

NEW MEXICO

Labor Market Report

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HIGHLIGHTS — April 2006

...New Mexico's rate of over-the-year job growth was 2.3 percent for April 2006. The state has added 18,700 jobs over the last year, and we rank 13th highest for job growth among the states.

...In the last 12 months, employment in the Albuquerque MSA has grown 2.5 percent or 9,200 jobs, decelerating slightly from the first three months of 2006. Construction growth remained exceptionally vibrant at 8.9 percent or 2,500 jobs.

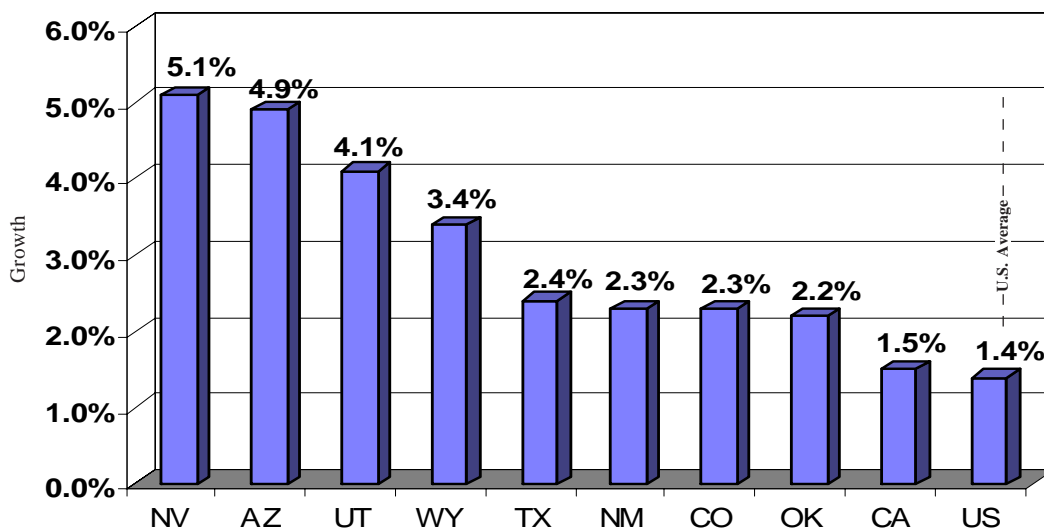
...The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces MSA was 4.2 percent adding 2,700 jobs. This rate of job growth is higher than the average for the state.

...Over-the-year job growth for the Santa Fe MSA was only 1.1 percent, adding just 700 jobs. This is the lowest rate of job growth the area has seen in more than a year.

...Over the last year the Farmington MSA has added 900 jobs, growing 1.8 percent. The rate has steadily declined over the last sixteen months, following a period of rapid job growth.

Current Regional Nonfarm Employment Growth

April 2006 over April 2005 - Not Seasonally Adjusted



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New Mexico Labor Force and Payroll Employment

New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in April 2006, up from an unrealistically low 4.0 percent in March. The official unemployment rate remains on the low side of what is likely for the state, considering that the national unemployment rate was 4.7 percent. The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics provides New Mexico with the funding and methodology for calculating these numbers. New methodology introduced a year ago has increased the variability of the month-to-month estimates for small states such as New Mexico. Statistical sampling used in the calculation of the unemployment rate provides 90 percent assurance that the real unemployment rate is somewhere in the range of 3.5 percent to 5.1 percent. The true unemployment rate for New Mexico is probably near the upper bound of the error range, 4.7 or 4.8 percent. A year ago the state's unemployment rate was 5.4 percent.

New Mexico's rate of over-the-year job growth was 2.3 percent for April 2006. The state has added 18,700 jobs over the last year, and we rank 13th highest for job growth among the states. The job growth remains broad-based, and all but one of thirteen industries has expanded. However, just three industries account for more than two thirds of the added jobs. The large government and health services industries are joined by the moderately-sized construction industry, adding a total of 11,800 jobs between them. The outlook is favorable with many companies signaling the intent to expand their workforces.

The mining and construction industries are way ahead in generating the highest rates of job growth. These are not the largest industries in the state, but the growth rates are very high. Natural resources and mining has enjoyed about three years of job growth with sustained higher prices for oil and natural gas. Job growth currently stands at 13.6 percent over the year, adding 2,200 jobs. Construction employment continues to enjoy rapid growth as well, currently up 8.5 percent on the year, adding 4,500 jobs. The recent construction boom is also about three years old, following losses when several large construction projects in Albuquerque ended. Both residential and non-residential construction continue to grow at a fast pace. However, rising interest rates may slow future growth.

Educational and health services, the state's largest private industry, added 3,800 jobs, growing 3.6 percent. Most components of this industry are growing at a moderate rate following some setbacks early last year. Government employment increased 1.7 percent, adding 3,500 jobs over the year. Federal government added 700 jobs, gaining 2.4 percent. State government also added 700 jobs from a year ago. Local government employment increased by 2,100 jobs, with just over half the job gains being reported at local school districts. Local government also includes Indian tribes and their casinos.

Manufacturing employment made a gain of 1,200 jobs, with clearly evident strength in computer and electronic products. Retail trade employment continues to enjoy moderate gains, currently showing a 1.1 percent increase on the year, rising by 1,700 jobs. Wholesale trade also made gains recently, adding 400 jobs over the year.

Professional & business services added just 800 jobs, mostly because the year-ago comparison includes extremely strong April numbers last year and more normal April employment numbers this year. Financial activities employment added 600 jobs from gains that were in the real estate and finance and insurance components. The leisure and hospitality industry made gains of just 200 jobs, with small gains in eating and drinking places but losses in accommodation. The transportation, warehousing and utilities industry increased employment by 300 jobs, having seen very little growth recently. The miscellaneous *other services* category added 500 jobs, growing at 1.7 percent.

The information industry reported employment levels that were 400 jobs lower than a year ago. However, the industry continues to do very well but had a bumper month last April when the state's film industry had a lot of activity. Activity remains moderately strong this year, but not as high as last year's record levels.

New Mexico	Prel.		Revised		Change From	
	Apr 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2005	Mar 2006	Feb 2005	
Seasonally Adjusted						
Civilian Labor Force	958,000	954,400	933,400	+3,600	+24,600	
Employment	916,900	916,300	883,200	+600	+33,700	
Unemployment	41,100	38,100	50,200	+3,000	-9,100	
Rate	4.3%	4.0%	5.4%			
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	4.2%	3.9%	5.3%			

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Albuquerque MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance & Valencia Counties)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Albuquerque MSA was 4.0 percent in April 2006, up from 3.6 percent in March. A year ago the unemployment rate was 5.1 percent.

Payroll employment rose 0.7 percent over the month, adding 2,700 new jobs to the Albuquerque area economy. Employment increases are typical this time of year when construction and tourism begin to pick up. Leisure and hospitality grew by a strong 4.0 percent or 1,400 jobs, reflecting a seasonal increase in tourist-related businesses like food services and accommodation. Construction also did well in April, adding 600 jobs for growth of 2.1 percent. Manufacturing gained 200 jobs as did educational and health services. Professional and business services rose 0.2 percent (100 jobs), aided by a seasonal increase in temporary help. Financial activities and the miscellaneous category of *other services* also added 100 jobs, while five industries remained at last month's employment levels.

In the last 12 months, employment in the Albuquerque MSA has grown 2.5 percent or 9,200 jobs, decelerating slightly from the over-the-year rates for the first three months of 2006. Construction growth remained exceptionally vibrant at 8.9 percent or 2,500 jobs. New housing developments continue to spring up almost overnight in Rio Rancho and on Albuquerque's West Side, driven by relatively low interest rates and population growth. Still, mortgage rates have begun to rise, and the demand for new homes is likely to decrease in the coming months.

Government was second only to construction in the number of new jobs, growing by 1,900 or 2.5 percent over the year. The increase was divided nearly equally among the industry's three sectors, with state government increasing by 700 jobs and local and federal government increasing by 600 each. Educational and health services added 1,300 jobs or 2.8 percent, as health care employment has risen in response to population changes.

