

PAYDAY HCM

August 2026

Payday HCM's Albuquerque panel grew 1.2% in August, up from 0.6% in July, marking the fifth consecutive month of net job growth

Albuquerque, N.M., September 1, 2026 – Payday HCM's Albuquerque panel extended its run of monthly job gains into August, with hiring rebounding from July's soft month and educational services returning to net growth for the first time since spring, according to the company's monthly Albuquerque Jobs Report. Across the representative panel of 573 local businesses, the report recorded 977 new hires against 673 separations, a net gain of 304 positions, up from a net gain of 146 in July. Hospitality continued to lead the panel's growth for a fifth consecutive month.

Month-Over-Month Comparison

	Growth Rate	Net Change	New Hires	Separations	Turnover	% Expanding
August 2026	+1.2%	+304	977	673	2.75%	32.3%
July 2026	+0.6%	+146	935	789	3.19%	34.6%

Key Insights

- **Educational services returned to net growth.** The sector added a net 17 positions across 14 businesses in August, its first positive month since May. The reversal completes the seasonal cycle that began with June's -219 net, matching the typical New Mexico pattern of new-academic-year hiring picking up in August and September.
- **Ambulatory health care rebounded sharply from July's decline.** The sector added a net 69 positions across 59 businesses in August, a 196-position swing from July's net loss of 127. The rebound offset more than half of July's contraction and returned the sector to positive growth.
- **Growth accelerated but concentrated in fewer firms.** Although net hiring more than doubled from July, the share of firms expanding fell to 32.3%, the year's lowest reading, while the share contracting rose to 15.0%, the year's highest. Net growth was driven by stronger performance from a smaller set of leading sectors rather than by broad-based expansion.

Top Growing Sectors, August 2026

Sector	Businesses	Net Change	Hires / Separations
Food Services & Drinking Places	65	+85	+288 / -203
Ambulatory Health Care	59	+69	+125 / -56
Social Assistance	24	+27	+64 / -37
Accommodation (Hotels)	39	+25	+75 / -50
Educational Services	14	+17	+43 / -26

Notable declines within the panel: Professional, scientific and technical services posted the largest decline at -15, followed by repair and maintenance (-10) and utilities (-6). Fourteen

PAYDAY HCM

sectors posted any decline in August, down from seventeen in July, though the share of firms contracting rose to 15.0%, the year's highest reading.

ADP called August the slowest month for U.S. private sector hiring since January, with just 38,000 jobs added nationally. Our Albuquerque panel accelerated instead, growing 1.2% up from July's 0.6%. The sector patterns lined up though: education and health care and hospitality led growth in both reports, while professional services softened nationally and locally. Albuquerque is not immune to what's cooling the national economy, but our August panel data showed more resilience than the headline national number would suggest.

– 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 573 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.