

Navajo County was formed on March 21, 1895, as the final act of the Territorial Assembly before it adjourned at midnight. What is now Navajo County was first included in Yavapai County, but in 1879, the area was added to the newly formed Apache County. Holbrook, the county seat, was founded in 1871. By the time it became Navajo County, the area was developed – the railroad had crossed the county for more than a decade, and North America's third largest ranch, the Aztec Land and Cattle Company near Holbrook, had been established. Backed by Easterners, Aztec bought 1 million acres of land from the railroad at 50 cents an acre. The company – known as the Hashknife Outfit because of its brand – brought 33,000 longhorn cattle and 2,200 horses into northern Arizona from Texas. Holbrook, the county seat, was founded in 1871. The county is divided into two distinct parts by the Mogollon Rim. The high country in the northern part of the county is arid and desert-like with empty mesas and smaller plateaus. The southern part is a rugged mountain area, heavily wooded with piñon juniper and ponderosa pine. In the north is Kayenta, founded in 1909 as a trading post, and now the gateway to the Navajo Tribal Park at Monument Valley and a thriving Navajo community. Farther south is the Hopi Indian Reservation, which is completely surrounded by the Navajo Reservation. The Hopi Pueblo of Oraibi is one of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in the United States. Today, Navajo County's principal industries are tourism, manufacturing, timber production and ranching. Almost 55 percent of Navajo County's 9,959 square miles is Indian reservation land. Individual and corporate ownership accounts for 30 percent; the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management together control 9 percent; and the state of Arizona owns 6 percent.



County Profile for
Navajo County, Arizona

POPULATION

	2000	2010	2023 (est.)
Navajo County	97,470	107,677	107,748

Office of Economic Opportunity

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Navajo County	0.50%
State	5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

	2000	2010	2022
Civilian Labor Force	34,267	43,903	39,276
Unemployed	2,476	6,453	2,572
Unemployment Rate	7.2%	14.7%	6.5%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	11,620	16.2%
High school or equivalent, no college	21,002	29.2%
Some college or Associate degree	27,708	38.5%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	11,588	16.1%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	11,331	32.8%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	4,128	12.0%
Retail trade	4,121	11.9%
Public administration	3,505	10.2%
Construction	2,879	8.3%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	1,999	5.8%
Finance, insurance & real estate	1,417	4.1%
Other services, except public administration	1,349	3.9%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	1,233	3.6%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	927	2.7%
Manufacturing	866	2.5%
Wholesale trade	463	1.3%
Information	307	0.9%

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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