



# UTAH INFORMED

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VISUAL INTELLECTION FOR 2026

★ ★ ★ ★ UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1776-2026 ★ ★ ★ ★

**Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute**

DAVID ECCLES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

In Partnership with the Utah Chamber

KEM C. GARDNER POLICY INSTITUTE

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INFORMED  
RESEARCH

*that guides*

INFORMED  
DISCUSSIONS

*and leads to*

INFORMED  
DECISIONS<sup>TM</sup>

January 2026

Dear friends,

Historian Walter Isaacson calls the second line of the Declaration of Independence “the greatest sentence ever crafted by the human hand.” In just 35 words, the drafting committee – led by Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin – expressed our nation’s aspirational mission statement: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

The sentence is as bold as it is breathtaking. It conveys our national identity, even as it reminds us of our shortfalls. We remain a work in progress, always striving, but never quite reaching our collective goal.

This edition of *Utah Informed* commemorates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and our journey to “create a more perfect union.” With an emphasis on the 45th state, each visual conveys a success or struggle, an idea to ponder, or an ideal worth pursuing.

Utah shines as an economic masterclass but also faces numerous challenges. We fall short in early literacy, health care access, housing affordability, and more. An underlying and unspoken theme is the clarion call for leadership. We feel the need to unify behind a noble goal, but can we?

As we celebrate our semi-quincentennial, may we be ever mindful of the aspirations expressed by our nation’s founders. The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute stands ready to serve as an honest broker of informed research, which guides informed discussions, and leads to INFORMED DECISIONS™.

Thanks for your interest and patriotism,



Natalie Gochnour  
Director, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute



Kurt Dirks  
Dean, David Eccles School of Business



Derek Miller  
President & CEO, Utah Chamber and Salt Lake Chamber

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America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary

*We hold* **THESE TRUTHS**  
*to be self-evident, that* **ALL MEN**  
*are* **CREATED EQUAL,** *that*  
*they are* **ENDOWED BY**  
**THEIR CREATOR** *with certain*  
**UNALIENABLE RIGHTS,**  
*that among these are* **LIFE, LIBERTY,**  
*and the pursuit of* **HAPPINESS.**

- Declaration of Independence

# Words and phrases to know in 2026

## **Debasement trade**

The broad diversification away from fiat currencies such as the dollar and towards gold, bitcoin, etc.

## **Digital native**

A person born or brought up during the age of digital technology and therefore familiar with computers and the internet from an early age.

## **Fear of a better option (FOBO)**

The anxiety that something better will come along, which makes it undesirable to commit to existing choices when making a decision. This specifically refers to decisions where there are perfectly acceptable options in front of us, yet we struggle to choose just one. An affliction of abundance.

## **Generative engine optimization (GEO)**

A digital marketing strategy that focuses on optimizing content to be used as a source by AI-powered search engines like ChatGPT, moving beyond traditional SEO methods.

## **Ghost jobs**

Job listings for positions that do not exist or that employers have no intention of filling immediately; often used to project an image of growth, drive traffic to websites, or build a resume database.

## **Job hugging**

The act of staying in your current job, even if not satisfied, due to an uncertain labor market. Opposite of "job hopping," which gained popularity during the "Great Resignation" of 2021 and 2022.

## **Paper ceiling**

An invisible barrier limiting the career advancement of workers without a bachelor's degree.

## **Skilled through alternative routes (STARs)**

Adults who have developed marketable skills through methods other than a traditional four-year bachelor's degree, such as on-the-job experience, military service, community college, or vocational training programs.

## **Upstander**

Someone who risks their own social capital to stand up against injustice.

## **Working grandma**

A grandmother who remains in the workforce, often balancing her career with providing childcare and support for her grandchildren.

## **Zillenials**

A micro-generation born on the cusp of the Millennial and Gen Z generations, typically from the early to mid-1990s to the late 1990s or early 2000s.

# Executive overdrive, legislative underdrive

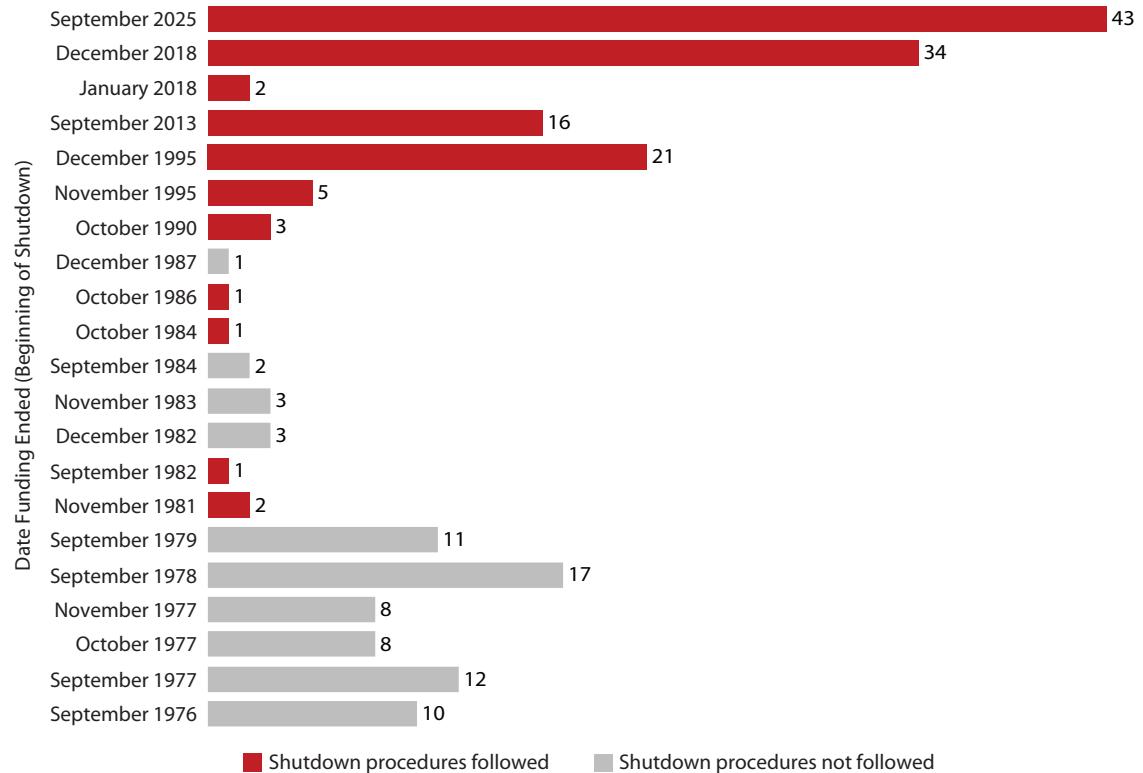
## Presidential Executive Orders in First 100 Days



Source: NBC News analysis of Federal Register data, PIMCO, and Visual Capitalist

# Mind the gap

## Duration of Funding Gaps in U.S. Federal Government Shutdowns, 1976-2025

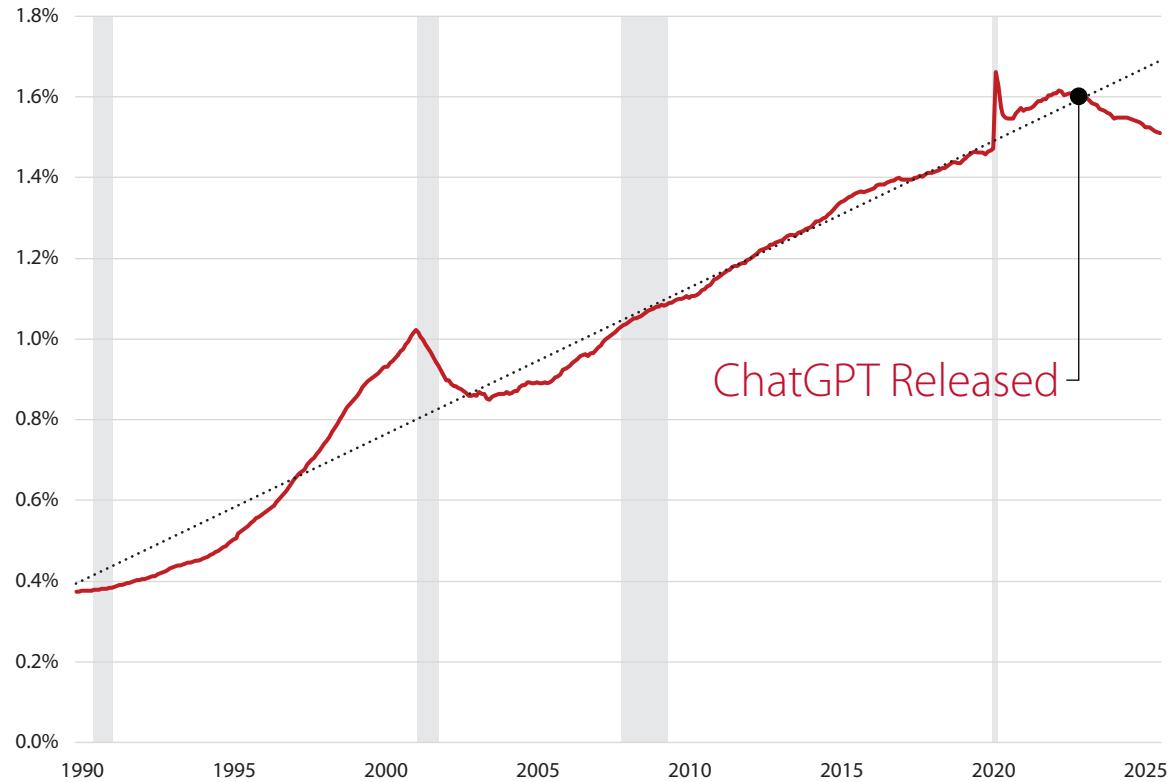


Note: Includes shutdowns lasting more than one day and both full and partial shutdowns. The 1977 shutdown marks the first federal shutdown according to the modern definition. Following shutdown procedures means that agencies were closed and their employees furloughed as a result of the funding gap.

Source: History, Art & Archives, U.S. House of Representatives

# Shift happens

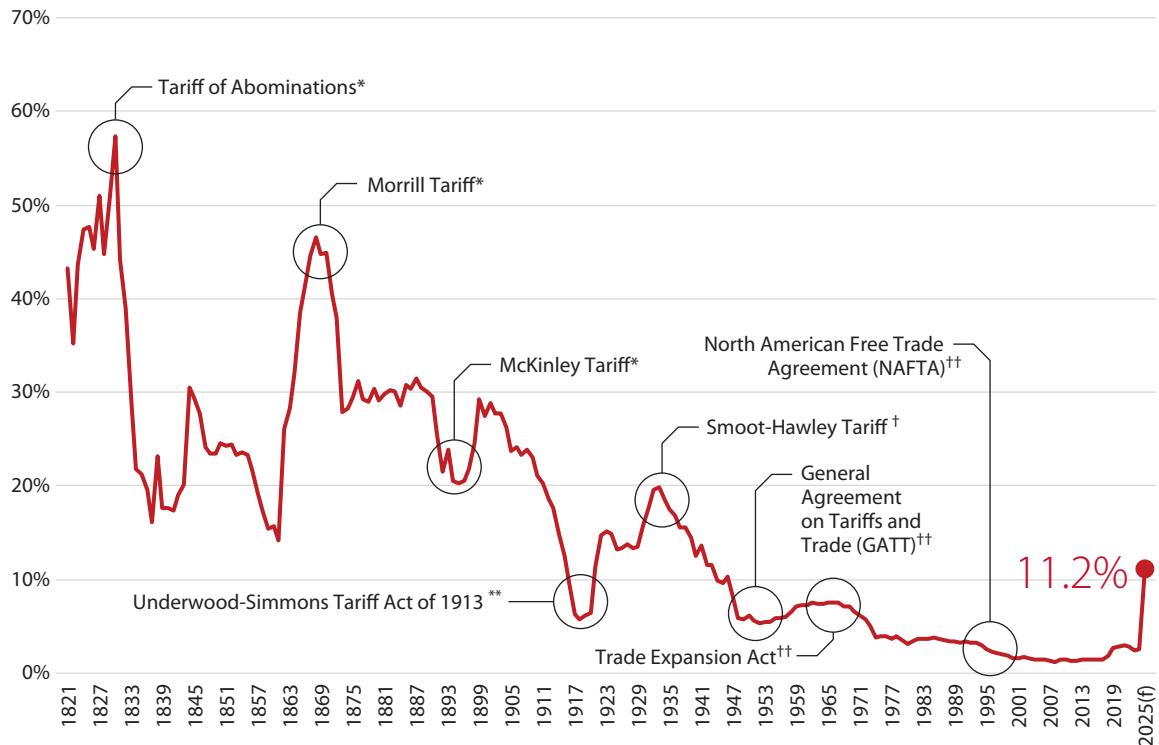
## U.S. Tech Services Jobs as Share of Total Nonfarm Employment, Jan 1990-Sept 2025



Note: Data are seasonally adjusted. Tech services jobs refer to NAICS 541500, Computer Systems Design and Related Services.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Moody's Analytics

# Protection against low prices

## Effective Tariff Rate on All Imports, 1821-2025(e)



\* Introduced steep protective tariffs that often led to intense political opposition.

\*\* Reduced tariffs and replaced lost revenue with federal income tax.

† Raised tariffs to protect domestic producers during the Great Depression.

†† Lowered trade barriers to promote international trade.

Source: Tax Foundation

# Suffer the children

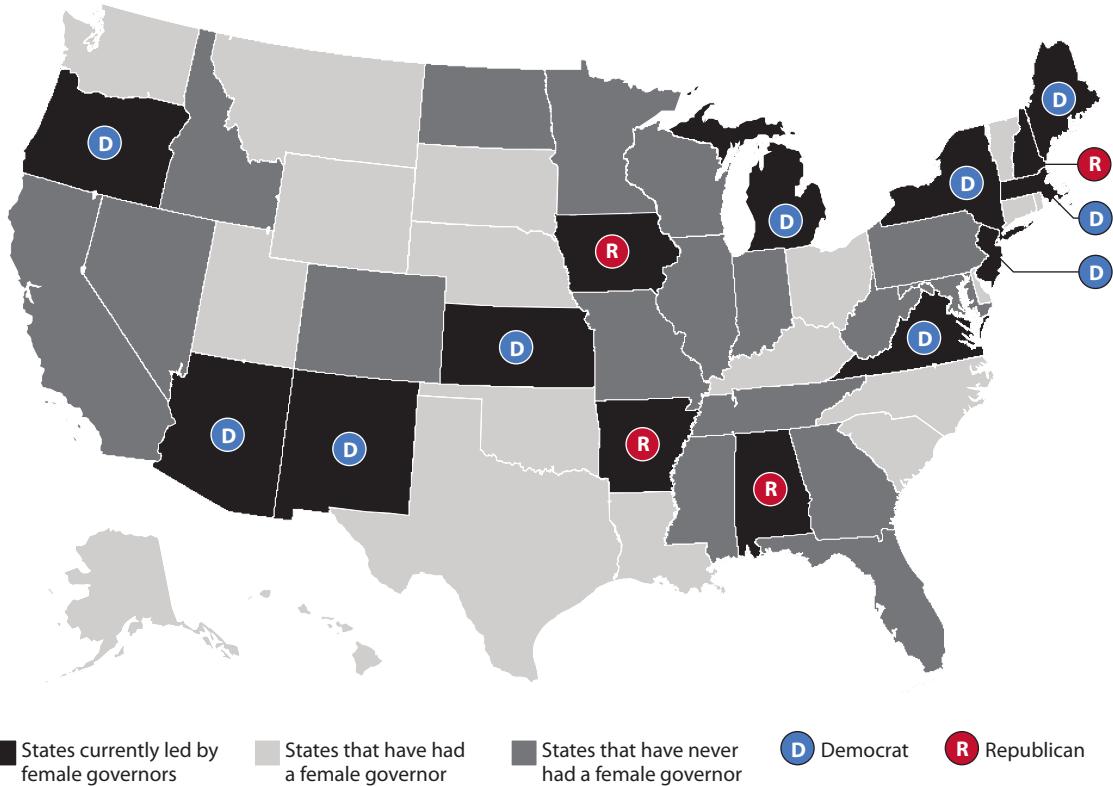
## U.S. Homeless Students (Pre-K to 12th Grade), 2004-2023



Source: U.S. Department of Education, ED Data Express, 2025

# Welcome, Madam Governor

## States Led by Female Governors, 2026



Note: Female governors serve in a record-tying 14 states as of January 2026, while 18 states have never elected a woman to the position.  
Source: Center for American Women and Politics

# Feeling jittery

**U.S. Economic Policy Uncertainty Index, Jan 1985-Nov 2025**

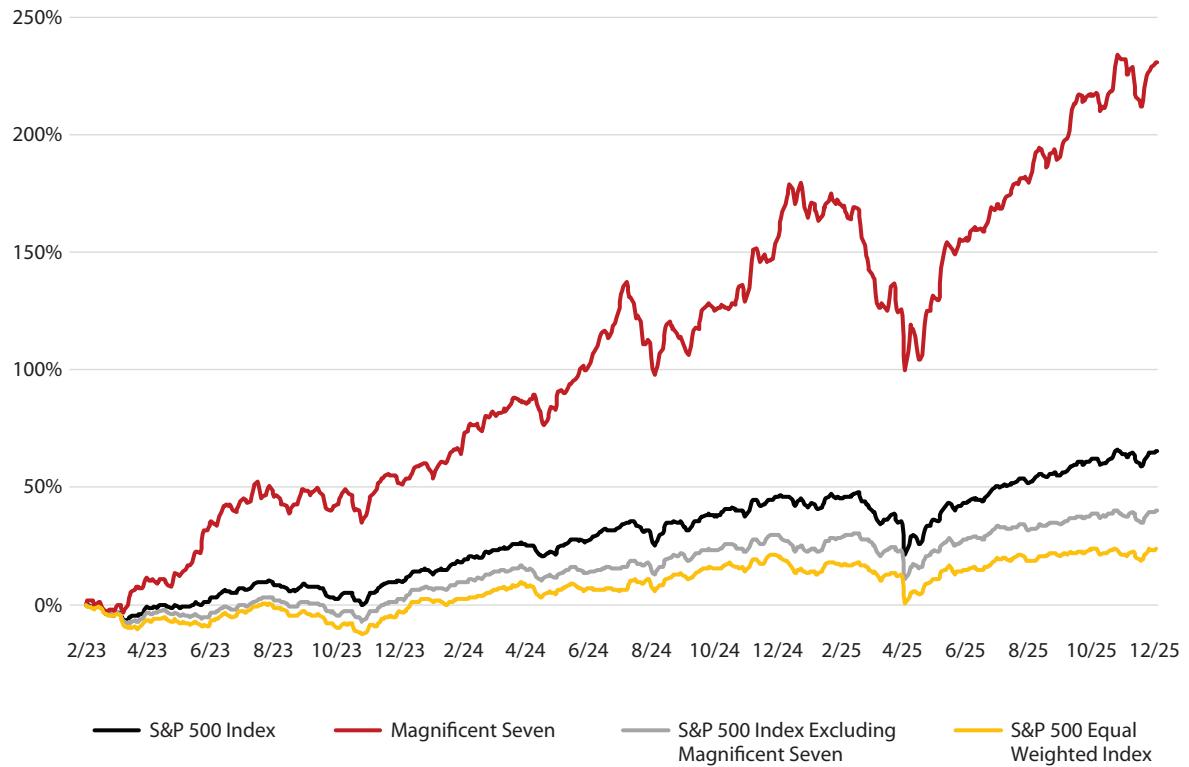


Note: The economic policy uncertainty index reflects scaled frequency counts of articles in 10 leading newspapers that mention economic uncertainty. Grey bars indicate periods of recession.

Source: Baker, Scott R.; Bloom, Nick; Davis, Stephen J. (2012), "Measuring Economic Uncertainty"

## Too few eggs in the basket

**S&P 500 Index and Magnificent Seven Cumulative Percent Change, Feb 2023-Nov 2025**

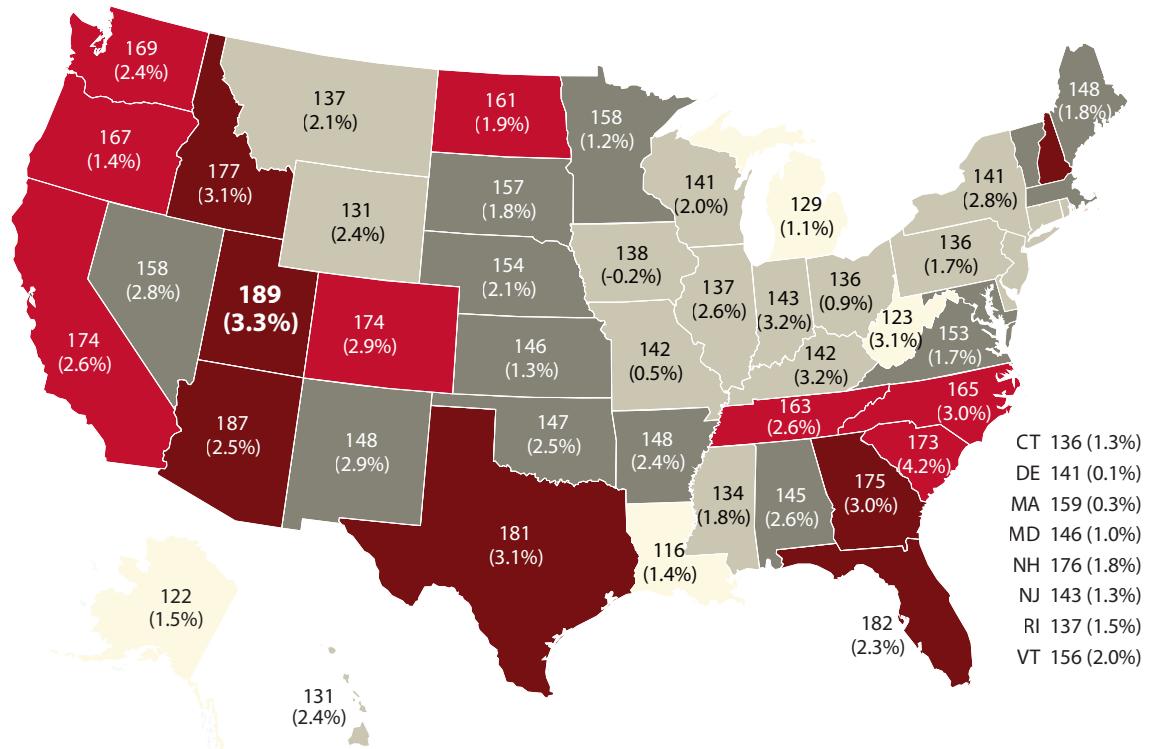


Note: The Magnificent Seven represents a popular grouping of the seven largest and most influential technology-focused companies in the U.S. stock market. It includes Apple Inc.; Microsoft Corp.; Amazon.com, Inc.; Alphabet Inc. (Google's parent company); Meta Platforms, Inc. (Facebook's parent company); Nvidia Corp.; and Tesla, Inc. Source: Bloomberg L.P.

# Utah is no coincidence

## Coincident Index by State, August 2025

Value and Year-Over Percent Change



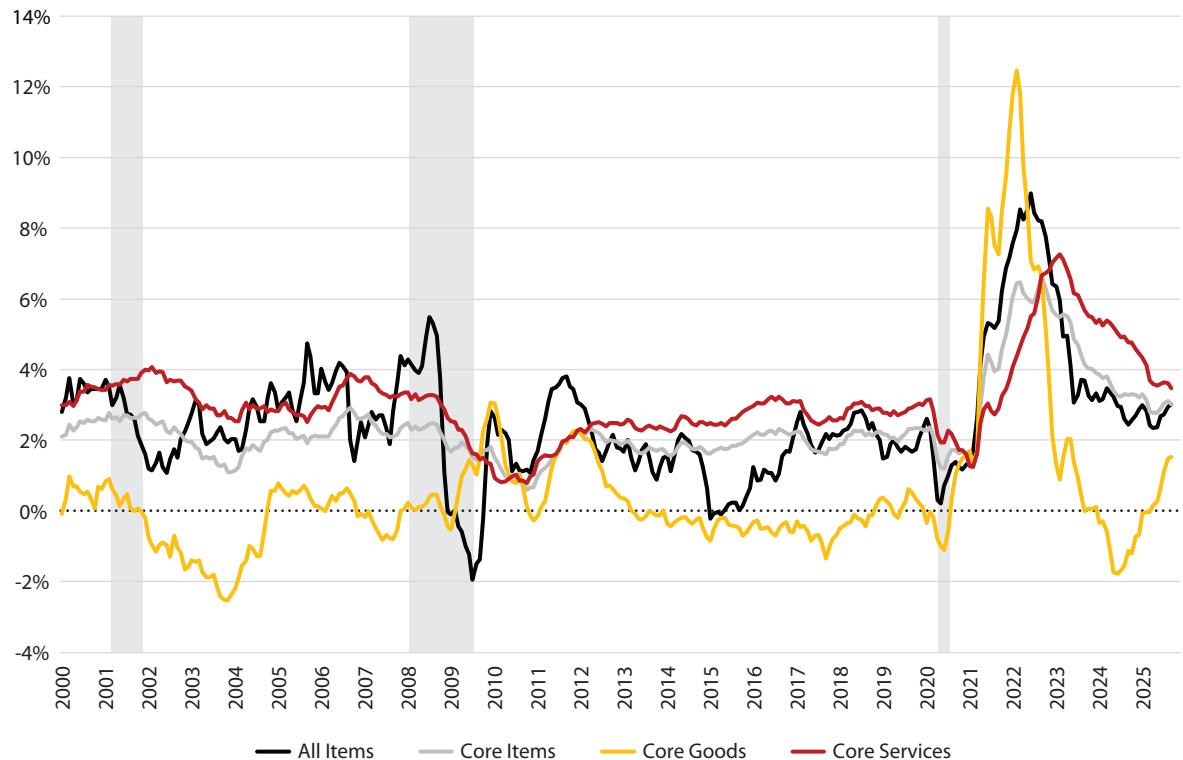
Note: Four state-level indicators summarize current economic conditions in the coincident indexes: nonfarm payroll employment, average hours worked in manufacturing by production workers, the unemployment rate, and the sum of wages and salaries with proprietors' income (two components of personal income) deflated by the consumer price index (U.S. city average). The indexes measure growth relative to the 2007 base year (100).

