

Making Action Possible *For Southern Arizona*

2026 Annual Report

Now in its second decade, the award-winning MAP Dashboard continues to measurably improve Southern Arizona through data-driven collective civic action and education. Launched in 2014, the MAP has become one of the region’s most trusted sources of socio-economic data. The MAP team looks forward to the next 10 years of measuring progress and inspiring action.

The MAP provides users with measures of the region’s progress and access to the latest information and research. It fills a gap by offering a common collection of information to evaluate Southern Arizona and collaborate on shared issues.

The Southern Arizona community continues to embrace the MAP Dashboard. Since its launch, the website has had over 500,000 users and more than one million pageviews. In addition, 3,100 people read the MAP newsletter each month, 474 followers on X (formerly Twitter), and 345 follow on Facebook.

Since its founding, the MAP Dashboard has been recognized six times for excellence by international, national, state, and local organizations. Most recently, it won the Excellence in Print Publications award from the Association for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER) in 2025.

The content on the MAP Dashboard is constantly evolving to address the most pressing community issues. In addition to 36 core data updates across the Economy, Education, Health & Social Well-Being, Infrastructure, Quality of Place, and Workforce & Demographics categories in 2025, several key changes were made to the Education category in response to community feedback from surveys and meetings. Those changes included:

- Added degrees and certificate data to the Educational Attainment indicator
- Moved the former College Major indicator into Educational Attainment as a sub-indicator
- Added trend data to the Teacher Wages indicator
- Created a new core indicator measuring youth disconnection rates for 16–19-year-olds and 16-24-year-olds, including data disaggregated by gender and by race and ethnicity

Additionally, 18 feature articles appeared on the website. These included articles on the topics listed below:

- The decade in review (Tucson’s strengths and weaknesses by category)
- Southern Arizona’s nonprofits under strain
- Understanding health through life expectancy
- Tucson manufacturing as an engine for jobs and growth
- The role of clinical care in community health infrastructure
- Southern Arizona Income and Earnings Report
- White Paper: The impact of policy on learning opportunities for students with chronic health conditions
- And many others

The MAP Dashboard highlights regional impact through the Community Spotlight, which explores how various Southern Arizona organizations use the MAP Dashboard. Each Spotlight provides insight on how to get the most out of the MAP and inspires others to use the website in new ways. Community Spotlights in 2025 featured The Chamber of Southern Arizona and the Thomas R. Brown Family Foundation.

36 Core Indicators					
Economy	Education	Health & Social Well-Being	Infrastructure	Quality of Place	Workforce & Demographics
Business Growth	Educational Attainment	Behavioral Health	Air Travel	Air Quality	Employment Share by Industry
Employment Growth by Industry	High School Graduation Rates	Health Insurance Coverage	Congestion Trends	Cost of Living	Labor Force Participation Rate
GDP by Industry	PreK-12 Enrollment	Housing Cost Burden	Energy Use	Creative Occupations	Occupational Wages
Housing Affordability	Student Achievement	Physical Well-Being	Internet Access	Outdoor Recreation Opportunities	Population Profile
Median Household Income	Teacher Wages	Poverty Rate	Residential Water Use	Public Safety	Wage Distribution
Patents	Youth Disconnection	Teen Birth Rate	Transportation to Work	Voter Turnout	Working Age College Graduates

Community outreach and engagement are a key part of the MAP Dashboard. Researchers at the University of Arizona’s Economic and Business Research Center, housed in the Eller College of Management, frequently participate in print, radio, and television interviews. The MAP team and associated researchers presented MAP data to local residents through numerous public presentations last year, reaching approximately 1,780 attendees. Examples of these presentations included:

- Tucson Manufacturing Trends and the Impact of Tariffs MAP Talk
- Eller’s Breakfast with the Economists
- Learning Opportunities for Students with Chronic Health Conditions MAP Talk
- Eller’s Economic Outlook Luncheon
- Moving Tucson Forward – What the Data Tells Us MAP Talk

Information from the MAP Dashboard website reaches thousands of readers monthly through a full-color feature in the Business and Health sections of the Arizona Daily Star.

This report provides a snapshot of the MAP Dashboard as of spring 2026, using the most up-to-date annual data. Since federal agencies release this information with significant delays, most estimates are for 2024 and 2025. In some cases, particularly the health-related data, the most recent estimates available for all comparison regions are for 2023. This delay reflects the time federal agencies require to acquire and report the data. The report summarizes the latest results for all indicators and highlights key changes during the past year. It also documents changes to the website in 2025, aggregates website metrics, and summarizes outreach activities.

MAP Dashboard

OVERVIEW

The award-winning Making Action Possible (MAP) Dashboard was formed through a unique partnership between the University of Arizona, the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, and the Southern Arizona Leadership Council to measurably improve Southern Arizona through data-driven collective civic action and education. Subsequently, the Pima Association of Governments and Sun Corridor Inc. joined the partnership in 2016 and 2018.



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In 2025, Sun Corridor Inc. merged with the Tucson Metro Chamber to become The Chamber of Southern Arizona. The partnership represents the non-profit and business communities, regional government, local economic development, and higher education. The MAP Dashboard fills a resource gap by providing a common collection of research and information to evaluate and measure key socio-economic indicators in our community and collaborate to address our shared issues.

The socio-economic indicators are grouped into six categories: 1) Economy, 2) Education, 3) Health and Social Well-Being, 4) Infrastructure, 5) Quality of Place, and 6) Workforce and Demographics. The MAP provides data and information on more than 250 indicators within these six categories. For each indicator, users can learn how Southern Arizona is doing, how it compares, and what the latest trends tell us about our progress. Users can compare Southern Arizona to the United States, states in the West, and select Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). This information allows Southern Arizonans to decide priorities, shape and pursue effective policies, and seek external funding

The MAP was awarded the 2016 Award for Website Excellence by the Association for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER) and the 2016 DataViz Award from the Association of Public Data Users.

opportunities. They can also use the data to drive business and organizational decisions and to build collaborative, cross-sector partnerships capable of taking action throughout our region.

