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News Release

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County unemployment stabilizes, job numbers up in February

BENSON, Arizona — According to data from Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity, Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate in February was 3.8 percent (the same level as January but down from 6.5 percent in February 2021).

At the city level, Benson's unemployment rate in February was 2.3 percent (the same as January, but down from 5.4 percent in February a year prior).

Bisbee's unemployment rate was 1.6 percent in February (down from 1.7 percent in January and 3.5 percent in February 2021).

Douglas' February unemployment rate was 7.6 percent (down from 7.7 percent in January and 11.7 percent in February a year ago).

Huachuca City's unemployment rate in February was 6.2 percent (down from 6.4 percent in January and 9.5 percent in February last year).

Sierra Vista's unemployment rate was 3.1 percent in February (up from 3.0 percent in January but down from 5.3 percent in February a year ago).

Tombstone's February unemployment rate was 3.4 percent (the same level as January but down from 6.9 percent in February 2021).

Willcox's unemployment rate in February was 4.0 percent (down from 4.1 percent in January and 8.0 percent in February a year ago).

At the state level, Arizona's unadjusted unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in February (the same as January but down from 7.1 percent in February 2021).

The national unemployment rate in February was 4.1 percent (down from 4.4 percent in January and 6.6 percent in February last year).

Cochise County job numbers were up by 300 from January to February with a gain of 200 private-sector jobs and 100 jobs in government. In the private sector, all the job gains were in service industries with educational and health services up by 100 and leisure and hospitality up by 100. All other private,

service-providing industries (trade, transportation, and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; and other services) stabilized from January to February.

Cochise County's goods-producing sector saw job numbers hold steady from January to February with stabilization in construction and mining, along with manufacturing.

In the government sector, state and local government jobs grew by 100 while federal job numbers held steady from January to February.

In the 12 months ended February, countywide jobs were up by 200 for 12-month job growth of 0.6 percent. All the gains were in the private sector, which added 500 jobs (2.1 percent) partly offset by the loss of 300 government jobs (-2.8 percent). In government, federal jobs were down by 200 (-4.2 percent) while state and local government shed 100 jobs (-1.7 percent).

Within Cochise County's private sector, service-providing jobs were up by 600 (2.9 percent) from February 2021 to February 2022, with the gain of 400 jobs in leisure and hospitality (12.5 percent), 200 jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities (3.2 percent), and 100 jobs in information (25.0 percent). Those gains were partly offset by the loss of 100 professional and business services jobs (-2.2 percent). Job numbers held steady in financial activities, educational and health services, and other services in the 12 months ended February.

Countywide goods-producing jobs were down by 100 (-3.6 percent) in the February comparisons with the loss of 200 construction and mining jobs (-9.1 percent) slightly offset by a gain of 100 manufacturing jobs (16.7 percent).

Average weekly earnings in Cochise County were \$742.36 in February (down 7.5 percent from February 2021). Average weekly hours worked were 35.3 (up from 33.2 in February 2021). Countywide average hourly earnings in February were \$21.03 (down 13.0 percent from a year ago).

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.

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>February 2022</i>	<i>January 2022</i>	<i>February 2021</i>
United States	4.1	4.4	6.6
Arizona	3.6	3.6	7.1
Cochise County	3.8	3.8	6.5
Benson	2.3	2.3	5.4
Bisbee	1.6	1.7	3.5
Douglas	7.6	7.7	11.7
Huachuca City	6.2	6.4	9.5
Sierra Vista	3.1	3.0	5.3
Tombstone	3.4	3.4	6.9
Willcox	4.0	4.1	8.0

Note. Not seasonally adjusted.
Source: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Cochise County average earnings and hours		
	<i>February 2022</i>	<i>February 2021</i>
Weekly Earnings	\$742.36	\$802.78
Weekly Hours	35.3	33.2
Hourly Earnings	\$21.03	\$24.18

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

Cochise County nonfarm jobs						
	<i>February 2022</i>	<i>January 2022</i>	<i>1-month Change</i>	<i>February 2021</i>	<i>12-month Change</i>	<i>12-month Job Growth Rate</i>
Total Nonfarm Jobs	34,200	33,900	300	34,000	200	0.6%
Total Private Sector Jobs	23,800	23,600	200	23,300	500	2.1%
Goods Producing Jobs	2,700	2,700	0	2,800	-100	-3.6%
Construction and Mining	2,000	2,000	0	2,200	-200	-9.1%
Manufacturing	700	700	0	600	100	16.7%
Service Providing Jobs	31,500	31,200	300	31,200	300	1.0%
Private Service Providing Jobs	21,100	20,900	200	20,500	600	2.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,500	6,500	0	6,300	200	3.2%
Information	500	500	0	400	100	25.0%
Financial Activities	900	900	0	900	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	4,500	4,500	0	4,600	-100	-2.2%
Educational and Health Services	4,400	4,300	100	4,400	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,600	3,500	100	3,200	400	12.5%
Other Services	700	700	0	700	0	0.0%
Government Jobs	10,400	10,300	100	10,700	-300	-2.8%
Federal Government	4,600	4,600	0	4,800	-200	-4.2%
State and Local Government	5,800	5,700	100	5,900	-100	-1.7%
<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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