

Regional Review

Quarterly labor market information across New Mexico



The Pulse of the Healthcare Industry in New Mexico

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An Overview

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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, are quarterly publications highlighting employment data, labor market information, and business news.

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Visit "Labor Market Information" at www.dws.state.nm.us
for more information.

COMING IN THE SPRING ISSUE

The Spring 2012 Regional Review will focus on agriculture commodity statistics and related employment in the southwestern and eastern regions of New Mexico. The publication will include general employment information for the third quarter of 2011 and recent business news for New Mexico's counties.

HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT IN NEW MEXICO

INCREASING DEMAND FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

The health care industry is projected to grow more than almost any other industry nationwide in the next two years. In New Mexico, the health care industry is the number one employing industry and one of the top projected growth industries. Much of the projected growth nationally and in the state is attributed to three main factors that are impacting the demand for health care services—an aging baby boomer population, technological advances in medicine, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), signed into law on March 23, 2010, by President Obama. The ACA launched a new perspective to projecting growth in health care professions, as the individual insurance mandate and expanded coverage options created by the act are projected to increase the demand for health care services and providers.¹

With the increasing demand for health care, more and more health care professionals are needed. In recent years, New Mexico's communities, especially those that are rural, have experienced shortages in a variety of health care professions. Projected increases in demand mean these shortages are in danger of quickly becoming much larger and much less manageable.

There are many national and statewide efforts to evaluate and address health care shortages. One of the most recent efforts in New Mexico is being led by the Workforce Assessment and Recommendations Partnership (NM WARP). Funded through a grant under the ACA, NM WARP is currently assessing health care workforce shortages, creating a system for improved workforce data collection and analysis, and providing recommendations on improved health care workforce recruitment and retention efforts around the state. In addition, Senate Bill 14 (SB14), "Health Care Workforce Data Collection, Analysis and Policy," was introduced, amended and enacted by the Fiftieth Legislature, First Session, 2011. SB14, now referred to as NMSA 1978, §§24-14C-1 to 24-14C-6 (2011), directs the NM Department of Health



to collect data regarding demographics, specialties, and professions in the state's health care workforce. It also directs regulatory boards to collect data from applicants at the time of licensure or at renewal. The new statute is an additional step in ensuring that future health care workforce data is collected at a level of detail that allows for improved estimation of workforce shortages.

Data collection efforts under the new mandate are focused on improving existing labor market information. The current primary source of labor market data is generated by the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS). NMDWS collects a large amount of labor market information for a long list of industries and occupations. Data is pulled from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES), and in-house projections, generated using BLS projections modeling and methodology. While this data is very useful in looking at existing health care employment, data collected under the new mandate in coming years will include additional detail on professions, medical specialties, wages, and location of practice. This detailed data will enhance future analysis of the health care workforce and growth trends.



¹ For more information on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, visit <http://www.health.care.gov/law/index.html>.

THE PROJECTED GROWTH OF HEALTHCARE



IMPLICATIONS OF POLICY, TECHNOLOGY, AND POPULATION

While historic growth in health care has been positive for both industries and

occupations, it is projected growth that is impacted by policy, technology, and population changes. Growth rates of health care professionals in the past are no longer

projected to meet health care service demand. And, while overall health care employment in New Mexico is currently projected to grow at close to the same rate as was experienced between 2005 and 2010, it is likely that the results of demographic, technological, and policy-based changes will generate revisions in these projections as the impact on health care demand is fully realized. Additionally, the data collected by

NMDWS is at a high level, especially the data related to occupational employment. Further detailed data on the varying health care occupations, including part-time and full-time workers and specialties, will shed a brighter light on specific occupational and geographic shortages throughout the state.



HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT: AN OVERVIEW

HEALTH CARE INDUSTRIES

In 2010, there were approximately 122,600 people employed in 6,000 establishments in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry (Health Care industry) in New Mexico. The Health Care industry comprises several sub-sectors, including Ambulatory Health Care Services, Hospitals, Nursing and Residential Care Facilities, and Social Assistance. Health Care industry employment does not just include health care workers such as physicians, nurses, and pharmacists, but all types of occupations that work in establishments that provide health care services.

Employment in health care grew 16 percent between 2005 and 2010 (3.1 percent annually). Of the four health care sub-sectors, Ambulatory Health Care Services and Hospitals had the largest employment in 2010 (36 percent and 29 percent, respectively), while the greatest employment growth



occurred in Social Assistance and Hospitals (7.4 and 3.7 percent annually, respectively). Nursing and Residential Care Facilities experienced a decrease in employment during this period (of about 5 percent in total).^{1,2}

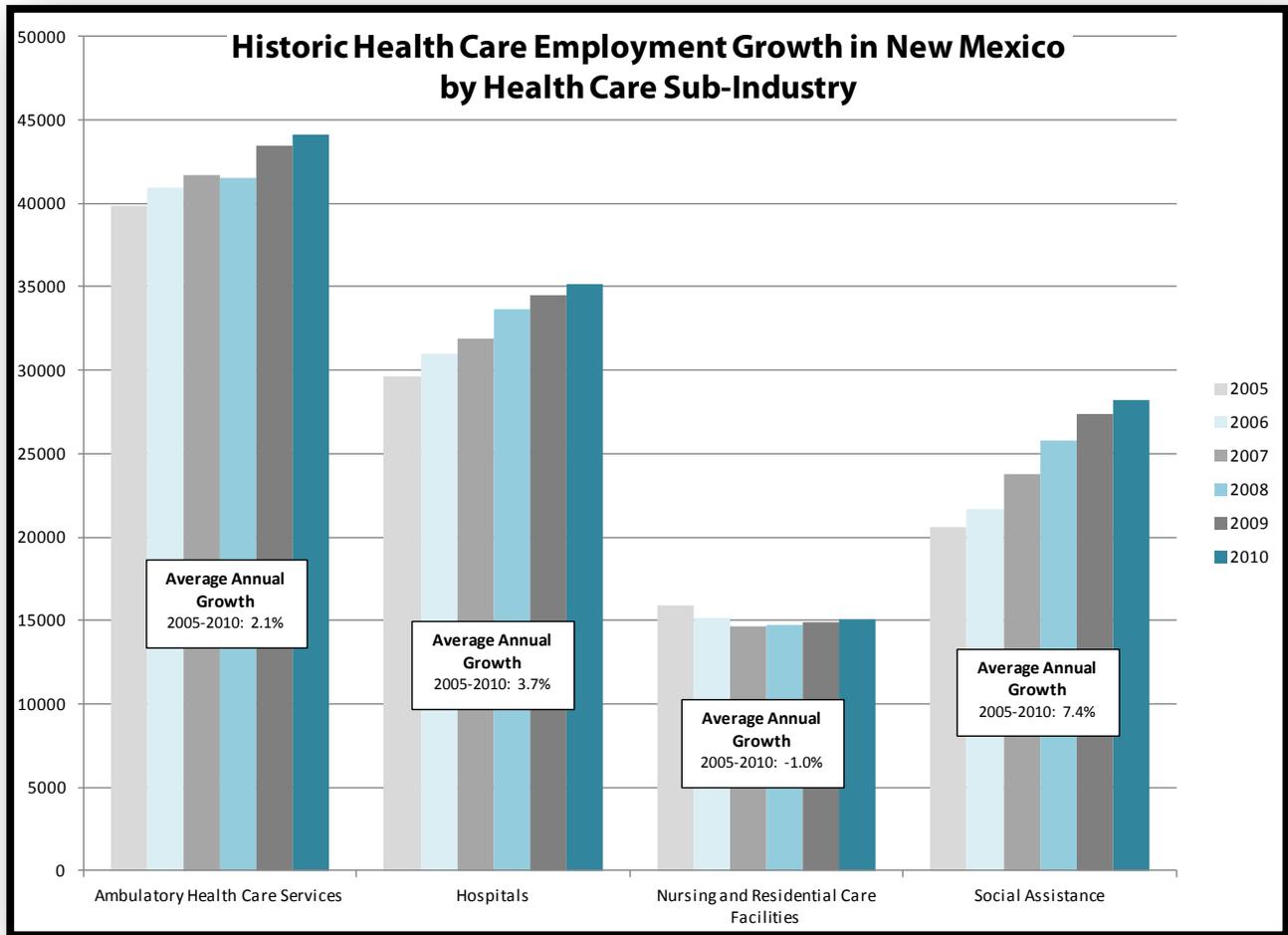
Employment in the Health Care industry is projected to grow significantly by 2019. In fact, it is projected to grow the most of any industry in New Mexico. While employment



“The Health Care industry employs a wide variety of occupations, is the largest employing industry in New Mexico, and is projected to experience the largest amount of growth of any industry between now and 2019.”

