



New Mexico Labor Market Review

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HIGHLIGHTS — March 2007

...New Mexico over-the-year job growth is 1.7 percent for March. We have added 14,100 jobs and rank 17th highest for job growth among the states.

...In the past 12 months, payroll employment has grown 1.8 percent, adding 7,200 jobs to the Albuquerque MSA economy.

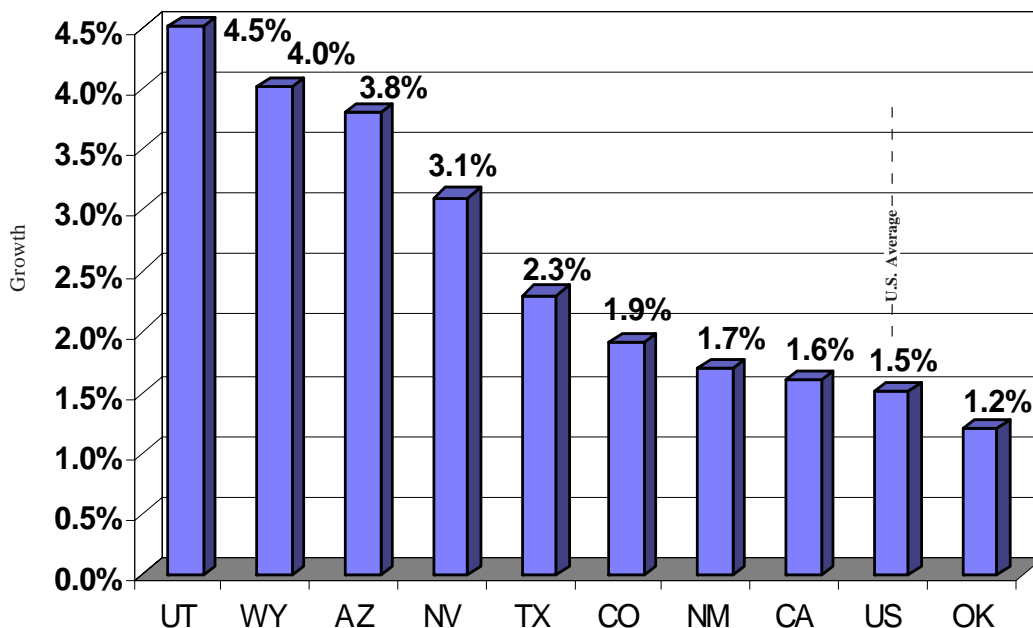
...The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces MSA was 1.5 percent, adding 1,000 jobs. This rate of job growth is below the average for the state.

...Over-the-year job growth for the Santa Fe MSA was 1.6 percent, adding 1,000 jobs. This growth is still below the state average but shows improvement from growth rates that were below one percent during most of 2006.

...Over the last year, the Farmington MSA has added 1,300 jobs, growing 2.6 percent. The rate of job growth remains higher than most other areas of the state.

Current Regional Nonfarm Employment Growth

March 2007 over March 2006 - Not Seasonally Adjusted



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New Mexico Labor Force and Payroll Employment

New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 3.7 percent in March 2007, up from 3.5 percent in February. The rate remains near the historic low set last month, which was the lowest since the current series began in 1976. The national unemployment rate, at 4.4 percent, was considerably higher than ours. A year ago, the state's unemployment rate was 4.5 percent.

Job growth recently peaked at 3.6 percent in June 2006, but has subsequently declined to more typical levels. The rate of job growth comparing March 2007 with March 2006 is 1.7 percent. The state has added 14,100 jobs over the last year, and we rank 17th highest for job growth among the states. The job growth remains broad-based, with most of the 13 industry groups expanding.

As a reminder, last June a new consortium started managing the operations of Los Alamos National Laboratory. Previously, the University of California had run the National Laboratory. This change in management caused a shift in employment from state government into private professional & business services. The administrative change distorts the employment numbers so that it appears that thousands of government jobs were lost and thousands of professional & business services jobs were created. Adjusting for this administrative change, the professional & business services industry is growing at around two percent, and state government employment is just two or three hundred jobs above last year's level.

Still the state's fastest growing industry, natural resources & mining has enjoyed four years of job growth due to sustained higher prices for oil and natural gas. Job growth currently stands at 8.8 percent over the year, adding 1,600 jobs. Up until a few months ago, the construction industry was also adding jobs in the double-digit percentage range. Slowing conditions have been seen nationally for a while and have finally caught up with New Mexico. The industry is now down by 800 jobs from a year ago, a 1.4 percent decrease. The decline is made worse by unusually cold and snowy weather this winter compared to record warmth the previous year. The industry appears to be at the end of a sustained four-year period of growth. The last time the construction industry saw sustained losses was when several large construction projects in Albuquerque ended back in 2002.

The information industry is the second fastest growing industry in the state, adding 6.3 percent to last year's employment levels, creating 1,000 additional jobs. The new jobs are in the state's film industry, which has seen considerable activity. During times of intensive film work, employment levels have been as much as 3,000 jobs above baseline levels of a few years ago. Much of the film work is of short duration, which can be seen in the recent history of the information industry showing swings in employment as large as 2,000 jobs in just one month. Previously, the information industry lost more than 3,000 jobs during a three-year period ending in early 2005 due to weakness in the telecommunications components of the industry. Even with the current boost from the film industry, employment levels are still below the peak levels set in the spring of 2001.

The small wholesale trade industry added 800 jobs, which is impressive when compared to the four times bigger retail trade industry that added just 600 jobs.

Educational & health services, the state's largest private industry added 2,800 jobs, growing 2.6 percent. This industry is always reliable for adding jobs. Current levels of growth are restrained compared to the past few years, but the number of new jobs is substantial.

The transportation, warehousing & utilities industry increased employment by 600 jobs. Manufacturing employment has added 700 jobs, growing 1.9 percent. Some manufacturing firms are facing difficulties, but others are expanding into new markets and adding hundreds of jobs. In many ways, 2006 was the turning point that defined the success of the state's manufacturing industry, which previously lost thousands of jobs.

The leisure & hospitality industry made gains of 1,700 jobs, with recent expansive growth in eating and drinking places. The miscellaneous *other services* category added 300 jobs. Financial activities employment added only 100 jobs since last year, continuing a weak employment trend that has been evident since last July.

New Mexico	Change From				
	Mar 2007	Feb 2007	Mar 2006	Feb 2007	Mar 2006
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	937,800	938,500	933,000	-700	+4,800
Employment	903,000	905,500	890,700	-2,500	+12,300
Unemployment	34,800	33,000	42,400	+1,800	-7,600
Rate	3.7%	3.5%	4.5%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	3.6%	3.7%	4.3%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Albuquerque MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance & Valencia Counties)

The Albuquerque MSA seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.5 percent in March, up slightly from 3.4 percent in February. A year ago, the area's unemployment rate was 4.0 percent.

Over the month, payroll employment in the Albuquerque area grew by 4,100 or 1.0 percent, a typical increase for this time of year. Warmer weather prompted an upsurge in building activity and spurred the construction industry to add 900 new jobs. Seasonal growth in restaurant employment pushed the leisure & hospitality industry to an increase of 2.1 percent (800 jobs) over the month. Government employment expanded by 700 jobs, while professional & business services and educational & health services each added 600 jobs. Retail trade (300 jobs) and financial activities (200 jobs) also saw gains, while employment in five other industries was unchanged over the month.

In the past 12 months, payroll employment has grown 1.8 percent, adding 7,200 jobs to the Albuquerque area economy. This rate represents a slight deceleration from over-the-year increases seen in January (2.3 percent) and February (1.9 percent).

Construction was the only industry division to report over-the-year job losses in March as employment fell by 200 or 0.6 percent. Employment has fallen for three consecutive months, although the decrease in March was smaller than in January (1.7 percent) or February (1.3 percent).

