

NEW to ABQ ®

Top 10 Inquiries

Regarding Local Resources

Sally A. Sacco

As a real estate professional, I help many out-of-towners research our local community to decide if they want to relocate here. The typical questions I receive (such as “So, what does your local economy and jobs look like?”) fall into the following ten categories:

Table of Contents:

1. Government
2. The Economy
3. The Local Job Market
4. Educational Institutions
5. Things to do With Your Kids
6. Culture and Community
7. Local Sports
8. Natural Surroundings
9. Cool Stuff to Do
10. Safety and Crime

1. Government:

Since the colonial days when New Mexico was governed by Spain and later Mexico, the state and its largest city, Albuquerque, have adopted the traditional government structures of a Governor and state congress, and a Mayor and council districts respectively. Here are some links to learn more:

- Bernalillo County, www.bernco.gov
- City of Albuquerque, www.abq.gov
- City of Rio Rancho, <https://rrnm.gov/>
- City of Santa Fe, <https://www.santafenm.gov/>
- Sandoval County, <https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/>
- State of New Mexico, www.newmexico.gov

2. The Economy:

Although several notable tech firms have recently relocated to New Mexico and there is a growing interest in the innovation economy with a huge growth in the entrepreneurial sector supporting start-ups and growing small businesses, our local economy has traditionally been dependent on several national research laboratories (including Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories), federal agencies and military bases (Cannon, Kirtland and Holloman):

- Cannon Air Force Base, <https://www.cannon.af.mil/>
- Holloman Air Force Base, <https://www.holloman.af.mil/>
- Kirtland Air Force Base, <https://www.kirtland.af.mil/>
- Los Alamos National Laboratory, <https://www.lanl.gov/>
- New Mexico Department of Veterans' Affairs, <http://www.nmdvs.org/>
- New Mexico Military Bases, <https://militarybases.com/new-mexico/>
- Sandia National Laboratories, <https://www.sandia.gov/>
- Trinity Site (Atomic Bomb Test), <https://www.wsmr.army.mil/Trinity/Pages/Home.aspx>
- White Sands Missile Range, <https://www.wsmr.army.mil/Pages/home.aspx>

And for a more detailed review of our local economy and future trends, the following sites provide several data and research reports:

- Albuquerque Economic Development, www.abq.org
- New Mexico Site Search, www.nmsitesearch.com
- NMSU Arrowhead State Data Center, <https://business.nmsu.edu/research/centers/sdc/>
- UNM Bureau of Business & Economic Research, <http://bber.unm.edu/>

3. **The Local Job Market:**

Other than the research laboratories and other government employers, New Mexico is considered a small business state with 150,000+ registered businesses with only about 200 employers with more than 200 FTEs, and only one Fortune 1000 employer (i.e., PNM Resources). In addition, although the New Mexico average per capita income is ranked low nationwide, that also means the cost-of-living here is relatively low so living here is more affordable for most people. Here are some sites to examine the local job market:

- NM Department of Workforce Solutions, <https://www.dws.state.nm.us/>
- NM NetLinks (lists of job openings and job-hunting sites), www.nmnetlinks.com
- Workforce Connections of Central New Mexico, <https://www.mrcog-nm.gov/354/Workforce>

4. **Educational Institutions:**

New Mexico supports a number of universities, community colleges, and public and private schools, including:

- Albuquerque Public Schools, www.aps.edu
- CNM Community College, www.cnm.edu
- New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, <http://www.nmt.edu/>
- New Mexico State University (Las Cruces), www.nmsu.edu
- University of New Mexico, www.unm.edu

5. **Things to do with Your Kids**

Albuquerque loves children and offers a number of museums, educational programs and resources to entertain and educate your kids, including:

- ACVB Family Fun & Kids, www.visitalbuquerque.org/albuquerque/family-fun/
- Boy Scouts of America – Albuquerque, www.gswcbsa.org
- City of Albuquerque - Fun For Children, <https://www.cabq.gov/youth-information/fun-for-kids>
- Directory of Family Resources, <http://www.newmexico-kids.com/directory>
- Explora! Children's Museum, <https://www.explora.us/>
- Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails, www.nmgirlscouts.org
- Junior Achievement of New Mexico, <https://www.juniorachievement.org/web/ja-newmexico>
- National Dance Institute of New Mexico, www.ndi-nm.org
- New Mexico Kids! Family Magazine, <http://www.newmexico-kids.com/>
- NM Children, Youth and Families Foundation, <http://cyfd.org/>
- NM Children's Foundation, <http://nmchildren.org/>
- NM Department of Tourism - Family Fun, www.newmexico.org/true-family-fun/
- NM Parent Teacher Association (PTA), www.newmexicopta.org
- NM Young Actors, www.nmyoungactors.org
- UNM Children's Hospital, <http://hospitals.unm.edu/children/>
- YMCA of Central New Mexico, www.ymcacnm.org
- YWCA Middle Rio Grande, www.ywca-nm.org

6. **Culture and Community:**

New Mexico features a diverse population and cultures, based on the migration patterns in the area bringing together Native Americans, Hispanics and Pioneers (including the cowboy culture). Some sites to learn more about these population groups include:

- Albuquerque Museum, <https://albuquerquemuseumfoundation.org/>
- Bonanza Creek Movie Ranch, <http://www.bonanzacreek ranch.com/>
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, <https://www.indianpueblo.org/>
- International Folk Art Market, <https://folkartmarket.org/>
- Del Rancho de Los Golondrinas (living history museum), <https://golondrinas.org/>
- National Hispanic Cultural Center, <http://www.nhccnm.org/>
- National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, <https://www.nuclearmuseum.org/>
- New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, <http://www.newmexicoculture.org/>
- New Mexico Museum of Natural History of Science, <http://nmnaturalhistory.org/>
- Old Town Albuquerque, <http://www.albuquerqueoldtown.com/>
- Petroglyph National Monument, <https://www.nps.gov/petr/index.htm>

Some of the “cooler” restaurants to visit in Albuquerque and Santa Fe include:

Albuquerque Area...

- 10-3 (Sandia Mountain Summit, top of Tram), <http://www.sandiapeak.com/>
- Ajiaco Colombian Bistro, www.ajiacobistro.com
- Bien Shur, Sandia Casino (top floor), www.sandiacasino.com/bien-shur
- Boiler Monkey, <http://www.boilermonkeybistro.com/>
- Los Poblanos Historic Inn & Organic Farm, www.lospoblanos.com/food-and-dining/dine-with-us/
- Corn Maiden, Hyatt Tamaya Resort, <http://tamaya.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>
- El Pinto, www.elpinto.com
- Empire Board Game Library, www.empiregamelibrary.com
- Farm & Table, <http://farmandtablenm.com/>
- Frontier Restaurant, www.frontierrestaurant.com
- Indigo Crow Café, www.indigocrowcafe.net
- Le Crepe Michel - A French Café (Old Town), www.lacrepemichel.com/main/
- Piatanzi, www.piatanzi.com
- P'Tit Louis, www.ptitlouisbistro.com
- Santiago's Mexican Grill at the Tram, www.sandiapeakrestaurants.com

Santa Fe area...

- Cowgirl BBQ Hall of Fame, <http://www.cowgirlsantafe.com/>
- La Casa Sena (with singing wait staff), www.lacasena.com
- The SHED, [https://sfshed.com](http://sfshed.com)
- Tune-Up Café, www.tuneupsantafe.com

USA Today's 10 "Best Green Chili Cheeseburger in New Mexico"