¹ Note that at the time of this publication, the most current employment projection data available was for the 2009 to 2019 time period. Therefore, all projected growth information is presented with 2009 as the initial year of employment data.

² For more detailed definitions of sub-industries, visit <http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/>.



growth has been greatest in Social Assistance and Hospitals, the largest growth is projected to occur in Ambulatory Health Care Services, with employment projected to grow approximately 30 percent from 2009 levels. Physician and dental offices, home health care, and medical laboratories are some examples of the types of facilities that fall under this sub-industry.

It is important to note that 2019 projections were generated prior to the passage of the ACA. Impacts of the ACA on health care demand will likely cause these projection estimates to be adjusted in upcoming iterations.

Projected Health Care Employment in New Mexico and Its Regions, 2009 to 2019

Region/Industry	2009	2019	Change	% Change
Central NM	53,360	63,250	9,890	18.5%
Eastern NM	16,080	20,210	4,130	25.7%
Northern NM	27,260	34,750	7,490	27.5%
Southwestern NM	13,890	18,130	4,240	30.5%
New Mexico	113,080	140,100	27,020	23.9%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	42,070	55,440	13,370	31.8%
Hospitals	34,490	38,790	4,310	12.5%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	12,690	15,440	2,750	21.7%
Social Assistance	23,840	30,430	6,590	27.6%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

Notes: 2009 employment estimates do not directly match those presented by the QCEW program because projection estimates and QCEW estimates differ in the types of facilities included in the estimates, with differences occurring mostly in public facilities.

HEALTH CARE OCCUPATIONS

While industry employment provides an overall picture of jobs related to health care business activities and services, occupational employment provides a better picture of specific health care jobs and their growth trends because health care occupations represent workers who are directly related to providing health care services. The following chart lists the top 10 health care occupations by largest employment, largest projected growth, and fastest growth.³ Many of the largest

employing occupations are anticipated to experience the greatest growth between 2009 and 2019. For example, Registered Nurses, Home Health Aides, and Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists all are high employment and high growth occupations, likely providing a large number of health care jobs between now and 2019.

While fast growth occupations indicate those jobs that are projected to grow quickly from their existing employment, many of these jobs are

“In-demand Health Care occupations in New Mexico span from positions that require little education and offer lower wages to some that require significant education and offer higher wages. This range indicates that these positions are available to a broad group of people with varying knowledge, skills, and experience.”

not high employing. Exceptions to this situation are Home Health Aides, Pharmacy Technicians, and Medical Assistants. These occupations have high employment, high growth, and fast growth and, as a result, draw attention for being in

high demand. Don't discount occupations that are fast growing, however, as they still represent jobs that will be providing more opportunities in the coming years.

³ It is important to remember that this data provides a narrow snapshot of occupations that are in demand. There are likely many high demand occupations beyond this list. Improved data and analysis will provide evidence of the occupational shortages that are not always evident in the existing data.

Top 10 Health Care Health Care Occupations in New Mexico - Employment & Growth, 2009-2019

LARGEST EMPLOYMENT (2009)		10-Year Projected	
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	Growth	% Growth
Registered Nurses	13,520	3,030	22.4%
Home Health Aides	9,140	4,330	47.3%
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	8,240	1,480	18.0%
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	5,370	850	15.7%
Medical Assistants	3,740	1,120	29.9%
Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists	2,650	300	11.3%
Pharmacy Technicians	2,030	700	34.2%
Dental Assistants	1,940	540	28.0%
Family & General Practitioners	1,610	300	18.6%
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers	1,610	200	12.4%

GREATEST GROWTH (2009-2019)		10-Year Projected	
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	Growth	% Growth
Home Health Aides	9,140	4,330	47.3%
Registered Nurses	13,520	3,030	22.4%
Nursing Aides,	8,240	1,480	18.0%
Medical Assistants	3,740	1,120	29.9%
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	5,370	850	15.7%
Pharmacy Technicians	2,030	700	34.2%
Dental Assistants	1,940	540	28.0%
Medical & Clinical	1,260	320	25.5%
Pharmacists	1,570	320	20.3%
Clinical, Counseling & School Psychologists	2,650	300	11.3%

FASTEST GROWTH (2009-2019)		10-Year Projected	
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	Growth	% Growth
Home Health Aides	9,140	4,330	47.3%
Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists*	***	***	***
Pharmacy Technicians	2,030	700	34.2%
Physical Therapist Aides	290	90	31.5%
Medical Assistants	3,740	1,120	29.9%
Radiation Therapists	120	30	29.6%
Athletic Trainers	120	40	29.4%
Physical Therapists	960	280	29.3%
Dental Hygienists	890	260	29.0%
Physician Assistants	810	230	28.6%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

*Denotes an occupation where employment data is suppressed.

HEALTH CARE OCCUPATIONS: EDUCATION AND WAGES

While many health care occupations will be in high demand in the coming years, the health care occupations that are identified in the labor market data to be in highest demand range in educational requirements, and therefore wages, providing opportunity at multiple levels. Likewise, there are many health care career pathways that allow individuals to progress in their career and increase their wages with additional educational and professional experience. Becoming a Home Health Aide, Pharmacy Technician, or Medical Assistant does not require a significant amount of higher education, but they are entry-level positions that provide opportunity to grow in the medical field. Occupations that are not entry-level and that require additional education include Registered Nurses (RNs), Psychologists, and Pharmacists. These jobs are also in demand because they will produce a significant number of jobs,

even if their growth is not as fast as others. RNs typically need an associate's degree, Psychologists typically need a master's degree, and Pharmacists usually need a doctorate degree.

The average hourly wage for Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations in New Mexico, was \$28.13 in 2010. These occupations include practitioners that often earn significantly higher wages (e.g. Physicians, Pharmacists). Health Care Support Occupation wages were lower, at \$11.12 an hour. Wages for both occupational groups was highest in the central counties, followed by the northern region. Again, these areas also have the largest number of health care workers in

Health Care Wages in New Mexico, 2010

Area	2010 Average Hourly Wage	
	Health Care Practitioners & Technical Occupations	Health Care Support Occupations
Central NM	\$29.52	\$11.83
Eastern NM	\$24.57	\$9.66
Northern NM	\$27.31	\$10.93
Southwestern NM	\$26.85	\$10.41
New Mexico	\$28.13	\$11.12

Source: NMDWS Occupational Employment Survey.

the state. To find out how much specific health care jobs pay, visit <http://laser.state.nm.us/>.

The following table provides wages and typical education requirement information for several health care occupations that have been identified, using existing data, to be in demand in the coming years. This is not a comprehensive list but only a snapshot of some of those high demand jobs that can currently be identified using that existing data.



Wages and Typical Education Requirements for Select Health Care Occupations in New Mexico, 2010

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage	Typical Education Requirement
Home Health Aides	\$9.30	Short-Term On-the-Job Training
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	\$11.84	Short-Term On-the-Job Training
Medical Assistants	\$13.31	Moderate-Term On-the-Job Training
Pharmacy Technicians	\$14.04	Moderate-Term On-the-Job Training
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers	\$20.39	Master's Degree
Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors	\$26.71	Master's Degree
Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists	\$28.20	Master's Degree
Registered Nurses	\$31.78	Associate's Degree
Speech-Language Pathologists	\$32.88	Master's Degree
Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	\$33.24	Bachelor's Degree
Physical Therapists	\$33.77	Master's Degree
Pharmacists	\$51.64	First Professional Degree
Family and General Practitioners	\$93.47	First Professional Degree

Source: NMDWS Occupational Employment Survey.

REGIONAL HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT

HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT IN NEW MEXICO'S FOUR REGIONS

There are many similarities in the Health Care industry and health care occupations in New Mexico's four regions. In every region, the Health Care industry was the largest employing industry and often surpassed all other industries in projected total and/or percentage employment growth. Historical employment growth in the Health Care industry varied from county to county and did not appear to be dependent on the size of the county's population.

There are some very similar trends in the types of occupations that are projected to be in high demand. Every region is projected to see significant growth in the same entry-level positions, including Home Health Aides, Medical Assistants, and Nursing Aides and Orderlies. Likewise, there are more Registered Nurses in each region than any other health care occupation, and the demand for Registered Nurses is projected to continue. In most regions, General and Family Practitioners and Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists were also in high demand. In each region high demand occupations did vary, but every region's occupations range from entry-level positions to positions that require extensive education and experience.

