Quarterly labor market information across New Mexico

Talking About the HEALTH CARE Industry in New Mexico
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.

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The health care and social assistance sector comprises establishments providing health care and social assistance services for individuals. The sector includes both health care and social assistance because it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the boundaries of these two activities. The services provided by establishments in this sector are delivered by trained professionals. Many of the industries in the sector are defined based on the educational degree held by the practitioners included in the industry. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.) The health care industry comprises four subsectors: ambulatory health care services; hospitals; nursing and residential care facilities; and social assistance. There are 39 detailed industry subsectors classified within the four subsectors listed.

This article presents analysis on what is referred to as the health care industry and includes information on the ambulatory health care services, hospitals, and nursing and residential care facilities subsectors of the health care and social assistance industry, and does not evaluate the social assistance subsector, apart from where specifically mentioned, due to suppressed data in specific areas. Much of the employment in the social assistance subsector does not directly fall under health care services. For example, the subsector includes individual and family services; community food and housing, and emergency and other relief services; vocational rehabilitations services; and child day care services. While some work within these activities is certainly related to health care, particularly those in behavioral health, they often do not encompass providing health care services. For definitions of the three industry subsectors that are evaluated in this article, see the corresponding note on measuring health care employment.

The health care industry employs the largest number of New Mexicans of any industry; about one in every six jobs are found in the health care industry, and almost one quarter of health care jobs are found in the ambulatory health care services subsector. While about 13 percent of New Mexico’s workforce is employed in the health care industry, close to 9 percent of New Mexicans are employed in a health care occupation, either as a healthcare practitioner, technical worker, or support worker. The most common health care occupations are in nursing as registered nurses or nursing assistants; workers in these two occupations make up close to one-third of all workers employed in a health care occupation.

Between 2005 and 2007, employment in the health care industry grew at a slightly slower rate than overall employment. Employment in the industry, however, continued to grow during the recent recession (2007 to 2009), and growth during the recovery surpassed any of that experienced in other industries. The health care industry was the only industry that did not experience overall job losses during the recession.

The health care industry provides services that are necessary for New Mexicans. Because of this, employment in this industry is less likely to be impacted by market shocks and is typically driven, to some degree, by population growth. Employment in the health care industry in New Mexico, however, is projected to grow by more jobs and grow faster than employment in any other industry. Employment is projected to increase by over 32,000. Nearly half of this employment growth
A NOTE ON MEASURING HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT

Health care industry employment, for the purposes of this article, includes the three defined subsectors below:

**Ambulatory Health Care Services.** Industries in the ambulatory health care services subsector provide health care services directly or indirectly to ambulatory patients and do not usually provide inpatient services. Health practitioners in this subsector provide outpatient services, with the facilities and equipment not usually being the most significant part of the production process.

**Hospitals.** Industries in the hospitals subsector provide medical, diagnostic, and treatment services that include physician, nursing, and other health services to inpatients and the specialized accommodation services required by inpatients. Hospitals may also provide outpatient services as a secondary activity. Establishments in the hospitals subsector provide inpatient health services, many of which can only be provided using the specialized facilities and equipment that form a significant and integral part of the production process.

**Nursing & Residential Care Facilities.** Industries in the nursing and residential care facilities subsector provide residential care combined with either nursing, supervisory, or other types of care as required by the residents. In this subsector, the facilities are a significant part of the production process and the care provided is a mix of health and social services with the health services being largely some level of nursing services.

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).*

Industry employment numbers in this article are conservative because they, by the nature of the data collected, do not include certain populations. These populations include self-employed workers, workers in the armed services, student workers at schools, and some non-profit workers.

Health care employment is different when evaluating employment for the health care industry versus health care workers. Both measurements provide critical information on the health care workforce in New Mexico, and both are evaluated in this article. Health care industry employment measures all workers, regardless of the occupation, because industries are defined by their business activities. Health care occupational employment measures workers that are within a classified health care occupation and are involved directly in providing health care services. The two minor occupational groups include healthcare practitioners and technical occupations and healthcare support occupations.

The majority of data presented in this article is from two resources—the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) and the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program—and typically references the most recent period for which data is available.
is projected to occur in the ambulatory health care services subsector. Two key factors that will drive this projected fast growth include an aging population and the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The aging population is perhaps the most significant reason the rate of employment growth in the health care industry is projected to quicken in the coming years. Exhibit 1 shows the percentage of the population 65 years and older from 1990 to 2012. As of 2012, 14.1 percent of the population was 65 years or older, as compared to just 11.1 percent in 1990. This aging trend is also evident for the nation’s population as a whole.

The ACA will also likely contribute to a faster growth rate for employment in the health care industry. As of 2012, 19.4 percent of New Mexico’s noninstitutionalized population did not have health insurance of any kind, as compared to 15.1 percent of the national population. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2020 3-year estimates.) The number of persons with health insurance will increase due to the ACA, and this increase will likely cause a rise in the use of demand for health care services and professionals.

There are other factors that will likely impact employment growth in the health care industry, but the impacts of such factors are more difficult to predict. One example of such a factor is advancements in technology in the health care industry. Advancements in records keeping; dissemination of medical research; telemedicine/telehealth services, such as online medical consultations; and computer and mobile applications that help people maintain health plans and reach goals, such as exercise and diet tracking, have already started changing the landscape of health care. These advancements will have an impact on the demand for health care services and professionals, but measuring that impact is complex and multifaceted.

### Employment in New Mexico’s Health Care Industry

#### CURRENT HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Approximately 12.5 percent of all workers in New Mexico are employed in the health care industry. New Mexico has a higher concentration of health care industry employment than all of its neighboring states and the U.S. as a whole. As Exhibit 2 shows, about 12.1 percent of U.S. workers are employed in the health care industry. Of New Mexico’s neighboring states, Oklahoma and Arizona have the next highest concentrations of workers, at 11.6 and 11.5 percent, respectively.

Exhibit 3 shows the concentration of workers in health care across New Mexico’s counties. Sierra and San Miguel have the highest concentrations of health care industry employment, with employment comprising around 23 percent of total employment in each county. Los Alamos and Catron have the lowest concentrations, at 5.0 and 2.6 percent, respectively. Harding, with little to no employment in the health care industry, is excluded from Exhibit 3.

