

Arrowhead Center

Leading Economic Development for New Mexico State



The Economic Base of Lea County, NM

**PREPARED BY: The Office of Policy Analysis at Arrowhead Center,
New Mexico State University**

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New Mexico State University



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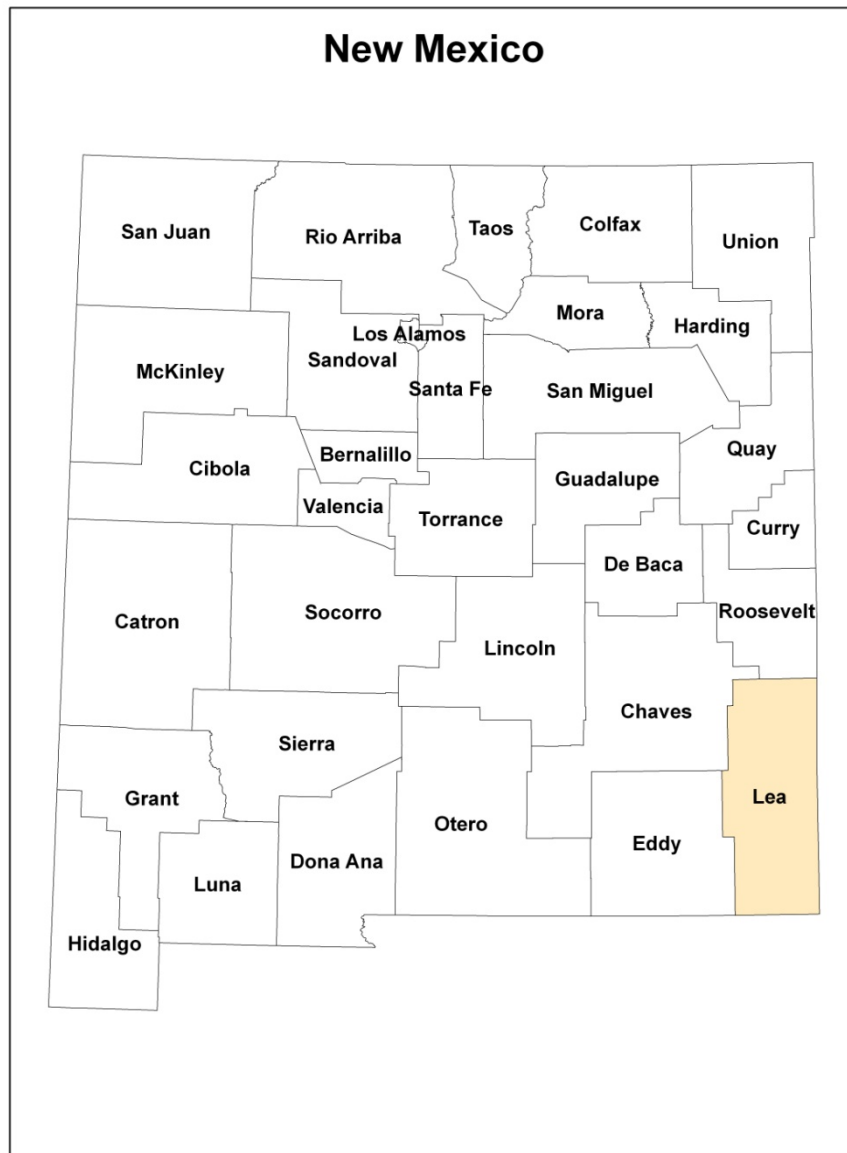
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Introduction

This report is one of 35 economic base studies prepared by the Office of Policy Analysis at NMSU's Arrowhead Center. Of the 35 reports, 33 describe the economic base of New Mexico's counties. There are separate reports for the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and the State of New Mexico. New Mexico has three additional MSAs (Las Cruces, Santa Fe and Farmington) but each of these are single county MSAs and separate reports for these MSAs were not prepared. All 35 reports may be found at: <http://arrowheadcenter.nmsu.edu/policy/>

The reports have been prepared under the direction of Anthony V. Popp and James Peach, Co-Directors of the Office of Policy Analysis. Ilana Boivie, a graduate student employed by Arrowhead Center, did much of the work on these reports. Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to: jpeach@nmsu.edu. Our intent is to update these reports on an annual basis.

