



New Mexico Labor Market Review

Volume 37, No. 1, (published - March 10, 2008)

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

...The rate of over-the-year job growth is only 0.5 percent. New Mexico has added just 4,400 jobs over the last year.

...Over the last 12 months, the Albuquerque MSA economy has added 1,900 jobs, growing a meager 0.5 percent.

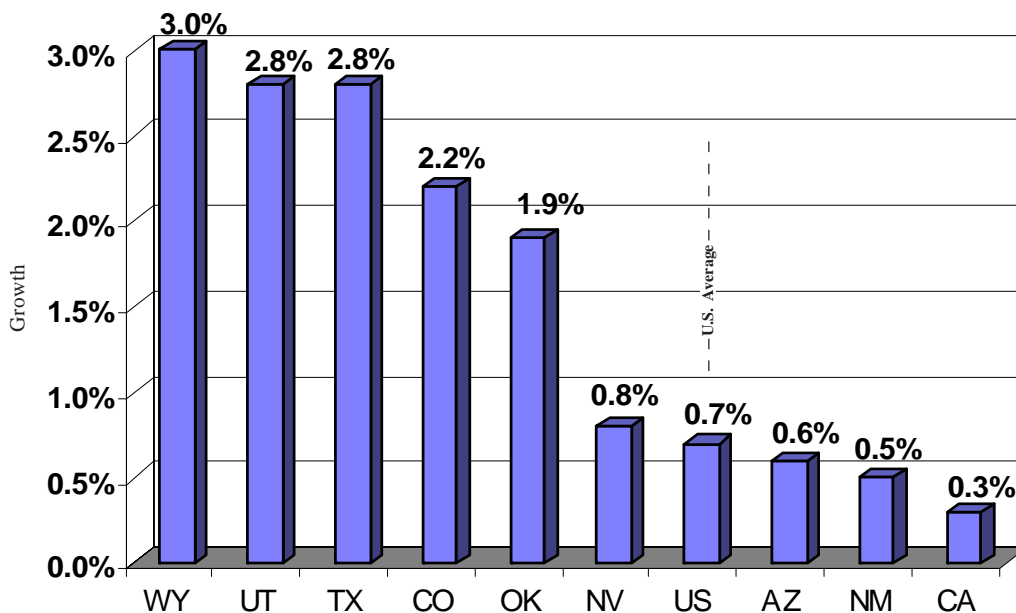
...The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces MSA was 1.8 percent, comparing January 2008 with the same month a year ago. This rate of job growth is still above the average for the state, and the Las Cruces area has added 1,200 jobs.

...The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Santa Fe MSA was 1.7 percent, adding 1,100 jobs. The area posted a year of strong job growth that ended about three months ago settling, at a rate that is still above the average for the state.

...Over the last year, the Farmington MSA has added 1,900 jobs, growing 3.8 percent. This rate is far above the state average. Substantial fluctuation from month-to-month is fairly typical for a small metro area like Farmington.

Current Regional Nonfarm Employment Growth

January 2008 over January 2007 - Not Seasonally Adjusted



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New Mexico Labor Force and Payroll Employment

New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.1 percent in January 2008, down from a revised 3.2 percent in December. This is another record for the state, marking the lowest level since the current series began in 1976. The national unemployment rate, currently 4.9 percent, remains higher than New Mexico's. A year ago, the state's unemployment rate stood at 3.8 percent.

The employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics survey are newly benchmarked to the full count of employment from the QCEW program. The data are revised from April 2006 forward. Benchmarking replaces previous estimates with more complete counts of employment and includes updated estimates for employment not covered by the QCEW program. New Mexico uses the replacement methodology through September 2007 and then re-estimates employment for the rest of 2007 using sample data. Again this year the revisions to the data are fairly small statewide, reducing employment by an average of two tenths of one percent. This means that employment growth in 2007 was not as strong as originally measured. Benchmark revisions for the state's metro areas also brought weaker job growth to Albuquerque and mixed changes for Santa Fe, Las Cruces, and Farmington. Eighteen years of employment data by industry have been updated and are available at the Department of Workforce Solutions data page on the Internet.

The rate of over-the-year job growth, comparing January 2008 with January 2007, is only 0.5 percent, which ranks middle of the pack among all states. New Mexico has added just 4,400 jobs over the last year. Our job growth peaked at 3.5 percent in the middle of 2006 and has since trended downward, reaching levels not seen for five years. The decline in job growth is similar to that experienced in New Mexico during 2001, when the national economy went into recession and New Mexico job growth declined but just managed to avoid going negative.

Slowing job growth is apparent in almost every industry sector, but the real drag on job growth is in the goods-producing sector. Mining employment is still above last year's level but is no longer adding many jobs. Construction and manufacturing industries have lost a combined 3,500 jobs in just the last year, exerting significant downward pressure on overall job growth. The construction industry is going through a period of adjustment following four years of growth. Construction employment boomed with work on various large public works projects and continued when interest rates declined and residential construction was strong. The boom has now ended and some job losses have resulted. However, job losses are still minimal when compared to the 14,000 jobs gained in construction between 2002 and 2006. More disap-

pointing are the manufacturing job losses. Having lost 6,000 manufacturing jobs between 2001 and 2005, the state regained about 2,000 jobs in the industry during 2005 and 2006 before losses began again last year. High profile layoffs in semiconductor manufacturing were widely reported by the media. Other manufacturing components have also hit upon hard times, and many firms have reduced their workforces during 2007 and early 2008.

On the services-providing side, a number of industries are reporting employment that is not much higher than last year. The professional & business services industry, which includes several firms that rely upon national defense contracts, reported employment that is down 100 jobs from last year. The leisure & hospitality industry has also slowed down from a more typical pattern of higher job growth. The industry added just 200 jobs over the year, which is the lowest level seen in ten years. The situation would have been worse were it not for a good year in New Mexico's ski industry, which benefited from abundant snowfall. The miscellaneous *other services* category also appears to have slowed, reporting the same number of jobs as last year.

Information is currently the fastest growing industry for employment, up 4.1 percent from last year, adding 600 jobs. Overall, the information industry is doing fairly well and has received a notable boost from the state's film industry. This industry had a bumper year in 2006, which continued into 2007. Recent trends have been close to the level of activity in the previous year, but large month-to-month swings in employment are not unusual because of the nature of film production work. During times of intensive film work, employment in the state's film industry has been as many as 3,000 jobs above baseline levels. Due to weakness in its telecommunications components, the information industry lost more than 3,000 jobs during a three-year period ending in early 2005. Even with the current boost from film production, employment levels are still below the peak set in the spring of 2001.

The transportation, warehousing, & utilities industry reported growth of 2.8 percent over the year, adding 700 jobs. The educational & health services industry, always reliable for adding jobs, was up 2.6 percent, expanding by 2,900 jobs. This industry is so large that even modest rates of growth translate into a considerable number of new jobs. The small wholesale trade industry and the much larger retail trade industry each added 700 jobs, while financial activities added 400.

Government employment has increased at a rate of 0.7 percent, adding 1,400 jobs. State and local government added 800 and 900 jobs, respectively, but federal government lost 300 jobs.

New Mexico				Change From	
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Jan 2008</u>	<u>Dec 2007</u>	<u>Jan 2007</u>	<u>Dec 2007</u>	<u>Jan 2007</u>
Civilian Labor Force	946,300	945,200	940,100	+1,100	+6,200
Employment	916,600	914,600	904,200	+2,000	+12,400
Unemployment	29,600	30,600	35,900	-1,000	-6,300
Rate	3.1%	3.2%	3.8%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	3.2%	3.1%	3.9%		

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 was 3.3 percent in January, down from 3.4 percent in December. A year ago, the jobless rate registered 3.8 percent. January marked the fifth straight month in which unemployment remained below 3.5 percent.

Over the month, payroll employment in the Albuquerque MSA was down by 8,500 jobs or 2.1 percent, with declines posted in all but one of the 12 major industry divisions. Many of the losses were seasonal in nature, including most of those in construction (-700), retail trade (-2,100), and professional & business services (-600). Government lost 3,300 jobs (4.1 percent) as a result of the semester break at UNM and other post-holiday declines. Manufacturing was down 300 jobs over the month, while leisure & hospitality lost 900. Five other industries—wholesale trade; transportation, warehousing, & utilities; information; financial activities; and miscellaneous *other services*—posted employment losses of 100-200 jobs each. The only industry division to gain jobs in January was educational & health services, increasing by 100.

