



November 15, 2021

---

# Economic Conditions Report

## Yavapai County

---

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**Doug Walls**, Labor Market Information Director, 602.771.1258  
**Sam Briggs**, Economist, 602.364.0430  
[www.laborstats.az.gov](http://www.laborstats.az.gov)

## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

This report was created to assist Arizona Local Workforce Development Areas in completing their PY2020-PY2023 Local Workforce Development Plan Modifications. The report summarizes key demographic, labor market, and workforce trends occurring within the state and local economy. The information provided in this report is intended to be a resource for local workforce information board members and workforce practitioners during the local workforce planning process.

## **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 in this role, provides operational, strategic and research support to the Workforce Arizona Council and other key workforce partners. 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.

## OVERVIEW

Yavapai County's economy consists of a wide range of industries offering opportunities for individuals seeking employment of all types.

Several positive economic and workforce trends were recorded in Yavapai County including:

- Population continues to increase, growing 1.7 percent annually from 2015 to 2020.
- Population is projected to grow by 1.0 percent annually from 2020 to 2024.
- Median Income in Yavapai County increased from \$48,148 in 2018 to \$53,816 in 2019.
- Residents of Yavapai County attaining a Graduate or Professional Degree increased from 10% in 2018 to 13% in 2019.
- Nine of the ten major private sector industries saw employment growth from 2014 to 2019, gaining 8,430 jobs over this time period.
- Every private industry is projected to continue to grow from 2020 to 2022.

Other less-favorable economic and workforce trends were recorded in Yavapai County including:

- The labor force participation rate in Yavapai County is substantially lower compared to Arizona and the United States.
- Yavapai County is projected to have negative natural change (more death than births) in the next four years.

# POPULATION

## Population Growth by County, 2015-2020

Area	Population Estimate (2015)	Population Estimate (2020)	Numeric Change (2015-2020)	Annualized Percent Change (2015-2020)
Arizona	6,832,810	7,421,401	588,591	1.7%
Apache County	71,026	71,875	849	0.2%
Cochise County	126,594	127,450	856	0.1%
Coconino County	139,100	142,481	3,381	0.5%
Gila County	53,020	54,303	1,283	0.5%
Graham County	37,888	39,211	1,323	0.7%
Greenlee County	9,587	9,341	-246	-0.5%
La Paz County	20,476	21,480	1,004	1.0%
Maricopa County	4,174,423	4,579,081	404,658	1.9%
Mohave County	204,890	217,206	12,316	1.2%
Navajo County	107,695	112,112	4,417	0.8%
Pima County	1,009,490	1,061,175	51,685	1.0%
Pinal County	405,922	480,828	74,906	3.4%
Santa Cruz County	46,493	46,808	315	0.1%
<b>Yavapai County</b>	221,019	240,226	19,207	1.7%
Yuma County	205,187	217,824	12,637	1.2%
United States	320,738,994	329,484,123	8,745,129	0.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2015-2020 Estimates  
Office of Economic Opportunity

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 activity<sup>1</sup> and workforce diversity.

- Arizona's population grew by 1.7 percent annually between 2015 and 2020.
- Yavapai County represented 3.3 percent of Arizona's total population growth from 2015 to 2020.
- Out of fifteen counties, Yavapai County experienced the third highest percentage population growth from 2015 to 2020, increasing by 1.7 percent annually.

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.jstor.org/stable/25487661)

## Yavapai County Population Projections, 2020

Year	Population Estimate	Projected Numeric Change	Projected Percentage Change	Projected Natural Change <sup>1</sup>	Projected Total Net Migration <sup>2</sup>
2020	234,438	2,414	1.0%	-1,439	3,755
2021	236,772	2,334	1.0%	-1,456	3,686
2022	239,074	2,302	1.0%	-1,471	3,663
2023	241,351	2,277	1.0%	-1,490	3,650
2024	243,614	2,263	0.9%	-1,507	3,646

