

Santa Cruz County is Arizona’s smallest county, encompassing only 1,238 square miles. Created by the 20th Territorial Assembly in 1899, the county is named after the river that flows into Mexico from Arizona before winding back into Santa Cruz and Pima counties. The river was named Santa Cruz, which means Holy Cross in Spanish, by Father Kino in the 17th century.

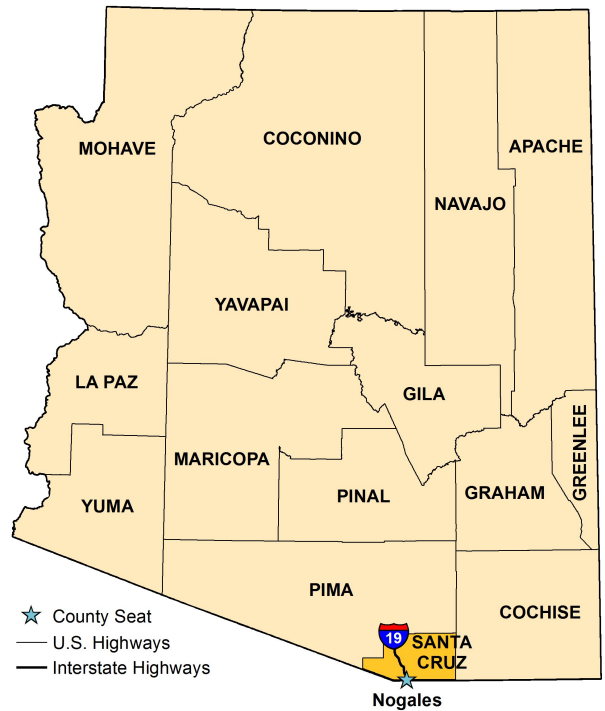
The fertile Santa Cruz Valley was populated by Pima Indians when the Spaniards first arrived in the 1690s and established several missions, one of which, Tumacacori, is a national historical park.

Nogales, which means walnuts in Spanish, was chosen the county seat and remains such today. It serves as one of the major gateways between the U.S. and Mexico. There are strong commercial, religious and cultural ties between Nogales, Arizona, and its sister city across the border, Nogales, Sonora.

Tubac, founded in 1752 when the Spaniards built a presidio or fort, began as an early outpost for exploration and evolved to silver and gold mining and ranching in the 1800s. Recognized as Arizona’s first European settlement, it was here that The Weekly Arizonian, the first newspaper of what became the territory of Arizona, was published. It is also home to Arizona’s first state park – Tubac Presidio State Historic Park. Since the late 1940s, the community has gained a reputation as one of the premier artisan communities in the state, with more than 120 shops, studios and galleries in Tubac and neighboring communities of Amado and Tumacacori.

Given its border location, tourism, international trade, manufacturing and services are the county’s principal industries. Nogales is home to three land ports of entry, including the Mariposa Port with eight commercial lanes serving more than 300,000 trucks entering Arizona annually.

The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management own 54 percent of the land; the state of Arizona, 8 percent; individual or corporate ownership, 38 percent and other public lands comprise the remaining percent. Santa Cruz is one of the only counties in Arizona without an Indian Reservation.



County Profile for  
**Santa Cruz County, Arizona**



**POPULATION**

	2000	2010	2017
Arizona	5,130,632	6,401,569	6,965,897
Santa Cruz County	38,381	47,539	51,507
<i>Incorporated Cities &amp; Towns</i>			
Nogales	20,878	20,880	22,327
Patagonia	881	909	981

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**AGE DISTRIBUTION**

0-14	23.3 %
15-24	14.8 %
25-44	21.3 %
45-64	24.6 %
65+	15.9 %

*American Community Survey*

**DISTANCE TO MAJOR CITIES (FROM NOGALES)**

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

**LABOR FORCE**

	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Arizona	3,312,720	4.9 %
Santa Cruz County	19,001	9.5 %
<i>Incorporated Cities &amp; Towns</i>		
Nogales	8,036	12.1 %
Patagonia	312	8.0 %

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR (IN THOUSANDS)**

Education, health care & social assistance	3.5	19.9 %
Retail trade	2.9	16.8 %
Wholesale trade	1.6	9.2 %
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	1.3	7.7 %
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	1.3	7.5 %
Public administration	1.3	7.5 %
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	1.2	7.1 %
Construction	1.0	5.9 %
Manufacturing	1.0	5.9 %
Finance, insurance & real estate	0.9	5.0 %
Other services, except public administration	0.7	4.1 %
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	0.5	2.7 %
Information	0.1	0.7 %

*American Community Survey*

**PROPERTY TAX**

	Schools	City/Fire	County	Total
Nogales	6.82	0.00	5.67	12.48
Patagonia	7.28	0.00	5.67	12.95

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

**SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX**

	City	County	State	Total
Nogales	2.00%	1.00%	5.60%	8.60%
Patagonia	3.00%	1.00%	5.60%	9.60%

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Arizona Commerce Authority**

Phone: 602-845-1200

Website: [www.azcommerce.com](http://www.azcommerce.com)

**Local First Arizona**

Phone: 602-956-0909

Website: [www.localfirstaz.com](http://www.localfirstaz.com)

**City of Nogales**

Phone: 520-287-6571

Website: [www.nogalesaz.gov](http://www.nogalesaz.gov)

**Nogales/Santa Cruz County**

**Chamber of Commerce**

Phone: 520-287-3685

Website: [www.thenogaleschamber.org](http://www.thenogaleschamber.org)

**Town of Patagonia**

Phone: 520-394-2229

Website: [www.patagoniaaz.com](http://www.patagoniaaz.com)

**Patagonia Area Business Association  
(PABA)**

Phone: 520-394-2524

Website: [patagonia-az.gov/](http://patagonia-az.gov/)