

Utah 2065: Long-Term Planning Projections Summary

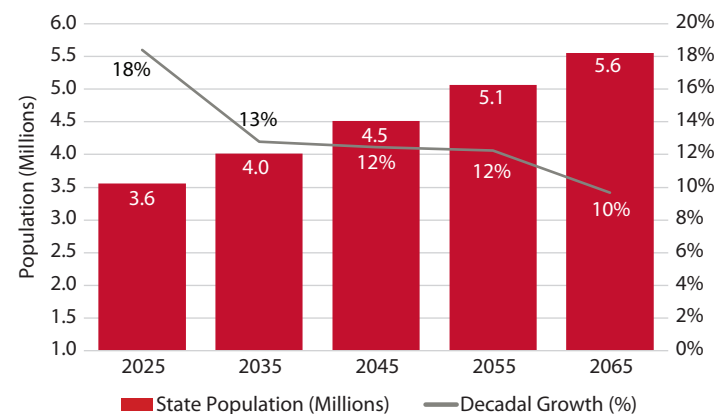
Authored by: Mike Hollingshaus, Senior Demographer; Michael Hogue, Senior Research Statistician; Mallory Bateman, Director of Demographic Research; Nate Lloyd, Director of Economic Research

Utah's demographic and economic future will be marked by significant growth and change. Over the next four decades, projections indicate Utah's population will increase from nearly 3.6 million residents to 5.6 million, an increase of 2 million people (the approximate size of Idaho today). Record levels of net immigration, declining natural change (births minus deaths), an aging population, and continuing urbanization characterize this growth. The Utah economy plays a vital role, with the health care, professional services, finance, and construction industries leading growth through 2065. By the end of the planning horizon, Utah's population will be larger, older, and more urban, with a service-oriented economy that remains well-diversified.

Key Findings:

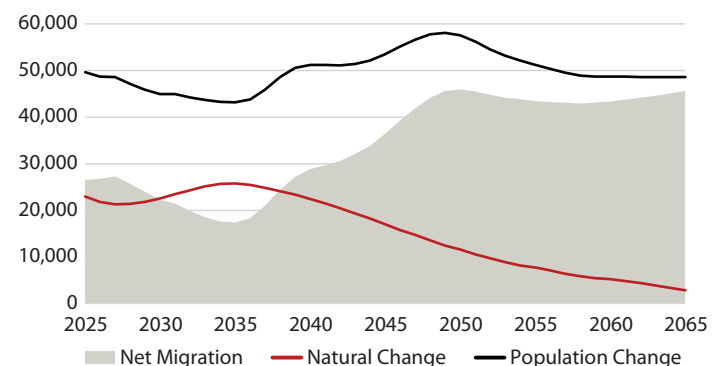
- **Population grows** - Utah's history of population growth and change will continue with nearly 3.6 million residents in 2025 increasing to 5.6 million in 2065.
- **Fastest Growing Counties** - Wasatch County leads the state in the average annual rate of population change over the next four decades (1.9%), with Utah (1.7%), Washington (1.5%), Tooele (1.5%), Morgan (1.5%), and Iron (1.4%), following closely behind.
- **Employment increases** - Continued employment growth and industry diversification result in the addition of 1.2 million jobs over the projection horizon. Industries with the largest increases are health care and social assistance; professional, scientific, and technical services; and finance and insurance.
- **Movers matter** - Except for eight years in the 2030s, net migration drives population growth statewide. Economic growth, combined with declining fertility and an aging population, drive this trend.
- **Household growth** - Statewide, projected population growth coincides with substantial household growth, from 1.2 million in 2025 to 2.3 million in 2065.
- **Smaller household sizes** - Decreasing household sizes, driven by lower fertility rates and an aging population, will continue, with a typical Utah household decreasing from nearly 3 people in 2025 to 2.3 in 2065.

Figure 1: Utah Projected Total Population and Decadal Growth Rates, 2025-2065



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2065 Projections

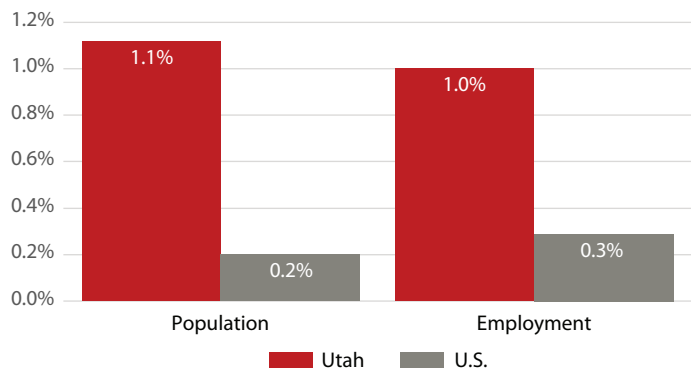
Figure 2: Projected Utah Components of Change, 2025-2065



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2065 Projections

- **Aging continues** - Utah's median age increases from 32.8 in 2025 to 45.3 in 2065, the result of both declining fertility rates and an aging population. The population age 65 and over will increase from one-in-eight residents to nearly one-in-four Utahns by 2065.
- **Salt Lake and Utah counties** - In 2065, Salt Lake County remains the most populated county (1.6 million), with Utah County closely trailing at 1.5 million.
- **Employment growth in urban counties** - Employment growth is largest in Salt Lake County (600,000 new jobs).

