

# **CITY OF RATON COMMUNITY AUDIT**

Deliverable 2:  
Demographic, Economic and  
Labor Force Analysis

Prepared for:  
City of Raton, New Mexico

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO  
BUREAU OF BUSINESS AND  
ECONOMIC RESEARCH**  
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## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report, one portion of the community audit of the City of Raton, profiles the City's role in the regional economy and examines the economic and demographic factors shaping the City. Raton's employment, business, and labor force characteristics are analyzed to provide the City with information that will successfully guide it into the future.

The historical and cyclical presence of coal mining in Colfax County has been a dominating force impacting the City of Raton's culture, income and employment since the early 1900's. While coal mining has played an important part in Raton's history, a number of other economic factors are now shaping the community. Raton is part of a larger economic and cultural area that extends through parts of both Colfax County and Las Animas County, Colorado. These counties share a common heritage of cattle ranching, supporting agricultural crops, and mining, which began the shift from coal to coal methane gas in 1999. The area's natural features and recreational centers attract outdoor enthusiasts from across the nation to the area's state parks, the Whittington Center, and Philmont Scout Ranch and have helped the area's tourism industry expand. Transportation corridors, an important feature of both counties, and the presence of the Interstate-25 and Route 64 junction and the railroad ensure the rapid and reliable distribution of products and materials and ensure a steady flow of travelers.

With the demise of mining, Colfax and Las Animas counties appear to have diverged from their shared economic base and have followed different paths in recent decades. Mining declined sooner in Las Animas County, just after it peaked in 1983, with the result that this county began to adjust earlier. Now less than two decades later, Colfax County residents face a similar challenge.

Raton's future will be shaped by a number of demographic and economic realities. The City's population, at over 7,000 persons in 2000, has declined over the past two decades while a number of nearby communities have grown. The population of Raton and the surrounding area is generally older, and notably under-represented by persons aged 20 to 34 years. Partly as a result of these age characteristics, social security income is important to a large portion of households while earnings income is important to fewer households. While the population of Colfax County is projected to increase over the next two decades, the rates of growth are slow and it is unclear what portion of this growth will occur in Raton.

The financial realities – both positive and negative – facing area residents will also impact Raton's future. Raton households have significantly lower income levels than New Mexico's, and median household incomes in Raton fail to have a pronounced peak in the 35 to 64 year old age categories indicating limited earning potential. With the exception of persons under age five, Raton has either smaller or similar percentages of people in poverty for all age groups than in the state as a whole. Also, monthly shelter costs for owners and renters are lower and generally present financial burdens for a smaller percentage of households in Raton than statewide or in Colfax or Las Animas

counties. It should be noted that shelter costs do pose financial burdens for some households, particularly for low-income renter households and households with heads of households aged 15 to 24 and 55 to 64.

Colfax County's preliminary monthly unemployment rate for September 2003 was 7.3%. The unemployment rate has been rising erratically since its August 2001 low of 3.7% and is currently 2.2 percentage points higher than the September 2002 rate and 2.8 percentage points higher than the September 2001 rate. In September 2003 there were 477 unemployed persons in Colfax County, down from 560 in June, which had the largest number of unemployed persons in about 5 years. Summer employment in Colfax County can increase the labor force size by over 1,000 workers, thereby pushing the summer unemployment rates down, compared to during low months and plays a very important role in the area's economy.

Census data show that there are approximately 27,000 persons living in Raton and the surrounding area (within the 40-miles of the city) of which over 12,000 participate in the labor force. Over 28% of unemployed persons in Raton in the "30 to 34" age cohort and almost one-quarter was between 16 to 19 years of age. Additionally, 9,400 persons in Raton and the surrounding area did not participate in the labor force. When only persons between the ages of 16 and 65 are considered, the number of non-participants drops to around 5,000, or 30% of the population, a rate nearly identical to New Mexico's.

Total employment, including farm employment and proprietors, in Colfax County in 2001 was 8,371, with a compound annual growth rate of 2.8% over the 1990's. Government employs almost 21% of those not employed on farms, making it the County's largest employment sector. Highlighting the role of tourism, accommodations and food services is the next largest sector, accounting for 15% of the County's employment, followed by retail with 14%. Even with some recent employment losses, it is important to note that approximately 75% of the County's retail jobs covered for unemployment insurance are located in Raton. In 2001, mining accounted for 2.9% of total employment in Colfax County, manufacturing 3.3%, healthcare and social assistance 5.8%, and construction 6.9%.

Average weekly wages in Colfax County in 2002 were \$440, 78% of the state's average wages. The 2002 Colfax County average also includes several jobs in the high paying mining sector with an average weekly wage of \$1,157, which was 126% of the sector's statewide average. Most sectors have comparatively lower weekly wages than the state; these sectors include retail (81%), manufacturing (58%), and health care and assistance (77%). A notable exception to the low weekly wages is accommodation and food services, at 109% of the statewide average.

Comparatively large portions of employed Raton residents hold occupations in transportation and material moving; production; fire fighting, prevention, and law enforcement; building and grounds cleaning and maintenance; and healthcare technologists and technicians.

Raton captures roughly 45% of Colfax County's gross receipts, a smaller portion than in the past. Total gross receipts for the City decreased in 2001 and 2002, resulting in part from declines in services (which was exceptionally high in 2000) and in eating and drinking establishments (part of the retail sector). Raton's gross receipts show that while the retail sector declined in between 2001 and 2002 the sector continues to generate the largest amount of taxable receipts. The services sector, moreover, plays an increasingly large role in the City's overall activity. Pull factors calculated for 2000, using taxable gross receipts per dollar of household income, show that overall businesses in Raton have relatively more trade than they do statewide largely due to retail activity. The strong growth of Trinidad's retail sector, which in 1998 demonstrated more activity than Raton's for the first time in at least recent history, indicates changes occurring in the City's role in the two-county area.

The recent demise of coal mining along with other socio-economic conditions (e.g. declining retail receipts, increasing unemployment, decreasing population and low wages) present Raton with a number of challenges. At the same time, tourism, methane gas mining and other activities are emerging and present the City with potential opportunities. Additionally, a variety of manufactures and the activities of Stolar create a diverse manufacturing and technical base offering the potential for economic and employment growth. Responding to these challenges and opportunities, City leaders are taking a close inventory of the resources and opportunities available to Raton's businesses and residents. The community audit is part of this effort. The audit will culminate in a final report combining these findings with information collected directly from the community through a series of focus groups, interviews, and meetings with Raton employers, workforce and service providers.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

This report presents a preliminary analysis of the demographic, economic, and labor force characteristics of the City of Raton and surrounding area. This research is part of the community audit that the University of New Mexico's Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) is conducting for the City of Raton. The analysis presented in this report is designed to inform the upcoming research tasks of the community audit, to provide information for a variety of community interests, and to suggest areas of further investigation.

The next section of this report identifies and examines a variety of demographic features that will impact employment, job growth, and economic development in the Raton Area. Data and figures showing population count, geographic distribution, projections and distribution by age groups are presented to describe historic and existing conditions and to identify factors which may impact Raton's future. A detailed description of the educational attainment, income levels, sources of income, earnings by gender, and poverty rates provide information which help identify some of Raton's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities.

Housing supply, availability, and affordability are explored in Section 4. The supply and availability of housing in Raton is particularly important because the housing market is regional, meaning that people can opt to live in Raton, Trinidad or a number of other surrounding communities. Additionally, housing costs pose disproportionate financial burdens for households of different income levels. Relating the burden posed by housing costs to different households by age, income, and tenure is an important factor in understanding the ability of households in Raton to make ends meet.

Section 5 examines Raton's labor force and describes and quantifies not only those persons providing labor to the City's employers but, at the same time, provides information on those who may be relying on Raton employers for earnings. Following a description of the labor force area, the area's population participating and not participating in the labor force is quantified and described. The analysis of labor force participants provides information on the age and gender of the employed and unemployed population living in and near Raton. An analysis of those not participating in the labor force puts bounds around the population that, while not actively pursuing employment, may under the right circumstances enter the labor force.

The final section of this report examines the economy of Raton and the surrounding area. The discussion starts by describing recent employment levels, activity, and composition. To provide context, an overview of historical employment trends in Colfax County and Las Animas County is also presented. Gross receipts are used to examine business activity in Colfax County and Raton to help identify which industries which have been declining or growing over the last decade and to describe the changing roles of Raton and Trinidad in the area's retail market.

The analysis of secondary data - while providing required information on Raton's population, businesses, and labor force - is only one research step of the community audit. Depth and color will be added to these findings through a series of focus groups, interviews, and meetings with Raton employers, economic development practitioners, educators, service providers, etc. The final report of the community audit will combine the findings presented in this report with information collected directly from the community and will explore why these conditions exist, how they impact Raton's workforce and businesses, and what opportunities and obstacles they present.

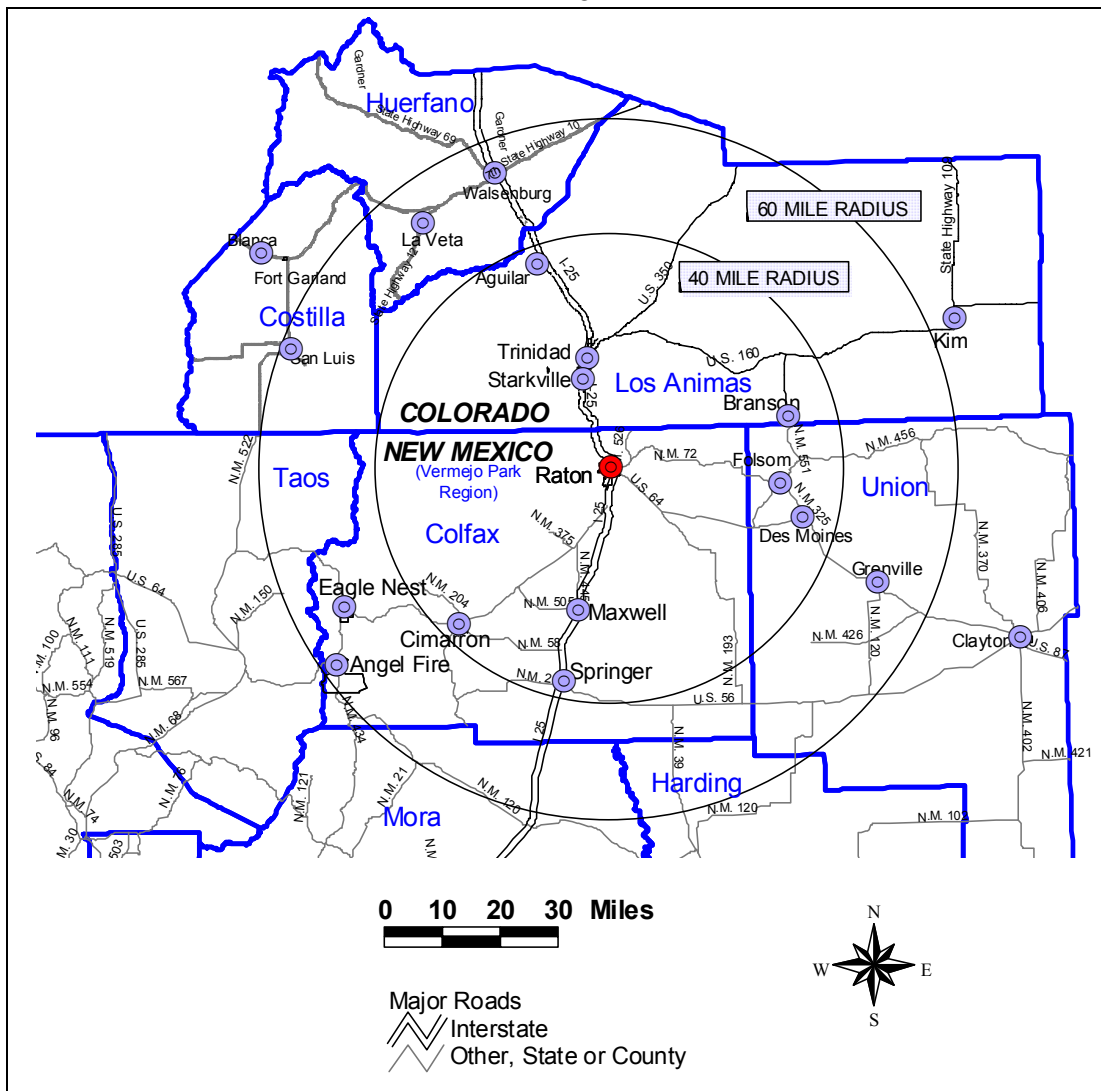


### 3 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The demographic characteristics of the population living in Raton and its surrounding area have implications for the area’s future and efforts to shape this future. For example, the age distribution of residents influences the size of the workforce, the public services needed by residents, and has employment impacts. Projected population growth will influence not only the size of the workforce but demand for services and goods. This section describes some of the more prominent characteristics of the population and those that have implications on Raton’s future.

For this study, the geographic area within 40 miles of Raton, referred to as the “Raton Area,” is used to define the area providing potential employees for employers in Raton (Map 3.1). The Raton Area was determined by examining census data on commuting, by preliminary interviews with local representatives familiar with the area’s labor force, and based on the distribution of the population in the area.

**MAP 3.1**



### 3.1 Population

Roughly 27,500 persons lived in the Raton Area in 2000. Over half of the population lived in the cities of Raton and Trinidad - 7,200 in Raton and 9,000 in Trinidad (Table 3.1). The remaining 11,300 persons reside in outlying areas in Colfax and Union counties in New Mexico and in Las Animas County, Colorado. The population of the outlying area includes persons living in Springer (population 1,285), Cimarron (917), Aguilar, Colorado (593), Des Moines (177), Starkville, Colorado (128) and Folsom (75).

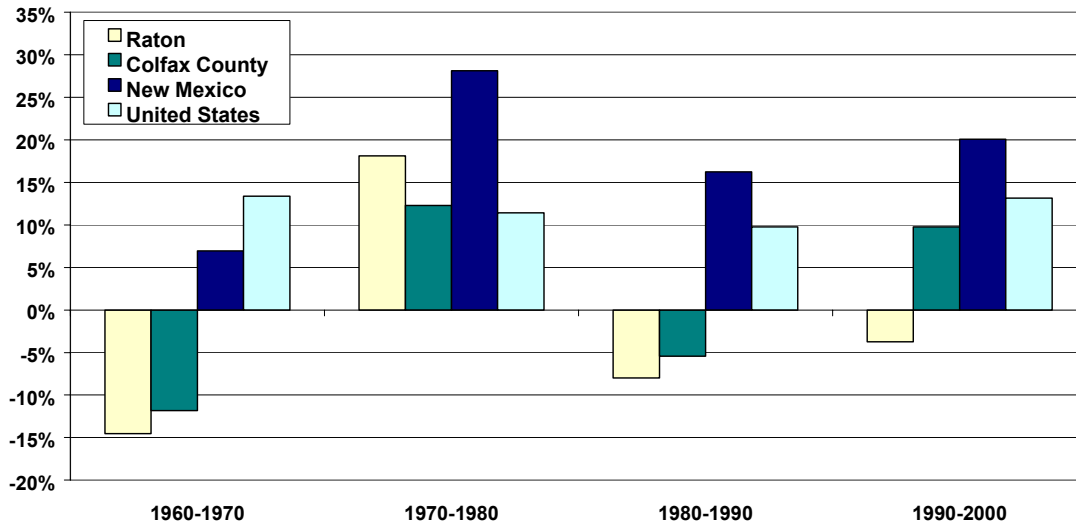
**TABLE 3.1**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN THE RATON**  
**AREA<sup>1</sup>, 2000**

	<u>Population</u>
Raton	7,197
Trinidad	9,017
Remainder	<u>11,318</u>
Total Raton Area	27,532

1 - the Raton Area is within a 40-mile radius of Raton.  
Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3.  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

Population change in Raton and Colfax County has historically been erratic (Figure 3.1). Raton lost population over each of the past two decades while, because of population increase in other parts of Colfax County, the County as a whole experienced an increase in population during the 1990's. Much of the population increase that occurred over the

**FIGURE 3.1**  
**PERCENT CHANGE IN TOTAL POPULATION**  
**COLFAX COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, U.S., 1960-2000**



UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses, SF-1.

1990's took place in the western part of the County where the population of Angel Fire increased by 596 (a 131.9% increase), Cimarron by 154 (20.2%), and Eagle Nest by 119 (63.6%). Closer to Raton, Maxwell's population increased by 78 (39.8%) while Springer's decreased by 3 persons (-0.2%).

The size of the labor force, demand for goods and services, and numerous other economic and demographic features of Raton will be impacted by future population levels in the City and surrounding areas. While population projections for the Raton Area are not available, Colfax County's population is projected to increase slowly. As shown in Table 3.2, the population of Colfax County is projected to increase to 15,234 by 2010 and to 15,890 by 2020. The average annual rate of growth of the County's population is projected to decline in each of the 5-year periods and is much less – roughly one-third to one-half -- than the rate of growth projected for the state as a whole. It should be noted that these projections are for the County as a whole and, as was just described, much of the population increase that occurred in the County over the 1990's took place in areas other than Raton.

**TABLE 3.2**  
**PROJECTED POPULATION AND ANNUAL AVERAGE GROWTH**  
**RATES, NEW MEXICO AND COLFAX COUNTY**  
 (July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2020)

Year	New Mexico		Colfax County	
	Population	Growth Rate <sup>1</sup>	Population	Growth Rate <sup>1</sup>
2000	1,826,280		14,230	
2005	1,970,983	1.53	14,765	0.74
2010	2,112,986	1.39	15,234	0.63
2015	2,251,319	1.27	15,625	0.51
2020	2,383,116	1.14	15,890	0.34

1 - Average annual rate of growth over the 5-year period.

Source: BBER Population Projections, (2003).

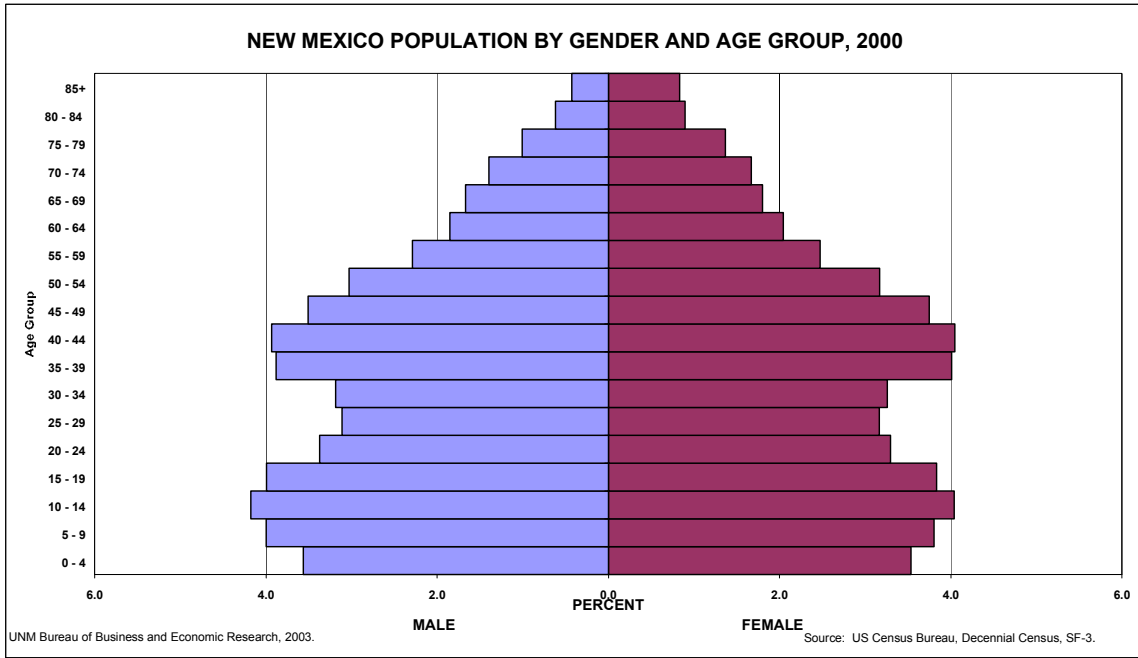
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

### 3.2 Age

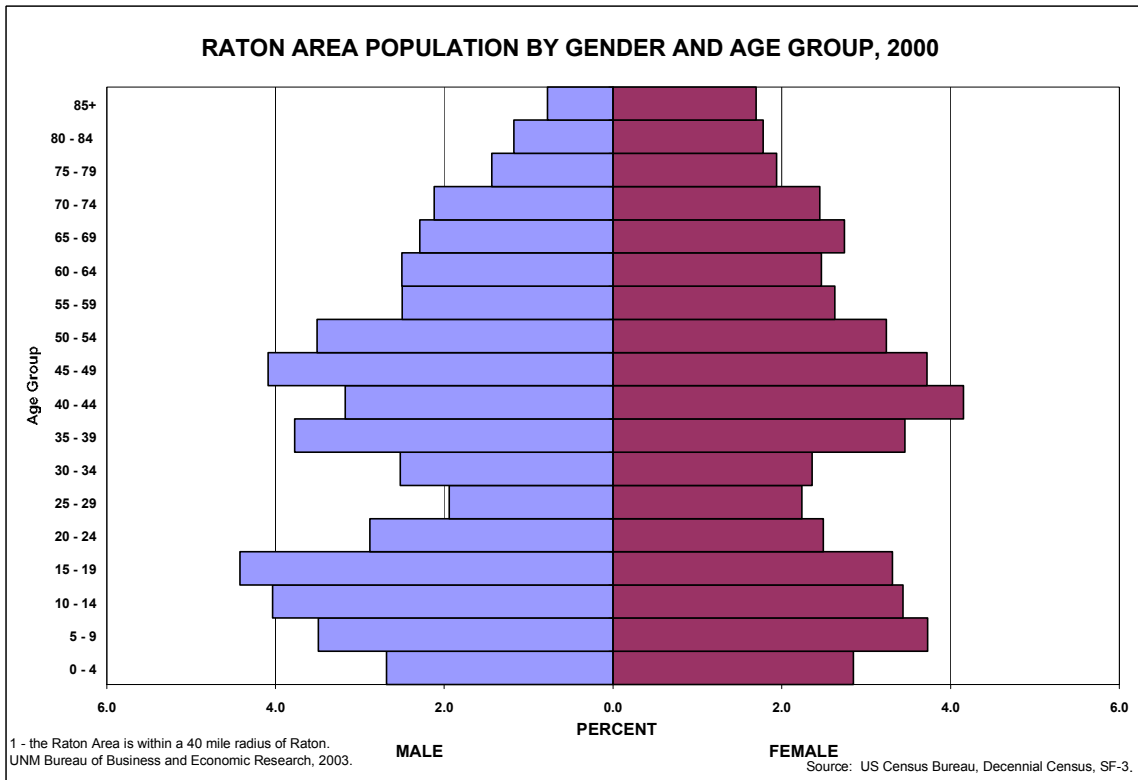
The population of the City of Raton is older than the Area, which is older than the population of New Mexico. Figures 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4, on the following two pages, are population pyramids showing the distribution of each of these three areas by age groups. Comparing Figure 3.2, a population pyramid of Area residents, to Figure 3.3, which shows the distribution of New Mexico's residents, it is clear that larger portions of the Area's total population are in older age categories and that there is an under-representation in the younger age categories. Looking at males and females combined, the Area has higher portions of its population in age categories over 49 years old than the corresponding age groups for the New Mexico. Having a number of workforce and

business implications, a much smaller portion of the Area's population is in the age categories between 20 and 34.

