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NEW MEXICO BUSINESS

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BBER Population Estimates for New Mexico, 2001-2006 Origins of a Growing Gap with Census Bureau Estimates

Table 1. A Comparison of Census Bureau Hypothetical Housing Unit Based Estimates to Actual Census Bureau and BBER-PEP Population Estimates: 2001-2006

Estimate Source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
CB HU	1,819,046	1,855,717	1,878,250	1,903,179	1,931,195	1,955,263	1,981,409
CB AR	1,819,046	1,832,783	1,855,353	1,877,598	1,900,620	1,925,985	1,954,599
BBER HU	1,819,046	1,852,740	1,876,287	1,899,846	1,929,713	1,968,352	2,010,570
CB HU - CB AR	*	22,934	22,897	25,581	30,575	29,278	26,810
% Difference	*	1.3%	1.2%	1.4%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%
BBER HU - CB AR	*	19,957	20,934	22,248	29,093	42,367	55,971
% Difference	*	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.5%	2.2%	2.9%
BBER HU - CB HU	*	-2,977	-1,963	-3,333	-1,482	13,089	29,161
% Difference	*	-0.16%	-0.11%	-0.18%	-0.08%	0.68%	1.49%

CB = Census Bureau. HU = Housing Unit. AR = Administrative Records. % Difference reflects the comparison directly above that row.
Source: UNM, Bureau of Business and Economic Research and U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and Population Estimates Division.

In 2000, the Census Bureau undercounted the New Mexico population by over 1.94%.¹ This undercount ultimately cost the state over \$11 million in Federal funding during each subsequent year. This historical undercounting of the New Mexico population appears to have continued into the intercensal period as well in the form of annual population estimates produced by the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program (CB-PEP). With an awareness of this inadequacy, in 2004 the State of New Mexico, through the legislative process, provided recurring funding to the Census Dissemination and Demographic Analysis Project at the University of New Mexico. The goals of this project include addressing this undercounting/underestimation of the state's population through the production of alternative population estimates for all 33 counties and the state, geodatabase development, continued sharing of data with the Census Bureau through participation in the Federal/State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates (FSCPE), and lobbying of the Census Bureau to accept the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) alternative estimates as "official". With this funding, the Population Estimates Program at BBER (BBER-PEP) was expanded with an initial focus upon the collation of statewide geodatabases on building permits, births, deaths, and other forms of demographic input data. Estimates produced using these data sets with a housing unit-based method are substantially higher than those produced by CB-PEP. Over the 2001 to 2006 period this gap has grown substantially, culminating in a nearly 3.0 % difference in 2006—a total of 55,971 persons.

As of 2007, these data have been collated and processed for use in population estimation. Initial suspicions that the Census Bureau was underestimating the state population appear to be largely confirmed; however, a clear comparison of the methodologies used by CB-PEP and BBER-PEP has not been discussed in light of the problem of undercounts. In the February 2007 issue of *New Mexico*

Business the overall BBER-PEP methodology for producing population estimates was detailed. In this article, a comparison of the two sets of estimates for the 2001 to 2006 period is presented, along with a discussion that compares the two methodologies and explores how differences in methodology might lead to underestimation by the CB-PEP.

At county and state levels, CB-PEP bases its estimates upon administrative data in the form of birth and death records, IRS tax returns, and Medicare program enrollments.² The method used is known as the "cohort-component" model, which estimates historical rates of birth, death, in-migration, and out-migration based on these records and then uses them to estimate the population at a given point in time. These estimates are revised in light of actual data as they become available, at a lag of approximately two years. The estimates are also manually controlled to a national total based on a long-standing cohort-component model. Curiously, at smaller levels of geography such as cities, the CB-PEP uses a different methodology—one involving a standard application of the housing unit method.³ This scale-based difference in the methodology used appears to reflect CB-PEP's sensitivity to the advantages of tracking population using housing unit data; however, these sub-county estimates are then manually adjusted to the cohort-component based county totals, indicating their preference for the current county/state methodology. The adjustment is made for the sake of consistency because the unadjusted housing unit-based estimates are typically substantially higher than those produced by the cohort-component model. The Census Bureau's preference for the cohort-component

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**Ninth Annual New Mexico
Data Users Conference
November 8, 2007
See page 8 for details**

1 http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/cmb/cmbp/reports/080601.pricewaterhouse/state_nm.asp.htm.

2 http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/methodology/2005_st_co_meth.pdf.

3 http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/methodology/2006_su_meth.html.

