

# *Regional Review*

Quarterly labor market information across New Mexico

## Excavating the Mining Industry in New Mexico



Mining Industry Overview

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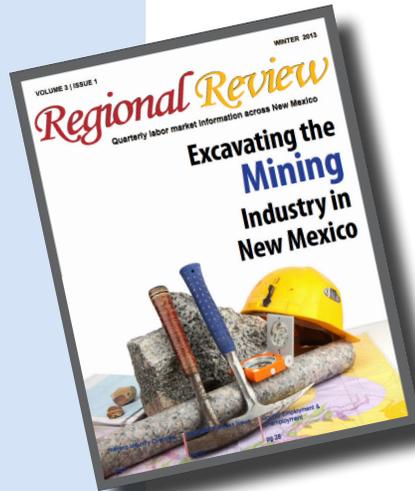
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The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions Economic Research & Analysis Bureau (ER&A) collects, develops, analyzes, and publishes labor market information for New Mexico. The Bureau produces statistical and analytical information about trends 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.

## COMING IN THE SPRING ISSUE

The Spring 2013 Regional Review presents industry and occupational employment projections for New Mexico's regions, with a particular focus on top occupational opportunities. The publication will include general employment information for the third quarter of 2012 and recent business news for New Mexico's counties.

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# THE MINING INDUSTRY IN NEW MEXICO

New Mexico is rich in many natural resources, and mining is an important industry in many of New Mexico's counties. The mining industry has evolved over time, as mining for some resources has declined and for others has increased. In New Mexico's early mining years, major mining operations included the mining of silver, copper, and coal. Silver and copper mining was concentrated in the southwestern counties (particularly Grant County), and coal mining was concentrated in what are now Colfax, Santa Fe, and McKinley counties (although smaller operations existed throughout the state). Silver mining has significantly dropped off, with current production coming as a by-product of copper mining, such as in Grant County. Coal mining peaked in the early part of the 20th century, and declined thereafter, until the 1960s, when energy demand drove larger mining operations. Current coal mining operations are concentrated in San Juan and McKinley counties. The mining of uranium became a major sub-industry after the discovery of uranium in New Mexico in 1950. Uranium mining remained strong into the 1970s and then trailed off, with the last mining operations in New Mexico closing in 2002.

New Mexico currently mines a diverse set of natural resources, and is a leading state in the mining of several minerals, including potash, perlite, zeolite, copper, and molybdenum. New Mexico generates 1.7 percent of total U.S. non-energy minerals production value (not including coal). New Mexico is also a leading producer of energy resources, with the state ranked 10th in the nation for total energy production. New Mexico was ranked 6th in the nation in crude oil and natural gas production, and accounted for 5.3 percent of total U.S. natural gas production in 2011. Additionally, New Mexico ranks 13th in the nation in coal production.

This article looks at the current mining industry in New Mexico and the employment opportunities it creates. The report evaluates overall mining operations in the state, and then focuses on operations in seven of New Mexico's top mining counties. These seven counties have large mining industries, and mining employment comprises at

least 2 percent of the county's total employment (as of the 1st quarter of 2012). Data on the current mining industry comes from multiple sources. Employment and wage data is from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) and the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) Economic Research and Analysis Bureau (ER&A). Production and production value information comes from multiple sources including: the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD); the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources; and the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Based on the data sources and purposes of this analysis, the mining industry comprises three subsectors—oil and gas extraction, mining excluding oil and gas extraction, and support activities for mining. Industries in the support activities for mining sub-sector primarily provide support services, on a contract or fee basis, required for the mining and quarrying of minerals and for the extraction of oil and gas. Establishments performing exploration for minerals are included in this sub-sector along with establishments that serve as mining operators.



# MINING INDUSTRY IN NEW MEXICO

## Natural Resource Mining & Production in New Mexico

### CRUDE OIL & NATURAL GAS

The largest mining operations in New Mexico, and the operations that produce the largest production value, are in crude oil and natural gas. Crude oil production in New Mexico typically represents between 3 and 4 percent of U.S. total production. In 2011, New Mexico produced 65.2 million barrels of crude oil, ranking the state 6th in the U.S. for crude oil production. In addition, New Mexico oil reserves account for over 3 percent of the U.S. total (2010). New Mexico has three major oil refineries (in Artesia, Bloomfield, and Gallup), with multiple petroleum product pipelines transporting product to state and regional markets. The state as a whole has over 20,000 crude oil producing wells. Crude oil production is concentrated in the Permian Basin in

southeastern New Mexico (and western Texas), with over 90 percent of all production occurring in Lea and Eddy counties. Chaves County follows Lea and Eddy in production, but only produces 2.6 percent of production. Other small operations (39,000 to 1.1 million barrels annually) exist in Rio Arriba, San Juan, Roosevelt, Sandoval, and McKinley counties.

New Mexico accounts for over 5 percent of U.S. marketed natural gas production. In 2011, the state produced 1.3

billion MCF (thousand cubic feet) of natural gas from nearly 30,000 wells. The state's natural gas reserves account for about 5 percent of the nation's dry natural gas and 8 percent of natural gas plant liquids reserves (2010). There are multiple interstate natural gas pipelines distributing product statewide and regionally. Natural gas production is concentrated in the San Juan Basin in San Juan County which, in combination with southern Colorado, boasts the nation's largest field of proven

natural gas reserves. Over 95 percent of natural gas production in 2011 was produced in just four of New Mexico's counties including San Juan, Rio Arriba, Eddy, and Lea. Over one-third (38.6 percent) of natural gas was produced in San Juan County alone. Rio Arriba County is ranked 2nd in the state for production, with 346.9 million MCF. Lea and Eddy counties produced 14 and 16 percent of total natural gas, respectively. Other counties producing small amounts of natural gas include Colfax,

### Oil & Gas Production in New Mexico, 2011

Area	Oil			Area	Gas		
	Barrels	State Rank	% of State		(1,000 cubic feet, MCF)	State Rank	% of State
<b>NM</b>	<b>65,156,070</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>NM</b>	<b>1,312,174,215</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Lea	33,065,618	1	50.7%	San Juan	506,076,022	1	38.6%
Eddy	27,685,217	2	42.5%	Rio Arriba	346,873,170	2	26.4%
Chaves	1,873,493	3	2.9%	Eddy	219,140,299	3	16.7%
Rio Arriba	1,124,475	4	1.7%	Lea	185,411,426	4	14.1%
San Juan	1,063,465	5	1.6%	Colfax	26,195,178	5	2.0%
Roosevelt	234,753	6	0.4%	Chaves	24,403,432	6	1.9%
Sandoval	70,012	7	0.1%	Roosevelt	2,354,599	7	0.2%
McKinley	39,037	8	0.1%	Sandoval	1,550,229	8	0.1%
				McKinley	155,987	9	0.0%
				Guadalupe	13,873	10	0.0%

Source: Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Dept., 2011 Annual Report.  
Note: Data is current as of Nov. 8, 2011.

Chaves, Roosevelt, Sandoval, McKinley, and Guadalupe. In the past few years, the price for natural gas has declined, driving reductions in natural gas production and production value. According to U.S. EIA, total natural gas production in New Mexico declined by about 16 percent between 2007 and 2011. Prices continued to fall in 2012, with average wholesale natural gas prices for the nation dropping 31 percent over the year.

between 2 and 3 percent of total U.S. reserves, are concentrated in the northwestern portion of the state in the San Juan Basin of San Juan, McKinley, and Cibola counties, with additional reserves in the Raton Basin of Colfax County. New Mexico produces about 2 percent of U.S. coal (2011) from five mines, including three major mines—Navajo, San Juan, and El Segundo. The two largest coal-fired electric

power plants are the Four Corners and San Juan plants, supplied by coal from the Navajo and San Juan mines. These plants dominate the electricity market. About three-fifths of New Mexico coal is used within the state, while the remainder is distributed to mainly Arizona, along with Texas, California, and Utah. Only three states in the U.S.—New Mexico, Michigan, and Utah—

produce potash, a mined salt. The majority of U.S. (and New Mexico) potash is produced in Eddy County, near Carlsbad in what is called the Carlsbad District, from three mines (two mines owned by Intrepid and one owned by Mosaic). In 2010, over 812,000 short tons of potash were mined in the state, with a production value of \$512.4 million, generating \$4.4 million in state and \$9.9 million in federal

## OTHER MINING - METALLIC & NONMETALLIC MINERALS

New Mexico is also a leading state for mineral production, ranking 1st in potash, perlite and zeolite; 4th in copper; 6th in molybdenum; and 13th in coal production (as of 2010). In 2011, mineral production had a value of over \$1.78 billion, and generated \$41.2 million in state revenues, and \$13.4 million in federal revenues. Coal garnered the largest production value, followed by potash, and copper.

Recoverable coal reserves, equaling

### Mineral Production in New Mexico, 2011

Mineral	Production	Nat'l Rank	Production Value	Employment	State Revenue	Major Producing County
Coal	21,836,926	13	\$667,325,057	1,583	\$30,693,943	<i>San Juan/McKinley</i>
Copper	116,822,927	4	\$400,190,809	1,067	\$3,299,061	<i>Grant</i>
Gold	--	--	--	0	\$11,195	<i>Grant/Santa Fe</i>
Industrial Minera	2,343,734	--	\$110,718,970	484	\$876,766	<i>Several counties</i>
Aggregates	10,752,950	--	\$81,697,488	911	\$1,884,479	<i>Several counties</i>
Other Metals	21,177	--	\$337,560	21	--	--
Molybdenum	529,151	6	\$7,540,402	208	--	<i>Taos/Grant</i>
Potash	812,756	1	\$51,242,637	1,327	\$86,469,252	<i>Eddy</i>
Silver	--	--	--	0	\$14,691	<i>Grant/Catron</i>
Uranium	--	--	--	57	\$75,563	<i>McKinley/Grant</i>
<b>Total</b>	--	--	<b>\$1,780,236,662</b>	<b>5,658</b>	<b>\$41,291,512</b>	

Source: Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Dept., 2012 Annual Report.

#### Notes:

-Production for coal, industrial minerals, aggregates, other metals and potash is reported in short tons; copper and molybdenum in pounds; and gold and silver in troy oz.

-Production rank is based on 2010 production value in relation to other US states.

-Employment includes direct and contract employees. Sources include the US

-Geological Survey and the US Dept. of Energy.

-Industrial minerals include brick clay, calcite, dimension stone, gypsum, humate, perlite, Portland cement, pumice, salt, silica, and zeolite.

-Uranium employment is for licensing/permitting at proposed mines and reclamation activities/maintenance at closed mines and mills.

-State revenue includes state trust land mineral lease royalties, rentals and bonuses; and severance, resource excise and conservation tax revenues.

revenues. As of 2010, New Mexico had five active potash refineries and one potash compaction plant. Potash is principally used in agricultural fertilizer, although it is also used in aluminum recycling, metal electroplating, snow and ice melting, steel heat-treating, water softening, industrial water treatment, animal feed supplements, fire extinguishers, photographic chemicals, beer brewing, and rubber manufacturing. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, domestic and world demand for potash is projected to grow in the coming years, with the increased demand for agricultural fertilizers.

Two active copper mines, the Chino and Tyrone mines near Silver City in Grant County (owned and operated by Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.) currently exist in the state. The Continental and Little Rock mines are on standby status and are not producing copper. The Chino mine, operating since 1910, has the largest copper deposits. Freeport-McMoRan restarted mining in the first

quarter of 2010 after the decline of copper prices and a weak world market drove the suspension of mining operations in 2008. Mining at the Tyrone mine has also increased after a 50 percent reduction in operating rates in 2008. Other major operating copper mines are located in Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and Montana, with New Mexico ranked 4th in the nation. In 2011, New Mexico produced over 116.8 million pounds of copper, with

a production value of \$400.9 million, and \$3.3 million in state revenues. The majority (70 percent) of mined copper is used by wire-rod producers. Production of copper, both domestically and internationally, is driven by copper prices and international production. Prior to 2005, New Mexico also had operating copper smelters in the southwest; price fluctuations contributed to the closure of those smelters.

While perlite, zeolite, pumice, and molybdenum do not have the largest production values of resources mined in New Mexico, they are major commodities for which the state leads in production. Perlite and zeolite are industrial minerals. Perlite is produced in three mines—El Grande, No Agua, and Socorro—in Taos and Socorro counties, with other potential sites being investigated for future

### Industrial Mineral Production in New Mexico, 2009

Mineral	Nat'l Rank	Emp.	Major Producing County
Clay	--	3	<i>Bernalillo, Dona Aña</i>
Dimension Stone	--	23	<i>Valencia</i>
Gypsum	7	100	<i>Bernalillo, Doña Ana, Sandoval</i>
Humate	--	31	<i>Sandoval, San Juan, McKinley</i>
Limestone/ Portland Cement	--	100	<i>Bernalillo</i>
Perlite	1	69	<i>Socorro, Taos</i>
Pumice	4	13	<i>Bernalillo, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Rio Arriba</i>
Salt	11	83	<i>Eddy</i>
Silica	--	1	<i>Grant, Santa Fe</i>
Zeolite	1	23	<i>Sierra</i>

Source: New Mexico Mining & Minerals Division 2010 Annual Report.

**Notes:**

Rankings are from the US Geological Survey 2009 rankings.

Employment includes direct and contract employees.

Location and employment for clay, dimension stone, and limestone/Portland cement is for mill only. Mine employment is included in the aggregates category.

mining operations. Other western states mine perlite, but New Mexico has been the long-term leader in perlite production. Perlite is most often used in building construction products, horticultural aggregate, and filter aids. Zeolite is produced in Sierra County at the St. Cloud and Coyote Cliff Numbers 1 and 2 mines. St. Cloud is the largest operating zeolite mine in the country. Other states mining zeolite include Idaho, Texas, Arizona, California, and Nevada. Zeolite is most often used in animal feed, odor control, pet litter, and water purification applications. Pumice mining mainly takes place in the Jemez Mountains and Mogollon-Datil volcanic field at 4 mines (and corresponding plants/mills located in multiple counties including Bernalillo, Sandoval, Santa Fe, and Rio Arriba). In 2011, New Mexico was ranked 6th in the nation for pumice production following Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, and California. Pumice is most often used in construction building block, horticulture, abrasives, and concrete admixture

and aggregate. Employment in zeolite, perlite, and pumice mining is relatively small compared to other mining commodities.

Molybdenum, a metal, is separate from industrial minerals and is mined at the Questa mine in Taos County (as of 2011). The Questa mine is one of four major mines in the country, with the other three located in Colorado, Idaho, and Nevada, each. The Chino copper mine in Grant County sometimes mines molybdenum as a byproduct of its copper mining. The Chino mine did not produce any molybdenum in 2010. Molybdenum production value was over \$7.5 million in 2011. Molybdenum is most often used in the production of intermediate products such as ferromolybdenum, metal powder, and various chemicals. These products are most often used by iron and steel superalloy producers (for example, stainless steel).

