Highlights: January 2012

Labor Market Data

- New Mexico's rate of over-the-year job growth was 0.7 percent, representing an increase of 5,900 jobs.

- Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment in the Albuquerque MSA was up 400 jobs or 0.1 percent in January 2012.

- Total nonfarm employment in Las Cruces MSA was down 100 jobs or 0.1 percent over the year, as a private-sector gain of 500 jobs was more than offset by a government-sector loss of 600 jobs.

- Over the year, Santa Fe MSA total nonfarm employment was up 1,400 jobs or 2.4 percent.

- Total nonfarm employment in the Farmington MSA was up 1,100 jobs or 2.3 percent, with gains reported in both the private sector, up 900 jobs or 2.5 percent, and the government sector, up 200 jobs or 1.9 percent.

Current Regional Nonfarm Employment Growth

January 2012 over January 2011 - Not Seasonally Adjusted
New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.0 percent in January 2012, unchanged from December but down from 7.7 percent a year earlier. The national unemployment rate dropped to 8.3 percent. Statewide unemployment estimates for the previous five years were recently revised using a benchmarking process to better reflect actual labor market conditions. The revised data show New Mexico's unemployment rate peaking earlier and at a lower level than previously estimated and its subsequent drop occurring over a more extended period. The statewide unemployment rate for January 2012 was down a full percentage point from its recessionary peak, but much of the decline resulted from a shrinking labor force participation rate—with many individuals previously classified as unemployed no longer counted as such. Labor force participation can decrease because of both cyclical (e.g., an increase in worker discouragement) and structural (e.g., an increase in worker retirement) factors. Household survey-based employment was little changed over the past two years, driving New Mexico's employment-to-population ratio to a series low in 2011.

The employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey are also newly benchmarked. The data were revised from April 2010 forward using available full-count employment data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. Benchmarking replaces previous estimates with more complete counts of employment and updated estimates for employment not covered by the QCEW program. New Mexico used the replacement methodology through June 2011 and then re-estimated employment for the rest of 2011 using sample data. The revisions this year are most noticeable at the industry-detail level, where some are quite large. Twenty-two years of employment data by industry have been updated at the Department of Workforce Solutions' data page online.

The rate of over-the-year job growth, comparing January 2012 with January 2011, was 0.7 percent, representing an increase of 5,900 jobs. This was the sixth straight month of reporting over-the-year job growth, following a 32-month period of nearly constant declines.

Analysis of the seasonally adjusted employment data show total nonfarm employment peaking at 852,900 in September 2008 before falling to a low of 795,700 in January 2011. Seasonal adjustment removes the annual recurring fluctuations from the data, making it possible to analyze trends. The time from peak to trough in New Mexico was 28 months. New Mexico's loss in its job base was similar to that of the nation as a whole. The national peak-to-trough job loss was 6.4 percent of the previous peak; New Mexico's was 6.7 percent.

The employment survey showed six industries adding jobs and seven losing jobs from a year earlier. The largest private-sector industry group, educational & health services, continued to add more jobs than any other industry, up 4,600 from the previous year. The mining industry is also doing well, up 2,600 jobs from its January 2011 total. Job gains were also reported in leisure & hospitality (up 1,900), retail trade (up 900), wholesale trade (up 600), and financial activities (up 500). The financial activities increase followed three and a half years of losses that ended last summer.

Government employment registered a net loss of 700 jobs from a year earlier. A state government gain of 1,600 jobs was not enough to offset losses of 1,200 jobs at the local level and 1,100 jobs at the federal level.

Construction posted the largest private-sector loss (down 1,500 jobs) in recording its forty-fourth over-the-year decline in the past 45 months. (The industry posted a small gain in August 2011.) The professional & business services industry also reported the loss of 1,500 jobs, while miscellaneous other services (down 800); manufacturing (down 300); transportation, warehousing & utilities (down 300); and information (down 100) rounded out the list of declining industries.