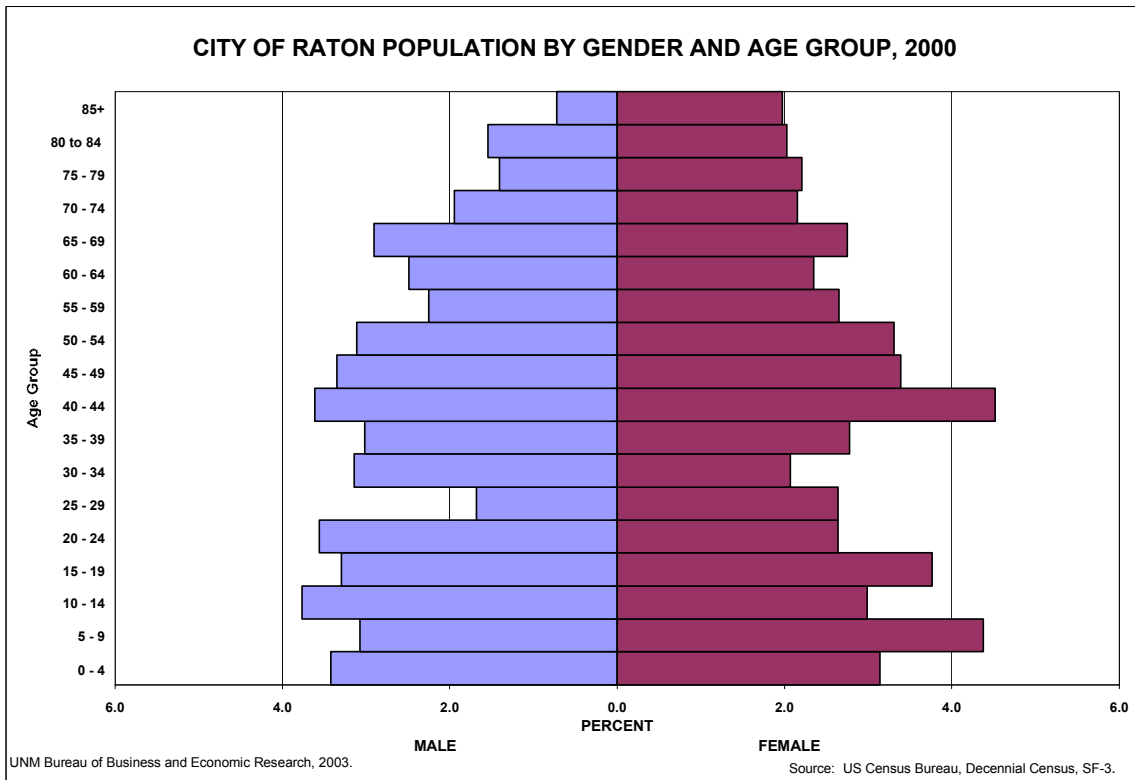
**FIGURE 3.2**



**FIGURE 3.3**



**FIGURE 3.4**



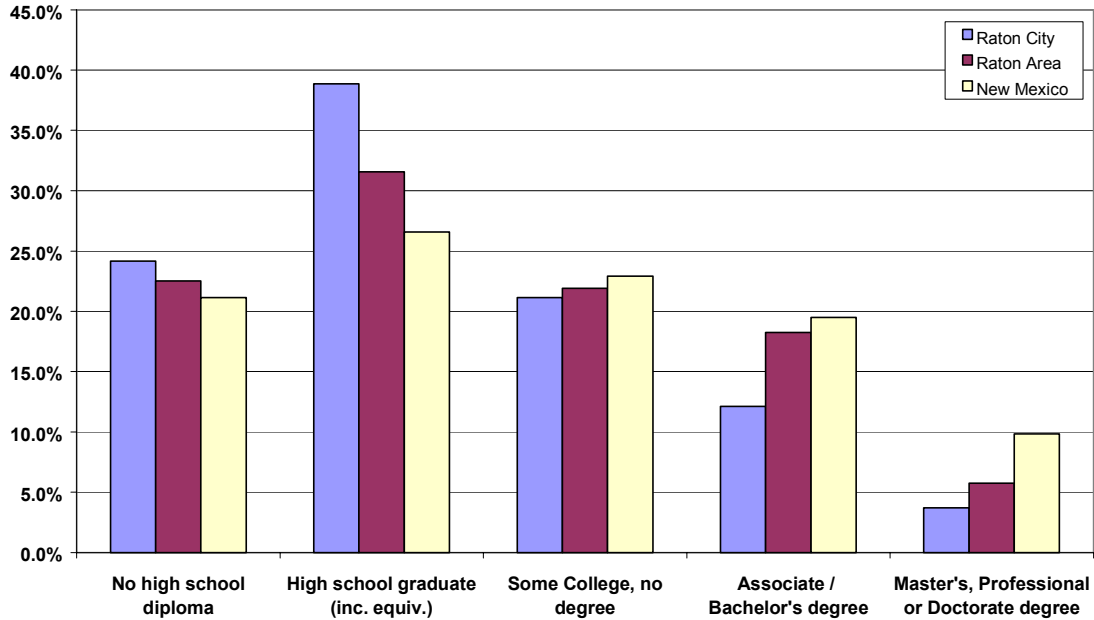
**3.3 Educational Attainment**

Of Area residents 25 years old, 22.5% have no high school diploma and 31.6% have a high school degree as their highest level of educational attainment, both of which are higher than the state’s distributions (Figure 3.5). When compared to the state, Area residents are less represented in all categories of post secondary education. Area males are more likely to be without a high school diploma than females while females are more likely to have a high school diploma and some college as their highest level of attainment (Figure 3.6).

The educational attainment data for residents of the City, the Area, and the state of New Mexico are presented in detail in Supplementary Table 7.1 (Section 7 of this report). As shown in this table, in 2000 there were 1,147 persons with no high school diploma in the City. As shown in the table, residents of Raton are slightly more likely to lack a high school diploma than residents of the Area and much more likely to have a high school diploma as their highest level of education (38.9% in the City compared to 31.6% in the Area as a whole). Additionally, when compared to the Area as a whole, Raton residents are less likely to have an associate’s or bachelor’s degree (12.1% compared to 18.3%) or a master’s or professional degree (3.7% compared to 5.7%).

**FIGURE 3.5**

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, RATON CITY, RATON AREA  
AND NEW MEXICO, 2000<sup>1</sup>**

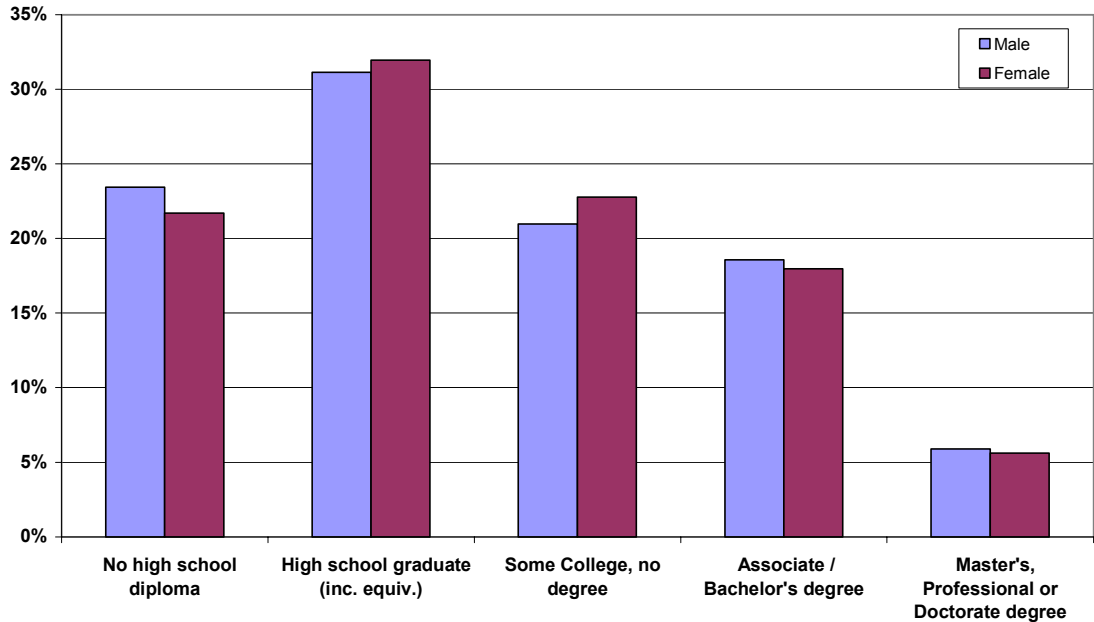


1 - the Raton Area is within a 40 mile radius of Raton. Includes population 25 years and over. UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3.

**FIGURE 3.6**

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY GENDER, RATON AREA, 2000<sup>1</sup>**



1 - the Raton Area is within a 40 mile radius of Raton. Includes population 25 years and over. UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3.

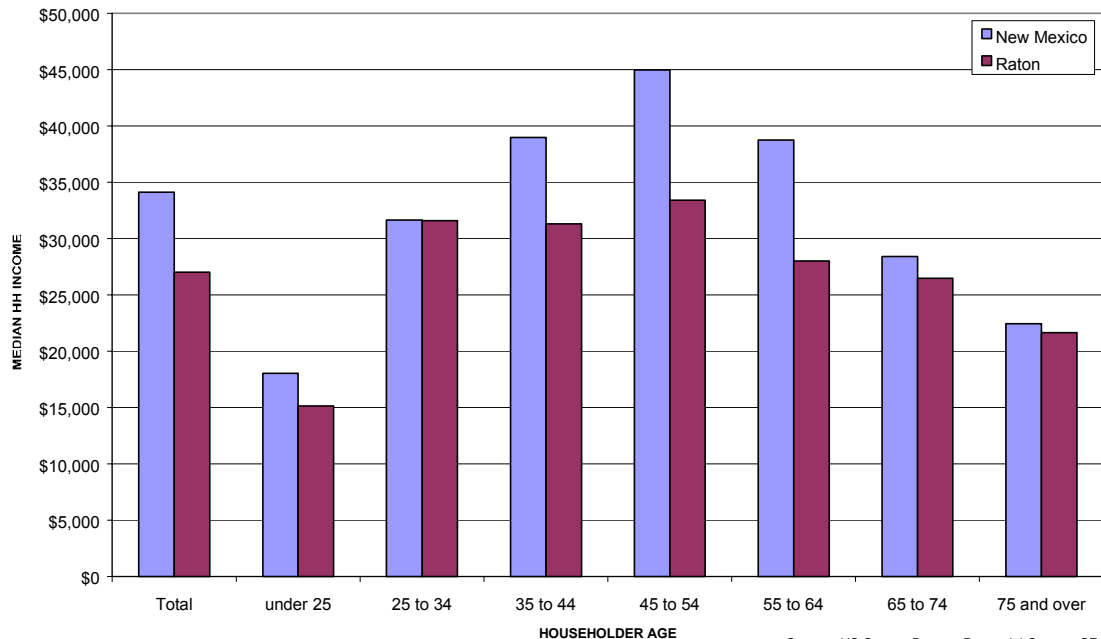
### 3.4 Income

While income in the area will be examined in section 4 of the report, unique insights into the income characteristics of the Area's population can be gleaned from decennial census data. These data combine income and demographic characteristics and provide information on household income, sources of income, and household income by age of householder, and earnings by gender.

As shown in Figure 3.7, in 1999 the median income of households in Raton (\$27,028) was significantly lower than New Mexico's (\$34,133). When compared to the state, the median household income in Raton is lower for all age categories, though households with householders between the ages of 35 and 64 have dramatically lower median incomes. While Raton households with householders aged 25 to 34 have median incomes almost equal to their counterparts statewide, incomes in Raton fail to have a pronounced peak in the 35 – 64 year old age categories. The differences in median incomes in the upper two age categories are both less than \$2,000, though income fails to increase for the two subsequent age groups.

**FIGURE 3.7**

**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER: CITY OF RATON AND NEW MEXICO, 1999**



Total income is made up of income from different sources: earnings, wage and salary income, rental income, Social Security income, etc. Income data show that compared to the state markedly smaller percentages of Raton and Raton Area households have income from earnings, which are wage or salary income and income from self-employment (Table 3.3). A smaller portion of Raton households (67.6%) has earnings than in the Area (70.5%) and state (79.5%). Conversely, reflecting Raton's older

population, households in the City with social security income are over-represented compared to the state, 38.9% versus 25.5%. The percent of households receiving Public Assistance in Raton is comparable to the state.

**TABLE 3.3**  
**INCOME SOURCES FOR RATON CITY, AREA AND NEW MEXICO HOUSEHOLDS, 1999**

	Raton City		Raton Area <sup>1</sup>		New Mexico	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Households	3,030	100.0%	10,891	100.0%	678,032	100.0%
Households with:						
earnings	2,048	67.6%	7,677	70.5%	539,277	79.5%
wage or salary income	1,952	64.4%	7,178	65.9%	513,828	75.8%
self-employment income	264	8.7%	1,453	13.3%	91,596	13.5%
interest, dividends, or net rental income	830	27.4%	3,017	27.7%	204,490	30.2%
Social Security income	1,179	38.9%	3,910	35.9%	172,565	25.5%
public assistance income	158	5.2%	646	5.9%	31,664	4.7%
retirement income	712	23.5%	2,354	21.6%	117,726	17.4%

1 - the Raton Area is within a 40 mile radius of Raton.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

### 3.5 Poverty Level

Compared to New Mexico, with the exception of persons less than five years of age Raton City and the Raton Area have smaller or similar percentages of people in poverty for all age groups. Overall, 17.4% of Raton residents live in poverty. The under 5-year-old population in the Area and the City have a high rate of poverty, 31.3% and 33.5% respectively, when compared to the state (27.6%). The City also has a high percentage of children five years old (31.7%) living in poverty.

**TABLE 3.4**  
**PERCENT OF POPULATION BY AGE GROUP WITH INCOME BELOW POVERTY LEVEL: RATON CITY, RATON AREA, NEW MEXICO, 1999**

Income below poverty level:	Raton City	Raton Area <sup>1</sup>	New Mexico
All Age Groups	17.4%	14.8%	18.4%
Under 5 years	33.5%	31.3%	27.6%
5 years	31.7%	20.8%	28.5%
6 to 11 years	23.8%	19.5%	25.9%
12 to 17 years	18.3%	17.1%	21.7%
18 to 64 years	16.3%	13.7%	16.5%
65 to 74 years	11.1%	7.8%	11.8%
75 years and over	9.7%	10.5%	14.2%

1 - the Raton Area is within a 40 mile radius of Raton

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Decennial Census 2000, SF3

UNM Bureau for Business and Economic Research, 2003.



## 4 HOUSING

This section profiles the inventory of housing units in Raton, Colfax and Las Animas counties and the costs of this housing. This analysis shows that while housing generally does not pose a financial burden for owners and renters in the City, these costs do burden some populations of the City's residents.

### 4.1 Occupancy, Vacancy Status, and Tenure

There were 3,464 housing units in the City of Raton in 2000, 426 (12.3% of the City's total number of units) of which were vacant (Table 4.1). The City's vacancy rate is lower than the rate statewide but much lower than the rate for the county as a whole. The very high vacancy rate for Colfax County is attributable to seasonal use housing units, which the Census Bureau classifies as vacant and which are located primarily in the western portion of the County. Compared to the surrounding area and New Mexico, a smaller portion (64%) of the occupied units in the City is occupied by owners. There were 961 renter occupied housing units in the City of Raton in 2000.

**TABLE 4.1**  
**HOUSING UNITS: TENURE AND VACANCY STATUS, CITY OF RATON, COLFAX AND LAS ANIMAS COUNTIES, AND NEW MEXICO, 2000**

	Raton City		Colfax County		Las Animas County		New Mexico	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number <sup>1</sup>	Percent
Housing Units	3,464	100.0%	8,959	100.0%	7,629	100.0%	780,579	100.0%
Occupied	3,038	87.7%	5,821	65.0%	6,173	80.9%	677,971	86.9%
Vacant	426	12.3%	3,138	35.0%	1,456	19.1%	102,608	13.1%
Occupied housing units:	3,038	100.0%	5,821	100.0%	6,173	100.0%	677,971	100.0%
Owner occupied	2,077	68.4%	4,233	72.7%	4,344	70.4%	474,435	70.0%
Renter occupied	961	31.6%	1,588	27.3%	1,829	29.6%	203,536	30.0%
Vacant housing units:	426	100.0%	3,138	100.0%	1,456	100.0%	102,608	100.0%
Seasonal use <sup>1</sup>	29	6.8%	2,285	72.8%	678	46.6%	35,256	34.4%
For rent	166	39.0%	247	7.9%	106	7.3%	26,758	26.1%
For sale only	75	17.6%	171	5.4%	316	21.7%	12,175	11.9%
Other <sup>2</sup>	156	36.6%	435	13.9%	356	24.5%	28,419	27.7%

1 - includes vacant units used or intended for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

2 - includes housing units for migrant and housing units rented and sold but not occupied.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

### 4.2 Renter Households

Housing costs for renter occupied units are presented in Table 4.2. While the median monthly rent for specified housing units in Raton (\$395) was much lower than the median rent in New Mexico (\$503), it was slightly higher than Trinidad's (\$388) and almost identical to Las Animas County as a whole (\$397).

The burden rent places on a household depends largely on the household's income. A measure sometimes used to assess the financial burden posed by housing costs is the

percent of household income spent on housing. In particular, expenditures for shelter costs that equal 30% of income for household income are considered burdensome. More than one-third of renter occupied units (297 households) in Raton are burdened by shelter costs. This rate is almost identical to Colfax County's rate though about 7-percentage points lower than the rate for New Mexico as a whole. While renters as a whole fare well in Raton, shelter costs present different financial burdens for different income groups. Shelter costs presented a financial burden for over two-thirds (69.6%) of renter households with incomes of less than \$10,000 and over three quarters (78.4%) of households with incomes between \$10,000 and \$20,000, a rate which is higher than Colfax County (70.7%) and much higher than the rate for Las Animas County (63.7%).

**TABLE 4.2**  
**RENTER-HOUSEHOLDS WITH SHELTER COSTS EQUALLING 30% OR MORE OF**  
**HOUSEHOLD INCOME (1999) BY INCOME CATEGORY <sup>1</sup>**

Household income:	Raton City		Colfax County		Las Animas		New Mexico	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All incomes	297	35.3%	447	35.2%	609	41.0%	75,582	42.6%
Less than \$10,000	112	69.6%	183	70.4%	298	67.0%	29,471	85.3%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	167	78.4%	212	70.7%	249	63.7%	30,300	70.6%
\$20,000 to \$49,000	18	4.6%	52	9.4%	62	12.6%	15,312	21.1%
\$50,000 or more	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	499	1.8%

1 - includes only renter households with positive income and that pay cash rent.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

Shelter costs present a financial burden to many of Raton's younger households. Of the almost 300 renter households paying 30% or more of household income to shelter costs, 119 have householders between 15 and 24 years of age. For households in this group, 58.6% are financially burdened by shelter costs. While the number of renter households burdened by shelter costs generally decreases with householder age, this is the result of smaller numbers of renter households. At 42.3%, households with householders aged 55 to 64 have the second highest rate of being burdened by rent.

**TABLE 4.3**  
**GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME (1999) BY AGE OF**  
**HOUSEHOLDER, CITY OF RATON, 2000**

<u>Number of Renter Households</u>								
Gross Rent as Percent of HH Income	Age of Householder							Total
	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 and over	
Less than 20%	72	112	96	60	34	17	7	398
20 to 24	12	15	26	0	7	23	0	83
25 to 29	0	4	31	14	0	0	15	64
30 or more	119	45	41	32	30	16	14	297
Total computed <sup>1</sup>	203	186	201	111	94	79	82	956

<u>Percent of Renter Households</u>								
Gross Rent as Percent of HH Income	Age of Householder							Total
	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 and over	
Less than 20%	35.5%	60.2%	47.8%	54.1%	36.2%	21.5%	8.5%	41.6%
20 to 24	5.9%	8.5%	13.4%	0.0%	9.9%	41.1%	0.0%	9.9%
25 to 29	0.0%	2.3%	16.0%	13.2%	0.0%	0.0%	41.7%	7.6%
30 or more	58.6%	25.6%	21.1%	30.2%	42.3%	28.6%	38.9%	35.3%

1 - includes only renter households with positive income and that pay cash rent.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

### 4.3 Owner Households

Table 4.4 provides an overview of owner households in Raton and the surrounding area. Of Raton's 2,077 owner households, 947 (45.6%) had a mortgage in 2000, a rate similar to Colfax County as a whole though a much lower rate than New Mexico's. Surprisingly, when compared to Raton and Colfax County, Las Animas County has a much lower rate of owners with a mortgage. As would be expected, housing costs vary by the presence of a mortgage. Owner costs for housing units both with and without mortgages are lower in Raton than in the other areas examined, though it should be noted that the median housing unit value was also much lower. As with renter households, the financial burden posed by shelter costs also varies depending on household income. As a whole, a smaller percentage of Raton owner households are burdened by shelter costs (17.0%) than in Colfax or Las Animas counties or New Mexico. While owner households with lower household income levels are much more likely to be burdened, the percent of Raton households that are burdened by income category compare favorably with the other geographic areas examined, especially so in the two income categories over \$19,999.

**TABLE 4.4****OWNER HOUSEHOLDS: MORTGAGE, OWNER COSTS, VALUE, AND PERCENT WITH COSTS 30% OR MORE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME, 2000**

	<u>Raton City</u>	<u>Colfax County</u>	<u>Las Animas</u>	<u>New Mexico</u>
Number of owner-occupied housing units	2,077	4,233	6,173	474,435
Number with a mortgage	947	2,070	2,223	295,338
Percent with a mortgage	45.6%	48.9%	36.0%	62.3%
Median Selected Monthly Owner Costs (2000) <sup>1</sup>				
Housing units with a mortgage <sup>2</sup>	\$604	\$693	\$694	\$929
Housing units without a mortgage	\$193	\$217	\$205	\$228
Median housing unit value (2000) <sup>1</sup>	\$65,300	\$73,900	\$86,300	\$94,600
Owner Occupied Housing Units with Owner Costs 30% or more of Household Income <sup>1</sup>				
All incomes	17.0%	18.3%	22.6%	21.8%
Less than \$10,000:	58.2%	64.7%	60.6%	59.7%
\$10,000 to \$19,999:	35.5%	34.1%	35.7%	41.0%
\$20,000 to \$49,000	10.2%	15.6%	18.5%	27.2%
\$50,000 or more	0.7%	3.2%	4.9%	5.6%

1 - specified housing units include only 1-family houses on less than 10 acres without a business or medical office on the property and excludes mobile homes and housing units in multi-unit buildings.

2 - also includes housing units with a contract to purchase or similar debt.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

## **5 LABOR FORCE ANALYSIS**

This section of the report defines the geographic area supplying labor to Raton's businesses and goes on to describe the characteristics of the labor force. The employed and unemployed populations are described in detail, providing information that can help identify actions that will create opportunities for Raton residents. Additionally, the population that is not pursuing employment - possibly because they have become discouraged or see little employment opportunity - is also described to help discern the likelihood that members of this population may enter the labor force. The analysis presented in this report represents only the preliminary research findings and focuses on defining the number of persons in each of the labor force categories. Further research tasks in the community audit will attempt to determine the underlying reasons and implications of these characteristics.

The City of Raton's labor market area extends roughly 40 miles, as described in Section 3, and was determined based on discussions with local employers and through two data sets produced by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Interviews with employers from a range of Raton businesses found that in some cases their employees traveled up to 40 – 45 miles to work, though most resided much closer to Raton. The commuting patterns of employed persons support these findings. These data, which show the flow of workers from county of residence to workplace county, show a surprisingly small amount of commuting between Colfax and neighboring counties in 2000. In fact, a slightly higher number and percentage of Colfax County residents commute to Las Animas County than vice versa. Because the data on commuting show county-to-county travel, commuting to employers in Raton may be underemphasized since many of those commuting from Las Animas County are likely commuting to Raton.