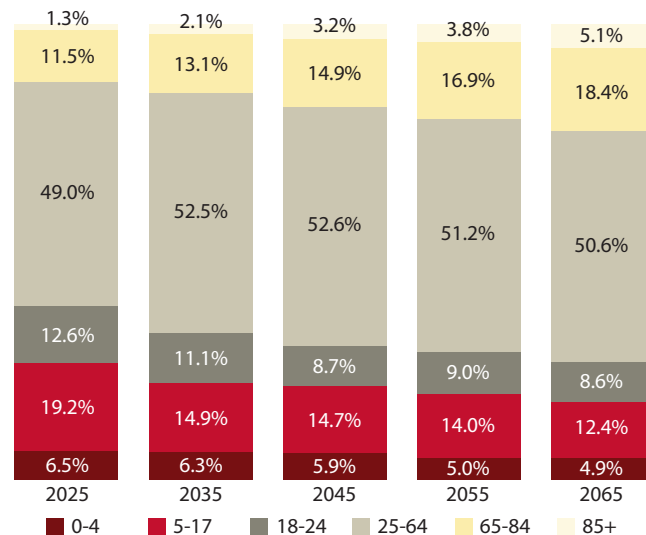
Figure 3: Projected Average Annual Rate of Change for Total Population and Employment in Utah and the U.S., 2025-2065



Note: Since projected U.S. employment is only available through 2055 we estimate average U.S. growth rates 2025-2065 by multiplying average 2025-2055 growth rates by the ratio of average 2025-2065 to 2025-2055 growth rates for Utah.

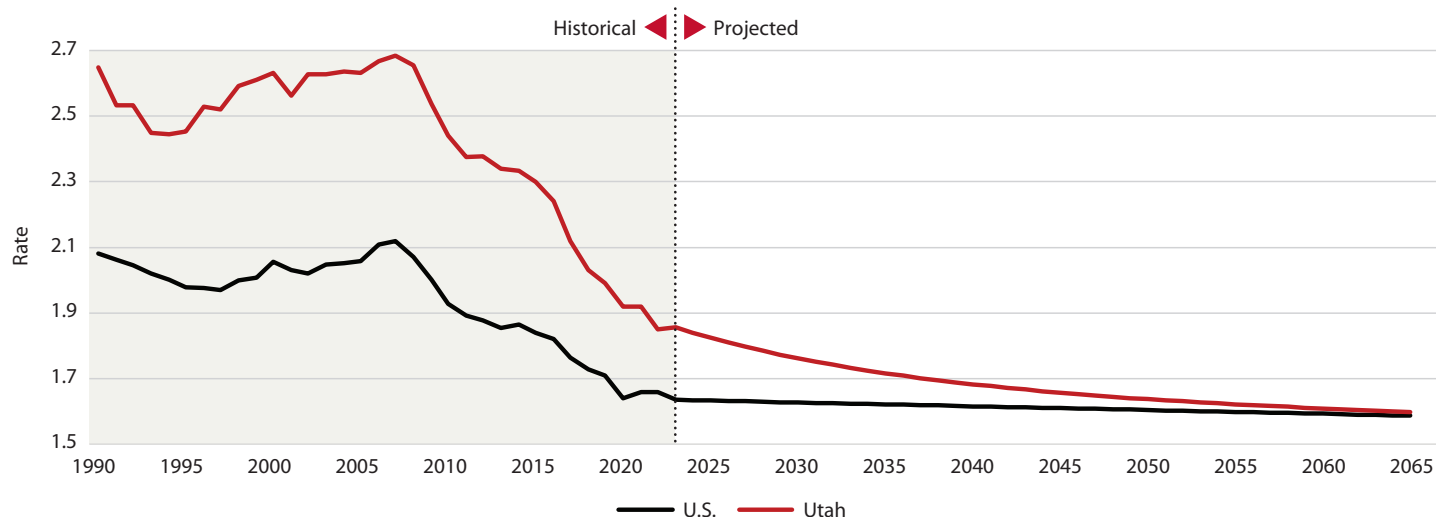
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2065 Projections; and calculations and extrapolations based on U.S. projections by the U.S. Census Bureau and S&P Global Insight.

