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Pima County, Arizona

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Pima County (/ˈpiːmə/ *PEE-mə*) is a county in the south central region of the U.S. state of Arizona. As of the 2020 census, the population was 1,043,433,^[1] making it Arizona's second-most populous county. The county seat is Tucson,^[2] where most of the population is centered. The county is named after the Pima Native Americans who are indigenous to this area.

Pima County includes the entirety of the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area, and it is the third largest metropolitan area in the Southwestern United States.

Pima County contains parts of the Tohono O'odham Nation, as well as all of the San Xavier Indian Reservation, the Pascua Yaqui Indian Reservation, the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Ironwood Forest National Monument and Saguaro National Park.

The vast majority of the county population lies in and around the city of Tucson (2017 city population: 535,677), filling much of the eastern part of the county with urban development. Tucson, Arizona's second largest city, is a major commercial and academic center. Other urban areas include the Tucson suburbs of Marana (population 44,792), Oro Valley (population 44,350), Sahuarita (population 29,338), and South Tucson (population 5,643), a large ring of unincorporated urban development, and the growing satellite town Green Valley. The rest of the county is sparsely populated; the largest towns are Sells, the capital of the Tohono O'odham Nation, and Ajo in the county's far western region.

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History [edit]

Pima County, one of the four original counties in Arizona, was created by the 1st Arizona Territorial Legislature with land acquired through the Gadsden Purchase from Mexico in 1853. The original county consisted of all of Arizona Territory east of longitude 113° 20' and south of the Gila River.^[3] Soon thereafter, the counties of Cochise, Graham and Santa Cruz were carved from the original Pima County.^[4]

Geography [edit]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 9,189 square miles (23,800 km²), of which 9,187 square miles (23,790 km²) is land and 2.1 square miles (5.4 km²) (0.02%) is water.^[5]

Topographic features [edit]

- Mountains of Pima County
- Fresnal Canyon

Major highways [edit]

- Interstate 10
- Interstate 19
- Historic U.S. Route 80
- State Route 77
- State Route 63
- State Route 65
- State Route 66
- State Route 210
- State Route 989

Adjacent counties and municipalities [edit]

- Yuma County – west
- Maricopa County – north
- Pinal County – north
- Graham County – northeast
- Cochise County – east
- Santa Cruz County – southeast
- Altar, Sonora, Mexico – south
- Caborca, Sonora, Mexico – south
- General Plutarco Elías Calles, Sonora, Mexico – south
- Sálic, Sonora, Mexico – south

National protected areas [edit]

- Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
- Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (part)
- Coronado National Forest (part)
- Ironwood Forest National Monument (part)
- Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (part)
- Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
- Saguaro National Park

Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan [edit]

The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP) is Pima County's plan for desert conservation.

Demographics [edit]

2000 census [edit]

As of the 2000 census, there were 843,746 people, 332,350 households, and 212,039 families living in the county. The population density was 92 people per square mile (35/km²). There were 366,737 housing units at an average density of 40 per square mile (15/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 75.1% White, 3.0% Black or African American, 3.2% Native American, 2.0% Asian, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 13.3% from other races, and 3.2% from two or more races. 29.3% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 22.8% reported speaking Spanish at home.^[1]

There were 332,350 households, out of which 29.2% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 47.7% were married couples living together, 11.8% had a female householder with no husband present, and 36.2% were non-families. 28.5% of all households were made up of individuals, and 9.4% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.47 and the average family size was 3.06.

In the county, the population was spread out, with 24.6% under the age of 18, 10.9% from 18 to 24, 28.4% from 25 to 44, 21.9% from 45 to 64, and 14.2% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 36 years. For every 100 females there were 95.7 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 92.7 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$36,758, and the median income for a family was \$44,446. Males had a median income of \$32,156 versus \$24,959 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$19,785. About 10.5% of families and 14.7% of the population were below the poverty line, including 19.4% of those under age 18 and 8.2% of those age 65 or over.