New Mexico is also a major producer, although not a top producer, of other

nonfuel minerals including construction sand and gravel, Portland cement, gypsum, and humate. These four commodities, in combination with copper, potash, and molybdenum comprised 94 percent of New Mexico's total nonfuel raw mineral production value. Sand, gravel, and cement are all classified as aggregates, and mining operations, of which there are many, are spread throughout the state. Gypsum mining is concentrated in central New Mexico in Bernalillo and Sandoval counties, and in Doña Ana County in the south. Gypsum is most often used in wallboard and plaster products. New Mexico has large deposits of humate that are concentrated in the San Juan Basin, in McKinley and Sandoval counties particularly. As of 2008, there were nine active humate mines. Humate is most often used as a soil conditioner and additive to drilling muds. Uranium, once a major mined commodity in New Mexico, is no longer actively mined.

Uranium activity in New Mexico currently focuses on the reclamation of

old mines, which has recently generated greater employment. Additionally, URENCO USA has begun producing enriched uranium at its new facility near Eunice in Lea County. It is the first enrichment facility to be built in the U.S. in 30 years and will have 5,700 tSW/a capacity by the time construction is complete.

### **SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR MINING**

Mining activities not only create direct economic impact, production value, and employment opportunities, but also create revenue and jobs in support activities for mining operations. Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data, there were approximately 648 establishments supporting activities for mining, with over 11,800 employees in 2011. North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) coding does not break this sub-industry down further to identify operations by type of mining (oil and gas, coal, metal, nonmetallic). Therefore, the sub-industry must be evaluated as a whole.

## A NOTE ON RENEWABLES

Crude oil, natural gas, and coal are all mined commodities that contribute to electricity generation in New Mexico and its neighboring states. Renewable energy industries have introduced themselves as players in energy generation in the state, and New Mexico is well positioned to tap into varying renewable resources including solar, wind, and biofuels. Based on the U.S. Energy Information Administration, New Mexico ranked 4th in the nation in installed solar photovoltaic capacity. This was an increase from 2010. New Mexico is also ranked 2nd in the country in solar, 12th in wind, and 12th in geothermal resources, and is 1st in research and development spending per gross state product (as of 2009).<sup>1</sup> Several biofuels companies have opened or relocated to the state. U.S. EIA also concluded that in 2011, renewable energy accounted for 6.5 percent of the electricity generated in the state. As of August 2012, renewable energy generated in New Mexico accounted for 1 percent (156 thousand Megawatt hours) of the U.S. total. While the competition between and complexities of traditional energy resources and renewable energy options is not discussed in this publication, it is important to understand that, just as New Mexico's mining industry has evolved since the first silver and coal mines began operation, the future of New Mexico's mining industry will change as demand, and prices, for resources change and adjust.

## Mining Employment & Wages

### MINING EMPLOYMENT IN NEW MEXICO & TOP EMPLOYING COUNTIES

In 2011, there were 958 mining establishments in New Mexico, employing over 21,200 workers. Nearly half of all employment was in direct mining operations, while half was employed in support activities. Approximately 23 percent (4,795) of the mining workforce was employed in oil and gas extraction. Twenty-

two percent (4,645) of the workforce was employed in other types of mining. Employment data for coal, metallic, and nonmetallic mining was suppressed for 2011. Data from 2007 show that each of these three subsectors employed anywhere from 6.7 to 7.2 percent of total mining employment. A little over half of the mining workforce was employed in support activities for mining in 2011 (55 percent or 11,813 persons).

Between 2002 and 2011, the number of establishments, overall employment, and wages grew in the mining

industry and most of its sub-industries. Establishments grew by 4.1 percent annually, while employment grew by 5.8 percent. Wages increased by an average 5.7 percent per year. Every sub-industry experienced employment growth ranging from 1.5 to 12.4 percent annually, except for coal mining. While recent yearly data is suppressed for coal mining, declines between 2002 and 2007 equaled about 4.7 percent per year. During the recession (2007 to 2009), employment declined in the mining industry overall, with support activities for mining

experiencing the largest declines of all sub-industries for which data is available. Growth in support activities in 2011, however, was significant, with employment totals exceeding pre-recession levels.

The average annual wage in the mining industry has historically been well above the state average (the average in 2011 for all industries was around \$40,000). Wages have traditionally been highest in the oil and gas extraction subsector (\$88,649 in 2011) and lowest in metal ore mining. Wages grew the fastest for support

<sup>1</sup> New Mexico's Green Jobs Report: 2011, NMDWS.

## Private Sector Mining in New Mexico, 2002 to 2011

Industry	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>All Mining</b>										
Establishments	701	705	694	718	792	819	872	872	916	958
Employment	13,945	14,221	15,010	16,860	18,624	19,377	21,078	17,581	18,423	21,252
Wages	\$47,689	\$48,823	\$51,568	\$54,808	\$60,684	\$62,504	\$67,964	\$65,832	\$74,984	\$71,968
<b>- Oil &amp; Gas Extraction</b>										
Establishments	259	242	213	214	228	229	246	243	244	243
Employment	3,118	3,074	3,156	3,428	3,579	3,864	4,311	4,181	4,503	4,795
Wages	\$57,069	\$60,906	\$65,741	\$69,732	\$81,016	\$77,376	\$84,552	\$80,288	\$111,280	\$88,660
<b>- Mining, Except Oil &amp; Gas</b>										
Establishments	59	57	54	55	63	59	66	70	67	67
Employment	3,971	3,646	3,667	3,913	4,081	4,035	4,849	4,142	4,077	4,645
Wages	\$53,599	\$54,342	\$57,411	\$58,968	\$60,164	\$62,660	\$67,652	\$70,564	\$70,720	\$73,632
<b>-- Coal Mining</b>										
Establishments	8	8	7	5	6	6	--	--	--	--
Employment	1,709	1,564	1,509	1,478	1,506	1,390	--	--	--	--
Wages	\$67,460	\$67,910	\$70,281	\$74,130	\$75,606	\$77,340	--	--	--	--
<b>-- Metal Ore Mining</b>										
Establishments	9	9	10	10	12	10	--	--	--	--
Employment	861	740	884	1,102	1,231	1,289	--	--	--	--
Wages	\$45,755	\$49,964	\$54,745	\$54,363	\$55,187	\$55,995	--	--	--	--
<b>-- Nonmetallic Mineral Mining and Quarrying</b>										
Establishments	42	40	37	41	45	43	47	50	48	--
Employment	1,401	1,342	1,274	1,333	1,343	1,355	1,517	1,563	1,567	--
Wages	\$41,506	\$40,939	\$44,023	\$46,007	\$47,458	\$53,898	\$58,035	\$56,107	\$61,237	--
<b>- Support Activities for Mining</b>										
Establishments	384	406	426	450	502	531	561	559	605	648
Employment	6,856	7,501	8,188	9,520	10,964	11,478	11,917	9,258	9,843	11,813
Wages	\$40,001	\$41,189	\$43,489	\$47,736	\$54,288	\$57,460	\$62,088	\$57,200	\$60,112	\$64,480

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) & NMDWS ER&A.

Notes: Data not shown is suppressed.

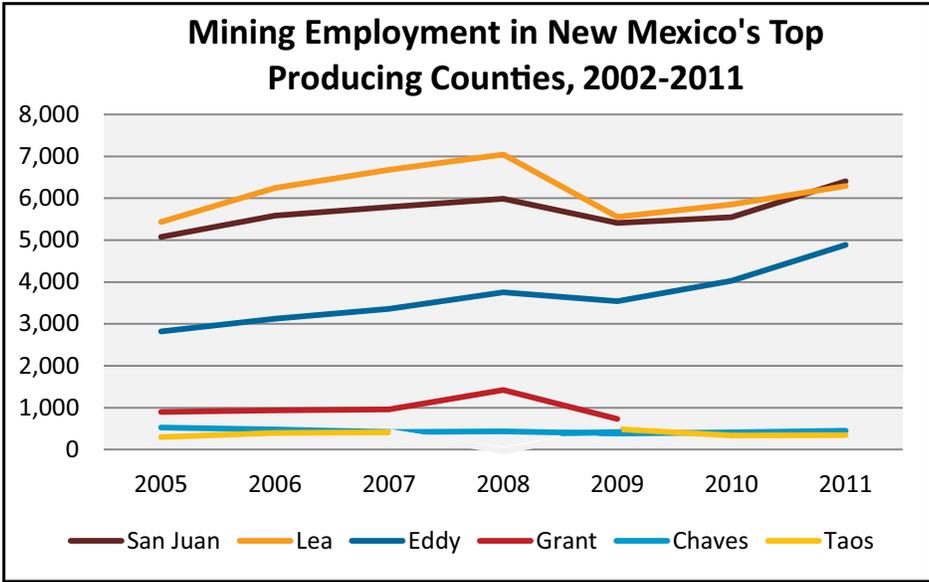
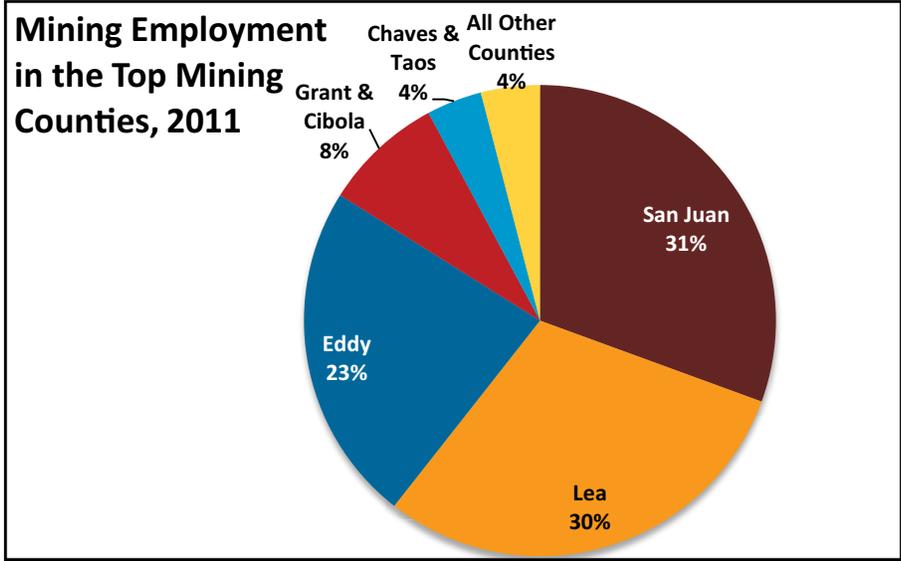
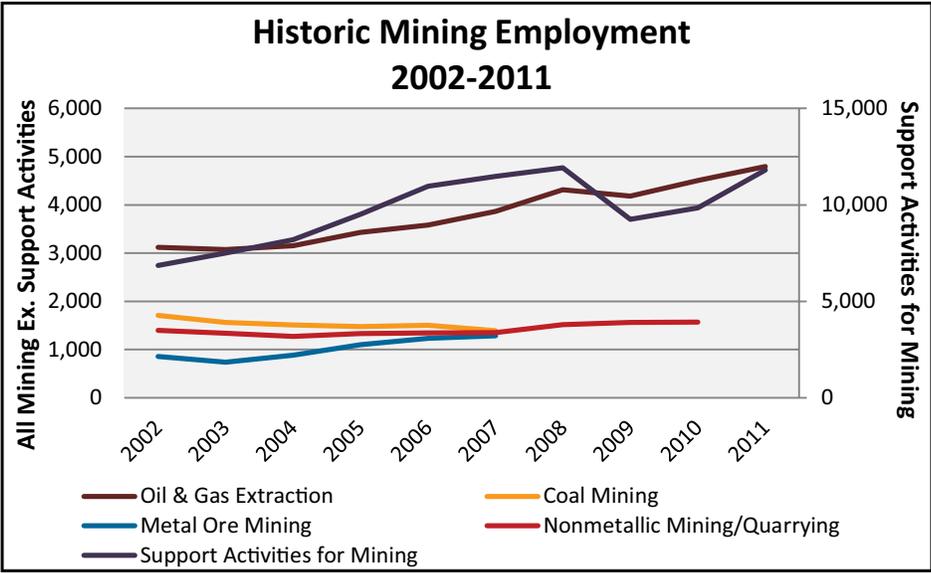
activities for mining between 2002 and 2011, with average annual growth of 6.8 percent. All mining sub-industries experienced average annual growth in wages over the period.

As of 2011, over 95 percent of mining employment in the state was concentrated

in seven counties—San Juan, Lea, Eddy, Grant, Cibola, Chaves, and Taos. Nearly 84 percent was concentrated in three counties—San Juan, Lea, and Eddy. This large concentration of employment reflects the counties' oil and natural gas extraction operations (with potash mining in Eddy as well). In 2011, San

Juan County had the largest employment, comprising 31 percent of total employment in the state. However, in past years Lea County mining employment has exceeded that of San Juan by up to 4 percentage points. In 2011, Lea County mining employment comprised nearly 30 percent of total

employment. Eddy County mining employment represented 23 percent of total state employment. The remaining four counties employed about 12 percent of the state's mining employment in 2011.



## Annual Mining Employment in New Mexico's Top Mining Counties 2005-2011

Area	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>16,860</b>	<b>18,624</b>	<b>19,377</b>	<b>21,078</b>	<b>17,581</b>	<b>18,423</b>	<b>21,252</b>
Wages	\$1,054	\$1,167	\$1,202	\$1,307	\$1,266	\$1,442	\$1,384
San Juan	5,076	5,582	5,787	5,988	5,408	5,548	6,409
<i>% of State</i>	30.1%	30.0%	29.9%	28.4%	30.8%	30.1%	30.2%
Wages	\$1,171	\$1,315	\$1,299	\$1,365	\$1,352	\$1,436	\$1,514
Lea	5,435	6,246	6,683	7,043	5,554	5,851	6,292
<i>% of State</i>	32.2%	33.5%	34.5%	33.4%	31.6%	31.8%	29.6%
Wages	\$984	\$1,138	\$1,176	\$1,286	\$1,173	\$1,242	\$1,347
Eddy	2,821	3,124	3,358	3,752	3,545	4,025	4,888
<i>% of State</i>	16.7%	16.8%	17.3%	17.8%	20.2%	21.8%	23.0%
Wages	\$1,075	\$1,113	\$1,190	\$1,392	\$1,306	\$1,936	\$1,369
Grant	896	939	959	1,419	729	--	--
<i>% of State</i>	5.3%	5.0%	4.9%	6.7%	4.1%	--	--
Wages	\$957	\$982	\$1,004	\$1,166	\$1,518	--	--
Cibola	--	--	--	397	380	--	--
<i>% of State</i>	--	--	--	1.9%	2.2%	--	--
Wages	--	--	--	\$1,191	\$1,193	--	--
Chaves	526	483	420	434	379	411	448
<i>% of State</i>	3.1%	2.6%	2.2%	2.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%
Wages	\$712	\$862	\$924	\$1,019	\$914	\$932	\$1,079
Taos	299	397	414	--	485	337	347
<i>% of State</i>	1.8%	2.1%	2.1%	--	2.8%	1.8%	1.6%
Wages	\$1,048	\$986	\$1,031	--	\$1,256	\$1,101	\$1,225

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

Notes: Data not shown is suppressed.

