

CHAPTER THREE

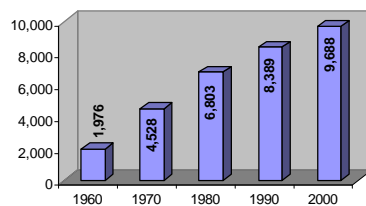
“There is culture and beauty in Española.”

- 2002 Comprehensive Plan Interviewee

Community Profile

- 3.01 Population Growth**
- 3.02 Population Demographics**
- 3.03 Government Revenues**
- 3.04 Employment Data**
- 3.05 Average Household Income**
- 3.06 Housing / Residential Lifestyles**
- 3.07 Schools**
- 3.08 Health Issues / Services**
- 3.09 Community Services (library; youth centers)**
- 3.10 Special Needs / Special Services**
- 3.11 Churches / Communities of Faith**

Figure 3-1 Estimated Population

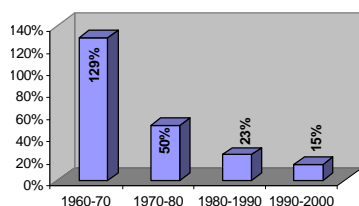


Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

3.01 Population Growth

Like most communities in Rio Arriba and Santa Fe County, Española's population has grown over the past 40 years. In 1960, Española had a population of 1,976 while Santa Fe and Rio Arriba counties combined had a total population of 69,163. (CUED 2001 p.15) Currently, Española's population is estimated to be between 9,688 and 12,331. The Census Bureau estimates the 2000 population to be 9,688. Based on household water connections, the city estimates the 2002 population at 10,825. Molzen-Corbin Associates, the City's consulting engineering firm, estimates the current population to be 12,171 based on a recent wastewater study, while the City Planning Department estimates the population to be 12,331.

Figure 3-2 Population Growth Rate

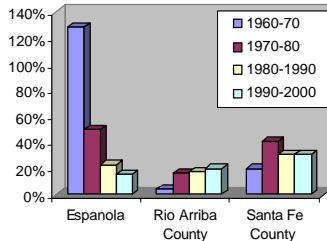


Source: CUED 2001 p.16

Española experienced a very high growth rate from 1960 to 1970. And though Española's growth in population has increased each year, the rate of growth has dropped considerably since its high from 1960-1970. Between 1960 and 1980, Española grew, on average, at a greater rate than Rio Arriba, Santa Fe County, and the State. Española has continued to grow at a higher rate than the rest of Rio Arriba County and the state average, but has been surpassed by Santa Fe County's growth rate since 1980.

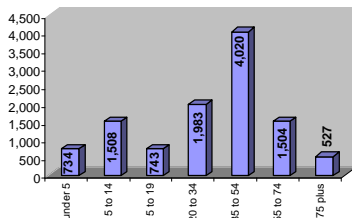
Community Profile

Figure 3-3 Population Growth Rates Compared



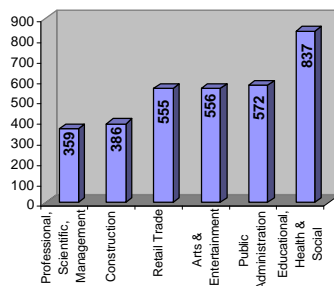
Source: CUED 2001 p.16 and US Census Bureau, Census 2000

Figure 3-4: Population Demographics



Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

Figure 3-5: Number of Employees in Industry Sectors



Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

3.02 Population Demographics

Most of Española's residents are between the ages of 35 to 54 years (The median age of Espanola residents is 33.9 years). The next largest group is comprised of young adults of 20 to 34 years of age. These groups are followed by children 5 to 14 years; adults between 55-74 years; teenagers (15-19); tots under 5; and, seniors citizens 75 years and older. (Census 2000) Figure 3-4 provides population estimates for each of the above age groups.

3.03 Government Revenues

The Local Government Division of the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration approves and certifies the City of Española's budget. Española's city manager is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts between departments within any fund, but must obtain approval of City Council and the Local Government Division prior to making revisions that alter the total expenditures of any fund. (CUED 2001)

The Municipal Operating budget for FY 2002/2003 was \$21,000,000. (Planning and Zoning 2002) The majority of the City's revenues are from intergovernmental sources, which include state grants and taxes/fees collected by the state and distributed to the City, such as gasoline taxes, motor vehicle license fees, cigarette taxes, and state gross receipt taxes. The local revenue includes property taxes collected by Rio Arriba and Santa Fe counties and distributed to the City. Property tax rates for residents within the City of Española in Rio Arriba County are 20.303 percent of assessed value and in Santa Fe County are ### percent of assessed value. (Planning and Zoning 2002)

Up to September 2002, the Gross Receipts Tax Rate was 6.625%. (Planning and Zoning 2002) In September, the Gross Receipts Tax was increased by 3/8 percent to levy funds (that is hoped to be matched by federal and state dollars) for municipal water improvements.

