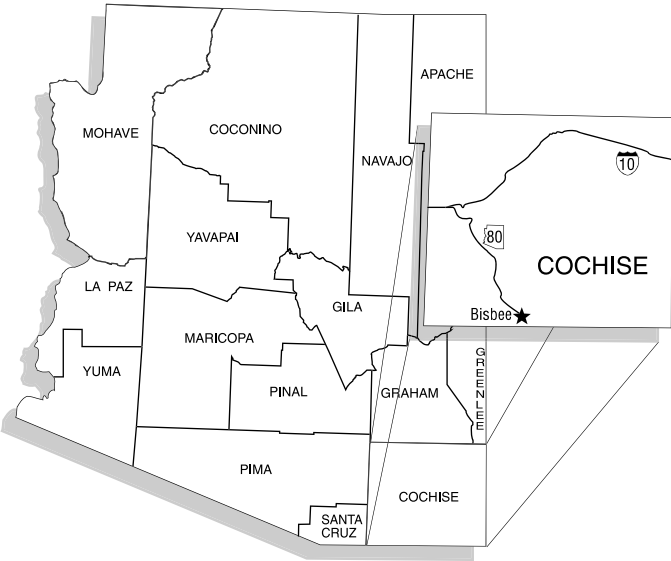


Profile:

Cochise County, Arizona



Cochise County was named for the renowned Apache chief in 1881, when it was established during the 11th Territorial Assembly. Archeological finds date civilization along the San Pedro River to 9000-6000 B.C., when members of the Clovis civilization inhabited the area.

Tombstone, one of the largest cities in the western United States in 1881, was designated the first county seat. Tombstone's silver mines flooded in 1887, devastating the community, but the county seat stayed in Tombstone, the "town too tough to die," until 1929 when Bisbee became the county seat.

Like Tombstone, Bisbee was a mining town – site of the Copper Queen Mine and famous Lavender Pit, discovered in 1877. Mining continued there through much of the 20th century. Today Bisbee is a popular artist community and tourist destination.

Benson, founded in 1880, is on I-10 at the gateway to Kartchner Caverns State Park. Some 30 miles south are the thriving communities of Sierra Vista, by far the largest city in the county, and Huachuca City. Both are economic neighbors of Fort Huachuca, one of the largest civilian employers in southern Arizona. Fort Bowie, Coronado National Memorial and the Chiricahua National Monument are national park facilities.

Cochise County also is an important agricultural area. With 6,219 square miles, Cochise is as big as Rhode Island and Connecticut combined. Once known as the Cattle Capital of the nation, Willcox is the home of the largest weekly cattle auction in Arizona. Specialty crops and livestock, including exotic animals, play an important role in the local economy. Douglas, once dependent upon mining and agriculture, has developed a manufacturing base because of its location on the U.S.-Mexico border. All of Cochise County has been designated as an Enterprise Zone, except the northeast section of the county.

Cochise is one of only three counties in Arizona without an Indian reservation. Individual and corporate ownership account for 40 percent of the land; the state of Arizona, 35 percent; the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, 22 percent; and other public lands comprise the remaining 4 percent.



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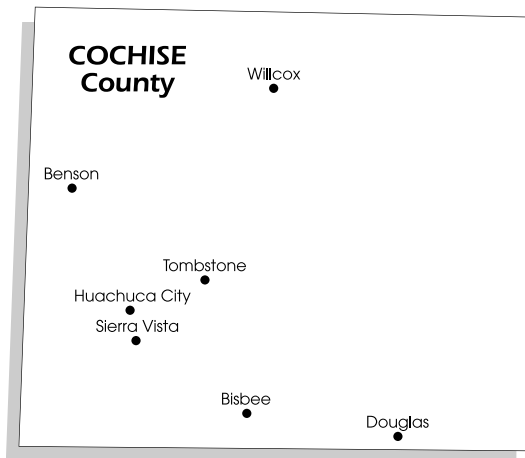
Cochise County At-A-Glance

County Seat:	Bisbee
2001 Population:	121,040
2001 Labor Force:	42,149
Unemployment Rate:	5.2%
Major Industries:	Services, Retail Trade, Construction

Best Paying Industries: Transportation;
Services; Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

