

approximately the same amount of employment. Accurate figures on agricultural employment are difficult to obtain and are normally out of date. The latest available credible information on agriculture shows that between 1,900 and 2,000 people were employed in agriculture in the two-county area in 1974. Agricultural employment in the area has been decreasing. Between 1973 and 1974 alone, the number of people working in agriculture dropped by over 5 percent. Today in the two-county area it can be estimated that between 1,700 and 1,900 people are presently employed in the agricultural sector. The manufacturing sector incorporates approximately 1,900 individuals within the two-county area. In Lea County approximately 925 individuals are employed in manufacturing, while in Eddy County figures indicate nearly 975 persons. Therefore, the manufacturing employment is fairly equally distributed between the two counties. Those non-basic sectors in the two-county area include contract construction; transportation utilities; trade; finance, insurance and real estate; and services. Additionally, the government accounts for a significant amount of employment.

In the two-county area it is estimated that by-sector employment distribution is as follows: agriculture, 5 percent; mining, 23 percent; manufacturing, 5 percent; construction, 7 percent; transportation utilities, 9 percent; wholesale and retail trade, 21 percent; finance, insurance and real estate, 4 percent; services, 15 percent; and government, 12 percent.^{1/}

^{1/} Total does not add to 100 percent because of rounding.