



January 8, 2022

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# Economic Conditions Report

Yuma County

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**Doug Walls**, Labor Market Information Director, 602.771.1258  
[www.laborstats.az.gov](http://www.laborstats.az.gov)

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## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

This report was created to assist Arizona Local Workforce Development Areas in completing their 2024-2027 Local Workforce Development Plans; the information provided in this report is intended to be used as a resource in the planning process. The report summarizes key demographic, labor market, and workforce trends occurring within the state and local economy.

## **ABOUT THE ARIZONA OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) was created to strengthen the analytical capabilities of the state's workforce and economic development initiatives. OEO serves as Arizona's workforce planning coordinator, and provides operational, strategic, and research support to the Workforce Arizona Council and other key workforce partners in this role. OEO produces official statewide data for population, employment, and wage estimates including the official Arizona employment and population projections. OEO also functions in an advisory capacity by providing economic expertise to state and local government agencies and officials.

# POPULATION

## Population Growth by County, 2016-2021

Area	Population Estimate (2016)	Population Estimate (2021)	Numeric Change (2016-2021)	Annualized Percent Change (2016-2021)
United States	318,558,162	329,725,481	11,167,319	0.7%
Arizona	6,797,006	7,285,370	488,364	1.4%
Apache County	68,305	66,411	-1,894	-0.6%
Cochise County	125,414	126,463	1,049	0.2%
Coconino County	142,846	147,434	4,588	0.6%
Gila County	53,325	53,525	200	0.1%
Graham County	38,356	39,025	669	0.3%
Greenlee County	9,834	9,593	-241	-0.5%
La Paz County	17,676	16,820	-856	-1.0%
Maricopa County	4,154,976	4,507,419	352,443	1.6%
Mohave County	203,956	216,527	12,571	1.2%
Navajo County	106,763	107,748	985	0.2%
Pima County	1,013,296	1,058,318	45,022	0.9%
Pinal County	392,646	439,128	46,482	2.3%
Santa Cruz County	47,075	48,468	1,393	0.6%
Yavapai County	221,970	241,173	19,203	1.7%
<b>Yuma County</b>	200,568	207,318	6,750	0.7%

Source: Office of Economic Opportunity Population Estimates

Changes in population can have a large impact on a local economy. An area experiencing population growth, particularly growth in working-age populations, may experience an increase in economic activity<sup>1</sup> and workforce diversity.

- Arizona had one of the fastest growing populations in the United States from 2020-2021, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> among all U.S. states in numeric growth and 4<sup>th</sup> in percent growth.
- Yuma County accounted for 1.4 percent of Arizona's total population growth from 2016 to 2021 and 2.8 percent of the state's total 2021 population.
- In 2021, eleven percent of individuals who moved to Yuma County from a different U.S. state were prime-working age adults (25 to 54 years).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Headey, D., & Hodge, A. (2009). The Effect of Population Growth on Economic Growth: A Meta-Regression Analysis of the Macroeconomic Literature. *Population and Development Review*, 35(2), 221-248. Retrieved from [www.jstor.org/stable/25487661](http://www.jstor.org/stable/25487661)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year estimates. (2016-2021). Geographic Mobility by Selected Characters, Table S0701. Available from [data.census.gov](http://data.census.gov).

## Yuma County Population Projections, 2022-2026

Year	Population Estimate	Projected Numeric Change	Projected Percentage Change	Projected Natural Change <sup>1</sup>	Projected Total Net Migration <sup>2</sup>
2022	209,920	-----	-----	791	1,811
2023	213,027	3,107	1.5%	1,134	1,758
2024	216,137	3,110	1.5%	1,191	1,705
2025	219,249	3,112	1.4%	1,244	1,653
2026	222,107	2,858	1.3%	1,258	1,600

<sup>1</sup> Natural Change = Births – Deaths

<sup>2</sup> Net Migration = (Domestic In Migration – Domestic Out Migration) + (Foreign In Migration – Out Migration)

Source: Office of Economic Opportunity, Population Projections Medium Series

Population projections provide useful insight into an area’s future demand for resources and services.<sup>3</sup> An area experiencing population declines may choose to focus efforts on filling current job positions, while an area experiencing population growth may choose to focus on job creation. Further analysis into the composition of growing or declining populations can be a useful next step.

