

# Heber-Overgaard

## Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Heber and Overgaard in northeastern Arizona in Navajo County are situated in the Sitgreaves National Forest north of the Mogollon Rim. The communities are reached by taking state Highway 87 to Payson (north from Phoenix or south from Interstate 40), and continuing east via state Highway 260. During the Mormon migration in 1876 and 1877, the Little Colorado River settlements were established. James E. Shelley and Sanford Porter, Jr. founded Heber which was named after Heber J. Grant, a prominent member of the Mormon Church. The post office in Heber was established in 1890 by James E. Shelley. Overgaard was originally called Oklahoma Flat and was later named after the first sawmill owner.

### Basic Information

|                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Founded: 1883                       | Distance to Major Cities: |
| Incorporated: No                    | Phoenix: 138 miles        |
| Elevation: 6,000                    | Tucson: 225 miles         |
| Located in Navajo County            |                           |
| Nearby Highways: HWYS SR 87, SR 260 |                           |

### Population

|                 | 1990      | 2000      | 2006      |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Heber-Overgaard | 1,581     | 2,722     | N/A       |
| Navajo County   | 77,674    | 97,470    | 113,470   |
| Arizona         | 3,665,228 | 5,130,632 | 6,305,210 |

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and US Census Bureau  
N/A: Population estimates for this community are not available.

### Principal Economic Activities

Economic activities are varied; retirement and tourism are an important part of the economy. Proximity to the Sitgreaves National Forest provides recreation opportunities, and timber is harvested for Precision Pine Sawmill and Stone Container Paper Mill. A mulch plant processes forest by-products. Service businesses provide employment and services for the retirement community. Government, schools, retail trade and construction also contribute to the local economy.

### County Employment

|                                      | 2006   |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Government                           | 10,100 |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 5,450  |
| Educational and Health Services      | 3,750  |
| Leisure and Hospitality              | 2,975  |
| Mining and Construction              | 2,875  |
| Professional and Business Services   | 1,225  |
| Other Services                       | 1,025  |
| Information                          | 825    |
| Manufacturing                        | 750    |
| Financial Activities                 | 575    |

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security  
Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).



### Labor Force Data

|                      | 1990 | 2000  | 2006  |
|----------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 556  | 1,007 | 1,093 |
| Unemployed           | 43   | 18    | 21    |
| Unemployment Rate    | 7.7% | 1.8%  | 1.9%  |

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security

### Growth Indicators

|                         | 1990         | 2000         | 2006         |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net Assessed Value (\$) | 19.9 million | 36.4 million | 73.1 million |

Sources: Arizona State Univ., AZ Dept. of Revenue, AZ Tax Research Foundation

### Scenic Attractions

The Heber/Overgaard area is surrounded by many year-round recreational opportunities and points of scenic interest. Immediately south is the Mogollon Rim, a steep escarpment ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 feet from the base to the highest plateau. The Rim divides the northern plateau region from the lower central and southern areas. It offers exceptional views and numerous man-made lakes ideal for boating and other water sports. Hunting and fishing are popular. There are also extensive picnic and camping facilities available within the area. Other scenic attractions in the area include Chevelon Canyon Dam, the Canyon Creek Fish Hatchery, Chevelon Butte, and the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The 200-acre Mogollon Lake three miles east of Overgaard is in the planning stages.

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### Community Facilities

Heber/Overgaard offers many community facilities including a library, 40-acre park, and many athletic facilities: baseball, football and Little League fields; basketball, volleyball, tennis and raquetball courts; and a golf course.

#### Educational Institutions

|             | Public | Private |
|-------------|--------|---------|
| Elementary  | Y      | N       |
| High School | Y      | N       |

#### Financial

Number of banks: 2

#### Government

Fire Department: Volunteer

Law Enforcement: County Deputies/DPS/Sheriff's Posse

#### Medical

Local doctor, dentist, optometrist. Hospital in Show Low (36 miles away).

#### Hotel & Lodging

Number of Rooms:

Meeting Rooms:

Capacity of Largest Facility:

#### Industrial Properties:

For more information contact the Heber/Overgaard Chamber of Commerce.

#### Utilities

|             |                                      |              |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Electricity | Navopache Electric Coop. (statewide) | 800.543.6324 |
| L.P. Gas    | Amerigas (Overgaard)                 | 928.535.5123 |
| L.P. Gas    | Northern Energy (Overgaard)          | 928.535.4439 |
| Sewer       | Individual septic tanks              |              |
| Telephone   | Citizens Communications (statewide)  | 800.921.8101 |
| Water       | Arizona Water Company (Overgaard)    | 928.535.4469 |
| Water       | Heber Domestic Water District        | 928.535.5748 |

Cable Providers: N

Digital Switching Station: N

Internet Service Provider: N

Cable Internet Service Provider: N

Fiber Optics: N

### Taxes

| Property Tax Rate       | 1990        | 2000        | 2006        |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Elementary/High Schools | 5.26        | 5.99        | 4.27        |
| City/Fire District      | 1.02        | 1.01        | 1.83        |
| Countywide              | 2.32        | 2.90        | 2.75        |
| <b>Totals</b>           | <b>8.60</b> | <b>9.90</b> | <b>8.85</b> |

Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation

Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation

NOTE: School district participates in the Northern Arizona Vocational Institute of Technology (NAVIT).

#### Sales Tax

|           | 2006  |
|-----------|-------|
| City/Town | 0.00% |
| County    | 0.50% |
| State     | 5.60% |

Sources: Arizona League of Cities & Towns, Arizona Dept. of Revenue

### Weather

|             | Avg. Low (°F) | Avg. High (°F) | Precip. (in.) |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| January     | 15.9          | 46.6           | 1.2           |
| February    | 19.0          | 50.3           | 1.2           |
| March       | 22.9          | 55.6           | 1.4           |
| April       | 28.1          | 63.9           | 0.7           |
| May         | 34.9          | 72.1           | 0.6           |
| June        | 43.0          | 82.5           | 0.5           |
| July        | 52.2          | 84.7           | 2.7           |
| August      | 50.9          | 81.7           | 3.0           |
| September   | 43.8          | 77.2           | 1.9           |
| October     | 32.8          | 67.8           | 1.5           |
| November    | 23.0          | 55.1           | 1.3           |
| December    | 17.2          | 47.4           | 1.6           |
| Yearly Avg. | 32.0          | 65.4           | 17.5          |

Source: Western Regional Climate Center

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1950-2004. Average Total Snowfall 38.9". Data from Heber Ranger Station, AZ.

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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