Sources: Population Estimates, Population Statistics Unit, Research Administration and 2003 Preliminary Special Unemployment Report, Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Incorporated Cities



Population

	1990	2000	2003
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,629,870
Cochise County	97,624	117,755	124,040
Major Cities			
Benson	3,824	4,711	4,745
Bisbee	6,288	6,090	6,140
Douglas	12,822	14,312	16,710
Huachuca City	1,782	1,751	1,800
Sierra Vista	32,983	37,775	40,415
Tombstone	1,220	1,504	1,535
Willcox	3,122	3,733	3,815

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Arizona Department of Economic Security, Population Statistics Unit

Age Distribution

	% of total
0-14	21.7%
15-24	13.9%
25-44	26.0%
45-64	23.7%
65+	14.7%

Population Composition

Race	% of total
White	76.7%
African American	4.5%
Native American	1.1%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1.6%
Other	15.8%
Totals	100%
Hispanic Heritage*	30.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, April 1, 2000 Census

* Persons of Hispanic heritage may be of any race



Labor Force

2003 Civilian Labor Force

	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Arizona	2,690,294	5.6%
Cochise County	45,965	5.2%
Major Cities		
Benson	1,635	6.1%
Bisbee	3,279	5.2%
Douglas	5,262	10.7%
Huachuca City	776	7.2%
Sierra Vista	16,343	4.0%
Tombstone	598	4.5%
Willcox	1,619	3.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2003 Special Unemployment Report.

2003 Employment by Sector

Construction	2,225
Education & Health Services	3,575
Financial Activities	875
Government	11,400
Information	475
Leisure & Hospitality	3,625
Manufacturing	925
Professional & Business Services	3,450
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,125

Source: Arizona Economic Security

Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

2003 Total All Occupations*

Employment	34,800
Hourly Compensation	
Median Wage	\$11.85
Average Wage	\$14.86
Entry Wage	\$ 6.28
Experienced	\$18.44

2003 Employment by Occupation - Average Wages*

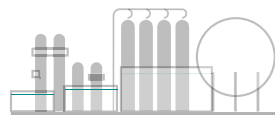
	Employment	Avg. Wages
Office & Administrative Support	6,450	\$12.18
Education, Training & Library	2,750	\$13.90
Sales & Related	3,100	\$10.37
Protective Service	2,060	\$18.15
Food Preparation & Serving Related	2,560	\$7.05
Construction & Extraction	1,940	\$13.67
Management	1,760	\$30.47
Transportation & Material Moving	1,740	\$9.83

Source: Prepared by the Ariz. Dept. of Economic Security, Research Administration in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, April, 2004

Major Employers

Employer	Employment Type
1. U.S. Army Fort Huachuca	Government
2. Sierra Vista Unified School District	Education
3. Cochise County, Bisbee	Government
4. U.S. Border Patrol	Government
5. Cochise College - Douglas/Sierra Vista	Colleges/Universities
6. Aegis, Sierra Vista	Customer Support Center
7. Sierra Vista Regional Health Center	Health Services
8. Arizona State Prison, Douglas	Government
9. Douglas Unified School District	Education
10. Wal-Mart - Douglas/Sierra Vista	Trade
11. City of Sierra Vista	Government
12. Safeway Stores, Inc.	Trade
13. New Tech, Ft. Huachuca	Aerospace
14. Sierra Southwest, Benson	Utility
15. Northrup Grumman, Sierra Vista	Aerospace
16. City of Douglas	Government
17. Willcox Unified School District	Education
18. Palominas Public Schools	Education
19. ILEX, Sierra Vista	Defense Contractors
20. Cochise Private Industrial Council, Sierra Vista	Non-Profit/Workforce Dev

Source: Cochise College Center for Economic Research, 2002



Utilities

Electric Service

Major Suppliers:

APS (Bisbee/Douglas/Tombstone)	(800) 253-9405
Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Co-op. (Benson)	(520) 586-2238
Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Co-op. (Huachuca City/Sierra Vista)	(520) 458-4691
Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Co-op. (Willcox)	(520) 458-4691

Natural Gas Service

Major Suppliers:

Southwest Gas Corp. (Bisbee/Douglas/Huachuca City/Sierra Vista/Tombstone/Willcox) (800) 766-9722

Water and Sewer

For information, see specific community profile and contact the community or the local chamber of commerce directly.

