

SIERRA VISTA

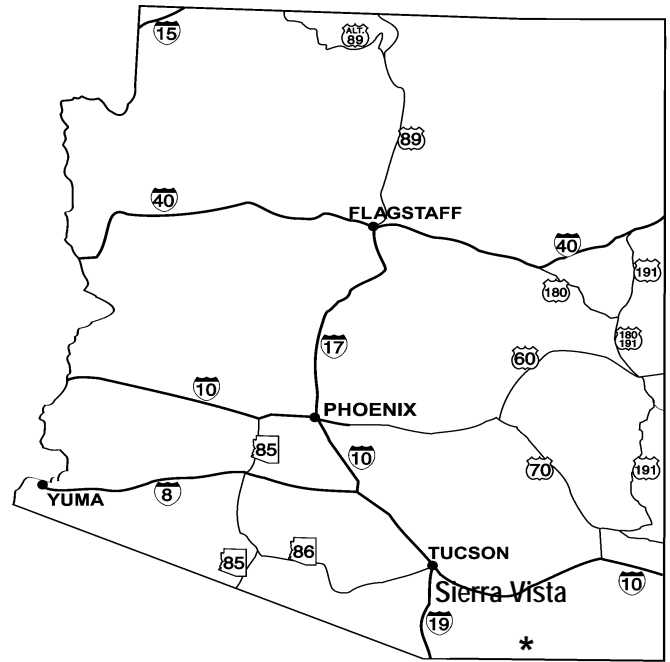
Community Profile

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	2004
Sierra Vista	32,983	37,775	42,805
Cochise County	97,624	117,755	130,220
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,833,685

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	2004
Educational & Health Svcs	3,800
Financial Activities	900
Government	11,550
Information	525
Leisure & Hospitality	4,000
Manufacturing	875
Mining & Construction	2,550
Professional & Business Svcs	3,550
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,300

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

Major Private Employers

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

Major Public Employers

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

LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2004
Civilian Labor Force	13,059	14,690	16,634
Unemployed	656	519	540
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	3.5%	3.2%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	2000	2004
New Bldg. Permit	135	294*	1,447*
Taxable Sales (\$)	239,905,647	566,309,933	796,031,000
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	94,924,510	143,502,203	190,232,131

Sources: Arizona State University; AZ Dept. of Revenue; AZ Tax Research Foundation
 * Incomplete data: one or more months not available

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.