**OIL & GAS  
EXTRACTION -  
PRODUCTION IN TWO  
OPPOSITE CORNERS  
OF THE STATE**

The vast majority of oil and gas extraction occurs in the northwestern and southeastern corners of the state. Over 90 percent of all crude oil extraction occurs in Lea and Eddy counties, in the Permian Basin of southeastern New Mexico. Over 95 percent of oil extraction occurs in the Southeastern Region overall (including Chaves and Roosevelt counties). In 2011, the four counties produced over 63.7 million barrels of crude oil. Lea and Eddy counties produced about 40 percent of the state's natural gas during the same year. This amount is less than that produced in the San Juan Basin in the northwestern corner of the state. The San Juan Basin is the nation's leading coalbed-methane producing region. San Juan and Rio Arriba counties produced over 725.2 MCF of natural gas in 2011, equaling 55 percent of total production in the state. The majority of oil and gas extraction

employment data in New Mexico's counties is suppressed. Based on the data available for 2011, San Juan oil and gas extraction operations employed the largest number of workers in the sub-industry (35 to 45 percent in 2011). The majority of this employment was specifically in natural gas extraction. Eddy and Lea counties employed the 2nd and 3rd largest percentage

of oil and gas workers (20 to 30 percent in 2011), with the majority of workers employed in crude oil extraction. Employment in Chaves and Rio Arriba counties represented less than 10 percent of the state total oil and gas extraction employment in 2011. Chaves is the 3rd largest producer of crude oil, and the 6th largest producer of natural gas in the state. Rio Arriba is the 4th largest producer of crude oil, and the

2nd largest producer of natural gas. Colfax County produces about 2 percent of all natural gas in the state, but overall mining industry employment is low compared to the other oil and gas counties.

Employment in oil and gas operations in the top producers—Lea, Eddy, and San Juan counties—was trending upwards between 2005 and 2007, particularly in Lea County. Meanwhile

**Annual Oil & Gas Extraction Employment in Major Producing Counties, 2005-2011**

Area	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>4,645</b>	<b>4,077</b>	<b>4,142</b>	<b>4,849</b>	<b>4,035</b>	<b>4,081</b>	<b>3,913</b>
Wages	\$1,416	\$1,360	\$1,357	\$1,301	\$1,205	\$1,157	\$1,134
Chaves	273	150	--	--	--	--	--
<i>% of State Oil &amp; Gas</i>	5.9%	3.7%	--	--	--	--	--
<i>% of Total Mining in County</i>	51.9%	31.1%	--	--	--	--	--
Wages	\$723	\$989	--	--	--	--	--
Eddy	1,046	1,106	1,128	1,155	1,125	--	--
<i>% of State</i>	22.5%	27.1%	27.2%	23.8%	27.9%	--	--
<i>% of Total Mining in County</i>	37.1%	35.4%	33.6%	30.8%	31.7%	--	--
Wages	\$1,408	\$1,419	\$1,507	\$1,987	\$1,722	--	--
Lea	--	--	994	1,285	--	--	--
<i>% of State</i>	--	--	24.0%	26.5%	--	--	--
<i>% of Total Mining in County</i>	--	--	14.9%	18.2%	--	--	--
Wages	--	--	\$1,462	\$1,536	--	--	--
San Juan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rio Arriba	35	34	39	27	17	--	--
<i>% of State</i>	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	0.6%	0.4%	--	--
<i>% of Total Mining in County</i>	22.3%	23.6%	44.8%	33.8%	24.6%	--	--
Wages	\$984	\$1,013	\$1,158	\$987	\$904	--	--

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW).  
Notes: Data not shown is suppressed.

employment in Rio Arriba barely changed and employment in Chaves declined. As the recession hit New Mexico, most of these counties were immune to employment losses felt in other industries in the state. The mining industries in these counties served as positive areas of growth when other industries were sharply declining. Between 2007 and 2009, employment continued to decline in Chaves County, albeit at a slower pace than the previous years, while employment in Rio Arriba declined. Employment in Eddy remained about the same as prerecession levels, whereas employment increased in San Juan and Lea counties. Lea County experienced major employment increases between 2005 and 2007, and growth continued at a quick rate through the recession. San Juan employment growth was close to that experienced over the previous two years.

As the state began to recover from the recession, natural gas employment in San Juan grew significantly. Eddy oil and gas

employment realized faster growth during the early recovery than that experienced prior to the recession. Chaves also experienced growth after at least six years of declines. Employment recovery in Rio Arriba had not been realized by the end of 2011, with employment remaining at recessionary levels. Lea County actually experienced a decline in employment, although employment numbers after those declines were still at pre-recession levels or higher.

Oil and gas extraction wages are some of the highest in the state, with statewide average annual wages equaling nearly \$72,000 in 2011. Wages are highest in those counties where production is greatest and lower in counties with small production (in this case Chaves and Rio Arriba). Wages in the counties with major crude oil extraction operations grew prior to and during the recession. Wages in major natural gas counties (San Juan and Rio Arriba), on the other hand, declined. Wages related to oil extraction continued to increase into the early recovery,

with the exception of Eddy County, where wages declined. Wages in San Juan's natural gas industry appear to have recovered from recessionary losses. As with employment, Rio Arriba wages have not experienced the same level of recovery.

#### **OTHER MINING - COAL, MINERALS & METALS ACROSS THE STATE**

Mining, other than oil and gas, is spread across many of New Mexico's counties. Over 90 percent of employment in the sub-industry is concentrated in five counties—Eddy, Grant, San Juan, Cibola, and Taos. Coal is the largest mined resource beyond natural gas in San Juan County. The Navajo and San Juan mines supply coal to the state's two largest coal-fired power plants, both of which are in San Juan. Coal is also provided by the El Segundo and Lee Ranch mines in McKinley County (bordering Cibola County). Owned by Peabody Energy, both mines were operating in 2011. These operations drive a large portion of mining employment in McKinley and Cibola counties (with some

employment in support activities for mining). Prior to 2008, all of the employment at these mines was identified to be in McKinley County, classifying McKinley as a top producer. In 2008, most of the employment was reclassified to be located in Cibola County. This established Cibola County as a major producer, with higher employment. In 2011, San Juan, along with McKinley/Cibola counties, produced over 21.8 million short tons of coal.

In the other corner of the state, Eddy County produces the largest amount of potash in both the state and the nation. Three operating mines—two owned by Intrepid Potash, Inc. and one owned by the Mosaic Company—produced over 812,000 short tons of potash in 2011. Grant County produces several metals and is the largest producer of copper in the state, with small amounts of gold, silver, and molybdenum being produced at times. Based on 2011 data, Grant County was the only county producing copper for the year, and had a copper

production value that exceeded \$400.1 million. The largest amounts of molybdenum are produced at the Questa Mine in Taos County; production at the Questa Mine exceeds that of any other operation in the state. Other operations mine molybdenum inconsistently and often only as a byproduct of other mining, particularly copper.

The majority of mining employment data, beyond oil and gas extraction, is suppressed. Based on the data available for 2011, Eddy and Grant counties comprised nearly 50 percent of other mining for the state, combined. This employment was driven by potash and copper mining in the two southern counties. Other mining in San Juan comprised 20 to 30 percent of total employment, mostly from coal mining. Cibola and Taos employment, driven by crushed stone and molybdenum operations, comprised 10 to 20 percent of total employment in the sub-industry in 2011.

Copper mining in

### Annual Mining (Except Oil & Gas) Employment in Major Producing Counties 2005-2011

Area	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>4,795</b>	<b>4,503</b>	<b>4,181</b>	<b>4,311</b>	<b>3,864</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>3,428</b>
Wages	\$1,705	\$2,140	\$1,544	\$1,626	\$1,488	\$1,558	\$1,341
Eddy	925	958	1,015	1,123	1,182	--	--
% of State Mining, Not Oil & Gas	19.3%	21.3%	24.3%	26.0%	30.6%	--	--
% of Total Mining in County	32.8%	30.7%	30.2%	29.9%	33.3%	--	--
Wages	\$989	\$1,022	\$1,138	\$1,245	\$1,197	--	--
Grant	884	927	950	1,376	724	782	--
% of State Mining, Not Oil & Gas	18.4%	20.6%	22.7%	31.9%	18.7%	21.8%	--
% of Total Mining in County	98.7%	98.7%	99.1%	97.0%	99.3%	--	--
Wages	\$958	\$984	\$1,002	\$1,167	\$1,519	\$1,290	--
San Juan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cibola	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Taos	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

Notes: Data not shown is suppressed.

Grant County was impacted severely by collapsing copper prices in late 2008. Freeport-McMoRan halted operations at the Chino Mine in 2008, cutting employment in the other mining sub-industry in Grant by nearly half over the year and by over 20 percent during the entire 2007 and 2009 recessionary period. The Chino Mine was reopened in 2009, and employment increased to some of the highest levels in recent years. Declining copper prices have also driven the closure of New Mexico's smelters and the elimination of related employment. Operations in Playas

and Hurley shut down in 1999 and 2005, respectively. New Mexico currently transports mined ore to Arizona and other states for smelting. The fluctuations in copper mining over the 3-year period are examples of how much the mining industry as a whole is impacted by worldwide commodity and natural resource prices.

The non-oil and gas mining industry saw small overall declines in employment during most of the recession (2008-2009). The potash, molybdenum, coal, and crushed stone operations driving employment demand

in the remaining top producing counties were not significantly impacted by the recession. In the top producing counties of Eddy, San Juan, Cibola, and Taos, employment actually increased throughout the recession by 4 to 31 percent. Employment in coal and molybdenum operations weakened slightly between 2009 and 2011, with employment stagnation in San Juan and employment declines in Taos County.

Wages in the mining, except oil and gas, sub-industry have historically been much higher than the all-

industry average. In 2011, the average annual wage for this sub-industry was around \$69,700. Wages in the coal mining sub-industry are typically the highest of any mining sub-industry, including oil and gas. In 2011, wages in San Juan County were the 3rd highest of any county in the other mining sub-industry, and exceeded the annual wage of the other top producing counties by about \$24,000 annually. McKinley and Lea counties were the only other counties with a higher wage in other mining. Wages in the remaining four top producing industries were similar, with wages between \$62,000 and \$72,000 annually. Wages grew in all top producing counties through the recession, particularly in Grant County. Wages in Grant and Taos counties, however, declined slightly in 2011.

### **SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR MINING**

As would be expected, employment in support activities for mining is concentrated in those counties with the largest mining operations. In 2011,

about 97 percent of all employment in support activities for mining was located in the top seven producing counties. Nearly 94 percent of employment was located in the top three producing counties alone—Eddy, Lea, and San Juan. Lea County employs the largest number of workers in this sub-industry in the state. This employment is driven by Lea's crude oil extraction operations. The support activities for mining sub-industry is also often the largest in a county. In Eddy and San Juan counties, employment in support activities comprised 45 to 50 percent of all mining employment. In Lea in 2011, employment in this sub-industry surpassed 80 percent of all mining in the county.

It appears that certain mining operations demand greater support services and employment. Those counties extracting oil and natural gas have a greater number of workers in the support activities sub-industry. In Grant and Taos counties, with large metal mining operations,

employment in support activities comprised 1 to 4 percent of total mining employment. These are very small percentages compared to 47 to 85 percent in oil and gas extraction counties. Support services for coal mining also appear to require fewer workers. In Cibola County in 2011, employment in support activities comprised around 18 percent of total mining employment. While support activities for coal mining in San Juan cannot be specifically determined, San Juan support activities employment comprises a much smaller percentage of total mining employment compared to other counties mainly extracting oil and gas.

The top producing oil, gas, and coal mining counties experienced employment growth from 2 to 40 percent in the two years leading up to the recession (2005-2007). Support activities in Grant and Taos counties (primarily mining copper and molybdenum) decreased slightly during the same time period, by 20 to 25 percent, although actual

job losses were fairly small due to the small employment in the support activities sub-industry. Employment in support activities for mining declined during the recession more than any other mining sub-industry. Every major producing county experienced significant employment losses, except Eddy County. Losses in the major oil and gas counties were measured between 15 and 25 percent. Percentage losses were much higher in the metal mining counties. Employment losses in support activities had major impacts on the overall mining industries of many of the top mining counties. Growth in the oil and gas, and other mining sub-industries during the recession did not make up for the losses in support activities. Eddy and Taos counties were the only counties that did not see overall mining employment decline between 2007 and 2009.

Positively, losses in the top producing counties in support activities were recovered during 2009, 2010, and 2011. Employment is now close to or greater than

where support activities and overall mining employment have continued to decline. In 2011, the average annual wage in support activities for mining was

about \$64,500. Wages were highest in Grant County, and lower in counties with smaller mining operations and lower employment (Taos, Cibola, and

Chaves). Wages declined slightly in a few of the top producing industries during the recession. Wage data from the early recover (2009-2011) shows

positive growth for all counties, except Grant. Wage reductions in 2011 in Grant were the first seen since 2005.

### Annual Support Activities for Mining Employment in New Mexico's Top Mining Counties, 2005-2011

Area	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>9,520</b>	<b>10,964</b>	<b>11,478</b>	<b>11,917</b>	<b>9,258</b>	<b>9,843</b>	<b>11,813</b>
Wages	\$918	\$1,044	\$1,105	\$1,194	\$1,100	\$1,156	\$1,240
<b>Lea</b>	<b>4,752</b>	<b>5,496</b>	<b>5,689</b>	<b>5,758</b>	<b>4,304</b>	<b>4,637</b>	<b>5,330</b>
<i>% of State Support Activities</i>	49.9%	50.1%	49.6%	48.3%	46.5%	47.1%	45.1%
<i>% of Total Mining in County</i>	87.4%	88.0%	85.1%	81.8%	77.5%	79.3%	84.7%
Wages	\$937	\$1,102	\$1,126	\$1,231	\$1,064	\$1,155	\$1,272
<b>San Juan</b>	<b>2,893</b>	<b>3,282</b>	<b>3,445</b>	<b>3,551</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>3,231</b>
<i>% of State Support Activities</i>	30.4%	29.9%	30.0%	29.8%	31.7%	28.1%	27.4%
<i>% of Total Mining in County</i>	57.0%	58.8%	59.5%	59.3%	54.3%	49.8%	50.4%
Wages	\$952	\$1,030	\$1,120	\$1,201	\$1,158	\$1,177	\$1,234
<b>Eddy</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,634</b>	<b>2,315</b>
<i>% of State Support Activities</i>	8.9%	9.7%	10.6%	12.4%	13.4%	16.6%	19.6%
<i>% of Total Mining in County</i>	30.1%	33.9%	36.2%	39.3%	35.0%	40.6%	47.4%
Wages	\$760	\$876	\$940	\$1,038	\$1,030	\$1,111	\$1,212
<b>Chaves</b>	--	--	244	248	195	224	275
<i>% of State Support Activities</i>	--	--	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.3%	2.3%
<i>% of Total Mining in County</i>	--	--	58.1%	57.1%	51.5%	54.5%	61.4%
Wages	--	--	\$972	\$1,086	\$913	\$877	\$1,047
<b>Grant</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	--	--	--	--	--
<i>% of State Support Activities</i>	0.1%	0.1%	--	--	--	--	--
<i>% of Total Mining in County</i>	1.3%	1.3%	--	--	--	--	--
Wages	\$877	\$883	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Cibola</b>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Taos</b>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

Notes: Data not shown is suppressed.

