

## Apache County

Apache County was carved from Yavapai County — one of Arizona's original four counties — on Feb. 24, 1879, by the 10th Territorial Legislative Assembly. Leaders of St. Johns and Globe had petitioned for their towns to be the county seat, but the honor went temporarily to Snowflake, with the provision that an election would determine the permanent county seat. In November 1879, on the strength of votes from the mining town of Clifton (now in Greenlee County), St. Johns was designated the county seat. Originally, Apache County encompassed all of present-day Navajo County, part of Gila County and part of Graham County, but by 1895 its size had been reduced to the 11,218 square miles it occupies today. The Apache and Navajo Indian reservations cover 66 percent of the county, and 25 percent of the state's Native Americans live here. Approximately 21 percent is public land, and 14 percent is privately owned. The forested White Mountains and green pastures in the south of the county contrast sharply with the high, dry, colorful plateau region of the north. Excellent fishing, hunting and skiing make the White Mountains a year-round recreation area. Numerous archaeological sites are open to the public. Fort Defiance, Arizona's first military post, the Town of Ganado, and Hubbell's famous trading post (now a National Historic Site) are located in northern Apache County on the Navajo Reservation. Chinle, another Indian trade center, is the gateway to the spectacular Canyon de Chelly National Monument. Also in Apache County are the spectacular Petrified Forest National Park and the Painted Desert, Window Rock, the Navajo tribal capital, and Casa Malpais Archaeological site. The Apache Indian Reservation, located in the White Mountains around the settlement of Fort Apache, includes 25 excellent fishing lakes and the Sunrise Park Ski Resort for outdoor recreation, as well as a casino. The largest employment category in Apache County are the four hospitals that serve communities in the county, including the Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility in Chinle.



County Profile for  
**Apache County, Arizona**



**POPULATION**

	2000	2010	2023 (est.)
Apache County	69,423	71,685	66,411

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX**

Apache County	0.50%
State	5.60%

*Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation*

**LABOR FORCE**

	2000	2010	2022
Civilian Labor Force	19,028	23,438	18,700
Unemployed	1,710	3,849	1,705
Unemployment Rate	9.0%	16.4%	9.1%

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT**

	Count	Share
Less than high school	8,459	18.5%
High school or equivalent, no college	14,235	31.2%
Some college or Associate degree	17,208	37.7%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	5,705	12.5%

*American Community Survey*

**INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)**

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	7,717	40.7%
Public administration	2,005	10.6%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	1,712	9.0%
Retail trade	1,683	8.9%
Construction	1,561	8.2%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	1,529	8.1%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	690	3.6%
Finance, insurance & real estate	542	2.9%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	471	2.5%
Manufacturing	440	2.3%
Other services, except public administration	379	2.0%
Information	182	1.0%
Wholesale trade	69	0.4%

*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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