

Labor Force & Employment Trends

Labor force and employment rates can be directly linked to the population growth Yuma County is experiencing. The county is currently experiencing an annual average estimated unemployment rate of 13.5 percent for 2006, which is nearly triple that of the state's unemployment rate. Municipalities within Yuma County have high unemployment rates, mostly due to the seasonal employment the agricultural community dictates. Other factors that contribute to the unemployment rate are tied to our economic growth – tourism and seasonal winter visitors impact the retail and hospitality sector.

For example, residents in the Foothills that have unemployment rates of 6.7 percent are mostly due to the number of winter residents it acquires between October and April. They come to Arizona in retirement to relax and contribute to our economy through tourism dollars – not workforce labor. Yuma County's annual average employment figure is around 57,000 workers – just over 2 percent of the state's workforce.

The county's high unemployment rate makes it attractive for locating and expanding businesses. Constant migration of a variety of skilled workers from California, Greater Phoenix, and Mexico provide a wealth of talent from which to draw. The low regulatory environment and proximity to the Southern California, Nevada, and Phoenix markets also contribute to making Yuma an attractive location for commerce and industry.

Job Growth

Arizona is facing a projected population of 6.2 million by 2010 which will enhance the opportunity for job growth. The Top 10 growing jobs in Yuma County are:

- Government
- Support Activities for Crop Production
- Residential Building Construction
- Building Foundation & Exterior Contractors
- Building Finishing Contractors
- Cement & Concrete Product Manufacturing
- Highway, Street, & Bridge Construction
- Remediation & Other Waste Services
- Waste Treatment & Disposal
- Electronics & Appliance Stores

Declining industries in Yuma County include the following:

- Department Stores
- Business Support Services
- Other Motor Vehicle Dealers
- Lumber & Construction Supply Merchant Wholesale
- Grocery & Related Product Wholesalers
- RV Parks & Recreational Camps
- Farm Product Raw Material Merchant Wholesale

Table 1
Arizona Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Data, June 2006^(a)

(in Thousands)