With an over-the-year increase of 2.4 percent (1,000 jobs), retail trade growth was steady, though not as strong as in recent months. Industry growth reached 4.0 percent in September 2005 but has gradually diminished since then. Employment in general merchandise stores, which includes large discounters like Wal-Mart and Target, was stagnant over the month but increased 3.6 percent over the year.

Manufacturing employment rose by 800 over the past twelve months, a robust increase of 3.4 percent. This is the third consecutive month the industry has grown by at least 3.0 percent over the year.

Leisure and hospitality also added 800 jobs, growing by 2.2 percent, with food services and drinking places accounting for most of the increase. This industry has been adding jobs since mid-2005, after experiencing a temporary setback in the preceding months.

Over-the-year employment increased by 200 in transportation, warehousing and utilities, financial services, wholesale trade, and the miscellaneous category of other services. Employment in information grew by 100 or 1.0 percent, while professional and business services was the only industry unchanged over the year.

Albuquerque Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Apr 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2005	Mar 2006	Apr 2005
Civilian Labor Force	410,200	409,300	398,600	+900	+11,600
Employment	393,900	394,700	378,400	-800	+15,500
Unemployment	16,400	14,600	20,200	+1,800	-3,800
Rate	4.0%	3.6%	5.1%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	3.8%	3.5%	4.8%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Las Cruces MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Doña Ana County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Las Cruces MSA was 4.7 percent in April 2006, up from 4.3 percent in March. The increase this month resulted from the statewide rise in unemployment, following a sharp drop in March that was hard to explain. A year ago the area's unemployment rate was 6.0 percent.

The Las Cruces gained 400 jobs in April 2006, all of them in the private sector. The area gained 100 jobs in each of four industries: construction, wholesale trade, financial activities and professional & business services.

The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces area was 4.2 percent comparing April 2006 with the same month a year ago. The Las Cruces area has added 2,700 jobs. This rate of job growth is higher than the average for the state.

The educational and health services industry gained 700 jobs, increasing 7.2 percent. The health services industry has enjoyed a long period rapid of growth, with only a brief pause in 2004. Construction employment also has done well recently in the local area, increasing 400 jobs, growing 9.5 percent.

Government employment made gains of 400 jobs, with an increase of 100 jobs in federal government, 100 jobs in state government, and 300 jobs in local government. Local government includes New Mexico State University.

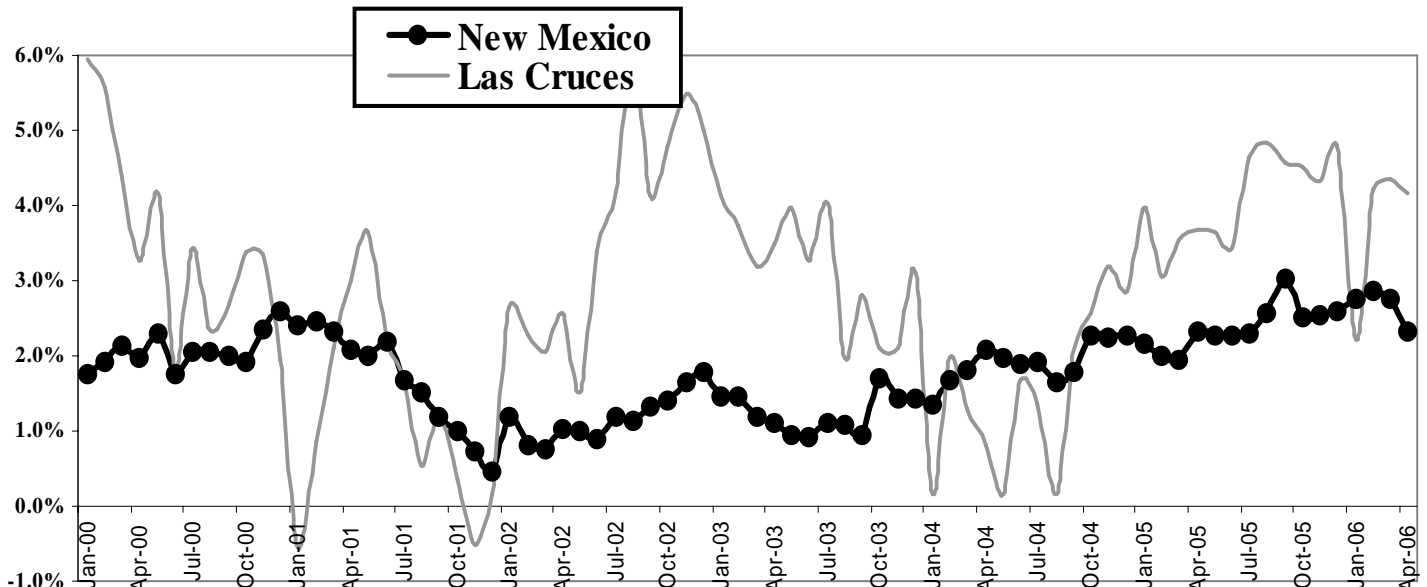
Retail trade made gains of 200 jobs from a year ago, as did wholesale trade. The professional & business services industry also gained 200 jobs, growing 3.6 percent, making a solid contribution to overall job gains in Las Cruces. The leisure & hospitality industry made gains of 200 jobs over the year, growing 3.0 percent.

A gain of 100 jobs was reported in financial activities and also in manufacturing. The miscellaneous *other services* category of employment also gained 100 jobs. The information industry added another 100 jobs from last year's employment level. Transportation, warehousing & utilities remained at last year's employment level.

Las Cruces Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Apr 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2005	Mar 2006	Apr 2005
Civilian Labor Force	88,800	88,700	85,800	+100	+3,000
Employment	84,600	84,900	80,700	-300	+3,900
Unemployment	4,200	3,800	5,200	+400	-1,000
Rate	4.7%	4.3%	6.0%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	4.8%	4.6%	6.2%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Las Cruces



Santa Fe MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Santa Fe County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Santa Fe was 3.5 percent in April 2006, up from 3.2 the previous month. A year ago the area had an unemployment rate of 4.2 percent.

Santa Fe saw moderate gains totaling 700 jobs in five private sector industries in April. The gaining industries were construction, retail trade, educational & health services, other services, and leisure & hospitality.

Over-the-year job growth for Santa Fe was only 1.1 percent, adding just 700 jobs. This is the lowest rate of job growth the area has seen in more than a year. Previously, the rate of job growth had been close to the average for the state. The job growth is evident in only seven of the area's twelve industries. Two industries remain at the same level of employment as last year, and three industries have lost jobs over the year.

The large government sector added the most jobs, up 300 on the year, growing 1.8 percent. Federal government jobs have declined in number over the year, but state government has shown some growth. Most of the new government jobs are in local government. The local government gains have come mostly from employment at local schools.

