



2020-2023 Target Sectors Defined by the WIB

Aerospace & Defense – Manufacturing This industry sector is one of the largest contributors of employment, earnings, and wages to the nation’s economic baseline. Pima County has deep and diverse assets in the Aerospace & Defense (“A&D”) industry sector that are unmatched by most communities across the U.S. Pima County has one of the highest concentrations of A&D workers in the country with one in five jobs in the region associated with the sector. These jobs provide wages higher than the Pima County median wage and offer opportunities for career pathways. Employers in this industry include commercial aerospace, defense, military, and other supporting manufacturers. Major employers like Raytheon Missiles & Defense, one of four business segments of Raytheon Technologies, and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base anchor the industry in Pima County.

Emerging Technologies This industry sector encompasses entrepreneurship research and development, innovation, technology transfer, and commercialization. These activities create primary jobs and drive competitiveness. Pima County has 1,200 high tech companies, ranging from established Fortune 500 companies to small start-ups, some of them resulting from technology transfer activities from the University of Arizona. Entrepreneur-driven startup companies as well as single-employee enterprises have grown impressively since the end of the recession – both in terms of capital development and employment expansion. Existing innovative sectors, startups, and emerging technological industries are well-positioned for further expansion. Pima County is home to a major research university with a robust technology transfer program, an existing high-tech industrial sector, a revitalized startup community led by Startup Tucson, and an active network of angel investors. In addition, Tucson’s dynamic downtown and Pima County’s quality of life appeal to younger workers. Attraction and retention of a young, innovative and well-educated workforce will be necessary to expand this innovation ecosystem. The area has had a number of locally grown companies, including Burr-Brown and Ventana Medical Systems. Today, the University of Arizona’s Tech Park features an incubator that houses start-ups as well as IBM. In 2013, the University of Arizona opened a Biotech park that is fostering additional innovation.

Logistics – Supply Chain Network The region’s strategic location along the U.S.-Mexico border and key trade routes accounts for the prominence of transportation and logistics, with career opportunities in purchasing, expediting, distribution, fleet management, import/export, inventory management, supply-chain management, and warehousing. Major employers include Union Pacific Railroad, American Airlines, SunTran, UPS, Off-Shore Group, Valencia International, Biagi, and ABF Freight and has Raytheon Missiles & Defense, a business of the newly formed Raytheon Technologies, Bombardier, the 162nd Wing of the Arizona Air National Guard, HomeGoods, CAID, Universal Avionics, and Aerovation clustered around the airport. The Tucson Airport Authority controls over 7,000 acres in the developing Sonoran Corridor logistics area. The airport has a significant amount of “shovel ready” air cargo capability and is focusing on opportunities to expand usage for airfreight, which is important to many companies in southern Arizona and Sonora. Additionally, four “shovel ready” airside (access to the runway) sites designated for Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (“MRO”) activities are available for attraction of new employers needing runway access.

05/03/2021 - The logistics industry in the United States is a highly integrated supply chain network that links producers and consumers through multiple transportation modes, including air and express delivery services, freight rail, maritime transport, and truck transport. *Source: <https://www.statista.com/topics/1417/logistics-industry-in-the-us/#:~:text=The%20logistics%20industry%20in%20the,maritime%20transport%2C%20and%20truck%20transport>.*

Health and Bioscience Health care and bioscience are large and vibrant industries that provide a significant number of high-paying jobs in Southern Arizona ranging from traditional health occupations, state of the art health information systems, and cutting edge biotechnology businesses. Employers range from medical offices to hospitals such as TMC HealthCare - Tucson Medical Center and Banner – University Medical Center. Southern Arizona is known as one of the nation’s most innovative bioscience centers and is home to Roche Tissue Diagnostics, and Critical Path Institute, Accelerate Diagnostics, to cite just a few firms with headquarters here. The bioscience industry supports research collaborations, partnership identification, international outreach programs and technical assistance. Strong support from groups such as the Bioscience Leadership Council of Southern Arizona (“BLCSA”) and the Arizona Bio Industry Association (AZBio), help drive the bioscience economy, mobilizing leadership committed to collaboration, results, and economic growth.

Natural and Renewable Resources Mining¹ technology receives renewed attention in Pima County as the presence of industry leaders, such as Caterpillar, Modular Mining, and Hexagon Mining have corporate headquarters in Tucson for innovation and collaboration. Mining technology, extractive resource optimization, reuse and mitigation of mine tailings, reclamation and clean mining technology are all viable areas for research and job growth in the mining sector. The Solar Zone at the University of Arizona TechPark is aligned to the University of Arizona’s solar efforts and programs in Optical Sciences, Materials Engineering, Atmospheric Sciences, Meteorology, Physical Sciences, Electrical Engineering and Chemistry. Solar energy research pursues innovative solutions to real-world energy problems and new product development by advancing solar technologies in nano-composite thin-film photovoltaic, improving energy storage and distribution through techniques and systems innovation, creating demonstration sites combining applied energy systems and measurements with renewable energy electricity delivery and industrial collaboration. The solar-centric business zone within the University of Arizona TechPark is advancing solar energy innovation and production. The first-of-its-kind solar-centric research park includes power generation by multiple technologies, R&D, materials and supplies, manufacturing, green-job and workforce training, educational outreach, public demonstration and awareness hub. This Zone is designed to allow companies to conduct research for new photovoltaic and other sun powered systems under the areas’ 311 days of sun each year. The Zone attracts both proven energy suppliers such as Tucson Electric Power and Duke Energy, to smaller companies such as Amonix, E-On and REhnu. Other companies in this sector include Sion Power, Schletter, EDG, Green Arizona Petroleum, and Western Technologies.

Infrastructure - Construction The foundations of a safe, clean, and connected community include occupations in construction, extracting natural resources, communication, and utilities. Major employers include Tucson Electric Power, Southwest Gas, Century Link, Granite Construction, and Ashton.

¹ Arizona 2019-2021 Projected Employment Report: Table 1 Mining projected to grow 4.3% in Pima County; 19% in support services for Mining