### **5.1 Labor Force Participation**

The labor force status of Area residents provides information valuable for economic development, employment, and educational efforts. Labor force information includes not only the number of persons in the Area's workforce, but also the age and gender characteristics of employed and unemployed persons, and information on persons not looking for work. Table 5.1 provides an overview of the Area's population and their labor force status. (Supplementary Table 7.2 in Section 7 of this report presents this distribution by gender.) Of the 27,500 persons living in the Area in 2000, roughly 21,000 persons were aged 16 and over. Of this population, 12,200 were in the civilian labor force (which means they were either employed or unemployed), while the remaining 9,400 were not participating in the labor force. (All civilians 16 years old and over are classified as unemployed if they were neither "at work" nor "with a job but not at work" during the reference week, were looking for work during the last 4 weeks, and were available to start a job). Of the Area's civilian labor force, 740 persons were unemployed, an unemployment rate of 6.1% compared to 7.2% in the City of Raton, and 7.3% for New Mexico.

Of the Area's 12,200 labor force participants, 53.6% (6,500 persons) are male, a percentage nearly identical to New Mexico's (Table 5.2). Over three-quarters of the

Area's labor force participants were between 20 and 54 years old. There were 9,400 persons not in the labor force in 2000. Generally, compared to the state as a whole, the Area's labor force participants are more likely to be over 44 years old.

**TABLE 5.1**  
**EMPLOYMENT STATUS: RATON, RATON AREA, AND NEW MEXICO, 2000**

	Raton	Raton Area <sup>1</sup>	New Mexico
Total Population	7,197	27,532	1,819,046
Population 16 years and over	5,628	21,627	1,369,176
In labor force	3,110	12,216	834,632
In Armed Forces	5	16	11,192
Civilian	3,105	12,200	823,440
Employed	2,881	11,460	763,116
Unemployed	224	740	60,324
Percent of civilian labor force	7.2%	6.1%	7.3%
Not in labor force	2,518	9,411	534,544

1 - because of data availability, in this case the Raton area is defined as Colfax County, New Mexico, and the Trinidad and Weston CCD's, Colorado.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3, PCT 35.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

**TABLE 5.2**  
**LABOR FORCE PARTICIPANTS BY AGE AND GENDER, RATON CITY, RATON AREA<sup>1</sup>, AND NEW MEXICO, 2000**

Age	Number of labor force participants								
	Raton City			Raton Area			New Mexico		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
16 to 19	83	134	217	335	398	733	27,409	25,087	52,496
20 to 29	303	306	609	1,013	972	1,985	94,852	79,346	174,198
30 to 44	588	504	1,092	2,273	2,089	4,362	168,471	144,554	313,025
45 to 54	396	314	710	1,733	1,295	3,028	96,486	88,655	185,141
55 to 64	194	136	330	873	664	1,537	45,351	37,547	82,898
65 to 74	59	58	117	237	207	444	12,684	8,643	21,327
75 +	22	13	35	85	42	127	3,290	2,257	5,547
	1,645	1,465	3,110	6,549	5,667	12,216	448,543	386,089	834,632
Age	Distribution of labor force participants								
16 to 19	2.7%	4.3%	7.0%	2.7%	3.3%	6.0%	3.3%	3.0%	6.3%
20 to 29	9.7%	9.8%	19.6%	8.3%	8.0%	16.2%	11.4%	9.5%	20.9%
30 to 44	18.9%	16.2%	35.1%	18.6%	17.1%	35.7%	20.2%	17.3%	37.5%
45 to 54	12.7%	10.1%	22.8%	14.2%	10.6%	24.8%	11.6%	10.6%	22.2%
55 to 64	6.2%	4.4%	10.6%	7.1%	5.4%	12.6%	5.4%	4.5%	9.9%
65 to 74	1.9%	1.9%	3.8%	1.9%	1.7%	3.6%	1.5%	1.0%	2.6%
75 +	0.7%	0.4%	1.1%	0.7%	0.3%	1.0%	0.4%	0.3%	0.7%
	52.9%	47.1%	100.0%	53.6%	46.4%	100.0%	53.7%	46.3%	100.0%

1 - because of data availability, in this case the Raton area is defined as Colfax County, New Mexico, and the Trinidad and Weston CCD's, Colorado.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3, PCT 35.

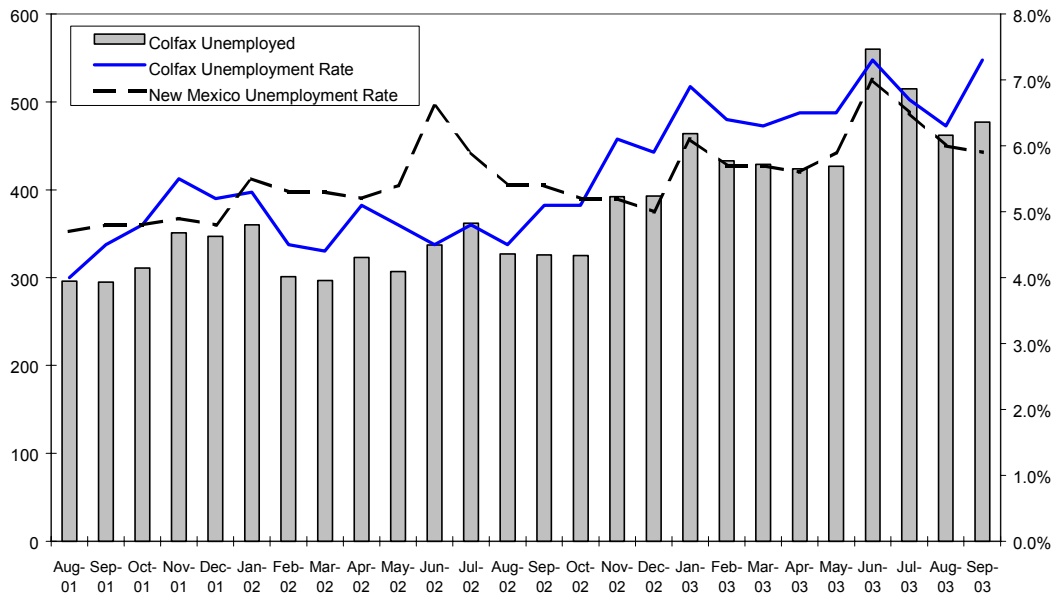
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

## 5.2 Employment and Unemployment

Labor force data from the New Mexico Department of Labor show that while Colfax County's unemployment rate approached 16% in April 1996, since 1997 monthly unemployment rates for the County have been at 7.9% or less. The monthly unemployment rate hit its lowest point, 3.7%, in August 2001, the first point in Figure 5.1. While fluctuating, the unemployment rate has steadily increased over the past 12 to 18 months and peaked at 7.3% in June and September 2003 (though the September data are subject to revision). The preliminary unemployment rate for September 2003 is 2.2 percentage points higher than the September 2002 rate of 5.1%. The increased rate in June is due to an additional 133 persons unemployed since May - the large majority of which were layoffs at the York Canyon Complex - increasing the number of unemployed persons in the County from 427 to 560. While the large increase in the unemployment rate between August and September is due in part to an additional 25 unemployed persons, the decline in the civilian labor force also contributed to the increase. Monthly unemployment rates and counts for Colfax County are presented in Supplementary Table 7.3.

**FIGURE 5.1**

**COLFAX COUNTY NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS AND COLFAX AND NEW MEXICO UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, AUGUST 2001 - SEPTEMBER 2003<sup>1</sup>**



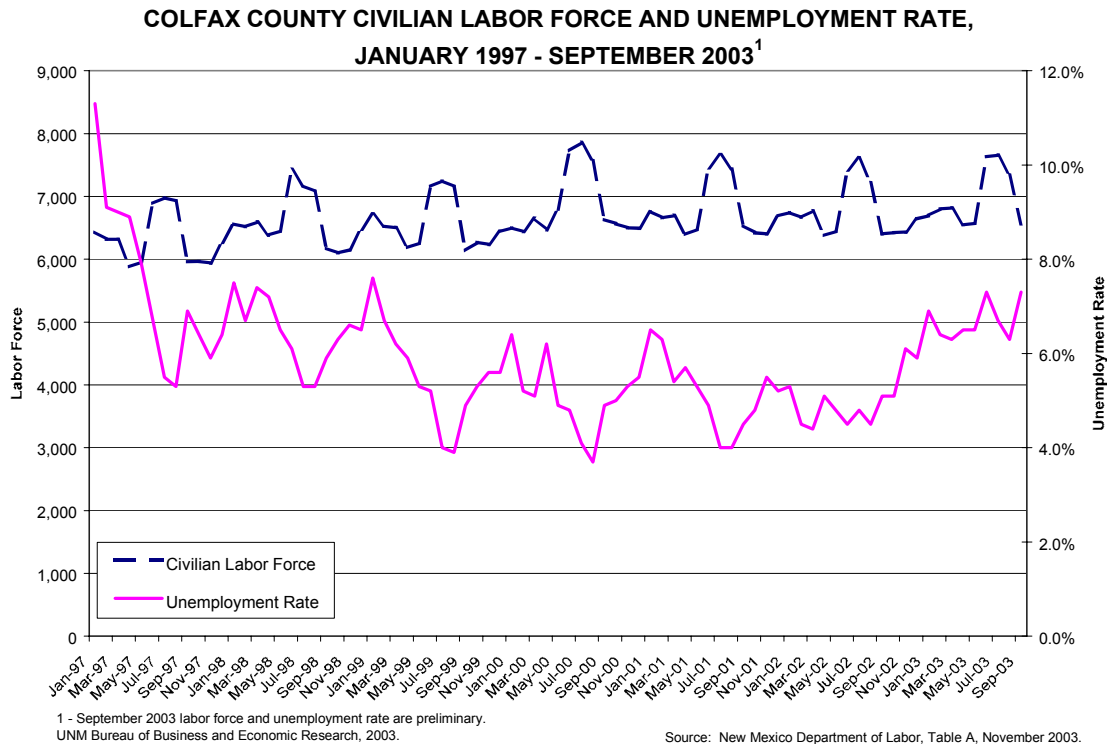
<sup>1</sup> - September 2003 labor force and unemployment rate are preliminary.  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

Source: New Mexico Department of Labor, Table A, October

Unemployment rates are the result of the number of unemployed persons and the size of the civilian labor force. As shown in Figure 5.2 (and in Supplementary Table 7.3 (same as previous)) the size of Colfax County's labor force varies dramatically with the season and can fluctuate by 1,000 persons or more. With the beginning of activities of Philmont Scout ranch, the gearing up of summer activities at the Whittington Center, and the summer travel season, the number of labor force participants in the County

dramatically increases in June and July and drops just as dramatically in September. Because many of these seasonal employees leave the area at the end of their job and because others, such as students, were not looking for work before employment and do not look for work at the end of the summer job, they are not included in the ranks of the County's unemployed and therefore do not cause an increase in unemployment rates. In actuality the opposite is true, the county's lowest unemployment rates generally occur in peak employment season.

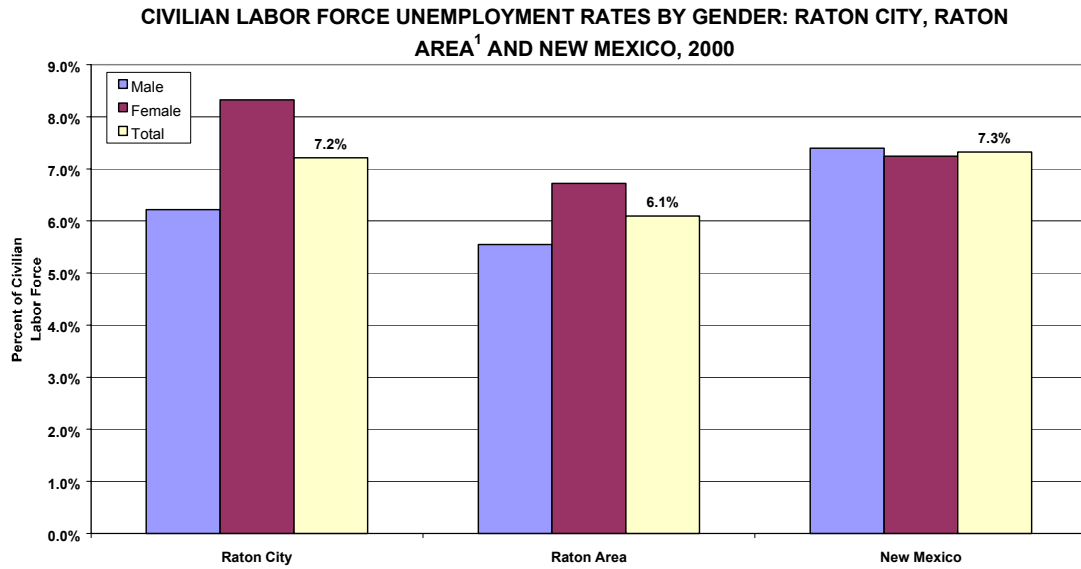
**FIGURE 5.2**



Census data provide more detailed information about the demographic characteristics and geographic distribution of the unemployed, though this information is from 2000. Overall, the unemployment rate in Raton in 2000, 7.2%, was slightly lower than New Mexico's rate of 7.3% (Figure 5.3). Unemployed persons include those 16 years old and over who were not at work (or with a job but not at work because of vacation or leave) and excludes those who were not looking for work. It is interesting to note that the unemployment rate for the City is over 1 percentage point higher than for the Area as a whole, largely due to high unemployment rates for females aged 20 to 29 and males and females between 55 and 64, as will be discussed later in this section. Unlike in New Mexico as a whole, females in Raton and the Area had higher unemployment rates than males. Raton Area individuals aged "16 to 19" and "55 to 64" years had higher unemployment rates than statewide, while the unemployment rates for all other age groups in the Area were lower than the rate statewide.



**FIGURE 5.3**



1 - because of data availability, in this case the Raton area is defined as Colfax County, New Mexico, and the Trinidad and Weston CCD's, Colorado. UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3, PCT 35.

Table 5.3 examines the distribution of unemployed persons by age and gender. In the Area, 51.6% of the unemployed persons were female. Over 28% of the Area's unemployed persons, males and females combined, were in the "30 to 34" year old age cohort. Almost one-quarter of the Area's unemployed population was in the youngest age category - age 16 to 19, while 20 to 29 year olds comprised 21.8 % of the Area's total unemployment population, a smaller portion than in the City of Raton (29.0%) or New Mexico (27.7%).

**TABLE 5.3****UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE AND GENDER: RATON CITY, RATON AREA<sup>1</sup>, AND NEW MEXICO, 2000**

Total Unemployed	Raton City	Raton Area <sup>1</sup>	New Mexico
16 to 19 years	17.9%	23.4%	19.8%
20 to 29 years	29.0%	21.8%	27.7%
30 to 44 years	27.7%	28.2%	30.4%
45 to 54 years	12.1%	11.2%	13.9%
55 to 64 year	13.4%	14.3%	5.6%
65 to 74 years	0.0%	0.3%	1.5%
75 years and over	0.0%	0.8%	1.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Unemployed Females</b>			
16 to 19 years	12.1%	11.6%	9.1%
20 to 29 years	17.4%	11.4%	12.5%
30 to 44 years	14.7%	15.4%	14.7%
45 to 54 years	4.5%	2.8%	6.3%
55 to 64 year	5.8%	6.5%	2.1%
65 to 74 years	0.0%	0.3%	0.6%
75 years and over	0.0%	0.4%	0.8%
Total	54.5%	48.4%	46.1%
<b>Unemployed Males</b>			
16 to 19 years	5.8%	11.8%	10.7%
20 to 29 years	11.6%	10.4%	15.2%
30 to 44 years	12.9%	12.8%	15.8%
45 to 54 years	7.6%	8.4%	7.5%
55 to 64 year	7.6%	7.8%	3.5%
65 to 74 years	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
75 years and over	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%
Total	45.5%	51.6%	53.9%

1 - because of data availability, in this case the Raton area is defined as Colfax County, New Mexico, and the Trinidad and Weston CCD's, Colorado.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3, PCT 35.

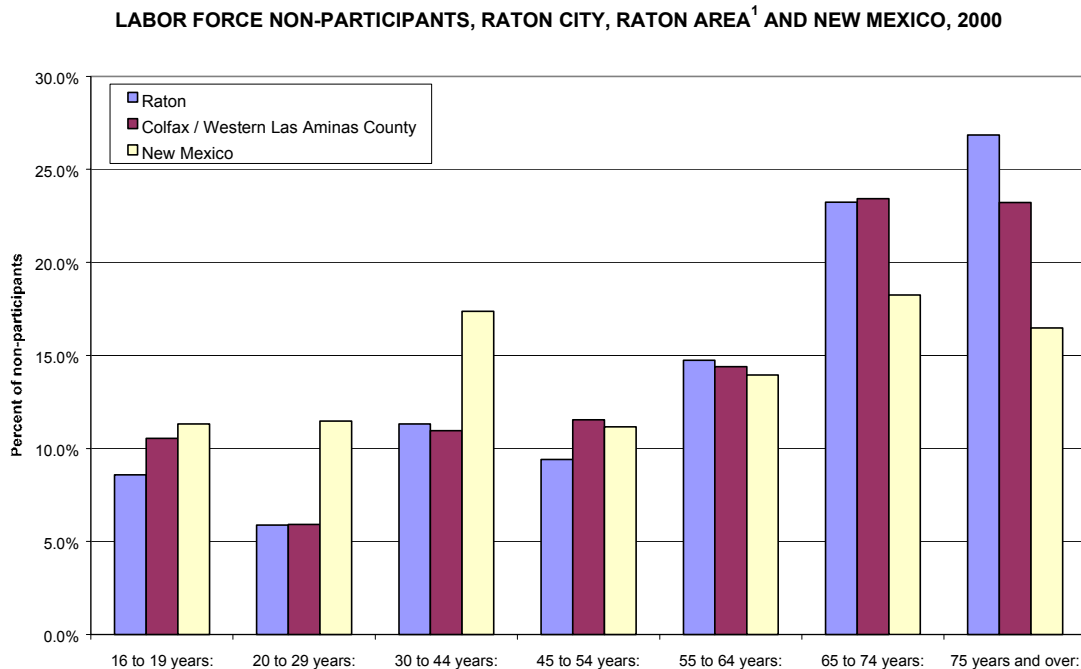
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

**5.3 Non-participants**

While labor force non-participants include students, individuals taking care of home or family, retired workers, and some seasonal workers, non-participants also include persons who, while desiring employment, have become discouraged or simply stopped pursuing employment. While the exact number of non-participants actually desiring to re-enter the workforce cannot be determined through the available data, the data can help estimate the extent of this population.

Figure 5.4 shows the distribution of labor force non-participants ages 16 and over by age group. As shown, large portions of the labor force non-participants in Colfax/western Las Animas County are over 45 years of age, with almost half of the total non-participants being in the two oldest age categories. Also, when compared to the state, small portions of Colfax/western Las Animas County non-participants are between 20 and 44 years of age. Supplementary Table 7.4 shows this distribution of labor force non-participants by age cohort and gender.

**FIGURE 5.4**



1 - because of data availability, in this case the Raton area is defined as Colfax County, New Mexico, and the Trinidad and Weston CCD's, Colorado. UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3, PCT 35.

Larger portions of the population aged 16 or more years in the City and the Area did not participate in the labor force in 2000. The rate of non-participation was almost 44% (9,411 persons) in Colfax County and western Las Animas County compared to 39.0% in New Mexico as a whole. The high non-participation rate in Colfax/western Las Animas is partly due to the large portion (47%) of the Area's population over 65 years old that did not participate (Supplementary Table 7.5). When only persons between the ages of 16 and 65 are considered, Colfax/western Las Animas had 5,020 persons not in the labor force, for a non-participation rate of 30.1%, nearly identical to the statewide rate for the same age group.

**TABLE 5.4**  
**POPULATION NOT PARTICIPATING IN LABOR FORCE, RATON AREA<sup>1</sup>, COLFAX COUNTY AND NEW MEXICO, 2000**

	Number of persons not in participating in labor force			Distribution of persons not participating in labor force		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Raton City</b>						
16 to 19 years:	112	104	216	4.4%	4.1%	8.6%
20 to 29 years:	74	74	148	2.9%	2.9%	5.9%
30 to 44 years:	115	170	285	4.6%	6.8%	11.3%
45 to 54 years:	69	168	237	2.7%	6.7%	9.4%
55 to 64 years:	147	224	371	5.8%	8.9%	14.7%
65 to 74 years:	290	295	585	11.5%	11.7%	23.2%
75 years and over:	242	434	676	9.6%	17.2%	26.8%
	1,049	1,469	2,518	41.7%	58.3%	100.0%
<b>Colfax and Western Las Animas County</b>						
16 to 19 years:	671	321	992	7.1%	3.4%	10.5%
20 to 29 years:	267	290	557	2.8%	3.1%	5.9%
30 to 44 years:	341	690	1,031	3.6%	7.3%	11.0%
45 to 54 years:	413	672	1,085	4.4%	7.1%	11.5%
55 to 64 years:	566	789	1,355	6.0%	8.4%	14.4%
65 to 74 years:	996	1,209	2,205	10.6%	12.8%	23.4%
75 years and over:	802	1,384	2,186	8.5%	14.7%	23.2%
	4,056	5,355	9,411	43.1%	56.9%	100.0%
<b>New Mexico</b>						
16 to 19 years:	30,337	30,195	60,532	5.7%	5.6%	11.3%
20 to 29 years:	23,116	38,180	61,296	4.3%	7.1%	11.5%
30 to 44 years:	31,610	61,287	92,897	5.9%	11.5%	17.4%
45 to 54 years:	22,458	37,202	59,660	4.2%	7.0%	11.2%
55 to 64 years:	29,990	44,553	74,543	5.6%	8.3%	13.9%
65 to 74 years:	43,009	54,542	97,551	8.0%	10.2%	18.2%
75 years and over:	34,032	54,033	88,065	6.4%	10.1%	16.5%
	214,552	319,992	534,544	40.1%	59.9%	100.0%

1 - because of data availability, in this case the Raton area is defined as Colfax County, New Mexico, and the Trinidad and Weston CCD's, Colorado.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

## 5.4 Occupations

As opposed to “industry”, which describes employment by the activity of the employer, a person’s occupation describes what an employee does on the job. Because of this, occupational data can provide some indication of the training, skills, and experience held by Area employed residents. The distribution of employed Raton residents by

occupation shows that, compared to New Mexico, proportionally more people are employed in a variety of occupations, including:

- production
- transportation and material moving
- extraction
- fire fighting, prevention, and law enforcement
- building and grounds cleaning and maintenance
- healthcare technologists and technicians

More detailed data on the occupations held by Raton residents are presented in Table 5.5, which compares the City with the Raton Area and New Mexico. As shown, almost 25% of employed Raton residents and 30% of employed Raton Area residents hold management, professional and related occupations, making it the largest occupational group in all of the areas examined. This being said, both Raton and the Raton Area lag behind New Mexico's distribution of 34.0%, lagging behind in both management positions and professional and related occupations (which include computer and mathematical occupations). The distribution of Raton, Raton Area and New Mexico residents by gender is presented in Supplementary Table 7.6.

Compared to New Mexico, larger portions of Raton residents hold service occupations and production and material moving occupations. While service occupations include healthcare support, Raton's overrepresentation is due primarily to fire, prevention and law enforcement occupations and food preparation and serving occupations. Production occupations, which are held by almost 1 in 10 Raton residents, are the source of much of the overrepresentation in this occupational group.

