

Introduction to Santa Fe County



LOCATION AND CLIMATE

Santa Fe County is located in north-central New Mexico. The City of Santa Fe, in the center of the County is 60 miles northeast of Albuquerque, at an altitude of 7,000 ft. The climate includes 284 sunny days a year. The average high temperature in July is 86 degrees Fahrenheit and the average low temperature in January is 18 degrees Fahrenheit. The average annual rainfall is 14.4 inches and the average annual snowfall is 17.3 inches in the city.

Thirteen years before Plymouth Colony was settled by the Mayflower Pilgrims, Santa Fe, New Mexico was established with a small cluster of European type dwellings. It would soon become the seat of power for the Spanish Empire in the northern Rio Grande area. Santa Fe is the oldest capital city in North America and the oldest European community west of the Mississippi.

SCHOOLS

In and around the city, the Santa Fe Public Schools includes 22 elementary schools, 4 middle schools and 5 high schools and includes several charter schools. The Santa Fe Community College is also a major educational institution providing degrees and certification programs. There are currently approximately 25 colleges and vocational schools, including the College of Santa Fe, St. John's College, Institute of American Indian Arts College, and the University of Phoenix in Santa Fe. In addition, Santa Fe is home to 80 private schools ranging from pre-school through 12th grade,

HOUSING

According to the 2000 Census, Santa Fe County had 57,701 housing units. Of these units, 52,482 were occupied and 35,985 were owner-occupied. Housing units in the County increased by 1,624 units, a 3.4% annual growth rate between 1990 and 2000. The homeowner vacancy rate for the County in 2000 was 1.5% and the rental vacancy rate was 4.5%.

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Santa Fe is above the national average. The cost of living index measures local prices against a national average in several categories, including food, housing, utilities, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services. The cost of living index for Santa Fe was 111.6 in 2004. Wages are around the national average, but above the average for the State of New Mexico. Per capita income in Santa Fe County was \$32,378 in 2003, ranking second in the state. The average wage per job in Santa Fe County was \$30,480 in 2003. The median household income was \$36,946 in 2001. The median price for a home for Santa Fe County was \$345,243.

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GOVERNMENT AND TAXES

Santa Fe County includes the municipalities of the City of Santa Fe, Edgewood, and portions of Espanola. Gross Receipt tax rates as of June 30, 2006 for these areas are:

Santa Fe County	6.3125%
City of Santa Fe	7.6250%
Edgewood	6.6875%
Espanola	7.6250%

Santa Fe County also includes six Indian pueblos which may have their own gross receipts tax rates. Pueblos in Santa Fe County include Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Nambe, Cochiti, and portions of Tesuque and Santa Clara.

Santa Fe County operates under the commissioner/manager form of government and is governed by an elected five-member Board of County Commissioners with an appointed County Manager. The number of positions authorized for Fiscal Year 2007 is approximately 864. The employees in these positions are essential in providing the following services: sheriff, corrections and fire protection, collection of property taxes, parks and recreation, planning and zoning, certain health and social services, general administrative services, low income housing assistance, road improvements and maintenance, landfill and transfer-station activities, and water and wastewater utilities.

The Commission and its administrative leadership strive to provide a responsive, quality government. The input of County citizens is instrumental in improving County government and addressing the needs of the community. Citizen input is sought through committees, town hall meetings, study sessions, public hearings, symposiums, letters and focus groups. Over twenty citizen advisory boards and committees contribute to the framing of important issues that go before the Commission.

