

Yuma

Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Yuma is in the southwest corner of Arizona, just below the Colorado and Gila Rivers convergence. Since prehistoric times, Yuma has been the best site for crossing the Colorado River. Yuma was named for the Yuman Indians, so called because of their habit of setting fires along the river (humo meaning smoke in Spanish). Fort Yuma was built during the gold rush to bring peace to the area and insure a safe route into California. Established in 1854 as Colorado City, the town became Arizona City and finally Yuma. Incorporated under the name Arizona City in 1871, it was reincorporated as Yuma and now serves as the Yuma County seat. Yuma remains a key crossroad for air and land transportation.

A Main Street and REDI community

Basic Information

Founded: 1854
 Incorporated: 1914
 Elevation: 138
 Located in Yuma County
 Nearby Highways: HWYS I-8; US 95
 Enterprise Zone available

Distance to Major Cities:
 Phoenix: 185 miles
 Tucson: 237 miles

Population

	1990	2000	2008
Yuma	56,966	77,515	93,719
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
 Revised 1990 Census population figure (original: 54,923).

Principal Economic Activities

Agriculture is a major economic driver, and the Yuma-area agribusiness contributes an estimated one billion dollars yearly to the area economy. Tourism and the military also contribute substantially to the economy. New and existing light industry increases Yuma's economic diversity. The Mexican free-port of San Luis Rio Colorado is located 23 miles southwest. For industries interested in offshore manufacturing, or twin-plant operations, San Luis has all facilities necessary.

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

Dole Fresh Vegetables
 Gowan Company
 Salyer American Fresh
 Shaw Industries
 Yuma Regional Medical Center

Public Employers

City of Yuma
 Marine Corps. Air Station
 U.S. Army, Yuma Proving Grounds
 Yuma County
 Yuma Elementary School



Labor Force Data

	1990	2000	2008
Civilian Labor Force	25,715	34,973	45,649
Unemployed	3,787	4,426	6,007
Unemployment Rate	14.7%	12.7%	13.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2008
New Bldg. Permits	810	0	389
Taxable Sales (\$)	590.4 million	1.1 billion	2 billion
Net Assessed Value (\$)	187.6 million	256.6 million	699.7 million

Sources: Arizona State Univ., AZ Dept. of Revenue, AZ Tax Research Assoc.
 No report for 2000 New building data

Scenic Attractions

The Yuma State Territorial Prison, with cells carved from rock, once housed Arizona's most dangerous outlaws, but today is a popular tourist attraction operated by the Arizona State Parks Department. Other attractions in the area include Fort Yuma (built in 1851), the 16th-century St. Thomas Mission; the Quechan Indian Museum; Laguna, Imperial and Morelos Dams; and, across the Colorado River, the California sand dunes. In nearby San Luis and Algodones, Mexico, port-of-entry communities, night spots and shopping are popular activities. Lakes along the Colorado River offer fishing, water skiing and swimming opportunities. The Arizona State Parks Board and the City of Yuma operate the new Yuma Crossing State Park, featuring living history on the Colorado before 1900.

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Community Facilities

The city of Yuma offers a broad range of community facilities including three museums, an adult center, a library, an art gallery, 15 parks, two bowling alleys, a Boys and Girls Club, nine indoor theaters, one private and six public golf courses, three swimming pools (one Olympic-size), 11 lighted tennis courts, Riverfront Park and a major league ball park.

Educational Institutions	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	N
Middle School	Y	N
High School	Y	N
Vocational/Technical College	N	Y
University 4 year	Y	N
Post Graduate	Y	N

Financial

Number of banks: 13

Government

Fire Department: Staffed City/Local Fire Department
Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports

Yuma International Airport, two airlines with more than 26 daily flights to/from Yuma and Phoenix, AZ and Los Angeles, CA

Medical

Yuma has one extensive hospital.

Hotel & Lodging

Number of Rooms: 2,156
Meeting Rooms: 13
Capacity of Largest Facility: 1,500

Industrial Properties:

There are numerous industrial parks available with space for light or heavy industry, office, warehouse, commercial and storage. Various size parcels are available with monthly or annual leases. Contact the Yuma Economic Development Corporation for current information.

Utilities

Electricity	APS (Statewide)	800.253-9405
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (statewide)	800.766.9722
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water & Sewer	Municipal (Yuma)	928.782.4009

Cable Providers: Y	Cable Internet Service Provider: Y
Digital Switching Station: Y	Fiber Optics: Y
Internet Service Provider: Y	

Taxes

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2008
Elementary/High Schools	6.49	7.15	2.91
City/Fire District	1.80	1.99	1.56
Countywide	6.03	5.78	4.95
Totals	14.32	14.92	9.42

Source: Arizona Tax Research Association
Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation

Sales Tax

	2008
City/Town	1.70%
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	59.1	90.1	0.2
February	45.1	70.7	0.3
March	47.2	74.1	0.5
April	51.3	81.8	0.3
May	55.8	87.6	0.1
June	62.6	97.1	0.1
July	69.7	106.5	0.0
August	76.6	109.6	0.1
September	77.6	109.0	0.2
October	70.4	104.1	0.2
November	59.3	93.0	0.2
December	49.9	78.7	0.3
December	43.4	69.0	0.4

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

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

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