

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.

POPULATION			
	2000	2010	2021
Arizona	5,130,632	6,401,569	7,285,370
La Paz County	19,715	20,495	16,820
<i>Incorporated Cities & Towns</i>			
Parker	3,140	3,088	3,431
Quartzsite	3,354	3,676	2,417

Office of Economic Opportunity

AGE DISTRIBUTION	
0-14	14.5 %
15-24	9.8 %
25-44	15.3 %
45-64	24.3 %
65+	36.1 %

American Community Survey

DISTANCE TO MAJOR CITIES (FROM PARKER)	
Phoenix	169 miles
Tucson	279 miles
Los Angeles	261 miles
San Diego	264 miles
Las Vegas	179 miles

LABOR FORCE		
	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Arizona	3,312,720	4.9 %
La Paz County	8,616	5.1 %
<i>Incorporated Cities & Towns</i>		
Parker	2,217	1.3 %
Quartzsite	834	0.0 %

Office of Economic Opportunity

EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR (IN THOUSANDS)		
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	1.1	17.6 %
Retail trade	1.1	17.2 %
Education, health care & social assistance	0.9	14.8 %
Public administration	0.7	10.7 %
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	0.6	9.2 %
Construction	0.4	6.3 %
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	0.4	6.3 %
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	0.3	5.4 %
Finance, insurance & real estate	0.2	3.5 %
Wholesale trade	0.2	3.1 %
Manufacturing	0.2	2.7 %
Other services, except public administration	0.1	2.4 %
Information	0.1	0.9 %

American Community Survey

PROPERTY TAX				
	Schools	City/Fire	County	Total
Parker	0.25	1.69	5.58	7.52
Quartzsite	3.65	2.84	5.58	12.07

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Association

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX				
	City	County	State	Total
Parker	2.00%	2.00%	5.60%	9.60%
Quartzsite	2.50%	2.00%	5.60%	10.10%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Association

CONTACT INFORMATION

Arizona Commerce Authority

Phone: 602-845-1200

Website: www.azcommerce.com

La Paz Economic Development

Phone: 928-669-8272

Website: www.lapazcdc.org

Local First Arizona

Phone: 602-956-0909

Website: www.localfirstaz.com

**Town of Parker, Community
Development**

Phone: 928-669-9265

Website: www.townofparkerarizona.com

Town of Parker

Phone: 928-669-9265

Website: www.townofparkerarizona.com

Town of Quartzsite

Phone: 928-927-4333

Website: ci.quartzsite.az.us