

NEW MEXICO

Labor Market Report

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Volume 34, No. 12, (published - January 31, 2006)

HIGHLIGHTS — December 2005

...New Mexico's rate of over-the-year job growth was 2.2 percent in December. Jobs have been added in all 13 of the state's industries, with little evidence to be found of any under-performing industries. Overall, the state has added 17,500 jobs over the last year and we rank 10th highest for job growth among the states.

...Payroll employment in the Albuquerque MSA rose 2,100 (0.5 percent) in December, with increases reported in all but three of the 12 major industry divisions. Retail trade added 900 jobs over the month.

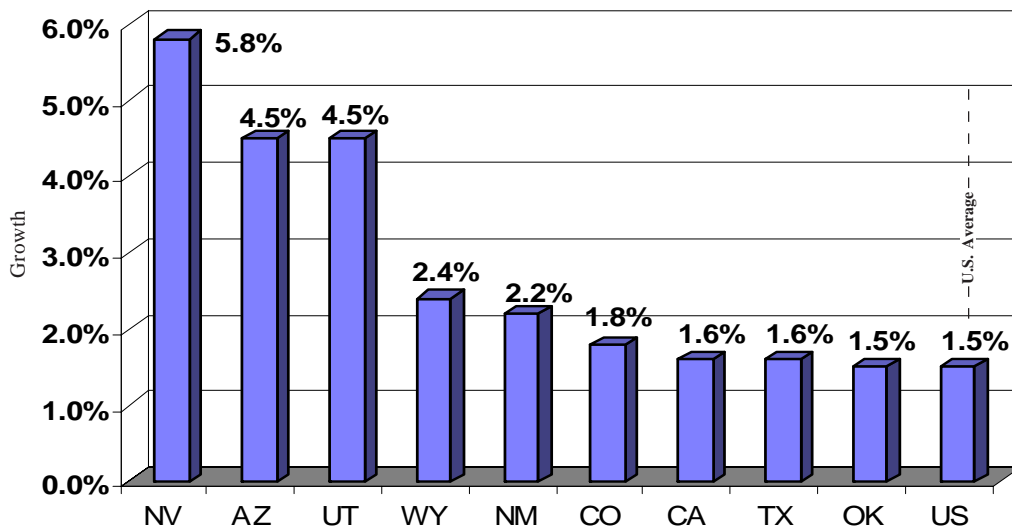
...The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces MSA was 3.8 percent, adding 2,400 jobs. This rate of job growth is much higher than the statewide average.

...Over-the-year job growth for the Santa Fe MSA was 2.5 percent, adding 1,500 jobs.

...Over the last year the Farmington MSA has added 2,100 jobs, growing 4.3 percent. This rate of job growth is stronger than in any of the state's other metropolitan areas.

Current Regional Nonfarm Employment Growth

December 2005 over December 2004 - Not Seasonally Adjusted



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New Mexico Labor Force and Payroll Employment

New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 4.8 percent in December 2005, down from 5.1 percent in November. This is the lowest the state's unemployment rate has been since the summer of 2001. A year ago New Mexico's unemployment rate was 5.6 percent. The national unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in December 2005.

New Mexico's rate of over-the-year job growth was 2.2 percent in December. Jobs have been added in all 13 of the state's industries, with little evidence to be found of any underperforming industries. Overall, the state has added 17,500 jobs over the last year and we rank 10th highest for job growth among the states.

The information industry can now be added to the list of industries that are growing more than three times the average rate. Previously the list consisted of mining and construction. The information industry has started to recover from previous losses in the telecommunications segment as well as receiving a boost from the state's film industry. This translates into gains of 1,000 jobs for the information industry, a boost of 7.1 percent from a year ago.

The mining and construction industries continue to expand at a fast pace. Over-the-year growth rates are close to ten percent. The mining boom looks set to continue for the foreseeable future because oil and natural gas prices remain high. High prices are bad news for the consumer, but good for employment in the state's oil industry and also good for state revenue collections. Prospects for the state's construction industry are less secure. Recent price increases and shortages for commodities such as steel, lumber and cement have driven building costs higher. The construction boom in the state may moderate a little, but there are still enough commercial projects in the works to keep much of the momentum going.

New Mexico's construction industry has added 3,800 jobs over the year, which are more jobs than were added by any other industry and a growth rate of 7.4 percent. All the main categories of construction employment have shown strong growth. The mining industry, even though it has added far fewer jobs than has the much larger construction industry, has been the fastest growing industry, with employment up by 10.3 percent on the year. This growth rate means 1,600 new jobs, most of them in the northwest and southeast part of the state.

Government employment increased only 1.3 percent, but this added 2,700 jobs over the year, second only to the construction industry in the number of new jobs. Federal government finally added 800 jobs, having gone through a long spell without much growth. State government job growth added 1,300 jobs from a year ago, and local government employment increased by just 600 jobs, the lowest in five years. Local government includes Indian tribes and their casinos.

Educational and health services, the state's largest private industry, had for a while been one of the main engines of growth for the state's job market, but the growth rate has moderated recently. In November, the industry was up 2.1 percent on the year, adding 2,200 jobs. The increase is now close to the average for other industries, rather than substantially higher. Peak growth for educational and health services topped out at 7,100 jobs in early 2002 and has steadily decreased since then. Slowing job growth is evident in most of the health care and social assistance categories, particularly the home health care component, which received a multi-year boost from changes to state Medicaid policy. Moderate growth in health care jobs may be with us for a while because the previous levels of job growth were at unsustainably high levels.

Retail trade employment has picked up a little, having been sluggish for most of the year. Currently retail trade shows a 1.8 percent gain on the year, increasing by 1,700 jobs. Wholesale trade made strong gains recently, adding 600 jobs over the year. Manufacturing employment made a gain of 400 jobs despite weakness in non-durable goods. The leisure and hospitality industry made gains of 0.9 percent, adding 700 jobs, with gains in eating and drinking places and also accommodation. Financial activities employment added 600 jobs, from gains that were in the real estate and finance and insurance components. The transportation, warehousing and utilities industry made gains of 200 jobs, having emerged from a nine-month period without growth. The miscellaneous *other services* category added 400 jobs, growing at one percent.

Professional & business services added 1,600 jobs, with notable strength in areas such as management of companies and enterprises, scientific research and development and business support services.

New Mexico Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec 2005	Nov 2005	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2004
Civilian Labor Force	941,300	941,700	919,500	-400	+21,800
Employment	896,200	893,200	868,400	+3,000	+27,800
Unemployment	45,100	48,500	51,100	-3,400	-6,000
Rate	4.8%	5.1%	5.6%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	4.4%	4.9%	5.1%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Albuquerque MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance & Valencia Counties)

The Albuquerque MSA seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in December, down from 4.8 percent in November. Unemployment has fallen eight tenths of a percentage point from last December's rate of 5.2 percent.

Payroll employment in the Albuquerque MSA rose 2,100 (0.5 percent) in December, with increases reported in all but three of the 12 major industry divisions. Retail trade added 900 jobs over the month, reflecting growth in temporary hiring for the holiday shopping season. The government sector grew by 400, partly due to seasonal hiring for the U.S. Postal Service. Several other industries saw gains of 100 to 200 jobs each. Leisure and hospitality was down 100, which is typical for this time of year. Two industries—wholesale trade and the miscellaneous category of *other services*—were unchanged over the month.

Since last December, expansions were seen in nine of the 12 industry divisions, resulting in a net increase of 6,500 jobs or 1.7 percent. The strongest growth was in construction, with an increase of 8.7 percent. Construction growth began accelerating in the summer of 2003 in response to a sharp decline in home mortgage rates. Although interest rates have been creeping up in recent months, a variety of current and future projects in the Albuquerque area should keep construction employment strong for some time to come. Of particular note are the rapid development of new homes on the west side of the Rio Grande and the upcoming Mesa del Sol project, which could one day house up to 90,000 people.

Educational and health services increased 2.4 percent, having slowed from growth of 6.7 percent a year ago. A surge in hiring followed last year's expansion of local hospital facilities, but employment has since begun to taper. The industry as a whole added 1,100 jobs in the last 12 months, 600 of them in health care and social assistance and the remainder in private education.

