

New Mexico Labor Market Report

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Volume 32, No. 10, November 30, 2003

HIGHLIGHTS — October 2003

...New Mexico's over-the-year job growth was 1.6 percent in October 2003 — a gain of 12,000 jobs since last year. The state's rate of job growth was fifth highest in the nation.

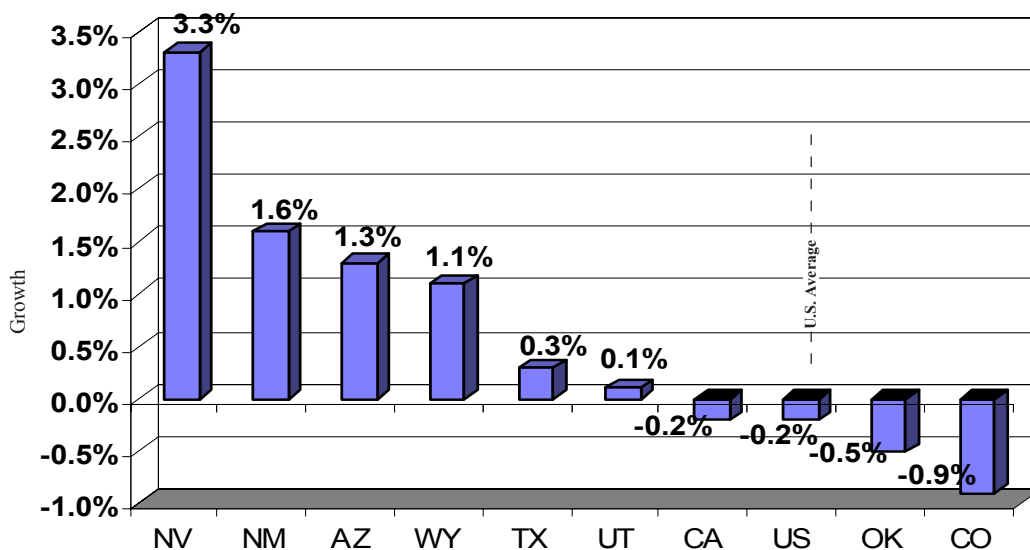
...Over the year, 5,100 new jobs were added to the Albuquerque MSA, for a modest increase of 1.4 percent. Although growth has slowed since the 1990s when year-over-year gains averaged 3.0 percent, signs of improvement have been evident in recent months.

...Over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces MSA continues at a rate that is higher than for any other area of the state, currently 3.0 percent.

...Over-the-year job growth in the Santa Fe MSA continues to be below the statewide average, as it has since April. Job growth currently stands at 1.3 percent.

Current Regional Nonfarm Employment Growth

October 2003 over October 2002 - Not Seasonally Adjusted



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New Mexico Labor Force and Payroll Employment

New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in October 2003, a rate that has not changed for the last four months. New Mexico's unemployment rate did, however, increase earlier in the year from 5.5 percent last October. Nationally the unemployment rate dropped to 6.0 percent, slightly lower than New Mexico's rate.

The October employment count declined by 500 jobs compared to September, which is fairly typical for this time of year. Large drops in leisure and hospitality employment were partially offset by large gains in state and local government employment. The additional government jobs were at state-run colleges and also at local school districts. Other industries mostly lost jobs during the month, including non-durable goods manufacturing, toward the end of the season for processing the local chile crop. Construction employment, which sometimes starts to decline this time of year, remained at near peak levels.

New Mexico's over-the-year job growth was 1.6 percent in October 2003 a gain of 12,000 jobs since last year. The state's rate of job growth was fifth highest in the nation. The fastest growing states were Nevada, Georgia, Idaho, and Hawaii. Despite recent good economic news for the third quarter, the national economy has lost 226,000 jobs over the year and is still down by 0.2 percent. Nine New Mexico industries have increased employment from a year ago and four have lost employment. The industries that have increased employment have added a substantial number of jobs in spite of the tepid national economy.

Construction has recently become the state's fastest growing industry, having not long ago been one of the state's weakest industries. Last year, by contrast, was one of the worst years for construction in a long time as large road projects ended at the same time as retooling at Intel was finished. This year, low interest rates continue to provide a boost for residential construction. The industry as a whole was up 2,600 jobs from a year ago, a 5.7 percent increase. Specialty trade contractors, which is the largest industry component, has increased 9.6 percent. This component includes the subcontractors that are typically employed by homebuilders for specific activities such as framing and plumbing work. The state's natural resources and mining industry has also had its fortunes changed for the better recently due to changed economic conditions. Mining had recently been down almost 2,000 jobs, but has since become the state's second fastest growing industry, up 4.4 percent from last year's relatively low level. Sustained higher prices for both oil and natural gas are responsible for the industry's improvement. Still, the industry remains well below its 1990 employment level.

Educational and health services, the state's largest private industry, continues to add the most jobs, increasing 4,200 jobs since this time last year, growing 4.4 percent. The home health services component has tripled in size since the summer of 2000. Over the last year, home health services added 2,100 jobs. Home health care employers are expanding services in response to Medicaid funding for the personal care option, hiring caregivers to care for qualifying Medicaid recipients with self-care limitations. The effect has been to create hundreds of new part-time jobs in communities throughout the state. Other components of educational and health services have also increased employment faster than most other industries. Social assistance, which includes privately run agencies providing assistance directly to clients such as youth services and child day care, has increased 5.8 percent over the year, adding 1,100 jobs.

The leisure and hospitality industry added 2,700 jobs since last year. Most of the jobs were at food services and drinking places, which increased 2,000 jobs compared to the same time last year. The miscellaneous *other services* industry has added 800 jobs. Four industries — retail trade; financial activities; government; and transportation, warehousing, & utilities — have grown at modest rates below the statewide average. The over-the-year growth of government employment has recently slowed to levels below the rate for the private sector. Total government jobs have increased 1.2 percent since last year, adding just 2,300 jobs. Federal employment has fallen by 100 jobs, while local government has increased 1.2 percent. State government employment has fared a little better and has increased 1,200 jobs, or 1.8 percent.

Four industries reported employment counts that were below last year's levels. Wholesale trade was down 300 jobs, continuing a weakness that has been evident throughout the year. The information industry was down 800 jobs, due to long-standing weakness in the telecommunications component. Losses in manufacturing added up to 1,000 jobs, which was not as bad as the losses reported over recent months. Prospects have worsened recently for the professional & business services industry, which is now down 900 jobs on the year, even though the *professional, scientific, & technical services* component remains strong. Job losses in the administrative & support services component of the industry have numbered 1,900. More than 1,000 jobs have been lost in each of the employment service and business support service sub-components. Employment services includes employment placement agencies and temporary help services. Business support services includes many of the telephone call centers around the state. The closure of the Stream International call center in Silver City in July caused the loss of hundreds of jobs.

New Mexico Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Oct 2003	Sep 2003	Oct 2002	Sep 2003	Oct 2002
Civilian Labor Force	897,900	900,400	883,400	-2,500	+14,500
Employment	843,500	845,700	835,100	-2,200	+ 8,400
Unemployment	54,400	54,700	48,300	-300	+ 6,100
Rate	6.1%	6.1%	5.5%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	5.8%	5.9%	5.2%		

Albuquerque MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Bernalillo, Sandoval & Valencia Counties)

The Albuquerque MSA seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.2 percent in October, up from 5.1 in September and 4.8 percent a year ago. The number of unemployed people in the Albuquerque MSA has risen by 1,800 in the last 12 months.

Payroll employment in the Albuquerque area shrank by 500 jobs (0.1 percent) in October to 366,600. Employment declines are typical for October, when there is a temporary lull between the summer tourist activity and the busy holiday shopping season. This year, only four of the 12 industry groups gained employment over the month, while five lost employment and the remaining three stayed the same. Things should start to pick up again next month when businesses begin hiring for the upcoming holiday rush.

Over the year, 5,100 new jobs were added to the Albuquerque economy, for a modest increase of 1.4 percent. Although growth has slowed since the 1990s when year-over-year gains averaged 3.0 percent, signs of improvement have been evident in recent months. Growth rates have remained in positive territory since July 2002, following 10 consecutive months of over-the-year declines. A few industries particularly stand out in terms of their yearly growth rates, most notably construction, leisure & hospitality, and educational & health services.

