

County Profile for
Pima County

Pima County, the second-largest of the four original counties, was created in 1864 and included approximately all of southern Arizona acquired from Mexico by the Gadsden Purchase. Settlement of the region goes back to the arrival in the 1690s of the Spanish who encountered Native Americans already living there. About the middle of the 18th century, silver and gold were discovered and prospectors from Mexico entered the area in droves. The latter part of the century saw expansion of mining and ranching in Pima County and an increase in population, despite the threat of attack from Apaches. The Royal Presidio de San Agustín del Tucson was completed by 1781, and it remained the northern-most outpost of Mexico until the Gadsden Purchase transferred the land to the United States in 1854. Soldiers later arrived in 1856 and the population began to rise. From a population of 395 in 1820, Tucson has grown to be the second largest city in Arizona. It has always served as the Pima County seat and was the Arizona Territorial capital from 1867 to 1877. Tucson is home to the University of Arizona and offers many historical and cultural attractions. Just south of Tucson is the Mission San Xavier del Bac, founded in 1697 by Father Kino and still in use today. Within Pima County are two cactus forests – Saguaro National Park to the northeast and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in the southwestern portion. Although greatly reduced from its original size, Pima County still covers 9,184 square miles. It ranges in elevation from 1,200 feet to the 9,185-foot peak of Mount Lemmon. The San Xavier, Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O’odham reservations together account for ownership of 42 percent of land located in Pima County. The state of Arizona owns 15 percent; the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, 12 percent; other public lands, 17 percent; and individual or corporate ownership, 14 percent.



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POPULATION

	2000	2010	2023 (est.)
Pima County	843,746	981,168	1,058,318

Office of Economic Opportunity

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Pima County	0.50%
State	5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

	2000	2010	2022
Civilian Labor Force	409,776	478,743	480,903
Unemployed	15,141	44,637	23,808
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	9.3%	5.0%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	76,781	11.0%
High school or equivalent, no college	150,259	21.5%
Some college or Associate degree	237,365	33.9%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	235,332	33.6%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	115,236	25.5%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	59,147	13.1%
Retail trade	53,516	11.8%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	49,040	10.8%
Manufacturing	30,669	6.8%
Construction	28,223	6.2%
Public administration	26,923	6.0%
Finance, insurance & real estate	26,053	5.8%
Other services, except public administration	22,118	4.9%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	21,611	4.8%
Wholesale trade	7,927	1.8%
Information	7,173	1.6%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	4,359	1.0%

American Community Survey

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Commerce Authority in cooperation with local sources. For further information, please contact:

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