An economic base study is a descriptive tool used to analyze the composition of local economic activity. Economic base studies are often conducted to help guide local economic development activities and to help economic development officials make decisions such as what type of firms they should attempt to attract to local areas. Economic base studies can also help local and regional businesses better understand local and export product markets.

The specific purposes of economic base studies include:

- Understanding regional economic growth
- Making short and long term forecasts
- Identifying potential growth sectors
- Identifying potential problem areas

According to economic base theory, economic development depends on industries that export goods and services out of the region (basic industries), as opposed to those businesses whose services remain local (non-basic). Basic activities—often said to include mining, agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing, among other sectors—promote economic growth by bringing jobs and income into the local economy. Non-basic activities do not drive the economy in the same way that basic activities do.

Non-basic activities serve local residents and provide support for basic industries. Examples of non-basic industries typically include activities such as health care, finance, and real estate.

An industry classified as basic in one region may easily be identified as non-basic in another region. One common means of identifying local basic activity is through the use of location quotients (LQs). LQs are calculated as a single industry's percent of total local employment divided by that industry's percent of total state or national employment. For example, an LQ for a single New Mexico industry may be calculated as follows:

$$\text{LQ} = \left(\frac{\text{Employment in industry } j \text{ in NM}}{\text{total employment in NM}} \right) \div \left(\frac{\text{Employment in industry } j \text{ in US}}{\text{total employment in US}} \right)$$

The LQ serves to illustrate the relative importance of that sector locally as compared to the state or national economy. In this report LQs are calculated for industries within Lea County with national employment serving as the basis for comparison (Table 2). LQs using New Mexico employment as the basis of comparison are included (Table 3) for those readers who may wish to examine the state based LQs. No analysis or other reference to the state based LQs are included in this report.

An LQ greater than 1.0 indicates that a particular industry employs proportionately more workers locally than it does at the national level. Conversely, an LQ of less than 1.0 signifies that the industry of note employs fewer workers locally as compared to the state or national average. In this report, an LQ > 1.0 combined with judgment about the structure of the local economy is used to identify basic industries. For additional information on LQs, including a discussion of common criticisms of this approach, see <http://arrowheadcenter.nmsu.edu/policy/faq/Locationpercent20Quotients.pdf>.

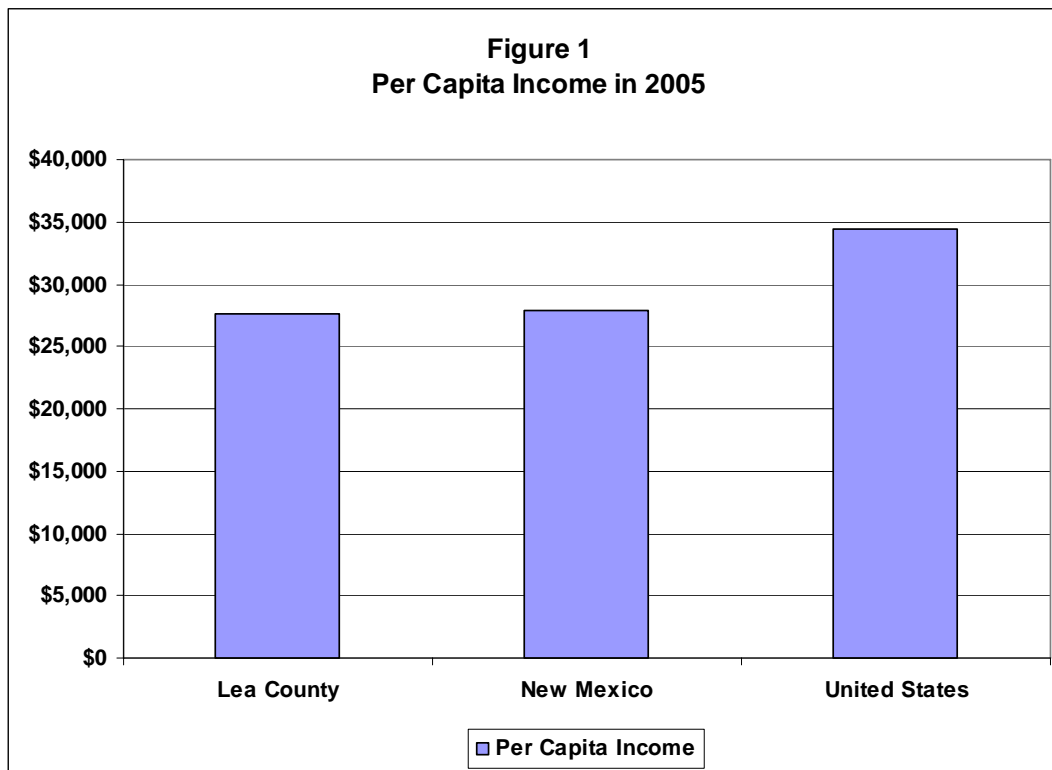
A common criticism of economic base studies and the LQ approach to identifying basic industries is that the LQs often change over time. In this report, LQs are described for the most recent year for which data are available and the four years preceding (2001-2005).

