New Mexico
Labor Market Report
Volume 32, No. 3, April 30, 2003
HIGHLIGHTS — March 2003

...New Mexico’s annual rate of job growth was 1.8 percent in March 2003 — a net gain of 13,600 jobs over the year. The rate of job growth remains modest by historical standards, but has recently become stronger than it has been for almost two years.

...Over-the-year trends in the Albuquerque MSA are encouraging. February’s increase of 1.6 percent carried over into March for a second month of healthy economic expansion. This was the metro area’s strongest growth in a year and a half.

...The Las Cruces MSA continues to enjoy job growth above the statewide rate. The annual rate of job growth now stands at 2.7 percent. The number of jobs added since last year now stands at 1,600.

...Santa Fe reclaimed the honor of being the fastest growing metro area of the state; employment grew at an annual rate of 2.9 percent. The area has shown a remarkable economic turnaround over the last 18 months.
New Mexico seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.9 percent in March 2003, up slightly from 5.8 percent the previous month. New Mexico unemployment rate has increased from 5.4 percent a year ago. Even though we are adding more jobs, unemployment has not started to come down yet.

March employment gains were fairly modest this year compared to the seasonal increases that are typical for March. Employment increased 5,100 jobs from the previous month's level. Even with this increase being smaller than in the past five years, the New Mexico economy continues to show signs of improvement. February was a good month for jobs and most of the momentum continued into March.

The employment survey was taken in early March, just days before the country was officially at war in the Middle East. The survey counts the civilian labor force, so troop deployments do not directly affect the employment counts. However, with large numbers of military personnel leaving the area, there would be less trade for businesses serving members of the armed forces such as shops and restaurants, especially those near New Mexico military bases. Also some private businesses have had their reservist employees called to active duty. Those employees would only continue to be counted as employed if they received pay (or were on paid leave) from their regular employer for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Overall the war should have only minimal impact on the employment numbers. Many economists believe that the broader element of uncertainty as to the timing and duration of the war, with the associated high-energy prices has been the most harmful influence on the economy.

New Mexico's annual rate of job growth was 1.8 percent in March 2003—a net gain of 13,600 jobs over the year. The rate of job growth remains modest by historical standards, but has recently become stronger than it has been for almost two years. Two-fifths of the new jobs are in health care and social assistance. The health care industry has added 3,900 jobs, and social assistance has added 1,500 jobs. Most components of health care have been growing at moderate rates for a number of years. However, the home health services component has seen astonishing growth that started in the summer of 2000, almost entirely caused by the Medicaid personal care option, which pays family members or other care givers to care for qualifying Medicaid recipients with self-care limitations. The home health services industry has grown 2,300 jobs since last year and the industry has doubled in size since June 2001. Any time that an industry grows this fast, there is always the danger that it could contract just as quickly. However, from information gained from Medicaid administrators as well as directly from the service providers, it does appear that this industry will continue to grow into the near future. The Medicaid reimbursement was adjusted down slightly last year, but the main financial incentives remain. Also, the Medicaid allocation has already been made for the upcoming year, and there is adequate funding to continue the program.

Another recently emerging trend is government jobs growing more slowly than the private sector. During 2002, government employment provided most of the new jobs in the state, while many private industries lost jobs. An average of about 60 percent of the net increase in jobs came from the government sector. Now government only accounts for just over 20 percent of the new jobs. The trend has changed as job growth in the private sector has increased, but also the rate of growth in government employment has dropped. The drop is most noticeable in local government, where the annual job growth is only half what it was last year.

