

Northern WIA REGIONAL REVIEW



NMDWS-ER&A
Vol. 01 No. 02
October 9, 2009

Northern WIA Highlights

Closures and openings in the Northern WIA

Espanola Area, Rio Arriba County:

A second major car dealership in Espanola has closed. **Salazar Dodge Chrysler Jeep** closed in August because the dealership lost access to bank financing. Dominic Salazar bought the dealership three years ago and grew the business to 40 employees with a \$1 million payroll. Sales increased from \$8 million per year to \$22 million. In May, Espanola's Ed Corley Ford Mercury closed "due to current economic conditions."

Santa Fe Area, Santa Fe County:

Sunflower Farmers Markets is continuing to expand its New Mexico operations with its first Santa Fe store opening in August. The new site of the organic and natural food supermarket is in the DeVargas Center at 199 Paseo de Peralta. Sunflower opened the first of its three stores in Albuquerque in 2002. More stores are planned for Albuquerque and Santa Fe in 2010.

Taos Area, Taos County:

Job applicants were recruited in July and August for the new **Family Dollar Store** at 2349 Highway 522 in Questa. The new store is in the process of being stocked and was expected to open around the end of August.

Raton Area, Colfax County:

Even though **La Mesa Racetrack and Casino** held a groundbreaking ceremony in June, the state racing commission has requested assurance that the operation is on track for a Memorial Day 2010 opening. La Mesa Park racetrack hosted races in Raton from 1946 until it closed in 1992. Horse Racing at Raton's president, Michael Moldenhauer, told the commission that, while not apparent from the lack of earthmoving equipment, progress is being made on the project and racing will resume in 2010. La Mesa Racetrack and Casino will be built on a 350 acre parcel of land located east of Interstate 25 and south of

Hereford Avenue. The land was sold to Horse Racing at Raton for \$1 as an economic catalyst for the project. According to earlier projections, the track will open for its first live race meet during Memorial Day weekend of 2010. A temporary casino building for slots and simulcast wagering is projected to open this December. The \$50 million project is projected to generate \$13.3 million in annual tax revenues to the state and provide approximately 300 permanent jobs, thus becoming the Raton area's largest employer.

Economic activity in the Northern WIA is gathered from published articles, government documents, private and public sector news releases, and reports from local NMDWS Workforce Centers.

If you would like to provide information about any business openings, closings, or economic activity in the Northern WIA, please contact NMDWS Economic Research & Analysis Bureau at: (505) 841-8645



New Data Released

THE QUARTERLY Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) unit of the Economic Research & Analysis Bureau has released first quarter data this month. This unit produces a quarterly count of employment and wages by industry at the state-wide, WIA region, MSA, and county levels.

The total number of employees located in the Northern WIA in first quarter was 195,951. The largest major industry sector was health care & social assistance followed by retail trade and public administration.

The first quarter QCEW data includes 2008 annual data. This employment data is available under the "Publications" tab at: www.dws.state.nm.us/dws-lmi.html

Data at the WIA level is also be available in New Mexico's online labor market information system, *LASER*, at:

<http://laser.state.nm.us>

QUICK FACTS

NATIONAL	NEW MEXICO	NORTHERN WIA
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ¹9.6%	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE7.6%	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE7.5%
INITIAL UI CLAIMS ²28.7%	INITIAL UI CLAIMS ³44.1%	INITIAL UI CLAIMS58.4%
CONTINUED UI CLAIMS81.3%	CONTINUED UI CLAIMS116.4%	CONTINUED UI CLAIMS108.5%

¹ Figures are not seasonally adjusted.

² Unemployment claims data is over-the-year percentage change.

³ State and WIA counts represent regular UI claims without earnings for the week that included the twelfth of the month.

