

County Profile for  
**Yuma County**

Yuma County was one of the original four counties designated by the first Territorial Legislature. Until 1983, when voters decided to split it into La Paz County in the north and a new Yuma County in the south, it maintained its original boundaries.

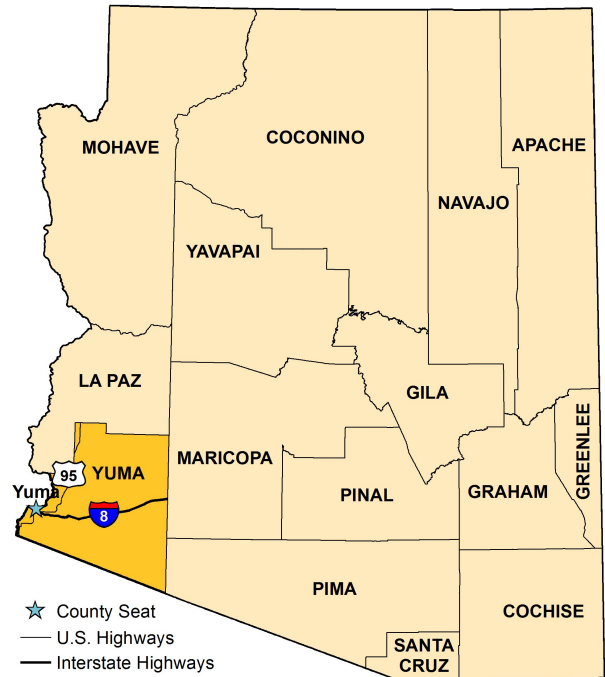
In 1540, just 48 years after Columbus arrived in America, 18 years after the conquest of Mexico by Cortéz, and 67 years before the settlement of Jamestown, Hernando de Alarcón visited the site of what is now the city of Yuma. He was the first European to set foot in the area and to recognize the best natural crossing of the Colorado River.

From the 1850s through the 1870s, steamboats on the Colorado River transported passengers and goods to mines, ranches and military outposts in the area, serving the ports of Yuma, Laguna, Castle Dome, Norton's Landing, Ehrenberg, Aubry, Ft. Mohave and Hardyville.

For many years, Yuma served as the gateway to the new western territory of California. In 1870, the Southern Pacific Railroad bridged the river, and Yuma became a hub for the railroad and was selected as the county seat.

Much of Yuma County's 5,519 square miles is desert land accented by rugged mountains. The valley regions, however, contain an abundance of arable land, which is irrigated with Colorado River water. Agriculture, tourism, military and government are the county's principal industries. During the winter months, the population grows considerably with part-time residents.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management accounts for 14 percent of land ownership; Indian reservations, less than 0.5 percent; the state of Arizona, 5 percent; individual or corporate, 11 percent; and other public lands, 70 percent, including the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



**POPULATION**

	2000	2010	2017
Arizona	5,130,632	6,401,569	6,965,897
Yuma County	160,026	196,160	221,648
<i>Incorporated Cities &amp; Towns</i>			
Yuma	77,515	93,275	101,620
San Luis	15,322	25,614	35,289
Somerton	7,266	14,329	17,103
Wellton	1,829	2,884	3,171

Office of Economic Opportunity

**AGE DISTRIBUTION**

0-14	21.8 %
15-24	16.1 %
25-44	24.3 %
45-64	20.5 %
65+	17.4 %

American Community Survey

**DISTANCE TO MAJOR CITIES (FROM YUMA)**

Phoenix	185 miles
Tucson	240 miles
Los Angeles	272 miles
San Diego	172 miles
Las Vegas	296 miles

**LABOR FORCE**

	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Arizona	3,312,720	4.9 %
Yuma County	95,167	17.0 %
<i>Incorporated Cities &amp; Towns</i>		
Yuma	43,995	11.1 %
San Luis	17,377	37.5 %
Somerton	7,749	17.3 %
Wellton	636	28.8 %

Office of Economic Opportunity

**EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR (IN THOUSANDS)**

Education, health care & social assistance	14.5	19.8 %
Retail trade	9.3	12.7 %
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	8.0	11.0 %
Public administration	7.9	10.9 %
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	7.8	10.7 %
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	6.0	8.2 %
Construction	4.2	5.8 %
Other services, except public administration	3.8	5.2 %
Manufacturing	3.1	4.2 %
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	2.7	3.7 %
Finance, insurance & real estate	2.6	3.5 %
Wholesale trade	2.1	2.9 %
Information	0.8	1.1 %

American Community Survey

**PROPERTY TAX**

	Schools	City/Fire	County	Total
San Luis	7.94	0.00	6.77	14.71
Somerton	6.99	1.77	6.77	15.53
Wellton	5.12	0.00	6.77	11.89
Yuma	5.91	2.35	6.77	15.03

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Association

**SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX**

	City	County	State	Total
San Luis	4.00%	1.11%	5.60%	10.71%
Somerton	3.30%	1.11%	5.60%	10.01%
Wellton	2.50%	1.11%	5.60%	9.21%
Yuma	1.70%	1.11%	5.60%	8.41%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Association

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Arizona Commerce Authority**

Phone: 602-845-1200

Website: [www.azcommerce.com](http://www.azcommerce.com)

**Local First Arizona**

Phone: 602-956-0909

Website: [www.localfirstaz.com](http://www.localfirstaz.com)

**City of San Luis**

Phone: 928-341-8584

Website: [www.cityofsanluis.org](http://www.cityofsanluis.org)

**Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation**

Phone: 928-782-7774

Website: [www.greateryuma.org](http://www.greateryuma.org)

**Yuma County Chamber of Commerce**

Phone: 928-782-2567

Website: [www.yumachamber.org](http://www.yumachamber.org)

**City of Somerton**

Phone: 928-722-7330

Website: [www.cityofsomerton.com](http://www.cityofsomerton.com)

**Town of Wellton**

Phone: 928-785-3348

Website: [town.wellton.az.us](http://town.wellton.az.us)

**City of Yuma**

Phone: 928-373-5017

Website: [www.ci.yuma.az.us](http://www.ci.yuma.az.us)