Retail trade grew 2.4 percent, with general merchandise stores accounting for nearly half of the 1,100 new jobs. The recent strengthening of retail trade employment has provided a welcome relief from lackluster growth rates in the first eight months of the year. More growth can be expected in the near future with the opening of two new "big box" operations that are currently under construction. Wholesale trade posted over-the-year growth of 2.4 percent for the second straight month, its largest increase in eight years.

Financial activities grew 1.5 percent (300 jobs), due largely to expansions in commercial banking. Growth in the non-published category of real estate also contributed to the overall increase. Leisure and hospitality posted relatively weak growth of 1.1 percent. The industry added 400 new jobs in the last 12 months, all in food services and drinking places. Most of the increase came from fast food establishments, as employment in full-service restaurants remained flat over the year.

Over-the-year growth in government employment was 0.8 percent in both November and December, the industry's smallest increase in nearly two years. Growth was limited to the state and federal branches, up 300 jobs each. Local government growth started out the year strong but has since dwindled away to nothing.

Professional and business services gained a meager 400 jobs over the year for growth of 0.7 percent. A decline in employment services, combined with slowing growth in scientific research and development, has eroded the overall health of this industry. The greatest strength was found in business support services, up 9.8 percent due to recent expansions in telephone call centers.

Manufacturing grew by 100, as the industry stands poised for expansion. Eclipse Aviation's recent decision to hire another 550 workers in the next year will do much to help this struggling industry. Additional aid will come from the upcoming opening of a mattress plant in Albuquerque and a cabinet manufacturing plant in Los Lunas.

For the first time in three and a half years, no losses were reported in the information industry. Information employment may have bottomed out following a series of hits to its telecommunications component. In the last five years, nearly 3,000 information jobs have been lost. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities held steady over the year, while employment in *other services* fell by 100.

Albuquerque	Prel.			Revised		Change From	
	Seasonally Adjusted	Dec 2005	Nov 2005	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2004	
Civilian Labor Force		404,700	405,000	395,300	-300	+9,400	
Employment		386,700	385,700	374,600	+1,000	+12,100	
Unemployment		18,000	19,400	20,600	-1,400	-2,600	
Rate		4.4%	4.8%	5.2%			
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)		4.0%	4.6%	4.7%			

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 5.1 percent in December 2005, down from the previous month when the rate was 5.5 percent. A year ago the area's unemployment rate was 6.2 percent.

During December, the Las Cruces area lost 100 jobs. State government, which includes New Mexico State University, lost 200 jobs at semester-end. In the private sector, employment increased by 100 jobs in leisure and hospitality.

The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces area was 3.8 percent comparing December 2005 with the same month a year ago. The Las Cruces area has added 2,400 jobs. This rate of job growth is much higher than the statewide average.

The educational and health services industry gained 400 jobs, increasing 4.3 percent. The health services component has enjoyed rapid growth for many years, with only a temporary pause when fierce competition between rival hospitals overheated the industry and the job count declined for a few months about a year ago. Now this industry is back adding jobs. The leisure & hospitality industry also made gains of 400 jobs over the year, growing 6.5 percent.

Retail trade gained 200 jobs from year ago levels. Construction employment also increased by 200 jobs, growing 5.0 percent. The professional & business services industry gained 200 jobs, growing 4.0 percent and making a solid contribution to overall job gains in the area after having taken away from the job total for a while when a large call center closed. Transportation, warehousing & utilities also gained 200 jobs. The information industry posted a 200-job increase now that the job losses in the telecommunications component of the industry are out of the year-ago comparison.

Wholesale trade reported employment levels that were 100 jobs higher than a year ago. A gain of 100 jobs was also reported in financial activities as well as for the miscellaneous *other services* category of employment.

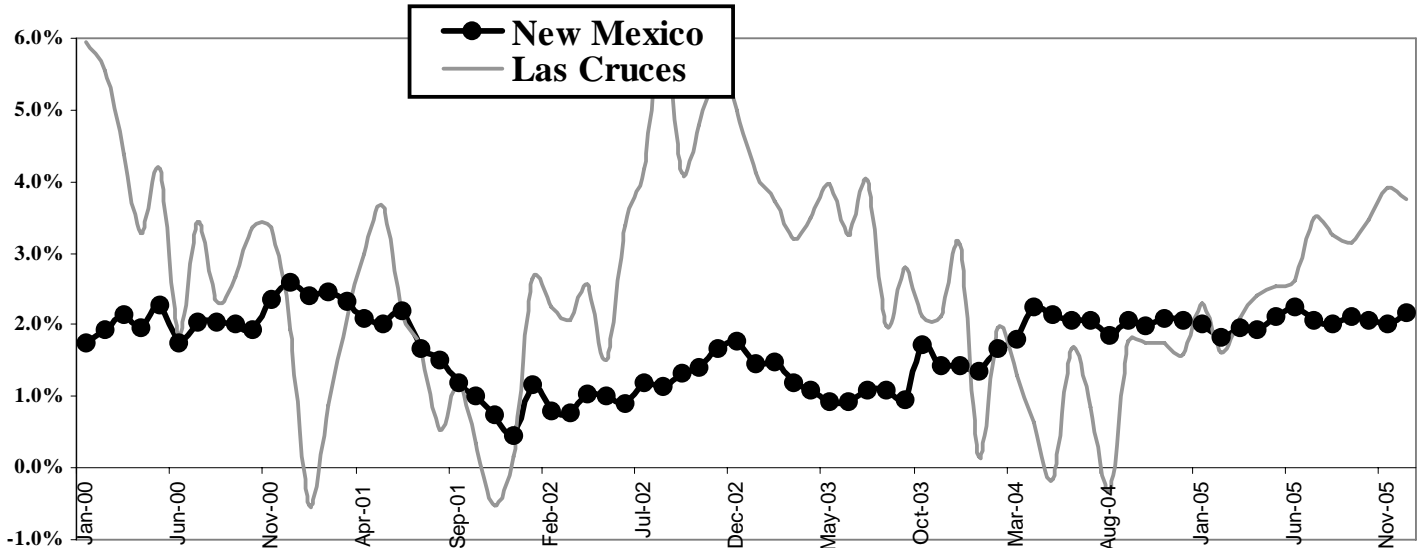
Government employment posted an overall gain of 400 jobs, with gains of 400 jobs in federal government, 200 jobs in local government and losses of 200 jobs in state government.

Manufacturing employment continued to show the first losses in more than three years, which appears to be evidence of slowing of what had been fairly rapid employment growth, mostly from activity at the Santa Teresa Industrial Park.

Las Cruces Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec 2005	Nov 2005	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2004
Civilian Labor Force	87,100	87,000	83,600	+100	+3,500
Employment	82,600	82,300	78,500	+300	+4,100
Unemployment	4,500	4,800	5,200	-300	-700
Rate	5.1%	5.5%	6.2%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	4.8%	5.0%	5.7%		

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 3.9 percent in December 2005, down from 4.1 percent in November. A year ago, the area had an unemployment rate of 4.4 percent, which is higher than the current rate.

The Santa Fe area lost 100 jobs in December 2005, with mostly seasonal changes in construction, education, and leisure and hospitality.

Over-the-year job growth for Santa Fe was 2.5 percent, adding 1,500 jobs. The rate of job growth continues to be higher than the average for the state now that job gains are being made in most industries. Three industries remain at the same level of employment as last year, and two industries have lost jobs over the year.

More than half of all the new jobs were reported in the government sector, up 900 jobs on the year, growing 5.8 percent. Some growth has been in state government, but the majority shows up in local government. The local government gains have come mostly from employment in local schools. The gains come as a result of more accurate reporting of teaching jobs that had been undercounted previously. Federal government employment has lost 100 jobs.