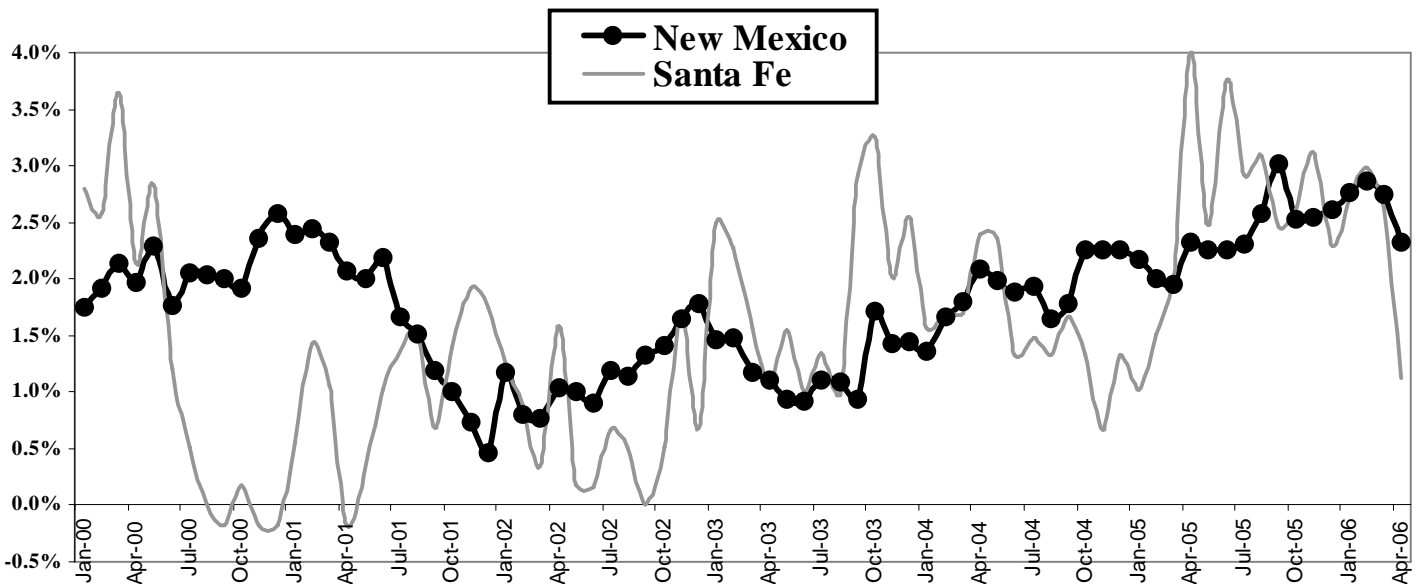
In the private sector, educational and health services added 200 jobs, growing 2.3 percent. This is a slight reduction from recent trends for this industry. The construction industry added 100 jobs, which is also a reduction from faster growth earlier in the year. Leisure and hospitality employment managed to make gains of 100 jobs, which is not bad at the end of a disappointing season for the local ski industry. The information industry, which includes motion picture and video industries, has gained 100 jobs, an 8.3 percent increase. Financial activities also gained 100 jobs, as did the miscellaneous *other services* industry.

The two industries reporting employment that was unchanged from last year's levels were wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing & utilities. The three industries reporting lost jobs over the year were manufacturing, retail trade, and the professional & business services industry. Each of these declining industries was down by 100 jobs since last year.

Santa Fe	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Apr 2006</u>	<u>Mar 2006</u>	<u>Apr 2006</u>	<u>Mar 2006</u>	<u>Apr 2005</u>
Civilian Labor Force	80,100	79,900	78,900	+200	+1,200
Employment	77,300	77,400	75,600	-100	+1,700
Unemployment	2,800	2,500	3,300	+300	-500
Rate	3.5%	3.2%	4.2%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	3.4%	3.1%	4.1%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Santa Fe



Farmington MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(San Juan County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Farmington was 4.5 percent in April 2006, up from 3.9 percent in March. The increase (and decline last month) parallels the statewide unemployment moves, which appear to be anomalies. A year ago, the area had an unemployment rate of 5.7 percent.

The Farmington area gained 200 jobs in April, following a gain of 400 jobs in March. Such seasonal increases are expected this time of year. The April gains were in private services-providing industries.

Over the last year the Farmington area has added 900 jobs, growing 1.8 percent. The rate of job growth has steadily declined over the last sixteen months, following a period of rapid job growth. Job growth in Farmington has moderated from previous very high levels, not so much because of anything bad happening this year, but because last year's economic activity was extra strong with construction work on the oil pipeline.

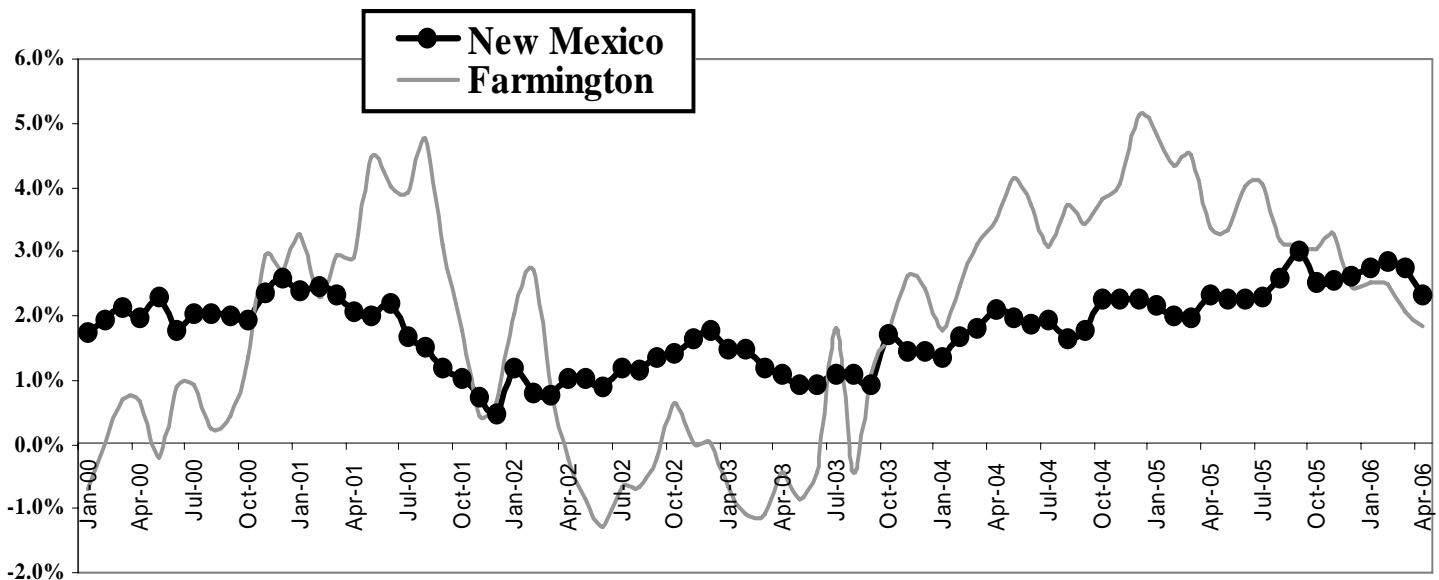
Job growth in Farmington peaked in December 2004 when the over-the-year rate of job growth reached 5.1 percent. This was the fastest increase in jobs since mid-1995. Since reaching this recent peak, job growth has gradually returned to more sustainable levels.

Private services-providing industries continue to do fairly well, adding 400 jobs over the year, growing 1.5 percent. Government employment has been sluggish for a while and shows 200 fewer jobs in federal government than a year ago and no growth in state employment; local government has increased by 100 jobs over the year.

Farmington <u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	<u>Apr 2006</u>	<u>Mar 2006</u>	<u>Apr 2005</u>	<u>Mar 2006</u>	<u>Apr 2005</u>
Civilian Labor Force	56,500	56,600	55,000	-100	+1,500
Employment	53,900	54,400	51,900	-500	+2,000
Unemployment	2,600	2,200	3,100	+400	-500
Rate	4.5%	3.9%	5.7%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	4.2%	3.9%	5.3%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Farmington



*New Mexico - Seasonally Adjusted
Labor Force, Employment,
Unemployment, & Unemployment Rate*