Overall, five industries are down from last year's employment level and eight have increased. Even those industries that have lost jobs on the year are faring better than they did a few months back. The natural resources and mining super sector was still down 800 jobs on the year, but that is only half the average loss reported in 2002. The number of oil and gas mining jobs appears to be finally coming back following many months of persistent losses. Local industry analysts point to price stability that is leading to increased drilling activity. The same is true for the construction super sector, which has suffered over-the-year losses for 14 months. The annual losses peaked at 2,900 last summer following the completion of several major industrial and public works projects around the state. Since that time, the residential construction market has taken up much of the slack with the help of 40-year low mortgage interest rates that had the effect of enabling more people to afford to buy a home, and enabling others to borrow affordably and move up. Much of the new construction is at the lower end of the market aimed at first time buyers including former apartment dwellers. Construction employment is still down from year ago levels, but only by 300 jobs. The same is true for manufacturing, which was down 1,200 jobs since last year, much better than the 3,500 annual job loss last March.

Retail trade grew 2.2 percent, adding 1,900 jobs. Most of the increase came from other general merchandise stores at the expense of traditional department stores. A recent industry trend has been for large discount stores to expand, adding food and other grocery items to become a supercenter. Upon full conversion these stores change classification from department stores to other general merchandise stores. More conversions will show up in the numbers next month.

Prospects for the leisure and hospitality industry have improved recently, with many of northern New Mexico ski resorts reporting a normal year compared to a dismal year last year. Snowfall appeared uncertain at first, but sufficient amounts arrived at various times during the season. Also the food services and drinking places component has added 2,000 jobs since last year, all but 100 of them have been in full-service restaurants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Mexico</th>
<th>Prel.</th>
<th>Revised</th>
<th>Change From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Labor Force</td>
<td>894,400</td>
<td>891,500</td>
<td>872,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>841,600</td>
<td>839,800</td>
<td>825,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>52,800</td>
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<td>47,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate (not seasonally adjusted)</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Seasonally adjusted unemployment in the Albuquerque MSA was 5.3 percent in March, unchanged from February’s rate. Unemployment has increased by four tenths of a percentage point from the March 2002 rate of 4.9 percent.

Payroll employment enjoyed a second straight month of robust growth, adding 3,100 jobs on top of the 3,700 that were generated in February. The metro area is emerging from the winter doldrums with a renewed sense of optimism for a strong economic recovery. Over-the-month increases of 0.9 percent were seen in both goods-producing and service-providing industries. Seven of the 12 economic sectors added employment over the month, led by gains of 900 in the leisure & hospitality sector and in professional & business services. Construction increased by 500, its strongest monthly gain since June 2001. The four declining sectors—manufacturing; wholesale trade; transportation, warehousing, and utilities; and financial activities—experienced relatively minor losses of one or two hundred each. The miscellaneous category of other services was unchanged over the month.

Looking at over-the-year trends, it is encouraging to note that February’s increase of 1.6 percent carried over into March for a second month of healthy economic expansion. This was the metro area’s strongest growth in a year and a half. The economy experienced 10 months of negative growth from September 2001 through June 2002 before creeping back into positive territory.

Goods-producing employment declined for the twentieth consecutive month, with losses of 700 jobs each in construction and manufacturing. Construction employment has fallen from the high levels attained during the last two years when work was proceeding on the Intel expansion and the Big I interchange reconstruction project. March’s employment level was up by 900 from the same month three years ago, before work on either of those projects had begun, indicating the sector is not as weak as might appear at first glance. Manufacturing employment was down by 2.8 percent over the year, stemming primarily from cutbacks in the semiconductor industry. Manufacturing has now undergone 21 straight months of over-the-year losses.

A much brighter picture was painted by the services-providing sector, where 7,200 new jobs were added during the last 12 months for growth of 2.3 percent. Foremost among the industries in this sector was educational & health services, growing 2,800 or 6.8 percent. Most of its growth came from the health portion of the sector, which was recently given a big shot in the arm by changes to Medicaid funding for home health care. As a result, home health care employment has skyrocketed in the Albuquerque area, as it has statewide, and is responsible for much of the growth in health services.

Retail trade gained 1,600 jobs over the year, with strong growth in general merchandise, building materials, and food stores. Employment in this sector was boosted by the addition of several large home improvement warehouses, a couple of Wal-Mart supercenters, and two new health food stores during the last 12 months. However, the good fortune enjoyed by retail trade did not extend to its counterpart, wholesale trade, which has shed 200 jobs since last March.