County	Census 2000	BBER Estimates as of July 1...					
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
New Mexico	1,819,046	1,852,740	1,876,287	1,899,846	1,929,713	1,968,352	2,010,570
Bernalillo	556,678	571,440	581,118	590,153	600,439	614,508	628,188
Catron	3,543	3,589	3,595	3,595	3,643	3,712	3,824
Chaves	61,382	61,343	61,146	61,085	61,722	62,203	63,166
Cibola	25,595	25,865	26,140	26,498	28,278	28,506	28,683
Colfax	14,189	14,304	14,326	14,351	14,351	14,375	14,540
Curry	45,044	45,267	45,395	45,609	45,670	46,289	46,666
De Baca	2,240	2,258	2,255	2,263	2,274	2,256	2,271
Dona Ana	174,682	177,981	180,162	182,497	185,872	192,474	198,625
Eddy	51,658	51,728	51,813	51,877	51,909	52,167	52,449
Grant	31,002	31,191	31,232	31,300	31,337	31,511	31,733
Guadalupe	4,680	4,722	4,730	4,730	4,725	4,743	4,821
Harding	810	809	811	805	790	778	814
Hidalgo	5,932	5,919	5,913	5,903	5,918	5,966	5,960
Lea	55,511	55,587	55,644	55,783	56,657	57,006	58,175
Lincoln	19,411	19,783	19,871	20,333	20,904	21,898	22,523
Los Alamos	18,343	18,524	18,551	18,888	19,190	19,864	19,906
Luna	25,016	25,425	25,554	25,766	26,350	26,394	27,844
McKinley	74,798	75,638	76,247	76,792	77,125	78,013	79,781
Mora	5,180	5,211	5,233	5,248	5,380	5,440	5,472
Otero	62,298	62,598	62,609	62,643	63,190	63,994	66,027
Quay	10,155	10,220	10,217	10,174	10,109	10,106	10,208
Rio Arriba	41,190	41,652	41,769	41,911	42,118	43,024	43,530
Roosevelt	18,018	18,252	18,076	18,293	18,429	18,771	18,858
Sandoval	89,908	92,990	96,161	99,231	102,862	106,165	111,493
San Juan	113,801	116,075	119,690	122,019	124,808	126,008	127,618
San Miguel	30,126	30,337	30,497	30,561	30,606	30,719	30,817
Santa Fe	129,292	132,462	134,645	137,358	139,760	143,306	147,409
Sierra	13,270	13,585	13,638	13,652	13,647	13,657	13,726
Socorro	18,078	18,276	18,321	18,362	18,389	18,513	18,656
Taos	29,979	30,382	30,870	31,301	31,556	31,931	32,127
Torrance	16,911	17,307	17,362	17,471	17,692	18,282	18,302
Union	4,174	4,179	4,175	4,240	4,210	4,315	4,470
Valencia	66,152	67,838	68,523	69,152	69,804	71,459	71,888

Source: UNM, Bureau of Business and Economic Research; Census 2000 data from U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

NM Population Estimates... (cont. from page 1)

method may explain the large gap between their estimates and those produced by BBER-PEP, but it also raises questions about the validity of their method for estimating the New Mexico population.

Table 1 (on page 1) presents an alternative set of estimates based on a conservative housing unit-based procedure and the Census Bureau's own published data on New Mexico housing stock. It focuses upon state-level differences, but the reader should be aware that county-by-county differences are also present between CB-PEP and BBER-PEP estimates (see Table 2 above, which presents the recently-released 2006 BBER-PEP county and state estimates for July 1, 2006). The first row of estimates in Table 1 represent a hypothetical housing unit-based estimate using 2000-2006 housing stock estimates from CB-PEP and Census 2000 values for housing occupancy rates (OR) and persons-per-household (PPH). This method is conservative because it holds the OR and PPH values constant, but CB-PEP does exactly that when producing the sub-county estimates. The second row presents the current CB-PEP state population estimates produced using the administrative records approach and the third row

presents the BBER-PEP 2001-2006 state population estimates based on its own estimates of the New Mexico housing stock and Census 2000 values for OR and PPH. The remaining rows contrast each of the estimates in terms of absolute and percent differences. Figure 1 on page 7 reviews the results graphically. It is clear that the CB-PEP estimates would be substantially higher if they were using a housing unit-based approach. Their estimates would be quite similar across the 2001 to 2006 period to those produced by BBER-PEP (again, the only difference between the estimates is the housing-unit stock) and substantially higher than the current estimates (CB-AR in the table).