## Future Employment in Mining - An area of Continued Employment Growth

Despite employment declines in 2009, mining employment has been growing overall in recent years. Based on statewide employment projections, employment in the mining industry is anticipated to grow by approximately 2.6 percent annually between 2010 and 2020. Employment in support activities for mining is projected to grow the most both in numbers and percentage (3,840 workers overall and 3.6 percent annually). Growth in mining, except oil and gas, is projected to be around 650 jobs, or 1.6 percent annually. Employment in oil and gas extraction is projected to grow by less than 1 percent annually (0.7 percent), with growth of around 300 jobs over the 10-year period.

Projected mining employment in

New Mexico's four regions—Central, Eastern, Northern, and Southwestern—is largely suppressed and actual projections are not publishable. In general, mining employment in all four regions is projected to grow more quickly than overall employment, by 0.14 to 1.06 percentage points. Mining employment in the Southwest Region is projected to grow the slowest, while employment in the central counties is projected to add the least in number of jobs. The largest number of new mining jobs, growing more quickly than other regions, will be located in the Eastern Region.

Employment in the support activities for mining sub-industry is projected to grow the quickest. Average annual growth rates are projected to be between 3 and 4 percent for every region. The majority of growth will be in the east and north, as employment in this sub-industry is very small in the Central and Southwestern regions. Even with small employment, the largest number of new jobs in the Central Region will

be in this sub-industry.

Employment growth in oil and gas extraction is projected to grow the slowest and least in numbers between 2010 and 2020, with annual growth rates ranging between 0.6 and 1.2 percent in the regions. Employment in mining, other than oil and gas extraction, is projected to grow close to or slightly faster than the all industry average for all four regions. This sub-industry will produce the largest number of new mining jobs in the southwest.

The BLS projections methodology employed by NMDWS takes into account many different variables that impact employment. It is important to remember, however, that natural resource prices are often the main driving factor in demand for mining employment. The fluctuations in copper prices, and resulting employment changes, are perfect examples of how worldwide prices can significantly impact New Mexico's industry. And while price fluctuations impact demand, the demand for natural resources remains strong, not

only in the U.S., but worldwide. This demand also plays a role in production levels in the state.

## Top Mining Occupations - Looking for Employment Opportunities

Recent demand for mining workers, specifically in crude oil extraction in the southeast and copper mining in the southwest, have created employment opportunities in these regions. There are many benefits to working in the mining industry. One of the biggest advantages is that wages are typically much higher overall and higher than the same occupations in other industries. Quick increases in demand when mining operations expand or restart can also make it easier to obtain employment, if you have a positive employment record. There can be some challenges to working in mining as well. Jobs can be more dangerous. Changes in natural resource

prices and demand for commodities can also cause quick shifts in production, which ultimately can impact the overall stability of employment in the industry. Fluctuating demand can also mean a worker will need to be more flexible in locating to different mining sites, often in remote locations of the state. It's often seen that mining workers "go where the work is," and must live remotely and, at times, away from home.

While work in the mining industry can

have its challenges, job openings can mean earning good money and gaining valuable skills, even if it isn't for the long term. Crude oil operations in southeastern New Mexico, particularly, have demanded a significant increase in workers in the last couple of years. Companies have hired within the state and in neighboring Texas to fill positions not occupied by local workers. While it's important to understand the requirements and job characteristics of mining occupations,

this industry has been providing many job opportunities. If the characteristics of the job match those sought by a job seeker, this could be an excellent opportunity for work. This has been particularly true since the recession caused major job losses within the state, and recessionary job growth has been slow.

The following table lists the top occupations in the three mining sub-industries. Education and training requirements are listed, along with the average annual wage

(statewide). Also, it is important to note that the majority of top mining occupations require a high school diploma or equivalent (GED), which means that these occupations are available to a larger set of job seekers. Twenty-three of the 30 occupations pay the average annual wage for the state or higher. This provides further evidence that wages are higher in the mining industry, particularly when the majority of the occupations do not require a secondary education.



## Top 10 Occupations in Mining 2010

Occupation	Education Level	Training Required	Avg. Ann. Wage
<b>Mining, Except Oil &amp; Gas</b>			
 Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Ex. Engines	High School	Long-Term OJT	\$49,105
 Continuous Mining Machine Operators	High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$55,757
 1st-Line Spvs/Mgrs of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers**	High School	None	\$56,316
 Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer**	High School	Short-Term OJT	\$39,213
 Mine Cutting & Channeling Machine Operators	High School	Mod-Term OJT	--
 Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$40,590
 Earth Drillers, Except Oil & Gas	High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$39,868
 Electricians	High School	App	\$48,601
 Maintenance Workers, Machinery	High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$36,106
 Mining Machine Operators, All Other	High School	Mod-Term OJT	--
<b>Oil &amp; Gas Extraction</b>			
 Petroleum Pump System Operators, Refinery Operators & Gaugers	High School	Long-Term OJT	\$63,856
 Secretaries, Ex. Legal, Medical & Executive	High School	Short-Term OJT	\$29,319
 Petroleum Engineers	Bachelor's Degree	None	\$99,136
 Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$40,590
 1st-Line Spvs/Mgrs of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers**	High School	None	\$56,316
 General and Operations Managers**	Associate's Degree	None	\$96,247
 1st-Line Spvs/Mgrs of Transp./Material Moving Machine/Vehicle Ops**	High School	None	\$37,636
 Geological & Petroleum Technicians	Associate's Degree	Mod-Term OJT	--
 Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas	Less than High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$65,038
 Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$33,655
<b>Support Activities for Mining</b>			
 Roustabouts, Oil & Gas	Less than High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$34,715
 Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas & Mining	Less than High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$39,868
 1st-Line Spvs/Mgrs of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers**	High School	None	\$56,316
 Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas	Less than High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$65,038
 Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$40,590
 Helpers--Extraction Workers	High School	Short-Term OJT	\$35,985
 General & Operations Managers	Associate's Degree	None	\$96,247
 Sales Reps, Wholesale/Manufacturing, Ex. Technical & Scientific Products	High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$56,498
 Industrial Machinery Mechanics	High School	Long-Term OJT	\$48,696
 Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	High School	Mod-Term OJT	\$34,235

Source: NMDWS.

Notes: "\*\*" indicates some level of work experience is typically required. Visit [www.dws.state.nm.us/analyzer](http://www.dws.state.nm.us/analyzer) for details.

 GREEN OCCUPATIONS  BRIGHT OUTLOOK STATEWIDE  BRIGHT OUTLOOK NATIONALLY

The next table provides information on what are called transferable occupations. Transferable occupations are those occupations that have the most similarities in job tasks and the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. For example, if a person is currently an aircraft mechanic, he or she could transfer into a job as a mobile heavy equipment mechanic, industrial

machinery mechanic, or maintenance worker in the mining industry, without extensive additional training, education, or work experience. Another example is carpet installers or other carpentry and construction occupations. If a person currently works as a carpet installer, he or she may be able to transfer into working as an operating engineer or construction

equipment engineer in the mining industry. The list provided does not exhaust all of the opportunities to transfer from one occupation to another with employment opportunities in the mining industry. It does provide, however, a general idea of the types of work that could be transferable to mining. In particular, construction work is often transferable to the mining industry. This

is something to note when the construction industry experienced the largest recessionary job losses. Again, it may not be suitable for a person to transfer from the construction to mining industry. But, it is important to understand the opportunities available, while mining employment grows, and job recovery is slow in certain industries across the state.



## Top 10 Occupations in Mining 2010

Industry/Occupation	Top transferable occupations that are not top mining occupations
<b>Mining, Except Oil &amp; Gas</b>	
Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Ex. Engines	Aircraft mechanics; automotive body & repairers; auto glass installers/repairers
Continuous Mining Machine Operators	Explosives workers
1st-Line Spvs/Mgrs of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers**	Civil engineering techs; construction & bldg inspectors; construction mgrs
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer**	Ambulance drivers; bridge & lock tenders; bus drivers (school or transit)
Mine Cutting & Channeling Machine Operators	Explosives workers; paving/surfacing/tamping equip. operators
Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	Boilermakers; brick/blockmasons; carpet installers; cement masons; carpenters
Earth Drillers, Except Oil & Gas	Aircraft structure/surfaces/rigging assemblers; crane & tower operators
Electricians	Avionics techs; computer/teller/office machine repairers; electronic equip. assemblers
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	Aircraft structure/surfaces/rigging assemblers; camera equip. & vending machine repairers
Mining Machine Operators, All Other	Explosives workers
<b>Oil &amp; Gas Extraction</b>	
Petroleum Pump System Operators, Refinery Operators & Gaugers	Biofuels processing techs; biomass plant techs; chemical plant/systems operators
Secretaries, Ex. Legal, Medical & Executive	Billing/cost/rate clerks; executive secretaries; insurance claims clerks
Petroleum Engineers	Aerospace engineers; automotive engineers; biochemical engineers; electrical drafters
Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	Boilermakers; brick/blockmasons; carpet installers; cement masons; carpenters
1st-Line Spvs/Mgrs of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers**	Civil engineering techs; construction & bldg inspectors; construction mgrs
General and Operations Managers**	Chief executives; chief sustainability officers; legislators
1st-Line Spvs/Mgrs of Transp./Material Moving Machine/Vehicle Ops**	Aircraft cargo handling supervisors; chief executives; spvs/mgrs of laborers
Geological & Petroleum Technicians	Agricultural techs; biological techs; chemical equip. operators
Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas	Explosives workers; paving/surfacing/tamping equip. operators
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	Bill/account collectors; billing/cost/rate clerks; brokerage clerks; gaming cage workers
<b>Support Activities for Mining</b>	
Roustabouts, Oil & Gas	Control/valve installers/repairers; explosives workers; motorboat mechanics/techs
Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas & Mining	Crane/tower operators; dredge operators; excavating/loading machine/dragline operators
1st-Line Spvs/Mgrs of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers**	Civil engineering techs; construction & bldg inspectors; construction mgrs
Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas	Explosives workers; paving/surfacing/tamping equip. operators
Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	Boilermakers; brick/blockmasons; carpet installers; cement masons; carpenters
Helpers--Extraction Workers	Explosives workers; pipe layer/plumber/pipefitter helpers; refractory materials repairers
General & Operations Managers	Chief executives; chief sustainability officers; legislators
Sales Reps, Wholesale/Manufacturing, Ex. Technical & Scientific Products	Demonstrators/product promoters; public relations specialists; solar sales representatives
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	Aircraft mechanics/service techs; automotive master mechanics; camera/photo repairers
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	Aircraft mechanics/service techs; boilermakers; camera/photo repairers

Source: NMDWS.

Notes: "\*\*" indicates some level of work experience is typically required. Visit [www.dws.state.nm.us/analyzer](http://www.dws.state.nm.us/analyzer) for details.

# 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

📈 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.

📈 Toys“R”Us announced plans to add about 150 seasonal hires in New Mexico from late September through December. The company has four stores in the state—three in Albuquerque and one in Santa Fe.

✚ 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.

✚ 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.

✚ 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.

✚ New Line Cinema’s comedy “We’re the Millers,” starring Jennifer Aniston and Jason Sudeikis, was scheduled to shoot the last two weeks of September in and around Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Santo Domingo Pueblo, and Zia Pueblo, employing 60 New Mexico crew members.

✚ Federal, state, and tribal officials formally broke ground June 2 on the 280-mile, \$1 billion pipeline project that will pump water to the Navajo Nation, the city of Gallup, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation. The initial stage will require about 450 construction workers.

✚ Tres Amigas will establish its headquarters in downtown Albuquerque, creating 75 to 100 high-paying technical jobs. Construction is scheduled to begin early this fall on phase one of the company’s planned \$1.5 billion high-voltage interconnection project near Clovis.

✚ Universal Pictures’ “2 Guns” was scheduled to shoot in and around Santa Fe and Albuquerque in late August and early September, employing at least 100 New Mexico crew members, 10 principal actors, and more than 400 extras.



✦ Jim Wilson will produce and direct the independent feature film "50 to 1," scheduled to shoot in various New Mexico locations from early September through early October, employing about 100 New Mexico crew members, 30 actors, and more than 550 extras.

✦ 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.

## Central Region

### BERNALILLO COUNTY

✦ Admiral Beverage is building a \$15 million distribution plant in Albuquerque's South Valley that is expected to create 55 construction jobs and 20 new permanent positions.

✦ The Bernalillo County Clerk's Office planned to hire about 800 workers to staff 17 early voting sites and act as poll officials on Election Day.

✦ The Downs at Albuquerque is building a 65,000-square-foot casino scheduled to open next year at the Expo New Mexico fairgrounds. The project is expected to create 500 construction jobs.

✦ 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 October 31 at its call center on Jefferson near I-25 in Albuquerque to begin staffing up to 90 new full-time customer service 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.

✦ Avionics supplier Bendix/King announced plans to move its headquarters from Olathe, Kansas, to Albuquerque. The company expects to hire 100 people this year and another 40 next year for the Albuquerque operation.

✦ 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.

✦ Chick-fil-A opened its third Albuquerque stand-alone location on June 14, employing 96. The chain also operates a Las Cruces site in the Mesilla Valley Mall and has licensed locations at UNM and NMSU.

✦ After opening its first New Mexico location in Uptown last December, Chipotle Mexican Grill expects to add two more Albuquerque restaurants in late 2012 or early 2013 as it moves toward its goal of at least five metro-area sites. Units average around 25 employees each.

✦ 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.

✦ Wichita, Kansas-based Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers will open its first New Mexico restaurant in mid-December at Paseo del Norte and I-25, employing 75. 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.

➤ McCune Solar Works LLC plans to lease Schott Solar's 200,000-square-foot facility in Mesa del Sol and restart photovoltaic panel production in early 2013. The company expects to employ about 130 workers when it reaches full capacity late next year.

➤ The Medical Resort at Fiesta Park opened August 23 in Albuquerque, creating about 100 jobs. The 66,000-square-foot facility offers patient rehabilitation services in a resort-like setting.

➤ 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 will construct a new \$30 million, 180,000-square-foot headquarters building in Albuquerque to open by May 2014. The project will create 200 to 250 construction jobs, with work slated to begin in late 2012 or early 2013.

➤ Target's new \$20 million, 165,000-square-foot "elevated" store south of ABQ Uptown is scheduled to open in February 2013, employing about 200.

➤ UNM plans to build a \$146 million, 185,000-square-foot adult-care hospital at the west end of the Health Sciences Center. Forecast employment was not immediately available for construction or operation of the facility, which is expected to open in October 2014.

➤ 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.

➤ WW Healthcare plans to open a skilled nursing and rehabilitation unit employing 110 workers at the proposed Las Estancias shopping center in the South Valley. The health facility's construction phase is expected to generate more than 100 jobs.

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

➤ 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.

— Schott Solar, New Mexico's only photovoltaic manufacturer, ended solar panel production June 29 and laid off 200 workers. The remaining 50 workers were to leave this summer after concentrated solar production ramped down.

