

PARKER

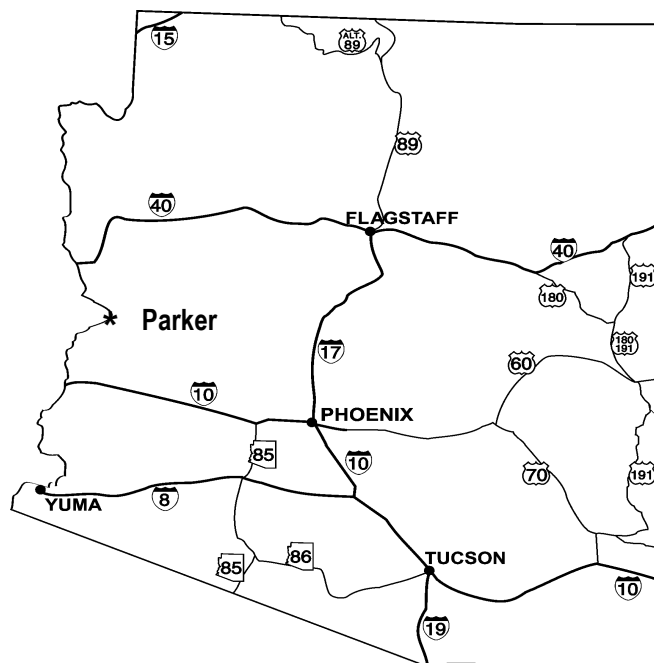
Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Parker is on the east bank of the Colorado River. The Parker "vicinity" consists of a number of separate but interrelated areas: the town of Parker, Parker South, the Arizona side of the Colorado river area, and the communities on the California side. Established in 1871, the town was moved some four miles north to the site of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad crossing. In May 1982, by initiative petition, voters formed La Paz County from the northern portion of the former Yuma County. On Jan. 1, 1983, Parker became the county seat for La Paz county.

FOUNDED: 1908
 COUNTY: La Paz County
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 169 miles
 HIGHWAYS: I-10; I-40; US 95: SR 95
 ENTERPRISE ZONE AVAILABLE

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1948
 ELEVATION: 420 feet
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 279 miles



POPULATION

	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2004</u>
Parker	2,897	3,140	3,280
La Paz County	13,844	19,715	21,135
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,833,685

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau.

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Parker's economy is based primarily on tourism, retail trade and services. The 16-mile strip of the Colorado River, between Parker Dam and Headgate Rock Dam, provides many water-based recreational activities and makes Parker a destination point for tourists and winter visitors. Parker also serves as the trade and business center for the Colorado River Indian Reservation and area small towns. Agriculture, historically the major economic base of Parker, continues to contribute to the economy.

<u>County Employment</u>	<u>2004</u>
Goods Producing	375
Government	2,300
Other Private Service-Providing	1,225
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,275

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security

Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

Major Private Employers

Arizona California Railroad	Bashas'
Dayton Richmond Inc.	La Paz Regional Hospital
Phoenix Displays	Safeway

Major Public Employers

Colorado River Indian Tribes	La Paz County
Parker Unified School District	Town of Parker

LABOR FORCE DATA

	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2004</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,352	1,788	1,665
Unemployed	80	115	98
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	6.4%	5.9%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

<u>Growth Indicators</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2004</u>
New Bldg. Permit	77	N/R	0*
Taxable Sales (\$)	31,702,250	52,221,200	59,002,300
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	11,297,761	16,269,764	19,807,256

Sources: Arizona State University; AZ Dept. of Revenue; AZ Tax Research Foundation
 N/R: No report; * Incomplete data: one or more months not available

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

The Colorado River and its lakes offer variety of water recreation activities. Parker Dam, the deepest dam in the world, is also a must-see attraction. Buckskin State Park, 11 miles north, has acres of green grass and shade trees. River Island State Park has 26 campsites, day-use areas and boat launches. La Paz County Park, eight miles north, has campgrounds, showers, a launching ramp, a baseball diamond, tennis courts, hook-ups and dump station. Nearly 30 RV parks and campgrounds offer a variety of amenities. The surrounding desert is suitable for off-road vehicles and rockhounding. The Colorado Indian Tribes A museum operate a museum with an extensive collection of locally crafted Indian artifacts. The tribes also operate the Blue Water Resort, a 200-room hotel and casino.

TAXES

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2004
Elem/High School	3.30	1.47	1.22
City/Fire District	0.00	1.36	0.00
Countywide	5.24	4.96	4.88
Total	\$8.54	\$7.79	\$6.10

Sources: Arizona Tax Research Foundation
 Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation.

Sales Tax Rate

City	2.00%
County	1.00%
State	5.60%

Sources: League of Arizona Cities and Towns, Arizona Dept. of Revenue

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Parker's community facilities include one museum, two libraries and the Colorado River Indian Tribal Museum. The recreational facilities include six area parks, two rodeo arenas, two senior citizen centers, one 18-hole golf course, an Olympic-size swimming pool, three lighted tennis courts, a recreation center, a golf driving range and several basketball, handball and badminton courts. At the Blue Water Resort, there is miniature golf and a movie theater.

Educational Institutions

	Public	Private
Community College	Y	N
Elementary	Y	N
High School	Y	N

Financial

Number of Banks: 5

Governmental Agencies

Fire Department: Volunteer

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports Parker/Avi Suquilla Airport, which has a 4,850-ft. hard surface, lighted runway, UNICOM radio, fuel and ground transportation

Medical

Parker has one hospital.

Hotel and Lodging Facilities

Number of Rooms: 532

Meeting Rooms: 8

Capacity of Largest Facility: 110

Industrial Properties

The Town of Parker has an industrial park zoned for light and heavy industry with sites from five to 38 acres. Call the Parker Economic Development Office 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 in the annexed area known as Parker South. Contact the Railroad at: 1301 California Avenue, Parker, AZ 85344 or the Chamber of Commerce. The Colorado River Tribe own a 100-acre industrial park in Parker.

Utilities

Electricity	APS (Statewide)	800.253-9405
	Bureau of Indian Affairs	928.896.9401
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (Statewide)	800.766.9722
Sewer	Joint Venture	928.669.9821
Telephone	GTE Telephone Co. (Parker)	928.669.6454
Water	Municipal Water (Parker)	928.669.9265

Cable Providers: Yes
 Cable Internet Service Provider: Yes
 Digital Switching Station: Yes
 Fiber Optics: Yes
 Internet Service Provider: Yes

Weather

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum	Precipitation (Inches)
January	36.1	67.3	0.70
February	40.7	72.9	0.57
March	45.6	79.0	0.50
April	52.0	87.4	0.20
May	59.7	95.3	0.07
June	68.4	104.0	0.03
July	77.3	108.3	0.33
August	76.7	106.6	0.60
September	68.1	101.6	0.50
October	55.0	90.5	0.31
November	42.7	77.3	0.36
December	36.0	67.5	0.61
Yearly Avg	54.9	88.1	4.77

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1893-2004. Average Total Snowfall 0.0".

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce Communications Division in cooperation with local sources.

For further information, contact:

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