

New Mexico Labor Market Report

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HIGHLIGHTS — December 2004

...The over-the-year rate of job growth in New Mexico has remained above two percent for seven consecutive months, which aligns the state close to what is typical for job growth over the long run. The state has added 16,300 jobs since last year. We remain one of the fastest growing states in the nation for employment.

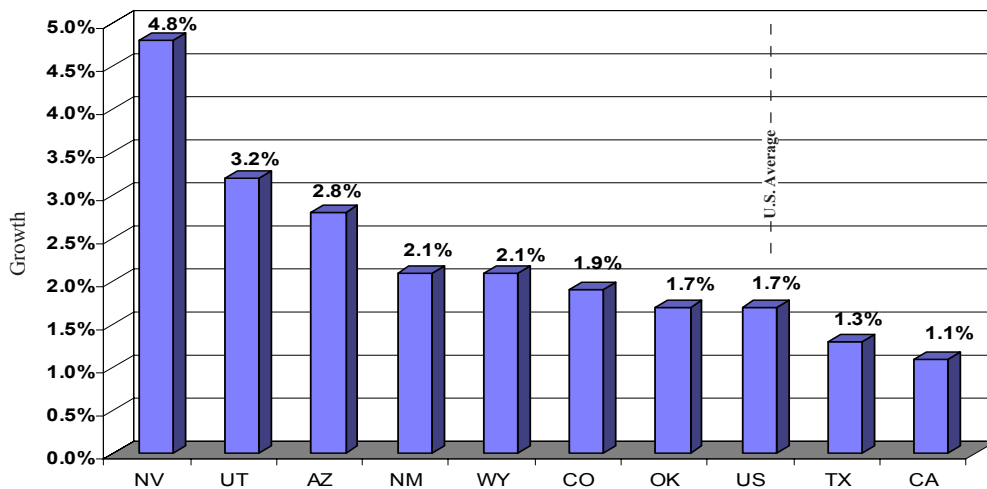
...In the Albuquerque MSA, eight of the 12 industry divisions have expanded since last December, resulting in a net increase of 8,200 jobs or 2.2 percent.

...The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces MSA was 3.2 percent comparing December 2004 with the same month a year ago.

...Over-the-year job growth for the Santa Fe MSA was 1.5 percent, adding 1,200 jobs. The rate of job growth in Santa Fe has been below the statewide average since April this year.

Current Regional Nonfarm Employment Growth

December 2004 over December 2003 - Not Seasonally Adjusted



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New Mexico Labor Force and Payroll Employment

New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.2 percent in December 2004, up slightly from November's rate, but unchanged from October. The state's unemployment rate has trended downward since peaking in July 2003. A year ago New Mexico's unemployment rate was 6.4 percent. Nationally the unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in December 2004, which continues to be higher than New Mexico's rate.

The over-the-year rate of job growth in New Mexico has remained above two percent for seven consecutive months, which aligns the state close to what is typical for job growth over the long run. The December 2004 year-ago comparison was 2.1 percent higher, meaning that the state has added 16,300 jobs since last year. We remain one of the fastest growing states in the nation for employment.

Overall there have been few recent surprises, either good or bad. The worst of the job losses appear to be behind us. Fortunately the recent Qwest call center closure at the end of November affected fewer people than the larger scale layoffs we saw last year with other firms. Also most industries in the state are continuing to perform the way they have for most of the year. Mining and construction are both strong industries due to price-driven demand for their product. Most other industries continue to do moderately well, except for the information industry, which has seen very hard times. In overall terms the state is enjoying moderate job growth in most key industries.

The mining and construction industries continue to grow faster than any others in the state, growing in the six to seven percent range over the year. This translates into an additional 3,400 jobs in construction, but only 900 jobs in the much smaller mining industry. The mining industry continues to do well from sustained higher prices for oil and natural gas. Higher prices justify the investment in equipment and new exploration that is needed for expansion. Other types of mining in New Mexico are also showing improvement. Construction has added jobs mostly due to sustained higher demand for new homes in an environment of interest rates that still remain very low by historical standards.

The educational and health services industry continues to add jobs at a fairly strong pace, despite some recent moderation. This industry is so large that the 3.1 percent growth rate translates into 3,200 jobs, more than any other industry in the state, except construction. Many health services components have added a significant number of jobs. Some recent slowing of this industry's earlier rapid growth has been due to a number of factors including the *home health care services* component reaching a plateau level,

having almost tripled in size since 2000 due to changes in state Medicaid policy. Job growth abruptly ended and this component remains down 200 jobs over the year. Social assistance employment also failed to add any new jobs, which is a big contrast to the rapid growth earlier this year. Other components continue to increase at a moderate rate, maintaining the overall industry's vitality. Private educational services posted gains of 300 jobs.

The professional and business services industry continues to do well, posting a 2,800-job gain over the year. Prospects for this industry have improved, following three difficult years. The employment services component has gathered strength as a sign that the rest of the economy is improving, growing 3.6 percent. Business support services has increased 26.5 percent, adding 1,300 jobs. Also employment in professional, scientific and technical organizations, such as defense research contractors, has increased recently.

Financial activities employment has added 1,000 jobs, gaining in all categories including real estate, which has benefited from the booming housing market. The leisure and hospitality industry has grown at a rate of 2.8 percent, adding 2,200 jobs due to expanding employment in food services and drinking places, especially at full-service restaurants. Another sign of general improvement in the state's job market can be seen in retail trade, which has added 1,500 jobs since last year. Wholesale trade employment, however, remains unchanged from last year's employment level.

Manufacturing jobs have been the recent success story in the state. Following three and a half years of relentless job losses, we have started to add jobs again, up 300 jobs from a year ago. These modest gains follow the loss of more than 6,000 manufacturing jobs since December 2000. Nationally manufacturing jobs have also started to come back following even worse declines than we had in New Mexico.

Government employment has increased 2,300 jobs since last year, growing 1.1 percent. The new government jobs were in state and local government, with federal government jobs down 400 on the year. The local government category includes about 18,500 jobs under the umbrella of various Indian tribal governments, with about 9,000 of those jobs working at tribally owned casinos.

The information industry continues to do poorly, but should have reached bottom following a series of job losses. Information employment was down 2,100 jobs on the year, almost all of them in the telecommunications component of the industry. The MCI call center closure was followed, a month ago, by the closure of the Qwest call center in Albuquerque.

New Mexico Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec 2004	Nov 2004	Dec 2003	Nov 2004	Dec 2003
Civilian Labor Force	912,300	910,200	903,400	+2,100	+8,900
Employment	864,800	863,900	845,500	+900	+19,300
Unemployment	47,500	46,300	57,900	+1,200	-10,400
Rate	5.2%	5.1%	6.4%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	4.8%	5.0%	5.9%		

Albuquerque MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Bernalillo, Sandoval & Valencia Counties)

The Albuquerque MSA seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in December, up slightly from 4.6 percent in November. Unemployment has fallen a full percentage point from last December's rate of 5.7 percent.

Payroll employment in the Albuquerque MSA rose 1,600 (0.4 percent) in December, with seasonal increases in retail trade accounting for half of the growth. Other industries with substantial job gains in December included government (up 600), professional and business services (up 500), and financial activities (up 200). Construction experienced a seasonal decline of 200 with the onset of cold winter weather. Leisure and hospitality also lost 200 jobs, which is typical for this time of year. The six remaining industries saw little, if any, change over the month.

Since last December, eight of the 12 industry divisions have expanded, resulting in a net increase of 8,200 jobs or 2.2 percent. The strongest growth was in construction, with an increase of 5.7 percent. This industry has been doing very well for the last year and a half, thanks to low interest rates that have driven up the demand for new homes. Most of the activity has been in Rio Rancho and on Albuquerque's west side, where several large housing developments are currently underway.

Over-the-year growth in educational and health services remained at 5.0 percent for the third straight month, adding 2,200 jobs over the year. Private education accounted for only 200 of the new jobs; all the rest were in health care and social assistance. Strong growth in the health care industry is related to the aging of the baby boomer population and has been seen all across the country. The main problem this industry is likely to face over the next few years is finding enough employees to meet the burgeoning demand for services.

Professional and business services gained 2,000 new jobs for growth of 3.5 percent. Much of the increase came from administrative and support services, including temporary help agencies. Scientific research and development contributed 600 jobs, largely due to growth at Sandia National Laboratory and its many contractors.

Retail trade employment has picked up steam in the last few months following a period of weakness. Over-the-year growth was 3.0 percent in December, which translates into 1,300 new jobs. Most components have added jobs, but a few especially stand out. Among these are general merchandise stores and home improvement stores, along with the unpublished categories of motor vehicle dealers and sporting goods stores. The one business that has not shared in the recent expansion is food stores, which have been struggling for quite some time. Food store employment was flat over the year and has lost 1,500 jobs since 1996.

