



New Mexico Labor Market Review

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HIGHLIGHTS — October 2007

...New Mexico's rate of over-the-year job growth, comparing October 2007 with October 2006, is 0.9 percent. The state has added 7,600 jobs over the last year.

...Since last October, 3,800 new jobs were added to the Albuquerque economy for a gain of 1.0 percent.

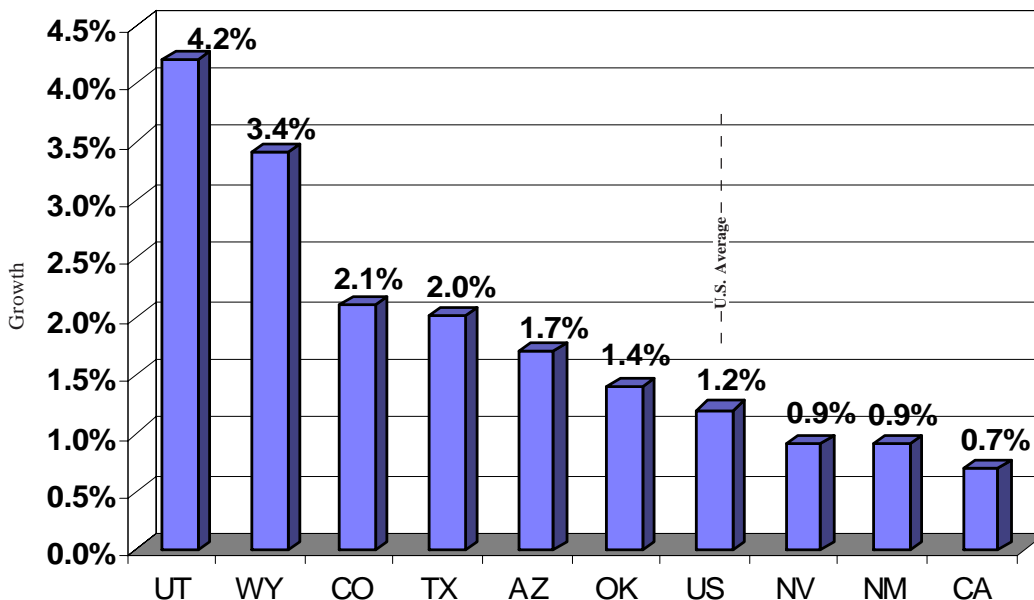
...The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces area was 2.3 percent, comparing October 2007 with the same month a year ago. The Las Cruces area has added 1,600 jobs. This rate of job growth is well above the average for the state.

...Over-the-year job growth for the Santa Fe area was 3.9 percent, adding 2,500 jobs. Job growth is evident in six of the area's 12 industries.

...Over the last year, the Farmington area has added 800 jobs, growing 1.5 percent. The rate of job growth is above the average for the state.

Current Regional Nonfarm Employment Growth

October 2007 over October 2006 - Not Seasonally Adjusted



INSIDE

NM & MSA Highlights
Page 2-6

NM Household Data History
Page 7

Total Nonfarm Growth
NM Ranking
Page 7

NM Labor Force Estimates
Page 8

Unemployment Rate Rankings
by County
Page 8

Unemployment Rate
Rankings by State
Page 9

Nonfarm Employment:
State & MSAs
Page 9-12

Average Hours & Earnings
& US Consumer Price Index
Page 13

NM Economic Activity by Area
Page 14-15



New Mexico Labor Force and Payroll Employment

New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.1 percent in October 2007, down from 3.4 percent in September. The October unemployment rate hit another historic low, the third so far this year and the lowest the state's unemployment has been since the current series began in 1976. The national unemployment rate, at 4.7 percent, was considerably higher than ours. A year ago, the state's unemployment rate was 3.9 percent.

The rate of over-the-year job growth, comparing October 2007 with October 2006, is 0.9 percent. The state has added 7,600 jobs over the last year, and we rank 30th highest for job growth among the states. Job growth has weakened since peaking at 3.6 percent in June 2006. The state saw more than two years of job growth above two percent from October 2004 to January 2007. Current levels are below the long-term trend and the lowest we have seen in over four years.

The goods-producing sectors of mining, manufacturing, and construction account for most of the slowing growth, while the services-providing industries exhibit only a slight loss of momentum. Current conditions show construction employment 1.3 percent lower than last year, compared to double-digit growth a year ago. The last time the construction industry saw sustained losses was when several large construction projects in Albuquerque ended back in 2002. Weakness in semiconductor manufacturing has impacted the entire manufacturing industry, with vast layoffs widely reported by the media. Mining employment has reached levels that are about as high as that industry can sustain, compared to a year ago when expansion was rapid.

Three industries stand out by having growth rates above three percent. Natural resources & mining, despite slowing growth, still managed to grow 3.6 percent, adding 700 jobs, which is significant, but well below the 2,000 jobs added as recently as the summer of 2006. The educational & health services industry is always reliable for adding jobs, up 3.4 percent, adding 3,700 jobs. This industry is so large that even moderate job growth translates into a considerable number of new jobs. The transportation, warehousing & utilities industry reported growth of 3.3 percent over the year, adding 800 jobs.

The leisure & hospitality industry continues to do fairly well, increasing 1.4 percent, adding 1,200 jobs. Most of the new jobs are at eating and drinking places. The professional & business services industry, which now includes Los Alamos National Laboratory, has added just 400 jobs, equating to job growth of under one percent since last year. Press reports highlight the loss of jobs at Los Alamos National Laboratory as well as contractors at the lab. The miscellaneous *other services* category added 200 jobs. Financial activities employment added 400 jobs since last year, continuing a slight improvement from the recent weak employment trend dating back to July of last year. The small wholesale trade industry added 200 jobs, and the much larger retail trade industry added 1,200 jobs.

The information industry had been the fastest growing industry in the state, but the industry is now struggling to match last year's high employment levels. Currently, the information industry is reporting 100 fewer jobs than last year, a 0.6 percent decrease. During times of intensive film work, employment in the state's film industry has been as many 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 employment levels set in the spring of 2001.

Government employment has increased at a rate that is below the average for the private sector, adding just 1,400 jobs. The new jobs are mostly in state government, but there were also small gains in local government. Federal government employment declined slightly.

New Mexico				Change From	
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Oct 2007</u>	<u>Sep 2007</u>	<u>Oct 2006</u>	<u>Sep 2007</u>	<u>Oct 2006</u>
Civilian Labor Force	946,500	949,500	939,400	-3,000	+7,100
Employment	917,600	916,800	902,400	+800	+15,200
Unemployment	28,900	32,700	37,100	-3,800	-8,200
Rate	3.1%	3.4%	3.9%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	2.8%	3.3%	3.7%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Albuquerque MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance & Valencia Counties)

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in the Albuquerque MSA was 2.9 percent in October 2007, down one half of a percentage point from September. The unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in October 2006.

Payroll employment in the Albuquerque area shrank by 1,100 jobs (0.3 percent) in October to 399,100. 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 three of the 12 industry groups gained employment over the month, while five lost employment and the remaining four stayed the same. Things will likely pick up again next month when businesses begin hiring for the upcoming holiday rush.

Since last October, 3,800 new jobs were added to the Albuquerque economy for a gain of 1.0 percent. Over-the-year growth has diminished substantially from the rates posted in 2006.

Educational & health services added 1,300 jobs since October 2006. This industry continues to play a major role in the Albuquerque economy, employing more workers than any other private sector industry except professional & business services. Since the start of 2005, employment growth has remained relatively consistent, ranging from 2.1 to 4.1 percent. This follows a robust performance in 2004 when growth rates averaged 5.2 percent.

