

CONTRACTORS PUSHING STATE OUT OF RECESSION WITH JOBS, GREEN BUILDING

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It's no secret that the construction industry in New Mexico saw some lows after the Recession. But things are looking up, and the numbers prove it. New Mexico added 1,500 construction jobs from February to March — a 3.4 percent increase — [making it the nation's largest percentage increase.](#)

While these jobs include many energy projects like the recently announced [87,000-acre El Cabo Wind Farm project](#) by Avangrid Renewables, they also include jobs with commercial construction projects like the [Facebook data center in Los Lunas.](#)



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COURTESY HB CONSTRUCTION

And the increase in jobs might continue. There are 19 subcontractors on The List that said they are hiring this year, with more than 100 positions to be filled within the companies.

Another positive marker for the industry is the amount of work being done in the private sector. When a recession hits an area, private projects tend to slow down or stop. [More work tends to be found in the public and government sector](#), such as public schools or city buildings. The majority of general contractors and subcontractors on The Lists had the majority of their work in 2016 done in the private sector, a good indication for a recovering economy.

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Take the University of New Mexico Health Science Center Phase III, for example. HB Construction was the general contractor for the project. [Yearout Cos.](#), a mechanical contractor, also worked on the project.

Of the subcontractors on The List, 15 are green builders. In a recent nationwide study by Albuquerque Business First's parent company American City Business Journals, [Albuquerque ranked 25th in the nation for green building](#), with 737,771 square feet with LEED certification and 16 total LEED-certified projects since Jan. 1, 2016.

Albuquerque Business First is also tracking construction projects in the metro area with our [new Construction Watch interactive map](#).

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