



New Mexico Labor Market Review

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**Feature
Article:**
Are We Getting Better
Or Just Worse At A
Slower Pace?
Pages 10-11

*A Publication Presenting Highlights of
February 2009 Labor Market Data*

...New Mexico's rate of over-the-year job growth was negative 1.4 percent, representing an over-the-year loss of 12,200 jobs. Even with negative job growth, New Mexico outperformed many other states.

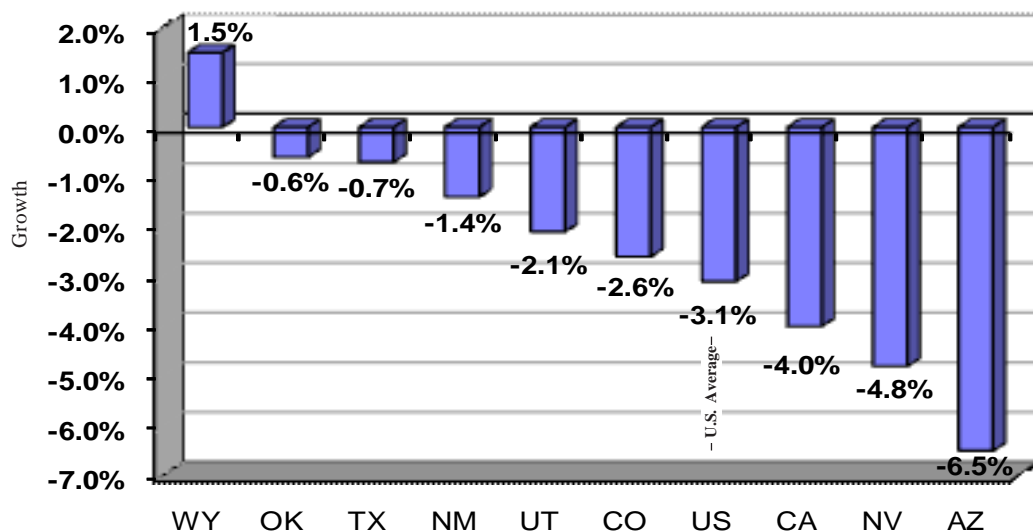
...Since last February, payroll employment in the Albuquerque MSA has fallen by 4,800 or 1.2 percent.

...The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces MSA was 0.3 percent. The local area added 200 jobs over the last year, maintaining low but consistent job growth while other areas of the state have done much worse.

...The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Santa Fe MSA was 0.5 percent, representing a gain of 300 jobs. The Santa Fe job market has been weak for the last year.

Current Regional Nonfarm Employment Growth

February 2009 over February 2008 - Not Seasonally Adjusted



INSIDE

NM & MSA Highlights
Page 2-5

Article: What is Difference Between
Industries and Occupations?
Page 6

Workforce Information Tip
Page 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: Are We Getting Better Or Just
Worse At A Slower Pace?
Page 10-11

Nonfarm Employment:
State & MSAs
Page 12-13

Article: Red or Green?...
Page 14

New Mexico Unemployment Insurance
Claims
Page 15

Average Hours & Earnings
& US Consumer Price Index
Page 16

NM Occupational
Shortages and Surpluses
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 5.4 percent in February 2009, up from 5.1 percent in January and 3.8 percent a year ago. The national unemployment rate increased to 8.1 percent.

The rate of over-the-year job growth, comparing February 2009 with February 2008, was negative 1.4 percent, representing an over-the-year loss of 12,200 jobs. Even with negative job growth, New Mexico outperformed many other states. Our February ranking will not be known until a few days after we go to press, but our January ranking was twelfth highest among all states for year-over-year job growth. All but the top six states and the District of Columbia reported job losses. In this economic climate, the good news may be that we have fared better than other states that are more heavily industrialized and states that have faltered due to the national financial crisis. This all means that the New Mexico economy is doing about as well as can be expected under the circumstances, but recent performance is worse than we have experienced in a very long time.

Prior to October 2008, the state's job growth had not been negative since June 1991, more than 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. To find job growth that dropped as low as the minus 1.4 percent reported this month requires going back to February 1961 when job growth fell to minus 1.7 percent. One of the worst years for employment in New Mexico was back in 1954 when jobs declined by an average of 2.3 percent. That year followed a decade where job growth averaged more than 6 percent.

Only two of the state's 13 industries posted any job growth since last year, while ten others reported declines and one remained at last year's employment level. Most of the gains came from the health care component of the educational & health services industry, up 4,500 jobs on the year. Government jobs also continued to grow during this difficult time, increasing by 2,400. Most of the government jobs are at the local level, many at tribally owned casinos. Mining had added jobs until this month when job losses escalated, reducing employment to the same level as this time last year. The previous gains in mining employment were a carryover from last summer when commodity prices reached record levels. With already announced layoffs not fully reflected in the job count, it is just a matter of time until the mining industry joins the other ten declining industries. Health care and government appear to

offer the best employment prospects for the state as we continue to navigate difficult economic times.

The construction industry reported 6,500 fewer jobs in February 2009 than in February 2008. The industry is going through a difficult period of adjustment following four years of growth that resulted in the creation of 14,000 new jobs. The state also lost 2,100 manufacturing jobs over the last year, with reductions reported across the board and more on the way.

With a rather dismal holiday shopping season far behind us, the short-term outlook for retail trade appears to only be getting worse, with a reported 3,500 fewer jobs than at this time last year. A number of faltering retailers held on through the peak holiday season then had liquidation sales early in the new year before finally closing. The much smaller wholesale trade industry did not fare much better, reporting 700 fewer jobs. The professional & business services industry, often considered a barometer for the rest of the economy, reported employment that was down by 1,900 jobs from last year. The transportation, warehousing & utilities industry lost 1,200 jobs, down 4.8 percent.

Leisure & hospitality reported 1,800 fewer jobs, with declines in the accommodation and food services component. The financial activities industry also lost jobs, declining by 700 since last February. The miscellaneous *other services* category reported 200 fewer jobs than at this time last year. This follows a seven-month boom in employment in the run-up to the national election. The major political parties and social advocacy organizations boosted employment by as many as 1,000 jobs from April to October last year.

Finally, the information industry reported an over-the-year decline of 500 jobs. This industry is still doing fairly well, but the comparison is to a strong month last year. The source of employment opportunities has been the state's film industry. This industry has done well over the last three years; however, large month-to-month employment swings 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.

New Mexico	Prel. Feb 2009	Revised		Change From	
		Jan 2009	Feb 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2008
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	958,200	957,800	954,800	+400	+3,400
Employment	906,500	908,900	918,800	-2,400	-12,300
Unemployment	51,700	48,900	36,000	+2,800	+15,700
Rate	5.4%	5.1%	3.8%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	5.7%	5.2%	3.8%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Albuquerque MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance & Valencia Counties)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Albuquerque MSA increased to 5.8 percent in February 2009 from 5.5 percent in January. A year ago, unemployment was considerably lower at 3.6 percent.

Payroll employment grew by 1,300 or 0.3 percent over the month, largely the result of a seasonal increase in state government as university employees returned to work following the winter break. Overall, the government sector gained 2,100 jobs in February, with increases of 2,000 in state government and 100 in local government. Federal government employment remained unchanged from January. Educational & health services added 600 jobs, while information and miscellaneous *other services* posted gains of 100 each. Retail trade declined by 600 jobs as employment returned to normal levels following the holiday shopping season. Four other industries—professional & business services (-400); manufacturing (-300); construction (-200); and transportation, warehousing & utilities (-100)—also posted job losses. Employment was unchanged over the month in wholesale trade, financial activities, and leisure & hospitality.

Since last February, payroll employment in the Albuquerque MSA has fallen by 4,800 or 1.2 percent. Only three of the 12 major industry divisions posted over-the-year increases, while eight others lost jobs and one remained unchanged. Negative growth has persisted since October 2008, marking the longest such period since September 2001 through June 2002. That downturn partially coincided with the last national recession, which extended from March 2001 to November 2001. Annual average employment growth declined from a robust 3.6 percent in 2006 to 1.1 percent in 2007 to negative 0.1 percent in 2008.

Educational & health services added 2,600 jobs over the year, once again playing a primary role in mitigating job losses elsewhere. Employment growth has exceeded 5 percent for six of the past nine months, a period during which total nonfarm employment growth averaged negative 0.4 percent. The main factors driving growth in this industry are an ever-increasing demand for health care and social assistance prompted by an aging population and longer life expectancies, a greater need for childcare services as more women continue to enter the labor force, and a growing demand for educational services as enrollments increase at all levels of education. The educational & health services industry has proven resilient during downturns, but it too is not immune from macroeconomic concerns. One conspicuous example is Presbyterian Healthcare Services' plans for a new 121-bed hospital in Rio Rancho

having been placed on hold pending an improvement in economic conditions. The facility is expected to employ 500 upon opening and up to 1,200 within several years.

Government employment, typically another source of stability during turbulent times, expanded by 1,900 or 2.3 percent over the year. The bulk of the gain, 1,500 jobs, came at the local level (up 3.7 percent), while federal government added 400 jobs (up 2.8 percent) and state government remained unchanged. Government employment for February totaled 82,900 in the Albuquerque MSA, accounting for over 21 percent of all nonfarm jobs. Significant employment will be created next year if the UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center and the UNM-West and CNM campuses open as planned in Rio Rancho. The information industry added 300 jobs to round out February's gainers.

Construction employment continued its freefall, declining by 3,300 or 11.5 percent since last February. The industry has recorded 26 consecutive months of negative growth, and any early signs of improvement have so far been elusive. Nearly 7,000 construction jobs have been eliminated since employment peaked at 32,200 in June 2006.

Manufacturing marked its twenty-first consecutive month of declining employment, contracting by 1,600 or 7.2 percent. The demise of Eclipse has been the most notable in a series of setbacks for the industry, which has shrunk from 24,100 workers to 20,700 during the past two years. Eclipse employed more than 1,900 before falling into financial crisis last year.

Retail trade employment slipped by 1,700 or 3.8 percent, matching last month's rate as the largest decline since May 1991. Leisure & hospitality lost 900 jobs (down 2.4 percent), while professional & business services, the area's largest private-sector industry, trimmed 800 (down 1.3 percent). Also posting losses were financial activities (-500 jobs or 2.7 percent); wholesale trade (-400 jobs or 3.0 percent); and transportation, warehousing & utilities (-400 jobs or 3.6 percent). Miscellaneous *other services* held steady at last year's employment level.

