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Job numbers hold steady in April

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According to data from Arizona's Office of Economic Opportunity, job numbers in Cochise County stabilized in the 12 months ended April. In the 10 months from July last year through April this year, Cochise County saw modest year-over-year job gains in three months with stabilization in four months and slight declines in three 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 April, Cochise County's private sector added 300 jobs for job growth of 1.3 percent. Those gains were offset by the loss of 300 government sector jobs (-2.6 percent) with 200 of those in federal government (-4.0 percent) and 100 in state and local government (-1.5 percent).

All of the private-sector job gains in the 12 months ended April were service jobs, which were up by a net 300 (1.4 percent) with the addition of 400 educational and health services jobs (8.0 percent) and 200 financial activities jobs (20 percent) partly offset by the loss of 300 professional and business services jobs (-7.9 percent). Job numbers stabilized in trade, transportation, and utilities; information; leisure and hospitality; and other services in the 12 months ended April.

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

In month-to-month comparisons, Cochise County's overall job numbers stabilized from March to April. Job numbers held steady across both the private and government sectors. In government, job numbers were flat across the federal, state, and local levels.

Within Cochise County's private sector, the number of goods-producing jobs stabilized from March to April with job numbers holding steady in manufacturing, construction, and mining.

The number of private-sector, service-providing jobs in Cochise County held steady overall from March to April with the gain of 100 trade, transportation, and utilities jobs offset by the loss of 100 professional and business services jobs. All other private-sector service industries countywide (information; financial activities; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services) saw job numbers stabilize at March levels in April.

According to OEO figures, Cochise County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 5.5 to 5.4 percent from March to April. The April rate was down from 6.4 percent in April 2016. Unadjusted city-level unemployment rates for April were: Benson, 4.5 percent; Bisbee, 3.6 percent; Douglas, 6.8 percent; Huachuca City, 6.4 percent; Sierra Vista, 4.2 percent; Tombstone, 1.5 percent; and Willcox, 5.4 percent.

Arizona's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 5.0 percent from March to April (down from 5.4 percent in April 2016). The national unemployment rate decreased from 4.5 to 4.4 percent in April (down from 5.0 percent in April last year).

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COCHISE COUNTY NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

	April 2017	March 2017	1-Month Change	April 2016	12-Month Change	12-Month Job Growth Rate
Total Nonfarm Jobs	34,400	34,400	0	34,400	0	0.0%
Total Private Sector Jobs	23,000	23,000	0	22,700	300	1.3%
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	32,500	32,500	0	32,500	0	0.0%
Private Service Providing Jobs	21,100	21,100	0	20,800	300	1.4%
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	3,600	-100	3,800	-300	-7.9%
Educational and Health Services	5,400	5,400	0	5,000	400	8.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,700	3,700	0	3,700	0	0.0%
Other Services	900	900	0	900	0	0.0%
Government Jobs	11,400	11,400	0	11,700	-300	-2.6%
Federal Government	4,800	4,800	0	5,000	-200	-4.0%
State and Local Government	6,600	6,600	0	6,700	-100	-1.5%
Note. Numbers rounded to nearest 100. Sources: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and Cochise College Center for Economic Research						

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	April 2017	March 2017	April 2016
United States	4.4	4.5	5.0
Arizona	5.0	5.0	5.4
Cochise County	5.4	5.5	6.4
Benson	4.5	4.6	5.4
Bisbee	3.6	3.7	4.3
Douglas	6.8	7.0	8.1
Huachuca City	6.4	6.6	7.7
Sierra Vista	4.2	4.4	5.3
Tombstone	1.5	1.7	1.9
Willcox	5.4	5.6	6.5

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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