

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Yuma is in the southwest corner of Arizona, just below the Colorado and Gila Rivers confluence. 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

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1914
 ELEVATION: 138 feet
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 241 miles

POPULATION

	1990	1998	1999
Yuma	54,923	68,160	69,055
Yuma County	106,895	135,200	139,650
Arizona	3,665,228	4,764,025	4,924,350

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security, and U.S. Census Bureau.

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	1990	1999
Agricultural Services, Forestry & Fishing	688	N/A
Construction	1,672	2,775
FIRE	1,130	1,225
Manufacturing	1,810	2,325
Mining	188	N/A
Retail Trade	7,865	N/A
Services	6,699	8,000
TCPU	1,141	1,800
Trade	N/A	11,475

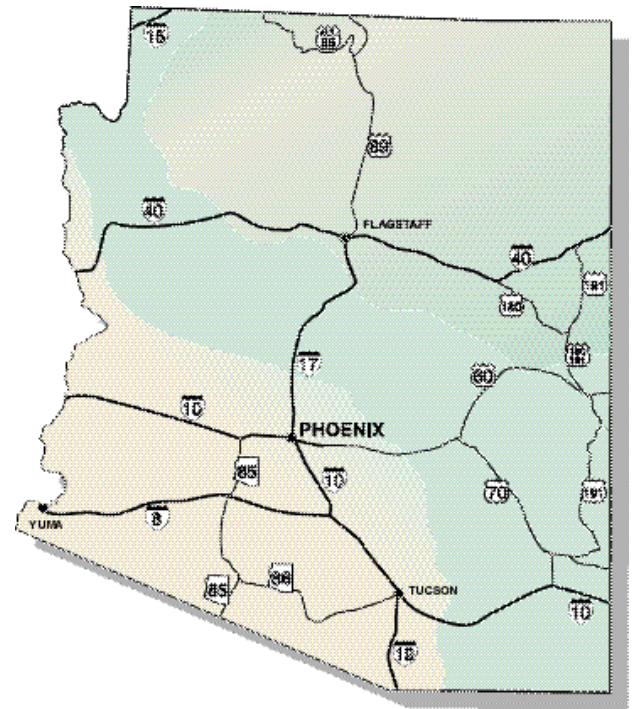
Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau.

Major Private Employers

1. Yuma Regional Medical Center
2. Dole Fresh Vegetables
3. Salyer American Fresh
4. Shaw Industries
5. Gowan Company

Major Public Employers

1. Marine Corps. Air Station
2. U.S. Army, Yuma Proving Grounds
3. Yuma Elementary School
4. Yuma County
5. City of Yuma



LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	1998	1999
Civilian Labor Force	30,488	34,194	34,586
Unemployment	4,623	6,736	7,389
Unemployment Rate	15.2%	19.7%	21.4%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	1998	1999
New Building Permits	810	678	411
Taxable Sales (\$)	590,444,800	981,485,647	1,032,287,000
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	187,552,327	232,397,991	245,008,969

Sources: Arizona State University; Arizona Department of Revenue.

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.

TAXES

Property Tax Rate	1990	1998	1999
Elem/High School	\$ 6.49	\$ 7.11	\$ 7.21
City/Fire District	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.99
County	\$ 5.99	\$ 5.82	\$ 5.82
Total	\$ 14.28	\$ 14.92	\$ 15.02

Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation.

Note: Property tax in Arizona is based on assessed valuation which is 10 percent of market value for residential property. Average tax rate on homes in Arizona before exemptions and rebates is 1.3% of market value.

General Sales Tax Rate

City	1.70%
County	1.00%
State	5.00%

Source: Arizona Department of Revenue.

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.

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

Financial

Number of banks: 13

Government Agencies

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, Los Angeles and Phoenix.

Medical

Yuma has one extensive care hospital.

Hotel and Lodging Facilities

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)	800.253.5404
Natural Gas:	Southwest Gas Corp. (statewide)	800.766.9722
Telephone:	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water & Sewer:	Municipal (Yuma)	520.782.4009

Cable Providers: Yes

Cable Internet Service: Yes

Digital Switching Station: Yes

Fiber Optics: Yes

Internet Service Provider: Yes

Weather

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total Precipitation (Inches)
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum	
January	36.8	68.4	0.45
February	39.6	73.5	0.21
March	44.1	78.0	0.20
April	50.5	86.0	0.10
May	56.9	93.9	0.03
June	63.1	100.8	0.00
July	73.6	106.6	0.37
August	76.6	105.4	0.31
September	66.4	101.5	0.30
October	54.4	91.4	0.30
November	44.4	78.2	0.28
December	38.0	69.3	0.39
Yearly Avg	53.5	87.8	2.99

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

For further information, contact:

City of Yuma
180 W. 1st St.
Yuma, AZ 85364
520.783.1271

Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation (GYEDC)
377 S. Main St., Suite 203
Yuma, AZ 85364
520.783.0193/FAX: 520.782.2551
gr8teryuma@aol.com
www.gyedc.org

Yuma County Chamber of Commerce
377 S. Main St., Suite 203
Yuma, AZ 85364
520.782.2567/FAX: 520.343.0038
info@yumachamber.org
www.yumachamber.org

Arizona Department of Commerce

3800 N. Central Ave., Ste. 1400
Phoenix, AZ 85012
602.280.1321/FAX: 602.280.1305
http://www.azcommerce.com

Reproduction of this publication for commercial use is prohibited by A.R.S. 39-121. Permission to reprint may be granted upon written request to the Arizona Department of Commerce.