

Florence

Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Florence is the seat of Pinal County. Colonel Levi Ruggles, an Indian agent, staked and platted the town in 1866. Sources cite different origins for the town's name, but all agree it was someone's sister or daughter. By the 1920s, the area had become the agricultural center of the county. The Florence business district is still on Main Street and, aside from the obvious improvements, downtown remains much as it must have been in the 1880s. Both visitors and residents appreciate the community's diversity which offers the convenience and lifestyle available in a small western community, yet is only 45 minutes away from the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas.

A Main Street and REDI accredited community

Basic Information

Founded: 1866
 Incorporated: 1908
 Elevation: 1,500
 Located in Pinal County
 Nearby Highways: HWYS I-10; SR 79; SR 287, Hunt Hwy
 Enterprise Zone available

Distance to Major Cities:
 Phoenix: 61 miles
 Tucson: 70 miles

Population

	1990	2000	2006
Florence	7,321	14,466	21,295
Pinal County	116,397	179,727	299,875
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,305,210

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and US Census Bureau Revised 1990 Census population figure (original: 7,510). Revised 2000 Census population figure (original: 17,054).

Principal Economic Activities

Florence is home to both the Pinal County government complex and the Arizona State Prison. Agricultural products from the area include cotton, cattle, grains, and grapes. In January 1987, Florence was selected for inclusion in the Main Street Program sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This public/private partnership program helps communities revitalize their central business districts. Florence's year-round sunshine, warm climate and clean air makes popular for retirees.

County Employment

	2006
Government	16,950
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	7,900
Educational and Health Services	4,125
Leisure and Hospitality	4,000
Professional and Business Services	3,775
Mining and Construction	3,375
Manufacturing	3,350
Other Services	1,450
Financial Activities	1,025
Information	300

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security

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

Major Private Employers

Correction Corporation of America
 Correctional Services Corporation

Major Public Employers

Arizona Department of Corrections
 Florence Unified School District
 Pinal County
 Town of Florence
 U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security



Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2006
Civilian Labor Force	1,383	2,183	2,730
Unemployed	45	100	134
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	4.6%	4.9%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security

Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2006
New Bldg. Permits	129	187	638
Taxable Sales (\$)	12.3 million	102 million	85.2 million
Net Assessed Value (\$)	9.3 million	17.7 million	32.9 million

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

Scenic Attractions

The 5th oldest town in AZ, downtown Florence has been designated an official "Historic District." Among buildings listed on the National Register are the 1st and 2nd county courthouses. The 1st was built in 1877 and is open to the public as McFarland State Park. The 2nd, built in 1891, is still in use. The fully restored 1889 Brunenkant Building serves as the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce. Pinal Pioneer Parkway, a portion of S.R. 79 south of Florence, contains a natural garden where virtually all species of Arizona desert flora are displayed and identified. The Tom Mix Monument, on the site where the popular movie cowboy died in a 1940 car crash, is located on the parkway. Florence is home to the nation's oldest Junior Rodeo, held every Thanksgiving weekend. A historic home tour is

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Community Facilities

Florence offers a broad range of community facilities including a County Visitor Center, a Town Visitor Center, a municipal fitness center, two museums, one library, three parks, one swimming pool, several softball fields and tennis courts, and a golf course. The Florence Senior Center also offers a van program for shopping and medical transportation for seniors.

Educational Institutions	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	N
Middle School	Y	N
High School	Y	N

Financial

Number of banks: 2

Government

Fire Department: Staffed City/Local Fire Department
Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports

Nearby Coolidge Airport, 11 miles southwest, has two paved runways (5,590 ft./3,750 ft.) and Williams Gateway Air Park, 18 miles northwest

Medical

Six doctors have offices in the community, including dental and vision services.

Hotel & Lodging

Number of Rooms: 30
Meeting Rooms: 1
Capacity of Largest Facility: 150

Industrial Properties:

For more information contact the Town of Florence, the Florence Chamber of Commerce or the Florence Industrial Development Authority.

Utilities

Electricity	APS (Statewide)	800.428.7324
Electricity	San Carlos Irrigation Project (Florence)	520.723.6202
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (statewide)	800.766.9722
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water & Sewer	Municipal (Florence)	520.868.7500

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	2006
Elementary/High Schools	5.35	8.48	8.13
City/Fire District	0.93	0.79	0.91
Countywide	7.46	7.63	6.86
Totals	13.74	16.90	15.90

Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation
Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation

NOTE: School district participates in the Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology (CAVIT).

Sales Tax

	2006
City/Town	0.00%
County	1.00%
State	5.60%

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

Weather

	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. High (°F)	Precip. (in.)
	53.6	86.5	10.0
January	37.3	66.4	1.0
February	39.9	70.9	1.0
March	43.5	76.5	1.0
April	49.0	85.2	0.4
May	56.4	94.3	0.2
June	65.2	103.5	0.1
July	74.9	105.5	1.2
August	73.4	103.1	1.4
September	67.2	99.7	0.9
October	54.9	89.0	0.7
November	43.6	76.1	0.8
December	37.8	67.2	1.3

Source: Western Regional Climate Center
Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1892-2005.
Average Total Snowfall 0.1".

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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