Jobs Versus People Employed

Our office publishes three different measurements of employment for New Mexico. Each of these measurements has strengths based on the sophisticated methodologies involved. The employment measures are Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Current Employment Statistics (CES), and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). QCEW and CES both measure jobs where a person is employed. Some people may hold more than one job, so these two measurements will count them twice. Also, it is important to note that these two series count jobs by where the employer resides and provides breakdowns for industry. To clarify, many people work in one county and commute to another county, such as living in Bernalillo and commuting to Santa Fe for work. LAUS counts people where they live and if they are employed or unemployed. The question of which employment measurement should be used comes up often. The answer of course is dependent on if you need a count of jobs or a count of people employed.

Detailed Information On Each Employment Measurement

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)
The quarterly employment and wage data for workers covered by New Mexico Unemployment Insurance (UI) laws (this includes all state and local government workers) and for federal government employees covered by the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE). Employment data represent the number of workers on the payroll during the pay period including the 12th day of the month. This includes both full-time and part-time workers. Wages represent the gross amount of all payrolls for all pay periods paid within the quarter, regardless of the timing of the services performed. Commissions, bonuses, and overtime pay are included.

Current Employment Statistics (CES)
The CES is an estimate based on a current sample of industry reporters and is used to estimate employment on a monthly basis. Employment is the total number of persons on establishment payrolls employed full- or part-time who received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th day of the month. Temporary and intermittent employees are included, as are any workers who are on paid sick leave, on paid holiday, or who work during only part of the specified pay period. A striking worker who only works a small portion of the survey period, and is paid, would be included as employed under the CES definitions. Persons on the payroll of more than one establishment are counted in each establishment.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) - Also referred to as the Civilian Labor Force.
The concepts and definitions underlying LAUS data come from the Current Population Survey (CPS), the household survey that is the official measure of the labor force for the nation. State monthly model estimates are controlled in “real time” to sum to national monthly labor force estimates from the CPS.