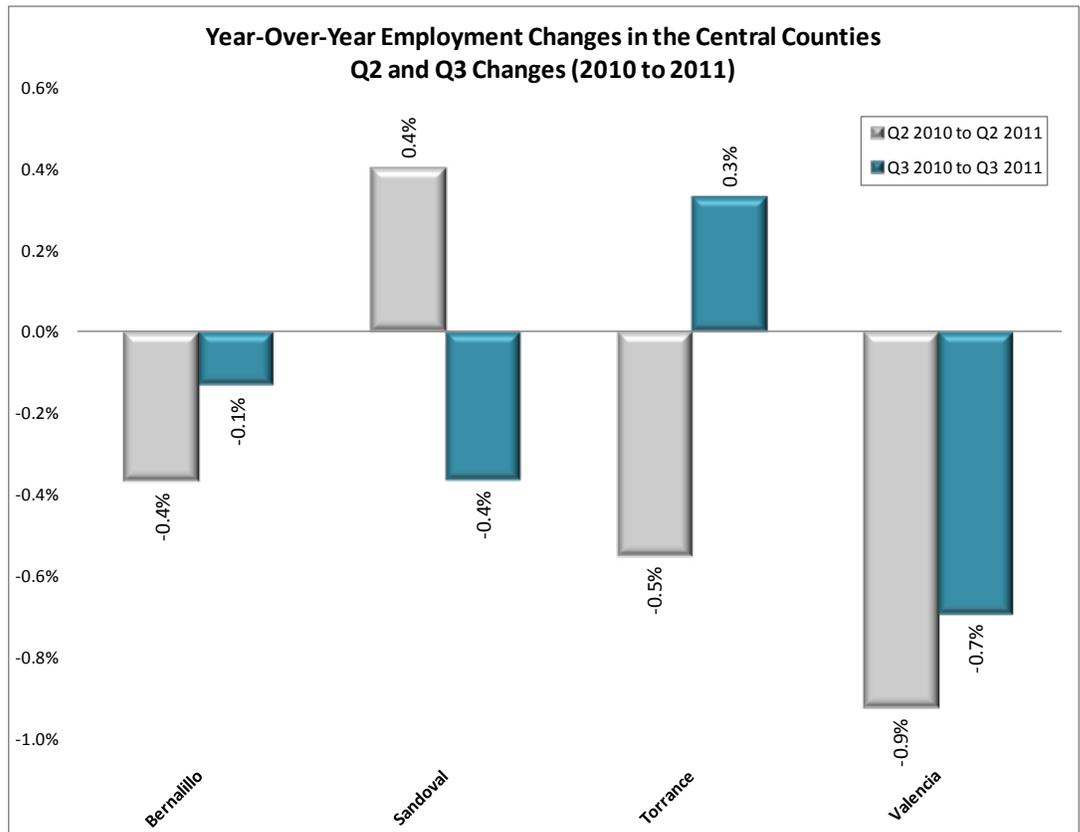
Torrance was the only central county that experienced year-over-year job growth in the third quarter of 2011. This was a major change for Torrance, which had seen losses in the second quarter. Sandoval County experienced year-over-year declines after seeing increases

in the second quarter. Losses in Bernalillo and Valencia were less in the third quarter than the previous quarter. All four counties have seen year-over-year employment losses decline in general since mid-2009. Unemployment rates in the central counties saw minimal to no fluctuation in the last two months of the year. Torrance County's unemployment rate did not change, while the remaining counties saw minor increases of 0.1 to 0.2 percentage point. Every county experienced a decline in the unemployment rate over the year (ranging from 1.3 to 3.0 percentage points). Unemployment rates have been

declining in general for each central county.

### BERNALILLO COUNTY

Bernalillo County employment was 0.1 percent less (approximately 415 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses (over 1,000) occurred in the construction industry, with losses offset by large gains in the health care industry. Year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter were less than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. Bernalillo County's unemployment rate was 6.5 percent in December 2011,



<sup>1</sup> All changes in employment at the county level are net changes, taking into consideration gains and declines in all individual industries. Industries that are mentioned are only those with larger employment changes and are not solely responsible for total net gains or losses. In cases where the year-over-year change in employment is very small, number of jobs lost and industries are not provided. Data reflects preliminary data as published in the QCEW publication. Minor revisions to the data are made after the preliminary publication. Data is available at <http://laser.state.nm.us/>.

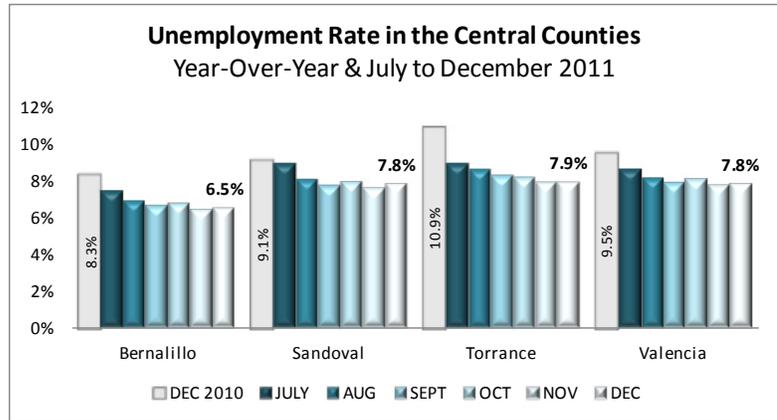
up from 6.4 percent in November but down from 8.3 percent a year earlier.