2010 census [edit]

As of the 2010 census, there were 990,263 people, 388,660 households, and 243,167 families living in the county.^[2] The population density was 106.7 inhabitants per square mile (41.2/km²). There were 440,909 housing units at an average density of 48.0 per square mile (18.5/km²).^[3] The racial makeup of the county was 74.2% white, 3.5% black or African American, 3.3% American Indian, 2.6% Asian, 0.2% Pacific Islander, 12.3% from other races, and 3.7% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 34.6% of the population.^[4]

The largest ancestry groups were:^[4]

- 30.8% Mexican
- 16.2% German
- 10.6% Irish
- 9.9% English
- 4.5% Italian
- 3.1% French
- 2.8% American
- 2.7% Polish
- 2.4% Scottish
- 1.8% Scotch-Irish
- 1.7% Norwegian
- 1.6% Dutch
- 1.6% Swedish
- 1.1% Russian

Of the 388,660 households, 29.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 44.5% were married couples living together, 12.8% had a female householder with no husband present, and 29.2% of all households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.46 and the average family size was 3.06. The median age was 37.7 years.^[2]

The median income for a household in the county was \$45,521 and the median income for a family was \$57,377. Males had a median income of \$42,313 versus \$33,487 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$25,993. About 11.2% of families and 16.4% of the population were below the poverty line, including 22.6% of those under age 18 and 8.5% of those age 65 or over.^[3]

Metropolitan Statistical Area [edit]

The United States Office of Management and Budget has designated Pima County as the Tucson, AZ Metropolitan Statistical Area.^[14] The United States Census Bureau ranked the Tucson, AZ Metropolitan Statistical Area as the 53rd most populous metropolitan statistical area of the United States as of July 1, 2012.^[17]

The Office of Management and Budget has further designated the Tucson, AZ Metropolitan Statistical Area as a component of the more extensive Tucson-Nogales, AZ Combined Statistical Area,^[18] the 53rd most populous combined statistical area and the 59th most populous primary statistical area of the United States as of July 1, 2012.^[17]^[18]

Government, policing, and politics [edit]

Pima County is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors who set ordinances and run services for the areas that do not fall within any city or town's jurisdiction.

Board of Supervisors and elected positions [edit]

The Pima County Board of Supervisors is responsible for steering public policy in the region. The five-member board provides direction to the County Administrator and the county's various departments as they work to ensure safe communities, nurture economic development, sustainably manage natural resources and protect public health. In addition to overseeing the delivery of a host of municipal services, from roads to parks and libraries and law enforcement, board members also are responsible for approving the county budget. Elected to four-year terms, board members also set the amount of taxes levied to be levied.

Party	District	Name	First elected	Area(s) represented	Official Website
 Democrat	District 1	Rex Scott	2020	Oro Valley, Marana, Catalina Foothills	District 1@
 Democratic	District 2	Matt Heinz	2020	Tucson, Sahuarita, South Tucson	District 2@
 Democratic	District 3	Sharon Bronson	1996	Tucson, Marana, Three Points, Sahuarita	District 3@
 Republican	District 4	Steve Christy	2016	Tucson, Vail, Summerhaven, Green Valley	District 4@
 Democratic	District 5	Adelita Grigalva	2020	Tucson, Sahuarita, Green Valley	District 5@

(R)

Along with the Board of Supervisors the Arizona State Constitution allows for 7 other county elected officials.

Party	Office	Name	First elected	References
 Democratic	Assessor	Suzanne Drouble	2020	^[20]
 Democratic	County Attorney	Laura Conover	2020	^[21]
 Democratic	County Recorder	Gabriella Cázarez-Kelley	2020	^[22]
 Democratic	County School Superintendent	Dustin Williams	2016	^[23]
 Democratic	Sheriff	Chris Nanos	2010	^[24]
 Republican	Treasurer	Beth Ford	2000	^[25]
 Democratic	Clerk of Superior Court	Gary Harrison	2020	^[26]

Pima County sheriff [edit]

The Pima County Sheriff's Department provides court protection, administers the county jail, provides coroner service, and patrols the unincorporated parts of Pima County. It is the seventh largest sheriff's department in the nation.^[27] Incorporated towns within the county with municipal police departments are Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, and Sahuarita.

Politics [edit]

Being home to a major population center and a major research university, Pima County is one of the most reliably Democratic counties in Arizona. After voting Democratic through 1920s and 1940s, it swung to Republican following major population increase after World War II, becoming a Republican-leaning county. However, in 1964, it rejected Arizona's native son Barry Goldwater by seven points, who won statewide by one point. However, despite the county's Republican lean, Democrats would not win 40% of the vote only twice - in 1972, when George McGovern lost in a 49-state landslide and due to a balloting error in the county, the Socialist Workers Party came a distant third with 18% of the vote;^[28] and in 1980, when Jimmy Carter, being largely insensitive to Western states' issues, also lost many votes to independent John B. Anderson. Following Bill Clinton's plurality victory by 12 points in 1992, all Democrats since 1996 have won the county by a majority and no Republican has come closer than six points in recapturing the county. In both 2016 and 2020, Donald Trump became the first Republican since Bob Dole in 1996 to fail to win 40% of the county's vote.