*Total Nonfarm Employment
Growth Rankings
New Mexico and United States*

		Civilian Labor Force	Employ- ment	Un- Employ- ment	Rate %	Unadj. Rate %
1986		667,200	605,800	61,400	9.2%	
1987		674,200	613,400	60,800	9.0%	
1988		682,000	630,300	51,700	7.6%	
1989		691,800	645,300	46,500	6.7%	
1990		711,900	663,700	48,200	6.8%	
1991		719,200	667,700	51,500	7.2%	
1992		735,500	680,500	55,000	7.5%	
1993		755,100	700,300	54,800	7.3%	
1994		776,800	725,400	51,400	6.6%	
1995		798,700	744,600	54,100	6.8%	
1996		812,800	751,800	61,000	7.5%	
1997		822,600	768,600	54,000	6.6%	
1998		835,900	783,700	52,200	6.2%	
1999		840,000	793,100	46,900	5.6%	
2000		852,300	810,000	42,300	5.0%	
2001		863,700	821,000	42,700	4.9%	
2002		875,600	827,300	48,300	5.5%	
2003		893,100	840,400	52,700	5.9%	
2004		914,500	862,400	52,100	5.7%	
2005		935,900	886,700	49,200	5.3%	
2005	JAN	926,900	875,900	51,000	5.5%	5.5%
	FEB	928,400	877,700	50,800	5.5%	5.9%
	MAR	930,100	879,600	50,500	5.4%	5.6%
	APR	933,400	883,200	50,200	5.4%	5.3%
	MAY	933,800	883,900	49,900	5.3%	5.3%
	JUN	934,100	884,600	49,500	5.3%	5.9%
	JUL	935,600	886,500	49,100	5.2%	5.7%
	AUG	937,200	888,600	48,700	5.2%	5.1%
	SEP	940,700	892,400	48,200	5.1%	5.1%
	OCT	942,300	894,500	47,800	5.1%	4.7%
	NOV	943,400	896,000	47,300	5.0%	4.7%
	DEC	944,600	897,700	46,900	5.0%	4.4%
2006	JAN	944,700	898,600	46,100	4.9%	5.0%
	FEB	961,700	916,000	45,700	4.8%	5.0%
	MAR	954,400	916,300	38,100	4.0%	3.9%
	APR	958,000	916,900	41,100	4.3%	4.2%
	MAY					
	JUN					
	JUL					
	AUG					
	SEP					
	OCT					
	NOV					
	DEC					
# CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	3,600	600	3,000	0.3%	0.3%
	Year Ago	24,600	33,700	-9,100	-1.1%	-1.1%
	2 Yrs. Ago	47,200	58,600	-11,500	-1.5%	-1.4%
	3 Yrs. Ago	69,500	80,800	-11,300	-1.6%	-1.4%
% CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	0.4%	0.1%	7.9%		
	Year Ago	2.6%	3.8%	-18.1%		
	2 Yrs. Ago	5.2%	6.8%	-21.9%		
	3 Yrs. Ago	7.8%	9.7%	-21.6%		

State	Rank	April 2005	April 2006	Change	% Change
Idaho	1	603.1	634.0	30.9	5.1%
Nevada	2	1,216.1	1,277.7	61.6	5.1%
Arizona	3	2,504.3	2,626.5	122.2	4.9%
Utah	4	1,138.7	1,185.7	47.0	4.1%
Oregon	5	1,641.7	1,700.6	58.9	3.6%
Wyoming	6	257.2	266.0	8.8	3.4%
Washington	7	2,755.5	2,848.0	92.5	3.4%
Florida	8	7,805.9	8,060.9	255.0	3.3%
Hawaii	9	598.3	615.9	17.6	2.9%
South Carolina	10	1,866.7	1,915.1	48.4	2.6%
Texas	11	9,703.1	9,939.8	236.7	2.4%
South Dakota	12	386.7	395.8	9.1	2.4%
New Mexico	13	807.1	825.8	18.7	2.3%
Colorado	14	2,207.4	2,257.3	49.9	2.3%
Oklahoma	15	1,512.1	1,545.7	33.6	2.2%
Montana	16	415.4	424.2	8.8	2.1%
Georgia	17	3,994.9	4,073.2	78.3	2.0%
Alabama	18	1,943.3	1,980.4	37.1	1.9%
Virginia	19	3,651.6	3,721.2	69.6	1.9%
Iowa	20	1,483.3	1,508.3	25.0	1.7%
Delaware	21	680.4	691.7	11.3	1.7%
North Carolina	22	3,906.4	3,970.7	64.3	1.6%
DC	23	428.6	435.4	6.8	1.6%
California	24	14,721.9	14,944.4	222.5	1.5%
Nebraska	25	933.8	947.4	13.6	1.5%
Alaska	26	301.0	305.3	4.3	1.4%
Maryland	27	2,543.8	2,579.3	35.5	1.4%
United States		133,181.0	135,039.0	1,858.0	1.4%
North Dakota	28	345.6	350.0	4.4	1.3%
Kentucky	29	1,822.7	1,845.6	22.9	1.3%
Tennessee	30	2,748.7	2,782.8	34.1	1.2%
Minnesota	31	2,712.7	2,744.4	31.7	1.2%
Wisconsin	32	2,826.5	2,857.9	31.4	1.1%
West Virginia	33	745.1	753.3	8.2	1.1%
New Hampshire	34	630.5	637.3	6.8	1.1%
Arkansas	35	1,179.3	1,191.3	12.0	1.0%
Missouri	36	2,740.5	2,768.1	27.6	1.0%
New Jersey	37	4,024.8	4,064.1	39.3	1.0%
Illinois	38	5,845.0	5,899.5	54.5	0.9%
Pennsylvania	39	5,705.8	5,753.3	47.5	0.8%
Massachusetts	40	3,188.5	3,210.4	21.9	0.7%
New York	41	8,507.6	8,556.5	48.9	0.6%
Indiana	42	2,963.4	2,980.2	16.8	0.6%
Connecticut	43	1,664.3	1,673.7	9.4	0.6%
Vermont	44	302.4	304.1	1.7	0.6%
Ohio	45	5,423.8	5,453.6	29.8	0.5%
Kansas	46	1,342.6	1,349.1	6.5	0.5%
Rhode Island	47	491.1	493.2	2.1	0.4%
Maine	48	603.0	603.9	0.9	0.1%
Mississippi	49	1,139.7	1,138.0	-1.7	-0.1%
Michigan	50	4,393.2	4,370.9	-22.3	-0.5%
Louisiana	51	1,949.2	1,765.1	-184.1	-9.4%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment numbers are not seasonally adjusted.

Employment numbers are in thousands.

Unemployment Rates in New Mexico (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

APRIL 2006		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	13.5%
MORA	2	9.4%
GUADALUPE	3	6.1%
TAOS	4	6.1%
MCKINLEY	5	5.7%
CATRON	6	5.1%
RIO ARRIBA	7	5.0%
SAN MIGUEL	8	4.9%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	9	4.8%
QUAY	10	4.8%
SIERRA	11	4.7%
CHAVES	12	4.6%
COLFAX	13	4.5%
GRANT	14	4.5%
CIBOLA	15	4.4%
HARDING	16	4.4%
OTERO	17	4.3%
FARMINGTON MSA 2/	18	4.2%
HIDALGO	19	4.2%
STATEWIDE		4.2%
DE BACA	20	4.0%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	21	3.8%
CURRY	22	3.8%
EDDY	23	3.8%
LINCOLN	24	3.7%
SOCORRO	25	3.7%
LEA	26	3.4%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	27	3.4%
ROOSEVELT	28	3.3%
UNION	29	3.1%
LOS ALAMOS	30	2.5%

MARCH 2006		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	14.7%
MORA	2	9.8%
GUADALUPE	3	6.2%
CATRON	4	5.4%
MCKINLEY	5	5.3%
RIO ARRIBA	6	5.1%
TAOS	7	5.1%
SAN MIGUEL	8	4.7%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	9	4.6%
QUAY	10	4.6%
SIERRA	11	4.5%
CHAVES	12	4.2%
COLFAX	13	4.2%
GRANT	14	4.2%
CIBOLA	15	4.1%
FARMINGTON MSA 2/	16	3.9%
HARDING	17	3.9%
OTERO	18	3.9%
STATEWIDE		3.9%
DE BACA	19	3.7%
HIDALGO	20	3.7%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	21	3.5%
LINCOLN	22	3.5%
SOCORRO	23	3.5%
CURRY	24	3.4%
EDDY	25	3.4%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	26	3.1%
LEA	27	2.9%
ROOSEVELT	28	2.9%
UNION	29	2.7%
LOS ALAMOS	30	2.1%

APRIL 2005		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	16.9%
MORA	2	12.2%
GUADALUPE	3	8.1%
TAOS	4	7.3%
MCKINLEY	5	7.2%
SAN MIGUEL	6	6.4%
HIDALGO	7	6.2%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	8	6.2%
CATRON	9	6.1%
RIO ARRIBA	10	6.1%
GRANT	11	6.0%
CHAVES	12	5.9%
DE BACA	13	5.8%
COLFAX	14	5.7%
QUAY	15	5.6%
SIERRA	16	5.5%
CIBOLA	17	5.4%
FARMINGTON MSA 2/	18	5.3%
STATEWIDE		5.3%
OTERO	19	5.0%
EDDY	20	4.9%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	21	4.8%
LEA	22	4.6%
SOCORRO	23	4.5%
CURRY	24	4.4%
LINCOLN	25	4.1%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	26	4.1%
ROOSEVELT	27	3.9%
HARDING	28	3.8%
UNION	29	3.7%
LOS ALAMOS	30	2.8%

1/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance & Valencia Counties
 2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - San Juan County
 3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County
 4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe County

Need Labor Market Information?