**TABLE 5.5**

**EMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION: RATON CITY, RATON AREA,  
AND NEW MEXICO, 2000<sup>1</sup>**

Occupation:	Number of Persons Employed			Distribution of Employed Persons		
	Raton	Raton Area	New Mexico	Raton	Raton Area	New Mexico
	City			City		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,881</b>	<b>10,972</b>	<b>763,116</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Management, professional, and related</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>3,217</b>	<b>259,510</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>34.0</b>
<b>Management, business, and financial operations</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>92,306</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>12.1</b>
Management , except farmers and farm managers	171	818	59,104	5.9	7.5	7.7
Farmers and farm managers	31	310	5,445	1.1	2.8	0.7
Business and financial operations	53	259	27,757	1.8	2.4	3.6
Business operations specialists	33	115	13,420	1.1	1.0	1.8
Financial specialists	20	144	14,337	0.7	1.3	1.9
<b>Professional and related</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>167,204</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>21.9</b>
Computer and mathematical	6	31	13,919	0.2	0.3	1.8
Architecture and engineering	28	71	20,331	1.0	0.6	2.7
Architects, surveyors, cartographers, and engineers	3	33	13,266	0.1	0.3	1.7
Drafters, engineering, and mapping technicians	25	38	7,065	0.9	0.3	0.9
Life, physical, and social science	0	25	11,101	0.0	0.2	1.5
Community and social services	31	185	12,434	1.1	1.7	1.6
Legal	12	59	8,522	0.4	0.5	1.1
Education, training, and library	202	776	51,307	7.0	7.1	6.7
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	21	145	15,429	0.7	1.3	2.0
Healthcare practitioners and technical	150	538	34,161	5.2	4.9	4.5
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners and technical	79	311	24,337	2.7	2.8	3.2
Health technologists and technicians	71	227	9,824	2.5	2.1	1.3
<b>Service</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>2,321</b>	<b>129,349</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>17.0</b>
Healthcare support	41	233	13,963	1.4	2.1	1.8
Protective service	126	313	19,293	4.4	2.9	2.5
Fire fighting, prevention, and law enforcement workers, including supervisors	107	264	11,125	3.7	2.4	1.5
Other protective service , including supervisors	19	49	8,168	0.7	0.4	1.1
Food preparation and serving related	217	927	43,456	7.5	8.4	5.7
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	160	526	28,730	5.6	4.8	3.8
Personal care and service	85	322	23,907	3.0	2.9	3.1
<b>Sales and office</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>2,246</b>	<b>197,580</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>25.9</b>
Sales and related	205	896	85,624	7.1	8.2	11.2
Office and administrative support	451	1,350	111,956	15.7	12.3	14.7
<b>Farming, fishing, and forestry</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>7,594</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Construction, extraction, and maintenance</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>87,172</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>11.4</b>
Construction and extraction	289	1,110	54,093	10.0	10.1	7.1
Supervisors, construction and extraction workers	34	175	7,667	1.2	1.6	1.0
Construction trades workers	228	885	42,798	7.9	8.1	5.6
Extraction workers	27	50	3,628	0.9	0.5	0.5
Installation, maintenance, and repair	140	504	33,079	4.9	4.6	4.3
<b>Production, transportation, and material moving</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>81,911</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>10.7</b>
Production	266	559	39,597	9.2	5.1	5.2
Transportation and material moving	181	787	42,314	6.3	7.2	5.5
Supervisors, transportation and material moving workers	7	19	1,375	0.2	0.2	0.2
Aircraft and traffic control	0	0	1,055	0.0	0.0	0.1
Motor vehicle operators	78	419	23,043	2.7	3.8	3.0
Rail, water and other transportation	23	130	2,511	0.8	1.2	0.3
Material moving workers	73	219	14,330	2.5	2.0	1.9

1 - the Raton Area is within a 40 mile radius of Raton  
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000 Summary File 3  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003

## **6 RATON AREA ECONOMY**

This chapter discusses Raton in the context of the larger economy of Colfax and Las Animas counties. The first section of this chapter profiles the economy and describes recent employment levels, activity, and composition. The second section is an overview of historical employment trends in Colfax County and Las Animas County, focusing on the former. Section 4 depicts income and earnings in Colfax County. Section 5 analyzes business activity and receipts in Colfax County and Raton by looking at taxable gross receipts. This analysis reveals whether industries in the County and Raton area have been declining or growing over the last decade and uses pull factors to explore the competitive advantage of these industries.

### **6.1 Current Employment in Colfax and Las Animas Counties**

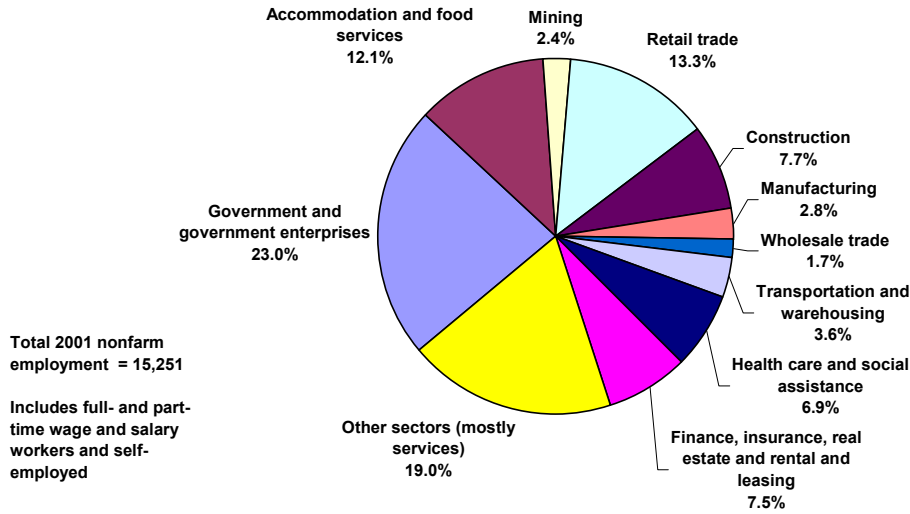
Colfax and Las Animas counties had similar population and employment levels in 2001, the most recent year for which annual data was available. According to data from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), on which this section of the report are based, total employment in the two county-region in 2001 was 16,371, consisting of 12,032 wage and salary employees and 4,339 proprietors, of which 3,505 are non-farm proprietors. Farm employment is 1,120, and accounts for 6.8% of the total.

Figure 6.1, on the following page, focuses on non-farm employment in Colfax and Las Animas counties and presents the sectoral composition of non-farm employment using NAICS (North American Industry Classification System). NAICS reports data for 20 private sectors and 3 government sectors (federal, state, local). Because of the change in industrial classification systems, only total, state government, and federal government employment are comparable to prior years.

Examining the counties separately shows that Colfax County had more total employment (8,371 persons) than Las Animas County (8,000). In contrast, Las Animas County's wage and salary employment, at 5,931, is a slightly higher proportion of total employment meaning proprietors make up a slightly smaller slice of the total. Total non-farm private employment is higher in Colfax County (6,260) compared to Las Animas County (5,481), with the respective shares of non-farm to total employment of 94.1% versus 92.1%. Farm employment (excluded from wage and salary employment) is a lower proportion of total employment in Colfax County than in Las Animas County, which has over 300 more people employed in agriculture than in its neighbor.

**FIGURE 6.1**

**PERCENT OF REGIONAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY NAICS SECTOR, 2001  
(Colfax and Las Animas Counties)**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

### Government

Government is the largest employment sector in the two county area with 3,510 jobs in 2001, or 23.0% of non-farm employment. However, government accounts for just under 21% of employment in Colfax County but almost 26% in Las Animas. While there are slightly more federal government jobs, state government employment is slightly lower in Las Animas County. Most of the net difference between the two counties occurs in local government, which employs 1,056 in Las Animas County, about 300 more than in Colfax County. In general Colorado operates more of its governmental functions at the local level than does New Mexico, which performs more of its functions at the state level. In addition to the local school districts and the municipal and county government offices, some of the larger government employers are the Miners' Colfax Medical Center and the New Mexico Boys School in Colfax County and Trinidad State College and the Trinidad State Nursing Home in Las Animas County.

The detail on non-farm employment (wage and salary and self employment combined) by NAICS sector for Colfax County, Las Animas County and the counties combined is presented in Table 6.1 on the following page. The following narrative discusses non-farm employment by sector and describes the activity in each of the counties.



**TABLE 6.1**  
**SHARE OF NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY NAICS SECTOR, 2001**  
**(COLFAX COUNTY, NM AND LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, CO)**

	Employment Number			% Nonfarm Employment		
	Colfax	Las Animas	Combined	Colfax	Las Animas	Combined
<b>Nonfarm employment</b>	7,881	7,370	15,251	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Private employment</b>	6,260	5,481	11,741	79.4%	74.4%	77.0%
Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other	103	99	202	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Mining	228	137	365	2.9%	1.9%	2.4%
Utilities	41	15	56	0.5%	0.2%	0.4%
Construction	540	627	1,167	6.9%	8.5%	7.7%
Manufacturing	260	163	423	3.3%	2.2%	2.8%
Wholesale trade	74	185	259	0.9%	2.5%	1.7%
Retail trade	1,086	946	2,032	13.8%	12.8%	13.3%
Transportation and warehousing	185	366	551	2.3%	5.0%	3.6%
Information	82	58	140	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%
Finance and insurance	210	250	460	2.7%	3.4%	3.0%
Real estate and rental and leasing	392	295	687	5.0%	4.0%	4.5%
Professional and technical services	249	216	465	3.2%	2.9%	3.0%
Management of companies and enterprises	52	0	52	0.7%	0.0%	0.3%
Administrative and waste services	180	178	358	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%
Educational services	31	54	85	0.4%	0.7%	0.6%
Health care and social assistance	458	596	1,054	5.8%	8.1%	6.9%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	181	91	272	2.3%	1.2%	1.8%
Accommodation and food services	1,175	674	1,849	14.9%	9.1%	12.1%
Other services, except public administration	733	531	1,264	9.3%	7.2%	8.3%
<b>Government and government enterprises</b>	1,621	1,889	3,510	20.6%	25.6%	23.0%
Federal, civilian	58	73	131	0.7%	1.0%	0.9%
Military	46	43	89	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
State and local	1,517	1,773	3,290	19.2%	24.1%	21.6%
State government	756	717	1,473	9.6%	9.7%	9.7%
Local government	761	1,056	1,817	9.7%	14.3%	11.9%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis and University of New Mexico, BBER.

### Retail Trade

Retail trade is the largest private employment sector in both counties, accounting respectively for 1,046 employees in Colfax and 946 in Las Animas in 2001. The Walmart Supercenter in Trinidad, which opened in 2000, is the biggest retail trade employer, followed by K-Mart in Raton. Since the Supercenter's opening, retail employment levels have declined in Colfax County, although the decline may also be attributed to poorer economic conditions with less tourism in general. It is important to note that about 75% of the retail jobs covered for unemployment insurance in Colfax County are in Raton.

### **Accommodation and Food Service**

Accommodation and food services is the second largest private business sector in the two-county area. The sector has a stronger presence in Colfax County, accounting for almost 15% of total non-farm employment, versus roughly 9% in Las Animas County, in part due to the resort communities of Angel Fire and Eagle Nest. Establishments in Raton account for about 80% of the wage and salary jobs covered for unemployment insurance in eating and drinking but only about 32% of the jobs in accommodations. Major employers include the Angel Fire Resort in western Colfax County, and the Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Denny's, and MacDonald's in Raton.

### **Other Services**

The "Other services" sector follows as the third largest private sector employer in the two-county area with 1,264 workers, or 8.3% of non-farm jobs, in 2001. This sector is a miscellaneous category including repair and maintenance, personal and laundry services, religious, grant-making, civic, professional and similar organizations, and private households. Employment in this sector in Colfax County accounted for about 9% of total non-farm employment versus 7% in Las Animas County. The largest employer in Colfax County in this sector is Philmont Scout Ranch but this sector also includes the National Rifle Association.

### **Construction**

Construction is the fourth largest private sector, employing 540 in Colfax County and 627 in Las Animas in 2001. This sector has many small businesses. Larger construction companies in Raton include WM Serazio, which is a subcontractor to El Paso Energy.

A variety of construction projects in Raton and Colfax County have been recently completed or are underway. In 2002 the US Federal Highway Administration released nearly \$1 million for planning the widening of US 64/87 from 2 to 4 lanes (Raton to Clayton in NM), part of a proposed Ports-to-Plains trade corridor. Communities along the corridor, between Denver and Laredo, are expected to benefit from increased tourism and trade with Mexico.

Major commercial construction projects in Raton in 2003 include a \$1.3 million power plant and a \$1 million addition to the Holiday Inn Express. The Raton Public Schools funded about \$2.75 million in projects, mainly for a middle school. Other projects include the City of Raton's Daycare Center (\$400,000), El Paso Energy's office building, a commercial storage business, the Raton Home Center, and the Whittington Center cabins. In 2002, the Raton Public Schools funded about \$2.5 million for remodeling

Residential building permit activity has been light in Raton between 2000 and 2003 according to data provided by the New Mexico Construction Industries Division. Less than 10 new residential (single-family houses and manufactured housing) permits were issued each year and the total value of new construction has been under \$1 million annually. The value of residential remodeling work or additions was also under \$1 million. Countywide residential building permit activity has been most robust in the

Angel Fire area and Cimarron in recent years. In 2002, residential building permits were up over last spring in Angel Fire (23 compared to 8 last year), Eagle Nest (4 compared to 2), Red River (2 compared to 1), and Cimarron (11 compared to 1)

### **Health Care and Social Assistance**

The health care and social assistance sector employed about 460 people in Colfax County in 2001 and almost 600 in Las Animas County. Several private health care facilities are listed in the region's top employer list, the largest being Mount San Rafael Hospital and Home Health Care in Trinidad and the former Sunrise Healthcare Corporation in Raton.

### **Transportation and Warehousing**

Transportation and warehousing employment comprised 3.6% of total private employment in the two county area. Of the 551 employees, 366 were in Las Animas County 2001, about twice as many workers as in Colfax County. Further, Las Animas wholesale trade has 185 workers, about 100 more than in Colfax County.

### **Mining**

The mining and extraction sector has clearly been an important employer in Colfax County. The employment data in Table 6.2 are from 2001 and thus include miners at the York Canyon Complex. Indeed mining jobs – wage and salary and self-employment -- totaled 228 in Colfax County versus 137 in Las Animas County. In mid-2002 there were 80 layoffs at York Canyon Complex, part of a planned closing of the mine in 2003. Pittsburgh and Midway Coal Co. has cited the mine's poor financial performance as the reason for closure. While employment in coal mining has all but disappeared, the mining sector in Colfax County also includes El Paso Energy, which is the main contractor drilling methane gas wells in the Vermejo Park area. This company contracts much of its business meaning that the employment attributable to gas extraction extends beyond those employed directly by El Paso Energy. For example, one of the larger contractors is Serazio Construction, which does road work supporting the extraction activities and employs about 70 persons. Currently, about 1,800 wells are planned for drilling with about one-third of these presently drilled.

### **Manufacturing**

Manufacturing jobs numbered 260 in Colfax County, about 100 more jobs than in Las Animas County. Raton's three hollow metal manufacturers, which produce metal door and window frames, are some of the major manufacturing employers.

### **Professional and Technical**

Professional and technical services accounted for 249 jobs in Colfax County in 2001 and 216 in Las Animas. Among the big players in this sector is Stolar Research in Raton. Stolar added 50 employees to its staff of 17 in 2001. A substantial contract to use its improved coal mining, oil exploration and landmine detection technology could eventually mean many more jobs in the area and the state.

### **Other Sectors**

Financial services includes two sectors, finance and insurance and real estate, lending and leasing, and accounted for 7.5% of non-farm employment in the region in 2001. Not surprisingly, given the resort communities of Angel Fire and Eagle Nest, Colfax County has more people employed in real estate. Arts, entertainment and recreation, employing less than 100 workers, is better represented in Colfax County. The small utilities industry had 41 employees in Colfax County in 2001 and 15 in Las Animas County. A proposed \$50 million electric power plant which has support from the NM Economic Development and NM Energy Minerals and Natural Resources departments would use trees and other organic material for fuel that would add employment to this sector.

### **Large Employers**

Table 6.3 presents data prepared by BBER on the largest employers in Raton in 2002. All calculations are based on the employer file (ES-202) compiled by the New Mexico Department of Labor from reports filed quarterly by employers on workers covered for unemployment insurance. Please note that the coal miners from Pittsburgh & Midway have been excluded from the numbers as have those for Turner Enterprises at Vermejo Ranch. The address of various government operations were impossible to determine from the data, so the totals may overstate actual employment in Raton by as many as 76. The names of some of the businesses may be different from the names currently in use.

**TABLE 6.2**  
**LARGE EMPLOYERS, CITY OF RATON, 2002**

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Public

City of Raton	Raton Public Schools
Dept. of Public Safety (State of NM)	Raton Public Service Company
Highway Department (State of NM)	United State Postal Service

Private

Cook Street Ltd.	Oasis Motel and Café
Denny's	Personnel Management Services
Family Practice Association	McDonalds
Fissel's Inc.	Raton Builder Supply
Gateway Metal Products, Inc.	Miners' Colfax Medical Center
Holiday Inn Express	Rocky Mountain Metals, Inc.
International Bank	Sonic Drive-In of Raton
K Mart Corporation	State Oil Company
K-Bobs of Raton, Inc.	Sunrise Healthcare Corp. Casa Del Sol
Morgan Building and Spa Mfg. Corp.	Super Save Discount Foods
Northern New Mexico Gas Co. Inc.	WM Serazio Company

Total Employment for Largest Employers	1,661
Total Estimated Covered Employment for Raton	4,145
Top Employers as a %	40%

Source: NM Department of Labor, ES-202 Database  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003

## **6.2 Colfax County Wage and Salary Covered Employment**

The most detailed and most current information on wage and salary employment is gathered by the New Mexico Department of Labor from reports filed by all establishments with workers covered under State law for unemployment insurance. Beginning in 2001, which is the only year with complete data, covered wage and salary employment is classified by NAICS industries. The most recent data available are for the third quarter of 2002. Table 6.3 compares third quarter employment levels of 2001 and 2002 to capture the most current trends while eliminating the impact of seasonality.

Between the third quarter 2001 and the third quarter 2002, covered employment in Colfax County fell by 84 jobs (1.4%) as total private employment lost 79 jobs. Part of this was due to losses in the retail sector which lost 165 jobs, a 19% decrease. The biggest losers within this sector were food and beverage stores (94 jobs) and motor vehicle and parts dealers (46 jobs). Most retail industries either pared jobs or kept them level, while building material and supply dealers was the sole provider of a handful of new jobs.

**TABLE 6.3**  
**COVERED EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, MOST RECENT FOUR QUARTERS**  
**COLFAX COUNTY**

Industry Title	2001 Annual	2001 Q3	2002 Q3	2001 Q3 - 2002 Q4 Change	
				Number	Percent
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing &amp; Hunting</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>-24.1%</b>
Crop Production		0	0	0	
Animal Production		61	53	-8	-13.1%
Forestry & Logging		*	*		
Fishing, Hunting & Trapping		0	0	0	
Agriculture & Forestry Support Activities		*	*		
<b>Mining</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>-6.7%</b>
Oil & Gas Extraction		*	*		
Mining, Except Oil & Gas		*	*		
Support Activities for Mining		45	36	-9	-20.0%
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
Utilities		39	41	2	5.1%
<b>Construction</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Construction of Building		161	167	6	3.7%
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction		73	*		
Specialty Trade Contractors		79	*		
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>
Food Manufacturing		*	*		
Wood Product Manufacturing		*	*		
Printing & Related Support Activities		*	*		
Petroleum & Coal Products Manufacturing		*	*		
Nonmetallic Mineral Products Mfg.		*	*		
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing		134	135	1	0.7%
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.		*	-		
Miscellaneous Manufacturing			*		
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>-38.1%</b>
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods		35	23	(12)	-34.3%
Merchant Wholesalers, Non-Durable Goods		7	3	(4)	-57.1%
Electronic Markets & Agents & Brokers		-	-	-	
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>(165)</b>	<b>-19.1%</b>
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers		102	56	(46)	-45.1%
Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores		*	*		
Electronics & Appliances Stores		*	*		
Building Material and Supply Dealers		75	86	11	14.7%
Food Beverage Stores		249	155	(94)	-37.8%
Health & Personal Care Stores		12	12	-	0.0%
Gasoline Stations		202	187	(15)	-7.4%
Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores		29	24	(5)	-17.2%
Sport Goods, Hobby, Book & Music Stores		12	12	-	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores		*	70		
Miscellaneous Store Retailers		48	43	(5)	-10.4%
Nonstore Retailers		46	35	(11)	-23.9%
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>
Truck Transportation		32	28	(4)	-12.5%
Transit & Ground Passenger Transportation		*	*		
Pipeline Transportation		*	*		
Support Activities for Transportation		*	*		
Postal Service		*	*		
Couriers & Messengers		*	*		
Warehousing & Storage		*	*		

**COVERED EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, MOST RECENT FOUR QUARTERS  
COLFAX COUNTY (continued)**

Industry Title	2001 Annual	2001 Q3	2002 Q3	2001 Q3 - 2002 Q4 Change	
				Number	Percent
<b>Information</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>-19.0%</b>
Publishing Industries, Except Internet		*	*		
Motion Picture & Video Industries		*	*		
Broadcasting, Except Internet		*	*		
Telecommunications		*	*		
ISPs, Search Portals & Data Processing		*	0		
<b>Finance and Insurance</b>	<b>117</b>		<b>129</b>	<b>129</b>	
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities			99	99	
Securities, Commodity Contracts, Invest.		*	*		
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities		26	*		
<b>Real Estate &amp; Rental &amp; Leasing</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>32.4%</b>
Real Estate		24	34	10	41.7%
Rental Leasing Services		10	12	2	20.0%
<b>Professional Scientific &amp; Technical Services</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29.5%</b>
Professional & Technical Services		105	136	31	29.5%
<b>Management of Companies</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>-17.0%</b>
Management of Companies & Enterprises		47	39	(8)	-17.0%
<b>Administrative &amp; Waste Services</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>50.6%</b>
Administrative & Support Services		84	126	42	50.0%
Waste Management & Remediation Services		3	5	2	66.7%
<b>Educational Services</b>	*	*	*		
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
Ambulatory Health Care Services		92	103	11	12.0%
Hospitals		*	*		
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities		*	*		
Social Assistance		99	111	12	12.1%
<b>Arts, Entertainment &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
Performing Arts & Spectator Sports		*	0		
Museums, Historical Sites, Zoos & Parks		*	*		
Amusements, Gambling & Recreation		61	*		
<b>Accommodation &amp; Food Services</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
Accommodation		494	505	11	2.2%
Food Services & Drinking Places		533	574	41	7.7%
<b>Other Services, Except Public Administration</b>	*	<b>751</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>
Repair & Maintenance		56	50	(6)	-10.7%
Personal & Laundry Services		14	*		
Membership Associations & Organization		680	675	(5)	-0.7%
Private Households		*	*		
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>*</b>		
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>4,016</b>	<b>4,474</b>	<b>4,395</b>	<b>(79)</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>
<b>Public Administration/Government</b>	<b>1,558</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>
Federal	60	60	60	0	0.0%
State	742	762	757	(5)	-0.7%
Local	756	724	723	(1)	-0.1%
<b>Total All Industries</b>	<b>5,573</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>5,936</b>	<b>(84)</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>

\* data suppressed to avoid disclosure.

Source: New Mexico Department of Labor, Covered Employment, Fourth Quarter 2001, Third Quarters 2001 and 2002.  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003

Many of the sectors experienced declining employment. For example, wholesale trade rolled back 16 jobs, falling 38% year-to-year. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting cut 19 jobs, a 24% drop. Mining and manufacturing also both lost a handful of jobs. A few sectors saw generally flat employment rolls, including utilities, construction, transportation and warehousing, finance and insurance, and health care and social assistance (a service sector). Government employment was relatively stable.

