

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2013

# *Regional Review*

Quarterly labor market information across New Mexico

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

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

## *Regional Review*

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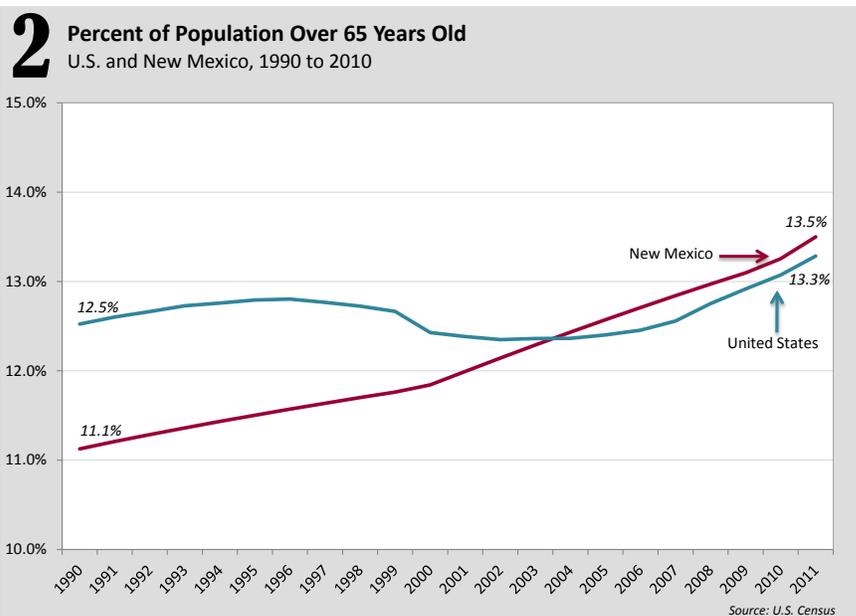
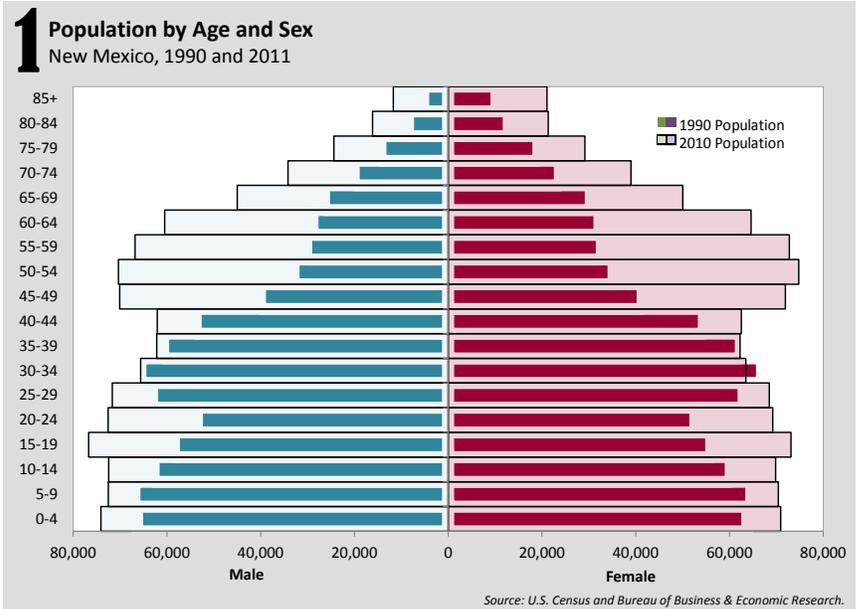
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for more information.

# THE CHANGING FACE OF NM'S WORKFORCE

## Snapshot of New Mexico's Population

In 2011, New Mexico had a population of approximately 2,083,725. Two-thirds of the population was located in the four metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)—Albuquerque (Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia counties), Las Cruces (Doña Ana County), Farmington (San Juan County), and Santa Fe (Santa Fe County)—and over 40 percent was in the Albuquerque MSA alone. New Mexico is the least populated and has the lowest population density (17.2 persons per square mile) of the southwestern states.<sup>1</sup> In addition, while population growth has been faster than the nation's as a whole, it lags that of most southwestern states; between 1991 and 2011, New Mexico's population grew by about 34 percent, trailing growth of all other southwestern states besides Oklahoma. While growth was positive in all counties between 1990 and 2000, almost half of the counties experienced some population loss between 2000 and 2011.



This article uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau Center for Economic Studies' Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program to look at labor force participation and characteristics of New Mexico's senior population and workforce. For the purposes of this article, the senior population and workforce refer to persons 65 years and older. The LEHD program provides a wide array of data on the workforce. For more information on the LEHD program, including methodology and approach, visit [www.lehd.ces.census.gov](http://www.lehd.ces.census.gov).

<sup>1</sup> Southwestern states include Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah. See the New Mexico 2013 State of the Workforce Report for more details on New Mexico's population, found at [www.dws.state.nm.us](http://www.dws.state.nm.us).

# Facing an Aging Population

## A Nationwide Trend

New Mexico's median age was 36.6 years in 2011, which is similar to that of most other southwestern states, yet younger than the national median age of 37.3. New Mexico's population, however, has been aging overall in recent decades. This follows a nationwide trend that is driven by the aging of the baby boomers, as well as a general increase in average lifespan. Exhibit 1 illustrates the aging of New Mexico's population between 1990 and 2011. The groups including ages 25 to 39, when combined, represented the largest working-age group in 1990, while in 2010, the largest working-age group included ages 45 to 59.

**"New Mexico's senior population has grown more quickly than that of the U.S., further illustrating the aging of the overall population in recent decades."**

Exhibit 2 shows New Mexico's concentration of seniors between 1990 and 2011 as a percentage of total population. In 1990, 11.1 percent of the population was 65 years or older. This increased to 14.0 percent in 2011. The senior population of the U.S. rose more slowly, from 12.5 to 13.3 percent of total population over the same time period. Beginning in 2004, New Mexico's senior population comprised a larger portion of total population than that of the U.S.

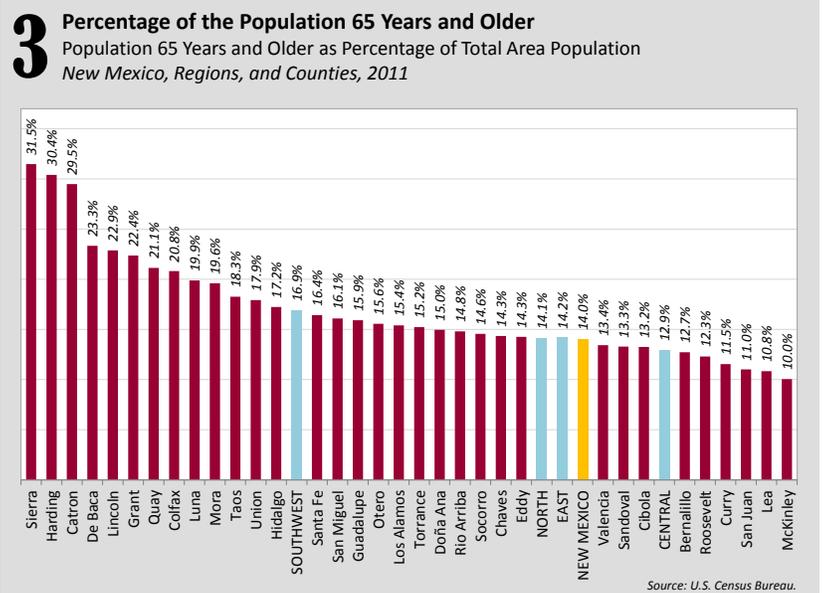
It is helpful to evaluate senior populations by rural and non-rural areas when looking at the senior populations in the regions and counties. The counties with the largest concentration of seniors include Sierra, Harding, Catron, and De Baca. About 23 to 32 percent of the population is 65 or older. All four of these counties are amongst the top 10 least populated counties in the

state. The remaining most rural counties (in the top 10 least populated) fall within the top 16 counties with the largest concentration of seniors.

McKinley, Lea, and San Juan counties have the lowest concentrations of seniors, ranging from 10 to 11 percent of total population. The Southwestern Region has the largest concentration of seniors, with 16.9 percent of its population over the age of 65, most likely driven by the retiree populations in Silver City and Truth or Consequences. The Central Region, at 12.9 percent, has the lowest concentration of seniors.

Many of the rural counties have lost population in recent years; all but two of the 10 most rural lost population between 2000 and 2010. counties lost some population between 2000 and 2010. Not only are these counties aging, but their population is shrinking. These trends, combined, will have major implications for the economies and labor forces of these communities. The impacts of these trends can become more severe if rural communities struggle with retaining their younger population, as is often the case.

**"Rural counties often have higher concentrations of seniors. Key exceptions include Lincoln, Grant, and Quay counties."**



# Senior Labor Force and Participation on the Rise

## Second Careers & Delays in Retirement

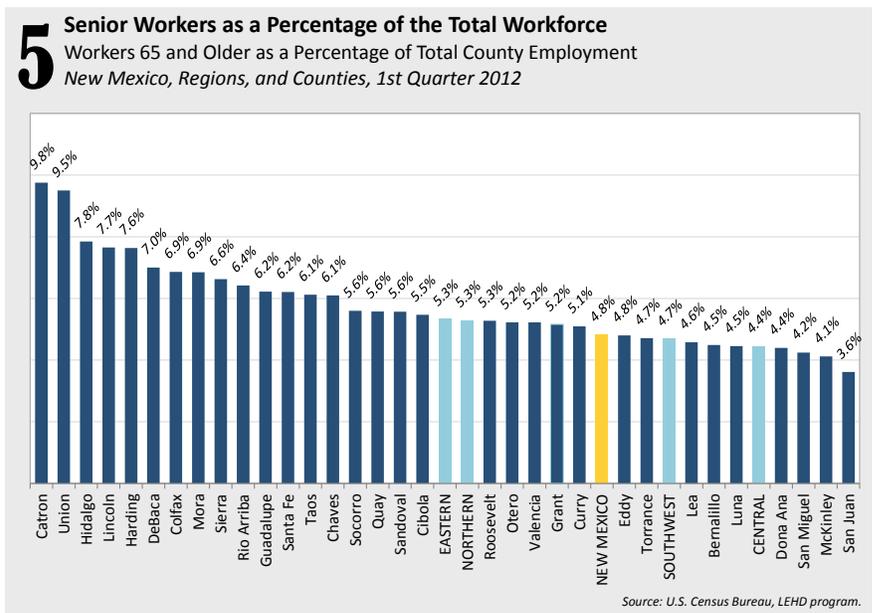
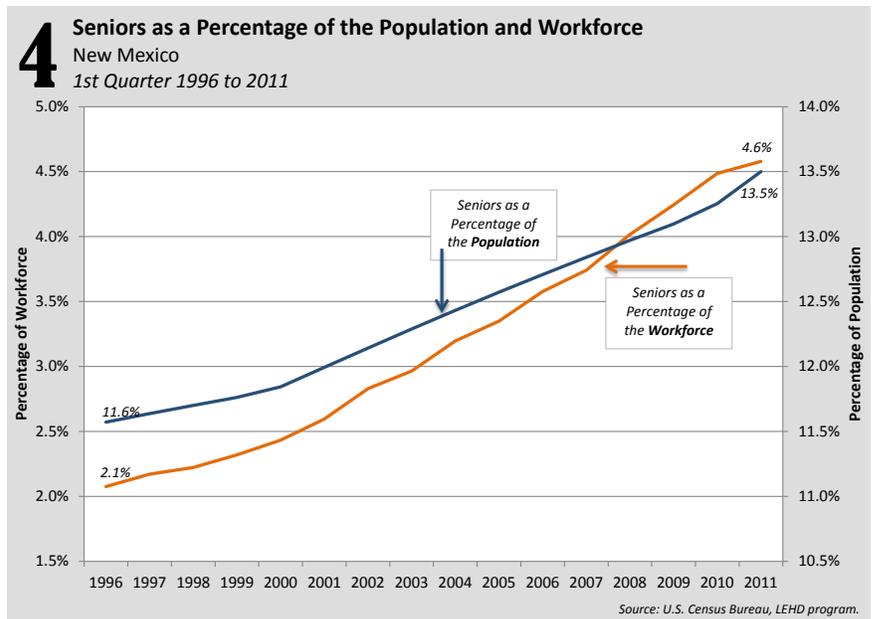
New Mexico's senior population is on the rise and comprising a larger and larger percentage of total population. At the same time, the participation of seniors in the workforce has increased at an even faster rate.

Exhibit 4 illustrates that the concentration of seniors in the workforce has increased at a much faster rate, growing from 2.1 to 4.6 percent in the last 15 years. Population of seniors grew from 11.6 to 14.0 percent during that same period.

“The concentration of seniors in the workforce has grown more quickly than senior population in the last 15 years. Nearly 4.6 percent of the workforce was 65 or older in 2011. Participation of seniors in the civilian labor force has also been growing.”

### SENIOR WORKFORCE IN NEW MEXICO'S COUNTIES, CITIES, AND TOWNS

As shown in Exhibit 5, the Eastern and Northern regions have the largest concentration of senior workers, each with 5.3 percent of the workforce 65 and older. Interestingly, the Southwestern Region, which has the largest senior population, has a smaller concentration of senior workers.



