

SANTA FE COUNTY

FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET



SECTION II

INTRODUCTION TO SANTA FE COUNTY

Demographics	
Location and Climate	II- 1
Demographics	II - 1
Schools	II - 2
Housing	II - 2
Cost of Living	II - 2
Taxes	II - 2
Government	II - 3
Transportation	II - 3
Employment	II - 4
Health Care and Hospitals	II - 4
Recreation and Quality of Life	II - 4
Economic Data	
Housing	II - 5
Industries	II - 5
Household Income	II - 6
Commuting to Work	II - 6
Population	II - 7
Economic Development	II - 7
Historic Quarterly Business Activity	II - 8

Introduction to Santa Fe County



LOCATION AND CLIMATE

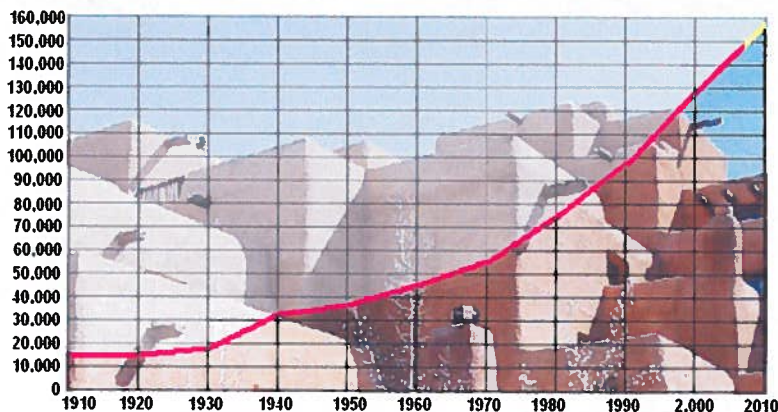
Santa Fe County is located in north-central New Mexico. The City of Santa Fe, in the center of the County is 60 miles northeast of Albuquerque, at an altitude of about 7,000 ft. The climate includes 284 sunny days a year. The average high temperature in July is 86 degrees Fahrenheit and the average low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

DEMOGRAPHICS

The US Census Bureau population estimate for 2009 is 147,532 which includes the City of Santa Fe. This estimate reflects a population percentage *increase* in the period from April, 2000 to June, 2009 of 14.1% – larger than the State as a whole which has an estimated 10.5% increase during that same period.

As of the US Census American Community Survey of 2008 (ACS), there were 143,937 people in Santa Fe County of which 71,154 live in the City of Santa Fe. The ACS also reports a total of 64,280 housing units, 55,090 households (occupied housing units), and 34,175 families residing in Santa Fe County. Santa Fe County has the 4th highest population growth rate in the State (behind Sandoval, Dona Ana, and Bernalillo) and is the 3rd most populous County (behind Bernalillo and Dona Ana). The population density was 75 people per square mile. The average density of housing units is 32 units per square mile.

(Point of reference - City of Santa Fe: population density is 1,923.08 people per square mile and 30,461 housing units at an average density of 823.3/sq. mi.)



Santa Fe County Population, 1910-2010

Introduction to Santa Fe County



SCHOOLS

In and around the city, there are two public school districts, the Santa Fe Public Schools and the Pojoaque Valley Public Schools. The two districts combined have two pre-k to kindergarten schools, 20 elementary-only schools, five middle schools, three K-12 schools, as well as charter schools, one grades 7 through 12, and three high schools as well as three charter schools. There are also 29 private schools ranging from pre-k to 12th grades. 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 2009, the College of Santa Fe was acquired by the City of Santa Fe in an effort to prevent the closing of the college. Laureate Education Inc. will lease the land from the City of Santa Fe and will operate the college as an international educational network and fine arts college.

HOUSING

According to the 2008 Census Bureau estimates, Santa Fe County had 64,380 housing units. Of these units, 50,090 were occupied and 39,908 were owner-occupied. Housing units in the County increased by 3,229 units between 2005 and 2008. This represents a 6.4% annual growth during that period of time. The homeowner vacancy rate for the County in 2008 was 2.4% and the rental vacancy rate was 10.9%.

