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Economic Conditions Report

Pinal County

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report was created to assist Arizona Local Workforce Development Areas in completing their 2024-2027 Local Workforce Development Plans; the information provided in this report is intended to be used as a resource in the planning process. The report summarizes key demographic, labor market, and workforce trends occurring within the state and local economy.

ABOUT THE ARIZONA OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) was created to strengthen the analytical capabilities of the state's workforce and economic development initiatives. OEO serves as Arizona's workforce planning coordinator, and provides operational, strategic, and research support to the Workforce Arizona Council and other key workforce partners in this role. OEO produces official statewide data for population, employment, and wage estimates including the official Arizona employment and population projections. OEO also functions in an advisory capacity by providing economic expertise to state and local government agencies and officials.

POPULATION

Population Growth by County, 2016-2021

Area	Population Estimate (2016)	Population Estimate (2021)	Numeric Change (2016-2021)	Annualized Percent Change (2016-2021)
United States	318,558,162	329,725,481	11,167,319	0.7%
Arizona	6,797,006	7,285,370	488,364	1.4%
Apache County	68,305	66,411	-1,894	-0.6%
Cochise County	125,414	126,463	1,049	0.2%
Coconino County	142,846	147,434	4,588	0.6%
Gila County	53,325	53,525	200	0.1%
Graham County	38,356	39,025	669	0.3%
Greenlee County	9,834	9,593	-241	-0.5%
La Paz County	17,676	16,820	-856	-1.0%
Maricopa County	4,154,976	4,507,419	352,443	1.6%
Mohave County	203,956	216,527	12,571	1.2%
Navajo County	106,763	107,748	985	0.2%
Pima County	1,013,296	1,058,318	45,022	0.9%
Pinal County	392,646	439,128	46,482	2.3%
Santa Cruz County	47,075	48,468	1,393	0.6%
Yavapai County	221,970	241,173	19,203	1.7%
Yuma County	200,568	207,318	6,750	0.7%

Source: Office of Economic Opportunity Population Estimates

Changes in population can have a large impact on a local economy. An area experiencing population growth, particularly growth in working-age populations, may experience an increase in economic activity¹ and workforce diversity.

- Arizona had one of the fastest growing populations in the United States from 2020-2021, ranking 3rd among all U.S. states in numeric growth and 4th in percent growth.²
- Pinal County accounted for 9.5 percent of Arizona's total population growth from 2016 to 2021, constituting 6.0 percent of Arizona's total 2021 population.
- In 2021, 11 percent of individuals who moved to Pinal County from a different U.S. state were prime-working age adults (25 to 54 years).³

¹ Headey, D., & Hodge, A. (2009). The Effect of Population Growth on Economic Growth: A Meta-Regression Analysis of the Macroeconomic Literature. *Population and Development Review*, 35(2), 221-248. Retrieved from www.jstor.org/stable/25487661

² U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). *New Vintage 2021 Population Estimates Available for the Nation, States and Puerto Rico* [press release]. Available from [census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year estimates. (2016-2021). Geographic Mobility by Selected Characters, Table S0701. Available from data.census.gov.

Pinal County Population Projections, 2022-2026

Year	Population Estimate	Projected Numeric Change	Projected Percentage Change	Projected Natural Change ¹	Projected Total Net Migration ²
2022	453,924	-----	-----	88	14,708
2023	470,484	16,560	3.6%	1,113	15,000
2024	486,547	16,063	3.4%	1,616	14,000
2025	502,948	16,401	3.4%	2,154	13,800
2026	519,242	16,294	3.2%	2,294	14,000

¹ Natural Change = Births – Deaths

² Net Migration = (Domestic In Migration – Domestic Out Migration) + (Foreign In Migration – Out Migration)

Source: Office of Economic Opportunity, Population Projections Medium Series

Population projections provide useful insight into an area’s future demand for resources and services.⁴ An area experiencing population declines may choose to focus efforts on filling current job positions, while an area experiencing population growth may choose to focus on job creation. Further analysis into the composition of growing or declining populations can be a useful next step.

- Arizona is projected to add more than 487,155 people to its population from 2022-2026, growing by an annualized rate of 1.6 percent.
- Pinal County is projected to add 65,318 people to its population from 2022-2026

Population Characteristics, 2021

Indicator	Pinal County	Arizona	United States
Population 16 Years and Over	336,120	5,650,624	264,087,642
Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate 16 and Over	51%	60%	63%
Median Household Income	\$65,488	\$65,913	\$69,021
Families in Poverty	8%	10%	9%
Median Age	40	38	38
Individuals with a Disability	16%	13%	13%
Veterans	11%	9%	7%
Uninsured	9%	11%	9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP03
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It is important to understand the employment barriers faced by those served when developing workforce strategies. Population characteristics can help illuminate vulnerable segments of an area’s population. An area with population characteristics that differ significantly from state or national averages may need to consider what best meets the needs of their unique population.