Figure 4: Projected Utah Age Groups as a Percent of Total Population, 2025-2065



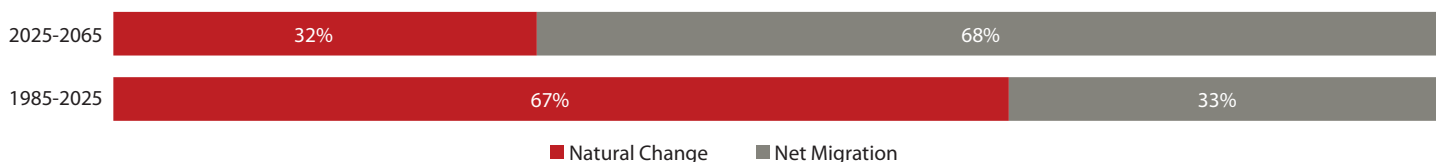
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2065 Projections

Figure 5: Historical and Projected U.S. and Utah Total Fertility Rate, 1990-2065



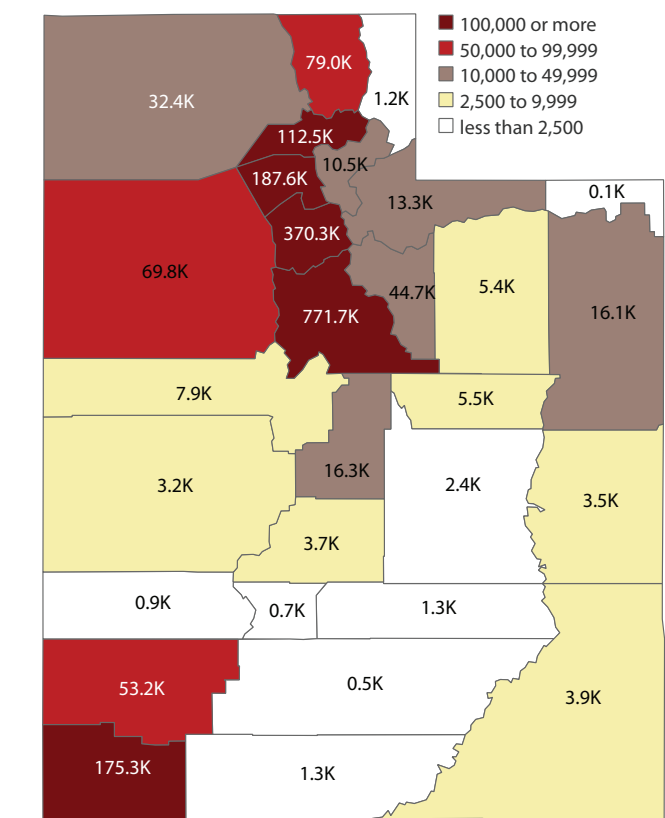
Sources: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics.

Figure 6: Historical and Projected Components of Change, 1985-2025 and 2025-2065



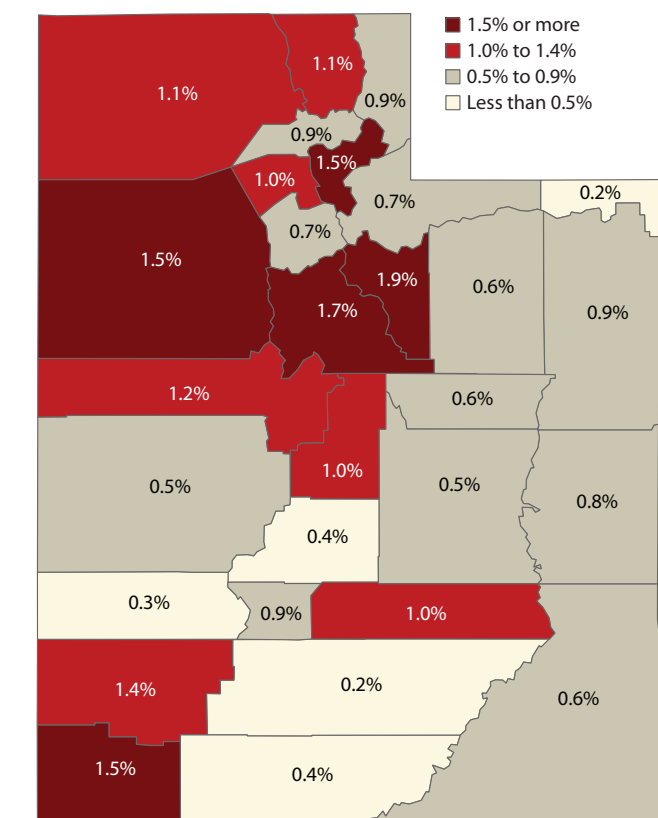
Source: Utah Population Estimate Committee, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute 2025-2065 Projections

