

Duchesne County



Duchesne County is the 14th smallest in Utah, a 2020 Census population of 19,596.¹ Between 2010 and 2020, Duchesne County grew by 989 residents, driven by natural increase.

Duchesne County's population is projected to grow from 19,608 on July 1, 2020 to 23,133 in 2060. The County is projected to continue to experience below state average population and employment growth, as global energy markets transition away from coal. Bonanza, Uintah County's coal-fired powerplant, is slated for closure in 2030.² The median age is projected to rise from 33.3 in 2020 to 38.1 in 2060. Additional details on age groups are included below.

Duchesne County's economy ranks among Utah's most economically specialized. Analysts expect the economy to continue to grow as county leaders usher in employers driven by attractive economic assets, including a hardworking workforce, Utah State University Uintah Basin, favorable broadband access, and proximity to the Greater Salt Lake economic region.

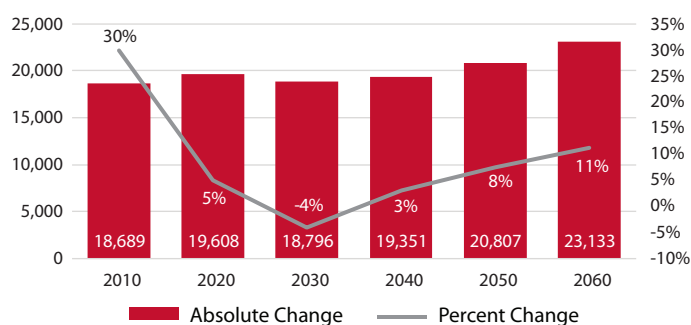
Key Findings

- **Historical population context** – Between 2010 and 2020, Duchesne County grew by 989 residents. Driven by natural increase, this resulted in a 2020 Census population of 19,596, the 14th smallest in Utah.
- **Regional context** – Duchesne County is part of the Uintah Basin economic region. This three-county economic region functions largely as a single consumer market and labor market.
- **Population growth** – Duchesne County's population is projected to grow from 19,608 on July 1, 2020 to 23,133 in 2060. Duchesne County's overall population ranking is projected to remain at the 16th largest in the state from 2020 to 2060.
- **Components of change** – Natural increase is projected to drive growth throughout the majority of the projection period, with a shift to net migration in later decades.
- **Age composition** – Duchesne County's population ages over the projection horizon. The share of the total population age 65 and older is projected to increase from 12.5% in 2020 to 20.5% in 2060. The share of the population

under 18 is projected to decline, from 32.3% in 2020 to 25.6% in 2060. The median age is projected to rise from 33.3 in 2020 to 38.1 in 2060.

- **Economic growth** – Duchesne County's employment is projected to increase from 11,580 in 2020 to 12,924 in 2060 as extractive industry and utilities employment contributes a smaller share of employment growth. Leading growth sectors include manufacturing, finance and insurance, and construction, with 55.8% of employment growth.

