

Superior is on U.S. 60 at the junction with State Highway 177. Situated in a mountainous setting, the town is surrounded by peaks such as 6,056-foot Iron Mountain. In 1900, George Lobb laid out the town, naming it Hastings. Mines dotted the hills around the prosperous Pinal County community. Stockholders in one of the successful silver mines lived in Michigan and named their mine Lake Superior. This mine fed the area economy, and the community changed its name to Superior after this mine. The Magma Copper Company was established in 1910 and ran the Silver Queen Mine, which became a great copper producer after its silver ran out. A smelter was built in 1924 and remained in operation for 47 years.

Principal Economic Activities

Major employment sectors in the Superior area include mining, trade and service. The community's trade and service sectors are expanding, as is tourism. Agriculture is significant to Superior's economy and ranching is conducted in the surrounding areas. The development and permitting of the Resolution Copper project has created additional mining-related economic growth.

Scenic Attractions

Along the famous 98-mile Apache Trail route, imposing saguaros, rugged mountains, desert vistas and four lakes created by dams on the Salt River give the traveler a glimpse of Arizona's beauty and diversity. East of town are Queen Creek Bridge and Tunnel on the Legends of Superior Trails. On the eastern side of Queen Creek Canyon are the red-streaked towering cliffs of Apache Leap Mountain where Apaches are said to have jumped rather than surrender to U.S. troops. Nearby attractions include the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum, with more than 10,000 desert plants, the Oak Flats campground and the Resolution Copper Company Mine. Superior has identified three historic districts, and the Superior Historical Society opened the home of Bob Jones (Arizona's sixth governor) as a museum. The Chamber of Commerce Caboose Visitor Center on U.S. 60 is a unique attraction along with the Mining History Trail and the Copper Corridor Ore Cart Trail, a public art memorial to miners. Outdoor recreation includes access to public lands adjacent to Superior and access to the Arizona National Scenic Trail just west of town.

Community Facilities

The town of Superior has a broad range of community facilities including an airport, senior center, a community center, a library, one swimming pool, a Little League field and two parks. The school district maintains football, softball and baseball fields. The town also has commercial property available in the industrial park and Main Street corridors.



Community Profile for
Superior, Arizona



BASIC INFORMATION

Founded:	1882
Incorporated:	1976
Elevation:	2,820 ft.
Location:	Pinal

Distance to major cities:

Phoenix:	63 miles
Tucson:	102 miles
Las Vegas:	357 miles
San Diego:	407 miles
Los Angeles:	436 miles

POPULATION

	2000	2010	2023 (est.)
Superior	3,254	2,835	2,415

Office of Economic Opportunity

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Superior	4.00%
Pinal	1.10%
State	5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

	2000	2010	2022
Civilian Labor Force	1,203	1,144	1,294
Unemployed	119	112	75
Unemployment Rate	9.9%	9.8%	5.8%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	389	15.3%
High school or equivalent, no college	1,042	41.0%
Some college or Associate degree	655	25.8%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	457	18.0%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	254	22.8%
Public administration	226	20.3%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	146	13.1%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	127	11.4%
Construction	119	10.7%
Retail trade	98	8.8%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	49	4.4%
Manufacturing	43	3.9%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	25	2.2%
Information	15	1.3%
Other services, except public administration	11	1.0%
Finance, insurance & real estate	2	0.2%

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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