- Arizona is projected to add more than 487,155 people to its population from 2022-2026, growing by an annualized rate of 1.6 percent.
- Yuma County is projected to add 12,187 people to its population from 2022-2026.
- Around 55 percent of Yuma County’s population growth is projected to come from migration into the county.

## Population Characteristics, 2021

Indicator	Yuma County	Arizona	United States
Population 16 Years and Over	157,081	5,650,624	264,087,642
Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate 16 and Over	52%	60%	63%
Median Household Income	\$52,563	\$65,913	\$69,021
Families in Poverty	15%	10%	9%
Median Age	35	38	38
Individuals with a Disability	13%	13%	13%
Veterans	9%	9%	7%
Uninsured	13%	11%	9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP03  
Office of Economic Opportunity

It is important to understand the employment barriers faced by those served when developing workforce strategies. Population characteristics can help illuminate vulnerable segments of an area’s population. An area with population characteristics that differ significantly from state or national averages may need to consider what best meets the needs of their unique population.

<sup>3</sup> Kaneda, T. & Bremer, J. (2014). “Understanding Population Projection: Behind the Numbers. Population Reference Bureau”. Retrieved from <https://www.prb.org/united-nations-population-projections/>

- Median age was lower in Yuma County than in Arizona or the United States.
- The labor force participation rate was substantially lower in Yuma County when compared with Arizona.
- There was a higher rate of families in poverty in Yuma County when compared with the United States and Arizona. This is reflected in Yuma County’s median household income being less than the statewide average median household income.

### Highest Education Achieved, 2021, Population Over 25 Years of Age

Indicator	Yuma County	Arizona	United States
Less than High School	12.8%	4.9%	4.8%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	26.6%	23.5%	26.5%
Some College, no degree	24.3%	24.6%	20.0%
Associate's Degree	8.3%	9.0%	8.7%
Bachelor's Degree	10.0%	19.3%	20.6%
Graduate or Professional Degree	5.7%	11.9%	13.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 5-Year Estimates, Table S1501 Office of Economic Opportunity

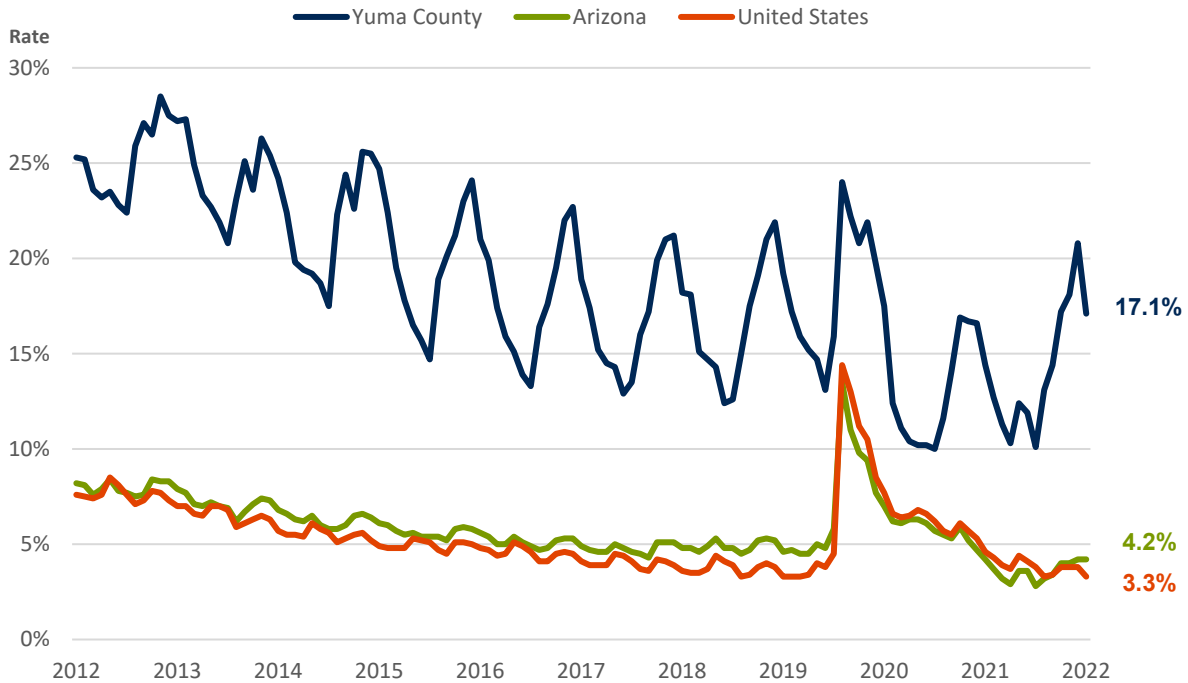
Understanding the current educational attainment of your local area’s available workforce is a crucial step in identifying the needs of job seekers and businesses. Education is an important element in determining job success, and, oftentimes, can lead directly to higher-paying jobs and lower rates of unemployment.<sup>4</sup>

