

POPULATION, HOUSING AND EDUCATION IN LEA COUNTY

Report to the Lea County Community
Improvement Corporation

November 13, 2007

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

BUREAU OF BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC RESEARCH



The University of New Mexico

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Dr. Adelamar Alcantara

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POPULATION, HOUSING AND EDUCATION IN LEA COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

This section of the Lea County report covers the demographic, housing, and education portions of this study. The data used in the analyses were taken from a variety of sources. The school enrollment numbers for the Hobbs Municipal Schools were provided by Linda Youngblood. Public school enrollment data for all of Lea County were extracted from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) website <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/ccdata.asp>. Private school enrollment figures at the county level were from the New Mexico Public Education Department Data Collection Reporting Bureau. Private school enrollment figures in the City of Hobbs for the current school year (SY 2007) were supplied by the secretary of King's Gate Academy and the assistant to the principal of St. Helena's Elementary School. The college enrollment figures for the College of the Southwest were taken from the NCES website while the statistics for the New Mexico Junior College were provided by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness. Births and deaths statistics were processed from individual records made available by the New Mexico Department of Health Vital Records and Health Statistics. Historical population, housing and educational attainment data were from the Decennial Censuses 1990 and 2000 Summary Files 1 and 3. Housing figures post Census 2000 were compiled from data provided by the New Mexico Construction and Industries Division (CID) and the City of Hobbs of Planning Department. Texas housing and population numbers were downloaded from the Texas A & M and University of Texas at San Antonio State Data Center websites <http://txsdc.utsa.edu/>.

Instead of using the Census Bureau county population figures, BBER did its own county population estimates for July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2006. BBER has found that the Census Bureau estimates have been lower than indicated by a housing unit method. The Census Bureau's use of a top-down approach to population estimation and its dependence on the IRS personal income tax returns for estimating migration, by and large, has resulted in lower population estimates for most New Mexico counties. IRS returns tend to underestimate immigration and exaggerate out-migration especially in places where there is a significant number of college migrants or first time entrants to the labor force. First time filers and individuals whose incomes fall below the threshold of taxable income under federal guidelines do not file IRS returns. In poor states, like New Mexico, the use of the IRS personal income tax returns will very likely result in a lower than expected migration estimates for obvious reasons.

In contrast, the University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) uses a bottom up approach and a housing unit method of population estimation. This procedure updates the Census 2000 housing stock with new building permits that have been address-matched using a Geographic

Information System (GIS) software. Unmatched building permits have been prorated or allocated based on the known distribution of the updated housing stock across the census tracts. To these housing units are applied the most recent Census occupancy rate and an average household size that has been adjusted using a rate of change calculated from the 1990 and 2000 Censuses on household population. Occupancy rates for the Hobbs area (Census Tracts 1 to 7) and Eunice area (Census Tracts 8) have been adjusted upwards starting with the July 1, 2004 through July 1, 2006 to account for the influx of workers to work in the oil fields and the uranium enrichment plant that is currently under construction.

The population estimates and projections were estimated by census tracts because the addresses in the input data can only be precisely geo-coded at this level of geography. Even data that have been collected by cities include events and permits that are outside the city limits. Oftentimes, the census tract boundaries extend beyond the city or incorporated place. Altogether, Lea County has 13 Census Tracts. Census Tracts 1 to 6 define the incorporated City of Hobbs. Census Tract 7 is immediately outside the incorporated area in the City of Hobbs. Eunice is in Census Tract 8. Jal is in Census Tract 9 while Tatum is in Census Tract 11. Census Tracts 10.02 and 10.03 include Lovington and surrounding areas. On the maps, the census tract numbers can be identified by the four digit numbers that are in small fonts and depending on the map, are either white, yellow or light blue in color. Heretofore, the census tract numbers will be referred to by the major town or city located within the census tracts.

The base maps, Map 1 and Map 2, define the census tract boundaries and the places associated with these areas. Map 1 shows the cities and census tracts throughout Lea County. For better readability, Map 2 enlarges the Hobbs and Lovington census tracts.

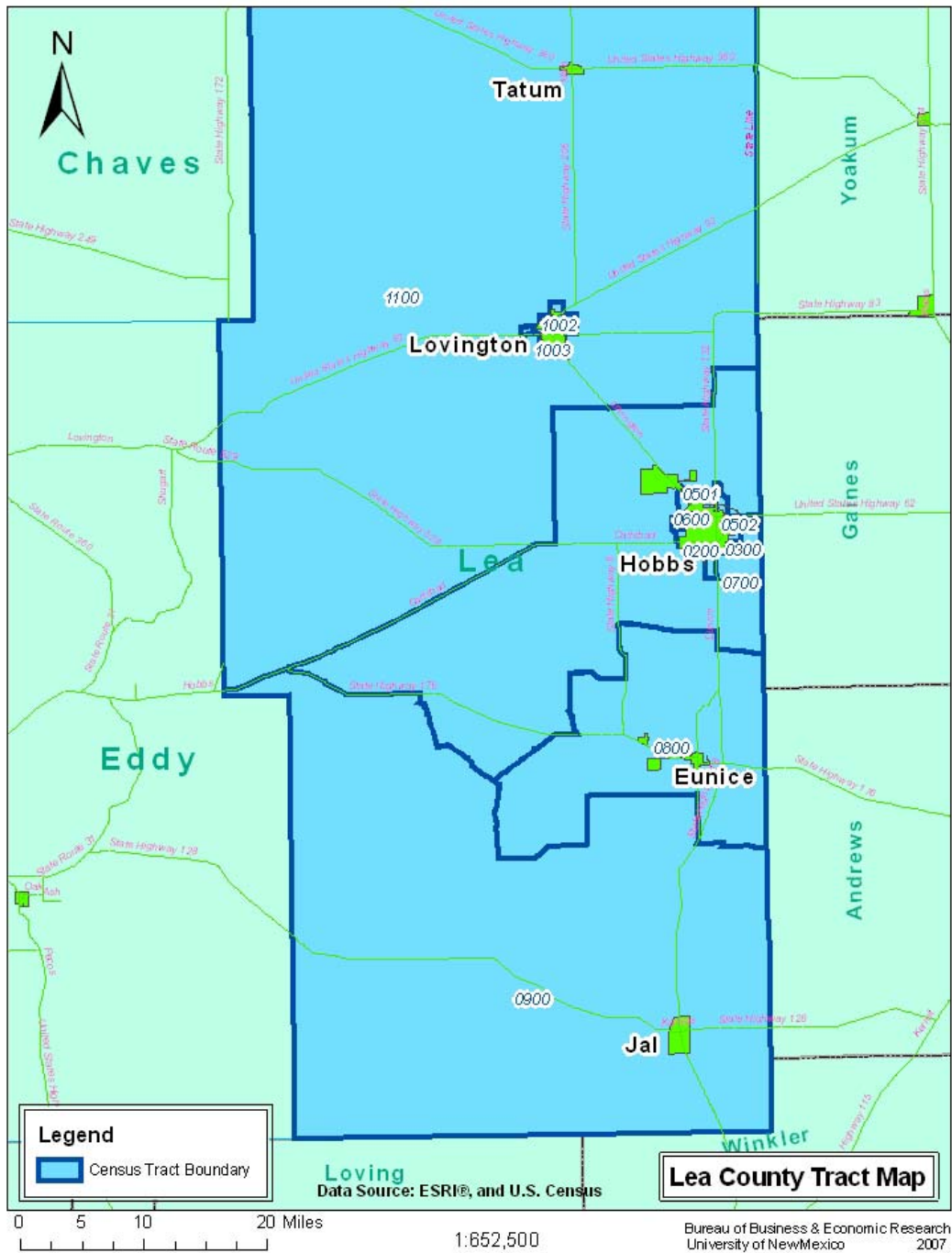
This report is organized in the following manner: housing and population trends, education and school enrollment. Each section includes tables, graphs and maps, whenever applicable. Data for five Texas counties that are adjacent to Lea County are presented as needed.

HOUSING TRENDS

This section explores past, current, and future housing developments in Lea County. Historical trends were from the 1990 and 2000 Censuses. Post Census 2000 housing units were based on residential building permit data collected by CID and the City of Hobbs. Future residential developments have been based on interviews with developers, chambers of commerce, and local officials.

Historical Trends. Table 1 presents the housing distribution in Lea County based on Census 1990 and Census 2000. The housing data summarized in Table 1 point to the primacy of City of Hobbs in the County. In 1990,

Map 1: Census Tracts and Places in Lea County
Census 2000 Geography



Map 2: Detail of Hobbs and Lovington Areas
Census 2000 Geography

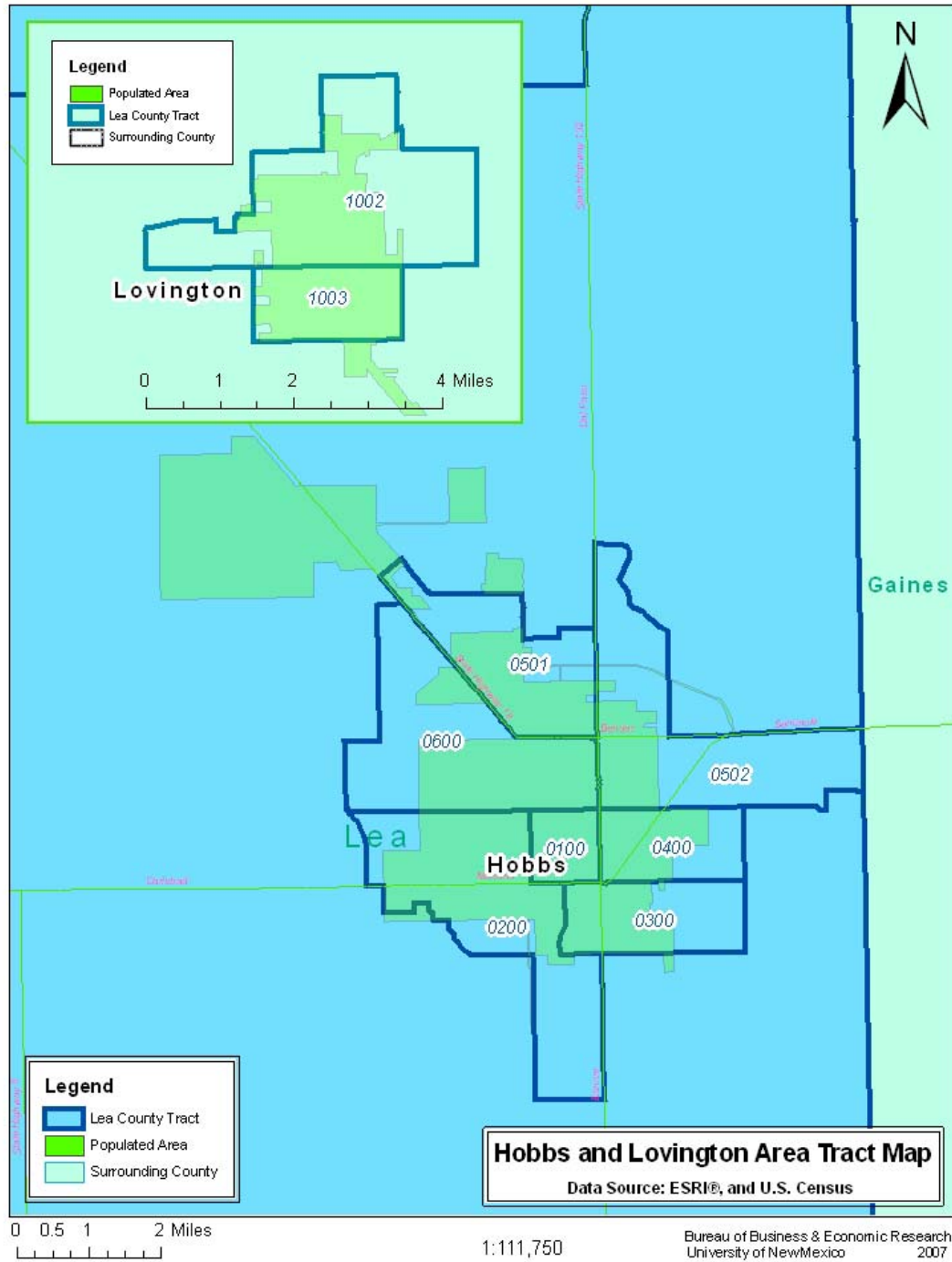


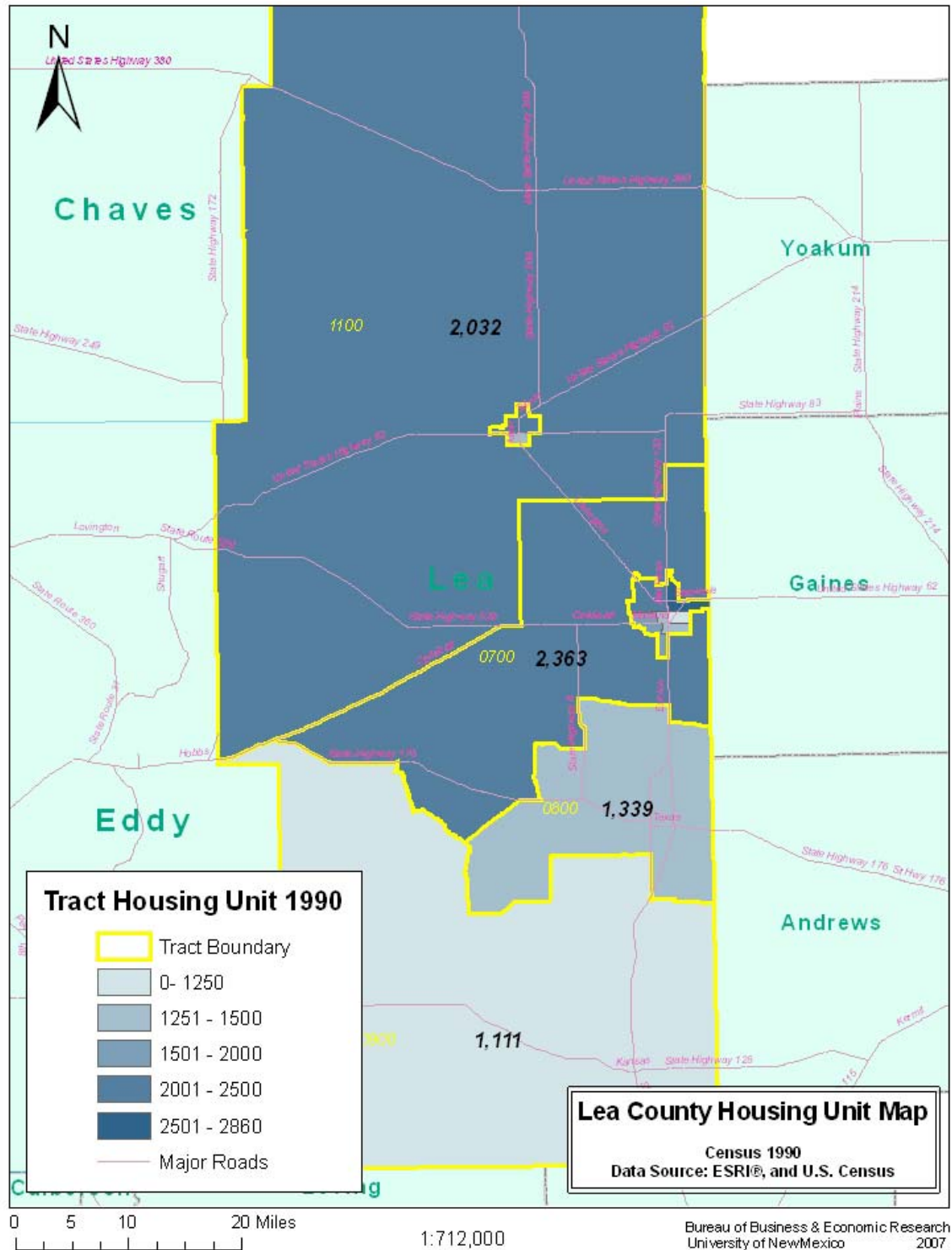
Table 1: Lea County 1990 and 2000 Distribution of Housing Units
(Source: Census 1990 and Census 2000 Summary File 1)

Study Area	Number of Housing Units		Percent Distribution		Percent Change Between 1990 and 2000
	Census 1990	Census 2000	Census 1990	Census 2000	
City of Hobbs	12,973	12,656	55.6	54.1	-2.4
Unincorporated Hobbs	2,363	2,579	10.1	11.0	9.1
<i>Hobbs Area</i>	<i>15,336</i>	<i>15,235</i>	<i>65.7</i>	<i>65.1</i>	<i>-0.7</i>
Eunice Area	1,339	1,251	5.7	5.3	-6.6
Jal Area	1,111	1,043	4.8	4.5	-6.1
Lovington Area	3,515	4,023	15.1	17.2	14.5
Tatum Area	2,032	1,853	8.7	7.9	-8.8
Lea County	23,333	23,405	100.0	100.0	0.3

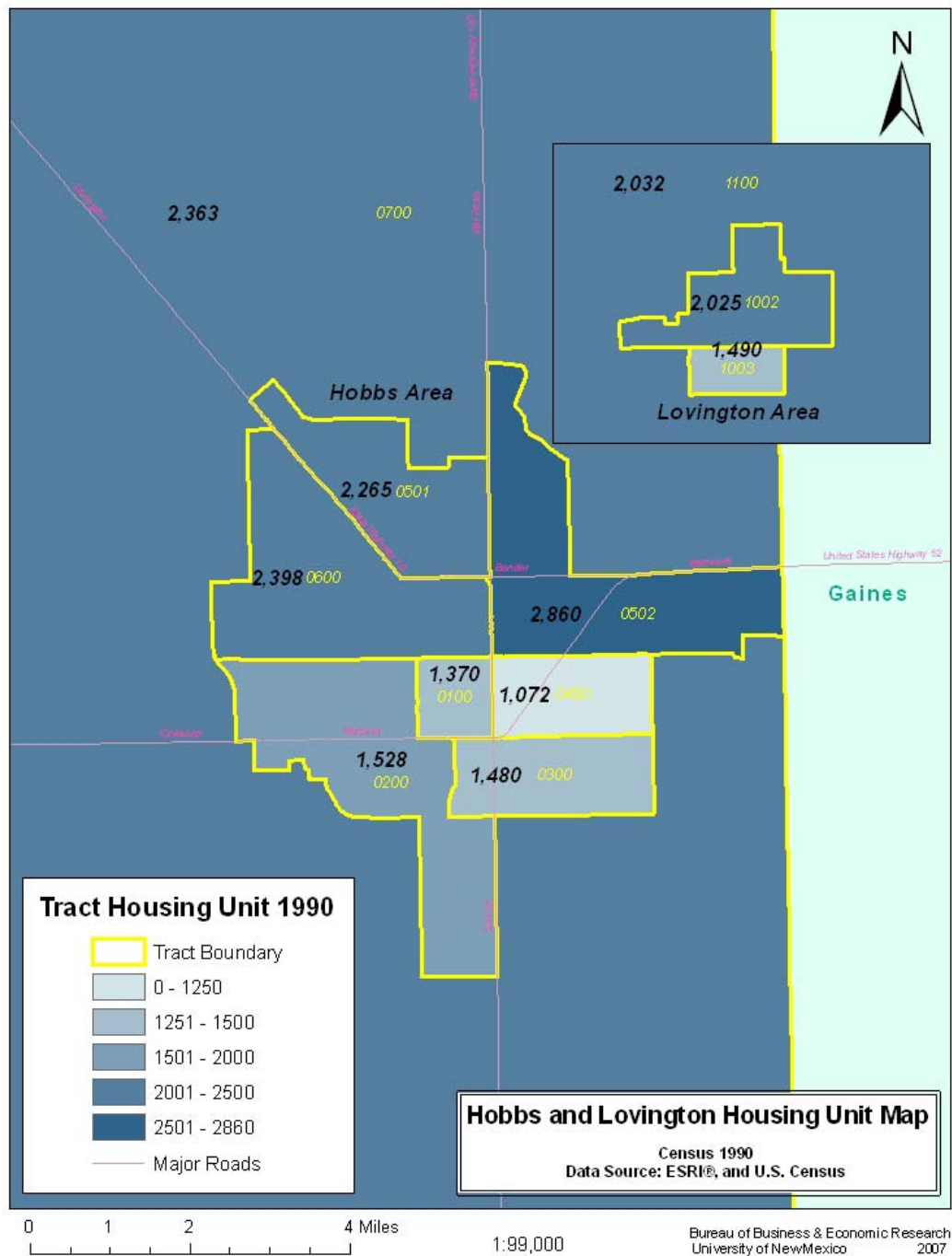
56% (12,973) of the housing stock in Lea County was located in the City of Hobbs; 10% was in Unincorporated Hobbs. Together, the housing units in these two areas comprised two-thirds (15,336) of the housing units in Lea County. The remaining one-third were distributed as follows: 16% in the Lovington (Census Tracts 10.02 and 10.3); 7% in Tatum (Census Tract 11.00); 6% in Eunice (Census Tract 8); and 5% in Jal (Census Tract 9). For specific locations of the housing units in Lea County, check Maps 3 and 4. These two maps disaggregate the data by census tracts within Lea County.

In 10 years, between 1990 and 2000, the number of housing units in Lea County increased by three-tenths of 1% (0.3%). Just over 70 new housing units were added to the Census 1990 housing stock of 23,333 units. The downturn in the oil and gas industry in the late 1980s, and again in the mid-1990s, led to mass out-migration of workers and their families. Migration estimates based on the residence of individuals five years prior to the Census 2000 indicated a yearly loss of over 800 people between 1995 and 2000. This mass out-migration had differential effects across the County as reflected in the housing distribution presented in Table 1. The Census 2000 counts showed that the housing stock in Lovington and Unincorporated Hobbs increased but in the rest of Lea County, the housing stock decreased. Lovington's housing share went up two-percentage points, from 15% in 1990 to 17% in 2000, or approximately 510 units. The unincorporated Hobbs increased its share by one percentage point; from 10% in 1990 to 11% in 2000, or a total of 215 units. In contrast, the City of Hobbs lost a total of over 300 housing units by the year 2000. However, as shown in Map 6 the housing loss in the City of Hobbs was mitigated by growth in Census Tracts 4.00 and 5.01. The housing increase in each area was 95 units and 402 units, respectively, for a combined total of 497 additional units by the year 2000. Census Tract 5.01 is located at the northwest side of the City, adjacent to the fast expanding Unincorporated Hobbs (Census Tract 7.00). Census Tract 4.00 is adjacent to the City center, east of North Del Paso Street and South of US Highway 65.