3.04 Employment Data

The total population 16 years and over is estimated at 7,326. Of this total, 4,447 people (61 percent) are recognized as being in the labor force, while 2,879 (39 percent) are not, according to 2000 US Census data.

The majority of the employed population, 1,220 people are classified as management and professionals and related occupations. The next largest employment sectors are sales and office occupations (1,132 employees), service occupations (880), followed by construction, extraction, maintenance occupations (491), and production, transportation, material moving occupations (297). Approximately 20 people of the labor force in Española are employed in farming, fishing or forestry occupations. (Census 2000)

Of those in the labor force, 407 people are identified as unemployed. (Census 2000) Ninety-eight percent of the labor force commutes an average of 50 minutes travel time to and from work each day. About 70 percent of these commuters drive alone, while 23 percent commute in a carpool. Less than 1 percent of the population uses public transportation to commute to work. (Census 2000)

The City of Española identifies the main employment centers for Española as: Los Alamos National Laboratory (1,232 employees who reside in Española); Johnson Controls (1,323 employees); and, Española Public Schools (1,048 employees). (City of Española 2002) Other significant employers in the area include: TSAY Corporation/San Juan Pueblo (400); Española Medical Center (300); Rio Arriba County (250); Wal Mart (250); City of Española (203); New Mexico State Offices (150); and, Northern New Mexico Community College (113). (CUED 2000)

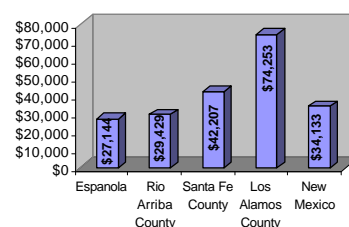
In Española, there is the perception from workers that there is a lack of good jobs available, while employers tend to claim that there are few local qualified employees. (CUED 2001 and Foster 2002) To address these perceptions, a joint project between Española Valley High School and Northern New Mexico Community College is working to improve communication and awareness among business owners and potential employees through a Business Educational Collaborative Intermediary survey to be distributed and administered by local students. (Foster 2002)

3.05 Average Household Income

The median household income for Española is \$27,144. This is slightly less than the Rio Arriba County median income of \$29,429, and considerably less than that of Santa Fe County at \$42,207 and Los Alamos County at \$74,253. (Census 2000) The median hourly wage is for skilled labor is \$10.25 and unskilled \$7.07. (City of Española 2002)

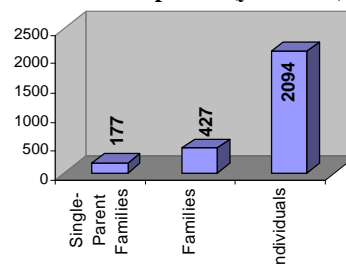
Community Profile

Figure 3-6 Median Household Incomes Compared



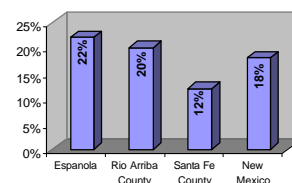
Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

Figure 3-7 Number Below Poverty Level in Española (year 1999)



Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

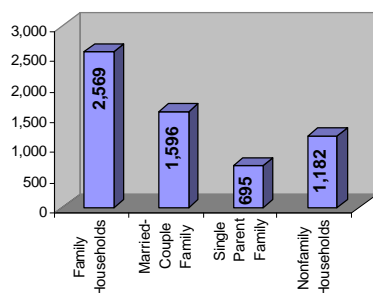
Figure 3-8 Below Poverty Level (year 1999)



Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

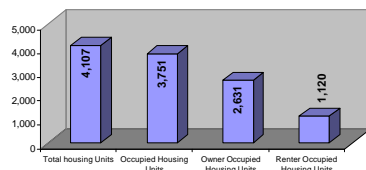
Community Profile

Figure 3-9 Household Types



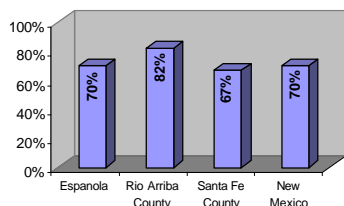
Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