Professional & business services continued to do well, rising 3.0 percent over the year and adding 1,900 new jobs. Growth was due in part to an increase in business support services, which includes many local call centers. Employment in professional & business services has increased for 11 consecutive months, and all but last month's increase (2.9 percent) equaled or exceeded 3.0 percent.

Government added 1,600 new jobs for an increase of 2.0 percent. Local government (1,000 jobs) and state government (600 jobs) each increased employment from last year's levels, while federal government remained unchanged.

Leisure & hospitality netted 1,200 new jobs, thanks to strong over-the-year growth in food services. Both full-service and fast food restaurants contributed to the increase. The industry has added jobs in every month since June 2005 after losing jobs for each of the ten previous months.

Educational & health services grew a solid 2.5 percent, adding 1,200 jobs, nearly all of which came from the health care and social assistance component. Industry employment growth has fallen from a recent peak of 6.2 percent in November 2004.

The information industry added 400 new jobs over the year, leading all industries with a growth rate of 4.2 percent. The industry lost more than 3,000 jobs over the course of four years before beginning a recovery in January 2006. Employment opportunities should continue to increase in the motion picture and sound recording component as existing companies expand operations and new companies enter the market.

Wholesale trade added 300 new jobs, growing 2.3 percent. Retail trade, which includes general merchandise stores such as Wal-Mart, added 200 new jobs, growing 0.5 percent. Employment in retail trade has increased for three consecutive months after recording negative growth for the last seven months of 2006.

Employment in the transportation, warehousing, & utilities industry was up 300, growing 2.9 percent. Financial activities posted its first gain since June 2006, adding 200 jobs, growing 1.0 percent. The miscellaneous *other services* category was up 0.8 percent, adding 100 jobs over the year.

Manufacturing recorded employment that was unchanged from last year's level. The industry began adding jobs in late 2005 and continued at a robust pace throughout 2006. Though growth has slowed, employment currently stands at 23,800, which is 1,100 more than when the expansion began. The industry is expected to continue expanding in the manufacture of airplanes, solar cells, cabinets, and mattresses.

Albuquerque				Change From	
Seasonally Adjusted	Mar 2007	Feb 2007	Mar 2006	Feb 2007	Mar 2006
Civilian Labor Force	405,200	404,200	403,300	+1,000	+1,900
Employment	391,000	390,300	387,300	+700	+3,700
Unemployment	14,200	13,900	16,000	+300	-1,800
Rate	3.5%	3.4%	4.0%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	3.4%	3.5%	3.9%		

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 4.0 percent in March 2007, unchanged from the rate in February. A year ago, the area's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent.

The Las Cruces area gained 700 jobs in March 2007, with the largest increase being 400 additional government jobs. In the private sector, the Las Cruces area gained 200 retail trade jobs, 100 leisure & hospitality jobs, 100 construction jobs, and another 100 educational & health services jobs. Partially offsetting these gains was the loss of 100 jobs each in the information and transportation industries.

The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces area was 1.5 percent, comparing March 2007 with the same month a year ago. The Las Cruces area has added 1,000 jobs. This rate of job growth is below the average for the state.

Three industries have each added 200 jobs to the local economy over the last year. The educational & health services industry gained 200 jobs, increasing 2.0 percent. Construction employment also has done well for many years in the local area, currently increasing 200 jobs from year-ago levels, growing 4.1 percent. The leisure & hospitality indus-

try has done well employment-wise for the last two years and currently reports gains of 200 jobs over the year, growing 2.9 percent.

Five industries reported employment levels that were 100 jobs higher than last year. Wholesale trade managed to gain 100 jobs from last year's level, as did retail trade. Manufacturing employment added 100 jobs, improving slightly from two years of tepid performance. The professional & business services industry also added 100 jobs from last year's level. The transportation, warehousing & utilities industry reported employment that was up 100 jobs from last year.

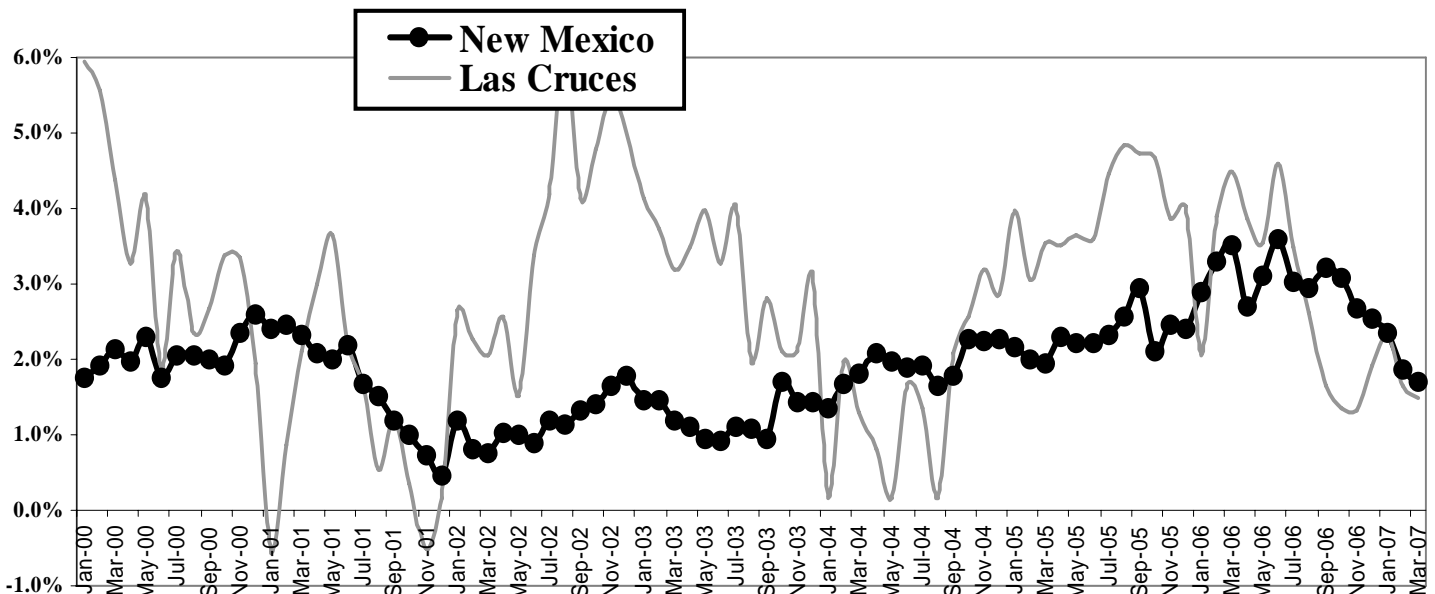
Three remaining industries reported employment levels that were unchanged from last year. Those industries were financial activities, information, and the miscellaneous *other services* category of employment,

The only industry to report lower employment than last year was the government sector. Government employment was down by 100 jobs in federal government and at the same level as last year in local and state government. State government includes New Mexico State University.

Las Cruces	Change From				
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Mar 2007</u>	<u>Feb 2007</u>	<u>Mar 2006</u>	<u>Feb 2007</u>	<u>Mar 2006</u>
Civilian Labor Force	86,200	86,000	86,500	+200	-200
Employment	82,700	82,600	82,300	+100	+400
Unemployment	3,500	3,400	4,200	+100	-700
Rate	4.0%	4.0%	4.8%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	4.3%	4.4%	5.1%		

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 3.0 percent in March 2007, up slightly from 2.9 percent in February. A year ago, the area had an unemployment rate of 3.6 percent.

