

April 2026

Albuquerque Job Growth Holds Steady in April as Core Sectors Lead and Turnover Falls to Lowest Level of the Year

Albuquerque, N.M., May 1, 2026 – Albuquerque-area employers continued adding workers in April, though at a more measured pace than March’s seasonal peak, according to the Payday HCM Albuquerque Jobs Report. Across a representative panel of 573 local businesses, the report recorded 933 new hires against 465 separations, a net gain of 468 positions within the sample. The findings reflect a broad-based job market in which more than a third of panel firms expanded their workforce, while turnover fell to its lowest level of the year so far.

Key Insights

- **Hospitality led the panel for the second consecutive month.** Food services and drinking places led all sectors with a net gain of 180 positions across 64 businesses, stronger than March’s net gain of 139. Combined with accommodation (net 24 across 40 businesses), the broader hospitality industry accounted for roughly 44 percent of the panel’s total net gains.
- **Health care, education, and social services contributed across multiple sectors.** Ambulatory health care (+51), social assistance (+29), educational services (+29), and nursing and residential care (+16) together added 125 positions across 113 businesses, a pattern of broad care- and education-related hiring that has run through the panel all year.
- **Underlying market health strengthened even as the headline pace moderated.** The share of panel firms expanding their workforce stood at 33.9% in April, well above February’s 29.5% and outpacing contracting firms by more than two to one. Monthly turnover fell from 2.11% in March to 1.88% in April, the fourth consecutive monthly decline and the lowest level of the year so far.

Top Growing Sectors, April 2026

Sector-level data from Payday HCM’s employer panel, classified by NAICS code.

Sector	Businesses	Net Change	Hires / Separations
Food Services & Drinking Places	64	+180	+286 / -106
Ambulatory Health Care	57	+51	+97 / -46
Social Assistance	22	+29	+48 / -19
Educational Services	17	+29	+35 / -6
Accommodation (Hotels)	40	+24	+77 / -53

Notable declines within the panel: Religious, civic, and similar organizations posted the largest contraction at -13, followed by credit intermediation (-4) and small declines across transportation, manufacturing, and a handful of small-employer categories. Of 69 sectors tracked, 13 posted any decline, and outside the religious and civic category, none reached double digits.

“Last month I said the performing arts surge was seasonal and the underlying trend across the rest of the economy was the more important story. April confirms both. Food services strengthened, health care and education kept adding people, and turnover dropped to its lowest level of the year so far. That kind of broad-based steadiness, across a lot of different industries at once, is what a healthy local economy looks like.”

– Andy Siegel, Founder and CEO, Payday HCM

**About this report:**

The Payday HCM Albuquerque Jobs Report is a monthly analysis of anonymized payroll data from a representative panel of Albuquerque-area businesses with five or more employees. The panel currently includes 571 employers representing approximately ten percent of qualifying businesses in the region. The report identifies local employment trends based on this cross-section and should not be interpreted as a count of all jobs in the Albuquerque metro area. Full methodology is available [here](#). For questions or to schedule an interview with Andy Siegel, contact reports@paydayhcm.com.