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 97.6 in 2009. Wages are around the national average but above the average for the State of New Mexico. The median household income in Santa Fe County was \$55,461 in 2008, compared to the state average of \$43,719. Total 2008 employment was 73,480 persons. The median price for a home for Santa Fe County was \$319,700.

TAXES

Santa Fe County includes the municipalities of the City of Santa Fe, Edgewood, and portions of Espanola. Gross Receipt tax rates as of July 1, 2010 for these areas are:

Santa Fe County	6.6250%
City of Santa Fe	8.1875%
Edgewood	7.8750%
Espanola	8.4375%

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.



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 2011 is approximately 977.5 full-time equivalents (FTEs). The employees in these positions are essential in providing the following services; sheriff, corrections and fire protection including emergency dispatch services, valuation of property and the collection of property taxes, parks and recreation, planning and zoning, certain health and social services, general administrative services, low income housing assistance, energy efficiency initiatives, economic development, creation of a sustainable growth management plan and code, 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, focus groups and, during FY 2010, the first ever formal citizen survey. Over fifteen citizen advisory boards and committees contribute to the framing of important issues that go before the Commission.

TRANSPORTATION

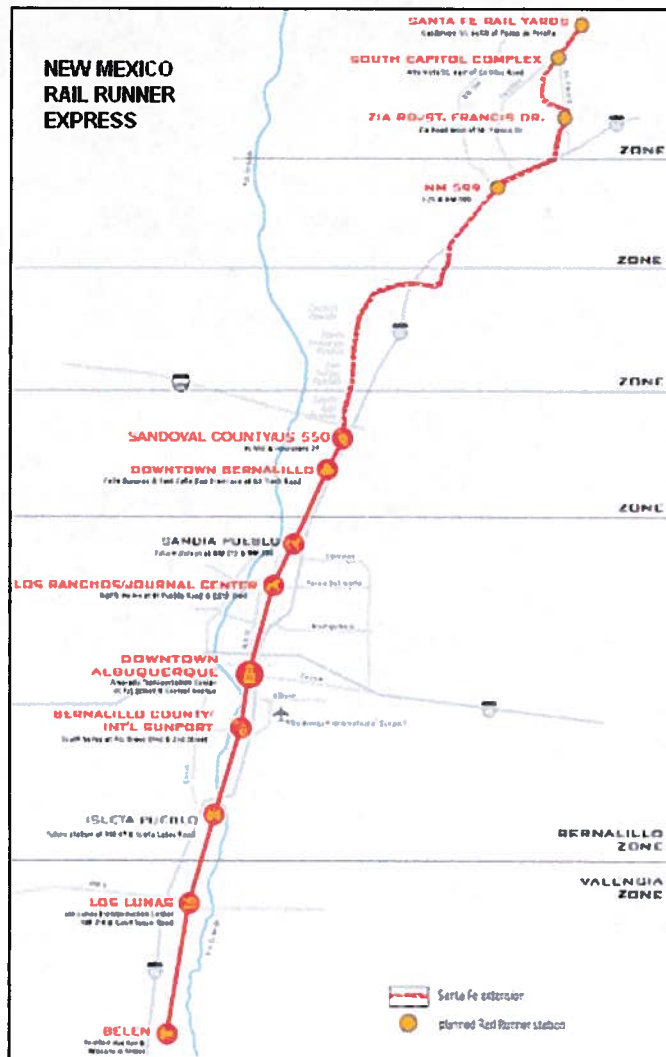
The Santa Fe Municipal Airport serves airlines, corporate jets and small private planes. The Albuquerque International Sunport is located about 1.5 hours south of Santa Fe.

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. In July, 2009 a 1/8 cent Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax was enacted which provides funding for the RTD. This tax is imposed on all jurisdictions within the transit district.

Santa Fe County also participated in the development of the Santa Fe Commuter Rail project to provide transportation between Belen, Albuquerque, Bernalillo, and Santa Fe. This rail system began service mid-December 2008, with new stations being built and brought on-line each year.

