

# Oracle

## Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Oracle is in the northern foothills of the Catalina Mountains. Oracle and two other towns, Mammoth and San Manuel, make up a tri-community area within a 12-mile radius. Albert Weldon made the trip to the western part of the United States via Cape Horn in his uncle's ship, The Oracle. While working at the Oracle Mine, Weldon began building a brush camp where Oracle exists today. By January 1882, there were approximately eight dwellings in the area. The town did not begin to grow, however, until the Apache Mine began working. One of the early settlers, Edwin S. Dodge, applied for a post office in the 1880s, but his first choice for a name was rejected in favor of Oracle, Weldon's ship.

### Basic Information

Founded: 1882	Distance to Major Cities:
Incorporated: No	Phoenix: 120 miles
Elevation: 4,514	Tucson: 40 miles
Located in Pinal County	
Nearby Highways: HWYS I-10	
Enterprise Zone available	

### Population

	1990	2000	2008
Oracle	3,043	3,563	N/A
Pinal County	116,397	179,727	350,558
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,629,455

Sources: Arizona Department of Commerce and US Census Bureau  
N/A: Population estimates for this community are not available.

### Principal Economic Activities

With the recent closing of BHP Copper Company, Oracle's economy has shifted from mining and smelting to arts & crafts, a growing electronic cottage industry and tourism. Because of Oracle's setting, climate and other nearby attractions, Oracle has a long history of visitors. It's closest neighbor to the east is Arizona State Park's Environmental Education Center and to the west is the world famous Biosphere II.

### County Employment

	2008
Government	19,225
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	9,150
Leisure and Hospitality	4,550
Educational and Health Services	4,275
Mining and Construction	3,925
Manufacturing	3,825
Professional and Business Services	3,450
Other Services	1,625
Financial Activities	1,500
Information	350

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



### Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2008
Civilian Labor Force	1,234	1,631	2,715
Unemployed	24	80	196
Unemployment Rate	1.9%	4.9%	7.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

### Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2008
Net Assessed Value (\$)	7.9 million	11.4 million	24 million

Sources: Arizona State Univ., AZ Dept. of Revenue, AZ Tax Research Assoc.

### Scenic Attractions

Oracle is a hill town located at 4,500 ft. in the northern oak-woodlands of the Catalina Mountains. Javelina, deer and other wildlife are commonly seen wandering around various neighborhoods. Popular activities for both residents and visitors are biking, hiking, and horseback riding on numerous trails such as the Oracle branch of Arizona trails. The Acadia Ranch Museum, which was Oracle's first post office, is now on the National Register of historic places and houses a collection of historic objects both large and small. Scenic drives include the road to Redrock and Pinal Pioneer Parkway both of which traverse a natural garden of desert flora.

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### Community Facilities

Facilities in the tri-community area of Oracle, Mammoth and San Manuel include three libraries, four parks, two swimming pools, a community center, three tennis courts, historical society and museum, three senior citizens organizations, five lighted ball fields and a golf course. The YMCA Triangle Y Camp summer youth camp is located in the Coronado National Forest south of Oracle. There is also a public picnic ground with facilities in Peppersauce Canyon in the same area. A community theater group performs at a nearby facility which has been converted to a theater.

#### Educational Institutions

	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	N

#### Financial

Number of banks: 1

#### Government

Fire Department: Volunteer  
Law Enforcement: Sheriff's Office

#### Medical

One regional health care facilities.

#### Hotel & Lodging

Number of Rooms: 30  
Meeting Rooms: 1  
Capacity of Largest Facility: 200

#### Industrial Properties:

For more information contact the Oracle Town Hall or the SMOR Chamber of Commerce.

#### Utilities

Electricity	Bureau of Indian Affairs	928.896.9401
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (statewide)	800.766.9722
Sewer	Individual septic tanks	
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water	Arizona Water Co. (Oracle)	520.385.2226

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

### Taxes

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2008
Elementary/High Schools	5.34	4.66	2.92
City/Fire District	0.53	1.03	2.60
Countywide	7.46	7.63	5.36
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13.33</b>	<b>13.32</b>	<b>10.88</b>

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

#### Sales Tax

	2008
City/Town	0.00%
County	1.00%
State	5.60%

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

### Weather

	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. High (°F)	Precip. (in.)
January	49.5	74.6	1.8
February	34.5	56.7	2.1
March	36.3	59.7	2.1
April	39.5	64.4	2.2
May	45.2	72.6	0.9
June	53.8	82.4	0.4
July	63.2	91.9	0.4
August	67.1	92.3	3.1
September	65.3	89.4	3.7
October	61.2	86.5	1.8
November	51.6	77.4	1.6
December	40.8	65.1	1.5
Annual	35.0	57.1	2.3

Source: Western Regional Climate Center  
Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1950-2005.  
Average Total Snowfall 10.7".

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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