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# Economic Conditions Report

Mohave and La Paz Counties

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

This report was created to assist Arizona Local Workforce Development Areas in completing their 2024-2027 Local Workforce Development Plans; the information provided in this report is intended to be used as a resource in the planning process. The report summarizes key demographic, labor market, and workforce trends occurring within the state and local economy.

## **ABOUT THE ARIZONA OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) was created to strengthen the analytical capabilities of the state's workforce and economic development initiatives. OEO serves as Arizona's workforce planning coordinator, and provides operational, strategic, and research support to the Workforce Arizona Council and other key workforce partners in this role. OEO produces official statewide data for population, employment, and wage estimates including the official Arizona employment and population projections. OEO also functions in an advisory capacity by providing economic expertise to state and local government agencies and officials.

# POPULATION

## Population Growth by County, 2016-2021

Area	Population Estimate (2016)	Population Estimate (2021)	Numeric Change (2016-2021)	Annualized Percent Change (2016-2021)
United States	318,558,162	329,725,481	11,167,319	0.7%
Arizona	6,797,006	7,285,370	488,364	1.4%
Apache County	68,305	66,411	-1,894	-0.6%
Cochise County	125,414	126,463	1,049	0.2%
Coconino County	142,846	147,434	4,588	0.6%
Gila County	53,325	53,525	200	0.1%
Graham County	38,356	39,025	669	0.3%
Greenlee County	9,834	9,593	-241	-0.5%
<b>La Paz County</b>	17,676	16,820	-856	-1.0%
Maricopa County	4,154,976	4,507,419	352,443	1.6%
<b>Mohave County</b>	203,956	216,527	12,571	1.2%
Navajo County	106,763	107,748	985	0.2%
Pima County	1,013,296	1,058,318	45,022	0.9%
Pinal County	392,646	439,128	46,482	2.3%
Santa Cruz County	47,075	48,468	1,393	0.6%
Yavapai County	221,970	241,173	19,203	1.7%
Yuma County	200,568	207,318	6,750	0.7%

Source: Office of Economic Opportunity Population Estimates

Changes in population can have a large impact on a local economy. An area experiencing population growth, particularly growth in working-age populations, may experience an increase in economic activity<sup>1</sup> and workforce diversity.

- Arizona had one of the fastest growing populations in the United States from 2020-2021, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> among all U.S. states in numeric growth and 4<sup>th</sup> in percent growth.<sup>2</sup>
- Mohave and La Paz County accounted for 3.2 percent of Arizona's population in 2021.
- In 2021, twenty-one percent of individuals who moved to Mohave County and 15 percent of individuals who moved to La Paz County from a different U.S. state were prime-working age adults (25 to 54 years).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Headey, D., & Hodge, A. (2009). The Effect of Population Growth on Economic Growth: A Meta-Regression Analysis of the Macroeconomic Literature. *Population and Development Review*, 35(2), 221-248. Retrieved from [www.jstor.org/stable/25487661](http://www.jstor.org/stable/25487661)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). *New Vintage 2021 Population Estimates Available for the Nation, States and Puerto Rico* [press release]. Available from [census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year estimates. (2016-2021). Geographic Mobility by Selected Characters, Table S0701. Available from [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov).

## POPULATION

Population projections provide useful insight into an area's future demand for resources and services.<sup>4</sup> An area experiencing population declines may choose to focus efforts on filling current job positions, while an area experiencing population growth may choose to focus on job creation. Further analysis into the composition of growing or declining populations can be a useful next step.

- Arizona is projected to add more than 487,155 people to its population from 2022-2026, growing by an annualized rate of 1.6 percent.

