

Cottonwood is the heart of Arizona wine country, and the cultural, industrial, retail, medical, and services center for the picturesque Verde Valley, located one-and-a-half hours north of Phoenix and one hour south of Flagstaff. In 1874, soldiers were stationed at an adobe house where Cottonwood stands today. Settlers began moving in, developing a community that took its name from a circle of 16 cottonwood trees near the Verde River. Cottonwood is near the geographic center of Arizona just off interstate 17 on state Highways 89A and 260. From Phoenix, drive north to exit 287, then northwest on state Highway 260. From Flagstaff, drive south through the magnificent Oak Creek Canyon on state Highway 89A.

### Principal Economic Activities

Cottonwood serves as the trading center for the Verde Valley, with a wide variety of retail establishments, professional services, and manufacturing concerns. The Verde Valley is the premiere destination to experience the burgeoning wine industry through the many tasting rooms and restaurants in Old Town. The Verde Valley Medical Center is one of the finest diagnostic and treatment centers in Arizona. The travel and tourism industry are also important to Cottonwood's economy.

Nearby national forests, state parks, national monuments and wilderness area attract hundreds of thousands of tourists each year. Cottonwood was recognized by Lonely Planet as one of the top 10 U.S. travel destinations for 2013 and is the 2015 Arizona Sustainable Growth City of the Decade award winner.

### Scenic Attractions

The Verde River supports one of the state's best riparian habitats. Riverfront Park and Dead Horse Ranch State Park provide access to the Verde River Greenway. Our Historic Old Town features many wine tasting rooms that showcase incredible Arizona wines. Main Street in Old Town also provides many choices for modern dining, hospitality and arts & culture experiences. In the immediate vicinity of the City of Cottonwood are many diverse attractions. Tuzigoot National Monument, a 550-year-old Sinaguan Indian ruin, and Montezuma Castle National Monument, an 11th-century cliff dwelling, give insight into the area's pre-Columbian past. The Verde Canyon Railroad offers spectacular views into the remote Sycamore Canyon Wilderness. Natural attractions include the red rocks of Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon to the north and Prescott National Forest to the west, where 7,700-foot Mingus Mountain is a mecca for hang gliding enthusiasts.

### Community Facilities

Cottonwood has a library, civic center, a new world class recreation center, four parks (including one on the riverfront), swimming pool, multi-complex softball and baseball fields, soccer fields, and tennis, skate board park, inline hockey facility, basketball courts, disk golf course and two golf courses. The community also offers senior citizen facilities such as skilled health care, supervisory care and retirement centers. Yavapai College provides exceptional higher education opportunities, including its emerging viticulture and oenology programs.



**BASIC INFORMATION**

<b>Founded:</b>	1879	<b>Incorporated:</b>	1960
<b>Elevation:</b>	3,320 ft.	<b>Location:</b>	Yavapai County
<b>Distance to major cities:</b>			
<b>Phoenix:</b>	106 miles	<b>San Diego:</b>	450 miles
<b>Tucson:</b>	217 miles	<b>Los Angeles:</b>	467 miles
<b>Las Vegas:</b>	280 miles		

**POPULATION**

	1990	2000	2014 (est.)
Cottonwood	5,930	9,179	11,402
Yavapai County	108,500	167,517	215,357
State of Arizona	3,680,800	5,130,632	6,667,241

*Arizona Dept. of Administration - azstats.gov*

**PROPERTY TAX**

	1990	2000	2014
Elementary / High School	6.26	5.79	5.71
City / Fire District			0.00
Yavapai County	5.14	4.18	5.01
Totals (Yavapai County)	11.40	9.97	10.72

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

**SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX**

Cottonwood	3.00%
Yavapai County	0.75%
State	5.60%

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

**LABOR FORCE**

	1990	2000	2014
Civilian Labor Force	2,268	4,074	5,106
Unemployed	138	181	322
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	4.4%	6.3%

*Arizona Dept. of Administration - azstats.gov*

**WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT**

	Count	Share
Less than high school	972	11.9%
High school or equivalent, no college	2,499	30.5%
Some college or Associate degree	3,345	40.8%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	1,386	16.9%

*Census Bureau - Fact Finder*

**INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)**

	Count	Share
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	1,225	27.7%
Education, health care & social assistance	668	15.1%
Retail trade	563	12.7%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	487	11.0%
Finance, insurance & real estate	437	9.9%
Construction	348	7.9%
Other services, except public administration	255	5.8%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	114	2.6%
Public administration	104	2.4%
Manufacturing	92	2.1%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	75	1.7%
Wholesale trade	34	0.8%
Information	22	0.5%

*Census Bureau - Fact Finder*

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

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