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

# Pandemic data distortion #1

## Inflation, Year-Over Percent Change, Jan 2000-Nov 2025

Consumer Price Index



Note: Core measures exclude food and energy. The CPI includes housing under services, which represents a large driver of recent inflation.

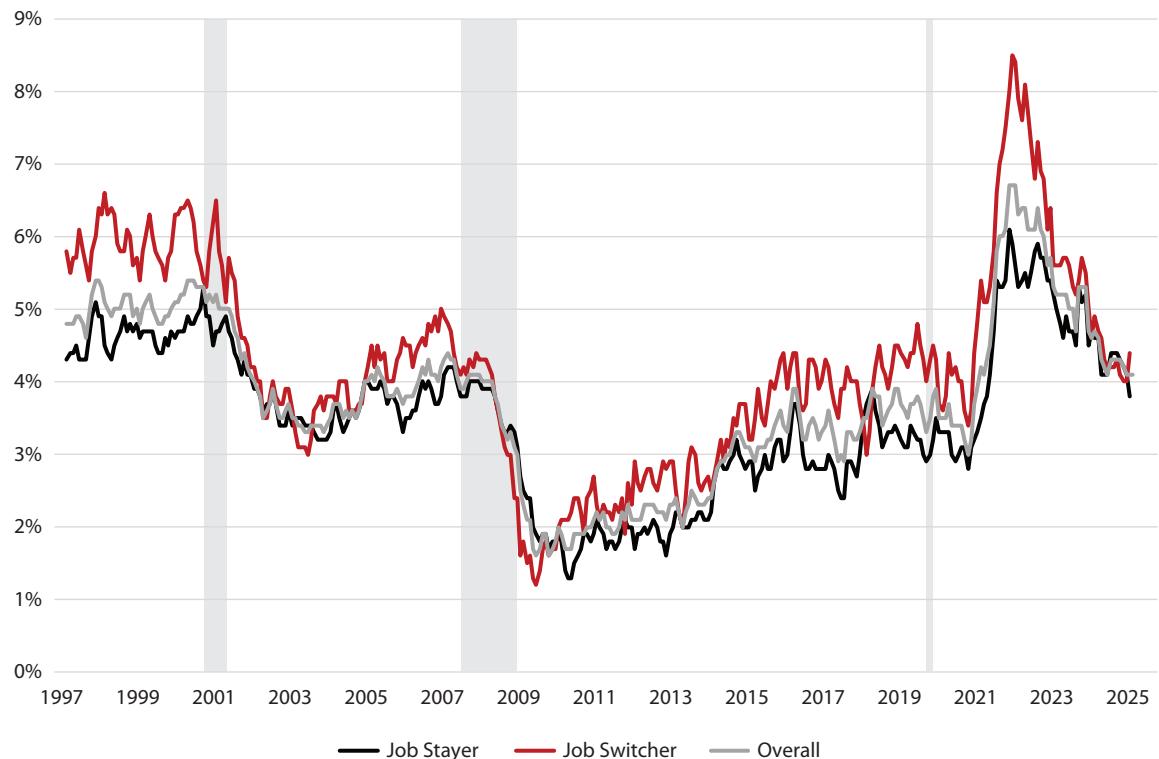
October 2025 data are missing due to the federal government shutdown. Grey bars indicate periods of recession.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Pandemic data distortion #2

### U.S. Median Wage Growth, Sept 1997-Sept 2025

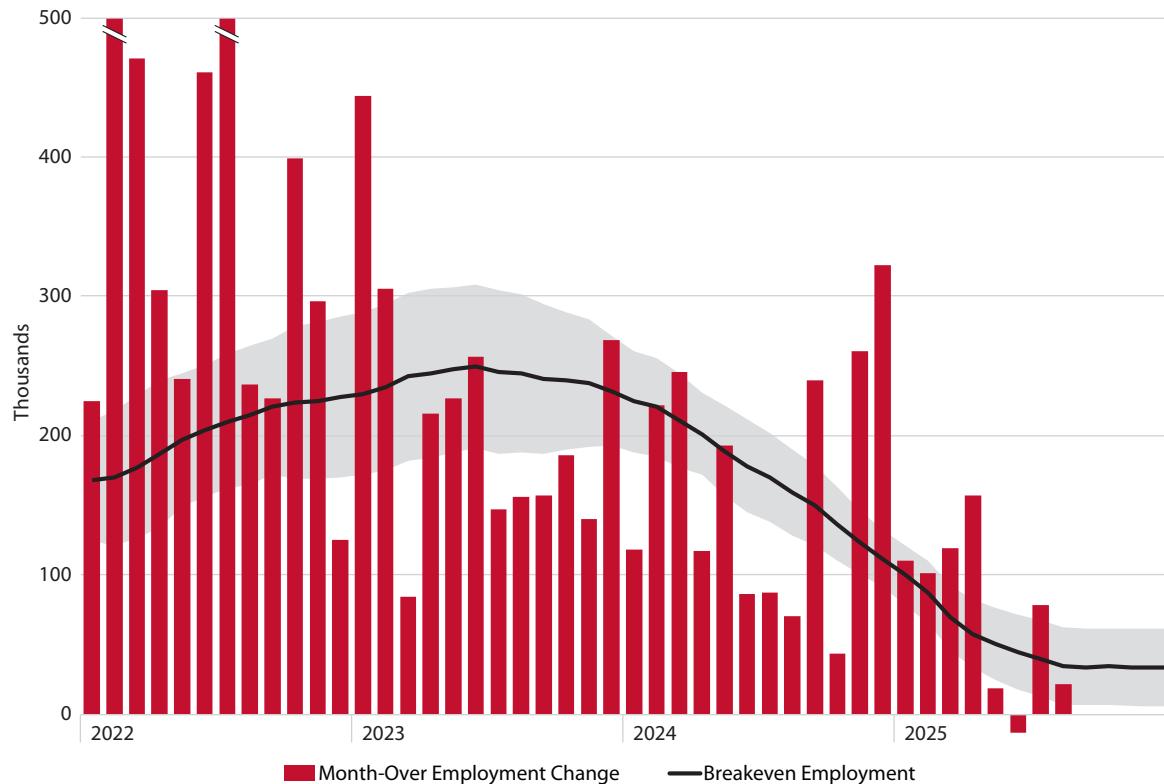
Three-Month Moving Average



Note: Wage gains estimated using hourly wage data. Grey bars indicate periods of recession.  
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

# Fewer people, fewer jobs

## U.S. Breakeven Employment Estimates and Month-Over Employment Change, Jan 2022-Aug 2025



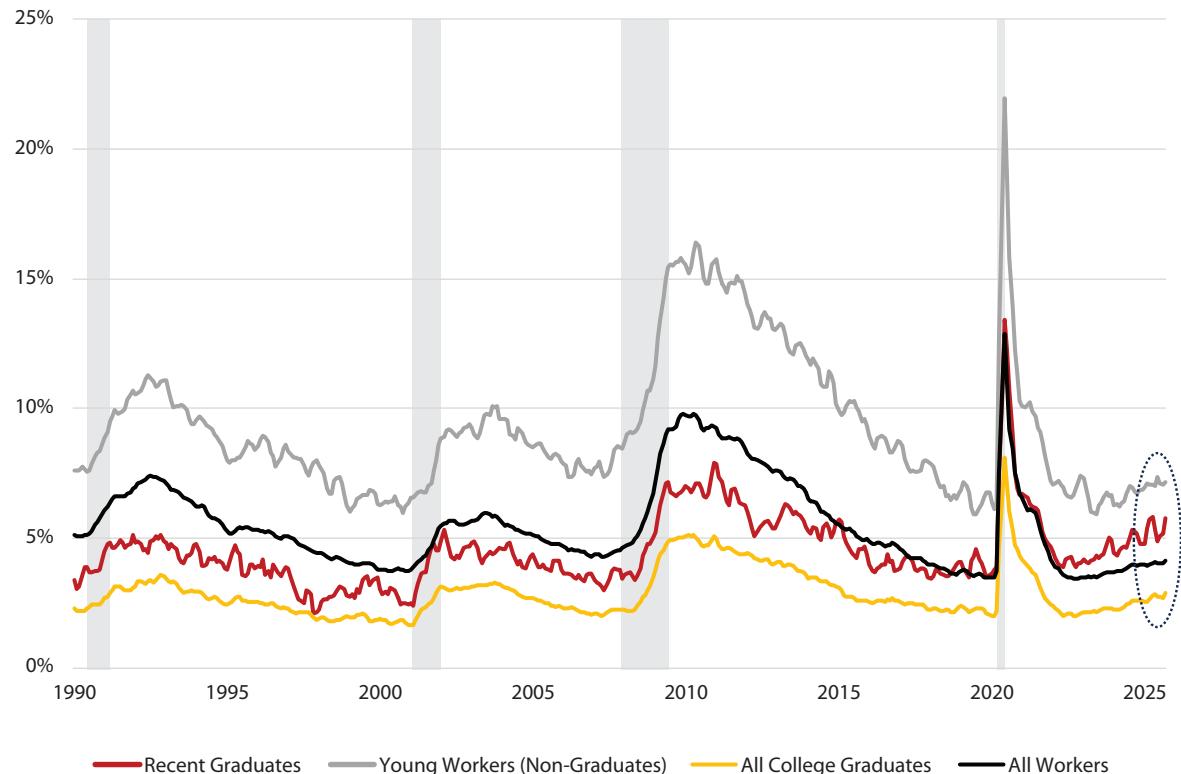
Note: Breakeven employment refers to how many new jobs each month are necessary to maintain a specific target unemployment rate.

Grey area illustrates estimate range. Employment gains in 2/22 (869k) and 7/22 (696) exceed chart bounds.

Source: Cheremukhin, A. (2025, October 9). Break-even employment declined after immigration changes. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

# Barista with a Bachelor's

**U.S. Unemployment Rates for Recent College Graduates vs. Other Groups, Jan 1990-Sept 2025**



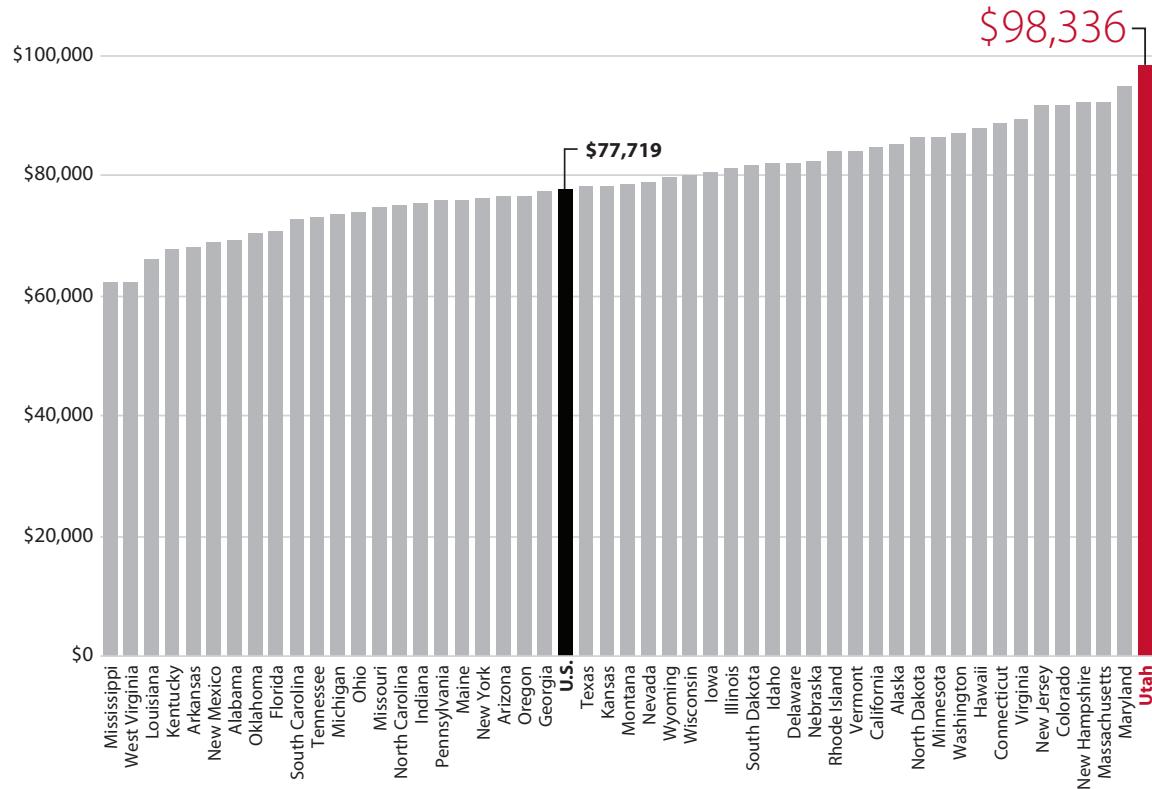
Note: Rates are seasonally adjusted and smoothed with a three-month moving average. All workers are those aged 16 to 65; college graduates are those aged 22 to 65 with a bachelor's degree or higher; recent college graduates are those aged 22 to 27 with a bachelor's degree or higher; young workers are those aged 22 to 27 without a bachelor's degree. All figures exclude those currently enrolled in school. Grey bars indicate periods of recession.

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York

# Strength in numbers

## Median Household Income by State, 2023

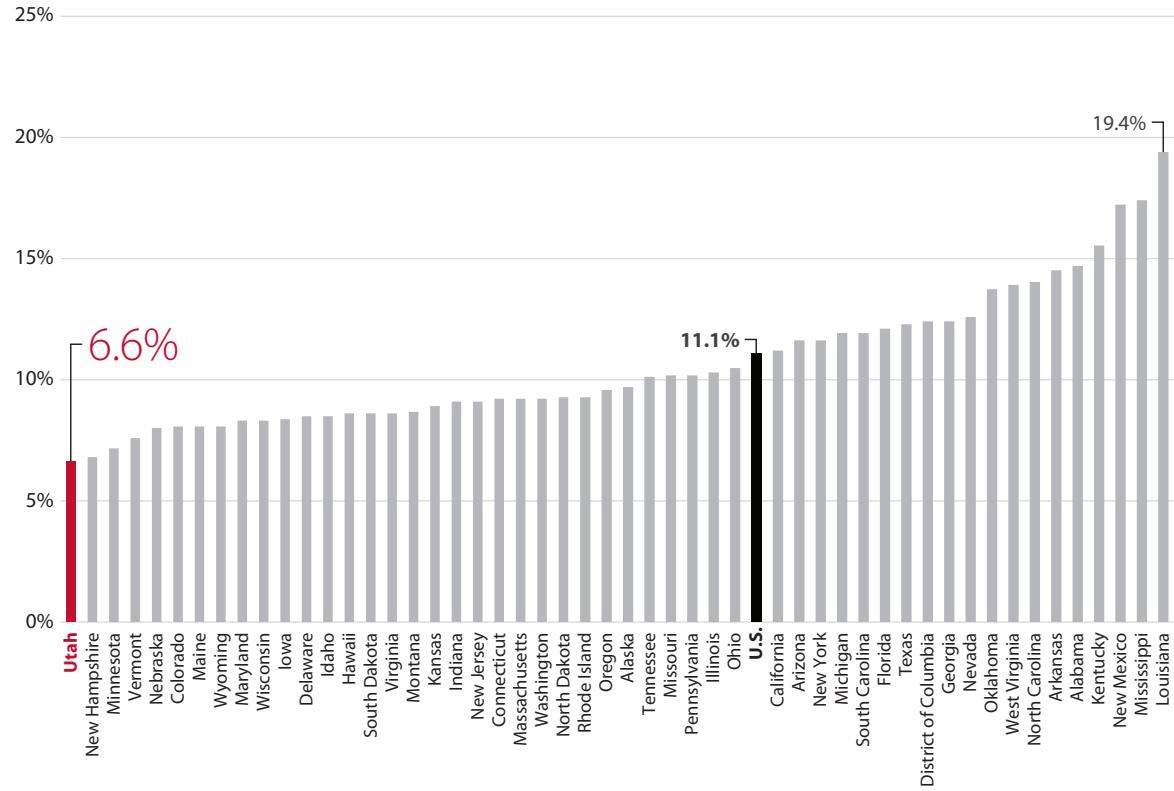
Adjusted for Regional Price Parity



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

# Utah! People working together

## Poverty Rate by State, 2022-2024 Average

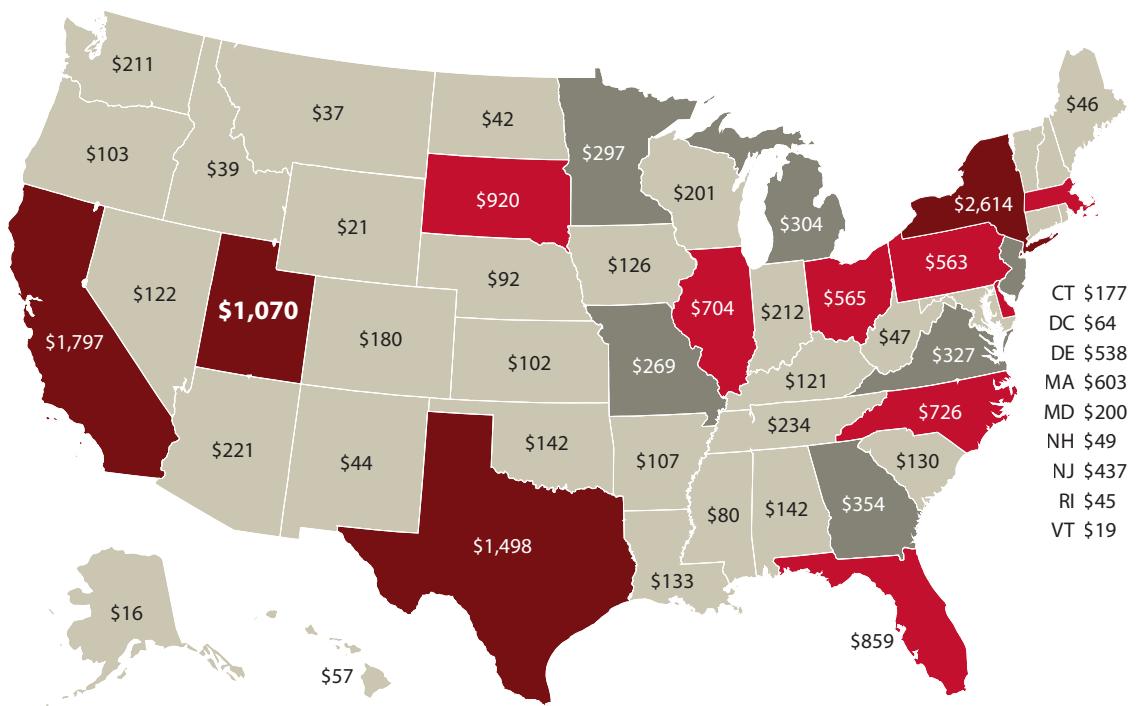


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

# The finance frontier

## Total Deposits at Commercial Banks, Savings Institutions, and Foreign Banks by State, 2025

Dollars in Billions

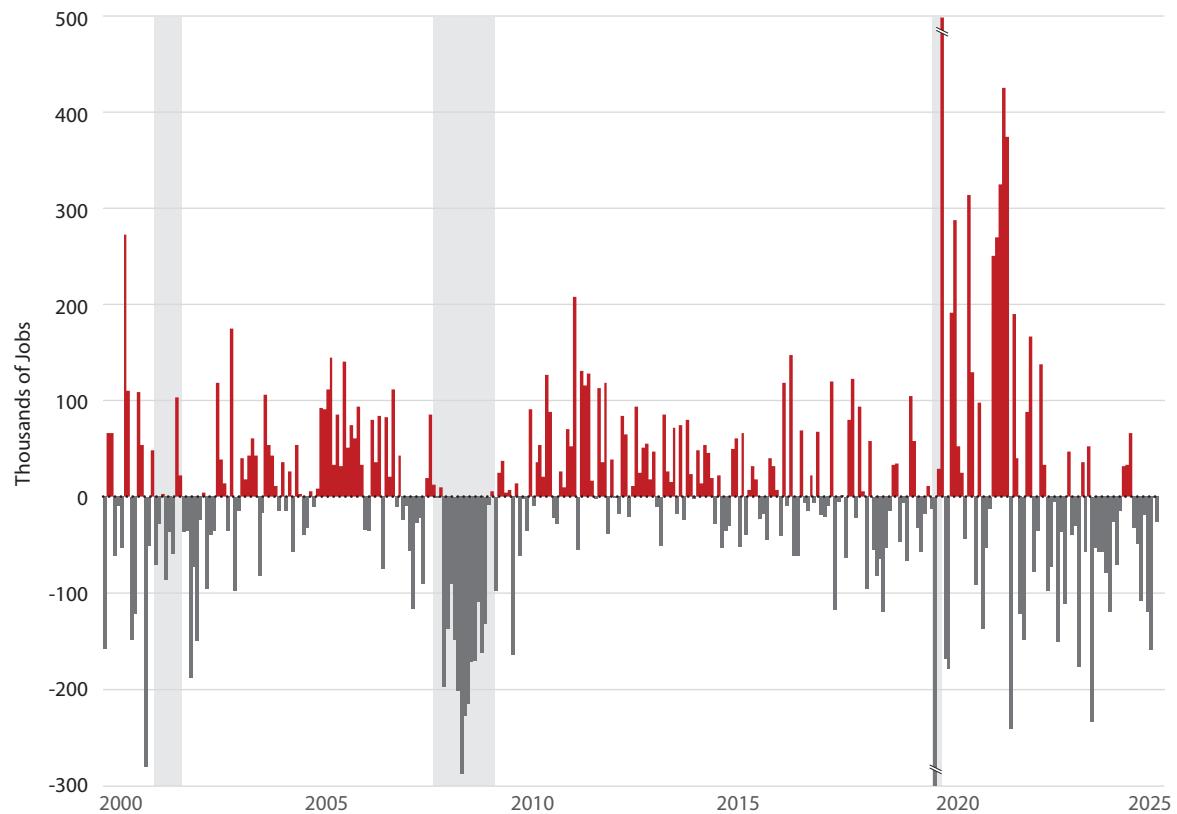


Note: Data are through June 30, 2025. Total deposits represent the amount of deposits (resident or nonresident owned) held at bank branch locations in each state.  
Source: U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

# Catfished

## **Revisions to Preliminary U.S. Current Employment Situation (CES) Monthly Job Estimates, Jan 2000-Sept 2025**

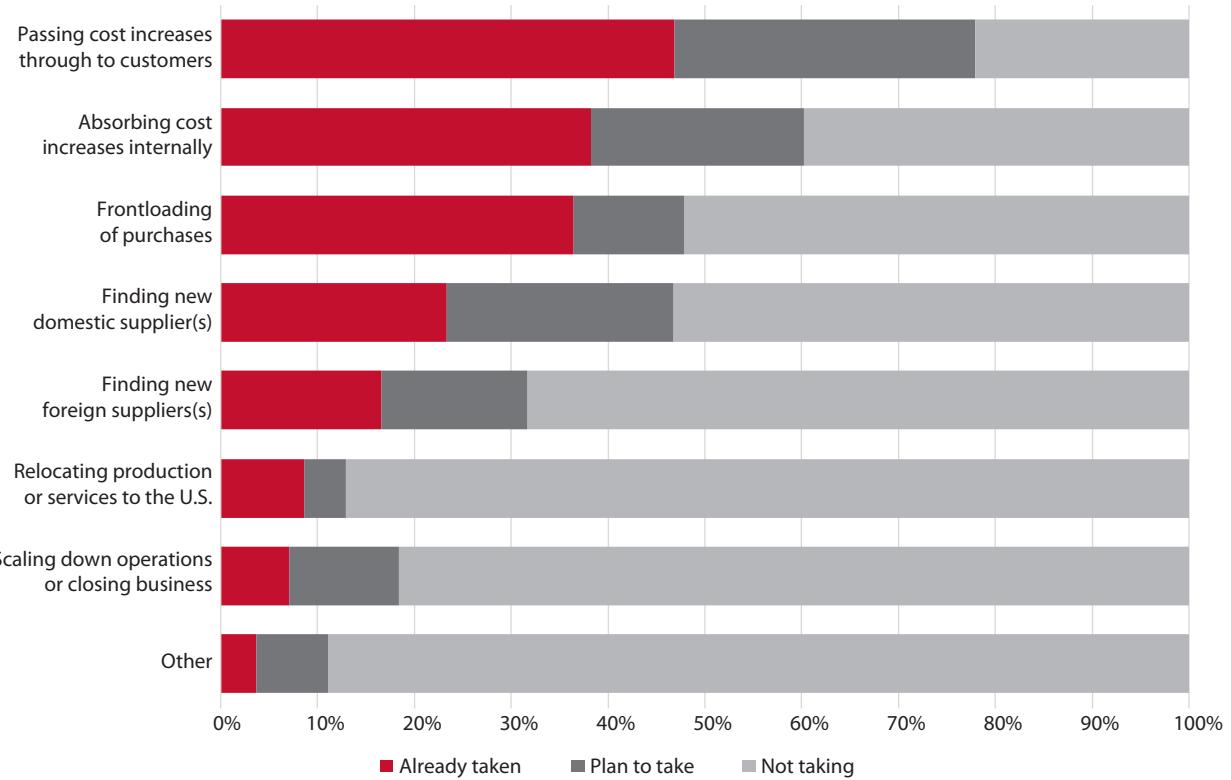
Differences Between Initial and Latest Estimates



