

PEORIA

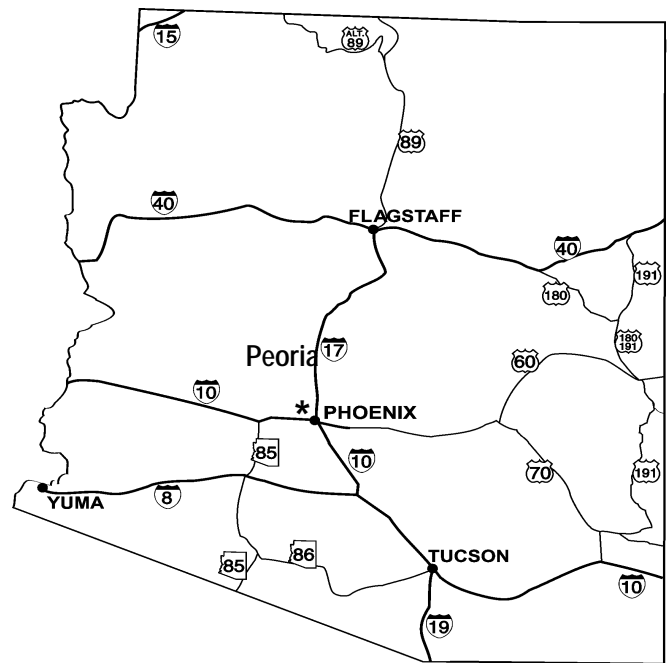
Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Peoria is a rapidly growing suburban community. Formerly an agricultural town, today it is a business and medical hub for the Northwest Valley area. It is bordered on the west by Sun City, on the east by Phoenix and Glendale, and on the north by Yavapai County. Peoria was settled in the 1880s when families from Peoria, Illinois, took up residence and began farming. The first post office in Peoria opened in 1888. Over the years, the number of farms increased and the town settled into a quiet rural lifestyle. Peoria began to change in the 1960s when the retirement community of Sun City opened. From 1980 to 1990, the city experienced phenomenal growth with population increasing 300 percent.

FOUNDED: 1880
 COUNTY: Maricopa County
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 13 miles
 HIGHWAYS: I-17, I-10, Loop101

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1954
 ELEVATION: 1,140 feet
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 130 miles



POPULATION

	1990	2000	2003
Peoria	50,675*	108,364	126,410
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: 50,618).

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The Peoria Economic Development Department facilitates new business and industry moving to the city. Along with a number of new commercial and retail developments, "Class A" office buildings have recently opened and more are under construction. Transportation has improved with a new freeway, Arizona 101. Most employers in Peoria are in the commercial and service sectors. Many residents commute to nearby jobs in northwest Phoenix.

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

Arizona State Plastering	Arizona Training and Evaluation
Fry's Food and Drug	Hardrock Concrete Placement
Plaza Del Rio Campus	Sierra Winds Lifecare
Speciality Roofing, Inc.	Various Bell Road Auto Dealerships

Major Public Employers

City of Peoria	Peoria Unified School District
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LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2003
Civilian Labor Force	24,085	34,069	54,768
Unemployed	812	707	2,091
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	2.1%	3.8%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	2000	2003
New Bldg. Permit	1,000	4,455	3,296
Taxable Sales (\$)	235,137,732	1,788,300,596	2,175,169,951
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	226,007,258	516,676,367	750,429,221

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

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Peoria Sports Complex is the spring training and player development home of the Seattle Mariners and San Diego Padres. It also hosts athletic and special events year-round. Downtown Peoria comes alive with Pioneer Days and Fall Fest. Activities include parades, cowboy poetry, car shows, and live entertainment. Peoria's annual "Holidaze" is a winter festival with fireworks, arts and crafts, and a winter wonderland. Mexican Independence is honored with a Fiestas Patrias celebration in September. The 25,000-acre Lake Pleasant Regional Park offers water-oriented recreation. A new full-service marina is open at Pleasant Harbor. White Tanks Regional Park, in Maricopa County, features petroglyphs and natural rock water tanks.

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TAXES

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2003
Elem/High School	7.86	9.49	8.60
City/Fire District	1.14	1.63	1.59
Countywide	3.51	3.35	3.22
Total	\$12.51	\$14.47	\$13.41

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

NOTE: School district participates in Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC).

Sales Tax Rate

City	1.50%
County	0.70%
State	5.60%

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

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The City of Peoria offers a broad range of community facilities including a community center, two swimming pools, two libraries, 17 parks (243 acres), three golf courses, nine lighted multi-purpose ball fields, and 15 tennis courts. The 143-acre Peoria Sports Complex features 11 lighted major league baseball fields. Phoenix metropolitan area recreational opportunities are many and varied. Professional sports, yearly professional golf and tennis events, horse and dog racing, and cultural pursuits ranging from symphony to theater and numerous art galleries, shows and museums may be found within the Valley.

Educational Institutions

	Public	Private
Community College	Y	N
Elementary	Y	N
High School	Y	N
Post Graduate	N	Y
University 4 year	N	Y

Financial

Number of Banks: 3

Governmental Agencies

Fire Department: City Fire Department

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports Glendale Municipal Airport (adjacent to Peoria) and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (30-minutes away).

Medical

Peoria has 4 hospitals within a 10 minute drive.

Hotel and Lodging Facilities

Number of Rooms: 499

Meeting Rooms: 6

Capacity of Largest Facility: 300

Industrial Properties

There are two parks (80 acres) with all utilities, rail and road access. Contact the Peoria Economic Development Group, Inc.

Utilities

Electricity	APS	602.371.7171
	Salt River Project	602.236.8888
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (Statewide)	800.766.9722
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water & Sewer	Municipal (Peoria)	623.733.7433

Cable Providers: Yes

Cable Internet Service Provider: Yes

Digital Switching Station: Yes

Fiber Optics: Yes

Internet Service Provider: Yes

Weather

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total Precipitation (Inches)
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum	
January	41.7	65.9	0.80
February	45.0	70.4	0.71
March	49.3	75.6	0.90
April	56.0	84.3	0.27
May	64.5	93.5	0.13
June	73.3	103.0	0.11
July	80.8	105.4	0.87
August	79.4	103.4	0.97
September	73.2	98.9	0.68
October	61.2	88.2	0.64
November	48.8	74.9	0.60
December	41.9	66.4	0.85
Yearly Avg	59.6	85.8	7.53

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1948-2003. Average Total Snowfall 0.0". Nearest data available from Phoenix WSFO AP, AZ.

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

For further information, contact:

Peoria Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 70

Peoria, AZ 85380
623.979.3601 Fax: 623.486.4729

Email: beware@peoriachamber.com
Web: www.peoriachamber.com

Peoria Economic Development Department
8401 W. Monroe Street, Rm 190

Peoria, AZ 85345
623.773.7735 Email: PeoriaED@peoriaaz.com
Web: www.peoriaaz.com

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Our Job is JOBS!

1700 W. Washington, Suite 600
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602.771.1100 FAX: 602.771.1200
<http://www.azcommerce.com/>

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