<sup>1</sup> Natural Change = Births – Deaths

<sup>2</sup> Net Migration = (Domestic In Migration – Domestic Out Migration) + (Foreign In Migration – Out Migration)

Source: Office of Economic Opportunity, 2018 to 2055 Population Projections Medium Series

Population projections provide useful insight into an area's future demand for resources and services.<sup>2</sup> 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 507,268 people to its overall population from 2020-2024, increasing annually by 1.4 percent.
- Yavapai County's population is projected to increase by 11,591 people, growing 1.0 percent from 2020 to 2024.
- All of Yavapai County's projected change is projected to come from migration into the county, rather than natural change.
- Yavapai County is one of the few counties in Arizona with a projected negative natural change.

## Population Characteristics, 2019

Indicator	Yavapai County	Arizona	United States
Population over 16	202,628	5,820,607	263,534,161
Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate 16 and Over	48%	60%	64%
Median Household Income	\$53,816	\$62,055	\$65,712
Poverty Rate	12%	14%	12%
Median Age	54.7	38.3	38.5
Individuals with a Disability	18%	13%	13%
Uninsured	11%	11%	9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimates  
Office of Economic Opportunity

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 are significantly different from state or national averages, may need to consider how best to meet the needs of their unique population.

<sup>2</sup> Kaneda, T. & Bremer, J. (2014). "Understanding Population Projection: Behind the Numbers. Population Reference Bureau". Retrieved from <https://www.prb.org/united-nations-population-projections/>

- Median household income has historically been lower in Yavapai County than in Arizona or the United States. Despite a median household income lower than the state, the rate of families in poverty in Yavapai County was lower than the statewide rate.
- Median age was significantly higher in Yavapai County than in Arizona or the United States.
- Individuals with disabilities represented a larger share of total population in Yavapai County than in Arizona or the United States.
- The labor force participation rate was substantially lower in Yavapai County than in Arizona. The low labor force participation rate is likely due to the county's aging population, who are no longer working or looking for work.

### Highest Educational Level Achieved, 2019, 25 Years and Over

Indicator	Yavapai County	Arizona	United States
Less than High School	2%	5%	5%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	26%	24%	27%
Some College, no degree	29%	25%	20%
Associate's Degree	8%	9%	9%
Bachelor's Degree	16%	19%	20%
Graduate or Professional Degree	13%	11%	13%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimates  
Office of Economic Opportunity

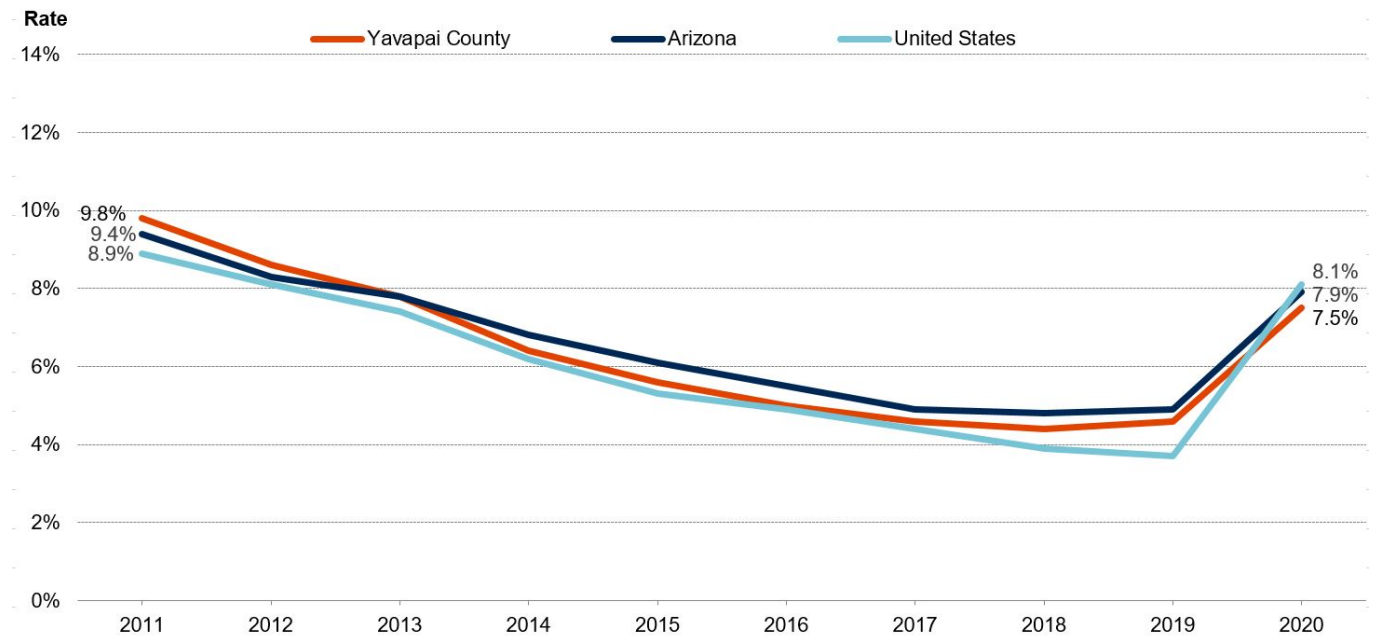
Understanding the current educational attainment of your local area's available workforce is a crucial step in identifying job seeker and business needs. Education is an important element in determining job success, and, oftentimes, can lead to higher-paying jobs and lower rates of unemployment.<sup>3</sup>

