Recent New Mexico Population and Demographic Facts

The U.S. Census Bureau has released initial information from the New Mexico 2010 Census. A summary of selected demographic information for New Mexico is highlighted in this issue of the New Mexico Community Development Views (Vol. 4, Issue 1, 2011). Population and demographic information presented in this publication is taken from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Quick Facts web-site (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/35000.htm)

Over the past decade (2000-2010), New Mexico’s population grew at a faster rate than the U.S.; 13.2% for New Mexico compared to 9.7% for the U.S. While the age distribution of the two populations is essentially the same, the percent of New Mexicans 25 years of age and older graduating from high school was lower; 82.1% for New Mexico compared to 84.6% for the U.S. The same is true for New Mexicans 25 years of age and older with a bachelor’s degree or higher; 25.1% for New Mexico compared to 27.5% for the U.S. (See table on page 6)

Median household income for New Mexico in 2009 was 15% less than the U.S.; $42,830 for New Mexico compared $50,221 for the U.S. In a similar fashion, the median value of owner-occupied housing units in New Mexico was 19% less than in the U.S.; $150,500 for New Mexico compared to $185,400 for the U.S. The number of persons below poverty in New Mexico was higher than the U.S.; 18.2% for New Mexico compared to 14.3% in the U.S. Private non-farm employment growth in New Mexico, however, was nearly three times that of the U.S., with a 16.7% increase compared to 6.0% for the U.S. between 2000-2008. (See table on page 6)

Data for New Mexico show the five most populous incorporated places are Albuquerque, 545,852; Las Cruces, 97,618; Rio Rancho, 87,531; Santa Fe, 67,947; and Roswell, 48,366. Albuquerque grew by 21.7% since the 2000 Census. Las Cruces grew by 31.4%, Rio Rancho grew by 69.1%, Santa Fe grew by 9.2% and Roswell grew by 6.8%.

The change in population and demographics at the county level is much different, in many cases, from that of the state overall, as the following tables and maps show.
### Highlights: Population Change 2000-2010

1. During the past decade (2000-2010) New Mexico’s population grew at a faster rate than the U.S.; 13.2% for New Mexico compared to 9.7% for the U.S.

2. Eight New Mexico counties had higher growth rates than the state average, including Sandoval (46.2%), Doña Ana (19.8%), Bernalillo (19.0%), Lea (16.6%), Valencia (15.7%), and San Juan (14.3%).

3. Fourteen New Mexico counties actually lost population, including Hidalgo (-17.5%), Harding (-14.2%), Quay (-11.0%), Sierra (-9.7%), De Baca (-9.7%), Mora (-5.8%), Grant (-4.8%), McKinley (-4.4%), Colfax (-3.1%), Torrance (-3.1%), San Miguel (-2.4%), Rio Arriba (-2.3%), Los Alamos (-2.1%), and Socorro (-1.2%).

4. The eight high population growth counties added 217,966 people, while the fourteen losing population counties lost 11,499 people.

5. Five of the eight high population growth counties were metropolitan counties, while all of the 14 counties losing population were non-metropolitan counties.
**Highlights: Median Household Income, 2009**

1. New Mexico median household income in 2009 was 14.7% less than the U.S. average; $42,830 for New Mexico compared to $50,221 for the U.S.

2. When Los Alamos County, with a median household income of $106,148 (double the national and state average) is removed, the average median New Mexico household income is $36,810 – 26.8% less than the national average.

3. Of the top 10 New Mexico median household income counties, excluding Los Alamos, 4 are metropolitan counties (Sandoval, Santa Fe, San Juan, and Bernalillo) and 6 are non-metropolitan counties (Eddy, Lea, Valencia, Rio Arriba, Colfax and Lincoln).

4. Excluding Los Alamos County, 11 New Mexico counties have median household incomes above the state average; 21 counties have median household income below the state average.

5. Excluding Los Alamos County, Sandoval County had the highest median household income - $57,378; Luna County the lowest - $25,833.
College Graduation Rates by County
Percentage Change, 2000-2009

- Greater than state average
- Less than state average

Highlights: College Graduates, 2009

1. New Mexico’s college graduation rate in 2009 was comparable to the U.S. graduation rate; 25.1% for New Mexico compared to 27.5% for the U.S.
2. When Los Alamos County, with a college graduation rate of 63.4% (three times the national average) is excluded, the New Mexico college graduation rate drops to 17.8%; 35.3% less than the national average.
3. Of the top 10 New Mexico counties with the highest college graduation rates, excluding Los Alamos, five are metropolitan counties (Santa Fe, Bernalillo, Sandoval, Doña Ana, and San Juan) and 5 are non-metropolitan counties (Taos, Lincoln, Catron, Grant, and San Miguel).
4. New Mexico county college graduation rates, excluding Los Alamos, range from a high of 38.7% in Santa Fe County to a low of 8.3% in Guadalupe County.
Non-Farm Employment

1. New Mexico had a growth rate in non-farm employment nearly three times that of the U.S. between 2000-2008; 16.7% for New Mexico compared to 6.0% for the U.S.

2. Fifteen New Mexico counties had non-farm employment growth rates above the state average, four metropolitan counties (Sandoval, Doña Ana, Torrance, and San Juan) and 11 non-metropolitan counties (Roosevelt, Lea, Luna, Valencia, Eddy, Lincoln, Mora, Sierra, Rio Arriba, Socorro, and Catron).


4. The top five New Mexico counties experiencing non-farm employment growth between 2000-2008 include Roosevelt, Lea, Sandoval, Luna, and Doña Ana; together they had an increase of 33,008 non-farm jobs. The bottom five New Mexico counties experiencing slow growth (some lost employment) include De Baca, Quay, Cibola, Colfax and Grant; together they had a net loss of 139 non-farm jobs.

5. The non-farm employment gains range from a high of 57.5% in Roosevelt County to a low of -27.1% in De Baca County.
### Selected Census Facts: New Mexico and the U.S.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New Mexico</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population, 2010</td>
<td>2,059,179</td>
<td>308,745,538</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population, percent change, 2000 to 2010</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>9.7</td>
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<td>Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2009</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>6.9</td>
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<td>Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2009</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>24.3</td>
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<td>Persons 65 years old and over, percent 2009</td>
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<td>12.9</td>
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<td>High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2005-2009</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>84.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons 25+, 2005-2009</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>27.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median household income, 2009 (dollars)</td>
<td>42,830</td>
<td>50,221</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2005-2009 (dollars)</td>
<td>150,500</td>
<td>185,400</td>
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<td>Person below poverty level, percent 2009</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>14.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private non-farm employment, percent change 2000-2008</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>6.0</td>
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Source: http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/35000.htm

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**Editor’s note:** I encourage readers to contribute suggestions on both the content and organization of this newsletter. Future plans for this newsletter will include various aspects of New Mexico economy, information on community development funding opportunities and general announcements.