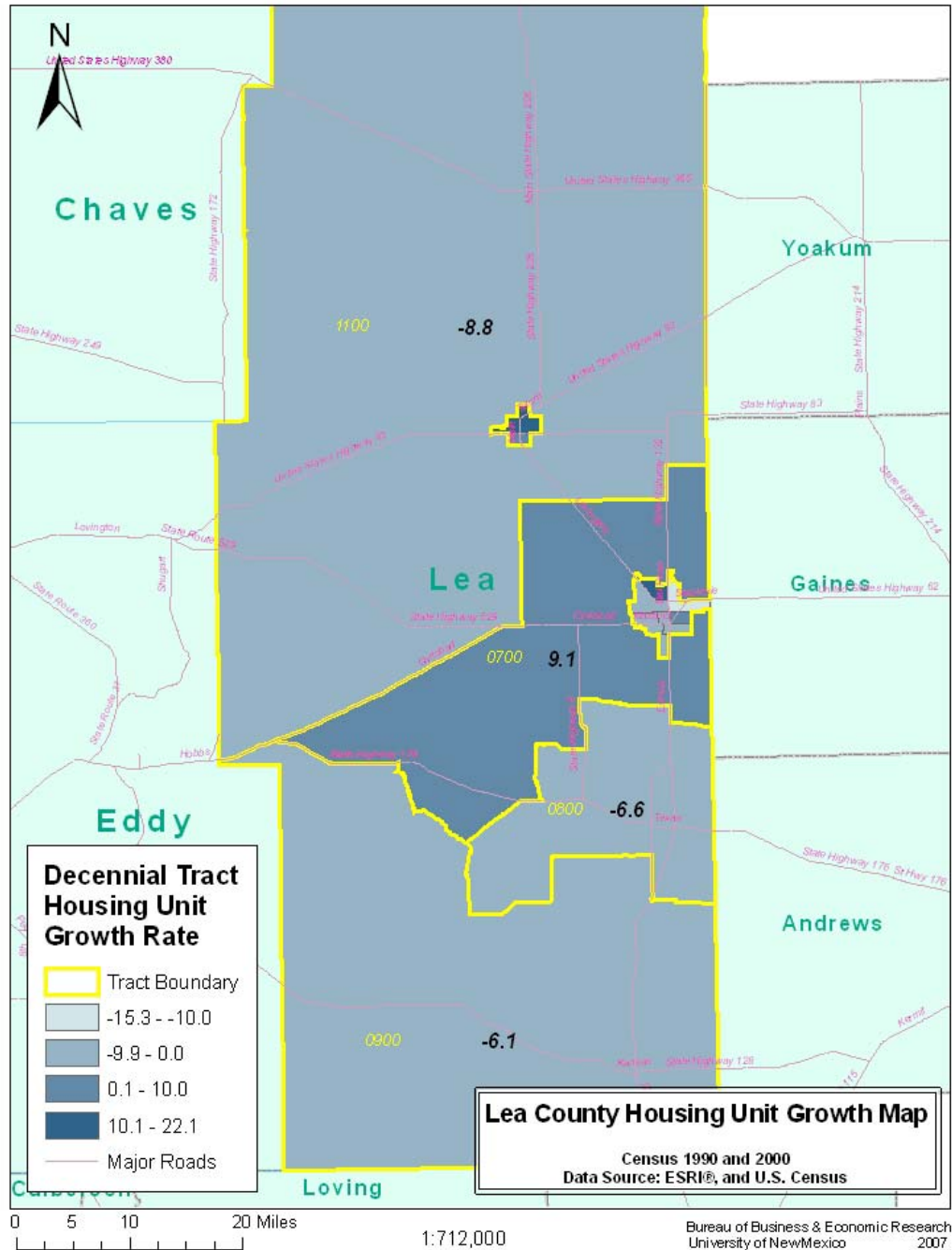
Map 3: Number of Housing Units in Lea County in 1990,
by Census Tract



Map 4: Number of Housing Units in Hobbs and Lovington Areas in 1990, by Census Tract



Map 5: Housing Unit Growth in Lea County from 1990 to 2000,
by Census Tract



Map 6: Percent Change in Housing Units in Hobbs and Lovington Areas between 1990 and 2000, by Census Tract

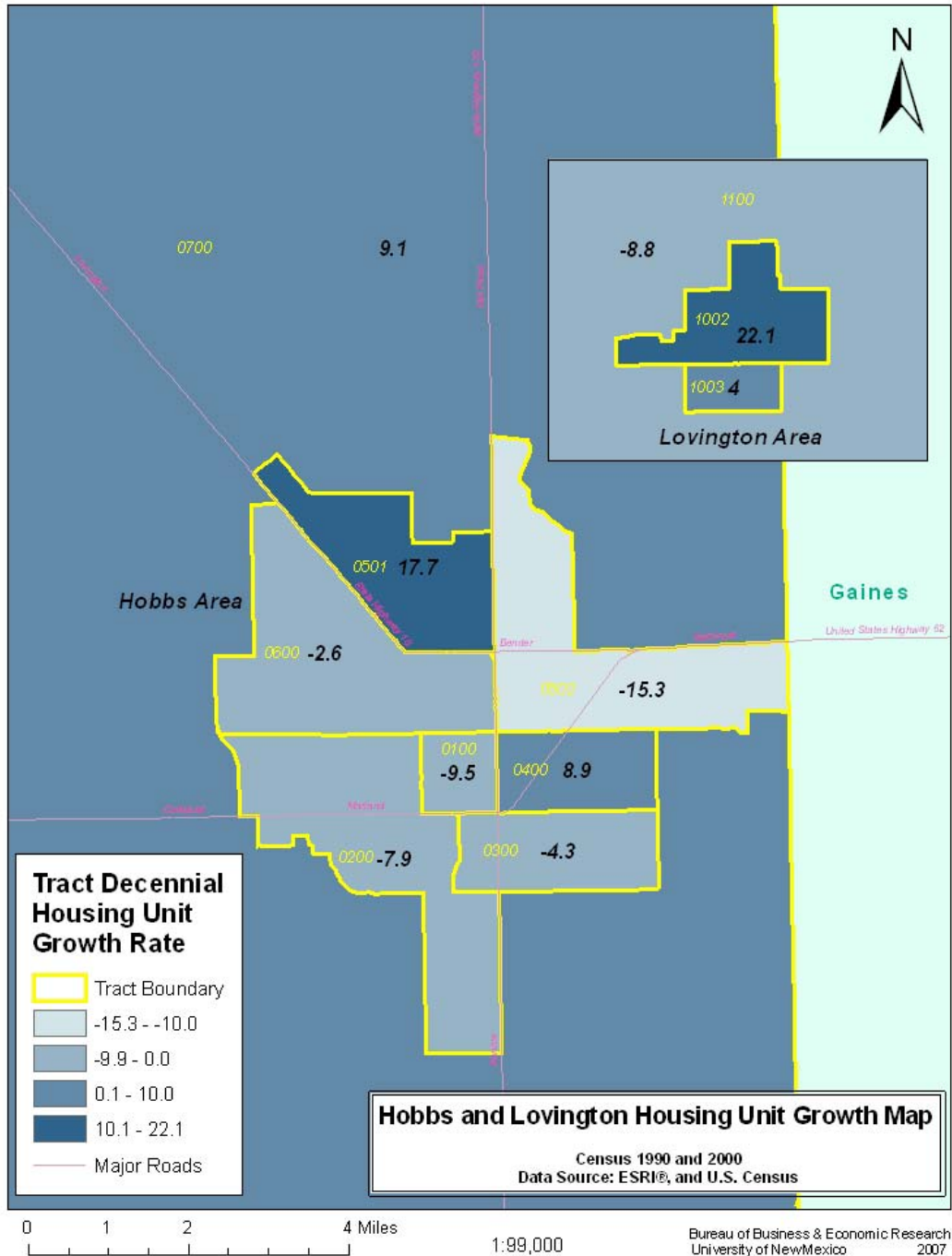


Table 2 shows the mix of housing types in Lea County. The Census classifies housing units into single detached, two or more units, and mobile homes. In 2000, three-quarters of all Lea County housing units were single family dwellings. Less than 10% were multi-unit structures and one in six units was a mobile home. Jal had the highest proportion (90.2%) of single detached units, followed by Lovington (80.1%), Eunice (76.3%), and the City of Hobbs (75.0%). Table 2 indicates that Unincorporated Hobbs had the most diverse mix of housing; 56% were single detached units, 12% were apartment units, and 42% were mobile homes.

Typical of sending or out-migration areas, the overall vacancy rate in Lea County was high. At the time of the 2000 Census, Lea County had over 3,700 unoccupied units or a vacancy rate of 16%. Eunice topped the list with a 25% vacancy rate. Tatum had the second highest proportion (21.6%) of unoccupied housing units. Unincorporated Hobbs had the lowest proportion (9.8%) of vacant housing units whereas the City of Hobbs had a 16% vacancy rate.

Table 3 further classifies the vacant units into "For rent," "For sale only," "Rented or sold but not occupied," "For seasonal or recreational use," "For migrant workers," and "Other." Other refers to manufactured, mobile, or alternative housing structures. Over 38% of the vacant units were "Other rental," 33% were "For Rent," 14% were on the market ("For Sale"), and 11% had been sold but were not occupied at the time of the 2000 Census. Only 3% of the vacancies were second homes or "For seasonal or recreational use". A very small number (0.3%) of the vacancies were for migrant workers. These migrant housing units were located in Hobbs, Jal, Lovington, and Tatum.

Table 2: Lea County Housing Units by Type Geographic Area: Census 2000
(Source: Census 2000 Summary File 3)

Study Area	Number of Housing Units				Percent Distribution			
	Single Detached	Two or more units	Mobile Homes	Total	Single Detached	Two or more units	Mobile Homes	Total
<i>City of Hobbs</i>	9,493	1,570	1,593	12,656	75.0	12.4	12.6	100.0
<i>Unincorporated Hobbs</i>	1,449	51	1,079	2,579	56.2	2.0	41.8	100.0
Hobbs Area	10,942	1,621	2,672	15,235	71.8	10.6	17.5	100.0
Eunice Area	954	57	240	1,251	76.3	4.6	19.2	100.0
Jal Area	941	12	90	1,043	90.2	1.2	8.6	100.0
Lovington Area	3,222	243	558	4,023	80.1	6.0	13.9	100.0
Tatum Area	1,320	25	508	1,853	71.2	1.3	27.4	100.0
Lea County	17,379	1,958	4,068	23,405	74.3	8.4	17.4	100.0

Figure 1 shows that Tatum had the highest proportion (65.1%) of vacant units that were classified as “Other,” followed by Eunice (61.7%). Tatum also had the highest proportion (8%) of vacant housing units for seasonal or occasional use. Hobbs, on the other hand, had the largest proportion (41.4%) of rental (“For Rent”) vacancies.

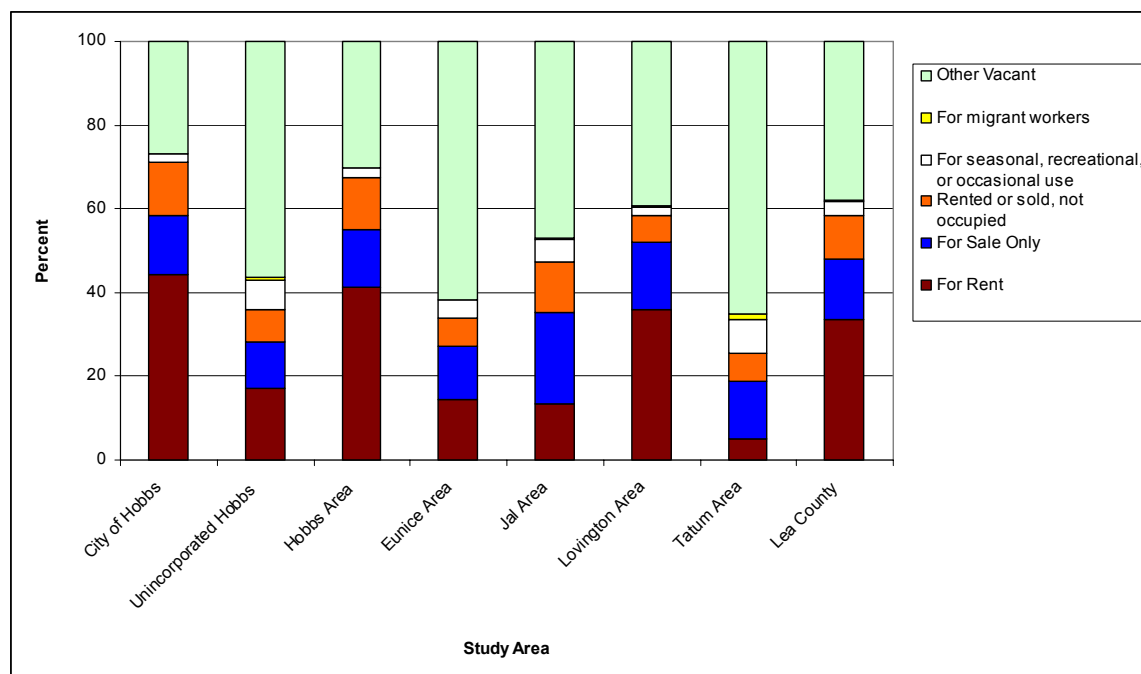
Table 3: Vacant Housing Units in Lea County, by Type: Census 2000

(Source: Census 2000 Summary File 3)

Study Area	Vacancy Rate	Total Vacant Units	For Rent	For Sale Only	Rented or sold, not occupied	For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	For migrant workers	Other Vacant
<i>City of Hobbs</i>	16.2	2,054	44.4	13.9	13.0	1.8	0.0	26.9
<i>Unincorporated Hobbs</i>	9.8	253	17.0	11.1	7.9	7.1	0.4	56.5
Hobbs Area	15.0	2,307	41.4	13.6	12.4	2.3	0.1	30.2
Eunice Area	23.7	188	14.4	12.8	6.9	4.3	0.0	61.7
Jal Area	14.2	247	13.4	21.9	12.1	5.3	0.4	47.0
Lovington Area	13.7	563	36.1	15.8	6.4	2.3	0.2	39.3
Tatum Area	21.6	401	5.0	13.7	6.7	8.0	1.5	65.1
Lea County	15.8	3,706	33.4	14.4	10.6	3.2	0.3	38.0

Figure 1: Vacant Housing Units in Lea County by Type and Area

(Source: Census 2000 Summary File 3)



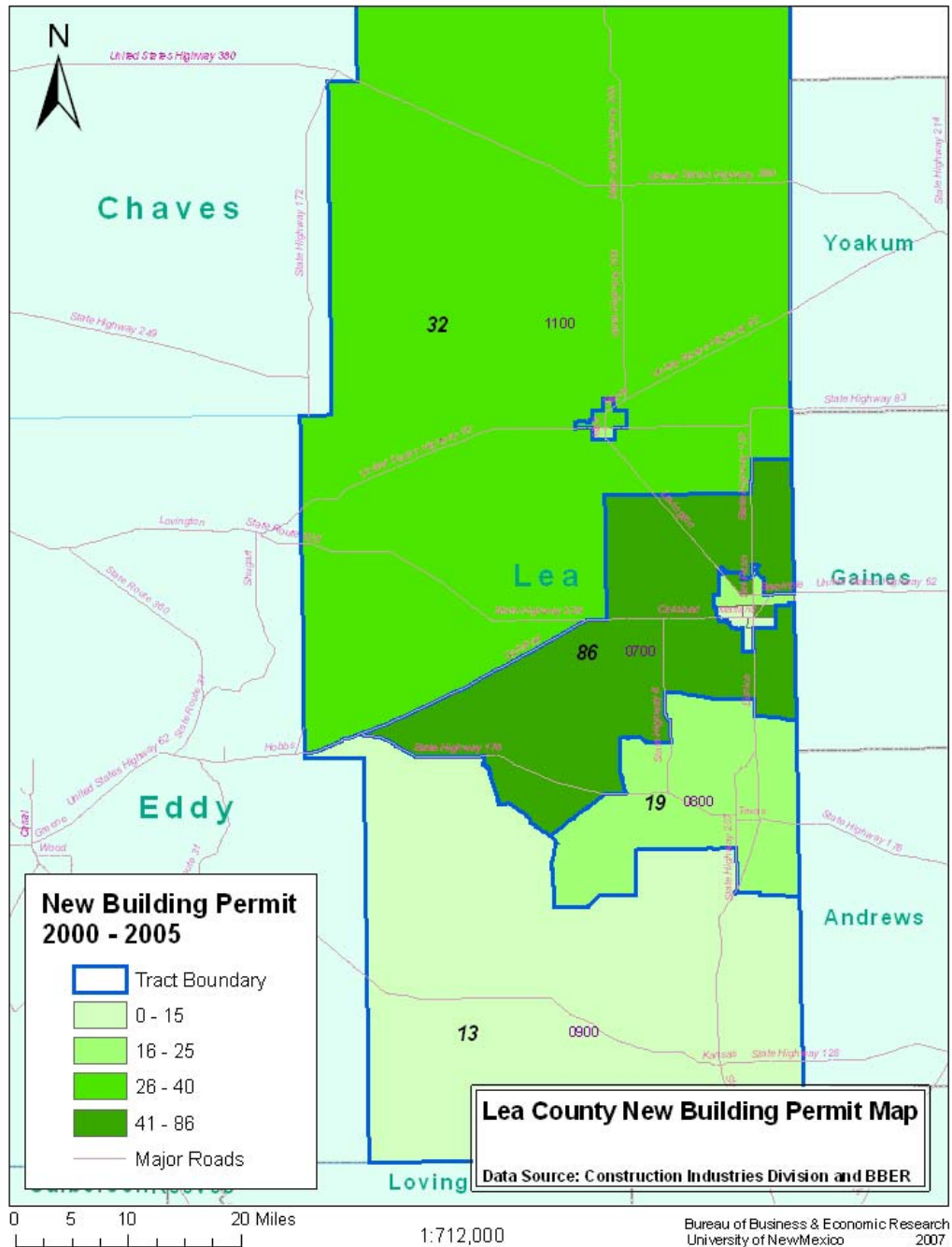
Current Housing Development. The number of building permits that BBER compiled from data provided by CID and the City of Hobbs shows that recovery in the housing market was off to a very slow start. Table 4 shows that a total of 1,032 building permits were issued in Lea County from January 2000 to September 2007. From 2000 to 2002, Lea County, as a whole, issued only 72 new housing permits. Since 2003, the number of building permits issued has been increasing. In 2003, Lea County issued a total of 126 building permits; 217 in 2004; and 157 in 2005. At the time of the writing of this report, county-wide building permit data beyond 2005 were not available. However, the City of Hobbs Planning Department supplied Hobbs building permits data for 2006 and 2007. In 2006, the City of Hobbs reported a total of 110 permits and in 2007, 350 total permits. Some of these permits issued by the City of Hobbs may be located outside city limits as observed in earlier permits that BBER had processed for address matching. Because only total numbers were provided, all the building permits have been assigned to the City of Hobbs.

Table 4 indicates that new construction between 2000 and 2007 had been mostly in Hobbs. Of the total number of building permits (1,032) issued in seven years, close to 90% (909) was in Hobbs. Yet, it appears that Hobbs has been unable to meet the housing need of its expanding workforce and their families. This housing shortage was made clear during a site visit in Hobbs and Eunice. Informal interviews with RV operators, residents, county officials and LES personnel confirmed that construction workers, contractors, and LES employees are being housed in RV parks and hotels in the area.

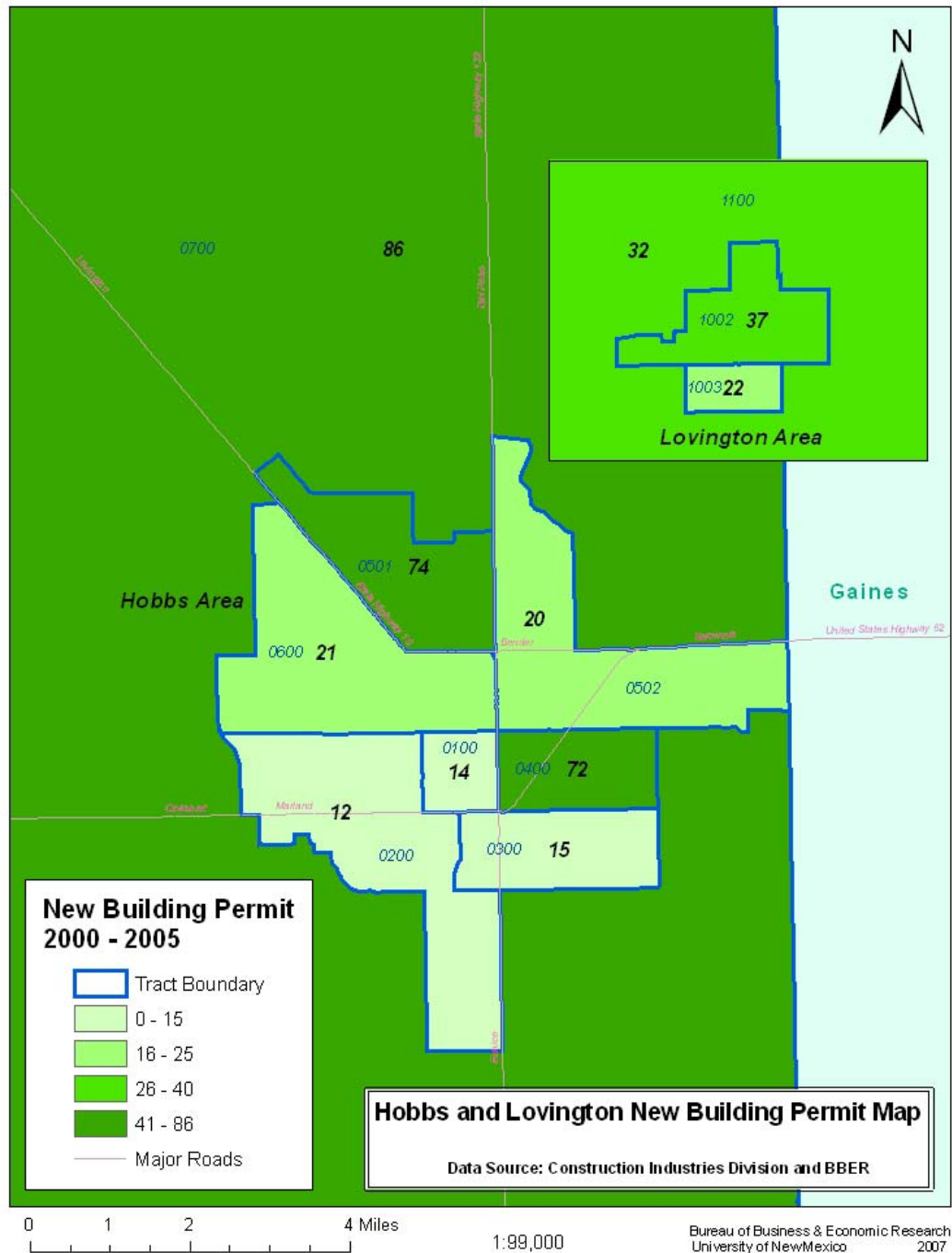
Table 4: New Building Permits in Lea County, by Area: Jan. 2000 to Sept. 2007
(Source: NM Construction and Industries Division and Special Permitting Places)

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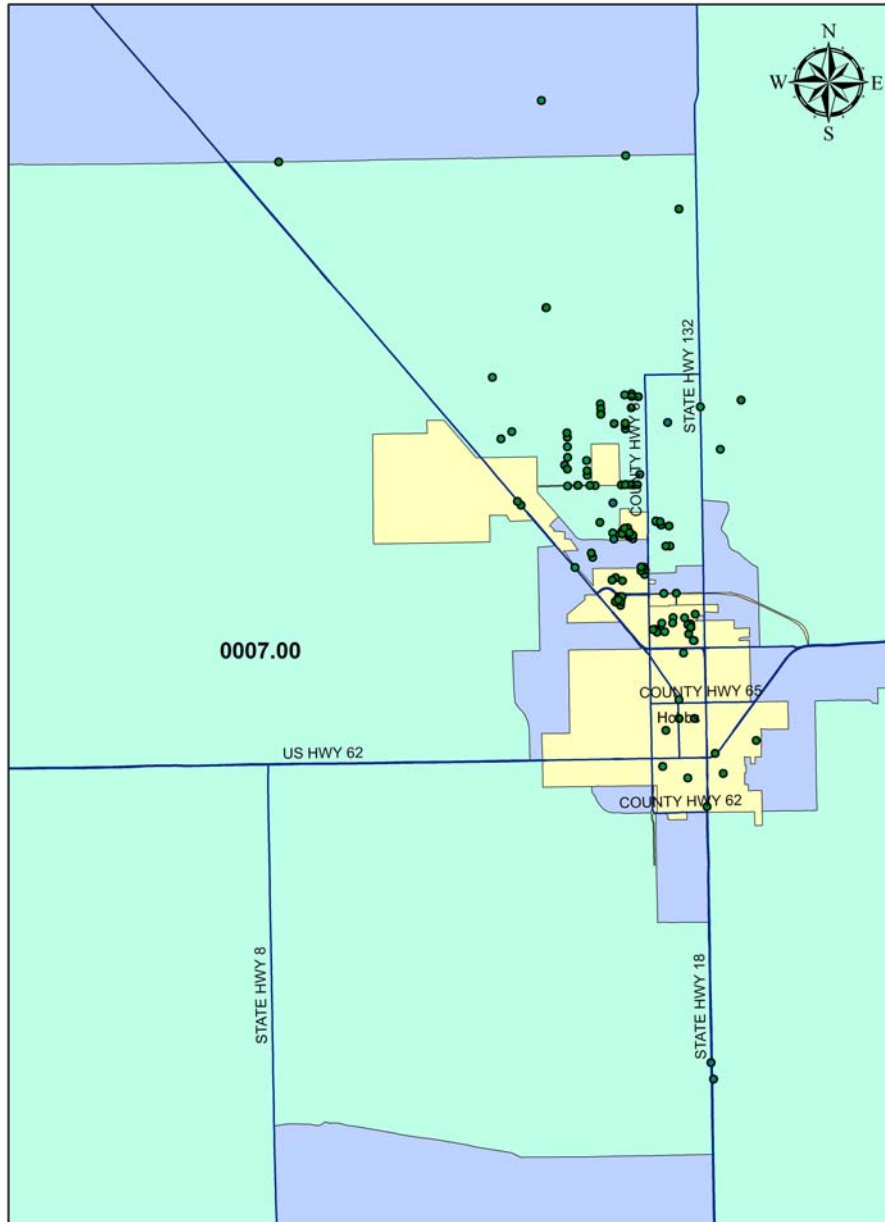
Map 7: Building Permits in Lea County from January 2000 to December 2005, by Census Tract



Map 8: New Building Permits in the Hobbs Area and Lovington Area, by Census Tract from January 2000 to December 2005



Map 9
Hobbs Area Building Permits: 2000-2006



Anecdotal evidence indicates that some of the intended residents in Hobbs are commuting from counties in Texas. Table 5 presents data on new residential building permits for the five Texas counties within commuting distance to Lea County. From 2000 to 2006, these Texas counties issued a total of 235 building permits, 60% of which were issued in the last three years (2004 to 2006). With the exception of Andrews County, the Texas building permits data showed no dramatic increase in the other four counties between 2000 and 2006. During this time, Andrews County issued a total of 135 permits, 64 of which were issued in the last two years that is, 24 permits in 2005, and 40 permits in 2006. Yoakum County issued seven new permits in 2007 while the number of permits in Gaines dropped from 17 in 2005 to 10 in 2006. Winkler issued 14 permits, seven permits each year in 2005 and 2006. Cochran County did not report any new construction in six years.

