

With a population of nearly 500,000 people, Mesa is the 36th largest city in the United States and second largest in the Phoenix-Mesa metro area. Mesa covers over 130 square miles inside a 21-city region with a combined population of 4.13 million, which is projected to grow to over 6 million by 2050. This statistic makes Mesa larger than Miami, Minneapolis, Atlanta and St. Louis. Mesa offers a quality urban experience supported by a diversified economic base, excellent educational institutions, business-friendly government, robust utility and transportation infrastructure and an educated workforce.

Principal Economic Activities

Mesa has a diverse economy with key areas of strength being health care, education, aerospace and defense, tourism and technology (HEAT). Regional employment centers include downtown Mesa, Falcon Field, the Fiesta District, the Superstition Freeway Corridor, Mesa Riverview and the Mesa Gateway area. The Mesa Gateway area is host to the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, the Elliot Road Technology Corridor, the Gateway Industrial Sector and Arizona State University's Polytechnic Campus. Top employers in Mesa include Able Aerospace, Apple, Banner Health Systems, Boeing, Bridgestone, Cessna, CMC Steel, Dexcom, Empire Southwest, Esurance, FUJIFILM, Matheson Tri-Gas, MD Helicopters, Mesa Community College, Mitsubishi, Nammo Talley, National General Lender, Santander and ZF TRW.



Scenic Attractions

From urban to rural, mountain peaks to desert floors, arts and culture to wildlife and nightlife, each Mesa visitor is given unparalleled access to one of the richest arrays of visitor offerings in the country. Mesa borders the Tonto National Forest and the iconic Superstition Mountains, allowing visitors to experience a wide-open and true Arizona vacation. Mesa is known as an exciting spring training destination as the Chicago Cubs' Sloan Park and the Oakland A's Hohokam Stadium attract hundreds of thousands of fans every year for the Cactus League. Mesa boasts year-round sunshine, desert and mountain landscapes, world-class restaurants and shopping, 29 golf courses and a wide range of outdoor recreation options.

Community Facilities

Mesa's large performance venues include the national award-winning Mesa Arts Center, the Mesa Amphitheater and Mesa Community College's Performing Arts Center. The Mesa Convention Center located in the heart of downtown Mesa is a full-service facility equipped to handle any conference, event or occasion. Museums of note include the i.d.e.a. Museum, the Mesa Historical Museum, the Arizona Museum of Natural History and the Commemorative Air Force Museum. The Mesa Grande Ruins and the Park of the Canals are unique archaeological sites located in Mesa. Mesa has four public libraries, four recreation centers, eight specialty sports complexes, nine aquatics facilities, 19 tennis courts, 66 parks and 76 multi-purpose athletic fields, as well as a myriad of other sports, recreation and arts programs throughout the city. Mesa is home to the Symphony of the Southwest, Millennial Choirs and Orchestras, the Southwest Shakespeare Company and many other theater and performing arts groups.

BASIC INFORMATION

Founded:	1878	Incorporated:	1883
Elevation:	1,255 ft.	Location:	Maricopa County
Distance to major cities:			
Phoenix:	15 miles	San Diego:	361 miles
Tucson:	106 miles	Los Angeles:	389 miles
Las Vegas:	310 miles		

POPULATION

	2000	2010	2017 (est.)
Mesa	396,375	439,929	481,275
Maricopa County	3,072,149	3,824,058	4,221,684
State of Arizona	5,130,632	6,401,569	6,965,897

Office of Economic Opportunity

PROPERTY TAX

	2000	2010	2016
Elementary / High School	7.55	5.27	7.61
City / Fire District	0.00	0.35	1.16
Maricopa County	3.35	2.79	4.06
Totals (Maricopa County)	10.90	8.41	12.82

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Mesa	1.75%
Maricopa County	0.70%
State	5.60%

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LABOR FORCE

	2000	2010	2017
Civilian Labor Force	208,684	217,623	239,712
Unemployed	6,274	21,083	9,984
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	9.7%	4.2%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	37,941	12.2%
High school or equivalent, no college	80,937	26.1%
Some college or Associate degree	112,069	36.1%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	79,611	25.6%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	47,030	21.9%
Retail trade	27,712	12.9%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	26,377	12.3%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	21,581	10.1%
Construction	18,140	8.5%
Finance, insurance & real estate	17,923	8.4%
Manufacturing	17,389	8.1%
Other services, except public administration	10,557	4.9%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	10,374	4.8%
Public administration	7,422	3.5%
Wholesale trade	4,960	2.3%
Information	3,785	1.8%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	1,361	0.6%

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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