While the MAP Dashboard focuses on state, county, and metropolitan area data, it also provides a wealth of information for cities and towns in Southern Arizona. The Southern Arizona region typically includes the following counties: Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma. The MAP Dashboard includes data for all

15 Arizona counties and 41 of Southern Arizona's largest cities, towns, and census-designated places.

The MAP Dashboard celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2024. It has received international, national, state, and local recognition since its launch. The MAP was awarded the 2016 Award for Website Excellence by the Association for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER) and the 2016 DataViz Award from the Association of Public Data Users. It was one of three finalists for the Arizona Governor's Award for Innovation in Academia and received the 2016 Common Ground Award from the Metropolitan Pima Alliance. In 2018, the MAP received the

Impact Award from the International Community Indicators Consortium for its demonstrated ability to drive positive community change in Southern Arizona. The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) awarded the MAP the 2021 Research Award for Data Collection, Dissemination, and Visualization for its contributions to the success of local, regional, and state community, economic, and workforce development initiatives. In 2023, the MAP was featured in the University of Arizona's Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement application. Most recently, in 2025, the MAP won the Excellence in Print Publications award from AUBER.

Local community support makes the MAP Dashboard possible. Funding partners include the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, Pima Association of Governments, the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, The Chamber of Southern Arizona, and the University of Arizona. The University of Arizona's Economic and Business Research Center maintains, updates, and administers the MAP Dashboard website.

Community sponsors also provide financial support. Sustaining sponsors include NüPoint Marketing, the Thomas R. Brown Family Foundation, and Tucson Electric Power. Wells Fargo and the Arizona Community Foundation are supporting sponsors, while Sundt Construction and Visit Tucson are contributing sponsors.

The MAP Dashboard Continues to Evolve: Major Updates in 2025

Jennifer Pullen, Executive Director, Economic and Business Research Center, Eller College of Management, University of Arizona

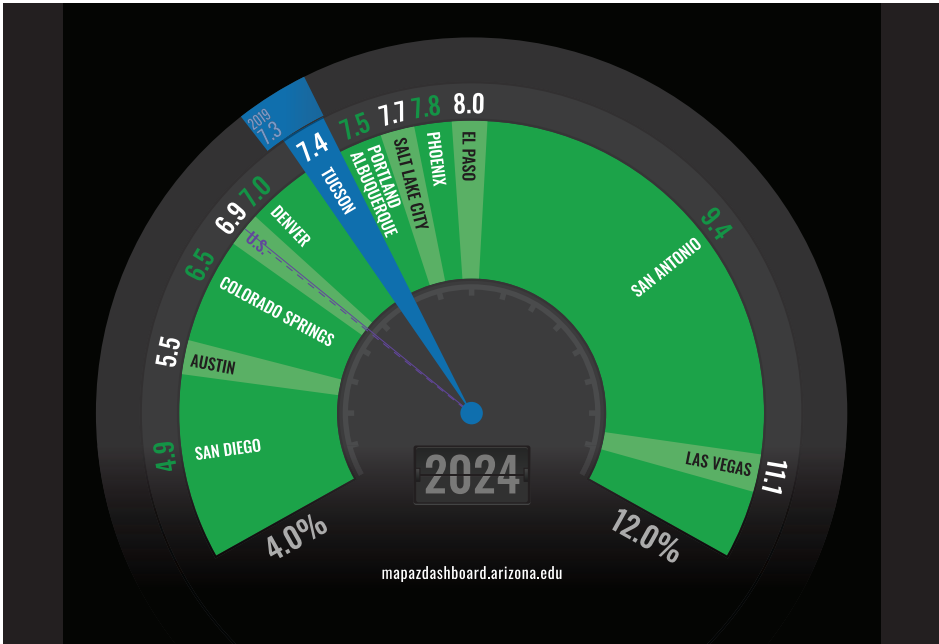
The MAP Dashboard is designed to evolve alongside Southern Arizona. Each year, the MAP team works with residents, community leaders, and experts to review existing indicators and identify emerging issues that are important to the region.

In 2025, the MAP team reviewed the Education category and introduced several updates, including a new indicator on youth disconnection, additional information on postsecondary certificates, and expanded teacher wage trends. The MAP also expanded local mapping capabilities and added new information on electric reliability.

Education Updates

- Workers with certificates and technical credentials play an important role in Southern Arizona’s workforce. To better capture these educational pathways, the MAP Dashboard added a sub-indicator within Educational Attainment that tracks certificates awarded by postsecondary institutions.
- The Teacher Wages indicator now includes historical trend data for elementary, middle, and secondary school teachers. This addition makes it easier to evaluate how teacher wages in Tucson have changed over time relative to Arizona, the nation, and peer regions.

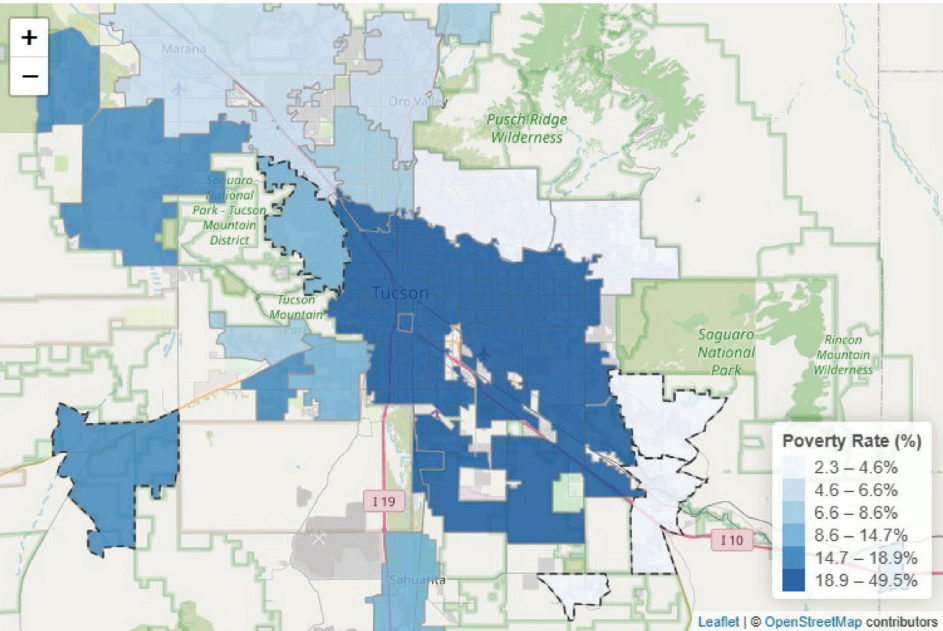
(Figure 1) Youth Disconnection Rate Ages 16-19 (2024)



- The MAP Dashboard added a new core indicator that measures youth disconnection among individuals ages 16–19 and 16–24. Disconnected youth are those who are neither employed nor enrolled in school.
- In 2024, the youth disconnection rate for those ages 16 to 19 in the Tucson MSA was 7.4%, slightly above the national rate of 6.9% and fifth-lowest among peer western MSAs (Figure 1).

