

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

New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in September 2017, down from 6.3 percent in August and 6.8 percent a year ago. The national unemployment rate was 4.2 percent, down from 4.4 percent in August and 4.9 percent in September 2016.

New Mexico's rate of over-the-year total nonagricultural job growth was 0.8 percent in September. Overall, the state added 6,800 jobs between September 2016 and September 2017. As has been the case since December 2016, gains were entirely from the private sector, which grew by 10,200 jobs, or 1.6 percent. Employment in the private service-providing industries increased by 7,900 jobs, or 1.4 percent. Growth in the goods-producing industries was back to levels seen prior to the prolonged losses between May 2015 and March 2017 (mainly triggered by losses in mining due to the fall in oil prices). The goods-producing industries added 2,300 jobs, representing a gain of 2.6 percent. Eight industries added jobs and five posted losses.

Construction employment increased by 3,000 jobs, or 7.0 percent, which represented the largest numeric and percentage gain of all industries. The industry has reported the fastest growth of any industry for six consecutive months. Professional and business services added 1,900 jobs, representing growth of 1.9 percent. This was smaller than the gain in the previous month but still greater than the industry's 2017 average growth of 1,700 jobs. Leisure and hospitality registered an increase of 1,700 jobs, or 1.8 percent. Education and health services, the largest private industry supersector, reported an increase of 1,500 jobs, or 1.1 percent, over the year. Employment growth has trended down considerably since hitting a post-recessionary peak of 6,700 jobs in June 2015, mainly due to reduced gains in health care and social assistance, which, as in August, reported neutral growth. Also within education and health services, educational services posted a gain of 1,500 jobs, or 6.8 percent. Retail trade was up 1,400 jobs, or 1.5 percent. The industry reported no gains through 2016 or early 2017, but growth has been improving since May 2017. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities was up 1,100 jobs, or 4.5 percent. The industry has not reported any losses over the last year, and gains have trended up. Also registering growth were financial activities, up 700 jobs, or 2.1 percent, and miscellaneous *other services*, up 100 jobs, or 0.4 percent.

Employment in each of mining, down 2.1 percent, and information, down 3.1 percent, contracted by 400 jobs. The mining industry has not reported over-the-year growth since February 2015, though losses have reduced considerably, especially from the heaviest decreases seen in early 2016. Over-the-year employment change in manufacturing has improved sharply over the last year. Employment in the industry fell by 300 jobs in September 2017, representing a decrease of 1.1 percent. Within manufacturing, non-durable goods was up 100 jobs, or 0.8 percent, while durable goods was down 400 jobs, or 2.6 percent. Wholesale trade was down 100 jobs, or 0.5 percent.

Government employment contracted by 3,400 jobs over the year. This represented a loss of 1.8 percent in public-sector payrolls. State government was down 2,400 jobs, or 4.1 percent, and local government was down 1,100 jobs, or 1.1 percent. Each of state government education, down 2.2 percent, and local government education, down 1.1 percent, shed 600 jobs. Federal government employment grew by 100 jobs, or 0.3 percent.

Detailed analysis will be provided in the *Labor Market Review* scheduled for release on October 27.

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Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

NEW MEXICO	Preliminary Sep-17	Revised Aug-17	Revised Sep-16	Change	
				Monthly	Yearly
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	839,900	837,900	833,100	2,000	6,800
Total Private	651,000	655,600	640,800	-4,600	10,200
Goods-Producing	91,200	91,500	88,900	-300	2,300
Mining, Logging & Construction	64,400	64,700	61,800	-300	2,600
<i>Mining & Logging</i>	18,400	18,600	18,800	-200	-400
<i>Construction</i>	46,000	46,100	43,000	-100	3,000
Manufacturing	26,800	26,800	27,100	0	-300
<i>Durable Goods</i>	14,800	14,900	15,200	-100	-400
<i>Non-Durable Goods</i>	12,000	11,900	11,900	100	100
Service-Providing	748,700	746,400	744,200	2,300	4,500
Private Service-Providing	559,800	564,100	551,900	-4,300	7,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	140,700	139,800	138,300	900	2,400
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	21,200	21,100	21,300	100	-100
<i>Retail Trade</i>	94,000	93,700	92,600	300	1,400
<i>Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities</i>	25,500	25,000	24,400	500	1,100
Information	12,600	13,100	13,000	-500	-400
Financial Activities	34,100	33,600	33,400	500	700
Professional & Business Services	104,200	105,800	102,300	-1,600	1,900
Education & Health Services	141,600	138,900	140,100	2,700	1,500
<i>Educational Services</i>	23,500	20,700	22,000	2,800	1,500
<i>Health Care & Social Assistance</i>	118,100	118,200	118,100	-100	0
Leisure & Hospitality	98,400	102,800	96,700	-4,400	1,700
Other Services	28,200	30,100	28,100	-1,900	100
Government	188,900	182,300	192,300	6,600	-3,400
Federal Government	29,700	29,900	29,600	-200	100
State Government	56,600	53,800	59,000	2,800	-2,400
<i>State Government Education</i>	27,000	23,300	27,600	3,700	-600
Local Government	102,600	98,600	103,700	4,000	-1,100
<i>Local Government Education</i>	53,600	49,500	54,200	4,100	-600

U.S. Labor Force Estimates

	September 2017				August 2017				September 2016			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
Seasonally Adjusted	161,146	154,345	6,801	4.2%	160,571	153,439	7,132	4.4%	159,830	151,926	7,904	4.9%
Not Seasonally Adjusted	161,049	154,494	6,556	4.1%	160,863	153,576	7,287	4.5%	159,636	151,977	7,658	4.8%

Note: Numbers are in thousands.