Government employment has risen by 1,600 jobs, largely due to growth in state and local government. Increases in public school employment were responsible for most of the growth in local government, while state government growth was largely the result of increases in state-run universities and hospitals. Only 100 new federal government jobs have been added over the year.

The leisure & hospitality sector added 700 new jobs since last March, boosted by the arrival of several large franchise restaurants in the Albuquerque area. Growth in lodging employment also contributed to the increase. Employment in the miscellaneous category known as other services was up by 900 jobs or 8.0 percent. This sector includes repair and maintenance, personal and laundry services, and membership organizations. Financial services added 600 new jobs over the year, with real estate and insurance carriers responsible for most of the increase. Meager growth of 0.3 percent or 200 jobs was seen in professional & business services. Strength in scientific research and development was partially offset by weakness in other industries within this sector.

Employment in information fell for the tenth straight month due to a continued downturn in the telecommunications sub-sector. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities lost 200 jobs over the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Albuquerque MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment (Bernalillo, Sandoval &amp; Valencia Counties)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Albuquerque</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seasonally Adjusted</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Civilian Labor Force</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Employment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rate (not seasonally adjusted)</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Las Cruces MSA was 6.7 percent in March 2003, not that different from February’s rate of 6.8 percent. A year ago the unemployment rate was also 6.7 percent.

Las Cruces nonfarm employment added only 100 jobs in March. This increase was the smallest March gain for the area in the last six years, but it follows some substantial gains in previous months. In March 200 jobs were added to state government and another 100 jobs were added to construction. At the same time the professional and business services super sector lost 100 jobs, and educational, health care and social services lost 100 jobs.

The Las Cruces economy continues to make decent recovery from two years of falling annual job growth. The trend reached bottom in the winter of 2001/2002 and has moved up since. The Las Cruces area continues to enjoy job growth above the statewide rate. The annual rate of job growth now stands at 2.7 percent. The number of jobs added since last year to the Las Cruces economy now stands at 1,600.

Eleven of the twelve NAICS industries added jobs or stayed at the same level as last year. Only the professional and business services super sector has lost employment, down 300 jobs. This industry suffered the closure of a direct marketing call center at the end of August and also the out-of-state relocation of another firm engaged in scientific research and development.

The leisure and hospitality super sector increased 400 jobs, all of them in food service and drinking places. The increase makes for a 9.3 percent increase in food service and drinking places, most of them at full-service restaurants. Educational and health services increased 500 jobs, 200 of them in health care and social assistance. The new hospital in Las Cruces opened in August 2002, for a net increase in employment after some reductions were made at other hospitals in the area. Retail trade (which no longer includes eating and drinking places) was up 200 jobs, while wholesale trade was up 100. The natural resources, mining and construction industry, which is mostly made up of construction employment in Las Cruces, increased 100 jobs. The manufacturing super sector gained 100 jobs over the year, a good sign that the worst of the employment losses in this industry may be over. With manufacturing employment losses that had accumulated over the previous two years, employment in the manufacturing super sector is at the same level as it was four years ago.

Government employment was up a total of 500 jobs, with 200 jobs added to both state and local government. Federal government added 100 jobs. The overall rate of government job growth was 2.5 percent, which remains below the private sector growth rate for the area. Finally, four remaining industries reported employment levels unchanged from last year. Those industries were information; transportation, warehousing & utilities; financial activities; and other services.

### Las Cruces MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment (Doña Ana County)

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<tr>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Labor Force</td>
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<td>76,700</td>
<td>73,500</td>
<td>-2,500 (+700)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>69,200</td>
<td>71,500</td>
<td>68,600</td>
<td>-2,300 (+600)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,200</td>
<td>4,900</td>
<td>-200 (+100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate (not seasonally adjusted)</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Las Cruces
The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Santa Fe MSA was 3.2 percent in March 2003, up from February’s rate of 3.0 percent. A year ago the area’s unemployment rate was 2.7 percent.

