

SIERRA VISTA

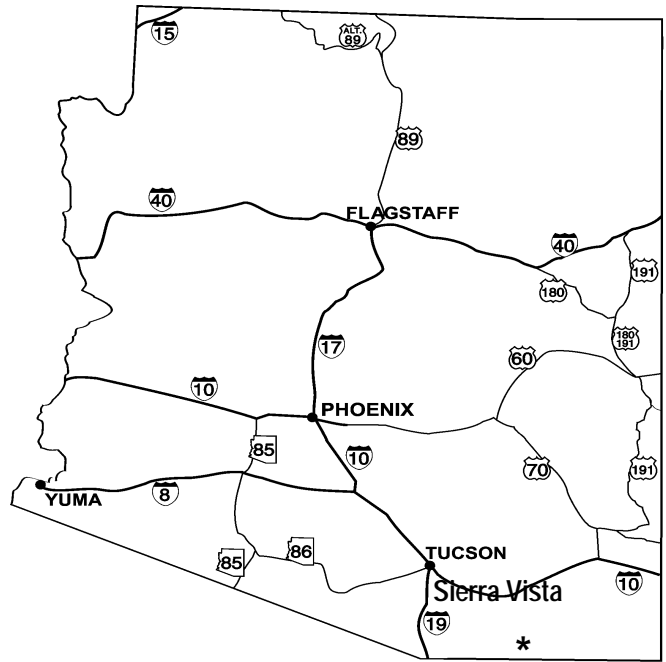
Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Sierra Vista is the major population center for southeastern Arizona. Located 70 miles southeast of Tucson, Sierra Vista serves as the main commercial, cultural and recreational hub of the area. Easily accessible via Interstate 10 and SR 90 and at an elevation of 4,623 feet, Sierra Vista's abundant sunshine and clean air combine for great livability and comfort. The town's name means "Mountain View" in Spanish and accurately describes its picturesque setting. Located within the city is Fort Huachuca, a national historic landmark and a modern army post that is headquarters of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School, Army Communications Command and Army Electronic Proving Ground.

FOUNDED: 1927
 COUNTY: Cochise County
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 189 miles
 HIGHWAYS: SR 90, I-10
 ENTERPRISE ZONE AVAILABLE

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1956
 ELEVATION: 4,623 feet
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 70 miles



POPULATION

	1990	2000	2001
Sierra Vista	32,983	37,775	38,740
Cochise County	97,624	117,755	121,435
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,319,895

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau.
 NOTE: 2002 City of Sierra Vista population is estimated at 40,415

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Sierra Vista's economy is closely related to Fort Huachuca, with more than 11,000 military and civilian employees. The total impact on Sierra Vista and Cochise County was over \$729 million dollars in FY 1998. City and county officials along with business and academic leaders are pursuing an aggressive program of economic diversification. This program has been instrumental in opening a 400,000 square foot enclosed mall with more than 40 businesses and a large telephone information service.

County Employment	1990	2001
Agriculture	59	1,234
Construction	900	2,175
FIRE	650	750
Manufacturing	1,450	975
Mining	100	*
Services	4,975	8,975
TCPU	1,550	1,275
Trade	5,575	7,900

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security
 NOTE: 2001 Agriculture figure from 4th Qtr., AZ ES 2002 Data, AZ Dept. of Econ. Sec. in cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Data unavailable due to confidentiality issues or No data available.

