

Pima is on the Gila River in north-central Graham County. The Gila River was one of the main waterways followed by fur trappers and mountain men in the 1820s and 1830s. The lands beside the river became the Gila Trail along which General Stephen W. Kearny brought his "Army of the West" in 1846. Mormon settlers seeking a canal route in the Gila Valley laid out a town site, naming it Smithville after Mormon leader Jesse Smith. The town was later renamed Pima after the Native American tribe. The route to Pima from Tucson is east on Interstate 10 to U.S. 191, turning north to Safford and then northwest on U.S. 70. From Phoenix, Pima is reached via U.S. 60 to Globe and then U.S. 70.

Principal Economic Activities

Agriculture is the predominant economic activity in Graham County. Pima historically has been an agricultural center with irrigation water coming from the Gila River. As a farm trade center, Pima serves surrounding agricultural areas. The town is becoming a popular retirement community. Increases in tourism and winter visitors have boosted wholesale and retail trade. County, state and federal offices and the community college in Thatcher also provide employment.

Scenic Attractions

Pima is just north of the Coronado National Forest which provides numerous recreational facilities. Two of the most popular areas are the Pinaleno Mountains and 10,720-foot Mt. Graham. The 36-mile long Swift Trail goes to Mt. Graham's summit and features many picnic, hiking and camping sites. The Mt. Graham Observatory includes the Large Binocular Telescope. Forty-six miles from Pima is the ranger station at Columbine and Riggs Lake, home to fishing, boating and other water activity facilities. Twenty-six miles away is Cluff Ranch Reservoir, a premiere water recreation area. Near Pima is Aravaipa Canyon, one of the most scenic wilderness areas in Arizona. Passes to visit Aravaipa Canyon must be obtained through the Bureau of Land Management's Safford Office. Other attractions include Hot Wells Dunes, Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area and Black Hills Back Country Byway.

Community Facilities

The town of Pima has a museum, a library, two city parks totaling 41 acres, a swimming pool, a children's museum, a roping arena, several handball and tennis courts, wrestling mats and four softball / baseball fields.



BASIC INFORMATION

Founded:	1879
Incorporated:	1916
Elevation:	2,846 ft.
Location:	Graham

Distance to major cities:

Phoenix:	153 miles
Tucson:	151 miles
Las Vegas:	450 miles
San Diego:	499 miles
Los Angeles:	529 miles

POPULATION

	2000	2010	2023 (est.)
Pima	1,989	2,390	2,921

Office of Economic Opportunity

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Pima	2.00%
Graham	1.00%
State	5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

	2000	2010	2022
Civilian Labor Force	922	1,099	1,178
Unemployed	40	149	39
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	13.6%	3.3%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	100	6.5%
High school or equivalent, no college	517	33.7%
Some college or Associate degree	492	32.1%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	423	27.6%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	233	23.0%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	167	16.5%
Retail trade	128	12.6%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	115	11.3%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	79	7.8%
Construction	76	7.5%
Public administration	65	6.4%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	45	4.4%
Finance, insurance & real estate	41	4.0%
Other services, except public administration	31	3.1%
Manufacturing	17	1.7%
Information	17	1.7%

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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