

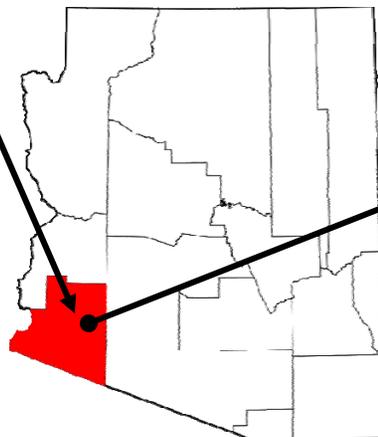
## YUMA COUNTY ARIZONA

*Est. 1864*

UNITED STATES



ARIZONA



YUMA COUNTY



# COUNTY PROFILE



## History

Yuma's first settlers were the Native American Tribes whose descendants continue to occupy the Cocopah Reservation in Yuma County, and the nearby Quechan Reservation. Yuma's first recorded historic event was in 1540 when Spanish explorer Hernando de Alarcon became the first European to see the area of the City and County of Yuma. It was clear that Yuma was a great natural crossing of the Colorado River and an ideal location for a city.

In 1701, Father Eusebio Francisco Kino was the first person to recognize the Yuma Crossing as a gateway to California. About a hundred years later, Father Francisco Garces led Juan Bautista de Anza and his pioneering expedition to the Yuma Crossing in their search for a land route to California. Garces founded two missions at the Crossing in 1779, but was killed in the last major Indian uprising shortly after.

Kit Carson rediscovered the Yuma Crossing in the 1850's when Yuma became the major river crossing for California gold-seekers. From 1540 to 1854 Yuma was under Spanish and Mexican control. Through the Gadsden Purchase in 1854, Yuma became a territorial possession of the United States. Yuma County became one of the original four counties in the State of Arizona when it was created in 1864.

In these early years, the City of Yuma held several different names. From 1854 through 1858 Yuma was known as Colorado City. From 1858 to 1873 it was named Arizona City. Finally in 1873 the Territorial Legislature settled on Yuma. The County and City of Yuma's name is derived from the name of the areas original inhabitants—the Yumas. The Yumas consisted of the Indian tribes of the lower Colorado region: Quechan, Cocopah, and the Mohave tribes. These tribes were related because they are all members of the same linguistic group.

The County Seal reflects some of this Indian Heritage along with the Arizona sun, open desert landscape, the areas agriculture, historical sites, Colorado River, near-perfect flying conditions, and other aspects of Yuma County.



There are a few historic sites in Yuma County, most notably the Yuma Territorial Prison State Park and the Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Park. The Quartermaster Depot was used by the US Army to store supplies and distribute them as needed to Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Texas. There was a continuous supply of at least six months worth of clothes, food, ammunition, and other military goods at the Depot.

Yuma Ferry Crossing 1889



Ocean vessels went around the Baja Peninsula to Port Isabel near the mouth of the Colorado River. There, supplies were loaded and taken up the Colorado via river steamers to Yuma. From here, freight was shipped further upriver on steamers and by land with mule drawn freight wagons.

In 1877, the Southern Pacific Railroad expanded to Yuma and the Quartermaster Depot and Fort Yuma soon came to an end.

Yuma 1886 (railroad bridge built in 1877)



The Signal Corps established a weather station in Yuma in 1875 and the Army officially terminated the Supply Depot in 1883. The Signal Corps remained until 1891 when the United States Weather Service operated the Depot site until 1949.

The Yuma Territorial Prison State Park is also a part of Yuma County's history. In July 1876, the first seven inmates stepped into the cells they had built themselves. During its thirty years of operation, 3,069 prisoners (including 29 women) inhabited the walls of the Territorial Prison. Inmates served sentences for crimes ranging from murder to polygamy. The most common crime was grand larceny.

Since pardons and paroles were easily obtained, many of the prisoners served only a portion of their sentences. There were one-hundred and eleven deaths at the prison—most were due to tuberculosis which was common at the time. Twenty-six people escaped while serving their sentence, but only two of them came from inside the prison walls. The others occurred during work duty and other activities outside of the prison. There were no capital punishment executions at the prison.