Government employment rose 2,100, largely due to increases in state and local educational institutions, as well as in state-run medical facilities like UNM Hospital. Government growth of 2.9 percent was slightly higher than the private sector's growth rate (2.1 percent) but accounted for only a quarter of the total number of new jobs. Growth in tribally owned enterprises has moderated but will pick up next year when Sandia Pueblo opens its new casino hotel.

Leisure and hospitality netted 800 new jobs, thanks to strong over-the-year growth in food services. Both full-service and fast food restaurants contributed to the increase. At 2.3 percent, growth in this industry has remained solid, though a bit slower than last year's average increase of 3.2 percent.

Manufacturing has cut its over-the-year losses to just 200 and is poised to begin adding jobs once again. This industry is beginning to emerge from a four-year slump, during which 5,400 jobs were lost, into a future that is bright with promise. The most exciting development on the horizon is the impending expansion of aircraft manufacturing in the Albuquerque MSA. Several companies are planning to relocate to the area and are expected to bring with them a large number of high-paying jobs. Another important development for the industry is the 2006 opening of a mattress manufacturing plant that will employ up to 300.

The only industry that is still reporting significant job losses is information, down 1,400 over the year. Long-standing struggles in the telecommunication industry, culminating in the closure of the MCI call center last July, are largely responsible for the decline. Wholesale trade is on a gradual downward slope, having lost 200 jobs over the year and 1,300 in the last 10 years.

Albuquerque Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec 2004	Nov 2004	Dec 2003	Nov 2004	Dec 2003
Civilian Labor Force	399,000	403,200	392,900	-4,200	+6,100
Employment	380,100	384,800	370,700	-4,700	+9,400
Unemployment	18,900	18,400	22,200	+500	-3,300
Rate	4.7%	4.6%	5.7%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	4.2%	4.5%	5.0%		

Las Cruces MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Doña Ana County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Las Cruces MSA was 6.4 percent in December 2004, up from November's rate of 5.9 percent. A year ago the area's unemployment rate was 8.0 percent.

The Las Cruces area lost 200 jobs in December 2004, which is a fairly typical reduction for this time of year. A small increase in retail trade employment was offset by an equal reduction in wholesale trade. The seasonal loss of 200 jobs was in state government at the end of the semester for New Mexico State University. All other industry segments remained at the same employment levels as the previous month.

The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces area was 3.2 percent comparing December 2004 with the same month a year ago. The Las Cruces area has added 2,000 jobs over the year. This rate of job growth is consistent with recent trends in the local job market, which have generally been in the moderate range.

A number of industry groups have added a significant number of jobs within the county. Manufacturing employment continues to do well, adding 9.4 percent to its manufacturing job base. Most of the 300 new jobs are at the Santa Teresa Industrial Park.

Financial activities did well to add 200 jobs, which is likely due to strength in the real estate component of the industry. Also adding 200 jobs, growing 5.4 percent, the construction industry continues to do well. The boom has come from low interest rates, which made housing more affordable to consumers.

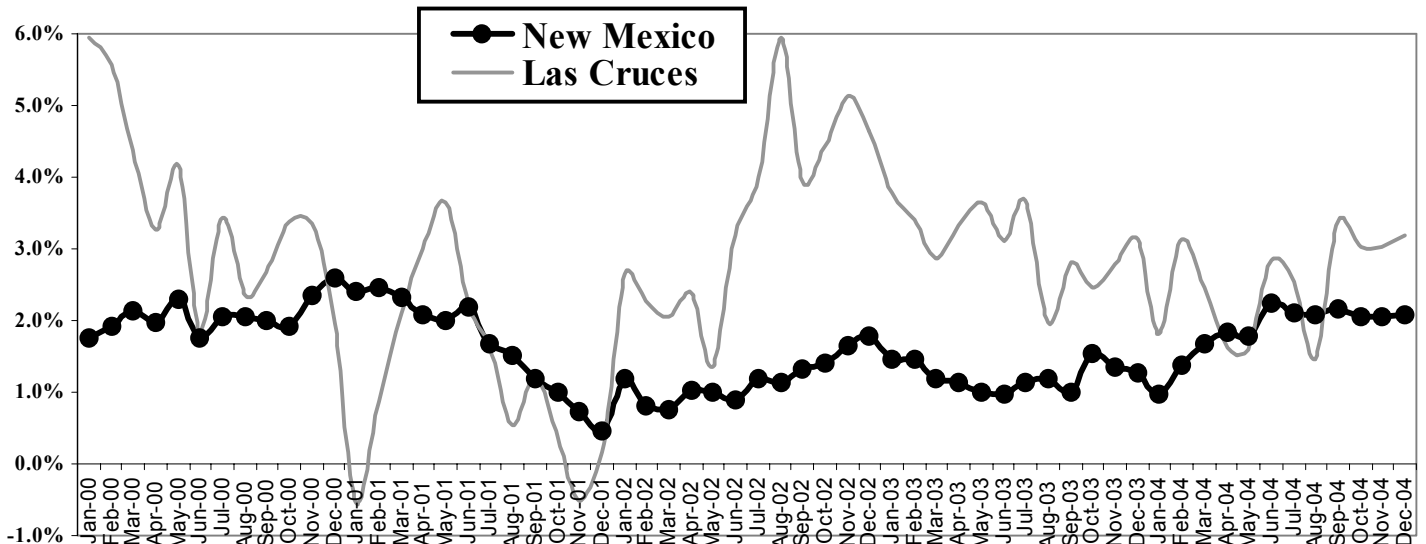
Retail trade added 200 jobs, increasing 2.8 percent from a year ago. The educational and health services industry added 300 jobs, all of them in the private education component. This is better performance than the overall industry has shown for a while, but still constrained compared to earlier years. The health services component has seen fierce competition between rival hospitals that overheated the industry for a while until employment settled at lower but more sustainable levels.

The large government sector added 700 jobs, growing 3.4 percent. State government added 400 jobs and local government added 300 jobs. No increase was reported for the area's federal government workforce. Another 100 new jobs were added to the leisure and hospitality industry, mostly working at local eating and drinking establishments. Wholesale trade employment grew by 100 jobs, increasing 10.0 percent from a relatively small employment base. The transportation, warehousing and utilities industry gained 100 jobs, growing 6.2 percent.

Two private industries still have reduced employment compared to a year ago. Both the information industry and professional and business services were down 100 workers each. The professional and business services industry was hard hit by the loss of the Excell call center at the end of last year. Information employment has suffered in most areas of the state due to weakness in the telecommunications segment.

Las Cruces Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec 2004	Nov 2004	Dec 2003	Nov 2004	Dec 2003
Civilian Labor Force	81,100	81,000	79,600	+100	+1,500
Employment	75,900	76,200	73,200	-300	+2,700
Unemployment	5,200	4,800	6,400	+400	-1,200
Rate	6.4%	5.9%	8.0%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	5.8%	5.4%	7.2%		

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Las Cruces



Santa Fe MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Santa Fe & Los Alamos Counties)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Santa Fe MSA was 3.2 percent in December 2004, up a fraction from November's rate of 3.1 percent. A year ago, the area had a higher unemployment rate of 3.7 percent.

The Santa Fe area added 200 jobs in December 2004, following a similar 200-job gain in November. December's gain came from the combined effect of four industries each adding a number of jobs and three industries losing 100 jobs each. Employment gains were made in leisure and hospitality, retail trade, professional and business services, and state government. Job reducing industries were construction, private education, and the miscellaneous *other services* category.

Over-the-year job growth for the Santa Fe area was 1.5 percent, adding 1,200 jobs. The rate of job growth in Santa Fe has been below the statewide average since April this year. Seven industries have added jobs, three remain at last year's employment levels, and two industries have declined. There are few signs of real strength or weakness in the local economy, but rather a trend of slow sustained growth.

Santa Fe's large government sector has added more jobs than any individual private industry, gaining 500 jobs this year, a 1.8 percent increase. Federal government employment lost

100 jobs but state government added 300 jobs, and local government also added 300 jobs. Employment at Los Alamos National Laboratory is included in state government because the University of California runs the facility.

