



168 E 4th St, Benson, Arizona 85602

Contact: Robert Carreira, Ph.D.
Contractor & Consultant,
Cochise Economy Project
Robert@CochiseEconomy.com

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 25, 2024

Cochise County unemployment rate down in March

BENSON, Arizona — Cochise County’s unadjusted unemployment rate in March 2024 was 3.4 percent, down from 4.3 percent in both February this year and March a year ago, according to data from Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity.

At the state level, Arizona’s unadjusted unemployment rate in March was 2.9 percent, down from 3.6 percent in February and 3.5 percent in March a year prior.

The U.S. unadjusted unemployment rate in March was 3.8 percent, down from 4.2 percent in February 2024 but up from 3.6 percent in March 2023.

Cochise County city and town unemployment rates in March 2024 were:

Benson, 3.9 percent, down from 5.0 percent in both February 2024 and March 2023.

Bisbee, 2.1 percent, down from 2.7 percent in both February this year and March last year.

Douglas, 6.1 percent, down from 7.7 percent in February and 7.8 percent in March a year ago.

Huachuca City, 5.6 percent, down from 7.1 percent in both February this year and March 2023.

Sierra Vista, 2.9 percent, down from 3.8 percent in February and 3.5 percent in March a year prior.

Tombstone, 1.3 percent, down from 1.8 percent in both February this year and March last year.

Willcox, 8.8 percent, down from 11.1 percent in both February 2024 and March 2023.

The number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was up by 100 in the 12 months ended March 2024 for job growth of 0.3 percent. That was led by the gain of 100 jobs (0.9 percent) in the government sector, all of which were at the state and local levels (100 jobs, 1.6 percent). Countywide federal job numbers in March were unchanged from a year ago.

Cochise County’s private sector job numbers stabilized in the 12 months ended March. Within the private sector, goods-producing jobs were up by 100 (3.4 percent) all of which were in manufacturing (100 jobs, 12.5 percent). Construction and mining jobs held steady from March 2023 to March 2024.

Private-sector, service-providing jobs countywide were down by 100 (-0.5 percent) from March 2023 to March 2024 with the gain of 300 trade, transportation, and utilities jobs (4.8 percent), 200 jobs in educational and health services (4.3 percent), and 100 jobs in leisure and hospitality (2.6 percent) more than offset by the loss of 300 information jobs (-50.0 percent), 200 professional and business services jobs (-5.1 percent), 100 financial activities jobs (-10.0 percent), and 100 jobs in other services (-12.5 percent).

In month-to-month comparisons, Cochise County lost 200 jobs from February to March. The private sector and government each lost 100 jobs. Within government, all the losses were at the state and local levels with the number of federal jobs unchanged from the month prior.

Within the private sector, the information industry lost 100 jobs from February to March. All other private-sector industries (construction and mining; manufacturing; trade, transportation, and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; and other services) saw job numbers unchanged.

Average weekly earnings in Cochise County in March 2024 were \$938.52 (up 19.0 percent from March 2023). Average weekly hours worked were 33.0 (up from 32.0 in March a year ago). Countywide average hourly earnings in March were \$28.44 (up 15.4 percent from March 2023).

Labor market data are released monthly with revisions to the previous month's data. Data are also revised annually. Job numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.

For more information on the Cochise County economy, including current and historical data, visit CochiseEconomy.com, a project of Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group in partnership with Arizona G&T Cooperatives and community sponsors.

Unemployment rates (%)			
	<i>March 2024</i>	<i>February 2024</i>	<i>March 2023</i>
United States	3.8	4.2	3.6
Arizona	2.9	3.6	3.5
Cochise County	3.4	4.3	4.3
Benson	3.9	5.0	5.0
Bisbee	2.1	2.7	2.7
Douglas	6.1	7.7	7.8
Huachuca City	5.6	7.1	7.1
Sierra Vista	2.9	3.8	3.5
Tombstone	1.3	1.8	1.8
Willcox	8.8	11.1	11.1

Note. Not seasonally adjusted.
Source: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Cochise County average earnings and hours		
	<i>March 2024</i>	<i>March 2023</i>
Weekly Earnings	\$938.52	\$788.80
Weekly Hours	33.0	32.0
Hourly Earnings	\$28.44	\$24.65

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

Cochise County nonfarm jobs						
	<i>March 2024</i>	<i>February 2024</i>	<i>1-month Change</i>	<i>March 2023</i>	<i>12-month Change</i>	<i>12-month Job Growth Rate</i>
Total Nonfarm Jobs	35,000	35,200	-200	34,900	100	0.3%
Total Private Sector Jobs	24,100	24,200	-100	24,100	0	0.0%
Goods Producing Jobs	3,000	3,000	0	2,900	100	3.4%
Construction and Mining	2,100	2,100	0	2,100	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	900	900	0	800	100	12.5%
Service Providing Jobs	32,000	32,200	-200	32,000	0	0.0%
Private Service Providing Jobs	21,100	21,200	-100	21,200	-100	-0.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,600	6,600	0	6,300	300	4.8%
Information	300	400	-100	600	-300	-50.0%
Financial Activities	900	900	0	1,000	-100	-10.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,700	3,700	0	3,900	-200	-5.1%
Educational and Health Services	4,900	4,900	0	4,700	200	4.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,000	4,000	0	3,900	100	2.6%
Other Services	700	700	0	800	-100	-12.5%
Government Jobs	10,900	11,000	-100	10,800	100	0.9%
Federal Government	4,600	4,600	0	4,600	0	0.0%
State and Local Government	6,300	6,400	-100	6,200	100	1.6%
<i>Note.</i> Not seasonally adjusted. Numbers rounded to nearest 100; discrepancies due to rounding.						
Source: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and US Economic Research						

###