Construction has made a remarkable turnaround in the last few months, rising from the bottom of the heap to become the fastest growing industry in the Albuquerque area. Since last October, the industry has added 1,500 jobs and grown 6.5 percent, its strongest increase in over two years. The current growth trend stems largely from a resurgence of home building in the Albuquerque area, thanks to the availability of low interest rates and expanded opportunities for first-time home buyers.

Employment in leisure & hospitality has grown a strong 4.0 percent (1,400 jobs) in the last 12 months, largely due to continued growth in the restaurant business. In the last couple of years, Albuquerque has gained national recognition as a hot spot for franchise operations and has consequently attracted a number of large new restaurants to the area, many employing 100 workers or more.

Though slowing somewhat in the last two months, growth in educational & health services remained relatively strong at 3.1 percent. Since January 2001, over-the-year growth has averaged 5.4 percent, despite an economic slowdown during part of that time. In comparison, overall payroll employment averaged less than one percent growth during the same period. A sustained demand for health services has helped this sector weather economic storms that have caused other industries to founder.

Retail trade grew at a more moderate rate of 1.2 percent over the year, after slowing somewhat in the last couple of months. All of the increase came from general merchandise stores and building material & garden equipment stores. Moderate growth was also seen in government, which rose 1.1 percent (800 jobs) due largely to an increase in state government employment. Growth of 100 in local government was offset by an equal decline in federal government employment. The miscellaneous category of *other services*, which includes repair shops, personal services, and membership organizations, grew 2.6 percent. In professional & business services, growth has slowed from over 2 percent during the summer months to less than 1 percent in October. The slowdown was mostly due to a decline in temporary help agencies, which offset an expansion in scientific research & development.

Three industries—information, manufacturing, and financial activities—have lost employment over the year. The information sector has been weakened by an industry-wide restructuring in telecommunications and is now at its lowest level since early 1999. This industry also includes some telemarketing firms, which may be forced to reduce employment in the next few months due to the implementation of a national do not call list in October.

Manufacturing fell 2.4 percent (600 jobs), making 28 straight months of over-the-year losses. Still, this is a vast improvement from 2002 when annual declines reached upwards of 12 percent. This industry had been racked by a series of layoffs in the previous two years but has remained fairly steady since the beginning of 2003.

Two industries remained unchanged over the year. These were wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing, & utilities.

Albuquerque	Prel.		Revised		Change From	
	<u>Oct 2003</u>	<u>Sep 2003</u>	<u>Oct 2002</u>	<u>Sep 2003</u>	<u>Oct 2002</u>	
Seasonally Adjusted						
Civilian Labor Force	399,500	400,600	393,500	-1,100	+6,000	
Employment	378,900	380,100	374,700	-1,200	+4,200	
Unemployment	20,600	20,500	18,800	+100	+1,800	
Rate	5.2%	5.1%	4.8%			
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	5.2%	5.3%	4.8%			

Las Cruces MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Doña Ana County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Las Cruces MSA was 7.0 percent in October 2003, down slightly from September's rate of 7.2 percent. A year ago the area's unemployment rate was 6.6 percent.

The Las Cruces economy gained 400 jobs in October 2003. Most of the new jobs were government workers in local school districts and at state run-colleges, notably New Mexico State University. Two private sector industries added 100 jobs each and two others lost 100 jobs each. Both construction and professional & business services added jobs in October. Leisure & hospitality and health services lost jobs during the month.

Over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces area continues at a rate that is higher than for any other area of the state, currently 3.0 percent. Record enrollment at New Mexico State University has provided a boost for state government employment. Health services is one of the fastest growing private sector industry components. It seems that fierce competition between Memorial Hospital and Mountain View Medical Center has led to increased employment. Overall the area has added 1,800 new jobs since this time last year. Six industries have contributed to the job gain, five mostly smaller industries have stayed at last year's employment level, and one industry has lost a small number of jobs.

State government, which in Las Cruces is dominated by New Mexico State University, has grown 4.5 percent over the year, adding 400 jobs. This increase in state government employment boosts total government employment 2.0 percent, even with rela-

tively flat employment growth in the other branches of government, including the loss of 100 federal government jobs over the year.

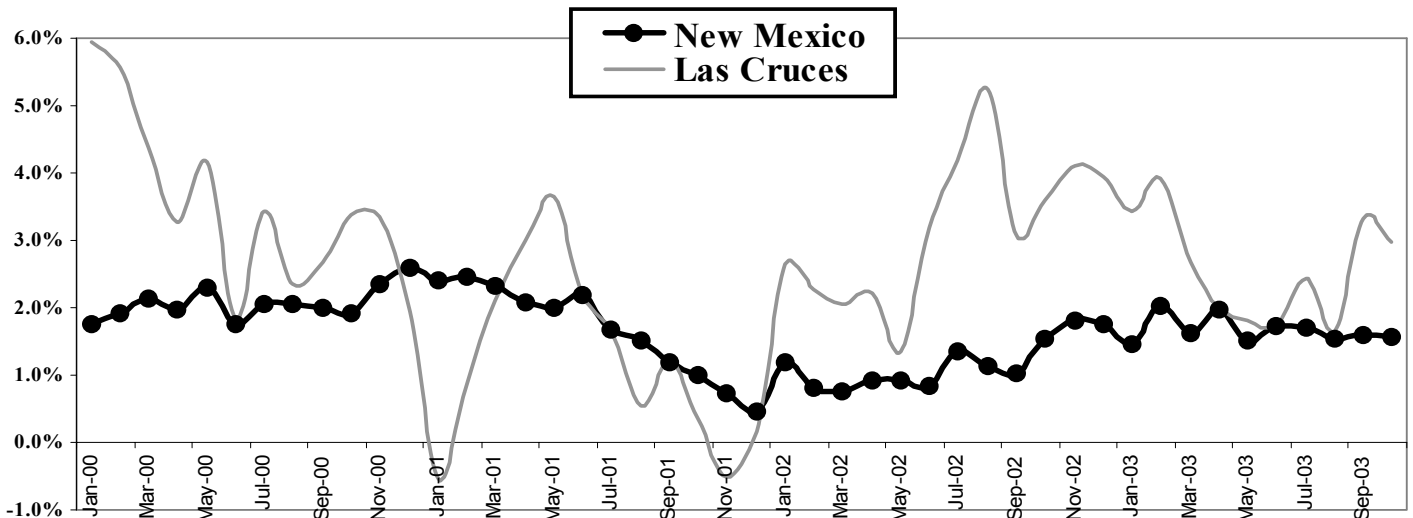
As mentioned earlier, the educational and health services industry has added the most employment, increasing 700 jobs since last year. The new jobs are working at the area's hospitals as well as in home health care.

The area's construction employment had for a while been lagging the rest of the state, but has now caught up with the increases seen elsewhere. The natural resources, mining and construction industry (mostly construction employment in Las Cruces), gained 300 jobs, growing at a high rate of 8.8 percent. Retail trade has, for a while, done better in Las Cruces than in elsewhere in the state. The industry has increased by 200 jobs since last year, growing 3.0 percent. Leisure and hospitality industries also increased 200 jobs, all working in food service and drinking places. The increase makes for a 4.3 percent increase in food service and drinking places. Transportation, warehousing & utilities added 100 jobs.

Five other industries reported employment levels unchanged from last year. Those industries were manufacturing, wholesale trade, information, professional and business services, and other services. Only one industry, financial activities, reported employment that was lower than a year ago.

Las Cruces Seasonally Adjusted	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Oct 2003	Sep 2003	Oct 2002	Sep 2003	Oct 2002
Civilian Labor Force	79,900	79,700	77,600	+200	+2,300
Employment	74,300	74,000	72,500	+300	+1,800
Unemployment	5,600	5,700	5,100	-100	+500
Rate	7.0%	7.2%	6.6%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	6.2%	6.4%	5.7%		

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Las Cruces



Santa Fe MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Santa Fe & Los Alamos Counties)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Santa Fe MSA was 3.3 percent in October 2003, unchanged from the rate in September. A year ago the area's unemployment rate was 2.6 percent. The Santa Fe MSA still has one of the lowest rates of unemployment in the state.

The number of jobs in the Santa Fe area was unchanged in October 2003 compared to the previous month. The seasonal loss of 300 jobs in the leisure and hospitality industry was offset by the addition of 100 jobs in each of three industries: retail trade, education, and government. The government employment change was the combined result of an increase of 200 local government jobs and the loss of 100 federal government jobs.