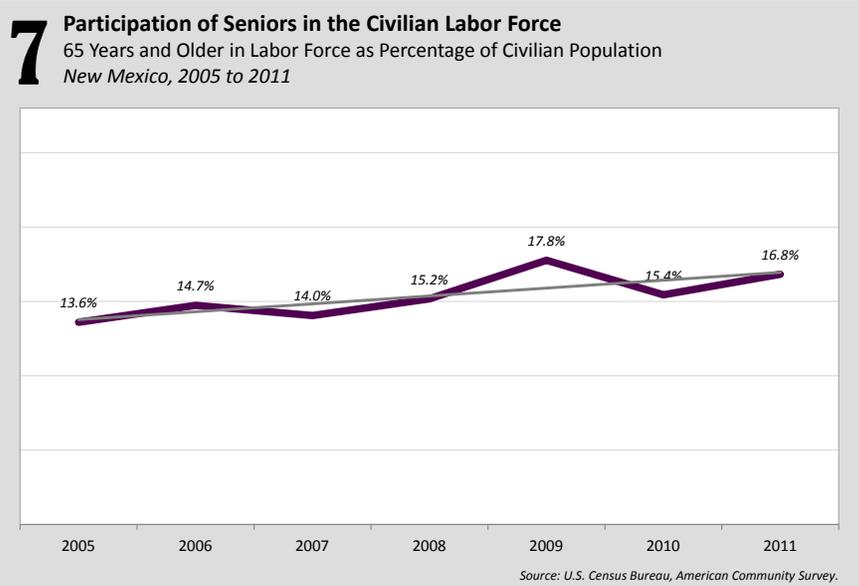
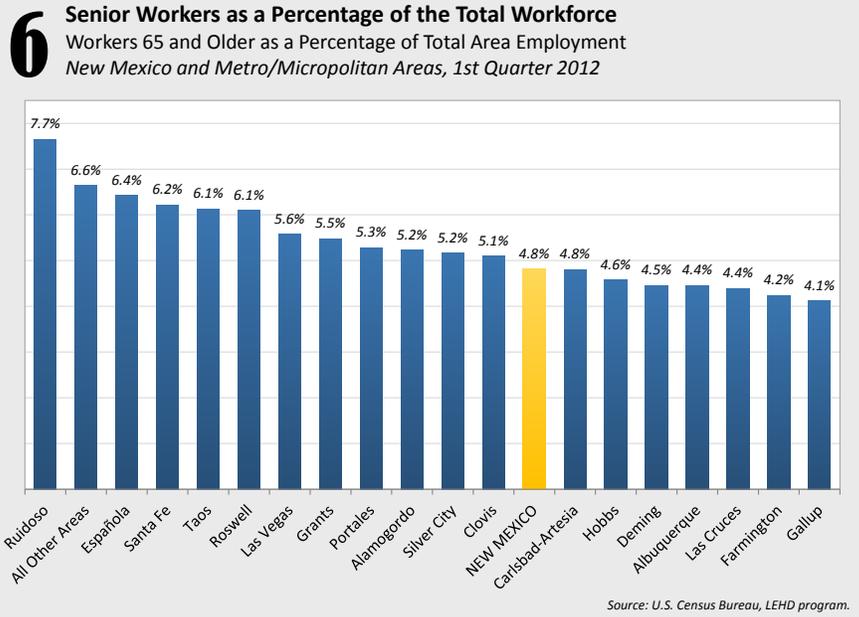
This may reflect a younger workforce, but also likely reflects the movement of retirees into this region, particularly into Silver City and Truth or Consequences.

“Counties with higher concentrations of older workers tend to be more rural, reflecting the aging and, oftentimes, shrinking population of these counties.”

Some of the most rural counties not only have a larger senior population but also a larger concentration of seniors in the workforce. This is driven by the aging population and by population trends in rural counties; almost all of the most rural counties saw their populations decline between 2000 and 2011.

Exhibit 6 provides information on senior workers in New Mexico's micropolitan and metropolitan areas (micro/metropolitan areas). The concentration of senior workers in these areas of the state often reflects the overall concentration in population within the county where these communities are located. For example, approximately 7.7 percent of Ruidoso's total workforce is senior workers, a percentage that is the same for Lincoln County as a whole. Española and Santa Fe, with the second and third largest concentrations of senior workers, follow the same pattern.

“Concentration of seniors in the workforce in New Mexico's micro/metropolitan communities often reflects the concentration of the workforce within the county overall. Ruidoso, Española, and Santa Fe have the highest concentrations of senior workers. New Mexico's rural areas continue to see greater workforce concentrations than non-rural communities.”



### SENIORS PARTICIPATING IN THE LABOR FORCE

To measure senior participation in the labor force, the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS), Economic Research and Analysis Bureau calculated those 65 years and older as a percentage of the civilian population.<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 7 shows that senior participation in the labor force grew from 13.6 to 16.8 percent between 2005 and 2011. This is an annual growth rate of 4.0 percent, as compared to annual growth of 2.0 percent for the senior population, for the same period.

Additional data on senior participation in the labor force would likely show this trend existing prior to 2005.

As shown in Exhibit 8, the Eastern and Northern regions have the highest

“The percentage of seniors participating in the labor force has been on the rise. This is an indication that more seniors are delaying retirement or returning to the labor force, possibly in a second career.”

senior participation in the labor force. The Southwestern Region has the lowest participation. This again reflects the large retiree population in this region. With the highest concentration of senior population, fewer seniors are choosing to work.

A few counties stand out amongst the rest when

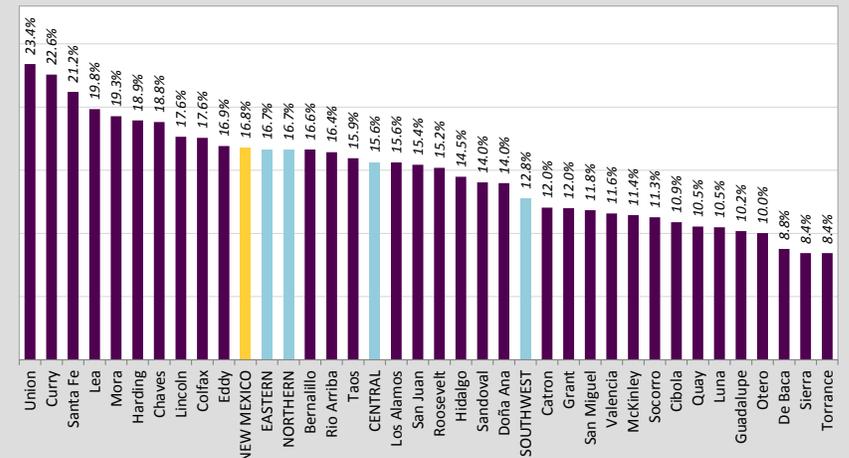
“Senior participation in the labor force varies by county. Union, Curry, and Santa Fe counties have the highest percent of seniors participating in the civilian labor force.”

analyzing senior labor force participation. Lincoln, with a large senior and retiree population, has greater labor force participation; Grant and Sierra counties, also known for their retiree communities, have lower senior participation in the labor force. Santa Fe’s seniors appear to either delay retirement or return to work afterwards, with over 21 percent

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## Participation of Seniors in the Civilian Labor Force

65 Years and Older in Labor Force as Percentage of Civilian Population  
New Mexico and Counties, 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

of its seniors in the labor force. Lea County also has more seniors working, with nearly 20 percent in the civilian labor force. Catron, Hidalgo, De Baca, Guadalupe, and Socorro counties all have older workforces (larger senior concentrations), but lower participation in the labor force. Rural Union and Harding counties both have higher labor force participation, although the percentages may be high because of the small populations. Catron, De Baca, and Guadalupe, which are also amongst New Mexico’s most rural counties, have lower labor force participation of seniors.



<sup>2</sup> This measure is slightly different than the traditional labor force participation rate, as this calculates participation in the civilian population, and the traditional labor force participation calculates participation in the civilian noninstitutionalized population. For this analysis, it is important to note that the traditional labor force participation rate would take into account those seniors in nursing homes, which are considered institutions.

## Where Seniors are Working

### *Industries with More Older Workers and the Best Opportunities for Senior Job Seekers*

Seniors work in every industry in New Mexico. But in which industries do senior workers comprise a larger percentage of the total workforce? Which industries employ the most seniors? These are important questions to ask because the answers can guide policy makers, educators, and businesses in planning and preparing for the replacement needs of those industries in the next 10 to 20 years. Is the existing and future workforce supply sufficient to provide replacements for a large number of senior workers in a particular industry? If not, industries may be facing skills gaps and labor shortages in coming years.

The industries with the largest concentration of senior workers—referred to here as “older” industries, or those industries where the overall age of the workforce is likely higher due to the

larger percentage of senior workers—include agriculture, real estate, other services, and transportation and warehousing (see Exhibit 9). Employment in the agriculture industry is projected to decline over the period, driven by improvements to technology that will increase productivity with fewer workers.

“The agriculture, real estate, and other services industries are the “oldest” industries in New Mexico. The nature of the work of many jobs in these industries, including self-employment and control over work schedule, often persuade seniors to continue working or attract seniors seeking a second career.”

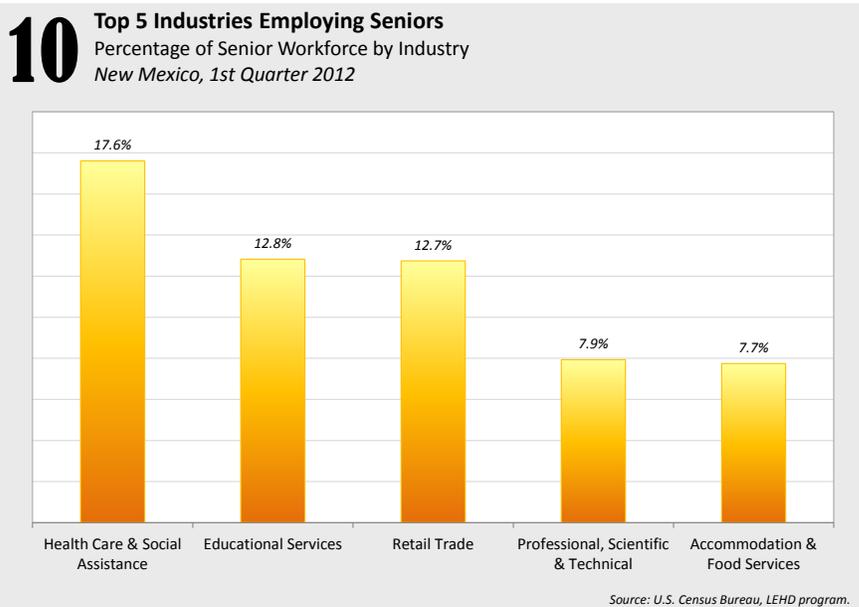
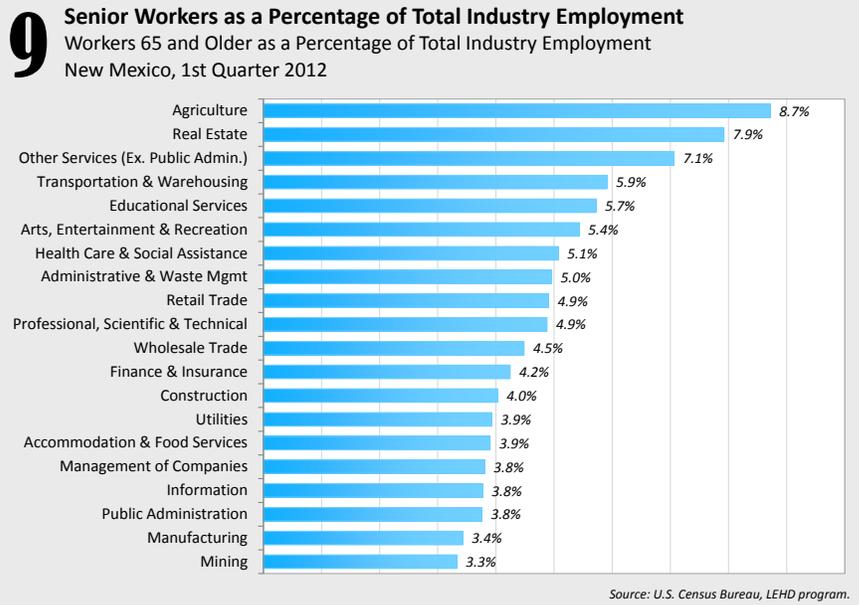


Real estate is also an “older” industry, with 7.9 percent of its workforce 65 years and older. Senior workers are likely attracted to the industry because of its opportunities for self-employment and flexible schedules and, therefore, serves as a desirable second career. Arts, entertainment, and recreation is another industry where the nature of much of the work encourages seniors to continue working or begin working in a second career. Senior employment in other services is often driven by the “private households” sub-industry. Workers in this sub-industry often include private cooks, cleaning staff, and child caretakers.

### INDUSTRIES WITH A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF SENIOR WORKERS ARE NOT ALWAYS THE INDUSTRIES EMPLOYING THE MOST SENIORS

While some industries have a large concentration of senior workers, those industries are not always the industries where the most senior workers are employed. For example, the majority of all senior workers may work in the health care industry, but the percentage of that industry’s employment that represents senior workers may be low due to the overall size of the industry and diversity of workers. On the other hand, agriculture is the industry with the highest concentration of senior workers in the state. The number of senior workers may be smaller than other industries, but the portion of total employment that represents senior workers is higher. Industries employing the largest number of senior workers are referred to here as the “top employing industries.”

Exhibit 10 shows that in 2012, the industry employing the most seniors (the top employing industry) was health care and social assistance,



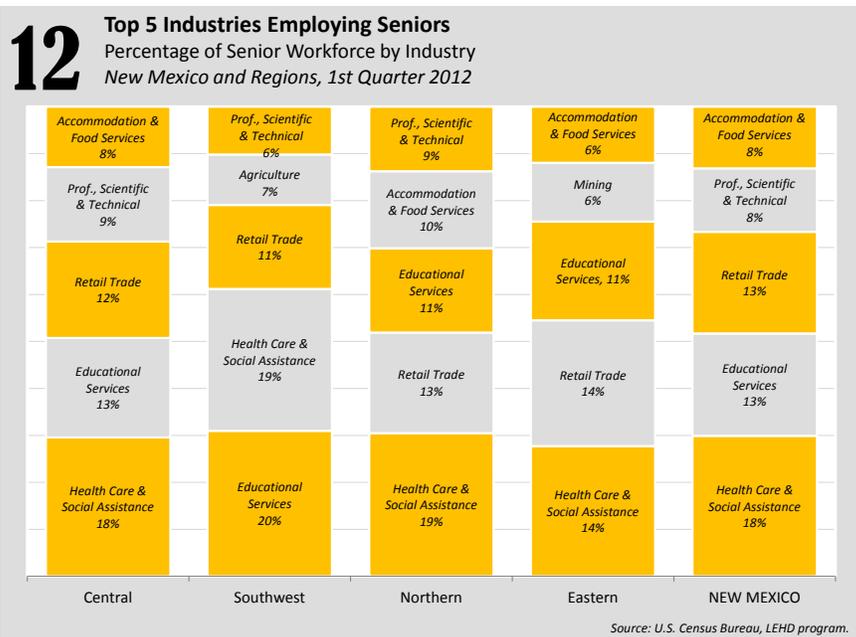
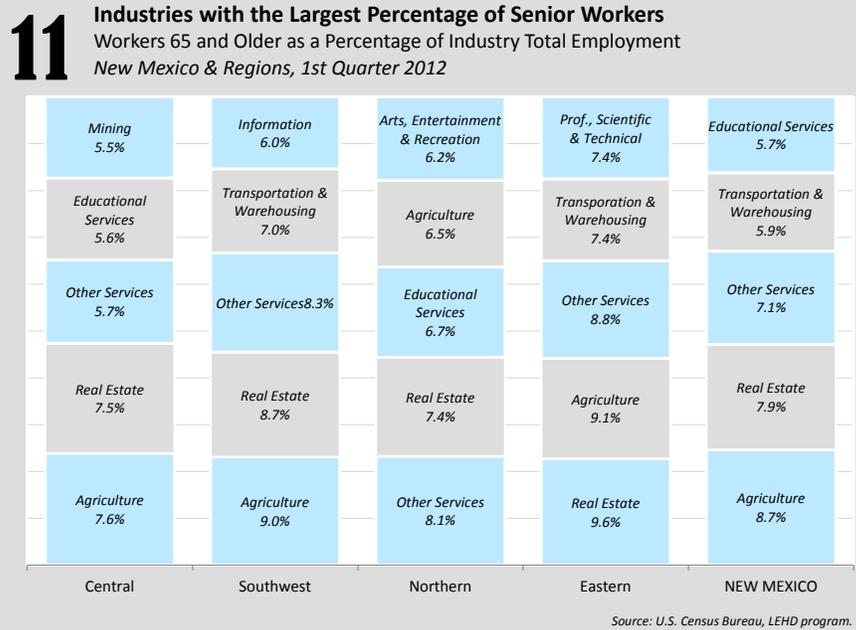
with 17.6 percent of all senior workers. Health care was followed by educational services and retail trade, employing 12.8 and 12.7 percent, respectively. Oftentimes senior workers in health care work as home health aides, taking care of other seniors, or as nurses or nursing attendants, aides, and orderlies.

