

Los Alamos County Workforce Profile

Developed by SER Jobs for Progress
For the
Northern Area Local Workforce Board

Los Alamos is Spanish for "poplars, cottonwoods" and the area was settled as early as 1880. It was named by Ashley Pond when he established the Los Alamos Ranch Boys School in 1925 Northwest of Santa Fe approximately 24 miles. In 1943 the school and the surrounding land was taken over by the military Manhattan District of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. Los Alamos was the birthplace of the atomic bomb July 16, 1945 when the first atomic bomb was activated at the Trinity Site on White Sands. Everything in Los Alamos County was classified; military and civilian.



Los Alamos Ranch School

Los Alamos County was the thirty second county in the state. It was created by the federal government as a site for the study of atomic energy. The federal government had exclusive jurisdiction of portions of Santa Fe and Sandoval counties for use of the Los Alamos atomic energy project. In May of 1949 it was returned to the jurisdiction of New Mexico and by the action of the state legislature Los Alamos County was created June 10, 1949 and it became a county. The city of Los Alamos became the county seat. The history of Los Alamos can be traced back before 1598 when Juan de Oñate and his expedition arrived and settled. The Spanish brought with them "land grants" which is a system of distribution of the land. The land that the city of Los Alamos is now on was the Ramon Vigil grant of 1746 for 31,209 acres. Slowly the history of the classified county and city of Los Alamos is being researched and printed.

Los Alamos County is a county located in the U.S. state of New Mexico. As of 2000, the population is 18,343. The county was administered exclusively by the

Federal government during the Manhattan Project, but is currently an "incorporated county" as a result of its previous Federal administration. The two population centers in the county, Los Alamos, New Mexico and White Rock, New Mexico are not incorporated independently but are commonly referred to as "town sites" or "communities". Many county offices are located at the townsite of Los Alamos, New Mexico which serves as the county seat. The county is home to Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Source: Los Alamos County Historical Society

Geography: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 283 km² (109 mi²). There is no significant (< 0.01%) open water in the county. The highest point is along the northern border of the county, near the summit of Caballo Mountain, at 10,480'+. Los Alamos County is the smallest county in New Mexico by area.

Demographics: As of the census of 2000, there were 18,343 people, 7,497 households, and 5,337 families residing in the county. The population density was 65/km² (168/mi²). There were 7,937 housing units at an average density of 28/km² (73/mi²). The racial makeup of the county was 90.26% White, 0.37% Black or African American, 0.58% Native American, 3.78% Asian, 0.03% Pacific Islander, 2.70% from other races, and 2.28% from two or more races. 11.75% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race.

There were 7,497 households out of which 33.50% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 62.70% were married couples living together, 5.70% had a female householder with no husband present, and 28.80% were non-families. 24.90% of all households were made up of individuals and 6.70% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.43 and the average family size was 2.92.

In the county the population was spread out with 25.80% under the age of 18, 4.40% from 18 to 24, 27.70% from 25 to 44, 30.00% from 45 to 64, and 12.10% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 41 years. For every 100 females there were 101.40 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 99.70 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$78,993, and the median income for a family was \$90,032. Males had a median income of \$70,063 versus \$40,246 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$34,646. 2.90% of the population and 1.90% of families were below the poverty line. 1.80% of those under the age of 18 and 4.70% of those 65 and older were living below the poverty line.

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Priority Industries and Industry Career Clusters:

The Northern Board has developed plans to provide all businesses with a range of value-added services to meet their workforce requirements. The services focus on referral of

qualified applicants to any Northern Area business requesting the services. While workforce services will continue to be available to all businesses in the Northern Area, the Board's identification of priority industries reflects its intention to target businesses in priority industries. The purpose of identifying priority industries is to better focus the Northern Board's resources (and in accordance with New Mexico's One-Stop Guide), within an area. Selection of Priority Industries are or most likely will be high-growth/high-wage, to provide job and career opportunities for workers and to contribute significantly to the quality of life in the Northern Area and to the wealth of the state of New Mexico.

