

# Mesa

## Community Profile

### 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  
 Incorporated: 1883  
 Elevation: 1,255  
 Located in Maricopa County  
 Nearby Highways: HWYS U.S. 60, ST 87, SR 101, SR 202

Distance to Major Cities:  
 Phoenix: 15 miles  
 Tucson: 106 miles

### Population

	1990	2000	2008
Mesa	288,104	396,375	459,682
Maricopa County	2,122,101	3,072,149	3,987,942
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,629,455

Sources: Arizona Department of Commerce 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

	2008
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	372,500
Professional and Business Services	313,800
Government	220,800
Educational and Health Services	210,800
Leisure and Hospitality	183,100
Financial Activities	147,600
Mining and Construction	141,400
Manufacturing	131,100
Other Services	69,000
Information	29,900

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

### Private Employers

Banner Health System  
 Boeing  
 Dillard's Department Stores  
 Home Depot  
 Motorola SPS  
 Salt River Project  
 Target  
 TRW Safety Systems  
 Wal-Mart Supercenter

### Public Employers

City of Mesa  
 Mesa Community College  
 Mesa Public School District



### Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2008
Civilian Labor Force	150,828	207,034	259,120
Unemployed	5,748	6,253	11,413
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.0%	4.4%

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

### Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2008
New Bldg. Permits	1,663	10,098	2,065
Taxable Sales (\$)	3.4 billion	7 billion	7.5 billion
Net Assessed Value (\$)	1.3 billion	1.9 billion	4.8 billion

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

### Scenic Attractions

Hiking trails are plentiful at Utery 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 Hohokan 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.

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### 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, Sistine 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  
Digital Switching Station: Y  
Internet Service Provider: Y  
Cable Internet Service Provider: Y  
Fiber Optics: Y

### Taxes

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2008
Elementary/High Schools	6.13	7.55	5.84
City/Fire District	0.00	0.00	0.00
Countywide	3.51	3.35	2.33
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9.64</b>	<b>10.90</b>	<b>8.17</b>

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

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

### Sales Tax

City/Town	2008
City/Town	1.75%
County	0.70%
State	5.60%

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

### Weather

	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. High (°F)	Precip. (in.)
	52.9	84.7	0.7
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	1.0
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

Source: Western Regional Climate Center

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1896-2005.  
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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Email: [bill.jabjiniak@cityofmesa.org](mailto:bill.jabjiniak@cityofmesa.org)  
Website: <http://cityofmesa.org/economic/>

Mesa Chamber of Commerce  
120 North Center Street  
Mesa, AZ 85201  
Phone: 480.969.1307, Fax:  
Website: [www.mesachamber.org](http://www.mesachamber.org)



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