

# Regional Review

Quarterly labor market information across New Mexico

## State and Regional

## Employment Projections

### 2010-2020



Employment Projections

Regional Business News

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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, is a quarterly publication highlighting employment data, labor market information, and business news.

## *Regional Review*

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for more information.

# WHY PROJECTIONS ARE IMPORTANT

Every two years, the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) publishes long-term industry and occupational employment projections. Every state in the country must publish their individual projections under grant requirements laid forth by the U.S. Department of Labor. New Mexico employs methodologies developed by the U.S. Department of Labor for forecasting state and area occupational needs using both national information and procedures specifically adapted to each state's industrial and occupational patterns. NMDWS produces several publications that summarize and detail employment projections. Recent publications that have been or will soon be released include the "New Mexico Employment Projections, 2010-2020" report; "2020 In-Brief" pamphlets for New Mexico, its Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), and regions; and several monthly Labor Market Review (LMR) articles (see Volume 41, numbers 9, 10, and 11). This article summarizes industry and occupational employment projections for the state and its four regions—Central, Eastern, Northern, and Southwestern—while highlighting major conclusions for each area. Industry projections are presented at the sub-industry level, while occupational growth is identified as growth from new jobs openings or from job openings due to replacements (retiring workers or turnover).

Employment projections are used for a variety of purposes by various policy makers, educators, community leaders, and individuals. Employment projections aid in the development, direction, and funding of education and training programs. For example, the largest number of future job openings will be in health care fields. By identifying this future growth, policy makers and education and training programs can make more informed decisions on how to allocate resources to meet future needs for this, and other related industries and occupations. Projections are also often used by policy makers and economic development experts. Projections provide necessary information on the future supply of workers and their skill sets, and economic developers utilize that information when marketing New Mexico's workforce and skills in the

attraction and retention of businesses.

Employment projections are possibly most used by job seekers. Projections are used to identify jobs in demand and New Mexico's best occupational opportunities. Projected job growth, wages, and education needed allows job seekers to weigh their experience and professional priorities and preferences against what is demanded and required by different occupations. Occupational projections, in particular, can be more relevant to job seekers, as they refer more directly to jobs, work tasks, and skills.

## Key Take-Away Points

- Employment in educational services and health care industries will grow the most and provide the largest number of job openings between 2010 and 2020 at the both the statewide and regional level.
- Employment in the education and health care industries is also projected to grow faster than most other industries.
- The number of elementary school teachers, along with teaching assistants, will grow the most in all four regions of the state. Middle school teachers will also see large growth.
- Personal and home care aides, home health aides, and registered nurses are all projected to provide a large number of job openings over the 10-year period. Registered nurses earn the highest wages of the three occupations.
- Many of the projected future jobs will be in occupations that typically have large employment, and often lower wages. Food preparation and serving; office and administrative support; and sales occupations are examples. Higher paying occupations that will see major growth are often in the education and health care sectors.

- The Eastern and Northern regions of the state will continue to see large growth in mining and mining-related industries and occupations.
  - The Eastern and Southwestern regions will see job openings in farming industries and occupations. These openings, however, will almost exclusively consist of openings created by the retirement of existing farm workers. New jobs from overall industry and occupational growth will be minimal.
  - Statewide, some of the up-and-coming occupations employing at least a few hundred workers that are projected to grow quickly include interpreters and translators, diagnostic and medical sonographers, physical therapist assistants and aides, special education teachers, and several mining-related occupations.
- Post office and publishing-related (except internet) industries will continue to experience overall declining employment. Occupations projected to see fewer job openings over the 10-year period include several post office, publishing-related, radio and print communications, title examiner, and electronic assembly occupations.
  - Occupations that require a bachelor's degree or more will comprise a larger share of all occupations between 2010 and 2020. The education, preparation, and retention of young New Mexicans is more important than ever to sustain a healthy and growing economy with strong economic development opportunities.



# EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

## Employment Growth at the Statewide Level

*“Employment is projected to grow more quickly, on average, than that of the nation between 2010 and 2020. health care and educational services will provide the largest number of new jobs by 2020. All four regions are projected to experience large growth in these industries.”*

**Total Job Growth**  **136,300**  
**15.9%**

## Industries

Between 2010 and 2020, New Mexico will add about 136,300 jobs, or 15.9 percent. Educational services will add the largest number of jobs (20,850) and will grow at a rate of 2.6 percent annually. All four health care sub-industries—social assistance, hospitals, ambulatory health care services, and nursing and residential care facilities—are ranked in the top 10 growth industries, and three of the four are also in the top

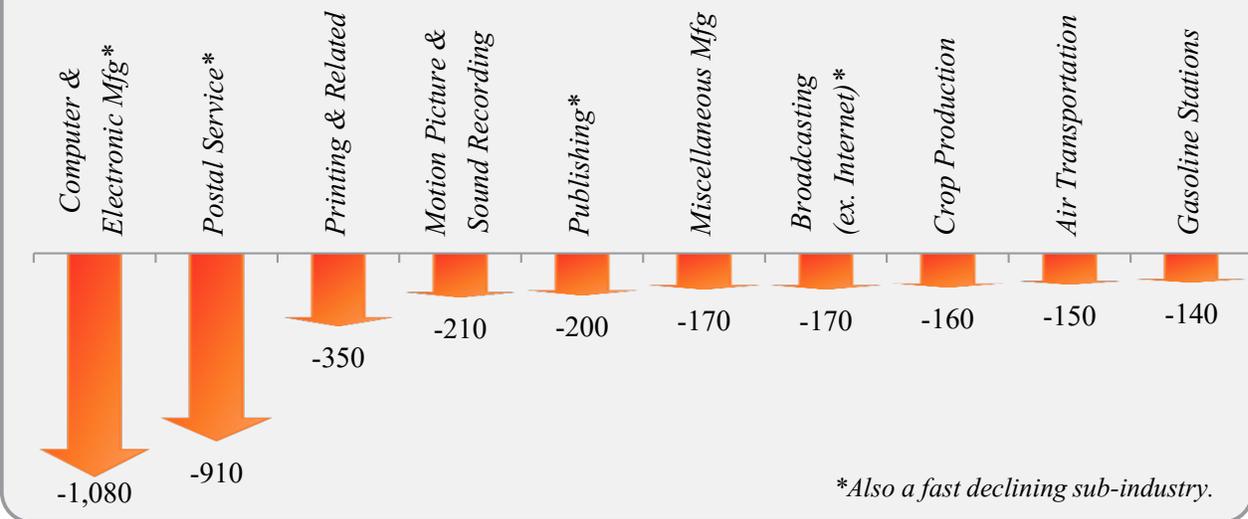
10 fastest growing sub-industries.

The computer and electronic product manufacturing and postal service sub-industries are projected to lose the largest number of jobs by 2020 (1,990 combined). These two industries, in addition to publishing and broadcasting (except internet), are also some of the fastest shrinking industries.

### Industries with Greatest Job Growth *New Mexico, 2010-2020*



## Industries with Greatest Job Decline New Mexico, 2010-2020



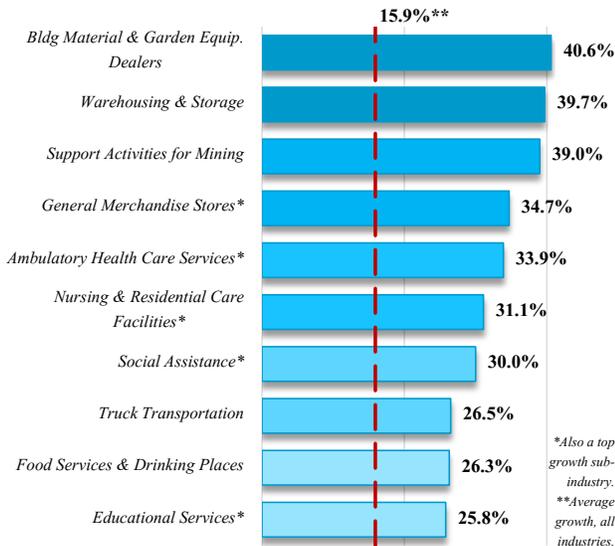
### FAST GROWTH: AN AREA OF FOCUS

Identifying industries and occupations that will grow quickly is important because those that are projected to grow quickly often point to up-and-coming areas of growth in the state's economy. It can also provide further evidence for designating certain industries and occupations as top employment opportunities—those which will play a greater role in future job creation and employment demand. Some of these industries and occupations will provide a large number of future jobs. Others may have smaller employment but will capture a larger share in the labor market and grow in contribution to the economy. Good examples of smaller occupations gaining greater ground in the labor market are physical therapist assistants and aides. With less than 400 assistants and aides, each, in the state in 2010, these occupations are projected to grow by about 35 percent over the 10-year projection period. While each occupation is projected to provide a relatively small number of new jobs (between 100 and 140) by 2020, this growth is a fast increase for each, indicating a larger demand and impact in the health care industry.

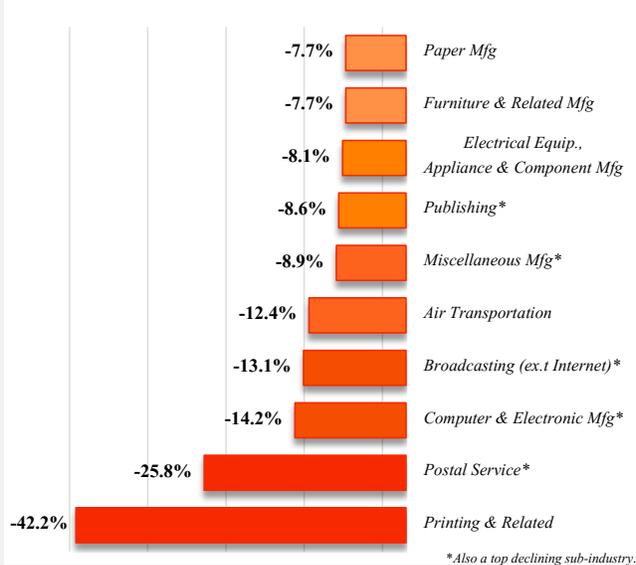


## Fastest Growing & Shrinking Industries New Mexico, 2010-2020

### Fastest Growers



### Fastest Shrinkers

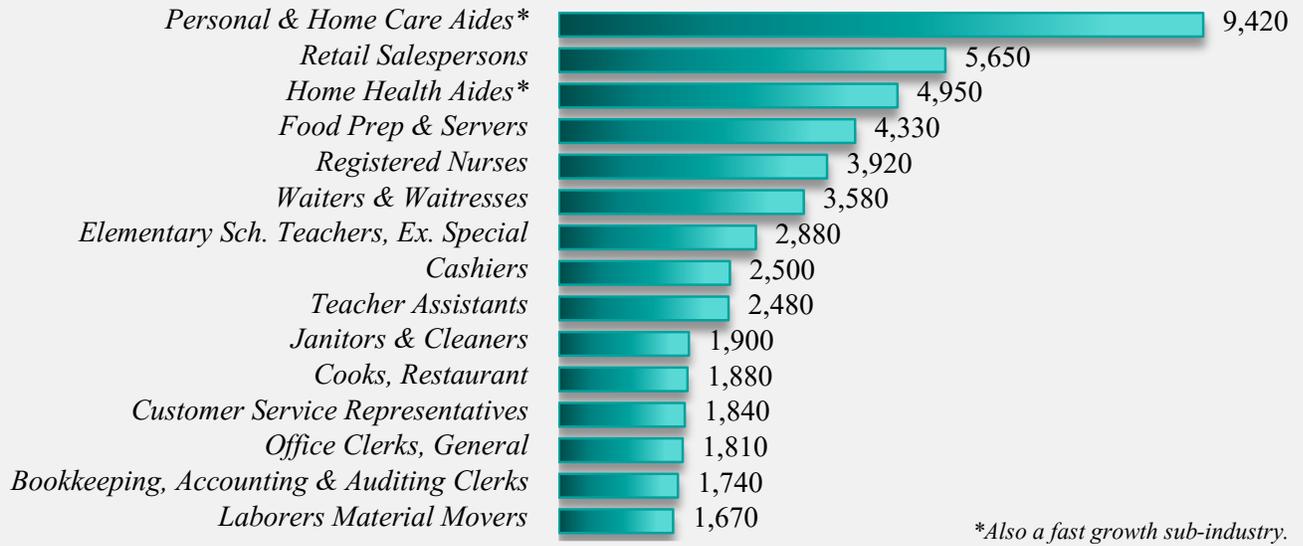


## Occupations

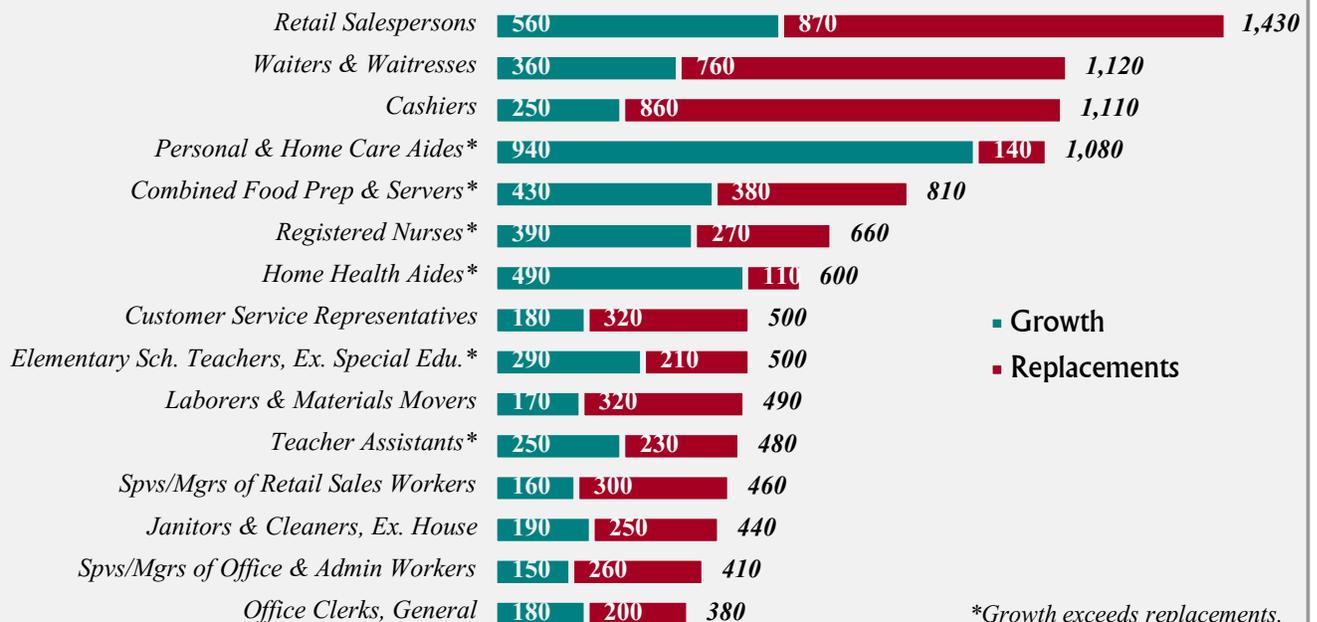
Personal and home care aides, retail salespersons, home health aides, and food preparation workers and servers are all projected to see the largest number of job openings over the 10-year period. Personal and home care aides and home health aides will add a combined 14,360 jobs by 2020. Growth in registered nurses, along with these two occupations, is evidence of the large growth projected for the health care and social assistance industry as a whole. In education, teacher assistants and elementary school teachers are projected to grow the most and provide the greatest number of openings.

In both the health care and education-related occupations, average annual job openings due to growth are greater than openings due to replacements. Other occupations that are projected to grow in large numbers often have greater openings due to replacements, as turnover in these occupations is typically higher (such as in food prep and serving; office and administrative support; and sales and related occupations). Most of the top growth occupations pay less than the all-occupational average wage (\$41,720 for 2011). Registered nurses, elementary school teachers, and supervisors of office and administrative workers are the exceptions.

## Occupations with Greatest Job Growth New Mexico, 2010-2020



## Occupations with Greatest Annual Openings New Mexico, 2010-2020

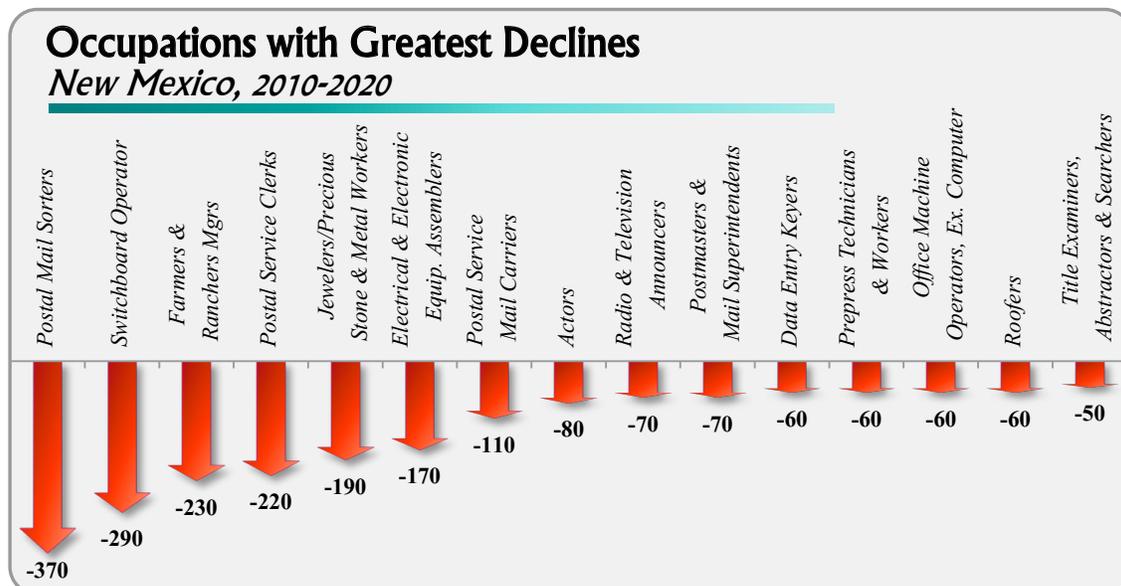


## A NOTE ON GROWTH VERSUS REPLACEMENTS

The projections methodology used by NMDWS differentiates between employment growth due to new job openings (referred to as “growth”), and growth due to openings from replacements (replacements referring to existing jobs made vacant from retirement or turnover). This allows NMDWS to delve more deeply into what drives employment growth in different occupations. Is there a growing need for more workers because the occupation is in high demand (for example, registered nurses), or is the need for more workers in an occupation due to retirees or large turnover (for example, retail salespersons)? Growth and replacement data can be confusing because average annual openings do not directly correspond to the total employment growth projected for an occupation. Average annual openings are calculated based on both growth and replacements, but new employment growth is really what drives overall employment growth. For example, farmworkers in the Southwestern Region are projected to have 60 openings, on average, each year of the projection period. This occupation is actually projected to experience overall employment losses, however, because all of the openings will serve to replace existing farmworkers. Therefore, employment is not really growing, and is in fact shrinking, as replacement needs decline. Even if an occupation is declining, it will still have employment needs to fill vacated existing positions. Many medical-related occupations are projected to see large growth driven mostly by new openings. Occupations that are projected to see the largest growth from new positions include: personal and home care aides; home health aides; medical secretaries; physical therapists; and systems and applications software developers. Many of the fastest shrinking occupations are projected to see most or all of their job openings in the 10-year period serve to replace a portion of their workers. Companies not replacing retired workers points to the reduction in the demand for workers in those positions.

Many of the occupations that are projected to see employment shrink by 2020 are related to post office operations and publishing and communications, particularly print. Postal mail

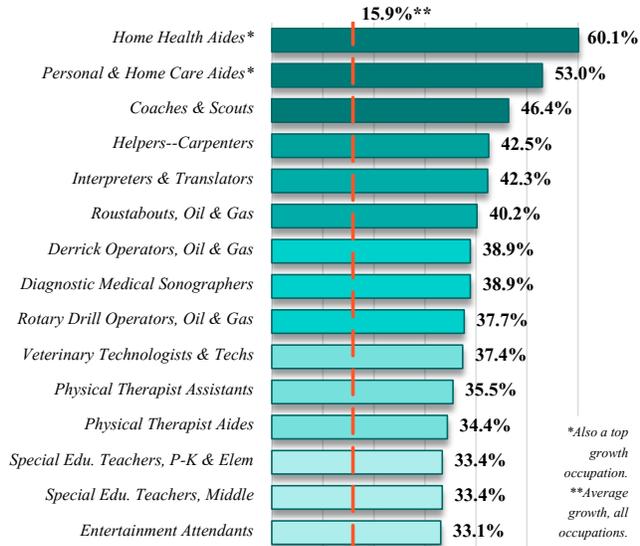
sorters and switchboard operators are projected to see employment decline by over 600 jobs during the 10-year period.



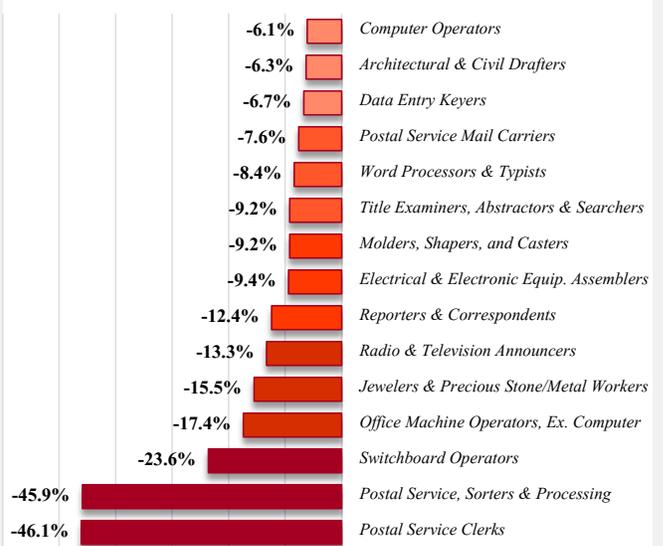
# Fastest Growing & Shrinking Occupations

## New Mexico, 2010-2020

### Fastest Growers



### Fastest Shrinkers

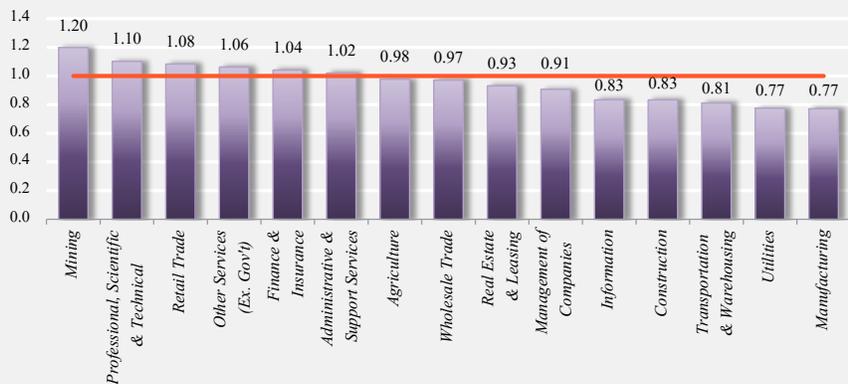


## A KEY NOTE: WILL WE REGAIN THE JOBS WE'VE LOST?

One of the main questions asked when presenting employment projections is “Will we gain the jobs we’ve lost through the recession?” Recovery in New Mexico has been somewhat sluggish when compared to neighboring states. Some data sources show New Mexico continuing to lose jobs in recent months. But, recessionary impacts will not last forever. Growth will return and, for many industries, will reach or exceed a rate similar to what was experienced prior to the recession.