The data used in this report are from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Regional Economic Information System (BEA). The data are available at: www.bea.gov.

Lea County, New Mexico

Lea County is located in the southeastern corner of New Mexico and contains 4,393 square miles of land, or 3.62 percent of the total land area in New Mexico. The population of Lea County in 2005 was 56,560 (2.94 percent of the state total) and ranked tenth among New Mexico's counties. The City of Hobbs, with a population estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau to be 29,017 in 2005, contained 51.3 percent of Lea County's population. Between 2000 and 2005, Lea County's population increased by 2.64 percent, while New Mexico's population increased by 5.73 percent and the nation's population increased by 5.06 percent.

Per capita personal income in Lea County in 2005 was \$27,636 (see Figure 1). In terms of per capita income, Lea County ranked 6th in the state. Lea County's 2005 per capita income was 99.1 percent of the corresponding state figure (\$27,889), and 80.2 percent of the national average (\$34,471). The growth rate of per capita income in Lea County in the 2001 to 2005 time period (38.2 percent) has been substantially higher than that of both New Mexico (26.0 percent) and the United States (15.5 percent).



Total employment in Lea County in 2005 was 33,000. Total employment in Lea County increased by 11.1 percent between 2001 and 2005—a rate of growth higher than for the state (8.8 percent) and the nation (4.4 percent). Nearly half (48.7 percent) of Lea County's employment growth between 2001 and 2005 occurred in 2005. The Lea County employment to population ratio was 0.583. New Mexico's 2005 employment to population ratio was 0.553 and the nation's ratio was 0.591.

The private sector employed 86.0 percent of all workers in Lea County in 2005, while government and government enterprises accounted for 11.1 percent, and farm employment accounted for 2.9 percent of the total. Industries with the highest percentages of total employment included mining (19.1 percent of total employment), retail trade (10.5 percent of total employment), and construction (6.7 percent of total employment). Local government was the largest employer in the public sector, at 9.4 percent of total employment; while federal/civilian, military, and state employment each accounted for less than 1.0 percent of total employment. Lea County employment by sector is displayed in Table 1.

Basic and Non-Basic Industries in Lea County, New Mexico

Table 2 contains Location Quotients for Lea County from 2001 to 2005 calculated using data for the United States as the basis of comparison. An LQ greater than 1.0 qualifies an industry for consideration as a basic industry. Industries with LQs very near to 1.0 as well as industries such as local government and construction that typically support the local economy rather than export goods and services outside the region are not included here as basic industries.

