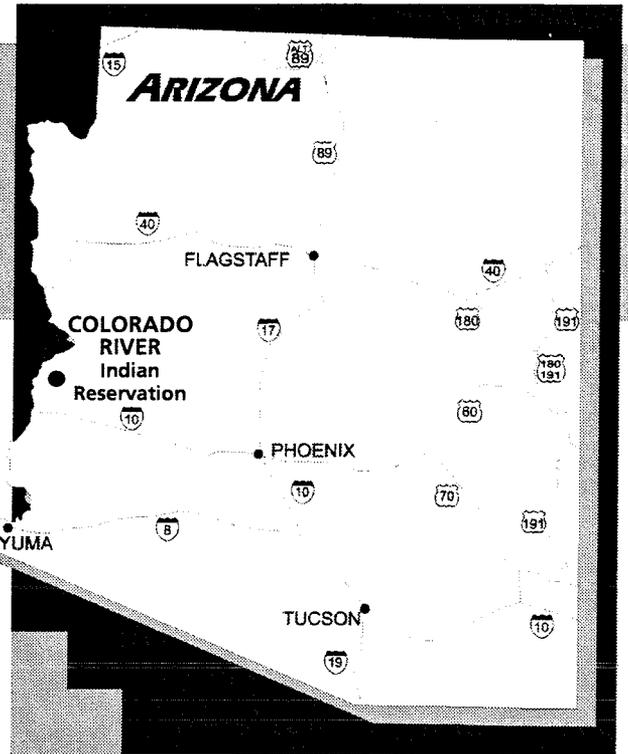




Arizona Department of Commerce

Community Profile

Colorado River Indian Reservation



Colorado River Indian Reservation

lands are in Arizona (225,995 acres) and California (42,696 acres). Tribal lands are low arid desert and river bottom with abrupt mountain ranges. The Colorado River provides 90 miles of shoreline running north to south through the reservation.

In 1864, Charles Debrille Poston, the first Indian superintendent for Arizona, selected the area as Arizona's second Indian reservation. It was established March 3, 1865, for the "Indians of said river and its tributaries." The Mohave have inhabited the area for centuries, while members of the Chemehuevi, Hopi, and Navajo tribes relocated to the Reservation later.

The incorporated community of Parker is located on and surrounded by Reservation lands. A second community, Poston, is located on the Reservation, 20 miles south of Parker.

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The reservation economy is centered around agriculture, recreation, government and light industry, which is expanding. The fertile river-bottom lands and available water allow irrigated agriculture which produces cotton, alfalfa, wheat, feed grains, lettuce, and melons. Approximately 84,500 acres are now under cultivation and another 50,500 are available for development.

The Colorado River is the basis of an established recreation and tourism industry. Marinas, lodging facilities, food and beverage establishments, beaches, mobile home parks, and cabanas have been built. Recreational development leases and homesite leases are available. In addition, the Blue Water Casino opened in April 1995 and employs over 250. A new casino and 200 room hotel will open in early 1999.

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

The Colorado River, dams and lakes are the Reservation's greatest recreational and scenic attractions. Lakes Moovalya and Havasu are formed behind Headgate and Parker Dams. Facilities for swimmers, boaters and water-skiers may be found along the shoreline. River fishing for trout, striped bass, bass, catfish, crappie and bluegill is excellent. Dove, quail, waterfowl, rabbit and predator hunting is excellent. Reservation hunting and fishing permits are required.

Tribal occupation of the area is evidenced by petroglyphs, pictographs, ancient trails and intaglios. The Tribal Museum and Library attempt to preserve and interpret the heritage of each of the four tribes of the Reservation as well as the general history of the area. Through the Museum, the Tribes maintain two national historic sites, the Old Mohave Presbyterian Mission, recently renovated, and the Old Arizona frontier community of La Paz, Arizona. These are open to the public.

POPULATION

	1980	1990	1997
Colorado River Reservation	2,504	3,035	3,318*
La Paz County	12,557	13,844	17,625
Arizona	2,716,546	3,665,228	4,600,275

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security, U.S. Census Bureau, and Colorado River Indian Tribe, Enrollment Department.

* Colorado River Indian Tribe estimate.

GROWTH INDICATORS

	1990	1996	1997
Postal Receipts (\$)*			
(Parker)	637,147	809,825	804,877
Parker Unified School District Enrollment	2,332	2,193	2,248

*Postal receipts are for fiscal year.