The following sections discuss the Health Care industry and health care occupations in each of New Mexico's four regions. As mentioned previously, industry employment varies from occupational employment in that industries include all of those employed in health care facilities, not just those that provide patient care. Occupational employment refers to specific jobs and their tasks. And one key issue remains the same for every region--while labor market data may give an

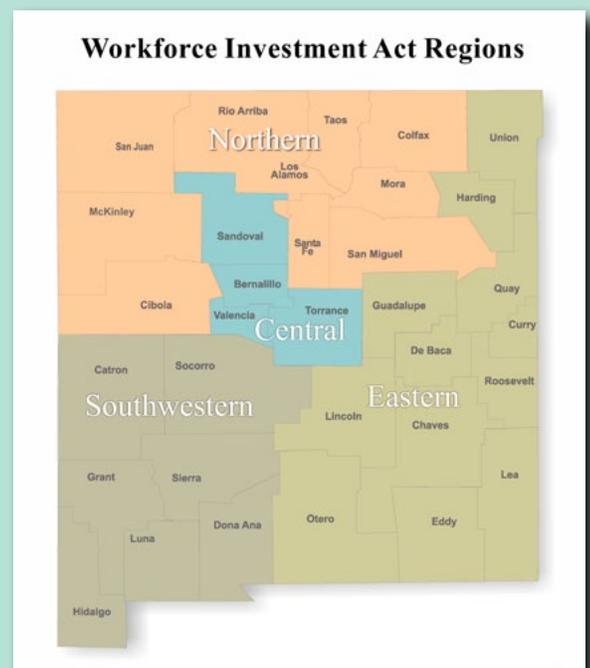
idea of some occupations that will be in high demand, it falls short in thoroughly evaluating the shortages in most health care workers that New Mexico and almost all other states face as demand for health care services increases.

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.



Central Counties: Health Care Employment

HEALTH CARE INDUSTRIES

Health care employment in the central counties represents approximately 47 percent of total health care employment in New Mexico. This ratio is slightly higher than the central region's share of state population (approximately 43 percent).¹ The Health Care industry is the largest employing industry in the central region of New Mexico, with 46,430 people employed at 2,410 establishments (as of

second quarter 2011).² Industry employment is highly concentrated in Bernalillo and Valencia counties, while Sandoval and Tarrant counties have seen the most significant percentage growth in the last five years. Between 2005 and 2010, Health Care industry employment grew by approximately 3.7 percent annually in the region. This strong growth is projected to continue, with health care employment growing approximately 19 percent between 2009 and 2019, the second largest percentage and the largest total growth of all industries.

In 2010, Health Care industry employment in Bernalillo County

“Employment growth in the Health Care industry in the central counties has been fastest in Sandoval and Tarrant counties, while Bernalillo County still holds more than 90 percent of central region and 43 percent of state health care employment.”

comprised 43 percent of statewide industry employment. This reflects Bernalillo County's large share of population and commerce in the state. Health Care industry employment may be largest in Bernalillo, but it is a larger employing industry in Valencia County, comprising nearly a quarter of total county employment.

And while health care employment in Sandoval and Tarrant counties comprises a smaller percentage of total county employment, both counties have experienced significant growth in the Health Care industry, ranging from 14 to 23 percent annually. A portion of the growth in Tarrant County was due to non-

Top 5 Industry Groups in the Central Region by Percentage Growth, 2009 to 2019

Occupational Group	2009	2019	Change	% Change
Accommodation and Food Services	35,240	42,570	7,330	21%
Health Care and Social Assistance	53,360	63,250	9,890	19%
Real Estate and Rental	5,290	6,260	970	18%
Administrative and Support Services	28,210	33,190	4,980	18%
Retail Trade	41,670	47,780	6,110	15%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

¹ It is important to note, however, that health care employment to population ratios are not the most comprehensive measure of health care shortages. There are many other factors, such as average age and proximity to health care facilities, which also play a role in the demand for health care services. Additionally, the type of employment does not always reflect the demand for specific health care services within a geographic area. Rural areas often experience shortages related to specific professions. It is important to ensure that rural areas have, at a minimum, primary care providers such as general physicians, nurses, dentists, and many others.

² Estimates are rounded.

Historic Health Care Employment Growth in the Central Counties, 2005 to 2010

County	Population 2010	Health Care Employment		Average Annual % Growth	Percentage of		Industry Rank by Employment
		2005	2010		Statewide Industry Employment	Total County Employment (2010)	
Bernalillo	662,560	44,760	52,160	3.3%	42.6%	16.7%	#1
Sandoval	131,560	1,070	1,820	14.0%	1.5%	6.3%	#11
Torrance	16,380	150	320	22.7%	0.3%	10.2%	#5
Valencia	76,570	2,840	3,550	5.0%	2.9%	24.4%	#1

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

*Note: The increase in employment in Torrance County is partially due to a non-economic code change in the QCEW program in 2009, indicating that the increase was not necessarily newly create jobs, but jobs that were reclassified from another county.

economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program in 2009. This employment was not necessarily newly created jobs, but jobs that were reclassified from another County. For Sandoval County, growth has increased significantly in 2011 and is expected to increase more in 2012 with the opening of two major hospitals in Rio Rancho--the Presbyterian Rust Medical Center, which opened on October 22, 2011, and the UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center, scheduled to open in July 2012.³

HEALTH CARE OCCUPATIONS

In 2009, total employment estimates ranked the Health Care Practitioners and Technical occupational group the sixth largest and the Health Care Support occupational group the tenth largest

in number of workers in the central counties. While not currently the largest occupational categories, health care occupations are projected to grow significantly by 2019. The two health care occupational groups are ranked sixth and first, respectively, in

projected employment growth between 2009 and 2019.

Based on existing data, many health care occupations are anticipated to experience large and fast growth over the next 10 years. Based on 10-year employment



³As of October 2011.



projections, eight of the top 10 employing health care occupations are also top growth occupations. These occupations mostly reflect what is shown to be in demand statewide, as the central region houses nearly half of all Health Care industry employment. The top three employing and large growth occupations are Registered Nurses, Home Health Aids, and Nursing Aids, Orderlies,

“Home Health Aides and Pharmacy Technicians are two of many health care occupations in the central region that are projected to be in high demand – growing quickly and in large numbers. Physical therapy positions are projected to grow quickly.”

and Attendants. Two occupations--Home Health Aids and Pharmacy Technicians--are also projected to not

only grow in numbers, but grow quickly in relation to their existing employment. Pharmacists and several

specialty psychologists are some of the higher paying jobs that are projected to be in high demand. All of these occupations are in high demand, with strong job growth prospects in the central counties. There are many other health care occupations that are in high demand that will be more clearly identified with improved labor market data in the coming years.

Top 5 Occupational Groups in the Central Region by Percentage Growth, 2009 to 2019

Occupational Group	2009	2019	Change	% Change
Health Care Support Occupations	14,360	18,037	3,677	26%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	33,520	40,657	7,137	21%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	15,840	19,055	3,215	20%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	27,910	33,067	5,157	18%
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	22,850	26,769	3,919	17%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

Top 10 Health Care Occupations in Central New Mexico - Employment & Growth, 2009-2019

LARGEST EMPLOYMENT (2009)		10-Year Projected	
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	Growth	% Growth
Registered Nurses	6,470	1,050	16.2%
Home Health Aides	5,320	2,310	43.4%
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants*	***	***	***
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	3,140	260	8.2%
Clinical, Counseling & School Psychologists	1,820	280	15.3%
Medical Assistants	1,750	440	25.0%
Pharmacy Technicians	1,160	430	37.1%
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers	1,030	40	3.9%
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	970	100	10.0%
Pharmacists	930	200	21.9%

GREATEST GROWTH (2009-2019)		10-Year Projected	
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	Growth	% Growth
Home Health Aides	5,320	2,310	43.4%
Registered Nurses	6,470	1,050	16.2%
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants*	***	***	***
Medical Assistants	1,750	440	25.0%
Pharmacy Technicians	1,160	430	37.1%
Clinical, Counseling & School Psychologists	1,820	280	15.3%
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	3,140	260	8.2%
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	910	240	26.1%
Dental Assistants	910	230	25.3%
Pharmacists	930	200	21.9%

FASTEST GROWTH (2009-2019)		10-Year Projected	
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	Growth	% Growth
Biomedical Engineers	20	10	61.9%
Orthotists & Prosthetists*	***	***	***
Home Health Aides	5,320	2,310	43.4%
Pharmacy Technicians	1,160	430	37.1%
Radiation Therapists*	***	***	***
Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	350	120	34.8%
Physical Therapist Aides	140	50	31.3%
Surgical Technologists	250	80	30.0%
Athletic Trainers	110	30	27.9%
Physical Therapists	480	130	26.6%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

*Denotes an occupation where employment data is suppressed.

Eastern Counties: Health Care Employment

HEALTH CARE INDUSTRIES

Health care employment in the eastern counties represents approximately 14 percent of total health care employment in New Mexico. This ratio is slightly lower than the eastern region's share of state population (approximately 17 percent).¹ The Health Care industry is the largest employing industry in the eastern region of New Mexico, with 15,870 people employed at 960 establishments (as of second quarter 2011).² Industry employment is highly concentrated

in the most populated counties, including Chaves, Lea, Otero, Eddy, and Curry. Between 2006 and 2010, Health Care industry employment grew by approximately 2.0 percent annually.³ This growth is projected to continue, with health care employment growing approximately 26 percent between 2009 and 2019, the largest percentage and total growth of all industries.