In addition to the Education category updates, the MAP Dashboard expanded several tools and data resources across the website. These changes included new information on the Energy Use indicator and the addition of interactive GIS maps that allow users to explore local data at a more detailed geographic level.

(Figure 2) Poverty Rate for Pima County Census Places (2024)



Energy Use

- The MAP Dashboard added new information on electric reliability, including average outage duration by state. In 2024, Arizona reported the second-lowest outage duration among western states. The data provide insight into reliability and compare Arizona’s performance with other western states.

Interactive GIS Maps

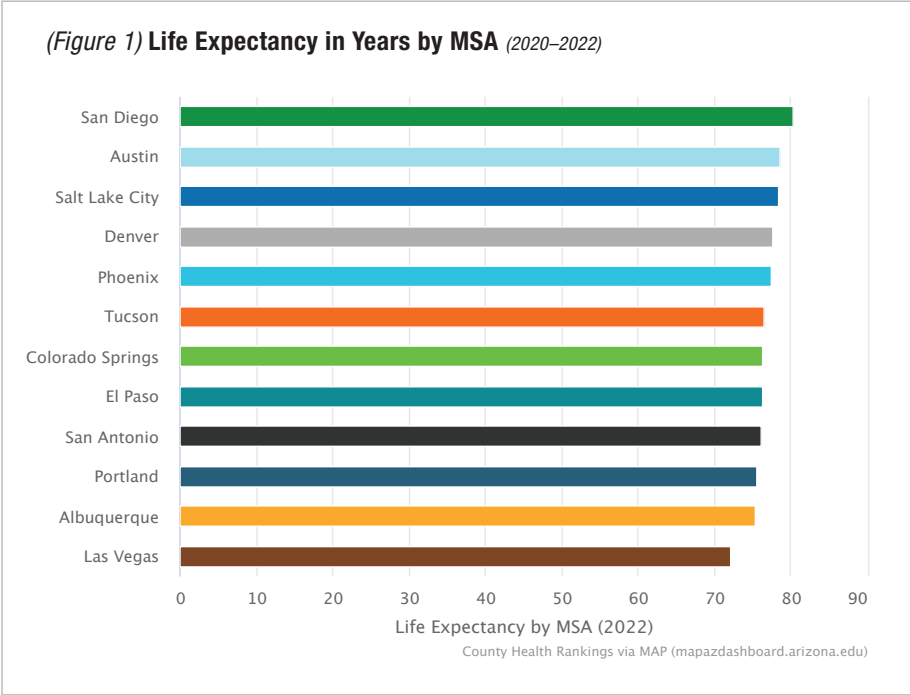
- The MAP Dashboard added the ability to create interactive GIS maps at the census tract and place level. This map highlights the poverty rate for all Pima County cities, towns, and census-designated places with a population greater than 1,000 (Figure 2). The interactive maps allow users to explore geographic patterns and compare communities across Southern Arizona.



Measuring Health and Well-Being in Tucson

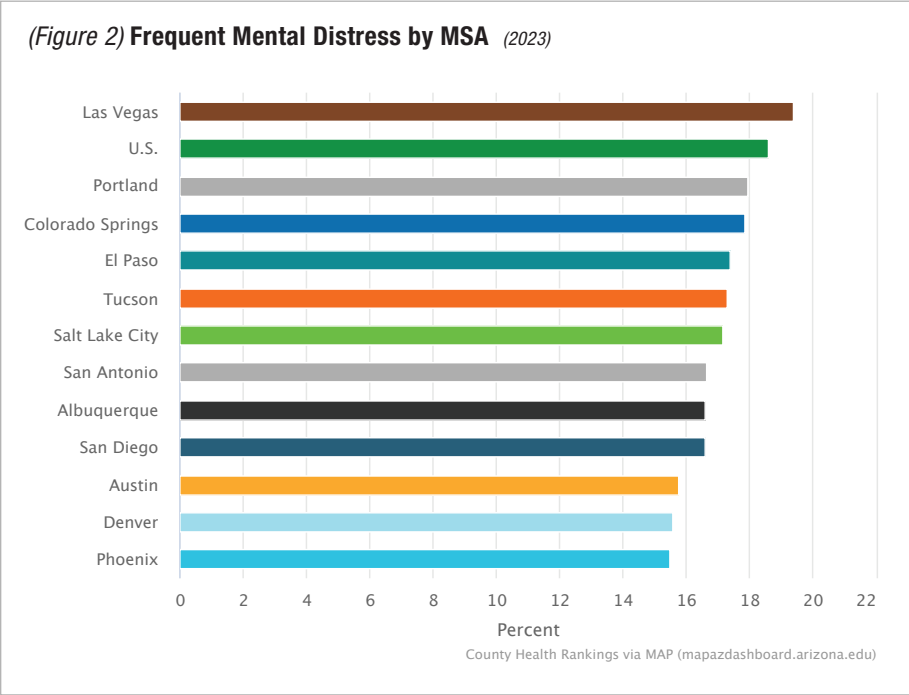
Beatriz Del Campo-Carmona, Research Economist, Economic and Business Research Center, Eller College of Management, University of Arizona

The Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) performs near the middle of peer western metropolitan areas on several measures of health and well-being. Health outcomes are shaped by access to healthcare, mental health, health behaviors, and broader social and economic conditions.



Life expectancy is a fundamental indicator of a community’s overall health and well-being. It reflects not only longevity, but also the conditions that shape people’s lives, including access to care, safe environments, economic opportunity, and social connections. In 2022, life expectancy in the Tucson MSA was 76.5 years, placing Tucson sixth-highest among peer western MSAs (Figure 1).

