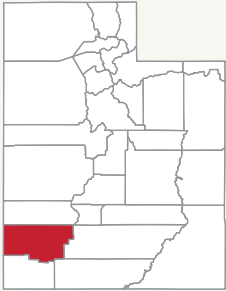


Iron County



Iron County is the ninth largest county in Utah, with a 2020 Census population of 57,289.¹ Between 2010 and 2020, Iron County grew by 11,126 residents, primarily driven by net migration.

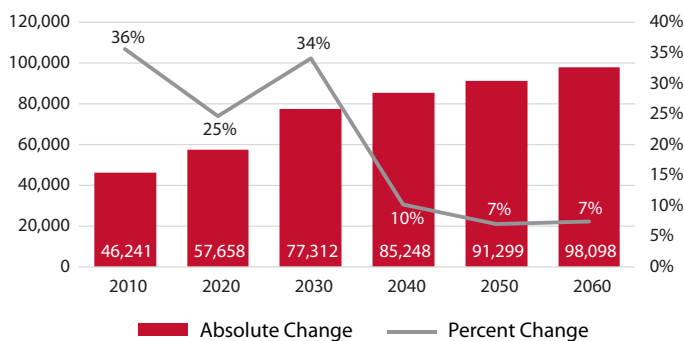
Iron County's population is projected to grow from 57,658 on July 1, 2020 to 98,098 in 2060. The median age is projected to rise from 28.7 in 2020 to 39.2 in 2060. Additional details on age groups are included below.

Iron County's economy will continue to grow as county leaders usher in a broader mix of industries driven by attractive economic assets, rail-served industrial real estate, Southern Utah University, favorable transportation access, and a growing workforce.

Key Findings

- Historical context** – Between 2010 and 2020, Iron County grew by 11,126 residents, driven by net migration. This resulted in a 2020 Census population of 57,289, the ninth largest in Utah.
- Regional context** – Iron County is the second largest population and employment center in Southwest Utah. The southwest region was the second fastest growing region, after the Greater Salt Lake. This region also has the smallest percentage of employees who commute from county to county for work.
- Population growth** – Iron County's population is projected to grow from 57,658 on July 1, 2020 to 98,098 in 2060. Iron County's overall population ranking is projected to grow from the ninth largest county in 2020 to eighth by 2060.
- Components of change** – Both net migration and natural increase (births minus deaths) contribute to growth in the projection period, with natural increase driving a larger share.
- Age composition** – Iron County's population ages over the projection horizon. The share of the total population age 65 and older is projected to increase from 13.3% in 2020 to 23.9% in 2060. The share of the population under 18 is projected to decline, from 28.3% in 2020 to 20.6% in 2060. The median age is projected to rise from 28.7 in 2020 to 39.2 in 2060.
- Employment growth** – Iron County's employment is projected to increase from 29,627 in 2020 to 49,603 in 2060. The leading growth sectors include construction, accommodation and food services, state government, retail, and professional, scientific, and technical services, contributing a combined 48.5% of projected employment growth.

