


Community Profile for

Nogales

 Arizona Commerce Authority Logo

 Map of Nogales

Nogales, Arizona, and its twin city, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico (Ambos Nogales), are on the international border separating the United States and Mexico. The Arizona city serves as both the economic, educational and cultural capital and the county seat of Santa Cruz County, the smallest and southernmost of Arizona's counties. The city enjoys moderate year-round weather because of its high Sonoran Desert setting at an elevation of 3,865 feet. Nogales was established in 1880 by Jacob and Isaac Isaacson, who built a trading post along the international border. Two years later, Nogales was the site of the first rail connection between Mexico and the United States. The city was incorporated in 1893.

Principal Economic Activities

Boasting 200 years of entrepreneurship, mercantilism and international commerce through three ports of entry, Nogales' economy thrives on international trade, manufacturing, tourism and related services. The Ambos Nogales region is home to one of the largest cooperative manufacturing (maquiladora) clusters in North America, with more than 110 companies located in the region. It is also home to America's largest port of entry for Mexican produce—more than five billion pounds of fruits and vegetables enter through Nogales' Mariposa Port each year. Mexican shoppers cross the border and generate more than 60% of Nogales' sales tax revenue.

Scenic Attractions

The city of Nogales and Santa Cruz County have 200 properties listed in the National Register of Historic Sites, two of which are Tumacacori National Monument, visited by Father Kino in 1691, and Tubac Presidio, established by the Spanish in 1752 on an Indian village site. Other sites include the Old Tubac Schoolhouse, Old Nogales City Hall, Santa Cruz County Courthouse and Patagonia Railroad Depot. The Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, 19 miles east, attracts worldwide visitors to see its diverse bird life. Nogales' original city hall houses the Pimeria Alta Historical Society Museum. Nearby are Parker Canyon, Pena Blanca Lake and Patagonia Lake State Park. Visitors also enjoy area ghost towns, mining camps and wineries near Sonoita and Elgin.

Community Facilities

Educational institutions in Nogales include the University of Arizona-Santa Cruz, Cochise College and Nogales Unified School District. Nogales is home to Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital, a 56-bed facility, and Mariposa Community Health Center which operates three health centers in Nogales and Santa Cruz County. Nogales International Airport serves Nogales and Santa Cruz County with a 7,200-foot runway that accommodates private passenger service and specialty air cargo operations. The City of Nogales has a wide range of recreational facilities including nine parks, a museum, an art gallery, two recreation centers, two swimming pools, six athletic fields, a library, four tennis courts and three nearby golf courses.

Community Profile for

Nogales, Arizona

BASIC INFORMATION

Founded: 1880
Incorporated: 1893
Elevation: 3,865 ft.
Location: Santa Cruz

Distance to major cities:

Phoenix: 179 miles
Tucson: 67 miles
Las Vegas: 472 miles
San Diego: 473 miles
Los Angeles: 551 miles

POPULATION

2000 2010 2023 (est.)

Nogales 20,878 20,880 19,921

Office of Economic Opportunity

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Nogales 2.00%
Santa Cruz 1.00%
State 5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

2000 2010 2022

Civilian Labor Force 7,404 8,744 8,065
Unemployed 750 1,763 972
Unemployment Rate 10.1% 20.2% 12.1%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

Count Share

Less than high school 4,226 32.4%
High school or equivalent, no college 3,681 28.2%
Some college or Associate degree 3,230 24.8%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree 1,913 14.7%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	1,372	18.7%
Retail trade	1,107	15.1%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	982	13.4%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	642	8.8%
Construction	505	6.9%
Wholesale trade	505	6.9%
Public administration	444	6.1%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	410	5.6%
Other services, except public administration	385	5.3%
Manufacturing	375	5.1%
Finance, insurance & real estate	269	3.7%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	237	3.2%
Information	95	1.3%

American Community Survey

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

Nogales Economic Development

Edward Dickie

777 N. Grand Ave.

Nogales, AZ 85621

Phone: 5202876571

Email: edickie@nogalesaz.gov

Website: www.nogalesaz.gov

Nogales/Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce

123 W. Kino Park

Nogales, AZ 85621

Phone: 5202873685

Email: info@thenogaleschamber.org

Website: www.thenogaleschamber.org

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