



# Arizona

## Ajo Community Profile

### INTRODUCTION

Ajo (ah-ho) is located 108 miles south of Phoenix in the northwestern corner of Pima County at an elevation of 1,750 feet. Ajo's history dates back to 1854 with the discovery of copper ore. It was originally settled by a group of Mexicans, Indians and Anglos, but the community did not grow until new recovery methods were adopted after the turn of the century. In 1917, the New Cornelia Copper Company began operations and was ultimately acquired by the Phelps Dodge Corporation.

The origin of the community's name is from the Papago Indian word au'auho (meaning paint) because in the area, ores were a source of red paint the Papagos used to decorate themselves (not from the Ajo lily, which is native to this area). The community is not incorporated.

### WEATHER

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total Precipitation (Inches)
	Daily Max	Daily Min	
January	64.1	49.9	0.70
February	68.5	43.9	0.53
March	73.2	48.1	0.82
April	82.1	55.6	0.33
May	90.8	63.1	0.05
June	98.9	71.2	0.06
July	103.2	78.4	1.36
August	100.8	76.3	2.46
September	97.9	72.2	0.75
October	87.8	61.4	0.51
November	74.3	49.3	0.55
December	66.0	42.7	0.83
Year	84.0	58.6	8.95

Average Total Snow, Sleet and Hail Annually: 0.2 inches  
(Based on a thirty year average)

### PRINCIPAL AJO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Ajo has substantial employment in the service and commercial trade sectors. Due to its proximity to the Gulf of California, Ajo serves as a trade center for visitors to Mexico.

### POPULATION

	1980	1990	1980-1990 Percentage Change
Ajo*	5,189	2,919	-43.7%
Pima County	531,443	666,880	+25.5
Arizona	2,716,546	3,665,228	+34.9

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

\*1990 Census, Ajo Census District

### AJO EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE

	Percent of Total
Agriculture & Mining	7.9%
Construction	4.5
Manufacturing	1.1
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	3.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	1.7
Retail Sales	28.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.4
Services	38.9
Public Administration	11.6

Source: University of Arizona

### LABOR FORCE DATA\*

	1980	1989	1990
Civilian Labor Force	1,902	2,689	2,674
Employed	1,836	2,622	2,612
Unemployed	66	67	62
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	2.5%	2.3%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security

### GROWTH INDICATORS

	1988	1989	1990
Postal Receipts	148,735	150,578	171,538
School Enrollment*	625	661	697
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)**	7,050,056	7,113,315	7,136,488

\* Unified School District No. 15

### PROPERTY TAX RATE PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUATION

	1988	1989	1990
School District #15	\$0.00	\$2.88	\$3.40
Community College	.74	.80	.90
County	5.90	6.19	5.69
State of Arizona	\$0.47	\$0.47	.47
Town of Ajo	1.44	2.41	.00
Total	\$8.55	\$12.75	\$10.46

Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation



Arizona  
Department of Commerce

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## FINANCE

Valley National Bank: 1 office

Pima County businesses are eligible for assistance in financing fixed assets through the Development Finance Division, Arizona Department of Commerce. Information on availability of industrial development bonds within the County may be obtained from the same source or from the Industrial Development Authority of the County of Pima, Arizona; Statutory Agent: Russo, Cox, Dickerson and Sylvester, P.C.; 4301 East 5th Street; Tucson, Arizona 85711

## TRANSPORTATION

Highways: Arizona 85 and 86, Interstate 8 (40 miles north)  
Railroads: Tucson and Cornelia  
Bus: Project PPEP Rural transportation to Tucson  
Truck: Milne Truck Lines, Inc., United Parcel Service, Arizona Express  
Airport: Ajo Municipal Airport; 3,800 foot paved, 3,500 feet are lighted

## COMMUNICATIONS

Newspapers: Weekly: Ajo Copper News  
Daily: Arizona Republic (Phoenix)  
Arizona Daily Star (Tucson)  
Radio: No local stations, however, some Phoenix and Tucson stations received  
Television: 6 stations via cable from Phoenix, and 4 via cable from Tucson

## UTILITIES

Electricity: Arizona Public Service and Ajo Improvement Co  
Natural Gas: Southwest Gas and Ajo Improvement Co  
Telephone: U.S. West  
Water: 5 Acres Water Corp., Ajo Improvement Co., Arizona Water Co.  
Sewer: Ajo Improvement Company

## MEDICAL FACILITIES

1 Clinic (outpatient only)  
2 Doctors  
2 Dentists

## GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Local Government: Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Sheriff's Department: Lieutenants and deputies  
Fire Department: Volunteers  
Underwriters Rating: Grade 7 and 9

## EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
Public Elementary (K-5)	1	14	261
Public Junior High (6-8)	1	13	147
Public High School (9-12)	1	19	217

## CHURCHES

1 Catholic  
1 Church of Jesus Christ LDS  
4 Protestant  
2 Baptist  
1 Other

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Library: 1  
Parks: 3  
Recreation Center: 1  
Golf Course: 1 - 9 hole  
Pool: 1  
Tennis Courts: 4 - lighted  
Bowling Alley: 1

## SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

The desert and mountains surrounding Ajo have a history as old as the Spanish conquest of the New World. Twelve miles south of Ajo is the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, a magnificent reserve of virgin desert growth. On the southern border of the monument, where Mexico meets the U.S., sits the ancient city of Sonoyta, Mexico, established by Father Kino, a 17th century Spanish missionary. Another 60 miles to the south is the Gulf of California and the fishing village of Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point). Here, swimming, shopping, deep sea fishing, and sun bathing await visitors from the north.

The Papago Indian Reservation, east of Ajo, is a vast desert area with scattered Indian villages where ancient ways of life are slowly changing into more modern times. Also located on the reservation is the Kitt Peak National Observatory, a major U.S. astronomical center.

One of the world's largest open pit copper mines is located in Ajo. A lookout point is available for visitors to view the pit.

## LODGING AND MEETING FACILITIES

Motels: 3 with 39 units; 1 Bed & Breakfast Inn  
Meeting Facilities: 5, with the largest seating 600 persons

## INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES AVAILABLE

Numerous properties, with utilities, are available. Contact the Ajo District Chamber of Commerce for more information.

## HOUSING

Current information on housing availability can be obtained from the Ajo District Chamber of Commerce.

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This community profile was updated by the Arizona Department of Commerce.

For further information, contact:

Ajo District Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 507  
Ajo, AZ 85321  
(602)387-7742

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