Over-the-year job growth in the Santa Fe area continues to be below the statewide average, as it has since April. Job growth currently stands at 1.3 percent, which is below the statewide rate of 1.6 percent and also below a 3.3 percent average for Santa Fe earlier this year, which proved unsustainable for the long term. The Santa Fe area has added 1,000 jobs since this time last year.

Looking at the overall job market, employment growth in the government sector has fallen to less than half the rate in the private sector. Of the eleven private sector industries, four have lost employment and two others have remained at the same level. That leaves five remaining private sector industries that have contributed to the overall rate of job growth.

Those five growth industries have managed to add enough jobs to keep the overall rate at a reasonable level.

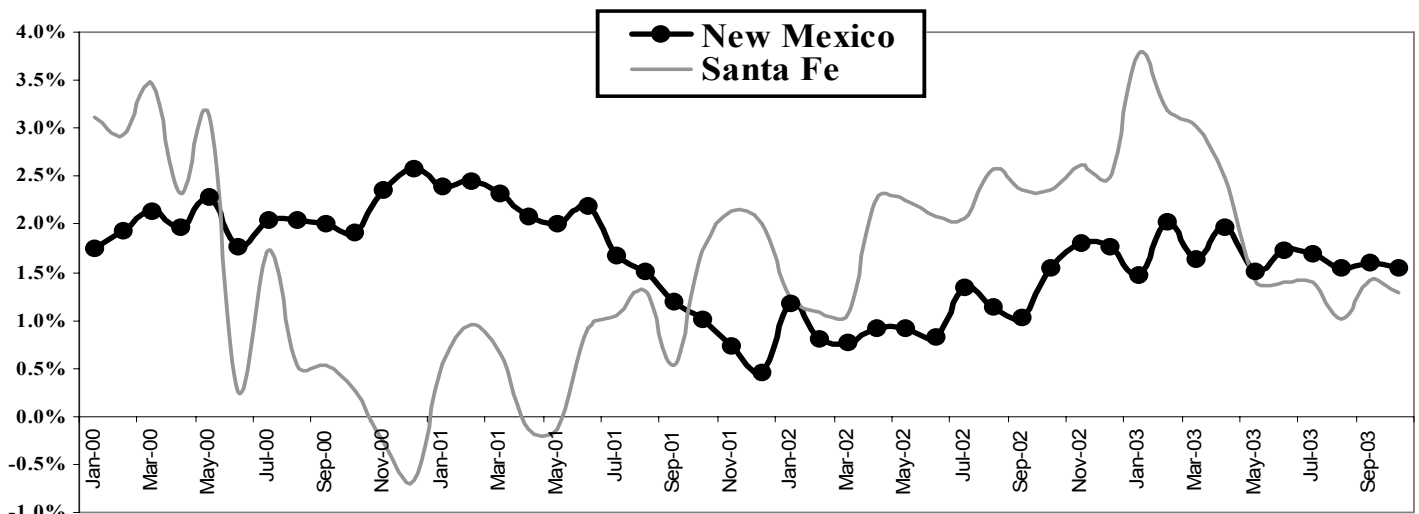
The educational and health services industry has added more jobs than any other industry, increasing 400 jobs since this time last year. The increase came entirely from health care and social assistance employment. Professional and business services has done better in Santa Fe than elsewhere in the state, adding 300 jobs. *Other services* remained strong, adding 200 jobs, growing 6.5 percent. This industry includes establishments such as automotive repair shops and church-run youth programs. Retail trade added another 200 jobs over the year, growing 2.2 percent. The financial activities industry added 100 jobs.

Wholesale trade and information were the two industries to keep employment levels the same as last year's levels. Both of these industries have stagnated in Santa Fe for a while.

Many of the four industries with declining employment are dealing with long-standing difficulties. Transportation, warehousing and utilities remained down 100 jobs for the fifth month in a row. Manufacturing employment was also down 100 jobs, consistent with both statewide and national trends. Going against the statewide trend, construction employment remained down 100 jobs, attributable to local conditions. Finally, the leisure and hospitality industry has lost 100 jobs since last year.

Santa Fe	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Oct 2003</u>	<u>Sep 2003</u>	<u>Oct 2002</u>	<u>Sep 2003</u>	<u>Oct 2002</u>
Civilian Labor Force	83,800	81,900	81,400	+1,900	+2,400
Employment	81,000	79,200	79,300	+1,800	+1,700
Unemployment	2,800	2,700	2,100	+100	+700
Rate	3.3%	3.3%	2.6%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	3.4%	3.4%	2.6%		

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Santa Fe



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

		Civilian Labor Force	Employ- ment	Un- Employ- ment	Rate %	Unadj. Rate %
1983		609,000	547,000	62,000	10.2%	
1984		628,000	581,000	47,000	7.5%	
1985		644,000	587,000	57,000	8.9%	
1986		678,000	616,000	62,000	9.1%	
1987		682,000	622,000	60,000	8.8%	
1988		689,000	635,000	54,000	7.8%	
1989		697,000	651,000	46,000	6.6%	
1990		707,500	661,500	46,000	6.5%	
1991		725,900	674,100	51,800	7.1%	
1992		740,900	688,800	52,100	7.0%	
1993		756,000	697,800	58,200	7.7%	
1994		778,100	729,300	48,800	6.3%	
1995		791,000	741,400	49,600	6.3%	
1996		797,900	733,600	64,300	8.1%	
1997		814,200	763,300	50,900	6.3%	
1998		831,100	779,700	51,400	6.2%	
1999		809,100	763,600	45,500	5.6%	
2000		854,600	812,300	42,300	5.0%	
2001		861,500	819,800	41,700	4.8%	
2002		877,600	829,800	47,800	5.4%	
2002	JAN	868,000	822,400	45,600	5.3%	5.5%
	FEB	870,300	823,500	46,800	5.4%	5.3%
	MAR	872,300	825,000	47,300	5.4%	5.3%
	APR	873,800	826,100	47,700	5.5%	5.2%
	MAY	875,900	827,700	48,200	5.5%	5.4%
	JUN	877,700	829,200	48,500	5.5%	6.6%
	JUL	880,000	831,100	48,900	5.6%	5.9%
	AUG	879,700	831,500	48,200	5.5%	5.4%
	SEP	880,300	831,900	48,400	5.5%	5.4%
	OCT	883,400	835,100	48,300	5.5%	5.2%
	NOV	884,800	836,600	48,200	5.4%	5.2%
	DEC	885,000	837,200	47,800	5.4%	5.0%
2003	JAN	890,600	838,900	51,700	5.8%	6.1%
	FEB	891,500	839,800	51,700	5.8%	5.7%
	MAR	893,600	841,000	52,600	5.9%	5.7%
	APR	895,700	843,200	52,500	5.9%	5.6%
	MAY	898,100	844,400	53,700	6.0%	5.9%
	JUN	900,900	847,400	53,500	5.9%	7.0%
	JUL	902,500	847,300	55,200	6.1%	6.5%
	AUG	898,700	844,300	54,400	6.1%	6.0%
	SEP	900,400	845,700	54,700	6.1%	5.9%
	OCT	897,900	843,500	54,400	6.1%	5.8%
	NOV					
	DEC					
# CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	-2,500	-2,200	-300	0.0%	-0.1%
	Year Ago	14,500	8,400	6,100	0.6%	0.6%
	2 Yrs. Ago	35,700	24,800	10,900	1.1%	1.0%
	3 Yrs. Ago	31,800	20,100	11,700	1.2%	1.2%
% CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	-0.3%	-0.3%	-0.5%		
	Year Ago	1.6%	1.0%	12.6%		
	2 Yrs. Ago	4.1%	3.0%	25.1%		
	3 Yrs. Ago	3.7%	2.4%	27.4%		

