A Look at Economic Recovery in New Mexico’s Labor Market
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.

The Fall 2012 Regional Review will focus on industrial diversity in New Mexico’s regions and counties, with a focus on employment and wage concentration. The publication will include general employment information for the first quarter of 2012 and recent business news for New Mexico’s counties.
Overview

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), the most recent national recession began in December of 2007 and ended in June of 2009. New Mexico’s labor market, like that of many other states, continued to be hard hit into 2010, with unemployment peaking after the official end of the recession. While it is difficult to project when New Mexico and its counties might see employment levels similar to those prior to the recession, recent data shows that many of New Mexico’s regions and counties are experiencing either slowed job losses and unemployment declines, or even employment gains.

In order to measure recovery, one must first look at how severely each area’s job market was impacted by the recession. New Mexico’s regions and counties experienced varying levels and degrees of recessionary labor market impacts. Just as some areas felt the impact of the recession earlier than others, certain areas are experiencing more significant recovery in their individual job markets. This article analyzes labor market data—with a focus on employment, unemployment, and initial UI claims—to measure the early economic recovery of New Mexico’s regions and counties. Labor market data herein is typically evaluated over a 5- to 10-year period, with the recession and early recovery periods highlighted throughout the analysis for the purpose of perspective in growth and contraction of specific labor market variables. When evaluating the changes in variables from recessionary impacts and recovery, analysis focuses on the period beginning in January 2006 and ending in the most recent period for which data is available (typically March 2012). Troughs and peaks in employment, unemployment rates, and initial claims are identified within this time period. For the purposes of this analysis, only regular initial claims are evaluated.
New Mexico in the Recovery—How We Compare to Neighboring States

**EMPLOYMENT GROWTH**

Recessionary impacts on the labor market were felt by all states, with the largest employment losses occurring in 2009 and 2010. New Mexico experienced overall percentage employment losses similar to those of several neighboring states, including Arizona, Colorado, and Utah. Percentage employment losses in New Mexico were less than those of the nation as a whole, but greater than those experienced by New Mexico’s eastern neighbors, Texas and Oklahoma. All states showed signs of recovery in 2011, with employment losses significantly less than in the previous year, and employment growth occurring in Colorado, Texas, and Oklahoma. New Mexico’s recovery has lagged behind that of the U.S. In 2011, U.S. employment grew by 0.6 percent, while employment declined by 0.2 percent in New Mexico. New Mexico’s loss in employment in 2011, however, was the

“New Mexico experienced overall percentage employment losses similar to those of several neighboring states, including Arizona, Colorado, and Utah.”

**SUMMARIZING STATE-LEVEL RECESSIONARY IMPACTS & THE EARLY RECOVERY**

New Mexico’s labor market experienced significant impacts from the recession; however, impacts were similar to those of several neighboring southwestern states. Utah and Arizona experienced faster growth in unemployment and some of the highest initial claims as a percentage of employment. Utah’s job loss was the greatest of all southwestern states, and it was the only state whose employment losses exceeded those of the U.S. in 2009. Texas and Oklahoma seemed to fare better in the recession to some degree. Both states only experienced employment declines in 2009, and unemployment rates were not significantly higher than those of other states. Initial claims as a percentage of employment in Oklahoma, however, were some of the highest. New Mexico and Colorado both experienced employment losses, unemployment increases, and initial claims levels that were often in the middle of all southwestern states, as far as severity.

*What about the recovery?* All states have begun to experience slow improvements in the labor market. Utah was impacted greatly by the recession but appears to be climbing out more quickly than many of the southwestern states. While employment losses are still realized, declines in the unemployment rate and initial claims as a percentage of employment have been sharper than those of other states. New Mexico’s rate of recovery seems to be slightly lagging behind that of other states. While New Mexico looks to be close to realizing employment growth for the first time since 2007, decreases in the unemployment rate and initial claims are slower than in many of the other states. Arizona continues to experience greater employment losses while Colorado is experiencing growth. The unemployment rate and initial claims in both states have declined more quickly than have the southwestern averages, however. Both Texas and Oklahoma have seen employment growth since 2010. Unemployment has improved, although Texas’s unemployment rate was stagnant through much of 2010 and 2011.

*Note: All data at the statewide level is seasonally adjusted.*
“New Mexico’s loss in employment in 2011, however, was the least of the three states that continued to see a decline in employment numbers.”

least of the three states that continued to see a decline in employment numbers.

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

The unemployment rate skyrocketed during the recession (indicated in grey in Chart 2). Over the recession and early recovery, Arizona’s unemployment rate remained the highest. Utah’s unemployment rate was the lowest pre-recession, but increases in Utah’s rate led Oklahoma to have the lowest rate between early 2009 and late 2011. New Mexico’s unemployment rate has remained less than that of most neighboring states since the latter half of the recession (Oklahoma and, at times, Utah being the exceptions). As of March 2012, Oklahoma, Utah, and Texas had the lowest unemployment rates, followed by New Mexico. Average monthly changes from a state’s peak and trough unemployment rates between January 2006 and March 2012 are measured to evaluate how significantly each state was impacted. Utah and Arizona experienced the largest average monthly growth in unemployment rates.

“New Mexico’s unemployment rate has remained less than that of most neighboring states since the latter half of the recession (Oklahoma and, at times, Utah being the exceptions). As of March 2012, Oklahoma, Utah, and Texas had the lowest unemployment rates, followed by New Mexico.”
“New Mexico’s average monthly unemployment rate growth between trough and peak rates was the least of all states.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Lowest Rate</th>
<th>Final Peak</th>
<th>March 2012</th>
<th>From Lowest to Peak</th>
<th>From Peak to Mar-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>May-07 4.4%</td>
<td>Oct-09 10.0%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NM</td>
<td>Jun-07 3.4%</td>
<td>Oct-10 8.0%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>Jul-07 3.5%</td>
<td>Mar-10 10.8%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO</td>
<td>Apr-07 3.5%</td>
<td>Nov-10 9.0%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UT</td>
<td>Mar-07 2.4%</td>
<td>Jan-10 8.3%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Feb-08 4.3%</td>
<td>Dec-10 8.2%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Apr-08 3.3%</td>
<td>Feb-10 7.2%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Trough and peaks are identified for the period of January 2006 to the most recent period for which data is available (March 2012). Analysis is based on rounded unemployment rates.
of all southwestern states, between their lowest and peak highest rates. Besides Texas, New Mexico’s average monthly unemployment rate growth between trough and peak rates was the least of all states.

Peak unemployment rates varied among the states, and all states have experienced trending declines since peaking. Utah’s unemployment rate peaked the earliest (Jan-10, 8.3%) and has experienced the largest average monthly declines since that time, indicating that it has seen a more significant recovery in recent months. Recessionary impacts in Texas hit later than in the other states. Unemployment rates peaked last (Dec-10, 8.2%) and, after a period of stagnation, declined quickly in mid to late 2011.

While it may seem that declining unemployment is a strictly positive indicator, it is important to remember that unemployment data may not be measuring individuals that have left the job market after extended unemployment. Even taking into account labor force departures, which are difficult to measure, some of the decline in unemployment (or slowing of growth) would, at least to some degree, be related to labor market recovery. New Mexico’s unemployment rate peaked in October 2010 at 8.0 percent (note: this varies from the non-seasonally adjusted peak of 8.4 percent in July 2010). New Mexico has begun to see signs of job market recovery, albeit in slow and small increments and trends (0.6 percent monthly since October 2010).
INITIAL CLAIMS - REDUCTIONS IN THE NEWLY UNEMPLOYED

Initial claims are an indicator of new job losses and can be used to measure when job losses were at their greatest. The unemployment rate differs in that it also considers those individuals that are unemployed for any length of time and measures all the unemployed, including the large number who aren’t eligible for unemployment insurance or do not file for unemployment insurance benefits.

Chart 4 shows a quarterly moving average of initial claims as a percentage of employment for New Mexico and neighboring southwestern states. The use of the quarterly moving average allows for smoothing of initial claims data, which sees large amounts of monthly variability as well as significant seasonality. As with many labor market indicators, New Mexico’s initial claims as a percentage of employment were in the middle in comparison to the surrounding southwestern states.

Initial claims peaked for most states in the winter of 2008. All states have seen an obvious downward trend in initial claims after peaking, indicating that job losses slowed as employers reached new recessionary employment levels. Initial claims began to decline earliest in Oklahoma and Colorado and declined most rapidly in Arizona and Oklahoma.

For New Mexico, initial UI claims were at their highest levels in January of 2009, having nearly doubled in the last quarter of 2008 alone. Since January 2009, initial UI claims in New Mexico have declined by 27 percent, nearly reaching the levels experienced at the beginning of the recession, prior to the spikes in late 2008.

“Since January 2009, initial UI claims in New Mexico have declined by 27 percent, nearly reaching the levels experienced at the beginning of the recession, prior to the spikes in late 2008.”
Recovery in New Mexico’s Regions

The recessionary impacts on employment in New Mexico’s four regions varied. Based on employment and unemployment, it appears that the Eastern counties were impacted the least of all four New Mexico regions. The Central and Northern regions experienced the largest decreases in employment, beginning in 2008 and continuing...

SUMMARIZING REGIONAL RECESSIONARY IMPACTS & THE EARLY RECOVERY

In general, recessionary impacts were less severe in the Eastern Region of New Mexico than in the remaining three regions. The remaining regions saw greater impacts in varying areas of the labor market. The Central and Northern regions often mirror statewide impacts due to having a large percentage of the state’s population. Between 2008 and 2011, employment losses in the Central and Northern regions were greater than those of the Eastern and Southwestern regions. The Northern Region continues to experience greater employment losses. In general, regional unemployment rates have stayed in line with that of the state, with Central Region rates declining slightly more slowly. Initial claims have also been declining at similar rates.

The Southwestern Region also experienced greater recessionary impacts, most evident through its high unemployment rate. The Southwest has had the highest unemployment rate of the four regions since before 2001. The unemployment rate increased most rapidly in the Southwest. Recent declines in both the unemployment rate and initial claims have lagged behind those of other regions. Positively, 2011 brought growth in employment, greater than all regions except for the East.

The Eastern Region of New Mexico felt the impacts of the recession later than the other three. Employment declines did not begin until 2009 and were less significant. The East’s unemployment rate also indicates lesser recessionary impacts. As unemployment rates increased for the state’s regions, the Eastern rate grew much more slowly, and decreased more quickly after peaking in July 2010. Likewise, initial claims have fallen more rapidly than those of other regions. There are many factors that played into the less severe impacts in the East, including energy sector growth in Eddy and Lea counties. By 2011, employment had begun to grow.
“Based on employment and unemployment, it appears that the Eastern counties were impacted the least of all four New Mexico regions.”