- Seventy-five percent of Yuma County residents aged 25 and over have graduated from high school, less than the statewide rate of 88 percent.
- Comparatively, the percentage of Yuma County’s population with a bachelor’s degree or higher is 15 percent less than the state rate.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019) “Unemployment Rates and Earnings by Educational Attainment.” Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm>.

# WORKFORCE

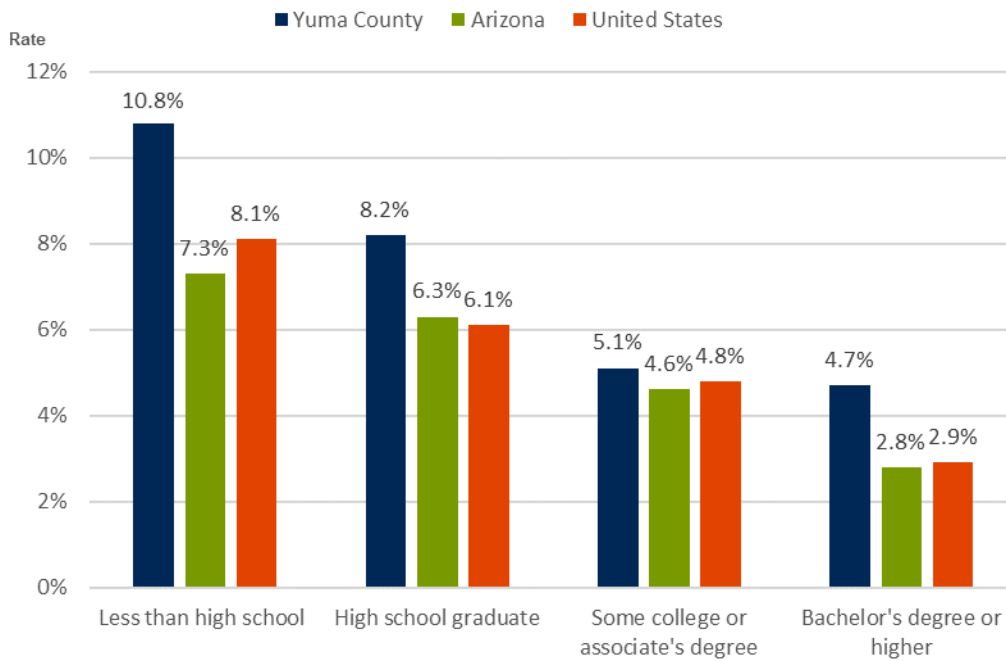
## Unemployment Rate Comparisons, Sep 2012-Sep 2022, Not-Seasonally Adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Office of Economic Opportunity