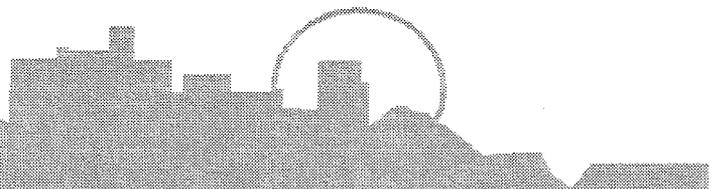
LABOR FORCE DATA*

	1980	1990	1997**
Civilian Labor Force	609	2,831	738
Employed	406	2,602	554
Unemployed	203	229	184
Unemployment Rate	33.3%	8.1%	24.9%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

*Labor force estimate includes surrounding area.

** Tribal members only.



Colorado River Indian Reservation

TAXES

The State of Arizona does not tax Indian lands and Indian-owned property on reservations. Incomes of Indians residing on reservations are not taxed by the State if wholly derived from reservation sources. The Federal Government does not exempt individual Indians from income or other federal taxes. Indian people of Arizona are also exempt from state and local sales taxes on consumer goods purchased on the reservation, unless such taxes are imposed by the tribal government. However, the State of Arizona collects taxes from reservation residents on sales of gasoline, electricity, natural gas, and telephone service.

Source: Arizona Property Tax Rates and Assessed Valuation

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Colorado River Indian Reservation offers a wide range of community facilities including a library-museum, two gymnasiums, two parks, two baseball diamonds, a fairgrounds, community center, senior center, rodeo grounds, and a marina with trailer park, beaches, cabanas, and picnic area.

Special events include National Indian Days and Miss Indian Arizona Pageant in September and All-Indian Rodeo in December.

Communication. In addition to communication resources from the rest of the state, the community has a local area weekly newspaper, radio stations from Lake Havasu City and Parker, one local television channel from Parker, and 37 additional channels via cable and satellite.

Educational. All reservation children attending local public schools attend the Parker Unified School District. Arizona Western College (in Yuma) and Northern Arizona University (in Flagstaff) offer extension courses at the Parker High School and the Tribal Educational Service Center.

Medical. Services include one hospital with 20 beds and laboratory, X-ray, emergency room facilities, four physicians, one dentist, seven community health representatives, two field nurses, a health educator, and a sanitarian are available. Additional medical facilities and services are available in Parker. A new IHS medical facility is under design.

Financial. There are five financial institutions with local branch offices located in nearby Parker. For information about state financial programs, contact the Arizona Department of Commerce, (602) 280-1300.

Governmental. The community is governed by a chairman, vice chairman, and council members. There is a tribal police department, tribal court, and a fire department with 27 volunteers.

Airport. Residents have access to the Avi Suquilla Airport which has a lighted, 4,800-foot runway, UNICOM, radio and fuel.

Industrial Properties. The 140-acre Colorado River Tribes Industrial Park is fully improved with paved streets, all utilities and rail, air, and highway access. Contact the Colorado River Indian Tribes Resources Development Committee.

Residential Properties. The Big River Development Enterprise offers residential lots for long-term lease in an 8,000-acre planned community, located in Big River, California. The community also offers a river park, a 23-room motel and a water company.

Utilities

Electricity:	Bureau of Indian Affairs	(520) 669-7173
	APS	(520) 669-2248
Natural Gas:	Southwest Gas Corporation	(520) 684-5474
Telephone:	GTE West	(619) 922-5019
Water:	CRIT Regional Water System	(520) 669-2121
Sewer:	Jointly operated by Tribes and Parker	(520) 669-9821

WEATHER

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total Precipitation (Inches)
	Daily Maximum	Daily Minimum	
January	67.3	37.1	0.53
February	72.9	41.7	0.32
March	78.7	46.6	0.52
April	87.0	53.6	0.22
May	95.3	61.9	0.0
June	103.3	69.6	0.01
July	108.6	78.8	0.30
August	106.7	78.2	0.5
September	102.5	70.2	0.2
October	91.4	57.8	0.2
November	77.5	44.9	0.3
December	68.3	38.1	0.4
Year	88.3	56.5	3.8

Average Total Snow, Sleet and Hail Annually: Trace

Source: Parker Weather Reporting Station, elevation 425 ft.

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce Communications Division in cooperation with the Colorado River Indian Tribes Planning Department.

For further information, contact:

Colorado River Indian Tribes
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Parker, AZ 85344
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e-mail: critpgbj@ix.netcom.com

Bulk orders and complete sets of profiles may be obtained at moderate cost from the Arizona Department of Commerce by calling (602) 280-1321.

Arizona Department of Commerce

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