Government gained 900 jobs over the year, growing 1.1 percent. Local government added 500 jobs and state government 400, while federal government employment remained at last year's level. Government comprises about 20 percent of all nonfarm wage and salary employment in the Albuquerque area, employing nearly 81,000 workers.

Leisure & hospitality also added 900 jobs since last October, posting growth of 2.3 percent. Employment growth has slowed from its most recent peak of 6.1 percent in July 2006, but the industry has still managed to equal or exceed 3.0 percent growth in 11 of the 15 subsequent months.

Retail trade gained 800 jobs over the year, growing 1.8 percent. Growth has moderated over the past five months following a very slow period beginning in late 2005 and extending through the first few months of 2007. Retail trade includes big box retailers like Wal-Mart and Target.

Weakness continued in professional & business services as Albuquerque's largest private sector industry added just 700 jobs for growth of 1.1 percent. Growth reached a recent peak of 5.1 percent in October 2006 but has since declined steadily, falling below 1.5 percent for each of the past five months.

The miscellaneous category of *other services* increased employment by 400 jobs, growing 3.3 percent, while information added 300 jobs for 3.2 percent growth. Information employment has grown more than 11 percent over the past two years, adding 1,000 jobs to the area's economy. As existing operations expand and new companies enter the market, the rapidly developing motion picture and sound recording component is expected to be an important source of future job growth.

Transportation, warehousing, & utilities employment also rose by 300 jobs or 2.8 percent. The industry has recorded total employment of 10,900 for three consecutive months, marking the highest level since a peak of 11,000 in December 2002. The only other industry to increase employment was financial activities, which added 100 jobs over the year.

Manufacturing employment was down 1,600 jobs or 6.6 percent, largely due to layoffs at Intel. Employment in construction slipped by 100 jobs or 0.3 percent, marking the eighth month of over-the-year declines in 2007. The current slowdown began in late 2006 as housing construction slowed and several large construction projects were completed. Wholesale trade employment was also down, falling by 200 jobs or 1.5 percent from last October.

Albuquerque	Change From				
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Oct 2007</u>	<u>Sep 2007</u>	<u>Oct 2006</u>	<u>Sep 2007</u>	<u>Oct 2006</u>
Civilian Labor Force	409,600	411,600	406,000	-2,000	+3,600
Employment	397,600	397,600	391,200	0	+6,400
Unemployment	12,000	14,000	14,900	-2,000	-2,900
Rate	2.9%	3.4%	3.7%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	2.9%	3.5%	3.6%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Las Cruces MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Doña Ana County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Las Cruces MSA was 3.2 percent in October 2007, down from 3.6 percent in September. A year ago, the area's unemployment rate was 4.3 percent.

During October, 500 government jobs returned to the Las Cruces economy with the continuing arrival of students to institutions of learning. In the private sector, employment declined by 100 jobs, making for an overall gain of 400 jobs in all sectors. Local government added 100 jobs, and state government, which includes New Mexico State University, gained 400 jobs.

The rate of over-the-year job growth for the Las Cruces area was 2.3 percent, comparing October 2007 with the same month a year ago. The Las Cruces area has added 1,600 jobs. This rate of job growth is well above the average for the state.

The educational & health services industry gained more jobs than any other industry, adding 600 jobs, increasing 5.9 percent. Growth in the leisure & hospitality industry added 300 jobs to last year's levels. Professional & business services reported employment that was 200 jobs higher than last October.

Construction employment has done well for many years in the local area, currently increasing 100 jobs from year-ago levels. Retail trade added 100 jobs, as did the transportation, warehousing, & utilities industry.

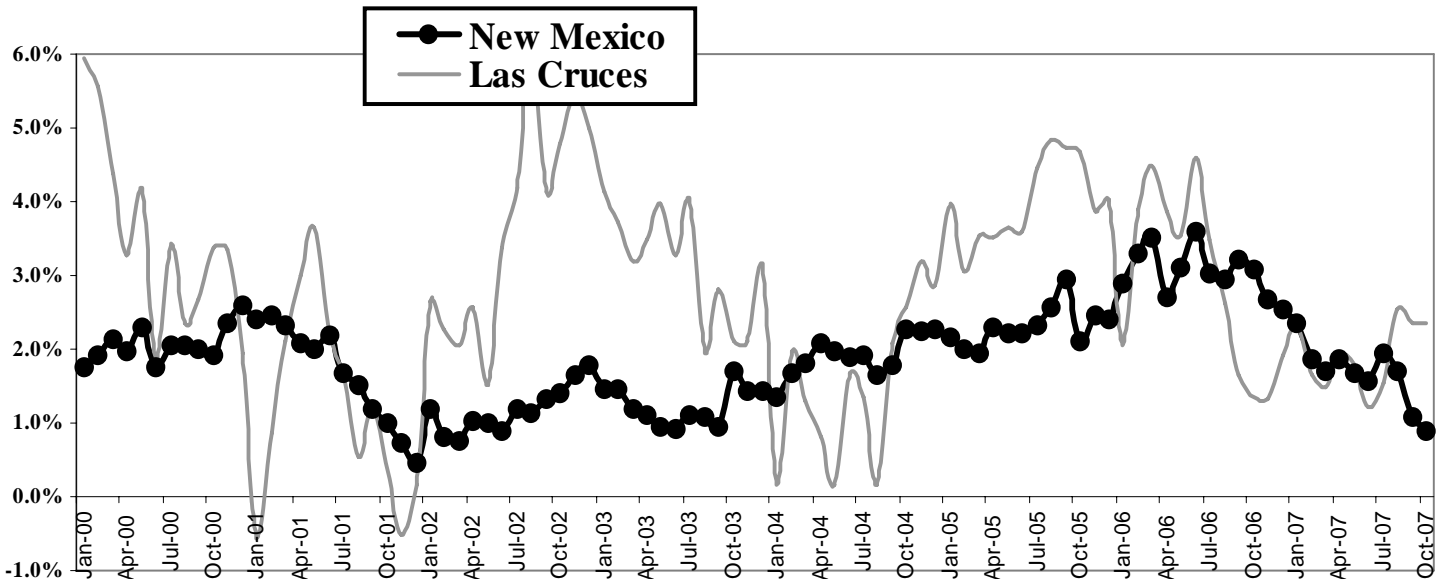
Government employment reported 400 more jobs than last year, with increases in federal, state, and local government employment. Two industries reported reduced employment compared to year-ago levels, as manufacturing and information each lost 100 jobs.

Three remaining industries reported employment levels that were unchanged from last year. Those industries were wholesale trade, financial activities, and miscellaneous *other services*.

Las Cruces			Change From		
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Oct 2007</u>	<u>Sep 2007</u>	<u>Oct 2006</u>	<u>Sep 2007</u>	<u>Oct 2006</u>
Civilian Labor Force	87,200	87,300	86,300	-100	+900
Employment	84,400	84,200	82,600	+200	+1,800
Unemployment	2,800	3,100	3,700	-300	-900
Rate	3.2%	3.6%	4.3%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	2.9%	3.4%	3.9%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Las Cruces



Santa Fe MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(Santa Fe County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Santa Fe was 2.3 percent in October 2007, down from 2.8 percent in September. A year ago, the area had an unemployment rate of 3.2 percent.

