

Albuquerque
Journal
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NM
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369190



Report: State's Poverty Rate Up

■ *Census Bureau says N.M. is third highest in U.S.*

By BARRY MASSEY
The Associated Press

SANTA FE — More New Mexicans have fallen into poverty during the past two years and the state has the third highest poverty rate in the nation, according to

the latest Census Bureau report.

The increase in poverty reflects the recession taking a firmer hold in New Mexico, said Gerry Bradley, an economist and research director for New Mexico Voices for Children, an Albuquerque-based group that advocates for social programs benefiting the poor and children.

The poverty rate in New Mexico was 19.3 percent in

2008-2009 compared with 15.5 percent in 2006-2007.

“With the unemployment rate up as much as it is and employment falling, it’s not surprising that poverty would rise like that,” Bradley said Friday.

Nationally, the average poverty rate rose by more than a percentage point in 2008-2009.

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Report: N.M. Poverty Up

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Only two states had higher average poverty rates than New Mexico in 2007-2009: Mississippi at 21.3 percent and Arizona, 17.8 percent. The District of Columbia had the same rate as New Mexico, 17.5 percent. The national average was 13.4 percent.

Mississippi, Louisiana and

D.C. had higher poverty rates than New Mexico in 2006-2008.

Bradley said the recession hit New Mexico in the second half of 2008 while nationally it started in late 2007.

"We were a little late coming in, but now it's really hitting," said Bradley.

The number of New Mexicans seeking cash and food assistance has increased monthly since January 2009, said Human Services Secretary Katie Falls.

There's been a 11 percent increase in New Mexicans receiving cash assistance in the past year and a nearly 24 percent increase for food stamps, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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US Census report: New Mexico's poverty rate increases in 2008-2009

By Barry Massey
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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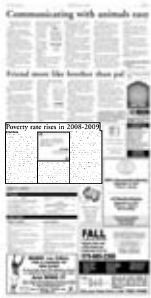
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Poverty rate rises in 2008-2009

By Barry Massey

The Associated Press

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Census report: NM poverty rate rises in 2008-2009

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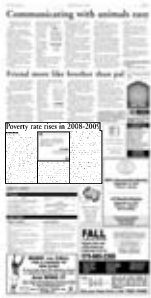
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Tribune
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Poverty rate rises in 2008-2009

By Barry Massey

The Associated Press

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Santa Fe New
Mexican
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Census: N.M. poverty up

By Barry Massey
The Associated Press

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04 Census report: New Mexico's poverty rate rises in '08-'09

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Gallup
Independent
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Southwest 04 in brief

NM poverty rate rises in 2008-2009

SANTA FE (AP) — The Census Bureau reports more New Mexicans are living in poverty and only two states had a larger share of their populations in poverty.

The Census Bureau said the poverty rate in New Mexico was slightly more than 19 percent in 2008-2009 compared with more than 15 percent in 2006-2007.

Only two states had higher average poverty rates than New Mexico in 2007-2009: Mississippi at more than 21 percent and Arizona at more than 17 percent.

Economist Gerry Bradley of New Mexico Voices for Children said Friday the increased poverty reflects the impact of the recession in New Mexico.

The Census Bureau uses two-year averages for evaluating changes within a state but it provides three-year averages to make comparisons among states.