Telephone

Major Suppliers:

Qwest Communications (800) 244-1111
Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Willcox) (520) 384-2231



Medical

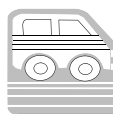
Major Hospitals:

Benson Hospital, Benson (520) 586-2261
Copper Queen Community Hospital, Bisbee (520) 432-5383
Northern Cochise Community Hospital, Willcox (520) 384-3541
Sierra Vista Regional Health Center, Sierra Vista (520) 458-4641
Southeast Arizona Medical Center, Douglas (520) 364-7931



Education

Cochise College, Douglas, Sierra Vista (520) 364-7943
University of Arizona, Sierra Vista, Douglas (520) 458-8278
University of Phoenix, Ft. Huachuca (520) 459-1093
Western International University, Ft. Huachuca (520) 459-5040



Transportation

Highways

Interstate 10, U.S. 191, state Highway 80, state Highway 82, state Highway 90, state Highway 92, state Highway 181, state Highway 186

Bus Lines

Autobuses Crucero, Greyhound Bus Lines, Kit Shuttle, Angel Transportation

Rail Service

AMTRAK (800) 872-7245
Union Pacific Railroad (888) 870-8777

Trucking Service

Roadway Express Inc., C.F. Motor Freight, Maddux and Sons Inc., Echo Trucking Co., Dunagan's Trucking, Harrington Trucking Co., Inc.

Air Service

Major Airports

Airport Name: **Bisbee-Douglas International Airport**
 (520) 364-2771
 Functional Class: Business Service
 Elevation: 4,151'
 Ownership: Public
 Use: Public
 Nav-Aids: T-VOR
 Runway: 17/35 Length: 7,292' Width: 150'
 Surface: Asphalt

Airport Name: **Bisbee Airport** (520) 432-6030
 Functional Class: Community Service
 Elevation: 4,780'
 Ownership: Public
 Use: Public
 Nav-Aids: None
 Runway: 17/35 Length: 5,900' Width: 60'
 Surface: Asphalt
 Runway: 02/20 Length: 2,900' Width: 160'
 Surface: Dirt

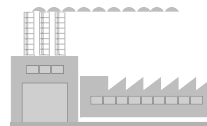
Airport Name: **Cochise College** (800) 966-7943
 Location: Douglas
 Functional Class: Community Service
 Elevation: 4,120'
 Ownership: Public
 Use: Public, Education
 Nav-Aids: None
 Runway: 05/23 Length: 4,803' Width: 75'
 Surface: Asphalt

Airport Name: **Cochise County** (520) 384-2908
 Location: Willcox
 Functional Class: Community Service
 Elevation: 4,181'
 Ownership: Public
 Use: Public
 Nav-Aids: None
 Runway: 03/21 Length: 6,110' Width: 77'
 Surface: Asphalt

Airport Name: **Douglas Municipal** (520) 364-3501
 Functional Class: Community Service
 Elevation: 4,181'
 Ownership: Public
 Use: Public
 Nav-Aids: DUG-VOR 125 Radio 10NM
 Runway: 03/21 Length: 5,760' Width: 60'
 Surface: Asphalt
 Runway: 18/36 Length: 4,146' Width: 98'
 Surface: Dirt

Airport Name: **Sierra Vista Municipal** (520) 459-8575
 Location: Sierra Vista
 Functional Class: Commercial Service
 Elevation: 4,664'
 Ownership: Public
 Use: Public
 Nav-aids: VOR/NDB
 Runway: 11/29 Length: 5,365' Width: 100'
 Surface: Asphalt, concrete
 Runway: 08/26 Length: 12,000' Width: 150'
 Surface: Asphalt, concrete
 Runway: 02/20 Length: 4,300' Width: 75'
 Surface: Asphalt, concrete

Sources: Department of Transportation, Arizona Airports Land Use Compatibility Study, and Cochise County Airport System Plan

