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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March job numbers down by 1,800 from a year ago

BENSON — The number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was down by 1,800 or 5.1 percent in the 12 months ending March 2026 according to data from Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity. The government sector lost 700 jobs (-6.5 percent) shedding 600 federal jobs (-14.0 percent) and 100 state and local government jobs (-1.6 percent).

The number of jobs in Cochise County's private sector was down by 1,100 or 4.5 percent in the 12 months ended March all of which were private service-providing jobs (-5.1 percent). The number countywide goods-producing jobs was unchanged in the 12 months ended in March with job numbers holding steady across manufacturing and construction and mining.

Within private-sector services, the information industry declined by 400 jobs (-36.4 percent), professional and business services lost 400 jobs (-10.3 percent), leisure and hospitality dropped 200 jobs (-5.6 percent), and educational and health services shed 100 jobs (-2.1 percent). Job numbers were unchanged in trade, transportation, and utilities; financial activities; and other services in the 12 months ending in March.

In month-to-month comparisons, the overall number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was up by 100 from February to March 2026 with the gain of 100 construction and mining jobs and 100 trade, transportation, and utilities jobs partly offset by the loss of 100 jobs in state and local government. All other industries and the federal government saw job numbers stabilize from February to March.

Average weekly earnings in Cochise County in March 2026 were \$1,010.35, down 14.8 percent from March 2025. Average weekly hours worked were 33.6, down from 34.9 in March a year prior. Countywide average hourly earnings in March were \$30.07, down 11.5 percent from March 2025.

Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate in March 2026 was 5.7 percent, down from 6.1 percent in February 2026 but up from 4.8 percent in March a year prior.

At the state level, Arizona's unadjusted unemployment rate in March was 4.4 percent, down from 4.7 percent in February 2026 but up from 3.9 percent in March 2025.

The U.S. unadjusted unemployment rate in March was 4.3 percent, down from 4.7 percent in February but up from 4.2 percent in March 2025.

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

Benson, 6.9 percent, down from 7.4 percent in February 2026 but up from 6.0 percent in March 2025.

Bisbee, 7.8 percent, down from 8.4 percent in February 2026 but up from 6.8 percent in March a year prior.

Douglas, 8.8 percent, down from 9.4 percent in February but up from 7.6 percent in March 2025.

Huachuca City, 9.5 percent, down from 10.2 percent in February but up from 8.2 percent in March a year ago.

Sierra Vista, 5.6 percent, down from 5.9 percent in February 2026 but up from 4.3 percent in March 2025.

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

Willcox, 10.1 percent, down from 10.8 percent in February but up from 8.8 percent in March 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, a project of Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group in partnership with Arizona G&T Cooperatives and community sponsors.

Unemployment rates (%)

	<i>March 2026</i>	<i>February 2026</i>	<i>March 2025</i>
United States	4.3	4.7	4.2
Arizona	4.4	4.7	3.9
Cochise County	5.7	6.1	4.8
Benson	6.9	7.4	6.0
Bisbee	7.8	8.4	6.8
Douglas	8.8	9.4	7.6
Huachuca City	9.5	10.2	8.2
Sierra Vista	5.6	5.9	4.3
Tombstone	0.4	0.4	0.4
Willcox	10.1	10.8	8.8

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 2026</i>	<i>March 2025</i>
Weekly Earnings	\$1,010.35	\$1,185.20
Weekly Hours	33.6	34.9
Hourly Earnings	\$30.07	\$33.96

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

Cochise County nonfarm jobs

	<i>March 2026</i>	<i>February 2026</i>	<i>1-month Change</i>	<i>March 2025</i>	<i>12-month Change</i>	<i>12-month Job Growth Rate</i>
Total Nonfarm Jobs	33,300	33,200	100	35,100	-1,800	-5.1%
Total Private Sector Jobs	23,300	23,100	200	24,400	-1,100	-4.5%
Goods Producing Jobs	2,700	2,600	100	2,700	0	0.0%
Construction and Mining	2,100	2,000	100	2,100	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	600	600	0	600	0	0.0%
Service Providing Jobs	30,600	30,600	0	32,400	-1,800	-5.6%
Private Service Providing Jobs	20,600	20,500	100	21,700	-1,100	-5.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,500	6,400	100	6,500	0	0.0%
Information	700	700	0	1,100	-400	-36.4%
Financial Activities	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,500	3,500	0	3,900	-400	-10.3%
Educational and Health Services	4,700	4,700	0	4,800	-100	-2.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,400	3,400	0	3,600	-200	-5.6%
Other Services	800	800	0	800	0	0.0%
Government Jobs	10,000	10,100	-100	10,700	-700	-6.5%
Federal Government	3,700	3,700	0	4,300	-600	-14.0%
State and Local Government	6,300	6,400	-100	6,400	-100	-1.6%

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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