We have several major publications detailing New Mexico's:

- Current economic conditions and trends
- Wages by occupations and areas
- Larger employers
- Growing jobs with skills and training needs
- Job market with hints for finding and keeping a job

They are available, at no cost, by dropping by any NMDOL office.

...Check Out Our Website!

For fast and easy access to the latest labor market information, please visit the New Mexico Department of Labor's website. There you will find a wide variety of information and tools for all kinds of people, including job seekers, employers, teachers, grant writers, career counselors, and students. All of our publications, including the one you are reading now, can be accessed online and are available sooner than if delivered by mail. This website also includes information on Department of Labor programs, contact names and addresses, and frequently asked questions about Department functions. In addition, all NMDOL employer forms can be downloaded from our website for easy access. Also provided are links to other related websites, including America's Job Bank for nationwide job searches. All this and more is available on our website at:

www.dol.state.nm.us



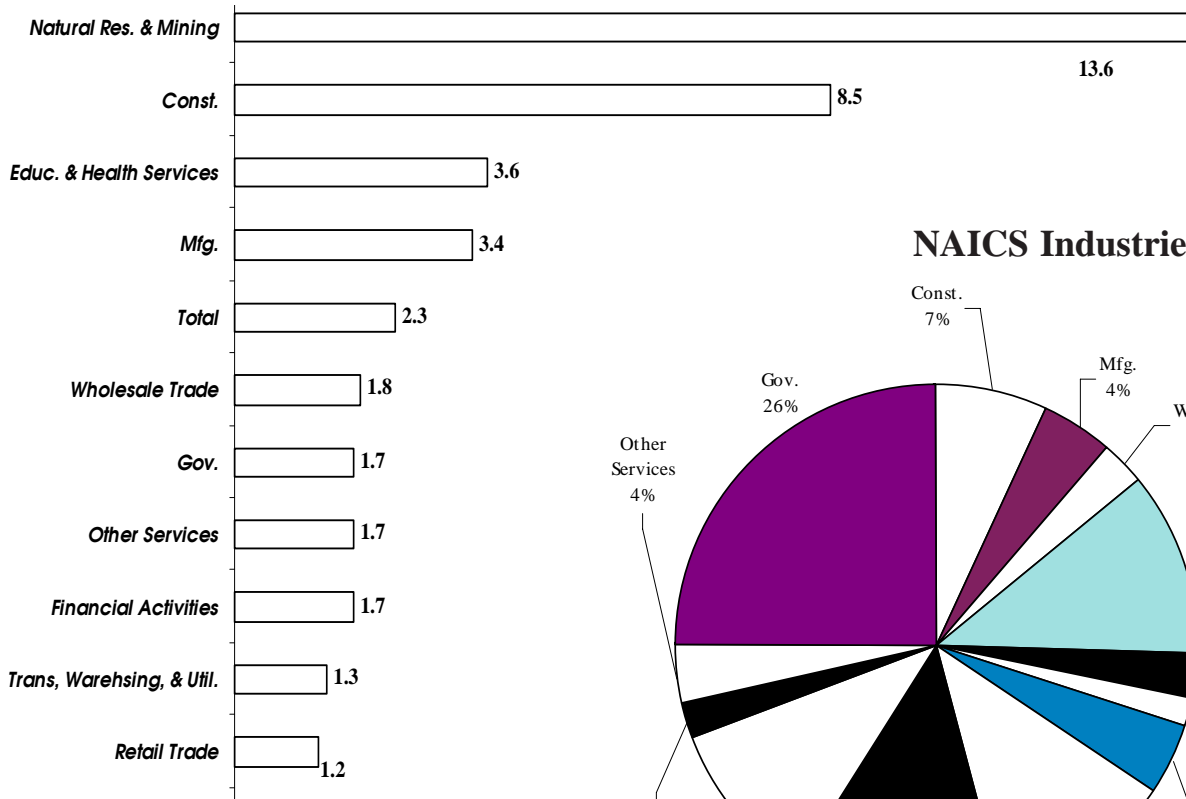
Unemployment Rate by State (Seasonally Adjusted)

Preliminary		April 2006
State	Rank	Rate
Mississippi		7.7
Michigan		7.2
Alaska		7.0
South Carolina		6.6
Kentucky		6.1
District of Columbia		5.5
Ohio		5.5
Oregon		5.5
Rhode Island		5.4
Tennessee		5.4
Arkansas		5.1
Illinois		5.1
New Jersey		5.1
Texas		5.1
California		4.9
Indiana		4.9
Massachusetts		4.9
New York		4.9
Louisiana		4.8
Wisconsin		4.8
Pennsylvania		4.7
United States		4.7
Washington		4.7
Georgia		4.6
Kansas		4.6
Missouri		4.6
Arizona		4.3
Colorado		4.3
New Mexico		4.3
North Carolina		4.3
Maine		4.2
Minnesota		4.1
Nevada		4.1
West Virginia		4.1
Connecticut		3.9
Oklahoma		3.9
Delaware		3.7
Alabama		3.6
Iowa		3.6
Montana		3.6
Maryland		3.5
Utah		3.5
Idaho		3.4
Nebraska		3.4
New Hampshire		3.4
North Dakota		3.3
Vermont		3.3
Virginia		3.3
Wyoming		3.2
Florida		3.0
South Dakota		3.0
Hawaii		2.8