The results of this thought-experiment suggest that the CB-PEP estimates might be improved by considering the housing unit-based method for producing county and state estimates. CB-PEP, however, might defend the use of the administrative records approach based upon the insensitivity of the housing unit approach indicated here to intercensal changes in OR and PPH. The method is insensitive, again, because 2000 values of OR and PPH are held constant.

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U.S. ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Current		% Chg. Year Ago	Previous Mo./Qtr. Data
	Mo./Qtr.	Data		
Consumer Price Index (1982-84=100)				
All Urban Consumers				
All items	Jun 07	208.4	2.7	207.9
Food and Beverages	Jun 07	202.9	4.0	202.2
Housing	Jun 07	210.6	3.4	208.9
Apparel	Jun 07	117.2	-1.4	121.5
Transportation	Jun 07	189.1	0.9	190.0
Medical Care	Jun 07	349.5	4.0	349.1
Other Goods and Services	Jun 07	333.4	3.7	332.8
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers				
All Items	Jun 07	203.9	2.7	203.7
Gross domestic product ¹ (\$Bil. constant)	2Q 07	\$11,507.9	1.8	\$11,412.6
Prime interest rate ² (% per annum)	Jun 07	8.25	-	8.25
Mortgage interest rate ³ (% per annum)	Jun 07	6.54	-	6.22
3 month treasury bill ⁴ (% per annum)	Jun 07	4.63	-	4.77
Industrial production ⁵ (2002=100)	Jun 07	113.4	1.3	112.8
Manufacturers new orders ⁵ (\$Bil.)	Jun 07	\$419.5	-0.7	\$416.9

Note: Selected data items subject to revision.

1 2000 dollars at seasonally adjusted annual rates.

2 Closing rate for month.

3 Effective rate (in the primary market) on conventional mortgages reflecting fees and charges as well as contract rate and assumed, on the average, repayment at end of 10 years.

4 Rate on new issues within period; bank discount basis.

5 Monthly data seasonally adjusted.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, consumer price index data; U.S. Council of Economic Advisors, *Economic Indicators*, all other data.

	New Mexico				United States		
	Current Mo./Qtr.	Current Mo./Qtr. Data	% Chg. Year Ago	Previous Mo./Qtr. Data	Current Mo./Qtr. Data	% Chg. Year Ago	Previous Mo./Qtr. Data
Employment ^p (000)	Jun 07	911.3	1.5	908.7	146,958	1.2	145,864
Unemployment rate ^p (%)	Jun 07	3.8	-	3.6	4.7	-	4.3
Nonagricultural employment (000)	Jun 07	850.7	1.6	849.1	139,161	1.5	138,655
Personal income ¹ (\$Mil.)	1Q 07	\$60,031	5.7	\$59,184	\$11,315,543	5.8	\$11,071,307
Housing units permitted							
Single	Jun 07	1,045	-13.1	933	96,083	-31.0	105,295
Multi	Jun 07	33	-23.3	231	35,825	-20.3	39,145

p Preliminary.

1 Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

Note: Selected data items subject to revision.

Sources: New Mexico Dept. of Workforce Solutions and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment and unemployment data; U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, income data; U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census and individual permit-issuing agencies, construction data.