### Mohave County Population Projections, 2022-2026

Year	Population Estimate	Projected Numeric Change	Projected Percentage Change	Projected Natural Change <sup>1</sup>	Projected Total Net Migration <sup>2</sup>
2022	221,105	-----	-----	-2,753	7,331
2023	226,116	5,011	2.3%	-2,093	6,986
2024	230,870	4,754	2.1%	-2,006	6,641
2025	235,372	4,502	2.0%	-1,913	6,297
2026	239,353	3,981	1.7%	-1,971	5,952

<sup>1</sup> Natural Change = Births – Deaths

<sup>2</sup> Net Migration = (Domestic In Migration – Domestic Out Migration) + (Foreign In Migration – Out Migration)

\*

Source: Office of Economic Opportunity, Population Projections Medium Series

- Mohave County is projected to add 18,248 people to its population from 2022-2026.
- This population gain is projected to come from net migration.

### La Paz County Population Projections, 2022-2026

Year	Population Estimate	Projected Numeric Change	Projected Percentage Change	Projected Natural Change <sup>1</sup>	Projected Total Net Migration <sup>2</sup>
2022	16,860	-----	-----	-262	302
2023	16,945	85	0.5%	-203	280
2024	17,034	89	0.5%	-176	258
2025	17,128	94	0.5%	-149	235
2026	17,192	64	0.4%	-149	213

<sup>1</sup> Natural Change = Births – Deaths

<sup>2</sup> Net Migration = (Domestic In Migration – Domestic Out Migration) + (Foreign In Migration – Out Migration)

Source: Office of Economic Opportunity, Population Projections Medium Series

- La Paz County is projected to add 332 people to its population from 2022-2026.
- This population gain is projected to come from net migration.

<sup>4</sup> Kaneda, T. & Bremer, J. (2014). "Understanding Population Projection: Behind the Numbers. Population Reference Bureau". Retrieved from <https://www.prb.org/united-nations-population-projections/>

## Population Characteristics, 2021

Indicator	Mohave County	La Paz County	Arizona	United States
Population 16 Years and Over	179,564	14,368	5,650,624	264,087,642
Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate 16 and Over	46%	40%	60%	63%
Median Household Income	\$49,738	\$39,732	\$65,913	\$69,021
Families in Poverty	11%	15%	10%	9%
Median Age	52	57	38	38
Individuals with a Disability	22%	24%	13%	13%
Veterans	14%	16%	9%	7%
Uninsured	9%	14%	11%	9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP03  
Office of Economic Opportunity

It is important to understand the employment barriers faced by those served when developing workforce strategies. Population characteristics can help illuminate vulnerable segments of an area's population. An area with population characteristics that differ significantly from state or national averages may need to consider what best meets the needs of their unique population.

- The labor force participation rates in Mohave and La Paz Counties were significantly lower than the state and national rates.
- Median household income was significantly lower in Mohave and La Paz County when compared with the state and nation; this is reflected in an increased percentage of families in poverty for each area.
- Mohave and La Paz Counties saw a higher median age than the state and nationwide median.
- There is a larger percent of individuals with a disability in Mohave and La Paz Counties than in Arizona and the United States.

## Highest Education Achieved, 2021, Population Over 25 Years of Age

Indicator	Mohave and La Paz Counties	Arizona	United States
Less than High School	3.6%	4.9%	4.8%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	34.3%	23.5%	26.5%
Some College, no degree	29.5%	24.6%	20.0%
Associate's Degree	9.0%	9.0%	8.7%
Bachelor's Degree	8.9%	19.3%	20.6%
Graduate or Professional Degree	5.7%	11.9%	13.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 5-Year Estimates, Table S1501  
Office of Economic Opportunity

