Special Article

New Mexico Data Focus: Transportation & Material Moving Occupations
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Transportation and material moving occupations had employment of 43,110 in May 2018, representing 5.3 percent of total statewide employment. The annual mean wage across all transportation and material moving occupations was $36,050, compared with New Mexico’s average wage of $45,400 for all occupations. As a group, transportation and material moving occupations is expected to grow from 46,799 employees in 2016 to 48,880, adding 2,081 jobs (a 4.45 percent increase), by 2026 across New Mexico. This growth rate is lower than the overall expected employment growth of 6.68 percent for all industries in New Mexico.

- As seen in Exhibit 1, the largest transportation and material moving occupations were heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (10,970 or 25.4 percent share of the group); laborers and hand freight, stock, and material movers (9,210 or 21.4 percent); and light truck or delivery services drivers (4,660 or 10.8 percent).

- Several of the highest paying transportation and material moving occupations were related to air or railroad transportation (Exhibit 2). The highest paying transportation and material moving occupations were airline pilots, copilots, and flight engineers ($163,030); air traffic controllers ($114,890); commercial pilots ($99,400); and locomotive engineers ($75,490).

- Transportation and material moving occupations expected to add the most jobs between 2016 and 2026 are heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (564 jobs); laborers and hand freight, stock, and material movers (387 jobs); and cleaners of vehicles (232 jobs).

Data sources: NMDWS Economic Research and Analysis Bureau, Occupational Employment Statistics Program (www.jobs.state.nm.us/oeswage) and Employment Projections Program (www.jobs.state.nm.us/occprj)