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**For Immediate Release**

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October 21, 2010

## **Nonfarm Employment Up Over the Year by 0.5%; Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 9.7%**

PHOENIX – Arizona's unemployment remained unchanged at 9.7% for September. The U.S. rate also remained unchanged at 9.6%.

Over the year, Total Nonfarm employment was up a modest 0.5% in September. The trend in over-the-year employment losses in Arizona slowed after June 2009 when the losses hit bottom at -8.4%. August 2010 numbers, which were revised from -0.1% to +0.3%, show the first gain following thirty consecutive months of over-the-year losses. In the month of September, five of eleven sectors were up over the year for a net gain of 11,700 jobs.

Over the month, Arizona added 16,000 jobs in September 2010, mostly from seasonal gains in public education as many of the schools began a new academic year. Nonfarm employment gains in September were below the ten-year ('00-'09) average, but were better than the previous two years.

The Private Sector had a net gain of 700 jobs. For the prior three years the Private Sector has lost jobs in September. Both, the Private Sector and Government gains were below their respective pre-recession ten-year ('98-'07) averages.

Get detailed information, graphs and charts on Arizona data at [www.workforce.az.gov](http://www.workforce.az.gov).

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