

# Introduction to Santa Fe County



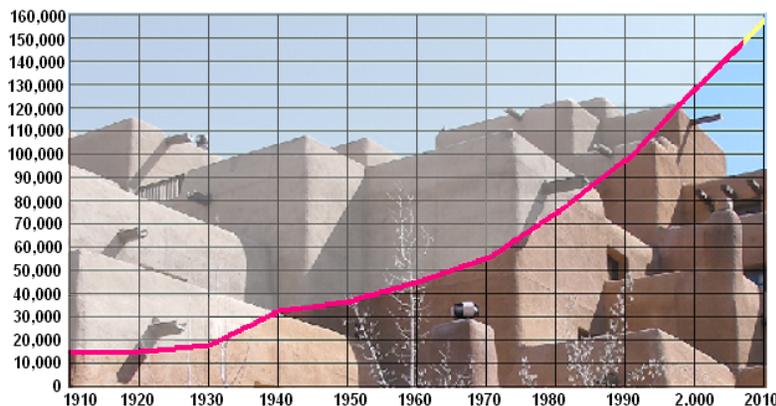
## LOCATION AND CLIMATE

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. Santa Fe County has a total area of 1,911 square miles (twice as large as the state of Rhode Island and as large as Delaware). Approximately 1,909 square miles of it is land and 2 square miles of it is water. The highest point in the County is the summit of Santa Fe Baldy (12,622 ft.).

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.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

As of the US Census American Community Survey of 2005, there were 137,758 people, 52,482 households, and 32,801 families residing in Santa Fe County. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest-growing county in New Mexico behind Sandoval and San Juan. It is also the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest county, behind Bernalillo and Dona Ana. The population density was 68 people per square mile. There were 57,701 housing units at an average density of 30 units per square mile. (Point of reference - City of Santa Fe: population density is 1,666.1 people per square mile and 30,533 housing units at an average density of 817.8/sq. mi.)



Santa Fe County Population, 1910-2010

# Introduction to Santa Fe County



## 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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

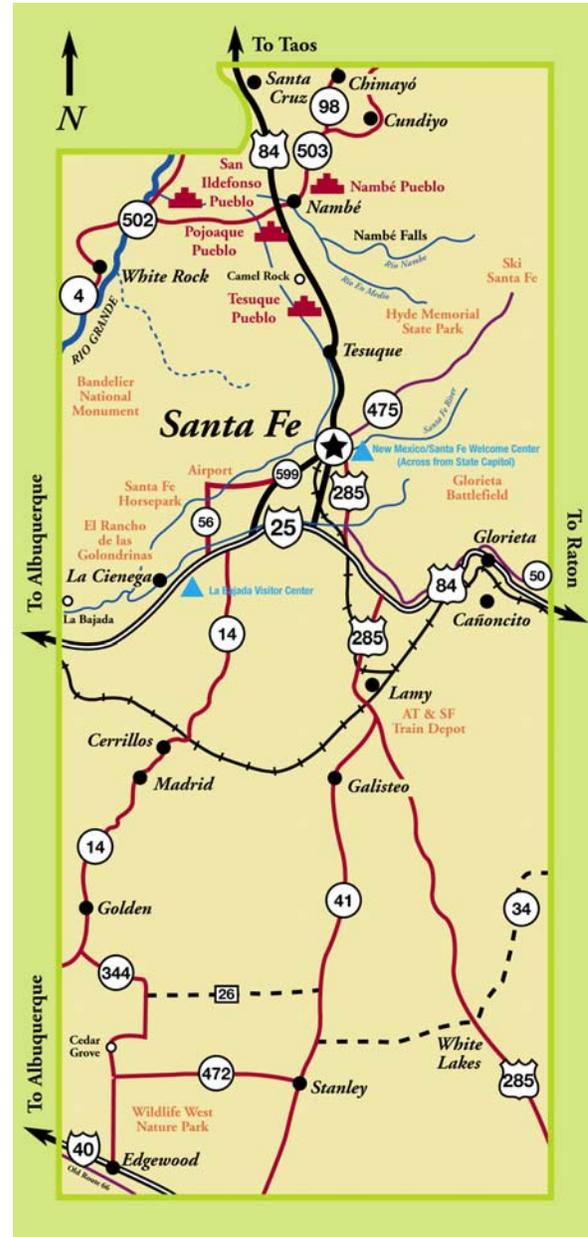
The cost of living in Santa Fe is above the national average. The cost of living index measures local prices against a national average in several categories, including food, housing, utilities, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services. The cost of living index for Santa Fe was 111.6 in 2004. Wages are around the national average, but above the average for the State of New Mexico. The average wage per job in Santa Fe County was \$33,299 in 2005, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> in the state, and compared to the state average wage of \$32,601. Total 2005 employment was 65,218 persons. The median price for a home for Santa Fe County was \$345,243.