Mental health remains an important challenge for the region. In 2023, 17.3% of adults in the Tucson MSA reported frequent mental distress, ranking Tucson fifth-highest among peer western MSAs (Figure 2). The Tucson MSA also reported an age-adjusted suicide mortality rate of 20.4 deaths per 100,000 residents, well above the national rate of 14.0. Feelings of loneliness



can also affect mental health and overall well-being. In 2023, 32.9% of adults in Pima County (same geographic region as the Tucson MSA) reported feeling lonely, slightly higher than the statewide rate of 32.5%.

Together, these indicators highlight ongoing challenges related to mental health and social well-being in the Tucson region.

Access to healthcare services also plays an important role in shaping health outcomes. Although Tucson ranked third among peer western MSAs in primary care physician availability in 2021, the region remained below national averages in access to primary care physicians, mental health providers, and dentists, highlighting ongoing healthcare workforce challenges.



The Impact of Policy on the Status of Accessible Learning Opportunities for Students with Chronic Health Conditions

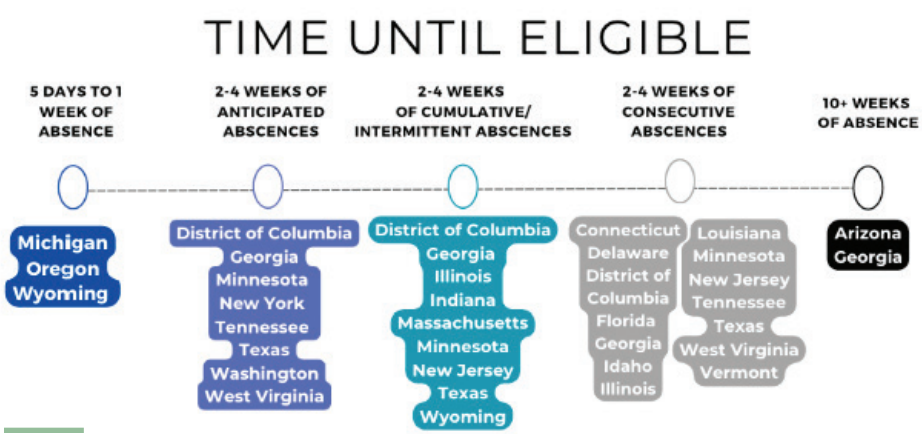
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Each year, the MAP Dashboard supports White Papers written by University of Arizona faculty on issues that are important to Southern Arizona. Their expertise often provides additional context and insight into challenges facing the region. The White Paper “The Impact of Policy on the Status of Accessible Learning Opportunities for Students with Chronic Health Conditions” is a recent example.

This study examines the policies and practices related to homebound instruction for students with chronic health conditions across the United States, with a particular focus on Arizona. The research encompasses three main aims: analyzing state policies and regulations, investigating Southern Arizona school districts’ homebound instructional practices, and exploring a case study of hospital-based instruction in Southern Arizona.

(Figure 1) State Criteria for Homebound Instruction Eligibility Based on Time Missed from School.

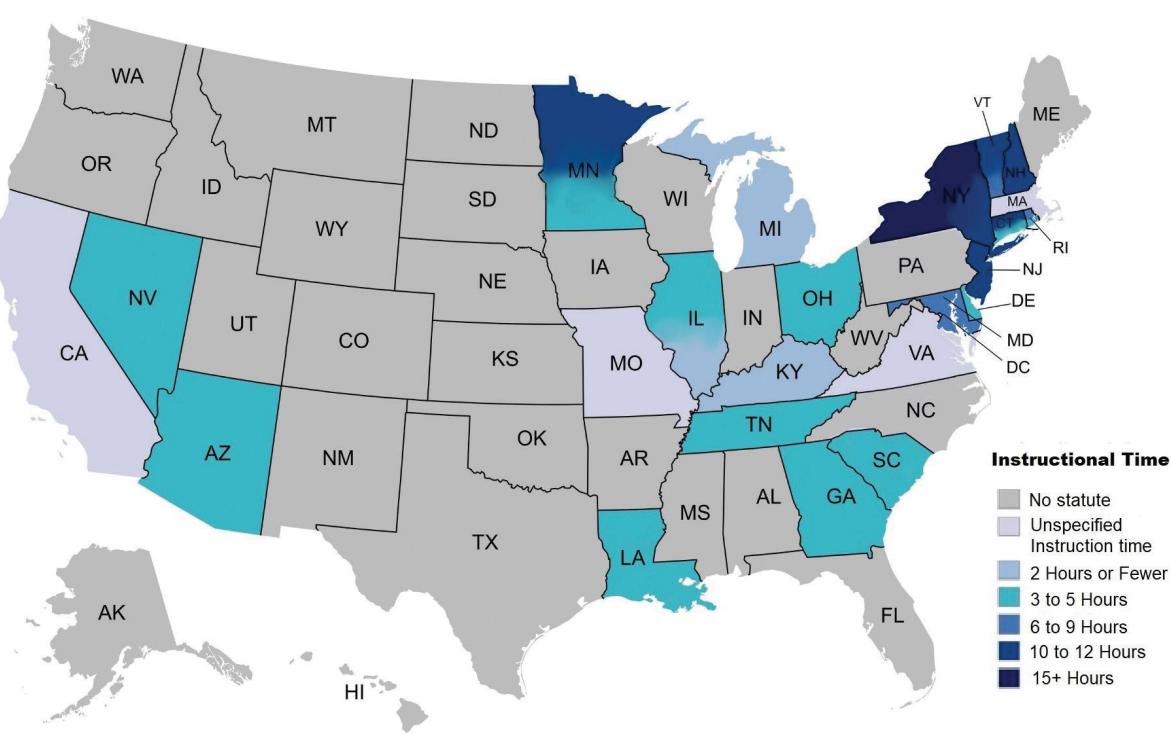


Disclosure: The criteria for eligibility based on time missed can vary between states and may depend on whether the absence is anticipated, consecutive, intermittent, or cumulative. The following map shows where states require a specific duration of absence for eligibility; however, the interpretation can differ based on the terminology used. For example, in Arizona, a student must have three school months of absences, but this can include the cumulative total of intermittent absences.

