

## Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Payson, located at the "heart" of Arizona and a little more than an hour's 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 28,000—offers the atmosphere of rural America, with many of the amenities of a metropolis.

FOUNDED: 1884  
 COUNTY: Gila County  
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 93 miles  
 HIGHWAYS: St Hwy 87 (The Beeline Hwy) & St Hwy 260  
 Payson is an Arizona Main Street Community.  
 For more information on Payson's Main Street program call (928) 468-6074.  
 Film Commission: Payson is active in film recruitment.  
 For more information contact the Rim County Regional Chamber of Commerce at (928) 468-6659.

## POPULATION

	1990	2000	2004
Payson	8,377	13,620	15,120
Gila County	40,216	51,335	54,060
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,833,685

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. 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.

## LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2004
Civilian Labor Force	3,033	3,367	3,627
Unemployment	110	94	115
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	2.8%	3.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

### Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2004
New Building Permits	321	442	436
Taxable Sales (\$)	93,413,750	241,901,550	271,733,650
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	52,544,663	118,452,332	162,899,216

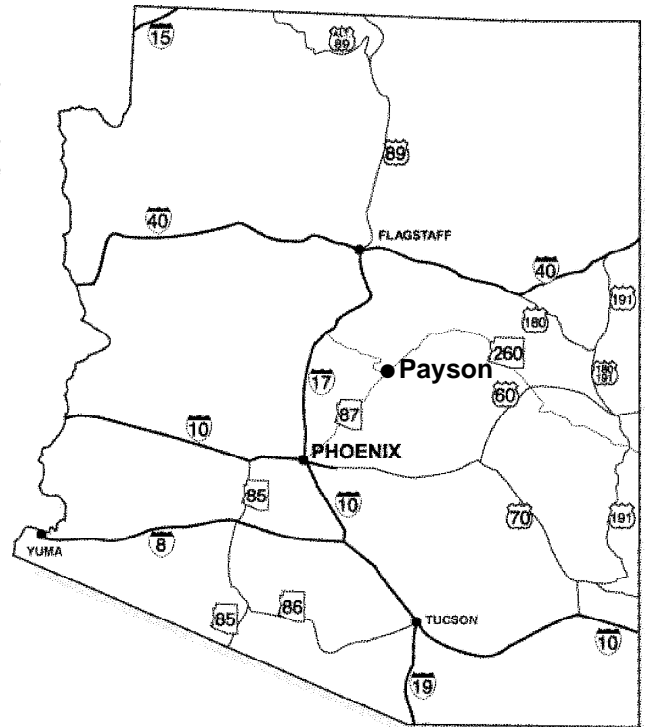
Sources: AZ State University; AZ Dept. of Revenue, AZ Tax Research Foundation.

## 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, The Rim Country Museum, llama ranches and a 45-acre Green Valley Park with fishing lakes, bike trails and numerous other activities.

Payson also boasts the recreational Fly-In Campground at the Payson Airport, the "World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo," the June Bug Blues Festival, the State Championship Fiddler Contest, free Summer Concerts in the Park and a wide variety of cultural and entertainment activities.



### County Employment

	2004
Goods Producing	2,025
Government	4,900
Other Private Service-Providing	4,725
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,150

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

## Employment by Occupation - Average Wages

	Employment	Avg. Wages
Construction	1,820	\$15.57
Food Preparation & Serving-Related	1,790	\$7.26
Office & Administrative	1,750	\$11.95
Sales & Related	1,060	\$9.89
Education, Training & Library	940	\$14.04
Transportation & Material Moving	750	\$12.07
Management	550	\$24.74

Source: Prepared by the Ariz. Dept. of Economic Security, Research Administration in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 2004.

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2004
Elem/High School*	\$ 6.77	\$ 5.62	\$ 5.12
City/Fire District	\$ 0.70	\$ .40	\$ .35
County	\$ 4.91	\$ 5.37	\$ 5.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12.38</b>	<b>\$ 11.39</b>	<b>\$ 11.26</b>

Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation.  
 Note: Tax rate per \$100.00 assessed valuation.  
 \* School district participates in the Northern Vocational Institute of Technology (NAVIT).

