

## Southwest Valley growing 3 times faster than Maricopa County

by [Elias C. Arnold](#) - Jan. 6, 2009 09:16 AM  
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New Arizona population estimates show the [Southwest Valley](#) has grown more than three times as fast as all of Maricopa County in recent years.

The area grew 30.4 percent since a mid-decade census in 2005, compared with 7.8 percent for the entire county, according to Arizona Department of Commerce figures released in December.

The growth could mean increased state-shared revenues for Southwest [Valley cities](#) based on the upcoming 2010 census.

Counting every resident is important "because the higher our population, the more dollars we receive from state-shared revenues," [Goodyear](#) spokeswoman Nora Fascenelli said.

The census determines Arizona cities' allocation of state income tax, sales tax and vehicle-license taxes. That allotment, based on population, is a "key" part of Goodyear's budget, according to city Finance Director Larry Lange.

"It is a pretty large source of our general fund," he said.

Goodyear's state-shared revenues make up 17 percent of the city's 2008-09 budget - the largest revenue source after local sales taxes.

Goodyear has nearly 60,000 residents. It takes in about \$1,240 in taxes and fees for each resident. Of that, about \$214 comes from state-shared revenues.

The U.S. Census Bureau expects to hire several thousand workers for field positions countywide.

In Goodyear, the first round of testing begins this week, but applicants must call the bureau to arrange to be tested.

Goodyear is the second-largest Southwest Valley city, after [Avondale](#). Locally, only Buckeye grew faster than Goodyear between 2005 and 2008.

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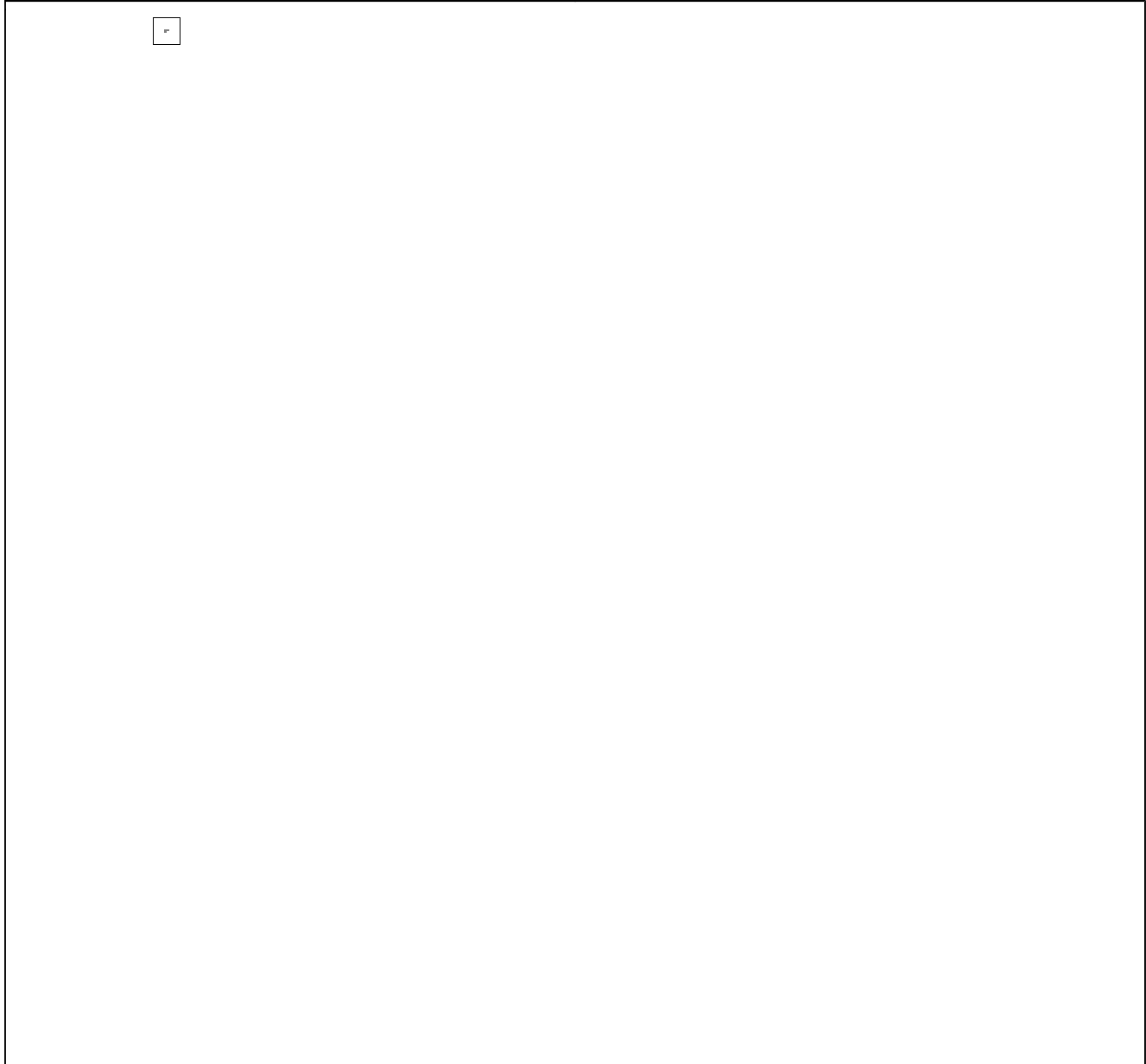
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