Key Findings

Key findings from the state policy analysis revealed that 40 out of 51 jurisdictions (including DC) have active statutes and regulations relevant to homebound instruction, with significant variations in eligibility criteria, instructional time requirements, and implementation timelines across states (Figure 1). Notably, Arizona’s policy has several critical gaps, including a lengthy eligibility time frame, limited healthcare provider options, and a lack of clear implementation guidelines. The analysis of Southern Arizona school districts shows that 84.4% of analyzed districts have both homebound and chronic illness policies in place, but most adopt verbatim language from state guidelines without customization, potentially leading to inconsistent application. These policies often lack clear definitions for “timely” provision of materials and neglect critical considerations for assessments.

(Figure 2) Minimum Instructional Time Requirements for Homebound Students



Regarding instructional time, 26 states specified minimum requirements for students receiving homebound instruction. Requirements varied substantially across states, ranging from two or fewer hours per week to as many as 10 to 12 hours. Most states require between three and five hours of instruction weekly, while others based instructional time on individual student needs or educational plans. Arizona requires a minimum of four hours of instruction (Figure 2).

Key Recommendations Include:

- Reducing eligibility timeframes
- Expanding acceptable healthcare providers
- Establishing clear timelines for eligibility determination and service implementation
- Increasing minimum instructional time
- Developing reintegration support guidelines
- Addressing attendance tracking and curriculum requirements more explicitly
- Requiring professional development for educators
- Merging guidance on chronic health and homebound statutes

These changes would align Arizona’s homebound instruction policy more closely with best practices seen in other jurisdictions, potentially improving educational access and outcomes for students requiring these services. By implementing these recommendations, policymakers and educators can better support the unique needs of students with chronic health conditions, ensuring they receive high-quality education despite health-related challenges.

Tucson’s Strengths and Challenges Over the Past Decade

Jennifer Pullen, Executive Director, Economic and Business Research Center, Eller College of Management, University of Arizona

As the MAP Dashboard celebrated its tenth anniversary, we examined how Southern Arizona has changed over the past decade.

Using indicators from across the MAP Dashboard, we identified areas where the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has made measurable progress and areas where it continues to face challenges. The results highlight both the strengths that support Tucson’s long-term competitiveness and the issues that require continued attention from community leaders and policymakers.

Over the past decade, Tucson demonstrated measurable progress in several key areas. Air travel activity increased nearly 20%, congestion costs declined, broadband access expanded, and the share of residents driving alone to work fell. Social outcome indicators also improved, with substantial declines in teen birth rates, increased voter turnout, and reduced housing cost burdens. In addition, growth in STEM degrees and employment share, along with improvements in wage distribution, suggest that Tucson has made progress and is advancing its long-term competitiveness.

MAP10 Tucson’s Strengths - Top Performing Indicators

INDICATORS	10 YEAR CHANGE	INDICATORS	10 YEAR CHANGE
AIR TRAVEL	- PASSENGERS INCREASED BY 19.9% (2014-2024) #1 IN DEPARTURE GROWTH (2024)	INTERNET ACCESS	- HOUSEHOLDS WITH BROADBAND UP 6.3% PTS. (2018 - 2023) 3RD HIGHEST COVERAGE AT 250/25 MBPS (2023)
COLLEGE MAJOR	- STEM RELATED INCREASE (2013-2023) #4 IN STEM RELATED (2023)	PATENTS	- SLOW GROWTH OVER THE DECADE - TUCSON RANKED 4TH AMONG PEERS
CONGESTION COSTS ★	- COSTS DECLINED BY 17.4% (2012-2022). 1ST AMONG PEERS - ONLY URBAN AREA TO IMPROVE	TEEN BIRTH RATES ★	- DECLINE OF 61.2% (2013-2023) - DROPPED BELOW THE NATION
COST OF LIVING	- TUCSON'S COST OF LIVING IMPROVED (2013-2023) - IMPROVED RANK FROM 5TH TO 4TH	TRANSPORTATION TO WORK	- DRIVING ALONE FELL 5.8% PTS. (2013-2023) 2ND IN BIKING TO WORK (2023)
EMPLOYMENT SHARE	- SIMILAR MIX AS NATION RANKED - SECOND AMONG PEERS (2024)	VOTER TURNOUT	- ARIZONA: 2ND LARGEST INCREASE - TUCSON'S TURNOUT INCREASED BY 8.7% PTS. OVER TWO DECADES
HOUSING COST BURDEN	3RD LARGEST DECLINE AMONG PEERS (2013-2023) - IMPROVED RANK FROM 8TH TO 4TH	WAGE DISTRIBUTION	- WAGE INEQUALITY IMPROVED BETWEEN 2014-2024 - TUCSON TIED FOR 1ST (2024)

*All indicators reported in this infographic are for the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), except Air Travel is reported for the Tucson International Airport, Congestion Costs are for Urban Areas, and Voter Turnout is reported for the state of Arizona.

Despite these gains, several indicators point to ongoing challenges in Tucson. Tucson experienced slower job growth than its peer metropolitan areas. High school graduation and working-age college attainment rates continue to lag other regions, while some behavioral health and physical well-being outcomes worsened over the decade. In addition, air quality declined relative to peer regions but has shown some recent improvement. Median income lagged most peer regions over the decade, despite faster gains in recent years. These trends highlight areas that require sustained focus and data-informed policies to support improved community outcomes.