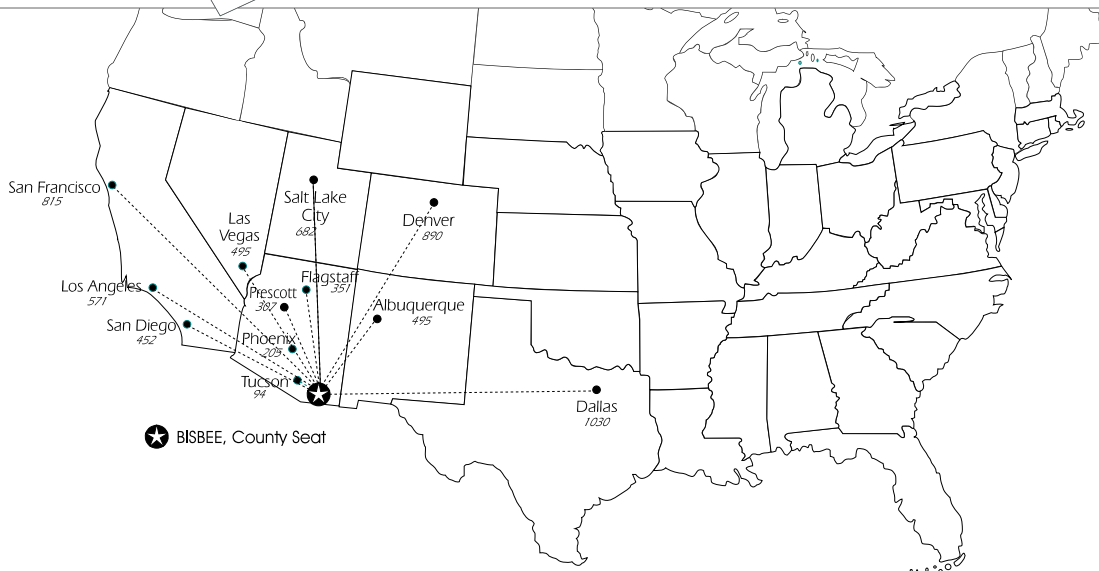


Industrial Facilities

Benson

Several sites with all utilities, railroad and freeway access are available, including an 80-acre industrial park. For more information, contact the Benson Economic Development Committee at (520) 586-2245.

Distance to Major Cities



Bisbee

Several properties with all utilities are available, including the Bisbee Airport Industrial Park. There are also several commercial properties suitable for light industry. One industrial park, located in Naco, Sonora, Mexico, operates on the "twin plant" concept which allows U.S. companies to operate in Mexico. For more information, contact the City of Bisbee at (520) 432-6000.

Douglas

Three industrial parks (Cochise Industrial Park with 75 acres, Douglas IDA Park with 33 acres and Phelps Dodge Industrial Park with 30 acres) are available. All utilities accessible upon request. Air and truck transportation available. For further information, contact the City of Douglas, Economic Development Office at (520) 805-4047.

Huachuca City

Huachuca City has one 46-acre industrial park. Utilities and state Highway 90 are accessible. For more information, contact the Town of Huachuca City at (520) 456-1354.

Pearce/Sunsites

Pearce/Sunsites has an 800-acre park, with utilities, railroad and highway access. For more information, contact Arizona Electric Co-op., P.O. Box 670, Benson, AZ 85602, or phone (520) 586-3631.

Sierra Vista

Sierra Vista has two parks (50 acres) with Foreign Trade Zone opportunities and all utilities available. Contact the Sierra Vista Economic Development Foundation at (520) 458-6948. Sierra Vista is a Foreign Trade Zone grantee.

Willcox

Willcox has one industrial park with utilities. Rail and truck routes are accessible. Contact the Economic Development Division, Willcox Chamber of Commerce, c/o Eddie Browning at (520) 384-2995.



Financial Authorities

Industrial Development Authorities

Industrial Development Authority of Cochise County

Mr. Robert Fernandez
P.O. Box 780
Douglas, AZ 85607
(520) 432-9200/Fax: (520) 364-8335

Industrial Development Authority of the City of Douglas

Mr. Martin F. Ryan, Statutory Agent
Martin F. Ryan, Ltd.
6262 N. Swan Road, Suite 255
Tucson, AZ 85718-3600
(520) 299-8117/Fax: (520) 299-7860

Note: This information is as current as the date of this publication and was taken from reliable sources; however, we do not guarantee its completeness nor does the Arizona Department of Commerce endorse any particular individual.

This information is provided as a service only.

