

GILA BEND

COMMUNITY RESOURCES INVENTORY

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose

Your Community Resource Inventory, as the title implies, is a look at the economic, human and natural resources of the area. It is compiled to aid the people of the community in their efforts to solve community problems and achieve community goals. It is not a master plan for the future, but a comprehensive inventory of local resources which the people can use to help bridge the gap between their goals and the successful achievement of community progress.

THE ASSUMPTION IS, ONCE ONE IS CLEARLY AWARE OF THE RAW MATERIALS WITH WHICH HE HAS TO BUILD, HE CAN DEVELOP A MORE REALISTIC DESIGN FOR REACHING A FEASIBLE GOAL.

Your Community Resource Inventory should be an attractive and useful document. The design, format, and language in the report should exemplify the pride the people have for their community, and accurately depict what it has to offer.

ABOVE ALL, IT MUST BE USEFUL, FILLED WITH UP-TO-DATE FACTS ABOUT THE ECONOMY, ORGANIZATION AND CULTURE OF THE COMMUNITY.

In this way, your Community Resource Inventory can serve as a "benchmark" for the development of a comprehensive plan. Even going through the simple process of publicly discussing the resources described in the Report, will help to guide the people towards a more accurate evaluation of their needs and a realistic selection of goals.

IT IS AN EXCELLENT VEHICLE FOR ENCOURAGING CONSTRUCTIVE COMMUNITY ACTION.

As long as it is kept up-to-date, your Community Resource Inventory will provide a wealth of newcomer information, and serve as an important reference for prospective industries and investors. Much of the data in the Report can be used by professional planners, and it will also aid in preparing the general public for cooperating with such an undertaking. In addition, it can provide leaders with most of the data needed for writing applications and proposals for government assistance.

Finally, your Community Resource Inventory should be designed in such a way that anyone or any group in the community can make the necessary revisions to maintain its accuracy and keep it up-to-date. This is greatly aided by identifying each source of information. And it needn't be a chore. Turn it into an interesting challenge for some civic group or student organization.

BY GIVING THE PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY
IN THIS WAY, YOU WILL HELP TO INCREASE THEIR KNOWLEDGE
AND APPRECIATION OF THE GREAT "HOME TOWN" IN WHICH THEY LIVE.

Methodology

Your Community Resource Inventory is part of a concentrated community development program called COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, offered by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service.

The Community Development Institute is a people-participation program which can revitalize public spirit and community action while providing the necessary information and skills to carry out community goals. It is designed to put the community back into community planning. In addition, it provides a systematic and sustained approach to community study and action, and involves a long-term commitment by Extension's community development team.

Each Institute is coordinated in three phases, and all communities are encouraged to revise the general scheme to suit their own specific needs, as well as become actively involved in every phase of the Institute.

Phase I: Defining Community Needs, Goals, and Resources

The Extension Team meets with community leaders to organize community-wide cooperation for a series of studies designed to determine the community's principal needs, goals, and resources. The information gathered from these studies is then compiled into a Community Development Profile, of which your Community Resource Inventory is one part. Each community is provided with ample copies of every report to encourage local involvement, and frequent opportunities are given for discussion and revision of the work conducted.

Phase II. Leadership Seminars

Once the community's resources, needs and goals are determined, along with some agreement on priorities for the latter, the logical steps for achieving these goals are decided upon. This will also help to determine the skills needed for effective community action.

A concentrated series of seminars or workshops are then designed for the community to review the basic attitudes and skills required, so that every citizen can effectively do his share to work towards the goals that all have chosen. These seminars are coordinated by the Extension Team, who also invite the participation of other resource persons to assure the best expertise available. Some of the subjects included in these seminars can be: Economic Development, Housing, Recreation Development, Beautification, etc.

Phase III. Mobilization for Implementation

As an immediate follow-up to the Leadership Seminars, the community receives assistance from the Extension Team in organizing working committees and action organizations necessary to fulfillment of the tasks outlined in the Community Development Profile. A coordinated plan for periodic long-term follow-up is then agreed upon, wherein members of the Extension Team and representatives of those cooperating agencies committed to the program return to the community, providing assistance where needed in support of the community's new development program.

Since every community is unique and usually at a different state of development from others, the program of Community Development Institute incorporates adequate flexibility for adaption to any circumstance. It is up to the people of the community and the Extension Team to determine what kind of a program best suits their needs and capabilities.

Acknowledgements

The cooperation and active support received by the Town of Gila Bend and so many of its citizens is gratefully acknowledged by the Community Development Specialists. Thanks to Mayor Will Williams, and the council for their interest and support, and the members of the town staff for its capable assistance.

A special thanks to Col. Milan for his cooperation in furnishing data about the base operation, and to Mrs. Winnie Conley, Postmistress, in assisting with the population and manpower survey. These are indicative of the cooperation received from the entire community.

Special recognition is given to the staff of the Word Processing Center of the Office of Economic Planning and Development who spent hours in typing this report.

I. HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Gila Bend started with the establishment of the Butterfield Stage Depot on the Gila River in 1858. Located about six miles northwest of the present community, the depot served as a mail drop and rest stop for the weary travelers enroute between Yuma and points east. Since it was a 40 mile trek between Gila Bend and Maricopa Wells, with only one rest stop 14 miles to the east, the depot kept a remuda of horses and mules. This, along with the need to feed the passengers, help to draw people to the area which grew hay, grain and vegetables as supplies to the station. Thus ranches spread out on either side of the Gila. The stage continued to operate until about the time of the Civil War but was discontinued due to the Apache Indian raids.

Long before this, however, the Spanish missionary, Father Kino, wrote that he found a thriving Opa (Maricopa) Indian settlement in the vicinity. Explorers and missionaries who followed him also reported Indian farms along the river. The Gatlin site is believed to date back as far as 700 AD. The Yumas passed through the area on their way to settling on the Colorado River.

Peaceful Pima-Maricopas still reside in the area on the Gila Bend Indian Reservation north of the town. The reservation, one of the smaller of the state's Indian habitations, has a total area of 16 square miles.

Albert Stout was only two years old when the Southern Pacific, pushing eastward from Yuma, reached Gila Bend in 1879. His father, E. H. Stout, was an engineer for the railroad. With the advent of the railroad and the possible replacement of stage travel, the people moved south to be near the railroad, except the farmers who stayed near the river and the source of water.

The coming of the railroad lifted Gila Bend to economic respectability and it wasn't long until houses had to be provided for the train men who came in and out of the subdivision point. Gila Bend was not only important as a rest stop for crewmen of the trains from Yuma and Tucson, but became a terminal for freight shipments and servicing of the steam engines used in those days. The roundhouse is said to have had service facilities for five to six steam engines. For those trains traveling east, additional locomotives had to be used to help the trains up the grade for Mobile. Freight shipment originating at the terminal included copper anodes from Ajo and cotton and cattle. About 200 train men--engineers, brake men, conductors, and firemen--worked in and out of the subdivision. Crew

changes meant that men on each train must have lodging and meals while in town. The Stout Hotel was one of the first substantial lodging places built for railroaders. It once faced Murphy Street - main street at that time. With the advent of the automobile, Stout extended the hotel so that, today, it fronts on Gila Bend's main street--U.S. Highway 80. The business sector of the town included two stores, two saloons and a Chinese restaurant.

With the building of the Hyder-Buckeye Cutoff, passenger trains were routed on that track to link Phoenix with the California Cities. Only one or two passenger trains traveled through Gila Bend in direct route from Tucson and Yuma or Southern California.

As the steam locomotives were retired in favor of diesels, the need for a roundhouse no longer existed in Gila Bend and it was closed in the 50's.

Gila Bend was a typical railroad town when Mrs. Logan arrived with her husband in 1911, and settled down to a career of merchandising. They became the third owners of the 68-year-old store which for years carried their name. Daniel Noonan Sr. was the first store owner in the community, complementing this activity with railroading.

