

# 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.

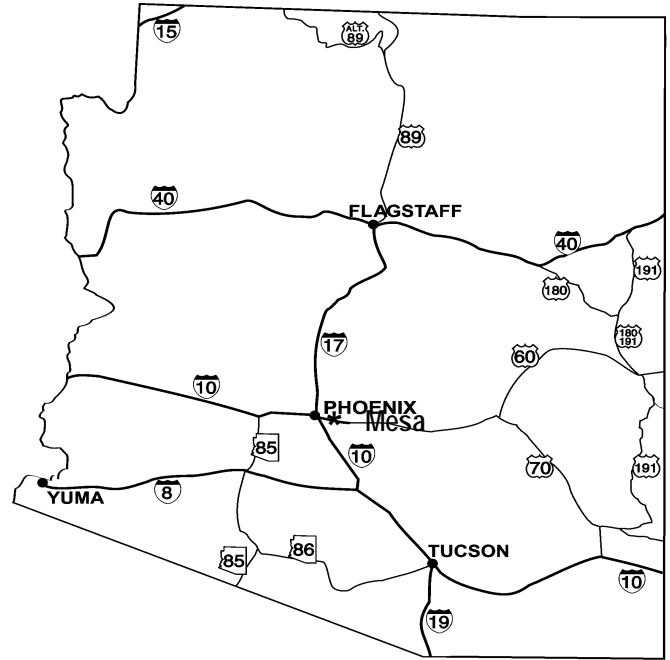
FOUNDED: 1878  
 COUNTY: Maricopa County  
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 15 miles  
 HIGHWAYS: U.S. 60, ST 87, SR 101, SR 202

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1883  
 ELEVATION: 1,255 feet  
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 106 miles

## POPULATION

	1990	2000	2003
Mesa	288,104*	396,375	434,215
Maricopa County	2,122,101	3,072,149	3,396,875
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,629,870

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. 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	2003
Construction	128,600
Educational & Health Svcs	159,300
Financial Activities	133,500
Government	200,800
Information	37,100
Leisure & Hospitality	152,800
Manufacturing	126,900
Professional & Business Svcs	255,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	321,200

Sources: 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	2003
Civilian Labor Force	150,203	212,185	231,337
Unemployed	5,572	4,852	9,718
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	2.3%	4.2%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	2000	2003
New Bldg. Permit	1,663	10,098	6,347
Taxable Sales (\$)	3,431,420,000	7,049,488,600	6,597,720,948
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	1,270,000,000	1,919,915,826	2,463,878,234

Sources: Arizona State University; AZ Dept. of Revenue; AZ Tax Research Foundation

## 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 defeat 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.