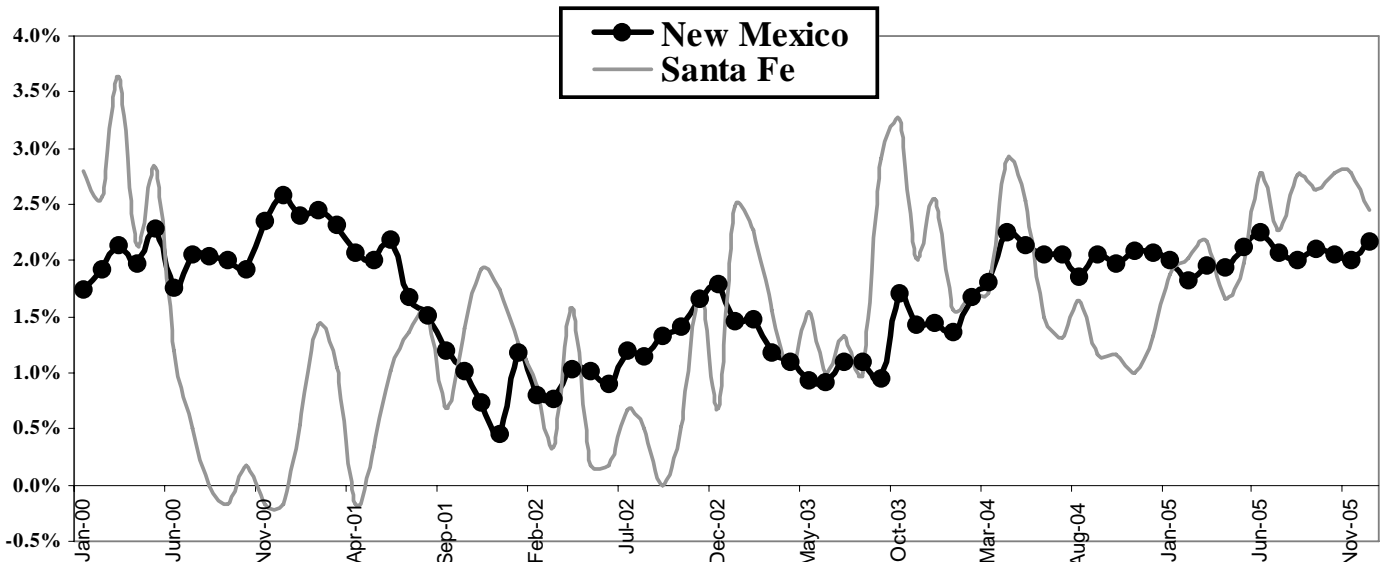
In the private sector, the professional and business services industry added 200 jobs since last year, growing 3.7 percent. This industry has done well in Santa Fe for about two years. The strength appears to be across the board, rather than in any individual component. Leisure and hospitality employment managed to hold on to gains of 200 jobs, up 2.2 percent. Educational and health services added 100 jobs, growing 1.2 percent. Wholesale trade added 100 jobs, as did the information industry. The construction industry, which had been down for a while in Santa Fe, added 100 jobs.

The three industries reporting employment that was unchanged from last year's levels were manufacturing, retail trade, and financial activities. The two industries that have lost jobs were miscellaneous *other services*, and transportation, warehousing & utilities. Each had lost 100 jobs since this time last year.

Santa Fe Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec 2005	Nov 2005	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2004
Civilian Labor Force	78,800	78,600	76,600	+200	+2,200
Employment	75,800	75,400	73,200	+400	+2,600
Unemployment	3,000	3,200	3,400	-200	-400
Rate	3.9%	4.1%	4.4%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	3.4%	3.9%	3.9%		

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 4.7 percent in December 2005, down from 5.2 percent in November. A year ago, the area had an unemployment rate of 5.6 percent.

The Farmington area lost 200 jobs in December, mostly from seasonal declines in goods-producing industries. There were also offsetting gains in private service-providing industries and losses in local government employment at the end of the school year.

Over the last year the Farmington area has added 2,100 jobs, growing 4.3 percent. This rate of job growth is stronger than in any of the state's other metropolitan areas.

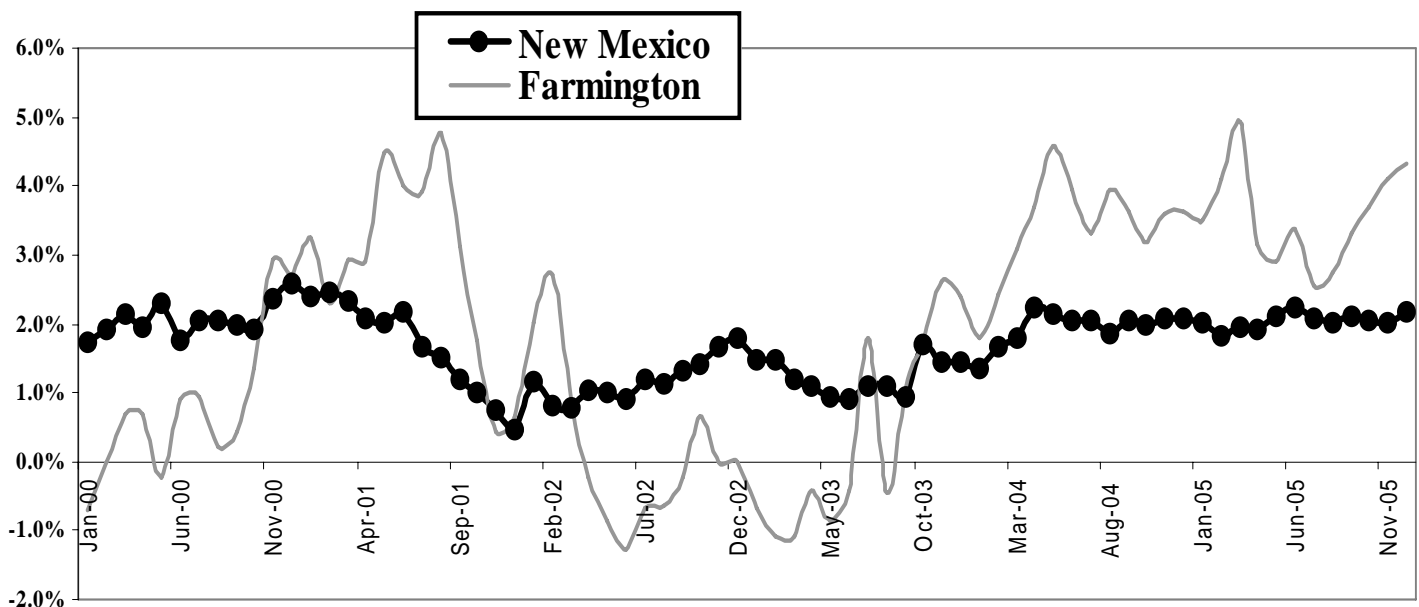
The recent boom peaked in March when the over-the-year rate of job growth reached 4.9 percent. This was the fastest increase in jobs since mid-1995. Since March, construction work on the oil pipeline has ended, causing a return more normal, but still moderately strong employment conditions.

Private service-providing industries continue to do well, adding 1,200 jobs over the year, growing 4.4 percent. Government employment has been sluggish for a while and still shows no growth in either federal or state employment. Local government has gained 300 jobs over the year.

