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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## February job numbers down, unemployment up from a year ago

**BENSON** — The number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was down by 1,600 or 4.6 percent in the 12 months ending February 2026 led by the loss of 700 jobs in the government sector (-6.5 percent), according to data from Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity. Within government, federal jobs were down by 600 (-14.0 percent) while the combined number of state and local government jobs was down by 100 (-1.5 percent).

The number of jobs in Cochise County's private sector was down by 900 or 3.8 percent in the 12 months ended February with the loss of 800 private service-providing jobs (-3.8 percent) and 100 goods-producing jobs (-3.7 percent). In the goods-producing sector, all of the job losses were in construction and mining (-4.8 percent) while the number of manufacturing jobs held steady.

Within private-sector services, professional and business services lost 400 jobs (-10.3 percent), information shed 200 jobs (-22.2 percent), trade, transportation, and utilities dropped 100 jobs (-1.5 percent), and leisure and hospitality lost 100 jobs (-2.9 percent). Job numbers were unchanged in financial activities, educational and health services, and other services in the 12 months ending in February.

In month-to-month comparisons, the overall number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was up by 200 from January to February 2026 with the gain of 100 professional and business services jobs, 100 educational and health services jobs, and 100 jobs in other services, partly offset by the loss of 100 construction and mining jobs. All other industries and all levels of government saw job numbers stabilize from January to February.

Average weekly earnings in Cochise County in February 2026 were \$1,011.03, down 16.3 percent from February 2025. Average weekly hours worked were 33.5, down from 35.0 in February a year prior. Countywide average hourly earnings in February were \$30.18, down 12.5 percent from February 2025.

Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate in February 2026 was 6.1 percent, unchanged from January 2026 but up from 4.8 percent in February a year prior.

At the state level, Arizona's unadjusted unemployment rate in February was 4.7 percent, down from 4.8 percent in January 2026 but up from 4.0 percent in February 2025.

The U.S. unadjusted unemployment rate in February was 4.7 percent, the same as in January but up from 4.5 percent in February 2025.

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

Benson, 7.4 percent, unchanged from January 2026 but up from 5.9 percent in February 2025.

Bisbee, 8.4 percent, the same as in January 2026 but up from 6.7 percent in February a year prior.

Douglas, 9.4 percent, down from 9.5 percent in January but up from 7.6 percent in February 2025.

Huachuca City, 10.2 percent, unchanged from January but up from 8.1 percent in February a year ago.

Sierra Vista, 5.9 percent, down from 6.0 percent in January 2026 but up from 4.3 percent in February 2025.

Tombstone, 0.4 percent, the same level as both January 2026 and February 2025.

Willcox, 10.8 percent, down from 10.9 percent in January but up from 8.7 percent in February 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>February 2026</i>	<i>January 2026</i>	<i>February 2025</i>
United States	4.7	4.7	4.5
Arizona	4.7	4.8	4.0
Cochise County	6.1	6.1	4.8
Benson	7.4	7.4	5.9
Bisbee	8.4	8.4	6.7
Douglas	9.4	9.5	7.6
Huachuca City	10.2	10.2	8.1
Sierra Vista	5.9	6.0	4.3
Tombstone	0.4	0.4	0.4
Willcox	10.8	10.9	8.7

*Note.* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

### Cochise County average earnings and hours

	<i>February 2026</i>	<i>February 2025</i>
Weekly Earnings	\$1,011.03	\$1,207.50
Weekly Hours	33.5	35.0
Hourly Earnings	\$30.18	\$34.50

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

## Cochise County nonfarm jobs

	<i>February 2026</i>	<i>January 2026</i>	<i>1-month Change</i>	<i>February 2025</i>	<i>12-month Change</i>	<i>12-month Job Growth Rate</i>
Total Nonfarm Jobs	33,200	33,000	200	34,800	-1,600	-4.6%
Total Private Sector Jobs	23,100	22,900	200	24,000	-900	-3.8%
Goods Producing Jobs	2,600	2,700	-100	2,700	-100	-3.7%
Construction and Mining	2,000	2,100	-100	2,100	-100	-4.8%
Manufacturing	600	600	0	600	0	0.0%
Service Providing Jobs	30,600	30,300	300	32,100	-1,500	-4.7%
Private Service Providing Jobs	20,500	20,200	300	21,300	-800	-3.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,400	6,400	0	6,500	-100	-1.5%
Information	700	700	0	900	-200	-22.2%
Financial Activities	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,500	3,400	100	3,900	-400	-10.3%
Educational and Health Services	4,700	4,600	100	4,700	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,400	3,400	0	3,500	-100	-2.9%
Other Services	800	700	100	800	0	0.0%
Government Jobs	10,100	10,100	0	10,800	-700	-6.5%
Federal Government	3,700	3,700	0	4,300	-600	-14.0%
State and Local Government	6,400	6,400	0	6,500	-100	-1.5%

*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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