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

State	Rank	October 2002	October 2003	Change	% Change
Nevada	1	1,063.6	1,098.7	35.1	3.3%
Georgia	2	3,914.7	3,985.4	70.7	1.8%
Idaho	3	576.3	586.4	10.1	1.8%
Hawaii	4	560.6	570.4	9.8	1.7%
New Mexico	5	771.7	783.7	12.0	1.6%
Florida	6	7,233.4	7,329.3	95.9	1.3%
Arizona	7	2,287.1	2,316.2	29.1	1.3%
Alaska	8	298.7	302.5	3.8	1.3%
Wyoming	9	249.4	252.1	2.7	1.1%
Vermont	10	304.1	306.9	2.8	0.9%
South Dakota	11	383.1	385.2	2.1	0.5%
Nebraska	12	914.5	919.5	5.0	0.5%
New Jersey	13	4,016.2	4,038.0	21.8	0.5%
Rhode Island	14	485.1	487.7	2.6	0.5%
Delaware	15	667.8	671.3	3.5	0.5%
Virginia	16	3,523.0	3,537.2	14.2	0.4%
North Dakota	17	335.5	336.8	1.3	0.4%
Maryland	18	2,493.1	2,501.8	8.7	0.3%
Texas	19	9,462.3	9,492.7	30.4	0.3%
Montana	20	402.3	403.2	0.9	0.2%
New Hampshire	21	623.2	624.5	1.3	0.2%
Kansas	22	1,347.5	1,350.3	2.8	0.2%
Tennessee	23	2,681.8	2,686.7	4.9	0.2%
Wisconsin	24	2,807.7	2,811.2	3.5	0.1%
Washington	25	2,689.0	2,691.9	2.9	0.1%
Utah	26	1,078.3	1,079.4	1.1	0.1%
North Carolina	27	3,870.8	3,872.1	1.3	0.0%
Louisiana	28	1,907.5	1,907.0	-0.5	0.0%
Iowa	29	1,460.6	1,460.2	-0.4	0.0%
Mississippi	30	1,133.2	1,132.0	-1.2	-0.1%
Maine	31	614.0	613.1	-0.9	-0.1%
United States		131,297.0	131,071.0	-226.0	-0.2%
California	32	14,543.7	14,512.1	-31.6	-0.2%
Minnesota	33	2,676.7	2,669.6	-7.1	-0.3%
Arkansas	34	1,158.2	1,155.0	-3.2	-0.3%
Pennsylvania	35	5,696.0	5,679.7	-16.3	-0.3%
New York	36	8,492.0	8,466.6	-25.4	-0.3%
Missouri	37	2,693.8	2,682.1	-11.7	-0.4%
Oklahoma	38	1,488.4	1,480.9	-7.5	-0.5%
West Virginia	39	737.0	733.1	-3.9	-0.5%
Kentucky	40	1,796.8	1,783.6	-13.2	-0.7%
Alabama	41	1,897.9	1,881.9	-16.0	-0.8%
DC	42	416.7	413.1	-3.6	-0.9%
Colorado	43	2,182.6	2,163.2	-19.4	-0.9%
Oregon	44	1,595.6	1,579.6	-16.0	-1.0%
Illinois	45	5,950.7	5,890.9	-59.8	-1.0%
Indiana	46	2,929.4	2,898.1	-31.3	-1.1%
Connecticut	47	1,674.1	1,655.2	-18.9	-1.1%
Ohio	48	5,484.4	5,419.3	-65.1	-1.2%
Massachusetts	49	3,266.6	3,219.4	-47.2	-1.4%
Michigan	50	4,534.0	4,464.5	-69.5	-1.5%
South Carolina	51	1,825.0	1,788.4	-36.6	-2.0%

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

Employment numbers are not seasonally adjusted.

Employment numbers are in thousands.

Unemployment Rates in New Mexico (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

PRELIMINARY OCTOBER 2003		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	14.4%
GRANT	2	13.4%
MORA	3	11.4%
TAOS	4	9.9%
DE BACA	5	9.3%
CHAVES	6	8.3%
CATRON	7	7.8%
MCKINLEY	8	7.7%
COLFAX	9	7.1%
OTERO	10	7.0%
RIO ARRIBA	11	7.0%
SAN JUAN	12	6.9%
HIDALGO	13	6.7%
GUADALUPE	14	6.4%
SAN MIGUEL	15	6.3%
LAS CRUCES MSA 2/	16	6.2%
EDDY	17	6.0%
CIBOLA	18	5.8%
STATEWIDE		5.8%
SOCORRO	19	5.7%
QUAY	20	5.3%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	21	5.2%
TORRANCE	22	4.9%
LEA	23	4.4%
LINCOLN	24	4.1%
SIERRA	25	4.0%
CURRY	26	3.7%
SANTA FE MSA 3/	27	3.4%
HARDING	28	3.2%
UNION	29	3.0%
ROOSEVELT	30	2.7%

REVISED SEPTEMBER 2003		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
LUNA	1	14.8%
GRANT	2	13.8%
DE BACA	3	10.5%
MORA	4	10.0%
TAOS	5	9.9%
CHAVES	6	8.0%
CATRON	7	7.8%
MCKINLEY	8	7.8%
SAN JUAN	9	7.5%
COLFAX	10	7.2%
EDDY	11	7.2%
GUADALUPE	12	7.1%
OTERO	13	7.1%
RIO ARRIBA	14	7.0%
SAN MIGUEL	15	6.9%
HIDALGO	16	6.4%
LAS CRUCES MSA 2/	17	6.4%
CIBOLA	18	6.2%
STATEWIDE		5.9%
SOCORRO	19	5.7%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	20	5.2%
QUAY	21	5.0%
TORRANCE	22	4.9%
HARDING	23	4.8%
LEA	24	4.6%
SIERRA	25	4.1%
CURRY	26	3.7%
LINCOLN	27	3.7%
SANTA FE MSA 3/	28	3.4%
ROOSEVELT	29	3.1%
UNION	30	2.7%

REVISED OCTOBER 2002		
AREAS	RANK	RATE
GRANT	1	11.9%
MORA	2	11.4%
LUNA	3	11.3%
TAOS	4	8.7%
CHAVES	5	7.8%
OTERO	6	6.9%
GUADALUPE	7	6.8%
RIO ARRIBA	8	6.3%
EDDY	9	6.2%
SAN MIGUEL	10	6.1%
SAN JUAN	11	5.9%
MCKINLEY	12	5.8%
LAS CRUCES MSA 2/	13	5.8%
CATRON	14	5.5%
SOCORRO	15	5.2%
STATEWIDE		5.2%
CIBOLA	16	5.1%
COLFAX	17	5.1%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	18	4.8%
QUAY	19	4.7%
LEA	20	4.6%
TORRANCE	21	3.9%
CURRY	22	3.7%
SIERRA	23	3.7%
LINCOLN	24	3.4%
HIDALGO	25	3.4%
ROOSEVELT	26	3.3%
HARDING	27	3.2%
DE BACA	28	3.0%
SANTA FE MSA 3/	29	2.6%
UNION	30	2.5%

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

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County

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

Need Labor Market Information?

We have several major publications detailing New Mexico's:

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www.dol.state.nm.us

Unemployment Rate by State (Seasonally Adjusted)

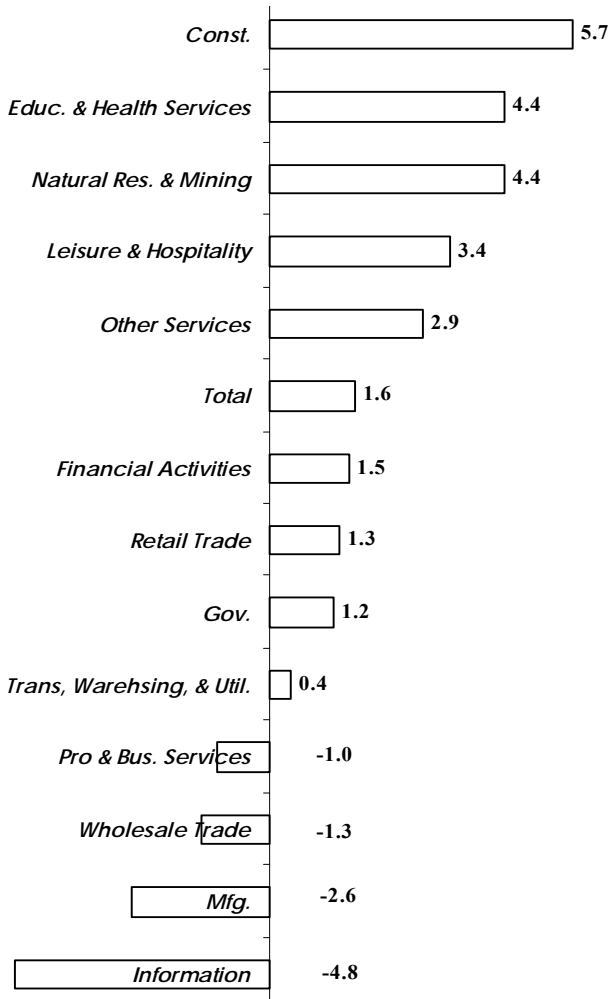
Preliminary		October 2003
State	Rank	Rate
Michigan	1	7.6
Oregon	2	7.6
Alaska	3	7.3
South Carolina	4	7.1
Washington	5	7.0
District of Columbia	6	6.7
Illinois	7	6.7
California	8	6.6
Texas	9	6.5
Arkansas	10	6.2
New York	11	6.2
New Mexico	12	6.1
North Carolina	13	6.1
United States		6.0
West Virginia	14	5.9
Mississippi	15	5.7
New Jersey	16	5.7
Alabama	17	5.6
Massachusetts	18	5.6
Ohio	19	5.6
Colorado	20	5.5
Kentucky	21	5.5
Louisiana	22	5.5
Tennessee	23	5.5
Pennsylvania	24	5.4
Wisconsin	25	5.4
Idaho	26	5.3
Oklahoma	27	5.3
Missouri	28	5.2
Indiana	29	5.1
Maine	30	5.1
Arizona	31	5.0
Nevada	32	5.0
Connecticut	33	4.9
Florida	34	4.8
Kansas	35	4.7
Utah	36	4.7
Minnesota	37	4.6
Iowa	38	4.5
Rhode Island	39	4.4
New Hampshire	40	4.3
Georgia	41	4.2
Hawaii	42	4.2
Montana	43	4.2
Maryland	44	4.1
Delaware	45	4.0
Vermont	46	4.0
Wyoming	47	3.9
Nebraska	48	3.8
North Dakota	49	3.6
Virginia	50	3.5
South Dakota	51	3.1