MAP10 Tucson’s Challenges - Indicators Needing Attention

INDICATORS	10 YEAR CHANGE	INDICATORS	10 YEAR CHANGE
AIR QUALITY	- LARGEST DECLINE AMONG PEERS (2014-2024) - RANKED 6TH (2024)	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	5TH SLOWEST GROWTH (2018-2023) - RANKED 11TH (2023)
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	- INCREASE IN # OF POOR MENTAL HEALTH DAYS (2012-2022) - RANKED LAST (2022)	PHYSICAL WELL-BEING	- GOOD OR EXCELLENT HEALTH DECLINED (2012-2022) - RANKED 9TH (2022)
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH	- SLOWEST YEAR-OVER-YEAR GROWTH RATE - RANKED LAST (2024 & 2014)	PUBLIC SAFETY	4TH LARGEST INCREASE IN VIOLENT CRIME RATE (2010-2020) - RANKED 6TH (2020)
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES	- LOWEST INCREASE AMONG STATES (2012-2022) - ARIZONA'S RANKING FELL FROM 5TH TO 9TH	TEACHER WAGES	- LOW INCREASE IN WAGES COMPARED TO PEERS - LAST AMONG PEERS (2024)
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	- MINIMAL INCREASE BETWEEN 2013 AND 2023 - RANKED 11TH (2013 & 2023)	WORKING AGE COLLEGE GRADUATES	- SLOW INCREASE COMPARED TO PEERS (2013-2023) - RANKED 9TH (2013 & 2023)

*All indicators reported in this infographic are for the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), except for High School Graduation Rates which is reported for the state of Arizona.

Measuring progress is a fundamental goal of the MAP Dashboard. While Tucson has demonstrated meaningful improvements across many indicators over the past decade, the data also highlights areas where additional progress is needed. By tracking performance over time, the MAP Dashboard provides residents, policymakers, and community organizations with information to guide future decisions and strengthen Southern Arizona.



Economy

OVERVIEW

An economy is defined by the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. The decisions of individuals and firms interacting in this process determine how economic resources are allocated. The quality of a region's economy reflects the opportunities available to individuals and businesses. Strong economies typically result in a high standard of living, higher wages, and consistent job growth. The economic indicators included in this section help identify where Southern Arizona stands compared to other regions in the western United States.



Scorecard

INDICATOR	HOW ARE WE DOING?		HOW DO WE COMPARE?	RECENT CHANGE
BUSINESS GROWTH	1.8%	FROM 2023 TO 2024		▼
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH	0.1%	FROM 2024 TO 2025		➡
REAL GDP	4.5%	FROM 2023 TO 2024 FOR AZ		▲
HOUSING AFFORDABILITY	43.7%			▼
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	\$70,315			▲
PATENTS	16.8	PER 10,000 WORKERS		▲
☀️ Ranked in Top 1/3 ☁️ Ranked in Middle 1/3 ☁️ Ranked in Bottom 1/3 ☁️ Ranked Last MAP Scorecard "How Do We Compare?" Rankings Are Relative To The Following Peer Metropolitan Areas: Albuquerque, Austin, Colorado Springs, Denver, El Paso, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, and San Diego mapazdashboard.arizona.edu				

NOTABLE ANNUAL CHANGES

- Housing affordability improved slightly in 2025. A household earning the median income in the Tucson MSA would need to spend 43.7% of that income to afford a median-priced home.
- Total nonfarm employment growth in the Tucson MSA was slow in 2025 at 0.1%, the same as in 2024.

NOTE: Data refer to the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) unless otherwise noted. Information published in this report uses the most up-to-date data available.

- The Tucson MSA ranked fifth among peers in 2024, with a growth rate of establishments employing workers of 1.8%. That was slightly faster than the national growth in establishments at 1.6%.
- Total nonfarm employment in the Tucson MSA increased by 0.1% in 2025. Net job changes were uneven across industries, with the education and health services sector adding the most jobs, while the government sector posted the largest loss.
- In 2024, Arizona had the second-fastest GDP growth among the western states at 4.5%, tied with Idaho. Tucson MSA's growth was slower at 2.3%. The financial activities sector accounted for the largest share of Tucson's GDP, at 21.4%, matching the national share.
- Households in the Tucson MSA earning the median income needed to spend 43.7% of that income to afford a median-priced home in 2025, well above the 30% affordability cutoff. That share decreased between 2024 and 2025, as softening home prices and rising incomes improved affordability.
- Median household income in the Tucson MSA increased by 31.7% between 2019 and 2024, the fourth-fastest growth among peers. However, in 2024, Tucson's median household income of \$70,315 was still well below the U.S. median, the state median, and most peer MSAs.
- At 16.8 patents per 10,000 workers, Tucson MSA's patent activity remains well above the state and national levels.

Education

OVERVIEW

Education is a key driver of economic success for individuals and regions. Individuals benefit from education in various ways, including higher productivity, higher wages, better health outcomes, and less need for publicly funded economic assistance. In addition, research has shown that the benefits of education spill over to the region. Local areas with a high concentration of highly educated residents tend to have better aggregate socio-economic outcomes, such as higher per capita income, lower crime, and faster job and population growth. Thus, less educated residents also benefit by locating in regions with high educational attainment rates.



Scorecard

INDICATOR	HOW ARE WE DOING?	HOW DO WE COMPARE?	RECENT CHANGE
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	36.8% BA OR BETTER		
GRADUATION RATES	80.0% FOR ARIZONA		
PRE K-12 ENROLLMENT	40.4% IN EARLY EDUCATION		
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT	269.7 AVG MATH SCORE IN AZ		
TEACHER WAGES	\$50,940		
YOUTH DISCONNECTION	7.4% AGES 16-19		
☀️ Ranked in Top 1/3 ☁️ Ranked in Middle 1/3 ☁️ Ranked in Bottom 1/3 ☁️ Ranked Last MAP Scorecard “How Do We Compare?” Rankings Are Relative To The Following Peer Metropolitan Areas: Albuquerque, Austin, Colorado Springs, Denver, El Paso, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, and San Diego mapazdashboard.arizona.edu			

NOTABLE ANNUAL CHANGES

- Youth Disconnection, a new MAP indicator, explores the share of 16-19- and 16-24-year-olds who are not working or attending school.
- Arizona’s public high school graduation rate improved to 80.0% in 2025 but remained below all other western states.

Note: Data refer to the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) unless otherwise noted. Information published in this report uses the most up-to-date data available.

