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County adds jobs for fourth straight month

According to data from Arizona's Office of Economic Opportunity, the Cochise County economy gained 300 jobs in the 12 months ended November for job growth of 0.9 percent. November was the fourth consecutive month of year-over-year job gains—the longest stretch since 2008. In the 17 months from July 2016 through November 2017, Cochise County saw year-over-year job gains in eight months, declines in five months, and stabilization in four months. That followed persistent job losses over the previous seven and a half years (from the beginning of 2009 through the middle of 2016).

Cochise County's private sector added 200 jobs (0.9 percent) in the 12 months ended November. The government sector added 100 jobs (0.9 percent) with the addition of 200 state and local government jobs (3 percent) partially offset by the loss of 100 federal government jobs (-2.0 percent).

Within Cochise County's private sector, all of the year-over-year job gains were service jobs, which were up by a net 200 (0.9 percent) with the addition of 100 financial activities jobs (9.1 percent), 100 educational and health services jobs (1.9 percent), and 100 leisure and hospitality jobs (2.8 percent), partly offset by the loss of 100 jobs in professional and business services (-2.6 percent). Job numbers stabilized in trade, transportation, and utilities, along with the information and other services industries, in the 12 months ended November.

Elsewhere in the private sector, the number of goods-producing jobs stabilized in the 12 months ended November with job numbers flat across manufacturing, construction, and mining.

In month-to-month comparisons, Cochise County job numbers stabilized from October to November. Government sector jobs held steady, with numbers flat across federal, state and local government.

Job numbers in Cochise County's private sector saw net stabilization from October to November, with the gain of 100 service jobs offset by the loss of 100 goods-producing jobs. All of the private-sector service job gains were in trade, transportation, and utilities, while all other private-sector service industries (information, financial activities, professional and business services, educational and health services, leisure and hospitality, and other services) stabilized at October levels in November. Cochise County's goods-producing sector lost 100 jobs from October to November, all of which were in manufacturing. Job numbers held steady in construction and mining.

According to OEO figures, Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate increased from 4.8 to 4.9 percent from October to November. The November rate was down from 5.4 percent in November 2016. Unadjusted city-level unemployment rates for November were: Benson, 4.2 percent; Bisbee, 3.4 percent; Douglas, 6.4 percent; Huachuca City, 6.1 percent; Sierra Vista, 4.4 percent; Tombstone, 1.5 percent; and Willcox, 5.1 percent.

Arizona's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 4.5 to 4.3 percent from October to November (down from 5.0 percent in November 2016, and its lowest level since November 2007). The national unemployment rate held steady at 4.1 percent in November (down from 4.6 percent in November 2016).

COCHISE COUNTY NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

	November 2017	October 2017	1-Month Change	November 2016	12-Month Change	12-Month Job Growth Rate
Total Nonfarm Jobs	35,000	35,000	0	34,700	300	0.9%
Total Private Sector Jobs	23,300	23,300	0	23,100	200	0.9%
Goods Producing Jobs	1,900	2,000	-100	1,900	0	0.0%
Construction and Mining	1,300	1,300	0	1,300	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	600	700	-100	600	0	0.0%
Service Providing Jobs	33,100	33,000	100	32,800	300	0.9%
Private Service Providing Jobs	21,400	21,300	100	21,200	200	0.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,100	6,000	100	6,100	0	0.0%
Information	400	400	0	400	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,200	1,200	0	1,100	100	9.1%
Professional and Business Services	3,700	3,700	0	3,800	-100	-2.6%
Educational and Health Services	5,400	5,400	0	5,300	100	1.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,700	3,700	0	3,600	100	2.8%
Other Services	900	900	0	900	0	0.0%
Government Jobs	11,700	11,700	0	11,600	100	0.9%
Federal Government	4,800	4,800	0	4,900	-100	-2.0%
State and Local Government	6,900	6,900	0	6,700	200	3.0%

Note. Numbers rounded to nearest 100. Sources: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and Cochise College Center for Economic Research

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	November 2017	October 2017	November 2016
United States	4.1	4.1	4.6
Arizona	4.3	4.5	5.0
Cochise County	4.9	4.8	5.4
Benson	4.2	4.2	4.7
Bisbee	3.4	3.3	3.7
Douglas	6.4	6.4	7.1
Huachuca City	6.1	5.9	6.6
Sierra Vista	4.4	4.5	4.6
Tombstone	1.5	1.5	1.7
Willcox	5.1	5.1	5.7

Note. US and Arizona rates are seasonally adjusted; Cochise County and city rates are not seasonally adjusted. Source: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity

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