

Employment and industry

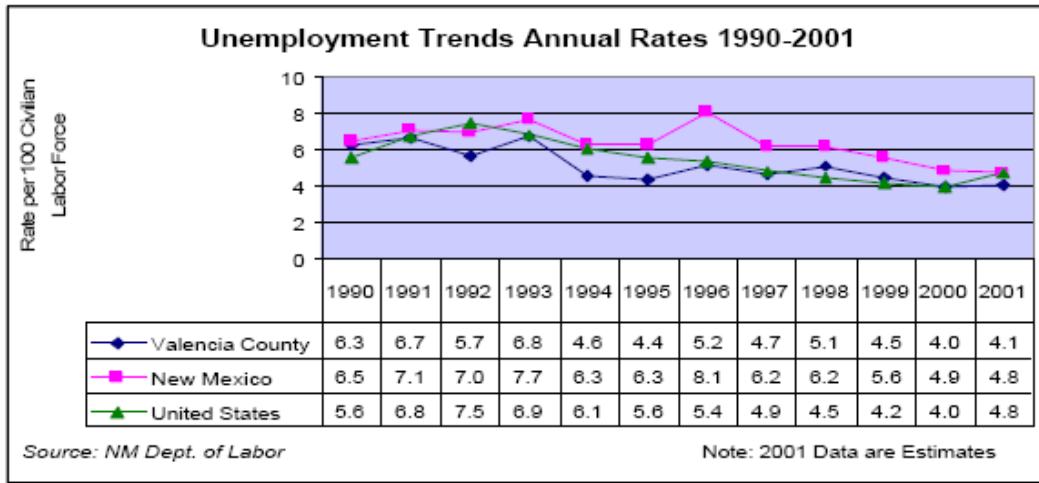
According to the New Mexico Economic Development Department, the total civilian labor force residing in Valencia County in 2005 was 31,462, of which 29,768 were employed and 1,694 were unemployed. The county unemployment rate at that time was 5.4% which is an increase from 4.1% in 2001.

The total number of employees working in Valencia County in 2006 was 15,346. The largest major industry sector was Health Care and Social Assistance with 20% of total employment, followed by Educational Services with 15%, Retail Trade with 14.3%, Accommodation and Food Services with 9.2%, Construction with 8.5%, and Transportation and Warehousing with 7.2%. Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting accounted for 1.3% of those employed in the county.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, New Mexico Department of Labor Analysis and Economic Research <http://laser.state.nm.us>

Income and Income Inequality

The average weekly wage for Valencia County employees in 2006 was \$471, which translates to \$11.78 per hour or \$24,492 per year. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the per capita income in the county in 2005 was \$18,711 and the average family income was \$53,045. Full-time male workers earned almost \$10,000 per year more than full-time female workers.



2005 income for families in Valencia County

Income in Dollars	<10,000	10,000-14,999	15,000-24,999	25,000-34,999	35,000-49,999	50,000-74,999	75,000-99,999	100,000-149,999	150,000—199,999	>200,000
Percent of Families	9.6	6.9	11.1	11.0	16.4	25.3	8.3	8.6	1.8	0.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Poverty

The U.S. Census Bureau 2005 American Community Survey ranks New Mexico 4th in the nation for poverty rates for children under 18 years with 26.0% living in poverty, topped only by the District of Columbia (32.2%), Mississippi (30.9%), and Louisiana (28.4%). In Valencia County this rate is 37.1%.

Percentage of Valencia County families and persons whose income in 2005 was below the poverty level

Valencia Community Partnership County Health Profile 2007

All families	17.8%
With related children under 18 years	28.2%
With related children under 5 years only	52.3%
Married couple families	14.0%
With related children under 18 years	21.9%
With related children under 5 years only	47.5%
Families with female householder, no husband present	35.7%
With related children under 18 years	51.2%
With related children under 5 years only	88.3%
All people	24.0%
Under 18 years	37.1%
18 years and over	19.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2005 American Community Survey

“The cycle of poverty is perpetuated in labor markets. Children raised in poverty enter the workforce with less education, fewer skills and often lacking the ability to make plans, anticipate consequences and communicate effectively (Arloc, 1997). Employers balance the cost of reduced work force productivity with lower wages, increasing the prevalence of poverty despite work and decreasing the incentive for some to work at all.” (New Mexico Kids Count Data Book 2001, p. 3)

AVERAGE MONTHLY TANF AND FOOD STAMPS CASES FISCAL YEAR 2003 (7/02 - 6/03)				
Supplement	Valencia Co.		New Mexico	
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*
TANF	838	1.2	16,382	0.9
Food Stamps	3,471	5.1	72,411	3.9

*Percent of county's estimated 2002 population.

NOTE: Starting July 1, 1999, changes were made in the methodology for counting TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) caseloads. Caution should be used when comparing data to previous fiscal years.

SOURCE: NM Human Services Department, Income Support Division.