Revised		October 2002
State	Rank	Rate
Alaska	1	8.2
Oregon	2	7.2
Washington	3	7.1
Mississippi	4	7.0
California	5	6.8
Illinois	6	6.8
North Carolina	7	6.6
Texas	8	6.5
District of Columbia	9	6.4
New York	10	6.2
West Virginia	11	6.2
Arizona	12	6.1
Louisiana	13	6.1
Michigan	14	6.1
Utah	15	6.1
New Jersey	16	6.0
South Carolina	17	6.0
Alabama	18	5.9
Colorado	19	5.8
Idaho	20	5.8
United States		5.8
Pennsylvania	21	5.7
Ohio	22	5.6
Arkansas	23	5.5
Massachusetts	24	5.5
Missouri	25	5.5
New Mexico	26	5.5
Wisconsin	27	5.5
Kentucky	28	5.4
Rhode Island	29	5.4
Florida	30	5.3
Georgia	31	5.3
Kansas	32	5.2
Indiana	33	5.0
New Hampshire	34	5.0
Tennessee	35	5.0
Nevada	36	4.9
Montana	37	4.6
Connecticut	38	4.5
Maine	39	4.5
Oklahoma	40	4.5
Delaware	41	4.3
Minnesota	42	4.3
North Dakota	43	4.3
Iowa	44	4.2
Maryland	45	4.2
Wyoming	46	4.2
Hawaii	47	3.9
Virginia	48	3.9
Vermont	49	3.7
Nebraska	50	3.5
South Dakota	51	2.9

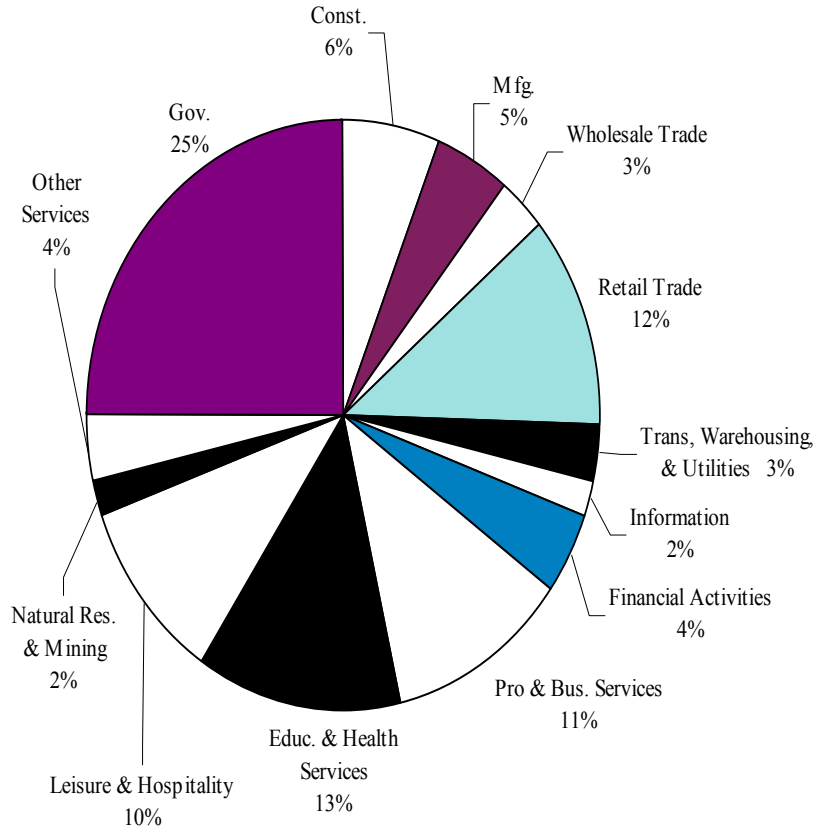
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Annual Growth Rates by Industry



NAICS Industries October 2003



New Mexico and Albuquerque Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary	Revised	Revised	Change	
	Oct-03	Sep-03	Oct-02	Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	783,700	784,200	771,700	-500	12,000
GOODS PRODUCING	100,100	100,400	97,900	-300	2,200
SERVICES-PROVIDING	683,600	683,800	673,800	-200	9,800
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	14,200	14,100	13,600	100	600
<i>Oil & Gas Extraction, Well Drilling</i>	10,500	10,400	9,700	100	800
<i>Mining, Except Oil and Gas</i>	3,600	3,600	3,800	0	-200
CONSTRUCTION	48,400	48,400	45,800	0	2,600
Construction of Buildings	13,500	13,300	13,100	200	400
<i>Residential Building Construction</i>	7,200	7,000	6,700	200	500
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	8,700	8,800	8,800	-100	-100
Specialty Trade Contractors	26,200	26,300	23,900	-100	2,300
MANUFACTURING	37,500	37,900	38,500	-400	-1,000
Durable Goods	25,700	25,800	26,600	-100	-900
<i>Computer and Electronic Products</i>	10,800	10,800	11,000	0	-200
<i>Semiconductor and Other Electronics</i>	7,700	7,700	7,800	0	-100
Non-Durable Goods	11,800	12,100	11,900	-300	-100
WHOLESALE TRADE	22,300	22,400	22,600	-100	-300
RETAIL TRADE	91,600	91,500	90,400	100	1,200
<i>Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers</i>	12,500	12,500	12,400	0	100
<i>Food and Beverage Stores</i>	13,000	13,100	13,800	-100	-800
<i>General Merchandise Stores</i>	20,300	20,200	19,200	100	1,100
<i>Department Stores</i>	6,600	6,500	7,800	100	-1,200
<i>Other General Merchandise Stores</i>	13,800	13,800	11,400	0	2,400
<i>Miscellaneous Store Retailers</i>	7,100	7,100	7,000	0	100
<i>Nonstore Retailers</i>	2,700	2,700	2,800	0	-100
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	23,400	23,000	23,300	400	100
Utilities	4,000	3,900	4,000	100	0
Transportation and Warehousing	19,400	19,100	19,300	300	100
<i>Truck Transportation</i>	6,700	6,600	6,700	100	0
INFORMATION	16,000	16,500	16,800	-500	-800
<i>Telecommunications</i>	7,600	7,800	8,000	-200	-400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	34,300	34,400	33,800	-100	500
Finance and Insurance	24,000	24,000	23,500	0	500
<i>Credit Intermediation and Related Activities</i>	12,600	12,600	11,900	0	700
<i>Insurance Carriers and Related Activities</i>	9,600	9,700	9,700	-100	-100
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,300	10,400	10,300	-100	0
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	89,100	90,000	90,000	-900	-900
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	40,900	41,000	39,500	-100	1,400
<i>Architectural, Engineering, and Related</i>	10,500	10,700	10,700	-200	-200
<i>Scientific Research and Development</i>	13,100	13,100	12,700	0	400
Management of Companies and Enterprises	5,000	5,100	5,400	-100	-400
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services	43,200	43,900	45,100	-700	-1,900
<i>Employment Services</i>	17,200	17,600	18,400	-400	-1,200
<i>Business Support Services</i>	5,300	5,600	6,400	-300	-1,100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	100,700	99,700	96,500	1,000	4,200
Educational Services	13,200	12,600	13,000	600	200
Health Care and Social Assistance	87,500	87,100	83,500	400	4,000
Ambulatory Health Care Services	33,300	33,400	31,200	-100	2,100
<i>Offices of Physicians</i>	9,700	9,900	9,800	-200	-100
<i>Outpatient Care Centers</i>	5,100	5,200	5,000	-100	100
<i>Home Health Care Services</i>	8,900	8,800	6,800	100	2,100
Hospitals	21,300	21,000	20,700	300	600
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	12,800	12,900	12,600	-100	200
<i>Nursing Care Facilities</i>	6,600	6,500	6,600	100	0
Social Assistance	20,100	19,800	19,000	300	1,100
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	81,800	83,900	79,100	-2,100	2,700
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7,300	7,600	6,600	-300	700
Accommodation and Food Services	74,500	76,300	72,500	-1,800	2,000
Accommodation	13,600	13,900	13,600	-300	0
Food Services and Drinking Places	60,900	62,400	58,900	-1,500	2,000
<i>Full-Service Restaurants</i>	29,100	29,600	28,700	-500	400
<i>Limited-Service Eating Places</i>	25,000	25,500	24,300	-500	700
OTHER SERVICES	28,400	28,600	27,600	-200	800
<i>Repair and Maintenance</i>	7,600	7,700	7,100	-100	500
GOVERNMENT	196,000	193,800	193,700	2,200	2,300
Federal Government	29,900	30,300	30,000	-400	-100
State Government 2/	67,600	67,000	66,400	600	1,200
<i>State Government Education</i>	28,800	27,400	28,200	1,400	600
Local Government	98,500	96,500	97,300	2,000	1,200
<i>Local Government Education</i>	53,700	51,900	53,100	1,800	600

