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County sees third straight month of job gains

According to data from Arizona's Office of Economic Opportunity, the Cochise County economy gained 900 jobs in the 12 months ended October for job growth of 2.6 percent. October was the third consecutive month of year-over-year job gains—the longest stretch since 2008. In the 16 months from July last year through October this year, Cochise County saw year-over-year job gains in seven 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 last year).

Overall job gains in the 12 months ended October were led by strong growth in the private sector, which added 700 jobs (3.1 percent). The government sector added 200 jobs (1.7 percent) with the addition of 300 state and local government jobs (4.5 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 700 (3.4 percent) with the addition of 500 educational and health services jobs (10 percent), 200 financial activities jobs (20 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 October.

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

In month-to-month comparisons, Cochise County gained 400 jobs from September to October. The government sector added 200 jobs, all of which were in state and local government. Cochise County's federal government job numbers stabilized from September to October.

Cochise County's private sector also gained 200 jobs from September to October, all of which were service jobs with the addition of 100 jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities and 100 educational and health services jobs. All other private-sector service industries countywide (information, financial activities, professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and other services) saw job numbers stabilize at September levels in October. Job numbers in Cochise County's goods-producing sector also held steady with stabilization across manufacturing, construction and mining.

According to OEO figures, Cochise County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined from 5.1 to 5.0 percent from September to October. The October rate was down from 5.9 percent in October last year, and was at its lowest level since March 2008. Unadjusted city-level unemployment rates for October were: Benson, 4.2 percent; Bisbee, 3.3 percent; Douglas, 6.3 percent; Huachuca City, 5.9 percent; Sierra Vista, 4.5 percent; Tombstone, 1.5 percent; and Willcox, 5.0 percent.

Arizona's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 4.7 to 4.5 percent from September to October (down from 5.0 percent in October 2016, and its lowest level since December 2007). The national unemployment rate decreased from 4.2 to 4.1 percent in October (down from 4.8 percent in October last year, and its lowest since September 2000).

COCHISE COUNTY NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

	October 2017	September 2017	1-Month Change	October 2016	12-Month Change	12-Month Job Growth Rate
Total Nonfarm Jobs	35,200	34,800	400	34,300	900	2.6%
Total Private Sector Jobs	23,400	23,200	200	22,700	700	3.1%
Goods Producing Jobs	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	0	0.0%
Construction and Mining	1,300	1,300	0	1,300	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	700	700	0	700	0	0.0%
Service Providing Jobs	33,200	32,800	400	32,300	900	2.8%
Private Service Providing Jobs	21,400	21,200	200	20,700	700	3.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,000	5,900	100	6,000	0	0.0%
Information	400	400	0	400	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,200	1,200	0	1,000	200	20.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,700	3,700	0	3,800	-100	-2.6%
Educational and Health Services	5,500	5,400	100	5,000	500	10.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,700	3,700	0	3,600	100	2.8%
Other Services	900	900	0	900	0	0.0%
Government Jobs	11,800	11,600	200	11,600	200	1.7%
Federal Government	4,800	4,800	0	4,900	-100	-2.0%
State and Local Government	7,000	6,800	200	6,700	300	4.5%
Note. Numbers rounded to nearest 100. Sources: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and Cochise College Center for Economic Research						

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	October 2017	September 2017	October 2016
United States	4.1	4.2	4.8
Arizona	4.5	4.7	5.0
Cochise County	5.0	5.1	5.9
Benson	4.2	4.4	5.0
Bisbee	3.3	3.6	4.0
Douglas	6.3	6.8	7.6
Huachuca City	5.9	6.4	7.1
Sierra Vista	4.5	4.8	4.8
Tombstone	1.5	1.7	1.7
Willcox	5.0	5.5	6.0

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

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