Historic and Projected Growth in Duchesne County



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020-2060 Projections

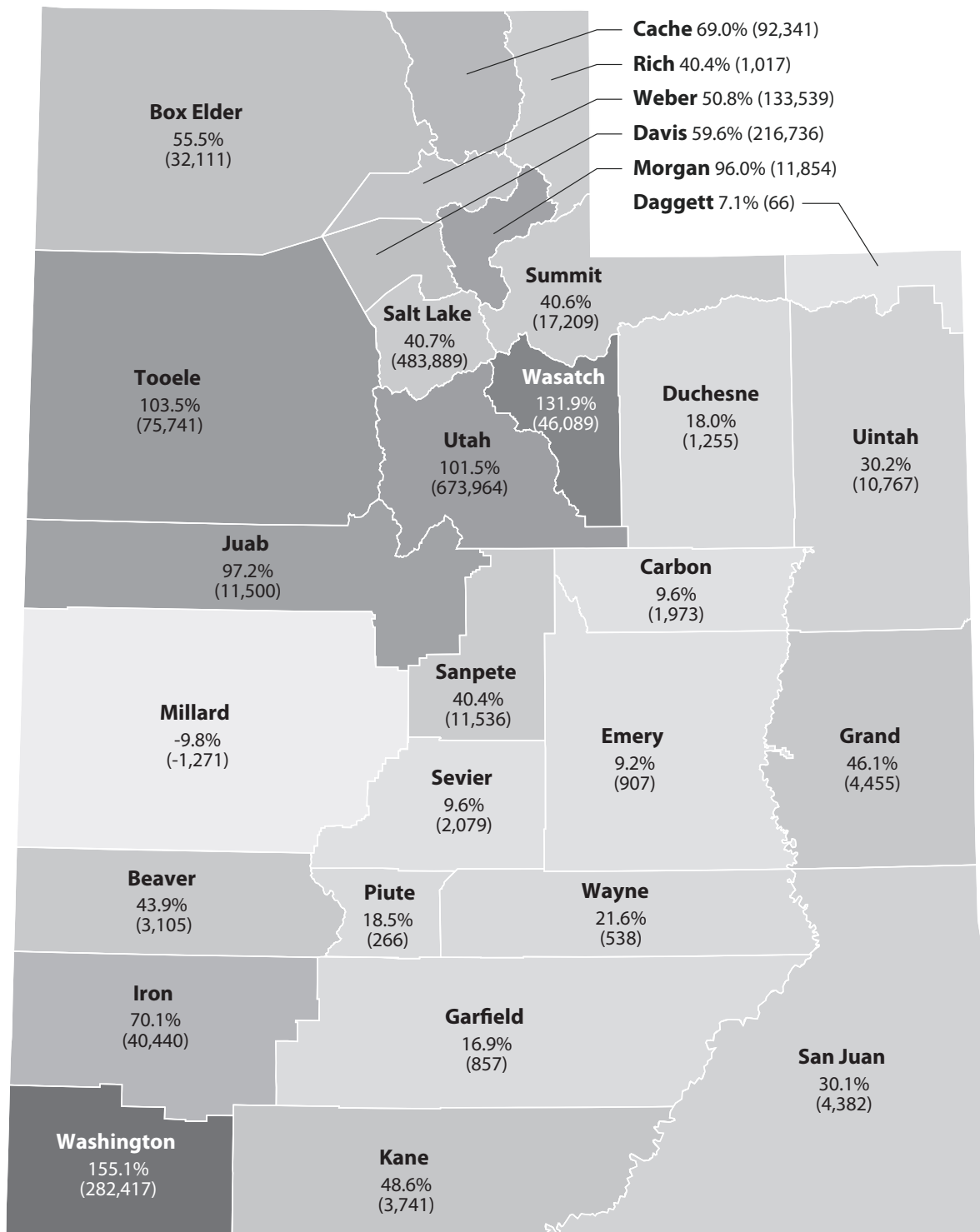
Major Events/Projects

- **Economic development plans/CEDS** – The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy sponsored by the U.S. Economic Development Administration calls for the prioritization of economic diversity, workforce development, infrastructure investments (including tourism), and support for entrepreneurship. These plans are expected to guide Uintah County’s economic diversification.
- **Uinta Basin Railway** – The Uinta Basin Railway is a public-private proposal for a common carrier railway envisioned to connect Utah’s Uinta Basin with the national railway network. The Railway is currently being assessed through the NEPA process, including the evaluation of three route alternatives, environmental impacts, and mitigation options, as well as a “no-action” alternative. The U.S. Surface Transportation Board oversees this process. These projections recognize the potential for this development, but do not explicitly include the construction and ongoing impacts.
- **Powerplant Closures** - As global energy markets transition away from coal, Bonanza, Uintah County’s coal-fired powerplant, is slated for closure in 2030.³ With this plant closure, analysts expect utilities employment to decline in the region.

Assumptions

- **Fertility** – The estimated 2020 Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for Duchesne County is 2.43. The TFRs in all regions are predicted to decline, resulting in a TFR of 2.17 in Duchesne County in 2060. Statewide, the TFR is projected to decline from 1.99 in 2020 to 1.78 in 2060.
- **Life expectancy** – The estimated 2020 life expectancy for Duchesne County males is 75.8 and 80.5 for females. Based on historical trends, we project it to rise to 81.5 for males and 85.8 for females by 2060.
- **Powerplant closures** – These projections assume the closure of the Bonanza Powerplant in 2030.
- **Resource constraints and policy choices** – These projections for Duchesne County assume no land (including slopes, flood plains, and soils), water, or other resource constraints. Policy choices such as land use, community preferences, and opportunity zones are considered as part of the local review process.