Territorial Prison Guard Watchtower



The Prison's infamous reputation painted a grim picture of the treatment encountered by prisoners while inside. Perpetuating this notoriety were stories published about the prison. Most notably, *Three-ten to Yuma* by Elmore Leonard and its later film adaptations both titled *3:10 to Yuma*—one in 1957 and the other in 2007. In the 1961 western *The Comancheros*, John Wayne also mentions the Prison. However, despite this notoriety, historic evidence says the prison was run humanely. Punishments for inmates were the "Dark Cell" for misbehavior and ball-and-chain for those who attempted to escape.

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The Territorial Prison was home to one of the first public libraries in the Arizona Territory. A fee was charged for visitors to tour the institution and proceeds went to purchasing new books. One of the earliest electrical generating plants was used to power the lights in the prison buildings as well as ventilate the cellblock.

By 1907 the Prison was overcrowded and there was no room for expansion on Prison Hill. Prisoners began construction of a new facility in Florence, Arizona and the prison closed on September 15, 1909.

From 1910 to 1914 the Yuma High School occupied the prison buildings. The football team was scheduled to play a favored-to-win football team in Phoenix. The Phoenix team dubbed the Yuma High School team “the criminals.” When Yuma unexpectedly won, Yuma adopted the nickname and mascot with pride and thereby earned the unique nickname “The Criminals.” This continues to be their mascot and team name to this day. Empty cells also served as a makeshift hotel for hobos riding the freights in the 1920s and as housing for families displaced by the Great Depression.

Prison Cells



## Yuma’s Location

Yuma County is Arizona’s southwest border county. To the west is the State of California and to the south is Mexico. The Colorado River forms the County’s western border. Arizona’s two largest cities, Phoenix and Tucson, are in the 2 counties immediately east of Yuma. From the City of Yuma, the drive to Phoenix is about 3 hours. The drive to Tucson is about 4 hours. San Diego and the Southern California beaches along the Pacific Ocean are a 3 to 4 hour drive.

Yuma County consists of approximately 5,522 square miles. Much of the area is open desert. The County’s population is concentrated in the vicinity of the City of Yuma, which is located on the Colorado River and is about a 30 minute drive to Mexico.

## Climate

Yuma is one of the hottest cities of any kind in the United States. The average July high temperature is 107 degrees Fahrenheit compared to Death Valley’s 115 degree July average high. The average high temperature in January is 69 degrees. The Guinness Book of World Records notes that Yuma is the sunniest place on earth. There are around 4,456 hours of possible daylight annually and Yuma is sunny for about 4,050 hours—a little more than 90% of the time. The moderate winter temperatures and abundance of year-round sunshine attract many winter-visitors.