### SANDOVAL COUNTY

Sandoval County employment was 0.4 percent less (approximately 105 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Unfortunately, these losses followed year-over-year employment gains in the second quarter of 2011. Large losses in the wholesale trade industry and large gains in the administrative and support industry were posted over the year. These changes, however, were due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program and not actual job losses or gains, as employment was reclassified between the two industries. The largest actual job losses were posted in the retail trade industry, with the largest gains in manufacturing. Sandoval County's unemployment rate was 7.8 percent in December 2011, up from 7.6 percent in November but down from 9.1 percent a year earlier.

### TORRANCE COUNTY

Torrance County employment was 1.8 percent less (approximately 55 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. This employment growth is significant considering the year-over-year losses seen in the second quarter of 2011. There were no industries that posted significant losses or gains. The construction industry



experienced the largest loss of jobs, although losses were still somewhat small. Torrance County's unemployment rate was 7.8 percent in December 2011, the same as in November and down from 10.9 percent a year earlier.

### VALENCIA COUNTY

Valencia County employment was 1.0 percent less (approximately 145 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter were less than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The health care industry experienced marginal gains over the year. Gains, however, were offset by larger losses in both the construction and retail industries along with state government. Valencia County's unemployment rate was 7.8 percent in December 2011, up from 7.7 percent in November but down from 9.5 percent a year earlier.

## Eastern Region County News

Year-over-year employment growth varied throughout the eastern region in the third quarter of 2011. Eddy, Harding, Lea, and Union counties experienced positive year-over-year employment growth between the third quarters of 2010 and 2011. This is particularly significant as only a handful of counties throughout the state saw year-over-year increases in the third quarter. Increases in Harding signaled significant improvement after no year-over-year growth in the second quarter. All other eastern counties experienced overall employment losses, with year-over-year losses in Chaves, De Baca, Quay, and Roosevelt improving from the second quarter of the year. While four counties saw increases in year-over-year losses since the second quarter, it is important to note that losses do vary from quarter to quarter. And, most of the eastern counties have seen year-over-year losses decline in general since the end of 2009 and beginning of 2010. Eddy

and Lea counties have been less impacted by employment losses, with each seeing positive year-over-year employment growth since the second quarter of 2010. De Baca and Quay counties have faced the greatest challenges in employment growth, with year-over-year losses increasing since early 2009 and up to the second quarter of 2011.

All eastern counties experienced an increase in unemployment rates in December (nearly all increases ranging between 0.2 and 0.3 percentage points). Even with the increases at the end of 2011, all eastern counties saw a decline in the unemployment rate over the year (ranging between 1.0 and 2.5 percentage points). Unemployment rates have been trending downwards for nearly all eastern counties

with the exception of Lincoln and Union, which have seen overall increases since July 2010.

**CHAVES COUNTY**

Chaves County employment was 0.4 percent less (approximately 80 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter were less than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in the health care industry and in local government. State government also experienced larger job losses but the decrease in employment was due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program. Non-economic administrative reporting changes also contributed to employment

gains in the administrative and support industry. Chaves County’s unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in December 2011, up from 6.0 percent in November but down from 8.2 percent a year earlier.

