

La Paz County was created Jan. 1, 1983, when Yuma County residents voted to split their county into two sections. It is the



Map of La Paz County

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.

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%

Office of Economic Opportunity

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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