

FLAGSTAFF

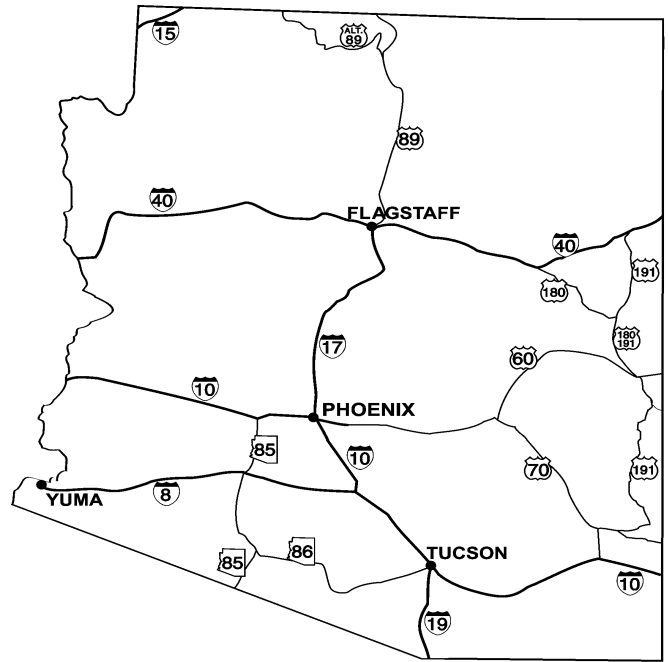
Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Flagstaff's name comes from a pine tree made into a flagpole in 1876 to celebrate the Declaration of Independence Centennial. It's the largest city & regional center of northern Arizona & the seat of Coconino County. One of the highest US cities, Flagstaff sits at the base of the 12,633-ft San Francisco Peaks. It's a year-round mecca for visitors & many Arizonans maintain second homes here. Flagstaff has long been a transportation hub. Located along an old wagon road to California, Flagstaff was founded in conjunction with the arrival of the railroad in 1881. Today the town links I-40 to I-17, Hwy 89 to Page & Utah, & Hw 180 to the Grand Canyon. Historic Route 66 passes through Flagstaff.

FOUNDED: 1881
 COUNTY: Coconino County
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 146 miles
 HIGHWAYS: I-17; I-40; US 89; US 180
 ENTERPRISE ZONE AVAILABLE

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1894
 ELEVATION: 7,000 feet
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 257 miles



POPULATION

	1990	2000	2004
Flagstaff	45,857	52,894	61,270
Coconino County	96,591	116,320	129,570
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,833,685

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau.

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Flagstaff is a governmental, educational, transportation, cultural and commercial center. Tourism is a major source of employment. Traditional economic activities continue to employ people. New scientific and high tech research and development industries have located in Flagstaff. Approximately 19,000 students attend Northern Arizona University. More than 200,000 people do business in Flagstaff, both in the historic downtown area and at several shopping centers.

County Employment	2004
Educational & Health Svcs	6,800
Financial Activities	1,600
Government	18,400
Information	500
Leisure & Hospitality	11,800
Manufacturing	3,200
Mining & Construction	3,400
Professional & Business Svcs	3,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	9,200

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security
 Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

Major Private Employers

Nestle Purina	SCA Tissue
Sturner & Klein	W.L. Gore & Associates
Walgreens Distribution	

Major Public Employers

City of Flagstaff	Coconino County
Flagstaff Medical Center	Flagstaff Unified School District
Northern Arizona University	

LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2004
Civilian Labor Force	23,490	34,459	37,051
Unemployed	1,481	1,577	1,773
Unemployment Rate	6.3%	4.6%	4.8%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	2000	2004
New Bldg. Permit	869	823	801
Taxable Sales (\$)	511,884,607	1,009,055,150	1,203,207,253
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	230,904,138	408,592,733	501,655,440

Sources: Arizona State University; AZ Dept. of Revenue; AZ Tax Research Foundation

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Flagstaff and the surrounding area are abundant with attractions. The Grand Canyon is the top area attraction with some 5 million visitors annually. Other popular sites nearby are the San Francisco Peaks, the dormant volcanos at Sunset Crater National Monument, the Indian ruins at Wupatki and Walnut Canyon, Meteor Crater (the world's largest), Oak Creek's red rock canyons and Monument Valley. Many recreational activities are found in the city itself. Lowell Observatory, where the planet Pluto was discovered, has both historic and modern telescopes and is open to the public. The Museum of Northern Arizona has Native American displays. Riordan State Park features a mansion built by two brothers prominent in the lumber industry. Flagstaff Winterfest is held annually to celebrate that season.