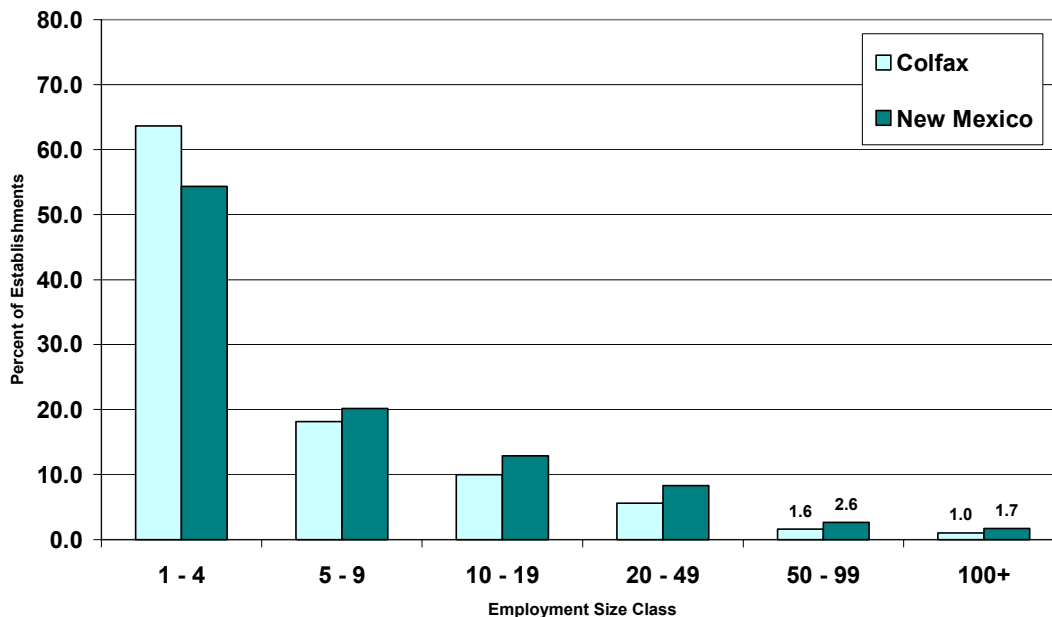
Service industries, in contrast, mostly added to their payroll. Fifty percent growth (42 jobs) occurred in the administrative and support services industry while professional and technical services expanded by 30% (31 jobs). The large accommodation and food services sector increased 5%, gaining 52 jobs. Real estate and arts, entertainment, and recreation also added some jobs. Service sectors that lost some jobs include information, management of companies, and other services, a good-sized sector.

### Establishments

Figure 6.1 presents data on the distribution of establishments by employment size class for both Colfax County and New Mexico in 2000. Note the predominance of small businesses with 1-4 employees.

**FIGURE 6.2**

**PERCENT OF ESTABLISHMENTS BY EMPLOYMENT SIZE CLASS  
COLFAX COUNTY AND NEW MEXICO, 2000\***



\* includes only establishments with employees.

Source: County Business Patterns



## 6.3 Employment History

### Two County History

While the population in the two county-region barely budged since 1970, total employment grew by over 6,000 jobs, for a 1.6% compound annual rate of growth between 1970 and 2000 (Table 6.4). Total employment growth advanced more rapidly - at a 2.8% compound annual rate - in the last decade. Wage and salary employment accounted for about three-fourths and proprietors one-fourth of total employment over the 30-year period. Over time the share of proprietors has gained while wage and salary employment has slipped, falling to 73.4% in 2000. Since 1970, most of the growth in proprietor employment occurred among non-farm proprietors, who increased by over 2,000. The more than 800 farm proprietors stayed about the same in 2000 as in 1970. Likewise farm employment, with over 1,100 jobs in 2000, declined modestly, and its share of the total dropped from 11.7% to 6.9%.

**TABLE 6.4**  
**HISTORICAL EMPLOYMENT, 1970-2001**  
**(COLFAX COUNTY, NM AND LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, CO)**

Type of Employment:	Employment Number					Change 1970-00	Com- pound Annual % 1970-00	Change 1990-00	Com- pound Annual % 1990-00
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2001				
Total full-time and part-time	10,141	12,895	12,217	16,177	16,371	6,036	1.6%	3,960	2.8%
Wage and salary	7,836	10,290	9,306	11,869	12,032	4,033	1.4%	2,563	2.5%
Proprietors	2,305	2,605	2,911	4,308	4,339	2,003	2.1%	1,397	4.0%
Farm proprietors	837	777	781	830	834	-7	0.0%	49	0.6%
Nonfarm proprietors	1,468	1,828	2,130	3,478	3,505	2,010	2.9%	1,348	5.0%
Farm	1,186	1,115	1,084	1,116	1,120	-70	-0.2%	32	0.3%
Nonfarm	8,955	11,780	11,133	15,061	15,251	6,106	1.7%	3,928	3.1%
Private	6,680	9,390	8,383	11,644	11,741	4,964	1.9%	3,261	3.3%
Government and gov't enterprises	2,275	2,390	2,750	3,417	3,510	1,142	1.4%	667	2.2%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.  
 UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

Table 6.5 examines the experience by decade and looks at Colfax County's share of that growth. Note that the region experienced increasing employment during the 1970's, followed by net employment declines during the 1980's. Employment growth picked up again in the 1990's. Wage and salary jobs grew at a compound annual rate of 2.8% during the 1970's, declining at a rate of 1% during the 1980's, with annual growth of 2.5% in the 1990's. Colfax County accounted for 65% of this job growth in the 1970's but only 35% of the declines in the 1980's. However, Colfax County accounted for only 41% of all the wage and salary jobs gained in the region during the 1990's.

Self employment (proprietors) in the two county area grew at a compound annual rate of just over 1% during both the 1970's and 1980's. Colfax County accounted for roughly

half of this growth in the 1970's but almost 70% during the 1980's. During the 1990's, self-employment grew at a compound annual rate of 4%, with Colfax County contributing 63% of this growth.

**TABLE 6.5**  
**EMPLOYMENT GROWTH IN COLFAX AND LAS ANIMAS COUNTIES**  
**AND COLFAX COUNTY'S SHARE OF THAT GROWTH**

	1970-80	1980-90	1990-2000
<b><u>Compound Annual Percent Employment Growth Over the Decade</u></b>			
<b>Total full-time and part-time employment</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>Wage and salary employment</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>Proprietors employment</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
<b><u>Colfax Co Share of Two-County Employment Growth or Decline</u></b>			
<b>Total full-time and part-time employment</b>	<b>63.5%</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>48.5%</b>
<b>Wage and salary employment</b>	<b>65.4%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>40.7%</b>
<b>Proprietors employment</b>	<b>48.0%</b>	<b>68.0%</b>	<b>62.8%</b>

Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table 6.6, on the following page, examines the changes over the 30-year period in the sectoral composition of non-farm employment based on the old Standard Industrial Classification. The largest sector, government, gained over 1,100 jobs between 1970 and 2000, with more than half added during the last decade. By contrast, private sector employment grew strongly during the 1970's only to decline by roughly 1,000 jobs during the 1980's. Mining explains much of this pattern. Employment in the mining sector almost doubled during the 1970's – to 1,241 in 1980 – but was less than 450 by 1990. Private employment grew by 3,300 jobs during the 1990's. Mining shrank further.

Among private employers, the diverse services sector is the largest with well over 3,000 jobs (although employment numbers are not disclosed for services and mining in 2000). Retail trade is next with nearly 3,100 jobs in 2000, about 1,250 more than in 1970. Although the services sector's share of non-farm employment increased from 23% to about 30%, retail trade continued to account for 1 of 5 non-farm jobs.

In other sectors, the finance, insurance and real estate sector and construction sector saw the fastest growth, adding about 750 and 600 new jobs, respectively, over the 30-year period, with much of the growth occurring during the 1990's. All other sectors displayed below average job growth for the two county-region during 1970-2000. Except for a growth spurt in the 1970's, the transportation and public utilities sector has been flat and had over 650 jobs in 2000. Manufacturing employment, with 575 jobs in

2000, also has been steady and this sector's share of non-farm employment has declined from 6.4% to 3.8%.

**TABLE 6.6**  
**PERCENT CHANGE OF NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR, 1970-2000**  
**(COLFAX COUNTY, NM AND LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, CO)**

	Employment Number				Avg Annual		% Change	
	1970	1980	1990	2000	Change	% Change	1970-00	1990-00
Nonfarm employment	8,955	11,780	11,133	15,061	6,106	2.3%	68.2%	35.3%
Private employment	6,680	9,390	8,383	11,644	4,964	2.5%	74.3%	38.9%
Ag. services, forestry, fishing, other	D	84	144	D	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mining	685	1,241	446	D	NA	NA	NA	NA
Construction	441	657	431	1,042	601	4.5%	136.3%	141.8%
Manufacturing	572	552	461	575	3	0.0%	0.5%	24.7%
Transportation and public utilities	471	622	652	665	194	1.4%	41.2%	2.0%
Wholesale trade	178	271	239	262	84	1.6%	47.2%	9.6%
Retail trade	1,824	2,188	2,231	3,077	1,253	2.3%	68.7%	37.9%
Finance, insurance, and real estate	376	655	642	1,154	778	6.9%	206.9%	79.8%
Services	2,085	3,120	3,137	D	NA	NA	NA	NA
Government and gov't enterprises	2,275	2,390	2,750	3,417	1,142	1.7%	50.2%	24.3%
Federal, civilian	161	140	138	149	-12	-0.2%	-7.5%	8.0%
Military	129	111	121	90	-39	-1.0%	-30.2%	-25.6%
State and local	1,985	2,139	2,491	3,178	1,193	2.0%	60.1%	27.6%
State government	D	755	1,118	1,447	NA	NA	NA	29.4%
Local government	D	1,384	1,373	1,731	NA	NA	NA	26.1%

D -- Withheld due to nondisclosure. NA -- Not available.  
 Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.  
 UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

### Colfax County Employment History

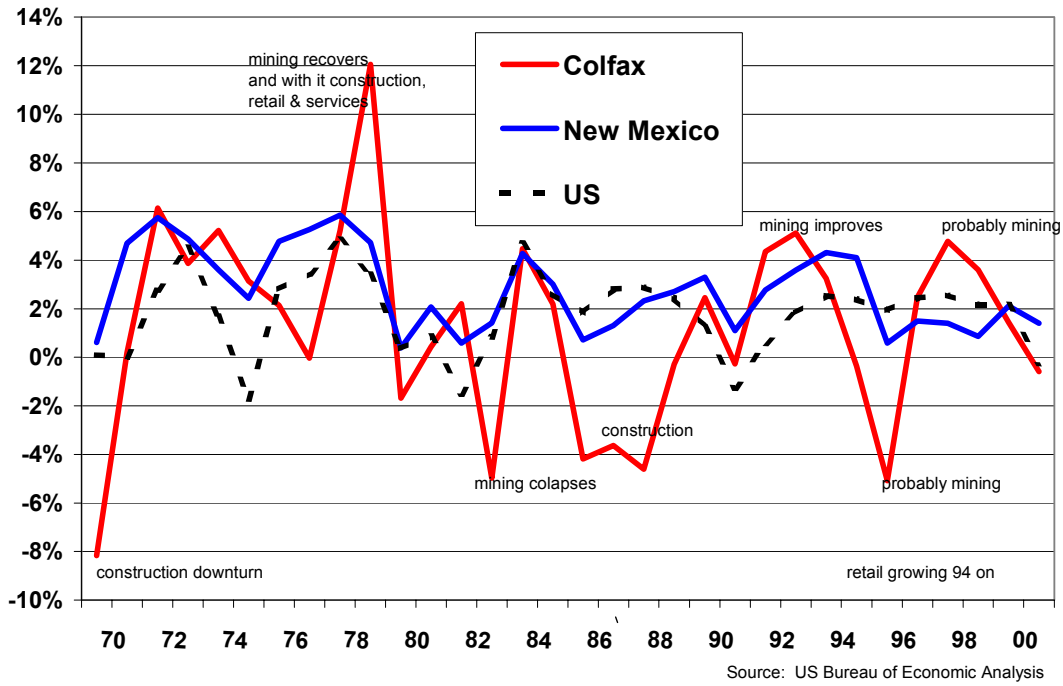
Total employment in Colfax County grew at a 1.5% compound annual rate over the three decades ending in 2000 -- about half the New Mexico rate. Total employment increased at a 2.4% compound annual rate during the 1990's.

Annual wage and salary employment growth rates in Colfax compared to New Mexico and the US are shown in Figure 6.3. Colfax County's growth has followed New Mexico's trend but with higher spikes and deeper troughs due to the much smaller job base. Note that much of the historical volatility is related to mining.

Self employment, or proprietors employment (largely non-farm), comprised 2,270 jobs, over one-quarter of the county's employment in 2000. Farm employment consistently has accounted for about 500 jobs since 1969 but non-farm proprietors have grown and were a major source of employment gain during the 1990's (Figure 6.4, following page).

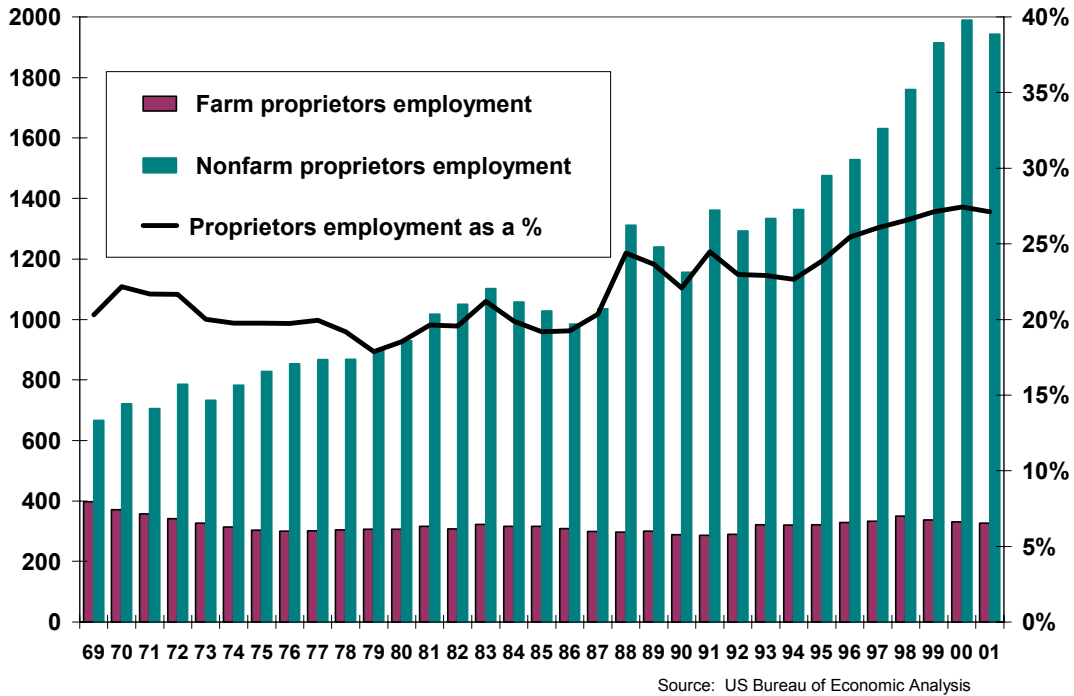
**FIGURE 6.3**

**ANNUAL GROWTH RATES FOR WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT  
COLFAX COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, US**



**FIGURE 6.4**

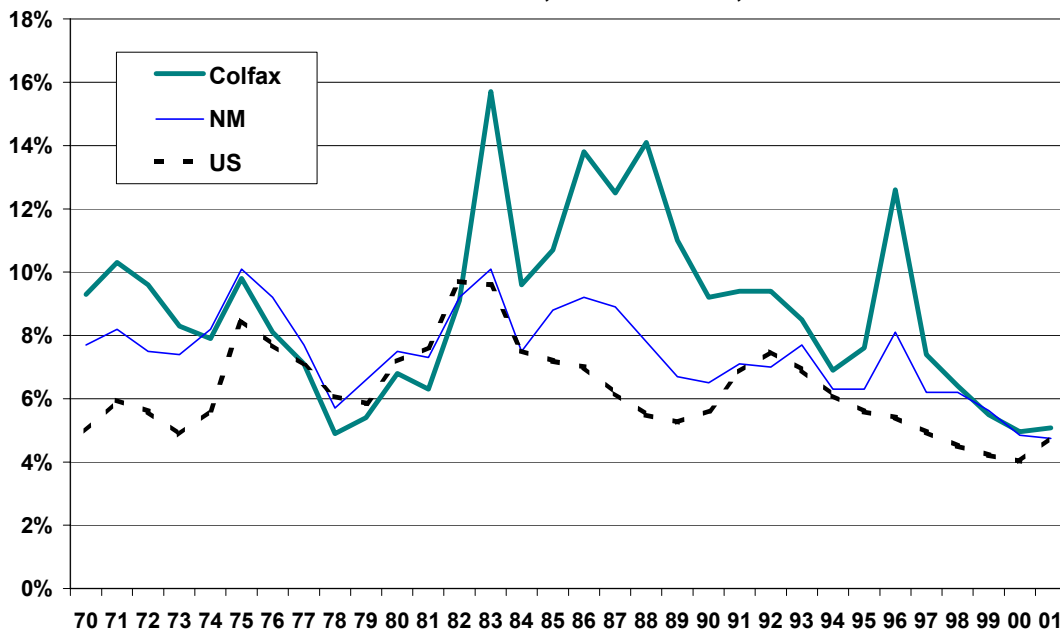
**SELF EMPLOYMENT IN COLFAX COUNTY**



**Civilian Labor Force and Unemployment.** The labor force increased from about 4,800 to 6,600 between the years 1970 and 2000. At the same time, household employment increased from 4,300 to over 6,000. Figure 6.5 charts the Colfax County unemployment rate since 1980 and offers a comparison with New Mexico and the US. Colfax County's unemployment rate closely tracked the state rate during most of the 1970's. Not surprisingly given the loss of wage and salary jobs, the unemployment rate in the county was considerably higher than in both the state and nation in the 1980's. The unemployment rate crested at 16% in 1983 and remained in the double digits until 1989. The number of unemployed ranged from a low of over 300 in 1978 to a high of around 1,100 in 1983. The 1990's saw rates in the high single digits with the county's rate generally converging to the state unemployment rate. These data are from the New Mexico Department of Labor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the 2000 Census, the unemployment rate in Colfax County was about half the New Mexico rate, similarly for both males and females.

**FIGURE 6.5**

**CIVILIAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES  
COLFAX COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, US**



Source: NM Department of Labor, DRI-WEFA

**Sector Employment**

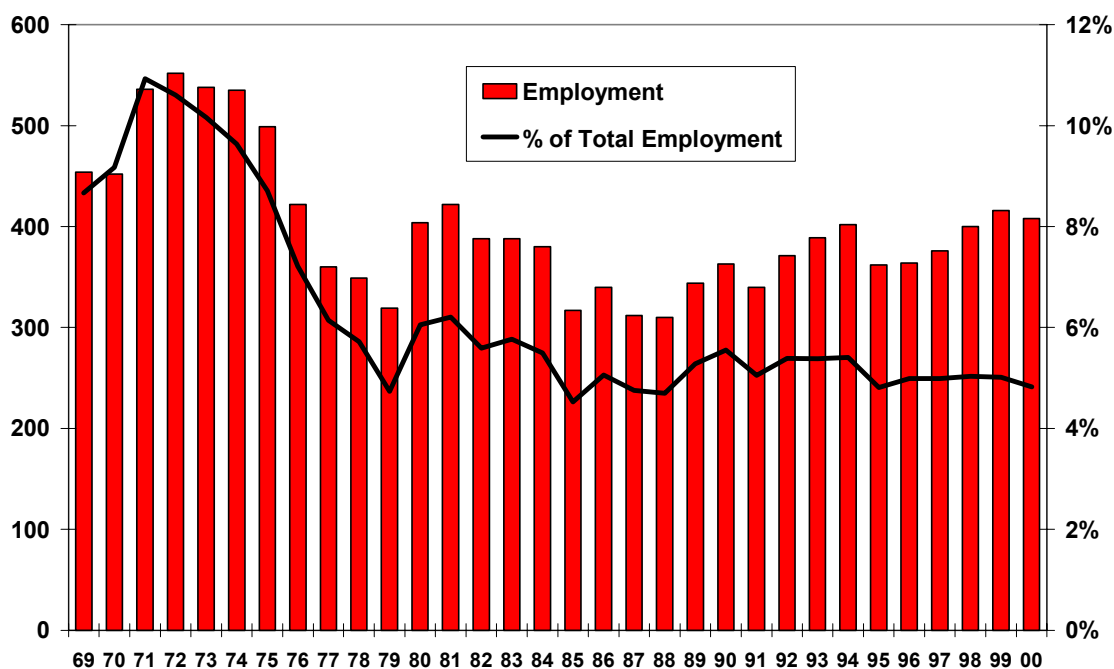
US Bureau of Economic Analysis data show that between 1970 and 1994 employment more than doubled in the huge and diverse services sector, from 1,000 to about 2,100 jobs. Unfortunately, 1994 is the latest year for which data are available since, as is the case for many small counties, data are limited to avoid revealing information about particular businesses. Much of the volatility in Colfax County is undoubtedly related to mining. Mining employed about 200 in 1970, increased to 550 in 1980 (its peak year),

and fell back to 200 jobs in 1990. The sector increased jobs in the early 1990's, marking over 500 jobs in 1994, again, the last year of available BEA data.

Compared to services and mining, government experienced steadier growth, increasing employment from over 1,000 to nearly 1,600 over the 30-year period. Employment in retail trade nearly doubled from almost 900 to close to 1,700; however there was little growth after 1980 until growth resumed in the 1990's when close to 500 jobs were created. The number of manufacturing jobs fluctuated annually between 300-550. Manufacturing employment peaked in the early 1970's, declined in the 1980's, and stabilized in the 1990's at around 350 to 400 jobs. (See Figure 6.6). Like mining, manufacturing is important because the goods produced are typically sold outside the area, bringing dollars from elsewhere into the regional economy.

**FIGURE 6.6**

**COLFAX COUNTY MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT**



Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

The data from the New Mexico Department of Labor on covered wage and salary employment are more satisfying in the sector detail but are only available since 1990. The annual figures by SIC major industry codes are given in Table 6.7. While employment in some sectors grew more rapidly than in others, the sector composition of covered wage and salary employment in Colfax County changed very little over the 1990's when compared to other counties and the entire state. Major sectors and their respective shares of total covered wage and salary employment in 2000 continue to be services (27%), government (27%), and retail trade (24%). A significant amount of growth occurred in retail trade (400 jobs), which recorded 20% of the total in 1990. Government's share grew some, with local and state government gaining over 300 jobs,

while the service sector's portion declined, even as it added about 160 jobs. In addition, the smaller sectors of manufacturing, transportation and public utilities, wholesale trade, and finance, insurance and real estate all saw their proportion of the total slip. All of these sectors, except manufacturing, lost jobs. Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, which gained about 50 jobs in 2000 alone, increased their share a bit.

**TABLE 6.7**  
**COVERED WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT, BY MAJOR INDUSTRIAL SECTOR**  
**COLFAX COUNTY, 1990-2000\***

Sector	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Compound Annual Growth
GRAND TOTAL	4,589	4,448	4,626	4,888	5,174	5,094	4,878	5,021	5,246	5,487	5,573	2.0%
Total Private	3,383	3,374	3,568	3,838	3,860	3,778	3,560	3,672	3,841	4,021	4,057	1.8%
Ag. For. & Fish <sup>1</sup>	45	46	28	34	48	46	47	46	44	44	94	7.6%
Mining	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
Construction	177	162	172	183	181	187	182	206	227	235	235	2.9%
Manufacturing	324	307	335	335	335	296	300	323	346	354	343	0.6%
TPU <sup>2</sup>	170	143	142	145	148	162	162	167	172	154	148	-1.3%
Wholesale Trade	76	88	94	89	97	104	73	48	48	58	57	-2.8%
Retail Trade	928	949	990	982	970	1,056	1,102	1,117	1,188	1,316	1,314	3.5%
FIRE <sup>3</sup>	208	199	206	225	244	191	196	198	192	171	171	-1.9%
Services	1,373	1,271	1,313	1,427	1,368	1,371	1,347	1,452	1,484	1,520	1,530	1.1%
Non-Classifiable <sup>4</sup>	82	209	288	418	349	D	5	4	2	4	1	-35.6%
Total Government	1,207	1,074	1,058	1,050	1,314	1,315	1,318	1,349	1,404	1,467	1,516	2.3%
Federal	57	53	57	57	58	57	50	50	53	55	64	1.0%
State	536	406	376	383	635	627	617	632	675	702	723	3.0%
Local	614	616	625	611	622	631	650	667	676	710	730	1.7%

\* Annual averages of quarterly data.

