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County sees highest job growth since 2008

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According to data from Arizona's Office of Economic Opportunity, the Cochise County economy added 500 jobs in the 12 months ended June for job growth of 1.5 percent. June's year-over-year job gains were the most since the 12 months ended November 2008. In the 12 months from July last year through June this year, Cochise County saw year-over-year job gains in four months with stabilization in four months and slight declines 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).

In the 12 months ended June, Cochise County's private sector added 700 jobs for job growth of 3.1 percent. Those gains were partly offset by the loss of 200 government-sector jobs (-1.8 percent) with 100 of those in federal government (-2.0 percent) and 100 in state and local government (-1.7 percent).

All of the private-sector job gains in the 12 months ended June were service jobs, which were up by a net 700 (3.4 percent) with the addition of 500 educational and health services jobs (10.2 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 (-2.8 percent). Job numbers stabilized in trade, transportation, and utilities, as well as in the information and other services industries, in the 12 months ended June.

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

In month-to-month comparisons, Cochise County lost 500 jobs from May to June—fewer than seasonally expected. All of the job losses were in state and local government and attributable to the end of the school year and turnover of personnel. State and local government job numbers will pick up again in August with the start of the new school year. Cochise County's federal government job numbers stabilized from May to June.

Cochise County's private sector gained 100 jobs from May to June, all of which were service jobs in the trade, transportation, and utilities industries. All other private-sector industries countywide (manufacturing; construction and mining; information; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services) saw job numbers stabilize at May levels in June.

According to OEO figures, Cochise County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 5.6 to 5.5 percent from May to June. The June rate was down from 6.1 percent in June last year. Unadjusted city-level unemployment rates for June were: Benson, 4.9 percent; Bisbee, 4.0 percent; Douglas, 7.5 percent; Huachuca City, 7.1 percent; Sierra Vista, 5.1 percent; Tombstone, 1.7 percent; and Willcox, 6.0 percent.

Arizona's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stabilized at 5.1 percent from May to June (down from 5.3 percent in June 2016). The national unemployment rate inched upward from 4.3 to 4.4 percent in June (down from 4.9 percent in June last year).

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COCHISE COUNTY NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

	June 2017	May 2017	1-Month Change	June 2016	12-Month Change	12-Month Job Growth Rate
Total Nonfarm Jobs	33,800	34,300	-500	33,300	500	1.5%
Total Private Sector Jobs	23,000	22,900	100	22,300	700	3.1%
Goods Producing Jobs	1,900	1,900	0	1,900	0	0.0%
Construction and Mining	1,300	1,300	0	1,300	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	600	600	0	600	0	0.0%
Service Providing Jobs	31,900	32,400	-500	31,400	500	1.6%
Private Service Providing Jobs	21,100	21,000	100	20,400	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	3,500	3,500	0	3,600	-100	-2.8%
Educational and Health Services	5,400	5,400	0	4,900	500	10.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,700	3,700	0	3,600	100	2.8%
Other Services	900	900	0	900	0	0.0%
Government Jobs	10,800	11,400	-600	11,000	-200	-1.8%
Federal Government	4,900	4,900	0	5,000	-100	-2.0%
State and Local Government	5,900	6,500	-600	6,000	-100	-1.7%
Note. Numbers rounded to nearest 100. Sources: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and Cochise College Center for Economic Research						

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	June 2017	May 2017	June 2016
United States	4.4	4.3	4.9
Arizona	5.1	5.1	5.3
Cochise County	5.5	5.6	6.1
Benson	4.9	4.8	5.6
Bisbee	4.0	3.8	4.5
Douglas	7.5	7.2	8.4
Huachuca City	7.1	6.7	7.9
Sierra Vista	5.1	4.7	5.3
Tombstone	1.7	1.7	2.1
Willcox	6.0	5.8	6.8

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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