National data source: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration

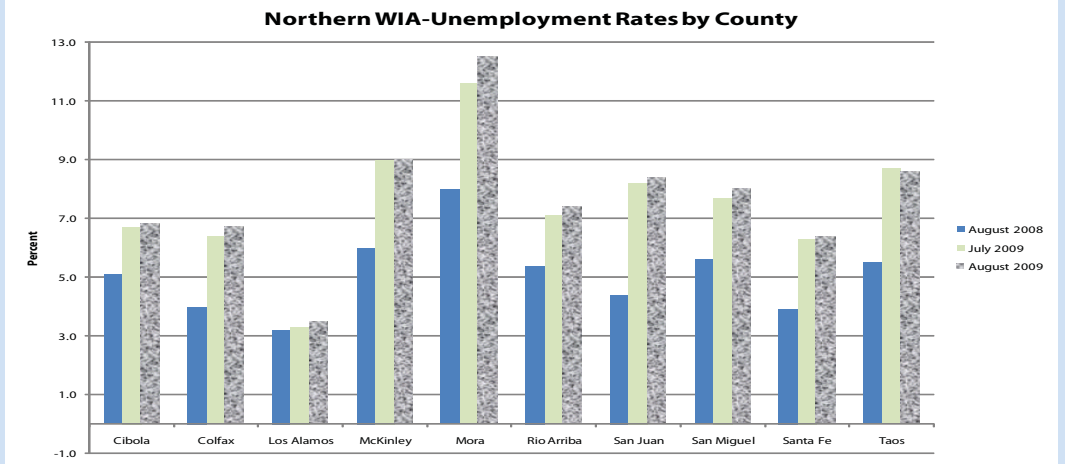
State and WIA data source: New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, Economic Research & Analysis Bureau, Program to Measure Insured Unemployed Statistics (PROMIS) database.

Unemployment

THE UNEMPLOYMENT rate, not seasonally adjusted, for the Northern WIA region was 7.5 percent, up from 7.3 percent in July. The highest unemployment rate in the Northern WIA region was Mora County (12.5 percent), and the lowest rate was in Los Alamos County (3.5 percent).

The total number of initial claims for the WIA region was 1,868, a 58 percent increase from the total number in August 2008. Continued claims have more than doubled since last year with 109 percent change over the year.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY



Note: Figures not seasonally adjusted.
Source: New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, Economic Research & Analysis Bureau, LAUS Unit in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NORTHERN WIA PROJECTED INDUSTRY PERCENT CHANGE 2008-2018



Source: New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, Economic Research & Analysis Bureau, 2008-2018 Projections.

2008-2018 Employment Projections "In Brief"

THE 2018 Northern WIA Employment Projections In Brief presents a summary of information about the region's job market and economy for ten years from 2008 to 2018. Additional information can be found in the 2018 In Brief, the Employment Projections 2018 for the other WIA regions and MSAs, and on our website at:

www.dws.state.nm.us/dws-lmi.html

The Northern WIA economy is expected to generate about 30,730 new jobs through the

year 2018. This represents growth of about 13.9 percent.

The healthcare & social assistance sector leads the growth by adding over 7,990 alone, followed by education and construction, projected to add over 5,000 jobs combined. Occupations with the highest annual openings make up a diverse group. Examples include: retail salespersons, personal care aides, registered nurses, general & operations managers, administrative support workers, and teachers.

WIA LABOR FORCE

Civilian

Labor Force

.....248,657

Employment

.....230,105

Unemployment

.....18,552

Unemployment Rate

.....7.5%

OCCUPATIONAL SHORTAGES & SURPLUSES

Shortages	Surpluses
Bus Drivers, School Correctional Officers & Jailers Education, Training & Library Wrks Gaming Service Wrks Industrial Machinery Mechanics Occupational Health & Safety Specialists	Administrative Services Managers Cashiers Construction Carpenters Construction Laborers Customer Service Representatives Exec Secretaries & Admin Assts Home Health Aides Maintenance & Repair Wrks Office Clerks Paralegals & Legal Assistants
Statewide Occupational Rollover Statistics	
Cashiers Customer Service Representatives Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants Retail Salespersons	Personal & Home Care Aides Receptionists & Information Clerks Retail Salespersons Security Guards Teacher Assistants Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Waiters & Waitresses

Notes: Based on posted job orders & resumes entered in the NM Workforce Connection System by occupation in the last 30 days (August 24, 2009). Occupational Rollover Statistics is an indicator of occupational activity with both numerous job orders and resumes in NM Workforce Connection.

Source: New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, Economic Research & Analysis Bureau.