Maps 7 and 8 present the geographic distribution of new residential construction in Lea County. The darkest shade indicates the greatest concentration of new constructions. Conversely, the lightest shade shows the least number of new constructions. In the City of Hobbs, Map 7 indicates that new residential construction is concentrated in the same areas that experienced the highest growth during the 1990s, namely, Census Tracts 5.01, 4.00, and 7.00. Map 9 illustrates the precise location of new construction in Hobbs from 2000 to 2005. On this map, dots represent the housing units. Data for 2006 and 2007 cannot be plotted in this manner because BBER does not have the individual records at this time.

Table 5: New Residential Building Permits In Surrounding Texas Counties
2000 to 2006

(Source: Real Estate at Texas A & M)

County	Number of Housing Units							Total 2000 to 2006
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
Andrews	24	11	13	11	12	24	40	135
Cochran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gaines	1	10	3	4	13	17	10	58
Winkler	0	3	4	5	6	7	7	32
Yoakum	1	6	1	0	0	0	7	15
Total	25	24	20	20	31	48	57	225
Percent Distribution								
Andrews	17.8	8.1	9.6	8.1	8.9	17.8	29.6	100.0
Cochran	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gaines	1.7	17.2	5.2	6.9	22.4	29.3	17.2	100.0
Winkler	0.0	9.4	12.5	15.6	18.8	21.9	21.9	100.0
Yoakum	6.7	40.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	46.7	100.0
Total	11.1	10.7	8.9	8.9	13.8	21.3	25.3	100.0

Interviews with developers indicate more residential development is forthcoming. Ranchview Estates of Glendora, California proposes to construct over a thousand single family units in the area south of Navajo Dr. Loop, north of Bender Blvd., and east of Del Paso Street. Likewise, the Homestead Estates of Erie, Colorado proposes to develop 258 acres of land north of Sanger, south of Bender, east of Steven Dr., and west of Seminole Highway for 458 single family detached lots, 226 patio home lots, and 236 town home lots at the cost of \$20 million. Additionally, New Mexico Junior College is expecting to build additional student apartments to accommodate their increasing enrollment, especially in their Workforce Training Programs. The College of the Southwest also plans to build dormitories/apartments as a way of attracting more students. Construction of new residential units has accelerated as evidenced by the building permits data from the City Hobbs (see Table 4). From January to September 2007, the City permitted 200 apartment units, 63 manufactured homes, and 87 single family units.

POPULATION LEVELS AND TRENDS

This section of the report covers the historical, current and future population levels and trends in Lea County and the region. Population counts from the last two Decennial Censuses, 1990 and 2000 are the basis of the historical trend. Population estimates produced by BBER provide a snapshot of Lea County and the region's demographic status after Census 2000. The demographic future for this region can be gleaned from population projections produced by BBER and the Texas State Data Center, which was initially located at Texas A & M but is now at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Historical Levels and Trends. Tables 6 and 7 show the 1990 and 2000 populations for Lea County and the five Texas counties in the region, respectively.

In general, the region's population, and in particular, Lea County's population growth has been closely associated with the boom and bust cycle in the oil and gas industry. The crash in the price of oil in the 1980's and in the mid-1990's had resulted in the slight decline in the population of Lea County during the last two decades. In 1980, the Census counted approximately 56,000 Lea County residents. In 1990, the Census counted 300 fewer residents than in 1980. After a brief recovery, the region's economy suffered one more setback as the price of oil tumbled down in the mid-90's resulting in another population run in Lea County. However, the County slowly recovered and by 2000, the estimated net loss to Lea County's population amounted to 200 people.

Table 6 shows the population winners and losers between 1990 and 2000. Maps 10 to 15 provide a visual of the geographic distribution of the population and the changes that occurred in Lea County during the 1990s. The biggest gainer during this period was Unincorporated Hobbs (Census Tract 7.00). It up its

Table 6: Lea County 1990 and 2000 Population, Percent Distribution and Population Change, by Area

(Source: Census 1990 and 2000 Summary File 1)

Study Area	Number of People		Percent Distribution		Population Change Between 1990 and 2000	
	Census 1990	Census 2000	Census 1990	Census 2000	Absolute Change	Percent Change
<i>City of Hobbs</i>	30,543	28,725	54.8	51.7	-1,818	-6.0
<i>Unincorporated Hobbs</i>	6,337	7,906	11.4	14.2	1,569	24.8
Hobbs Area	36,880	36,631	66.1	66.0	-249	-0.7
Eunice Area	3,014	2,896	5.4	5.2	-118	-3.9
Jal Area	2,335	2,118	4.2	3.8	-217	-9.3
Lovington Area	9,729	9,890	17.4	17.8	161	1.7
Tatum Area	3,807	3,976	6.8	7.2	169	4.4
Lea County	55,765	55,511	100.0	100.0	-254	-0.5

Table 7: Census 1990 and Census 2000 Population of Texas Counties on the Border of Lea County

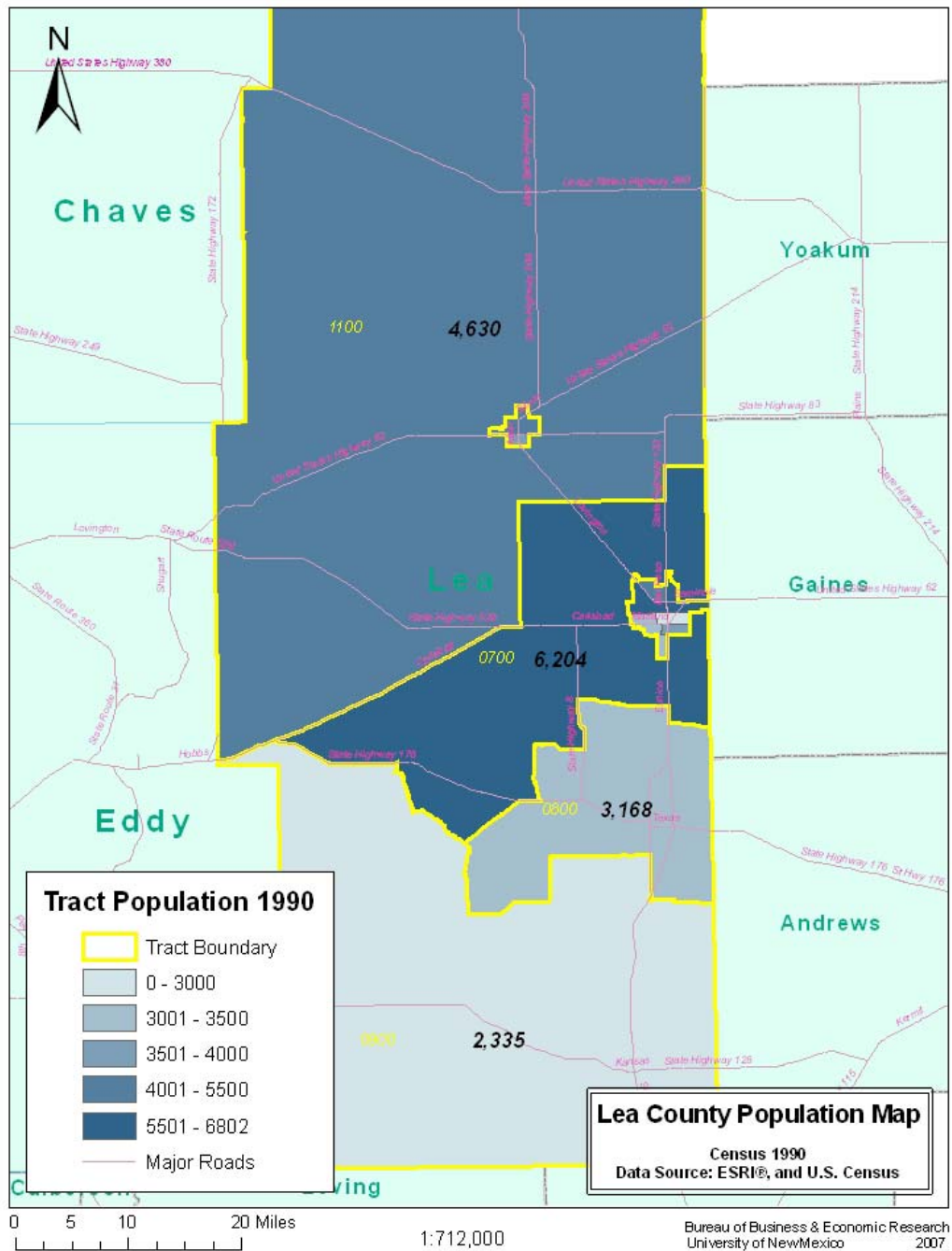
(Source: Census 1990 and Census 2000 Summary File 1)

County	Number of People		Percent Distribution		Population Change Between 1990 and 2000	
	Census 1990	Census 2000	Census 1990	Census 2000	Absolute Change	Percent Change
Andrews County	30,543	28,725	38.6	36.7	-1,818	-6.0
Cochran County	6,337	7,906	8.0	10.1	1,569	24.8
Gaines County	36,880	36,631	46.6	46.8	-249	-0.7
Winkler County	3,014	2,896	3.8	3.7	-118	-3.9
Yoakum County	2,335	2,118	3.0	2.7	-217	-9.3
Total	79,109	78,276	100.0	100.0	-833	-1.1

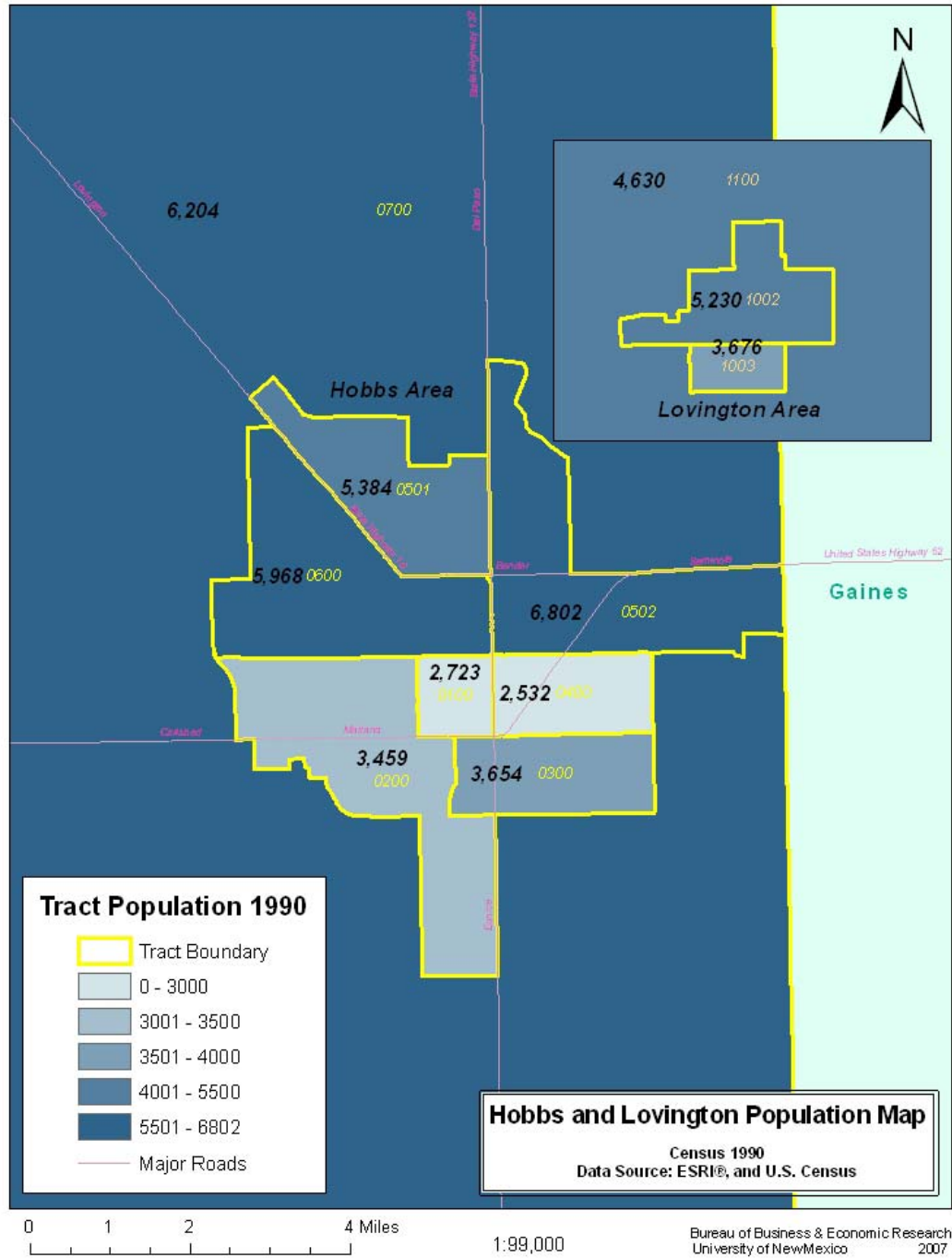
1990 population of approximately 6,300 by 25% or an additional 1,569 people in 2000. In absolute numbers, the biggest loser was the City of Hobbs. In the last decade, it lost over 1,800 people (6.0%). In relative terms, Jal had the largest population loss. Between 1990 and 2000, Jal's population declined by 10% (9.3% or 217 individuals). Accordingly, these growth rate differentials changed the relative distribution of the county population. As expected, the gainers increased their share while the opposite was true of those areas that experienced population decline. Unincorporated Hobbs up its 1990 share of 11% by almost 3 percentage points while the City of Hobbs dropped by almost the same amount. In 1990, the City of Hobbs had a 55% share in the County population. In 2000,

Map 10: Census 1990 Lea County Population by Census Tract

(Source: Census 1990 Summary File 1)

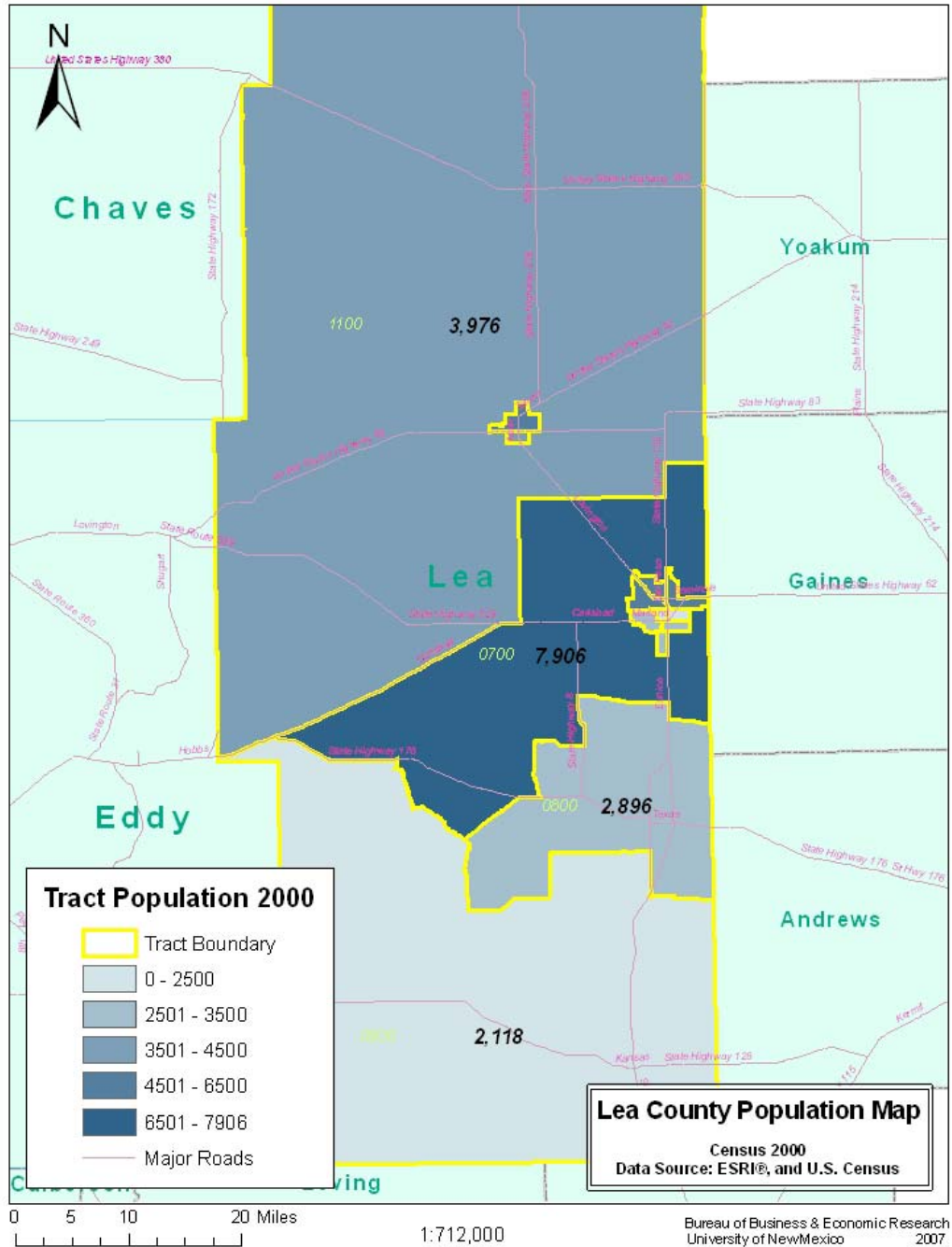


Map 11 : Census 1990 Hobbs and Lovington Census Tract Populations
 (Source: Census 1990 Summary File 1)



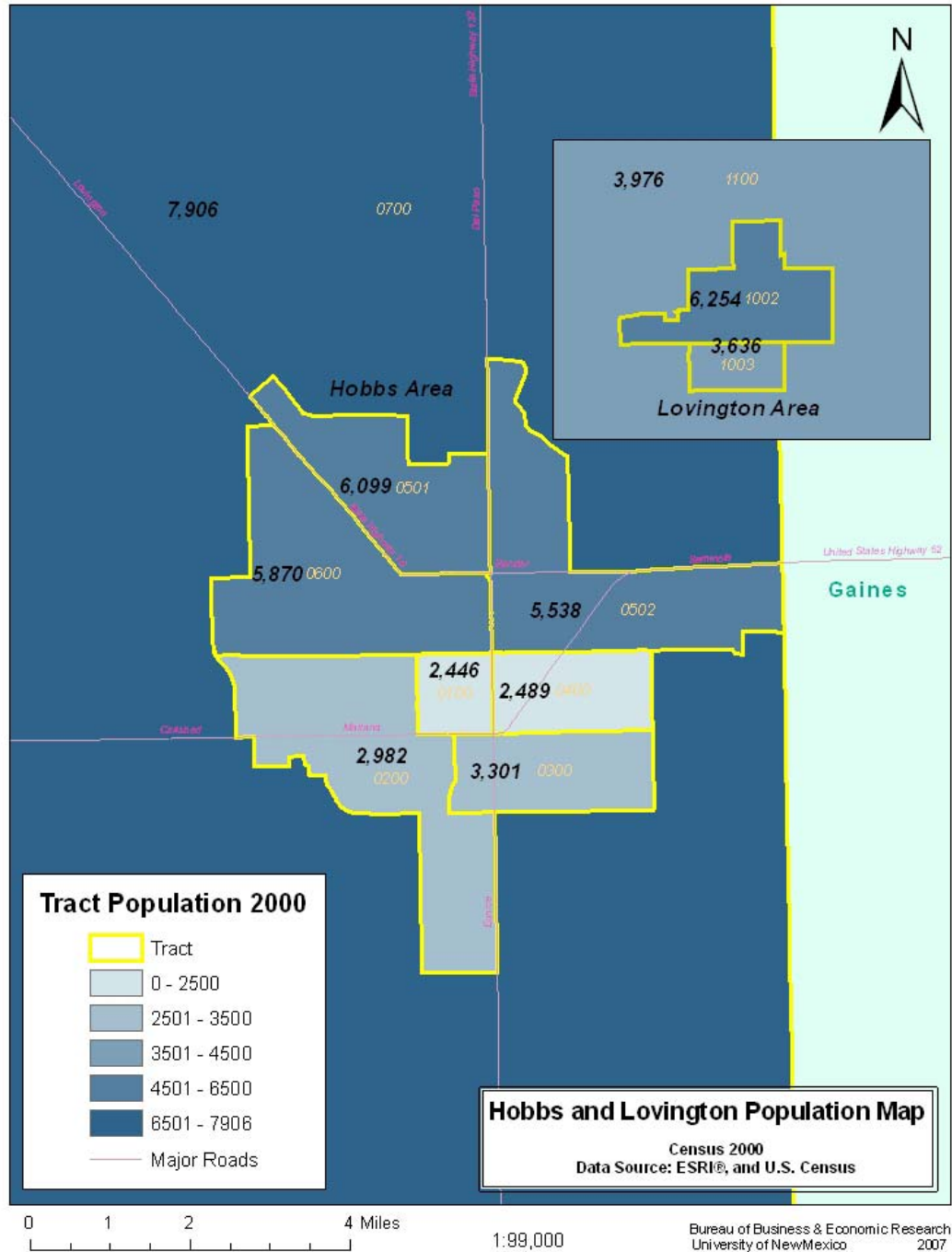
Map 12: Census 2000 Lea County Population, by Census Tract

(Source: Census 2000 Summary File 1)