- Yuma County's unemployment rate for the past 10 years has trended higher than both the statewide and national rates.
- Yuma County's labor force level decreased from an annual average of 94,231 in 2020 to an annual average of 93,694 in 2021. Yuma County's pre-pandemic average labor force level (2017-2019) was 94,954.
- In 2021, there was an annual average of 12,102 unemployed people in Yuma County, compared with 14,077 unemployed people in 2020.
- The average unemployment rate in Yuma County during 2021 was 12.9 percent, 6.9 percent lower than the average from the previous nine years.

## Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment, 2021, Ages 25-64



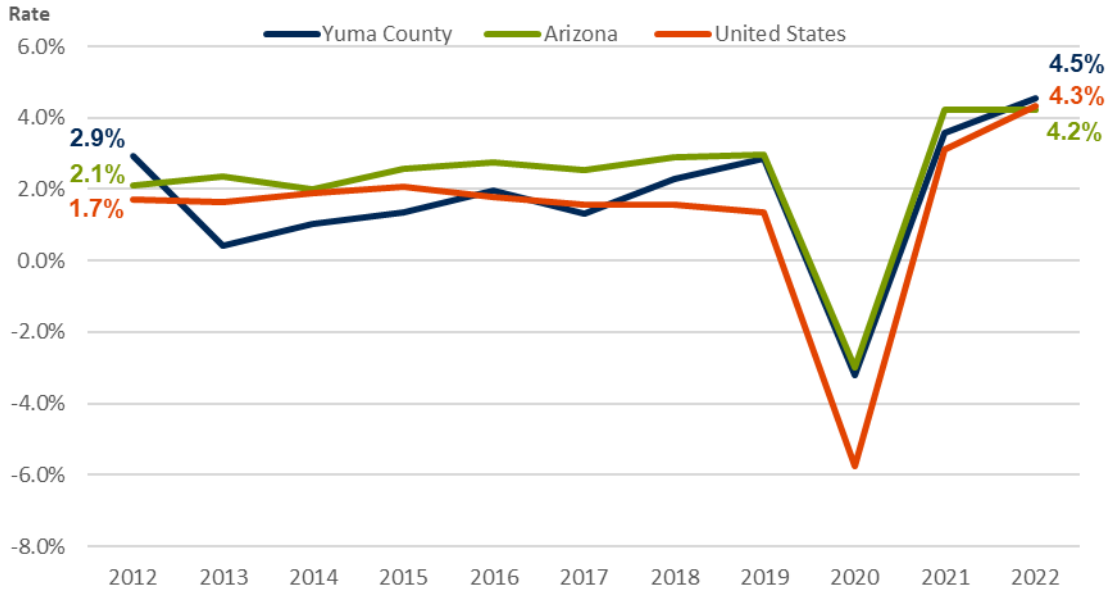
Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2021 5-Year Estimates, Table S2301  
Office of Economic Opportunity

Historically, higher educational attainment levels have been associated with lower levels of unemployment<sup>5</sup>. Understanding the relationship between unemployment and education can help determine which education levels are most in need of targeted workforce efforts.

- The unemployment rates across all education attainment levels in Yuma County were higher than the statewide and national rates.
- This disparity is smaller than in previous years.
- The unemployment rate for individuals with less than a high school diploma was higher in Yuma County (10.8 percent) when compared with Arizona (7.3 percent) and the United States (8.1 percent).

<sup>5</sup> National Center for Educational Statistics. (2019). "Employment and Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment." Retrieved from [https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator\\_cbc.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_cbc.asp)

## Average Nonfarm Employment Year-Over-Year Percentage Change, 2012-2022, Not-Seasonally Adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics  
Office of Economic Opportunity

- Total nonfarm employment increased by 7,000 jobs from 2012-2022, an annualized increase of 3.2 percent over this nine-year period. Over this same period, Arizona's average total nonfarm employment increased by 2.2 percent.
- Since the pandemic, Yuma County's job growth has generally trended alongside the state's growth rate.