Figure 7: Projected Population Change in Utah Counties, 2025-2065



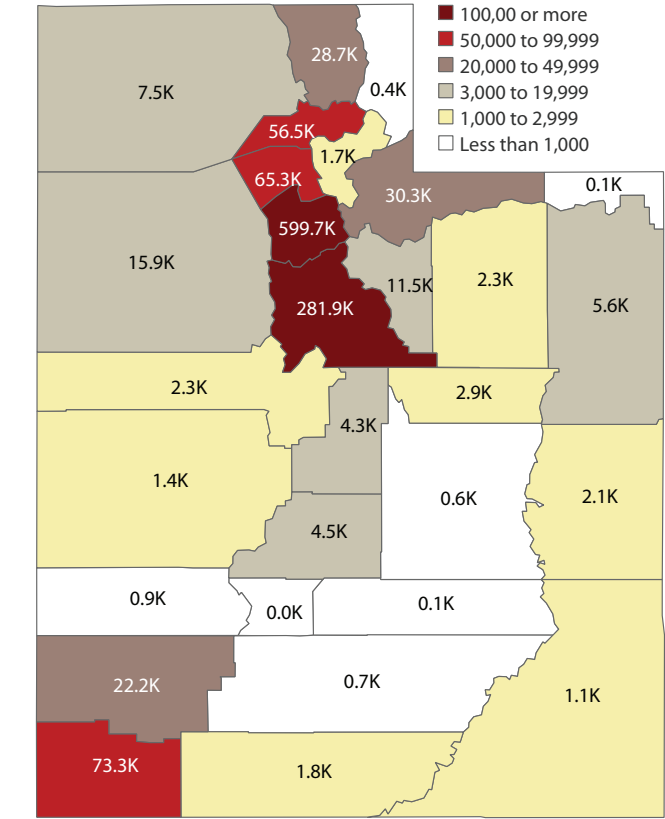
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2065 Projections

Figure 8: Projected Average Annual Rate of Population Change in Utah Counties, 2025-2065



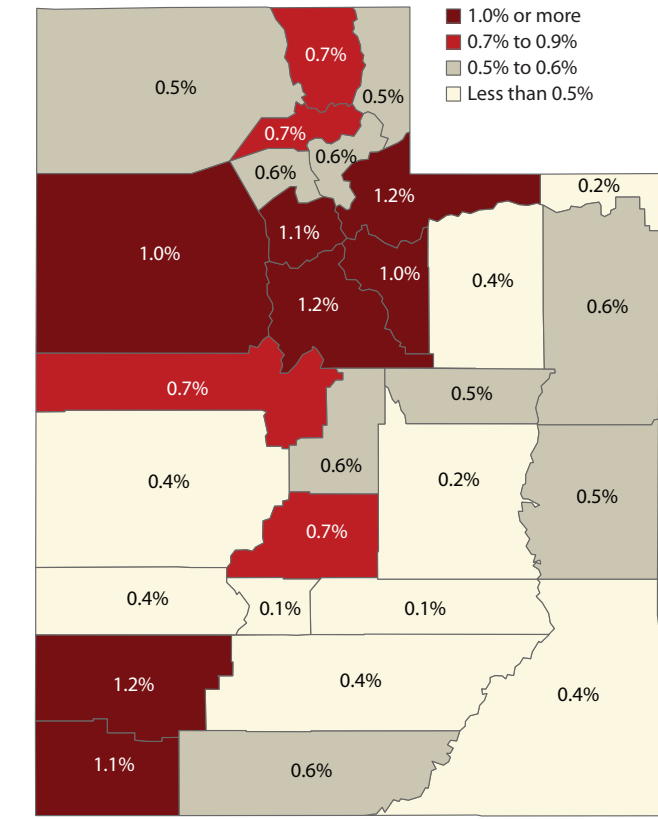
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2065 Projections

Figure 9: Projected Employment Change in Utah Counties, 2025-2065



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2065 Projections

Figure 10: Projected Average Annual Rate of Employment Change in Utah Counties, 2025-2065