Over the last 12 months, the Albuquerque area economy has added 1,900 jobs, growing a meager 0.5 percent. Increases were posted in nine industry divisions, narrowly offsetting losses in three others. Educational & health services led the gainers, adding 1,000 jobs since January 2007. This industry continues to play a major role in the Albuquerque economy, employing more workers than any other private sector industry except professional & business services.

Retail trade added 800 jobs while growing 1.8 percent, a continuation of the moderate growth that has characterized the industry since the beginning of 2007. After recovering from a weak performance in 2006, retail trade employment now seems to be on more solid footing. The planned March opening of a new Wal-Mart Supercenter in Bernalillo will be a source of additional industry growth.

Leisure & hospitality expanded employment by 600 jobs, growing 1.6 percent over the year. Growth has slowed considerably following a robust performance throughout 2006.

Government employment grew by 0.8 percent over the year, as the local and state divisions added 400 and 200 jobs, respectively, and federal government remained at last year's level. Government comprises about 20 percent of all nonfarm wage and salary employment in the Albuquerque area, so even a small percentage increase results in significant job gains.

Information added 500 new jobs, growing an impressive 5.7 percent. The information industry is subject to relatively large changes in employment as individual film productions begin and end, but the burgeoning motion picture and sound recording component is expected to be the source of significant growth in the coming years.

Professional & business services also increased employment by 500 jobs while growing only 0.8 percent. This follows growth of 0.5 percent last month, marking the first time since November and December 2003 that the industry has fallen below one percent growth for two consecutive months. The professional & business services industry currently employs 63,300, making it the largest private employer in the Albuquerque area. Three other industries increased employment over the year: transportation, warehousing, & utilities, up 400 jobs or 3.7 percent; financial activities, up 100 jobs or 0.5 percent; and miscellaneous *other services*, up 100 jobs or 0.8 percent.

Construction employment slipped by 1,500 jobs or 5.0 percent, marking the thirteenth consecutive month of over-the-year declines. The downturn began in the second half of 2006, and since that time the industry has shed 3,700 workers. Manufacturing employment was down 1,100 jobs or 4.6 percent, primarily due to layoffs at Intel. The magnitude of the layoffs far exceeded job gains elsewhere in the manufacturing. Wholesale trade employment was also down, falling by 100 jobs or 0.8 percent from last January.

Albuquerque	Change From				
Seasonally Adjusted	Jan 2008	Dec 2007	Jan 2007	Dec 2007	Jan 2007
Civilian Labor Force	408,000	407,500	409,000	+500	-1,000
Employment	394,600	393,600	393,300	+1,000	+1,300
Unemployment	13,300	13,900	15,700	-600	-2,400
Rate	3.3%	3.4%	3.8%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	3.2%	3.1%	3.8%		

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 3.5 percent in January 2008, down from a revised 3.7 percent in December. A year ago, the area's unemployment rate was 4.6 percent.

The Las Cruces economy lost 2,900 jobs in January 2008, mostly from seasonal declines in government employment. State government employment slipped by 2,100 jobs at the end of the semester at New Mexico State University. Retail trade dropped 200 jobs at the end of the holiday shopping season, which is typical for this time of year. Six other industries—construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, information, educational & health services, and leisure & hospitality—each lost 100 jobs. There were no gaining industries in January.

The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces area was 1.8 percent, comparing January 2008 with the same month a year ago. This rate of job growth is still above the average for the state, and the Las Cruces area has added 1,200 jobs.

Educational & health services expanded more than any other industry, gaining 500 jobs for growth of 4.8 percent. Leisure & hospitality added 400 jobs to last year's level, while transportation, warehousing, & utilities added 200 jobs, and professional & business services added 100.

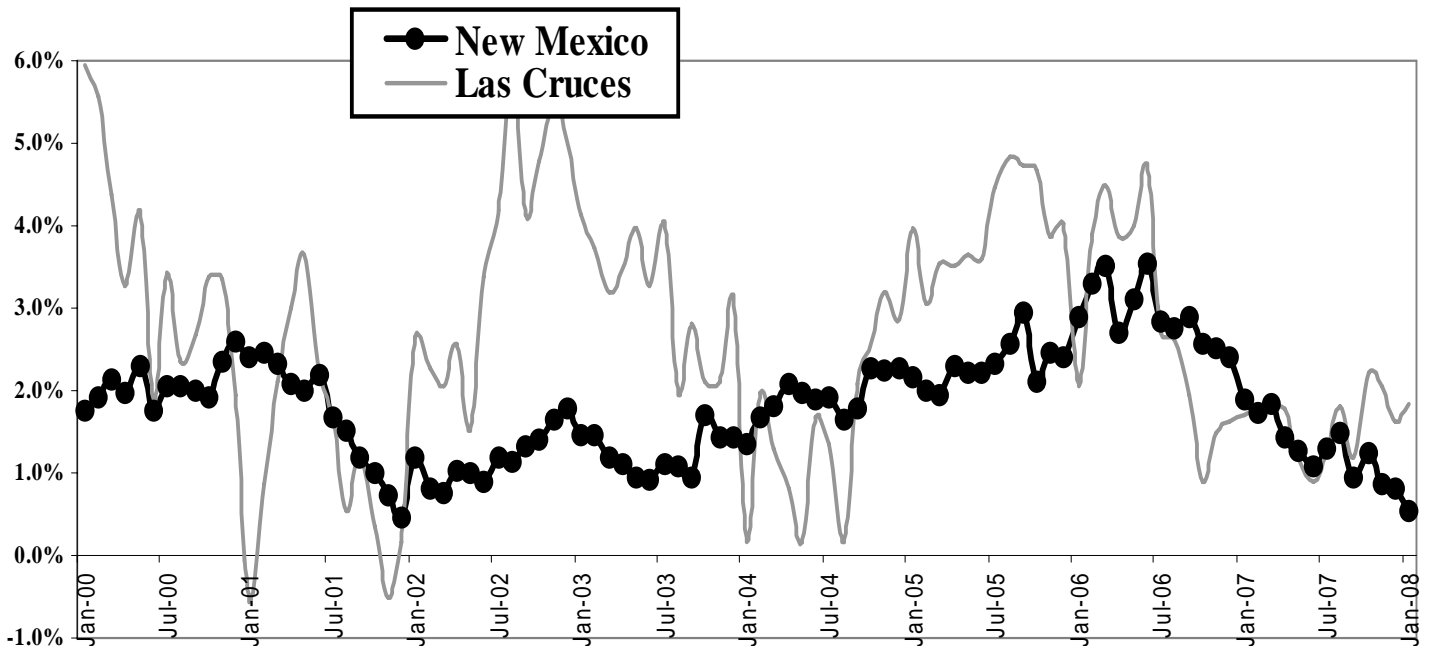
Government employers reported 500 more jobs than last January. Local government led the way, adding 300 jobs, while state and federal government each added 100.

Four industries reported reduced employment levels compared to year-ago levels. Manufacturing firms reported 200 fewer jobs, while information, financial activities, and construction each lost 100. Three remaining industries—retail trade, wholesale trade, and miscellaneous *other services*—each reported employment levels that were unchanged from last year.

Las Cruces	Change From				
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Jan 2008</u>	<u>Dec 2007</u>	<u>Jan 2007</u>	<u>Dec 2007</u>	<u>Jan 2007</u>
Civilian Labor Force	87,000	88,800	86,400	-1,800	+600
Employment	83,900	85,500	82,400	-1,600	+1,500
Unemployment	3,000	3,300	4,000	-300	-1,000
Rate	3.5%	3.7%	4.6%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	3.7%	3.4%	4.7%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Las Cruces



Santa Fe MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Santa Fe County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Santa Fe was 2.5 percent in January 2008, down from a revised 2.6 percent in December. A year ago, the area had an unemployment rate of 3.0 percent.