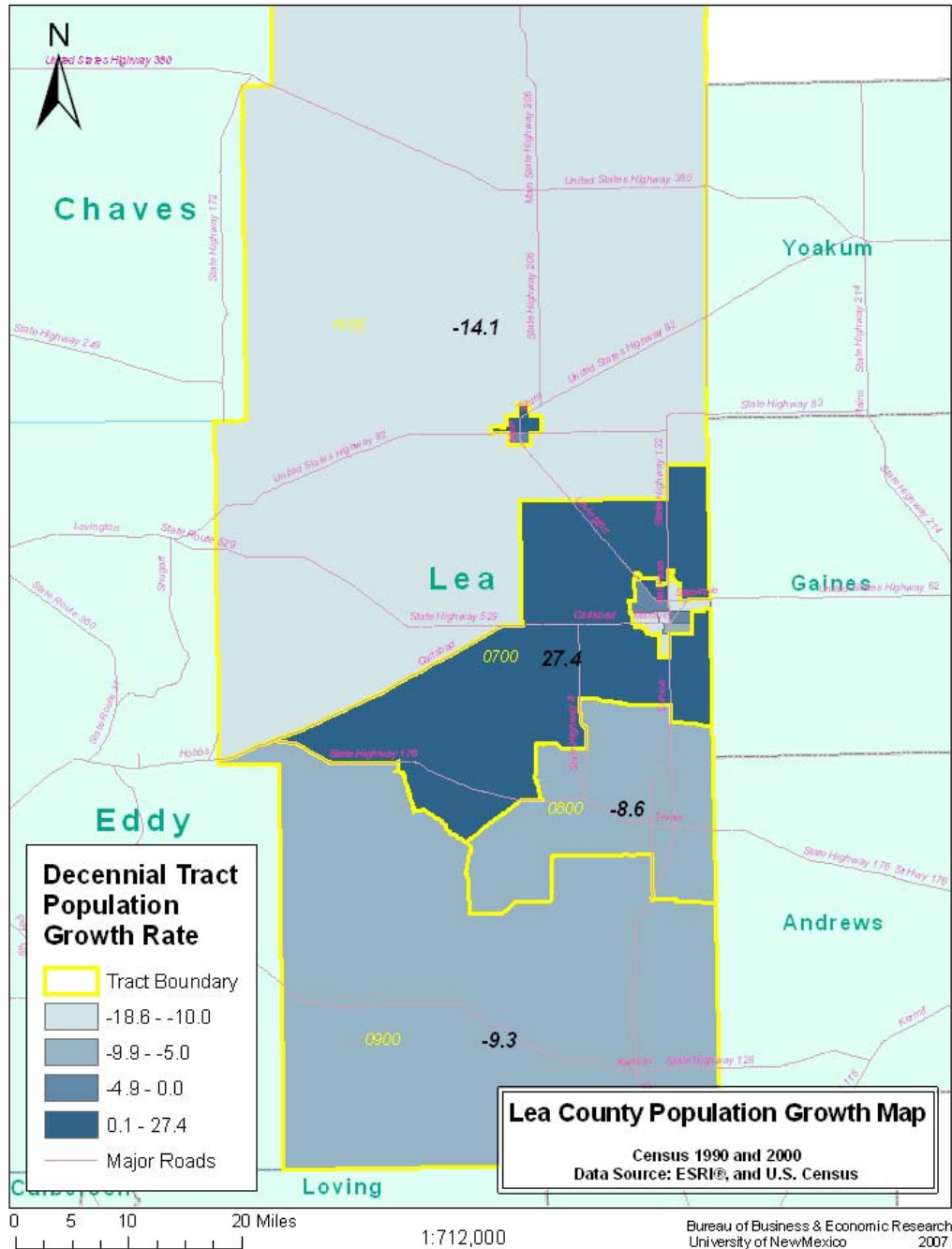


Map 13: Census 2000 Hobbs and Lovington Population, by Census Tract

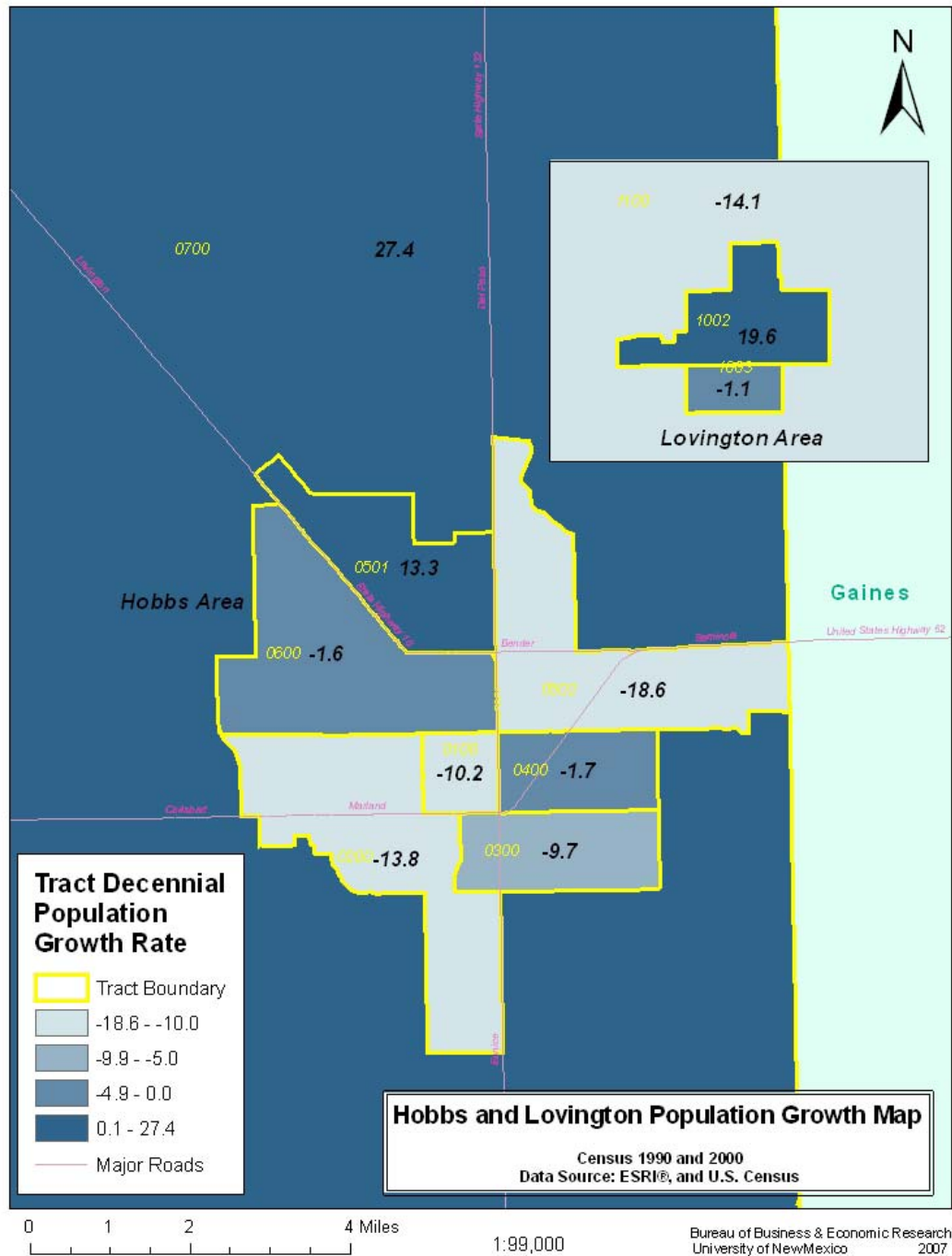
(Source: Census 2000 Summary File 1)



Map 14: Percent Change in Lea County Population between 1990 and 2000, by Census Tract



Map 15: Percent Change in Hobbs and Lovington Census Tract Populations between 1990 and 2000



this decreased to 52%. Minor realignments, but nothing significant, were noted in the rest of the county

Comparable figures for the Texas counties are presented in Table 7. Largely, the Texas counties experienced the same negative to no population growth in the 1990s. In absolute terms, Andrews County had the highest population reduction. Coincidentally, Andrews County lost the same number (1,818) of people as the City of Hobbs during the same period. In contrast, Cochran County increased its population by over 1,500 people, a significant jump for a relatively small county. Effectively, this County expanded its 1990 population of 6,300 people by as much as 25%. Winkler and Yoakum counties had much smaller populations that a loss of a few hundred people made a significant impact on their population size.

Current Population Levels. BBER estimates from July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2005 have been consistently higher than the Census Bureau estimates. BBER estimated Lea County's July 1, 2001 population at 55,590 and its July 1, 2005 population at 57,300. The corresponding Census Bureau estimates for the same years were 55,035 and 56,650 people, respectively. Similarly, the state-produced Texas population estimates were higher than the Census Bureau numbers. For instance, Texas' 2005 total estimate for the five counties was about 270 higher than the 44,878 Census Bureau estimate for the same year.

Estimation methodology. In New Mexico, as well as in Texas, the discrepancy between the Census and the state estimates may be attributed largely to methodological differences used between the institutions. BBER uses a bottom-up approach and a housing unit-based method to estimate county populations. Texas also uses a bottom-up approach but employs multiple methodologies among which is a housing unit based methodology. The Census Bureau employs a top-down approach that uses the national population as a control total. The independently estimated county populations are summed up and the result is compared to the control total. If the county totals do not add up to the control total, a raking factor is used to force the county population total to equal to the national total. Further, if a county is successful in challenging the Census Bureau estimates, an upward adjustment for this county will mean a downward adjustment in another. Moreover, the use of IRS returns, for reasons presented above, can further distort the county estimates. Inevitably, the Census Bureau estimates end up lower in counties that are sensitive to the weakness of the Census Bureau methodology.

Population estimates. Tables 8 and 9 present the post 2000 Census population estimates and growth in Lea County. The recovery was slow during the years immediately following the 2000 Census but accelerated after July 1, 2003. BBER estimated the county population to be approximately 57,300 people by 2005, an increase of about 1,800 people over the April 1, 2000 Census count of 55,500 people. Table 8 shows that the annual percent change between April

**Table 8: Distribution of Lea County Population Estimates
July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2006**

(Source: UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research)

Study Area	Census 2000	Population Estimates As of July 1 ...					
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<i>City of Hobbs</i>	28,725	28,634	28,633	28,645	29,011	29,346	29,716
<i>Unincorporated Hobbs</i>	7,906	7,993	8,075	8,184	8,391	8,600	8,802
Hobbs Area	36,631	36,627	36,708	36,829	37,402	37,946	38,518
Eunice Area	2,896	2,889	2,886	2,892	2,939	2,961	3,006
Jal Area	2,118	2,112	2,111	2,112	2,148	2,163	2,200
Lovington Area	9,890	9,930	9,915	9,917	10,080	10,156	10,307
Tatum Area	3,976	4,032	4,024	4,033	4,088	4,109	4,165
Lea County	55,511	55,590	55,644	55,783	56,657	57,335	58,196
Population Distribution (%)							
<i>City of Hobbs</i>	51.7	51.5	51.5	51.4	51.2	51.2	51.1
<i>Unincorporated Hobbs</i>	14.2	14.4	14.5	14.7	14.8	15.0	15.1
Hobbs Area	66.0	65.9	66.0	66.0	66.0	66.2	66.2
Eunice Area	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Jal Area	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Lovington Area	17.8	17.9	17.8	17.8	17.8	17.7	17.7
Tatum Area	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2
Lea County	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1, 2000 and July 1, 2003 did not exceed two-tenths of a percent. But by mid-2003, the population of Lea County rebounded in a big way. The combination of the rise in the price of oil and the start of construction of the uranium enrichment plant by the Louisiana Energy Services (LES) attracted large numbers of migrants to Lea County. Lea County, in general, and the cities of Hobbs and Eunice, in particular, were hard pressed to meet the demand for housing generated by the influx of these economic migrants to the area. In one year, between July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004, the county population expanded by 1.6% or 870 people, more than triple the population growth between 2000 and 2003. This strong growth has continued through July 1, 2006.

Tables 8 and 9 indicate that population recovery in Lea County was geographically uneven. Unincorporated Hobbs continued to lead the rest of Lea County in population growth. In the last three years, Unincorporated Hobbs, has grown consistently at over 2% annually. Despite its slower than average annual growth rate, the City of Hobbs has dug itself out of the population hole. Its population growth see-sawed between 2003 and 2006. From virtually no growth during the previous years, BBER estimated an annual growth rate of 1.27% between 2003 and 2004. This slowed down to 1.15% between 2004 and 2005 and rose again to 1.24% between 2005 and 2006. This up and down pattern of growth was more obvious among the smaller areas in Lea County, where even the smallest of change could register as a large variation in the growth rate.

Table 9: Lea County's Annual Average Growth Rate by Area: July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006

(Source: NM Bureau of Business and Economic Research)

Study Area	Annual Average Population Growth Rate (%)						
	2000-2006	2000 -2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
City of Hobbs	0.54	-0.25	0.00	0.04	1.27	1.15	1.25
<i>Unincorporated Hobbs</i>	1.72	0.88	1.02	1.34	2.50	2.46	2.32
Hobbs Area	0.80	-0.01	0.22	0.33	1.54	1.45	1.50
Eunice Area	0.60	-0.19	-0.10	0.21	1.61	0.75	1.51
Jal Area	0.61	-0.23	-0.05	0.05	1.69	0.70	1.70
Lovington Area	0.66	0.32	-0.15	0.02	1.63	0.75	1.48
Tatum Area	0.74	1.12	-0.20	0.22	1.35	0.51	1.35
Lea County	0.76	0.11	0.10	0.25	1.55	1.19	1.49

Table 10 shows that, overall, the populations in the five Texas counties continue the decline that started since the 1990s. At the county level, population growth was very unstable. From year to year, the county populations went up and down, like a roller coaster. Between 2000 and 2006, this region's total population increased by over 800 people. Of this growth, approximately 48% (391) occurred in Andrews County; 28% (225) in Gaines County; 17% in Winkler County; 5% in Yoakum County; and 1% in Cochran County. Table 10 indicates that, in the last two years, Andrews County had the largest population increase. Between 2005 and 2006, following a year of negative population growth, Andrews County exploded with an estimated growth rate of over 3%. Winkler County (2.14%) also experienced strong growth during this period. To some degree, it appears that population and housing growth in Andrews County is unprecedented but, overall, it is unclear from these estimates if the economic growth and the unmet housing need in Lea County has benefited these Texas counties.

Components of Population Change. Table 11 presents the components of population growth in Lea County. Lea County grew primarily from natural increase or the difference between births and deaths. Altogether, Lea County had a net loss of over 2,000 people from migration between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2005. Lea County averted a negative population growth during this period because of significant gains in natural increase, which more than compensated for the negative impact of migration. During this period, the net population gain to Lea County population was over 1,800 people. A similar decomposition of the components of population change between 2000 and 2006 is not possible at this time because the NM Department of Health is still processing the 2006 vital records.

Table 10: Population Estimates and Annual Average Growth Rate for Five Texas Counties: July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2006

(Source: Texas State Data Center at Texas A & M and Institute of Demographic and Socio-economic Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio)

Study Area	Census 2000	Population Estimates As of July 1 ...					
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Andrews	13,004	12,963	13,030	12,946	12,983	12,763	13,154
Cochran	3,730	3,728	3,584	3,577	3,521	3,578	3,590
Gaines	14,467	14,329	14,458	14,656	14,613	14,897	15,122
Winkler	7,173	7,040	6,989	6,730	6,819	6,661	6,805
Yoakum	7,322	7,258	7,193	7,140	7,212	7,221	7,264
Total	45,696	45,318	45,254	45,049	45,148	45,120	45,935
Study Area	Annual Average Population Growth Rate (%)						
	2000 - 2006	2000 -2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Andrews	0.18	-0.25	0.52	-0.65	0.29	-1.71	3.02
Cochran	-0.61	-0.04	-3.94	-0.20	-1.58	1.61	0.33
Gaines	0.71	-0.77	0.90	1.36	-0.29	1.92	1.50
Winkler	-0.84	-1.50	-0.73	-3.78	1.31	-2.34	2.14
Yoakum	-0.13	-0.70	-0.90	-0.74	1.00	0.12	0.59
Total	0.08	-0.66	-0.14	-0.45	0.22	-0.06	1.79

Table 11: Components of Population Change, by Census Tract
Lea County, Census 2000 to July 1, 2005

Study Area	Total Change Between 2000 and 2005	Number of ...			Implied Migration (Total Change less Natural Increase)
		Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	
<i>City of Hobbs</i>	621	3,656	656	3,000	-2,379
<i>Unincorporated Hobbs</i>	694	416	364	52	642
Hobbs Area	1,315	4,072	1,020	3,052	-1,737
Eunice Area	65	135	115	20	45
Jal Area	45	78	62	16	29
Lovington Area	266	1,163	468	695	-429
Tatum Area	133	162	71	91	42
Lea County	1,824	5,610	1,736	3,874	-2,050

At the sub-county level, Table 11 indicates that, between 2000 and 2005, the total population change in the City of Hobbs was approximately 620 people. For this period, births outnumbered deaths by approximately 3,000. Using the accounting formula for estimating population growth,¹ the implication of these numbers is that population growth in the City of Hobbs was largely due to natural increase. In fact, natural increase more than compensated for the negative effect of migration in the City of Hobbs. Between 2000 and 2005, outmigrants exceeded immigrants by 2,400 people. By comparison, population growth in Unincorporated Hobbs was largely from migration. The estimated net migration for this area was about 640; natural increase was about 50. Lovington and Tatum grew primarily from natural increase while Eunice and Jal increased their population mostly through migration.

The relatively higher fertility and lower mortality rate among the Minorities partially accounted for the population growth in Lea County. The category "Minority" includes individuals who identified themselves as "White Hispanic or Latino," American Indian, Black, Asian and Pacific Islander. "Hispanic or Latino" is an ethnicity, not a race. It is a subset of the Minority race category.

Table 12 and Figure 2 indicate that the number of Minority births are inversely related to the number of Anglo births. Minority births have been increasing while Anglo births have been decreasing. The proportion of minority births has increased from 55% in 1990 to 70% in 2005 whereas the proportion of Anglo births decreased from 45% in 1990 to 29% in 2000. This race reversal is the result of a combination of the following demographic phenomena: the influx of Minorities into Lea County; the exodus of Anglos due to the instability of Lea County's economy; and differential fertility rates between these two groups.

Table 13 and Figure 3 illustrate the race allocation of deaths from 1990 to 2005. Although some fluctuations are observed in Figure 3, the overall pattern indicates very little change in the proportion of deaths, by race. The proportion of Anglos among the dead fluctuated around 80% while the proportion of Minorities hovered around 20%. The disparities in fertility and mortality rates between Anglos and Minorities, the strong presence of Minorities, primarily Hispanics, among recent migrants, and the aging of the baby boom generation, which in this case is predominantly Anglo, will accelerate the racial changeover in Lea County, from an Anglo to a Minority majority population.

Table 14 points more clearly to the differential growth patterns among the races in Lea County. Since 1995, deaths have outnumbered births in the aging Anglo population. In contrast, among the relatively younger Minority population, births outnumbered deaths by a large margin. Figure 4 illustrates this sharp contrast in the components of population growth among the races in Lea County.

¹ $P_{(t+n)} = P_{(t)} + (B - D) + (Im - Om)$; where $P_{(t+n)}$ is the population being estimated for time $(t + n)$; $P_{(t)}$ is the population in the previous year or time; B = the number of births between these two time periods; D = the number of deaths; Im = immigration and Om = outmigration.

Table 12: Births in Lea County from 1990 to 2005, by Race/Ethnicity
(Source: New Mexico Department of Health Vital Statistics Records)

Year of Occurrence	Number of Births				Percent Distribution			
	Anglo	Minority*	Total	Hispanic**	Anglo	Minority*	Total	Hispanic**
1990	440	540	980	467	44.9	55.1	100.0	47.7
1991	429	568	997	491	43.0	57.0	100.0	49.2
1992	420	595	1,015	526	41.4	58.6	100.0	51.8
1993	398	582	980	517	40.6	59.4	100.0	52.8
1994	395	590	985	523	40.1	59.9	100.0	53.1
1995	334	519	853	451	39.2	60.8	100.0	52.9
1996	367	607	974	532	37.7	62.3	100.0	54.6
1997	345	587	932	501	37.0	63.0	100.0	53.8
1998	323	615	938	549	34.4	65.6	100.0	58.5
1999	327	616	943	550	34.7	65.3	100.0	58.3
2000	298	574	872	493	34.2	65.8	100.0	56.5
2001	290	611	901	566	32.2	67.8	100.0	62.8
2002	284	623	907	561	31.3	68.7	100.0	61.9
2003	308	651	959	573	32.1	67.9	100.0	59.7
2004	270	655	925	590	29.2	70.8	100.0	63.8
2005	301	745	1,046	679	28.8	71.2	100.0	64.9

* Minority includes White Hispanic and All Other NonWhite Races. Anglo includes only White Non-Hispanic or Non-Latinos.
**Hispanic is of any Race.

Figure 2: Births in Lea County, by Race/Ethnicity: 1990 to 2005
(Source: NM Department of Health Vital Records and Health Statistics)

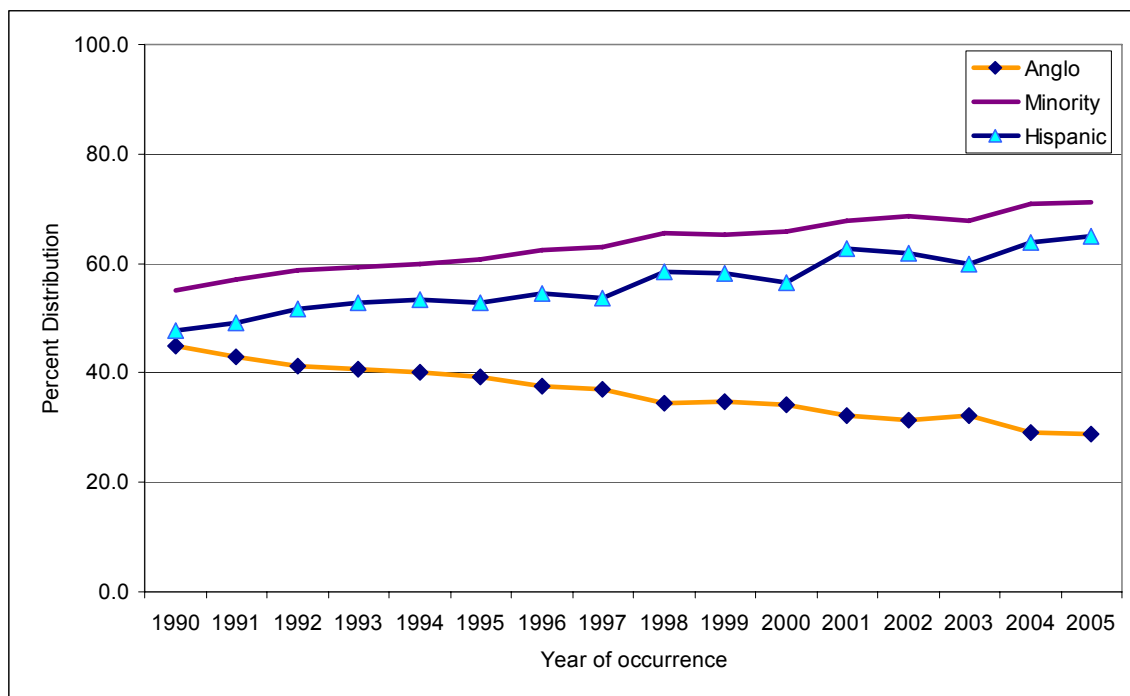


Table 13: Deaths in Lea County from 1990 to 2005, by Race and Ethnicity
(Source: New Mexico Department of Health Vital Statistics Records)

Year of Occurrence	Number of Deaths				Percent Distribution			
	Anglo	Minority*	Total	Hispanic**	Anglo	Minority*	Total	Hispanic**
1990	357	83	440	60	81.1	18.9	100.0	13.6
1991	370	78	448	46	82.6	17.4	100.0	10.3
1992	359	99	458	71	78.4	21.6	100.0	15.5
1993	357	86	443	66	80.6	19.4	100.0	14.9
1994	362	74	436	51	83.0	17.0	100.0	11.7
1995	374	82	456	53	82.0	18.0	100.0	11.6
1996	360	72	432	51	83.3	16.7	100.0	11.8
1997	426	88	514	57	82.9	17.1	100.0	11.1
1998	366	75	441	60	83.0	17.0	100.0	13.6
1999	379	98	477	67	79.5	20.5	100.0	14.0
2000	371	94	465	65	79.8	20.2	100.0	14.0
2001	403	112	515	82	78.3	21.7	100.0	15.9
2002	347	98	445	79	78.0	22.0	100.0	17.8
2003	315	79	394	64	79.9	20.1	100.0	16.2
2004	323	104	427	84	75.6	24.4	100.0	19.7
2005	386	105	491	77	78.6	21.4	100.0	15.7

* Minority includes White Hispanic and All Other NonWhite Races. Anglo includes only White Non-Hispanic or Non-Latinos.
**Hispanic is of any Race.

