WHAT IS LABOR MARKET INFORMATION AND WHO PRODUCES IT?

The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions’ (NMDWS) Economic Research and Analysis Bureau (ER&A) collects and analyzes a variety of information about the labor force and workforce throughout New Mexico. ER&A produces this labor market information (LMI) for use by the general public, policy makers, students, job seekers, employers, educators, and other groups in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Data include employment and unemployment estimates, labor force participation, industry and occupation employment and wages, education and licensing statistics, and projected employment growth. Data are produced at the most detailed level possible and are typically presented for one or more of the following geographic levels: statewide New Mexico, metropolitan statistical area (Albuquerque, Farmington, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe), Workforce Investment Act (WIA) region (Central, Northern, Eastern, and Southwestern), and county.

HOW DO I ACCESS LABOR MARKET INFORMATION?

Users have multiple ways to access the labor market information produced, disseminated, and analyzed by ER&A. Economic research, career-related, and data release publications can be found through the DWS labor market information homepage — http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI. This information can also be found alongside the full array of data available at DWS’s interactive data website LASER — https://www.jobs.state.nm.us/analyzer. ER&A publications can be a quick way to access data in ready-made formats and corresponding analysis, while LASER allows for customization of geography and types of data pulled.
WHAT ARE THE DATA PROGRAMS?

QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

Quick Definition

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program publishes a quarterly census of establishments, employment, and wages by industry, as reported by New Mexico employers, covering 97 percent of non-farm wage and salary workers. Data are published every quarter for statewide New Mexico, WIA regions, MSAs, and counties at the 2- and 3-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) level.

Detailed Definition

The QCEW federal/state cooperative statistical program produces employment and wage data for employers and employees covered under the New Mexico Unemployment Insurance (UI) program and the Unemployment Compensation program for Federal Employees (UCFE). Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who worked or received pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th day of the month. Employment data are based on place of work as opposed to place of residence. Approximately 97 percent of non-agricultural workers are covered under UI in New Mexico. Non-agricultural workers are covered when the employer has a total payroll for any calendar quarter of $450 or more, or if there are one or more persons (part-time workers included) in employment in any part of the week in each of 20 weeks within a calendar year. Agricultural workers are covered when the employer has a total payroll for any calendar quarter of $20,000 or more, or if there are ten or more persons (part-time workers included) in employment at any time in each of 20 weeks within a calendar year. Domestic workers are covered when the employer has a total payroll for any calendar quarter of $1,000 or more.

Employment and wage data are collected quarterly from employers by these unemployment programs and then extracted for use by the QCEW program. The QCEW program uses these data, as well as location information collected from the Multiple Worksite Report and the Annual Refiling Survey, to create a full picture of New Mexico's economy. The QCEW program edits these data according to BLS standards and then publishes using BLS confidentiality requirements.

The timeframe of QCEW data availability is impacted by the switch from the Standard Industry Classification (SIC) to NAICS that was implemented in the QCEW program in 2005. Data are available for all geographies and industries as far back as 2005 on the NMDWS LASER website. BLS has reconstructed SIC-based data to be NAICS-based for all geographies and industries for 1990 through 2005, and for total employment (only) by ownership type for states and counties going back to 1975. Reconstructed data are available on the BLS website. While LAER only has data back to 2005, an aggregate count of all ownerships is available; BLS only provides counts at individual ownership categories.

QCEW data are the basis for most of the country's primary economic measures such as Gross National Product and personal income statistics, as well as the basis for all other BLS programs that ER&A operates. BLS Business Employment Dynamics (job gains and job losses) and Census Longitudinal Household-Employer Dynamics (LEHD, turnover rates, new hire earnings, etc.) both use QCEW as the basis for creating their data. LAUS and CES data are benchmarked each year to the employment totals generated by QCEW. The OES program uses QCEW to create their surveys and establish correct employment for collecting survey data.