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2065 Projections

Table 1: Projected Population and Employment for Utah, 2025-2065

Year	Total Population	Total Employment	Year	Total Population	Total Employment	Year	Total Population	Total Employment	Year	Total Population	Total Employment
2025	3,556,394	2,503,944	2036	4,054,481	2,783,614	2047	4,621,601	3,145,337	2058	5,210,480	3,536,055
2026	3,605,013	2,527,562	2037	4,100,379	2,813,129	2048	4,679,278	3,183,586	2059	5,259,110	3,564,775
2027	3,653,601	2,559,417	2038	4,148,924	2,846,574	2049	4,737,323	3,222,651	2060	5,307,746	3,593,542
2028	3,700,717	2,582,213	2039	4,199,428	2,879,512	2050	4,794,787	3,264,044	2061	5,356,374	3,620,298
2029	3,746,573	2,610,425	2040	4,250,633	2,912,784	2051	4,850,917	3,299,354	2062	5,404,943	3,647,700
2030	3,791,491	2,638,876	2041	4,301,823	2,943,238	2052	4,905,418	3,335,097	2063	5,453,475	3,675,024
2031	3,836,375	2,660,755	2042	4,352,916	2,973,911	2053	4,958,539	3,370,770	2064	5,501,991	3,702,212
2032	3,880,593	2,688,452	2043	4,404,301	3,005,138	2054	5,010,598	3,406,068	2065	5,550,525	3,729,317
2033	3,924,292	2,717,425	2044	4,456,446	3,037,356	2055	5,061,804	3,441,535			
2034	3,967,571	2,762,604	2045	4,509,916	3,072,009	2056	5,112,153	3,475,945			
2035	4,010,720	2,759,714	2046	4,565,002	3,107,827	2057	5,161,634	3,506,527			

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2065 Projections

Table 2: Utah Projected Population by Age Group, 2025-2065

Year	Ages 0-4	Ages 5-17	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-64	Ages 65-84	Ages 85+	Median Age
2025	229,829	682,644	446,959	1,744,121	407,629	45,211	32.8
2026	226,861	672,094	460,238	1,774,369	423,917	47,534	33.2
2027	223,637	663,411	471,821	1,805,007	439,487	50,238	33.5
2028	222,042	654,632	475,669	1,841,310	453,001	54,062	33.8
2029	221,542	647,187	475,212	1,879,396	465,845	57,390	34.1
2030	224,008	638,591	472,932	1,917,864	477,777	60,318	34.4
2031	228,370	628,617	469,293	1,958,231	488,863	63,001	34.7
2032	234,033	618,493	463,717	1,998,777	496,407	69,166	35.0
2033	240,411	608,992	457,013	2,038,632	504,875	74,369	35.2
2034	246,914	601,271	450,752	2,074,684	514,513	79,437	35.5
2035	252,961	596,748	443,894	2,107,075	525,674	84,367	35.7
2036	258,001	595,490	437,469	2,136,012	538,005	89,504	36.0
2037	261,978	596,786	431,893	2,165,679	548,965	95,078	36.2
2038	264,882	599,806	426,464	2,197,552	559,312	100,910	36.5
2039	266,732	605,511	420,158	2,229,690	570,344	106,992	36.8
2040	267,669	612,054	414,435	2,260,192	583,248	113,036	37.1
2041	268,001	620,223	408,538	2,288,412	597,697	118,953	37.5
2042	267,773	629,022	404,424	2,311,823	614,503	125,371	37.9
2043	267,089	639,973	400,433	2,332,360	632,613	131,832	38.2
2044	266,052	651,825	396,742	2,351,957	651,659	138,211	38.6
2045	264,790	663,906	393,112	2,371,629	671,996	144,483	39.0
2046	263,403	675,627	391,245	2,391,694	692,162	150,872	39.4
2047	261,956	686,432	390,359	2,413,068	712,706	157,080	39.8
2048	260,521	695,889	391,946	2,435,005	733,201	162,716	40.2
2049	259,145	703,609	395,493	2,458,997	752,407	167,672	40.6
2050	257,845	709,272	402,478	2,481,813	771,423	171,956	40.9
2051	256,673	712,792	411,907	2,504,459	789,465	175,621	41.3
2052	255,689	714,278	422,788	2,527,110	806,188	179,365	41.7
2053	254,967	714,099	434,174	2,548,829	823,176	183,293	42.0
2054	254,568	712,803	445,093	2,569,687	840,366	188,081	42.4
2055	254,519	710,601	454,979	2,589,792	857,859	194,054	42.7
2056	254,835	707,732	463,422	2,609,245	875,857	201,063	43.0
2057	255,515	704,448	470,150	2,629,340	894,694	207,487	43.3
2058	256,536	700,972	475,042	2,651,045	913,316	213,568	43.6
2059	257,887	697,570	478,181	2,675,300	930,034	220,138	43.9
2060	259,521	694,431	479,801	2,699,810	946,103	228,080	44.2
2061	261,390	691,755	480,346	2,723,454	962,348	237,080	44.5
2062	263,426	689,687	479,974	2,744,606	979,288	247,963	44.7
2063	265,564	688,351	478,814	2,766,338	994,559	259,850	45.0
2064	267,743	687,837	477,013	2,790,049	1,007,206	272,142	45.2
2065	269,925	688,198	474,724	2,810,612	1,022,111	284,954	45.3

