

Yuma was named after the Yuman Native Americans and founded as a river port. The port supplied outposts for the military and supported commerce just below the confluence of the Colorado and Gila Rivers. Since prehistoric times, Yuma has been the safest site for crossing the Colorado River. Fort Yuma was built during the gold rush to bring peace to the area and ensure a safe route into California. Established in 1854 as Colorado City, the town became Arizona City and was reincorporated as Yuma in 1914. Yuma is the county seat of Yuma County and remains a key crossroad for air, highway and rail transportation. The community's logistics heritage and bicultural reputation are enhanced by the proximity to its three neighboring states: California and Baja and Sonora, Mexico. This prompted the elected leadership to establish 4FrontED, an economic development alliance that includes Yuma, San Luis, Somerton and Welton, Arizona as well as San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico, to help facilitate and coordinate cross-border commerce.

### Principal Economic Activities

A \$3.2 billion annual agribusiness industry forms the foundation of Yuma County. Yuma's agribusiness sector is responsible for supplying the United States with 80 percent of its winter, leafy vegetables. A variety of industrial, processing and logistic operations take advantage of Yuma's strategic location, increasing Yuma's economic diversity. The Mexican free-port of San Luis Rio Colorado is located 23 miles southwest, luring industries interested in offshore manufacturing, or twin-plant operations. Yuma is home to two of the largest military installations in the United States. The U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground generates an annual economic impact over \$430 million. Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma is the country's foremost Marine Air Base with an enlisted population of more than 7,500 pilots, aviation technicians and aeronautical mechanics. During the winter months more than 100,000 winter visitors flock to the community to enjoy sun-drenched warmth.

### Scenic Attractions

Today, Yuma is a vibrant multicultural community that celebrates its rich heritage surrounded by wide-open spaces and pristine desert scenery - all with a river running through it. The Yuma State Territorial Prison, with cells carved from rock, once housed dangerous outlaws and is now a popular tourist attraction. Another popular site is the historic Quartermaster Depot that helped settle the West. Other attractions in the area include Fort Yuma built in 1851, the 16th century St. Thomas Mission, the Quechan Indian Museum, Laguna, Imperial Dam, Morelos Dam and the nearby California sand dunes. The port-of-entry communities of San Luis and Algodones, Mexico, are centers of entertainment for medical tourism, night spots and shopping. Lakes along the Colorado River offer fishing, water skiing and swimming opportunities. The Yuma Crossing State Park features living history on the Colorado before 1900.

### Community Facilities

The city of Yuma offers a broad range of community facilities including six museums, eight community centers, 10 public and private art galleries, 32 parks, bowling alleys, community swimming pools, biking/hiking trails, multiple lighted tennis courts and a soccer stadium that has been home to the United Premier Soccer League's Frontera United since 2015. The stadium complex is near to the conference center.



**BASIC INFORMATION**

<b>Founded:</b>	1854	<b>Incorporated:</b>	1914
<b>Elevation:</b>	138 ft.	<b>Location:</b>	Yuma County
<b>Distance to major cities:</b>			
<b>Phoenix:</b>	185 miles	<b>San Diego:</b>	172 miles
<b>Tucson:</b>	240 miles	<b>Los Angeles:</b>	272 miles
<b>Las Vegas:</b>	296 miles		

**POPULATION**

	2000	2010	2016 (est.)
Yuma	77,515	93,275	100,049
Yuma County	160,026	196,160	217,730
State of Arizona	5,130,632	6,401,569	6,835,518

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**PROPERTY TAX**

	2000	2010	2016
Elementary / High School	7.15	3.68	5.91
City / Fire District	1.99	1.47	2.35
Yuma County	5.78	4.92	6.77
Totals (Yuma County)	14.92	10.08	15.03

*Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation*

**SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX**

Yuma	1.70%
Yuma County	6.71%
State	5.60%

*Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation*

**LABOR FORCE**

	2000	2010	2016
Civilian Labor Force	34,987	44,855	42,855
Unemployed	4,440	10,196	5,006
Unemployment Rate	12.7%	22.7%	11.7%

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT**

	Count	Share
Less than high school	12,601	22.5%
High school or equivalent, no college	14,442	25.8%
Some college or Associate degree	19,424	34.7%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	9,493	17.0%

*American Community Survey*

**INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)**

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	8,024	22.5%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	4,504	12.6%
Public administration	4,479	12.6%
Retail trade	3,844	10.8%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	3,602	10.1%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	2,168	6.1%
Other services, except public administration	1,648	4.6%
Construction	1,647	4.6%
Manufacturing	1,591	4.5%
Finance, insurance & real estate	1,499	4.2%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	1,228	3.4%
Wholesale trade	972	2.7%
Information	453	1.3%

*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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