

Cottonwood

Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Cottonwood is an industrial, retail, and services center located about 50 miles south of Flagstaff in the picturesque Verde Valley. In 1874, soldiers from Camp Verde were stationed at an adobe house where Cottonwood stands today. Settlers began moving in, developing a community that took its name from a circle of 16 cottonwood trees near the Verde River. Cottonwood is near the geographic center of Arizona near Interstate 17 on state Highways 89A and 260. From Phoenix, drive north to exit 287, then northwest on state Highway 260. From Flagstaff, drive south through the magnificent Oak Creek Canyon on state Highway 89A.

A Main Street and REDI accredited community

Basic Information

Founded: 1879
 Incorporated: 1960
 Elevation: 3,320
 Located in Yavapai County
 Nearby Highways: HWYS I-17; SR 89A; SR 260
 Enterprise Zone available

Distance to Major Cities:
 Phoenix: 106 miles
 Tucson: 217 miles

Population

	1990	2000	2008
Cottonwood	5,918	9,179	11,230
Yavapai County	107,714	167,517	227,348
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,629,455

Sources: Arizona Department of Commerce and US Census Bureau

Principal Economic Activities

Cottonwood serves as the trading center for the Verde Valley, with a wide variety of retail establishments, professional services and manufacturing concerns. Verde Valley Medical Center is one of the finest diagnostic and treatment centers in Northern Arizona. Travel and tourism industry are also important to Cottonwood's economy. Nearby national forests, state parks, national monuments and wilderness areas attract hundreds of thousands of tourists each year.

County Employment

	2008
Government	12,800
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	12,600
Educational and Health Services	10,100
Leisure and Hospitality	8,400
Mining and Construction	8,300
Professional and Business Services	4,200
Manufacturing	3,100
Financial Activities	2,500
Other Services	2,000
Information	600

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

Private Employers

Griffith Enterprises
 Phelps & Sons, Inc.
 Verde Valley Medical Center
 Wal-Mart

Public Employers

Arizona Public Service
 City of Cottonwood
 Cottonwood/Oak Creek School District
 Mingus Union High School
 Yavapai County



Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2008
Civilian Labor Force	2,268	4,066	5,305
Unemployed	138	173	324
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	4.3%	6.1%

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2008
New Bldg. Permits	106	501	20
Taxable Sales (\$)	119.6 million	263.9 million	450.5 million
Net Assessed Value (\$)	34.9 million	58.4 million	146.3 million

Sources: Arizona State Univ., AZ Dept. of Revenue, AZ Tax Research Assoc. 1990 New building permit data incomplete: One or more months not available

Scenic Attractions

The Verde River supports one of the state's best riparian habitats. Riverfront Park and Dead Horse Ranch State Park provide access to the Verde River Greenway. The Old Town area, featuring arts and crafts shops, is located on historic Main Street. In the immediate vicinity are many diverse attractions. Tuzigoot National Monument, a 550-year-old Sinaguan Indian ruin, and Montezuma Castle National Monument, an 11th-century cliff dwelling, give insight into the area's pre-Columbian past. The Verde Canyon Railroad offers views into the remote Sycamore Canyon Wilderness. Natural attractions include the red rocks of Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon to the north and Prescott National Forest to the west, where 7,700-foot Mingus Mountain is a world-class mecca for hang gliding enthusiasts.

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Community Facilities

Cottonwood has a library, civic center, a recreation center, four parks (including one on the riverfront), a bowling alley, indoor theater, swimming pool, multi-complex softball fields, soccer fields, and tennis, skate and basketball courts. There are also two golf courses. The community also offers senior citizen facilities such as skilled health care, supervisory care and retirement centers.

Educational Institutions

	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	Y
Middle School	Y	Y
High School	Y	Y
Community College	Y	N

Financial

Number of banks: 8

Government

Fire Department: Staffed City/Local Fire Department

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports

Cottonwood Airport with 4,250-ft. lighted/paved runway, fuel mechanic services and UNICOM 122.7.

Medical

Cottonwood has one hospital.

Hotel & Lodging

Number of Rooms: 300

Meeting Rooms: 9

Capacity of Largest Facility: 200

Industrial Properties:

There are over 160 acres of industrial parks available with electricity, gas and water. For further information, contact the Cottonwood Economic Development Council, 827 North Main Street, Cottonwood, AZ 86326.

Utilities

Electricity	APS (Statewide)	800.253-9405
Natural Gas	Citizens Utility (Cottonwood)	928.634.5555
Sewer	City of Cottonwood	928.634.5526
Sewer	City of Cottonwood Waste Water	928.634.5526
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water	Clemenceau Water Co. (private)	928.637.8879
Water	Cordes Lakes Water Co. (private)	928.646.5295
Water	Cottonwood Water Works, Inc./Cordes Water	928.634.8886

Cable Providers: Y

Digital Switching Station: Y

Internet Service Provider: Y

Cable Internet Service Provider: Y

Fiber Optics: Y

Taxes

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2008
Elementary/High Schools	6.26	6.19	3.98
City/Fire District	0.00	0.00	0.00
Countywide	5.14	4.18	3.06
Totals	11.40	10.37	7.04

Source: Arizona Tax Research Association

Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation

NOTE: School district participates in the Valley Academy of Career and Technology Education (VACTE).

Sales Tax

	2008
City/Town	2.20%
County	0.75%
State	5.60%

Sources: League of Arizona Cities & Towns, Arizona Dept. of Revenue

Weather

	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. High (°F)	Precip. (in.)
	45.2	78.2	1.0
January	28.1	58.1	0.8
February	31.7	63.3	0.8
March	35.6	68.3	0.9
April	41.9	76.3	0.5
May	49.2	84.8	0.4
June	57.8	94.8	0.5
July	65.9	98.5	1.9
August	63.8	95.5	2.2
September	57.4	91.3	1.1
October	46.4	81.2	1.0
November	35.6	68.1	0.7
December	28.7	58.6	1.1

Source: Western Regional Climate Center

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1949-1977.

Average Total Snowfall 4.2".

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce Communications Division in cooperation with local sources.

For further information contact:

Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce

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