

In the valleys and meadows, Williams lies at the base of Bill Williams Mountain in the beautiful Kaibab National Forest of north-central Arizona. Known as the Gateway to the Grand Canyon, the city offers the shortest route from Interstate 40 to the splendor of the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon Railway offers turn-of-the-20th-century diesel fuel engine or vintage 1950s diesel locomotive train rides between Williams and the Grand Canyon. Williams, the city and the mountain, were named for William "Bill" S. Williams, a famous master trapper and scout on the Santa Fe Trail. Williams maintains its attractive small-town atmosphere, while large-town conveniences and entertainment are only 30 minutes away in Flagstaff via Interstate 40.

Principal Economic Activities

Williams' location 59 miles south of the Grand Canyon makes tourist-oriented retail and service firms a major economic segment. With about five million tourists passing through Williams on their way to the Grand Canyon annually, there is an average traffic flow of more than 15,000 vehicles a day. Williams is situated in the heart of Arizona's timber country, and the timber industry is making a comeback in this historic community. The National Forest Service, cattle and sheep ranching, dry farming, small industry and rock quarrying also contribute to the economy.

Scenic Attractions

In addition to the Grand Canyon, attractions in the area include the 9,264-foot Bill Williams Mountain, White Horse Lake and Sycamore Canyon Wilderness area. Williams is the last town on Route 66 to be bypassed by Interstate 40 and is a popular stop for "Mother Road" enthusiasts, who wish to see the best-preserved stretch of old Route 66. The Williams and Forest Service Visitor Center is located in the historic Santa Fe Freight Depot. Air and ground scenic tours are available in Williams. The surrounding Kaibab National Forest offers seasonal hunting. For fishing enthusiasts, six well-stocked lakes surround Williams. Camping is available with 200 national forest campsites and 300 private sites in the region.

Community Facilities

Williams offers a broad range of community facilities including a community building, a library, several parks and 30 horse stables. Additional athletic facilities include football and baseball fields, one Little League field, rodeo grounds, one softball field and two practice fields. Williams hosts a variety of annual events, too.



BASIC INFORMATION

Founded:	1881	Incorporated:	1901
Elevation:	6,940 ft.	Location:	Coconino County
Distance to major cities:			
Phoenix:	170 miles	San Diego:	494 miles
Tucson:	281 miles	Los Angeles:	433 miles
Las Vegas:	218 miles		

POPULATION

	2000	2010	2016 (est.)
Williams	2,842	3,032	3,217
Coconino County	116,320	134,679	142,560
State of Arizona	5,130,632	6,401,569	6,835,518

Office of Economic Opportunity

PROPERTY TAX

	2000	2010	2016
Elementary / High School	5.31	3.29	4.42
City / Fire District	1.41	1.16	1.50
Coconino County	1.71	1.76	2.31
Totals (Coconino County)	8.43	6.21	8.23

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Williams	3.50%
Coconino County	6.90%
State	5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

	2000	2010	2016
Civilian Labor Force	1,539	1,536	1,465
Unemployed	64	62	55
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.0%	3.8%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	224	11.4%
High school or equivalent, no college	596	30.4%
Some college or Associate degree	734	37.4%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	408	20.8%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	320	24.4%
Retail trade	184	14.1%
Education, health care & social assistance	182	13.9%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	125	9.5%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	98	7.5%
Manufacturing	90	6.9%
Public administration	75	5.7%
Finance, insurance & real estate	73	5.6%
Construction	45	3.4%
Other services, except public administration	43	3.3%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	35	2.7%
Wholesale trade	28	2.1%
Information	11	0.8%

American Community Survey

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Commerce Authority in cooperation with local sources. For further information, please contact:

City of Williams

Pamela Galvan
113 S. 1st St
Williams, AZ 86046
Phone: 928-635-4451
Email: pgalvan@williamsaz.gov
Website: <http://www.williamsaz.gov>

Coconino County Arizona

219 E. Chery Ave.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Phone: 928-679-7170
Email: ldannenfeldt@coconino.az.gov
Website: www.coconino.az.gov

Williams-Grand Canyon Chamber of Commerce

200 W. Railroad Ave.
Williams, AZ 86046
Phone: 928-635-0273
Website: www.williamschamber.com

Local First Arizona

407 E. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone: 602-956-0909
Email: info@localfirstaz.com
Website: www.localfirstaz.com

Arizona Commerce Authority

Statewide Economic Development Group
118 N. 7th Ave., Suite 400
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: 602-845-1200
Email: info@azcommerce.com
Website: www.azcommerce.com

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