Farmington	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Dec 2005</u>	<u>Nov 2005</u>	<u>Dec 2004</u>	<u>Nov 2005</u>	<u>Dec 2004</u>
Civilian Labor Force	56,800	56,900	54,500	-100	+2,300
Employment	54,200	54,000	51,400	+200	+2,800
Unemployment	2,700	3,000	3,100	-300	-400
Rate	4.7%	5.2%	5.6%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	4.4%	4.8%	5.3%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Farmington



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*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 %
1985		649,300	593,000	56,300	8.7%	
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		850,800	808,500	42,300	5.0%	
2001		861,600	819,400	42,200	4.9%	
2002		875,400	827,500	47,900	5.5%	
2003		893,400	840,900	52,500	5.9%	
2004		912,000	860,000	52,000	5.7%	
2004	JAN	903,800	850,800	53,000	5.9%	6.1%
	FEB	905,800	853,000	52,800	5.8%	5.9%
	MAR	907,500	854,900	52,600	5.8%	5.9%
	APR	910,400	857,900	52,500	5.8%	5.6%
	MAY	910,800	858,600	52,200	5.7%	5.6%
	JUN	911,000	859,000	52,000	5.7%	6.5%
	JUL	912,200	860,400	51,800	5.7%	6.0%
	AUG	912,600	861,000	51,600	5.7%	5.6%
	SEP	914,400	862,900	51,500	5.6%	5.5%
	OCT	916,900	865,500	51,300	5.6%	5.3%
	NOV	918,300	867,100	51,200	5.6%	5.2%
	DEC	919,500	868,400	51,100	5.6%	5.1%
2005	JAN	922,000	873,500	48,500	5.3%	5.4%
	FEB	930,100	877,700	52,400	5.6%	5.8%
	MAR	935,200	880,000	55,200	5.9%	5.9%
	APR	942,000	885,200	56,800	6.0%	5.8%
	MAY	940,000	884,000	56,000	6.0%	5.8%
	JUN	939,800	885,900	53,900	5.7%	6.4%
	JUL	940,000	883,800	56,200	6.0%	6.3%
	AUG	938,100	888,400	49,700	5.3%	5.2%
	SEP	940,200	888,000	52,200	5.6%	5.5%
	OCT	941,400	890,900	50,400	5.4%	5.1%
	NOV	941,700	893,200	48,500	5.1%	4.9%
	DEC	941,300	896,200	45,100	4.8%	4.4%
# CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	-400	3,000	-3,400	-0.3%	-0.5%
	Year Ago	21,800	27,800	-6,000	-0.8%	-0.7%
	2 Yrs. Ago	38,800	46,800	-8,000	-1.1%	-1.0%
	3 Yrs. Ago	57,100	62,700	-5,600	-0.9%	-1.0%
% CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	0.0%	0.3%	-7.0%		
	Year Ago	2.4%	3.2%	-11.7%		
	2 Yrs. Ago	4.3%	5.5%	-15.1%		
	3 Yrs. Ago	6.5%	7.5%	-11.0%		

State	Rank	December 2004	December 2005	Change	% Change
Nevada	1	1,192.0	1,260.9	68.9	5.8%
Idaho	2	593.6	621.0	27.4	4.6%
Arizona	3	2,451.0	2,561.8	110.8	4.5%
Utah	4	1,130.0	1,180.4	50.4	4.5%
Oregon	5	1,628.4	1,685.5	57.1	3.5%
Florida	6	7,695.0	7,945.4	250.4	3.3%
Washington	7	2,733.2	2,811.4	78.2	2.9%
Hawaii	8	598.6	615.3	16.7	2.8%
Wyoming	9	256.0	262.2	6.2	2.4%
New Mexico	10	803.7	821.2	17.5	2.2%
North Dakota	11	340.5	347.4	6.9	2.0%
Iowa	12	1,473.4	1,502.6	29.2	2.0%
Montana	13	419.5	427.7	8.2	2.0%
Alaska	14	293.2	298.6	5.4	1.8%
South Dakota	15	384.6	391.6	7.0	1.8%
Colorado	16	2,223.1	2,263.4	40.3	1.8%
Delaware	17	676.6	688.3	11.7	1.7%
Georgia	18	3,932.2	3,997.3	65.1	1.7%
Texas	19	9,585.9	9,739.3	153.4	1.6%
California	20	14,755.9	14,990.0	234.1	1.6%
Kansas	21	1,343.5	1,364.8	21.3	1.6%
New Hampshire	22	638.6	648.4	9.8	1.5%
United States		133,187.0	135,188.0	2,001.0	1.5%
Oklahoma	23	1,493.3	1,515.4	22.1	1.5%
DC	24	432.6	438.9	6.3	1.5%
North Carolina	25	3,881.3	3,934.3	53.0	1.4%
Wisconsin	26	2,822.4	2,860.1	37.7	1.3%
Maryland	27	2,565.1	2,598.9	33.8	1.3%
Vermont	28	312.4	316.5	4.1	1.3%
Nebraska	29	933.8	945.7	11.9	1.3%
Minnesota	30	2,711.7	2,745.2	33.5	1.2%
Kentucky	31	1,818.2	1,839.1	20.9	1.1%
Pennsylvania	32	5,715.0	5,779.3	64.3	1.1%
Arkansas	33	1,171.6	1,184.7	13.1	1.1%
Virginia	34	3,645.6	3,686.3	40.7	1.1%
West Virginia	35	742.3	750.3	8.0	1.1%
Illinois	36	5,862.8	5,925.7	62.9	1.1%
South Carolina	37	1,836.5	1,854.6	18.1	1.0%
New Jersey	38	4,067.8	4,105.0	37.2	0.9%
Alabama	39	1,927.5	1,944.9	17.4	0.9%
Missouri	40	2,726.7	2,749.0	22.3	0.8%
Rhode Island	41	496.1	499.9	3.8	0.8%
New York	42	8,604.6	8,667.5	62.9	0.7%
Connecticut	43	1,686.3	1,697.1	10.8	0.6%
Tennessee	44	2,742.2	2,758.1	15.9	0.6%
Indiana	45	2,972.6	2,985.8	13.2	0.4%
Massachusetts	46	3,222.0	3,236.1	14.1	0.4%
Maine	47	620.3	622.9	2.6	0.4%
Ohio	48	5,472.0	5,473.8	1.8	0.0%
Michigan	49	4,423.1	4,398.0	-25.1	-0.6%
Mississippi	50	1,133.5	1,109.2	-24.3	-2.1%
Louisiana	51	1,930.7	1,734.0	-196.7	-10.2%

Unemployment Rates in New Mexico (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 2005		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	11.2%
MORA	2	10.8%
MCKINLEY	3	6.2%
CATRON	4	6.1%
GUADALUPE	5	6.1%
TAOS	6	6.0%
RIO ARRIBA	7	5.6%
SAN MIGUEL	8	5.4%
GRANT	9	5.3%
CHAVES	10	5.1%
COLFAX	11	4.9%
CIBOLA	12	4.8%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	13	4.8%
QUAY	14	4.8%
SIERRA	15	4.8%
DE BACA	16	4.7%
FARMINGTON MSA 2/	17	4.4%
HIDALGO	18	4.4%
OTERO	19	4.4%
STATEWIDE		4.4%
SOCORRO	20	4.2%
LINCOLN	21	4.1%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	22	4.0%
CURRY	23	3.8%
EDDY	24	3.8%
LEA	25	3.5%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	26	3.4%
ROOSEVELT	27	3.3%
HARDING	28	3.1%
UNION	29	2.9%
LOS ALAMOS	30	2.3%

REVISED NOVEMBER 2005		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
MORA	1	10.7%
LUNA	2	9.3%
GUADALUPE	3	7.1%
MCKINLEY	4	6.9%
TAOS	5	6.9%
CATRON	6	6.7%
GRANT	7	6.0%
RIO ARRIBA	8	5.9%
SAN MIGUEL	9	5.9%
CHAVES	10	5.7%
COLFAX	11	5.6%
CIBOLA	12	5.4%
DE BACA	13	5.2%
QUAY	14	5.2%
OTERO	15	5.1%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	16	5.0%
SIERRA	17	4.9%
STATEWIDE		4.9%
FARMINGTON MSA 2/	18	4.8%
HIDALGO	19	4.7%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	20	4.6%
LINCOLN	21	4.6%
SOCORRO	22	4.5%
CURRY	23	4.4%
EDDY	24	4.4%
LEA	25	4.0%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	26	3.9%
ROOSEVELT	27	3.7%
HARDING	28	3.3%
UNION	29	3.3%
LOS ALAMOS	30	2.6%

REVISED DECEMBER 2004		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	13.8%
MORA	2	11.7%
CATRON	3	7.9%
GUADALUPE	4	7.6%
MCKINLEY	5	7.0%
GRANT	6	6.9%
TAOS	7	6.4%
SAN MIGUEL	8	6.3%
RIO ARRIBA	9	6.2%
CHAVES	10	6.1%
QUAY	11	5.9%
DE BACA	12	5.7%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	13	5.7%
HIDALGO	14	5.5%
FARMINGTON MSA 2/	15	5.3%
SIERRA	16	5.3%
CIBOLA	17	5.2%
COLFAX	18	5.2%
STATEWIDE		5.1%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	19	4.7%
EDDY	20	4.7%
OTERO	21	4.7%
SOCORRO	22	4.6%
LEA	23	4.5%
CURRY	24	4.4%
HARDING	25	4.1%
LINCOLN	26	4.0%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	27	3.9%
ROOSEVELT	28	3.5%
UNION	29	3.4%
LOS ALAMOS	30	2.5%