The overwhelming importance of mining to the economic base of Lea County is obvious in Table 2, in which those sectors with an LQ greater than 1 have been shaded. In 2005, mining had an LQ of 40.66 and an LQ greater than 35 for all five years considered. The mining industry accounted for 6,314 jobs in 2005. Lea County's mining industry, which includes potash, oil, and natural gas extraction, is classified here as a basic economic activity. In September and October 2007 when this report was prepared, oil prices were in the \$75 to \$80 per barrel range. High oil prices and the importance of oil in the Lea County economy suggest strong future economic growth for the region.

Farm employment including both farm proprietors and farm employees should also be considered a basic economic activity in Lea County. The LQs for farm proprietors have exceeded 1.6 in all five years considered, while LQs for farm employees have been greater than 1.7 in all five years considered. In combination, farm employment accounted for 1,652 employees in Lea County in 2005.

Transportation and warehousing, with an LQ of 1.09 compared to the United States in 2005, should also be considered a basic industry for Lea County. This industry accounted for 1,132 total jobs (3.4 percent of total employment) in 2005.

The only other sectors with LQs above 1.0 were the construction sector, with an LQ of 1.07, and utilities, with an LQ of 2.25 in 2005. Nevertheless, the construction and utilities industries in Lea County are probably best viewed as non-basic or support industries.

The entry labeled government and government enterprises is not a separate industry, but merely the sum of the other government categories. For all five years considered, the only government sector with an LQ greater than 1.0 was local government. Because local government is generally considered a non-basic activity, for this analysis no government enterprises within Lea County are considered basic.

In brief, the data and analysis suggest that the following industries should be considered basic industries in Lea County:

1. Mining, which accounted for 6,314 jobs in Lea County in 2005.
2. Agriculture and related industries, including 683 farm proprietors and 969 farm employees, for a total of 1,652 jobs in 2005.
3. Transportation and warehousing, with accounted for 1,132 jobs in 2005.

It is common in economic base studies to calculate what is known as an export-base multiplier. This multiplier is obtained by dividing total employment by basic sector employment. In the case of Lea County the multiplier = $33,000 / 9,098 = 3.63$. This ratio suggests that the addition of each basic sector job in Lea County would be associated with an additional 3.63 non-basic sector jobs. Caution in the interpretation of this multiplier is appropriate. This ratio may or may not apply in future years. Further,

since farm proprietors have been included in the basic sector, it should be pointed out that farm proprietors often have more than one occupation and this fact may bias the 'multiplier' upward.

The export base multiplier (3.63) calculated above reinforces the importance of basic (exporting) industries to the Lea County economy. Local economic development policy actions such as the creation of industrial parks, tax abatement and financing, and workforce development projects are often used by local communities to expand an area's economic base. The appropriate mix of such policies is often a result of public and private sector interaction in the context of the development of a community economic development plan.

Tables 1 to 6 appear on pages 9-14

**Table 1
Lea County Employment by Sector, 2005**

| Industry | Employment | Percent of Total Employment |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Wage and salary employment | 27,153 | 82.3 |
| Proprietors employment | 5,847 | 17.7 |
| Farm proprietors employment | 683 | 2.1 |
| Nonfarm proprietors employment | 5,164 | 15.6 |
| Farm employment | 969 | 2.9 |
| Nonfarm employment | 32,031 | 97.1 |
| Private employment | 28,378 | 86.0 |
| Forestry, fishing, related activities | 134 | 0.4 |
| Mining | 6,314 | 19.1 |
| Utilities | 253 | 0.8 |
| Construction | 2,196 | 6.7 |
| Manufacturing | 357 | 1.1 |
| Wholesale trade | 1,081 | 3.3 |
| Retail trade | 3,481 | 10.5 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 1,132 | 3.4 |
| Information | 293 | 0.9 |
| Finance and insurance | 832 | 2.5 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 1,028 | 3.1 |
| Professional and technical services | 797 | 2.4 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 74 | 0.2 |
| Administrative and waste services | 1,933 | 5.9 |
| Educational services | n.a. | n.a. |
| Health care and social assistance | n.a. | n.a. |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 579 | 1.8 |
| Accommodation and food services | 2,076 | 6.3 |
| Other services, except public administration | 2,079 | 6.3 |
| Government and government enterprises | 3,653 | 11.1 |
| Federal, civilian | 114 | 0.3 |
| Military | 153 | 0.5 |
| State and local | 3,386 | 10.3 |
| State government | 295 | 0.9 |
| Local government | 3,091 | 9.4 |
| Total employment | 33,000 | 100.0 |

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and author calculations.

