

This document was produced by the Jobs Council contractors.

Fact Sheet

Interim Legislative Jobs Council

Background: The New Mexico Legislature created the Jobs Council in 2013 to develop a process and framework to bring together lawmakers, economic developers and business people and help them reach consensus on a job-creation agenda.

Chairs: Senate President Pro Tem Mary Kay Papen and House Speaker Don Tripp

Members: Legislators (11 members, 18 advisory members) from both chambers, both parties, all regions; 8 public members. Cabinet secretaries invited to participate.

Goal: Get the state back to pre-recession employment levels in ten years.

- Step 1: Develop framework, process and criteria for economic development priorities.
- Step 2: Produce a statewide assessment of what it will take to get back to pre-recession employment levels by 2024.
 - How many economic-base jobs will we need? (These are jobs in which the employer derives a majority of its revenue from out-of-state sources.)
 - How many new economic-base jobs could be generated by each theater area or each economic sector?
 - Which obstacles (factor of production gaps) will have to be fixed for new jobs?
- Step 3: Develop and pass legislation that addresses these major gaps.

Why this is important

- New Mexico is unlikely to reach pre-recession employment without greater investment, more economic development staffing and attention to competitive constraints.
- Elected officials, business and community leaders needed a new framework and process to achieve the clarity and consensus needed for concerted strategic action.
- The job creation game has changed; it's more competitive, complicated and expensive.

Process

- Over three years, conducted 18 all-day, bipartisan council meetings, 30 all-day county and regional deliberations, 30+ advance team deliberations, and additional meetings.
- Participation of diverse, key stakeholders: legislators, state and local officials, business people, educators, economic developers.
- Agreement on number of new, economic-base jobs needed, likeliest sectors and theaters to create those jobs, and programs and initiatives needed.
- Unanimity in all decisions.

Accomplishments

- Developed the state's first comprehensive state and local economic-base job creation assessment for 33 counties and 7 economic regions.
- Developed the Dashboard, an online data platform and calculator to display state, regional and local data, assumptions and calculations. See <http://www.thecelab.org>
- Developed systems to measure effectiveness of programs and legislation.

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Estimated economic-base jobs needed statewide by 2024: 140,000

Theaters (economic-base sectors)

1. Employer recruitment, retention and expansion
2. Federal government
3. Extractives and Energy
4. Visitor (Tourism, hospitality, arts, recreation)
5. Solowork (consultants, freelancers, home-based workers)
6. Film and digital media
7. Startup
8. Agriculture
9. Retirement
10. Import substitution (new product and service providers to keep spending here)

Factor of production gaps (obstacles): Unqualified workforce, inadequate broadband, tax and regulatory issues, insufficient business capital, need for more economic development staffing and marketing

Priority Legislation 2015:

- \$50,000,000 appropriation for the state's LEDA fund-Passed
- Staff augmentation matching grant program authorization

Legislation, 2016:

- Economic development staff augmentation funding and co-op marketing
- Broadband: Comprehensive study of needs and priority rural infrastructure-Passed
- Workforce gap model, middle school physics, Work Keys Assessment
- Solowork pilot program-Passed without appropriation

Key Insights

- Assessments developed by the Council's consensus estimation process are superior to estimates developed by experts and consultants.
- The strategic integration of workforce and economic development looms as both the most important and the most difficult strategic task in every area of the state.
- A lack of planning in support of local job creation is the single biggest obstacle to action.
- This level of planning will be difficult to achieve without imposing a comprehensive and rigorous metrics, analytics and reporting system for job creation efforts.

Primary Contract Consultant: Mark Lautman, CE Lab, mark@marklautman.com

Information sources:

For meeting, membership information, see <http://www.nmlegis.gov>

For news and updates, see <http://www.thecelab.org>

Previous years' data posted at <http://nmdashboard.thecelab.org>