

# State and County Population Estimates: Comparing Census Bureau and Utah Population Committee, 2025

Two primary sources exist in Utah for state and county-level population estimates: the Utah Population Committee (UPC) and the U.S. Census Bureau. This fact sheet summarizes the differences between the Census Bureau and Utah Population Committee estimates for Utah counties.

Table 1 highlights the counties with the largest differences between the two sources. Differences in net migration drive much of this variation. The Census Bureau reports higher population and net migration estimates for counties such as Weber and Washington, while the UPC reports higher estimates for Salt Lake and Utah counties. These larger estimates for Salt Lake and Utah drive the higher state totals. The UPC 2025 population estimate for Utah exceeds the Census Bureau's by about 12,000 (0.3%), and its net migration estimate is higher by approximately 8,500.

## What are Population Estimates? What do they Measure?

Annual population estimates provide a once-a-year snapshot of the population and provide a consistent reference point across years. The state and county population estimates measure the number of people living in an area at a specified point in time, usually July 1<sup>st</sup>, of the most recent past year.

## Why are the UPC and Census Bureau Population Estimates Different from Each Other?

UPC and the Census Bureau use different input data and different methodologies, resulting in different estimates (see Table 2). UPC's locally produced estimates are carefully vetted by local data experts who closely track Utah demographic trends.<sup>2</sup>

## Why are there Multiple Sources of Population Estimates?

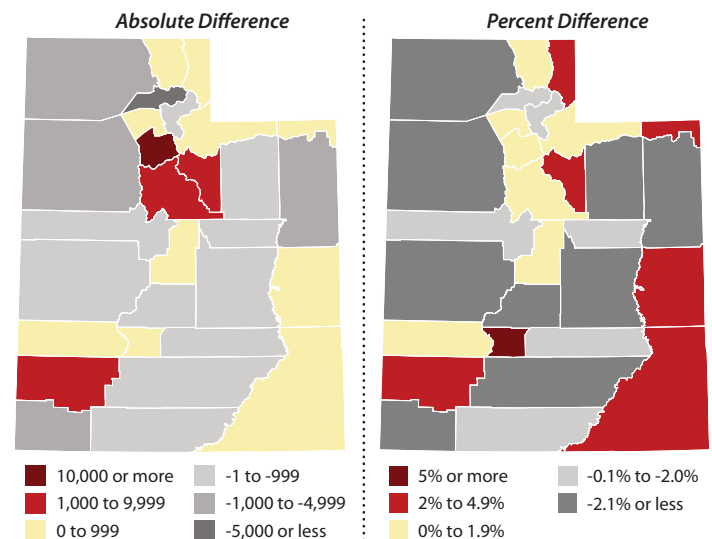
The Census Bureau population estimates program creates estimates at the national, state, county, and city level for the entire United States. This is especially important for states that do not have their own population estimates programs. Some states do create their own population estimates due to individual need or confidence that they can create more accurate population estimates than the Census Bureau, but those states are in the minority. Utah is one of these states, with the effort led by the Utah Population Committee.

## Which Population Estimates Should You Use?

The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute recommends the Utah Population Committee estimates for Utah-only planning and analysis. If comparing to other areas throughout the United States, such as determining national rankings in population indicators, consider using Census Bureau estimates.

The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute chairs the UPC and is the lead entity in Utah for Census Bureau data, estimates, and products. As part of this work, the Institute formally evaluates and provides annual input to the Census Bureau on their Utah population estimates and methodology.

**Figure 1: 2025 Utah Population Committee Estimates Compared to the Census Bureau Estimates**



Note: Calculated as UPC minus Census Bureau  
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2025 Population Estimates; UPC, Vintage 2025 Population Estimates

**Table 1: Top County Differences in Total Population between U.S. Census Bureau and UPC Estimate Series in Utah, 2025**

Large Absolute Differences		Large Percentage Differences	
County	Higher Estimate	County	Higher Estimate
Salt Lake	UPC is higher by 20,021	Piute	UPC is higher by 7.7%
Utah	UPC is higher by 5,656	Iron	UPC is higher by 4.2%
Weber	Census Bureau is higher by 5,245	Uintah	Census Bureau is higher by 4.3%
Washington	Census Bureau is higher by 4,541	Box Elder	Census Bureau is higher by 3.7%
		Tooele	Census Bureau is higher by 3.6%

Note: Details on these differences can be found in figures and tables below; methodological differences are detailed in Table 2.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute comparison of Utah Population Committee and U.S. Census Bureau 2025 Population Estimates.