## 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, 2008 for these areas are:

Santa Fe County	6.6250%
City of Santa Fe	7.9375%
Edgewood	7.6250%
Espanola	8.1875%

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, Nambé, Cochiti, and portions of Tesuque and Santa Clara.



# Introduction to Santa Fe County



## GOVERNMENT

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 2009 is approximately 979. 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 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.

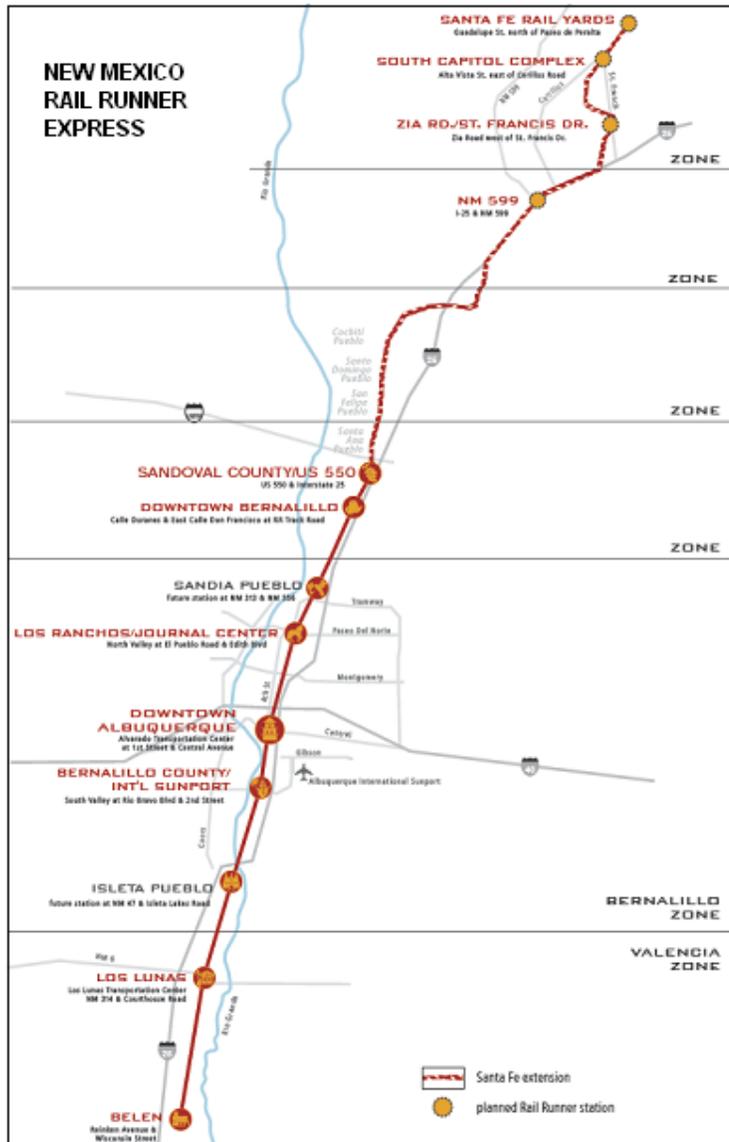
Santa Fe County is also participating in the development of the Santa Fe Commuter Rail project under construction to provide transportation between Belen, Albuquerque, Bernalillo, and Santa Fe, starting December 2008.