- In 2024, 36.8% of adults age 25 and older in the Tucson MSA held a bachelor’s degree or higher, slightly above the national average. Educational attainment varied significantly by age, with 40.3% of Tucson residents age 65 and older holding a four-year degree compared to 30.8% nationally.
- Pima County had the lowest public high school graduation rate among Arizona counties in 2025 at 73.2%, well below the statewide average of 80.0%.
- In 2024, the percentage of three- to four-year-olds enrolled in an early education program in the Tucson MSA was 40.4%, a decline from 2019’s rate of 41.6%.
- The share of third-grade students passing Arizona’s AASA English Language Arts test fell three percentage points to 36.0% in 2025.
- Secondary school teachers in Tucson had the lowest median annual wage among peer western MSAs in 2025 at \$50,940. Even after adjusting for cost of living, Tucson teacher wages remained the lowest, roughly \$8,000 below Colorado Springs and \$38,000 below San Diego.
- The Tucson MSA’s youth disconnection rate for 16- to 19-year-olds was 7.4% in 2024, slightly above the national rate of 6.9%.

Health & Social Well-Being

OVERVIEW

Indicators in this section identify critical trends in the health and social well-being of Southern Arizona residents. Measures of physical and behavioral health provide insight into overall well-being and quality of life. Households that are housing cost-burdened or whose income is at or near the poverty level are more likely to experience adverse social, economic, and health conditions. Likewise, individuals without health insurance coverage face a greater risk of illness and financial hardship. These data provide residents and policymakers with important indicators for understanding the region’s overall well-being.



Scorecard

INDICATOR	HOW ARE WE DOING?	HOW DO WE COMPARE?	RECENT CHANGE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	5.6 POOR MENTAL HEALTH DAYS		
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	91.4%		
HOUSING COST BURDEN	32.4% OF HOUSEHOLDS		
PHYSICAL WELL-BEING	80.8% GOOD OR EXCELLENT HEALTH		
POVERTY RATE	14.3%		
TEEN BIRTH RATE	14.1 PER 1,000 FEMALES		

Ranked in Top 1/3 Ranked in Middle 1/3 Ranked in Bottom 1/3 Ranked Last

MAP Scorecard “How Do We Compare?” Rankings Are Relative To The Following Peer Metropolitan Areas: Albuquerque, Austin, Colorado Springs, Denver, El Paso, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, and San Diego

mapazdashboard.arizona.edu

NOTABLE ANNUAL CHANGES

- In 2023, the Tucson MSA reported an average of 5.6 poor mental health days per month, down from the prior year.
- Since 2006, the teen birth rate in the Tucson MSA has declined by 73.9%. In 2023, Tucson’s teen birth rate fell below the national rate for the first time and remained lower in 2024.

NOTE: Data refer to the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) unless otherwise noted. Information published in this report uses the most up-to-date data available.

- In 2023, the share of adults who reported smoking in the Tucson MSA fell to its lowest level in more than a decade at 11.3%. Despite the decline, Tucson had the fourth-highest smoking rate among peer western MSAs.
- The Tucson MSA’s health insurance coverage rate for children under age 18 was 92.8% in 2024, nearly two percentage points below the national rate of 94.5%.
- The Tucson MSA had the fourth-lowest housing cost burden rate among peer western MSAs in 2024 at 32.4%. That equated to 137,388 households paying more than 30% of their income toward housing costs.
- In 2023, 13.0% of adults in the Tucson MSA reported frequent physical distress. That means they experienced poor physical health on 14 or more days during a 30-day period. Tucson ranked eighth-highest among peer western MSAs.
- In 2024, the poverty rate in the Tucson MSA was 14.3%, a noticeable improvement from 16.8% in 2019. Even with that improvement, Tucson had the third-highest poverty rate among peer western MSAs.
- Teen birth rates in the Tucson MSA varied by race and ethnicity in 2024. The rate was highest among the Hispanic or Latino population at 20.0 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19, followed by the Black or African American population at 14.7, and the white population at 6.6.

Infrastructure

OVERVIEW

A region's overall prosperity is related to the quality of its infrastructure. People rely on transportation and communication networks to access employment, goods, and services. Businesses also rely on infrastructure to provide access to trade, raw materials, labor, and other inputs to production. The responsible use of natural resources is also essential, as energy and water use can affect long-term regional sustainability. Well-planned and responsive infrastructure is often the result of collaboration between residents and policymakers. Data presented in this category identify key trends in infrastructure performance and inform decisions on future service needs, system capacity, and long-term sustainability.



Scorecard

INDICATOR	HOW ARE WE DOING?	HOW DO WE COMPARE?	RECENT CHANGE
AIR TRAVEL	3.9% GROWTH IN PASSENGERS		
CONGESTION TRENDS	\$915 COSTS PER AUTO COMMUTER		
ENERGY USE	14.9 CENTS PER KWH FOR AZ		
INTERNET ACCESS	94.0% HOUSEHOLDS W/BROADBAND		
RESIDENTIAL WATER USE	126 GAL. PER CAPITA PER DAY TUCSON		
TRANSPORTATION TO WORK	15.4% WORK FROM HOME		
MAP Scorecard "How Do We Compare?" Rankings Are Relative To The Following Peer Metropolitan Areas: Albuquerque, Austin, Colorado Springs, Denver, El Paso, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, and San Diego mapazdashboard.arizona.edu			

NOTABLE ANNUAL CHANGES

- The Tucson urban area had the lowest congestion cost per commuter among peer urban areas in 2024 at \$915, down slightly from \$934 in 2023.
- New data on the MAP Dashboard show that Arizona had the second-lowest average power outage duration among western states in 2024, at 69.8 minutes. The national average was 131.6 minutes.

NOTE: Data refer to the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) unless otherwise noted. Information published in this report uses the most up-to-date data available.

- Tucson International Airport ranked first among peer airports in 2024, with departures per day increasing 13.1% from the previous year.
- The Tucson urban area experienced 50 hours of traffic delay per commuter in 2024, the fourth-lowest among peers and below the U.S. average of 63 hours.
- Arizona ranked near the middle among western states in residential electricity prices in 2024 at 14.9 cents per kilowatt-hour, below the national average of 16.5 cents.
- In 2024, 94.0% of households in the Tucson MSA had broadband internet access. That ranked eighth among peer western MSAs, tied with Las Vegas.
- Residential customers in the Tucson Active Management Area used 126 gallons of water per capita per day in 2020, substantially more than Tucson Water customers, who used 83 gallons per capita per day. The Tucson AMA includes portions of Pima, Pinal, and Santa Cruz counties.
- In 2024, 69.3% of Tucson MSA residents reported driving alone as their primary means of transportation to work. Tucson ranked eighth among peer western MSAs.

