

ARIZONA

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS REPORT

Mohave and La Paz Counties

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report was created to assist Arizona Local Workforce Development Areas in completing their 2025-2028 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 (OEO)

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) is the State of Arizona's statistics agency. Arizona's economic potential is revealed through evidence-based statistics compiled by OEO. The OEO improves analytic capacity and tracks Arizona's key economic indicators, such as the state's labor market, population, and regulatory and taxation.

Workforce

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.

Labor Market Information

OEO conducts labor market analysis, including but not limited to employment forecasting and trend reporting. In addition, OEO compiles workforce analysis, such as this report, and provides custom employment and WIOA research to the Arizona workforce system.

Population

OEO produces the official population estimates and projections for the State of Arizona including demographics.

Regulatory and Tax

OEO monitors Arizona's tax and regulatory competitiveness by collecting and quantifying tax and regulatory activities. This work provides baseline information that can be used to make informed decisions about the state of regulation and taxation in Arizona.

WIOA TRAINING

Mohave La Paz Title 1B WIOA Negotiated Training Outcomes, PY2020-2023

Program	Program Year	Q2 Employment after Exit	Q4 Employment after Exit	Median Earnings	Credential Rate	Measurable Skill Gains
Adult	2020	71.4%	67.0%	\$4,732	66.5%	59.2%
	2021	71.4%	67.0%	\$4,732	66.5%	62.0%
	2022	70.0%	66.0%	\$5,568	69.5%	59.5%
	2023	70.0%	66.0%	\$5,568	69.5%	59.5%
Dislocated Worker	2020	83.5%	70.2%	\$8,646	72.8%	50.0%
	2021	83.5%	70.2%	\$8,646	72.8%	62.0%
	2022	77.0%	73.0%	\$8,646	74.5%	65.0%
	2023	77.0%	73.0%	\$8,646	74.5%	65.0%
Youth	2020	72.0%	67.0%	\$4,500	54.0%	52.8%
	2021	72.0%	67.0%	\$4,500	54.0%	54.0%
	2022	71.5%	69.0%	\$4,607	57.0%	62.0%
	2023	71.5%	69.0%	\$4,607	57.0%	62.0%

Source: Department of Economic Security

Mohave La Paz Title 1B WIOA Recorded Training Outcomes, PY2020-2022

Program	Program Year	Q2 Employment after Exit	Q4 Employment after Exit	Median Earnings	Credential Rate	Measurable Skill Gains
Adult	2020	68.9%	65.4%	\$5,581	73.8%	59.4%
	2021	66.3%	52.9%	\$64.3	50.5%	53.0%
	2022	63.3%	55.3%	\$7,096	65.6%	66.1%
Dislocated Worker	2020	56.3%	72.7%	\$8,231	91.7%	61.5%
	2021	80.6%	84.6%	\$9,383	75.0%	75.0%
	2022	70.8%	67.9%	\$11,225	90.0%	83.3%
Youth	2020	68.7%	76.0%	\$3,882	53.6%	68.2%
	2021	70.7%	63.2%	\$4,648	37.7%	45.7%
	2022	74.2%	65.1%	\$4,675	34.7%	43.0%

Source: Department of Economic Security

The tables above display negotiated and achieved performance for Mohave La Paz Title 1B WIOA trainings during the last programmatic four-year plan. The data may be used with the subsequent labor market information to help shift into focus what to improve in the next four-year plan.

POPULATION

Population Growth by County, 2017-2022

Area	Population Estimate (2017)	Population Estimate (2022)	Numeric Change (2017-2022)	Annualized Percent Change (2017-2022)
United States	321,004,407	331,097,593	10,093,186	0.6%
Arizona	6,809,946	7,172,282	362,336	1.0%
Apache County	71,602	66,054	-5,548	-1.6%
Cochise County	126,516	125,504	-1,012	-0.2%
Coconino County	138,639	144,705	6,066	0.9%
Gila County	53,145	53,419	274	0.1%
Graham County	37,700	38,453	753	0.4%
Greenlee County	9,368	9,483	115	0.2%
La Paz County	20,477	16,681	-3,796	-4.0%
Maricopa County	4,155,501	4,430,871	275,370	1.3%
Mohave County	204,691	214,229	9,538	0.9%
Navajo County	107,902	107,110	-792	-0.1%
Pima County	1,007,257	1,042,393	35,136	0.7%
Pinal County	405,537	433,338	27,801	1.3%
Santa Cruz County	46,358	47,838	1,480	0.6%
Yavapai County	220,972	237,830	16,858	1.5%
Yuma County	204,281	204,374	93	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2022, 5-Year Estimates, Table B01003
Office of Economic Opportunity

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 activity¹ and workforce diversity.