Figure 3: Number of Deaths in Lea County, by Race/Ethnicity
1990 to 2005
(Source: NM Department of Health Vital Records and Health Statistics)

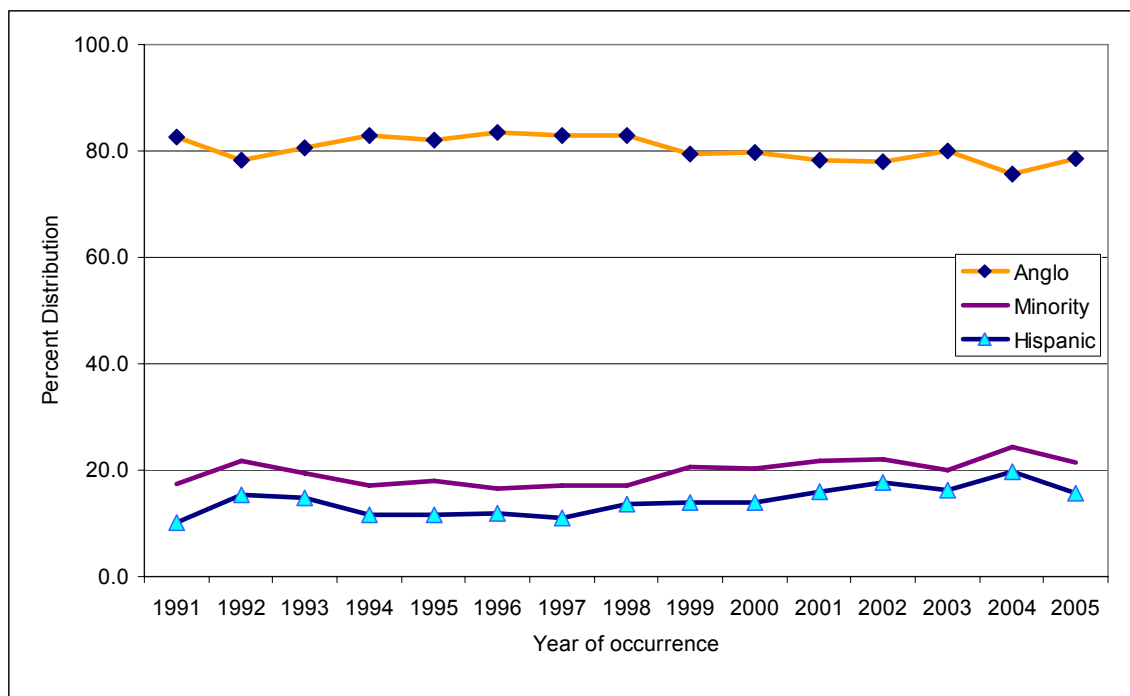
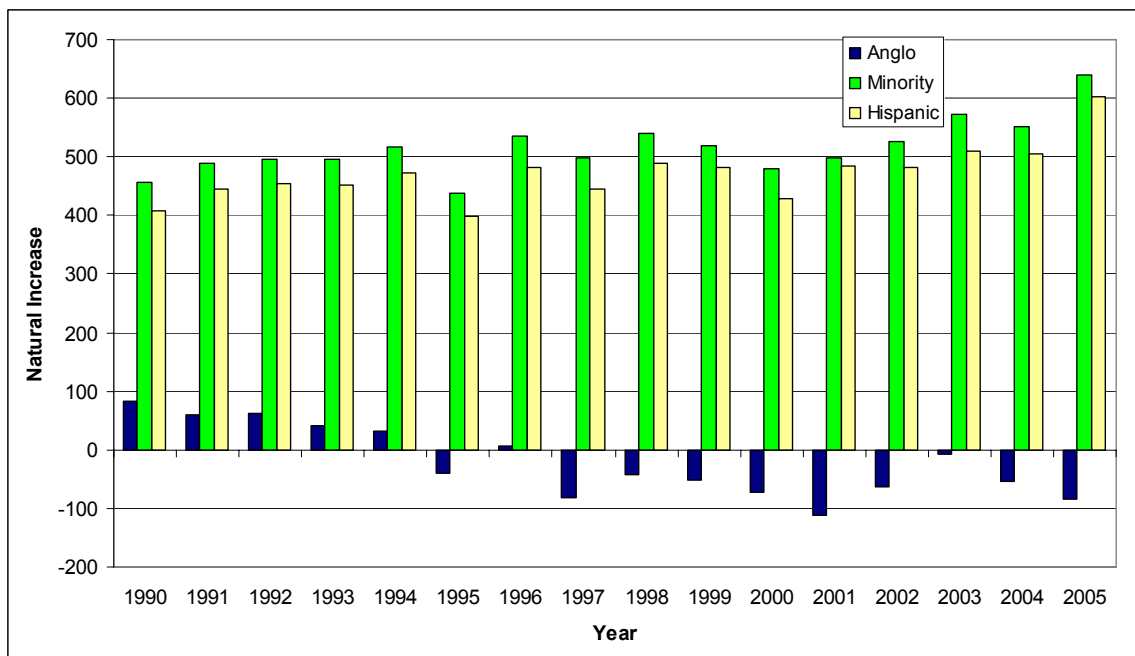


Table 14: Natural Increase in Lea County, by Race/Ethnicity: 1990 to 2005
(Source: UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research; NM Dept of Health)

Year of Occurrence	Natural Increase				Percent Share in Natural Increase of...			
	Anglo	Minority*	Total	Hispanic**	Anglo	Minority*	Total	Hispanic**
1990	83	457	540	407	15.4	84.6	100.0	75.4
1991	59	490	549	445	10.7	89.3	100.0	81.1
1992	61	496	557	455	11.0	89.0	100.0	81.7
1993	41	496	537	451	7.6	92.4	100.0	84.0
1994	33	516	549	472	6.0	94.0	100.0	86.0
1995	-40	437	397	398	-10.1	110.1	100.0	100.3
1996	7	535	542	481	1.3	98.7	100.0	88.7
1997	-81	499	418	444	-19.4	119.4	100.0	106.2
1998	-43	540	497	489	-8.7	108.7	100.0	98.4
1999	-52	518	466	483	-11.2	111.2	100.0	103.6
2000	-73	480	407	428	-17.9	117.9	100.0	105.2
2001	-113	499	386	484	-29.3	129.3	100.0	125.4
2002	-63	525	462	482	-13.6	113.6	100.0	104.3
2003	-7	572	565	509	-1.2	101.2	100.0	90.1
2004	-53	551	498	506	-10.6	110.6	100.0	101.6
2005	-85	640	555	602	-15.3	115.3	100.0	108.5

* Minority includes White Hispanic and All Other NonWhite Races. Anglo includes only White Non-Hispanic or Non-Latinos.
**Hispanic is of any Race.

Figure 4: Natural Increase in Lea County, by Race/Ethnicity: 1990 to 2005
(Source: UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research; NM Dept. of Health)



The social and economic implications of these demographic patterns are intriguing. An aging population has different health, housing, transportation, and social needs from that of a young population. The aging Anglo population will require retirement and nursing homes, health facilities with specialized care, and age appropriate recreational facilities and services. The young Minority population will require schools, childcare services and facilities, jobs, and housing that can accommodate a growing family.

Future population levels and trends. Population projections for Lea County, Chaves County, Eddy County and the five Texas counties will be presented in this section. BBER produced the population projections for the New Mexico counties. The Institute of Demographic and Socioeconomic Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio generated the population projections for Andrews County, Cochran County, Gaines County, Winkler County, and Yoakum County.

Population projections methodology. Both BBER and UT at San Antonio used a cohort component method to generate the county population projections. Alternative methods of population projections can be used. However, for most long-term projections, the cohort-component method is most frequently used because it allows demographers to draw on historical trends and their specialized knowledge of each of the components of population change, namely, fertility, mortality and migration.

The input population was grouped into five-year age cohorts defined by age and sex. The projection proceeds by moving forward in time the population of each age- and sex-specific group according to assumptions about three components of population change: fertility, mortality, and migration. Each cohort is survived forward to the next age group based on a schedule of age-specific mortality rates. For example, the number of females in a particular population aged 20-25 in 2005, is calculated as the number of females aged 15-20 in 2000 multiplied by the assumed probability of survival for females of that age over the time period 2000-2005. This calculation is made for each age group and for both sexes, and repeated for each time step as the projection proceeds.

Migration can be accounted for by applying age- and sex-specific net migration numbers or rates to each cohort. The number of (net) migrants was estimated by from a variety of sources. These sources include IRS personal income tax returns, driver licenses, residual from a housing-unit based population estimate and the Decennial Censuses 1990 and 2000. Averaging was used because not one source can provide a complete accounting of migration at any given time. Each source captures some aspects of migration and each has its weakness. By averaging the numbers from these various sources, the error is attenuated.

Fertility and mortality are better measured than migration. Births and deaths data from 1980 to 2005 were provided to BBER by the New Mexico Department of Health Vital Statistics Records. Fertility rates were estimated for the county and the change in the rates from 1980 to 2005 was used to extrapolate future fertility rates. The fertility rates during this period point to a declining trend. This decline was incorporated in the fertility projections.

To project mortality into the future, sex-specific model life tables were constructed. The life table provides a schedule of surviving (or dying) based on a probability calculated for each age group and sex. These probabilities vary not only by age but also by sex. Females have a higher average life expectancy than males. The initial life table was calculated using the average number of deaths from 1999 to 2001 divided by the Census 2000 population age-sex distribution. Deaths fluctuate yearly. To stabilize these fluctuations, it is necessary to average the number of deaths centering on Census 2000. Even with the known undercount in the Census 2000, the population numbers from the Census are still the most reliable. The ultimate life table values were taken from the Census 2080 projections. It is assumed that the life expectancy in the region where Lea County is located will converge with the 2080 life expectancy projected by the Census Bureau for the nation as whole.

The software that was used in the population projections is called RUPEX. This was developed by the International Population Center of the Bureau of the Census. This software is EXCEL-based and is easy to use.

The census tract populations were projected using a ratio-technique because the detail required by a cohort component method was not available at the sub-county level. BBER has been address matching births, deaths, and building permits but the match rates at the census tract level are too low to ensure the reliability of the rates needed in a cohort component method. The ratio technique takes the share of the smaller area, in this instance a census tract, in the bigger area, the county. The share of each census tract was calculated for each year starting in 1990 through Census 2005. The amount of change in the ratios was calculated for successive years. The average change over the 15-year period was used to extrapolate the future share of each census tract in the county population, making sure that all ratios added to unity. These projected ratios were then applied on the projected county population to generate the census tract population.

Regional population projections. Table 15 shows that under the most likely scenario, the combined population of the three counties will increase from approximately 181 thousand in 2010 to 215 thousand, by 2030, which is an 18% change over a 20-year period. During this period, the relative share of each county will change slightly in favor of Lea County. The region's population is distributed as follows: Chaves County, 36%; Eddy County, 30%; and Lea County, 34%. The resurgence of the oil and gas industry and the increasing role of

Table 15: Population Projections the Lea County and Surrounding New Mexico and Texas Counties: July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2030

County	July 1...					
	2005*	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
	Projected Population					
New Mexico						
Chaves County	62,203	65,260	68,712	72,015	74,827	77,410
Eddy County	52,167	54,443	57,008	59,515	61,782	63,882
Lea County	57,006	60,962	64,579	67,703	70,578	73,538
Total	171,376	180,665	190,299	199,233	207,187	214,830
Texas						
Andrews	13,526	13,956	14,248	14,259	13,990	13,604
Cochran	3,922	4,142	4,267	4,320	4,282	4,202
Gaines	15,279	16,058	16,698	16,977	16,974	16,867
Winkler	7,431	7,623	7,734	7,739	7,574	7,301
Yoakum	7,748	8,138	8,500	8,663	8,673	8,598
Total	47,906	49,917	51,447	51,958	51,493	50,572

Source: New Mexico population projections are from the UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2007. Texas population figures are from the Institute of Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2006.

nuclear energy in the region appear to benefit all three counties. In the future, the county that can diversify its economy and be responsive to the demand for housing will have the comparative population advantage.

Table 15 also presents the annual growth rate of the three counties in the region. During the next 20 years, Lea County will outpace both Chaves County and Eddy County in population growth. The influx of economic migrants who are predominantly in their peak reproductive and productive years will have continued residual effect on the population of Lea County.

Population growth in all three counties will gradually slow down but Chaves County will decelerate faster than either Eddy County or Lea County. By the end of the projection period (2030), the population growth rates of Chaves County (0.68%) and Eddy County (0.67%) will converge but Lea County will maintain its lead over both counties. The increase in these counties' growth rate between 2010 and 2015 reflects the impact of the leading edge of the baby boom generation swelling the ranks of the elderly. Advancements in medical research, improvements in the health delivery system, and the relatively healthy lifestyle of baby boomers have resulted in larger numbers surviving to older ages. In Lea

County, their impact is muted because of the influx of relatively young migrants during the 2000 decade.

The Texas projections show little to no growth in the five counties that are adjacent to Lea County. All five counties are expected to have slight population increased in the next 15 years, after which their populations will gradually decline.

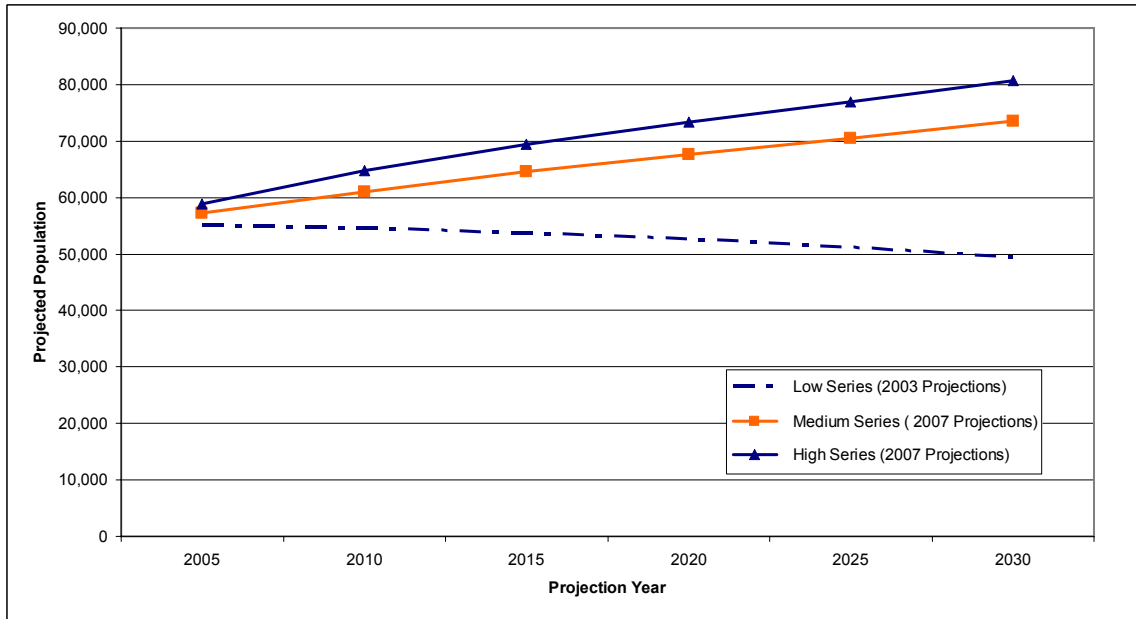
Lea County population projections. Tables 16 to 18 focus specifically on Lea County. For comparative purposes, Table 16 and Figure 5 show three different series of population projections. These different series may be regarded as low, medium or most likely, and high series. The fertility and mortality assumptions were the same for all three series. Based on fertility trends from 1990 to 2000, the fertility rate measured in average number of children per women will change from 2.41 children in the year 2000 to 2.28 children per woman, by 2030. On average, life expectancy at birth for both sexes is expected to increase by 3.6 years, from 78.27 years in 2000 to 81.87 years by 2030. However, the migration assumptions used in each of the population projection series were significantly different. All three projection series used July 1, 2000 as the baseline population. Only the most likely series resulted in a July 1, 2005 that was approximately equal to BBER's Lea County population estimate for this year.

The **low series** which was produced in 2002 and released in 2003 indicated a declining population trend for Lea County. Between 1980 and 2000, Lea County lost an average of 480 people every year. In the 10-year period, between 1990 and 2000, the out-migration rate was highest in the latter half of the 1990 decade when Lea County lost over 4,000 people. This averaged to a yearly loss of about 800 people. However, the ultimate population loss during the 1990 decade was less than one percent or 500 people. Natural increase (the difference between number of births and number of deaths) compensated for the population deficit from migration. In 1990, the Census counted approximately 56,000 Lea County residents. In 2000, this number declined to 55,500. Out-migration from Lea County continued to exceed in-migration after the 2000 Census. In the absence of contrary evidence, this 20-year trend of negative net migration was assumed to continue in the future. In this scenario the population of Lea County will decrease from 55,500 people in 2000 to 49,400, by 2030. This is equivalent to a loss of approximately 6,100 (11%) people over 30 years.

Table 16: Varying Population Projection Series for Lea County:
July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2030

[illegible]

Figure 5: Comparative Population Projection Series for Lea County
 July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2030
 (Source: UNM BBER)



Starting in 2003, as the price of oil soared, Lea County's economy bounced back from the slow growth of the last two decades. The 2007 **medium or most likely series** and the high series population projections were based on migration trends from 1990 to 2005. The medium series averaged the migration figures that were calculated from a number of different data sources. These sources are the following:

- INS Personal Income Tax Returns that is used by the Census Bureau;
- the migration implied by BBER's housing unit method of population estimation;
- the county-to-county migration numbers derived from the Census 2000 question on place of residence in 1995; and
- Motor Vehicle Division driver license data from 2000 to 2004.

Each of these data sources has its own weaknesses and strengths. Since there is no systematic way to evaluate the accuracy of each one at this point, the migration numbers derived from each source were aggregated and a yearly average was calculated. In turn, this yearly average was used for the migration component in the cohort-component model. Averaging migration from all these sources over a 15-year period captured the crests and troughs of Lea County's economy and the ensuing gross migration streams.

The medium series benefited from additional five years of IRS data (2000 to 2004) and the MVD driver license data, which became available to BBER last year. Starting in tax year 2003, the migration flows estimated from IRS returns indicated a reversal of the negative net migration that has been the pattern in Lea County since the early-1990s. The MVD data between 2000 and 2004 corroborated this positive population gain from migration. The housing unit based migration estimates further confirmed this pattern. The annual average number of migrants from all the above sources was estimated at approximately 200 people. This number was held constant throughout the projection period. Once these individuals have been included in the model, they are then subjected to the same fertility and mortality schedules as the county resident population. Table 16 shows that under this migration assumption, Lea County will grow from approximately 55,500 people in 2000 to 73,500 by the year 2030. This series projects Lea County's population to increase by as many as 18,000 people, or a 33% increase over 30 years.

The **high series** is based on the assumption that the number of migrants not associated with the construction industry will continue to increase through the year 2013, when the uranium enrichment plant becomes fully operational. Meanwhile, the number of construction workers will decline starting next year through 2012 after which their numbers will be so insignificant to make much impact on Lea County's population growth. Between 2003 and 2012, the estimated annual average number of migrants is approximately 450. Starting in the year 2013, the number of migrants is expected to decrease to a yearly average of approximately 300 people. In this scenario, Lea County is projected to increase its July 1, 2000 population by 45% or an additional 24,800 people over 30 years.

The high level of migration assumption in the high series is unprecedented and not sustainable without major residential development, a restructuring of the economy to accommodate large numbers of retirees, and sustained recruitment of young adult workers. The US population is aging. The New Mexico population is also aging. By 2010, the first cohort of the baby boom generation will turn 65 years old. This swelling of the number of the elderly will continue until 2040. Less than a decade later, the succeeding baby boomlet generation, the children of baby boomers, will be joining the ranks of the elderly. In the future, the competition for the labor force that is required for energy related industries will be fierce. Nationally, declining fertility combined with very restrictive immigration laws will result in fewer numbers of young adults entering the labor force. Lea County will have to restructure its economy in order to successfully compete for workers in the future. A very rapidly growing population as implied by the high projection series will also need to be retirement friendly to attract the baby boom and boomlet retirees. In this context, the high series is untenable.

The differences among the three population projection series shown in Table 16 will increase dramatically from 2010 to 2030. In 2010, the difference between the medium and the low series is about 6,400 people. The difference

between the medium and the high series is 3,800. By 2030, the difference between the medium and the low series will be approximately 24,000 people and the difference between the medium and the high series is about 7,100 people. Figure 5 points to the rapidly increasing gap between the mostly likely series and the low population projection series. The high and the most likely series follow the same upward trajectory with the gap between them slowly increasing over time.

Tables 17 and Figure 6 present the geographic distribution of the most likely projection series and Table 18 shows the annual growth rate of the areas in Lea County. In the next 25 years, all areas in Lea County are expected to increase their populations albeit at varying speeds. Unincorporated Hobbs is projected to have higher than average growth rate while the rest of the county will have lower growth rate. Nevertheless, their relative shares will remain virtually the same. This 25-year projected growth in Lea County is predicated on the region's ability to sustain a strong economy and provide the infrastructure to accommodate the anticipated population growth. At least, until 2015, population growth throughout Lea County is expected to be over one percent annually. With the exception of Unincorporated Hobbs, everywhere else in the county the annual average growth rate will drop below one percent (Table 18).

