

EMPLOYMENT NEWS RELEASE

The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions will post data online concurrently with the releases listed at www.dws.state.nm.us under "Labor Market Information."

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News Release For Business Editor

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New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in March 2015, up from 6.0 percent in February and down from 6.8 percent a year ago. The national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent, unchanged from February's rate and down from 6.6 percent in March 2014.

The rate of over-the-year job growth for nonfarm payroll employment, comparing March 2015 with March 2014, was 1.6 percent, representing 13,000 jobs. This is New Mexico's thirty-first consecutive month of over-the-year employment growth. Employment growth has trended upward since October 2013, mainly due to gains in key private services-providing industries. This month's gain was somewhat lower than that of last month, which represented the highest rate of growth since December 2006. In March 2015, ten industries added jobs, and three posted losses.

Between March 2014 and March 2015, education and health services added 4,400 jobs, or 3.5 percent. This is up slightly from last month's gain and accounted for just over 30 percent of total over-the-year gross job gains. Employment within professional and business services was up 3,700 jobs, or 3.8 percent. This represents a post-recessionary peak in over-the-year growth, which trended upward dramatically over the last five months from neutral growth in October 2014. This month, leisure and hospitality gained 3,200 jobs, representing an increase of 3.6 percent. This is the industry's largest post-recessionary gain, apart from a slightly higher gain in May 2014. The industry maintains a positive course after declining over-the-year growth in the last quarter of 2014 and negative growth in January. Mining employment was up 700 jobs, or 2.6 percent. This is down from last month's gain, which was the industry's lowest since April 2010. Low oil prices appear to be impacting employment in the industry. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities employment was up 600 jobs, or 2.6 percent. Growth has been trending downwards since November 2014. Miscellaneous *other services* also saw an over-the-year gain of 600 jobs, representing a 2.2 percent increase. The industry's employment had been trending upwards since October 2013 but is down from January's over-the-year gain, the highest increase since February 1999. Manufacturing employment remained positive for the second month after 27 consecutive months of losses. The industry added 500 jobs, representing a gain of 1.8 percent. Information, up 300 jobs, wholesale trade, up 100 jobs, and retail trade, up 100 jobs, each contributed smaller increases. Employment within financial activities declined by 500 jobs, or 1.5 percent, from employment in March 2014. Construction posted a loss of 100 jobs, or 0.2 percent.

Government employment registered a net loss of 600 jobs since March of last year, representing a 0.3 percent over-the-year decline. The main source of this decline was federal government, which posted a loss of 500 jobs. State government registered a smaller loss of 100 jobs. Employment within local government remained unchanged from March 2014.

Detailed analysis will be provided in the *Labor Market Review* scheduled for release on April 28.

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Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Mar-15	Revised Feb-15	Revised Mar-14	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	826,400	826,200	813,400	200	13,000
TOTAL PRIVATE	631,000	631,100	617,400	-100	13,600
GOODS-PRODUCING	97,000	97,300	95,900	-300	1,100
SERVICE-PROVIDING	729,400	728,900	717,500	500	11,900
MINING & LOGGING	27,900	27,900	27,200	0	700
CONSTRUCTION	40,800	41,300	40,900	-500	-100
MANUFACTURING	28,300	28,100	27,800	200	500
WHOLESALE TRADE	21,500	21,900	21,400	-400	100
RETAIL TRADE	91,100	91,300	91,000	-200	100
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING & UTILITIES	24,100	24,700	23,500	-600	600
INFORMATION	12,500	12,600	12,200	-100	300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	32,700	33,100	33,200	-400	-500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	101,200	101,300	97,500	-100	3,700
EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	131,100	131,000	126,700	100	4,400
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	91,600	89,600	88,400	2,000	3,200
OTHER SERVICES	28,200	28,300	27,600	-100	600
GOVERNMENT	195,400	195,100	196,000	300	-600
Federal Government	28,800	28,800	29,300	0	-500
State Government	60,800	60,100	60,900	700	-100
<i>State Government Education</i>	<i>31,000</i>	<i>30,700</i>	<i>31,100</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>-100</i>
Local Government	105,800	106,200	105,800	-400	0
<i>Local Government Education</i>	<i>56,700</i>	<i>57,000</i>	<i>57,100</i>	<i>-300</i>	<i>-400</i>

U.S. Labor Force Estimates

	MARCH 2015				FEBRUARY 2015				MARCH 2014			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
Seasonally Adjusted	156,906	148,331	8,575	5.5%	157,002	148,297	8,705	5.5%	156,180	145,796	10,384	6.6%
Not Seasonally Adjusted	156,318	147,635	8,682	5.6%	156,213	147,118	9,095	5.8%	155,627	145,090	10,537	6.8%

Note: Numbers are in thousands.