This year's benchmark revisions to the employment data for Santa Fe went all the way back to the start of the current employment series in 1990. This is beyond the normal 20-month revision period. This was done to eliminate the effects of an administrative change to the employment data that would have otherwise provided a distortion to the real economic trends for the area. The revisions maintain existing historical trends but allow for adjustment of more recent employment data to new lower levels. This change affects Santa Fe only. The new series history is available on our website.

As is typical for Santa Fe, January was a very weak month for employment. January 2008 workforce reductions resulted in 1,800 fewer jobs than were recorded in December. Government lost the most jobs, with the state and local divisions each declining by 200. Retail trade lost 300 jobs at the end of the Christmas shopping season, while educational & health services employment also fell by 300. Six other industries—construction; manufacturing; transportation, warehousing, & utilities; professional & business services; leisure and hospitality; and miscellaneous *other services*—also contributed to the monthly decline.

The rate of over-the-year job growth for Santa Fe was 1.7 percent, adding 1,100 jobs. The Santa Fe area posted a year of strong job growth that ended about three months ago. Job growth has settled at a rate that is still above the average for the state. Some of the strength over the last year was from the state's film industry, which saw peak activity in 2007. Current levels of job growth are in the low to moderate range, with six of the area's 12 industries adding jobs.

The educational & health services industry added 500 jobs, which is more than any other industry in the local area. The information industry gained 400 jobs as the result of continuing activity in the state's film industry. Santa Fe's professional & business services industry gained 400 jobs since last year, showing surprising strength in comparison to the poor performance of this industry elsewhere in the state.

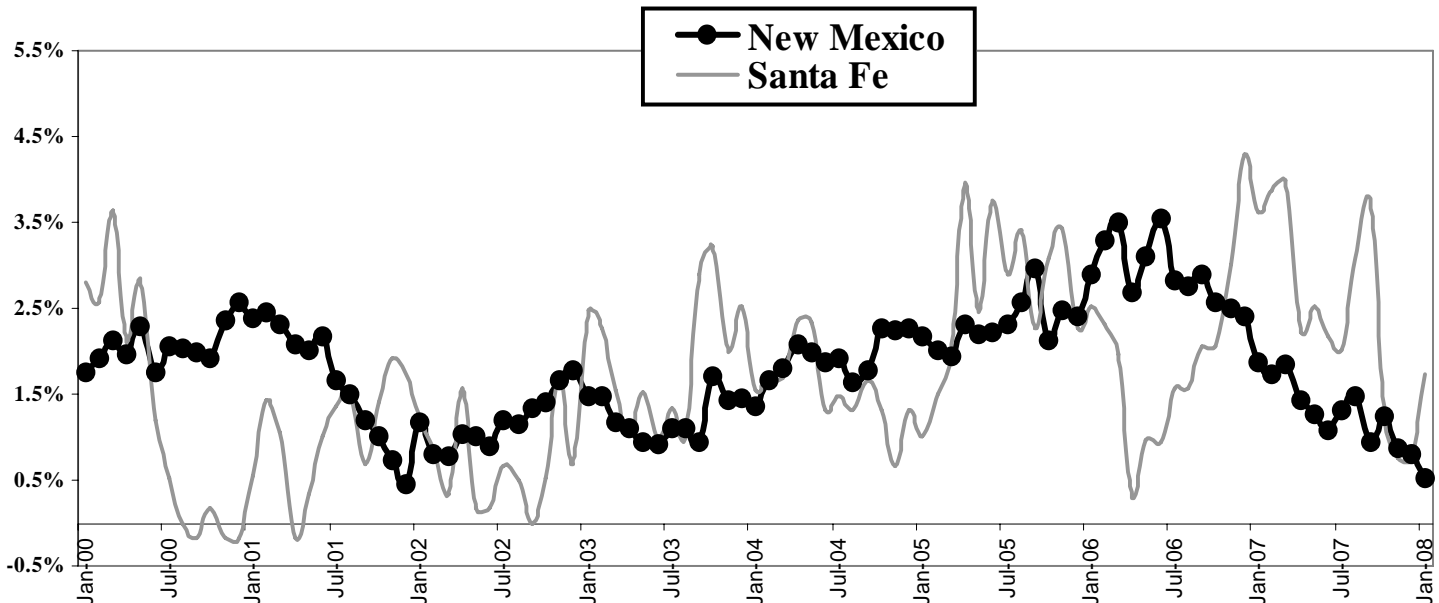
Financial activities added 100 jobs since this time last year, as did retail trade and construction. Elsewhere, not much activity was reported, with four industries—transportation, warehousing, & utilities; wholesale trade; leisure & hospitality; and miscellaneous *other services*—reporting the same employment levels as last year.

The government sector reported 300 fewer jobs than at this time last year, with losses at the local and federal government levels and no change in state government employment. Manufacturing, down 100, was the only private sector industry to report fewer jobs than at this time last year.

Santa Fe				Change From	
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Jan 2008</u>	<u>Dec 2007</u>	<u>Jan 2007</u>	<u>Dec 2007</u>	<u>Jan 2007</u>
Civilian Labor Force	79,500	78,600	78,800	+900	+700
Employment	77,400	76,500	76,400	+900	+1,000
Unemployment	2,000	2,100	2,400	-100	-400
Rate	2.5%	2.6%	3.0%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	2.6%	2.4%	3.1%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Santa Fe



Farmington MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(San Juan County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Farmington was 2.8 percent in January 2008, down from a revised 3.0 percent in December. A year ago, the area had an unemployment rate of 3.7 percent.

The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has discontinued funding in the Current Employment Statistics program for 65 small metropolitan areas across the country, including the Farmington MSA. The CES program produces monthly employment estimates by industry. The BLS announced the change on its website as follows: "These cutbacks are being implemented to accommodate a reduction in funding to the BLS that resulted from The 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act enacted on December 26, 2007." The state did not anticipate these funding cuts, nor were we given sufficient time to survey data users as to their continued need for local area employment data. The decision has yet to be made whether state resources will be used to fund the production of Farmington estimates. In the interim, we are continuing to publish employment estimates for Farmington using the same statistical modeling and sampling techniques previously used. However, these data are not to be considered part an official BLS data series.

The Farmington area lost 1,200 jobs in January, which is consistent with the typical seasonal pattern. Both the private sector and local government lost jobs over the month.

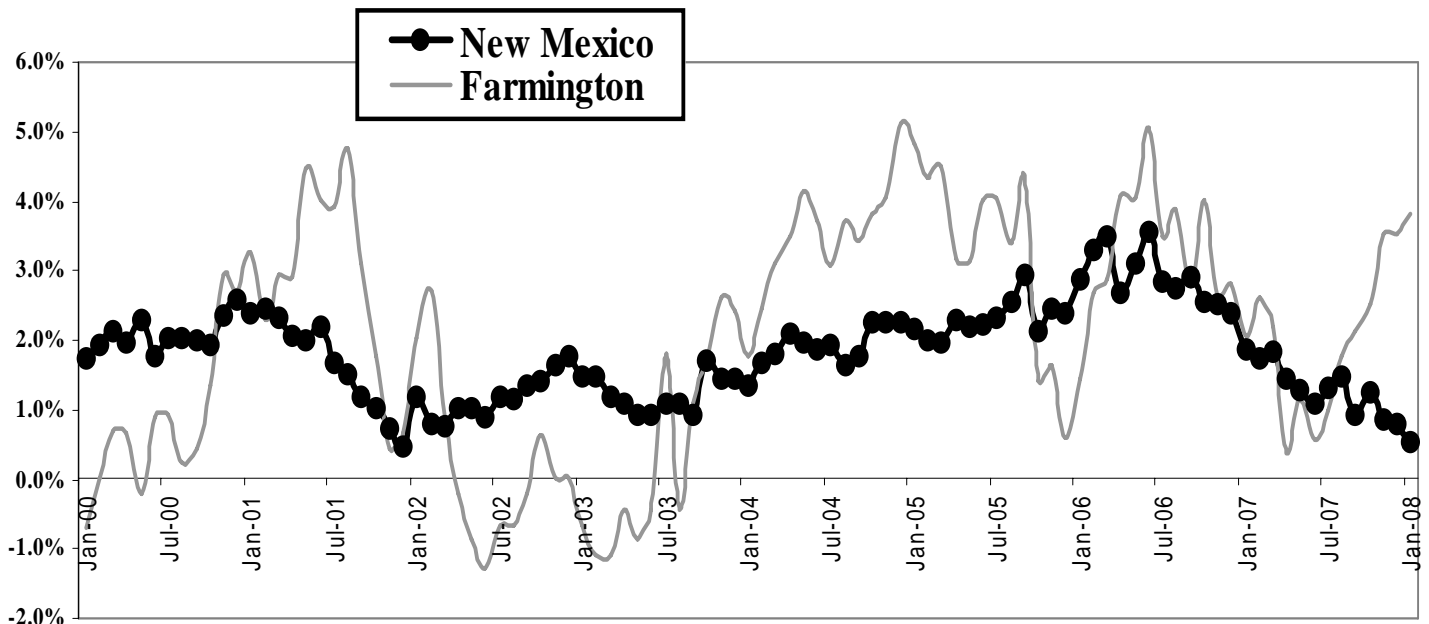
Over the last year, the Farmington area has added 1,900 jobs, growing 3.8 percent. This rate of job growth is far above the average for the state. Substantial fluctuation in the growth rate from month-to-month is fairly typical for a small metro area like Farmington. Job growth peaked in the local area in December 2004 when the over-the-year rate of job growth reached 5.1 percent. Job growth reached this peak again in June 2006, matching the highest increase in jobs since mid-1995. Then in 2007 job growth dipped to 0.4 percent in April before rebounding to its current level. The outlook for job growth in the area remains favorable, and the Farmington MSA continues to have a strong job market.