**Table 2
Lea County Location Quotients (US Based)**

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total employment | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Wage and salary employment | 0.997 | 0.998 | 0.996 | 1.007 | 1.017 |
| Proprietors employment | 1.015 | 1.012 | 1.020 | 0.968 | 0.928 |
| Farm proprietors employment | 1.787 | 1.831 | 1.747 | 1.738 | 1.689 |
| Nonfarm proprietors employment | 0.950 | 0.944 | 0.964 | 0.912 | 0.875 |
| Farm employment | 1.742 | 1.768 | 1.709 | 1.742 | 1.756 |
| Nonfarm employment | 0.986 | 0.986 | 0.987 | 0.987 | 0.987 |
| Private employment | 0.996 | 1.003 | 1.010 | 1.010 | 1.016 |
| Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other | 0.726 | 0.901 | 0.848 | n.a. | 0.699 |
| Mining | 38.046 | 35.498 | 35.271 | 37.737 | 40.658 |
| Utilities | 2.271 | 2.365 | 2.252 | 2.242 | 2.249 |
| Construction | 1.215 | 1.194 | 1.085 | 1.136 | 1.069 |
| Manufacturing | 0.142 | 0.122 | 0.139 | 0.130 | 0.127 |
| Wholesale trade | 1.082 | 1.064 | 0.953 | 0.892 | 0.892 |
| Retail trade | 1.035 | 1.019 | 0.955 | 1.004 | 0.970 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 1.020 | 1.036 | 1.004 | 1.062 | 1.085 |
| Information | 0.347 | 0.405 | 0.398 | 0.401 | 0.433 |
| Finance and insurance | 0.521 | 0.547 | 0.546 | 0.551 | 0.537 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 0.782 | 0.768 | 0.804 | 0.800 | 0.783 |
| Professional and technical services | 0.324 | 0.363 | 0.385 | 0.397 | 0.366 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 0.392 | 0.271 | 0.263 | 0.297 | 0.210 |
| Administrative and waste services | 0.835 | 0.946 | 1.056 | 1.000 | 0.959 |
| Educational services | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Health care and social assistance | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 0.383 | 0.413 | 0.442 | 0.513 | 0.869 |
| Accommodation and food services | 0.876 | 0.848 | 0.899 | 0.928 | 0.935 |
| Other services, except public administration | 1.113 | 1.180 | 1.167 | 1.138 | 1.125 |
| Government and government enterprises | 0.925 | 0.884 | 0.849 | 0.847 | 0.809 |
| Federal, civilian | 0.245 | 0.248 | 0.229 | 0.223 | 0.216 |
| Military | 0.477 | 0.489 | 0.453 | 0.435 | 0.399 |
| State and local | 1.077 | 1.022 | 0.987 | 0.985 | 0.940 |
| State government | 0.320 | 0.331 | 0.322 | 0.317 | 0.305 |
| Local government | 1.364 | 1.279 | 1.234 | 1.232 | 1.174 |

Source: Author calculations from Tables 3, 4 and 5.

Table 3
Lea County Location Quotients
(with the State of New Mexico as the basis of comparison)

