

El Mirage, “Gateway to the West Valley,” lies approximately 16 miles northwest of downtown Phoenix and borders Luke Air Force Base. Incorporated in 1951, El Mirage has transcended its modest agricultural beginnings to become a growing economy supporting several different industry sectors.

El Mirage continues to develop its economic potential. It has adopted an aggressive strategy to attract new commercial and industrial businesses to the city. The 1600-acre Usage Driven Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) located in the city’s commerce/industry park, Northern Parkway transportation corridor and on-going road expansions/improvements make El Mirage a great place to live, work and play.

Principal Economic Activities

Construction, manufacturing, mining, fabrication and agriculture are the primary employment sectors in El Mirage. Local companies include a Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) vehicle distribution center for automobiles, a mining operation (Cemex), a concrete pipe manufacturer (Forterra Pipe & Precast) and a new mineral extraction equipment fabricator (Goodfellow Crushers). Other area employers include Luke Air Force Base, Wal-Mart and Dysart Unified School District. The FTZ Commerce/Industry Park has direct access to Loop 303 and U.S. Highway 60, connecting two major interstates (I-10 and I-17) and access to the greater Phoenix area via Grand Ave (U.S. 60).

Scenic Attractions

El Mirage celebrates Founders Day in March and hosts several other special events throughout the year. The city maintains two parks, Gateway and Bill Gentry. The city built a new recreational facility operated by the YMCA with a swimming pool adjacent to Bill Gentry Park. The city is also near the 7,000-seat Sundome Center for the Performing Arts in nearby Sun City West which features top-rated entertainers. The 10,000-acre Lake Pleasant Regional Park to the north offers boating, fishing, swimming, water skiing, camping and picnicking.

Community Facilities

A new city hall was built and completed in January 2017. The city of El Mirage has a wide range of community facilities including a senior center, library, three city parks, skateboard facility, splash pad, dog park, ball fields and a community garden. The city has new fire and police stations plus a new 28,000 square-foot recreational facility managed by the YMCA.



BASIC INFORMATION

Founded:	1937	Incorporated:	1951
Elevation:	1,126 ft.	Location:	Maricopa County
Distance to major cities:			
Phoenix:	20 miles	San Diego:	356 miles
Tucson:	142 miles	Los Angeles:	374 miles
Las Vegas:	268 miles		

POPULATION

	2000	2010	2016 (est.)
El Mirage	7,609	31,911	33,814
Maricopa County	3,072,149	3,824,058	4,137,076
State of Arizona	5,130,632	6,401,569	6,835,518

Office of Economic Opportunity

PROPERTY TAX

	2000	2010	2016
Elementary / High School	0.00	5.31	7.21
City / Fire District	0.00	2.29	3.78
Maricopa County	3.35	2.79	4.06
Totals (Maricopa County)	3.35	10.39	15.05

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

El Mirage	3.00%
Maricopa County	6.30%
State	5.60%

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LABOR FORCE

	2000	2010	2016
Civilian Labor Force	3,880	14,624	15,624
Unemployed	197	1,349	784
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	9.2%	5.0%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	3,247	17.2%
High school or equivalent, no college	6,718	35.5%
Some college or Associate degree	6,360	33.6%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	2,602	13.7%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	2,852	20.3%
Retail trade	1,890	13.4%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	1,820	12.9%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	1,531	10.9%
Finance, insurance & real estate	1,339	9.5%
Construction	1,115	7.9%
Public administration	874	6.2%
Manufacturing	811	5.8%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	637	4.5%
Other services, except public administration	531	3.8%
Wholesale trade	394	2.8%
Information	192	1.4%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	93	0.7%

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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