- The percentage of Yavapai County residents with a bachelor's degree is lower than the statewide rate. Furthermore, the percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree decreased from 16.3 percent in 2018 to 15.6 percent in 2019.
- Out of all Arizona counties, Yavapai County had the highest rate of residents with a high school diploma or higher (92 percent), higher than the statewide rate (88 percent).

<sup>3</sup> "Unemployment Rates and Earnings by Educational Attainment." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 4, 2019. <https://www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm>.

## WORKFORCE

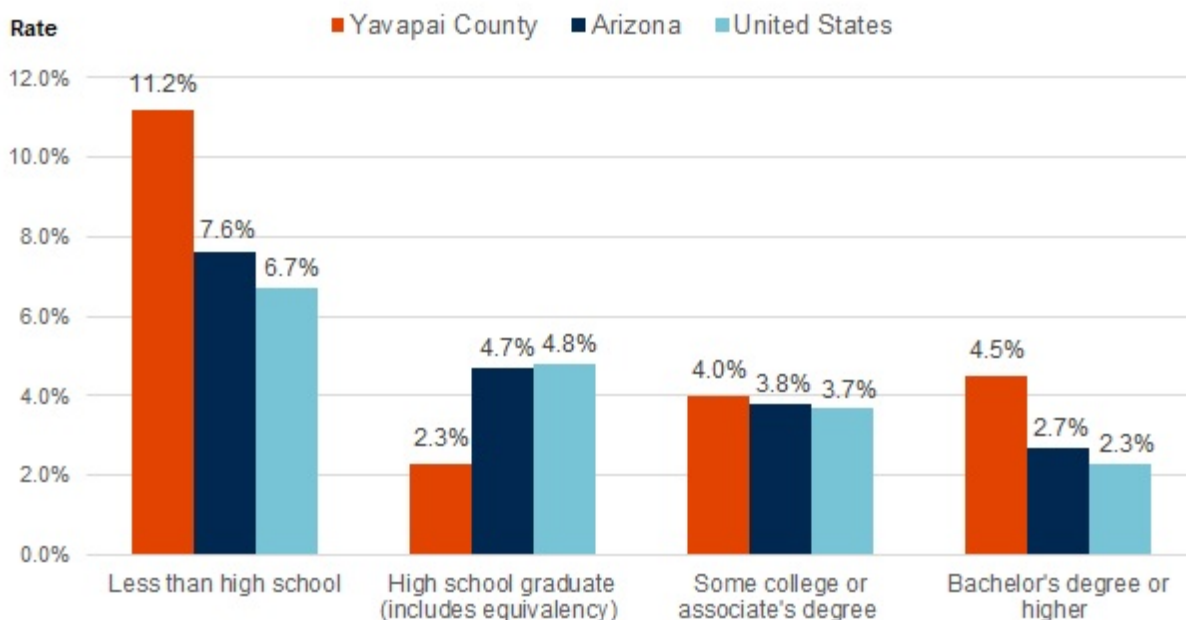
### Unemployment Rate Comparisons, Sept. 2011-Sept. 2020, Not-Seasonally Adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Office of Economic Opportunity