**“Over 17 percent of New Mexico’s senior workers are employed in the health care industry. These seniors work in a variety of jobs including nurses and health aides, both in and outside of the home.”**

Within educational services, senior workers are often teachers, continuing to work past 65. These industries provide the most employment opportunities for seniors. Seniors in health care and professional, scientific, and technical services earn more on average than seniors in other industries.

### OLDER AND TOP EMPLOYING INDUSTRIES BY REGION—MANY SIMILARITIES

New Mexico's four regions differ in senior workforce participation, oldest industries, and top employing industries. Differences are not as significant as one would think, however. Exhibit 11 shows the top five oldest industries for each region. The industries vary by percentage of the workforce that represents senior workers, but the top employing industries are nearly the same. Agriculture, real estate, and other services are amongst the top five oldest industries in every region. In the Southwest and the East, transportation and warehousing has one of the largest concentrations of senior workers. In the Central and Northern regions, educational services has an older workforce. Mining, information, and professional, scientific, and technical services are within the top five oldest industries in varying regions.



# 13

## Industry Sectors with the Largest Percentage of Senior Workers in 2011

Workers 65 and Older as a Percentage of Total Industry Employment

*Metro/Micropolitan Areas with Largest Overall Proportion of Senior Workers*

<b>Ruidoso</b>		<b>Española</b>		<b>Santa Fe</b>	
Real Estate	15.7%	Educational Services	10.0%	Agriculture	9.9%
Other Services (Ex. Public Admin.)	12.6%	Agriculture	10.0%	Other Services (Ex. Public Admin.)	9.3%
Wholesale Trade	12.2%	Transportation & Warehousing	9.5%	Real Estate	8.6%
Finance & Insurance	10.3%	Management of Companies	7.9%	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	10.3%	Health Care & Social Assistance	6.8%	Health Care & Social Assistance	7.4%
<b>Taos</b>		<b>Roswell</b>		<b>Non-Metro/Micro</b>	
Manufacturing	9.2%	Management of Companies	16.1%	Management of Companies	12.8%
Real Estate	9.1%	Real Estate	12.2%	Transportation & Warehousing	12.5%
Professional, Scientific & Technical	8.5%	Other Services (Ex. Public Admin.)	9.5%	Other Services (Ex. Public Admin.)	10.8%
Retail Trade	7.1%	Agriculture	9.3%	Manufacturing	9.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	6.8%	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.3%	Wholesale Trade	8.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LEHD program.

Notes: Data is for the 1st quarter of the year. Data for some industries was distorted and, therefore, not reported. Some of the non-reported industries have larger concentrations of senior workers. These industries include arts, entertainment, and recreation in Ruidoso and Taos; information and manufacturing in Española; and transportation and warehousing in Ruidoso.

# 14

## Top 5 Industries Employing Seniors, 2011

Percentage of Senior Workforce by Industry

*Metro/Micropolitan Areas with Largest Overall Proportion of Senior Workers*

<b>Ruidoso</b>		<b>Española</b>		<b>Santa Fe</b>	
Retail Trade	20.9%	Educational Services	26.1%	Health Care & Social Assistance	19.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	10.5%	Health Care & Social Assistance	15.8%	Retail Trade	14.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	7.7%	Retail Trade	11.0%	Accommodation & Food Services	13.7%
Public Administration	6.6%	Accommodation & Food Services	8.6%	Public Administration	10.3%
Real Estate	5.4%	Construction	2.2%	Other Services (Ex. Public Admin.)	6.4%
<b>Taos</b>		<b>Roswell</b>		<b>Non-Metro/Micro</b>	
Health Care & Social Assistance	19.7%	Health Care & Social Assistance	16.2%	Educational Services	16.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	15.5%	Educational Services	12.6%	Health Care & Social Assistance	16.1%
Retail Trade	14.2%	Retail Trade	12.3%	Accommodation & Food Services	13.3%
Educational Services	11.4%	Agriculture	9.1%	Retail Trade	11.1%
Professional, Scientific & Technical	4.5%	Accommodation & Food Services	6.4%	Public Administration	7.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LEHD program.

Notes: Data is for the 1st quarter of the year. Data for some industries was distorted and, therefore, not reported. Some of the non-reported industries have a large number of senior workers, however, and may be in the top five industries, even if not reported here. These industries include arts, entertainment, and recreation in Ruidoso and Taos; educational services in Ruidoso and Santa Fe; and public administration in Española.

“The top industries employing the most seniors are very similar among New Mexico’s four regions. Agriculture in the Southwest, and mining in the East, stand out as industries where large senior employment is unique to the region.”

The top five employing industries in each region also reflect the top employing industries in the state overall. Health care, educational services, and retail trade are all top employing industries in all four regions (see Exhibit 12). Professional, scientific, and technical services, along with accommodation and food services, also employ a large percentage of seniors, with both industries falling within the top five employing industries in three of the four regions. Agriculture, which is a larger industry in the Southwestern Region, employs 7 percent of the Southwest’s senior workforce. Mining, a major industry in the East, employs 6 percent of the region’s senior workforce. The larger presence of these industries overall in these regions likely drives the employment of seniors to some degree.

## Senior Workers Were Hit Particularly Hard by Recessionary Job Losses

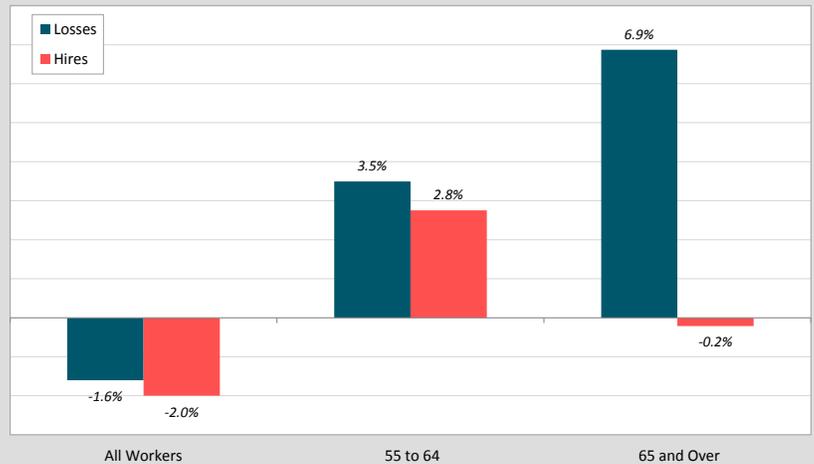
### Job Losses Grew While Hires Declined

Every age group, every industry, and every occupation was impacted in some way by the 2007 recession. Previous analysis completed by NMDWS found that younger workers, between 16 and 24, and older workers, 55 and older, were two age groups that were hit particularly hard by recessionary job losses. Based on employment data from the U.S. Census, senior workers experienced some of the largest job losses in relation to total senior employment.

Exhibit 15 shows the average annual percentage change in job hires and losses between 2007 and 2012 (first quarter to first quarter). While job losses actually declined by 1.6 percent for all workers over the 5-year period (mostly coming from recovery in the past couple of years), job losses increased by 6.9 percent annually for workers 65 and older. Even though the average annual decline in hires for senior workers was less than for all workers combined, the significant growth in job losses is difficult to dismiss. Additionally, the large difference in hires and losses for those 65 and older is significant compared to all workers.

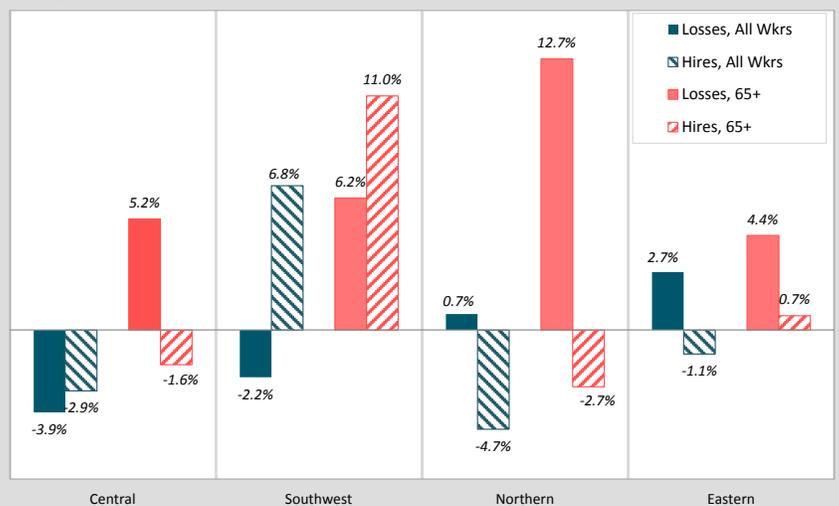
Older workers, those 55 to 64 years old, appear to have been less impacted by recessionary job losses than senior workers. Job losses for older workers increased at a smaller rate than that for senior workers. Older workers also experienced greater growth in hires over the period. Such large job losses are particularly difficult

**15** Average Annual Percentage Change in Job Hires & Losses  
New Mexico, 2007 to 2012



Data is from the first quarter of each year.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LEHD program.

**16** Average Annual Percentage Change in Job Hires & Losses  
Regions, 2007 to 2012



Data is from the first quarter of each year.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LEHD program.

“Senior workers saw job losses increase by an average of 6.9 percent each year between 2007 and 2012, compared to an average annual decline in losses for all workers combined.”



on seniors that must continue to work past the traditional retirement age for financial reasons. Losses of this size can seriously threaten the financial stability of many of New Mexico's seniors. In addition, seniors often are not as flexible as younger workers in the type of work they do (for example, many seniors face physical limitations that disqualify them for certain jobs) or in relocating for work. This can make it particularly difficult for seniors to find work after a job loss.

Job losses and hires over the last five years have varied significantly from region to region. Senior workers still felt some of the greatest impacts of any age group during the recession and recovery, regardless of the region. Exhibit 16 shows job losses and hires for all workers and senior workers for each of the four regions in New Mexico. The Northern Region saw the greatest average annual growth in job losses over the 5-year period, and the largest decline in job hires. Job losses in the North increased by an average of 12.7 percent annually.

This growth is more than twice the average annual growth experienced in the Southwest, the region with the next highest growth in job losses. During the same period, hires declined by an average of 2.7 percent each year.

The Central Region also experienced an increase

“The Southwestern and Eastern regions were the only two regions to experience positive job hiring, on average, during the recession and recovery. Every region experienced average growth in job losses for seniors, but the losses in the Central and Northern regions were combined with a reduction in hires, making the recessionary impacts particularly significant in the two regions.”

in job losses while job hires declined. Losses in the central counties, however, were still less severe than those in the North. The Southwestern Region, which experienced the second largest increase in losses, also saw the largest growth in job hires for all workers and senior workers alone. Losses for seniors grew by 6.2 percent annually, while hires grew by 11.0 percent.

## There is Movement in the Senior Workforce

The employment needs of seniors vary from other working age groups. As discussed in this article, seniors often prefer and/or require flexible hours. Some workers need jobs that accommodate some physical limitations. Many seniors are also choosing to work after the traditional retirement age. These and other factors contribute to what is discussed as “movement” in the labor force. For this analysis,

# 17

## Duration of Non-Employment

Number of Quarters

New Mexico & Regions, 1st Quarter, 2012

	<u>All Workers</u>	<u>Workers 65+</u>
New Mexico	2.0 qtrs	2.4 qtrs
Central	1.9 qtrs	2.2 qtrs
Southwest	2.1 qtrs	2.6 qtrs
Northern	2.0 qtrs	2.4 qtrs
Eastern	2.1 qtrs	2.5 qtrs

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics.

“As of the end of 2011, seniors in finance and insurance, and professional, scientific, and technical services were making more than seniors in other industries, on average.”

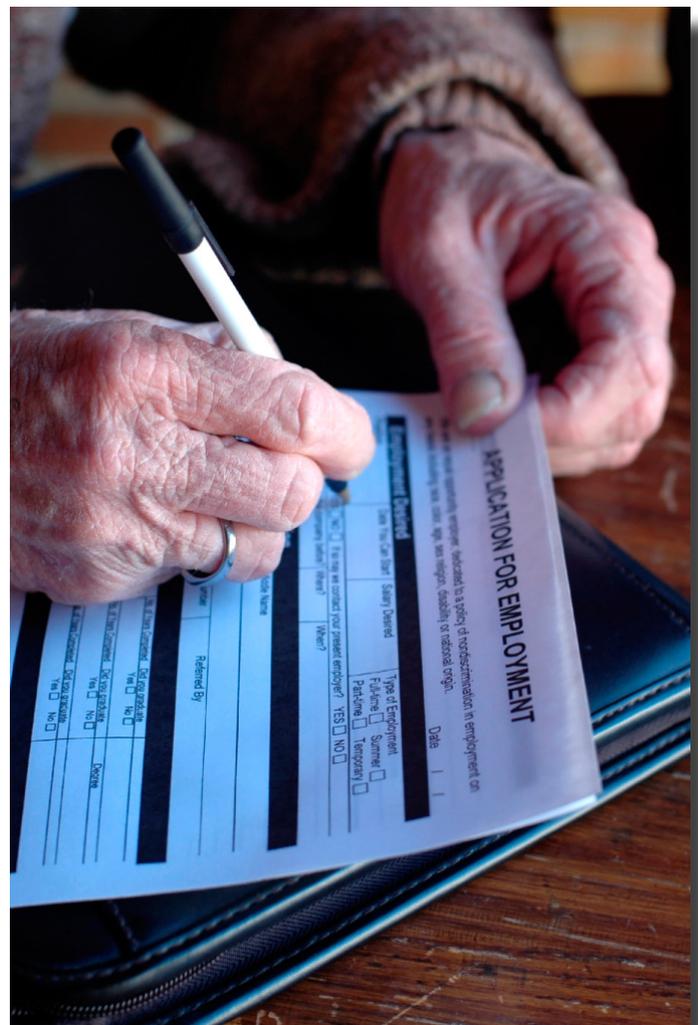
movement is measured as “the number of quarters that an individual did not receive any earnings within the year prior to a hire.”<sup>3</sup> This is not to be mistaken as unemployment. Movement measures not only those who have been unemployed but those who were not participating in the labor force and chose to look for work.

