

Santa Fe County

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget



Introduction to Santa Fe County

LOCATION AND CLIMATE

Santa Fe County is located in north-central New Mexico. The City of Santa Fe is the capital of the State of New Mexico and is in the center of the County approximately 60 miles northeast of Albuquerque. At an altitude of about 7,000 feet the cool semi-arid climate includes 284 sunny days a year with cool winters and hot summers. On average July is the hottest month with high temperatures of about 86 degrees Fahrenheit and low temperatures of about 54 degrees Fahrenheit. The coldest month is typically January with an average high temperature of 43 degrees Fahrenheit and an average low temperature of 16 degrees Fahrenheit. The average annual rainfall is 14.2 inches and the average annual snowfall is 25.8 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 2010 decennial census revealed a population of 144,170 which includes the 75,764 individuals located in City of Santa Fe. This reflects a countywide population percentage *increase* since the 2000 decennial census of 11.5% – a lower percentage increase than the State as a whole which saw a 13.2% increase during that same period.

The 2010 census also reports a total of 71,267 housing units of which 61,963 are occupied. Santa Fe County has the 6th highest population growth rate in the State (behind Sandoval, Dona Ana, Lea, Valencia, San Juan and Bernalillo) and is the 3rd most populous County (behind Bernalillo and Dona Ana). The population density was 75.4 people per square mile. The average density of housing units is 37.3 units per square mile. In the City of Santa Fe the population density is 2,025.8 people per square mile and 30,488 housing units at an average density of 815.2 per square mile.

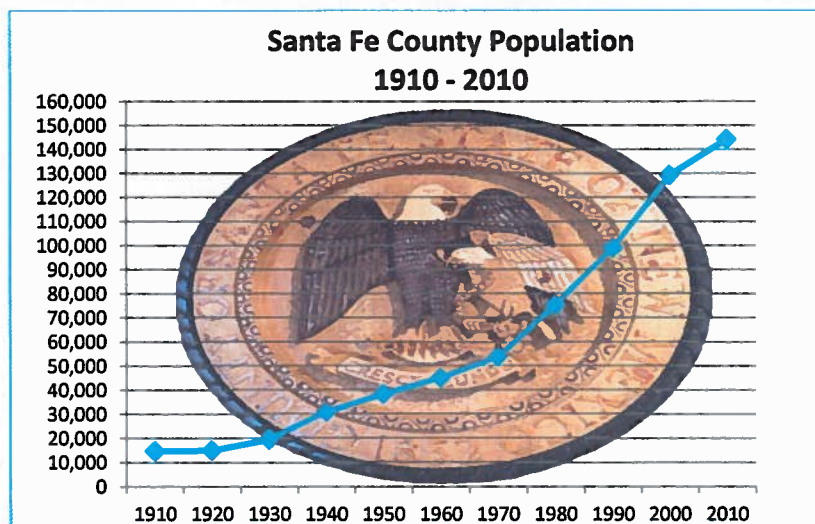
According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates for the period 2005-2009, the population was evenly split between male and female with males making up 49.6% of the population and females making up 50.4%. The racial composition is 81.1% white, 4.0% American Indian or Alaska Native, 1.5% black or African American, 1.6% Asian and "other" races compose the remainder of the population. The ethnic composition is 50.3% Hispanic or Latino of any race.

The following chart shows the population growth of Santa Fe County since just prior to New Mexico becoming a state in 1912.

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SCHOOLS

There are three public school districts in Santa Fe County. These are the Santa Fe Public Schools, Edgewood Public Schools and the Pojoaque Valley Public Schools. The three districts combined have two pre-k to kindergarten schools, 25 elementary-only schools, seven middle schools, five community schools ranging from pre-k to 8th grades, four charter schools, and three high schools. There are also 32 private schools ranging from pre-k to 12th grades. The Santa Fe Community College is a major educational institution providing two-year degrees and certification programs. There are currently approximately 23 colleges and vocational schools in Santa Fe, including the College of Santa Fe, St. John's College, Institute of American Indian Arts College and the University of Phoenix. In 2009, the College of Santa Fe was acquired by the City of Santa Fe in an effort to prevent a then-imminent closure of the college. Laureate Education Inc. leased 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 2010 decennial census, Santa Fe County had 71,267 housing units. Of these units, 61,963 were occupied. Housing units in the County increased by 13,566 units between 2000 and 2010. This represents a 23.5% growth during that period of time, the 4th highest growth rate in the State behind Sandoval, Dona Ana and Catron counties. Occupancy rates did not keep pace with the overall growth rate of housing units with the growth rate of units that are occupied lagging at 18.1%, while the number of vacant units grew by 78.3% from 5,219 in 2000 to 9,304 in 2010.