Through 2011. While employment losses decreased and were at significantly smaller levels in the Central and Northern regions by 2011, the Eastern and Southwestern regions had already begun to experience employment increases.

Prior to the recession, unemployment rates in the Central, Eastern, and Northern regions were very similar to that of the state. The Southwestern Region has historically had greater unemployment than that of the other regions. Unemployment rates in each region rose during the recession and into 2010. The unemployment rate peaked earliest in the Southwestern Region, followed five months later by the other regions. The rate also grew the fastest in the Southwest. Some of the increase in the unemployment rate is due to the short-term impacts of the Chino Mine closure, which later re-opened. The Central Region saw the slowest growth, stretched across a longer period of time.

All regions are beginning to see recovery in unemployment rates. Since peaking in July of 2010, the rate in the East has declined the fastest on a monthly basis. As of March 2012, unemployment rates had declined by 0.5 to 1.4 percent, on an average monthly basis, since each region’s peak rate.

Initial claims have also begun to decline in New Mexico’s four regions. Sharp increases

### 6. Annual Average Employment Change for New Mexico & Regions, 2002 to 2011

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
<td>-2.4%</td>
<td>-3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>-3.3%</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
<td>-2.4%</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

“As of March 2012, unemployment rates had declined by 0.5 to 1.4 percent, on an average monthly basis, since each region’s peak rate.”
7. Unemployment Rates for New Mexico & Regions, 2002 to 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Low-Peak</th>
<th>Peak-3/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>Dec-06</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>Jul-10</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>Nov-07</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>Jul-10</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>Nov-07</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>Jul-10</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>Sep-07</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>Feb-10</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recessionary Peak & Trough

Monthly Change
8. Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims in New Mexico's Four Regions, 2006-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Low-Peak</th>
<th>Peak-3/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>1,068</td>
<td>Jan-06</td>
<td>5,164</td>
<td>Jan-09</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>Jan-06</td>
<td>1,639</td>
<td>May-09</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>Jan-06</td>
<td>2,556</td>
<td>Apr-09</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>Sep-06</td>
<td>1,926</td>
<td>Feb-09</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims as a Percentage of Employment in New Mexico & Regions, Quarterly Moving Average, 2006-2012
in claims (and claims as a percentage of employment, as shown in Chart 9) began in 2008 and peaked for all regions in the first quarter of 2009. Claims increased the quickest in the Central Region and the slowest in the north, on an average monthly basis from pre-recession lows. From peak initial claims to March 2012, all regions saw similar rates of decline, from 1.1 to 1.5 percent.

Initial claims as a percentage of employment (claims to employment ratio) compares the number of newly unemployed with the number of workers that are employed in a region’s labor force. Initial claims as a percentage of employment have been similar for all regions and the state, excluding the Eastern Region, whose ratio has been less since before 2006. Since peaking, all regions have seen declines in their claims to employment ratios. Since mid-2009, the Eastern Region’s ratio declined the fastest, while the Southwestern Region’s ratio did not decline as quickly (note: spikes in the southwest represent seasonality).

**WIA REGIONS**

**WHAT ARE THE NEW MEXICO WIA REGIONS?**

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) reformed federal employment, training, adult education, and vocational rehabilitation programs by creating an integrated “one-stop” system of workforce investment and education services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth.

The New Mexico workforce system comprises 4 local workforce investment areas (WIA), each under the direction of local workforce development boards. Each workforce area utilizes a network of over 20 New Mexico Workforce Connection Centers statewide to provide services to employers and job seekers.
ECONOMIC RECOVERY:

In New Mexico’s Regions & Counties

Recessionary impacts and the rate and level of recovery have varied for New Mexico’s regions. Employment changes pre- and post-recession are evaluated in conjunction with unemployment rates and initial UI claims. For the purposes of this article, the following are identified as sub-regions of the state.

New Mexico counties tend to fall into two different categories of recessionary impacts (with some exceptions). The first category includes counties that experienced recessionary job losses and spikes in initial claims earlier than other counties. Impacts were severe and occurred over a shorter period of time. These counties, however, have also experienced a general, albeit slow, decline in job losses (and some have seen job growth in 2011), along with declines in unemployment rates and initial claims. Three of New Mexico’s Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) fall within this category: Albuquerque, Farmington, and Santa Fe. Las Cruces saw less severe recessionary impacts overall.

The second category includes counties that saw job losses, unemployment rates, and initial claims grow more slowly and, in some cases, over a longer period of time. While these counties often did not experience employment losses or unemployment growth as severe as other counties, they also have not seen the level of recovery that the other counties have experienced.

Employment losses often continued into 2011, and unemployment rates peaked much later, after the end of the recession. This left little room for these counties to see the longer periods of improvement that category one counties experienced.

In general, the central counties fall within the first category. The central counties tend to mirror the state due to the large amount of population in the region. While Bernalillo, Valencia, and Sandoval have experienced improvement labor market indicators, Torrance has struggled to recover.

Overall, the eastern counties fall within the second category. Impacts were less severe and often delayed compared to the rest of the state. These regions have also seen some stagnation in employment losses and
unemployment rates. Eddy and Lea counties are unique in the region and the state, as both saw employment growth during the recession and early recovery. Growth is related to recent booms in energy sector activity. Counties that continue to struggle with recessionary impacts include Guadalupe and Roosevelt.

In the north, recessionary impacts have varied across counties. San Juan is showing signs of recovery after significant job losses and unemployment growth. The north-central counties continue to struggle, with recovery not as prominent as in other regions. All of the counties, however, are seeing fewer job losses and trending declines in unemployment and initial claims.

Finally, positive signs of recovery are evident in the southwestern counties. Doña Ana fared better than many counties during the recession, and both Grant and Luna saw job growth in 2011 (after large losses). Sierra and Socorro counties have not seen the level of recovery that some of the other counties have experienced. While there are small signs of improvement, employment losses, initial claims, and unemployment have not declined quickly.
Central Region

The Central Region experienced some of the greatest employment losses of all regions in the state during the recession, and recovery has been slow in all measures of the labor market. Torrance County, including the incorporated areas of Encino, Estancia, Moriarty, Mountainair, and Willard, was one of the worst hit by employment losses. The county experienced significant employment losses much sooner than the other central counties. Looking at data for the early part of the decade, it appears that Torrance employment changes were minor until 2007. Employment losses actually increased between 2008 and 2010, instead of showing the signs of recovery that were evident in other counties.

Measurable job losses hit Bernalillo and Valencia in 2008. All central counties experienced the greatest job losses in 2009, with losses lessenning in 2010 for all counties, excluding Torrance. Sandoval saw the fewest drops in employment and impacts were felt later (2009) than for the other three counties. Early signs of employment recovery were evident in all four counties by 2011. Even with continued employment declines, losses were significantly less in 2011 than in the previous three years (two years in the case of Sandoval, which saw growth in 2008).

Unemployment rates in the central counties increased over the recession, into the recovery, and have remained above the statewide rate since before the recession. Pre-recession rates were more in line with the statewide average. Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia unemployment rates were in the top third of all counties beginning in 2007—peaking at 9.7 to 10.7 percent. Torrance’s rate peaked the earliest, while Sandoval’s rate peaked the latest, providing less time for recovery. Between pre-recession lows and peak unemployment rates, Torrance’s and Valencia’s unemployment grew the fastest on an average monthly basis. Recovery is evident in all four counties. Sandoval County’s unemployment rate has declined the fastest on an average monthly basis, but really only over the last eight to nine months. Other counties have seen drops in unemployment rates beginning much earlier. Declines have ranged from 0.9 to 1.1 percent on average per month.

SUMMARIZING CENTRAL REGION RECESSIONARY IMPACTS & THE EARLY RECOVERY

Impacts in the Central Region are often similar to those of the state as a whole due to the large percentage of population in the region. Of the central counties, Torrance County’s labor market appears to have been most affected by recessionary impacts. Torrance experienced the greatest level of employment losses, and losses began earlier than in any other central county. In addition, unemployment rates and initial UI claims grew more quickly during the recession, leaving Torrance with the highest unemployment rate of the four counties. Bernalillo County’s unemployment rates remained below those of the other central counties, and increases in unemployment and initial claims were the second lowest, following Sandoval’s. Sandoval County saw the fewest employment losses (as a percentage change) and less significant increases in the unemployment rate and initial claims.

Although Torrance experienced some of the greatest increases in job losses and unemployment during the recession, indicators of recovery are strong for the county. Torrance has seen a greater decline in employment losses combined with greater drops in the unemployment rate and initial claims. The county still has the highest unemployment rate, however, and will need to realize additional recovery to return to unemployment similar to that of the other central counties. Sandoval County, while seeing less severe impacts, has experienced the slowest recovery, with declines in unemployment and initial claims lagging behind those of the other counties.
### 1. Annual Average Employment Change for the Central Counties, 2001 to 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bernalillo</th>
<th>Sandoval</th>
<th>Torrance</th>
<th>Valencia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-2007</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
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<td>-4.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-2011</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
<td>-4.0%</td>
<td>-4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Bernalillo
- Sandoval
- Torrance
- Valencia

- 2001-2007
- 2007-2011
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
“Unemployment rates in the central counties increased over the recession, into the recovery, and have remained above the statewide rate since before the recession.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Low-Peak</th>
<th>Peak-3/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bernalillo</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>Jul-10</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>May-07</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandoval</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>Jul-11</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>Dec-06</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torrance</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>Feb-10</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>Dec-06</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valencia</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>Jun-10</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>May-07</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Decreases in employment losses, coupled with unemployment rate declines, are positive signs for labor market recovery. Initial UI claims have also dropped since the end of the recession, but at slow rates. Claims grew the most in Torrance and Valencia counties, monthly, between each county’s respective pre-recession lows and recessionary peaks. After peaking in late 2008/early 2009, claims began to decline. Claims dropped the most in Torrance County between a peak of 137 in December 2008 and March 2012. Claims dropped by about 1.2/1.3 percent per month in the other central counties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Low-Peak</th>
<th>Peak-3/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bernalillo</td>
<td>3,872</td>
<td>Jan-09</td>
<td>807</td>
<td>Jan-06</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandoval</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>Mar-09</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>Jan-06</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torrance</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>Dec-08</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Jan-06</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valencia</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>Jan-09</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>Sep-06</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Northeastern Region

Recessionary impacts on employment varied for each of the northeastern counties. Employment losses were most significant in Guadalupe County, with losses beginning the earliest, in 2007. Outside of small increases in 2009, Guadalupe continued to experience job losses of 4.0 percent or more through 2010, and continued losses of 1.3 percent in 2011. Harding and Union counties saw the largest losses in 2009, followed by fewer losses in 2010, and job growth in 2011. Quay County is unique in that employment losses have steadily increased through 2011.

