

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Mesa, Arizona offers a quality urban experience supported by a diversified economic base, educational institutions of excellence, professional local government, sophisticated infrastructure and a superior workforce. A rapid-growth community, Mesa recently surpassed Cincinnati, OH; Pittsburgh, PA; St. Louis, MO; and Oakland, CA to become the 45th largest city in the nation.

Basic Information

Founded: 1878	Distance to Major Cities:
Incorporated: 1883	Phoenix: 15 miles
Elevation: 1,255	Tucson: 106 miles
Located in Maricopa County	
Nearby Highways: HWYS U.S. 60, ST 87, SR 101, SR 202	

Population

	1990	2000	2005
Mesa	288,104	396,375	452,355
Maricopa County	2,122,101	3,072,149	3,648,545
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,044,985

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and US Census Bureau
Revised 1990 Census population figure (original: 288,091).

Principal Economic Activities

Mesa's economic base consists of aerospace/aviation, agri-business, automotive, business services, education services, electronics, health services, manufacturing, retail and transportation services. Mesa boasts seven regional employment centers and/or corridors including Downtown Mesa, Falcon Airpark, Fiesta Quadrant, Superstition Springs, Williams Gateway Airport, Superstition Freeway Corridor, and Union Pacific Business Corridor.

County Employment

	2005
Retail Trade	211,245
Administrative and Waste Services	183,626
Construction	162,492
Health Care and Social Assistance	157,626
Accommodation and Food Services	144,756
Manufacturing	132,720
Educational Services	118,279
Finance and Insurance	107,922
Professional and Technical Services	87,803
Wholesale Trade	79,699
Other	328,249

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security
Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

Major Private Employers

Banner Health System
Boeing
Motorola SPS
Salt River Project
TRW Safety Systems

Major Public Employers

City of Mesa
Mesa Community College
Mesa Public School District



Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2005
Civilian Labor Force	150,828	207,034	237,671
Unemployed	5,748	6,253	8,841
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.0%	3.7%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security

Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2005
New Bldg. Permits	1,663	10,098	6,277
Taxable Sales (\$)	3.4 billion	7 billion	7.5 billion
Net Assessed Value (\$)	1.3 billion	1.9 billion	2.9 billion

Sources: Arizona State Univ., AZ Dept. of Revenue, AZ Tax Research Foundation

Scenic Attractions

Hiking trails are plentiful at Usery Mountain Recreation Area in northeast Mesa and Lost Dutchman State Park near the Superstition Mountains. Tubing on the Salt River was named "Best Family Experience" in Arizona by Frommer's 1999 Arizona Guidebook. The nearby Apache Trail is also listed as "Best Scenic Drive," which includes Goldfield Ghost Town, Canyon Lake and Tortilla Flat Saloon & Restaurant. Within an hour's drive are five multi-purpose recreation lakes. Baseball fans flock to Mesa's Hohokam Stadium each spring to watch the Chicago Cubs play other Cactus League teams. The Phoenix-Mesa metropolitan area is one of only eleven cities in the nation to host teams in all four major professional sports: Arizona Diamondbacks; Phoenix Suns; Phoenix Coyotes; and Arizona Cardinals.

Community Facilities

Downtown Mesa will be home to two new state-of-the-art facilities. The Mesa Arts Center (\$90M) in 2004 and Mesa Indoor Aquatics Center (\$20M) in 2003. The City of Mesa offers a broad range of community & cultural facilities including three libraries, 11 theatres, 13 public swimming pools, more than 20 golf courses, over 250 tennis, basketball, & raquetball courts, & 55 parks including the Red Mountain Multi-Generational Complex. Mesa boasts six museum including Mesa Southwest Museum, Arizona Museum for Youth, Sirrine House, Mesa Arts Center, Champlin Fighter Aircraft Museum, & Confederate Airforce Museum. Mesa is also home to Ballet Etudes, Mesa Symphony, established in 1956, three chorale groups, Southwest Shakespeare Co. & Mesa Little Theater.

Educational Institutions

	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	Y
Middle School	Y	Y
High School	Y	Y
Vocational/Technical College	Y	Y
Community College	Y	Y
University 4 year	Y	Y

Financial

Number of banks: 66

Government

Fire Department: City of Mesa Fire Department
Law Enforcement: City of Mesa Police Department

Airports

Falcon Field, one of the top ten general aviation airports in the nation
Williams Gateway: complete facilities for industrial/commercial development

Medical

Mesa is home to five hospitals.

Hotel & Lodging

Number of Rooms: 5,192
Meeting Rooms: 85
Capacity of Largest Facility: 1,900

Industrial Properties:

Mesa has numerous properties available for industrial and office development. Contact Mesa's Office of Economic Development for a directory of sites.

Utilities

Electricity	Municipal (Mesa)	480.644.2221
Electricity	Salt River Project	602.236.8888
Natural Gas	Municipal (Mesa)	480.644.2221
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (statewide)	800.766.9722
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water & Sewer	Municipal (Mesa)	480.644.2221

Cable Providers: Y Cable Internet Service Provider: Y
Digital Switching Station: Y Fiber Optics: Y
Internet Service Provider: Y

Taxes

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2005
Elementary/High Schools	6.13	7.55	6.39
City/Fire District	0.00	0.00	1.75
Countywide	3.51	3.35	3.18
Totals	9.64	10.90	11.32

Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation

Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation

NOTE: School district participates in East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT).

Sales Tax

	2005
City/Town	1.75%
County	0.70%
State	5.60%

Sources: Arizona League of Cities & Towns, Arizona Dept. of Revenue

Weather

	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. High (°F)	Precip. (in.)
January	36.1	65.2	0.9
February	39.4	69.2	0.9
March	43.5	74.4	0.9
April	49.4	82.8	0.4
May	56.4	91.8	0.1
June	65.1	101.6	0.1
July	73.9	103.8	0.9
August	72.6	101.5	1.1
September	65.6	97.7	0.8
October	53.7	87.3	0.6
November	42.6	74.9	0.7
December	36.7	66.4	1.0
Yearly Avg.	52.9	84.7	8.4

Source: Western Regional Climate Center

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1896-2004.

Average Total Snowfall 0.0."

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce Communications Division in cooperation with local sources.

For further information contact:

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