

Oil and Gas

The oil and gas industry supports nearly 115,000 jobs in New Mexico, and a federal leasing ban could kill over 62,000 jobs in the state:

- **In 2019, the oil and natural gas industry supported nearly 115,000 jobs in New Mexico and contributed more than \$18.8 billion to the state’s economy.** “Access to natural gas and oil development will be a key driver of the post-pandemic recovery in New Mexico. The industry supported nearly 115,000 New Mexico jobs, provided over \$6.8 billion in wages and contributed more than \$18.8 billion to the state’s economy in 2019, according to a study conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) that compiles the latest available government data.” (“Natural Gas and Oil Fuels New Mexico’s Economy and Workforce,” [American Petroleum Institute](#), 2021)
- **According to the American Petroleum Institute, a federal leasing ban on oil and natural gas could kill over 62,000 jobs in New Mexico.** “The New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (NMOGA) and the American Petroleum Institute (API) today released a new analysis warning of negative consequences for New Mexico if a ban on federal leasing and public lands were to take effect. New Mexico, which accounts for 57 percent of federal onshore oil production and 31 percent of onshore natural gas production, is projected to be among the states hardest hit, losing over 62,000 jobs by 2022.” (“New Analysis Shows New Mexico Among Hardest Hit States by Proposal to Ban Federal Land Leases,” [American Petroleum Institute](#), 9/9/20)

Immigration

In the first half of FY 2022, CBP encountered just under 1.06 million illegal migrants at the southwest border, and the Biden administration has released over 836,000 migrants into the U.S. as of March 2022:

- **U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) encountered 221,303 individuals arriving at the southwest land border in March 2022, a 33% increase from the prior month.** “In total, there were 221,303 encounters along the southwest land border in March, a 33 percent increase compared to February. Of those, 28 percent involved individuals who had at least one prior encounter in the previous 12 months, compared to an average one-year re-encounter rate of 14 percent for FY2014-2019.” (“CBP Releases March 2022 Monthly Operational Update,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), 4/18/22)
- **In the first half of FY 2022, CBP encountered just under 1.06 million illegal migrants at the southwest border.** “According to an April filing in *Texas v. Biden*, CBP encountered 221,303 illegal migrants at the Southwest border last month, bringing total encounters there to just fewer than 1.06 million for just the first half of FY 2022.” (Andrew R. Arthur, “Nearly 1.06 Million CBP Encounters at Southwest Border Thus Far in FY 2022,” [Center for Immigration Studies](#), 4/19/22)
 - **As of March 2022, the Biden administration has released over 836,000 migrants into the U.S.** “Worse, DHS released more than 80,000 of those migrants into the interior last month, raising the total number of migrant illegal releases under the

Biden administration to 836,225.” (Andrew R. Arthur, “Nearly 1.06 Million CBP Encounters at Southwest Border Thus Far in FY 2022,” [Center for Immigration Studies](#), 4/19/22)

Since 2020, illegal border crossings in the New Mexico/Texas area have nearly tripled, attacks against border agents have nearly doubled, drug trafficking has increased, and there have been several terrorists apprehended:

- **As of September 2021, the New Mexico/Texas border—one of the busiest illegal immigration routes from Mexico—saw a nearly 3x increase in crossings compared to 2020.** “The Post accompanied a group of Border Patrol agents during a raid Wednesday along the New Mexico and Texas lines near El Paso. The area is one of the busiest crossing points for migrants along the nearly 2,000-mile southern border with Mexico... Agents working in the El Paso Sector have so far detained 155,892 people in fiscal year 2021, which ends on Sept. 30 – almost triple the 54,396 in all of FY 2020.” (Isabel Vincent, “The Post goes on patrol with feds to witness Biden’s border crisis first hand,” [NY Post](#), 9/4/21)
 - **Unlike years past, nearly 80% of illegal immigrants are single adults instead of families.** “Nearly 80 percent of those making the crossing are single adults, a significant change in the demographics over the last few years that saw more families crossing the border and giving themselves up to Border Patrol agents. In the past, many claimed they were fleeing gang violence in Central America and seeking asylum protection in the US. Now most migrants are coming to flee COVID and dire economic conditions in their own country, authorities said.” (Isabel Vincent, “The Post goes on patrol with feds to witness Biden’s border crisis first hand,” [NY Post](#), 9/4/21)
- **Since 2020, attacks against agents have nearly doubled, and there has been an increase in drug trafficking.** “In the past year, attacks against agents have nearly doubled from 23 last fiscal year to 40 so far this year in the El Paso Sector alone. ‘Because it is mostly single adults, we are dealing with more criminal activity,’ said Gloria Chavez, chief patrol agent of the El Paso Sector, which encompasses 125,000 square miles and employs 2,400 agents. ‘We have a mixture of bad actors with the regular migrants.’ In the past year, Chavez’s agents have seen an increase in ‘stash houses’ where smugglers and drug traffickers hold kidnapped migrants and often try to extort their families in the US for cash to release them. Agents have busted 270 stash houses this year and also seized 5,936 pounds of marijuana, 683 pounds of methamphetamine, and 336 pounds of cocaine, she said. Forty-four pounds of deadly fentanyl and 37 pounds of heroin were also seized, she said.” (Isabel Vincent, “The Post goes on patrol with feds to witness Biden’s border crisis first hand,” [NY Post](#), 9/4/21)
- **Some of the immigrants entering the U.S. have connections to terrorism.** “Among the scores of migrants entering the country are terrorists who are linked to Mexican drug cartels, agents said. A group of Republican lawmakers who visited the El Paso Sector in March told reporters that some people caught crossing the border were on a US terrorism watch list. Earlier this year, the Customs and Border Protection Agency confirmed to Congress that four people were detained whose names matched those on the FBI’s Terrorist Screening database, according to a report. The suspected terrorists – three

Yemenis and a Serbian national – were caught in the El Paso region. Names were not released.” (Isabel Vincent, “The Post goes on patrol with feds to witness Biden’s border crisis first hand,” [NY Post](#), 9/4/21)

Crime

In 2021, Las Cruces experienced growing violent crime rates and police officer staffing shortages:

- **In May 2021, Las Cruces Police Chief Miguel Dominguez reported violent crime rates had grown significantly over the past year.** “So far, violent crime rates in 2021 have grown significantly compared to this time last year. Robberies increased 76%, going from 15 to 26. Aggravated assaults increased 43%, from 103 to 147. The sexual assault totals were stagnated at 13. Dominguez said service calls also increased significantly as well. In 2019, LCPD received about 143,000 calls for services. That number jumped 17% to more than 168,000 in 2020.” (Justin Garcia, “Las Cruces police chief reports an uptick in crime rates in 2020,” [Las Cruces Sun-News](#), 5/27/21)
- **In July 2021, the Las Cruces Police Department reported staffing shortages, forcing many officers to work overtime to fight the increased crime in the city.** “Las Cruces Police spokesperson Dan Trujillo said their department is still dealing with a staffing shortage and their officers are working overtime to fight the increased crime in the city.” (Salina Madrid, “New data released by Las Cruces Police shows spike in crime amid pandemic,” [K FOX 14](#), 7/9/21)
- **In September 2021, Albuquerque already set a yearly record for homicides with 86, highlighted by the recent shooting of three police officers and the murder of a middle school boy outside his school.** “More recently, crime-related proposals were not a primary focus of this year’s 60-day legislative session, as measures dealing with pandemic relief, abortion, public schools and legalizing recreational cannabis all drew lengthy debates. But things could be different in 2022, after the recent shooting of three Albuquerque police officers – another officer was also injured in the incident – and the shooting death of a 13-year-old boy at his middle school have prompted calls for action. Albuquerque has already set a yearly record for homicides with 86 suspected killings, and other types of violent crime have also increased, though the metro area’s auto theft rate has dropped by 42% since 2017.” (Dan Boyd, “ABQ lawmakers propose fixes to violent crime surge,” [Albuquerque Journal](#), 9/2/21)