When you visit New Mexico, you'll quickly realize that we have a love affair with chili: Green, Red or a combination of both called Christmas. It's our chosen ethnic food, like Boston Clam Chowder or New Orleans Gumbo, locals revel in adding this spicy delectable to basically any food or beverage, Green Chili on your breakfast or Juevos Rancheros or Waffles, and there are even chili flavored beers and wines available around town. One of the more popular New Mexican food offerings are Green Chili Cheeseburgers... of which, everyone has their own list of their own most popular restaurants... just ask... but given their national popularity, USA Today came up with their own reader's list of the best green chili cheeseburgers in New Mexico including:

1. Blake's Lotaburger - Statewide
2. Owl Cafe - Albuquerque & San Antonio
3. Big Mike's Grill - Belen
4. Sparky's - Hatch
5. Anaheim Jacks - Ruidoso
6. Mine Shaft Tavern - Madrid
7. Buckhorn Tavern - San Antonio
8. Santa Fe Bite – Albuquerque
9. El Farolito - El Rito
10. Rockin' BZ Burgers - Alamogordo

7. Local Sports:

New Mexico offers a wide range of sports venues, events and teams including the recently launched USL professional soccer team, New Mexico United that's attracting record crowds, and the ever-popular University of New Mexico Lobos:

- ABQ Sports Magazine, www.abqsportsmag.com
- Albuquerque Isotopes, <https://www.milb.com/albuquerque/>
- New Mexico United (Soccer), <https://www.newmexicoutd.com/>
- Duke City Gladiators, www.dukecitygladiators.com
- Gildan New Mexico Bowl, <http://gildannewmexicobowl.com/>
- UNM Lobos, www.golobos.com

8. **Natural Surroundings:**

New Mexico is known for its “open space” areas with a plethora of camp grounds, hiking trails, big skies and beautiful vistas and auburn sunsets.

- Audubon New Mexico, <https://nm.audubon.org/>
- Bosque Del Apache, https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bosque_del_Apache/
- Elephant Butte Lake, <http://www.elephantbuttelake.net/>
- Hawk's Aloft, <http://hawksaloft.org/>
- Hunting in New Mexico, <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/>
- New Mexico Beekeepers Association, <https://nmbeekeepers.org/>
- New Mexico Camping, <https://explorenm.com/camping/>
- New Mexico Fly Fishing Map, <http://maps.troutster.com/new-mexico/>
- New Mexico Hikes, <https://www.explorenm.com/hikes/>
- New Mexico Sailing Club, <http://sailnewmexico.org/>
- New Mexico Trout, <https://www.newmexicotrout.org/>
- Rio Grande Nature Center, <http://rgnc.org/>
- Sierra Club, Rio Grande Chapter, <https://www.riograndesierraclub.org/>
- Wildlife West Nature Park, <http://wildlifewest.org/wwblog/>

9. **Cool Stuff To Do:**

New Mexico offers many “cool” things to choose from: from things to do with your kids to more adult activities, such as our annual beer and wine festivals (that are supported by hundreds of homegrown microbreweries and wineries statewide). We are also known for the annual International Balloon Fiesta (sending hundreds of hot air balloons aloft for one of the more spectacular views in the world), the Sandia Peak Tram (at 2.7 miles, making it the longest tram ride in North America), the world class Santa Fe Opera, and the eclectic Meow Wolf, which features “immersive art experiences that transport audiences to fantastic realms.”

