

NEW MEXICO ADVANTAGE

ECONOMIC TRENDS & VIEWS

SUMMER 2008

Feature Article

Spaceport America



Aerospace Industry
soaring in New Mexico

Focus Occupation
computer software
engineers

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Industry Sector?**

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I am proud to introduce New Mexico Advantage, Economic Trends & Views. This is a new publication published by the Economic Research and Analysis Bureau of the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS). The New Mexico Advantage is a resource for economic information written for the business owner showcasing economic trends and views of New Mexico's economy. One of the main goals of NMDWS is to ensure that businesses employment needs are met through consistent, timely, and quality services. This publication is a tool to support business operations by providing tips on how to access useful economic information specific to business as well as explaining labor market information that has been analyzed and is relevant to the New Mexico economy today.

The Economic Research and Analysis Bureau of the Business Services Division is one of the top economic research sources in the state. They are consistently setting new national records for their work in the collection of workforce data and the production of statistical information. Many businesses, educational facilities, and industry leaders across New Mexico go to the Economic Research and Analysis Bureau for the latest and most accurate data. If you have not yet experienced the wonderful resource that this data can provide for your business we hope you enjoy and find the information in this publication to be a vital tool for you and your business.

Best regards,

Betty Sparrow Doris
Cabinet Secretary



Betty Sparrow Doris
Cabinet Secretary

Raymond H. Gonzales
Deputy Secretary
Advantage is a bi-annual publication of the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, Economic Research & Analysis Bureau.
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New Mexico's Giant Leap Into the Commercial Space Industry

"It is my pleasure to welcome you aboard Flight XYZ with service to 360,000 feet in space." This surreal announcement could soon become reality as New Mexico ventures into a new industry—commercial space travel. Spaceport America, formerly the Southwest Regional Spaceport, will be the first from-the-ground-up, commercial-purpose spaceport in the country, located 45 miles north of Las Cruces and 30 miles east of Truth or Consequences.

Governor Richardson's December 2005 pledge of support for the spaceport included the announcement that Virgin Galactic will locate its world headquarters in New Mexico. Starchaser Industries, UP Aerospace, Rocket Racing League, and the annual X Prize Cup have also committed to establishing headquarters at Spaceport America, and officials expect the facility to eventually be home to many entrepreneurial firms looking for new opportunities in space travel and exploration. Construction of Spaceport America is scheduled to begin in 2008 and be completed in late 2009 or early 2010.

Development of the spaceport puts New Mexico at the vanguard of space industry transformation. However, as with any undertaking of this magnitude, there are significant risks and uncertainty.

What exactly does Spaceport America mean for New Mexico's economy?

New Mexico State University (NMSU) and Futron Corporation were commissioned to provide economic impact reports. Although the two reports utilized different methodologies and generated varied results, each concluded that Spaceport America could potentially generate substantial economic benefits for the state of New Mexico.

The NMSU report conservatively estimates that within five years of operation, the spaceport will generate nearly 2,300 jobs and \$300 million in earnings. The income multiplier was 1.7079, which means that every dollar spent in the guided missile and space vehicle manufacturing sector will yield approximately \$0.71 in additional spending elsewhere in the economy. Additionally, the report concluded that for every one million dollars in initial spending, nearly 12 full-time jobs will be created.

"Spaceport America will be the first from-the-ground-up commercial spaceport in the country."

The results from the NMSU/Futron report include estimations of approximately \$460 million in new economic activity and 3,460 jobs by the year 2015. The study finds that the totals could increase to \$552 million and to 4,320 jobs by 2020.

Competition for market share poses the most significant risk to sustainable economic benefits in the burgeoning commercial space industry. There are currently six FAA-licensed non-federal spaceports in various stages of development: California Spaceport, Cape Canaveral Spaceport, Kodiak Launch Complex, Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, Mojave Air and Space Port, and Oklahoma Spaceport. Nine additional proposed spaceports, including Spaceport America, are under FAA licensure consideration.

On April 22, 2008 Sierra County voters approved a .25% increase in the gross receipt tax that is expected to generate an estimated \$2.3 million for the spaceport. Doña Ana residents narrowly approved their tax increase last year, which is expected to generate approximately \$49 million in bonds. Sierra County's vote was critical to forming the required regional spaceport district. The estimated \$130 million appropriated by the Legislature was contingent on the approval of a tax district by at least two counties, and the county's vote was a key step in moving forward with the spaceport.

How to find the Answers

Workforce Information Tip.