- Arizona had one of the fastest growing populations in the United States from 2021-2022, ranking 5th among all U.S. states in numeric growth and 6th in percent growth.²
- Mohave County accounted for 2.6 percent of Arizona's total population growth from 2017 to 2022, constituting 3.0 percent of the state's total population in 2022.
- In 2022, 21.2 percent of individuals who moved to Mohave County from a different U.S. state were prime-working age adults (25 to 54 years).³

¹ 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

² U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year estimates. (2017-2022). Total Population, Table B01003. Available from data.census.gov

³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year estimates. (2017-2022). Geographic Mobility by Selected Characters, Table S0701. Available from data.census.gov

POPULATION

Population projections provide useful insight into an area's future demand for resources and services.⁴ 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 ¹	Projected Total Net Migration ²
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
2,026	239,353	3,981	1.7%	-1,971	5,952

¹ Natural Change = Births – Deaths

² 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.

La Paz County Population Projections, 2022-2026

Year	Population Estimate	Projected Numeric Change	Projected Percentage Change	Projected Natural Change ¹	Projected Total Net Migration ²
2022	16,860	-----	-----	-262.0	302.0
2023	16,945	85.0	0.5%	-203.0	280.0
2024	17,034	89.0	0.5%	-176.0	258.0
2025	17,128	94.0	0.5%	-149.0	235.0
2,026	17,192	64.0	0.4%	-149.0	213.0

¹ Natural Change = Births – Deaths

² 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.

⁴ 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, 2022

Indicator	Mohave County	La Paz County	Arizona	United States
Population 16 Years and Over	183,139	14,269	5,764,417	266,411,973
Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate 16 and Over	44.8%	42.9%	60.1%	63.0%
Median Household Income	\$53,592	\$46,634	\$72,581	\$75,149
Families in Poverty	11.0%	15.1%	9.2%	8.8%
Median Age	52.9	57.3	38.4	38.5
Individuals with a Disability	22.3%	23.2%	13.4%	12.9%
Veterans	13.4%	15.8%	8.4%	6.6%
Uninsured	9.1%	15.2%	10.8%	8.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2022, 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.

- As a whole, Arizona had a lower labor force participation rate and a lower median household income than the nation.
- Arizona had a higher rate of families in poverty, rate of veterans, and rate of uninsured individuals than the nation.

Highest Education Achieved, 2022, Population Over 25 Years of Age

Indicator	Mohave County	La Paz County	Arizona	United States
Less than High School	3.5%	6.0%	4.8%	4.7%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	34.4%	32.8%	23.6%	26.4%
Some College, no degree	29.6%	28.5%	24.2%	19.7%
Associate's Degree	9.3%	8.9%	9.1%	8.7%
Bachelor's Degree	8.9%	8.4%	19.6%	20.9%
Graduate or Professional Degree	5.5%	4.0%	12.2%	13.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2022 5-Year Estimates, Table S1501
Office of Economic Opportunity