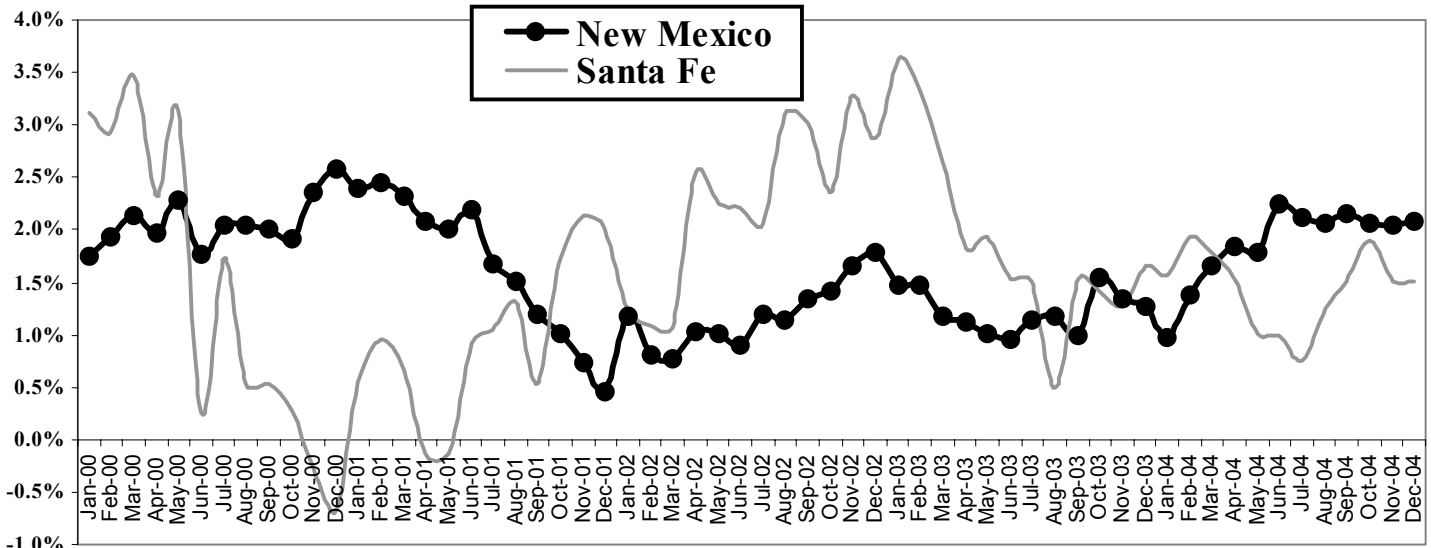
The professional and business services industry has added 200 jobs since last year. Educational and health services also added 200 jobs in the *health care and social assistance* component. Private education remained at last year's level.

Retail trade added 200 jobs, growing 2.2 percent over the year, consistent with growth in other parts of the state. Leisure and hospitality employment was up by 100 jobs due to great strength in food services and drinking places. Financial activities added 100 jobs, growing 2.9 percent. Another 100 jobs were added to the miscellaneous *other services* industry.

Both the information and wholesale trade industries each posted a loss of 100 jobs over the year. All other industries remain at last year's employment levels. These industries were manufacturing, construction, and transportation, warehousing & utilities. The absence of any employment gains in the construction industry makes the Santa Fe area a rare exception to the housing boom elsewhere in the state.

Santa Fe Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec 2004	Nov 2004	Dec 2003	Nov 2004	Dec 2003
Civilian Labor Force	84,800	84,800	83,000	0	+1,800
Employment	82,100	82,200	79,900	-100	+2,200
Unemployment	2,700	2,600	3,100	+100	-400
Rate	3.2%	3.1%	3.7%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	2.9%	3.0%	3.4%		

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Santa Fe



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

	Civilian Labor Force	Employ- ment	Un- Employ- ment	Rate %	Unadj. Rate %	
1984	628,000	581,000	47,000	7.5%		
1985	644,000	587,000	57,000	8.9%		
1986	678,000	616,000	62,000	9.1%		
1987	682,000	622,000	60,000	8.8%		
1988	689,000	635,000	54,000	7.8%		
1989	697,000	651,000	46,000	6.6%		
1990	708,400	662,300	46,100	6.5%		
1991	728,500	676,500	52,000	7.1%		
1992	744,400	692,000	52,400	7.0%		
1993	761,100	702,500	58,600	7.7%		
1994	781,500	732,500	49,000	6.3%		
1995	797,000	747,000	50,000	6.3%		
1996	806,900	741,900	65,000	8.1%		
1997	825,900	774,300	51,600	6.2%		
1998	845,100	792,900	52,200	6.2%		
1999	824,300	778,000	46,300	5.6%		
2000	854,100	811,800	42,300	5.0%		
2001	860,100	818,500	41,600	4.8%		
2002	875,300	827,600	47,700	5.4%		
2003	896,900	839,700	57,200	6.4%		
2003	JAN	888,100	835,200	52,900	6.0%	6.1%
	FEB	888,400	835,800	52,600	5.9%	5.8%
	MAR	890,400	836,000	54,400	6.1%	5.9%
	APR	892,400	837,000	55,400	6.2%	5.9%
	MAY	894,400	837,700	56,700	6.3%	6.3%
	JUN	898,400	838,500	59,900	6.7%	7.6%
	JUL	900,300	839,900	60,400	6.7%	7.1%
	AUG	900,300	840,800	59,500	6.6%	6.6%
	SEP	900,700	841,200	59,500	6.6%	6.5%
	OCT	902,700	843,800	58,900	6.5%	6.3%
	NOV	903,000	844,700	58,300	6.5%	6.2%
	DEC	903,400	845,500	57,900	6.4%	5.9%
2004	JAN	897,200	846,200	51,000	5.7%	5.8%
	FEB	898,000	847,700	50,300	5.6%	5.5%
	MAR	901,100	850,600	50,500	5.6%	5.4%
	APR	903,600	853,400	50,200	5.6%	5.3%
	MAY	905,500	856,400	49,100	5.4%	5.3%
	JUN	906,400	857,100	49,300	5.4%	6.4%
	JUL	905,700	857,300	48,400	5.3%	5.8%
	AUG	910,900	861,700	49,200	5.4%	5.4%
	SEP	910,600	861,700	48,900	5.4%	5.4%
	OCT	912,000	864,300	47,700	5.2%	5.1%
	NOV	910,200	863,900	46,300	5.1%	5.0%
	DEC	912,300	864,800	47,500	5.2%	4.8%
# CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	2,100	900	1,200	0.1%	-0.2%
	Year Ago	8,900	19,300	-10,400	-1.2%	-1.1%
	2 Yrs. Ago	26,900	30,600	-3,700	0.5%	-0.5%
	3 Yrs. Ago	49,700	47,100	2,600	0.5%	0.1%
% CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	0.2%	0.1%	2.6%		
	Year Ago	1.0%	2.3%	-18.0%		
	2 Yrs. Ago	3.0%	3.7%	-7.2%		
	3 Yrs. Ago	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%		

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

State	Rank	December 2003	December 2004	Change	% Change
Nevada	1	1,115.3	1,169.0	53.7	4.8%
Hawaii	2	581.1	599.8	18.7	3.2%
Utah	3	1,094.6	1,129.7	35.1	3.2%
Idaho	4	576.3	593.9	17.6	3.1%
Arizona	5	2,348.9	2,413.5	64.6	2.8%
Washington	6	2,686.4	2,751.3	64.9	2.4%
Florida	7	7,440.2	7,612.6	172.4	2.3%
DC	8	418.6	428.2	9.6	2.3%
Wisconsin	9	2,793.9	2,857.1	63.2	2.3%
Virginia	10	3,547.5	3,626.9	79.4	2.2%
Maryland	11	2,513.0	2,568.6	55.6	2.2%
Oregon	12	1,581.7	1,616.5	34.8	2.2%
New Mexico	13	786.1	802.4	16.3	2.1%
Wyoming	14	251.0	256.2	5.2	2.1%
North Carolina	15	3,827.1	3,902.6	75.5	2.0%
Kansas	16	1,324.3	1,349.8	25.5	1.9%
New Jersey	17	4,036.4	4,112.6	76.2	1.9%
Colorado	18	2,167.1	2,207.7	40.6	1.9%
Missouri	19	2,700.1	2,747.3	47.2	1.7%
Oklahoma	20	1,454.3	1,478.9	24.6	1.7%
West Virginia	21	728.5	740.6	12.1	1.7%
United States		130,862.0	133,027.0	2,165.0	1.7%
Montana	22	402.5	409.1	6.6	1.6%
New Hampshire	23	627.6	637.3	9.7	1.5%
South Carolina	24	1,823.7	1,851.5	27.8	1.5%
Texas	25	9,441.8	9,567.2	125.4	1.3%
Pennsylvania	26	5,632.0	5,702.4	70.4	1.2%
Delaware	27	669.2	677.4	8.2	1.2%
Georgia	28	3,899.8	3,943.9	44.1	1.1%
Alabama	29	1,886.1	1,907.2	21.1	1.1%
California	30	14,541.6	14,694.5	152.9	1.1%
Maine	31	612.6	618.9	6.3	1.0%
Vermont	32	304.9	308.0	3.1	1.0%
Alaska	33	290.2	292.8	2.6	0.9%
Nebraska	34	909.5	917.5	8.0	0.9%
Minnesota	35	2,670.7	2,693.7	23.0	0.9%
Iowa	36	1,456.4	1,468.7	12.3	0.8%
Rhode Island	37	491.9	496.0	4.1	0.8%
Kentucky	38	1,802.9	1,817.2	14.3	0.8%
New York	39	8,527.3	8,586.3	59.0	0.7%
Arkansas	40	1,153.5	1,161.2	7.7	0.7%
Mississippi	41	1,125.9	1,133.4	7.5	0.7%
North Dakota	42	336.6	338.5	1.9	0.6%
Indiana	43	2,928.4	2,943.9	15.5	0.5%
Tennessee	44	2,709.4	2,722.9	13.5	0.5%
Connecticut	45	1,660.9	1,669.0	8.1	0.5%
South Dakota	46	380.1	381.8	1.7	0.4%
Louisiana	47	1,917.5	1,923.1	5.6	0.3%
Illinois	48	5,869.2	5,881.5	12.3	0.2%
Massachusetts	49	3,201.7	3,207.9	6.2	0.2%
Ohio	50	5,424.2	5,415.4	-8.8	-0.2%
Michigan	51	4,428.9	4,381.0	-47.9	-1.1%

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

Employment numbers are not seasonally adjusted.