The roundhouse crew and helpers and inspectors who lived in shacks alongside the railroad track needed groceries, and a store was a vital necessity to the growing desert town. Mrs. Logan's husband, U. L. Logan, a Texan, accepted deposits and cashed checks for the railroaders for the First National Bank of Yuma. It wasn't long until the family added a drygoods department to the grocery store, and then a hardware store separate from the other. Logan Senior died in 1925.

Oldtimers told the Logans their store would never succeed because it faced on what was then considered the "back street". The coming of the automobile in large numbers proved how wrong the oldtimers were, as the Logan store became a strategic corner location in the main part of town.

On July 21, 1898, a tornado blew into Gila Bend. The twister picked freight cars off the tracks and smashed them into kindling wood; it rammed a switch engine head first into the roundhouse pit; it knocked down the schoolhouse and carried a big cast-iron stove a half-mile away. A story is told that Phoenix was unable to get communication in or out of Gila Bend therefore did not know if there were survivors until they received an order for 8 barrels of beer.

Even before the arrival of the white man, it is believed there was agricultural activity in the area. Irrigation canals have been uncovered which may have been built by the HoHoKams to irrigate their crops. In 1889 or 1890, a dam was built to divert water into a canal along the north side of the river to a valley to grow oranges. But with the spring floods, the dam was washed out. After several attempts to rebuild the dam and with the same results the project was abandoned. Though other attempts were made to take river water for irrigation, none were successful until the Roosevelt Dam was constructed in 1911.

The late Frank A. Gillespie, member of an Oklahoma oil family, came to Gila Bend when the land of the upper Gila Valley was mostly desert. He started construction of the Gillespie diversion dam in 1919 and finished it two years later. The dam signaled the birth of the 87,000-acre project known as the Gillespie Land and Irrigation Company. The Gillespie holdings included 18,000 acres of irrigated land, among which were 2,000 acres of cotton on the east side of town. Famous for its registered Brahma cattle, the ranch ran as many as 15,000 head in a year. More than 5,000 sheep fed on the rich pastures during the winter months. Frank Gillespie died in July, 1950. With the building of the big dams on the Salt and Verde Rivers, the 36 miles of canal from the Gillespie Dam became an infinitesimal part of the valley. Most water today comes from underground sources.

Tourism started with the first automobile through town, and probably not by choice but by necessity. In those early days, most roads were not paved and some were not graded. People traveling from Phoenix to the West Coast had to travel through Buckeye, Palo Verde, and Arlington, crossing the river at Gillespie Dam. This took about a days drive to reach Gila Bend. People coming from California to the Southwest area could only cross the Colorado River at Yuma or Needles, thus much of the traffic was directed to Gila Bend. The residents came to depend more and more upon the tourist trade to keep the gasoline stations humming, motels crowded and stores busy. The summer months, despite the heat, were, in many ways as busy as winter months. New motels and restaurants sprang up to attract the motorist who ordinarily would drive on to Phoenix. This has carried on to the present with a concerted effort statewide to attract visitors to the state.

As the community grows, the need for certain services and amenities develop. The first Post Office was established in 1871 on the river and has been continuous with service though it moved to the present town site after the arrival of the railroad.

During the early days of Gila Bend, a farmer by the name of Harrington wanted a school district. He was told if there were ten children, a school district could be organized.

Mr. Harrington had four children but found no additional children in the area. So being an enterprising man, Mr. Harrington went to Phoenix and hired a Mexican family, that had six children, to work for him. They returned, built a one-room log cabin on the river and the Gila Bend School District came into existence.

No law abiding town should be without a jail and Gila Bend was no exception. The first jail was called the snake pit, due to the fact that the jail was nothing more than a hole dug in the ground and covered with ties. Thus those sentenced to spend time in the pit were most happy to complete their term and to not run afoul with the law.

Hotel man Stout, concerned with the growth of the town in which he had spent all of his life except three weeks (he was born in Tucson), organized the A. H. Stout City Water Works in 1927. His son, Albert, Jr. managed the enterprise until it was signed over to the Town of Gila Bend in May, 1974.

In 1952 the county built a new city-county building, which housed the justice of the peace, constable, sheriff's deputies, a border patrol unit and driver's license examiners.

Times have changed things over the years, possibly not as fast or as drastically as in the founding years of Gila Bend, but one thing that will not change is the rich history to be found in the area. Hopefully, time will give additional resources for the exploration and research of the archeological sites to enrich the knowledge and culture of the area. Much will depend on the citizens of the area and their desire to make their community a better place to live. (1) (2)

II. GEOGRAPHY/DEMOGRAPHY

Location

Gila Bend is located in the southwestern portion of Maricopa County, 65 miles southwest of Phoenix, on U.S. Highway 80, a major route between Phoenix and the southern tip of California. Gila Bend is half-way between Yuma and Tucson at the terminus of State Highway 85, and Interstate Highway 8, a part of the Interstate Highway System. Highway 85 represents the shortest route from Phoenix to the Gulf of California and the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Gila Bend is in the State Planning District I.

Table 1
Mileage from Gila Bend to
Major Western Cities (3)

City	Miles To	City	Miles To
Albuquerque	517	Los Angeles	388
Dallas	1016	Phoenix	65
Denver	854	Salt Lake City	710
El Paso	411	San Diego	296
Las Vegas	347	Tucson	127

Topography

Situated in a broad, fertile valley, Gila Bend has an elevation of 737 feet. The incorporated area of the town covers four square miles.

Gila Bend is in the Desert Region that has a general slope toward the south and west and is characterized by broad, gently sloping alluvial valleys separated by short, sharply carved northwest trending mountain ranges rising abruptly out of the desert.

Increasing aridity toward the west and southwest has influenced the erosive processes such that the topography of the mountains becomes progressively sharper and more rugged in the same direction. Some of the better known ranges in the area are the Hieroglyphic, White Tanks, Vulture, Big Horn, Harquahala, Gila Bend, Maricopa, Sand Tank, Saucedo, and Crater Mountains. Past volcanic eruptions are clearly marked along the southwest where lava and ash issued from a now extinct crater in the Crater Mountains. Later, great upheavals breaking and thrusting blocks of the earth's crust upward, and subsequent erosion have resulted in the present unusual shapes within the range. (4)

Nature gave Gila Bend the scenic view of mountain ranges yet surrounded it by desert. The natural vegetation ranges from palo verde and mesquite to creosote-bush, cactus, annual grasses and forbs.

The Gila River, located approximately three miles north of the town, makes an abrupt 90-degree bend to the northwest on its meandering course to the Colorado River in Yuma. The ill-defined river bed is situated at the base of the Gila Bend Mountains rising to a height of 2583 feet. Southwest of town the Crater Mountains stand at 2862 feet. Due south of Gila Bend are two mountain ranges with the Saucedas having the highest elevation of 4120 feet, followed closely by the Sand Tanks at 4084 feet. The Maricopa Mountains elevating to 2811 feet are the lowest of the mountain ranges and lie east of the town.

The soils of the Gila Bend area have formed as a result of climate, time, vegetation, slope and nature of the parent materials. It is possible to recognize soil patterns on the landscape--soils which have similar soil texture, parent material, depth to bedrock, etc. Soil patterns are named for a specific soil association. The soils in a soil association reflect the major soils found in a particular area.

In the area surrounding Gila Bend, the soils are from old alluvium and are of the Rillito-Gunsight-Pinal Association. The Rillito-Gunsight-Pinal Association are nearly level to gently sloping, gravelly to very gravelly limy soils on old alluvial fans and valley plains. These make up the soils for the major portion of the area.

At the bend of the river and extending south toward town, with a narrow corridor into the town, are soils of the Gilman-Estrella-Avondale Association. These soils are nearly level loam soils on valley plains and flood plains. These soils are found north and south of the Gila River for its entire course.

In the area west of town, the soils are composed of nearly level, limy sandy loam, and loam on an old alluvial fans and valley plains. These soils are of the Laveen-Coolidge Association and encompass a large part of the agricultural land in the Theba area.