The Health Care industry is the first or second largest employing industry in most of the eastern counties. Between 2005 and 2010, all but three eastern counties experienced average annual growth of 2.0 percent or greater. In the most populated counties, employment growth ranged from

“Employment in the Health Care industry in the eastern counties is projected to grow more than any other industry by 2019. Nearly all of the eastern counties have experienced strong health care employment growth over the last five years.”

3.1 to 4.5 percent, with Lea County the only highly populated county that experienced employment losses. It is difficult to truly evaluate Lea County employment losses because a portion of the losses in 2008 and 2009 were due to non-economic code changes in the QCEW program. This means that these losses may not necessarily reflect job losses, but reclassification of employment to another county. It is possible

Lea County really experienced minimal losses to minimal gains over the period.

Guadalupe and Otero both had the highest average annual growth, while Lea, Lincoln, and Quay counties experienced job losses between 0.5 and 2.8 percent. Due to the rural populations of many eastern counties, small increases and decreases in employment can significantly impact overall employment

Top 5 Industry Groups in the Eastern Region by Percentage Growth, 2009 to 2019

Occupational Group	2009	2019	Change	% Change
Health Care & Social Assistance	16,080	20,210	4,130	26%
Mining	10,940	13,380	2,440	22%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,310	1,530	220	16%
Professional, Scientific & Technical	3,670	4,120	450	12%
Total Local Government	6,350	6,980	630	10%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

¹ It is important to note, however, that health care employment to population ratios are not the most comprehensive measure of health care shortages. There are many other factors, such as average age and proximity to health care facilities, which also play a role in the demand for health care services. Additionally, the type of employment does not always reflect the demand for specific health care services within a geographic area. Rural areas often experience shortages related to specific professions. It is important to ensure that rural areas have, at a minimum, primary care providers such as general physicians, nurses, dentists, and many others.

² Estimates are rounded.

³ Employment data for 2005 for the eastern region is suppressed, therefore, growth is based on a 4-year historical data set.

Historic Health Care Employment Growth in the Eastern Counties, 2005 to 2010

County	Population 2010	Health Care Employment		Average Annual % Growth	Percentage of		
		2005	2010		Statewide Industry Employment	Total County Employment (2010)	Industry Rank by Employment
Chaves	65,650	3,480	4,040	3.2%	3.3%	18.9%	#1
Curry	48,380	2,690	3,160	3.5%	2.6%	18.8%	#1
De Baca	2,020	---	90	---	0.1%	18.1%	#2
Eddy	53,830	2,360	2,730	3.1%	2.2%	11.6%	#2
Guadalupe	4,690	100	150	10.0%	0.1%	11.8%	#4
Harding	700	---	0	---	---	---	---
Lea	64,730	2,960	2,550	-2.8%	2.1%	9.6%	#3
Lincoln	20,500	660	620	-1.2%	0.5%	9.2%	#4
Otero	63,800	2,070	2,540	4.5%	2.1%	14.9%	#2
Quay	9,040	370	360	-0.5%	0.3%	13.1%	#4
Roosevelt	19,850	760	840	2.1%	0.7%	13.0%	#2
Union	4,550	220	260	3.6%	0.2%	20.6%	#2

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

Note: If information is not provided, it has been suppressed due to small data counts.

*Note: The decrease in employment in Lea County is partially due to non-economic code changes in 2008 and 2009 in the QCEW program, indicating that the decrease was not necessarily lost jobs, but jobs that were reclassified to another county.

growth in an industry and in the county as a whole.

HEALTH CARE OCCUPATIONS

In 2009, total employment estimates ranked the Health Care Practitioners and Technical occupational group the ninth largest and the Health Care Support occupational group the thirteenth

largest in number of workers in the eastern counties. While not the largest occupational categories, health care occupations are projected to grow quickly and significantly by 2019, surpassing percentage growth in all other occupational groups. The two health care occupational groups are ranked second and first, respectively, in

projected percentage employment growth between 2009 and 2019.

Based on existing data, many health care occupations are anticipated to experience large and fast growth over the next 10 years. Based on 10-year employment projections, nine of the top 10 employing health care occupations are also top growth

occupations. Registered Nurses and Home Health Aids have the largest number of health care professionals working in the eastern counties and are anticipated to grow significantly in numbers by 2019. Three occupations--Home Health Aids, Medical Assistants, and Speech and Language Pathologists--are also projected to not only grow in numbers, but grow quickly in relation to their existing employment. Finally, Dental Assistants are also projected to be in high demand due to quick, sizable growth.

“Two high-paying health care occupations that are projected to be in high demand in the coming years in the eastern region include Speech and Language Pathologists and Family and General Practitioners.”



All of these occupations, and many others, are examples of jobs that will be in demand, with strong job growth prospects in the eastern counties.

One last occupation will likely be a focus of policy makers, labor market analysts, and educators in the coming years--Family and

General Practitioners. Family and General Practitioners are key primary health care providers that are generally considered a cornerstone component to ensuring necessary and adequate health care is provided and accessible to an area's population. There is a larger number of Family and General

Practitioners compared to other health care occupations and these practitioners are projected to grow significantly by 2019. While it is commonly accepted that this is a high demand occupation throughout the state due to shortages that are not always captured in labor market data, the

occupation is not always identified in the top employing or growth occupations (such as in the central region). The labor market data for the eastern region supports the position that demand exists for this occupation and can be utilized when identifying and addressing health care workforce shortages.

Top 5 Occupational Groups in the Eastern Region by Percentage Growth, 2009 to 2019

Occupational Group	2009	2019	Change	% Change
Health Care Support Occupations	3,920	5,120	1,200	31%
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	5,530	6,820	1,290	23%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	12,410	15,090	2,680	22%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	5,120	6,200	1,080	21%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	15,150	18,170	3,020	20%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

Top 10 Health Care Occupations in Eastern New Mexico - Employment & Growth, 2009-2019

LARGEST EMPLOYMENT (2009)			
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	10-Year Projected Growth	% Growth
Registered Nurses	1,570	420	26.6%
Home Health Aides	1,220	620	51.0%
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants*	***	***	***
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	710	150	21.0%
Medical Assistants	550	200	36.2%
Pharmacy Technicians	310	80	24.4%
Family & General Practitioners	290	60	21.5%
Speech-Language Pathologists*	***	***	***
Educational, Vocational & School Counselors	220	30	12.1%
Physician Assistants	210	60	30.4%

GREATEST GROWTH (2009-2019)			
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	10-Year Projected Growth	% Growth
Home Health Aides	1,220	620	51.0%
Registered Nurses	1,570	420	26.6%
Medical Assistants	550	200	36.2%
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants*	***	***	***
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	710	150	21.0%
Speech-Language Pathologists*	***	***	***
Pharmacy Technicians	310	80	24.4%
Dental Assistants	190	70	37.3%
Physician Assistants	210	60	30.4%
Family & General Practitioners	290	60	21.5%

FASTEST GROWTH (2009-2019)			
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	10-Year Projected Growth	% Growth
Biomedical Engineers*	***	***	***
Home Health Aides	1,220	620	51.0%
Physical Therapist Aides*	***	***	***
Physical Therapist Assistants	70	30	40.6%
Occupational Health & Safety Technicians*	***	***	***
Dental Assistants	190	70	37.3%
Speech-Language Pathologists*	***	***	***
Dental Hygienists	70	30	36.2%
Medical Assistants	550	200	36.2%
Psychiatrists*	***	***	***

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

*Denotes an occupation where employment data is suppressed.

Northern Counties: Health Care Employment

HEALTH CARE INDUSTRIES

Health care employment in the northern counties represents approximately 25 percent of total health care employment in New Mexico.¹ The Health Care industry is the largest employing industry in the northern region of New Mexico, with 25,280 people employed at 1,490 establishments (as of second quarter 2011).² The industry is also ranked in the

top two industries for employment for all northern counties, excluding Los Alamos. Between 2005 and 2010, Health Care industry employment grew by approximately 2.5 percent annually. This strong growth is projected to continue, with health care employment growing approximately 27.5 percent between 2009 and 2019, the largest percentage and total growth of all industries.

In 2010, nearly 70 percent of total Health Care industry employment was located in the three most populous northern counties - Santa Fe, San Juan, and McKinley.

“Employment in the health care industry in the northern counties is projected to grow more than any other industry. The decrease in employment in the more rural northern counties over the last five years indicates that Health Care workers tend to locate to more populated areas.”