Employment numbers are in thousands.

New Mexico Labor Force Estimates – Not Seasonally Adjusted 1/

	PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 2004				REVISED NOVEMBER 2004				Absolute Change			Percent Change		
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.
STATEWIDE	910,502	867,011	43,491	4.8%	914,394	869,041	45,353	5.0%	-3,892	-2,030	-1,862	-0.4%	-0.2%	-4.1%
Albuquerque MSA 2/	399,007	382,281	16,726	4.2%	400,820	382,960	17,860	4.5%	-1,813	-679	-1,134	-0.5%	-0.2%	-6.3%
Bernalillo	320,151	307,069	13,082	4.1%	321,605	307,614	13,991	4.4%	-1,454	-545	-909	-0.5%	-0.2%	-6.5%
Sandoval	47,681	45,472	2,209	4.6%	47,890	45,553	2,337	4.9%	-209	-81	-128	-0.4%	-0.2%	-5.5%
Valencia	31,175	29,740	1,435	4.6%	31,326	29,793	1,533	4.9%	-151	-53	-98	-0.5%	-0.2%	-6.4%
Las Cruces MSA 3/	80,649	75,979	4,670	5.8%	81,298	76,909	4,389	5.4%	-649	-930	281	-0.8%	-1.2%	6.4%
Santa Fe MSA 4/	84,069	81,659	2,410	2.9%	83,962	81,448	2,514	3.0%	107	211	-104	0.1%	0.3%	-4.1%
Los Alamos	10,723	10,614	109	1.0%	10,727	10,586	141	1.3%	-4	28	-32	0.0%	0.3%	-22.7%
Santa Fe	73,346	71,045	2,301	3.1%	73,235	70,862	2,373	3.2%	111	183	-72	0.2%	0.3%	-3.0%
Catron	1,110	1,018	92	8.3%	1,120	1,034	86	7.7%	-10	-16	6	-0.9%	-1.5%	7.0%
Chaves	25,364	23,846	1,518	6.0%	25,493	23,837	1,656	6.5%	-129	9	-138	-0.5%	0.0%	-8.3%
Cibola	14,426	13,808	618	4.3%	14,492	13,829	663	4.6%	-66	-21	-45	-0.5%	-0.2%	-6.8%
Colfax	6,654	6,319	335	5.0%	6,494	6,151	343	5.3%	160	168	-8	2.5%	2.7%	-2.3%
Curry	21,485	20,776	709	3.3%	21,447	20,714	733	3.4%	38	62	-24	0.2%	0.3%	-3.3%
De Baca	951	896	55	5.8%	958	903	55	5.7%	-7	-7	0	-0.7%	-0.8%	0.0%
Eddy	23,824	22,846	978	4.1%	23,941	22,825	1,116	4.7%	-117	21	-138	-0.5%	0.1%	-12.4%
Grant	11,984	11,223	761	6.4%	11,975	11,150	825	6.9%	9	73	-64	0.1%	0.7%	-7.8%
Guadalupe	1,704	1,583	121	7.1%	1,700	1,593	107	6.3%	4	-10	14	0.2%	-0.6%	13.1%
Harding	473	455	18	3.8%	474	454	20	4.2%	-1	1	-2	-0.2%	0.2%	-10.0%
Hidalgo	1,770	1,658	112	6.3%	1,996	1,863	133	6.7%	-226	-205	-21	-11.3%	-11.0%	-15.8%
Lea	26,766	25,922	844	3.2%	26,790	25,867	923	3.4%	-24	55	-79	-0.1%	0.2%	-8.6%
Lincoln	8,889	8,551	338	3.8%	8,886	8,549	337	3.8%	3	2	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Luna	11,811	9,596	2,215	18.8%	12,637	10,567	2,070	16.4%	-826	-971	145	-6.5%	-9.2%	7.0%
McKinley	27,638	25,655	1,983	7.2%	27,549	25,470	2,079	7.5%	89	185	-96	0.3%	0.7%	-4.6%
Mora	2,032	1,714	318	15.6%	2,036	1,721	315	15.5%	-4	-7	3	-0.2%	-0.4%	1.0%
Otero	22,104	21,191	913	4.1%	21,935	20,878	1,057	4.8%	169	313	-144	0.8%	1.5%	-13.6%
Quay	3,954	3,772	182	4.6%	3,980	3,814	166	4.2%	-26	-42	16	-0.7%	-1.1%	9.6%
Rio Arriba	22,605	21,113	1,492	6.6%	22,708	21,120	1,588	7.0%	-103	-7	-96	-0.5%	0.0%	-6.0%
Roosevelt	8,620	8,410	210	2.4%	8,800	8,587	213	2.4%	-180	-177	-3	-2.0%	-2.1%	-1.4%
San Juan	52,511	49,655	2,856	5.4%	52,963	50,039	2,924	5.5%	-452	-384	-68	-0.9%	-0.8%	-2.3%
San Miguel	13,804	12,962	842	6.1%	13,875	13,016	859	6.2%	-71	-54	-17	-0.5%	-0.4%	-2.0%
Sierra	4,205	4,006	199	4.7%	4,403	4,224	179	4.1%	-198	-218	20	-4.5%	-5.2%	11.2%
Socorro	7,472	7,132	340	4.6%	7,492	7,145	347	4.6%	-20	-13	-7	-0.3%	-0.2%	-2.0%
Taos	14,701	13,486	1,215	8.3%	14,254	12,887	1,367	9.6%	447	599	-152	3.1%	4.6%	-11.1%
Torrance	7,851	7,474	377	4.8%	7,869	7,491	378	4.8%	-18	-17	-1	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.3%
Union	2,068	2,024	44	2.1%	2,048	1,999	49	2.4%	20	25	-5	1.0%	1.3%	-10.2%

	PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 2004				REVISED DECEMBER 2003				Absolute Change			Percent Change		
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.
STATEWIDE	910,502	867,011	43,491	4.8%	901,015	847,874	53,141	5.9%	9,487	19,137	-9,650	1.1%	2.3%	-18.2%
Albuquerque MSA 2/	399,007	382,281	16,726	4.2%	392,896	373,286	19,610	5.0%	6,111	8,995	-2,884	1.6%	2.4%	-14.7%
Bernalillo	320,151	307,069	13,082	4.1%	315,152	299,843	15,309	4.9%	4,999	7,226	-2,227	1.6%	2.4%	-14.5%
Sandoval	47,681	45,472	2,209	4.6%	46,963	44,402	2,561	5.5%	718	1,070	-352	1.5%	2.4%	-13.7%
Valencia	31,175	29,740	1,435	4.6%	30,780	29,040	1,740	5.7%	395	700	-305	1.3%	2.4%	-17.5%
Las Cruces MSA 3/	80,649	75,979	4,670	5.8%	79,094	73,428	5,666	7.2%	1,555	2,551	-996	2.0%	3.5%	-17.6%
Santa Fe MSA 4/	84,069	81,659	2,410	2.9%	82,308	79,480	2,828	3.4%	1,761	2,179	-418	2.1%	2.7%	-14.8%
Los Alamos	10,723	10,614	109	1.0%	10,523	10,330	193	1.8%	200	284	-84	1.9%	2.7%	-43.5%
Santa Fe	73,346	71,045	2,301	3.1%	71,785	69,150	2,635	3.7%	1,561	1,895	-334	2.2%	2.7%	-12.7%
Catron	1,110	1,018	92	8.3%	1,114	1,001	113	10.1%	-4	17	-21	-0.4%	1.7%	-18.6%
Chaves	25,364	23,846	1,518	6.0%	25,903	23,728	2,175	8.4%	-539	118	-657	-2.1%	0.5%	-30.2%
Cibola	14,426	13,808	618	4.3%	14,169	13,457	712	5.0%	257	351	-94	1.8%	2.6%	-13.2%
Colfax	6,654	6,319	335	5.0%	6,748	6,326	422	6.3%	-94	-7	-87	-1.4%	-0.1%	-20.6%
Curry	21,485	20,776	709	3.3%	21,318	20,501	817	3.8%	167	275	-108	0.8%	1.3%	-13.2%
De Baca	951	896	55	5.8%	960	870	90	9.4%	-9	26	-35	-0.9%	3.0%	-38.9%
Eddy	23,824	22,846	978	4.1%	24,058	22,594	1,464	6.1%	-234	252	-486	-1.0%	1.1%	-33.2%
Grant	11,984	11,223	761	6.4%	12,574	10,923	1,651	13.1%	-590	300	-890	-4.7%	2.7%	-53.9%
Guadalupe	1,704	1,583	121	7.1%	1,694	1,570	124	7.3%	10	13	-3	0.6%	0.8%	-2.4%
Harding	473	455	18	3.8%	476	453	23	4.8%	-3	2	-5	-0.6%	0.4%	-21.7%
Hidalgo	1,770	1,658	112	6.3%	1,749	1,631	118	6.7%	21	27	-6	1.2%	1.7%	-5.1%
Lea	26,766	25,922	844	3.2%	26,263	25,156	1,107	4.2%	503	766	-263	1.9%	3.0%	-23.8%
Lincoln	8,889	8,551	338	3.8%	8,773	8,410	363	4.1%	116	141	-25	1.3%	1.7%	-6.9%
Luna	11,811	9,596	2,215	18.8%	11,957	9,459	2,498	20.9%	-146	137	-283	-1.2%	1.4%	-11.3%
McKinley	27,638	25,655	1,983	7.2%	27,545	25,381	2,164	7.9%	93	274	-181	0.3%	1.1%	-8.4%
Mora	2,032	1,714	318	15.6%	2,017	1,709	308	15.3%	15	5	10	0.7%	0.3%	3.2%
Otero	22,104	21,191	913	4.1%	21,887	20,658	1,229	5.6%	217	533	-316	1.0%	2.6%	-25.7%
Quay	3,954	3,772	182	4.6%	3,920	3,680	240	6.1%	34	92	-58	0.9%	2.5%	-24.2%
Rio Arriba	22,605	21,113	1,492	6.6%	22,433	20,727	1,706	7.6%	172	386	-214	0.8%	1.9%	-12.5%
Roosevelt	8,620	8,410	210	2.4%	8,558	8,306	252	2.9%	62	104	-42	0.7%	1.3%	-16.7%
San Juan	52,511	49,655	2,856	5.4%	52,461	48,564	3,897	7.4%	50	1,091	-1,041	0.1%	2.2%	-26.7%
San Miguel	13,804	12,962	842	6.1%	13,849	12,924	925	6.7%	-45	38	-83	-0.3%	0.3%	-9.0%
Sierra	4,205	4,006	199	4.7%	4,192	3,969	223	5.3%	13	37	-24	0.3%	0.9%	-10.8%
Socorro	7,472	7,132	340	4.6%	7,465	7,036	429	5.7%	7	96	-89	0.1%	1.4%	-20.7%
Taos	14,701	13,486	1,215	8.3%	14,833	13,312	1,521	10.3%	-132	174	-306	-0.9%	1.3%	-20.1%
Torrance	7,851	7,474	377	4.8%	7,719	7,322	397	5.1%	132	152	-20	1.7%	2.1%	-5.0%
Union	2,068	2,024	44	2.1%	2,085	2,014	71	3.4%	-17	10	-27	-0.8%	0.5%	-38.0%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo, Sandoval & Valencia Counties

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

Unemployment Rates in New Mexico (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 2004		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	18.8%
MORA	2	15.6%
CATRON	3	8.3%
TAOS	4	8.3%
MCKINLEY	5	7.2%
GUADALUPE	6	7.1%
RIO ARRIBA	7	6.6%
GRANT	8	6.4%
HIDALGO	9	6.3%
SAN MIGUEL	10	6.1%
CHAVES	11	6.0%
DE BACA	12	5.8%
LAS CRUCES MSA 2/	13	5.8%
SAN JUAN	14	5.4%
COLFAX	15	5.0%
STATEWIDE		4.8%
TORRANCE	16	4.8%
SIERRA	17	4.7%
QUAY	18	4.6%
SOCORRO	19	4.6%
CIBOLA	20	4.3%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	21	4.2%
EDDY	22	4.1%
OTERO	23	4.1%
HARDING	24	3.8%
LINCOLN	25	3.8%
CURRY	26	3.3%
LEA	27	3.2%
SANTA FE MSA 3/	28	2.9%
ROOSEVELT	29	2.4%
UNION	30	2.1%

REVISED NOVEMBER 2004		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	16.4%
MORA	2	15.5%
TAOS	3	9.6%
CATRON	4	7.7%
MCKINLEY	5	7.5%
RIO ARRIBA	6	7.0%
GRANT	7	6.9%
HIDALGO	8	6.7%
CHAVES	9	6.5%
GUADALUPE	10	6.3%
SAN MIGUEL	11	6.2%
DE BACA	12	5.7%
SAN JUAN	13	5.5%
LAS CRUCES MSA 2/	14	5.4%
COLFAX	15	5.3%
STATEWIDE		5.0%
OTERO	16	4.8%
TORRANCE	17	4.8%
EDDY	18	4.7%
CIBOLA	19	4.6%
SOCORRO	20	4.6%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	21	4.5%
HARDING	22	4.2%
QUAY	23	4.2%
SIERRA	24	4.1%
LINCOLN	25	3.8%
CURRY	26	3.4%
LEA	27	3.4%
SANTA FE MSA 3/	28	3.0%
ROOSEVELT	29	2.4%
UNION	30	2.4%

REVISED DECEMBER 2003		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	20.9%
MORA	2	15.3%
GRANT	3	13.1%
TAOS	4	10.3%
CATRON	5	10.1%
DE BACA	6	9.4%
CHAVES	7	8.4%
MCKINLEY	8	7.9%
RIO ARRIBA	9	7.6%
SAN JUAN	10	7.4%
GUADALUPE	11	7.3%
LAS CRUCES MSA 2/	12	7.2%
HIDALGO	13	6.7%
SAN MIGUEL	14	6.7%
COLFAX	15	6.3%
QUAY	16	6.1%
EDDY	17	6.1%
STATEWIDE		5.9%
SOCORRO	18	5.7%
OTERO	19	5.6%
SIERRA	20	5.3%
TORRANCE	21	5.1%
CIBOLA	22	5.0%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	23	5.0%
HARDING	24	4.8%
LEA	25	4.2%
LINCOLN	26	4.1%
CURRY	27	3.8%
SANTA FE MSA 3/	28	3.4%
UNION	29	3.4%
ROOSEVELT	30	2.9%

1/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo, Sandoval & Valencia Counties

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

Need Labor Market Information?

We have several major publications detailing New Mexico's:

- Current economic conditions and trends
- Wages by occupations and areas
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- 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)

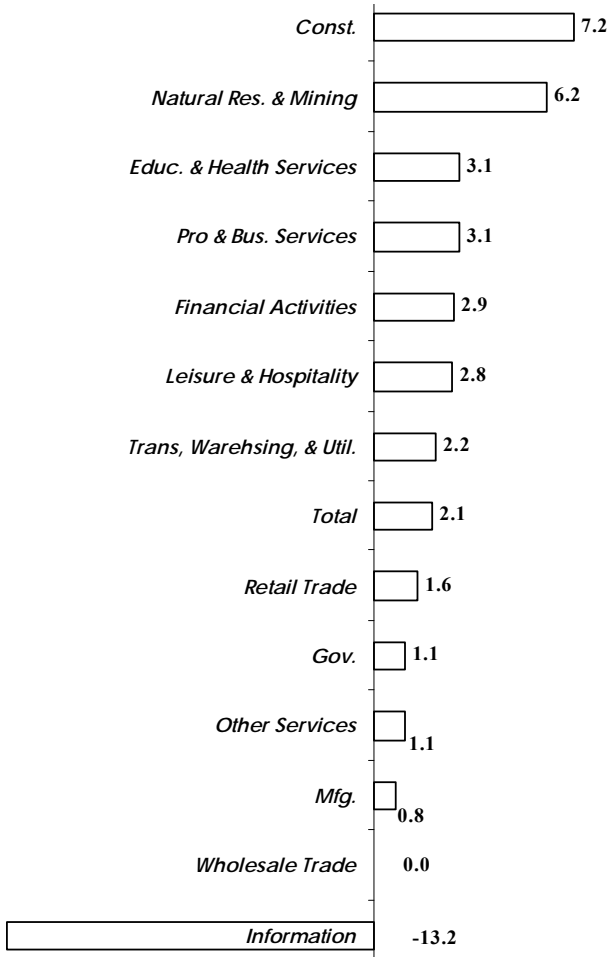
Preliminary		December
State	Rank	2004 Rate
District of Columbia	1	9.0
Alaska	2	7.3
Michigan	3	7.3
Oregon	4	6.8
South Carolina	5	6.7
Mississippi	6	6.4
Ohio	7	5.9
California	8	5.8
Illinois	9	5.8
Texas	10	5.8
Washington	11	5.8
Arkansas	12	5.6
Louisiana	13	5.6
Pennsylvania	14	5.6
Missouri	15	5.5
Alabama	16	5.4
United States		5.4
New York	17	5.3
New Mexico	18	5.2
North Carolina	19	5.2
Tennessee	20	5.2
Colorado	21	5.1
Indiana	22	5.1
West Virginia	23	4.9
Iowa	24	4.7
Maine	25	4.7
Kansas	26	4.6
Massachusetts	27	4.6
Rhode Island	28	4.6
Wisconsin	29	4.6
Florida	30	4.5
Kentucky	31	4.5
Georgia	32	4.4
Minnesota	33	4.4
Utah	34	4.4
Connecticut	35	4.3
Arizona	36	4.2
New Jersey	37	4.2
Oklahoma	38	4.2
Delaware	39	4.1
Idaho	40	4.0
Maryland	41	4.0
Nevada	42	3.8
Montana	43	3.7
Nebraska	44	3.6
Vermont	45	3.4
New Hampshire	46	3.3
South Dakota	47	3.3
Virginia	48	3.3
Wyoming	49	3.3
North Dakota	50	3.2
Hawaii	51	3.0