- ¡Globalquerque!, <https://www.globalquerque.org/>
- 48 Hour Film Project, <http://48hourfilm.com/home>
- ABQ BioPark, <http://www.cabq.gov/culturalservices/biopark>
- Albuquerque Film + Music Experience, <https://www.abqfilmx.com/>
- Albuquerque Ghost Tours, <https://www.toursofoldtown.com/GhostTour.php>
- Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, <https://balloonfiesta.com/>
- Albuquerque Theatre Guild, <https://www.abqtheatre.com/>
- Albuquerque Tourism & Sightseeing Factory, <https://www.tourabq.com/abqtrolley>
- American International Rattlesnake Museum, <http://www.rattlesnakes.com/>
- Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque Balloon Museum, <https://www.balloonmuseum.com/>
- Beer Festivals, <https://nmbeer.org/>
- Bubonicon Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention, <http://bubonicon.com/>
- Chatter Chamber (Formerly Church of Beethoven), <https://www.chatterabq.org/>
- Expo New Mexico (State Fair), <https://www.exponm.com/>
- Festival Flamenco Internacional de Albuquerque, <http://ffiabq.org/>
- How to be an Extra in a Movie, <http://filmabq.com/how-to-be-an-extra/>
- Italian Festivals of New Mexico, <http://www.italianfilmfest.org/>
- Meow Wolf, <https://meowwolf.com/>
- National Fiery Foods & Barbecue Show, <http://www.fieryfoodsshow.com/>
- National Hispanic Cultural Center, <http://www.nhccnm.org/>
- New Mexico Arts, <http://www.nmarts.org/>
- New Mexico Farmers' Markets, www.farmersmarketsnm.org
- New Mexico Kids! Family Magazine, <http://www.newmexico-kids.com/>
- NM Coffee Association, <https://nmcoffee.org/>
- NM Department of Tourism, <https://www.newmexico.org/>
- Quiet Waters Paddling, www.quietwaterspaddling.com
- Rail Yards Markets, www.RailYardsMarket.org
- Railrunner Train, <https://www.riometro.org/>
- Sandia Peak Ski & Tramway, <http://www.sandiapeak.com/>
- Santa Fe Institute, www.santafe.edu
- Santa Fe Opera, <https://www.santafeopera.org/>

- Ski Taos, <https://www.skitaos.com/>
- SOMOS ABQ, <http://www.somosabq.com/>
- Southwest Coffee and Chocolate Festival, <https://www.chocolateandcoffeefest.com/>
- TEDxABQ, www.tedxabq.com
- The Albuquerque Theatre Guild, <https://www.abqtheatre.com/>
- Things to Do for Discerning Tastes, <https://www.nmnetlinks.com/new-to-new-mexico>
- Unser Racing Museum, <https://unserracingmuseum.com/>
- Wine Down With Art, <https://winedownwithart.net/>
- Wine Festivals, www.nmwine.com

Some of the better online calendars include:

- ABQ365 (Daily Source For What To Do), <https://www.visitalbuquerque.org/abq365/>
- ABQtodo, <https://www.abqtodo.com/>
- Albuquerque Journal, <https://www.abqjournal.com/calendar/87109-albuquerque/all/today>
- Albuquerque the Magazine, <http://www.abqthemag.com/>
- All Events, <https://allevents.in/#>
- Exploring Albuquerque, <https://exploringnm.com/>
- Prime Time Monthly Magazine, <http://www.ptpubco.com/>
- Visit Albuquerque, <https://www.visitalbuquerque.org/>
- Weekly Alibi Newspaper, <http://alibi.com/>

10. **Safety and Crime:**

Albuquerque, like any other modern American city, has its share of crime, here are several resources you may find of interest:

- Albuquerque Crime Map, <https://www.cabq.gov/police/online-services/crime-mapping>
- Albuquerque Police Department, <http://www.cabq.gov/police/>
- Gun Laws in New Mexico, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_laws_in_New_Mexico
- Home Security Systems, <https://www.homeadvisor.com/c/Home-Security-Services/Albuquerque.NM.-12043.html>
- New Mexico State Police, <https://www.sp.nm.gov/>
- NM Road Conditions, <https://nmroads.com/mapIndex.html?>
- Shooting Ranges, https://www.shooting.org/Ranges/New_Mexico/Albuquerque

If you'd like to tour the local area on your next visit, please let me know... I'd be happy to help you explore the community and find your new home.

Sally Sacco

Associate Broker, Realtor
Coldwell Banker Legacy

www.ColdwellBankerLegacy.com/Sally.Sacco

Sally.Sacco@CBLegacy.com

505-250-9179

(For more links to local jobs, events and resources, visit www.nmnetlinks.com)