Note: Revisions during March (-696k) and May (749k) of 2020 exceed chart bounds. Grey bars indicate periods of recession.  
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data

# Nobody takes tariffs lying down

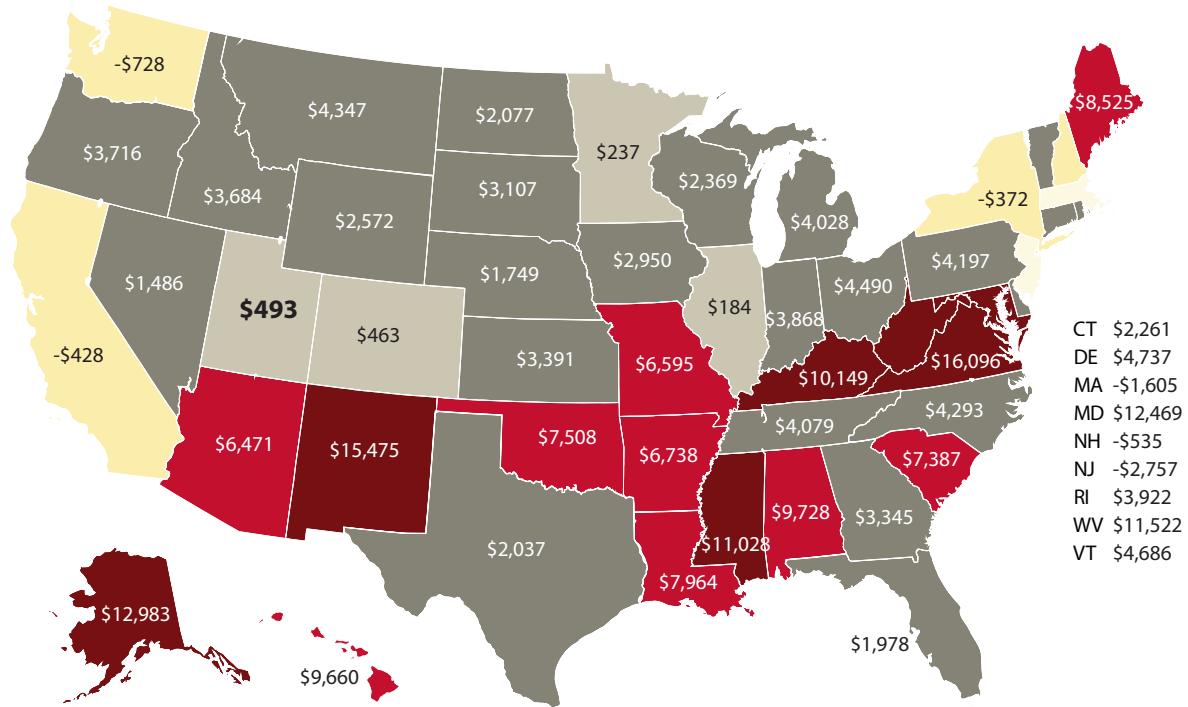
## Firm Responses to Higher Tariffs, Survey Responses, August 2025



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and Moody's Analytics

# Give and take

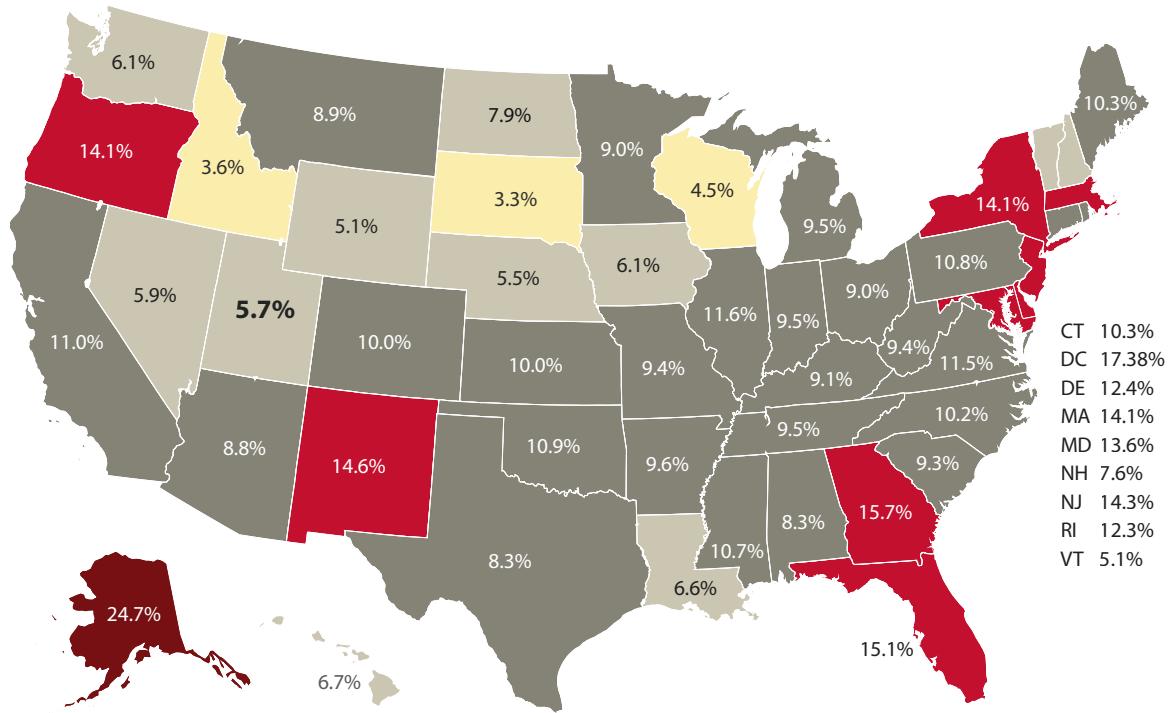
## Per Capita Federal Balance of Payments by State, FFY2023



Note: Excludes COVID-related funds. Balance of payments refers to federal taxes paid less federal funds received by Utahns.  
Source: Rockefeller Institute of Government

# Oh SNAP!

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Error Rates by State, FFY2024

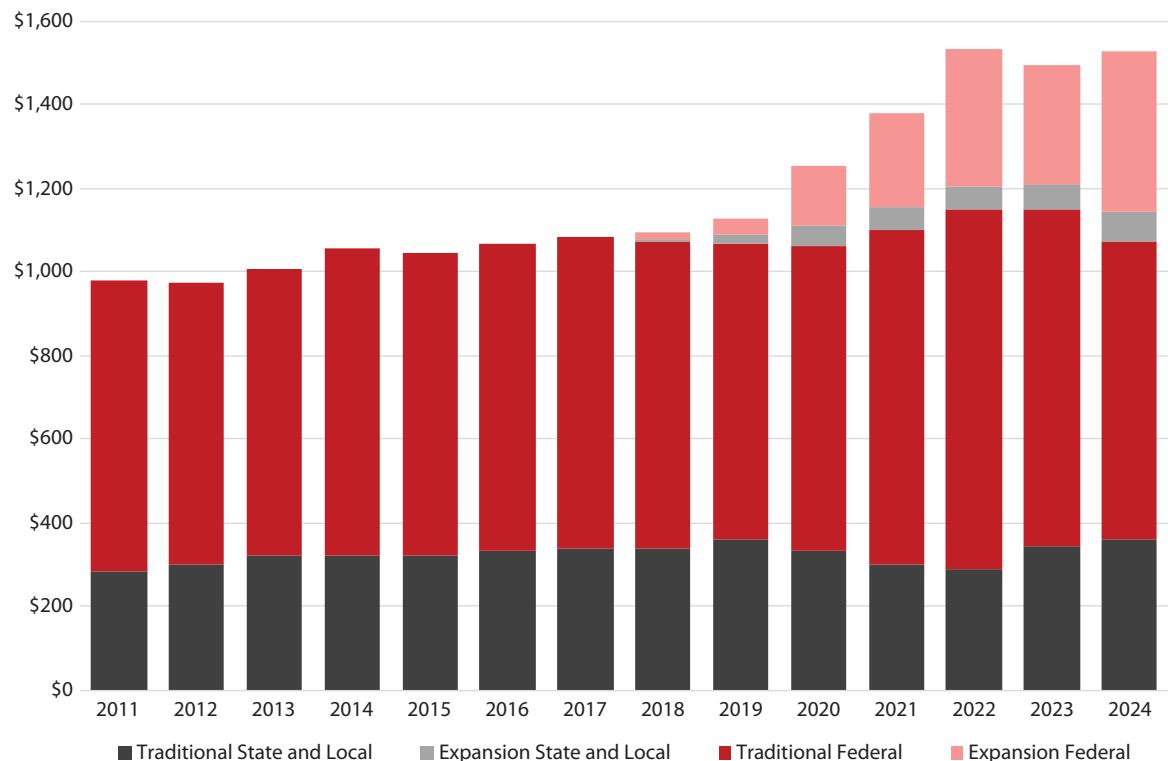


Note: SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) error rates measure state-level administrative accuracy, including overpayments and underpayments (calculated as the share of total SNAP benefits that were over- or underpaid). Beginning in 2028, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act requires that states cover between 5-15% of SNAP benefits if their error rate exceeds 6%.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Expanding care

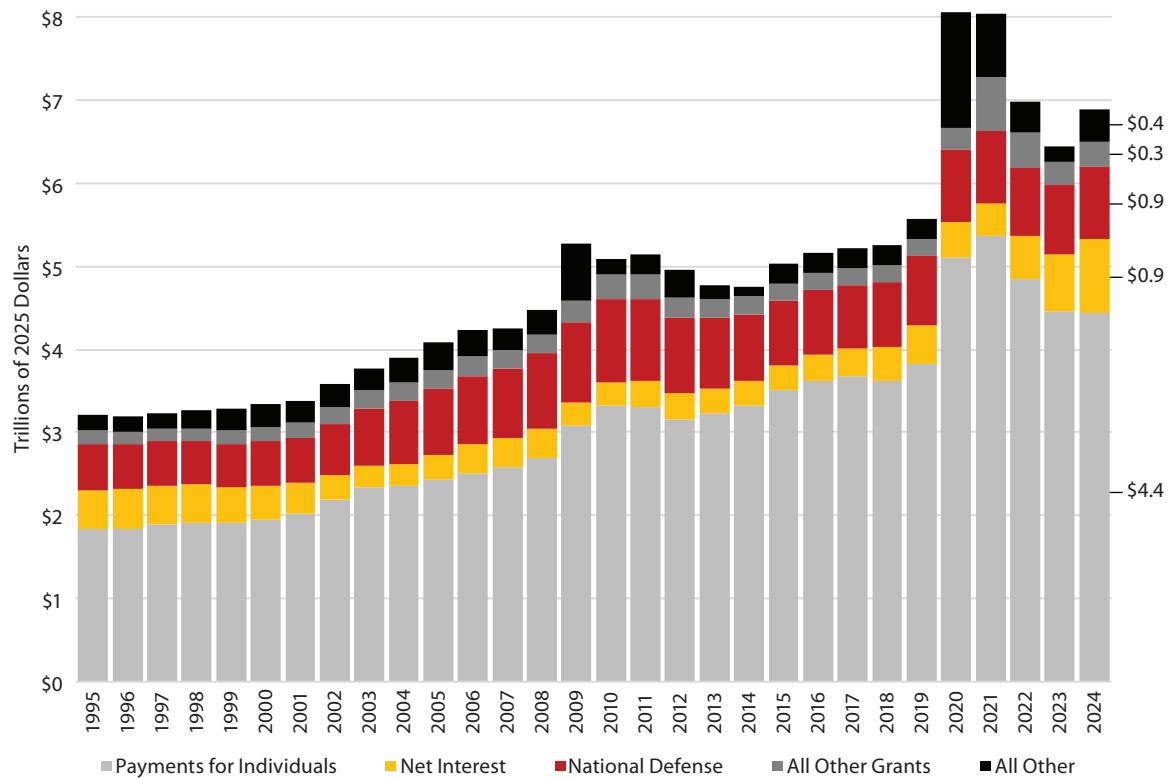
Real Utah Medicaid Spending per Capita, by Federal or State and Local Funds, FY2011-2024



Source: Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst and Utah Population Committee

# Time to pay the piper

## Real Federal Outlays by Category, FFY1995-2024



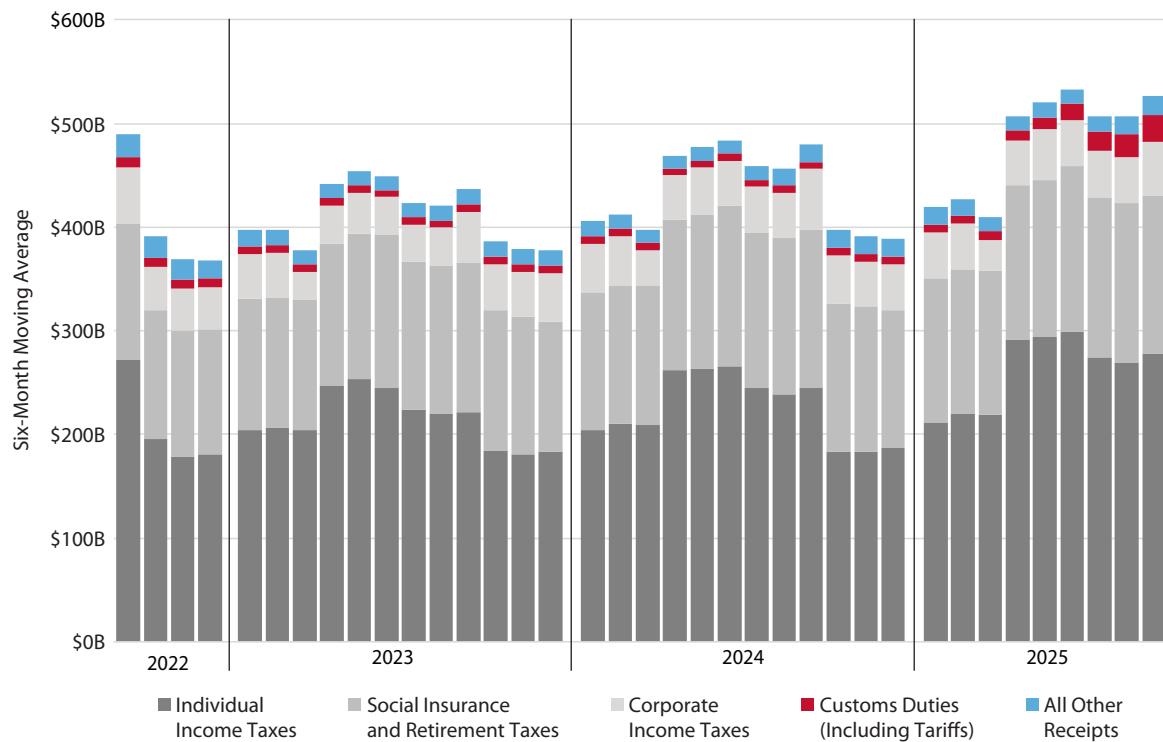
Note: Data adjusted to 2024 dollars using CPI.

Source: U.S. Office of Management and Budget and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Get accustomed

## Federal Net Receipts by Category, Sept 2022-Sept 2025

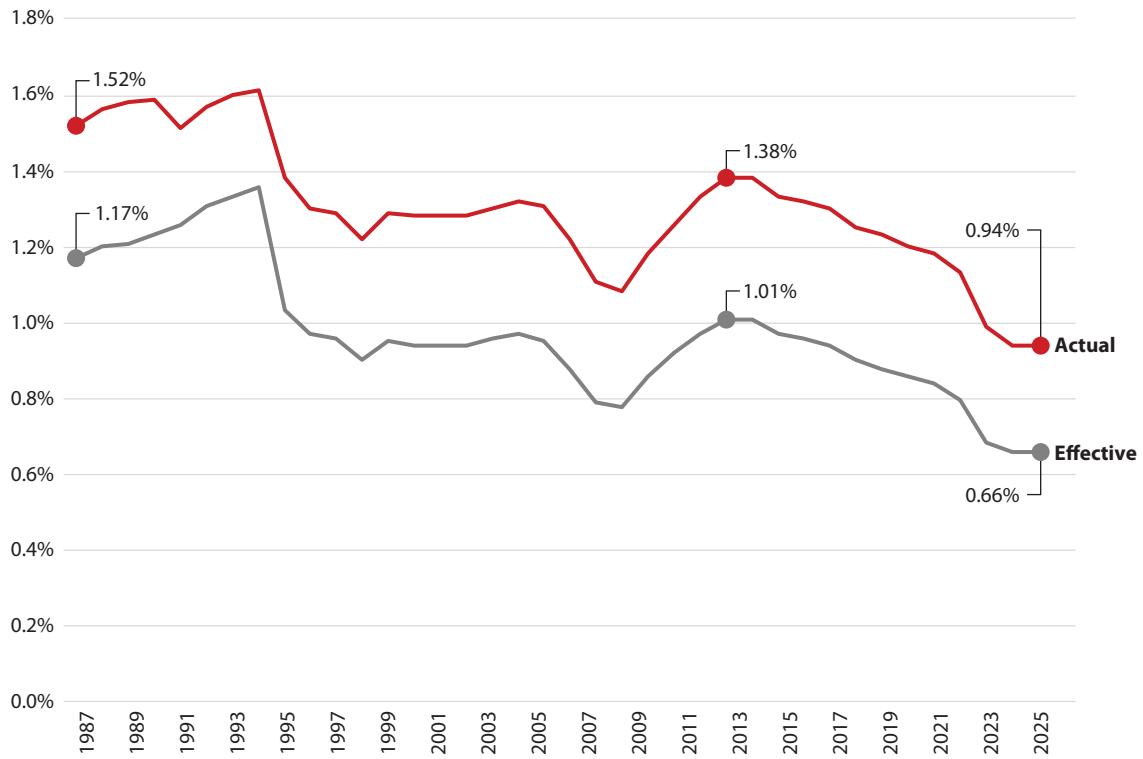
Six-Month Moving Average



Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury

# An untold story

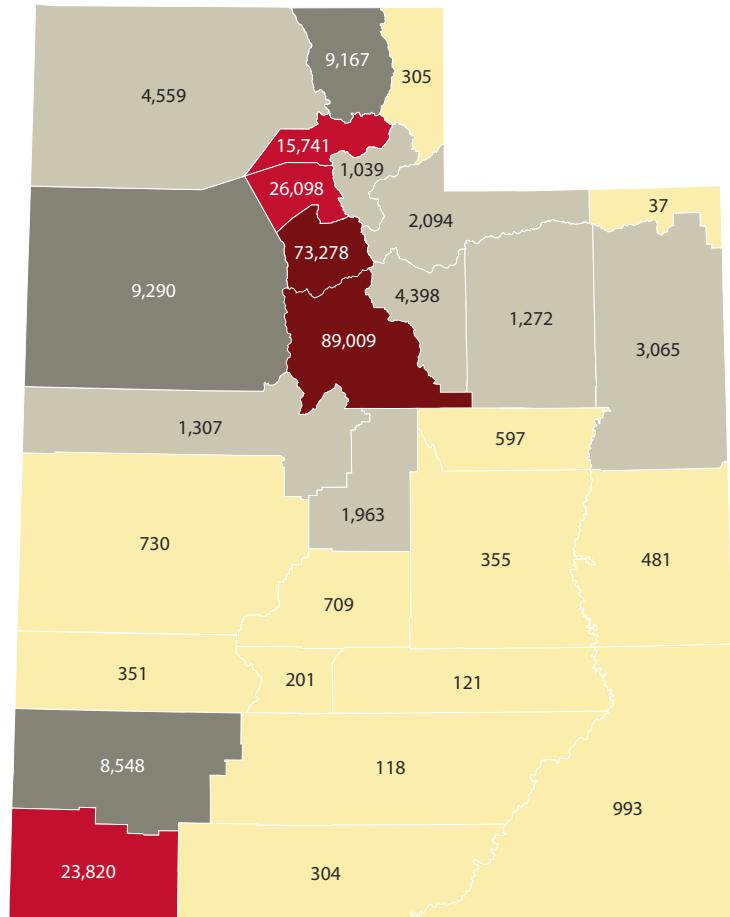
## Utah Actual and Effective Property Tax Rates for All Taxable Property, FY1987-2025



Source: Utah State Tax Commission

# Build, baby, build!

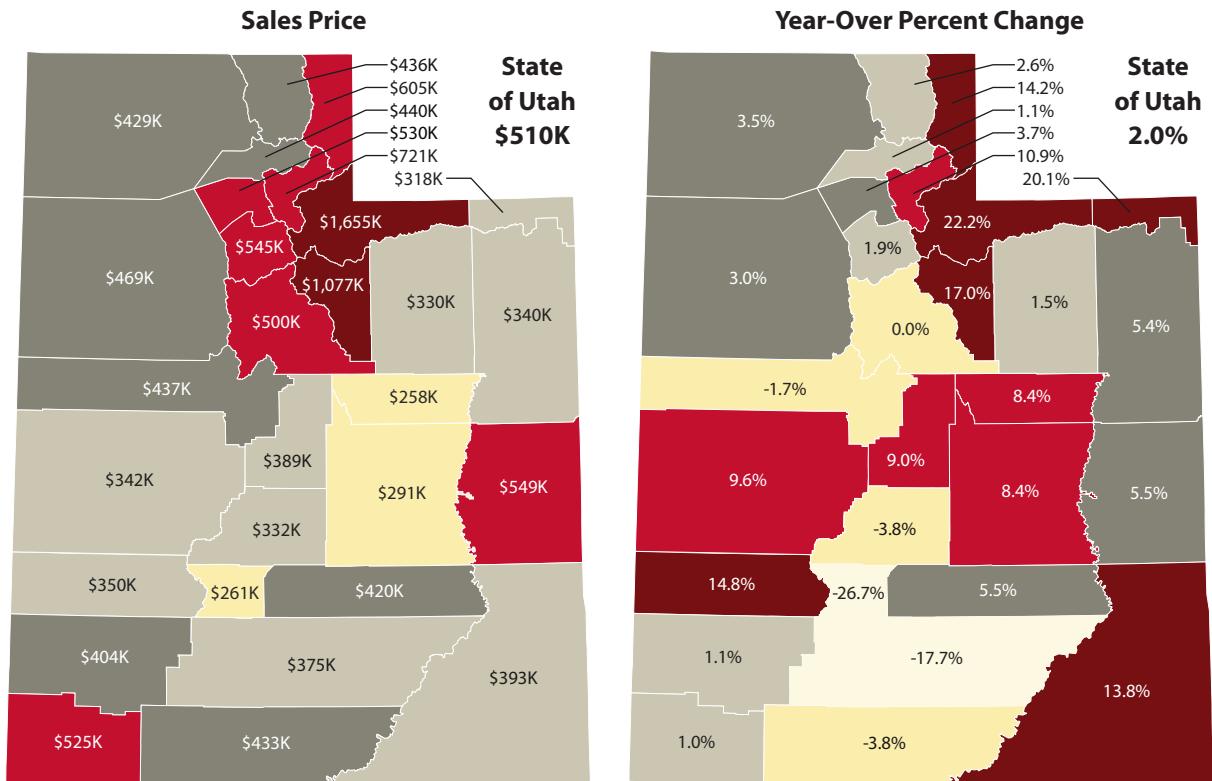
## Projected Household Growth by County, 2025-2035



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

# Million-dollar counties

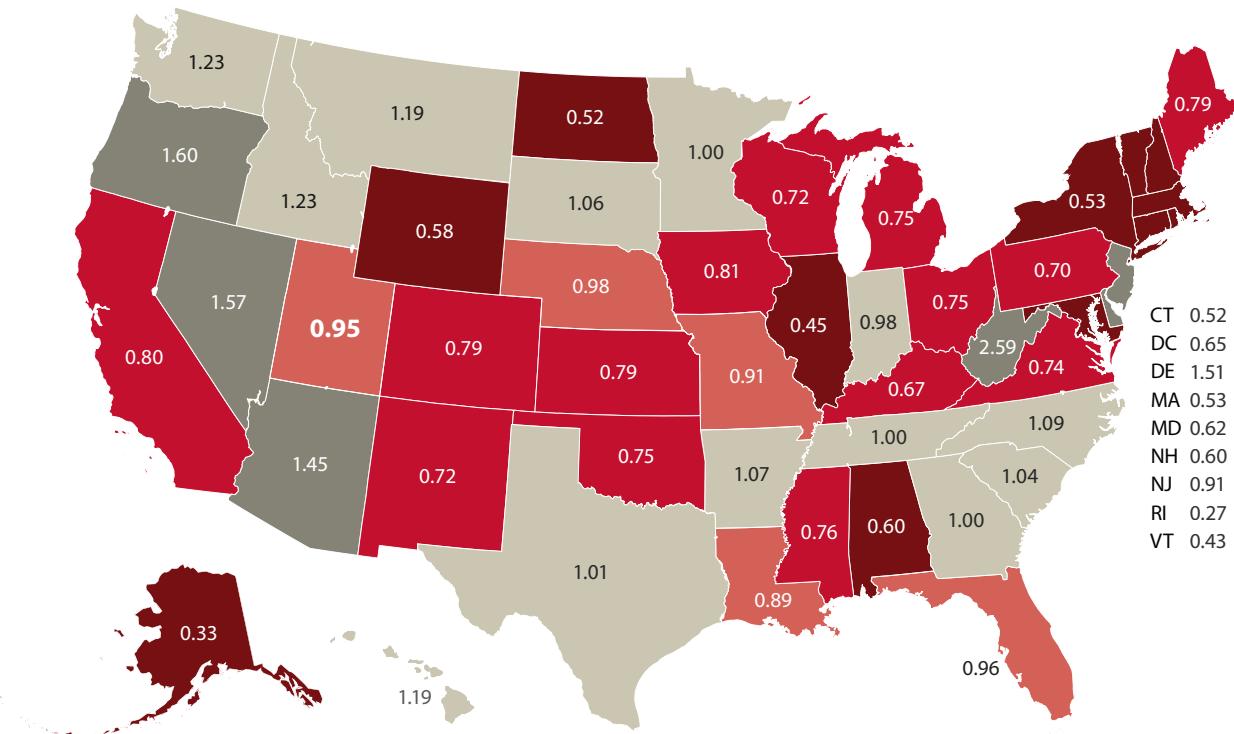
## Median Home Sales Price and Year-Over Percent Change by County, September 2025