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Santa Fe is above the national average. The cost of living index which measures local prices against a national average in several categories, including food, housing, utilities, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services, for Santa Fe County was 92.9 as of January 2011. 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 \$52,220 in 2009, compared to the state average of \$42,830. In 2010 the unemployment rate averaged 7.1% in Santa Fe County, 1.3% less than the State average of 8.4%. Total 2010 employment was 71,844 persons down from its 2007 peak of 75,900. The average median price for a home (with a mortgage) for Santa Fe County was \$294,400 according to the 2005-2009 ACS estimates.

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RECREATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Santa Fe County is rich in history and traditions. El Rancho de Los Golondrinas is a living history museum located on 200 acres in La Cienega dedicated to history, heritage and culture of New Mexico of the 18th and 19th centuries. 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 more than \$20.0M provide for open space and trails in the County as does a portion of a gross receipts tax approved by voters and dedicated to open space and trails. 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.

GOVERNMENT

Santa Fe County operates under the commission/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 2012 is approximately 994 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, solid waste disposal activities and water and wastewater utilities.

The Commission and its administrative leadership strive to provide a responsive, quality government in the most efficient and cost effective manner. 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, in the summer of 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.



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TAXES

Santa Fe County includes the municipalities of the City of Santa Fe, the Town of Edgewood, and portions of the City of Espanola. Gross receipts tax rates as of July 1, 2011 for these areas are:

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

The above gross receipts tax rates remained flat from fiscal year 2011 to fiscal year 2012. Also, Santa Fe County 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.

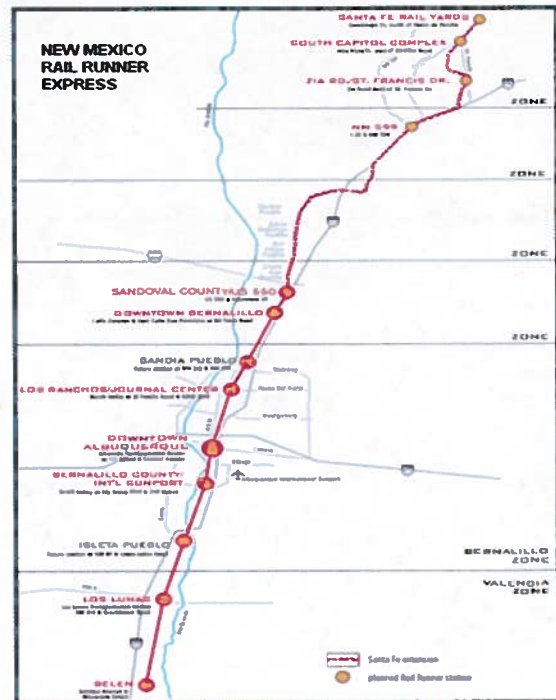
Santa Fe County's property tax rate is the lowest in the State of New Mexico with a residential operational tax rate of 4.697 mils, and 1.873 mils for County debt for tax year 2010 which began on November 1, 2010.

TRANSPORTATION

The Santa Fe Municipal Airport serves airlines, corporate jets and small private planes. The Albuquerque International Sunport is located about 1.25 hours south of Santa Fe, approximately 65 miles.

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 which includes, Taos, Rio Arriba, Los Alamos and Santa Fe Counties in addition to the Northern Pueblos.

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. There are currently three open stops on the rail line in Santa Fe County with one additional planned stop to be opened on a pilot basis sometime during fiscal year 2012.



EMPLOYMENT

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

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

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HEALTH CARE AND HOSPITALS

Santa Fe is serviced by the CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center and Physicians Medical Center. St. Vincent Hospital was established in 1865 and has been serving northern New Mexico since that time. In April 2008, CHRISTUS Health (a private non-profit organization) purchased St. Vincent Hospital. It is the largest hospital facility north of Albuquerque and south of Pueblo, Colorado, and is the only Level III Trauma Center in Northern New Mexico serving residents from a 19,000 square mile area from seven counties. CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center has 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.

Physicians Medical Center (PMC) was opened in 2006 and is focused on acute surgical care, both inpatient and outpatient. Its ownership is corporate with its parent system National Surgical Hospitals. PMC is a small hospital with 12 beds. It has an emergency room which saw 322 patients in 2010. Inpatient surgeries (admissions) totaled 235 and outpatient visits totaled 2,443 for the same period. Although small, patients that were treated at the hospital rated the care they received very highly. The planned purchase of PMC by CHRISTUS St. Vincent was recently announced. If the purchase is finalized the facility will be used to develop a state-of-the-art center for elective surgeries such as orthopedic, urology and less complex neurosurgery.