How do I find a list of employer's working in a related aerospace industry in New Mexico?

1. Go to <http://laser.state.nm.us/>.
2. Click on "Employers" on the left
3. Click on "Employer Search."
4. Click on "Anywhere in the State of New Mexico." You can also choose a variety of areas from State-wide, Workforce Areas or even build a custom selection of counties.
5. On the next page, you can narrow your search down by a variety of search criteria. For this particular question change the pull down box next to "Industry Title" from "All Industries" to "Search, Detection & Navigation Instrument" then click on "Search" at the bottom of the page.

This process works really well if you happen to know which Detailed Industry Title relates to Aerospace type companies. However, if you are unsure there is another option. Instead of using the pull down box under "Industry Title", click on "Change." Using Option 2 you can now walk from the top-level industry titles down to the specific titles. In the example above "Search, Detection & Navigation Instruments" falls under Manufacturing. Aerospace companies will generally be found in one of these three industry groups; "Professional, Scientific & Technical Services," "Manufacturing," or "Transportation & Warehousing."

Aerospace Fun Facts

By Joy Forehand

1. **\$199 billion**
Total estimated sales for the aerospace industry in 2007. (Source: Aerospace Industries Assn, 2007 Year-End Review and Forecast, <http://www.aia-aerospace.org>)
2. **110,000**
Number of aerospace engineers in the U.S. in 2006. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2008, <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>)
3. **6,487,276**
Number of passengers traveling through the Albuquerque International Sunport in 2006. (Source: City of Albuquerque, <http://www.cabq.gov/airport/facts.html>)
4. **\$200,000**
Reservation price of Virgin Galactic space travel ticket. (Source: Virgin Galactic, <http://www.virgingalactic.com/>)
5. **387,188**
Number of employees at the nation's 1,593 aerospace product and parts manufacturing establishments in 2005. (Source: U.S Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, <http://censtats.census.gov/cbpnaic/cbpnaic.shtml>)

So what is the next step for Spaceport America?

In order to receive a site operator's license from the Federal Aviation Administration, a Record of Decision (ROD) will need to be completed pursuant to the Environmental Impact Statement. Receipt of the license is expected in 2008.

The next few years will be exciting for aerospace professionals, space enthusiasts, and New Mexico residents as the state actively contributes to the transformation of space travel. It may not be long before we start hearing,

“NMSU estimates that within five years of operation, Spaceport America will generate nearly 2,300 jobs and \$300 million in earnings.”

“Will that space ticket be one-way or round trip?”



Featuring:

Southwestern Region

Here is a list of average weekly wage information for Southwestern. These figures are for the 3rd Quarter 2007 time period.

Area	Average Weekly Wage
Southwestern	\$573
New Mexico	\$682

Labor Market Information - Unemployment Rates

The total civilian labor force in Southwestern for April, 2008 was 132,260 of which 126,358 were employed and 5,902 were unemployed. The unemployment rate was 4.0 percent. Here is the labor force, employment and unemployment information for Southwestern.

These figures are for the April 2008 time period. These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

	Area Civilian Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Preliminary Data
Southwestern	132,260	126,358	5,902	4.0%	No
New Mexico	946,721	914,129	32,592	3.4%	No

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Luna County was named after Soloman Luna, who was a politician and cattle rancher. It was created in 1901 from Grant and Dona Ana County. The county seat is Deming, which was founded in 1881 and officially incorporated in 1902. It was named after Mary Anne Deming, the wife of Charles Crocker, a railroad businessman.

Catron County was created February 25, 1921. It was named for New Mexico's first United States Senator, and famous Santa Fe attorney Thomas B. Catron. It is the largest county in New Mexico, but is sparsely populated. It has great hunting areas for sportsmen and tourism is an important commercial activity. It has productive ranch land and borders several national forests.

Doña Ana County was created January 9, 1852. It was named for a lady named, Doña Ana Robledo who in the 17th century gave money to many charities. Las Cruces is the county seat and it is the home of NMSU. This area is laced with history from the Mesilla area obtained from the Gadsden Purchase in 1854, to Hatch--chili capital of the world, Sunland Park, the White Sands National Monument, Space-shuttle, spy planes, and NASA. It is also rich in agriculture and boasts international commerce.

Grant County was created January, 30 1868. It was named for General Ulysses S. Grant who became president. Silver City is the county seat. This county is rich with copper, gold and other metals. It contains part of the Gila National Forest. Farming and ranching are major businesses.