Exhibit 17 provides the duration of non-employment for senior workers in New Mexico’s regions. As of the first quarter of 2012, recently hired senior workers had an average of 2.4 quarters (just over seven months) of non-employment prior to their new employment, compared to 2.0 quarters (six months) for all workers and 1.9 quarters (around five and one half months) for workers 55 to 64. Seniors in the Southwest saw the highest average number of quarters of non-employment. Newly hired senior workers were either unemployed or not in the labor force for an average of 2.6 quarters (7.8 months) prior to gaining employment.

## Average Monthly Earning of Senior Workers

*White Collar and Mining Jobs Top the List*

Wages for senior workers vary greatly depending on the industry and occupation of the worker. Exhibit 18 provides average monthly earnings of



<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau LEHD.

seniors workers by industry. Average wages may be lower for senior workers, but this is due mostly to the larger number of senior workers that work part-time. In 2011, senior worker average monthly earnings were largest in the finance and insurance industry, followed by professional, scientific, and technical services, and management of companies. These industries are also amongst the highest paying for all workers combined. Note that the retail trade and accommodation and food services industries, in which over 20 percent of senior workers are employed statewide, are amongst some of the lowest paying industries. The real estate and other services industries, which are some of the older industries in the state, also pay lower wages. Positively, the health care and professional, scientific, and technical services industries, which employ about one-quarter of all New Mexico's senior workers, pay above the all-industry average monthly wage.

## 18 Average Monthly Earnings of Senior Workers Industry, 4th Quarter, 2011

Industry	Average Monthly Earnings
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>\$3,352</b>
Finance & Insurance	\$8,778
Professional, Scientific & Technical	\$6,384
Management of Companies	\$5,918
Mining	\$5,908
Manufacturing	\$4,454
Wholesale Trade	\$3,777
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$3,627
Construction	\$3,568
Information	\$3,032
Public Administration	\$2,987
Educational Services	\$2,845
Administrative & Waste Mgmt	\$2,665
Agriculture	\$2,444
Transportation & Warehousing	\$2,405
Retail Trade	\$2,373
Other Services (Ex. Public Admin.)	\$2,176
Real Estate	\$2,162
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	\$1,923
Accommodation & Food Services	\$1,584

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LEHD program.

Note: Represents most recent earnings data available at the time of publication. Data for the utilities industry is suppressed and not reported here.



# REGIONAL BUSINESS NEWS

*The latest business news (as of May 2013) gathered from published articles, government documents, private- and public-sector news releases, and reports from local New Mexico Workforce Connection Centers. In most cases, information is not verified for accuracy after initial collection.*

↑ **Business Expansion**

+ **Business Opening**

↓ **Business Contraction**

— **Business Closing**

## Statewide

↑ Southwest Brands, in May, opened a new Garduños restaurant inside the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town. The company also recently opened Garduños locations at Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces and The Lodge at Santa Fe and plans to expand into Taos eventually.

↑ PNM this year will build two new solar energy centers (near Tularosa and in Valencia County) and expand two existing facilities (in Los Lunas and Deming). The company created about 500 construction jobs in bringing five new solar power plants online during 2011 and 2012.

+ "The Signal," a sci-fi thriller starring Laurence Fishburne and Brenton Thwaites, was scheduled to film from mid-May through June in multiple locations, employing at least 65 New Mexicans as crew members and more than 35 as principal and

background actors.

+ "Things People Do," starring Wes Bentley and Vinessa Shaw, recently began filming in and around Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. The production is scheduled to run through early May, employing at least 25 New Mexico crew members and 100 principal and background actors.

+ "The Homesman," starring Tommy Lee Jones, Hilary Swank, and Meryl Streep, was scheduled to film from the end of March through mid-May in and around Las Vegas and Santa Fe, employing more than 100 New Mexicans as crew members and more than 200 as actors.

+ The comedy production "Frank," starring Michael Fassbender, Domhnall Gleeson, and Maggie Gyllenhaal, is filming in and around Albuquerque, Zia Pueblo, Estancia, and Socorro County. It was anticipated the

project would employ at least 100 New Mexicans as crew members and 20 as principal actors.

+ The film "Enemy Way," starring Forest Whitaker, is shooting around Albuquerque and Deming, and was anticipated to employ at least 70 New Mexicans as crew members and at least 300 more as principal and background talent.

+ "A Million Ways to Die in the West," a comedy starring Seth MacFarlane, Charlize Theron, Amanda Seyfried, and Sarah Silverman, is set to film in multiple locations, employing more than 1,200 area crew members, more than 2,000 background actors, and about 20 principal actors.

+ Filming for the television pilot "The Sixth Gun" was scheduled to begin in mid-March and run through early April in Santa Fe and surrounding areas,



employing at least 100 New Mexicans as crew members, 20 as principal actors, and more than 400 as background talent.

✚ Panera Bread opened a new eatery at Albuquerque's Cottonwood Commons in March and will begin operating a Santa Fe location on June 10, creating a combined 110 jobs.

✚ The Western drama "Jane Got a Gun," starring Natalie Portman, Joel Edgerton, Bradley Cooper, and Noah Emmerich, is scheduled to film in northern New Mexico through the spring, employing about 100 area crew members and more than 400 principal and background actors.

✚ Season two of the television series "Longmire" was scheduled to film from late March through mid-August in multiple northern New Mexico locations, employing more than 175 New Mexicans as crew members and more than 200 as principal and background talent.

## Central Region

### BERNALILLO COUNTY

⬆ Mayor Richard Berry's proposed \$481 million fiscal year 2014 operating budget includes funding to fill about 160 vacant positions in animal shelters, libraries, and other programs. The city will post job openings online as individual departments are ready to hire.

⬆ Bernalillo County is hiring high



school students between the ages of 14 and 18 to fill 100 summer positions through its Job Mentor Program. The county will place the students with various departments for work assignments lasting eight weeks.

⬆ 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.

⬆ The Downs at Albuquerque arranged two job fairs in May to fill about 400 positions at its new \$20 million, 65,000-square-foot casino set to open in mid-June. Employment is currently listed at 250–499 in the NMDWS LASER system.

⬆ Outsourcing services provider Sitel scheduled two job fairs in May to add 200 full-time and 150 part-time customer support

representatives at its Albuquerque call center.

⬆ UnitedHealthcare, a division of UnitedHealth Group, the nation's largest health insurer, announced plans for a two-day job fair in June to hire 64 claims representatives in Albuquerque.

✚ The action/sci-fi film "Transcendence," starring Johnny Depp, Morgan Freeman, and Rebecca Hall, was set to shoot from late April through July in and around Albuquerque, employing about 250 New Mexico crew members and more than 2,400 principal and background actors.

✚ Applebee's will open its ninth Albuquerque location by the end of the year near the Albertson's grocery store at Moñtano Plaza. The NMDWS LASER system lists an employee size range of 50–99 for most of the city's existing Applebee restaurants.



✚ Cheddar's Casual Café, an Irving, Texas-based restaurant chain, will open its first New Mexico location in Albuquerque by early September. The Texas Workforce Commission's TRACER system lists an employee size range of 100–249 for most existing Cheddar's sites.

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

✚ Omaha-based apparel and home décor chain Gordmans announced plans to enter the Albuquerque market with two new stores—at Cottonwood Commons, to open July 18, and

in Coronado Center, to open in October—each creating about 100 jobs.

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

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

✚ "Force of Execution," starring Steven Seagal, Danny Trejo, and Ving Rhames, is filming in and around Albuquerque, and was anticipated to employ at least 65 New Mexicans as crew members

and 300 as principal and background talent.

✚ Walmart is set to open a fourth Neighborhood Market in Albuquerque by mid-summer 2013 in the Pavilions at San Mateo, employing about 65.

✚ Commercial contractor William Cervantes Enterprises estimates that about 70 construction workers will be needed to complete the retail center project currently under way next to Calibers Shooters Sports Center at 4340 Cutler NE in Albuquerque.

— GE Intelligent Platforms, a manufacturer of computers for military and aeronautic applications, will wind down operations in Albuquerque over the next 12 months and move 40 of its 70 positions to a facility in Huntsville, Alabama.

#### **SANDOVAL COUNTY**

✚ Hewlett-Packard will transfer 200 jobs from its Rio Rancho customer service and technical support facility to an Alpharetta, Georgia, plant by November 31. The Rio Rancho site laid off 100 workers in July.

✚ The Rio Grande Gracious Retirement Living—a \$25 million, 134-unit residential community—is set to open in late April near the Presbyterian Rust Medical Center in southeast Rio Rancho, employing about 50.

## VALENCIA COUNTY

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

## Eastern Region

### CURRY COUNTY

✚ The Clovis City Commission unanimously approved the introduction of an ordinance to issue \$1.655 billion in industrial revenue bonds for the planned Tres Amigas Superstation project, which is expected to create 104 permanent positions and at least 120 construction jobs.

### EDDY COUNTY

✚ Sugar Land, Texas-based

Rangeland Energy announced plans to build a \$150 million rail terminal complex near Loving that will create about 50 new jobs. The facility, expected to be operational by year's end, will handle shipments to and from the area's oil fields.

### LEA COUNTY

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

✚ The project developer expects to break ground within the next several weeks at the site of a new Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant in Hobbs. The LASER system lists an employee size range of 50–99 for existing Buffalo Wild Wings locations in New Mexico.

### ✚ LINCOLN COUNTY

Children, Youth, and Families Department will reopen a juvenile detention and rehabilitation facility, possibly in October, at the former Camp Sierra Blanca site northeast of Ruidoso, employing about 50 full-time workers.

### OTERO COUNTY

✚ New Generation Biomass LLC plans to invest \$70 million in the construction and development of its Black Bear Biomass Energy Facility at Holloman Air Force Base. The project will create about 300 construction jobs and 80 permanent positions.

## Northern Region

### SAN JUAN COUNTY

✚ BHP Billiton will eliminate about 100 jobs at Navajo Mine before the site's mid-year sale to the Navajo Nation. The company



plans to avoid layoffs by offering buyouts to eligible employees.

### SANTA FE COUNTY

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

✦ The 13-part television documentary series “Cosmos: A Space-Time Odyssey” was set to film in Santa Fe from May through early June, employing at least 80 area residents as crew members and principal and background actors.

### TAOS COUNTY

— AmRest, which sold 99 Applebee’s restaurants last fall, in

May closed its remaining three franchise locations—in Taos; Arroyo Grande, California; and Longmont, Colorado. The NMDWS LASER system lists an employee size range of 50–99 for the Taos site.

## Southwestern Region

### DOÑA ANA COUNTY

✦ The Doña Ana County Commission awarded a \$400,000 Local Economic Development Act grant to TE Connectivity for an expansion that will add 50 jobs at its Santa Teresa distribution center.

✦ Heritage Home Healthcare and Hospice, an Albuquerque-based company providing clients with

in-home, 24-hour health care services, is opening a new regional headquarters in Las Cruces that will create more than 100 jobs in the next three years.

✦ La Clinica de Familia, a community health care provider, plans to open its new Las Cruces Central facility in the old Memorial General Hospital building, employing 144 when fully staffed. Services will likely be phased in over three years, with some starting as early as January.

✦ The third Walmart Supercenter in Las Cruces opened June 12 at 3331 Rinconada Boulevard with about 350 full- and part-time workers.



# 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 December 2012.
- Year-over-year changes in employment for the most recent quarter for which data is available (4th 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 4th quarter 2012 data.*

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- The most recent unemployment rate available (April 2013) compared to the previous month (March 2013) and the same month for the previous year (April 2012).

Rates presented are all non-seasonally adjusted.

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

## AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES:

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

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

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

## Central Region Economic Data

The Central Region, overall, experienced over-the-year employment gains in the fourth quarter of 2012 (0.7 percent or 2,400 jobs). All four counties have been experiencing trending improvement in employment changes over the year. Sandoval and Tarrant counties have been experiencing over-the-year job gains. Bernalillo just reached positive over-the-year growth for the first time since September

of 2011. Valencia is the only central county that reported over-the-year job losses in the fourth quarter. While it appears that Valencia saw a major loss in employment between December 2011 and January 2012, and that over-the-year losses have been significant since, losses were due to non-economic data changes in the QCEW program. These losses do not necessarily reflect job losses in total. Valencia is likely experiencing positive over-the-year growth based on the upward trend of over-the-year levels prior to January 2012's data change.

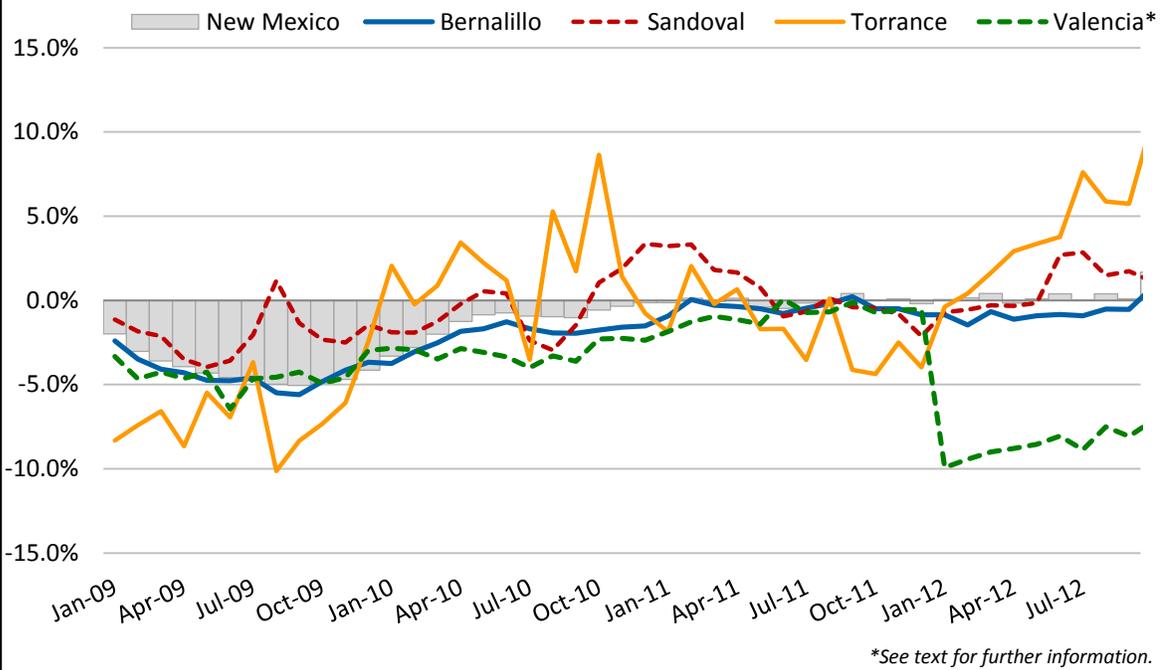
The Central Region's unemployment rate in April 2013 (6.4 percent) was higher than that of the state as a whole (6.2 percent). All four central counties, however, saw a decrease in the unemployment rate between March and April of 2013, and a decrease in the rate between April 2012 and April 2013.

