

New Mexico Labor Market Report

Bill Richardson
Governor

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HIGHLIGHTS — February 2004

...New Mexico's over-the-year job growth was 1.1 percent in February 2004. The state has added 8,700 jobs since this time last year.

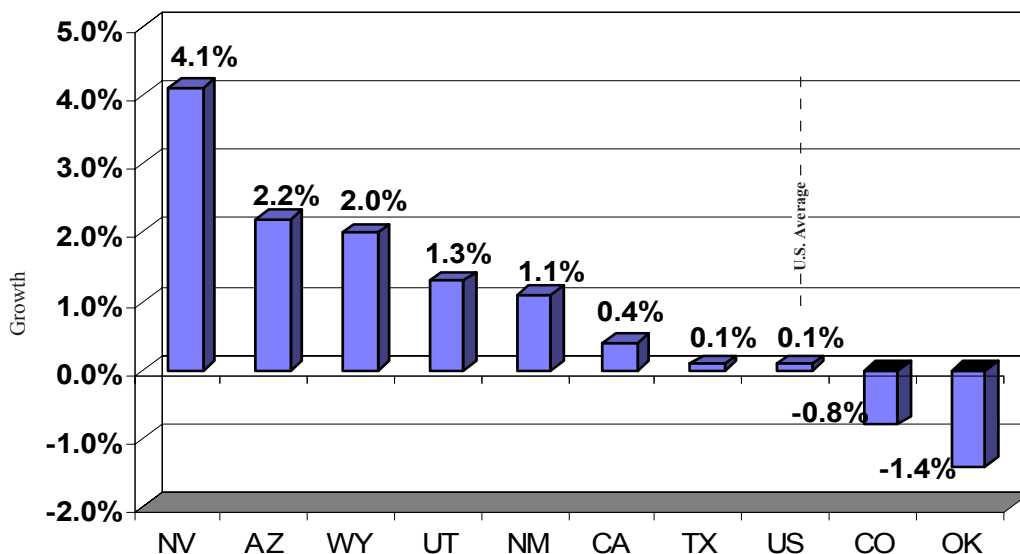
...Over the year, payroll employment in the Albuquerque MSA rose by 1.0 percent, slightly less than the statewide growth rate of 1.1 percent. Total job growth in the metro area since last February was 3,600.

...Over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces MSA was 3.1 percent in February 2004, similar to the average for 2003. The area has added 1,900 jobs since this time last year.

...The Santa Fe MSA continues to add jobs at a moderate rate that is above the statewide average. Over the year, employment has increased 2.1 percent, adding 1,600 jobs. This rate of job growth is similar to what the area had during 2003, but a little lower than the average for 2002.

Current Regional Nonfarm Employment Growth

February 2004 over February 2003 - Not Seasonally Adjusted



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New Mexico Labor Force and Payroll Employment

New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 5.6 percent in February 2004, down slightly from 5.7 percent in January. The state's unemployment rate peaked at 6.7 percent last July, and since then has taken several downward steps. Last February, New Mexico's unemployment rate was 5.9 percent. Nationally the unemployment rate remained at 5.6 percent in February 2004, matching New Mexico's rate.

New Mexico's over-the-year job growth was 1.1 percent in February 2004. The state has added 8,700 jobs since this time last year. The new jobs are mostly working in health services and government. The lost jobs continue to be concentrated in manufacturing and professional and business services.

The educational and health services industry has added 4,500 jobs since last year. Only 100 of those jobs are working in private education – the rest are in health services including social assistance. Almost every area of health services has grown rapidly this year. The fastest growth continues to come from the *home health care services* component, which has tripled in size since 2000 due to an influx of Medicaid money. Social assistance jobs have increased at a strong rate of 7.4 percent, with many new jobs in the unpublished sub-categories of *individual and family services, child day care services, and emergency and other relief services*.

Government employment has added 4,200 jobs since last year, growing 2.2 percent. Federal government employment remains down on the year; state government has added 1,200 jobs. However, the majority of the new government jobs are in local government, which has added 3,200 jobs. Many of the new jobs are at tribally-owned casinos and resorts around the state, including Laguna Pueblo's new Route 66 Casino, west of Albuquerque.

Two industries that have added jobs consistently for the last year are construction and natural resources and mining. Construction has added 900 jobs and mining has added 600. Construction employment was also fairly robust this time last year, so employment in this industry is actually stronger than it appears from the year ago comparison – going from strength to strength. Construction activity appears to be continuing at a rapid pace, on the knowledge that the interest rates are eventu-

ally headed higher. The time of reckoning keeps getting pushed back as analysts revise their expectations as to when the Federal Reserve will signal an increase in interest rates. Inevitably rates are set to rise sometime soon. Meanwhile builders are pushing forward with new sub-divisions to get more houses sold before higher interest rates makes them less affordable. Mining employment has increased due to the expectation that oil and gas prices will remain high for the foreseeable future, justifying the investment in new exploration.

On the job loss side, New Mexico's manufacturing industries have lost 1,400 jobs, 3.9 percent of the jobs that existed a year ago. This loss is on top of the 1,900 jobs that were lost the year before. The three-year job loss in manufacturing stands at 6,700 jobs, 16.2 percent of the manufacturing jobs that existed in February 2001.

The professional and business services industry has also lost jobs recently, down 1,100 jobs on the year. The job losses were most pronounced in the *administrative & support services* component of the industry, which was down 1,300 jobs. Most of the lost jobs were in the industry sub-component of *business support services* resulting from call center closures, including the July 2003 closure of Silver City's Stream International and the December 2003 closure of the Excell call center in Las Cruces. The *employment services* component has also lost jobs working in *professional employer organizations*. The much-watched *temporary help services* sub-component has not lost jobs.

Other industries continue to perform much the same as they have for a while. The number of retail trade jobs is barely higher than a year ago due to the closure of a number of small and medium sized retail outlets in the face of competition from the giant superstores. Wholesale trade employment has lost jobs due to consolidation. The information industry continues to show weakness in computer services related employment. Financial activities remain reasonably strong, with continuing momentum coming from the real estate part of the industry.

New Mexico Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Feb 2004	Jan 2004	Feb 2003	Jan 2004	Feb 2003
Civilian Labor Force	897,300	897,200	888,400	+100	+8,900
Employment	846,700	846,200	835,800	+500	+10,900
Unemployment	50,600	51,000	52,600	-400	-2,000
Rate	5.6%	5.7%	5.9%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	5.6%	5.8%	5.8%		

Albuquerque MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Bernalillo, Sandoval & Valencia Counties)

Albuquerque's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.9 percent in February from 5.1 percent the month before. Unemployment was three tenths of a percentage point below last February's rate of 5.2 percent.

Payroll employment grew by 3,800 or 1.1 percent from January, with expansions in six of the 12 major industry divisions. Most of the increase was in the government sector (up 3,100), as university and public school employees returned to work following the winter break. The leisure and hospitality industry increased 400, recovering some of the 900 jobs that were lost the month before. Educational and health services continued to perform well, adding 400 jobs to equal the number gained in January. Professional and business services grew by 300, the result of increases in temporary help agencies. A decline of 600 retail trade jobs was typical for February, as the industry struggled to regain its equilibrium following a busy holiday season. Manufacturing employment was down 100 jobs over the month. Construction activity was hampered by February's unseasonably cold and wet weather, keeping employment at the same level as January.