The Northern Board may designate an industry "priority" based on a number of factors, including the following: growing industry (i.e., increasing employment and payrolls); significant numbers of new and existing businesses; contribution to the Area's quality of life; clear paths or opportunities for career mobility and promotion; and high-wage, high-growth.

The following Industries meet the guidelines as identified by the NALWDB and are suggested priority industries:

- **Health and Social Services;**
- **Administration, Support, Waste Management and Remediation;**
- **Accommodation and Food Services;**

Career clusters are groups of related industries that share common resources, like raw materials or equipment, and employ workers who have similar interests and abilities. New Mexico has identified 7 strategic market sectors or "clusters" as the foundation for its future economy-its careers and businesses.

Career clusters offer individuals valuable options. They prepare workers to face the uncertainties and volatility of the 21st century job market with the skills to be successful in a number of potential careers.

Emphasis will be given to the NALWDB Priority of Industries and associated Industry Clusters focusing on:

- ✚ Skill requirements for specific jobs or career paths;
- ✚ Training requirements for emerging, incumbent and/or expanding workforces
- ✚ Challenges pertaining to employee attraction and retention

Source: Work in New Mexico <http://www.workinnewmexico.gov>

Health Services: New Mexico has a booming healthcare industry, which has been one of the fastest growing sectors in the state's economy so far this decade. It is projected by the New Mexico Department of Labor to grow by thirty percent through 2012.

The New Mexico Department of Labor projects 47,870 new jobs will be created in the healthcare sector over the next 6 years. The fastest growth within the health services

industry is anticipated to occur within the ambulatory health care services, approaching 44 percent and growing by 13,170 jobs. Nursing and residential care facilities are projected to add 4,460 jobs, equating to roughly 35 percent growth, growing from 12,770 jobs in 2002 to 17,230 in 2012. Social assistance employment is projected to increase by 41.4 percent, rising from 15,350 jobs in 2002 to 21,710 in 2012.

In Los Alamos County there were 105 work locations in the Health and Bioscience Industry in 2006, with a total of 1443 employees. The average weekly wage for Health and Bioscience Industry in Los Alamos County in 2nd Quarter, 2006 was \$595. This would be equivalent to \$14.88 per hour or \$30940 per year, assuming a 40-hour week worked the year around.

❖ **Health and Biosciences Cluster Definition:** The career cluster is comprised of courses and/or programs related to planning, managing and providing diagnostic, therapeutic, and information and environmental services in health care and to planning, managing, and providing scientific professional and technical services in the biosciences, including laboratory testing and Research and Development.

❖ **Health and Biosciences Industry Sector Clusters:**

- Healthcare
- Information Technology
- Research and Development
- Homeland Security
- Social Services Home Medical Equipment
- Law

❖ **Types of Business in Health and Biosciences Industry Cluster:**

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Home Medical Equipment | • Social Work/Counseling |
| • Hospitals | • Environmental, Waste Engineering |
| • Agri-engineering | • Electronic Records |
| • Equipment Sales | • Medical Transcription |
| • Science Research and Development | • Insurance |
| • Telemedicine | • Laboratory Testing |
| • Social Work/Counseling | • Pharmaceuticals |
| • Forensics | • Disaster Management |

❖ **Needed Skills for Industry Cluster:**

- Entrepreneurship
- Systems Integration Engineering
- Economics and Management
- Software Application Development
- Construction
- Trades, Installation, Repair
- Logistics and Inventory Control
- Project Management
- Culinary Arts
- Architecture and Drafting
- Hotel and Resort Management
- Business Financial Management and Accounting
- Administrative Services and Information Support
- Human Resources Management
- Information Technology Systems Administration
- Legal Service
- Teaching and Training
- Laboratory Testing
- Marketing
- Communications
- Consumer Sales and Service
- Information Technology Systems Administration
- Network Systems
- Foreign Languages
- Health, Safety and Environmental Regulation
- Government Relations
- Quality Assurance

Current Economic Activity Related to Health Services:

Source: NMDOL Laser market analysis <http://laser.state.nm.us>

Industry	Average Establishments	Employment			Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage
		4/06	5/06	6/06		
Health Care and Social Assistance	54	949	949	961	953	\$632
Ambulatory Health Care Services	40	411	415	417	414	\$732
Hospitals	***	***	***	***	***	***
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	***	***	***	***	***	***
Social Assistance	11	71	79	76	75	\$421

Note: Asterisks indicate non-disclosable data

Business Services: Business Services companies provide the backbone for any productive business environment. They are a strong sector of employment in the New Mexico economy.

As national and multinational companies around the country streamline operations to compete in a global economy, they are increasingly consolidating finance and human resources divisions into one central location. # of these so-called combined service centers have already relocated to New Mexico and employ approximately #. In addition, New Mexico has an advantage as corporations seek to provide business services to the growing Hispanic population. Since 2005, two national corporations have announced they will locate bi-lingual business service operations in New Mexico that intend to employ over 1,100.

According to the New Mexico Department of Labor, employment in professional and business services is projected to increase from 98,710 to 125,590 jobs or 27.2 percent during the 2002 to 2012 period.

Administrative support positions are projected to experience the fastest growth within the professional and business services industry growing by 49.4% and adding 20,650 jobs. Management of companies and services jobs is projected to grow by 34.5 percent or 1,880 jobs. Professional, scientific and technical services are projected to add 3,880 jobs or grow 7.7 percent. Source: Work in New Mexico <http://www.workinnewmexico.gov>

In Los Alamos County there were 32 work locations in the Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services sector in 2006, with a total of 2,434 employees. There were 42 work locations in the Other Services (except Public Administration) sector in Los Alamos County in 2006, with a total of 274 employees. The average weekly wage for the Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services Sector in Los Alamos County in 2nd Quarter, 2006 was \$1,045. This would be equivalent to \$26.13 per hour or \$54,340 per year, assuming a 40-hour week worked the year around.

❖ **Business Services Cluster Definition:** The cluster is comprised of courses and/or programs related to planning, managing and providing administrative support, information processing, accounting, and human resource management services and related management support services and to planning, managing and providing banking, investment, financial planning, and insurance services.

❖ **Business Services Industry Sector Clusters:**

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|---------------------------|---|
| • Administrative Services | • Information Technology and Management |
| • Professional Services | • Consulting |
| • Financial Services | • Sales and Marketing |
| • Customer Support | • Entrepreneurship |

❖ **Types of Business in the Business Services Industry Cluster:**

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|-------------------|-------------|
| • Human Resources | • Financial |
| • Consulting | • Sales |
| • IT | • Insurance |
| • Management | • Law |

- Teaching and Training
- Retail Trade
- Contact (Call) Centers
- Accounting
- Investment
- Banking
- Logistics
- Transportation
- Warehousing/Facilities
- Public and Community Relations
- Economic Development

❖ **Needed Skills For Industry Cluster:**

- Entrepreneurship
- Government Relations
- Logistics and Inventory Control
- Project Management
- Communications
- Foreign Languages
- Marketing

Current Economic Activity Related to Administration, Support, Waste Management, Remediation:

Source: NMDOL Laser market analysis <http://laser.state.nm.us>

Industry	Average Establishments	Employment			Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage
Administrative and Waste Services	32	2,390	2,425	2,487	2,434	\$1,045
Administrative and Support Services	***	***	***	***	***	***
Waste Management and Remediation Service	***	***	***	***	***	***

Note: Asterisks indicate non-disclosable data

Hospitality and Tourism: New Mexico is recognized as one of the world’s leading tourist destinations. Its rich, ancient Native American and Hispanic history, art, peoples, cultures, traditions, and landscapes are virtually unparalleled in the United States and around the globe.

The state's Hospitality and Tourism industries are crucial to sustaining the New Mexico economy, and represent a fundamental component of its future promise.

The New Mexico Department of Labor projects this industry will grow by 27 percent or create 23,370 new jobs over the next 6 years. The Tourism Association of New Mexico estimate their industry generates over \$4.5 billion in expenditures annually and is New Mexico's second largest private sector industry. Projections say the industry will continue to grow.

Food services and drinking places, the largest sector of employment in the industry, are projected to grow from 58,940 jobs to 73,660 or 25 percent through 2012 according to the New Mexico Department of Labor. Accommodations jobs are expected to grow by 19 percent, growing from 13,760 to 16,330 jobs. Amusement, gambling and recreation industries are expected to experience faster than average growth. This sub sector is expected to create 5,330 jobs, growing from 11,580 in 2002 to 16,910 in 2012 or 46 percent.

In Los Alamos County there were 37 work locations in the Accommodations and Food Service industry in 2006, with a total of 623 employees. The average weekly wage for Accommodation and Food Services in Los Alamos County in 2nd Quarter, 2006 was \$272. This would be equivalent to \$6.80 per hour or \$14,144 per year, assuming a 40-hour week worked the year around.

- ❖ **Hospitality and Tourism Cluster Definition:** The career cluster is comprised of courses and/or programs related to hospitality and tourism and to planning, managing and providing lodging, food, recreation, convention and tourism, and related planning and support services such as travel-related services.

❖ **Accommodation and Food Service Industry Sectors:**

- Parks
- Cultural and Historical Sites
- Hotels and Lodging
- Gaming
- Food Services
- Travel and Tourism
- Wholesale and Retail Trade

❖ **Types of Business in Accommodation and Food Service Industry Cluster:**

- Travel
- Tours
- Restaurants
- Catering
- Hotels/Bed and Breakfast Inns
- Resorts
- Casinos
- Special Event Planning
- Camps
- Retail Trade
- Groundskeeping and Landscaping
- Logistic/Warehouse/Facility
- Visitors and Convention Bureaus
- Marketing
- Ticket Sales

- Equipment Rental
- Transportation

❖ **Needed Skills for Industry Clusters:**

- Entrepreneurship
- Administrative Services and Information Support
- Business Financial Management and Accounting
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Foreign Languages
- Media Technology
- Construction
- Consumer Sales and Service
- Marketing
- Communications
- Logistics and Inventory Control

Current Economic Activity Related to Accommodation and Food Service

Source: NMDOL Laser market analysis <http://laser.state.nm.us>

Industry	Average Establishments	Employment			Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage
Accommodation and Food Services	37	618	623	627	623	\$272
Accommodation	7	79	86	84	83	\$337
Food Services and Drinking Places	30	539	537	543	540	\$262

Economic Initiatives:

➤ **Trinity Relocation/Mixed Use Development Project Scheduled for Completion in 2011**

The County is partnering with Los Alamos Public Schools as owners and occupants of adjoining parcels along Trinity Drive to jointly vacate and develop the parcels. “Shop” and other warehouse and special use facilities that are currently based on the 15 acre Trinity Site will be relocated to County-owned, vacant land between the end of the airport and the East Gate Office Park.

Concurrent with the Trinity Site Relocation Project, the County is working to develop a one-of-a-kind retail, commercial and residential project designed to take full advantage of

the Trinity Site, as well as the school's parcel of 24 acres and the County's parcel of 3 acres. Together, the parcels total just over 42 acres and are strategically located along Trinity Drive within the Downtown Zone. Preliminary feasibility analyses indicate that, combined, the parcels could support a collection of up to 212,000 square feet of retail, entertainment and dining experiences, plus 217,300 square feet of office space and 300 residential units. By coordinating efforts with the relocation and redevelopment projects, the objective will be to break ground the moment the parcels are cleared. Trinity Relocation/Mixed Use Development Project Scheduled for Completion in 2011 is projected to add 400 jobs to the Los Alamos area. These jobs will be primarily service oriented jobs.