

Pima is on the Gila River in north-central Graham County. Mormon settlers seeking a canal site in the Gila Valley laid out a town site, naming it Smithville for Mormon leader Jesse Smith. The town was later renamed Pima after the Indian tribe. The Gila River was one of the main waterways followed by fur trappers and mountain men in the 1820s and 1830s. The lands aside the river became the Gila Trail along which General Stephen W. Kearny brought his “Army of the West” in 1846. From Tucson, the route to Pima is east on Interstate 10 to U.S. 191, turning north to Safford, then northwest on U.S. 70. From Phoenix, Pima is reached via U.S. 60 to Globe, then on to U.S. 70.

Principal Economic Activities

Agriculture is the predominant economic activity in Graham County. Pima historically has been an agricultural center, with irrigation water coming from the Gila River. As a farm trade center, Pima serves surrounding agricultural areas. It also is becoming a popular retirement community. Increases in tourism and winter visitors have boosted wholesale and retail trade. County, state and federal offices and the community college in Thatcher also provide employment.



Scenic Attractions

Pima is just north of the Coronado National Forest, which provides numerous recreational facilities. Two of the most popular areas are the Pinaleno Mountains and 10,720-foot Mt. Graham. The 36-mile long Swift Trail goes to Mt. Graham’s summit and features many picnic, hiking and camping sites. The Mt. Graham Observatory includes the Large Binocular Telescope. 46 miles from Pima is the ranger station at Columbine and Riggs Lake, which has facilities for fishing, boating and other water activities. Twenty-six miles away is Cluff Ranch Reservoir, a premiere water recreation area. 43 miles from Pima is Aravaipa Canyon, one of the most scenic wilderness areas in Arizona. Passes to visit Aravaipa Canyon must be obtained through the Bureau of Land Management Safford Office. Other attractions include Hot Wells Dunes, Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area, and Black Hills Back Country Byway.

Community Facilities

The Town of Pima has a museum, a library, two city parks (41 acres), a swimming pool, a roping arena, several handball, tennis and racquetball courts, and four softball/baseball fields.

BASIC INFORMATION

Founded:	1879	Incorporated:	1916
Elevation:	2,846 ft.	Location:	Graham County
Distance to major cities:			
Phoenix:	153 miles	San Diego:	499 miles
Tucson:	151 miles	Los Angeles:	529 miles
Las Vegas:	450 miles		

POPULATION

	1990	2000	2014 (est.)
Pima	1,730	1,989	2,479
Graham County	26,700	33,489	38,315
State of Arizona	3,680,800	5,130,632	6,667,241

Arizona Dept. of Administration - azstats.gov

PROPERTY TAX

	1990	2000	2014
Elementary / High School	3.29	4.40	7.95
City / Fire District	0.27	0.21	0.15
Graham County	4.79	4.32	5.51
Totals (Graham County)	8.35	8.93	13.61

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Pima	2.00%
Graham County	1.00%
State	5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

	1990	2000	2014
Civilian Labor Force	625	922	1,084
Unemployed	53	40	87
Unemployment Rate	8.5%	4.3%	8.0%

Arizona Dept. of Administration - azstats.gov

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	134	10.1%
High school or equivalent, no college	383	28.9%
Some college or Associate degree	521	39.4%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	285	21.5%

Census Bureau - Fact Finder

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	166	18.3%
Retail trade	129	14.2%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	103	11.3%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	98	10.8%
Construction	79	8.7%
Finance, insurance & real estate	70	7.7%
Other services, except public administration	68	7.5%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	64	7.0%
Public administration	61	6.7%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	28	3.1%
Manufacturing	19	2.1%
Information	16	1.8%
Wholesale trade	8	0.9%

Census Bureau - Fact Finder

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

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