Source: Utah Association of Realtors

# Coming up short

**Total New Households Divided by New Housing Starts by State, 2020-2024**

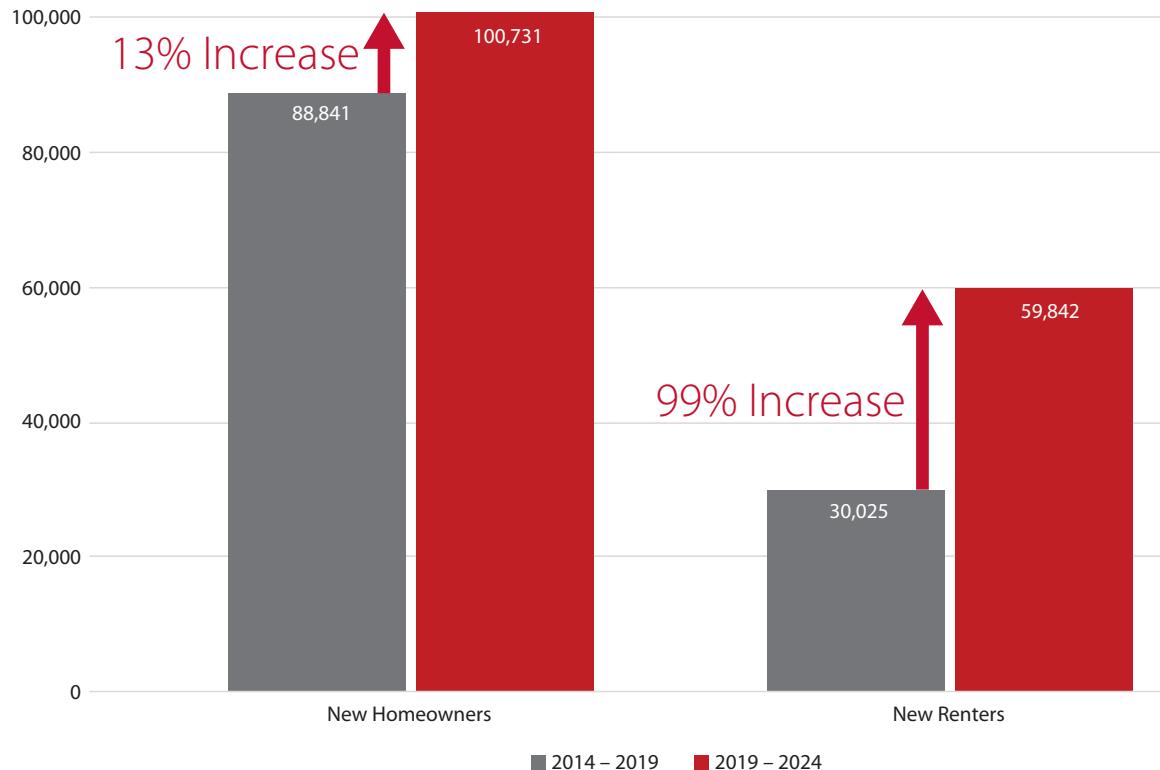


Note: A score less than one indicates more households than housing starts, which over time may lead to a housing shortage (or, in many states, is an indication of an ongoing shortage).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## A near doubling of renters

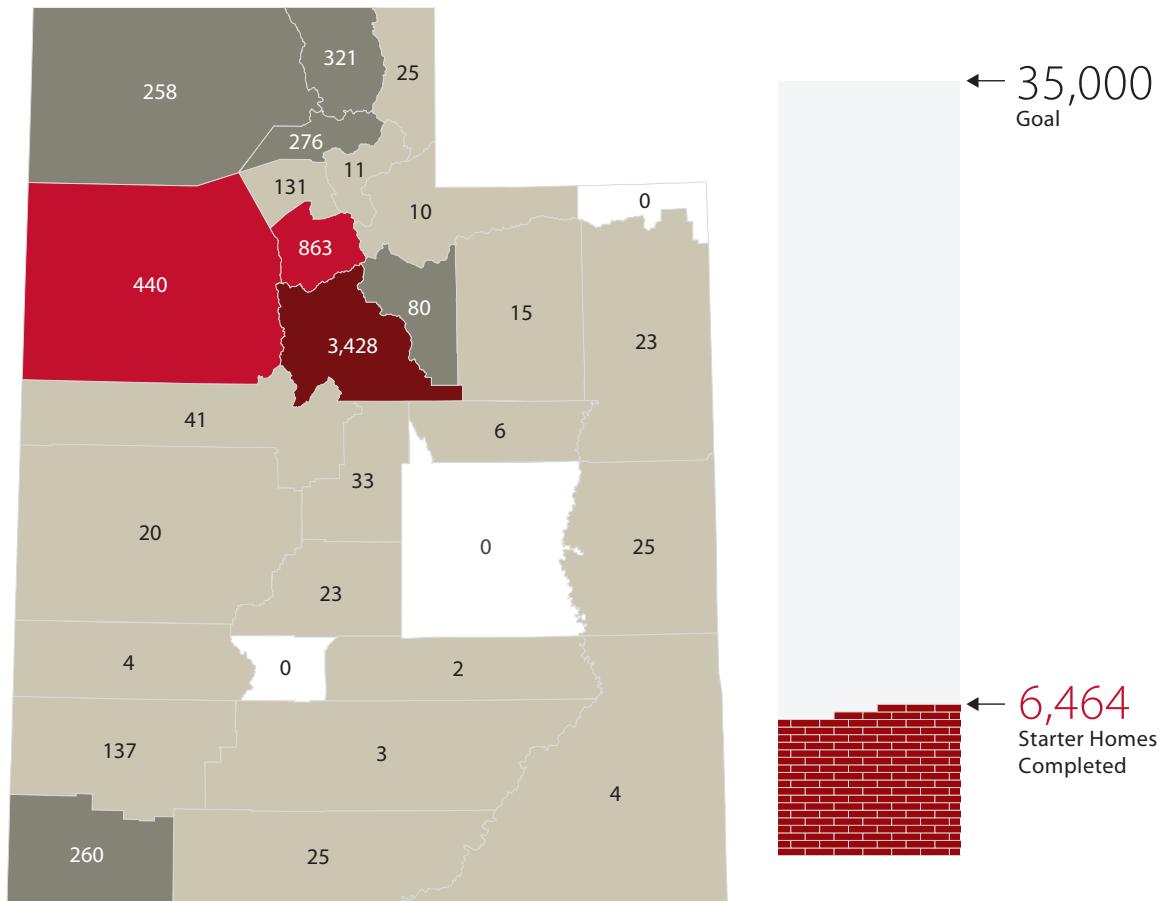
### Increase of New Utah Homeowners and Renters, 2014-2019 and 2019-2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Starter homes loading

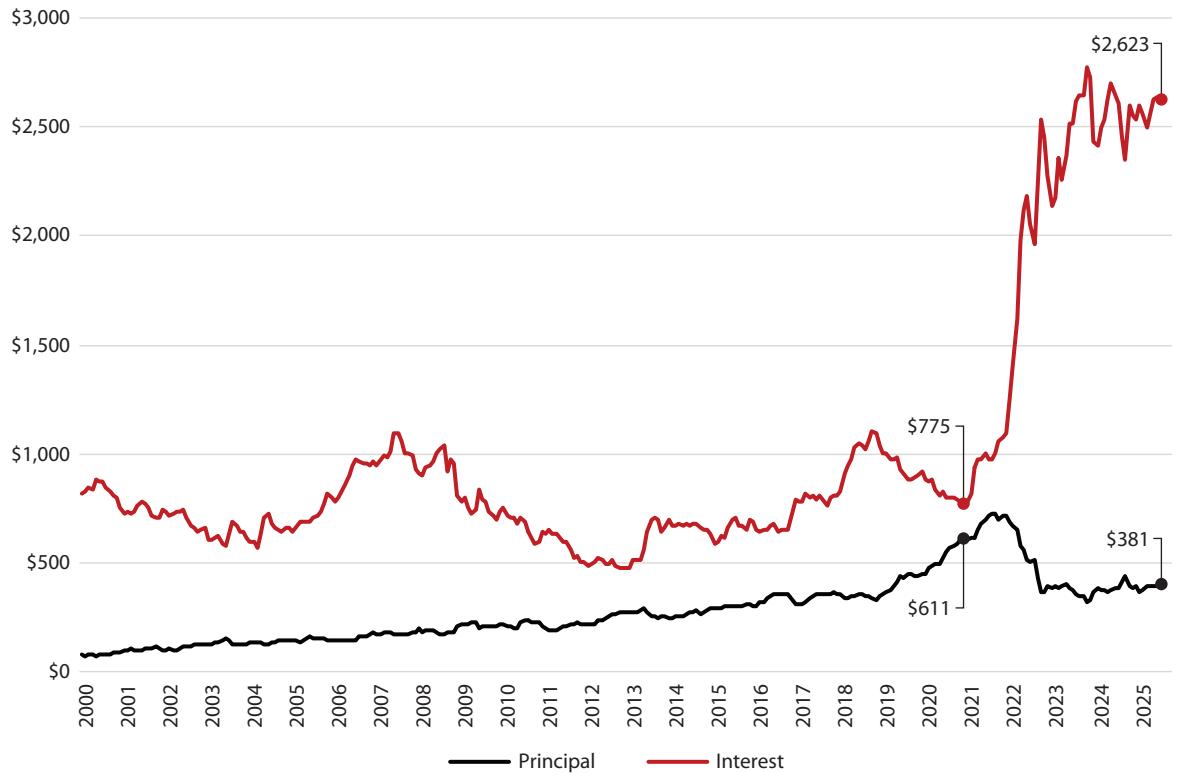
## Newly Constructed Utah Homes Under \$450K, Jan 2024-Sept 2025



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

# Interest Everest

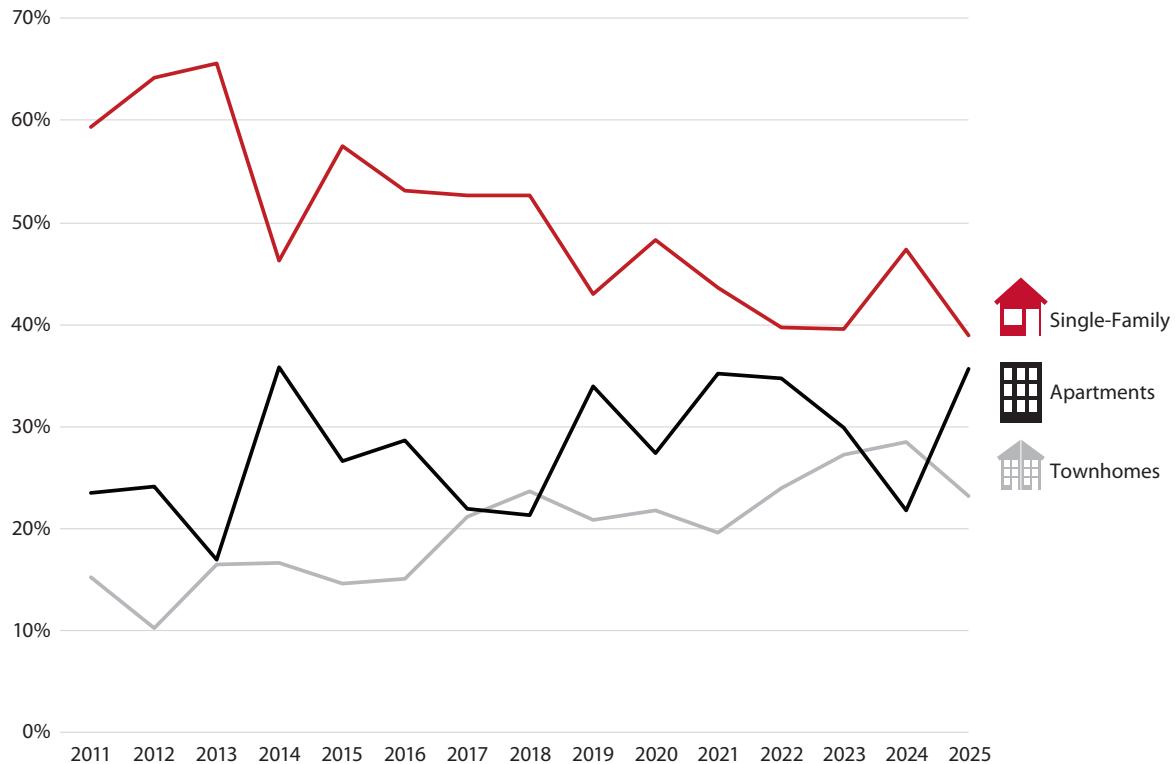
**Utah Estimated Monthly Mortgage Payment for New Buyers, Interest vs. Principal, Jan 2000-July 2025**



Note: Payment only includes principal and interest for the corresponding month of median sales price and 30-year mortgage rate. Assumes a 10% down payment.  
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of UtahRealEstate.com & Freddie Mac Monthly Mortgage Rate Data

# High rising

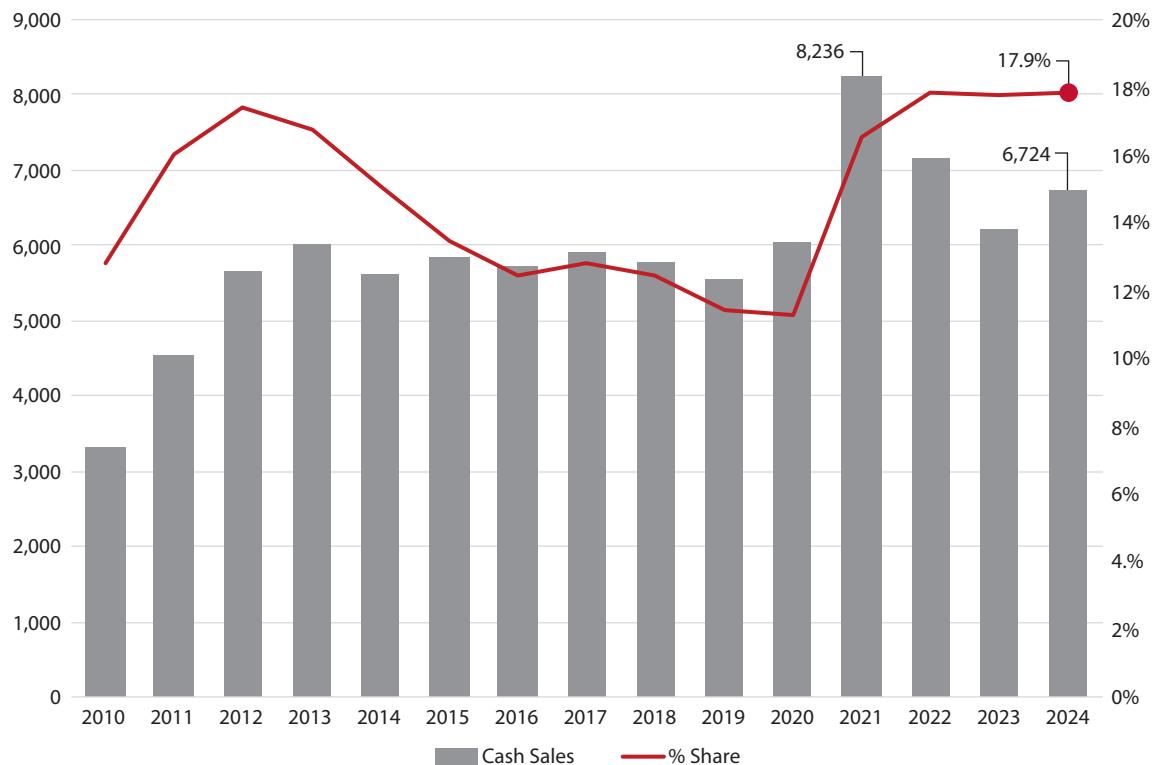
Share of Permitted Units by House Type in Utah, 2011-2025



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

# The bear pays cash

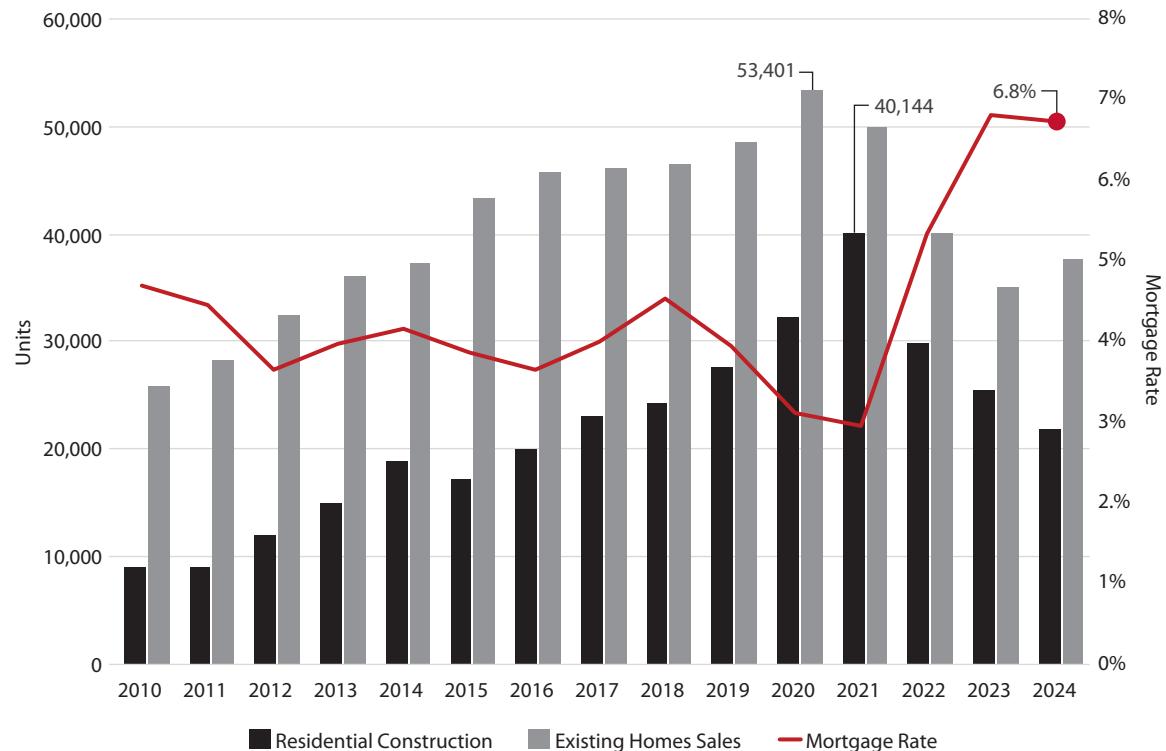
**Number of Cash Sales of Residential Real Estate in Utah, 2010-2024**



Source: UtahRealEstate.com

# Double-edged sword

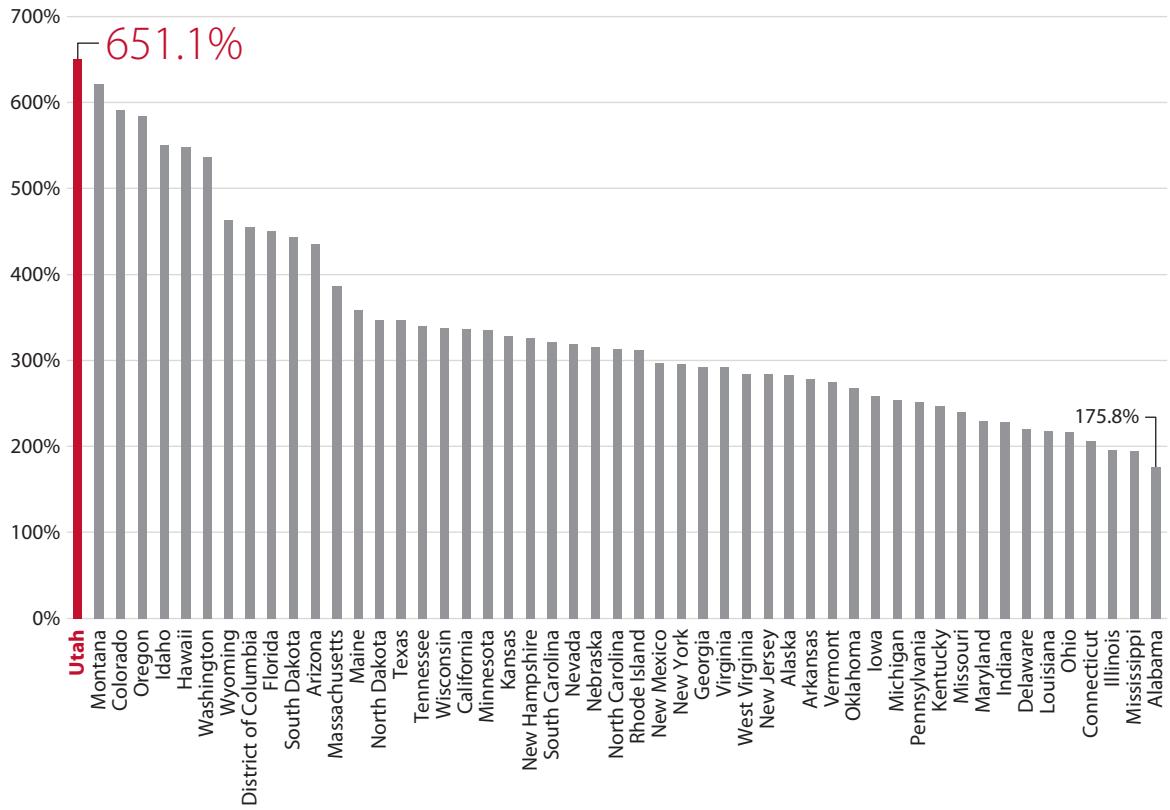
## Interest Rates, New Home Construction, and Existing Real Estate Sales, 2010-2024



Source: Utah Population Committee, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, and Freddie Mac

# Wow!

## Percent Increase in FHFA's Housing Price Index by State, 1991-2024

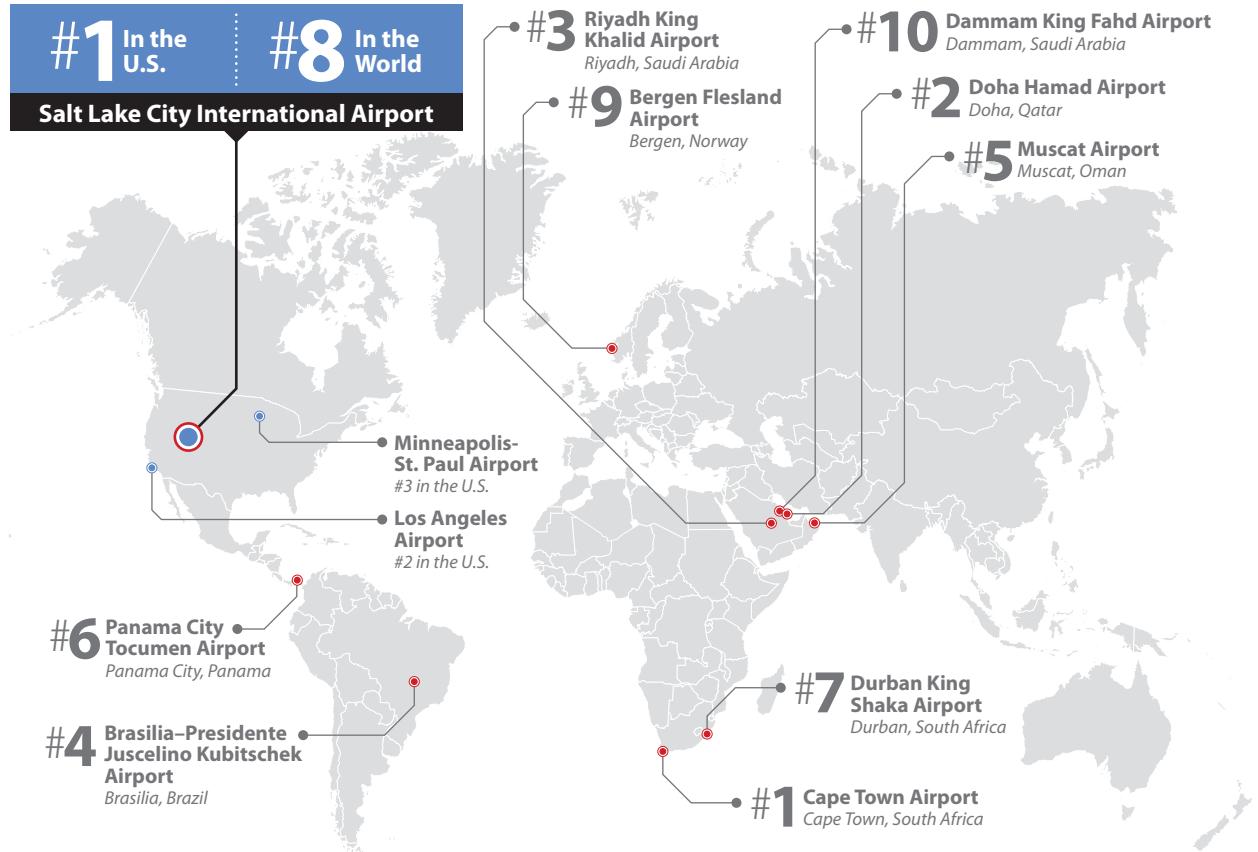


Note: Includes purchase only, expanded price index.

Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency Housing Price Index

# SLC soars to #1 in nation, #8 in world

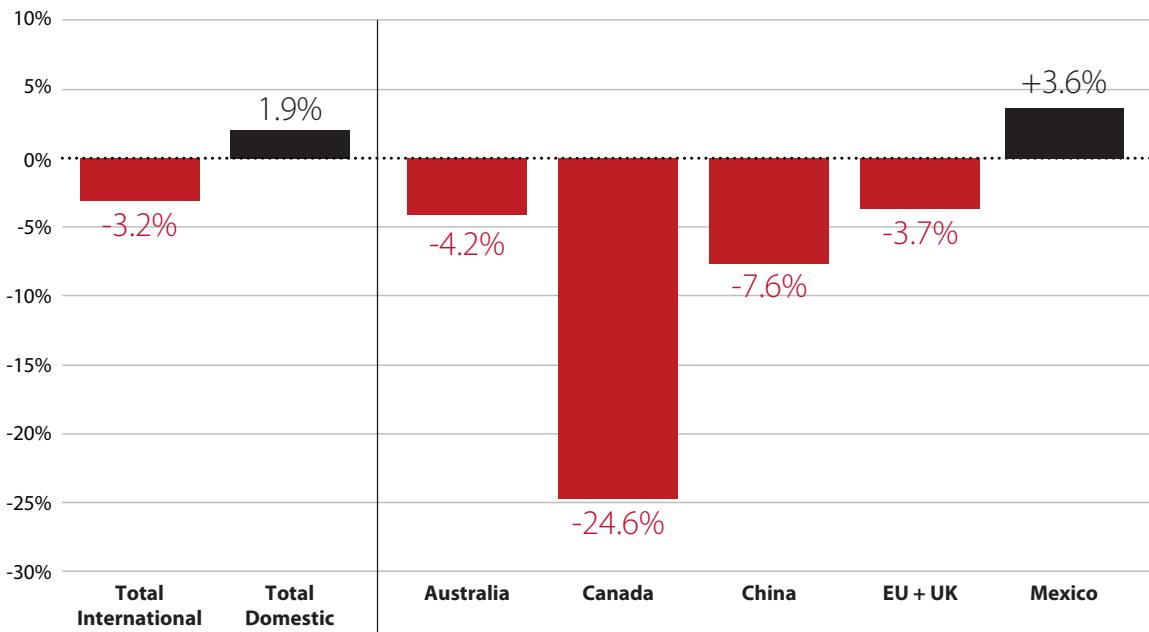
## Global Airport Rankings, 2025



Note: Rankings consider on-time performance, customer service, and claim processing.  
Source: AirHelp

# Oh Canada...

## Utah Short-Term Rental Guests by Country of Origin, Year-Over Percent Change, 2025

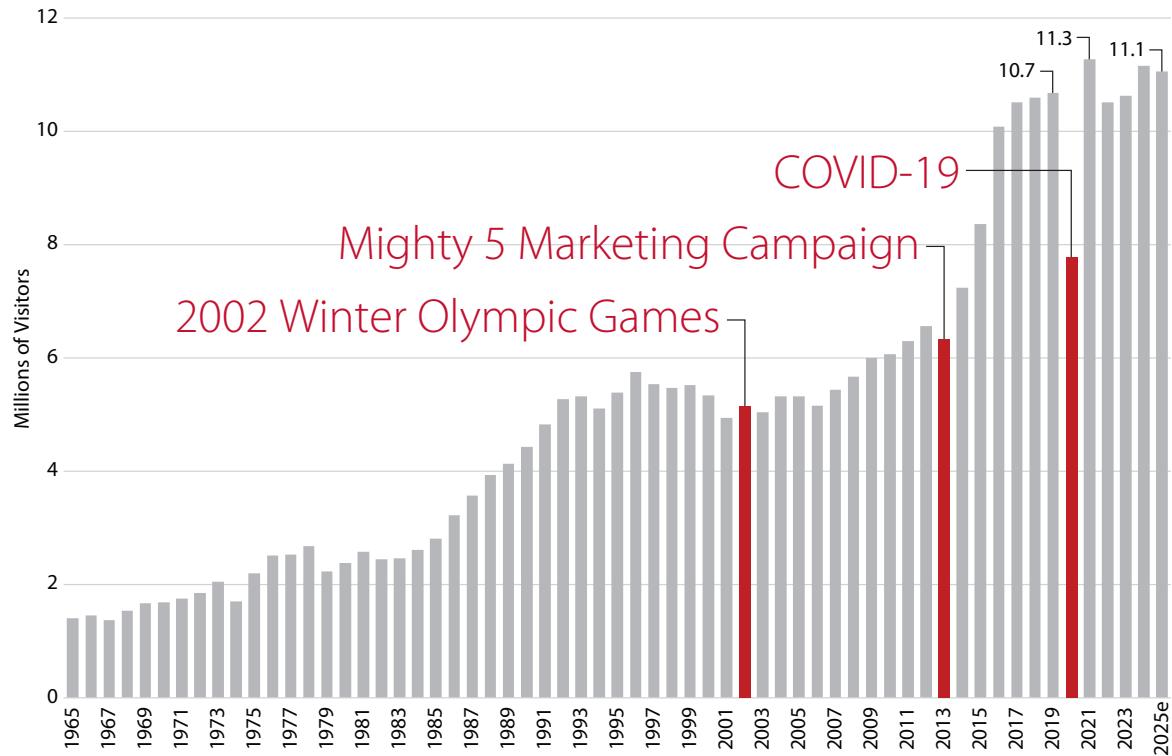


Note: Includes guest origin data for January through September. Guest origin data is extracted from information on the public profile of guests who review their stays on Airbnb. The dates included in the data are relevant to the dates of the stay being reviewed. This data helps estimate the prominence of different origin markets among those booking short-term rental properties. Airbnb estimates that two-thirds of guests leave reviews; however, there is no data available on whether certain origin markets are more likely to leave reviews than others. Lighthouse cannot control whether the origin information included on a guest's profile is inaccurate or out of date.

Source: Lighthouse

# Forever mighty

## Utah National Park Visitation, 1965-2025e

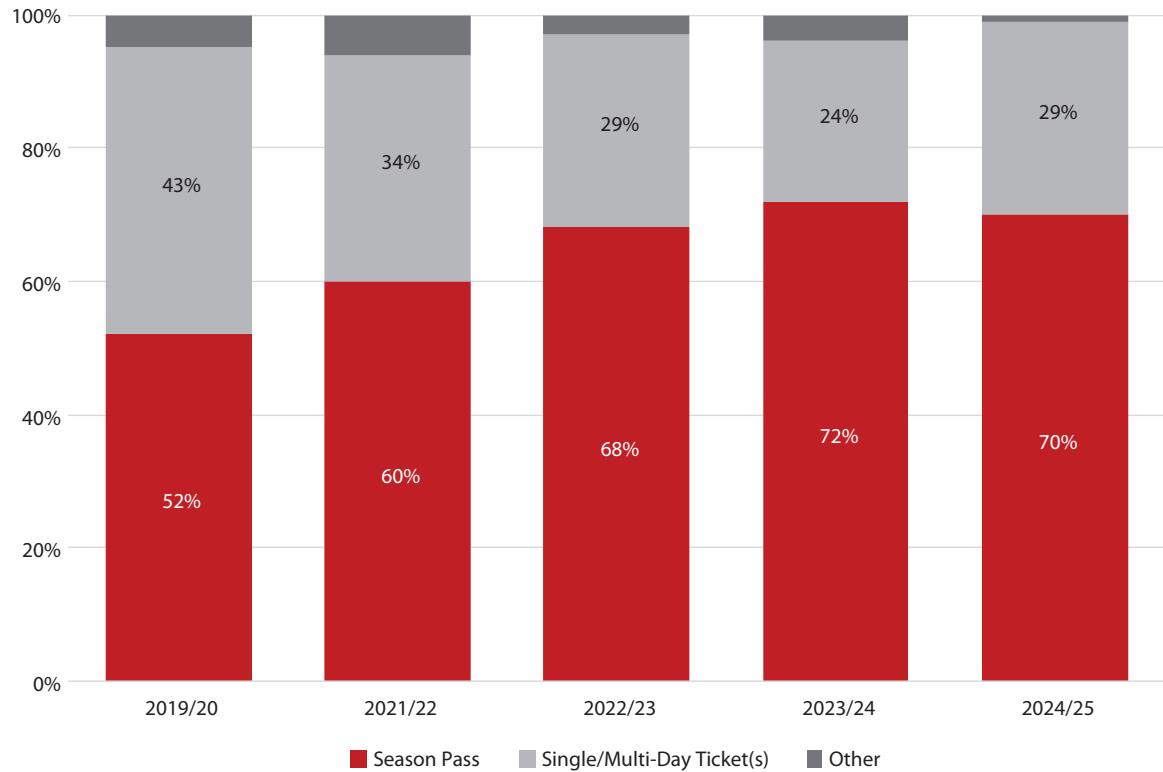


Note: Utah's national parks include Arches, Bryce, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, and Zion; note that Capitol Reef was originally designated a national monument and did not become a national park until late 1971.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of National Park Service and Utah Population Committee data

# A seasonal shift

## Utah Skier & Snowboarder Pass Usage, 2019/20-2024/25 Ski Seasons

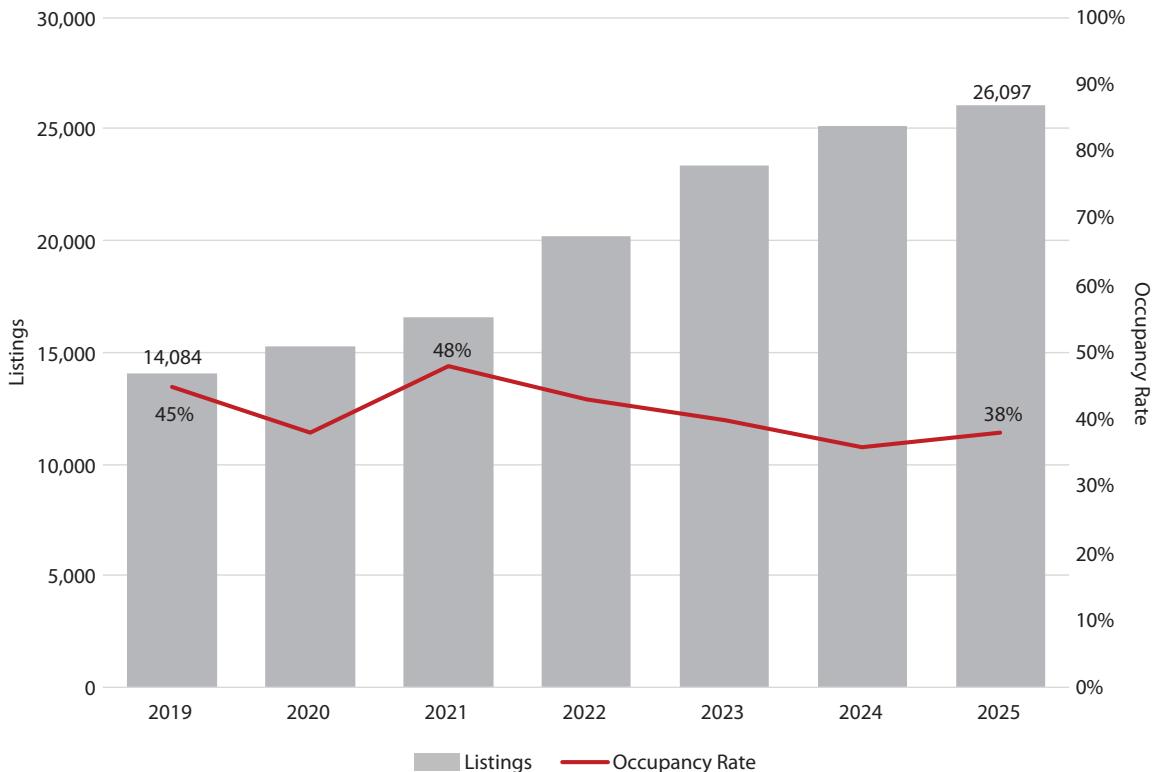


Note: Utah skiers and snowboarders were not surveyed during the 2020/21 season due to COVID-19. "Other" includes passes associated with ski lessons, 4th-6th Grade Passports, and other complimentary/promotional passes.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of RRC Associates data

# Any room for more short-term rentals?

## Utah Short-Term Rental Listings and Occupancy Rates, 2019-2025



Note: Short-term rental types listed as "shared room" have been omitted. Short-term rental occupancy data are from January to October of each year.  
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Lighthouse data

## Visitors pay to play

### Estimated Visitor-Generated Share of Utah Tax Revenue, FY2024



10%  
Visitor-Generated

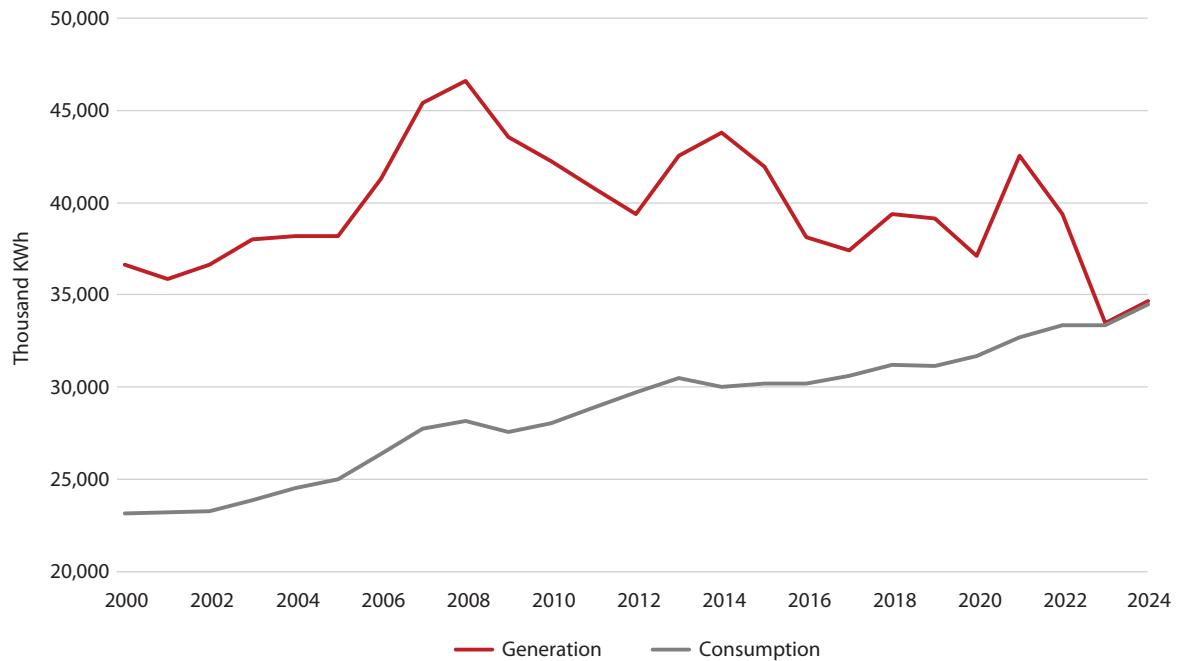


14%  
Visitor-Generated

Note: Non-earmarked state sales tax only; 9-11, liquor, municipal energy, and municipal telecom sales tax revenue has been omitted from local sales tax revenue totals.  
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Tourism Economics and Utah State Tax Commission data

# Supply equals demand

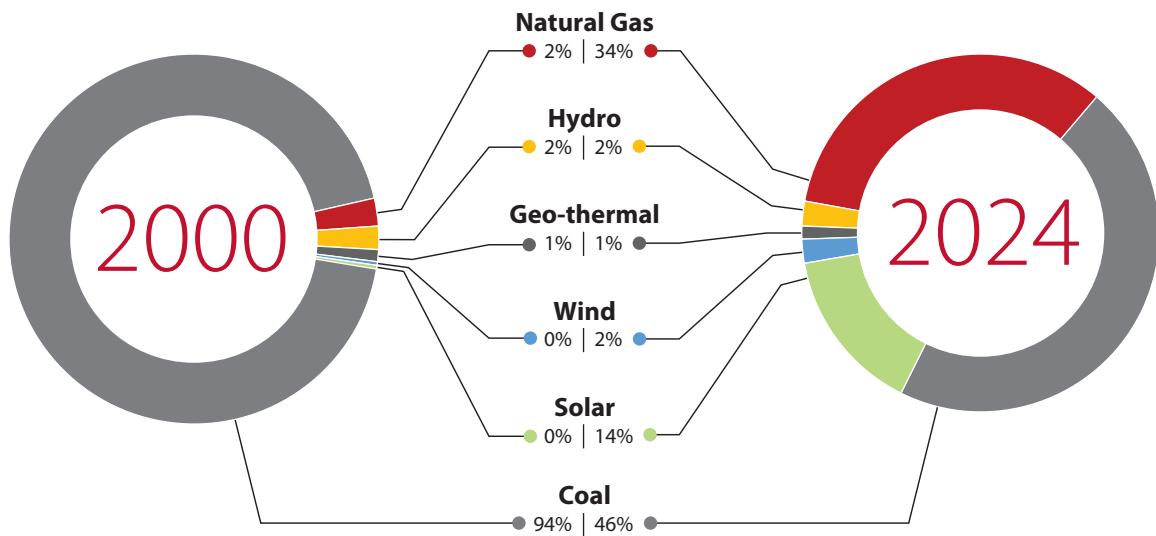
## Utah Electricity Supply and Demand, 2000-2024



Source: Utah Geological Survey and U.S. Energy Information Administration

# Generations of energy generation

## Utah Net Generation Mix, 2000 and 2024



Source: Utah Geological Survey and U.S. Energy Information Administration

# Utah's federal landscape

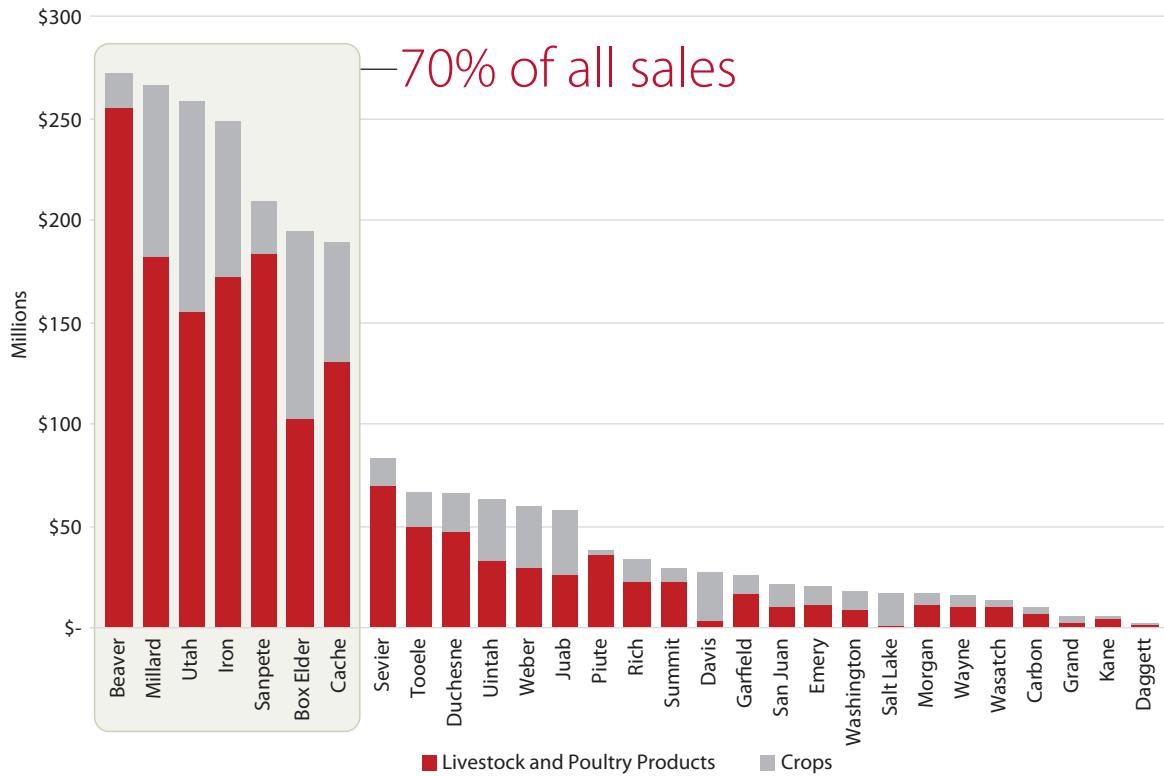
## Ranges in County Land Ownership in Utah, 2024



Source: Utah Geospatial Resource Center. (2024). Utah Land Ownership

# Agriculture's magnificent seven

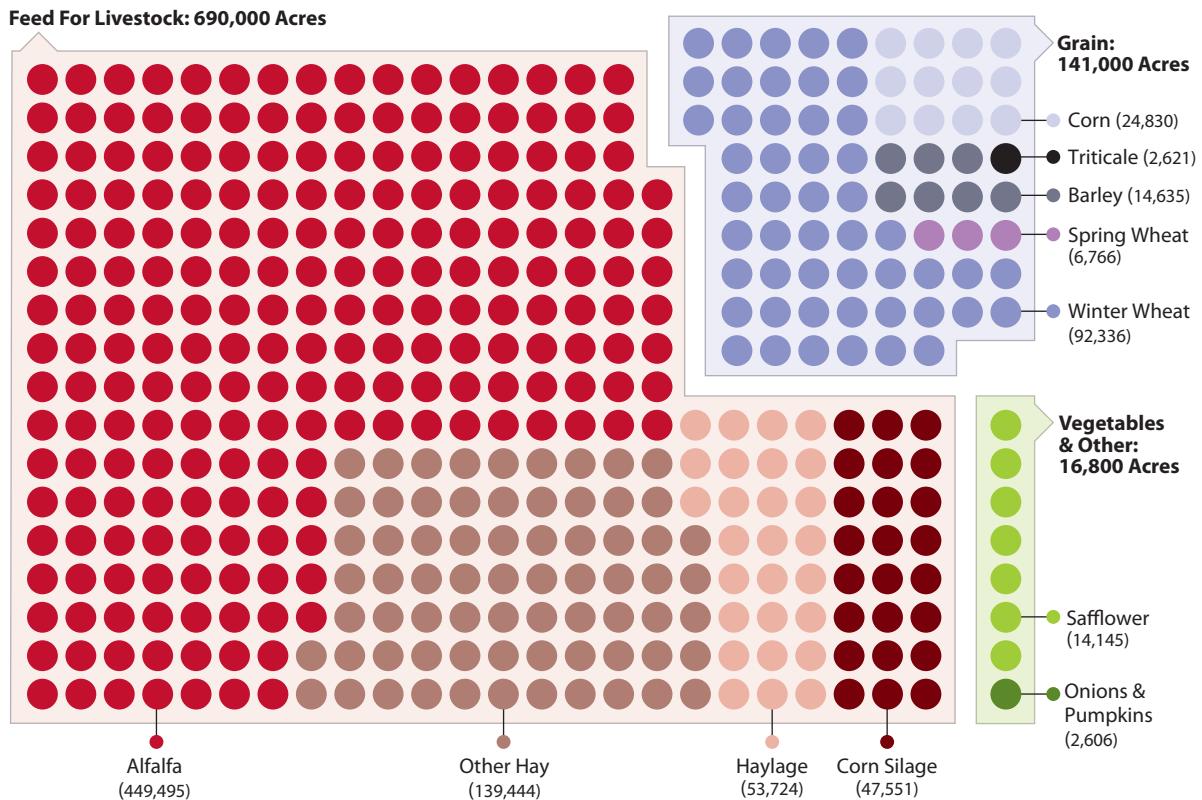
## Market Value of Utah Agricultural Products Sold by Type, 2022



Note: Smithfield Foods, the largest pork producer in Utah, ended contracts with 26 hog farms in the state in 2023, significantly impacting livestock sales in Beaver County.  
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service. 2022 Census of Agriculture

