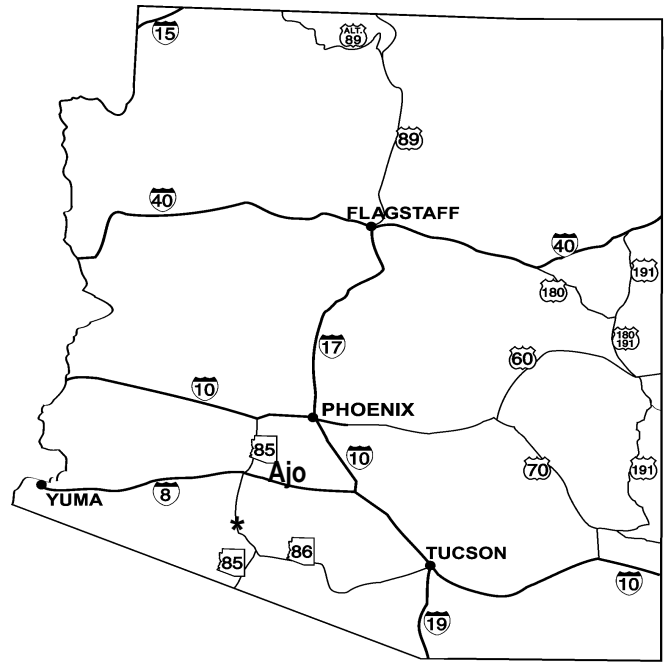


Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Ajo, the birthplace of copper mining in Arizona, has a rich history dating back hundreds of years. Today it is a popular tourist destination and retirement mecca offering an inexpensive lifestyle. Ajo (pronounced ah-ho) comes from either the Spanish word for garlic (ajo) or the Papago Indian word for paint (au'auho). Papagos obtained red paint pigments from the area. The Ajo lily, an onion-like plant, grows nearby. Located in western Pima County, this ethnically diverse town is on state Highway 85, north of the junction with state Highway 86 and south of Interstate 8. Ajo is surrounded by mountains and the Sonoran desert.

FOUNDED: 1854
 COUNTY: Pima County
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 110 miles
 HIGHWAYS: I-8, Hwy. 85, Hwy. 86

ENTERPRISE ZONE AVAILABLE
 ELEVATION: 1,798 feet
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 131 miles



POPULATION

	1990	2000	2004
Ajo	2,919	3,705	N/A
Pima County	666,957	843,746	931,210
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,833,685

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau.
 N/A: Population estimates for this community are not available.

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Ajo's employment is in the tourist, service, and commercial sectors. Due to its location, Ajo serves as a gateway for visitors traveling to Mexico, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation, home to the Golden HA:SAÑ Casino. Phelps Dodge, the nation's largest copper company, ceased operations in 1986 and sold approximately 900 homes to new residents, mostly retirees. The company is planning to reopen the mine, at which time it expects to employ 400 people.

County Employment	2004
Construction	24,000
Educational & Health Svcs	47,800
Financial Activities	16,700
Government	79,600
Information	7,500
Leisure & Hospitality	38,800
Manufacturing	28,400
Professional & Business Svcs	42,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	58,100

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security
 Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2004
Civilian Labor Force	751	957	1,030
Unemployed	50	41	56
Unemployment Rate	6.7%	4.3%	5.4%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	2000	2004
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	7,136,488	12,182,189	13,579,791

Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Ajo is centered around a lovely plaza lined by tall palms and flanked by mission churches and Spanish-style buildings. Festivals are held in the plaza. Other attractions include an open pit mine lookout and a historical museum. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, 36 miles south of Ajo, is a magnificent reserve of virgin desert. Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, 860,000 acres, lies west of Ajo. It protects endangered desert bighorn sheep and a herd of pronghorn antelopes. A special permit to travel the Devil's Highway can be obtained at its Ajo headquarters. Mexico is 40 miles south of Ajo. Visitors cross at Sonoita, a town founded in the 17th century. Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point), once a fishing village on the Gulf of California, is rapidly becoming a major resort area.

TAXES

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2004
Elem/High School	3.40	6.10	4.43
City/Fire District	0.00	0.00	0.00
Countywide	7.06	7.76	7.42
Total	\$10.46	\$13.86	\$11.85

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

Sales Tax Rate

City	0.00%
County	0.00%
State	5.60%

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

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Ajo offers a broad range of community facilities including a library, recreation center, swimming pool, nine-hole golf course, bowling alley, three parks, four lighted tennis courts, a rifle range, roping arena and extensive picnic areas. Ajo also has several active fraternal organizations and 11 area churches.

Educational Institutions

	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	Y
High School	Y	N
Middle School	Y	N

Financial

Number of Banks: 1

Governmental Agencies

Fire Department: Volunteer

Law Enforcement: Sheriff's Office

Airports

Ajo Municipal Airport has a lighted 3,800-ft. paved runway

Medical

Ajo has one outpatient clinic.

Hotel and Lodging Facilities

Number of Rooms: 42

Meeting Rooms: 5

Capacity of Largest Facility: 60

Industrial Properties

Numerous properties with utilities are available. Contact the Ajo District Chamber of Commerce for more information. Transportation services to Tucson and Phoenix and throughout Ajo and Why are provided by Ajo Stage Lines.

Utilities

Electricity	Ajo Improvement Co.	520.387.7151
	APS (Statewide)	800.253-9405
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (Statewide)	800.766.9722
Sewer	Ajo Improvement Co.	520.387.7151
Telephone	Table Top Telephone, Inc. (Ajo)	520.387.5600
Water	Ajo Domestic Water Improvement Dist	520.387.6385
	Ajo Improvement Co.	520.387.7151
	Arizona Water Co.	602.240.6860

Cable Providers: Yes

Cable Internet Service Provider: Yes

Digital Switching Station: No

Fiber Optics: No

Internet Service Provider: Yes

Weather

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum	Precipitation (Inches)
January	41.5	64.0	0.70
February	45.4	68.9	0.62
March	49.2	73.8	0.76
April	55.6	81.9	0.28
May	63.0	90.3	0.10
June	71.8	99.6	0.07
July	77.7	103.0	1.17
August	76.0	100.8	1.92
September	71.9	97.2	0.84
October	61.5	87.0	0.55
November	49.8	74.3	0.56
December	43.5	65.9	0.83
Yearly Avg	58.9	83.9	8.40

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1914-2004. Average Total Snowfall 0.1".

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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 Web: www.ajochamber.com

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