Communities [edit]

Cities [edit]

- South Tucson
- Tucson (county seat)

Towns [edit]

- Marana (Partially in Pinal County)
- Oro Valley
- Sahuarita

Ghost towns [edit]

- Ajo
- Alan Oatuch
- Ak Chat Vaya
- Allen
- Cerro Colorado
- Helvetia
- Hahual Kawach Vay, Arizona
- Kentucky
- Panitano
- Redington
- San Rafael
- Total Wreck
- Twin Buttes
- List of ghost towns in Arizona

Census-designated places [edit]

- Ajo
- Ak Chin
- Ali Chuk
- Ali Chukson
- Ali Molina
- Anegam
- Arivaca
- Arivaca Junction
- Avra Valley
- Cactus Ashbes
- Catalina
- Catalina Foothills
- Chawuil Tak
- Charco
- Comobabi
- Corona de Tucson
- Cowic
- Drexel Heights
- Elephant Head
- Flowing Wells
- Gu Oidak
- Gu Oidak
- Nolic
- Haivana Nakya
- J-Six Ranchettes
- Kleindale
- Ko Vaya
- Littleton
- Maish Vaya
- Nelson
- Nolic
- Picture Rocks
- Pimaco Two
- Pisnemo
- Rillito
- Rincon Valley
- San Miguel
- Santa Rosa
- Sells
- South Kometek
- Summerhaven
- Summit
- Tanque Verde
- Three Points
- Topava
- Tucson Estates
- Tucson Mountains
- Vail
- Valencia West
- Ventana
- Wahak Hotrontk
- Why
- Willow Canyon

Indian communities [edit]

- Pascua Yaqui
- San Xavier
- Tohono O'odham (part)

Other communities [edit]

- Drexel-Alverson
- East Sahuarita
- Kentucky Camp
- Lukerville
- Redington
- Sasabe
- Tortolita

County population ranking [edit]

The population ranking of the following table is based on the 2010 census of Pima County.^[29]^[3]

Rank	City/Town/etc.	Population (2010 Census)	Municipal type	Incorporated
1	 Tucson	520,116	City	1775
2	 Casas Adobes	66,795	CDP	
3	 Catalina Foothills	50,796	CDP	
4	 Oro Valley	41,011	Town	1974
5	 Marana	34,961	Town	1977
6	 Drexel Heights	27,749	CDP	
7	 Sahuarita	25,259	Town	1994
8	 Green Valley	21,391	CDP	
9	 Tanque Verde	16,901	CDP	
10	 Flowing Wells	16,419	CDP	
11	 Tucson Estates	12,192	CDP	
12	 Vail	10,208	CDP	
13	 Picture Rocks	9,563	CDP	
14	 Valencia West	9,355	CDP	
15	 Catalina	7,569	CDP	
16	 Avra Valley	6,050	CDP	
17	 Corona de Tucson	5,675	CDP	
18	 South Tucson	5,652	City	1940
19	 Three Points	5,581	CDP	
20	 Summit	5,372	CDP	
21	 Rincon Valley	5,139	CDP	
22	 Ajo	3,304	CDP	
23	 Sells	2,495	CDP	
24	 Arivaca Junction	1,090	CDP	
25	 Littleton	873	CDP	
26	 Arivaca	695	CDP	
27	 Pimaco Two	682	CDP	
28	 Santa Rosa	628	CDP	
29	 Elephant Head	621	CDP	
30	 Pisnemo	321	CDP	
31	 Topava	299	CDP	
32	 Nelson	259	CDP	
33	 San Miguel	197	CDP	
34	 Gu Oidak	188	CDP	
35	 Why	167	CDP	
36	 Ali Chuk	161	CDP	
37	 Maish Vaya	158	CDP	
38	 Anegam	151	CDP	
39	 Cowick	135	CDP	
40	 Ali Chukson	132	CDP	
41	 Wahak Hotrontk	114	CDP	
42	 South Kometek	111	CDP	
43	 Rillito	97	CDP	
44	 Haivana Nakya	96	CDP	
45	 Chawuil Tak	78	CDP	
46	 Ali Molina	71	CDP	
47	 Charco	52		