Albuquerque	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Feb 2009	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2008
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	409,900	409,800	410,400	+100	-500
Employment	385,900	387,100	395,500	-1,200	-9,600
Unemployment	24,000	22,700	14,900	+1,300	+9,100
Rate	5.8%	5.5%	3.6%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	6.0%	5.4%	3.7%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Las Cruces MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Doña Ana County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Las Cruces MSA was 5.4 percent in February 2009, up from 5.3 percent in January. A year ago, the area's unemployment rate was 3.9 percent.

In February 2009, the Las Cruces economy gained back 2,100 of the 2,800 jobs that were lost in January due to seasonal factors. Nearly all of the gain came in state government, which added 2,000 jobs as the new semester got under way at New Mexico State University. Local government chipped in an additional 100 jobs. In the private sector, leisure & hospitality and educational & health services each added 100 jobs, while manufacturing and construction each lost 100.

The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces area was 0.3 percent, comparing February 2009 with February 2008. The local area added 200 jobs over the last year, maintaining low but consistent job growth while other areas of the state have done much worse.

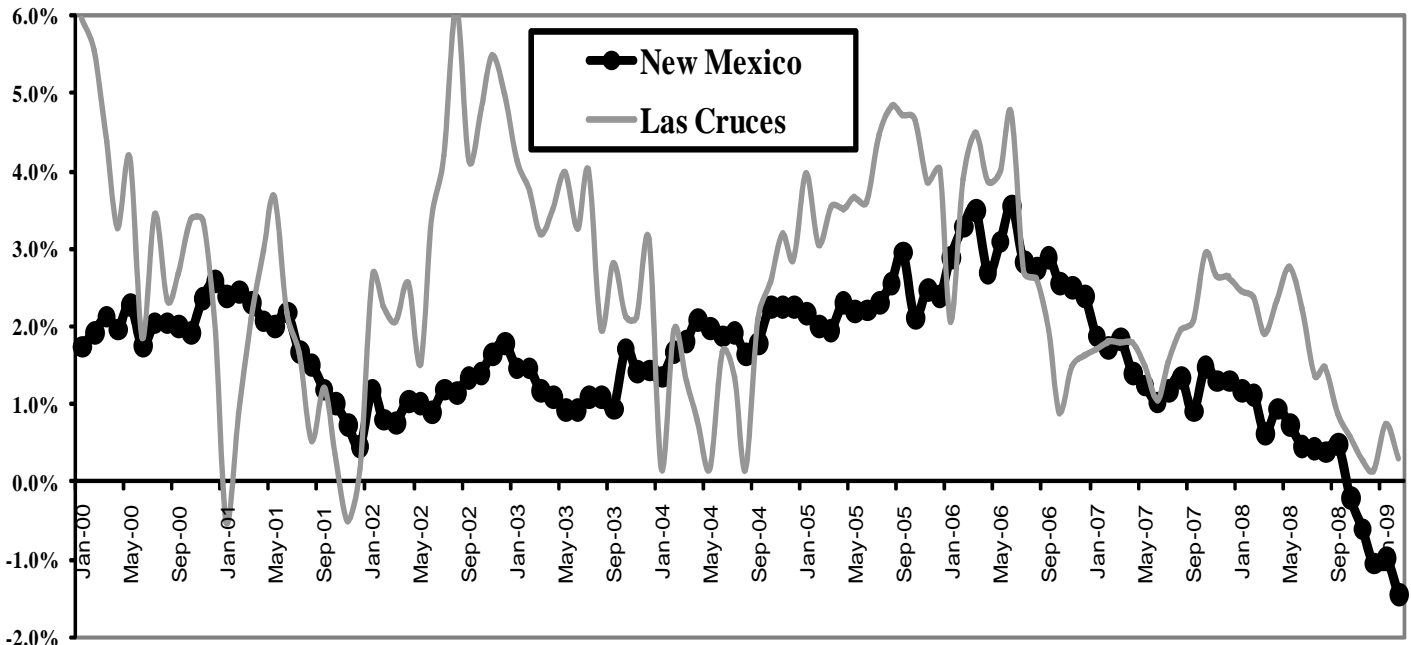
Educational & health services gained 500 jobs, growing 4.6 percent. Employment increases at area call centers helped the professional & business services industry expand by 400 jobs since last year. Financial activities added 200 jobs, and miscellaneous *other services* added 100. The government sector expanded by 200 jobs since last year, with increases reported at the federal and local levels.

Five industries—construction (-500); retail trade (-300); leisure & hospitality (-200); manufacturing (-100); and transportation, warehousing & utilities (-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 two remaining industries—wholesale trade and information.

Las Cruces Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Feb 2009	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009
Civilian Labor Force	89,900	89,500	89,500	+400	+400
Employment	85,100	84,800	86,000	+300	-900
Unemployment	4,900	4,800	3,500	+100	+1,400
Rate	5.4%	5.3%	3.9%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	5.9%	5.5%	4.3%		

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 4.8 percent in February 2009, up from a revised 4.7 percent in January. A year ago, the local area had an unemployment rate of 3.0 percent.

Santa Fe saw typical education-related employment increases in February 2009 amounting to 700 more jobs than in January. The largest increase was a combined 600 jobs in state and local government. Private education added 300 jobs over the month, while leisure & hospitality lost 200.

The rate of over-the-year job growth for Santa Fe was 0.5 percent, representing a gain of 300 jobs. The Santa Fe job market has been weak for the last year. Job growth has alternated between positive and negative territory, mostly staying close to the zero line. Some months have been better than others, but employment prospects in the local area have been generally lackluster.

Educational & health services added 200 jobs, which was more than for any other private industry. The government sector also reported 200 more jobs, all of which were added at the local level as employment at both the federal and state levels remained unchanged. Professional & business services, leisure & hospitality, and wholesale trade each added 100 jobs.

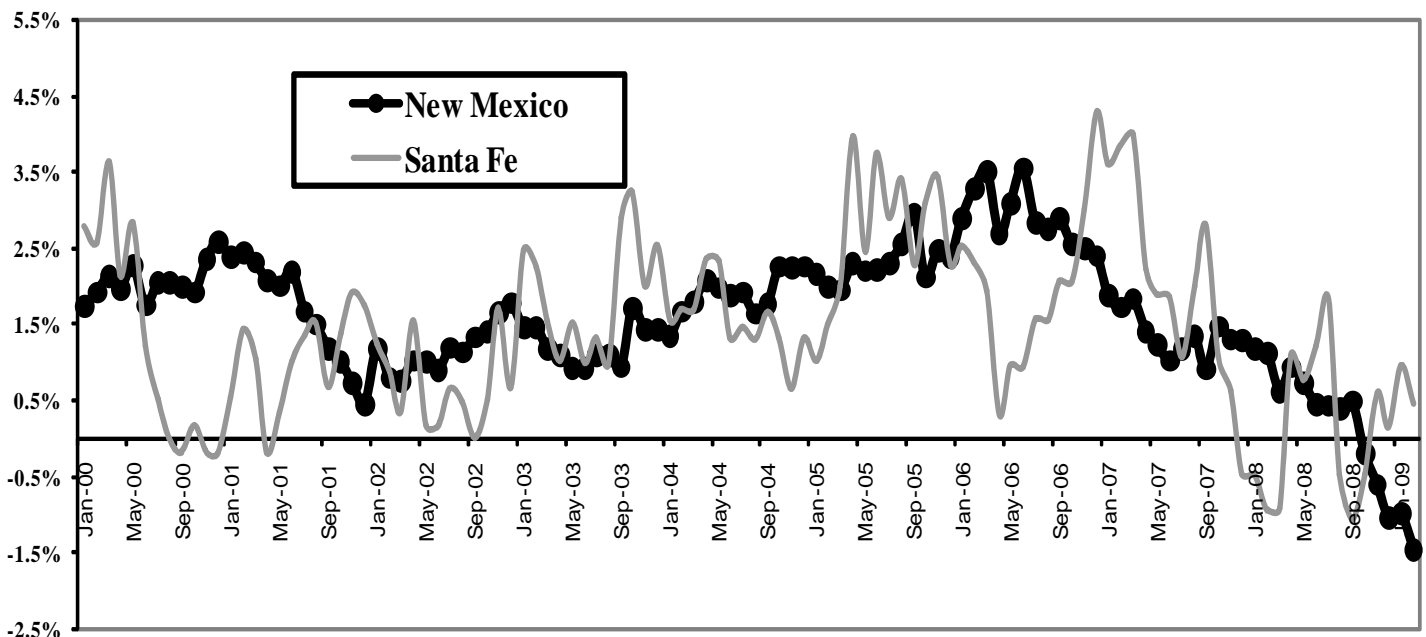
The largest drop occurred in information, which was down 200 jobs because of slowing in the state's film industry compared to this time last year. The construction industry, down 100 jobs, is feeling the pain of the reduced demand seen in most parts of the state. The miscellaneous *other services* industry also lost 100 jobs.

Four other industries reported job counts that were unchanged from year-ago levels. Those industries were manufacturing; retail trade; transportation, warehousing & utilities; and financial activities.

Santa Fe	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Feb 2009</u>	<u>Jan 2009</u>	<u>Feb 2008</u>	<u>Jan 2009</u>	<u>Feb 2008</u>
Civilian Labor Force	79,300	79,500	78,800	-200	+500
Employment	75,600	75,800	76,400	-200	-800
Unemployment	3,800	3,700	2,400	+100	+1,400
Rate	4.8%	4.7%	3.0%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	5.1%	4.6%	3.2%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Santa Fe



What Is the Difference Between Industries and Occupations?

Joy Forehand, Economist
Suzan Reagan, Labor Market Information Webmaster

Occupations identify categories of skills, whereas industries are categories of companies and businesses.

An occupation is what you do, and what skills and tasks are associated with that position. For example, someone who monitors a patient's stats and all aspects of patient care, interprets diagnostic tests, and consults with members of the healthcare team is most likely in a nursing occupation. An industry is the type of place where you do your job, and this is defined based on the firm's final product or service. A hospital would be coded in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry sector as opposed to medical research laboratory, which would be coded in the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry sector.

The relationship between industry and occupation becomes more complicated when occupations can be found across industries. For example, in New Mexico 58 percent of registered nurses work in hospitals, 19 percent in ambulatory health care services, 6 percent in federal government and 5 percent in educational services. The occupation is the same; however, the place of work or industry is different.

Receptionists are found in almost every industry sector since most businesses require this type of administrative support to run their daily operations, regardless of the type of product or service the firm produces. Construction companies, real estate offices, computer repair stores, doctor offices, government agencies, and many more all hire receptionists.

When looking at labor market data and information, just keep in mind that an occupation is what you do and an industry is the type of place where you work.