**Table 2: Utah Population Committee and Census Bureau Methodology Differences**

	Utah Population Committee			Census Bureau		
<b>Inputs</b>	Vital Records (births, deaths) 3 Methods – IRS Exemption, Housing Unit, and School Enrollment.			Vital Records (births, deaths) IRS Data, Medicare Data, Social Security Administration's Numerical Identification File, Group Quarters Populations, American Community Survey		
<b>County Estimate Methodology<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Net Migration</b>	= Current Population Estimate	- Previous Population Estimate	- Births	- Deaths	<b>Population Estimate</b> = Population Base + Births - Deaths + Migration

**Table 3: Total Census Bureau and Utah Population Committee Population Estimates for Utah and Counties, 2023-2025**

Geographic Area	Census Bureau Population Estimate (as of July 1)			UPC Population Estimate (as of July 1)			Difference Between UPC and Census Bureau	Percent Difference Between UPC and Census Bureau
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2025	2025
<b>Utah</b>	<b>3,449,259</b>	<b>3,502,983</b>	<b>3,538,904</b>	<b>3,456,446</b>	<b>3,506,798</b>	<b>3,551,150</b>	<b>12,246</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>Counties</b>								
Beaver	7,271	7,362	7,301	7,314	7,339	7,429	128	1.8%
Box Elder	62,817	63,985	65,320	61,251	61,756	62,911	-2,409	-3.7%
Cache	143,021	144,667	145,000	141,700	143,482	145,865	865	0.6%
Carbon	20,622	20,600	20,680	20,654	20,443	20,539	-141	-0.7%
Daggett	985	952	934	998	984	959	25	2.7%
Davis	374,645	378,462	381,227	377,378	378,570	381,339	112	0.0%
Duchesne	20,484	20,676	20,856	20,112	20,171	20,266	-590	-2.8%
Emery	10,134	10,142	10,177	10,035	9,913	9,922	-255	-2.5%
Garfield	5,329	5,321	5,256	5,141	5,114	5,074	-182	-3.5%
Grand	9,779	9,700	9,790	9,842	9,896	10,105	315	3.2%
Iron	64,306	65,559	67,141	66,044	67,896	69,939	2,798	4.2%
Juab	13,028	13,324	13,567	12,766	13,116	13,364	-203	-1.5%
Kane	8,433	8,491	8,597	8,387	8,363	8,481	-116	-1.4%
Millard	13,661	13,913	14,057	13,484	13,609	13,715	-342	-2.4%
Morgan	12,986	13,110	13,383	13,059	13,092	13,341	-42	-0.3%
Piute	1,553	1,547	1,509	1,565	1,649	1,625	116	7.7%
Rich	2,668	2,740	2,687	2,725	2,804	2,812	125	4.7%
Salt Lake	1,205,509	1,217,454	1,220,916	1,220,554	1,232,656	1,240,937	20,021	1.6%
San Juan	14,324	14,499	14,542	14,954	15,002	14,998	456	3.1%
Sanpete	30,565	30,881	31,453	30,347	30,900	31,454	1	0.0%
Sevier	22,378	22,592	22,827	22,164	21,972	22,118	-709	-3.1%
Summit	42,981	43,250	43,141	43,491	43,301	43,303	162	0.4%
Tooele	82,266	84,828	87,461	79,408	81,854	84,320	-3,141	-3.6%
Uintah	37,851	38,154	38,278	36,527	36,214	36,634	-1,644	-4.3%
Utah	726,088	745,668	759,859	727,751	749,602	765,515	5,656	0.7%
Wasatch	37,269	37,849	38,514	37,933	38,801	39,588	1,074	2.8%
Washington	202,953	208,431	213,670	198,528	204,378	209,129	-4,541	-2.1%
Wayne	2,618	2,609	2,587	2,523	2,543	2,538	-49	-1.9%
Weber	272,735	276,217	278,174	269,811	271,378	272,929	-5,245	-1.9%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2025 Population Estimates; UPC, Vintage 2025 Population Estimates

