

SOMERTON

Community Profile

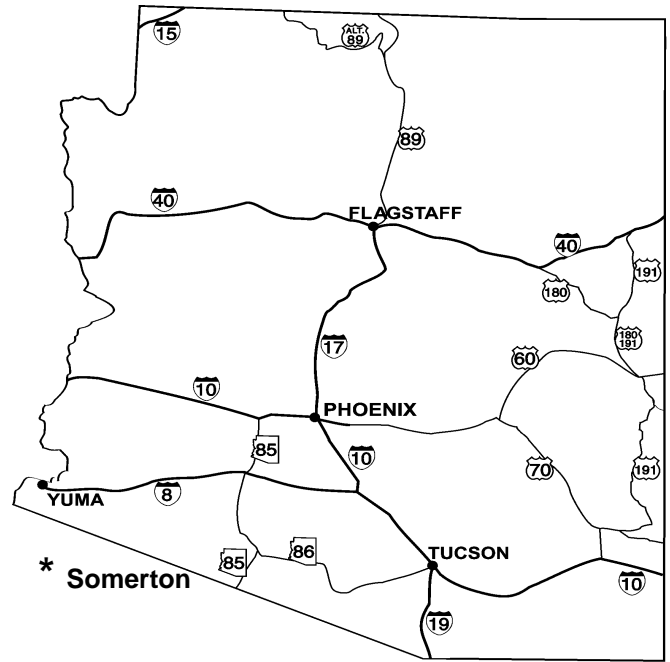
Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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	2004
Somerton	5,282	7,266	8,855
Yuma County	106,895	160,026	181,470
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	5,833,685

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.

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

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	2004
Civilian Labor Force	2,058	3,270	3,371
Unemployed	814	1,593	1,426
Unemployment Rate	39.6%	48.7%	42.3%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2004
New Bldg. Permit	44*	148	221*
Taxable Sales (\$)	11,888,835	21,925,480	29,625,000
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	4,550,803	9,960,974	13,658,495

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

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2004
Elem/High School	4.56	7.22	8.47
City/Fire District	1.45	0.00	0.00
Countywide	6.03	5.78	5.78
Total	\$12.04	\$13.00	\$14.25

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

	Public	Private
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)	800.253-9405
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 1948-2004. 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:

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