	June 2006 ^(b)	May 2006 ^(c)	June 2005	Monthly/Yearly Change	
				May '06 - June '06	June '05 - June '06
Civilian Labor Force^(d)	2,955.7	2,931.5	2,861.4	24.2	94.3
Unemployment	137.4	115.3	140.0	22.1	-2.6
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	3.9%	4.9%	0.7	-0.3
Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted)^(e)	4.4%	4.2%	4.7%	0.2	-0.3
Total Employment	2,818.3	2,816.1	2,721.4	2.2	96.9
Nonfarm Payroll Employment^(f,g)	2,594.0	2,626.5	2,477.3	-32.5	116.7
Private Sector	2,210.9	2,208.6	2,098.3	2.3	112.6
Government	383.1	417.9	379.0	-34.8	4.1
Goods-Producing Industries	437.4	431.8	411.1	5.6	26.3
Manufacturing	183.5	182.6	182.0	0.9	1.5
Durable Goods	149.0	148.5	146.9	0.5	2.1
Fabricated Metal	19.2	19.0	18.4	0.2	0.8
Computer and Electronic Parts	45.8	45.7	45.1	0.1	0.7
Aerospace Products and Parts	27.2	27.0	26.7	0.2	0.5
Nondurable Goods	34.5	34.1	35.1	0.4	-0.6
Natural Resources and Mining	10.6	10.2	9.4	0.4	1.2
Metal Ore Mining	7.3	7.0	6.4	0.3	0.9
Construction	243.3	239.0	219.7	4.3	23.6
Buildings	46.9	46.3	40.9	0.6	6.0
Heavy	28.8	28.0	27.3	0.8	1.5
Specialty Trades	167.6	164.7	151.5	2.9	16.1
Service-Providing Industries	2,156.6	2,194.7	2,066.2	-38.1	90.4
Private Service Providing	1,773.5	1,776.8	1,687.2	-3.3	86.3
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	503.7	504.1	481.8	-0.4	21.9
Trade	422.7	423.1	401.5	-0.4	21.2
Wholesale Trade	103.1	102.8	99.2	0.3	3.9
Retail Trade	319.6	320.3	302.3	-0.7	17.3
Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores	21.9	21.8	20.6	0.1	1.3
General Merchandise	59.8	60.5	56.8	-0.7	3.0
Department Stores	28.5	28.9	29.5	-0.4	-1.0
Other General Merchandise	31.3	31.6	27.3	-0.3	4.0
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	47.3	47.0	45.1	0.3	2.2
Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	15.1	15.2	13.6	-0.1	1.5
Electronics and Appliance Stores	11.0	11.0	10.3	0.0	0.7
Building Materials and Garden Equipment Dealers	26.0	26.2	24.7	-0.2	1.3
Food and Beverage Stores	57.2	57.5	55.2	-0.3	2.0
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	81.0	81.0	80.3	0.0	0.7
Transportation and Warehousing	69.1	69.1	68.5	0.0	0.6
Air Transportation	16.1	16.1	15.6	0.0	0.5
Truck Transportation	20.5	20.4	19.8	0.1	0.7
Utilities	11.9	11.9	11.8	0.0	0.1
Information	44.1	44.4	45.6	-0.3	-1.5
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	12.0	12.0	12.1	0.0	-0.1
Telecommunications	16.0	15.9	16.3	0.1	-0.3
Financial Activities	180.3	180.3	173.5	0.0	6.8
Finance and Insurance	128.3	128.5	124.6	-0.2	3.7
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	78.2	78.4	76.0	-0.2	2.2
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	39.2	39.2	38.2	0.0	1.0
Securities, Commodity Contracts	10.9	10.9	10.4	0.0	0.5
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	52.0	51.8	48.9	0.2	3.1
Professional and Business Services	396.7	393.4	367.7	3.3	29.0
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	120.2	120.1	114.7	0.1	5.5
Management of Companies and Enterprises	23.9	23.8	22.9	0.1	1.0
Administrative and Support and Waste Management	252.6	249.5	230.1	3.1	22.5
Employment Services	136.1	134.0	123.1	2.1	13.0
Business Support Services	29.0	29.1	26.8	-0.1	2.2
Services to Buildings and Dwellings	44.2	43.7	41.3	0.5	2.9
Educational and Health Services	283.3	285.7	272.3	-2.4	11.0
Educational Services	40.1	42.4	38.9	-2.3	1.2
Health Care and Social Assistance	243.2	243.3	233.4	-0.1	9.8
Health Care	211.2	210.6	202.7	0.6	8.5
Ambulatory Health Care Services	107.9	107.9	103.2	0.0	4.7
Hospitals	67.9	67.4	64.8	0.5	3.1
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	35.4	35.3	34.7	0.1	0.7
Social Assistance	32.0	32.7	30.7	-0.7	1.3
Leisure and Hospitality	268.7	272.5	254.1	-3.8	14.6
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	34.7	35.3	31.6	-0.6	3.1
Accommodation and Food Services	234.0	237.2	222.5	-3.2	11.5
Accommodation	47.0	47.8	45.6	-0.8	1.4
Food Services and Drinking Places	187.0	189.4	176.9	-2.4	10.1
Other Services (except Public Administration)	96.7	96.4	92.2	0.3	4.5
Government	383.1	417.9	379.0	-34.8	4.1
Federal	53.1	52.6	52.6	0.5	0.5
State	78.0	86.3	81.5	-8.3	-3.5
State Education	36.9	45.3	40.1	-8.4	-3.2
Local	252.0	279.0	244.9	-27.0	7.1
Local Education	121.2	151.9	117.1	-30.7	4.1

Notes: For other notes and source, see Table 6

Table 4
Yuma Metropolitan Area Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Data, June 2006^(a)

(in Thousands)

