

QUARTZSITE

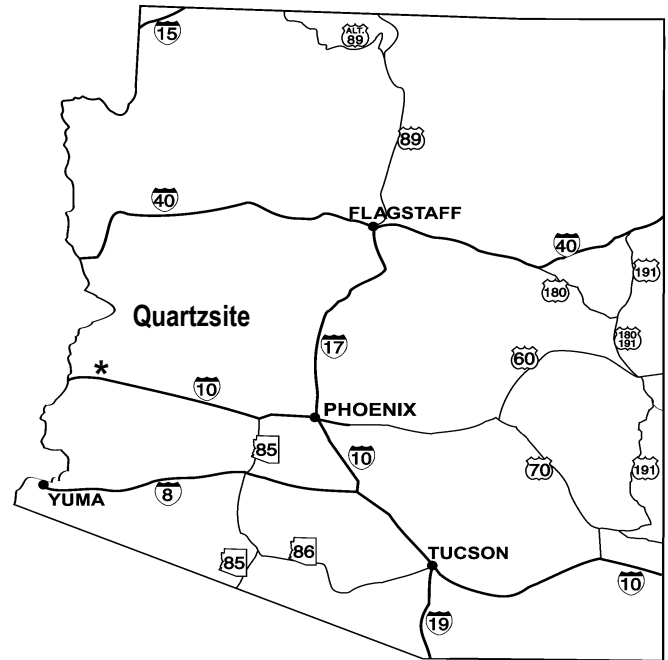
Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Quartzsite is west of Phoenix at the junction of Interstate 10 and U.S. 95, near the Colorado River. The community has a Mohave Desert setting. The nearby Kofa, New Water and Plomosa Mountains provide topographic relief while the Colorado River lies only 17 miles to the west. Quartzsite was established in 1867 on the site of old Fort Tyson, a privately built structure constructed in 1856 by Charles Tyson for protection against Indian raids. Named Quartzite because quartz was occasionally found in the area, the name evolved to Quartzsite through an error in spelling.

FOUNDED: 1867
 COUNTY: La Paz County
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 125 miles
 HIGHWAYS: I-10; US 95; SR 95
 ENTERPRISE ZONE AVAILABLE

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1989
 ELEVATION: 870 feet
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 296 miles



POPULATION

	1990	2000	2004
Quartzsite	1,876	3,354	3,550
La Paz County	13,844	19,715	21,135
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,833,685

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau.
 NOTE: Local sources estimate winter population may peak at 250,000.

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Tourism is the major contributor to Quartzsite's economy. The retail trade and services sectors benefit from the visitors who reside at the numerous (more than 70) mobile home and trailer parks in the vicinity between October and March. Nine major gem, mineral, and 15 general swap-meeting shows are popular tourist attractions, attracting approximately 1.5 million people annually. A Best Western hotel and Super 8 motel are expected to open in 2001.

County Employment	2004
Goods Producing	375
Government	2,300
Other Private Service-Providing	1,225
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,275

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

Major Private Employers

Bull Pen Restaurant	Burger King
Dairy Queen	Love's Auto/Truck Center
McDonald's	Pilot Truck Center
Ted's Truck Center	

Major Public Employers

ADOT	Quartzsite Post Office
Town of Quartzsite	

LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2004
Civilian Labor Force	676	894	833
Unemployed	36	52	44
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.8%	5.3%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	2000	2004
New Bldg. Permit	92	95	171
Taxable Sales (\$)	15,932,000	29,153,600	38,751,400
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	7,712,285	14,154,965	15,854,506

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

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

A rock hunter's paradise surrounds Quartzsite with agates, limonite cubes, gold, and quartz being just a few. In town, the Hi Jolly Monument honors the Arab camel driver, Hadji Ali, who took part in an unsuccessful 1850's U.S. War Department attempt to use camels as beasts of burden in the desert. To the south rise the Kofa Mountains. Historic and scenic areas include the Spanish Wall, Crystal Hill, Tyson Tanks, and Tyson Wells Museum. South in the Kofa Mountains is Palm Canyon, a tight gorge and home of Arizona's only native palms, reached by a steep but rewarding climb. Farther south is Castle Dome Peak. There are many points of interest including the world's largest Saguaro cactus with 47 arms, historical sights, day trips and many off-road ATV trails.

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TAXES

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2004
Elem/High School	3.84	5.72	4.77
City/Fire District	2.28	2.50	0.00
Countywide	5.24	4.96	4.88
Total	\$11.36	\$13.18	\$9.65

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

Sales Tax Rate

City	2.50%
County	1.00%
State	5.60%

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

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Quartzsite offers a broad range of community facilities including an 80-acre town park. Celia's Rainbow Botanical Gardens, a senior citizens' hall, recreation centers, a public library, one nine-hole and 18-hole golf courses. A community services building opened in July of 1998. The Quartzsite sewer and water system is in the process of being upgraded on an on-going basis.

Educational Institutions

	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	N
High School	Y	N

Financial

Banks are available in nearby Parker, 29 miles north

Governmental Agencies

Fire Department: Staffed Town/Local Fire Department

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports Nearby Parker/Avi Suquilla Airport, with lighted runway/UNICOM radio. Quartzsite has four private airstrips, permission required.

Medical

Quartzsite has three medical centers and year round ambulance and medevac heliport.

Hotel and Lodging Facilities

Number of Rooms: 22

Meeting Rooms: 4

Capacity of Largest Facility: 1,000

Industrial Properties

For more information contact the Town of Quartzsite and the Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce.

Utilities

Electricity	APS (Statewide)	800.253-9405
Propane	Various Dealers	
Telephone	TDS Telecom	928.927.6345
Trash Pick-up	Palo Verde Disposal	760.922.9107
Waste Disposal	Allied Waste (Quartzsite)	928.669.8886
Water	Individual wells	
	Town of Quartzsite	928.927.4333

Cable Providers: Yes

Cable Internet Service Provider: No

Digital Switching Station: No

Fiber Optics: Yes

Internet Service Provider: Yes

Weather

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total Precipitation (Inches)
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum	
January	38.3	65.5	0.49
February	43.1	70.8	0.47
March	49.2	78.1	0.35
April	56.3	86.3	0.16
May	65.4	94.9	0.04
June	74.4	104.1	0.03
July	81.7	108.2	0.31
August	81.1	106.7	0.56
September	72.9	101.1	0.41
October	60.0	90.1	0.41
November	46.1	74.4	0.32
December	37.6	64.6	0.40
Yearly Avg	58.8	87.1	3.96

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1959-2004. Average Total Snowfall 0.0".

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

For further information, contact:

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