

# 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 1882. 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.

A REDI accredited community

### Basic Information

Founded: 1882  
 Incorporated: 1894  
 Elevation: 7,000  
 Located in Coconino County  
 Nearby Highways: HWYS I-17; I-40; US 89; US 180  
 Enterprise Zone available

Distance to Major Cities:  
 Phoenix: 142 miles  
 Tucson: 257 miles

### Population

	1990	2000	2008
Flagstaff	45,857	52,894	64,693
Coconino County	96,591	116,320	135,613
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,629,455

Sources: Arizona Department of Commerce and US 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

	2008
Government	19,900
Leisure and Hospitality	13,200
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	10,300
Educational and Health Services	7,200
Manufacturing	3,900
Mining and Construction	3,200
Professional and Business Services	3,100
Other Services	1,900
Financial Activities	1,600
Information	400

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

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

### Private Employers

Machine Solutions  
 Nestle Purina  
 SCA Tissue  
 Southwest Windpower  
 W.L. Gore & Associates  
 Walgreens Distribution

### Public Employers

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



### Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2008
Civilian Labor Force	26,111	31,617	37,041
Unemployed	1,604	982	1,309
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	3.1%	3.5%

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

### Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2008
New Bldg. Permits	869	823	275
Taxable Sales (\$)	511.9 million	1 billion	1.6 billion
Net Assessed Value (\$)	230.9 million	408.6 million	878 million

Sources: Arizona State Univ., AZ Dept. of Revenue, AZ Tax Research Assoc.

### 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 Volcano National Monument, the Indian ruins at Wupatki and Walnut Canyon, Meteor Crater, Oak Creek Canyon, red rocks of Sedona & Monument Valley. Many recreational activities are found in the city itself. Lowell Observatory, where 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.

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### Community Facilities

Flagstaff offers a wide range of community and cultural facilities. There are two museums, 34 art galleries, a symphony orchestra, six recreation centers, three libraries, 29 parks, two swimming pools, one public and five private golf courses, an ice skating/roller rink, 19 tennis courts, one bowling alley, 13 indoor theater screens, and one ski resort. For the younger crowd there are two skate parks and one BMX facility.

<b>Educational Institutions</b>	<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
Elementary	Y	Y
Middle School	Y	Y
High School	Y	Y
Community College	Y	Y
University 4 year	Y	N

### Financial

Number of banks: 13

### Government

Fire Department: Staffed City/Local Fire Department

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

### Airports

Pulliam Airport - (2.5 miles south), with a 8,800-ft. runway. Daily flights to Los Angeles & Phoenix available.

### Medical

Extensive medical facilities.

### Hotel & Lodging

Number of Rooms: 4,905

Meeting Rooms: 71

Capacity of Largest Facility: 1,000

### Industrial Properties:

Several parks and parcels varying in acreage and size are available.

Contact: Greater Flagstaff Economic Council, (928) 779-7658 or [www.gfec.org](http://www.gfec.org) for specific information..

### Utilities

Electricity	APS (Statewide)	800.253-9405
Natural Gas	Unisource Energy Services	928.634.5555
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water & Sewer	Municipal (Flagstaff)	928.779.7637

Cable Providers: Y

Digital Switching Station: Y

Internet Service Provider: Y

Cable Internet Service Provider: Y

Fiber Optics: Y

### Taxes

<b>Property Tax Rate</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2008</b>
Elementary/High Schools	5.93	6.69	4.88
City/Fire District	1.89	1.71	1.52
Countywide	1.66	1.71	1.23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9.48</b>	<b>10.11</b>	<b>7.63</b>

Source: Arizona Tax Research Association

Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation

NOTE: School district participates in the Coconino Association for Vocations, Industry, and Technology (CAVIAT).

### Sales Tax

	<b>2008</b>
City/Town	1.00%
County	1.13%
State	5.60%

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

### Weather

	<b>Avg. Low (°F)</b>	<b>Avg. High (°F)</b>	<b>Precip. (in.)</b>
January	31.0	61.2	1.7
February	15.2	42.1	2.1
March	18.0	44.9	2.0
April	22.4	50.1	2.1
May	28.0	58.5	1.3
June	34.3	67.9	0.6
July	41.7	77.9	0.5
August	50.8	81.6	2.4
September	50.8	79.0	2.8
October	41.9	73.5	1.9
November	31.4	63.4	1.5
December	22.4	51.6	1.6
December	16.7	43.5	2.0

Source: Western Regional Climate Center

Western Regional Climate Center, [wrccl@dri.edu](mailto:wrccl@dri.edu). Period of record 1950-2005.

Average Total Snowfall 99.1".

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

For further information contact:

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