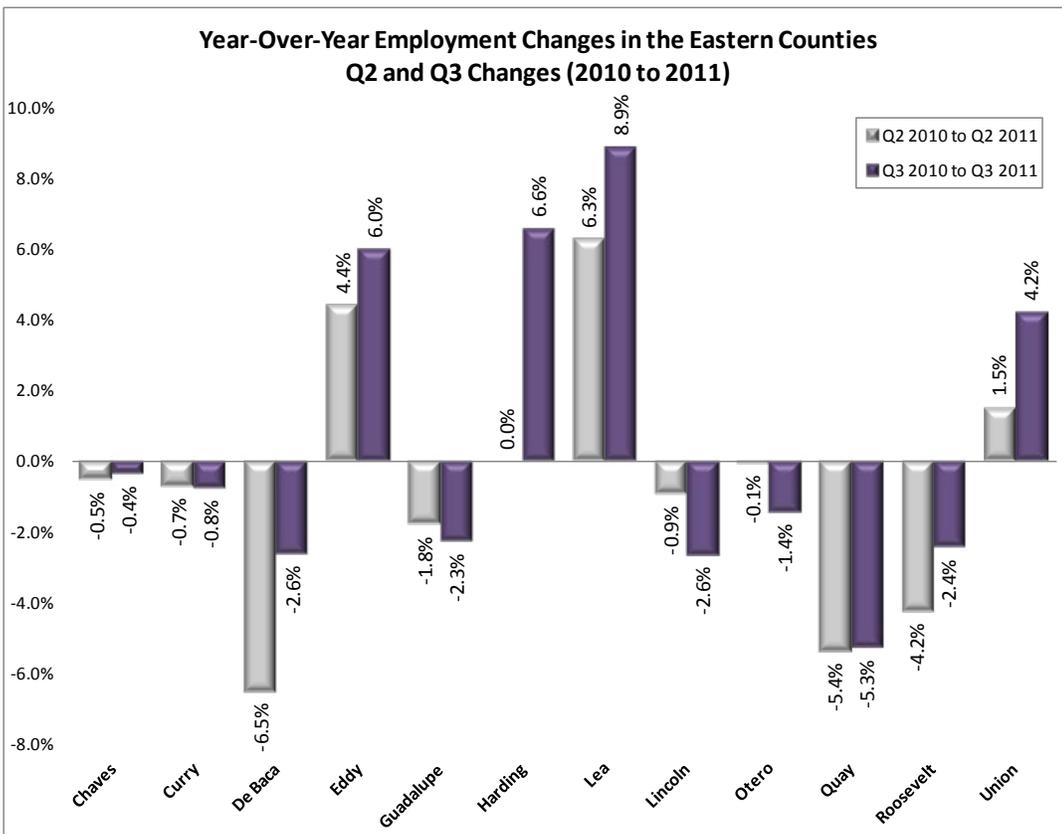
**CURRY COUNTY**

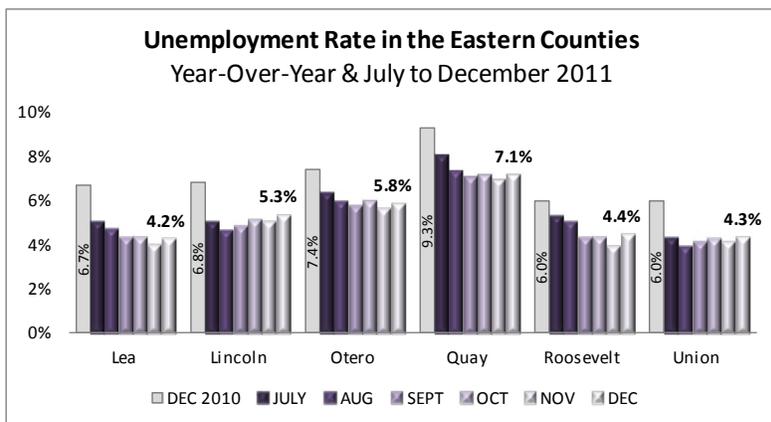
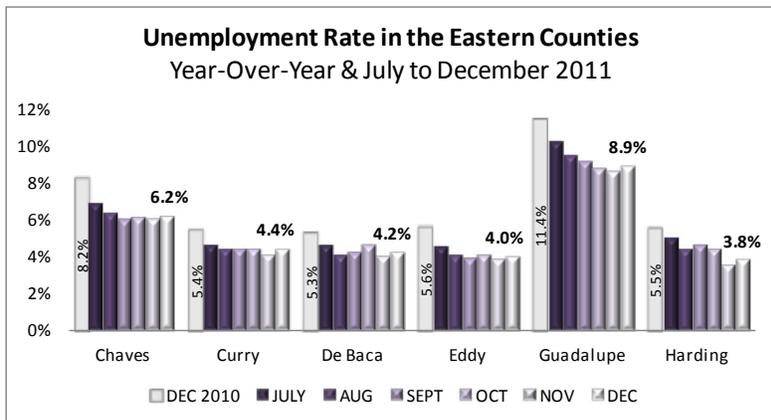
Curry County employment was 0.8 percent less (approximately 125 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses were slightly greater than those in second quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in the health care industry. The largest gains occurred in the wholesale trade industry, but changes were the result of non-economic administrative reporting changes and not necessarily new jobs. Curry County’s unemployment rate was 4.4 percent

in December 2011, up from 4.1 percent in November but down from 5.4 percent a year earlier.

**DE BACA COUNTY**

De Baca County employment was 2.6 percent less (approximately 15 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter were less than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The most





significant employment changes occurred in the construction industry, with small gains over the year. De Baca County's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in December 2011, up from 4.0 percent in November but down from 5.3 percent a year earlier.

### EDDY COUNTY

Eddy County employment was 6.0 percent greater (approximately 1,395 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the third quarter were greater than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest job gains occurred in the mining industry and were based on many small employment gains at a variety of employers.

Larger gains in education and construction were mostly due to non-economic administrative reporting changes as were larger losses posted in professional and technical services. Eddy County's unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in December 2011, up from 3.8 percent in November but down from 5.6 percent a year earlier.

### GUADALUPE COUNTY

Guadalupe County employment was 2.3 percent less (approximately 30 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Unfortunately, these year-over-year employment losses were greater than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest employment losses occurred in construction, while

the largest gains occurred in state government. Guadalupe County's unemployment rate was 8.9 percent in December 2011, up from 8.6 percent in November but down from 11.4 percent a year earlier.

### HARDING COUNTY

Harding County employment was 6.6 percent less in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. This employment growth is significant considering no year-over-year gains seen in the second quarter of 2011. Small losses were spread over several industries while gains were experienced in construction and local government. Harding County's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in December 2011, up from 3.5 percent in November but down from 5.5 percent a year earlier.

### LEA COUNTY

Lea County employment was 8.9 percent greater (approximately 2,355 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the third quarter were greater than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest job gains occurred in construction and mining; however, a small portion of the gains were due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program, indicating that these jobs were not necessarily newly created, but reclassified from previous reporting. Lea County's unemployment rate was 4.2

percent in December 2011, up from 4.0 percent in November but down from 6.7 percent a year earlier.

#### **LINCOLN COUNTY**

Lincoln County employment was 2.6 percent less (approximately 185 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Unfortunately, these year-over-year employment losses were greater than those seen in the second quarter of 2011. Most of the employment losses occurred within multiple industry at smaller levels. The largest job losses were posted in the construction industry; however, the losses were due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program. Lincoln County's unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in December 2011, up from 5.0 percent in November but down from 6.8 percent a year earlier.

#### **OTERO COUNTY**

Otero County employment was 1.4 percent less (approximately 245 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Unfortunately, these year-over-year employment losses were greater than those seen in the second quarter of 2011. The largest losses occurred in the construction industry. The largest job gains occurred in the health care industry, but gains were due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program. Otero County's unemployment rate was

5.8 percent in December 2011, up from 5.6 percent in November but down from 7.4 percent a year earlier.

#### **QUAY COUNTY**

Quay County employment was 5.3 percent less (approximately 145 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. These year-over-year employment losses were slightly greater than those seen in the second quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in the accommodation and food services and administrative and support industries. Quay County's unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in December 2011, up from 6.9 percent in November but down from 9.3 percent a year earlier.

#### **ROOSEVELT COUNTY**

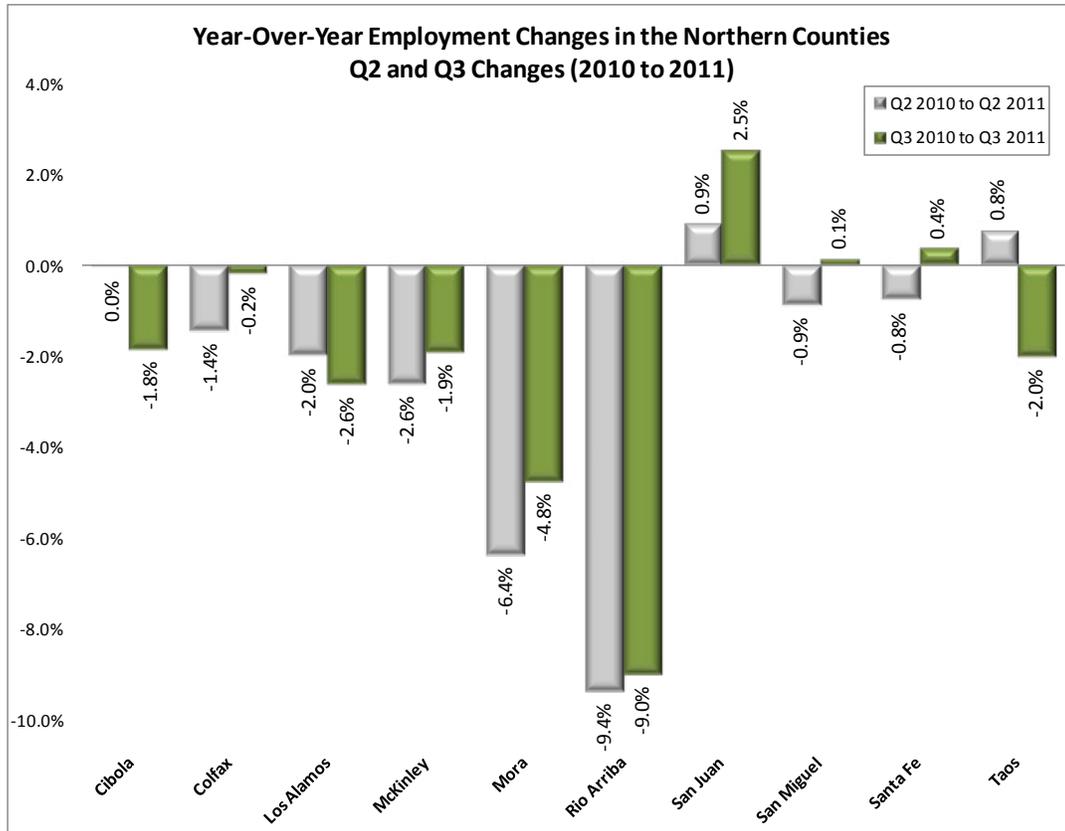
Roosevelt County employment was 2.4 percent less (approximately 155 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter were less than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The majority of gains and losses were small and spread over many industries. The administrative and support industry posted the largest losses over the year but most of the change was due to non-economic administrative reporting changes. Roosevelt County's unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in December 2011, up from 3.9 percent in November but down from 6.0 percent a year earlier.

#### **UNION COUNTY**

Union County employment was 4.2 percent greater (approximately 55 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the third quarter were greater than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest job gains occurred in the accommodation and food services and construction industries. Union County's unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in December 2011, up from 4.1 percent in November but down from 6.0 percent a year earlier.

## **Northern Region County News**

Most of the northern counties continued to experience year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter of 2011, after seeing losses in the second quarter as well. San Juan, San Miguel, and Santa Fe counties have been the exception. San Juan County experienced continued year-over-year growth in the third quarter while San Miguel and Santa Fe saw increases after year-over-year losses in the second quarter of 2011. Year-over-year losses in Colfax, McKinley, Mora, and Rio Arriba were less than those experienced in the second quarter of the year. The remaining counties saw larger losses, particularly in Cibola and Taos. While several counties saw increases in year-over-year



losses since the second quarter, it is important to note that losses do vary from quarter to quarter. Most of the northern counties have seen year-over-year losses decline in general since the end of 2009. San Juan, Colfax, and Cibola all have experienced recent year-over-year growth. McKinley County has experienced continued employment losses, but losses have been less volatile and have consistently remained below 2.5 percent. All the other counties, barring Los Alamos and Rio Arriba, are seeing year-over-year losses decline. Los Alamos and Rio Arriba continue to struggle with increasing year-over-year losses.

All ten northern counties saw a decrease in the unemployment rate over the year (ranging from

0.8 to 3.1 percentage points). In December of 2011, most of the counties saw slight increases in the unemployment rate from the previous month (ranging from 0.1 to 0.6 percentage points). McKinley's rate did not change over the period, while Colfax and Taos counties saw their rates drop to near October levels. The unemployment rate in Cibola, McKinley, San Juan, San Miguel, and Santa Fe has been declining in general over the last six months. The remaining counties saw their unemployment rates slowly increase for two or more months between August and December of 2011.

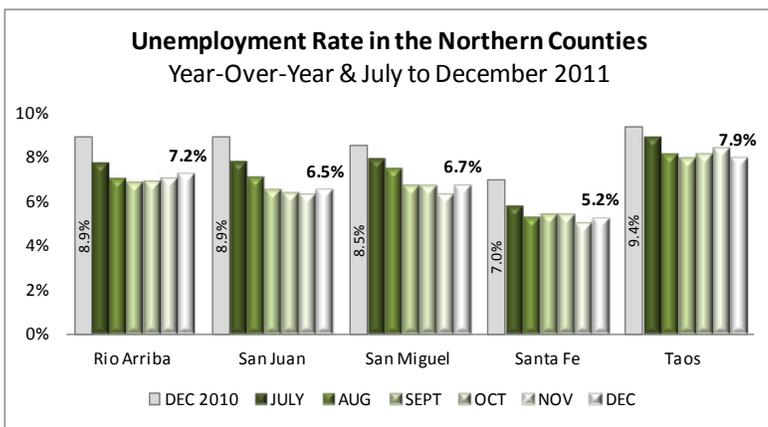
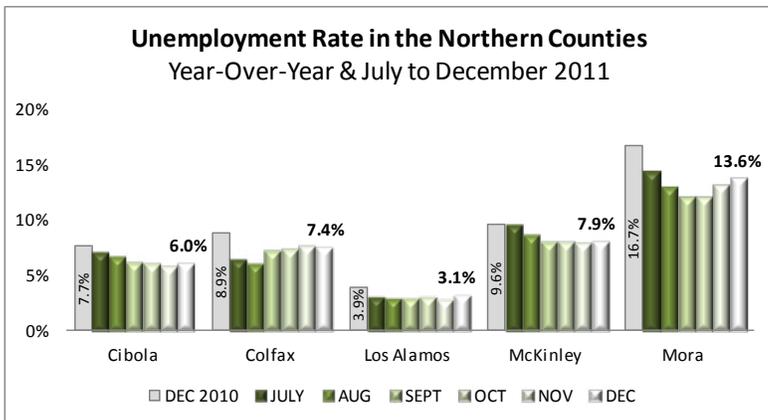
#### **CIBOLA COUNTY**

Cibola County employment was 1.8 percent less (approximately 145 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the

previous year. Unfortunately, year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter followed no losses in the second quarter. Losses were most significant in local government, followed by construction. Cibola County's unemployment rate was 6.0 percent in December 2011, up from 5.7 percent in November but down from 7.7 percent a year earlier.

#### **COLFAX COUNTY**

Employment in Colfax County was about 0.2 percent less in the third quarter of 2011 than the same quarter in 2010. Year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter were less than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest employment gains occurred in the accommodation and food services industry and local



government. Gains were offset by employment losses in several industries. The largest losses occurred in the health care, retail, and construction industries and the federal government (Census related). Colfax County's unemployment rate was 7.4 percent in December 2011, down from 7.6 percent in November and from 8.9 percent a year earlier.

### LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

Los Alamos County employment was 2.6 percent less (approximately 460 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Unfortunately, year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter were greater than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011.

Employment losses were mostly due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the professional and technical services industry, indicating that these jobs were not necessarily lost, but reclassified from previous reporting. Without this code change, the county would have experienced year-over-year employment gains. Los Alamos County's unemployment rate was 3.1 percent in December 2011, up from 2.7 percent in November but down from 3.9 percent a year earlier.

### MCKINLEY COUNTY

McKinley County employment was 1.9 percent less (approximately 395 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment

losses in the third quarter were less than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in local government, followed by losses in the construction industry. Small job gains were spread over many industries. McKinley County's unemployment rate was 7.9 percent in December 2011, up from 7.8 percent in November but down from 9.6 percent a year earlier.

### MORA COUNTY

Mora County employment was 4.8 percent less (approximately 35 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter were less than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in the construction and health care industries along with local and federal government. Mora County's unemployment rate was 13.6 percent in December 2011, up from 13.0 percent in November but down from 16.7 percent a year earlier.

### RIO ARRIBA COUNTY

QCEW data shows that Rio Arriba County employment was 9.0 percent less (approximately 940 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. While these losses appear significant, nearly all of the employment changes come from non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program. There

were many small-scale reporting changes in different industries within the county. These reporting changes identify positions that are reclassified to a different industry or, in this case, county and do not necessarily represent direct job losses. Rio Arriba County's unemployment rate was 7.2 percent in December 2011, up from 7.0 percent in November but down from 8.9 percent a year earlier.

#### **SAN JUAN COUNTY**

San Juan County employment was 2.5 percent greater (approximately 1,175 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the third quarter were greater than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest gains occurred in the mining industry. Large gains also occurred in the health care industry, although some of those gains were due to non-economic administrative reporting changes. The largest losses were experienced in local government. Losses due to non-economic

administrative reporting changes were posted in the other services industry. San Juan County's unemployment rate was 6.5 percent in December 2011, up from 6.3 percent in November but down from 8.9 percent a year earlier.

#### **SAN MIGUEL COUNTY**

San Miguel County employment was 0.1 percent greater in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the third quarter followed year-over-year losses in the second quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in state government, while the largest gains occurred in the transportation and warehousing industry. San Miguel County's unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in December 2011, up from 6.3 percent in November but down from 8.5 percent a year earlier.

#### **SANTA FE COUNTY**

Santa Fe County employment was 0.4 percent greater (approximately 220 jobs) in the third quarter of 2011 as the same quarter in 2010. This is an improvement from

year-over-year losses in the second quarter of 2011. The largest job gains were posted in the administrative and support and health care industries, but most of those changes were due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program. The largest losses occurred in state and federal government. Santa Fe County's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent in December 2011, up from 5.0 percent in November but down from 7.0 percent a year earlier.

#### **TAOS COUNTY**

Taos County employment was 2.0 percent less (approximately 210 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Unfortunately, year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter followed year-over-year gains in the second quarter of 2011. The largest declines occurred in the construction industry, while the largest gains, occurring in the health care industry, were mostly due to non-economic administrative reporting changes. Taos County's unemployment rate was

7.9 percent in December 2011, down from 8.4 percent in November and from 9.4 percent a year earlier.

## **Southwestern Region County News**

Four of the counties experienced year-over-year increases in employment. The year-over-year growth in Catron and Luna counties was particularly positive after year-over-year losses in the previous quarter. Both Grant and Luna counties continued to see employment growth. Three of the southwestern counties continued to experience year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter of 2011, after seeing losses in the second quarter as well. Doña Ana year-over-year losses were less than the second quarter while Sierra and Socorro experienced larger year-over-year losses. Positively, year-over-year losses have been declining overall in all seven counties since late 2009. Luna County has actually seen year-over-year losses decrease since early 2009.

All southwestern counties experienced an increase in unemployment rates in the last month of the quarter (ranging between 0.2 and 0.6 percentage points). The monthly increase was largest in Sierra County. Even though unemployment rates rose at the end of the 2011, every county experienced a decline in the unemployment rate over the year (ranging between 1.6 and 3.0 percentage points). Changes in each county's unemployment rates during the last six months of 2011 varied. Grant county unemployment rates

have hovered around 7.0 percent, and Socorro has experienced steady declines in its unemployment rate. The remaining southwestern counties have experienced slow and small growth in the unemployment rate, beginning in August or September of 2011.

**CATRON COUNTY**

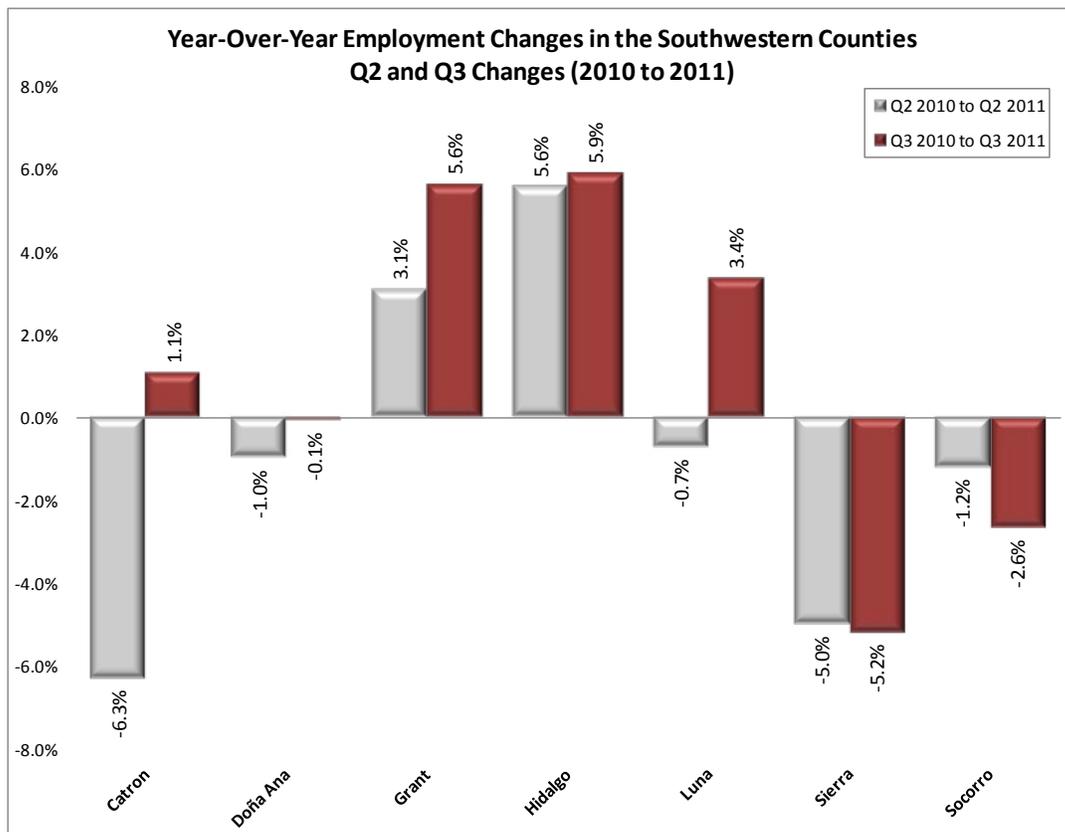
Catron County employment was 1.1 percent greater in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. This is an improvement from year-over-year losses in the second quarter of 2011. The largest job gains occurred in the health

