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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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October jobs, earnings, and unemployment up from a year ago

BENSON, Arizona — Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate in October 2023 was 4.9 percent, up from 4.8 percent in September 2023, and 4.6 percent October 2022, according to data from Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity.

At the state level, Arizona's unadjusted unemployment rate in October was 4.4 percent, up from 4.3 percent in September and 3.9 percent in October a year prior. The U.S. unadjusted unemployment rate in October was 3.6 percent, the same level as September 2023, but up from 3.4 percent in October 2022.

Cochise County municipality unemployment rates in October 2023 were:

Benson, 4.8 percent, up from 4.7 percent in September 2023, and 4.5 percent in October 2022.

Bisbee, 3.6 percent, up from 3.4 percent in September this year and 3.3 percent in October last year.

Douglas, 9.6 percent, up from 9.4 percent in September and 9.0 percent in October a year ago.

Huachuca City, 7.4 percent, up from 7.1 percent in September and 6.8 percent in October 2022.

Sierra Vista, 4.3 percent, up from 4.2 percent in September and 4.0 percent in October a year prior.

Tombstone, 2.1 percent, the same level as September this year but down from 2.2 percent in October a year ago.

Willcox, 8.3 percent, up from 8.0 percent September 2023, and 7.7 percent in October 2022.

Average weekly earnings in Cochise County in October 2023 were \$863.28 (up 18.0 percent from October 2022). Average weekly hours worked were 32.2 (down from 32.6 in October a year ago). Countywide average hourly earnings in October were \$26.81 (up 19.4 percent from October 2022).

The number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was up by 400 in the 12 months ending October 2023, for job growth of 1.2 percent. Most of the gains were in the government sector, which was up by 300 jobs (2.9 percent). The number of state and local government jobs was up by 200 (3.4 percent) while federal jobs were up by 100 (2.2 percent).

Cochise County's private sector grew by 100 jobs (0.4 percent) in the 12 months ended October. Goods-producing jobs were up by 200 (7.7 percent) split between construction and mining (100 jobs, 5.3 percent) and manufacturing (100 jobs, 14.3 percent).

Countywide private-sector, service-providing job numbers were down by 100 (-0.5 percent) from October 2022 to October 2023, with the loss of 100 trade, transportation, and utilities jobs (-1.6 percent) and 100 professional and business services jobs (-2.5 percent) partly offset by the gain of 100 jobs in educational and health services. Job numbers held steady in information; financial activities; leisure and hospitality; and other services in the 12 months ended October.

In month-to-month comparisons, the overall number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was up by 100 from September to October. All the gains were in the private sector, with government job numbers holding steady overall and across federal, state, and local levels.

Cochise County's private sector added 100 jobs from September to October with the gain of 100 jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities and 100 in educational and health services, partly offset by the loss of 100 jobs in leisure and hospitality. Job numbers were unchanged in construction and mining; manufacturing; information; financial activities; professional and business services; and other services from September to October.

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>October 2023</i>	<i>September 2023</i>	<i>October 2022</i>
United States	3.6	3.6	3.4
Arizona	4.4	4.3	3.9
Cochise County	4.9	4.8	4.6
Benson	4.8	4.7	4.5
Bisbee	3.6	3.4	3.3
Douglas	9.6	9.4	9.0
Huachuca City	7.4	7.1	6.8
Sierra Vista	4.3	4.2	4.0
Tombstone	2.1	2.1	2.2
Willcox	8.3	8.0	7.7
<i>Note.</i> Not seasonally adjusted. Source: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics			

Cochise County average earnings and hours		
	<i>October 2023</i>	<i>October 2022</i>
Weekly Earnings	\$863.28	\$731.87
Weekly Hours	32.2	32.6
Hourly Earnings	\$26.81	\$22.45
Source: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics		

Cochise County nonfarm jobs						
	<i>October 2023</i>	<i>September 2023</i>	<i>1-month Change</i>	<i>October 2022</i>	<i>12-month Change</i>	<i>12-month Job Growth Rate</i>
Total Nonfarm Jobs	34,000	33,900	100	33,600	400	1.2%
Total Private Sector Jobs	23,300	23,200	100	23,200	100	0.4%
Goods Producing Jobs	2,800	2,800	0	2,600	200	7.7%
Construction and Mining	2,000	2,000	0	1,900	100	5.3%
Manufacturing	800	800	0	700	100	14.3%
Service Providing Jobs	31,200	31,100	100	31,000	200	0.6%
Private Service Providing Jobs	20,500	20,400	100	20,600	-100	-0.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,100	6,000	100	6,200	-100	-1.6%
Information	300	300	0	300	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,100	1,100	0	1,100	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,900	3,900	0	4,000	-100	-2.5%
Educational and Health Services	4,600	4,500	100	4,500	100	2.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,800	3,900	-100	3,800	0	0.0%
Other Services	700	700	0	700	0	0.0%
Government Jobs	10,700	10,700	0	10,400	300	2.9%
Federal Government	4,600	4,600	0	4,500	100	2.2%
State and Local Government	6,100	6,100	0	5,900	200	3.4%
<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						

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