Top 10 Industries That Employ Registered Nurses in New Mexico

Industry	Estimated Employment (2007)	% of Total Estimated Employment	Projected Employment (2009)	% of Total Projected Employment
Hospitals	7,217	57.9	7,524	58.2
Ambulatory Health Care Services	2,340	18.8	2,405	18.6
Federal Government	746	6.0	776	6.0
Educational Services	591	4.7	608	4.7
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	571	4.6	586	4.5
Administrative and Support Services	481	3.9	509	3.9
State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	175	1.4	179	1.4
Social Assistance	138	1.1	152	1.2
Self-Employed Workers, Primary Job	103	0.9	106	0.8
Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	38	0.3	40	0.3

Source: NMDWS, Economic Research & Analysis, *LASER* laser.state.nm.us.

Workforce Information Tip

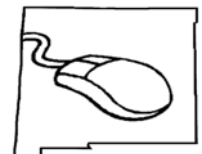
To review industries that include a particular occupation, see below:

1. Start at <http://laser.state.nm.us/>.
2. Click on "Occupation."
3. Click on "Occupational Employment by Industry."
4. In step 1, select "New Mexico" or a "Workforce Development Region."
5. In step 2, select a time frame.
6. In step 3, select "Registered Nurse" and click on "Search."
7. This screen shows which industries hire Registered Nurses and how many!

You can sort the table low to high by clicking on "Estimated Employment" or "% of Total Estimated Employment." By clicking the title again, the table will sort high to low.

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

		Civilian Labor Force	Employ- ment	Un- Employ- ment	Rate %	Unadj. Rate %
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		901,832	849,970	51,863	5.8%	
2005		917,569	870,288	47,281	5.2%	
2006		935,396	896,359	39,037	4.2%	
2007		945,700	912,167	33,533	3.5%	
2008		959,458	919,466	39,992	4.2%	
2008	JAN	953,182	917,942	35,240	3.7%	3.7%
	FEB	954,767	918,771	35,996	3.8%	3.8%
	MAR	954,996	918,195	36,801	3.9%	3.7%
	APR	956,306	918,662	37,644	3.9%	3.5%
	MAY	957,148	918,626	38,522	4.0%	3.9%
	JUN	957,813	918,384	39,429	4.1%	4.6%
	JUL	959,044	918,687	40,357	4.2%	4.8%
	AUG	961,695	920,398	41,297	4.3%	4.6%
	SEP	964,253	922,013	42,240	4.4%	4.2%
	OCT	964,525	921,336	43,189	4.5%	4.3%
	NOV	964,878	920,747	44,131	4.6%	4.4%
	DEC	964,892	919,833	45,059	4.7%	4.5%
2009	JAN	957,791	908,921	48,870	5.1%	5.2%
	FEB	958,152	906,465	51,687	5.4%	5.7%
	MAR					
	APR					
	MAY					
	JUN					
	JUL					
	AUG					
	SEP					
	OCT					
	NOV					
	DEC					
# CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	361	-2,456	2,817	0.3%	0.5%
	Year Ago	3,385	-12,306	15,691	1.6%	1.9%
	2 Yrs. Ago	16,446	-1,228	17,674	1.8%	1.9%
	3 Yrs. Ago	26,641	17,259	9,382	0.9%	0.9%
% CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	0.0%	-0.3%	5.8%		
	Year Ago	0.4%	-1.3%	43.6%		
	2 Yrs. Ago	1.7%	-0.1%	52.0%		
	3 Yrs. Ago	2.9%	1.9%	22.2%		

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

State	Rank	February 2008	February 2009	Change	% Change
Wyoming	1	287.8	292.1	4.3	1.5%
DC	2	693.6	702.7	9.1	1.3%
Alaska	3	306.1	308.7	2.6	0.8%
Louisiana	4	1,928.5	1,938.0	9.5	0.5%
North Dakota	5	359.0	359.5	0.5	0.1%
Oklahoma	6	1,581.3	1,572.4	-8.9	-0.6%
South Dakota	7	401.1	398.4	-2.7	-0.7%
Texas	7	10,535.4	10,462.4	-73.0	-0.7%
Nebraska	9	950.6	942.1	-8.5	-0.9%
Kansas	10	1,377.0	1,360.4	-16.6	-1.2%
Montana	11	436.4	430.6	-5.8	-1.3%
New Hampshire	12	636.7	627.6	-9.1	-1.4%
New Mexico	12	843.3	831.1	-12.2	-1.4%
Iowa	14	1,499.9	1,477.2	-22.7	-1.5%
New York	15	8,679.9	8,536.2	-143.7	-1.7%
Missouri	15	2,761.1	2,712.9	-48.2	-1.7%
Maryland	17	2,569.4	2,521.4	-48.0	-1.9%
West Virginia	17	750.6	736.5	-14.1	-1.9%
Pennsylvania	19	5,732.6	5,618.2	-114.4	-2.0%
Utah	20	1,248.0	1,221.4	-26.6	-2.1%
Virginia	21	3,728.1	3,646.8	-81.3	-2.2%
Arkansas	22	1,199.9	1,169.3	-30.6	-2.6%
Massachusetts	22	3,238.7	3,154.9	-83.8	-2.6%
Colorado	22	2,331.0	2,269.8	-61.2	-2.6%
Maine	22	600.1	584.2	-15.9	-2.6%
Washington	26	2,936.9	2,848.9	-88.0	-3.0%
Hawaii	26	626.6	607.5	-19.1	-3.0%
New Jersey	28	4,017.0	3,893.9	-123.1	-3.1%
United States		136,356.0	132,099.0	-4,257.0	-3.1%
Minnesota	29	2,721.8	2,635.7	-86.1	-3.2%
Wisconsin	29	2,824.0	2,734.4	-89.6	-3.2%
Connecticut	29	1,687.8	1,633.4	-54.4	-3.2%
Illinois	32	5,874.8	5,670.9	-203.9	-3.5%
Mississippi	32	1,153.5	1,112.9	-40.6	-3.5%
Kentucky	34	1,839.8	1,774.4	-65.4	-3.6%
Indiana	35	2,936.2	2,826.7	-109.5	-3.7%
Alabama	36	1,994.5	1,918.3	-76.2	-3.8%
California	37	15,031.5	14,436.5	-595.0	-4.0%
Rhode Island	37	476.4	457.5	-18.9	-4.0%
Tennessee	37	2,771.9	2,661.2	-110.7	-4.0%
Ohio	40	5,325.9	5,103.9	-222.0	-4.2%
Vermont	41	308.4	295.2	-13.2	-4.3%
Delaware	41	428.8	410.2	-18.6	-4.3%
North Carolina	43	4,133.2	3,951.6	-181.6	-4.4%
Oregon	44	1,714.8	1,636.4	-78.4	-4.6%
Georgia	44	4,130.7	3,940.9	-189.8	-4.6%
South Carolina	44	1,929.4	1,840.7	-88.7	-4.6%
Idaho	44	639.4	609.8	-29.6	-4.6%
Nevada	48	1,272.4	1,211.3	-61.1	-4.8%
Florida	49	7,927.8	7,520.6	-407.2	-5.1%
Arizona	50	2,661.5	2,488.5	-173.0	-6.5%
Michigan	51	4,159.6	3,884.0	-275.6	-6.6%

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 FEBRUARY 2009				REVISED JANUARY 2009				REVISED FEBRUARY 2008			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	954,072	899,746	54,326	5.7%	947,232	897,996	49,236	5.2%	950,876	914,995	35,881	3.8%
Albuquerque MSA 2/	409,061	384,521	24,540	6.0%	406,966	384,932	22,034	5.4%	409,629	394,392	15,237	3.7%
Bernalillo	315,769	297,512	18,257	5.8%	314,180	297,830	16,350	5.2%	316,324	305,150	11,174	3.5%
Sandoval	54,746	51,072	3,674	6.7%	54,480	51,127	3,353	6.2%	54,898	52,384	2,514	4.6%
Torrance	7,206	6,675	531	7.4%	7,184	6,682	502	7.0%	7,152	6,846	306	4.3%
Valencia	31,339	29,261	2,078	6.6%	31,122	29,292	1,830	5.9%	31,256	30,012	1,244	4.0%
Farmington MSA 3/	57,775	54,923	2,852	4.9%	57,439	54,819	2,620	4.6%	57,132	55,301	1,831	3.2%
Las Cruces MSA 4/	89,923	84,601	5,322	5.9%	87,718	82,851	4,867	5.5%	89,477	85,636	3,841	4.3%
Santa Fe MSA 5/	78,703	74,727	3,976	5.1%	77,787	74,191	3,596	4.6%	78,184	75,681	2,503	3.2%
Catron	1,577	1,457	120	7.6%	1,569	1,461	108	6.9%	1,558	1,474	84	5.4%
Chaves	27,603	26,212	1,391	5.0%	27,547	26,275	1,272	4.6%	27,506	26,543	963	3.5%
Cibola	12,390	11,707	683	5.5%	12,388	11,739	649	5.2%	12,198	11,713	485	4.0%
Colfax	6,741	6,341	400	5.9%	6,625	6,259	366	5.5%	6,679	6,450	229	3.4%
Curry	21,351	20,592	759	3.6%	21,137	20,467	670	3.2%	21,359	20,747	612	2.9%
De Baca	892	849	43	4.8%	873	837	36	4.1%	893	865	28	3.1%
Eddy	28,272	27,174	1,098	3.9%	28,180	27,245	935	3.3%	27,203	26,488	715	2.6%
Grant	12,545	11,543	1,002	8.0%	12,828	11,905	923	7.2%	12,548	12,078	470	3.7%
Guadalupe	1,751	1,625	126	7.2%	1,722	1,604	118	6.9%	1,766	1,661	105	5.9%
Harding	452	438	14	3.1%	441	427	14	3.2%	444	432	12	2.7%
Hidalgo	2,492	2,327	165	6.6%	2,510	2,356	154	6.1%	2,494	2,393	101	4.0%
Lea	30,797	29,489	1,308	4.2%	30,424	29,399	1,025	3.4%	29,371	28,742	629	2.1%
Lincoln	11,065	10,564	501	4.5%	11,099	10,647	452	4.1%	10,907	10,549	358	3.3%
Los Alamos	9,693	9,408	285	2.9%	9,652	9,393	259	2.7%	10,113	9,829	284	2.8%
Luna	12,312	10,267	2,045	16.6%	12,247	10,306	1,941	15.8%	12,048	10,481	1,567	13.0%
McKinley	27,073	25,334	1,739	6.4%	27,190	25,548	1,642	6.0%	27,094	25,858	1,236	4.6%
Mora	2,017	1,810	207	10.3%	2,016	1,817	199	9.9%	2,019	1,840	179	8.9%
Otero	26,432	25,096	1,336	5.1%	26,294	25,060	1,234	4.7%	26,560	25,598	962	3.6%
Quay	4,082	3,858	224	5.5%	4,024	3,828	196	4.9%	4,119	3,945	174	4.2%
Rio Arriba	20,476	19,184	1,292	6.3%	20,460	19,228	1,232	6.0%	20,717	19,634	1,083	5.2%
Roosevelt	9,776	9,463	313	3.2%	9,531	9,228	303	3.2%	9,967	9,718	249	2.5%
San Miguel	13,327	12,609	718	5.4%	13,013	12,346	667	5.1%	13,442	12,885	557	4.1%
Sierra	5,807	5,522	285	4.9%	5,939	5,676	263	4.4%	5,595	5,374	221	3.9%
Socorro	9,734	9,348	386	4.0%	9,668	9,306	362	3.7%	9,723	9,447	276	2.8%
Taos	17,809	16,688	1,121	6.3%	17,775	16,741	1,034	5.8%	18,003	17,157	846	4.7%
Union	2,144	2,069	75	3.5%	2,167	2,104	63	2.9%	2,133	2,086	47	2.2%

