



# The Daily Courier

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## Businesses bursting out all over the area

By **JASON SOIFER**

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PRESCOTT VALLEY New businesses continue to blossom in town.

From January through December, nearly 350 new businesses sprouted up throughout the town.

Greg Fister, manager of economic development for the town, said the 347 new businesses represent 1,549 new employees.

"I think this shows a robust economy and people are confident," he said.

The town added 276 new businesses representing 744 employees in the same time frame in 2005, according to Fister.

The figures reveal that 137 of the new business licenses issued in the healthcare, restaurant, retail, professional services and other service sectors represents 1,078 additional jobs.

The healthcare sector led the way with 428 new employees. Restaurants added 134 staffers, retailers gained 69 employees, Professional services added 44 employees and the service sector added 74 workers.

In-town construction accounted for 50 new licenses representing 311 additional employees and the home-based business sector added 160 new businesses.

The figures reflect the recent additions of the Yavapai Regional Medical Center, Mountain Valley Regional Rehabilitation Hospital, Superior Industries, the Arizona Sundogs and Global Entertainment.

Fister said the numbers do not include Lockheed Martin.

An interesting trend Fister pointed out is that 321 of the new business licenses, 92 percent, reported less than 10 employees.

"I think it's a trend," he said. "I think we're seeing what everyone else is seeing across the country."

Another piece of the town's economic engine continues to thrive.

Fister said sales tax is up 23.76 percent through the first five months of fiscal year 2006-07.

That translates to roughly \$6.8 million in sales tax revenue collected.

Fister said the town collected \$5.5 million in sales tax revenue over the same time frame in fiscal year 2005-06.

If the upward trend continues, the 2006-07 fiscal year will be the third consecutive year with at least 20 percent sales tax growth.

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