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total employment | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Wage and salary employment | 1.011 | 1.005 | 1.006 | 1.014 | 1.023 |
| Proprietors employment | 0.951 | 0.977 | 0.975 | 0.940 | 0.907 |
| Farm proprietors employment | 1.309 | 1.357 | 1.330 | 1.323 | 1.284 |
| Nonfarm proprietors employment | 0.911 | 0.935 | 0.940 | 0.904 | 0.873 |
| Farm employment | 1.294 | 1.341 | 1.313 | 1.306 | 1.266 |
| Nonfarm employment | 0.993 | 0.991 | 0.992 | 0.993 | 0.994 |
| Private employment | 1.097 | 1.103 | 1.109 | 1.111 | 1.116 |
| Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other | 0.619 | 0.773 | 0.718 | n.a. | 0.598 |
| Mining | 9.283 | 9.019 | 9.087 | 9.352 | 9.686 |
| Utilities | 1.926 | 2.064 | 1.931 | 1.946 | 1.935 |
| Construction | 1.110 | 1.119 | 1.016 | 1.046 | 0.968 |
| Manufacturing | 0.308 | 0.261 | 0.302 | 0.285 | 0.275 |
| Wholesale trade | 1.421 | 1.426 | 1.315 | 1.234 | 1.221 |
| Retail trade | 1.010 | 0.997 | 0.939 | 0.986 | 0.953 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 1.370 | 1.372 | 1.344 | 1.404 | 1.466 |
| Information | 0.426 | 0.481 | 0.483 | 0.505 | 0.546 |
| Finance and insurance | 0.771 | 0.826 | 0.838 | 0.849 | 0.836 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 0.873 | 0.876 | 0.904 | 0.895 | 0.875 |
| Professional and technical services | 0.332 | 0.371 | 0.382 | 0.396 | 0.373 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 0.671 | 0.490 | 0.518 | 0.607 | 0.403 |
| Administrative and waste services | 0.894 | 1.008 | 1.170 | 1.135 | 1.100 |
| Educational services | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Health care and social assistance | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 0.392 | 0.420 | 0.434 | 0.505 | 0.850 |
| Accommodation and food services | 0.727 | 0.706 | 0.761 | 0.803 | 0.820 |
| Other services, except public administration | 1.173 | 1.261 | 1.258 | 1.261 | 1.249 |
| Government and government enterprises | 0.611 | 0.590 | 0.569 | 0.562 | 0.537 |
| Federal, civilian | 0.136 | 0.138 | 0.131 | 0.127 | 0.122 |
| Military | 0.342 | 0.354 | 0.332 | 0.316 | 0.304 |
| State and local | 0.725 | 0.696 | 0.673 | 0.663 | 0.630 |
| State government | 0.144 | 0.151 | 0.146 | 0.143 | 0.136 |
| Local government | 1.131 | 1.067 | 1.034 | 1.014 | 0.964 |

Source: Author calculations.

Table 4
Lea County, NM Employment by Sector: 2001-2005

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total employment | 29,713 | 28,946 | 30,309 | 31,137 | 33,000 |
| Wage and salary employment | 24,622 | 23,855 | 24,747 | 25,571 | 27,153 |
| Proprietors employment | 5,091 | 5,091 | 5,562 | 5,602 | 5,847 |
| Farm proprietors employment | 695 | 702 | 678 | 675 | 683 |
| Nonfarm proprietors employment | 4,396 | 4,389 | 4,884 | 4,927 | 5,164 |
| Farm employment | 947 | 945 | 937 | 939 | 969 |
| Nonfarm employment | 28,766 | 28,001 | 29,372 | 30,234 | 32,031 |
| Private employment | 24,951 | 24,389 | 25,733 | 26,559 | 28,378 |
| Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other | 132 | 165 | 152 | n.a. | 134 |
| Mining | 5,492 | 4,631 | 5,131 | 5,353 | 6,314 |
| Utilities | 250 | 248 | 238 | 241 | 253 |
| Construction | 2,129 | 2,004 | 1,943 | 2,139 | 2,196 |
| Manufacturing | 430 | 336 | 378 | 354 | 357 |
| Wholesale trade | 1,208 | 1,136 | 1,053 | 1,019 | 1,081 |
| Retail trade | 3,413 | 3,270 | 3,198 | 3,425 | 3,481 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 993 | 962 | 962 | 1,049 | 1,132 |
| Information | 250 | 262 | 259 | 261 | 293 |
| Finance and insurance | 726 | 752 | 790 | 813 | 832 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 772 | 757 | 874 | 945 | 1,028 |
| Professional and technical services | 609 | 660 | 736 | 798 | 797 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 124 | 85 | 84 | 99 | 74 |
| Administrative and waste services | 1,430 | 1,582 | 1,858 | 1,854 | 1,933 |
| Educational services | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Health care and social assistance | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 221 | 240 | 269 | 325 | 579 |
| Accommodation and food services | 1,687 | 1,611 | 1,816 | 1,942 | 2,076 |
| Other services, except public administration | 1,792 | 1,930 | 2,009 | 2,017 | 2,079 |
| Government and government enterprises | 3,815 | 3,612 | 3,639 | 3,675 | 3,653 |
| Federal, civilian | 119 | 118 | 117 | 114 | 114 |
| Military | 178 | 178 | 173 | 165 | 153 |
| State and local | 3,518 | 3,316 | 3,349 | 3,396 | 3,386 |
| State government | 286 | 291 | 295 | 295 | 295 |
| Local government | 3,232 | 3,025 | 3,054 | 3,101 | 3,091 |