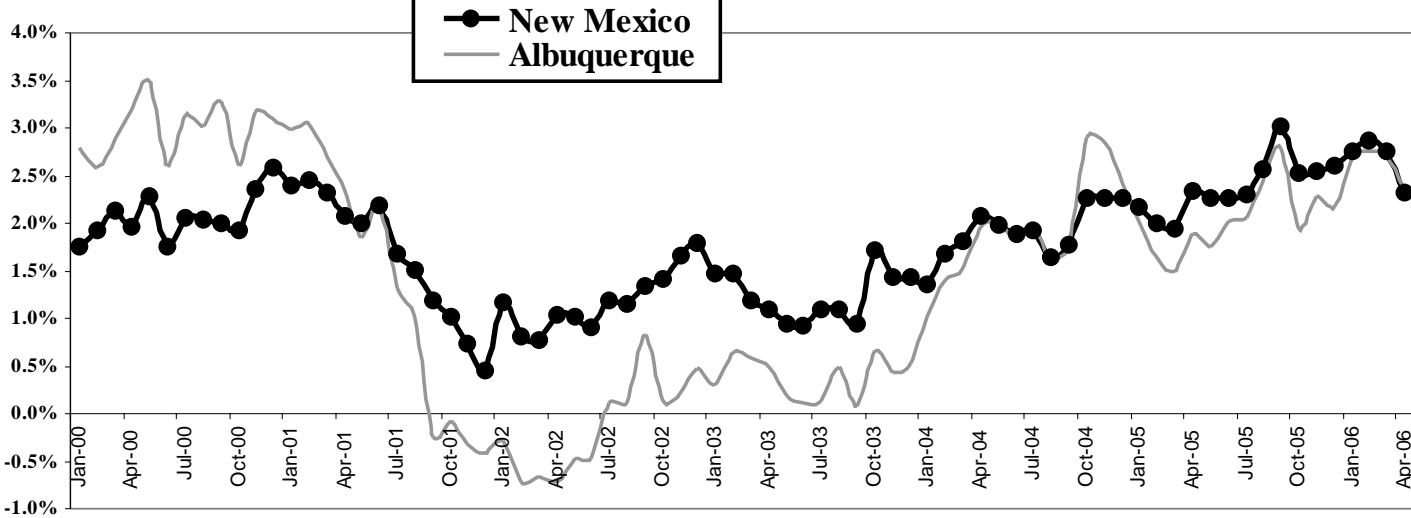
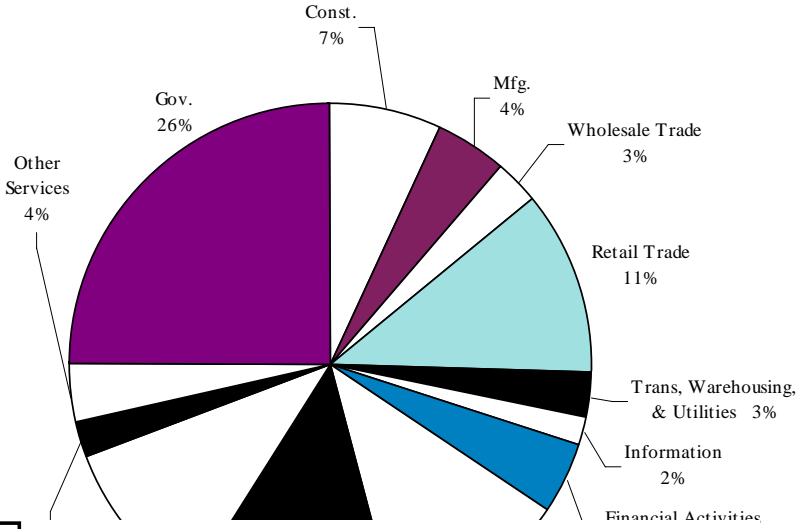
Revised		April 2005
State	Rank	Rate
Michigan		6.9
Mississippi		6.9
District of Columbia		6.7
Alaska		6.6
South Carolina		6.5
Oregon		6.3
Illinois		5.9
Kentucky		5.9
Ohio		5.9
Tennessee		5.6
Washington		5.6
Missouri		5.5
California		5.4
New Mexico		5.4
Colorado		5.3
Texas		5.3
Georgia		5.2
Indiana		5.2
Louisiana		5.2
North Carolina		5.2
Kansas		5.1
United States		5.1
New York		5.0
Pennsylvania		5.0
Rhode Island		5.0
Arkansas		4.9
Connecticut		4.9
Maine		4.8
Massachusetts		4.8
West Virginia		4.8
Arizona		4.7
Iowa		4.6
Wisconsin		4.6
Oklahoma		4.4
Utah		4.4
New Jersey		4.3
Maryland		4.1
Montana		4.1
Nevada		4.1
Alabama		4.0
Delaware		4.0
Idaho		4.0
Minnesota		4.0
Florida		3.9
South Dakota		3.9
Nebraska		3.8
New Hampshire		3.6
Virginia		3.5
North Dakota		3.4
Wyoming		3.4
Vermont		3.3
Hawaii		2.8

New Mexico Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Annual Growth Rates by Industry



NAICS Industries



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary	Revised	Revised	Change	
	Apr-06	Mar-06	Apr-05	Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	825,800	821,100	807,100	4,700	18,700
GOODS PRODUCING	112,400	111,000	104,500	1,400	7,900
SERVICES-PROVIDING	713,400	710,100	702,600	3,300	10,800
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	18,400	18,200	16,200	200	2,200
<i>Oil & Gas Extraction, Well Drilling</i>	<i>14,100</i>	<i>13,900</i>	<i>12,100</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>2,000</i>
<i>Mining, Except Oil and Gas</i>	<i>4,100</i>	<i>4,000</i>	<i>3,900</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>200</i>
CONSTRUCTION	57,200	56,200	52,700	1,000	4,500
Construction of Buildings	16,200	15,700	14,800	500	1,400
<i>Residential Building Construction</i>	<i>9,700</i>	<i>9,100</i>	<i>8,300</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>1,400</i>
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	9,400	9,100	8,500	300	900
Specialty Trade Contractors	31,600	31,400	29,400	200	2,200
MANUFACTURING	36,800	36,600	35,600	200	1,200
Durable Goods	25,900	25,800	25,100	100	800
<i>Computer and Electronic Products</i>	<i>10,600</i>	<i>10,600</i>	<i>10,100</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>500</i>
<i>Semiconductor and Other Electronics</i>	<i>7,200</i>	<i>7,200</i>	<i>6,800</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>400</i>
Non-Durable Goods	10,900	10,800	10,500	100	400
WHOLESALE TRADE	23,000	22,900	22,600	100	400
RETAIL TRADE	93,300	93,200	92,200	100	1,100
<i>Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers</i>	<i>13,100</i>	<i>13,100</i>	<i>13,200</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-100</i>
<i>Food and Beverage Stores</i>	<i>12,500</i>	<i>12,600</i>	<i>12,400</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>General Merchandise Stores</i>	<i>20,800</i>	<i>21,000</i>	<i>20,200</i>	<i>-200</i>	<i>600</i>
<i>Department Stores</i>	<i>6,300</i>	<i>6,500</i>	<i>6,300</i>	<i>-200</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Other General Merchandise Stores</i>	<i>14,500</i>	<i>14,500</i>	<i>13,900</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>600</i>
<i>Miscellaneous Store Retailers</i>	<i>6,600</i>	<i>6,600</i>	<i>6,700</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-100</i>
<i>Nonstore Retailers</i>	<i>2,600</i>	<i>2,600</i>	<i>2,600</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	23,400	23,300	23,100	100	300
Utilities	4,000	4,000	3,900	0	100
Transportation and Warehousing	19,400	19,300	19,200	100	200
<i>Truck Transportation</i>	<i>6,800</i>	<i>6,700</i>	<i>6,800</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>0</i>
INFORMATION	14,800	15,000	15,200	-200	-400
<i>Telecommunications</i>	<i>5,800</i>	<i>5,900</i>	<i>6,000</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>-200</i>
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	35,300	35,200	34,700	100	600
Finance and Insurance	24,500	24,400	24,200	100	300
<i>Credit Intermediation and Related Activities</i>	<i>13,900</i>	<i>13,800</i>	<i>13,400</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>500</i>
<i>Insurance Carriers and Related Activities</i>	<i>8,900</i>	<i>8,800</i>	<i>9,100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>-200</i>
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,800	10,800	10,500	0	300
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	93,600	92,800	92,800	800	800
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	43,500	43,600	43,200	-100	300
<i>Architectural, Engineering, and Related</i>	<i>10,500</i>	<i>10,500</i>	<i>10,400</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Scientific Research and Development</i>	<i>14,000</i>	<i>14,100</i>	<i>13,800</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>200</i>
Management of Companies and Enterprises	5,600	5,600	5,700	0	-100
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services	44,500	43,600	43,900	900	600
<i>Employment Services</i>	<i>16,300</i>	<i>15,900</i>	<i>16,400</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>-100</i>
<i>Business Support Services</i>	<i>6,600</i>	<i>6,800</i>	<i>6,300</i>	<i>-200</i>	<i>300</i>
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	109,400	109,000	105,600	400	3,800
Educational Services	14,500	14,500	14,300	0	200
Health Care and Social Assistance	94,900	94,500	91,300	400	3,600
Ambulatory Health Care Services	39,600	39,600	37,900	0	1,700
<i>Offices of Physicians</i>	<i>11,000</i>	<i>11,000</i>	<i>10,400</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>600</i>
<i>Outpatient Care Centers</i>	<i>8,000</i>	<i>8,000</i>	<i>8,100</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-100</i>
<i>Home Health Care Services</i>	<i>8,900</i>	<i>8,800</i>	<i>8,100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>800</i>
Hospitals	21,200	21,100	20,000	100	1,200
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	13,500	13,400	13,600	100	-100
<i>Nursing Care Facilities</i>	<i>6,800</i>	<i>6,900</i>	<i>7,200</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>-400</i>
Social Assistance	20,600	20,400	19,800	200	800
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	84,300	82,800	84,100	1,500	200
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8,000	7,900	8,100	100	-100
Accommodation and Food Services	76,300	74,900	76,000	1,400	300
Accommodation	13,700	13,600	13,800	100	-100
Food Services and Drinking Places	62,600	61,300	62,200	1,300	400
<i>Full-Service Restaurants</i>	<i>28,300</i>	<i>28,300</i>	<i>28,300</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Limited-Service Eating Places</i>	<i>27,700</i>	<i>26,800</i>	<i>27,400</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>300</i>
OTHER SERVICES	29,100	28,800	28,600	300	500
<i>Repair and Maintenance</i>	<i>8,200</i>	<i>8,200</i>	<i>7,900</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>300</i>
GOVERNMENT	207,200	207,100	203,700	100	3,500
Federal Government	30,400	30,100	29,700	300	700
State Government 2/	71,000	71,300	70,300	-300	700
<i>State Government Education</i>	<i>29,300</i>	<i>29,300</i>	<i>29,200</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>100</i>
Local Government	105,800	105,700	103,700	100	2,100
<i>Local Government Education</i>	<i>59,500</i>	<i>59,700</i>	<i>58,300</i>	<i>-200</i>	<i>1,200</i>

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which includes the 12th day of the month.