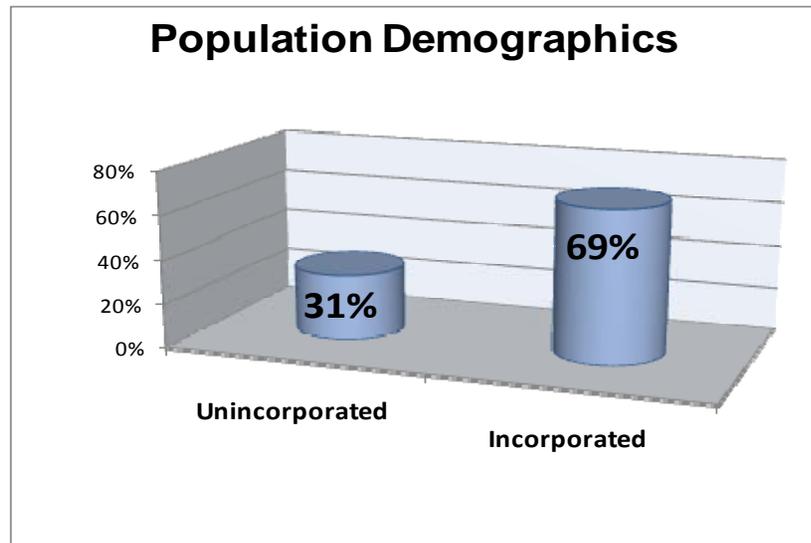
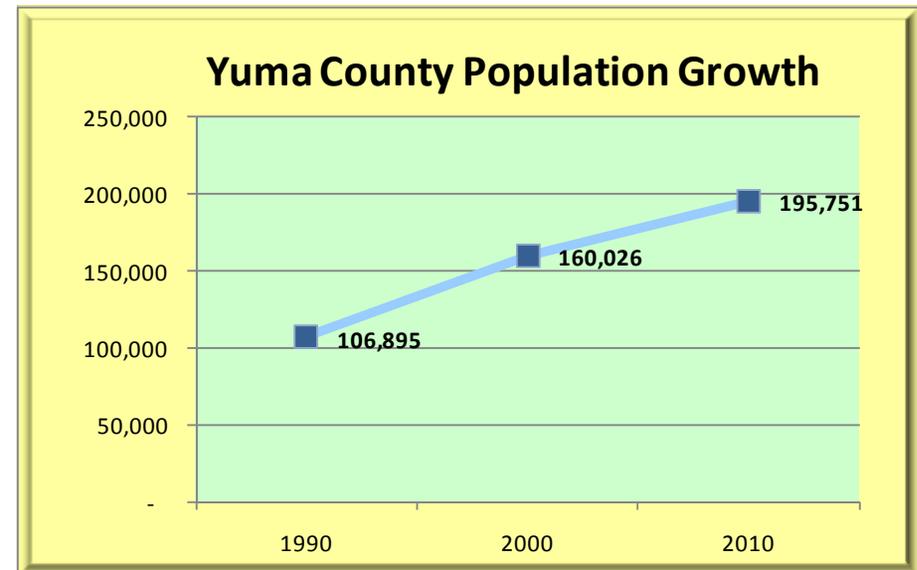


## Population and Demographics

When compared to Arizona, Yuma County is small and rural. In 2010, Arizona's population was 6,392,017 and Yuma County's population was 195,751. The City of Yuma, Arizona's 11th largest city had 93,064, or 48% of the County population. When we look inside Yuma County we get a picture of a region with impressive growth in its population.

Yuma County grew 22.3% between 2000 and 2010

- The City of Yuma grew by 20.1%
- Somerton grew by 96.6%
- San Luis on the U.S.-Mexico border grew by 66.5%
- Wellton grew by 57.6 %



Incorporated Population: 135,738, Unincorporated Population: 60,013, Total Population: 195,751.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and Arizona Workforce Informer

Incorporated Cites and Towns within Yuma County*	Population
San Luis city	25,505
Somerton city	14,287
Wellton town	2,882
Yuma city	93,064

\* Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census & AZ Workforce Informer

## Household Size

Whereas the "typical" household in Yuma County averaged 2.93 persons in 2010, place-to-place differences are substantial. For example, the town of Wellton had only 2.36 persons per household, while the average household size in San Luis was almost twice as large (4.20 persons).

# COUNTY PROFILE



## Foreign-Born Population

One out of every four Yuma County residents (25.0%) is foreign born. Statewide the foreign-born group is only approximately one out of every seven residents (14.7% of the State's population). Further, Yuma's foreign-born group is more likely to be long-term residents. About 77.1% of Yuma's foreign-born residents came to Yuma before 2000. Statewide there is more of a bias toward newcomers; 32.2% of the foreign-born entered the State after 2000.