The Santa Fe area lost 700 jobs in October 2007 at the very end of the summer tourist season and also after filming ended for a large local production. The information industry lost 1,000 temporary film industry jobs that were only added the previous month. The leisure & hospitality industry had 200 fewer jobs than last month, with losses at area hotels and restaurants. The professional & business services industry, retail trade, and educational & health services industries each lost 100 jobs. Government jobs increased by 200, with gains reported at the local government level.

Over-the-year job growth for Santa Fe was 3.9 percent, adding 2,500 jobs. Job growth is evident in six of the area's 12 industries.

The information industry gained 700 jobs, which is more than any other individual industry in the local area. The gain resulted from remaining activity in the state's film industry

from a large production that peaked recently. Educational & health services reported 600 more jobs than a year ago.

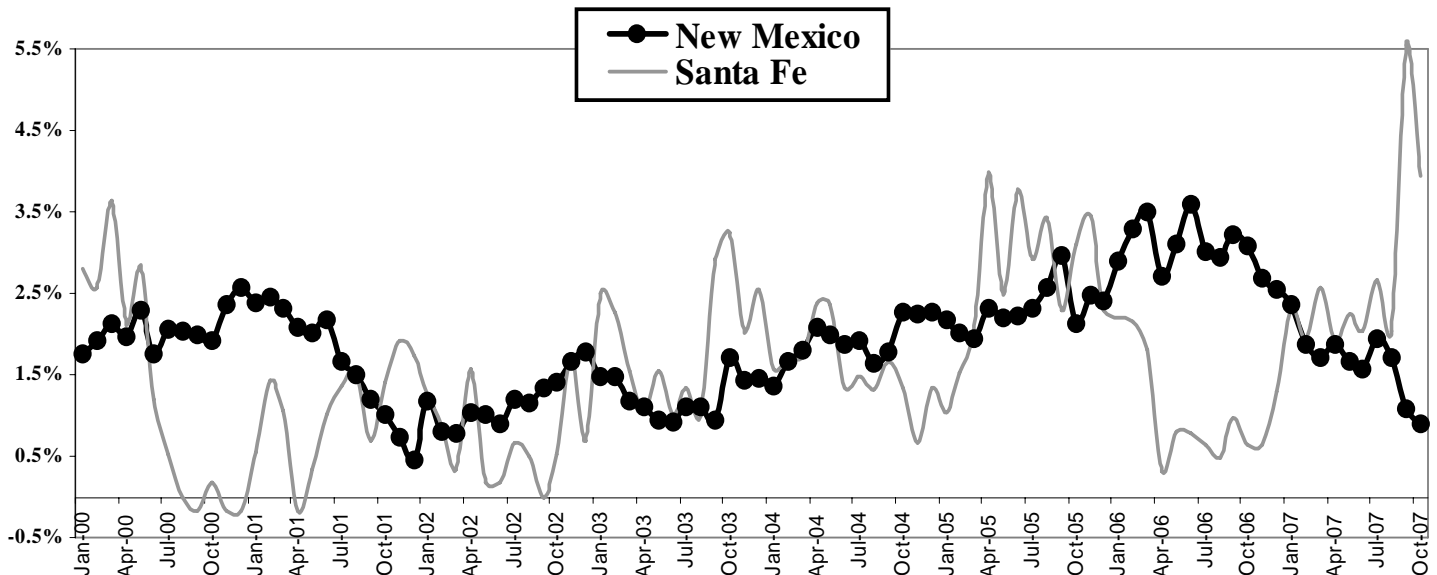
Santa Fe's professional & business services industry gained 300 jobs since last year. The leisure & hospitality industry reported 200 more jobs than a year ago, as did retail trade.

Six industries maintained employment at last year's levels. Those industries were wholesale trade; transportation, warehousing, & utilities; construction; financial activities; manufacturing; and the miscellaneous *other services* industry. Government employment increased by 500 jobs in local government, but showed no growth in state or federal government.

Santa Fe	Change From				
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	<u>Oct 2007</u>	<u>Sep 2007</u>	<u>Oct 2006</u>	<u>Sep 2007</u>	<u>Oct 2006</u>
Civilian Labor Force	79,000	77,800	77,000	+1,200	+2,000
Employment	77,200	75,700	74,500	+1,500	+2,700
Unemployment	1,800	2,100	2,500	-300	-700
Rate	2.3%	2.8%	3.2%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	2.3%	2.8%	3.1%		

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Santa Fe



Farmington MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

(San Juan County)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Farmington was 2.6 percent in October 2007, down from 3.0 percent in September. A year ago, the area had an unemployment rate of 3.9 percent.

The Farmington area reported employment levels in all industries that were unchanged from the previous month. This is fairly common this time of year when few seasonal changes take place.

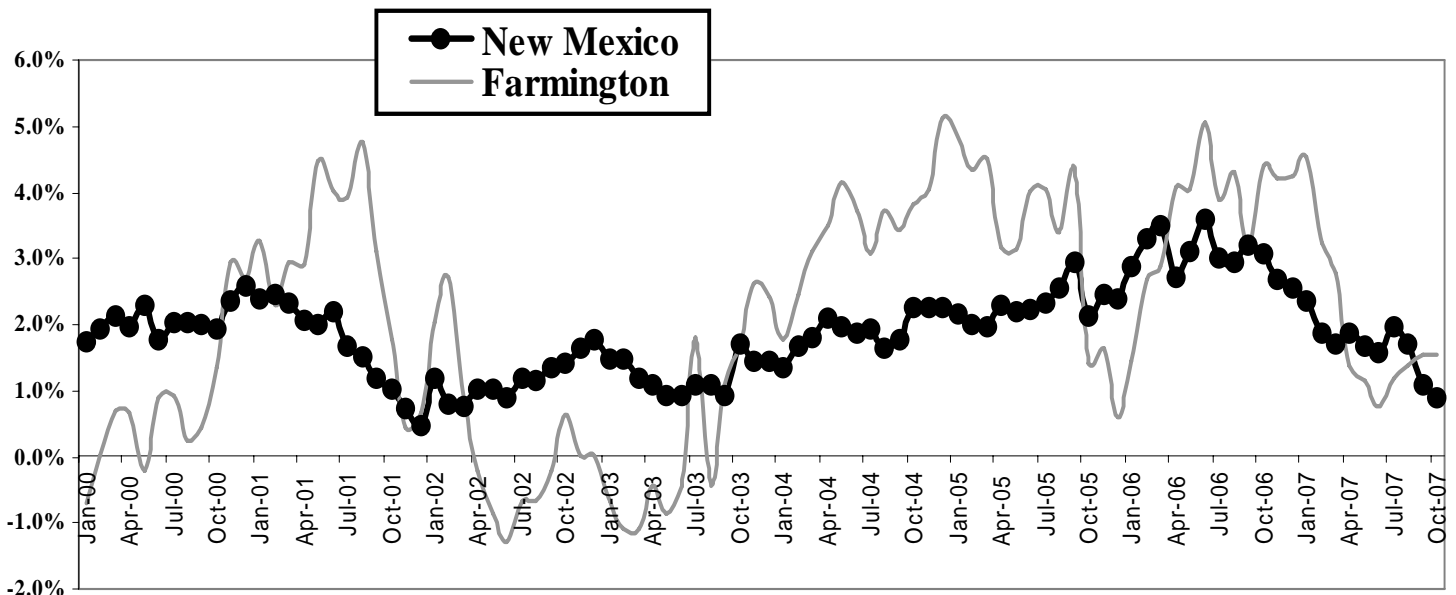
Over the last year, the Farmington area has added 800 jobs, growing 1.5 percent. The rate of job growth is above the average for the state. Substantial fluctuation in the growth rate from month-to-month is fairly typical for a small metro area like Farmington. Job growth peaked in the local area in December 2004 when the over-the-year rate of job growth reached 5.1 percent. Job growth reached this peak again in June 2006, matching the highest increase in jobs since mid-1995. The outlook for job growth in the area remains favorable, and the Farmington MSA continues to have a strong job market.