- Median age was higher in Pinal County than in Arizona or the United States.
- The labor force participation rate was lower in Pinal County than in Arizona.

⁴ Kaneda, T. & Bremer, J. (2014). "Understanding Population Projection: Behind the Numbers. Population Reference Bureau". Retrieved from <https://www.prb.org/united-nations-population-projections/>

- Civilian labor force participation rate was significantly lower in Pinal County than in Arizona and the United States.

Highest Education Achieved, 2021, Population Over 25 Years of Age

Indicator	Pinal County	Arizona	United States
Less than High School	4.4%	4.9%	4.8%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	30.4%	23.5%	26.5%
Some College, no degree	26.1%	24.6%	20.0%
Associate's Degree	10.1%	9.0%	8.7%
Bachelor's Degree	14.0%	19.3%	20.6%
Graduate or Professional Degree	6.9%	11.9%	13.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 5-Year Estimates, Table S1501
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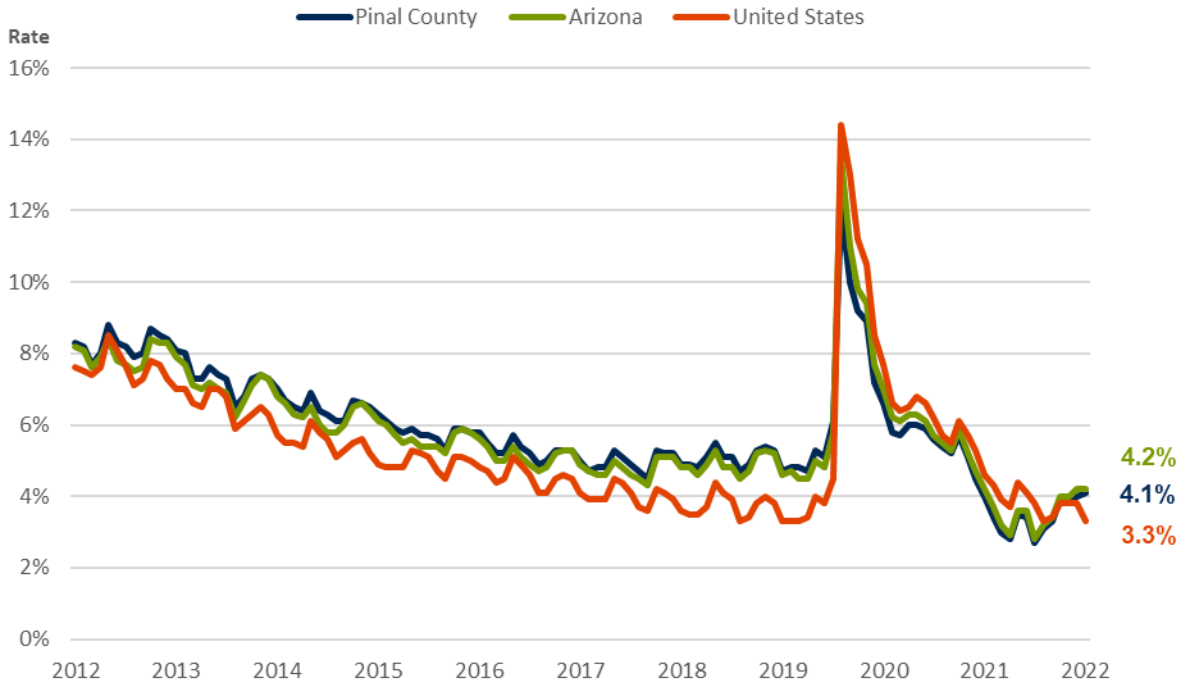
Understanding the current educational attainment of your local area’s available workforce is a crucial step in identifying job seeker and business needs. Education is an important element in determining job success, and, oftentimes, can lead directly to higher-paying jobs and lower rates of unemployment.⁵

- Eighty-eight percent of Pinal County residents aged 25 and over have graduated from high school, equal to the statewide rate.
- Comparatively, the percentage of Pinal County’s population with a bachelor’s degree or higher is 10 percent less than the state’s.

⁵ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019) “Unemployment Rates and Earnings by Educational Attainment.” Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm>.