D Withheld to avoid disclosing confidential data. Data that are not disclosed for individual industries are always included in the totals. Therefore, the individual industries may not sum to the totals.

1 Agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

2 Transportation and public utilities.

3 Finance, insurance and real estate.

4 The non-classifiable category may include data for other industries that were withheld for reasons of confidentiality.

Source: New Mexico Dept. of Labor, Economic Research and Analysis Bureau.

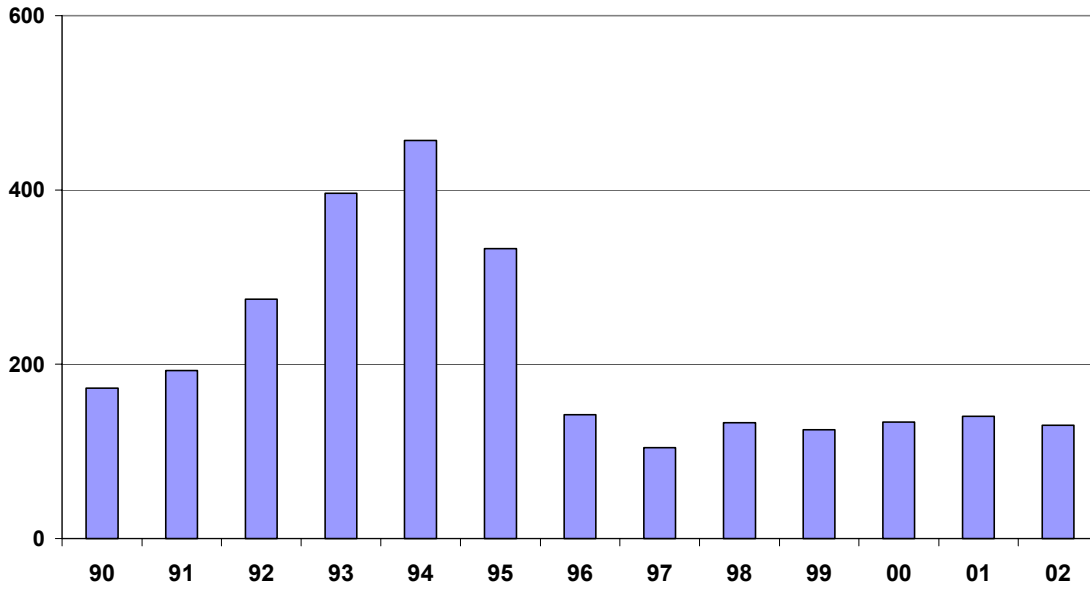
Table prepared by: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of New Mexico.

The data on mining are suppressed in this Table 6.7 as in others. Figure 6.7 is based on the detailed employer records and gives a reasonable picture, at least, of the trend in this important industry over the decade of the 1990's. Note that laid off workers will be counted as employed as long as they are receiving severance pay. Some or all of the jobs lost in the closure of the York Canyon Complex may be offset by newly created jobs associated with El Paso Energy's drilling for gas at Vermejo and elsewhere in the area. As noted, much of this work is contracted out and does not show up directly as jobs in the mining sector. However, it does add to area employment and income.

Manufacturing and mining are two "export" industries that bring resources from elsewhere into the regional economy. Another injection into the regional spending stream comes from tourists and those traveling through the region. Using the detailed data on individual employers from the New Mexico Department of Labor, BBER put together a series on employment in eating and drinking, hotels, motels and other lodging, gift and souvenir shops and sporting and recreation camps. Figure 6.8, on the following page, graphs the total employment associated with these various activities from 1990 to 2002.

**FIGURE 6.7**

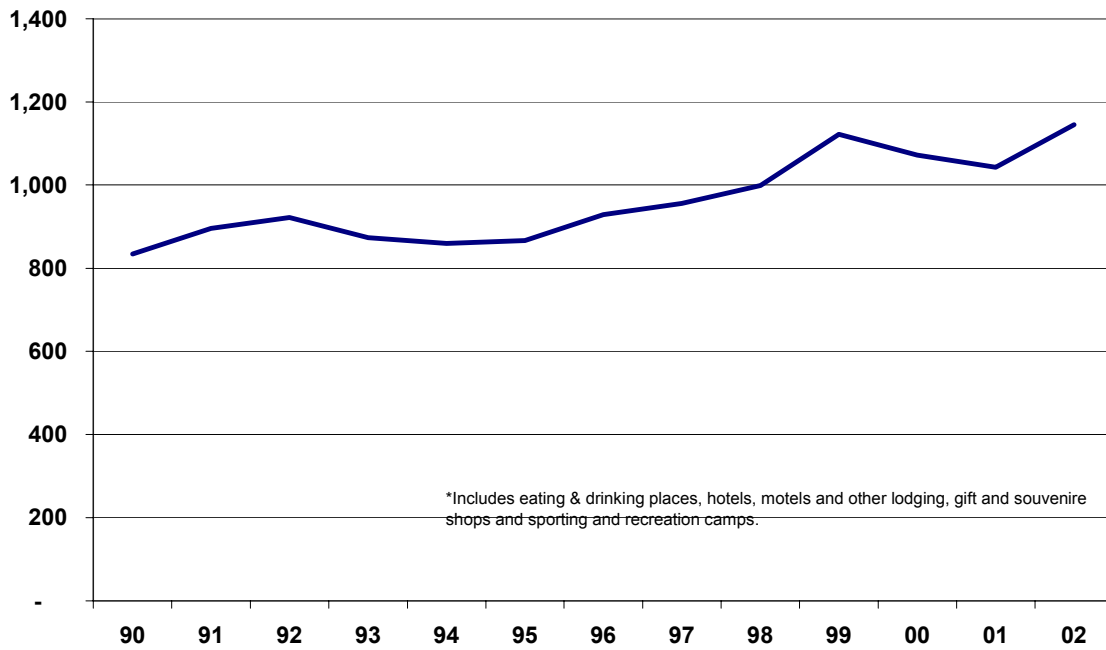
**MINING COVERED EMPLOYMENT IN COLFAX COUNTY**



Source: NM Department of Labor ES-202 Data

**FIGURE 6.8**

**COLFAX COUNTY TOURIST RELATED EMPLOYMENT\***



\*Includes eating & drinking places, hotels, motels and other lodging, gift and souvenir shops and sporting and recreation camps.

Source: NM Department of Labor, ES-202 Data



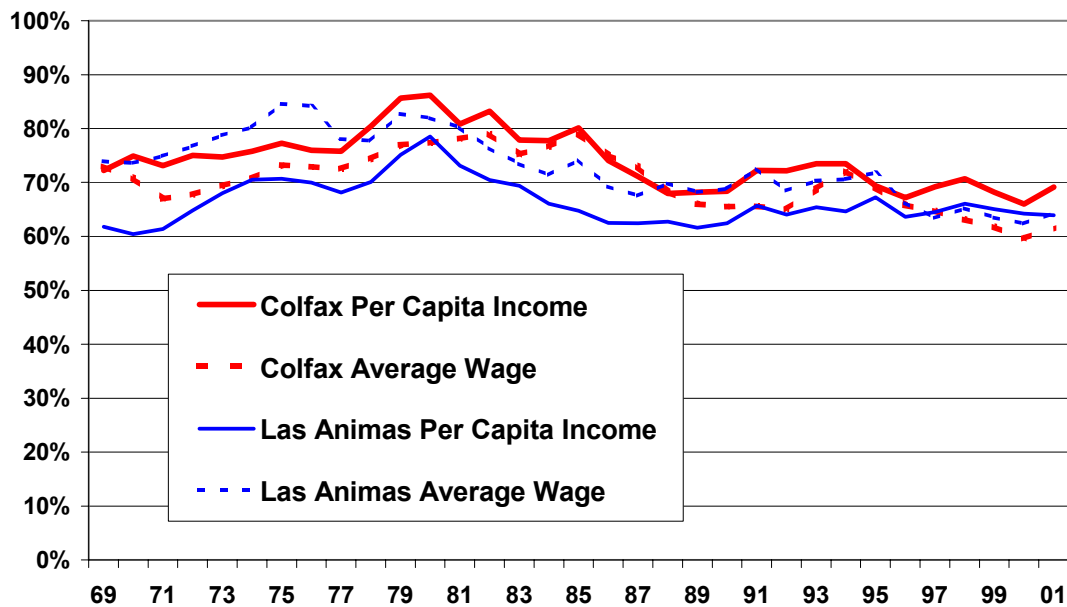
## 6.4 Income, Earnings and Wages

### Colfax County Income Trend

Since 1980 both Colfax and Las Animas counties have been losing ground in average annual wages and per capita income compared to the nation (Figure 6.9). In 2000 Colfax County's per capita income registered 67% and average annual wages 60% that of the U.S. Average annual wages amounted to \$20,659 in 2000, lower than the \$22,303 real wages (in 2000 dollars) in 1969. During the 1969-2000 historical period per capita income started at about 73%, peaked at about 87% of the U.S. level in 1980, and has fallen relative to the U.S. ever since.

**FIGURE 6.9**

**PER CAPITA INCOME AND AVERAGE WAGE  
COLFAX AND LAS ANIMAS AS A PERCENT OF THE US**



Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

In 2001 Colfax County's per capita income was \$21,022, which ranked the county 10<sup>th</sup> in the state and measured 91% of the New Mexico average (\$23,081), and 69% of the national average (\$30,413). Per capita income in the county grew 7.0% from 2000-2001 compared to 5.9% in the state and 2.2% in the nation. The average annual growth rate for the county was 3.8% between 1991 and 2001, which was a little below both the state (4.0%) and national averages (4.3%).

### Average Weekly Wages

Table 6.8 displays average weekly wages for covered employment in Colfax County compared to New Mexico in 2002. Overall, average weekly wages in the county measure 78% of the state total, or \$440 versus \$565, respectively. Compared to the

state, the county's average weekly wage as a percentage of the total by sector is higher in agricultural, forestry, and fishing (142%), mining (126%), and accommodation and food service (109%). In 2002 the mining sector has the highest average weekly wage (\$1,157). Sectors with comparatively lower wages, at around half of the state average for these sectors, include management companies and enterprises, professional and technical services, administrative and waste services, and manufacturing. All other sectors have relatively lower wages as well.

**TABLE 6.8**  
**COLFAX COUNTY COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES**  
**COMPARED WITH NEW MEXICO, 2002**

NAICS Industry	Colfax County average		NM average weekly wages	Weekly Wages: Colfax as % of NM
	Employment	Weekly Wages		
Total	5,583	\$ 440	\$ 565	78%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	60	441	311	142%
Mining	181	1,157	916	126%
Utilities	40	619	1,046	59%
Construction	282	495	577	86%
Manufacturing	235	424	725	58%
Wholesale trade	34	706	716	99%
Retail trade	687	330	407	81%
Transportation & warehousing	57	584	605	97%
Information	48	398	613	65%
Finance & insurance	130	533	721	74%
Real estate & rental & leasing	61	390	573	68%
Professional & technical services	132	533	980	54%
Management companies/enterprises	43	392	810	48%
Administrative & waste services	99	320	442	72%
Educational Services	D	D	474	D
Health care & social assistance	322	434	565	77%
Arts, entertainment & recreation	46	163	314	52%
Accommodation & food service	1,077	240	221	109%
Other services, except public admin	D	D	408	D
Federal Government	60	717	948	76%
State Government	750	573	662	87%
Local Government	767	510	540	94%

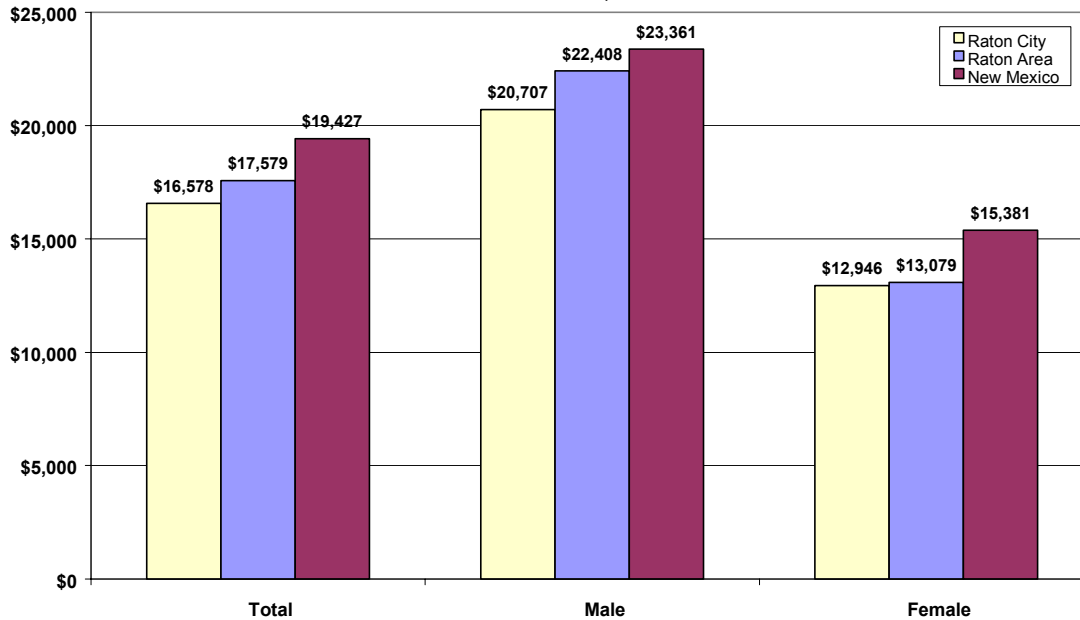
Source: New Mexico Department of Labor, *Covered Employment and Wages*. UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

While not directly comparable to data from the New Mexico Department of Labor, the Census data shown in Figure 6.10 (on the following page) show that earnings for both males and females were lower than their counterparts statewide. Overall, in 1999 the median earnings in the Area (\$17,579) were less than those statewide (\$19,427).

Reflecting earnings patterns statewide, the median earnings for males were much higher than that of females, \$22,408 compared to \$13,709.

**FIGURE 6.10**

**MEDIAN ANNUAL EARNINGS BY GENDER, RATON AREA AND NEW MEXICO, 1999<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> - the Raton Area is within a 40 mile radius of Raton.  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

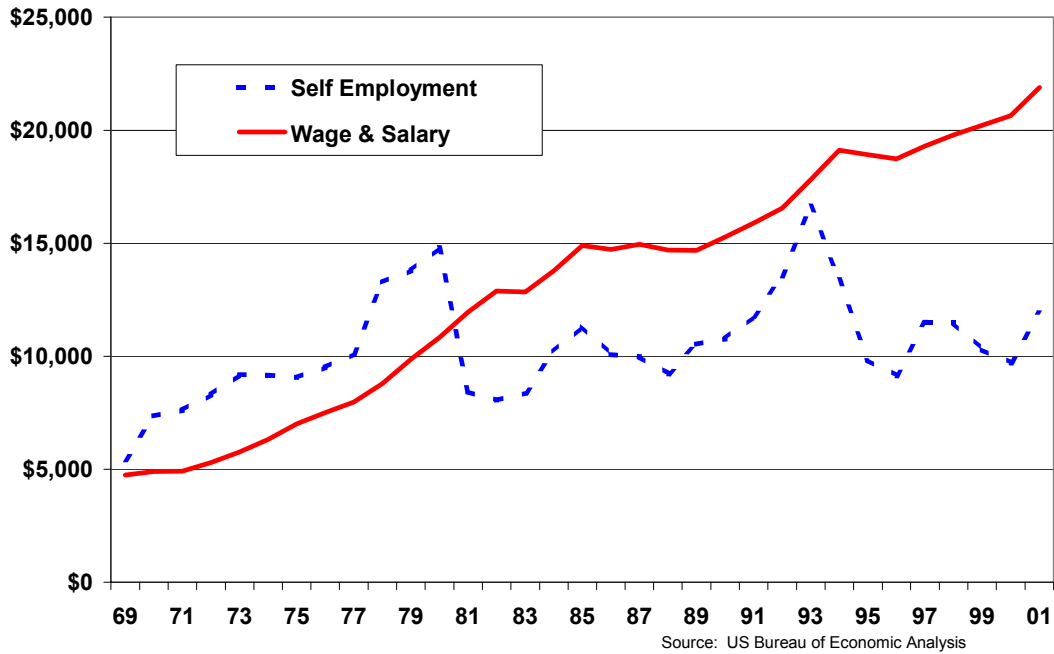
Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3.

### Self-Employment Income

As discussed, self-employment has been the source of a significant portion of employment growth in Colfax County. Figure 6.11 examines the trend (1969-2001) of Colfax County average self-employment income compared to average wage income. Both income measures started at about \$5,000 in 1969, but wage income demonstrates steady gains while income from self-employment is more volatile, with peaks occurring during periods of stronger economic growth in the late 1970's and early 1990's. Until 1980 self-employment income exceeded average wage income and the gap between the two measures has been increasing.

**FIGURE 6.11**

**COLFAX COUNTY AVERAGE SELF EMPLOYMENT INCOME VERSUS  
AVERAGE WAGE INCOME**



### **Nonemployers in Colfax County**

Nonemployer businesses are primarily individual proprietors or self-employed, but also include partnerships, or unincorporated businesses. (Self employed owners of incorporated businesses typically pay themselves wages or salary making the business an employer.) Nonemployers general account for a very large portion of the total number of business establishments but a very small portion of business activity (receipts). About half of nonemployer establishments (and about 60% of receipts) are concentrated in four sectors: construction, retail trade, real estate and rental and leasing; and professional, scientific, and technical services. Many nonemployer businesses are not the primary source of income for their owners.

The trend in nonemployer activity between 1997 and 2001 in Colfax County shows that the number of nonemployer establishments increased from 885 to 914 over the period but has fallen since (Table 6.9 on the following page). Receipts rose 18.7%, from \$21.3 million to \$25.3 million, in the same period, but most of the increase occurred in 1998. Receipts per establishment rose 15% during 1997-2001.

**TABLE 6.9**  
**NONEMPLOYER STATISTICS, ALL SECTORS,**  
**COLFAX COUNTY, 1997-2001**

Year	Establishments	Receipts (\$000)	Receipts per Estab.	% Change over Previous Year	
				Receipts	Receipts per Estab.
1997	885	21,271	24,035	NA	NA
1998	944	25,173	26,666	18.3%	10.9%
1999	964	24,400	25,311	-3.1%	-5.1%
2000	926	25,764	27,823	5.6%	9.9%
2001	914	25,254	27,630	-2.0%	-0.7%
1997-01				18.7%	15.0%

NA - not available.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Non-employer Statistics, 2001.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

In 2001, Colfax County's 914 nonemployers generated over \$25 million in sales or receipts, averaging \$27,630 per establishment (Table 6.10). The top sectors in receipts or sales include construction (\$5.9 million), real estate and rental and leasing (\$3.4 million), and retail trade (\$2.9 million). Sectors that have the highest receipts per establishment are construction (\$51,139); accommodation and food service (\$49,680); wholesale trade (39,200); and forestry, fishing, hunting and agricultural support services

**TABLE 6.10**  
**NAICS SECTOR RANKED BY NONEMPLOYER RECEIPTS PER**  
**ESTABLISHMENT, COLFAX COUNTY, 2001**

Rank	NAICS Sector	Establishments	Receipts (\$000)	Receipts Per Establ.
1	Construction	115	5,881	51,139
2	Accommodation & food service	25	1,242	49,680
3	Wholesale trade	10	392	39,200
4	Forestry, fishing & hunting, & ag support service	44	1,723	39,159
5	Transportation & warehousing	33	1,091	33,061
6	Retail trade	96	2,862	29,813
7	Real estate and rental & leasing	117	3,364	28,752
8	Finance and insurance	29	806	27,793
9	Professional, scientific & technical services	83	2,175	26,205
10	Manufacturing	27	589	21,815
11	Health care and social assistance	57	915	16,053
12	Other services (except public admin)	156	2,405	15,417
13	Administrative & support & waste mgt & remed	47	695	14,787
14	Arts, entertainment, & recreation	52	686	13,192
	Mining	D	D	NA
	Utilities	D	D	NA
	Information	D	D	NA
	Educational	D	D	NA
	All disclosed sectors	891	24,826	27,863
	All sectors	914	25,254	27,630

Notes: D -- data not disclosed. NA -- not available

Nonemployer statistics chiefly originate from administrative records of the Internal Revenue Service.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Non-employer Statistics, 2001.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

(\$39,159). Not shown in the table, within these major NAICS sectors, sub-sectors that have larger receipts per establishment include the special trade contractors industry and the residential building industry, accommodations; hunting and trapping; and truck transportation. All of these listed industries have between \$44,000 and \$91,000 in receipts per establishment, substantially above the average for all sectors.

Compared to New Mexico nonemployers, those in Colfax County have a significantly greater representation of establishments among the following sectors: construction; real estate and rental and leasing; forestry, fishing and hunting, and agricultural support; other services; and accommodation and food service. Sectors with a relatively smaller number of establishments in the county include wholesale trade; professional, scientific and technical services; and health care and social assistance. In terms of receipts, Colfax County nonemployers are relatively higher in the same sectors, except real estate and rental and leasing, in which they are less represented. Again the overall receipts per establishment average \$27,630 in Colfax County versus a slightly higher \$27,863 in New Mexico.

### **Agriculture**

Cattle ranching and growing feed crops dominate agricultural activity in Colfax County and Las Animas County. Raising cattle is an important economic activity in the broader region of northeastern New Mexico and southeastern Colorado. In 2001 there were 490 farm jobs in Colfax County, composed of farm proprietors and farm workers, representing a decline of 12% between 1970 and 2001. As a share of total employment, farm jobs fell from 11% to 6% during this period. The number of farms increased from 303 to 322 during 1987-1997.

The farm sector is becoming much less significant to the county's overall economic health. Farm income was \$427,000, accounting for less than 2% of total income in the county in 2001. Farm income was down from \$775,000 in 2000 and was substantially lower from earlier years, i.e. \$3.5 million in 1990, \$7.8 million in 1980, and \$3.8 million in 1970. In fact, farm proprietor's income was negative in 2000 and 2001.

Cash receipts for all farm commodities were \$23.4 million in 2001 but dropped 16% against a year ago. Livestock receipts (predominantly cattle and calves) fell 19%, down to \$19.7 million while crop receipts (mostly hay) increased over 4% to \$3.7 million. Prices received for beef cattle in dollars per cwt. (one hundred weight) were about \$60 during 1997-1999 and have risen to \$69 in 2001. Steers and heifers fetched higher prices as well, from \$73 up to \$86 per cwt. in 2001. Hay prices followed a similar pattern, reaching \$124/ton. The value per head of cattle and calves increased from \$550 to \$840 between 1997 and 2002. There were 44,000 cattle, roughly split between beef cattle and those on feed, which ranked Colfax County 8<sup>th</sup> in New Mexico.

