

News Release

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May 27, 2026

Cochise County Median Wages Continue Upward Trend in 2025

BENSON — Wage growth in Cochise County remains positive, but the pace is clearly moderating. In 2025, the median annual wage reached \$47,046, increasing by +2.4% from the prior year and by +30.1% since 2019. That longer-term gain translates to an average annual increase of about +4.5%, a solid trend overall. However, the relatively small increase in the most recent year signals that the rapid wage growth seen earlier in the decade is beginning to ease.

This slowdown is an important shift. Earlier gains were likely driven by tight labor markets and rising costs, but the latest data suggest those pressures are cooling. Wage growth has not stalled, but it has moved into a more moderate phase, pointing to a labor market that is stabilizing rather than accelerating.

At the higher end of the wage scale, growth has been more limited. Management occupations reported a median wage of \$99,702 in 2025, rising by +4.1% over the year but only +10.4% since 2019, or about +1.7% annually. This slower long-term growth suggests that higher-paying roles have seen less upward pressure, likely because wages in these occupations were already elevated earlier in the period.

By contrast, technical occupations continue to drive much of the county's wage growth. Computer and mathematical occupations reached a median wage of \$105,352 in 2025, increasing by +2.5% from 2024 and by +70.5% since 2019. That equates to an average annual gain of about +9.3%, far outpacing all other major groups. This trend highlights a structural shift in the local economy, with higher demand for technical skills pushing wages upward over time.

Skilled trades and healthcare show a similar pattern of strong long-term growth paired with slower recent gains. Construction and extraction occupations reached \$47,939 in 2025, increasing by just +0.4% over the year but by +60.1% since 2019, or about +8.1% annually. Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations recorded a median wage of \$78,701, rising by +1.1% from 2024 and by +46.8% from 2019, or about +6.6% annually.

These sectors have experienced sustained wage pressure, reflecting their essential role in the local economy.

Wage gains have also been notable among lower- and mid-wage occupations. Office and administrative support jobs reached a median wage of \$40,640 in 2025, increasing by +3.2% from the prior year and by +44.4% since 2019, or about +6.3% annually. Sales and related occupations rose to \$34,122, up +4.1% over the year and +36.6% over the longer period, or about +5.3% annually. These stronger gains at the lower end suggest a degree of wage compression, where pay is rising faster for lower-wage workers than for those at the top.

Taken together, the data point to a labor market that has undergone meaningful change. Cochise County has seen broad-based wage growth since 2019, with especially strong gains in technical, healthcare, and skilled trade occupations. At the same time, the most recent year reflects a shift toward slower, more sustainable increases.

Wage growth is no longer being driven by short-term pressures alone. Instead, it is increasingly shaped by longer-term trends in industry demand and workforce needs, with the strongest gains concentrated in sectors that require specialized skills.

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.

Cochise County Selected Median Wage Data

Occupation	2019	2024	2025	2024-2025	2019-2025
All occupations	\$36,160	\$45,942	\$47,046	+2.4%	+30.1%
Management occupations	\$90,310	\$95,774	\$99,702	+4.1%	+10.4%
Computer and mathematical occupations	\$61,780	\$102,744	\$105,352	+2.5%	+70.5%
Construction and extraction occupations	\$29,943	\$47,730	\$47,939	+0.4%	+60.1%
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	\$53,610	\$77,859	\$78,701	+1.1%	+46.8%
Office and administrative support occupations	\$28,139	\$39,379	\$40,640	+3.2%	+44.4%
Sales and related occupations	\$24,980	\$32,776	\$34,122	+4.1%	+36.6%

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