Exhibit 4 shows the distribution of employment across the three health care subsectors. Close to
half of all employees in the health care industry are employed in the ambulatory health care services subsector. Hospitals employ just over 35 percent of total health care industry workers, followed by nursing and residential care facilities, with close to 16 percent of employment.

Industries employ workers in all types of occupations because an industry is defined by business activities, as opposed to specific tasks and services an occupation might provide. Exhibit 5 provides a list of the top occupations in the health care industry. Workers in health care occupations comprise just over 60 percent of all workers in the health care industry. About 15 percent of workers in the health care industry are employed in office and administrative support occupations. As Exhibit 5 shows, when looking at detailed occupations, those in which employment comprises at least 5 percent of total health care subsector employment are almost all exclusively health care occupations. The one exception is receptionists and information clerks, where workers comprise about 5.7 percent of total employment in the ambulatory health care services subsector.

HISTORIC HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Growth in health care employment is largely driven by population growth, and the industry is often somewhat protected from recessions because health care services are commonly essential. Exhibit 6 shows health care industry employment and total employment from January 2005 through March 2013. Health care industry employment grew...
**Spotlight on Large Employers**

**Health Care Industry Businesses with 1,000 or more Employees**
- University of New Mexico, Albuquerque
- UNM Children’s Hospital, Albuquerque
- Abq Health Partners LLC, Albuquerque
- New Mexico Health Dept, --
- University School of Medicine, Albuquerque
- VA Medical Ctr-New Mexico, Albuquerque
- St Vincent Regional Med Ctr, Santa Fe
- Presbyterian Healthcare Svc, Albuquerque
- Christus St Vincent Med Group, Santa Fe
- San Juan Regional Medical Ctr, Farmington
- Memorial Medical Ctr, Las Cruces
- Tri Core Reference Labs, Albuquerque
- Gallup Indian Medical Ctr, Gallup

**Health Care Industry Businesses with 600 to 1,000 Employees**
- Northern Navajo Medical Ctr, Shiprock
- Las Colinas Village, Albuquerque
- Mountainview Regional Med Ctr, Las Cruces
- Ethicon Endo-Surgery Inc, Albuquerque
- Adelante Development Ctr Inc, Albuquerque
- Plains Regional Medical Ctr, Clovis
- RMCHCS Red Rock Clinic, Gallup
- UNM Pediatrics, Albuquerque
- Coordinated Home Health, Las Cruces
- Carlsbad Medical Ctr, Carlsbad
- Eastern New Mexico Medical Ctr, Roswell
- Gerald Champion Regl Med Ctr, Alamogordo

Health care providers listed typically have employees working at multiple facilities.

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**Health Care Subsector Employment**

Percentage of Total Sector Employment as of June 2013

New Mexico

- Hospitals: 35.7%
- Ambulatory HC Services: 48.4%
- Nursing & Res. Care Facilities: 15.9%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages. Data is preliminary.

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**Top Occupations in the Health Care Industry**

Occupations with Employment Comprising 5 Percent or More of Total Subsector Employment

New Mexico, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ambulatory Health Care Svcs</th>
<th>Hospitals</th>
<th>Nursing &amp; Residential Care Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal &amp; Home Care Aides, 13.9%</td>
<td>Registered Nurses, 26.7%</td>
<td>Nursing Aides, Orderlies &amp; Attendants, 23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Health Aides, 8.6%</td>
<td>Nursing Aides, Orderlies &amp; Attendants, 8.8%</td>
<td>Home Health Aides, ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistants, 6.7%</td>
<td>Licensed Practical &amp; Vocational Nurses, 6.8%</td>
<td>Licensed Practical &amp; Vocational Nurses, 6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses, 6.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Registered Nurses, 5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receptionists &amp; Information Clerks, 5.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NMDWS. ***Represents suppressed data.
overall and fairly consistently over the period, while total employment experienced significant declines during the recession and smaller declines during the early recovery. The health care industry was the only industry in New Mexico that did not lose jobs, overall, during the recession.

While the health care industry did not see overall job losses, it was not completely immune to recessionary impacts. Employment growth in the industry did begin to slow during the latter half of the recession, after over-the-year growth peaked at 4.2 percent in January 2009. This slowing growth trend continued during the early recovery period (July 2009 through fall 2010) and, after some faster growth in 2011, again continued to slow throughout 2012. Exhibit 7 shows over-the-year employment growth for the health care industry between January 2005 and March 2013. Over-the-year growth remained positive for the entire period, but hit a low of 0.3 percent in February 2013. Exhibit 7 also shows the health care industry’s share of total employment through the same period. Interestingly, even as employment growth slowed in the industry, the industry’s share of total employment steadily increased, reaching a high of 12.8 percent in July 2012. This increasing share of total employment is not just driven by the employment growth in health care, but mostly reflects the impacts of employment losses in other industries. As major industries lost jobs, and health care employment grew, health care’s share of total employment increased. In late 2012 and early 2013, when other industries began to recover the jobs they lost, the health care industry’s share of total employment began to flatten slightly.

The health care industry subsectors experienced varying degrees of growth during the recession and recovery. Exhibits 8 and 9 show historical employment growth and over-the-year employment growth for the industry’s four subsectors (social assistance shown, but listed separately). Prior to and during the recession, employment grew the quickest in the social assistance subsector. Of the health care subsectors, employment at hospitals generally grew the fastest, with a few minor exceptions. Over-the-year employment at hospitals peaked at 5.7 percent between 2007 and 2008. Over-the-year employment growth of establishments in ambulatory health care services peaked at 6.1 percent between 2008 and 2009. This is also the
subsector where employment grew more consistently each year between 2005 and 2013.

The health care industry subsectors have seen varying changes to employment during the recovery period. Hospitals saw over-the-year employment actually decline between 2010 and 2011, as well as between 2012 and 2013. Positive over-the-year growth experienced during the recovery in this subsector ranged between 2.6 and 2.9 percent. Over-the-year employment growth actually quickened in ambulatory health care services during the recovery, with growth ranging from 1.8 to 3.3 percent between 2009 and 2013. Employment in nursing and residential care facilities has stagnated in the last couple of years, after reaching a peak over-the-year growth rate of 4.2 percent between 2010 and 2011.