Unemployment rates began to increase in the first quarter of 2008. Increases in rates in the northeastern counties somewhat lagged behind the recession, as some of the largest increases occurred in late 2009 and early 2010. Unemployment rates in Harding and Union counties have typically been lower than that of the state, and remained below that of the state during the recession and early recovery. Both counties’ rates were some of the lowest in recent years. Prior to the recession, Quay County is unique in that employment losses have steadily increased through 2011. Guadalupe County’s unemployment rate has historically been higher than that of the state, and the difference in the unemployment rates has increased through the early recovery (2010 and 2011). Guadalupe County’s unemployment rate was very little in terms of labor market recovery. Quay County experienced increasing employment losses through 2010, but, unlike the other three counties, employment losses continued to increase into 2011. While employment losses continued, unemployment rates declined after a late peak of 9.4 percent in February 2011.

Positive signs of recovery are evident in Harding and Union counties. The two counties have historically had lower unemployment than that of the state. While unemployment rates grew most quickly in the two counties, both saw employment growth in 2011 and some of the fastest declines in the unemployment rate since peaking in early 2010.

It is important to note that measuring changes in employment, unemployment, and initial UI claims is difficult for the northeastern counties. Small population counts make it difficult to measure percentage changes and often make it impossible to report data without running into suppression issues. When necessary, data for the four counties is analyzed as a total.
### Annual Average Employment Change for the Northeastern Counties, 2001 to 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Guadalupe</th>
<th>Harding</th>
<th>Quay</th>
<th>Union</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-2007</td>
<td>-8.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>-4.4%</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>-3.7%</td>
<td>-.8%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>-4.6%</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>-4.6%</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
<td>-2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>-5.8%</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>-8.1%</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The data represents annual average employment change percentages for the counties from 2001 to 2011.
“Unemployment rates in Harding and Union counties have typically been lower than that of the state, and remained below that of the state during the recession and early recovery.”

unemployment rate was the third highest in the state three out of the previous five years. Harding and Union unemployment rates peaked the earliest, after seeing some of the fastest growth in unemployment (average monthly basis). The fast growth rates can be somewhat attributed to the short period of time in which rates increased (from trough to peak, 26 to 27 months) for the two counties. Guadalupe and Quay counties experienced delayed rate peaks, after extended periods of unemployment rate growth. Unemployment rates were the highest in Guadalupe as late as February 2012.

Based on the data, it appears that the northeastern counties were impacted by the recession at fairly different times. Guadalupe, along with Quay, has seen
weaker labor market recovery in terms of unemployment rates. Even though average monthly decreases in the unemployment rate have been the greatest for the counties (between individual county troughs and peaks), the recovery period has been shorter for the two counties because of the longer-term recession period. Harding and Union counties have been experiencing stronger signs of recovery, as unemployment rates have been declining, on average, since early 2010 at a rate of 1.2 to 1.7 percent each month.

There are small signs of recovery in initial claims. Initial claims peaked in December 2009, following average monthly growth of 14.0 percent since September 2007 (when claims were lowest). Between then and March 2012, initial claims fell by 2.0 percent monthly, and were at levels similar to those experienced right after the recession (August 2009).

### Recessionary Peak & Trough

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Peak (%)</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Lowest (%)</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Monthly Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guadalupe</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>Feb-12</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>Dec-06</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harding</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>Jan-10</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>Oct-07</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quay</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>Feb-11</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>Nov-06</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>Feb-10</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>Dec-07</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims in the Northeastern Counties, 2006-2012

East-Central Region

Employment losses in the East-Central counties were not as great as those of other counties in the state. Employment losses also appear to have varied somewhat for the region. Roosevelt County experienced the most extended impacts of the three East-Central counties, with employment losses beginning in 2008 and sustaining through 2011. De Baca also had extended losses, with minor growth in 2009. Finally, Curry County experienced job losses in 2007, followed by strong growth. Losses were again realized in 2010 and gained momentum into 2011.

Like many of the eastern counties, the East-Central counties experienced recessionary labor...
The East-Central counties, much like many of the eastern counties in general, did not experience recessionary impacts on the labor market that were as extreme as those of other areas of the state. Of the counties, Roosevelt was hit the hardest, with greater employment losses and increases in unemployment rates and initial claims. Unemployment rates in De Baca, Curry, and Roosevelt counties have typically been lower than the statewide average. While these are positive signs for the East-Central Region, unemployment rates did rise and job losses did increase during the recession. The rate of employment losses and unemployment rate increases is similar to many other counties around the state. And, much like other eastern counties, the East-Central counties have seen delayed signs of recovery compared to other areas of New Mexico. While unemployment rates have declined since recessionary peaks, employment losses continued to increase through 2011 for all three counties, indicating little recovery. Initial UI claims remained fairly stagnant, not showing significant declines until mid-2011. Decreases in unemployment rates and initial claims, however, are positive signs, even if they are recent, and the coming months will show whether employment losses slow, as has been experienced in other regions.
Even though unemployment rates remained below that of the state, they still grew quickly throughout the recession. Between each county’s trough and recessionary peak, unemployment rates grew on average by 4.7 to 6.9 percent monthly. Rates peaked earliest in De Baca and grew most quickly in Roosevelt County. Unemployment rate recovery, however, has been evident in all three East-Central counties. Rates declined by 1.1 to 1.6 percent, on an average monthly basis, between peaks and March 2012.

Initial UI claims have also shown signs of recovery, albeit recently and slowly. Initial UI claims really began to increase in the East-Central counties in the fourth quarter of 2007 and first quarter of 2008. Rates trended upward

“While all east-central counties sustained employment losses into 2011, unemployment rates remained below the statewide average and were decreasing in late 2010 and 2011.”
until early 2010, when they began to level-off. Even though rates declined from peaks of 6.5 percent in Curry and 2.3 percent in Roosevelt, on an average monthly basis, it appears from Chart 3 that claims were somewhat stagnant (barring typical monthly variability) in 2010 and 2011. More definitive signs recovery did not appear until mid-2011 (note: De Baca County claims were too small to be reported).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recessionary Peak &amp; Trough</th>
<th>Monthly Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>County</strong></td>
<td><strong>Peak</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curry</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Baca</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roosevelt</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Southeastern Region

Employment losses in the Southeastern Region varied significantly by county. Chaves, Lincoln, and Otero counties experienced job losses between 2008 and 2011 (in 2009 for Lincoln County). This period of losses corresponds to that of many other counties in the state. Losses were greatest in Lincoln and Otero in 2009, while Chaves employment losses peaked in 2010. While Chaves, the most populated county in the region, began to experience decreases in employment losses in 2011, Lincoln and Otero job losses continued to increase.

The two unique counties in the region—Eddy and Lea—experienced significant employment growth in 2011. Eddy also saw growth in 2010. This growth is not only unique to the region, but is also unique to the state, and can be attributed to energy sector industries in that part of the state. It may also contribute to the volatile changes in employment evident in Lea County between 2007 and 2011 (large employment gains followed by significant losses). Eddy sustained the greatest amount of employment growth of any county in the state over the four-year period.

In Chaves, Lincoln, and Otero, signs of employment recovery

Note: Claims data for De Baca County are not presented due to low numbers and necessary suppression of data.
The Southeastern Region, and Eddy and Lea counties particularly, is unique among the regions of New Mexico. All of the counties were affected by recessionary labor market impacts, although impacts were often slightly less than those of other regions. Impacts on Eddy County were minor, while the other counties saw employment losses slightly less than those of most counties in the state. Lea County experienced a severe spike in employment losses and unemployment. A boom in the energy sector, however, generated strong employment growth beginning in 2010 for Eddy and 2011 for Lea County. The boom also contributed to quickened declines in the unemployment rate and initial claims in both counties.

While Eddy and Lea are experiencing recovery in employment, via energy sector activity, the other southeastern counties are weathering the recovery in ways similar to many other regions; recovery has just begun to occur and at a slow pace. Chaves County experienced the greatest employment losses of all southeastern counties in 2010. The unemployment rate remained at or below the statewide average for the recession and early recovery. Additionally, drops in claims and the unemployment rate were slower than those of some of the other counties. These indicators of recovery are still positive, particularly coupled with 2011 reductions in employment losses.

Otero and Lincoln both experienced the greatest employment losses of nearly all southeastern counties in 2009 (spiking losses in Lea were greater). Losses were coupled with increases in unemployment. Unlike Chaves, Eddy, and Lea, both counties have not seen the level of recovery in employment, unemployment, or claims, although the unemployment rate and claims have declined.
“Eddy and Lea have seen the fastest drops in unemployment rates after peaking in July 2010 and July 2009, respectively. Again, this is likely due to recent booms in the energy sector.”

are weak. Chaves employment losses declined in 2011, but job losses in Lincoln and Otero continued to increase in 2011. Recovery is difficult to measure for Eddy and Lea because so much of the employment growth is attributed to one particular economic sector (energy).

Unemployment rates still rose for all southeastern counties during the recession and into the early recovery. Unemployment rates have typically been near or below the statewide average. Chaves County’s rate was higher than that of New Mexico in the early half of the decade, but slowly declined at a rate which brought it more in line with the state and other counties in the region.

Once the recession began, unemployment rates increased quickly. The rate began to increase first in Lincoln County. Lea County saw the largest average monthly increase, with its rate increasing the most in 2009. The unemployment rate grew the slowest in Otero County. All southeastern counties have seen declines since peaking, at rates of 1.0 to 1.7 percent, on an average monthly basis. Eddy and Lea have seen the fastest drops in unemployment rates after peaking in July 2010 and July 2009, respectively. Again, this is likely due to recent booms in the energy sector.