Over the year, payroll employment in the Albuquerque MSA rose by 1.0 percent, slightly less than the statewide growth rate of 1.1 percent. Total job growth in the metro area since last February was 3,600. Once again, the industry with the strongest growth was educational and health services. With an increase of 2,300 (5.4 percent), this industry accounted for nearly two thirds of total job growth in the Albuquerque MSA. Most of the increase came from the rapidly-growing health care component.

Government continues to play a large role in Albuquerque area job growth, though overshadowed by the private sector in recent months. State government has risen by 800 since last February, largely due to increases in university employment and in state-run medical facilities like UNM Hospital. Most of the 900-job gain in local government came from public education, as schools districts sought to keep pace with expanding enrollments. Federal government employment fell slightly (down 200), for the eighth consecutive month of over-the-year losses.

Employment in the leisure and hospitality industry grew 900 (2.7 percent), due largely to expansions in food services. With increasingly busy schedules and fast-paced lives, many Albuquerque area residents are opting to dine out rather than cook at home. This trend has contributed to a 10 percent increase in restaurant employment since February 2000. Total employment grew only 4 percent during that time.

Although somewhat slower than last year's extraordinarily high rates, construction growth is still healthy at 3.1 percent. More home permits were issued in the metro area in 2003 than ever before, largely due to the availability of low-interest loans. Home building in 2004 has also gotten off to a good start, with the number of Albuquerque housing permits continuing to surge in January and February. However, if mortgage interest rates rise as expected, housing construction could start to slow down.

Weakness in retail trade continued, with an over-the-year decline of 100 jobs. Some growth was seen in general merchandise stores, but this was more than offset by declines in department stores and food stores. Retail trade employment has not experienced a year-over-year increase since last August.

Manufacturing has lost 1,000 jobs in the last 12 months, mirroring the national trend of declining employment in this industry. Most of the lost jobs were in the high-paying area of computer and electronic manufacturing. Manufacturing is now down 6,200 jobs from peak employment levels attained in late 1997.

Information employment shrank by 400 jobs over the year due to a downturn in the computer services segment of the industry. Professional and business services also declined by 400. Wholesale trade lost 300 jobs, having been adversely affected by the slump in manufacturing. Employment in transportation, warehousing, and utilities has declined by 100 in the last 12 months as weakness in this industry continues.

Albuquerque <u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Prel.</u> <u>Feb 2004</u>	<u>Revised</u>		<u>Change From</u>	
		<u>Jan 2004</u>	<u>Feb 2003</u>	<u>Jan 2004</u>	<u>Feb 2003</u>
Civilian Labor Force	387,000	387,700	383,300	-700	+3,700
Employment	368,000	368,100	363,400	-100	+4,600
Unemployment	19,000	19,600	19,900	-600	-900
Rate	4.9%	5.1%	5.2%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	4.6%	4.9%	4.9%		

Las Cruces MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Doña Ana County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Las Cruces MSA was 6.8 percent in February 2004, down from January's rate of 7.0 percent. A year ago the area's unemployment rate was 7.0 percent.

The Las Cruces economy added 1,300 jobs in February 2004, making up for all of the jobs lost during the previous month. State government, primarily New Mexico State University, claimed 1,000 of those jobs. Local government added another 100 jobs, as did three private industries. The gains were reduced by the loss of 100 manufacturing jobs.

Over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces area was 3.1 percent in February 2004, similar to the average for 2003. The area has added 1,900 jobs since this time last year. Most industries have added jobs, but three remain at last year's levels.

Retail trade has done very well in Las Cruces recently, adding 500 jobs, growing 7.9 percent. This is an exceptional performance for retail trade, which has lost jobs in other areas of the state.

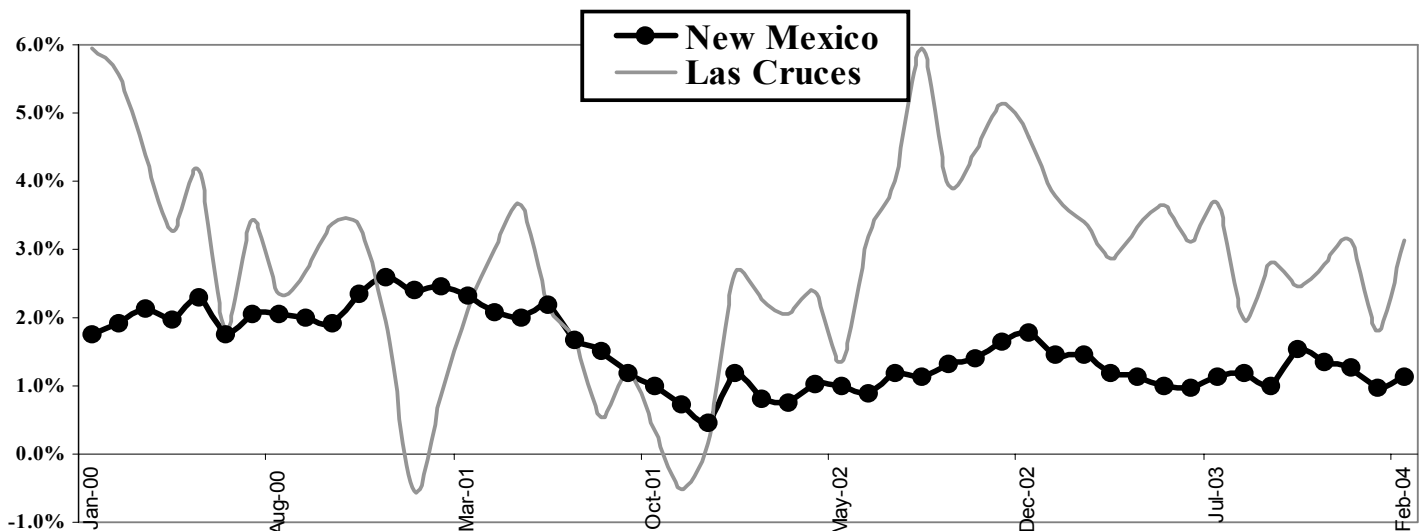
A number of industries have each added 200 jobs since last year, including local government. However, employment levels in other branches of government have not increased. Professional and business services increased 200 jobs, despite the December 12 closing of the Excell call center. Manufacturing has also done well to add 200 jobs since last year. Elsewhere in the state and the country, manufacturing jobs are being lost in large numbers. The natural resources, mining and construction industry (mostly construction employment in Las Cruces), gained 200 jobs, growing at 5.7 percent. The area's small information industry has also added 200 jobs, growing 20 percent over the year. Momentum for this increase has come from the publishing industry. Financial activities also did well to add 200 jobs, expanding the industry 9.5 percent above last year's level.

The leisure and hospitality industry increased 100 jobs, mostly working in food services and drinking places. Educational and health services job growth has slowed since last summer increasing just 100 jobs, a mere 1.1 percent.

Three remaining industries have maintained employment at last year's levels. Those industries are transportation, warehousing, and utilities; wholesale trade; and other services.

Las Cruces Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Feb 2004	Jan 2004	Feb 2003	Jan 2004	Feb 2003
Civilian Labor Force	78,000	77,600	75,900	+400	+2,100
Employment	72,700	72,200	70,600	+500	+2,100
Unemployment	5,300	5,400	5,300	-100	0
Rate	6.8%	7.0%	7.0%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	7.3%	7.6%	7.5%		

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Las Cruces



Santa Fe MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Santa Fe & Los Alamos Counties)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Santa Fe MSA was 3.4 percent in February 2004, unchanged from January's rate. A year ago the area's unemployment rate was 3.0 percent. The Santa Fe MSA continues to have one of the lowest rates of unemployment in the state.

