New Mexico’s number of regular unemployment insurance continued claims (certifications by claimants that they are able, available, and actively seeking employment) peaked in June 2009 before gradually trending downward into 2012. This article examines components of continued claims extracted from the Program to Measure Insured Unemployed Statistics (PROMIS) database for June 2009 and June 2012. These not seasonally adjusted data represent continued claims for the week that included the twelfth day of the month.

Statewide continued claims by gender (see chart 1) show the male share of claimants falling from 63.6 percent in June 2009 to 54.3 percent in June 2012 and the female share rising from 36.4 percent to 45.6 percent. Male-dominated industries, such as construction and mining, were especially hard hit during the recent downturn, sharply boosting the continued claims counts for men. As the economy began to slowly improve, the relative shares by gender likewise shifted. This trend is especially evident in the Eastern Workforce Investment Act (EWIA) region, where falling oil prices in 2008 and 2009 dramatically curtailed production and increased layoff activity in mining. The industry thereafter quickly recovered as reflected in the unemployment insurance data: the male share of EWIA continued claims dipped from 70.9 percent in June 2009 to 50.0 percent in 2009, while the female share climbed from 29.1 percent o 50.0 percent.

![Chart 1: Statewide Continued Claims by Gender (Percentage of Total)](chart1.png)

Source: Program to Measure Insured Unemployed Statistics (PROMIS) Database

![Chart 2: Statewide Continued Claims by Age (Percentage of Total)](chart2.png)

Source: Program to Measure Insured Unemployed Statistics (PROMIS) Database
Older and younger claimants saw larger relative changes from June 2009 to June 2012 than did those in the middle age ranges (see chart 2). The share of continued claims for those under 30 years of age decreased from 23.4 percent in June 2009 to 20.2 percent in June 2012, while the share for those aged 55 and over increased from 18.8 percent to 21.9 percent. These changes again likely reflect the types of industries most affected by the downturn, with the trend most evident in continued claims data for the EWIA, where the share for those under age 30 declined 6.3 percentage points—nearly double the statewide change of 3.2 percentage points. The statewide share of total continued claims for those aged 30 to 44, while little changed, represented more than a third of the total for both periods (34.2 percent and 34.0 percent, respectively).

The value of education and training is illustrated in the comparison of statewide continued claims by educational attainment (see chart 3). Individuals with lower levels of educational attainment accounted for the bulk of all claims during both time periods and a higher percentage of claims during the worst of the downturn than more recently. Those completing grade 12 or below represented nearly two out of three continued claimants in June 2009, while those with at least one year of college or technical school accounted for the remaining third. From June 2009 to June 2012, the relative share fell to 61.7 percent for those completing grade 12 or below and rose to 37.6 percent for those with at least one year of college or technical school. The EWIA share of those completing grade 12 or below fell 7.9 percentage points from June 2009 to June 2012, more than double the statewide average of 3.9 points.

Statewide continued claims by race by ethnicity (see chart 4) show Hispanics accounting for slightly more than half of the total for both months, at 51.4 percent in June 2009 and 51.2 percent in June 2012. The White/Not of Hispanic Origin share fell from 29.5 percent in June 2009 to 24.9 percent, with some of the drop likely due to reporting issues as the Information N/A share increased from 5.7 percent to 10.0 percent. Continued claims shares for the individual areas were largely reflective of overall demographic differences. The share of continued claims for those of Hispanic origin was highest in the Southwestern Workforce Investment Act (SWIA) region, at 67.6 percent in June 2009 and 67.1 percent in June 2012, and the share for the American Indian or Alaska Native category was highest in the Northern Workforce Investment Act (NWIA) region at 25.0 percent in June 2009 and 27.0 percent in June 2012. The share of continued claims for the White/Not of Hispanic Origin category was higher than the statewide average for both years in the Central Workforce Investment Act (CWIA) and Eastern Workforce Investment Act (EWIA) regions.