Santa Fe area employment increased by 200 jobs in March as the net result of four industries gaining 100 jobs each and two others losing 100 jobs each. Gaining industries this month were retail trade, construction, information, and leisure & hospitality. Declining industries were wholesale trade and state government.

Over-the-year job growth for Santa Fe was 1.6 percent, adding 1,000 jobs. This rate of job growth is still below the average for the state but shows improvement from growth rates that were below one percent during most of 2006 and averaged just 1.1 percent for the year. Job growth is evident in just six of the area's 12 industries.

Santa Fe's leisure & hospitality industry reported 300 more jobs than a year ago, no doubt enjoying the end of an excellent ski season. Three private sector industries have each

increased by 200 jobs from last year's levels. Retail trade has done fairly well, maintaining a 200-job gain over the year, as has the construction industry. The educational & health services industry also reported 200 more jobs than a year ago.

Financial activities employment was 100 jobs higher than last year, a 3.2 percent increase. The miscellaneous *other services* industry has also grown by 100 jobs.

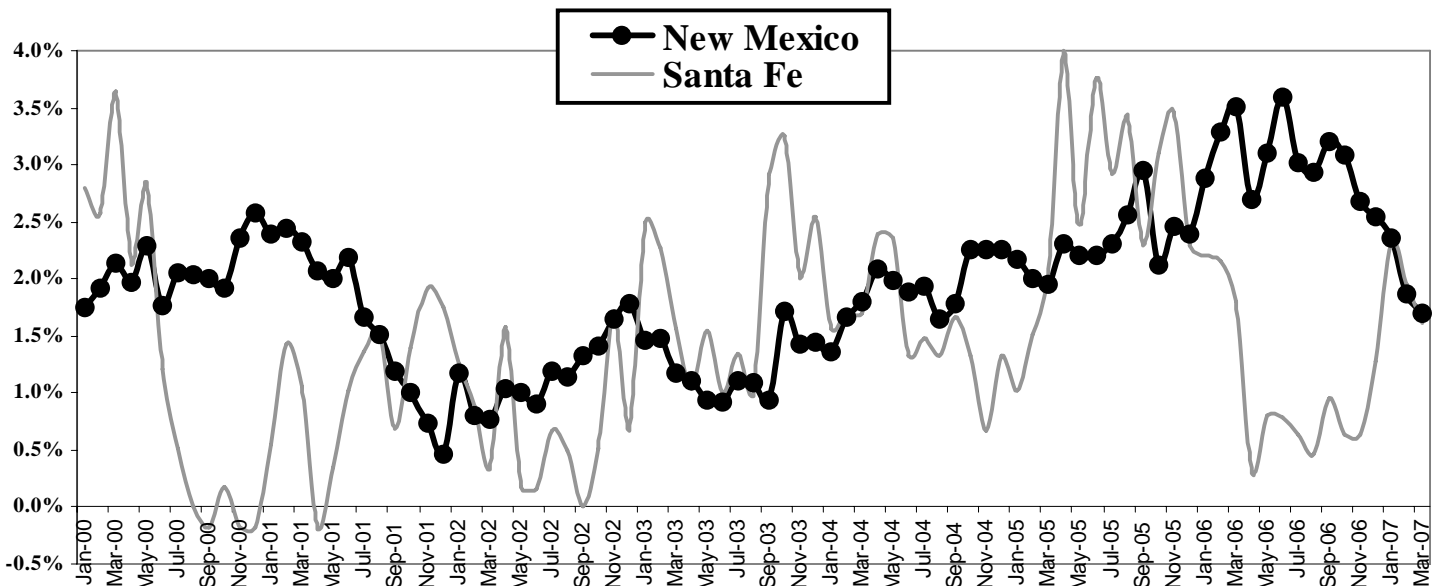
Five industries maintained employment the same as last year's levels. Those industries were transportation, warehousing & utilities, information, wholesale trade, professional & business services, and government. There have been few sustained increases in government employment in Santa Fe since local government school employment stopped increasing about a year ago.

Manufacturing employment in the Santa Fe area has not done very well for a while, and currently stands 100 jobs lower than last year's employment level. The local area has not been fortunate enough to enjoy the gains that are being made in Albuquerque.

Santa Fe	Change From				
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Mar 2007</u>	<u>Feb 2007</u>	<u>Mar 2006</u>	<u>Feb 2007</u>	<u>Mar 2006</u>
Civilian Labor Force	77,200	77,100	77,200	+100	0
Employment	74,900	74,900	74,400	0	+500
Unemployment	2,300	2,200	2,800	+100	-500
Rate	3.0%	2.9%	3.6%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	2.9%	3.1%	3.6%		

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 3.3 percent in March 2007, down from 3.4 percent in February. A year ago, the area had an unemployment rate of 4.3 percent.

The Farmington area gained 400 jobs in March, which is on the low side of what is expected this time of year. Private services-providing industries added 200 jobs from the previous month, and goods-producing industries gained 100 jobs. Another 100 jobs were added in local government.

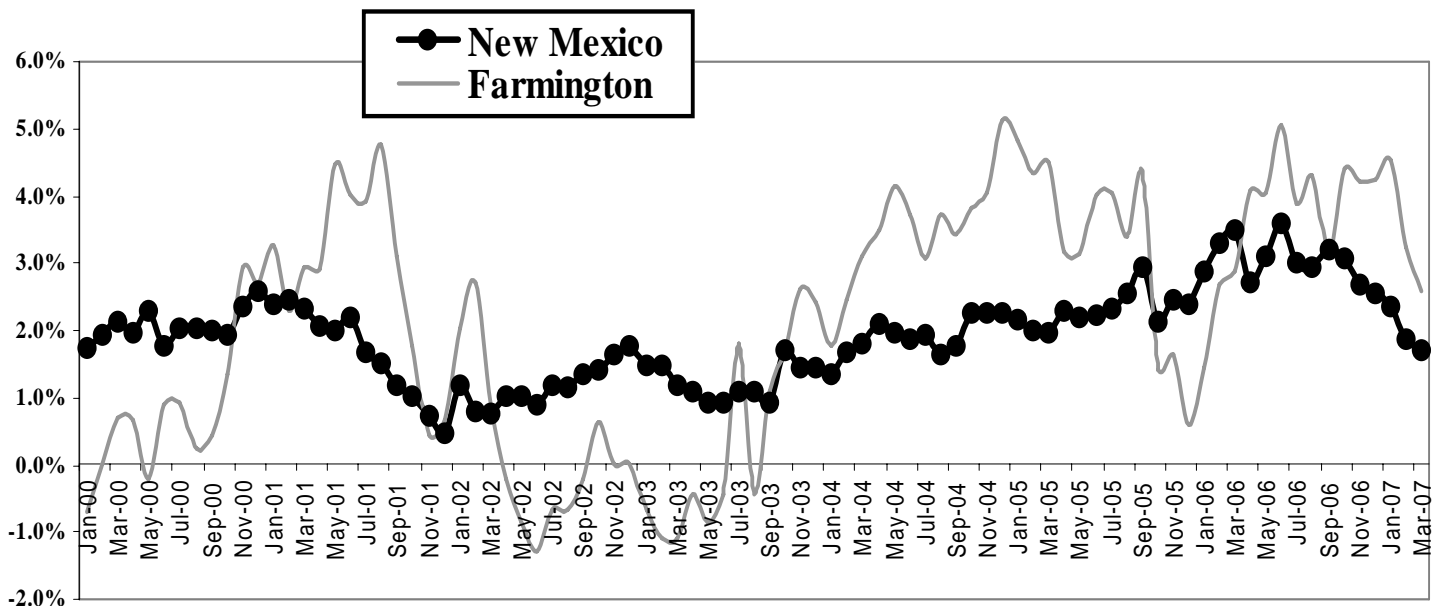
Over the last year, the Farmington area has added 1,300 jobs, growing 2.6 percent. The rate of job growth remains higher than most other areas of the state. Substantial fluctuation in the growth rate from month-to-month is fairly typical for a small metro area like Farmington. Job growth peaked in the 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. Job growth in the area remains substantially above the statewide average, and the Farmington area continues to have a strong job market.