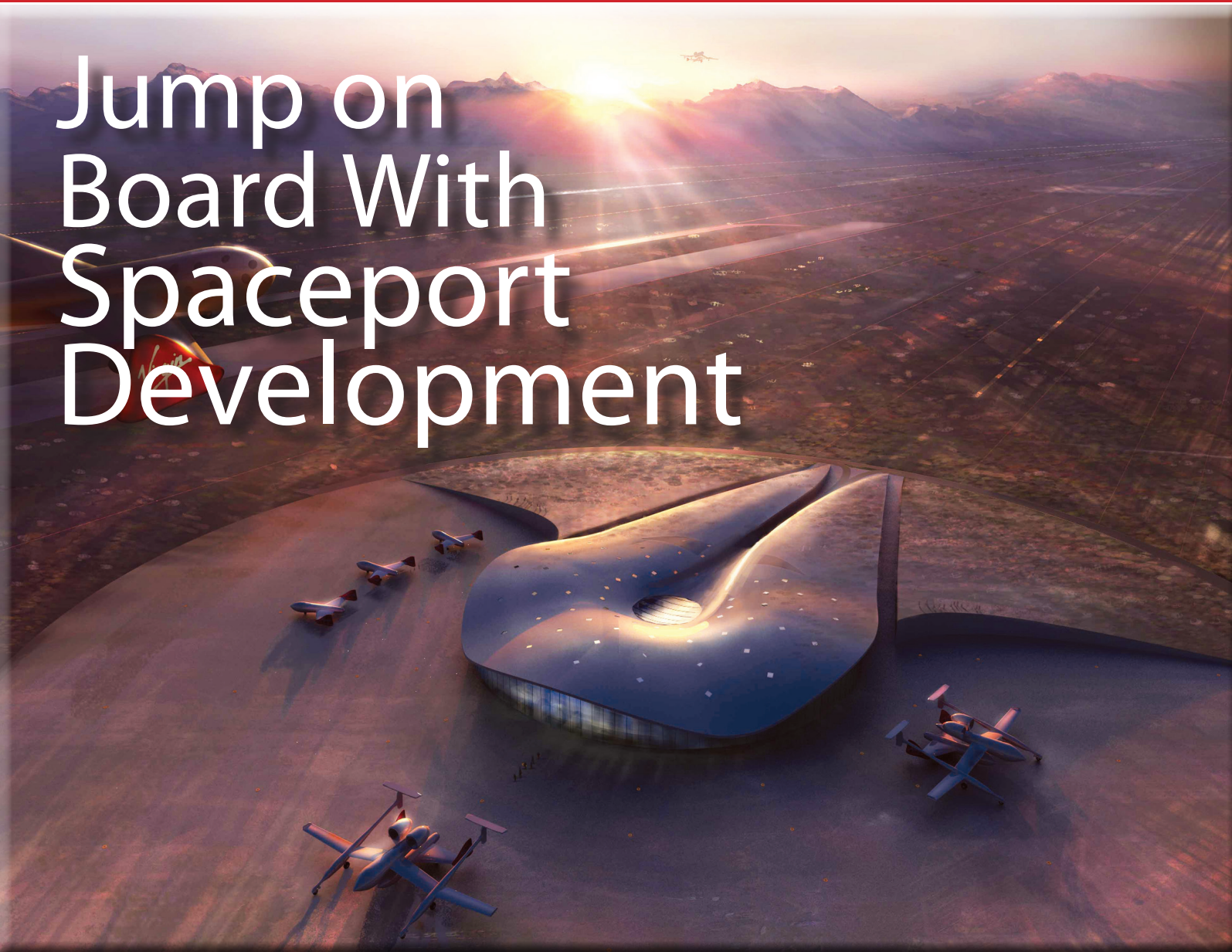
Hidalgo County was created February 25, 1919. Lordsburg is the county seat. Hidalgo was named for Guadalupe Hidalgo of Mexico. Hidalgo is an open landscape with breath-taking beauty. The railroad once provided income but now farming and ranching are the main businesses.

Sierra County was formed in April 3, 1884 out of portions of Socorro, Grant and Dona Ana Counties. Due to the location and population, Hillsboro became the first county seat. The Hillsboro Post Office was the hub for mail transportation to the surrounding offices in the southern part of the county. This county has many hills and mountains, especially attractive is the Sierra de los Caballos range. Hot Springs, an attractive designation, was the original county seat. It was changed in name to Truth or Consequences in 1950 after the famous TV show. It is commonly known today as T or C. Elephant Butte Lake draws fishermen and tourists from many areas.