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



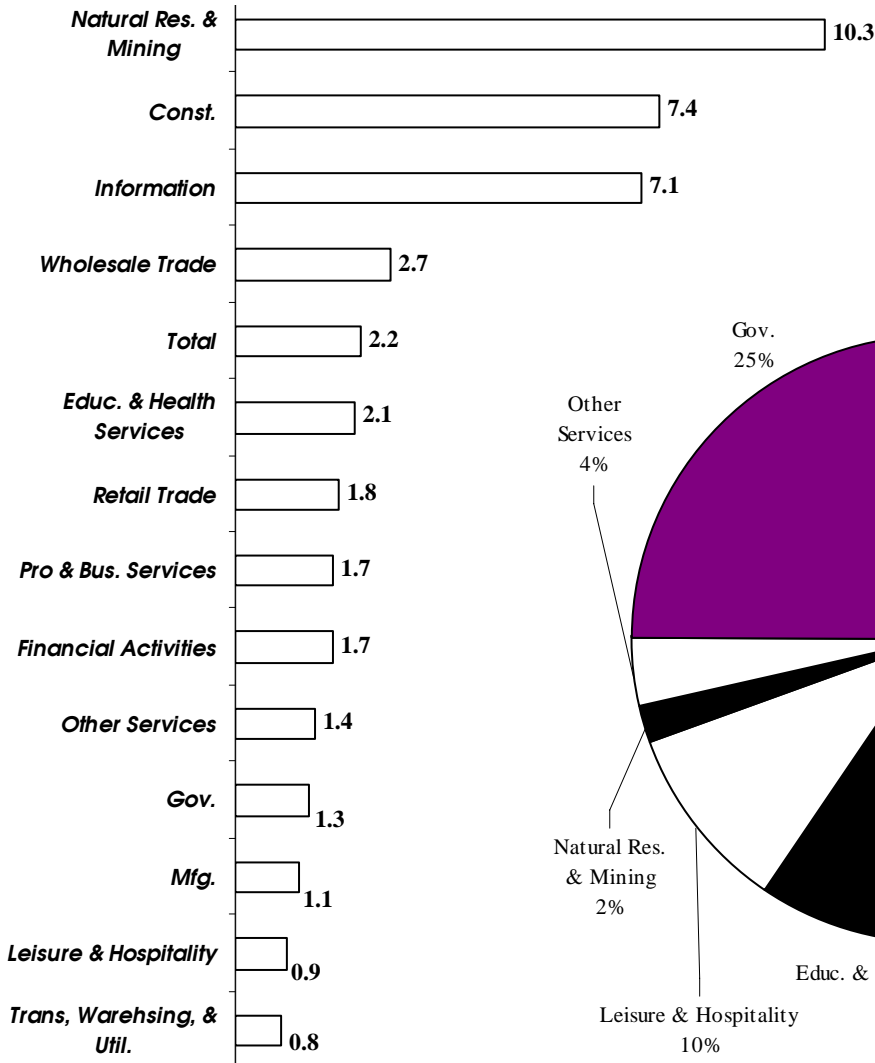
Unemployment Rate by State (Seasonally Adjusted)

	Preliminary	December
State	Rank	2005 Rate
Mississippi	1	9.9
South Carolina	2	7.0
Alaska	3	6.9
Michigan	4	6.7
Louisiana	5	6.4
Kentucky	6	6.3
District of Columbia	7	6.0
Ohio	8	5.9
Oregon	9	5.7
Illinois	10	5.5
Indiana	11	5.5
Tennessee	12	5.4
Washington	13	5.3
Georgia	14	5.2
Rhode Island	15	5.2
California	16	5.1
Missouri	17	5.1
New York	18	5.1
Texas	19	5.1
Kansas	20	4.9
Massachusetts	21	4.9
North Carolina	22	4.9
Pennsylvania	23	4.9
United States		4.9
Connecticut	24	4.8
Maine	25	4.8
Wisconsin	26	4.8
New Mexico	27	4.8
New Jersey	28	4.7
West Virginia	29	4.7
Arizona	30	4.6
Colorado	31	4.6
Arkansas	32	4.5
Iowa	33	4.5
Delaware	34	4.4
Minnesota	35	4.1
Oklahoma	36	4.1
Maryland	37	3.9
South Dakota	38	3.9
Nevada	39	3.8
Utah	40	3.8
Montana	41	3.7
Nebraska	42	3.7
Vermont	43	3.6
Alabama	44	3.5
New Hampshire	45	3.5
Idaho	46	3.4
Florida	47	3.3
North Dakota	48	3.3
Virginia	49	3.3
Wyoming	50	3.2
Hawaii	51	2.7

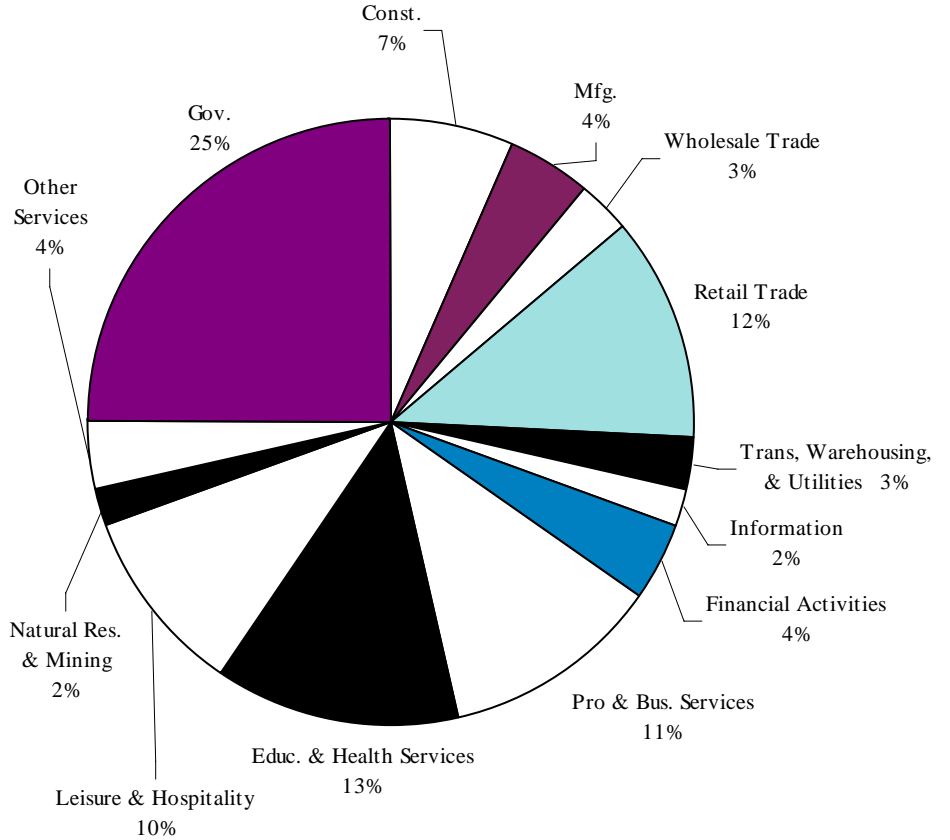
	Revised	December
State	Rank	2004 Rate
District of Columbia	1	8.8
Alaska	2	7.6
Michigan	3	7.5
Oregon	4	7.0
South Carolina	5	6.9
Mississippi	6	6.7
Ohio	7	6.1
California	8	6.0
Illinois	9	6.0
Texas	10	5.9
Washington	11	5.9
Louisiana	12	5.7
Missouri	13	5.7
Pennsylvania	14	5.7
Arkansas	15	5.6
New York	16	5.6
New Mexico	17	5.6
Colorado	18	5.4
United States		5.4
Alabama	19	5.3
Kansas	20	5.3
North Carolina	21	5.3
Tennessee	22	5.3
Indiana	23	5.2
Iowa	24	5.0
Utah	25	5.0
West Virginia	26	4.9
Georgia	27	4.8
Rhode Island	28	4.8
Kentucky	29	4.7
Massachusetts	30	4.7
Wisconsin	31	4.7
Florida	32	4.6
Maine	33	4.6
Minnesota	34	4.6
Arizona	35	4.5
Connecticut	36	4.5
Oklahoma	37	4.5
Idaho	38	4.4
Montana	39	4.4
Delaware	40	4.2
New Jersey	41	4.2
Maryland	42	4.1
Nevada	43	4.0
Nebraska	44	3.8
Wyoming	45	3.7
North Dakota	46	3.6
Vermont	47	3.6
South Dakota	48	3.5
Virginia	49	3.5
New Hampshire	50	3.4
Hawaii	51	3.0