Revised		December
State	Rank	2003 Rate
Alaska	1	8.1
Michigan	2	7.6
Oregon	3	7.6
Washington	4	7.3
District of Columbia	5	7.0
Illinois	6	6.7
South Carolina	7	6.7
Texas	8	6.6
California	9	6.5
New Mexico	10	6.4
Arkansas	11	6.3
Louisiana	12	6.3
New York	13	6.3
North Carolina	14	6.2
Ohio	15	6.2
Kentucky	16	6.0
Tennessee	17	6.0
Colorado	18	5.9
Massachusetts	19	5.9
Alabama	20	5.8
United States		5.7
Mississippi	21	5.6
New Jersey	22	5.6
Oklahoma	23	5.6
West Virginia	24	5.6
Connecticut	25	5.5
Kansas	26	5.4
Missouri	27	5.4
Wisconsin	28	5.4
Utah	29	5.3
Maine	30	5.2
Minnesota	31	5.2
Pennsylvania	32	5.2
Indiana	33	5.1
Rhode Island	34	5.1
Arizona	35	5.0
Idaho	36	5.0
Florida	37	4.9
Montana	38	4.8
Nevada	39	4.7
Vermont	40	4.7
Iowa	41	4.6
Maryland	42	4.6
Delaware	43	4.4
Hawaii	44	4.4
Georgia	45	4.3
Wyoming	46	4.3
New Hampshire	47	4.1
Nebraska	48	4.0
South Dakota	49	3.9
Virginia	50	3.9
North Dakota	51	3.7

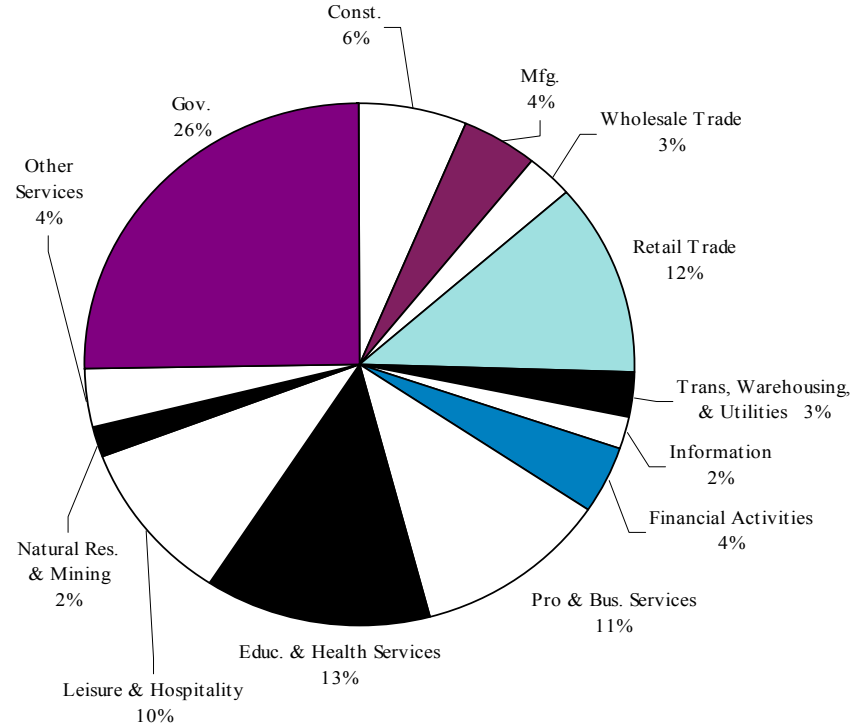
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Mexico Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