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 FEBRUARY 2009			REVISED JANUARY 2009			REVISED FEBRUARY 2008		
AREAS	RANK	RATE	AREAS	RANK	RATE	AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	16.6%	LUNA	1	15.8%	LUNA	1	13.0%
MORA	2	10.3%	MORA	2	9.9%	MORA	2	8.9%
GRANT	3	8.0%	GRANT	3	7.2%	GUADALUPE	3	5.9%
CATRON	4	7.6%	CATRON	4	6.9%	CATRON	4	5.4%
GUADALUPE	5	7.2%	GUADALUPE	4	6.9%	RIO ARRIBA	5	5.2%
HIDALGO	6	6.6%	HIDALGO	6	6.1%	TAOS	6	4.7%
MCKINLEY	7	6.4%	MCKINLEY	7	6.0%	MCKINLEY	7	4.6%
RIO ARRIBA	8	6.3%	RIO ARRIBA	7	6.0%	LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	8	4.3%
TAOS	8	6.3%	TAOS	9	5.8%	QUAY	9	4.2%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	10	6.0%	LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	10	5.5%	SAN MIGUEL	10	4.1%
COLFAX	11	5.9%	COLFAX	10	5.5%	HIDALGO	11	4.0%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	11	5.9%	ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	12	5.4%	CIBOLA	11	4.0%
STATEWIDE		5.7%	CIBOLA	13	5.2%	SIERRA	13	3.9%
CIBOLA	13	5.5%	STATEWIDE		5.2%	STATEWIDE		3.8%
QUAY	13	5.5%	SAN MIGUEL	14	5.1%	GRANT	14	3.7%
SAN MIGUEL	15	5.4%	QUAY	15	4.9%	ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	14	3.7%
OTERO	16	5.1%	OTERO	16	4.7%	OTERO	16	3.6%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	16	5.1%	SANTA FE MSA 4/	17	4.6%	CHAVES	17	3.5%
CHAVES	18	5.0%	CHAVES	17	4.6%	COLFAX	18	3.4%
FARMINGTON MSA 2/	19	4.9%	FARMINGTON MSA 2/	17	4.6%	LINCOLN	19	3.3%
SIERRA	19	4.9%	SIERRA	20	4.4%	FARMINGTON MSA 2/	20	3.2%
DE BACA	21	4.8%	DE BACA	21	4.1%	SANTA FE MSA 4/	20	3.2%
LINCOLN	22	4.5%	LINCOLN	21	4.1%	DE BACA	22	3.1%
LEA	23	4.2%	SOCORRO	23	3.7%	CURRY	23	2.9%
SOCORRO	24	4.0%	LEA	24	3.4%	SOCORRO	24	2.8%
EDDY	25	3.9%	EDDY	25	3.3%	LOS ALAMOS	24	2.8%
CURRY	26	3.6%	ROOSEVELT	26	3.2%	HARDING	26	2.7%
UNION	27	3.5%	HARDING	26	3.2%	EDDY	27	2.6%
ROOSEVELT	28	3.2%	CURRY	26	3.2%	ROOSEVELT	28	2.5%
HARDING	29	3.1%	UNION	29	2.9%	UNION	29	2.2%
LOS ALAMOS	30	2.9%	LOS ALAMOS	30	2.7%	LEA	30	2.1%

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

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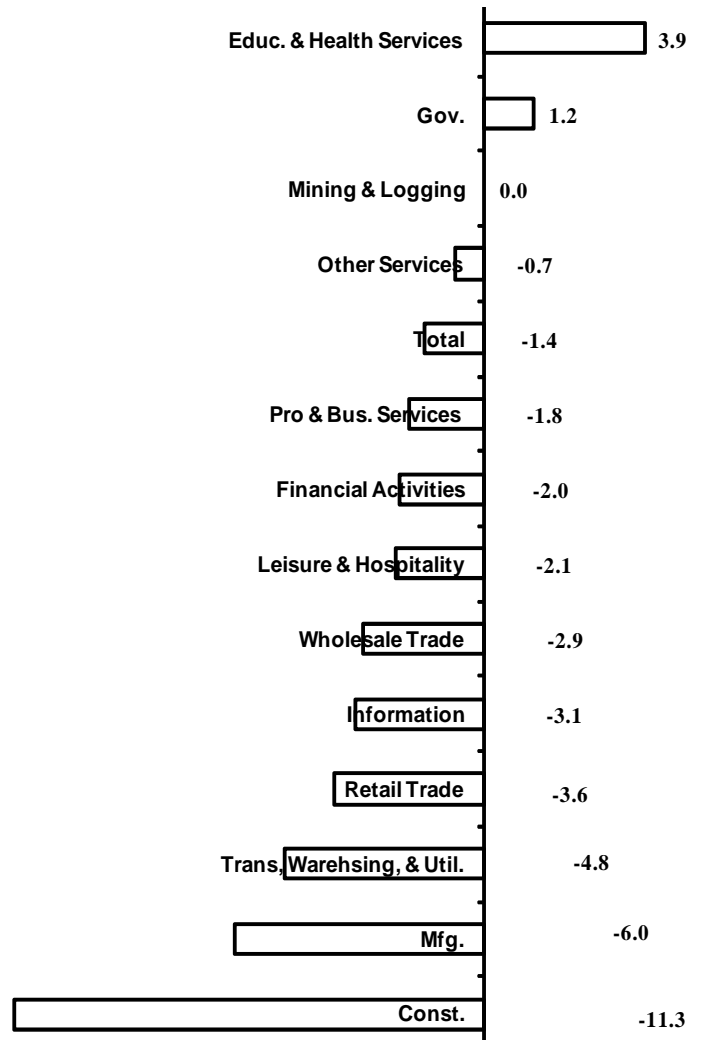
Unemployment Rate by State (Seasonally Adjusted)

February 2009			February 2008		
State	Rank	Rate	State	Rank	Rate
Michigan	1	12.0	Michigan	1	7.4
South Carolina	2	11.0	Alaska	2	6.5
Oregon	3	10.8	Rhode Island	2	6.5
North Carolina	4	10.7	California	4	6.2
California	5	10.5	District of Columbia	5	6.1
Rhode Island	5	10.5	Illinois	6	5.9
Nevada	7	10.1	Mississippi	6	5.9
District of Columbia	8	9.9	Ohio	6	5.9
Florida	9	9.4	South Carolina	9	5.7
Indiana	9	9.4	Kentucky	10	5.6
Ohio	9	9.4	Missouri	11	5.5
Georgia	12	9.3	Nevada	11	5.5
Kentucky	13	9.2	Tennessee	11	5.5
Mississippi	14	9.1	Georgia	14	5.4
Tennessee	14	9.1	Oregon	14	5.4
Illinois	16	8.6	Connecticut	16	5.2
Alabama	17	8.4	Florida	16	5.2
Washington	17	8.4	North Carolina	16	5.2
Missouri	19	8.3	Indiana	19	5.0
New Jersey	20	8.2	Minnesota	19	5.0
Minnesota	21	8.1	Maine	21	4.9
United States		8.1	Arkansas	22	4.8
Alaska	22	8.0	Pennsylvania	22	4.8
Maine	22	8.0	United States		4.8
Massachusetts	24	7.8	New Jersey	24	4.7
New York	24	7.8	Washington	24	4.7
Wisconsin	26	7.7	Massachusetts	26	4.6
Pennsylvania	27	7.5	New York	26	4.6
Arizona	28	7.4	Arizona	28	4.5
Connecticut	28	7.4	Colorado	28	4.5
Delaware	28	7.4	Texas	28	4.5
Colorado	31	7.2	Wisconsin	28	4.5
Vermont	32	7.0	Vermont	32	4.4
Idaho	33	6.8	West Virginia	33	4.2
Maryland	34	6.7	Alabama	34	4.1
Arkansas	35	6.6	Delaware	35	4.0
Virginia	35	6.6	Kansas	35	4.0
Hawaii	37	6.5	Montana	35	4.0
Texas	37	6.5	Idaho	38	3.9
Montana	39	6.0	Iowa	38	3.9
West Virginia	39	6.0	Louisiana	40	3.8
Kansas	41	5.9	New Mexico	40	3.8
Louisiana	42	5.7	Maryland	42	3.7
Oklahoma	43	5.5	New Hampshire	42	3.7
New Mexico	44	5.4	Virginia	44	3.5
New Hampshire	45	5.3	Utah	45	3.3
Utah	46	5.1	Oklahoma	46	3.2
Iowa	47	4.9	Hawaii	47	3.1
South Dakota	48	4.6	Nebraska	48	3.0
North Dakota	49	4.3	North Dakota	48	3.0
Nebraska	50	4.2	Wyoming	50	2.8
Wyoming	51	3.9	South Dakota	51	2.7

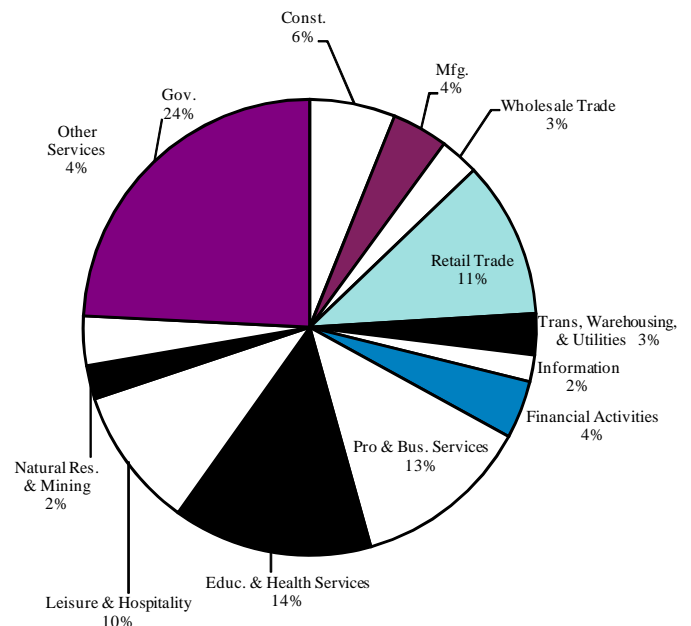
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Mexico Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Annual Growth Rates by Industry



NAICS Industries



Are We Getting Better Or Just Worse At A Slower Pace?