More than a thousand jobs returned to Santa Fe in February with the return of students to school. This was in contrast to the 1,800 jobs that had been lost in January. February saw an increase of 1,100 jobs. Both local and state government added 300 education-related jobs. Another 400 jobs were added to private educational institutions. The financial activities industry also gained 100 jobs, as did leisure and hospitality as a result of the ski season. A small loss of 100 jobs was posted to retail trade.

Santa Fe continues to add jobs at a moderate rate that is above the statewide average. Over the year, employment has increased 2.1 percent, adding 1,600 jobs. This rate of job growth is similar to what the area had during 2003, but a little lower than the average for 2002.

Six industries have contributed to the added jobs, five others have maintained last year's levels, while only retail trade has lost jobs. Retail trade has experienced difficulties associated with large superstores opening in outlying areas, taking away trade from Santa Fe's smaller merchants.

Government tied with educational and health services for the claim to have added the most jobs to the area. Each has added 400 jobs since this time last year.

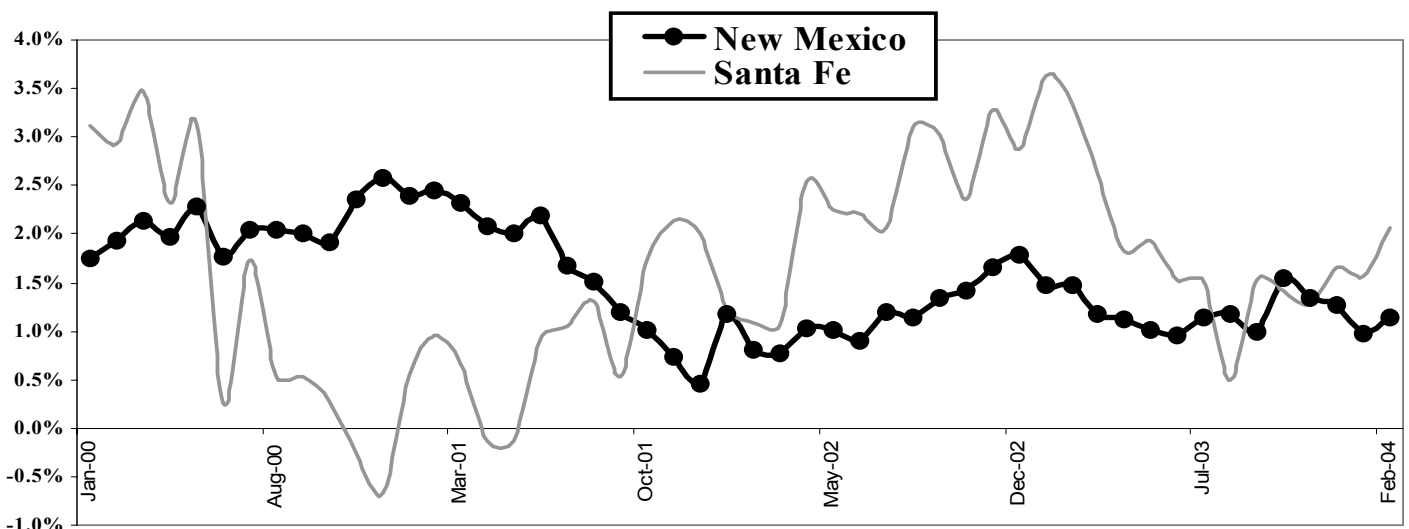
Most of the increase in the educational and health services industry was in the health care and social assistance components, but private education also contributed 100 jobs. Santa Fe's government employment increased by 400 jobs since last year. Federal government employment remains at last year's level, but state and local government have each increased by 200 jobs. Employment at the area's National Laboratory is included in state government because the daily operations at the facility are managed by the University of California.

Professional and business services added 300 jobs, contrasting with the statewide trend of declining jobs in this industry. Santa Fe's unpublished *employment services* component added many of the jobs. Another 200 jobs have been added to the leisure and hospitality industry, which includes the ski areas and restaurants. The financial activities industry also added 200 jobs from apparent strength in the areas of finance and real estate. The *other services* category remained strong, adding 200 jobs, growing 6.7 percent. This industry includes establishments such as automotive repair shops and social advocacy organizations.

The five remaining industries reporting employment levels unchanged from last year were natural resources, mining and construction; manufacturing; wholesale trade; transportation, warehousing & utilities; and information.

Santa Fe Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Feb 2004	Jan 2004	Feb 2003	Jan 2004	Feb 2003
Civilian Labor Force	82,200	82,600	80,300	-400	+1,900
Employment	79,400	79,800	77,900	-400	+1,500
Unemployment	2,800	2,800	2,400	0	+400
Rate	3.4%	3.4%	3.0%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	3.2%	3.4%	2.9%		

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Santa Fe



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

		Civilian Labor Force	Employ- ment	Un- Employ- ment	Rate %	Unadj. Rate %
1984		628,000	581,000	47,000	7.5%	
1985		644,000	587,000	57,000	8.9%	
1986		678,000	616,000	62,000	9.1%	
1987		682,000	622,000	60,000	8.8%	
1988		689,000	635,000	54,000	7.8%	
1989		697,000	651,000	46,000	6.6%	
1990		708,400	662,300	46,100	6.5%	
1991		728,500	676,500	52,000	7.1%	
1992		744,400	692,000	52,400	7.0%	
1993		761,100	702,500	58,600	7.7%	
1994		781,500	732,500	49,000	6.3%	
1995		797,000	747,000	50,000	6.3%	
1996		806,900	741,900	65,000	8.1%	
1997		825,900	774,300	51,600	6.2%	
1998		845,100	792,900	52,200	6.2%	
1999		824,300	778,000	46,300	5.6%	
2000		854,100	811,800	42,300	5.0%	
2001		860,100	818,500	41,600	4.8%	
2002		875,300	827,600	47,700	5.4%	
2003		896,900	839,700	57,200	6.4%	
2003	JAN	888,100	835,200	52,900	6.0%	6.1%
	FEB	888,400	835,800	52,600	5.9%	5.8%
	MAR	890,400	836,000	54,400	6.1%	5.9%
	APR	892,400	837,000	55,400	6.2%	5.9%
	MAY	894,400	837,700	56,700	6.3%	6.3%
	JUN	898,400	838,500	59,900	6.7%	7.6%
	JUL	900,300	839,900	60,400	6.7%	7.1%
	AUG	900,300	840,800	59,500	6.6%	6.6%
	SEP	900,700	841,200	59,500	6.6%	6.5%
	OCT	902,700	843,800	58,900	6.5%	6.3%
	NOV	903,000	844,700	58,300	6.5%	6.2%
	DEC	903,400	845,500	57,900	6.4%	5.9%
2004	JAN	897,200	846,200	51,000	5.7%	5.8%
	FEB	897,300	846,700	50,600	5.6%	5.6%
	MAR					
	APR					
	MAY					
	JUN					
	JUL					
	AUG					
	SEP					
	OCT					
	NOV					
	DEC					
# CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	100	500	-400	-0.1%	-0.2%
	Year Ago	8,900	10,900	-2,000	-0.3%	-0.2%
	2 Yrs. Ago	29,700	24,900	4,800	0.5%	0.4%
	3 Yrs. Ago	36,900	26,900	10,000	0.5%	0.9%
% CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	0.0%	0.1%	-0.8%		
	Year Ago	1.0%	1.3%	-3.8%		
	2 Yrs. Ago	3.4%	3.0%	10.5%		
	3 Yrs. Ago	4.3%	3.3%	24.6%		

