Clifton and Morenci were established during the late 1800s as mining towns. They are in eastern Arizona, near the New Mexico border. Clifton, incorporated in 1909, is the seat of Greenlee County and the birthplace of the famous Apache warrior chief Geronimo. Morenci boasts the largest open pit copper mine in the United States. Elevations range from 3,464 feet in Clifton to 4,838 feet in Morenci.

**Principal Economic Activities**
Mining and mineral processing dominate the economic picture in the Clifton-Morenci area, employing upwards of two-thirds of the workforce. The government and education sectors are also major employers with approximately 200 employees. Clifton and Morenci are trade centers for tourists driving the popular Coronado Trail or touring the historic Chase Creek business district. There are a number of retail and service firms.

**Scenic Attractions**
At the heart of the Clifton Townsite Historic District is Chase Creek with some of the best-preserved examples of Arizona Territory architecture. In its heyday, Chase Creek’s numerous saloons and gambling halls gave Clifton a reputation as the “town tougher than Tombstone.”

The spirit of those days remains, but with modern amenities. A museum and walking tour enhance the experience. The Coronado Trail cuts a path north through the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest which rises to 9,000 feet at the Mogollon Rim. The San Francisco River flows through Clifton while the Gila River runs south through the grass-covered meadows of the Gila and Duncan valleys. Eagle Creek and the Blue and Black Rivers form local recreation sites. Popular activities are hunting, fishing and rockhounding.

**Community Facilities**
The community offers a broad range of facilities. There are a variety of dining establishments, two libraries, one historical museum, two swimming pools, a splash pad, more than a dozen parks, a bowling alley, several tennis courts and numerous community centers.
BASIC INFORMATION

Founded: (n/a)  
Incorporated: 1909

Elevation: 3,502 ft.  
Location: Greenlee County

Distance to major cities:
Phoenix: 207 miles  
San Diego: 576 miles
Tucson: 159 miles  
Los Angeles: 580 miles

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POPULATION

2000 2010 2016 (est.)
Clifton-Morenci 4,475 3,314 4,491
Greenlee County 8,547 8,440 10,433
State of Arizona 5,130,632 6,401,569 6,835,518

PROPERTY TAX

Elementary / High School 8.42 2.93 2.41
City / Fire District 0.00 2.23 3.49
Greenlee County 0.91 1.39 1.48
Totals (Greenlee County) 9.34 6.55 7.38

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Clifton 3.00%
Greenlee County 0.50%
State 5.60%

LABOR FORCE

2000 2010 2016
Civilian Labor Force 1,155 1,350 1,545
Unemployed 72 170 112
Unemployment Rate 6.2% 12.6% 7.2%

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

Less than high school 347 17.7%
High school or equivalent, no college 700 35.8%
Some college or Associate degree 707 36.1%
Bachelor’s degree or advanced degree 203 10.4%

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining 620 46.6%
Education, health care & social assistance 180 13.5%
Construction 128 9.6%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services 104 7.8%
Public administration 76 5.7%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services 63 4.7%
Retail trade 51 3.8%
Manufacturing 41 3.1%
Other services, except public administration 30 2.3%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities 25 1.9%
Wholesale trade 7 0.5%
Finance, insurance & real estate 4 0.3%
Information 2 0.2%

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

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