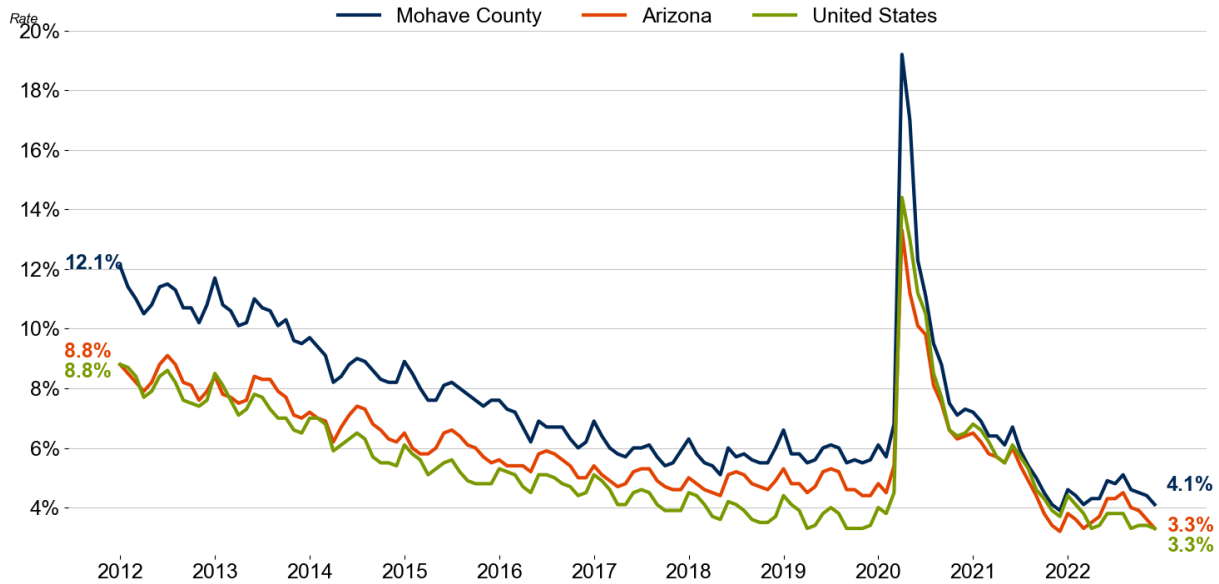
Understanding the current educational attainment of your local area's available workforce is a crucial step in identifying job seeker and business needs. Education is an important element in determining job success, and, oftentimes, can lead directly to higher-paying jobs and lower rates of unemployment.⁵

- When compared with the United States, Arizona has a higher rate of individuals with less than a high school diploma; with some college, no degree; and with an associate's degree.
- In Arizona, 88.3 percent of individuals have a high school diploma (or equivalent) or higher and 31.2 percent of individuals have a bachelor's degree or higher; in the United States, 88.9 percent of individuals have a high school diploma (or equivalent) or higher and 33.7 percent of individuals have a bachelor's degree or higher.

⁵ 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, Jan 2012-Dec 2022, Not-Seasonally Adjusted



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

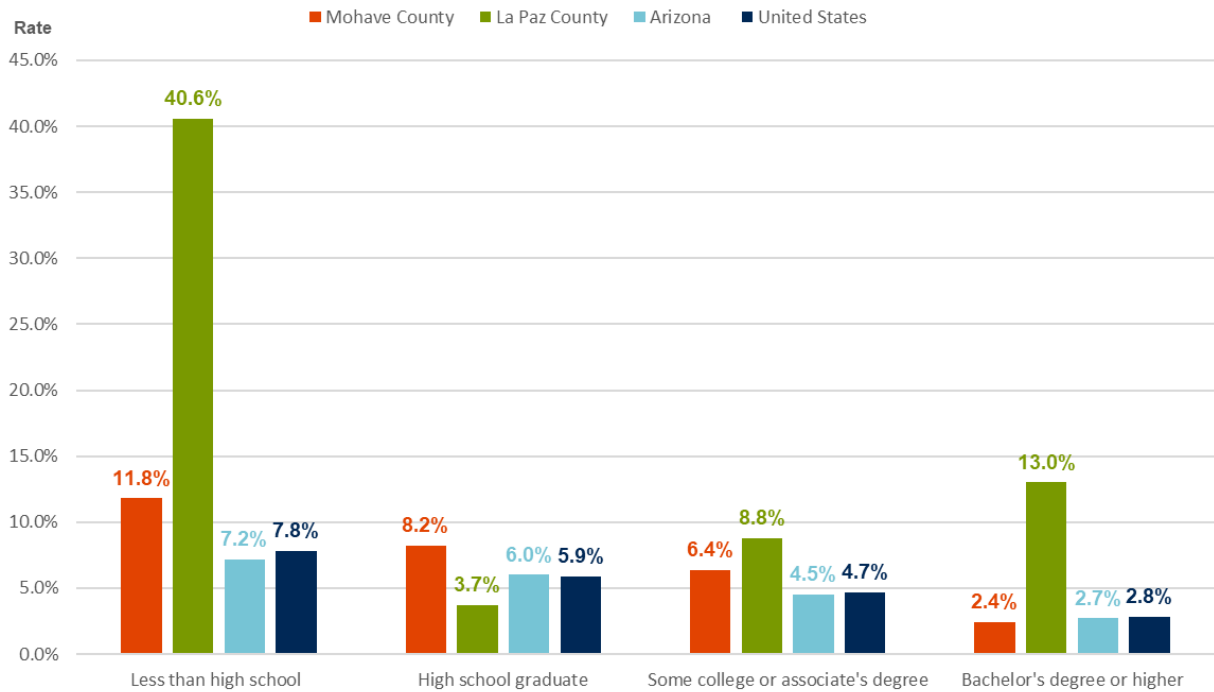
Mohave County:

- Mohave County's labor force level increased from an annual average of 87,413 in 2021 to an annual average of 89,853 in 2022.
- In 2022, there was an annual average of 4,066 unemployed individuals in Mohave County. This decreased from 4,987 in 2021.
- Prior to the pandemic (2017-2019), Mohave County had an average labor force level of 80,346 and an average unemployment level of 4,781 people.
- Throughout 2022, the average unemployment rate in Mohave County was 4.5 percent, lower than the average unemployment rate of 5.7 in 2021.

La Paz County:

- La Paz County's labor force level increased from an annual average of 8,621 in 2021 to an annual average of 8,906 in 2022.
- In 2022, there was an annual average of 419.0 unemployed individuals in La Paz County. This decreased from 460.5 in 2021.
- Prior to the pandemic (2017-2019), La Paz County had an average labor force level of 8,470 and an average unemployment level of 463.0 people.
- Throughout 2022, the average unemployment rate in La Paz County was 4.7 percent, lower than the average unemployment rate of 5.4 in 2021.

Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment, 2022, Ages 25-64



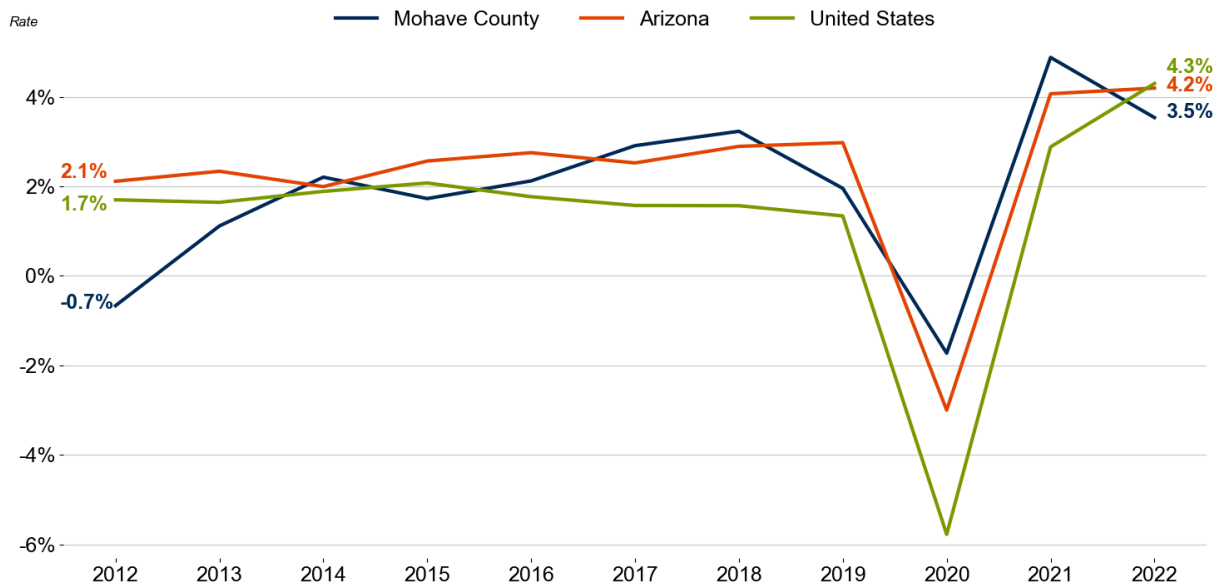
Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2022 5-Year Estimates, Table S2301
Office of Economic Opportunity

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

- Except for individuals with a high school diploma (or equivalent), unemployment rates were lower in Arizona than in the United States across all educational levels.

