



New Mexico Labor Market Review

Volume 37, No. 12 (published - February 2, 2009)

Bill Richardson
Governor
Betty Sparrow Doris
Secretary

New Feature:
The Economy
and You
Pages 10-11
and Page 16

*A Publication Presenting Highlights of
December 2008 Labor Market Data*

...New Mexico's rate of over-the-year job growth was negative 0.8 percent, representing an over-the-year loss of 6,800 jobs. Even with negative job growth, New Mexico ranked fifteenth highest among all states as the U.S. economy posted its twelfth consecutive month of job losses.

...Albuquerque MSA employment rose by a scant 400 (0.1 percent) in December, quite low for a month that in the recent past typically enjoyed expansions of at least two or three times that amount.

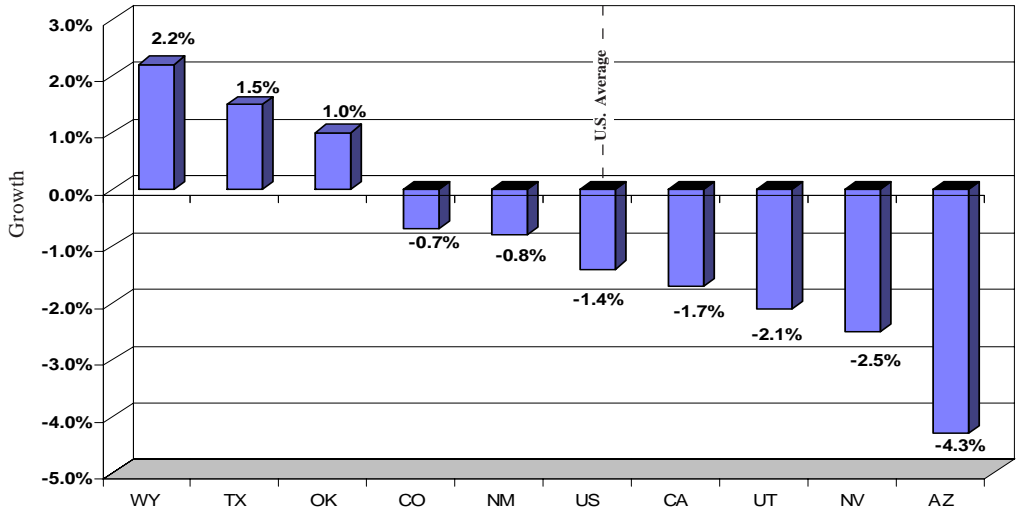
...The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces MSA was 1.0 percent. The local area added 700 jobs over the last year, maintaining low but consistent job growth while other areas of the state faltered.

...The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Santa Fe MSA was a negative 1.4 percent, representing a loss of 900 jobs. The recorded losses started in June 2008—the first instance of negative growth since April 2001.

...Over the last year, total employment in the Farmington MSA increased by 400 jobs. The outlook for job growth in the area is uncertain, given the drastically lower prices for oil and natural gas.

Current Regional Nonfarm Employment Growth

December 2008 over December 2007 - Not Seasonally Adjusted



INSIDE

- NM & MSA Highlights
Page 2-6
- NM Household Data History
Page 7
- Total Nonfarm Growth
NM Ranking
Page 7
- NM Labor Force Estimates
Page 8
- Unemployment Rate Rankings
by County and by State
Page 8-9
- Nonfarm Employment:
Growth Rates by Industry
Page 9
- Article: Is Your Job Recession-
Proof?
Page 10-11
- Nonfarm Employment:
State & MSAs
Page 12-14
- Average Hours & Earnings
& US Consumer Price Index
Page 14
- NM Occupational
Shortages and Surpluses
Page 15
- Article: Unemployment Is on the
Rise in New Mexico
Page 16
- Workforce Information Tips
Page 17
- NM Economic Activity by Area
Page 18-19



New Mexico Labor Force and Payroll Employment

New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in December 2008, up from 4.3 percent in November and 3.2 percent a year ago. The national unemployment rate was 7.2 percent.

The rate of over-the-year job growth, comparing December 2008 with December 2007, was negative 0.8 percent, representing an over-the-year loss of 6,800 jobs. Even with negative job growth, New Mexico ranked fifteenth highest among all states as the U.S. economy posted its twelfth consecutive month of job losses. Prior to last month, the state's job growth had not been negative since June 1991, 17 years ago. At that time, job growth turned negative for just one month. The last period of sustained job losses in the state occurred from October 1986 through February 1987.

Four of the state's 13 industries posted job growth since last year, while a total of eight industries reported declining employment. Only three industry groups—health care, local government, and mining—reported a substantial number of new jobs. Health care seems to always grow, even when job losses are reported elsewhere. This appears to be a truly recession-proof industry, with much of the funding coming from government programs and private health insurance rather than direct expenditures from individuals. Local government job growth was evident in school districts and tribal casinos, some of which recently expanded. Mining employment increased earlier this year, but the industry will lose at least some of those gains when previously announced layoffs go into effect in 2009.

The state lost 3,300 manufacturing jobs over the last year, with reductions reported across the board. The construction industry is going through a period of adjustment following four years of growth that resulted in the creation of 14,000 new jobs. Construction employment boomed with work on various large public works projects and continued when residential construction was strong. The boom has now ended, and job losses have occurred. Overall, the construction industry reported 1,100 fewer jobs in December 2008 than in December 2007. When considering larger job losses reported at the national level in construction, New Mexico could be doing much worse. Mining employment increased by 1,100 jobs from its year-ago level; however, actual production of oil and natural gas continued to decline. Recently announced layoffs at the copper mines near Silver City and substantially lower oil and gas prices indicate that the boom has ended.

On the service-providing side, the educational & health services industry increased employment by 4,100 jobs. This industry, largely made up of health services, added far more jobs than any

other. As mentioned earlier, the health services industry acts as a form of recession insurance for New Mexico, expanding employment while other industries lay off workers. Only time will tell if job growth in the health services industry will keep the economy from remaining below the zero line as job losses mount in other industries.

The information industry continues to prosper. December's numbers represent an over-the-year increase of 200 jobs. The source of many new employment opportunities has been the state's film industry. This industry had a bumper year in 2006, which continued into 2007. Recent trends indicate that 2008 was a good year despite the large month-to-month employment swings that are common in film production work. During times of intensive production, employment in the state's film industry has been as many as 3,000 jobs above baseline levels. Weakness in its telecommunications components reduced information industry employment by more than 3,000 during a three-year period ending in early 2005. Even with the current boost from film production, employment levels are still about 2,000 jobs below the peak set in the spring of 2001.

Government employment increased at a rate of 0.6 percent overall, adding a net total of 1,100 jobs. The bulk of the gain came from local government, which expanded by 1,000 jobs. Federal government increased by 400 jobs, while state government was down 300. The miscellaneous *other services* category reported the same number of jobs as last year after temporary jobs ended for those employed by the major political parties in the run-up to the election.

Leisure & hospitality reported 2,800 fewer jobs, ending a year characterized by underperformance for travel and tourism. Retail trade had been growing up until last month. Lackluster hiring for peak season resulted in 1,300 fewer jobs compared to this time last year, consistent with national numbers that also showed reduced employment levels. The professional & business services industry, which includes several firms that rely upon national defense contracts, reported employment that was down by 2,200 jobs from last year. The financial activities industry also lost jobs, declining by 1,600 since last December. The small wholesale trade industry lost 300 jobs, down 1.2 percent, while the transportation, warehousing & utilities industry lost 700 jobs, down 2.7 percent.

| New Mexico | Prel. | | Revised | | Change From | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|--|
| | Seasonally Adjusted Dec 2008 | Nov 2008 | Dec 2007 | Nov 2008 | Dec 2007 | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 966,100 | 960,900 | 945,200 | +5,200 | +20,900 | |
| Employment | 918,400 | 919,200 | 914,600 | -800 | +3,800 | |
| Unemployment | 47,800 | 41,700 | 30,600 | +6,100 | +17,200 | |
| Rate | 4.9% | 4.3% | 3.2% | | | |
| Rate (not seasonally adjusted) | 4.5% | 4.1% | 3.1% | | | |

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 5.3 percent in December, up from 4.4 percent in November. Unemployment has risen 1.9 percentage points from last December's rate of 3.4 percent.

Payroll employment in the Albuquerque MSA rose by a scant 400 (0.1 percent) in December, quite low for a month that in the recent past typically enjoyed expansions of at least two or three times that amount. These, however, are not typical times, and only four of the 12 major industry divisions recorded increases. Retail trade added 400 jobs, reflecting growth in temporary hiring for the holiday shopping season. Employment increases of 300 in transportation, warehousing & utilities and 100 in government were driven by seasonal hiring at private courier companies and at the U.S. Postal Service. Educational & health services added 300 jobs to round out the gaining industries. The onset of colder weather and a further softening of the economy combined to reduce construction employment by 400, while miscellaneous *other services* shrank by 300. Six industries—manufacturing, wholesale trade, information, financial activities, professional & business services, and leisure & hospitality—were unchanged over the month.

The Albuquerque area ended 2008 by posting a fifth consecutive month of over-the-year employment decline. Since last December, expansions were seen in just two of the 12 industry divisions, resulting in a net decrease of 1,600 jobs (-0.4 percent). Goods-producing industries lost 2,700 jobs, while service-providing industries gained 1,100.

Educational & health services expanded employment by 4.9 percent, its highest rate of growth since a peak of 6.2 percent in November 2004. The industry added 2,400 jobs to partially offset broad-based losses elsewhere. Employment has grown by 19.1 percent and 43.5 percent over the past five- and ten-year periods, respectively, to lead all industries. Construction claimed second place for both time frames with rates of 13.9 percent and 36.8 percent, while total nonfarm growth for the Albuquerque MSA came in at 7.8 percent and 14.2 percent.

Government was the other over-the-year gainer, adding 1,100 jobs for growth of 1.4 percent. Most of the increase—800 jobs—came at the local level, with significant contributions from new hotel complexes at Isleta and Laguna pueblos. Federal government added 200 jobs and state government 100.

Manufacturing closed the year down 1,600 jobs or 7.0 percent from last December. Over-the-year employment has declined for 19 consecutive months, reducing the number of manufacturing

jobs in the Albuquerque MSA to 21,400. The industry now employs just 5.4 percent of the nonfarm total, down from 7.7 percent a decade ago. Difficulties are expected to continue in the near term, with the announcement of a new round of layoffs at Advent Solar in Albuquerque and the planned closure of Solo Cup in Belen. On the positive side, Schott Solar plans to ramp up operations at Mesa del Sol in early 2009, while Signet Solar expects to begin production at a new site in Belen in 2010.

Construction posted its twenty-fourth consecutive month of over-the-year decline, falling by 1,100 jobs or 3.8 percent. Industry employment now stands at 27,900, the lowest level since April 2005. Annual average employment growth slipped from 10.4 percent in 2005 to -3.6 percent in 2008.

Employment fell by 700 or 1.8 percent in leisure & hospitality, marking the industry's fifth straight month of negative growth. The largest industry component, accommodation and food services, relies on travel- and restaurant-related spending, components that are being curtailed or eliminated by budget-conscious consumers and businesses.

Retail trade also shed 700 jobs, a decline of 1.5 percent. Industry growth dropped into negative territory last month for the first time since December 2006. Reports indicate that holiday sales were generally lower than expected throughout the country, and the Albuquerque area, like many others, has been impacted by the recent demise of both small and large retailers, including such familiar names as Mervyn's and Linens 'n Things.