- Since 2011, Yavapai County's unemployment rate has trended closely with Arizona's unemployment rate and slightly above the nationwide rate.
- In 2020, the unemployment rate in Yavapai County was below both the United States and Arizona.
- From 2011 to 2018, unemployment in Yavapai County was generally trending down. Unemployment increased drastically in 2020 following similar trends as the state and nation.

## Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment, 2019, Ages 25-64



Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimates  
Office of Economic Opportunity

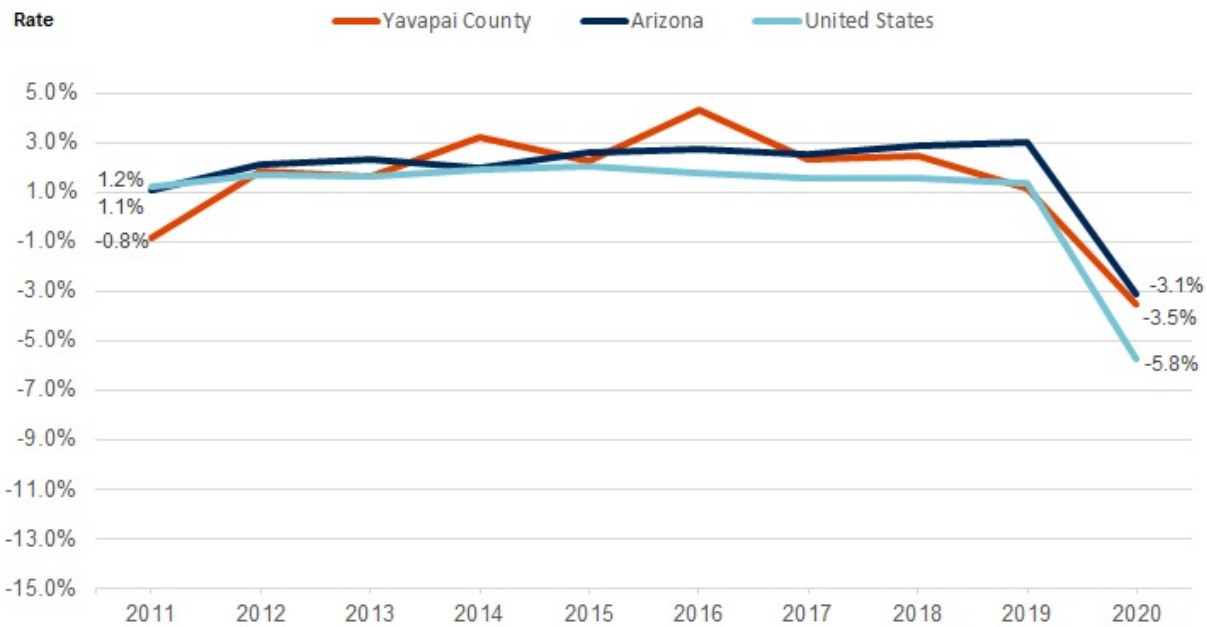
Historically, higher educational attainment levels lead to lower levels of unemployment.<sup>4</sup> Understanding the relationship between unemployment and education can help determine which education levels are most in need of targeted workforce efforts.

