



Trends

Fact sheet 2 from the Pima Association of Governments

Summer 2002

Get involved!

Call PAG's public involvement office at (520) 792-1093 to:

- ▶ Obtain a mail-back questionnaire
- ▶ Schedule a speaker for your next meeting
- ▶ Participate in community roundtables, forums and open houses

Visit the RTP Web site: www.pagnet.org/rtp/rtp2030

- ▶ Complete an on-line questionnaire
- ▶ Add your name to the RTP mailing list

Remember: Planning the future needs your input!

Impacts of growth on transportation

Longer commute times: Nationwide, average commute times are up almost two minutes versus 1990, to 24 minutes one-way. The average travel time to work in the Tucson metro region increased by two and a half minutes during the same period, to just under 24 minutes.

Increased peak-hour traffic: Individuals driving to and from work make up the greatest portion of weekday peak-hour traffic. Employment growth typically means greater congestion during peak-hour traffic.

Increased trip distance: Low-density, spread-out land use patterns lead to increased trip lengths.

Increased air pollution: Nearly 75% of Tucson's air pollution is caused from motor vehicle use. With more people driving more miles, our region's air is not getting any cleaner.

Seeing the future by looking at the past, present

Since 1970, significant changes have occurred in Pima County. We've grown in terms of population, employment and the physical boundaries of our communities.

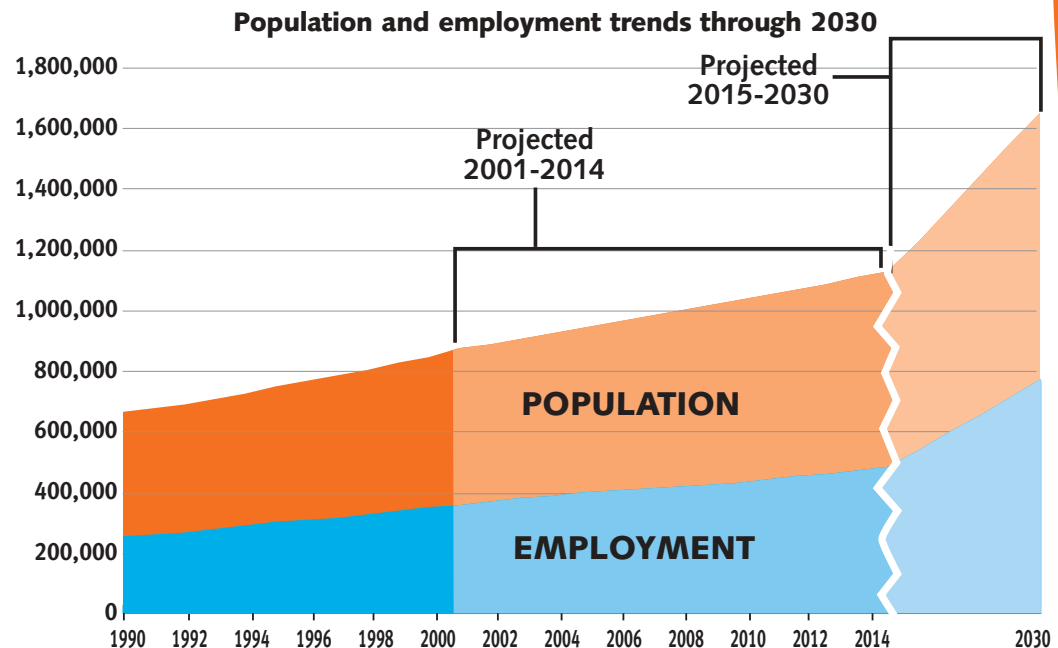
Understanding this growth and where it is headed is a major part of long-term transportation planning.

More people means more employment. In late 2001, the county labor force totaled approximately 402,000 people with employment at about 354,000. Employment is projected to increase to more than 650,000 by 2030.

Nationwide, the greatest growth rates are occurring in the suburbs. Pima County is no different. In 2000 and 2001, about 57% of all new housing units were built outside the City of Tucson. From 1990 to 2000, growth and annexation in the Towns of Marana and Oro Valley outpaced other communities in our state, with population increases of 520% and 345%, respectively. The Town of Sahuarita is expected to increase 500% by 2010. The trend towards rapid growth in the suburbs will continue in the future.

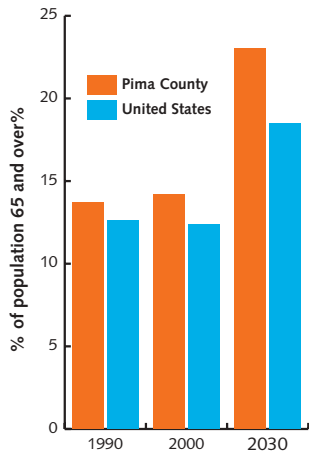
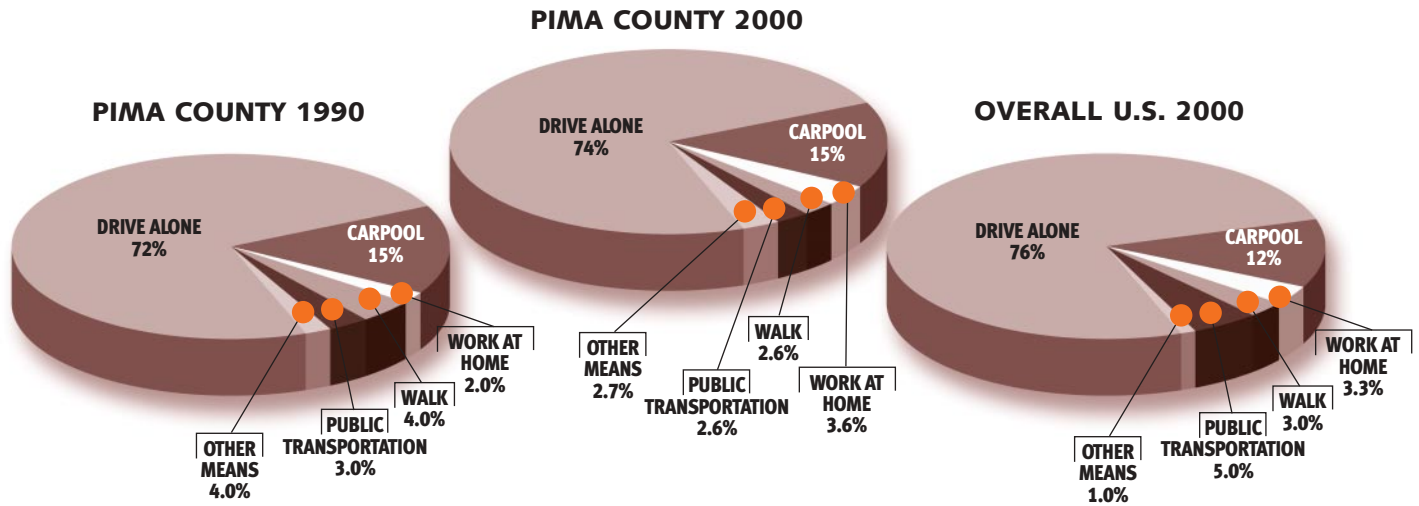
Population and employment growth

The urge to "go west" is as old as our nation and population growth in the Western states shows no sign of slowing down soon. Between 1975 and 2000, Pima County's population increased by approximately 90%. Today there are nearly 900,000 residents and that number is expected to increase to 1.4 million by the year 2030.



Travel patterns and congestion

Like much of the nation, our region is highly dependent on the automobile. From 1990 to 2000, the percentage of drive-alone commuters increased from 72% to 74%. The charts below show the changes in mode use in Pima County between 1990 and 2000.



Getting older, getting younger

Seniors: According to the 2000 Census, people age 65 and over make up 12.4% of the total U.S. population — that number is approximately 13% in Arizona and 14.2% in Pima County. The number of Pima County residents over 65 is expected to be 23.3% by the year 2030.

Transportation planners must prepare for a population where at least 1 in 4 people may be elderly.

Students: Student populations are expected to reach over 335,000 by 2025, up from over 215,000 today. There is also a trend toward increased use of alternatives to neighborhood schools, such as magnet schools, private schools, charter schools and home schooling. A major impact of these trends is a shift from reliance on school buses to use of personal vehicles as the primary means of getting to and from schools.

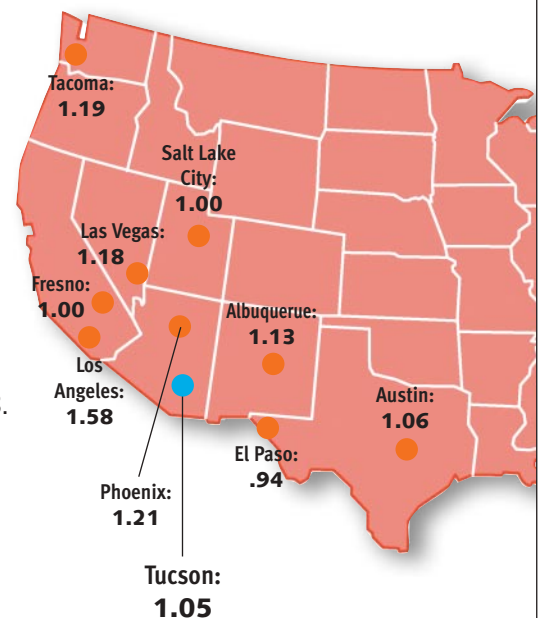
Did you know?

- ▶ The State of Arizona ranks number two in the nation only behind Hawaii in percentage of commuters who carpool.
- ▶ Pima County residents drive an average of 20 million miles daily (up from 15 million miles in 1993).
- ▶ Each day, 330 tons of carbon monoxide are emitted by motor vehicles in Pima County.
- ▶ On an average weekday, 51,775 people ride Sun Tran buses.
- ▶ From 1990 to 1995, the number miles added to our regional roads increased by 2.5%. Between 1995 to 2000, the increase was only 1.1%. During those same periods, travel demand grew over 12 times faster than road capacity.

Congestion in major cities

In 1982, The Transportation Institute developed a measure of congestion to apply to urban areas. A value greater than 1.0 indicates a congested network; in 1982, the congestion index in the Tucson Metro area was 0.8.

1999 Congestion Index values



Because there are differences in the ways cities classify arterial streets, direct comparisons of the congestion index to other urban areas should be viewed with caution.