Financial activities, a relatively small industry, declined by 600 jobs or 3.1 percent. Industry employment has now fallen for ten consecutive months as the national credit crunch shows little sign of easing. Wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing & utilities lost 200 jobs each, while information, professional & business services, and miscellaneous *other services* were unchanged over the year.

| Albuquerque Seasonally Adjusted | Pre. | Revised | | Change From | |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| | Dec 2008 | Nov 2008 | Dec 2007 | Nov 2008 | Dec 2007 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 414,600 | 411,600 | 406,700 | +3,000 | +7,900 |
| Employment | 392,700 | 393,300 | 392,800 | -600 | -100 |
| Unemployment | 21,900 | 18,300 | 13,900 | +3,600 | +8,000 |
| Rate | 5.3% | 4.4% | 3.4% | | |
| Rate (not seasonally adjusted) | 4.7% | 4.3% | 3.1% | | |

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 2008, up from 4.5 percent in November. A year ago, the area's unemployment rate was 3.7 percent.

During December, the Las Cruces area lost 400 jobs from November levels. Employment declined by 200 in both the public and private sectors.

The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces area was 1.0 percent, comparing December 2008 with the same month a year ago. The local area added 700 jobs over the last year, maintaining low but consistent job growth while other areas of the state faltered.

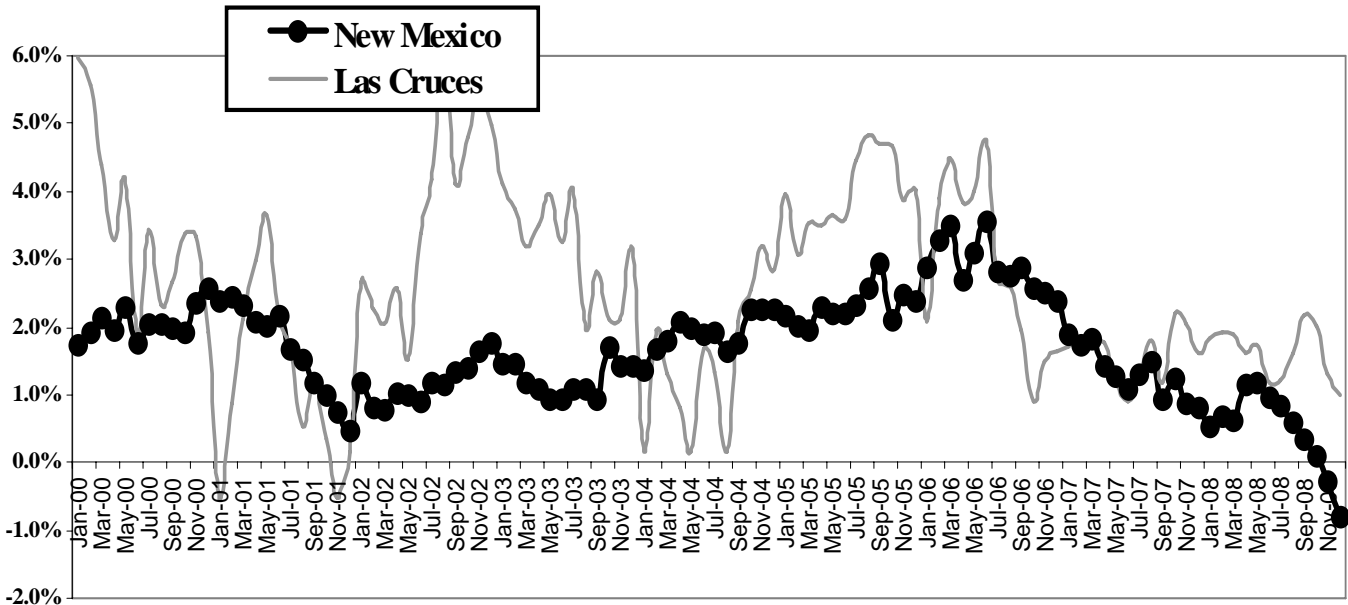
Employment increases at area call centers helped the professional & business services industry expand by 700 jobs since last year. Educational & health services gained 300 jobs, growing 2.7 percent. Financial activities added 300 jobs, and miscellaneous *other services* added 200. The government sector expanded by 200 jobs since last year, with increases reported at the federal and local levels. Manufacturing employment increased by 100 jobs from its December 2007 total.

Five industries—construction (-600), leisure & hospitality (-200), transportation, warehousing & utilities (-100), retail trade (-100), and information (-100)—reported fewer jobs compared to year-ago levels. Declining construction employment has been evident for some time. Employment was unchanged from last year in the one remaining industry, wholesale trade.

| Las Cruces | Prel. | | Revised | | Change From | |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|--|
| | Dec 2008 | Nov 2008 | Dec 2007 | Nov 2008 | Dec 2007 | |
| Seasonally Adjusted | | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 90,400 | 90,000 | 87,900 | +400 | +2,500 | |
| Employment | 85,900 | 86,000 | 84,600 | -100 | +1,300 | |
| Unemployment | 4,600 | 4,100 | 3,300 | +500 | +1,300 | |
| Rate | 5.1% | 4.5% | 3.7% | | | |
| Rate (not seasonally adjusted) | 4.6% | 4.1% | 3.4% | | | |

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 4.4 percent in December 2008, up from 3.6 percent in November. A year ago, the local area had an unemployment rate of 2.7 percent.

The Santa Fe area gained 100 jobs in December, growing by 0.2 percent over the month. Gains of 100 jobs each in professional & business services, leisure & hospitality, and state government were partially offset by a seasonal 200-job loss in construction.

The rate of over-the-year job growth for Santa Fe was a negative 1.4 percent, representing a loss of 900 jobs. The recorded losses started in June 2008—the first instance of negative growth since April 2001. The Santa Fe MSA is now about a year past the conclusion of a one-year period of strong job growth. Overall, the Santa Fe job market has stagnated in recent months, with only four of the area’s 12 industries adding jobs.

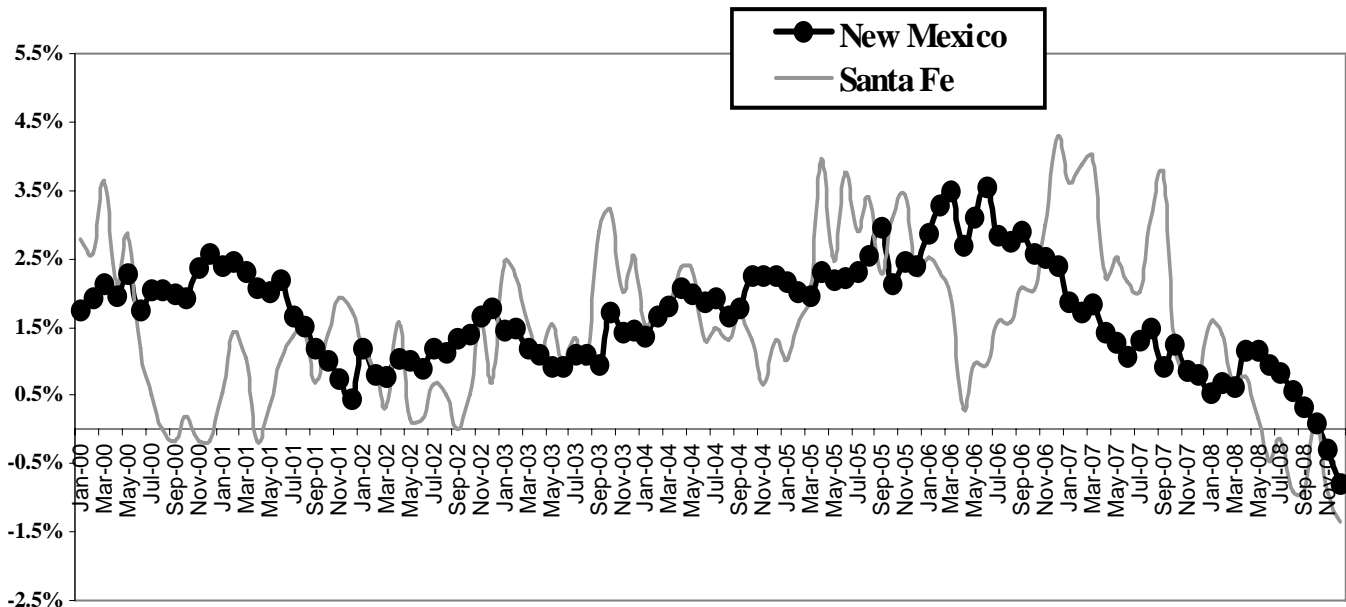
Educational & health services added 400 jobs, which was more than for any other local industry. The government sector reported 300 more local government jobs than at this time last year, with no change reported at federal or state levels. Wholesale trade and miscellaneous *other services* each reported 100-job increases from their year-ago levels.

Retail trade and leisure & hospitality reported no change in employment over the year. Six private industries—construction; manufacturing; financial activities; transportation, warehousing & utilities; professional & business services; and information—each posted job losses.

| Santa Fe | Prel. | Revised | | Change From | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Seasonally Adjusted</u> | <u>Dec 2008</u> | <u>Nov 2008</u> | <u>Dec 2007</u> | <u>Nov 2008</u> | <u>Dec 2007</u> |
| Civilian Labor Force | 79,600 | 78,900 | 79,000 | +700 | +600 |
| Employment | 76,100 | 76,000 | 76,800 | +100 | -700 |
| Unemployment | 3,500 | 2,900 | 2,100 | +600 | +1,400 |
| Rate | 4.4% | 3.6% | 2.7% | | |
| Rate (not seasonally adjusted) | 3.9% | 3.5% | 2.4% | | |

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Santa Fe



Farmington MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(San Juan County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Farmington was 4.5 percent in December 2008, up from 3.7 percent in November. A year ago, the unemployment rate was 3.0 percent.

The Farmington area lost 100 jobs over the month, an employment decline of 0.2 percent. The reduction occurred within the goods-producing aggregation, which includes natural resources and mining, construction, and manufacturing.

Over the last year, total employment in the Farmington area increased by 400 jobs. This continued the low-growth trend that began in September. Job growth peaked in the local area in December 2004 when the over-the-year rate reached 5.1 percent. Job growth reached this peak again in June 2006, matching the highest increase since mid-1995. Growth dipped to 0.4 percent in April 2007 before rebounding in the short term. The outlook for job growth in the area is uncertain, given the drastically lower prices for oil and natural gas.

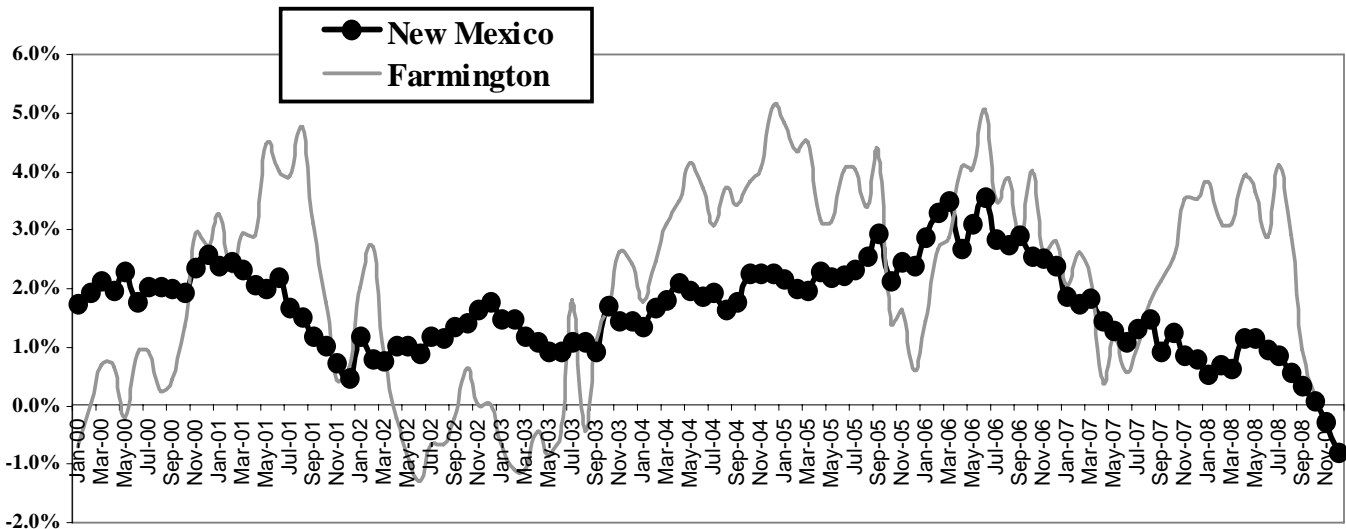
Goods-producing industries reported employment that was 300 jobs above year-ago levels, while private service-providing industries added 200 jobs. December data reflect continued sluggishness in government employment as both the state and federal levels remained flat over the year and local government posted a 100-job loss.

