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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Cochise County unemployment down in March

BENSON, Arizona — According to data from Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity, Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate in March 2022 was 3.0 percent (down from 3.8 percent in February and 5.4 percent in March a year ago).

City level unemployment rates in March were:

Benson, 1.8 percent (down from 2.3 percent in February 2022 and 3.4 percent in March 2021)

Bisbee, 1.3 percent (down from 1.6 percent in February and 2.4 percent in March a year ago)

Douglas, 6.0 percent (down from 7.6 percent in February and 10.7 percent in March last year)

Huachuca City, 4.9 percent (down from 6.2 percent in February and 8.9 percent in March 2021)

Sierra Vista, 2.5 percent (down from 3.1 percent in February and 4.4 percent in March a year ago)

Tombstone, 2.6 percent (down from 3.2 percent in February and 4.6 percent in March last year)

Willcox, 3.2 percent (down from 4.0 percent in February and 5.7 percent in March 2021).

At the state level, Arizona's unadjusted unemployment rate was 2.8 percent in March (down from 3.6 percent in February and 5.7 percent in March a year ago).

The U.S. unadjusted unemployment rate in March was 3.8 percent (down from 4.1 percent in February and 6.2 percent in March last year).

Cochise County job numbers held steady from February to March with stabilization across industries in the private-sector and across levels of government. Job numbers were unchanged in construction and mining; manufacturing; trade, transportation, and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services, leisure and hospitality, and other services from February to March.

In the government sector, state and local government jobs and federal job numbers held steady at February levels in March.

In the 12 months ended March, countywide jobs were up by 500 for 12-month job growth of 1.5 percent. All the gains were in the private sector, which added 800 jobs (3.5 percent) partly offset by the loss of 300 government jobs (-2.8 percent). In government, federal jobs in Cochise County 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 700 (3.4 percent) from March 2021 to March 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 each in information (25.0 percent) and financial activities (12.5 percent). Those gains were partly offset by the loss of 100 professional and business services jobs (-2.2 percent). Job numbers held steady in educational and health services and other services in the 12 months ending in March.

Countywide goods-producing jobs were up by 100 (3.8 percent) in the March comparisons, all of which were in manufacturing (16.7 percent). Job numbers held steady in construction and mining in the 12 months ended March.

Average weekly earnings in Cochise County were \$731.10 in March 2022 (down 4.4 percent from March 2021). Average weekly hours worked were 34.6 (up from 32.7 in March 2021). Countywide average hourly earnings in March were \$21.13 (down 9.7 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](http://CochiseEconomy.com), a project of SAEDG in partnership with Arizona G&T Cooperatives and community sponsors.

Unemployment rates (%)			
	<i>March 2022</i>	<i>February 2022</i>	<i>March 2021</i>
United States	3.8	4.1	6.2
Arizona	2.8	3.6	5.7
Cochise County	3.0	3.8	5.4
Benson	1.8	2.3	3.4
Bisbee	1.3	1.6	2.4
Douglas	6.0	7.6	10.7
Huachuca City	4.9	6.2	8.9
Sierra Vista	2.5	3.1	4.4
Tombstone	2.6	3.2	4.6
Willcox	3.2	4.0	5.7

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

Cochise County average earnings and hours		
	<i>March 2022</i>	<i>March 2021</i>
Weekly Earnings	\$731.10	\$764.85
Weekly Hours	34.6	32.7
Hourly Earnings	\$21.13	\$23.39

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

Cochise County nonfarm jobs						
	<i>March 2022</i>	<i>February 2022</i>	<i>1-month Change</i>	<i>March 2021</i>	<i>12-month Change</i>	<i>12-month Job Growth Rate</i>
<b>Total Nonfarm Jobs</b>	34,200	34,200	0	33,700	500	1.5%
<b>Total Private Sector Jobs</b>	23,800	23,800	0	23,000	800	3.5%
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	2,700	2,700	0	2,600	100	3.8%
Construction and Mining	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	700	700	0	600	100	16.7%
<b>Service Providing Jobs</b>	31,500	31,500	0	31,100	400	1.3%
<b>Private Service Providing Jobs</b>	21,100	21,100	0	20,400	700	3.4%
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	800	100	12.5%
Professional and Business Services	4,500	4,500	0	4,600	-100	-2.2%
Educational and Health Services	4,400	4,400	0	4,400	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,600	3,600	0	3,200	400	12.5%
Other Services	700	700	0	700	0	0.0%
<b>Government Jobs</b>	10,400	10,400	0	10,700	-300	-2.8%
Federal Government	4,600	4,600	0	4,800	-200	-4.2%
State and Local Government	5,800	5,800	0	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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