The corresponding chart illustrates whether or not 2020 employment will reach or exceed pre-recession employment levels for most of New Mexico’s industries. (Note: industries not included in the analysis have differences in source employment data and projections inputs, therefore estimated and projected employment levels cannot be compared directly). The chart measures 2020 employment as a percent of 2007 employment. Six of the industries shown—mining; professional, scientific, and technical services; retail trade; other services; finance and insurance; and administrative and support services—are projected to recover all of the jobs lost during the 2007-2009 recession. The agriculture and wholesale trade industries will come close to recovering all lost jobs. Most of the remaining industries shown will experience positive annual growth between 2010 and 2020, but growth will not occur fast enough to push 2020 employment levels above those of 2007.

**Change in Industry Employment**  
*2020 Employment as a Percentage of 2007*  
*Select Industries*



*Note: Government, Education, Health Care, Arts & Entertainment, and Accommodation & Food Services are not included due to differences in data sources for estimates and projections.*

Transportation and warehousing will grow the quickest of the industries that will not regain all lost jobs by 2020. Employment will grow at a rate greater than the all-industry average of 15.9 percent. Construction and real estate will see growth between 13 and 15 percent, with 2020 employment reaching at least 80 percent of pre-recession levels. The information industry will struggle in the 10-year period, with growth a sluggish 0.3 percent; whereas manufacturing is projected to lose employment over the 10-year period.

While it is difficult to determine whether the industries not included in this analysis will see a complete recovery of jobs, it is safe to conclude that based on growth rates for education, health care, and accommodation and food services, each of these industries will regain any jobs lost during the recession.

## Top Jobs

Wage data serves as the third leg in identifying occupations that provide some of the best employment opportunities for New Mexicans. Projections identify which jobs are going to grow the most and at the quickest rates. But, which of these jobs will provide the best future employment opportunities due to both growth and income levels? The corresponding table lists some of New

Mexico's "top" jobs based on projected growth and higher wages over the 2010 to 2020 period. The listed jobs are not the only great occupational opportunities available, but provide a snapshot of those that most closely meet more than one of three designated criteria—large growth, fast growth, and higher wages.

TOP Jobs in NEW MEXICO	Employment		Growth		Average	Minimum	Typical	Typical
	2010	2020	Jobs	Rate	Annual Wage	Education	Work Exp.	Job Training
<b>5-STAR</b> ★★★★★								
Registered Nurses	15,145	19,065	3,920	25.9%	\$66,660	Assoc.	None	None
Elementary Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special)	9,660	12,540	2,880	29.8%	\$51,990	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Middle Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special & Voc)	4,540	5,895	1,355	29.8%	\$51,450	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
<b>4-STAR</b> ★★★★								
Spvs/Mgrs of Office & Admin. Workers	9,645	11,140	1,495	15.5%	\$44,610	High Sch.	1-5 yrs	None
<b>3-STAR</b> ★★★								
Management Analysts	3,555	4,285	730	20.5%	\$71,130	Bach.	1-5 yrs	None
Clinical/Counseling/School Psychologists	3,255	3,900	645	19.8%	\$65,020	Doc/Prof.	None	Int/Res.
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	3,900	4,555	655	16.8%	\$63,580	High Sch.	< 1 yr	L-T OJT
Secondary Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special & Voc)	5,905	7,015	1,110	18.8%	\$52,370	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Licensed-Practical & Vocational Nurses	4,470	5,240	770	17.2%	\$45,910	Postsec.	None	None
<b>2-STAR</b> ★★								
Truck Drivers, Heavy/Tractor-Trailer	8,675	10,325	1,650	19.0%	\$38,230	High Sch.	1-5 yrs	S-T OJT
Spvs/Mgrs of Retail Sales Workers	12,640	14,190	1,550	12.3%	\$36,600	High Sch.	1-5 yrs	None
Roustabouts, Oil & Gas	2,935	4,110	1,175	40.0%	\$34,150	< High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
Bookkeeping/Accounting/Auditing Clerks	13,690	15,455	1,765	12.9%	\$32,910	High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
All Other Teachers	3,045	3,745	700	23.0%	\$31,700	Bach.	None	None
<b>SPARKING</b>								
Riggers	SUPPRESSED		SUPPRESSED		SUPPRESSED	High Sch.	None	S-T OJT
Interpreters & Translators	375	535	160	42.7%	\$53,200	Bach.	None	L-T OJT
Meeting & Convention Planners	145	210	65	44.8%	\$49,500	Bach.	< 1 yr	None
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	470	655	185	39.4%	\$67,240	Assoc.	None	None
Derrick Operators, Oil and Gas	805	1,120	315	39.1%	\$49,910	< High Sch.	None	S-T OJT

Sources: NMDWS Economic Research & Analysis Bureau.

Notes: "OJT" refers to on-the-job training. "Postsec." refers to a postsecondary award that is not a degree (e.g. certification). "Int/Res." refers to "Internship or Residency." While some occupations can be included under multiple categories (e.g. 5-Star and 4-Star), they are only classified under the category indicating the occupations greatest potential. The average wage for all occupations in 2011 was \$40,790 (as of Oct 2012).

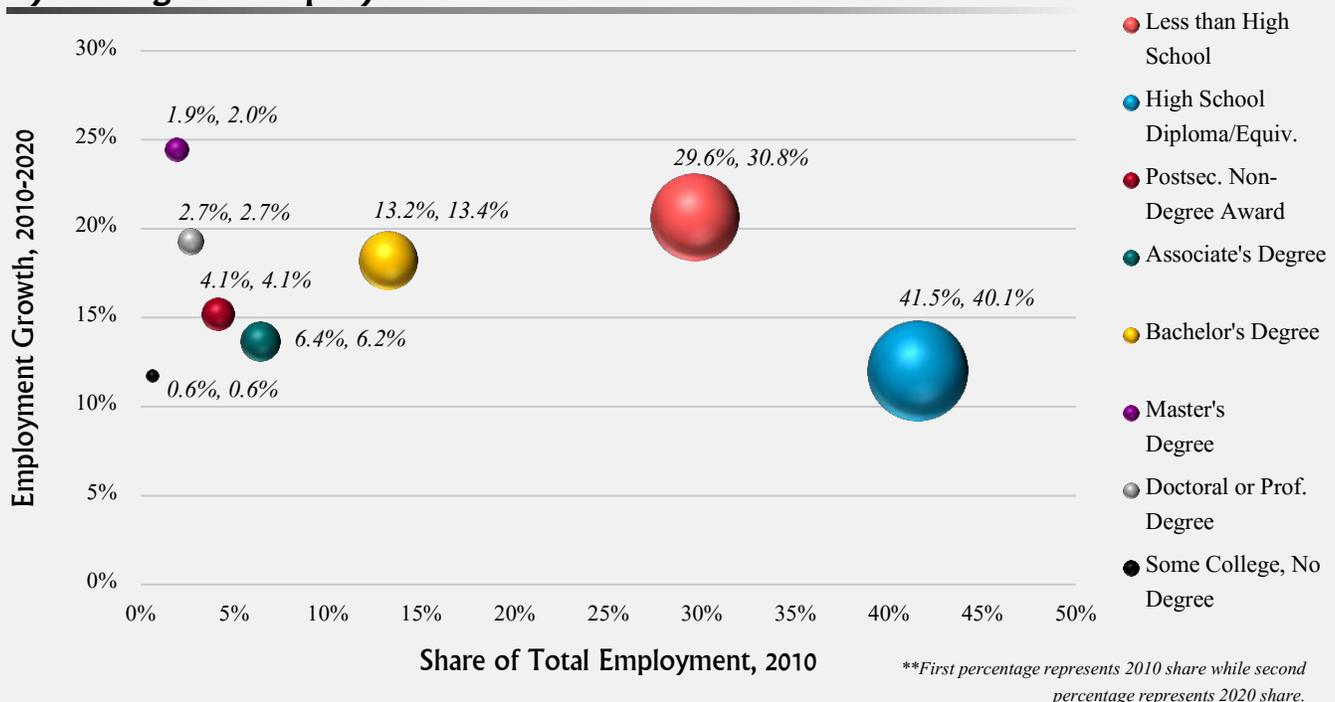
## Education

Projections provide insight on where job growth will occur and can help New Mexico prepare to have an able workforce to fill these positions. Nearly three-quarters of New Mexico's jobs require a high school diploma/equivalent or less (as of 2010). These jobs are projected to grow the most in number between 2010 and 2020 (about 95,000 jobs) but are not projected to grow as quickly as those requiring post-secondary education. Jobs requiring a master's degree are projected to grow the fastest, by about 24.5 percent, or 4,000 jobs. Jobs requiring a bachelor's degree are projected to grow in numbers and in rate; growth is projected to be about 20,600 jobs, or 19.3 percent.

One of the most important keys to economic and

community development is a well-educated and skilled population and workforce. Businesses place significant weight on an area's supply of educated/skilled workers when deciding where to operate. States that can provide a more skilled and educated workforce have an advantage in attracting businesses. The supply of jobs in New Mexico that require a high school degree or less will continue to grow and provide employment opportunities, but the fastest growth will be occurring with jobs that require a post-secondary degree. It is important to recognize this growing demand and ensure New Mexico can meet its supply through improved graduation rates, educational attainment, and, possibly most of all, retention of New Mexico's high school and college graduates.

### 2010 and 2020 Share of Total Employment by Typical Educational Attainment Required by Change in Employment



## Employment Growth in the Central Region

*"Like the State as a whole, health care and educational services will provide the largest number of new jobs in the Central Region by 2020."*

**Total Job Growth**  **61,320**  
**15.8%**

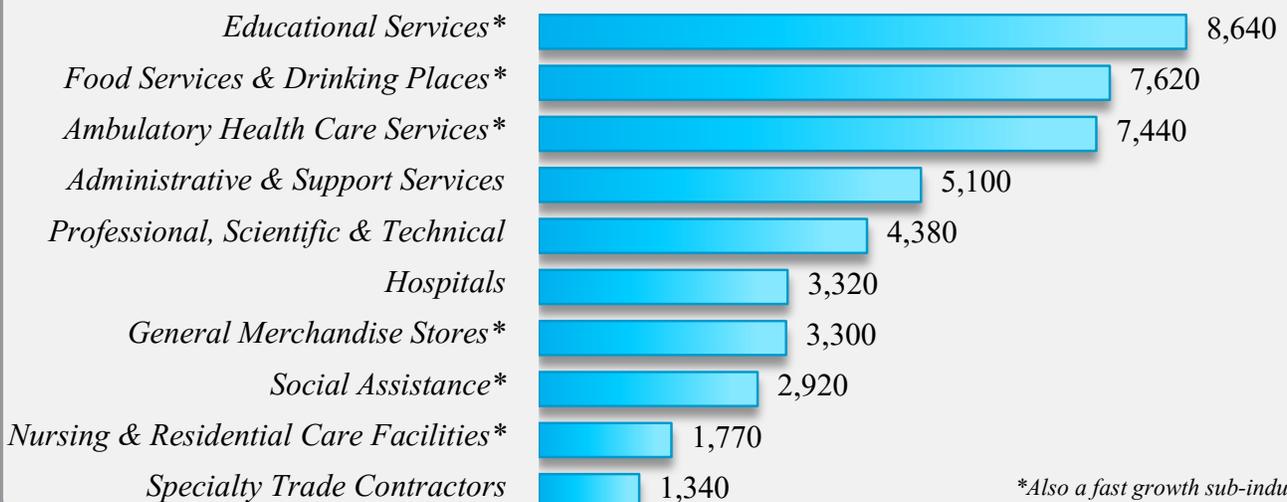
### Industries

Between 2010 and 2020, the Central Region will add about 61,320 jobs, or 15.8 percent. Education services will add the largest number of jobs (8,640) and will grow at a rate of 2.6 percent annually. All four health care sub-industries—social assistance, hospitals, ambulatory health care services, and nursing and residential care facilities—are ranked in the top 10 growth industries, and three of the four are also in the top 10 fastest growing sub-industries.

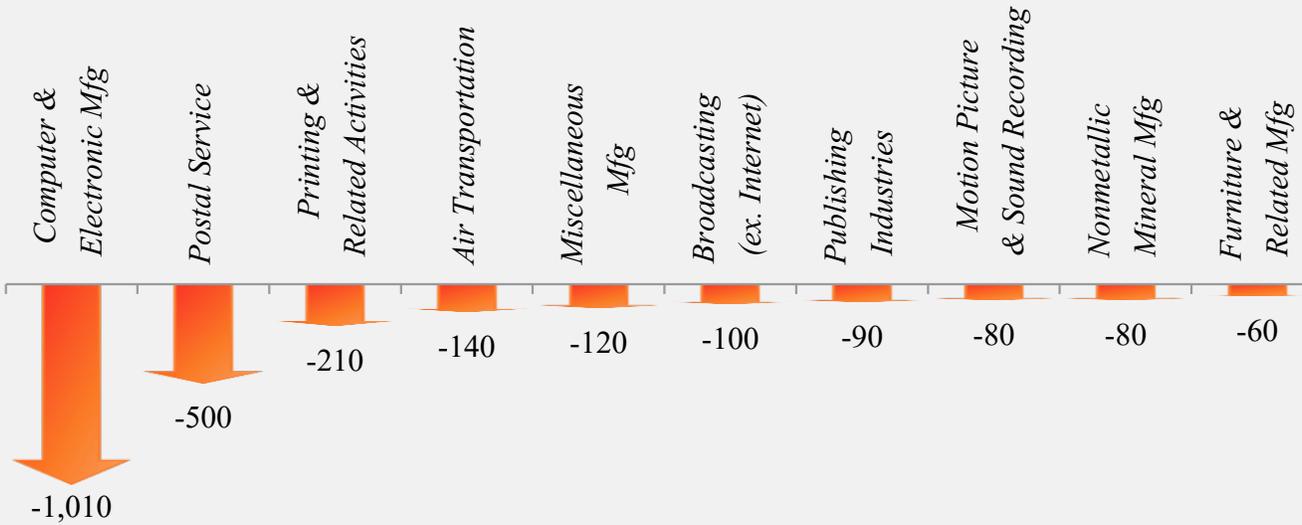
The computer and electronic product manufacturing and postal service sub-industries

are projected to lose the largest number of jobs by 2020 (1,510 combined). These two industries, in addition to printing, air transportation, and broadcasting are some of the fastest shrinking industries. Employment in the motion picture and sound recording industry is also projected to shrink (by about 6.7 percent), which is likely due to increased competition with other states offering tax incentives to film and television industries. Much of the large and fast industry employment growth at the state level is reflected in the Central Region.

### Industries with Greatest Job Growth Central Region, 2010-2020

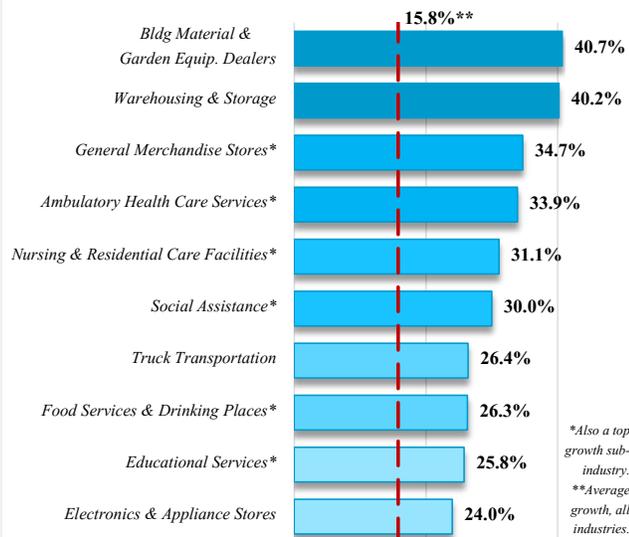


## Industries with Greatest Job Decline Central Region, 2010-2020

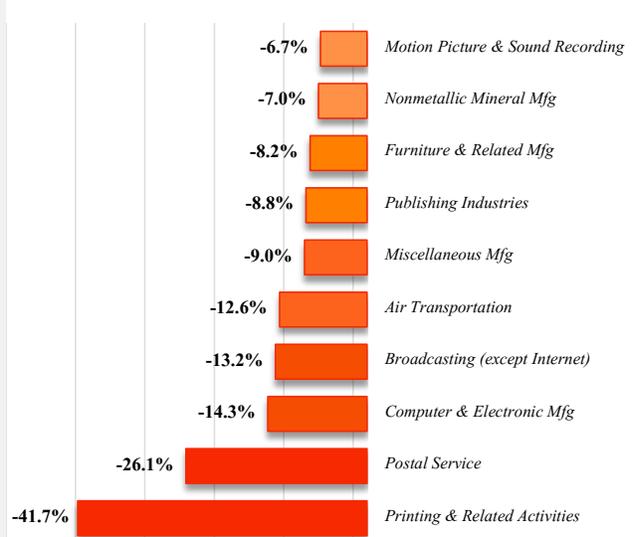


## Fastest Growing & Shrinking Industries Central Region, 2010-2020

### Fastest Growers



### Fastest Shrinkers



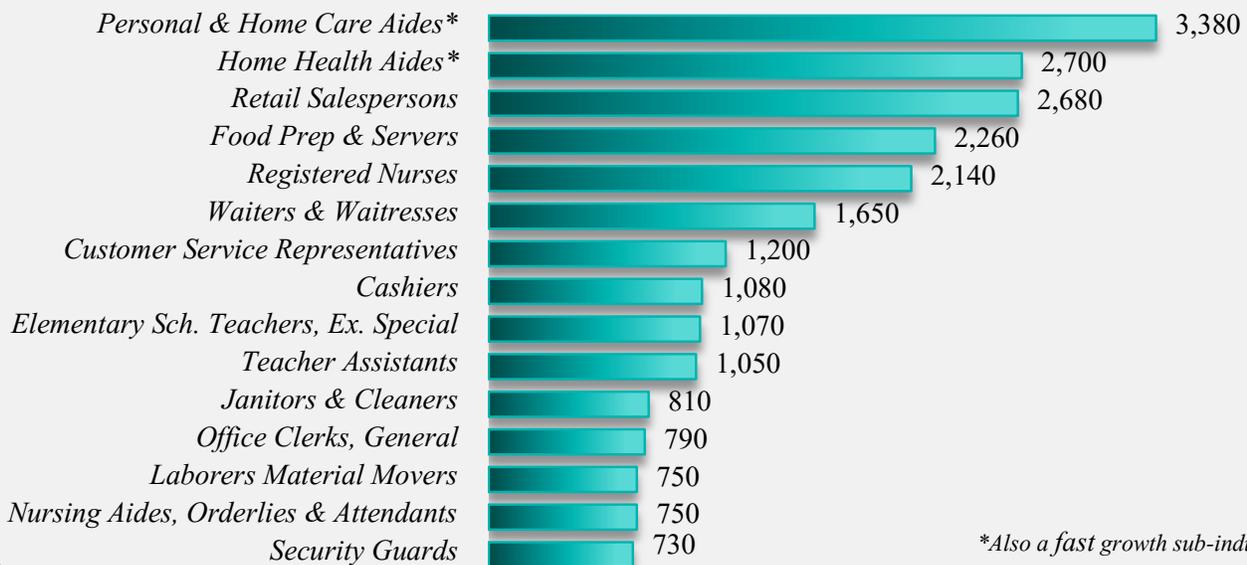
## Occupations

Personal and home care aides, home health aides, and retail sales persons are all projected to see the largest employment growth over the 10-year period. Education- and health care-related occupations will experience more average annual openings due to growth than openings due to replacements. These occupations, among other health care and education occupations such as physical therapists, diagnostic medical sonographers, special education teachers, and training and development specialists are projected

to grow at quick rates. Several of the Central Region's fast-growth occupations pay higher than average wages.

Many of the occupations that are projected to see employment shrink by 2020 are related to post office operations. Postal workers are projected to lose nearly 400 jobs over the 10-year period. These occupations are also projected to lose employment at quick rates.

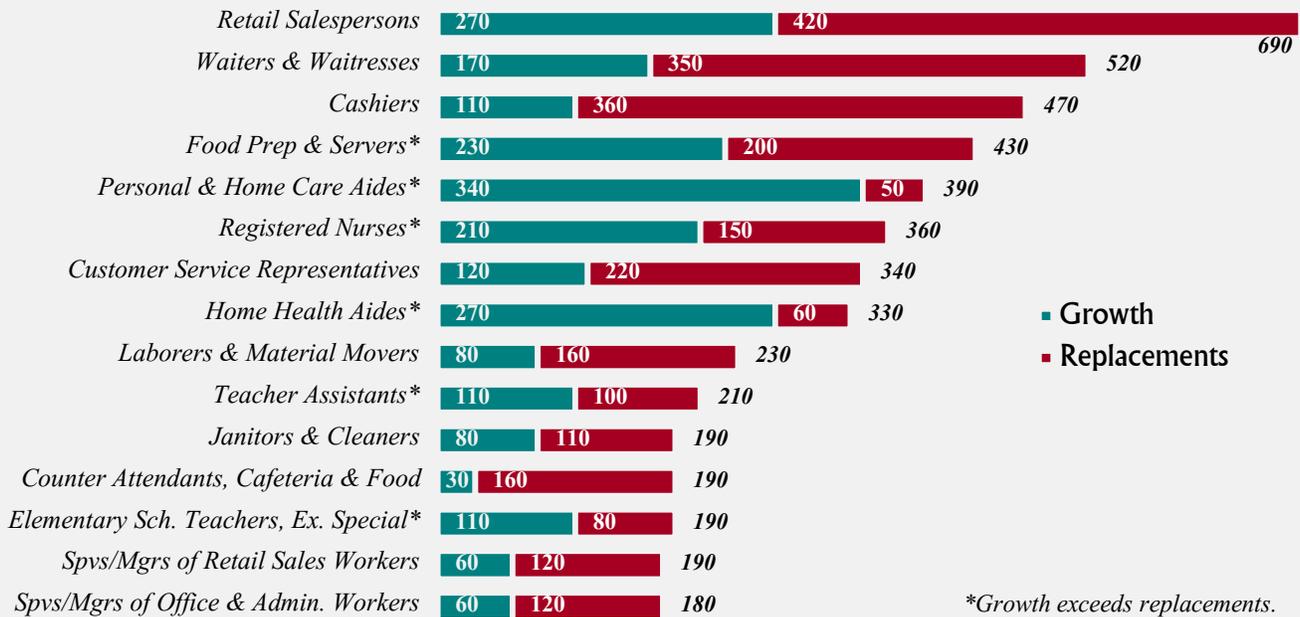
### Occupations with Greatest Job Growth Central Region, 2010-2020