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 (2009)</i>	<i>Number of employees</i>
State of New Mexico	8,300
Santa Fe School District	1,800
U.S. Government	1,000
City of Santa Fe	1,486
CHRISTUS St. Vincent Hospital	1,900
Santa Fe County	919
Santa Fe Community College	750
Santa Fe Opera	794
College of Santa Fe	564
Peters Corporation	734
Pueblo of Pojoaque	531

HEALTH CARE AND HOSPITALS

Santa Fe is serviced by the CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center, established in 1865. In April 2008, CHRISTUS Health and St. Vincent Hospital formed a partnership. 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 340 staff physicians representing 34 medical specialties. CHRISTUS St. Vincent hospital treats more than 52,000 emergency/first care patients 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 \$20.0M 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.



Introduction to Santa Fe County



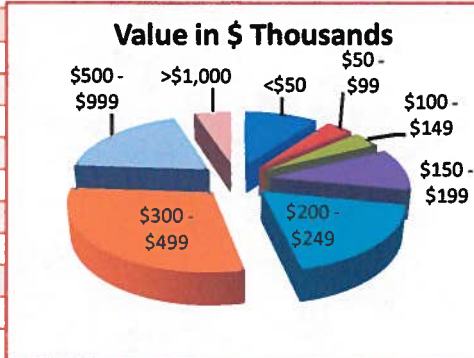
Santa Fe County – Economic Data

HOUSING

Santa Fe County's housing market has experienced significant growth in the number of housing units. In 2005 there were 57,701 housing units compared to 64,280 housing units in 2008. Of these, 39,908 were owner-occupied units with the highest percentage, 29.5%, valued between \$300,000 and \$499,999 compared to 15.3% in that value range in 2000.

Real Estate – Home Values (2008 ACS)

VALUE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Less than \$50,000	3,992	10.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,490	3.7%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,567	3.9%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	4,156	10.4%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	7,360	18.4%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	11,777	29.5%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	7,557	18.9%
\$1,000,000 or more	2,009	5.0%
TOTAL (MEDIAN=\$319,700)	39,908	100.0%

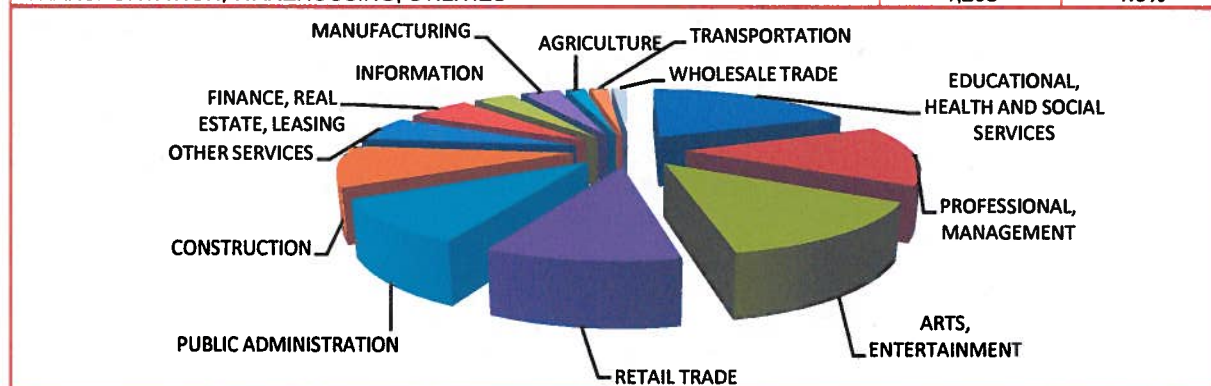


INDUSTRIES

Major industry in the Santa Fe County area center around tourism and recreation. Education and health care also contribute a large portion of the jobs in the area. Professional, scientific and management industries also add significantly to the employment base of Santa Fe County. There are also industries that produce goods such as furniture, jewelry, clothing and accessories.