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NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Current Mo./Qtr.	Current Data	%Chg. From a Year Ago	12-Mo./4-Qtr. Averages	
				Current	%Chg. From Previous ¹
1. GENERAL					
Civilian labor force ² (000s)	Jun 07	947.6	0.3	938.2	1.4
Employment (000s)	Jun 07	911.3	1.5	902.4	2.4
Unemployment (000s)	Jun 07	36.4	-22.7	35.7	-18.9
Unemployment rate (%)	Jun 07	3.8	-	3.8	-
Weekly new unemployment insurance claims	Jun 07	1,143	32.8	1,054	12.3
Nonagricultural wage & salary employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	850.7	1.6	840.8	2.4
All industries average weekly wages (\$) ** ⁴	1Q 07	\$685	-	-	-
Personal income ⁵ (\$ mil.)	1Q 07	\$60,031	5.7	\$58,757	7.3
2. AGRICULTURE					
Receipts for all agricultural commodities (\$ mil.)	May 07	\$177.3	-5.9	\$206.7	-3.1
Livestock (\$ mil.)	May 07	\$135.1	-7.3	\$14,583.0	9,039.0
Crops (\$ mil.)	May 07	\$42.2	-1.0	\$6,454.4	12,174.1
Milk production (mil. lbs.)	Jun 07	608	-9.9	612	-1.6
Milk cows (000s head)	Jun 07	335	-6.9	354	3.5
Milk per cow (lbs. per head)	Jun 07	1,815	-3.2	1,730	-4.8
3. NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING					
Total employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	19.9	5.9	19.5	8.6
Mining average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$1,178	-0.8	\$1,172	7.3
Coal production (000 short tons)	Jun 07	1,998	1.8	2,083	-10.0
Oil sales (\$ mil.)	Jun 07	\$265.8	-19.4	\$289.5	-3.9
Oil volume of production (mil. bbls.)	Jun 07	4.3	-13.6	4.8	-4.2
Gas sales (\$ mil.)	Jun 07	\$882.0	22.5	\$810.0	-15.3
Gas volume of production (bil. cf.)	Jun 07	118.5	-6.3	123.7	-2.8
4. CONSTRUCTION					
Total employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	61.1	0.2	59.2	2.9
Average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$660	2.8	\$675	3.9
Residential units permitted	Jun 07	1,078	-13.4	993	-22.8
Residential building permit value (\$ mil.)	Jun 07	\$203.0	-14.6	\$172.8	-25.5
Nonresidential const. contract value (\$ mil.)	Jun 07	\$283.6	-301.5	\$266.7	207.3
Nonbuilding const. contract value (\$ mil.)	Jun 07	\$51.1	39.2	\$70.7	5.8
5. MANUFACTURING					
Total employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	37.6	0.5	38.0	3.0
Average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$887	0.7	\$849	3.5
6. WHOLESALE TRADE					
Total employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	24.1	1.3	23.8	3.5
Average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$876	5.2	\$857	5.7
7. RETAIL TRADE					
Total employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	95.3	1.2	94.8	0.8
Average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$468	3.3	\$463	2.9
Taxable gross receipts (\$ mil.)	2Q 07	\$3,901.9	12.9	\$3,645.9	6.2
8. TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING & UTILITIES					
Total employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	24.2	2.5	24.3	2.6
Transp. & warehousing average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$725	4.3	\$733	4.8
Utilities average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$1,373	8.9	\$1,207	2.6

* Los Alamos National Security, LLC, (a consortium of private and public organizations) replaced the Univ. of Cal. as the management and operating contractor at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Because of this change in Lab management, LANL employment, beginning in June 2006, is recorded in the professional and business services sector rather than state government. Employment data prior to June 2006 are not comparable with current data for the government, professional and business services, private services providing, and total private sectors. Inconsistent data are not shown and percent changes are not calculated. State government wages were not affected because LANL was previously not in the wage data base. **na** Not available. **1** For example, in the report that contains June 2007 figures this would be the percent change from the average of July 2005 to June 2006 to the average of July 2006 to June 2007. For quarterly data, the average column represents and average of four quarters. **2** Number of employed and unemployed persons by place of residence. **3** Number of jobs by place of work. **4** Wages represent gross pay, including commissions, bonuses and over time. **5** Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates. **6** Does not include insurance real estate agents working on commission. **7** Includes Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Placitas, Corrales, the East Mountains and Valencia County. **8** Includes Santa Fe City and Santa Fe County only. **9** Based on information from Santa Fe Assoc. of REALTORS® MLS for the period Apr. 2007 to Jun. 2007. This representation is based in whole or in part on data supplied by SFAR MLS who does not guarantee nor is in any way responsible for it's accuracy. Data maintained by SFAR MLS may not reflect all real estate activity in the market. **10** Commercial passenger traffic includes enplanements and deplanements. **11** Includes recurring and non-recurring revenues. **Note:** Selected data items subject to revision.

NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC INDICATORS (continued)