### 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.

↑ Sadie's opened a third Albuquerque-area restaurant, located at the Santa Ana Star Casino, that was expected to employ 130 by this summer. The new 15,000-square-foot eatery seats 320 and features banquet and entertainment facilities.

+

The 72-bed, 200,000-square-foot UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center, located in Rio Rancho's City Center, hosted a grand opening October 7–8 and was scheduled to be fully operational in early August, employing 400 full- and part-time workers.

+

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.

↓ HP was expected to lay off up to 100 employees at its customer sales and technical support center in Rio Rancho as part of a companywide restructuring set to include the elimination of

about 27,000 jobs by October.

### 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.

+

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

### CURRY COUNTY

+

Minnesota-based National Renewable Solutions LLC will develop and manage a \$30 million, 18-megawatt wind farm project, called Broadview Energy LLC, near Grady that will create 30 to 50 construction jobs and two to three permanent positions.

### EDDY COUNTY

+

Intrepid Potash received BLM approval to proceed with plans for a solution mining project 20 miles northeast of Carlsbad that



will create 150 to 200 construction jobs and 30 to 40 long-term positions. The abandoned mine site was most recently occupied by Eddy Potash.

#### **LEA COUNTY**

➤ Exelon Energy's Wildcat Wind Farm officially opened September 13 near Lovington. The 27-megawatt facility took five months to build and employed 125 workers at peak construction.

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

➤ International Isotopes expects the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to issue construction and operating licenses in October for the company's planned uranium deconversion facility west of Hobbs. The plant will employ 125 to 150 when operational in 2013.

#### **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**

➤ 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**

#### **CIBOLA COUNTY**

➤ A U.S. Forest Service decision is expected in early 2013 on Laramide Resources' proposed uranium mine at La Jara Mesa, located ten miles northeast of Grants. The project would create 100 construction jobs and 200 permanent positions.

#### **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.

#### **SANTA FE COUNTY**

➤ Bicycle Technologies International, a Santa-Fe based wholesaler of bicycle parts and accessories, announced plans to build a 50,000-square-foot distribution hub and call center in the Rancho Viejo area and hire up to 50 new employees over the next five years.

➤ Drury Southwest started work on Santa Fe's biggest private construction project this year: the transformation of the former St. Vincent Hospital and adjacent Marian Hall into a hotel and retail complex. The first phase is scheduled for completion in early 2014.

➤ Five Star Burgers opened a restaurant in Santa Fe's DeVargas Center, creating 50 new jobs. The regional chain also operates locations in Albuquerque and Taos, New Mexico; Denver, Colorado; and Clayton, Missouri.

#### **TAOS COUNTY**

➤ Work was scheduled to begin July 21 on Kit Carson Electric Cooperative's \$64 million broadband initiative to bring high-speed Internet access to every home and business in its service area. The project is expected to create 300 temporary jobs.

## Southwestern Region

### DOÑA ANA COUNTY

↑ Convergys scheduled a job fair for August 22–23 to add 100 full-time workers at its Las Cruces call center to provide service and sales support for a telecommunications company.

↑ L&M Radiator at its one-year anniversary event in Las Cruces announced plans to hire 50 more workers over the next few months. The company, which currently employs 179, manufactures industrial radiators and heat exchangers.

↑ The Las Cruces Target store is adding a grocery department scheduled to open in mid-October, creating about 80 new jobs. LASER lists a current employee size range of 100 to 249.

✚ 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 is expected to open a Las Cruces store in late 2012 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.

✚ Union Pacific's \$400 million railyard project near Santa Teresa will employ about 1,000 construction workers later this year, up from around 170 currently. The operation will eventually create more than 600

permanent positions.

✚ Construction is expected to begin in the next few weeks on a new Walmart Supercenter in Las Cruces. The East Mesa store is scheduled to open next summer, employing 250 to 300.

### HIDALGO COUNTY

↓ New Mexico Tech laid off all 70 members of its support staff in a complete restructuring at the financially troubled Playas Training and Research Center. The facility provided anti-terrorism and law enforcement instruction.

### SIERRA COUNTY

✚ New Mexico Copper Corp. will invest \$200 to \$300 million to restart production at the Copper Flat Mine near Hillsboro by late 2014 or early 2015, creating 400 to 500 construction jobs and 150 to 200 permanent positions.



# 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 March 2012
- Year-over-year changes in employment for the most recent quarter for which data is available (2nd 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 2nd quarter 2012 data.*

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- The most recent unemployment rate available (November 2012) compared

to the previous month (October 2012) and the same month for the previous year (November 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

Two of the four central counties experienced year-over-year job growth in the second quarter of 2012 (following over-the-year losses in the previous quarter). The first two quarters of 2012 saw overall trending employment growth in both Sandoval and Tarrant counties. Over-the-year

losses were greatest in Valencia, although losses were mostly due to non-economic data changes in the QCEW program. While over-the-year employment growth has recently been negative since September 2011 in Bernalillo, over-the-year losses have generally been less in 2012. Two of the four central counties saw a decrease in the unemployment rate between October and November of 2012 and all four counties experienced a decrease from rates seen the same month of the previous year.

## BERNALILLO COUNTY

Bernalillo County employment was 0.9 percent less (approximately 2,810 jobs) in the second 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 6.1 percent in November 2012, down from 6.2 percent in October and 6.8 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$799.

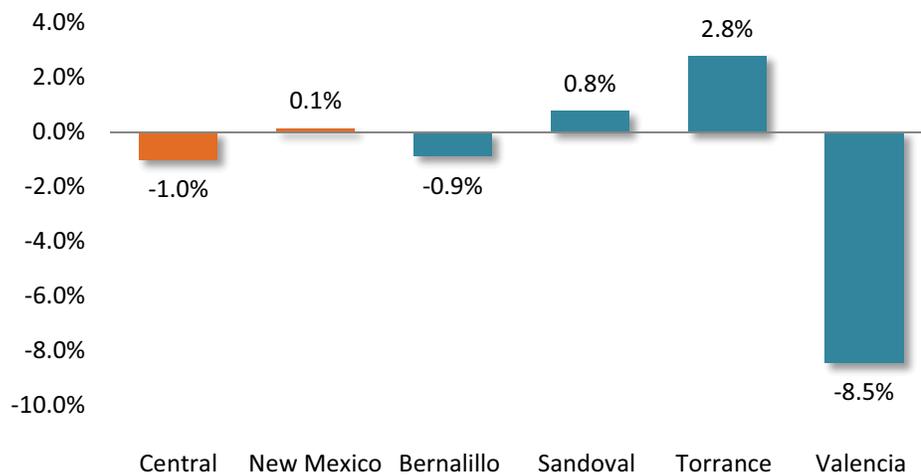
## SANDOVAL COUNTY

Sandoval County employment was 0.8 percent greater (approximately 230 jobs) in the second 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. Sandoval County's unemployment rate was 7.0 percent in November 2012, unchanged from October and down from 7.9 percent a year

## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment Central Region, January 2009 to June 2012



## 12-Month Percentage Change in Employment Central Region, Q2 2011 to Q2 2012



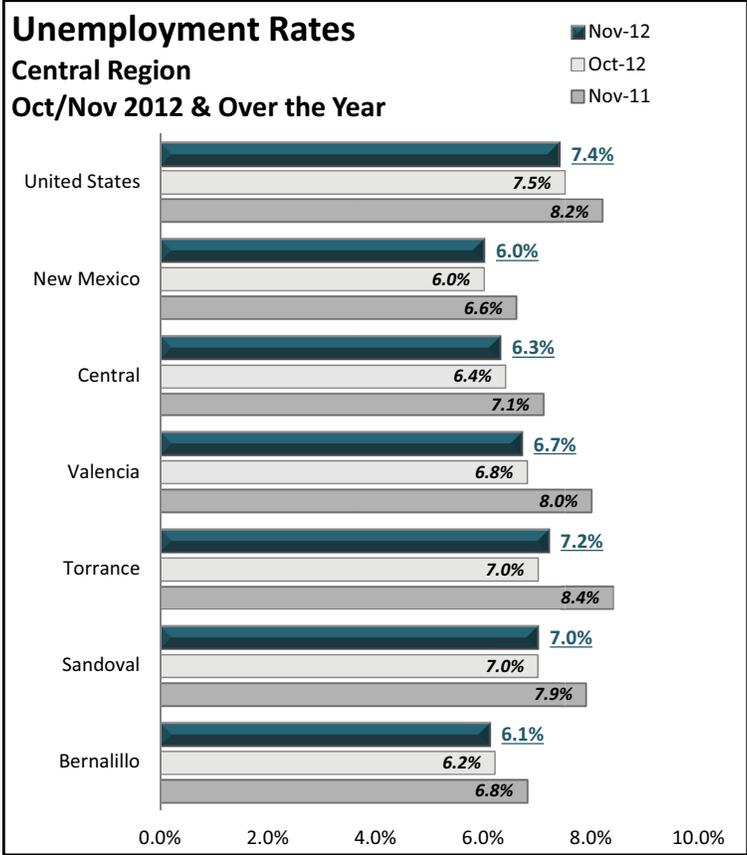
earlier. The average weekly wage was \$827.

### TORRANCE COUNTY

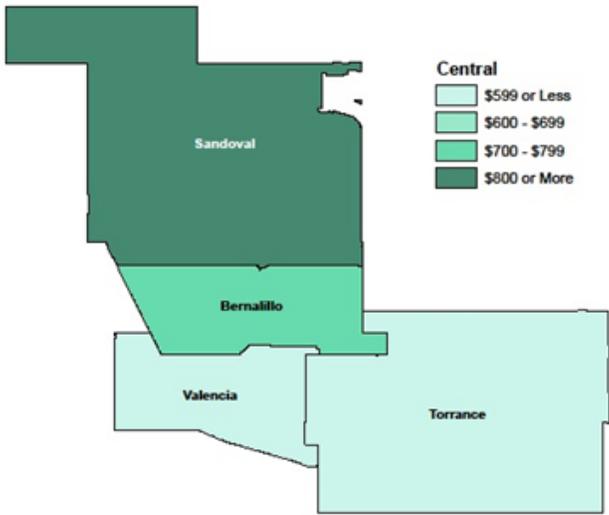
Torrance County employment was 2.8 percent greater (approximately 90 jobs) in the

second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment losses occurred in wholesale trade, while the largest gains were seen in local government. Torrance County's unemployment rate was

7.2 percent in November 2012, up from 7.0 percent in October but down from 8.4 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$591.



Average Wages, 2nd Quarter 2012  
Central Region  
(NM-\$783, Region-\$792)



**VALENCIA COUNTY**

QCEW data shows Valencia County losing nearly 1,240 jobs (8.5 percent) in the second quarter of 2012. It is important to note, however, that a majority of these losses were due to non-economic data changes within the QCEW program. This indicates that these jobs were not necessarily lost, but reclassified. Excluding the changes from the reclassifications, employment changes within the county were much smaller, with the largest losses in manufacturing. Valencia County’s unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in November 2012, down from 6.8 percent in October and 8.0 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$593.

**Eastern Region Economic Data**

Seven of the eastern 12 counties experienced year-over-year job growth in the second quarter of 2012. Growth was greatest in Lea County, followed by Otero, while losses were greatest in Union and Chaves. Employment growth in the mining industry is primarily responsible for the over-the-year growth in the region overall. Overall losses in government and construction continue to impact many of the eastern counties. The unemployment rates in 10 of the 12 eastern counties decreased between October and November of 2012 and were lower than the rates seen during the same month a year prior.

**CHAVES COUNTY**

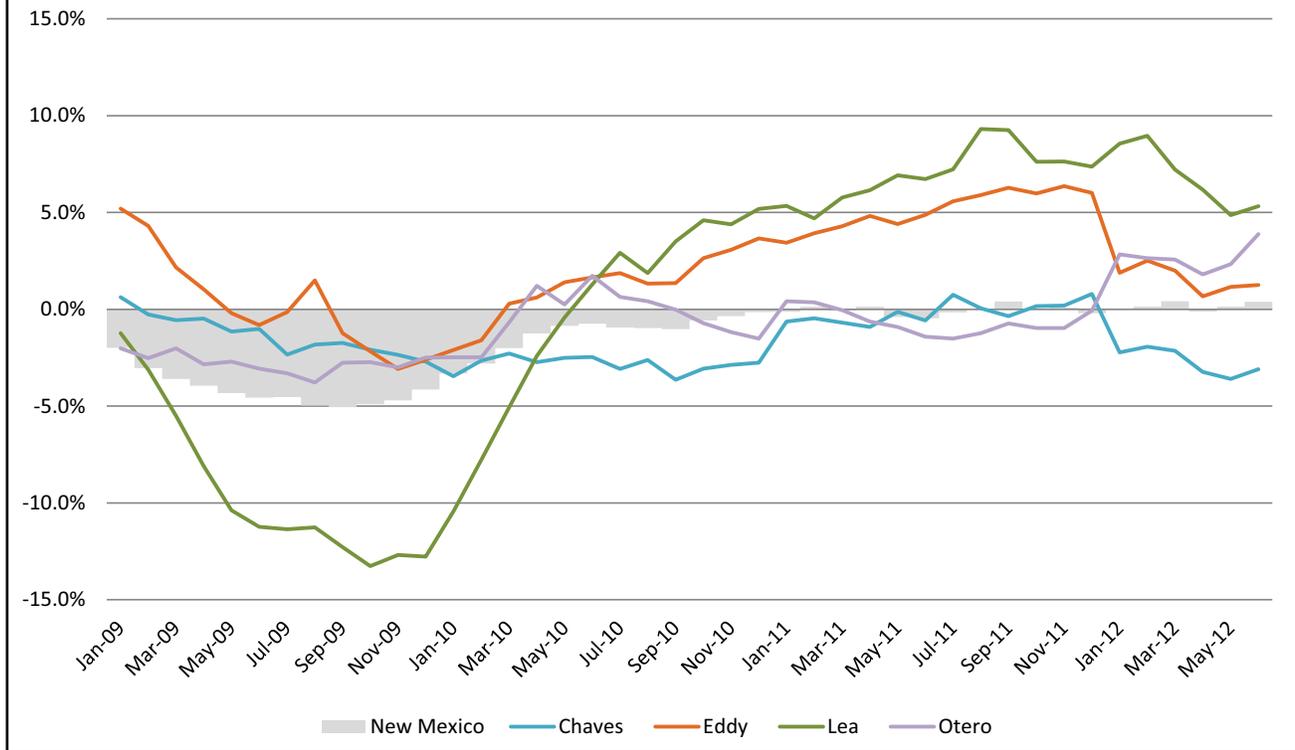
Chaves County employment was 3.3 percent less (approximately 715 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Most of the major employment changes were due to non-economic data changes. Chaves County’s unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in November 2012, down from 5.8 percent in October and 6.4 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$627.