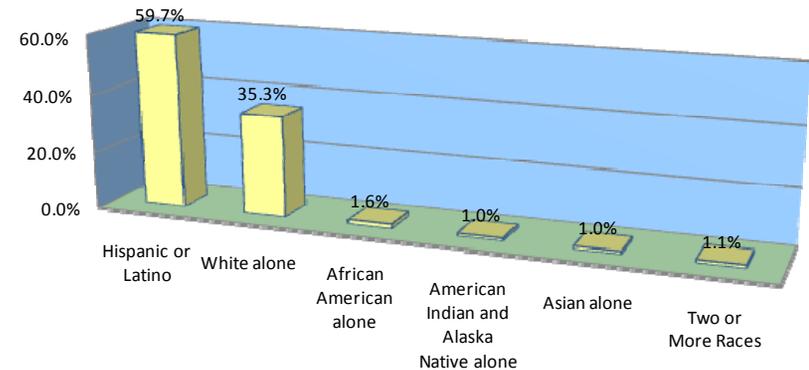
## Household Incomes

Household incomes throughout Yuma County tend to be relatively low compared to the statewide average. Statewide, 22.90% of all households have an income less than \$25,000. In Yuma County the figure is 31.0%. At the other end of the spectrum outcomes are similar. Statewide, 18.6% of all households have incomes of \$100,000 or more. In Yuma County the figure is 10.0%. The City of Yuma makes slightly more than the County as a whole with 12.1% of households in the \$100,000 plus income range. The percentages for the Foothills and San Luis are 9.4% and 1.9%, respectively.

## Ethnicity and Age Population

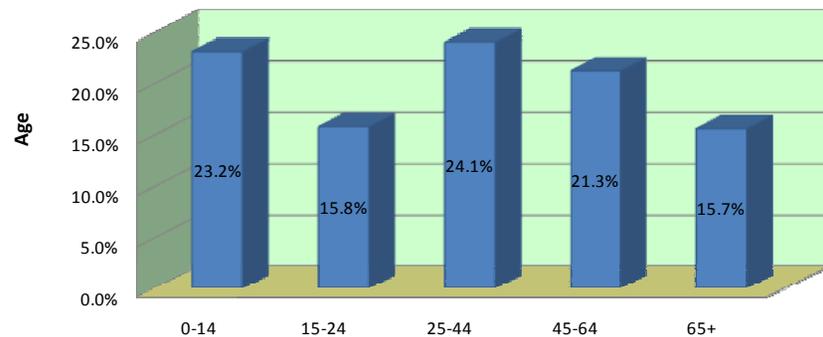
Yuma County is heavily Hispanic; 59.7% of its residents are Hispanic or Latino (the Arizona figure is almost one-half that of Yuma County at 29.6%). Non-Hispanic white residents represent 35.3% of the County's population. The sum of these two percentages is 95%, which means that there are relatively small numbers of Asians, African American, and other non-Hispanic ethnic groups in Yuma County.

### Yuma County Population Composition



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and Arizona Workforce Informer

### Yuma County Age Distribution





# COUNTY PROFILE

## Economy & Workforce

As you can see from the table below, per capita income in Yuma County is less than the State of Arizona as a whole—similar to the Household Income figures.

Per Capita Income	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Yuma (MSA)	\$24,734	\$25,185	\$25,356	\$26,928	\$27,091
Arizona	\$34,357	\$34,459	\$33,207	\$34,539	\$35,062

Average Wage by Sector	2011
Management	\$ 38.50
Business and Financial	\$ 27.78
Computer and Mathematical	\$ 33.70
Life, Physical, and Social Science	\$ 28.30
Community and Social Services	\$ 17.84
Legal	\$ 34.52
Education, Training and Library	\$ 18.09
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	\$ 19.21
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	\$ 35.01
Healthcare Support	\$ 12.73
Protective Service	\$ 23.48
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$ 9.34
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	\$ 10.36
Personal Care and Service	\$ 10.22
Sales & Related	\$ 13.54
Office and Administrative Support	\$ 14.33
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$ 9.43
Construction & Extraction	\$ 18.09
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$ 18.82
Production	\$ 12.82
Transportation & Material Moving	\$ 14.03

The chart below shows that in non-farm employment, most jobs are in the Service Providing sector (using the NAICS classification system), with State and local government being the largest employers in this sector. Not shown on this table but also important to Yuma's economy is the military.

The Yuma Marine Corps Air Station and the Army's Yuma Proving Ground are important employers. Indicative of the role the military plays in Yuma County is that for every 1000 civilian jobs there are 66 military jobs (Year 2010), and Statewide there are 9 military jobs for each 1000 civilian jobs (Year 2008, Year 2010 N/A).

