Active Apprentices in New Mexico by Related Occupation
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This article presents information on active apprentices in New Mexico and continues the theme of apprenticeship that was presented in a previous article included in the April 2014 Labor Market Review (Volume 43, Number 4). This month’s article specifically focuses upon which occupations the majority of active apprentices fall within. Please note that when numbers of apprentices by occupations are given, this refers to apprentices who are in programs that lead toward employment in that occupation. When an occupation is referred to as stable, this means that the reference occupation is growing, but at a slower rate than the average growth rate for all occupation combined. The source data on number of apprentices for each program was provided by the Labor Relations Division of the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions. To find out how apprentice programs were mapped to standard occupational classifications, please refer back to the article in April’s Labor Market Review: http://www.dws.state.nm.us/Portals/0/DM/LMI/lmrApr14.pdf.

The current number of active apprentices in New Mexico is 1,234. Male apprentices make up almost 98 percent of the entire group (1,208 current apprentices). Exhibit 1 provides the percentage share of total active apprentices by occupation, while Exhibit 2 provides employment projections for the occupations related to some of the more popular apprenticeship programs.

Currently about 40 percent of total active apprentices are working towards becoming an electrician. Between 2010 and 2020, this occupation is projected to grow annually by an average of 0.7 percent and is considered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to be a stable occupation. The occupation with the next largest number of active apprentices by occupation, while Exhibit 2 provides employment projections for the occupations related to some of the more popular apprenticeship programs.

Interestingly, the occupation of ‘carpenters’ has the highest projected rate of employment growth (0.9 percent, annually) but has the lowest share (5.4 percent) of active apprentices of the six largest apprenticeship occupations. Other occupations in which a larger share of apprentices are working include drywall and ceiling tile installers (7.8 percent share, 0.7 percent annual projected growth), structural iron and steel workers (7.3 percent share, 0.7 percent annual projected growth), and sheet metal workers (7.0 percent share, 0.7 percent annual projected growth).

Gender of Apprentices

Exhibit 3 reveals how the active apprentices in New Mexico are currently spread across broad occupational classifications and gender. Over 90 percent of apprentices work within the broad category of building and construction, with the remaining apprentices falling within utility/industrial. Of these two categories, utility/industrial has a higher percentage of female apprentices. Of the 113 active apprentices in this category, six (or 5.3 percent) are female. On
the other hand, of the 1,121 apprentices working in building and construction occupations (i.e. the majority of apprentices), 20 (or 1.8 percent) are female.

The spread of male apprentices across occupations is so similar to the spread of total apprentices shown in Exhibit 1 that it would not be worth presenting. Exhibit 4, however, provides a breakdown of the spread of female apprentice's across occupations. Once again, electrician-related apprenticeship programs have the most apprentices, representing 38.5 percent of all female apprentices in New Mexico. The other two occupations with a large share of female apprentices are electrical and electronic equipment assemblers and structural iron and steel workers; 19.2 percent of all female apprentices are employed in each of the occupations. Caution should be exercised in placing too much significance on these shares of female apprentices, as the total population of female apprentices is so small. Nevertheless, it is interesting that some occupations, such as electrical and electronic equipment assemblers and painters, employ a larger share of female apprentices than male apprentices.

**Minority Apprentices**

Exhibit 5 provides a comparison of total apprentices to the number of minority apprentices by occupation. The distribution of minority apprentices across occupations is very similar to that of all apprentices. It is remarkable, however, to see the very high proportion of minority apprentices within each occupation. For example, of all occupations, only machinists and elevator installers and repairers are made up of less than 50 percent minorities. For 15 of the 22 occupations that have apprenticeship programs, at least 70 percent of the apprentices are considered minorities.

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**4: Percentage of Total Female Apprentices by Occupation**

- Electricians
- Structural Iron and Steel Workers
- Multi-Trade**
- Painters
- Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters*
- Sheet Metal Workers

**5: Number of Minority Apprentices by Related Occupation**

- Electricians
- Plumbers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters*
- Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers
- Structural Iron and Steel Workers
- Sheet Metal Workers
- Carpenters
- Multi-Trade**
- Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers
- Glaziers
- Roofers
- Construction Laborers
- Insulation Workers
- Elevator Installers and Repairers
- Operating Engineers
- Bricklayers, Stonemasons, Helpers
- Painter
- Plasterers and Stucco Masons, Helpers
- Heating, Air Con., Refrigerator Mechanics
- Floorlayers
- Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers
- Machinist

* This category includes sprinkler fitters.
** This category is made up of bulk power service workers and electrical services business unit workers.
*** This category includes electronics fabrication/technology, materials specialty, and mechanical measurements technology.