



## McKinley, Cibola unemployment numbers decrease

Written by By Bernie Dotson Sun Correspondent  
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and mining-related employment.

“One significant change in April was the absence of any over-the-year gains in leisure and hospitality employment, which appears to be due to atypical changes in several sub-sectional changes in the industry,” Shaleen said in a phone interview.

Shaleen echoed Lee’s explanation of the downward-leaning unemployment rates in McKinley and Cibola counties, adding that construction, other outdoor-oriented jobs, and seasonal summer employment — no matter how temporary — are allowing economies like McKinley’s to see lower unemployment rates.

“I think when you consider the case of McKinley County, it is important to look at weather and things like construction jobs,” he said. “That is a big factor in a county like McKinley when analyzing not only McKinley County, but some other counties in the state as well.”

The national unemployment rate was 5 percent — unchanged from March — and down from 5.4 percent in April 2015.

Luna County, located in the southwestern section of New Mexico, carried the highest unemployment rate at 15.6 percent. Union County, in the northeastern part of New Mexico, has the state’s lowest unemployment rate at 3 percent.

There are 33 counties in New Mexico.

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