Goods-producing industries have added 900 jobs, growing 8.0 percent over the year. Private services-providing industries have added 700 jobs over the year, growing 2.5 percent. Government employment had been sluggish for a while but currently shows 300 additional local government jobs. State and federal government employment are unchanged from last year's levels.

Farmington				Change From	
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Jan 2008</u>	<u>Dec 2007</u>	<u>Jan 2007</u>	<u>Dec 2007</u>	<u>Jan 2007</u>
Civilian Labor Force	56,900	57,000	55,700	-100	+1,200
Employment	55,300	55,300	53,600	0	+1,700
Unemployment	1,600	1,700	2,100	-100	-500
Rate	2.8%	3.0%	3.7%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	2.8%	2.7%	3.8%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Farmington



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

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

		Civilian Labor Force	Employ- ment	Un- Employ- ment	Rate %	Unadj. Rate %
1988		681,996	630,267	51,729	7.6%	
1989		691,811	645,302	46,509	6.7%	
1990		711,891	663,698	48,193	6.8%	
1991		719,243	667,698	51,545	7.2%	
1992		735,446	680,463	54,983	7.5%	
1993		755,054	700,258	54,795	7.3%	
1994		776,827	725,387	51,440	6.6%	
1995		798,621	744,557	54,064	6.8%	
1996		812,862	751,826	61,036	7.5%	
1997		822,627	768,596	54,031	6.6%	
1998		835,879	783,661	52,218	6.2%	
1999		839,987	793,052	46,936	5.6%	
2000		852,293	810,024	42,269	5.0%	
2001		863,682	821,003	42,679	4.9%	
2002		871,512	823,191	48,321	5.5%	
2003		888,468	835,835	52,633	5.9%	
2004		903,803	851,967	51,835	5.7%	
2005		920,227	872,037	48,189	5.2%	
2006		936,998	896,885	40,113	4.3%	
2007		943,061	909,967	33,094	3.5%	
2007	JAN	940,135	904,243	35,892	3.8%	3.9%
	FEB	941,572	906,250	35,322	3.8%	3.8%
	MAR	943,258	908,484	34,774	3.7%	3.5%
	APR	941,340	907,097	34,243	3.6%	3.4%
	MAY	941,949	908,220	33,729	3.6%	3.4%
	JUN	942,437	909,204	33,233	3.5%	3.9%
	JUL	942,567	909,805	32,762	3.5%	4.1%
	AUG	944,241	911,938	32,303	3.4%	3.4%
	SEP	944,095	912,243	31,852	3.4%	3.3%
	OCT	945,079	913,661	31,418	3.3%	3.1%
	NOV	944,885	913,881	31,004	3.3%	3.2%
	DEC	945,177	914,582	30,595	3.2%	3.1%
2008	JAN	946,259	916,634	29,625	3.1%	3.2%
	FEB					
	MAR					
	APR					
	MAY					
	JUN					
	JUL					
	AUG					
	SEP					
	OCT					
	NOV					
	DEC					
# CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	1,082	2,052	-970	-0.1%	0.1%
	Year Ago	6,124	12,391	-6,267	-0.7%	-0.7%
	2 Yrs. Ago	14,943	29,296	-14,353	-1.6%	-1.5%
	3 Yrs. Ago	33,109	54,194	-21,085	-2.5%	-2.4%
% CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	0.1%	0.2%	-3.2%		
	Year Ago	0.7%	1.4%	-17.5%		
	2 Yrs. Ago	1.6%	3.3%	-32.6%		
	3 Yrs. Ago	3.6%	6.3%	-41.6%		

State	Rank	January 2007	January 2008	Change	% Change
Wyoming	1	275.1	283.4	8.3	3.0%
Texas	2	10,106.1	10,390.6	284.5	2.8%
Utah	3	1,219.2	1,253.5	34.3	2.8%
Louisiana	4	1,876.5	1,927.8	51.3	2.7%
Washington	5	2,843.3	2,909.4	66.1	2.3%
North Dakota	6	348.5	356.4	7.9	2.3%
Colorado	7	2,262.6	2,311.9	49.3	2.2%
Nebraska	8	938.1	957.0	18.9	2.0%
North Carolina	9	4,053.7	4,130.6	76.9	1.9%
Oklahoma	10	1,528.8	1,557.8	29.0	1.9%
South Dakota	11	391.9	399.0	7.1	1.8%
Montana	12	427.0	434.3	7.3	1.7%
Kansas	13	1,341.2	1,363.1	21.9	1.6%
New Hampshire	14	632.0	641.4	9.4	1.5%
South Carolina	15	1,904.3	1,931.9	27.6	1.4%
Delaware	16	681.8	690.8	9.0	1.3%
Alabama	17	1,974.9	1,998.6	23.7	1.2%
Oregon	18	1,688.3	1,708.0	19.7	1.2%
Hawaii	19	614.9	622.0	7.1	1.2%
Kentucky	20	1,830.8	1,851.5	20.7	1.1%
Georgia	21	4,094.3	4,136.5	42.2	1.0%
New York	22	8,532.9	8,619.8	86.9	1.0%
Idaho	23	628.2	634.5	6.3	1.0%
Maryland	24	2,550.8	2,571.9	21.1	0.8%
Connecticut	25	1,666.5	1,679.5	13.0	0.8%
Nevada	26	1,268.2	1,277.9	9.7	0.8%
Mississippi	27	1,138.4	1,147.1	8.7	0.8%
Massachusetts	28	3,198.5	3,221.8	23.3	0.7%
United States		134,952.0	135,929.0	977.0	0.7%
Alaska	29	296.3	298.4	2.1	0.7%
Indiana	30	2,921.6	2,941.9	20.3	0.7%
Virginia	31	3,699.8	3,725.4	25.6	0.7%
Missouri	32	2,729.0	2,747.0	18.0	0.7%
Illinois	33	5,843.2	5,880.8	37.6	0.6%
Arizona	34	2,630.7	2,647.5	16.8	0.6%
Iowa	35	1,482.6	1,491.9	9.3	0.6%
Minnesota	36	2,711.4	2,727.0	15.6	0.6%
New Mexico	37	824.4	828.8	4.4	0.5%
Pennsylvania	38	5,679.4	5,709.5	30.1	0.5%
Arkansas	39	1,184.9	1,190.9	6.0	0.5%
DC	40	425.8	427.8	2.0	0.5%
Tennessee	41	2,744.9	2,755.1	10.2	0.4%
New Jersey	42	3,993.6	4,007.1	13.5	0.3%
California	43	14,938.0	14,983.9	45.9	0.3%
Maine	44	596.1	597.1	1.0	0.2%
West Virginia	45	740.5	741.7	1.2	0.2%
Ohio	46	5,324.2	5,325.5	1.3	0.0%
Wisconsin	47	2,814.4	2,814.9	0.5	0.0%
Florida	48	8,010.9	8,009.3	-1.6	0.0%
Vermont	49	305.8	305.7	-0.1	0.0%
Rhode Island	50	481.9	476.5	-5.4	-1.1%
Michigan	51	4,186.2	4,137.2	-49.0	-1.2%

