

ARIZONA

Here's where Arizona's population has grown the most since 2010 and what's coming next



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Arizona Republic

Published 6:01 a.m. MT Nov. 6, 2023 | Updated 6:01 a.m. MT Nov. 6, 2023

If growth patterns continue, Mesa should overtake Tucson as the second-most populous city in Arizona in about a decade.

Mesa's double-digit growth since the 2010 census leaves the East Valley city's population just under 500,000. Its ascendancy among the nation's mid-sized cities underscores Arizona's long-standing calling card as a magnet for growth.

While the state continues to swell with new residents, those gains are not evenly distributed.

Phoenix, the state's capital and its population center, has easily added the most new residents since the 2010 census. By 2021, the Census Bureau estimates Phoenix had added 145,000 more residents and had about 1.6 million overall.

Tracking population by ZIP codes shows the growth in Phoenix is fastest around the Desert Ridge area in the city's northeastern outer ring and in the western edge bordering Tolleson.

How does Phoenix's population rank among other US cities?

Phoenix is the nation's fifth-largest city by population, just ahead of Philadelphia, but well behind Houston.

What are Arizona's next biggest cities?

Tucson is second in Arizona, with about 538,000 residents, and a 3.5% growth rate since 2010.

At 498,000, Mesa is third, but its 13.4% growth rate suggests it is set to pass the Old Pueblo in a few years.

From there, Arizona has seven cities with six-figure populations, all of which are rapidly growing and are concentrated in the Phoenix area.

What are Arizona's fastest-growing cities and towns?

Of those, Chandler is the most populous, with 272,000 residents, and Gilbert is the fastest growing, at 26% since 2010.

The older and more populous East Valley has outgained the West Valley in adding new residents, but the West Valley's biggest cities are growing nearly 50% faster than the East Valley's.

Around the state, Arizona has 42 places with at least 20,000 residents, and 39 of them have grown over the past decade. There are more than 400 other towns and places around the state, and their story is more modest.

Collectively, they have grown just 3.7% since 2010, and more than half actually lost population in that time.