Those counties also house close to 70 percent of the total population. While Santa Fe County experienced the greatest growth in health care industry workers between 2005 and 2010 (8,960), Cibola County experienced the largest percentage growth,

with employment growing 7.3 percent annually.³ In the three least populated counties (Los Alamos, Colfax, and Mora), employment either did not grow or declined over the five-year period. While the health care industry is still a major employer, representing

Top 5 Industry Groups in the Northern Region by Percentage Growth, 2009 to 2019

Occupational Group	2009	2019	Change	% Change
Health Care & Social Assistance	27,260	34,750	7,490	27%
Accommodation & Food Services	20,680	25,800	5,120	25%
Other Services (Except Government)	6,050	7,500	1,450	24%
Construction	11,070	13,540	2,470	22%
Educational Services	19,600	23,150	3,550	18%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

¹ While this corresponds to population estimates, with about 25 percent of the total statewide population residing in the northern counties, health care employment to population ratios are not the most comprehensive measure of health care shortages. There are many other factors, such as average age and proximity to health care facilities, which also play a role in the demand for health care services. Additionally, the type of employment does not always reflect the demand for specific health care services within a geographic area. Rural areas often experience shortages related to specific professions. It is important to ensure that rural areas have, at a minimum, primary care providers such as general physicians, nurses, dentists, and many others.

² Estimates are rounded.

³ Health care contracts obtained by a company in Santa Fe County in 2006 moved over 700 workers from Rio Arriba County to Santa Fe County. Santa Fe still had the largest increase in jobs during the 5-year period, even without the increase from Rio Arriba. With lower population and employment in Rio Arriba County, a decrease in employment of this amount is significant.

Historic Health Care Employment Growth in the Northern Counties, 2005 to 2010

County	Population 2010	Health Care Employment		Average Annual % Growth	Percentage of		Industry Rank by Employment
		2005	2010		Statewide Industry Employment	Total County Employment (2010)	
Cibola	27,210	1,100	1,500	7.3%	1.2%	19.3%	#1
Colfax	13,750	920	920	0.0%	0.8%	18.2%	#1
Los Alamos	17,950	990	880	-2.2%	0.7%	5.2%	#4
McKinley	71,490	4,270	4,890	2.9%	4.0%	22.9%	#1
Mora	4,880	240	150	-7.5%	0.1%	20.1%	#2
Rio Arriba*	40,250	2,440	1,780	-5.4%	1.5%	16.9%	#2
San Juan	130,040	5,820	6,740	3.2%	5.5%	14.1%	#1
San Miguel	29,390	2,370	2,530	1.4%	2.1%	31.3%	#1
Santa Fe	144,170	7,080	8,960	5.3%	7.3%	14.8%	#2
Taos	32,940	1,500	1,690	2.5%	1.4%	16.2%	#2

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

*Note: The decline in employment in Rio Arriba County is partially due to the loss of a health care contract in 2006. Employment moved to Santa Fe County.

nearly 20 percent of all employment in several northern counties, employment declines in more rural areas indicate that health care services may continue to be to converging in more populated communities.

HEALTH CARE OCCUPATIONS

In 2009, total employment estimates ranked the Health Care Practitioners and Technical occupational group the eighth largest and the Health Care Support occupational group the twelfth largest in number of workers in the northern counties. While not currently the largest occupational categories,

health care occupations are projected to grow significantly by 2019. The two health care occupational groups are ranked third and first, respectively, in projected percentage and total employment growth between 2009 and 2019.

Based on existing data, many health care occupations are anticipated to experience large and fast growth over the next 10 years. Based on 10-year employment projections, eight of the top 10

employing health care occupations in the northern counties are also top growth occupations. Registered Nurses, Home Health Aids, and Nursing Aids, Orderlies, and Attendants all have the largest number of health care professionals practicing in the northern counties and

are anticipated to grow significantly in numbers by 2019. As in the eastern counties of the state, two occupations - Home Health Aids and Medical Assistants - are also projected to not only grow in numbers, but grow quickly in relation to their existing employment. Finally, Occupational Health

“As in other regions, jobs for Registered Nurses, Home Health Aides, and Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants are projected to increase significantly in the northern counties. Other in-demand jobs include Family and General Practitioners and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers.”

and Safety Specialists and Pharmacy Technicians are two additional occupations that, while not in the top 10 employing, are projected to have some of the largest and fastest growth. These occupations are in demand with strong job growth prospects in the northern counties.

There are several other occupations that are not projected to grow fast but have a large number of workers and are projected to grow in numbers. Key examples include Registered Nurses, Family and General Practitioners, several counselor and psychologist occupations, and Mental

Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers (which is unique to the northern region). RNs and Family and General Practitioners, in particular, are commonly considered key primary health care occupations needed to provide necessary and adequate health care in all communities.

These are high demand occupations throughout the state due to shortages that are not always captured in existing labor market data.

Top 5 Occupational Groups in the Northern Region by Percentage Growth, 2009 to 2019

Occupational Group	2009	2019	Change	% Change
Health Care Support Occupations	6,320	8,290	1,970	31%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	19,060	24,100	5,040	26%
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	10,570	13,170	2,600	25%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	10,950	13,600	2,650	24%
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	2,530	3,060	530	21%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.



Top 10 Health Care Occupations in Northern New Mexico - Employment & Growth, 2009-2019

LARGEST EMPLOYMENT (2009)		10-Year Projected	
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	Growth	% Growth
Registered Nurses	3,070	930	30.4%
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	2,100	520	24.8%
Home Health Aides	1,860	880	47.4%
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	1,100	270	24.5%
Medical Assistants	790	270	34.2%
Dental Assistants	520	140	26.1%
Family & General Practitioners	520	110	20.4%
Psychiatric Technicians*	***	***	***
Educational, Vocational & School Counselors	480	100	20.0%
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers	440	100	23.7%

GREATEST GROWTH (2009-2019)		10-Year Projected	
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	Growth	% Growth
Registered Nurses	3,070	930	30.4%
Home Health Aides	1,860	880	47.4%
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	2,100	520	24.8%
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	1,100	270	24.5%
Medical Assistants	790	270	34.2%
Dental Assistants	520	140	26.1%
Pharmacy Technicians	370	130	34.5%
Occupational Health & Safety Specialists*	***	***	***
Family & General Practitioners	520	110	20.4%
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers	440	100	23.7%

FASTEST GROWTH (2009-2019)		10-Year Projected	
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	Growth	% Growth
Biomedical Engineers*	***	***	***
Home Health Aides	1,860	880	47.4%
Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	10	0	40.0%
Occupational Health & Safety Specialists*	***	***	***
Physical Therapist Assistants	80	30	37.2%
Radiation Therapists*	***	***	***
Physician Assistants	220	80	35.4%
Surgical Technologists	90	30	34.8%
Pharmacy Technicians	370	130	34.5%
Medical Assistants	790	270	34.2%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

*Denotes an occupation where employment data is suppressed.

Southwestern Counties: Health Care Employment

HEALTH CARE INDUSTRIES

Health care employment in the southwestern counties represents approximately 13 percent of total health care employment in New Mexico. This ratio is slightly lower than the southwestern region's share of state population (approximately 15 percent).¹ The Health Care industry is the largest employing industry in the southwestern region of New Mexico, with 14,540 people employed at 860 establishments (as of second quarter

2011.² Over 70 percent of health care employment in the region is located in Doña Ana County. Between 2005 and 2010, Health Care industry employment grew by approximately 3.4 percent annually. This strong growth is projected to continue, with health care employment growing approximately 31 percent between 2009 and 2019, the largest percentage and total growth of all industries.

The Health Care industry is the largest employing industry in five of the seven southwestern counties. Between 2005 and 2010 all of the southwestern counties, excluding Hidalgo County, experienced positive average annual growth. Catron County experienced

“Employment growth in several of the southwestern counties has been very strong in the last five years. Health Care employment is expected to grow significantly in the southwestern region as a whole, with growth surpassing all other industries.”

the largest average annual percentage growth, due to the small population and health care employment in the county. Socorro, Sierra, and Doña Ana counties all experienced average annual growth above 4 percent. For its population, Grant County has high health care employment, comprising nearly a quarter of total county employment. Hidalgo County experienced a decline in health care employment of 10

percent, or about 130 jobs. Due to the rural populations of several southwestern counties, particularly Catron and Hidalgo counties, small increases and decreases in employment can significantly impact overall employment growth in an industry and in the county as a whole.

Top 5 Industry Groups in the Southwestern Region by Percentage Growth, 2009 to 2019

Occupational Group	2009	2019	Change	% Change
Health Care and Social Assistance	13,890	18,130	4,240	31%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	4,360	5,550	1,190	27%
Accommodation and Food Services	8,630	10,590	1,960	23%
Retail Trade	10,410	11,950	1,540	15%
Finance and Insurance	2,260	2,510	250	11%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

¹ It is important to note, however, that health care employment to population ratios are not the most comprehensive measure of health care shortages. There are many other factors, such as average age and proximity to health care facilities, which also play a role in the demand for health care services. Additionally, the type of employment does not always reflect the demand for specific health care services within a geographic area. Rural areas often experience shortages related to specific professions. It is important to ensure that rural areas have, at a minimum, primary care providers such as general physicians, nurses, dentists, and many others.