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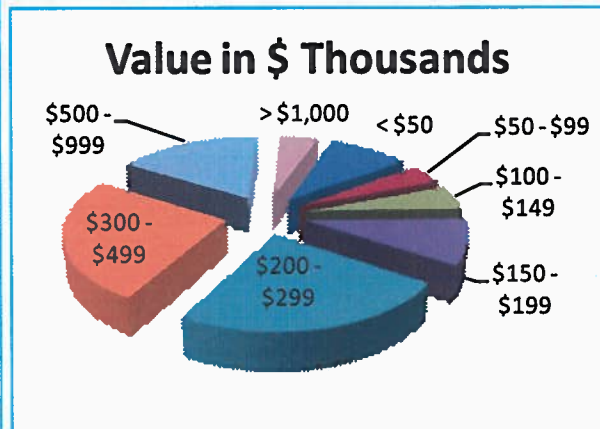
Santa Fe County – Economic Data

HOUSING

Santa Fe County's housing market has experienced significant growth in the number of housing units over the 10-year period between the 2000 and 2010 decennial census. In 2000 there were 57,701 housing units compared to 71,267 housing units in 2010. Of these, 35,977 were owner-occupied units. During the "great recession" of the last three years the median price of housing has dropped significantly but has leveled off as of 2011

Real Estate – Home Values Owner Occupied (2009 ACS)

VALUE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Less than \$50,000	3,778	9.7%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,634	4.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,000	2,040	5.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	3,760	9.6%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	9,395	24.0%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	9,970	25.5%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	6,745	17.2%
\$1,000,000 or more	1,796	4.6%
TOTAL (MEDIAN=\$287,700)	39,118	100%

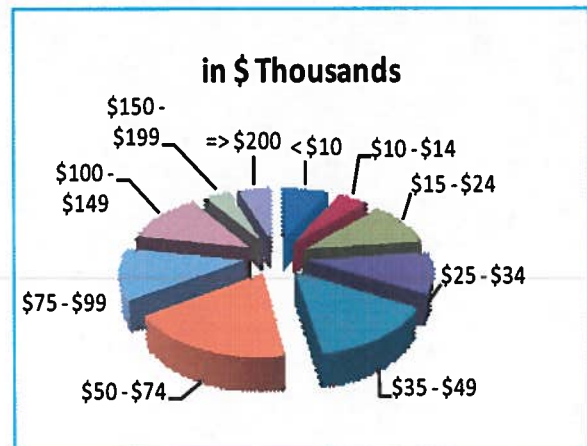


HOUSEHOLD INCOME

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 (2009 ACS)

HOUSEHOLD INCOME	NUMBER	PERCENT
Less than \$10,000	4,022	7.4%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2,694	4.9%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	5,928	10.9%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	5,390	9.9%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	7,855	14.4%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	10,058	18.4%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	6,634	12.1%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	6,847	12.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2,270	4.2%
\$200,000 or more	2,906	5.3%
TOTAL (MEDIAN=\$52,923)	54,604	100.0%



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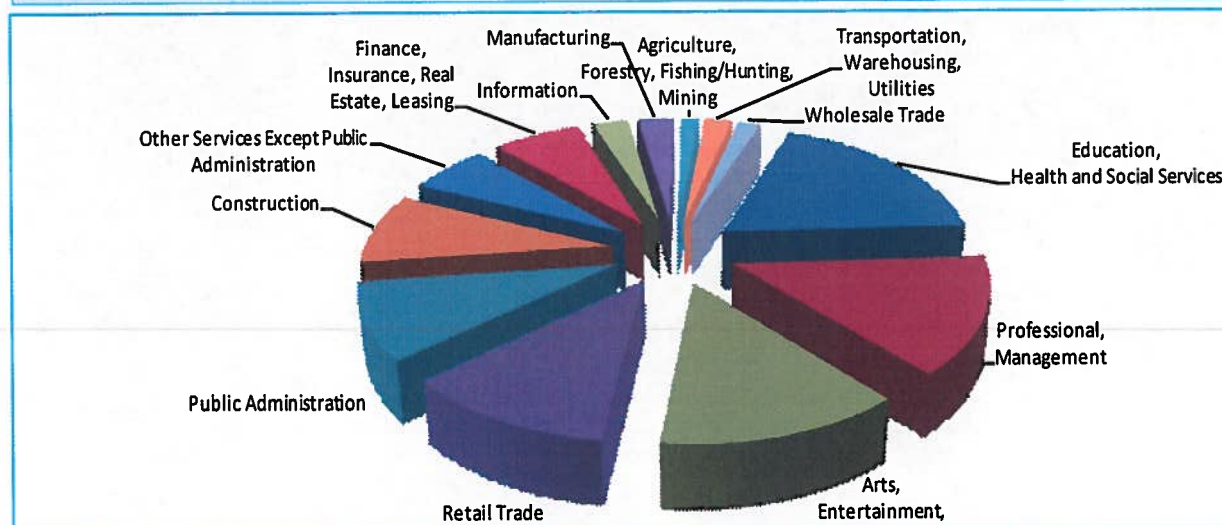
Santa Fe County – Economic Data INDUSTRIES