	Current Mo./Qtr.	Current Data	%Chg. From a Year Ago	12-Mo./4-Qtr. Averages	
				Current	%Chg. From Previous ¹
9. INFORMATION					
Total employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	17.3	-0.6	16.5	8.1
Average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$765	2.8	\$733	2.1
10. FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES					
Total employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	35.6	0.3	35.3	0.1
Finance & insurance average weekly wages (\$) ^{4, 6}	1Q 07	\$934	7.1	\$873	5.8
Real estate & rental & leasing avg. wkly. wages (\$) ^{4, 6}	1Q 07	\$598	5.1	\$592	5.2
Albuquerque Area ⁷ Median Sales Price:					
Existing Single-Family Detached (\$000s)	2Q 07	\$199.9	6.1	-	-
Existing Condo/Townhome Attached (\$000s)	2Q 07	\$150.0	8.7	-	-
Santa Fe City/County ⁸ Median Sales Price ⁹ :					
Existing Single-Family Detached (\$000s)	2Q 07	\$450.0	7.7	-	-
Existing Condo/Townhome Attached (\$000s)	2Q 07	\$308.6	10.7	-	-
11. PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES					
Total employment* ³ (000s)	Jun 07	108.9	1.0	-	-
Professional & technical serv. avg. wkly. wages (\$)* ^{4, 4}	1Q 07	\$1,205	-	-	-
Mgt. of cos. & enterprises avg. weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$1,075	14.0	\$968	3.3
Admin. & waste & remed. serv. avg. wkly. wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$545	4.6	\$538	3.6
12. EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES					
Total employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	108.3	2.7	109.4	2.7
Educational serv. emp. ³ (000s)	Jun 07	10.8	1.9	13.1	2.5
Health care & social assist. emp. ³ (000s)	Jun 07	97.5	2.7	96.3	2.8
Educational services average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$547	2.6	\$541	2.9
Health care & social assist. avg. weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$645	3.0	\$657	3.3
13. LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY					
Total employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	91.8	2.8	87.4	2.9
Arts, entertainment & recreation emp. ³ (000s)	Jun 07	9.4	4.4	8.4	3.3
Accommodation & food services emp. ³ (000s)	Jun 07	82.4	2.6	79.1	2.8
Arts, entertainment & recreation avg. wkly. wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$345	5.8	\$341	1.7
Accommodation & food serv. avg. weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$257	4.9	\$255	3.3
Eating & drinking place taxable gross receipts (\$ mil.)	2Q 07	\$640.4	6.0	\$582.9	5.7
Visits to state parks (000s)	Jun 07	630.1	26.0	342.4	-1.2
Visits to national parks/monuments (000s)	Jun 07	198.0	4.9	128.4	-8.3
Passenger traffic at Albuquerque airport ¹⁰ (000s)	Jun 07	631.5	5.3	540.8	-1.1
Lodgers tax receipts (\$000s)	4Q 06	\$9,570.0	10.5	\$8,729.4	3.9
Lodging occupancy rates (%)	Jun 07	71.4	-	63.5	-
14. OTHER SERVICES					
Total employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	31.8	1.0	29.5	1.1
Average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$486	5.0	\$478	4.2
15. GOVERNMENT					
Total employment* ^{3, 9} (000s)	Jun 07	194.8	1.6	-	-
Federal employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	31.4	0.0	30.5	0.4
State employment* ³ (000s)	Jun 07	55.7	1.5	-	-
State education employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	22.7	-0.4	26.9	-0.5
Local employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	107.7	2.1	105.8	2.4
Local education employment ³ (000s)	Jun 07	57.9	1.9	57.6	1.6
Federal gov. average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$1,215	7.2	\$1,157	5.4
State gov. average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$807	5.6	\$787	5.5
Local gov. average weekly wages (\$) ⁴	1Q 07	\$606	4.5	\$612	3.3
Total general fund revenues ¹¹ (\$ mil.)	May 07	\$498.9	-1.7	\$473.5	3.5
Recurring (\$ mil.)	May 07	\$496.9	-1.0	\$471.0	2.0
Nonrecurring (\$ mil.)	May 07	\$2.0	-64.7	\$2.5	159.8

Sources: NM Dept. of Workforce Solutions, Economic Research and Analysis, Sections 1, 3 through 15; U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Section 1; U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Section 2; NM Taxation and Revenue Dept., Section 3, 7, 13; U.S. Dept. of Energy, Energy Information Admin., Section 3; U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census and individual building permit-issuing agencies, Section 4; F. W. Dodge (a division of McGraw Hill, Inc.), Section 4; Albuquerque Metropolitan Board of Realtors, Section 10; Santa Fe Association of Realtors, Section 10; NM Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Dept., Park and Recreation Div., Section 13; U.S. National Park Service, Section 13; City of Albuquerque, Albuquerque International Support, Section 13; NM Dept. of Finance and Admin., Local Government Div., Section 13; Rocky Mountain Lodging Report, Section 13; NM Dept. of Finance and Admin., Section 15.

