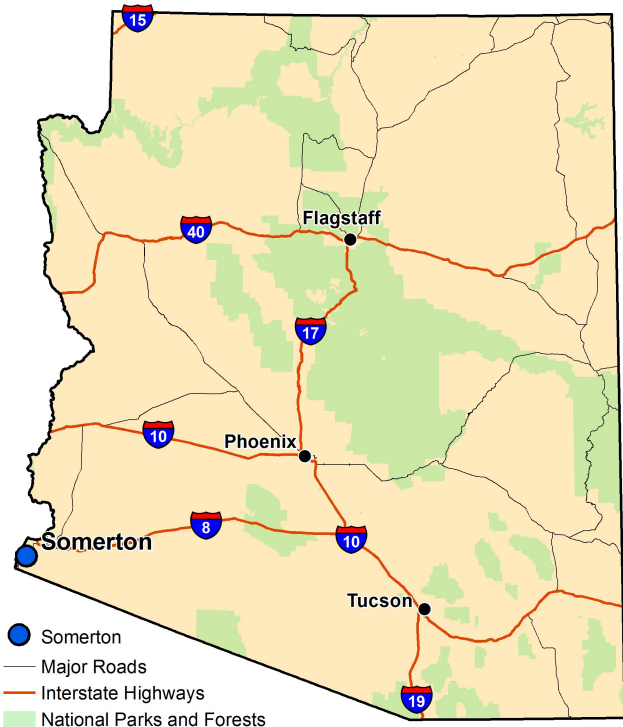


Somerton is located in the fertile Yuma Valley about 12 miles south of Yuma at an elevation of 103 feet. The city is approximately 12 miles from the Mexican border and 180 miles east of San Diego. Somerton is located on both sides of U.S. Highway 95 (Main Street), and Somerton Avenue runs north and south through the city. The area is bounded by Cocopah Indian Reservations (east and west). Somerton was established in 1898 and incorporated in 1918. The population has doubled during the last ten years reaching 15,000.

Somerton has a long history of overcoming physical and economic adversity. Early settlers had to prevail over the Colorado River floods in order to realize the tremendous potential of the area's agricultural lands. This potential was the driving force for the establishment of the Somerton School District in 1902, and the paving of Main Street in 1917. The downtown business district survived a huge fire in 1926 and was able to continue as a major economic influence in Yuma County until the early 1960s. Somerton, with a rich heritage and culture, has a downtown redevelopment plan that offers a package of incentives for businesses that locate in the downtown area or existing businesses that need to upgrade their premises.



Principal Economic Activities

Agriculture, medical services and tourism are the primary economic activities in the local economy. Retail activity continues to grow along with the population. Somerton's small-town-feel, its historic downtown and its culture are unique, and visitors from all over the Yuma Region enjoy coming to the many special events offered throughout the year. The city's location between two major population areas running through U.S. 95, Yuma to the north and San Luis, Arizona, and San Luis Río Colorado, Mexico, to the south, makes Somerton an ideal location for special events and entertainment venues.

Scenic Attractions

Somerton is the native region of the Cocopah Nation, which is a large employer with seven different entertainment, lodging and cultural attractions: The Cocopah Casino, The Cocopah Resort & Conference Center, The Cocopah Rio Colorado Golf Course, The Cocopah Museum and Cultural Center, Cocopah RV and Golf Resort, Cocopah Speedway and Wild River Family Entertainment Center. Somerton is a community that honors its cultural diversity and heritage, and more than 30,000 people flock to Somerton for the annual Tamale Festival every year in December.

Community Facilities

The city of Somerton offers many recreational and educational activities to its residents and visitors through its parks and recreation program and community services. The community center includes the Somerton Heritage Pool, gymnasium and YMCA Youth Center, Valle del Desierto Senior Center, Somerton Cultural Center, baseball fields, Main Street Ball Park, Joe Muños Municipal Park and other parks with playgrounds and ramadas. It is the mission of the Somerton Parks and Recreation Department to enhance the quality of recreational activities offered and the attractiveness of parks and facilities to provide a better quality of life to its residents.

BASIC INFORMATION

Founded:	1898	Incorporated:	1918
Elevation:	103 ft.	Location:	Yuma County
Distance to major cities:			
Phoenix:	192 miles	San Diego:	183 miles
Tucson:	248 miles	Los Angeles:	283 miles
Las Vegas:	307 miles		

POPULATION

	2000	2010	2017 (est.)
Somerton	7,266	14,329	17,103
Yuma County	160,026	196,160	221,648
State of Arizona	5,130,632	6,401,569	6,965,897

Office of Economic Opportunity

PROPERTY TAX

	2000	2010	2016
Elementary / High School	7.22	6.17	6.99
City / Fire District	0.00	1.22	1.77
Yuma County	5.78	4.92	6.77
Totals (Yuma County)	13.00	12.32	15.53

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Somerton	3.30%
Yuma County	1.11%
State	5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

	2000	2010	2017
Civilian Labor Force	3,079	7,529	7,749
Unemployed	788	2,426	1,341
Unemployment Rate	25.6%	32.2%	17.3%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	3,801	48.0%
High school or equivalent, no college	1,713	21.6%
Some college or Associate degree	1,693	21.4%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	713	9.0%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	1,347	22.8%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	868	14.7%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	733	12.4%
Retail trade	702	11.9%
Public administration	593	10.0%
Construction	402	6.8%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	350	5.9%
Manufacturing	299	5.1%
Other services, except public administration	236	4.0%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	157	2.7%
Wholesale trade	145	2.5%
Finance, insurance & real estate	80	1.4%
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:

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ACA has partnered with APS to provide you with Arizona Prospector, a free database to access available real estate opportunities in rural Arizona. Click [here](#) to access available properties in this community.