Private services-providing industries have added 700 jobs over the year, growing 2.5 percent. Government employment has been sluggish for a while and currently shows the same level of employment as a year ago. There was no growth reported in state government jobs, declines reported at the federal level, and a small increase in local government.

Farmington	Change From				
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Mar 2007</u>	<u>Feb 2007</u>	<u>Mar 2006</u>	<u>Feb 2007</u>	<u>Mar 2006</u>
Civilian Labor Force	55,800	56,400	55,400	-600	+400
Employment	53,900	54,500	53,000	-600	+900
Unemployment	1,800	1,900	2,400	-100	-500
Rate	3.3%	3.4%	4.3%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	3.3%	3.4%	4.3%		

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 %
1987		674,200	613,400	60,800	9.0%	
1988		682,000	630,300	51,700	7.6%	
1989		691,800	645,300	46,500	6.7%	
1990		711,900	663,700	48,200	6.8%	
1991		719,200	667,700	51,500	7.2%	
1992		735,500	680,500	55,000	7.5%	
1993		755,100	700,300	54,800	7.3%	
1994		776,800	725,400	51,400	6.6%	
1995		798,700	744,600	54,100	6.8%	
1996		812,800	751,800	61,000	7.5%	
1997		822,600	768,600	54,000	6.6%	
1998		835,900	783,700	52,200	6.2%	
1999		840,000	793,100	46,900	5.6%	
2000		852,300	810,000	42,300	5.0%	
2001		863,700	821,000	42,700	4.9%	
2002		871,500	823,200	48,300	5.5%	
2003		885,300	832,600	52,700	5.9%	
2004		902,100	850,200	51,900	5.7%	
2005		915,500	867,300	48,200	5.3%	
2006		935,350	895,623	39,727	4.2%	
2006	JAN	927,502	883,575	43,927	4.7%	4.7%
	FEB	930,872	887,718	43,154	4.6%	4.9%
	MAR	933,049	890,663	42,386	4.5%	4.3%
	APR	932,502	890,872	41,630	4.5%	4.4%
	MAY	934,426	893,550	40,876	4.4%	4.3%
	JUN	936,817	896,695	40,122	4.3%	5.0%
	JUL	935,455	896,088	39,367	4.2%	4.8%
	AUG	936,361	897,756	38,605	4.1%	4.1%
	SEP	939,704	901,869	37,835	4.0%	3.9%
	OCT	939,447	902,388	37,059	3.9%	3.7%
	NOV	939,071	902,796	36,275	3.9%	3.6%
	DEC	938,992	903,503	35,489	3.8%	3.3%
2007	JAN	937,238	901,837	35,401	3.8%	3.9%
	FEB	938,531	905,511	33,020	3.5%	3.7%
	MAR	937,757	903,000	34,757	3.7%	3.6%
	APR					
	MAY					
	JUN					
	JUL					
	AUG					
	SEP					
	OCT					
	NOV					
	DEC					
# CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	-774	-2,511	1,737	0.2%	-0.1%
	Year Ago	4,708	12,337	-7,629	-0.8%	-0.7%
	2 Yrs. Ago	27,503	42,882	-15,379	-1.8%	-1.9%
	3 Yrs. Ago	39,495	57,300	-17,805	-2.2%	-2.3%
% CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	-0.1%	-0.3%	5.3%		
	Year Ago	0.5%	1.4%	-18.0%		
	2 Yrs. Ago	3.0%	5.0%	-30.7%		
	3 Yrs. Ago	4.4%	6.8%	-33.9%		

State	Rank	March 2006	March 2007	Change	% Change
Utah	1	1,182.5	1,236.1	53.6	4.5%
Wyoming	2	267.5	278.1	10.6	4.0%
Arizona	3	2,629.1	2,728.9	99.8	3.8%
Louisiana	4	1,839.8	1,908.5	68.7	3.7%
Idaho	5	622.6	642.9	20.3	3.3%
Nevada	6	1,268.0	1,307.9	39.9	3.1%
South Dakota	7	388.3	398.1	9.8	2.5%
Texas	8	9,977.3	10,207.5	230.2	2.3%
North Carolina	9	3,972.7	4,061.5	88.8	2.2%
Kansas	10	1,344.4	1,372.8	28.4	2.1%
North Dakota	11	347.0	354.2	7.2	2.1%
Washington	12	2,816.9	2,875.3	58.4	2.1%
Montana	13	423.9	432.6	8.7	2.1%
Hawaii	14	615.2	627.4	12.2	2.0%
Colorado	15	2,254.9	2,297.4	42.5	1.9%
Nebraska	16	935.8	952.5	16.7	1.8%
New Mexico	17	827.1	841.2	14.1	1.7%
Oregon	18	1,678.0	1,706.6	28.6	1.7%
California	19	14,967.4	15,213.7	246.3	1.6%
Mississippi	20	1,137.1	1,154.8	17.7	1.6%
Alabama	21	1,974.5	2,004.5	30.0	1.5%
United States		134,868.0	136,842.0	1,974.0	1.5%
Georgia	22	4,058.5	4,115.6	57.1	1.4%
Florida	23	8,042.8	8,152.1	109.3	1.4%
Alaska	24	302.4	306.4	4.0	1.3%
South Carolina	25	1,898.8	1,922.9	24.1	1.3%
Connecticut	26	1,656.0	1,676.6	20.6	1.2%
Missouri	27	2,755.6	2,788.7	33.1	1.2%
Massachusetts	28	3,189.5	3,227.2	37.7	1.2%
Virginia	29	3,700.7	3,744.4	43.7	1.2%
Iowa	30	1,484.8	1,502.3	17.5	1.2%
Oklahoma	31	1,546.9	1,565.0	18.1	1.2%
Rhode Island	32	482.9	488.1	5.2	1.1%
Delaware	33	686.2	693.4	7.2	1.0%
New York	34	8,507.8	8,596.2	88.4	1.0%
DC	35	430.5	434.7	4.2	1.0%
Tennessee	36	2,765.3	2,792.0	26.7	1.0%
Pennsylvania	37	5,697.8	5,751.3	53.5	0.9%
Illinois	38	5,845.0	5,896.0	51.0	0.9%
Maryland	39	2,566.9	2,586.7	19.8	0.8%
Arkansas	40	1,198.4	1,207.5	9.1	0.8%
Minnesota	41	2,715.7	2,734.4	18.7	0.7%
Kentucky	42	1,836.0	1,848.1	12.1	0.7%
New Hampshire	43	630.3	634.3	4.0	0.6%
Maine	44	596.0	598.8	2.8	0.5%
New Jersey	45	4,029.8	4,047.2	17.4	0.4%
Vermont	46	306.0	307.1	1.1	0.4%
West Virginia	47	750.4	751.9	1.5	0.2%
Wisconsin	48	2,811.8	2,814.2	2.4	0.1%
Indiana	49	2,957.9	2,959.5	1.6	0.1%
Ohio	50	5,389.7	5,379.7	-10.0	-0.2%
Michigan	51	4,303.7	4,262.8	-40.9	-1.0%