Goods-producing industries have added 700 jobs, growing 6.0 percent over the year. Private services-providing industries have added 300 jobs over the year, growing 1.1 percent. Government employment has been sluggish for a while and currently shows 200 fewer local government jobs and no change in the number of state or federal jobs.

Farmington	Change From				
Seasonally Adjusted	Oct 2007	Sep 2007	Oct 2006	Sep 2007	Oct 2006
Civilian Labor Force	56,300	57,400	56,100	-1,100	+200
Employment	54,900	55,600	54,000	-700	+900
Unemployment	1,400	1,700	2,200	-300	-800
Rate	2.6%	3.0%	3.9%		
Rate (not seasonally adjusted)	2.4%	3.0%	3.6%		

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		935,400	895,600	39,700	4.2%	
2006	JAN	927,500	883,600	43,900	4.7%	4.7%
	FEB	930,900	887,700	43,200	4.6%	4.9%
	MAR	933,000	890,700	42,400	4.5%	4.3%
	APR	932,500	890,900	41,600	4.5%	4.4%
	MAY	934,400	893,600	40,900	4.4%	4.3%
	JUN	936,800	896,700	40,100	4.3%	5.0%
	JUL	935,500	896,100	39,400	4.2%	4.8%
	AUG	936,400	897,800	38,600	4.1%	4.1%
	SEP	939,700	901,900	37,800	4.0%	3.9%
	OCT	939,400	902,400	37,100	3.9%	3.7%
	NOV	939,100	902,800	36,300	3.9%	3.6%
	DEC	939,000	903,500	35,500	3.8%	3.3%
2007	JAN	937,200	901,800	35,400	3.8%	3.9%
	FEB	938,500	905,500	33,000	3.5%	3.7%
	MAR	937,800	903,000	34,800	3.7%	3.6%
	APR	938,100	904,000	34,100	3.6%	3.5%
	MAY	946,100	911,100	35,000	3.7%	3.6%
	JUN	937,500	907,000	30,400	3.2%	3.8%
	JUL	944,700	910,100	34,600	3.7%	4.2%
	AUG	941,200	905,300	35,900	3.8%	3.8%
	SEP	949,500	916,800	32,700	3.4%	3.3%
	OCT	946,500	917,600	28,900	3.1%	2.8%
	NOV					
	DEC					
# CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	-3,000	800	-3,800	-0.3%	-0.5%
	Year Ago	7,100	15,200	-8,200	-0.8%	-0.9%
	2 Yrs. Ago	26,500	43,800	-17,300	-1.9%	-2.0%
	3 Yrs. Ago	38,700	61,100	-22,400	-2.6%	-2.6%
% CHANGE FROM						
	Month Ago	-0.3%	0.1%	-11.6%		
	Year Ago	0.8%	1.7%	-22.1%		
	2 Yrs. Ago	2.9%	5.0%	-37.4%		
	3 Yrs. Ago	4.3%	7.1%	-43.7%		

State	Rank	October 2006	October 2007	Change	% Change
Utah	1	1,223.9	1,275.3	51.4	4.2%
Wyoming	2	281.5	291.0	9.5	3.4%
Montana	3	438.8	453.5	14.7	3.4%
Louisiana	4	1,889.2	1,931.3	42.1	2.2%
Colorado	5	2,294.4	2,341.6	47.2	2.1%
Texas	6	10,173.6	10,380.7	207.1	2.0%
Washington	7	2,904.3	2,962.0	57.7	2.0%
Georgia	8	4,112.5	4,192.3	79.8	1.9%
Hawaii	9	620.5	632.2	11.7	1.9%
Idaho	10	653.7	665.0	11.3	1.7%
New Hampshire	11	645.3	656.3	11.0	1.7%
North Carolina	12	4,076.9	4,145.2	68.3	1.7%
Arizona	13	2,692.7	2,737.5	44.8	1.7%
South Dakota	14	404.2	410.9	6.7	1.7%
Virginia	15	3,752.0	3,808.2	56.2	1.5%
Iowa	16	1,520.6	1,543.3	22.7	1.5%
Delaware	17	690.0	700.3	10.3	1.5%
North Dakota	18	361.6	366.8	5.2	1.4%
Oklahoma	19	1,570.8	1,592.7	21.9	1.4%
Nebraska	20	955.8	969.0	13.2	1.4%
Kansas	21	1,378.7	1,397.7	19.0	1.4%
Florida	22	8,038.3	8,148.9	110.6	1.4%
South Carolina	23	1,919.6	1,945.8	26.2	1.4%
Mississippi	24	1,156.1	1,171.5	15.4	1.3%
Alabama	25	1,994.6	2,019.4	24.8	1.2%
Connecticut	26	1,692.5	1,712.9	20.4	1.2%
United States		137,643.0	139,261.0	1,618.0	1.2%
Maryland	27	2,608.5	2,637.1	28.6	1.1%
Massachusetts	28	3,278.2	3,312.7	34.5	1.1%
Alaska	29	313.3	316.5	3.2	1.0%
New Mexico	30	843.7	851.3	7.6	0.9%
New York	31	8,711.2	8,788.9	77.7	0.9%
Nevada	32	1,298.8	1,310.3	11.5	0.9%
Tennessee	33	2,799.2	2,823.1	23.9	0.9%
Pennsylvania	34	5,816.9	5,864.8	47.9	0.8%
Oregon	35	1,731.5	1,745.3	13.8	0.8%
Rhode Island	36	502.1	506.1	4.0	0.8%
Wisconsin	37	2,891.3	2,912.2	20.9	0.7%
California	38	15,222.8	15,332.1	109.3	0.7%
Missouri	39	2,799.4	2,819.3	19.9	0.7%
Kentucky	40	1,855.0	1,867.6	12.6	0.7%
Illinois	41	5,999.3	6,036.9	37.6	0.6%
Maine	42	622.0	625.8	3.8	0.6%
New Jersey	43	4,103.1	4,127.1	24.0	0.6%
Arkansas	44	1,210.3	1,215.4	5.1	0.4%
Vermont	45	311.3	312.6	1.3	0.4%
West Virginia	46	763.2	765.8	2.6	0.3%
Indiana	47	3,011.5	3,020.5	9.0	0.3%
DC	48	439.2	440.2	1.0	0.2%
Minnesota	49	2,789.7	2,792.1	2.4	0.1%
Ohio	50	5,483.7	5,471.8	-11.9	-0.2%
Michigan	51	4,382.4	4,306.3	-76.1	-1.7%