Exhibit 10 illustrates how health care employment has changed in recent years in New Mexico’s regions, while Exhibit 11 provides over-the-year employment growth rates. Note that, due to data limitations, employment for the health care and social assistance industry is evaluated.

Between 2005 and 2007, over-the-year employment growth ranged from 1.4 percent in the Eastern Region, to 5.0 percent in the Southwestern Region. The Southwestern Region saw employment grow more quickly, on average, than the other three regions between January 2005 and the start of the recession (December 2007), with growth particularly quick in early- to mid-2005 and mid-2006 forward. Employment growth in
the Central and Eastern regions was very similar to that of the state overall during the same time. Employment grew more slowly in the Northern Region prior to the recession, although an increase in the rate of growth between the latter-half of 2006 and spring 2007 pushed employment growth to be closer to that of the state and the Central and Eastern regions by the start of the recession. The recession impacted health care industry employment in New Mexico’s regions differently. While employment grew through the recession, overall, in all regions, growth was fastest in the Central and Southwestern regions. Employment in the Northern Region grew at a rate similar to that experienced in 2005 and early 2006, as opposed to the faster growth it was experiencing right before the recession hit. Health care industry employment in the Eastern Region remained fairly similar to growth experienced prior to the recession.

The largest differences in health care industry employment growth can be seen during the recovery. Employment growth continued to be stronger in the Central and Southwestern regions, with over-the-year employment growth in the Southwestern Region reaching its fastest rate since 2005 throughout 2011 and 2012. In the Northern Region, health care industry employment growth increased in the early recovery period, but somewhat stagnated between 2011 and 2013. Health care industry employment growth in the Eastern Region, which had remained fairly similar to health care employment growth statewide up until the recession, was the only region to experience employment losses from December 2007 levels during the recovery; employment levels dropped below pre-recession levels in the spring of 2012, and continued to decline through early 2013. It is important to note, however, that employment levels still remained above January 2005 levels.

### PROJECTED INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Employment in the health care industry is projected to grow more and at a faster rate than any other industry in New Mexico. Between 2005 and 2012, employment in the health care industry grew at an average annual rate of 2.1 percent. Employment in the health care industry is projected to grow more quickly in the coming years; employment projections for 2010 to 2020 have employment growing at an average annual rate of 2.8 percent. This is significantly faster than the rate projected for all industries of 1.5 percent. The educational services and accommodation and food services industries are the only other two industries projected to see overall employment grow by more than 20 percent, or 2 percent on average, annually. Employment is projected to grow the most (12,530)
in the Central Region. (See Exhibit 12.) This is to be expected, as this area is where the majority of health care industry employment is located. The rate of growth provides insight on which regions may see faster increases in employment. While exact percentages for most regions cannot be provided due to data suppression requirements, each region is projected to see its employment in the health care industry grow by 25 to 30 percent over the 10-year projection period. Growth is projected to grow quickest in the Southwestern Region and the slowest in the Northern Region. No one region stands out when looking at the projected rate of employment growth; growth rates are all fairly similar.

The majority of employment growth is projected to occur in the largest of the three health care subsectors, ambulatory health care services. (See Exhibit 13.) Employment is projected to grow by over 14,000. This subsector is also projected to experience the fastest employment growth; the growth rate is projected to be nearly 34 percent, or 3.4 percent on average, annually. Employment growth in nursing and residential care facilities is projected to grow nearly as fast as employment in ambulatory health care services, although projected growth is just over 4,000.

### Employment in Health Care Occupations

#### CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

About 8.8 percent of all jobs in New Mexico are classified as health care occupations by the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system (as of 2012). It is important to remember that the health care industry is different than health care occupations. Industries are defined by their business activities, while occupations are based on work tasks. An industry, therefore, can include a wide variety of occupations, whereas health care occupations include those that are involved directly in providing health care services. Health care occupations fall within two subgroups—healthcare practitioners and technical occupations and healthcare support occupations. There are approximately 61 detailed healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and approximately 17 detailed healthcare support occupations.
As Exhibit 14 shows, the concentration of health care employment in New Mexico is nearly the same as that of the nation (8.9 percent) and is higher than those of its neighboring states, with the exception of Oklahoma, where 9.0 percent of all workers are employed in a health care occupation. This means that nearly one out of every 10 New Mexicans is employed in a health care occupation, whether it be as a practitioner, technical worker, or support worker. West Virginia, Massachusetts, South Dakota, Mississippi, and Maine have the largest concentrations of healthcare practitioners and technical workers of all U.S. states, with 11.8 to 12.6 percent of their workforce employed in such an occupation. Rhode Island, Ohio, Maine, North Carolina, and Michigan have the largest concentration of healthcare support workers of all U.S. states, with 12.1 to 14.1 percent of their workforce employed in such an occupation. In New Mexico, 14 of the approximately 78 detailed occupations have at least 1,000 workers. Thirty of the 78 occupations are projected to have 20 or more job openings each year between 2010 and 2020.

HEALTH CARE OCCUPATIONS IN NEW MEXICO’S SUBSTATE AREAS

Based on 2012 data, just over half of all health care workers are located in the Central Region of New Mexico. Oftentimes, employment is largest in the Central Region due to its large population. The Central Region also has the highest concentration of health care workers, with close to one in every 10 persons being employed in a health care occupation. (See Exhibit 15.) The Northern Non-MSA area follows, with 9.5 percent of all workers employed in a health care occupation. The Eastern Region and Los Alamos have the smallest concentrations of health care workers. This may be driven by the rural nature of the Eastern Region, which does not have an MSA, and the unique population and employment structure in Los Alamos, due to the presence of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Exhibit 16 provides median annual wages for health care occupations in New Mexico and its substate areas (2012). The statewide median annual wage of healthcare practitioners and technical workers, $60,250, is significantly higher than the all-occupation median annual wage of $41,440. The median annual wage for this minor occupational group is higher than the median annual wage for all occupations in every substate area of New Mexico.
On the other hand, the statewide median annual wage for healthcare support occupations, $25,920, is much lower than the all-occupation median annual wage. Wages for healthcare practitioners and technical workers are highest in the Santa Fe MSA, followed by the Las Cruces and Albuquerque MSAs. Wages for healthcare support workers is highest in Los Alamos, followed by the Albuquerque and Santa Fe MSAs. The Farmington MSA has the lowest median annual wages of all four MSAs for both occupations. The Northern Non-MSA area has the lowest wages for healthcare practitioners and technical workers of all non-MSA areas, while the Eastern Region has the lowest wages for healthcare support workers.