Initial claims have also trended downward for the southeastern counties and mirror the
### 2. Unemployment Rates for New Mexico & the Southeastern Counties, 2001 to 2012

#### Recessionary Peak & Trough

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Low-Peak</th>
<th>Peak-3/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chaves</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>Jul-10</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>Nov-07</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddy</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>Jul-10</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>Dec-07</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lea</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>Sep-09</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>Dec-07</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>Feb-10</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>Aug-07</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otero</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>Jul-10</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>Dec-07</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Monthly Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Peak-3/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otero</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Reductions in claims have been slowest in Chaves County, although reduced employment losses are a positive sign.”

growth and changes evident in each county’s unemployment rate. Initial claims peaked earliest (and sharply) in Eddy and Lea counties in the early months of 2009. Claims dropped quickly, however, realigning with the other southeastern counties by the end of the recession. The remaining counties experienced less extreme spikes in initial claims, with claims in Chaves and Otero counties growing the most slowly over a slightly longer period of time. Claims have declined since peaking in each individual county. Claims have dropped the fastest in Lea County. These declines, coupled with employment growth and a quickly declining unemployment rate, indicate Lea County is in a strong position within the recession, compared to other New Mexico counties. Reductions in claims have been slowest in Chaves County, although reduced employment losses are a positive sign.

3. Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims in the Southeastern Counties, 2006-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Trough</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Monthly Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chaves</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>Jun-09</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Feb-06</td>
<td>5.6% -0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddy</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>Feb-09</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Sep-06</td>
<td>23.2% -1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lea</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>Mar-09</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Jan-06</td>
<td>45.6% -2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Oct-09</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Aug-07</td>
<td>15.4% -1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otero</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>May-09</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Jan-06</td>
<td>6.8% -1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Northwestern Region

While Cibola and San Juan counties have begun to see recovery in employment, recovery in McKinley and Rio Arriba is not as evident. Both Cibola and San Juan counties experienced employment growth through 2008. As recessionary impacts began in 2009, employment losses spiked. Positively, employment losses have declined each year, with employment gains in San Juan in 2011.

Rio Arriba County has been one of the hardest hit counties in the state. Rio Arriba realized recessionary employment losses as early as 2007, and losses have trended upward since then, with 2011 employment losses reaching 5.0 percent. Employment losses were less in McKinley County, but losses also began early (2008) and have increased to 2.5 percent in 2011. Based on the data, it appears that the two counties have not realized recovery in employment.

Unemployment rates for the northwestern counties have historically been slightly higher than those of the state, and rates for all counties, except San Juan, remained equal to or slightly higher than the state’s through the recession. All northwestern counties realized major unemployment growth through the recession and into the early recovery. Unemployment rates began to increase in Cibola, McKinley, and Rio Arriba as early as spring 2007. Increases sped up considerably once the recession began. San Juan’s unemployment rate grew the fastest, between trough and peak (on an average monthly basis) of all northwestern counties (8.2 percent). Unemployment rate increases for San Juan lagged to some degree because of a decline in unemployment in the county in 2007. All rates rose significantly through the recession, but it wasn’t until 2009 that San Juan rates began to rise above those of the region and state. Large rate increases continued

SUMMARIZING NORTHWESTERN REGION RECESSIONARY IMPACTS & THE EARLY RECOVERY

Recessionary labor market impacts in the northwest varied county by county. San Juan holds the largest population of the four counties and sustained some of the most extreme labor market impacts initially. Employment losses in San Juan in 2009 were greater than for most counties in the state. This was coupled with quick growth in both the unemployment rate and initial UI claims. While the level of these initial impacts was a shock, the county has seen stronger significant signs of recovery than have many other counties, with declines in employment losses, the unemployment rate (since mid-2010), and initial claims (since mid-2009). San Juan was the only northwestern county to actually experience employment growth in 2011.

Rio Arriba was also greatly impacted by the recession and has struggled to recover. Employment losses began as early as 2007 and were greatest in 2009 and 2010, second only to those of San Juan County. Employment losses increased into 2011. That year also brought stagnation in the unemployment rate, with the rate hovering around an average of 8.4 percent, after considerable increases. The rate didn’t peak until February 2011, creating a late opportunity for recovery. McKinley County also experienced earlier employment losses (2008) and steady growth in the unemployment rate and initial claims. Unemployment rates have not declined significantly since a late peak in July 2011.

Of the four counties, Cibola experienced less extreme recessionary impacts. Job losses declined steadily after large losses in 2009. These declines were coupled with slower unemployment rate growth and initial claims growth. As with Rio Arriba and McKinley, unemployment rates were somewhat stagnant, but began to decline more quickly, along with initial claims, beginning mid-2011.
through late 2009. Rates also grew very quickly in McKinley County, but were tempered by slower growth in 2010 and 2011. Cibola County unemployment rates did not rise as significantly in the early recovery, and dropped below the state rate in the first quarter of 2009.

An early peak in San Juan County (July 2010) has made room for steady declines in the unemployment rate (an average of 1.5 percent per month). The unemployment rate in the remaining northwestern counties peaked in later months, with Rio Arriba peaking as late as February 2012. This late peak is the reason it appears Rio Arriba experienced the greatest declines in the unemployment rate. The short period of this decline, however, implies that Rio Arriba began experiencing signs of recovery much later than did other counties. Still, all counties began or continued to see overall drops in unemployment rates in 2011 and into 2012 (expected variations still occurred). Even though Cibola experienced a late peak in June 2011, the rate had not grown nearly as much as the other northwestern counties.

Initial claims peaked the earliest in San Juan, McKinley, and Rio Arriba counties. Average monthly growth between trough and peak was greatest in San Juan (22 percent). After peaking, San Juan experienced a general downward trend in initial claims, with claims somewhat leveling in 2011. Rio Arriba also saw quick growth in initial claims, and growth was realized over a short period of time (nine months, April 2008 to January 2009). Rio Arriba also experienced general decreases in the number of initial claims, although increases in late 2011 caused claims to nearly reach the peak levels of January 2009. Cibola experienced peak initial claims much later than did the other northwestern counties (peaking in May 2011). McKinley and Cibola counties have also seen trending drops in initial claims since the end of the recession. Even with fewer initial claims, McKinley did experience two spikes in claims in the early recovery. As is evidenced by other labor market indicators, Cibola was not impacted as severely by the recession as its neighboring northwestern counties. Initial claims grew much more slowly than the other counties and have been declining for some time. Declines quickened after a late peak in May 2011.
2. Unemployment Rates for New Mexico & the Northwestern Counties, 2001 to 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Low-Peak</th>
<th>Peak-3/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cibola</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>Jun-11</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>Apr-07</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>-2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKinley</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>Jul-11</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>May-07</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Arriba</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>Feb-12</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>Nov-07</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>-7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>Jul-10</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>Oct-07</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims in the Northwestern Counties, 2006-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Trough</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Low-Peak</th>
<th>Peak-3/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cibola</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>May-11</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Feb-06</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>-6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKinley</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>Jun-09</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Jan-06</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Arriba</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>Jan-09</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Apr-08</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan</td>
<td>818</td>
<td>Apr-09</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>Sep-07</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
North-Central Region

Of the six north-central counties, five (excluding Los Alamos) began to experience recessionary job losses in 2007. The greatest employment losses occurred in Santa Fe County in 2009, and then in Mora County in 2010 (not counting Los Alamos). Initial employment losses were less in San Miguel County. In 2010, nearly all counties saw job losses decrease from 2009 levels (excluding Mora and San Miguel).

Signs of improvement continued into 2011, when Mora and San Miguel also saw job losses decline. Employment recovery was most evident in Colfax and Santa Fe counties, with 2011 losses dropping to 0.0 and 1.0 percent. Losses remained around 1.9 to 3.3 percent for Mora, San Miguel, and Taos. Employment dropped in Los Alamos in 2011.

Mora and Taos counties have historically had unemployment rates above those of the state and other north-central counties. Mora has suffered some of the highest unemployment rates in the state and has had the second highest rate since at least 2001. Taos has been in the top seven counties with the highest rates for the same period. On the other hand, Santa Fe and Los Alamos have had historically lower unemployment rates compared to those of the state. And, while both counties’ rates increased to be closer to those of the state rates during the recession, the early recovery brought a difference in the county and state rates similar to those experienced before the recession.

Unemployment rates grew in all north-central counties during the recession. As with employment, Los Alamos’ rate was very much impacted by changes at LANL and do not directly reflect changes due to the recession. The unemployment rate in Santa Fe peaked earliest. Other counties saw their unemployment peak in 2011 (2012).

SUMMARIZING NORTH-CENTRAL REGION RECESSIONARY IMPACTS & THE EARLY RECOVERY

Santa Fe County holds the largest population of the North-Central Region. Like San Juan to the northeast, Santa Fe County experienced recessionary impacts on employment earlier than its neighboring counties and to a greater extent. Employment losses and initial claims spiked, and the unemployment rate grew quickly over a short period of time. These populated areas, however, have also experienced improvement in job losses since those early spikes, providing evidence of early labor market recovery.

Other north-central counties have seen early signs of recovery. Early employment losses in Colfax were followed by zero losses in 2011. Although the unemployment rate has only seen minimal declines since peaking in April 2010, initial claims have also steadily declined.

Mora, San Miguel, and Taos have seen less prominent signs of recovery. While 2011 employment losses were less than in previous years, losses still remain close to or greater than 2.0 percent. All three counties have historically had greater unemployment than that of the state, with Mora unemployment in the top two highest of all counties. While employment growth is still negative, growth in the unemployment rate was slower than that of Santa Fe and Colfax, and drops in the rate (and initial claims) have been faster. Note that it can be difficult to evaluate changes in Mora County due to the small population.

Finally, Los Alamos is included in the North-Central Region. It is very difficult to evaluate the recessionary impacts on the county due to the small population and large employment presence of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Overall, Los Alamos experienced employment losses for nearly every year between 2007 and 2011. The unemployment rate peaked late (February 2012), but rates have remained fairly steady, with small volatility.
in Los Alamos). The unemployment rate in Colfax and Santa Fe counties grew more quickly and over a shorter period of time. Even though initial impacts were very strong, unemployment rates have declined since that time. The counties with longer periods of unemployment rate growth (Mora, San Miguel, and Taos) have seen faster declines since peaking in early to mid-2011. Los Alamos has seen some volatility in the unemployment rate, but the rate has remained fairly steady, especially in 2010 and 2011.

As with the unemployment rate, the sharpest increases in initial UI claims occurred in Santa Fe County. Claims also increased steeply in the Colfax/Los Alamos/Mora counties, although these increases are magnified by the small populations and employment base of the three counties. Numerical increases in claims were not nearly as large as for other counties. Mora’s claims grew over a longer period of time, while Los Alamos claims peaked very late.