Bob Richards, Economist

Retail sales are up. Industrial production is up. So are housing starts, non-farm employment, exports and business confidence. Even department store sales in the New York area are finally turning around.

At the same time, inflation, interest rates, new jobless claims and personal debt are all, gratifyingly, down.

Is the recession over? Finally, after 19 months, the answer appears to be yes.

But before anyone gets too excited, a dose of reality. The difference between recession and recovery may be little more than a statistical technicality. The economy may not be falling, but neither is it rising very quickly. The outlook is for more of the same: slow, perhaps even glacial, improvement. Unemployment may continue to rise for three to six months, perhaps longer. And there is always the possibility that the recovery will abort. Still, moving up beats moving down.

There is light, if only dim, at the end of the economic tunnel. The U.S. economy has been wallowing in recession for more than a year and a half and stagnating for about three years. Output hasn't fallen very much — the drop has been only half the size of recent recessions. But it has sent more than a million Americans onto the jobless rolls.

Only last fall did the Federal Reserve Board turn from mouse to tiger — pushing down interest rates in order to jump-start the economy. In February the Fed followed with a cut in reserve requirements, which freed banks to lend more money.

Last spring, the economy also ticked up, only to turn back down again during the summer. There's no guarantee that a recovery won't also abort. But that's unlikely because the Fed's new policy should keep sectors that depend on low-interest loans — residential housing, consumer durables and corporate investment — healthy. Another optimistic sign: Inventories are low, so as retail sales pick up, stores will have to send orders to factories to speed up production.

Not everything is rosy. Robert Gordon, an economics professor at Northwestern University and a member of the committee that determines the stop and start dates of recessions for the National Bureau of Economic Research, says one-third of the economy will continue to stagnate. Commercial real estate is dead; until vacant office space is filled, there won't be new construction. And the defense industry is headed down, fast. Even exports — which have been the main source of new jobs during the last few years — will probably slow because the Japanese and German economies are running into trouble.

Mr. Gordon predicts that output will grow by 2 or 3 percent a year. That is about half the rate of a normal recovery and barely enough to keep unemployment steady. Indeed, Mr. Gordon expects unemployment to hover around 7 percent, then fall by the middle of next year to around 6.5 percent — more than one percentage point above the rate that prevailed before the recession.

The best guess is that unemployment will stay steady or edge a bit higher because companies are unlikely to make permanent hires until they're convinced recovery is for real. When might that be? Perhaps early fall. Just in time to affect the November elections, one way or the other.

As you may have surmised, the preceding was an article depicting the 1990-1991 recession from a March 22, 1992, opinion piece in *The New York Times* titled "Is the Recession Over?" While the 2007-20?? recession is turning into the fourth longest recession in eighty years, it will pass. One thing the 1992 article is missing to sound somewhat like our current economic conditions is the credit debacle.

So when will we start getting good news about our economy? At the time of this writing, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) had seen five out of six days of gains. Both Citigroup and Bank of America announced improving operations in the first two months of 2009. February multi-family housing starts jumped 22 percent from January. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke optimistically suggested that the recession would be over in the second half of 2009 and recovery would accelerate through 2010.

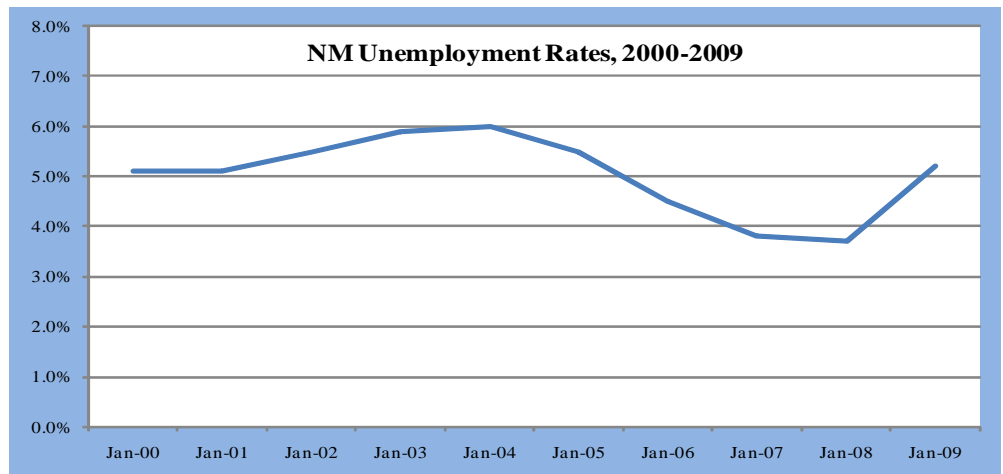
"We're starting to build a base here," said Douglas Kreps, a managing director at Fort Pitt Capital Group. "We may not be getting better, but we're getting worse at a slower rate." Kreps added that each day that goes by without disappointing news can help further strengthen that base. "Being able to go a week or more without bad news" is a good sign, he said. Some economists are predicting the

economy could shrink at an annualized 5.2 percent pace in the first quarter after a 6.2 percent contraction in the previous fourth quarter. Here's an example of getting worse at a slower rate or what economists call decreasing at a decreasing rate.

When should we say that there is light at the end of the economic tunnel? The Business Cycle Dating Committee of the National Bureau of Economic Research is considered the authority on making these determinations. Remember, it took the committee until December 2008 to declare that we did indeed fall into a recession in December 2007. We need to look at both short-term and long-term indices to be certain of the recovery. The following is a list of indicators to watch for to determine when we finally hit the bottom and start seeing the long-awaited expansion period begin.

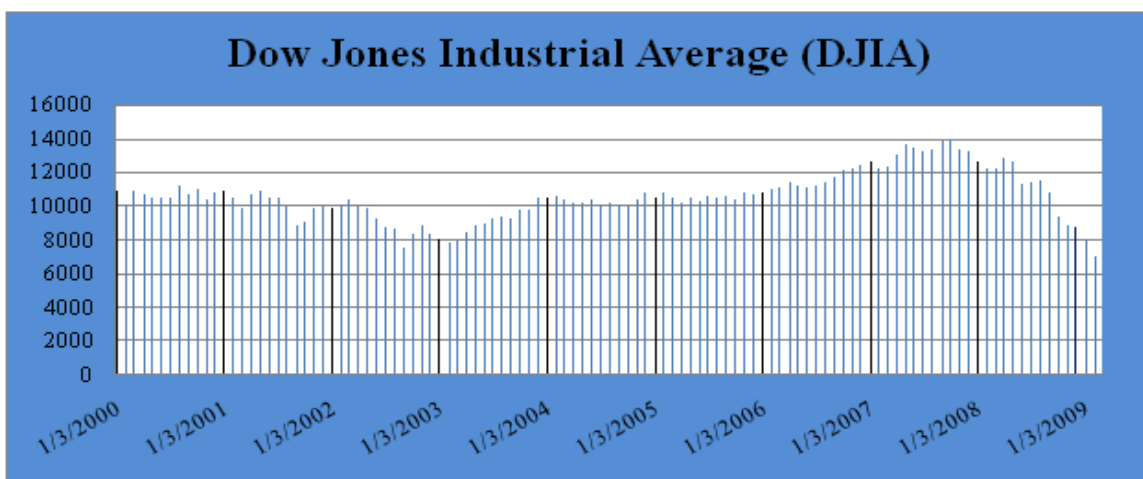
- Industrial production
- Quarterly real GDP
- Monthly payroll employment
- Monthly household employment
- Monthly real manufacturing and trade sales
- Initial unemployment claims
- Dow Jones industrial average
- Confidence indices
- Building permits and building starts

We will be following these measures very closely over the coming months and reporting on positive changes we see in the economy. If you have a SWAG as to when we hit bottom, send me an email to robertc.richards@state.nm.us.



Rates are not seasonally adjusted.

Source: NMDWS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.



Source: <http://finance.yahoo.com/q/hp?s=%5EDJI&a=00&b=1&c=2000&d=02&e=11&f=2009&g=m&z=66&y=0>.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Feb-09	Revised Jan-09	Revised Feb-08	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	831,100	825,900	843,300	5,200	-12,200
GOODS-PRODUCING	103,900	105,500	112,500	-1,600	-8,600
SERVICES-PROVIDING	727,200	720,400	730,800	6,800	-3,600
MINING AND LOGGING	19,800	20,400	19,800	-600	0
CONSTRUCTION	51,000	51,600	57,500	-600	-6,500
MANUFACTURING	33,100	33,500	35,200	-400	-2,100
WHOLESALE TRADE	23,100	23,200	23,800	-100	-700
RETAIL TRADE	92,600	93,900	96,100	-1,300	-3,500
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	24,000	24,300	25,200	-300	-1,200
INFORMATION	15,800	15,500	16,300	300	-500
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	34,100	34,000	34,800	100	-700
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	105,600	105,500	107,500	100	-1,900
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	118,600	117,100	114,100	1,500	4,500
Educational Services	14,800	14,300	14,400	500	400
Health Care and Social Assistance	103,800	102,800	99,700	1,000	4,100
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	83,300	82,800	85,100	500	-1,800
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8,500	8,300	8,400	200	100
Accommodation and Food Services	74,800	74,500	76,700	300	-1,900
OTHER SERVICES	29,000	28,600	29,200	400	-200
GOVERNMENT	201,100	195,500	198,700	5,600	2,400
Federal Government	30,600	30,600	30,000	0	600
State Government	61,200	57,400	61,400	3,800	-200
<i>State Government Education</i>	29,200	25,300	28,800	3,900	400
Local Government	109,300	107,500	107,300	1,800	2,000
<i>Local Government Education</i>	59,300	57,800	58,900	1,500	400