**CURRY COUNTY**

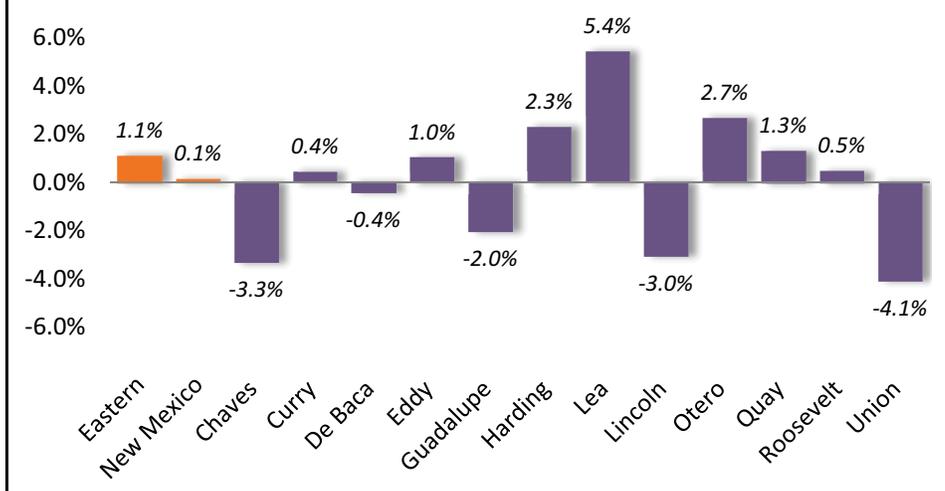
Curry County employment was 0.4 percent greater (approximately 75 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The health care, transportation, and manufacturing industries saw the largest employment

## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

Eastern Region, Top 4 Populated Counties, January 2009 to June 2012



## 12-Month Percentage Change in Employment Eastern Region, Q2 2011 to Q2 2012



gains, with small losses in accommodation and food services. Curry County's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in November 2012, down from 4.6 percent in October and 4.5 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$645.

### DE BACA COUNTY

De Baca County employment was nearly the same in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year (a 0.4 percent decrease represents very few jobs due to the small population of the county). De

Baca County's unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in November 2012, down from 4.3 percent in October and 4.4 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$561.

**EDDY COUNTY**

Eddy County employment was 1.0 percent greater (approximately 255 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The greatest hiring occurred in the mining industry. Eddy County's unemployment rate was 3.4 percent in November 2012, down from 3.6 percent in October and 4.0 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$924.

**GUADALUPE COUNTY**

Guadalupe County employment was 2.0 percent less (approximately 30 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment losses were greatest (albeit still small) in construction, retail, and health

care. Guadalupe County's unemployment rate was 8.2 percent in November 2012, unchanged from October and down from 9.4 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$529.

**HARDING COUNTY**

Harding County employment was roughly the same in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year (a 2.3 percent increase equates to very few jobs). Harding County's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in November 2012, down from 4.4 percent in October and unchanged from a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$565

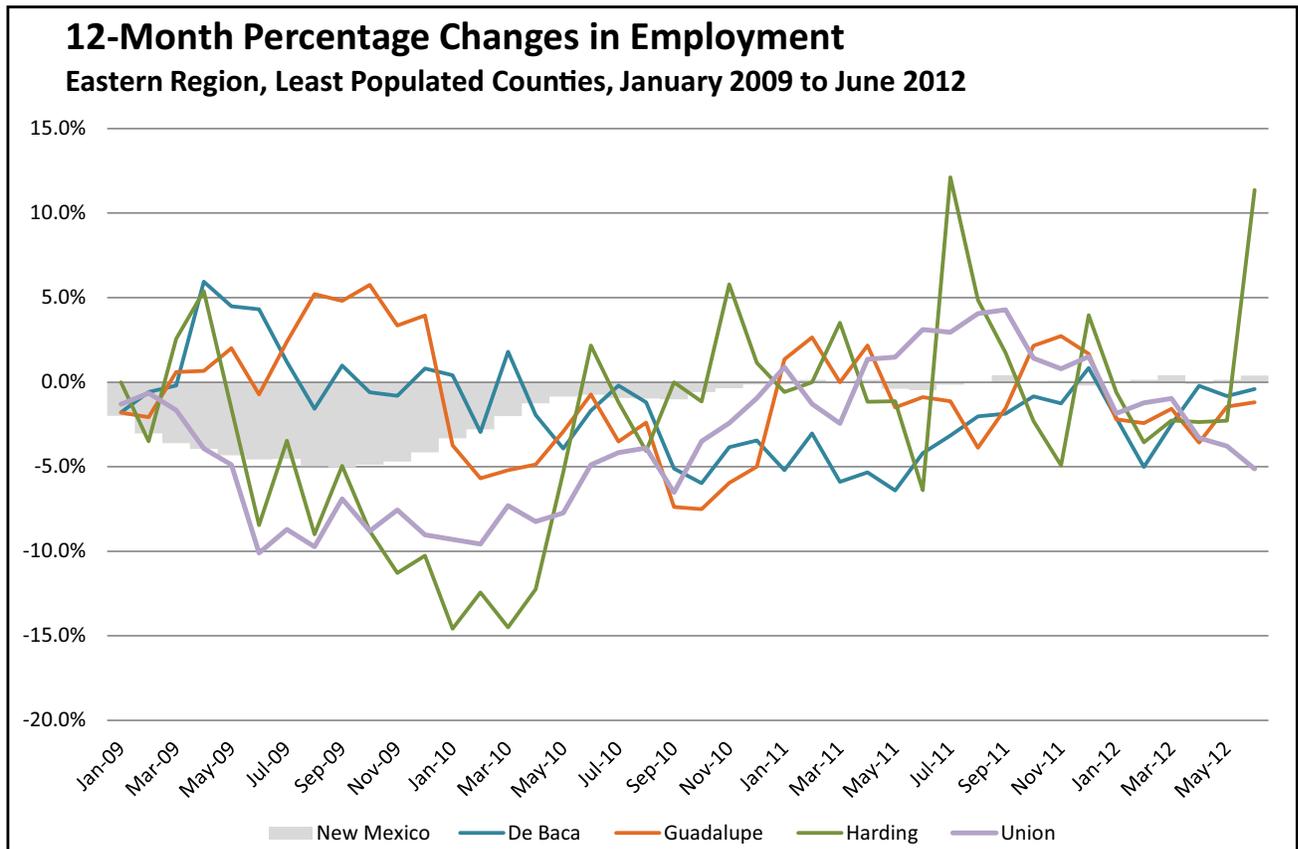
**LEA COUNTY**

Lea County employment was 5.4

percent greater (approximately 1,550 jobs) in the second 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. Lea experienced strong growth during 2010 and into 2011. Some losses seen in early 2012 indicate this growth is slowing. Lea County's unemployment rate was 3.5 percent in November 2012, down from 3.8 percent in October and 4.2 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$966.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

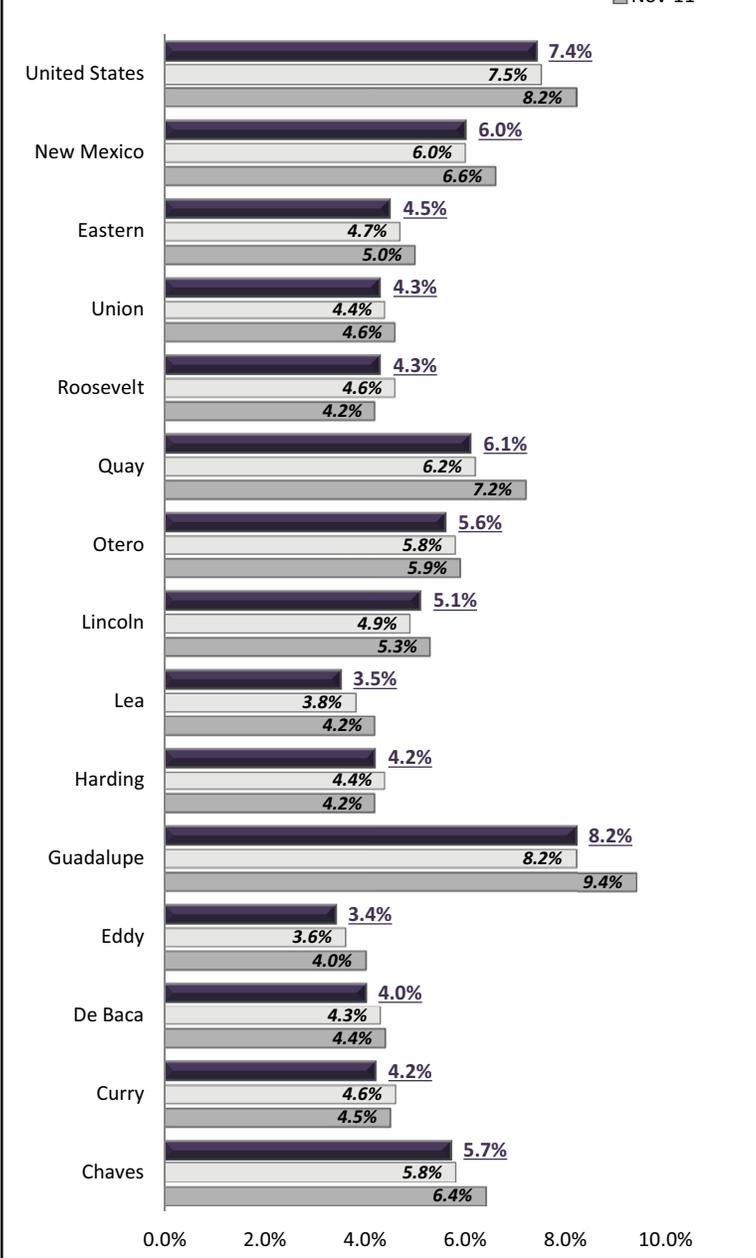
Lincoln County employment was 3.0 percent less (approximately 200 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter



## Unemployment Rates

### Eastern Region

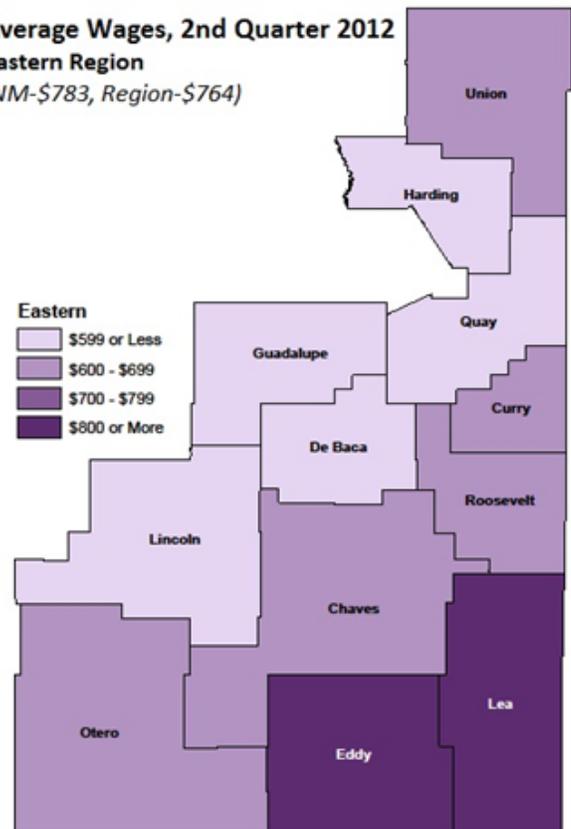
#### Oct/Nov 2012 & Over the Year



## Average Wages, 2nd Quarter 2012

### Eastern Region

(NM-\$783, Region-\$764)



the previous year. The largest employment losses occurred in the construction industry. Lincoln County's unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in November 2012, up from 4.9 percent in October but down from 5.3 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$564.

### OTERO COUNTY

Otero County employment was 2.7 percent greater (approximately 470 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment gains in the administrative/waste management and education industries were mostly due to

non-economic data changes. These gains were offset by losses in construction, health care (some data changes), and federal and local government. Otero County's unemployment rate was 5.6 percent in November 2012, down from 5.8 percent in October and 6.9 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$665.

## QUAY COUNTY

Quay County employment was nearly the same in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Quay County's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in November 2012, down from 6.2 percent in October and 7.2 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$572.

## ROOSEVELT COUNTY

Roosevelt County employment was virtually unchanged in the second quarter of 2012 from the same quarter the previous year (a 0.5 percent increase represents a small number of jobs overall when considering the county's population). Employment gains were greatest in accommodation and food services, and losses were the largest in local

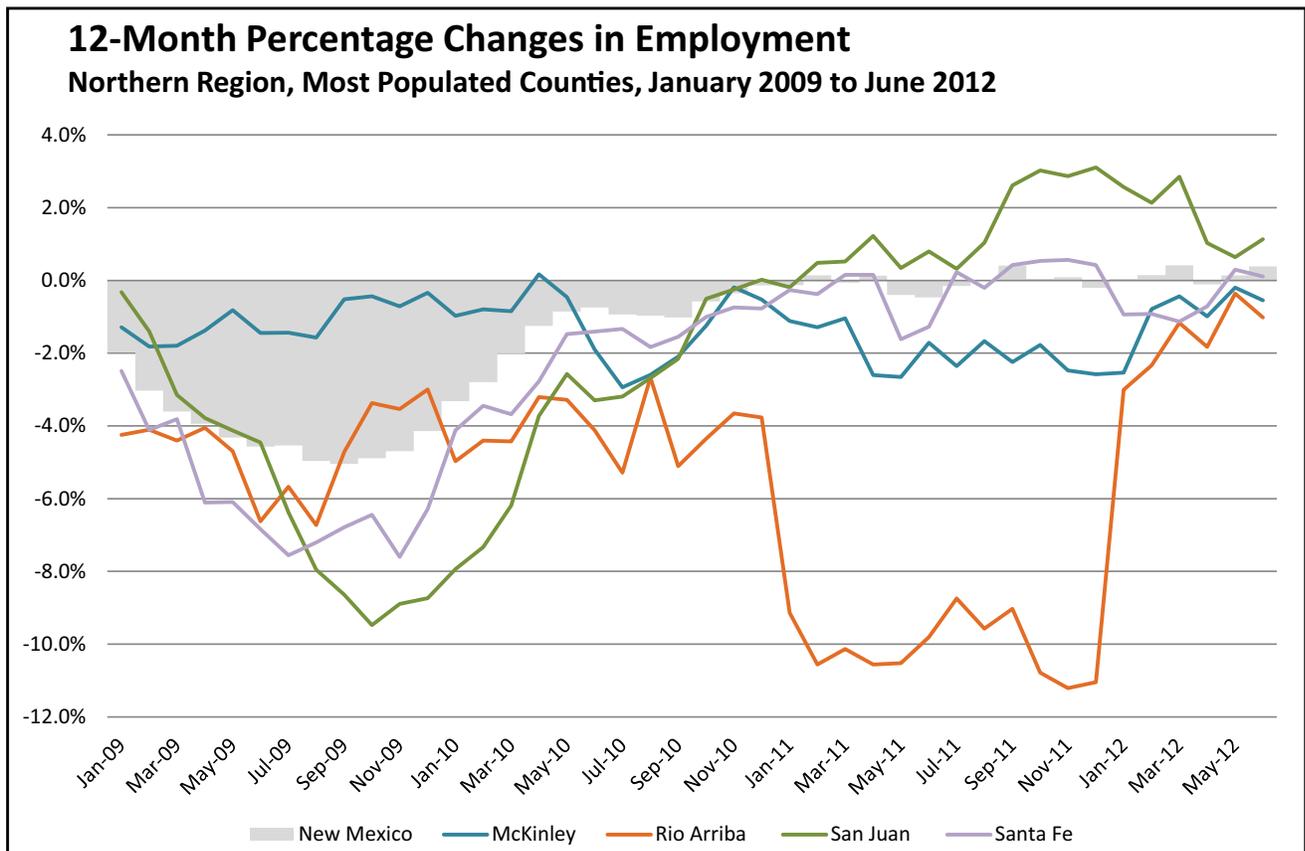
government. Roosevelt County's unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in November 2012, down from 4.6 percent in October and up slightly from 4.2 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$607.