Socorro County was established July 1, 1850. The county seat is Socorro, which was named by Don Juan de Oate. The name means "helpful". This county is prime ranching territory. It also has some of the biggest buck deer in New Mexico. It was also the county in which the first atomic bomb was exploded.

Southwestern Region

Jump on Board With Spaceport Development



Since the race to put a man on the moon, advances in space travel and exploration have occurred almost exclusively within the purview of government, primarily because of the expense involved. Now thirty-nine years after Neil Armstrong took the first step on the moon, private entrepreneurs—leveraging reduced entry costs and cutting-edge technologies—are leading the way in the burgeoning development of commercial space travel. Spaceport America, near Upham in Sierra County, places New Mexico at the vanguard in the current space race.

New Mexico is already building an aviation cluster in Albuquerque, and one need look no further than the Florida High Tech Corridor project for an example of Spaceport America's potential economic impact in our state and throughout the region. The Florida High Tech Corridor Council's website cites the following success in its effort to attract and grow high-tech industries and their associated workforce:

“The Florida High Tech Corridor’s thriving aviation and aerospace sector boasts more than 100 companies, employing nearly 20,000 people and a total payroll of \$1.17 billion. The average payroll for aerospace and aviation employees in the Corridor is more than \$60,000, making the sector the Corridor’s second highest-paying region.”

Based on the industry mix found in the Cape Canaveral region, New Mexico can expect Manufacturing, Transportation, and Professional & Business Services to be the industry areas that will gain the most from aviation and aerospace development. Florida aerospace industries have generated significant employment growth in such sectors as Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing, Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, Architectural & Engineering Services, and Support Activities for Air Transport. These are only a few of the industry sectors that should expand in New Mexico, as the vision of Spaceport America becomes a reality over the coming years.

Architectural & Engineering Services - This industry group, within the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services subsector group, includes establishments that make available the knowledge and skills of their employees, or make an individual or team responsible for the delivery of services to the client. The individual industries of the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services subsector are defined on the basis of the particular expertise and training of the services provider, in this case with architectural and engineering services.

Transportation Equipment Manufacturing Industries in the Transportation Equipment Manufacturing subsector produce equipment for transporting people and goods. Transportation equipment is a type of machinery. An entire subsector is devoted to this activity because of the significance of its economic size in all three North American countries.



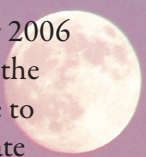
Are you ready to jump on board?

Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services

Simply stated, businesses in the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services sell expertise. They specialize in performing professional, scientific, and technical activities for others. These businesses make available the knowledge and skills of their employees, often on an assignment basis, where an individual or team is responsible for the delivery of services to the client. The activities require a high degree of expertise and training. Activities performed in this sector include: legal advice and representation; accounting; architectural, engineering, and specialized design services; computer services; consulting services; research services; advertising services; and translation and interpretation services.

In the 2007 3rd quarter, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services included approximately 6,140 firms, with employment of about 57,000. These workers earned on average \$1,200 per week. According to industry projections for 2006 – 2016, this industry is expected to increase the employment level from about 55,000 people to 70,800 by 2016. This represents a growth rate of almost 29 percent over the projection period making it one of the fastest growing industries in New Mexico.

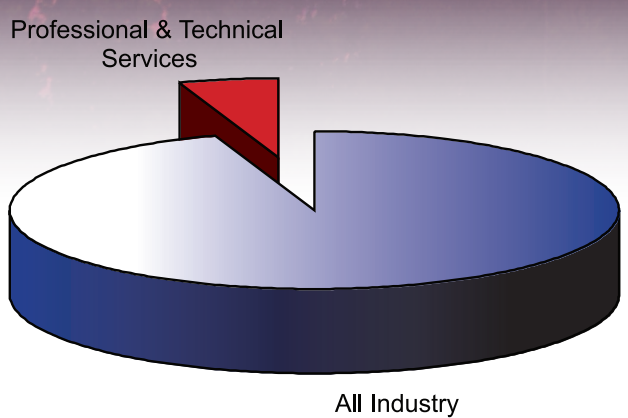
For more information about this industry and others, please visit our interactive Internet database (LASER) at laser.state.nm.us



Focus Industry



Professional & Technical Services Makes Up 5.5% of the Total Employment in 2005



Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software

Q So what kinds of jobs are there in Aerospace?
A Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software

Those working in this field will research, design, develop, and test operating systems-level software, compilers, and network distribution software for medical, industrial, military, communications, aerospace, business, scientific, and general computing applications. They will set operational specifications and formulate and analyze software requirements. Apply principles and techniques of computer science, engineering, and mathematical analysis.

Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software usually require at least a bachelor's degree. However, not all employers may make this a hiring requirement.

The 2007 wages for Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software in New Mexico are:

	Hourly	Annual
Entry Level Wage	\$31.00	\$64,200
Mean Wage	\$45.00	\$93,600
Experienced Wage	\$52.00	\$108,200

This occupation pays pretty well, but where do we think the employment numbers will go by 2016?

Our 2006 – 2016 projections indicate that employment will grow from 1,520 in 2006 to about 2,130 by 2016. This represents a 3.4 percent annual growth rate and annual openings of approximately 80 positions.

Q Who hires Computer Software Engineers?
A The largest number of software engineers are working in Professional & Technical Services industries, followed by Public Administration, Manufacturing, and the Information sector.

For more information about this and other occupations, please visit our wage information Internet database (Estimate Delivery System) at www.dws.state.nm.us/eds

Featured Occupation

What is an Industry Sector?

Labor market information is based on job growth and employment conditions in various industry sectors, such as construction and financial activities. However, one might inquire, "what exactly are industry sectors?" Understanding the structure, definitions, and usage of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is critical to collecting, interpreting, and analyzing economic data.

NAICS is an industry classification system that groups establishments into industries based on the activities in which they are primarily engaged. It is a comprehensive system covering the entire field of economic activities, producing and nonproducing. NAICS United States is used by U.S. statistical agencies to facilitate the collection, tabulation, presentation, and analysis of data relating to establishments; and to provide uniformity and comparability in the presentation of statistical data describing the U.S. economy.

The NAICS hierarchical structure begins with the highest level, twenty general sectors all designated by two digit codes. Within each sector there are sub-sectors at the three-digit level. At the four-digit level, the sectors are broken down into industry groups, at the five-digit level into NAICS industries, and then into the U.S. six-digit industries. If an establishment (generally a single physical location where business is conducted or where services or industrial operations are performed) is engaged in an economic activity, it is coded under that general two-digit sector and then classified down to the six-digit industry level dependent on the definition of their primary activity. North American Classification System, United States 2007.

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
- Mining
- Utilities
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail Trade
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Information
- Finance and Insurance
- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
- Management of Companies and Enterprises
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
- Educational Services
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation
- Accommodation and Food Services
- Other Services (except Public Administration)
- Public Administration



There's more in New Mexico skies in October than hot air balloons! This year Lunar Landers shared the skies over southern New Mexico. This was all part of the X Prize Cup, which is now an annual event held at the end of October at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico. Each year, many would-be space entrepreneurs assemble teams and compete for prize money and an opportunity to partner with NASA on technological advancements in aerospace ventures. Organizers expected more than 60,000 attendees, but 85,000 showed up. That's up considerably from last year's 25,000 attendees. This year's competition featured a Lunar Lander competition. Prizes went to the craft that could hover for 180 seconds and land on a pad that simulates the moon's surface, with craters and boulders. Other prizes were awarded to the vehicle that could vertically launch from one flat concrete pad, land on another 100 meters away, and then return. The show also included a robotics display, hands-on spacecraft exhibits, and fighter jet fly-bys courtesy of the U.S. Air Force. Each year the X Prize Cup features a different competition with the focus on aerospace.



**So New Mexicans...
keep looking UP!**

New Mexico Fun Facts By Joy Forehand

1. **1,954,599**
2006 population estimate for New Mexico.
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 Estimates, http://www.census.gov/popest/national/files/NST_EST2006_ALLDATA.csv)
2. **79**
Of every 1,000 private sector workers, the number of people employed by high tech firms. New Mexico was ranked 6th nationwide in 2006.
(Source: AcA, Advancing the Business of Technology, www.aeanet.org)
3. **\$27,912**
Annual per capita income in New Mexico (2005).
(Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, <http://www.bea.gov/scb/>)
4. **30.9%**
Percent of women-owned firms in New Mexico (2002).
(Source: Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html>)
5. **\$35,600,000**
Estimated value of New Mexico's exported tree nuts, ranking New Mexico 3rd in the nation in 2006.
(Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/StateExports>)

What Does the Unemployment Rate Mean to Me?