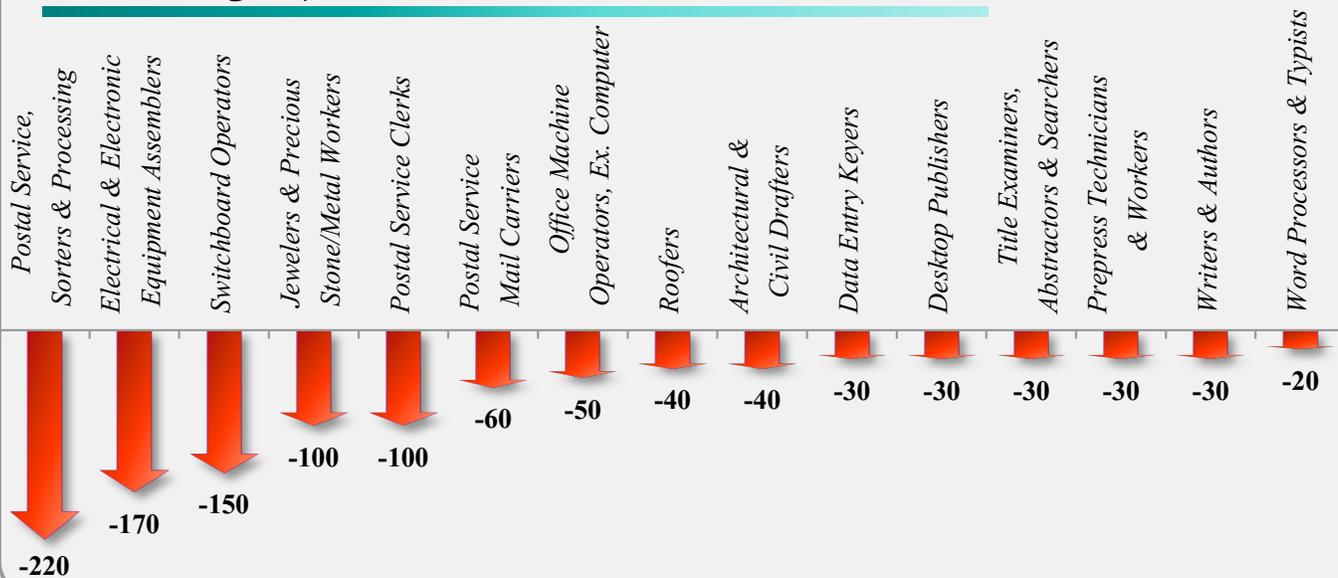
*\*Also a fast growth sub-industry.*



## Occupations with Greatest Annual Openings Central Region, 2010-2020



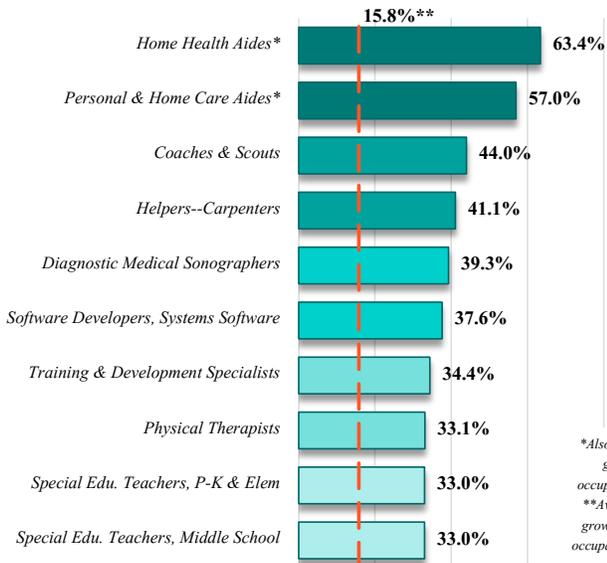
## Occupations with Greatest Declines Central Region, 2010-2020



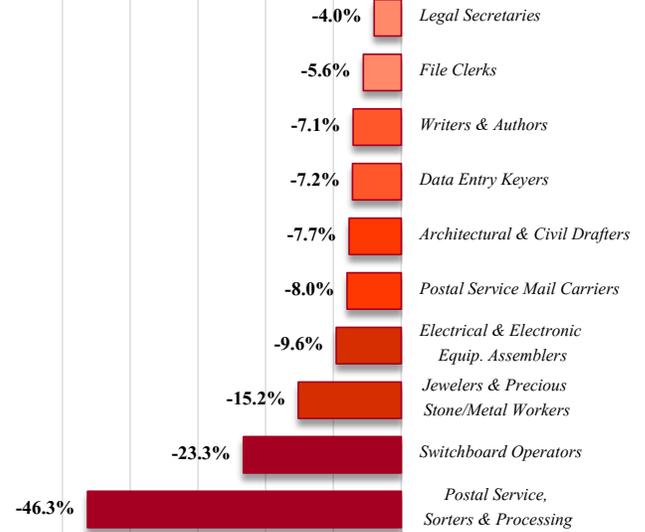
# Fastest Growing & Shrinking Occupations

## Central Region, 2010-2020

### Fastest Growers



### Fastest Shrinkers



## Top Jobs

The corresponding table lists some of the Central Region's "top" jobs based on projected growth and higher wages over the 2010 to 2020 period. The listed jobs are not the only great occupational

opportunities available, but provide a snapshot of those that most closely meet more than one of three designated criteria—large growth, fast growth, and higher wages.

TOP Jobs in the CENTRAL REGION	Employment		Growth		Average	Typical	Typical	
	2010	2020	Jobs	Rate	Annual Wage	Minimum Education	Work Exp.	Job Training
<b>5-STAR</b> ★★★★★								
Elementary Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special)	3,670	4,740	1,070	29.2%	\$47,691	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Registered Nurses	8,060	10,115	2,055	25.5%	\$70,154	Assoc.	None	None
<b>4-STAR</b> ★★★★☆								
Spvs/Mgrs of Office & Admin. Workers	4,375	5,015	640	14.6%	\$47,264	High Sch.	1-5 yrs	None
<b>3-STAR</b> ★★★☆☆								
Computer Software Engineers, Systems	-----SUPPRESSED-----				\$98,329	Bach.	None	None
Clinical/Counseling/School Psychologists	1,765	2,180	415	23.5%	\$66,128	Doc/Prof.	None	Int/Res.
Training & Development Specialists	870	1,170	300	34.5%	\$56,012	Bach.	None	None
Secondary Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special & Voc)	1,975	2,340	365	18.5%	\$48,873	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Licensed-Practical & Vocational Nurses	2,470	2,875	405	16.4%	\$47,860	Postsec.	None	None
<b>2-STAR</b> ★★☆☆☆								
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	3,240	3,890	650	20.1%	\$39,040	High Sch.	1-5 yrs	S-T OJT
Spvs/Mgrs of Retail Sales Workers	5,320	5,940	620	11.7%	\$38,985	High Sch.	1-5 yrs	None
Teachers, Primary/Secondary/Adult	-----SUPPRESSED-----				\$35,738	Bach.	None	None
Bill & Account Collectors	1,810	2,160	350	19.3%	\$35,044	High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
Bookkeeping/Accounting/Auditing Clerks	5,890	6,545	655	11.1%	\$34,917	High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
<b>SPARKING</b>								
Interpreters & Translators	-----SUPPRESSED-----				\$65,452	Bach.	None	L-T OJT
Health Educators	175	245	70	40.0%	\$54,427	Bach.	None	None
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	-----SUPPRESSED-----				SUPPRESSED	Assoc.	None	None
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	260	350	90	34.6%	\$67,919	High Sch.	< 1 yr.	L-T OJT
Special Education Teachers, P-K & Elem.	415	550	135	32.5%	\$44,871	Bach.	None	Int/Res.

Sources: NMDWS Economic Research & Analysis Bureau.

Notes: "OJT" refers to on-the-job training. "Postsec." refers to a postsecondary award that is not a degree (e.g. certification). "Int/Res." refers to "Internship or Residency." While some occupations can be included under multiple categories (e.g. 5-Star and 4-Star), they are only classified under the category indicating the occupations greatest potential. The average wage for all occupations in 2011 was \$42,490 (as of Oct 2012).

## Employment Growth in the Eastern Region

*“The Eastern Region is unique in that a large number of future jobs will be in the mining industry and related occupations; employment will also grow quickly. Employment growth in the mining industry will comprise about 13 percent of total employment growth, driven by oil, natural gas, and potash mining in particular.”*

**Total Job Growth**  **22,190**  
**16.1%**

### Industries

Between 2010 and 2020, the Eastern Region will add about 22,190 jobs, or 16.1 percent. Employment growth in the East is projected to comprise over 16 percent of all statewide growth during the 10-year period, with jobs growing at the fastest rate of all four New Mexico regions. Educational services, as with all regions in the state, will contribute the largest number of new jobs (3,200). All four health care sub-industries—social assistance, hospitals, ambulatory health care services, and nursing and residential care facilities—are ranked in the top 10 growth

industries, and three of the four are also in the top 10 fastest growing sub-industries.

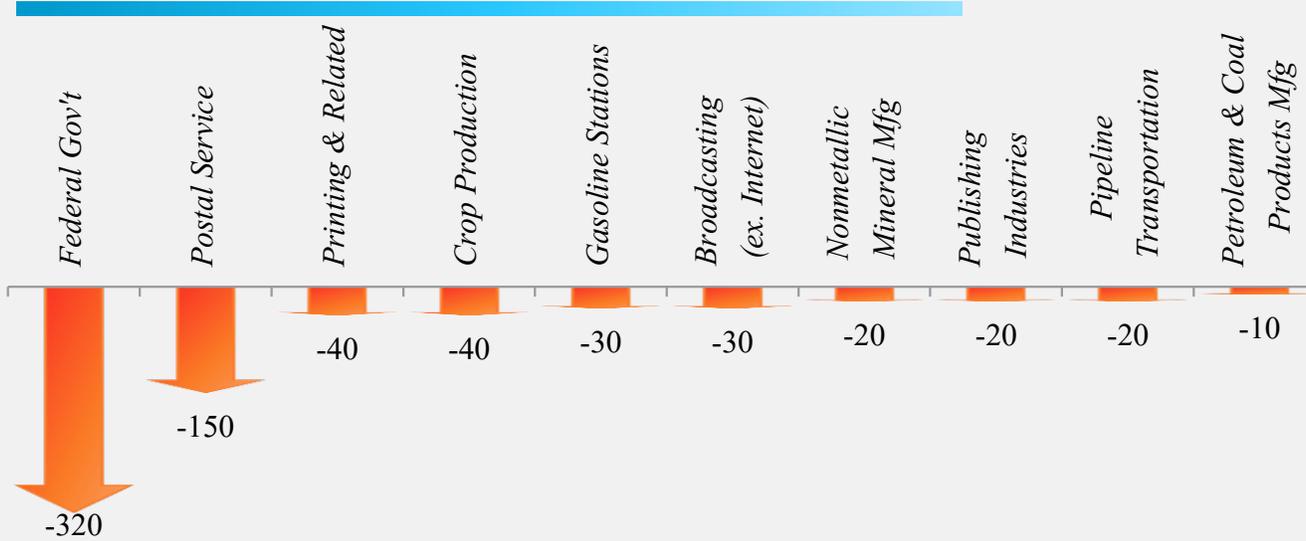
The support activities for mining industry (a sub-industry of the overall mining industry) will produce 2,580 new jobs by 2020. It is the third largest growth sub-industry and is also projected to grow 39 percent; growth is projected to occur at a rate faster than all but one sub-industry. Interestingly, the Eastern Region is the only region in the state where professional, scientific, and technical services is not ranked in the top 10 growth industries.

### Industries with Greatest Job Growth

*Eastern Region, 2010-2020*

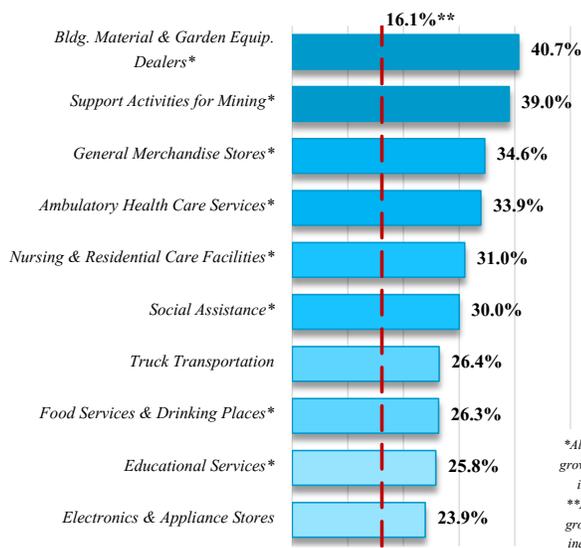


## Industries with Greatest Job Decline Eastern Region, 2010-2020

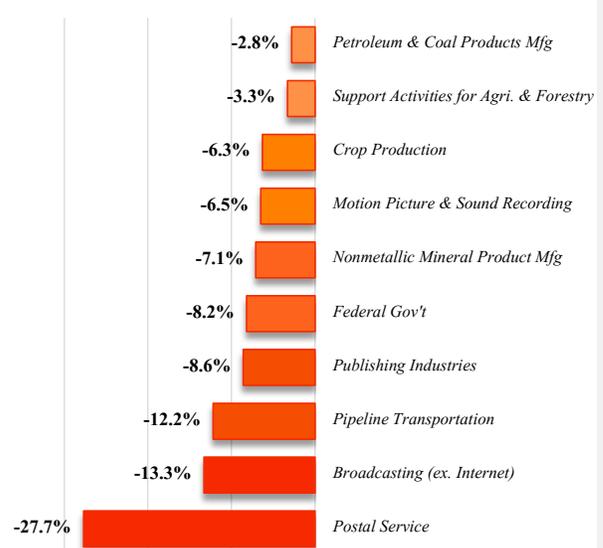


## Fastest Growing & Shrinking Industries Eastern Region, 2010-2020

### Fastest Growers



### Fastest Shrinkers



The Eastern Region is projected to lose the most jobs within the federal government. Future losses equate to over 300 jobs. As with other regions,

large employment losses are projected in the postal service and communications industries that are not internet-based.

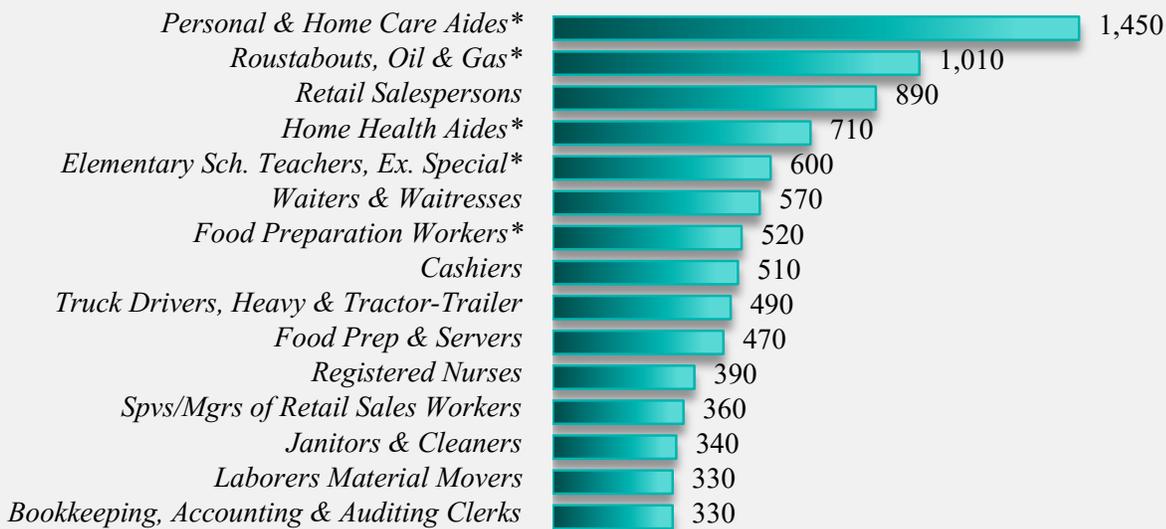
## Occupations

Personal and home care aides, oil and gas roustabouts, and retail salespersons are all projected to see the largest employment growth over the 10-year period. The education, health care, and mining occupations will also experience more average annual openings due to growth than openings due to replacements. Several mining-related occupations are projected to grow quickly in the East. Roustabouts in the oil and gas industries are projected to grow by 41 percent, or 150 jobs, by 2020. One of the fastest growing occupations, this occupation pays close to the all-occupation average. Rotary drill, derrick, and

service unit operators are other mining-related occupations which will experience fast growth in coming years.

Postal workers are projected to see the largest employment losses by 2020, with over 100 jobs lost. These workers will also see employment decline faster than most other occupations projected to shrink in size. Other occupations projected to lose employment include switchboard operators, gas station systems operators, and information and records clerks.

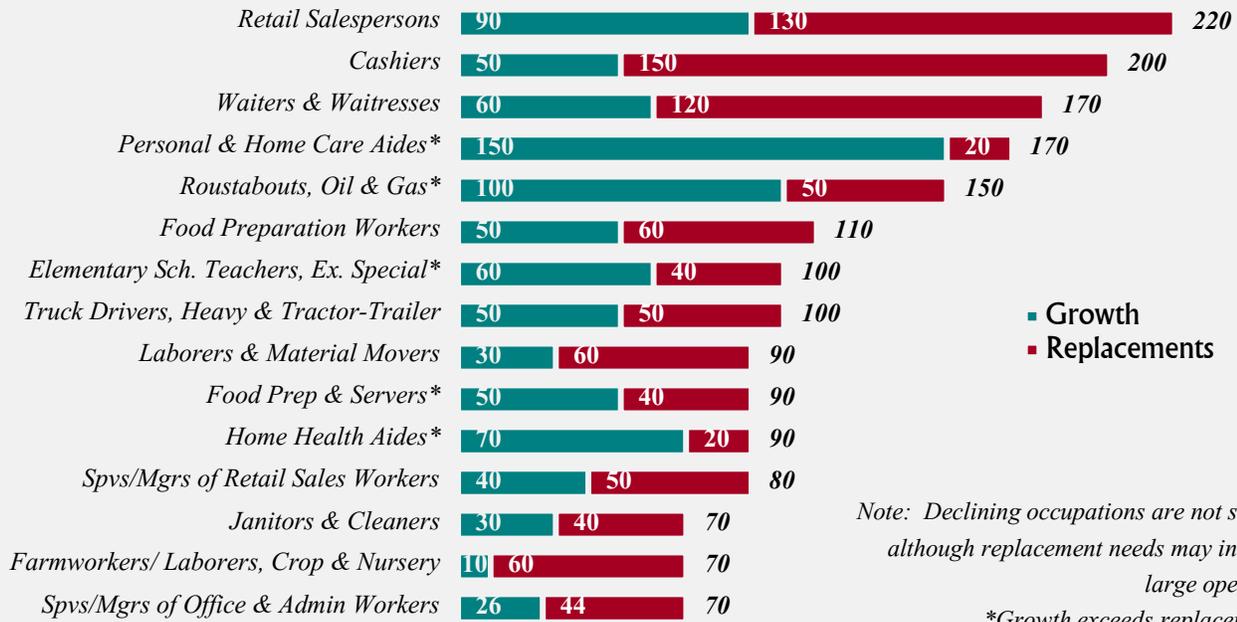
### Occupations with Greatest Job Growth Eastern Region, 2010-2020



*\*Also a fast growth sub-industry.*



## Occupations with Greatest Avg. Annual Openings Eastern Region, 2010-2020



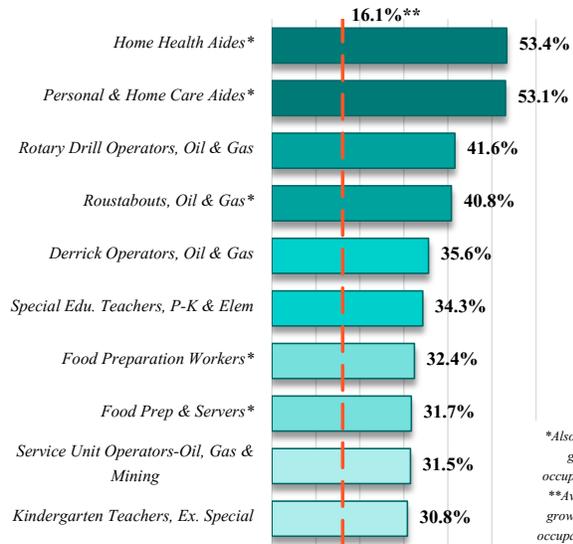
## Occupations with Greatest Declines Eastern Region, 2010-2020



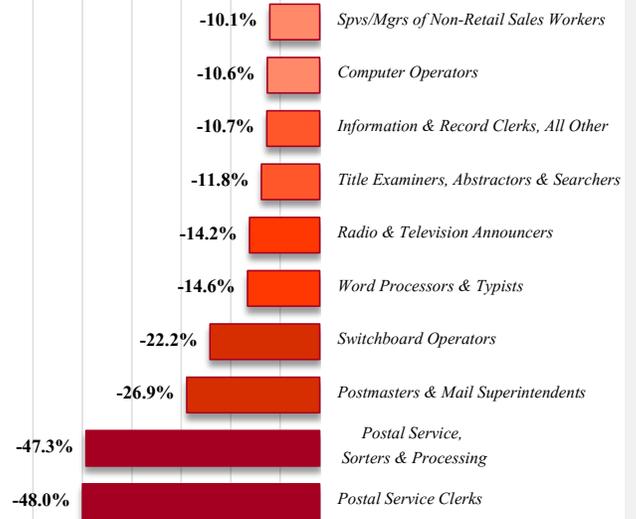
# Fastest Growing & Shrinking Occupations

## Eastern Region, 2010-2020

### Fastest Growers



### Fastest Shrinkers



## Top Jobs

The corresponding table lists some of the Eastern Region's "top" jobs based on projected growth and higher wages over the 2010 to 2020 period. The listed jobs are not the only great occupational opportunities available, but provide a snapshot of those that most closely

meet more than one of three designated criteria—large growth, fast growth, and higher wages. Note that for the Eastern Region, many of the top jobs are specifically related to the mining industry, in addition to the health care and education industries.

TOP Jobs in the EASTERN REGION	Employment		Growth		Average	Typical	Typical	
	2010	2020	Jobs	Rate	Annual Wage	Minimum Education	Work Exp.	Job Training
<b>5-STAR ★★★★★</b>								
Service Unit Operators-Oil, Gas & Mining	1,000	1,320	320	32.0%	\$51,257	< High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
Elementary Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special)	1,980	2,575	595	30.1%	\$53,672	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Registered Nurses	1,505	1,890	385	25.6%	\$59,856	Assoc.	None	None
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	2,570	3,065	495	19.3%	\$38,797	High Sch.	1-5 yrs.	S-T OJT
Secondary Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special & Voc)	1,215	1,445	230	18.9%	\$56,672	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Spvs/Mgrs of Office & Admin. Wkrs	1,635	1,900	265	16.2%	\$40,987	High Sch.	1-5 yrs.	None
<b>4-STAR ★★★★</b>								
Spvs/Mgrs of Const. Trades/Extraction Wkrs	1,480	1,715	235	15.9%	\$56,147	High Sch.	> 5 yrs.	None
<b>3-STAR ★★★</b>								
Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas	340	480	140	41.2%	\$77,732	< High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
Derrick Operators, Oil & Gas	540	730	190	35.2%	\$55,968	< High Sch.	None	S-T OJT
Middle Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special & Voc)	565	735	170	30.1%	\$52,091	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Operating Engineers & Other Equip. Operators	-----SUPPRESSED-----				\$45,496	High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
Licensed-Practical & Vocational Nurses	705	830	125	17.7%	\$42,518	Postsec.	None	None
<b>2-STAR ★★</b>								
Spvs/Mgrs of Retail Sales Workers	2,025	2,380	355	17.5%	\$33,952	High Sch.	1-5 yrs.	None
Roustabouts, Oil & Gas	2,475	3,485	1,010	40.8%	\$33,738	< High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
Bookkeeping/Accounting/Auditing Clerks	2,605	2,935	330	12.7%	\$29,816	High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
Correctional Officers & Jailers	610	730	120	19.7%	\$28,644	High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
Medical Assistants	810	990	180	22.2%	SUPPRESSED	High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
<b>SPARKING</b>								
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	170	230	60	35.3%	\$46,641	High Sch.	None	L-T OJT
Special Edu. Teachers, P-K & Elem.	320	430	110	34.4%	\$53,860	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Speech-Language Pathologists	-----SUPPRESSED-----				\$80,403	Mast.	None	None
Kindergarten Teachers (Ex. Special)	320	415	95	29.7%	\$51,478	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Educational/Vocational/School Counselors	-----SUPPRESSED-----				\$50,331	Mast.	None	None

Sources: NMDWS Economic Research & Analysis Bureau.

Notes: "OJT" refers to on-the-job training. "Postsec." refers to a postsecondary award that is not a degree (e.g. certification).

"Int/Res." refers to "Internship or Residency." While some occupations can be included under multiple categories (e.g. 5-Star and 4-Star), they are only classified under the category indicating the occupations greatest potential. The average wage for all occupations in 2011 was \$36,720 (as of Oct 2012).