Utah Projected County Population Absolute and Percent Change, 2020 to 2060



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020-2060 Projections

Projected Duchesne County Growth by Category, 2020–2060

Year	Population				Employment			Households			
	Population	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate	Median Age	Employment	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate	Households	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate	Persons Per Household
2020	19,608	n/a	n/a	33.3	11,669	n/a	n/a	6,511	n/a	n/a	3.0
2021	19,738	130	0.7%	33.7	11,659	-10	-0.1%	6,582	71	1.1%	3.0
2022	19,593	-145	-0.7%	34.2	11,720	61	0.5%	6,562	-20	-0.3%	2.9
2023	19,415	-178	-0.9%	34.6	11,900	180	1.5%	6,532	-30	-0.5%	2.9
2024	19,233	-182	-0.9%	35.1	12,031	131	1.1%	6,497	-35	-0.5%	2.9
2025	19,067	-166	-0.9%	35.5	12,086	55	0.5%	6,475	-22	-0.3%	2.9
2026	18,934	-133	-0.7%	35.8	12,105	19	0.2%	6,457	-18	-0.3%	2.9
2027	18,843	-91	-0.5%	36.2	12,104	-1	-0.0%	6,453	-4	-0.1%	2.9
2028	18,799	-44	-0.2%	36.5	12,126	22	0.2%	6,468	15	0.2%	2.9
2029	18,798	-1	-0.0%	36.7	12,163	37	0.3%	6,493	25	0.4%	2.8
2030	18,796	-2	-0.0%	37.0	12,180	17	0.1%	6,518	25	0.4%	2.8
2031	18,812	16	0.1%	37.1	12,184	4	0.0%	6,551	33	0.5%	2.8
2032	18,831	19	0.1%	37.1	12,224	40	0.3%	6,573	22	0.3%	2.8
2033	18,860	29	0.2%	37.0	12,221	-3	-0.0%	6,604	31	0.5%	2.8
2034	18,899	39	0.2%	37.0	12,231	10	0.1%	6,642	38	0.6%	2.8
2035	18,948	49	0.3%	36.7	12,230	-1	-0.0%	6,668	26	0.4%	2.8
2036	19,009	61	0.3%	36.6	12,243	13	0.1%	6,692	24	0.4%	2.8
2037	19,082	73	0.4%	36.4	12,267	24	0.2%	6,721	29	0.4%	2.8
2038	19,162	80	0.4%	36.2	12,280	13	0.1%	6,754	33	0.5%	2.8
2039	19,250	88	0.5%	36.1	12,293	13	0.1%	6,783	29	0.4%	2.8
2040	19,351	101	0.5%	36.0	12,325	32	0.3%	6,817	34	0.5%	2.8
2041	19,463	112	0.6%	36.0	12,343	18	0.1%	6,868	51	0.7%	2.8
2042	19,586	123	0.6%	36.1	12,363	20	0.2%	6,927	59	0.9%	2.8
2043	19,717	131	0.7%	36.1	12,402	39	0.3%	6,983	56	0.8%	2.8
2044	19,857	140	0.7%	36.3	12,442	40	0.3%	7,054	71	1.0%	2.8
2045	20,001	144	0.7%	36.4	12,485	43	0.3%	7,124	70	1.0%	2.8
2046	20,151	150	0.7%	36.6	12,533	48	0.4%	7,186	62	0.9%	2.8
2047	20,306	155	0.8%	36.8	12,576	43	0.3%	7,259	73	1.0%	2.7
2048	20,467	161	0.8%	36.9	12,620	44	0.3%	7,343	84	1.2%	2.7
2049	20,634	167	0.8%	37.1	12,665	45	0.4%	7,432	89	1.2%	2.7
2050	20,807	173	0.8%	37.4	12,705	40	0.3%	7,527	95	1.3%	2.7
2051	20,987	180	0.9%	37.6	12,750	45	0.4%	7,627	100	1.3%	2.7
2052	21,173	186	0.9%	37.8	12,786	36	0.3%	7,726	99	1.3%	2.7
2053	21,368	195	0.9%	38.0	12,822	36	0.3%	7,837	111	1.4%	2.7
2054	21,569	201	0.9%	38.1	12,852	30	0.2%	7,953	116	1.5%	2.7
2055	21,784	215	1.0%	38.2	12,878	26	0.2%	8,077	124	1.6%	2.6
2056	22,013	229	1.1%	38.1	12,901	23	0.2%	8,214	137	1.7%	2.6
2057	22,256	243	1.1%	38.2	12,914	13	0.1%	8,352	138	1.7%	2.6
2058	22,517	261	1.2%	38.2	12,923	9	0.1%	8,501	149	1.8%	2.6
2059	22,805	288	1.3%	38.0	12,928	5	0.0%	8,653	152	1.8%	2.6
2060	23,133	328	1.4%	38.1	12,924	-4	-0.0%	8,822	169	2.0%	2.6

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020–2060 Projections

Endnote

- 1 The decennial census count is as of April 1, 2020. Projections are as of July 1 of each year.
- 2 PacifiCorp, "2019 Integrated Resource Plan," October 18, 2019.
- 3 PacifiCorp, "2019 Integrated Resource Plan," October 18, 2019.