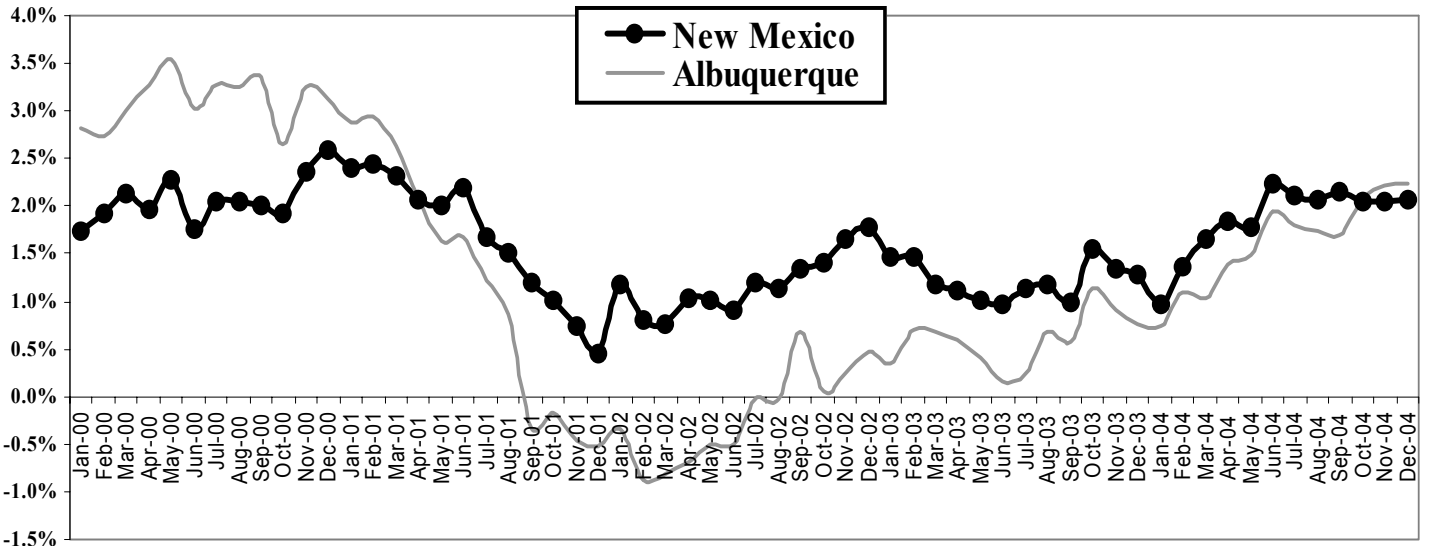
Annual Growth Rates by Industry



NAICS Industries



New Mexico and Albuquerque Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary	Revised	Revised	Change	
	Dec-04	Nov-04	Dec-03	Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	802,400	800,200	786,100	2,200	16,300
GOODS PRODUCING	101,600	102,200	97,000	-600	4,600
SERVICES-PROVIDING	700,800	698,000	689,100	2,800	11,700
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	15,400	15,300	14,500	100	900
<i>Oil & Gas Extraction, Well Drilling</i>	11,500	11,500	10,800	0	700
<i>Mining, Except Oil and Gas</i>	3,800	3,800	3,500	0	300
CONSTRUCTION	50,500	50,900	47,100	-400	3,400
Construction of Buildings	14,300	14,300	13,500	0	800
<i>Residential Building Construction</i>	8,000	8,000	7,400	0	600
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	8,200	8,400	7,800	-200	400
Specialty Trade Contractors	28,000	28,200	25,800	-200	2,200
MANUFACTURING	35,700	36,000	35,400	-300	300
Durable Goods	24,500	24,500	24,400	0	100
<i>Computer and Electronic Products</i>	10,300	10,400	10,400	-100	-100
<i>Semiconductor and Other Electronics</i>	6,900	7,000	7,100	-100	-200
Non-Durable Goods	11,200	11,500	11,000	-300	200
WHOLESALE TRADE	22,000	22,100	22,000	-100	0
RETAIL TRADE	96,400	95,000	94,900	1,400	1,500
<i>Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers</i>	12,800	12,700	12,600	100	200
<i>Food and Beverage Stores</i>	12,700	12,500	12,600	200	100
<i>General Merchandise Stores</i>	22,400	22,200	22,100	200	300
<i>Department Stores</i>	7,200	7,100	7,800	100	-600
<i>Other General Merchandise Stores</i>	15,300	15,100	14,300	200	1,000
<i>Miscellaneous Store Retailers</i>	7,200	7,100	7,200	100	0
<i>Nonstore Retailers</i>	3,200	3,100	3,000	100	200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	23,600	23,600	23,100	0	500
Utilities	3,900	3,900	4,000	0	-100
Transportation and Warehousing	19,700	19,700	19,100	0	600
<i>Truck Transportation</i>	6,700	6,700	6,500	0	200
INFORMATION	13,800	13,900	15,900	-100	-2,100
<i>Telecommunications</i>	5,800	5,900	7,700	-100	-1,900
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	35,100	34,700	34,100	400	1,000
Finance and Insurance	24,300	24,100	23,700	200	600
<i>Credit Intermediation and Related Activities</i>	12,900	12,800	12,300	100	600
<i>Insurance Carriers and Related Activities</i>	9,700	9,600	9,600	100	100
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,800	10,600	10,400	200	400
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	91,700	91,100	88,900	600	2,800
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	42,500	42,000	41,100	500	1,400
<i>Architectural, Engineering, and Related</i>	11,100	11,000	10,500	100	600
<i>Scientific Research and Development</i>	13,600	13,500	13,200	100	400

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

ALBUQUERQUE	Preliminary	Revised	Revised	Change	
	Dec-04	Nov-04	Dec-03	Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	373,900	372,300	365,700	1,600	8,200
GOODS PRODUCING	48,500	48,700	47,300	-200	1,200
SERVICES-PROVIDING	325,400	323,600	318,400	1,800	7,000
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING & CONSTRUCTION	25,800	26,000	24,400	-200	1,400
<i>Specialty Trade Contractors</i>	16,300	16,400	14,900	-100	1,400
MANUFACTURING	22,700	22,700	22,900	0	-200
<i>Computer and Electronic Products</i>	9,500	9,600	9,500	-100	0
<i>Semiconductor and Other Electronics</i>	6,500	6,600	6,600	-100	-100
WHOLESALE TRADE	12,700	12,800	12,900	-100	-200
RETAIL TRADE	45,100	44,300	43,800	800	1,300
<i>Building Material and Garden Equipment</i>	3,800	3,800	3,600	0	200
<i>Food and Beverage Stores</i>	4,800	4,700	4,800	100	0
<i>General Merchandise Stores</i>	9,500	9,300	9,200	200	300
<i>Department Stores</i>	3,700	3,600	4,100	100	-400
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	10,600	10,500	10,500	100	100
INFORMATION	8,800	8,800	10,200	0	-1,400
<i>Telecommunications</i>	4,500	4,500	5,700	0	-1,200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	19,200	19,000	19,100	200	100
<i>Finance and Insurance</i>	13,700	13,600	13,800	100	-100
<i>Credit Intermediation and Related Activities</i>	6,000	6,000	5,900	0	100
<i>Depository Credit Intermediation</i>	4,100	4,100	4,000	0	100
<i>Insurance Carriers</i>	5,000	4,900	4,900	100	100
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	59,700	59,200	57,700	500	2,000
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	29,000	28,700	28,300	300	700
<i>Scientific Research and Development</i>	12,000	11,900	11,400	100	600
Management of Companies and Enterprises	3,800	3,800	4,000	0	-200
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services	26,900	26,700	25,400	200	1,500
<i>Employment Services</i>	12,700	12,500	11,900	200	800
<i>Business Support Services</i>	3,500	3,400	3,100	100	400
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	46,200	46,200	44,000	0	2,200
<i>Health Care and Social Assistance</i>	40,700	40,500	38,700	200	2,000
<i>Ambulatory Health Care Services</i>	17,200	17,000	15,800	200	1,400
<i>Hospitals</i>	9,700	9,800	9,400	-100	300
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	35,900	36,100	35,100	-200	800
<i>Food Services and Drinking Places</i>	28,200	28,200	27,800	0	400
<i>Full-Service Restaurants</i>	13,200	13,200	12,500	0	700
OTHER SERVICES	11,700	11,800	11,700	-100	0
GOVERNMENT	75,500	74,900	73,400	600	2,100
Federal Government	14,100	13,800	13,900	300	200
State Government /2	25,300	25,100	24,500	200	800
Local Government	36,100	36,000	35,000	100	1,100

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

LAS CRUCES MSA	Preliminary Dec-04	Revised Nov-04	Revised Dec-03	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT /1	64,700	64,900	62,700	-200	2,000
GOODS PRODUCING	7,400	7,400	6,900	0	500
SERVICE PRODUCING	57,300	57,500	55,800	-200	1,500
NATURAL RESOURCES MINING & CONSTRUCTION	3,900	3,900	3,700	0	200
MANUFACTURING	3,500	3,500	3,200	0	300
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,100	1,200	1,000	-100	100
RETAIL TRADE	7,300	7,200	7,100	100	200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100
INFORMATION	1,100	1,100	1,200	0	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,400	2,400	2,200	0	200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,100	5,100	5,200	0	-100
<i>Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services</i>	2,300	2,300	2,500	0	-200
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	9,400	9,400	9,100	0	300
<i>Health Care & Social Assistance</i>	8,500	8,400	8,500	100	0
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	6,400	6,400	6,300	0	100
OTHER SERVICES	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0
GOVERNMENT	21,400	21,600	20,700	-200	700
Federal	3,600	3,600	3,600	0	0
State	9,200	9,400	8,800	-200	400
Local	8,600	8,600	8,300	0	300

SANTA FE MSA	Preliminary Dec-04	Revised Nov-04	Revised Dec-03	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT /1	81,100	80,900	79,900	200	1,200
GOODS PRODUCING	5,900	6,000	5,900	-100	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	75,200	74,900	74,000	300	1,200
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION	4,700	4,800	4,700	-100	0
MANUFACTURING	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,000	1,000	1,100	0	-100
RETAIL TRADE	9,400	9,300	9,200	100	200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	800	800	800	0	0
INFORMATION	1,000	1,000	1,100	0	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	3,600	3,600	3,500	0	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	9,300	9,200	9,100	100	200
<i>Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services</i>	4,700	4,700	4,700	0	0
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	9,500	9,600	9,300	-100	200
<i>Health Care & Social Assistance</i>	7,500	7,500	7,300	0	200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	9,400	9,200	9,300	200	100
<i>Food Service & Drinking Places</i>	6,300	6,300	5,900	0	400
OTHER SERVICES	3,300	3,400	3,200	-100	100
GOVERNMENT	27,900	27,800	27,400	100	500
Federal	1,400	1,400	1,500	0	-100
State /2	18,700	18,600	18,400	100	300
Local	7,800	7,800	7,500	0	300

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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

- Seasonally Adjusted -

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Dec-04	Revised Nov-04	Monthly Change
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	798,400	795,700	2,700
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	15,400	15,200	200
CONSTRUCTION	50,800	50,500	300
MANUFACTURING	36,300	36,300	0
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	138,400	138,400	0
INFORMATION (Not Seasonally Adjusted)	13,800	13,900	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	35,200	34,800	400
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	91,700	91,000	700
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	103,800	103,700	100
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	83,500	82,800	700
OTHER SERVICES	29,100	29,300	-200
GOVERNMENT	200,400	199,800	600

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

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

Average Hours and Earnings

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

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Dec 04	Nov 04	Dec 03	Dec 04	Nov 04	Dec 03	Dec 04	Nov 04	Dec 03
NEW MEXICO									
NATURAL RES. & MINING	\$762.10	\$752.56	\$743.47	43.9	43.4	43.2	\$17.36	\$17.34	\$17.21
CONSTRUCTION	\$599.15	\$594.94	\$604.40	39.6	39.4	40.0	\$15.13	\$15.10	\$15.11
MANUFACTURING	\$521.40	\$519.82	\$511.56	39.5	39.5	39.2	\$13.20	\$13.16	\$13.05
WHOLESALE TRADE	\$519.72	\$517.90	\$521.28	35.5	35.4	36.1	\$14.64	\$14.63	\$14.44
RETAIL TRADE	\$337.69	\$334.63	\$335.20	32.1	31.9	32.2	\$10.52	\$10.49	\$10.41
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	\$484.58	\$484.16	\$484.56	35.5	35.6	36.0	\$13.65	\$13.60	\$13.46
ALBUQUERQUE MSA									
MANUFACTURING	\$606.15	\$573.78	\$564.33	39.8	38.9	39.0	\$15.23	\$14.75	\$14.47

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	
	Dec 03	Nov 04	Dec 03	Month to Month	Year to Year
CPI-U	190.3	191.0	184.3	-0.4%	3.3%
CPI-W	186.0	186.8	179.9	-0.4%	3.4%

*CPI-U - All Urban Consumers

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

A Profile of Older Workers in New Mexico Report Now Available!