QCEW data are published six months after the end of each quarter. Data include number of establishments (note there is a difference between establishments and firms), employment, and wages by industry and by geographic area. QCEW data are available for statewide New Mexico, WIA regions, MSAs, and counties. QCEW also produces size class (establishment size) data for New Mexico using first quarter published data every year.

Major exclusions from UI coverage, and, therefore, from QCEW employment counts include self-employed workers, most agricultural workers on small farms, all members of the Armed Forces, elected officials in most counties and cities, most employees of railroads, some domestic workers, most student workers at schools, and employees of certain small nonprofit organizations.

For more information visit http://www.bls.gov/cew/#faq.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Quick Definition

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program publishes monthly employment, hours, and earnings estimates reported by New Mexico employers via a business establishment survey. Data are published for statewide New Mexico and its MSAs by NAICS industry supersector. CES estimates are among the earliest economic data indicating current economic conditions and, due to this timeliness, are highly demanded and heavily used in the private and public sectors.
**Detailed Definition**

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program produces nonfarm employment series for all employees (AE), production and nonsupervisory employees (PE), and women employees (WE). For AE and PE, CES also produces average hourly earnings (AHE), average weekly hours (AWH), and, in manufacturing industries only, average weekly overtime hours (AWOH). Most employment series begin in 1990, although employment by aggregate industry sector and most major industry sectors is published as far back as 1939.

Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who worked or received pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th day of the month. Employment data are based on place of work as opposed to place of residence. The data exclude proprietors, the unincorporated self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family employees, farm employees, and domestic employees. Salaried officers of corporations are included. Government employment covers only civilian employees; military personnel are excluded. Employees of the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, and the Defense Intelligence Agency also are excluded.

Persons are counted at their place of work rather than their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Persons on establishment payrolls who are on paid sick leave (for cases in which pay is received directly from the firm), on paid holiday, or on paid vacation, or who work during a part of the pay period, even though they are unemployed or on strike during the rest of the period, are counted as employed. Not counted as employed are persons who are on layoff, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire period, or who were hired but have not yet reported during the period.

Most employment data are estimated using a technique in which a ratio (link relative) of current-month employment to that of the previous month is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are obtained by multiplying the estimates for the previous month by these ratios. For some employment series, the sample of establishments is very small or highly variable. In these cases, a model-based approach is used in estimation. These models use the direct sample estimates (described above), along with forecasts of historical (benchmark) data to decrease volatility in estimation. Two different models (Fay–Herriot Model and Small Domain Model) are used depending on the industry level being estimated.

CES data are produced monthly for statewide New Mexico and its MSAs by NAICS industry supersector. Data are usually released the first Friday of the following month and are highlighted in NMDWS's news release and Labor Market Review publication.

Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from QCEW data. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

Seasonally adjusted payroll employment totals for states are computed by aggregating independently adjusted series for supersectors. Revisions of historical data for the most recent five years are made once a year, coincident with annual benchmark adjustments.

For more information visit [http://www.bls.gov/ces/#faq](http://www.bls.gov/ces/#faq).

**LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS**

**Quick Definition**

The **Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)** program publishes estimates of the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate every month using concepts and definitions that are consistent with those of the Current Population Survey (CPS), also known as the household survey. Data are produced for statewide New Mexico, WIA regions, MSAs, counties, and cities with populations of 25,000 and over. LAUS data are closely followed because they are among the earliest economic data indicating current economic conditions and, due to this timeliness, are highly demanded and heavily used in the private and public sectors.

