

# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

## Community Profile

### Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Gila River Indian Community is located on 372,000 acres in south-central Arizona, south of Phoenix, Tempe and Chandler. The reservation was established by an Act of Congress in 1859. The tribal administrative offices and departments are located in Sacaton and serve residents throughout the seven community districts. The Gila River casinos are both owned and managed by the Gila River Indian Community. All profits from gaming are utilized by the community to expand the tribe's economic development, to provide additional social services to community members, and for tribal operations.

FOUNDED: 1859  
 COUNTY: Pinal County  
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 25 miles  
 HIGHWAYS: I-19, SH 87, SH 347, SH 587

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1939  
 ELEVATION: 1,280 feet  
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 70 miles

### POPULATION

	1990	1998	1999
Gila River Indian Community	9,540	12,058	15,084*
Pinal County	116,397	157,675	165,400
Arizona	3,665,228	4,764,025	4,924,350

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security, and U.S. Census Bureau.  
 \* 1999 estimate based on new GRIC population study.

### PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The Gila River Indian Community is steadily increasing industrial, retail and recreational development activities. Three industrial parks housing 45 operations are located on the reservation, and the Lone-Butte Industrial Park is considered one of the nation's most successful Indian industrial parks. A new 500-acre business park and 18-hole golf course are located in the Phoenix-Chandler area at I-10 and SH 347. The tribe operates a "theme park," Gila Heritage Park. Commercial complexes house tenants providing services to residents. Agriculture and related activities play a prominent economic role.

County Employment	1990	1999
Agricultural Services, Forestry & Fishing		
Construction		625
FIRE		
Manufacturing		
Mining		2,600
Retail Trade	243	
Services	154	150
TCPU	50	100
Trade		300

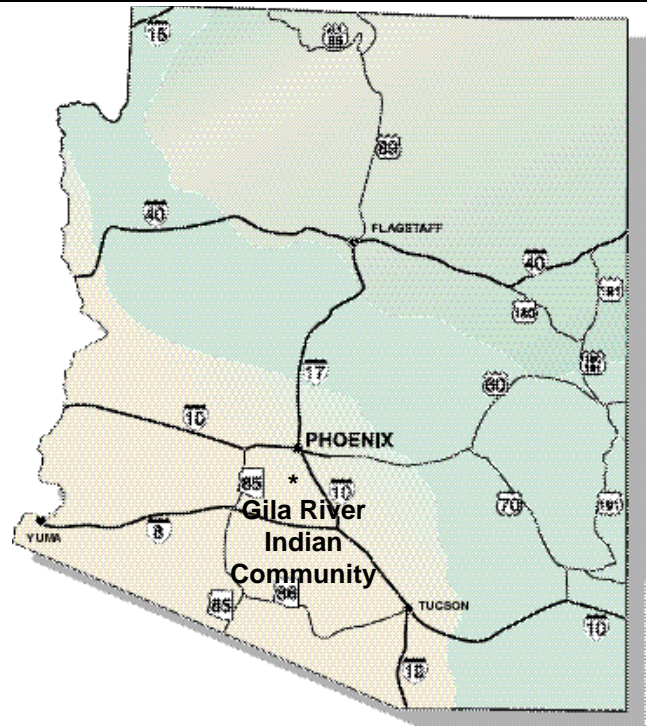
Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau.

### Major Private Employers

1. Pimalso (Alcoa)
2. United Metro (Kiewit)
3. Honeywell
4. JI Case
5. John Deere

### Major Public Employers

1. Gila River Indian Community
2. Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital
3. Gila River Farms
4. Troon Golf



### LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	1998	1999
Civilian Labor Force	2,718	3,292	3,459
Unemployment	624	627	695
Unemployment Rate	23.0%	19.0%	20.1%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

### Growth Indicators

	1990	1998	1999
Postal Receipts	\$101,015	\$191,097	\$219,044
School Enrollment	1,321	725	2,355

Source: Gila River Indian Community.

### SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, a four-story pueblo built by the Hohokam Indians in the 13th century, lies southeast of the reservation. The Gila Indian Center, located along Interstate 10 at the Casa Blanca Interchange, sells one of Arizona's finest selections of Southwest Indian arts and crafts.

The center also contains an excellent museum and restaurant/coffee shop. Gila Heritage Park features self-guided tours of traditional Indian homes from the Pima, Maricopa, Papago and Apache tribes.

The annual Tribal fair "Mul-Chu-Tha," with its parade, Indian dances, all-Indian rodeo, arts and crafts, and food sales is held in February at Sacaton.

The St. John's Indian Mission Festival is held annually on the first Sunday in March and also presents Indian foods, dances and arts and crafts.

The Russell Moore Music Fest is held in the first week in October in honor of "local big band legend" Russell "Big Chief" Moore, who played during the "big band" era and was a member of the Gila River Indian Community.

## TAXES

The State of Arizona does not tax Indian lands and Indian owned property on reservations. Incomes of Indians residing on reservations are not taxed by the State if wholly derived from reservation sources. The Federal Government does not exempt individual Indians from income or other federal taxes. Indian people of Arizona are also exempt from state, and local sales taxes on consumer goods purchased on the reservation, unless such taxes are imposed by the tribal government. However, the State of Arizona collects taxes from reservation residents on sales of gasoline, electricity, natural gas, and telephone service.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Gila River Indian Community offers a wide range of community facilities including eight community centers, one museum, two youth shelters, five gymnasiums, eight parks, one outdoor amphitheater, an events center and two public golf courses. In addition, an 18-hole golf course is located in the nearby Phoenix-Chandler area at I-10 and SR 347.

<u>Educational Institutions</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>
Elementary	Y	N
High School	Y	N
Middle School	Y	N
Community Colleges	Y	N
Universities	Y	N

## Financial

Number of banks: 1  
 Microlending for entrepreneur members.

## Government Agencies

Fire Department: 68 firefighters, 3 stations  
 Law Enforcement: 57 officers, 2 stations  
 Emergency Medical: 76 licensed, 3 stations

## Airports

Residents have access to several airports: Memorial Airfield, a tribally owned commercial and private aircraft facility; lighted/paved runways at Coolidge, Florence, Casa Grande and Chandler airports, and commercial service available at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

## Medical

One 20-bed hospital in Sacaton with seven physicians  
 One 81-bed nursing home south of Tolleson, 83rd Ave. and Baseline Rd.

## Hotel and Lodging Facilities

Number of Rooms: 63  
 Meeting Rooms: 1  
 Capacity of Largest Facility: 75

*Resort hotel under construction with 500 and conference facilities expected to open in June of 2002.*

## Industrial Properties

More than 1,477 acres available with space for light/heavy industries or agribusiness. Current information is available from the Gila River Indian Community Economic Development Department. A new 500-acre business park is located in the nearby Phoenix-Chandler area at I-10 and SR 347.

## Utilities

Electricity:	APS (statewide)	800.253.9405
	Salt River Project	602.236.8888
	San Carlos Irrigation Project	520.723.5408
Natural Gas:	Southwest Gas Corp. (statewide)	800.782.9120
Telephone:	Gila River Telecommunications	520.796.3333
Water & Sewer:	Department of Public Works	520.562.3343
<u>Satellite TV</u>		

Cable Providers: No	Cabel Internet Service: No
Digital Switching Station: Yes	Fiber Optics: Yes
Internet Service Provider: Yes	

## Weather

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total Precipitation (Inches)
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum	
January	38.0	64.0	0.93
February	36.0	70.0	0.59
March	41.0	77.0	0.21
April	49.0	92.0	0.06
May	57.0	98.0	0.00
June	64.0	109.0	0.00
July	73.0	109.0	0.39
August	71.0	108.0	0.10
September	60.0	97.0	2.40
October	53.0	88.0	1.00
November	38.0	74.0	1.70
December	33.0	68.0	0.60
Yearly Avg	51.0	87.0	8.10

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce Communications Division in cooperation with local sources.

For further information, contact:

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## **Arizona Department of Commerce**

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