⁶ National Center for Educational Statistics. (2019). "Employment and Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment." Retrieved from 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

Mohave County:

- In general, Mohave County's annualized job growth has trended below the state's growth rate.
- Mohave County's annual average total nonfarm employment increased by 10,800 jobs from 2012-2022, an annualized increase of 2.2 percent over this ten-year period. Over this same period, Arizona average total nonfarm employment increased by 2.3 percent annually.

La Paz County:

- In general, La Paz County's annualized job growth has trended below the state's growth rate.
- La Paz County's annual average total nonfarm employment increased by 400 jobs from 2012-2022, an annualized increase of 0.8 percent over this ten-year period. Over this same period, Arizona average total nonfarm employment increased by 2.3 percent annually.

Mohave and La Paz Private Sector Industry Employment, 2016-2022

Industry	Average Employment (2017)	Average Employment (2022)	Numeric Growth (2017-2022)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2017-2022)
Construction	2,859	4,263	1,404	8.3%
Professional and Business Services	1,215	1,436	221.0	3.4%
Natural Resources and Mining	391.0	460.5	70.0	3.3%
Financial Activities	891.0	1,047	157.0	3.3%
Trade Transportation and Utilities	3,240	3,711	471.0	2.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,915	4,326	411.0	2.0%
Other Services	1,517	1,647	130.0	1.7%
Education and Health Services	5,825	6,263	438.0	1.5%
Manufacturing	3,191	3,331	140.0	0.9%
Information	646.0	573.0	-73.5	-2.4%

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

- Nine of the private-sector industries in Mohave and La Paz recorded employment growth from 2017 to 2022, resulting in a net increase of 3,370 jobs.
- Of the 10 private-sector industries, Education and Health Services made up the largest share of Mohave and La Paz Counties' employment in 2022, and Leisure and Hospitality made up the second largest.
- Construction experienced the largest numeric growth from 2017 to 2022.

Projected Industry Employment, 2022-2024

Area	Employment (2022)	Projected Employment (2024)	Projected Numeric Growth (2022-2024)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2022-2024)
Arizona	3,241,387	3,332,012	90,625	1.4%
Balance of Maricopa	1,319,941	1,364,125	44,184	1.7%
City of Phoenix	1,008,713	1,037,199	28,486	1.4%
Coconino County	67,976	69,567	1,591	1.2%
Mohave and La Paz Counties	66,918	68,786	1,868	1.4%
Northeastern Arizona	65,296	66,062	766	0.6%
Pima County	411,874	417,883	6,009	0.7%
Pinal County	76,110	78,804	2,694	1.8%
Santa Cruz County	15,351	15,577	226	0.7%
Southeastern Arizona	54,950	56,290	1,340	1.2%
Yavapai County	78,176	79,962	1,786	1.1%
Yuma County	76,034	77,766	1,732	1.1%

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 2022 to 2024.
- Total employment in both Mohave and La Paz Counties and Arizona is projected to by 1.4 percent annually.

Mohave and La Paz Counties Workforce Area Projected Industry Employment, 2022-2024

Industry	Employment (2022)	Projected Employment (2024)	Projected Numeric Growth (2022-2024)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2022-2024)
Professional and Business Services	4,887	5,183	296	3.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	9,449	10,003	554	2.9%
Other Services	2,263	2,389	126	2.7%
Manufacturing	3,360	3,496	136	2.0%
Construction	4,515	4,673	158	1.7%
Trade Transportation and Utilities	15,764	16,143	379	1.2%
Natural Resources and Mining	2,032	2,075	43	1.1%
Education and Health Services	12,903	13,115	212	0.8%
Government	5,252	5,299	47	0.4%
Information	690	688	-2	-0.1%
Financial Activities	2,343	2,321	-22	-0.5%

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.

- In Mohave and La Paz Counties, Professional and Business Services is projected to record the fastest growth rate, increasing by 3.0 percent annually through 2024.
- Leisure and Hospitality is projected to record the second fastest growth rate in Mohave and La Paz Counties.
- In 2024, the industry that employs the most people within Mohave and La Paz Counties is projected to remain Trade Transportation and Utilities.

In addition to the above industry-level labor market information, the Office of Economic Opportunity provides a ranking of in-demand industries within each workforce area by weighing the following variables: current employment level, historic annualized employment percent change, projected employment numeric and percent change, average weekly wages, historic weekly wages percent change, employment location quotient, and wage location quotient. These data are available for download [here](#).

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