# Fields of feedstock

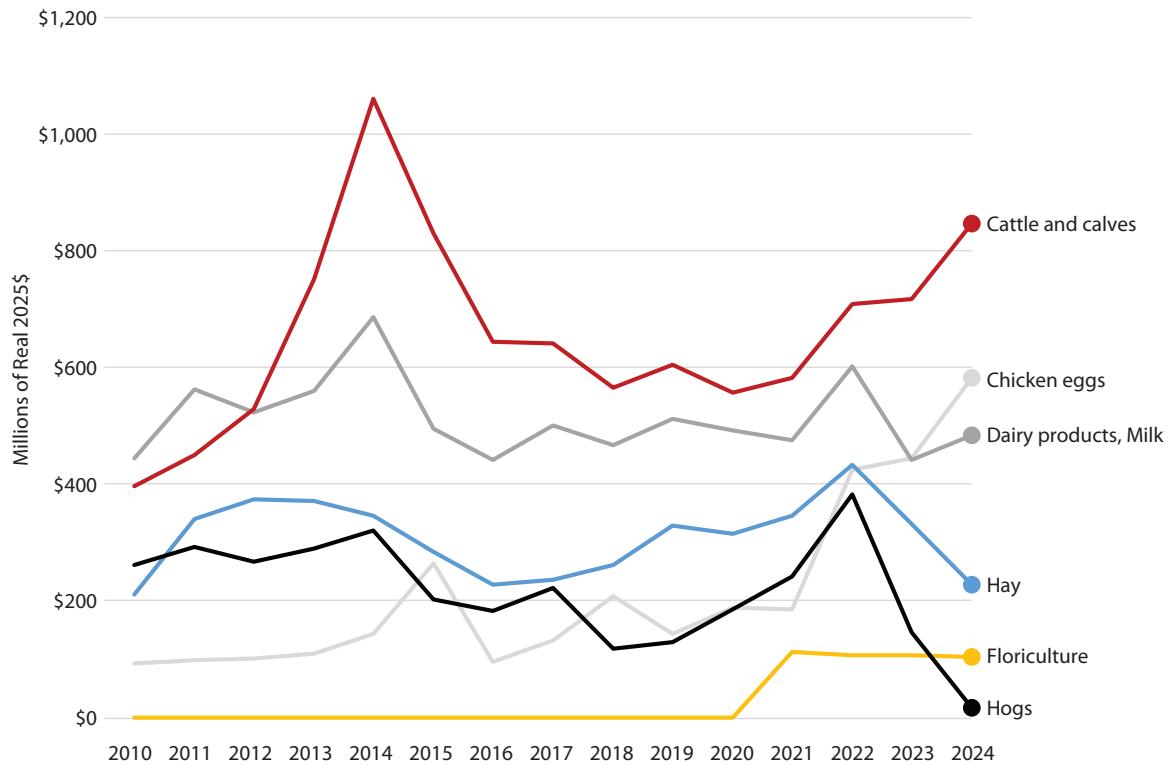
## Acres of Harvested Crops in Utah, 2022



Note: Only crops with 1,000 or more harvested acres are included. Harvested acres for individual crops may exceed total harvested acres due to double-cropping.  
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service. 2022 Census of Agriculture

# Beef booms and hogs hollow

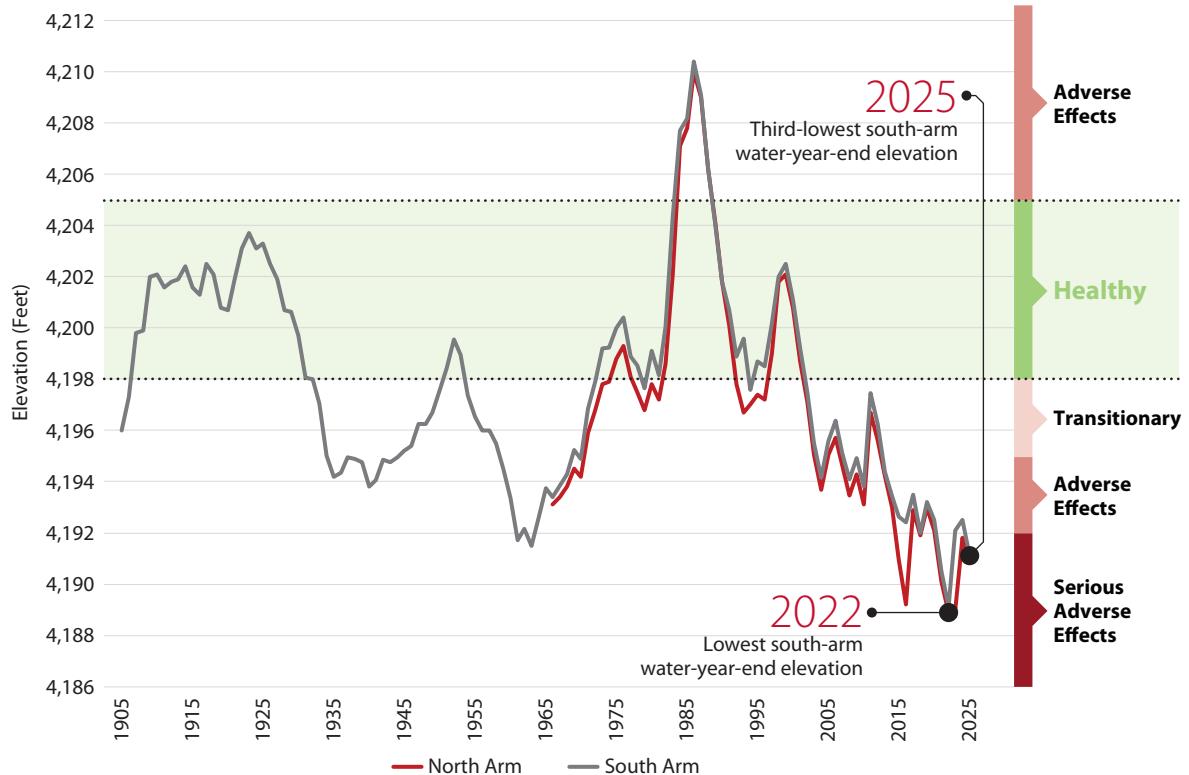
## Cash Receipts for Utah's Top Agricultural Commodities, 2010-2024



Note: Smithfield Foods, the largest pork producer in Utah, ended contracts with 26 Utah hog farms in 2023, precipitating the decline in hog sales.  
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. (2025). Farm Income and Wealth Statistics

# A decade in the red

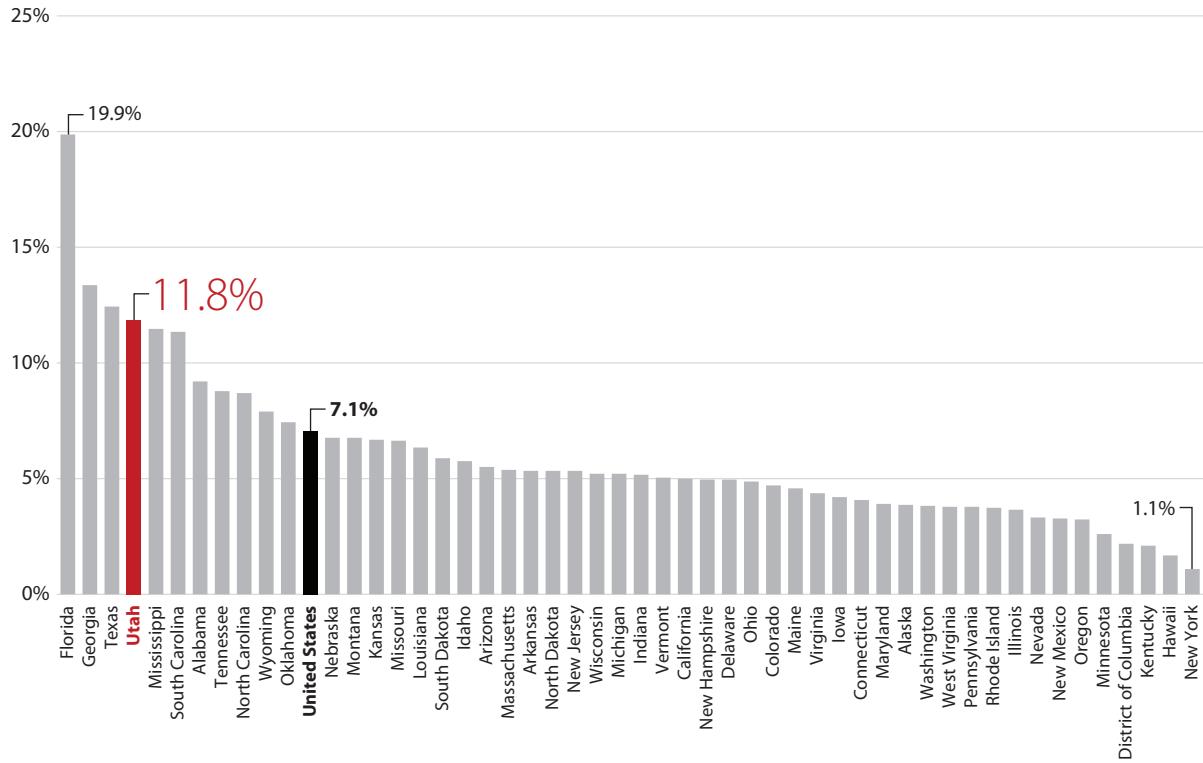
## Water-Year-End Elevation of the Great Salt Lake, 1903-2025



Note: Since 2013, the Great Salt Lake's south arm elevation has ended the water year in the adverse-effects zone. Water year refers to the period from Oct 1 through Sept 30.  
Source: US Geological Survey Historical Elevation at Saltair Boat Harbor and Saline, UT

# This little proprietor went to market

Share of Total Population Enrolled in ACA Marketplace by State, 2025



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of CMS Marketplace Open Enrollment Period Public Use Files

# An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

## **Share of Utah Adults Getting a Preventive Annual Medical Check-Up by Insurance Status and Poverty, 2023-2024**

### Insured



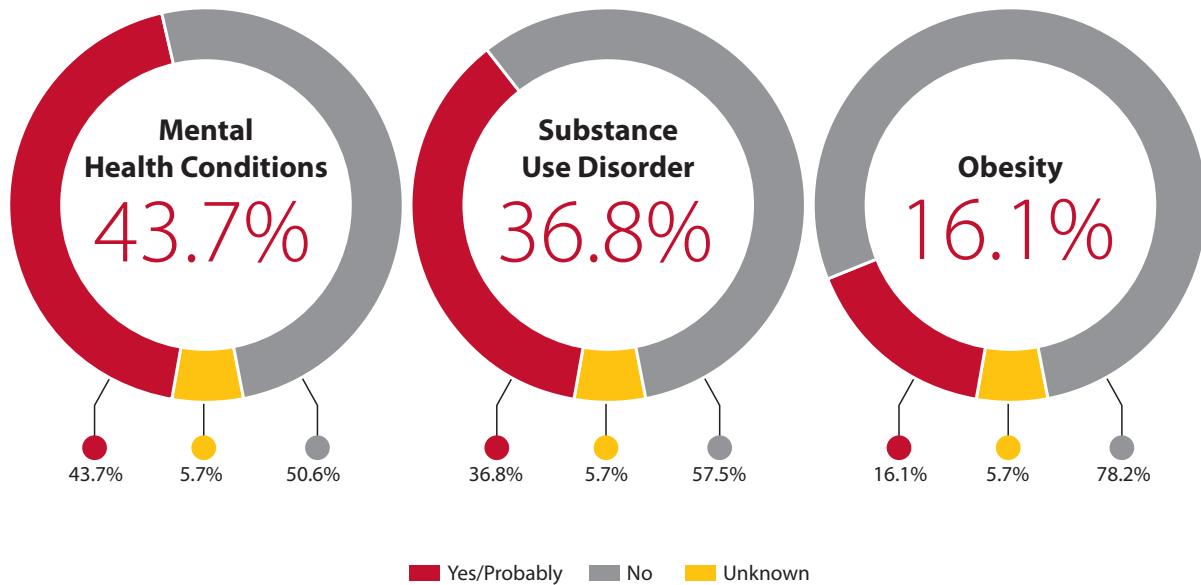
### Uninsured



Note: Includes adults age 18+. Values are age-adjusted. Poverty is measured at 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL).  
Source: Utah Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

# Drivers of maternal deaths

## Common Factors Contributing to Maternal Deaths in Utah, 2017–2020



Note: Maternal deaths are pregnancy-associated deaths and measured as a death during or within one year of pregnancy for the combined years 2017-2020.

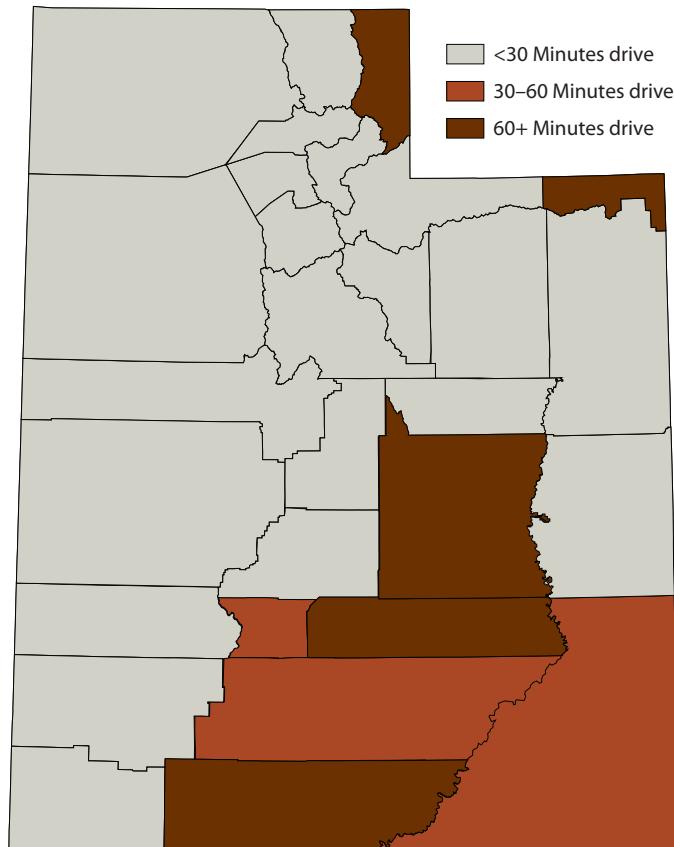
The Utah Maternal Mortality Review Committee investigates each case of maternal mortality. During the review process, the Committee asks the following questions:

1. Did obesity contribute to this death? 2. Did substance use disorder contribute to this death? 3. Did mental health conditions contribute to this death?

Source: Utah Department of Health and Human Services (2025), Maternal Mortality in Utah, 2017–2020

# 60 minutes and counting

## Average Distance in Travel Minutes to the Nearest Utah Birthing Hospital by County, 2022

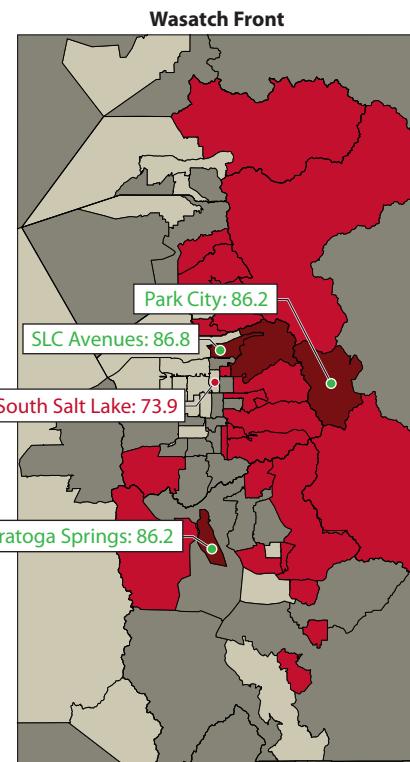
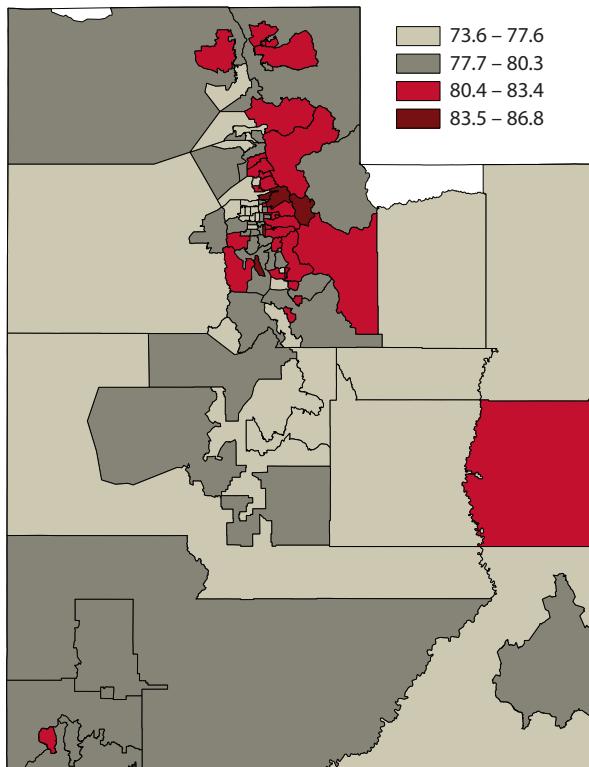


Note: Travel time is measured in minutes from the resident to the nearest birthing hospital, which is classified based on criteria from the AHA annual survey and the CMS POS files.

Source: Hospitals with obstetric units identified through 2022 AHA survey. Retrieved from Perinatal Data Center, March of Dimes, February 2025

# Precious time

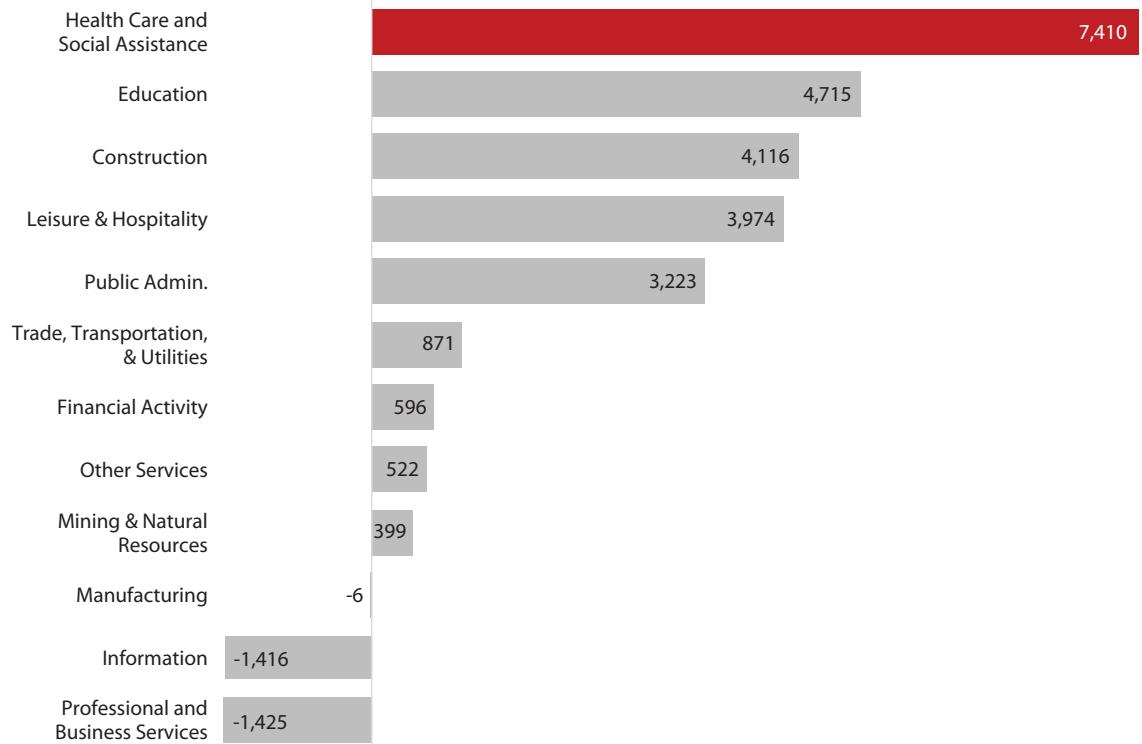
## Life Expectancy at Birth by Utah Small Area, 2019-2023



Note: Life expectancy is a measure often used to gauge the overall health of a community. Life expectancy at birth measures health status across all age groups. Source: Utah Death Certificate Database, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, Utah Department of Health and Human Services. Population estimates used linear interpolation of U.S. Census Bureau, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute population estimates, and ESRI ZIP Code data provided annual population estimates for ZIP Code areas by sex and age groups, IBIS Version 2023, National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved Tue, 29 July 2025 from the Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health.

# An aging Utah

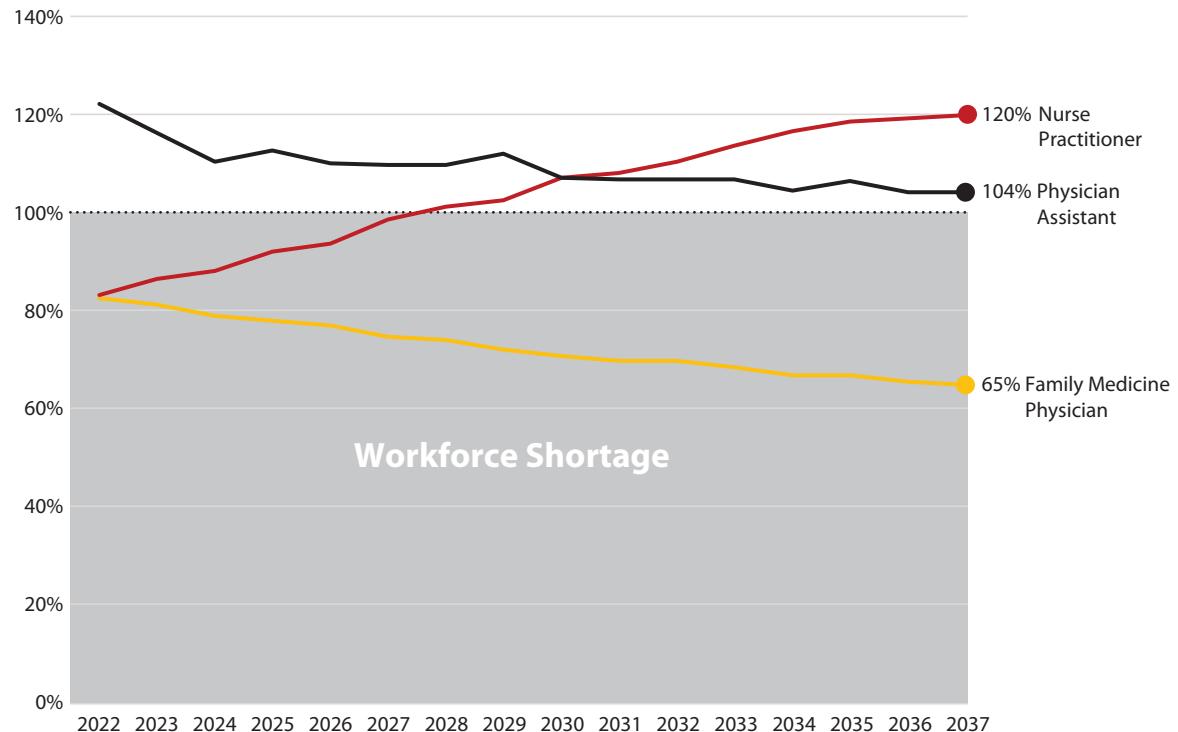
## Utah One-Year Employment Growth by Industry, 2023-2024



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

# Shifting primary care workforce

## Utah's Primary Care Workforce Projected Adequacy, 2022–2037

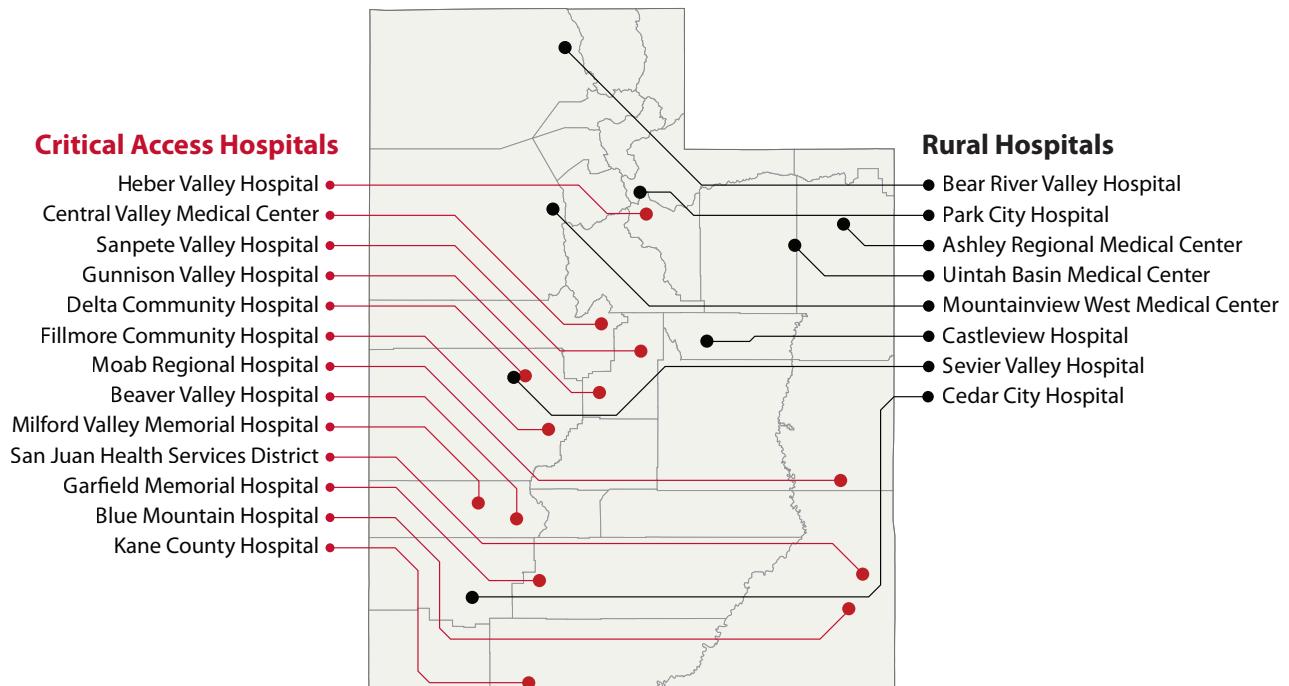


Note: Physician Assistant and Nurse Practitioner are projected to practice in primary care settings. Projections are based on the Health Workforce Simulation Model (HWSM), an integrated microsimulation model that estimates the current and future supply of and demand for health care workers by occupation, geographic area, and year. The HWSM incorporates factors like the changing population size, demographics, and location of the population; new entrants and exiting providers in various occupations; and differing levels of access to care.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Workforce Projections