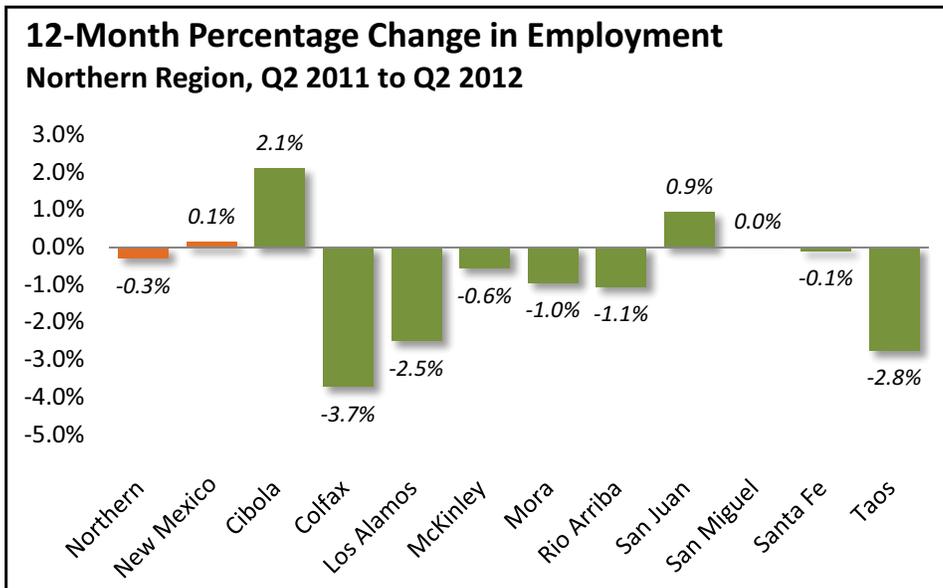
## UNION COUNTY

Union County employment was 4.1 percent less (approximately 55 jobs) in the first quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment losses were greatest in local government and retail. Gains in agriculture somewhat offset those losses. Union County's unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in November 2012, down from 4.4 percent in October and 4.6 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$625.

## Northern Region County News

Cibola and San Juan counties experienced year-over-year job growth in the second quarter of 2012. Over-the-year losses were seen in the remaining northern counties, with the greatest losses seen in Colfax, Taos, and Los Alamos counties. While it appears the northern counties continue to struggle with employment, several of the counties have experienced overall trending growth in 2012; it may still take some time to see sustained year-over-year employment growth. Half of the ten northern counties saw a decrease in the unemployment rate between October and November of 2012 and all but Los





Alamos County saw a decrease from rates seen the same month of the previous year.

#### **CIBOLA COUNTY**

Cibola County employment was 2.1 percent greater (approximately 165 jobs) in the second 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 5.3 percent in November 2012, down from 5.6 percent in October and 6.1 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$673.

#### **COLFAX COUNTY**

Employment in Colfax County was about 3.7 percent less (approximately 190 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter in 2010. The largest employment losses occurred in the other services, health care and retail industries, while the largest gains occurred in the professional and technical

industry. Colfax County's unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in November 2012, up from 6.5 percent in October but down from 8.0 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$587.

#### **LOS ALAMOS COUNTY**

Los Alamos County employment was 2.5 percent greater (approximately 420 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment gains in several industries, and mostly in health care, did not offset the large losses in the professional and technical services and other industries. Los Alamos County's unemployment rate was 3.2 percent in November 2012, down from 3.5 percent in October but up from 2.8 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$1,709.

#### **MCKINLEY COUNTY**

McKinley County employment was 0.6 percent less (approximately 125 jobs) in the

second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The greatest employment losses were experienced in local government. Losses were offset by gains, the largest of which occurred in retail, accommodation and food services, and health care. McKinley County's unemployment rate was 7.7 percent in November 2012, down from 7.8 percent in October and 8.3 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$645.

#### **MORA COUNTY**

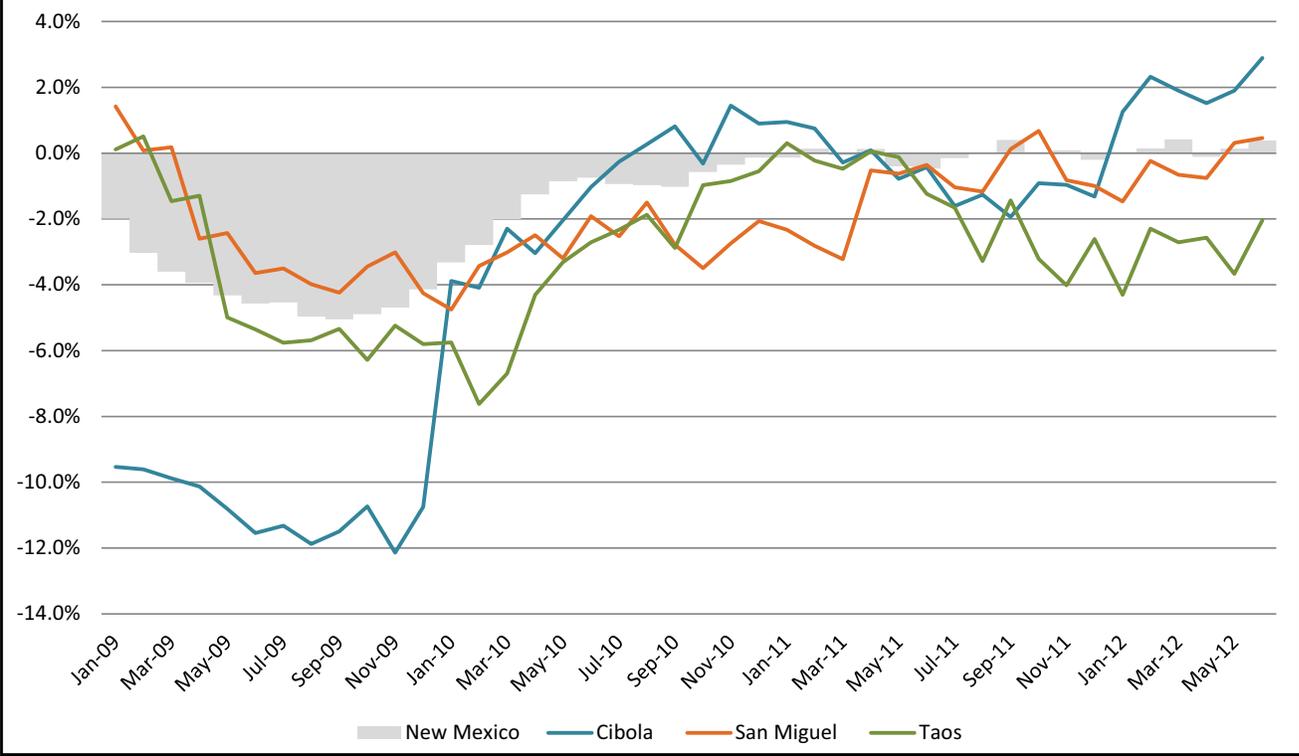
Mora County employment was about the same in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Mora County's unemployment rate was 12.6 percent in November 2012, up from 11.1 percent in October but down from 13.6 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$596.

#### **RIO ARRIBA COUNTY**

QCEW data shows that Rio Arriba County employment was 1.1

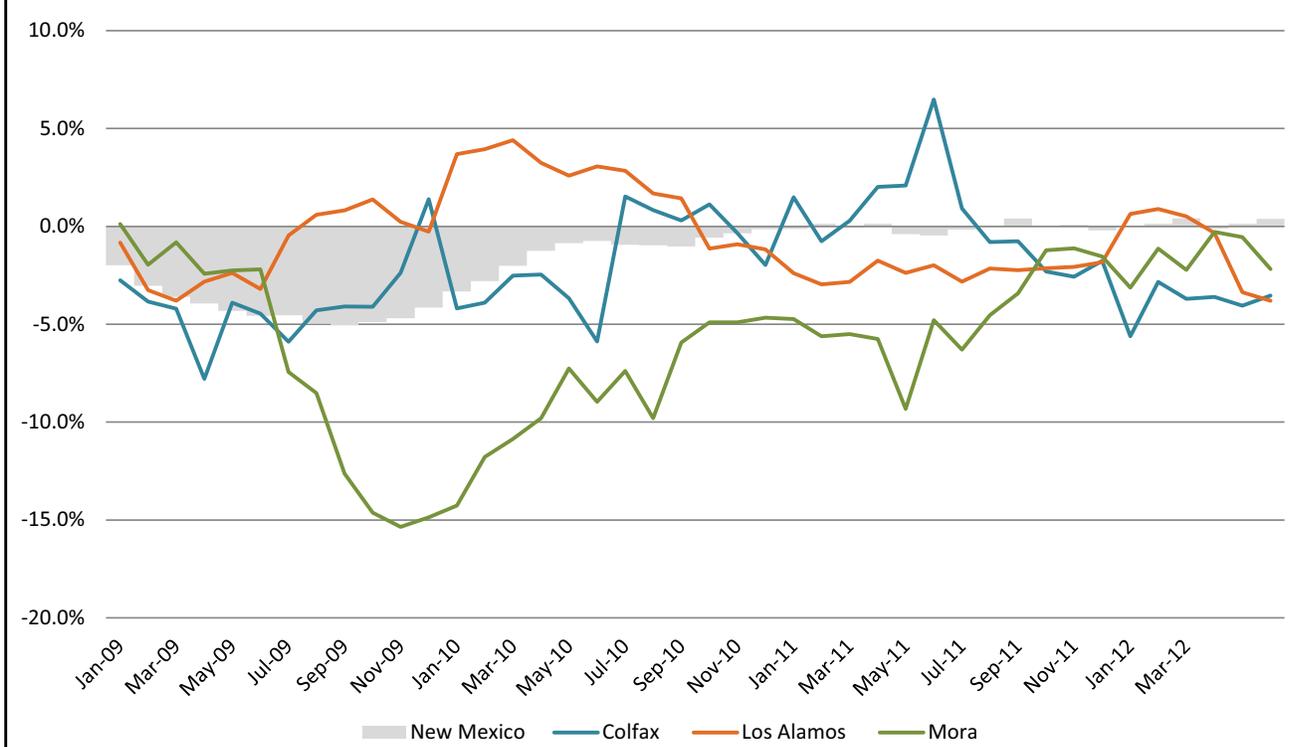
## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

Northern Region, Mid-Populated Counties, January 2009 to June 2012



## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

Northern Region, Least Populated Counties, January 2009 to June 2012



percent less (approximately 105 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year, although most of the county's employment changes were due to non-economic data changes. Rio Arriba County's unemployment rate was 7.0 percent in November 2012, up from 6.8 percent in October but down from 7.5 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$639.

**SAN JUAN COUNTY**

San Juan County employment was 0.9 percent greater (approximately 455 jobs) in the second 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. San Juan County's unemployment rate was 6.0 percent in November 2012, unchanged from October and down from 6.6 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$837.

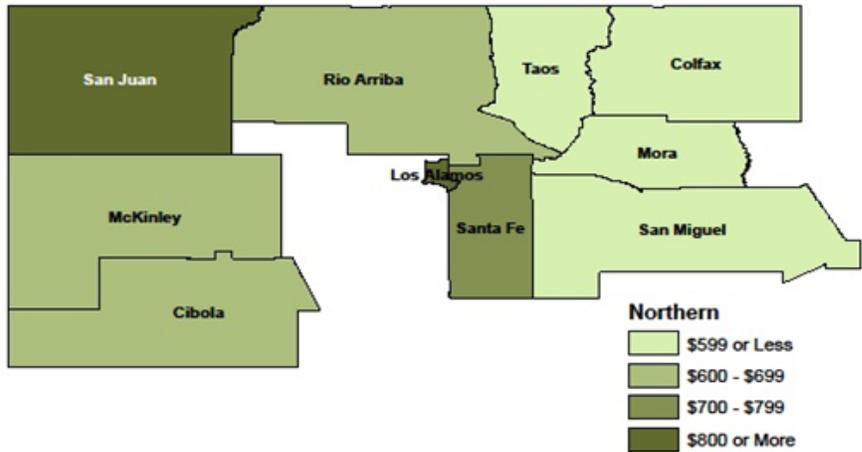
**SAN MIGUEL COUNTY**

San Miguel County employment was unchanged in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. San Miguel County's unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in November 2012, down from 6.5 percent in October and 6.8 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$592.

**SANTA FE COUNTY**

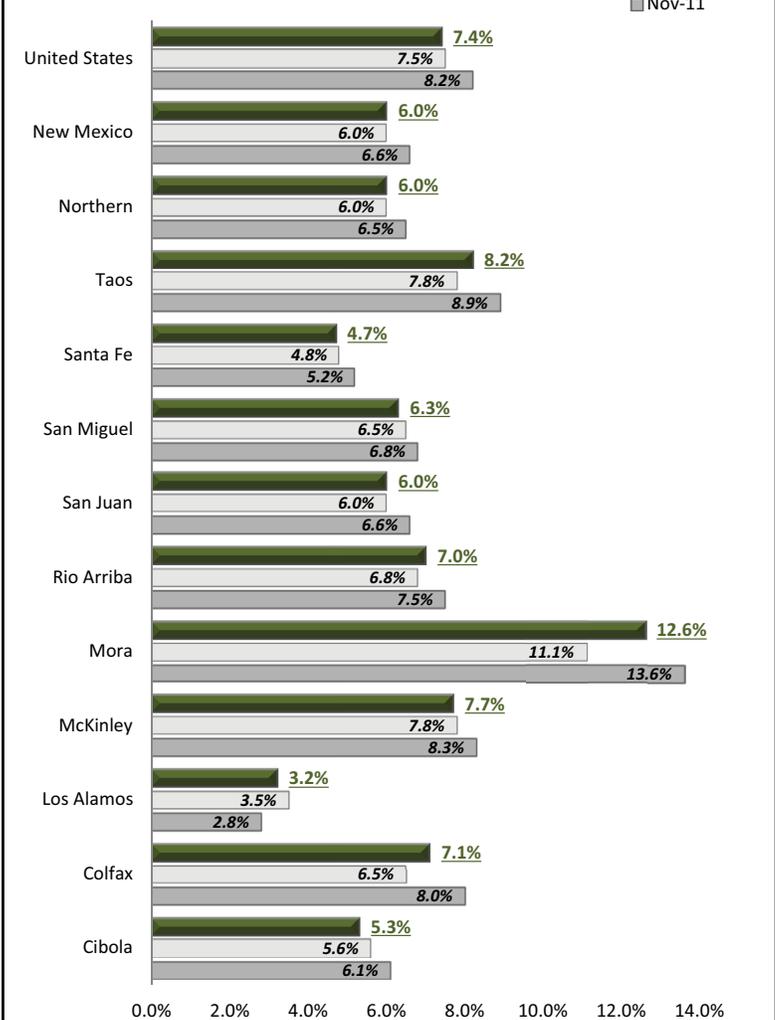
Santa Fe County employment

**Average Wages, 2nd Quarter 2012**  
**Northern Region**  
*(NM-\$783, Region-\$819)*



**Unemployment Rates**

**Northern Region**  
**Oct/Nov 2012 & Over the Year**



was 0.1 percent less (approximately 60 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 as the same quarter in 2010. The largest employment losses occurred in state government, professional and technical services, and information. Losses were nearly offset by gains across multiple industries, with the largest gains in retail, education, and accommodation and food services. Santa Fe County's unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in November 2012, down from 4.8 percent in October and 5.2 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$762.

