

WILLCOX

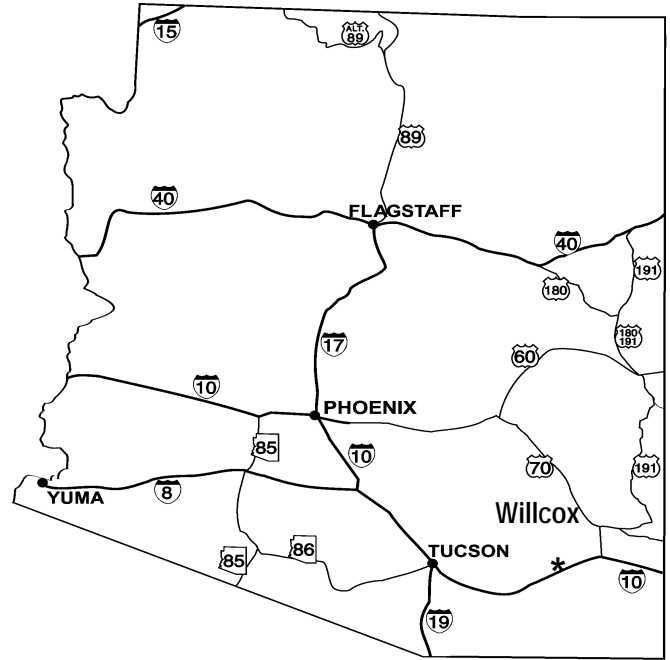
Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Willcox is in the northern part of the Sulphur Springs Valley, which cuts through Cochise County for nearly 100 miles and averages more than 15 miles in width. The town was established in 1880 and incorporated in 1915. Located on I-10 halfway between Phoenix and El Paso, Texas, Willcox serves as the major trade and service center for agriculture and tourism within the county. With a mild, year-round climate, relatively inexpensive land and housing, and a pleasant rural lifestyle, Willcox is a desirable retirement community.

FOUNDED: 1880
 COUNTY: Cochise County
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 192 miles
 HIGHWAYS: I-10
 ENTERPRISE ZONE AVAILABLE

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1915
 ELEVATION: 4,182 feet
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 81 miles



POPULATION

	1990	2000	2004
Willcox	3,122	3,733	3,875
Cochise County	97,624	117,755	130,220
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,833,685

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau.

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Willcox was once known as the Cattle Capital of the nation. Cattle are still important to the economy and a large livestock auction is held there. While row crops such as cotton and small grains are significant, agricultural diversification has resulted in apple orchards, pistachio and pecan groves, grape vineyards and two hydroponic tomato green houses. The community is home to several corporate headquarters and numerous support industries. Tourism is also of economic importance.

County Employment	2004
Educational & Health Svcs	3,800
Financial Activities	900
Government	11,550
Information	525
Leisure & Hospitality	4,000
Manufacturing	875
Mining & Construction	2,550
Professional & Business Svcs	3,550
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,300

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security
 Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

Major Private Employers

Eurofresh Farms	Northern Cochise Coun Comm Hosp
Rip Griffen Trucking Center	Safeway
Simflow Manufacturing	

Major Public Employers

Arizona Electric Power Coop	City of Willcox
Sulphur Springs Valley Elec Co	Willcox Public School

LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2004
Civilian Labor Force	1,356	1,531	1,735
Unemployed	54	43	45
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	2.8%	2.6%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	2000	2004
New Bldg. Permit	120	114	70*
Taxable Sales (\$)	33,025,650	57,585,950	62,179,900
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	10,983,052	13,025,344	17,463,523

Sources: Arizona State University; AZ Dept. of Revenue; AZ Tax Research Foundation
 * Incomplete data: one or more months not available

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Cochise County features historical, cultural, scenic and recreational opportunities, including the rugged Dos Cabezas Peaks and Chiricahua Mountains and Cochise Stronghold in Dragoon Mountains (part of Coronado National Forest). These mountains and deserts were once home to the Chiricahua Apache Indians, and the county is named for the great chief Cochise. "The Magic Circle of Cochise" is a journey through the area that brings alive its rich history. Willcox, home town of TV, movie and radio star Rex Allen, celebrates "Rex Allen Days" in October with a parade, country fair, rodeo, concert, golf tournament and dance. Willcox also hosts a Wings Over Willcox/Sandhill Crane Celebration in January and the Christmas Apple Festival in December.

TAXES

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2004
Elem/High School	5.07	7.32	4.44
City/Fire District	2.16	1.73	1.01
Countywide	6.26	5.70	5.69
Total	\$13.49	\$14.75	\$11.14

Sources: Arizona Tax Research Foundation
 Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation.

NOTE: School district participates in Cochise Technical District (CTD).

Sales Tax Rate

City	3.00%
County	0.50%
State	5.60%

Sources: League of Arizona Cities and Towns, Arizona Dept. of Revenue

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Willcox offers a broad range of community facilities including a library, Olympic-size swimming pool, bowling alley, community center with meeting facilities, historic Railroad Avenue, a nine-hole golf course, and tennis courts. There are also five parks with ramadas and playground equipment, and athletic facilities that include lighted baseball/softball fields, a basketball court and a soccer field. There is also the Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame, and Rex Allen memorabilia is on display in the Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum, located in downtown Willcox. The Chiricahua Regional Museum is located in downtown Willcox.

Educational Institutions

	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	Y
High School	Y	Y
Middle School	Y	Y

Financial

Number of Banks: 3

Governmental Agencies

Fire Department: Volunteer

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports

Nearby Cochise County Airport has one lighted/paved 6,100-ft. runway, UNICOM radio, fuel and maintenance.

Medical

Willcox has one hospital.

Hotel and Lodging Facilities

Number of Rooms: 575

Meeting Rooms: 8

Capacity of Largest Facility: 400

Industrial Properties

One industrial park with utilities, served by rail and truck routes is available. Contact the Economic Development Division of the Willcox Chamber of Commerce or the City Manager's Office, City of Willcox.

Utilities

Butane	Cochise County Farmers Assn.	520.384.2242
Electricity	Sulphur Springs (Willcox)	520.384.2221
Natural Gas	City of Willcox	520.384.4271
	Southwest Gas Corp. (Statewide)	800.766.9722
Propane	M&P Propane	520.384.9150
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
	Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	520.384.2231
Water & Sewer	City of Willcox	520.384.4271

Cable Providers: Yes

Cable Internet Service Provider: No

Digital Switching Station: Yes

Fiber Optics: No

Internet Service Provider: Yes

Weather

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total Precipitation (Inches)
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum	
January	25.8	58.6	0.93
February	28.2	63.2	0.87
March	32.1	69.2	0.66
April	37.4	77.2	0.26
May	44.3	85.4	0.25
June	53.3	94.3	0.38
July	62.7	94.3	2.44
August	61.4	91.4	2.61
September	54.3	88.4	1.17
October	41.6	79.4	0.84
November	31.0	67.7	0.70
December	26.1	58.9	1.10
Yearly Avg	41.5	77.3	12.21

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1898-2004. Average Total Snowfall 3.5".

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce Communications Division in cooperation with local sources.

For further information, contact:

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