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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 25, 2022

Countywide jobs in July up by 800 from a year ago

BENSON, Arizona — According to data from Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity, the number of nonfarm jobs in Cochise County was up by 800 in the 12 months ended July for job growth of 2.4 percent. All the gains were in the private sector, which added 800 jobs (3.5 percent). Government job numbers held steady from July 2021 to July 2022, with the gain of 100 state and local government jobs (2.0 percent) offset by the loss of 100 federal jobs (-2.1 percent).

Within Cochise County's private sector, goods-producing jobs were up by 300 (11.5 percent) in the July comparisons with the gain of 200 construction and mining jobs (10.5 percent) and 100 manufacturing jobs (14.3 percent).

Countywide private-sector, service-providing jobs were up by 500 (2.4 percent) from July 2021 to July 2022, with the gain of 200 jobs in leisure and hospitality (5.7 percent), 100 jobs in information (25.0 percent), 100 educational and health services jobs (2.3 percent), and 100 jobs in other services (14.3 percent). Job numbers held steady in trade, transportation, and utilities; financial activities; and professional and business services in the 12 months ended in July.

In month-to-month comparisons, Cochise County nonfarm job numbers were down by 300 from June to July this year. The countywide government sector loss 200 jobs, all of which were in state and local government led by the seasonally expected turnover of personnel at public-school districts with the end of the school year. Federal government job numbers in Cochise County stabilized from June to July this year.

In the private sector, Cochise County's goods-producing job numbers were unchanged from June to July with stabilization in manufacturing, along with construction and mining.

In the countywide private service sector, the trade, transportation, and utilities industries declined by 100 jobs from June to July this year. Job numbers were unchanged in information; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; and other services from June to July.

Average weekly earnings in Cochise County were \$706.35 in July 2022 (down 5.7 percent from July 2021). Average weekly hours worked were 33.1 (the same as in July last year). Countywide average hourly earnings in July were \$21.34 (also down 5.7 percent from a year ago).

The drop 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 leisure and hospitality) places downward pressure on overall average earnings.

Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate in July 2022 was 4.4 percent (up marginally from 4.3 percent in June but down from 5.2 percent in July a year ago). July was the fourth consecutive month of increases in the countywide unemployment rate.

City-level unemployment rates in July 2022 were:

Benson, 2.7 percent (up from 2.6 percent in June 2022 but down from 3.2 percent in July 2021).

Bisbee, 1.9 percent (unchanged from June but down from 2.3 percent in July a year ago).

Douglas, 8.8 percent (up from 8.5 percent in June 2022 but down from 10.3 percent in July last year).

Huachuca City, 7.3 percent (up from 7.0 percent in June this year but down from 8.6 percent in July 2021).

Sierra Vista, 4.0 percent (up from 3.9 percent in June 2022 and the same level as July a year ago).

Tombstone, 3.9 percent (up from 3.7 percent in June but down from 4.5 percent in July last year).

Willcox, 4.7 percent (up from 4.5 percent in June 2022 but down from 5.5 percent in July 2021).

At the state level, Arizona's unadjusted unemployment rate in July was 4.0 percent (unchanged from June this year but down from 5.2 percent in July a year ago).

The U.S. unadjusted unemployment rate in July was 3.8 percent (the same as June 2022 but down from 5.7 percent in July last year).

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>July 2022</i>	<i>June 2022</i>	<i>July 2021</i>
United States	3.8	3.8	5.7
Arizona	4.0	4.0	5.2
Cochise County	4.4	4.3	5.2
Benson	2.7	2.6	3.2
Bisbee	1.9	1.9	2.3
Douglas	8.8	8.5	10.3
Huachuca City	7.3	7.0	8.6
Sierra Vista	4.0	3.9	4.0
Tombstone	3.9	3.7	4.5
Willcox	4.7	4.5	5.5

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

Cochise County average earnings and hours		
	<i>July 2022</i>	<i>July 2021</i>
Weekly Earnings	\$706.35	\$749.05
Weekly Hours	33.1	33.1
Hourly Earnings	\$21.34	\$22.63

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

Cochise County nonfarm jobs						
	<i>July 2022</i>	<i>June 2022</i>	<i>1-month Change</i>	<i>July 2021</i>	<i>12-month Change</i>	<i>12-month Job Growth Rate</i>
Total Nonfarm Jobs	33,800	34,100	-300	33,000	800	2.4%
Total Private Sector Jobs	23,900	24,000	-100	23,100	800	3.5%
Goods Producing Jobs	2,900	2,900	0	2,600	300	11.5%
Construction and Mining	2,100	2,100	0	1,900	200	10.5%
Manufacturing	800	800	0	700	100	14.3%
Service Providing Jobs	30,900	31,200	-300	30,400	500	1.6%
Private Service Providing Jobs	21,000	21,100	-100	20,500	500	2.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,200	6,300	-100	6,200	0	0.0%
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	4,500	0	0.0%
Educational and Health Services	4,400	4,400	0	4,300	100	2.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,700	3,700	0	3,500	200	5.7%
Other Services	800	800	0	700	100	14.3%
Government Jobs	9,900	10,100	-200	9,900	0	0.0%
Federal Government	4,700	4,700	0	4,800	-100	-2.1%
State and Local Government	5,200	5,400	-200	5,100	100	2.0%
<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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