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2065 Projections

Table 3: Utah Total Projected Employment by Industry, 2025-2065

Wage and Salary Employment	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2065	Absolute Change 2025-2065	Percent Change 2025-2065	Average Annual Percent Change 2025-2065
Accommodation And Food Services	155,653	155,224	151,585	156,206	160,749	165,364	169,956	175,821	20,168	13.0%	0.3%
Administrative, Support, Waste Management, And Remediation Services	120,435	135,206	155,638	174,807	190,547	202,093	210,898	228,192	107,757	89.5%	1.6%
Arts, Entertainment, And Recreation	59,439	71,368	73,316	76,334	80,062	83,040	85,951	93,926	34,487	58.0%	1.2%
Construction	180,728	202,761	214,615	217,035	216,699	239,399	272,172	301,577	120,849	66.9%	1.3%
Educational Services; Private	81,249	82,160	72,152	67,645	69,277	75,651	83,622	90,065	8,816	10.9%	0.3%
Farm	21,157	20,665	20,388	20,210	19,960	19,714	19,404	18,698	-2,459	-11.6%	-0.3%
Federal Civilian	41,951	41,656	40,791	41,457	40,938	41,628	40,949	40,829	-1,122	-2.7%	-0.1%
Federal Military	18,071	18,067	17,742	17,432	17,065	16,720	16,354	15,556	-2,515	-13.9%	-0.4%
Finance And Insurance	176,437	187,217	198,555	217,613	238,223	255,571	272,591	303,607	127,170	72.1%	1.4%
Forestry, Fishing, And Hunting	4,809	4,753	4,825	4,948	5,039	5,098	5,130	5,213	404	8.4%	0.2%
Health Care And Social Assistance	219,914	246,220	266,684	285,940	305,076	324,860	342,244	377,666	157,752	71.7%	1.4%
Information	50,235	51,483	53,357	58,805	61,161	62,473	62,755	65,586	15,351	30.6%	0.7%
Local Government	144,635	151,874	160,514	171,283	182,753	193,224	202,398	221,470	76,835	53.1%	1.1%
Management Of Companies And Enterprises	40,636	42,942	44,686	47,684	50,895	53,852	55,806	59,535	18,899	46.5%	1.0%
Manufacturing	165,114	172,774	183,958	197,630	207,744	219,054	229,285	245,817	80,703	48.9%	1.0%
Mining	15,392	14,495	16,647	16,216	16,419	17,070	17,840	16,800	1,408	9.1%	0.2%
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	119,718	128,367	132,818	142,807	152,647	160,738	167,768	182,283	62,565	52.3%	1.1%
Professional, Scientific, And Technical Services	200,359	203,670	223,101	243,585	266,988	301,457	323,048	357,749	157,390	78.6%	1.5%
Real Estate And Rental And Leasing	168,700	168,196	171,843	178,594	185,014	190,266	194,310	203,218	34,518	20.5%	0.5%
Retail Trade	234,308	242,441	254,683	267,322	282,082	298,906	315,720	341,143	106,835	45.6%	0.9%
State Government	96,663	104,422	110,966	119,651	129,936	141,907	154,393	177,960	81,297	84.1%	1.5%
Transportation And Warehousing	111,824	116,265	113,243	109,468	109,292	109,154	108,853	109,095	-2,729	-2.4%	-0.1%
Utilities	6,685	5,769	5,145	4,902	4,701	4,588	4,506	4,612	-2,073	-31.0%	-0.9%
Wholesale Trade	69,832	70,877	72,463	75,209	78,742	82,218	85,583	92,900	23,068	33.0%	0.7%
Total Jobs	2,503,944	2,638,876	2,759,714	2,912,784	3,072,009	3,264,044	3,441,535	3,729,317	1,225,373	48.9%	1.0%