Employment by NAICS Sector	2010	2011	2012
<b>Total Non-farming</b>	49.5	49.1	51.1
<b>Total Private</b>	34.7	33.8	36.1
<b>Goods Producing</b>	4.2	4.0	4.3
<b>Mining and Construction</b>	2.5	2.1	2.4
<b>Manufacturing</b>	1.7	1.8	1.9
<b>Service-Providing</b>	45.3	45.2	46.8
<b>Private Service-Providing</b>	30.6	29.9	31.7
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	9.4	9.2	9.6
<b>Information</b>	.5	.5	.6
<b>Financial Activities</b>	1.4	1.3	1.4
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	5.7	5.5	6.1
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	6.7	6.7	7.3
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	5.2	5.3	5.3
<b>Other Services</b>	1.6	1.4	1.5
<b>Government</b>	14.8	15.3	15.1
<b>Federal Government</b>	3.9	3.8	3.8
<b>State and Local Government</b>	10.9	11.5	11.3

# COUNTY PROFILE



The tables below show Yuma County's Top Ten Employers and Principal Sales Taxpayers. Reflected in these numbers are the strong agricultural, military, service, and production sectors.

Reported unemployment rates have historically been very high in Yuma County, most likely associated with the economy's heavy reliance on agriculture and the seasonal nature of its employment.

Top Ten Employers		
Rank	Top Employers	Employees
1	US Army - Yuma Proving Ground	2319
2	Yuma Regional Medical Center	2080
3	Yuma Elementary School District	1700
4	Wal-Mart Stores	1394
5	Yuma City Government	1388
6	Yuma County	1350
7	US Marine Corps Air Station	1350
8	Bose Corporation	1300
9	US Border Patrol	920
10	ACT, Advanced Call Center Technologies	814

**\*\*All #'s from FY 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**

Unemployment	2010	2011	2012
Total Civilian Labor Force	91.7	89.5	92.0
Total Unemployment	23.2	24.2	25.2
Rate	22.4%	27.1%	27.5%
Total Employment	68.4	65.2	66.7

Yuma County is known nationally as the provider of winter vegetables such as lettuce, cauliflower and broccoli.

Principal Taxpayers		
Rank	Taxpayer	% of County's Net Assessed Valuation
1	Arizona Public Service	4.87%
2	Walmart Stores Inc DE Corp	0.67%
3	Qwest Corporation	0.62%
4	Union Pacific Railroad Co	0.61%
5	Yuma Palms1030 Delaware LLC	0.60%
6	Southwest Gas Corporation (T&D)	0.58%
7	Dole Fresh Vegetables Inc.	0.30%
8	Far West Water Co.	0.28%
9	North Baja Pipeline LLC	0.26%
10	Underhill Transfer Co AZ Corp	0.24%
<b>Top Ten % of Total County's Net Assessed Valuation</b>		<b>9.02%</b>

**\*\*All #'s from FY 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**

Crops in Yuma County, with state comparisons Year 2010				
	Acres harvested	Yield per acre	Production	Rank in AZ
Upland cotton	15,100	1,478 lbs	46,500 bales	5
**Pima cotton	2,500	845 lbs	4,400 bales	N/A
Durum wheat	46,800	7380 lbs	172,710 tons	1
**Other wheat	6,000	4,500 lbs	13,500 tons	N/A
Barley	3,300	4,320 lbs	7,128 tons	3
**Corn for grain	22,000	11,760 lbs	129,360 tons	N/A
Alfalfa hay	27,000	9 tons	243,000 tons	3
**Other hay	40,000	4.5 tons	180,000 tons	N/A
**Principal vegetables	112,700	N/A	31,607,000 cwt	N/A
**Citrus	13,500	14,730 lbs	97,000 tons	N/A

**\*\* State total, County breakdown not available**

The following two tables demonstrate that livestock plays a substantial role in Yuma's agricultural economy, but crops are clearly the dominant component.