	June 2006 ^(b)	May 2006 ^(c)	June 2005	Monthly/Yearly Change	
				May '06 - June '06	June '05 - June '06
Civilian Labor Force^(d)	81.4	80.1	79.9	1.3	1.5
Unemployment	14.0	14.9	15.5	-0.9	-1.5
Unemployment Rate	17.2%	18.6%	19.4%	-1.4	-2.2
Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted)^(e)	14.0%	15.1%	15.8%	-1.1	-1.8
Total Employment	67.4	65.2	64.4	2.2	3.0
Nonfarm Payroll Employment^(f,g)	52.8	52.5	49.0	0.3	3.8
Private Sector	37.9	38.1	35.7	-0.2	2.2
Government	14.9	14.4	13.3	0.5	1.6
Goods-Producing Industries	8.2	8.1	7.5	0.1	0.7
Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	0.1
Natural Resources and Construction	5.4	5.3	4.8	0.1	0.6
Service-Providing Industries	44.6	44.4	41.5	0.2	3.1
Private Service Providing	29.7	30.0	28.2	-0.3	1.5
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	9.7	9.9	9.3	-0.2	0.4
Information	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	-0.1
Professional and Business Services	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0
Educational and Health Services	6.2	6.2	5.9	0.0	0.3
Leisure and Hospitality	6.3	6.4	5.4	-0.1	0.9
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Government	14.9	14.4	13.3	0.5	1.6
Federal	3.4	3.3	3.0	0.1	0.4
State and Local	11.5	11.1	10.3	0.4	1.2

Source: Eller College of Management, The University of Arizona

Wage Information

Occupations that provide top paying jobs in Yuma County are Chief Executives, Construction Managers, Pharmacists, Engineering Managers, Engineers, Sales Managers, Lawyers, Physical Therapists, Financial Managers, and Management occupations on an hourly basis. Listed below is a sample of common occupations in Yuma County.

Mean Hourly Wages by Industry

Industry	Average Hourly Wage
All Occupations	\$13.51
Management Occupations	\$31.76
Sales Manager	\$35.74
Network & Computer System Administrators	\$16.04
Architecture & Engineering Occupations	\$26.31
Life, Physical, & Social Science Occupations	\$23.31
Community & Social Service Occupations	\$16.15
Preschool Teachers, except special education	\$9.30
Public Relations Specialist	\$18.69
Fire Fighters	\$15.12
Protective Service Workers	\$18.81
Bartenders	\$7.36
Child Care Workers	\$8.01
Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks	\$11.28
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations	\$7.20
Carpenters	\$15.34
Sheet Metal Workers	\$16.75
Team Assemblers	\$10.28
Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services	\$12.43

Source: Sample from www.workforce.az.gov

ARIZONA EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages - 2005 Average Annual Employment & Wages

Industry	Employment	Emp. % Change	Wages
Agriculture	28,657	-2.7%	\$21,316
Mining	9,006	7.6%	\$56,051
Utilities	21,779	2.0%	\$67,244
Construction	223,049	14.2%	\$38,154
Manufacturing	182,317	2.9%	\$54,614
Wholesale Trade	100,148	4.5%	\$55,668
Retail Trade	309,321	6.3%	\$27,434
Transportation & Warehousing	80,754	2.7%	\$41,810
Information	47,197	-4.8%	\$47,220
Finance & Insurance	125,039	5.5%	\$57,157
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	49,745	7.2%	\$39,942
Professional, Scientific & Technical	116,186	6.0%	\$55,010
Management of Companies	23,304	3.9%	\$63,108
Administrative & Support	229,392	10.9%	\$27,729
Educational Services	198,627	4.6%	\$34,904
Health Care & Social Assistance	249,869	5.2%	\$41,328
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	48,896	1.6%	\$29,693
Accommodation & Food Services	223,028	5.2%	\$15,522
Other (except Public Administration)	68,846	2.6%	\$27,004
Public Administration	146,388	1.5%	\$44,982
Unclassified	7,081	63.7%	\$37,217
Total	2,488,657	5.7%	\$38,154

Source: www.workforce.az.gov