## Employment Growth in the Northern Region

*“The Northern Region is projected to see employment grow at a similar, but slightly slower, rate than the state as a whole. Local and state government employment will share in some of that growth, while federal employment will shrink.”*

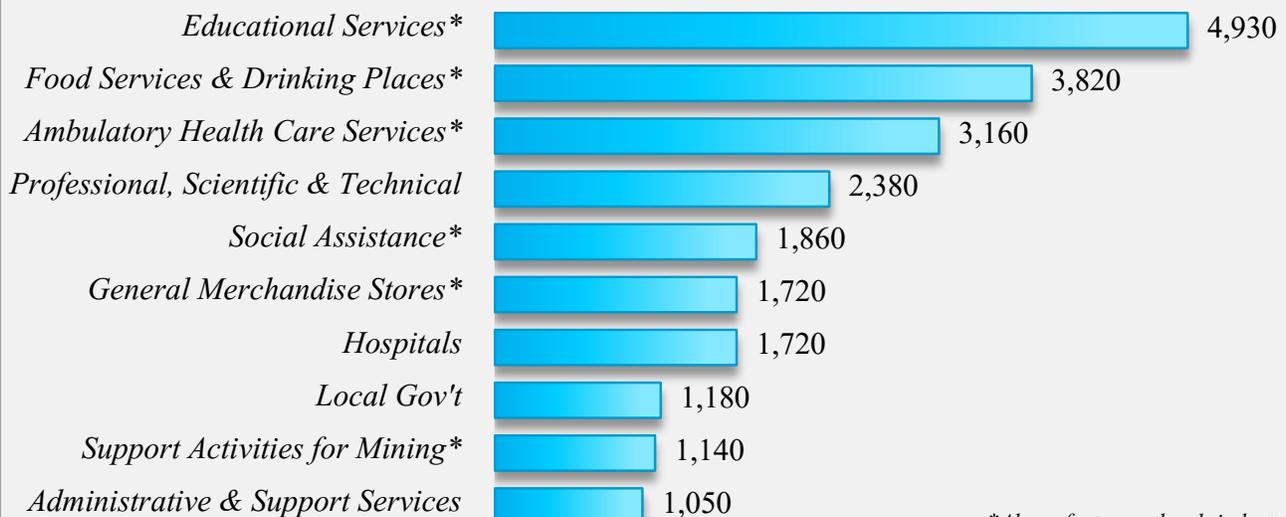
**Total Job Growth**  **32,000**  
**15.6%**

### Industries

Between 2010 and 2020, the Northern Region will add about 32,000 jobs, or 15.6 percent. Employment growth in the North is projected to comprise around 23 percent of all statewide growth during the 10-year period. Educational services, as with all regions in the state, will contribute the largest number of new jobs (4,930). Three of the four health care sub-industries—social assistance, hospitals, and ambulatory health care services—are ranked in the top 10 growth industries, and all sub-industries except hospitals are in the top 10 fastest growing sub-industries.

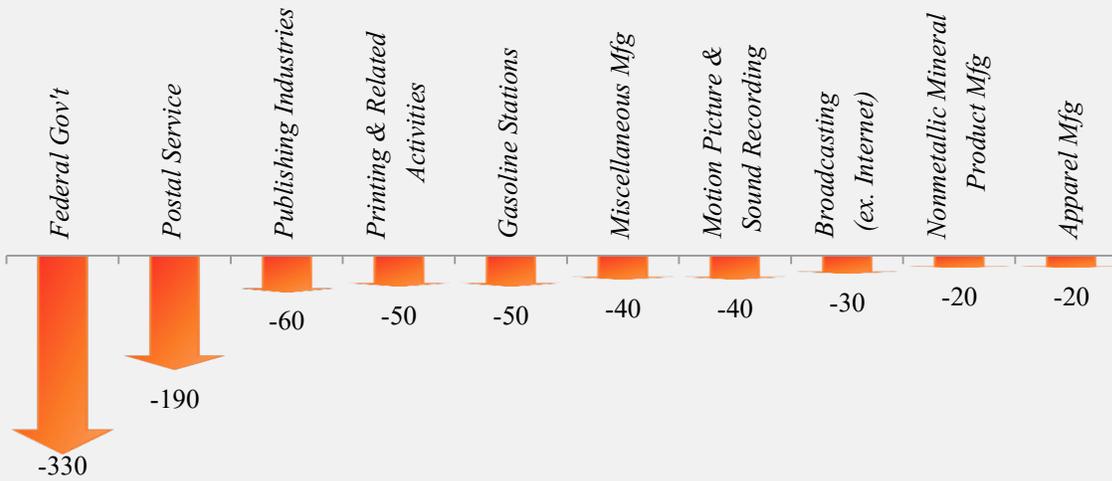
The Northern Region is also projected to see large growth in local government, with 1,180 new jobs by 2020. This contrasts with federal government, which is projected to decline over the 10-year period. State government is projected to grow at a slower pace, with 3.9 percent growth in total. Mining also has a presence in the north. Natural gas operations in San Juan and Rio Arriba counties, and molybdenum mining in Taos County, in particular, help to drive demand for mining employment. Support activities for mining is predicted to see over 1,100 openings by 2020 and the second fastest growth rate of all sub-industries.

### Industries with Greatest Job Growth *Northern Region, 2010-2020*



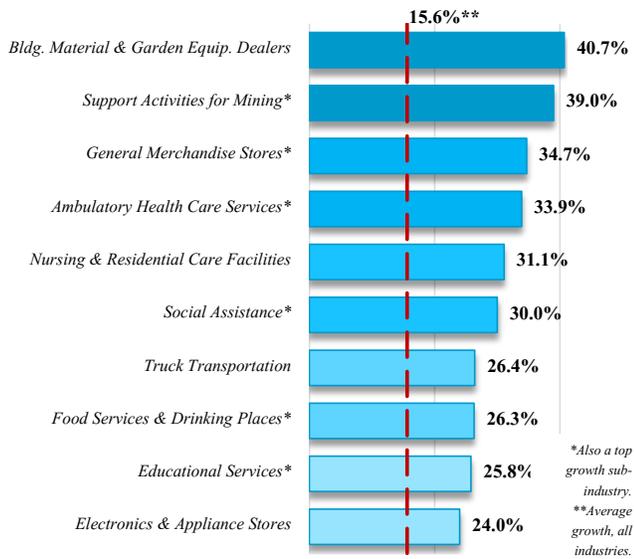
*\*Also a fast growth sub-industry.*

## Industries with Greatest Job Decline Northern Region, 2010-2020

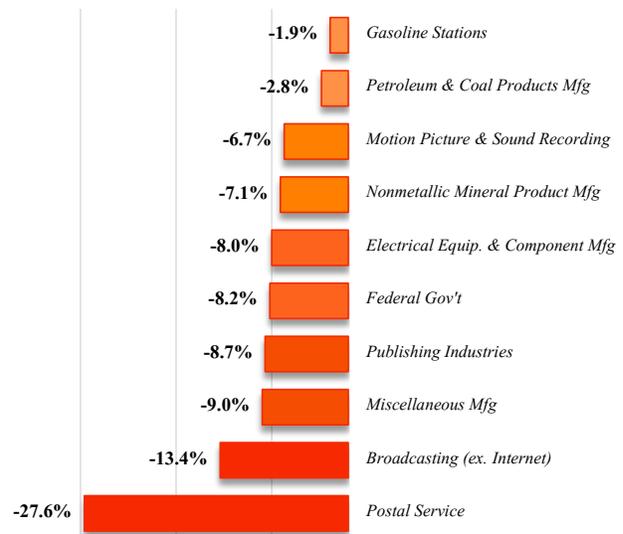


## Fastest Growing & Shrinking Industries Northern Region, 2010-2020

### Fastest Growers



### Fastest Shrinkers



The Northern Region is projected to lose the most jobs within the federal government. Future losses equate to over 300 jobs; losses are close to the same number as those projected for the Eastern Region. Other large employment losses

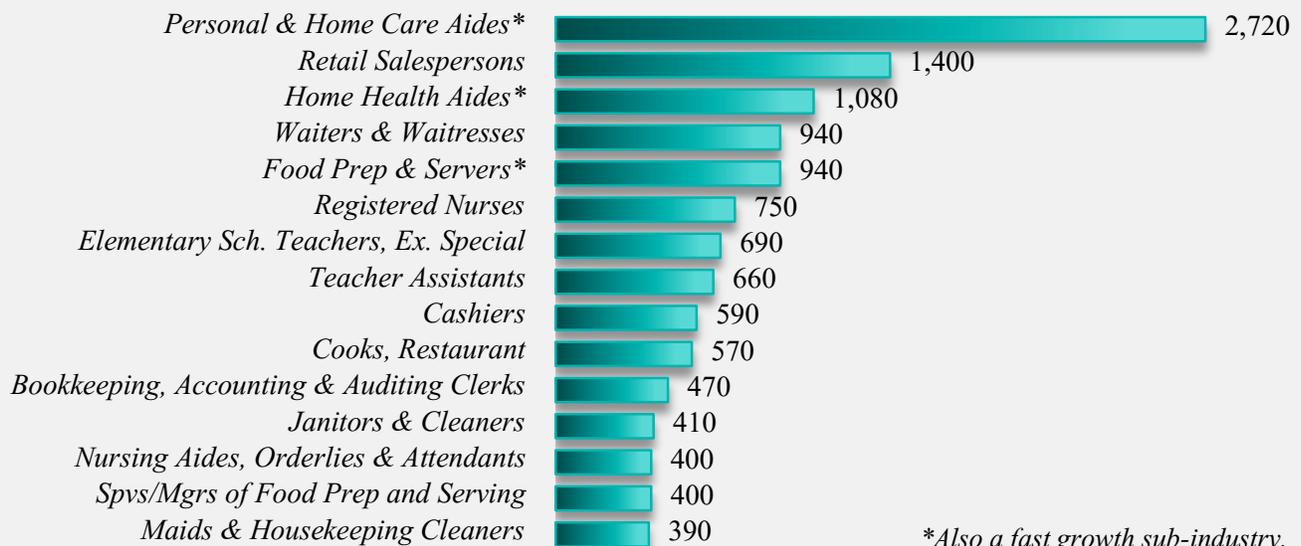
are projected to occur in the postal service and communications industries that are not internet-based. Small-scale manufacturing operations, such as non-metallic minerals and apparel, are also projected to decline.

## Occupations

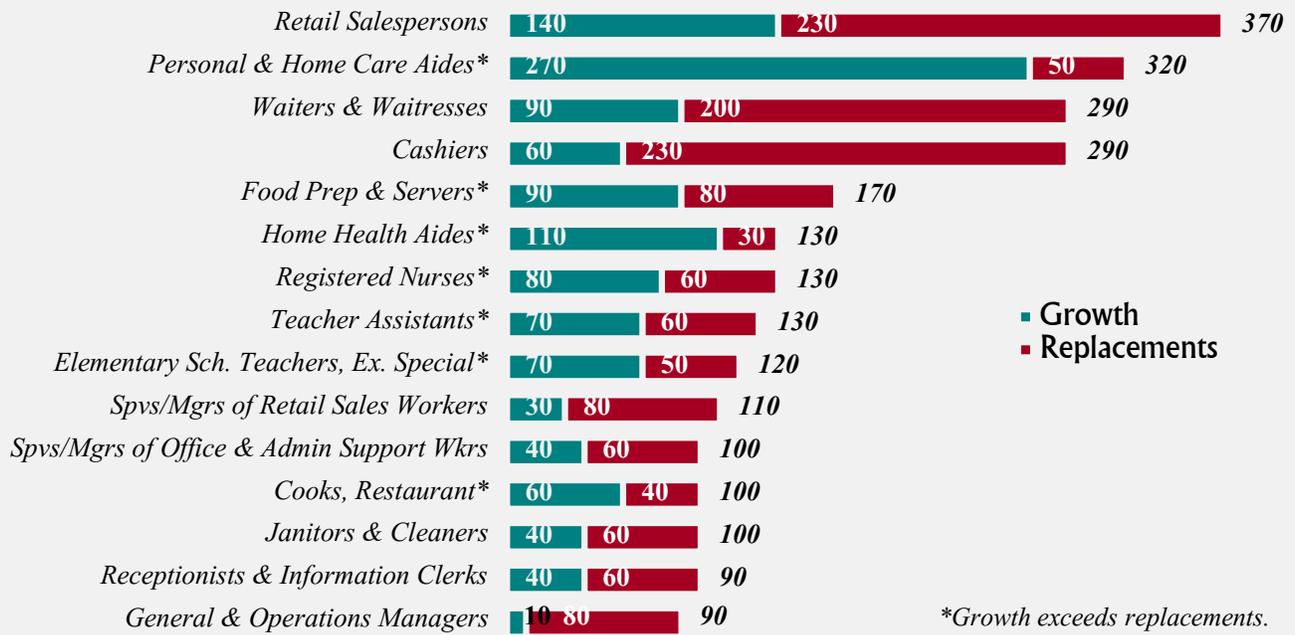
Personal and home care aides, retail salespersons, and home health aides are all projected to see the largest number of job openings over the 10-year period. Personal, home care, and home health aides will see the majority of growth derived from new demand, as opposed to replacement openings. New job openings from growth will comprise nearly 85 percent of all future growth in each occupation.

Large employment growth is also projected to occur in other health care occupations, such as registered nurses and nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants. In education, teacher assistants and elementary school teachers are projected to grow the most and provide the greatest number of openings. Special education teachers in elementary and middle schools will be in quick demand over the projection period.

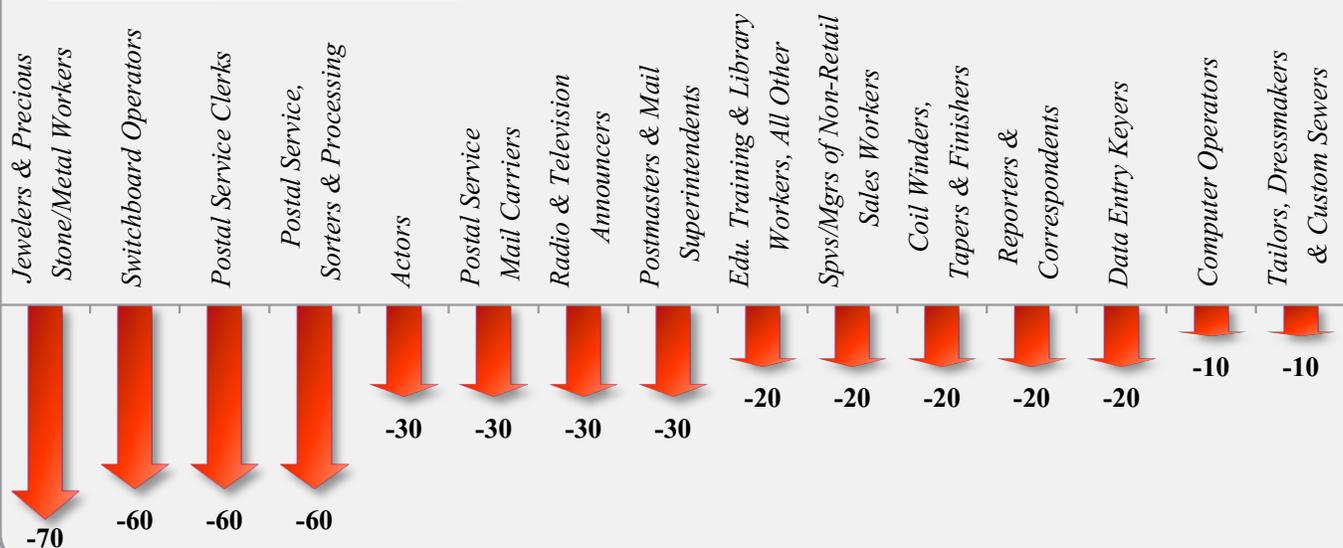
### Occupations with Greatest Job Growth Northern Region, 2010-2020



## Occupations with Greatest Avg. Annual Openings Northern Region, 2010-2020



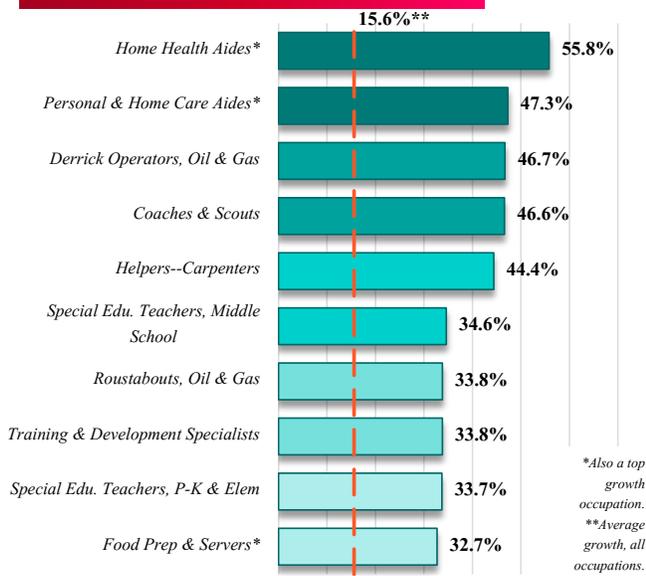
## Occupations with Greatest Declines Northern Region, 2010-2020



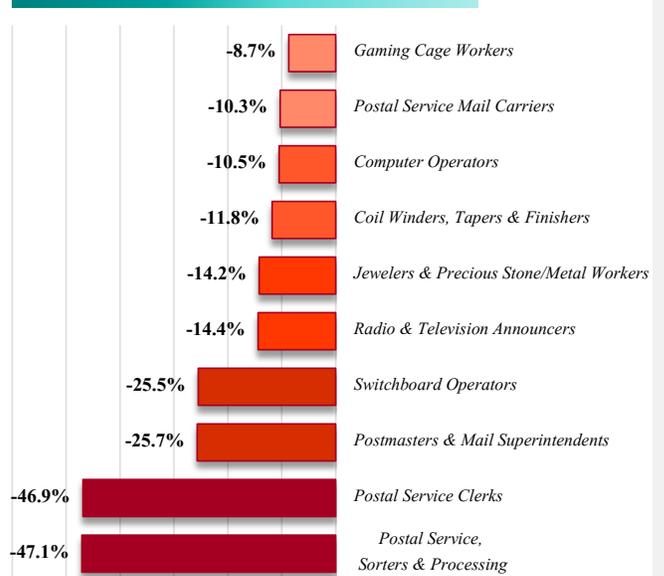
# Fastest Growing & Shrinking Occupations

## Northern Region, 2010-2020

### Fastest Growers



### Fastest Shrinkers



## Top Jobs

The corresponding table lists some of the Northern Region's "top" jobs based on projected growth and higher wages over the 2010 to 2020 period. The listed jobs are not the only great occupational

opportunities available, but provide a snapshot of those that most closely meet more than one of three designated criteria—large growth, fast growth, and higher wages.

TOP Jobs in the NORTHERN REGION	Employment		Growth		Average	Typical	Typical	
	2010	2020	Jobs	Rate	Annual Wage	Minimum Education	Work Exp.	Job Training
<b>5-STAR</b> ★★★★★								
Registered Nurses	3,215	3,965	750	23.3%	\$64,712	Assoc.	None	None
Elementary Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special)	2,235	2,925	690	30.9%	\$48,756	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
<b>4-STAR</b> ★★★★								
Spvs/Mgrs of Office & Admin. Workers	2,360	2,725	365	15.5%	\$44,659	High Sch.	1-5 yrs.	None
<b>3-STAR</b> ★★★								
Engineers, All Other	-----SUPPRESSED-----		-----SUPPRESSED-----			Bach.	None	None
Management Analysts	1,370	1,695	325	23.7%	\$77,052	Bach.	1-5 yrs.	None
Secondary Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special & Voc)	-----SUPPRESSED-----				\$53,168	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Middle Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special & Voc)	1,025	1,340	315	30.7%	\$52,824	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Service Unit Operators-Oil, Gas & Mining	635	820	185	29.1%	\$47,352	< High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
<b>2-STAR</b> ★★								
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	1,985	2,345	360	18.1%	\$37,875	High Sch.	1-5 yrs.	S-T OJT
Spvs/Mgrs of Retail Sales Workers	3,540	3,865	325	9.2%	\$36,058	High Sch.	1-5 yrs.	None
Bookkeeping/Accounting/Auditing Clerks	3,385	3,855	470	13.9%	\$33,644	High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
Security Guards	1,885	2,250	365	19.4%	\$32,445	High Sch.	None	S-T OJT
Customer Service Representatives	1,370	1,610	240	17.5%	\$29,893	High Sch.	None	S-T OJT
<b>SPARKING</b>								
Self-Enrichment Education Teachers	200	270	70	35.0%	\$46,761	High Sch.	1-5 yrs.	None
Special Education Teachers, Middle School	240	325	85	35.4%	\$52,434	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Training & Development Specialists	220	295	75	34.1%	\$53,063	Bach.	None	None
Special Education Teachers, P-K & Elem.	370	495	125	33.8%	\$52,747	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Physical Therapists	230	305	75	32.6%	\$79,923	Doc/Prof.	None	None

Sources: NMDWS Economic Research & Analysis Bureau.

Notes: "OJT" refers to on-the-job training. "Postsec." refers to a postsecondary award that is not a degree (e.g. certification). "Int/Res." refers to "Internship or Residency." While some occupations can be included under multiple categories (e.g. 5-Star and 4-Star), they are only classified under the category indicating the occupations greatest potential. The average wage for all occupations in 2011 was \$41,840 (as of Oct 2012).

# Employment Growth in the Southwestern Region

*“Employment will grow slowest in the Southwestern Region. Education and health care jobs provide the most future job opportunities, while agriculture employment opportunities will decline.”*

**Total Job Growth**  **15,830**  
**14.9%**

## Industries

Between 2010 and 2020, the Southwestern Region will add about 15,830 jobs, or 14.9 percent. Employment growth in the southwest is projected to comprise close to 12 percent of all statewide growth during the 10-year period. Educational services, as with all regions in the state, will contribute the largest number of new jobs (4,030). All four of the health care sub-industries—social assistance, hospitals, ambulatory health care services, and nursing and residential care facilities—are ranked in the top 10 growth industries, and three of sub-industries are in the top 10 fastest growing sub-industries.

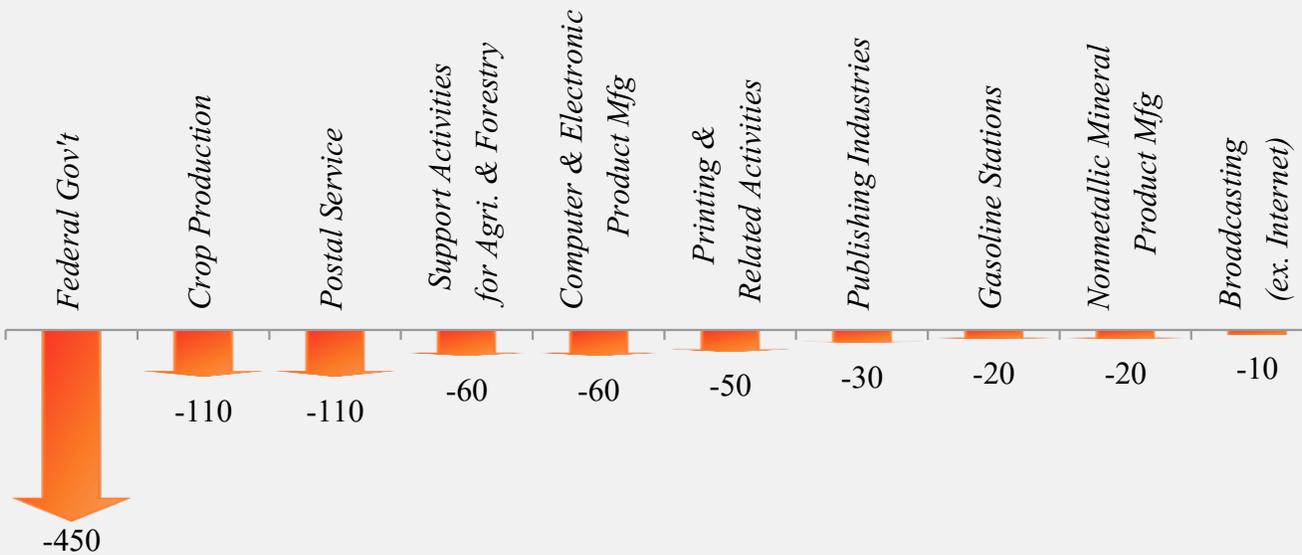
Like the Eastern and Northern regions, the Southwest is projected to lose the most jobs within the federal government. Future losses equate to about 450 jobs. Crop production will also take a hit in employment totals, although at a much smaller level. These losses, combined with those projected in support activities for agriculture and forestry, illustrate the larger employment declines projected in the agriculture industry overall. Postal service and communications industries, besides those associated with the internet, will see also reductions in employment.