We have all heard how the country is experiencing near record low unemployment rates this year. The Mountain Division in particular—comprising Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming—has performed remarkably well in recent months and currently boasts the lowest jobless rate among the Bureau of Labor Statistics' nine geographic divisions. Five of the eight Mountain states, including New Mexico, have established historical lows at some point during 2007. These low rates are good news for job hunters but can pose significant challenges for employers trying to fill openings in a tight labor market, as evidenced in the following excerpt from an Associated Press story dated August 25, 2007:

By Matt Gouras
 HELENA, Mont. (AP) - The owner of a fast food joint in Montana's booming oil patch found himself outsourcing the drive-thru window to a Texas telemarketing firm, not because it's cheaper but because he can't find workers. Record low unemployment across parts of the West has created tough working conditions for business owners, who in places are being forced to boost wages or be creative to fill their jobs. John Francis, who owns the McDonald's in Sidney, Mont., said he tried advertising in the local newspaper and even offered up to \$10 an hour to compete with higher-paying oil field jobs. Yet the only calls were from other business owners upset they would have to raise wages, too. Of course, Francis' current employees also wanted a pay hike. "I don't

know what the answer is," Francis said. "There's just nobody around that wants to work." Until the 1990's, 5.0 percent unemployment was generally regarded as full employment. If the rate fell below that level, the Federal Reserve would raise interest rates to slow the economy and drive the rate back up to around 5.0 percent. The Fed's actions were intended to reduce upward pressure on wages and prices and avoid the destabilizing effects of inflation.



What changed in the 1990's? The economy expanded rapidly and wages rose faster than the relatively low inflation rate. All the while, the Fed held down interest rates as the unemployment rate fell below the 5.0 threshold to levels previously considered inflationary.

So what does the employment rate mean to me? The current low rate, coupled with business growth, is creating a shortage of labor, particularly in high-turnover occupations—a "buyers' market" favoring job seekers. Employers throughout New Mexico are facing this challenge and, as stated in the AP article, must get creative in order to attract quality workers from across the state as well as from other states.

We welcome your suggestions

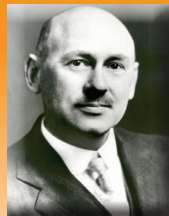
for creative ideas to ATTRACT and RETAIN employees in a tight labor market. Please send your thoughts and comments to: infodol@state.nm.us

Area Name	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment Rate (%)
Bernalillo	314,351	303,887	3.3
Catron	1,538	1,467	4.6
Chaves	27,559	26,564	3.6
Cibola	11,856	11,381	4
Colfax	6,696	6,473	3.3
Curry	21,278	20,710	2.7
De Baca	851	822	3.4
Dona Ana	87,316	83,924	3.9
Eddy	26,306	25,564	2.8
Grant	12,394	11,948	3.6
Guadalupe	1,833	1,735	5.3
Harding	394	383	2.8
Hidalgo	2,672	2,598	2.8
Lea	27,988	27,336	2.3
Lincoln	11,036	10,711	2.9
Los Alamos	10,559	10,338	2.1
Luna	12,614	11,421	9.5
McKinley	26,876	25,702	4.4
Mora	2,033	1,882	7.4
Otero	26,288	25,354	3.6
Quay	4,014	3,846	4.2
Rio Arriba	20,901	19,983	4.4
Roosevelt	9,643	9,398	2.5
San Juan	53,681	51,517	4
San Miguel	56,232	54,422	3.2
Sandoval	13,596	13,061	3.9
Santa Fe	78,908	76,686	2.8
Sierra	5,593	5,403	3.4
Socorro	9,434	9,149	3
Taos	17,537	16,721	4.7
Torrance	7,697	7,377	4.2
Union	2,094	2,045	2.3
Valencia	31,295	30,160	3.6

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics
 1) Numbers are not seasonally-adjusted.

New Mexico Timeline

1929 Robert Goddard, Ph.D., "the father of modern day rocketry" and pioneer of liquid-fueled rockets, relocated to Roswell, New Mexico to continue his research and work in seclusion.



1941 Official opening of the Albuquerque Army Base



Photo Courtesy: Wikipedia

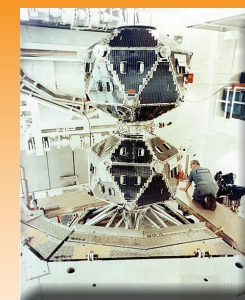
(later renamed Kirtland Air Force Base after Col. Roy C. Kirtland) marked with the landing of B-18 bomber.