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-05	Nov-05	Dec-04	Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	821,200	817,300	803,700	3,900	17,500
GOODS PRODUCING	108,400	108,600	102,600	-200	5,800
SERVICES-PROVIDING	712,800	708,700	701,100	4,100	11,700
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	17,100	16,900	15,500	200	1,600
<i>Oil & Gas Extraction, Well Drilling</i>	13,000	12,800	11,500	200	1,500
<i>Mining, Except Oil and Gas</i>	4,000	4,000	3,800	0	200
CONSTRUCTION	55,000	55,200	51,200	-200	3,800
Construction of Buildings	15,600	15,600	14,700	0	900
<i>Residential Building Construction</i>	9,000	9,000	8,300	0	700
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	8,900	9,000	8,700	-100	200
Specialty Trade Contractors	30,500	30,600	27,800	-100	2,700
MANUFACTURING	36,300	36,500	35,900	-200	400
Durable Goods	25,500	25,400	25,000	100	500
<i>Computer and Electronic Products</i>	10,300	10,300	10,100	0	200
<i>Semiconductor and Other Electronics</i>	7,100	7,000	6,800	100	300
Non-Durable Goods	10,800	11,100	10,900	-300	-100
WHOLESALE TRADE	22,600	22,600	22,000	0	600
RETAIL TRADE	97,900	96,300	96,200	1,600	1,700
<i>Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers</i>	13,200	13,300	12,600	-100	600
<i>Food and Beverage Stores</i>	12,700	12,600	12,500	100	200
<i>General Merchandise Stores</i>	22,600	22,000	21,400	600	1,200
<i>Department Stores</i>	7,200	7,000	7,200	200	0
<i>Other General Merchandise Stores</i>	15,300	15,000	14,200	300	1,100
<i>Miscellaneous Store Retailers</i>	7,000	6,900	7,300	100	-300
<i>Nonstore Retailers</i>	3,100	3,000	3,400	100	-300
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	23,800	23,700	23,600	100	200
Utilities	3,900	3,900	3,900	0	0
Transportation and Warehousing	19,900	19,800	19,700	100	200
<i>Truck Transportation</i>	6,900	7,000	6,700	-100	200
INFORMATION	15,000	14,900	14,000	100	1,000
<i>Telecommunications</i>	5,900	5,900	5,800	0	100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	35,600	35,400	35,000	200	600
Finance and Insurance	24,700	24,600	24,400	100	300
<i>Credit Intermediation and Related Activities</i>	13,500	13,500	13,300	0	200
<i>Insurance Carriers and Related Activities</i>	9,200	9,100	9,400	100	-200
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,900	10,800	10,600	100	300
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	93,900	93,500	92,300	400	1,600
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	43,700	43,300	42,800	400	900
<i>Architectural, Engineering, and Related</i>	10,900	10,800	11,000	100	-100
<i>Scientific Research and Development</i>	14,000	14,000	13,500	0	500
Management of Companies and Enterprises	5,600	5,500	5,200	100	400
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services	44,600	44,700	44,300	-100	300
<i>Employment Services</i>	16,400	16,600	16,600	-200	-200
<i>Business Support Services</i>	7,000	6,900	6,600	100	400
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	107,400	107,100	105,200	300	2,200
Educational Services	13,800	14,200	13,500	-400	300
Health Care and Social Assistance	93,600	92,900	91,700	700	1,900
Ambulatory Health Care Services	38,900	38,500	38,500	400	400
<i>Offices of Physicians</i>	10,700	10,600	10,300	100	400
<i>Outpatient Care Centers</i>	8,400	8,300	8,600	100	-200
<i>Home Health Care Services</i>	8,200	8,200	8,200	0	0
Hospitals	20,600	20,400	19,600	200	1,000
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	13,900	13,900	13,700	0	200
<i>Nursing Care Facilities</i>	7,300	7,300	7,300	0	0
Social Assistance	20,200	20,100	19,900	100	300
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	82,100	81,500	81,400	600	700
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7,800	7,400	8,000	400	-200
Accommodation and Food Services	74,300	74,100	73,400	200	900
Accommodation	13,400	13,300	13,200	100	200
Food Services and Drinking Places	60,900	60,800	60,200	100	700
<i>Full-Service Restaurants</i>	28,200	28,000	28,300	200	-100
<i>Limited-Service Eating Places</i>	26,000	26,000	25,200	0	800
OTHER SERVICES	29,100	29,000	28,700	100	400
<i>Repair and Maintenance</i>	7,900	7,900	7,600	0	300
GOVERNMENT	205,400	204,700	202,700	700	2,700
Federal Government	30,000	29,800	29,200	200	800
State Government 2/	71,000	70,800	69,700	200	1,300
<i>State Government Education</i>	28,800	29,300	29,200	-500	-400
Local Government	104,400	104,100	103,800	300	600
<i>Local Government Education</i>	58,000	57,900	57,200	100	800

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

ALBUQUERQUE	Preliminary	Revised	Revised	Change	
	Dec-05	Nov-05	Dec-04	Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	384,000	381,900	377,500	2,100	6,500
GOODS PRODUCING	51,400	51,200	49,000	200	2,400
SERVICES-PROVIDING	332,600	330,700	328,500	1,900	4,100
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING & CONSTRUCTION	28,600	28,500	26,300	100	2,300
<i>Specialty Trade Contractors</i>	18,500	18,400	16,400	100	2,100
MANUFACTURING	22,800	22,700	22,700	100	100
<i>Computer and Electronic Products</i>	9,100	9,100	9,100	0	0
<i>Semiconductor and Other Electronics</i>	6,600	6,600	6,600	0	0
WHOLESALE TRADE	12,800	12,800	12,500	0	300
RETAIL TRADE	46,700	45,800	45,600	900	1,100
<i>Food and Beverage Stores</i>	4,900	4,900	4,900	0	0
<i>General Merchandise Stores</i>	9,600	9,400	9,100	200	500
<i>Department Stores</i>	3,700	3,500	3,700	200	0
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	10,600	10,500	10,600	100	0
INFORMATION	8,900	8,700	8,900	200	0
<i>Telecommunications</i>	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	19,800	19,700	19,500	100	300
<i>Finance and Insurance</i>	14,000	14,100	14,000	-100	0
<i>Credit Intermediation and Related Activities</i>	6,500	6,500	6,300	0	200
<i>Depository Credit Intermediation</i>	4,500	4,500	4,300	0	200
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	60,800	60,600	60,400	200	400
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	29,700	29,600	29,400	100	300
<i>Scientific Research and Development</i>	12,400	12,300	12,000	100	400
Management of Companies and Enterprises	3,600	3,600	3,500	0	100
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services	27,500	27,400	27,500	100	0
<i>Employment Services</i>	11,900	11,800	12,500	100	-600
<i>Business Support Services</i>	4,500	4,400	4,100	100	400
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	47,500	47,400	46,400	100	1,100
<i>Health Care and Social Assistance</i>	41,400	41,300	40,800	100	600
<i>Ambulatory Health Care Services</i>	20,200	20,100	19,700	100	500
<i>Hospitals</i>	7,700	7,800	7,500	-100	200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	36,000	36,100	35,600	-100	400
<i>Food Services and Drinking Places</i>	28,300	28,200	27,900	100	400
<i>Full-Service Restaurants</i>	12,800	12,800	12,800	0	0
OTHER SERVICES	11,800	11,800	11,900	0	-100
GOVERNMENT	77,700	77,300	77,100	400	600
Federal Government	14,500	14,300	14,200	200	300
State Government /2	25,600	25,500	25,300	100	300
Local Government	37,600	37,500	37,600	100	0