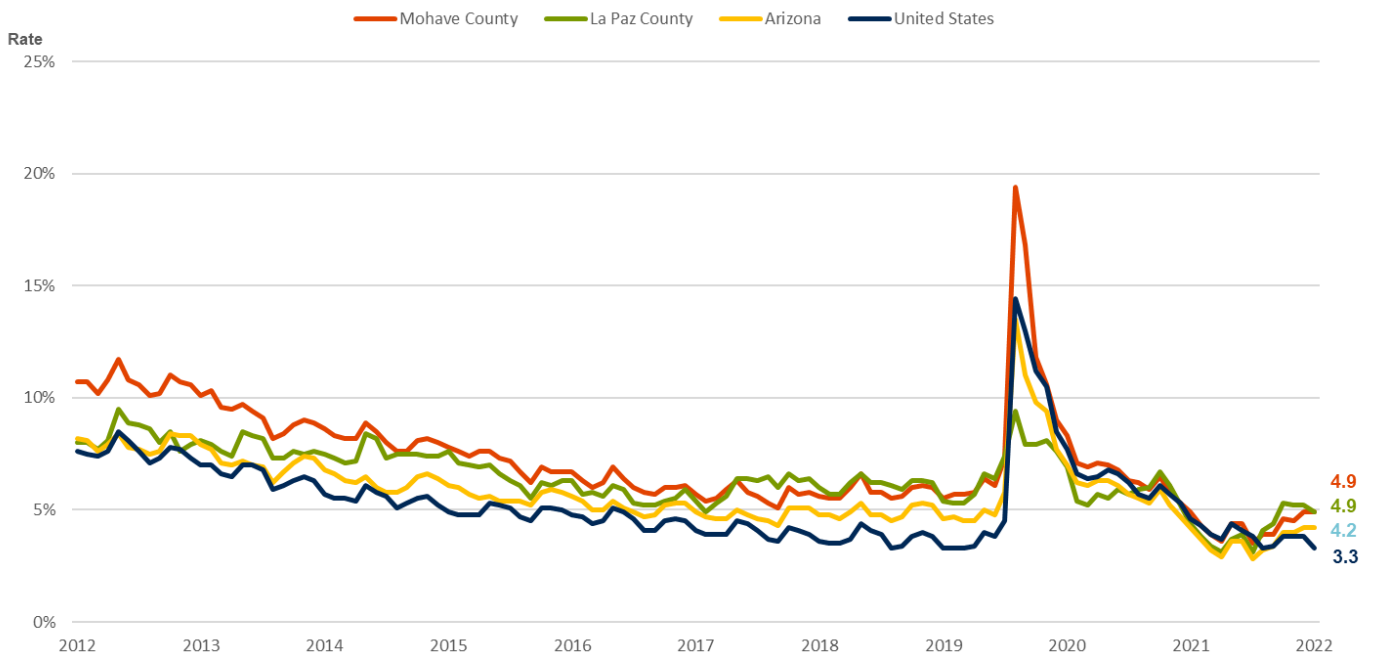
Understanding the current educational attainment of your local area's available workforce is a crucial step in identifying job seeker and business needs. Education is an important element in determining job success, and, oftentimes, can lead directly to higher-paying jobs and lower rates of unemployment.<sup>5</sup>

- Eighty-seven percent of Mohave County residents and 84 percent of La Paz County Residents aged 25 and over have graduated from high school, less than the statewide rate of 88 percent.
- Comparatively, the percentage population with a bachelor's degree or higher in Mohave County is 16 percent less than the statewide rate, while La Paz County's is 19 percent less than the state.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019) "Unemployment Rates and Earnings by Educational Attainment." Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm>.

