

Somerton

Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Somerton, in the fertile Yuma Valley in southwestern Yuma County, is about 12 miles south of Yuma and 180 miles east of San Diego, at an elevation of 103 feet. It is equidistant from the California and Mexican borders. Somerton was established in 1898 and incorporated in 1918. Somerton is on land once claimed for the fraudulent Rancho El Paso de los Algodones (land) Grant. Land along the Colorado River was attractive to speculators. The U.S. Congress passed a law allowing settlers who were on the land before May 25, 1898, to buy up to 40 acres for \$1.25 per acre.

A REDI accredited community

Basic Information

Founded: 1898
 Incorporated: 1918
 Elevation: 103
 Located in Yuma County
 Nearby Highways: HWYS I-8; US 95
 Enterprise Zone available

Distance to Major Cities:
 Phoenix: 192 miles
 Tucson: 248 miles

Population

	1990	2000	2008
Somerton	5,282	7,266	11,377
Yuma County	106,895	160,026	203,779
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,629,455

Sources: Arizona Department of Commerce and US Census Bureau

Principal Economic Activities

Though Somerton's economy depends primarily upon agriculture, light industry is becoming important. Many residents are employed in citrus and vegetable growing and processing. Somerton also has a small commercial service sector with ample room for further growth.

County Employment	2008
Government	14,800
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	10,500
Educational and Health Services	6,000
Leisure and Hospitality	5,600
Professional and Business Services	4,800
Mining and Construction	4,100
Manufacturing	2,900
Information	1,600
Financial Activities	1,500
Other Services	1,500

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

Private Employers

Del Sol Market
 Housing America Corp.
 King Market
 Puentes De Amistad
 Sunset Community Health

Public Employers

Arizona Department of Economic Security
 City of Somerton
 Somerton School District



Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2008
Civilian Labor Force	2,088	3,077	4,039
Unemployed	840	786	1,066
Unemployment Rate	40.2%	25.5%	26.4%

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2008
New Bldg. Permits	44	148	58
Taxable Sales (\$)	11.9 million	21.9 million	54.6 million
Net Assessed Value (\$)	4.6 million	10 million	34 million

Sources: Arizona State Univ., AZ Dept. of Revenue, AZ Tax Research Assoc.
 1990 New building permit data incomplete: One or more months not available

Scenic Attractions

San Luis Rio Colorado, 12 miles south of Somerton, is reputed to be Mexico's fastest growing city with a population of approximately 200,000. It has curio shops, night clubs and other tourist attractions. Some 75 miles south of San Luis is the small fishing village of El Golfo de Santa Clara, Sonora. This area has clean, sandy beaches, boat fishing, clam digging, swimming and a mild sunny climate. Yuma County has many other nearby attractions. These include the Old Territorial Prison, Fort Yuma, and 16th century St. Thomas Mission; Laguna, Imperial and Morelos Dams, and the California dunes. Fishing, water skiing and swimming at lakes along the Colorado River are attractive sports to both residents and tourists.

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Community Facilities

The city of Somerton has a library, a golf course, five parks, Little League, softball and Babe Ruth diamonds, a soccer field, senior community center, a community meeting hall, a swimming pool and a Head Start center.

Educational Institutions	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	N
Middle School	Y	N

Financial

Number of banks: 1

Government

Fire Department: Staffed City/Local Fire Department

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports

Nearby Yuma International Airport (eight miles north) with a lighted 13,300-ft. runway.

Medical

Full medical facilities available in Yuma.

Hotel & Lodging

Number of Rooms: n/a

Meeting Rooms: 5

Capacity of Largest Facility: 200

Industrial Properties:

For more information contact the City of Somerton or Greater Yuma Econ. Dev. Corporation

Utilities

Electricity	APS (Statewide)	800.253-9405
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (statewide)	800.766.9722
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water & Sewer	City of Somerton	928.627.8866

Cable Providers: Y

Digital Switching Station: Y

Internet Service Provider: Y

Cable Internet Service Provider: N

Fiber Optics: Y

Taxes

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2008
Elementary/High Schools	4.56	7.22	8.13
City/Fire District	1.45	0.00	1.35
Countywide	6.03	5.78	4.95
Totals	12.04	13.00	14.43

Source: Arizona Tax Research Association

Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation

Sales Tax

	2008
City/Town	2.50%
County	0.00%
State	5.60%

Sources: League of Arizona Cities & Towns, Arizona Dept. of Revenue

Weather

	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. High (°F)	Precip. (in.)
January	60.6	88.2	0.3
February	44.1	68.5	0.4
March	46.9	74.3	0.2
April	51.0	79.2	0.2
May	56.9	86.8	0.1
June	63.7	94.0	0.1
July	72.1	103.4	0.0
August	80.4	107.0	0.2
September	79.9	105.8	0.5
October	73.8	101.6	0.3
November	62.4	91.0	0.3
December	51.0	77.7	0.2
	44.4	68.7	0.4

Source: Western Regional Climate Center

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1948-2005. Average Total Snowfall 0.0." Nearest data available from Yuma WSO AP, AZ.

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce Communications Division in cooperation with local sources.

For further information contact:

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