NM Population Estimates... (cont. from page 2)

Indeed, while PPH values appear very similar between 1990 and 2000 (2.74 persons in 1990 and 2.63 in 2000) and in other studies, the occupancy rates may fluctuate greatly during this period. An approximate difference of 1% in the occupancy rate (reducing it from 87% in 2000 to 86% in 2006) would make the housing unit-based estimate that relies on the Census Bureau's data equivalent to their administrative records-based estimate. This reduction would be plausible if housing unit construction is occurring at a faster rate than population growth. The rate of accumulation in the Census Bureau's estimates of housing stock is increasing at a slightly higher rate than that of their current population estimates (1.18% per year vs 1.02% per year), but if their total population estimates are down-biased from the true value then this discrepancy in the rates may not be real. The answer to the question of whether occupancy rates during the intercensal period have decreased should be validated from an independent source. Currently, BBER-PEP is evaluating Postal Service data on vacancy rates published through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development⁴. These data suggest that occupancy rates are higher in 2007 than those recorded in the 2000 Census. Although preliminary, these results do not suggest the lower occupancy rates required in order for CB-PEP's administrative records-

4 <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/usps.html>.

based population estimates to be more accurate in light of their own data on housing stock in the state.

There are also qualitative reasons to believe that a housing unit-based procedure produces better estimates for the state as well. For example, we should expect a housing unit-based procedure to be sensitive to the presence of undocumented immigrants, whose population may be quite large in New Mexico. Undocumented immigrants are difficult to track using administrative records. While no undocumented immigrant must necessarily file a tax-return, they must certainly find a place to live. Because of this, changes in housing stock might be a superior evaluation of the true presence of this population and of the state population as a whole. Both CB-PEP and BBER-PEP are well aware of the presence of large *colonias* throughout the southern part of the state, but little has been done about documenting the magnitude of their presence. *Colonias* are communities that spring up outside of the permitting process and are, therefore, extremely difficult to track and consider in producing either decennial census counts or intercensal estimates. Even a housing unit-based approach is likely to underestimate these groups.

Substantial progress has been made by BBER-PEP in fulfilling its state mandate to reduce Census Bureau undercounting of the New Mexico population. Currently, the housing stock estimate from BBER-PEP (used in producing the alternative estimates presented

ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR CITIES AND METRO AREAS

Estimated Civilian Labor Force and Employment

	New Mexico		Albuquerque MSA ¹		Farmington MSA ²		Las Cruces MSA ³		Santa Fe MSA ⁴	
	% Chg.		% Chg.		% Chg.		% Chg.		% Chg.	
	June 2007	Year Ago	June 2007	Year Ago	June 2007	Year Ago	June 2007	Year Ago	June 2007	Year Ago
Total Civilian Labor Force⁵	947,622	0.3	409,370	0.6	56,978	-0.5	86,618	0.2	78,648	1.0
Employment	911,271	1.5	394,124	1.6	54,912	1.3	83,005	1.6	76,236	2.0
Unemployment	36,351	-22.7	15,246	-20.5	2,066	-32.5	3,613	-24.0	2,412	-23.1
Unemployment rate (%)	3.8	-	3.7	-	3.6	-	4.2	-	3.1	-
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment⁵	850,700	1.6	399,400	1.4	52,300	0.8	67,000	1.2	65,100	2.0
Private Sector	655,900	1.6	320,300	1.4	40,900	1.5	47,300	1.7	48,500	2.8
<i>Goods Producing</i>	118,600	1.2	55,800	-0.7	12,100	2.5	8,400	1.2	6,200	1.6
<i>Services Providing</i>	537,300	1.6	264,500	1.8	28,800	1.1	38,900	1.8	42,300	2.9
Natural Resources, Mining & Const.	81,000	1.5	31,700	-1.2	*	-	5,200	2.0	5,100	4.1
Natural Resource & Mining	19,900	5.9	#	-	*	-	#	-	#	-
Construction	61,100	0.2	#	-	*	-	#	-	#	-
Manufacturing	37,600	0.5	24,100	0.0	*	-	3,200	0.0	1,100	-8.3
Wholesale Trade	24,100	1.3	13,400	0.0	*	-	1,400	0.0	1,200	0.0
Retail Trade	95,300	1.2	44,100	1.8	*	-	7,300	0.0	8,900	2.3
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	24,200	2.5	10,400	1.0	*	-	1,700	6.3	700	0.0
Information	17,300	-0.6	10,100	2.0	*	-	1,200	-7.7	1,400	7.7
Financial Activities	35,600	0.3	19,400	-1.0	*	-	2,400	0.0	3,300	6.5
Professional & Business Services	108,900	1.0	64,700	1.4	*	-	5,700	0.0	5,300	1.9
Educational & Health Services	108,300	2.7	48,600	2.3	*	-	10,600	3.9	8,300	3.8
Leisure & Hospitality	91,800	2.8	41,100	4.1	*	-	7,100	4.4	9,600	2.1
Other Services	31,800	1.0	12,700	1.6	*	-	1,500	0.0	3,600	2.9
Government	194,800	1.6	79,100	1.7	11,400	-1.7	19,700	0.0	16,600	0.0
Federal	31,400	0.0	14,800	0.0	1,500	-6.3	3,600	-2.7	1,100	-8.3
State	55,700	1.5	23,700	1.3	500	0.0	7,200	0.0	8,300	1.2
Local	107,700	2.1	40,600	2.5	9,400	-1.1	8,900	1.1	7,200	0.0