Albuquerque MSA
(Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia Counties)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Albuquerque MSA was 7.1 percent for January 2012. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is revising data for 2011, so month-ago and year-ago estimates are not currently available.
Benchmark Revisions: Benchmarked employment estimates for the Albuquerque MSA were higher than those originally reported for 2011, with the monthly nonfarm total up an average of 2,600 jobs or 0.7 percent. The pre-benchmark annual average growth rate of negative 0.6 percent was revised upward to a post-benchmark rate of 0.0 percent. (See the nearby chart providing monthly over-the-year growth rates for pre- and post-benchmark data.) The net average monthly increase resulted from a private-sector gain of 2,800 jobs that was only minimally offset by a total government loss of 200 jobs. The largest private-sector increases occurred in educational & health services (up 2,000 jobs), construction (up 1,500 jobs), and professional & business services (up 800 jobs), with manufacturing; transportation, warehousing & utilities; and information posting smaller gains. Upward revisions in professional & business services for 2011 were largely due to non-economic administrative reporting changes that reclassified existing employment. Benchmarking increased employment in two government components—federal and state—by 200 jobs each.

Downward revisions for 2011 occurred in wholesale trade, retail trade, financial activities, leisure & hospitality, and local government. The largest of these revisions was in leisure & hospitality, with average monthly employment down 1,300 jobs. A large 800-job dip in wholesale trade employment was prompted by non-economic administrative reporting changes. The remaining private sector industries—retail trade, financial activities, and miscellaneous other services—were each reduced by a monthly average of 100 jobs, while local government employment was lowered by 600 jobs.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment in the Albuquerque MSA was up 400 jobs or 0.1 percent in January 2012, continuing a trend of generally sideways movement that began early in 2011. Six of the 12 major industry divisions expanded employment, while six others contracted from their year-earlier levels. An 800-job or 0.2 percent gain in the service-providing industries was partially offset by a 400-job or 1.1 percent loss in the goods-producing industries. The private sector added 1,400 jobs (up 0.5 percent) at the same time government entities trimmed 1,000 jobs (down 1.2 percent). The slow and uneven employment recovery that began early last year, following 28 consecutive months of over-the-year losses, has so far done little to erase the large accumulated jobs deficit.

Educational & health services expanded by 3,600 jobs or 6.5 percent to again lead the gaining industries. Annual average over-the-year growth rebounded to 4.0 percent for 2011 after slowing to 2.1 percent in 2010. The 2010 dip followed robust gains of 4.5 percent and 4.7 percent for 2008 and 2009, respectively. Because of its relative strength throughout the recent economic downturn, educational & health services’ share of total nonfarm employment increased to 16.1 percent in January 2012, up from a pre-recession level of just over 12 percent.

Manufacturing was up 500 jobs or 2.9 percent from its previous-year total. Industry employment finally stabilized in late 2010 after a precipitous drop that included a remarkable 17.6 percent annual average loss for 2009, the largest single-year decline for any industry during the current series. Despite recent gains, manufacturing employment, at 18,000 for January 2012, remained down more than a quarter from its recent peak in late 2006.

The four other gaining industries each posted small over-the-year increases. Information grew by 200 jobs or 2.4 percent, while wholesale trade (up 0.9 percent), leisure & hospitality (up 0.3 percent), and retail trade (up 0.2 percent) each added 100 jobs.

Professional & business services shed 1,400 jobs from its January 2011 total, down 2.5 percent. The industry has posted six consecutive months of over-the-year losses after briefly returning to positive territory during early to mid-2011. January’s decline followed the loss of 7,400 jobs between the 2008 and 2011 annual averages, which dropped professional & business services into second place, below educational & health services, in the ranking of the Albuquerque area’s largest private-sector industries.
Government, down 1,000 jobs or 1.2 percent, continued to be a drag on employment growth, with a small gain at the state level (up 300 jobs or 1.2 percent) only partially offsetting larger losses at both the federal (down 500 jobs or 3.2 percent) and local (down 800 jobs or 1.9 percent) levels. With private-sector employment slowly increasing, government’s share of total nonfarm employment slipped to 22.1 percent in January 2012, its first over-the-year decline for the month since 2007.

Losses continued to mount in construction, down 900 jobs or 4.5 percent for January 2012, marking more than five years of nearly uninterrupted year-over-year decline. (Benchmarked data show growth reaching the zero line for August 2011 before dropping again.) Annual average employment fell by 11,600 jobs or 36.9 percent from a series-high 31,400 for 2006 to an 18-year low 20,500 in 2011.