Santa Fe added 700 jobs in March; a number that was lower than the 900 average March increase measured the last four years. Still, recent gains leave the Santa Fe area economy in fairly good shape. During March, jobs were added to six industries, while six others remained unchanged. The leisure and hospitality super sector added 200 jobs, all of them in food service and drinking places. Construction, retail trade, education, other services, and federal government shared the rest of the monthly increase, each adding 100 jobs.

Santa Fe reclaimed the honor of being the fastest growing metro area of the state; employment grew at an annual rate of 2.9 percent. The area has shown a remarkable economic turnaround over the last 18 months. Job growth in Santa Fe stopped for a few months at the end of 2000, and hesitated until the summer of 2001. Since that time, job growth in the Santa Fe area has shown a clear upward trend. Much of the area’s success has been due to increasing employment at Los Alamos National Laboratory and their many local private sector business partners. Construction remains the only super sector to have lost jobs over the year. Other super sectors have increased employment, or at least, remained at the same level.

Like every other area of the state, except for Albuquerque, government employment has grown at a lower rate than the private sector. The only branch of government to add any jobs since last year has been state government, which includes Los Alamos National Laboratory. State government is up 4.0 percent, adding 700 jobs. Employment in both federal and local government remained at the same level as last year.

The professional and business services super sector has added 400 jobs, a 4.9 percent increase. Half of those new jobs are in the sub-category of administrative support and waste management and remediation services. This industry is made up of establishments performing routine support activities for the day-to-day operations of other organizations. Educational and health services also added 400 jobs, mostly from increasing employment in health care and social assistance.

The leisure and hospitality super sector added 300 jobs, all of them in eating and drinking places. Retail trade added another 300 jobs. Customer flow remained brisk in the financial activities super sector due to 40-year low interest rates. Financial activities increased 100 jobs from a year ago. Wholesale trade also gained 100 jobs since last year. The miscellaneous other services industry, which includes establishments such as automotive repair and churches, added 200 jobs.

Three super sectors — manufacturing; information; and transportation, warehousing, and utilities — reported the same number of jobs as last year.

### Santa Fe MSA Labor Force and Payroll Employment

#### (Santa Fe & Los Alamos Counties)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Labor Force</td>
<td>78,200</td>
<td>80,700</td>
<td>77,200</td>
<td>-2,500 +1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
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<td>78,300</td>
<td>75,100</td>
<td>-2,600 +600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>100 +400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate (not seasonally adjusted)</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates - NM and Santa Fe

![Graph showing annual nonfarm job growth rates for New Mexico and Santa Fe](image-url)
## Total Nonfarm Employment Growth Rankings

### New Mexico and United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>February 2002</th>
<th>February 2003</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>549.4</td>
<td>564.8</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,025.9</td>
<td>1,051.5</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>754.1</td>
<td>768.2</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>280.3</td>
<td>285.0</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7,157.3</td>
<td>7,272.9</td>
<td>115.6</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>365.7</td>
<td>369.8</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2,251.8</td>
<td>2,275.5</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>548.2</td>
<td>552.8</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>299.4</td>
<td>301.9</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>237.7</td>
<td>239.5</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1,773.6</td>
<td>1,786.5</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>323.9</td>
<td>326.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>383.3</td>
<td>385.9</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>653.4</td>
<td>657.5</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>467.1</td>
<td>469.8</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1,113.8</td>
<td>1,119.8</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1,318.6</td>
<td>1,325.3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2,717.6</td>
<td>2,731.3</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2,611.2</td>
<td>2,623.0</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1,132.8</td>
<td>1,137.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
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<td>14,328.0</td>
<td>14,383.5</td>
<td>55.5</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1,546.2</td>
<td>1,551.3</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2,623.1</td>
<td>2,628.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1,882.3</td>
<td>1,886.0</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1,761.8</td>
<td>1,765.0</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9,366.3</td>
<td>9,382.3</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2,436.6</td>
<td>2,440.1</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>608.6</td>
<td>609.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>891.7</td>
<td>892.7</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>585.5</td>
<td>585.8</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>719.9</td>
<td>720.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1,868.4</td>
<td>1,867.3</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5,781.8</td>
<td>5,777.3</td>
<td>-4.5</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1,420.8</td>
<td>1,419.3</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2,847.0</td>
<td>2,842.8</td>
<td>-4.2</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2,158.0</td>
<td>2,154.8</td>
<td>-3.2</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>3,940.2</td>
<td>3,934.3</td>
<td>-1.9</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td></td>
<td>129,310.0</td>
<td>129,104.0</td>
<td>-206.0</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### PRELIMINARY MARCH 2003

