



Contact: Robert Carreira, Ph.D.
Cochise Economy Project Manager
Robert@CochiseEconomy.com

168 E 4th St, Benson, Arizona 85602

News Release

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January unemployment stabilizes, job numbers down

BENSON, Arizona — According to data from Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity, Cochise County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January was 3.8 percent, the same level as December (but down from 5.4 percent in January 2021).

Arizona's unemployment rate in January was 3.7 percent (down from 4.1 percent in December and 6.7 percent in January 2021).

The national unemployment rate in January was 4.0 percent (up from 3.9 percent in December, but down from 6.4 percent in January the year prior). The U.S. unemployment rate dropped back down to 3.8 percent in February this year.

Cochise County job numbers were down by 400 (-1.2 percent) in January 2022 (compared to January 2021). Most of the job losses were in the government sector, which shed 300 jobs (-2.8 percent), while the private sector lost 100 jobs (-0.4 percent).

Within Cochise County's government sector, federal government jobs were down by 200 (-4.2 percent) while state and local government job numbers fell by 100 (-1.7 percent).

Within the private sector, goods-producing jobs were down by 800 (-22.9 percent) in the January comparisons with the loss of 900 construction and mining jobs (-31.0 percent) slightly offset by a gain of 100 manufacturing jobs (16.7 percent).

Private-sector, service-providing jobs countywide were up by 700 (3.4 percent) from January 2021 to January 2022, with the gain of 500 jobs in leisure and hospitality (16.1 percent), 200 jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities (3.2 percent), 200 jobs in information (66.7 percent), and 100 jobs in financial activities (12.5 percent), partly offset by the loss of 200 professional and business services jobs (-4.3 percent) and 100 educational and health services jobs (-2.3 percent). Job numbers held steady in other services in the 12 months ended January.

Average weekly earnings in Cochise County were \$733.94 in January (down 11.2 percent from January 2021). Average weekly hours worked were 35.1 (up from 33.4 in January 2021). Countywide average hourly earnings in January were \$20.91 (down 15.5 percent from a year prior).

The decline in earnings is due largely to the impact of the COVID pandemic, which resulted in the initial loss of disproportionately lower-paying jobs, placing upward pressure on average earnings (since the jobs retained were higher paying). With the economic recovery, the restoration of those previously lost, lower-paying jobs (such as those in the accommodation and food service industries) places downward pressure on overall average earnings.

Revised Arizona OEO numbers show the annual number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was down by 500 (-1.5 percent) in 2021, compared to prior estimates of a gain of 900 jobs (2.6 percent) for the year. The revisions show losses were shared among the private sector, which shed 300 jobs (-1.3 percent) and government, which dropped 200 jobs (-1.9 percent).

Government job losses in 2021, according to revised figures, show an even split with both the federal government and state/local government levels losing 100 jobs for growth rates of -2.0 and -1.7 percent, respectively.

Within the countywide private sector, the number of goods-producing jobs was down by 800 (-22.9 percent) in 2021, with the loss of 900 construction and mining jobs (-31.0 percent) partly offset by the gain of 100 manufacturing jobs (16.7 percent).

Private-sector service jobs in Cochise County were up by 500 (2.5 percent) in 2021, according to revised numbers, with the gain of 200 jobs in leisure and hospitality (6.3 percent) and 100 jobs each in trade, transportation, and utilities (1.6 percent), financial activities (12.5 percent), and professional and business services (2.2 percent), partly offset by the loss of 100 educational and health services jobs (-2.3 percent). Countywide job numbers stabilized in information and other services in 2021, according to the revised figures.

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>January 2022</i>	<i>January 2021</i>
United States	4.0	6.4
Arizona	3.7	6.7
Cochise County	3.8	5.4

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

Cochise County average earnings and hours		
	<i>January 2022</i>	<i>January 2021</i>
Weekly Earnings	\$733.94	\$826.32
Weekly Hours	35.1	33.4
Hourly Earnings	\$20.91	\$24.74

Note. Not seasonally adjusted. Source: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity

Cochise County nonfarm jobs (January comparisons)				
	<i>January 2022</i>	<i>January 2021</i>	<i>12-month Change</i>	<i>12-month Job Growth Rate</i>
Total Nonfarm Jobs	34,000	34,400	-400	-1.2%
Total Private Sector Jobs	23,700	23,800	-100	-0.4%
Goods Producing Jobs	2,700	3,500	-800	-22.9%
Construction and Mining	2,000	2,900	-900	-31.0%
Manufacturing	700	600	100	16.7%
Service Providing Jobs	31,300	30,900	400	1.3%
Private Service Providing Jobs	21,000	20,300	700	3.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,500	6,300	200	3.2%
Information	500	300	200	66.7%
Financial Activities	900	800	100	12.5%
Professional and Business Services	4,500	4,700	-200	-4.3%
Educational and Health Services	4,300	4,400	-100	-2.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,600	3,100	500	16.1%
Other Services	700	700	0	0.0%
Government Jobs	10,300	10,600	-300	-2.8%
Federal Government	4,600	4,800	-200	-4.2%
State and Local Government	5,700	5,800	-100	-1.7%
Note. Numbers rounded to nearest 100; discrepancies due to rounding. Source: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and US Economic Research				

Cochise County nonfarm jobs (annual, revised)				
	2021	2020	Annual Change	Annual Job Growth Rate
Total Nonfarm Jobs	33,800	34,300	-500	-1.5%
Total Private Sector Jobs	23,300	23,600	-300	-1.3%
Goods Producing Jobs	2,700	3,500	-800	-22.9%
Construction and Mining	2,000	2,900	-900	-31.0%
Manufacturing	700	600	100	16.7%
Service Providing Jobs	31,100	30,900	200	0.6%
Private Service Providing Jobs	20,600	20,100	500	2.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,300	6,200	100	1.6%
Information	400	400	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	900	800	100	12.5%
Professional and Business Services	4,600	4,500	100	2.2%
Educational and Health Services	4,300	4,400	-100	-2.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,400	3,200	200	6.3%
Other Services	700	700	0	0.0%
Government Jobs	10,500	10,700	-200	-1.9%
Federal Government	4,800	4,900	-100	-2.0%
State and Local Government	5,800	5,900	-100	-1.7%
Note. Numbers rounded to nearest 100; discrepancies due to rounding. Based on average monthly data for each year. Source: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and US Economic Research				

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