## BERNALILLO COUNTY

Bernalillo County employment was 0.9 percent greater (approximately 2,920 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Many industries saw large gains over the year, led by health care and accommodation and food services. Gains were offset somewhat by losses; administrative and waste services and local and federal government saw the greatest losses over the year. The unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in April 2013, down from 6.9 percent in March and

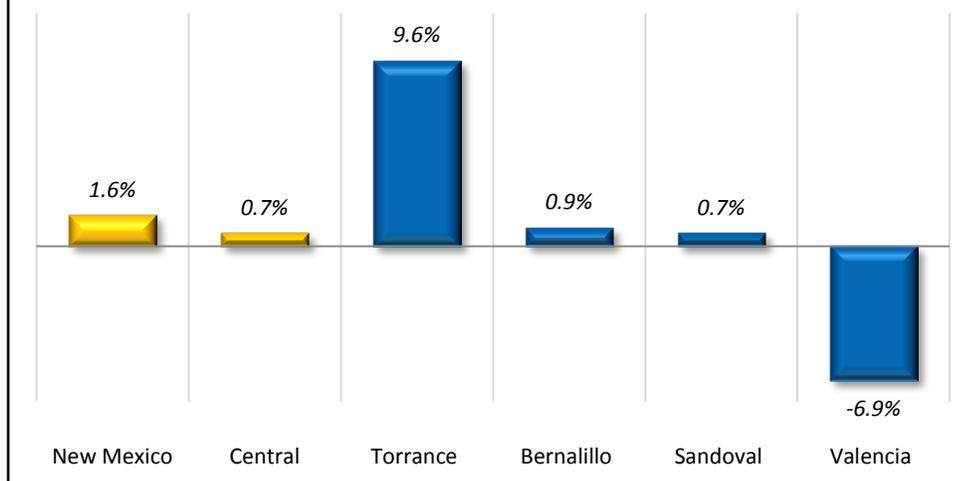
## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

Central Region, Jan 09 to Dec 12



## 12-Month Percentage Change in Employment

Central Region, Q4 2011 to Q4 2012



from 6.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$837.

### SANDOVAL COUNTY

Sandoval County employment was 0.7 percent greater

(approximately 200 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment gains were seen in health care industries. The largest losses occurred in retail trade (mostly

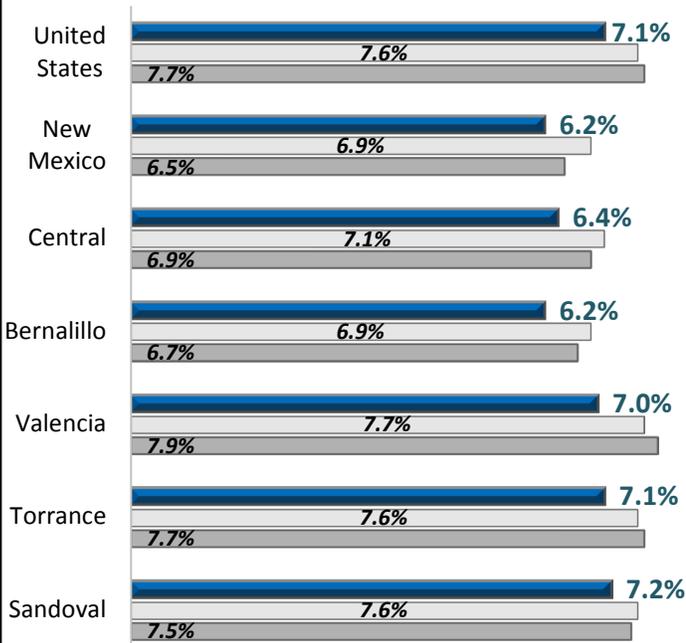
non-economic changes).

Sandoval's unemployment rate was 7.2 percent in April 2013, down from 7.6 percent in March and from 7.5 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$779.

## Unemployment Rates

### Central Region

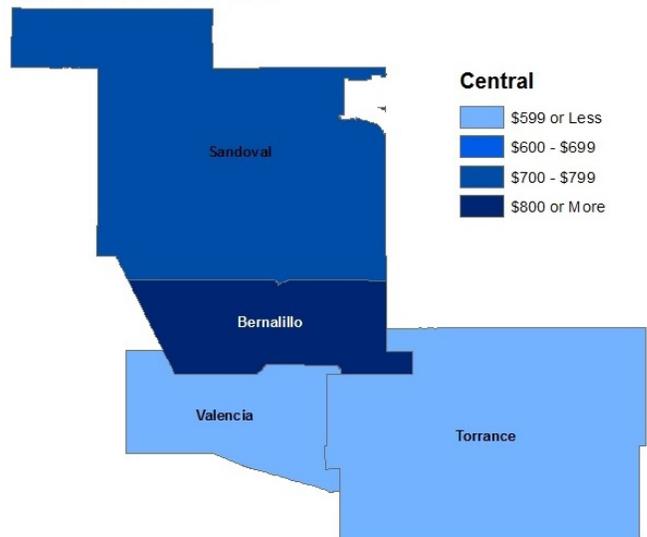
Mar/Apr 2013 & Over the Year



## Average Weekly Wages

Central Region, 4th Quarter 2012

NM - \$804, Central - \$820



### TORRANCE COUNTY

Torrance County employment was 9.6 percent greater (approximately 300 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest real employment gains occurred in accommodation and food services (other gains were non-economic data changes), while the largest losses were seen in retail trade. The large variations in employment after May 2012 are mostly due to non-economic data changes in each quarter. Torrance's unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in April 2013, down from March's rate of 7.6 percent and from 7.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$580.

### VALENCIA COUNTY

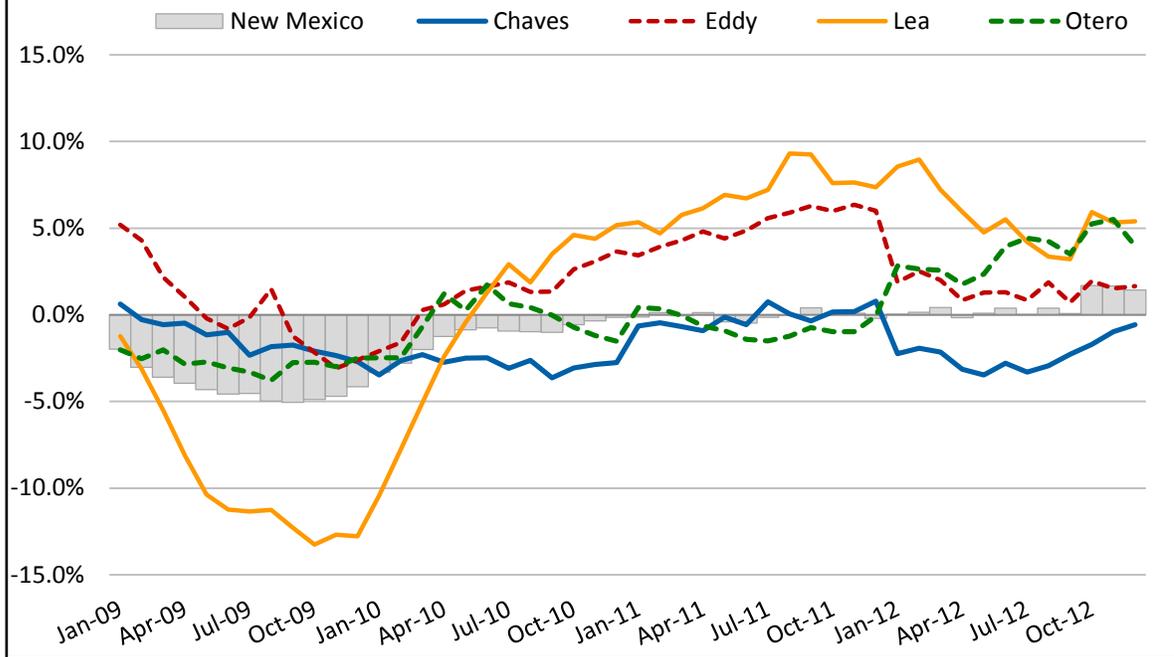
Valencia County employment was 6.9 percent less (approximately 1,010 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. As stated in the introduction to this section, losses reflect a non-economic data change at the beginning of 2012, mostly in health care. Over-the-year changes do not necessarily reflect actual job losses. The county did gain jobs in construction over the year. Valencia's unemployment rate was 7.0 percent in April 2013, down from 7.7 percent in March and from 7.9 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$567.

## Eastern Region Economic Data

The Eastern Region experienced over-the-year employment growth of 2.6 percent (approximately 3,300 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012. Activity in the mining industry is primarily responsible for this employment growth. Only three of the 12 eastern counties experienced year-over-year job losses in the fourth quarter of 2012, compared to six counties the previous quarter. Growth was greatest in Lea and Otero counties. Losses ranged from 1.1 to 3.4 percent in Harding, Union, and Chaves counties, although percentage losses in more rural counties (Roosevelt and Union)

## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

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



do not always translate to a large number of job losses. Nearly all of the eastern counties have been experiencing trending improvement in over-the-year job changes. The exception is Lea and Eddy counties; Lea saw an increase in over-the-year employment growth in the fourth quarter, after slowing growth earlier in the year, while Eddy's employment growth stagnated, albeit while remaining positive, in 2012.

The Eastern Region's unemployment rate (4.5 percent) was much lower than the statewide rate (6.2 percent) in the fourth quarter. All 12 eastern counties saw a decrease in their unemployment rate between March and April of 2013. The unemployment rate in April 2013

was lower than, equal to, or very close to that of April 2012 in all but four eastern counties—De Baca, Curry, Union, and Otero.

### CHAVES COUNTY

Chaves County employment was 1.1 percent less (approximately 230 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Most of the losses occurred due to non-economic data changes in accommodation and food services. The largest gains occurred in agriculture and construction. Chaves's unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in April 2013, down from 6.1 percent in March and from 6.0 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$642.

### CURRY COUNTY

Curry County employment

was 2.0 percent greater (approximately 330 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The transportation and health care industries saw the largest employment gains, although health care growth was mostly due to non-economic data changes. Losses in accommodation and food services were primarily due to non-economic data changes. Curry's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in April 2013, down from 4.8 percent in March but up from 4.0 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$655.

### DE BACA COUNTY

De Baca County employment was nearly the same in the fourth quarter of 2012 as in the same

quarter the previous year (a 2.3 percent increase represents very few jobs due to the small population of the county). Gains in accommodation and food services were offset by minimal losses in other industries. De Baca's unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in April 2013, down from 4.1 percent in March but up from 3.5 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$597.

**EDDY COUNTY**

Eddy County employment was 1.7 percent greater (approximately 430 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The greatest hiring occurred in the mining industry, while finance saw the largest real job

losses. Eddy's unemployment rate was 3.5 percent in April 2013, down from 3.8 percent in March and from 3.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$974.

**GUADALUPE COUNTY**

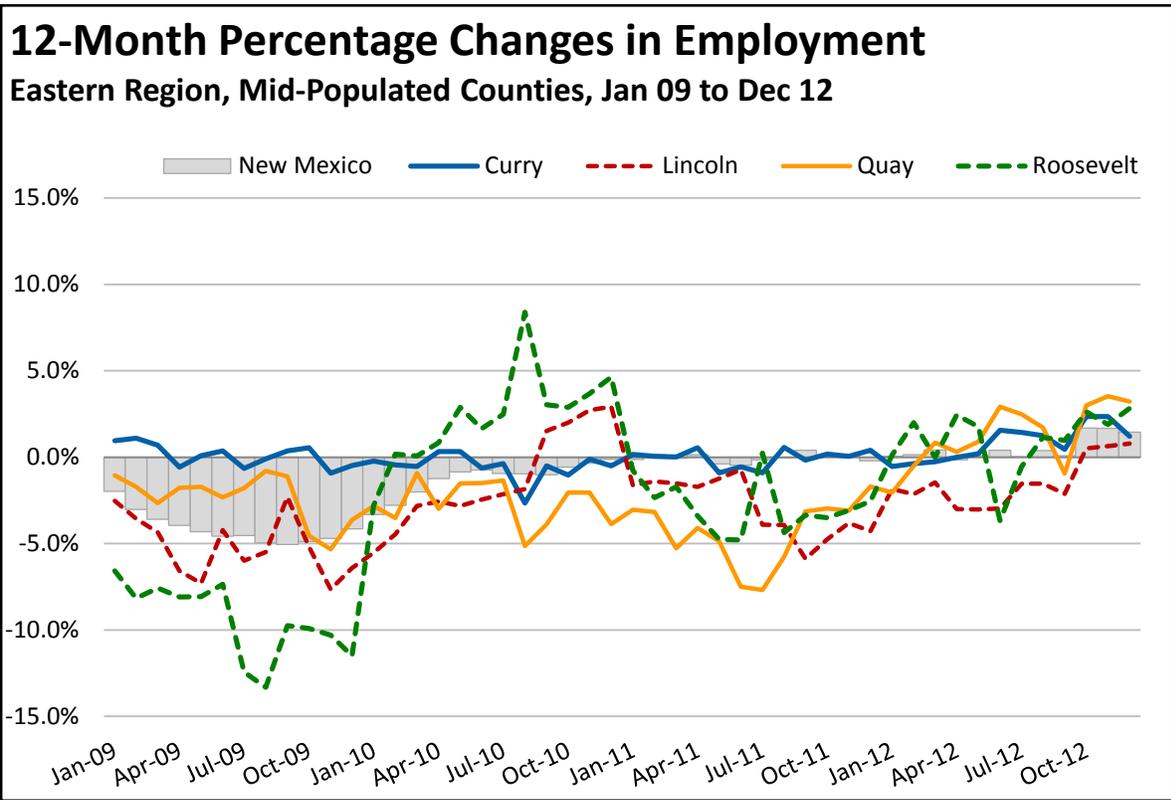
Guadalupe County employment was 2.2 percent greater (about 30 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment gains occurred in local government, although losses in accommodation and food services offset some of those gains. Guadalupe's unemployment rate was 8.8 percent in April 2013, down from 9.0 percent in March and from 10.1 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$506.