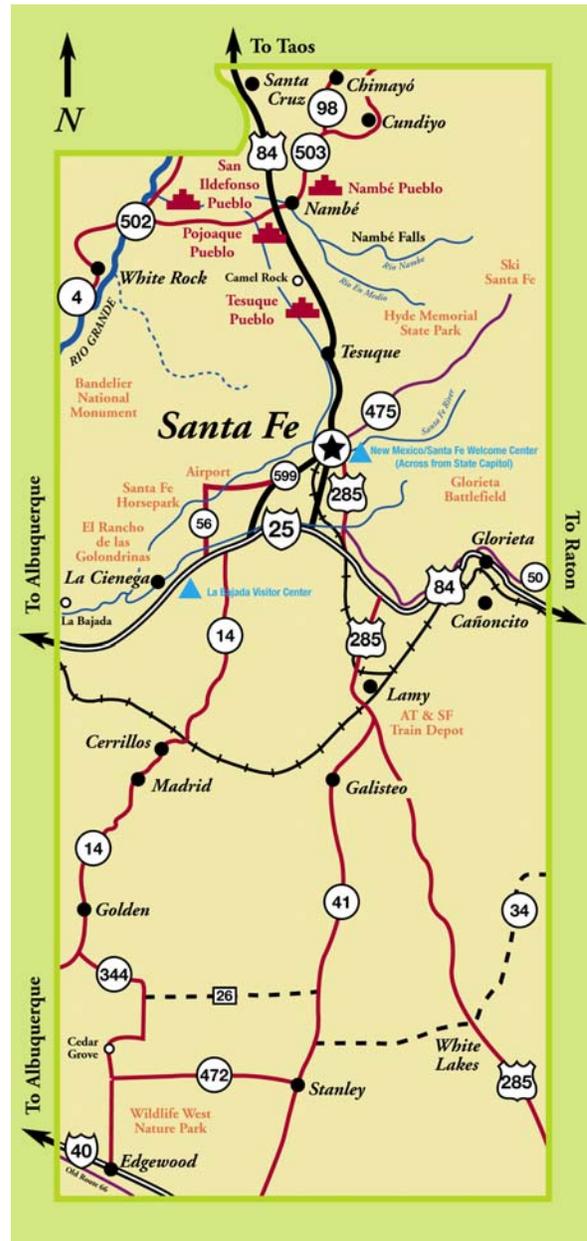
TRANSPORTATION

The Santa Fe Municipal Airport serves commercial airlines, corporate jets, and small private planes. The Albuquerque International Sunport is located about 1.5 hours south of Santa Fe.

Federal and state highways also give the County access to all parts of the state.

The North Central Regional Transit District (RTD) was established in 2004 to improve regional public transportation.

Santa Fe County is also participating in the development of the Santa Fe Commuter Rail project envisioned to provide transportation between Belen, Albuquerque, Bernalillo, and Santa Fe.

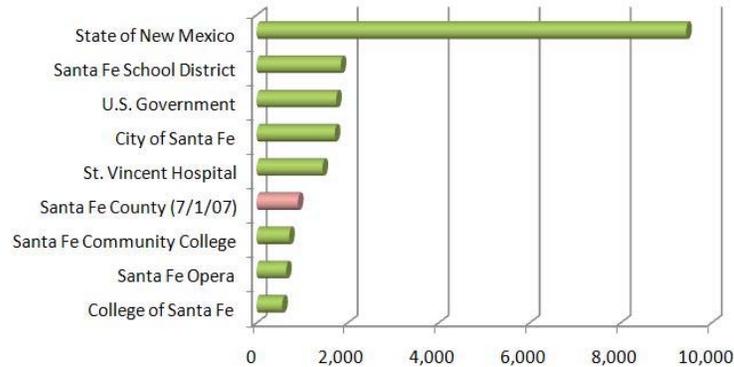


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EMPLOYMENT

The main employers in and around the city of Santa Fe are:



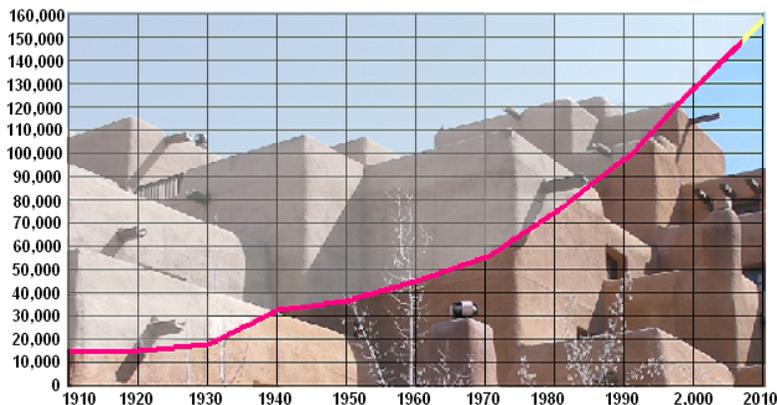
HEALTH CARE AND HOSPITALS

Santa Fe is serviced by the St. Vincent Regional Medical Center, established in 1865. St. Vincent Hospital is New Mexico's oldest hospital and has been caring for the community and northern New Mexico for 140 years. It is the largest hospital facility north of Albuquerque and south of Pueblo, Colorado, and a major regional medical center for a 19,000 square mile area, with 268 licensed beds, and 50 staff physicians representing 22 medical specialties. St. Vincent hospital treats more than 56,000 emergency/first care patients annually, and performs more than 5,500 outpatient surgeries annually.

RECREATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Santa Fe County is rich in history and traditions. Los Ranchos de Los Golondrinas is a living history museum located in La Cienega. The County is also home to several National Scenic Byways such as the Santa Fe National Forest Scenic Byway, the Turquoise Trail, and the international El Camino Real Trail, ghost towns, and artist communities such as Madrid and Los Cerrillos. The Arts and Culture industries in Santa Fe County rank among the top contributors to economic development in New Mexico.

General Obligation Bonds totaling \$20 million provide for open space and trails in the County. To date, the County has acquired over 19 properties and 4,600 acres of open space land. These lands are combined with approximately 19 parks and recreation properties in the County. In addition there are over 50 miles of trails in Santa Fe County, including the Santa Fe Rail Trail, the Dale Ball Trail System, and the Spur Trail and District Trails.

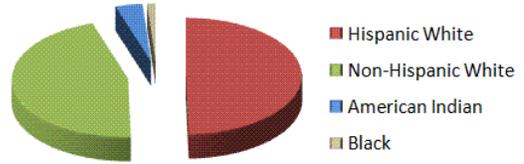
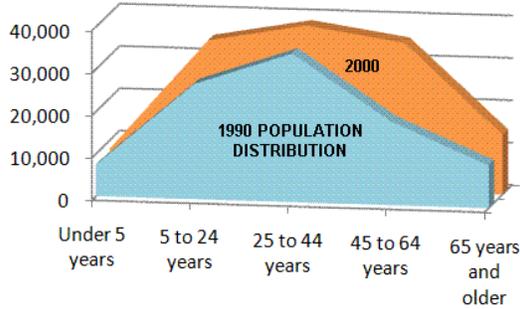


Santa Fe County Population, 1910-2010

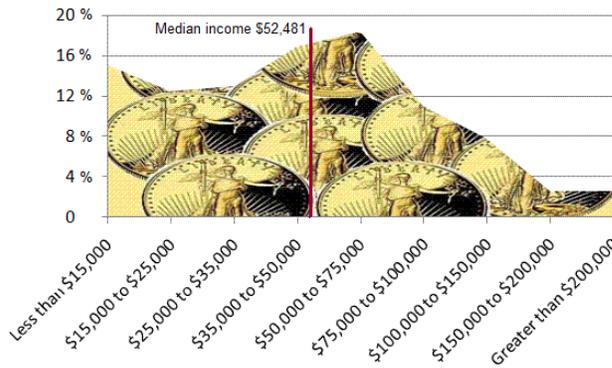
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Population and Diversity (2000 U.S. Census)



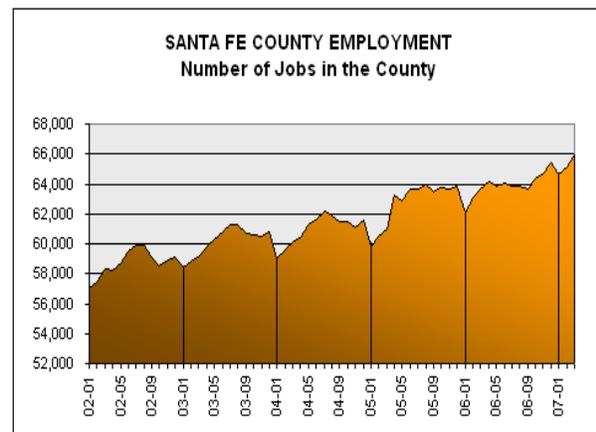
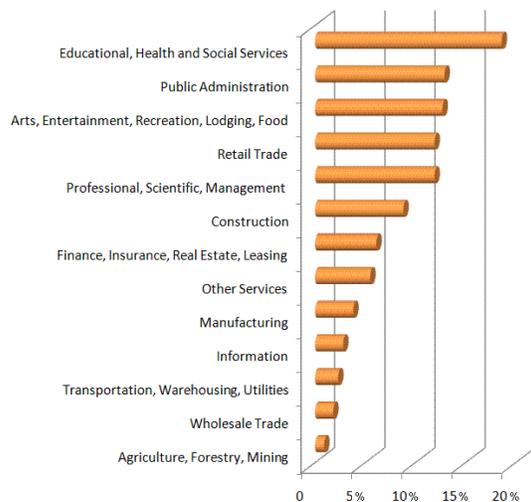
1999 Household Income (2000 U.S. Census)



84.5% of the population are High School graduates

36.9% have college degrees

Employment by Industry (2000 U.S. Census)



Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

Major products include furniture, jewelry, publishing, technology transfer, clothing, and accessories. Tourism and recreation are major industries.