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### REVISED FEBRUARY 2003

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1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo, Sandoval & Valencia Counties.
3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County.
4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties.
### Unemployment Rates in New Mexico (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

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**Need Labor Market Information?**

We have several major publications detailing New Mexicans:

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

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---

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[www.dol.state.nm.us](http://www.dol.state.nm.us)
## Unemployment Rate by State (Seasonally Adjusted)

(Most Current Available)

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Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
### Annual Growth Rates by Industry

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### NAICS Industries

**March 2003**

- **Educ. & Health Services**: 13%
- **Mfg.**: 5%
- **Wholesale Trade**: 3%
- **Retail Trade**: 12%
- **Trans, Warehousing, & Utilities**: 3%
- **Information**: 2%
- **Financial Activities**: 4%
- **Pro & Bus. Services**: 4%
- **Gov.**: 24%
- **Natural Res. & Mining**: 2%
- **Leisure & Hospitality**: 10%
- **Other Services**: 4%

### New Mexico and Albuquerque Annual Nonfarm Job Growth Rates
## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

### NEW MEXICO

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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

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<td>12,100</td>
<td>12,100</td>
<td>11,200</td>
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<td>900</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GOVERNMENT</strong></td>
<td>73,100</td>
<td>72,700</td>
<td>71,500</td>
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<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>13,800</td>
<td>13,800</td>
<td>13,700</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government /2</td>
<td>24,100</td>
<td>23,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>35,200</td>
<td>35,100</td>
<td>34,400</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Preliminary Mar-03</th>
<th>Revised Feb-03</th>
<th>Revised Mar-02</th>
<th>Change Monthly</th>
<th>Change Yearly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT /1</strong></td>
<td>61,200</td>
<td>61,100</td>
<td>59,600</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOODS PRODUCING</td>
<td>6,400</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td>6,200</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>SERVICE PRODUCING</td>
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<td>54,800</td>
<td>53,400</td>
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<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATURAL RESOURCES MINING &amp; CONSTRUCTION</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANUFACTURING</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHOLESALE TRADE</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETAIL TRADE</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, AND UTILITIES</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFORMATION</td>
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<td>1,100</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2,200</td>
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<td>2,200</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROFESSIONAL &amp; BUSINESS SERVICES</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,100</td>
<td>5,300</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>-300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative &amp; Support &amp; Waste Mgmt &amp; Remediation Services</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>2,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES</td>
<td>8,800</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td>8,300</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,100</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td>5,900</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Service &amp; Drinking Places</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>4,300</td>
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<td>1,400</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
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<td>20,700</td>
<td>20,400</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
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<td>3,400</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>9,300</td>
<td>9,100</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>8,100</td>
<td>8,100</td>
<td>7,900</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## SANTA FE MSA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Preliminary Mar-03</th>
<th>Revised Feb-03</th>
<th>Revised Mar-02</th>
<th>Change Monthly</th>
<th>Change Yearly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT /1</strong></td>
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<td>77,500</td>
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<td>-300</td>
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<td>NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING &amp; CONSTRUCTION</td>
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<td>4,800</td>
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<td>-300</td>
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<tr>
<td>MANUFACTURING</td>
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<td>1,300</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHOLESALE TRADE</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETAIL TRADE</td>
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<td>100</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>700</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>8,200</td>
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<td>400</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4,300</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>4,100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES</td>
<td>9,100</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>8,700</td>
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<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</td>
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<td>6,900</td>
<td>6,600</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY</td>
<td>9,300</td>
<td>9,100</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>5,700</td>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER SERVICES</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<td>100</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7,400</td>
<td>7,400</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