ALBUQUERQUE	Preliminary Feb-09	Revised Jan-09	Revised Feb-08	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	388,000	386,700	392,800	1,300	-4,800
GOODS-PRODUCING	46,000	46,500	50,900	-500	-4,900
SERVICE-PROVIDING	342,000	340,200	341,900	1,800	100
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	25,300	25,500	28,600	-200	-3,300
MANUFACTURING	20,700	21,000	22,300	-300	-1,600
WHOLESALE TRADE	12,900	12,900	13,300	0	-400
RETAIL TRADE	42,600	43,200	44,300	-600	-1,700
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	10,600	10,700	11,000	-100	-400
INFORMATION	9,700	9,600	9,400	100	300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	18,300	18,300	18,800	0	-500
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	63,100	63,500	63,900	-400	-800
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	52,600	52,000	50,000	600	2,600
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	37,000	37,000	37,900	0	-900
OTHER SERVICES	12,300	12,200	12,300	100	0
GOVERNMENT	82,900	80,800	81,000	2,100	1,900
Federal Government	14,700	14,700	14,300	0	400
State Government	26,400	24,400	26,400	2,000	0
Local Government	41,800	41,700	40,300	100	1,500

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

LAS CRUCES MSA	Preliminary Feb-09	Revised Jan-09	Revised Feb-08	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	69,600	67,500	69,400	2,100	200
GOODS-PRODUCING	6,800	7,000	7,400	-200	-600
SERVICE-PROVIDING	62,800	60,500	62,000	2,300	800
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	3,800	3,900	4,300	-100	-500
MANUFACTURING	3,000	3,100	3,100	-100	-100
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	7,100	7,100	7,400	0	-300
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	-100
INFORMATION	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,600	2,600	2,400	0	200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	6,500	6,500	6,100	0	400
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	11,400	11,300	10,900	100	500
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	7,100	7,000	7,300	100	-200
OTHER SERVICES	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100
GOVERNMENT	22,200	20,100	22,000	2,100	200
Federal	3,900	3,900	3,800	0	100
State	9,100	7,100	9,100	2,000	0
Local	9,200	9,100	9,100	100	100

SANTA FE MSA	Preliminary Feb-09	Revised Jan-09	Revised Feb-08	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	64,200	63,500	63,900	700	300
GOODS-PRODUCING	5,200	5,200	5,300	0	-100
SERVICE-PROVIDING	59,000	58,300	58,600	700	400
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	4,300	4,300	4,400	0	-100
MANUFACTURING	900	900	900	0	0
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,300	1,300	1,200	0	100
RETAIL TRADE	8,900	8,900	8,900	0	0
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	700	700	700	0	0
INFORMATION	1,400	1,400	1,600	0	-200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,100	5,100	5,000	0	100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	10,200	9,900	10,000	300	200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	8,700	8,900	8,600	-200	100
OTHER SERVICES	2,700	2,700	2,800	0	-100
GOVERNMENT	17,200	16,600	17,000	600	200
Federal	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
State	8,400	8,100	8,400	300	0
Local	7,800	7,500	7,600	300	200

Red or Green?...

Bob Richards, Economist

Is your job a red or green job? What's a red job? What's a green job? Unless you're working out of a fire truck or in a chile field, there are no red jobs, at least not yet. On the other hand, the concept of green jobs is starting to gain some traction around the country. While we still don't have a concise definition of what makes a green job green, it is safe to assume it is related to leaving a smaller carbon footprint on the environment. With the help of certifications and minimum requirements, such as automobile emissions and fuel mileage standards, Energy Star ratings for appliances, and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certificates for construction and building standards, we have a starting point of what makes it green.



The issue that has befuddled labor economists is how we attempt to measure green jobs in the economy. We currently collect employment data from employers through the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey. A little history... The OES program has been around in one form or another for about 50,000 years. Back then, there were two occupations, hunters and gathers. These two occupations were the foundation for the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) coding system. We use it to describe different job skills. SOC was much simpler then.

Fast-forward to the 1960's. While job opportunities for American workers were growing, analysts could not adequately quantify labor market requirements. This was due to an overall lack of data regarding skill requirements because they didn't realize the importance of understanding labor markets at the time. Thus, little was known about the number of workers in important occupations or even the economy's occupational structure as a whole (sound familiar?). The Vocational Education Act of 1963, as amended in 1968, placed emphasis on occupational education at the secondary and post-secondary levels and called for the development of state vocational education plans that take into account occupational trends. As a result of the legislation passed during the 1960's, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) initiated the OES survey in 1970, in cooperation with the State Employment Security Agencies.

Today, the OES survey is a federal/state cooperative program that collects data on over 800 occupations in over 300 industries. So why can't we count green? As mentioned previously, SOC coding is used to describe job skills. A plumber installing low-flow toilets could be considered a green outcome; however, the skills required to install this type of toilet are the same for installing a non low-flow toilet. Statistically, the person is still a plumber. The same can be said for solar energy system engineers and greenhouse gas emissions report verifiers. These are trendy job titles for electrical engineers and compliance officers.

While it is important to measure the relationship between investments and outcomes, measuring green jobs still remains a moving target. We are looking at various means of counting green jobs, including pre- and post-investment employment counts that assume that the difference is due to the green investment, keeping all else constant. However, until there is a rewrite of the SOC coding system, most economists and data collectors are certain to use the industry standard for coding occupations. We will continue our efforts to quantify green jobs data and hope to have results in the near future.

2009 Social and Economic Indicators

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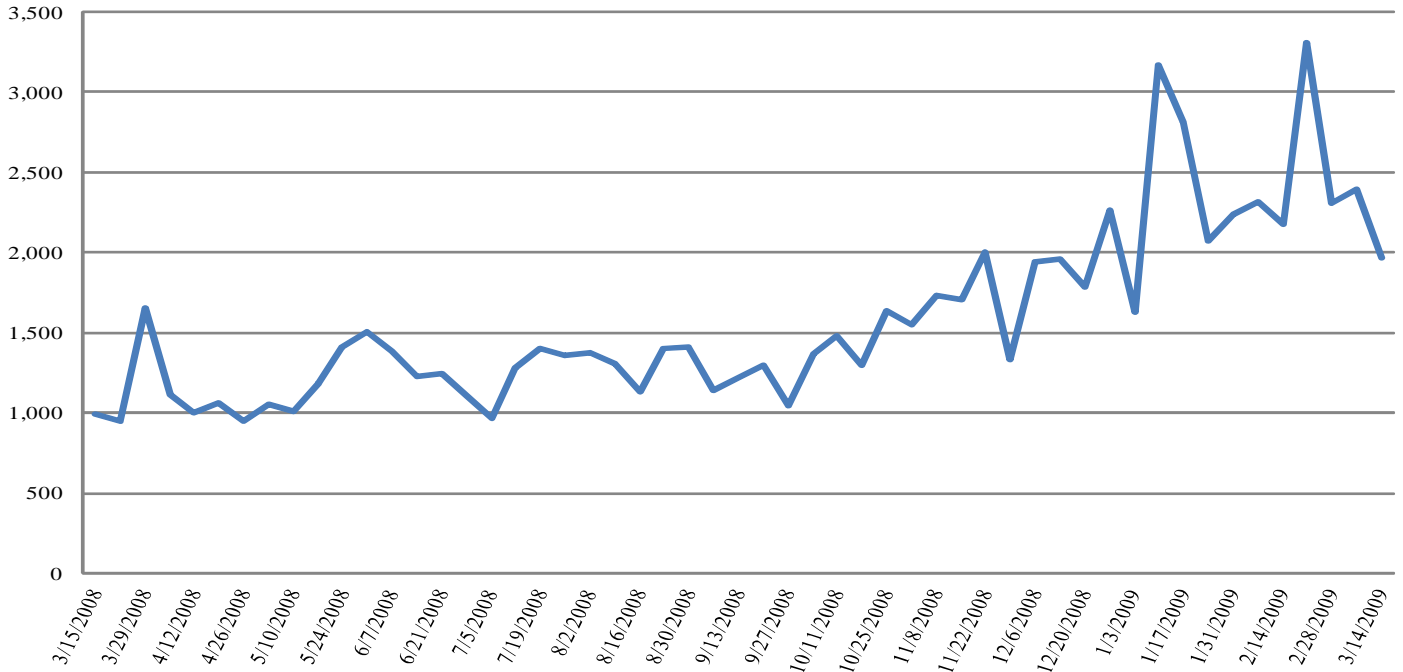
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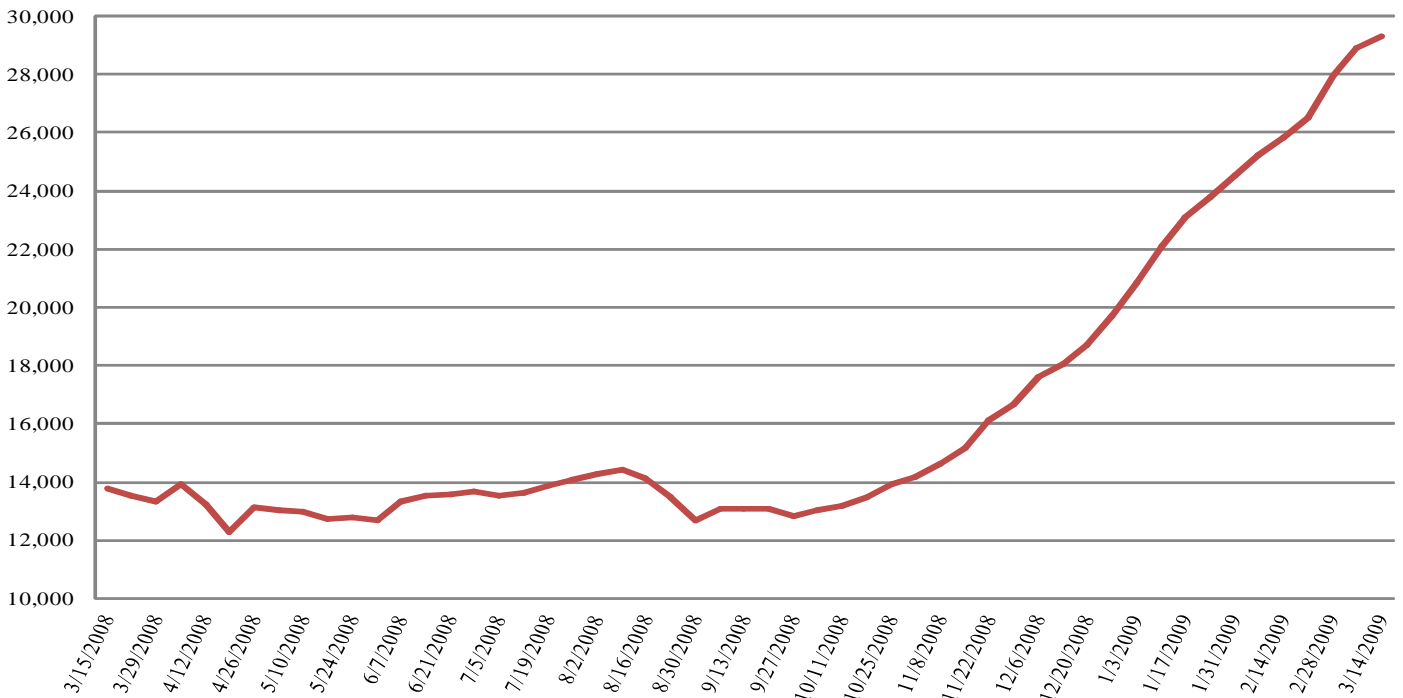
New Mexico Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims

Initial UI Claims (Week ending 03/14/2009)



Source: USDOL, Employment & Training Administration, www.doleta.gov.

