

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.

A Main Street and REDI accredited community

Basic Information

Founded: 1908
Incorporated: 1948
Elevation: 420
Located in: La Paz County
Nearby Highways: HWYS I-10; I-40; US 95: SR 95

Distance to Major Cities:
Phoenix: 169 miles
Tucson: 279 miles

Population

	1990	2000	2007
Parker	2,897	3,140	3,401
La Paz County	13,844	19,715	21,529
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,500,194

Sources: Arizona Department of Commerce and US 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.

County Employment

	2007
Government	2,575
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,275
Other Private Service-Providing	1,150
Goods Producing	425

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

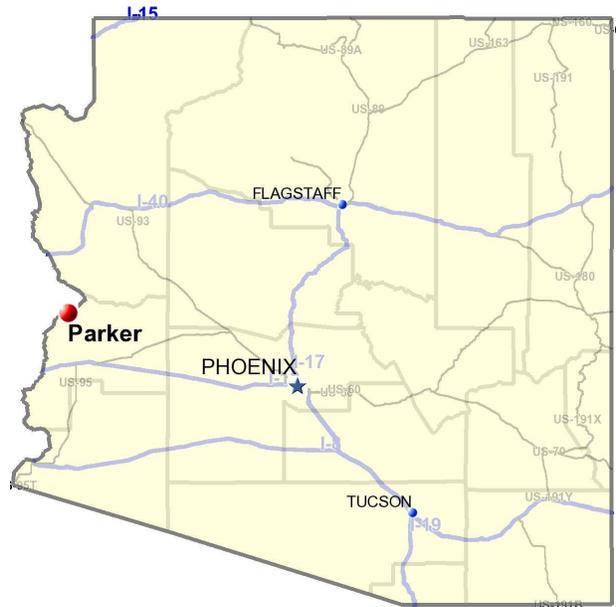
Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

Private Employers

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

Public Employers

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



Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2007
Civilian Labor Force	1,358	1,646	1,672
Unemployed	82	95	79
Unemployment Rate	6.0%	5.8%	4.7%

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2007
New Bldg. Permits	77	0	24
Taxable Sales (\$)	31.7 million	52.2 million	68 million
Net Assessed Value (\$)	11.3 million	16.3 million	26 million

Sources: Arizona State Univ., AZ Dept. of Revenue, AZ Tax Research Assoc.

New building permit data issued No Report in 2000. 2007 New building permit data incomplete: 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.

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
Elementary	Y	N
High School	Y	N
Community College	Y	N

Financial

Number of banks: 5

Government

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 & Lodging

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
Electricity	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: Y

Digital Switching Station: Y

Internet Service Provider: Y

Cable Internet Service Provider: Y

Fiber Optics: Y

Taxes

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2007
Elementary/High Schools	3.30	1.47	1.05
City/Fire District	0.00	1.36	0.00
Countywide	5.24	4.96	4.36
Totals	8.54	7.79	5.41

Source: Arizona Tax Research Association
Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation

Sales Tax

	2007
City/Town	2.00%
County	1.00%
State	5.60%

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

Weather

	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. High (°F)	Precip. (in.)
January	36.1	67.3	0.7
February	40.7	73.0	0.6
March	45.7	78.9	0.5
April	52.0	87.4	0.2
May	59.7	95.3	0.1
June	68.4	104.0	0.0
July	77.3	108.3	0.3
August	76.7	106.6	0.6
September	68.1	101.6	0.5
October	55.0	90.5	0.3
November	42.7	77.3	0.4
December	36.0	67.5	0.6
Yearly Avg.	54.9	88.2	4.8

Source: Western Regional Climate Center
Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1893-2005.
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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Prepared on 10/20/2008