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Real Estate – Home Value (2000 U.S. Census)



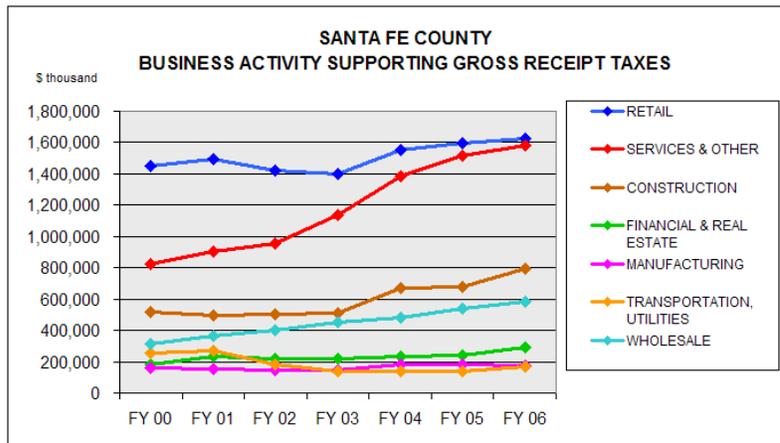
* Home values have appreciated 50% since 2,000

There were 61,051 housing units in Santa Fe County in 2005. The home-ownership rate in 2000 was 68.6%. 53.4% lived in the same house in 2000 as in 1995.

Average Weekly Salary by County March 2007

1	Los Alamos	1383
2	Sandoval	769
3	Lea	754
4	Eddy	737
5	San Juan	731
6	Harding	714
7	Bernalillo	698
8	Santa Fe	665
9	Grant	545
10	Dona Ana	513
11	Chaves	511
12	Socorro	511
13	Rio Arriba	508
14	McKinley	507
15	Hidalgo	501
16	Colfax	485
17	Curry	485
18	Torrance	481
19	Lincoln	468
20	Cibola	465
21	Otero	465
22	Mora	463
23	Taos	460
24	Union	455
25	Valencia	448
26	Luna	443
27	De Baca	419
28	San Miguel	413
29	Guadalupe	411
30	Roosevelt	411
31	Sierra	398
32	Quay	397
33	Catron	310

Business Activity Supporting Gross Receipt Taxes

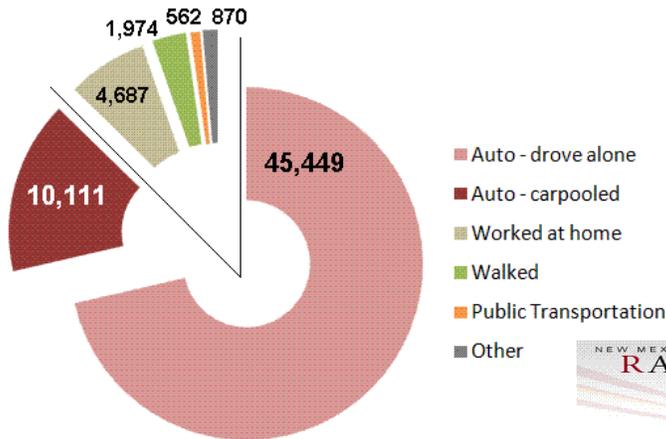


Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, First Quarter 2007. New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

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Commuting to Work (2000 U.S. Census)



Mean commute time is 22 minutes. More than 10,000 cars commute 60 miles each way from Albuquerque to work in Santa Fe.



To address the environmental issues of long-distance commuting, the State of New Mexico currently operates an Albuquerque, Rio-Rancho to Santa Fe, and Los Alamos park-and-ride bus system at inexpensive rates. The New Mexico Rail Runner system which currently runs from Belen to Albuquerque and Bernalillo is being extended to Santa Fe to provide an alternative to car-commuting.

County Government

