

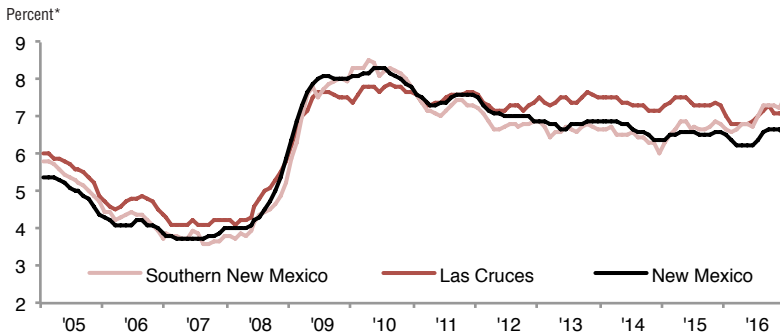
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS • FOURTH QUARTER 2016

## Summary

Santa Teresa and its growing international trade activity continue to be highlights in the southern New Mexico economy. A pickup in the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil price has boosted New Mexico's rig count and oil production. Las Cruces is starting to add jobs but unemployment remains high.

### Labor Market

#### Unemployment Rate



► In December, Las Cruces' unemployment rate was unchanged from November at 7.1 percent. The southern New Mexico rate increased to 7.4 percent over the same period. However, rates in southern New Mexico have a large spread, spanning from 4.8 percent in Curry County to 15.7 percent in Luna County. The state unemployment rate declined to 6.6 percent in December from 6.7 percent in November.

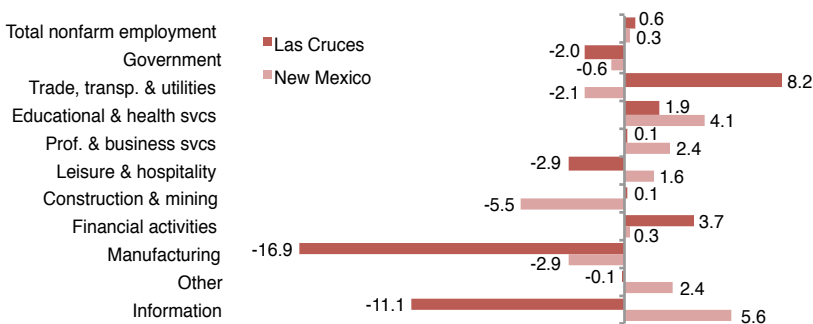
► Las Cruces employment increased 0.6 percent in 2016, surpassing the state's employment growth of 0.3 percent. Gains in Las Cruces were propelled by growth in trade, transportation and utilities (8.2 percent) and educational and health services (1.9 percent), two of the metro's largest sectors. Manufacturing, although a small sector in Las Cruces, declined a noteworthy 16.9 percent.

\*Seasonally adjusted.

NOTES: All New Mexico counties within the Federal Reserve's Eleventh District are counted as part of southern New Mexico. Las Cruces is excluded from southern New Mexico to better gauge unemployment levels outside the region's largest population center.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

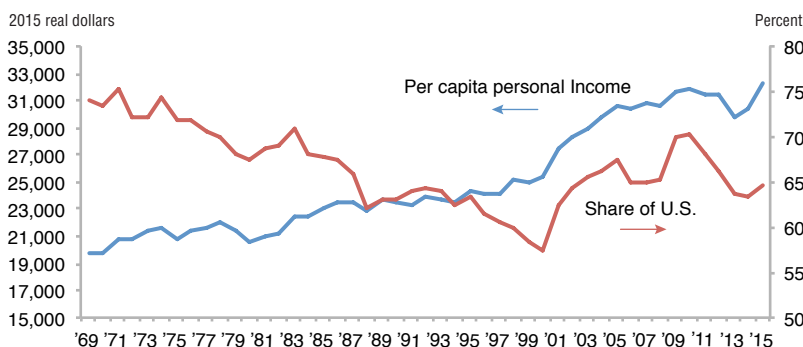
#### Employment Growth



NOTES: Data show seasonally adjusted and annualized percentage employment growth by industry supersector for December 2015–December 2016. Industries are listed from top to bottom by share of total nonfarm employment in the state.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Personal Income



► Real per capita personal income in Las Cruces rose to \$32,233 in 2015 (the latest data available), up 5.7 percent from 2014. While the rise in income is good news for Las Cruces, the gap from the rest of the country is persistent, at 64.7 percent of the U.S. average.

SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis.

## Santa Teresa Trade Flows



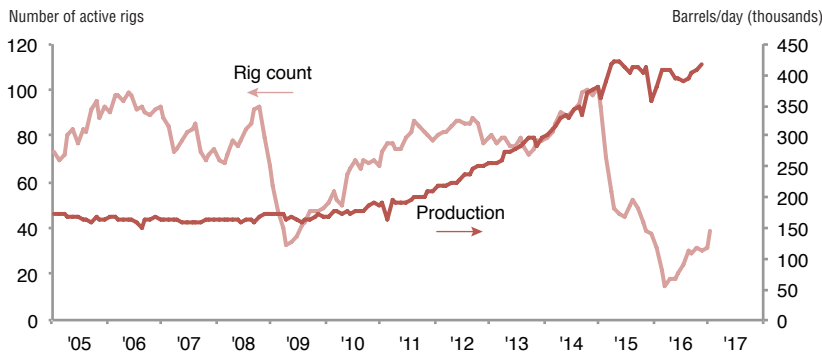
\*Exports plus imports; annualized, seasonally adjusted.

SOURCE: Census Bureau.

► In 2016, total trade (exports plus imports) was approximately \$23.3 billion, inching past 2015 total trade of \$23.0 billion. Imports fell 0.5 percent over the year, but the decline was offset by a 3.1 percent increase in exports. Over 98 percent of the trade that goes through Santa Teresa is U.S.-Mexico trade. Total U.S.-Mexico trade through all ports fell 2.5 percent in 2016 to \$525 billion.

## Commodity Market

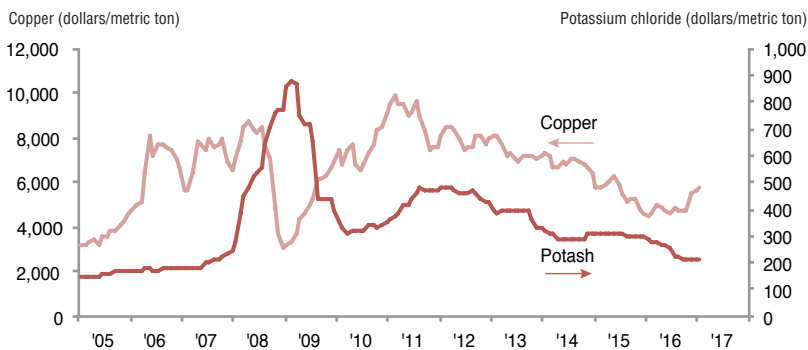
### New Mexico Oil Production



SOURCES: Baker Hughes; Department of Energy.

► The WTI crude oil price rebounded to near the \$50 mark (see [www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys/des/2016/1604.aspx](http://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys/des/2016/1604.aspx), fourth quarter 2016, for more information). Due to increases in prices and active rigs, production has reestablished an upward trend. New Mexico crude oil production totaled over 417,000 barrels per day in November 2016. The rig count climbed to 39 in January 2017 from a low of 15 in March 2016.

### World Commodity Prices



SOURCE: World Bank.

► In addition to oil and natural gas, southern New Mexico's economy is dependent on commodities such as potash, copper and silver. New Mexico ranked first in domestic potash production in 2012, producing 75 percent of U.S. potash, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior. Potash prices rose sharply during the global recession that began in 2007 and fell sharply in 2009. Prices fell even further in 2013 when potash cartel members broke their price agreement. Potash was priced at \$215 per metric ton as of January 2017. New Mexico potash production is concentrated in the Hobbs and Carlsbad-Artesia areas, while copper production is concentrated near the Silver City area. Copper prices have rebounded the past few months, averaging \$5,742.57 per metric ton in January 2017.

NOTES: Data may not match previously published numbers due to revisions. All New Mexico counties within the Federal Reserve's Eleventh District are counted as part of southern New Mexico. Las Cruces is excluded from southern New Mexico to better gauge unemployment levels outside the region's largest population center.

CONTACT: Questions regarding *Southern New Mexico Economic Indicators* can be addressed to Marycruz De León at [marycruz.deleon@dal.frb.org](mailto:marycruz.deleon@dal.frb.org).

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