2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory, federally funded state programs, state supported universities, and the three branches of government.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

ALBUQUERQUE	Preliminary Apr-06	Revised Mar-06	Revised Apr-05	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	385,500	383,100	376,600	2,400	8,900
GOODS PRODUCING	53,600	52,900	50,500	700	3,100
SERVICES-PROVIDING	331,900	330,200	326,100	1,700	5,800
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING & CONSTRUCTION	30,200	29,600	27,800	600	2,400
<i>Specialty Trade Contractors</i>	19,400	19,100	17,600	300	1,800
MANUFACTURING	23,400	23,300	22,700	100	700
<i>Computer and Electronic Products</i>	9,500	9,500	9,100	0	400
<i>Semiconductor and Other Electronics</i>	6,900	6,900	6,600	0	300
WHOLESALE TRADE	13,100	13,100	12,900	0	200
RETAIL TRADE	44,000	44,000	42,900	0	1,100
<i>Food and Beverage Stores</i>	5,100	5,100	4,800	0	300
<i>General Merchandise Stores</i>	8,600	8,600	8,300	0	300
<i>Department Stores</i>	3,200	3,400	3,100	-200	100
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	10,500	10,500	10,300	0	200
INFORMATION	8,800	8,800	8,700	0	100
<i>Telecommunications</i>	4,100	4,100	4,300	0	-200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	19,400	19,400	19,200	0	200
<i>Finance and Insurance</i>	13,800	13,800	13,800	0	0
<i>Credit Intermediation and Related Activities</i>	6,600	6,600	6,400	0	200
<i>Depository Credit Intermediation</i>	4,600	4,600	4,400	0	200
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	60,600	60,500	60,600	100	0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	29,700	29,600	29,400	100	300
<i>Scientific Research and Development</i>	12,600	12,600	12,200	0	400
Management of Companies and Enterprises	3,700	3,700	3,900	0	-200
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services	27,200	27,200	27,300	0	-100
<i>Employment Services</i>	11,000	11,000	11,800	0	-800
<i>Business Support Services</i>	4,600	4,700	4,300	-100	300
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	47,800	47,700	46,500	100	1,300
<i>Health Care and Social Assistance</i>	41,900	41,700	40,400	200	1,500
<i>Ambulatory Health Care Services</i>	20,300	20,200	19,400	100	900
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	37,500	36,100	36,800	1,400	700
<i>Food Services and Drinking Places</i>	28,400	28,100	28,200	300	200
<i>Full-Service Restaurants</i>	12,900	12,800	12,700	100	200
OTHER SERVICES	12,000	11,900	11,800	100	200
GOVERNMENT	78,200	78,200	76,400	0	1,800
Federal Government	14,500	14,500	14,000	0	500
State Government 2/	25,900	25,800	25,200	100	700
Local Government	37,800	37,900	37,200	-100	600

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month.

2/ Includes employees of federally funded state programs, state supported universities, and the three branches of state government.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

LAS CRUCES MSA	Preliminary Apr-06	Revised Mar-06	Revised Apr-05	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	67,700	67,300	65,000	400	2,700
GOODS PRODUCING	7,900	7,800	7,400	100	500
SERVICE PRODUCING	59,800	59,500	57,600	300	2,200
NATURAL RESOURCES MINING & CONSTRUCTION	4,600	4,500	4,200	100	400
MANUFACTURING	3,300	3,300	3,200	0	100
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,300	1,200	1,100	100	200
RETAIL TRADE	7,100	7,100	6,900	0	200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	0
INFORMATION	1,200	1,200	1,100	0	100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,500	2,400	2,400	100	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,700	5,600	5,500	100	200
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	10,400	10,400	9,700	0	700
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	6,800	6,800	6,600	0	200
OTHER SERVICES	1,600	1,600	1,500	0	100
GOVERNMENT	21,500	21,500	21,100	0	400
Federal	3,600	3,600	3,500	0	100
State	9,100	9,200	9,000	-100	100
Local	8,800	8,700	8,600	100	200

SANTA FE MSA	Preliminary Apr-06	Revised Mar-06	Revised Apr-05	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	63,200	62,500	62,500	700	700
GOODS PRODUCING	5,500	5,400	5,500	100	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	57,700	57,100	57,000	600	700
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION	4,400	4,300	4,300	100	100
MANUFACTURING	1,100	1,100	1,200	0	-100
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	8,400	8,300	8,500	100	-100
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	700	700	700	0	0
INFORMATION	1,300	1,200	1,200	100	100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,900	2,900	2,800	0	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,400	5,400	5,500	0	-100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	9,000	8,900	8,800	100	200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	9,200	9,000	9,100	200	100
OTHER SERVICES	2,900	2,800	2,800	100	100
GOVERNMENT	16,800	16,800	16,500	0	300
Federal	1,100	1,100	1,200	0	-100
State 2/	8,200	8,300	8,100	-100	100
Local	7,500	7,400	7,200	100	300

FARMINGTON MSA	Preliminary Apr-06	Revised Mar-06	Revised Apr-05	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	50,000	49,800	49,100	200	900
TOTAL PRIVATE	38,700	38,500	37,700	200	1,000
GOODS PRODUCING	10,900	10,900	10,300	0	600
SERVICE PRODUCING	39,100	38,900	38,800	200	300
PRIVATE SERVICE PRODUCING	27,800	27,600	27,400	200	400
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION	9,300	9,300	8,600	0	700
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	10,500	10,400	10,400	100	100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	5,700	5,700	5,500	0	200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	4,900	4,800	5,100	100	-200
GOVERNMENT	11,300	11,300	11,400	0	-100
Federal	1,500	1,500	1,700	0	-200
State	500	500	500	0	0
Local	9,300	9,300	9,200	0	100

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month.

2/ Includes employees of federally funded state programs, state supported universities, and the three branches of state government.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

- Seasonally Adjusted -

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Apr-06	Revised Mar-06	Monthly Change
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	824,800	824,300	500
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	18,400	18,200	200
CONSTRUCTION	57,700	58,000	-300
MANUFACTURING	37,300	37,400	-100
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	141,100	141,300	-200
INFORMATION <i>(Not Seasonally Adjusted)</i>	14,800	15,000	-200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	35,300	35,300	0
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	94,100	93,600	500
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	107,500	107,600	-100
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	84,700	84,400	300
OTHER SERVICES	29,800	29,500	300
GOVERNMENT	204,100	204,000	100

1/ Total includes the Information sector, which is not seasonally adjusted.