## Yuma County Private Sector Industry Employment, 2016-2021

Industry	Average Employment (2016)	Average Employment (2021)	Numeric Growth (2016-2021)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2016-2021)
Natural Resources and Mining	13,523	NA	NA	NA
Financial Activities	860	1,385	525	10.0%
Construction	2,288	3,361	1,073	8.0%
Manufacturing	2,404	2,770	367	2.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,969	3,269	300	1.9%
Trade Transportation and Utilities	2,854	3,104	250	1.7%
Other Services	1,219	1,273	55	0.9%
Education and Health Services	6,174	6,411	237	0.8%
Professional and Business Services	2,219	2,313	95	0.8%
Information	484	330	-154	-7.4%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages  
Office of Economic Opportunity

- Eight of the private-sector industries recorded employment growth from 2016 to 2021, increasing by 2,747 jobs over this period.
- Of the 10 private sector industries, Education and Health Services made up the largest share of employment in 2021, followed by Construction.
- Construction experienced the largest numeric growth from 2016 – 2021 (1,073 jobs, 8.0 percent).

## Projected Industry Employment, 2021-2023

Area	Projected Employment (2021)	Projected Employment (2023)	Projected Numeric Growth (2021-2023)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2021-2023)
Arizona	3,109,190	3,375,515	266,325	4.2%
Balance of Maricopa	1,219,259	1,337,167	117,908	4.7%
City of Phoenix	1,013,840	1,095,437	81,597	3.9%
Coconino County	64,430	70,044	5,614	4.3%
Mohave and La Paz Counties	65,909	71,189	5,280	3.9%
Northeastern Arizona	64,496	68,182	3,686	2.8%
Pima County	397,174	427,695	30,521	3.8%
Pinal County	71,978	78,038	6,060	4.1%
Santa Cruz County	14,735	15,461	726	2.4%
Southeastern Arizona	54,206	57,926	3,720	3.4%
Yavapai County	71,559	77,411	5,852	4.0%
<b>Yuma County</b>	71,560	76,512	4,952	3.4%

NOTE: Maricopa Workforce Area includes Maricopa County excluding the City of Phoenix.  
Source: Office of Economic Opportunity, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

- All Arizona local workforce areas are expected to record employment growth from 2021 to 2023.
- Yuma County is projected to grow at 3.4 percent, lower than the statewide growth rate of 4.2 percent.

### Yuma County Workforce Area Projected Industry Employment, 2021-2023

Industry	Projected Employment (2021)	Projected Employment (2023)	Projected Numeric Growth (2021-2023)	Annualized Percentage Growth (2021-2023)
Financial Activities	3,100	3,726	626	9.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	7,597	8,821	1,224	7.8%
Information	382	417	35	4.5%
Construction	3,443	3,716	273	3.9%
Professional and Business Services	6,991	7,542	551	3.9%
Manufacturing	2,587	2,785	198	3.8%
Education and Health Services	12,430	13,374	944	3.7%
Trade Transportation and Utilities	12,363	13,081	718	2.9%
Other Services	1,613	1,660	47	1.4%
Natural Resources and Mining	9,757	9,221	-536	-2.8%

Source: Office of Economic Opportunity, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Job skills are constantly evolving with the emergence of new technologies and changing consumer habits. Job seekers can better prepare themselves by gaining skills within industries projected to have large employment needs.

- In Yuma County, Financial Activities is projected to record the largest growth rates, increasing by 9.6 percent annually through 2023.
- Leisure and Hospitality is projected to grow the second fastest in Yuma County.
- In 2023, the industry that employs the most people is projected to remain Education and Health Services, followed closely by Trade, Transportation, and Utilities.

# ARIZONA

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

100 North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue | Suite 400  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**Phone:** 602.771.2222

**Email:** [Laborinfo@oeo.az.gov](mailto:Laborinfo@oeo.az.gov)