

3.4 TRADE AND SERVICES SECTORS continued

9

years. This suspected boost in economic activity is also supported by information from the Employment Security Commission which shows 311 reporting establishments for retail trade in Eddy County through the second quarter of 1976. In the second quarter 1972 the reporting number was 300. The average number of employees per establishment has increased from just under 7 to over 8 in the four-year period.

In wholesale trade, the number of establishments reporting employment increased from 59 in 1972 to 70 in 1976. The average number of employees per establishment in wholesale trade increased from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to almost 8 in the four-year period.

In the services sector, the number of establishments reporting employment has increased only slightly from 275 in the second quarter 1972 to 279 in second quarter 1976. Those establishments reported that the number of employees has increased from an average of 6.3 employees in 1972 second quarter, to 8.7 employees in 1976 second quarter.

3.5 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

In Lea and Eddy County combined there are a total of eight chartered banks--four of which hold state charters, and four national charters. Five of these eight banks are in Eddy County--three state banks and two national banks. As of December 31, 1976, these five banks reported assets totaling about \$173 million and total deposits of nearly \$161.6 million. In addition to the main offices, there are four branch locations. The main banking offices are located in the two major municipalities in Eddy County--Artesia