

YUMA

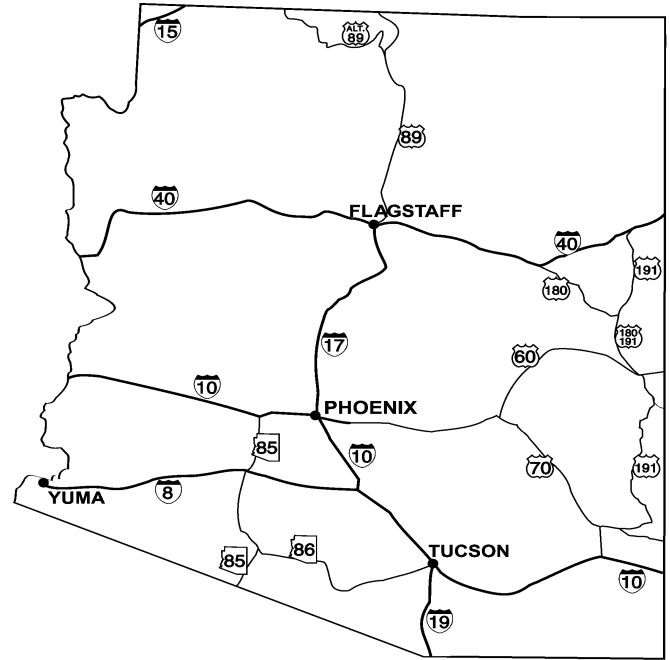
Community Profile

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.

FOUNDED: 1854
 COUNTY: Yuma County
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 185 miles
 HIGHWAYS: I-8; US 95
 ENTERPRISE ZONE AVAILABLE/MAIN STREET COMMUNITY

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1914
 ELEVATION: 138 feet
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 237 miles



POPULATION

	1990	2000	2004
Yuma	56,966	77,515	86,070
Yuma County	106,895	160,026	181,470
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,832,150

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau.
 Revised 1990 Census population figure (original: 54,923).

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Agriculture is a major economic factor, and at the current rate of growth, Yuma-area agribusiness will be a billion-dollar industry by the century's beginning. 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	2004
Educational & Health Svcs	5,900
Financial Activities	1,400
Government	13,700
Information	1,100
Leisure & Hospitality	4,900
Manufacturing	2,900
Mining & Construction	4,400
Other Services	1,600
Professional & Business Svcs	3,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	9,700

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security
 Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

Major Private Employers

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

Major 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	2004
Civilian Labor Force	30,488	36,657	40,607
Unemployed	4,623	7,184	6,429
Unemployment Rate	15.2%	19.6%	15.8%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	2000	2004
New Bldg. Permit	810	N/R	1,431*
Taxable Sales (\$)	590,444,800	1,123,457,706	1,484,835,059
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	187,552,327	256,612,102	334,859,395

Sources: Arizona State University; AZ Dept. of Revenue; AZ Tax Research Foundation
 N/R: No report; *Incomplete Data: One or more months not available

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.