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-05	Revised Nov-05	Revised Dec-04	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT /1	66,300	66,400	63,900	-100	2,400
GOODS PRODUCING	8,100	8,100	8,000	0	100
SERVICE PRODUCING	58,200	58,300	55,900	-100	2,300
NATURAL RESOURCES MINING & CONSTRUCTION	4,200	4,200	4,000	0	200
MANUFACTURING	3,900	3,900	4,000	0	-100
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,200	1,200	1,100	0	100
RETAIL TRADE	7,100	7,100	6,900	0	200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	1,900	1,900	1,700	0	200
INFORMATION	1,300	1,300	1,100	0	200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,500	2,500	2,400	0	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,200	5,200	5,000	0	200
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	9,600	9,600	9,200	0	400
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	6,600	6,500	6,200	100	400
OTHER SERVICES	1,500	1,500	1,400	0	100
GOVERNMENT	21,300	21,500	20,900	-200	400
Federal	3,500	3,500	3,100	0	400
State	9,000	9,200	9,200	-200	-200
Local	8,800	8,800	8,600	0	200
SANTA FE MSA	Preliminary Dec-05	Revised Nov-05	Revised Dec-04	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT /1	62,600	62,700	61,100	-100	1,500
GOODS PRODUCING	5,600	5,700	5,500	-100	100
SERVICE PRODUCING	57,000	57,000	55,600	0	1,400
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION	4,400	4,500	4,300	-100	100
MANUFACTURING	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,100	1,100	1,000	0	100
RETAIL TRADE	8,800	8,800	8,800	0	0
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	700	700	800	0	-100
INFORMATION	1,000	1,000	900	0	100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,900	2,900	2,900	0	0
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,600	5,600	5,400	0	200
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	8,600	8,700	8,500	-100	100
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	9,100	8,900	8,900	200	200
OTHER SERVICES	2,700	2,800	2,800	-100	-100
GOVERNMENT	16,500	16,500	15,600	0	900
Federal	1,100	1,100	1,200	0	-100
State /2	8,200	8,100	8,000	100	200
Local	7,200	7,300	6,400	-100	800
FARMINGTON MSA	Preliminary Dec-05	Revised Nov-05	Revised Dec-04	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	50,600	50,800	48,500	-200	2,100
TOTAL PRIVATE	39,100	39,200	37,300	-100	1,800
GOODS PRODUCING	10,800	11,000	10,200	-200	600
SERVICE PRODUCING	39,800	39,800	38,300	0	1,500
PRIVATE SERVICE PRODUCING	28,300	28,200	27,100	100	1,200
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION	9,300	9,400	8,800	-100	500
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	11,000	10,900	10,700	100	300
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	5,500	5,600	5,500	-100	0
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	5,100	5,200	4,900	-100	200
GOVERNMENT	11,500	11,600	11,200	-100	300
Federal	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	0
State	500	500	500	0	0
Local	9,300	9,400	9,000	-100	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 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-05	Revised Nov-05	Monthly Change
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	816,400	812,700	3,700
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	17,100	16,900	200
CONSTRUCTION	55,300	54,600	700
MANUFACTURING	36,900	36,700	200
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	140,200	140,100	100
INFORMATION <i>(Not Seasonally Adjusted)</i>	15,000	14,900	100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	35,600	35,600	0
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	93,700	93,400	300
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	106,400	105,900	500
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	83,600	82,900	700
OTHER SERVICES	29,800	29,800	0
GOVERNMENT	202,800	201,900	900

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

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) 222-4678

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 05	Nov 05	Dec 04	Dec 05	Nov 05	Dec 04	Dec 05	Nov 05	Dec 04
NEW MEXICO									
NATURAL RES. & MINING	\$783.87	\$783.00	\$756.90	43.5	43.5	43.5	\$18.02	\$18.00	\$17.40
CONSTRUCTION	\$635.60	\$631.62	\$608.20	40.0	39.9	39.7	\$15.89	\$15.83	\$15.32
MANUFACTURING	\$544.44	\$543.49	\$524.81	39.0	39.1	39.4	\$13.96	\$13.90	\$13.32
WHOLESALE TRADE	\$519.75	\$519.05	\$523.57	35.0	35.0	35.4	\$14.85	\$14.83	\$14.79
RETAIL TRADE	\$356.31	\$355.35	\$350.13	32.1	32.1	32.3	\$11.10	\$11.07	\$10.84
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	\$494.56	\$493.86	\$487.14	35.2	35.2	35.3	\$14.05	\$14.03	\$13.80
ALBUQUERQUE MSA									
MANUFACTURING	\$612.29	\$607.56	\$647.57	38.9	38.6	40.6	\$15.74	\$15.74	\$15.95

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.

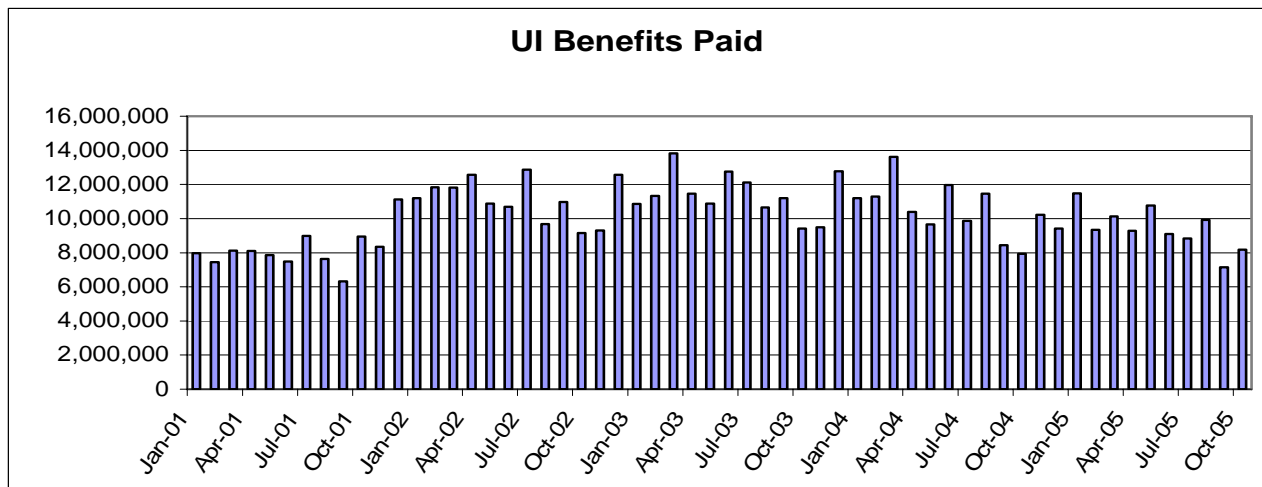
U.S. Consumer Price Index

	Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100			PERCENT CHANGE	
	Dec 05	Nov 05	Dec 04	Month to Month	Year to Year
CPI-U	196.8	197.6	190.3	-0.4%	3.4%
CPI-W	192.5	193.4	186.0	-0.5%	3.5%

*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 Unemployment Insurance[^]

	Dec-05	Nov-05	Dec-04	Percentage Change	
				From November-05	From December-04
CLAIMS ACTIVITIES					
Initial Claims	5,298	4,598	6,793	15.2%	-22.0%
Continued Claims #	43,257	41,752	52,879	3.6%	-18.2%
Insured Unemployed #	10,502	9,983	12,619	5.2%	-16.8%
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.4%	1.4%	1.7%		
PAYMENT ACTIVITIES					
First Payments	2,070	1,990	2,660	4.0%	-22.2%
Final Payments	952	891	1,082	6.8%	-12.0%
Weeks Compensated	34,498	32,988	42,495	4.6%	-18.8%
Net Benefit Payments	\$7,536,971	\$7,332,469	\$9,411,791	2.8%	-19.9%
Average WBA*	\$215.49	\$215.79	\$216.49	-0.1%	-0.5%
Average Duration (weeks)*	17.5	17.4	17.9	0.5%	-2.3%
Exhaustion Rate *	41.7%	41.8%	43.2%	-0.2%	-3.5%



[^] Regular program only, not seasonally adjusted, does not include TEUC. * 12-month moving average. # Includes intrastate & interstate agent continued claims.