Livestock in Yuma County, with some state comparisons Year 2001		
	Livestock Inventory	Rank in AZ
All cattle & calves	93,000	3
Sheep and lambs	20,000	3

Cash Receipts in Yuma County, with some state comparisons Year 2011 (1,000 Dollars)			
	Cash receipts	Yuma as % of AZ	Rank in AZ
Crops	\$1,053,372	42.20%	1
Livestock	\$209,433	11.50%	3



\*\* Photo taken by Bianca Acosta

## Education

### School Districts:

- ❖ Antelope Union High School District - Wellton, AZ
- ❖ Crane Elementary District - Yuma, AZ
- ❖ Mohawk Valley Elementary District - Roll, AZ
- ❖ Somerton Elementary District - Somerton, AZ
- ❖ Wellton Elementary District - Wellton, AZ
- ❖ Yuma Elementary District - Yuma, AZ
- ❖ Yuma Union High School District - Yuma, AZ
- ❖ Gadsden Elementary District - San Luis, AZ
- ❖ Hyder Elementary District - Dateland, AZ

### Institutions of Higher Learning

Arizona Western College (AWC), Northern Arizona University, and The University of Phoenix are all established features on Yuma's educational landscape. Additionally, Southern Illinois University offers a Bachelors degree in Aviation Management at the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma.

The most substantial campus is Arizona Western College (AWC). This community college offers transfer degrees in subjects ranging from Administration of Justice to Theater; Occupational degrees; AGEC or Arizona General Education Curriculum certificates; and different Occupational certificates.

Northern Arizona University offers degree programs including; Bachelors level, Masters level, and at the Doctoral level. The University of Phoenix offers several Bachelors and Masters Programs – mostly in education and business.

# COUNTY PROFILE



Sales (\$000's)	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012
Utilities	258,162	260,693	249,107	247,551	246,395
Communications	78,077	54,398	88,159	68,650	68,338
Publications	-	-	-	-	1,768
Resturants and Bars	202,627	201,662	202,069	206,530	219,275
Amusements	13,551	15,200	15,059	13,500	-
Property	72,009	65,380	66,033	64,634	82,386
Contracting	429,880	466,556	274,531	267,566	294,457
Retail	1,341,139	1,268,331	1,135,823	1,211,022	1,246,183
Hotel/Motel	50,086	50,298	47,087	48,254	51,792
Other Taxable Activities	89,909	77,163	68,129	65,782	84,440

\*\*Source: Arizona Department of Revenue

There was stability in contracting sales from FY 2008 to FY 2009, but in FY 2010 this number dropped significantly. The drop in contracting likely corresponds to the significant decrease in the number of new housing units authorized.

