

May 2026

Albuquerque-area employers added 547 jobs in May, a 2.2% gain up from 1.9% in April, marking the year's lowest turnover and narrowest sectoral declines

Albuquerque, N.M., June 1, 2026 – Albuquerque-area employers strengthened the pace of hiring in May, posting their fifth consecutive monthly decline in turnover, according to the Payday HCM Albuquerque Jobs Report. Across a representative panel of 566 local businesses, the report recorded 990 new hires against 443 separations, a net gain of 547 positions, up from a net gain of 468 in April.

Month-Over-Month Comparison

	Growth Rate	Net Change	New Hires	Separations	Turnover	% Expanding
May 2026	+2.2%	+547	990	443	1.80%	35.2%
April 2026	+1.9%	+468	933	465	1.88%	33.9%

Key Insights

- **Hospitality continued to lead the panel.** Food services and drinking places added a net 175 positions across 63 businesses, again the largest single-sector gain. Combined with accommodation (net 29 across 40 businesses), the broader hospitality industry contributed roughly 37 percent of the panel's total net gains in May.
- **Growth broadened across sectors.** The share of panel firms expanding their workforce rose to 35.2% in May from 33.9% in April, while the share contracting fell to 11.0% from 13.4%. Only 4 of 68 sectors tracked posted any decline in May, the narrowest reading of the year so far. Professional and technical services, education, specialty trades, and social assistance each added 30 or more positions.
- **Turnover fell for the fifth consecutive month.** Monthly turnover within the panel fell from 1.88% in April to 1.80% in May, the lowest level of the year so far. Stronger hiring paired with continued declines in turnover and separations points to improving workforce stability across the Albuquerque market.

Top Growing Sectors, May 2026

Sector	Businesses	Net Change	Hires / Separations
Food Services & Drinking Places	63	+175	+256 / -81
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	65	+34	+65 / -31
Educational Services	17	+33	+45 / -12
Specialty Trade Contractors	26	+30	+38 / -8
Social Assistance	21	+30	+41 / -11

Notable declines within the panel: Only four sectors posted any decline in May, the narrowest reading of the year so far. Food manufacturing (-4) and printing and related support (-3) led the contractions, with miscellaneous manufacturing and oil and gas extraction each down one position. April recorded 13 sectors with declines.

"May built on the steady pattern we saw in April. Hiring strengthened, separations dropped, and turnover fell to its lowest level of the year so far. What stands out is the breadth. When growth shows up across food services, professional services, education, social services, and the trades all in the same month, that is what a healthy local economy looks like. We are seeing the same

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dynamic in our own hiring at Payday. Over the last two months, we have brought on five people, and the quality of the resumes coming in has noticeably improved, which has meant a stronger pool of candidates overall."

– 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.