### Commuter Rail Transportation Benefits

★ Commuter rail provides an additional transportation choice for Albuquerque to Santa Fe travelers.

★ The costs of the commuter rail will be significantly less than the costs of driving a vehicle. Travel by commuter rail is almost twice as efficient as travel by car.

★ The commuter rail provides reliable travel times that are unaffected by weather or accidents.



# Introduction to Santa Fe County



## EMPLOYMENT

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

<i>Largest employers (2005)</i>	<i>Number of employees</i>
State of New Mexico	9,443
Santa Fe School District	1,850
U.S. Government	1,750
City of Santa Fe	1,719
St. Vincent Hospital	1,450
Santa Fe County (as of 7/1/08)	979
Santa Fe Community College	717
Santa Fe Opera	650
College of Santa Fe	564

## 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.



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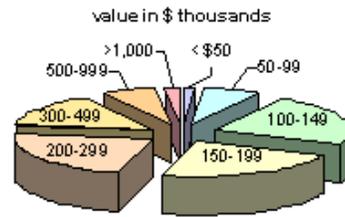
## Santa Fe County - Economic Data

### Industries

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

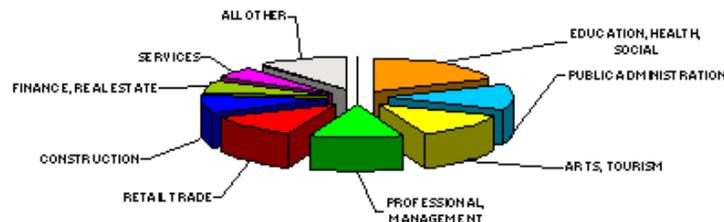
### Real Estate - Home Value (2000 U.S. Census)

VALUE	NUMBER	PERCENT
LESS THAN \$50,000	365	1.4%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,760	7.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,000	5,784	22.9%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	5,752	22.8%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	5,676	22.5%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	3,861	15.3%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	1,591	6.3%
\$1,000,000 OR MORE	446	1.8%
TOTAL (MEDIAN=\$189,400)	25,235	100.0%



### Employment by Industry (2000 U.S. Census)

INDUSTRY	NUMBER	PERCENT
EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES	12,080	18.6%
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	8,339	12.9%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, RECREATION, LODGING, FOOD	8,230	12.7%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATIVE	7,732	11.9%
RETAIL TRADE	7,717	11.9%
CONSTRUCTION	5,694	8.8%
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE, LEASING	3,972	6.1%
OTHER SERVICES EXCEPT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	3,545	5.5%
MANUFACTURING	2,456	3.8%
INFORMATION	1,836	2.8%
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, UTILITIES	1,469	2.3%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,195	1.8%
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING/HUNTING, MINING	605	0.9%



# Introduction to Santa Fe County



## Santa Fe County - Economic Data

### Industries

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

### 1999 Household Income (2000 U.S. Census)

VALUE	NUMBER	PERCENT
LESS THAN \$10,000	4,787	9.1%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	3,157	6.0%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	6,573	12.5%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	6,834	13.0%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	6,863	16.9%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	8,863	18.4%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	5,771	11.0%
\$100,000 to \$144,999	4,116	7.8%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,368	2.6%
\$200,000 or more	1,340	2.6%
TOTAL (MEDIAN=\$42,207)	52,481	100.0%



### Commuting to Work (mean time 22.1 minutes) (2000 U.S. Census)

MEANS	NUMBER	PERCENT
AUTO-DROVE ALONE	45,449	71.3%
AUTO-CARPOOLED	10,111	15.9%
WORKED AT HOME	4,687	7.4%
WALKED	1,974	3.1%
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	562	0.9%
OTHER	870	1.4%
TOTAL	63,653	100.0%