# Howdy hospital

## Utah's Rural and Critical Access Hospitals, 2025



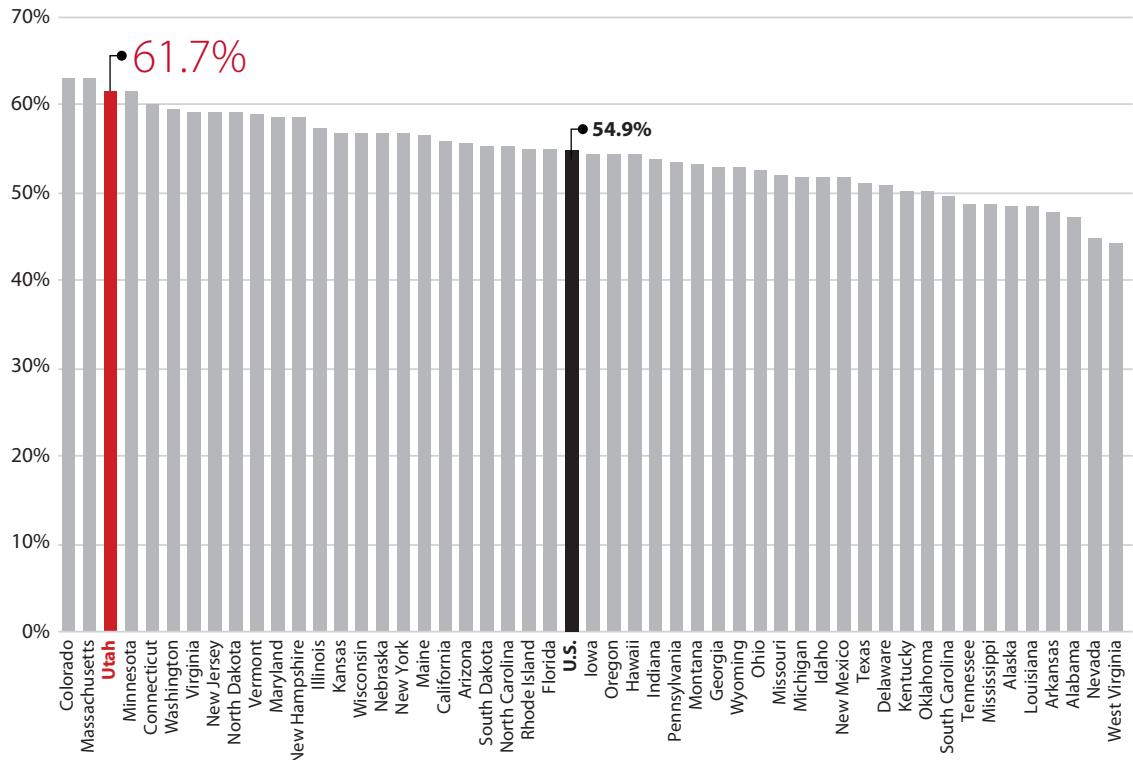
Note: Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) are rural hospitals designated by Medicare to ensure health care access in remote areas. They must have no more than 25 inpatient beds, be located at least 35 miles from other hospitals, and provide 24/7 emergency care. CAHs receive cost-based Medicare reimbursement and operate under more flexible staffing rules to maintain essential medical services in rural communities. Rural hospitals are health care facilities located in non-urban areas, serving communities with limited access to medical services. They typically provide essential emergency, inpatient, and outpatient care, and can face challenges like staffing shortages and financial constraints. Rural hospitals play a critical role in maintaining public health by delivering accessible health care and supporting local economies in rural regions.

Source: Utah Hospital Association, October 2025

# Utah's talent advantage

## Workforce Quality by State, 2023

Percentage of Population Ages 25-64 with a Postsecondary Certification, Certificate, or Degree

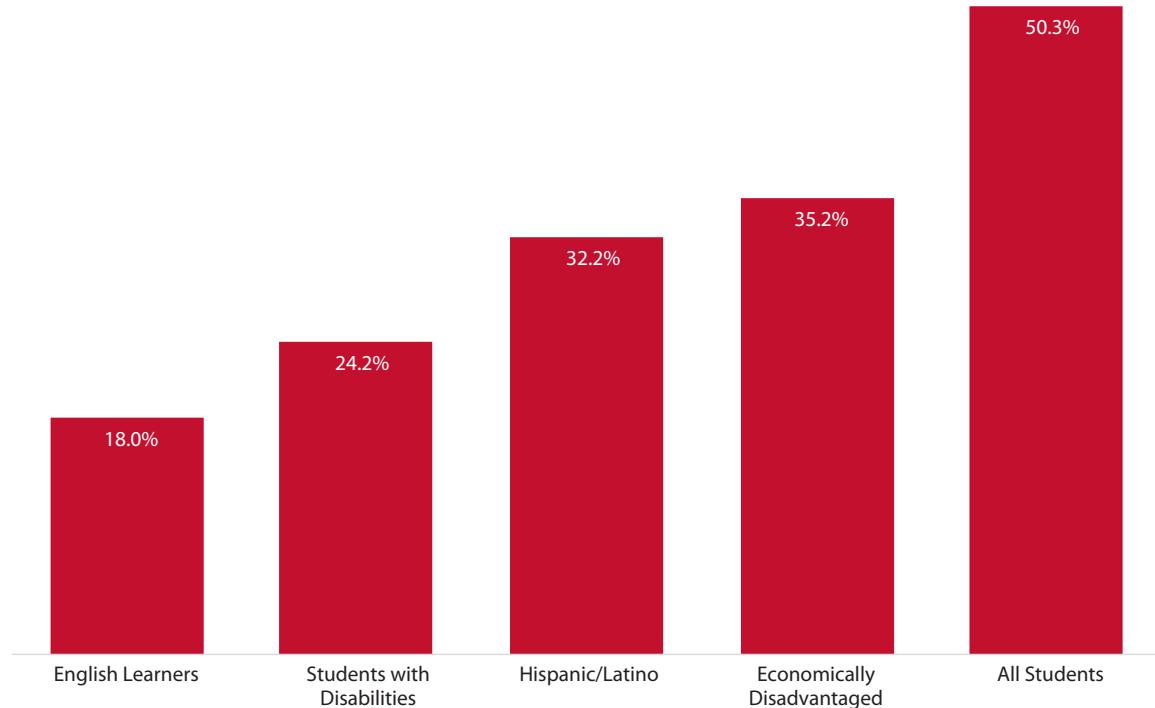


Note: United States total includes the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, but rankings only include states.

Source: Lumina Foundation

# Turning the page on early literacy

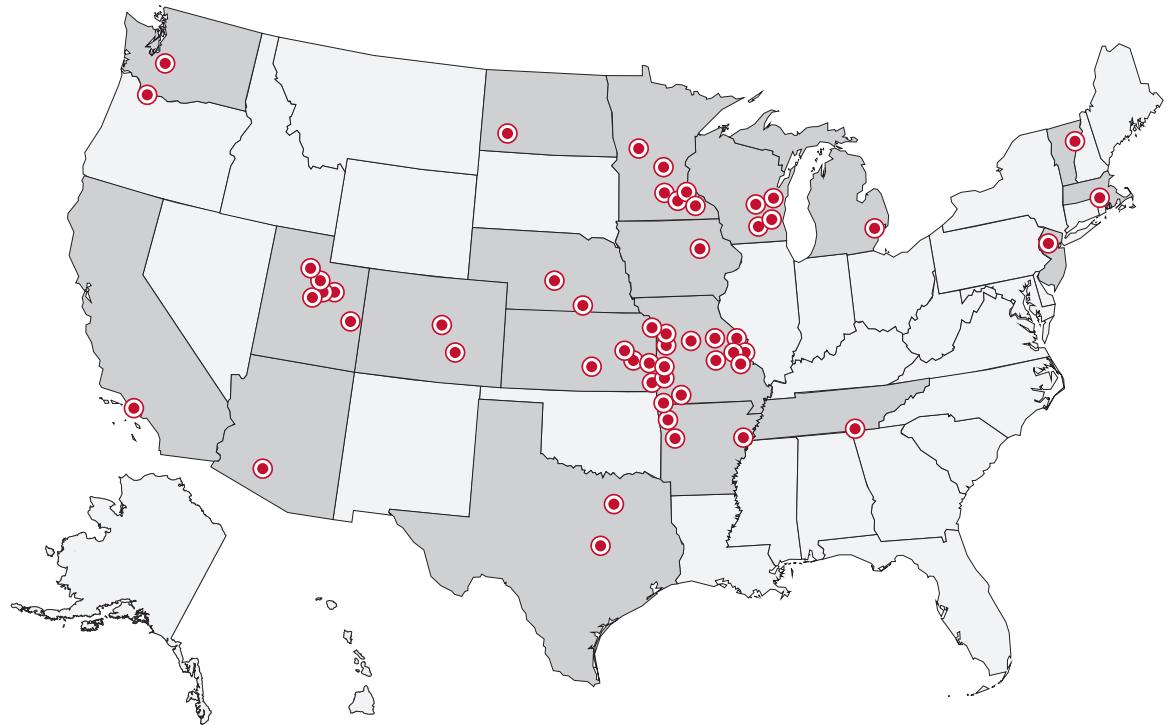
## Utah 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency by Student Category, 2025



Note: Proficiency measured as the share of 3rd grade students scoring above benchmark on the end-of-year acadience exam.  
Source: Utah State Board of Education

# Utah pioneers hands-on education

## Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) Programs by State, 2025



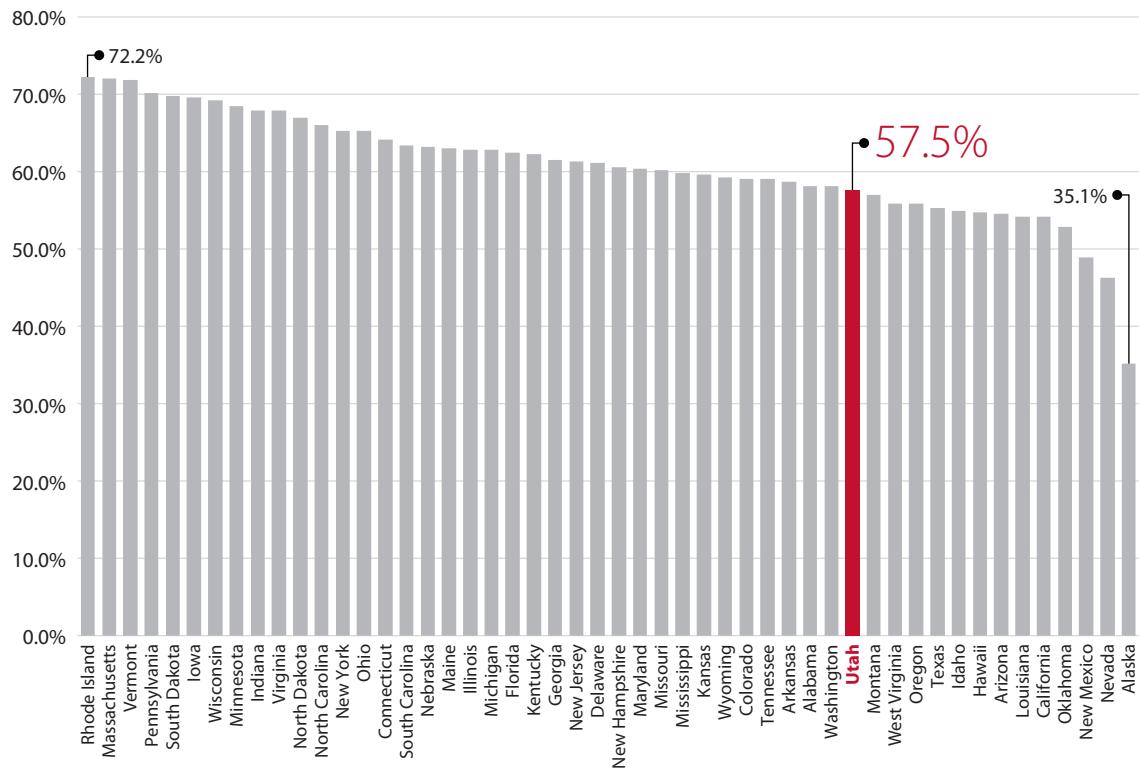
Note: CAPS programs are nationally recognized innovative high school programs where students are fully immersed in a professional culture, solving real-world problems, using industry standard tools, and mentored by employers while receiving high school and/or college credit.

Source: CAPS Network

# A degree short of the finish line

## Higher Education Completion Rates by State, 2024

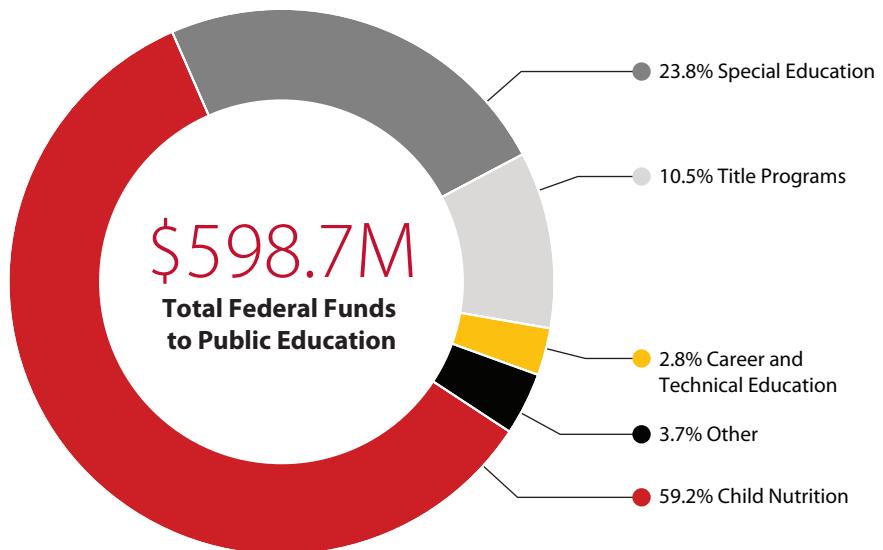
Six-Year Graduation Rates at Degree-Granting Institutions, 2018 Cohort



Source: National Student Clearinghouse Center

# Fueling minds and meals

## Federal Funds Appropriated to Utah Public Education by Program, FY2026

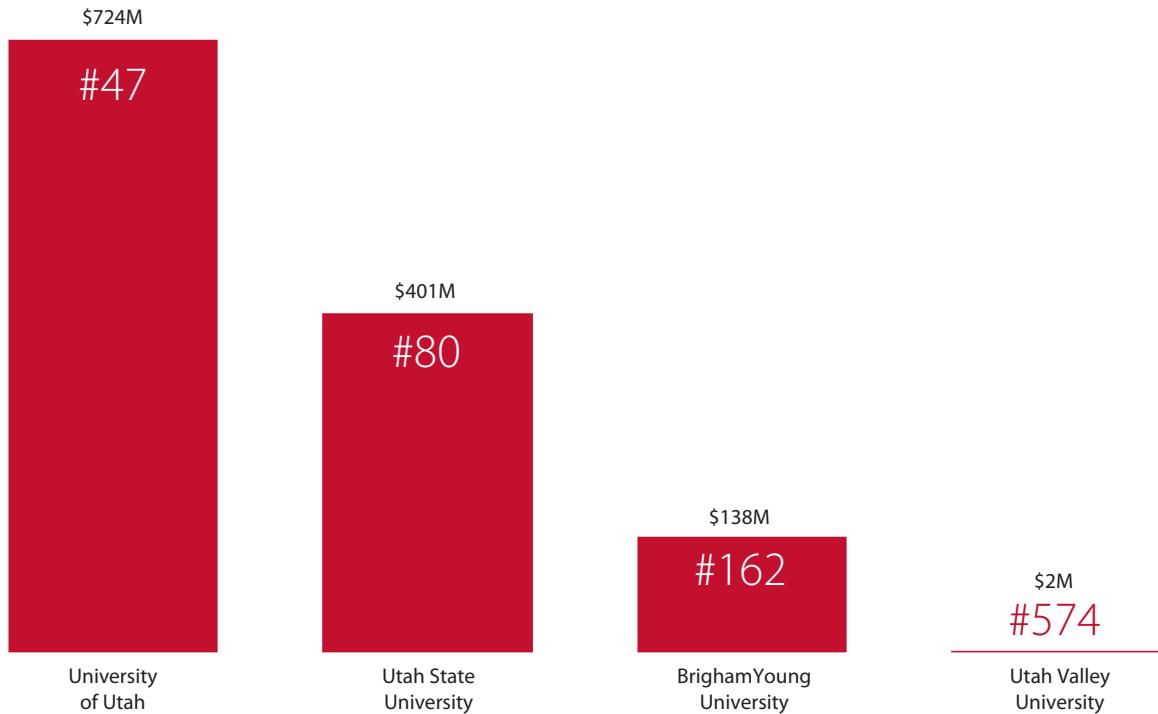


Note: Other funds include approximately \$20 million in minor federal grants to the State Board of Education focused on assessment, accountability, and teaching/learning programs.

Source: Utah Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Compendium of Budget Information (COBI)

# Innovation has a Utah address

## Utah Higher Education Research and Development Expenditures and National Rankings by Institution, FY2023

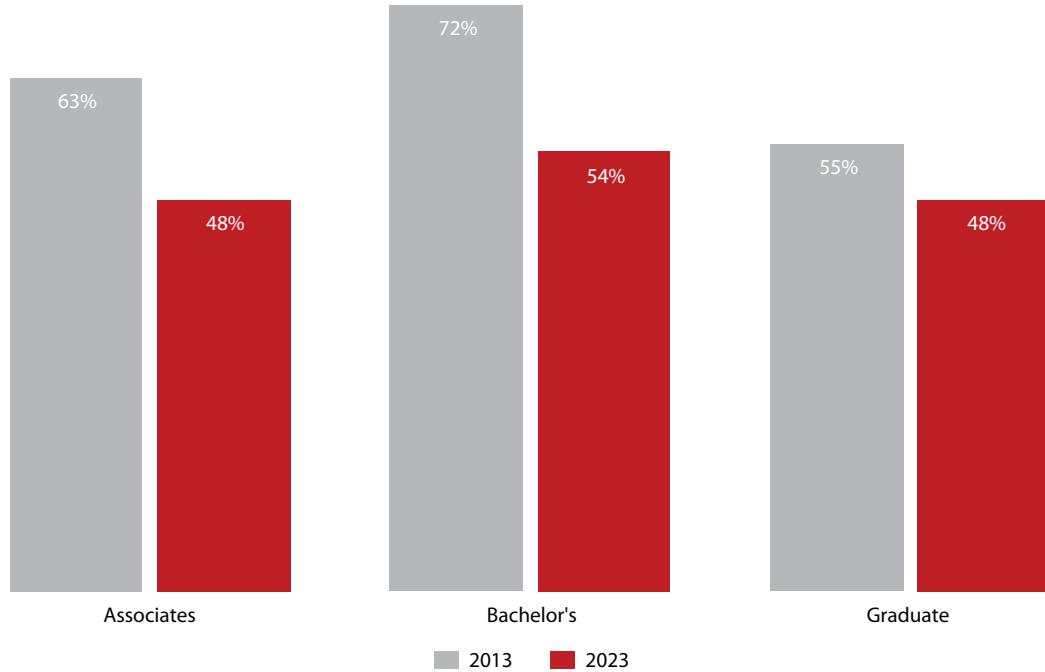


Note: Includes Utah institutions that expended at least \$150,000 on separately accounted-for Research and Development (R&D) in FY2023. National ranking is among all U.S. higher education institutions who meet this threshold.

Source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey

## Higher ed, lower confidence

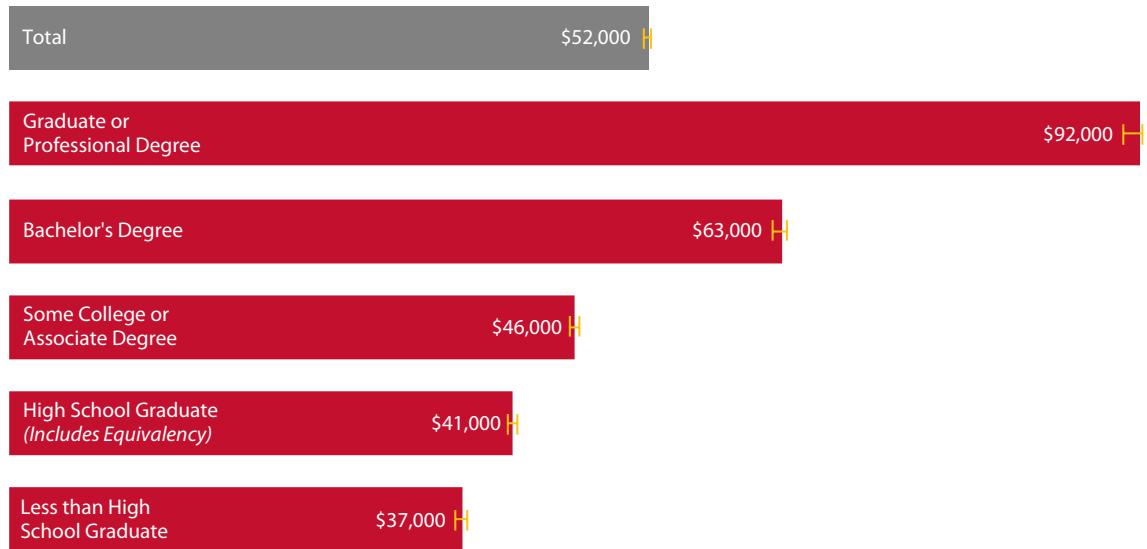
**Share of Utahns Who Believe an Associates, Bachelor's, or Graduate Degree is Necessary to Compete in the World Today, 2023**



Source: Cicero. July 2023. Utah System of Higher Education Quantitative Benchmark Findings.