The mountain masses are composed primarily of very old rocks, including granite, gneiss, and schist. These are classed in the Chirioni-Gachado-Rock Outcrop Association of moderately sloping to steep shallow and very shallow soils on mountains and low hills. Geologic conditions have a pronounced effect on the suitability of the area for various uses. Because of the steep, rocky nature and the lack of large water supplies, the mountain masses are limited primarily to such uses as grazing, wildlife habitat, recreation and mining. (5)

Climate

The sun always shines on Gila Bend--that is, almost always. Though the town receives much publicity as the hottest spot

in the nation - and the summers are hot no question about it- the temperature readings are misleading in desert climate since the low humidity makes one feel much more comfortable than the temperature might suggest. On dry summer afternoons in the Gila Bend area it is not unusual to measure relative humidities of five per cent or less.

The excellent climate for much of the year could be one of the most important resources. Climate attracts thousands of new Arizonans to the area each year. Winters in the desert are mild and beautiful. Sunshine and blue skies dominate the daytime hours and humidity is low. Temperatures are just about perfect, with warm, sunny days and refreshingly cool evenings.

Table 2

Range of Temperatures and Precipitation
Gila Bend, Arizona (6)

Climatological Data	Month			
	Jan.	April	July	Oct.
Maximum Temperature	68.5	88.8	109.0	92.4
Minimum Temperature	36.4	50.3	76.2	55.1
Mean Temperature	52.5	69.6	82.6	73.8
Precipitation	0.58"	0.23"	0.75"	0.32"
Mean Annual Temperature 71.9	Average Annual Precipitation			6.02"

The "growing season" is defined as the length of time between the last occurrence of 32 degrees in the spring, and the first occurrence in the fall. The latest date for temperature 32 degrees or below in Gila Bend is March 1, and the earliest date is December 1. Thus, there are 275 days in the growing season for Gila Bend. (4)

Population

Gila Bend had its largest population growth during the decade of 1950 to 1960 with a phenomenal 212 per cent increase. The following decade had a one per cent decrease. However, a recent survey shows an increase of 17 per cent since the 1970 census count. (7)

To determine more correctly the present population of the town and immediate area, a Population and Manpower Survey was completed by the University of Arizona Community Development Specialist with joint sponsorship by the Gila Bend Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce. Based on a 28.2 per cent return, the population of the area is estimated at 2,488. For Gila Bend alone, the estimated population is 2,102.

Table 3

Population for Maricopa County and Gila Bend, Arizona
1930 through 1974 (7)

Year	County Population	Per Cent of Change	Gila Bend Population	Per Cent of change
1930	150,970	---	350*	---
1940	186,193	23.33	380*	8.57
1950	331,770	78.19	580*	52.63
1960	663,510	99.99	1813	212.59
1970	967,522	45.80	1795	-0.01
1974	1,773,000**	21.20	2102***	17.10

* Population figures for Gila Bend prior to 1960 were prepared by the Arizona Public Service Company in cooperation with the Gila Bend Chamber of Commerce.

** Estimated by the Valley National Bank.

*** Based on a mail-out population survey by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with the Gila Bend Town Council and Chamber of Commerce.

According to the survey responses, there are 3.22 persons per household within the corporate limits and 3.63 persons per household outside the corporate limits. Those heads of household reporting also indicated 9.72 per cent single, 84.72 per cent married and 5.56 per cent divorced.

Table 4

Per Cent of Population by years of Residence
Gila Bend, Arizona 1974

Year	Per cent of Population	Year	Per cent of Population
Less than 1 year	11.00	7	2.39
1	11.00	8	1.91
2	9.09	9	2.87
3	3.35	10	3.35
4	3.35	11-15	8.61
5	5.26	16-20	10.05
6	3.35	Over 20	24.40

Figure 1 denotes the population by age groups for both 1960 and 1970. Although the town had a slight decrease in population for that period of time, age groups in the five to 24 years and 45 years and above shows an increase over the 1960 count. The data in Table 5 indicates very little change in the per cent of total population by age groups relative to the 1970 census count.

FIGURE I Population by Age Groups
 Gila Bend, Arizona
 1960-1970

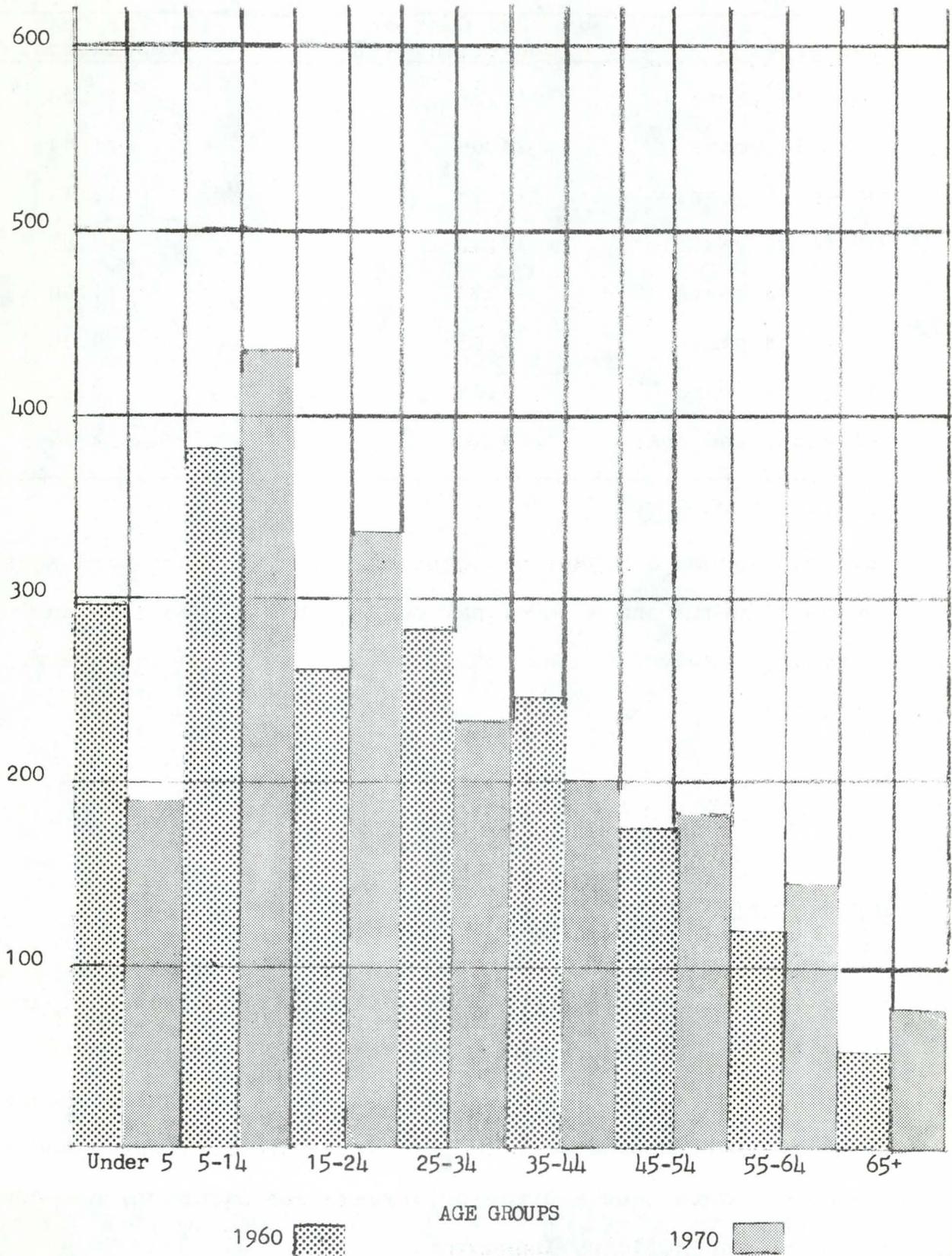


Table 5

Per Cent of Population by Age Groups
Gila Bend, Arizona 1974

Age Group	Per Cent of Population, 1970	Per Cent of Population, 1974
Under 5 years	10.58	10.84
5 to 14 years	24.06	21.54
15 to 24 years	18.55	19.13
25 to 34 years	12.92	13.85
35 to 44 years	11.14	11.60
45 to 54 years	10.25	10.39
55 to 64 years	8.08	8.43
65 years and over	4.40	4.22