Quality of Place

OVERVIEW

Indicators in this category capture a wide range of influences on quality of life. Individuals who feel safe in their homes and communities are more likely to engage in civic activities, participate in their community, and spend time outdoors. Likewise, good air quality may increase residents’ ability to participate in outdoor activities. Other aspects contributing to quality of life include access to cultural amenities, such as the arts, entertainment, and other creative activities. Perceptions of quality of life vary based on factors such as age, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and personal preferences. Indicators in this category reflect a broad range of factors that affect a region’s quality of life.

Scorecard

INDICATOR	HOW ARE WE DOING?	HOW DO WE COMPARE?	RECENT CHANGE
AIR QUALITY	33.7% GOOD DAYS		
COST OF LIVING	3.1% LESS THAN THE U.S.		
CREATIVE OCCUPATIONS	122.6 JOBS PER 1K RESIDENTS		
OUTDOOR RECREATION	-9.4% NATIONAL PARK VISITS		
PUBLIC SAFETY	383.2 VIOLENT CRIMES PER 100,000		
VOTER TURN OUT	57.6% IN ARIZONA		
☀️ Ranked in Top 1/3 ☁️ Ranked in Middle 1/3 ☁️ Ranked in Bottom 1/3 ☁️ Ranked Last MAP Scorecard “How Do We Compare?” Rankings Are Relative To The Following Peer Metropolitan Areas: Albuquerque, Austin, Colorado Springs, Denver, El Paso, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, and San Diego mapazdashboard.arizona.edu			

NOTABLE ANNUAL CHANGES

- Air quality improved slightly in the Tucson MSA in 2025, with 33.7% of days rated as good. Tucson ranked fifth among peer western MSAs.
- The Tucson MSA’s violent crime rate declined by 41.0% from a peak of 649.7 crimes per 100,000 residents in 2005 to 383.2 in 2024.

NOTE: Data refer to the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) unless otherwise noted. Information published in this report uses the most up-to-date data available.

- In 2025, the Tucson MSA was one of only a few peer MSAs to record both very unhealthy and hazardous air quality days. However, those conditions occurred on just 0.6% of days during the year.
- The cost of living in the Tucson MSA was 3.1% below the national average in 2024, ranking fourth-lowest among peers.
- Employment in creative occupations in the Tucson MSA reached 134,080 jobs in 2025, accounting for 34.4% of total employment.
- In 2025, national parks in the Tucson MSA reported 1.0 million visitors, a 9.4% decline from 2024. National park visitation also declined nationally and in Arizona during the year.
- The MAP Dashboard added a new indicator tracking deaths from drug overdose. In 2023, the Tucson MSA had the third-highest rate among peer MSAs at 44.3 per 100,000 residents.
- Tucson MSA (Pima County) voter turnout in the 2024 presidential election was 60.9%, slightly higher than Arizona’s 57.6%.

Workforce & Demographics

OVERVIEW

The indicators in this section help identify Southern Arizona’s demographic mix and workforce characteristics relative to other regions in the western United States. The data can provide government officials, policymakers, and planners with the information needed to gauge future resource demand. The types of resources a region may need in the future depend heavily on its demographic mix and may range from educational facilities and infrastructure to healthcare and social services. Population growth measures how well a community attracts and retains residents, reflecting economic opportunities and quality of life. The workforce is a subset of the population and refers to those individuals who participate in the labor market. A highly educated and skilled workforce generates greater economic opportunities for a region’s residents.

Scorecard

INDICATOR	HOW ARE WE DOING?	HOW DO WE COMPARE?	RECENT CHANGE
EMPLOYMENT SHARE	1.09% JOB MIX DIF. VS. U.S.		
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	81.3% AGED 25 TO 54		
OCCUPATIONAL WAGES	\$47,760 MEDIAN		
POPULATION	0.7% 2024-2025 GROWTH		
WAGE DISTRIBUTION	3.3 = HIGH WAGE ÷ LOW WAGE		
WORKING AGE COLLEGE GRADUATES	35.2% AGED 25 to 64		
☀ Ranked in Top 1/3 ☁ Ranked in Middle 1/3 ☁ Ranked in Bottom 1/3 ☁ Ranked Last MAP Scorecard “How Do We Compare?” Rankings Are Relative To The Following Peer Metropolitan Areas: Albuquerque, Austin, Colorado Springs, Denver, El Paso, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, and San Diego mapazdashboard.arizona.edu			

NOTABLE ANNUAL CHANGES

- Since 2001, the median wage in the Tucson MSA has increased at an average annual rate of 2.9%, slightly faster than the national average of 2.7%.
- The Tucson MSA’s labor force participation rate for the working-age population increased to 81.3% in 2024.

NOTE: Data refer to the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) unless otherwise noted. Information published in this report uses the most up-to-date data available.

- The Tucson MSA’s employment mix changed little in 2025. Government remained the largest employment sector, while private education and health services continued a two-decade trend of steady growth, narrowing the gap.
- Labor force participation among prime working-age adults (25–54) varied significantly by gender in 2024, with participation rates of 85.9% for men and 76.6% for women in the Tucson MSA.
- Management occupations reported the highest median wage in the Tucson MSA in 2025 at \$100,780, followed by computer and mathematical occupations at \$97,560. Food preparation and serving occupations reported the lowest median wage at \$34,990.
- The Tucson MSA’s population increased by 0.7% in 2025, reaching 1,093,761 residents. Population growth was driven entirely by net migration, as deaths continued to exceed births.
- In 2024, the Tucson MSA’s 90/10 wage ratio was 3.3, compared to 4.1 nationally, indicating lower wage inequality than the U.S. ratio. Workers at the 90th wage percentile earned 3.3 times more than workers at the 10th percentile.
- The Tucson MSA’s working-age college attainment rate was 35.2% in 2024, ranking ninth-lowest among peer western MSAs. This reflects lower attainment among the working-age population, as the region’s overall rate is boosted by a highly educated retiree population (65+).

MAP Dashboard Update: Web Analytics



3,100+

people read the MAP newsletter each month



500K+

users since launch



1M+

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474

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