### Industries with Greatest Job Growth Southwestern Region, 2010-2020



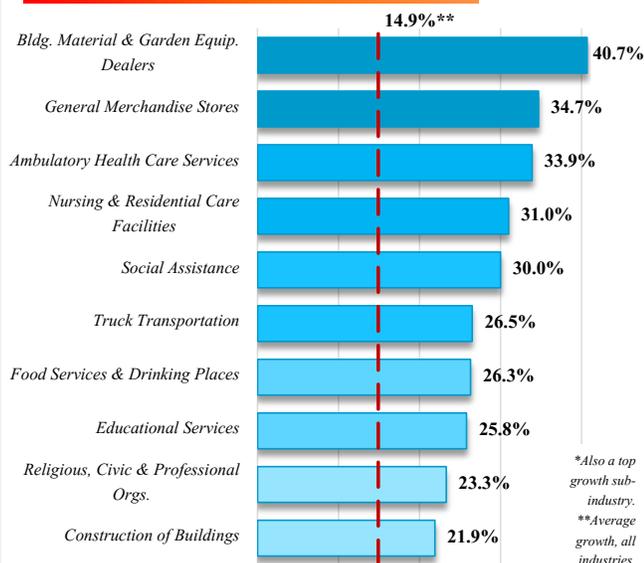
*\*Also a fast growth sub-industry.*

## Industries with Greatest Job Decline Southwestern Region, 2010-2020

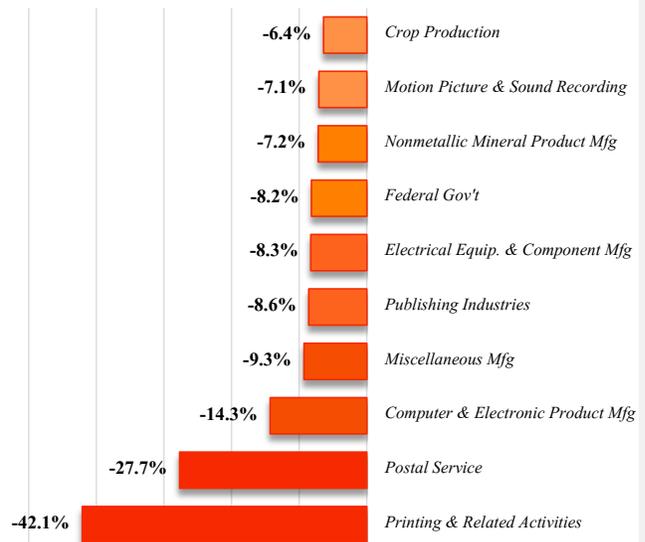


## Fastest Growing & Shrinking Industries Southwestern Region, 2010-2020

### Fastest Growers



### Fastest Shrinkers

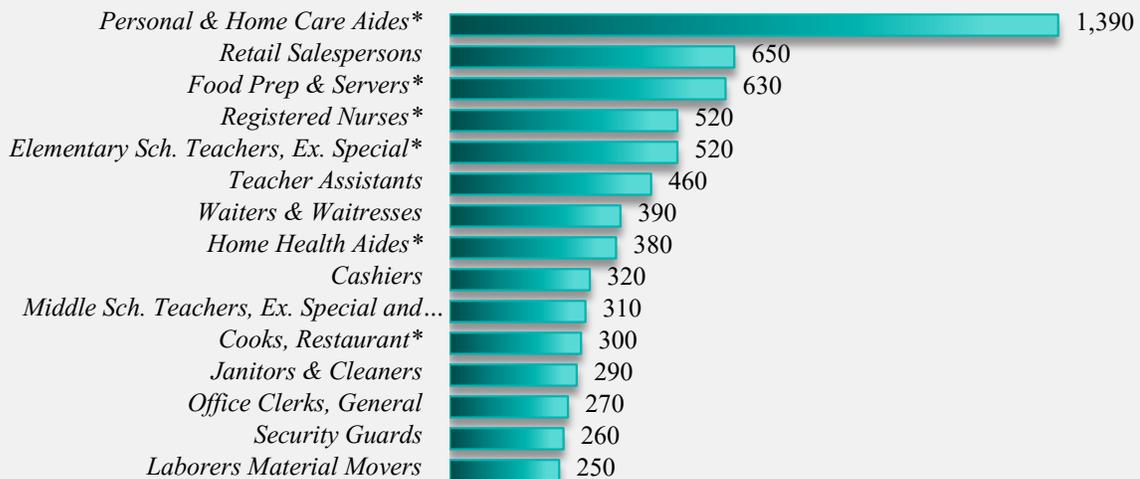


## Occupations

Personal and home care aides, retail salespersons, and food preparation and serving workers are all projected to see the largest number of job openings over the 10-year period (2,670 jobs combined). Registered nurses will provide around 520 new jobs by 2020. The health care and education occupations all are projected to see more annual job openings due to growth versus openings due to replacements. This is particularly true for personal and home care aides, with over 85 percent of future growth being new job openings.

In education, teacher assistants and elementary and middle school teachers are projected to grow the most and provide the greatest number of openings. Elementary and middle school teachers, along with secondary and special education teachers, will grow at a faster rate than most other occupations over the projection period. A little more than half of all growth in each of these occupations, except secondary teachers, is projected to come from new job openings, as opposed to replacement openings. Secondary school teachers are projected to see more openings due to replacement needs.

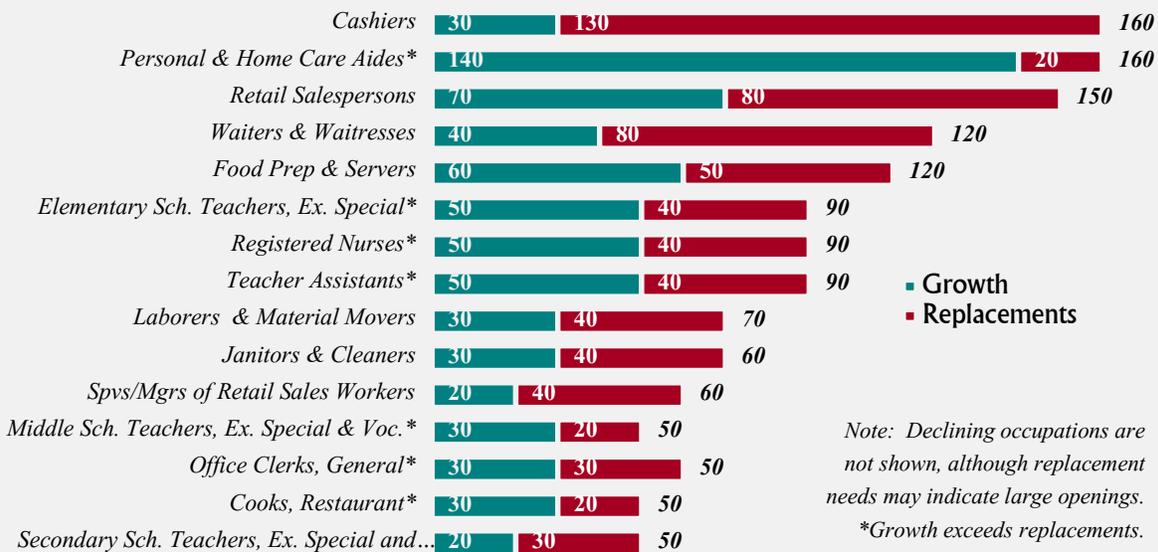
### Occupations with Greatest Job Growth Southwestern Region, 2010-2020



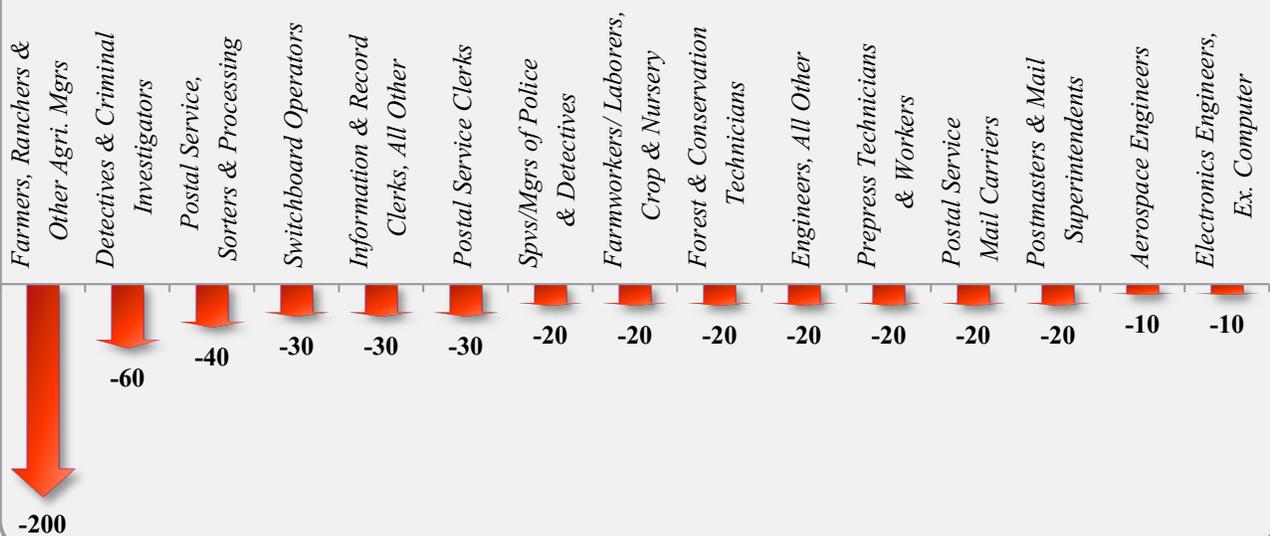
*\*Also a fast growth sub-industry.*



## Occupations with Greatest Avg. Annual Growth Southwestern Region, 2010-2020



## Occupations with Greatest Declines Southwestern Region, 2010-2020

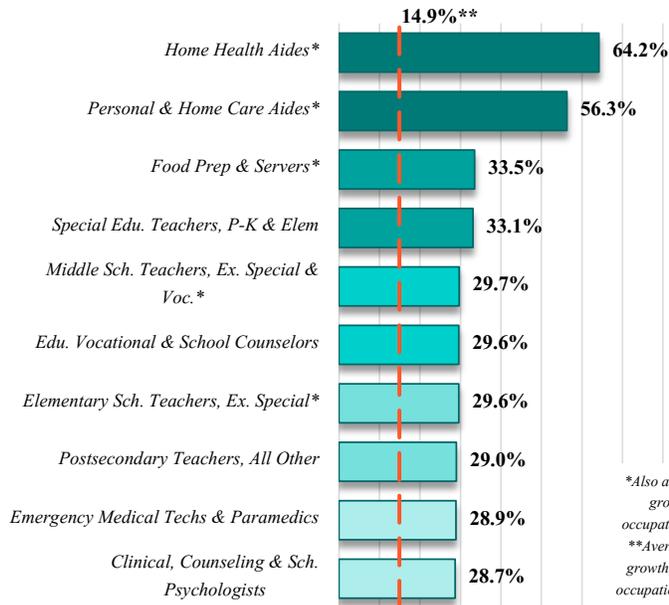


The agriculture industry is the only industry in the Southwestern Region to see employment losses by 2020. Occupations in agriculture are also projected to decline in coming years. While job openings are projected for many occupations, including farmworkers, laborers, and managers, all of these

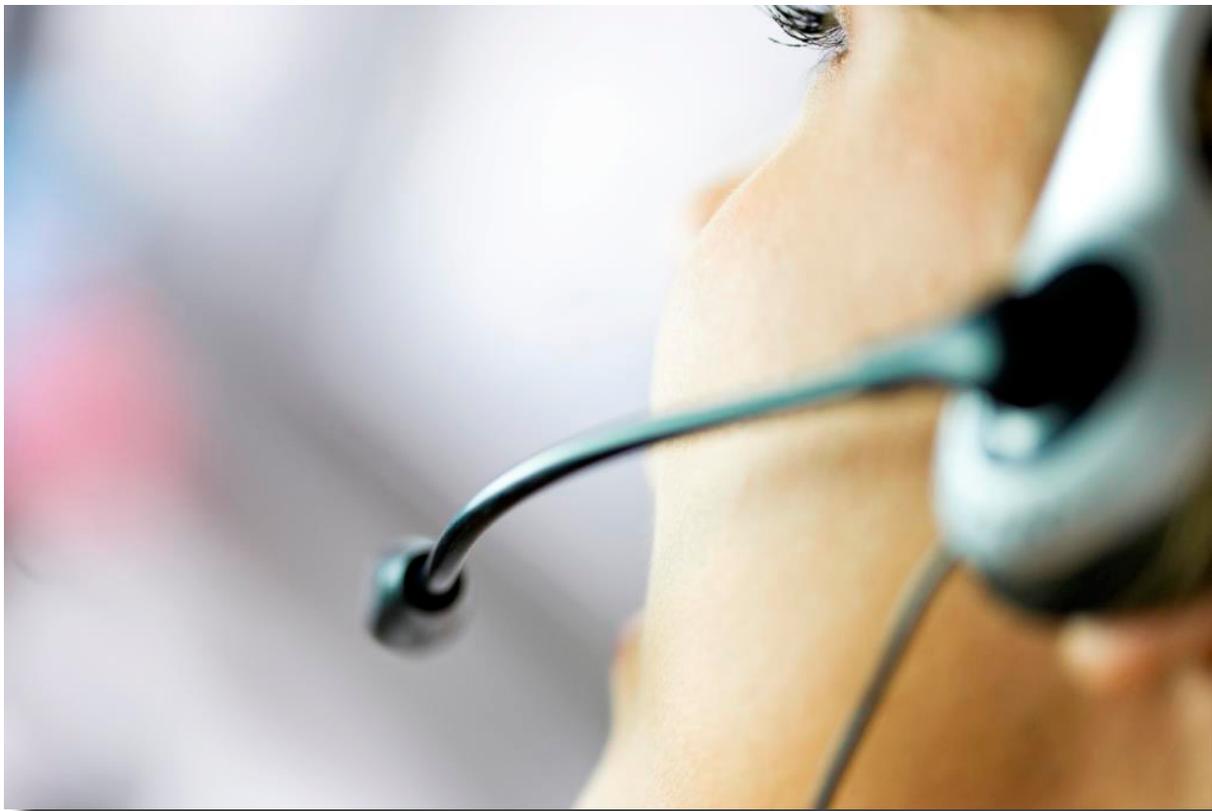
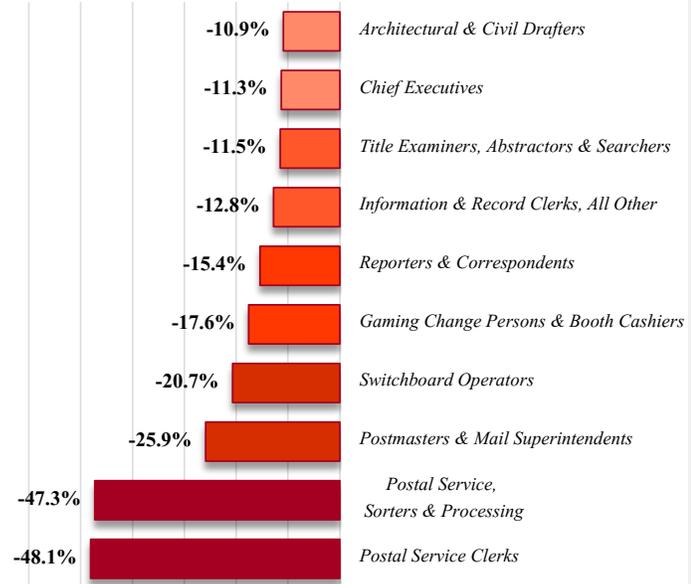
openings are projected to come from replacement needs. Because new job growth is zero or negative for this industry and its occupations, these occupations are considered to be declining. As in other regions, postal workers lead all occupations in employment declines over the projection period.

## Fastest Growing & Shrinking Occupations Southwestern Region, 2010-2020

### Fastest Growers



### Fastest Shrinkers



## Top Jobs

The corresponding table lists some of the Southwestern Region's "top" jobs based on projected growth and higher wages over the 2010 to 2020 period. The listed jobs are not the only

great occupational opportunities available, but provide a snapshot of those that most closely meet more than one of three designated criteria—large growth, fast growth, and higher wages.

TOP Jobs in the SOUTHWESTERN REGION	Employment		Growth		Average	Minimum	Typical	Typical
	2010	2020	Jobs	Rate	Annual Wage	Education	Work Exp.	Job Training
<b>5-STAR ★★★★★</b>								
Elementary Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special)	1,740	2,256	516	29.7%	\$64,218	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Registered Nurses	2,035	2,555	520	25.6%	\$61,333	Assoc.	None	None
Middle Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special & Voc)	1,030	1,335	305	29.6%	\$58,882	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Secondary Sch. Teachers (Ex. Special & Voc)	1,055	1,250	195	18.5%	\$56,126	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Postsecondary Teachers, All Other	-----SUPPRESSED-----		-----SUPPRESSED-----		SUPPRESSED	Mast.	None	None
<b>4-STAR ★★★★</b>								
Spvs/Mgrs of Office & Admin. Workers	1,135	1,315	180	15.9%	\$38,620	High Sch.	1-5 yrs.	None
<b>3-STAR ★★★</b>								
Managers, All Other	780	920	140	17.9%	\$77,354	High Sch.	1-5 yrs.	None
Special Education Teachers, P-K & Elem.	395	525	130	32.9%	\$63,744	Bach.	None	Int/Res.
Clinical/Counseling/School Psychologists	305	395	90	29.5%	\$60,403	Doc/Prof	None	Int/Res.
Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	300	385	85	28.3%	SUPPRESSED	Postsec.	None	None
<b>2-STAR ★★</b>								
Spvs/Mgrs of Retail Sales Workers	1,670	1,890	220	13.2%	\$33,264	High Sch.	1-5 yrs.	None
Security Guards	1,250	1,510	260	20.8%	\$28,380	High Sch.	None	S-T OJT
Bookkeeping/Accounting/Auditing Clerks	1,550	1,755	205	13.2%	\$28,267	High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
Medical Assistants	650	790	140	21.5%	\$26,031	High Sch.	None	Mod OJT
Spvs/Mgrs of Food Prep. & Serving Workers	-----SUPPRESSED-----		-----SUPPRESSED-----		SUPPRESSED	High Sch.	1-5 yrs.	None
<b>SPARKING</b>								
Business Teachers, Postsecondary	260	345	85	32.7%	\$88,872	Doc/Prof	None	None
Education Administrators, Postsecondary	220	290	70	31.8%	\$124,703	Mast.	1-5 yrs.	None
Educational/Vocational/School Counselors	200	260	60	30.0%	\$54,911	Mast.	None	None
Computer Science Teachers, Postsecondary	200	260	60	30.0%	\$84,121	Doc/Prof	None	None
Agricultural Sciences Teachers, Postsecondary	-----SUPPRESSED-----		-----SUPPRESSED-----		SUPPRESSED	Doc/Prof	None	None

Sources: NMDWS Economic Research & Analysis Bureau.

Notes: "OJT" refers to on-the-job training. "Postsec." refers to a postsecondary award that is not a degree (e.g. certification). "Int/Res." refers to "Internship or Residency." While some occupations can be included under multiple categories (e.g. 5-Star and 4-Star), they are only classified under the category indicating the occupations greatest potential. The average wage for all occupations in 2011 was \$37,780 (as of Oct 2012).



# REGIONAL BUSINESS NEWS

*The latest business news (as of August 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.*

## ↑ Business Expansion

## + Business Opening

## ↓ Business Contraction

## — Business Closing

## Statewide

↑ The new owners of the Garduños Mexican restaurant chain opened a Las Cruces location in summer 2012 and expect to have two more eateries—in Albuquerque and Santa Fe—operating by April 2013. Plans for a Taos location are also under way.

↑ Home Depot plans to hire about 600 seasonal workers at its 12 New Mexico locations for the typical spring rush. Rival Lowe's is also boosting hiring, but did not release estimates for individual states.

↑ Outsourcing services provider Sitel, after hosting job fairs September 6 in Las Cruces and September 20 in Albuquerque to fill 250 and 150 positions, respectively, announced plans to hire 200 more workers in Albuquerque to support an unnamed new client.

+ Emmett/Furla Films, LLC will shoot the action-drama "Lone Survivor," starring Mark Wahlberg, from early October through mid-November in and around Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Chilili, employing at least 170 New Mexico crew members and 35 New Mexico actors.

↓ Lovelace health System is laying off about 80 of its nearly 4,000 employees. The company owns five hospitals in Albuquerque and one in Roswell, the 250,000-member Lovelace health Plan, and 11 pharmacies in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, and Santa Fe.

+ The film "Enemy Way," starring Forest Whitaker, will begin shooting in April around Albuquerque and Deming, employing at least 70 New Mexicans as crew members and at least 300 more as principal and background talent.

+ The Debra Martin Chase film "American Girl: 2013 Girl of the Year," starring Jane Seymour, is set to shoot in and around Santa Fe and Albuquerque starting this month, employing at least 100 New Mexicans as crew members and at least 300 as principal and background talent.

+ The comedy production "Frank," starring Michael Fassbender, Domhnall Gleeson, and Maggie Gyllenhaal, will film in and around Albuquerque, Zia Pueblo, Estancia, and Socorro County, employing at least 100 New Mexicans as crew members

and 20 as principal actors.

+ First Solar announced agreements to build four new solar plants for PNM Resources, pending regulatory approval, creating 450 construction jobs. The plants are scheduled to be operational by the end of 2013, adding 20 megawatts of solar to PNM's generating capacity.

## Central Region

### BERNALILLO COUNTY

↑ Lowe's customer support center, located in the 60,000-square-foot former America Online building at 6301 Jefferson NE in Albuquerque, will expand into an adjacent 32,000-square-foot site and add 300 jobs in 2013.

↑ T-Mobile scheduled a job fair for December 12 at its Menaul Call Center in Albuquerque to fill more than 90 full-time customer service and retention representative positions. The company's Jefferson Call Center was recently hiring for technical care specialist openings.

↓ Cardinal health, a health care products and services company, will reduce its Albuquerque workforce by 40 percent by this spring, eliminating 150 of 375 positions.

+ Tactical aircraft services company Air USA will move its headquarters from Quincy, Illinois, to Albuquerque, creating up to 200 jobs. The company



provides combat training to the U.S. military, other government contractors, and NATO allies.

✚ BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, based in Huntington Beach, California, opened its first New Mexico location November 5 at Winrock Town Center in Albuquerque's Uptown area, employing 215.

✚ Buffalo Wild Wings plans to open a new Albuquerque restaurant, its third in the city, next to Dion's on Gibson Boulevard near the Albuquerque International Sunport. The typical franchise location employs 40 to 60.

✚ Texas-based Conn's opened its first New Mexico store at 45 Hotel Circle NE in Albuquerque, a site formerly occupied by Builder's Square, employing about 50. The specialty retailer sells home

appliances, furniture, mattresses, and consumer electronics.

✚ Dick's Sporting Goods will open a new store in Coronado Center by late fall on the first level of the three-floor space formerly occupied by Macy's. A similar-sized Dick's Sporting Goods store on Albuquerque's West Side employs about 50.