Commercial Banks

Arizona Bank
Armed Forces Bank
Bank of America
Bank One
National Bank of Arizona
Norwest Bank
Stockman's Bank
Wells Fargo Bank

State Corporate Income Tax

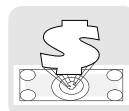
Corporate income tax rate is 6.968 percent effective for taxable years beginning from and after December 31, 2000.

Source: Arizona Department of Revenue

Property Tax

Community	School District	City/Fire	Countywide	Total
Benson*	7.34	0.62	5.71	13.67
Bisbee	6.95	2.37	5.71	15.03
Douglas	6.88	1.09	5.71	13.68
Huachuca City*	5.60	1.00	5.71	12.31
Sierra Vista	5.48	0.15	5.71	11.34
Tombstone	5.60	1.19	5.71	12.50
Willcox	4.68	1.06	5.71	11.45

*Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation, 2003 (Rate is per \$100 of assessed value)
* School district participates in Cochise Technical District (CTD).*



Taxes

Sales Tax

The state imposes a 5.6 percent transaction privilege (sales) tax on most business activities. Cochise County imposes a 1/2 cent general sales tax. Huachuca City and Sierra Vista have a 1.5 percent sales tax. Willcox has a 3 percent sales tax. The cities of Benson, Bisbee, Douglas and Tombstone have a 2.5 percent sales tax. Additional hotel/motel (bed) taxes are as follows: Benson 2 percent; Bisbee 2.5 percent; Tombstone 3 percent; and Sierra Vista 4 percent.

Payroll Tax

Payroll taxes in Arizona are computed based on federal filing by employers and employees. Generally, withholding for state payroll taxes is between 10 and 37 percent of federal withholding based on employees' income.

Source: Arizona Department of Revenue



For Further Information

Benson Economic Development Committee, Inc.

P.O. Box 2223 (520) 586-2245
Benson, AZ 85602 FAX: (520) 586-3375
www.cityofbenson.com/

Benson-San Pedro Valley Chamber of Commerce

Benson Industrial Development Authority
P.O. Box 2255 (520) 586-2842
Benson, AZ 85602 FAX: (520) 586-1972
www.bensonchamberaz.com Email: info@bensonchamberaz.com

Bisbee Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box Drawer BA (520) 432-3030
Bisbee, AZ 85603 FAX: (520) 432-3308
www.arizonaguide.com/bisbee Email: chamber@bisbearizona.com

Bowie Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 287 (520) 847-2510
Bowie, AZ 85605 FAX: (520) 847-2584
Email: mtviewrv@vtc.net

Cochise County Board of Supervisors

1415 W. Melody Lane, Building B (520) 432-9200
Bisbee, AZ 85603 FAX: (520) 432-5016
http://www.co.cochise.az.us Email: board@co.cochise.az.us

Douglas Chamber of Commerce

1125 Pan America Avenue (520) 364-2477
Douglas, AZ 85607 FAX: (520) 364-6304

City of Douglas, Community & Economic Development

425 10th St. (520) 805-4047
Douglas, AZ 85607 FAX: (520) 364-1585
http://www.douglasaz.gov/

Town of Huachuca City

500 N. Gonzales Blvd.
Huachuca, AZ 85616 (520) 456-1354

Pearce-Sunsites Chamber of Commerce

133 Frontage Rd.
P.O. Box 308
Pearce, AZ 85625 (520) 826-3535

Greater Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce

21 E. Wilcox Dr. (520) 458-6940
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 FAX: (520) 452-0878
www.sierravistachamber.org Email: execdir@c212.com

Sierra Vista Economic Development Foundation

P.O. Box 2380
311 E. Wilcox (520) 458-6948
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636 FAX: (520) 458-7453
www.c2i2.com/~svedf Email: svedf@c2i2.com

Tombstone Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 995 (520) 457-9317
Tombstone, AZ 85638 FAX: (520) 457-2458
www.tombstone.org Email: tombstonechamber@theriver.com

Willcox Chamber of Commerce

1500 N. Circle I Rd. (520) 384-2272
Willcox, AZ 85643 FAX: (520) 384-0293
www.willcoxchamber.com Email: willcoxchamber@vtc.net

County profiles are produced by the Communications Division of the Arizona Department of Commerce.

Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona

Gilbert Jimenez, Director
Arizona Department of Commerce

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9/04