### **Personal Income**

Total personal income includes net earnings by place of residence; dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments received by residents of Colfax County. Since 1991, net earnings comprise a smaller portion of the county's total personal income, 54.9% in

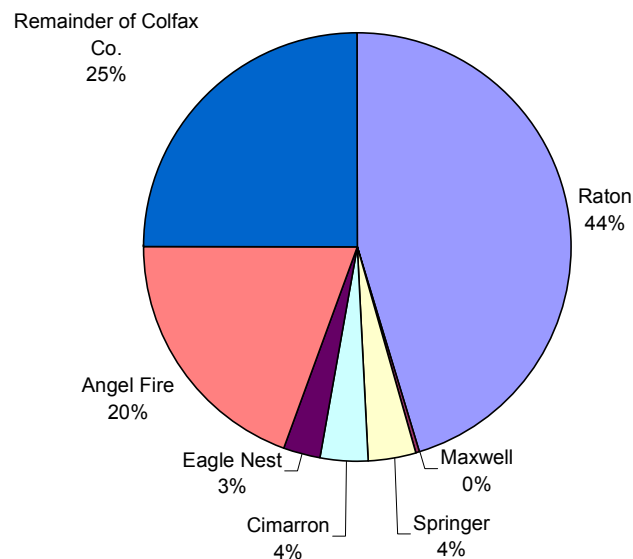
2001 compared to 57.2% ten years earlier; transfer payments a larger portion, up to 21.9% from 19.4%; and dividends, interest, and rent stayed about the same at 23.2%. Total earnings of persons employed in Colfax County increased 7.2% in 2000-2001 versus 6.4% in New Mexico and 2.5% in the U.S. The average annual rate of growth in 1991-2001 was 4.7% in the county compared to 5.6% in both the state and nation.

### 6.5 Business Activity and Gross Receipts

Gross receipts data from the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) provides insights into the activities of businesses at the sub-county level. Figure 6.12 is a pie chart showing the proportion of total Colfax County taxable receipts attributable to each jurisdiction in 2000. In 2000, 44% of the taxable gross receipts generated in Colfax County came from the City of Raton. While gross receipts for Raton increased since 1990, this figure is down from 52% in 1990, partly because of the increasing amount of activity taking place in Angel Fire. One-quarter of the County's taxable gross receipts in 2000 were generated in unincorporated portions of the County where almost all of the mining activity occurred. Contract construction generated almost 40% of the gross receipts in the unincorporated portion of the County.

**FIGURE 6.12**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COLFAX COUNTY TOTAL TAXABLE GROSS RECEIPTS BY COMMUNITY, 2000**



Source: NM Taxation and Revenue Department, Rpt. 80.  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

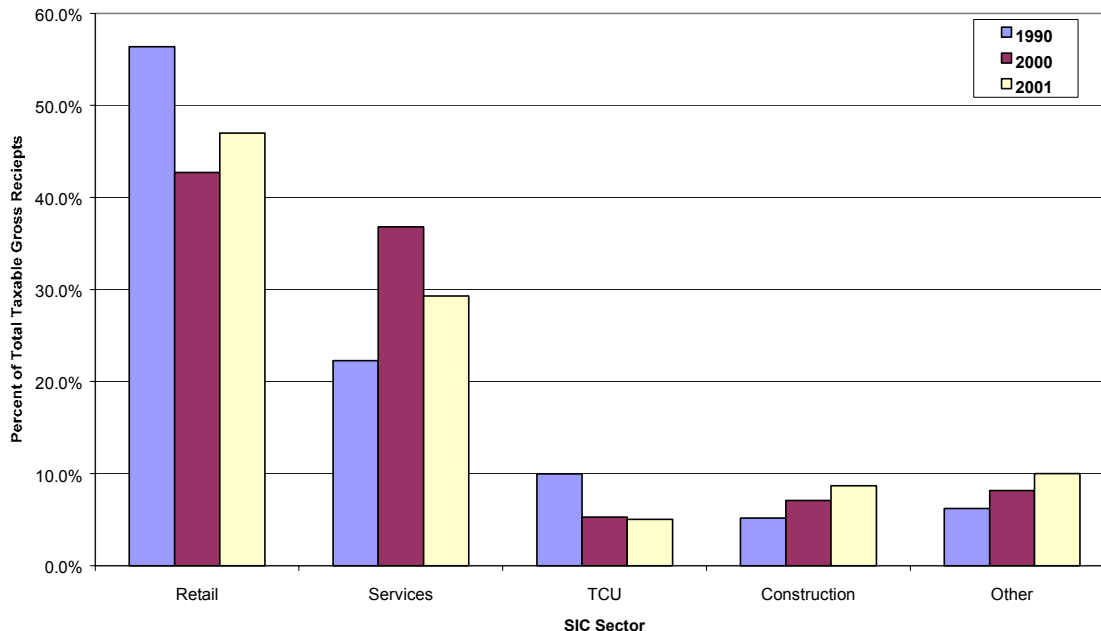
### The Changing Sectoral Composition of Taxable Gross Receipts

The retail and services sectors are responsible for the bulk of the City of Raton's taxable gross receipts, though the roles these sectors are playing have changed. Figure 6.13 shows the distribution of the City's total taxable gross receipts by SIC sector in 1990, 2000 and 2001. It should be noted that services had unusually high gross receipts in

2000. Retail's portion of total gross receipts has declined from 56% to 47% of total receipts while services increased from 22% to 29% in 2001.

**FIGURE 6.13**

**DISTRIBUTION OF TAXABLE GROSS RECEIPTS BY MAIN SIC SECTOR,  
RATON, 1990, 2000, and 2001**



Source: NM Taxation and Revenue Department, Rpt. 80.  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

Examining these and other changes in the sources of taxable gross receipts, tables 6.11 and 6.12 present data on taxable gross receipts for both Colfax County and Raton by SIC industry for 1990, 1995, and then for each calendar year 1999 through 2002. Compound annual growth rates are calculated for the period 1990 to 2000 and for the period 2000 to 2002. During the period 1990 to 2000, taxable gross receipts in the County grew at a compound annual rate of 6.3%, while receipts for the City of Raton grew at 5.0%. Both areas suffered a loss in taxable gross receipts after 2000, with the County's tax base dropping at a compound annual rate of 3.4% and Raton's at 5.0%.

Mining taxable gross receipts increased from \$400 thousand in 1990 to \$7.8 million in 2001 but virtually disappeared in 2002. While a relatively minor contributor (6.4%), to the growth in County taxable gross receipts in the period 1990-2000, the sharp fall-off in receipts from mining after 2001 accounted for 36% of the drop in County taxable gross receipts between 2000 and 2002.

Colfax County taxable gross receipts in construction increased 250% between 1990 and 2000, adding almost \$32 million (26% of the total growth). Construction taxable receipts lost almost 10% per year after 2000 – accounting for almost \$10 million, or 56% of the loss between 2000 and 2002.



Retail was a major contributor to the growth in County taxable receipts over the 1990's, adding \$25.2 million (21%), but the major boost came from the broadly based service sector, which added \$51.2 million (41%). Retail taxable gross receipts show declines after 1999 in current dollars, with \$4.1 million lost between 2000 and 2002. Taxable receipts in the service sector also slide after 2000, although the loss by 2002 is only about \$1.5 million. Interesting were the winners after 2000: finance, insurance and real estate, which grew only \$100 thousand from 1990 to 2000 but picked up \$3.8 million in the two years that followed; and wholesale, which added \$1.0 million between 2000 and 2002.

**TABLE 6.11**  
**TAXABLE GROSS RECEIPTS FOR COLFAX COUNTY, 1990 - 2002**

SIC Industry	Taxable Gross Receipts (\$000,000)						Compound Annual Growth	
	1990	1995	1999	2000	2001	2002	1990-00	2000-02
Agriculture	2.4	3.7	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.7	-2.1%	-7.4%
Mining*	0.4	D	D	7.2	7.8	0.9	33.9%	-65.5%
Construction	21.2	20.9	49.3	52.9	49.8	43.1	9.6%	-9.8%
Manufacturing	1.1	1.3	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.7	8.0%	7.2%
T.C.U.	19.5	19.5	19.1	20.8	18.5	19.6	0.6%	-2.9%
Wholesale	3.2	4.9	3.0	3.3	3.5	4.3	0.5%	13.9%
Retail	61.5	74.9	89.5	86.6	85.2	82.5	3.5%	-2.4%
Eating & Drinking	9.3	9.9	9.7	8.7	8.4	7.2	-0.6%	-9.3%
Finance, Insur, Real Estate	7.7	6.0	8.0	7.8	6.7	11.6	0.1%	22.1%
Services	26.7	37.0	67.5	77.9	73.3	76.3	11.3%	-1.0%
Hotels/Motels/Trailer Parks	7.7	8.7	20.0	18.3	21.9	22.4	9.0%	10.6%
Other & Non Disclosed	0.7	3.9	5.1	5.7	5.7	6.1	23.1%	3.9%
<b>Total Taxable Gross Receipts</b>	<b>144.4</b>	<b>172.1</b>	<b>245.4</b>	<b>266.5</b>	<b>254.5</b>	<b>248.8</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>

Source: NM Taxation and Revenue Department, Report 80  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

Raton accounted for 38% of the total growth in County taxable gross receipts between 1990 and 2000 and 83% of the decline thereafter. Raton accounted for only 18% of County construction taxable gross receipts in 1990. While construction activity in Raton more than doubled over the decade, taxable receipts in 2000 were only 16% of the County's construction in 2000. Since 2000, however, Raton has seen growth in taxable gross receipts from construction, while the County has lost. Raton's share of the total in 2002 was 22%.

Raton was and continues to be the County's retail center, with 68% of taxable receipts in 1990, almost 60% still in 2000 and slightly more than 60% in 2002. While the retail sector was responsible for much of the City's taxable gross receipts, growth in this sector accounted for a small percent of the growth in Raton's total taxable receipts over the decade. In real terms, Raton's taxable gross receipts from retail trade actually

declined 4.2% over the decade. Unlike the County, however, Raton continued to show growth in current dollar retail taxable gross receipts after 1999 and the loss between 2000 and 2002 was relatively small. The SIC codes include eating and drinking under retail. Raton's taxable receipts from eating and drinking establishments fell by \$160 million in current dollars between 1990 and 2000— about 0.2% per year. The deterioration in the County was almost \$600 thousand – roughly 1% per year. After 2000, eating and drinking places took a big hit in Raton, losing about \$1.8 million in receipts by 2002, an average loss of 15% per year. Raton more than accounted for the loss of eating and drinking taxable receipts in the County between 2000 and 2002.

**TABLE 6.12**  
**TAXABLE GROSS RECEIPTS FOR RATON, 1990 - 2002**

SIC Industry	Taxable Gross Receipts (\$000,000)						Compound Annual Growth	
	1990	1995	1999	2000	2001	2002	1990-00	2000-02
Agriculture	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Mining*	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Construction	3.8	6.2	11.1	8.5	9.5	9.4	8.4%	5.2%
Manufacturing	0.7	0.6	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.2	9.8%	-13.8%
T.C.U.	7.4	5.4	5.6	6.4	5.5	5.2	-1.5%	-9.9%
Wholesale	1.6	2.5	1.7	1.7	2.5	3.3	0.7%	39.8%
Retail	41.6	54.2	51.4	51.5	51.8	49.8	2.1%	-1.7%
Eating & Drinking	6.6	7.4	7.4	6.4	6.3	4.6	-0.2%	-15.3%
Fin, Insur, Real Estate	1.0	1.2	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.2	6.3%	9.2%
Services	16.5	19.2	29.9	44.4	32.3	33.0	10.4%	-13.8%
Hotels/Motels/Trailer Parks	4.3	4.7	5.3	4.8	5.3	5.7	1.2%	9.2%
Other & Non Disclosed	1.4	3.9	3.9	4.6	5.3	4.8	13.1%	1.6%
<b>Total Taxable Gross Receipts</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>106.7</b>	<b>120.6</b>	<b>110.2</b>	<b>108.9</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>-5.0%</b>

Source: NM Taxation and Revenue Department, Report 80  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

Taxable receipts from services almost tripled in both Raton and the County over the decade of the 1990's. In Raton, the increase in services taxable gross receipts was largely due to an increase in receipts for miscellaneous services, from less than \$1 million in 1990 to over \$20 million in 2000. Raton's share fell slightly over the decade, from 62% to 57%. Between 2000 and 2002, Raton lost \$11 million in taxable gross receipts from this sector, some \$10 million more than the County. Raton's share of services taxable gross receipts slid from 57% to 43%. It is difficult to explain this loss, most of which was a loss to areas within the County but outside the City limits.

The service sector under SIC includes accommodations. Raton's taxable receipts from this sector grew by about \$500 thousand over the 1990's, and Raton has picked up almost \$1 million in additional receipts since 2000. With considerable growth in lodging in Angel Fire and elsewhere outside Raton, it is not surprising that the county's gain in

taxable receipts over the 1990's was an impressive \$10.6 million – more than 20 times the growth experienced in Raton. Lodging in the County had higher receipts in 1999 than in 2000, a phenomenon also seen in Raton. Since 2000, county taxable receipts from lodging have grown \$4.1 million, about 4 times the dollar gain seen in Raton.

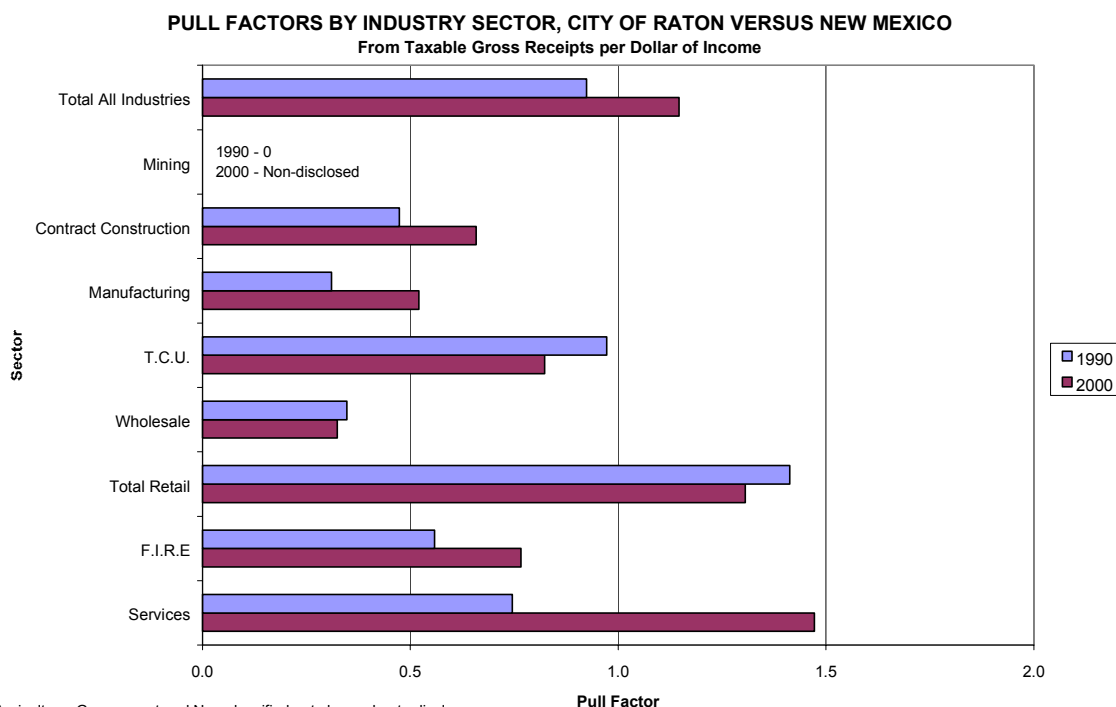
It should be noted that businesses self-report their industry classification. These self-reports are known sometimes to be inaccurate but there is no audit. The gross receipts data include considerable noise related to both filing problems and processing delays, so activity that should show up in one period may be attributed to some period in the future. To further complicate interpretation, the State conducted a tax amnesty program in FY 2000.

### **Pull Factors**

While not effective at defining specific flows of consumer spending between two communities, New Mexico gross receipts tax data also can be used to analyze whether a community is attracting customers from outside the area or losing sales to other areas. Pull factors calculated from gross receipts taxes can help identify sectors that are generating more or less activity than would be expected based on the income of area residents. Raton's pull factors are the ratio of gross receipts per dollar of personal income of city residents compared to that of New Mexico. A local pull factor greater than 1.0 indicates local purchases are high relative to income and that the area may be pulling in customers from elsewhere. Conversely, a local pull factor of less than 1.0 may indicate that the local market is underserved and that there are opportunities for businesses.

Figure 6.14 presents the pull factors for 1990 and 2000 for the City of Raton by industrial sector. Overall, in 2000 Raton had a pull factor over 1.0 (1.15), which represented an increase over 1990. This is attributable largely to the performance of the retail and services sectors, both of which had pull factors over 1.25 in 2000. As was shown earlier in this section, the retail and service sectors account for about three-quarters of the City's taxable gross receipts. Sectors with low pull factors include wholesale (0.3), manufacturing (0.5), and contract construction (0.7). Mining, which had zero taxable gross receipts in the City of Raton in 1990, was not disclosed in 2000. Additionally, the agriculture, government and non-classified sectors, which are not displayed in the Figure 6.14, had activity in both 1990 and 2000, though because of disclosure gross receipts data were not available. More detail on pull factors for retail and service sub-sector industries is provided in the first report and will not be replicated here.

**FIGURE 6.14**



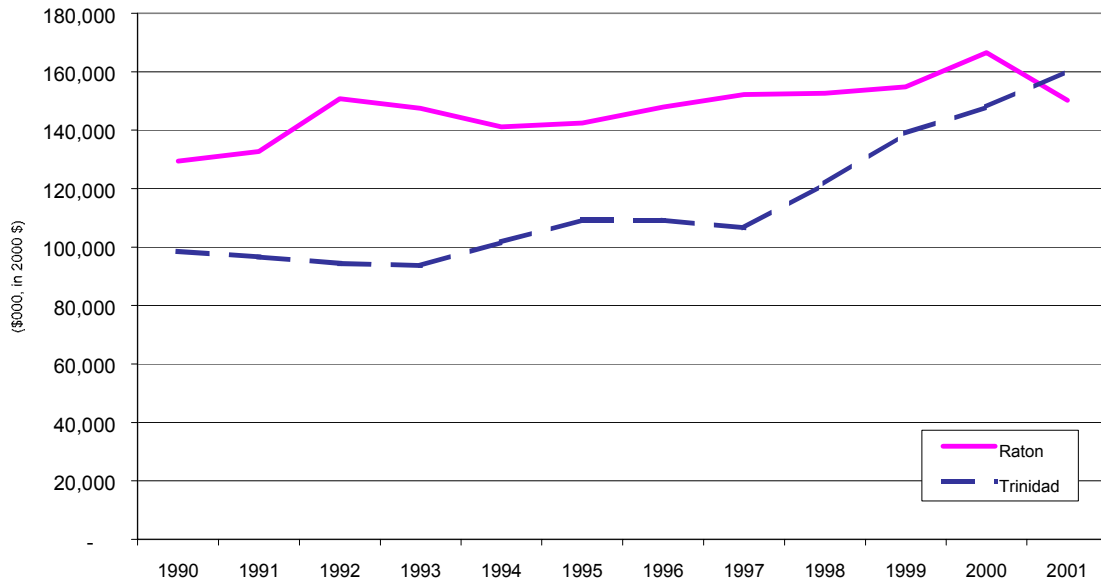
Agriculture, Government and Non-classified not shown due to disclosure.  
Source of Data: NM Taxation and Revenue Dept Rpt 80 and 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census.  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

Gross receipts provide insights into the changing roles Raton and Trinidad have played in the regional consumer market. While the sales included in the total gross receipts may vary between Raton and Trinidad due to differing state tax laws, BBER calculated total gross receipts for both of these communities based on the same basket of goods. For instance, in New Mexico, total reported gross receipts do not include items that are exempt from the gross receipts tax. Sales from items such as automobiles and gasoline are not part of the total reported gross receipts since these items are subject to other taxes (i.e. motor vehicle excise, gasoline tax). In order to make a fair comparison between Raton and Trinidad, automobile and gasoline sales were also excluded from Trinidad’s total reported sales. While not necessarily precise, this allows for the identification of some general trends in the sales occurring in the two communities.

Figure 6.15 compares total receipts across all industries in Raton and Trinidad for the years 1990 to 2001. Since Raton and Trinidad largely share a customer base and are in many cases competing for the same customers, in this time period, Raton experienced 16% growth across all industries, while Trinidad saw growth of 63% (see Figure 6.15). While Raton’s total gross receipts have increased slowly since the early 1990’s, with the exception of the decline in 2001, gross receipts in Trinidad have increased rapidly since 1997 when they surpassed Raton. As shown in Figure 6.16, some of this overall change is due to changes in the retail sector.

**FIGURE 6.15**

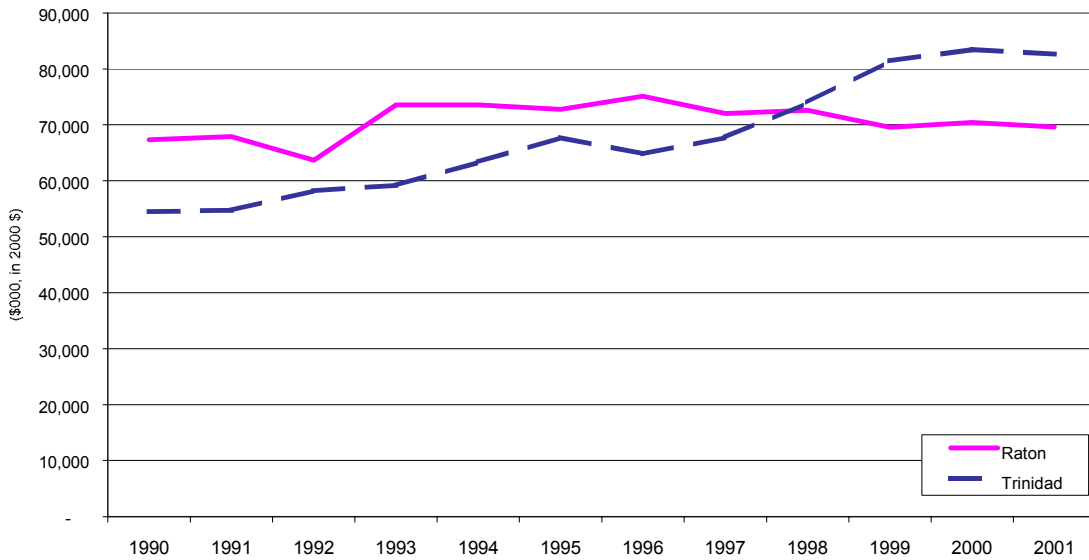
**TOTAL RECEIPTS\* FOR ALL INDUSTRIES,  
RATON AND TRINIDAD, 1990 TO 2001 (2000 DOLLARS)**



\*Total receipts includes all sales less sales from automobiles and gasoline.  
Source: NM Taxation and Revenue Department, Rpt. 80 and Colorado Department of Revenue.  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

**FIGURE 6.16**

**TOTAL RECEIPTS\* FOR RETAIL SECTOR,  
RATON AND TRINIDAD, 1990 TO 2001 (2000 DOLLARS)**



\*Total receipts includes all sales less sales from automobiles and gasoline.  
Source: NM Taxation and Revenue Department, Rpt. 80 and Colorado Department of Revenue.  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

## 6.6 Other City and County Tax Revenues

### Property Tax

Table 6.13 presents the data on the Raton and Colfax County property tax base since 1995. Note that the property tax base has been growing faster in the County than in the City of Raton. Raton has imposed the maximum operating levy authorized under State statute but has made no use of the debt service levy that is available to support General Obligation Bonds.

**TABLE 6.13**  
**RATON AND COLFAX COUNTY NET TAXABLE VALUE OF PROPERTY**

Tax Year	Raton			Colfax County
	Residential	Nonresidential	Total	Total
1995	\$ 21,757,342	\$ 15,568,964	\$ 37,326,306	\$ 172,876,183
1996	22,068,054	16,015,078	38,083,132	165,919,802
1997	22,539,590	15,865,404	38,404,994	169,547,836
1998	22,908,299	17,254,206	40,162,505	180,070,996
1999	23,713,727	17,883,840	41,597,567	196,168,981
2000	26,499,873	19,771,250	46,271,123	215,960,359
2001	27,109,985	20,114,549	47,224,534	230,076,678
2002	27,520,900	20,383,497	47,904,397	245,549,748
<b>Percent Growth, 1995 - 2002</b>				
Overall	26.5%	30.9%	28.3%	42.0%
Compound				
Annual Rate	3.4%	3.9%	3.6%	5.1%
<b>Estimated Tax</b>				
Revenues	\$ 205,113	\$ 155,934	\$ 361,047	\$ 2,541,440

\* Assumes maximum operating levy imposed millage on the City of Raton (7.65 mills), with yield control holding residential rate to 7.453, the rate in place for 2002. County operational levy is 10.350 mills.