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** -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW MEXICO</th>
<th>Preliminary Mar-03</th>
<th>Revised Feb-03</th>
<th>Monthly Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/</strong></td>
<td>777,000</td>
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<td>NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSTRUCTION</td>
<td>46,300</td>
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<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANUFACTURING</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES</td>
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<td>136,700</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFORMATION (Not Seasonally Adjusted)</td>
<td>16,700</td>
<td>16,800</td>
<td>-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES</td>
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<td>34,900</td>
<td>-400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES</td>
<td>91,300</td>
<td>91,400</td>
<td>-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES</td>
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<td>96,900</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY</td>
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<td>1,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>191,900</td>
<td>192,100</td>
<td>-200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

---

**NM Unemployment Insurance Data Publication Now Available!**

The Unemployment Insurance Bureau of the Department of Labor has written a new publication, *New Mexico Unemployment Insurance Data, Calendar Year 2002*. This annual publication provides statistics and analysis of various unemployment insurance data, such as initial claims, weeks claimed, benefits paid, and the trust fund for calendar year 2002. For a free copy please contact Rachel Moskowitz at the Department of Labor at (505) 841-9062, or email at RMoskowitz@state.nm.us.
## New Mexico Occupational Shortages & Surpluses

Based on monthly reports by NMDOL Workforce Development Centers and quarterly survey of major Albuquerque employers and professional organizations.

Surpluses reflect applicants registering with NMDOL and Shortages reflect employers listing job openings.

### Statewide Summary

#### SHORTAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Support Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correction Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Health Attendants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanics, Automotive/Diesel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses, RN/LPN's</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SURPLUSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashiers/Checkers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Laborers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Office Clerks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborers, Unskilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Albuquerque MSA

#### SHORTAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Customer Service Reps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricians, Journeymen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers, Chemical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers, Computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVAC Technicians, Licensed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanics, Automotive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SURPLUSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashiers/Checkers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Laborers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Office Clerks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Las Cruces MSA

#### SHORTAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurses, RN’s/LPN’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Architects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Workers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SURPLUSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cashiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housekeepers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material Handlers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Servers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Santa Fe MSA

#### SHORTAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurses, LPN’s/RN’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricians, Journeymen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVAC Technicians, Administrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanics, Automotive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SURPLUSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashiers/Checkers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Laborers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Technicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Office Clerks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NM Workforce Development Centers

#### Top 10 Job Openings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction Laborers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Solicitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaners, Industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiters/Waitresses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yard Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Guards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material Handlers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashiers-Checkers, Retail Trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Operators</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Top 10 Applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction Laborers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Office Clerks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck Drivers, CDL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Helpers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Drivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receptionists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material Handlers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Sales Clerks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Fastest Growing OCCs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Mold/Cast Mach Ops/Tdrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seer’s/Comds/FIn Ser Sales Agts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Scientists, NEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Practitioners, NEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Support Specialists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Goods Machine Setters/Ops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systems Analysts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Workers, Jewelry Precision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Technologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science Teachers, Post</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### OCCs w/Most Openings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salespersons, Retail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiters &amp; Waitresses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Managers &amp; Top Exec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Office Clerks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Prep/Serv Wkrs, Fast Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craftsmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitors &amp; Cleaners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpers/Laborers/Movers, NEC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*Based on monthly reports by NMDOL Workforce Development Centers and quarterly survey of major Albuquerque employers and professional organizations.