WORKFORCE

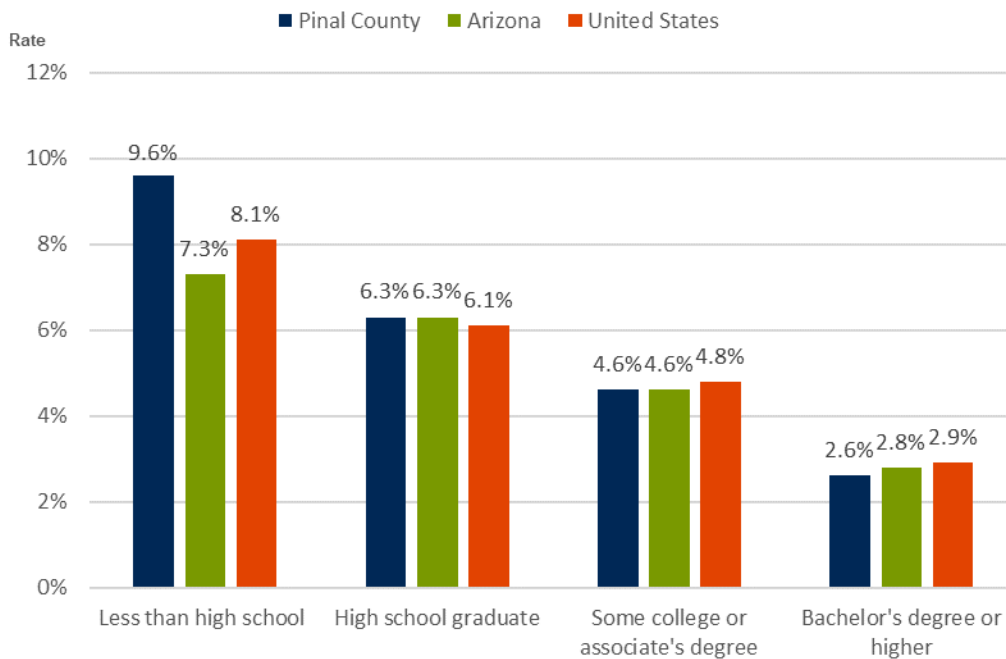
Unemployment Rate Comparisons, Sep 2012-Sep 2022, Not-Seasonally Adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
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- Pinal County's unemployment rate for the past 10 years has trended closely with the statewide rate.
- Since the pandemic, Pinal County's unemployment rate has remained lower than the national rate.
- Pinal County's labor force level increased from an annual average of 190,203 in 2020 to an annual average of 192,406 in 2021. Prior to the pandemic (2017-2019), Pinal County's average labor force level was 175,416.
- There was an annual average of 9,072 unemployed people in Pinal County in 2021, compared to 11,376 unemployed people in 2020. Prior to the pandemic (2017-2019), Pinal County averaged 8,837 unemployed people.
- The average unemployment rate in Pinal County during 2021 was 4.7 percent, 1.6 percent lower than the average from the previous nine years.

Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment, 2021, Ages 25-64



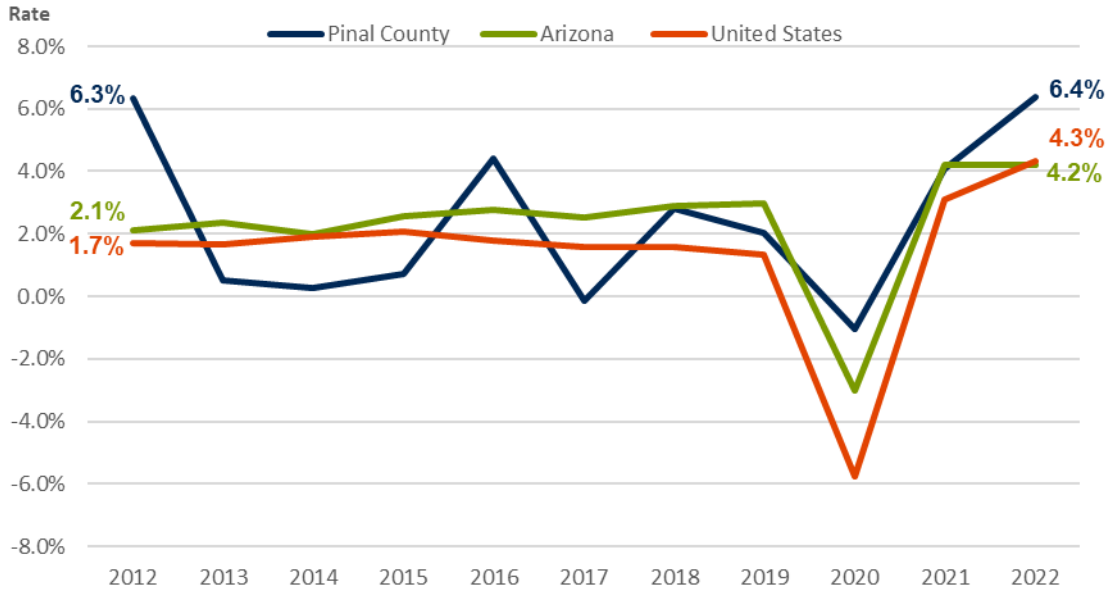
Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2021 5-Year Estimates, Table S2301
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Historically, higher educational attainment levels have been associated with lower levels of unemployment.⁶ Understanding the relationship between unemployment and education can help determine which education levels are most in need of targeted workforce efforts.