THE MOST COMMON OCCUPATIONS
Exhibits 17, 18, and 19 provide information on the most common health care occupations in New Mexico. Looking at both minor occupational groups, persons employed in nursing occupations, including registered nurses, licensed practical and vocational nurses, and nursing assistants, comprise nearly 35 percent of all health care workers. This is by far the largest occupational group. Home health aides and medical assistants represent just over 15 percent of total health care employment, with over 7 percent of all health care workers employed in one of the two occupations. No other health care occupation comprises more than 5 percent of total health care employment.

When looking at the two minor occupational groups individually, registered and licensed practical and vocational nurses comprise nearly 40 percent of all healthcare practitioners and technical workers. Approximately 38.1 percent
of healthcare practitioners and technical workers are employed in an occupation for which employment comprises less than 3 percent of total employment. In the healthcare support occupational group, approximately 70 percent of all workers are employed in three occupations—nursing assistants, home health aides, and medical assistants.

Exhibit 19 provides more detailed employment data for the most common health care occupations and includes median annual wages. Pharmacists and family and general practitioners have the highest median annual wages of the most common health care occupations listed. Of all practitioners and technical workers, pediatricians, psychiatrists, and obstetricians and gynecologists have the highest wages. All are healthcare practitioners. The lowest paying health care occupations of the most common listed are support occupations and include home health aides, orderlies, and nursing assistants. Home health aides and orderlies are also two of the lowest paying healthcare support occupations overall, along with pharmacy aides.

HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIES
Just as industries can include workers in all types of occupations, workers in a particular occupation can work across all types of industries. Health care workers are predominantly employed in the health care industry; about 76 percent of all workers employed in a health care occupation worked within the health care industry as of 2010. About 9.9 percent of workers were employed in social assistance, and 5.5 percent were employed in government. Exhibit 20 shows the top industries in which health care workers were employed as of 2010. Close to 42 percent of healthcare practitioners and technical workers were employed at hospitals, while just over 29 percent were employed in ambulatory health care services. Practitioners and technical workers, along with support workers, were largely employed at hospitals and by establishments that provide ambulatory health care services. About 21 percent of healthcare support workers, however, were employed at nursing and residential care facilities; only about 4 percent of practitioners and technical workers were employed at such facilities.

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS
Health care occupations and the health care industry will provide some of the best employment opportunities in coming years due to projected employment growth and the average wages of many health care occupations. Exhibit 21 provides a listing of health care occupations that are projected to have the most job openings in the coming years. Registered nurses and home health aides are projected to provide the most annual job openings over the 2010 to 2020 projection period, with 670 and 600 jobs a year, respectively. In addition, at least half of the openings for both of these occupations are projected to be from occupational employment growth, as opposed to openings that come available as replacements to existing positions. Median annual wages for home health aides is much less than the all-occupation average, but wages for registered nurses is far above the all-occupation average. Licensed practical and vocational nurses; nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants; and medical assistants are the other three health care occupations that
are projected to have at least 100 openings each year over the projection period. Openings for nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants and medical assistants is primarily driven by employment growth. Job openings for pharmacists and family and general practitioners are projected to exceed 60 per year, and these two occupations pay over $100,000 a year. These occupations do, however, require significantly more education than other high-growth health care occupations.

The occupations listed are projected to provide the most job openings, however, that does not mean that finding employment within these occupations will not be competitive. For example, the demand for registered nurses will obviously be very high, but, if local educational institutions are graduating a larger number of registered nurses each year than there are job openings, there could be a potential for over-supply of nurses in the market. While additional analysis would be required to evaluate the supply and demand of health care practitioners—and some efforts are underway to do such—these occupations are still projected to provide strong employment opportunities into the future, especially as the demand for health care services continues to rise.
The latest business news (as of November 2013) gathered from published articles, government documents, private- and public-sector news releases, and reports from local New Mexico Workforce Connection Centers. In most cases, information is not verified for accuracy.

**Business Expansion**

**Business Opening**

**Business Contraction**

**Business Closing**

### Statewide

- After recently opening locations on Albuquerque’s West Side and in Santa Fe, creating a combined 110 jobs, Panera Bread opened a fourth Albuquerque eatery in October at the intersection of Central Avenue and Girard Boulevard, across from UNM’s main campus.

- The Kohl’s department store chain announced plans to hire more than 50,000 seasonal employees for the holiday shopping season, which could mean about 200 new positions at its five New Mexico locations: three in Albuquerque and one each in Las Cruces and Santa Fe.

- Target will hire about 70,000 workers nationwide for the 2013 holiday season. The company is set to add 30–50 associates at the West Side Albuquerque store and 40–60 at its Paseo del Norte location; estimates are not available for Target’s eight other New Mexico stores.

- Santa Fe Gold suspended operations at its Summit mine in Grant County and flotation mill in Lordsburg because of a lack of funding, laying off 50 workers. The company expects to secure new funds within weeks and to resume operations in about three months.

### Central Region

**BERNALILLO COUNTY**

- Canon ITS, a subsidiary of digital imaging company Canon U.S.A., plans to open a 34,000-square-foot call center in Albuquerque by April 2014, creating 150 jobs over three years.

- Texas-based Conn’s is expected to open its second Albuquerque store in November at Cottonwood Mall in the space formerly occupied by Mervyn’s. The specialty retailer opened a similar-sized store last November at Interstate 40 and Eubank Boulevard, employing about 50.

- The feature film “Dirty Weekend,” starring Matthew Broderick, Alice Eve, Gia Crovatin, and Phil Burke, was in production as of early November in Albuquerque, employing 60 area residents as crew members, 11 as actors, and 140 as background talent.