**Detailed Definition**

The LAUS program produces estimates of the monthly labor force, total employment, unemployment, and unemployment rate for statewide New Mexico and its MSAs, WIA regions, counties, and cities with populations of 25,000 or more. LAUS data are calculated using concepts and definitions that are consistent with CPS, or the household survey, and measure labor force, employment, and unemployment based on place of residence. Data are produced on a monthly basis for approximately 7,300 subnational areas. Data for about one percent of the LAUS areas are model-based. These model-based areas include all census regions and divisions, the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the Los Angeles–Long Beach–Glendale, CA...
Metropolitan Division and New York City, NY, and a handful of other large metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions and associated balance-of-state areas. LAUS defines the following:

- **Civilian labor force**: Included are all persons in the civilian noninstitutional population classified as either employed or unemployed. Noninstitutional population consists of persons 16 years of age and older residing in New Mexico who are not inmates of institutions (for example, penal and mental facilities and homes for the aged) and who are not on active duty in the Armed Forces.

- **Employed persons**: These are all persons who, during the reference week (normally the week including the 12th day of the month), (a) did any work as paid employees, worked in their own business or profession or on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of their family, or (b) were not working but who had jobs from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, bad weather, childcare problems, maternity or paternity leave, labor-management dispute job training, or other family or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs. Each employed person is counted only once, even if he or she holds more than one job.

- **Unemployed persons**: Included are all persons who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the four-week period ending with the reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

- **Unemployment rate**: The ratio of unemployed to the civilian labor force expressed as a percent \[i.e., 100 \times \left(\frac{\text{unemployed}}{\text{labor force}}\right)\].

Estimates of civilian noninstitutional population ages 16 and older are used to adjust labor force level (that is, number-of-person) measures to be consistent with the Census Bureau's most up-to-date information on the distribution of population across states. Labor force level measures for all LAUS areas are controlled to the Census Bureau's statewide estimates of civilian noninstitutional population ages 16 and older through a process of additivity. These Census population data also allow BLS to calculate labor force participation rates and employment-population ratios for the LAUS model-based areas.

LAUS data are produced monthly, usually beginning on the first Friday of the following month, and are highlighted in DWS's news release and Labor Market Review publication. Statewide LAUS data are available back to 1976, and substate data to 1990, on a monthly and annual basis. Each month and once during the beginning of the calendar year, LAUS measures are benchmarked as updated inputs to the models become available.

The unit also tracks local unemployment trends within New Mexico for DOL's Labor Surplus Program, which gives priority to high unemployment area businesses when bidding for federal government procurement contracts. Estimates of employment and unemployment are used for the allocation of federal funds and to determine the eligibility of an area for benefits in various programs, including the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) limitation waivers, the Public Works Program, the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Labor Surplus Area designation program. The Governor's Office and legislators incorporate LAUS data in activities such as state budgeting, employment and training evaluation, and welfare reform analysis. The general public uses LAUS data in a variety of ways to assess national, regional, and local economic conditions. Private-sector uses include labor market/economic analysis, academic studies, bond/mortgage underwriting, and site selection/residence location decisions.


**Quick Definition**

The **Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)** program produces employment estimates and wages at the 2- and 6-digit Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system levels. Data are produced annually for statewide New Mexico, the MSAs, and WIA regions and include estimates for workers covered by the UI program.

**Detailed Definition**

The OES program produces occupational employment and wage estimates for around 800 occupations based on data collected from the OES Wage Survey. The OES survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in New Mexico. Each year, forms are mailed to two semiannual panels of approximately 1,700 sampled establishments, one panel in May and the other in November. The OES survey is designed to produce estimates by combining six panels of data collected over a 3-year period. Because of the program's methodology, OES data are point-in-time estimates and should not be used as a time series.

The OES survey draws its sample from state unemployment insurance (UI) files. Supplemental sources are used for rail...
transportation (NAICS 4821) because they do not report to the UI program. The OES survey sample is stratified by metropolitan and nonmetropolitan area, industry, and size. An annual census is taken of the executive branch of the federal government, the U.S. Postal Service, and state government.

The OES survey covers all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonfarm industries. This includes workers on paid vacations or other types of paid leave; workers on unpaid short-term absences; salaried officers, executives, and staff members of incorporated firms; employees temporarily assigned to other units; and employees for whom the reporting unit is their permanent duty station, regardless of whether that unit prepares their paycheck. The survey does not include the self-employed, owners and partners in unincorporated firms, household workers, or unpaid family workers.