✚ Wichita, Kansas-based Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhburgers was opened its first New Mexico restaurant in February at Paseo del Norte and I-25, employing 60. The area franchisee plans to open at least seven eateries in northern New Mexico over the next five years.

✚ The planned 87,000-square-foot Friedman Recycling Plant in Albuquerque's North Valley is expected to be fully operational by March 2013, creating 35

positions initially and possibly 75 eventually. Construction will require about 135 workers.

✚ Omaha-based apparel and home decor chain Gordmans announced plans to enter the Albuquerque market with two news stores—at Cottonwood Commons, to open in August, and in Coronado Center, to open in November—each creating about 100 jobs.

✚ Haven Behavioral healthcare Inc., headquartered in Nashville, opened a 34-bed, acute-care psychiatric hospital in the Gibson Medical Center complex at 5400 Gibson SE. The facility will employ 70 when fully staffed.

✚ Developers broke ground February 16 on the \$70 million, 550,000-square-foot Las Estancias commercial center in the South Valley. Several businesses, including a medical facility expected to employ 110, have already committed to opening at the site.

✚ McCune Solar Works LLC and its investors are now considering other locations in the state for solar panel production after ending negotiations to lease Schott Solar's 200,000-square-foot facility in Mesa del Sol.

✚ The independent feature film "Frontera," starring Ed Harris, Michael Pena, Eva Longoria, and Amy Madigan, will shoot in and around Albuquerque from early November through early



December, employing at least 135 New Mexicans as crew members and principal talent.

✦ Presbyterian broke ground on a new \$32 million, 195,000-square-foot headquarters building in Albuquerque, scheduled to open by mid-2014. The project will create 200 to 300 construction jobs, with about 50 on site at any given time.

✦ The Sadie's chain will open its fourth restaurant by this summer in the former Garduños location at 5400 Academy NE in Albuquerque, employing about 120.

✦ "Force of Execution," starring Steven Seagal, Danny Trejo, and Ving Rhames, will film in and around Albuquerque, employing at least 65 New Mexicans as crew

members and 300 as principal and background talent.

✦ Albuquerque's first "elevated" Target store, with 155,000 square feet of retail space situated above a street-level parking lot, is scheduled to open March 6, employing about 250.

✦ Walmart, which already operates two Neighborhood Market stores in Albuquerque, is set to open a third this fall at Juan Tabo and Menaul NE and has signed a lease to open a fourth in the Pavilions at San Mateo. The grocery-oriented stores typically employ about 90.

— GE Intelligent Platforms, a manufacturer of computers for military and aeronautic applications, will wind down operations in Albuquerque over the next 12 months and move 40

of its 70 positions to a facility in Huntsville, Alabama.

#### **SANDOVAL COUNTY**

▲ Stolar Research is moving most of its current staff from Raton to Rio Rancho and adding about 50 engineers and technicians for research and manufacturing operations at the new site. The company produces radio geophysics detection and imaging instruments.

▲ Stream Global services is adding 250 employees at its Rio Rancho call center to provide sales and customer support for a major wireless communications provider.

▼ Hewlett-Packard will transfer 200 jobs from its Rio Rancho customer service and technical support facility to an Alpharetta, Georgia, plant by November 31.

The Rio Rancho site laid off 100 workers in July.

✦ Developers plan to break ground this fall on The Villas in Corrales, a \$60 million senior continuing care community, creating 800 construction jobs and 140 permanent positions.

### **VALENCIA COUNTY**

✦ First Choice Community Healthcare's opening of a new 22,000-square-foot clinic in Los Lunas will enable a shift of services that will add 80 new employees between its Los Lunas and Belen facilities.

✦ Applebee's in planning to open a restaurant next year in Los Lunas at the northwest corner of Main Street and Los Cerritos Drive, in front of the Lowe's home improvement store, employing 75 to 80 full- and part-time workers.

✦ Albuquerque's Lovelace health System announced plans to partner with Oklahoma City-based Miller Architects Inc. to operate a \$55 million, 110,000-square-foot hospital in Los Lunas that is scheduled to open in 2015, creating 450 construction jobs and 450 permanent positions.

✦ PNM plans to build a \$60 to \$70 million, 80-megawatt natural gas power plant west of Belen that will go into service in 2016. Construction is expected to begin in 2014, creating 100 to 120 temporary jobs.

## **Eastern Region**

### **EDDY COUNTY**

✦ Artesia's Navajo Refinery has expected to hire more than 1,000 workers in January for plant maintenance jobs expected to last from a month to six weeks.

### **LEA COUNTY**

✦ URENCO USA's second billion-dollar expansion at its nuclear enrichment facility east of Eunice will maintain jobs until at least 2014 for an unspecified number of the 1,000 construction workers currently on site. Permanent staffing levels will remain unchanged.

✦ 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.

### **LINCOLN COUNTY**

✦ CYFD will make a final decision by the beginning of the 2013 legislative session regarding its planned reopening of a juvenile detention and rehabilitation facility at the former Camp Sierra Blanca site that would employ 50 full-time workers.

### **OTERO COUNTY**

✦ New Generation Biomass LLC plans to invest \$70 million in the construction and development of its Black Bear Biomass Energy Facility at Holloman Air Force Base. The project will create

about 300 construction jobs and 80 permanent positions.

✦ Cookie and cracker manufacturer Western Baking Corporation acquired the assets of the former Marietta Biscuit plant in Alamogordo and started production in mid-September 2012. The company expects to create 100 jobs within its first year and up to 500 eventually.

### **ROOSEVELT COUNTY**

✦ Sunland Inc. laid off about a third of its 150 workers after the FDA suspended the company's food facility registration, citing Sunland's link to a salmonella outbreak and history of safety violations.

## **Northern Region**

### **COLFAX COUNTY**

✦ Angel Fire Resort, in keeping with its typical seasonal pattern, will likely add about 265 workers for this year's ski season to supplement its permanent staff of around 185.

### **LOS ALAMOS COUNTY**

✦ LANL is eliminating 80 contractor positions to further reduce costs in response to budget cuts. The lab trimmed 557 positions through a voluntary separation program in March and terminated 55 flexible-workforce employees in April.

### **MCKINLEY COUNTY**

✦ Albuquerque-based HB Construction broke ground on

the \$8.6 million McKinley County Justice Complex July 26 in Gallup. The two-phase project, expected to be completed by October 2013, will create 50 to 75 construction jobs.

### **SAN JUAN COUNTY**

👇 BHP Billiton will eliminate about 100 jobs at Navajo Mine before the site's mid-year sale to the Navajo Nation. The company plans to avoid layoffs by offering buyouts to eligible employees.

### **SANTA FE COUNTY**

➕ Buffalo Wild Wings expects to open a new restaurant in May or June in the 6,000-square-foot space formerly occupied by Osaka Grill at Cerrillos Road and Zafarano Drive, employing about 85.

## **Southwestern Region**

### **DOÑA ANA COUNTY**

👆 Convergys is recruiting workers for 200 full-time, on-site service/sales representative positions at its Las Cruces call center.

➕ Taiwan-based Bizlink, a global manufacturer of cable assemblies and wire harnesses, plans to build an 80,000-square-foot production facility in the Santa Teresa Industrial Park that will employ about 80.

➕ Dick's Sporting Goods opened in Las Cruces November 5 at the location formerly occupied by

Sportsman's Warehouse. A slightly larger Albuquerque store employs about 50.

➕ The Coastal Deli Inc. franchise group is planning to open a Jason's Deli restaurant in Las Cruces by mid-December, employing about 80.

➕ Phase two of construction, to include all the mechanical, electrical, architectural, utilities, track, and civil engineering work, is ramping up at UP's \$400 million railyard project near Santa Teresa. The operation will eventually create more than 600 permanent positions.

➕ Groundbreaking was set for late summer 2012 on a new Walmart Supercenter in Las Cruces. The East Mesa store is scheduled to open in early summer 2013, employing 250 to 300.

— The Kmart store at 1240 El Paseo Road is liquidating inventory and will close on April 14 after about 40 years in operation, displacing 58 employees. The other Las Cruces Kmart store, at 1900 Bataan Memorial East, will remain open.

### **SOCORRO COUNTY**

➕ Solaro Energy's planned move from California to New Mexico is expected to create 100 new jobs in Socorro over the next two to three years. The company manufactures a variety of residential and commercial solar products.



# COUNTY EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT

This section provides information on the following three separate labor market measurements for each region and county in New Mexico:

## EMPLOYMENT

- Historical year-over-year percentage changes in employment for January 2009 through September 2012
- Year-over-year changes in employment for the most recent quarter for which data is available (3rd quarter 2012).
- Information on industries that experienced the largest employment changes (gains or losses) for the most recent quarter for which data is available. When applicable, it is noted when employment changes were due to a one-time location or code change in a particular industry in the Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) program. One-time code changes represent updates to the categorization of the data and not necessarily actual job losses or gains. These changes are referred to as “non-economic data changes.”

*Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), historical up to 3rd quarter 2012 data.*

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- The most recent unemployment rate available (December 2012) compared to the previous month (November 2012) and the

same month for the previous year (December 2011). Rates presented are all non-seasonally adjusted.

*Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS).*

## AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES:

- A map showing the range of average weekly wages for each county by region.

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

Note that percentage changes in year-over-year employment can appear significantly large in small counties. A county's population and employment size will contribute to more drastic percentage changes, while numerical changes remain small. It is important to be aware that year-over-year employment fluctuations from quarter to quarter are typically expected (often in relation to seasonality and other factors) and an evaluation of long-term trends would require a historical analysis beyond the most recent quarter.

## Central Region Economic Data

The Central Region, overall, experienced over-the-year employment losses in September 2012. Two of the four central counties—Torrance and Sandoval—experienced year-over-year job growth in the third quarter of 2012. These two counties saw trending employment growth for all of 2012. Bernalillo and Valencia

counties saw employment losses over the year, but losses appear to have lessened in 2012. Over-the-year losses were greatest in Valencia, although losses were mostly due to non-economic data changes in the QCEW program. All four central counties saw an increase in the unemployment rate between November and December of 2012, although all four counties experienced a decrease from rates seen the same month of the previous year.

## BERNALILLO COUNTY

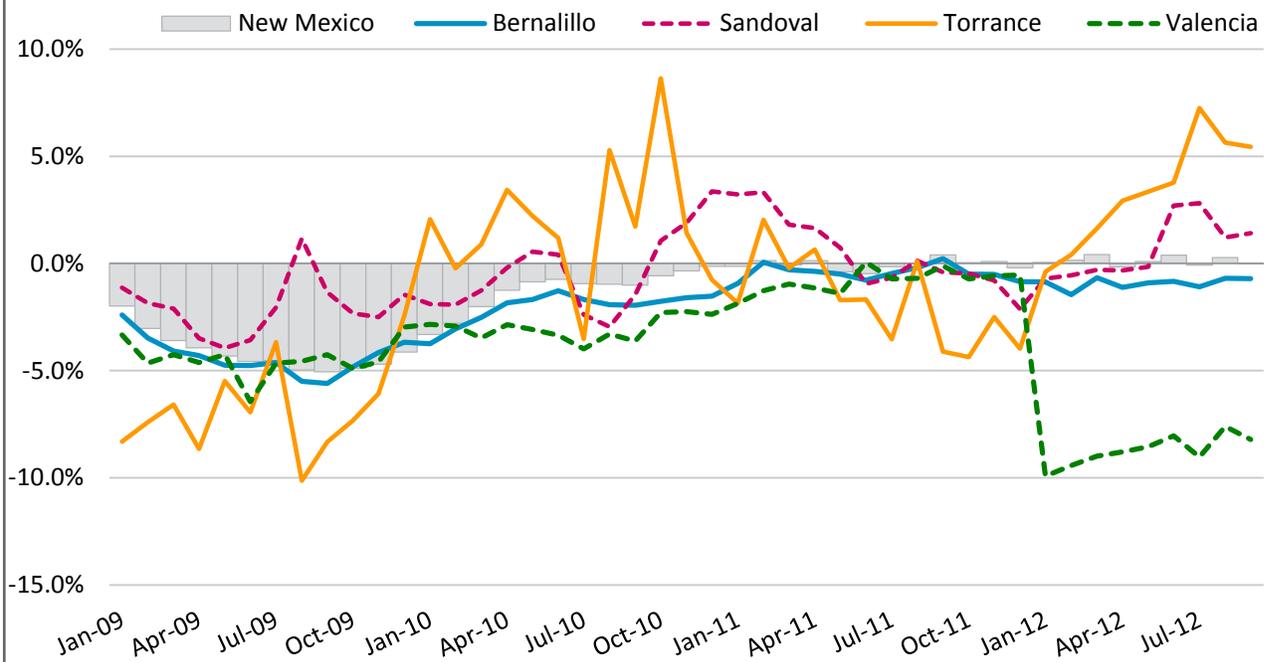
Bernalillo County employment was 0.8 percent less (approximately 2,580 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment losses occurred in construction, while the largest gains were seen in health care industries. The unemployment rate was 6.5 percent in December 2012, up from 6.1 percent in November and down from 6.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$809.

## SANDOVAL COUNTY

Sandoval County employment was 1.8 percent greater (approximately 520 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment gains were seen in health care industries, while the largest losses occurred in information and construction. Sandoval County's unemployment rate was 7.4 percent in December 2012, up from 7.0 percent in November

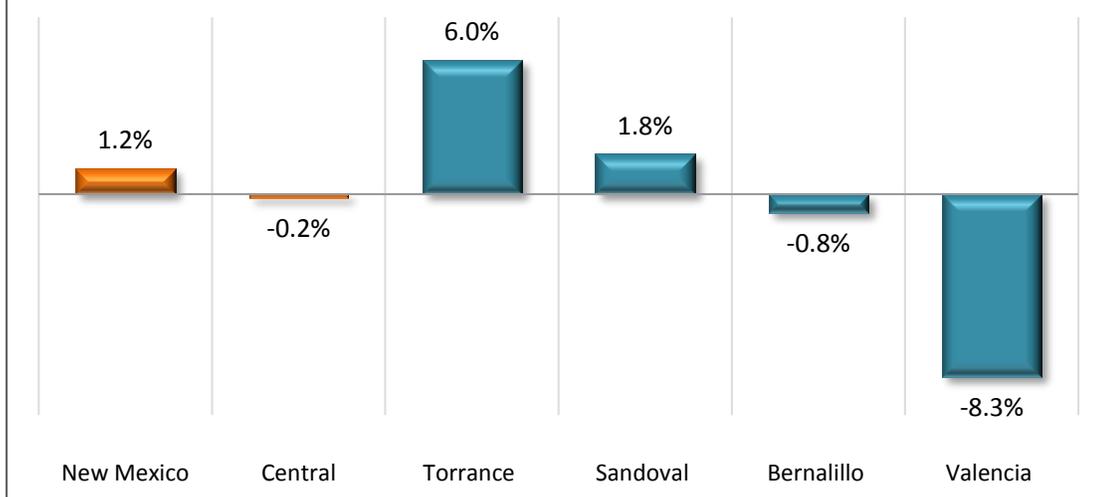
## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

Central Region, Jan 09 to Sept 12



## 12-Month Percentage Change in Employment

Central Region, Q3 2011 to Q3 2012



and down from 7.9 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$806.

### TORRANCE COUNTY

Torrance County employment was 6.0 percent greater

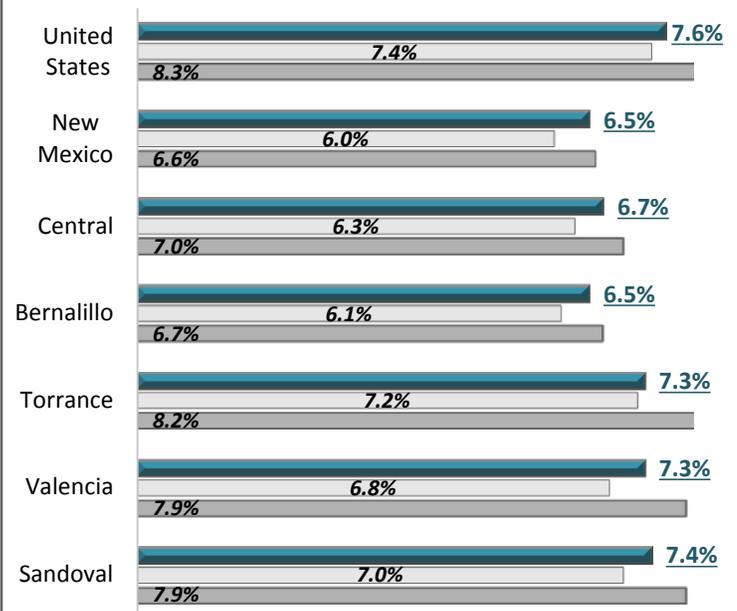
(approximately 170 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment gains occurred in wholesale trade (mostly non-economic data changes), while the

largest losses were seen in local government. The large variations in employment after May 2012 are mostly due to non-economic data changes in each quarter. Torrance County's unemployment rate was 7.3

## Unemployment Rates

### Central Region

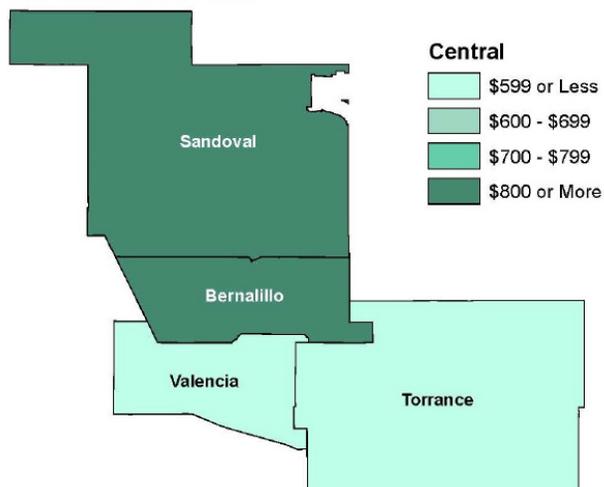
Nov/Dec 2012 & Over the Year



### Average Weekly Wages, 3rd Quarter 2012

Central Region

NM - \$761; Central - \$797



percent in December 2012, close to November's rate and down from 8.2 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$546.

### VALENCIA COUNTY

Valencia County employment was 8.3 percent less (approximately 1,160 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment losses occurred in health care and transportation, although nearly all losses were due to non-economic data changes. The largest gains occurred in accommodation and food services. Valencia County's unemployment rate was 7.3 percent in December 2012, up from 6.8 percent in November but down from 7.9 percent a year

earlier. The average weekly wage was \$542.

## Eastern Region Economic Data

The Eastern Region experienced over-the-year employment growth of 0.7 percent in September 2012. Employment growth in the mining industry is primarily responsible for this growth. Six of the 12 eastern counties experienced year-over-year job growth in the third quarter of 2012. Growth was greatest in Lea and Otero counties; losses were greatest in Union and Chaves counties. Growth does appear to have slowed in Lea after quick gains in 2010 and 2011. Overall losses in government and construction

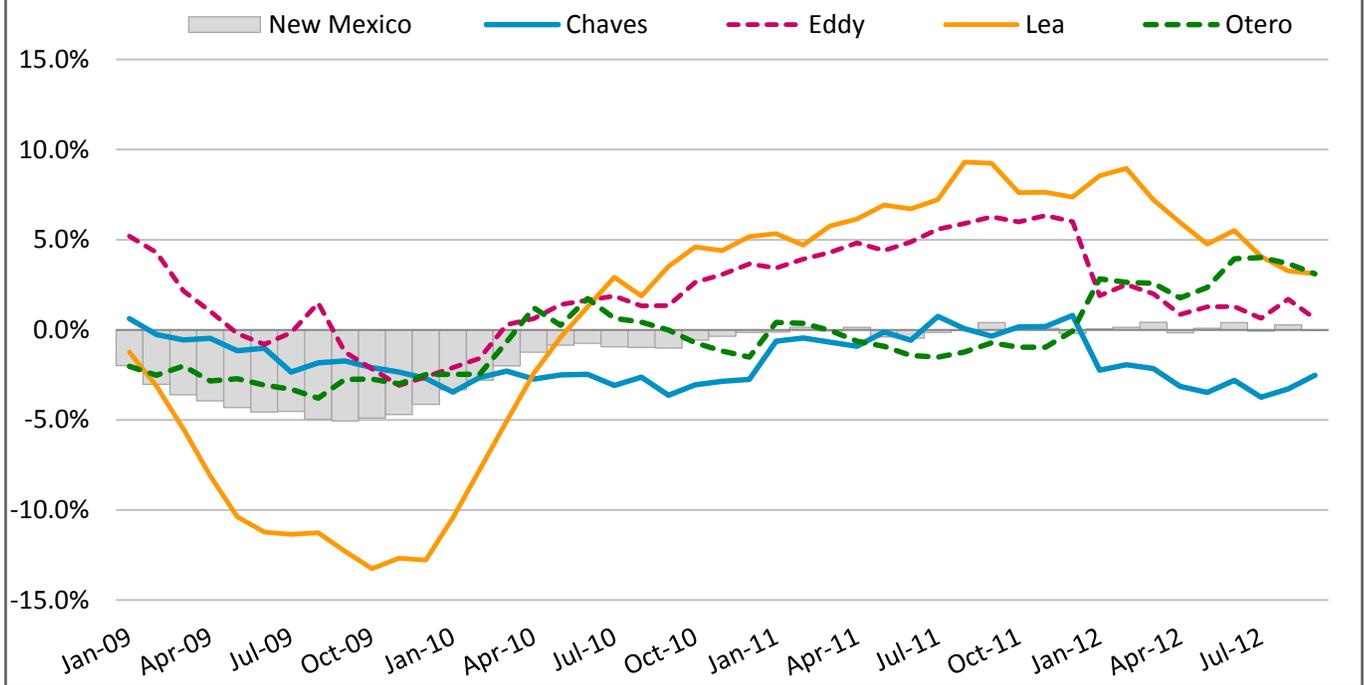
continue to impact many of the eastern counties. All 12 eastern counties saw an increase in their unemployment rate between November and December of 2012. Rates in Curry, Harding, Roosevelt, and Union were also higher than December of the previous year.

### CHAVES COUNTY

Chaves County employment was 3.2 percent less (approximately 670 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Most of the major employment changes were due to non-economic data changes, particularly in health care and agriculture. Chaves County's unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in December 2012, up from 5.7 percent in November but down from 6.4 percent a year

# 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

Eastern Region, Top 4 Populated Counties, Jan 09 to Sept 12



earlier. The average weekly wage was \$600.

### CURRY COUNTY

Curry County employment was 1.0 percent greater (approximately 160 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The health care and transportation industries saw the largest employment gains, with small losses spread throughout accommodation and food services. Curry County's unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in December 2012, up from 4.2 percent in November and close to the previous year's rate of 4.6 percent. The average weekly wage was \$623.

### DE BACA COUNTY

De Baca County employment

was nearly the same in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year (a 2.7 percent decrease represents very few jobs due to the small population of the county). Losses were seen in construction, offset by gains in accommodation and food services. De Baca County's unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in December 2012, up from 4.0 percent in November but down from 4.6 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$485.

### EDDY COUNTY

Eddy County employment was 1.0 percent greater (approximately 250 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The greatest hiring occurred in

the mining industry, followed by local government. Non-economic data changes caused losses in the finance industry. Eddy County's unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in December 2012, up from 3.4 percent in November but down from 4.1 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$899.

### GUADALUPE COUNTY

Guadalupe County employment was close to the same as that of the third quarter of 2011. Employment gains were largest (albeit still small) in local government; gains were slightly offset by losses in construction. Guadalupe County's unemployment rate was 8.6 percent in December 2012, up from 8.2 percent in November but down from 9.5 percent a year

earlier. The average weekly wage was \$471.

**HARDING COUNTY**

Harding County employment was roughly the same in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year (a 2.8 percent decrease equates to very few jobs). Small losses in construction were somewhat offset by small gains in local government. Harding County's unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in December 2012, up from 4.2 percent in November and 3.8 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$485.