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

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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

ALBUQUERQUE	Preliminary Oct-03	Revised Sep-03	Revised Oct-02	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	366,600	367,100	361,500	-500	5,100
GOODS PRODUCING	48,900	48,800	48,000	100	900
SERVICES-PROVIDING	317,700	318,300	313,500	-600	4,200
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING & CONSTRUCTION	24,600	24,500	23,100	100	1,500
<i>Specialty Trade Contractors</i>	15,300	15,200	13,800	100	1,500
MANUFACTURING	24,300	24,300	24,900	0	-600
<i>Computer and Electronic Products</i>	10,200	10,200	10,400	0	-200
<i>Semiconductor and Other Electronics</i>	7,500	7,500	7,500	0	0
WHOLESALE TRADE	13,200	13,400	13,200	-200	0
RETAIL TRADE	42,100	41,900	41,600	200	500
<i>Building Material and Garden Equipment</i>	4,000	4,100	3,800	-100	200
<i>Food and Beverage Stores</i>	4,800	4,900	5,100	-100	-300
<i>General Merchandise Stores</i>	8,500	8,300	7,700	200	800
<i>Department Stores</i>	3,700	3,600	3,900	100	-200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	10,400	10,400	10,400	0	0
<i>Transportation and Warehousing</i>	9,700	9,700	9,700	0	0
INFORMATION	10,100	10,400	10,500	-300	-400
<i>Telecommunications</i>	5,600	5,800	5,800	-200	-200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	18,800	19,200	18,900	-400	-100
<i>Finance and Insurance</i>	13,500	13,800	13,500	-300	0
<i>Credit Intermediation and Related Activities</i>	5,800	5,800	5,400	0	400
<i>Depository Credit Intermediation</i>	3,900	3,900	3,700	0	200
<i>Insurance Carriers</i>	5,000	5,000	5,100	0	-100
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	57,800	58,100	57,400	-300	400
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	28,100	28,100	27,000	0	1,100
<i>Scientific Research and Development</i>	11,300	11,200	10,800	100	500
Management of Companies and Enterprises	4,100	4,200	4,200	-100	-100
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services	25,600	25,800	26,200	-200	-600
<i>Employment Services</i>	12,700	13,100	12,900	-400	-200
<i>Business Support Services</i>	3,000	3,100	2,900	-100	100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	43,800	43,600	42,500	200	1,300
<i>Health Care and Social Assistance</i>	38,500	38,400	37,200	100	1,300
<i>Ambulatory Health Care Services</i>	15,700	15,700	14,900	0	800
<i>Hospitals</i>	9,400	9,300	9,100	100	300
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	36,100	36,400	34,700	-300	1,400
<i>Accommodation and Food Services</i>	33,300	33,500	31,700	-200	1,600
<i>Food Services and Drinking Places</i>	28,200	28,400	26,700	-200	1,500
<i>Full-Service Restaurants</i>	13,300	13,400	12,500	-100	800
OTHER SERVICES	12,000	12,000	11,700	0	300
GOVERNMENT	73,400	72,900	72,600	500	800
Federal Government	13,900	13,900	14,000	0	-100
State Government /2	24,400	24,300	23,600	100	800
Local Government	35,100	34,700	35,000	400	100

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 Oct-03	Revised Sep-03	Revised Oct-02	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT /1	62,400	62,000	60,600	400	1,800
GOODS PRODUCING	6,800	6,700	6,500	100	300
SERVICE PRODUCING	55,600	55,300	54,100	300	1,500
NATURAL RESOURCES MINING & CONSTRUCTION	3,700	3,600	3,400	100	300
MANUFACTURING	3,100	3,100	3,100	0	0
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	6,800	6,800	6,600	0	200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	1,600	1,600	1,500	0	100
INFORMATION	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	-100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,100	5,000	5,100	100	0
<i>Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services</i>	2,500	2,400	2,500	100	0
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	9,100	9,200	8,400	-100	700
<i>Health Care & Social Assistance</i>	8,500	8,600	7,800	-100	700
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	6,300	6,400	6,100	-100	200
<i>Food Service & Drinking Places</i>	4,800	4,800	4,600	0	200
OTHER SERVICES	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0
GOVERNMENT	20,900	20,500	20,500	400	400
Federal	3,500	3,500	3,600	0	-100
State	9,300	9,000	8,900	300	400
Local	8,100	8,000	8,000	100	100

SANTA FE MSA	Preliminary Oct-03	Revised Sep-03	Revised Oct-02	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT /1	79,100	79,100	78,100	0	1,000
GOODS PRODUCING	5,800	5,800	6,000	0	-200
SERVICE PRODUCING	73,300	73,300	72,100	0	1,200
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION	4,600	4,600	4,700	0	-100
MANUFACTURING	1,200	1,200	1,300	0	-100
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	9,200	9,100	9,000	100	200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	700	700	800	0	-100
INFORMATION	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	3,400	3,400	3,300	0	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	8,900	8,900	8,600	0	300
<i>Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt & Remediation Services</i>	4,500	4,600	4,400	-100	100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	9,200	9,100	8,800	100	400
<i>Health Care & Social Assistance</i>	7,200	7,200	6,800	0	400
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	9,200	9,500	9,300	-300	-100
<i>Food Service & Drinking Places</i>	6,000	6,100	5,900	-100	100
OTHER SERVICES	3,300	3,300	3,100	0	200
GOVERNMENT	27,300	27,200	27,100	100	200
Federal	1,400	1,500	1,500	-100	-100
State /2	18,300	18,300	18,200	0	100
Local	7,600	7,400	7,400	200	200

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

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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

- Seasonally Adjusted -

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Oct-03	Revised Sep-03	Monthly Change
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	778,300	778,500	-200
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	14,100	13,900	200
CONSTRUCTION	47,400	47,400	0
MANUFACTURING	36,500	35,900	600
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	136,500	136,800	-300
INFORMATION (Not Seasonally Adjusted)	16,000	16,500	-500
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	34,300	34,300	0
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	88,700	89,100	-400
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	99,400	98,900	500
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	81,700	82,500	-800
OTHER SERVICES	29,400	29,500	-100
GOVERNMENT	194,300	193,700	600