Wages for the OES survey are straight-time, gross pay, exclusive of premium pay. Base rate; cost-of-living allowances; guaranteed pay; hazardous-duty pay; incentive pay, including commissions and production bonuses; and tips are included. Excluded are overtime pay, severance pay, shift differentials, nonproduction bonuses, employer cost for supplementary benefits, and tuition reimbursements.

The OES program publishes employment estimates and corresponding wage data once a year, typically in May, for statewide New Mexico, the MSAs, and WIA regions. Data are based on place of work as opposed to place of residence. Wage measurements include entry, experienced, mean, 10th, 25th, 50th (median), 75th, and 90th percentile wages.

For more information visit http://www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm#overview.

**EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS**

**Quick Definition**

The **Employment Projections** program produces employment projections every other year for both industries and occupations. Industry employment projections are available at the 2- and 3-digit NAICS levels, while occupational employment projections are available at the 2- and 6-digit SOC levels. All projections data are produced for statewide New Mexico, the MSAs, and WIA regions and cover a ten-year period.

**Detailed Definition**

The Employment Projections program produces both industry and occupation employment projections covering a ten-year period at the state, MSA, and WIA region level. Projections are based on methodologies developed by US DOL for forecasting state and area occupational needs using both national information and procedures specifically adapted to each state’s industrial and occupational patterns. ER&A utilizes the Projections Suite software system, which is a national standard product of the Projections Workgroup, under the direction of the Projections Managing Partnership (PMP).

Industry employment measured in the projection process is primarily derived from employment reported at the establishment level through the QCEW program, at the 2-digit NAICS level. QCEW data are supplemented with employment data from the CES program, the U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), and the Census of Agriculture. Industry employment projections are developed through time-share, shift-share, extrapolation, and regression model analysis using state-specific inputs. Employment projection inputs measure wage and salary workers, as well as self-employed and unpaid family workers, farmers and farm workers, private household workers, and other residual employment.

Occupation employment projections are derived by applying staffing patterns (the distribution of occupations by industry) developed through the OES survey. In cases where OES survey responses are low or missing in a particular industry, imputed data are substituted. Staffing patterns for industries not covered by the OES survey are derived from other sources, such as the U.S. Census Bureau. Occupational estimates for self-employed and unpaid family workers are not industry-specific, and are reported as one sector, as opposed to being distributed across industries. Occupation employment projections include information on projected job openings due to growth and job replacements and also include information on the typical education, training, and experience needed for entry and proficiency in the occupation. ER&A typically presents occupation employment projections data alongside wages to provide a more comprehensive outlook on anticipated job opportunities in the state over the next decade.

The projections process necessarily has some limitations that should be acknowledged. Long-term projections report what is likely to happen if historical and state-level employment patterns continue on their historical growth trends; this includes trends in population, labor force, productivity, and economic growth. Projections do not take into consideration major shocks to the economy, and assume that employment will ultimately return to levels that fit long-term growth trends.

Other limitations and assumptions can be found in the New Mexico Employment Projections report at http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LaborMarketInformation/Publications/EconomicResearchPublications.
BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT DYNAMICS

Quick Definition
The Business Employment Dynamics (BED) program measures gross and net job gains and losses on a quarterly basis for statewide New Mexico. Data are published for NAICS industry supersectors. BED is administered by BLS, but data are reported by ER&A via the NMDWS LMI website and publications through a federal/state cooperative agreement.