**HARDING COUNTY**

Harding County employment was roughly the same in the fourth quarter of 2012 as in the same quarter the previous year (a 3.4 percent decrease equates to very few jobs). Small losses in construction were somewhat offset by small gains in other industries. Harding's unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in April 2013, close to the 4.1 percent in March and unchanged from the rate of a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$546.

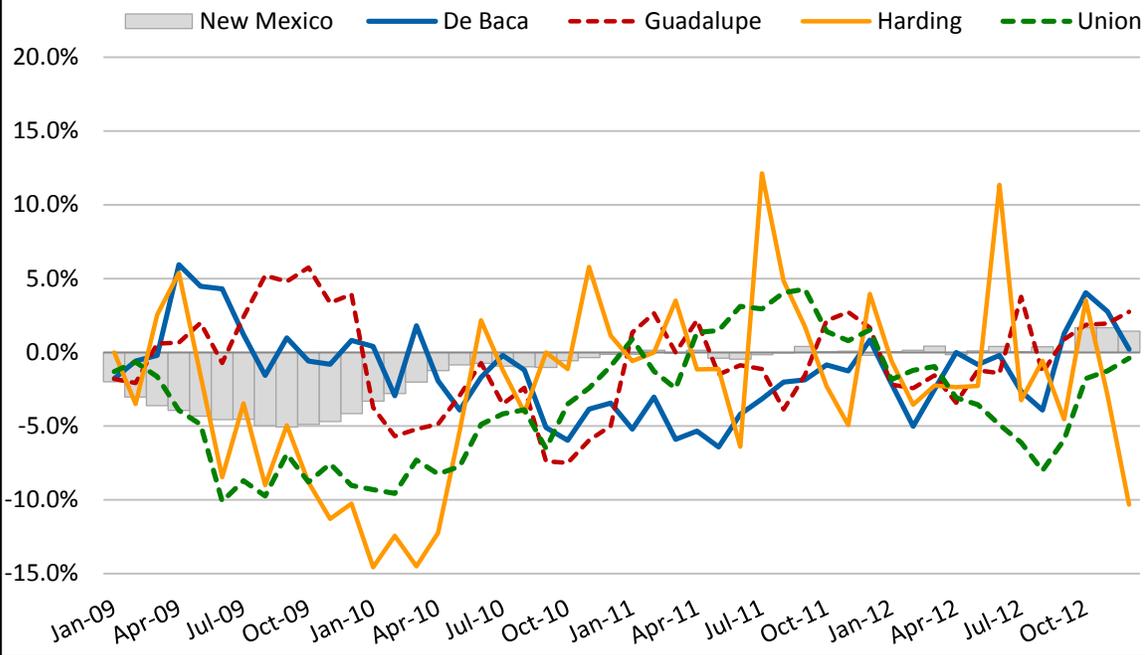
**LEA COUNTY**

Lea County employment was 5.6 percent greater (approximately 1,600 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Hiring in



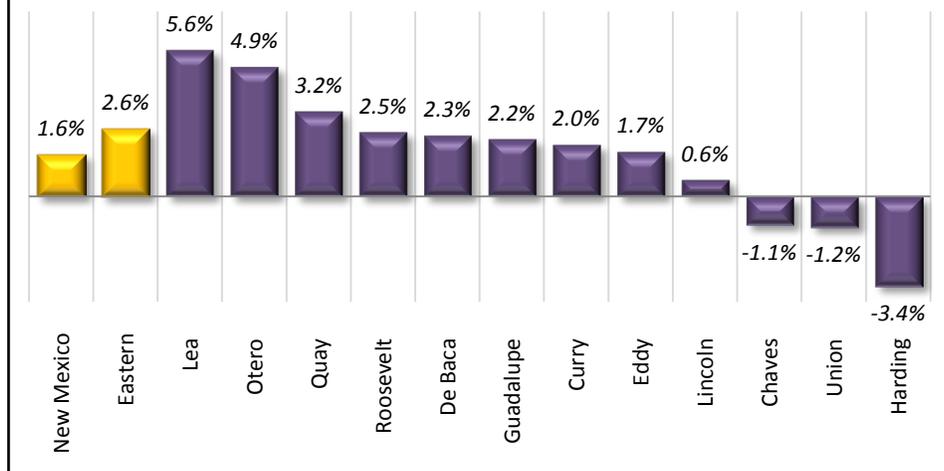
## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

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



## 12-Month Percentage Change in Employment

Eastern Region, Q4 2011 to Q4 2012



mining and transportation was the largest of all industries, while job losses were largest in finance, although due to non-economic data changes. Smaller-scale losses were seen in construction and administration services. Lea's unemployment rate was 3.3

percent in April 2013, down from 3.9 percent in March and from 3.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$998.

### LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln County employment was 0.6 percent greater

(approximately 40 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment gains occurred in retail trade, state government, and the arts and entertainment industry. Losses in education were all due to non-

economic data changes. Lincoln's unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in April 2013, down from 5.7 percent in March and close to the 5.2 percent seen in April of the previous year. The average weekly wage was \$555.

**OTERO COUNTY**

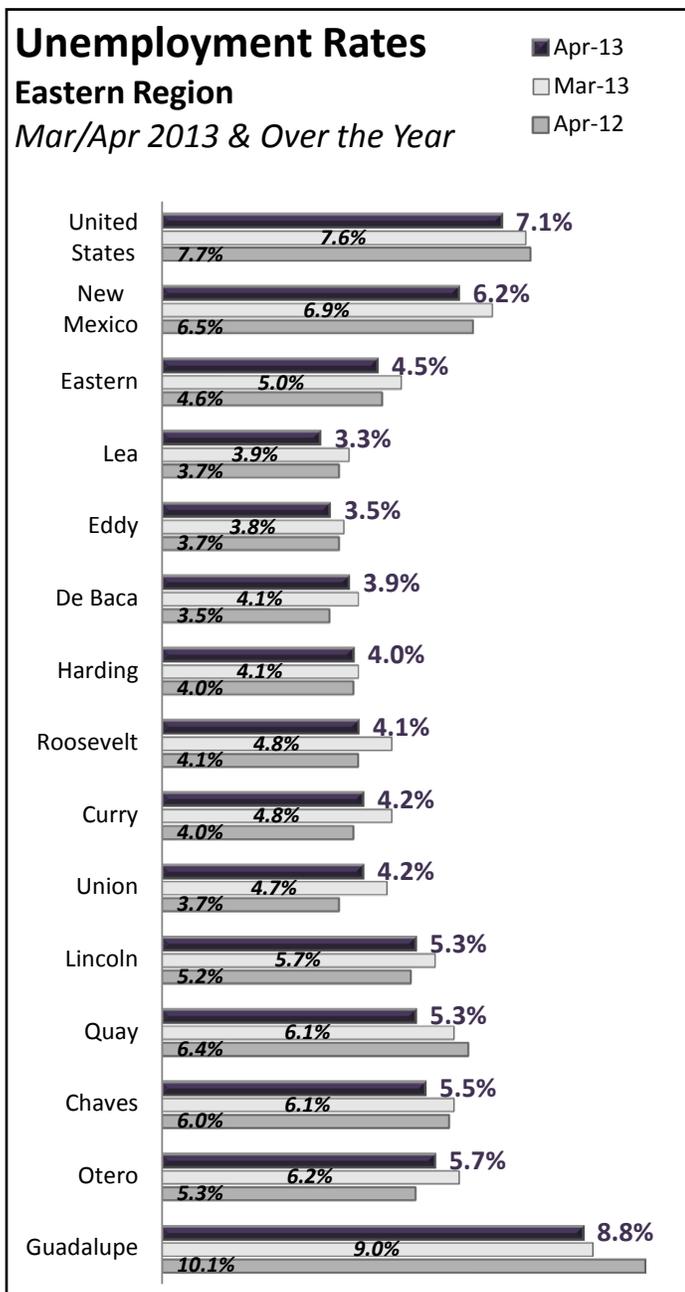
Otero County employment was 4.9 percent greater (approximately 830 jobs) in the

fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment gains in administrative services were the largest, but were mostly due to non-economic data changes. These gains were offset by losses in health care and the federal government. Otero's unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in April 2013, down from 6.2 percent in March but

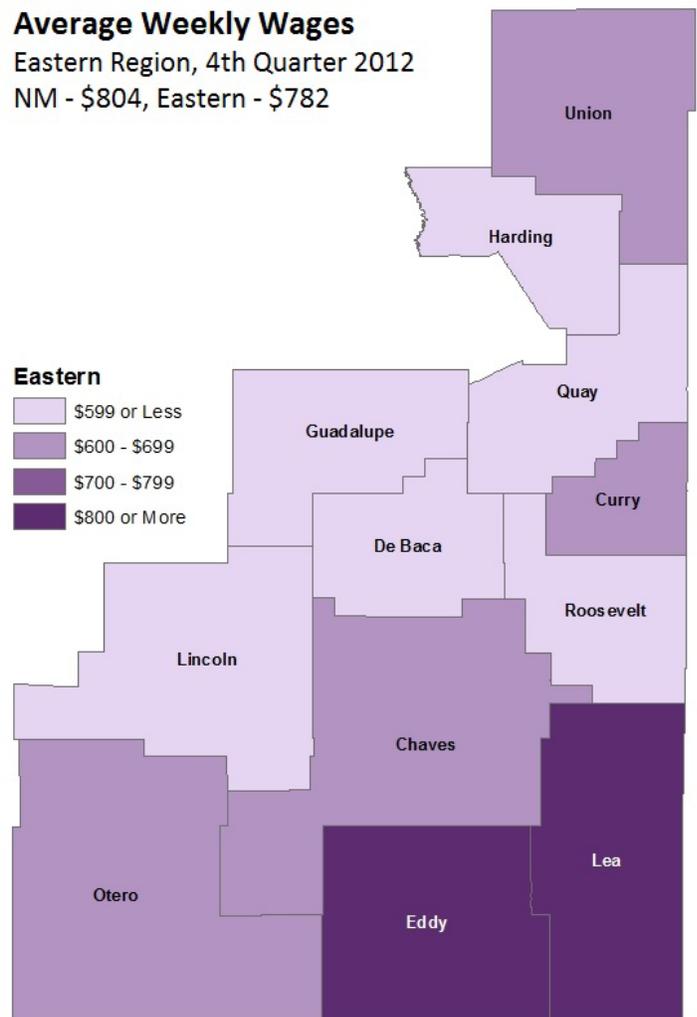
up from 5.3 percent in April of the previous year. The average weekly wage was \$659.

**QUAY COUNTY**

Quay County employment was 3.2 percent greater (approximately 90 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains were seen in accommodation and food



**Average Weekly Wages Eastern Region, 4th Quarter 2012**  
 NM - \$804, Eastern - \$782



services, with small losses in retail trade. Quay's unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in April 2013, down from 6.1 percent in March and from 6.4 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$544.

**ROOSEVELT COUNTY**

Roosevelt County employment was 2.5 percent greater (approximately 160 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment gains in accommodation and food services, as well as manufacturing, were mostly due to non-economic data changes. These gains were somewhat offset by losses in agriculture. Roosevelt's unemployment rate

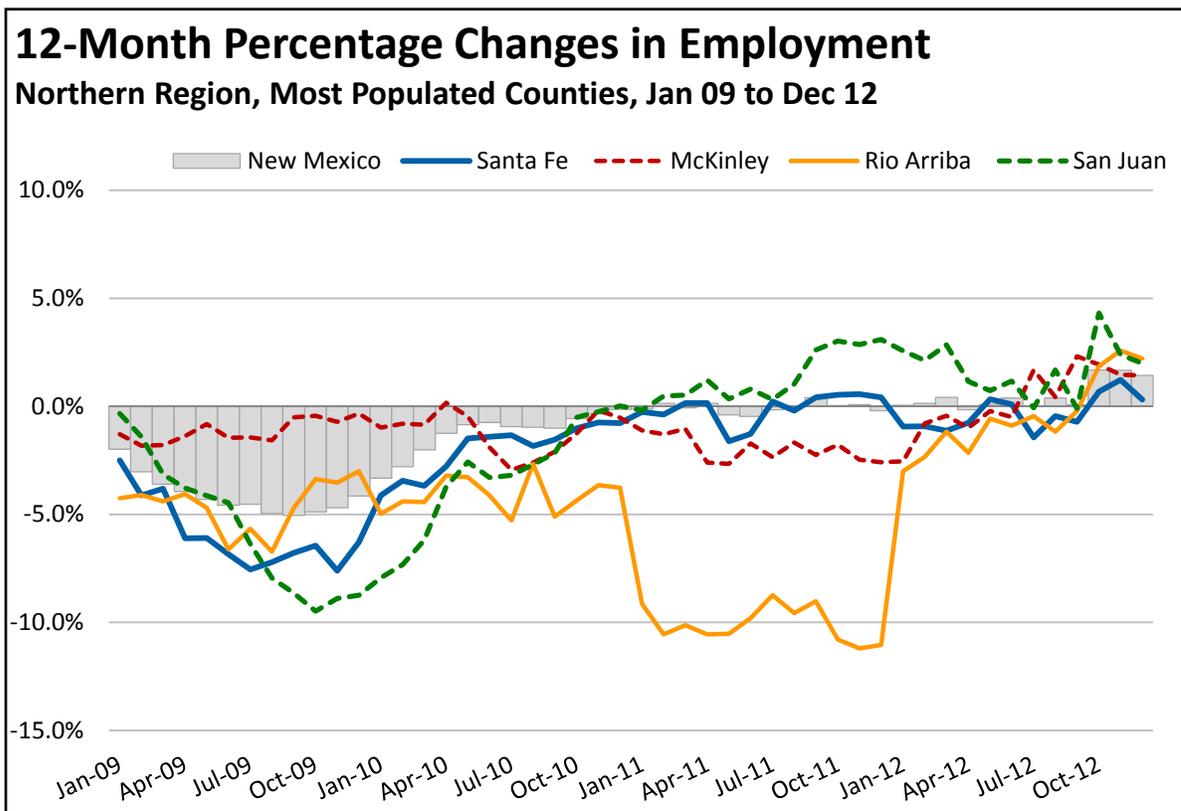
was 4.1 percent in April 2013, down from 4.8 percent in March and the same as a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$546.

**UNION COUNTY**

Union County employment was 1.2 percent less (approximately 20 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment losses were greatest in accommodation in food services. Gains in agriculture (non-economic data change) and retail somewhat offset those losses. Union's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in April 2013, down from 4.7 percent in March but up from 3.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$609.