Financial activities payrolls contracted by 500 jobs or 2.9 percent over the year. The industry began adding jobs in January 2011 for the first time in 27 months, but shortly thereafter slipped into another period of negative growth that has now persisted for 22 consecutive months. Transportation, warehousing & utilities (down 300 jobs or 3.1 percent) and miscellaneous other services (down 100 jobs or 0.9 percent) also registered over-the-year declines for January 2012.

Las Cruces MSA
(Doña Ana County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Las Cruces MSA was 6.7 percent for January 2012. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is revising data for 2011, so month-ago and year-ago estimates are not currently available.

Benchmark Revisions: Las Cruces MSA total nonfarm employment was benchmarked up by a monthly average of 1,100 jobs or 1.6 percent in 2011. (See accompanying chart for monthly over-the-year growth rates for pre- and post-benchmark data.) The majority of the additional jobs were in the private sector, primarily in manufacturing (revised up by a monthly average of 400 jobs or 12.0 percent); transportation, warehousing & utilities (up 200 jobs or 11.4 percent); and educational & health services (up 700 jobs or 5.2 percent). Professional & business services employment was revised downward by 300 jobs or 3.9 percent. Benchmark changes rounded to 100 jobs or fewer for the remaining industry divisions.

Over the month, Las Cruces MSA total nonfarm employment declined by a seasonal 2,800 jobs, with the private sector down 700 and government down 2,100. Retail trade and financial activities both lost 200 jobs, while manufacturing, educational & health
services, and leisure & hospitality lost 100 each. Construction; transportation, warehousing & utilities; information; professional & business services; and miscellaneous other services were unchanged from their December 2011 levels. State government was down 2,100 jobs between semesters at New Mexico State University, while local and federal government employment was unchanged.

**Over the year**, total nonfarm employment in Las Cruces MSA was down 100 jobs or 0.1 percent, as a private-sector gain of 500 jobs was more than offset by a government-sector loss of 600 jobs. Educational & health services led the gaining industries, up 400 jobs or 3.3 percent, while transportation, warehousing & utilities (up 11.1 percent) and leisure & hospitality (up 2.9 percent) added 200 jobs. Retail trade and miscellaneous other services each gained 100 jobs, up 1.4 percent and 7.1 percent, respectively. The three remaining private-sector industries each posted year-over-year declines: financial activities, down 200 jobs or 8.3 percent; professional & business services, down 200 jobs or 2.7 percent; and manufacturing, down 100 jobs or 3.4 percent. All three government components also reported employment decreases: federal government, down 300 jobs or 7.3 percent; local government, down 200 jobs or 2.2 percent; and state government, down 100 jobs or 1.4 percent.

**Santa Fe MSA**

**(Santa Fe County)**

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Santa Fe MSA was 5.1 percent for January 2012. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is revising data for 2011, so month-ago and year-ago estimates are not currently available.

**Benchmark Revisions:** Santa Fe MSA total nonfarm employment was benchmarked downward by a monthly average of 600 jobs or 1.0 percent in 2011. (See accompanying chart for monthly over-the-year growth rates for pre- and post-benchmark data.) Professional & business services employment was revised upward by 400 jobs or 7.5 percent, while six industries were benchmarked downward by 100 jobs each and two were benchmarked downward by 200 jobs each.

**Over the month**, total nonfarm employment in the Santa Fe MSA declined by 900 jobs, with losses of 500 in the private sector and 400 in government. Seven private-sector industries remained flat over the month, while four industries lost jobs. Private-sector employment slipped by 200 jobs in retail trade and 100 jobs each in construction, professional & business services, and educational & health services. The 400-job dip in government was likely seasonal and education-related, with local government down 300 jobs, state government down 100 jobs, and federal government unchanged.
Over the year, Santa Fe MSA total nonfarm employment was up 1,400 jobs or 2.4 percent, with private-sector payrolls expanding by an impressive 1,800 jobs or 4.2 percent at the same time government employment was down 400 jobs or 2.5 percent. Leisure & hospitality, up 900 jobs or 10.5 percent, led the five gaining industries, followed by educational & health services, up 500 jobs or 4.9 percent; retail trade, up 300 jobs or 3.6 percent; construction, up 200 jobs or 8.3 percent; and professional & business services, up 100 jobs or 2.2 percent. Miscellaneous other services, down 200 jobs or 7.1 percent, was the only private-sector industry to post a loss. The remaining five private industries—manufacturing; wholesale trade; transportation, warehousing & utilities; information; and financial activities—remained at their year-earlier employment levels. Government payrolls contracted by 400 jobs or 2.5 percent, with local government down 300, state government down 100, and federal government unchanged.