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

State	Rank	February 2003	February 2004	Change	% Change
Nevada	1	1,062.9	1,106.8	43.9	4.1%
Arizona	2	2,279.4	2,328.6	49.2	2.2%
Virginia	3	3,435.8	3,506.3	70.5	2.1%
Wyoming	4	238.4	243.2	4.8	2.0%
Florida	5	7,243.5	7,385.3	141.8	2.0%
Rhode Island	6	469.9	478.6	8.7	1.9%
Hawaii	7	564.5	574.7	10.2	1.8%
Idaho	8	556.5	565.8	9.3	1.7%
Tennessee	9	2,627.8	2,666.7	38.9	1.5%
Utah	10	1,059.0	1,072.7	13.7	1.3%
New Hampshire	11	602.6	610.2	7.6	1.3%
Alaska	12	285.3	288.8	3.5	1.2%
Montana	13	388.7	393.4	4.7	1.2%
New Jersey	14	3,898.5	3,944.5	46.0	1.2%
Wisconsin	15	2,718.4	2,750.0	31.6	1.2%
New Mexico	16	765.2	773.9	8.7	1.1%
Maryland	17	2,426.9	2,453.2	26.3	1.1%
South Dakota	18	367.2	371.1	3.9	1.1%
DC	19	400.4	404.6	4.2	1.0%
North Dakota	20	325.3	328.6	3.3	1.0%
Washington	21	2,618.0	2,643.6	25.6	1.0%
Indiana	22	2,849.4	2,872.8	23.4	0.8%
Kentucky	23	1,753.3	1,766.7	13.4	0.8%
North Carolina	24	3,753.5	3,778.4	24.9	0.7%
Vermont	25	297.8	299.7	1.9	0.6%
Maine	26	585.1	588.8	3.7	0.6%
Iowa	27	1,411.4	1,420.3	8.9	0.6%
South Carolina	28	1,790.2	1,801.4	11.2	0.6%
Delaware	29	659.0	662.9	3.9	0.6%
Minnesota	30	2,596.6	2,611.2	14.6	0.6%
Georgia	31	3,827.6	3,848.3	20.7	0.5%
California	32	14,302.1	14,362.5	60.4	0.4%
Mississippi	33	1,108.7	1,113.3	4.6	0.4%
Louisiana	34	1,896.2	1,902.6	6.4	0.3%
Arkansas	35	1,133.1	1,136.7	3.6	0.3%
Oregon	36	1,545.0	1,548.8	3.8	0.2%
New York	37	8,297.7	8,307.3	9.6	0.1%
Texas	38	9,335.4	9,346.1	10.7	0.1%
United States		128,660.0	128,773.0	113.0	0.1%
Alabama	39	1,863.9	1,864.9	1.0	0.1%
West Virginia	40	711.1	710.5	-0.6	-0.1%
Ohio	41	5,307.0	5,292.2	-14.8	-0.3%
Missouri	42	2,643.1	2,634.9	-8.2	-0.3%
Kansas	43	1,300.8	1,296.3	-4.5	-0.3%
Nebraska	44	892.0	888.9	-3.1	-0.3%
Illinois	45	5,712.1	5,692.2	-19.9	-0.3%
Pennsylvania	46	5,530.4	5,509.4	-21.0	-0.4%
Connecticut	47	1,626.0	1,617.0	-9.0	-0.6%
Colorado	48	2,133.6	2,116.6	-17.0	-0.8%
Massachusetts	49	3,137.0	3,105.5	-31.5	-1.0%
Michigan	50	4,357.4	4,310.1	-47.3	-1.1%
Oklahoma	51	1,452.9	1,433.0	-19.9	-1.4%

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

Employment numbers are not seasonally adjusted.

Employment numbers are in thousands.

Unemployment Rates in New Mexico (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

PRELIMINARY FEBRUARY 2004		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	26.5%
MORA	2	14.5%
GRANT	3	11.5%
CATRON	4	10.6%
TAOS	5	9.1%
DE BACA	6	9.0%
RIO ARRIBA	7	7.6%
LAS CRUCES MSA 2/	8	7.3%
HIDALGO	9	7.2%
MCKINLEY	10	7.0%
CHAVES	11	6.9%
GUADALUPE	12	6.5%
SAN MIGUEL	13	6.5%
COLFAX	14	6.4%
QUAY	15	6.4%
SAN JUAN	16	6.4%
EDDY	17	5.6%
STATEWIDE		5.6%
SOCORRO	18	5.3%
OTERO	19	5.2%
SIERRA	20	5.1%
CIBOLA	21	4.7%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	22	4.6%
HARDING	23	4.2%
TORRANCE	24	4.2%
LINCOLN	25	4.1%
LEA	26	3.8%
UNION	27	3.3%
CURRY	28	3.2%
SANTA FE MSA 3/	29	3.2%
ROOSEVELT	30	2.8%

REVISED JANUARY 2004		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	26.0%
MORA	2	15.3%
GRANT	3	12.0%
CATRON	4	10.5%
DE BACA	5	10.4%
TAOS	6	9.6%
HIDALGO	7	7.8%
RIO ARRIBA	8	7.7%
LAS CRUCES MSA 2/	9	7.6%
CHAVES	10	7.5%
MCKINLEY	11	7.5%
SAN JUAN	12	7.0%
GUADALUPE	13	6.7%
SAN MIGUEL	14	6.7%
COLFAX	15	6.6%
EDDY	16	5.8%
SOCORRO	17	5.8%
STATEWIDE		5.8%
OTERO	18	5.6%
QUAY	19	5.6%
SIERRA	20	5.3%
CIBOLA	21	5.1%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	22	4.9%
HARDING	23	4.6%
TORRANCE	24	4.5%
LINCOLN	25	4.3%
LEA	26	4.0%
CURRY	27	3.7%
SANTA FE MSA 3/	28	3.4%
UNION	29	3.4%
ROOSEVELT	30	2.9%

REVISED FEBRUARY 2003		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	27.2%
MORA	2	13.7%
GRANT	3	12.8%
CATRON	4	10.1%
TAOS	5	9.0%
GUADALUPE	6	8.0%
CHAVES	7	7.8%
SAN JUAN	8	7.7%
RIO ARRIBA	9	7.7%
LAS CRUCES MSA 2/	10	7.5%
SAN MIGUEL	11	6.9%
MCKINLEY	12	6.6%
QUAY	13	6.5%
COLFAX	14	6.5%
OTERO	15	6.4%
DE BACA	16	6.2%
EDDY	17	6.1%
STATEWIDE		5.8%
HARDING	18	5.8%
SOCORRO	19	5.5%
CIBOLA	20	5.0%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	21	4.9%
SIERRA	22	4.4%
LEA	23	4.4%
LINCOLN	24	4.1%
TORRANCE	25	4.0%
HIDALGO	26	3.8%
CURRY	27	3.7%
ROOSEVELT	28	3.2%
SANTA FE MSA 3/	29	2.9%
UNION	30	2.6%

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

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County

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

Need Labor Market Information?