**General Sales Tax Rate**

City	2.12%
County	1.00%
State	5.60%

Source: Arizona League of Cities and Towns and the Arizona Department of Revenue.

**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, three golf course, lighted tennis courts, an auditorium, swimming pool, parks, a bowling alley and a new 36-acre multi-event outdoor entertainment center. The new Gila Community College complex consists of 20,000 SF in four buildings and 53 wooded acres for expansion.

**Educational.** Payson has three elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, several private schools and a community college (with five degree and three certificate programs). Northern Arizona University, in partnership with Gila Community College, offers undergraduate and graduate programs; for information, call (928) 474-2224.

**Financial.** There are nine full-service banks and four mortgage banking offices in Payson. Payson businesses are eligible for assistance in financing fixed assets through the Finance Division of the Arizona Department of Commerce. Information on private activity bonds within the town may be obtained from the same source or from the Industrial Development Authority of Payson, Town of Payson; 303 North Beeline Highway; Payson, Arizona 85541.

**Government Agencies.** The community is governed by a mayor and six council members. There is protection through police and sheriff's departments and a fire district with both full-time and volunteer personnel.

**Airport.** 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, tie-downs, flight instruction, scenic flights, charter service, and a restaurant. The latest addition is a "fly-in campground" with runway access.

**Medical.** The 66-bed Payson Regional Medical Center has helicopter medical transport and contains an emergency room and trauma center, radiology and laboratory facilities, three operating suites, outpatient rooms, and an eight-bed recovery unit. Other medical resources are two nursing homes and more than 30 medical professionals including physicians, osteopaths, orthodontists, dentists, optometrists, chiropractors, opticians, and ophthalmologists.

**Lodging and Meeting Facilities.** Payson is home to nine motels with a total of approximately 600 rooms; meeting facilities are available, with the largest seating 600 people. Additionally, the area offers several bed and breakfast and cabin facilities, as well as nine RV parks and six campgrounds.

**Industrial Properties.** There are two industrial parks. One is just west of the intersection of St. Hwy. 87 (The Beeline Hwy.) and St. Hwy. 260; the other is adjacent to Payson Municipal Airport and features taxi-way access to some lots. Other industrial properties are also available. For information contact the Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation.

**UTILITIES**

Electricity:	APS (statewide)	800.253.5405
Natural Gas:	Energy West	928.474.2294
Telephone:	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water:	Town of Payson	928.474-5242
Sewer:	N. Gila County Sanitary District	928.474.5257

Cable Providers: Yes  
 Digital Switching Station: Yes  
 Internet Service Provider: Yes  
 Cable Internet Service: Yes  
 Fiber Optics: Yes

**WEATHER**

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total Precipitation (Inches)
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum	
January	24.4	53.7	2.15
February	26.4	57.4	1.98
March	29.7	62.1	2.23
April	34.9	70.3	1.08
May	41.7	79.2	0.55
June	49.5	89.4	0.39
July	58.2	92.4	2.77
August	57.4	89.7	3.05
September	50.4	85.1	1.91
October	40.2	74.9	1.74
November	30.0	62.3	1.61
December	24.5	54.4	1.97
Yearly Avg	38.9	72.6	21.43

Western Regional Climate Center, www.wrcc.dri.edu. Period of record 1940-2004. Average Total Snowfall 24.1".

For further information, contact:

Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation  
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 Payson, AZ 85547  
 (928) 468-6659  
 FAX: (928) 468-8197  
 Email: info@paysonecon.org  
 Website: www.paysonecon.org

Rim Country Chamber of Commerce  
 P. O. Box 1380  
 Payson, AZ 85547  
 (928) 474-4515  
 (800) 672.9766  
 Website: www.rimcountrychamber.com

Town of Payson  
 303 N. Beeline Hwy.  
 Payson, AZ 85541  
 (928) 474-5242  
 FAX: (928) 474-4610  
 Website: www.ci.payson.az.us

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

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

*our Job is JOBS!*

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