**LEA COUNTY**

Lea County employment was 3.5 percent greater (approximately 1,010 jobs) in the third quarter

of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Large employment gains occurred in the mining industry, followed distantly by gains in the transportation and wholesale trade industries. Smaller-scale losses were seen in construction and administration services. Lea County's unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in December 2012, up from 3.5 percent in November but down from 4.3 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$933.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

Lincoln County employment was 1.6 percent less (approximately 110 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment losses occurred in the construction industry. Losses

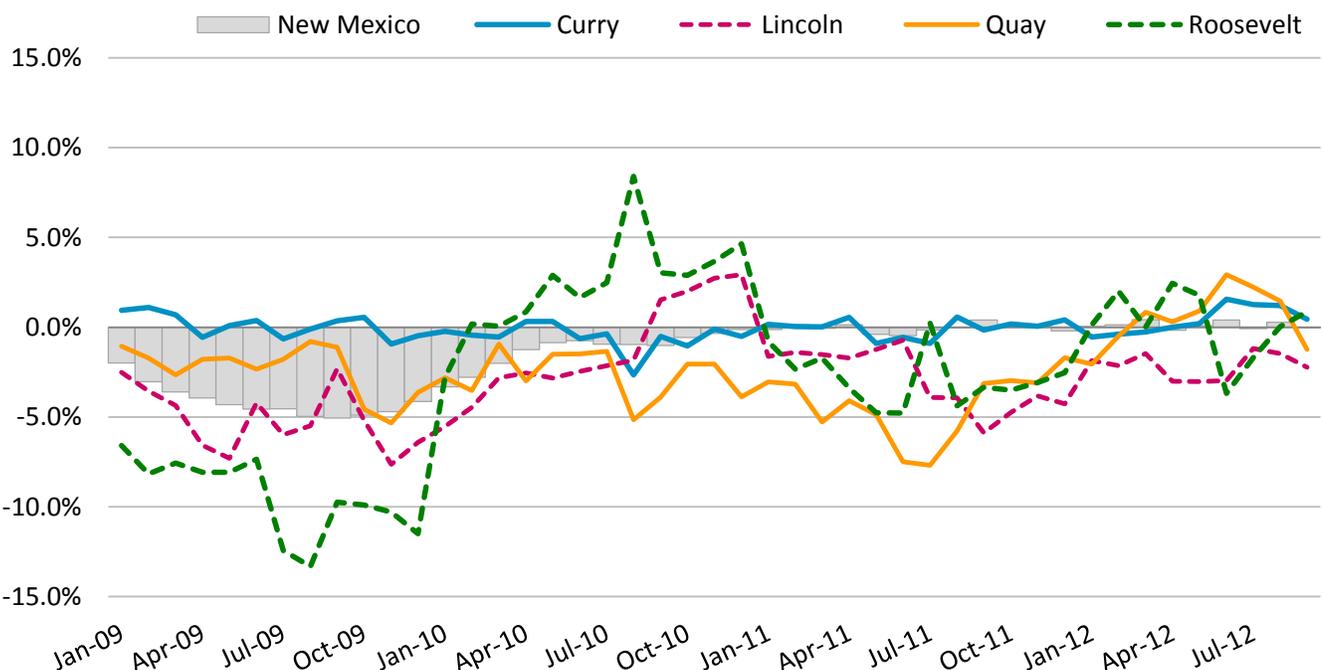
in education were all due to non-economic data changes. Lincoln County's unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in December 2012, up from 5.1 percent in November and the same as December of the previous year. The average weekly wage was \$522.

**OTERO COUNTY**

Otero County employment was 3.6 percent greater (approximately 600 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment gains in the administrative services and education industries were mostly due to non-economic data changes. These gains were offset by losses in construction (some data changes) and health care. Otero County's unemployment rate was 6.0 percent in December

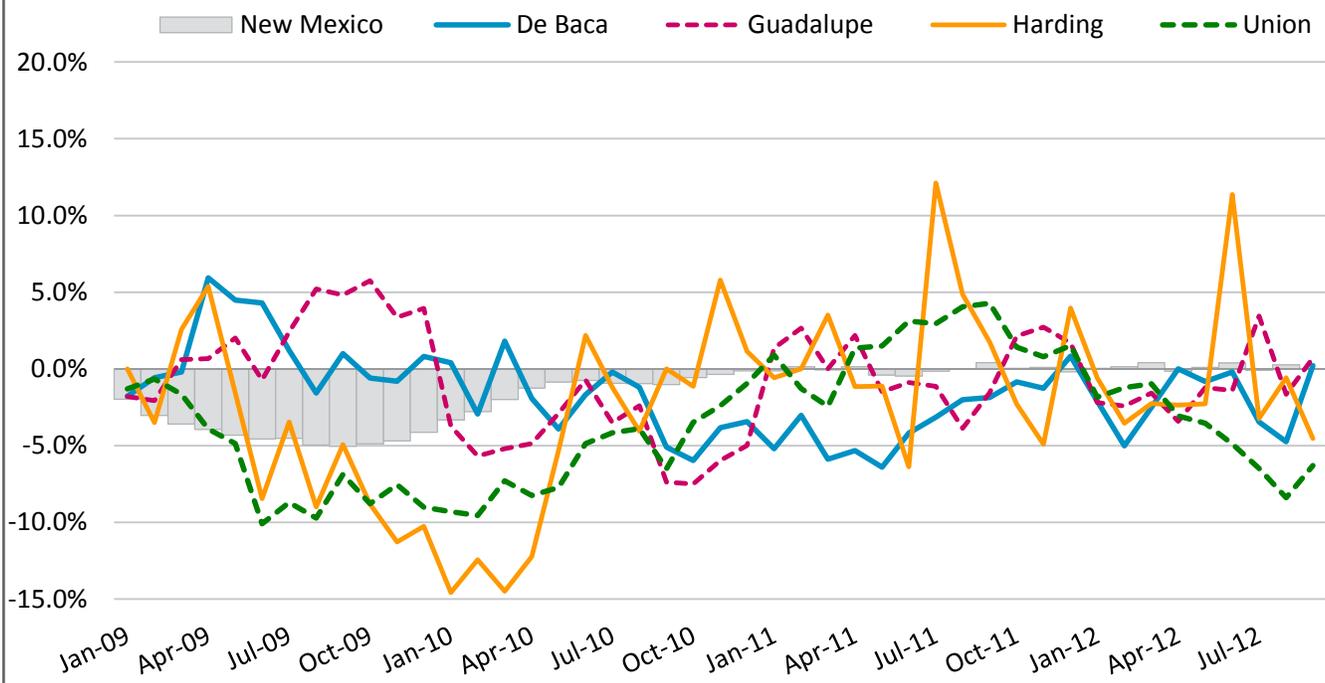
**12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment**

Eastern Region, Mid-Populated Counties, Jan 09 to Sept 12

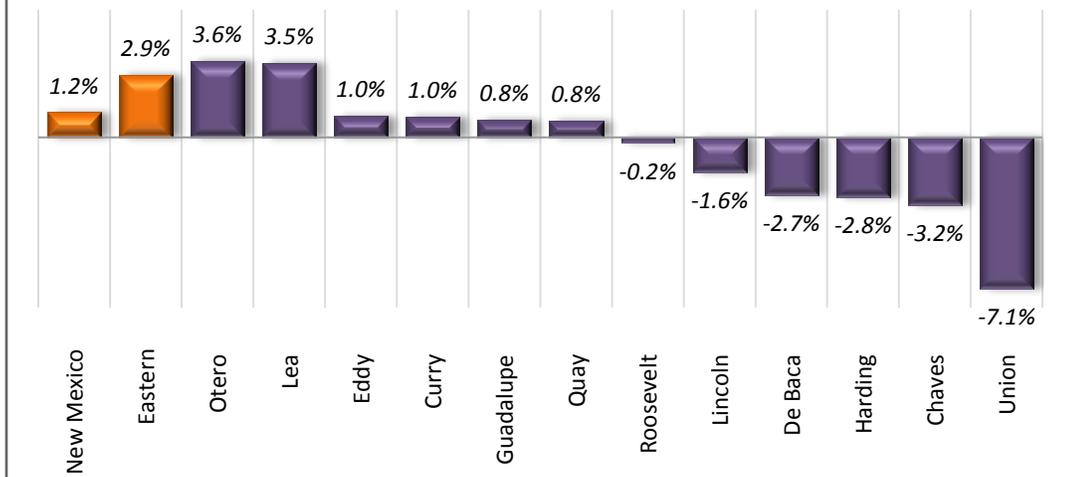


# 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

Eastern Region, Least Populated Counties, Jan 09 to Sept 12



## 12-Month Percentage Change in Employment Eastern Region, Q3 2011 to Q3 2012



2012, up from 5.6 percent in November and the same as December of the previous year. The average weekly wage was \$641.

### QUAY COUNTY

Quay County employment

was 0.8 percent greater (approximately 20 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains were seen in accommodation and food services, with losses in local government. Quay County's

unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in December 2012, up from 6.0 percent in November but down from 7.2 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$509.

## ROOSEVELT COUNTY

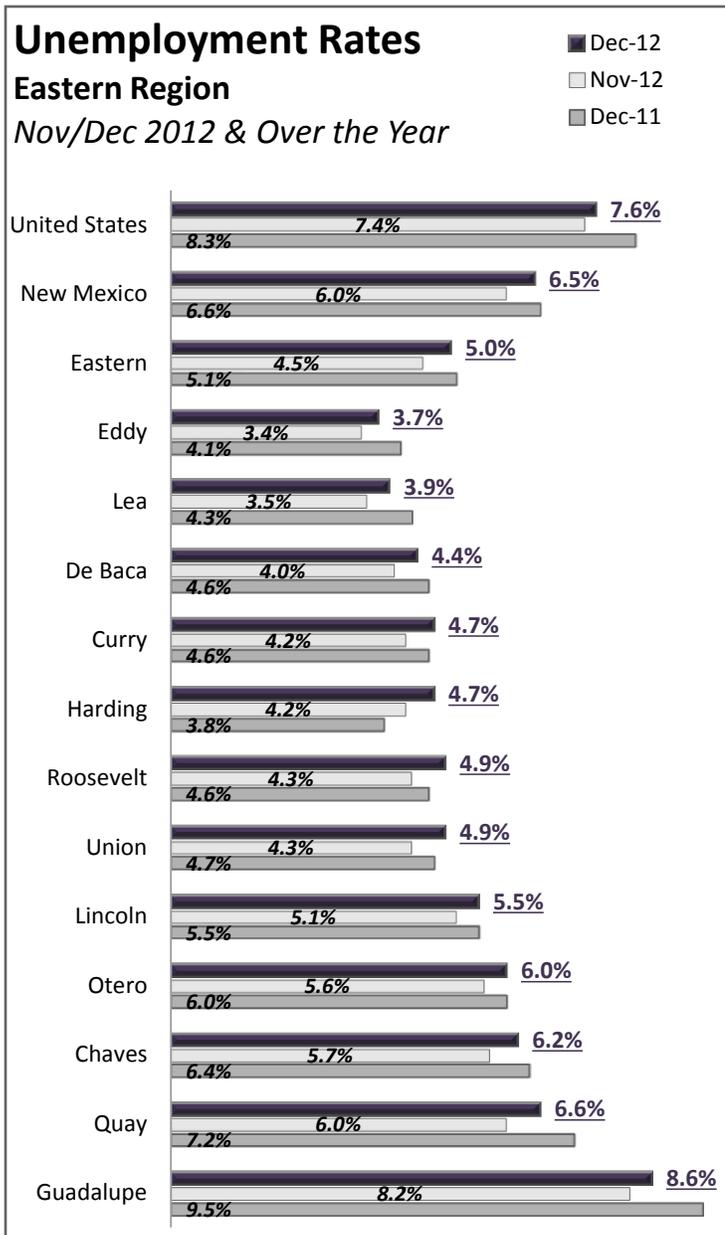
Roosevelt County employment was 0.2 percent less (approximately 20 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment losses were the largest in state government and agriculture, while gains were greatest in accommodation and food services. Roosevelt County's unemployment rate was 4.9

percent in December 2012, up from 4.3 percent in November and 4.6 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$573.

## UNION COUNTY

Union County employment was 7.1 percent less (approximately 90 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment

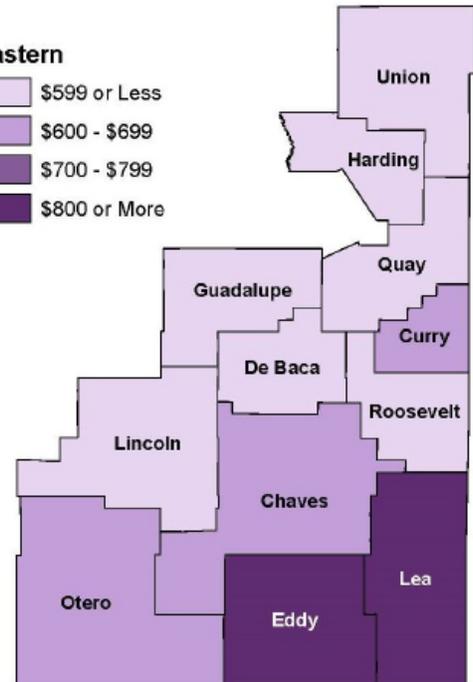
losses were greatest in local government. Gains in agriculture somewhat offset those losses. Union County's unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in December 2012, up from 4.3 percent in November and 4.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$541.



### Average Weekly Wages, 3rd Quarter 2012

Eastern Region  
 NM - \$761; Eastern - \$736

#### Eastern



## Northern Region County News

The Northern Region, overall, experienced employment losses between September of 2011 and 2012. Five of the 10 Northern counties experienced year-over-year job growth in the third quarter of 2012. Only three counties experienced year-over-year job growth in the second quarter. The largest gains occurred in Mora, Cibola, and San Miguel counties. The greatest employment losses occurred in Colfax and Los Alamos. While it appears the northern counties continue to struggle with employment, most of the counties have experienced overall trending growth in 2012.

As with nearly all counties in the state, all 10 northern counties saw their unemployment rates increase between November and December of 2012. Four of the counties also saw increases from previous year levels.

### CIBOLA COUNTY

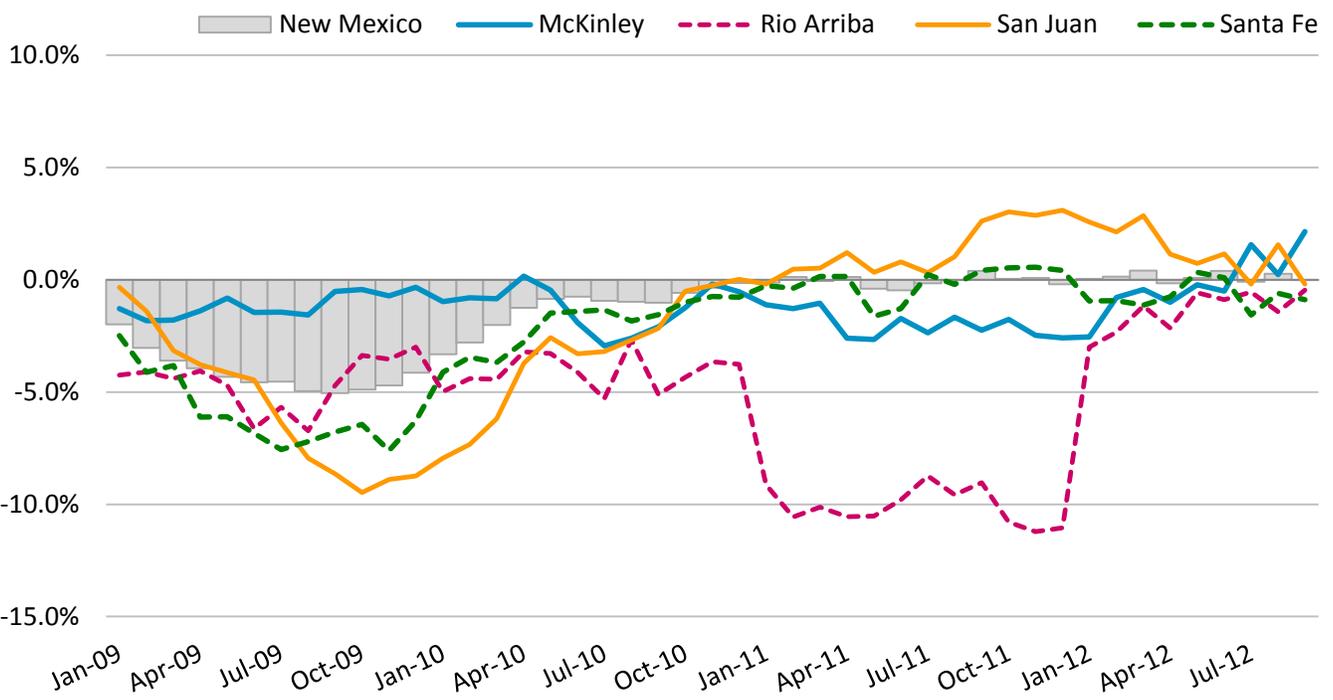
Cibola County employment was 2.1 percent greater (approximately 160 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest measured employment changes were due to non-economic data changes. Cibola County's unemployment rate was 5.8 percent in December 2012, up from 5.4 percent in November but down from 6.2 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$652.

### COLFAX COUNTY

Employment in Colfax County was about 3.1 percent less (approximately 170 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter in 2010. The largest employment losses occurred in the miscellaneous, other services, and construction industries, while the largest gains occurred in the professional and technical industry. Note that, while Colfax gained employment in September of 2012, quarterly overall employment changes still showed large losses. Colfax County's unemployment rate was 7.3 percent in December 2012, up from 7.1 percent in November but down from 7.8 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$517.

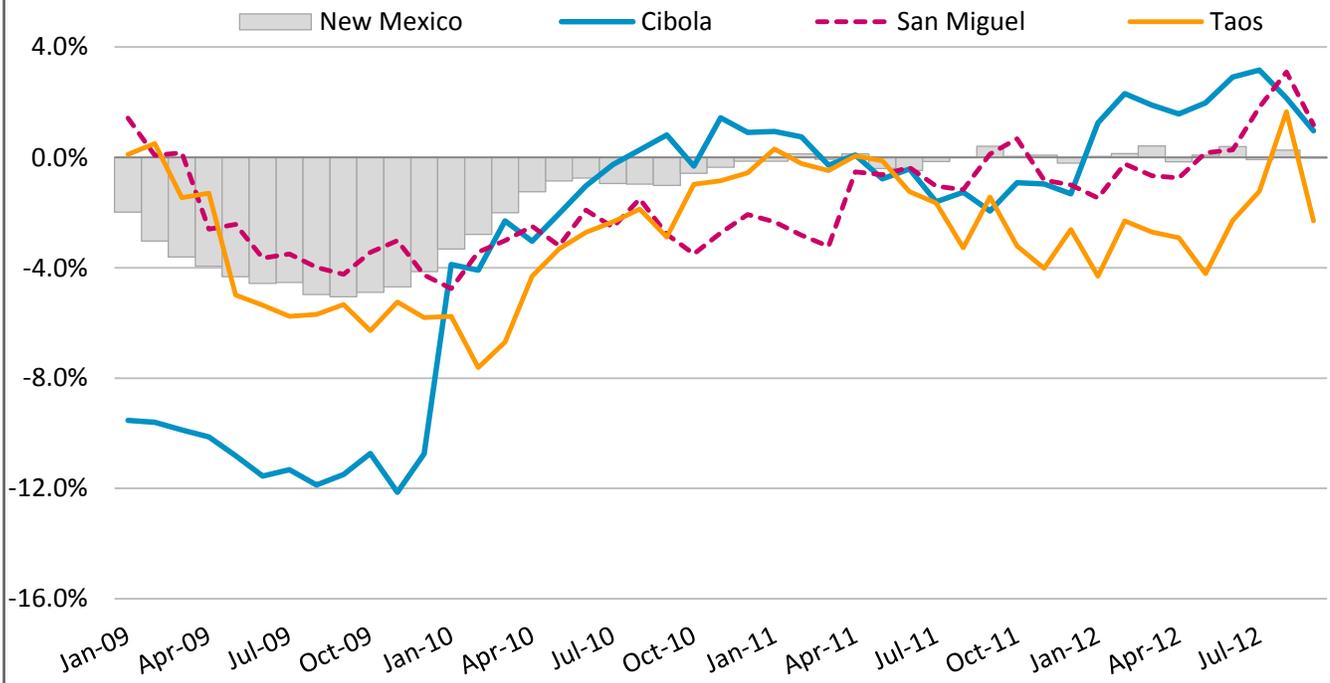
## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

Northern Region, Most Populated Counties, Jan 09 to Sept 12



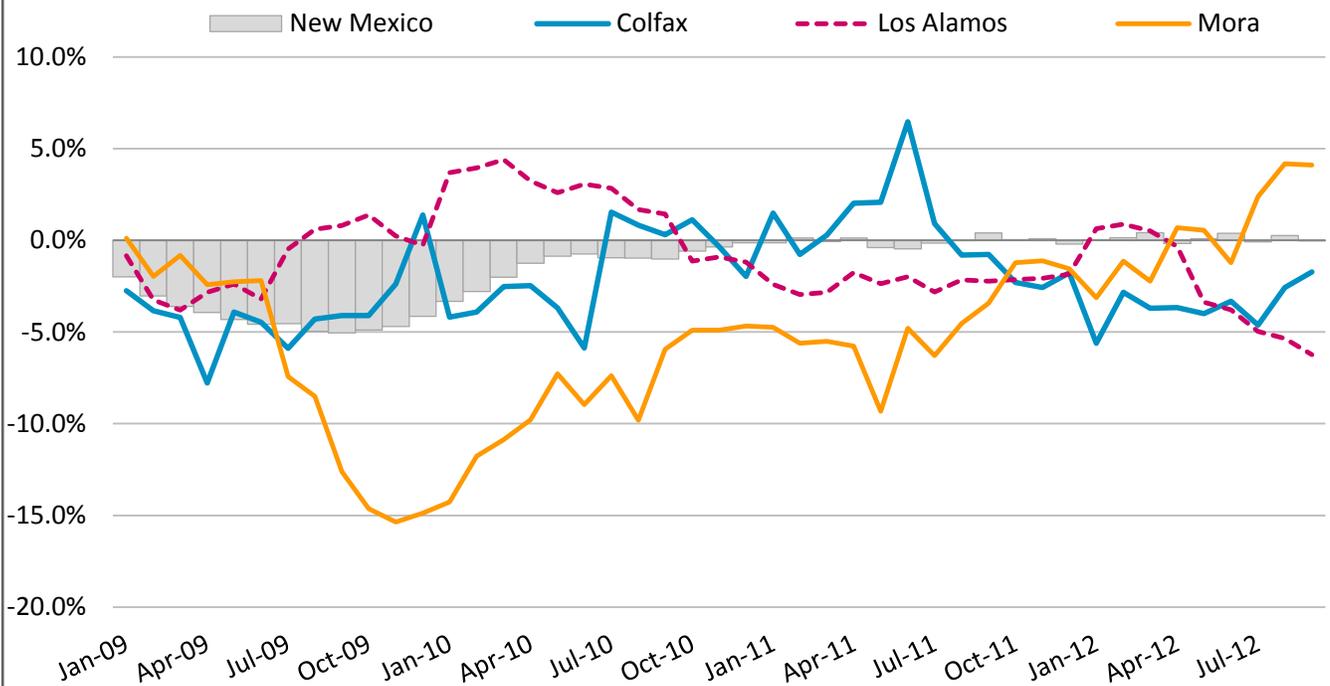
## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

Northern Region, Mid-Populated Counties, Jan 09 to Sept 12



## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

Northern Region, Least Populated Counties, Jan 09 to Sept 12



## LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

Los Alamos County employment was 5.5 percent less (approximately 940 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment losses mostly occurred in the professional and technical industry. Gains in education and federal government did not offset those losses. Los Alamos County's unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in December 2012, up from 3.1 percent in November and 3.1 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$1,341.