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov

**Table 5
New Mexico Employment by Sector: 2001-2005**

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total employment | 977,815 | 987,693 | 1,013,107 | 1,037,060 | 1,064,351 |
| Wage and salary employment | 801,610 | 809,872 | 822,438 | 838,696 | 856,406 |
| Proprietors employment | 176,205 | 177,821 | 190,669 | 198,364 | 207,945 |
| Farm proprietors employment | 17,470 | 17,649 | 17,035 | 16,972 | 17,157 |
| Nonfarm proprietors employment | 158,735 | 160,172 | 173,634 | 181,392 | 190,788 |
| Farm employment | 24,091 | 24,038 | 23,855 | 23,912 | 24,685 |
| Nonfarm employment | 953,724 | 963,655 | 989,252 | 1,013,148 | 1,039,666 |
| Private employment | 748,250 | 754,776 | 775,615 | 795,628 | 820,099 |
| Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other | 7,019 | 7,284 | 7,080 | 7,153 | 7,224 |
| Mining | 19,469 | 17,520 | 18,875 | 19,043 | 21,024 |
| Utilities | 4,272 | 4,100 | 4,120 | 4,120 | 4,217 |
| Construction | 63,144 | 61,086 | 63,927 | 68,054 | 73,164 |
| Manufacturing | 46,001 | 43,939 | 41,770 | 41,265 | 41,896 |
| Wholesale trade | 27,970 | 27,181 | 26,761 | 27,469 | 28,566 |
| Retail trade | 111,250 | 111,912 | 113,827 | 115,584 | 117,770 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 23,854 | 23,930 | 23,920 | 24,849 | 24,901 |
| Information | 19,331 | 18,584 | 17,942 | 17,187 | 17,320 |
| Finance and insurance | 30,996 | 31,079 | 31,515 | 31,845 | 32,101 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 29,117 | 29,489 | 32,319 | 35,116 | 37,892 |
| Professional and technical services | 60,386 | 60,693 | 64,443 | 67,074 | 68,994 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 6,083 | 5,923 | 5,423 | 5,429 | 5,921 |
| Administrative and waste services | 52,659 | 53,555 | 53,077 | 54,339 | 56,653 |
| Educational services | 11,826 | 12,535 | 13,936 | 14,797 | 15,551 |
| Health care and social assistance | 89,614 | 96,323 | 102,830 | 107,184 | 109,575 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 18,570 | 19,496 | 20,722 | 21,425 | 21,962 |
| Accommodation and food services | 76,403 | 77,903 | 79,733 | 80,496 | 81,679 |
| Other services, except public administration | 50,286 | 52,244 | 53,395 | 53,199 | 53,689 |
| Government and government enterprises | 205,474 | 208,879 | 213,637 | 217,520 | 219,567 |
| Federal, civilian | 28,785 | 29,152 | 29,871 | 29,801 | 30,099 |
| Military | 17,106 | 17,181 | 17,405 | 17,387 | 16,258 |
| State and local | 159,583 | 162,546 | 166,361 | 170,332 | 173,210 |
| State government | 65,503 | 65,814 | 67,614 | 68,599 | 69,786 |
| Local government | 94,080 | 96,732 | 98,747 | 101,733 | 103,424 |