care and manufacturing industries, while the largest losses occurred in the federal government. Catron County's unemployment rate was 7.8 percent in December 2011, up from 7.4 percent in November but down from 10.8 percent a year earlier.

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY**

Doña Ana County employment was 0.1 percent less (approximately 40 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. This is an improvement from year-over-year losses in the second quarter of 2011. Job gains

and losses offset one another over the year. The largest actual job losses occurred in state and local government along with agriculture. Losses were also posted in the professional and technical services and wholesale trade industries, but those losses were mostly due to non-economic administrative reporting changes. Losses were offset by gains in health care, manufacturing, and retail. A portion of these gains, much like losses, were due to non-economic administrative reporting changes. Doña Ana County's unemployment rate was 6.6 percent



in December 2011, up from 6.3 percent in November but down from 8.2 percent a year earlier.

**GRANT COUNTY**

Grant County employment was 5.6 percent greater (approximately 490 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the third quarter were greater than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest employment gains occurred in the mining industry. Grant County's unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in December 2011, up from 6.9 percent in November but down from 10.1 percent a year earlier.

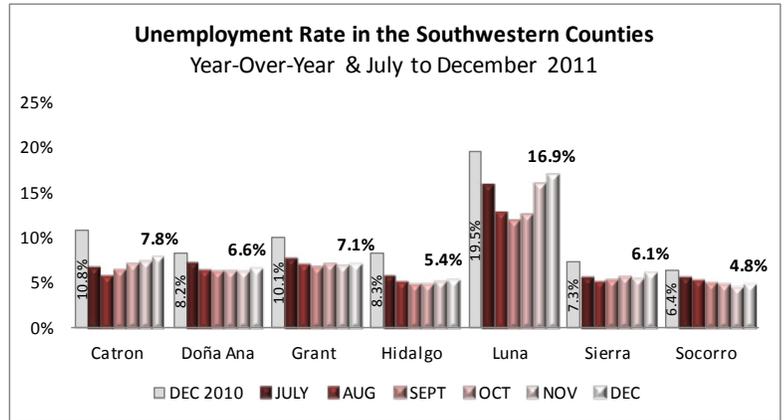
**HIDALGO COUNTY**

Hidalgo County employment was 5.9 percent greater (approximately 100 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the third quarter were greater than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest gains occurred in the

health care and accommodation and food services industries. The largest losses were posted in education, professional and technical services, and mining (due to non-economic administrative reporting changes). Hidalgo County's unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in December 2011, up from 5.2 percent in November but down from 8.3 percent a year earlier.

**LUNA COUNTY**

Luna County employment was 3.4 percent greater (approximately 280 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. This is an improvement from year-over-year losses in the second quarter of 2011. The largest actual job gains occurred in the wholesale trade industry. The largest losses were mostly due to non-economic administrative reporting changes, and were posted in the health care industry. Luna County's unemployment rate was 16.9 percent in December 2011, up from 16.0 percent in



November but down from 19.5 percent a year earlier.

**SIERRA COUNTY**

Sierra County employment was 5.2 percent less (approximately 175 jobs) in the third quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Unfortunately, year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter were greater than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in the health care and construction industries, among several others. The largest gains over the year occurred in the mining industry. Sierra County's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in December 2011, up from 5.5 percent in November but down from 7.3 percent a year earlier.

**SOCORRO COUNTY**

Socorro County employment was 2.6 percent less (approximately 140 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Unfortunately, year-over-year employment losses in the third quarter were greater than those experienced in the second quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in local government. Socorro County's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in December 2011, up from 4.6 percent in November but down from 6.4 percent a year earlier.