2/ Surpluses reflect applicants registering with NMDOL and Shortages reflect employers listing job openings.

New Mexico Unemployment Insurance

On March 19, 2003 Governor Bill Richardson signed into law legislation that increases benefits to the unemployed and decreases unemployment taxes for employers. Most of these changes will go into effect in July 2003 or January 2004. The cost to the New Mexico Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is estimated to be about $54 million in the first year, with $28 million in benefits going to the unemployed and $26 million going to employers in the form of tax cuts. Most of the changes will end after four years, or sooner if the trust fund's balance drops too low.

The new law will:

* **Increase benefits to claimants:** Claimants will be able to receive 52.5 percent of the average weekly wage paid in the high quarter, up from 50 percent (up to the maximum level).

* **Alternative Base Periods:** Claimants will be allowed to use an alternative base period (the last four completed quarters) if they are not monetarily eligible during their regular base period (the first four of the last five completed quarters).

* **Dependents Allowance:** A claimant will be entitled to receive an additional $15.00 a week in benefits for each dependent child under the age of 18, up to a maximum of four children.

* **Domestic Violence:** Claimants will be eligible for benefits if they voluntarily leave work due to circumstances directly resulting from domestic abuse.

* **Benefits to workers seeking part-time work:** Claimants will be eligible to receive benefits if they are actively seeking part-time work (at least 20 hours a week).

* **Eliminate the benefit denial for claimants attending school full-time:** Claimants will be able to receive benefits and attend school full-time if they can demonstrate availability for and accept either full-time or part-time work.

* **Implement the alternative Extended Benefits trigger:** Claimants will be given an additional 13 weeks of benefits when the EB is triggered "on" (when the total unemployment rate (TUR) is at least 6.5 percent for three months and the TUR is 110 percent above the average in the two preceding years).

* **Reduce new employer rate to 2.0 percent:** New employers will be charged an unemployment tax rate of 2.0 percent (down from 2.7 percent) of the total taxable wages for at least four years, after which the employer's experience history determines the tax rate.

* **Implement Schedule 0:** Use Schedule 0, which lowers unemployment tax rates for almost all New Mexico businesses.

* **Transfer favorable employment history from other states:** Employers that are doing business in another state will be allowed to transfer their experience history if they relocate to New Mexico.

Check out the actual bill on http://legis.state.nm.us (click on i Bill Finderi than enter i Senate Bill 558i )

Source: New Mexico Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Bureau, Actuarial Research Department

Questions? Comments? Please call (505) 841-9062 or via email at RMoskowitz@state.nm.us
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New Mexico In-Plant Training Board provided $473,000 for three New Mexico companies to hire and train almost 100 new workers. Two Albuquerque companies are included: Lumidigm, a sensor manufacturer, and Aquila Technologies Group, who will hire assemblers and computer engineers. Eighty employees will be hired and trained by Penncco Associates for their Taos call center.

New Mexico incentives for filmmakers may have helped lure producers to select the state as the location for filming Tony Hillerman’s book *Thief of Time*. The production is being made for the PBS television series *Mystery*. Filming will start in late April in locations around Santa Fe and Albuquerque. About 80 people will be needed during the three weeks the project is in production.

Albuquerque Area, Bernalillo County:

Congress approved $173.3 million to build 867 new homes at Albuquerque’s Kirtland Air Force Base. Most of the existing base housing dates from the 1950s and will be demolished. A private contractor will lease the land for the homes from the government and will build and manage the new housing units. The project is expected to be the largest construction project in the state since the Big I project and will provide jobs for thousands of New Mexicans.

American Home, a locally owned furniture retailer, will occupy the 85,000 square foot building formerly home to Wal-Mart’s Westside store. The new store, near the corner of N.M. 528 and Coors Blvd., will open in mid-April.

