

FLORENCE

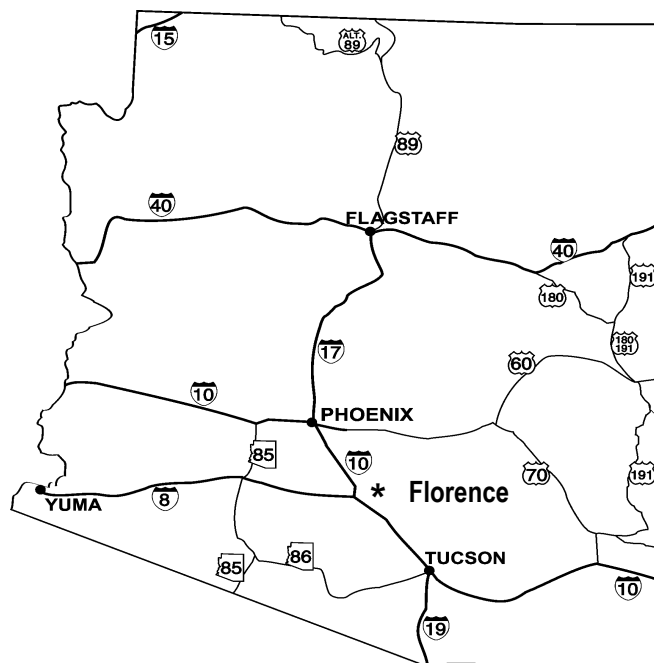
Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Florence is the seat of Pinal County. Colonel Levi Ruggles, an Indian agent, staked and platted the town in 1866. Sources cite different origins for the town's name, but all agree it was someone's sister or daughter. By the 1920s, the area had become the agricultural center of the county. The Florence business district is still on Main Street and, aside from the obvious improvements, downtown remains much as it must have been in the 1880s. Both visitors and residents appreciate the community's diversity which offers the convenience and lifestyle available in a small western community, yet is only 45 minutes away from the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas.

FOUNDED: 1866
 COUNTY: Pinal County
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 61 miles
 HIGHWAYS: I-10; SR 79; SR 287, Hunt Hwy
 ENTERPRISE ZONE AVAILABLE/MAIN STREET AND REDI COMMUNITY

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1908
 ELEVATION: 1,500 feet
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 70 miles



POPULATION

	1990	2000	2004
Florence	7,321	14,466	17,105
Pinal County	116,397	179,727	218,285
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,833,685

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau.
 Revised 1990 Census population figure (original: 7,510).
 Revised 2000 Census population figure (original: 17,054).

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Florence is home to both the Pinal County government complex and the Arizona State Prison. Agricultural products from the area include cotton, cattle, grains, and grapes. In January 1987, Florence was selected for inclusion in the Main Street Program sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This public/private partnership program helps communities revitalize their central business districts. Florence's year-round sunshine, warm climate and clean air makes popular for retirees.

County Employment	2004
Educational & Health Svcs	4,000
Financial Activities	875
Government	16,250
Information	300
Leisure & Hospitality	3,350
Manufacturing	2,850
Mining & Construction	2,725
Professional & Business Svcs	2,950
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,475

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security
 Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

Major Private Employers

Correction Corporation of America Correctional Services Corporation

Major Public Employers

Arizona Department of Corrections Florence Unified School District
 Pinal County Town of Florence
 U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security

LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2004
Civilian Labor Force	1,379	2,092	2,368
Unemployed	44	41	64
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	2.0%	2.7%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	2000	2004
New Bldg. Permit	129	187	214*
Taxable Sales (\$)	12,288,650	101,967,600	53,030,800
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	9,311,208	17,733,005	27,008,838

Sources: Arizona State University; AZ Dept. of Revenue; AZ Tax Research Foundation
 * Source: Town of Florence

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

The 5th oldest town in AZ, downtown Florence has been designated an official "Historic District." Among buildings listed on the National Register are the 1st and 2nd county courthouses. The 1st was built in 1877 and is open to the public as McFarland State Park. The 2nd, built in 1891, is still in use. The fully restored 1889 Brunenkant Building serves as the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce. Pinal Pioneer Parkway, a portion of S.R. 79 south of Florence, contains a natural garden where virtually all species of Arizona desert flora are displayed and identified. The Tom Mix Monument, on the site where the popular movie cowboy died in a 1940 car crash, is located on the parkway. Florence is home to the nation's oldest Junior Rodeo, held every Thanksgiving weekend. A historic home tour is

TAXES

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2004
Elem/High School	5.35	8.48	5.03
City/Fire District	0.93	0.79	0.99
Countywide	7.46	7.63	7.56
Total	\$13.74	\$16.90	\$13.58

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

NOTE: School district participates in the Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology (CAVIT).

Sales Tax Rate

City	2.00%
County	1.00%
State	5.60%

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

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Florence offers a broad range of community facilities including a County Visitor Center, a Town Visitor Center, a municipal fitness center, two museums, one library, three parks, one swimming pool, several softball fields and tennis courts, and a golf course. The Florence Senior Center also offers a van program for shopping and medical transportation for seniors.

Educational Institutions

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

Financial

Number of Banks: 2

Governmental Agencies

Fire Department: City Fire Department

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports Nearby Coolidge Airport, 11 miles southwest, has two paved runways (5,590 ft./3,750 ft.) and Williams Gateway Air Park, 18 miles northwest

Medical

Six doctors have offices in the community, including dental and vision services.

Hotel and Lodging Facilities

Number of Rooms: 30

Meeting Rooms: 1

Capacity of Largest Facility: 150

Industrial Properties

For more information contact the Town of Florence, the Florence Chamber of Commerce or the Florence Industrial Development Authority.

Utilities

Electricity	APS (Statewide)	800.253-9405
	San Carlos Irrigation Project (Florence)	520.723.6202
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (Statewide)	800.766.9722
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water & Sewer	Municipal (Florence)	520.868.7500

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	37.2	66.4	0.99
February	39.7	70.9	0.94
March	43.4	76.6	1.03
April	49.0	85.2	0.42
May	56.3	94.3	0.19
June	65.2	103.5	0.13
July	74.9	105.4	1.20
August	73.4	103.2	1.42
September	67.1	99.7	0.87
October	54.9	89.0	0.68
November	43.6	76.1	0.83
December	37.8	67.2	1.26

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1892-2004. Average Total Snowfall 0.1".

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

For further information, contact:

Town of Florence
 P.O. Box 2670
 Florence, AZ 85232
 520.868.7541 Email: jess.knudson@town.florence.az.us
 Web: www.town.florence.az.us

Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
 P.O. Box 929
 Florence, AZ 85232-0929
 520.868.9433 Email: info@florenceaz.org
 Web: www.florenceaz.org

Florence Industrial Authority
 P.O. Box 1413
 Florence, AZ 85232
 520.868.3515
 Email: petervillaverde2earthlink.net

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/>

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 7/2005