Major industries in the Santa Fe County area center around tourism and recreation. These include all associated industries such as food, lodging, arts and entertainment. 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.

Recently the film industry has made inroads into the Santa Fe County economy filming all or portions of 29 films in and around the County since the beginning of 2008. The film industry has and will continue to have a positive impact on the tourism industry as well. A study completed by Ernst & Young for the New Mexico Film Office and State Investment Council determined that tourism increased in areas of NM where films were shot by an estimated 5.5% in 2008. The study estimated that statewide film tourism generated \$7.0 million in direct local taxes and \$2.8 million in indirect local taxes in 2008 as a result of films shot in 2007.

Employment by Industry (2009 ACS)

INDUSTRY	NUMBER	PERCENT
EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES	13,781	18.7%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATIVE	10,644	14.4%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, RECREATION, LODGING, FOOD	9,804	13.3%
RETAIL TRADE	8,564	11.6%
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	7,050	9.6%
CONSTRUCTION	6,494	8.8%
OTHER SERVICES EXCEPT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	4,528	6.1%
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE, LEASING	4,953	6.7%
INFORMATION	2,041	2.8%
MANUFACTURING	2,080	2.8%
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING/HUNTING, MINING	1,004	1.4%
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, UTILITIES	1,533	2.1%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,286	1.7%



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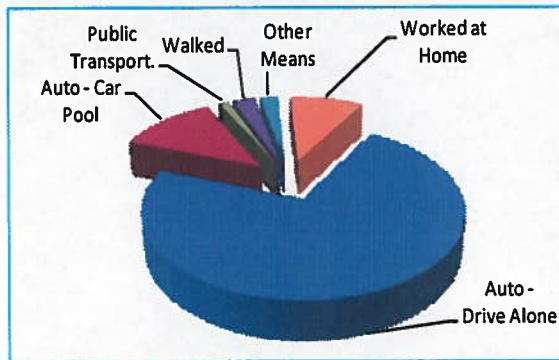
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Santa Fe County – Economic Data

COMMUTING TO WORK

The majority of workers in Santa Fe County commute to work via automobile with a total of 84.5% using this mode of transportation. Of those, 72.4% drive alone whereas 12.1% carpool.

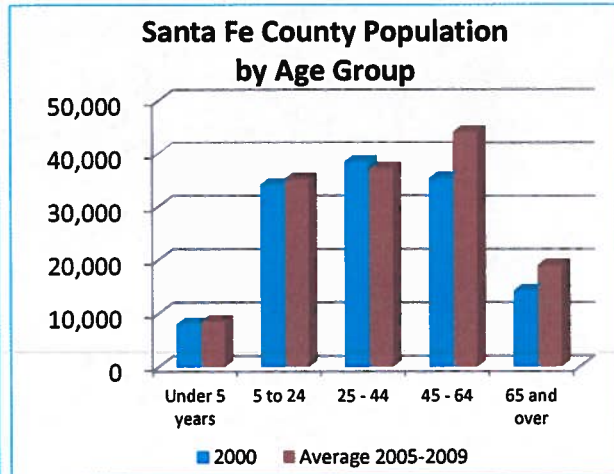
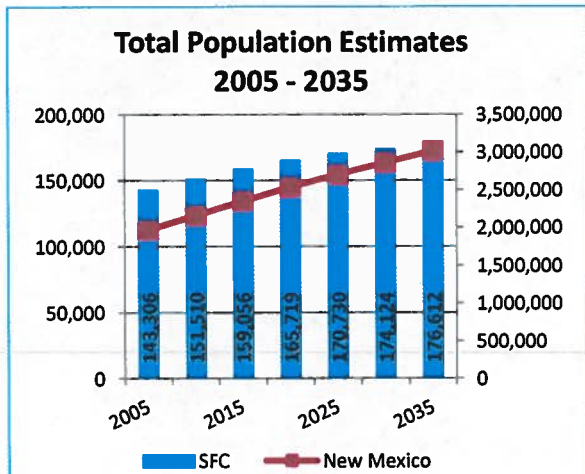
COMMUTING TO WORK (mean time 21.5 minutes – 2009 ACS)



