

The city of Douglas was incorporated in 1905, and the community became a regional center servicing the thriving mining and ranching industries. Following a boom period in the early 1900s, copper prices fell and impacted the area's smelters. The smelter in Douglas served the developing copper mines in Bisbee and Nacozari. In 1941, transcontinental traffic was rerouted from U.S. 80 to State Highway 86 through Benson, which impacted Douglas' retail trade. The area was affected by the closure of the Phelps-Dodge Douglas smelter operation in 1987, and the corporate offices moved. The county is as big as the state of Rhode Island and Connecticut combined at 6,219 square miles. Douglas is located about 118 miles southeast of Tucson via Interstate 10 to U.S. 80, and 229 miles south of the Phoenix Metropolitan Area. The Janos Highway, the shortest route to Mexico City and Guadalajara by paved roads from the western United States, begins in Douglas.

## Principal Economic Activities

One of the principal economic activity in Douglas is retail trade. The retail market is much larger than the existing city population base because of the growing market in Agua Prieta, Cananea, Nacozari and Cumpas, Sonora. According to a 2017 study by the Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization (SVMPO), approximately 80.9 percent of people crossing the border in Douglas are frequent crossers (more than two times per week). The study confirmed that the travelers' principal destination was Douglas, and the number one reason for crossing was shopping. The average expenditures of \$196 per person result in an estimated economic impact to the city of Douglas and Cochise county of over \$740 million each year. The ease of travel through the Douglas port of entry for pedestrians and vehicles is critical to continuing to encourage visitors to shop in stores, eat in restaurants and conduct business in Douglas.

## Scenic Attractions

Douglas' nationally registered historic landmarks include the Southern Pacific Depot, Gadsden Hotel, Church Square, Douglas Municipal Airport, Downtown Historical District and Sonoran District. Many points of interest are nearby, including the historic John Slaughter Ranch, Agua Prieta, the frontier mining town of Tombstone, the ghost towns of Charleston and Dos Cabezas, the historic Old Fort Bowie, Fort Huachuca, Coronado National Memorial, Cochise Stronghold, Texas Canyon, San Bernardino Wildlife Refuge, Chiricahua National Monument, Coronado National Forest and the Chiricahua Mountains. Scenic drives include Bisbee and Cave Creek Canyon. Historic Arizpe is a short drive into Sonora. Hunting and fishing areas, in both the United States and Mexico, are also nearby.

## Community Facilities

Douglas offers a broad range of community facilities including an art gallery, a library, city recreation centers, an Olympic-size swimming pool, a new indoor aquatic center, seven parks, a golf course and several handball, raquetball and tennis courts. Other athletic facilities are available at Cochise College and Douglas High School. Douglas offers two thriving educational institutions, The University of Arizona and Cochise College, the local community college.



**BASIC INFORMATION**

Founded:	1901
Incorporated:	1905
Elevation:	4,020 ft.
Location:	Cochise

**Distance to major cities:**

Phoenix:	229 miles
Tucson:	118 miles
Las Vegas:	526 miles
San Diego:	527 miles
Los Angeles:	605 miles

**POPULATION**

	2000	2010	2023 (est.)
Douglas	14,312	17,410	16,302

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX**

Douglas	2.80%
Cochise	0.50%
State	5.60%

*Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation*

**LABOR FORCE**

	2000	2010	2022
Civilian Labor Force	5,166	5,570	5,097
Unemployed	364	589	485
Unemployment Rate	7.0%	10.6%	9.5%

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT**

	Count	Share
Less than high school	2,803	25.8%
High school or equivalent, no college	3,154	29.0%
Some college or Associate degree	3,549	32.6%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	1,375	12.6%

*American Community Survey*

**INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)**

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	1,193	27.3%
Public administration	933	21.4%
Retail trade	479	11.0%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	442	10.1%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	275	6.3%
Construction	267	6.1%
Manufacturing	196	4.5%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	159	3.6%
Other services, except public administration	139	3.2%
Finance, insurance & real estate	114	2.6%
Information	71	1.6%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	53	1.2%
Wholesale trade	49	1.1%

*American Community Survey*

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