

Nogales, Arizona, and its twin city, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico (Ambos Nogales), are on the international border separating the United States and Mexico. The Arizona city serves as both the economic, educational, and cultural capital and the county seat of Santa Cruz County, the smallest and southernmost of Arizona's counties. The city enjoys moderate year-round weather because of its high Sonoran Desert setting at an elevation of 3,865 feet. Nogales was established in 1880 by Jacob and Isaac Isaacson, who built a trading post along the international border. Two years later, Nogales was the site of the first rail connection between Mexico and the United States, and the city was incorporated in 1893.

### Principal Economic Activities

Boasting 200 years of entrepreneurship, mercantilism, and international commerce through three ports of entry, Nogales' economy thrives on international trade, manufacturing, tourism, and related services. The Ambos Nogales region is home to one of the largest cooperative manufacturing (maquiladora) clusters in North America, with more than 110 companies located in the region. It is also home to America's largest port of entry for Mexican produce—more than four billion pounds of fruits and vegetables enter through Nogales' Mariposa Port a year. Mexican shoppers cross the border and generate more than 60% of Nogales' sales tax revenue.

### Scenic Attractions

The city of Nogales and Santa Cruz County have 200 properties listed in the National Register of Historic Sites, two of which are Tumacacori National Monument, visited by Father Kino in 1691; and Tubac Presidio, established by the Spanish in 1752 on an Indian village site. Other sites include the Old Tubac Schoolhouse, Old Nogales City Hall, Santa Cruz County Courthouse, and Patagonia Railroad Depot. The Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, 19 miles east, attracts worldwide visitors to see its diverse bird life. Nogales' original city hall houses Pimeria Alta Historical Society Museum. Nearby are Parker Canyon, Pena Blanca Lake and Patagonia Lake State Park. Visitors also enjoy area ghost towns, mining camps, and wineries near Sonoita and Elgin.

### Community Facilities

Educational institutions in Nogales include the University of Arizona –Santa Cruz, Cochise College, and Nogales Unified School District.

Nogales is home to Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital, a 56-bed facility, and Mariposa Community Health Center which operates three health centers in Nogales and Santa Cruz County. Nogales International Airport serves Nogales and Santa Cruz County with a 7,200 ft. runway that accommodates private passenger service and specialty air cargo operations. The city of Nogales has a wide range of recreational facilities including nine parks, a museum, an art gallery, two recreation centers, two swimming pools, six athletic fields, a library, four tennis courts, and three exciting nearby golf courses.



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**Founded:** 1880    **Incorporated:** 1893  
**Elevation:** 3,865 ft.    **Location:** Santa Cruz County

**Distance to major cities:**

**Phoenix:** 179 miles    **San Diego:** 473 miles  
**Tucson:** 67 miles    **Los Angeles:** 551 miles  
**Las Vegas:** 472 miles

**POPULATION**

	2000	2010	2014 (est.)
Nogales	19,595	20,878	21,647
Santa Cruz County	29,900	38,381	49,554
State of Arizona	3,680,800	5,130,632	6,667,241

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**PROPERTY TAX**

	2000	2010	2014
Elementary / High School	5.16	7.50	5.88
City / Fire District	0.00	0.00	0.00
Santa Cruz County	4.89	4.58	5.43
Totals (Santa Cruz County)	10.05	12.08	11.31

*Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation*

**SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX**

Nogales	2.00%
Santa Cruz County	1.00%
State	5.60%

*Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation*

**LABOR FORCE**

	2000	2010	2014
Civilian Labor Force	8,471	7,404	8,416
Unemployed	1,535	750	1,476
Unemployment Rate	18.1%	10.1%	17.5%

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT**

	Count	Share
Less than high school	4,582	38.0%
High school or equivalent, no college	3,562	29.6%
Some college or Associate degree	2,491	20.7%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	1,410	11.7%

*American Community Survey*

**INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)**

	Count	Share
Retail trade	1,893	27.7%
Education, health care & social assistance	1,102	16.1%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	765	11.2%
Wholesale trade	747	10.9%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	469	6.9%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	456	6.7%
Public administration	302	4.4%
Manufacturing	295	4.3%
Other services, except public administration	284	4.2%
Construction	237	3.5%
Finance, insurance & real estate	224	3.3%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	38	0.6%
Information	26	0.4%

*American Community Survey*

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Commerce Authority in cooperation with local sources. For further information, please contact:

**City of Nogales**

Aaron White  
777 N. Grand Ave.  
Nogales, AZ 85621  
Phone: 520-285-5605  
Email: [awhite@nogalesaz.gov](mailto:awhite@nogalesaz.gov)  
Website: [www.nogalesaz.gov](http://www.nogalesaz.gov)

**Local First Arizona**

407 E. Roosevelt St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Phone: 602-956-0909  
Email: [info@localfirstaz.com](mailto:info@localfirstaz.com)  
Website: [www.localfirstaz.com](http://www.localfirstaz.com)

**Nogales/Santa Cruz County  
Chamber of Commerce**

123 W. Kino Park  
Nogales, AZ 85621  
Phone: 520-287-3685  
Email: [info@thenogaleschamber.org](mailto:info@thenogaleschamber.org)  
Website: [www.thenogaleschamber.org](http://www.thenogaleschamber.org)

**Arizona Commerce Authority**

Statewide Economic Development Group  
333 N. Central Ave., Suite 1900  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Phone: 602-845-1200  
Email: [info@azcommerce.com](mailto:info@azcommerce.com)  
Website: [www.azcommerce.com](http://www.azcommerce.com)

**ACA has partnered with APS to provide you with [Arizona Prospector](#), a free database to access available real estate opportunities in rural Arizona. Click [here](#) to access available properties in this community.**