- Houston-based Joe’s Crab Shack will open its first New Mexico restaurant by next summer at Winrock Town Center. The Texas Workforce Commission’s TRACER system lists an employee size range of 50–99 for most of the state’s existing Joe’s Crab Shack sites.

- LongHorn Steakhouse is in negotiations for an Albuquerque site, likely near Cottonwood Mall, at which to locate its first New Mexico restaurant. A typical LongHorn restaurant occupies about 5,400 square feet and employs 80 to 100 workers.

- The independent thriller “Big Sky,” starring Kyra Sedgwick and
Bella Thorne, was scheduled to film during October in and around Albuquerque, employing 40 area residents as crew members and 10 as actors and extras.

The independent feature “La Vida Robot,” starring George Lopez and Jamie Lee Curtis, was slated to film in Albuquerque from mid-October to mid-November, employing 60 area residents as crew members and 15 as actors and extras.

Construction activity currently employs about 50 workers at the site of Presbyterian’s new $32 million, 326,000-square-foot headquarters complex near Balloon Fiesta Park in Albuquerque. The facility will be completed in late January 2014.

The Night Shift,” a new NBC television medical drama, was scheduled to film in Albuquerque from August 21 through mid-November, employing more than 100 area residents as crew members and more than 300 as actors and extras.

Outsourcing services provider Sitel scheduled two job fairs in October to fill 130 positions. The Albuquerque site’s employment total is at its highest level in seven years.

Albuquerque-based Ultramain, a supplier of asset maintenance and logistics software, has added about 80 employees in the past year, boosting its workforce to 140.

The company recently contracted to provide a wireless system for Cathay Pacific Airways’ 170-plane fleet.

After recruiting to add 64 employees in Albuquerque earlier this year, UnitedHealthcare announced plans to hire another 100 to provide services for clients enrolled in New Mexico’s Centennial Care Medicaid program.

ZTEC, recently acquired by California-based LitePoint Corp., expects to double its 20-person Albuquerque workforce in a year, then double it again within two years. The company manufactures test instruments for wireless products at the research and design stage.

SANDOVAL COUNTY

Dallas-based Alliance Data Systems has added 120 employees in Rio Rancho since acquiring the Victoria’s Secret customer care center and its staff of 300 a year ago. The company expects to hire at least 160 more workers by the end of 2014.

Stream Global Services, a business process outsourcing provider, will add 200 workers at its Rio Rancho sales and customer service center to support a telecommunications client.

Intel’s plan to cut staffing by 400 at its Rio Rancho facility through transfers, retirements, and other voluntary separations is part of a companywide effort to restructure operations as consumer demand continues to shift from personal computers to mobile devices.

TORRANCE COUNTY

The Torrance County Commission approved a resolution for $450 million in IRBs to support Iberdrola Resources’ planned 1,000-megawatt El Cabo wind farm near Encino. The multiphase project, which could begin later this year, would create hundreds of construction jobs.
VALENCIA COUNTY
Applebee’s will open a Los Lunas restaurant in late 2013 or early 2014 at the northwest corner of Main Street and Los Cerritos Drive, in front of the Lowe’s home improvement store, employing 75 to 80 full- and part-time workers.

Eastern Region

CHAVES COUNTY
AGPower Field Processing broke ground on the first of five planned biogas facilities in Chaves County, with each expected to employ 12 to 15 workers. The operations will process dairy waste into methane gas.

Dean Baldwin Painting, a provider of aircraft refinishing services, is upgrading its Roswell hanger complex and will soon add 60 workers to the 40 already hired over the past two months. The NMDWS LASER system lists the company’s employee size range at 100–249.

Aircraft salvage and recycling company Stewart Industries plans to hire 50 mechanics by the end of November and expand services at its Roswell International Air Center facility.

CURRY COUNTY
German company BayWa acquired development assets from National Renewable Solutions in September and hoped to break ground in October on a planned wind energy project south of Grady. The construction phase will require about 100 workers.

The Clovis City Commission unanimously approved the introduction of an ordinance to issue $1.655 billion in industrial revenue bonds for the planned Tres Amigas Superstation project, which is expected to create 104 permanent positions and at least 120 construction jobs.

EDDY COUNTY
Sugar Land, Texas-based Rangeland Energy announced plans to build a $150 million rail terminal complex near Loving that will create about 50 new jobs. The facility, expected to be operational by year’s end, will handle shipments to and from the area’s oil fields.

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

ROOSEVELT COUNTY
Infinity Wind Resources is planning to build a 250-megawatt wind farm between the towns of Dora and Elida that will produce output for sale to Excel Energy. The project, expected to come online in 2015, will create a significant number of construction jobs.

- Sunland, the nation’s largest organic peanut butter processor, ceased operations and filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, displacing about 100 workers. The company was unable to recover after its products were linked to a nationwide salmonella outbreak last year.

Northern Region

SAN JUAN COUNTY
- Michael Douglas is producing and starring in “The Reach,” a thriller set to film in the Farmington area from mid-September through late October, employing 160 area residents as crew members and 60 as actors and extras.

- Durango, Colorado-based developer GlobalWorks announced plans to build a 253-residence senior living complex at an 18-acre site in Bloomfield. WaterFall Living Community would be built in multiple phases, with first-phase construction beginning later this year.

SANTA FE COUNTY
- Drury Hotels’ project to transform the former St. Vincent Hospital and adjacent Marian Hall into a hotel and retail complex currently employs about 200 construction workers. The first phase is scheduled for completion by late April 2014.

- Christus St. Vincent is eliminating 58 positions and laying off 36 employees as part of a restructuring that will reduce payroll by $4 million. Hospital officials say the changes are due in part to ACA reform requirements and Sole Community Provider program funding reductions.
**TAOS COUNTY**

- AmRest, which sold 99 Applebee’s restaurants last fall, in May closed its remaining three franchise locations—in Taos; Arroyo Grande, California; and Longmont, Colorado. The NMDWS LASER system lists an employee size range of 50–99 for the Taos site.

**Southwestern Region**

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY**

- A Five Guys Burgers and Fries restaurant will open around the start of the new year on Mall Drive in Las Cruces, employing 45 to 50 workers.

