

3.3 MINING continued

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However, potash mining remains the principal basic industry in the county's economy.

In Lea County, most of the mining activity centers around the oil and gas industry, although other mining operations exist in potash, sand and gravel, rock, salt and caliche. Total mining employment in those activities other than oil and gas amounted to less than 200 individuals in 1976. Therefore, it is estimated that nearly 5,000 individuals are employed in the mining of oil and gas in Lea County.

Personal income from mining was over \$36.6 million in 1974, or 21.5 percent of total personal income generated in Eddy County. Personal income from the mining sector in Lea County amounted to just over \$59.7 million in 1974--26.7 percent of total personal income. This is, by far, the largest industrial sector in the county.

3.4 TRADE AND SERVICES SECTORS

The latest available information listing the total number of dollars and number of establishments in the two-county area in retail trade appears in the 1972 Census of Business. This Census shows a total of 1,068 retail outlets in the two-county area--454 of these located in Eddy County, and 614 of these located in Lea County. Within Eddy County the majority of the locations, some 281, are located in the City of Carlsbad.

Total sales volume for all 1,068 outlets in 1972 was about \$185.9 million, or just over 8 percent of the more than \$2.3 billion in retail sales throughout the State of New Mexico. Although no information is available after 1972, it is obvious that retail sales in the area have increased substantially.