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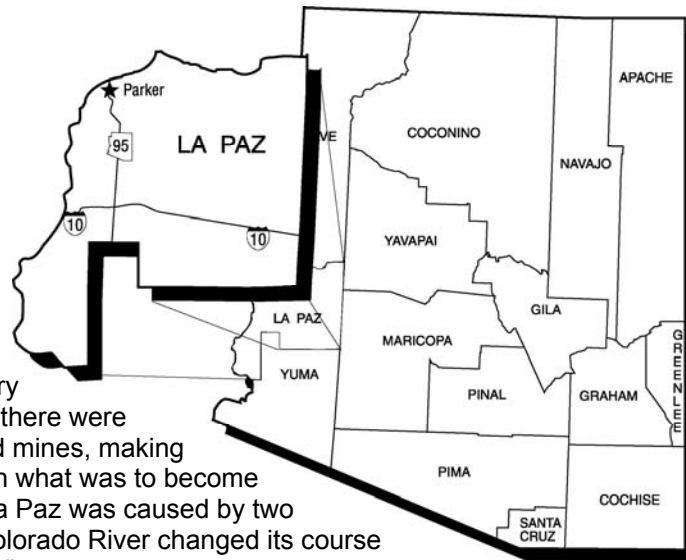
La Paz County, Arizona

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 probably 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 changed its course in 1870, leaving the town "high and dry."

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 number one industry with 1998 tourism revenues of \$103 million. Agriculture adds approximately \$83 million to the county's economy.

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 slightly more than four persons per square mile. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management controls 58.3 percent of the land; the state of Arizona, 8.8 percent; other public lands, 19.5 percent; and 5.3 percent of the land is owned privately or by corporations. The Colorado River Indian Tribe owns 8.1 percent of the land. All of La Paz County is an Enterprise Zone.



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

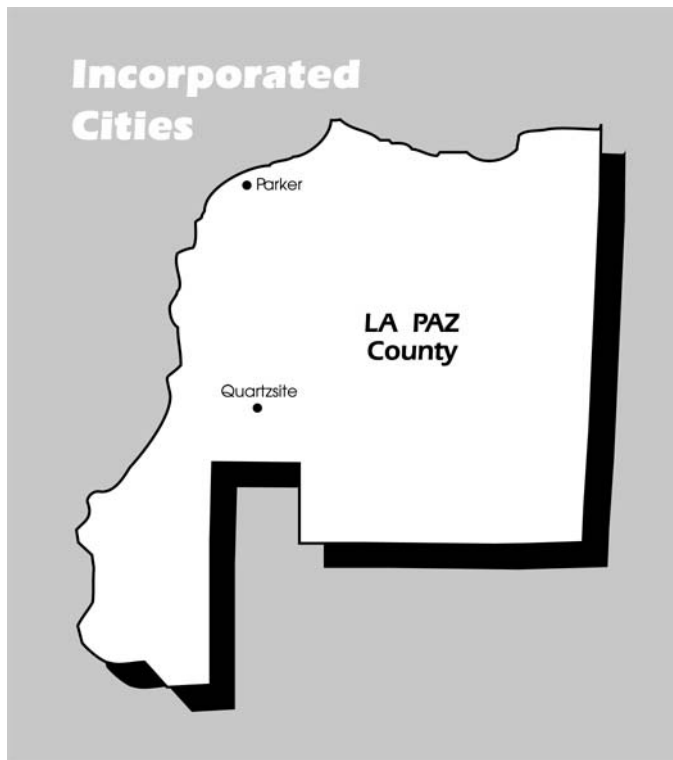
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La Paz County At-A-Glance

County Seat:	Parker
2004 Population:	21,135
2004 Labor Force:	6,756
Unemployment Rate:	6.9%
Major Industries:	Retail Trade, Wholesale Trade, Tourism*, Agriculture* & Finance

Sources: Population Estimates July 2004, Population Statistics Unit, Research Administration, Arizona Department of Economic Security; December 2004 Special Unemployment Report, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Research Administration.
* According to local sources, Tourism and Agriculture are major industries in La Paz County, as well as among the best paying.