² Estimates are rounded.

Historic Health Care Employment Growth in the Southwestern Counties, 2005 to 2010

County	Population 2010	Health Care Employment		Average Annual % Growth	Percentage of		Industry Rank by Employment
		2005	2010		Statewide Industry Employment	Total County Employment (2010)	
Catron	3,730	30	80	33.3%	0.1%	13.0%	#1
Doña Ana	209,230	9,280	11,200	4.1%	9.1%	16.2%	#1
Grant	29,510	1,890	2,000	1.2%	1.6%	22.5%	#1
Hidalgo	4,890	260	130	-10.0%	0.1%	7.8%	#4
Luna	25,100	620	630	0.3%	0.5%	8.3%	#1
Sierra	11,990	580	720	4.8%	0.6%	21.9%	#3
Socorro	17,870	570	730	5.6%	0.6%	13.5%	#1

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

HEALTH CARE OCCUPATIONS

In 2009, total employment estimates ranked the Health Care Practitioners and Technical occupational group the sixth largest and the Health Care Support occupational group the ninth largest in number of workers in the southwestern counties. While not the largest occupational categories, health

care occupations are projected to grow quickly and significantly by 2019, surpassing percentage growth in all other occupational groups. The two health care occupational groups are ranked third and first, respectively, in projected percentage employment growth between 2009 and 2019.

Many health care occupations are anticipated to

experience large and fast growth over the next 10 years. Based on 10-year employment projections, nine of the top 10 employing health care occupations are also top growth occupations. Registered Nurses, Medical Assistants, Home Health Aids, and Nursing Aids, Orderlies, and Attendants are the health care occupations with the largest number of professionals working in the southwestern counties and whose employment is anticipated to grow significantly in numbers by 2019. Just as with the eastern and northern regions, two occupations - Home Health Aids and Medical Assistants - are also projected to not only grow in numbers, but grow quickly in

relation to their existing employment.

Examples of jobs that are projected to grow significantly but not as quickly in the southwestern part of the state (and similarly in other regions) include Registered Nurses, Family and General Practitioners, and several psychologist occupations. Unique to the southwestern region is the high employment and projected growth of Educational, Vocational and School Counselors. RNs and Family and

“There are many health care occupations in the southwestern region that are anticipated to be in high demand in the coming years. These jobs range from entry-level positions, such as Medical Assistants, to jobs that require significant education, such as Family and General Practitioners.”



Top 5 Occupational Groups in the Southwestern Region by Percentage Growth, 2009 to 2019

Occupational Group	2009	2019	Change	% Change
Health Care Support Occupations	3,000	4,020	1,020	34%
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	9,640	12,540	2,900	30%
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	5,080	6,550	1,470	29%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	4,550	5,730	1,180	26%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	8,580	10,550	1,970	23%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

General Practitioners, in particular, are considered two of many primary health care occupations that are instrumental to providing overall necessary and adequate health care in all

communities. These are high demand occupations throughout the state due to shortages that are not always captured in existing labor market data.



Top 10 Health Care Occupations in Southwestern New Mexico - Employment & Growth, 2009-201

LARGEST EMPLOYMENT (2009)		10-Year Projected	
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	Growth	% Growth
Registered Nurses	2,090	670	32.2%
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	1,000	310	30.6%
Medical Assistants	640	230	36.4%
Home Health Aides*	***	***	***
Family & General Practitioners	310	80	25.3%
Clinical, Counseling & School Psychologists	290	60	21.2%
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	280	80	27.8%
Educational, Vocational & School Counselors	240	60	26.5%
Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	240	30	10.6%
Dental Assistants	180	70	35.9%

GREATEST GROWTH (2009-2019)		10-Year Projected	
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	Growth	% Growth
Registered Nurses	2,090	670	32.2%
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	1,000	310	30.6%
Home Health Aides*	***	***	***
Medical Assistants	640	230	36.4%
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	280	80	27.8%
Family & General Practitioners	310	80	25.3%
Dental Assistants	180	70	35.9%
Educational, Vocational & School Counselors	240	60	26.5%
Clinical, Counseling & School Psychologists	290	60	21.2%
Physical Therapists	170	60	34.5%

Greatest Growth (2009-2019)		10-Year Projected	
Top 10 Health Care Occupations	2009	Growth	% Growth
Home Health Aides*	***	***	***
Occupational Therapist Assistants	40	20	47.2%
Radiation Therapists	20	10	47.1%
Physician Assistants	60	30	44.3%
Physical Therapist Aides	30	10	41.2%
Biological Technicians	100	40	38.1%
Substance Abuse & Behavioral Disorder Counselors*	***	***	***
Occupational Therapist Aides	30	10	37.5%
Medical Assistants	640	230	36.4%
Speech-Language Pathologists	150	50	36.2%

Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) & NMDWS.

*Denotes an occupation where employment data is suppressed.



REGIONAL BUSINESS NEWS

The latest economic news (as of October 2011) 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

The New Mexico Commission for Community Volunteerism will receive a \$1.6 million grant to support 412 jobs through a variety of AmeriCorps projects. The funds will finance positions at seven organizations throughout the state.

Pizza 9 extended to nine Albuquerque-area locations, 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.

Four of PNM's five planned solar installation - in Alamogordo, Albuquerque, Los Lunas, and Deming - are now operational, with the Las Vegas facility to be completed by year's end. Each site was expected create 80 to 100 construction jobs.

Defined Fitness will open a new club at Central Avenue and Unser Boulevard in Albuquerque later this year and has plans for three more sites statewide. The LASER system lists an employee size range of 20 to 49 for most existing locations.

Element Power in early June was nearing completion on phase one of the Macho Springs wind

farm in Luna County, with phase two scheduled to follow nearby in Sierra County. Each phase is expected to create 100 to 150 construction jobs.

Jack in the Box was set to open two new restaurants in September, one each in Albuquerque and Rio Rancho, bringing to seven the number of metro-area locations. The LASER system lists an employee size range of 20 to 49 for existing restaurants.

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 begin filming in July in multiple locations, employing at least 130 New Mexico crew members and more than 400 principal actors and extras.

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.

SunEdison has activated the first three of five solar power plants that make up the 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.

A pilot for the cable drama "Longmire" was expected to wrap up production in mid-May. Filming took place in several locations, employing at least 80 New Mexico crew members and more than 75 principal actors and extras.

Los Cuates was scheduled to open a restaurant in Santa Fe May 5 and another at the



Albuquerque International Sunport during summer. The LASER system lists an employee size range of 50 to 99 for the company's Menaul Boulevard location.

Universal Media Studios was scheduled to film the TV pilot "Reconstruction" in several northern New Mexico locations for three weeks beginning March 21, employing at least 125 crew members and more than 130 principal and background talent.

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

Mosaic, a healthcare provider to people with intellectual disabilities, will soon 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

Bernalillo County announced plans to hire 98 guards at the Metropolitan Detention Center and 27 firefighters, paramedics, and others to staff fire station number 29, near Osuna and Edith NE.



MSR-FSR, a high-tech engineering services company, planned a grand opening for March 24 at the site of its new world headquarters in Mesa del Sol. The company expected its local workforce to grow from 21 to 120 by July.

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.

At least 105 full-time CNM faculty and staff agreed to accept a buyout and retire this year to help the college save money. This group represents nearly 10 percent of the college's 1,100 full-time faculty and staff.

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.

Marvel Studios' production of the "The Avengers" began filming April 27 at Albuquerque Studios. Principal photography is scheduled to run through September, employing hundreds of local cast and crew.

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.

The New Mexico Symphony Orchestra announced plans to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy and cease operations after 79 years of existence. The move was expected to eliminate the jobs of about 80 musicians and staff members.

SANDOVAL COUNTY

The developer of 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.

A Five Guys Burgers and Fries restaurant opened near the southwest corner of Southern and Unser in Rio Rancho, employing 45 to 50 workers. This is the second of 15 locations the franchisee plans to open in New Mexico.

A new IHOP restaurant opened in Rio Rancho's Cabezon Commons area, employing 60 to 90 workers.

Premiere Cinemas opened a 14-screen movie theater June 9 at Southern and Unser in Rio Rancho, employing about 60 mostly part-time workers. The city had been without a theater since 1998.

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 \$93 million Sandoval Regional Medical Center is scheduled to open in Rio Rancho in July 2012, creating 350 construction jobs during peak activity. Officials expect a workforce of nearly 500 at the facility by 2014.