1945 First Missile Launch, a Tiny Tim Booster, at White Sands Missile Range.



Photo courtesy: Wikipedia

1963 The VELA satellites, with parts developed by Sandia National Laboratories, launched to detect nuclear detonations.



1961 HAM, a chimpanzee named for Hollomen Aero Medical Laboratory in Alamogordo, is the first chimp in space.



Photo Courtesy: NASA



Space Shuttle Orbiter Columbia lands on the Northrop Strip at White Sands.



2000 Eclipse Aviation named Albuquerque as home for corporate headquarters. Photo Courtesy: John Kahrs

2004 New Mexico announced as host of X Prize Cup, an annual space and air show.



2007 Spaceport America's first successful commercial launch.



Photo Courtesy: Spaceport America

Aerospace takes Flight... In New Mexico

New Mexico's aerospace heritage can be traced back to the days when Robert Goddard's experimental rockets first soared through Roswell's desert blue skies. Now, nearly 80 years later, that legacy continues in the form of progressive new developments such as Spaceport America in southern New Mexico and a growing aviation cluster in the Rio Grande Valley. Aerospace has captured imaginations and changed economic landscapes, but... what exactly is AEROSPACE?

As rapid technological advances change the way we think about travel, aerospace becomes increasingly difficult to define. The term often refers broadly to the research, design, manufacture, operation, and maintenance of vehicles (or components thereof) intended to enable flight through the atmosphere and outer space. The Aerospace Industries Association, a U.S. trade association representing the nation's major aerospace and defense manufacturers, defines the aerospace industry as "engaged in research, development, and manufacture of aerospace systems including: manned and unmanned aircraft; missiles; spacecraft; space launch vehicles; propulsion, guidance, and control units for all the foregoing; and a variety of airborne and ground-based equipment essential to the test, operation, and maintenance of flight vehicles."

Aerospace is a dynamic and exciting industry that stretches across the world and beyond. Government entities, particularly the Department of Defense and NASA, have long been the dominant figures both as producers and consumers of aerospace technologies. Private firms, however, have made significant contributions in areas such as rocket building and aircraft production. A high dependence on defense budgets, the looming specter of terrorism, and escalating fuel costs pose legitimate concerns, but the aerospace industry continues to grow and expand on a global scale as new technologies are developed and existing ones are further refined.

What are Aerospace Industries and Occupations?

Aerospace crosses into a multitude of industries, both goods producing and services providing, and encompasses a variety of occupations. Not surprisingly, most aerospace industries are science, technology, and/or engineering-based given the wide range of high-level research, development, manufacturing, and operations required.

Identifying aerospace companies is a great undertaking.

All industries rely on aerospace-related products and services to a greater or lesser degree to perform their daily operations, and the occupations involved run the gamut from engineers and pilots to assemblers and clerks.

Estimating employment and wages for aerospace is nearly impossible because of the number of industries and occupations that can be included. For example, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the parts and product manufacturing industry group alone provided 444,000 jobs nationally in 2004 and is projected to grow 8% by 2014. In New Mexico, the aerospace product and parts manufacturing industry group employs people in a wide variety of occupations including parts salespersons, file clerks, carpenters, electromechanical equipment assemblers, numerical tool and process control programmers, heat-treating equipment setters, electronics engineers, and avionics technicians.

What Does Aerospace Mean to New Mexico?

Aerospace has long been a part of New Mexico's history because of the state's reputation for excellent scientific research and optimal flying and testing weather. New Mexico has both aeronautically and astronautically-based industries and employers, as well as a number of well-established research facilities including Kirtland Air Force Base, Los Alamos National Laboratory, White Sands Missile Range, and Sandia National Laboratories. The state has provided many tax incentives, such as the Aerospace Research and Development Tax Deduction and the Aircraft Manufacturing Tax Deduction, to attract and retain aerospace establishments.