# WORKFORCE

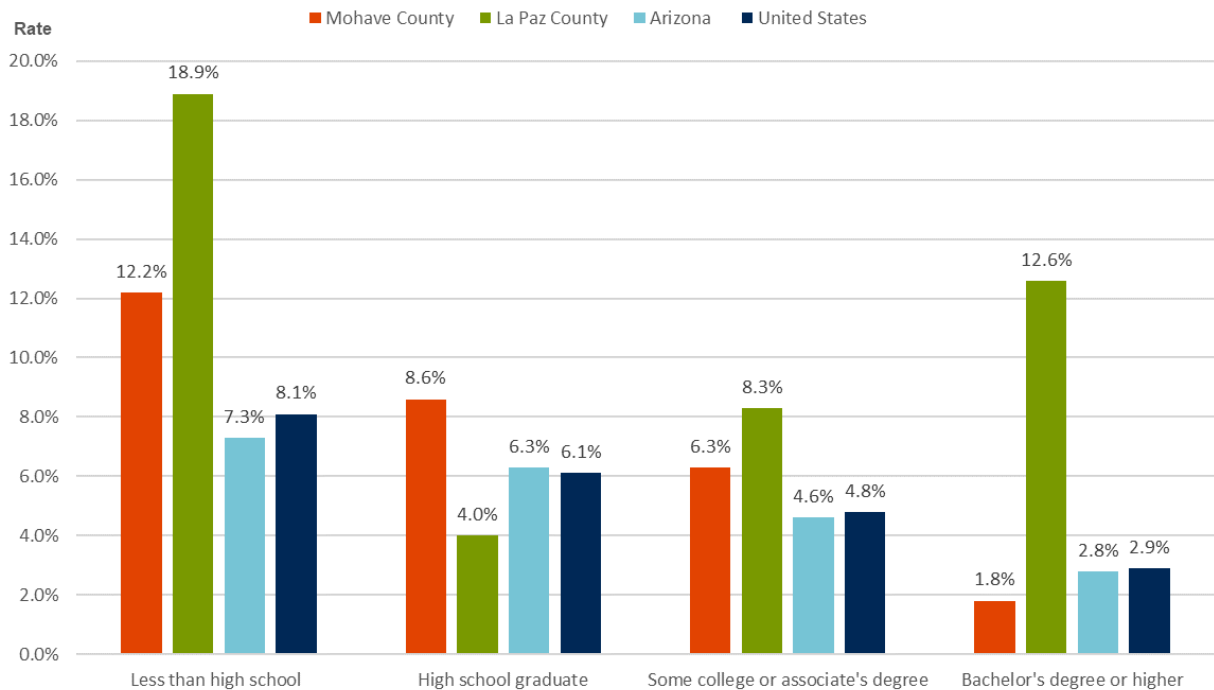
## Unemployment Rate Comparisons, Sep 2012-Sep 2022, Not-Seasonally Adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Office of Economic Opportunity

- Mohave and La Paz Counties' unemployment rate for the past 10 years has trended slightly above the statewide rate.
- Mohave County's labor force level increased from an annual average of 86,573 in 2020 to an annual average of 87,214 in 2021.
- La Paz County's labor force level decreased from an annual average of 8,671 in 2020 to an annual average of 8,615 in 2021.
- In 2021, there was an annual average of 4,833 unemployed people in Mohave County, compared with 6,604 unemployed people in 2020.
- In 2021, there was an annual average of 441 unemployed people in La Paz County, compared with 525 unemployed people in 2020.
- The average unemployment rate in Mohave County during 2021 was 5.5 percent, 2.2 percent lower than the average from the previous nine years.
- The average unemployment rate in La Paz County during 2021 was 5.1 percent, 1.7 percent lower than the average from the previous nine years.

## Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment, 2021, Ages 25-64



Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2021 5-Year Estimates, Table S2301  
Office of Economic Opportunity