New Mexico Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted Unless Noted as "SA")

	PRELIMINARY MARCH 2015				REVISED FEBRUARY 2015				REVISED MARCH 2014			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE SA	928,753	872,284	56,469	6.1%	923,511	867,894	55,617	6.0%	918,233	856,223	62,010	6.8%
STATEWIDE	927,519	871,417	56,102	6.0%	928,018	869,301	58,717	6.3%	913,235	850,857	62,378	6.8%
Albuquerque MSA SA	See notes below.				See notes below.				411,916	384,559	27,357	6.6%
Albuquerque MSA	416,470	392,940	23,530	5.6%	417,734	392,840	24,894	6.0%	410,297	383,032	27,265	6.6%
Bernalillo	321,277	303,953	17,324	5.4%	322,278	303,925	18,353	5.7%	316,319	296,280	20,039	6.3%
Sandoval	60,429	56,691	3,738	6.2%	60,639	56,705	3,934	6.5%	59,583	55,200	4,383	7.4%
Torrance	5,179	4,742	437	8.4%	5,185	4,708	477	9.2%	5,141	4,635	506	9.8%
Valencia	29,585	27,554	2,031	6.9%	29,632	27,502	2,130	7.2%	29,254	26,917	2,337	8.0%
Farmington MSA SA	See notes below.				See notes below.				54,489	50,900	3,589	6.6%
Farmington MSA	57,159	53,729	3,430	6.0%	57,103	53,638	3,465	6.1%	54,027	50,447	3,580	6.6%
Las Cruces MSA SA	See notes below.				See notes below.				93,392	86,506	6,886	7.4%
Las Cruces MSA	93,945	87,346	6,599	7.0%	93,991	87,191	6,800	7.2%	93,230	86,135	7,095	7.6%
Santa Fe MSA SA	See notes below.				See notes below.				71,851	67,883	3,968	5.5%
Santa Fe MSA	72,414	68,859	3,555	4.9%	72,354	68,506	3,848	5.3%	71,808	67,791	4,017	5.6%
Catron	1,218	1,118	100	8.2%	1,219	1,107	112	9.2%	1,210	1,111	99	8.2%
Chaves	27,304	25,727	1,577	5.8%	27,272	25,672	1,600	5.9%	26,779	25,099	1,680	6.3%
Cibola	9,054	8,395	659	7.3%	9,064	8,373	691	7.6%	8,970	8,249	721	8.0%
Colfax	6,121	5,770	351	5.7%	6,113	5,733	380	6.2%	6,054	5,656	398	6.6%
Curry	21,803	20,834	969	4.4%	21,849	20,807	1,042	4.8%	21,423	20,313	1,110	5.2%
De Baca	803	765	38	4.7%	800	760	40	5.0%	787	748	39	5.0%
Eddy	29,649	28,355	1,294	4.4%	29,553	28,238	1,315	4.4%	28,357	27,032	1,325	4.7%
Grant	12,315	11,533	782	6.3%	12,290	11,460	830	6.8%	12,396	11,538	858	6.9%
Guadalupe	1,635	1,518	117	7.2%	1,642	1,514	128	7.8%	1,614	1,490	124	7.7%
Harding	328	306	22	6.7%	310	287	23	7.4%	311	298	13	4.2%
Hidalgo	1,936	1,821	115	5.9%	1,935	1,807	128	6.6%	1,980	1,838	142	7.2%
Lea	30,981	29,510	1,471	4.7%	30,794	29,366	1,428	4.6%	29,721	28,384	1,337	4.5%
Lincoln	8,804	8,301	503	5.7%	8,724	8,184	540	6.2%	8,914	8,356	558	6.3%
Los Alamos	8,364	8,057	307	3.7%	8,400	8,064	336	4.0%	8,296	7,933	363	4.4%
Luna	10,341	8,279	2,062	19.9%	10,161	8,074	2,087	20.5%	10,225	8,089	2,136	20.9%
McKinley	23,522	21,358	2,164	9.2%	23,524	21,273	2,251	9.6%	23,777	21,444	2,333	9.8%
Mora	2,150	1,921	229	10.7%	2,134	1,899	235	11.0%	2,161	1,902	259	12.0%
Otero	25,142	23,729	1,413	5.6%	25,177	23,672	1,505	6.0%	24,746	23,225	1,521	6.1%
Quay	3,436	3,227	209	6.1%	3,446	3,216	230	6.7%	3,442	3,225	217	6.3%
Rio Arriba	16,267	14,994	1,273	7.8%	16,236	14,935	1,301	8.0%	16,188	14,722	1,466	9.1%
Roosevelt	8,185	7,785	400	4.9%	8,110	7,694	416	5.1%	8,217	7,742	475	5.8%
San Miguel	11,345	10,564	781	6.9%	11,392	10,567	825	7.2%	11,358	10,464	894	7.9%
Sierra	3,776	3,400	376	10.0%	3,755	3,369	386	10.3%	3,714	3,339	375	10.1%
Socorro	6,540	6,094	446	6.8%	6,538	6,070	468	7.2%	6,451	5,971	480	7.4%
Taos	14,896	13,645	1,251	8.4%	14,770	13,444	1,326	9.0%	15,181	13,774	1,407	9.3%
Union	1,619	1,539	80	4.9%	1,626	1,538	88	5.4%	1,602	1,511	91	5.7%

Notes: Current MSA SA labor force estimates will be released April 28 in the March 2015 *Labor Market Review* publication, available under the Labor Market Information tab at <http://www.dws.state.nm.us/>. **TEMPORARY, STATE-PRODUCED MSA SA ESTIMATES PUBLISHED ABOVE WILL BE REPLACED LATER WITH OFFICIAL BLS ESTIMATES.**

County Unemployment Rates, March 2015 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