Sixty Albuquerque area jobs may be lost when Johnson and Johnson closes one of its two Albuquerque-area manufacturing facilities. The facility to be closed produces operating room supplies including hats, gowns and implants. Johnson and Johnson said that they would seek employment opportunities for the displaced workers. The company also operates Ethicon Endo-Surgery, which employs about 900 workers.

About 100 additional workers will be needed at Boeing-SVS’s Albuquerque facility over the next two years. The company will also acquire an additional 35,000 square feet of space in the @ 25 Business Park. The company, which currently has about 180 employees, develops sensors, optical and electronic devices for missile defense and laser weapons.

A 5,000 square foot Irish themed restaurant and saloon opened in downtown Albuquerque on St. Patrick’s Day. Maloneís Tavern features deejay music seven nights a week and is open from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. most days. Maloneís has about 90 employees in Albuquerque.

The Marie Callenderís Restaurant and Bakery closed in late February. The corporate office offered no reason for the closure. Lubyís Cafeteria on Montgomery also closed recently as part of a corporate restructuring.

Sprint PCS is looking for 100 workers for its Rio Rancho call center. New hires will receive a month of training and will work in billing and technical support positions. New hires will start at $9 ñ $10 per hour. The wireless phone call center currently has about 1,000 employees, down from about 1,400 employees two years ago.

BF Goodrich Aerospace laid off 18 workers at its Albuquerque Space and Optical Systems Division. The Albuquerque plant, which makes parts for the space shuttle, satellites, and commercial aircraft, has had a serious drop in sales.

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.)
Las Cruces Area, Doña Ana County:

Memorial Medical Center announced that they would lay off another 19 workers at the end of March. The hospital has eliminated 153 jobs since December 2002.

An April opening is planned for a 10,000 square foot Gardunois Chile Packing Company restaurant in Las Cruces Mesilla Valley Mall. The new facility will seat 280 diners inside, with seats for an additional 100 patrons on the patio. About 200 workers have been hired to staff the new restaurant.

Carlsbad Area, Eddy County:

The Covenant Family Healthcare Center in Carlsbad will be closed as part of a cost containment measure. Because of the closure, more than 24 jobs will be lost in Carlsbad. The clinic operator, Covenant Medical Group will also close its clinic in Hobbs.

Silver City Area, Grant County:

Stream International cut another 55 employees from its Silver City call center. The company had previously laid off about 400 employees. The company has lost several key contracts and has reduced its workforce by over sixty percent. In a further development, as this issue of the Labor Market Report goes to press, Stream announced that it would completely shut down the Silver City call center by July.

Hobbs Area, Lea County:

The Covenant Family Healthcare Center in Hobbs will be closed.

Deming Area, Luna County:

Border Foods is adding a 200,000 square foot warehouse to accommodate the expanded production of southwestern food products. Company president Norman Mackenzie expects to see a 30% increase in production this year and also expects to see about 50 new jobs in the next two years. Border Foods employs about 1,500 seasonal workers and about 400 non-seasonal workers.

Santa Fe Area, Santa Fe County:

Approval was granted for the demolition of the El Seville Apartments, to make space for construction of 76 condos. The Santa Fe Historic Design Review Board's decision clears the way for the developers of the El Corazon de Santa Fe condominiums to proceed with their project.

Adams American Burgers will open in the site formerly occupied by the Burger King at 3136 Cerrillos Road. A mid-April opening is planned.

Taos Area, Taos County:

The Taos town council voted down a proposed zoning change that would have allowed Wal-Mart to build a big-box-superstore in the town limits. An opinion poll conducted before the council's vote showed opposition to the zoning change from about sixty percent of the town's registered voters. Some council members are concerned that the store may be built outside of the town limits.

Mountainair Area, Torrance County:

Power Energy Fuels Inc. hopes to open a $30 million plant that will convert forest waste into an ethanol-type fuel called Ecalene. Ethanol can be used as a substitute for petroleum based fuels and has lower carbon monoxide emissions than gasoline. The process of converting forest waste to fuel would also be beneficial to the Forest Service in reducing biomass in overgrown forests.
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