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/

	OCTOBER 2007				SEPTEMBER 2007				OCTOBER 2006			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	949,182	922,701	26,481	2.8%	948,604	916,870	31,734	3.3%	940,439	905,795	34,644	3.7%
Albuquerque MSA 2/	409,193	397,383	11,810	2.9%	409,909	395,751	14,158	3.5%	405,629	391,016	14,613	3.6%
Bernalillo	317,372	308,623	8,749	2.8%	317,864	307,356	10,508	3.3%	314,786	303,679	11,107	3.5%
Sandoval	52,253	50,361	1,892	3.6%	52,393	50,155	2,238	4.3%	51,592	49,554	2,038	4.0%
Torrance	7,855	7,613	242	3.1%	7,876	7,582	294	3.7%	7,787	7,491	296	3.8%
Valencia	31,711	30,785	926	2.9%	31,778	30,659	1,119	3.5%	31,463	30,292	1,171	3.7%
Farmington MSA 3/	57,323	55,962	1,361	2.4%	57,356	55,650	1,706	3.0%	57,145	55,089	2,056	3.6%
Las Cruces MSA 4/	87,948	85,403	2,545	2.9%	87,489	84,547	2,942	3.4%	87,026	83,650	3,376	3.9%
Santa Fe MSA 5/	79,238	77,447	1,791	2.3%	77,302	75,125	2,177	2.8%	77,209	74,801	2,408	3.1%
Catron	1,570	1,515	55	3.5%	1,588	1,529	59	3.7%	1,593	1,518	75	4.7%
Chaves	27,952	27,175	777	2.8%	27,885	26,937	948	3.4%	27,155	26,086	1,069	3.9%
Cibola	11,732	11,347	385	3.3%	11,739	11,277	462	3.9%	11,870	11,355	515	4.3%
Colfax	6,332	6,147	185	2.9%	6,422	6,212	210	3.3%	6,289	6,027	262	4.2%
Curry	21,714	21,242	472	2.2%	21,596	21,025	571	2.6%	21,324	20,670	654	3.1%
De Baca	825	798	27	3.3%	852	823	29	3.4%	861	828	33	3.8%
Eddy	26,187	25,617	570	2.2%	26,089	25,383	706	2.7%	25,399	24,555	844	3.3%
Grant	12,734	12,370	364	2.9%	12,622	12,182	440	3.5%	12,556	12,081	475	3.8%
Guadalupe	1,861	1,778	83	4.5%	1,906	1,809	97	5.1%	1,829	1,733	96	5.2%
Harding	399	390	9	2.3%	377	368	9	2.4%	396	381	15	3.8%
Hidalgo	3,158	3,098	60	1.9%	3,087	3,013	74	2.4%	3,105	3,016	89	2.9%
Lea	28,343	27,809	534	1.9%	28,273	27,611	662	2.3%	27,143	26,397	746	2.7%
Lincoln	10,527	10,262	265	2.5%	10,615	10,322	293	2.8%	10,353	9,991	362	3.5%
Los Alamos	10,590	10,417	173	1.6%	10,735	10,514	221	2.1%	11,310	11,061	249	2.2%
Luna	13,184	12,508	676	5.1%	13,867	13,076	791	5.7%	13,355	12,498	857	6.4%
McKinley	26,809	25,908	901	3.4%	26,820	25,679	1,141	4.3%	27,046	25,681	1,365	5.0%
Mora	1,991	1,882	109	5.5%	2,017	1,887	130	6.4%	2,014	1,877	137	6.8%
Otero	26,098	25,310	788	3.0%	26,179	25,276	903	3.4%	26,275	25,262	1,013	3.9%
Quay	3,985	3,861	124	3.1%	4,116	3,966	150	3.6%	4,049	3,886	163	4.0%
Rio Arriba	21,346	20,620	726	3.4%	21,620	20,749	871	4.0%	21,795	20,887	908	4.2%
Roosevelt	9,821	9,637	184	1.9%	9,776	9,541	235	2.4%	9,588	9,324	264	2.8%
San Miguel	13,823	13,386	437	3.2%	13,558	13,047	511	3.8%	13,667	13,074	593	4.3%
Sierra	5,769	5,614	155	2.7%	5,628	5,448	180	3.2%	5,692	5,489	203	3.6%
Socorro	9,335	9,109	226	2.4%	9,386	9,128	258	2.7%	9,418	9,111	307	3.3%
Taos	17,323	16,670	653	3.8%	17,704	16,948	756	4.3%	17,342	16,498	844	4.9%
Union	2,073	2,037	36	1.7%	2,095	2,049	46	2.2%	2,007	1,952	55	2.7%

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

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

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - San Juan County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County

5/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe County

Unemployment Rates in New Mexico (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

OCTOBER 2007			SEPTEMBER 2007			OCTOBER 2006		
AREAS	RANK	RATE	AREAS	RANK	RATE	AREAS	RANK	RATE
MORA	1	5.5%	MORA	1	6.4%	MORA	1	6.8%
LUNA	2	5.1%	LUNA	2	5.7%	LUNA	2	6.4%
GUADALUPE	3	4.5%	GUADALUPE	3	5.1%	GUADALUPE	3	5.2%
TAOS	4	3.8%	TAOS	4	4.3%	MCKINLEY	4	5.0%
CATRON	5	3.5%	MCKINLEY	4	4.3%	TAOS	5	4.9%
RIO ARRIBA	6	3.4%	RIO ARRIBA	6	4.0%	CATRON	6	4.7%
MCKINLEY	6	3.4%	CIBOLA	7	3.9%	SAN MIGUEL	7	4.3%
CIBOLA	8	3.3%	SAN MIGUEL	8	3.8%	CIBOLA	7	4.3%
DE BACA	8	3.3%	CATRON	9	3.7%	RIO ARRIBA	9	4.2%
SAN MIGUEL	10	3.2%	QUAY	10	3.6%	COLFAX	9	4.2%
QUAY	11	3.1%	GRANT	11	3.5%	QUAY	11	4.0%
OTERO	12	3.0%	ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	11	3.5%	CHAVES	12	3.9%
COLFAX	13	2.9%	OTERO	13	3.4%	LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	12	3.9%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	13	2.9%	DE BACA	13	3.4%	OTERO	12	3.9%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	13	2.9%	CHAVES	13	3.4%	DE BACA	15	3.8%
GRANT	13	2.9%	LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	13	3.4%	HARDING	15	3.8%
STATEWIDE		2.8%	STATEWIDE		3.3%	GRANT	15	3.8%
CHAVES	17	2.8%	COLFAX	17	3.3%	STATEWIDE		3.7%
SIERRA	18	2.7%	SIERRA	18	3.2%	ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	18	3.6%
LINCOLN	19	2.5%	FARMINGTON MSA 2/	19	3.0%	FARMINGTON MSA 2/	18	3.6%
SOCORRO	20	2.4%	SANTA FE MSA 4/	20	2.8%	SIERRA	18	3.6%
FARMINGTON MSA 2/	20	2.4%	LINCOLN	20	2.8%	LINCOLN	21	3.5%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	22	2.3%	SOCORRO	22	2.7%	EDDY	22	3.3%
HARDING	22	2.3%	EDDY	22	2.7%	SOCORRO	22	3.3%
EDDY	24	2.2%	CURRY	24	2.6%	SANTA FE MSA 4/	24	3.1%
CURRY	24	2.2%	ROOSEVELT	25	2.4%	CURRY	24	3.1%
HIDALGO	26	1.9%	HIDALGO	25	2.4%	HIDALGO	26	2.9%
LEA	26	1.9%	HARDING	25	2.4%	ROOSEVELT	27	2.8%
ROOSEVELT	26	1.9%	LEA	28	2.3%	LEA	28	2.7%
UNION	29	1.7%	UNION	29	2.2%	UNION	28	2.7%
LOS ALAMOS	30	1.6%	LOS ALAMOS	30	2.1%	LOS ALAMOS	30	2.2%

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

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - San Juan County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe County

Unemployment Rate by State (highest to lowest)

