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News Release

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Unemployment stabilizes on job gains and higher wages

BENSON, Arizona — Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate in October 2022 was 4.5 percent, the same level as September but up from 3.8 percent in October 2021, according to data from Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity.

At the state level, Arizona's unadjusted unemployment rate in October was 4.1 percent, down from 4.2 percent in September this year but up from 3.7 percent in October a year ago.

The U.S. unadjusted unemployment rate in October was 3.4 percent, up from 3.3 percent in September 2022, but down from 4.3 percent in October last year.

Cochise County municipal-level unemployment rates in October 2022 were:

Benson, 2.8 percent, unchanged from September 2022 but up from 2.3 percent in October 2021.

Bisbee, 2.0 percent, the same as September this year but up from 1.7 percent in October a year ago.

Douglas, 8.9 percent, unchanged from September but up from 7.6 percent in October last year.

Huachuca City, 7.4 percent, the same as in September 2022, but up from 6.2 percent in October 2021.

Sierra Vista, 3.9 percent, unchanged from September this year but up from 3.0 percent in October 2021.

Tombstone, 3.8 percent, down from 4.0 percent in September but up from 3.3 percent in October last year.

Willcox, 4.8 percent, up from 4.7 percent September 2022 and 4.0 percent in October 2021.

The number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was up by 600 in the 12 months ended October for job growth of 1.8 percent. All the gains were in the private sector, which added 700 jobs (3.0 percent). Those were partly offset by the loss of 100 government jobs (-1.0 percent). Within government, all the losses were federal jobs (-2.1 percent). State and local government jobs in Cochise County held steady in the 12 months ended October.

Within Cochise County's private sector, goods-producing jobs were up by 300 (11.5 percent) in the October comparisons with the gain of 200 construction and mining jobs (10.5 percent) and 100 manufacturing jobs (14.3 percent).

Countywide private-sector, service-providing jobs were up by 400 (1.9 percent) from October 2021 to October 2022, with the gain of 200 jobs (4.7 percent) in educational and health services, 100 jobs (2.8 percent) in leisure and hospitality, and 100 jobs (14.3 percent) in other services. Job numbers held steady in trade, transportation, and utilities, along with the information industry, financial activities, and professional and business services in the 12 months ended in October.

In month-to-month comparisons, Cochise County nonfarm job numbers were up by 100 from September to October this year. All the gains were in the private sector, which added 200 jobs, all of which in the service subsector. Within private-sector services, the trade, transportation, and utilities industries added 100 jobs and leisure and hospitality jobs grew by 100. Job numbers held steady from September to October in construction and mining; manufacturing; information; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; and other services.

Cochise County’s government sector dropped 100 jobs from September to October, all of which were in state and local government. Federal government job numbers stabilized at September levels in October.

Average weekly earnings in Cochise County were \$727.63 in October 2022 (up 1.5 percent from October 2021). Average weekly hours worked were 32.6 (down from 33.1 in October last year). Countywide average hourly earnings in October were \$22.32 (up 3.1 percent from a year ago).

For more information on the Cochise County economy, including current and historical data, visit CochiseEconomy.com, a project of SAEDG in partnership with Arizona G&T Cooperatives and community sponsors.

| Unemployment rates (%) | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | <i>October 2022</i> | <i>September 2022</i> | <i>October 2021</i> |
| United States | 3.4 | 3.3 | 4.3 |
| Arizona | 4.1 | 4.2 | 3.7 |

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Cochise County | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.8 |
| Benson | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.3 |
| Bisbee | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.7 |
| Douglas | 8.9 | 8.9 | 7.6 |
| Huachuca City | 7.4 | 7.4 | 6.2 |
| Sierra Vista | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.0 |
| Tombstone | 3.8 | 4.0 | 3.3 |
| Willcox | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.0 |

Note. Not seasonally adjusted.

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

| Cochise County average earnings and hours | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| | <i>October 2022</i> | <i>October 2021</i> |
| Weekly Earnings | \$727.63 | \$716.62 |
| Weekly Hours | 32.6 | 33.1 |
| Hourly Earnings | \$22.32 | \$21.65 |

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

| Cochise County nonfarm jobs | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| | October 2022 | September 2022 | 1-month Change | October 2021 | 12-month Change | 12-month Job Growth Rate |
| Total Nonfarm Jobs | 34,500 | 34,400 | 100 | 33,900 | 600 | 1.8% |
| Total Private Sector Jobs | 24,100 | 23,900 | 200 | 23,400 | 700 | 3.0% |
| Goods Producing Jobs | 2,900 | 2,900 | 0 | 2,600 | 300 | 11.5% |
| Construction and Mining | 2,100 | 2,100 | 0 | 1,900 | 200 | 10.5% |
| Manufacturing | 800 | 800 | 0 | 700 | 100 | 14.3% |
| Service Providing Jobs | 31,600 | 31,500 | 100 | 31,300 | 300 | 1.0% |
| Private Service Providing Jobs | 21,200 | 21,000 | 200 | 20,800 | 400 | 1.9% |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 6,300 | 6,200 | 100 | 6,300 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Information | 500 | 500 | 0 | 500 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Financial Activities | 900 | 900 | 0 | 900 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Professional and Business Services | 4,500 | 4,500 | 0 | 4,500 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Educational and Health Services | 4,500 | 4,500 | 0 | 4,300 | 200 | 4.7% |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 3,700 | 3,600 | 100 | 3,600 | 100 | 2.8% |
| Other Services | 800 | 800 | 0 | 700 | 100 | 14.3% |
| Government Jobs | 10,400 | 10,500 | -100 | 10,500 | -100 | -1.0% |
| Federal Government | 4,600 | 4,600 | 0 | 4,700 | -100 | -2.1% |
| State and Local Government | 5,800 | 5,900 | -100 | 5,800 | 0 | 0.0% |
| <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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