Average Hours and Earnings

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Apr 06	Mar 06	Apr 05	Apr 06	Mar 06	Apr 05	Apr 06	Mar 06	Apr 05
NEW MEXICO									
NATURAL RES. & MINING	\$799.27	\$797.09	\$769.08	43.7	43.7	43.5	\$18.29	\$18.24	\$17.68
CONSTRUCTION	\$629.24	\$635.61	\$614.99	39.8	39.8	39.6	\$15.81	\$15.97	\$15.53
MANUFACTURING	\$545.61	\$548.02	\$531.16	39.0	39.2	39.2	\$13.99	\$13.98	\$13.55
WHOLESALE TRADE	\$517.50	\$522.00	\$519.13	34.5	34.8	35.1	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$14.79
RETAIL TRADE	\$359.82	\$354.88	\$348.35	32.3	32.0	31.9	\$11.14	\$11.09	\$10.92
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	\$498.42	\$497.72	\$492.39	35.1	35.1	35.5	\$14.20	\$14.18	\$13.87
ALBUQUERQUE MSA									
MANUFACTURING	\$631.47	\$638.39	\$621.73	39.1	39.8	39.3	\$16.15	\$16.04	\$15.82

Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

U.S. Consumer Price Index

	Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100			PERCENT CHANGE	
	Apr 06	Mar 06	Apr 05	Month to Month	Year to Year
CPI-U	201.5	199.8	194.6	0.9%	3.5%
CPI-W	197.2	195.3	190.2	1.0%	3.7%

*CPI-U - All Urban Consumers

*CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers - Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Mexico Area Economic Activity

(SOURCES: Published articles, government documents, private and public sector news releases and reports from local New Mexico Department of Labor Workforce Centers. In most cases, no attempt is made to verify accuracy of information.)

Statewide:

The New Mexico Job Training Incentive Program awarded \$1,228,090 in funds to create 193 jobs in Bernalillo, Otero, and Mora counties. The April board meeting was held in Mora and included proposals from seven companies representing the breadth of New Mexico's business. Albuquerque's **Rudolph Technologies**, makers of semiconductor metrology and inspection equipment, will receive \$198,079 to create 11 jobs. **Nanopore, Inc.**, makers of cold temperature packaging, was awarded \$44,212 for 15 jobs in Albuquerque. **Sunbaked Biscuits**, makers of sandwich creams, fig bars, and snack crackers, will create 50 jobs in Alamogordo with the \$147,170 they will receive. **Tapetes de Lana**, from Mora, are hand-weavers of woolen goods and wool processors and spinners. They will add 10 jobs and received an award of \$37,608. **MPS, Inc.** from Albuquerque, makers of bath and body products for people and pets, received \$32,948 to add four jobs. **Eclipse Aviation**, manufacturers of next-generation aircraft, got \$613,970 to add 90 jobs. Albuquerque's **Exagen Diagnostics**, creators of diagnostic kits that detect breast cancer and hepatitis C, will hire 13 people and was granted \$154,103.

A three-year **trade agreement between the US and Mexico** may ease the shortage of cement that has plagued New Mexico builders since last year. The agreement reduces the tariff on Mexican cement from \$26 a ton to \$3 a ton starting in April. US-made cement had been in short supply due to a boom in construction, and the shortage was exacerbated by the demand for cement needed to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.

Albuquerque Area, Bernalillo County:

The Albuquerque **GE Consumer Finance** call center at 4580 Paradise Blvd. NW will close by June as part on a companywide cutback. The 165 employees laid off as a result of the closure will be offered assistance with job searches and placement. The center has transferred about 100 of its jobs to a Florida call center.

The Albuquerque City Council approved a \$25 million industrial revenue bond issuance for **Advent Solar**. The company is building a 74,000-square-foot plant to manufacture solar panels in the Mesa del Sol development, and says it will hire between 80 to 90 New Mexicans by the end of this year. By 2010 the company plans to have a workforce of about 1,000 workers.

Italy's largest homeopathic medicine company, **GUNA Inc.**, has selected Albuquerque for its North American headquarters. The company has located offices in the Skyview Center at Indian School and Tramway Blvd. GUNA will initially hire about 15 people.

Verizon Wireless is planning on moving its inbound customer care call center to Coors and Central on Albuquerque's West Side. The operation will move into a building that was originally started as a Kmart store, but construction stopped in 2002 before the building was completed. Verizon will complete the building and move its 500 employees into the facility by the end of the summer. Verizon is also planning a major expansion of its Albuquerque operations and plans to ramp up to about 1,400 job in the local area.

Raton Area, Colfax County:

A shortage of coal prompted **Raton Public Service Company** to plan layoffs and paid leave for most of the 13 staff members at the company's electric power plant. The paid leave would run through April 28 and then layoffs would occur. Unless a coal supplier can be located, the plant will be placed in a "cold standby" mode until coal is available again. Other electric producers will supply all of Raton's electric power needs until the plant is brought back on line.

Las Cruces Area, Doña Ana County:

Two Mesilla Valley Mall stores have recently gone out of business. The mall's **Sam Goodie** music store and the **Suncoast Movie Company**, both owned by Musicland Holding Corporation from Minnesota, began closing sales in March as part of Musicland's Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Other New Mexico Sam Goodie's and Suncoast Movie Company stores have not been identified as closing. The Mesilla Valley Mall stores each had about five employees.

Carlsbad Area, Eddy County:

The Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office is remodeling and adding staff. Thanks to the \$12.3 billion energy bill passed by Congress last year, 23 more people will be added to the Carlsbad office. The additional staff includes petroleum technicians, natural resources specialists, and legal and realty examiners.

Silver City Area, Grant County:

Teleperformance USA's Silver City call center began taking incoming customer phone calls in early March. The center's managers were pleased with the call center's startup and said it was one of the smoothest that the company has had. The center currently has about 200 employees and is expected to ultimately be staffed with a workforce of about 500. Teleperformance operates 16 call centers in the United States.

Hobbs Area, Lea County:



Construction of a \$4.5 million, 4-story **Comfort Suites** hotel is planned to start this spring. The new hotel will be built on Lovington Highway just south of Millen Drive and should open around this fall. The hotel will have 175 rooms, a pool, sauna and meeting space.

Deming Area, Luna County:



The world's largest solar power farm with enough power for 240,000 homes could be coming to Deming. **New Solar Ventures** and another start-up company, **Solar Torx**, both based in Phoenix, are planning a solar farm and a factory to make photovoltaic panels for the farm. The solar panels would be spread out over 3,200 acres near Deming and would be able to generate about 300 megawatts of electricity while the sun shines. The New Mexico State Land Office agreed to lease the first 640 acres for the project in the first of several phases of leases. The total could climb to 3,200 acres, but one state official said that much expansion will be sticky as federal as well as state land is involved. "If this is built, it would be the biggest solar farm in the United States by an order of 60," said Noah Kaye, spokesman for the Washington-based Solar Energy Industries Association.

Alamogordo Area, Otero County:



Quizno's Subs opened its first Alamogordo location in April. The new restaurant will be located at 3181 N White Sands Blvd. and will employ between 13 to 20 people. Quizno's has a total of 22 stores in New Mexico.

Rio Rancho Area, Sandoval County:



Global Entertainment Corp. will manage the \$45 million, 160,000 square-foot arena and event center going up in Rio Rancho off Unser Boulevard and Paseo del Volcan. The company expects to have 15 full-time employees at salaries ranging from \$25,000 to \$65,000 annually. The center is scheduled to open in mid-October and host its first New Mexico Scorpions hockey game on October 20.

Presbyterian Medical Group is weighing the medical needs of Rio Rancho and planning to build the City's first full-service hospital in the next couple of years. The new hospital will probably be constructed on a 14-acre site at High Resort Boulevard and NM 528.

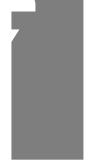
Farmington Area, San Juan County:



Independent Mobility Systems, a manufacturer of wheelchair-accessible minivan conversions, closed its Farmington plant on Piedras Street in mid-March and is moving production to a plant in Indiana. About 55 workers have been laid off as part of the first round of the closure. Another 45 Farmington IMS workers will be laid off by September 1.

ConocoPhillips has decided to keep open the San Juan Basin headquarters in Farmington that they will get with their proposed acquisition of Burlington Resources. Full details about the company's staffing plans have not been released, but locals are relieved to know that the office will remain open.

Santa Fe Area, Santa Fe County:



It took eleven years after its purchase by the City of Santa Fe, but the downtown Santa Fe **Railyard project** is now under construction. The long-anticipated project offers a downtown location for the creation of a twelve-acre park and plaza area, as well as a permanent structure for the Santa Fe Farmer's Market, retail shops, a multiplex movie theater, a microbrewery and a bowling alley. Construction and final development of the 50-acre project are expected to take several years.



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