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

Labor Market Report

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Phone: (505) 841-8673

Average Hours and Earnings

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

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Oct 03	Sep 03	Oct 02	Oct 03	Sep 03	Oct 02	Oct 03	Sep 03	Oct 02
NEW MEXICO									
NATURAL RES. & MINING	\$761.67	\$767.63	\$758.03	43.9	44.5	44.2	17.35	17.25	17.15
CONSTRUCTION	\$607.62	\$601.90	\$582.23	40.4	40.1	39.5	15.04	15.01	14.74
MANUFACTURING	\$508.47	\$516.89	\$522.85	40.1	40.1	39.7	12.68	12.89	13.17
WHOLESALE TRADE	\$513.81	\$528.30	\$494.67	34.3	35.6	34.4	14.98	14.84	14.38
RETAIL TRADE	\$328.81	\$338.50	\$306.87	32.3	32.8	31.8	10.18	10.32	9.65
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	\$503.68	\$512.77	\$481.57	35.9	36.6	36.4	14.03	14.01	13.23
ALBUQUERQUE MSA									
MANUFACTURING	\$552.03	\$568.74	\$597.12	39.8	39.8	38.9	13.87	14.29	15.35

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

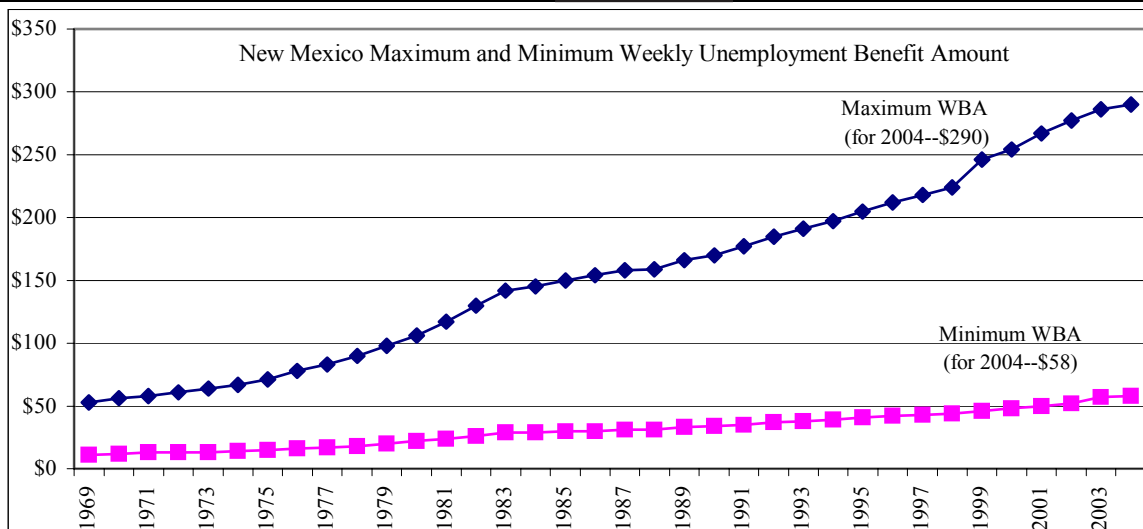
	Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100			PERCENT CHANGE	
	Oct 03	Sep 03	Oct 02	Month to Month	Year to Year
CPI-U	185.0	185.2	181.3	-0.1%	2.0%
CPI-W	180.7	181.0	177.3	-0.2%	1.9%

*CPI-U - All Urban Consumers

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

New Mexico Unemployment Insurance

	Oct-03	Sep-03	Oct-02	Percent Change	
				from Sept-03	from Oct-02
CLAIMS ACTIVITIES					
Initial Claims	6,137	5,056	6,999	21.4%	-12.3%
Continued Claims #	53,265	60,940	51,938	-12.6%	2.6%
Insured Unemployed #	12,851	12,835	12,316	0.1%	4.3%
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%		
PAYMENT ACTIVITIES					
First Payments	2,587	2,443	2,541	5.9%	1.8%
Final Payments	1,252	1,307	1,121	-4.2%	11.7%
Weeks Compensated	43,592	51,616	42,506	-15.5%	2.6%
Net Benefit Payments	\$9,421,822	\$11,191,535	\$9,142,940	-15.8%	3.1%
Average WBA**	\$207.72	\$207.64	\$204.20	0.0%	1.7%
Average Duration (weeks)**	17.6	17.6	16.9	0.1%	4.3%
Exhaustion Rate **	43.43%	43.52%	40.26%		
TRUST FUND BALANCE, September 2003	\$538,131,533				



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

For computation method of weekly benefit amount please contact Actuarial Research.
 Source: NMDOL, UI Bureau Actuarial Research Unit.
 (505) 841-9062 or
 RMoskowitz@state.nm.us

New Mexico Area Economic Activity

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

Statewide:

An article about the state's financial incentives for film production in the September 30 issue of **The Los Angeles Times** gave New Mexico's film industry a big boost. The article in California's largest newspaper described film producer Tova Laiter's positive experience in New Mexico during the recently completed production of *iElvis Has Left The Building*.¹ The state's film office reports receiving a substantial number of calls generated by the article.

The state's Industrial Development Training Program approved In-Plant training funds for four companies at the October board meeting. Albuquerque's **Lovlace Respiratory Research Institute** will receive about \$391,700 to hire 37 employees in research job classifications. Other companies that were provided with training funds include: **FSMLabs**, who will hire four employees for its Socorro facility. **Pony Carburetors** of Las Cruces received \$47,704 to train 10 employees (see story below). Roswell's **Strategic Data Services**, a company that specializes in computer data scanning and data storage, will receive \$559,805 to add 62 people to its workforce.

The State Investment Council voted to invest \$7 million to fund a biomedical plant in Carlsbad. **TCI Medical** will operate a facility on 27 acres in Carlsbad's Aero-Tech Park. When opened, the plant will employ about 25 people (see story below.) A status report on the progress of the management buyout of the **Phillips Semiconductor** facility by **Mesa Semiconductors** was also given to the Council. According to a staff member of the State Investment Office, the deal is on hold pending a signed agreement between the two parties.

Albuquerque Area, Bernalillo County:

Fuji Heavy Industries, parent to Subaru Motors, will use the patented stir welding process to manufacture wing assemblies for **Eclipse Aviation's** Eclipse 500 aircraft. As part of the agreement between FHI and Eclipse, FHI is licensed to use the stir welding process for other applications. Stir welding is a process of structural joining that eliminates the need for traditional rivets and reportedly produces a joint that is both stronger and lighter.

The development and revitalization of the old Albuquerque High School is continuing. Currently, 98.5 percent of the 70 completed lofts in the Lofts at Albuquerque High are leased. An additional 56 residences in four new buildings are scheduled for completion between December 2003 and February 2004. Project developers **Paradigm and Company** are starting construction of the Gym Lofts this month and expect to complete another 55 residences by summer 2004.

Tempur-Pedic announced plans to build a 530,000-square-foot mattress manufacturing facility near Albuquerque's Nine Mile Hill. Construction of the \$56 million facility will start in spring 2004. The facility may employ up to 300 workers when it opens in 2005.

East Mountain Area, Bernalillo County:

According to developer Dennis Roberts, ground breaking for the long delayed **Village at Bella Vista** project will begin soon. The \$4.6 million development will be on six acres immediately south of the now-closed Bella Vista restaurant. The project will create a 40,000-square-foot complex for retail shopping and service. Some of the project's tenants include a restaurant, a grocery store, a hair salon and a health club.

Raton Area, Colfax County:

Stolar Horizon will receive \$3.5 million from the federal government to continue development of two projects that interest the Defense Department. The projects are follow-on to Stolar's research in creating a system for subsurface detection of coal deposits. One of the projects is for robotic land mine detection; the other is to explore the location and characteristics of underground facilities.

Las Cruces Area, Doña Ana County:

The **Excell call center** in Las Cruces will close on December 12. The center has given its 320 employees a sixty-day notice of the closure. The company says that wages in the Las Cruces area were not cost-effective.

Pony Carburetors is relocating from Cazenovia, New York, to Las Cruces. The company restores carburetors for early Ford Mustangs and other classic Ford and General Motors vehicles. A new 8,400-square-foot facility will be built to accommodate the company's operations. Three staff members will move from New York, and the company will hire 8 to 12 local employees.

Artesia Area, Eddy County:

The number of commercial airline pilots trained to carry firearms at the **Federal Law Enforcement Training Center** in Artesia will double next year. The Federal Flight Deck Officer training program will train 96 pilots a week starting in January next year. The training program was recently relocated to Artesia from Glynco, Georgia.