Continued UI Claims (Week ending 03/14/2009)



Source: USDOL, Employment & Training Administration, www.doleta.gov.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

- Seasonally Adjusted -

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Feb-09	Revised Jan-09	Monthly Change
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT*	839,000	840,500	-1,500
MINING AND LOGGING	20,000	20,400	-400
CONSTRUCTION	53,800	54,600	-800
MANUFACTURING	33,900	34,300	-400
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES	142,000	142,100	-100
Wholesale Trade	23,200	23,400	-200
Retail Trade	94,700	94,400	300
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	24,100	24,300	-200
INFORMATION (Not Seasonally Adjusted)	15,800	15,500	300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	34,300	34,200	100
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	106,700	107,100	-400
EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES	117,600	116,700	900
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	86,300	87,200	-900
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8,800	8,700	100
Accommodation and Food Services	77,500	78,500	-1,000
OTHER SERVICES	29,800	29,800	0
GOVERNMENT	198,800	198,600	200
Federal Government	31,100	31,200	-100
State Government	59,500	59,500	0
Local Government	108,200	107,900	300
ALBUQUERQUE	391,100	392,700	-1,600
LAS CRUCES	69,500	69,500	0
SANTA FE	64,900	65,200	-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

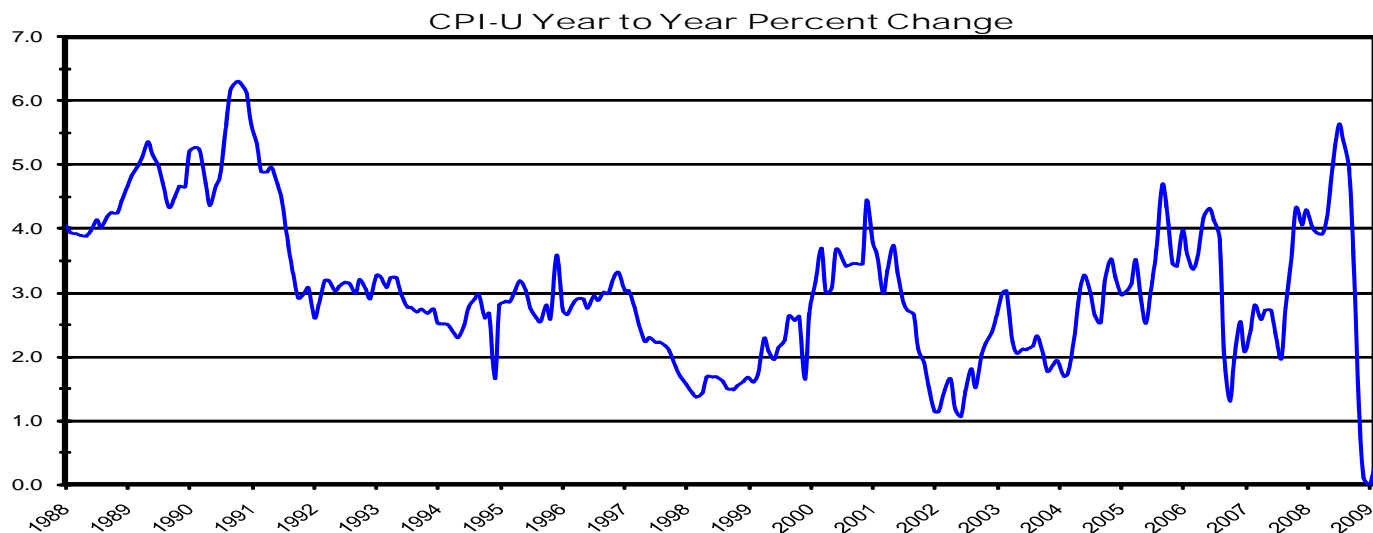
	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08
NEW MEXICO									
MANUFACTURING	\$534.38	\$531.08	\$565.02	37.5	37.4	38.7	\$14.25	\$14.20	\$14.60

U.S. Consumer Price Index

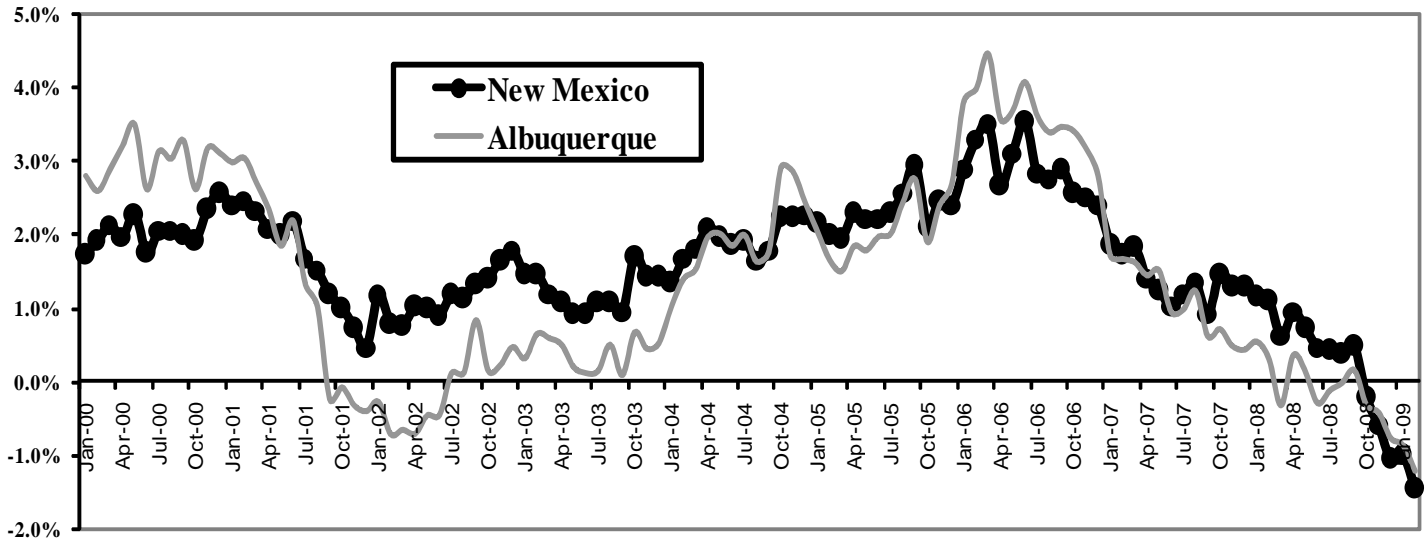
	Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100			PERCENT CHANGE	
	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08	Month to Month	Year to Year
CPI-U	212.2	211.1	211.7	0.5%	0.2%
CPI-W	206.7	205.7	207.3	0.5%	-0.3%

*CPI-U - All Urban Consumers

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



Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Albuquerque



New Mexico Occupational Shortages and Surpluses*

Shortages
Statewide Summary
Agricultural Equipment Operators Combined Food Prep & Serving Workers Correctional Officers & Jailers Demonstrators & Product Promoters Internists Military Enlisted Tactical Op & Air/Weapons Specialists Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants Sales & Related Workers Sales Representatives Waiters & Waitresses
Albuquerque MSA
Combined Food Prep & Serving Workers Correctional Officers & Jailers Sales & Related Workers
Las Cruces MSA
Interpreters & Translators Nonfarm Animal Caretakers Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants Waiters & Waitresses
Santa Fe MSA
Cement Masons & Concrete Finishers Construction & Related Workers Construction Carpenters Gaming Service Workers Helpers--Carpenters Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technicians Structural Iron & Steel Workers Truck Drivers
Farmington MSA
Construction Laborers Demonstrators & Product Promoters Packers & Packagers Police Patrol Officers Security Guards

Surpluses	
Statewide Summary	
Administrative Services Managers Amusement & Recreation Attendants Assemblers & Fabricators Automotive Master Mechanics Cashiers Construction & Related Workers Construction Carpenters Construction Laborers Customer Service Representatives Exec Secretaries & Admin Assts	Helpers--Production Workers Home Health Aides Janitors & Cleaners Laborers & Frgt, Stock & Mat Movers Maintenance & Repair Workers Managers Office & Administrative Support Workers Production Workers Receptionists & Information Clerks Stock Clerks
Albuquerque MSA	
Accountants Administrative Services Managers Aircraft Mechanics & Service Technicians Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks Cashiers Computer Support Specialists Construction Carpenters Construction Laborers Customer Service Representatives Exec Secretaries & Admin Assts	Healthcare Support Workers Maintenance & Repair Workers Managers Office & Administrative Support Workers Production Workers Retail Salespersons Sales Representatives Security Guards Stock Clerks Truck Drivers
Las Cruces MSA	
Accountants Cashiers Computer Support Specialists Construction Carpenters Construction Laborers Exec Secretaries & Admin Assts Farmworkers & Laborers Home Health Aides Janitors & Cleaners Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	Maintenance & Repair Workers Production Workers
Santa Fe MSA	
Accountants Administrative Services Managers Cashiers Community & Social Service Specialists Construction Laborers Customer Service Representatives Exec Secretaries & Admin Assts First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers Managers Office & Administrative Support Workers	Office Clerks
Farmington MSA	
Accountants Construction Carpenters Derrick Operators Exec Secretaries & Admin Assts First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production & Operating Workers Helpers--Production Workers Production Workers Receptionists & Information Clerks Rotary Drill Operators Truck Drivers	

*Based on posted job orders & resumes entered in the NM Workforce Connection System by occupation in the last 30 Days (March 25, 2009).

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:

Gov. Bill Richardson announced the first commercial partnerships with the **New Mexico Computing Applications Center** and its supercomputer, Encanto. The new ventures initially are expected to create about 100 high-tech jobs. The partnerships are with firms in the media world and in health care. DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc. is teaming up with Cerelink Digital Media Group of New Mexico to use the resources of the Computing Applications Center so DreamWorks can render its three-dimensional films in New Mexico. As part of the project, an ultra high-speed link now connects New Mexico to Hollywood. The link was developed by the Computing Applications Center in collaboration with the University of New Mexico, the New Mexico Department of Information Technology, National LambdaRail, and Cerelink DMG. The project is expected to create 30 new jobs in its early phases.