Population

	1990	2000	2004
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,833,685
Pinal County	116,379	179,727	21,135

Major Cities/Communities

Bouse	515	615	N/A
Colorado River Reservation	3,035	7,466	N/A
Ehrenberg	1,225	1,357	N/A
Parker	2,897	3,140	3,280
Quartzsite	1,876	3,354	3,550
Salome/Wenden	1,457	2,246	N/A

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Arizona Department of Economic Security, Population Statistics Unit.
N/A - Not available

Age Distribution

	% of total
0-14	17.0%
15-24	10.3%
25-44	20.4%
45-64	26.6%
65+	25.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, April 1, 2000 Census

Population Composition*

Race	% of total
White	74.2%
African American	0.8%
Native American	12.5%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.5%
Other	12.1%
Totals	100.1% ¹
Hispanic Heritage*	22.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, April 1, 2000 Census
* Persons of Hispanic heritage may be of any race
1] Total may not add to 100 due to rounding

2004 Civilian Labor Force

	<i>Labor Force</i>	<i>Unemployment Rate</i>
Arizona	2,762,612	4.8%
La Paz County	6,756	6.9%
<i>Major Cities/Communities</i>		
Bouse	N/A	N/A
Colorado River Reservation	4,630	6.0%
Ehrenberg	687	8.0%
Parker	1,665	5.9%
Quartzsite	833	5.3%
Salome/Wenden	N/A	N/A

Source: Arizona Dept. of Economic Security, December 2004 Special Unemployment Report.

2004 Employment by Sector

Goods Producing	375
Government	3,300
Other Private Service Providing	1,225
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,275

Source: Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, State of Arizona Economic Security Research Administration. Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

2004 Total All Occupations

<i>Employment</i>	6,830
<i>Hourly Compensation</i>	
Median Wage	\$ 9.31
Average Wage	\$11.74
Entry Wage	\$ 5.99
Experienced	\$14.17

Employment by Occupation - Average Wages

	<i>Employment</i>	<i>Avg. Wages</i>
Sales & Related	1,250	\$ 9.49
Office & Administrative Support	820	\$11.81
Education, Training & Library*	N/A	N/A
Food Preparation & Serving-Related	520	\$ 7.65
Building & Maintenance	430	\$ 8.34
Transportation & Material Moving	270	\$10.36
Protective Service	600	\$16.11
Management	340	\$21.96
Production	280	\$13.24

Source: Prepared by the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Research Administration in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 2005
* Insufficient survey response.

Major Employers

<i>Employer</i>	<i>Employment Type</i>
Arizona/California Railroad Parker	Railroad
Bashas' Parker	Grocery Store
Blue Water Casino & Resort Colorado Indian Tribes Parker	Casino/Gaming
Colorado River Indian Tribe Parker	Government/General Business/ Farming
Dayton Superior Corp. Parker	Miscellaneous Fabrication Wire Products
Flying J Truck Ehrenberg	Travel Plaza
K.D. and Vicksburg Farms McMullen Valley	Fresh Produce
Kofa Cafe Located on U.S. 60 between Wenden and Quartzsite	Restaurant
Growers Oil Co. Salome	Wholesale Trade
La Paz County Parker	Government
La Paz Regional Hospital Parker	Medical and Surgical Hospital
Morgan Corp. Ehrenberg	Truck Bodies
Parker Indian Hospital U.S. Public Health Service, Parker	General Medical Hospital
Parker Unified School District Parker	Elementary and Secondary Schools
Pilot Travel Center Quartzsite	Travel Center
River Medical Inc. Parker	Ambulance Service
Safeway Stores, Inc. Parker	Grocery Stores
Salome Elementary and High School	Elementary and High School
Tomahawk Auto/Truck Stop Vicksburg	Travel Center
Town of Parker	Government
Town of Quartzsite	Government
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Parker	Government
US Filter/Westates Parker	Carbon Reactivation
Wenden Elementary	Elementary School

Local Sources



Electric Service

Major Suppliers:

APS	(800) 253-9405
Bureau of Indian Affairs (Colorado River)	(928) 669-7173
Bureau of Indian Affairs (Parker)	(928) 896-9401

Natural Gas Service

Major Supplier:

Southwest Gas Corporation	(800) 766-9722
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Water and Sewer

For information, see specific community profile or contact the local chamber of commerce directly. Services on the reservation are provided by Colorado River Indian Tribes, (928) 669-9211, the Colorado River Joint Venture (928) 669-9821 and the Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Water System, (928) 537-6110

Telephone

Major Suppliers:

GTE Telephone (Parker)	(928) 669-6454
GTE West	(928) 537-6110
TDS Telecom	(928) 927-6346



Major Hospitals:

La Paz Regional Hospital, Parker	(928) 669-9201
Parker Indian Hospital	(928) 669-2137



Highways

Interstate 10, U.S. 60, U.S. 95, state Highway 72, state Highway 95

Bus Lines

Greyhound Bus Lines	(800) 231-2222
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Rail Service

Arizona and California Railroad Co. (928) 669-6662
 1301 California Avenue
 Parker, AZ 85344

Air Service

Major Airports

Airport Name: **Parker/Avi-Suquilla** (928) 669-2168
 Location: Parker
 Functional Class: Community Service
 Elevation: 450'
 Ownership: Native American
 Use: Commercial/Public
 Nav-aids: VOR-DME, PAPI on 01/19
 Runway: 01/19 Length: 4,800' Width: 75'
 Surface: Asphalt

Source: Arizona Department of Transportation

Distance to Major Cities





Bouse/Salome/Wenden

Numerous parcels are available with access to the Arizona & California Railroad Co., based in Parker. Its 240 miles of track provide for easy movement of goods to Los Angeles and Phoenix. For more information, contact the Arizona Outback Coalition for Economic Development at (928) 927-5600 or the La Paz County Department of Community Development at (928) 669-6138.