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

	Preliminary September 2017				Revised August 2017				Revised September 2016			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE SA	929,449	871,796	57,653	6.2%	929,297	871,076	58,221	6.3%	927,700	864,703	62,997	6.8%
STATEWIDE	926,280	869,916	56,364	6.1%	924,767	865,120	59,647	6.4%	925,371	862,890	62,481	6.8%
Albuquerque MSA SA	See notes below.				See notes below.				424,109	397,754	26,355	6.2%
Albuquerque MSA	425,823	401,188	24,635	5.8%	422,736	396,833	25,903	6.1%	423,480	397,069	26,411	6.2%
Bernalillo	327,463	309,237	18,226	5.6%	324,911	305,828	19,083	5.9%	325,202	305,754	19,448	6.0%
Sandoval	62,805	58,855	3,950	6.3%	62,319	58,156	4,163	6.7%	62,940	58,635	4,305	6.8%
Torrance	5,571	5,106	465	8.3%	5,555	5,074	481	8.7%	5,526	5,021	505	9.1%
Valencia	29,984	27,990	1,994	6.7%	29,951	27,775	2,176	7.3%	29,812	27,659	2,153	7.2%
Farmington MSA SA	See notes below.				See notes below.				53,312	48,357	4,955	9.3%
Farmington MSA	52,129	48,531	3,598	6.9%	50,927	47,040	3,887	7.6%	53,223	48,368	4,855	9.1%
Las Cruces MSA SA	See notes below.				See notes below.				95,285	88,446	6,839	7.2%
Las Cruces MSA	94,023	87,910	6,113	6.5%	94,341	87,873	6,468	6.9%	94,761	88,236	6,525	6.9%
Santa Fe MSA SA	See notes below.				See notes below.				72,799	68,865	3,934	5.4%
Santa Fe MSA	72,633	68,811	3,822	5.3%	74,182	70,207	3,975	5.4%	71,884	67,967	3,917	5.4%
Catron	1,189	1,118	71	6.0%	1,205	1,131	74	6.1%	1,228	1,142	86	7.0%
Chaves	27,197	25,469	1,728	6.4%	26,997	25,165	1,832	6.8%	27,698	25,785	1,913	6.9%
Cibola	9,050	8,374	676	7.5%	9,067	8,309	758	8.4%	8,903	8,114	789	8.9%
Colfax	5,355	5,019	336	6.3%	6,322	5,965	357	5.6%	5,459	5,116	343	6.3%
Curry	21,856	20,747	1,109	5.1%	21,597	20,438	1,159	5.4%	21,588	20,413	1,175	5.4%
De Baca	837	793	44	5.3%	845	799	46	5.4%	782	744	38	4.9%
Eddy	28,120	26,655	1,465	5.2%	27,797	26,225	1,572	5.7%	27,972	25,950	2,022	7.2%
Grant	11,985	11,247	738	6.2%	11,997	11,218	779	6.5%	12,181	11,414	767	6.3%
Guadalupe	1,660	1,555	105	6.3%	1,665	1,557	108	6.5%	1,714	1,607	107	6.2%
Harding	278	256	22	7.9%	287	265	22	7.7%	266	249	17	6.4%
Hidalgo	2,210	2,100	110	5.0%	2,238	2,116	122	5.5%	2,300	2,182	118	5.1%
Lea	26,909	25,141	1,768	6.6%	26,673	24,782	1,891	7.1%	26,848	24,220	2,628	9.8%
Lincoln	8,627	8,172	455	5.3%	9,084	8,603	481	5.3%	8,507	8,012	495	5.8%
Los Alamos	9,047	8,707	340	3.8%	9,098	8,741	357	3.9%	8,918	8,535	383	4.3%
Luna	10,615	9,558	1,057	10.0%	10,781	9,687	1,094	10.1%	10,516	9,457	1,059	10.1%
McKinley	23,997	21,844	2,153	9.0%	24,013	21,728	2,285	9.5%	24,062	21,794	2,268	9.4%
Mora	2,219	2,056	163	7.3%	2,253	2,083	170	7.5%	2,232	2,058	174	7.8%
Otero	24,514	23,017	1,497	6.1%	24,633	23,027	1,606	6.5%	25,049	23,465	1,584	6.3%
Quay	3,209	3,011	198	6.2%	3,164	2,934	230	7.3%	3,206	2,989	217	6.8%
Rio Arriba	16,632	15,604	1,028	6.2%	16,732	15,626	1,106	6.6%	16,606	15,423	1,183	7.1%
Roosevelt	7,914	7,481	433	5.5%	7,840	7,375	465	5.9%	7,943	7,470	473	6.0%
San Miguel	10,886	10,085	801	7.4%	10,741	9,894	847	7.9%	11,034	10,183	851	7.7%
Sierra	4,213	3,927	286	6.8%	4,168	3,873	295	7.1%	4,120	3,806	314	7.6%
Socorro	6,488	6,066	422	6.5%	6,425	5,959	466	7.3%	6,597	6,102	495	7.5%
Taos	14,672	13,547	1,125	7.7%	14,906	13,692	1,214	8.1%	14,364	13,172	1,192	8.3%
Union	1,994	1,927	67	3.4%	2,054	1,976	78	3.8%	1,927	1,847	80	4.2%

Notes: Current MSA SA labor force estimates will be released October 27 in the September 2017 *Labor Market Review* publication and in the NMDWS LASER system, both available under the Labor Market Information tab at <http://www.dws.state.nm.us/>. All MSA SA series from January 1990 forward are available through LASER and from BLS at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/metrosa.htm>.

Totals may not sum because of rounding.

County Unemployment Rates, September 2017 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