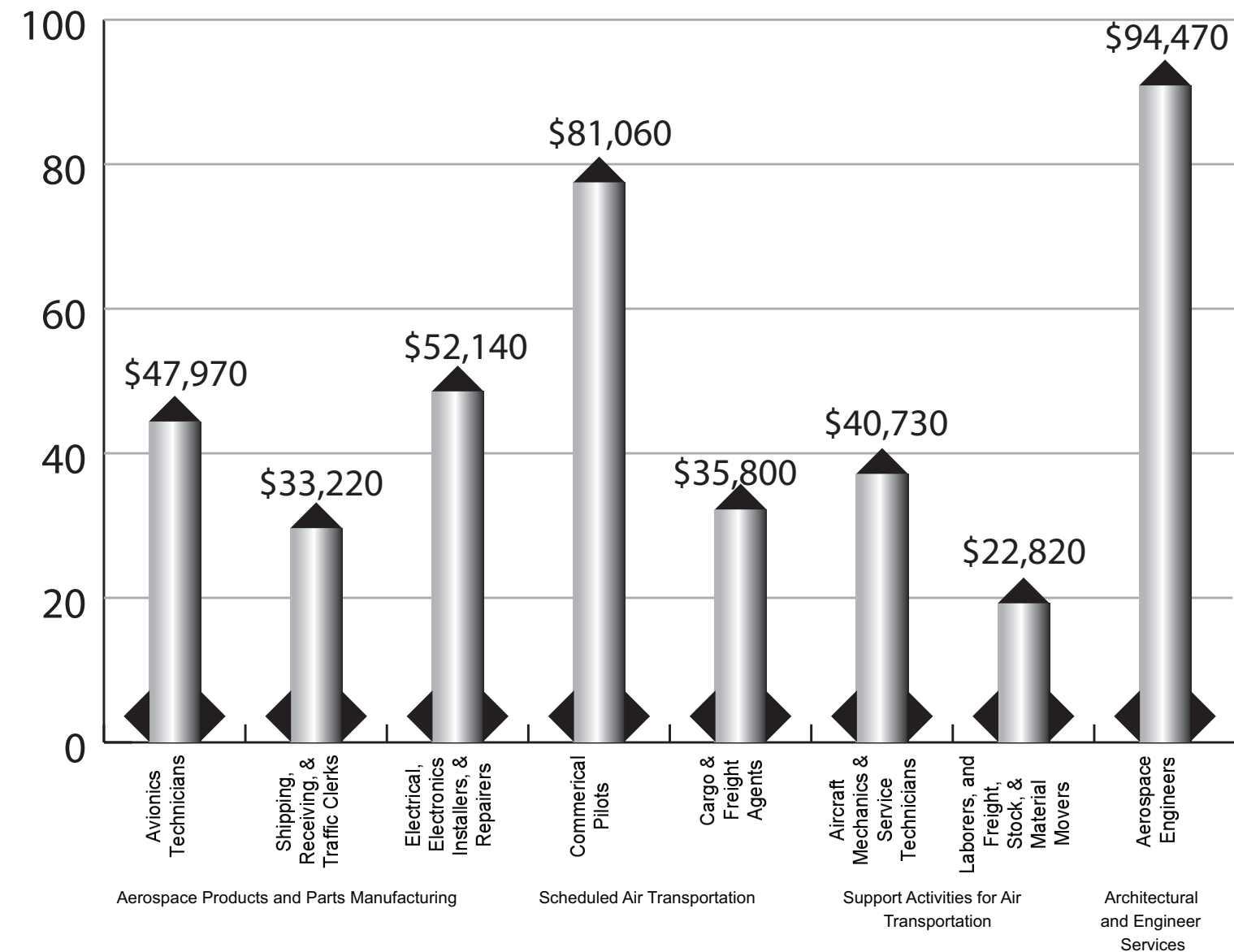
Anticipated growth in New Mexico's aerospace industry offers the potential for increased employment and wages in specific government and private industries such as heavy and civil engineering construction, air transportation, scenic and sightseeing transportation, space and research technology, and repair and maintenance. An expanded aerospace industry could also generate overall indirect employment growth in related sectors such as construction, management, and educational services. Educational impacts are already evident in the new aerospace engineering program at New Mexico State University and the Aerospace Technology Program at Central New Mexico Community College, both developed in response to anticipated workforce demands. New Mexico's history, latest initiatives, and newest aerospace employers place the state on a path to becoming a leader in supporting the aerospace industry—an exciting prospect given that aerospace has changed the world, from satellite weather forecasts and cell phones to national security and space exploration.

Anticipated growth in New Mexico's aerospace industry

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AEROSPACE includes military aviation (bombers, fighters, reconnaissance aircraft), commercial aviation (passenger and cargo flights operating on regularly scheduled routes both domestically and internationally), general aviation (private flying, police aircraft, air ambulances, corporate jets, missiles), and space (spacecraft, space systems, satellites).

Various Aerospace Industry-Specific Occupations National Average Annual Wages (2006)



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