The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has discontinued funding in the Current Employment Statistics program for 65 small metropolitan areas across the country, including the Farmington MSA. The CES program produces monthly employment estimates by industry. The BLS announced the change on its website as follows: "These cutbacks are being implemented to accommodate a reduction in funding to the BLS that resulted from The 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act enacted on December 26, 2007." The state did not anticipate these funding cuts, nor were we given sufficient time to survey data users as to their continued need for local area employment data. We will end the estimation and subsequent publication of Farmington area employment estimates in March 2009 if federal government funding is not restored.

| Farmington <u>Seasonally Adjusted</u> | Prel. | Revised | | Change From | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | <u>Dec 2008</u> | <u>Nov 2008</u> | <u>Dec 2007</u> | <u>Nov 2008</u> | <u>Dec 2007</u> |
| Civilian Labor Force | 58,600 | 58,000 | 57,000 | +600 | +1,600 |
| Employment | 56,000 | 55,800 | 55,300 | +200 | +700 |
| Unemployment | 2,600 | 2,200 | 1,700 | +400 | +900 |
| Rate | 4.5% | 3.7% | 3.0% | | |
| Rate (not seasonally adjusted) | 4.0% | 3.5% | 2.7% | | |

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Farmington



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

| | | Civilian Labor Force | Employ- ment | Un- Employ- ment | Rate % | Unadj. Rate % |
|----------------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 1988 | | 681,996 | 630,267 | 51,729 | 7.6% | |
| 1989 | | 691,811 | 645,302 | 46,509 | 6.7% | |
| 1990 | | 711,891 | 663,698 | 48,193 | 6.8% | |
| 1991 | | 719,243 | 667,698 | 51,545 | 7.2% | |
| 1992 | | 735,446 | 680,463 | 54,983 | 7.5% | |
| 1993 | | 755,054 | 700,258 | 54,795 | 7.3% | |
| 1994 | | 776,827 | 725,387 | 51,440 | 6.6% | |
| 1995 | | 798,621 | 744,557 | 54,064 | 6.8% | |
| 1996 | | 812,862 | 751,826 | 61,036 | 7.5% | |
| 1997 | | 822,627 | 768,596 | 54,031 | 6.6% | |
| 1998 | | 835,879 | 783,661 | 52,218 | 6.2% | |
| 1999 | | 839,987 | 793,052 | 46,936 | 5.6% | |
| 2000 | | 852,293 | 810,024 | 42,269 | 5.0% | |
| 2001 | | 863,682 | 821,003 | 42,679 | 4.9% | |
| 2002 | | 871,512 | 823,191 | 48,321 | 5.5% | |
| 2003 | | 888,468 | 835,835 | 52,633 | 5.9% | |
| 2004 | | 903,803 | 851,967 | 51,835 | 5.7% | |
| 2005 | | 920,227 | 872,037 | 48,189 | 5.2% | |
| 2006 | | 936,998 | 896,885 | 40,113 | 4.3% | |
| 2007 | | 943,061 | 909,967 | 33,094 | 3.5% | |
| 2007 | JAN | 940,135 | 904,243 | 35,892 | 3.8% | 3.9% |
| | FEB | 941,572 | 906,250 | 35,322 | 3.8% | 3.8% |
| | MAR | 943,258 | 908,484 | 34,774 | 3.7% | 3.5% |
| | APR | 941,340 | 907,097 | 34,243 | 3.6% | 3.4% |
| | MAY | 941,949 | 908,220 | 33,729 | 3.6% | 3.4% |
| | JUN | 942,437 | 909,204 | 33,233 | 3.5% | 3.9% |
| | JUL | 942,567 | 909,805 | 32,762 | 3.5% | 4.1% |
| | AUG | 944,241 | 911,938 | 32,303 | 3.4% | 3.4% |
| | SEP | 944,095 | 912,243 | 31,852 | 3.4% | 3.3% |
| | OCT | 945,079 | 913,661 | 31,418 | 3.3% | 3.1% |
| | NOV | 944,885 | 913,881 | 31,004 | 3.3% | 3.2% |
| | DEC | 945,177 | 914,582 | 30,595 | 3.2% | 3.1% |
| 2008 | JAN | 946,227 | 916,598 | 29,629 | 3.1% | 3.2% |
| | FEB | 946,789 | 916,304 | 30,485 | 3.2% | 3.5% |
| | MAR | 950,059 | 915,318 | 34,741 | 3.7% | 3.7% |
| | APR | 951,024 | 917,360 | 33,664 | 3.5% | 3.4% |
| | MAY | 949,666 | 913,904 | 35,762 | 3.8% | 3.7% |
| | JUN | 951,334 | 914,027 | 37,307 | 3.9% | 4.5% |
| | JUL | 953,175 | 914,213 | 38,962 | 4.1% | 4.6% |
| | AUG | 957,929 | 913,595 | 44,334 | 4.6% | 4.7% |
| | SEP | 958,034 | 919,414 | 38,620 | 4.0% | 3.8% |
| | OCT | 961,564 | 919,833 | 41,731 | 4.3% | 4.1% |
| | NOV | 960,908 | 919,166 | 41,742 | 4.3% | 4.1% |
| | DEC | 966,125 | 918,350 | 47,775 | 4.9% | 4.5% |
| # CHANGE FROM | | | | | | |
| | Month Ago | 5,217 | -816 | 6,033 | 0.6% | 0.4% |
| | Year Ago | 20,948 | 3,768 | 17,180 | 1.7% | 1.4% |
| | 2 Yrs. Ago | 25,332 | 14,042 | 11,290 | 1.0% | 1.1% |
| | 3 Yrs. Ago | 37,701 | 34,663 | 3,038 | 0.1% | 0.3% |
| % CHANGE FROM | | | | | | |
| | Month Ago | 0.5% | -0.1% | 14.5% | | |
| | Year Ago | 2.2% | 0.4% | 56.2% | | |
| | 2 Yrs. Ago | 2.7% | 1.6% | 30.9% | | |
| | 3 Yrs. Ago | 4.1% | 3.9% | 6.8% | | |

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

| State | Rank | December 2007 | December 2008 | Change | % Change |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Wyoming | 1 | 289.9 | 296.3 | 6.4 | 2.2% |
| Texas | 2 | 10,538.0 | 10,692.7 | 154.7 | 1.5% |
| Alaska | 3 | 303.5 | 306.5 | 3.0 | 1.0% |
| Oklahoma | 3 | 1,584.3 | 1,599.7 | 15.4 | 1.0% |
| South Dakota | 5 | 407.0 | 410.2 | 3.2 | 0.8% |
| North Dakota | 6 | 363.1 | 365.0 | 1.9 | 0.5% |
| Louisiana | 7 | 1,949.5 | 1,958.0 | 8.5 | 0.4% |
| DC | 8 | 704.6 | 705.4 | 0.8 | 0.1% |
| Kansas | 8 | 1,396.8 | 1,397.6 | 0.8 | 0.1% |
| Nebraska | 10 | 976.0 | 974.7 | -1.3 | -0.1% |
| West Virginia | 11 | 763.5 | 760.8 | -2.7 | -0.4% |
| Iowa | 12 | 1,534.2 | 1,526.9 | -7.3 | -0.5% |
| Maryland | 13 | 2,645.4 | 2,630.4 | -15.0 | -0.6% |
| Colorado | 14 | 2,367.4 | 2,351.2 | -16.2 | -0.7% |
| New Mexico | 15 | 851.1 | 844.3 | -6.8 | -0.8% |
| Virginia | 15 | 3,797.5 | 3,766.4 | -31.1 | -0.8% |
| Montana | 15 | 447.6 | 443.8 | -3.8 | -0.8% |
| Missouri | 18 | 2,815.3 | 2,788.3 | -27.0 | -1.0% |
| New Hampshire | 19 | 660.5 | 653.3 | -7.2 | -1.1% |
| Massachusetts | 20 | 3,315.8 | 3,273.0 | -42.8 | -1.3% |
| Washington | 20 | 2,970.1 | 2,931.6 | -38.5 | -1.3% |
| Pennsylvania | 20 | 5,856.0 | 5,779.4 | -76.6 | -1.3% |
| New York | 23 | 8,899.9 | 8,778.5 | -121.4 | -1.4% |
| New Jersey | 24 | 4,121.2 | 4,057.6 | -63.6 | -1.5% |
| Arkansas | 25 | 1,212.1 | 1,193.3 | -18.8 | -1.6% |
| Ohio | 25 | 5,471.3 | 5,381.6 | -89.7 | -1.6% |
| Illinois | 27 | 6,033.1 | 5,931.2 | -101.9 | -1.7% |
| California | 27 | 15,290.5 | 15,030.7 | -259.8 | -1.7% |
| Delaware | 27 | 443.3 | 435.7 | -7.6 | -1.7% |
| Connecticut | 27 | 1,729.3 | 1,699.5 | -29.8 | -1.7% |
| Vermont | 31 | 314.8 | 308.9 | -5.9 | -1.9% |
| Maine | 31 | 624.2 | 612.4 | -11.8 | -1.9% |
| Kentucky | 33 | 1,893.9 | 1,856.9 | -37.0 | -2.0% |
| Minnesota | 33 | 2,787.5 | 2,732.1 | -55.4 | -2.0% |
| United States | | 138,934.0 | 136,119.0 | -2,815.0 | -2.0% |
| Alabama | 35 | 2,025.1 | 1,983.2 | -41.9 | -2.1% |
| Hawaii | 35 | 635.2 | 621.6 | -13.6 | -2.1% |
| Utah | 35 | 1,278.7 | 1,251.3 | -27.4 | -2.1% |
| Wisconsin | 38 | 2,896.0 | 2,833.4 | -62.6 | -2.2% |
| Mississippi | 39 | 1,161.3 | 1,135.0 | -26.3 | -2.3% |
| Tennessee | 39 | 2,829.4 | 2,764.9 | -64.5 | -2.3% |
| Nevada | 41 | 1,301.0 | 1,268.9 | -32.1 | -2.5% |
| Oregon | 42 | 1,748.7 | 1,703.6 | -45.1 | -2.6% |
| South Carolina | 43 | 1,961.0 | 1,906.9 | -54.1 | -2.8% |
| North Carolina | 44 | 4,210.9 | 4,090.2 | -120.7 | -2.9% |
| Georgia | 44 | 4,189.8 | 4,068.0 | -121.8 | -2.9% |
| Florida | 46 | 8,124.4 | 7,873.7 | -250.7 | -3.1% |
| Indiana | 47 | 3,020.8 | 2,908.5 | -112.3 | -3.7% |
| Michigan | 48 | 4,276.4 | 4,101.4 | -175.0 | -4.1% |
| Idaho | 49 | 658.0 | 629.6 | -28.4 | -4.3% |
| Arizona | 49 | 2,693.5 | 2,577.0 | -116.5 | -4.3% |
| Rhode Island | 51 | 495.2 | 473.1 | -22.1 | -4.5% |

