

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, the largest city in the county, and Huachuca City. Both are economic neighbors of Fort Huachuca, one of the largest 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. 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 make up the remaining 4 percent.



County Profile for
Cochise County, Arizona



POPULATION

	2000	2010	2023 (est.)
Cochise County	117,755	131,436	126,463

Office of Economic Opportunity

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Cochise County	0.50%
State	5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

	2000	2010	2022
Civilian Labor Force	48,643	57,023	49,027
Unemployed	2,181	5,329	2,360
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	9.3%	4.8%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	10,009	11.3%
High school or equivalent, no college	21,183	24.0%
Some college or Associate degree	34,598	39.2%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	22,581	25.6%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	9,383	21.2%
Public administration	7,412	16.8%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	5,677	12.8%
Retail trade	5,041	11.4%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	3,916	8.9%
Construction	2,562	5.8%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	2,479	5.6%
Other services, except public administration	1,882	4.3%
Finance, insurance & real estate	1,845	4.2%
Manufacturing	1,713	3.9%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	1,280	2.9%
Information	603	1.4%
Wholesale trade	426	1.0%

American Community Survey

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

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