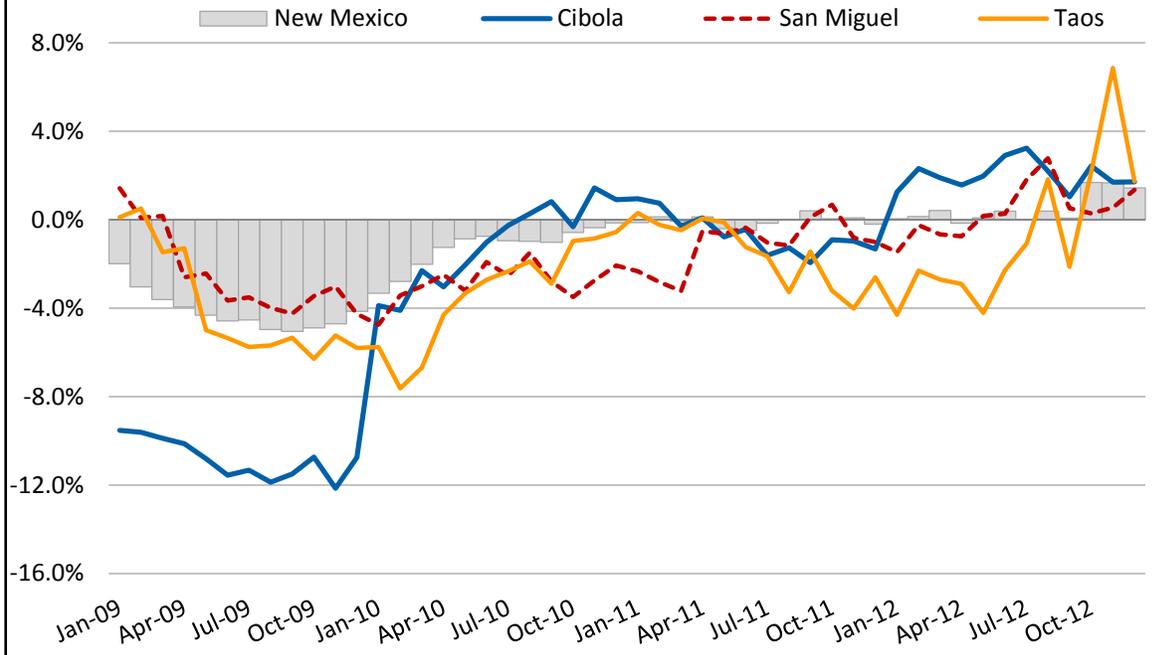
**Northern Region County News**

The Northern Region, overall, experienced employment gains between the fourth quarters of 2011 and 2012 (1.1 percent, or about 2,090 jobs). All but one of the 10 northern counties (Los Alamos) experienced over-the-year job growth in the fourth quarter of 2012. Over-the-year growth ranged from 0.7 to 3.5 percent. Los Alamos saw a decrease of about 970 jobs, or 5.9 percent of employment. Most of the counties have been experiencing overall trending improvement in over-the-year employment changes, with the trend beginning in 2012



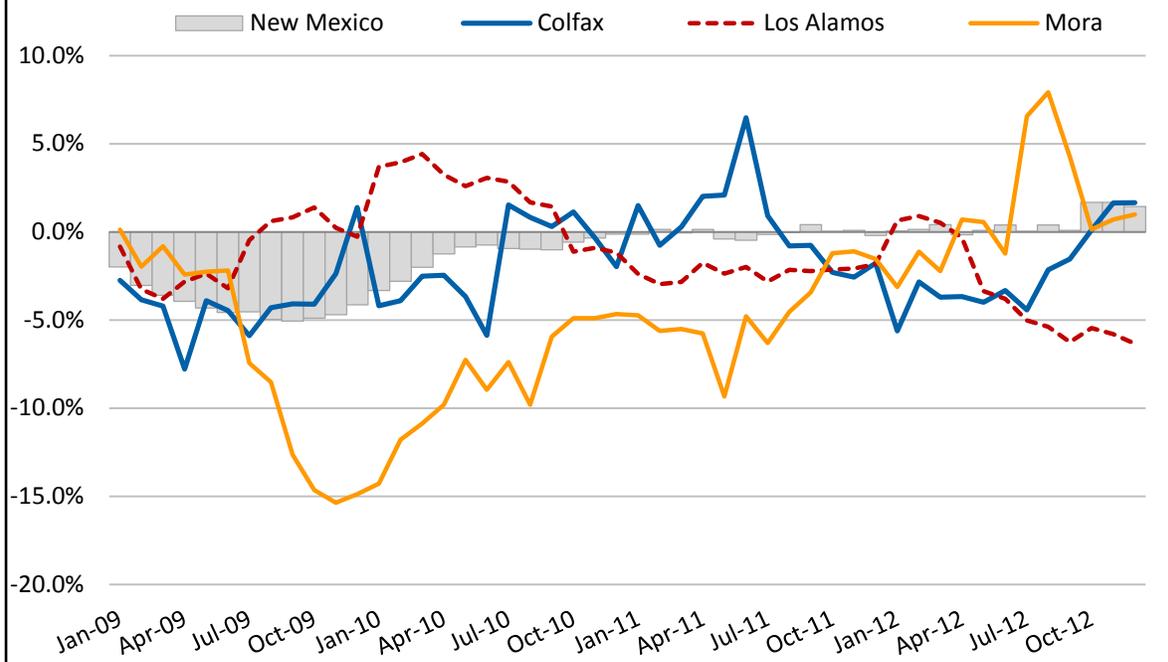
## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

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



## 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment

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



for many of the counties. The exceptions are Los Alamos, where employment has been declining over the year since the beginning of 2012, and San Juan, where employment was stagnant through the year, until the fourth quarter. The Northern Region's unemployment rate (6.2 percent) was the same as that of the state in the fourth quarter of 2012. All but two of the 10 northern counties—Colfax and Taos—saw their unemployment rates decrease between March and April of 2013. All counties, except Los Alamos, either saw a decrease or little to no change in their unemployment rate between April 2013 and April 2012.

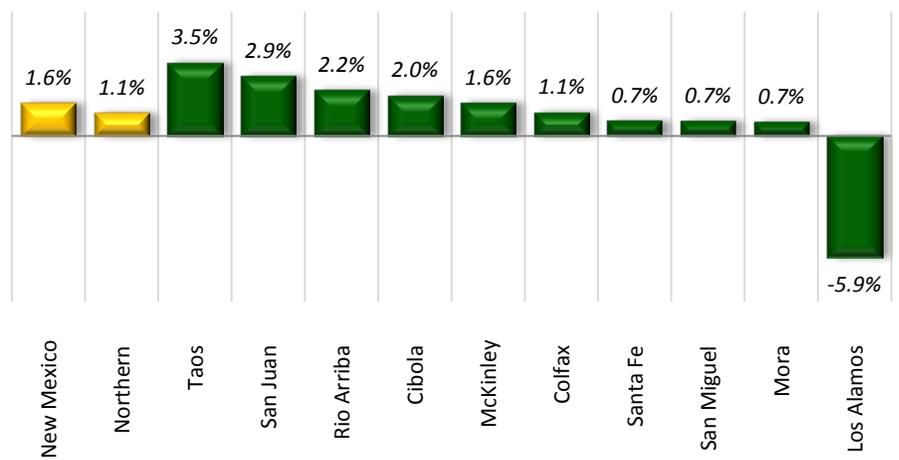
### CIBOLA COUNTY

Cibola County employment was 2.0 percent greater (approximately 150 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. All gains and losses were mostly due to non-economic data changes. Cibola's unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in April 2013, down from 6.1 percent in March and close to the 5.6 percent rate seen a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$661.

### COLFAX COUNTY

Employment in Colfax County was about 1.1 percent greater (approximately 50 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter in 2011. The largest employment gains occurred in accommodation and food services and retail trade, while the largest, albeit still small, losses occurred in construction.

**12-Month Percentage Change in Employment**  
Northern Region, Q4 2011 to Q4 2012

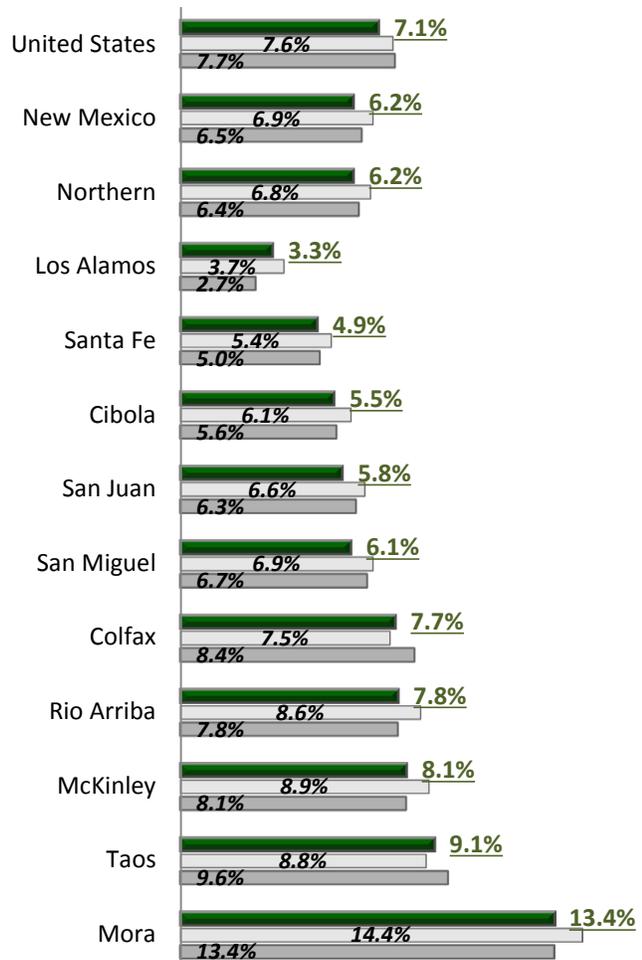


### Unemployment Rates

#### Northern Region

Mar/Apr 2013 & Over the Year

■ Apr-13  
□ Mar-13  
■ Apr-12



Colfax's unemployment rate was 7.7 percent in April 2013, up from 7.5 percent in March but down from 8.4 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$627.

**LOS ALAMOS COUNTY**

Los Alamos County employment was 5.9 percent less (approximately 970 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment losses mostly occurred in the professional and technical industry. Gains in education and local government did not offset those losses. Los Alamos's unemployment rate was 3.3 percent in April 2013, down from 3.7 percent in March but up from 2.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$1,519.

**MCKINLEY COUNTY**

McKinley County employment was 1.6 percent greater (approximately 340 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The greatest employment gains were experienced in accommodation and food services, transportation, and construction. Health care and the federal government saw the largest losses. McKinley's unemployment rate was 8.1 percent in April 2013, down from 8.9 percent in March and the same as the rate in April of 2012. The average weekly wage was \$631.

**MORA COUNTY**

Mora County employment in the fourth quarter of 2012 was about the same as the same quarter of the previous

year. Transportation and manufacturing job gains were offset by very small losses in other industries. Mora's unemployment rate was 13.4 percent in April 2013, down from 14.4 percent in March and the same as the rate a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$591.

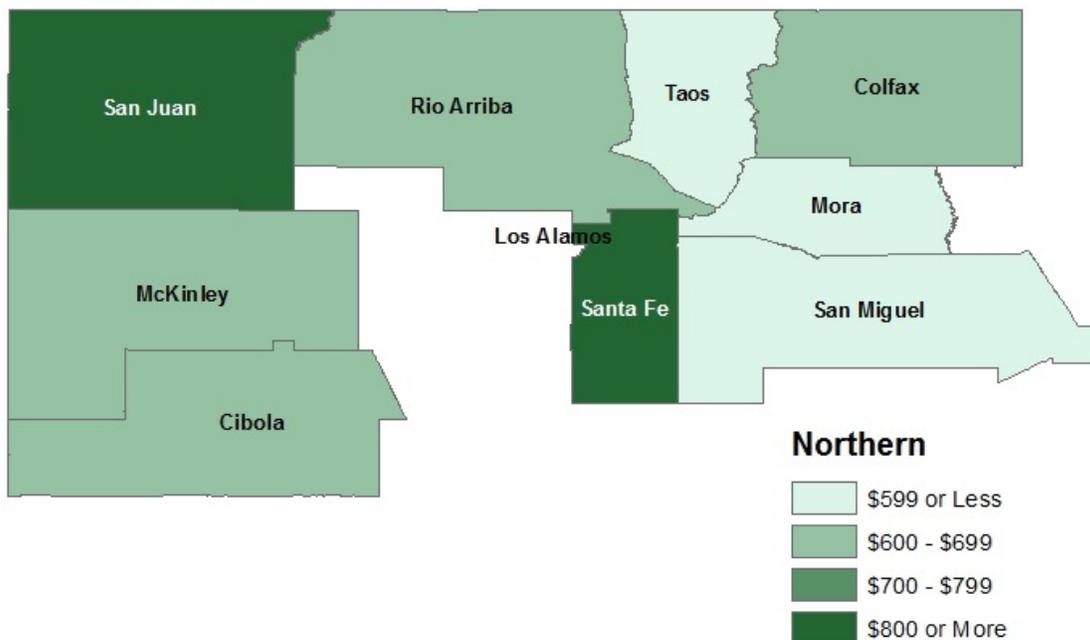
**RIO ARRIBA COUNTY**

Rio Arriba County employment was 2.2 percent greater (approximately 210 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains were largest in local and state government, with non-economic data changes driving losses in health care. Rio Arriba's unemployment rate was 7.8 percent in April 2013, down from 8.6 percent

**Average Weekly Wages**

Northern Region, 4th Quarter 2012

NM - \$804, Northern - \$845



in March and the same as the rate a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$628.

**SAN JUAN COUNTY**

San Juan County employment was 2.9 percent greater (approximately 1,430 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Local government, including casino employment, experienced the largest employment gains, along with construction. Losses were the largest in accommodation and food services. San Juan's unemployment rate was 5.8 percent in April 2013, down from 6.6 percent in March and from 6.3 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$856.

**SAN MIGUEL COUNTY**

San Miguel employment

was 0.7 percent greater (approximately 60 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The accommodation and food services and health care industries experienced the largest job gains, while local government (mostly education-related) saw the largest losses. San Miguel's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in April 2013, down from 6.9 percent in March and from 6.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$572.