Figure 3-10 Household Occupancy



Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

Figure 3-11 Owner Occupancy Compared



Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

In 1999, 2094 individuals (approximately 22 percent of the population) were living below the poverty level in Española. (Figure 3-7) This percentage is higher than the percentage of individuals below poverty level in Rio Arriba County, Santa Fe County and the State, as shown in Figure 3-8. (Census 2000)

3.06 Housing / Residential Lifestyles

Family households make up the majority (approximately 69 percent) of household types in Española. The number of non-family households (single parent) is approximately 32 percent, which is less than the proportion of non-family households in Santa Fe County, but higher than the proportion in Rio Arriba County and the state. Compared to Rio Arriba County, Santa Fe County and the state, Española has the largest percentage of single female-parent households (12 percent). (Census 2000) Figure 3-9 outlines the household types in Española.

The owner occupancy rate of 70 percent in Española is comparable to the owner-occupancy rate of Santa Fe County and the state. However, Española has a lower proportion of owner occupied housing units than Rio Arriba County, as shown in Figures 3-10. The median house cost in Española is \$117,800—more than the median price of a home in Rio Arriba County (\$107,500) and the state (\$108,100) but considerably less than the median price of homes in Santa Fe County at \$189,400. (Census 2000)

Approximately 34 percent of the homes in the City are within an affordable price range (less than \$150,000 as defined by the USDA) for average household earners (earning approximately \$27,144 annually) in Española. However, most households in Española earn less than \$10,000 (Census 2000). As such, even the lowest priced homes in the area remain unaffordable to the majority of earners in the City.

Over the past 15 years, rents in Rio Arriba and Española have remained considerably lower than those in the Santa Fe metropolitan area. (CUED 2001) In Española, however, there are relatively few apartments, studios, or houses for rent. Manufactured homes (also referred to as mobile homes) and manufactured home spaces are essentially the only rentals available. While Española is often considered a bedroom community for Los Alamos and northern Santa Fe counties, the lack of available rental units is viewed as impacting the City's ability to provide for all types of housing needs. (CUED 2001)

Types of housing in Española generally follow national and state trends, except with regard to multi-housing and manufactured homes. Approximately 35 percent of Española's housing is manufactured homes, which accounts for a larger proportion of housing units in Española when compared to Santa Fe County and the state, but slightly less than that of Rio Arriba County at 37 percent. (Census 2000) Multi-unit housing, such as apartments or townhouses, make up a considerable smaller portion of housing in Española (approximately 4 percent) when compared to the portion in Santa Fe County and the state (13 percent). Española's proportion of multi-family housing (4 percent) is slightly higher than the proportion of multi-family units in Rio Arriba County (1.7 percent). (Census 2000)

At the time of the 2000 Census, most of the housing in Rio Arriba and Española was built in the 1970s and 1980s. The same is true for Santa Fe County. In Española, as in both counties, over half of the total units have been built after 1970. (Census 2000)

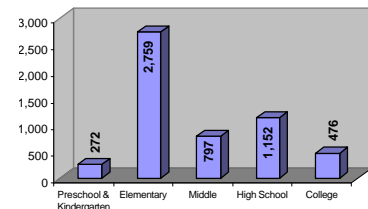
3.07 Schools

Students in Española may attend a school in one of the four public school districts: Española, Mesa Vista, Pojoaque, or Santa Fe. Students may also attend Los Alamos High School, or enroll in one of the seven private schools in the area, including: McCurdy Mission School; Santa Clara Day School; Victory Christian Academy; Holy Cross School; John Hyson Memorial School; Ohkay Owingeh Community; and, the Rock Christian Academy.

The total 2002-2003 school year enrollment for the Española School District is 4,799 students, as of September 6, 2002. (Foster 2002) The 2002 enrollment figure is slightly less than enrollment for the 2001 school year. Within the Española School District elementary enrollment (at the end of the 2001-2002 school year) was 2,979; middle school enrollment was 756; and, high school

Community Profile

Figure 3-12 School Demographics



Source: City of Española

Community Profile

enrollment was 1,035. (Foster 2002) The combined private school enrollment is 991. (City of Española 2002)

In 1997-98, high school drop-out rates for the Española School District were recorded at 18 percent—the highest in the state. Though drop-out rates in the District have declined (9 percent in 1998/99 and 13 percent in 1999/00), they still remain among the highest ranking in the state. To address the dropout rates, a special task force has been developed to provide recommendations to the School Board. In addition to the task force, other projects such as AVID (a pilot class program) and a grant program from the State Department of Health have been initiated in the Española School District.