VALENCIA COUNTY

Masco Cabinetry plans to idle its Merillat Los Lunas manufacturing facility on August 12, eliminating 135 jobs. Company officials cited the decline in the housing market as the 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

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.

IHOP opened a new restaurant in Carlsbad on June 28, initially employing about 150. Chili's, Denny's, and Furr's cafeteria are the other national full-service chain restaurants with a presence in the city.

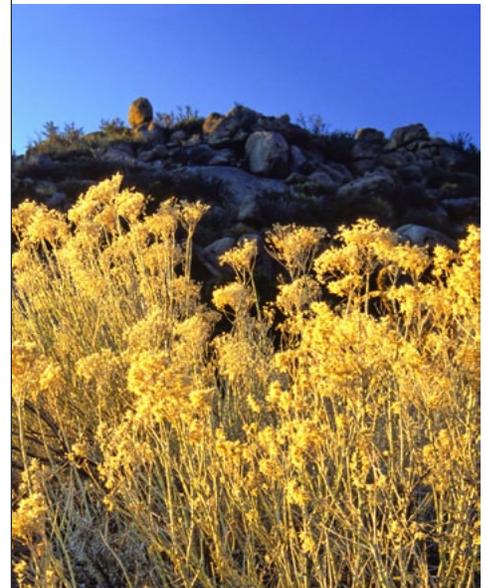
Construction is on schedule at the site of a new 94,000-square-foot Lowe's home improvement store in Carlsbad that is expected to open in early November. Employment averages around 120 at similar-sized Lowe's stores.

GUADALUPE COUNTY

GA Solar intends to begin construction by early 2013 on a \$1 million, 300-MW solar photovoltaic generating plant south of Santa Rosa that is expected to employ 300 construction workers and 75 permanent workers.

LEA COUNTY

Construction began April 26 on Lea County Electric





Cooperative's \$50 million natural gas-fired power generation plant in Lovington, with the facility scheduled to be fully operational by June 2012. Recent construction activity employed about 80 workers at the site.

Santa Fe-based El Dorado Biofuels broke ground on a pilot project in Jal and is expected to produce its first barrel of biofuel by July. The company planned to employ 100 by year-end.

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.

Joule Unlimited has started hiring workers for a planned biomass fuel operation to be built later this year on 1,200 acres near

Hobbs. Detailed employment information was not immediately available.

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.

ROOSEVELT COUNTY

Terra-Gen is planning to build a 150-MW wind energy farm in Roosevelt County that will begin commercial operations in 2013. The project is expected to create 200 construction jobs and 6 to 10 permanent positions.

Northern Region

CIBOLA COUNTY

A \$2 million, 20,000-square-foot

expansion is nearing completion at Laguna Pueblo's Dancing Eagle Casino. The new conference and event center, bingo hall, and diner are expected to add a combined 40 to 50 employees.

MCKINLEY COUNTY

The Gallup McKinley County School District laid off 51 employees, including 14 teachers and 19 teacher aides, as part of an effort to address a \$7 million reduction in revenue for the 2011-2012 school year.

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY

Sandia Productions began principal photography for the dramatic thriller "Blaze You Out." The film is 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 Northern Edge Navajo



Casino held a job fair on September 23 to begin filling 400 permanent positions in advance of its scheduled mid-January 2012 opening near southwest Farmington. The construction phase is expected to create 1,600 jobs.

Since trimming its workforce to 160 employees at the trough of the recession, Pesco, an oil and gas equipment manufacturer, has rehired laid off workers and increased its staffing by 75 percent.

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 Walmart 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 50 more.

TAOS COUNTY

Chevron Technology Ventures recently completed a 1-MW solar array located at the Chevron molybdenum mine near Questa.

About 80 workers helped construct the facility, which requires minimal maintenance during operation.

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.

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.

L&M Radiator recently employed 130 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-MW 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-MW Roadrunner Solar Generating facility near Santa Teresa is now operational and capable of producing enough electricity to power

about 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, planned to open its second New Mexico location by late October or early November 2011, employing about 300. The store will anchor the El Paseo Plaza in downtown Las Cruces.

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

SIERRA COUNTY

Canada-based THEMAC Resources Group announced its purchase of an option on the copper flat deposit near Hillsboro. Resumption of mining at the site is expected to create 500 construction jobs and 200 permanent positions.

New Mexico and Virgin Galactic officials participated in the October 17 dedication of 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 & UNEMPLOYMENT¹

Central Region County News

County-level employment information is available for second quarter 2011 from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Sandoval and Torrance counties experienced positive year-over-year employment growth between June 2010 and 2011, while Bernalillo and Valencia counties experienced overall employment losses. While all central counties experienced an increase in unemployment rates in the last month of the quarter (ranging between 1.2 and 2.0 percent), every county experienced a decline in the unemployment rate over the year. Unemployment rate increases ranged between 0.4 and 1.4 percentage points.

BERNALILLO COUNTY

Bernalillo County employment was 0.5 percent less (approximately 1,580 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses occurred in the administrative and support services, construction, and financial services industries. Bernalillo County's unemployment rate was 7.8 percent in June 2011, up from 6.6 percent in May 2011 but down from 8.9 percent a year earlier.

SANDOVAL COUNTY

Sandoval County employment was 0.3 percent more (approximately 90 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job gains occurred in the professional and technical services and manufacturing industries. Sandoval County's unemployment rate was 9.4 percent in June 2011, up from 7.4 percent in May 2011 but down from 9.9 percent a year earlier.

TORRANCE COUNTY

Torrance County employment was 1.3 percent greater (approximately 40 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. A portion of this increase was due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program, indicating that these jobs were not newly created jobs, but existing jobs that were previously classified elsewhere. The code change occurred in the healthcare industry. Torrance County's unemployment rate was 9.8 percent in June 2011, up from 8.1 percent in May 2011 but down from 10.2 percent a year earlier.

VALENCIA COUNTY

Valencia County employment was 0.7 percent less (approximately 110 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses occurred in

the government sector. Valencia County's unemployment rate was 9.4 percent in June 2011, up from 7.7 percent in May 2011 but down from 10.8 percent a year earlier.

Eastern Region County News

County-level employment information is available for second quarter 2011 from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Eddy, Lea, and Union counties experienced positive year-over-year employment growth between June 2010 and 2011 (with Guadalupe County employment remaining fairly unchanged). All other eastern counties experienced overall employment losses. While all eastern counties experienced an increase in unemployment rates in the last month of the quarter (ranging between 1.0 and 2.2 points), all but three counties experienced a decline in the unemployment rate over the year (ranging between 0.4 and 2.3 percentage points). Guadalupe, Harding, and Quay counties saw unemployment rate increases over the year of 0.5 points or less.

CHAVES COUNTY

Chaves County employment was 0.9 percent less (approximately 180 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the

¹ All changes in employment presented at the county level are net changes, taking into consideration gains and declines in individual industries. Industries that are mentioned specifically are not solely responsible for the total net gains or losses as not all industry changes are presented, only those with more significant changes. Changes in employment reflect all industries; however, industry-level analysis of employment changes does not discuss changes in agricultural employment. Future analysis will discuss agricultural changes. Unemployment rates are estimated using the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. All unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted. More current data is available at <http://laser.state.nm.us/>. Employment comes from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). The most recent information available is for the second quarter 2011.

previous year. The largest job losses occurred in the health care industry and in census-related jobs. Chaves County's unemployment rate was 7.6 percent in June 2011, up from 5.9 percent in May 2011 but down from 8.5 percent a year earlier.

CURRY COUNTY

Curry County employment was 0.3 percent less (approximately 45 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses occurred in the health care industry. Curry County's unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in June 2011, up from 3.9 percent in May 2011 but down from 5.5 percent a year earlier.

DE BACA COUNTY

De Baca County employment was 5.7 percent less (approximately 30 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Job losses occurred in the health care, accommodation and food services, and local government industries. De Baca County's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent in June 2011, up from 3.6 percent in May 2011 but down from 5.6 percent a year earlier.

EDDY COUNTY

Eddy County employment was 4.7 percent greater (approximately 1,080 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job gains occurred in the mining and retail industries.

Eddy County's unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in June 2011, up from 3.7 percent in May 2011 but down from 6.3 percent a year earlier.

GUADALUPE COUNTY

Guadalupe County employment was 0.5 percent greater in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year.² Guadalupe County's unemployment rate was 10.7 percent in June 2011, up from 9.1 percent in May 2011 and 10.2 percent a year earlier.

HARDING COUNTY

Harding County employment was 3.0 percent less in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year.² Harding County's unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in June 2011, up from 4.0 percent in May 2011 and 4.9 percent a year earlier.

