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News Release

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February job numbers and earnings up from a year ago

BENSON, Arizona — The number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was up by 400 in the 12 months ended February 2024 for job growth of 1.2 percent, according to data from Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity.

Cochise County's private sector grew by 200 jobs (0.8 percent) in the 12 months ended February. Within the private sector, goods-producing jobs were up by 300 (11.1 percent) with 100 new construction and mining jobs (5.0 percent) and 200 new manufacturing jobs (28.6 percent).

Private-sector, service-providing jobs countywide were down by 100 (-0.5 percent) from February 2023 to February 2024 with the gain of 300 trade, transportation, and utilities jobs (4.8 percent), 100 jobs in educational and health services (2.1 percent), and 100 jobs in leisure and hospitality (2.6 percent) more than offset by the loss of 300 information jobs (-50.0 percent), 200 professional and business services jobs (-5.1 percent), and 100 financial activities jobs (-10.0 percent). Job numbers held steady in other services in the 12 months ended February.

Cochise County's government sector was up by 200 jobs (1.9 percent) in the 12 months ended February, all of which were state and local government jobs (3.2 percent). Countywide federal job numbers in February were unchanged from a year ago.

In month-to-month comparisons, Cochise County gained 500 jobs from January to February due in part to seasonal fluctuations. The private sector added 100 jobs while government payrolls increased by 400. Within government, the state and local levels added 300 jobs countywide while the number of federal jobs increased by 100 from the previous month.

Within the private sector, educational and health services added 100 jobs from January to February. All other private-sector industries (construction and mining; manufacturing; trade, transportation, and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; and other services) saw job numbers unchanged.

Average weekly earnings in Cochise County in February 2024 were \$900.60 (up 18.1 percent from February 2023). Average weekly hours worked were 31.7 (up from 31.3 in February a year ago). Countywide average hourly earnings in February were \$28.41 (up 16.6 percent from February 2023).

Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate in February 2024 was 4.3 percent, down from 4.4 percent in both January 2024 and February 2023.

At the state level, Arizona's unadjusted unemployment rate in February was 3.6 percent, down from 3.8 percent in January but the same level as February a year prior.

The U.S. unadjusted unemployment rate in February was 4.2 percent, up from 4.1 percent in January 2024 and 3.9 percent in February 2023.

Cochise County city and town unemployment rates in February 2024 were:

Benson, 5.0 percent, down from 5.1 percent in January 2024 and 5.2 percent in February 2023.

Bisbee, 2.7 percent, unchanged from January this year but down from 2.8 percent in February last year.

Douglas, 7.8 percent, the same as January but down from 8.0 percent in February a year ago.

Huachuca City, 7.1 percent, down from 7.2 percent in January this year and 7.3 percent in February 2023.

Sierra Vista, 3.9 percent, up from 3.8 percent in January and 3.5 percent in February a year prior.

Tombstone, 1.8 percent, the same as both January this year and February last year.

Willcox, 11.1 percent, down from 11.2 percent in January 2024 and 11.4 percent in February 2023.

Labor market data are released monthly with revisions to the previous month's data. 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>February 2024</i>	<i>January 2024</i>	<i>February 2023</i>
United States	4.2	4.1	3.9
Arizona	3.6	3.8	3.6
Cochise County	4.3	4.4	4.4
Benson	5.0	5.1	5.2
Bisbee	2.7	2.7	2.8
Douglas	7.8	7.8	8.0
Huachuca City	7.1	7.2	7.3
Sierra Vista	3.9	3.8	3.5
Tombstone	1.8	1.8	1.8
Willcox	11.1	11.2	11.4

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 2024</i>	<i>February 2023</i>
Weekly Earnings	\$900.60	\$762.47
Weekly Hours	31.7	31.3
Hourly Earnings	\$28.41	\$24.36

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

Cochise County nonfarm jobs						
	<i>February 2024</i>	<i>January 2024</i>	<i>1-month Change</i>	<i>February 2023</i>	<i>12-month Change</i>	<i>12-month Job Growth Rate</i>
Total Nonfarm Jobs	35,100	34,600	500	34,700	400	1.2%
Total Private Sector Jobs	24,100	24,000	100	23,900	200	0.8%
Goods Producing Jobs	3,000	3,000	0	2,700	300	11.1%
Construction and Mining	2,100	2,100	0	2,000	100	5.0%
Manufacturing	900	900	0	700	200	28.6%
Service Providing Jobs	32,100	31,600	500	32,000	100	0.3%
Private Service Providing Jobs	21,100	21,000	100	21,200	-100	-0.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,600	6,600	0	6,300	300	4.8%
Information	300	300	0	600	-300	-50.0%
Financial Activities	900	900	0	1,000	-100	-10.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,700	3,700	0	3,900	-200	-5.1%
Educational and Health Services	4,900	4,800	100	4,800	100	2.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,000	4,000	0	3,900	100	2.6%
Other Services	700	700	0	700	0	0.0%
Government Jobs	11,000	10,600	400	10,800	200	1.9%
Federal Government	4,600	4,500	100	4,600	0	0.0%
State and Local Government	6,400	6,100	300	6,200	200	3.2%
<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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