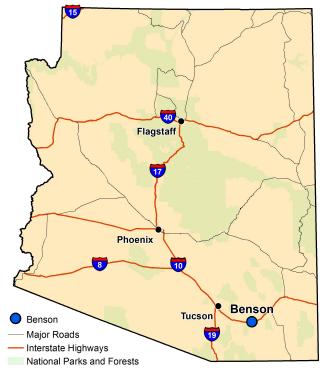
# **Benson**

Benson serves as the western gateway to the scenic and historic attractions of Cochise County and has copyrighted the name "Home of Kartchner Caverns State Park." Located in the historical San Pedro Valley, it offers proximity to both Tucson and Sierra Vista. Its rugged mountains, grassy valleys, moderate climate and proximity to many historical sites makes it a popular tourist attraction. The City of Benson was founded in 1880, when the Southern Pacific Railroad came through southern Arizona. Until 1910, Benson was the railroad hub of southern Arizona. It was named for Judge William B. Benson of California, a friend of Charles Crocker, then-president of the railroad.

# **Principal Economic Activities**

Benson is situated along several trade routes: Interstate 10, U.S. 80, State Highway 90 and the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad. AEPCO and Apache Nitrogen Products are major employers, while many residents work in Tucson or Sierra Vista. Both retail chain and specialty stores are available. The city supports a large retired population and is a winter refuge for people from colder climates. Its nearby historic and scenic sites are increasingly popular with tourists.



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# **Scenic Attractions**

Cochise County, land of the great Apache chiefs Cochise and Geronimo, was truly "the last frontier," subject to raids by the Chiricahua Apaches until the late 1880s. Nearby are the world famous Kartchner Caverns State Park and Old Tucson's Mescal movie site. Other attractions include: Tombstone, 20 miles from Benson; Gammon's Gulch Movie Set & Museum; historic Fort Huachuca, with its 1880s buildings and an Indian war days museum; the Amerind Museum which features remnants of prehistoric Indian cultures; and the Holy Trinity Monastery along the San Pedro Riparian Area. In addition, there are numerous mountain ranges that provide rockhounding, photography, picnicking, hiking, camping, bird watching and hunting opportunities.

# **Community Facilities**

Benson offers a broad range of community facilities including four parks, one golf course, a community pool, a skate park, a library, a community center and many baseball, football, track and soccer fields. There is also a museum/gallery.

# **Community Profile for Benson**, Arizona



BASIC INFO	ORMATION			
Founded:	1880	Incorporated:		1924
Elevation:	3,585 ft.	Location:	Coc	hise County
Distance to n Phoenix: Tucson: Las Vegas:	n <b>ajor cities:</b> 160 mi 46 mi 453 mi	es Los Ang	-	454 miles 532 miles

### POPULATION

	2000	2010	2016 (est.)
Benson	4,711	5,098	4,981
Cochise County	117,755	131,436	128,343
State of Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity	5,130,632	6,401,569	6,835,518

## PROPERTY TAX

	2000	2010	2016
Elementary / High School	8.99	4.29	7.08
City / Fire District	0.62	0.46	0.58
Cochise County	5.70	5.07	5.92
Totals (Cochise County)	15.31	9.82	13.59
Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Resea	arch Foundation		

# SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Benson	3.50%
Cochise County	6.10%
State	5.60%
Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation	

#### LABOR FORCE 2000 2010 2016 **Civilian Labor Force** 2,008 1,900 1,682 209 Unemployed 163 88 8.1% 11.0% 5.2% **Unemployment Rate** Office of Economic Opportunity

# WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	463	12.0%
High school or equivalent, no college	1,061	27.6%
Some college or Associate degree	1,527	39.7%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree American Community Survey	794	20.7%

# **INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)**

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	408	27.5%
Retail trade	252	17.0%
Public administration	208	14.0%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	123	8.3%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	92	6.2%
Construction	90	6.1%
Manufacturing	82	5.5%
Finance, insurance & real estate	71	4.8%
Wholesale trade	57	3.8%
Other services, except public administration	50	3.4%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	48	3.2%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	0	0.0%
Information	0	0.0%
American Community Survey		

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Commerce Authority in cooperation with local sources. For further information, please contact:

### **City of Benson**

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### Local First Arizona

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# Southeast Arizona Economic

**Development Group** George Scott 168 E. 4th Street Benson, AZ 85602 Phone: 520-265-6058 Email: george@saedg.org Website: www.saedg.org

### **Benson Economic Development** P.O. Box 2223 Benson, AZ 85602 Phone: 520-586-2842 Email: bob@bensonvisitorcenter.com Website: www.cityofbenson.com

# Arizona Commerce Authority

Statewide Economic Development Group 118 N. 7th Ave., Suite 400 Phoenix, AZ 85007 Phone: 602-845-1200 Email: info@azcommerce.com Website: www.azcommerce.com

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