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2065 Projections

Table 4: Utah Projected Population by County, 2025-2065

County	2025	2035	2045	2055	2065	Absolute Change 2025-2065	Percent Change 2025-2065	Average Annual Percent Change 2025-2065
Beaver	7,533	7,784	7,992	8,217	8,389	856	11.4%	0.3%
Box Elder	62,339	68,543	76,852	86,166	94,736	32,397	52.0%	1.1%
Cache	145,171	161,047	181,374	203,761	224,129	78,958	54.4%	1.1%
Carbon	20,428	20,887	22,593	24,713	25,926	5,498	26.9%	0.6%
Daggett	984	995	1,020	1,057	1,075	91	9.2%	0.2%
Davis	381,508	413,783	464,130	519,234	569,141	187,633	49.2%	1.0%
Duchesne	20,186	21,568	22,812	24,659	25,571	5,385	26.7%	0.6%
Emery	10,193	10,245	11,054	12,059	12,635	2,442	24.0%	0.5%
Garfield	5,119	5,236	5,373	5,520	5,633	514	10.0%	0.2%
Grand	9,903	10,480	11,326	12,417	13,376	3,473	35.1%	0.8%
Iron	69,982	87,577	99,265	112,444	123,138	53,156	76.0%	1.4%
Juab	13,386	15,635	17,439	19,436	21,259	7,873	58.8%	1.2%
Kane	8,398	8,774	9,088	9,427	9,688	1,290	15.4%	0.4%
Millard	13,704	14,707	15,629	16,417	16,940	3,236	23.6%	0.5%
Morgan	13,117	14,166	17,069	20,441	23,643	10,526	80.2%	1.5%
Piute	1,701	2,129	2,248	2,344	2,402	701	41.2%	0.9%
Rich	2,859	3,302	3,542	3,807	4,049	1,190	41.6%	0.9%
Salt Lake	1,241,601	1,322,469	1,420,497	1,522,607	1,611,928	370,327	29.8%	0.7%
San Juan	15,037	16,039	16,885	17,977	18,936	3,899	25.9%	0.6%
Sanpete	31,444	36,605	41,101	45,037	47,738	16,294	51.8%	1.0%
Sevier	21,943	22,458	23,905	25,002	25,643	3,700	16.9%	0.4%
Summit	43,374	45,164	49,528	53,571	56,650	13,276	30.6%	0.7%
Tooele	83,733	100,653	117,621	136,405	153,551	69,818	83.4%	1.5%
Uintah	36,428	40,683	44,360	49,820	52,515	16,087	44.2%	0.9%
Utah	772,019	966,949	1,149,646	1,354,791	1,543,744	771,725	100.0%	1.7%
Wasatch	39,428	46,568	58,072	71,437	84,126	44,698	113.4%	1.9%
Washington	209,084	250,602	293,296	343,511	384,339	175,255	83.8%	1.5%
Wayne	2,555	2,858	3,266	3,621	3,861	1,306	51.1%	1.0%
Weber	273,234	292,813	322,935	355,904	385,763	112,529	41.2%	0.9%
State of Utah	3,556,394	4,010,720	4,509,916	5,061,804	5,550,525	1,994,131	56.1%	1.1%

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2065 Projections

Background and Assumptions

The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute prepares planning projections using an integrated demographic and economic modeling process. We utilize two custom-built models:

- the Utah Demographic and Economic Model (UDEM), an adapted demographic cohort-component model, and
- the Gardner Institute Trend Model (GITM), an economic model that projects by major industries and includes economic overlays for specific events.

UDEM projects the usual resident population for July 1 of each year. GITM follows the Bureau of Economic Analysis concept of employment, which counts full- and part-time wage and salary jobs, as well as self-employment. UDEM incorporates the GITM employment projections as a key input to determine population capacity, primarily operating through net migration.

Baseline projections

These long-term planning projections provide a reasonable expectation of the future, based on informed modeling of current data and assumptions. Today's known and anticipated events drive the results. However, policy decisions, investments, and unanticipated events can yield different outcomes, and modeling in times of volatility can be particularly challenging.

This set of projections incorporates data from state, federal, and private industry resources. These include the most recent available population estimates, revised age structure and migration input data based on the 2020 census, revised fertility and mortality rates, new employment data, and a list of specific economic events.

Uncertainty

The 40-year horizon for these projections will include things that were not anticipated in this product. This uncertainty is inherent in projection work. To illustrate this uncertainty, in 2026 the Gardner Institute will share reasonable high and low scenarios for these long-term planning projections for the state and counties. These scenarios provide a more holistic representation to help decision-makers consider the paths Utah's future may take.

Table 5: Main Demographic Assumptions for 2025-2065 State and County Projections

Fertility	The total fertility rate is projected to decline from 1.83 in 2025 to 1.60 in 2065. This, combined with the already rapidly declining birthrate, has a significant impact on the projected childhood population.
Mortality	Life expectancy is projected to increase from 82.2 to 86.6 for females and 78.3 to 83.3 for males between 2025 and 2065.
Net Migration	A significant portion of labor-related migrants are assumed to be aged 20-30, and a ratio of retirement-to-labor migrants informs movement of older residents. The model allocates state retirement migration between counties by using a ratio approach, which permits net in or out migration from observed decennial data.