Farmington MSA
(San Juan County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Farmington MSA was 6.7 percent for January 2012. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is revising data for 2011, so month-ago and year-ago estimates are not currently available.

Benchmark Revisions: Farmington MSA total nonfarm employment was benchmarked upward by a monthly average of 200 jobs or 0.5 percent in 2011. (See accompanying chart for monthly over-the-year growth rates for pre- and post-benchmark data.) Goods-producing employment increased by 700 jobs or 6.3 percent from its pre-benchmark levels, while private service-providing employment decreased by 100 jobs or 0.4 percent. Federal government, down 200 jobs or 11.0 percent, and local government, down 200 jobs or 1.9 percent, were also revised downward.
Over the month, Farmington MSA employment contracted by 400 jobs, with a 200-job gain in the private sector only partially offsetting a 600-job loss in government. The private-sector increase comprised a service-providing gain of 400 jobs and a goods-producing loss of 200 jobs. Local government—down 600 jobs or 6.4 percent, a largely seasonal, education-related decline—was the only one of the three government components to report an over-the-month employment change.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment in the Farmington area was up 1,100 jobs or 2.3 percent, with gains reported in both the private sector, up 900 jobs or 2.5 percent, and the government sector, up 200 jobs or 1.9 percent. Goods-producing industries were up 700 jobs or 6.8 percent, while private service-providing industries increased by 200 jobs or 0.8 percent. The government gain came entirely at the local level, with federal and state employment unchanged from a year earlier.
New Mexico Area Economic Activity

This section presents the latest economic news gathered from published articles, government documents, private- and public-sector news releases, and reports from local New Mexico Workforce Connection Centers. In most cases, no attempt is made to verify accuracy of information.

Statewide

The Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) board at its January 2012 meeting approved $280,452 in funding to support the creation of 21 jobs in New Mexico. Joule Unlimited Technologies, Inc., Hobbs, a producer of next-generation biofuels from genetically engineered microorganisms, was awarded $263,542.28 for 20 jobs. CPFD Software LLC, Albuquerque, a developer and distributor of computer-aided-engineering (CAE) software products for the automotive, chemical, petrochemical, and power-generation industries, was granted $17,001 for one job.

Home Depot is expected to add about 450 workers statewide, 250 in the Albuquerque area, for its busy spring season. Most stores will hire about 30 to 35 seasonal workers, with some adding more depending on need. The company employs about 300,000 workers nationwide and will add about 70,000 seasonal workers this year. About half of the seasonal hires last year were later offered permanent positions as cashiers or sales, lot, or garden staffers. Lowe's typically adds a similar number of seasonal workers at its home improvement stores.

RealtyTrac reported that 8,797 homes in New Mexico were in foreclosure during 2011, down 21 percent from 11,133 in 2010, but up 22 percent from 7,212 in 2009 and 94 percent from 4,543 in 2008. The large drop in 2011 reflected a national trend prompted by a processing slowdown. “Foreclosures were in full delay mode in 2011,” said RealtyTrac CEO Brandon Moore. “The documentation and legal issues…means that we are continuing to see a highly dysfunctional foreclosure process.” Foreclosure activity fell 34 percent nationwide to about 1.9 homes in 2011, the lowest level since the mortgage meltdown began in 2007.

Central Workforce Investment Area

Albuquerque Area, Bernalillo County:

Sandia National Laboratories expects to lose 450 workers to retirement in 2012 after seeing 512 retirements in the fourth quarter of 2011. The combined total represents about 11 percent of the lab’s overall workforce of 8,600. This surge in retirements is reportedly due in part to a change in the lab’s retirement system, in addition to its aging workforce. Sherman McCorkle, chair and CEO of Sandia Science and Technology Park development Corp. (which has no affiliation to the lab), says that implementation of Sandia’s retirement system change from a defined-benefits to a defined-contributions program affected the timing of retirements. He further explained that the impact was expected and that Sandia has been hiring for the past three years.

Kirtland Air Force Base will trim 20 positions by April 30 as part of the Air Force’s restructuring of its civilian workforce. Some positions are already vacant, and the Air Force hopes remaining reductions will come from early retirements and voluntary separations. The cuts are part of the Air Force’s fiscal year 2012 Civilian Workforce Restructuring plan, which addresses the Defense Department’s directive to reduce civilian staffing to 2010 levels.