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/

	JANUARY 2008				DECEMBER 2007				JANUARY 2007			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	935,929	905,596	30,333	3.2%	946,498	917,598	28,900	3.1%	934,251	897,385	36,866	3.9%
Albuquerque MSA 2/	403,881	390,883	12,998	3.2%	407,504	395,075	12,429	3.1%	404,925	389,611	15,314	3.8%
Bernalillo	311,817	302,296	9,521	3.1%	314,619	305,538	9,081	2.9%	312,788	301,312	11,476	3.7%
Sandoval	53,397	51,247	2,150	4.0%	53,872	51,797	2,075	3.9%	53,352	51,080	2,272	4.3%
Torrance	7,616	7,338	278	3.7%	7,680	7,417	263	3.4%	7,637	7,314	323	4.2%
Valencia	31,051	30,002	1,049	3.4%	31,333	30,324	1,009	3.2%	31,146	29,904	1,242	4.0%
Farmington MSA 3/	55,959	54,366	1,593	2.8%	56,715	55,193	1,522	2.7%	54,752	52,666	2,086	3.8%
Las Cruces MSA 4/	85,751	82,605	3,146	3.7%	88,338	85,371	2,967	3.4%	84,907	80,902	4,005	4.7%
Santa Fe MSA 5/	77,722	75,725	1,997	2.6%	78,720	76,863	1,857	2.4%	77,657	75,217	2,440	3.1%
Catron	1,446	1,369	77	5.3%	1,414	1,344	70	5.0%	1,570	1,478	92	5.9%
Chaves	27,935	27,096	839	3.0%	27,950	27,130	820	2.9%	27,457	26,372	1,085	4.0%
Cibola	11,826	11,420	406	3.4%	11,834	11,449	385	3.3%	11,806	11,306	500	4.2%
Colfax	6,532	6,321	211	3.2%	6,402	6,192	210	3.3%	6,607	6,342	265	4.0%
Curry	21,592	21,101	491	2.3%	21,687	21,208	479	2.2%	21,098	20,482	616	2.9%
De Baca	851	828	23	2.7%	875	849	26	3.0%	831	802	29	3.5%
Eddy	26,740	26,136	604	2.3%	26,826	26,234	592	2.2%	25,890	25,066	824	3.2%
Grant	12,326	11,923	403	3.3%	12,456	12,059	397	3.2%	12,168	11,688	480	3.9%
Guadalupe	1,823	1,735	88	4.8%	1,832	1,752	80	4.4%	1,883	1,764	119	6.3%
Harding	417	406	11	2.6%	428	419	9	2.1%	406	393	13	3.2%
Hidalgo	2,508	2,422	86	3.4%	2,938	2,862	76	2.6%	2,430	2,336	94	3.9%
Lea	28,451	27,934	517	1.8%	28,434	27,928	506	1.8%	27,435	26,751	684	2.5%
Lincoln	10,729	10,437	292	2.7%	10,808	10,522	286	2.6%	10,636	10,249	387	3.6%
Los Alamos	10,258	10,076	182	1.8%	10,355	10,184	171	1.7%	10,725	10,486	239	2.2%
Luna	11,354	10,007	1,347	11.9%	12,185	10,941	1,244	10.2%	11,811	10,384	1,427	12.1%
McKinley	27,172	26,084	1,088	4.0%	26,876	25,830	1,046	3.9%	27,302	25,974	1,328	4.9%
Mora	2,025	1,857	168	8.3%	2,081	1,921	160	7.7%	1,994	1,817	177	8.9%
Otero	26,162	25,362	800	3.1%	26,440	25,652	788	3.0%	26,691	25,715	976	3.7%
Quay	3,926	3,775	151	3.8%	3,972	3,821	151	3.8%	4,054	3,848	206	5.1%
Rio Arriba	20,391	19,485	906	4.4%	20,692	19,873	819	4.0%	21,355	20,275	1,080	5.1%
Roosevelt	9,596	9,392	204	2.1%	9,770	9,582	188	1.9%	9,507	9,233	274	2.9%
San Miguel	13,321	12,814	507	3.8%	13,835	13,369	466	3.4%	13,214	12,588	626	4.7%
Sierra	5,439	5,261	178	3.3%	5,658	5,490	168	3.0%	5,378	5,164	214	4.0%
Socorro	9,583	9,337	246	2.6%	9,669	9,432	237	2.5%	9,441	9,120	321	3.4%
Taos	18,083	17,349	734	4.1%	17,706	16,985	721	4.1%	18,158	17,252	906	5.0%
Union	2,130	2,092	38	1.8%	2,100	2,069	31	1.5%	2,159	2,101	58	2.7%

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)

JANUARY 2008			DECEMBER 2007			JANUARY 2007		
AREAS	RANK	RATE	AREAS	RANK	RATE	AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	11.9%	LUNA	1	10.2%	LUNA	1	12.1%
MORA	2	8.3%	MORA	2	7.7%	MORA	2	8.9%
CATRON	3	5.3%	CATRON	3	5.0%	GUADALUPE	3	6.3%
GUADALUPE	4	4.8%	GUADALUPE	4	4.4%	CATRON	4	5.9%
RIO ARRIBA	5	4.4%	TAOS	5	4.1%	QUAY	5	5.1%
TAOS	6	4.1%	RIO ARRIBA	6	4.0%	RIO ARRIBA	5	5.1%
MCKINLEY	7	4.0%	MCKINLEY	7	3.9%	TAOS	7	5.0%
QUAY	8	3.8%	QUAY	8	3.8%	MCKINLEY	8	4.9%
SAN MIGUEL	8	3.8%	SAN MIGUEL	9	3.4%	SAN MIGUEL	9	4.7%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	10	3.7%	LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	9	3.4%	LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	9	4.7%
CIBOLA	11	3.4%	COLFAX	11	3.3%	CIBOLA	11	4.2%
HIDALGO	11	3.4%	CIBOLA	11	3.3%	COLFAX	12	4.0%
SIERRA	13	3.3%	GRANT	13	3.2%	SIERRA	12	4.0%
GRANT	13	3.3%	STATEWIDE		3.1%	CHAVES	12	4.0%
STATEWIDE		3.2%	ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	14	3.1%	STATEWIDE		3.9%
COLFAX	15	3.2%	OTERO	15	3.0%	GRANT	15	3.9%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	15	3.2%	DE BACA	15	3.0%	HIDALGO	15	3.9%
OTERO	17	3.1%	SIERRA	15	3.0%	FARMINGTON MSA 2/	17	3.8%
CHAVES	18	3.0%	CHAVES	18	2.9%	ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	17	3.8%
FARMINGTON MSA 2/	19	2.8%	FARMINGTON MSA 2/	19	2.7%	OTERO	19	3.7%
LINCOLN	20	2.7%	LINCOLN	20	2.6%	LINCOLN	20	3.6%
DE BACA	20	2.7%	HIDALGO	20	2.6%	DE BACA	21	3.5%
HARDING	22	2.6%	SOCORRO	22	2.5%	SOCORRO	22	3.4%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	22	2.6%	SANTA FE MSA 4/	23	2.4%	HARDING	23	3.2%
SOCORRO	22	2.6%	CURRY	24	2.2%	EDDY	23	3.2%
CURRY	25	2.3%	EDDY	24	2.2%	SANTA FE MSA 4/	25	3.1%
EDDY	25	2.3%	HARDING	26	2.1%	CURRY	26	2.9%
ROOSEVELT	27	2.1%	ROOSEVELT	27	1.9%	ROOSEVELT	26	2.9%
LEA	28	1.8%	LEA	28	1.8%	UNION	28	2.7%
UNION	28	1.8%	LOS ALAMOS	29	1.7%	LEA	29	2.5%
LOS ALAMOS	28	1.8%	UNION	30	1.5%	LOS ALAMOS	30	2.2%