Carlsbad Area, Eddy County:

The Carlsbad Aero-Tech Park may soon be home to a new nuclear medicine production facility. **TCI Medical**, a biotech company based in Albuquerque, wants to start building a facility to produce radiopharmaceuticals by the end of 2003. The radioisotopes would

have very short half-lives and would be produced in concrete bunkers and hot cells. TCI notes that the production would not pose a danger to Carlsbad area residents. About 25 employees with degrees in chemistry, biochemistry and other science degrees will be needed at startup, and their wages will average about \$58,000 per year.

Hobbs Area, Lea County:

In the first nine months of 2003, **construction in Hobbs** has set a new record. About \$21.5 million in new construction has been built, exceeding the old record of \$20 million for all of 2001. According to Hobbs City Commissioner, John Boyd, "There are more houses going up right now than there have been in the past 15 years."

Denver-based **Tom Brown Inc.** has picked up several hundred oil and gas wells in Lea and Eddy counties as part of its acquisition of Matador Petroleum. Most of the wells are natural gas wells and are estimated to contain significant gas reserves.

Los Alamos Area, Los Alamos County:

Budget constraints were cited as the reason 20 jobs were cut by **KSL**, the support services contractor for Los Alamos National Laboratories. KSL announced the cuts of some non-union employees including administrative assistants, clerks and managers.

Deming Area, Luna County:

The **Food Basket** grocery store in Deming is closing. No formal closing date has been announced, but some services were discontinued in mid-October. The Food Basket is owned by W&N Enterprises, which also owns grocery and convenience stores in Bayard, Silver City and Deming. Employees of the Deming Food Basket may be offered jobs at other stores in the chain.

Gallup Area, McKinley County:

City planning officials report that **construction in Gallup is booming** with 176 building permits issued by August of this year. Over \$16 million in new privately funded construction projects were started in Gallup from January through September of this year. Federal monies fund two other major ongoing construction projects: the county courthouse renovation and the expansion of the Gallup Indian Medical Center.

Rio Rancho Area, Sandoval County:

About 75 construction jobs and about 100 full time jobs could be created if the Rio Rancho City Council approves a \$2.7 million industrial revenue bond for **U.S. Cotton**. The bond would be used to fund the building of a 36,700-square-foot facility that would manufacture paper sticks for cotton swabs. If approved, the facility will be built at 590 Laser and could be finished by next March.

Farmington Area, San Juan County:

Farmington's first **Best Buy** retail electronics store opened at 3520 East Main in Farmington. The new 20,000-square-foot store features a large selection of name-brand consumer electronic products including computers and home entertainment systems. Best Buy has hired 75 full- and part-time employees to staff the new store. The Farmington store is the fifth New Mexico store in the Best Buy chain.

Socorro Area, Socorro County:

A proposed renovation of the **Val Verde Hotel and Steakhouse** will enlarge and reopen the property as a hotel once again. The hotel is currently rented out as apartments. The planned renovation will enlarge the hotel from the existing 40 rooms to 100 rooms and will add retail shops to the hotel courtyard area. The Val Verde Steakhouse restaurant also will receive a major facelift. As many as 200 people could be employed by the hotel and restaurant when the project is completed.

Moriarty Area, Torrance County:

Job interviews for the **Sandia Cigarette** manufacturing plant started in mid-October. Don Peckingham, the plant owner, says he intends to start operations in mid-November. The plant will open with about 20 workers and can manufacture about 3,000 cigarettes a minute. The state of New Mexico will receive \$9.10 in taxes for every carton of cigarettes distributed within the state.

Los Lunas Area, Valencia County:

The **Village of Los Lunas** was awarded a \$1.23 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to build a transportation center. The center would serve as a hub, linking bus, train and park-and-ride commuter services. Plans for the transportation center include the construction of a 5,000-square-foot train station with shops and space for future development of restaurants, office space and additional shops.



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NEW MEXICO OCCUPATIONAL NEEDS

Oct-03

OCCUPATIONAL VACANCIES <i>Reported by Workforce Development Centers 1/</i>		OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS - TOP 10 <i>Projected 2000-2010 2/</i>	
SURPLUSES		FASTEST GROWING	MOST OPENINGS
		New Mexico	
Casino Workers	Administrative Assistants	Computer Support Specialists	Janitors & Cleaners
Correctional Officers	Cashiers	Computer Software Engineers	Elementary School Teachers
Counselors, Substance Abuse	Construction Workers	Social & Human Service Assistants	Secondary School Teachers
Electricians, Journeymen	Fast Food Workers	Special Education Teachers, Elementary	Exec. Secretaries/Admin. Assistants
Home Health Aides	General Office Clerks	Speech-Language Pathologists	Security Guards
Mechanics, Automotive	Laborers, General	Respiratory Therapists	Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners
Nurses, RN/LPN's	Receptionists	Cardiovascular Technologists & Techs	Counter Attendants
Physical Therapists	Retail Sales Clerks	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Mat'l. Movers
Plumbers, Journeymen	Secretaries	Medical Assistants	Computer Support Specialists
Social Workers, Licensed	Waiters/Waitresses	Physical Therapist Aides	Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants
Teachers, Certified			
Truck Drivers, CDL			
		Albuquerque MSA	
Casino Workers	Administrative Assistants	Computer Software Engineers, Apps.	Sales Representatives, Wholesale
Cooks	Cashiers/Checkers	Social & Human Service Assistants	Home Health Aides
Customer Service Reps, Bi-lingual	Construction Workers	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	Automotive Service Technicians
Electricians, Journeyman	Fast Food Workers	Respiratory Therapy Technicians	Fitness Trainers & Aerobic Instructors
Engineers, Chemical	General Office Clerks	Special Education Teachers, Elementary	Supervisors of Retail Sales
Engineers, Software	Laborers, General	Physical Therapist Aides	Clinical & School Psychologists
Home Health Aides	Office Managers	Medical Assistants	Correctional Officers & Jailors
Hotel Workers	Receptionists	Speech-Language Pathologists	Supervisors of Housekeepers
Mechanics, Automotive	Retail Sales Clerks	Art, Drama, & Music Teachers, Postsec.	Training & Development Specialists
Nurses, RN's/LPN's	Secretaries	Respiratory Therapists	Printing Machine Operators
Physical Therapists	Waiters/Waitresses		
Project Directors			
Social Workers, Licensed			
Speech Pathologists			
Truck Drivers, CDL			
Warehouse Workers			
		Santa Fe MSA	
Correctional Officers	Administrative Assistants	Special Education Teachers, Elementary	Cashiers
Engineering Technicians	Administrative Secretaries	Computer Software Engineers, Appl.	Combined Food Prep & Service Workers
HVAC Technicians	Bank Tellers	Computer Software Engineers, Systems	Maids & Housekeepers
Mechanics, Automotive	Bookkeepers	Special Education Teachers, Secondary	Janitors & Cleaners
Nurses, RN's/LPN's	Cashiers	Fitness Trainers & Aerobic Instructors	Executive Secretaries & Admin Assts.
Security Guards	Construction Workers	Social & Human Service Assistants	Secretaries
Sheet Metal Workers		Educational, Voc. & School Counselors	Supervisors of Retail Sales
Teachers, Elementary		Secondary School Teachers	Security Guards
Truck Drivers, CDL		Dental Assistants	Elementary School Teachers
		Medical Assistants	Correctional Officers & Jailors
		Las Cruces MSA	
Attorneys, Senior	Assemblers	Computer Software Engineers, Systems	Combned Food Prep & Service Workers
Audo Cad Operators	Cashiers	Special Education Teachers	Cashiers
Consumer Advocates	Cooks	Social & Human Service Assistants	Security Guards
Counselors, Licensed	Desk Clerks	Painters, Construction & Maintenance	Janitors & Cleaners
Electrical Technicians	Dishwashers	Drywall & Ceiling Tile Installers	Secondary School Teachers
Frame Carpenters	Telemarketers	Educational, Voc. & School Counselors	Elementary School Teachers
Public Defenders		Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters	Executive Secretaries & Admin Assts.
Residential Instructors		Secondary School Teachers	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer
Teachers		Helpers--Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters	Counter Attendants
Tile Setters		Combined Food Prep & Service Workers	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Mat'l. Movers

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New Mexico Labor Market Report
is a monthly publication from the New Mexico
Department of Labor

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