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News Release

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December job numbers down, unemployment up from a year prior

BENSON — The number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was down by 200 or 0.6 percent in the 12 months ending December 2025 led by the loss of 200 jobs in the government sector (-1.9 percent), according to data from Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity. Within government, all the job losses were at the federal level (-4.5 percent) while the combined number of state and local government jobs was unchanged.

The number of jobs in Cochise County's private sector held steady in the 12 months ended December with the gain of 100 jobs in the private service-providing sector (0.5 percent) offset by the loss of 100 goods-producing jobs (-3.3 percent). In the goods-producing sector, all the losses were in manufacturing (-11.1 percent) while the number of jobs in construction and mining was unchanged.

Within private sector services, all 100 new jobs were in educational and health services for 12-month job growth of 2.0 percent. Job numbers were unchanged in trade, transportation, and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; and other services in the 12 months ending in December.

In month-to-month comparisons, the overall number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was unchanged from November to December 2025 with the gain of 100 trade, transportation, and utilities jobs offset by the loss of 100 educational and health services jobs. All other industries and levels of government saw job numbers stabilize from November to December.

Average weekly earnings in Cochise County in December 2025 were \$1,013.19, down 11.7 percent from December 2024. Average weekly hours worked were 32.8, down from 33.4 in December a year prior. Countywide average hourly earnings in December were \$30.89, down 10.1 percent from December 2024.

Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate in December 2025 was 4.9 percent, down from 5.3 percent in November 2025 but up from 4.3 percent in December a year prior.

At the state level, Arizona's unadjusted unemployment rate in December was 4.0 percent, down from 4.3 percent in November 2025 but up from 3.5 percent in December 2024.

The U.S. unadjusted unemployment rate in December was 4.1 percent, down from 4.3 percent in November but up from 3.8 percent in December 2024.

Cochise County city and town unemployment rates in December 2025 were:

Benson, 6.1 percent, down from 6.5 percent in November 2025 but up from 5.3 percent in December 2024.

Bisbee, 6.9 percent, down from 7.4 percent in November 2025 but up from 6.1 percent in December a year prior.

Douglas, 7.7 percent, down from 8.3 percent in November but up from 6.9 percent in December 2024.

Huachuca City, 8.3 percent, down from 9.0 percent in November but up from 7.4 percent in December a year prior.

Sierra Vista, 4.7 percent, down from 5.2 percent in November 2025 but up from 3.7 percent in December 2024.

Tombstone, 0.4 percent, the same level as both November 2025 and December 2024.

Willcox, 9.0 percent, down from 9.5 percent in November but up from 7.9 percent in December 2024.

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>December 2025</i>	<i>November 2025</i>	<i>December 2024</i>
United States	4.1	4.3	3.8
Arizona	4.0	4.3	3.5
Cochise County	4.9	5.3	4.3
Benson	6.1	6.5	5.3
Bisbee	6.9	7.4	6.1
Douglas	7.7	8.3	6.9
Huachuca City	8.3	9.0	7.4
Sierra Vista	4.7	5.2	3.7
Tombstone	0.4	0.4	0.4
Willcox	9.0	9.5	7.9

Note. Not seasonally adjusted.

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

Cochise County average earnings and hours

	<i>December 2025</i>	<i>December 2024</i>
Weekly Earnings	\$1,013.19	\$1,147.29
Weekly Hours	32.8	33.4
Hourly Earnings	\$30.89	\$34.35

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

Cochise County nonfarm jobs

	<i>December 2025</i>	<i>November 2025</i>	<i>1-month Change</i>	<i>December 2024</i>	<i>12-month Change</i>	<i>12-month Job Growth Rate</i>
Total Nonfarm Jobs	34,500	34,500	0	34,700	-200	-0.6%
Total Private Sector Jobs	23,900	23,900	0	23,900	0	0.0%
Goods Producing Jobs	2,900	2,900	0	3,000	-100	-3.3%
Construction and Mining	2,100	2,100	0	2,100	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	800	800	0	900	-100	-11.1%
Service Providing Jobs	31,600	31,600	0	31,700	-100	-0.3%
Private Service Providing Jobs	21,000	21,000	0	20,900	100	0.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,700	6,600	100	6,700	0	0.0%
Information	500	500	0	500	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,600	3,600	0	3,600	0	0.0%
Educational and Health Services	5,000	5,100	-100	4,900	100	2.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,400	3,400	0	3,400	0	0.0%
Other Services	800	800	0	800	0	0.0%
Government Jobs	10,600	10,600	0	10,800	-200	-1.9%
Federal Government	4,200	4,200	0	4,400	-200	-4.5%
State and Local Government	6,400	6,400	0	6,400	0	0.0%

Note. Not seasonally adjusted. Numbers rounded to nearest 100; discrepancies due to rounding.

Source: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and US Economic Research

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