

# COMMUNITY PROFILE 2007

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The Mayor and Council have demonstrated a strong commitment to the economic vitality of the community.

### *Policy Statement*

*“to become the city with the lowest unemployment rate and highest per capita wages in the United States.”*

**Mayor John Cook**

**Ann Morgan Lilly—District 1**

**Susie Byrd—District 2**

**Alexandro Lozano—District 3**

**Melina Castro—District 4**

**Presi Ortega—District 5**

**Eddie Holguin—District 6**

**Steve Ortega—District 7**

**Beto O-Rourke—District 8**

**City Manager**

**Joyce Wilson**

*City of El Paso, Texas  
Expect the Unexpected*

**2 Civic Center Plaza, 1st Floor**

**El Paso, TX 79901**

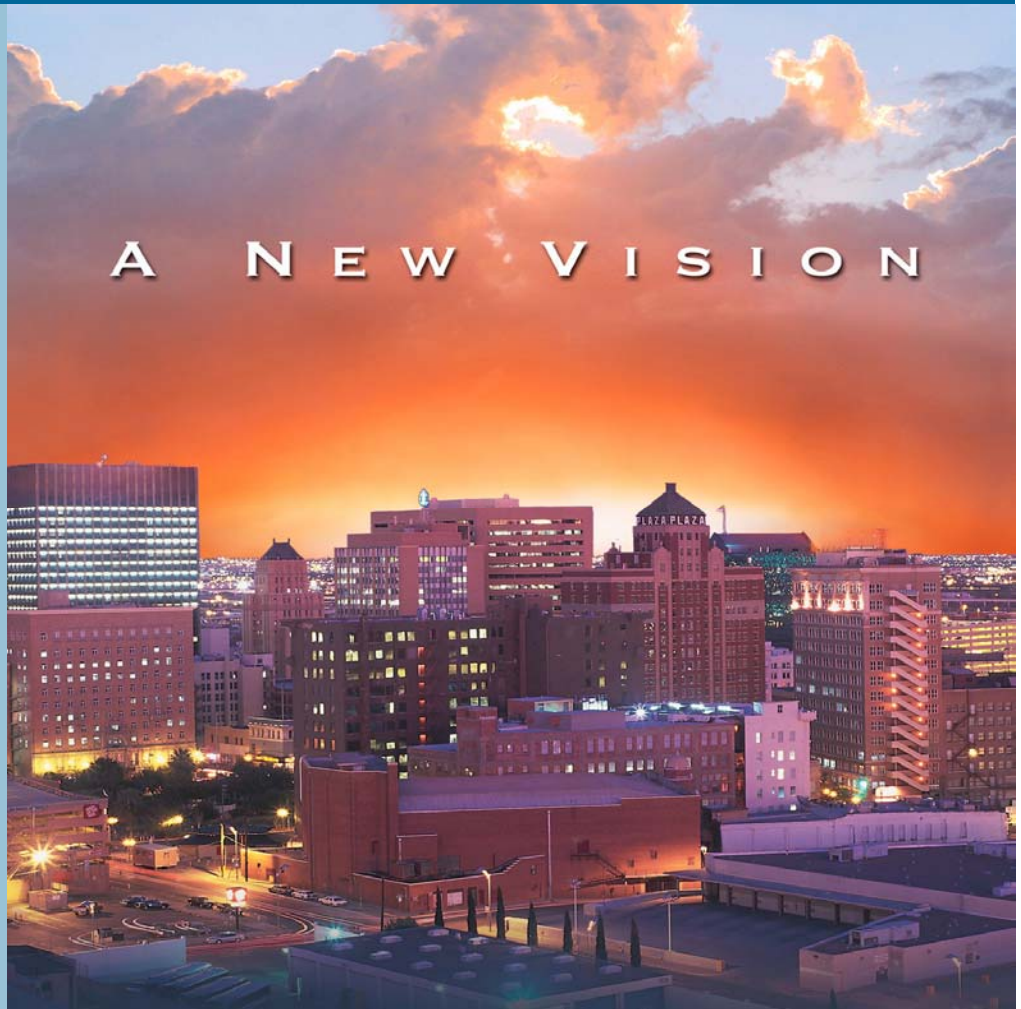
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Economic Development is the cornerstone of the community's economic vitality. The Office of Economic Development is charged with providing a program of support to help grow and preserve the local business base and act as a portal of information and technical assistance for new businesses.

The City of El Paso is a progressive community with all of the tools and advantages in place to meet the needs of business. Its people provide a strong workforce, the backbone of any organization. Educational opportunities, well planned infrastructure, advanced transportation networks, proximity to Juarez, Mexico, and an attitude that “welcomes” new employment opportunities make for a community with quality of place and work .

# El Paso, Texas—Community Profile 2007

## POPULATION

City of El Paso 592,099  
 El Paso County 713,126  
 Source: 2004 American Community Survey  
 U.S. Census Bureau

### Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic 17%  
 Hispanic 78%  
 African American 2.7%  
 Asian 1%  
 American Indian 0.3%  
 Source: U. S. Census Bureau—2000

## WORKFORCE

Civilian Labor Force 295,400  
 Employment 275,700  
 Unemployment 19,700  
 Unemployment Rate 6.7%  
 Source: Texas Labor Market Review Jan 2007

### Wages (El Paso MSA) Avg. Annual Salary

Administrative Assistants	\$27,074
Receptionists	19,719
Human Resources Dir	56,999
Production Supervisors	45,333
Accountants	36,953
Electronics Technician I	26,389
Lab Technician	30,527
Fork Lift Operators	23,893
Machinists	27,664
Quality Control Inspector	24,873
Warehouse Operators	16,679
Welders	28,985
Computer Operators	21,893
Network Systems Admin	39,603

Source: Wadley Donovan 2005 Labor Market Study



## UNIONS

Texas is a right to work state.

## EDUCATION

Population 25 years and over  
 High School or higher: 68.6%  
 Bachelor's Degree or Higher: 18.3%  
 Graduate or Professional Degree: 6.2%

### K-12

9 school districts  
 4 serve the City of El Paso  
     El Paso Independent School District  
     Socorro Independent School District  
     Ysleta Independent School District  
     Canutillo School District  
 94 private schools



## EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Multi-campused district offering a full venue of educational opportunities, workforce and career development programs and entrepreneurial advisory services.

### Enrollment

35,287 credit students  
 1,1307 Associate Degrees Awarded  
 326 Certificates  
 Source: EPCC Office of Institutional Research  
 2005-2006

Fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools



## University of Texas El Paso

\*Second in the nation in awarding bachelor's degrees to Hispanics

\*Engineering School named the top engineering school in America for Hispanics

### Enrollment 2005

18,918

### Six academic colleges:

Business administration  
 Education  
 Engineering  
 Health Sciences  
 Liberal Arts and Sciences  
 Science



UTEP ranks 5th in total Federal/State R & D Dollars generated FY 2004.

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2004

## NM STATE NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY



Located 30 minutes from downtown El Paso, New Mexico State University offers additional educational opportunities and has a student population of 16,072.

## TRANSPORTATION

### El Paso International Airport

5 miles from downtown  
 7 airlines serve El Paso with 71 flights including service to 8 of the nation's ten largest air hubs



Total passengers served (2005) 3,371,446  
 (7/2006) 1,996,432

Air Cargo complex with 288,000 sq. ft. of space under roof and is the largest, most modern facility along the U.S.—Mexico border.

## El Paso, Texas - Community Profile 2007

### Major Highways

I-10 corridor coast to coast and I-25 north into New Mexico; 5 international bridges facilitate U. S.—Mexico commerce

### Trucking Services

66 trucking firms with terminal facilities provide ground freight transportation

### Rail

Union Pacific Railroad  
Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railway  
Ferromex



Provides service to U. S. and Mexico markets

### Bus

Greyhound serves passengers from its terminal downtown

## UTILITIES

### El Paso Electric



El Paso Electric Company generates & distributes electricity through an interconnected system to approx. 330,000 customers in the Rio Grande Valley in West Texas and Southern New Mexico. Power is generated using gas, coal and nuclear energy. Rates are fixed for 5 years.

### Texas Gas Service



Serves approximately 550,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Texas. The firm's largest service areas are Austin, El Paso and the Rio Grande Valley.

### El Paso Water Utilities—Public Service Board



Water supplies for the City of El Paso are ground water from the Hueco and Mesilla Basins and surface water from the Rio Grande. Reclaimed water augments current water resources.

### Telecommunications

The city is strategically located on all of the major digital networks with all the major long distance carriers having at least one point-of-presence (POP) or direct access to the backbone of the Internet. El Paso is a major telecommunications hub into Mexico.

## TAXES

### Personal Income Tax

None

### Property Tax

The City of El Paso collects property taxes on behalf of all the 26 units of government that levy a tax within El Paso County. They are one of few large urban offices in Texas fully consolidated for purposes of property tax collection. Property tax bills are based upon the total rate per \$100 of assessed value—[www.elpasotexas.gov](http://www.elpasotexas.gov).

### Sales and Use Taxes

State	6.25%
City	1.00%
County	0.50%
Transit	0.50%

### Franchise Tax

All corporations that do business in Texas are subject to a franchise tax. Tax is measured by net taxable capital and net taxable earned surplus apportioned to Texas. Tax is .25% or \$2.50 per \$1,000 of net taxable capital. Fiscal year 2006 is last taxable year, payable in 2007.

### Worker's Compensation

An employer's liability for a worker's injury is reduced with worker's compensation either through self-insurance or coverage from a private insurance carrier.

## COST OF LIVING

Albuquerque	99.6
Indianapolis	97.6
Charlotte	92.7
<b>El Paso</b>	<b>93.7</b>
Cincinnati	91.9
Las Cruces	102.4
Colorado Springs	95.4
Tucson	99.8

Source: ACCRA 4th Qtr 2006

## CLIMATE

Elevation	3,927'
Average High	77.1 F
Average Low	52.1 F
Rainfall	9.43

Source: NOAA National Weather Service forecast Office.

## REAL ESTATE

Land is available for development in and around Greater El Paso. In addition to land development opportunities, there are existing industrial and office parks offering lease arrangements for quality tenants.



## El Paso, Texas - Community Profile 2007

### FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE Nº 68 El Paso International Airport

FTZ No. 68 is located at the El Paso International Airport and is the 5th largest general purpose zone in the nation based on dollar volume. The FTZ consists of the original airport zone and 20 offsite sub-zones representing 3,003 acres on the Eastside, Central, Northeast and Lower Valley areas of the city and county.

### FT. BLISS

A U. S. Army training and doctrine Command installation on 1.12 million acres of land in Texas and New Mexico. The main cantonment area is located adjacent to El Paso and also includes McGregor Range and Dona Ana Range in New Mexico and Southern training areas in Texas. It is the second largest army post and is the only troop training installation in the U. S. capable of supporting long-range overland missile firings.

This facility currently supports 16,000 permanent military and another 65,500 family members and 7,500 civilian workers. The base is expected to expand by another 8,000 permanent troops over the next 2 years as a part of a BRAC expansion program of 11,395 and 46,648 family members. Source: Ft. Bliss Public Affairs Mar 06 and BRAC US DOD website.

### DISTANCE TO MAJOR CITIES

Atlanta	1,418 miles	Boston	2,431
Chicago	1,495	Dallas	645
Denver	713	Los Angeles	816
New York	2,215	Phoenix	430
Portland	1,801	Salt Lake City	873
San Diego	728	Tucson	320
Guadalajara	925	Mexico City	1,125

### MEXICO

Juarez, El Paso's neighbor to the south, is located in the state of Chihuahua in Mexico and is the geographic mid-point along the U. S.—Mexico border.

Transportation infrastructure links the two areas together as well as a thriving Maquiladora manufacturing industry. 43,000 private vehicles, 25,000 pedestrians and 3,500 commercial trucks cross the border into El Paso daily. El Paso-Juarez is linked with 5 international bridges and approximately 1 million carriers, transporting goods from as far south as Chile to the U. S. and Canada, enter through these crossings. The FAST (Free and Secure Trade) program uses technology at 2 of the 5 international bridges to facilitate the smooth crossing of commercial goods.

Juarez is the largest production-sharing center in North America with over 340 facilities employing more than 230,000 workers.

### MAJOR PRIVATE EMPLOYERS

Sierra Providence Health Network  
Wal-Mart  
Echostar Satellite Corp.  
Las Palmas & Del Sol Regional Healthcare System  
MCI Services  
Sahara, Inc.  
West Teleservices Corp.  
Big 8 Foods  
Del Sol Medical Center  
El Paso Healthcare Systems

### QUALITY OF LIFE

*Public Libraries*—El Paso Public Library boasts 12 state of the art facilities, one bookmobile and one Literacy center. The Library's nationally recognized children's literacy festival is one of the largest in the nation and has given away more than 150,000 books to children.  
[www.elpasolibrary.org](http://www.elpasolibrary.org)

*El Paso Zoo*—12 acres of exhibits and more than 240 species of animals, many on the endangered species list. The facility is expanding to 36 acres with a new reptile house, African exhibits including giraffes & zebras and an El Paso Water Discovery Center. [www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org)

*Parks and Recreation*—There are over 185 neighborhood community and regional parks consisting of over 2,000 acres of grass and landscaped areas. It operates 15 Recreation Centers and 9 Senior Centers. There are 9 indoor and 5 outdoor city operated swimming pools offering year round swim sports. [www.elpasotexas.gov](http://www.elpasotexas.gov)

*Museums and Cultural Affairs*—El Paso is one of the largest centers for art and culture in the Southwest. It is home to the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, El Paso Pro Musica, Chamber Music and the El Paso Opera. It also provides several downtown performing arts venues including the Abraham Chavez Theatre and the newly restored, historic Plaza Theatre, both of which present many local, regional and touring productions including an annual Broadway series.

El Paso provides three municipally owned and operated museums: The El Paso Museum of Art, the El Paso Museum of Archaeology and the El Paso Museum of History.

The annual Music Under the Stars summer concert series at the Chamizal National Park draws over 100,000 people annually to enjoy free outdoor music concerts featuring quality performers. [www.elpastotexas.gov](http://www.elpastotexas.gov)

### RECREATION

El Paso offers diverse opportunities for the outdoor enthusiast such as: several golf course, rock climbing, hiking snow sports at nearby Ruidoso, bicycling and collegiate sports and more.