

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, southeast of Tucson, Sierra Vista serves as the main commercial, cultural and recreational hub for the area. Easily accessible off of 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: US 60, nearby I-10

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1956
 ELEVATION: 4,523
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 70 miles

POPULATION

	1990	1998	1999
Sierra Vista	32,983	39,995	40,680
Cochise County	97,624	123,750	124,575
Arizona	3,665,228	4,764,025	4,924,350

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security. and U.S. Census Bureau.

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	1996	1999
Agricultural Services, Forestry & Fishing		
Construction	1,400	2,300
FIRE	725	775
Manufacturing	1,250	1,350
Mining	160	181
Retail Trade	5,287	6,191
Services	7,200	8,575
TCPU	1,600	1,425
Trade		7,850

Sources: Cochise College Center for Economic Research.

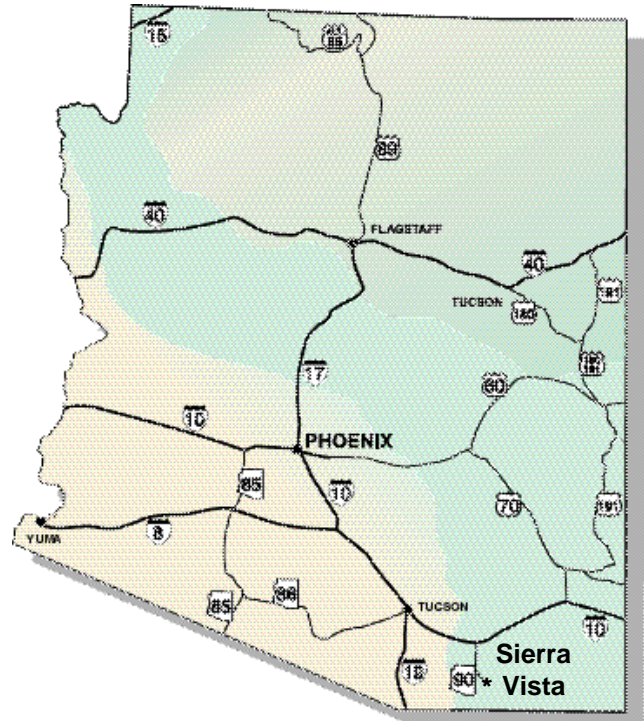
Major Private Employers

1. Aegis Communications
2. Sierra Vista Regional Health Center
3. Wal-Mart
4. KE & G Construction
5. Ilex Systems

Major Public Employers

1. U.S. Army, Fort Huachuca
2. Cochise County
3. Sierra Vista Unified School District
4. City of Sierra Vista
5. U.S. Border Patrol

Sources: Cochise College Center for Economic Research.



LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	1998	1999
Civilian Labor Force	13,059	13,691	14,118
Unemployment	656	714	615
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	5.2%	4.4%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	1998	1999
New Building Permits	135	1,289	426
New Business Licenses		267	346
Taxable Sales (\$)	239,905,647	429,985,333	483,912,200
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	94,924,510	123,852,309	123,020,555

Sources: Arizona State University; Arizona Department of Revenue, Cochise College.

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Sierra Vista is the hub of a visitor's delight of sights and sounds. Only nineteen miles north is the world's newest "living" cave. Karchner Caverns State Park is a "must see" item. Reservations are required. Call (520) 586-2283 for more information. It's only 16 miles to legendary Tombstone, the "Town Too Tough to Die." See the Birdcage Theater and the OK Corral, site of the famous gunfight between Wyatt Earp, "Doc" Holiday and the Clanton gang. On the way you will pass through the San Pedro National Riparian Conservation Area, an unspoiled refuge for birds, mammals, reptiles and plants. There is ample parking at each crossing and miles of trails for hiking, biking or horseback riding. 26 miles east takes you to quaint Bisbee, the mountain side county seat of Cochise County, site of the awesome Lavender Pit, source of Bisbee Blue Turquoise. A short seven miles south takes you to Ramsey Canyon, destination of bird watchers from around the world and also home of the Arizona Forklore Preserve. Fort Huachuca is part of the city and is open to the public. While it is a modern Army Post the historic area has been preserved. Two museums that will delight the visitor.

TAXES

Property Tax Rate	1990	1998	1999
Elem/High School	\$ 7.75	\$ 6.85	\$ 6.69
City/Fire District	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.01
County	\$ 6.26	\$ 5.76	\$ 5.76
Total	\$ 14.46	\$ 12.62	\$ 12.46

Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation.

Note: Property tax in Arizona is based on assessed valuation which is 10 percent of market value for residential property. Average tax rate on homes in Arizona before exemptions and rebates is 1.3% of market value.

Sales Tax Rate

City	1.50%
County	0.50%
State	5.00%

Source: Arizona Department 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
Universities (3)	Y	N
Community College (1)	Y	N
Elementary (8)	Y	N
Middle School (3)	Y	N
High School (1)	Y	N

Financial

Banks: 8

Credit Unions: 2

Government Agencies

Fire Department: Staffed City/Local Fire Department

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports

The residents of Sierra Vista have access to a municipal airport which has three paved runways (two lighted), 12,000-feet, 5,300-feet and 4,700-feet respectively; UNICOM radio, and ground transportation. Regular flights via Mesa Airlines.

Medical

One Regional Medical 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:	SSVEC	520.458.4691
Natural Gas:	Southwest Gas	800 782.9120
Telephone:	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water:	Arizona Water Co.	520.458.5660
	Bella Vista Water Co.	520 458.5470
	Pueblo Del Sol Water Co.	520.458.3742

Cable Providers: Yes

Cabel Internet Service: 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	34.2	58.4	0.74
February	34.2	61.1	0.57
March	40.1	66.0	0.54
April	47.2	73.8	0.18
May	55.0	82.0	0.07
June	64.1	89.8	0.38
July	66.4	88.6	4.49
August	64.6	86.0	3.88
September	61.0	84.3	1.61
October	51.9	77.3	0.74
November	41.3	66.7	0.44
December	35.8	59.8	1.00
Yearly Avg	49.8	74.4	14.64

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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1011 N. Coronado Dr.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
520.458.3315

Greater Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce
21 E. Wilcox Dr.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
520.458.6940/FAX: 520.452.0878
Web address: www.sierravistachamber.org

Sierra Vista Economic Development Foundation
P.O. Box 2380
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-2380
520.458.6948

Arizona Department of Commerce

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