- When compared to the state and nationwide unemployment rates, Yavapai County's rate was higher across all educational attainment levels except for those with a high school diploma or equivalent.
- The unemployment rate in Yavapai County for individuals without a high school diploma or equivalent (11.2 percent) was significantly higher than Arizona (7.6 percent) or the United States (6.7 percent).
- For someone with a high school diploma or equivalent, the unemployment rate is more than 2 percent lower in Yavapai County than both Arizona and the United States.

<sup>4</sup> National Center for Educational Statistics. (2019). "Employment and Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment." Retrieved from [https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator\\_cbc.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_cbc.asp)



## Nonfarm Employment Year-Over-Year Percentage Change, 2011-2020, Not Seasonally Adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics  
Office of Economic Opportunity

- From 2011 to 2020, Yavapai County's average total nonfarm employment increased by 9,000 jobs or an annualized rate of 1.7 percent. Over the same time period, Arizona total nonfarm employment increased by an annualized rate of 1.9 percent.
- From 2011 to 2019, Yavapai County's nonfarm employment growth was 2.4 percent annually. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 total nonfarm employment decline substantially. In 2020, year-over-year total nonfarm employment in Yavapai County declined 3.5 percent.

## Yavapai County Private Sector Industry Employment, 2014-2019

Industry	Employment (2014)	Employment (2019)	Numeric Growth (2014-2019)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2014-2019)
Construction	3,598	5,240	1,642	7.8%
Education and Health Services	11,412	12,538	1,126	1.9%
Financial Activities	1,839	2,014	175	1.8%
Information	539	520	-19	-0.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	8,245	10,366	2,121	4.7%
Manufacturing	3,288	3,711	423	2.4%
Natural Resources and Mining	N/A*	1,539	N/A*	N/A*
Other Services	1,602	2,024	422	4.8%
Professional and Business Services	3,693	4,193	500	2.6%
Trade Transportation and Utilities	12,265	12,766	501	0.8%

NOTE: Includes private employment only.

\*Insufficient data available

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

- Eight out of ten private-sector industries recorded positive numeric growth from 2014 to 2019, gaining a total of 8,430 jobs over this time period.
- Employment growth during this time period was led by Construction (7.8 percent), followed by Other Services (4.8 percent)
- In 2019, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities made up the largest share of employment and Education and Health Services made up the second largest share.
- From 2014-2019, Leisure and Hospitality had the largest numeric increase in employment, growing by 2,121 people.

## Projected Industry Employment 2020-2022

Area	Projected Employment (2020)	Projected Employment (2022)	Projected Numeric Growth (2020-2022)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2020-2022)
Arizona	2,853,646	3,178,686	325,040	5.5%
Maricopa Workforce Area*	1,110,847	1,257,779	146,932	6.4%
City of Phoenix	922,090	1,023,480	101,390	5.4%
Coconino County	59,174	65,996	6,822	5.6%
Mohave and La Paz	57,939	62,658	4,719	4.0%
Northeastern Arizona	68,763	71,660	2,897	2.1%
Pima County	374,342	414,375	40,033	5.2%
Pinal County	65,394	70,725	5,331	4.0%
Santa Cruz County	13,931	15,412	1,481	5.2%
Southeastern County	52,546	55,897	3,351	3.1%
<b>Yavapai County</b>	<b>65,139</b>	<b>71,909</b>	<b>6,770</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
Yuma County	63,409	68,794	5,385	4.2%

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 projected to record positive employment growth from 2020 to 2022.
- Yavapai County is projected to grow at a rate of 5.1 percent annually, only slightly below the statewide growth rate.