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 state's Job Training Incentive Board awarded a total of \$561,177 to seven companies at the November JTIP board meeting. **United Concordia**, a large dental insurance company, received \$50,476 to train 11 employees. **Variance Acrylic Finish** was approved for \$11,480 to train two workers. **Dean Baldwin Painting** will use \$172,926 to train 59 workers for its Roswell aircraft painting facility. **Senspex Inc.** from Rio Rancho was approved for \$37,885 to train three employees. Shiprock's **BCDS Manufacturing** was granted \$198,744 to train 32 employees for its Navajo owned metal fabrication operation. Hobbs-based **RMS Foods** received \$20,968 to train 20 employees. **Optomec**, an Albuquerque-based optics maker, will use \$68,696 to train five workers.

At the December meeting of the Job Training Incentive Board, \$3.1 million in training funds was awarded for the creation of 671 new jobs. **Verizon Wireless** was the largest cash recipient with \$2 million awarded for 264 new Albuquerque area jobs. **Frontier Airlines** plans to hire 50 new employees for its Las Cruces call center and was awarded \$30,920. **Aspen Systems Corporation** will operate a call center in Albuquerque for the Department of Homeland Security to serve customers seeking immigration information. Aspen received \$1.2 million for 289 employees. **Peak Performance Consulting**, a management recruiting company, was approved for \$33,760 for four employees in Las Vegas, N.M. Silver City's **Szyzyg Inc.** received funds to train five employees for its specialty tile making operation. **CIC Photonics**, an Albuquerque manufacturer of gas analysis equipment, was granted \$15,000 to train three workers. **Sagebrush Technology** will hire 7 workers with the \$96,000 awarded for the company's Albuquerque facility. **Starchaser Industries** will hire 11 employees with the \$112,000 the board approved for the Las Cruces commercial space flight company. **Source One Distribution** from Albuquerque will train 38 employees with the \$190,000 approved at the meeting.

Governor Richardson approved a \$75 million deal with the **BNSF Railroad** to buy 300 miles of rail line between Belen and Trinidad, Colorado. The state will pay \$50 million in January 2006 for the stretch between Belen and Bernalillo, \$20 million in 2007 for the line between Bernalillo and Lamy, and another \$5 million in 2008 for the track between Lamy and Trinidad.

New Mexico's dairy industry is now the seventh largest in the nation and contributes more than \$730 million to the state's economy. The industry has grown very rapidly since 2000 and currently accounts for 37 percent of the state's agricultural cash receipts. Much of the growth of the industry is attributed to the state's excellent environmental conditions, especially in the Clovis and Portales area.

Albuquerque Area, Bernalillo County:

The State Land Office has approved a proposed land swap that will allow the development of the Mesa del Sol area. Under the agreement, 3000 acres of state trust land will be acquired by the University of New Mexico. UNM will then sell the land to the development company, Forest City Covington. As part of the swap, the State Land Office will get several thousand acres of agricultural land near Cochiti Pueblo.

Construction of **Advent Solar's** new facility in the Mesa del Sol area of the southeast mesa is underway and should be completed by late 2006. The \$6 million building will be owned by Forest City Covington and will be leased to Advent Solar for at least the next several years. The one story, 87,596-square-foot building is certified as a "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" building. Advent expects to ultimately employ about 1,000 high wage workers in Albuquerque.

Lovelace Sandia Health Systems will close the Lovelace Medical Center at 5400 Gibson Blvd. S.E. by the end of 2006. Located in the southeast heights, the hospital has been in operation for over 50 years. No layoffs are expected, and the hospital's physicians and staff will be transferred to the company's four other Albuquerque area hospitals.

Source One Distribution, an Albuquerque-based restaurant equipment supplier, plans to expand into the manufacturing of restaurant interiors, cabinets, retail display cases and countertops. The company says that it intends to be a "single source, low cost provider for national restaurant accounts" and will have its own subsidiary, The Millwork Company, handle manufacturing. The Millwork operation will be located in a 71,000-square-foot building near Unser and I-40. Source One currently has about 60 employees will add about 30 more workers for its new plant.

Casual Corner, a national retail chain, will close all of its 525 women's clothing stores including the one at Winrock Mall. The Connecticut-based company was founded in 1952 and had stores in 42 states and Puerto Rico.

Employment at **Sandia National Laboratories** is expected to peak at the highest level in the lab's history this year. The workforce is expected to reach 10,067 full-time equivalent employees, an increase of about 25% since 2000. The growth in numbers of employees at the facility occurs at a time when funds for the lab's nuclear mission are shrinking and funding for non-nuclear programs is expanding.

Las Cruces Area, Doña Ana County:



Lasershield Systems Inc., a firm that sells security systems and 24-hour monitoring service, has relocated its company headquarters from Carlsbad, California, to Las Cruces. About half a dozen of the company's employees will relocate and some additional local staff will be hired. Lasershield is in the Access Bank building at 277 E. Amador Avenue.

The Doña Ana County Commission gave a thumbs-up to the **off-reservation casino proposed by Jemez Pueblo**. The proposed \$55 million casino would be built near Anthony and would create about 950 full-time jobs with average salaries of about \$29,200 per year. The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs must still rule if the casino would be in the best interests of the tribe and the community in which the casino would be built.

Mosquero Area, Harding County:



Solano Manufacturing recently broke ground on a metal fabrication shop to be located seven miles north of Mosquero in rural Harding County. It is hoped the new facility will help to reverse a trend of population loss in Harding County by providing an employment opportunity. It is expected that the company will provide about nine new jobs with wages ranging from \$8 to \$14 per hour.

Silver City Area, Grant County:



Teleperformance USA of Salt Lake City has announced plans to take over and reopen the old Stream call center building. The company has a contract with Sprint to provide call center customer support for the telecommunications provider. Teleperformance expects to hire about 100 people by February and eventually employ more than 500 people when the call center is fully operational.

Hobbs Area, Lea County:



Hobbs has a new 24 hour-a-day **IHOP** restaurant to satisfy after hours diners. The new IHOP is located at 3600 N. Lovington Highway and employs about 90 workers.

Carrizozo Area, Lincoln County:



Carrizozo's only grocery store, **Sturges Venture Market**, closed in late November. The store catered mostly to local area residents who were unable to drive out of the local area for shopping. The market employed about seven workers.

Los Alamos Area, Los Alamos County:



The University of California was selected to continue to operate the **Los Alamos National Laboratories** for at least the next seven years. The U.S. Department of Energy selected the team of UCal and Bechtel, over a rival team of the University of Texas and its corporate partner, Lockheed Martin.

Rio Rancho Area, Sandoval County:



Rio Rancho has seen a large increase in **housing starts** at the same time that housing starts in Albuquerque declined slightly. Compared to the third quarter of 2004, housing starts in Rio Rancho are up by 185.2 percent with 1,095 houses under construction. Jim Palenick, Rio Rancho's city administrator, said that he expects home construction in Rio Rancho to surpass Albuquerque in 2006.

Santa Fe Area, Santa Fe County:



The Village at Eldorado, a 30,000-square-foot retail shopping center, is under construction and should be completed by June 2006. The new shopping center will have 22 retail spaces and a three-screen movie theater that will open next year. Sixteen of the retail spaces have been leased so far.

Edgewood Area, Santa Fe County:

The Edgewood Wal-Mart moved a major step closer to fruition when the Edgewood Planning and Zoning Commission approved the final plat and development that allows Wal-Mart to purchase the site for the new store. Wal-Mart proposes to open a supercenter store on 50 acres off Church road and N.M. 344. The company hopes to have the store open by mid-2007.



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New Mexico Labor Market Report
is a monthly publication from the New Mexico
Department of Labor

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