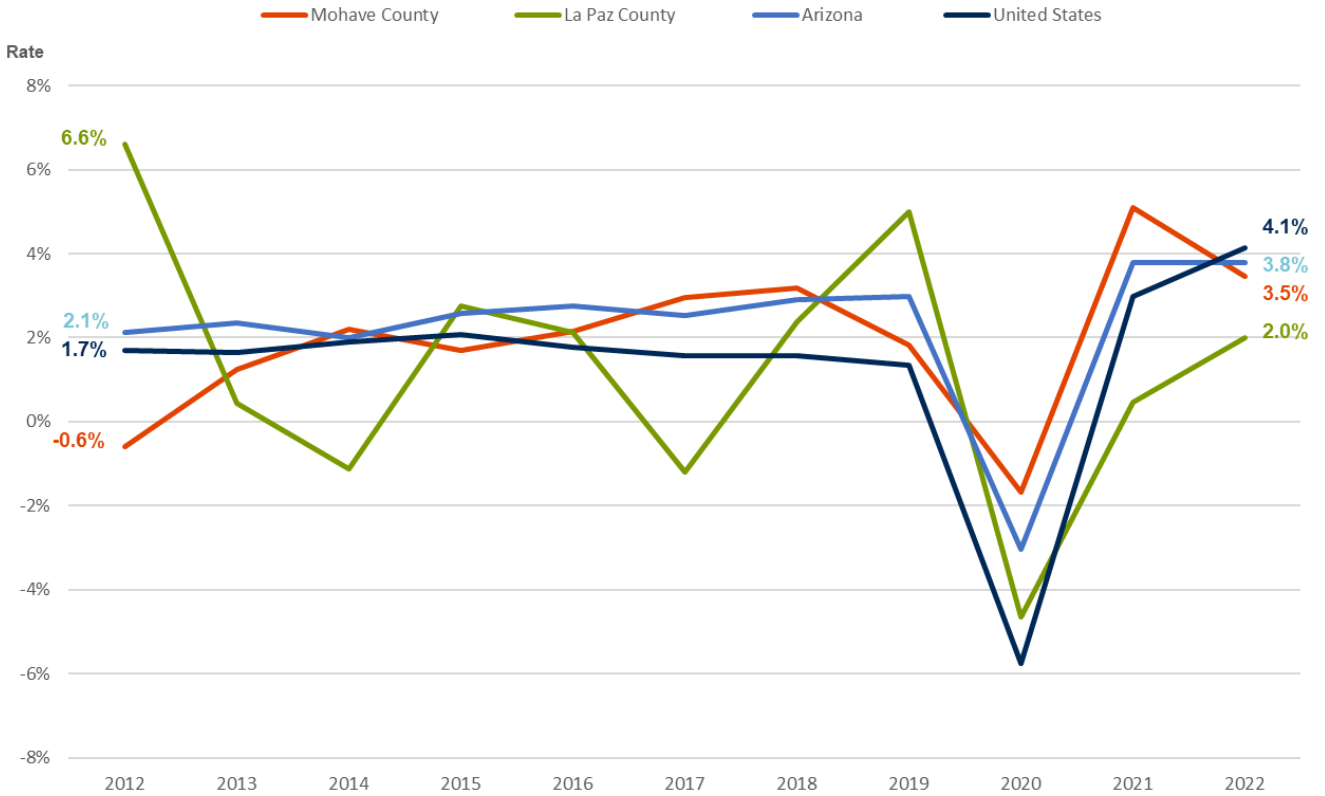
Historically, higher educational attainment levels have been associated with lower levels of unemployment.<sup>6</sup> Understanding the relationship between unemployment and education can help determine which education levels are most in need of targeted workforce efforts.

- The unemployment rate among individuals with less than a high school diploma, or with a bachelor's degree or higher, was significantly higher in La Paz County than in the state or nation.
- The unemployment rate was higher across all levels of educational attainment in Mohave County than in Arizona, with the exception of those with a bachelor's degree or higher.
- The unemployment rate was higher across all levels of educational attainment in La Paz County than in Arizona, with the exception of those with a high school diploma.

<sup>6</sup> National Center for Educational Statistics. (2019). "Employment and Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment." Retrieved from [https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator\\_cbc.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_cbc.asp)



## Average Nonfarm Employment Year-Over-Year Percentage Change, 2012-2022, Not-Seasonally Adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics  
Office of Economic Opportunity

- Arizona saw an annualized increase of 2.2 percent in total nonfarm employment from 2012-2022.
- Mohave County's average total nonfarm employment increased by 10,598 jobs from 2012-2022, an annualized increase of 2.1 percent over this 10-year period; La Paz County's average total nonfarm employment increased by 453 jobs, an annualized increase of 0.8 percent.
- Since 2012, Mohave County's job growth has generally trended below the state's growth rate and La Paz County's growth rate has been much more volatile.

