



## Center for Economic Research

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## Job numbers up for fifth straight month

According to data from Arizona's Office of Economic Opportunity, the Cochise County economy gained 100 jobs in the 12 months ended December for job growth of 0.3 percent. December was the fifth consecutive month of year-over-year job gains—the longest stretch since 2008. In the 18 months from July 2016 through December 2017, Cochise County saw year-over-year job gains in nine 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).

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

Within Cochise County's private sector, service jobs were flat in the 12 months ended December, with the addition of 100 financial activities jobs (9.1 percent) and 100 educational and health services jobs (1.9 percent) offset by the loss of 200 jobs in professional and business services (-5.3 percent). Job numbers stabilized in trade, transportation, and utilities, along with leisure and hospitality and the information and other services industries.

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

In month-to-month comparisons, Cochise County lost 300 jobs from November to December, all of which were in the private sector. Government job numbers held steady, with numbers flat across federal, state and local government.

Within the private sector, Cochise County saw a loss of 200 service jobs and 100 goods-producing jobs. All of the service job losses were in professional and business services (-100) and leisure and hospitality (-100). Job numbers in trade, transportation, and utilities, along with information, financial activities, educational and health services, and other services stabilized at November levels in December. Cochise County's goods-producing job losses were all in manufacturing (-100) with job numbers holding steady in construction and mining.

According to OEO figures, Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate increased from 4.9 to 5.2 percent from November to December. The December rate was down from 5.3 percent in December 2016. Unadjusted city-level unemployment rates for December were: Benson, 4.4 percent; Bisbee, 3.6 percent; Douglas, 6.8 percent; Huachuca City, 6.4 percent; Sierra Vista, 4.4 percent; Tombstone, 1.5 percent; and Willcox, 5.5 percent.

Arizona's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 4.3 to 4.5 percent from November to December (down from 5.0 percent in December 2016). The national unemployment rate held steady at 4.1 percent in December (down from 4.7 percent in December 2016).

## COCHISE COUNTY NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

	December 2017	November 2017	1-Month Change	December 2016	12-Month Change	12-Month Job Growth Rate
<b>Total Nonfarm Jobs</b>	34,700	35,000	-300	34,600	100	0.3%
<b>Total Private Sector Jobs</b>	23,000	23,300	-300	23,000	0	0.0%
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	1,800	1,900	-100	1,800	0	0.0%
Construction and Mining	1,300	1,300	0	1,300	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	500	600	-100	500	0	0.0%
<b>Service Providing Jobs</b>	32,900	33,100	-200	32,800	100	0.3%
<b>Private Service Providing Jobs</b>	21,200	21,400	-200	21,200	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,100	6,100	0	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	3,600	3,700	-100	3,800	-200	-5.3%
Educational and Health Services	5,400	5,400	0	5,300	100	1.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,600	3,700	-100	3,600	0	0.0%
Other Services	900	900	0	900	0	0.0%
<b>Government Jobs</b>	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 (%)

	December 2017	November 2017	December 2016
<b>United States</b>	4.1	4.1	4.7
<b>Arizona</b>	4.5	4.3	5.0
<b>Cochise County</b>	5.2	4.9	5.3
<b>Benson</b>	4.4	4.2	4.6
<b>Bisbee</b>	3.6	3.4	3.7
<b>Douglas</b>	6.8	6.4	7.0
<b>Huachuca City</b>	6.4	6.1	6.6
<b>Sierra Vista</b>	4.4	4.4	4.3
<b>Tombstone</b>	1.5	1.5	1.7
<b>Willcox</b>	5.5	5.1	5.6

*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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