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Navajo, Apache & Gila Counties Current Employment & Unemployment Data

The following information was reported January 2016 from the Arizona Office of Employment & Population Statistics.

Navajo County's Unemployment Rate = 9.2%
Navajo County's Employed = 36,736
Navajo County's Unemployed = 3,723

Apache County's Unemployment Rate = 12.0%
Apache County's Employed = 18,029
Apache County's Unemployed = 2,458

Gila County's Unemployment Rate = 7.7%
Gila County's Employed = 19,374
Gila County's Unemployed = 1,614

AZ's Current Employment & Unemployment Data

The following information was reported February 2016 from the Arizona Office of Employment & Populations Statistics. (In Thousands)

Arizona's Unemployment Rate = 5.2%
Arizona's Employed = 3052.7
Arizona's Unemployed = 167.7

Top 3 Growing Career Fields in Arizona

1. Careers in Healthcare
2. Careers in the Construction & Building Trades
3. Careers in the Hotel & Restaurant Industry

Reported by Arizona Office of Employment & Population Statistics - January 2016

Modest Employment Growth Projected in 2016, Continuing through 2017

The Office of Employment and Population Statistics within Arizona Department of Administration is projecting gradual gains in employment in Arizona for the 2015-2017 time period. An over-the-period gain of 156,535 jobs are projected to be gained over the projected years (2015 Quarter 3 to 2017 Quarter 2). In the current projection period, the rate of growth for total employment is 2.84%.

Highlights:

- Eleven of the twelve sectors are forecast to add jobs over the two-year period.
- Professional and Business Services sector is projected to add the largest number of jobs (34,902) over the two-year period (4.36% annual growth).
- Construction is projected to record the largest annualized percentage gain at 6.6% (17,732 jobs).
- Sectors with the largest expected gains are: Professional and Business Services(34,902 jobs), Educational and Health Services (31,428 jobs), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (23,414 jobs), Leisure and Hospitality (22,594 jobs), and Construction (17,732 jobs).

2015 Growing & Decline Industries

Navajo County's Growing Industries

1. Travelers Accomodation
2. Outpatient Care Centers
3. Community Care Facilities for the Elderly
4. Other Wood Product Manufacturing

Apache County's Growing Industries

1. Facilities Support Services
2. Service to Buildings & Dwellings
3. Computer System Design & Related Services
4. Civic & Social Organizations

Gila County's Growing Industries

1. Lessors of Real Estate
2. Outpatient Care Centers
3. Specialty Food Stores
4. RV Parks & Recreational Camps

Navajo County's Declining Industries

1. Elementary & Secondary Schools
2. Government
3. Nonmetallic Mineral Mining & Quarrying

Apache County's Declining Industries

1. Elementary & Secondary Schools
2. Gasoline Stations
3. Other General Merchandise Stores

Gila County's Declining Industries

1. Department Stores
2. Residential Building Construction
3. Nonmetallic Mineral Mining & Quarrying

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Projected Industry Employment

	Base Employment 2015 Q2	Projected Employment 2017 Q2
Education & Health Services	20.8%	20.8%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	19.0%	18.8%
Professional & Business Services	14.4%	14.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	11.8%	11.9%
Financial Activities	7.0%	7.1%
Manufacturing	5.8%	5.5%
Unclassified	5.3%	5.3%
Government	5.5%	5.3%
Construction	4.7%	5.1%
Other Services	2.7%	2.6%
Information	1.7%	1.7%
Natural Resources & Mining	1.2%	1.1%

Reported January 2016 by
Arizona Office of Employment & Population Statistics

Opportunity Occupations are Becoming More Accessible to Workers with Less Education, but it Depends on Where You Live.

Excerpt from NAWDP Advantage - April 2016 Volume 29, No. 4
By Stewart Andreason

Most workers in America, roughly 70 percent, have less than a four-year college degree. Opportunity for workers without a college degree to earn above a median wage has been changing over the last several years. Opportunity occupations, or those that pay above a median wage but require less than a college degree, have dropped by 1.7 million positions despite overall job growth and nearly 5 million positions between 2005 and 2014.

Many of these opportunity occupations have had decreasing levels of required education, while others, especially nursing, have had increasing levels. Where individuals live or work, however, might drive the educational requirements for a job more than the job title itself. The signals of "upskilling," or employers slowly requesting more educational attainment for jobs, are very different depending on the area where an employer is located.

One of the most optimistic trends is that as the country comes out of the recession, a number of opportunity occupations are requiring less education. This could be the product of an improving national economy and labor market or potentially the increased effectiveness of training programs targeted specifically at opportunity occupations and sectors.

Workforce development professionals should analyze the local economy where they work to determine where high-paying opportunity occupations exist, and then develop programs to support training for these jobs.