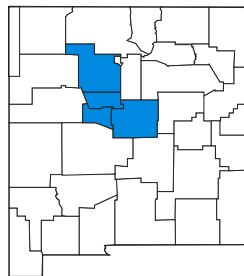
OptumHealth, Inc. has been selected by the state of New Mexico's Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to manage several publicly funded mental health and substance abuse programs. These programs include the State's Medicaid program; federal mental health and substance abuse block grants; Children, Youth and Families behavioral health funds; and Community Corrections behavioral health funds. In addition to managing all day-to-day contracting, monitoring, finances, and reporting, OptumHealth will provide community-based programs for people in crisis, expand services for the state's rural residents, ensure competent care for New Mexico's diverse population, and implement a new information system created expressly to meet New Mexico's requirements. The company also will open offices in five New Mexico cities—Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Farmington, Las Cruces, and Roswell—to provide clinical, community engagement, and provider-support services.

Citing declining sales, the **Purple Sage Garden Centers** are closing after nearly 16 years in business. The Albuquerque store, located at 6921 Pan American Fwy NE., is currently being liquidated and the original location, at 975 Western Hills Dr. SE in Rio Rancho, was slated to start its liquidation sale a few weeks later. The Rio Rancho store is older and has been a good gauge of the market, and sales there have been down 40 to 50 percent. The company has reduced its workforce from 55 employees to about four within the past six months.

Central WIA Area:

Albuquerque Area, Bernalillo County:

Phoenix-based **Verizon** awarded performance-based bonuses of up to 8 percent of salaries to its West Side call center's 1,270 employees. The company also gave its employees a 3 percent profit-sharing award, which was deposited into their 401(k) accounts. As a further sign of the company's success, Verizon's West Side call center is hiring an additional 350 to 400 employees. The center has a capacity for about 1,700 employees and is focused on candidates that have an associate's degree or higher and those with bilingual ability. Starting salaries at Verizon are \$27,000, \$28,500 for bilingual call-takers. Nationwide, Verizon employs 86,000 people and has 26 call centers.



A national drugstore chain plans to open three locations in the Northeast Heights and one on Albuquerque's West Side. **CVS Caremark** plans to open all four locations by this summer, with more expected to follow. Each drugstore will hire about 20 to 25 people. Despite the economic slowdown, CVS expects to add 250-300 new locations nationwide in 2009 to its existing 6,300-plus drugstores. New Mexico is an expansion area for the company. To a large extent, the CVS expansion here picks up where the now-defunct Eckerd Corp. left off nearly five years ago. All four CVS locations were originally built to become Eckerd drugstores. The four locations that CVS will occupy are 7847 Tramway NE, near Paseo del Norte; 9640 Menaul NE, near Eubank; 4340 San Mateo NE, near Montgomery; and 3821 Ellison NW, near Coors Bypass. The buildings are all in the 14,000-square-foot range, a little bigger than the typical CVS store in this region, and will undergo major remodeling. Each of the four stores will have a full-service pharmacy with drive-up prescription window service, along with the standard retail format of over-the-counter health products, beauty supplies, one-hour photo processing, general merchandise, greeting cards, and convenience foods.

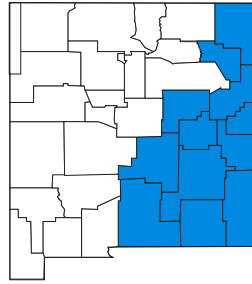
Eclipse Aviation Corp. officials sent about 800 workers home on an unpaid furlough but expressed confidence the employees will return when the company's pending sale goes through. Eclipse president and general manager Michael McConnell said that Eclipse is "very close" to closing a \$188 million sale to European-based EclipseJet Aviation International Inc., an affiliate of ETIRC Aviation. Last month, a federal judge in Delaware approved the sale to allow Eclipse's reorganization under bankruptcy protection. McConnell characterized the furloughs as indefinite and said about 50 workers remain to maintain aircraft and flight simulators. Eclipse's service center and flight training centers have been temporarily closed. Eclipse sustained a major setback with the bankruptcy of its largest customer, air taxi operator DayJet Corp. of Boca Raton, Fla. The company has delivered 259 planes since handing over the first aircraft in January 2007.

Zangara Dodge owner Ken Zangara confirmed that he has closed the dealership and is looking for a buyer. There had been a sharp decline in sales, and Zangara said the dealership had also lost its primary lending source. Zangara said his 150 employees will get their earned pay, their 401k investments, and other benefits. The dealership opened in 1991 and was consistently the biggest Dodge dealer in the state by volume, according to the Zangara Dodge Web site. The head of the New Mexico Automotive Dealers Association said other dealers are also in trouble. "Although we didn't know specifically what dealers would be affected the most and first, we've been expecting this to happen," NMADA President Charles Henson said. "And we expect that unless changes come about we will experience more problems such as this."

Rio Rancho Area, Sandoval County:

Intel plans to spend \$7 billion upgrading its U.S. factories over the next two years. The company says the money will pay for new machinery at factories in Oregon, Arizona and New Mexico. The new investment isn't expected to add positions. A \$2.5 billion investment in the Rio Rancho facility will enable the transition to new manufacturing technology. About 1,500 temporary construction jobs will be created during the plant's upgrade.

Eastern WIA Area:



Clovis Area, Curry County:

Bender Chevrolet Cadillac in Clovis took over Big Valley Buick Pontiac GMC’s inventory of General Motors vehicles in early February after buying the dealership. Buyers can now shop all five GM franchises at one location on 2500 Mabry Dr. “We’re going to call it **Bender GM World**,” said Bryce Bender, who co-owns the car dealership with his brother Darryle Bender.

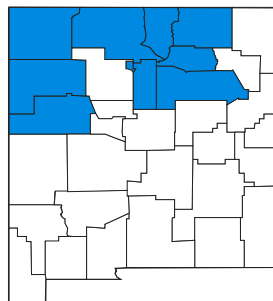
The Bank of Clovis, located at Main and Grand streets, will expand to include the building north of it. The bank currently occupies 3,000 square feet and the new expansion will more than double its footprint downtown to 7,000 square feet. Construction to join the two buildings will begin in mid-February and take about four months to complete. The bank plans to add about eight workers to its current staff of 22.

Roswell Area, Chaves County:

Berken Solar, a company developing thin-film solar alternative energy technology, has occupied a large warehouse on the city’s south side, and will begin production in as little as three months. Berken Solar produces solar panels made of wafer-thin sheets of plastic and metal through a complicated process called vacuum deposition that uses a web/roll coater machine. These solar panels are used by large industrial operations and large utility providers. The company is currently in the research and development phase and is awaiting delivery on another large piece of equipment from France. “We’re still in the stages of getting our prototype certified by other laboratories, but we should be at full capacity within six months,” said Ken Newman, director of business development. According to Newman, the company currently has six full-time employees. If everything goes well, he added, the company will have between 30 and 50 employees by the end of the year. The company chose Roswell because it’s very conducive to solar technology. The proximity of Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell also made the city a natural choice.

Dean Baldwin Painting Inc., a Roswell company that specializes in the painting, inspection and maintenance of airplanes, had its military contracts suspension lifted. The company can now bid on new military projects and hopes to get back into that business. Barbara Baldwin, the company’s CEO, said business is strong and the company has not been affected at all by the current economic downturn. The company, based in San Antonio, Texas, now has more than 200 employees, about 180 of them in Roswell. It currently holds contracts with American Eagle, Sky West, and United Airlines and occupies a six-bay hanger at the airport. The company is still hiring and has implemented an aggressive career progression plan.

Northern WIA Area:



Milan Area, Cibola County:

Pioneer Associates Corporation has said that it may build a large industrial-type facility in Milan’s farmland just northeast of Mt. Taylor Millwork. The furniture manufacturing operation

could employ nearly 350 people and create an estimated 100 indirect jobs. Also being considered for the project are the Jicarilla Tribe and Navajo Nation. A key component for the project to happen is the U.S. Forest Service. The operation will need about 400,000 tons per year of timber.

Gallup Area, McKinley County:

A \$15 million **Hilton Garden Inn** is being developed and built at 1530 W. Maloney in Gallup. The project is expected to take about 14 months to complete. It will be built by Sundaram Builders, and much of the work will go out to bid to local subcontractors. The facility will have about 5,000 square feet of meeting space, a restaurant, a lounge, an indoor pool, an exercise room, a Jacuzzi, and suites, including a governor’s suite.

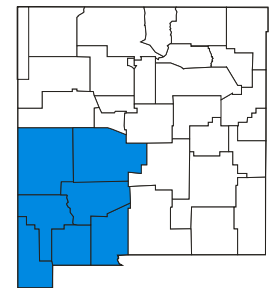
Farmington Area, San Juan County:

Weatherford International Ltd. closed its Farmington fracturing facility and laid off 45 employees. The last day of operation was February 28, 2009. The decision came in response to local economic conditions. Prior to its decision to close the facility, Weatherford employed about 200 in Farmington. The company’s six other local facilities, including drilling, well construction, wireline, completion, production and intervention, will remain open. The company has no plans to reopen the facility but offered positions to employees who are able to relocate.


Questa Area, Taos County:

A decline in the price of molybdenum has prompted **Chevron Mining** to lay off 227 mine and mill workers. The 54 percent cut leaves Taos County’s largest private employer with 185 employees, primarily underground miners who will work one of two shifts bringing ore rock to the surface. Chevron’s strategy will keep the mine open and operating on a limited basis in hopes of a quicker-than-usual turnaround in the commodity price of the steel hardener. As of February 12, the price for a pound of gray, slippery molybdenum oxide was \$8.85, according to Roca Mines. The price got as high as \$40 since 2001 and stayed in the \$30s until last summer, when it began a speedy slide to its present level.

Southwestern WIA Area:



Las Cruces Area, Doña Ana County:

F&A Dairy is about to expand by 40,000 square feet and double its capacity. The move will allow the company to increase its Las Cruces workforce, which stands at 100, by about 40 employees. The F&A Dairy plant at 355 Crawford Blvd. will expand from about 150,000 square feet to 190,000. The \$15 million project will include a system to deal with the 300,000 gallons of “cow water” the company will produce every day. Cow water is the water left over from milk when cheese is made. Owner Jeff Terranova said that F&A Dairy produces about 4 million pounds of cheese a month, about 70 percent of which is mozzarella. The company also makes provolone and muenster and sells an asadero cheese as well. The expansion will allow the company to produce the softer, whiter, fresh mozzarella that comes in a ball shape. The company plans to hire new employees in stages. The positions will mostly be for line workers, but there will also be foreman and supervisor-type jobs. People can apply for work with the company at the plant. 

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