Rio Rancho Area, Sandoval County:

A grand opening for the UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center is scheduled for the first week in July in Rio Rancho’s City Center, with some services—diagnostic imaging, laboratory services, and primary and surgical clinic care—expected to be available in mid-June. About 325 workers will staff the 72-bed hospital at its opening. The facility is located just east of City Hall, the Santa Ana Star Center, and the UNM West campus.

Eastern Workforce Investment Area

Clovis Area, Curry County:

The same directive prompting cuts at Kirtland Air Force base is responsible for the planned reduction of 53 civilian jobs at Cannon Air Force Base. Cannon officials announced 49 of those cuts in November, and 26 of the eliminated positions are already vacant. The Civilian Personnel Office will try to place the remaining 27 workers in other positions at Cannon to minimize layoffs. “The civilian workforce at Cannon is an integral part of our specialized capabilities, and we simply cannot do our nation’s most important business without them,” said Col Buck Elton, 27th Special Operations Wing commander.
Hobbs Area, Lea County:
Joule Unlimited Inc. recently broke ground on its first commercial demonstration plant on a five-acre site in Hobbs. The company uses genetically modified microorganisms that produce both ethanol and diesel molecules through photosynthesis. “We do it without biomass,” said Joule President and CEO Bill Sims. “It’s breakthrough technology.” Joule expects the Hobbs operation to move from a demonstration to a commercial plant with 100-plus full-time employees. Its first bioreactor production module will come online in June, and five others will be operational by late 2012.

Plans are progressing for International Isotopes’ proposed uranium deconversion plant west of Hobbs that is expected to create 125 to 150 jobs when fully operational in 2013. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) found in a preliminary assessment that the facility would have no large environmental impacts. The commission scheduled a February 2 meeting in Hobbs to discuss the environmental review.

Northern Workforce Investment Area
Farmington, San Juan County:
The Navajo Nation held a grand opening January 16 at the Northern Edge Casino, its third gaming facility and largest to date. The 86,000-square-foot operation—located on Navajo Route 36, just south of Farmington city limits—is expected to create 375 full-time jobs and generate an annual payroll of $12 million. The casino will offer 750 slot machines, six poker tables, ten live table games, a full-service restaurant serving alcohol, a food court, and a gift shop.

Las Vegas Area, San Miguel County:
PNM on January 11 dedicated the new Las Vegas Solar Energy Center, the last of five new utility-scale solar power plants it has brought online within the past year. The five new facilities were built as part of PNM’s effort to comply with New Mexico’s renewable portfolio standard, which currently requires that 10 percent of energy produced for customers come from renewable resources. The other facilities are located in Albuquerque (with 2 megawatts of capacity) and Los Lunas, Deming and Alamogordo (with 5 megawatts each).

Santa Fe Area Santa Fe County:
Santa Fe’s minimum wage is scheduled to increase to $10.29 an hour beginning March 1, making it the highest minimum in the nation. San Francisco’s minimum wage, which went up to $10.24 January 1, will be the second highest. A Santa Fe city ordinance requires that increases be recalculated every year based on the annual consumer price index for the western United States, which for 2011 increased 2.8 percent. This gain, plus a CPI increase for 2010 that city officials failed to implement, will boost the Santa Fe minimum wage from its current level of $9.85 an hour.

Southwestern Workforce Investment Area
Santa Teresa Area, Doña Ana County:
Phase one land-clearing work began August 20 at the site of Union Pacific’s $400 million refueling station and intermodal cargo yard, located north of the Santa Teresa Port of Entry, and phase two infrastructure and building construction is already under way. The project—to be completed in 2015—is expected to create 1,000 construction jobs and 600 permanent positions, with nearly 200 construction workers recently on site. An economic impact study conducted for UP indicated that total New Mexico gross receipts and compensating taxes on construction services would exceed $23 million.

Silver City Area, Grant County:
The U.S. Forest Service is seeking “hardworking people for summer seasonal temporary jobs in several programs” in the Gila National Forest. Current job announcements include temporary positions in archaeology, clerical, fire, hydrology (water-related projects), and wildlife biology and are posted at http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/gila/about-forest/jobs. The number and location of positions will vary based on need, and pay rates will vary based on location.