**TAOS COUNTY**

Taos County employment was 2.8 percent less (approximately

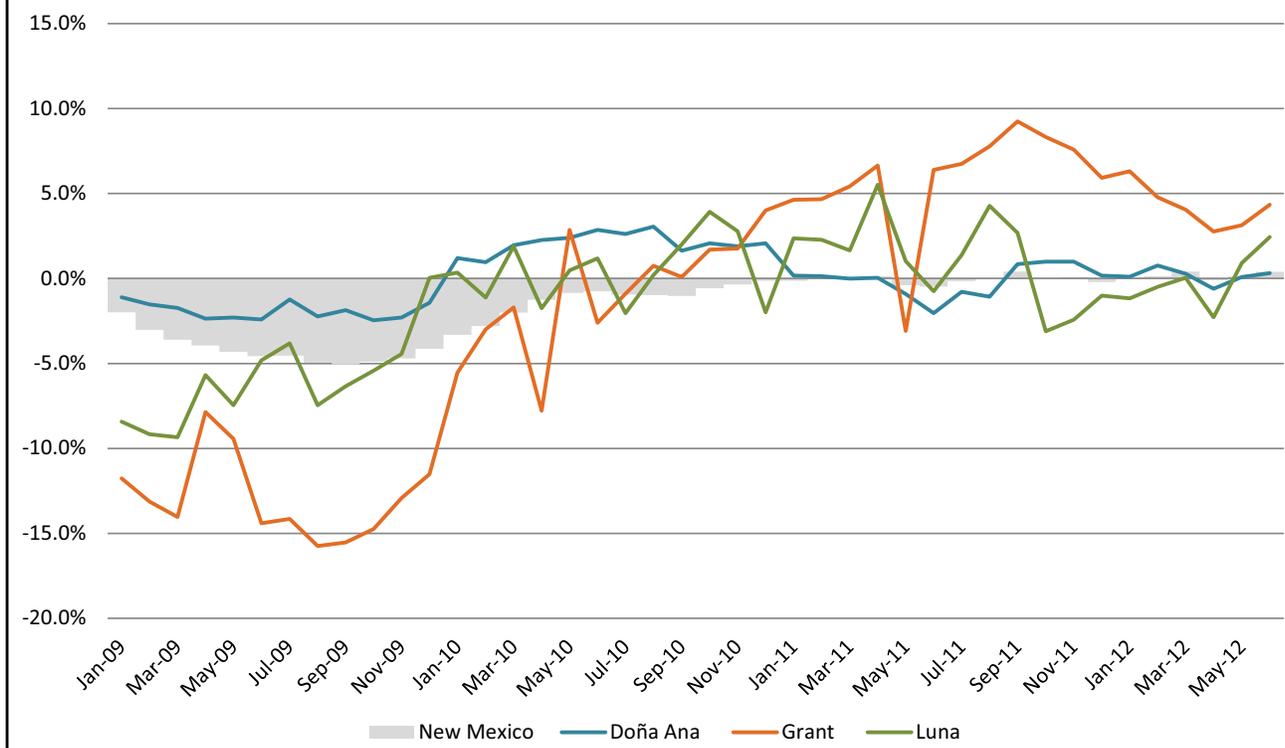
285 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment losses occurred in local government and accommodation and food services. Taos County's unemployment rate was 8.2 percent in November 2012, up from 7.8 percent in October but down from 8.9 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$598.

**Southwestern Region County News**

All but one of the seven southwestern counties experienced year-over-year job

growth in the second quarter of 2012. Doña Ana County served as the exception where loses were small in relation to the size of the workforce. Over-the-year gains were greatest in Catron, Grant, and Socorro counties. Grant County saw the largest number of new jobs over the year, although the county did experience trending losses in the first two quarters of 2012. Many of the southwestern counties are approaching employment levels close to those prior to the recession, although growth will likely continue at a slower, more sustained rate. Two of the seven southwestern counties saw a decrease in the unemployment rate

**12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment**  
Southwestern Region, Most Populated Counties, January 2009 to June 2012



between October and November of 2012, while all but one county experienced a decrease from rates seen the same month of the previous year (Hidalgo being the exception).

### **CATRON COUNTY**

Catron County employment was 12.1 percent greater (approximately 75 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment gains were greatest in local government and health care. Catron County's unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in November 2012, up from 6.6 percent in October but down from 7.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$591.

### **DOÑA ANA COUNTY**

Doña Ana County employment was 0.1 percent less (approximately 50 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Losses in administration and state government were mostly offset by gains in the health care, agriculture, and retail industries. Doña Ana County's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in November 2012, down from 6.2 percent in October and 6.6 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$678.

### **GRANT COUNTY**

Grant County employment was 3.4 percent greater (approximately 320 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The mining industries saw

increased employment over the year, while state government saw some losses. Grant County's unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in November 2012, unchanged from October and down from 7.1 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$725.

### **HIDALGO COUNTY**

Hidalgo County employment was 2.2 percent greater (approximately 40 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The federal and local governments experienced the largest employment gains. Hidalgo County's unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in November 2012, up from 5.9 percent in October and 5.3 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$714.

### **LUNA COUNTY**

Luna County employment was 0.4 percent greater (approximately 30 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment gains occurred in agriculture and construction. Luna County's unemployment rate was 16.1 percent in November 2012, up from 11.9 percent in October and down from 16.5 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$647.

### **SIERRA COUNTY**

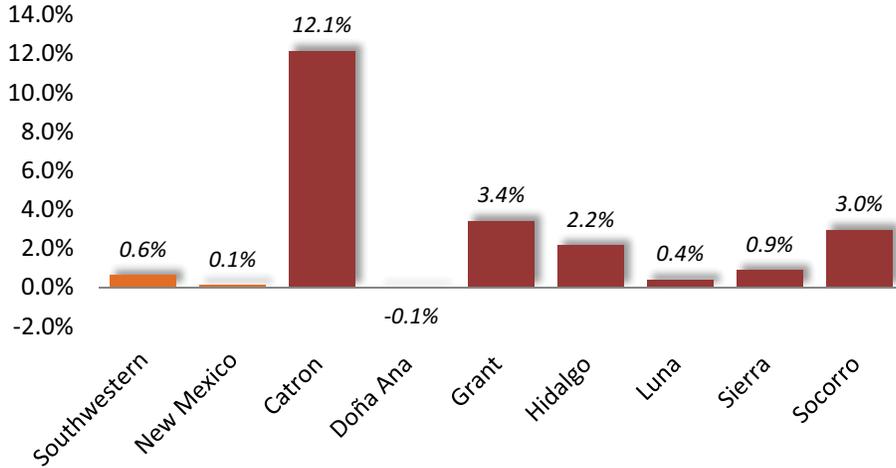
Sierra County employment was 0.9 percent greater (approximately 30 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the

same quarter the previous year. The largest employment losses occurred in construction, while gains in other industries were mostly due to non-economic data changes. Sierra County's unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in November 2012, unchanged from October and down from 5.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$543.

### **SOCORRO COUNTY**

Socorro County employment was 3.0 percent greater (approximately 160 jobs) in the second quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment gains were seen in health care and transportation, although some was due to non-economic data changes. Socorro County's unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in November 2012, down from 4.6 percent in October and 4.8 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$668.

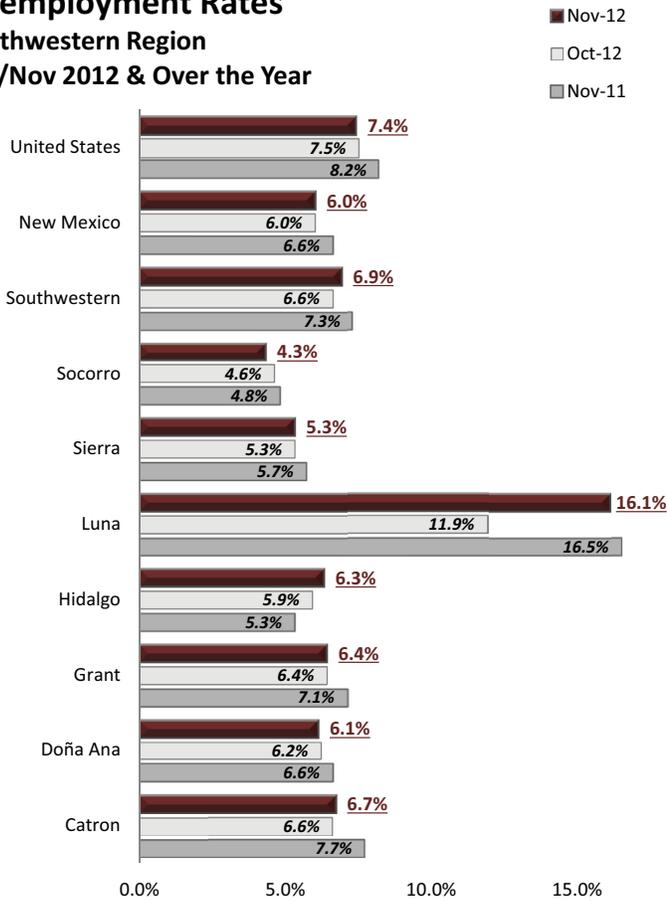
### 12-Month Percentage Change in Employment Southwestern Region, Q2 2011 to Q2 2012



### Unemployment Rates

#### Southwestern Region

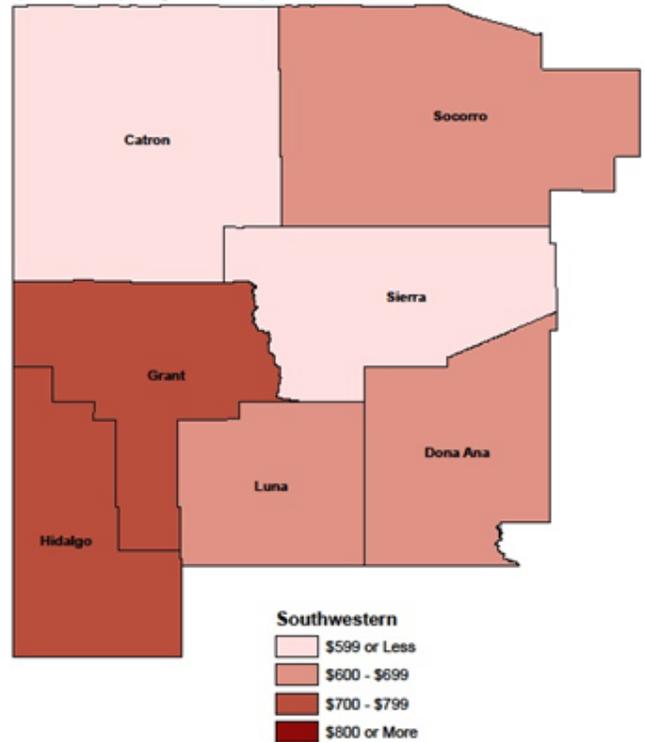
#### Oct/Nov 2012 & Over the Year



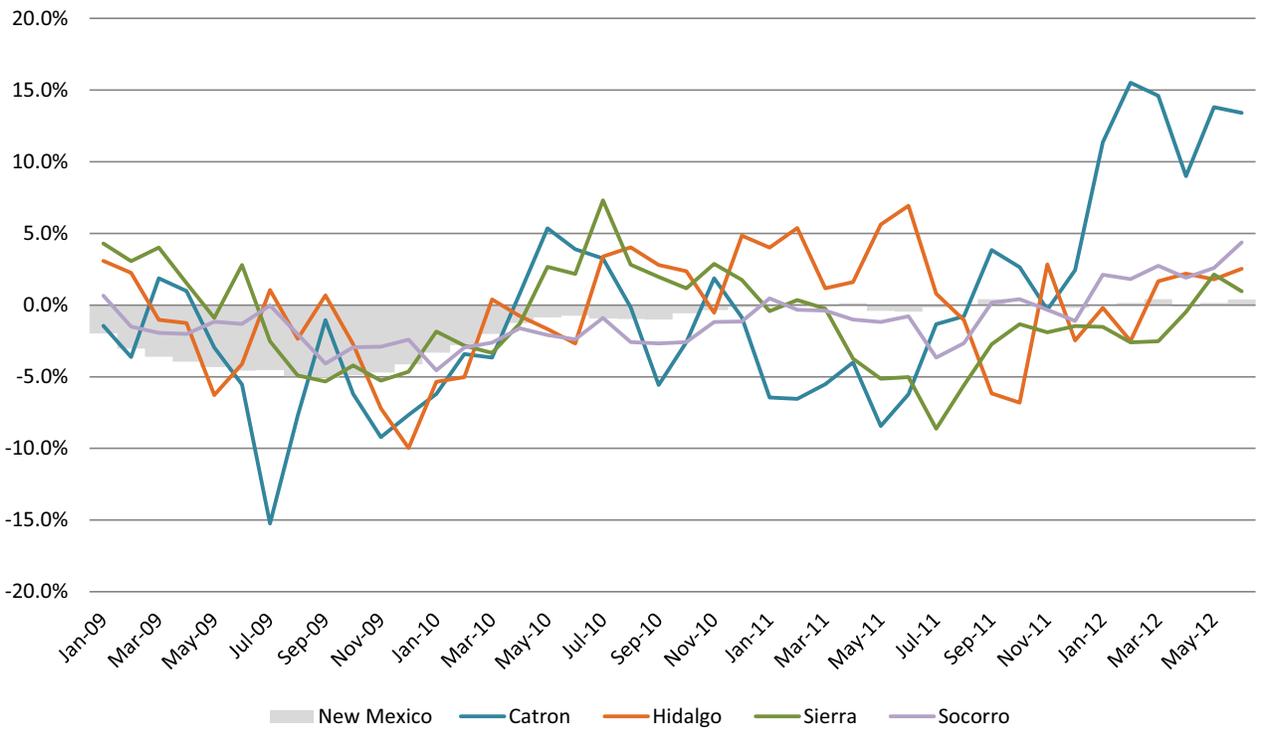
### Average Wages, 2nd Quarter 2012

#### Southwestern Region

(NM-\$783, Region-\$675)



## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment Southwestern Region, Least Populated Counties, January 2009 to June 2012



**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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