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/

	MARCH 2007				FEBRUARY 2007 2/				MARCH 2006			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	930,963	897,072	33,891	3.6%	934,110	899,083	35,027	3.7%	928,155	888,160	39,995	4.3%
Albuquerque MSA 3/	403,976	390,135	13,841	3.4%	404,623	390,262	14,361	3.5%	402,002	386,350	15,652	3.9%
Bernalillo	313,428	302,994	10,434	3.3%	313,873	303,093	10,780	3.4%	311,881	300,055	11,826	3.8%
Sandoval	51,443	49,443	2,000	3.9%	51,531	49,459	2,072	4.0%	51,111	48,963	2,148	4.2%
Torrance	7,785	7,474	311	4.0%	7,803	7,477	326	4.2%	7,721	7,402	319	4.1%
Valencia	31,320	30,224	1,096	3.5%	31,417	30,233	1,184	3.8%	31,289	29,930	1,359	4.3%
Farmington MSA 4/	55,332	53,514	1,818	3.3%	56,089	54,156	1,933	3.4%	54,954	52,587	2,367	4.3%
Las Cruces MSA 5/	85,879	82,174	3,705	4.3%	85,906	82,110	3,796	4.4%	86,211	81,772	4,439	5.1%
Santa Fe MSA 6/	76,382	74,155	2,227	2.9%	76,800	74,451	2,349	3.1%	76,433	73,700	2,733	3.6%
Catron	1,411	1,329	82	5.8%	1,439	1,351	88	6.1%	1,361	1,277	84	6.2%
Chaves	26,932	25,873	1,059	3.9%	26,868	25,833	1,035	3.9%	26,575	25,400	1,175	4.4%
Cibola	11,457	10,994	463	4.0%	11,635	11,131	504	4.3%	11,490	10,957	533	4.6%
Colfax	6,280	6,048	232	3.7%	6,334	6,082	252	4.0%	6,513	6,206	307	4.7%
Curry	21,192	20,610	582	2.7%	21,184	20,577	607	2.9%	20,960	20,212	748	3.6%
De Baca	884	857	27	3.1%	885	856	29	3.3%	916	879	37	4.0%
Eddy	25,357	24,558	799	3.2%	25,537	24,724	813	3.2%	24,864	23,970	894	3.6%
Grant	12,513	12,053	460	3.7%	12,517	12,043	474	3.8%	12,535	11,978	557	4.4%
Guadalupe	1,891	1,787	104	5.5%	1,894	1,782	112	5.9%	1,920	1,811	109	5.7%
Harding	362	351	11	3.0%	373	361	12	3.2%	374	356	18	4.8%
Hidalgo	2,376	2,300	76	3.2%	2,388	2,308	80	3.4%	2,272	2,183	89	3.9%
Lea	27,329	26,726	603	2.2%	27,391	26,738	653	2.4%	26,377	25,564	813	3.1%
Lincoln	10,110	9,727	383	3.8%	10,181	9,776	405	4.0%	10,378	9,934	444	4.3%
Los Alamos	11,280	11,058	222	2.0%	11,365	11,129	236	2.1%	11,322	11,050	272	2.4%
Luna	12,011	10,493	1,518	12.6%	11,821	10,419	1,402	11.9%	12,175	10,268	1,907	15.7%
McKinley	26,846	25,696	1,150	4.3%	26,971	25,757	1,214	4.5%	26,768	25,333	1,435	5.4%
Mora	1,990	1,818	172	8.6%	2,013	1,831	182	9.0%	2,035	1,811	224	11.0%
Otero	25,845	24,881	964	3.7%	26,156	25,169	987	3.8%	26,275	25,152	1,123	4.3%
Quay	3,986	3,804	182	4.6%	3,992	3,804	188	4.7%	4,079	3,878	201	4.9%
Rio Arriba	21,774	20,781	993	4.6%	21,871	20,848	1,023	4.7%	21,701	20,523	1,178	5.4%
Roosevelt	9,456	9,214	242	2.6%	9,340	9,075	265	2.8%	9,668	9,377	291	3.0%
San Miguel	13,451	12,889	562	4.2%	13,514	12,927	587	4.3%	13,653	12,979	674	4.9%
Sierra	5,253	5,034	219	4.2%	5,385	5,151	234	4.3%	5,280	5,004	276	5.2%
Socorro	9,353	9,069	284	3.0%	9,463	9,166	297	3.1%	9,272	8,912	360	3.9%
Taos	17,992	17,143	849	4.7%	18,114	17,271	843	4.7%	17,735	16,738	997	5.6%
Union	2,065	2,003	62	3.0%	2,063	1,998	65	3.2%	2,062	2,003	59	2.9%

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

2/ Previously published February 2007 estimates have been revised.

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

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - San Juan County

5/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County

6/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe County

Unemployment Rates in New Mexico (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

MARCH 2007			FEBRUARY 2007 1/			MARCH 2006		
AREAS	RANK	RATE	AREAS	RANK	RATE	AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	12.6%	LUNA	1	11.9%	LUNA	1	15.7%
MORA	2	8.6%	MORA	2	9.0%	MORA	2	11.0%
CATRON	3	5.8%	CATRON	3	6.1%	CATRON	3	6.2%
GUADALUPE	4	5.5%	GUADALUPE	4	5.9%	GUADALUPE	4	5.7%
TAOS	5	4.7%	QUAY	5	4.7%	TAOS	5	5.6%
QUAY	6	4.6%	RIO ARRIBA	6	4.7%	MCKINLEY	6	5.4%
RIO ARRIBA	7	4.6%	TAOS	7	4.7%	RIO ARRIBA	7	5.4%
LAS CRUCES MSA 4/	8	4.3%	MCKINLEY	8	4.5%	SIERRA	8	5.2%
MCKINLEY	9	4.3%	LAS CRUCES MSA 4/	9	4.4%	LAS CRUCES MSA 4/	9	5.1%
SAN MIGUEL	10	4.2%	CIBOLA	10	4.3%	QUAY	10	4.9%
SIERRA	11	4.2%	SAN MIGUEL	11	4.3%	SAN MIGUEL	11	4.9%
CIBOLA	12	4.0%	SIERRA	12	4.3%	HARDING	12	4.8%
CHAVES	13	3.9%	COLFAX	13	4.0%	COLFAX	13	4.7%
LINCOLN	14	3.8%	LINCOLN	14	4.0%	CIBOLA	14	4.6%
COLFAX	15	3.7%	CHAVES	15	3.9%	CHAVES	15	4.4%
GRANT	16	3.7%	GRANT	16	3.8%	GRANT	16	4.4%
OTERO	17	3.7%	OTERO	17	3.8%	FARMINGTON MSA 3/	17	4.3%
STATEWIDE		3.6%	STATEWIDE		3.7%	LINCOLN	18	4.3%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	18	3.4%	ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	18	3.5%	OTERO	19	4.3%
FARMINGTON MSA 3/	19	3.3%	FARMINGTON MSA 3/	19	3.4%	STATEWIDE		4.3%
EDDY	20	3.2%	HIDALGO	20	3.4%	DE BACA	20	4.0%
HIDALGO	21	3.2%	DE BACA	21	3.3%	ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	21	3.9%
DE BACA	22	3.1%	EDDY	22	3.2%	HIDALGO	22	3.9%
HARDING	23	3.0%	HARDING	23	3.2%	SOCORRO	23	3.9%
SOCORRO	24	3.0%	UNION	24	3.2%	CURRY	24	3.6%
UNION	25	3.0%	SANTA FE MSA 5/	25	3.1%	EDDY	25	3.6%
SANTA FE MSA 5/	26	2.9%	SOCORRO	26	3.1%	SANTA FE MSA 5/	26	3.6%
CURRY	27	2.7%	CURRY	27	2.9%	LEA	27	3.1%
ROOSEVELT	28	2.6%	ROOSEVELT	28	2.8%	ROOSEVELT	28	3.0%
LEA	29	2.2%	LEA	29	2.4%	UNION	29	2.9%
LOS ALAMOS	30	2.0%	LOS ALAMOS	30	2.1%	LOS ALAMOS	30	2.4%

1/ Previously published February 2007 estimates have been revised.