We have several major publications detailing New Mexico's:

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

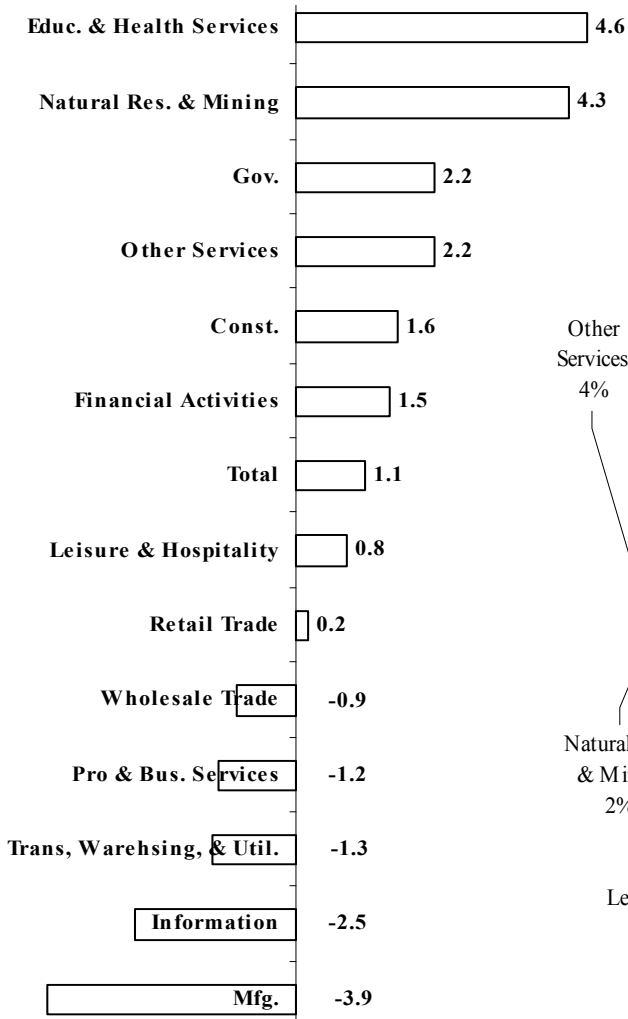
Preliminary		February
State	Rank	2004 Rate
Alaska	1	7.4
Oregon	2	7.1
Michigan	3	6.6
New York	4	6.3
South Carolina	4	6.3
California	6	6.2
Illinois	6	6.2
District of Columbia	8	6.1
Texas	8	6.1
Washington	8	6.1
North Carolina	11	6.0
Ohio	12	5.9
Louisiana	13	5.8
New Mexico	14	5.6
Alabama	14	5.6
United States		5.6
Arkansas	16	5.5
Mississippi	16	5.5
Colorado	18	5.4
New Jersey	18	5.4
West Virginia	18	5.4
Arizona	21	5.3
Indiana	21	5.3
Kentucky	21	5.3
Massachusetts	21	5.3
Rhode Island	25	5.2
Wisconsin	25	5.2
Missouri	27	5.1
Pennsylvania	27	5.1
Maine	29	5.0
Oklahoma	29	5.0
Tennessee	29	5.0
Idaho	32	4.8
Kansas	32	4.8
Utah	32	4.8
Connecticut	35	4.7
Minnesota	35	4.7
Florida	37	4.6
Nevada	38	4.4
Hawaii	39	4.2
New Hampshire	39	4.2
Iowa	41	4.1
Maryland	42	4.0
Montana	42	4.0
Georgia	44	3.8
Nebraska	45	3.7
Vermont	45	3.7
Wyoming	47	3.5
Delaware	48	3.4
Virginia	48	3.4
South Dakota	50	3.2
North Dakota	51	3.1

Revised		February
State	Rank	2003 Rate
Alaska	1	8.0
Oregon	2	7.9
Washington	3	7.4
Michigan	4	6.9
California	5	6.8
District of Columbia	5	6.8
Texas	5	6.8
Illinois	8	6.6
South Carolina	9	6.5
Louisiana	10	6.4
North Carolina	10	6.4
West Virginia	10	6.4
Mississippi	13	6.3
New York	13	6.3
Ohio	15	6.2
Kentucky	16	6.1
Colorado	17	6.0
New Jersey	17	6.0
New Mexico	19	5.9
Arizona	19	5.9
Pennsylvania	19	5.9
United States		5.9
Utah	19	5.9
Massachusetts	23	5.8
Wisconsin	23	5.8
Alabama	25	5.7
Arkansas	25	5.7
Idaho	27	5.6
Missouri	28	5.5
Rhode Island	28	5.5
Connecticut	30	5.4
Tennessee	30	5.4
Florida	32	5.3
Kansas	32	5.3
Oklahoma	32	5.3
Nevada	35	5.1
Indiana	36	5.0
Maine	37	4.9
Georgia	38	4.8
Minnesota	38	4.8
Montana	40	4.6
Maryland	41	4.5
Wyoming	41	4.5
Delaware	43	4.3
Iowa	43	4.3
Vermont	43	4.3
New Hampshire	46	4.2
North Dakota	46	4.2
Virginia	48	4.1
Nebraska	49	3.9
Hawaii	50	3.8
South Dakota	51	3.4

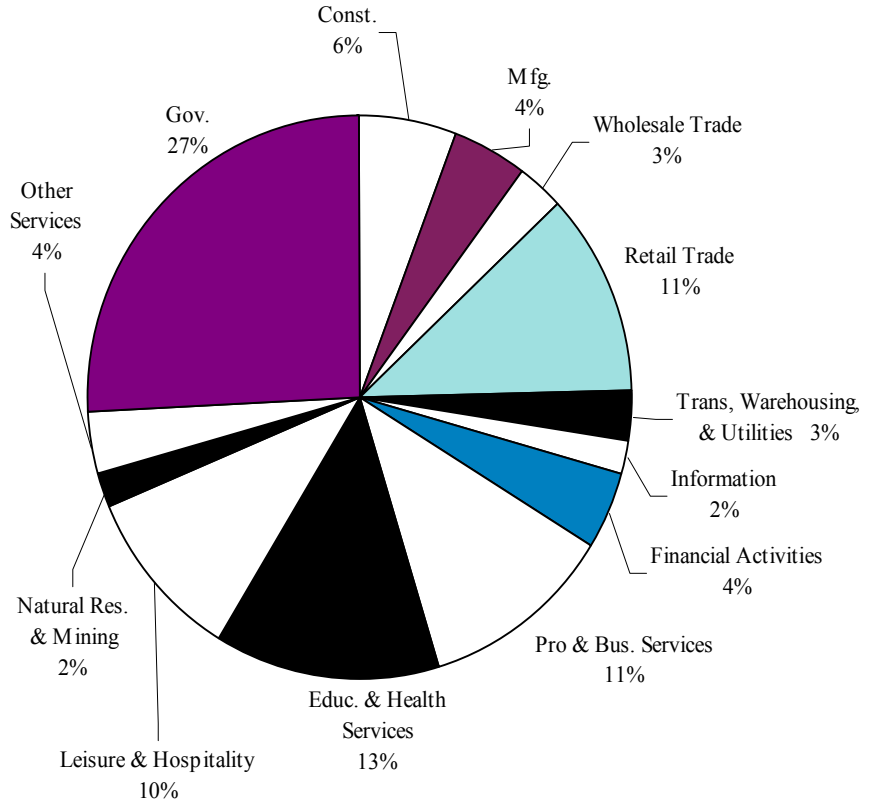
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Mexico Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Annual Growth Rates by Industry



