



Food Processing



Arizona's Epicenter of Agriculture

Located near the junction of California, Arizona, and Mexico, Yuma is a natural transportation hub with over 50 million consumers within a one day truck haul via Interstate 8 or US 95 both of which run directly through Yuma County.

Major Advantages

- Senior water rights to the Colorado River water (1/3 of Arizona allocation)
- Yuma's **40%** allocation of the states allotment equates to approximately **949,200** acre feet/year.
- **175,000** Acres of Colorado River irrigable land
- Yuma's high unemployment rate (**28%** currently) provides incoming companies with a large talent pool to source from and lower wage averages.
- Approximately **30,000-40,000** Mexican nationals commute to Yuma every day to harvest crops, work at processing plants and manufacturing facilities throughout the county. The workforce is skilled in food handling and makes wage levels very competitive if not lower with any other community in the U.S.
- A 350 day growing season with sunshine 95% of the year
- 25 fresh produce coolers, 6 date and 4 citrus packing facilities
- Produces over **90%** of leafy greens for the nation in winter months
- Grows annually **150** different types of crops
- Salad plants process up to 2,000,000 pounds of lettuce daily
- Low cost utility rates
- Workforce with experience in the Food Processing industry

State Crop Rankings

- Ranks #1 for lemons, tangerines, watermelon and cantaloupe
- Ranks # 1 for winter vegetables
- Ranks # 1 for Pima cotton
- Ranks #2 for field corn
- Ranks # 3 for Upland cotton

Safety

- Has a low dry desert environment which plays an integral role in food safety
- Growers use the most advanced standards in food safety production guidelines
- Arizona Leafy greens have never been implicated with any food safety outbreak

Yuma Manufacturers' Association and Industry Training

The Yuma Manufacturers' Association was formed in 2006 to support the industrial industries in Yuma. A customized training curriculum was designed around the common needs in food processing industries:

- Industrial Electric
- Programmatic Logistic Controls
- "Super Manager"

Markets & Suppliers

- Sarah Farms has a processing plant in the City of Yuma. The integrated dairy and milk processing operations provides **700,000** gallons of fluid milk each month to Costco Wholesalers and independent retail chains such as Basha's and Food City directly from Yuma.
- Greater Yuma's economy is driven by our \$3.2 Billion Agriculture Industry. This includes the growers of fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and dairy
- Mexico Supply Chain — A number of companies, including Dole, Fresh Innovations and Fresh Express take advantage of our border location for twin plant and maquiladora operations.

Distribution

- Interstate 8 and Highway 95
- San Luis II Commercial Port of Entry
- New Area Service Highway (SR 195)
- San Luis I Port of Entry
- Yuma International Airport (24 Inbound/Outbound to L.A. and PHX)
- Union Pacific Rail Road
- 17 major trucking companies servicing Yuma

University of Arizona Agricultural Center

The University of Arizona Agricultural Center provides information and programs for agricultural producers and researchers in Yuma County. Working in partnership with local businesses, the agricultural center offers research and development in:

- Plant physiology
- Bio-chemistry
- Seed chemicalization
- Food safety
- Agricultural mechanization
- Other programs are available to companies who are developing new technologies, improving existing products or researching new ideas.



LOCAL INCENTIVES

City of Yuma Economic Development Incentive Fund

The City of Yuma has created a performance based incentive fund designed to encourage new business development, business expansions and relocations. The fund can provide up to \$1,500 per new hire, given to the company in an upfront cash grant award.

City of Yuma Real and Personal Property Tax Abatement

The City of Yuma will support and agree to property tax abatements for companies creating new jobs above the County median wage (\$12.12/hr) along with a capital investment to exceed \$1 million and per the approval of the City Council. The duration of the abatement will be predicated upon the overall economic impact of the project.

Workforce Salary and Training Grant

YPIC offers programs that cover the entire costs of employee training, including teaching, materials, equipment and other expenses. Companies can additionally qualify for reimbursement of 50% employee salaries paid during training for up to 6 months.

New Market Tax Credits

Below market interest loans guaranteed by federal government for the purpose of stimulating development in rural communities. The loan is valued at 15% of the total project cost. Companies utilizing New Market Tax Credits pay on the interest only of the loan for seven years. After the 7th year, the loan is forgiven and the company is awarded the principal and equity of the loan.

Site Location Assistance

For more information about locating your business in Yuma, Arizona Please contact:

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MAJOR EMPLOYERS

FRESH PRODUCE

- Advanced Cooling Systems
- Americas Choice
- Dandy Cooling
- DSA-Yuma Cooling LLC (Driscolls)
- Earthbound Farm Organic
- Fresh Leaf Farms
- Lydia's Specialty Fruit & Produce
- New Star Fresh Foods, LLC
- Nunes Vegetables Inc.
- Pacific International Cooling
- Priority Cooling LLC
- Pure Pacific Organics
- Red River
- Semco South Cooling (American Cooling Inc.)
- Skyview Cooling Co.
- Spindle Cooling & Warehousing
- Tanimura & Antle Cooling
- Taylor Farms Inc.
- Taylor Farms Inc.
- Trans-West Cooling
- True Leaf Farms
- Uni-Kool Produce Cooling & Shipping
- Yuma Express Cooling

CITRUS

- Associated Citrus Packers, Inc.
- Marlin Packing Co.
- Mission Citrus
- Yuma Mesa Fruit Growers Assn.

DATES

- Datepac
- Eirlichs Date Garden
- Imperial Date Gardens
- Medgood Dates Marthas Gardens
- Sonora Packing
- Sun Garden Growers

Occupation	Hourly Wages
General & Operations Managers	\$34.12
Transportation, Storage & Distribution Managers	\$37.17
First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	\$23.20
Assemblers & Fabricators	\$8.71
Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	\$11.02
First-Line Supervisors of Transportation	\$21.14
Packers & Packagers, Hand	\$8.86
Source: BLS 2011	