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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Cochise January job numbers down, unemployment rate up

**BENSON** — The number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was down by 1,800 or 5.2 percent in the 12 months ending January 2026 led by the loss of 600 jobs in the government sector (-5.6 percent), according to data from Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity. Within government, all the job losses were at the federal level (-14.0 percent) while the combined number of state and local government jobs was unchanged.

The number of jobs in Cochise County's private sector was down by 1,200 or 5.0 percent in the 12 months ended January, all of which in the private service-providing sector (-5.6 percent). In the goods-producing sector, the number of jobs held steady with job numbers stabilizing across manufacturing and construction and mining.

Within private-sector services, professional and business services lost 400 jobs (-10.5 percent), trade, transportation, and utilities dropped 200 jobs (-3.0 percent), information shed 200 jobs (-22.2 percent), educational and health services declined by 200 jobs (-4.2 percent), leisure and hospitality lost 100 jobs (-2.9 percent), and other services dropped 100 jobs (-12.5 percent). Job numbers were unchanged in financial activities in the 12 months ending in January.

In month-to-month comparisons, the overall number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was down by 500 from December 2025 to January 2026 with the loss of 200 trade, transportation, and utilities jobs, 200 federal government jobs, and 100 professional and business services jobs. All other industries and levels of government saw job numbers stabilize from December to January.

Average weekly earnings in Cochise County in January 2026 were \$1,005.91, down 11.6 percent from January 2025. Average weekly hours worked were 33.1, down from 33.8 in January a year prior. Countywide average hourly earnings in January were \$30.39, down 9.7 percent from January 2025.

Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate in January 2026 was 6.1 percent, up from 4.9 percent in December 2025 and 4.7 percent in January a year prior.

At the state level, Arizona's unadjusted unemployment rate in January was 4.8 percent, up from 4.0 percent in both December 2025 and January 2025.

The U.S. unadjusted unemployment rate in January was 4.7 percent, up from 4.1 percent in December and 4.4 percent in January 2025.

Cochise County city and town unadjusted unemployment rates in January 2026 were:

Benson, 7.4 percent, up from 6.1 percent in December 2025 and 5.8 percent in January 2025.

Bisbee, 8.4 percent, up from 6.9 percent in December 2025 and 6.5 percent in January a year prior.

Douglas, 9.5 percent, up from 7.7 percent in December and 7.4 percent in January 2025.

Huachuca City, 10.2 percent, up from 8.3 percent in December and 8.0 percent in January a year prior.

Sierra Vista, 6.0 percent, up from 4.7 percent in December 2025 and 4.0 percent in January 2025.

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

Willcox, 10.9 percent, up from 9.0 percent in December and 8.5 percent in January 2025.

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](http://CochiseEconomy.com), a project of Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group in partnership with Arizona G&T Cooperatives and community sponsors.

### Unemployment rates (%)

	<i>January 2026</i>	<i>December 2025</i>	<i>January 2025</i>
United States	4.7	4.1	4.4
Arizona	4.8	4.0	4.0
Cochise County	6.1	4.9	4.7
Benson	7.4	6.1	5.8
Bisbee	8.4	6.9	6.5
Douglas	9.5	7.7	7.4
Huachuca City	10.2	8.3	8.0
Sierra Vista	6.0	4.7	4.0
Tombstone	0.4	0.4	0.4
Willcox	10.9	9.0	8.5

*Note.* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

### Cochise County average earnings and hours

	<i>January 2026</i>	<i>January 2025</i>
Weekly Earnings	\$1,005.91	\$1,138.05
Weekly Hours	33.1	33.8
Hourly Earnings	\$30.39	\$33.67

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

Cochise County nonfarm jobs

	<i>January 2026</i>	<i>December 2025</i>	<i>1-month Change</i>	<i>January 2025</i>	<i>12-month Change</i>	<i>12-month Job Growth Rate</i>
Total Nonfarm Jobs	33,000	33,500	-500	34,800	-1,800	-5.2%
Total Private Sector Jobs	22,900	23,200	-300	24,100	-1,200	-5.0%
Goods Producing Jobs	2,700	2,700	0	2,700	0	0.0%
Construction and Mining	2,100	2,100	0	2,100	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	600	600	0	600	0	0.0%
Service Providing Jobs	30,300	30,800	-500	32,100	-1,800	-5.6%
Private Service Providing Jobs	20,200	20,500	-300	21,400	-1,200	-5.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,400	6,600	-200	6,600	-200	-3.0%
Information	700	700	0	900	-200	-22.2%
Financial Activities	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,400	3,500	-100	3,800	-400	-10.5%
Educational and Health Services	4,600	4,600	0	4,800	-200	-4.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,400	3,400	0	3,500	-100	-2.9%
Other Services	700	700	0	800	-100	-12.5%
Government Jobs	10,100	10,300	-200	10,700	-600	-5.6%
Federal Government	3,700	3,900	-200	4,300	-600	-14.0%
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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