Seasonally Adjusted

October 2007			October 2006		
State	Rank	Rate	State	Rank	Rate
Michigan	1	7.7	Michigan	1	7.1
Alaska	2	6.1	Mississippi	2	6.7
Mississippi	3	6.1	Alaska	3	6.6
Ohio	4	5.9	South Carolina	4	6.6
District of Columbia	5	5.8	District of Columbia	5	6.1
South Carolina	6	5.8	Kentucky	6	5.7
Arkansas	7	5.7	Ohio	7	5.5
California	8	5.6	Arkansas	8	5.4
Kentucky	9	5.6	Oregon	9	5.4
Missouri	10	5.6	West Virginia	10	5.2
Oregon	11	5.5	Massachusetts	11	5.1
Illinois	12	5.3	Missouri	12	5.1
Nevada	13	5.2	Rhode Island	13	5.1
Wisconsin	14	5.2	Tennessee	14	5.1
West Virginia	15	5.0	Washington	15	5.0
Rhode Island	16	4.9	Indiana	16	4.9
Maine	17	4.8	North Carolina	17	4.9
North Carolina	18	4.8	California	18	4.8
Washington	19	4.8	Texas	19	4.8
Connecticut	20	4.7	Maine	20	4.7
Georgia	21	4.7	Pennsylvania	21	4.7
Minnesota	22	4.7	Wisconsin	22	4.7
United States		4.7	Georgia	23	4.6
Indiana	23	4.6	Kansas	24	4.5
New York	24	4.6	New Jersey	25	4.4
Tennessee	25	4.6	United States		4.4
Pennsylvania	26	4.5	Connecticut	26	4.3
Oklahoma	27	4.4	Louisiana	27	4.3
Massachusetts	28	4.3	Nevada	28	4.3
Vermont	29	4.3	Colorado	29	4.2
Florida	30	4.2	New York	30	4.2
New Jersey	31	4.1	Arizona	31	4.1
Texas	32	4.1	Illinois	32	4.1
Maryland	33	4.0	Minnesota	33	4.0
Iowa	34	3.9	Oklahoma	34	4.0
Kansas	35	3.8	Maryland	35	3.9
Colorado	36	3.7	New Mexico	36	3.9
Arizona	37	3.5	Vermont	37	3.7
Delaware	38	3.4	Alabama	38	3.6
North Dakota	39	3.4	Wyoming	39	3.6
Louisiana	40	3.3	Delaware	40	3.5
Nebraska	41	3.2	Iowa	41	3.5
New Hampshire	42	3.2	New Hampshire	42	3.5
Alabama	43	3.1	Idaho	43	3.3
Montana	44	3.1	North Dakota	44	3.3
Virginia	45	3.1	South Dakota	45	3.3
New Mexico	46	3.1	Florida	46	3.2
South Dakota	47	2.9	Montana	47	3.0
Wyoming	48	2.9	Nebraska	48	3.0
Utah	49	2.8	Virginia	49	3.0
Hawaii	50	2.7	Utah	50	2.6
Idaho	51	2.5	Hawaii	51	2.1

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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary	Revised	Revised	Change	
	Oct-07	Sep-07	Oct-06	Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	851,300	854,300	843,700	-3,000	7,600
GOODS PRODUCING	117,400	118,300	119,200	-900	-1,800
SERVICES PROVIDING	733,900	736,000	724,500	-2,100	9,400
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	20,000	19,900	19,300	100	700
CONSTRUCTION	60,200	60,700	61,000	-500	-800
MANUFACTURING	37,200	37,700	38,900	-500	-1,700
WHOLESALE TRADE	23,900	23,900	23,700	0	200
RETAIL TRADE	95,800	95,500	94,600	300	1,200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	25,200	25,200	24,400	0	800
INFORMATION	16,100	16,800	16,200	-700	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	35,400	35,400	35,000	0	400
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	108,900	109,100	108,500	-200	400
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	113,300	112,700	109,600	600	3,700
Educational Services	14,100	13,800	13,800	300	300
Health Care and Social Assistance	99,200	98,900	95,800	300	3,400
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	87,400	90,100	86,200	-2,700	1,200
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7,900	8,400	7,700	-500	200
Accommodation and Food Services	79,500	81,700	78,500	-2,200	1,000
OTHER SERVICES	29,100	29,700	28,900	-600	200
GOVERNMENT	198,800	197,600	197,400	1,200	1,400
Federal Government	30,200	30,700	30,400	-500	-200
State Government	61,700	60,600	60,600	1,100	1,100
<i>State Government Education</i>	28,900	27,300	28,900	1,600	0
Local Government	106,900	106,300	106,400	600	500
<i>Local Government Education</i>	58,300	58,200	58,300	100	0

ALBUQUERQUE	Preliminary	Revised	Revised	Change	
	Oct-07	Sep-07	Oct-06	Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	399,100	400,200	395,300	-1,100	3,800
GOODS PRODUCING	53,700	54,400	55,400	-700	-1,700
SERVICES PROVIDING	345,400	345,800	339,900	-400	5,500
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING & CONSTRUCTION	30,900	31,200	31,000	-300	-100
MANUFACTURING	22,800	23,200	24,400	-400	-1,600
WHOLESALE TRADE	13,300	13,300	13,500	0	-200
RETAIL TRADE	45,000	44,700	44,200	300	800
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	10,900	10,900	10,600	0	300
INFORMATION	9,700	9,800	9,400	-100	300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	19,300	19,400	19,200	-100	100
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	64,600	64,400	63,900	200	700
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	49,700	49,700	48,400	0	1,300
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	39,400	40,200	38,500	-800	900
OTHER SERVICES	12,600	12,600	12,200	0	400
GOVERNMENT	80,900	80,800	80,000	100	900
Federal Government	14,500	14,600	14,500	-100	0
State Government	26,700	26,200	26,300	500	400
Local Government	39,700	40,000	39,200	-300	500

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

LAS CRUCES MSA	Preliminary Oct-07	Revised Sep-07	Revised Oct-06	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	69,700	69,300	68,100	400	1,600
GOODS PRODUCING	8,600	8,600	8,600	0	0
SERVICES PROVIDING	61,100	60,700	59,500	400	1,600
NATURAL RESOURCES MINING & CONSTRUCTION	5,100	5,100	5,000	0	100
MANUFACTURING	3,500	3,500	3,600	0	-100
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,200	1,300	1,200	-100	0
RETAIL TRADE	7,300	7,300	7,200	0	100
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	1,900	1,900	1,800	0	100
INFORMATION	1,100	1,100	1,200	0	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,800	5,800	5,600	0	200
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	10,800	10,800	10,200	0	600
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	7,200	7,200	6,900	0	300
OTHER SERVICES	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
GOVERNMENT	21,900	21,400	21,500	500	400
Federal	3,700	3,700	3,600	0	100
State	9,200	8,800	9,100	400	100
Local	9,000	8,900	8,800	100	200

SANTA FE MSA	Preliminary Oct-07	Revised Sep-07	Revised Oct-06	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	65,900	66,600	63,400	-700	2,500
GOODS PRODUCING	6,300	6,300	6,300	0	0
SERVICES PROVIDING	59,600	60,300	57,100	-700	2,500
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION	5,200	5,200	5,200	0	0
MANUFACTURING	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	9,100	9,000	8,900	100	200
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES	700	700	700	0	0
INFORMATION	1,700	2,700	1,000	-1,000	700
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	3,100	3,100	3,100	0	0
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,500	5,400	5,200	100	300
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	9,300	9,200	8,700	100	600
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	9,200	9,400	9,000	-200	200
OTHER SERVICES	2,900	2,900	2,900	0	0
GOVERNMENT	16,900	16,700	16,400	200	500
Federal	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
State	8,200	8,200	8,200	0	0
Local	7,600	7,400	7,100	200	500

