


Community Profile for

Quartzsite

 Arizona Commerce Authority Logo

 Map of Quartzsite

Quartzsite is west of Phoenix at the junction of Interstate 10 and U.S. 95, near the Colorado River. The community has a Mohave Desert setting. The nearby Kofa, New Water and Plomosa Mountains provide topographic relief while the Colorado River lies only 17 miles to the west. Quartzsite was established in 1867 on the site of old Fort Tyson, a privately built structure constructed in 1856 by Charles Tyson for protection against raids. Named Quartzite because quartz was occasionally found in the area, the name evolved to Quartzsite through an error in spelling.

Principal Economic Activities

Tourism is the major contributor to Quartzsite's economy. The retail trade and service sectors benefit from the visitors who reside at the numerous mobile home and trailer parks in the vicinity between October and March. Several major gem and mineral shows, as well as numerous general swap meets, are popular tourist attractions, drawing approximately 1.5 million people annually.

Scenic Attractions


A rock hunter's paradise surrounds Quartzsite with agates, limonite cubes, gold and quartz being just a few. In town, the Hi Jolly Monument honors the Arab camel driver, Hadji Ali, who took part in an unsuccessful 1850s U.S. War Department attempt to use camels as beasts of burden in the desert. To the south rise the Kofa Mountains. Historic and scenic areas include the Spanish Wall, Crystal Hill, Tyson Tanks and Tyson Wells Museum. South in the Kofa Mountains is Palm Canyon, a tight gorge and home to Arizona's only native palms, reached by a steep, but rewarding, climb. Farther south is Castle Dome Peak. There are many points of interest including historical sites, day trips and many off-road ATV trails.

Community Facilities

Quartzsite offers a broad range of community facilities including an 80-acre town park. Celia's Rainbow Gardens, a senior citizens' hall, recreation centers, a public library, a historical museum and one nine-hole and one 18-hole primitive desert golf course are located in Quartzsite. The Quartzsite sewer and water system is upgraded on an on-going basis.

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BASIC INFORMATION

Founded: 1867

Incorporated: 1989

Elevation: 870 ft.

Location: La Paz

Distance to major cities:

Phoenix: 125 miles

Tucson: 296 miles

Las Vegas: 215 miles

San Diego: 238 miles

Los Angeles: 245 miles

POPULATION

2000 2010 2023 (est.)

Quartzsite 3,354 3,676 2,417

Office of Economic Opportunity

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Quartzsite 2.50%

La Paz 2.00%

State 5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

2000 2010 2022

Civilian Labor Force 698 1,063 834

Unemployed 36 200 0

Unemployment Rate 5.2% 18.8% 0.0%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

Count Share

Less than high school 614 18.4%

High school or equivalent, no college 923 27.6%

Some college or Associate degree 1,049 31.4%

Bachelor's degree or advanced degree 754 22.6%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

Count Share

Retail trade 301 47.6%

Transportation, warehousing, & utilities 126 19.9%

Wholesale trade 68 10.8%

Professional, scientific, & administrative services	61	9.7%
Education, health care & social assistance	45	7.1%
Manufacturing	31	4.9%

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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