Upham Area, Sierra County:
Chad Rabon of the New Mexico Spaceport Authority (NMSA) announced at a January 10 community update forum in Las Cruces that the first phase of construction for the $209 million Spaceport America was nearly complete. This phase was to comprise a runway, a vertical launch area, several support facilities, and the terminal hangar for anchor-tenant Virgin Galactic. The next phase of construction (currently in progress) will include vertical launch complex improvements and the paving of the southern road to the spaceport.
Theresa Sandoval, Economist

New Mexico


The New Mexico benchmark revision was quite small for 2011, with employment up by a monthly average of 800 jobs or 0.1 percent. Private-sector employment was revised upward by 1,800 jobs, and government employment was revised downward by 1,000 jobs. The nearby chart provides monthly total nonfarm and total private employment changes.

In the private sector, goods-producing industries tended to add jobs, while service-providing industries mostly lost jobs, with the exception of professional & business services. The largest changes occurred in the construction, wholesale trade, retail trade, professional & business services, and educational & health services industries. Professional & business services revisions were substantial for all months of the year because of a large change that carried forward from October 2010. The goods-producing industries—construction, mining, and manufacturing—were all revised upward from their pre-benchmark levels, adding 2,200 jobs on average. Construction's annual average over-the-year employment growth increased from a pre-benchmark negative 7.9 percent to a post-benchmark negative 2.0 percent.

The wholesale and retail trade industries were each revised significantly downward, combining for an average decrease of 2,900 jobs. Earlier estimates showed retail trade posting annual average over-the-year growth of 3.2 percent for 2011, but revised data lowered the gain to 0.2 percent. The revised data show wholesale trade down 2.0 percent for 2011, a sharp reversal from the 4.7 percent gain originally reported. Educational & health services employment was revised slightly downward, with annual average over-the-year growth dipping from 4.3 percent to 2.8 percent.

Albuquerque MSA

Albuquerque MSA total nonfarm employment was revised upward by a monthly average of 2,600 jobs or 0.7 percent for 2011, with the private sector up 2,800 jobs and the government sector down 200 jobs. The nearby chart provides monthly total nonfarm and total private employment changes. The pre-benchmark annual average growth rate was reported at negative 0.6 percent for 2011 but revised upward to a post-benchmark growth rate of 0.0 percent. Four private-sector industries—construction, wholesale trade, educational & health services, and leisure & hospitality—had large level shifts during benchmarking. The construction industry's annual average revisions totaled 1,500 jobs, accounting for more than half of the private-sector increase. The industry posted benchmarked over-the-year growth of negative 3.9 percent for 2011, improving from the negative 11.1 percent originally reported.

Original estimates for educational & health services showed the industry growing at an annual average of 0.8 percent over the year for 2011, well below recent years' levels, but benchmarking increased the gain to 4.0 percent. Leisure & hospitality's over-the-year growth was revised downward to 0.4 percent from 3.6 percent. An administrative reclassification moved a number of jobs from wholesale trade to professional & business services.
The three government components—federal, state, and local—were revised by relatively small percentages. Employment at the federal and state levels was benchmarked upward by a couple hundred jobs each, while local government employment was revised downward by an annual average of 600 jobs for 2011.

Farmington MSA

Farmington MSA total nonfarm employment was benchmarked up an annual average of 200 jobs in 2011, with the private sector up 600 jobs and the government sector down 400 jobs. Goods-producing industries sustained the largest revisions, increasing by an annual average of 700 jobs. The nearby chart provides monthly total nonfarm and total private employment changes. The overall benchmark revision was 0.5 percent for 2011. Annual average over-the-year employment growth increased to 1.5 percent from a pre-benchmark level of 1.0 percent. The government decline comprised 200-job losses at both the federal and local levels.

Las Cruces MSA

Las Cruces MSA employment was revised upward by an annual average of 1,100 jobs for 2011, with nearly all industries posting increases. The nearby chart provides monthly total nonfarm and total private employment changes. Only three industries—professional & business services (down 300), wholesale trade (down 100), and miscellaneous other services (down 100)—lost jobs during benchmarking. Most of the increases came in manufacturing; retail trade; transportation, warehousing & utilities; educational & health services; and local and state government. Employment expanded by 700 in educational & health services and 400 in manufacturing, with other gaining industries posting smaller increases. The 2011 benchmark revision averaged 1.6 percent, which pushed annual average over-the-year growth to 0.8 percent from a pre-benchmark level of negative 0.6 percent.