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 Rate by State (highest to lowest)

Seasonally Adjusted

March 2007			March 2006		
State	Rank	Rate	State	Rank	Rate
Mississippi	1	6.9	Alaska	1	6.8
Michigan	2	6.5	Michigan	2	6.8
Alaska	3	5.9	Mississippi	3	6.4
South Carolina	4	5.9	South Carolina	4	6.4
District of Columbia	5	5.5	District of Columbia	5	5.9
Kentucky	6	5.4	Kentucky	6	5.9
Ohio	7	5.2	Oregon	7	5.4
Oregon	8	5.2	Ohio	8	5.3
Arkansas	9	4.9	Rhode Island	9	5.2
California	10	4.8	Tennessee	10	5.2
Wisconsin	11	4.8	Arkansas	11	5.1
Missouri	12	4.7	Indiana	12	5.0
Tennessee	13	4.7	Texas	13	5.0
Indiana	14	4.6	California	14	4.9
Washington	15	4.6	Illinois	15	4.9
North Carolina	16	4.5	Massachusetts	16	4.8
Massachusetts	17	4.4	New York	17	4.8
United States		4.4	Washington	18	4.8
Maine	18	4.3	Wisconsin	19	4.8
Nevada	19	4.3	New Jersey	20	4.7
New Jersey	20	4.3	United States		4.7
Texas	21	4.3	Georgia	21	4.6
West Virginia	22	4.3	Missouri	22	4.6
Illinois	23	4.2	North Carolina	23	4.6
Minnesota	24	4.2	Pennsylvania	24	4.6
Rhode Island	25	4.2	West Virginia	25	4.6
Connecticut	26	4.1	Kansas	26	4.5
Georgia	27	4.1	New Mexico	27	4.5
Kansas	28	4.1	Colorado	28	4.4
Louisiana	29	4.1	Connecticut	29	4.3
Oklahoma	30	4.1	Maine	30	4.3
New York	31	4.0	Arizona	31	4.1
Arizona	32	3.9	Nevada	32	4.1
New Hampshire	33	3.8	Louisiana	33	4.0
Pennsylvania	34	3.8	Minnesota	34	4.0
Vermont	35	3.8	Oklahoma	35	4.0
New Mexico	36	3.7	Iowa	36	3.9
Colorado	37	3.6	Maryland	37	3.7
Maryland	38	3.6	Delaware	38	3.6
Alabama	39	3.4	Idaho	39	3.6
Delaware	40	3.4	Vermont	40	3.6
Florida	41	3.3	Alabama	41	3.4
Iowa	42	3.2	Montana	42	3.4
North Dakota	43	3.1	New Hampshire	43	3.4
South Dakota	44	3.1	Florida	44	3.3
Virginia	45	3.0	South Dakota	45	3.2
Idaho	46	2.8	North Dakota	46	3.1
Nebraska	47	2.6	Utah	47	3.1
Wyoming	48	2.6	Nebraska	48	2.9
Hawaii	49	2.5	Virginia	49	2.9
Utah	50	2.4	Wyoming	50	2.8
Montana	51	2.0	Hawaii	51	2.6

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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Mar-07	Revised Feb-07	Revised Mar-06	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	841,200	835,000	827,100	6,200	14,100
GOODS PRODUCING	114,600	113,200	113,100	1,400	1,500
SERVICES-PROVIDING	726,600	721,800	714,000	4,800	12,600
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	19,700	19,600	18,100	100	1,600
CONSTRUCTION	57,300	56,100	58,100	1,200	-800
MANUFACTURING	37,600	37,500	36,900	100	700
WHOLESALE TRADE	23,700	23,600	22,900	100	800
RETAIL TRADE	93,700	92,600	93,100	1,100	600
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	24,400	24,300	23,800	100	600
INFORMATION	16,900	16,600	15,900	300	1,000
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	35,300	35,200	35,200	100	100
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	107,300	107,300	95,200	0	12,100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	111,200	110,900	108,400	300	2,800
Educational Services	14,300	14,300	14,000	0	300
Health Care and Social Assistance	96,900	96,600	94,400	300	2,500
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	86,300	84,700	84,600	1,600	1,700
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8,300	8,100	7,900	200	400
Accommodation and Food Services	78,000	76,600	76,700	1,400	1,300
OTHER SERVICES	28,900	28,700	28,600	200	300
GOVERNMENT	198,900	197,900	206,300	1,000	-7,400
Federal Government	30,000	29,800	30,100	200	-100
State Government	61,300	60,800	71,300	500	-10,000
<i>State Government Education</i>	<i>29,200</i>	<i>28,800</i>	<i>29,300</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>-100</i>
Local Government	107,600	107,300	104,900	300	2,700
<i>Local Government Education</i>	<i>59,800</i>	<i>59,100</i>	<i>58,900</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>900</i>

ALBUQUERQUE	Preliminary Mar-07	Revised Feb-07	Revised Mar-06	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	396,800	392,700	389,600	4,100	7,200
GOODS PRODUCING	54,800	53,900	55,000	900	-200
SERVICES-PROVIDING	342,000	338,800	334,600	3,200	7,400
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING & CONSTRUCTION	31,000	30,100	31,200	900	-200
MANUFACTURING	23,800	23,800	23,800	0	0
WHOLESALE TRADE	13,400	13,400	13,100	0	300
RETAIL TRADE	43,200	42,900	43,000	300	200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	10,700	10,700	10,400	0	300
INFORMATION	9,900	9,900	9,500	0	400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	19,500	19,300	19,300	200	200
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	64,600	64,000	62,700	600	1,900
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	49,600	49,000	48,400	600	1,200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	38,600	37,800	37,400	800	1,200
OTHER SERVICES	12,000	12,000	11,900	0	100
GOVERNMENT	80,500	79,800	78,900	700	1,600
Federal Government	14,400	14,300	14,400	100	0
State Government 2/	26,500	26,200	25,900	300	600
Local Government	39,600	39,300	38,600	300	1,000

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

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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

LAS CRUCES MSA	Preliminary Mar-07	Revised Feb-07	Revised Mar-06	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	68,400	67,700	67,400	700	1,000
GOODS PRODUCING	8,400	8,300	8,100	100	300
SERVICE PRODUCING	60,000	59,400	59,300	600	700
NATURAL RESOURCES MINING & CONSTRUCTION	5,100	5,000	4,900	100	200
MANUFACTURING	3,300	3,300	3,200	0	100
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,200	1,200	1,100	0	100
RETAIL TRADE	7,300	7,100	7,200	200	100
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	1,800	1,900	1,700	-100	100
INFORMATION	1,200	1,300	1,200	-100	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,600	5,600	5,500	0	100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	10,400	10,300	10,200	100	200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	7,000	6,900	6,800	100	200
OTHER SERVICES	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
GOVERNMENT	21,600	21,200	21,700	400	-100
Federal	3,500	3,500	3,600	0	-100
State	9,200	8,900	9,200	300	0
Local	8,900	8,800	8,900	100	0

SANTA FE MSA	Preliminary Mar-07	Revised Feb-07	Revised Mar-06	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	63,000	62,800	62,000	200	1,000
GOODS PRODUCING	5,900	5,800	5,800	100	100
SERVICE PRODUCING	57,100	57,000	56,200	100	900
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION	4,900	4,800	4,700	100	200
MANUFACTURING	1,000	1,000	1,100	0	-100
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,100	1,200	1,100	-100	0
RETAIL TRADE	8,700	8,600	8,500	100	200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	700	700	700	0	0
INFORMATION	1,300	1,200	1,300	100	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	3,200	3,200	3,100	0	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	8,800	8,800	8,600	0	200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	8,800	8,700	8,500	100	300
OTHER SERVICES	2,800	2,800	2,700	0	100
GOVERNMENT	16,700	16,800	16,700	-100	0
Federal	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
State	8,300	8,400	8,300	-100	0
Local	7,300	7,300	7,300	0	0