Data are suppressed. Included in "Natural Resources, Mining & Construction" super sector. * Data are suppressed. Included in total. 1 Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia counties. 2 San Juan County. 3 Dona Ana County. 4 Santa Fe County. 5 Civilian labor force data are by place of residence and include self-employed persons and agricultural workers. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment data are by place of work.

Note: Data have been revised by NMDOL and are subject to future revisions. **Source:** New Mexico Dept. of Workforce Solutions, Economic Research and Analysis.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR CITIES AND METRO AREAS (continued)

New Mexico Construction^{1, P} Selected Cities

	Number of Building Units or Permits ²					Value of Building Permits (\$000)				
	June 2007	June 2006	Cumulative Total			June 2007	June 2006	Cumulative Total		
			June 2007	June 2006	% Chg.			June 2007	June 2006	% Chg.
New Residential³										
Alamogordo	12	13	101	140	-27.9	\$3,534	\$3,368	\$32,515	\$30,876	5.3
Albuquerque	377	358	1,739	2,429	-28.4	65,383	64,005	289,552	401,124	-27.8
Single Family	373	332	1,321	2,212	-40.3	64,883	57,008	247,601	379,863	-34.8
Multi Family	4	26	418	217	92.6	500	6,997	41,951	21,261	97.3
Carlsbad	4	8	37	31	19.4	659	1,083	6,037	4,487	34.5
Clovis	18	13	98	100	-2.0	3,035	2,978	16,943	20,948	-19.1
Farmington	17	25	117	141	-17.0	3,371	3,919	18,751	21,336	-12.1
Hobbs	13	5	62	31	100.0	2,508	1,012	11,127	6,077	83.1
Las Cruces	101	145	682	1,095	-37.7	13,876	20,123	95,701	138,779	-31.0
Los Alamos	1	8	13	25	-48.0	273	2,535	6,132	8,368	-26.7
Rio Rancho	107	191	639	1,439	-55.6	21,626	43,788	129,567	304,116	-57.4
Roswell	9	15	146	68	114.7	1,145	2,188	15,067	13,936	8.1
Ruidoso	55	16	113	89	27.0	9,888	2,896	25,119	16,150	55.5
Santa Fe	57	63	244	281	-13.2	9,340	12,049	45,364	52,200	-13.1
New Nonresidential										
Alamogordo	3	10	20	35	-42.9	\$238	\$196	\$14,311	\$5,437	163.2
Albuquerque	7	18	66	70	-5.7	13,080	13,934	105,631	100,807	4.8
Carlsbad	1	0	7	2	250.0	250	0	6,337	510	1,142.6
Clovis	1	0	14	9	55.6	385	0	3,945	6,978	-43.5
Farmington	1	3	23	16	43.8	420	1,018	9,728	12,693	-23.4
Hobbs	3	3	16	14	14.3	1,393	1,283	31,034	3,931	689.5
Las Cruces	3	3	21	21	0.0	3,000	5,984	19,143	15,391	24.4
Los Alamos	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-
Rio Rancho	2	4	28	20	40.0	818	3,473	15,548	16,965	-8.4
Roswell	3	5	23	29	-20.7	12	22	1,399	273	413.1
Ruidoso	0	1	5	2	150.0	0	31	891	396	125.1
Santa Fe	7	3	18	28	-35.7	4,734	655	17,187	36,815	-53.3

N Not available. **1** Data refer only to permits authorized for private construction projects. Public buildings are excluded.
2 Residential data shows the number of permitted units while nonresidential data show the number of permits. **3** Residential data includes both single and multi-family units. In the case of Albuquerque single and multi-family units are also shown separately.
Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce Bureau of the Census and local permit-issuing agencies.

