

In the valleys and meadows, Williams lies at the base of Bill Williams Mountain in the beautiful Kaibab National Forest of north-central Arizona. Known as the Gateway to the Grand Canyon, the city offers the shortest route from Interstate 40 to the splendor of the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon Railway offers turn-of-the-20th-century diesel fuel engine or vintage 1950s diesel locomotive train rides between Williams and the Grand Canyon. Williams, the city and the mountain, were named for William "Bill" S. Williams, a famous master trapper and scout on the Santa Fe Trail. Williams maintains its attractive small-town atmosphere, while large-town conveniences and entertainment are only 30 minutes away in Flagstaff via Interstate 40.

Principal Economic Activities

Williams' location 59 miles south of the Grand Canyon makes tourist-oriented retail and service firms a major economic segment. With about five million tourists passing through Williams on their way to the Grand Canyon annually, there is an average traffic flow of more than 15,000 vehicles a day. Williams is situated in the heart of Arizona's timber country, and the timber industry is making a comeback in this historic community. The National Forest Service, cattle and sheep ranching, dry farming, small industry and rock quarrying also contribute to the economy.

Scenic Attractions

In addition to the Grand Canyon, attractions in the area include the 9,264-foot Bill Williams Mountain, White Horse Lake and Sycamore Canyon Wilderness area. Williams is the last town on Route 66 to be bypassed by Interstate 40 and is a popular stop for "Mother Road" enthusiasts, who wish to see the best-preserved stretch of old Route 66. The Williams and Forest Service Visitor Center is located in the historic Santa Fe Freight Depot. Air and ground scenic tours are available in Williams. The surrounding Kaibab National Forest offers seasonal hunting. For fishing enthusiasts, six well-stocked lakes surround Williams. Camping is available with 200 national forest campsites and 300 private sites in the region.

Community Facilities

Williams offers a broad range of community facilities including a community building, a library, several parks and 30 horse stables. Additional athletic facilities include football and baseball fields, one Little League field, rodeo grounds, one softball field and two practice fields. Williams hosts a variety of annual events, too.



BASIC INFORMATION

Founded:	1881	Incorporated:	1901
Elevation:	6,940 ft.	Location:	Coconino County
Distance to major cities:			
Phoenix:	170 miles	San Diego:	494 miles
Tucson:	281 miles	Los Angeles:	433 miles
Las Vegas:	218 miles		

POPULATION

	2000	2010	2017 (est.)
Williams	2,842	3,032	3,256
Coconino County	116,320	134,679	144,057
State of Arizona	5,130,632	6,401,569	6,965,897

Office of Economic Opportunity

PROPERTY TAX

	2000	2010	2016
Elementary / High School	5.31	3.29	4.42
City / Fire District	1.41	1.16	1.50
Coconino County	1.71	1.76	2.31
Totals (Coconino County)	8.43	6.21	8.23

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Williams	3.50%
Coconino County	1.30%
State	5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

	2000	2010	2017
Civilian Labor Force	1,539	1,536	1,667
Unemployed	64	62	50
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.0%	3.0%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	230	11.3%
High school or equivalent, no college	589	28.9%
Some college or Associate degree	702	34.5%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	516	25.3%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	383	25.8%
Education, health care & social assistance	206	13.9%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	156	10.5%
Retail trade	139	9.4%
Manufacturing	134	9.0%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	103	7.0%
Public administration	92	6.2%
Construction	68	4.6%
Other services, except public administration	64	4.3%
Finance, insurance & real estate	61	4.1%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	39	2.6%
Wholesale trade	25	1.7%
Information	12	0.8%

American Community Survey

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Commerce Authority in cooperation with local sources. For further information, please contact:

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Williams-Grand Canyon Chamber of Commerce

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