

# SAFFORD

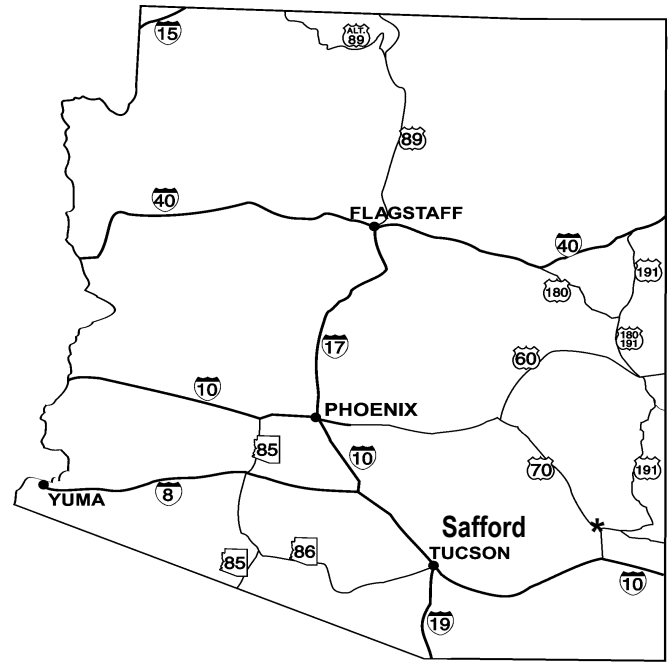
# Community Profile

## Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Safford is in the southeastern portion of the state on the south bank of the Gila River. The foothills of the Pinaleno Mountains begin about five miles southeast of the City. Mount Graham, the highest peak in the mountain range, and its companion peaks have a marked effect on the local climate by reducing winter precipitation.

Safford, the county seat of Graham County, was established in 1874 and almost immediately became an agricultural area. Water is drawn from the Gila River to create 40,000 acres of irrigated agriculture.

ENTERPRISE ZONE AVAILABLE INCORPORATED: Yes - 1901  
 COUNTY: Graham County ELEVATION: 2,844 feet  
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 164 miles DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 130 miles  
 HIGHWAYS: I-10; US 70; US 191  
 MAIN STREET COMMUNITY



## POPULATION

	1990	2000	2004
Safford	7,359	9,232	9,440
Graham County	26,554	33,489	36,020
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,833,685

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

## PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Safford serves as the retail center for this part of AZ, serving 65,000. Agriculture has been the mainstay of the Safford & Graham County economy, with cotton the principal commodity. Remaining acres are used for hay and small grains. A 20-acre greenhouse produces tomatoes grown under glass. Ranching & Mt. Graham Internatl. Observatory also play a role in the local economy. Retail trade and services continue to play a significant role in the economy of the area.

County Employment	2004
Goods Producing	550
Government	2,975
Other Private Service-Providing	2,475
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,425

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security

Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

## LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2004
Civilian Labor Force	3,089	3,458	3,470
Unemployed	170	194	189
Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.6%	5.4%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	2000	2004
New Bldg. Permit	159	117	74
Taxable Sales (\$)	76,334,000	127,784,200	121,207,750
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	19,674,740	31,282,873	34,460,523

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

## SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Safford, 10 miles north of the Coronado Natl. Forest, is an area that provides many recreational facilities. Popular spots are 10,720-ft. Mt. Graham and Pinaleno Mtns. Swift Trail, a 36-mile tour & one of many scenic drives in the area, provides a route to the summit & features many picnicking & camping sites. Discovery Park is a 160-acre, world class attraction, that includes Natures Hideaway Riparian Wetlands, a Narrow Gauge 1880s Railroad & Gov. Aker Observatory. BLM administers 740,800 acres of land within Graham County. Some of the unique recreational opportunities are Hot Wells Dunes, Gila Box Riparian Natl. Conservation Area & Black Hills Back County Byway. Roper Lake State Park, south of Safford, has overnight camping & day use picnic areas, plus mineral water hot springs.

## TAXES

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2004
Elem/High School	7.64	6.89	6.69
City/Fire District	1.27	0.43	0.47
Countywide	4.79	4.32	4.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13.70</b>	<b>\$11.64</b>	<b>\$11.60</b>

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

NOTE: School district participates in Gila Institute for Technology (GIFT).

## Sales Tax Rate

City	2.00%
County	0.50%
State	5.60%

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

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The City of Safford offers a broad range of community facilities including two historic museums, a community center, fine arts center, library, a bowling alley, two indoor theaters, an Olympic-size swimming pool, one 18-hole golf course, one 36-hole miniature golf course, batting cages, several tennis and paddleball courts, seven parks (five acres with play equipment; one 120-acre county regional park south of town), numerous picnic areas at Mt. Graham, Roper Lake and county parks, 12 baseball diamonds (six lighted), and one rodeo arena.

### Educational Institutions

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

### Financial

Number of Banks: 5

### Governmental Agencies

Fire Department: Volunteer

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

**Airports** Safford Airport has two lighted/paved 4,800-ft. runways, UNICOM radio, rental car and charter plane services are available.

### Medical

One 59-bed hospital with 18 physicians, a 128-bed convalescent home and a counseling center.

### Hotel and Lodging Facilities

Number of Rooms: 350

Meeting Rooms: 9

Capacity of Largest Facility: 150

## Industrial Properties

There are two industrial parks with 645 acres. Municipal utilities available; air, rail, and highway access.

## Utilities

Electricity	City of Safford Utilities	520.348.3143
Natural Gas	City of Safford Utilities	520.348.3143
Propane	Griffen Propane	928.428.0071
	Matlock Gas Co.	928.428.0641
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water & Sewer	City of Safford Utilities	520.348.3143

Cable Providers: Yes

Cable Internet Service Provider: Yes

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	28.7	59.9	0.68
February	31.7	64.8	0.62
March	37.0	70.7	0.60
April	43.2	79.7	0.25
May	51.1	88.8	0.18
June	60.2	98.0	0.27
July	67.6	98.2	1.62
August	65.9	95.7	1.62
September	58.8	92.0	1.01
October	47.0	82.4	0.87
November	35.4	69.2	0.49
December	28.8	60.2	0.84

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1948-2004. Average Total Snowfall 1.0". Data from Safford Agricultural Center, AZ.

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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