

# SOMERTON

# Community Profile

## Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Somerton, in the fertile Yuma Valley in southwestern Yuma County, is about 12 miles south of Yuma and 180 miles east of San Diego, at an elevation of 103 feet. It is equidistant from the California and Mexican borders. Somerton was established in 1898 and incorporated in 1918.

Somerton is on land once claimed for the fraudulent Rancho El Paso de los Algodones (land) Grant. Land along the Colorado River was attractive to speculators. The U.S. Congress passed a law allowing settlers who were on the land before May 25, 1898, to buy up to 40 acres for \$1.25 per acre.

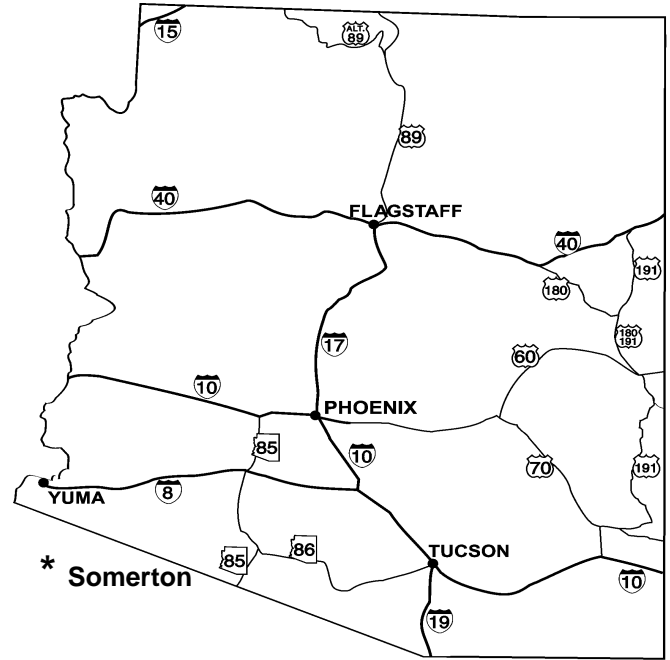
FOUNDED: 1898  
 COUNTY: Yuma County  
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 192 miles  
 HIGHWAYS: I-8; US 95  
 ENTERPRISE ZONE AVAILABLE

INCORPORATED: Yes - 1918  
 ELEVATION: 103 feet  
 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 248 miles

## POPULATION

	1990	2000	2003
Somerton	5,282	7,266	8,180
Yuma County	106,895	160,026	175,045
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,629,870

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



## PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Though Somerton's economy depends primarily upon agriculture, light industry is becoming important. Many residents are employed in citrus and vegetable growing and processing. Somerton also has a small commercial service sector with ample room for further growth.

<u>County Employment</u>	2003
Construction	3,625
Educational & Health Svcs	5,500
Financial Activities	1,300
Government	12,575
Information	1,025
Leisure & Hospitality	4,325
Manufacturing	2,550
Professional & Business Svcs	3,750
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	8,800

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security

Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

## Major Private Employers

Del Sol Market	Housing America Corp.
King Market	Puentes De Amistad
Sunset Community Health	

## Major Public Employers

Arizona Dept. of Economic Security	City of Somerton
Somerton School District	

## LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2003
Civilian Labor Force	2,058	3,270	3,324
Unemployed	814	1,593	1,437
Unemployment Rate	39.6%	48.7%	43.2%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

## Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2003
New Bldg. Permit	44*	148	323*
Taxable Sales (\$)	11,888,835	21,925,480	24,493,120
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	4,550,803	9,960,974	12,741,962

Sources: Arizona State University; AZ Dept. of Revenue; AZ Tax Research Foundation

\*Incomplete Data: One or more months not available

## SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

San Luis Rio Colorado, 12 miles south of Somerton, is reputed to be Mexico's fastest growing city with a population of approximately 200,000. It has curio shops, night clubs and other tourist attractions. Some 75 miles south of San Luis is the small fishing village of El Golfo de Santa Clara, Sonora. This area has clean, sandy beaches, boat fishing, clam digging, swimming and a mild sunny climate.

Yuma County has many other nearby attractions. These include the Old Territorial Prison, Fort Yuma, and 16th century St. Thomas Mission; Laguna, Imperial and Morelos Dams, and the California dunes. Fishing, water skiing and swimming at lakes along the Colorado River are attractive sports to both residents and tourists.

## TAXES

<u>Property Tax Rate</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2003</u>
Elem/High School	4.56	7.22	8.42
City/Fire District	1.45	0.00	0.00
Countywide	6.03	5.78	5.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12.04</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>	<b>\$14.12</b>

Sources: Arizona Tax Research Foundation  
 Note: Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation.

## Sales Tax Rate

City	2.50%
County	1.50%
State	5.60%

Sources: League of Arizona Cities and Towns, Arizona Dept. of Revenue

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The city of Somerton has a library, a golf course, five parks, Little League, softball and Babe Ruth diamonds, a soccer field, senior community center, a community meeting hall, a swimming pool and a Head Start center.

### Educational Institutions

	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>
Elementary	Y	N
Middle School	Y	N

### Financial

Number of Banks: 1

### Governmental Agencies

Fire Department: Staffed City/Local Fire Department

Law Enforcement: City Police Department

Airports Nearby Yuma International Airport (eight miles north) with a lighted 13,300-ft. runway.

### Medical

Full medical facilities available in Yuma.

### Hotel and Lodging Facilities

Capacity of Largest Facility: 200

Meeting Rooms: 5

## Industrial Properties

For more information contact the City of Somerton or Greater Yuma Econ. Dev. Corporation

## Utilities

Electricity	APS (Statewide)	800.253-9407
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (Statewide)	800.766.9722
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water & Sewer	City of Somerton	928.627.8866

Cable Providers: Yes

Cable Internet Service Provider: No

Digital Switching Station: Yes

Fiber Optics: Yes

Internet Service Provider: Yes

## Weather

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum	Precipitation (Inches)
January	44.2	68.8	0.39
February	47.0	74.3	0.22
March	51.0	79.2	0.23
April	57.0	86.8	0.11
May	63.8	94.0	0.05
June	72.1	103.4	0.01
July	80.4	107.0	0.22
August	79.9	105.8	0.51
September	73.8	101.6	0.27
October	62.4	91.0	0.29
November	51.0	77.7	0.19
December	44.4	68.7	0.43
Yearly Avg	60.6	88.2	2.91

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1948-2003. Average Total Snowfall 0.0." Nearest data available from Yuma WSO AP, AZ.

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

For further information, contact:

Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation  
 377 S. Main St., Suite 202  
 Yuma, AZ 85364  
 928.783.0193 Fax: 928.782.2551  
 Email: grusing@gyedc.org Web: www.gyedc.org

## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

*Our Job is JOBS!*

1700 W. Washington, Suite 600  
 Phoenix, AZ 85007  
 602.771.1100 FAX: 602.771.1200  
<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 of the Arizona Department of Commerce.

Prepared on 6/2004