Detailed Definition
The BED program measures the net change in employment at the establishment level on a quarterly basis for all states in the U.S. Both seasonally and non-seasonally adjusted data are available. The program utilizes QCEW records (see QCEW definition for more information) and links establishment records across quarters to provide a history through time for each business. The linkage process matches establishments’ unique State Employment Security Agency identification numbers (SESA-ID). Between 95 to 97 percent of establishments identified as continuous from quarter to quarter are matched by SESA-ID. The rest are linked in one of two ways. The first method uses predecessor and successor information, identified by the states, which relates records with different SESA-IDs across quarters. Predecessor and successor relations can come about for a variety of reasons, including a change in ownership, a firm restructuring, or a UI account restructuring. If a match cannot be attained in this manner, a probability-based match is used. This match attempts to identify two establishments with different SESA-IDs as continuous. The match is based upon comparisons such as the same name, address, and phone number. Finally, an analyst examines unmatched records individually and forces a match, if possible.

Employment changes reported by the BED program come about in one of four ways. A net increase in employment can come from either opening establishments or expanding establishments. A net decrease in employment can come from either closing establishments or contracting establishments. Gross job gains include the sum of all jobs added at either opening or expanding establishments. Gross job losses include the sum of all jobs lost in either closing or contracting establishments. The difference between the number of gross jobs gained and the number of gross jobs lost is the net change in employment.

All establishment-level employment changes are measured from the third month of each quarter. Not all establishments change their employment levels; these establishments are included in total employment, but do not affect counts of gross job gains and gross job losses. Job flows are expressed as rates by dividing their levels by the average of employment in the current and previous quarters. This provides a symmetric growth rate. Job flows are calculated for the components of gross job gains and gross job losses and summed to form their respective totals. Job flow rates can be added and subtracted just as their levels can. For instance the difference between the gross job gains rate and the gross job loss rate is the net growth rate.

For more information visit http://www.bls.gov/bdm/.

LONGITUDINAL EMPLOYER-HOUSEHOLD DYNAMICS

Quick Definition
The Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program uses UI earnings data and QCEW data, along with data from other programs, to create statistics on employment, earnings, and job flows at detailed levels of geography and industry and by different demographic groups. In addition, the LEHD program creates partially synthetic data on workers’ residential patterns. The program produces two data products—Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) and LEHD Origin Destination Employment Statistics (LODES)—and administers four applications for accessing data—QWI Explorer, the LED Extraction Tool, OntheMap, and OntheMap for Emergency Management. The LEHD program is a key LMI data program that is administered by BLS and is frequently used by ER&A staff in data collection and, particularly, analysis.

Detailed Definition
The LEHD program, which is part of the Center for Economic Studies at the U.S. Census Bureau, produces public-use information combining federal, state, and Census Bureau data on employers and employees under the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership. Data products made available include QWI and LODES. The LEHD program administers four web-based applications for accessing these data.

QWI Explorer is a web-based analysis tool that provides access to QWI data. QWI include 32 economic indicators such as employment, job creation, earnings, and other measures of employment flows. QWI report data on workers, as opposed to population, using detailed firm characteristics (geography, industry, age, size) and worker demographics information (sex, age, education, race, ethnicity). QWI data are available for states, MSAs, WIA regions, counties, micropolitan areas, and non-metropolitan/micropolitan areas (combined). Data are available across quarters, with some data being available back to 1995.
QWI Explorer provides data via charts and interactive tables, with the ability for users to compare, rank, and aggregate QWI data across time, geography, and/or firm and worker characteristics.

The **LED Extraction Tool** is an online application that enables access to QWI data in comma-separated value (CSV) files for the exact variables and characteristics requested by users. While the QWI Explorer produces data in specific formats, the LED Extraction Tool essentially provides the user with raw data specific to their needs. Because QWI Explorer and the LED Extraction Tool both provide QWI data, parameters of the data available are generally the same.

**OntheMap** is a web-based mapping and reporting application that enables access to LODES data. LODES is a partially synthetic dataset that describes geographic patterns of workers by employment location and residential location, as well as the connections between the two locations. OntheMap takes this data and produces reports, maps, and profiles that show where workers are employed and where they live. It also provides companion reports on age, earnings, industry distributions, race, ethnicity, educational attainment, and sex. LODES data, made available via OntheMap, are available for a wide variety of geographies, including tribal and pueblo lands, congressional districts, zip codes, and Census blocks/tracts. Data are available as far back as 2002. The application allows for the creation of maps and profiles and access to their underlying data. OntheMap is often used when analyzing commuting of workers.