Table 17: Projected Lea County Population, by Area
July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2030

Study Area	Population Projections As of July 1 ...				
	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
<i>City of Hobbs</i>	31,074	32,858	34,383	35,777	37,210
<i>Unincorporated Hobbs</i>	9,313	9,966	10,553	11,112	11,694
Hobbs Area	40,387	42,824	44,936	46,889	48,904
Eunice Area	3,144	3,326	3,482	3,625	3,772
Jal Area	2,303	2,437	2,552	2,658	2,766
Lovington Area	10,779	11,397	11,928	12,412	12,908
Tatum Area	4,350	4,596	4,805	4,994	5,189
Lea County	60,963	64,580	67,703	70,578	73,539
Distribution (%) As of July 1...					
<i>City of Hobbs</i>	51.0	50.9	50.8	50.7	50.6
<i>Unincorporated Hobbs</i>	15.3	15.4	15.6	15.7	15.9
Hobbs Area	66.2	66.3	66.4	66.4	66.5
Eunice Area	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1
Jal Area	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Lovington Area	17.7	17.6	17.6	17.6	17.6
Tatum Area	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
Lea County	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Figure 6: Population Projections by Areas in Lea County
 July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2030
 (Source: UNM BBER)

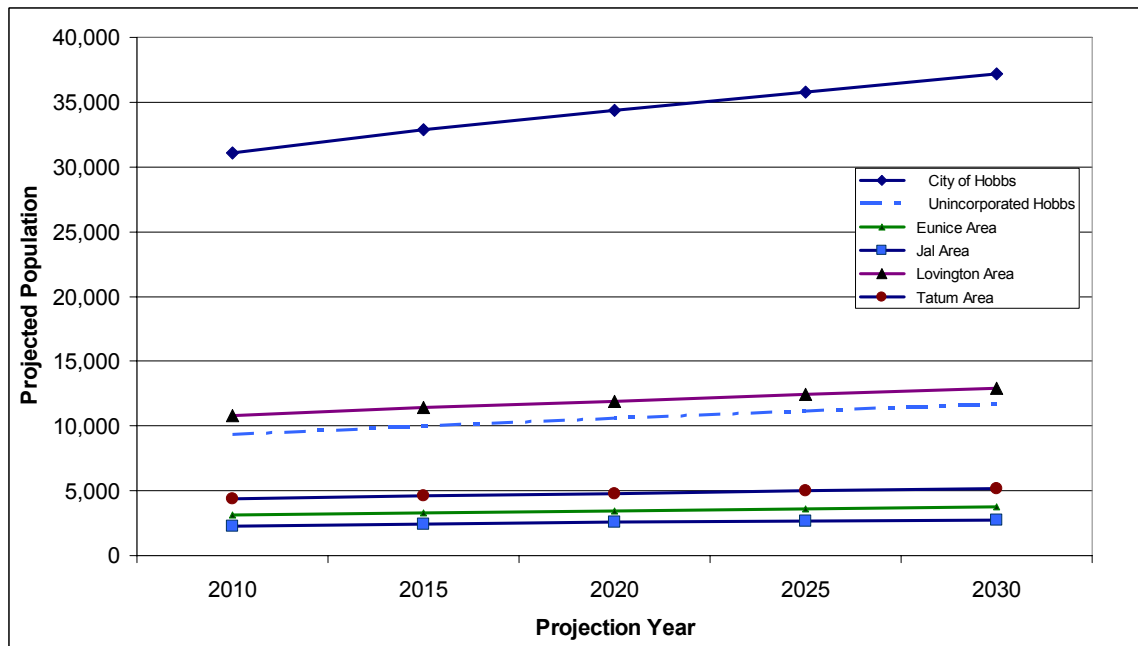


Table 18: Projected Annual Average Population Growth Rate, By Area
 Lea County: July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2030
 (Source: UNM BBER)

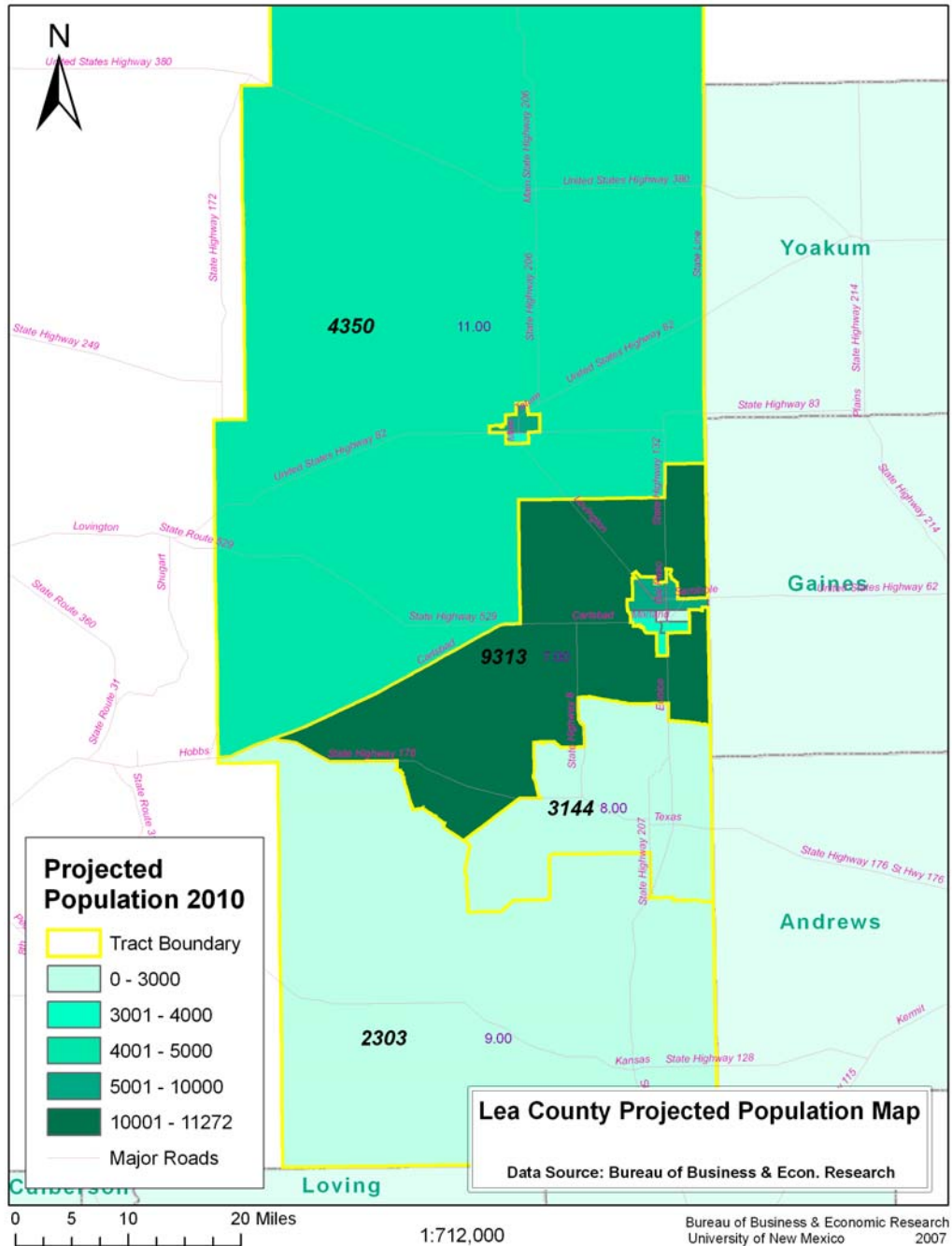
Study Area	Annual Average Growth Rate (%)			
	2010 -2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030
<i>City of Hobbs</i>	1.12	0.91	0.79	0.79
<i>Unincorporated Hobbs</i>	1.36	1.14	1.03	1.02
Hobbs Area	1.17	0.96	0.85	0.84
Eunice Area	1.13	0.92	0.80	0.80
Jal Area	1.13	0.92	0.81	0.80
Lovington Area	1.11	0.91	0.80	0.78
Tatum Area	1.10	0.89	0.77	0.77
Lea County	1.15	0.94	0.83	0.82

The Hobbs area will continue to maintain its demographic dominance in Lea County. In two years, Hobbs will have over 40,000 residents. By 2030, this number will increase to 49,000. Close to one-quarter (11,694) of these population will be in Unincorporated Hobbs. Meanwhile, Lovington's population will grow from 10,800 in 2010 to 13,000 by 2030. Eunice is projected to add over 600 people between 2010 and 2030. Jal will be increasing its population from 2,300 in 2010 to 2,800 by 2030 while Tatum will have more than 5,000 residents by 2030.

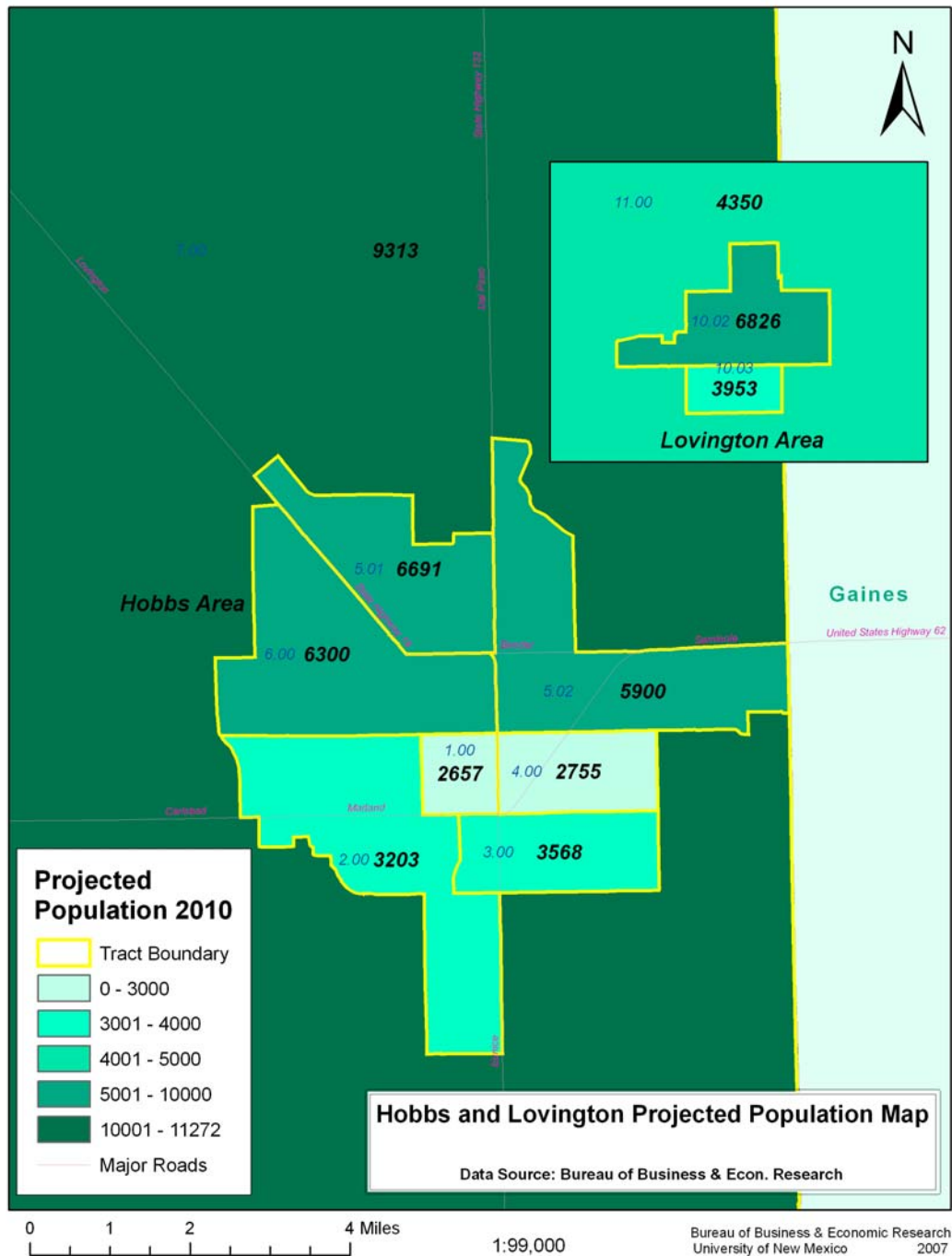
Maps 16 to 21 show the geographic distribution of the projected Lea County populations for 2010, 2020, and 2030. Maps 22 to 27 chart the annual population growth rates of the census tracts in the county from 2000 to 2030. The intensity of the color varies with the population size and the growth rate of the area. The areas are shaded from light to dark to represent low to high population values.

The geographic distribution of Lea County's population as shown in Table 17 could change based on a number of factors including housing supply and affordability, access to amenities, schools, health and medical facilities, individual preferences, and employment. Families in the early stages of their life cycle that have young children will require affordable housing that are located near schools and day care facilities. The areas with the highest concentration of this young population will experience the highest population growth. The places that have the highest concentration of retirees will have the slowest population growth. However, these areas are not necessarily precluded from having moderate to strong population growth in the future. Having the infrastructure and facilities to accommodate the needs of an aging population can attract future retirees and encourage local residents to age in place. A very good example of an old population that has continued to have strong growth is Sierra County (median age is 48.9 years; Lea County, 33.1 years). Between 1990 and 2000, this county grew at an annual rate of 2.92%. Sierra County's growth was primarily from retiree and amenity migration.

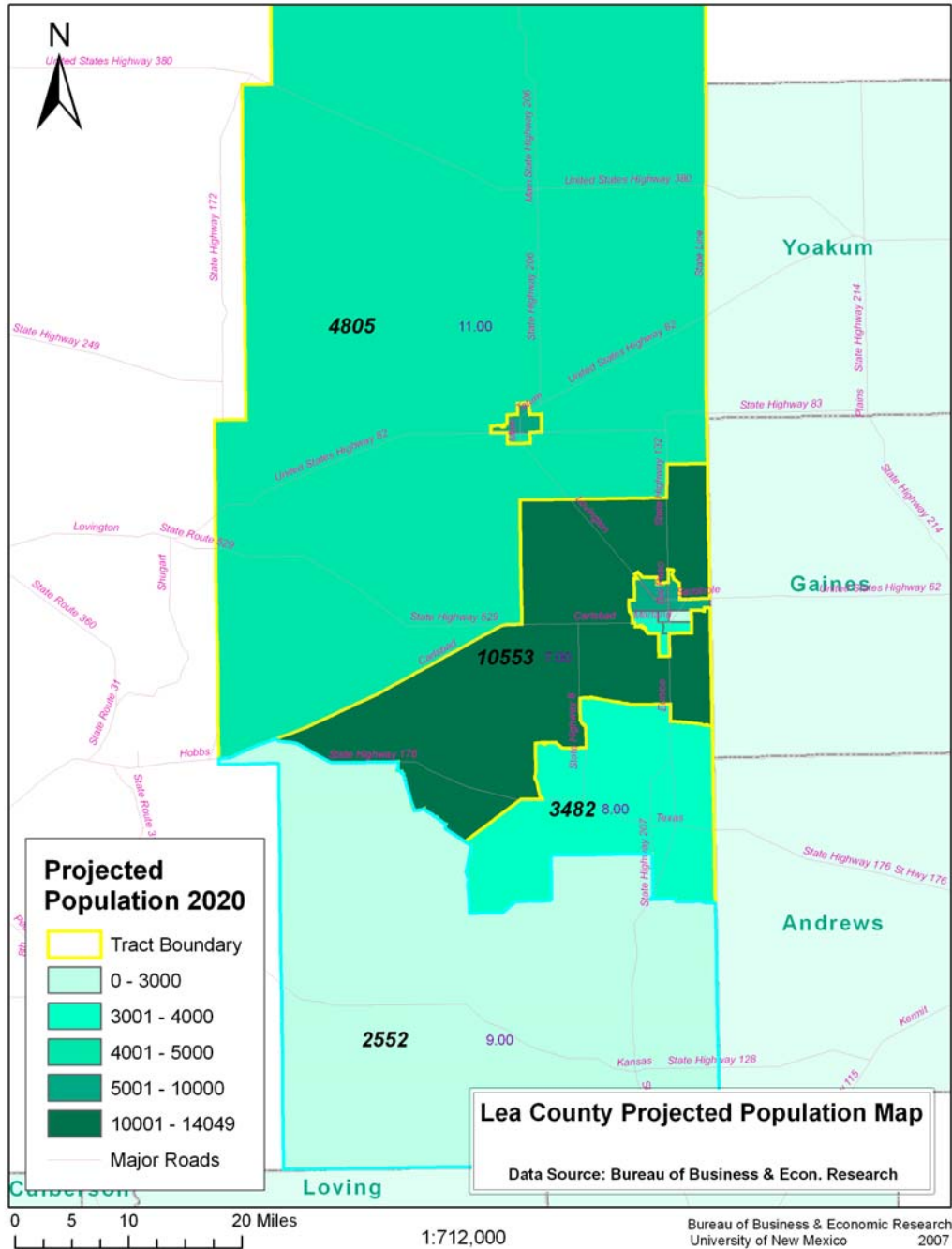
Map 16: Projected Lea County Population, by Census Tract
July 1, 2010



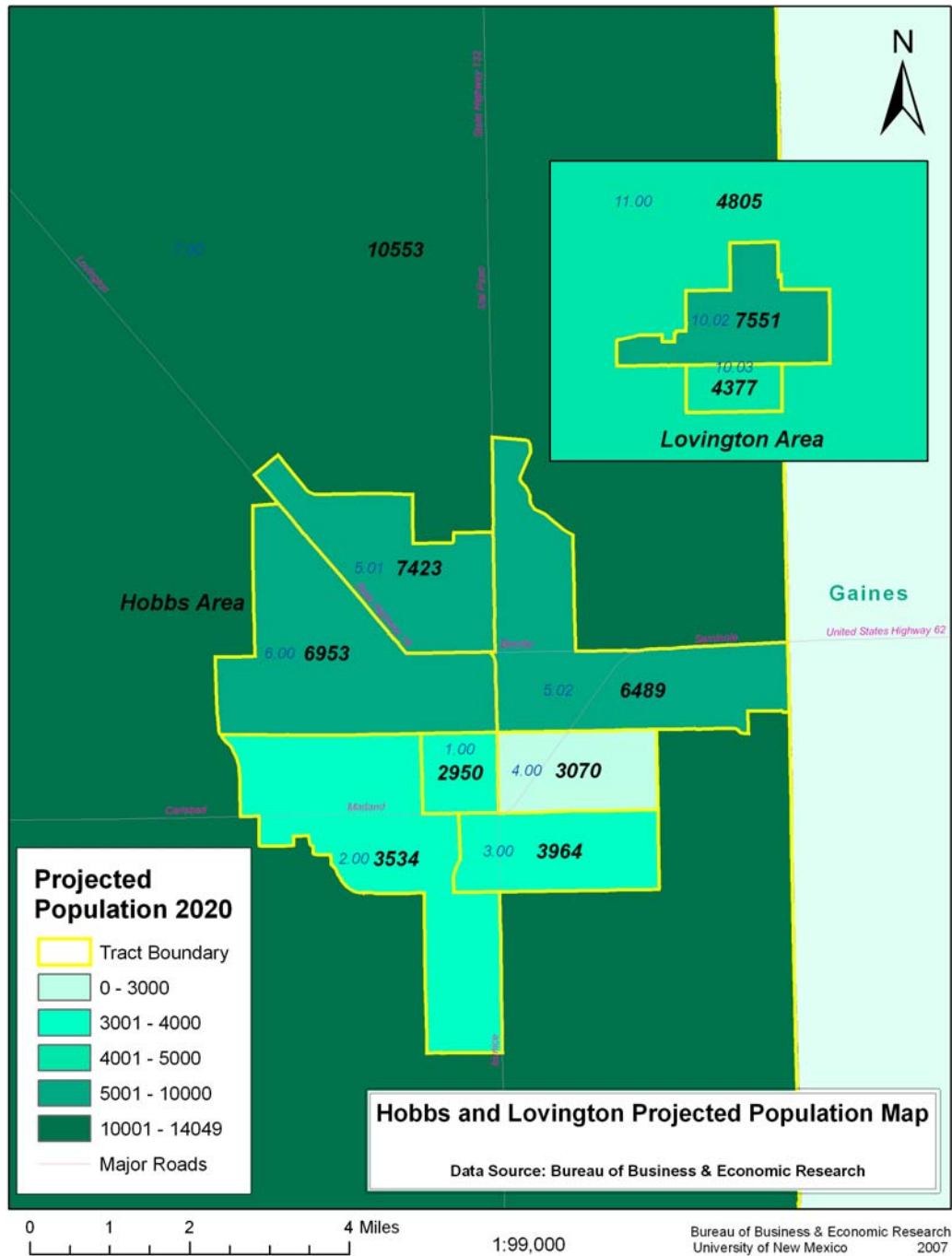
Map 17: Projected Population for Hobbs and Lovington Census Tracts,
July 1, 2010