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 2008 | | | | REVISED NOVEMBER 2008 | | | | REVISED DECEMBER 2007 | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| | Labor Force | Empl. | Unemp. | Rate | Labor Force | Empl. | Unemp. | Rate | Labor Force | Empl. | Unemp. | Rate |
| STATEWIDE | 966,241 | 922,742 | 43,499 | 4.5% | 964,712 | 925,077 | 39,635 | 4.1% | 946,498 | 917,598 | 28,900 | 3.1% |
| Albuquerque MSA 2/ | 415,409 | 395,797 | 19,612 | 4.7% | 414,484 | 396,492 | 17,992 | 4.3% | 407,506 | 395,075 | 12,431 | 3.1% |
| Bernalillo | 320,586 | 306,096 | 14,490 | 4.5% | 319,976 | 306,634 | 13,342 | 4.2% | 314,621 | 305,538 | 9,083 | 2.9% |
| Sandoval | 54,857 | 51,891 | 2,966 | 5.4% | 54,748 | 51,982 | 2,766 | 5.1% | 53,874 | 51,797 | 2,077 | 3.9% |
| Torrance | 7,891 | 7,430 | 461 | 5.8% | 7,792 | 7,443 | 349 | 4.5% | 7,681 | 7,417 | 264 | 3.4% |
| Valencia | 32,074 | 30,379 | 1,695 | 5.3% | 31,967 | 30,432 | 1,535 | 4.8% | 31,332 | 30,324 | 1,008 | 3.2% |
| Farmington MSA 3/ | 58,276 | 55,929 | 2,347 | 4.0% | 58,216 | 56,160 | 2,056 | 3.5% | 56,713 | 55,193 | 1,520 | 2.7% |
| Las Cruces MSA 4/ | 90,897 | 86,760 | 4,137 | 4.6% | 91,121 | 87,418 | 3,703 | 4.1% | 88,340 | 85,371 | 2,969 | 3.4% |
| Santa Fe MSA 5/ | 79,317 | 76,257 | 3,060 | 3.9% | 79,137 | 76,352 | 2,785 | 3.5% | 78,727 | 76,863 | 1,864 | 2.4% |
| Catron | 1,472 | 1,378 | 94 | 6.4% | 1,482 | 1,393 | 89 | 6.0% | 1,414 | 1,344 | 70 | 5.0% |
| Chaves | 28,034 | 26,877 | 1,157 | 4.1% | 27,935 | 26,851 | 1,084 | 3.9% | 27,950 | 27,130 | 820 | 2.9% |
| Cibola | 12,344 | 11,767 | 577 | 4.7% | 12,413 | 11,891 | 522 | 4.2% | 11,833 | 11,449 | 384 | 3.2% |
| Colfax | 6,611 | 6,263 | 348 | 5.3% | 6,397 | 6,101 | 296 | 4.6% | 6,400 | 6,192 | 208 | 3.3% |
| Curry | 21,875 | 21,260 | 615 | 2.8% | 21,681 | 21,085 | 596 | 2.7% | 21,688 | 21,208 | 480 | 2.2% |
| De Baca | 877 | 843 | 34 | 3.9% | 868 | 835 | 33 | 3.8% | 875 | 849 | 26 | 3.0% |
| Eddy | 28,074 | 27,291 | 783 | 2.8% | 28,081 | 27,371 | 710 | 2.5% | 26,827 | 26,234 | 593 | 2.2% |
| Grant | 12,846 | 12,016 | 830 | 6.5% | 12,848 | 12,149 | 699 | 5.4% | 12,458 | 12,059 | 399 | 3.2% |
| Guadalupe | 1,799 | 1,699 | 100 | 5.6% | 1,773 | 1,675 | 98 | 5.5% | 1,831 | 1,752 | 79 | 4.3% |
| Harding | 452 | 439 | 13 | 2.9% | 469 | 458 | 11 | 2.3% | 428 | 419 | 9 | 2.1% |
| Hidalgo | 3,012 | 2,857 | 155 | 5.1% | 3,317 | 3,194 | 123 | 3.7% | 2,937 | 2,862 | 75 | 2.6% |
| Lea | 30,431 | 29,611 | 820 | 2.7% | 30,435 | 29,679 | 756 | 2.5% | 28,433 | 27,928 | 505 | 1.8% |
| Lincoln | 11,176 | 10,764 | 412 | 3.7% | 11,186 | 10,820 | 366 | 3.3% | 10,808 | 10,522 | 286 | 2.6% |
| Los Alamos | 10,046 | 9,794 | 252 | 2.5% | 10,088 | 9,841 | 247 | 2.4% | 10,355 | 10,184 | 171 | 1.7% |
| Luna | 12,375 | 10,761 | 1,614 | 13.0% | 12,761 | 11,377 | 1,384 | 10.8% | 12,185 | 10,941 | 1,244 | 10.2% |
| McKinley | 27,648 | 26,152 | 1,496 | 5.4% | 27,525 | 26,199 | 1,326 | 4.8% | 26,875 | 25,830 | 1,045 | 3.9% |
| Mora | 2,090 | 1,896 | 194 | 9.3% | 2,059 | 1,896 | 163 | 7.9% | 2,081 | 1,921 | 160 | 7.7% |
| Otero | 26,838 | 25,728 | 1,110 | 4.1% | 26,532 | 25,465 | 1,067 | 4.0% | 26,441 | 25,652 | 789 | 3.0% |
| Quay | 3,975 | 3,791 | 184 | 4.6% | 3,977 | 3,807 | 170 | 4.3% | 3,972 | 3,821 | 151 | 3.8% |
| Rio Arriba | 20,972 | 19,870 | 1,102 | 5.3% | 20,944 | 19,920 | 1,024 | 4.9% | 20,691 | 19,873 | 818 | 4.0% |
| Roosevelt | 9,817 | 9,554 | 263 | 2.7% | 10,017 | 9,772 | 245 | 2.4% | 9,771 | 9,582 | 189 | 1.9% |
| San Miguel | 13,795 | 13,168 | 627 | 4.5% | 13,702 | 13,109 | 593 | 4.3% | 13,834 | 13,369 | 465 | 3.4% |
| Sierra | 5,872 | 5,629 | 243 | 4.1% | 5,993 | 5,768 | 225 | 3.8% | 5,657 | 5,490 | 167 | 3.0% |
| Socorro | 9,808 | 9,488 | 320 | 3.3% | 9,712 | 9,424 | 288 | 3.0% | 9,667 | 9,432 | 235 | 2.4% |
| Taos | 17,975 | 17,038 | 937 | 5.2% | 17,448 | 16,514 | 934 | 5.4% | 17,704 | 16,985 | 719 | 4.1% |
| Union | 2,126 | 2,063 | 63 | 3.0% | 2,113 | 2,061 | 52 | 2.5% | 2,100 | 2,069 | 31 | 1.5% |

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the USDOL, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Estimates are subject to revision.

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

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - San Juan County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County

5/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe County

Unemployment Rates in New Mexico (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 2008 | | | REVISED NOVEMBER 2008 | | | REVISED DECEMBER 2007 | | |
|---------------------------|------|-------|-----------------------|------|-------|-----------------------|------|-------|
| AREAS | RANK | RATE | AREAS | RANK | RATE | AREAS | RANK | RATE |
| LUNA | 1 | 13.0% | LUNA | 1 | 10.8% | LUNA | 1 | 10.2% |
| MORA | 2 | 9.3% | MORA | 2 | 7.9% | MORA | 2 | 7.7% |
| GRANT | 3 | 6.5% | CATRON | 3 | 6.0% | CATRON | 3 | 5.0% |
| CATRON | 4 | 6.4% | GUADALUPE | 4 | 5.5% | GUADALUPE | 4 | 4.3% |
| GUADALUPE | 5 | 5.6% | GRANT | 5 | 5.4% | TAOS | 5 | 4.1% |
| MCKINLEY | 6 | 5.4% | TAOS | 5 | 5.4% | RIO ARRIBA | 6 | 4.0% |
| COLFAX | 7 | 5.3% | RIO ARRIBA | 7 | 4.9% | MCKINLEY | 7 | 3.9% |
| RIO ARRIBA | 7 | 5.3% | MCKINLEY | 8 | 4.8% | QUAY | 8 | 3.8% |
| TAOS | 9 | 5.2% | COLFAX | 9 | 4.6% | SAN MIGUEL | 9 | 3.4% |
| HIDALGO | 10 | 5.1% | ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/ | 10 | 4.3% | LAS CRUCES MSA 3/ | 9 | 3.4% |
| ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/ | 11 | 4.7% | SAN MIGUEL | 10 | 4.3% | COLFAX | 11 | 3.3% |
| CIBOLA | 11 | 4.7% | QUAY | 10 | 4.3% | CIBOLA | 12 | 3.2% |
| QUAY | 13 | 4.6% | CIBOLA | 13 | 4.2% | GRANT | 12 | 3.2% |
| LAS CRUCES MSA 3/ | 13 | 4.6% | STATEWIDE | | 4.1% | STATEWIDE | | 3.1% |
| SAN MIGUEL | 15 | 4.5% | LAS CRUCES MSA 3/ | 14 | 4.1% | ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/ | 14 | 3.1% |
| STATEWIDE | | 4.5% | OTERO | 15 | 4.0% | OTERO | 15 | 3.0% |
| SIERRA | 16 | 4.1% | CHAVES | 16 | 3.9% | DE BACA | 15 | 3.0% |
| OTERO | 16 | 4.1% | DE BACA | 17 | 3.8% | SIERRA | 15 | 3.0% |
| CHAVES | 16 | 4.1% | SIERRA | 17 | 3.8% | CHAVES | 18 | 2.9% |
| FARMINGTON MSA 2/ | 19 | 4.0% | HIDALGO | 19 | 3.7% | FARMINGTON MSA 2/ | 19 | 2.7% |
| DE BACA | 20 | 3.9% | FARMINGTON MSA 2/ | 20 | 3.5% | LINCOLN | 20 | 2.6% |
| SANTA FE MSA 4/ | 20 | 3.9% | SANTA FE MSA 4/ | 20 | 3.5% | HIDALGO | 20 | 2.6% |
| LINCOLN | 22 | 3.7% | LINCOLN | 22 | 3.3% | SOCORRO | 22 | 2.4% |
| SOCORRO | 23 | 3.3% | SOCORRO | 23 | 3.0% | SANTA FE MSA 4/ | 22 | 2.4% |
| UNION | 24 | 3.0% | CURRY | 24 | 2.7% | CURRY | 24 | 2.2% |
| HARDING | 25 | 2.9% | EDDY | 25 | 2.5% | EDDY | 24 | 2.2% |
| CURRY | 26 | 2.8% | LEA | 25 | 2.5% | HARDING | 26 | 2.1% |
| EDDY | 26 | 2.8% | UNION | 25 | 2.5% | ROOSEVELT | 27 | 1.9% |
| LEA | 28 | 2.7% | LOS ALAMOS | 28 | 2.4% | LEA | 28 | 1.8% |
| ROOSEVELT | 28 | 2.7% | ROOSEVELT | 28 | 2.4% | LOS ALAMOS | 29 | 1.7% |
| LOS ALAMOS | 30 | 2.5% | HARDING | 30 | 2.3% | UNION | 30 | 1.5% |