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

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - San Juan County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe County

Unemployment Rate by State (highest to lowest)

Seasonally Adjusted

January 2008			January 2007		
State	Rank	Rate	State	Rank	Rate
Michigan	1	7.1	Michigan	1	7.0
Alaska	2	6.5	Mississippi	2	6.3
District of Columbia	3	6.2	Alaska	3	6.1
South Carolina	4	6.1	South Carolina	4	6.0
Mississippi	5	6.0	District of Columbia	5	5.7
California	6	5.9	Kentucky	6	5.7
Rhode Island	7	5.7	Ohio	7	5.4
Arkansas	8	5.6	Arkansas	8	5.3
Illinois	9	5.6	Oregon	9	5.1
Missouri	10	5.5	California	10	5.0
Nevada	11	5.5	Rhode Island	11	4.9
Ohio	12	5.5	Wisconsin	12	4.9
Oregon	13	5.5	Indiana	13	4.8
Kentucky	14	5.2	Massachusetts	14	4.7
Maine	15	5.0	Missouri	15	4.7
New York	16	5.0	Illinois	16	4.6
Georgia	17	4.9	Tennessee	17	4.6
North Carolina	18	4.9	United States		4.6
Tennessee	19	4.9	Washington	18	4.6
United States		4.9	Maine	19	4.5
Wisconsin	20	4.9	Minnesota	20	4.5
Connecticut	21	4.8	Nevada	21	4.5
Pennsylvania	22	4.8	North Carolina	22	4.5
Florida	23	4.6	Texas	23	4.5
Indiana	24	4.5	Connecticut	24	4.4
Massachusetts	25	4.5	New York	25	4.4
Minnesota	26	4.5	Georgia	26	4.3
New Jersey	27	4.5	New Jersey	27	4.3
Washington	28	4.5	Pennsylvania	28	4.3
West Virginia	29	4.4	West Virginia	29	4.3
Arizona	30	4.3	Oklahoma	30	4.2
Texas	31	4.3	Kansas	31	4.0
Colorado	32	4.2	Vermont	32	4.0
Vermont	33	4.2	Arizona	33	3.9
Alabama	34	4.0	Colorado	34	3.9
Louisiana	35	4.0	Louisiana	35	3.8
Delaware	36	3.8	New Mexico	36	3.8
Kansas	37	3.8	Iowa	37	3.7
Iowa	38	3.6	New Hampshire	38	3.7
Oklahoma	39	3.6	Florida	39	3.6
Maryland	40	3.5	Maryland	40	3.6
New Hampshire	41	3.5	Alabama	41	3.4
Virginia	42	3.4	Delaware	42	3.3
Montana	43	3.2	Montana	43	3.1
North Dakota	44	3.2	North Dakota	44	3.1
Hawaii	45	3.1	South Dakota	45	3.0
New Mexico	46	3.1	Nebraska	46	2.9
Utah	47	3.0	Wyoming	47	2.9
Nebraska	48	2.9	Idaho	48	2.8
Idaho	49	2.8	Virginia	49	2.8
Wyoming	50	2.7	Utah	50	2.5
South Dakota	51	2.6	Hawaii	51	2.4

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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Jan-08	Revised Dec-07	Revised Jan-07	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	828,800	851,100	824,400	-22,300	4,400
GOODS PRODUCING	109,400	113,800	112,500	-4,400	-3,100
SERVICES-PROVIDING	719,400	737,300	711,900	-17,900	7,500
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	19,700	19,500	19,300	200	400
CONSTRUCTION	54,600	58,000	56,000	-3,400	-1,400
MANUFACTURING	35,100	36,300	37,200	-1,200	-2,100
WHOLESALE TRADE	24,100	24,100	23,400	0	700
RETAIL TRADE	94,900	98,900	94,200	-4,000	700
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	25,400	25,800	24,700	-400	700
INFORMATION	15,100	16,600	14,500	-1,500	600
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	35,300	35,700	34,900	-400	400
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	106,200	108,300	106,300	-2,100	-100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	113,000	113,700	110,100	-700	2,900
Educational Services	14,000	14,100	13,900	-100	100
Health Care and Social Assistance	99,000	99,600	96,200	-600	2,800
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	85,100	86,700	84,900	-1,600	200
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8,200	8,200	8,100	0	100
Accommodation and Food Services	76,900	78,500	76,800	-1,600	100
OTHER SERVICES	28,300	28,700	28,300	-400	0
GOVERNMENT	192,000	198,800	190,600	-6,800	1,400
Federal Government	29,700	30,100	30,000	-400	-300
State Government	57,800	61,400	57,000	-3,600	800
<i>State Government Education</i>	24,500	28,900	24,500	-4,400	0
Local Government	104,500	107,300	103,600	-2,800	900
<i>Local Government Education</i>	56,500	58,400	57,100	-1,900	-600

ALBUQUERQUE	Preliminary Jan-08	Revised Dec-07	Revised Jan-07	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	389,900	398,400	388,000	-8,500	1,900
GOODS PRODUCING	51,000	52,000	53,600	-1,000	-2,600
SERVICES-PROVIDING	338,900	346,400	334,400	-7,500	4,500
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING & CONSTRUCTION	28,300	29,000	29,800	-700	-1,500
MANUFACTURING	22,700	23,000	23,800	-300	-1,100
WHOLESALE TRADE	13,200	13,300	13,300	-100	-100
RETAIL TRADE	44,900	47,000	44,100	-2,100	800
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	11,200	11,300	10,800	-100	400
INFORMATION	9,200	9,300	8,700	-100	500
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	19,100	19,300	19,000	-200	100
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	63,300	63,900	62,800	-600	500
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	49,500	49,400	48,500	100	1,000
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	38,500	39,400	37,900	-900	600
OTHER SERVICES	12,000	12,200	11,900	-200	100
GOVERNMENT	78,000	81,300	77,400	-3,300	600
Federal Government	14,400	14,400	14,400	0	0
State Government	24,400	26,600	24,200	-2,200	200
Local Government	39,200	40,300	38,800	-1,100	400

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

LAS CRUCES MSA	Preliminary Jan-08	Revised Dec-07	Revised Jan-07	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	66,600	69,500	65,400	-2,900	1,200
GOODS PRODUCING	7,600	7,800	7,900	-200	-300
SERVICE PRODUCING	59,000	61,700	57,500	-2,700	1,500
NATURAL RESOURCES MINING & CONSTRUCTION	4,700	4,800	4,800	-100	-100
MANUFACTURING	2,900	3,000	3,100	-100	-200
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,200	1,300	1,200	-100	0
RETAIL TRADE	7,200	7,400	7,200	-200	0
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	2,000	2,000	1,800	0	200
INFORMATION	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,300	2,300	2,400	0	-100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,800	5,800	5,700	0	100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	10,900	11,000	10,400	-100	500
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	7,300	7,400	6,900	-100	400
OTHER SERVICES	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
GOVERNMENT	19,800	21,900	19,300	-2,100	500
Federal	3,700	3,700	3,600	0	100
State	7,100	9,200	7,000	-2,100	100
Local	9,000	9,000	8,700	0	300

SANTA FE MSA	Preliminary Jan-08	Revised Dec-07	Revised Jan-07	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	64,300	66,100	63,200	-1,800	1,100
GOODS PRODUCING	5,700	6,000	5,700	-300	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	58,600	60,100	57,500	-1,500	1,100
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION	4,700	4,900	4,600	-200	100
MANUFACTURING	1,000	1,100	1,100	-100	-100
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	8,900	9,200	8,800	-300	100
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	700	800	700	-100	0
INFORMATION	1,800	1,800	1,400	0	400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	3,000	3,000	2,900	0	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,500	5,700	5,200	-200	300
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	9,500	9,800	9,000	-300	500
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	9,000	9,100	9,000	-100	0
OTHER SERVICES	2,700	2,800	2,700	-100	0
GOVERNMENT	16,300	16,700	16,600	-400	-300
Federal	1,000	1,000	1,100	0	-100
State	8,100	8,300	8,100	-200	0
Local	7,200	7,400	7,400	-200	-200