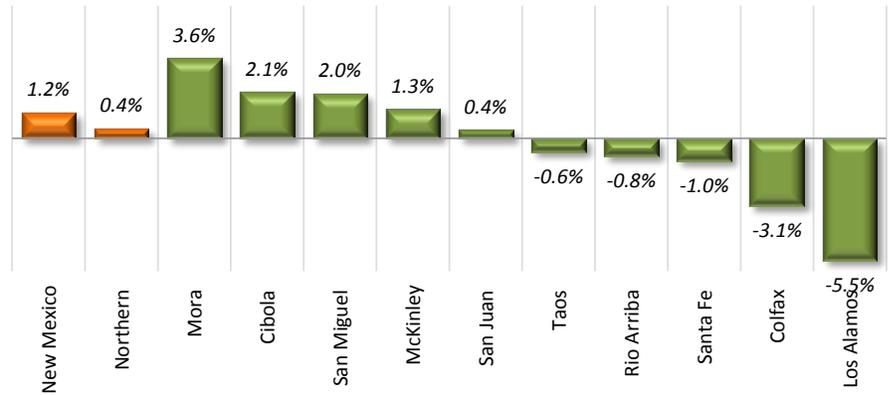
## MCKINLEY COUNTY

McKinley County employment was 1.3 percent greater (approximately 270 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The greatest employment gains were experienced in mining and federal government. Local government saw the largest losses. Large variations in employment in second and third quarters are mostly due to non-economic data changes. McKinley County's unemployment rate was 8.3 percent in December 2012, up from 7.8 percent in November and 8.1 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$596.

## MORA COUNTY

Mora County employment was 3.6 percent greater (approximately 30 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year.

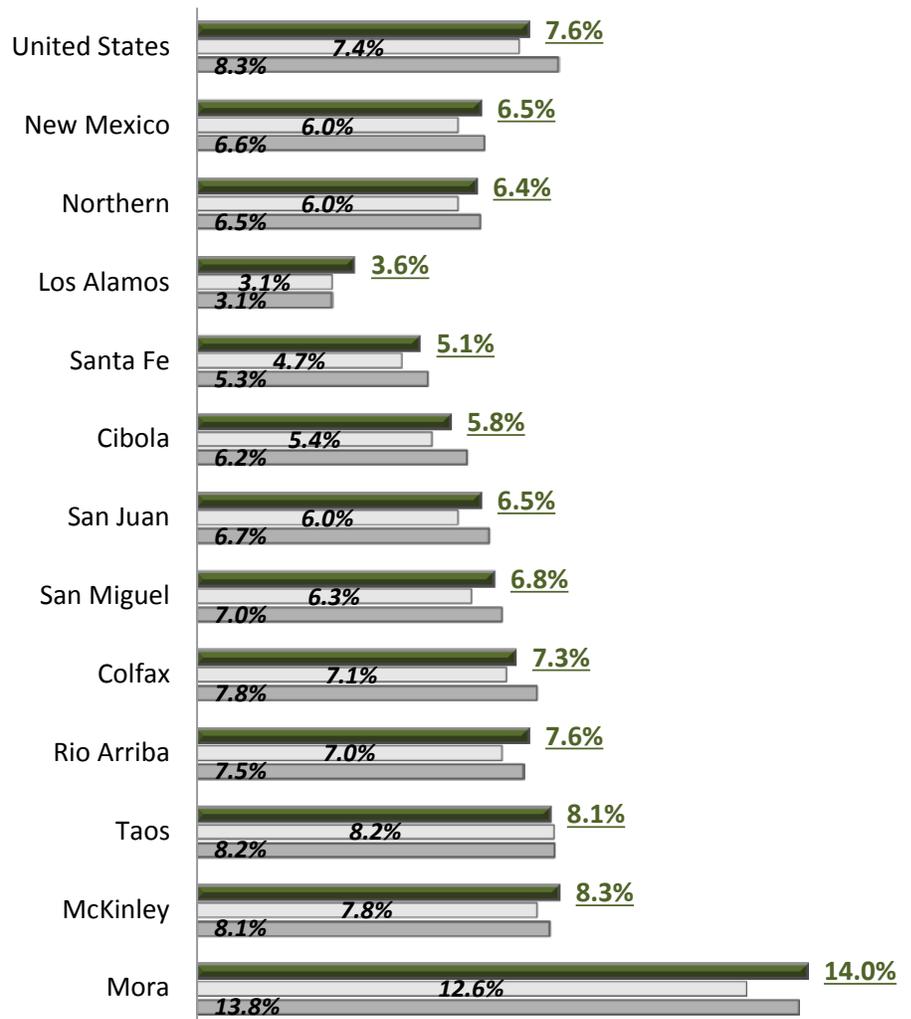
**12-Month Percentage Change in Employment**  
Northern Region, Q3 2011 to Q3 2012



## Unemployment Rates

### Northern Region

Nov/Dec 2012 & Over the Year



Construction and agriculture employment gains were slightly offset by losses in accommodation and food services. Mora County's unemployment rate was 14.0 percent in December 2012, up from 12.6 percent in November and 13.8 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$537.

**RIO ARRIBA COUNTY**

Rio Arriba County employment was 0.8 percent less (approximately 80 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Most changes were non-economic data changes. Rio Arriba County's unemployment rate was 7.6 percent in December 2012, up from 7.0 percent in November and close to 7.5 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$584.

**SAN JUAN COUNTY**

San Juan County employment was 0.4 percent greater (approximately 180 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Local government, including casino employment, experienced the largest employment gains. Losses were the largest in accommodation and food services, along with mining. San Juan County's unemployment rate was 6.5 percent in December 2012, up from 6.0 percent in November but down from 6.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$824.

**SAN MIGUEL COUNTY**

San Miguel employment was 2.0 percent greater (approximately 160 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Local

government experienced the largest job gains, while arts and entertainment and state government saw the largest losses. San Miguel County's unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in December 2012, up from 6.3 percent in November but down from 7.0 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$556.

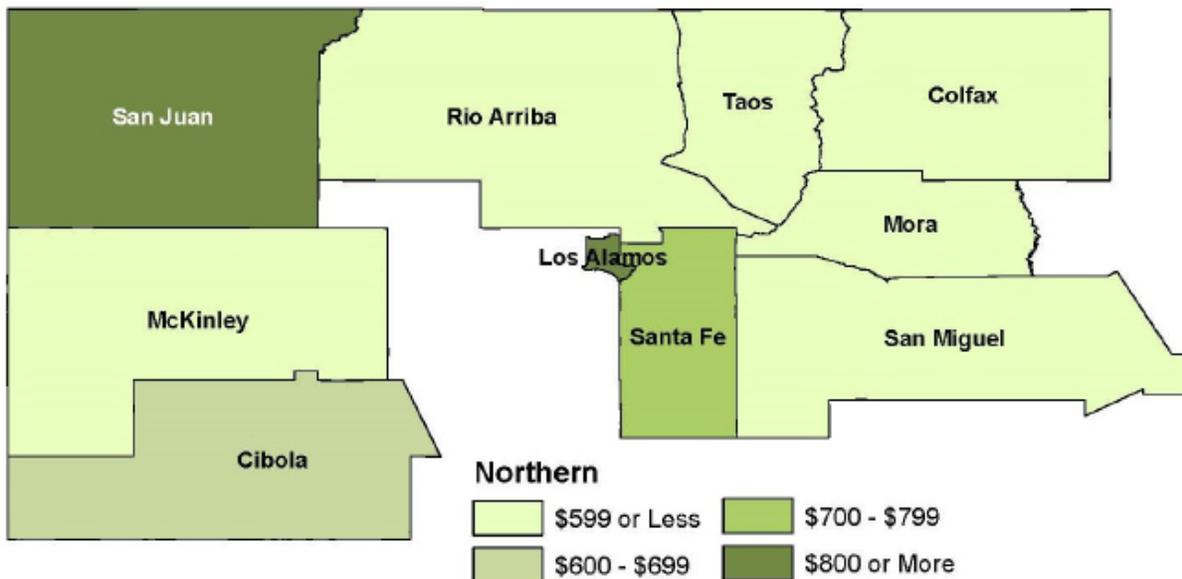
**SANTA FE COUNTY**

Santa Fe County employment was 1.0 percent less (approximately 620 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 as the same quarter in 2010. The largest losses occurred in administrative services, construction, and state government. Losses were somewhat offset by gains in retail, education, and accommodation and food services. Santa Fe County's

**Average Weekly Wages, 3rd Quarter 2012**

Northern Region

NM - \$761; Northern - \$762



unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in December 2012, up from 4.7 percent in November but down from 5.3 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$742.

**TAOS COUNTY**

Taos County employment was 0.6 percent less (approximately 60 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment losses occurred in accommodation and food services. Local government gained jobs, including some tribal employment. Taos County's unemployment rate was 8.1 percent in December 2012, close to November's rate and the rate for December of the previous year (8.2 percent, each). The average weekly wage was \$560.

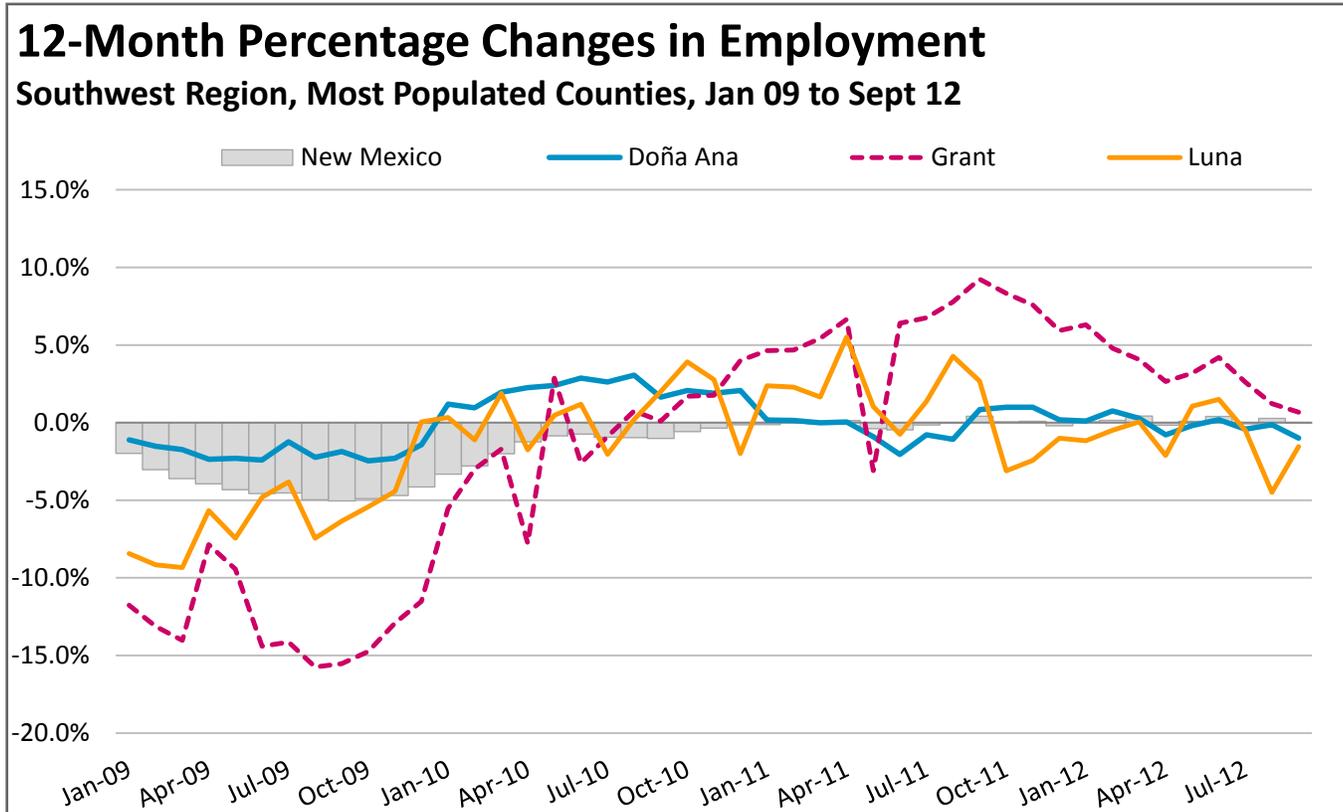
**Southwestern Region County News**

The Southwestern Region experienced over-the-year employment losses between September 2011 and September 2012. Three of the seven counties experienced gains over the year. Gains were greatest in Catron and Socorro counties. Catron has experienced the largest employment growth for at least two consecutive quarters, although the county's small population generates larger percentage changes. Losses were greatest in Hidalgo and Luna counties. An area of concern for the Southwestern counties is a trending decline in the growth rate in several of the

counties over 2012. All seven southwestern counties saw an increase in the unemployment rate between November and December of 2012. Four of the seven counties experienced a decrease in rates from December of 2011.

**CATRON COUNTY**

Catron County employment was 6.6 percent greater (approximately 40 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment gains were greatest in federal and local government. Catron County's unemployment rate was 7.6 percent in December 2012, up from 6.7 percent in November but down from 8.2 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$577.



**DOÑA ANA COUNTY**

Doña Ana County employment was 0.5 percent less (approximately 360 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains were largest in health care (some data changes) and retail. Losses in administrative services were mostly due to non-economic code changes, with real losses in manufacturing. Doña Ana County's unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in December 2012, up from 6.1 percent in November and close to December's rate of 6.7 a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$652.

**GRANT COUNTY**

Grant County employment was 1.5 percent greater (approximately 140 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The mining industries saw

increased employment over the year. Construction and retail both saw the largest losses. Grant County's unemployment rate was 6.9 percent in December 2012, up from 6.4 percent in November but down from 7.2 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$678.

**HIDALGO COUNTY**

Hidalgo County employment was 4.2 percent less (approximately 70 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Losses in manufacturing and professional and technical services were not outweighed by small gains in the federal government and agriculture. Hidalgo County's unemployment rate was 7.1

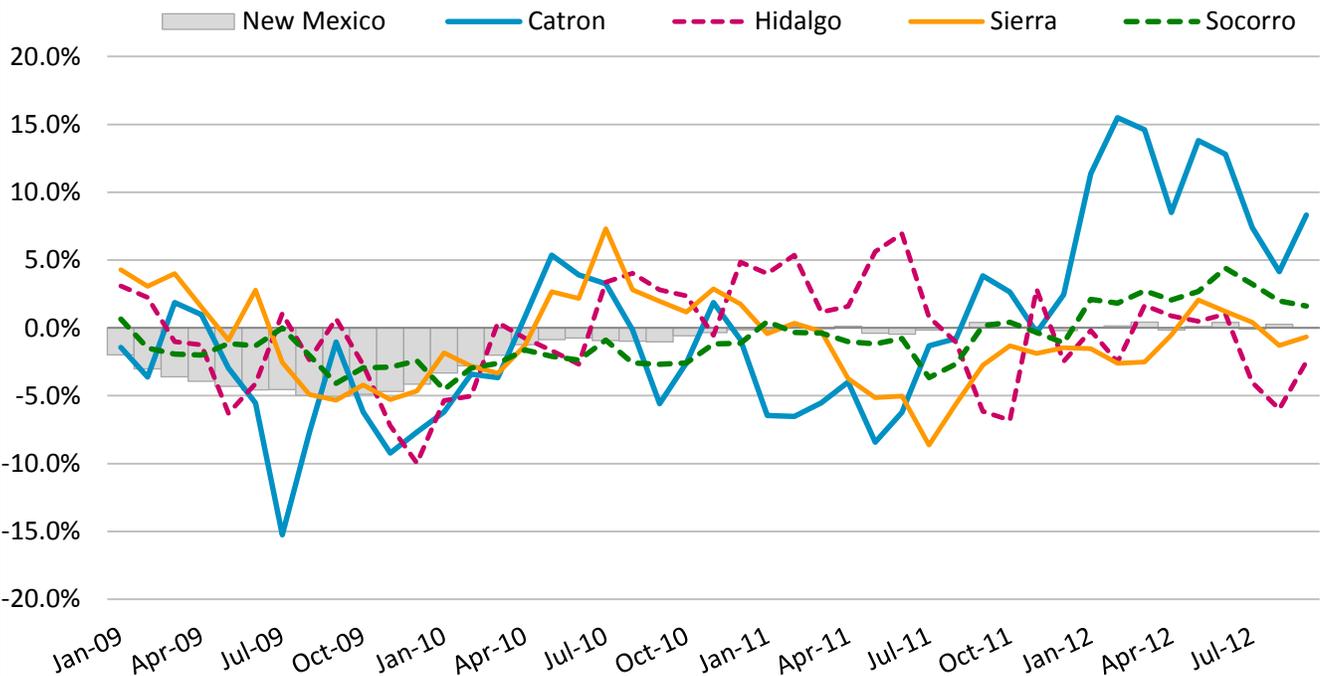
percent in December 2012, up from 6.3 percent in November and 5.3 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$647.

**LUNA COUNTY**

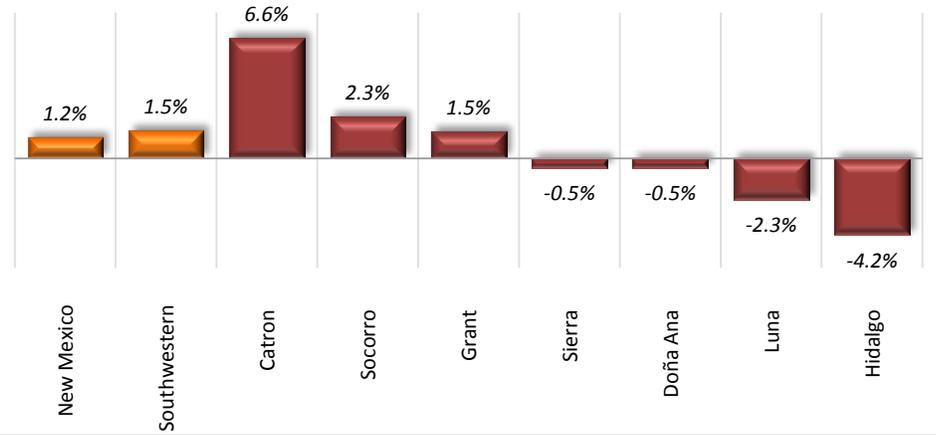
Luna County employment was 2.3 percent less (approximately 200 jobs) in September 2012 than the same month the previous year. The largest employment gains occurred in agriculture and construction. Non-economic data changes causing increases in health care employment were offset by actual losses in other industries. Luna County's unemployment rate was 17.8 percent in December 2012, up from

**12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment**

Southwest Region, Least Populated Counties, Jan 09 to Sept 12

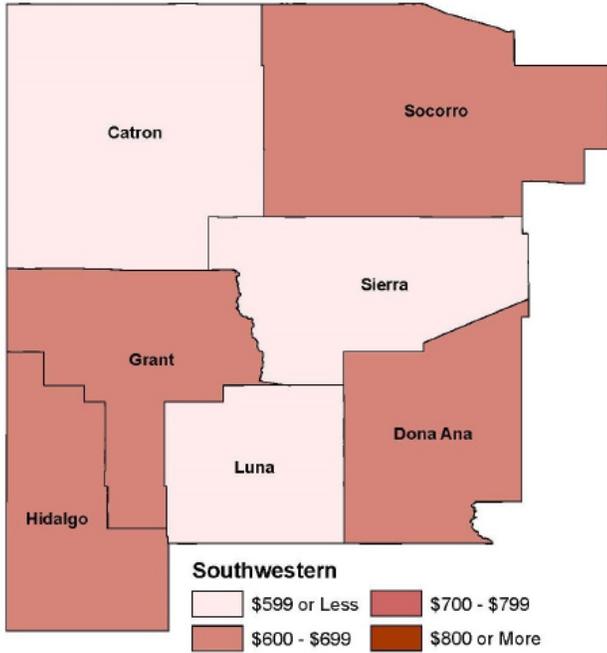


### 12-Month Percentage Change in Employment Southwestern Region, Q3 2011 to Q3 2012



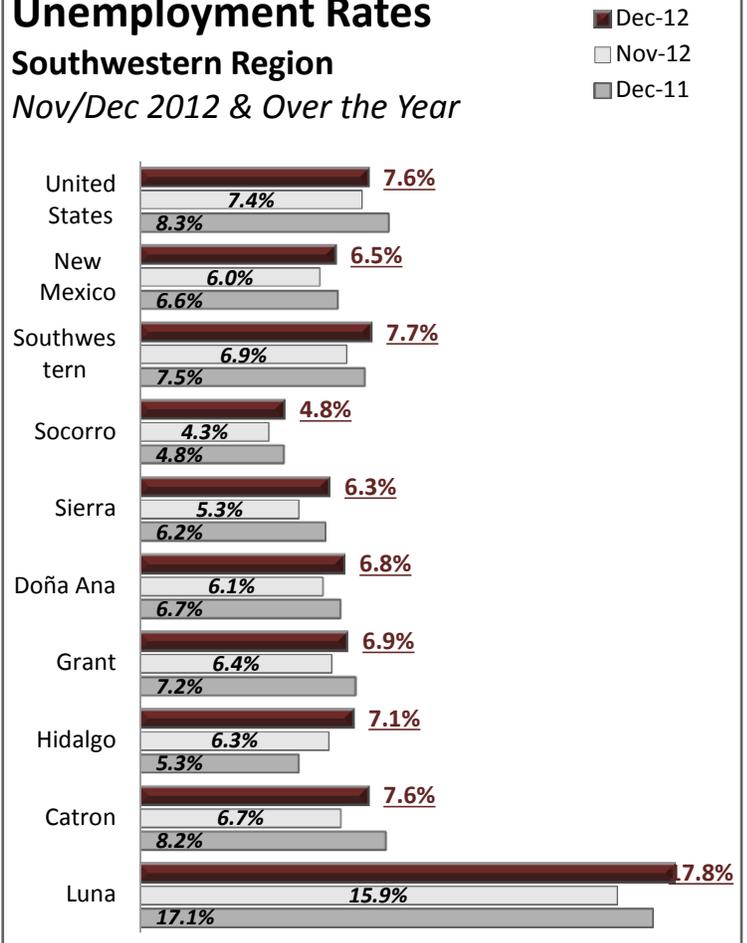
### Average Weekly Wages, 3rd Quarter 2012

Southwestern Region  
 NM - \$761; Southwest - \$640



### Unemployment Rates

Southwestern Region  
 Nov/Dec 2012 & Over the Year



15.9 percent in November and 17.1 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$543.

### **SIERRA COUNTY**

Sierra County employment was 0.5 percent less (approximately 20 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment gains occurred in health care, but nearly all were from non-economic data changes. The largest losses occurred in construction. Sierra County's unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in December 2012, up from 5.3 percent in November and close to 6.2 percent in December of the previous year. The average weekly wage was \$530.

### **SOCORRO COUNTY**

Socorro County employment was 2.3 percent greater (approximately 120 jobs) in the third quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment gains were seen in transportation, and the largest losses occurred in state government. Socorro County's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in December 2012, up from 4.3 percent in November and the same as December of the previous year. The average weekly wage was \$654.



**W**ork  
**O**ppportunity  
**T**ax  
**C**redit

The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions administers a federal tax credit program that can earn businesses as much as \$2,400 to \$9,000 per qualified employee. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) provides federal tax credits to businesses who hire new employees from the ten population groups in need of finding and retaining employment. The population groups are: TANF recipients; qualified veterans, ex-felons, designated community residents living in a specific area: Empowerment Zone (EZ); workers referred by Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or by Veterans Affairs; 16-17 year old summer youth living in an EZ; 18-39 year old SNAP (food stamp) recipients; Supplemental Social Security income (SSI) recipients; and long term family assistance recipients.

Download a QR code reader app on your smart phone to scan the code for more information about WOTC



Forms, along with other valuable tax credit information, can be downloaded at  
**[www.dws.state.nm.us](http://www.dws.state.nm.us)**

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