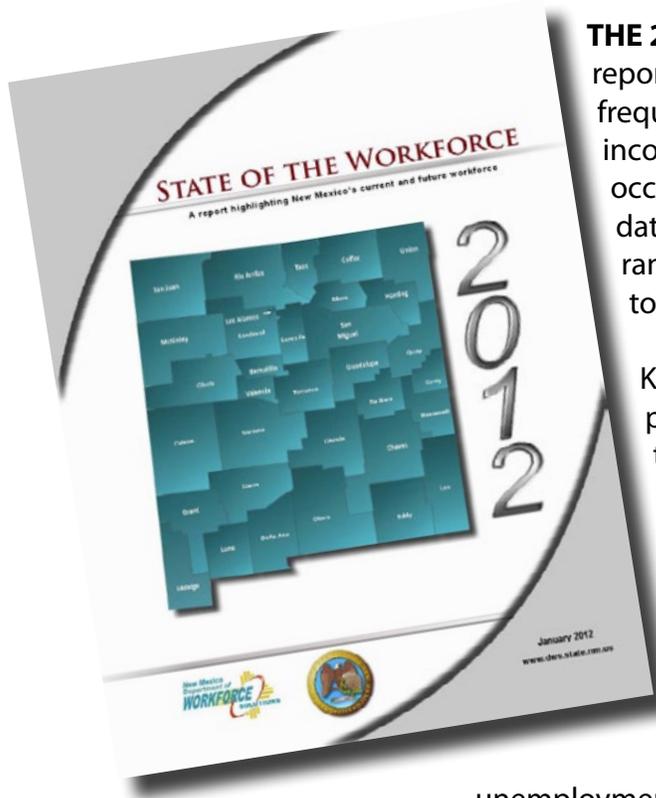
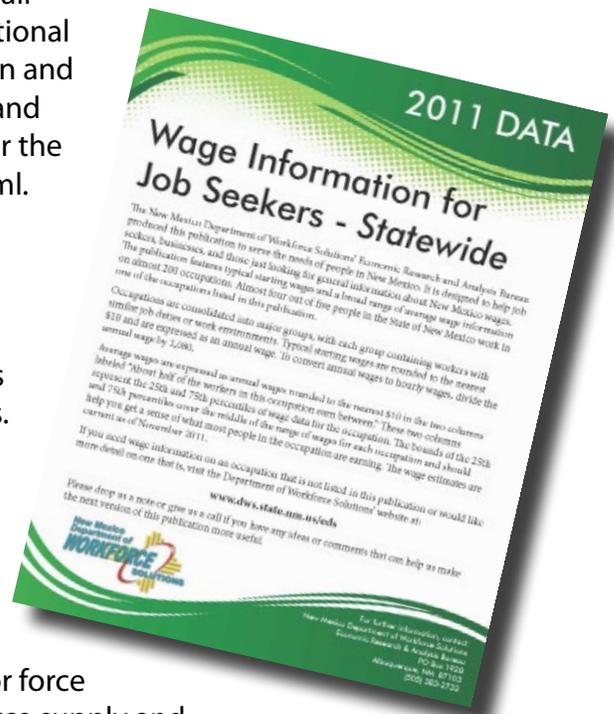


# PUBLICATION NEWS

**WAGE INFORMATION** sheets are now available online for all four regions. The wage data is presented by major occupational group, ranging from computer occupations to construction and extraction occupations. The data includes starting wages and average wages. The wage sheets are available online under the “Wages” tab at: [www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmipub.html](http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmipub.html).

**2008-2018 PROJECTIONS IN-BRIEF** publications are now available online for all four regions. The projections are presented for major industries and occupations. The publication also identifies the fastest growing occupations and industry subsectors as well as in-demand occupations. The in-brief publications are available online under the “Publications” tab at: [www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmipub.html](http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmipub.html).

**THE 2012 STATE OF THE WORKFORCE** report was released in January 2012. The State of the Workforce is an annual publication that provides information on labor force demographics and statistics on current and future workforce supply and demand. The 2011 State of the Workforce report is available online under the “Publications” tab at: [www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmi.html](http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmi.html).



**THE 2011 ANNUAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INDICATORS** report is now available online. This publication contains frequently requested information on population, personal income, employment, wages, poverty, industry and occupational forecasts, labor surplus areas and educational data. The information is based on data available from a wide range of sources, and this PDF now includes interactive links to data sources. [www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmipub.html](http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmipub.html).

Keep an eye out for March's **Labor Market Review (LMR)** publication, set to be posted online April 27th. You can find the most recent as well as past Labor Market Reviews under the “Publications” tab at: [www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmr-past.html](http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmr-past.html).

ER&A is currently completing annual processing of Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) data, with the release of revised 2007–2011 estimates scheduled for April 20. Data is revised at the beginning of each year, resulting in changes to employment and

unemployment estimates. In future issues of the Labor Market and Regional Reviews, revised estimates will be presented that differ from those previously

released. Explanations of changes in employment and unemployment will be provided as necessary. 



## Unlock your workforce!

The Department of Workforce Solutions is here to assist your business with the growth and development of your current and future workforce. WorkKeys deals with the foundational skills required by all jobs, such as reading, mathematics, and locating information. These skill level results can be used along with a resume, interview, company test, and other company hiring criteria to help you make the best choice. Each individual that takes the WorkKeys three core assessments qualifies for a Career Readiness Certificate, a portable credential that confirms the workplace skills possessed by that individual. By using WorkKeys, you can also:

- Assess skill level requirements for specific jobs
- Evaluate skill levels of potential applicants
- Evaluate the skill levels of current employees for company advancement opportunities

**WorkKeys®**



New Mexico  
**Workforce Connection**

To find a local office near you, visit our website at [www.dws.state.nm.us](http://www.dws.state.nm.us)

New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions  
Economic Research & Analysis Bureau (CC 6097)  
P.O. Box 1928  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Phone: 505-383-2729  
Fax: 505-383-2739  
[www.dws.state.nm.us](http://www.dws.state.nm.us)