Santa Fe MSA

Santa Fe, down by an annual average of 1.0 percent for 2011, was the only MSA to lose jobs during benchmarking. Over-the-year employment growth was revised to negative 0.7 percent from the slightly positive 0.5 percent previously reported. Employment was benchmarked lower by an annual average of 600 jobs, with the private sector down 400 and the government sector down 200. The nearby chart provides monthly total nonfarm and total private employment changes. A generally weaker employment pattern was evident in most industries. Construction, manufacturing, retail trade, finance, educational & health services, leisure & hospitality, and miscellaneous other services were revised downward. The only industry sector revised upward was professional & business services. The decrease in government occurred entirely at the local level. Only three industries—educational & health services, up 400; professional & business services, up 200; and leisure & hospitality, up 100—posted over-the-year average employment increases in the benchmarked series. The Santa Fe MSA was the only MSA with negative year-over-year annual average employment growth for 2011.
Quarterly Workforce Indicators
Michelle Doran, Economist

Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) can provide much-needed information to businesses and policymakers. Employers may want to know if their turnover rates are comparable to those of other companies or if their wages are competitive with others in the industry. Policymakers may want to determine if their policies made a difference in the workforce. Quarterly Workforce Indicators can assist businesses and policymakers in determining how the workforce performed.

QWI are produced by the Census Bureau through a partnership with the States. The Census Bureau merges data from Labor Market Information shops with current demographic information to produce the data found on the Local Employment Dynamics website. QWI are available online at http://lehd.did.census.gov/led/datatools/qwiapp.html. The Census Bureau produces 30 workforce indicators, eight of which are published in QWI online. The eight indicators include total employment; measures of change such as job flow, new hires, and separations; and average earnings. For New Mexico, data are available from 1995 onward. The indicators can be further disaggregated by filtering for detailed demographics, detailed geographies, and detailed industries. Last year’s data release included more demographics than ever before, adding race and ethnicity demographics and educational attainment.

One result of the recent economic troubles is that turnover in companies has decreased. Employees are more interested in job security during economic downturns, causing turnover rates to lower. The QWI turnover rate is calculated as follows:

\[
\text{Turnover Rate} = \frac{(1/2) \times (\text{full-quarter1 accessions (hires)} + \text{full-quarter1 separations})}{\text{employment stable jobs}}
\]

Data in Chart 1 show New Mexico’s downward trend in turnover rates for most quarters. The year 2010 had higher than expected turnover in first quarter, following a lackluster 2009 holiday sales season, and in fourth quarter, as the difficult year ended.

QWI can also provide earnings information over time for specific industries and for the existing vs. newly hired workforce. Average monthly earnings for the industry can show employers where their wages are relative to those of other employers in the industry. While not occupational wages, these wages are a good indication for the industry. QWI can also show new hire earnings relative to monthly earnings for the industry. Data in Chart 2 show how wages for the nursing and residential care facilities industry have increased over time for the total industry workforce and the newly hired employees.

Data can be compared across multiple geographies. A policymaker for a workforce area can determine if the economy for the region is doing better or worse than the state economy for the key workforce indicators. Table 1 shows the Northern Area compared to New Mexico for both the rolling average and the latest quarter.

1 Stable (or Full-Quarter) Employment is when an individual receives earnings from the same employer for three consecutive quarters; it is inferred that the individual was employed for the whole of the middle quarter. Many QWI measures are provided with stable and non-stable versions.
available. For the fourth quarter of 2010, the Northern Area had positive net job flow of 3,139 jobs, while the State had negative flow of 19,448 jobs.

Another useful QWI-related tool is net job gains/losses data, available at http://lehd.did.census.gov/led/JobGainsLosses/job_gainslosses.php, which enable the comparison of net changes across industry, gender, and age for different time periods and across states. The eight Quarterly Workforce Indicators provide a basic overview of the economic conditions in the area. The additional information of race and ethnicity demographics and educational attainment can broaden analysis to shed more light on economic conditions in the area.

