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February jobs down from a year ago

According to data from Arizona's Office of Economic Opportunity, the Cochise County economy lost 600 jobs in the 12 months ended February for job growth of -1.8 percent. All of the losses were in Cochise County's private sector (-2.7 percent). Government sector job numbers held steady in the 12 months ended February with the loss of 100 federal government jobs (-2.1 percent) offset by the gain of 100 state and local government jobs (1.5 percent).

Within the private sector, service jobs were down by 700 (-3.4 percent) with the loss of 400 professional and business services jobs (-10 percent), 200 trade, transportation, and utilities jobs (-3.4 percent), 200 educational and health services jobs (-4.1 percent), and 100 leisure and hospitality jobs (-2.8 percent) partly offset by the gain of 100 financial activities jobs (9.1 percent) and 100 jobs in other services (14.3 percent). Job numbers stabilized in the information industry.

Elsewhere in the private sector, goods-producing jobs were up by 100 (5.3 percent) in the 12 months ended February with the gain of 200 jobs in construction and mining (15.4 percent) partly offset by the loss of 100 jobs in manufacturing (-16.7 percent).

In month-to-month comparisons, Cochise County gained 700 jobs from January to February, with the addition of 300 private sector jobs and 400 government jobs. Within the government

sector, all of the gains were in state and local government, with federal government job numbers holding steady.

Cochise County's private sector saw the addition of 200 service jobs and 100 goods-producing jobs from January to February. All of the new goods-producing jobs were in construction and mining while job numbers held steady in manufacturing. Private-sector service job gains occurred in professional and business services (100) and leisure and hospitality (100). Job numbers in information, financial activities, educational and health services, and trade, transportation, and utilities, along with other services, stabilized at January levels in February.

According to OEO figures, Cochise County's unadjusted unemployment rate decreased from 6.2 to 6.0 percent from January to February. The February rate was up from 5.8 percent in February 2017. Unadjusted city-level unemployment rates for December were: Benson, 5.5 percent; Bisbee, 4.0 percent; Douglas, 7.7 percent; Huachuca City, 7.2 percent; Sierra Vista, 5.4 percent; Tombstone, 2.6 percent; and Willcox, 5.6 percent.

Arizona's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 4.8 to 4.9 percent from January to February (down from 5.1 percent in February 2017). The national unemployment rate held steady at 4.1 percent in February (down from 4.7 percent in February 2017).

COCHISE COUNTY NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

	February 2018	January 2018	1-Month Change	February 2017	12-Month Change	12-Month Job Growth Rate
Total Nonfarm Jobs	33,300	32,600	700	33,900	-600	-1.8%
Total Private Sector Jobs	21,900	21,600	300	22,500	-600	-2.7%
Goods Producing Jobs	2,000	1,900	100	1,900	100	5.3%
Construction and Mining	1,500	1,400	100	1,300	200	15.4%
Manufacturing	500	500	0	600	-100	-16.7%
Service Providing Jobs	31,300	30,700	600	32,000	-700	-2.2%
Private Service Providing Jobs	19,900	19,700	200	20,600	-700	-3.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,700	5,700	0	5,900	-200	-3.4%
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	3,500	100	4,000	-400	-10.0%
Educational and Health Services	4,700	4,700	0	4,900	-200	-4.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,500	3,400	100	3,600	-100	-2.8%
Other Services	800	800	0	700	100	14.3%
Government Jobs	11,400	11,000	400	11,400	0	0.0%
Federal Government	4,700	4,700	0	4,800	-100	-2.1%
State and Local Government	6,700	6,300	400	6,600	100	1.5%

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

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	February 2018	January 2018	February 2017
United States	4.1	4.1	4.7
Arizona	4.9	4.8	5.1
Cochise County	6.0	6.2	5.8
Benson	5.5	5.7	5.4
Bisbee	4.0	4.1	3.8
Douglas	7.7	7.9	7.5
Huachuca City	7.2	7.3	6.9
Sierra Vista	5.4	5.6	4.6
Tombstone	2.6	2.6	2.4
Willcox	5.6	5.8	5.5

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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