The report, *A Profile of Older Workers in New Mexico*, highlights the age composition of New Mexico's work force, job gains and losses of older workers by industry, industries in which older workers were concentrated, and job stability and earnings of older workers.

The full report can be accessed through the NMDOL website in PDF format at:
<http://www.dol.state.nm.us/pdf/LED-NM.pdf>

Or call Michelle Doran, Labor Economist, NMDOL at:
(505) 841 8999

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 from the above sources.)

Statewide:

The state's Job Training Incentive Board awarded about \$346,800 to five New Mexico companies at the December board meeting. Albuquerque's **Advent Solar** was approved for \$155,900 to train 10 employees. A proposal submitted by Native American owned **Sacred Power** was approved for \$53,480 to fund training for seven employees. **Reflective Images**, a Santa Fe gold and silver jewelry maker, will receive about \$18,640 to train three employees. Belen's **Solo Cup** was approved for \$76,850 for 24 additional employees. Funding for **Tapetes de Lana**, a nonprofit textile maker, was approved to create 10 new jobs in Las Vegas and Mora.

Two new film projects were announced in December: one a big budget film, and the other a film written by a former New Mexican. The book "**Class Action**" by Clara Bingham and Laura Leedy Gansler is the subject of a major production starring Charlize Theron, Sissy Spacek and Francis McDormand. The film will be shot in Silver City, New Mexico and Minnesota starting in March. The other film, "**First Snow**," was written by Mark Fergus and will be shot in Albuquerque starting in February.

Albuquerque Area, Bernalillo County:

Wal-Mart will build a "neighborhood market" at the intersection of Golf Course and Paso del Norte on Albuquerque's West Side. The new store will be built at the site of the unfinished Furr's Supermarket that was demolished to clear the site for new construction. The new Wal-Mart neighborhood market will be about 40,000 square feet and will stock mostly groceries. Plans to build a similar store at 98th Street and Sage have been put on hold. Most neighborhood market stores employ between 80 and 100 people.

Eclipse Aviation delivered on its promise to become airborne again before the end of 2004. The company's second test aircraft flew twice on December 31, powered by its new Pratt and Whitney Canada engines. The company remains on track to obtain FAA certification for the five-passenger Eclipse 500 aircraft by March 2006.

Roswell Area, Chaves County:

Two construction projects at the Roswell Mall are proceeding. **The Rib Crib**, on the south side of the main entrance to the mall, opened in early December. **Allen Theaters** has plans to build an eight-screen movie theater on the east side of the mall with an opening date of October 2005.

Las Cruces Area, Doña Ana County:

Westward Airways has reestablished commercial air service between Albuquerque and Las Cruces after a four-year interruption. Westward offers two roundtrip flights Sunday thru Friday and one

roundtrip flight on Saturday. The company plans to add service to Phoenix by February 1.

Bank of the West opened four new offices in the Las Cruces area in early December, with plans to open a fifth office later in the month. Bank of the West purchased Community First National Bank and is expanding its presence in New Mexico. The company now has 28 locations in the state and a total of 463 offices in 16 states.

Carlsbad Area, Eddy County:

Tentoe Inc. opened its Carlsbad office in the Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Center in mid-November. The company, which is headquartered in Pleasanton, CA, helps manufacturers distribute product and marketing information. The Tentoe office is currently staffed with 11 employees, but the success of the company's SKU Finder software package has prompted it to consider expanding the local workforce to 28 or 30 people within the next year or so. Company representatives report satisfaction with the caliber of employees available in the Carlsbad area.

Silver City Area, Grant County:

Phelps Dodge is still seeking workers for the Chino and Tyrone mining operations. Since the end of 2003, the company has grown from 380 employees at Chino and 256 at Tyrone, to 632 at Chino and 351 at Tyrone. Information about employment opportunities with Phelps Dodge can be found at www.phelpsdodge.com or by calling (480) 459-5068.

Roy Area, Harding County:

A new fabrication facility to build metal shelters used at many of New Mexico's rest stops and picnic areas will be built about seven miles north of Mosquero. Barbara Shaw, of the Harding County Commission office, says that the facility may also make roadside park furniture at some point in the future. Three people will be employed to start, but the figure may grow if more workers are needed.

Ruidoso Area, Lincoln County:

More than 300 workers will be needed when the **Inn of the Mountain Gods and Casino** reopens in mid-March 2005. Most of the work on the new inn and casino is completed and the finishing work is underway. The new inn will feature 273 rooms, 25 suites, and 2 presidential suites. The formal grand opening for the inn and the new 45,000-square-foot casino will be held in May.



Deming Area, Luna County:

Two new lodging facilities are under construction in Deming and will be opening in late spring or early summer. A **Comfort Inn** on Pine Street is over 50 percent complete, and a **La Quinta Inn** east of town at exit 85 is about 30 percent complete. Each of the two new inns will have about 60 rooms.



Gallup Area, McKinley County:

Georgia based **Utilicraft Aerospace Industries** has a deal to build aircraft parts in Northwest New Mexico on the Navajo Nation. The company signed a letter of intent to locate a plant at the Albuquerque Double Eagle II airport in October. The Navajo Nation and Utilicraft now have a deal in place to allow the Navajo Nation to become a 25 percent equity partner in return for a \$34 million investment in the company. As part of the deal, Utilicraft will assemble and manufacture aircraft parts on Navajo land.



Alamogordo Area, Otero County:

The **German Air Force** ended its F-4F Phantom II fighter aircraft-training mission at Holloman Air Force Base. The Germans have trained Luftwaffe pilots on the Phantom at Holloman since 1992 but are now in the process of retiring the aircraft. The plane is being replaced in German service with the Eurofighter Typhoon jet fighter. DynCorp had the contract to maintain the Phantoms at Holloman and some local contactors will probably be laid off. About 175 people will be reduced from the roughly 900 German military and civilian personnel at Holloman. The training mission for pilots flying the Panavia Tornado fighter-bombers will continue at the base.



Rio Rancho Area, Sandoval County:

Aero Mechanical Industries is moving to Rio Rancho and expects to hire 45 people in the next 10 months. The company is an FAA certified repairer and manufacturer of aircraft parts. Aero Mechanical's operation will be located in a 20,000-square-foot industrial building at the intersection of NM 528 and Rockaway Blvd. The company expects to grow to about 150 employees over the next three years. Wages are expected to average about \$35,000 per year, well above the county average of about \$25,000.



Bloomfield Area, San Juan County:

A newly built **Best Western Territorial Inn and Suites** at the intersection of U.S. 64 and U.S. 550 will offer travelers an indoor swimming pool, a hot tub, exercise facilities and a 12-person executive boardroom for meetings. The new hotel will employ about 20 workers.



Santa Fe Area, Santa Fe County:

Mesa Air Group is considering reestablishing its air service to Santa Fe that the company discontinued in September 2001. Mesa currently operates flights from Phoenix to Albuquerque and in-state round-trip flights from Albuquerque to Clovis, Silver City and Farmington. Mesa's local competitor, Great Lakes Aviation, recently announced that it would discontinue flights in-and-out of Santa Fe. Santa Fe will be without commuter air service unless Mesa returns.

The Wing Basket, a small restaurant on Cerrillos Road, is closing citing the city mandatory living wage law as partially the reason for the closure. The company had four employees in Santa Fe, but was required to pay the \$8.50 per hour minimum because it has more than 25 employees at other locations in New Mexico. A Santa Fe **Hasting, Books, Music and More** also closed recently and reported the living wage law as contributory to its decision to close.

Tesuque Pueblo, Santa Fe County:

Tesuque Pueblo's latest venture is a 5,000 square-foot combination gas station/convenience store/fast food restaurant being built on U.S. 84/285 just north of the Camel Rock Casino. The new business will have a McDonald's franchise and will feature the familiar golden arches. The business is expected to open in May or June of this year.



Socorro Area, Socorro County:

Aerojet GenCorp has said it will build a factory in Socorro to provide tooling and production-ready facilities for fire suppression systems designed to be used in Ford Motor Company's Crown Victoria Police Interceptor. The work related to tooling acquisition and production line development will take place at Aerojet's Redmond, Wash. operation where the breakthrough technology was designed. Future production is planned for Aerojet's Socorro facility, and several new jobs will be created to meet the needs of the contract. The company will be responsible for building an assembly line and preparing it for production activities at the Socorro research park.



Los Lunas Area, Valencia County:

Merillat Industries plans to break ground this spring for a \$36 million, 260,000-square-foot cabinet manufacturing plant in the Los Marros Business Park. The plant should be operational by the third quarter of 2006 and will have a staff of about 700 employees by 2007. Jobs at the plant are expected to pay between \$22,000 and \$26,000 per year.



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