Looking at Chart 2, it would appear that Taos experienced significant volatility in initial claims. The spikes in initial claims illustrate the seasonality that is inherent in Taos overall employment, and not recessionary-based changes. Looking at the increases between pre-spike lows in June of each year, and actual spikes in April of each year, general recessionary impacts on Taos initial claims were much less severe than the chart, and trough/peak changes, would imply. Average monthly growth actually fell between 2.0 and 9.0 percent.

Initial claims peaked earliest in Santa Fe and Taos counties, and earlier than in many of New Mexico’s counties, particularly in the eastern part of the state. Initial claims have been trending downward since the early 2009 peaks. Initial claims dropped by 1.4 to 2.0 percent monthly. Small numbers in Colfax, Los Alamos, Mora, and even San Miguel make it difficult to measure rate changes in initial claims, but all four counties experienced trending declines in claims since peaking.

![Annual Average Employment Change for the North-Central Counties, 2001 to 2011](chart.png)
2. Unemployment Rates for New Mexico & the North-Central Counties, 2001 to 2012

Recessionary Peak & Trough

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colfax</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>Apr-10</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>Sep-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Alamos</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>Feb-12</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>Dec-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mora</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>Apr-11</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>Oct-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Miguel</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>Jan-11</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>May-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>Feb-10</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>Nov-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taos</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>May-11</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>Nov-07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monthly Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low-Peak</th>
<th>Peak-3/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>-22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Employment recovery was most evident in Colfax and Santa Fe counties, with 2011 losses dropping to 0.0 and 1.0 percent."

### Recessionary Peak & Trough

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Trough</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colfax/Los Alamos/Mora</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>Feb-07</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Feb-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Miguel</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>May-09</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Jan-06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>Jan-09</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>Jan-06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taos</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>Apr-09</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Jun-07</td>
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### Monthly Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Low-Peak</th>
<th>Peak-3/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colfax/Los Alamos/Mora</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Miguel</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taos</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>-2.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Southwestern Region

All of the southwestern counties experienced employment growth in 2007 prior to the recession. In 2008, Grant and Luna counties began to realize employment losses before other southwestern counties were impacted. By 2009, every county was seeing recessionary job losses. Job losses in Grant and Luna were particularly large. Luna losses, at 5.1 percent, were greater than those of many New Mexico counties. The 12.0 percent loss in jobs in Grant County was the largest of any county in New Mexico in 2009. These losses were mostly from the closure of the Chino Mine. Positively, the Chino Mine reopened in 2011.

The other southwestern counties experienced more minor employment losses, ranging from 0.4 to 2.0 percent in 2009, at the

SUMMARIZING SOUTHWESTERN REGION RECESSIONARY IMPACTS & THE EARLY RECOVERY

Of the southwestern counties, Doña Ana’s labor market appears to have been less affected by recessionary impacts. Doña Ana was one of only two counties in New Mexico that experienced job growth in all but one year (2009) of the recession and early recovery (the other county being Eddy). Job losses in 2009 were fairly small compared to those of many other counties. Job growth is coupled with an unemployment rate that, while still increased due to the recession, remained very close to that of the state and has seen recent declines. And, while initial claims remain high for the county, claims have trended downward in general since the recession.

Luna and Grant counties experienced some of the greatest increases in job losses between 2007 and 2011. However, job losses, and corresponding unemployment and initial claims in Grant, were directly related to the closure of the Chino Mine—which did re-open in 2011. In Luna, which has historically had the highest unemployment rate in the state, job losses were highest in 2008 and 2009. In 2011, the county actually saw job growth. Unfortunately, the growth did not translate into large drops in unemployment and initial claims, both of which have seen only minor declines. Luna still continues to struggle with high unemployment.

The recession appears to have lagged in Sierra and Socorro counties, where signs of recession are less evident. Both counties have historically had unemployment rates near those of the state. As the recession hit, the state began to experience greater job losses and a larger rise in unemployment rates, leaving unemployment rates in the two counties lower than the state’s. In Sierra, however, employment losses and unemployment rates stagnated, and did not see the declines that other counties were experiencing. While Socorro also saw some stagnation in job losses, unemployment and claims did begin to decline in mid-2011.

Measuring the size and rate of recessionary impacts in Catron and Hidalgo counties can be difficult due to their small populations. Both counties have experienced decreases in unemployment rates and initial claims since peaking, but Catron continues to struggle with employment losses, while Hidalgo saw employment growth in 2011. Again, small fluctuations in these counties can be inflated due to the small population and labor force.

Nearly all of the southwestern counties have some seasonal employment that is evident in labor market data. This seasonality can make it difficult to specifically calculate recessionary labor market impacts between troughs and peaks. When possible, changes in seasonal lows and peaks are analyzed for a better understanding of the actual trending changes in employment, unemployment, and initial claims.
“Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna all experienced job growth in 2011.”

height of the impacts. Of all southwestern counties, Doña Ana employment was the least impacted, with the county seeing job growth in all years except 2009. Sierra and Catron counties also experienced fewer job losses in 2009 and 2010.

Some of the southwestern counties have begun to show signs of recovery in employment. Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna all experienced job growth in 2011. Hidalgo employment losses had been declining since peaking in 2009. Employment recovery has been delayed in Catron, Sierra, and Socorro counties. While initial employment losses in Sierra and Catron counties were fairly small, job losses remained flat or increased into 2011. Job losses in Socorro also remained fairly flat between 2009 and 2011, with minor drops in 2012.

Even with employment growth in 2011, Luna County’s unemployment rate remained the highest in the state. While seasonal work in the county is evident in Chart 3, the overall trend in unemployment rate growth has been upward since before the recession. While it appears Luna’s rate grew the fastest, seasonality must be considered. Looking at changes in seasonal troughs and seasonal peaks separately, Luna’s unemployment rate growth was much more in line with other southwestern counties and was actually fairly low in comparison.

Grant County unemployment rate changes are also skewed by the large losses at the Chino Mine in 2009. Without those losses, Grant unemployment rates would likely have remained near those of the state, as was the case directly prior to the recession.

Socorro and Sierra unemployment rates have historically been near or below those of the state. Although rates for both counties remained below that of the state, and grew more slowly than other southwestern counties and over a longer period of time, rates peaked late and signs of recovery are not as strong. Sierra County rates continued to
### Unemployment Rates for New Mexico & the Southwestern Counties, 2001 to 2012

#### Recessionary Peak & Trough

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Peak Rate</th>
<th>Peak Period</th>
<th>Lowest Rate</th>
<th>Lowest Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catron</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>Feb-10</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>Aug-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doña Ana</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>Jun-11</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>Nov-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>Jul-09</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>May-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidalgo</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>Feb-10</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>Dec-06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luna</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>Apr-10</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>Sep-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>Feb-12</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>Oct-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socorro</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>Jun-11</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>Dec-07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Monthly Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low-Peak</th>
<th>Peak-3/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>-14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
trend upward through 2011, albeit at a slower rate, and did not peak until February 2012. Socorro rates were slightly better, with rates declining more quickly since peaking in June 2011. Finally, Hidalgo rates remained near those of the state during the recovery and early recession and declined after peaking in February 2010. Doña Ana rates followed those of the state very closely and declined the second fastest of all counties, behind Socorro (not considering the high rate for Sierra County, which is based on a one-month change).

Initial claims data illustrates seasonality more than other labor market variables. This is very evident for Doña Ana and Luna in Chart 3, but large seasonality also exists in Catron and Sierra counties. This makes it difficult to calculate a specific change in peaks and troughs for the southwestern counties. Additionally, the small populations of Catron, Hidalgo, and Sierra do not allow for initial claims totals to be shown for the individual counties. What is apparent in Chart 3 is that initial claims have not declined significantly since the end of the recession for several of the southwestern counties. Seasonal claims peaked late in both Doña Ana and Luna (the third quarter of 2011). Doña Ana claims have been trending downward slightly since the recession while Luna claims have varied, with seasonal lows averaging around 118 in August of each month. Even with the re-opening of the Chino Mine, Grant initial claims have not seen significant changes, with claims actually increasing, on an average monthly basis, between a low in April 2010 and March 2012. Like Doña Ana, claims in Catron, Hidalgo, Sierra, and Socorro counties have been trending downward since peaking.
“Looking at changes in seasonal troughs and seasonal peaks separately, Luna’s unemployment rate growth was much more in line with other southwestern counties and was actually fairly low in comparison.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Trough</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Monthly Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catron, Hidalgo, Sierra</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>Jan-08</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mar-07</td>
<td>26.1% -0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doña Ana</td>
<td>1,191</td>
<td>Dec-11</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>Apr-06</td>
<td>3.9% -9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>Feb-09</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Sep-06</td>
<td>74.8% -2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luna</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>Nov-07</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>Sep-06</td>
<td>63.0% -1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socorro</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>May-10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Jan-06</td>
<td>6.7% -2.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The latest economic news (as of July 2012) gathered from published articles, government documents, private- and public-sector news releases, and reports from local New Mexico Workforce Connection Centers. In most cases, no attempt is made to verify accuracy of information.

Statewide

Home Depot announced plans to hire about 450 seasonal workers statewide—250 in Albuquerque—for its busy spring season. Most of the company’s 13 New Mexico stores were expected to add 30 to 35 employees.

PNM dedicated a new solar photovoltaic generating facility on January 11 in Las Vegas, the last of five such plants it has brought online within the past year. Each facility was expected to create 80 to 100 construction jobs.

Santa Fe Gold began commercial production in early April at its Summit silver-gold mine in Grant County and Lordsburg processing mill in Hidalgo County. Combined employment has grown to 65 since processing operations began in 2010.

Quest Diagnostics planned to lay off (over a six-month period) about 125 of the 450 employees who joined the company when it bought S.E.D. Medical Laboratories from Lovelace Health Systems.

The Air Force announced plans to cut 9,000 civilian positions at bases nationwide, including 82 at Kirtland, 57 at Holloman, and 49 at Cannon, to control costs and restructure its civilian force. Some affected positions are currently vacant.

The feature film “Jackie” was scheduled to shoot from mid-November through December 2011 in and around western New Mexico, employing about 70 New Mexico crew member and more than 150 principal actors and extras.

The Bureau of Reclamation expects work to begin this year on the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, a long-term project to pump water to the Navajo Nation, the city of Gallup, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation. Construction will create 400 to 500 jobs initially and up to 650 at peak activity.