**OntheMap for Emergency Management** is a web-based tool that provides information on the potential effects of disasters on the U.S. workforce and population. The tool allows users to create detailed reports on workforce, population, and housing characteristics for hurricanes, floods, wildfires, winter storms, and federal disaster declaration areas. The tool automatically incorporates real-time data updates from the National Weather Services’ (NWS) National Hurricane Center, Department of Interior (DOI), Department of Agriculture (DOA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

For more information visit [http://lehd.ces.census.gov/](http://lehd.ces.census.gov/).
The following chart lists various characteristics of QCEW, CES, and LAUS employment data and identifies the programs’ similarities and differences. These three programs provide employment and unemployment data that are most commonly used in analyzing the labor market. If you're looking for employment data, these are the three sources you should start with.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)</th>
<th>Current Employment Statistics (CES)</th>
<th>Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Industry</strong></td>
<td>Data are published by INDUSTRY (sector and subsector)</td>
<td>Data are published by INDUSTRY (some sectors and some aggregates of sectors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geography</strong></td>
<td>Data are published by STATE, MSA, REGION, and COUNTY</td>
<td>Data are published by STATE and MSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Period of Data Availability</strong></td>
<td>Beginning in 1975 for total employment by state and county, and 1990 for all geographies and industries</td>
<td>Beginning in 1939 for aggregate industry and most major sector data, and 1990 for most data series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jobs v. People</strong></td>
<td>Counts JOBS (persons could be counted more than once if holding multiple jobs)</td>
<td>Counts JOBS (persons could be counted more than once if holding multiple jobs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collection Process</strong></td>
<td>Is a CENSUS (count) of jobs and is not based on a survey (Data are based on workplace location)</td>
<td>Utilizes an ESTABLISHMENT SURVEY (Data are based on workplace location)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frequency of Publication</strong></td>
<td>Data are published QUARTERLY, six months after the end of each quarter</td>
<td>Data are published MONTHLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data Reference Week</strong></td>
<td>Reference week is the PAY PERIOD that includes the 12th of the month</td>
<td>Reference week is the PAY PERIOD that includes the 12th of the month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seasonal Adjustments</strong></td>
<td>Because data represents a census, data are NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED</td>
<td>SEASONALLY ADJUSTED data are available for total nonfarm emp. (all areas) and for supersectors (state only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Workers on Unpaid Leave</strong></td>
<td>A job held by a person on unpaid leave during the reference week IS NOT COUNTED</td>
<td>A job held by a person on unpaid leave during the reference week IS NOT COUNTED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Self-Employed Workers</strong></td>
<td>DOES NOT COUNT self-employed workers</td>
<td>DOES NOT COUNT self-employed workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agricultural Workers</strong></td>
<td>INCLUDES SOME agricultural workers, but excludes most on small farms</td>
<td>DOES NOT INCLUDE agricultural workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unpaid Family Workers</strong></td>
<td>DOES NOT COUNT unpaid family workers</td>
<td>DOES NOT COUNT unpaid family workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Workers on Strike</strong></td>
<td>Workers on strike during the reference period ARE NOT COUNTED</td>
<td>Workers on strike during the entire reference period ARE NOT COUNTED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members of the Armed Forces</strong></td>
<td>DOES NOT COUNT members of the armed forces</td>
<td>DOES NOT COUNT members of the armed forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Domestic Workers</strong></td>
<td>COUNTS SOME domestic workers but only those earning above a certain amount</td>
<td>DOES NOT COUNT domestic workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)</td>
<td>Current Employment Statistics (CES)</td>
<td>Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>When the data you need:</strong></td>
<td><strong>When the data you need:</strong></td>
<td><strong>When the data you need:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Is the most accurate but not necessarily the most recent</td>
<td>• Is the most current available</td>
<td>• Is the most current available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Is at the county or region level</td>
<td>• Is at the state or MSA level</td>
<td>• Is at the county, MSA, or city level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Is at the industry subsector level</td>
<td>• Is at the industry supersector level</td>
<td>• Includes data on unemployment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Needs to include workers, but not necessarily all agricultural workers or those not covered by UI</td>
<td>• Doesn’t have to include agricultural workers</td>
<td>• Should include the most comprehensive set of workers (beyond those covered by UI and including agricultural workers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Doesn’t need to be adjusted for seasonal impacts</td>
<td>• Will be used for a time series analysis</td>
<td>• Requires seasonal adjustments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Requires seasonal adjustments</td>
<td>• Doesn’t need to include estimates by industry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Employment Projections and BED programs are not included because their main purposes go beyond strict employment measures. Employment projections do use and report base employment estimates, primarily derived from QCEW, to estimate employment growth (see the Employment Projections section of this guide). Their main measurement, however, is growth, as opposed to employment estimates or counts, specifically. BED, too, is excluded. BED data, like employment projections, are derived from QCEW, but the main purpose of that program is to track employment changes at establishments over time.