- The unemployment rate for individuals with less than a high school diploma was higher in Pinal County (9.6 percent) when compared with Arizona (7.3 percent) and the United States (8.1 percent).
- Among individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher, Pinal County saw a lower unemployment rate than both the state and nation.

⁶ National Center for Educational Statistics. (2019). "Employment and Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment." Retrieved from https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_cbc.asp

Average Nonfarm Employment Year-Over-Year Percentage Change, 2012-2022, Not-Seasonally Adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics
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- Total nonfarm employment increased by 9,980 jobs from 2012-2021, an annualized increase of 2.0 percent over this nine-year period. Over this same period, Arizona average total nonfarm employment increased by 2.2 percent.
- Since 2012, Pinal County's nonfarm employment growth has been volatile, but trends close to the statewide rate after the pandemic.

Pinal County Private Sector Industry Employment, 2016-2021

Industry	Average Employment (2016)	Average Employment (2021)	Numeric Growth (2016-2021)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2016-2021)
Construction	2,007	2,960	953	8.1%
Manufacturing	3,482	4,652	1,170	6.0%
Trade Transportation and Utilities	2,748	3,342	594	4.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,988	3,549	560	3.5%
Financial Activities	711	781	70	1.9%
Education and Health Services	3,061	3,150	89	0.6%
Professional and Business Services	2,049	2,019	-31	-0.3%
Natural Resources and Mining	1,722	1,436	-286	-3.6%
Other Services	1,661	1,366	-295	-3.8%
Information	683	437	-246	-8.5%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
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- Six of the private-sector industries in Pinal County recorded employment growth from 2016 to 2021, resulting in a total increase of 2,578 jobs.
- Of the 10 private-sector industries, Manufacturing made up the largest share of employment in 2021.
- Manufacturing experienced the largest numeric growth from 2016 to 2021.

Projected Industry Employment, 2021-2023

Area	Projected Employment (2021)	Projected Employment (2023)	Projected Numeric Growth (2021-2023)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2021-2023)
Arizona	3,109,190	3,375,515	266,325	4.2%
Balance of Maricopa	1,219,259	1,337,167	117,908	4.7%
City of Phoenix	1,013,840	1,095,437	81,597	3.9%
Coconino County	64,430	70,044	5,614	4.3%
Mohave and La Paz Counties	65,909	71,189	5,280	3.9%
Northeastern Arizona	64,496	68,182	3,686	2.8%
Pima County	397,174	427,695	30,521	3.8%
Pinal County	71,978	78,038	6,060	4.1%
Santa Cruz County	14,735	15,461	726	2.4%
Southeastern Arizona	54,206	57,926	3,720	3.4%
Yavapai County	71,559	77,411	5,852	4.0%
Yuma County	71,560	76,512	4,952	3.4%

NOTE: Maricopa Workforce Area includes Maricopa County excluding the City of Phoenix.
Source: Office of Economic Opportunity, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

- All Arizona local workforce areas are expected to record employment growth from 2021 to 2023.
- Pinal County is projected to grow at 4.1 percent, slightly below the statewide growth rate of 4.2 percent.

Pinal County Workforce Area Projected Industry Employment, 2021-2023

Industry	Projected Employment (2021)	Projected Employment (2023)	Projected Numeric Growth (2021-2023)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2021-2023)
Manufacturing	4,476	5,582	1,106	11.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	8,053	9,379	1,326	7.9%
Financial Activities	1,690	1,884	194	5.6%
Construction	2,994	3,273	279	4.6%
Professional and Business Services	6,416	6,887	471	3.6%
Trade Transportation and Utilities	13,267	14,227	960	3.6%
Education and Health Services	13,520	14,340	820	3.0%
Information	479	497	18	1.9%
Other Services	1,854	1,908	54	1.4%
Natural Resources and Mining	5,657	5,583	-74	-0.7%

Source: Office of Economic Opportunity, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Job skills are constantly evolving with the emergence of new technologies and changing consumer habits. Job seekers can better prepare themselves by gaining skills within industries projected to have large employment needs.

- Out of the 10 private sectors, nine are projected to experience growth through 2023.
- Manufacturing is projected to lead growth (11.7 percent), followed by Leisure and Hospitality (7.9 percent).
- Education and Health Services is projected to remain the industry that employs the most people in Pinal County.

ARIZONA

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