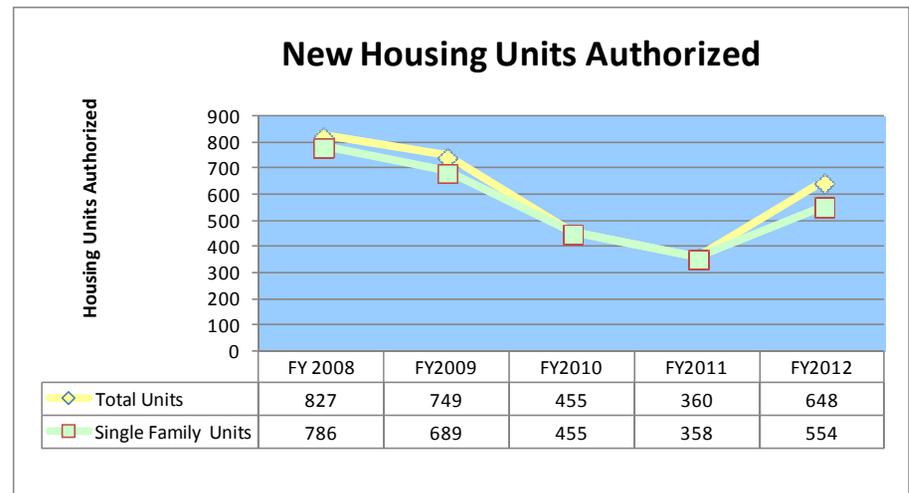
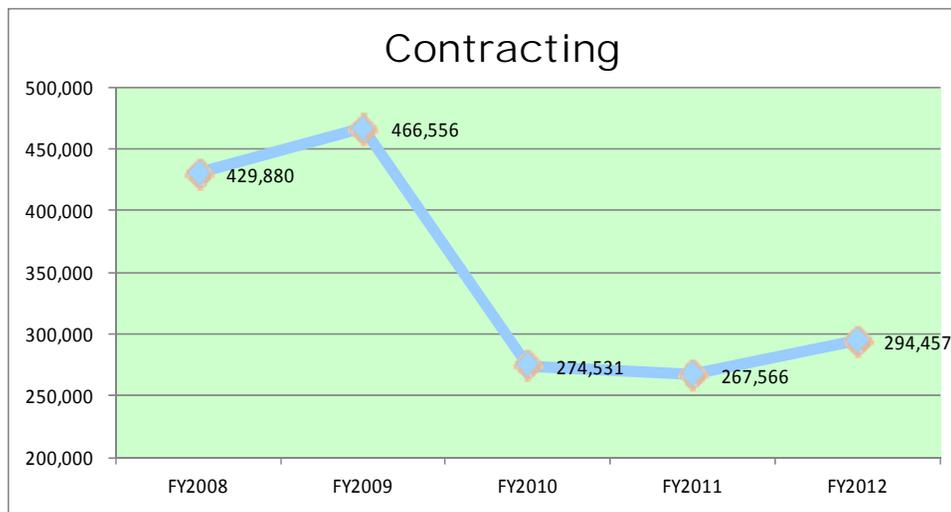


Photo taken by Bianca Acosta

## Recreation/Sites of Interest

Other than the aforementioned State Parks, there are some interesting sites/recreation available in and near Yuma County. Downtown Yuma is historic and maintains its charm despite the area's growth. In addition, the Kofa Mountain Range and wildlife refuge area, Mittry Lake, Martinez Lake, and the nearby Imperial Sand Dunes in California provide recreation to visitors and locals.

Imperial Sand Dunes



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Glamis\\_Presidents\\_263.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Glamis_Presidents_263.jpg)

Many people enjoy the hunting and fishing opportunities provided by the vast uninhabited areas and the Colorado River. Dove and Quail season bring hunters to Yuma County every fall. The annual Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival attracts many unique hot air balloons and spectators.

Colorado River & River Crossing Balloon Festival



The Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) and Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) bring a military presence to the community. MCAS performs an annual air show with large-scale military exercises. The Army's YPG base provides a testing venue for new military equipment.



# COUNTY PROFILE



## Transportation Systems

### Highways

- Interstate 8
- U.S. 95
- Highway 80

### Rail

- Union Pacific Railroad
- Yuma Valley Railway Tourist Railroad

### Air Service

- Yuma International Airport

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce, Community Profiles

## Transportation Providers

### Bus Lines

- Greyhound Bus Lines



\*\*Photo Taken by Bianca Acosta

## Trucking Service

- Con-Way Western Express
- Central Freight Lines
- CRST
- J.B. Hunt Transportation
- Knight Transportation
- Landstar
- National Freight
- Puget Sound International Inc.
- Roadway Express
- Swift Transportation
- Union Pacific
- US Freight
- USA Truck
- Werner
- Yellow Roadway

## Public Transportation Services

- Greater Yuma Dial-A-Ride
- Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT)
- Taxicabs (Various)

## Airlines

- American West Express/US Airways
- Skywest/United Express
- Diamond Air Airlines, Inc (Charter)
- Wings Inc. (Charter)

Data for this County Profile is largely drawn from the Yuma Data Bank web site located at <http://www.yumadata.com/>, the US Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov/>, Arizona Workforce Informer <http://www.workforce.az.gov/>, the US Bureau of Economic Analysis <http://www.bea.gov/interactive.htm>, wikipedia.com [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com), the Arizona State Parks Website <http://www.pr.state.az.us/>, the Economic & Business Research Center <http://www.ebr.eller.arizona.edu/> and several photos were taken by Bianca Acosta.