Homeownership Rate = 68.6%

53.4% lived in the same house in 2000 as in 1995



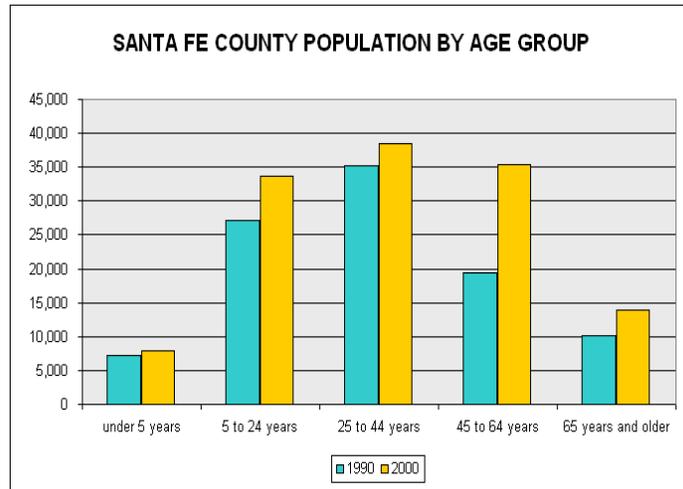
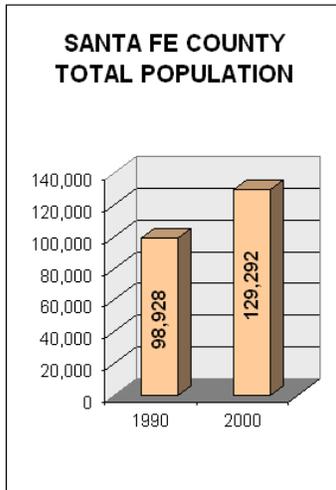
84.5% of Santa Fe County population are High School Graduates

36.9% have College degrees

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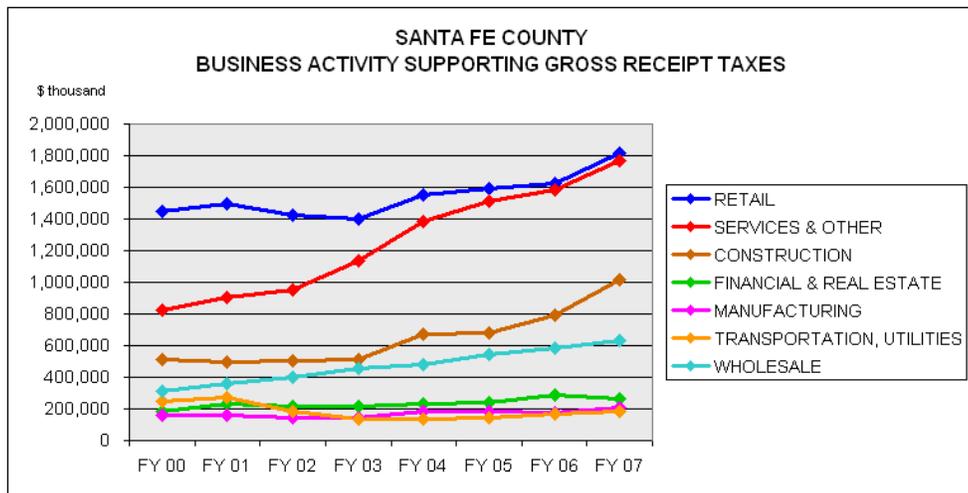
## Santa Fe County – Economic Data



### Economic Development

Santa Fe County adopted the Economic Development Ordinance and Plan on June 24, 1996 as part of the County's effort to meet the needs of the community and region. The Plan's mission statement is as follows: "Santa Fe County Government's role is to facilitate a favorable governmental atmosphere for enriching the quality of life of our citizens through a healthy economy."

Santa Fe County is meeting one of its economic development goals by creating a 60-acre Business Park; a joint state, local government, and enterprise endeavor



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## Quarterly Business Activity