FARMINGTON MSA	Preliminary Oct-07	Revised Sep-07	Revised Oct-06	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	52,800	52,800	52,000	0	800
TOTAL PRIVATE	41,000	41,000	40,000	0	1,000
GOODS PRODUCING	12,300	12,300	11,600	0	700
SERVICES PROVIDING	40,500	40,500	40,400	0	100
PRIVATE SERVICE PRODUCING	28,700	28,700	28,400	0	300
GOVERNMENT	11,800	11,800	12,000	0	-200
Federal	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
State	500	500	500	0	0
Local	9,800	9,800	10,000	0	-200

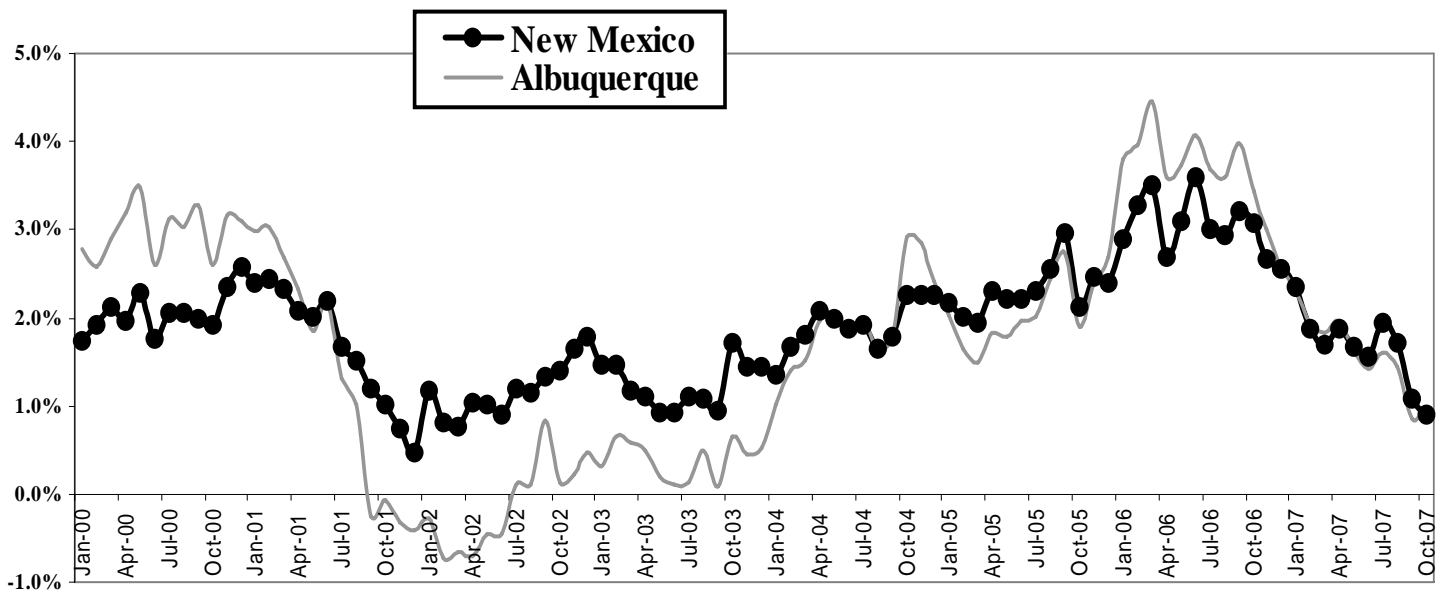
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

- Seasonally Adjusted -

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Oct-07	Revised Sep-07	Monthly Change
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT*	847,200	847,900	-700
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING	19,900	19,800	100
CONSTRUCTION	59,200	59,200	0
MANUFACTURING	36,300	36,600	-300
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	144,400	144,200	200
INFORMATION <i>(Not Seasonally Adjusted)</i>	16,100	16,800	-700
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	35,500	35,400	100
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	108,100	108,200	-100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	112,700	112,200	500
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	88,300	88,500	-200
OTHER SERVICES	29,700	30,100	-400
GOVERNMENT	197,000	196,900	100

* 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		
NEW MEXICO	Oct 07	Sep 07	Oct 06	Oct 07	Sep 07	Oct 06	Oct 07	Sep 07	Oct 06
NATURAL RES. & MINING	\$843.16	\$840.37	\$812.24	44.4	44.3	44.0	\$18.99	\$18.97	\$18.46
CONSTRUCTION	\$665.66	\$660.74	\$653.67	40.1	39.9	40.3	\$16.60	\$16.56	\$16.22
MANUFACTURING	\$562.60	\$562.49	\$553.50	38.8	38.9	39.2	\$14.50	\$14.46	\$14.12
WHOLESALE TRADE	\$537.25	\$538.43	\$531.30	35.0	35.1	35.0	\$15.35	\$15.34	\$15.18
RETAIL TRADE	\$368.88	\$369.68	\$363.68	32.5	32.6	32.5	\$11.35	\$11.34	\$11.19
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	Oct 07	Sep 07	Oct 06	Oct 07	Sep 07	Oct 06	Oct 07	Sep 07	Oct 06
MANUFACTURING	\$578.95	\$584.04	\$619.34	37.4	37.9	40.8	\$15.48	\$15.41	\$15.18

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 07	Sep 07	Oct 06	Month to Month	Year to Year
CPI-U	209.0	208.5	201.8	0.2%	3.5%
CPI-W	204.3	203.9	197.0	0.2%	3.7%

*CPI-U - All Urban Consumers

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

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New Mexico Area Economic Activity

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

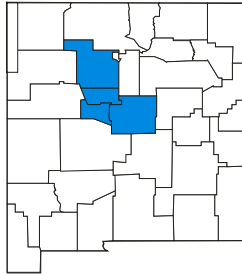
Statewide:

Public Service Co. of New Mexico announced plans to lay off part of its workforce starting on October 30. The company began notifying about 150 employees starting on November 1, with layoffs beginning immediately. Another 350 positions will be eliminated over the next year. PNM has not said which positions will be eliminated. The company is beginning a year-long restructuring effort to improve efficiency and save money. Affected employees will be eligible for a severance package that includes several months of continued salary based on years of service. Full health benefits will also continue for six months.

Central WIA Area:

Albuquerque Area, Bernalillo County:

Residents of the Ladera Heights area could soon get a new grocery store. **SunCal Companies** announced that it intends to develop a commercial center on 20 acres at the southeast corner of Unser and Ladera NW. The center will include a major grocery store, small retail stores, and an office building. Plans call for a 213,000-square-foot center that will include a 26,000-square-foot office building and two 20,000-square-foot retail spaces in addition to the grocery store, which could be larger than 20,000 square feet. The tenant will determine the size of the grocery store. SunCal will submit its proposal to the city's Environmental Planning Commission for consideration in the next couple of weeks, but the company has already met with several neighborhood groups.



The new West Side **Costco** is expected to open on December 7. The 155,000-square-foot facility has been under construction at Coors Bypass and Eagle Ranch Road for the past several months.

Eclipse Aviation has laid off about 10 percent of its 1,500-person workforce, most of them temporary workers. The 100 to 150 workers were needed to begin production of the company's Eclipse 500 very light jet airplane, but they are no longer needed, said Andrew Bloom, a spokesman for the Albuquerque-based aircraft manufacturer. Eclipse has received orders for 2,600 of its twin-engine airplanes, priced at about \$1.5 million each. Deliveries began last December, and the company has been ramping up production.