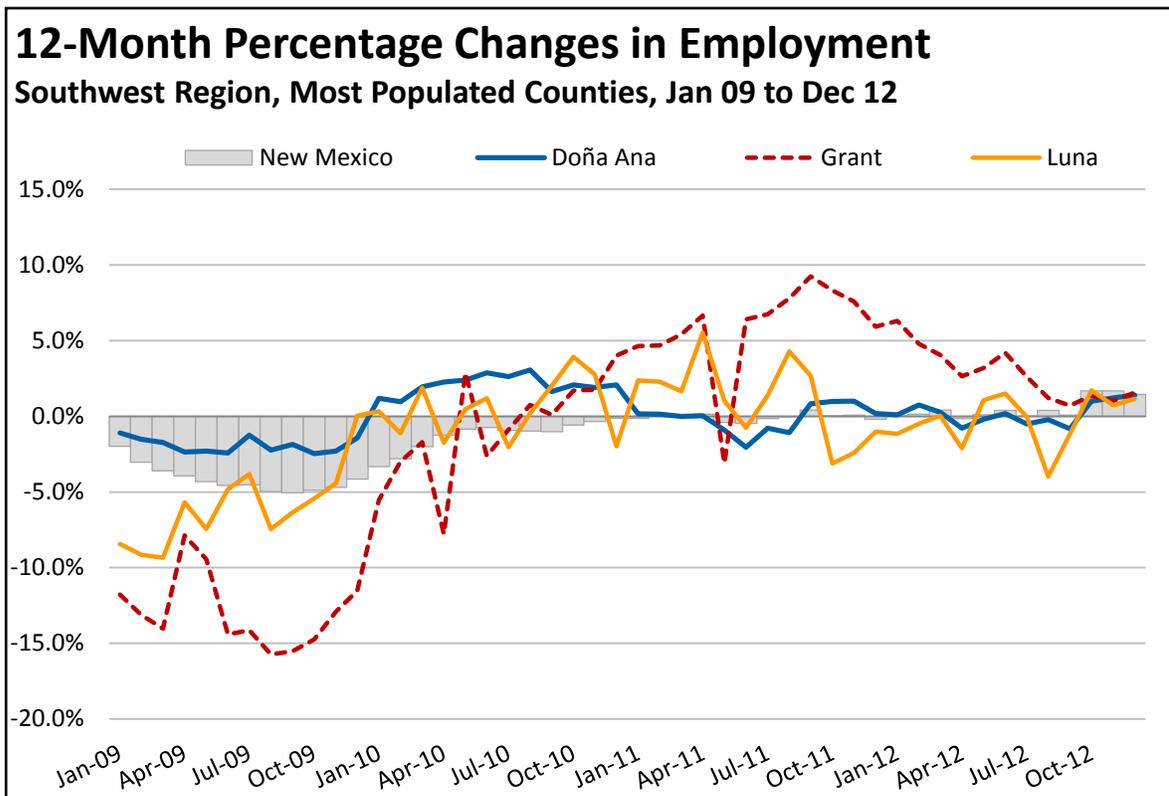
**SANTA FE COUNTY**

Santa Fe County employment was 0.7 percent greater (approximately 450 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 as the same quarter in 2011. The largest gains occurred in accommodation and food

services and retail trade. Losses were largest in information and health care. Santa Fe's unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in April 2013, down from 5.4 percent in March and close to the 5.0 percent of a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$898.

**TAOS COUNTY**

Taos County employment was 3.5 percent greater (approximately 360 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment gains occurred in construction and arts and entertainment (driven by winter recreation and tourism). Taos saw the largest job losses in mining over the year. Taos's unemployment rate was 9.1 percent in April 2013, up from 8.8 percent in March but down



from 9.6 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$579.

## Southwestern Region County News

The Southwestern Region experienced over-the-year employment gains of 1.3 percent, or 1,300 jobs, between the fourth quarters of 2011 and 2012. All seven counties gained employment over the year. Gains were greatest in Catron and Hidalgo counties. Catron has experienced the largest employment growth for at least three consecutive quarters, although the county's small population generates larger percentage changes. Over-the-year employment changes in Sierra, Catron, and Hidalgo counties have been on an upward trend since

before 2012. Socorro County has seen over-the-year employment growth slow in recent quarters. Over-the-year changes have been smaller in Luna and have stagnated in Doña Ana County, with slight upticks in the fourth quarter for both. Grant has suffered the most of all southwestern counties, with over-the-year employment growth slowing since the summer of 2011

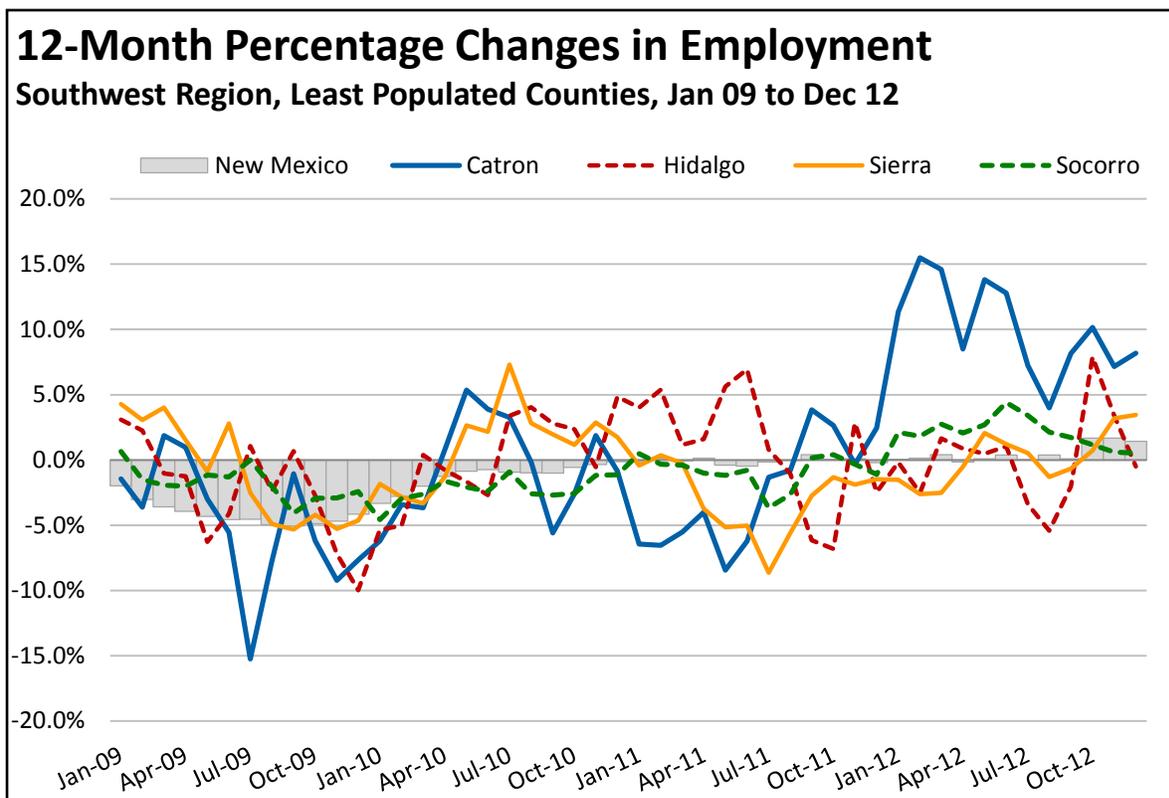
### CATRON COUNTY

Catron County employment was 8.6 percent greater (approximately 50 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment gains were greatest in federal and local government. Catron's unemployment rate was 5.9

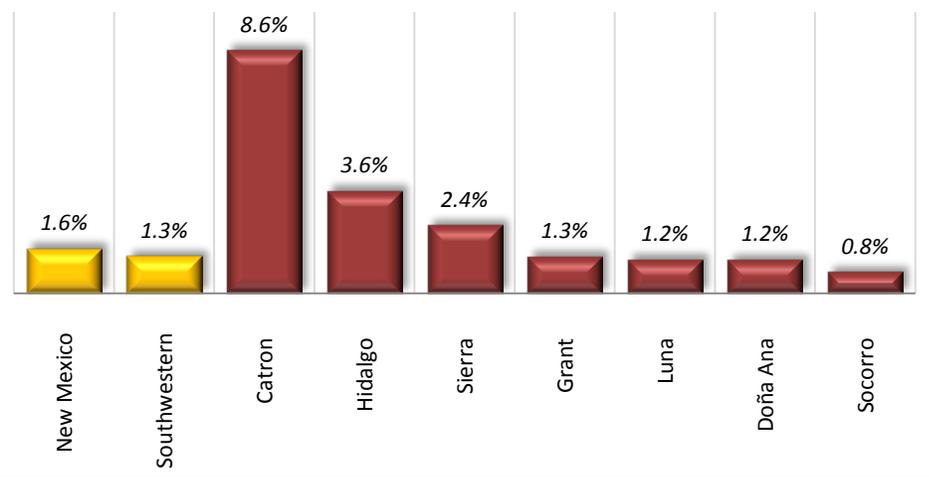
percent in April 2013, down from 7.1 percent in March and from 6.2 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$524.

### DOÑA ANA COUNTY

Doña Ana County employment was 1.2 percent greater (approximately 840 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains were largest in health care (some attributable to data changes) and agriculture. The county continued to see over-the-year losses in manufacturing. Doña Ana's unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in April 2013, down from 7.7 percent in March but up from 6.9 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$679.



### 12-Month Percentage Change in Employment Southwestern Region, Q4 2011 to Q4 2012



#### GRANT COUNTY

Grant County employment was 1.3 percent greater (approximately 130 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Mining added the most jobs over the year, with losses greatest in retail and construction. Grant's unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in April 2013, down from 7.0 percent in March and the same as that of a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$714.

#### HIDALGO COUNTY

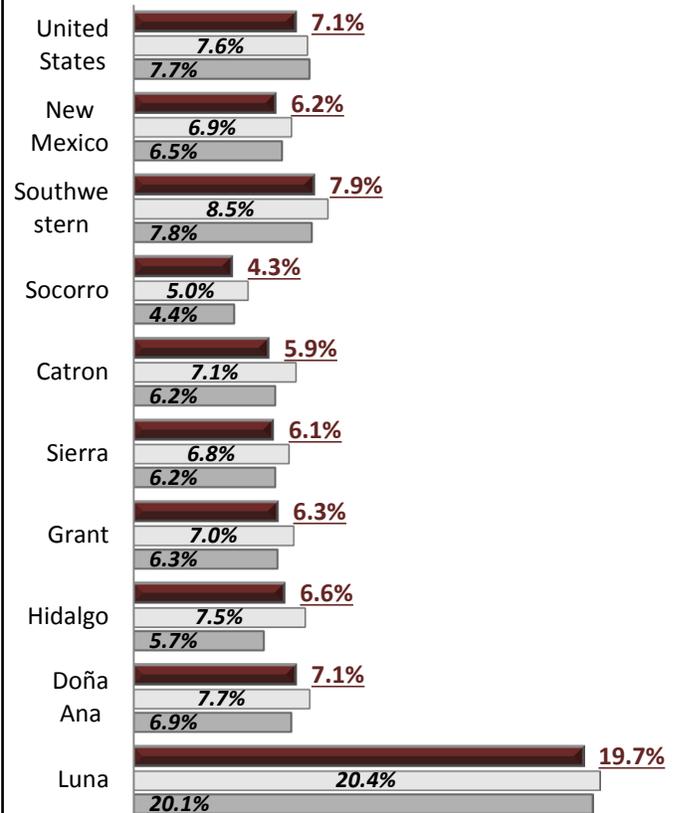
Hidalgo County employment was 3.6 percent greater (approximately 60 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. Losses in professional and technical services were offset by gains in agriculture. Hidalgo's unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in April 2013, down from 7.5 percent in March but up from 5.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$729

### Unemployment Rates

#### Southwestern Region

Mar/Apr 2013 & Over the Year

■ Apr-13  
□ Mar-13  
■ Apr-12



## LUNA COUNTY

Luna County employment was 1.2 percent greater (approximately 90 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same month the previous year. Gains were largest in health care and construction, while losses were largest in local government. Luna's unemployment rate was 19.7 percent in April 2013, down from 20.4 percent in March and from 20.1 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was \$636.

## SIERRA COUNTY

Sierra County employment was 2.4 percent greater (approximately 80 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the

same quarter the previous year. Both gains and losses were mostly due to non-economic data changes. Sierra's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in April 2013, down from 6.8 percent in March and close to 6.2 percent in April of the previous year. The average weekly wage was \$533.

## SOCORRO COUNTY

Socorro County employment was 0.8 percent greater (approximately 40 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2012 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment gains were seen in transportation, and

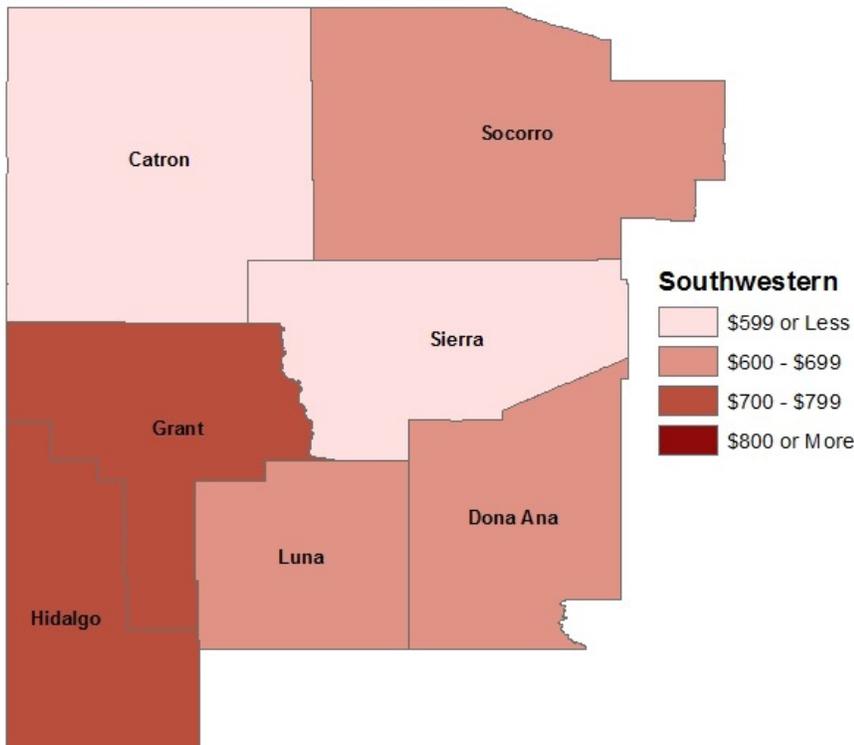
the largest losses occurred in state government, mostly related to education. Socorro's unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in April 2013, down from 5.0 percent in March and close to the 4.4 percent rate of the previous year. The average weekly wage was \$653.



## Average Weekly Wages

Southwestern Region, 4th Quarter 2012

NM - \$804, Southwestern - \$672



**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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