FARMINGTON MSA	Preliminary Mar-07	Revised Feb-07	Revised Mar-06	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	51,500	51,100	50,200	400	1,300
TOTAL PRIVATE	40,000	39,700	38,700	300	1,300
GOODS PRODUCING	11,600	11,500	11,000	100	600
SERVICE PRODUCING	39,900	39,600	39,200	300	700
PRIVATE SERVICE PRODUCING	28,400	28,200	27,700	200	700
GOVERNMENT	11,500	11,400	11,500	100	0
Federal	1,500	1,500	1,600	0	-100
State	500	500	500	0	0
Local	9,500	9,400	9,400	100	100

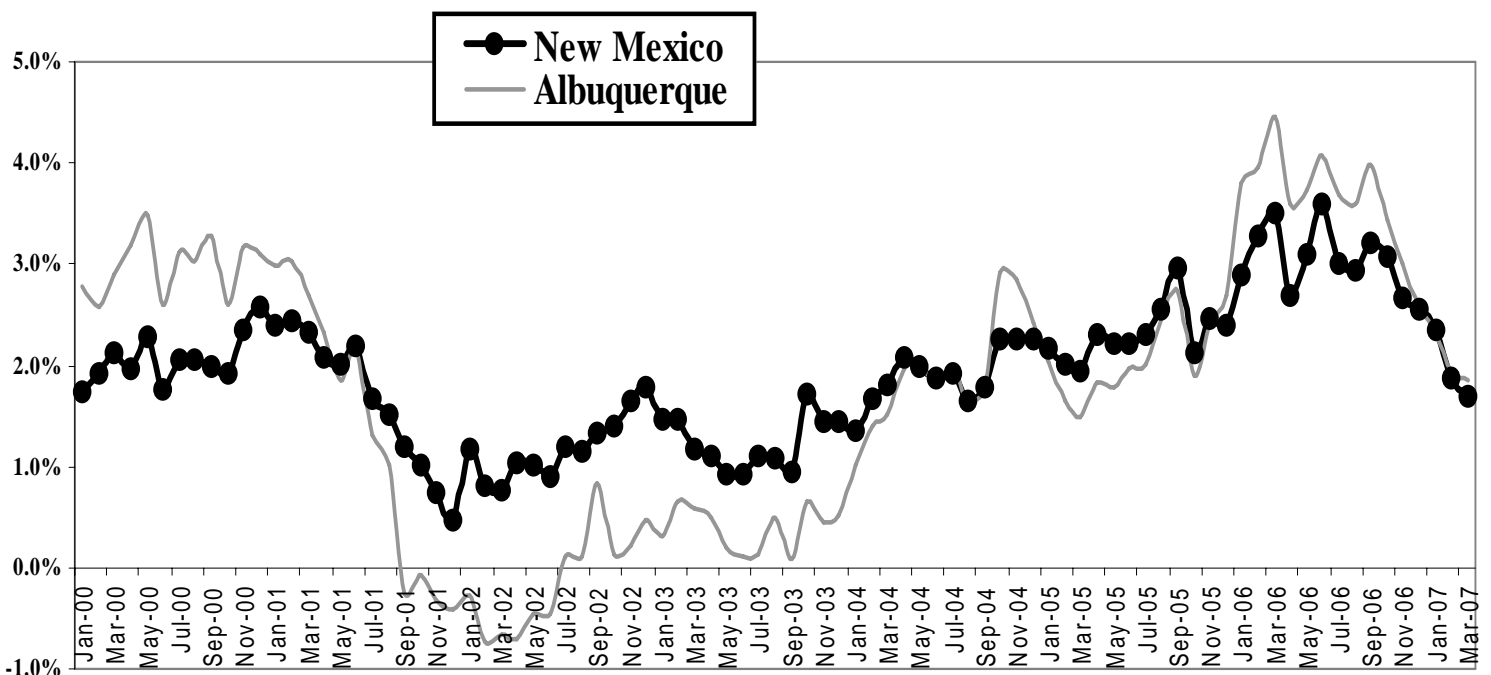
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

- Seasonally Adjusted -

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Mar-07	Revised Feb-07	Monthly Change
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	845,000	843,300	1,700
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	19,700	19,700	0
CONSTRUCTION	59,100	58,900	200
MANUFACTURING	38,300	38,600	-300
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	143,700	143,000	700
INFORMATION <i>(Not Seasonally Adjusted)</i>	16,900	16,600	300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	35,400	35,300	100
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	108,400	108,800	-400
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	109,900	109,700	200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	87,900	87,800	100
OTHER SERVICES	29,600	29,400	200
GOVERNMENT	196,100	195,500	600

1/ 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		
	Mar 07	Feb 07	Mar 06	Mar 07	Feb 07	Mar 06	Mar 07	Feb 07	Mar 06
NEW MEXICO									
NATURAL RES. & MINING	\$821.58	\$818.40	\$797.09	44.1	44.0	43.7	\$18.63	\$18.60	\$18.24
CONSTRUCTION	\$659.71	\$660.14	\$635.61	40.3	40.4	39.8	\$16.37	\$16.34	\$15.97
MANUFACTURING	\$566.68	\$559.78	\$548.02	39.6	39.2	39.2	\$14.31	\$14.28	\$13.98
WHOLESALE TRADE	\$539.50	\$534.57	\$522.00	35.4	35.1	34.8	\$15.24	\$15.23	\$15.00
RETAIL TRADE	\$369.00	\$364.18	\$354.88	32.8	32.4	32.0	\$11.25	\$11.24	\$11.09
ALBUQUERQUE MSA									
MANUFACTURING	\$649.74	\$623.90	\$648.02	42.0	41.1	40.4	\$15.47	\$15.18	\$16.04

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	
	Mar 07	Feb 07	Mar 06	Month to Month	Year to Year
CPI-U	205.4	203.5	199.8	0.9%	2.8%
CPI-W	200.6	198.5	195.3	1.0%	2.7%

*CPI-U - All Urban Consumers

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

Need Labor Market Information?

We have several major publications detailing New Mexico's:

- Current economic conditions and trends
- Wages by occupations and areas
- Larger employers
- Growing jobs with skills and training needs
- Job market with hints for finding and keeping a job

They are available, at no cost, by dropping by any NMDOL office.

...Check Out Our Website!



For fast and easy access to the latest labor market information, please visit the New Mexico Department of Labor's website. There you will find a wide variety of information and tools for all kinds of people, including job seekers, employers, teachers, grant writers, career counselors, and students. All of our publications, including the one you are reading now, can be accessed online and are available sooner than if delivered by mail. This website also includes information on Department of Labor programs, contact names and addresses, and frequently asked questions about Department functions. In addition, all NMDOL employer forms can be downloaded from our website for easy access. Also provided are links to other related websites, including America's Job Bank for nationwide job searches. All this and more is available on our website at:

www.dol.state.nm.us

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:

Late December snowstorms gave a big boost to the **state's ski industry**. According to Ski New Mexico, a non-profit association of nine of the state's ski areas, skier visits to the state have increased about 60 percent over last year.

The Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) Board approved \$323,471 in funds at its March meeting, creating 55 new jobs in Deming, Albuquerque, and on the Navajo Nation. March's JTIP recipients are **Compass Components**, Deming, \$121,814 to create 24 new jobs; **ZTEC**, Albuquerque, \$28,502 to hire two new software engineers; and **Raytheon**, on the Navajo Nation near Farmington, \$173,155 to provide training for 29 workers.