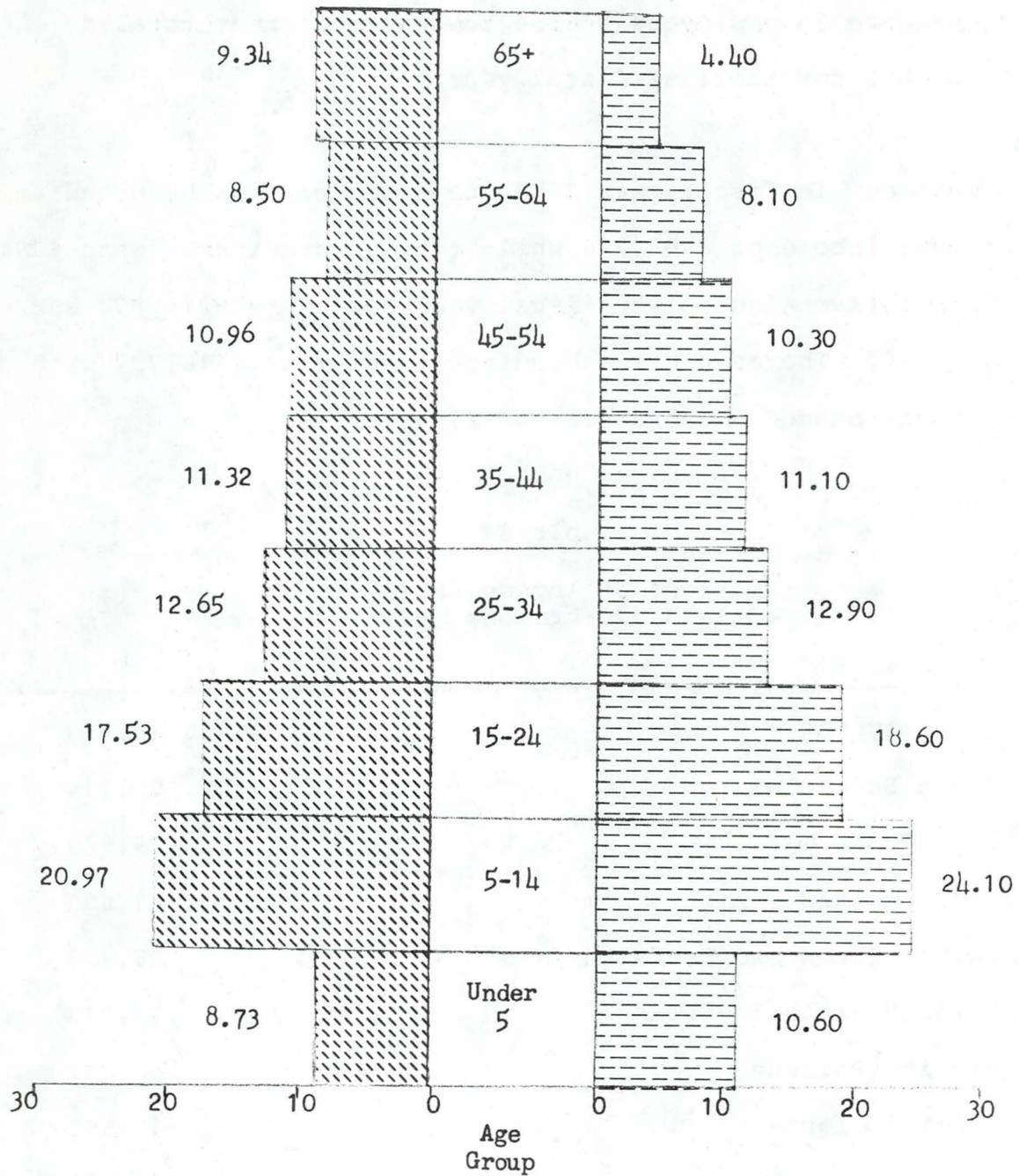
Figure 2 shows a higher per cent of total population in ages up to 34 years and a lower per cent in the 35 year old and above as compared to the county population in the same age groupings.

III COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Government

Gila Bend is governed by a Mayor and six Councilmen. All are duly elected for four-year terms, half with terms overlapping. Appointed town officials include Town Clerk, Attorney, Magistrate, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Public Works Director, Water and Sewer Director, Water Works Director, Recreation Director, Airport Manager, and Building Inspector.

FIGURE 2 Age Profile For Maricopa County and Gila Bend, Arizona, 1970



Population of Maricopa County as percent of total population

Population of Gila Bend as percent of total population

The town has zoning ordinances and a Planning and Zoning Commission. A comprehensive development plan is being considered in the months ahead.

There are 25 employees on the town payroll that totaled \$134,615 for the last fiscal year.

Finances: In fiscal year 1974, the Town of Gila Bend had an annual income of \$405,836 while total expenditures were \$291,264. Comparative figures for fiscal year 1970 were \$219,874 and \$212,103. The town has a bonding capacity of \$416,727 with a present bonded indebtedness of \$140,000. (6)

Table 6

Sources of Income, FY 1974
Gila Bend, Arizona (6)

Property Tax	\$ 34,893
State Sales Tax	55,114
Town Sales Tax	109,576
Licenses and Permits	11,659
Police Fines and Forfeitures	5,923
Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax	15,110
Utility Revenue	45,791
Federal Grants	43,552
Other	84,218

Tax Structure

General Property Tax: The Maricopa County Assessor is responsible for assessing and collecting all state, county, city, school district and special purpose district taxes. Table 7 gives the assessed percentage of full cash value.

Table 7

Percentage of Cash Value
Assessed by Property Classes

Property Class	Percent of Cash Value
Residential	15
Agricultural	18
Commercial	27
Mines (Producing)	60
Utilities	50
Railroads	60

In Table 8, the property tax rates per \$100 of assessed valuation is given. The tax rate for Gila Bend has declined the past two years as well as the school district tax rate.

Table 8

General Property Tax Rates
Gila Bend, Arizona (8)
(per \$100 Assessed Valuation)

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
State	2.20	1.65	1.90	1.55	0.75	1.50
County	2.13	2.13	2.13	2.10	1.94	2.37
Town	1.81	2.33	2.34	2.34	2.02	2.04
School	5.91	6.46	6.04	7.26	6.39	5.18
Total	12.05	12.57	12.41	13.25	11.10	11.09

State Income Tax: Corporation income tax rates begin at 2 percent on the first \$1,000 and graduates to a maximum of 10.3 percent on taxable net income in excess of \$6,350. Personal income tax rates begin at 2 percent on the first \$1,000 of income and increase to a maximum of 8 percent on taxable income of \$7,000 or more. Arizona is one of the few states which allows credit on both corporation and personal state tax returns for federal taxes paid.

Sales Tax: Arizona has a 4 percent tax on the gross sales of retail establishments, utilities, theaters, hotels and storage companies.

Manufacturers who do not sell to the ultimate consumer are exempt from the sales tax. Transactions for resale are exempted. A direct sale by an Arizona manufacturer to an

out-of-state ultimate consumer is not taxable if the transaction is part of interstate commerce. (9)

Gila Bend has a 1 percent levy for city sales tax.

Unemployment Insurance Tax: Unemployment insurance rates range from 0.25% to 2.9% of the first \$4,200 of wages paid in the calendar year to each employee. New employers begin at a rate of 2.7%. The employer's rate is annually reevaluated, based on the employer's experience rating and the condition of the fund. A good experience rating may allow a rate below the standard minimum. The average rate of 1.5% is among the lowest in the nation. (9)

Workman's Compensation Insurance: The premium rate on Workman's Compensation has a wide range depending upon hazards involved in various occupations. Under state law, companies with payrolls which exceed \$1.5 million per year are permitted to be self-insured, subject to approval by the Industrial Commission. They must have assets in excess of \$500,000 and must post bond of \$200,000. The Arizona Industrial Commission's policy holders receive an annual dividend as reimbursement for over-accrual. The average Workman's Compensation rate is \$1.34 per \$100 and the maximum benefit paid is \$616 per month. (10)

Inventory Tax: There is no inventory tax in Arizona.

Schools

Gila Bend is served by School District #24. Enrollments for the current year are 509 for the elementary and 214 for the high school. This compares with 506 and 175 respectively five years ago.

Annual expenditures for the elementary and high schools were \$451,619 and \$251,498 this past fiscal year. In fiscal year 1970, the annual expenditures for the elementary school were \$307,470 and \$208,335 for the high school.

The district has an assessed valuation of \$5,120,000. The bonding indebtedness is \$29,166. (11)

Institutions of higher learning and technical schools are within a two-hour drive for those students desiring training beyond the high school level.

Arizona State University is located in Tempe and provides bachelor, master, and doctoral programs in a wide variety of academic disciplines. Five other Phoenix area institutions including College of Del Rey, DeVry Institute of Technology, Grand Canyon College, Southwestern College and Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management also offer programs of study leading to the bachelor degree. Thunderbird Graduate School also offers a master's degree in International Management.

An extensive Maricopa County Community College System composed of Glendale, Mesa and Scottsdale Community Colleges, Phoenix College, and Maricopa Technical College offers course work for day or evening students in college transfer or vocational education. (4)

Fire Department

The Town of Gila Bend has a National Board Class 8 insurance rating for industry and a 9 rating for all other sectors of the community. The adjacent area, covering six square miles, carries a class 9 rating also. Fire-fighting personnel consists of 22 volunteer firemen.

Fire-fighting equipment includes a 1949 750-gallon Seagraves pumper, a 1956 600-gallon Seagraves, Ford mounted, pumper, and a 1960 Beardman, Chevrolet Mounted, Beam High Pressure fog truck.

Mutual aid agreements are with the Gila Bend Air Base and the Buckeye Fire Department during emergency needs. All fire calls are dispatched through the town's police department. (6)

Police Department

The Gila Bend Area is well served by law enforcement personnel. In addition to the town's police department, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and the Arizona

Department of Public Safety have substations in Gila Bend. The Gila Bend Police Department has a staff of nine full-time and five reserve officers. The regular staff includes the chief, four patrolmen, and four dispatchers. The personnel will answer calls beyond the corporate limits at the request of other enforcement agencies. All search and rescue work is carried out through the county sheriff's office. The department has excellent cooperation with the local air base.

The department has two patrol cars, two base radios--one for state and one for local calls -- plus portable equipment for surveillance work. (6)

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Substation is staffed by nine deputies that provide service to the unincorporated area 20 miles north of the town and 40 miles east, west, and south to the county line.

A sheriff's posse of 50 members is used primarily for search and rescue. It is a multi-purpose group with horses, jeeps, airplane and boats available when needed. The sheriff's office has the responsibility of handling all civilian personnel accidents, crimes, etc. in the Gila Bend Gunnery Range and Station. (12)

The Department of Public Safety has one sergeant and nine patrolmen assigned to the Gila Bend Substation. The geographic area serviced includes 15 miles north of Gila Bend on U.S. 80, 20 miles south on U.S. 85, and from six miles east of Sentinel to the Pinal County line on Interstate 8. (13)

Water System

Gila Bend's water supply comes from three underground wells. All three are 12 inch wells with depths of 1,365, 1,530 and 1,710 feet. Three well and two booster pumps provide a flow of over 1000 gallons per minute. Presently, the storage is in one 350,000-gallon and one 10,000-gallon tanks. However, plans are being developed for test drilling for additional sources and the updating of the delivery system. The water system is municipally owned and services the corporate area plus the adjacent Indian community. Residential and commercial water rates are the same. There is a \$5.00 monthly charge per customer plus 39¢ per thousand gallons used. There are 424 residential, 94 commercial and nine industrial hookups in the service area. (6)

Sanitation

The Town of Gila Bend provides garbage collection services twice each week for residential areas and six times a week to commercial establishments. Rates are \$3.50 per month for residential but varies according to volume for commercial pickup.

The town dumps solid waste in a 10-acre sanitary landfill, four miles north of town on old U.S. 80 highway. The site is shared with Maricopa County with the county maintaining the site and the town providing financial support. The hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., five days per week.

Sewage treatment is by oxidation ponds. The system has a capacity of 2.7 million gallons per day. There are 280 residential and 70 commercial connections within the service area. Service beyond corporate lines is by septic tank. Sewer rates are \$2.50 per month for residential and \$3.50 per month plus 50¢ for each additional toilet for commercial establishments. (6)

Flood Control

There is no major flooding problem in the town, Improvement of the Bender and Sand Tank washes, east of the town, have been proposed but no work is being done presently. (14)

City Streets

The town has 12 miles of streets, of which 10 miles are paved. The remaining two miles are graded streets. Three and one-half miles were sealcoated in 1972 with an additional two miles completed in 1974. The town has an operating street department and street improvements are scheduled on a every-other-year basis. All 12 miles of the streets are lighted. (6)

Planning and Zoning

The town does have zoning ordinances administered by a seven member planning and zoning commission. Areas beyond the municipal limits are governed by the county which has its own zoning ordinances. Parts of the town are zoned for industrial purposes. Industrial building and/or site plans must be approved by the town council upon recommendations by the planning and zoning commission. (6)

Medical Facilities

Although Gila Bend does not have a hospital, total town effort has been expended to improve medical services to the community. In October, 1973, the Gila Bend Health and Emergency Services was incorporated to set up a health facility that will be conducive to meeting the requirements of practicing physicians. At the end of the 1974 calendar year, approximately \$13,000 have been raised by the people in the town and neighboring area. The eleven member board has not only received total support from the community but County, State and national medical and health organizations have cooperated in the endeavor. The result has been the acquisition of a new medical clinic to be erected in January, 1975. Presently those patients requiring hospital care are treated in the 33 bed hospital in Ajo, 45 miles south of Gila Bend or the 147 bed Maryvale Samaritan Hospital in west Phoenix. Indigent patients are sent to the 490 bed Maricopa County Hospital, a 69 mile drive from Gila Bend. There are eight

additional hospitals within the 69 mile range offering excellent surgical and treatment facilities plus 2,314 beds. Ambulance service is available through the Gila Bend Rescue Unit. The unit has two ambulances and 12 trained emergency medical technicians. Both ambulances are equipped with radios and have the capability of communicating directly with the Phoenix Hospital.
(15) (16)

The town has one doctor of Osteopathy that is in the community three times a week. There are three registered nurses in town plus a service trained medic stationed with the Department of Public Safety.

One physician and two public health nurses maintain a county health clinic each Wednesday for Well Baby Care, Immunizations and other minimal outpatient services. (17)

Library Services

A branch of the Maricopa County Library offers 900 volumes plus additional books, tapes and film strips through the county free library system. It operates a Summer Reading Program for Children through cooperation with the State library program.

Films are available to any group through the county program. The library is open 20 hours each week.

The town of Gila Bend funds the library for facilities and utilities while the county pays the salary of the librarian. (18)

Community Recreational Facilities

Gila Bend has two public parks -- a two acre and an eight acre park with playground and picnic area. It also provides a swimming pool and a recreational building. Organized activities include Little League Baseball and Women's softball. Recreational facilities within the schools are three tennis courts, two athletic fields and a gymnasium. (6)

There are numerous tourist and recreational facilities near Gila Bend, the most significant being Barrow Pit Lake and the Painted Rock Reservoir. Barrow Pit Lake lies approximately 20 miles northeast of town, offering overnight camping area, three remudas, boat ramp and portable rest rooms. No water facilities are available but garbage pickup is handled by the Corps of Engineers. Barrow Pit Lake is one mile long and one half mile wide offering good fishing for bass, bluegill, catfish and talipa. Painted Rock Reservoir is a 36 mile long lake when at capacity and offers fishing for bass and catfish. Presently, there are no boat ramps but plans are proposed for additional facilities in the coming months. Gila Bend is also in direct route to the Gulf of California, another water facility which attracts fishermen from throughout the United States. (19) (20)

Much of the community life centers around the school. In the absence of a local theater, the schools provide musical and dramatic offerings.

A nine hole private golf course, with sand greens, is located within a 15 minute drive of town. Miniature golf is available at a local mobile home park.

Housing

Existing housing in Gila Bend is considered inadequate. Local major employers have expressed the problem of maintaining a permanent labor force due to the lack of adequate permanent housing in the community. It is estimated that 40 to 50 additional houses are needed to meet the current housing needs. The 1970 census lists 597 total housing units with 431 of those as single family units. Two hundred seventy seven were renter occupied.

The only public housing program is administered by the Town of Gila Bend. Information about the project is shown in Table 9.

Table 9
 Gila Bend Housing Project*
 January 1, 1975 (6)

No. of Apts.	Size	Monthly Rent	Apt. Rental
18	No bedroom	\$ 55.00	6
17	One bedroom	67.00	7
18	Two bedroom	75.00	18
5	Three bedroom	85.00	5
1	Four bedroom	100.00	1

*One complete unit and four other apartments are used for storage. Three additional apartments are non-rentable units.

The tenants consist of approximately 50 per cent Mexican-American; 25 per cent white; 20 per cent Indian, and five per cent black.

Privately owned apartments and houses rent from \$75 to \$125 per month.

Over the past five years, the town has issued building permits for 21 new residences and 22 remodeling or add-ons to existing dwellings. Eighteen of these new residential permits were issued during the years of 1971 through 1973. Although there are 75 to 100 lots available, with water and sewer lines for hookup, present housing starts are slow due to the high cost of financing. (23)

Typical construction and land cost are as follows:

Typical lot size	-	7,800 to 8,800
Typical lot price	-	\$1,000 to \$3,000
Type of construction-		frame or block
Cost per square foot-		\$16 to \$20 excluding patio, carport or garage

A master development plan has been developed for approximately 1250 acres adjacent to the north Gila Bend boundary. The general concept calls for the creation of a community for a diversified market, including retirees, Air Force personnel, attached to the local installations, vacation or "second-home" buyers, and new arrivals in the community.

Over one-half or 655 acres of the total land area has been set aside for single family dwellings, 70 acres designated for multi-family dwellings and 59 acres set aside for mobile home parks. Presently, the project is being delayed due to high financing cost. (24)

Mobile Home Parks

There are two mobile home parks offering a total of 160 spaces. Of these, 39 spaces are for overnight parking. Both parks offer total services, including laundromats. In addition, one park has a recreation room, meeting room, kitchen facilities and planned activity.

Hotels and Motels

There are nine motels and one hotel with 279 rooms, which will accommodate 820 people, in Gila Bend. Various accommodations and facilities are available from kitchenettes and apartments to bar-b-que pit and basketball court. Convention facilities are available in one motel to a capacity of 100 people.

Commercial Sales and Services

Gila Bend's economy is based primarily on agriculture and tourism. These require a number of service type businesses as exhibited in Table 10.

Table 10
Businesses in Gila Bend, Arizona
December, 1974

Type of Business	Number	Type of Business	Number
Appliance	1	Furniture	1
Auto Dealer	1	Gas Station	17
Auto Repair	2	General Merchandise	1
Auto Supply	2	Hardware	2
Barber	1	Laundromat	2
Beauty Parlor	3	Plumbing and Heating	1
Car Washes	1	Restaurants	6
Clothing Store	2	Repair Service	1
Drive-In (Food)	4	Tavern	2
Food Store	6	Wholesaler	1

Professional Services

Like many other rural communities, Gila Bend has a limited number of non-medical professional services available; specifically one income tax office, one realty office, and two insurance agents.

Financial Institutions

A branch office of the Valley National Bank provides the town with complete banking services.

Construction Services

There is one general contractor in Gila Bend.

Publications

One newspaper -- Gila Bend Herald -- serves the area which is published weekly and circulated on Wednesday. It has a circulation of over 1000 and is mailed across the United States. Approximately 50 percent of its circulation is mailed to out of town subscribers. (21)

Radio/TV Stations

Gila Bend has a wide variety of radio fare through the many radio stations covering the Salt River Valley. More than 30 AM, FM and FM stereo stations provide classical, country, and contemporary music, as well as news, weather, and sports information in two languages, Spanish and English.

Five VHF TV stations are available from Phoenix. Channels 3 (ABC), 10 (CBS), and 12 (NBC) are national network stations. Channel 5 is a private station while Channel 8 is a local public broadcasting network station which originates from Arizona State University. The area also has one UHF station broadcasting on Channel 21. (4)

Churches

Seven active churches are in Gila Bend namely, Church of Christ, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Epiphany-on-the-Desert Episcopal Church, First Assembly of God, First Baptist, Mt. Zion Baptist, and St. Michael's Catholic Church. (19)

Community Organizations

Gila Bend is served by a number of service, civic, business, and educational organizations such as: (19)

- Business and Professional Women's Club
- Chamber of Commerce
- Club Latino
- Damas Latinas
- Elk's Club
- Lady Elks
- Lion's Club
- Masonic Lodge
- Rotary Club
- Sportsmen's Club
- Star Club
- Teen Club
- Women's Club

IV UTILITIES

Electricity

Electric power is supplied to the area by the Arizona Public Service Company. Geographic service boundaries are from Gila Bend to Dateland, and Horn to Ajo. Demand for electrical services have increased over the past four years. The number and type of customer serviced are as follows: (25)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Industrial</u>
1974	1656	575	25
1973	1642	559	25
1972	1607	472	22
1971	1430	436	23

Natural Gas

Natural Gas is furnished by the Arizona Public Service Company, covering the same geographic boundaries as the electrical service. The number and type of customer serviced are as follows: (25)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Industrial</u>
1974	1264	184	5
1973	1270	193	5
1972	1251	199	5
1971	1082	197	5

Communications

Telephone service is provided by Mountain Bell Telephone. The present service includes 43 trunk tolls, both in and out, with 1,257 working telephones. The system has the capability of servicing 900 lines but only 800 telephone numbers. (26)

Telegraph service is provided by Western Union with Birchfield Park serving as local agent. Service is offered between the hours of 9:00 to 6:00, Monday through Friday; and 9:00 to 12:00 on Saturday. Emergency service is available all hours. After hour service is through a toll-free number in Phoenix. (27)

V. MANPOWER RESOURCES

Labor Analysis

In a labor survey conducted by the University of Arizona Community Development Specialist, Gila Bend Town Council and Chamber of Commerce, a questionnaire was sent to each post office box in the town. Of 759 questionnaires delivered, 214 or 28.2 percent were returned for compilation.

Table 11

Population and Labor Data Based on
Mailed-Out Survey, Gila Bend Area
November, 1974 ()

	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Estimated Population						2488
Working full time	23.19	577	12.80	318	35.99	895
Working part time	2.71	67	4.82	120	7.53	187
Unemployed	2.41	60	5.57	139	7.98	199
Retired	2.71	67	1.81	45	4.52	112
Disabled	1.36	34	0.60	15	1.96	49
Looking for full time work	1.51	38	1.96	49	3.47	87
Looking for part time work	0.30	7	1.36	34	1.66	41

The labor force is defined as those people presently employed and those people unemployed, both male and female, that are actively seeking employment. From Table 11, there are approximately 1400 people in the Gila Bend area that belong to the labor force.

Sixty three percent of the people are home or mobile home owners. Eight percent of those responding have a college degree, 15 percent have some college credit and 28 percent are high school graduates.

Table 12

Percent of Employment by Industry, Gila Bend Area
November, 1974

Industry	Full-time		Total	Part-time		
	Male	Female		Male	Female	Total
Manufacturing	1.22	0.82	2.04	----	----	----
Building and Construction	4.90	----	4.90	4.55	----	4.55
Transportation	2.45	----	2.45	----	----	----
Public Utilities	2.86	0.41	3.27	----	----	----
Communications	----	0.41	0.41	----	3.03	3.03
Wholesale Retail	13.88	4.49	18.37	22.73	7.58	30.31
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1.22	1.22	2.44	----	3.03	3.03
Non-professional Services	6.12	8.57	14.69	6.06	22.73	28.79
Government	18.78	4.08	22.86	----	7.58	7.58
Agriculture	10.61	1.63	12.24	10.61	----	10.61
Professional Services	6.12	10.20	16.32	----	12.12	12.12

As shown in the above Table 12, government is the largest employer for the area. The question may be asked, "With a manufacturing firm such as the Walled Lake Door Company, should not there be a higher percentage in manufacturing?" The reason for this is that many live in Ajo and neighboring communities but work in Gila Bend.

The local military base has a 50 percent turnover in civilian employees due to the lack of community amenities, mainly good housing. The desire for a better labor market was emphasized by both of the above mentioned employers.

VI INDUSTRIES

Agriculture

Agricultural production dates back to the Hohokam Indians.

In 1699, the Spanish Jesuit Missionary, Padre Francisco Kino,

found the Maricopa's raising two crops of grain annually by irrigation. Therefore, with the development of modern day equipment and technology, it is to be expected that agriculture would continue to flourish in the area. The grains are second only to cotton in acreage and total value.

The total value of crops produced this past year was over \$23.5 million. Table 13 shows the diversity of crop production in the area.

Table 13
Acreage and Value of Crop by Commodity
Gila Bend, Arizona*

Crop	Acreage	Value of Crop
Alfalfa	5,711	\$ 1,978,861
Alfalfa Seed	200	50,204
Barley	987	170,988
Wheat	13,832	3,458,000
Milo	730	145,503
Sugar Beets	300	129,600
Cotton	28,640	14,176,800
Cottonseed		3,150,400
Citrus**	800	120,000
Grapes**	200	160,000
Total	51,400	23,540,366

*Estimation is based on sampling of 29,690 acres in the area.

** Data provided by Lowell True, Agricultural Agent, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service.

Warm winter and year around dryness has encouraged the feeding of beef animals in the area. This past year, the beef industry has an estimated gross sales of \$2,709,000. (22) In addition to agricultural production value, agriculture provides many jobs for the area. The annual payroll each year is between \$1.5 million and \$2 million.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing provides employment for 100 people and an annual payroll of \$750,000. The Walled Lake Door Company, producer of cut stock for doors, is the largest employer with 95 people. This past year 14,827,000 feet of lumber was processed through the 52,500 square foot plant. The plant's product is shipped all over the United States. (28)

Gila Ready Mix is a locally owned operation producing sand, gravel and concrete mix materials. Its market area is within a 15 mile radius of Gila Bend. The raw materials are mined from the Gila River. (29)

Major Government Installations

The annual payroll for the seven governmental installations is \$1,431,813. An additional \$165,353 was for operational expenditures. Since only three of the reporting agencies

were able to determine operational cost for the local installation, one has to assume that thousands of additional dollars are spent by the remaining four governmental agencies.

The largest governmental employer is the Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field. It consists of 181 military and 94 civilian positions for an aggregate total of 275 positions. Additionally, there are some 251 military dependents. At the present time there are 38 housing units on the base and ten military mobile homes occupied by military families. Twelve privately owned (by military personnel) mobile homes are also located on the base. During the past year, 22 additional houses were moved from the Ajo radar site to the Gila Bend Base. After extensive renovation, these units will be assigned to military personnel. Eight additional mobile homes were also sited on the base during the past year for military occupancy. Thus 60 military housing units, 18 military and 12 privately owned mobile homes will ultimately make up the base housing facilities. Programs to upgrade facilities are continually initiated in such areas as the base water system, recreational and operational complexes. The civilian employment by the base requires skills in the building trades, mechanics, cooks, equipment operators, supply specialists, firefighters and managerial positions. (30)

The base also has emergency personnel and equipment for both fire and medical needs.

The two remaining federal installations are the Corps of Engineers and the Immigration Service. Each presently employs three people but the local Immigration station is expecting to increase its local Staff to a total of six within the next year. (31) (32)

The two state agencies operating in the area are the Department of Public Safety and the State Highway Department. They employ a combined total of 25 people. The State Highway Maintenance Yard is a 15 manpower operation. It covers a geographic area from Dateland to the west to the Pinal County line to the east. Northern and southern boundaries are the junction of I-10, near Buckeye, to the Pima County line respectively. (13) (33)

The county agencies employ a total of 11 people -- eight sheriff's deputies and three county highway personnel. The county highway personnel maintain the county roads and sanitary landfill for the area. (12) (34)

Tourism

Although Gila Bend is not blessed with the natural phenomenon of a Grand Canyon, it is rich in history as evidenced by the following: (35)

Historic Sites Within a Fifty Mile Radius of Gila Bend

MARICOPA COUNTY

Aqua Caliente. 12 miles NW of Sentinel. Prehistoric to present. Hot springs resort. Private.

Burkes Station Site. Aqua Caliente vicinity. 1858. Butterfield Overland Stage Station site.

Desert Station. St. John's Mission vicinity. 1858. Water for this stage station had to be hauled twenty miles.

Double Roof Building. Gila Bend. Ca. 1920. Unusual double roof for better insulation.

Fortaleza. Gila Bend vicinity. 13th and 14th centuries. Classic period Hohokam fortified site. Excavated by Arizona State Museum. Indian trust. NR.

William Fourn Family Graveyard. Approximately 5 miles W of Painted Rocks State Historic Park near Gila Bend. 19th century. Early farm family. Private.

William Fourn Ranch House. Approximately 5 miles W of Painted Rocks State Historic Park near Gila Bend. 1869. Adobe ruins. Private.

Gatlin Site. Gila Bend vicinity. 900-1150 A.D. Hohokam site including irrigation canal and two ball courts. Excavated by Arizona State Museum. Multiple state and private. NR.

Gila Trail, East Mesa Crossing of Dendora Valley. 5 miles W of Painted Rocks. Prehistoric to present. Multiple private and state.

Gila Trail, West Mesa Crossing of Dendora Valley. 6 miles W of Painted Rocks. Prehistoric to present. Multiple private and state.

Guadalupe. S of Phoenix. 1907. One of two major Yaqui villages in Arizona. Established by Yaqui refugees from Mexican oppression. Private.

Hohokam-Pima Irrigation Sites. Phoenix area. Extensive prehistoric canal system. Multiple municipal, private, and Indian trust. NR.

Oatman Flat. 5-6 miles W of Painted Rocks State Prehistoric Park. 1851. Site of Oatman massacre and burial.

Painted Rocks State Historic Park. Gila Bend vicinity. Prehistoric petroglyphs. Landmark. State.

Tierra Verde. Litchfield Park. 1960s. Planned community, one of twelve in the old Litchfield area. Private.

YUMA COUNTY

Camino del Diablo. Road to Yuma from Sonora. 17th and 18th centuries. Route established by Father Kino. Multiple federal, state, Indian trust, and private.

Eagle Tail Mountains Archaeological Site. Eastern Yuma County. Important untouched prehistoric site. Ruins and petroglyphs. Federal.

Sears Point Petroglyphs. Sears Point. Over 2000 petroglyphs pecked in basaltic rock. Multiple state and private.

PIMA COUNTY

New Cornelia Mine. Ajo. 1750 to present. Rich silver copper deposits. Reputed to be Arizona's oldest copper mine. Private.

PINAL COUNTY

Bah Ki (Baaki). Casa Blanca Ruin vicinity, Gila River Indian Reservation. Pima agricultural community. Butterfield Stage Station 1858. Early steam flour mill. Indian trust.

Casa Blanca Ruins. Gila River Indian Reservation. Hohokam ruins. Indian trust.

Gila River Indian Reservation. 1859. First Indian reservation in Arizona. 1871. First Indian school in Arizona. Indian trust.

Haley Hills Archaeological Site. 35 miles S of Phoenix. Prehistoric Desert Hohokam site. Petroglyphs and food preparation area. Federal.

Maricopa Wells Site. St. John's Mission vicinity. 1858. Butterfield Overland Stage Station site. Site visited by Spanish in 17th and 18th centuries. Indian trust.

Peralta Grant Monumental Rock. Montezuma's Head vicinity Estrella Mountains. 1883-1895. Petroglyph presented as "evidence" in spectacular land grant fraud. Indian trust.

Industrial Development

The Papago-Bend Development Commission, which was organized in January 9, 1968, is comprised of representatives of the Gila Bend Council, Sells Papago Indian Agency, the San Lucy Indian Village., the Natural Resource and Conservation District, and other interested groups. The purpose of the organization is to develop the area's potential in agriculture, recreation, housing and industrial development. The commission meets once each month with the meetings open to the public. (19)

VII. TRANSPORTATION

Rail Service

Rail transportation to Gila Bend is provided by the Southern Pacific Company. There are two trains daily east and west with one train for freight drop and one for freight pickup. Each night Gila Bend becomes an active switching station since the local station is also the terminal for the Ajo Railroad. The freight service is in carload lots (less than carload lots is handled by motor freight) with the shipper having the loading responsibilities.

Passenger service is limited to the run between Gila Bend and Ajo. The Ajo train arrives in Gila Bend at 8:30 in the morning with the departure an hour later. This passenger service is primarily for scenic and tourist trips. (36)

Table 14

Railway Transit Time from
Gila Bend, Arizona to:

Town	Delivery Time (days)	Town	Delivery Time (days)
Baltimore	6	New York	10
Chicago	5	Phoenix	2
Dallas	4	San Diego	2
Denver	4	Seattle	8
Los Angeles	2	St. Louis	4
New Orleans	5	Tucson	1

Motor Freight

Three trucking firms provide the Gila Bend area with service to all major points. The firms providing service to the area are: O-N-C Freight Systems, Pacific Motor Trucking Company, and United Parcel Service.

A local commission agent handles all local service for O-N-C Freight Systems, servicing an area within a 25-mile radius of town. Pacific Motor Trucking operates within a geographic area of three miles on either side of the Southern Pacific tracks. United Parcel Service handles freight in less than 50 pound deliveries. All companies offer daily service, Monday through Friday. (37)

Table 15

Truck Transit Time from
Gila Bend, Arizona to:

Town	Delivery Time (days)	Town	Delivery Time (days)
Baltimore	10	New York	10
Chicago	10	Phoenix	Overnight
Dallas	5	San Diego	2
Denver	5	Seattle	10
Los Angeles	2	St. Louis	8
New Orleans	10	Tucson	Overnight

Bus Systems

Three bus companies provide transportation and freight services daily to Gila Bend. The Greyhound Company has three east-west buses through Tucson and two east-west buses through Phoenix daily. The Continental Company has three east-west buses through Tucson daily. Both companies have intrastate and interstate services.

Arizona Bus Lines has two north-south buses offering service between Phoenix and Ajo. (27)

Highway Systems

Gila Bend is on the direct route between Southern California and Arizona's two major cities of Phoenix and Tucson. It is also one of the major routes to Mexico and the Gulf of California.

Table 16

Average 24-Hour Traffic for Gila Bend
1969 through 1974 (3)

Highway(s)	Location	Total Number of Vehicles					
		1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
I-8 (80)	Sentinel to west city limits	5310	5576	6174	6821	6577	4700*
I-8 (80)	Average through town	6549	6687	7459	8561	5600	4000*
I-8 (84)	South city limits to Pinal County Line	3695	4013	4337	3701	3686	4400*
80	Jct. I-8 (84) north-east city limits.	2259	2856	3121	3383	3070	3400**
80	Northeast city limits and Hazen Rd	2582	2904	3174	3440	5104	4500**
85	Jct. I-8(80) South city limits	999	1056	1171	940	1910	1400**
85	South city limits to Pima County line	541	542	624	879	999	850**

*October, 1974 count.

**April, 1974 count.

Table 17

Average 24-hour Traffic for Gila Bend
1969 through 1973 (3)

Highway(s)	Location	Number of Out-of-State Vehicles				
		1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
I-8 (80)	Sentinel to west city limits	2080	2039	2408	2578	3150
I-8 (80)	Average through town	2642	2458	2659	3236	2141
I-8 (84)	South city limits to Pinal County line	1811	1825	1959	1980	1766
80	Jct. I-8 (80) North-east city limits.	545	613	670	653	985
80	Northeast city limits and Hazen Rd.	545	613	670	664	1638
85	Jct. I-8 (80) South city limits	192	193	222	100	311
85	South city limits to Pima County line	192	193	222	93	163

Air Service

The Gila Bend Municipal Airport is located two miles northeast of town on U. S. Highway 80. The airport has one lighted, asphalt runway that is 2,600 feet in length. The town is planning on extending the present runway to a length of 4,000 feet. Two hangars are to be completed within six months. This will allow a total of 15 tie-downs.

Presently, the facilities have UNICOM, rotary beacon and V.O.R. directional equipment. An instructor with instrument rating, minor repairs, gasoline and a 24-hour attendant is also available at the airport. At the present time, a gift shop is located in the terminal. However, with the completion of the improvements, a coffee shop and snack bar will open in the terminal. (38)

Commercial air service is available through the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. International service to Mexico from Phoenix is supplied by two airlines. Seven additional airlines provide passenger and freight service domestically with connections to international flights at numerous destinations. Four airlines provide freight service only. (4)

REFERENCES

- (1) Bud Conrad
- (2) Maudie Wampler
- (3) Arizona Highway Department
- (4) Hohokam Resources Conservation and Development Plan of Action in Arizona, 1973
- (5) General Soils Map, Maricopa County, U.S. Soil Conservation Service
- (6) Town of Gila Bend
- (7) U.S. Bureau of Census
- (8) Arizona Tax Research Association
- (9) Arizona State Tax Commission
- (10) Arizona State Compensation Fund
- (11) Gila Bend School District #24, Dr. David Salopez, Supt.
- (12) Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Capt. Hanna
- (13) Arizona Department of Public Safety, Robert Davis, Staff Assistant
- (14) Maricopa County Flood Control Office
- (15) Gila Bend Health and Emergency Service, Inc., Tom Rich, Treasurer
- (16) Arizona Hospital Association
- (17) Maricopa County Community Action Agency, Abe Harris, Adult Services
- (18) Liz Ethredge, Librarian, Maricopa County Library
- (19) Gila Bend Chamber of Commerce
- (20) John Laird
- (21) Gila Bend Herald, Janice Haynes, Local Editor
- (22) Arizona Cattle Feeders' Association, Henry Kibler, Executive Vice President
- (23) Jimmy Sellers, Local Contractor
- (24) William H. O'Brien and Richard R. McGrew
- (25) Arizona Public Service Company, John McNelis, Manager
- (26) Mountain Bell Telephone, Bill Stotz, Regional Manager
- (27) Glen Birchfield
- (28) Walled Lake Door Company, John Richards, Superintendent
- (29) Gila Ready Mix, James Robertson, Owner
- (30) Paul J. Milian, Lt. Col. USAF, Base Commander
- (31) Corps of Engineers
- (32) U.S. Immigration Service, James Rap
- (33) Arizona Highway Department, Orley Dollar, District Manager
- (34) Maricopa County Highway Department, Al DeChazzo
- (35) Arizona State Parks Service
- (36) Southern Pacific Company, John Amabisca, Dispatcher
- (37) Dick Ballos
- (38) Joe Mazza, Airport Manager