Employment by Industry (2008 ACS)

INDUSTRY	NUMBER	PERCENT
EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES	13,810	18.8%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATIVE	10,516	14.3%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, RECREATION, LODGING, FOOD	10,057	13.7%
RETAIL TRADE	7,608	10.4%
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	7,270	9.9%
CONSTRUCTION	7,076	9.6%
OTHER SERVICES EXCEPT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	4,287	5.8%
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE, LEASING	4,134	5.6%
INFORMATION	2,652	3.6%
MANUFACTURING	2,591	3.5%
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING/HUNTING, MINING	1,248	1.7%
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, UTILITIES	1,208	1.6%



Introduction to Santa Fe County



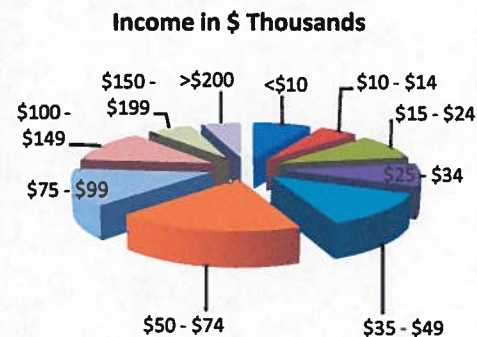
Santa Fe County – Economic Data

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The State of New Mexico average household income is \$43,719 while household incomes in Santa Fe County average at a higher rate, \$55,461. About 44% of Santa Fe County households' income is at or around the State median or less, and about 56% of households' income is higher than the State median.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2008 ACS)

HOUSEHOLD INCOME	NUMBER	PERCENT
Less than \$10,000	4,262	7.7%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2,863	5.2%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	5,279	9.6%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	4,696	8.5%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	7,017	12.7%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	10,303	18.7%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	7,624	13.8%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	6,750	12.3%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	3,362	6.1%
\$200,000 or more	2,934	5.3%
TOTAL (MEDIAN=\$55,461)	55,090	100.0%

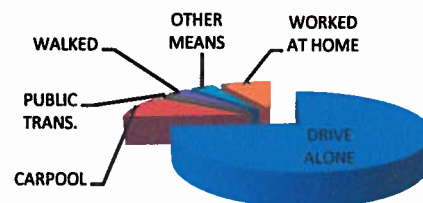


COMMUTING TO WORK

The majority of workers in Santa Fe County commute to work via automobile with a total of 84.1% using this mode of transportation. Of those, 74% drive alone whereas 10.1% carpool.

COMMUTING TO WORK (mean time 21.6 minutes – 2008 ACS)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	NUMBER	PERCENT
AUTO -- DRIVE ALONE	53,128	74.0%
AUTO -- CARPOOL	7,250	10.1%
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	479	0.7%
WALKED	2,489	3.5%
OTHER MEANS	2,624	3.7%
WORKED AT HOME	5,814	8.1%
TOTAL	71,784	100.0%



Homeownership Rate = 72.4%

About 26.6% of households have occupied the same unit since 2000



84.5% of the Santa Fe County population have a high school diploma (or equivalent) or higher.

A total of 45.2% have a college degree of associates degree or higher.

