

Albuquerque  
Journal  
Albuquerque,  
NM  
Circ. 102226  
From Page:  
b1  
9/18/2010  
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.

See **REPORT** on **PAGE B2**



Albuquerque  
Journal  
Albuquerque,  
NM  
Circ. 102226  
From Page:  
b2  
9/18/2010  
369190



## Report: N.M. Poverty Up

from **PAGE B1**

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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.

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Las Cruces  
Sun-News  
Las Cruces, NM  
Circ. 22000  
From Page:  
A7  
9/18/2010  
367297

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

**By Barry Massey**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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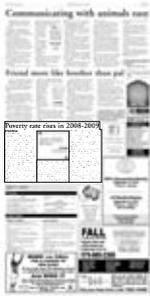
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Clovis News  
Journal  
Clovis, NM  
Circ. 7149  
From Page:  
a3  
9/18/2010  
366808



## Poverty rate rises in 2008-2009

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The Associated Press

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Silver City Sun-  
News  
Silver City, NM  
Circ. 1452  
From Page:  
A7  
9/18/2010  
364811

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Roswell Daily  
Record  
Roswell, NM  
Circ. 11745  
From Page:  
a1  
9/18/2010  
361682



## Census report: NM poverty rate rises in 2008-2009

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Portales News-  
Tribune  
Portales, NM  
Circ. 1841  
From Page:  
a3  
9/18/2010  
360805



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Santa Fe New  
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Santa Fe, NM  
Circ. 25854  
From Page:  
a7  
9/18/2010  
360552



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Los Alamos  
Monitor  
Los Alamos, NM  
Circ. 4658  
From Page:  
2  
9/19/2010  
369972



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

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Voices for Children

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Gallup  
Independent  
Gallup, NM  
Circ. 15402  
From Page:  
6  
9/18/2010  
366932



## 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.

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