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

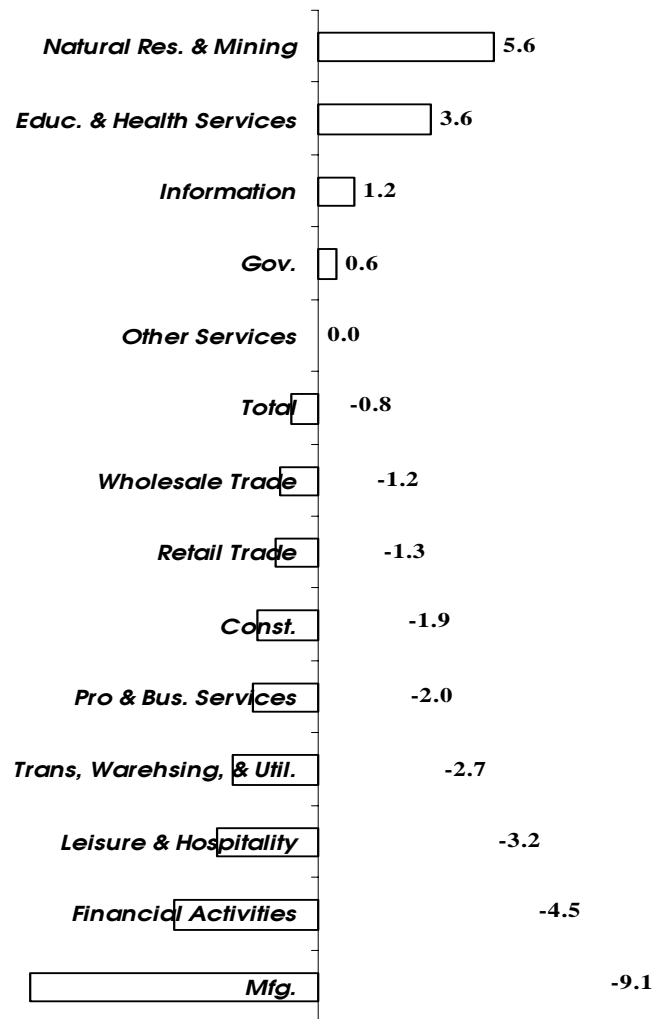
Unemployment Rate by State (Seasonally Adjusted)

| December 2008 | | | December 2007 | | |
|----------------------|------|------------|----------------------|------|------------|
| State | Rank | Rate | State | Rank | Rate |
| Michigan | 1 | 10.6 | Michigan | 1 | 7.4 |
| Rhode Island | 2 | 10.0 | Alaska | 2 | 6.3 |
| South Carolina | 3 | 9.5 | Mississippi | 2 | 6.3 |
| California | 4 | 9.3 | South Carolina | 4 | 6.2 |
| Nevada | 5 | 9.1 | California | 5 | 5.9 |
| Oregon | 6 | 9.0 | Ohio | 6 | 5.8 |
| District of Columbia | 7 | 8.8 | District of Columbia | 7 | 5.7 |
| North Carolina | 8 | 8.7 | Arkansas | 8 | 5.5 |
| Indiana | 9 | 8.2 | Oregon | 9 | 5.4 |
| Florida | 10 | 8.1 | Illinois | 10 | 5.3 |
| Georgia | 10 | 8.1 | Kentucky | 10 | 5.3 |
| Mississippi | 12 | 8.0 | Missouri | 10 | 5.3 |
| Tennessee | 13 | 7.9 | Nevada | 13 | 5.2 |
| Kentucky | 14 | 7.8 | Rhode Island | 13 | 5.2 |
| Ohio | 14 | 7.8 | Tennessee | 15 | 5.0 |
| Illinois | 16 | 7.6 | Maine | 16 | 4.9 |
| Alaska | 17 | 7.5 | United States | | 4.9 |
| Missouri | 18 | 7.3 | Connecticut | 17 | 4.8 |
| United States | | 7.2 | Wisconsin | 17 | 4.8 |
| Connecticut | 19 | 7.1 | Minnesota | 19 | 4.7 |
| New Jersey | 19 | 7.1 | North Carolina | 19 | 4.7 |
| Washington | 19 | 7.1 | New York | 21 | 4.6 |
| Maine | 22 | 7.0 | Washington | 21 | 4.6 |
| New York | 22 | 7.0 | West Virginia | 21 | 4.6 |
| Arizona | 24 | 6.9 | Florida | 24 | 4.5 |
| Massachusetts | 24 | 6.9 | Georgia | 24 | 4.5 |
| Minnesota | 24 | 6.9 | Indiana | 24 | 4.5 |
| Alabama | 27 | 6.7 | Pennsylvania | 27 | 4.4 |
| Pennsylvania | 27 | 6.7 | Massachusetts | 28 | 4.3 |
| Idaho | 29 | 6.4 | Arizona | 29 | 4.2 |
| Vermont | 29 | 6.4 | Kansas | 29 | 4.2 |
| Arkansas | 31 | 6.2 | New Jersey | 29 | 4.2 |
| Delaware | 31 | 6.2 | Texas | 29 | 4.2 |
| Wisconsin | 31 | 6.2 | Oklahoma | 33 | 4.1 |
| Colorado | 34 | 6.1 | Colorado | 34 | 4.0 |
| Texas | 35 | 6.0 | Louisiana | 34 | 4.0 |
| Louisiana | 36 | 5.9 | Vermont | 36 | 3.9 |
| Maryland | 37 | 5.8 | Iowa | 37 | 3.8 |
| Hawaii | 38 | 5.5 | Alabama | 38 | 3.7 |
| Montana | 39 | 5.4 | Maryland | 39 | 3.6 |
| Virginia | 39 | 5.4 | Delaware | 40 | 3.5 |
| Kansas | 41 | 5.2 | New Hampshire | 41 | 3.4 |
| New Mexico | 42 | 4.9 | Montana | 42 | 3.2 |
| Oklahoma | 42 | 4.9 | New Mexico | 42 | 3.2 |
| West Virginia | 42 | 4.9 | North Dakota | 42 | 3.2 |
| Iowa | 45 | 4.6 | Virginia | 45 | 3.2 |
| New Hampshire | 45 | 4.6 | Hawaii | 46 | 3.1 |
| Utah | 47 | 4.3 | Wyoming | 46 | 3.1 |
| Nebraska | 48 | 4.0 | South Dakota | 48 | 2.9 |
| South Dakota | 49 | 3.9 | Utah | 48 | 2.9 |
| North Dakota | 50 | 3.5 | Nebraska | 50 | 2.8 |
| Wyoming | 51 | 3.4 | Idaho | 51 | 2.7 |

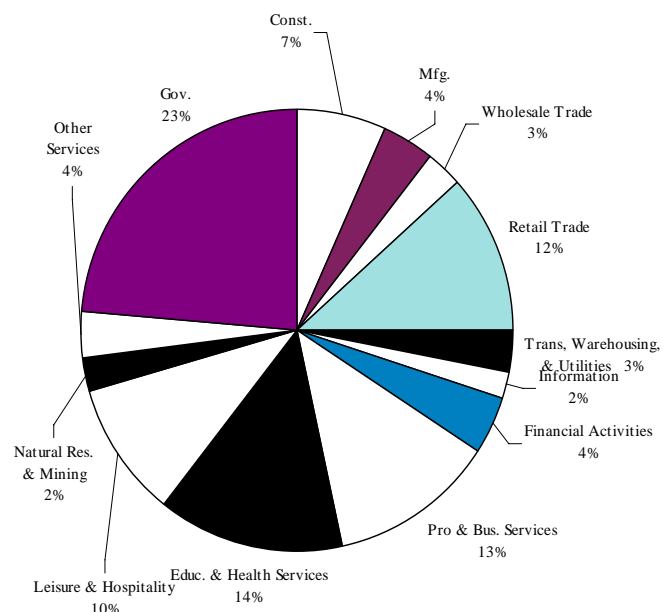
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Mexico Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Annual Growth Rates by Industry



NAICS Industries



Is Your Job Recession-Proof?

By Bob Richards, Economist

Is Your Job Recession-Proof? Every day we are bombarded with negative news about the state of the economy and mounting job losses as the national recession deepens. Some economists are saying the only way to avoid the recession is to hibernate through all of 2009. Ask anyone on the street and they will tell you “recessions are not a good thing.” So where can you find a job that can weather the economic storm?

Not surprisingly, the goods-producing jobs (i.e., mining, manufacturing, and construction) have felt the brunt of the slowdown. Yet not all jobs are at risk during a recession. As a matter of fact, some jobs are continuing to grow. It’s fairly safe to say most recession-proof jobs are in the service-providing sector of the economy.

In a national study¹, about half of the top one hundred jobs ranked as the most recession-proof were found in the health care and educational services sectors, with registered nurses and teachers posting nearly 500,000 annual openings between the two. New Mexico’s industry projections models show total annual openings of over 2,500 jobs in educational services, and over 2,300 annual job openings added to the healthcare and social assistance sector through 2017.

Many of these jobs are dependent on population growth rather than the current economic climate. Our aging population will have need of additional health care and personal care services, again not dependant on the state of the economy. As the population in our cities and counties continues to grow, governments are required to supply a sufficient level of protective services (police & fire fighters) to ensure the health and safety of the community. Computer systems and networks are a constant source of news for identity theft and other breaches. Unfortunately, this trend is going to be with us during and after the slowdown.

In the near term, we expect continued job growth, or at the very least, minimal layoffs in these industries. While occupations will vary within industries, the following list provides a glimpse at what are considered by many as the most recession-proof jobs.

- Doctors, nurses, aides, and home health care workers,
- Personal care workers,
- Teachers and administrators,
- Accountants and bookkeepers, and other financial services,
- Engineers,
- Managers,
- Computer and network system analysts and administrators,
- Social and school counselors,
- Police and fire fighters, and other protective services.

¹150 Best Recession-Proof Jobs, By Laurence Shatkin, PhD (JIST Works, 2009).



The table is an abbreviated list of recession-proof jobs in New Mexico. For a list of the top 100 recession-proof jobs identified in New Mexico, go to www.dws.state.nm.us/careersolutions/CSS-Occstats.html.

New Mexico Top 25 Most Recession-Proof Jobs

| Occupational Title | 2007 | 2017 | Total Annual Openings | Entry Wage | Average Wage |
|---|-------|-------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Personal & Home Care Aides | 1,110 | 1,740 | 628 | \$8.41 | \$9.36 |
| Home Health Aides | 6,800 | 1,020 | 343 | \$8.33 | \$10.08 |
| Correctional Officers & Jailers | 6,600 | 8,810 | 221 | \$11.89 | \$14.20 |
| Registered Nurses | 1,260 | 1,450 | 187 | \$22.64 | \$29.83 |
| LPNs | 5,380 | 5,560 | 180 | \$17.06 | \$22.93 |
| Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants | 7,500 | 9,100 | 160 | \$8.42 | \$10.89 |
| Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks | 1,280 | 1,440 | 155 | \$9.35 | \$14.23 |
| Middle School Teachers* | 5,170 | 6,560 | 139 | \$34,200 | \$47,110 |
| Secondary School Teachers* | 6,770 | 8,160 | 139 | \$32,950 | \$47,360 |
| Maintenance & Repair Wrkrs | 9,230 | 1,040 | 115 | \$9.37 | \$14.60 |
| Automotive Service Technicians | 5,240 | 6,290 | 104 | \$9.64 | \$16.65 |
| Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer | 1,040 | 1,130 | 97 | \$11.82 | \$17.66 |
| Medical Assistants | 2,980 | 3,840 | 86 | \$9.92 | \$13.16 |
| Security Guards | 7,400 | 8,240 | 84 | \$8.13 | \$13.01 |
| Accountants & Auditors | 5,820 | 6,600 | 79 | \$17.85 | \$27.47 |
| Social & Human Service Assistants | 2,910 | 3,660 | 75 | \$9.10 | \$13.75 |
| Child, Family & School Social Wrkrs | 2,550 | 3,280 | 73 | \$10.14 | \$16.40 |
| Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers | 2,860 | 3,590 | 73 | \$14.97 | \$19.54 |
| Child Care Wrkrs | 4,380 | 5,090 | 71 | \$6.63 | \$8.51 |
| Pharmacy Technicians | 1,720 | 2,280 | 57 | \$10.26 | \$13.76 |
| Probation Officers | 2,230 | 2,780 | 56 | \$13.58 | \$16.79 |
| Preschool Teachers | 2,610 | 3,140 | 53 | \$7.37 | \$12.64 |
| Dental Assistants | 1,810 | 2,240 | 43 | \$11.37 | \$15.23 |
| Education Administrators, Elem & Sec'd* | 1,790 | 2,200 | 41 | \$54,540 | \$70,590 |
| Special Education Teachers, Middle* | 1,250 | 1,660 | 41 | \$32,080 | \$44,650 |

*Annual Wages

Source: NMDWS, ER&A, Industry Projections, and EDS Wage Information, 2007.