NAICS Industries



New Mexico and Albuquerque Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary	Revised	Revised	Change	
	Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03	Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	773,900	766,900	765,200	7,000	8,700
GOODS PRODUCING	94,200	94,100	94,100	100	100
SERVICES-PROVIDING	679,700	672,800	671,100	6,900	8,600
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	14,500	14,300	13,900	200	600
<i>Oil & Gas Extraction, Well Drilling</i>	10,800	10,600	10,100	200	700
<i>Mining, Except Oil and Gas</i>	3,500	3,500	3,800	0	-300
CONSTRUCTION	45,100	45,100	44,200	0	900
Construction of Buildings	12,800	13,000	12,600	-200	200
<i>Residential Building Construction</i>	6,900	7,000	6,500	-100	400
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	7,200	7,300	7,600	-100	-400
Specialty Trade Contractors	25,100	24,800	24,000	300	1,100
MANUFACTURING	34,600	34,700	36,000	-100	-1,400
Durable Goods	24,000	24,100	25,300	-100	-1,300
<i>Computer and Electronic Products</i>	10,200	10,300	10,900	-100	-700
<i>Semiconductor and Other Electronics</i>	7,000	7,000	7,400	0	-400
Non-Durable Goods	10,600	10,600	10,700	0	-100
WHOLESALE TRADE	21,700	21,600	21,900	100	-200
RETAIL TRADE	88,900	90,000	88,700	-1,100	200
<i>Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers</i>	12,300	12,400	12,200	-100	100
<i>Food and Beverage Stores</i>	12,000	12,100	12,900	-100	-900
<i>General Merchandise Stores</i>	19,900	20,400	19,100	-500	800
<i>Department Stores</i>	6,400	6,700	7,400	-300	-1,000
<i>Other General Merchandise Stores</i>	13,500	13,600	11,700	-100	1,800
<i>Miscellaneous Store Retailers</i>	6,800	6,800	7,000	0	-200
<i>Nonstore Retailers</i>	2,700	2,800	2,900	-100	-200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	22,400	22,500	22,700	-100	-300
Utilities	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0
Transportation and Warehousing	18,400	18,500	18,700	-100	-300
<i>Truck Transportation</i>	6,200	6,300	6,300	-100	-100
INFORMATION	15,700	15,600	16,100	100	-400
<i>Telecommunications</i>	7,700	7,600	7,700	100	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	33,900	33,800	33,400	100	500
Finance and Insurance	23,700	23,600	23,600	100	100
<i>Credit Intermediation and Related Activities</i>	12,300	12,100	12,200	200	100
<i>Insurance Carriers and Related Activities</i>	9,400	9,500	9,600	-100	-200
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,200	10,200	9,800	0	400
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	87,500	86,800	88,600	700	-1,100
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	41,500	41,300	41,100	200	400
<i>Architectural, Engineering, and Related</i>	10,400	10,400	10,500	0	-100
<i>Scientific Research and Development</i>	13,200	13,100	12,700	100	500
Management of Companies and Enterprises	5,000	5,000	5,200	0	-200
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services	41,000	40,500	42,300	500	-1,300
<i>Employment Services</i>	15,300	15,000	15,400	300	-100
<i>Business Support Services</i>	4,500	4,300	6,600	200	-2,100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	103,000	102,000	98,500	1,000	4,500
Educational Services	13,600	13,000	13,500	600	100
Health Care and Social Assistance	89,400	89,000	85,000	400	4,400
Ambulatory Health Care Services	34,300	34,000	32,300	300	2,000
<i>Offices of Physicians</i>	10,100	10,000	9,700	100	400
<i>Outpatient Care Centers</i>	4,800	4,700	5,100	100	-300
<i>Home Health Care Services</i>	8,700	8,600	7,700	100	1,000
Hospitals	21,600	21,700	21,200	-100	400
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	13,100	13,200	12,500	-100	600
<i>Nursing Care Facilities</i>	7,200	7,200	6,600	0	600
Social Assistance	20,400	20,100	19,000	300	1,400
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	78,900	78,300	78,300	600	600
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7,200	7,200	7,200	0	0
Accommodation and Food Services	71,700	71,100	71,100	600	600
Accommodation	12,900	12,800	13,000	100	-100
Food Services and Drinking Places	58,800	58,300	58,100	500	700
<i>Full-Service Restaurants</i>	27,200	27,000	27,100	200	100
<i>Limited-Service Eating Places</i>	24,800	24,600	24,400	200	400
OTHER SERVICES	28,200	28,000	27,600	200	600
<i>Repair and Maintenance</i>	7,700	7,600	7,500	100	200
GOVERNMENT	199,500	194,200	195,300	5,300	4,200
Federal Government	29,200	29,400	29,400	-200	-200
State Government 2/	68,700	64,400	67,500	4,300	1,200
<i>State Government Education</i>	28,300	24,500	28,200	3,800	100
Local Government	101,600	100,400	98,400	1,200	3,200
<i>Local Government Education</i>	55,800	54,500	55,500	1,300	300

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

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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

ALBUQUERQUE	Preliminary Feb-04	Revised Jan-04	Revised Feb-03	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	359,700	355,900	356,100	3,800	3,600
GOODS PRODUCING	46,000	46,100	46,300	-100	-300
SERVICES-PROVIDING	313,700	309,800	309,800	3,900	3,900
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING & CONSTRUCTION	23,400	23,400	22,700	0	700
<i>Specialty Trade Contractors</i>	14,400	14,400	13,800	0	600
MANUFACTURING	22,600	22,700	23,600	-100	-1,000
<i>Computer and Electronic Products</i>	9,500	9,500	10,200	0	-700
<i>Semiconductor and Other Electronics</i>	6,600	6,600	7,100	0	-500
WHOLESALE TRADE	12,600	12,600	12,900	0	-300
RETAIL TRADE	40,900	41,500	41,000	-600	-100
<i>Building Material and Garden Equipment</i>	3,600	3,500	3,500	100	100
<i>Food and Beverage Stores</i>	4,500	4,600	4,800	-100	-300
<i>General Merchandise Stores</i>	8,200	8,400	7,900	-200	300
<i>Department Stores</i>	3,400	3,600	4,000	-200	-600
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	10,300	10,300	10,400	0	-100
INFORMATION	10,100	10,000	10,500	100	-400
<i>Telecommunications</i>	5,800	5,600	5,800	200	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	18,700	18,700	18,500	0	200
<i>Finance and Insurance</i>	13,600	13,500	13,500	100	100
<i>Credit Intermediation and Related Activities</i>	5,900	5,800	5,600	100	300
<i>Depository Credit Intermediation</i>	4,000	4,000	3,900	0	100
<i>Insurance Carriers</i>	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	56,200	55,900	56,600	300	-400
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	28,400	28,200	27,900	200	500
<i>Scientific Research and Development</i>	11,400	11,300	10,800	100	600
Management of Companies and Enterprises	4,000	4,000	4,100	0	-100
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services	23,800	23,700	24,600	100	-800
<i>Employment Services</i>	11,300	11,000	11,400	300	-100
<i>Business Support Services</i>	3,000	3,000	3,200	0	-200
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	44,800	44,400	42,500	400	2,300
<i>Health Care and Social Assistance</i>	39,200	38,900	37,000	300	2,200
<i>Ambulatory Health Care Services</i>	15,900	15,800	15,200	100	700
<i>Hospitals</i>	9,500	9,500	9,000	0	500
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	34,600	34,200	33,700	400	900
<i>Food Services and Drinking Places</i>	27,200	27,000	26,500	200	700
<i>Full-Service Restaurants</i>	12,400	12,300	12,100	100	300
OTHER SERVICES	11,800	11,600	11,500	200	300
GOVERNMENT	73,700	70,600	72,200	3,100	1,500
Federal Government	13,700	13,700	13,900	0	-200
State Government /2	24,500	22,200	23,700	2,300	800
Local Government	35,500	34,700	34,600	800	900

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 Feb-04	Revised Jan-04	Revised Feb-03	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT /1	62,700	61,400	60,800	1,300	1,900
GOODS PRODUCING	6,800	6,900	6,400	-100	400
SERVICE PRODUCING	55,900	54,500	54,400	1,400	1,500
NATURAL RESOURCES MINING & CONSTRUCTION	3,700	3,700	3,500	0	200
MANUFACTURING	3,100	3,200	2,900	-100	200
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	6,800	6,800	6,300	0	500
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
INFORMATION	1,200	1,200	1,000	0	200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,300	2,200	2,100	100	200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,300	5,200	5,100	100	200
<i>Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services</i>	2,500	2,500	2,300	0	200
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	9,200	9,100	9,100	100	100
<i>Health Care & Social Assistance</i>	8,600	8,500	8,500	100	100
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	6,300	6,300	6,200	0	100
OTHER SERVICES	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0
GOVERNMENT	20,900	19,800	20,700	1,100	200
Federal	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0
State	9,100	8,100	9,100	1,000	0
Local	8,300	8,200	8,100	100	200

SANTA FE MSA	Preliminary Feb-04	Revised Jan-04	Revised Feb-03	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT /1	79,200	78,100	77,600	1,100	1,600
GOODS PRODUCING	5,800	5,800	5,800	0	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	73,400	72,300	71,800	1,100	1,600
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION	4,600	4,600	4,600	0	0
MANUFACTURING	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	8,600	8,700	8,700	-100	-100
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	700	700	700	0	0
INFORMATION	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	3,600	3,500	3,400	100	200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	8,800	8,800	8,500	0	300
<i>Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services</i>	4,600	4,600	4,400	0	200
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	9,500	9,100	9,100	400	400
<i>Health Care & Social Assistance</i>	7,300	7,300	7,000	0	300
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	9,300	9,200	9,100	100	200
<i>Food Service & Drinking Places</i>	6,000	6,000	5,600	0	400
OTHER SERVICES	3,200	3,200	3,000	0	200
GOVERNMENT	27,600	27,000	27,200	600	400
Federal	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0
State /2	18,600	18,300	18,400	300	200
Local	7,600	7,300	7,400	300	200

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

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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

- Seasonally Adjusted -

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Feb-04	Revised Jan-04	Monthly Change
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	780,500	780,200	300
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	14,600	14,300	300
CONSTRUCTION	47,200	47,200	0
MANUFACTURING	35,500	35,700	-200
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	135,200	135,300	-100
INFORMATION <i>(Not Seasonally Adjusted)</i>	15,700	15,600	100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	34,100	34,000	100
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	88,600	88,700	-100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	101,800	101,600	200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	81,600	81,500	100
OTHER SERVICES	28,500	28,700	-200
GOVERNMENT	197,700	197,600	100

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

New Publication

The Unemployment Insurance Bureau of the Department of Labor has written a new publication, New Mexico Unemployment Insurance Data, Calendar Year 2003. This annual publication provides statistics and analysis of various unemployment insurance data, such as initial claims, weeks claimed, benefits paid, and the trust fund for calendar year 2003. For a free copy please contact Rachel Moskowitz at the Department of Labor at (505) 841-9062, or email at RMoskowitz@state.nm.us

New Mexico Unemployment Insurance Data



2003

New Mexico
Department of
LABOR

Average Hours and Earnings

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

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Feb 04	Jan 04	Feb 03	Feb 04	Jan 04	Feb 03	Feb 04	Jan 04	Feb 03
NEW MEXICO									
NATURAL RES. & MINING	\$743.47	\$745.63	\$769.41	43.2	43.3	45.1	\$17.21	\$17.22	\$17.06
CONSTRUCTION	\$601.78	\$602.89	\$586.61	39.8	39.9	38.9	\$15.12	\$15.11	\$15.08
MANUFACTURING	\$512.87	\$515.35	\$521.20	39.3	39.4	39.1	\$13.05	\$13.08	\$13.33
WHOLESALE TRADE	\$515.84	\$519.11	\$515.30	35.6	35.9	34.7	\$14.49	\$14.46	\$14.85
RETAIL TRADE	\$335.92	\$334.48	\$320.49	32.3	32.1	31.7	\$10.40	\$10.42	\$10.11
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	\$486.00	\$481.24	\$489.94	36.0	35.7	36.4	\$13.50	\$13.48	\$13.46
ALBUQUERQUE MSA									
MANUFACTURING	\$574.06	\$573.01	\$553.73	39.4	39.6	38.4	14.57	14.47	14.42

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 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

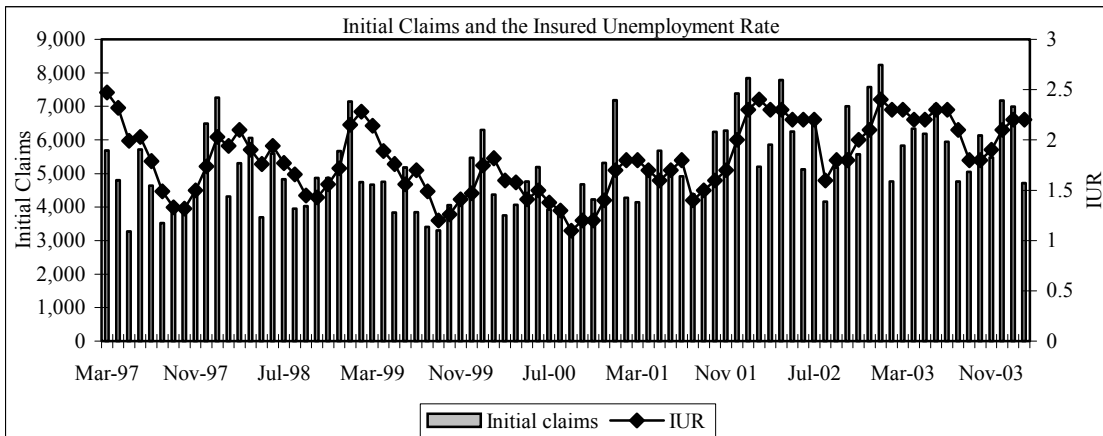
	Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100			PERCENT CHANGE	
	Feb 04	Jan 04	Feb 03	Month to Month	Year to Year
CPI-U	186.2	185.2	183.1	0.5%	1.7%
CPI-W	181.9	180.9	179.2	0.6%	1.5%

*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

	Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03	Percent Change	
				from Jan-04	From Feb-03
CLAIMS ACTIVITIES					
Initial Claims	4,718	6,990	4,763	-32.5%	-0.9%
Continued Claims #	53,445	62,873	65,075	-15.0%	-17.9%
Insured Unemployed #	15,882	15,713	16,108	1.1%	-1.4%
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.2%	2.2%	2.3%		
PAYMENT ACTIVITIES					
First Payments	3,416	4,082	3,149	-16.3%	8.5%
Final Payments	1,222	1,434	1,261	-14.8%	-3.1%
Weeks Compensated	51,298	53,191	54,978	-3.6%	-6.7%
Net Benefit Payments	\$11,296,457	\$11,180,029	\$11,327,393	1.0%	-0.3%
Average WBA**	\$210.91	\$209.77	\$205.27	0.5%	2.7%
Average Duration (weeks)**	17.5	17.7	17.8	-1.1%	-1.8%
Exhaustion Rate **	43.8%	44.1%	42.4%		
TRUST FUND BALANCE, January 2004		\$518,568,621			



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

Questions or comments? Please contact Actuarial Research @ (505) 841-9062 or RMoskowitz@state.nm.us

New Mexico Area Economic Activity

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

Statewide:

The University of California, the current operator of the **Los Alamos National Laboratories**, and the University of Texas will compete for the contract to operate the labs. The University of Texas has said it is planning to spend around \$500,000 to make a bid for the contract to operate the research facility. The University of California has had a management relationship with the lab since the late 1940s.

The **University of New Mexico and a private developer, Ohio based ForestCity Covington LLC**, are trying to reach an agreement on a land swap for the Mesa del Sol property. ForestCity would like to develop about 9,000 acres in the area on Albuquerque's southern edge and has offered to swap a large ranch north of Cochiti Pueblo for an agreement from UNM to sell 1,500 acres in Mesa del Sol for \$2,800 an acre. The UNM Board of Regents is concerned about the proposed terms of the deal and seeks to negotiate an arrangement more favorable to the University.

Private corporations that conduct research at the state's defense research and development facilities will receive a tax break, thanks to legislation approved during this year's 30 day legislative session. The companies that use the facilities at the **White Sand Missile Range** are the primary beneficiaries of this legislation. The tax break is expected to make New Mexico's facilities more attractive for new test and evaluation projects and may also improve the desirability of retaining the state's military facilities during the next round of base closures.

Albuquerque Area, Bernalillo County:

About 60 people were laid off when Protective Services Industries closed its Albuquerque call center in mid-March. The center monitored security alarms and was closed as part of an operational consolidation following the purchase of PSI by Integrated Alarm Services Group. Albuquerque employees were offered a severance package or a chance to move to another PSI call center in California.

Construction is underway at the corner of Lomas and I-25 for the nine-story **Embassy Suites of Albuquerque**. The new hotel will feature 260 two-room suites and will have 20,000 square feet of meeting space. The City of Albuquerque offered \$41 million in city bonds to encourage hotel magnate, John Q. Hammonds to build the hotel in the city. The project is expected to be completed by February 2005.

If all of the expected financing falls into place, the **Ice Channel** may soon offer figure skating 24 hours a day to cable TV subscribers. Plans are for the startup cable channel to be headquartered in Albuquerque and to build or lease a studio and ice rink in Albuquerque from which it would base its nationwide broadcasts. The company would employ around 75 people in TV production jobs that would pay between \$50,000 and \$200,000. Ice skating enjoys wide popularity, especially with women. Two years ago, nearly 27 million TVs were tuned to the women's Olympic skating finals in Salt Lake City.

Albuquerque's West Side and Rio Rancho are two of the hot spots for new residential construction. **DataTraq**, the data supplier for the **Home Builders Association of Central New Mexico**, reports that 70 percent of all new residential construction in the Albuquerque area is on the west side or in Rio Rancho. Rapid growth on the west side of the Rio Grande is expected to continue, as several builders have designs for master planned communities in Rio Rancho and Ventana Ranch.

Roswell Area, Chaves County:

The **Millennium Bus Company** is actively seeking bus orders prior to reopening the bus production line. If sufficient orders are found, the company reported that it could start limited production as early as March of this year. So far, the company has sold \$45,000 worth of parts from its inventory, and orders for another \$30,000 are pending. Millennium Bus is also seeking to borrow \$2 million to jump start production.

Former employees of **Motor Coach International Inc. (MCII)** are eligible for federal assistance under the Trade Adjustment Assistance program. The federal program provides access to job skills training and reemployment services. The MCII employees lost their job when the company moved prototype production from Roswell to Canada.

Angel Fire Area, Colfax County:

Snowboarders from across the United States are expected at Angel Fire for **USA Snowboard Association National Championships**. The influx of about 1,200 competitors and the expected crowds that will come with them have local retailers, restaurants, and hotels bracing for a huge increase in business. The Angel Fire resort spent \$5 million to add new chairlifts and to create a snowboard area, and the town of Angel Fire spent more than \$100,000 preparing for the event.

Clovis Area, Curry County:

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson attended the groundbreaking ceremonies for the **Southwest Cheese Plant** in Clovis. The new \$190 million facility will be one of the largest cheese factories in the world, with the capacity to process more than 2.4 billion pounds of milk annually. The plant is expected to be completed by late 2005 and is expected to employ up to 220 workers.

Santa Teresa Area, Doña Ana County:

Monarch Litho, a California based printing company, plans to open a 75,000-square-foot printing plant in Santa Teresa by next fall. The new plant would give Monarch better access to local markets in Northern Mexico and in the Southwestern United States. The plant will include a high-speed web press and will employ about 105 workers.

Hobbs Area, Lea County:



Lt. Governor Diane Denish, a Hobbs native, was on hand for the opening of the new three-story **Hobbs Hampton Inn**. The new hotel offers high speed Internet access in all of the 67 guest rooms and wireless Internet in the lobby and meeting rooms. The hotel also features a dry sauna, an indoor pool, an exercise room and a staff of 16 employees.

OB/Gyn Associates of Hobbs has opened a state-of-the-art, 7000-square-foot clinic. The new clinic has both 3 and 4D ultrasound available and also offers pregnant women help in finding local, state, and federal financial resources. The \$1.2 million clinic has 20 employees.

Deming Area, Luna County:



Fast food aficionados will appreciate Deming's newest restaurant, **Wendy's** home of the old fashioned hamburger. The restaurant opened in mid-February and is located just off of East Pine Street. It will be open from 6 a.m. until midnight and will employ 36 people.

EspaÑola Area, Rio Arriba County:



Home improvement retailers **Home Depot** and **Lowe's** had both recently announced plans to build large retail stores in EspaÑola. It now appears that Home Depot management has changed its mind and will not build a store in town. Construction of the Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse is still on track, and the store is expected to bring about 200 jobs to EspaÑola and generate about \$25 million a year in sales.

Another aircraft maker is considering building a production facility in New Mexico, this time in the EspaÑola Valley. **American Utilicraft Corp.** and **TSAY Corporation** are discussing assembling twin-engine, turbo-prop freight hauling aircraft at a proposed 80,000 square-

foot facility on San Juan Pueblo. The financing for the proposal has not yet been secured, but American Utilicraft claims to have purchased orders for 36 planes from a Hong Kong based aircraft reseller. The deal could potentially create about 1,100 jobs in Northern New Mexico.

Santa Fe Area, Santa Fe County:



Trader Joe's, a natural-foods specialty grocery store is proceeding with its plans to open a store in Santa Fe. The company has leased 14,000 square feet in the Coronado Shopping Center and plans to open in late July or early August.

Taos Area, Taos County:



Penncro Associates will permanently close its Taos call center in mid-April. The call center specializes in collection of delinquent mortgage and credit card payments. Penncro also operates two call centers in the Philadelphia area, one in McAllen, Texas and one in Hilo, Hawaii. At one point, Penncro had about 270 Taos employees, but only 56 remained at the time of the closure announcement. It had been the recipient of several substantial economic incentives including a \$240,000 award last year from the state's Industrial Training Program.

Belen Area, Valencia County:



Wilger Enterprises of Albuquerque is building Belen's first **Walgreen's** drug store on Main Street just north of Reinken Avenue. The new 14,500-square-foot store is expected to open in mid-June.

The most recent statistics compiled by the **Tourism Association of New Mexico**, shows a very slight (.21%) increase in lodging revenue from 2002 to 2003. Overall attendance at New Mexico state parks, museums and monument, and at New Mexico's national parks also increased slightly. Traffic at the Albuquerque International Sunport declined by less than one percent from 2002 to 2003, but showed improvement by slightly more than two percent for the 4th quarter.



Labor Market Report

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