An article in the Albuquerque Tribune reported that plans for the **Tesla Motors** plant are expanding. Tesla Motors has proposed building an assembly plant for its upcoming WhiteStar sedan on Albuquerque's West Side. According to the Tribune's Erik Siemers, Tesla representatives, including Darryl Siry, the company's vice president of sales, were in town to discuss expanding the plans. Siry said, "We're looking at a potentially larger program. The program has been much more clearly defined, and we're further along in defining what the car is. That has ramifications for our supply chain and logistics." Since the WhiteStar itself is not yet designed, the specifics of the plant have not yet been set, but apparently the project will be bigger previously thought. State Economic Development Secretary Fred

Mondragon said, "We are in discussions with them about the possibility of more than just an assembly plant."

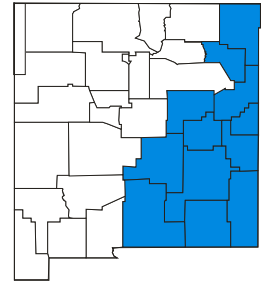
Bernalillo Area, Sandoval County:

When the state's newest **Wal-Mart Superstore** opens at the site of the old Price's Dairy in Bernalillo, it will be one of the largest in New Mexico. Covering 203,819 square feet, the new Wal-Mart will be much larger than the Supercenter average of about 180,000 square feet. The Wal-Mart will be the state's 29th superstore and second in Sandoval County. It will employ up to 400 people, with 80 to 100 experienced employees transferring in from other Wal-Marts and the remainder hired locally.

Eastern WIA Area:

Clovis Area, Curry County:

Goodwill Industries of New Mexico plans to open a new retail facility in Clovis on December 6, 2007. The new facility will house a retail store and job training and placement staff to provide skill development and job opportunities for people with barriers to employment. As of mid-October, workers were putting the finishing touches on the new facility located at 2005 North Prince Street. Goodwill estimates that it will need to fill approximately 20 positions, including assistant manager, manager retail leads, sales associates, and donation attendants.



Eunice Area, Lea County:

The first walls for the \$1.5 billion **National Enrichment Facility** are taking shape on the 640-acre Louisiana Energy Services site about five miles east of Eunice. Approximately 360 construction workers are erecting shielding for module 1 of the building that will house centrifuges used to process uranium gas into enriched uranium. The decision to construct two of the facility's major buildings out of metal instead of concrete as originally planned has allowed LES to reduce its construction workforce by about 400 workers. Only about 600 workers will be needed instead of the 1,000 originally envisioned.

Hobbs Area, Lea County:

A new retail center is planned for the vacant field across from the Home Depot on the corner of Grimes Street and Joe Harvey Boulevard in Hobbs. The new center will offer about 100,000 square feet of space for 8 to 12 retailers. So far, **Maurices**, a clothing and fashion store, and **Hibbett Sports**, a sporting goods store, have made commitments to locate in the center.

Alamogordo Area, Otero County:

A Mescalero Apache tribally owned sawmill was closed without warning in early October. Tribal officials said the **Mescalero Forest Products** mill in Alamogordo was closed because of poor market conditions. About 70 workers were laid off on the same day the mill was closed.

Southwestern WIA Area:

Las Cruces Area, Doña Ana County:

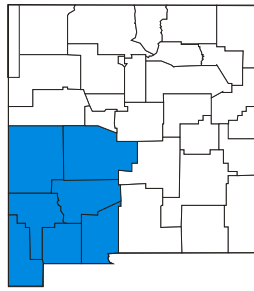
VMC will open a call center in Las Cruces late this year that will offer customer assistance for Apple products. VMC said its customer contract center plans to hire about 300 workers. A job fair was held at the New Mexico State University campus in mid-October. James Kiszyk, VMC special projects manager, said the company hopes to start training in November and be operating by December. Jobs will be a mixture of full-time and part-time positions, with pay starting at about \$10 an hour and rising depending on position and ability.

Allstate Insurance Co. is opening a new 33,000-square-foot claims office in Las Cruces. The Allstate Express office will occupy part of a building now under construction at 170 Roadrunner Parkway. The Allstate offices will open in January and employ about 200 people at the facility. Allstate has two other major offices in New Mexico where it employs 79 people in addition to 108 agents. The company looked at thousands of cities for its Express office and chose Las Cruces for the cost of living, the workforce, and the ability to maintain operations when severe weather occurs.

The **Garduños Vaqueros Steakhouse** at 500 Telshor Boulevard in Las Cruces closed on October 1. The restaurant opened about four years ago and typically employed about 60 workers. The managers from the Las Cruces restaurant will be offered jobs at other Garduños locations in Albuquerque.

Truth or Consequences Area, Sierra County:

T or C residents will have to wait a little longer for the **Wal-Mart Supercenter**. Rumors of a Christmas opening seem to be just that—rumors. According to Delia Garcia, a spokesperson for the giant retailer, the T or C store will open in April 2008. Hiring for the new store will start in January.



Northern WIA Area:

Grants Area, Cibola County:

Texas-based **Uranium Resources Inc.** is acquiring a portion of the last vestiges of the Rio Algom U.S. uranium holdings from BHP Billiton. URI will seek a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to construct and operate a conventional uranium mill in the Ambrosia Lake District of New Mexico. Located 20 miles north of Grants, the site could halve the time needed to build a new mill in the uranium district rather than building a uranium mill on a Greenfield site, according to a URI news release. Construction of a regional uranium mill could serve several uranium mining projects now planned near Grants, New Mexico. The planned mill will have the capacity of processing up to 8,000 tons of uranium ore per day and could bring up to 3,000 jobs to the area. Ambrosia Lake is located within the Grants Mineral Belt, once known as the uranium mineral capital of the world.

Los Alamos Area, Los Alamos County:

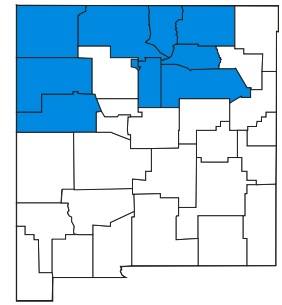
Los Alamos National Laboratory is preparing to lay off hundreds of people because of anticipated federal budget cuts and other factors, lab officials say. The northern New Mexico lab, where the atomic bomb was born, expects to cut between 500 and 750 positions, according to lab spokesman Kevin Roark. About 12,000 people work at the lab. The cuts are part of a restructuring plan the lab has submitted to the federal government. If approved, the lab would ask employees to leave voluntarily, with severance packages based on their years of service.

Las Vegas Area, San Miguel County:

The Connection, a Burnsville, Minnesota-based company, is closing its Las Vegas call center after seven years in business. When the center closes in late November, almost 60 people will lose their jobs. The Connection's president, Fred Wiener, says there isn't enough room in Las Vegas for two call centers because both compete for a limited labor pool. Las Vegas-San Miguel Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Sharon Caballero says a Las Vegas call center operated by Indianapolis-based IEI Financial Services has 50 to 60 employees.

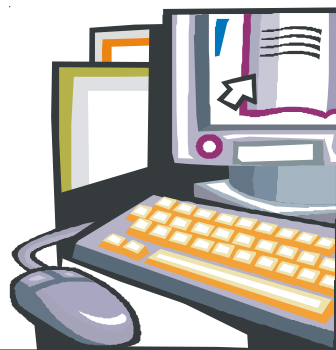
Edgewood Area, Santa Fe County:

Sears, Roebuck will open a retail store at the Edgewood Center North around the start of next year. The store will carry home appliances, electronics, lawn and garden items, tools, and fitness equipment. Customers will also be able to access the Sears online "solution station" to order items from Sears or Kmart.



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