SunEdison has activated the first three of five solar power plants that make up a 53.5-megawatt project in Eddy and Lea counties. All facilities were to be built, financed, and maintained by SunEdison under a 20-year agreement with Xcel Energy.

The planned SunZia Southwest Transmission Project, a $1.5 billion high-voltage transmission system, would create 3,900 construction jobs and 40 permanent positions in New Mexico. Construction is to begin in 2013 and initial operations in 2016.

Walt Disney Pictures’ “The Lone Ranger” was set to begin principal photography in New Mexico in February 2012, with production scheduled for multiple locations through the middle of August, employing 300 crew members, 30 actors, and 1,200 extras.

The A&A drama “Longmire,” set to air this summer, was scheduled to film in Santa Fe and Las Vegas, employing at least 130 New Mexico crew members and more than 160 principal and background actors. The series’ pilot filmed in New Mexico in May 2011.

New Mexico’s four remaining Borders bookstores—two in Albuquerque, one in Gallup, and one in Santa Fe—were slated close as part of a nationwide liquidation. LASER lists an employee size range of 20 to 49 for the typical location.

Mosaic, a health care provider to people with intellectual disabilities, planned to close all three of its New Mexico offices, located in Farmington, Gallup, and Santa Fe. Workers may have secured positions with new
Central Region

BERNALILLO COUNTY
Admiral Beverage is building a $15 million distribution plant in Albuquerque's South Valley that is expected to create 55 construction jobs and 20 new permanent positions.

Array Technologies, a manufacturer of solar trackers, has doubled its workforce since early 2011 and plans to add another 40 employees this year. The company sells products worldwide to utility, corporate, small business, and residential customers.

Sandia National Laboratories’ workforce increased to 8,683 in fiscal year 2011 from 8,245 in fiscal year 2010, despite an atypically high number of retirements prompted by a benefits change.

Spherion Staffing and Bernalillo County intended to hire 300+ part- and full-time temporary workers for various June primary election duties.

Tempur-Pedic planned to expand operations and add 100 jobs, starting with 51 new positions in January and February 2012, at its 800,000-square-foot factory on Albuquerque’s West Side.

The LASER system lists a current employee size range of 50 to 99. Avionics supplier Bendix/King announced plans to move its headquarters from Olathe, Kansas, to Albuquerque. The company expects to hire 100 people this year and another 40 next year for the Albuquerque operation.

Dick’s Sporting Goods opened its first New Mexico store March 21 in a 50,000-square-foot location on Albuquerque’s West Side, employing about 50. The national chain bills itself as the largest U.S.-based, full-line sporting goods retailer.

Friedman Recycling was expected to begin construction in June on a planned recycling facility in the North Valley that would create 135 construction jobs and 35 permanent positions.

Los Cuates opened new restaurants in the former Garduños space at the Sunport and at the former Copeland’s of New Mexico site near Cottonwood Mall. LASER lists an employee size range of 50 to 99 for the company’s Menaul Boulevard location.

Home improvement retailer Lowe’s opened a customer support center in the Albuquerque location once occupied by AOL and more recently by Convergys. The Lowe’s operation planned to employ 250 by March 2012 and 600 by the end of 2013.

Site work began in April for Target’s planned $20 million, 165,000-square-foot “elevated” store south of ABQ Uptown that is scheduled to open in March 2013, creating 200 jobs.

Walmart will soon begin construction on a Neighborhood Market in the former Wild Oats location at Juan Tabo and
Menaul NE in Albuquerque. Company officials hope to open the store this fall, creating about 100 new jobs.

Winrock Town Center’s redevelopment groundbreaking was scheduled for May 11. The project’s first phase will include three new restaurants—BJ’s Restaurant Inc., Dave & Buster’s, and Genghis Grill—and a 16-screen IMAX Regal Cinema.

Sony Pictures Imageworks will close its downtown Albuquerque studio in July when its current lease expires. Many of the company’s nearly 60 workers will be offered positions at other Sony locations in Culver City, Calif., and Vancouver, B.C.

Sandoval County accepted applications March 19–29 for 100 seasonal positions created through the 2012 Summer Youth Employment Program. Twenty candidates aged 15 to 17 from each of the county’s five commission districts were to be selected for job placement.

Stream Global Services began recruiting to fill 300 new positions at its Rio Rancho site, which provides warranty and sales support for a large telecommunications provider.

Work is expected to begin this summer on the 75-acre mixed-use Village at Rio Rancho retail center, to be located just north of the Rust Medical Center, that will include as its first building a 12-screen theater complex.

The 68-bed, $190 million Presbyterian Rust Medical Center opened in Rio Rancho on October 22, 2011. About half of the facility’s 485 positions were to be filled internally from other Presbyterian sites.

Sadie’s opened a third Albuquerque-area restaurant, located at the Santa Ana Star Casino, that will employ 130 by this summer. The new 15,000-square-foot eatery seats 320 and features banquet and entertainment facilities.

The 72-bed Sandoval Regional Medical Center is nearing completion in Rio Rancho’s City Center and was set to begin offering limited services on June 18, with a grand opening scheduled for July 7 and 8. The facility is expected to employ 325 initially.

Silverado Power received county approval to build a utility-scale solar power facility just outside Estancia that would generate 50 megawatts of energy. The project is expected to create up to 160 construction jobs and six to eight permanent positions.

Eastern Region

Chaves County
Impact Confections intended to close its Roswell manufacturing facility at the end of September 2011 to consolidate operations at its Wisconsin site, eliminating about 80 jobs.

Curry County
Manufacturing company Beauty Health and Science Innovations is still testing equipment but hopes to begin production soon at its Clovis facility. The company expects to employ 120 to 150 in its first year of operation and 350 by its third year.

A recent groundbreaking marked the beginning of a $12.8 million renovation of Hotel Clovis that will include apartments and business space, creating 150 construction jobs. The project is expected to be completed by December 2012.

Eddy County
Washington TRU Solutions, managing contractor for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, announced plans to lay off 65 workers by mid-October 2011. The company eliminated 51 jobs through voluntary separation earlier in the year.

Intrepid Potash received BLM approval to proceed with plans for a solution mining project 20 miles northeast of Carlsbad that will create 150 to 200 construction jobs and 30 to 40 long-term positions. The abandoned mine site was most recently occupied by Eddy Potash.

Lowe’s was scheduled to open a new 94,000-square-foot home improvement store in Carlsbad
on October 28, 2011, with about 120 mostly full-time employees.

**LEA COUNTY**
LCEC held a ribbon-cutting ceremony February 28 to officially open its $53 million natural gas-fired power generation plant near Lovington. Recent construction activity employed about 80 workers.

A planned Denny’s restaurant in Hobbs was scheduled to open in mid-May or early June, employing 75 to 100 workers. Hiring was to begin in mid-April. Santa Fe-based Eldorado Biofuels began growing algae in June and harvesting it in July at a one-acre site in Jal. The company planned to employ 100 by the end of 2011.

Intercontinental Potash has begun the environmental permitting work necessary to open and operate a planned potash mine in Lea County that is expected to be operational in 2014, employing 450 full-time workers.

International Isotopes expects the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to issue construction and operating licenses in October for the company’s planned uranium deconversion facility west of Hobbs. The plant will employ 125 to 150 when operational in 2013.

Joule broke ground on a five-acre renewable fuels demonstration facility in Hobbs that will convert sunlight, saline water, and carbon dioxide into ethanol and diesel fuel. The company expects to employ more than 100 when it moves to commercial production.

Pegasus Global Holdings announced plans to build its $1 billion Center for Innovation, Testing, and Evaluation (CITE) about ten miles west of Hobbs. The project will employ 1,500 construction workers for its initial phase and create 350 permanent positions.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**
Grace O’Malley’s Irish Pub opened at 2331 Sudderth Drive in Ruidoso, employing 96. The pub serves traditional Irish and American cuisine and offers patrons an array of draft beers and a full bar.

CYFD scheduled a second public meeting for May 9 to discuss its planned reopening of a juvenile detention and rehabilitation facility at the former Camp Sierra Blanca site that would employ 50 full-time workers.

**Northern Region**

**LOS ALAMOS COUNTY**
After eliminating 557 full-time positions from its regular payroll in mid-April, LANL was expected to cut an additional 60 jobs in its contract or flexible workforce category by month’s end.

**SAN MIGUEL COUNTY**
The City of Las Vegas planned to hire more than 150 youths for various summer jobs lasting nine to 11 weeks. Positions were available with several city departments and (through MOUs) other government entities.

**SAN JUAN COUNTY**
The Navajo Nation held a grand opening January 16 at its 86,000-square-foot Northern Edge Navajo Casino in Upper Fruitland, near the southwest corner of Farmington. The facility is expected to create 375 full-time jobs with an annual payroll of $12 million.

**SANTA FE COUNTY**
Drury Southwest started work on Santa Fe’s biggest private construction project this year: the transformation of the former St. Vincent Hospital and adjacent Marian Hall into a hotel and retail complex. The first phase is scheduled for completion in early 2014.

Voltage Productions was scheduled to begin shooting the feature film “Code Name: Geronimo” in February in Santa Fe, employing at least 100 New Mexico crew members and 380 principal and background talent.

The Walmart Supercenter at 5701 Herrera Drive in Santa Fe, near Interstate 25 and Cerrillos Road, opened October 12, 2011, with about 300 employees and may soon add as many as 50 more.
Southwestern Region

DOÑA ANA COUNTY
Sitel announced plans to add 130 workers in the next two months at its Las Cruces call center to provide service for retail banking and satellite television clients. This expansion, the company’s third in 18 months, will increase its workforce to 630.

St. Clair Winery & Bistro opened a new and larger location in late January at the Las Cruces site formerly occupied by the Way Out West restaurant. The operation now employs about 100, up from around 30 at its old location.

Dick’s Sporting Goods is expected to open a Las Cruces store in late 2012 at the location formerly occupied by Sportsman’s Warehouse. A slightly larger Albuquerque store employs about 50.

Pro’s Ranch Markets, a retailer of fresh Hispanic food and baked goods, opened its second New Mexico location November 9, 2011, at El Paseo Road and Wyatt Drive in Las Cruces. The store was expected to employ about 300.

Union Pacific’s $400 million railyard project near Santa Teresa will employ about 1,000 construction workers later this year, up from around 170 currently. The operation will eventually create more than 600 permanent positions.

Walmart is proceeding with plans for a third Las Cruces location that would open in late 2012 on the city’s East Mesa. Walmart discount stores typically employ about 225 associates and supercenters 350 or more.