FARMINGTON MSA	Preliminary Jan-08	Revised Dec-07	Revised Jan-07	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	51,500	52,700	49,600	-1,200	1,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	40,500	41,300	38,900	-800	1,600
GOODS PRODUCING	12,200	12,500	11,300	-300	900
SERVICE PRODUCING	39,300	40,200	38,300	-900	1,000
PRIVATE SERVICE PRODUCING	28,300	28,800	27,600	-500	700
GOVERNMENT	11,000	11,400	10,700	-400	300
Federal	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
State	500	500	500	0	0
Local	9,000	9,400	8,700	-400	300

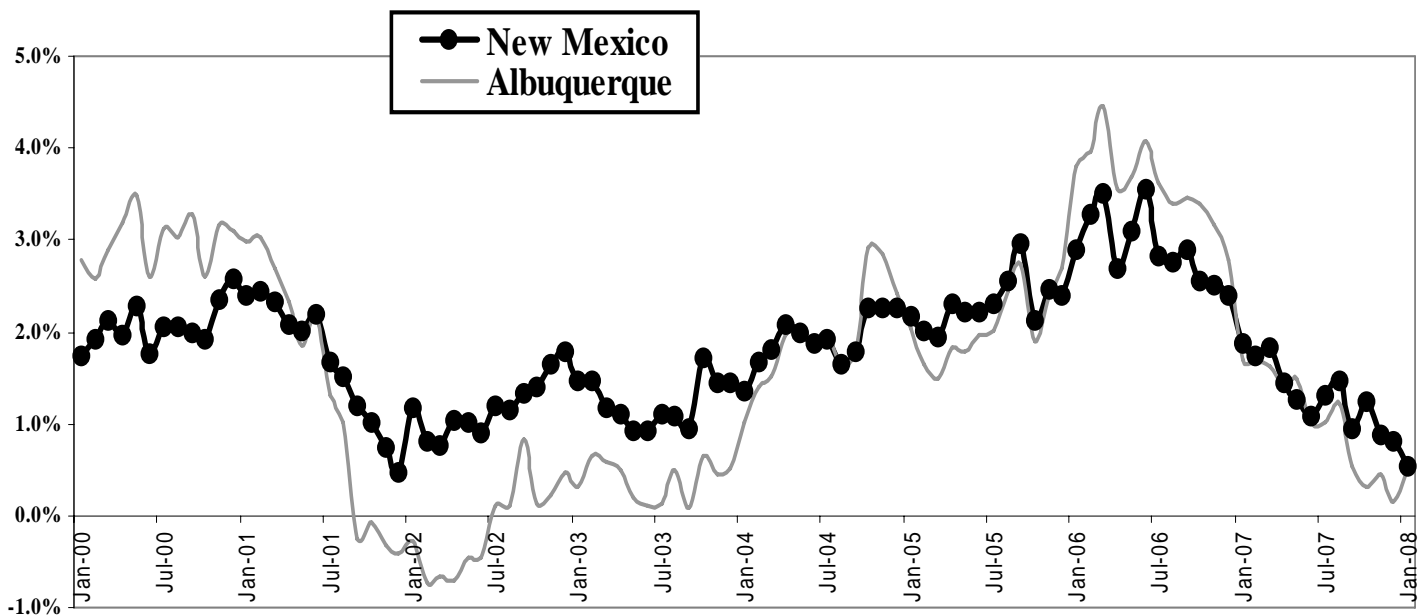
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

- Seasonally Adjusted -

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Jan-08	Revised Dec-07	Monthly Change
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT*	843,100	846,500	-3,400
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	19,900	19,500	400
CONSTRUCTION	57,500	58,700	-1,200
MANUFACTURING	36,000	36,600	-600
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	145,700	144,800	900
INFORMATION <i>(Not Seasonally Adjusted)</i>	15,100	16,600	-1,500
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	35,600	35,600	0
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	108,000	107,900	100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	112,300	112,500	-200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	88,600	88,500	100
OTHER SERVICES	29,300	29,400	-100
GOVERNMENT	195,100	196,400	-1,300

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

New Mexico and Albuquerque Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates



Average Hours and Earnings

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

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Jan 08	Dec 07	Jan 07	Jan 08	Dec 07	Jan 07	Jan 08	Dec 07	Jan 07
NEW MEXICO									
CONSTRUCTION	\$668.80	\$671.34	\$660.56	40.0	40.2	40.5	\$16.72	\$16.70	\$16.31
MANUFACTURING	\$563.09	\$565.22	\$557.18	38.7	38.9	39.1	\$14.55	\$14.53	\$14.25
WHOLESALE TRADE	\$539.49	\$539.49	\$535.39	35.1	35.1	35.2	\$15.37	\$15.37	\$15.21
RETAIL TRADE	\$366.11	\$368.71	\$364.98	32.2	32.4	32.5	\$11.37	\$11.38	\$11.23
ALBUQUERQUE MSA									
MANUFACTURING	\$655.43	\$657.89	\$622.97	38.6	39.8	40.4	\$16.98	\$16.53	\$15.42

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 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	
	Jan 08	Dec 07	Jan 07	Month to Month	Year to Year
CPI-U	211.1	210.0	202.4	0.5%	4.3%
CPI-W	206.7	205.8	197.6	0.5%	4.6%

*CPI-U - All Urban Consumers

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

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New Mexico Area Economic Activity

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

Statewide:

The New Mexico Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) board approved training funds for four companies at the January board meeting. Alamogordo's **PreCheck**, a pre-employment background investigation company, was awarded \$207,999 for 27 new jobs. **NMSU-Alamogordo** will receive \$11,800 to conduct customized training for PreCheck employees. **D.A. Inc.**, a custom injection-molding parts manufacturer expanding to Santa Teresa, will create 31 new jobs with the \$156,471 it received. Also from Santa Theresa, **Northwire Inc.**, a wire and cable products manufacturer, was approved for \$70,833, supporting 13 new jobs. The largest award went to **Convergys'** Las Cruces customer contact center, which received \$268,160 for 45 new jobs.

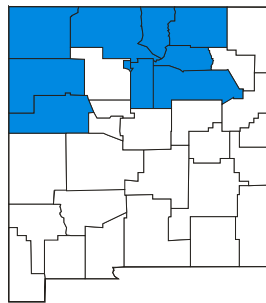
PNM Resources wants to sell its natural gas operations for \$620 million to a subsidiary of Continental Energy Systems of Michigan. PNM Resources is the state's largest utility and the parent company of Public Service Company of New Mexico. PNM will sell the gas unit, and a new company will operate it as **New Mexico Gas Co.** New Mexico Gas will be based in New Mexico. The sale, which must be approved by state and federal regulators, isn't expected to be completed for about a year. PNM spokeswoman Susan Sponar said the two companies would work over the next year to make the sale—which includes the transfer of 800 PNM employees to the new company—seamless for consumers.

The Interior Department announced it would not allow the **Jemez Pueblo** to open a casino in Anthony, New Mexico, because it is too far away from the Pueblo's reservation in the mountains northwest of Albuquerque. The Jemez proposal was not alone, but one of 11 nationwide that received a January 4 rejection letter from Carl Artman, assistant secretary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Like the Jemez Pueblo, the other tribes were going through the process of establishing off-reservation trust land for the purpose of opening a casino, which is allowed under the federal law that permits Indian gaming. However, Artman's rejection letter cited Jemez Pueblo's distance from Anthony (more than 290 miles) and the fact that the casino would not increase employment for the tribe, but only provide additional cash flow. The Jemez Pueblo picked Anthony, New Mexico, as the location for an off-reservation casino because the town is struggling economically (as is the pueblo) and the central New Mexico area is already too saturated with Indian casinos to be the site of a profitable new venture.

Northern WIA Area:

Farmington Area, San Juan County:

Raytheon Corporation has received a certificate of occupancy for its new 30,000-square-foot manufacturing facility located just south of Farmington. The \$5.8 million project generated about 40 construction jobs. New permanent jobs are expected to be created for between 80 and 100 employees drawn from Upper Fruitland and surrounding chapters in the Northern Navajo Agency. The Raytheon site, located just south of Farmington, currently employs more than 100 workers.