LEA COUNTY

Lea County employment was 6.3 percent greater (approximately 1,650 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. 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 5.7 percent in June 2011, up from 4.4 percent in May 2011 but down from 8.0 percent a year earlier.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln County employment was 0.7 percent less (approximately 40 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses occurred in local government and construction; however, a portion of the losses were due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program, indicating that these jobs were not necessarily lost, but reclassified to another county. Lincoln County's unemployment rate was 5.5

² Number of jobs lost and industries are not provided due to the small job-loss count.



percent in June 2011, up from 4.5 percent in May 2011 but down from 6.7 percent a year earlier.

OTERO COUNTY

Otero County employment was 0.7 percent less (approximately 130 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses occurred in the transportation industry; however, most of the losses were due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program, indicating that these jobs were reclassified to another county. Otero County's unemployment rate was 7.2 percent in June 2011, up from 5.4 percent in May 2011 but down from 7.7 percent a year earlier.

QUAY COUNTY

Quay County employment was 5.2 percent less (approximately 150 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The

largest job losses occurred in accommodation and food services and census-related employment. Quay County's unemployment rate was 8.8 percent in June 2011, up from 7.1 percent in May 2011 but down from 8.5 percent a year earlier.

ROOSEVELT COUNTY

Roosevelt County employment was 5.7 percent less (approximately 325 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses occurred in state government. Roosevelt County's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in June 2011, up from 3.9 percent in May 2011 but down from 6.5 percent a year earlier.

UNION COUNTY

Union County employment was 2.9 percent greater (approximately 35 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year.

The largest job gains occurred in the accommodation and food services and retail industries. Union County's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent in June 2011, up from 3.8 percent in May 2011 but down from 6.3 and percent a year earlier.

Northern Region County News

County-level employment is available for second quarters 2011 from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Colfax and San Juan counties were the only counties in the northern area that experienced positive year-over-year employment growth between the second quarter of 2010 and 2011. Cibola County employment did not change over the time period. The largest employment losses occurred in Rio Arriba County.

Nine of the 10 northern counties saw a decrease in the unemployment rate over the year. Los Alamos County's unemployment rate increased very slightly. While year-over-year changes in the unemployment rate ranged between -1.9 and 0.1 percentage points, all northern counties experienced an increase in unemployment rates in the last month of the quarter, with the exception of Colfax County, whose unemployment rate did not change. Unemployment rate increases ranged between 0.1 and 2.2 percentage points.

CIBOLA COUNTY

Cibola County had about the same number of net jobs in the second quarter of 2011 as the same quarter in 2010. Cibola County's unemployment rate was 7.7 percent in June 2011, up from 5.9 percent in May 2011 but down from 8.1 percent a year earlier.

COLFAX COUNTY

Employment in Colfax County was about 0.3 percent higher (approximately 20 jobs) in the second quarter of 2011 than the same quarter in 2010. Employment gains occurred in several industries, including accommodation and food services, retail trade, other services, and administrative and support services. Colfax County's unemployment rate was 7.3 percent in June 2011, the same as in May 2011 and down from 8.1 percent a year earlier.

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

Los Alamos County employment was 2.1 percent less (approximately 350 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. This change, however, was mostly due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program, indicating that these jobs were not necessarily lost, but reclassified from previous reporting. Without this code change, quarterly employment in the County would be equal to or greater than the second-quarter 2010 employment estimates. Los Alamos County's unemployment

rate was 3.6 percent in June 2011, up from 2.5 percent in May 2011 and near the 3.5 percent rate a year earlier.

MCKINLEY COUNTY

McKinley County employment was 2.5 percent less (approximately 540 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses occurred in census-related employment. Other losses occurred in local government and construction, among other industries. McKinley County's unemployment rate was 9.8 percent in June 2011, up from 7.6 percent in May 2011 but down from 10.2 percent a year earlier.

MORA COUNTY

Mora County employment was 5.5 percent less (approximately 40 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses occurred in the construction industry along with overall reductions in census-related employment. Mora County's unemployment rate was 14.9 percent in June 2011, up from 13.6 percent in May 2011 but down from 15.5 percent a year earlier.

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY

Rio Arriba County employment was 10.5 percent less (approximately 1,120 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. A small portion of the decline was due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program,

indicating that these jobs are not necessarily lost, but reclassified to a different county. Larger actual losses occurred in the health care and administrative and support services industries. Rio Arriba County's unemployment rate was 8.5 percent in June 2011, up from 7.2 percent in May 2011 but down from 8.8 percent a year earlier.

SAN JUAN COUNTY

San Juan County employment was 0.9 percent greater (approximately 425 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. A small portion of this increase was due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program, indicating that these jobs were not necessarily newly created jobs, but existing jobs that were reclassified from another county. The largest actual gains occurred in mining, health care, and manufacturing, among other industries. San Juan County's unemployment rate was 8.3 percent in June 2011, up from 6.8 percent in May 2011 but down from 10.2 percent a year earlier.

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

San Miguel County employment was 0.2 percent less (approximately 20 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses occurred in the government sector. San Miguel County's unemployment rate was 8.4 percent in June 2011, up from 6.9 percent in May 2011 but down from 9.0 percent a year earlier.

SANTA FE COUNTY

Santa Fe County employment was 1.0 percent less (approximately 610 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest losses occurred in state, federal, and local government. Santa Fe County's unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in June 2011, up from 5.2 percent in May 2011 but down from 7.1 percent a year earlier.

TAOS COUNTY

Taos County employment was 0.3 percent less (approximately 30 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest declines occurred in census-related employment along with the construction and other services industries, among others. Taos County's unemployment rate was 9.6 percent in June 2011, little changed from 9.5 percent in May 2011 and down from 10.7 percent a year earlier.

Southwestern Region County News

County-level employment information is available for second quarter 2011 from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Grant and Luna counties experienced positive year-over-year employment growth between June 2010 and June 2011, while the remaining southwestern

counties experienced overall employment losses. All southwestern counties experienced an increase in unemployment rates in the last month of the quarter (ranging between 0.6 and 1.9 percentage points), except Hidalgo County, whose unemployment rate stayed the same, and Luna County which posted a decline of 1.3 percentage points. Every County experienced a decline in the unemployment rate over the year except Sierra County, whose unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points. Year-over-year Unemployment rate decreases ranged between 0.1 and 3.1 percentage points.

CATRON COUNTY

Catron County employment was 5.3 percent less (approximately 40 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses occurred due to census-related job losses, other federal government losses, and losses in wholesale trade. Catron County's unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in June 2011, up from 6.5 percent in May 2011 but down from 7.9 percent a year earlier.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

Doña Ana County employment was 0.4 percent less (approximately 245 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses occurred in the professional and technical services industry; however, a small portion of the losses

were due to non-economic administrative reporting changes in the QCEW program, indicating that these jobs were reclassified to another county. Doña Ana County's unemployment rate was 8.1 percent in June 2011, up from 6.7 percent in May 2011 but down from 8.4 percent a year earlier.

GRANT COUNTY

Grant County employment was 3.1 percent greater (approximately 280 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment gains occurred in the mining industry. Grant County's unemployment rate was 8.2 percent in June 2011, up from 6.6 percent in May 2011 but down from 11.3 percent a year earlier.

HIDALGO COUNTY

Hidalgo County employment was 0.6 percent less in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year.¹⁵ Hidalgo County's unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in June 2011, the same as May 2011 and down from 7.7 percent a year earlier.

LUNA COUNTY

Luna County employment was 2.7 percent greater (approximately 180 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses occurred in the health care and wholesale industries; however, a portion of the losses were due to non-economic administrative

¹⁵ Number of jobs lost and industries are not provided due to the small job-loss count.

reporting changes in the QCEW program, indicating that these jobs were reclassified another county. Luna County's unemployment rate was 17.4 percent in June 2011, down from 18.7 percent in May 2011 and 19.1 percent a year earlier.

SIERRA COUNTY

Sierra County employment was 3.0 percent less (approximately 90 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the

previous year. The largest job losses occurred in health care, mining, and construction. Sierra County's unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in June 2011, up from 5.7 percent in May 2011 and 6.2 percent a year earlier.

SOCORRO COUNTY

Socorro County employment was 1.7 percent less (approximately 90 jobs) in the second quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job

losses occurred in professional and technical services and local government. Socorro County's unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in June 2011, up from 4.4 percent in May 2011 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: <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: <http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmipub.html>.

THE 2012 STATE OF THE WORKFORCE report will be 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 2012 State of the Workforce report will be available online under the "Publications" tab at: <http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmipub.html>.

THE 2011 ANNUAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INDICATORS report is now available online, and the 2012 edition will be available in the coming months. 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. <http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmipub.html>.

Keep an eye out for the next **LABOR MARKET REVIEW** (LMR) publication, set to be posted online February 2nd. You can find the most recent as well as past Labor Market Reviews under the "Publications" tab at: <http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmr-past.html>

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