HIDALGO COUNTY
Lightning Dock Geothermal signed a $65 million engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract related to its planned geothermal plant near Animas that is expected to come online in 2013. Forecast employment was not immediately available.

LUNA COUNTY
Element Power plans to break ground late this year on a 48.5-megawatt solar field near its Macho Springs Wind Energy Farm in northeastern Luna County. The project will create about 100 temporary construction jobs and two or three permanent positions.

Sapphire Energy received a USDA loan guarantee allowing it proceed with plans for a biofuels plant near Columbus that is expected to employ 60. The company currently operates a Las Cruces facility with close ties to NMSU.

Proper Foods’ manufacturing plant in Deming is reportedly set to close, although company CEO John Johns is said to be exploring options. Closure would displace 125 to 130 workers.

SIERRA COUNTY
New Mexico Copper Corp. will invest $200 to $300 million to restart production at the Copper Flat Mine near Hillsboro by late 2014 or early 2015, creating 400 to 500 construction jobs and 150 to 200 permanent positions. New Mexico and Virgin Galactic officials participated in the October 17, 2011, dedication of a combined terminal and hangar facility that is the company’s new home at Spaceport America. Virgin expects to employ 75 to 100 people in New Mexico eventually.
This section evaluates changes in employment and the unemployment rate for all of New Mexico’s counties. Year-over-year employment changes in the fourth quarter of 2011 are provided and compared to changes experienced in the third quarter. 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. The unemployment rate is also provided, along with changes over the last six months and the previous year. County-level employment information is available for fourth quarter 2011 from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) and non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates are available for March 2012 from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). QCEW data is current as of May 2012.

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. Additionally, this publication evaluates year-over-year employment changes for the current quarter for which data is available (Q4 2011) and the year-over-year changes for the previous quarter (in this case Q3 2011). This provides a high-level snapshot of what has happened over the 6-month period and very recent fluctuations in employment. It is important to remember that year-over-year fluctuations from quarter to quarter are typically expected and an evaluation of long-term trends would require a historical analysis beyond just the two quarters. Evidence of this is shown in this publication. Nearly all counties saw unemployment rates increase over the last 6 months, with rates finally dropping in March 2012. This often reflects at least some seasonal changes to employment, not just fluctuations related to recessionary or other market impacts.

**Central Region County News**

None of the central counties experienced year-over-year job growth in the fourth quarter of 2011, although three of the four had seen year-over-year growth in the third quarter. Fourth quarter percentage losses were greatest in Torrance County, followed by Sandoval.

All four central counties saw a decline in the unemployment rate in the last month of the quarter (March 2012), following a steady or declining rate in the last quarter of 2011. An uptick in the unemployment rate occurred in January and February, followed by lowered rates in March. Torrance County experienced the largest year-over-year percentage point decline in the rate. Unemployment rates actually declined in all New Mexico counties between February and March 2012. March 2012 rates were also lower than those of the same month in 2011.

Positively, year-over-year losses have been declining, in general, since mid to late 2009 (with some expected fluctuation from quarter to quarter). Through 2011, losses continued to slow for Bernalillo and Valencia, while losses quickened again for Sandoval and Torrance counties.

**BERNALILLO COUNTY**

Bernalillo County employment was 0.7 percent less (approximately 2,325 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest job losses (over 1,600) occurred in the construction industry, with losses offset by large gains in the Health Care industry. Year-
over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter were greater than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. Bernalillo County’s unemployment rate was 7.2 percent in March 2012, down from 7.9 percent in February and 7.6 percent a year earlier.

**SANDOVAL COUNTY**
Sandoval County employment was 1.6 percent less (approximately 480 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. These losses followed year-over-year employment gains in the third quarter of 2011.
The largest losses occurred in Retail Trade and Construction. Manufacturing experienced small gains in jobs. Sandoval County’s unemployment rate was 8.1 percent in March 2012, down from 8.9 percent in February and 8.5 percent a year earlier.

**TORRANCE COUNTY**
Torrance County employment was 5.5 percent less (approximately 180 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. This employment loss is significant considering the year-over-year growth seen in the third quarter of 2011. The largest losses occurred in Local Government, and were somewhat countered by small gains in Health Care. Torrance County’s unemployment rate was 7.7 percent in March 2012, down considerably from 9.1 percent in February and 9.6 percent a year earlier.

**VALENCIA COUNTY**
Valencia County employment was 0.8 percent less (approximately 120 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter followed year-over-year growth in the third quarter of 2011. The largest losses occurred in State Government, followed by Construction. Small gains were realized in Health Care. Valencia County’s unemployment rate was 8.2 percent in March 2012, down from 9.3 percent in February and 8.6 percent a year earlier.

**Eastern Region County News**
Year-over-year employment growth varied throughout the eastern region in the fourth quarter of 2011. Previously, Chaves, Curry, Eddy, Harding, Lea, and Union counties experienced positive year-over-year employment growth between the third quarters of 2010 and 2011, and all but Curry continued to see year-over-year employment growth in the fourth quarter. Employment growth in these counties,
however, slowed after the third quarter. Curry County saw year-over-year employment losses after a growth period. On the other hand, De Baca experienced small growth after third quarter losses. All other eastern counties experienced overall year-over-year employment losses that were greater than that experienced in the third quarter. Year-over-year employment losses have been slowing for nearly all the eastern counties (with some expected fluctuation from quarter to quarter). De Baca, Quay, and Otero have seen quickening employment losses, in general, during the economic recovery. Roosevelt and Lincoln also saw year-over-year losses slow in the early recovery, but losses began to increase in mid-2010 to early 2011.

Most of the eastern counties saw a steady rise in unemployment rates between November 2011 and February 2012. In March 2012, however, all eastern counties experienced a decrease in unemployment rates, and most (except Roosevelt) experienced a decrease in the unemployment rate over the year (March 2011 to 2012). Roosevelt County’s March 2012 unemployment rate mirrored that of a year prior.

**CHAVES COUNTY**

Chaves County employment was 0.1 percent more (approximately 20 jobs) in the fourth quarter.
2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment growth in the third quarter was less than that experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest gains occurred in Administrative & Waste Management Services (due to a one-time location code change), followed by Accommodation & Food Services. The largest job losses occurred in Health Care & State Government (one-time location code change). Chaves County’s unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in March 2012, down from 7.4 percent in February and 6.9 percent a year earlier.

**CURRY COUNTY**
Curry County employment was 0.2 percent less (approximately 40 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses followed year-over-year gains in the third quarter of 2011. The county experienced employment changes in Health Care, Transportation, and Administrative & Waste Services. The majority of the changes, however, were related to one-time location or code changes. Curry County’s unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in March 2012, down from 7.4 percent in February and 6.9 percent a year earlier.

**DE BACA COUNTY**
De Baca County employment was 0.6 percent greater in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the fourth quarter followed losses in the third quarter of 2011. Small losses in Local Government were nearly offset by gains in Construction. De Baca County’s unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in March 2012, down significantly from 5.4 percent in February and 4.6 percent a year earlier.

The largest losses occurred in Local Government. Guadalupe County’s unemployment rate was 11.2 percent in March 2012, down from 12.1 percent in February and unchanged from 11.2 percent a year earlier.

**EDDY COUNTY**
Eddy County employment was 5.3 percent greater (approximately 1,270 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the fourth quarter were less than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest job gains occurred in the mining industry, with a portion of the gains due to one-time location code changes. Professional, Technical & Scientific Services lost the largest number of jobs. Eddy County’s unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in March 2012, down from 4.8 percent in February and 4.4 percent a year earlier.

**GUADALUPE COUNTY**
Guadalupe County employment was 2.8 percent greater (approximately 35 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. These year-over-year employment gains followed losses in the third quarter of 2011. The largest employment gains occurred in Accommodation & Food Services and State Government (due to one-time location code change).

The largest losses occurred in Local Government. Guadalupe County’s unemployment rate was 11.2 percent in March 2012, down from 12.1 percent in February and unchanged from 11.2 percent a year earlier.

**HARDING COUNTY**
Harding County employment was 0.2 percent greater in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment growth was less than that of the third quarter of 2011. Numerical employment losses were too small to allow for reporting at the industry level. Harding County’s unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in March 2012, down from 5.1 percent in February and 5.0 percent a year earlier.

**LEA COUNTY**
Lea County employment was 6.3 percent greater (approximately 1,720 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the fourth quarter were less than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. Employment gains were spread over many industries, with Mining, Construction, and Transportation adding the most jobs. Large losses did not occur in any industry. Lea County’s unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in March 2012, down from 5.2 percent in February and 5.4 percent a year earlier.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**
Lincoln County employment was 4.0 percent less (approximately
270 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. These year-over-year employment losses were improved from those seen in the third quarter of 2011. The largest employment losses occurred in Construction (with some due to one-time location code change). The largest gains occurred in Accommodation & Food Services. Lincoln County’s unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in March 2012, down from 6.6 percent in February and 6.1 percent a year earlier.

**OTERO COUNTY**

Otero County employment was 0.5 percent less (approximately 95 jobs) in the fourth quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses were greater than those seen in the third quarter of 2011. The largest losses occurred in Local Government and Construction. The largest gains occurred in Health Care industry, but gains were due to one-time location code changes. Otero County’s unemployment rate was 6.0 percent in March 2012, down from 7.0 percent in February and 6.3 percent a year earlier.

**QUAY COUNTY**

Quay County employment was 4.4 percent less (approximately 120 jobs) in the fourth quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses were slightly greater than those seen in the third quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in Construction and Accommodation & Food Services. Gains were noted in the Retail industry, but were due to a one-time industry code change. Quay County’s unemployment rate was 7.2 percent in March 2012, down from 8.3 percent in February and 8.9 percent a year earlier.

**ROOSEVELT COUNTY**

Roosevelt County employment was 3.5 percent less (approximately 230 jobs) in the fourth quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter were greater than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest losses occurred in State Government, followed by Administrative & Waste Services (mostly one-time industry code change). Gains were greatest in Agriculture. Roosevelt County’s unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in March 2012, down from 5.7 percent in February and unchanged from 4.6 percent a year earlier.

**UNION COUNTY**

Union County employment was 0.7 percent greater (approximately 10 jobs) in the fourth quarter 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the fourth quarter were less than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest job gains occurred in the Accommodation and Food Services industry, while job losses were greatest in Health Care. Union County’s unemployment rate was 4.5 percent in March 2012, down from 5.9 percent in February and 5.3 percent a year earlier.

