

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.



**BASIC INFORMATION**

<b>Founded:</b>	1867	<b>Incorporated:</b>	1989
<b>Elevation:</b>	870 ft.	<b>Location:</b>	La Paz County
<b>Distance to major cities:</b>			
<b>Phoenix:</b>	125 miles	<b>San Diego:</b>	238 miles
<b>Tucson:</b>	296 miles	<b>Los Angeles:</b>	245 miles
<b>Las Vegas:</b>	215 miles		

**POPULATION**

	2000	2010	2016 (est.)
Quartzsite	3,354	3,676	3,819
La Paz County	19,715	20,495	21,247
State of Arizona	5,130,632	6,401,569	6,835,518

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**PROPERTY TAX**

	2000	2010	2016
Elementary / High School	5.72	3.26	3.65
City / Fire District	2.50	2.78	2.84
La Paz County	4.96	4.12	5.58
Totals (La Paz County)	13.18	10.16	12.07

*Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation*

**SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX**

Quartzsite	2.50%
La Paz County	2.00%
State	5.60%

*Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation*

**LABOR FORCE**

	2000	2010	2016
Civilian Labor Force	698	1,063	898
Unemployed	36	200	42
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	18.8%	4.7%

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT**

	Count	Share
Less than high school	696	19.0%
High school or equivalent, no college	1,483	40.6%
Some college or Associate degree	1,096	30.0%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	382	10.4%

*American Community Survey*

**INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)**

	Count	Share
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	323	47.2%
Finance, insurance & real estate	189	27.6%
Education, health care & social assistance	91	13.3%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	66	9.6%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	16	2.3%
Construction	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Other services, except public administration	0	0.0%
Public administration	0	0.0%
Retail trade	0	0.0%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	0	0.0%
Wholesale trade	0	0.0%

*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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