

# 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.

### Basic Information

Founded: 1867  
 Incorporated: 1989  
 Elevation: 870  
 Located in La Paz County  
 Nearby Highways: HWYS I-10; US 95; SR 95

Distance to Major Cities:  
 Phoenix: 125 miles  
 Tucson: 296 miles

### Population

	1990	2000	2008
Quartzsite	1,876	3,354	3,692
La Paz County	13,844	19,715	21,544
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,629,455

Sources: Arizona Department of Commerce and US 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 Super 8 motel opened in 2001.

### County Employment

	2008
Government	2,575
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,200
Other Private Service-Providing	950
Goods Producing	250

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

### Private Employers

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

### Public Employers

ADOT  
 Quartzsite Post Office  
 Town of Quartzsite



### Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2008
Civilian Labor Force	679	695	694
Unemployed	37	34	39
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	4.9%	5.6%

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

### Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2008
New Bldg. Permits	92	95	44
Taxable Sales (\$)	15.9 million	29.2 million	65.1 million
Net Assessed Value (\$)	7.7 million	14.2 million	22 million

Sources: Arizona State Univ., AZ Dept. of Revenue, AZ Tax Research Assoc.  
 2008 New building permit data incomplete: one or more months not available.

### 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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### 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.

<b>Educational Institutions</b>	<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
Elementary	Y	N
High School	Y	N

### Financial

Number of banks: 1

### Government

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 & Lodging

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	
Water	Town of Quartzsite	928.927.4333

Cable Providers: Y  
Digital Switching Station: N  
Internet Service Provider: Y  
Cable Internet Service Provider: N  
Fiber Optics: Y

### Taxes

<b>Property Tax Rate</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2008</b>
Elementary/High Schools	3.84	5.72	3.78
City/Fire District	2.28	2.50	0.00
Countywide	5.24	4.96	4.06
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11.36</b>	<b>13.18</b>	<b>7.84</b>

Source: Arizona Tax Research Association  
Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation

### Sales Tax

	<b>2008</b>
City/Town	2.50%
County	1.00%
State	5.60%

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

### Weather

	<b>Avg. Low (°F)</b>	<b>Avg. High (°F)</b>	<b>Precip. (in.)</b>
January	57.0	87.5	0.4
February	36.8	65.6	0.5
March	41.4	70.8	0.6
April	47.3	78.4	0.4
May	54.4	86.7	0.2
June	63.3	95.9	0.1
July	72.3	104.8	0.1
August	80.4	108.8	0.5
September	79.3	107.0	0.8
October	70.8	101.4	0.5
November	57.0	89.8	0.4
December	44.0	75.3	0.3
December	36.7	65.1	0.6

Source: Western Regional Climate Center  
Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1959-2005.  
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:

Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce Tourism Bureau of Information  
P.O. Box 85  
Quartzsite, AZ 85346-0085  
Phone: 928.927.5600, Fax: 928.927.7438  
Email: [info@quartzsitechamber.org](mailto:info@quartzsitechamber.org)

Quartzsite Business Chamber of Commerce  
101 W. Main Street  
Quartzsite, AZ 85346  
Phone: 928-927-9321, Fax:  
Email: [info@qzchamber.com](mailto:info@qzchamber.com)  
Website: [www.qzchamber.com](http://www.qzchamber.com)



1700 W. Washington St., Suite 600, Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Phone: 602.771.1100 - Fax: 602.771.1200  
Web: [www.azcommerce.com](http://www.azcommerce.com)

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