

Payson

Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Payson, located at the "heart" of Arizona and a pleasant 90-minute drive from the Phoenix metropolitan area, is renowned for its beauty, recreational opportunities and, more recently, its dynamic business environment. The area enjoys a mild four-season climate that attracts international visitors year around. Rich in its Western heritage, Payson—with an average trade area population of some 24,500—offers the atmosphere of rural America, with the amenities of a metropolis.

A Main Street and REDI accredited community

August 30, 2006: The Town of Payson was awarded a Growing Smarter Planning Grant of \$6,500 for fiscal year 2007.

Basic Information

Founded: 1884
Incorporated: 1973
Elevation: 4,982
Located in Gila County
Nearby Highways: HWYS SR 87 (The Beeline Hwy); SR 260
Enterprise Zone available

Distance to Major Cities:
Phoenix: 93 miles
Tucson: 183 miles

Population

	1990	2000	2006
Payson	8,377	13,620	15,625
Gila County	40,216	51,335	56,800
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,305,210

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and US Census Bureau

Principal Economic Activities

The local economy is dominated by the tourism, retirement and construction industries, with a growing emphasis on manufacturing and service firms. Also encouraged is light industry and high-tech operations compatible with the community's "High Quality of Life." The Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation works with new and existing business to provide high quality business and employment opportunities for area residents. It assists both local and relocating firms.

County Employment

	2006
Government	4,800
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,175
Goods Producing	2,150

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security

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



Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2006
Civilian Labor Force	3,046	5,748	5,836
Unemployed	114	221	242
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.8%	4.1%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security

Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2006
New Bldg. Permits	321	442	438
Taxable Sales (\$)	93.4 million	241.9 million	345 million
Net Assessed Value (\$)	52.5 million	118.5 million	185.7 million

Sources: Arizona State Univ., AZ Dept. of Revenue, AZ Tax Research Foundation
2005 New Building Data incomplete: One or more months not available

Scenic Attractions

Payson rests at the base of the majestic Mogollon Rim - a 7,000-foot high, 200-mile long escarpment-in the world's largest Ponderosa Pine forest. The 5,000 foot elevation gives Payson its pleasant climate and four mild seasons. A variety of mountain lakes and trout streams, hiking trails and campsites are within minutes of the center of town. The area offers virtually limitless outdoor recreational activities including hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, biking and many others. Although Payson gets a few dustings of snow annually, there are cross-country skiing and snow-play areas a short drive away. Local attractions include Tonto Natural Bridge State Park, Shoo-Fly Indian Archeological Site, Tonto Fish Hatchery, and The Rim Country Museum.

Community Facilities

Payson offers a broad range of community facilities including a new 16,000 SF library, museum, state-of-the-art multiplex movie theater, golf course, zoo, lighted tennis courts, an auditorium, swimming pool, parks, a bowling alley and a new 36-acre multi-event outdoor entertainment center. In July 2002, voters approved the formation of the Gila County Community Colleges as a provisional district. Colleges in Payson and Globe are now associated with Pima Community College in Tucson.

Educational Institutions

	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	N
Middle School	Y	N
High School	Y	N
Community College	Y	N

Financial

Number of banks: 7

Government

Fire Department: Staffed City/Local Fire Department

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports

Payson Municipal Airport (CTAF 122.8) supports some 30,000 operations per year on its lighted 5,500-foot runway and offers FBO, fueling, maintenance facilities, hangars and tie-downs.

Medical

One Hospital- Payson Regional Medical Center

Hotel & Lodging

Number of Rooms: 600

Meeting Rooms: 11

Capacity of Largest Facility: 600

Industrial Properties:

There are two industrial parks available. One is just west of the junction of state Route 87 and state Route 260; the other is adjacent to Payson Municipal Airport. For additional information, contact the Rim Country Chamber of Commerce.

Utilities

Electricity	APS (Statewide)	800.428.7324
Propane	Broken Bow Gas Company	928.474.2294
Propane	Northern Energy (Payson)	928.474.3334
Sewer	Northern Gila County Sanitary	928.474.5257
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water	Town of Payson	928.474.5242
Water	Utility Mgmt. & Oper. Servs.	928.474.2100

Cable Providers: N

Digital Switching Station: N

Internet Service Provider: N

Cable Internet Service Provider: N

Fiber Optics: N

Taxes

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2006
Elementary/High Schools	6.77	5.62	4.92
City/Fire District	0.70	0.40	0.35
Countywide	4.91	5.37	5.27
Totals	12.38	11.39	10.54

Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation

Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation

NOTE: School district participates in the Northern Arizona Vocational Institute of Technology (NAVIT).

Sales Tax

	2006
City/Town	0.00%
County	1.00%
State	5.60%

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

Weather

	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. High (°F)	Precip. (in.)
January	24.6	53.8	2.2
February	26.6	57.4	2.0
March	29.8	61.9	2.3
April	35.0	70.2	1.1
May	41.7	79.2	0.5
June	49.6	89.3	0.4
July	58.3	92.4	2.7
August	57.4	89.6	3.1
September	50.4	85.0	1.9
October	40.3	74.9	1.7
November	30.0	62.3	1.6
December	24.5	54.5	1.9
Yearly Avg.	39.0	72.5	21.5

Source: Western Regional Climate Center

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1940-2005. Average Total Snowfall 24.1".

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

For further information contact:

Rim Country Regional Chamber of Commerce
 P.O. Box 1380
 Payson, AZ 85547
 Phone: 928.474.4515, Fax: 928.474.8812
 Email: info@rimcountrychamber.com
 Website: www.rimcountrychamber.com

Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation
 P.O. Box 1771
 Payson, AZ 85547
 Phone: 928.468.6659, Fax: 928.468.8197
 Email: admin@paysonecon.org
 Website: www.paysonecon.org



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

Reproduction of this publication for commercial use is prohibited by A.R.S. 39-121. Permission to reprint may be granted upon written request of the Arizona Department of Commerce.
 Prepared on 8/8/2007