### Yavapai County Projected Industry Employment; 2020-2022

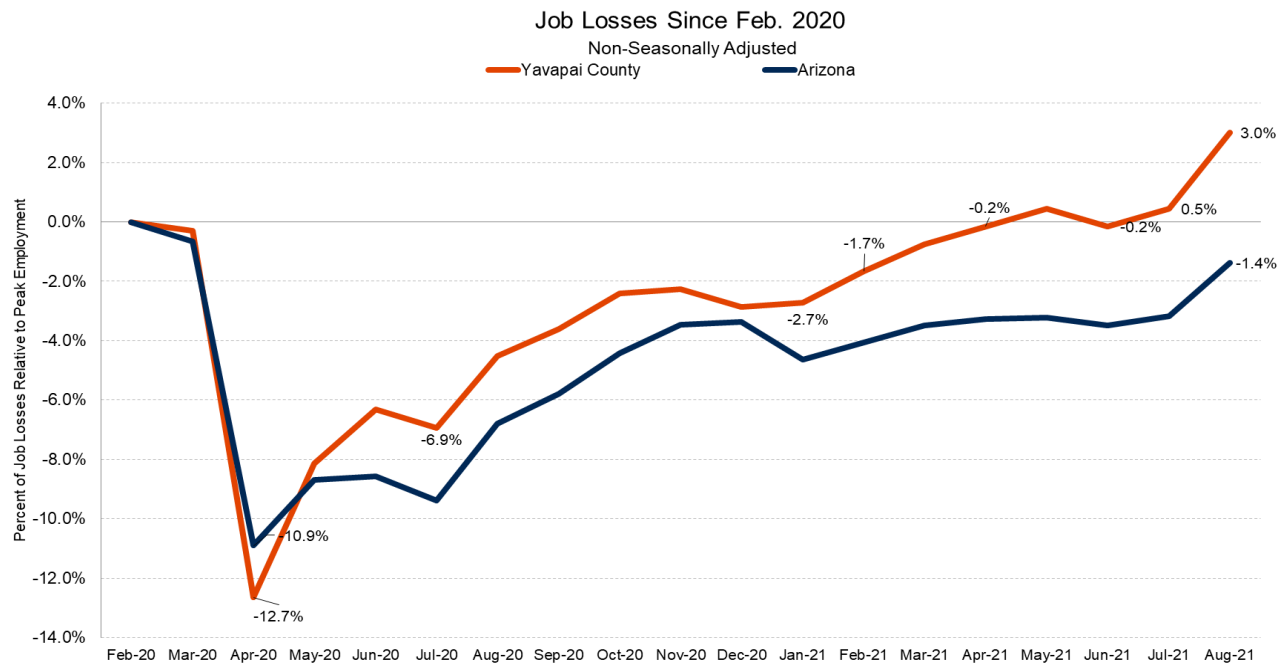
Area	Projected Employment (2020)	Projected Employment (2022)	Projected Numeric Growth (2020-2022)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2020-2022)
Construction	5,513	5,796	283	2.5%
Education and Health Services	15,921	16,984	1,063	3.3%
Financial Activities	2,182	2,277	95	2.2%
Government	4,605	4,592	-13	-0.1%
Information	512	550	38	3.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	7,782	9,951	2,169	13.1%
Manufacturing	3,741	3,940	199	2.6%
Natural Resources and Mining	2,426	2,578	152	3.1%
Other Services	2,639	2,877	238	4.4%
Professional and Business Services	4,754	5,163	409	4.2%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	2,953	3,725	772	12.3%

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.

- All ten of the private sector industries are expected to gain jobs through 2022.
- Through 2022, Leisure and Hospitality is projected to have the highest numeric growth of all industries, followed by Trade, Transportation, and Utilities.
- Through 2022, Education and Health Services is projected to remain the largest industry within Yavapai County, projected to employ 16,984 people.

## COVID-19 Impact on Total Nonfarm Employment – February 2020 to August 2021



- From February 2020 to April 2020, Yavapai County saw a drop in employment of 12.7 percent.
- Since April 2020, employment in Yavapai County has trended upwards.
- The employment recovery rate in Yavapai County was faster when compared to the statewide rate. In August 2021, employment was 3 percent above pre-pandemic (February 2020) levels, while Arizona employment remained 1.4 percent below pre-pandemic levels.

# ARIZONA

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

118 North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue | Suite 400  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**Phone:** 602.771.2222

**Email:** [Laborinfo@oeo.az.gov](mailto:Laborinfo@oeo.az.gov)