MODE OF TRANSPORT	NUMBER	PERCENT
AUTO – DRIVE ALONE	52,244	72.4%
AUTO – CARPOOL	8,756	12.1%
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	934	1.3%
WALKED	1,984	2.8%
OTHER MEANS	1,612	2.2%
WORKED AT HOME	6,623	9.2%
TOTAL	72,153	100.0%

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. For the period 2005 to 2009 on average Santa Fe's population had a median age of 40.6 years. During that period the average populations in the age groups of under 5, 5 to 24, and 25 to 44 years remained fairly flat with only minor increases in the under 5 and 5 to 24 years group and a minor decrease in the 25 to 44 years age group. The age groups of 45 to 64 and 64 years and over increased significantly in that same period with the highest percentage increase being in the 65 years and over age group.



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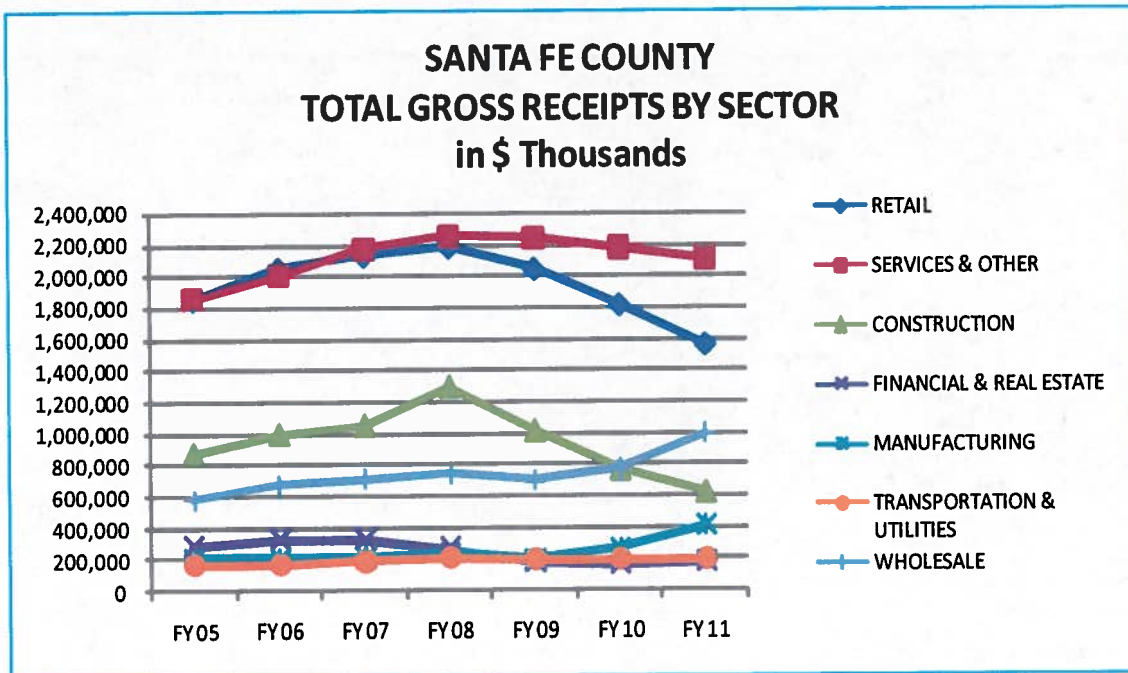
Santa Fe County – Economic Data

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 working towards its economic development goals by facilitating the private development of a film studio as part of a joint state, local government, and job creating enterprise endeavor.

Santa Fe County also is engaging in renewable energy initiatives, development of a regional broadband network and affordable housing and foreclosure prevention programs as a means of stabilizing and developing other areas of the local economy.

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 impacted by the adverse national and global economic events which started in FY 2008, as has construction and real estate.



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QUARTERLY BUSINESS ACTIVITY

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

Quarterly activity in the wholesale, retail, service and other unclassified sectors declined throughout fiscal year 2011 after rebounding slightly in the 3rd and 4th quarters of fiscal year 2010, taking it to the lowest in the five-year period. The sharpest decline in that group was in the wholesale sector followed by the retail sector.

