

County Profile for

La Paz County

Arizona Commerce Authority Logo

Map of La Paz County

La Paz County was created Jan. 1, 1983, when Yuma County residents voted to split their county into two sections. It is the 15th of Arizona's 15 counties, with Parker the county seat. La Paz, which means "the peace" in Spanish, has historic significance as the name of a boom town on the Colorado River. The Colorado River town of La Paz was founded in 1862, after the discovery of rich gold deposits nearby. By 1863, there were 5,000 men working in the gold mines, making La Paz one of the largest settlements in what was to become the Arizona Territory. The decline of La Paz was caused by two factors – the mines dried up and the Colorado River gradually changed its course, which hurt trade in the area. In addition to Parker, the river town of Ehrenberg, and inland towns of Bouse, Quartzsite and Salome/Wenden in McMullen Valley are located in La Paz County. The county's rugged landscape and the Colorado River attract thousands of visitors annually, making tourism the county's largest industry. La Paz County encompasses 4,518 square miles and has 30 square miles of water. It is the third smallest of Arizona's counties and has the lowest population density with almost five people per square mile. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management controls 58 percent of the land; the state of Arizona, 9 percent; other public lands, 20 percent; and 5 percent of the land is owned privately or by corporations. The Colorado River Indian Tribe owns 8 percent of the land.

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POPULATION

2000 2010 2023 (est.)

La Paz County 19,715 20,495 16,820

Office of Economic Opportunity

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

La Paz County 2.00%

State 5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

2000 2010 2022

Civilian Labor Force 7,623 7,868 8,616

Unemployed 483 805 441

Unemployment Rate 6.3% 10.2% 5.1%

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count Share	
Less than high school	3,245	19.5%
High school or equivalent, no college	5,488	33.1%
Some college or Associate degree	5,904	35.6%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	1,963	11.8%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count Share	
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	1,087	17.6%
Retail trade	1,065	17.2%
Education, health care & social assistance	917	14.8%
Public administration	661	10.7%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	567	9.2%
Construction	392	6.3%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	391	6.3%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	335	5.4%
Finance, insurance & real estate	217	3.5%
Wholesale trade	189	3.1%
Manufacturing	169	2.7%
Other services, except public administration	146	2.4%
Information	56	0.9%

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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