

Albuquerque-area employers added 442 jobs in June, a 1.8% gain down from 2.2% in May, marking the year's highest level of hiring and broadest share of firms expanding

Albuquerque, N.M., July 1, 2026 – Albuquerque-area employers extended their run of monthly job gains into June, with hiring reaching its highest level of the year and the share of firms expanding rising to a new peak, according to the Payday HCM Albuquerque Jobs Report. Across a representative panel of 571 local businesses, the report recorded 1,095 new hires against 653 separations, a net gain of 442 positions. That net gain trailed May's 547 largely because of a seasonal wave of end-of-academic-year separations in educational services.

Month-Over-Month Comparison

	Growth Rate	Net Change	New Hires	Separations	Turnover	% Expanding
June 2026	+1.8%	+442	1,095	653	2.65%	39.9%
May 2026	+2.2%	+547	990	443	1.80%	35.2%

Key Insights

- **Hospitality continued to lead the panel by a wide margin.** Food services and drinking places added a net 218 positions across 64 businesses, the largest single-sector contribution of any month tracked so far and stronger than May's net 175. Combined with accommodation (net 42 across 40 businesses), the broader hospitality industry contributed more than half of the panel's total net gains in June.
- **Hiring reached the year's highest level and growth broadened.** The panel recorded 1,095 new hires in June, up from 990 in May and 933 in April. The share of firms expanding rose to 39.9% from 35.2%, and the diffusion index reached 29.1%, both new highs for the year. Ambulatory health care (net 85 across 58 businesses) joined food services and accommodation among sectors adding 40 or more positions.
- **Educational services separations weighed on the overall net gain.** Educational services posted a net loss of 219 positions across 15 businesses in June, reflecting the seasonal pattern of end-of-academic-year contract endings. Excluding that single sector, the rest of the panel added 661 positions, comfortably the strongest showing of the year so far. Education hiring typically resumes in August and September.

Top Growing Sectors, June 2026

Sector	Businesses	Net Change	Hires / Separations
Food Services & Drinking Places	64	+218	+281 / -63
Ambulatory Health Care	58	+85	+125 / -40
Accommodation (Hotels)	40	+42	+85 / -43
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	65	+35	+51 / -16
Social Assistance	22	+32	+70 / -38

Notable declines within the panel: Educational services posted the largest contraction at -219, a seasonal pattern of end-of-academic-year contract endings that typically reverses in the fall. Beyond that, declines remained modest: printing and related support (-3), repair and maintenance (-2), and support activities for transportation (-2) led the smaller contractions. Eight sectors posted any decline in June, up from four in May.

“June was a busy month for our panel. Hiring hit its highest level of the year and more businesses added workers than in any month we have reported. Educational services was the one soft spot, with end-of-academic-year separations pulling the overall net gain down. That is a familiar seasonal pattern in New Mexico and we expect it to reverse in the fall. Set that aside and hiring in June was the strongest we have seen, which is a healthy sign for the local economy.”

– 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.