

Phoenix

Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Phoenix, known as the Valley of the Sun, is the seventh largest city in the nation. The hub of the rapidly growing Southwest, it is Arizona's capital and the county seat. In 1867, Phoenix founder Jack Swilling formed a canal company and diverted irrigation water from the Salt River. In 1911, Roosevelt Dam was completed and water supplies were stabilized. Phoenix's explosive growth began during World War II when military airfields were built in Maricopa County and many defense industries followed. The name Phoenix—legendary Egyptian symbol of rebirth—was chosen because the city was built on the ruins of the Hohokam Indian civilization whose farmers dug irrigation canals still in use today.

Basic Information

Founded: 1867
Incorporated: 1881
Elevation: 1,058
Located in Maricopa County
Nearby Highways: HWYS I-17, I-10
Enterprise Zone available

Distance to Major Cities:
Tucson: 111 miles

Population

	1990	2000	2006
Phoenix	983,392	1,321,045	1,505,265
Maricopa County	2,122,101	3,072,149	3,792,675
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,305,210

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and US Census Bureau
Revised 1990 Census population figure (original: 983,403).

Principal Economic Activities

Phoenix has a diversified economic base. Manufacturing is a leading employer, with electronics a strong component. The area currently ranks third nationally among electronic production centers. Tourism is an important income producer. Many world-class hotels and resorts cater to visitors. Over 45 percent of total employment is in the retail trade and service sectors. Major corporations with national headquarters here include Phelps Dodge, Viad, Aztar, U-Haul, Avnet, Swift, PetSmart and Cavco.

County Employment

	2006
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	373,800
Professional and Business Services	321,200
Government	212,400
Educational and Health Services	187,000
Mining and Construction	184,600
Leisure and Hospitality	174,900
Financial Activities	151,100
Manufacturing	132,900
Other Services	68,500
Information	32,100

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security

Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

Major Private Employers

Banner Health System
Fry's Food and Drug
Honeywell
Wal-Mart
Wells Fargo

Major Public Employers

Arizona State University
City of Phoenix
Maricopa County
State of Arizona
U.S. Postal Service



Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2006
Civilian Labor Force	541,574	687,574	822,663
Unemployed	26,746	26,786	34,508
Unemployment Rate	4.9%	3.9%	4.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security

Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2006
New Bldg. Permits	6,412	22,608	32,521
Taxable Sales (\$)	12.3 billion	22.4 billion	34.4 billion
Net Assessed Value (\$)	5.7 billion	7.6 billion	12.3 billion

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

Scenic Attractions

Professional sports flourish here: Diamondbacks (MLB), Cardinals (NFL), Suns (NBA), Coyotes (NHL), and Mercury (WNBA). Each spring Cactus League baseball games feature the Chicago Cubs, Oakland Athletics, San Francisco Giants, Milwaukee Brewers and Seattle Mariners. Downtown Phoenix is home to Phoenix Civic Plaza, the Convention Center, Phoenix Symphony Hall, America West Arena, Bank One Ballpark, the Herberger and Orpheum theaters, Arizona Science Center, and a variety of museums. There are excellent symphony, opera and ballet companies, and theater groups. South Mountain Park is the world's largest municipal park with horseback riding, hiking trails and a fabulous view of the city. Papago Park is home to the Phoenix Zoo, Desert Botanical Gardens, an 18-hole golf course, and fishing lakes.

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Community Facilities

The City of Phoenix offers a broad range of community and cultural facilities. There are 47 art galleries, 11 libraries (plus bookmobile service), 16 museums, 138 parks (with seven desert mountain areas), over 1,200 clubs and organizations, and a civic plaza with Convention Center and Symphony Hall seating 2,557 persons.

Educational Institutions	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	N
Middle School	Y	N
High School	Y	N
Technical	Y	N
Community College	Y	N
University 4 year	Y	N
Post Graduate	N	Y

Financial

Number of banks: 70

Government

Fire Department: Staffed City/Local Fire Department
Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports

Phoenix Sky Harbor (5th busiest in the world) provides non-stop service to 108 domestic & internatl. destinations with over 1,300 daily flights.

Medical

Extensive medical care available.

Hotel & Lodging

Number of Rooms: 20,000
Meeting Rooms: n/a
Capacity of Largest Facility: 8,500

Industrial Properties:

Many available. Contact the Community and Economic Development Department, City of Phoenix.

Utilities

Electricity	APS (Statewide)	800.428.7324
Electricity	Salt River Project	602.236.8888
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (statewide)	800.766.9722
Sewer	Municipal Sewer (Phoenix)	602.262.6251
Water	Municipal Water (Phoenix)	602.262.6251
Water	Salt River Project Water	602.236.3333

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	2006
Elementary/High Schools	0.00	11.76	9.84
City/Fire District	0.00	1.82	1.82
Countywide	3.51	3.35	2.74
Totals	3.51	16.93	14.40

Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation
Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation

Sales Tax

	2006
City/Town	1.80%
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	41.8	66.0	0.8
February	45.0	70.4	0.7
March	49.5	75.8	0.9
April	56.1	84.3	0.3
May	64.6	93.5	0.1
June	73.4	103.0	0.1
July	80.8	105.4	0.9
August	79.5	103.4	1.0
September	73.2	99.0	0.7
October	61.3	88.2	0.6
November	48.8	74.8	0.6
December	42.0	66.4	0.9
Yearly Avg.	59.7	85.8	7.5

Source: Western Regional Climate Center
Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1948-2004.
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:

Greater Phoenix Economic Council
2 N. Central Ave., Suite 2500
Phoenix, AZ 85004-4469
Phone: 602.256.7700, Fax: 602.256.7744
Website: www.gpec.org

Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
201 N. Central Ave., 27th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone: 602.254.5521, Fax: 602.495.8913
Email: info@phoenixchamber.com
Website: www.phoenixchamber.com

City of Phoenix, Community & Economic Development Department
200 West Washington St., 20th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003
Phone: 602.262.5040, Fax: 602.495.5097
Email: donald.maxwell@phoenix.gov
Website: www.phoenix.gov



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1700 W. Washington St., Suite 600, Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: 602.771.1100 - Fax: 602.771.1200
Web: www.azcommerce.com

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