State of the Workforce Report 2009

Now Exclusively Online!



<http://www.dws.state.nm.us/dws-lmi.html>

Give it a Click!

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

| NEW MEXICO | Preliminary | Revised | Revised | Change | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Dec-08 | Nov-08 | Dec-07 | Monthly | Yearly |
| TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT | 844,300 | 847,900 | 851,100 | -3,600 | -6,800 |
| GOODS-PRODUCING | 110,500 | 111,700 | 113,800 | -1,200 | -3,300 |
| SERVICE-PROVIDING | 733,800 | 736,200 | 737,300 | -2,400 | -3,500 |
| NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING | 20,600 | 20,600 | 19,500 | 0 | 1,100 |
| CONSTRUCTION | 56,900 | 57,400 | 58,000 | -500 | -1,100 |
| MANUFACTURING | 33,000 | 33,700 | 36,300 | -700 | -3,300 |
| WHOLESALE TRADE | 23,800 | 24,000 | 24,100 | -200 | -300 |
| RETAIL TRADE | 97,600 | 97,500 | 98,900 | 100 | -1,300 |
| TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES | 25,100 | 25,100 | 25,800 | 0 | -700 |
| INFORMATION | 16,800 | 16,100 | 16,600 | 700 | 200 |
| FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES | 34,100 | 34,100 | 35,700 | 0 | -1,600 |
| PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES | 106,100 | 106,700 | 108,300 | -600 | -2,200 |
| EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES | 117,800 | 118,100 | 113,700 | -300 | 4,100 |
| Educational Services | 14,400 | 14,900 | 14,100 | -500 | 300 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 103,400 | 103,200 | 99,600 | 200 | 3,800 |
| LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY | 83,900 | 84,200 | 86,700 | -300 | -2,800 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 8,300 | 7,800 | 8,200 | 500 | 100 |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 75,600 | 76,400 | 78,500 | -800 | -2,900 |
| OTHER SERVICES | 28,700 | 29,300 | 28,700 | -600 | 0 |
| GOVERNMENT | 199,900 | 201,100 | 198,800 | -1,200 | 1,100 |
| Federal Government | 30,500 | 30,600 | 30,100 | -100 | 400 |
| State Government | 61,100 | 61,700 | 61,400 | -600 | -300 |
| <i>State Government Education</i> | <i>29,200</i> | <i>29,600</i> | <i>28,900</i> | <i>-400</i> | <i>300</i> |
| Local Government | 108,300 | 108,800 | 107,300 | -500 | 1,000 |
| <i>Local Government Education</i> | <i>59,300</i> | <i>59,400</i> | <i>58,400</i> | <i>-100</i> | <i>900</i> |

| ALBUQUERQUE | Preliminary | Revised | Revised | Change | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Dec-08 | Nov-08 | Dec-07 | Monthly | Yearly |
| TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT | 396,800 | 396,400 | 398,400 | 400 | -1,600 |
| GOODS-PRODUCING | 49,300 | 49,700 | 52,000 | -400 | -2,700 |
| SERVICE-PROVIDING | 347,500 | 346,700 | 346,400 | 800 | 1,100 |
| NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING & CONSTRUCTION | 27,900 | 28,300 | 29,000 | -400 | -1,100 |
| MANUFACTURING | 21,400 | 21,400 | 23,000 | 0 | -1,600 |
| WHOLESALE TRADE | 13,100 | 13,100 | 13,300 | 0 | -200 |
| RETAIL TRADE | 46,300 | 45,900 | 47,000 | 400 | -700 |
| TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES | 11,100 | 10,800 | 11,300 | 300 | -200 |
| INFORMATION | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 | 0 | 0 |
| FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES | 18,700 | 18,700 | 19,300 | 0 | -600 |
| PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES | 63,900 | 63,900 | 63,900 | 0 | 0 |
| EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES | 51,800 | 51,500 | 49,400 | 300 | 2,400 |
| LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY | 38,700 | 38,700 | 39,400 | 0 | -700 |
| OTHER SERVICES | 12,200 | 12,500 | 12,200 | -300 | 0 |
| GOVERNMENT | 82,400 | 82,300 | 81,300 | 100 | 1,100 |
| Federal Government | 14,600 | 14,500 | 14,400 | 100 | 200 |
| State Government | 26,700 | 26,700 | 26,600 | 0 | 100 |
| Local Government | 41,000 | 41,000 | 40,300 | 0 | 700 |

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

| LAS CRUCES MSA | Preliminary Dec-08 | Revised Nov-08 | Revised Dec-07 | Change | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | | Monthly | Yearly |
| TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT | 70,200 | 70,600 | 69,500 | -400 | 700 |
| GOODS-PRODUCING | 7,300 | 7,500 | 7,800 | -200 | -500 |
| SERVICE-PROVIDING | 62,900 | 63,100 | 61,700 | -200 | 1,200 |
| NATURAL RESOURCES MINING & CONSTRUCTION | 4,200 | 4,300 | 4,800 | -100 | -600 |
| MANUFACTURING | 3,100 | 3,200 | 3,000 | -100 | 100 |
| WHOLESALE TRADE | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 0 | 0 |
| RETAIL TRADE | 7,300 | 7,300 | 7,400 | 0 | -100 |
| TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES | 1,900 | 1,800 | 2,000 | 100 | -100 |
| INFORMATION | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,100 | 0 | -100 |
| FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,300 | 0 | 300 |
| PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES | 6,500 | 6,600 | 5,800 | -100 | 700 |
| EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES | 11,300 | 11,300 | 11,000 | 0 | 300 |
| LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY | 7,200 | 7,200 | 7,400 | 0 | -200 |
| OTHER SERVICES | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,500 | 0 | 200 |
| GOVERNMENT | 22,100 | 22,300 | 21,900 | -200 | 200 |
| Federal | 3,800 | 3,900 | 3,700 | -100 | 100 |
| State | 9,200 | 9,400 | 9,200 | -200 | 0 |
| Local | 9,100 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 100 | 100 |
| SANTA FE MSA | Preliminary Dec-08 | Revised Nov-08 | Revised Dec-07 | Change | |
| | | | | Monthly | Yearly |
| TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT | 65,200 | 65,100 | 66,100 | 100 | -900 |
| GOODS -PRODUCING | 5,400 | 5,600 | 6,000 | -200 | -600 |
| SERVICE-PROVIDING | 59,800 | 59,500 | 60,100 | 300 | -300 |
| NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION | 4,500 | 4,700 | 4,900 | -200 | -400 |
| MANUFACTURING | 900 | 900 | 1,100 | 0 | -200 |
| WHOLESALE TRADE | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 0 | 100 |
| RETAIL TRADE | 9,200 | 9,200 | 9,200 | 0 | 0 |
| TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES | 700 | 700 | 800 | 0 | -100 |
| INFORMATION | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,800 | 0 | -500 |
| FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES | 2,800 | 2,800 | 3,000 | 0 | -200 |
| PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES | 5,300 | 5,200 | 5,700 | 100 | -400 |
| EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES | 10,200 | 10,200 | 9,800 | 0 | 400 |
| LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY | 9,100 | 9,000 | 9,100 | 100 | 0 |
| OTHER SERVICES | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,800 | 0 | 100 |
| GOVERNMENT | 17,000 | 16,900 | 16,700 | 100 | 300 |
| Federal | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 | 0 |
| State | 8,300 | 8,200 | 8,300 | 100 | 0 |
| Local | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,400 | 0 | 300 |
| FARMINGTON MSA | Preliminary Dec-08 | Revised Nov-08 | Revised Dec-07 | Change | |
| | | | | Monthly | Yearly |
| TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT | 53,100 | 53,200 | 52,700 | -100 | 400 |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 41,800 | 41,900 | 41,300 | -100 | 500 |
| GOODS-PRODUCING | 12,800 | 12,900 | 12,500 | -100 | 300 |
| SERVICE-PROVIDING | 40,300 | 40,300 | 40,200 | 0 | 100 |
| PRIVATE SERVICE-PROVIDING | 29,000 | 29,000 | 28,800 | 0 | 200 |
| GOVERNMENT | 11,300 | 11,300 | 11,400 | 0 | -100 |
| Federal | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 0 | 0 |
| State | 500 | 500 | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| Local | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,400 | 0 | -100 |

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

- Seasonally Adjusted -

| NEW MEXICO | Preliminary Dec-08 | Revised Nov-08 | Monthly Change |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT* | 839,800 | 843,400 | -3,600 |
| NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING | 20,600 | 20,500 | 100 |
| CONSTRUCTION | 57,600 | 57,400 | 200 |
| MANUFACTURING | 33,300 | 33,800 | -500 |
| TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES | 142,600 | 143,700 | -1,100 |
| INFORMATION (Not Seasonally Adjusted) | 16,800 | 16,100 | 700 |
| FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES | 34,000 | 34,200 | -200 |
| PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES | 105,700 | 106,100 | -400 |
| EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES | 116,600 | 116,600 | 0 |
| LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY | 85,700 | 86,300 | -600 |
| OTHER SERVICES | 29,400 | 29,900 | -500 |
| GOVERNMENT | 197,500 | 198,800 | -1,300 |

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

Average Hours and Earnings

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

| | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Dec 08 | Nov 08 | Dec 07 | Dec 08 | Nov 08 | Dec 07 | Dec 08 | Nov 08 | Dec 07 |
| NEW MEXICO | | | | | | | | | |
| CONSTRUCTION | \$681.60 | \$685.50 | \$671.34 | 40.0 | 40.3 | 40.2 | \$17.04 | \$17.01 | \$16.70 |
| MANUFACTURING | \$582.43 | \$579.46 | \$604.12 | 39.3 | 39.1 | 38.9 | \$14.82 | \$14.82 | \$15.53 |
| WHOLESALE TRADE | \$557.48 | \$554.04 | \$539.49 | 36.2 | 36.0 | 35.1 | \$15.40 | \$15.39 | \$15.37 |
| RETAIL TRADE | \$369.93 | \$367.22 | \$368.71 | 33.0 | 32.7 | 32.4 | \$11.21 | \$11.23 | \$11.38 |