Northern New Mexico Community College, a post-secondary education institute offering 65 degree and certificate programs, is located in Española. Programs range from Accounting and Business Administration to Substance Abuse Counseling and Welding Technology. Northern's Española campus is evolving into a strong technological campus. A new \$1.8 million High Tech Manufacturing Training Facility located south of the main campus provides a home for the Semiconductor Manufacturing / Electronics Department. The facility was named one of the nation's top five "Best Practice" planning projects. Additional resources and facilities on the Española campus include: the Nick L. Salazar Center for the Arts, Eagle Memorial Gym, Child Development Center, the Adult Basic Education center, La Cocina Café, and Northern Bookstore. Northern's Continuing Education Department offers a spectrum of non-credit course work, ranging from Intro to Computers to Tin smithing. (Northern New Mexico College 2002)

In Española, 75 percent of the population has graduated from high school and 17 percent have a college diploma, degree or higher. (Census 2002)

3.08 Health Issues / Services

Residents of Española and the surrounding region receive medical care from the Española Hospital, first opened in 1948 and privately run by the Presbyterian Health Care Services of New Mexico. Española hospital is an 80-bed general and acute care hospital, fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. Hospital services have expanded over the years to meet the growing needs of the Valley, and today many new services provide specialized care to in-patient and outpatient clients. (Española Hospital 2002)

Community Profile

In addition to the Española Hospital, other medical facilities include, the Española Multi-Specialty Clinic, Española Urgent Care, Española Sleep Medicine Center, and Regional Home Care. Medical care can also be received from the Health Centers of Northern New Mexico Clinic in Española. A recent federal grant has increased the operating hours of the clinic and has helped to ensure continued health care for low income residents. (Rio Grande Sun 2002)

In 1996, the Health Centers of Northern New Mexico and the Española School District established The Española Valley Teen Center, located at the Española Valley High School campus. The Teen Center provides primary care and family planning service to children based on a sliding-scale payment, and provides a meeting place in Española for a number of support groups.

3.09 Community Services (library; youth centers; recreation facilities)

Nearly 600 seniors are served through the Española Senior Citizens Center. The Center has eight full-time staff, a director and an 11 member advisory board. Activities at the center include range from yearly holiday celebrations to daily breakfasts, lunches, legal services and bingo. The annual operating budget for the 2003 fiscal year is \$420,000. (Gonzalez 2002)

The School District of Española was awarded state appropriation money to develop a new youth center in Chimayo, a community 4 miles east of Española. Construction of the center at the Chimayo Elementary School began in the summer of 2002, and is expected to be completed in 2003. (Foster 2002)

The City of Española operates a recreation center, softball fields, and four neighborhood parks (Vietnam Veteran's Park; Valdez Park; Calle Redonda Park; Camino Santa Cruz Park). The City has recently purchased approximately 100 acres (known as Prince/Carter Ranch) north of the City's boundary. The site will be used to house a proposed 30 acre water treatment facility/pond and for the development of additional recreation facilities. In addition, the City has supported a proposal for the development of a Youth Tech Center, and was recently awarded a grant from the US Attorney Office for a "Weed and Seed" project to be administered by the police service.

Community Profile

3.10 Special Needs / Special Services

Substance abuse is a concern in the Española Valley. A 1999 LANL survey of northern New Mexico community leaders revealed that substance abuse and lack of good jobs were top concerns in Rio Arriba County. (CUED 2001) In the late 1990's, Rio Arriba County was reported as having the highest rate of drug related deaths in the nation. Chimayo received federal status as an Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement Task Force Area and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. (CUED 2001)

3.11 Churches / Communities of Faith

There are over 40 different churches / communities of faith that serve citizens of the City of Española and the surrounding region. These churches / faith organizations are recognized as integral components of the communities that comprise Española. (City of Española 2002) Currently, there are initiatives underway (such as the Alliance of Churches) to unite faith organizations and work together to address some of the social needs facing the City of Española and surrounding region.

PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY

206
planning dept. estimate

1746
block group 5
census tract 9541

289
planning dept. estimate

1800
block group 2
census tract 2

1540
planning dept. estimate

765
block group 4
census tract 9407

669
block group 1
census tract 9407

61
block group 3
census tract 9407

1232
block group 2
census tract 9407

839
block group 1
census tract 9407

1383
block group 5
census tract 9407

602
block group 3
census tract 9407

429
block group 4
census tract 9407

591
planning dept. estimate

1236
block group 1
census tract 9408

2853
block group 2
census tract 101.02

DRAFT

2000 Population Estimates

Note: Extrapolated from City of Espanola data for comprehensive plan puposes only



DRAFT