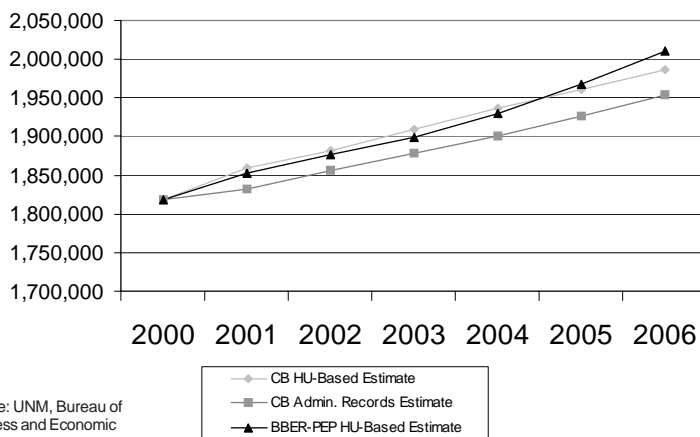
in Table 2) is approximately 7,000 units higher than the CB-PEP estimate. BBER-PEP incorporates local adjustment of PPH and OR values based on expert opinion and input, but even using Census 2000 OR and PPH rates and the BBER-PEP housing stock estimates would raise the hypothetical Census Bureau estimates for 2006 by over 16,000 persons. With a remaining difference

between the hypothetical Census Bureau estimates and those produced by BBER-PEP of only some 13,000 persons across the state, the two sets of estimates would be converging rather than diverging. Much of this divergence may be attributed to the difference in the methods employed by CB-PEP and not to data about the state's population that both groups now possess.

In 2004, the prospect of gaining acceptance of the BBER-PEP estimates as official was very far away. As further data is gleaned to improve our knowledge of the true housing stock, group quarters population, and undocumented immigrant presence in the state, it is increasingly apparent that the housing unit-based method deserves greater consideration by the CB-PEP. Currently, CB-PEP is evaluating the possibility of using a housing unit-based procedure in producing its county estimates nationwide. With this newfound acceptance of the relevance of this method, BBER-PEP stands poised to push for acceptance of their estimates as official based on their corrected databases and extensive historical experience in using the housing unit-based estimation procedure. With this acceptance, the possibility of eliminating Census Bureau undercounting of the New Mexico population, and consequent losses in Federal funding, is becoming a realistic possibility.

Jack Baker, Research Scientist

Figure 1
Census Bureau and BBER-PEP Estimates Comparison of Housing Unit Based Estimates vs. Administrative Records: 2000-2006



Source: UNM, Bureau of Business and Economic Research and U.S. Census Bureau.



2007 New Mexico Data Users Conference Slated for November 8th



The Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at the University of New Mexico is presenting the Ninth Annual New Mexico Data Users Conference on November 8th at the University of New Mexico (UNM) Continuing Education Conference Center in Albuquerque.

Speakers are from a variety of organizations—BBER; the U.S. Census Bureau and the Mid-Region Council of Governments.

The conference will feature a plenary session, nine breakout sessions and a luncheon presentation. Included are various topics related to Census Bureau databases and programs -- Census 2010, the American Community Survey, the American FactFinder web site and the DataFerret Internet tool. The conference will also have sessions that address the analysis and impact of the Santa Fe living wage, key planning and implementation steps of the New Mexico Rail Runner Express, geospatial strategies for dealing with small-area demographic projections, racial and ethnic diversity in New Mexico, trade area analysis of small towns in the state, annual data for sub-state areas and an update of BBER's population estimates program. Larry Waldman from BBER will be the luncheon speaker, presenting a review of New Mexico's recent economic performance and a short-term economic outlook.

In general, the conference will provide attendees with background information about complex socioeconomic databases and a sense of how these data are applied in practical situations. Over the years, the Data Users Conference has become a valued learning experience for businesses, government agencies, service organizations, information providers, and students.

Plan to attend on Thursday, November 8, 2007, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sessions begin in Ballroom C at the UNM Continuing Education Conference Center, 1634 University Blvd. NE. Ample and free parking is available at the Center.

Registration is \$50 per person and includes all conference materials, continental breakfast, beverage breaks and a luncheon buffet. For more information and a registration form go to BBER's web site at www.unm.edu/~bber/conference.htm, or call Karma Shore at 277-8300 or Kevin Kargacin at 277-3038.



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