Map 18: Projected Population of Lea County, by Census Tract
July 1, 2020

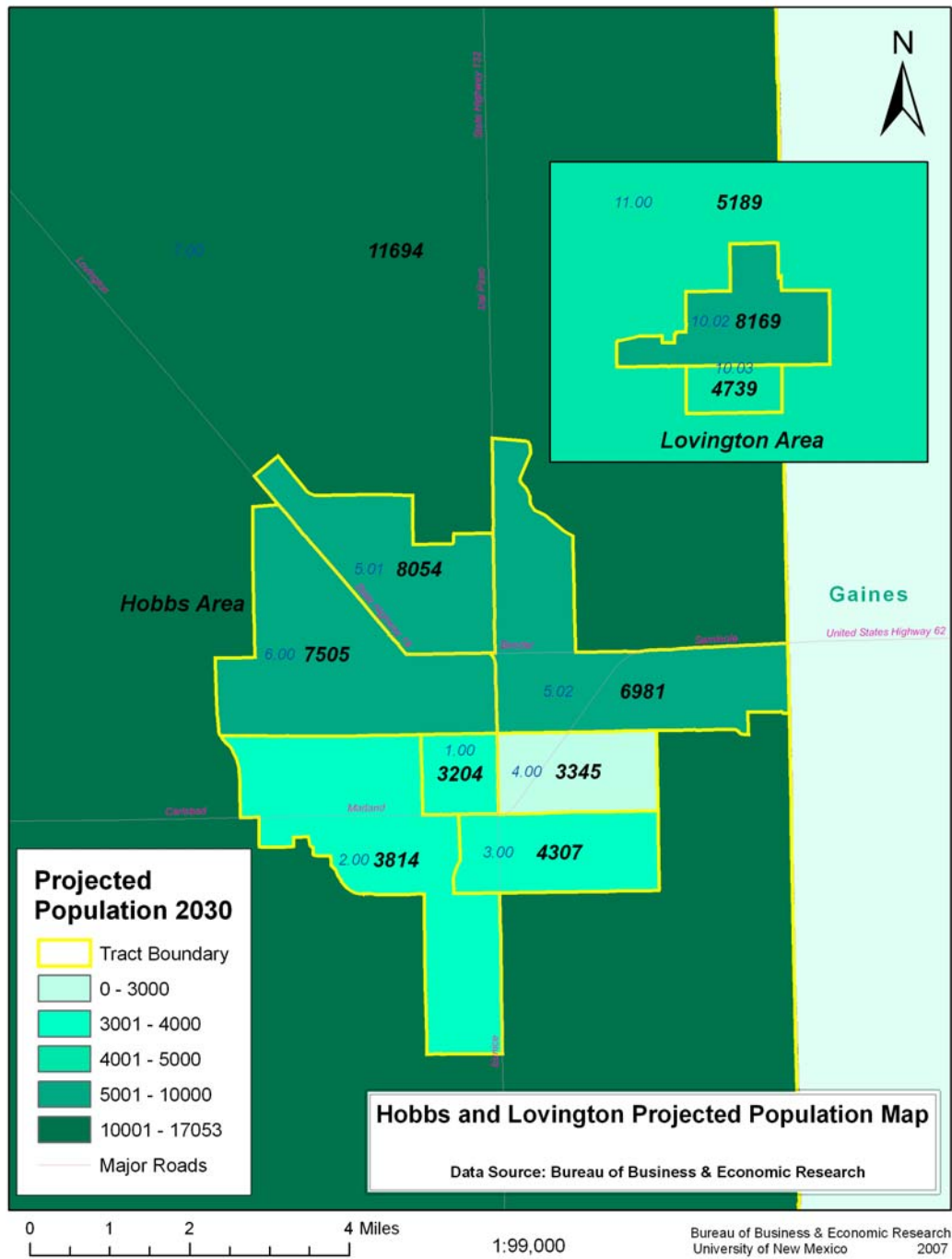


Map 19: Projected Population for Hobbs and Lovington Census Tracts
July 1, 2020

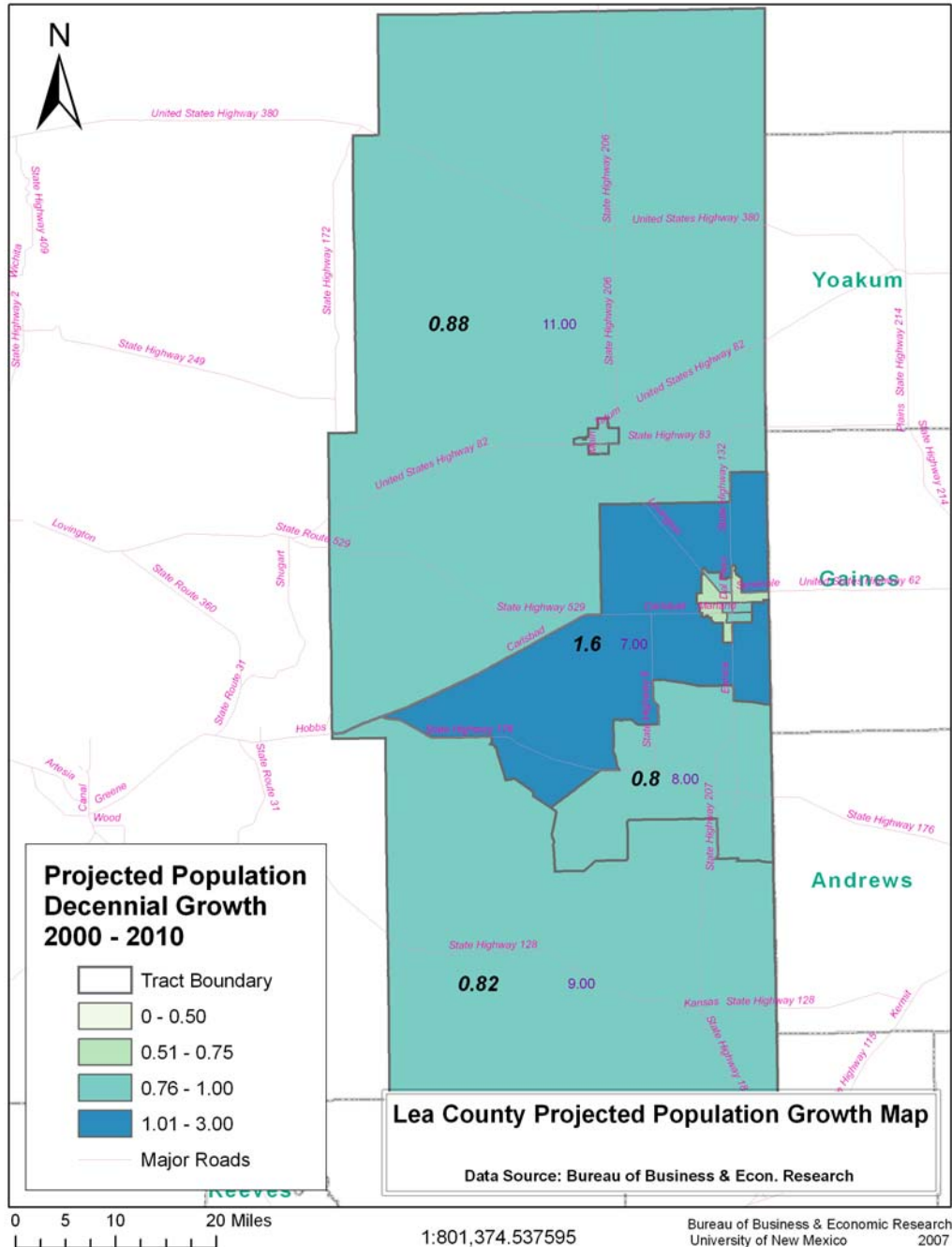




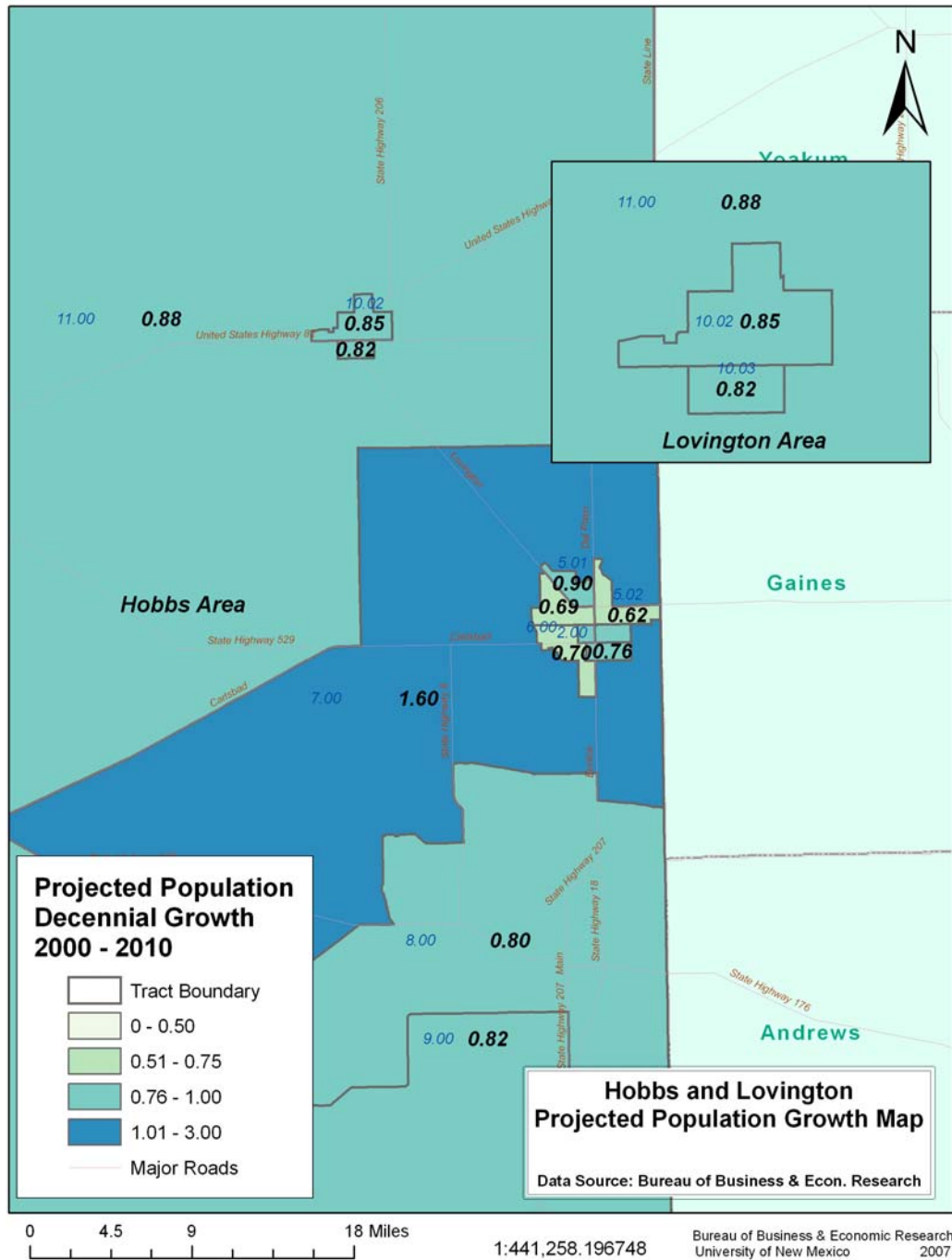
Map 21: Projected Populations for Hobbs and Lovington Census Tracts
July 1, 2030



Map 22: Projected Annual Average Population Growth (%) for Lea County, by Census Tract July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2010

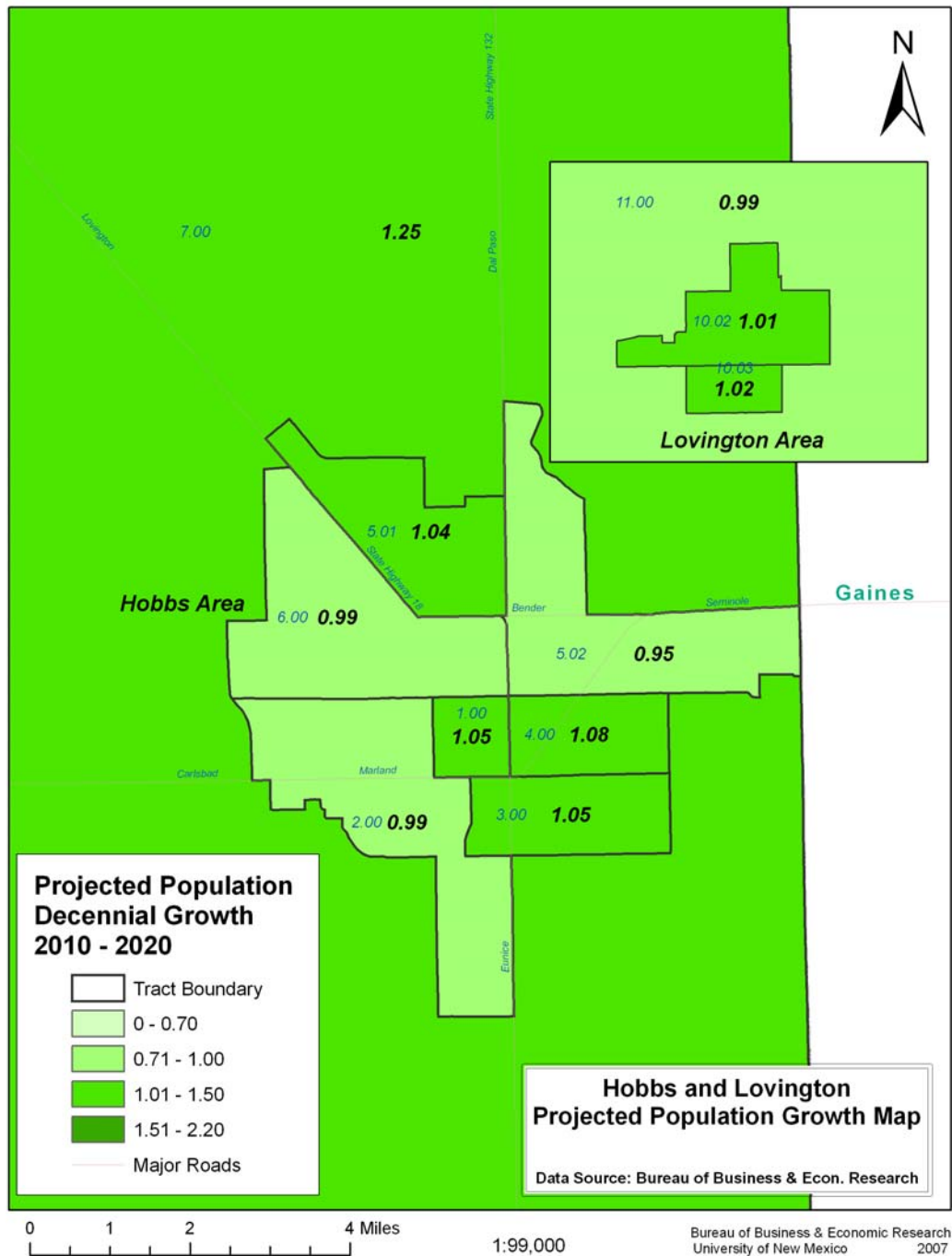


Map 23: Projected Annual Average Population Growth for Hobbs and Lovington Census Tracts: July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2010

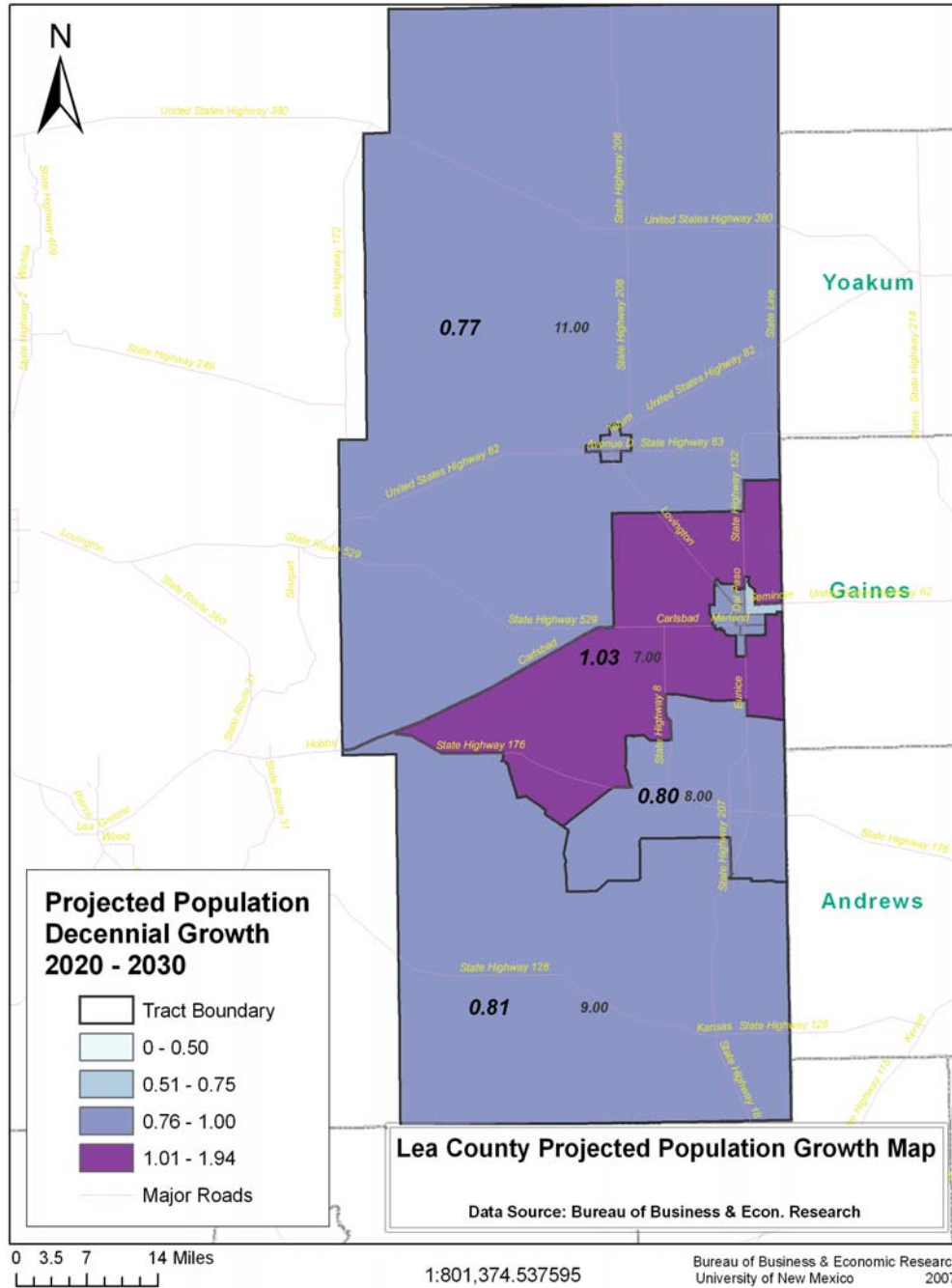




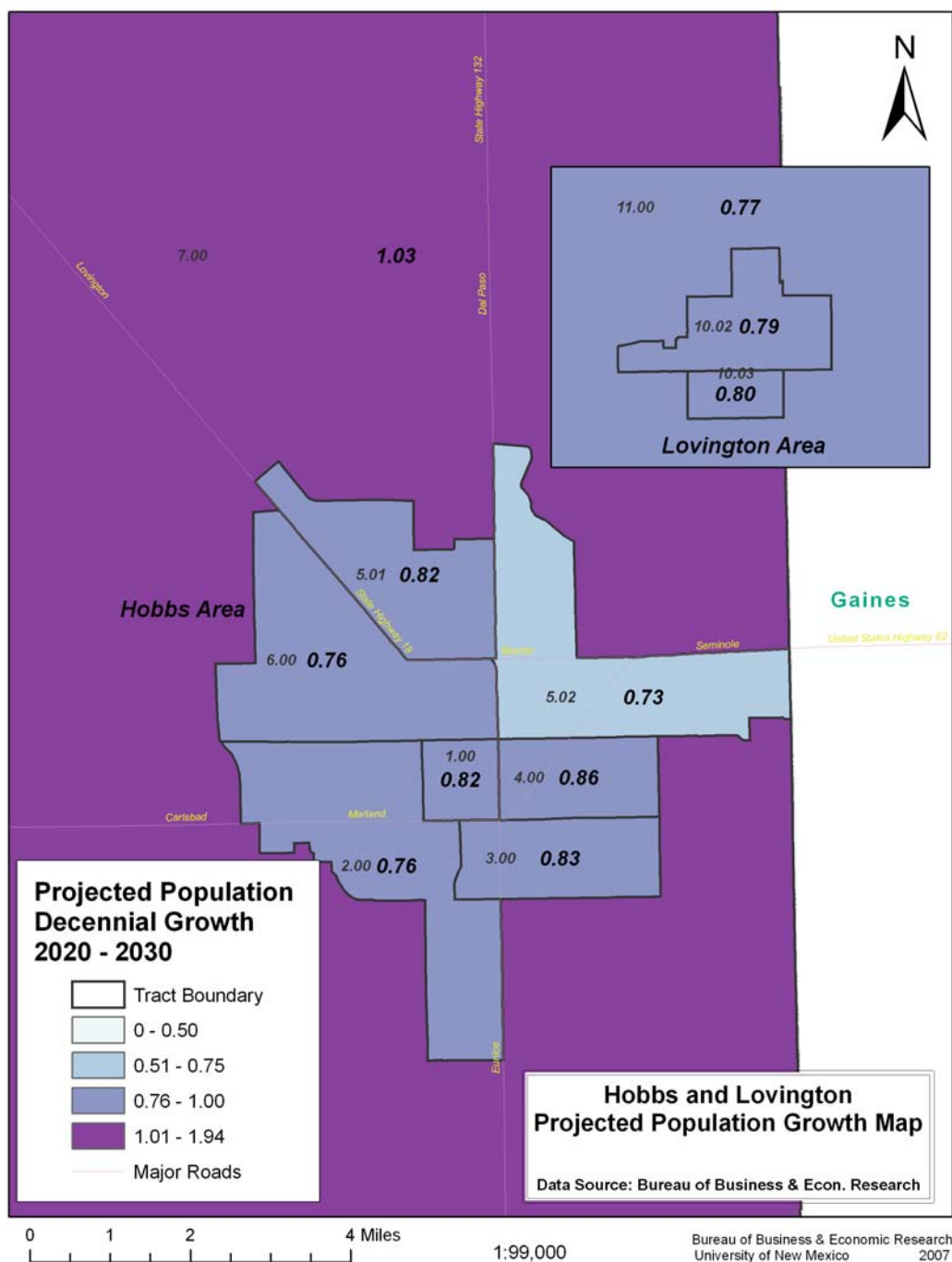
Map 25: Projected Annual Average Population Growth Rate for
Hobbs and Lovington Census Tracts: July 1, 2010 to 2020



Map 26: Projected Annual Average Population Growth for Lea County,
by Census Tract: July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2030



Map 27: Projected Annual Average Population Growth Rate for Hobbs and Lovington Census Tracts: July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2030



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The ability of a place to expand and diversify its economy is partially dependent on the quality of its labor force. Absent the needed skills locally, the necessary workforce will be imported from other places to meet the requirement of an expanding economy. Workers with children of school age are attracted to areas with access to schools. Some workers will commute to work if local schools are unable to meet their children's educational needs. This section examines the educational circumstances in Lea County and the surrounding counties of Chaves and Eddy.

Educational attainment. Educational attainment as used in the Census 2000 refers to the highest level of schooling completed at the time of the Census enumeration. For example, the educational attainment of an individual who attended 12th grade but did not complete the requirements for graduation or GED was reported as having 12 years of schooling but no high school diploma. In this report, this person is included in the "less than high school" category.

Table 19 and Figure 7 present the educational status of the residents in the region. Overall, the residents of Eddy County had the highest educational attainment in the region. Close to 75% of Eddy County's population aged 18 years old and over reported at least a high school diploma. Slightly over 70% of Chaves County's adult population reported the same. With two-thirds of its adult population who have completed high school or higher, Lea County had the lowest educational attainment in 2000. Table 19 and Figure 7 also show that Chaves County had the highest proportion (20%) of college graduates (AA degree and higher), followed by Eddy County (17%), and Lea County (16%). On average, women had more education than men. This gender disparity is higher in Eddy County than in either Chaves County or Lea County.

Table 20 and Figure 8 provide detailed breakdown of the level of educational attainment in Lea County, specifically. One in three adults in Lea County did not have a high school diploma in 2000. The elderly (65 years old and over) had the lowest educational attainment. Two in five elderly did not complete their high school education. The young adults (18 to 24 years old) had the second lowest educational attainment. Approximately 37% of them had less than a high school diploma. The population 25 to 64 years old had the highest educational attainment; close to 70% of this population reported a high school diploma or a college degree in 2000.

Among women, high education was inversely related to age. Women in the 25 to 34 age group (22%) had the highest proportion of college graduates while those in the 65 years and older category had the lowest. Among men, college education was directly correlated with age. The proportion of college educated men gradually increased from 4% in the 18 to 24 year old category to a high of 20% among the 45 to 64 year olds, after which the proportion dropped to 13% in the oldest category.

Table 19: Highest Educational Attainment of Population 18 Years and Older, by County and Sex: Census 2000
(Source: Census 2000 Summary File 3)

County	Number of People 18 Years and Older			Percent Distribution		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Chaves County	20,795	22,775	43,570	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than high school	6,082	6,515	12,597	29.2	28.6	28.9
High School graduate	10,463	11,852	22,315	50.3	52.0	51.2
AA degree and higher	4,250	4,408	8,658	20.4	19.4	19.9
Eddy County	17,598	19,225	36,823	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than high school	4,775	4,869	9,644	27.1	25.3	26.2
High School graduate	9,830	11,097	20,927	55.9	57.7	56.8
AA degree and higher	2,993	3,259	6,252	17.0	17.0	17.0
Lea County	19,177	19,605	38,782	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than high school	6,568	6,434	13,002	34.2	32.8	33.5
High School graduate	9,853	9,761	19,614	51.4	49.8	50.6
AA degree and higher	2,756	3,410	6,166	14.4	17.4	15.9

Figure 7: Adult Population In Chaves County, Eddy County, and Lea County With a High School Diploma or Higher
(Source: Census 2000 Summary File 3)

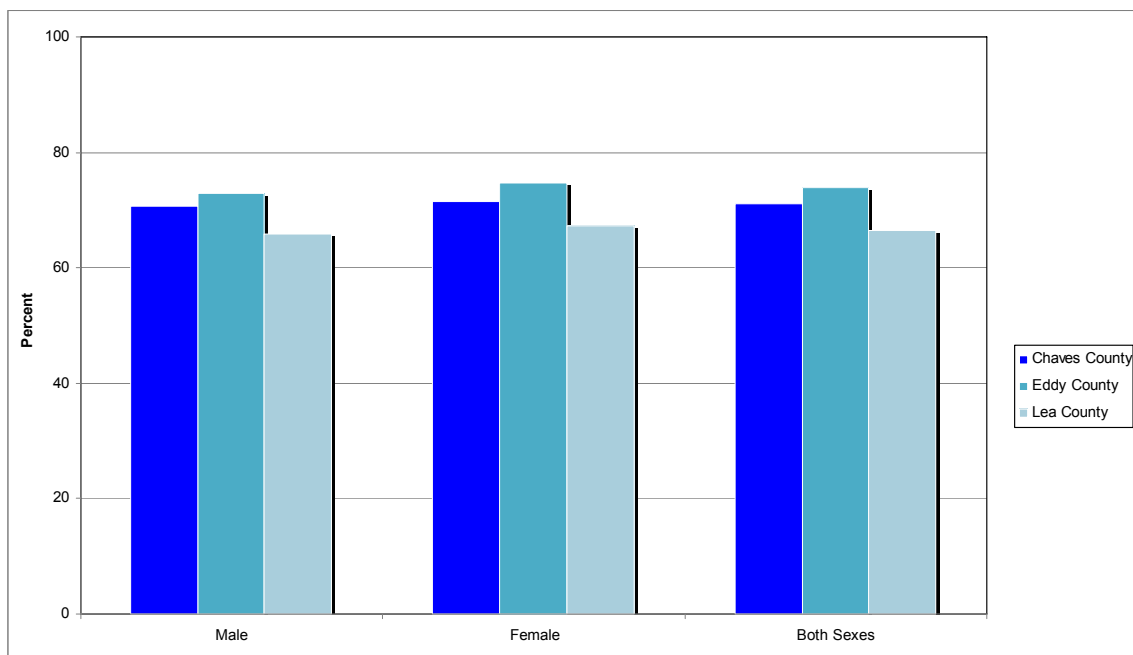


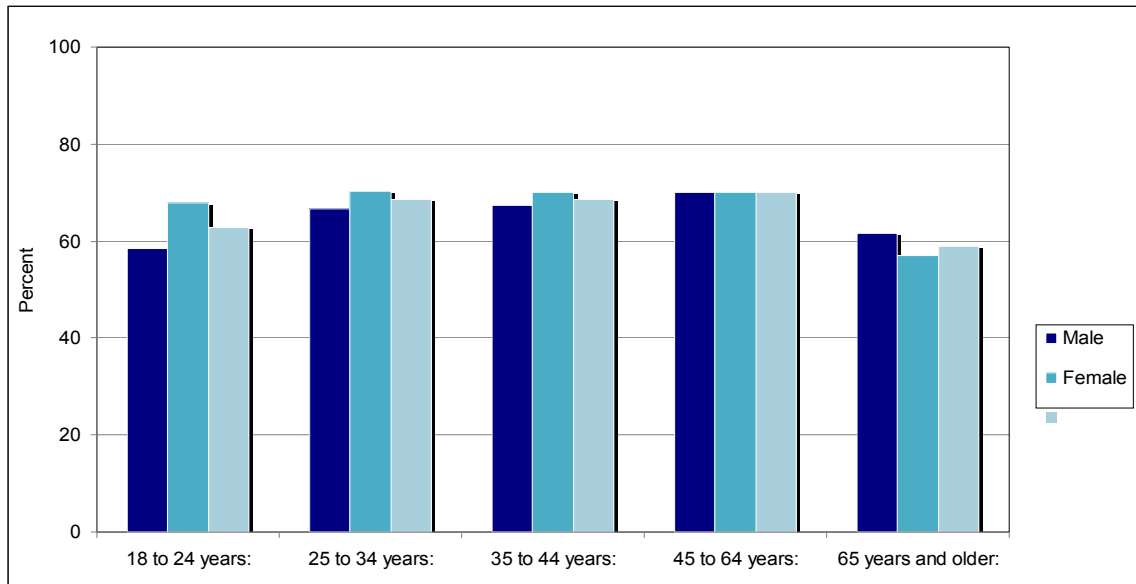
Table 20: Highest Educational Attainment of Population 18 Years and Older In Lea County, by Sex and Age, Census 2000
(Source: Census 2000 Summary Files 3)

Educational Attainment/Age	Population 18 Years and Older			Percent Distribution		
	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes
18 to 24 years:	2,970	2,521	5,491	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than high school	1,234	810	2,044	41.5	32.1	37.2
HS grad	1,612	1,483	3,095	54.3	58.8	56.4
College Degree	124	228	352	4.2	9.0	6.4
25 to 34 years:	3,390	3,459	6,849	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than high school	1,131	1,022	2,153	33.4	29.5	31.4
HS grad	1,820	1,672	3,492	53.7	48.3	51.0
College Degree	439	765	1,204	12.9	22.1	17.6
35 to 44 years:	4,319	4,070	8,389	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than high school	1,408	1,215	2,623	32.6	29.9	31.3
HS grad	2,202	2,028	4,230	51.0	49.8	50.4
College Degree	709	827	1,536	16.4	20.3	18.3
45 to 64 years:	5,513	5,587	11,100	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than high school	1,651	1,676	3,327	29.9	30.0	30.0
HS grad	2,768	2,776	5,544	50.2	49.7	49.9
College Degree	1,094	1,135	2,229	19.8	20.3	20.1
65 years and older:	2,985	3,968	6,953	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than high school	1,144	1,711	2,855	38.3	43.1	41.1
HS grad	1,451	1,802	3,253	48.6	45.4	46.8
College Degree	390	455	845	13.1	11.5	12.2
All Ages	19,177	19,605	38,782	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than high school	6,568	6,434	13,002	34.2	32.8	33.5
HS grad	9,853	9,761	19,614	51.4	49.8	50.6
College Degree	2,756	3,410	6,166	14.4	17.4	15.9

Table 14 shows that, in Lea County, females had higher educational attainment than their male counterparts. More women (17.4%) than men (14.4%) had a college degree in 2000. Among young adults (18 to 24 years old), women (9.0%) were twice as likely as men (4.2%) to complete a college degree. This gender gap was most pronounced in the 25 to 34 age group where 22% of the women reported a college degree versus 13% of the men. The educational disparity between the sexes diminished significantly among those aged 35 to 44 years where 20% of the women and 16% of the men held a college degree. Among 45 to 64 year olds the difference practically disappeared and in the oldest age groups the advantage shifted slightly in favor of men. In this age group, 13% of men reported a college degree compared to 12% of women.