## Mohave and La Paz Counties Private Sector Industry Employment, 2016-2021

Industry	Average Employment (2016)	Average Employment (2021)	Numeric Growth (2016-2021)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2016-2021)
Natural Resources and Mining	304	519	215	11.30%
Construction	2,397	3,920	1,523	10.30%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,709	4,643	933	4.60%
Financial Activities	819	1,009	190	4.30%
Trade Transportation and Utilities	3,186	3,766	580	3.40%
Professional and Business Services	1,156	1,284	128	2.10%
Education and Health Services	5,888	6,216	328	1.10%
Other Services	1,554	1,581	27	0.30%
Manufacturing	3,116	3,142	26	0.20%
Information	812	502	-310	-9.20%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages  
Office of Economic Opportunity

- Nine of the private-sector industries in Mohave and La Paz Counties recorded employment growth from 2016 to 2021, resulting in a total increase of 3,641 jobs.
- Of the 10 private-sector industries, Education and Health Services made up the largest share of employment in 2021.
- Construction experienced the largest numeric growth from 2016 to 2021.

## Projected Industry Employment, 2021-2023

Area	Projected Employment (2021)	Projected Employment (2023)	Projected Numeric Growth (2021-2023)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2021-2023)
Arizona	3,109,190	3,375,515	266,325	4.2%
Balance of Maricopa	1,219,259	1,337,167	117,908	4.7%
City of Phoenix	1,013,840	1,095,437	81,597	3.9%
Coconino County	64,430	70,044	5,614	4.3%
<b>Mohave and La Paz Counties</b>	65,909	71,189	5,280	3.9%
Northeastern Arizona	64,496	68,182	3,686	2.8%
Pima County	397,174	427,695	30,521	3.8%
Pinal County	71,978	78,038	6,060	4.1%
Santa Cruz County	14,735	15,461	726	2.4%
Southeastern Arizona	54,206	57,926	3,720	3.4%
Yavapai County	71,559	77,411	5,852	4.0%
Yuma County	71,560	76,512	4,952	3.4%

NOTE: Maricopa Workforce Area includes Maricopa County excluding the City of Phoenix.  
Source: Office of Economic Opportunity, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

- All Arizona local workforce areas are expected to record employment growth from 2021 to 2023.
- Mohave and La Paz Counties are projected to grow at 3.9 percent, less than the statewide growth rate of 4.2 percent.

### Mohave and La Paz Workforce Area Projected Industry Employment, 2021-2023

Industry	Projected Employment (2021)	Projected Employment (2023)	Projected Numeric Growth (2021-2023)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2021-2023)
Leisure and Hospitality	10,738	12,311	1,573	7.10%
Financial Activities	2,174	2,356	182	4.10%
Education and Health Services	12,714	13,661	947	3.70%
Professional and Business Services	4,174	4,478	304	3.60%
Trade Transportation and Utilities	15,392	16,317	925	3.00%
Other Services	2,005	2,118	113	2.80%
Construction	4,033	4,193	160	2.00%
Natural Resources and Mining	2,125	2,207	82	1.90%
Manufacturing	3,127	3,235	108	1.70%
Information	552	553	1	0.10%

Source: Office of Economic Opportunity, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Job skills are constantly evolving with the emergence of new technologies and changing consumer habits. Job seekers can better prepare themselves by gaining skills within industries projected to have large employment needs.

- All 10 private sectors in Mohave and La Paz Counties are projected to experience growth through 2023.
- Leisure and Hospitality is projected to lead growth (7.1 percent), followed by Financial Activities (4.1 percent).
- Trade Transportation and Utilities is projected to remain the industry that employs the most people in Mohave and La Paz Counties.

# ARIZONA

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