**Northern Region County News**

Half of the northern counties (Cibola, Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, and Taos) continued to experience year-over-year employment growth through the second half of 2011. Colfax was the only county to experience year-over-year employment growth in the fourth quarter after seeing third quarter losses. On the other hand, McKinley and San Miguel counties both experienced year-over-year losses after growth in the third quarter. Year-over-year changes are expected to fluctuate some. Looking at data from 2007 on, more than half of the northern counties have seen a general slowing of year-over-year employment losses since mid to late 2009 (with some counties beginning to gain employment in 2010 or 2011). Los Alamos and Rio Arriba counties have seen quickening year-over-year losses, while McKinley losses have remained fairly stagnant.

Nine of the ten northern counties saw a decrease in the unemployment rate in March 2012 (after increases over the
first months of the year) in addition to a decrease in the unemployment rate over the year (March 2011 to 2012). Los Alamos was the only county to experience an over-the-year increase, and that increase was very minor. Mora, San Juan, and Santa Fe counties experienced the largest percentage decrease in the unemployment rate, while McKinley and Taos counties saw the smallest decrease.

**CIBOLA COUNTY**

Cibola County employment was 1.1 percent less (approximately 85 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth were less than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. Losses were greatest in Health Care and Construction, while gains were greatest in Mining and Wholesale Trade (partly due to a one-time location code change). Cibola County’s unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in March 2012, down from 7.1 percent in February and 7.0 percent a year earlier.

**COLFAIX COUNTY**

Employment in Colfax County was about 0.2 percent greater (approximately 10 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter in 2010. Year-over-year employment gains in the fourth quarter followed losses in the third quarter of 2011. The largest employment losses occurred in State Government, Retail, and Construction. Losses were somewhat offset by gains in Accommodation & Food Services. Colfax County’s unemployment rate was 7.8 percent in March 2012, down from 8.7 percent in February and from 8.4 percent a year earlier.

**LOS ALAMOS COUNTY**

Los Alamos County employment was 1.6 percent less (approximately 270 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter were less than those experienced
in the third quarter of 2011. The largest employment changes at the industry level were mostly due to one-time location code changes. These changes occurred mostly in Administrative & Waste (losses) and Professional & Technical Services (gains). Los Alamos County’s unemployment rate was 3.1 percent in March 2012, down from 4.0 percent in February and nearly unchanged from 3.0 percent a year earlier.

**MCKINLEY COUNTY**
McKinley County employment was 2.4 percent less (approximately 525 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter followed gains experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in Local Government. The largest job gains occurred in Health Care,
with some due to a one-time industry code change. McKinley County’s unemployment rate was 8.7 percent in March 2012, down from 9.5 percent in February and 8.9 percent a year earlier.

**MORA COUNTY**
Mora County employment was 2.6 percent less (approximately 20 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter were less than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. Numerical employment losses were too small to allow for reporting at the industry level. Mora County’s unemployment rate was 13.9 percent in March 2012, down from 15.3 percent in February and 16.3 percent a year earlier.

**RIO ARRIBA COUNTY**
QCEW data shows that Rio Arriba County employment was 11.0 percent less (approximately 1,170 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter were greater than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. Employment losses occurred across a variety of industries and by varying degrees of severity. The largest losses occurred in Health Care, Retail Trade, Administrative & Waste Services, Local Government, and Accommodation & Food Services. Some losses (particularly in Health Care and Administrative & Waste) were due to one-time location code changes. Gains in industries were too small to be reported. Rio Arriba County’s unemployment rate was 8.4 percent in March 2012, down from 9.1 percent in February and 8.8 percent a year earlier.

**SAN JUAN COUNTY**
San Juan County employment was 2.3 percent greater (approximately 1,100 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the fourth quarter were less than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest gains occurred in Mining and Health Care. Nearly half of the gains in the two industries were due to one-time location/industry code changes. The largest losses were experienced in local government. San Juan County’s unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in March 2012, down from 8.0 percent in February and 8.1 percent a year earlier.

**SAN MIGUEL COUNTY**
San Miguel County employment was 1.5 percent less (approximately 125 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter were greater than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. Employment losses occurred in State Government, while the largest gains occurred in the Accommodation & Food Services and Transportation (gains were due to a one-time location code change). San Miguel County’s unemployment rate was 7.3 percent in March 2012, down from 8.2 percent in February and 8.1 percent a year earlier.

**SANTA FE COUNTY**
Santa Fe County employment was 0.4 percent greater (approximately 240 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 as the same quarter in 2010. Year-over-year employment gains in the fourth quarter were greater than the year-over-year gains in the third quarter of 2011. The largest job gains were posted in the Retail Trade and Administrative & Waste Management industries. The largest losses occurred in State Government. Santa Fe County’s unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in March 2012, down from 6.3 percent in February and 6.2 percent a year earlier.

**TAOS COUNTY**
Taos County employment was 2.5 percent less (approximately 265 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter were greater than the losses experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest declines occurred in the Construction industry, where losses were spread across many employers and tended to be smaller. The largest gain occurred in Health Care. Taos County’s unemployment rate was 9.1 percent in March 2012, down from 9.6 percent in February and nearly unchanged from 9.2 percent a year earlier.
Southwestern Region County News

Two of the seven southwestern counties saw year-over-year increases in employment, including Catron and Grant. Doña Ana saw no year-over-year change, while the remaining counties experienced year-over-year employment losses. Year-over-year gains in Catron and Grant were less than those in the third quarter of 2011. Losses in Hidalgo and Luna counties followed third quarter gains. Losses in Sierra and Socorro were greater than the losses seen in the third quarter of the year. Losses have been slowing since 2009 for nearly all of the southwestern counties. Catron and Sierra counties continued to struggle with increasing year-over-year losses into 2011, while losses in Socorro County remained fairly stagnant.

All southwestern counties experienced a decrease in unemployment rates between February and March 2012 and a decrease in the year-over-year rate (March 2010 to 2011). Year-over-year decreases were greatest in Hidalgo and Catron counties. The decrease in Luna’s unemployment rate appears significant considering the large and fairly steady growth in the unemployment rate in the county over the previous six months. The drop in the rate, however, is closely related to seasonal changes in employment in the county. Socorro continued to hold the lowest rate of the southwestern counties over the previous 6 months.

CATRON COUNTY

Catron County employment was 0.4 percent greater in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the fourth quarter were less than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest job gains occurred in the Health Care industry, while the largest losses occurred in Agriculture and the Federal Government. Catron County’s unemployment rate was 8.2 percent in March 2012, down
from 9.5 percent in February and 10.0 percent a year earlier.

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY**
Doña Ana County employment was the same in the fourth quarter of 2011 as the same quarter the previous year (around 69,540—job losses and gains offset one another, in general, over the year). This followed year-over-year increases in employment experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in the Professional and Technical Services industry (with some due to a one-time location code change) and State Government. The largest job gains occurred in Health Care (some due to a one-time industry code change), Manufacturing, and Retail Trade. Both Doña Ana County’s unemployment rate was 7.2 percent in March 2012, down from 8.1 percent in February and 7.6 percent a year earlier.

**GRANT COUNTY**
Grant County employment was 6.1 percent greater (approximately 550 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment gains in the fourth quarter were less than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest employment gains occurred in the Mining industry, followed by Health Care (some due to a one-time location code change) and Retail Trade. The largest losses occurred in Accommodation & Food Services and State Government. Grant County’s unemployment rate was 7.2 percent in March 2012, down from 8.4 percent in February and 8.3 percent a year earlier.

**HIDALGO COUNTY**
Hidalgo County employment was 2.5 percent less (approximately 45 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter followed employment gains in the third quarter of 2011. The largest employment losses occurred in education
services, with some large losses due to a one-time location code change in the Mining industry. Employment gains were largest in Health Care and Agriculture, although nearly all of the growth in Health Care was due to a one-time location code change. Hidalgo County’s unemployment rate was 5.9 percent in March 2012, down from 6.7 percent in February and 7.5 percent a year earlier.

**LUNA COUNTY**
Luna County employment was 4.7 percent less (approximately 360 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter followed gains experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in Manufacturing. The Health Care industry experienced the large job gains, although a majority of the gains were due to a one-time location code change, as opposed to real job creation. Luna County’s unemployment rate was 19.9 percent in March 2012, down from 20.6 percent in February and 21.1 percent a year earlier.

**SIERRA COUNTY**
Sierra County employment was 3.2 percent less (approximately 105 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter were greater than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in Construction and Manufacturing, although a majority of the losses were due to one-time location/industry code changes. State Government also saw larger job gains. The largest losses occurred in Local Government. Sierra County’s unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in March 2012, down from 7.8 percent in February and 6.9 percent a year earlier.

**SOCORRO COUNTY**
Socorro County employment was 1.2 percent less (approximately 65 jobs) in the fourth quarter of 2011 than the same quarter the previous year. Year-over-year employment losses in the fourth quarter were greater than those experienced in the third quarter of 2011. The largest job losses occurred in Local Government, while the largest gains occurred in Agriculture. Socorro County’s unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in March 2012, down from 5.7 percent in February and 5.3 percent a year earlier.
WAGE INFORMATION sheets are now available online for all four regions. The wage data is organized by major occupational group, ranging from computer occupations to construction and extraction occupations. The data includes starting wages and average wages. The wage sheets are available online under the “Wages” tab at: http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmipub.html.

2008-2018 PROJECTIONS IN-BRIEF publications are now available online for all four regions. The projections are presented for major industries and occupations. The publication also identifies the fastest growing occupations and industry subsectors as well as in-demand occupations. The in-brief publications are available online under the “Publications” tab at: http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmipub.html.

THE 2012 STATE OF THE WORKFORCE report was released in January 2012. The State of the Workforce is an annual publication that provides information on labor force demographics, as well as statistics on current and future workforce supply and demand. The 2011 State of the Workforce report is available online under the “Publications” tab at: http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmi.html.

THE 2012 ANNUAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INDICATORS report is now available online. This publication contains frequently requested information on population, personal income, employment, wages, poverty, industry and occupational forecasts, labor surplus areas and educational data. The information is based on data available from a wide range of sources, and this PDF now includes interactive links to data sources. http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmipub.html.

Keep an eye out for July’s Labor Market Review (LMR) publication, set to be posted online August 24, and August’s LMR, set to be posted online September 28. You can find the most recent as well as past Labor Market Reviews under the “Publications” tab at: http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-lmr-past.html.
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