Table 6: Major Economic Overlays in 2025-2065 State and County Projections

2034 Winter Olympics	Utah will host the 2034 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Economic activity for the Games largely begins in 2028, hitting a peak in 2033 and 2034.
Energy	The IPP coal-fired power plant in Millard County is converted to natural gas, with operations beginning in 2025 and continuing into the future. The existing coal-powered power plant stays operational in the projection horizon. Renewable energy projects are constructed in Emery and Beaver counties during the mid-to-late 2020s. The Uinta Basin Railway is constructed in the late 2020s.
The Point	Incorporate employment assumptions used by The Point for the complete redevelopment plan (into the 2040s).
Real Estate Development	Several large-scale developments in and around downtown Salt Lake City (Power District and Sports & Entertainment District) and the Daybreak community from 2025 through the early 2040s.
Infrastructure	Washington County adds wastewater treatment infrastructure over the next several decades. Increasing economic activity at the Utah Inland Port Authority's Iron Springs site in Iron County.
New Firms	Several firms begin or expand their operation in the state, spanning various industries and multiple counties.

Partners in the Community

The following individuals and entities help support the research mission of the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute.

Legacy Partners

The Gardner Company
Christian and Marie Gardner Family
Intermountain Health
Clark and Christine Ivory Foundation
KSL and Deseret News
Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation
Mountain America Credit Union
Salt Lake City Corporation
Salt Lake County
University of Utah Health
Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity
WCF Insurance
Zions Bank

Executive Partners

The Boyer Company
Clyde Companies

Sustaining Partners

Enbridge
Salt Lake Chamber
Staker Parson Materials and Construction
Wells Fargo

Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Advisory Board

Conveners

Michael O. Leavitt
Mitt Romney

Board

Scott Anderson, Co-Chair
Gail Miller, Co-Chair
Doug Anderson
Deborah Bayle
Roger Boyer
Michelle Camacho
Sophia M. DiCaro

Cameron Diehl
Kurt Dirks
Lisa Eccles
Spencer P. Eccles
Christian Gardner
Kem C. Gardner
Kimberly Gardner
Natalie Gochmour
Brandy Grace
Jeremy Hafen
Clark Ivory
Ann Marie McDonald

Derek Miller
Ann Millner
Sterling Nielsen
Jason Perry
Ray Pickup
Gary B. Porter
Taylor Randall
Jill Remington Love
Josh Romney
Charles W. Sorenson
James Lee Sorenson
Vicki Varela

Ex Officio (invited)

Governor Spencer Cox
Speaker Mike Schultz
Senate President
Stuart Adams
Representative
Angela Romero
Senator Luz Escamilla
Mayor Jenny Wilson
Mayor Erin Mendenhall

Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Staff and Advisors

Leadership Team

Natalie Gochmour, Associate Dean and Director
Jennifer Robinson, Chief of Staff
Mallory Bateman, Director of Demographic Research
Phil Dean, Chief Economist and Senior Research Fellow
Shelley Kruger, Director of Accounting and Finance
Colleen Larson, Associate Director of Administration
Nate Lloyd, Director of Economic Research
Dianne Meppen, Director of Community Research
Laura Summers, Director of Public Policy Research
Nicholas Thiriot, Communications Director
James A. Wood, Ivory-Boyer Senior Fellow

Staff

Eric Albers, Senior Natural Resources Policy Analyst
Samantha Ball, Dignity Index Research Director
Parker Banta, Public Policy Analyst
Melanie Beagley, Senior Health Research Analyst
Kristina Bishop, Research Economist
Andrea Thomas Brandley, Senior Education Analyst
Kara Ann Byrne, Senior Health and Human Services Analyst
Nate Christensen, Research Economist
Moirra Dillow, Housing, Construction, and Real Estate Analyst
John C. Downen, Senior Research Fellow
Dejan Eskic, Senior Research Fellow and Scholar
Kate Farr, Monson Center Maintenance Specialist
Chance Hansen, Communications Specialist

Emily Harris, Senior Demographer
Michael T. Hogue, Senior Research Statistician
Mike Hollingshaus, Senior Demographer
Madeleine Jones, Dignity Index Field Director
Jennifer Leaver, Senior Tourism Analyst
Maddy Oritt, Senior Public Finance Economist
Levi Pace, Senior Research Economist
Praopan Pratoomchat, Senior Research Economist
Heidi Prior, Public Policy Analyst
Megan Rabe, Demography Research Associate
Natalie Roney, Research Economist
Shannon Simonsen, Research Coordinator
Paul Springer, Senior Graphic Designer
Gaby Velasquez, Monson Center Special Events Coordinator
Cayley Wintch, Monson Center Building Manager
David Witt, Dignity Index Program Associate

Senior Advisors

Jonathan Ball, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Ari Bruening, Community-at-Large
Silvia Castro, Suazo Business Center
Gary Cornia, Marriott School of Business
Beth Jarosz, Population Reference Bureau
Pamela S. Perlich, University of Utah
Chris Redgrave, Community-at-Large
Juliette Tennert, Community-at-Large

INFORMED DECISIONS™