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov

**Table 6
United States Employment by Sector: 2001-2005**

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total employment | 167,014,700 | 166,633,100 | 167,553,500 | 170,512,700 | 174,249,600 |
| Wage and salary employment | 138,831,000 | 137,664,000 | 137,406,000 | 138,847,000 | 140,967,000 |
| Proprietors employment | 28,183,700 | 28,969,100 | 30,147,500 | 31,665,700 | 33,282,600 |
| Farm proprietors employment | 2,186,000 | 2,207,000 | 2,146,000 | 2,124,000 | 2,135,000 |
| Nonfarm proprietors employment | 25,997,700 | 26,762,100 | 28,001,500 | 29,541,700 | 31,147,600 |
| Farm employment | 3,056,000 | 3,077,000 | 3,031,000 | 2,949,000 | 2,914,000 |
| Nonfarm employment | 163,958,700 | 163,556,100 | 164,522,500 | 167,563,700 | 171,335,600 |
| Private employment | 140,778,700 | 140,040,100 | 140,836,500 | 143,837,700 | 147,498,600 |
| Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other | 1,022,500 | 1,053,700 | 991,300 | 1,015,200 | 1,012,200 |
| Mining | 811,400 | 751,000 | 804,200 | 775,900 | 820,000 |
| Utilities | 618,800 | 603,600 | 584,200 | 588,100 | 594,100 |
| Construction | 9,846,700 | 9,665,800 | 9,901,300 | 10,301,500 | 10,845,700 |
| Manufacturing | 16,994,600 | 15,819,700 | 15,063,000 | 14,905,800 | 14,860,900 |
| Wholesale trade | 6,273,400 | 6,143,800 | 6,110,500 | 6,245,800 | 6,401,300 |
| Retail trade | 18,528,800 | 18,473,100 | 18,505,100 | 18,660,600 | 18,941,100 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 5,474,000 | 5,344,300 | 5,296,500 | 5,401,600 | 5,510,100 |
| Information | 4,053,800 | 3,723,200 | 3,595,400 | 3,562,100 | 3,577,100 |
| Finance and insurance | 7,839,600 | 7,912,300 | 7,996,500 | 8,074,000 | 8,186,600 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 5,551,400 | 5,677,000 | 6,008,500 | 6,465,100 | 6,934,300 |
| Professional and technical services | 10,575,800 | 10,461,200 | 10,572,300 | 10,988,000 | 11,488,700 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 1,779,300 | 1,807,000 | 1,762,500 | 1,821,600 | 1,857,000 |
| Administrative and waste services | 9,621,000 | 9,630,300 | 9,729,400 | 10,142,200 | 10,645,100 |
| Educational services | 3,058,300 | 3,200,600 | 3,312,800 | 3,429,300 | 3,552,900 |
| Health care and social assistance | 15,611,400 | 16,080,000 | 16,552,100 | 16,861,400 | 17,267,000 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 3,243,100 | 3,342,200 | 3,367,800 | 3,465,700 | 3,517,300 |
| Accommodation and food services | 10,825,200 | 10,935,200 | 11,169,700 | 11,442,800 | 11,728,300 |
| Other services, except public administration | 9,049,600 | 9,416,100 | 9,513,400 | 9,691,000 | 9,758,900 |
| Government and government enterprises | 23,180,000 | 23,516,000 | 23,686,000 | 23,726,000 | 23,837,000 |
| Federal, civilian | 2,728,000 | 2,736,000 | 2,823,000 | 2,796,000 | 2,790,000 |
| Military | 2,099,000 | 2,097,000 | 2,110,000 | 2,077,000 | 2,027,000 |
| State and local | 18,353,000 | 18,683,000 | 18,753,000 | 18,853,000 | 19,020,000 |
| State government | 5,031,000 | 5,068,000 | 5,066,000 | 5,083,000 | 5,112,000 |
| Local government | 13,322,000 | 13,615,000 | 13,687,000 | 13,770,000 | 13,908,000 |

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov