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For Immediate Release

2009 ECONOMIC INDICATORS and REGIONAL INITIATIVES REPORT RELEASED
Latest report for Arizona-Sonora region completed

PHOENIX—With the help of the Arizona-Mexico Commission (AMC); Comisión Sonora-Arizona (CSA); Office of the Governor for Arizona and Sonora; Sonora’s Department of Economy; and, the University of Arizona, the 2009 Economic Indicators and Regional Initiatives Report for the Arizona-Sonora region was released to the public. This report, last prepared in 2006, identifies strengths and weaknesses in the Arizona-Sonora region and is intended to help in the formulation of appropriate policy to strengthen the region’s economy and global competitiveness.

“These reports help us identify the status, opportunities and challenges involved in building a more prosperous and competitive region across the international border,” said Margie Emmermann, Policy Advisor for Mexico & Latin America for Arizona Governor Jan Brewer and AMC Executive Director.

Some of the findings in this report showed that the recession has had an adverse impact on Arizona-Sonora trade and business, especially in key industry sectors – retail trade, automobiles, tourism and consumer goods – particularly those assembled in Maquiladoras. Despite the recession, Arizona continues to experience growth in its trade and business with Mexico.

Other highlights from this report include:

• Arizona’s trade has been impeded by physical barriers, due to an inadequate transportation system and congested ports of entry.
• The opportunities for expanded cross-border trade remain in traditional economic sectors – retail, tourism and agriculture. There are also possible new or expanded economic sectors – logistics and transportation, renewable energy and sustainable agriculture.
• The Arizona-Sonora manufacturing initiative can reposition Arizona and Sonora to be leaders in the assembly and manufacturing sectors as offshore manufacturing returns to North America.

The full report is available online at www.azmc.org.

The Arizona-Mexico Commission (AMC) champions the time-honored principle that cross-border collaboration is the route to mutual prosperity in a shared region. For over a half century, the AMC has been working to improve the economic well-being and quality of life of Arizona residents by maintaining a strong cooperative relationship with Mexico and all of Latin America through advocacy, trade, networking and information sharing. For more about the Arizona-Mexico Commission, please contact Nancy Dueñas, director of marketing and communications, at (602) 542-1346, or by e-mail at nduenas@az.gov. Visit the AMC online at www.azmc.org.

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