Central WIA Area:

Albuquerque Area, Bernalillo County:

One of Hollywood's leading visual effects companies, **Sony Pictures Imageworks**, may be moving from their current home in Culver City, California, to Albuquerque. The pending decision could result in more than 100 employees being offered the opportunity to move to the Duke City. The proposed location for Imageworks is a 112,000-square-foot facility on the premises of the Albuquerque Studios complex at Mesa del Sol.

The **Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar** at 6308 Fourth NW was marked as one of 24 locations to be closed in a nationwide review of underperforming locations. The restaurant will be shut down on April 1st, and employees will be offered transfers to other Albuquerque area Applebee's. The typical Applebee's has five managers and about 60 to 70 employees.

The **Whisque Mesquite Grill and Bar** opened in mid-April. The upscale restaurant is located at the corner of Coors and Montano in a building that was designed originally to be an Eckerd's drugstore. The restaurant has 2,800 square feet of patio in addition to 7,200 square feet of interior space. About 80 people have been hired for the restaurant, which will serve only dinner when it first opens.

The **Gallegos' American Property Management Group** recently purchased the Wyndham Hotel near the Albuquerque International Sunport. The 35-year-old building will receive a top-to-bottom renovation and will then be reopened as a Sheraton Hotel. The renovation is expected to cost about \$31 million and should be completed by March 2008.

Rio Rancho Area, Sandoval County:

A 47-acre site in Rio Rancho's Loma Colorado development has been sold to the **Midland Development Group** and **Golden Tree InSite Partners** for \$13 million. The site will be developed as a retail location. The anchor store has not been identified, but several sources say that Lowe's plans to build a 170,000-square-foot building supply store there.

Edgewood Area, Torrance County:

The **John Brooks Value-Way** grocery store chain closed its Edgewood store on March 5. The John Brooks chain is based in Albuquerque and has stores in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Socorro, Milan, and Ruidoso.

Southwestern WIA Area:

Las Cruces Area, Doña Ana County:

New Mexico officials have set the groundwork to lease part of the commercial spaceport to **Virgin Galactic** as a base for its space tourism company. British entrepreneur Richard Branson and the state completed a memorandum of agreement, setting the terms of a lease that calls for the company to pay New Mexico \$27.5 million over 20 years. **Spaceport America** launched a rocket from a temporary launch pad last fall, and authorities expect to complete the \$198 million facility in late 2009 or early 2010. The state already has appropriated \$115 million for the project and expects about \$25 million in federal funds over the next five years with the goal of creating a home for future public space flight.

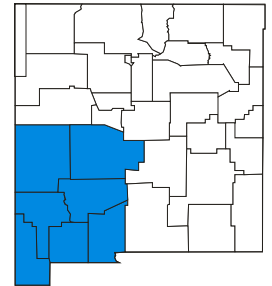
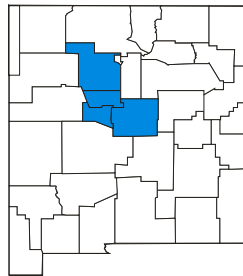
LaserShield Systems, Inc., a home security system company, will move its distribution facility from Carlsbad, CA, to Las Cruces in addition to opening a new customer support center at their existing location in Las Cruces. The distribution facility will bring 80 new jobs plus 100 construction jobs. LaserShield has already begun hiring employees for their new customer support center, which operates out of their existing offices in downtown Las Cruces. LaserShield plans to hire a total of 40 new employees for the customer support center over the next two years, at an average salary of \$24,000 a year. Currently, LaserShield employs 31 people in Las Cruces, but they are hiring nearly two new employees per week and plan to double in size by next year.

Truth or Consequences Area, Sierra County:

The latest estimate for the opening of the planned Truth or Consequences **Wal-Mart** is January 2008. The store was slated to be opened by March 2007, but changes needed in the exit from Interstate 25 to the store's location on Date Street have delayed construction.

Silver City Area, Grant County:

The **Golden Corral** restaurant located at 2005 U.S. 180 closed after more than 10 years of operation. The decision to close was based in large part on the fact that the store was due for remodeling which would have cost between \$300,000 to \$400,000. About 25 employees lost their jobs.



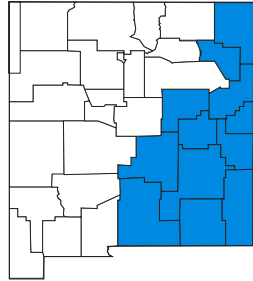
Deming Area, Luna County:

Viable International Technology Associates Corporate Cooperative Network, or VITA CCN, has purchased 280 acres of land in Luna County on which they plan to build a demonstration subdivision incorporating a self-sustaining, affordable solution to housing and energy consumption. Included in the project is VITA Sun Inc. an entity that will build silicon photovoltaic modules for residential and commercial use. Completion of the project is expected to span three years.

Eastern WIA Area:

Roswell Area, Chaves County:

Direct non-stop jet flights from Roswell to Dallas-Fort Worth are scheduled to start in early September. **American Eagle** will begin operating passenger jets with 44 to 50 seat capacities to Dallas-Fort Worth for two round-trip flights daily except Saturdays.



Carlsbad Area, Eddy County:

The Carlsbad City Council approved a \$1.1 million economic development loan for **Cetane Energy** to build and operate a biodiesel plant in Carlsbad. Three possible locations in Carlsbad are under consideration for the \$2.8 million plant. Cetane plans to use vegetable oils from rendering plants in Texas and algae oil from the NMSU Agricultural Science Center in Artesia to produce biodiesel fuel.

Hobbs Area, Lea County:

A recent article in the Hobbs New-Sun detailed the **problems employers are having finding workers** in the Hobbs area. A number of Hobbs-area restaurants have employees covering multiple duties and working extra shifts. The local Wal-Mart Supercenter has cut their hours of operation from 24 hours a day to 7 a.m.-10 p.m. due to staff shortages. Many of the problems with the labor shortage are traceable to a chronic shortage of affordable housing in the city.

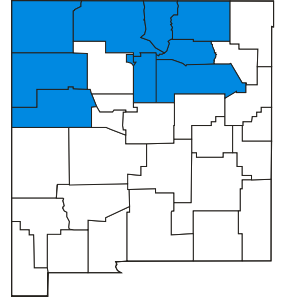
Alamogordo Area, Otero County:

The **Community Christian School** will close at the end of the semester due to declining enrollment. While operating costs have remained about the same, enrollment has decreased from about 285 students in the 2000-2001 school year to about 160 students in 2006-2007. The school, which is located at 2907 Thunder Road in Alamogordo, opened about 25 years ago. About 30 faculty members will lose their jobs.

Northern WIA Area:

Grants Area, Cibola County:

Two of Grant's Santa Fe Avenue businesses are closing. The **4B's Restaurant** shut down on Sunday, March 4, and **Summer Rain Gifts** is set to close by the end of March. The 4B's Restaurant had been open for about 30 years and employed 38 people. No reason was given for the restaurant's closure. The owner of Summer Rain Gifts, Shock Wade, said the store was closed for personal reasons.



Española Area, Rio Arriba County:

Three new franchise eateries are going up along Riverside Drive in Española. A new **Pizza Hut** and a **Wingstreet**, a fast food chicken outlet, are being built a 648 Riverside Drive next to the existing Pizza Hut. The construction phase of the projects is slated to be completed by the end of March. Farther north on Riverside Drive, a mini-mall is being built to house an **Eatza Pizza** and another as yet unidentified business.

Santa Fe Area, Santa Fe County:

Albuquerque's **Flying Star** restaurant chain is opening its first restaurant outside of the Albuquerque area in Santa Fe. The old Pete's Pets building at the corner of Cordova Road and Don Diego Road will be renovated for the restaurant at an estimated cost of \$1.7 million. When completed, the establishment will seat about 125 patrons inside with space for another 30 or 40 people on the patio. About 40 workers will be needed to staff the 4,000-square-foot restaurant.



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