Major Private Employers

Aegis Communications
 Ilex Systems
 Wal-Mart
 KE & G Construction
 Sierra Vista Regional Health Center

Major Public Employers

City of Sierra Vista
 Sierra Vista Unified School District
 U.S. Border Patrol
 Cochise County
 U.S. Army, Fort Huachuca

LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2001
Civilian Labor Force	13,059	13,910	14,517
Unemployed	656	483	507
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	3.5%	3.5%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2001
New Bldg. Permit	135	294	727
Taxable Sales (\$)	239,905,647	566,309,933	613,337,667
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	94,924,510	143,502,203	147,579,889

Sources: Arizona State University; AZ Dept. of Revenue; AZ Tax Research Foundation

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Sierra Vista is the hub of a visitor's delight of sights and sounds. A short drive north is the world's newest "living" cave. Kartchner Caverns State Park is a "must see" item. It's only 16 miles to legendary Tombstone, the "Town Too Tough to Die." On the way you will pass through the San Pedro National Riparian Conservation Area, an unspoiled refuge for birds, mammals, reptiles and plants. 26 miles east takes to quaint Bisbee, the mountain side county seat of Cochise County, site of the awesome Lavender Pit, source of Bisbee Blue Turquoise. The Arizona Forklore Preserve is located in Ramsey Canyon, destination of bird watchers from around the world and only a short drive south of town. Historic Fort Huachuca is part of the city and has two museums that will delight the visitor.

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TAXES

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2001
Elem/High School	7.75	6.71	6.09
City/Fire District	0.45	0.01	0.01
Countywide	6.26	5.70	5.69
Total	\$14.46	\$12.42	\$11.79

Sources: Arizona Tax Research Foundation
 Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation.

Sales Tax Rate

City	1.50%
County	0.50%
State	5.60%

Sources: League of Arizona Cities and Towns, Arizona Dept. of Revenue

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Sierra Vista offers a broad range of community facilities: two bowling alleys (one military), a community center, 16 parks (five in Ft. Huachuca), two libraries (one military), five swimming pools (three military), three museums (two military), two rodeo arenas (one military), two riding clubs (one military), two racquetball clubs (one military), 14 public ball fields (three military), 18 cinemas (one military), two golf courses (one military), one tennis club with 12 lighted courts, two health clubs (one with 40-ft. pool), seven Little League diamonds (three military), seven public tennis courts (two lighted), a military skeet and archery range and a 400,000 sq. ft. enclosed mall with 40 stores, shops and restaurants.

Educational Institutions

	Public	Private
Community College	Y	N
Elementary	Y	N
High School	Y	N

Financial

Number of Banks: 10

Governmental Agencies

Fire Department: Staffed City/Local Fire Department

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports Sierra Vista Municipal Airport has three paved runways (two lighted) 12,000 ft./5,300 ft./4,700 ft. UNICOM radio and ground transportation.

Medical

One regional health center; one Army/VA Health Center.

Hotel and Lodging Facilities

Number of Rooms: 1,091

Meeting Rooms: 16

Capacity of Largest Facility: 475

Industrial Properties

There are two parks (50 acres) with Foreign Trade Zone opportunities and all utilities available. Contact the Sierra Vista Economic Development Foundation, 520-458-6980. Sierra Vista is a Foreign Trade Zone Grantee.

Utilities

Electricity	Sulphur Springs V. Elec. Coop. (SV)	520.458.4691
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (Statewide)	800.766.9722
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water	Arizona Water Company (Sierra Vista)	520.458.5660
	Bella Vista Water Company	520.458.5470
	Pueblo Del Sol Water Co.	620.458.3742

Cable Providers: Yes Cable Internet Service Provider: Yes
 Digital Switching Station: Yes Fiber Optics: Yes
 Internet Service Provider: Yes

Weather

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total Precipitation (Inches)
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum	
January	32.9	61.0	1.07
February	36.5	64.7	0.67
March	40.8	69.3	0.48
April	46.8	76.6	0.42
May	54.6	84.6	0.31
June	62.5	92.6	0.56
July	65.4	91.6	3.02
August	64.6	88.9	4.19
September	59.8	86.7	1.45
October	50.5	78.9	1.20
November	39.6	68.4	0.51
December	33.3	60.9	1.20
Yearly Avg	48.9	77.0	15.08

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1982-2001. Average Total Snowfall .8".

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce Communications Division in cooperation with local sources.

For further information, contact:

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