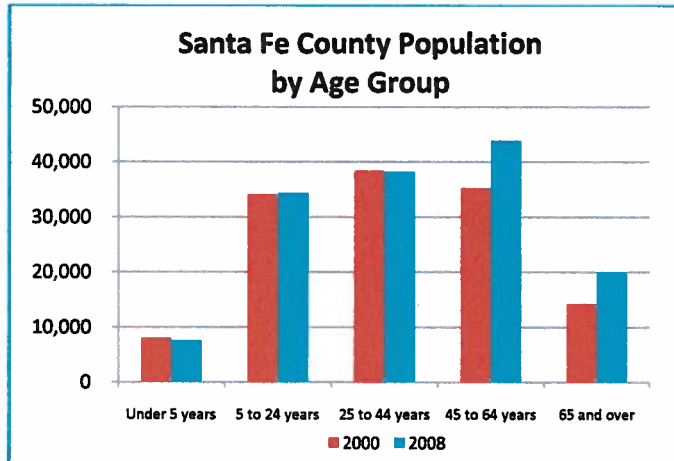
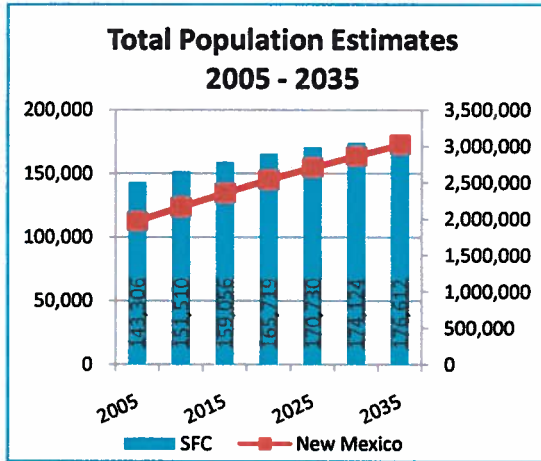
Introduction to Santa Fe County



Santa Fe County – Economic Data

POPULATION

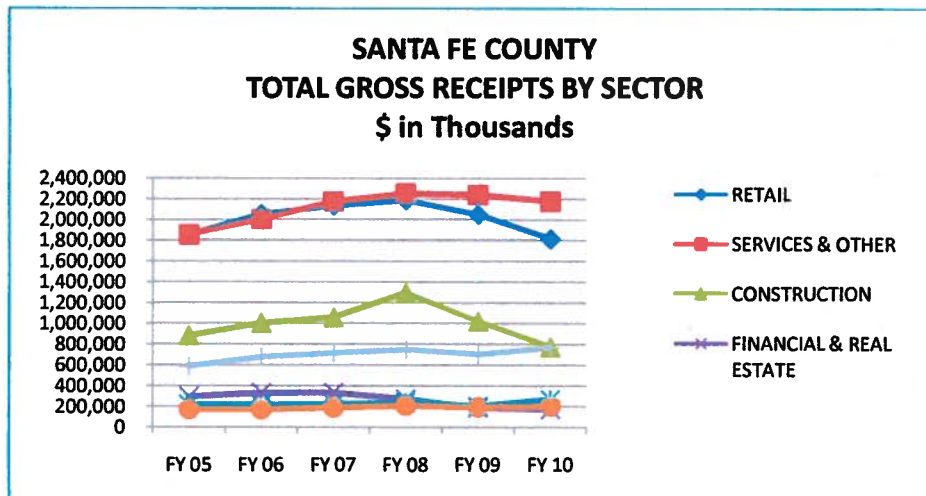
Population estimates for Santa Fe County projected through the year 2035 indicate a slow and steady growth rate, however the rate of growth will not be as high as the State as a whole. As of 2008, Santa Fe's population had a median age of 41 years. The populations in the age groups of under 5, 5 to 24, and 25 to 44 years remained static for the period between 2000 and 2008. The age groups of 45 to 64 and 64 years and over increased significantly in that same period with the highest increase being in the 45 to 64 year age group.



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 working towards its economic development goals by creating a 60-acre Business Park; a joint state, local government, and enterprise endeavor".

Still, Santa Fe County's economy is driven by tourism and recreation. Like other regions of the State and country, these two sectors of the economy have been hard hit by the "deep recession" which started in FY 2008, as has construction and real estate.



Introduction to Santa Fe County



Santa Fe County – Economic Data

QUARTERLY BUSINESS ACTIVITY

The charts below illustrate the business activity in Santa Fe County in various business sectors over the past 6 years. Real estate has seen a steady overall decline since it's peak in fiscal year 2008, as has construction. The construction of the Rail Runner commuter rail system contributed to the peak of construction in fiscal year 2008 as well.

Quarterly activity in the wholesale, retail, service and other unclassified sectors appears to be increasing in the last 2 quarters of fiscal year 2010, having experienced a decline in the first 2 quarters of fiscal year 2010.