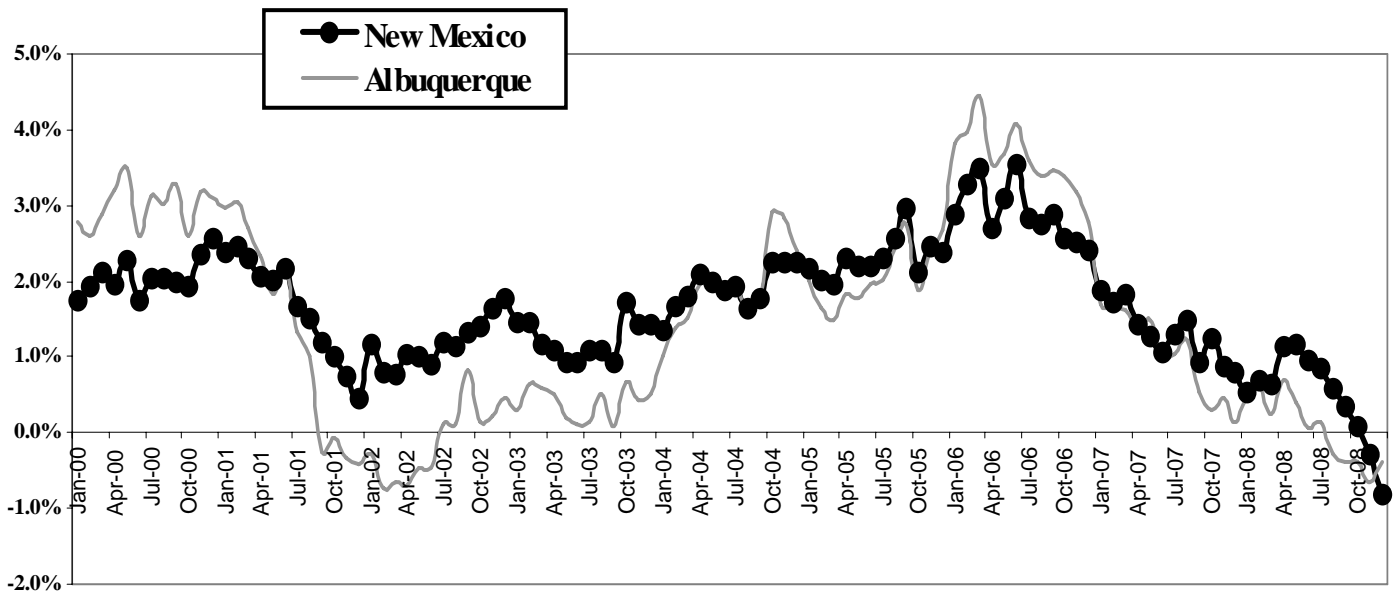
Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not 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 08 | Nov 08 | Dec 07 | Month to Month | Year to Year |
| CPI-U | 210.2 | 212.4 | 210.0 | -1.0% | 0.1% |
| CPI-W | 204.8 | 207.3 | 205.8 | -1.2% | -0.5% |

*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 Occupational Shortages and Surpluses*

| Shortages | |
|--|----------------------|
| Statewide Summary | |
| Agricultural Workers | Security Guards |
| Combined Food Prep & Serving Workers | Stock Clerks |
| Driver/Sales Workers | Survey Researchers |
| Food Preparation Workers | Waiters & Waitresses |
| Gaming Service Workers | |
| Interviewers | |
| Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners | |
| Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants | |
| Personal & Home Care Aides | |
| Police Patrol Officers | |
| Albuquerque MSA | |
| Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers | |
| Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants | |
| Personal & Home Care Aides | |
| Pharmacy Technicians | |
| Security Guards | |
| Survey Researchers | |
| Waiters & Waitresses | |
| Las Cruces MSA | |
| Electricians | |
| Gaming Service Workers | |
| Helpers--Production Workers | |
| Interpreters & Translators | |
| Telemarketers | |
| Truck Drivers | |
| Santa Fe MSA | |
| Gaming Service Workers | |
| Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technicians | |
| Rehabilitation Counselors | |
| Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks | |
| Supervisors/Mngrs of Housekeeping & Janitorial Workers | |
| Farmington MSA | |
| Construction Laborers | |
| Driver/Sales Workers | |
| Electricians | |
| Interviewers | |
| Retail Salespersons | |
| Security Guards | |
| Stock Clerks | |
| Structural Iron & Steel Workers | |

| Surpluses | |
|--|--|
| Statewide Summary | |
| Accountants | Laborers & Freight, Stck & Mat Movers |
| Administrative Services Managers | Maintenance & Repair Workers |
| Computer Support Specialists | Managers |
| Construction Carpenters | Office Clerks |
| Construction Laborers | Oper Engineers & Const Equip Operators |
| Customer Service Representatives | Production Workers |
| Exec Secretaries & Admin Assistants | Receptionists & Information Clerks |
| General & Operations Managers | |
| Helpers--Production Workers | |
| Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators | |
| Albuquerque MSA | |
| Administrative Services Managers | Retail Salespersons |
| Computer Support Specialists | Sales & Related Workers |
| Construction Laborers | Sales Managers |
| Electricians | Sales Representatives |
| Exec Secretaries & Admin Assistants | Truck Drivers |
| General & Operations Managers | |
| Laborers & Freight, Stck & Mat Movers | |
| Managers | |
| Office Clerks | |
| Production Workers | |
| Las Cruces MSA | |
| Cashiers | Oper Engineers & Const Equip Operators |
| Construction Carpenters | |
| Construction Laborers | |
| Exec Secretaries & Admin Assistants | |
| Farmworkers & Laborers | |
| Food Preparation Workers | |
| Home Health Aides | |
| Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators | |
| Maintenance & Repair Workers | |
| Managers | |
| Santa Fe MSA | |
| Accountants | |
| Cashiers | |
| Construction Managers | |
| Customer Service Representatives | |
| Managers | |
| Receptionists & Information Clerks | |
| Farmington MSA | |
| Cashiers | |
| Chemical Equipment Operators & Tenders | |
| Construction Carpenters | |
| Construction Laborers | |
| Installation, Maintenance & Repair Workers | |
| Office Clerks | |
| Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas | |

*Based on posted job orders & resumes entered in the NM Workforce Connection System by occupation in the last 30 Days (January 23, 2009).

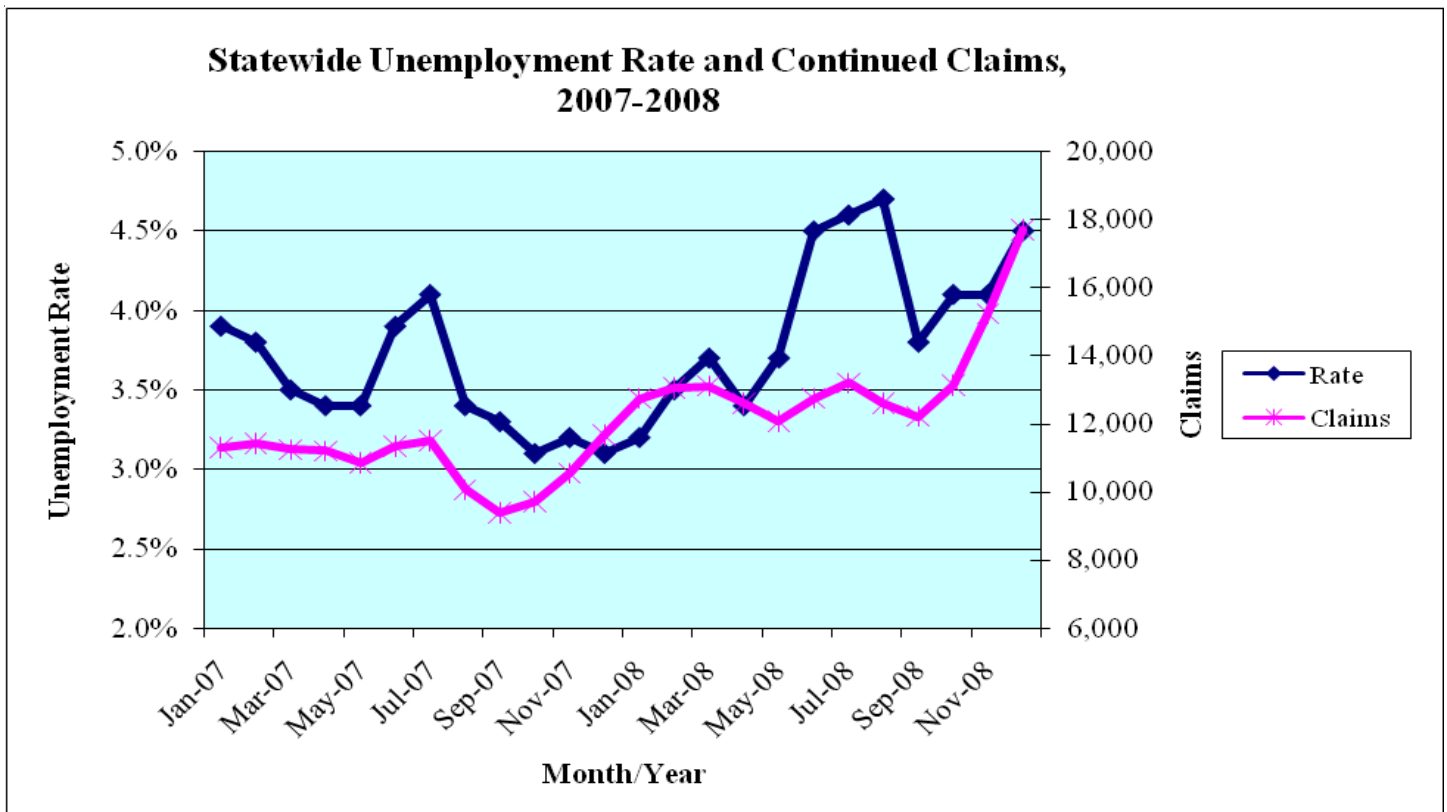
Unemployment Is on the Rise in New Mexico

By Tracy Shaleen, Economist

The number of New Mexico residents filing continued claims for state unemployment insurance benefits has increased significantly in recent months, from 9,392 in September 2007 to 17,698 in December 2008. (These data relate to persons who have claimed unemployment for the week including the twelfth day of the month and have no earnings associated with employment.) The statewide not seasonally adjusted unemployed rate has likewise risen sharply, from 3.2 percent in January 2008 (3.1 percent seasonally adjusted) to 4.5 percent in December (4.9 percent seasonally adjusted), with seasonal increases during the summer months. The graph below tracks the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate and continued claims counts for 2007 and 2008.

The Current Population Survey (CPS) is the primary input used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to produce statewide labor force estimates. The CPS classifies persons as unemployed “if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work.” This definition applies regardless of whether the individual is receiving UI benefits. Therefore, the published estimate of unemployed persons (the numerator in the unemployment rate calculation) is significantly larger than the count of individuals receiving UI benefits.

The five major categories of the unemployed are (1) job losers—persons on temporary layoff and those whose employment ended involuntarily, (2) job leavers—persons who quit or otherwise terminated their employment voluntarily, (3) persons who have completed temporary jobs, (4) re-entrants—persons who previously worked but were out of the workforce before beginning their current job search, and (5) new entrants—persons who never worked prior to their current job search. The fact that UI claimants represent only part of the total unemployment estimate is most evident in observing movements in the unemployment rate and continued claims series during the summer months. The graph indicates that re-entrants and new entrants caused a sharp spike in the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate during these periods, while claims counts posted only moderate increases.



Source: New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

Workforce Information Tips

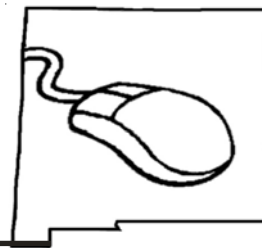
How do I research the unemployment rate?