Figure 8: Population 18 Years and Older With a High School Diploma or Higher, by Age and Sex: Lea County, Census 2000

(Source: NM Census 2000 Summary File 3)



Public School Enrollment. This section will present Lea County school enrollment in both public and non-public schools. This section will also report College enrollment in the County. The statistics presented here came from a variety of sources as presented above.

Lea County School Districts. Table 21 shows that Lea County has a total of 20 elementary schools, 9 middle schools, and 7 high schools. Hobbs Municipal Schools has the most number of schools with 12 elementary, three middle high schools, and two high schools. Lovington Public Schools has the second highest largest number of schools. It has five elementary schools, three middle high schools, and two high schools. Eunice, Jal, and Tatum Municipal schools have one school per grade level. Two private schools, King's Gate Academy and St. Helena's Elementary School, are located in Hobbs.

Table 21: Public School Districts in Lea County, by Grade Level
(Source: NM Public Education Department, 2006)

School District	Elementary School	Middle High School	High School	Total
Eunice Municipal Schools	1	1	1	3
Hobbs Municipal Schools	12	3	2	17
JAL Public Schools	1	1	1	3
Lovington Public Schools	5	3	2	10
Tatum Municipal Schools	1	1	1	3
Lea County Total	20	9	7	36

Table 22 and Figure 9 display public school enrollment statistics for Lea County from School Year 1986 to 2005. In general, public school enrollment had been on a downturn since SY 1986. In 20 years, the public schools lost over 1,800 students. The greatest decline happened in the latter half of the 1990s. Approximately 85% (1,570 students) of the decrease in public school enrollment occurred between 1997 and 2003. Over 90% (1,672) of the enrollment loss between SY 1997 and SY 2003 was at the Kindergarten and elementary grades. Since 2003, school enrollment has increased. Figure 9 captures this up tick in the enrollment trend.

Hobbs Municipal Schools enrollment. In general, more than 60% of the Lea County public school students was enrolled in the Hobbs Municipal Schools. Of these, more than 55% was in elementary, close to 20% was in junior high school, and slightly over one-quarter was in high school.

Public school enrollment in Hobbs, as in the rest of Lea County, appears to be closely linked with the growth and contraction of the oil and gas industry. The implication being that young adults and families with children are most susceptible to fluctuations in the economy. A strong economy retains as well as

Table 22: Public School Enrollment in Lea County, by Grade
SY 1986 to SY2005

(Source: National Center for Education Statistics)

School Year	Kindergarten to Grade 5	Grade 6 to 8	Grade 9 to 12	All Grades
1986	7,099	3,042	3,479	13,620
1987	6,880	2,975	3,400	13,255
1988	6,985	2,970	3,321	13,276
1989	6,804	2,957	3,272	13,033
1990	6,557	3,005	3,312	12,874
1991	6,722	3,044	3,338	13,104
1992	6,533	3,306	3,589	13,428
1993	6,314	3,319	3,709	13,342
1994	6,083	3,304	3,629	13,016
1995	6,029	3,244	3,704	12,977
1996	5,982	3,216	3,767	12,965
1997	6,052	3,151	3,876	13,079
1998	5,802	3,051	3,872	12,725
1999	5,541	2,867	3,759	12,167
2000	5,331	2,780	3,654	11,765
2001	5,345	2,730	3,585	11,660
2002	5,301	2,723	3,522	11,546
2003	5,245	2,755	3,509	11,509
2004	5,292	2,830	3,441	11,563
2005	5,427	2,811	3,352	11,590

Figure 9: Public School Enrollment in Lea County: SY 1986 to 2005
(Source: National Center for Education Statistics)

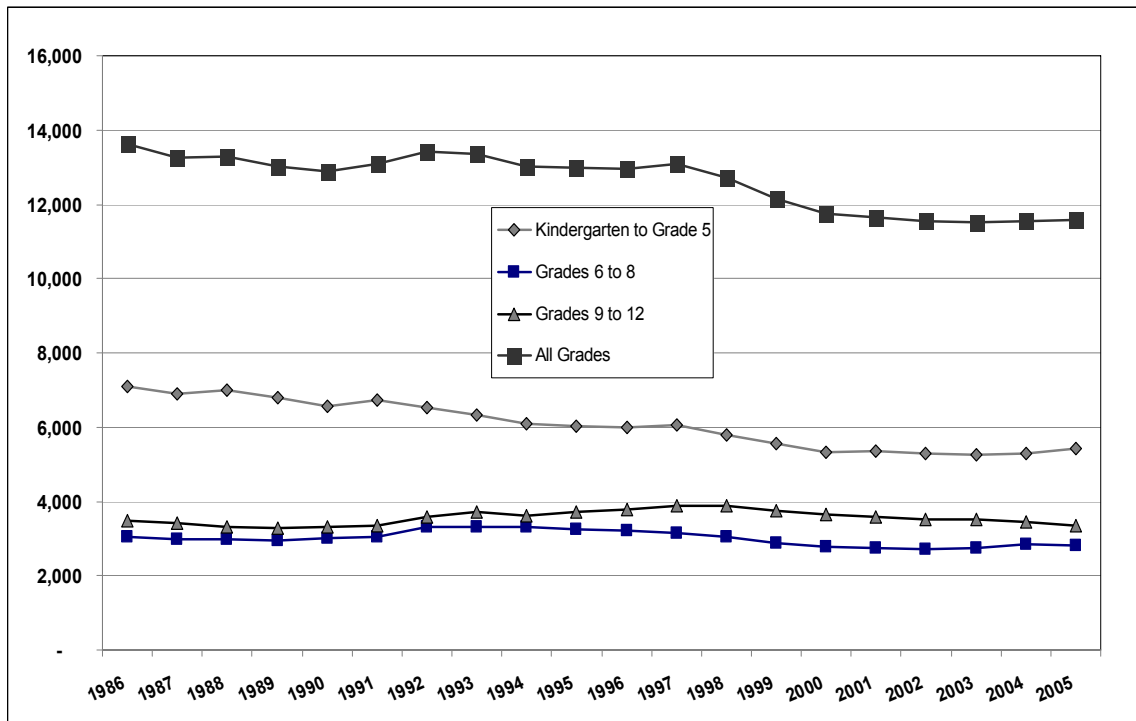


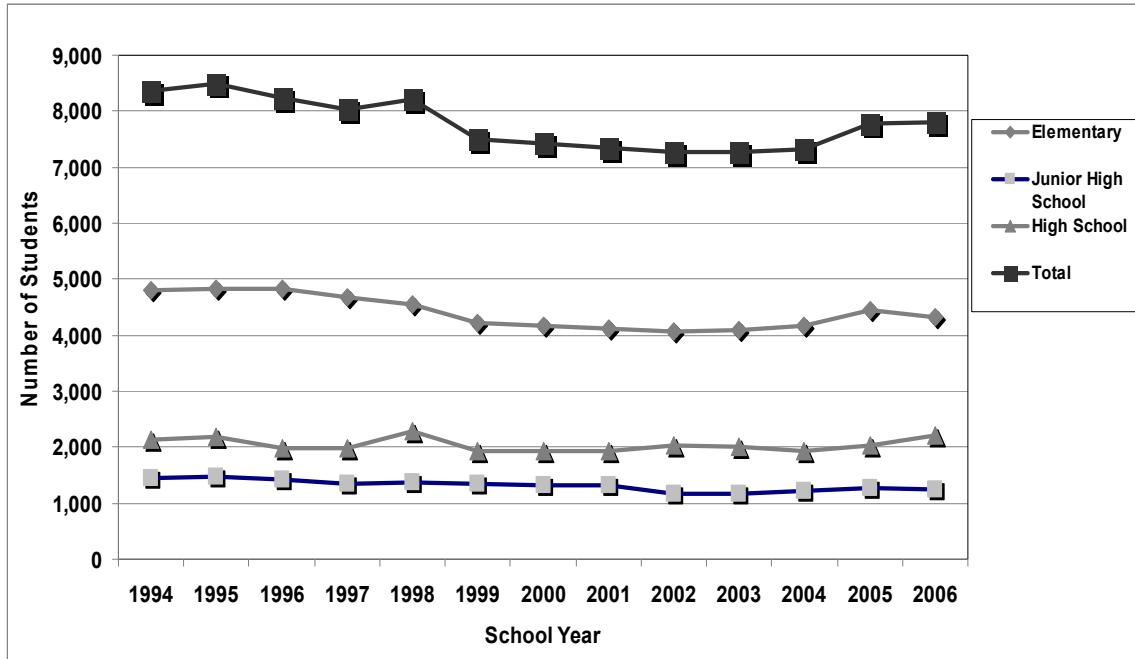
Table 23: Hobbs Municipal Schools Student Enrollment, by Grade
SY 1994-95 to SY 2006-07

(Source: Linda Youngblood, Hobbs Municipal Schools)

School Year	Elementary	Junior High School High School	High School	Total
SY 1994	4,803	1,444	2,128	8,375
SY 1995	4,833	1,466	2,188	8,487
SY 1996	4,825	1,420	1,990	8,235
SY 1997	4,682	1,358	1,984	8,024
SY 1998	4,546	1,383	2,280	8,209
SY 1999	4,214	1,344	1,939	7,497
SY 2000	4,169	1,332	1,925	7,426
SY 2001	4,114	1,317	1,922	7,353
SY 2002	4,069	1,178	2,035	7,282
SY 2003	4,099	1,159	2,005	7,264
SY 2004	4,178	1,223	1,928	7,328
SY 2005	4,460	1,280	2,027	7,768
SY 2006	4,334	1,256	2,223	7,813

Figure 10: Hobbs Municipal Schools Student Enrollment: SY1994 to SY2006

(Source: Linda Youngblood, Hobbs Municipal Schools)



attracts this young population. Conversely, a weak economy pushes out this vulnerable population to places where jobs are available. Further confirmation of the strong effect of the economy on school enrollment can be seen in Table 23 and Figure 10. The slump in the oil and gas industry in the early to mid-1990s propelled a decline in the school enrollment that lasted for 10 years. As the energy industry rebounded so did school enrollment in the Hobbs Municipal Schools.

The increase in the public school enrollment appears to be largely the result of the influx of Hispanic families to Hobbs. Since SY 2000, the number of Hispanic students in the Hobbs Municipal Schools has increased significantly. The number of Asian students has also improved but their numbers are too small to make any difference in the overall scheme of things. In contrast, the number of Anglos, American Indians and Black students in the Hobbs public schools has been on the downtrend.

Table 24 and Figure 11 illustrate the shift in the racial composition of the student population in the Hobbs Municipal Schools. In the 1990s, Anglos predominated in the public school enrollment. They comprised close to 50% of the student population. Towards the end of the 1990 decade, the Hispanics outnumbered Anglos in the public schools. Figure 11 shows the point of equilibrium between these two races was during SY 1999 when the proportions of Anglos

(45.7%) and Hispanics (46.4%) in the student population were virtually the same. By SY 2006, the racial composition of the public school enrollment was dramatically different. Hispanics comprised 57% of the school population and Anglos were down to 36%.

Table 24: Hobbs Municipal Schools Student Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity
SY1994-95 to SY2006-07
(Source: Linda Youngblood, Hobbs Municipal Schools)

School Year	Black	Anglo	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Total
Student Enrollment						
1994-95	711	4,063	27	17	3,557	8,375
1995-96	727	4,077	21	22	3,640	8,487
1996-97	653	3,943	44	19	3,576	8,235
1997-98	585	3,835	33	25	3,545	8,023
1998-99	595	3,763	27	42	3,782	8,209
1999-00	528	3,424	16	48	3,481	7,497
2000-01	502	3,264	26	48	3,586	7,425
2001-02	475	3,104	36	48	3,690	7,353
2002-03	469	3,025	22	47	3,719	7,282
2003-04	470	2,912	16	43	3,823	7,264
2004-05	457	2,850	18	46	3,957	7,328
2005-06	517	2,853	18	40	4,340	7,768
2006-07	493	2,831	18	37	4,434	7,813
Percent Distribution						
1994-95	8.5	48.5	0.3	0.2	42.5	100.0
1995-96	8.6	48.0	0.2	0.3	42.9	100.0
1996-97	7.9	47.9	0.5	0.2	43.4	100.0
1997-98	7.3	47.8	0.4	0.3	44.2	100.0
1998-99	7.2	45.8	0.3	0.5	46.1	100.0
1999-00	7.0	45.7	0.2	0.6	46.4	100.0
2000-01	6.8	44.0	0.4	0.6	48.3	100.0
2001-02	6.5	42.2	0.5	0.7	50.2	100.0
2002-03	6.4	41.5	0.3	0.6	51.1	100.0
2003-04	6.5	40.1	0.2	0.6	52.6	100.0
2004-05	6.2	38.9	0.2	0.6	54.0	100.0
2005-06	6.7	36.7	0.2	0.5	55.9	100.0
2006-07	6.3	36.2	0.2	0.5	56.8	100.0

Figure 9: Hobbs Municipal Schools Student Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity:
SY1994 to SY2006

(Source: Linda Youngblood, Hobbs Municipal Schools)

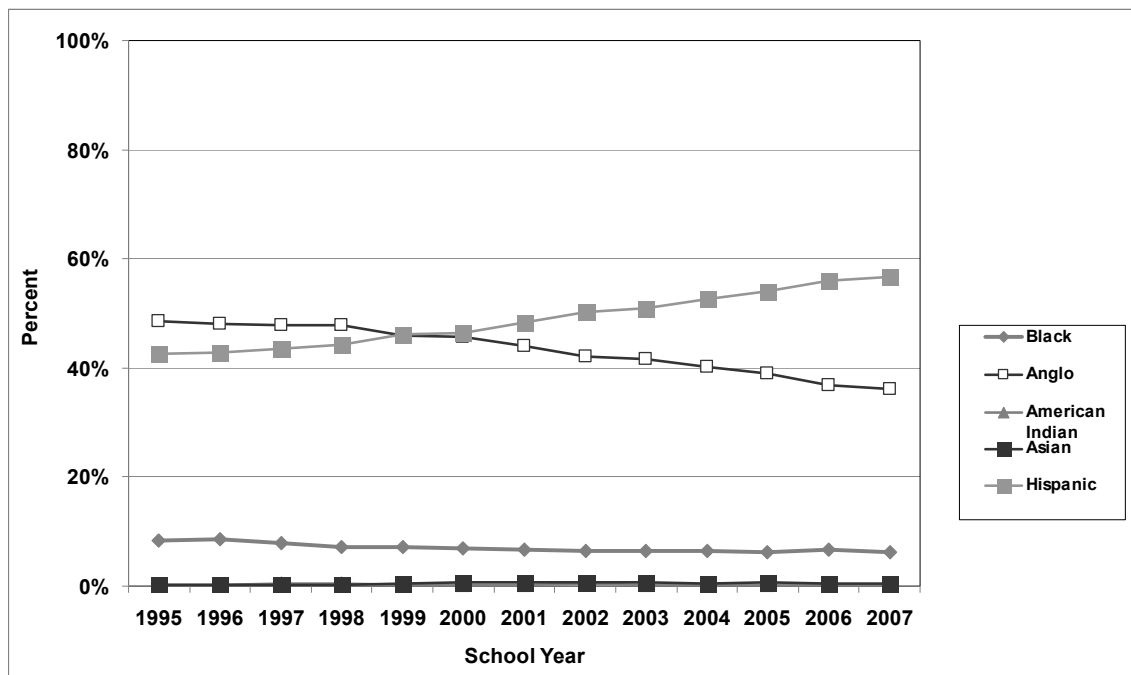


Table 25 and Figure 12 show the historical trend in non-public school (private schools and home schooled) enrollment. Private school enrollment peaked in SY 1996, when the enrollment was about 450 students. In SY 1997, the number of students in private schools dropped to 170. The private schools in Lea County have been unable to recover from this dramatic loss in their enrollment. The number of home schooled students fluctuated from year to year but the trend is definitely upward. In SY 1994, NMPED reported 19 home schooled students. In SY 2003, this number jumped to 116 students.

Table 26 summarizes private school enrollment statistics in Hobbs for the current school year (SY 2007). The secretary of King's Gate Academy and the assistant to the principal at St. Helena's Elementary School provided these figures. Both informants indicated that their enrollment has been declining. For SY 2007, King's Gate Academy has a total of 35 students while St. Helena has 67 students altogether.

Table 25: Non-Public School Enrollment in Lea County
SY 1990 to SY 2005

(Source: New Mexico Public Education Department Data Collection Reporting Bureau)

School Year	Private School	Home Schooled
1990	230	*
1991	262	*
1992	246	23
1993	328	19
1994	385	45
1995	402	57
1996	449	90
1997	167	90
1998	148	104
1999	118	111
2000	94	107
2001	62	27
2002	72	107
2003	82	116
2004	112	*
2005	88	*

* No data for this school year.

Figure 12: Non-Public School Enrollment in Lea County: SY 1990 to SY 2005

(Source: New Mexico Public Education Department Data Collection Reporting Bureau)

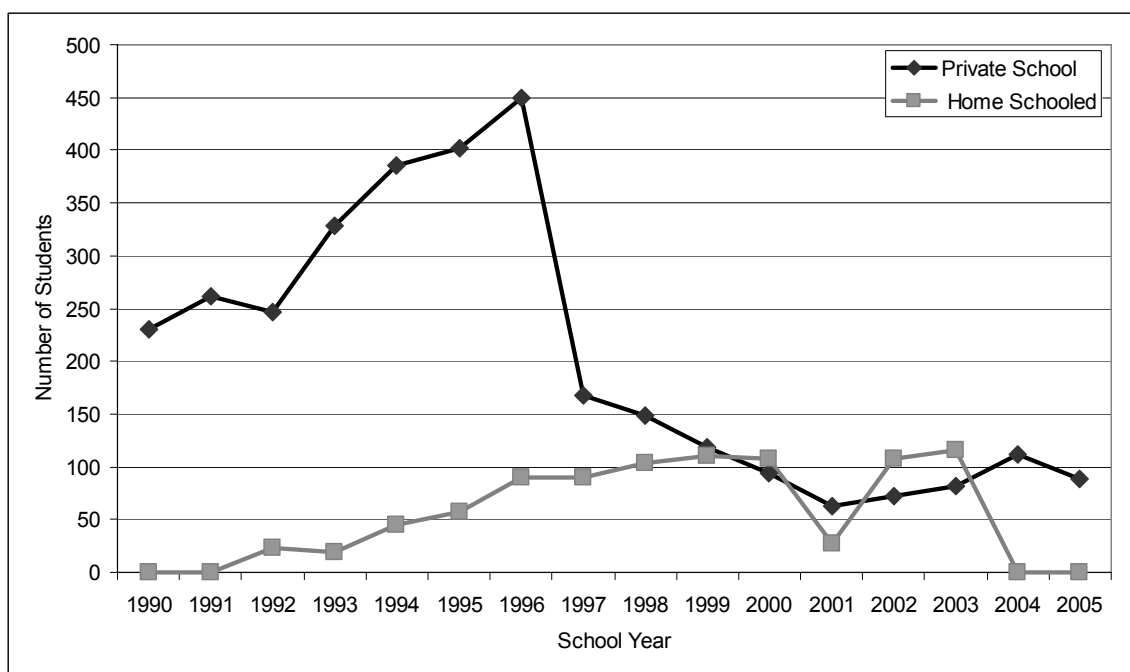


Table 26: Private School Enrollment in Hobbs: SY 2007
 (Source: King's Gate Academy Office of the Secretary; St. Helena's Elementary School Office of the Assistant to the Principal)

Grade Level	King's Gate Academy Enrollment*	St. Helena's Elementary School**
Kindergarten	N/A	10
Grade 1	6	11
Grade 2	0	9
Grade 3	1	14
Grade 4	4	10
Grade 5	4	9
Grade 6	2	4
Grade 7	4	N/A
Grade 8	7	N/A
Grade 9	3	N/A
Grade 10	3	N/A
Grade 11	1	N/A
Grade 12	0	N/A
Total	35	67

N/A: Not applicable. School does not have service for this grade level

Junior college enrollment. Two junior colleges, The New Mexico Junior College and the College of the Southwest, are located in Hobbs. Enrollment figures for the College of the Southwest (CSW) were downloaded from the NCES website. The headcounts reported for SY2002 and SY 2003 were 2,630 and 2,580, respectively. The strategic planning document published in CSW website addressed their declining enrollment and detailed ways of improving recruitment including building a student dormitory on campus. By comparison, enrollment in the New Mexico Junior College (NMJC) has been increasing. However, Table 27 shows that the increase in NMJC's enrollment has been primarily in the Workforce Training enrollment. The Fall credit headcount has declined from its peak in SY 2004 when the headcount reached 4,000 (3,992) students. This dropped to less than 3,000 (2,950) in SY 2006. Meanwhile, the Workforce Training headcount grew fourteen-fold from 360 trainees in SY 2003 to 5,000 trainees in SY 2006. The change in the enrollment mix at the NMJC as shown in Figure 13 underscores the need for specific skill-sets in Lea County's evolving labor market.

Table 27: New Mexico Junior College Fall Credit and Workforce Training Headcount: SY 2003 to 2006

(Source: Office of Institutional Effectiveness, NMJ)

Enrollment	School Year			
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Fall Credit Headcount	3,440	3,992	3,047	2,950
Workforce Training Headcount	363	2,532	3,983	5,000

Figure 13: New Mexico Junior College Fall Credit and Workforce Training Enrollment, by School Year

(Source: Office of Institutional Effectiveness, NMJC)