- El Paso-based Twin Cities, a warehousing, distribution, and logistics company, announced plans to open a container and trailer transfer and storage operation in early 2014 in Santa Teresa’s Verde Logistics Park, employing about 50.

- Empereon Marketing, a telemarketing services provider, has hired about 40 employees in recent months at its Las Cruces call center and expects to add another 50 by the end of the year.

**GRANT COUNTY**

- “X-Species,” an independent production starring Clancy McLain, Skyler Hart, and Lieschen Pogue, was set to film during October and November in and around Silver City, employing 15 area residents as crew members and 50 as actors and extras.
This section provides information on the following three separate labor market measurements for each region and county in New Mexico:

**EMPLOYMENT**
- Historical year-over-year percentage changes in employment for January 2009 through June 2013.
- Year-over-year changes in employment for the most recent quarter for which data is available (2nd quarter 2013).
- Information on industries that experienced the largest employment changes (gains or losses) for the most recent quarter for which data is available (2nd quarter 2013).

**AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES:**
- A map showing the range of average weekly wages for each county by region for the most recent month for which data is available (2nd quarter 2013).

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**
- The most recent unemployment rate available (October 2013) compared to the previous month (September 2013) and the same month for the previous year (October 2012). Rates presented are all non-seasonally adjusted. *Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS).*

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. It is important to be aware that year-over-year employment fluctuations from quarter to quarter are typically expected (often in relation to seasonality and other factors) and an evaluation of long-term trends would require a historical analysis beyond the most recent quarter.

**Central Region Economic Data**

The Central Region, overall, experienced over-the-year employment gains in the second quarter of 2013 (0.7 percent, or 2,650 jobs). All four counties have been experiencing trending improvement in employment changes, although over-the-year growth slowed in the fall of 2012. Sandoval and Torrance counties had been experiencing over-the-year job gains, though Torrance experienced negative growth through 2013 and Sandoval dipped into the negative in June 2013. Bernalillo reached positive over-the-year growth in the fourth quarter of 2012 for the first time since September of 2011. Non-economic data changes caused over-the-year growth to vary widely throughout 2012 in both Valencia and Torrance counties. Both counties once again experienced over-the-year growth rates more in line with 2011 levels in the first and second quarters of 2013, as non-economic data changes were fully absorbed into the data set. The non-economic data changes in these two counties did not necessarily reflect job losses or gains in total. As of the second quarter of 2013, Torrance was the only central county to experience negative over-the-year employment growth. This still, however, is an improvement on the over-the-year rates seen during 2011.

The Central Region’s unemployment rate in October 2013 (6.6 percent) was higher than that of the state as a whole (6.3 percent). All four central counties, except Torrance, saw a reduction or no change in their unemployment rates between September and October. Positively, all counties saw their October 2013 unemployment rate fall below the rate...
experienced the same month the year before.

BERNALILLO COUNTY
Bernalillo County employment was 0.8 percent greater (approximately 2,550 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest gains were seen in health care; accommodation and food services; construction; and retail trade, which were offset to some extent by losses in federal government and other services. The unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in October 2013, unchanged from September and down from 6.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $802.

SANDOVAL COUNTY
Sandoval County employment was 0.4 percent greater (approximately 110 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than
the same quarter the previous year. Gains, which were largest in health care and administrative and waste services, were somewhat offset by losses in retail trade and finance and insurance, though these latter losses were mostly due to non-economic data changes. Sandoval’s unemployment rate was 7.5 percent in October 2013, up from 7.4 percent in September but down from 7.6 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $806.

**TORRANCE COUNTY**

Torrance County employment was 3.8 percent less (approximately 120 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Losses, which were largest in health care, though mostly due to non-economic data changes, were somewhat offset by gains in educational services. The large variations in employment throughout 2012 were mostly due to non-economic data changes in each quarter. The second quarter saw over-the-year changes more in line with growth seen prior to these non-economic changes. Torrance’s unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in October 2013, unchanged from September and down from 7.3 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $647.

**VALENCIA COUNTY**

Valencia County employment was 0.9 percent greater (approximately 120 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. The health care industry saw the largest employment gains, which were somewhat offset by losses in local government. The large variations in employment during 2012 were mostly due to non-economic data changes in each quarter. The second quarter saw over-the-year changes more in line with growth seen prior to these non-economic changes. Valencia’s unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in October 2013, unchanged from September and down from 7.3 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $594.

**Eastern Region Economic Data**

The Eastern Region experienced over-the-year employment growth of 2.6 percent (approximately 3,320 jobs) in
Activity in the mining industry is primarily responsible for this employment growth. Five of the 12 eastern counties experienced year-over-year job losses in the second quarter of 2013, compared to four counties the previous quarter. While Harding County experienced the largest over-the-year losses in employment, percentage losses in more rural counties do not always translate to a large number of job losses. Curry County had the largest numeric losses in employment over the year. Growth was greatest in Lea and Eddy counties, driven by activity in mining. Nearly all of the eastern counties have been experiencing overall trending improvement in over-the-year job changes, though, for many counties, this trend has slowed somewhat during 2013. Over-the-year employment growth in Lea and Eddy counties has been positive for longer than the other counties in the region, but growth does not reveal a specific trend. Union and Harding counties have also not seen their growth trend upwards as much as other counties in the region, although this may be related to their small populations more than any other factor; small numeric changes can result in large percentage changes.

The Eastern Region’s unemployment rate (5.0 percent) was much lower than the statewide rate (6.3 percent) in the second quarter. Seven of the 12 eastern counties saw a increase in their unemployment rate between September and October of 2013, while two remained unchanged. The unemployment rate in October 2013 was lower than that of October 2012 in all but two of the eastern counties.

**CHAVES COUNTY**
Chaves County employment was 0.3 percent less (approximately 60 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Losses, which were mainly in agriculture and health care, were partly offset by gains in retail and wholesale trade (though gains in wholesale trade were partially due to non-economic data changes). Chaves’s unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in October 2013, up from the 5.9 percent rate in September and down from 6.3 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $632.

