



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 9, 2019

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Total Locally Assessed Sales and Property Tax Burden by County**

At this time of year when local government jurisdictions are preparing their budgets for the next fiscal year, the subject of taxation and tax burden often arises. It is important to factually examine this issue as opposed to cherry-picking specific local tax practices and claim they are universally true.

Fortunately, the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) produces an annual report that lists the locally assessed property and sales taxes for all jurisdictions within a county. If locally assessed property and sales taxes are aggregated by all taxing jurisdictions, it is possible to determine the tax burden placed on individuals by all local jurisdictions within a county.

We have once again compiled this information from the ADOR and find that Pima County's tax burden has decreased from the last time we compared total tax burden in Fiscal Year 2013/14.

A popular myth espoused by many would claim Pima County is the highest property taxed county in the State of Arizona. This is untrue. Greenlee County is on a per capita basis. However, this is only considering on one side of the tax equation, particularly since Pima County has no sales tax. Sales taxes are primarily levied by incorporated jurisdictions as well as the other 14 counties. When looking at the total tax burden – both property and sales taxes – Pima County ranks 5th in the State, Maricopa County (the County we are most often compared to) ranks 3rd while Coconino County ranks 1st.

For your information, I have attached a table that compiles the ADOR information on this subject. Frankly, this information should be the most accurate report of "truth in taxation."

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Tom Burke, Deputy County Administrator for Administration
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator

**Tax Burden by Arizona County
Fiscal Year 2017/18**

County	Population ¹	Property Tax ²	Sales Tax ³	Property Tax Per Capita	Sales Tax Per Capita	Total Taxes	Total Taxes Per Capita	Rank
Apache	73,330	\$ 30,960,064	\$ 4,344,435	\$ 422	\$ 59	\$ 35,304,499	\$ 481	15
Cochise	130,319	\$ 121,131,670	\$ 41,381,315	\$ 930	\$ 318	\$ 162,512,985	\$ 1,247	9
Coconino	145,564	\$ 160,077,362	\$ 118,224,897	\$ 1,100	\$ 812	\$ 278,302,259	\$ 1,912	1
Gila	54,946	\$ 67,794,815	\$ 23,252,178	\$ 1,234	\$ 423	\$ 91,046,993	\$ 1,657	6
Graham	38,126	\$ 23,904,969	\$ 14,019,455	\$ 627	\$ 368	\$ 37,924,424	\$ 995	14
Greenlee	10,506	\$ 17,070,115	\$ 2,161,271	\$ 1,625	\$ 206	\$ 19,231,386	\$ 1,831	2
La Paz	21,890	\$ 23,184,736	\$ 8,036,665	\$ 1,059	\$ 367	\$ 31,221,401	\$ 1,426	7
Maricopa	4,294,460	\$ 5,005,664,152	\$ 2,819,567,102	\$ 1,166	\$ 657	\$ 7,825,231,254	\$ 1,822	3
Mohave	212,948	\$ 199,782,867	\$ 67,391,637	\$ 938	\$ 316	\$ 267,174,504	\$ 1,255	8
Navajo	112,746	\$ 91,659,552	\$ 34,974,446	\$ 813	\$ 310	\$ 126,633,998	\$ 1,123	10
Pima	1,034,201	\$ 1,287,179,735	\$ 483,449,199	\$ 1,245	\$ 467	\$ 1,770,628,934	\$ 1,712	5
Pinal	440,591	\$ 358,387,217	\$ 106,059,332	\$ 813	\$ 241	\$ 464,446,549	\$ 1,054	13
Santa Cruz	52,390	\$ 43,147,046	\$ 15,062,132	\$ 824	\$ 288	\$ 58,209,178	\$ 1,111	11
Yavapai	228,970	\$ 276,897,416	\$ 139,672,421	\$ 1,209	\$ 610	\$ 416,569,837	\$ 1,819	4
Yuma	225,212	\$ 156,967,927	\$ 82,466,110	\$ 697	\$ 366	\$ 239,434,037	\$ 1,063	12
Statewide	7,076,199	\$ 7,863,809,643	\$ 3,960,062,595	\$ 14,701	\$ 5,808	\$ 11,823,872,238		
							\$ 1,671	

Statewide Average Total Tax Per Capita: \$ 1,671

¹Arizona Department of Economic Opportunity, July 1, 2018 Population Estimates

<https://population.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/pop-estimates2018-04pla.pdf>

²Property tax includes all primary, secondary, special district taxes of the State, counties, cities, towns, community colleges, school districts, and fire, flood control, library and other special districts. Data from Tables 37 & 38 of the Arizona Department of Revenue Annual Report FY2018, year ending June 30, 2018

https://azdor.gov/sites/default/files/media/REPORTS_ANNUAL_2018_ASSETS_fy18_annual_report.pdf

³Sales tax includes retail privilege tax collections for cities and towns, counties (excise, jail, capitol projects, road, rental car, hotel, health) and other municipal corporations such as regional transportation and sports/tourism authorities. Data from Tables 5 and of the Arizona Department of Revenue Annual Report FY2018, year ending June 30, 2018

https://azdor.gov/sites/default/files/media/REPORTS_ANNUAL_2018_ASSETS_fy18_annual_report.pdf