

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

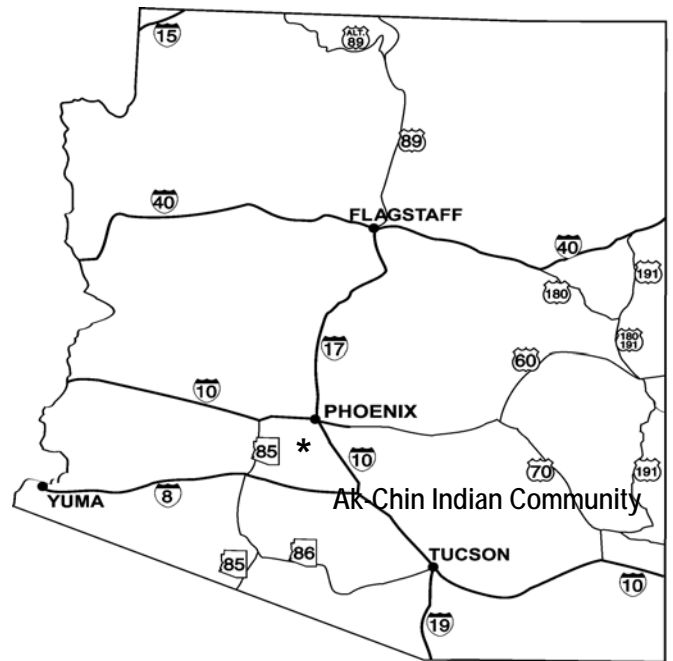
Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Ak-Chin Indian Community, consisting of both Tohono O'odham (Papago) and Pima Indians, is a 22,000-acre reservation in the Sonoran Desert. State Route 238 intersects the reservation at its northernmost and easternmost corners. State Route 347 runs through the reservation, connecting Interstates 8 and 10. Ak-Chin waged a long battle with the Department of the Interior over the "The Ak-Chin Water Settlement Act." Congressional passage of the act in 1984 meant that the community could become self-sufficient by expanding its agricultural operations. At full operation, Ak-Chin Farms will cultivate about 16,000 acres. The community's goal of self-sufficiency is about 98 percent accomplished.

FOUNDED: 1912
 COUNTY: Pinal County
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 23 miles
 HIGHWAYS: SR 347, SR 238

INCORPORATED: No
 ELEVATION: 1,186 feet
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 92 miles



POPULATION

	1990	2000	2008
Ak-Chin Indian Community	353	669	N/A
Pinal County	116,397	179,727	350,558
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,629,455

Sources: Arizona Department of Commerce and U.S. Census Bureau.
 N/A: Population estimates for this community are not available.

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

In addition to agricultural activities, the Ak-Chin Community has developed a 100-acre industrial park. The 70,000-square-foot Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino contributes greatly to the economy. The entire tribe participates in the United States' first EcoMuseum, distinguished from a traditional museum in that land and territory replace the museum building and area residents take on the roles of curator and public. This museum houses prehistoric local artifacts owned by tribal families.

	2008
Educational and Health Services	4,275
Financial Activities	1,500
Government	19,225
Information	350
Leisure and Hospitality	4,550
Manufacturing	3,825
Mining and Construction	3,925
Other Services	1,625
Professional and Business Services	3,450
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	9,150

Sources: Arizona Department of Commerce.
 Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System.

LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2008
Civilian Labor Force	162	224	385
Unemployed	11	13	33
Unemployment Rate	6.8%	5.8%	8.6%

Sources: Arizona Department of Commerce.

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Ak-Chin, located in a lush desert area, is 43 miles northwest of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, which consists of well-preserved remains of a central four-story building and several smaller outlying buildings constructed by the Hohokam Indians during the 13th century. West of Ak-Chin, low picturesque mountains enclose the scenic oasis on the desert. Remnants of other civilizations which inhabited the basin during earlier times are still in evidence. Major events held on the reservation include: St. Francis Church Feast (October); Honoring Past Chairman's Day (October); Annual Tribal Council Election (second Saturday in January); and the annual Ak-Chin Him-Dak Museum celebration (April).

