


# Community Profile for

## Benson

 Arizona Commerce Authority Logo

 Map of Benson

Benson serves as the western gateway to the scenic and historic attractions of Cochise County and has copyrighted the name “Home of Kartchner Caverns State Park.” Located in the historical San Pedro Valley, it offers proximity to both Tucson and Sierra Vista. Its rugged mountains, grassy valleys, moderate climate and proximity to many historical sites makes it a popular tourist attraction. The City of Benson was founded in 1880, when the Southern Pacific Railroad came through southern Arizona. Until 1910, Benson was the railroad hub of southern Arizona. It was named for Judge William B. Benson of California, a friend of Charles Crocker, then-president of the railroad.

### Principal Economic Activities

Benson is situated along several trade routes: Interstate 10, U.S. 80, State Highway 90 and the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad. AEPCO and Apache Nitrogen Products are major employers, while many residents work in Tucson or Sierra Vista. Both retail chain and specialty stores are available. The city supports a large retired population and is a winter refuge for people from colder climates. Its nearby historic and scenic sites are increasingly popular with tourists.

### Scenic Attractions

Cochise County, land of the great Apache chiefs Cochise and Geronimo, was truly “the last frontier,” subject to raids by the Chiricahua Apaches until the late 1880s. Nearby are the world famous Kartchner Caverns State Park and Old Tucson's Mescal movie site. Other attractions include: Tombstone, 20 miles from Benson; Gammon's Gulch Movie Set & Museum; historic Fort Huachuca, with its 1880s buildings and an Indian war days museum; the Amerind Museum which features remnants of prehistoric Indian cultures; and the Holy Trinity Monastery along the San Pedro Riparian Area. In addition, there are numerous mountain ranges that provide rockhounding, photography, picnicking, hiking, camping, bird watching and hunting opportunities.

### Community Facilities

Benson offers a broad range of community facilities including four parks, one golf course, a community pool, a skate park, a library, a community center and many baseball, football, track and soccer fields. There is also a museum/gallery.

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## Benson, Arizona

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### BASIC INFORMATION

Founded: 1880

Incorporated: 1924  
Elevation: 3,585 ft.  
Location: Cochise

**Distance to major cities:**

Phoenix: 160 miles  
Tucson: 46 miles  
Las Vegas: 453 miles  
San Diego: 454 miles  
Los Angeles: 532 miles

## POPULATION

**2000 2010 2023 (est.)**

Benson 4,711 5,098 5,365

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

## SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Benson 3.50%  
Cochise 0.50%  
State 5.60%

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

## LABOR FORCE

**2000 2010 2022**

Civilian Labor Force 2,008 1,900 1,982  
Unemployed 163 209 59  
Unemployment Rate 8.1% 11.0% 3.0%

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

## WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

**Count Share**

Less than high school 381 10.4%  
High school or equivalent, no college 1,120 30.6%  
Some college or Associate degree 1,209 33.1%  
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree 946 25.9%

*American Community Survey*

## INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

**Count Share**

Education, health care & social assistance 446 24.5%  
Retail trade 360 19.8%

|   |     |       |
|---|-----|-------|
| Transportation, warehousing, & utilities            | 298 | 16.4% |
| Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services     | 196 | 10.8% |
| Professional, scientific, & administrative services | 126 | 6.9%  |
| Finance, insurance & real estate                    | 126 | 6.9%  |
| Public administration                               | 106 | 5.8%  |
| Manufacturing                                       | 85  | 4.7%  |
| Construction  | 41  | 2.3%  |
| Other services, except public administration        | 38  | 2.1%  |

*American Community Survey*

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

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