**Table 4: Population and Components of Change Comparisons between Census Bureau and UPC Estimates, July 1, 2025**

Geographic Area	Census Bureau July 1, 2024 – July 1, 2025				Utah Population Committee July 1, 2024 – July 1, 2025				Difference between UPC and Census, 2025		
	Absolute Population Change	Percent Population Change	Natural Change	Net Migration	Absolute Population Change	Percent Population Change	Natural Change	Net Migration	Absolute Population Change	Natural Change	Net Migration
<b>Utah</b>	<b>35,921</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>24,961</b>	<b>10,844</b>	<b>44,351</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>25,118</b>	<b>19,233</b>	<b>8,430</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>8,389</b>
<b>Counties</b>											
Beaver	-61	-0.8%	31	-92	90	1.2%	40	50	151	9	142
Box Elder	1,335	2.1%	381	962	1,155	1.9%	440	715	-180	59	-247
Cache	333	0.2%	1,364	-1,037	2,383	1.7%	1,289	1,094	2,050	-75	2,131
Carbon	80	0.4%	-60	138	96	0.5%	-53	149	16	7	11
Daggett	-18	-1.9%	-8	-10	-24	-2.4%	-3	-21	-6	5	-11
Davis	2,765	0.7%	2,669	45	2,769	0.7%	2,408	361	4	-261	316
Duchesne	180	0.9%	57	122	95	0.5%	70	25	-85	13	-97
Emery	35	0.3%	-1	35	9	0.1%	22	-13	-26	23	-48
Garfield	-65	-1.2%	-6	-58	-41	-0.8%	8	-49	24	14	9
Grand	90	0.9%	23	65	209	2.1%	24	185	119	1	120
Iron	1,582	2.4%	413	1,173	2,042	3.0%	416	1,626	460	3	453
Juab	243	1.8%	128	117	248	1.9%	170	78	5	42	-39
Kane	106	1.2%	-14	121	118	1.4%	-6	124	12	8	3
Millard	144	1.0%	69	76	106	0.8%	88	18	-38	19	-58
Morgan	273	2.1%	85	191	248	1.9%	82	166	-25	-3	-25
Piute	-38	-2.5%	-2	-35	-24	-1.5%	4	-28	14	6	7
Rich	-53	-1.9%	12	-64	8	0.3%	16	-8	61	4	56
Salt Lake	3,462	0.3%	7,054	-3,600	8,281	0.7%	6,902	1,379	4,819	-152	4,979
San Juan	43	0.3%	55	-12	-4	-0.0%	30	-34	-47	-25	-22
Sanpete	572	1.9%	167	406	553	1.8%	166	387	-19	-1	-19
Sevier	235	1.0%	72	164	146	0.7%	16	130	-89	-56	-34
Summit	-109	-0.3%	226	-338	2	0.0%	205	-203	111	-21	135
Tooele	2,633	3.1%	651	2,004	2,466	3.0%	725	1,741	-167	74	-263
Uintah	124	0.3%	193	-71	420	1.2%	153	267	296	-40	338
Utah	14,191	1.9%	9,156	4,926	15,914	2.1%	9,582	6,332	1,723	426	1,406
Wasatch	665	1.8%	200	467	788	2.0%	211	577	123	11	110
Washington	5,239	2.5%	511	4,770	4,751	2.3%	605	4,146	-488	94	-624
Wayne	-22	-0.8%	3	-24	-5	-0.2%	9	-14	17	6	10
Weber	1,957	0.7%	1,532	403	1,551	0.6%	1,503	48	-406	-29	-355

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2025 Population Estimates; UPC, Vintage 2025 Population Estimates

**Endnotes**

1. The Census Bureau methodology is available here: <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/methodology/2020-2025/methods-statement-v2025.pdf> and the UPC methodology here: <https://d36oiwf74r1rap.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/UPC-Method-Jan2024.pdf>
2. For more information on differences between UPC and Census Bureau population estimate methodologies: <https://d36oiwf74r1rap.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/PopEstFAQ-Feb2023.pdf>