Raytheon Missile Defense Systems leases a 38,000-square-foot manufacturing facility that is housed within the tribe's NAPI Industrial Park, where it builds various armament components and wiring for the U.S. Department of Defense. The new facility received funding from the Navajo Nation's Business and Industrial Development Fund, the New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund (or TIF), and Raytheon Corp.

Santa Fe Area, Santa Fe County:

A new high-end grocery store is planned for the Rancho Viejo commercial district. The owners of **Kaune's Foodtown** plan to break ground on the new 10,000-square-foot store in early March. The new store, still nameless, will be staffed by 30 to 40 employees and should be open by the end of the year.

The grand opening for the new Sears, Roebuck store at the **Edgewood North Shopping Center** is planned for early February. The store will have a "soft opening" in mid-January. The Edgewood North shopping center was recently sold to the Salvation Army, which is planning to open a thrift shop in the shopping center in February.

Laguna Pueblo, Cibola County:

Laguna Pueblo celebrated the grand opening of its newly expanded **Route 66 Casino**. The \$40 million expansion project has nearly doubled the size of the Route 66 operation, adding the new 154-room Route 66 Casino Hotel, a high-tech dance club, and a new full-service restaurant.

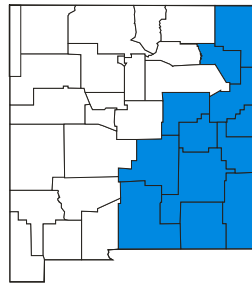
Los Alamos Area, Los Alamos County:

The director of **Los Alamos National Laboratory** has told lab employees that there will be no need for involuntary staff layoffs now that 430 employees volunteered to leave their positions and 140 additional jobs were lost through natural attrition. The total of 570 is above the minimum goal of 500 but below the higher target of 750 jobs to be trimmed because of federal budget cuts. The lab anticipates that there will be a 10 percent reduction, or about 50 positions, from the so-called flexible workforce. The flexible workforce includes staff augmentation, generally short-term subcontractors and limited-term staff, some of whose contracts will not be renewed.

Church Rock Area, McKinley County:

A grant from the **U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration** will allow the Navajo Nation to construct a 27,000-square-foot latex glove manufacturing facility and business incubator in the Church Rock Industrial Park. The project will initially create 60 new permanent jobs with the potential of 80 new jobs after three years of production.

Eastern WIA Area:

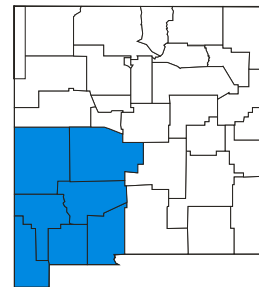


Clovis Area, Curry County:

ConAgra Foods withdrew its application for an air quality permit, thereby scrapping plans to build a \$200 million ethanol plant on the outskirts of Clovis. Company spokespersons cited the higher costs of construction materials and water as contributory factors in the decision. The plant was to have produced 108 million gallons of ethanol annually and would have employed about 60 workers in high-wage jobs.

Artesia Area, Eddy County:

A \$225 million expansion project of the **Navajo Refinery** is expected to bring hundreds of contractor jobs to the Artesia area during the next year and eventually add about 20 to 25 permanent jobs to the staff at the refinery. Project managers estimate that as many as 800 contractor workers could be on site during the construction phase of the project. The refinery will install a new 15,000-barrels-per-day hydrocracker and a new 28-million-standard-cubic-foot hydrogen plant at a budgeted cost of approximately \$125 million. Navajo Refinery expects to increase crude oil processing capacity from the current 84,000 barrels per day level to about 100,000 bpd.



Southwestern WIA Area:

Las Cruces Area, Doña Ana County:

Cincinnati-based **Convergys Corp.** plans to open a 500-person call center in Las Cruces this year and is currently accepting job applications. A majority of the new openings are for customer service associates handling telephone inquiries and managing customer relationships. The new Convergys operations center, located at 4201 Del Rey Boulevard, is anticipated to operate seven days a week. The Las Cruces facility is the second call center Convergys has opened in New Mexico in the past 12 months. Last January, it purchased the assets of America Online's call center in Albuquerque, hiring about 250 workers and planning to double employment at the site over the next five years. Convergys has about 75,000 employees in 82 customer contact centers and other facilities in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

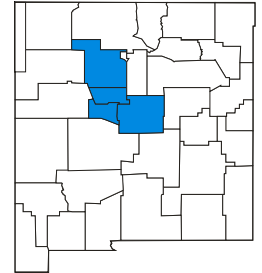
Santa Teresa Area, Dona Ana County:

D.A. Inc., a custom-injection molding parts manufacturer specializing in automotive parts, has signed a lease on a 67,000-square-foot facility located in the Verde Logistics Park in Santa Teresa, New Mexico. Manufacturing operations at the Santa Teresa facility are expected to begin later this month, creating about 40 new jobs.

Northbound commercial crossings increased at the **Santa Teresa Port of Entry** during the month of October 2007. According to Customs and Border Protection reports, 3,688 commercial vehicles crossed at Santa Teresa during October, a 33.6 percent increase over the previous year. November 2007 commercial crossings at Santa Teresa were also the highest for the month since the port's establishment in 1993, marking the second month in a row that this port of entry experienced record levels of commercial traffic. In contrast, November northbound commercial crossings at the Bridge of the Americas in El Paso, Texas,

increased less than 1 percent over the last year. During this same period, northbound commercial traffic declined at El Paso's Zaragoza Bridge by approximately 7 percent.

Central WIA Area:



Albuquerque Area, Bernalillo County:

SCHOTT Solar, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of SCHOTT AG of Mainz, Germany, will construct a new solar energy technology production facility at Mesa del Sol in Albuquerque. The production site will initially manufacture receivers for concentrated solar thermal power plants and photovoltaic modules. SCHOTT will construct a 200,000-square-foot facility that is expected to begin production in 2009 and immediately create 350 jobs. Anticipating the need to increase production of its solar power technologies as the market for renewable energy in the US grows, the new site is designed to support expansion of both its photovoltaic module and solar receiver lines. Long-term plans call for expanding the building to 800,000 square feet and increasing the workforce to 1,500 employees, representing a total investment of \$500 million. The long-term economic impact of the site is expected to exceed \$1 billion for the state of New Mexico.

Fidelity Investments will open a new operations center at Mesa del Sol, just south of Albuquerque. The Massachusetts-based company plans on bringing 1,250 new, good-paying jobs to New Mexico over the next five years. The company has reached an agreement with Mesa del Sol to occupy a new 210,000-square-foot facility that will be constructed on approximately 25 acres. The new facility will accommodate the expansion of Fidelity's Human Resources Services business. Fidelity will begin establishing operations in the summer of 2008 at the University of New Mexico-owned Lockheed Martin building, which the company will renovate and lease on an interim basis until the Mesa del Sol facility is completed later this year. Fidelity expects to employ approximately 300 people by the end of 2008. The majority of the jobs will be in customer and client services, supporting payroll, health and welfare, and human resources services.

Ninety New Mexico jobs will be eliminated when **Qwest** closes its Albuquerque operator and information service headquarters in mid-April. The 90 workers will be offered the opportunity to transfer to jobs in Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, or Utah. Additionally, operators will be offered a chance to transfer to any other open Qwest job in New Mexico for which they are qualified. Qwest has decided to close the Albuquerque office as part of a plan to consolidate operations into fewer but larger offices.

Rio Rancho Area, Sandoval County:

Parkdale Mills Inc. has bought Rio Rancho-headquartered **U.S. Cotton**, the dominant supplier to major U.S. and Canadian retail chains of private-label, cotton-based consumer products. U.S. Cotton will operate as a subsidiary of Parkdale Mills and will continue with its existing management team. "Parkdale's acquisition of U.S. Cotton is all about continued market penetration, complementary supply-chain management and growth in the U.S. retail market for personal-care products made from cotton," said Andy Warlick, chief executive of Parkdale Mills. "U.S. Cotton provides us with a highly strategic and complementary technology as its manufacturing processes are noted to be some of the most efficient in the world."



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



Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300



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

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