**CURRY COUNTY**
Curry County employment was 1.0 percent less (approximately 170 jobs) in the second quarter
of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains, which were largest in accommodation and food services, were completely offset by losses in administrative and waste services as well as agriculture and federal government. Curry’s unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in October 2013, unchanged from September but down from 5.0 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $652.

DE BACA COUNTY
De Baca County employment was nearly the same in the second quarter of 2013 as in the same quarter the previous year (a 0.8 percent increase represents very few jobs due to the small population of the county). Gains in retail were offset by losses in local government. De Baca’s unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in October 2013, down from 4.5 percent in September and also 4.5 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $559.

EDDY COUNTY
Eddy County employment was 4.9 percent greater (approximately 1,220 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. The majority of hiring occurred in the mining industry. Real losses occurred in the federal government, with some non-economic data changes in administrative and waste services. Eddy’s unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in October 2013, up from 3.8 percent in September and from 3.9 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $966.

GUADALUPE COUNTY
Guadalupe County employment was 3.7 percent greater (about 50 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. The greatest employment gains occurred in retail. Guadalupe’s unemployment rate was 8.0 percent in October 2013, unchanged from 8.0 percent in September and down from 8.8 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $536.

HARDING COUNTY
Harding County employment was 11.8 percent less in the second quarter of 2013 as in the same quarter the previous year (though this decrease only equates to approximately 20 jobs). Small gains in manufacturing were offset by losses in construction. Harding’s unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in October 2013, down from the rate of 4.4 percent in September and down further from the rate of 5.2 percent a

12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment
Eastern Region, Mid-Populated Counties, Jan 09 to Jun 13

![Graph showing 12-month percentage changes in employment for New Mexico, Curry, Lincoln, Quay, and Roosevelt counties from January 2009 to June 2013.](image)
year earlier. The average weekly wage was $612.

**LEA COUNTY**
Lea County employment was 6.1 percent greater (approximately 1,820 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Hiring in construction and mining was the largest of all industries, while job losses were largest, although still relatively small, in transportation and warehousing. Lea’s unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in October 2013, up from 3.9 percent in September but down from 4.1 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $966.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**
Lincoln County employment was 1.6 percent greater (approximately 100 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains, which were largest in retail trade, were somewhat offset by losses in local government. Lincoln’s unemployment rate was
5.1 percent in October 2013, up from 4.8 percent in September but down from the 5.4 percent seen in October of the previous year. The average weekly wage was $557.

OTERO COUNTY
Otero County employment was 2.3 percent greater (approximately 410 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains, which were largest in local government, were somewhat offset by losses in health care, other services, and the federal government. Otero’s unemployment rate was 5.8 percent in October 2013, up from 5.7 percent in September but down from the 6.3 percent rate in October of the previous year. The average weekly wage was $563.

QUAY COUNTY
Quay County employment was 1.2 percent less (approximately 30 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains in state government were completely offset by losses in retail and accommodation and food services. Quay’s unemployment rate was 5.8 percent in October 2013, down from the 6.0 percent rate in September and down further from 6.5 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $576.
ROOSEVELT COUNTY
Roosevelt County employment was about the same in the first quarter of 2013 as the same quarter the previous year. Roosevelt gained the largest number of jobs in the manufacturing and construction. These gains were offset by losses in accommodation and food services, state government, and agriculture. Roosevelt's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in October 2013, up from 4.6 percent in September and down from the 5.0 percent rate in October of the previous year. The average weekly wage was $611.

UNION COUNTY
Union County employment was 2.1 percent greater (approximately 30 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains in local government were partly offset by losses in health care. Union's unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in October 2013, up from 4.7 percent in September and also up from 4.6 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $603.

Northern Region County News
The Northern Region, overall, experienced small employment gains between the second quarters of 2012 and 2013 (0.1 percent, or about 150 jobs). This was the smallest over-the-year growth of all the regions. Six of the 10 counties experienced over-the-year job growth in the second quarter of 2013, with growth ranging from 0.6 to 3.1 percent. Los Alamos saw the largest over-the-year numeric losses; the county has experienced a downward trend in over-the-year employment growth since early 2010. The most populated and mid-populated counties have been experiencing overall trending improvement in over-the-year employment changes, though growth has slowed, or taken a slight downturn, in the last quarter. Of these counties, San Juan has seen the longest period of positive over-the-year growth, although growth has been somewhat stagnant. As would be expected, Colfax and Mora counties—the least populated in the North—have seen wider fluctuations in over-the-year employment growth; small numeric changes can result in large percentage changes.

12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment
Northern Region, Most Populated Counties, Jan 09 to Jun 13

![Graph showing 12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment](image-url)
12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment
Northern Region, Mid-Populated Counties, Jan 09 to Jun 13

12-Month Percentage Changes in Employment
Northern Region, Least Populated Counties, Jan 09 to Jun 13
The Northern Region's unemployment rate (6.3 percent) was the same as that of the state in the second quarter of 2013. Four out of the 10 northern counties saw their unemployment rate increase between October 2012 and October 2013. Four counties saw an increase in their unemployment rate between September and October, while the rest were unchanged.

**CIBOLA COUNTY**

Cibola County employment was 3.4 percent less (approximately 270 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains in retail were completely offset by losses in health care, construction, and local government. Cibola's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in October 2013, similar to the 6.0 percent rate in September and unchanged from 6.1 percent seen a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $687.

**COLFAX COUNTY**

Employment in Colfax County was about 3.1 percent greater (approximately 150 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter in 2012. Gains were largest in other services. Losses were largest in professional, scientific and technical services, although some were due to non-economic data changes. Colfax's unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in October 2013, unchanged from 6.3 percent in September 2013 and down from 7.1 percent in October of...
the previous year. The average weekly wage was $556.

**LOS ALAMOS COUNTY**

Los Alamos County employment was 3.8 percent less (approximately 630 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Employment losses came from the professional and technical services industry, and were minimally offset by gains in education services. Los Alamos’s unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in October 2013, up from 3.6 percent in September and 3.8 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $1,525.