Colorado River Indian Reservation

The 140-acre Colorado River Tribes Industrial Park is fully improved with paved streets, all utilities and rail, air and highway access. Contact the Colorado River Indian Tribes Resources Development Committee, Rt. 1–Box 23B, Parker, AZ 85344 or call (928) 669-9211.

Parker

The Town of Parker has an industrial park zoned for light and heavy industry with sites from five to 38 acres. Contact the Parker Economic Development Office, c/o Parker Area Chamber of Commerce, 1217 California Ave., Parker, AZ 85344; (928) 669-2174 for more information.

The Arizona & California Railroad Company, Ltd. has two parcels available for industrial development. A 15-acre parcel is adjacent to the railroad in Parker and has all utilities. The other parcel is 100 acres and is in the annexed area known as Parker South. Contact the Railroad at: 1301 California Avenue, Parker, AZ 85344 or the Parker Area Chamber of Commerce at (928) 669-2174.

The Colorado River Tribe owns a 100-acre industrial park in Parker.



Mr. Michael Penn, President
 c/o Saliquist & Drummond, PLLC
 2525 E. Arizona Biltmore Circle, Suite 117
 Phoenix, AZ 85016-2129
 (602) 224-9222/Fax: (602) 224-9366

Note: This information is as current as the date of this publication and was taken from reliable sources; however, we do not guarantee its completeness nor does the Arizona Department of Commerce endorse any particular individual. This information is provided as a service only.

Commercial Banks

AEA Federal Credit Union
 Bank of America
 Chase
 National Bank of Arizona
 Wells Fargo



Corporate Income Tax

Corporate income tax rate is 6.968 percent effective for taxable years beginning from and after December 31, 2000.

Source: Arizona Department of Revenue

Property Tax

Community	School District	City/Fire	Countywide	Total
Bouse	7.88	0.00	4.88	12.76
Ehrenberg	4.77	1.82	4.88	11.47
Parker	1.22	1.00	4.88	6.10
Quartzsite	4.77	0.00	4.88	9.65
Salome	7.88	2.29	4.88	15.05
Wenden	5.97	2.29	4.88	13.14

Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation, 2004 (Rate is per \$100 of assessed value).

Sales Tax

The state imposes a 5.6 percent transaction privilege (sales) tax on most business activities. La Paz County has a 1 percent general sales tax. Parker has a 2 percent city sales tax and Quartzsite has a 2.5 percent city sales tax. Parker has an additional 3 percent tax on hotel and motel stays.

Sources: Arizona Department of Revenue (July 1, 2005); Arizona Hospitality Research and Resource Center, NAU (May 2005).

Payroll Tax

Payroll taxes in Arizona are computed based on federal filing by employers and employees. Generally, withholding for state payroll taxes is between 10 and 32 percent of federal withholding based on employees' income.

Source: Arizona Department of Revenue



Arizona Outback Coalition for Economic Development

P. O. Box 1135
Quartzsite, AZ 85346
www.azoutback.com
(928) 859-3846
FAX: (928) 859-4399
Email: chamber@desertlink.net

Bouse Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 817
Bouse, AZ 85325
(928) 851-2498

Colorado River Indian Tribes

Rt.1-Box 23-B
Parker, AZ 85344
Email: critpgbj@ix.netcom.com
(928) 669-9211
FAX: (928) 669-5675

Ehrenberg Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 800
Ehrenberg, AZ 85334
www.ehrenbergcc.org
(928) 923-9661

La Paz County Department of Community Development

1112 Joshua, Suite 202
Parker, AZ 85344
www.az.co.la-paz.az.us
(928) 669-6138

Parker Area Chamber of Commerce

1217 California Ave.
Parker, AZ 85344
www.arizonaguide.com/parker
(928) 669-2174
FAX: (928) 669-6304
Email: parker.chamber@redrivernet.com

Parker Economic Development Committee

1217 California Ave.
Parker, AZ 85344
Email: parker.chamber@rivcom.net
(928) 669-2174
FAX: (928) 669-6304

Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 85
Quartzsite, AZ 85346
www.quartzsitechamber.com
(928) 927-5600
FAX: (928) 927-7438
Email: qtzchamber@redrivernet.com

McMullen Valley Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 700
Salome, AZ 85348-3846
www.azoutback.com
(928) 859-3846
FAX: (928) 859-4399
Email: mcmullenchamber@tds.net

County profiles are produced by the



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona

Gilbert Jimenez, Director
Arizona Department of Commerce