1. Start at <http://laser.state.nm.us/>.
2. Click on “Labor Force” and then click on “Labor Force, Employment & Unemployment.”
3. In Step 1 use the pull-down list to select “New Mexico.” Click on “Select.”
4. In Step 2 select “Annual” from the pull-down list and then click on "2008" in the box below. Now drag the cursor down until you have several years selected then click on “Search.”
5. Now you have civilian labor force, employment, unemployment and the unemployment rate for several year.

How do I get a spreadsheet of all occupations and their wages in New Mexico?

1. Start at <http://laser.state.nm.us>.
2. Click on “Occupation.”
3. Click on “Occupational Wages.”
4. Click on “NM Occupational Wage Survey.”
5. In Step 1, use the pull-down list to select “New Mexico.” Click on “Select.”
6. In Step 2, select “Annual” from the pull-down list and then "2007" in the box below. Click on “Select.”
7. In Step 3, click on “Total All Occupations” and drag until all the titles are selected. Then click “Search.”
8. Now you have a list of all occupations and both their hourly and annual wages. At the bottom of the table, you can choose to see the data by hourly or annual only. If you click the Excel button, you can then save the data to your computer. Note that you can view more records at one time by changing records per page from 5 to 100 and clicking “Go.”

Suzan Reagan
Labor Market Information Webmaster
New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions
Economic Research & Analysis Bureau



For more labor market information and publications, give it a click!

www.dws.state.nm.us/dws-lmi.html



New Mexico Area Economic Activity

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

Statewide:

Famous Dave's Legendary Pit Bar-B-Que is the latest in a line of chain restaurants planning to open franchises in New Mexico. New Mexico BBQ, Inc. has purchased the right to franchise three Famous Dave's and plans to open restaurants in the Albuquerque metropolitan area, in Las Cruces, and possibly in a third location. Famous Dave's features a variety of regional-style BBQ, as well as country roasted chicken, BBQ sandwiches, burgers, salads, beans, corn bread muffins, fries, and desserts.

Kay Bee Toys filed for Chapter 22 bankruptcy, announcing that sales in stores open at least one year fell nearly 20 percent between October 5 and December 8. The company operates two stores in Albuquerque and one store each in Gallup and Farmington. Kay Bee Toys operates 277 mall-based stores, 40 KB Toy Works stores located mostly in strip malls, 114 outlet stores, and 30 short-term holiday stores. It employs 4,400 full-time employees and 6,515 seasonal employees. The company last filed for bankruptcy in 2004, seeking protection under Chapter 11, which allows a business to reorganize without closing its doors.

Central WIA Area:

Albuquerque Area, Bernalillo County:

More of the nation's space warfare operations are moving to **Kirtland Air Force Base** next year. The Battlespace Environment Division is transferring from Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts to Kirtland next year as part of the recommendations of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The Air Force plans to break ground in January on the 145,000-square-foot, \$53.5 million Battlespace Environment Laboratory, with a completion date of July 2010. The Battlespace Environment Division's move to Kirtland brings with it 175 jobs and an \$89 million annual budget.

Fidelity Investments officially opened the first phase of its new 217,892-square-foot building at Mesa del Sol in Albuquerque. The two-story building will house Fidelity's Human Resource Services business, which provides corporate clients with payroll, health and welfare, and human resources services. The company will initially employ 300 at Mesa del Sol but plans to increase that to 1,200. Phase two of the building is slated to be ready by March 2009.

Genghis Grill held its New Mexico grand opening event at 4410 The Way NE. The 200-seat restaurant has been open since July and is owned by Yogesh Patel, who has franchise rights for northern New Mexico. Texas-based Genghis Grill is a chain of stir-fry Asian cuisine restaurants. The chain has identified Rio Rancho and Santa Fe for expansion but has not yet determined specific sites.

Rio Rancho Area, Sandoval County:

Hewlett-Packard held a career fair in its temporary location at The 25 Way in Albuquerque, and more than 1,000 people lined up outside to learn more about the computer giant's planned Rio Rancho operation. HP intends to employ 1,350 full-time workers by the end of 2012 and to expand to 1,850 employees in 15 years at its customer service and technical support center in Rio Rancho. The company announced that a vast majority of the jobs will pay at least \$40,000, generating an annual payroll of \$54 million. Officials anticipate breaking ground in January on the 218,000-square-foot building near the new City Hall. In the interim, HP will hire and train 600 people to work at the temporary center in Albuquerque.

A slowing economy is blamed for **Aero Mechanical Industries'** decision to lay off 27 employees. Aero Mechanical rebuilds aircraft structural and fuselage components in Rio Rancho. As recently as last summer, the company had nearly 70 employees and planned to ramp up to about 100 by the end of the year.

Belen Area, Valencia County:

Signet Solar will build the company's first North American solar panel production facility in Belen. The first phase of the plant will bring 200 high-wage jobs to the state and is scheduled to begin operations in 2010. Signet's long-term plans call for expansion and the creation of a total of 600 jobs. The Signet facility will produce large-area, thin-film silicon photovoltaic modules for commercial rooftop and ground-mounted solar power systems at the Rancho Cielo master planned industrial and residential community. Rancho Cielo plans to use Signet panels on a 700-acre solar farm designed to meet the majority of power requirements of the Rancho Cielo community.

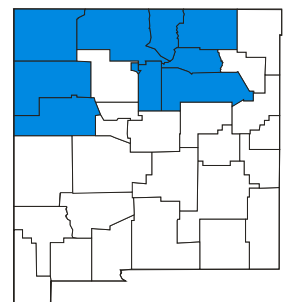
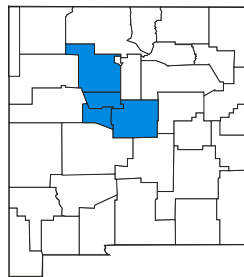
Mountainair Area, Torrance County:

P&M Signs held a grand opening expansion ceremony to celebrate its new 11,500-square-foot manufacturing building in Mountainair. Since 1992, P&M Signs has manufactured signs for federal, state, municipal, and county governments; private businesses; and individuals. The new building includes a shipping dock, a receiving office, and areas for silk screening, manufacturing, wood cutting, and aluminum processing. Last year, annual sales for P&M Signs were about \$1.2 million, and the company currently employs about ten workers.

Northern WIA Area:

Chama Area, Rio Arriba County:

Chama's only supermarket closed last winter when heavy snows collapsed the building's roof. On December 17, the **Lowe's Chama Valley Supermarket** reopened amid heavy fanfare and with more than a foot of snow on the ground. The reopened 19,000-square-foot store was rebuilt



from the slab up. The new store is one of the chain's five hardware and grocery "combo stores" and its first in northern New Mexico.

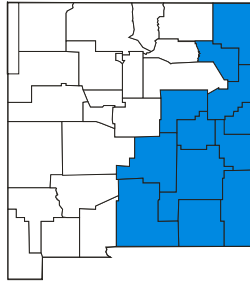
Farmington Area, San Juan County:

The city of Farmington ended its lease with GTA Production Inc., which ran **Davlen's Sky Haven Restaurant**. People complained to the city about poor service, expensive food, and sketchy hours of operation at the restaurant in the Four Corners Regional Airport. GTA operated the restaurant for less than a year. The city of Farmington will seek restaurant operators to run the recently renovated 9,400-square-foot restaurant.

Eastern WIA Area:

Roswell Area, Chaves County:

Five new hotels are in the works for Roswell in the next year, including a three-level, 75-room **Town Plaza Suites**. Construction of the Town Plaza Suites will probably begin by March. Four other hotels are planned for the city, and two of those are already well on their way to being built. **The Candlewood Suites** is expected to be completed by March 2009, weather permitting. **Comfort Suites** is also expected to open this spring. Plans for a new **Holiday Inn Express** are also in the works, while construction of a **Holiday Inn Conference Center** should begin this winter. Described as a full-service conference hotel, the facility will accommodate 250 people with more than 100 rooms, a restaurant, and a bar.



Carlsbad Area, Eddy County:

A drop in the demand for fertilizer has prompted **Intrepid Potash** to reduce its planned use of contract labor in Carlsbad. The company plans to cut 2008 potash production to below 800,000 tons. Intrepid has not announced the specific number of contract labor workers to be let go but has said that it will shift some of the tasks handled by contract laborers to full-time employees. Intrepid Potash currently employs about 630 full-time employees in Carlsbad.

Alamogordo Area, Otero County:

Houston-based **PreCheck Inc.** plans to expand its facility in Alamogordo in the wake of damage caused by Hurricane Ike along the Texas coast. PreCheck is a provider of background verification and credentials for the health care industry. The company started planning to relocate the background, credential, and compliance division in 2006 after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005. After Ike, officials decided to accelerate the transition of part of the company's operations to Alamogordo. PreCheck started bringing in employees in February 2007. Operations are located in a 20,000-square foot facility on 31 acres at the Mesa Village Development, where seven new employees were hired in October and 11 started work on December 1. The company expects to have about 90 people working at the site in the middle of 2009. PreCheck currently employs about 59 workers at the

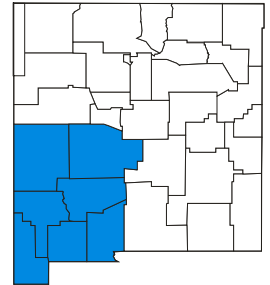
Alamogordo facility, which includes the 18 newly hired staffers.

Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center is undergoing an \$18 million expansion. Construction officially began on December 1 to expand and renovate several departments in the existing hospital, including maternal/child care, diagnostics, infusion, intensive care, and surgery. The project is intended to improve patients' experience from the moment they step through the front door by speeding them through reception, registration, and standard outpatient services, as well as making inpatient stay more comfortable.

Southwestern WIA Area:

Las Cruces Area, Doña Ana County:

Rea Magnet Wire Company announced that it would suspend operations for an extended period of time at its 200,000-square-foot plant in Las Cruces. The company produces magnet wire products and employs more than 1,000 people in North America. The shutdown of operations at the Las Cruces facility, located at 301 Rea Blvd. in the West Mesa Industrial Park, is anticipated to take place in February. A total of 75 employees work at the Las Cruces facility.



Next year, Las Cruces is set to gain three new restaurants on Mall Drive, next to the Mesilla Valley Mall. C-J Stone Construction Inc. is building a **McAlister's Deli**, a **Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar** and a third eatery, the name of which will be released later. The McAlister's Deli could open in February, and Buffalo Wild Wings could be ready for customers in May if the weather cooperates.

Marilyn Bagwell has opened **Treasures of Las Cruces**, a women's boutique, in the Arroyo Plaza, 2001 E. Lohman Ave. The boutique features a pirate and treasure theme. Treasures of Las Cruces is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Silver City Area, Grant County:

Chino Mine in southwestern New Mexico will lay off three quarters of its employees early next year because of a sharp decline in copper prices. In early December, Chino's parent company, **Freeport-McMoRan**, announced plans to suspend mining and milling activities but to continue reclamation activities and copper production from its SX-EW plant. About 600 people from the current workforce of 830 will be laid off beginning in mid-February. Freeport-McMoRan also plans to reduce mining activities at its Tyrone Mine by 50 percent. The company says it is developing plans that will include reducing Tyrone's employee numbers. 🛠️

New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions
Economic Research and Analysis (CC6097)
P.O. Box 1928
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103



Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300



New Mexico Labor Market Review
is a monthly publication from the New Mexico
Department of Workforce Solutions.

Herb Greenwall, Interim Bureau Lead
Economic Research and Analysis Bureau

Major Contributors:

Mark Boyd, Economist
Tracy Shaleen, Economist
Bob Richards, Economist
Joy Forehand, Economist (Layout)