**MCKINLEY COUNTY**

McKinley County employment was 1.4 percent less (approximately 310 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Real losses in employment were largest in the federal and local government, and losses across all industries exceeded gains in professional, scientific and technical services and accommodation and food services. McKinley’s unemployment rate was 8.8 percent in October 2013, up from 8.6 percent in September and 8.3 percent in October of 2012. The average weekly wage was $641.

**MORA COUNTY**

Mora County employment was 7.6 percent less (approximately 60 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Small gains in several industries were offset by losses in local government, health care, and construction. Mora’s unemployment rate was 12.1 percent in October 2013, unchanged from 12.1 percent in September and up from 11.5 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $610.

**RIO ARRIBA COUNTY**

Rio Arriba County employment was 0.6 percent greater (approximately 60 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains, which were largest in state government and accommodation and food services, were partly offset by losses in retail trade, which experienced the largest over-the-year losses of all industries. Rio Arriba’s unemployment rate was 7.5 percent in October 2013, up from 7.3 percent in September and 7.4 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $627.

**SAN JUAN COUNTY**

San Juan County employment was 0.8 percent greater (approximately 370 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Growth in local government, along with health care and mining, exceeded losses that were mainly due to non-economic data changes. San Juan’s unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in October 2013, unchanged from September and down from 6.3 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $556.

**Average Weekly Wages**

*Northern Region, 2nd Quarter 2013*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Alamos</td>
<td>$1,525</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rio Arriba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mora</td>
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<td>San Miguel</td>
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<td>Colfax</td>
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<td>San Juan</td>
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<tr>
<td>McKinley</td>
<td>$556</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Region</td>
<td>$801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>$781</td>
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</tbody>
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weekly wage was $840.

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY
San Miguel employment was 1.6 percent greater (130 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains were largely due to non-economic data changes, and were somewhat offset by losses in local government. San Miguel’s unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in October 2013, unchanged from September’s rate and down from the 8.5 percent rate seen a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $586.

SANTA FE COUNTY
Santa Fe County employment was 0.7 percent greater (approximately 390 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 as the same quarter in 2012. Gains in information, accommodation and food services, and retail trade were somewhat offset by losses in health care, though these were mainly non-economic data changes, and construction. Santa Fe’s unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in October 2013, unchanged from September and down from 5.3 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $769.

TAOS COUNTY
Taos County employment was 2.9 percent greater (approximately 290 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains in accommodation and food services, which is related to tourism, and construction exceeded losses in administrative and waste services. Taos’s unemployment rate was 8.3 percent in October 2013, unchanged from September’s rate and down from the 8.5 percent rate seen a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $586.

Southwestern Region County News
The Southwestern Region experienced over-the-year employment gains of 1.0 percent, or approximately 960 jobs, between the second quarters of 2012 and 2013. Three of the seven counties gained employment over the year. Gains were greatest in Doña Ana and Luna counties. Doña Ana, the most populous county in the region, has experienced an upward trend since spring 2012. Over-the-year employment changes in the most populated counties in the Southwest continue to stagnate around 0 percent, occasionally dipping into negative territory; over-the-year growth in these counties, however, has recently been similar to that of the state as a whole. Grant, Socorro, and Hidalgo counties have all been experiencing either stagnant or trending declines in over-the-year growth. In addition, while Catron County had been experiencing the largest over-the-year growth rates since early 2012, along with the other least populated southwestern counties, saw negative growth as of June.

The Southwest’s unemployment rate (7.0 percent) in the second quarter of 2013 was higher than that of the state as a whole (6.3 percent). Four of the seven counties saw an increase in the unemployment rate between September and October of 2013, while two county’s rate decreased. Five of the seven counties experienced a decrease in their rate from October of 2012. Doña Ana and Socorro counties saw their unemployment rate increase over the year.

CATRON COUNTY
Catron County employment was roughly the same in the first quarter of 2013 as in the same quarter the previous year (a 0.6 percent increase equates to very few jobs). Employment gains reflected non-economic data changes, whereas real losses came from local government. Catron’s unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in October 2013, up from 5.7 percent in September and down from 7.1 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $571.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY
Doña Ana County employment was 1.8 percent greater (approximately 1,220 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Real gains, which were largest in accommodation and food services, professional, scientific and technical services, and retail
trade, were somewhat offset by losses in agriculture, federal government, manufacturing, and transportation and warehousing. Doña Ana’s unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in October 2013, up from 6.7 percent in September and 6.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $678.

**GRANT COUNTY**
Grant County employment was 0.4 percent less (approximately 40 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Mining added the most jobs over the year, with losses greatest in construction and management of companies. Grant’s unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in October 2013, unchanged from 6.6 percent in September and down from the 6.8 percent rate of a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $731.

**HIDALGO COUNTY**
Hidalgo County employment was 3.0 percent less (approximately 50 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year.
Gains in health care, which were partly due to non-economic data changes, were completely offset by losses in professional and technical services, accommodation and food services, and local government. Hidalgo’s unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in October 2013, up from 5.2 percent in September and down from 6.2 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $764.

**LUNA COUNTY**
Luna County employment was 1.1 percent greater (approximately 80 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same month the previous year. Gains in health care were larger than losses in agriculture, manufacturing, and local government. Luna’s unemployment rate was 11.2 percent in October 2013, similar to the rate of 11.3 percent in September and down from 12.7 percent a year earlier. The average weekly wage was $630.

**SIERRA COUNTY**
Sierra County employment was 0.7 percent less (approximately 20 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. Gains in health care were somewhat offset by losses in retail trade and local government. Sierra’s unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in October 2013, down from the 5.5 percent rate in September and the 5.6 percent rate in October of the previous year. The average weekly wage was $561.

**SOCORRO COUNTY**
Socorro County employment was 4.1 percent less (approximately 230 jobs) in the second quarter of 2013 than the same quarter the previous year. The largest employment gains were seen in health care, and the largest losses occurred in state government, mostly related to education. Socorro’s unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in October 2013, up from 5.0 percent in September and 4.9 percent in October of the previous year. The average weekly wage was $675.

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**Average Weekly Wages**

*Southwestern Region, 2nd Quarter 2013*

- **S.Western Region:** $676
- **New Mexico:** $781
- $806 to $1,525
- $675 to $806
- $627 to $675
- $579 to $627
- $536 to $579
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.

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