# Higher ed, higher earnings

## Utah Median Earnings by Educational Attainment, 2023

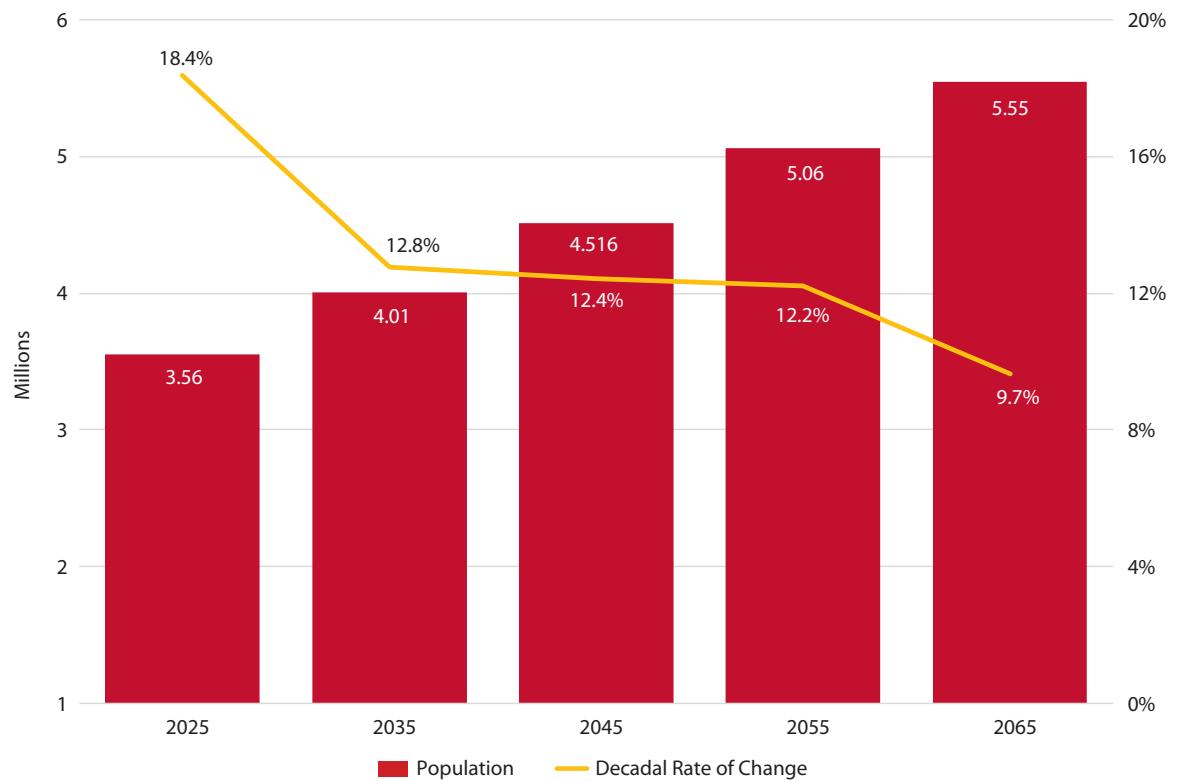


Note: Rounded to the nearest \$1,000. Earnings are wages or salary from a job, or income from being self-employed. These are survey-based estimates subject to sample variation. Each estimate is shown with its 90% confidence interval. This interval represents a range of population values that are plausible in light of information in the sample, with a 90% degree of confidence.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 5-Year American Community Survey estimates

## Consistent growth ahead

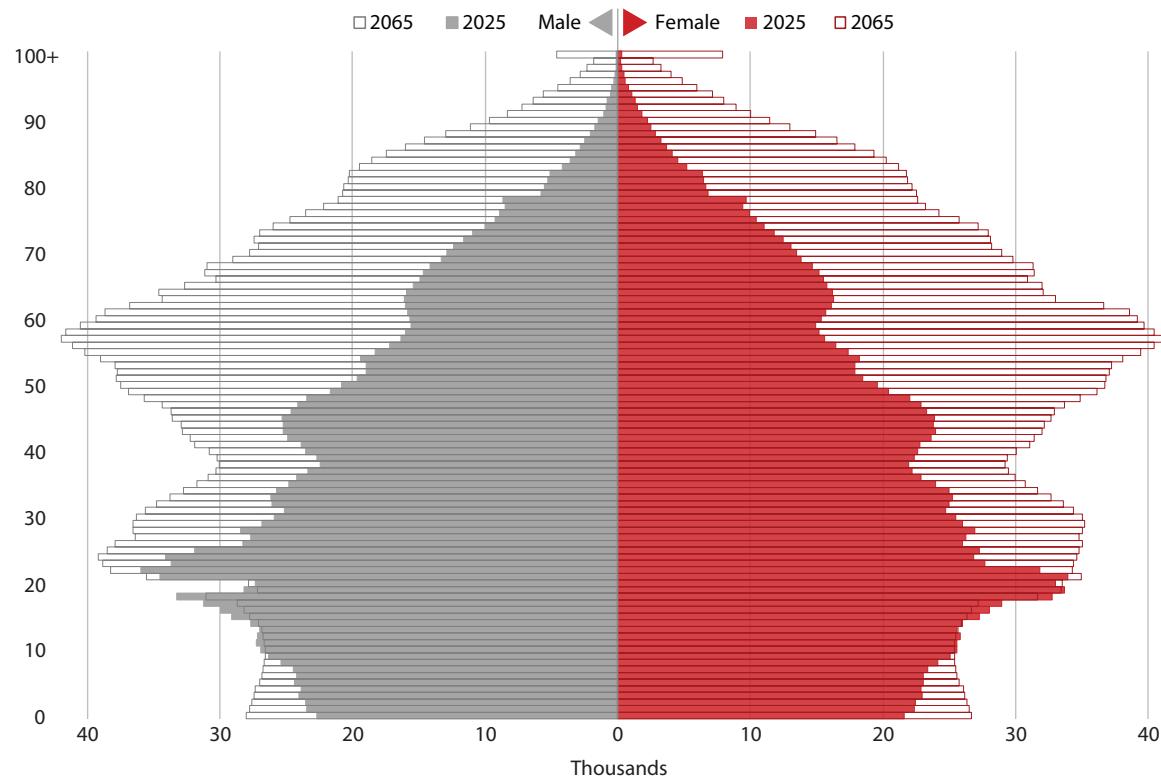
### Utah Projected Total Population, 2025-2065



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

# Forever young?

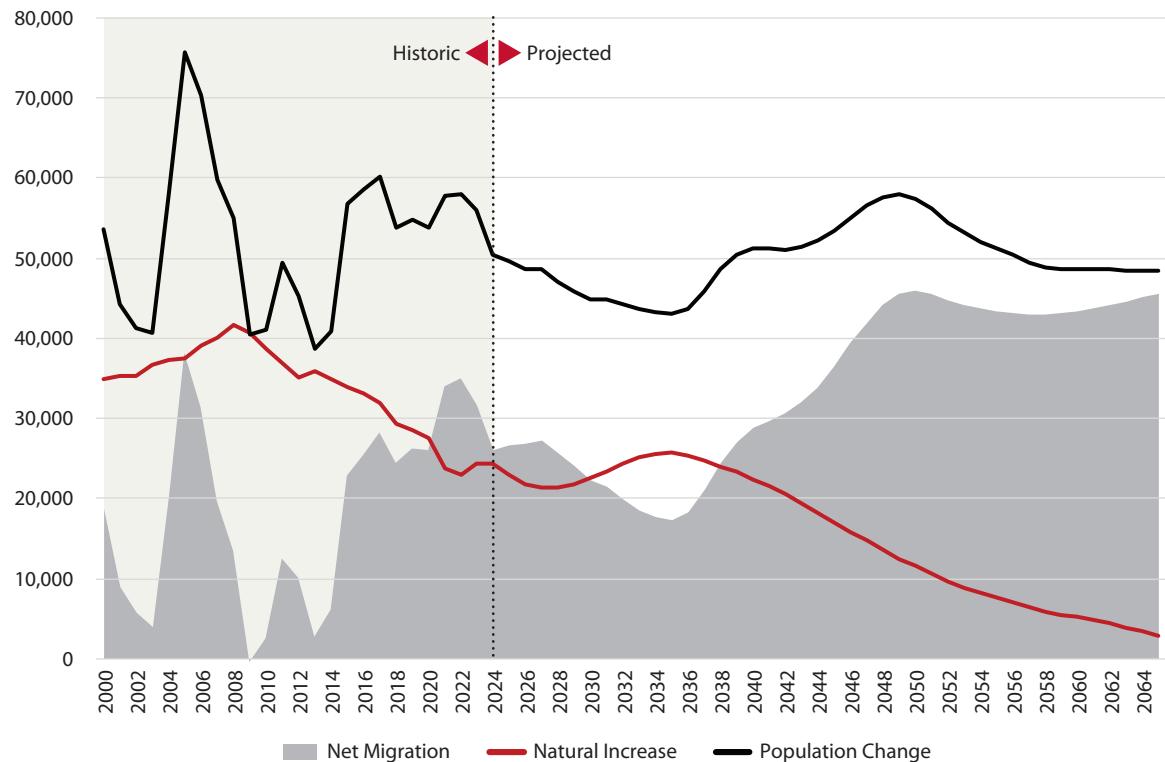
Utah Projected Population Pyramid, 2025 and 2065



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

# A magnet state

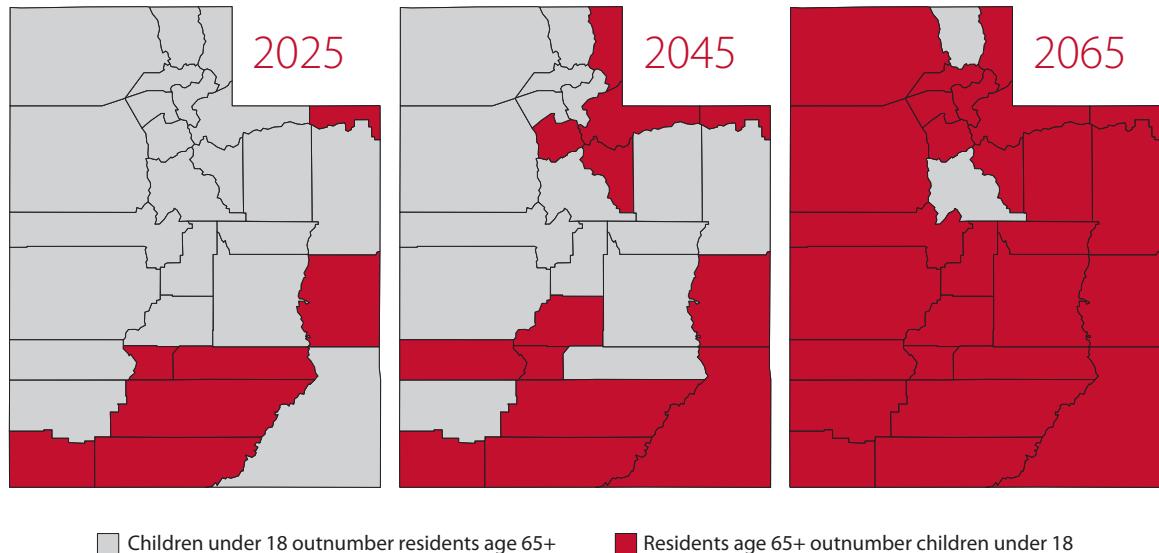
## Utah Historic and Projected Population Change and Components of Change, 2000-2065



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

# Walkers vs. strollers

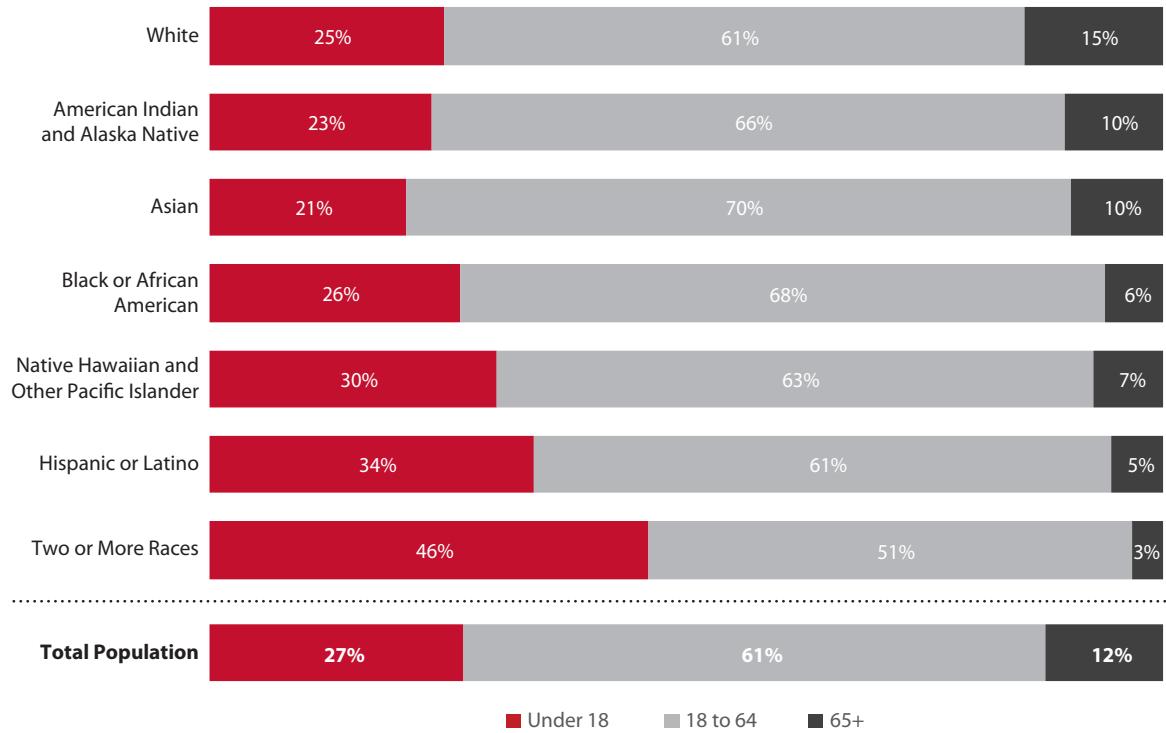
## Utah Counties Where Residents Age 65+ Outnumber Residents Under 18, 2025, 2045, 2065



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

# Utah's young, multiracial population

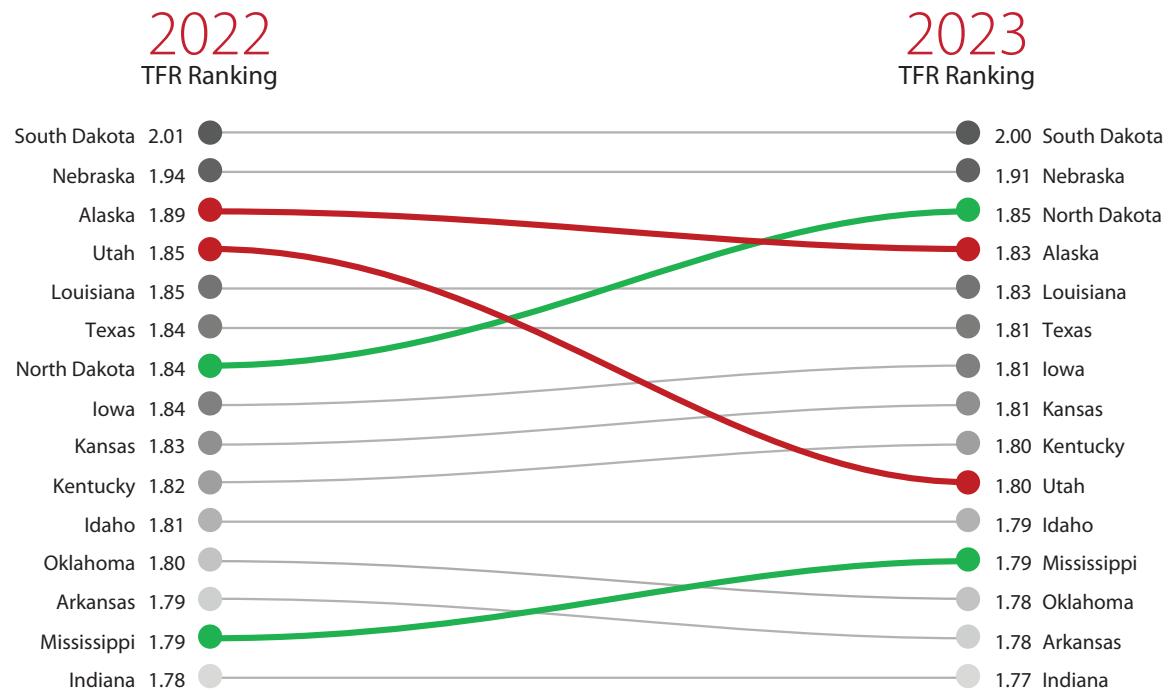
## Age Groups in Utah by Race or Ethnicity, 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Division

# Chutes and Ladders

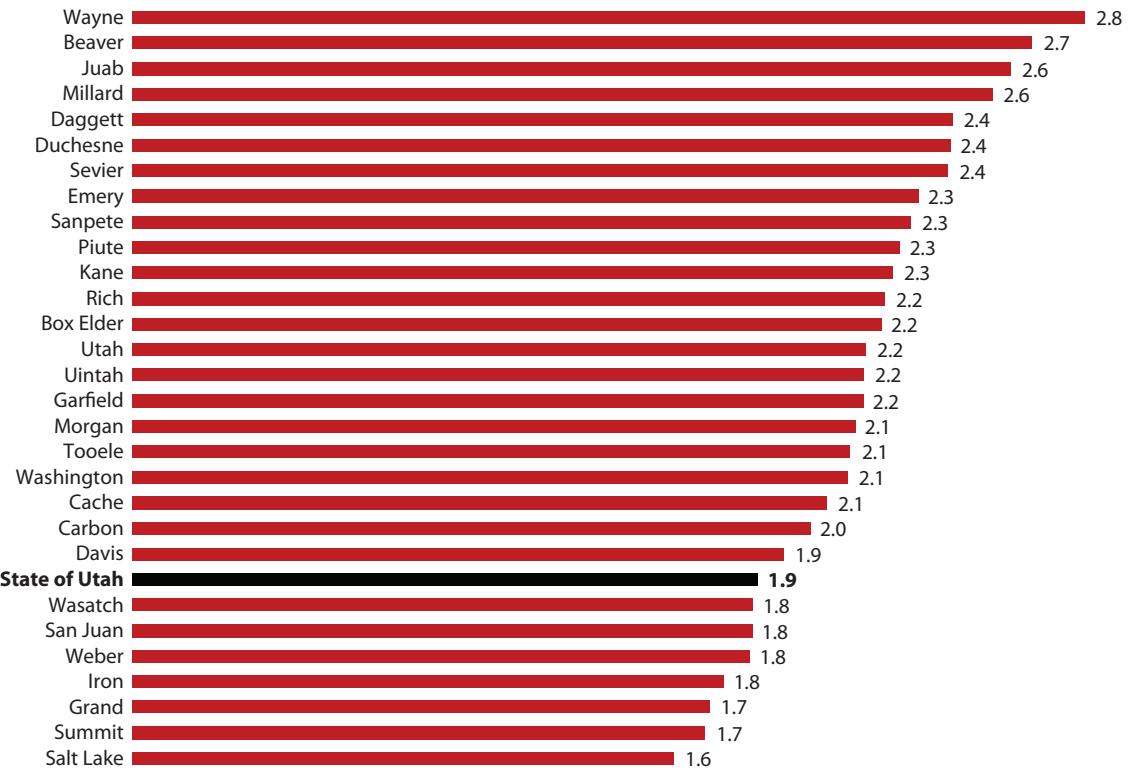
## Top 15 States with Highest Total Fertility Rates and their Rankings, 2022 and 2023



Source: National Center for Health Statistics

# Fertile ground

## County Total Fertility Rates in Utah, 2023

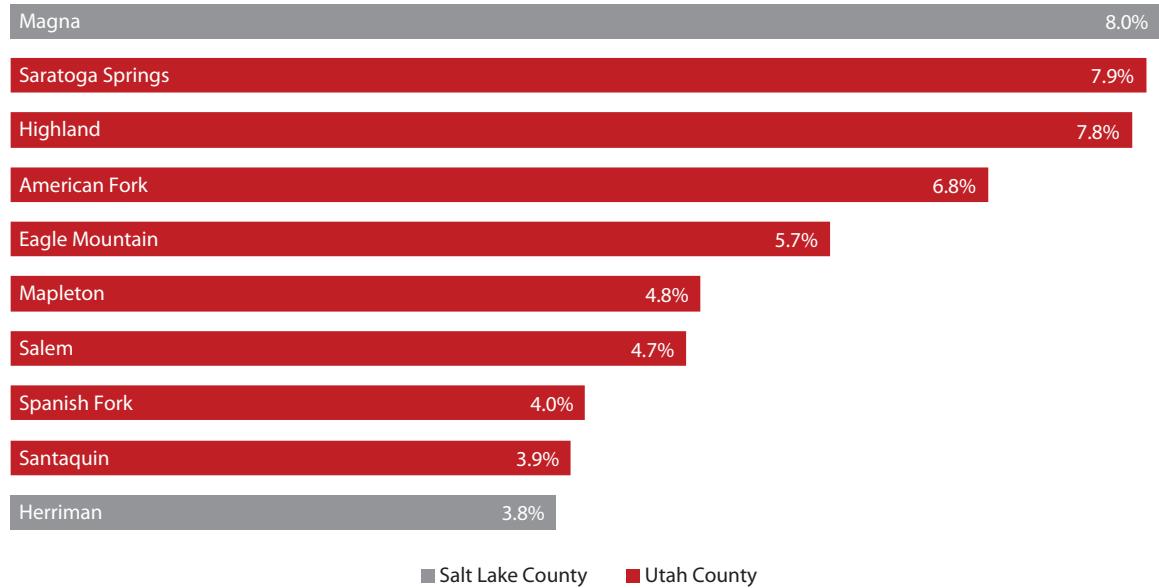


Note: Total Fertility Rate is the average number of children a woman will have if she survives all of her childbearing (or reproductive) years.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Department of Health and Human Services Vital Records Data

# Utah County welcomes you

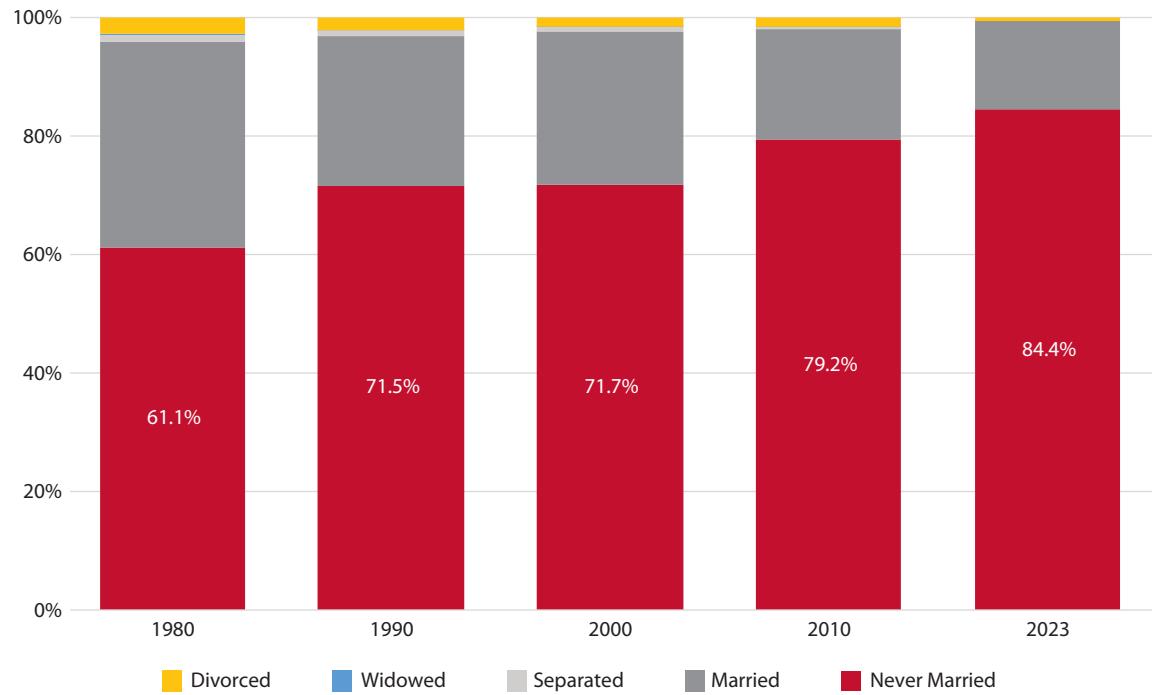
## 10 Fastest Growing Places in the Wasatch Front, 2023 to 2024



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, Wasatch Front Subcounty Estimates, 2024

# I can buy myself flowers

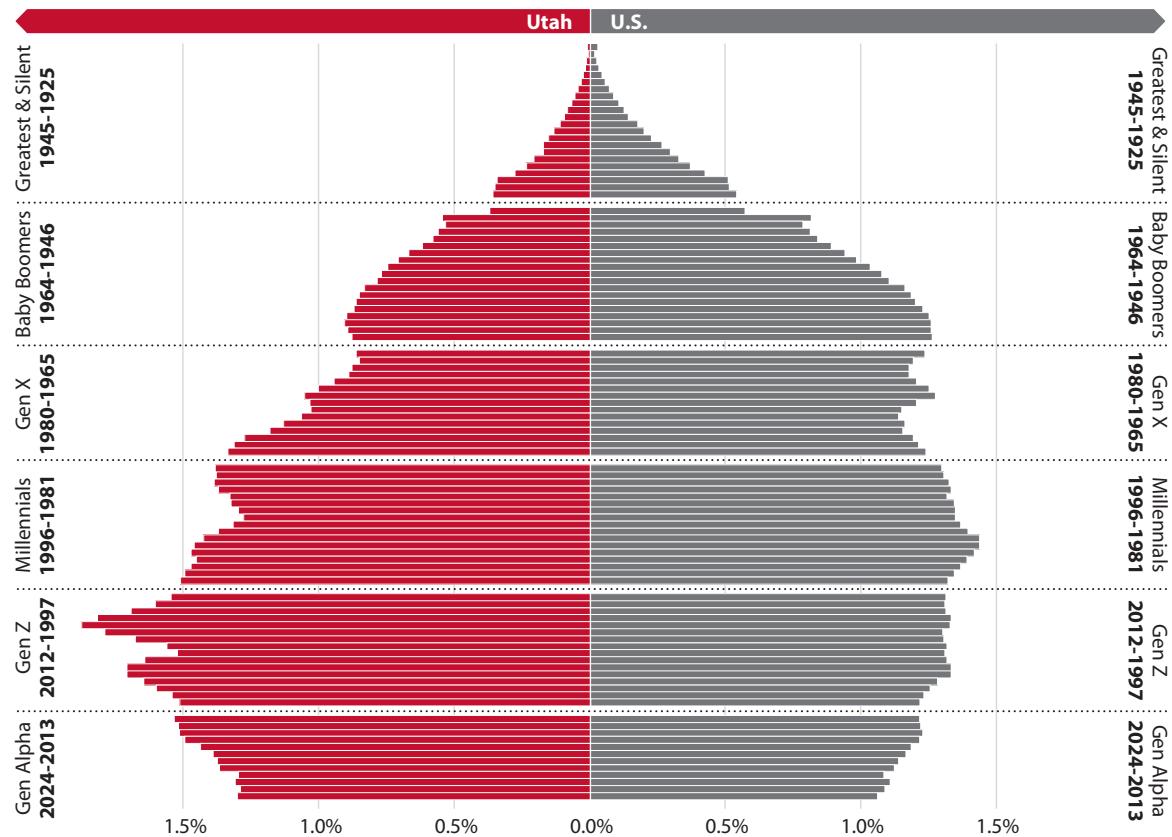
## Utah Females Age 15 to 24 by Marital Status, 1980-2023



Source: IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, [www.nhgis.org](http://www.nhgis.org) 1980-2000, U.S. Census Bureau American Community survey 1-Year Estimates, 2010 and 2023

# Gen Z rising

## Generations in Utah and the U.S., 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2024

The whole point

*I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the  
UNITED STATES of  
AMERICA, and to the republic for  
which it stands, ONE NATION,  
under God, INDIVISIBLE, with  
liberty and justice FOR ALL.*

- Pledge of Allegiance

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