In the case where you need occupational employment data, the OES program is your best source. The data are available at the state and MSA level and are provided for detailed occupations.

### WHAT ARE THE BEST SOURCES FOR LOCAL EMPLOYMENT DATA?

#### COUNTY AND CITY

Sometimes you want to gather labor market data for smaller geographic areas, beyond the state and MSA level. There are generally two challenges you will face when seeking labor market information for smaller geographies: (1) the data are not available for the geography you’re analyzing or (2) the data are available, but you find out they have been necessarily suppressed (not able to be reported).

For the county, the best sources for employment data are the QCEW and LAUS programs. If you need data by industry, and/or having counts of employment, as opposed to estimates, is key, look to QCEW. If you need more recent or more comprehensive measures of employment (more than those covered by UI and/or including agricultural workers), use LAUS. You should also consider using LAUS if you will also be looking at unemployment for your area(s). Remember that LAUS is limited to total employment measures and isn't available at the industry level.

Don’t forget the LEHD and BED programs. These sources are best used for employment estimates when your analysis will include other LMI factors, such as job flows, establishment changes, and commuting patterns.

For cities with populations of at least 25,000, LAUS is the first source you should consider. Keep in mind, however, that industry-level data are not available, only total employment and unemployment estimates. If you absolutely need data for industries, you will want to look at the other sources, such as LEHD or Census.

For occupational employment and wage data at the state, region, or MSA level, the OES program is your best source. While the OES program does not measure employment and wages at the county or city level, regional data are often very useful. If you absolutely need more detailed data, you can look at the Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau is an excellent resource when seeking labor market (and a lot of other data) for small geographic areas. The Census has data on employment and unemployment, although it is not typically used when data from QCEW, CES, LAUS, or OES are available. At smaller geographies, however, this is your best bet. If you use Census data, make sure you utilize their American Fact Finder tool at [http://factfinder.census.gov/](http://factfinder.census.gov/).
WHAT ARE OTHER RESOURCES FOR LMI?

Most of the data in this guide are available at NMDWS’s interactive data website LASER (https://www.jobs.state.nm.us/analyzer). The only data not available on the LASER site are from the BED and LEHD programs. Some Census data are available, although the Census website is the best source for any Census-based data. Here are other key websites to use when pulling labor market data.


U.S. Department of Labor (www.dol.gov)

O*Net online (www.onetonline.org) and O*Net resource center (www.onetcenter.org)

U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov) and American Fact Finder website (http://factfinder.census.gov)

Request to be Added to the Labor Market Publication Email Distribution List

www.dws.state.nm.us/LaborMarketInformation/Resources/LMIDistributionList

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.

To view additional Labor Market Information Publications visit www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI