

# **Economic Overview**

# Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca

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# **Demographic Profile**

The population in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca was 68,514 per American Community Survey data for 2019-2023.

The region has a civilian labor force of 29,009 with a participation rate of 60.1%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca, 21.2% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 36.5% in the nation.

The median household income in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca is \$54,792 and the median house value is \$153,908.

#### Summary<sup>1</sup>

		Percent			Value	
	Curry,			Curry,		
	Roosevelt, and De Baca	EAWDB	New Mexico	Roosevelt, and De Baca	EAWDB	New Mexico
Demographics	20 2444	2,11122	THE IT IN CASE	20 2000	222	TO THE STATE OF
Population (ACS)	_	_	_	68,514	373,472	2,114,768
Male	50.9%	51.4%	49.7%	34,888	191,800	1,050,368
Female	49.1%	48.6%	50.3%	33,626	181,672	1,064,400
Median Age <sup>2</sup>	_	_	_	32.0	36.1	39.2
Under 18 Years	26.3%	25.2%	22.1%	18,013	94,183	466,617
18 to 24 Years	12.5%	10.1%	9.3%	8,537	37,637	197,152
25 to 34 Years	15.7%	14.0%	13.2%	10,731	52,227	279,227
35 to 44 Years	12.2%	12.7%	12.7%	8,386	47,342	267,554
45 to 54 Years	9.2%	10.4%	11.2%	6,324	38,927	236,766
55 to 64 Years	10.5%	11.8%	12.8%	7,190	44,067	270,296
65 to 74 Years	7.8%	9.4%	11.3%	5,328	35,182	239,187
75 Years and Over	5.8%	6.4%	7.5%	4,005	23,907	157,969
Race: White	61.0%	60.9%	53.6%	41,812	227,309	1,133,871
Race: Black or African American	4.2%	2.8%	2.1%	2,895	10,627	44,709
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	1.2%	2.4%	9.5%	812	8,798	201,346
Race: Asian	1.2%	1.0%	1.7%	814	3,850	36,065
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	103	267	2,049
Race: Some Other Race	17.6%	11.8%	12.0%	12,070	43,893	253,794
Race: Two or More Races	14.6%	21.1%	20.9%	10,008	78,728	442,934
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	45.6%	50.1%	48.2%	31,226	187,036	1,018,321
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) <sup>4</sup>	_	_	_	67,666	369,857	2,114,371
Population Annual Average Growth <sup>4</sup>	-0.7%	0.1%	0.1%	-511	214	2,154
People per Square Mile <sup>4</sup>	_	_	_	11.0	8.4	17.4
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	60.1%	57.6%	57.4%	29,009	162,256	970,453
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	76.7%	73.9%	77.6%	17,611	98,787	600,912
Work from Home	3.4%	5.3%	11.0%	1,041	8,273	100,080
Armed Forces Labor Force	7.6%	2.9%	0.9%	3,970	8,416	14,637
Veterans, Age 18-64	9.1%	5.9%	5.2%	3,370	12,510	64,775
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	84.0%	75.2%	73.7%	2,831	9,410	47,755
Median Household Income <sup>2</sup>	_	_	_	\$54,792	\$59,760	\$62,125
Per Capita Income	_	_	_	\$28,188	\$31,003	\$34,823
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	_	_	_	16.1	20.4	23.2
Commute via Public Transportation	0.1%	0.2%	0.7%	45	287	6,182

### Summary<sup>1</sup>

		Percent		Value				
	Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca	EAWDB	New Mexico	Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca	EAWDB	New Mexico		
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64								
No High School Diploma	16.2%	16.7%	11.7%	5,287	30,472	123,551		
High School Graduate	26.2%	29.2%	26.1%	8,551	53,268	275,245		
Some College, No Degree	26.4%	25.2%	22.9%	8,624	46,023	241,079		
Associate's Degree	10.0%	10.0%	10.1%	3,265	18,229	106,395		
Bachelor's Degree	13.1%	11.9%	16.8%	4,275	21,784	176,932		
Postgraduate Degree	8.1%	7.0%	12.4%	2,629	12,787	130,641		
Housing								
Total Housing Units	_	_	_	30,956	172,925	949,524		
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) <sup>2,5</sup>	_	_	_	\$153,908	\$164,756	\$232,200		
Homeowner Vacancy	2.1%	1.6%	1.1%	347	1,609	6,424		
Rental Vacancy	6.7%	8.3%	6.1%	749	4,026	16,660		
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	38.3%	31.2%	30.7%	10,123	43,285	252,957		
Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	61.7%	68.8%	69.3%	16,286	95,542	572,064		
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	5.3%	5.1%	5.7%	1,396	7,133	47,041		
Social								
Poverty Level (of all people)	21.0%	19.0%	18.1%	13,921	68,373	375,381		
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	21.6%	19.4%	18.7%	5,714	26,936	153,928		
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.1%	1.4%	1.4%	732	5,178	28,864		
Disconnected Youth <sup>3</sup>	6.7%	3.5%	3.7%	270	735	4,261		
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	39.5%	40.7%	44.5%	6,605	35,599	194,011		
Uninsured	9.4%	10.4%	9.5%	5,982	37,089	196,921		
With a Disability, Age 18-64	18.1%	16.4%	14.3%	6,666	33,746	174,511		
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	47.0%	45.1%	43.8%	3,131	15,208	76,369		
Foreign Born	7.6%	10.1%	9.2%	5,199	37,859	195,484		
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	5.2%	8.9%	8.7%	3,298	31,017	173,410		

Source: JobsEQ®

<sup>1.</sup> American Community Survey 2019-2023, unless noted otherwise

<sup>2.</sup> Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

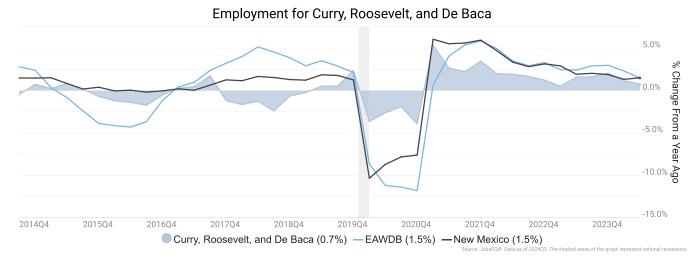
<sup>3.</sup> Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

<sup>4.</sup> Census Population Estimate for 2023, annual average growth rate since 2013.

<sup>5.</sup> The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with the 2022 data set, so pre-2022 values are not directly comparable with later data.

# **Employment Trends**

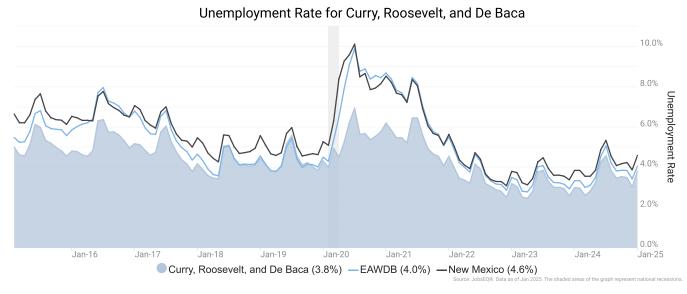
As of 2024Q3, total employment for the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca was 26,643 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2024Q3, employment increased 0.7% in the region.



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3.

# **Unemployment Rate**

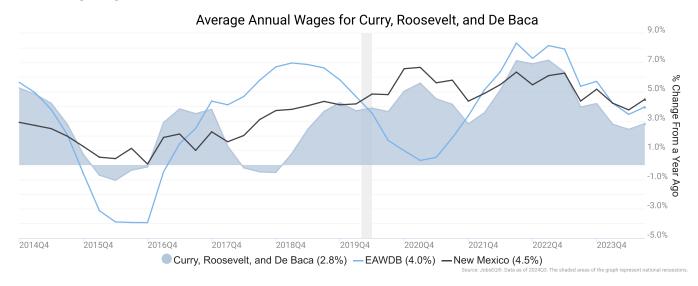
The unemployment rate for the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca was 3.8% as of January 2025. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 4.4%. One year earlier, in January 2024, the unemployment rate in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca was 3.0%.



Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through January 2025.

# Wage Trends

The average worker in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca earned annual wages of \$48,531 as of 2024Q3. Average annual wages per worker increased 2.8% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$72,609 in the nation as of 2024Q3.



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3.

# **Cost of Living Index**

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 15.5% lower in Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca than the U.S. average.

### **Cost of Living Information**

	Cost of Living Index					
	<b>Annual Average Salary</b>	(Base US)	<b>US Purchasing Power</b>			
Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca	\$48,531	84.5	\$57,445			
EAWDB	\$57,902	87.8	\$65,954			
New Mexico	\$58,633	93.0	\$63,017			
USA	\$72,609	100.0	\$72,609			

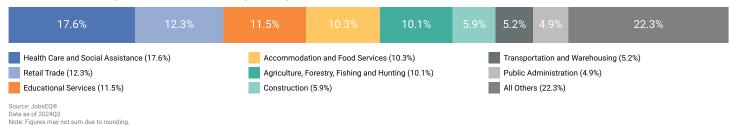
Source: <u>JobsEQ®</u> Data as of 2024Q3

Cost of Living per COLI, data as of 2024Q4, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

### **Industry Snapshot**

The largest sector in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca is Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 4,683 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (3,268 workers) and Educational Services (3,062). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (LQ = 8.34), Utilities (2.16), and Educational Services (1.43).

Total Workers for Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca by Industry



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3.

Sectors in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca with the highest average wages per worker are Utilities (\$86,043), Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$79,251), and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (\$77,830). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Health Care and Social Assistance (+559 jobs), Construction (+308), and Educational Services (+253).

Over the next 5 years, employment in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca is projected to contract by 458 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Utilities with a +1.4% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+89 jobs), Utilities (+21), and Manufacturing (+11).

### Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca, 2024Q31

			Current		5-Year History		5-Year Forecast				
			Avg Ann		Empl		Total			Empl	Ann %
NAICS	Industry	Empl	Wages	LQ	Change	Ann %	Demand	Exits	Transfers	Growth	Growth
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	4,683	\$46,679	1.17	559	2.6%	2,385	1,046	1,250	89	0.4%
44	Retail Trade	3,268	\$32,930	1.25	224	1.4%	2,003	912	1,262	-171	-1.1%
61	Educational Services	3,062	\$53,907	1.43	253	1.7%	1,315	638	772	-95	-0.6%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	2,742	\$21,190	1.18	131	1.0%	2,370	1,027	1,385	-42	-0.3%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	2,684	\$70,152	8.34	-300	-2.1%	1,462	757	845	-140	-1.1%
23	Construction	1,581	\$48,783	0.99	308	4.4%	653	247	423	-17	-0.2%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	1,375	\$66,292	1.03	-19	-0.3%	699	298	437	-36	-0.5%
92	Public Administration	1,316	\$63,173	1.06	27	0.4%	559	238	356	-35	-0.5%
31	Manufacturing	1,240	\$56,219	0.59	61	1.0%	638	231	396	11	0.2%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,023	\$28,540	0.91	-68	-1.3%	564	236	341	-13	-0.3%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	666	\$40,290	0.41	41	1.3%	365	150	225	-10	-0.3%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	636	\$63,202	0.33	79	2.7%	263	95	161	7	0.2%
42	Wholesale Trade	539	\$47,938	0.54	-49	-1.7%	248	99	166	-17	-0.6%
52	Finance and Insurance	506	\$64,329	0.48	-33	-1.3%	193	79	127	-13	-0.5%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	311	\$25,819	0.57	89	6.9%	231	91	138	3	0.2%
22	Utilities	298	\$86,043	2.16	67	5.2%	156	50	85	21	1.4%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	287	\$46,002	0.61	-11	-0.7%	129	60	75	-6	-0.5%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	241	\$79,251	0.58	-154	-9.4%	101	38	63	0	0.0%
51	Information	165	\$55,876	0.32	-11	-1.3%	67	26	45	-3	-0.4%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	18	\$77,830	0.19	-13	-10.4%	8	3	6	0	-0.3%
	Total - All Industries	26,643	\$48,531	1.00	1,179	0.9%	13,850	5,888	8,420	-458	-0.3%

Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2024Q3

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

LAII data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

### **Occupation Snapshot**

The largest major occupation group in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 2,986 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (2,605 workers) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (2,264). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (LQ = 8.38), Educational Instruction and Library Occupations (1.40), and Healthcare Support Occupations (1.37).

Occupation groups in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$99,400), Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$95,400), and Legal Occupations (\$95,300). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 0.9% among Legal Occupations to 6.8% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 5 years, the fastest growing occupation group in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +1.1% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Support Occupations (+95 jobs) and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (+10). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (2,465 jobs) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (1,587).

### Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca, 2024Q31

			Current					5-Year History				5-Year Forecast		
soc	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	2,986	\$41,300	0.96	92	2.7%	90	-87	-0.6%	1,440	704	883	-147	-1.0%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	2,605	\$31,400	1.19	150	5.1%	137	116	0.9%	2,420	1,068	1,397	-45	-0.3%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	2,264	\$43,800	0.98	115	4.4%	92	42	0.4%	1,313	525	823	-35	-0.3%
11-0000	Management	2,245	\$99,400	1.09	27	1.2%	96	23	0.2%	918	463	501	-46	-0.4%
41-0000	Sales and Related	2,204	\$40,300	0.95	106	4.4%	179	66	0.6%	1,346	644	822	-119	-1.1%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	2,024	\$61,600	1.40	43	2.0%	74	159	1.6%	796	394	454	-52	-0.5%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	1,692	\$31,400	1.37	56	2.9%	76	463	6.6%	1,271	565	611	95	1.1%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	1,421	\$95,400	0.89	17	1.1%	551	54	0.8%	401	200	191	10	0.1%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	1,292	\$41,700	8.38	96	6.8%	4	-121	-1.8%	852	379	549	-76	-1.2%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	1,244	\$51,700	1.20	36	2.4%	62	126	2.2%	550	220	321	9	0.1%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	1,179	\$50,900	0.99	65	4.3%	28	130	2.4%	472	175	306	-10	-0.2%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	1,055	\$75,200	0.62	23	2.3%	34	77	1.5%	410	145	270	-5	-0.1%
51-0000	Production	984	\$45,200	0.68	44	3.6%	20	22	0.4%	541	209	344	-12	-0.2%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	774	\$35,000	0.89	37	4.1%	40	20	0.5%	495	229	283	-17	-0.4%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	556	\$35,500	0.81	21	3.6%	30	1	0.0%	453	172	287	-7	-0.3%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	522	\$58,500	1.06	13	2.2%	65	5	0.2%	236	96	134	6	0.2%

### Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca, 2024Q31

				C	urrent			5-Year History				5-Year Forecast			
soc	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads <sup>3</sup>	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth	
33-0000	Protective Service	473	\$52,000	0.83	14	2.6%	30	30	1.3%	225	96	144	-14	-0.6%	
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	327	\$89,400	0.39	6	2.1%	24	30	1.9%	97	36	59	3	0.2%	
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	274	\$54,000	0.57	7	2.7%	29	15	1.1%	128	55	77	-5	-0.3%	
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	213	\$75,800	0.88	4	2.3%	8	13	1.2%	97	18	80	-1	-0.1%	
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	196	\$95,100	0.46	3	1.4%	4	12	1.3%	66	24	40	2	0.2%	
23-0000	Legal	112	\$95,300	0.51	1	0.9%	4	-14	-2.3%	30	13	18	-2	-0.3%	
	Total - All Occupations	26,643	\$53,400	1.00	974	3.3%	1,677	1,179	0.9%	14,568	6,432	8,594	-459	-0.3%	

Source: JobsEQ®

Data as of 2024Q3 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

- 1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.
- 2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

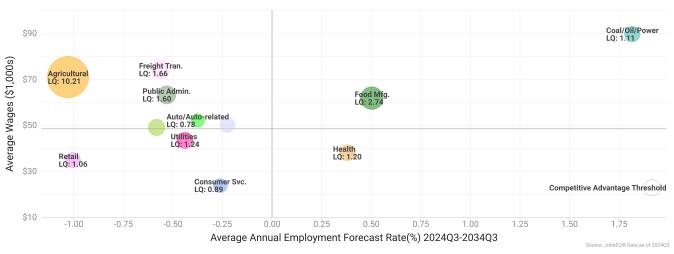
Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2024Q2, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3. Wages by occupation are as of 2024 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

<sup>3.</sup> Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

# **Industry Clusters**

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca with the highest relative concentration is Agricultural with a location quotient of 10.21. This cluster employs 2,756 workers in the region with an average wage of \$70,905. Employment in the Agricultural cluster is projected to contract in the region about 1.0% per year over the next ten years.

### Industry Clusters for Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca as of 2024Q3

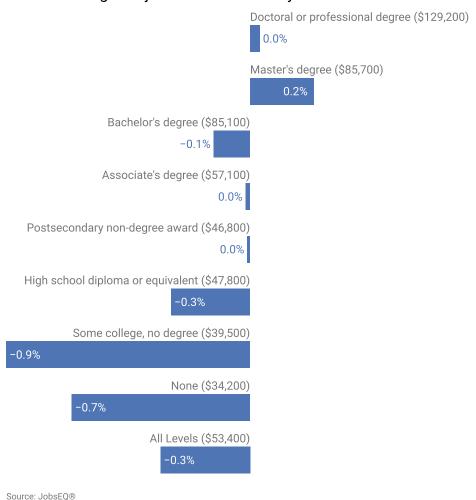


Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

### **Education Levels**

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca is projected to contract 0.3% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.0% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to contract 0.1% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to contract 0.0% per year.

### Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

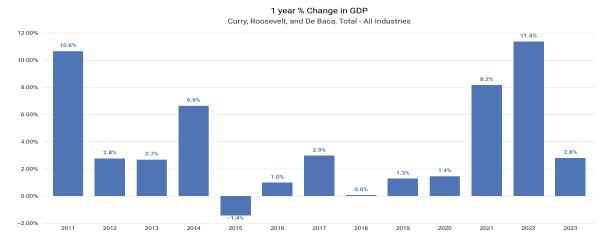


Employment by occupation data are estimates are as of 2024Q3. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Data as of 2024Q3

### **Gross Domestic Product**

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2023, nominal GDP in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca expanded 2.8%. This follows growth of 11.4% in 2022. As of 2023, total GDP in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca was \$4,717,527,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2023.

Of the sectors in the Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca, Unclassified contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2023, \$1,610,779,000 The next-largest contributions came from Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (\$520,355,000); Transportation and Warehousing (\$401,410,000); and Health Care and Social Assistance (\$300,677,000).

### GDP (in \$ millions)

Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca, 2023

Unclassified (99)

\$1,611

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (11)

\$520

Transportation and Warehousing (48)

\$401

Health Care and Social Assistance (62)

\$301

Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)

\$293

**Educational Services (61)** 

\$265

Retail Trade (44)

\$224

Public Administration (92)



Manufacturing (31)



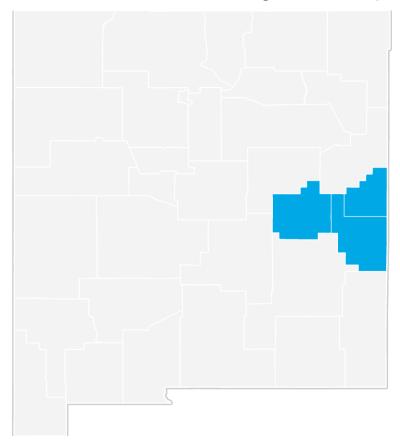
\$172

Construction (23)

\$118

Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2023.

# Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca Regional Map



# **Region Definition**

### Curry, Roosevelt, and De Baca is defined as the following counties:

Curry County, New Mexico	Roosevelt County, New Mexico						
De Baca County, New Mexico							
EAWDB is defined as the following counties:							
Chaves County, New Mexico	Lea County, New Mexico						
Curry County, New Mexico	Lincoln County, New Mexico						
De Baca County, New Mexico	Otero County, New Mexico						
Eddy County, New Mexico	Quay County, New Mexico						
Guadalupe County, New Mexico	Roosevelt County, New Mexico						
Harding County, New Mexico	Union County, New Mexico						

### **FAQ**

### What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

#### What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

### What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

### What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

#### What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the "all industry" level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the "sector," which is the level examined in this report.

#### What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

#### About This Report

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