

3.6 PERSONAL INCOME continued

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The Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that statewide per capita income grew more than 11 percent in 1975 and preliminary indications are that it is continuing to rise at a healthy rate. Given the trends in Eddy and Lea Counties, it can be assumed that per capita income in these two counties has also grown by at least 11 percent in each of the last two years.

3.7 TOURISM

It is important to note that tourism is a substantial portion of the economic activity in Eddy County. While outdoor recreation in the area centers around activities such as hunting, four-wheel driving, camping, etc., the nearby parks--Guadalupe Park, Living Desert State Park, the President's Park in the City of Carlsbad and others--also attract recreationists and tourists. The main tourist attraction in the area is Carlsbad National Park. In 1976, the total number of visitors to Carlsbad Caverns was 876,490, or more than 43 percent of all visits throughout the State to all 11 national parks and monuments.

The effects of these visits and the tourism in the area can readily be seen in the Employment Security Commission statistics for the area. Retail trade and selected services are most affected by tourism. For example, employment in eating and drinking establishments (a part of retail trade) more than triples in the three summer months throughout the county. In the area of services, employment in lodging will increase 60 to 70 percent during the summer months more than employment in the winter months. Additionally, other secondary and tertiary types of services impacted by