Source: New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division.

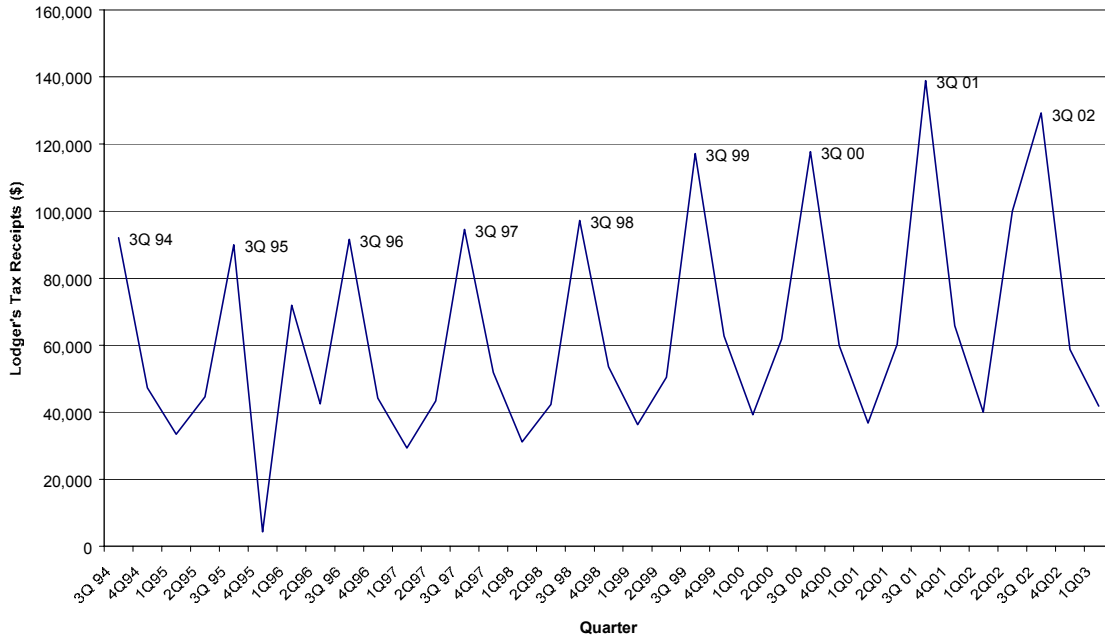
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

### Lodgers Tax Revenues

Raton has in place the maximum lodgers tax of 5.0%. In FY 03, the lodgers tax generated \$295 thousand for the City of Raton. Figure 6.17 shows the quarterly receipts since the first quarter of calendar 1994.

**FIGURE 6.17**

**CITY OF RATON LODGER TAX RECEIPTS BY QUARTER, 1994 - 2003**



Source: New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division. UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

**City of Raton Gross Receipts Tax Revenues**

While Raton has additional gross receipts tax authority under State law, its use of special City specific rates authorized by the legislature, has pushed the rate within the City limits to 7.0625%, the highest rate in effect across the state with the exception of Ruidoso, which has a rate of 7.1875, and Red River, with a rate of 7.2500%.

Table 6.12 provides the relevant information on taxable gross receipts – the tax base -- and the growth over time. In calendar 2002, the tax base should have yielded revenues of roughly \$7.6 million to the City of Raton less applicable administrative fees (3% on City imposed after firms 0.5 cent) plus penalties and interest. Of concern would be the approximately 9% decline in the tax base between 2000 and 2002.

## 7 SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

### TABLE.7.1

#### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: RATON CITY, RATON AREA AND NEW MEXICO, 2000<sup>1</sup>

	No high school diploma	High school graduate (inc. equiv.)	Some College, no degree	Associate / Bachelor's degree	Master's, Professional or Doctorate degree	Total Person Aged 25+
<b>Total</b>						
Raton City	1,147	1,846	1,004	576	176	4,749
Raton Area	4,043	5,663	3,931	3,276	1,031	17,944
New Mexico	239,981	301,746	259,924	221,373	111,777	1,134,801
<b>Male</b>						
Raton City	646	809	414	288	86	2,243
Raton Area	2,006	2,663	1,793	1,589	505	8,556
New Mexico	116,734	142,806	120,291	104,729	59,417	543,977
<b>Female</b>						
Raton City	501	1,037	590	288	90	2,506
Raton Area	2,037	3,000	2,138	1,687	526	9,388
New Mexico	123,247	158,940	139,633	116,644	52,360	590,824
<b>Distribution of persons 25 years and over by educational attainment</b>						
<b>Total</b>						
Raton City	24.2%	38.9%	21.1%	12.1%	3.7%	100.0%
Raton Area	22.5%	31.6%	21.9%	18.3%	5.7%	100.0%
New Mexico	21.1%	26.6%	22.9%	19.5%	9.8%	100.0%
<b>Male</b>						
Raton City	28.8%	36.1%	18.5%	12.8%	3.8%	100.0%
Raton Area	23.4%	31.1%	21.0%	18.6%	5.9%	100.0%
New Mexico	21.5%	26.3%	22.1%	19.3%	10.9%	100.0%
<b>Female</b>						
Raton City	20.0%	41.4%	23.5%	11.5%	3.6%	100.0%
Raton Area	21.7%	32.0%	22.8%	18.0%	5.6%	100.0%
New Mexico	20.9%	26.9%	23.6%	19.7%	8.9%	100.0%

1 - the Raton Area is within a 40 mile radius of Raton. Includes population 25 years and over.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.



**TABLE 7.2**  
**EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY SEX FOR THE POPULATION 16+ YEARS OLD:**  
**RATON CITY, RATON AREA AND NEW MEXICO, 2000**

	<u>Raton City</u>	<u>Raton Area</u>	<u>New Mexico</u>
Total	5,628	21,111	1,369,176
In labor force	3,110	11,700	834,632
In Armed Forces	5	16	11,192
Civilian	3,105	11,684	823,440
Employed	2,881	10,972	763,116
Unemployed	224	712	60,324
Percent unemployed	7.2%	6.1%	7.3%
Percent in labor force	55.3%	55.4%	61.0%
Not in labor force	2,518	9,411	534,544
Male	2,694	10,314	663,095
In labor force	1,645	6,268	448,543
In Armed Forces	5	14	9,293
Civilian	1,640	6,254	439,250
Employed	1,538	5,907	406,760
Unemployed	102	347	32,490
Unemployment rate	6.2%	5.5%	7.4%
Percent in labor force	61.1%	60.8%	67.6%
Not in labor force	1,049	4,046	214,552
Female	2,934	10,797	706,081
In labor force	1,465	5,432	386,089
In Armed Forces	0	2	1,899
Civilian	1,465	5,430	384,190
Employed	1,343	5,065	356,356
Unemployed	122	365	27,834
Unemployment rate	8.3%	6.7%	7.2%
Percent in labor force	49.9%	50.3%	54.7%
Not in labor force	1,469	5,365	319,992

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3.  
UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

**TABLE 7.3**  
**CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE , EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**  
**JANUARY 1997 - AUGUST 2003 (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
<b>1995</b>													
Civilian Labor Force	6,663	6,488	6,448	6,182	6,203	6,810	6,721	6,678	6,059	5,992	6,015	6,559	6,402
Employment	6,183	6,107	6,065	5,758	5,786	6,329	6,259	6,183	5,578	5,516	5,502	5,689	5,913
Unemployment	480	381	383	424	417	481	462	495	481	476	513	870	489
Rate	7.2%	5.9%	5.9%	6.9%	6.7%	7.1%	6.9%	7.4%	7.9%	7.9%	8.5%	13.3%	7.6%
<b>1996</b>													
Civilian Labor Force	6,422	6,260	6,347	6,273	6,312	6,718	6,812	6,791	6,248	6,141	6,025	6,305	6,388
Employment	5,548	5,439	5,462	5,280	5,383	5,925	5,970	5,968	5,440	5,438	5,389	5,720	5,580
Unemployment	874	821	885	993	929	793	842	823	808	703	636	585	808
Rate	13.6%	13.1%	13.9%	15.8%	14.7%	11.8%	12.4%	12.1%	12.9%	11.4%	10.6%	9.3%	12.6%
<b>1997</b>													
Civilian Labor Force	6,436	6,320	6,315	5,881	5,956	6,886	6,977	6,927	5,960	5,963	5,939	6,267	6,319
Employment	5,711	5,744	5,749	5,360	5,488	6,427	6,593	6,559	5,551	5,584	5,591	5,864	5,852
Unemployment	725	576	566	521	468	459	384	368	409	379	348	403	467
Rate	11.3%	9.1%	9.0%	8.9%	7.9%	6.7%	5.5%	5.3%	6.9%	6.4%	5.9%	6.4%	7.4%
<b>1998</b>													
Civilian Labor Force	6,562	6,514	6,591	6,384	6,450	7,430	7,168	7,080	6,174	6,097	6,151	6,477	6,589
Employment	6,071	6,075	6,100	5,923	6,030	6,975	6,790	6,707	5,812	5,715	5,742	6,057	6,166
Unemployment	491	439	491	461	420	455	378	373	362	382	409	420	423
Rate	7.5%	6.7%	7.4%	7.2%	6.5%	6.1%	5.3%	5.3%	5.9%	6.3%	6.6%	6.5%	6.4%
<b>1999</b>													
Civilian Labor Force	6,719	6,524	6,501	6,182	6,255	7,154	7,250	7,154	6,139	6,270	6,235	6,440	6,569
Employment	6,205	6,090	6,099	5,817	5,921	6,782	6,960	6,876	5,839	5,937	5,888	6,078	6,208
Unemployment	514	434	402	365	334	372	290	278	300	333	347	362	361
Rate	7.6%	6.7%	6.2%	5.9%	5.3%	5.2%	4.0%	3.9%	4.9%	5.3%	5.6%	5.6%	5.5%

**TABLE 7.3 Continued**  
**CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE , EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**  
**JANUARY 1997 - AUGUST 2003 (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
<b>2000</b>													
Civilian Labor Force	6,500	6,441	6,650	6,469	6,794	7,726	7,858	7,572	6,635	6,568	6,503	6,493	6,851
Employment	6,083	6,105	6,309	6,071	6,463	7,358	7,538	7,294	6,308	6,237	6,158	6,133	6,505
Unemployment	417	336	341	398	331	368	320	278	327	331	345	360	346
Rate	6.4%	5.2%	5.1%	6.2%	4.9%	4.8%	4.1%	3.7%	4.9%	5.0%	5.3%	5.5%	5.1%
<b>2001</b>													
Civilian Labor Force	6,763	6,660	6,695	6,394	6,472	7,455	7,660	7,437	6,537	6,422	6,407	6,688	6,799
Employment	6,322	6,242	6,331	6,029	6,130	7,086	7,357	7,141	6,242	6,111	6,056	6,341	6,449
Unemployment	441	418	364	365	342	369	303	296	295	311	351	347	350
Rate	6.5%	6.3%	5.4%	5.7%	5.3%	4.9%	4.0%	4.0%	4.5%	4.8%	5.5%	5.2%	5.1%
<b>2002</b>													
Civilian Labor Force	6,747	6,663	6,772	6,381	6,445	7,420	7,613	7,220	6,401	6,425	6,433	6,640	6,764
Employment	6,387	6,362	6,475	6,058	6,138	7,083	7,251	6,893	6,075	6,100	6,041	6,247	6,426
Unemployment	360	301	297	323	307	337	362	327	326	325	392	393	338
Rate	5.3%	4.5%	4.4%	5.1%	4.8%	4.5%	4.8%	4.5%	5.1%	5.1%	6.1%	5.9%	5.0%
<b>2003</b>													
Civilian Labor Force	6,692	6,801	6,815	6,548	6,573	7,631	7,656	7,322	6,559				
Employment	6,228	6,368	6,386	6,124	6,146	7,071	7,141	6,870	6,082				
Unemployment	464	433	429	424	427	560	515	452	477				
Rate	6.9%	6.4%	6.3%	6.5%	6.5%	7.3%	6.7%	6.2%	7.3%				

1 -preliminary.

Source: New Mexico Department of Labor, Nov. 2003.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

**TABLE 7.4**  
**LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, RATON CITY, RATON AREA<sup>1</sup>, AND**  
**NEW MEXICO, 2000**

<b>Raton City</b>										
Age:	In Labor Force			Not in Labor Force			Percent Not in Labor Force			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
16 to 19	83	134	217	112	104	216	57.4%	43.7%	49.9%	
20 to 29	303	306	609	74	74	148	19.6%	19.5%	19.6%	
30 to 44	588	504	1,092	115	170	285	16.4%	25.2%	20.7%	
45 to 54	396	314	710	69	168	237	14.8%	34.9%	25.0%	
55 to 64	194	136	330	147	224	371	43.1%	62.2%	52.9%	
65 to 74	59	58	117	290	295	585	83.1%	83.6%	83.3%	
75 +	22	13	35	242	434	676	91.7%	97.1%	95.1%	
	1,645	1,465	3,110	1,049	1,469	2,518	38.9%	50.1%	44.7%	

<b>Colfax and W. Las Animas County</b>										
Age:	In Labor Force			Not in Labor Force			Percent Not in Labor Force			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
16 to 19	335	398	733	671	321	992	66.7%	44.6%	57.5%	
20 to 29	1,013	972	1,985	267	290	557	20.9%	23.0%	21.9%	
30 to 44	2,273	2,089	4,362	341	690	1,031	13.0%	24.8%	19.1%	
45 to 54	1,733	1,295	3,028	413	672	1,085	19.2%	34.2%	26.4%	
55 to 64	873	664	1,537	566	789	1,355	39.3%	54.3%	46.9%	
65 to 74	237	207	444	996	1,209	2,205	80.8%	85.4%	83.2%	
75 +	85	42	127	802	1,384	2,186	90.4%	97.1%	94.5%	
	6,549	5,667	12,216	4,056	5,355	9,411	38.2%	48.6%	43.5%	

<b>New Mexico</b>										
Age:	In Labor Force			Not in Labor Force			Percent Not in Labor Force			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
16 to 19	27,409	25,087	52,496	30,337	30,195	60,532	52.5%	54.6%	53.6%	
20 to 29	94,852	79,346	174,198	23,116	38,180	61,296	19.6%	32.5%	26.0%	
30 to 44	168,471	144,554	313,025	31,610	61,287	92,897	15.8%	29.8%	22.9%	
45 to 54	96,486	88,655	185,141	22,458	37,202	59,660	18.9%	29.6%	24.4%	
55 to 64	45,351	37,547	82,898	29,990	44,553	74,543	39.8%	54.3%	47.3%	
65 to 74	12,684	8,643	21,327	43,009	54,542	97,551	77.2%	86.3%	82.1%	
75 +	3,290	2,257	5,547	34,032	54,033	88,065	91.2%	96.0%	94.1%	
	448,543	386,089	834,632	214,552	319,992	534,544	32.4%	45.3%	39.0%	

1 - because of data availability, in this case the Raton area is defined as Colfax County, New Mexico, and the Trinidad and Weston CCD's, Colorado.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3, PCT 35.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

**TABLE 7.5**

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY AGE: RATON CITY, RATON AREA<sup>1</sup>, AND NEW MEXICO, 2002**

<b>Raton City</b>	Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
16 to 19 years	70	107	177	13	27	40	15.7%	20.1%	18.4%
20 to 29 years	277	267	544	26	39	65	8.6%	12.7%	10.7%
30 to 44 years	559	471	1,030	29	33	62	4.9%	6.5%	5.7%
45 to 54 years	374	304	678	17	10	27	4.3%	3.2%	3.8%
55 to 64 year	177	123	300	17	13	30	8.8%	9.6%	9.1%
65 to 74 years	59	58	117	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
75 years and over	22	13	35	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	1,538	1,343	2,881	102	122	224	6.2%	8.3%	7.2%

<b>Colfax and Western Las Animas County</b>	Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
16 to 19 years	246	312	558	87	86	173	26.1%	21.6%	23.7%
20 to 29 years	936	888	1,824	77	84	161	7.6%	8.6%	8.1%
30 to 44 years	2,175	1,975	4,150	95	114	209	4.2%	5.5%	4.8%
45 to 54 years	1,664	1,272	2,936	62	21	83	3.6%	1.6%	2.7%
55 to 64 year	813	616	1,429	58	48	106	6.7%	7.2%	6.9%
65 to 74 years	237	205	442	0	2	2	0.0%	1.0%	0.5%
75 years and over	82	39	121	3	3	6	3.5%	7.1%	4.7%
Total	6,153	5,307	11,460	382	358	740	5.8%	6.3%	6.1%

<b>New Mexico</b>	Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
16 to 19 years	20,576	19,503	40,079	6,427	5,487	11,914	23.8%	22.0%	22.9%
20 to 29 years	81,626	70,632	152,258	9,165	7,547	16,712	10.1%	9.7%	9.9%
30 to 44 years	154,603	135,145	289,748	9,509	8,838	18,347	5.8%	6.1%	6.0%
45 to 54 years	91,512	84,772	176,284	4,537	3,819	8,356	4.7%	4.3%	4.5%
55 to 64 year	43,206	36,264	79,470	2,115	1,283	3,398	4.7%	3.4%	4.1%
65 to 74 years	12,152	8,259	20,411	532	384	916	4.2%	4.4%	4.3%
75 years and over	3,085	1,781	4,866	205	476	681	6.2%	21.1%	12.3%
Total	406,760	356,356	763,116	32,490	27,834	60,324	7.4%	7.2%	7.3%

1 - because of data availability, in this case the Raton area is defined as Colfax County, New Mexico, and the Trinidad and Weston CCD's, Colorado.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, SF-3, PCT 35.

UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003.

**TABLE 7.6**

**OCCUPATION BY SEX: RATON CITY, RATON AREA, AND NEW MEXICO, 2000<sup>1</sup>**

	Total			Male			Female		
	Raton City	Raton Area	New Mexico	Raton City	Raton Area	New Mexico	Raton City	Raton Area	New Mexico
Management, professional, and related :	24.5%	29.3%	34.0%	18.9%	25.6%	31.3%	30.8%	33.7%	37.1%
Management, business, and financial operations :	8.9%	12.6%	12.1%	10.1%	14.0%	12.7%	7.4%	11.1%	11.4%
Management , except farmers and farm managers	5.9%	7.5%	7.7%	7.1%	8.4%	8.7%	4.6%	6.3%	6.6%
Farmers and farm managers	1.1%	2.8%	0.7%	1.2%	3.7%	1.1%	1.0%	1.8%	0.3%
Business and financial operations :	1.8%	2.4%	3.6%	1.9%	1.9%	2.8%	1.8%	2.9%	4.6%
Business operations specialists	1.1%	1.0%	1.8%	1.2%	0.9%	1.5%	1.0%	1.2%	2.1%
Financial specialists	0.7%	1.3%	1.9%	0.7%	0.9%	1.4%	0.7%	1.8%	2.5%
Professional and related :	15.6%	16.7%	21.9%	8.8%	11.6%	18.7%	23.5%	22.6%	25.6%
Computer and mathematical	0.2%	0.3%	1.8%	0.4%	0.5%	2.3%	0.0%	0.1%	1.2%
Architecture and engineering :	1.0%	0.6%	2.7%	1.0%	0.9%	4.2%	0.9%	0.3%	0.9%
Architects, surveyors, cartographers, and engineers	0.1%	0.3%	1.7%	0.2%	0.6%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Drafters, engineering, and mapping technicians	0.9%	0.3%	0.9%	0.8%	0.4%	1.4%	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%
Life, physical, and social science	0.0%	0.2%	1.5%	0.0%	0.3%	1.9%	0.0%	0.1%	0.9%
Community and social services	1.1%	1.7%	1.6%	0.8%	1.9%	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	2.0%
Legal	0.4%	0.5%	1.1%	0.2%	0.6%	1.0%	0.7%	0.5%	1.3%
Education, training, and library	7.0%	7.1%	6.7%	3.1%	3.1%	3.5%	11.5%	11.7%	10.4%
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	0.7%	1.3%	2.0%	0.7%	1.5%	1.9%	0.8%	1.2%	2.1%
Healthcare practitioners and technical :	5.2%	4.9%	4.5%	2.6%	2.9%	2.5%	8.2%	7.3%	6.7%
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners and technical	2.7%	2.8%	3.2%	1.2%	2.0%	1.9%	4.5%	3.8%	4.7%
Health technologists and technicians	2.5%	2.1%	1.3%	1.4%	0.9%	0.6%	3.6%	3.5%	2.0%
Service :	21.8%	21.2%	17.0%	18.5%	15.2%	14.3%	25.7%	28.1%	19.9%
Healthcare support	1.4%	2.1%	1.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.5%	3.1%	4.3%	3.3%
Protective service :	4.4%	2.9%	2.5%	6.2%	4.7%	3.9%	2.2%	0.7%	0.9%
Fire fighting, prevention, and law enforcement	3.7%	2.4%	1.5%	5.6%	4.1%	2.4%	1.6%	0.5%	0.4%
Other protective service , including supervisors	0.7%	0.4%	1.1%	0.7%	0.7%	1.6%	0.7%	0.2%	0.5%
Food preparation and serving related	7.5%	8.4%	5.7%	6.0%	5.0%	4.4%	9.2%	12.5%	7.2%
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	5.6%	4.8%	3.8%	5.8%	4.1%	4.1%	5.3%	5.5%	3.3%
Personal care and service	3.0%	2.9%	3.1%	0.4%	1.0%	1.4%	5.9%	5.2%	5.2%
Sales and office :	22.8%	20.5%	25.9%	11.8%	10.6%	16.5%	35.4%	32.0%	36.6%
Sales and related	7.1%	8.2%	11.2%	5.3%	6.7%	10.1%	9.2%	9.9%	12.5%
Office and administrative support	15.7%	12.3%	14.7%	6.5%	3.9%	6.4%	26.1%	22.1%	24.1%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.5%	2.1%	1.0%	1.0%	3.5%	1.6%	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance :	14.9%	14.7%	11.4%	27.3%	26.8%	20.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%
Construction and extraction :	10.0%	10.1%	7.1%	18.2%	18.4%	12.9%	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%
Supervisors, construction and extraction	1.2%	1.6%	1.0%	2.2%	3.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Construction trades	7.9%	8.1%	5.6%	14.2%	14.6%	10.2%	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%
Extraction	0.9%	0.5%	0.5%	1.8%	0.8%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Installation, maintenance, and repair	4.9%	4.6%	4.3%	9.1%	8.4%	7.8%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%
Production, transportation, and material moving :	15.5%	12.3%	10.7%	22.6%	18.3%	15.5%	7.4%	5.2%	5.3%
Production	9.2%	5.1%	5.2%	14.2%	6.8%	6.8%	3.5%	3.1%	3.4%
Transportation and material moving :	6.3%	7.2%	5.5%	8.3%	11.5%	8.7%	3.9%	2.2%	2.0%
Supervisors, transportation and material moving	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Aircraft and traffic control	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Motor vehicle operators	2.7%	3.8%	3.0%	3.3%	6.1%	4.7%	2.1%	1.2%	1.1%
Rail, water and other transportation	0.8%	1.2%	0.3%	1.5%	2.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Material moving	2.5%	2.0%	1.9%	3.1%	2.9%	3.0%	1.9%	1.0%	0.7%

1 - the Raton Area is within a 40 mile radius of Raton  
 Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000 Summary File 3  
 UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2003