Table 1: New Mexico vs. Northern Area Workforce Investment Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QWI Quick Facts</th>
<th>Northern Area WIB (Q4)</th>
<th>Northern Area WIB (Avg:Selected + 3 Prior qtrs)</th>
<th>New Mexico (Q4)</th>
<th>New Mexico (Avg:Selected + 3 Prior qtrs)</th>
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<td>156,755</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turnover</td>
<td>12.10%</td>
<td>11.40%</td>
<td>12.40%</td>
<td>11.80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Monthly Earnings</td>
<td>$3,705.00</td>
<td>$3,363.25</td>
<td>$3,482.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average New Hire Earnings</td>
<td>$2,262.00</td>
<td>$2,127.50</td>
<td>$2,227.00</td>
<td>$2,093.25</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
How do I find earnings data by education level for New Mexico?

Educational attainment demographic information is available from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.


2. Click on American FactFinder under Data in the top navigation tab.

3. Click on Topics below the Your Selections box on the left-hand side.

4. In the Select Topics box, click People then Education then Educational Attainment. The Your Selections box at the top left will update with this selection. Now close the Select Topics box top to begin selecting geography.

5. To add New Mexico to the Your Selections box, click on the Geographies option at the left-hand side of page.

6. In the Select Geographies box, click on page 2 at the upper right-hand side. Scroll down and put a check next to New Mexico. Now click the Add button at the top of the box. The Your Selections box at the top left will update with this selection. Now close the Select Geography box top right to begin searching for earnings data.

7. Type “earnings” in the Search for box and click Go. The resulting list displays the 34 data tables that contain information matching the search criteria. Place a check in the box to the left of the title(s) and dataset(s) most appropriate to your needs and click View at the top. Detailed information on the various datasets is available at http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/estimates.
### NM Occupational Shortages & Surpluses

The following designations are based on posted job orders & resumes entered in the NM Workforce Connection System (www.jobs.state.nm.us) by occupation in the last 30 days (January 2012).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide Summary</th>
<th>Albergque MSA</th>
<th>Santa Fe MSA</th>
<th>Farmington MSA</th>
<th>Las Cruces MSA</th>
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<td>Dietitians and Nutritionists</td>
<td>Dietitians and Nutritionists</td>
<td>Dietitians and Nutritionists</td>
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<td>Stock Clerks – Stockroom, Warehouse, or Storage Yard</td>
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<td>First-Line Supervisors &amp; Managers of Retail Sales Workers</td>
<td>First-Line Supervisors &amp; Managers of Retail Sales Workers</td>
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<td>Food Preparation Workers</td>
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<td>General and Operations Managers</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Receptionists and Information Clerks</td>
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<td>Stock Clerks – Stockroom, Warehouse, or Storage Yard</td>
<td>Stock Clerks – Stockroom, Warehouse, or Storage Yard</td>
<td>Stock Clerks – Stockroom, Warehouse, or Storage Yard</td>
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<td>Truck Drivers, Light and Delivery Services</td>
<td>Truck Drivers, Light and Delivery Services</td>
<td>Truck Drivers, Light and Delivery Services</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Occupational Rollover Statistics is an indicator of occupational activity with both numerous job orders & resumes in NM Workforce Connection.*
## Labor Market Information
### Quick Reference and Fast Facts

#### New Mexico – Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment & Unemployment Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Nonfarm Employment Growth Rank</th>
<th>Rankings New Mexico and United States</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>711,891</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>776,827</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>822,627</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>2010</td>
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### Total Nonfarm Employment Growth Rankings New Mexico and United States

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<th>Rank</th>
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<th>January 2012</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<td>2.6%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1,177.1</td>
<td>1,207.4</td>
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<td>1,325.4</td>
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<td>930.8</td>
<td>7.0</td>
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<td>583.8</td>
<td>588.6</td>
<td>4.8</td>
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<td>793.8</td>
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<td>1,594.6</td>
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<td>0.7%</td>
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<td>1,453.2</td>
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<td>1,591.4</td>
<td>1,601.6</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
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<td>0.5%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>413.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
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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

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

New Mexico Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

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

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NAICS Industries

[Diagram showing distribution of employment across industries]
## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

### NEW MEXICO

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## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

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Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment - Seasonally Adjusted

Average Hours and Earnings
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor)

U.S. Consumer Price Index

Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100

PERCENT CHANGE

* Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
The New Mexico Labor Market Review is a monthly publication from the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, Economic Research & Analysis Bureau.

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**Other Contributors:**
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