Historic and Projected Growth in Iron County



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

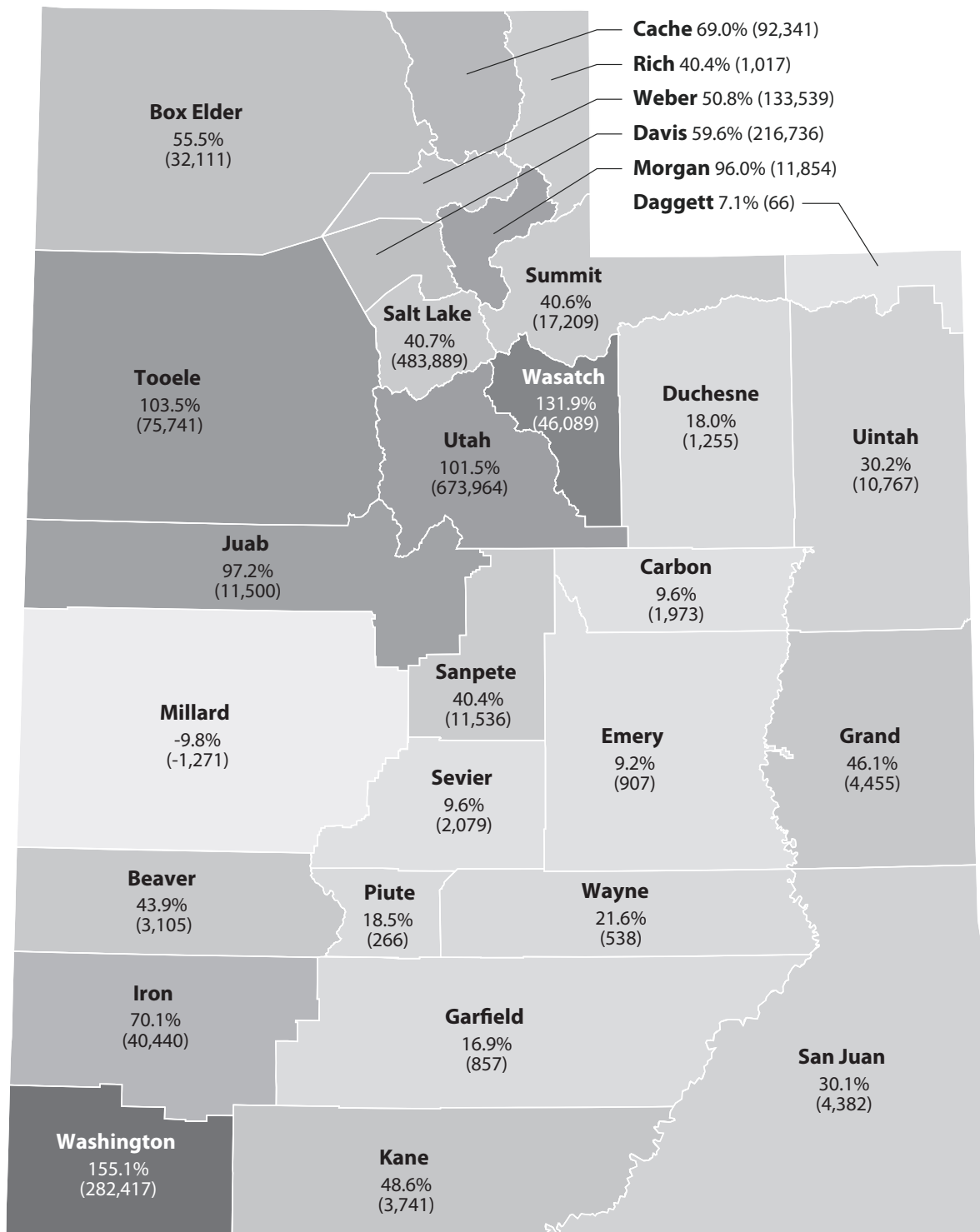
Major Events/Projects

- **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, and support for entrepreneurship. These plans are expected to guide Iron County’s economic diversification, including a growing aerospace manufacturing cluster and the growth of rail-reliant industrial users.
- **Port-15 Utah** – Port-15 is a rail-served industrial park of approximately 800 acres. The vision for the park is an intermodal site that connects railroad, trucking, and air freight for manufacturing and distribution.
- **Iron Springs Mega Site** – This site is a stage 1-certified mega site, encompassing 419 acres. To qualify as a Stage 1 site includes a specific set of maps for labor, infrastructure, transportation, topography, flood zones, and tax parcels. It involves a commitment from owners to hold the property for a project with at \$1 billion in capital investment and significant job creation.
- **Cedar City Regional Airport** – The Cedar City Airport includes commercial service by Delta Airlines, with regular flights to Salt Lake City. The surrounding real estate offers hundreds of acres of developable land near downtown Cedar City.

Assumptions

- **Fertility** – The estimated 2020 Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for Iron County is 2.05. The TFRs in all regions are predicted to decline, resulting in a TFR of 1.83 in Iron 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 Iron County males is 79.2 and 83.0 for females. Based on historical trends, we project it to rise to 85.2 for males and 88.5 for females by 2060.
- **Resource constraints and policy choices** – These projections for Iron 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 Iron 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	57,658	n/a	n/a	28.8	30,263	n/a	n/a	18,731	n/a	n/a	3.0
2021	61,232	3,574	6.2%	29.1	31,421	1,158	3.8%	19,990	1,259	6.7%	3.0
2022	63,369	2,137	3.5%	29.5	31,723	302	1.0%	20,840	850	4.3%	3.0
2023	65,632	2,263	3.6%	29.8	32,583	860	2.7%	21,747	907	4.4%	3.0
2024	67,888	2,256	3.4%	30.1	33,347	764	2.3%	22,656	909	4.2%	2.9
2025	70,028	2,140	3.2%	30.3	33,896	549	1.6%	23,539	883	3.9%	2.9
2026	71,972	1,944	2.8%	30.5	34,347	451	1.3%	24,366	827	3.5%	2.9
2027	73,674	1,702	2.4%	30.7	34,753	406	1.2%	25,108	742	3.0%	2.9
2028	75,118	1,444	2.0%	30.9	35,281	528	1.5%	25,767	659	2.6%	2.9
2029	76,315	1,197	1.6%	31.1	35,820	539	1.5%	26,346	579	2.2%	2.8
2030	77,312	997	1.3%	31.2	36,443	623	1.7%	26,881	535	2.0%	2.8
2031	78,182	870	1.1%	31.4	36,940	497	1.4%	27,400	519	1.9%	2.8
2032	79,029	847	1.1%	31.4	37,453	513	1.4%	27,919	519	1.9%	2.8
2033	79,872	843	1.1%	31.5	37,941	488	1.3%	28,430	511	1.8%	2.8
2034	80,697	825	1.0%	31.7	38,483	542	1.4%	28,906	476	1.7%	2.7
2035	81,511	814	1.0%	31.9	38,978	495	1.3%	29,358	452	1.6%	2.7
2036	82,306	795	1.0%	32.2	39,470	492	1.3%	29,774	416	1.4%	2.7
2037	83,079	773	0.9%	32.5	39,970	500	1.3%	30,189	415	1.4%	2.7
2038	83,822	743	0.9%	32.8	40,422	452	1.1%	30,594	405	1.3%	2.7
2039	84,546	724	0.9%	33.1	40,863	441	1.1%	30,994	400	1.3%	2.7
2040	85,248	702	0.8%	33.4	41,287	424	1.0%	31,354	360	1.2%	2.7
2041	85,929	681	0.8%	33.7	41,691	404	1.0%	31,796	442	1.4%	2.7
2042	86,585	656	0.8%	34.0	42,109	418	1.0%	32,217	421	1.3%	2.6
2043	87,215	630	0.7%	34.3	42,539	430	1.0%	32,634	417	1.3%	2.6
2044	87,818	603	0.7%	34.7	42,985	446	1.0%	33,045	411	1.3%	2.6
2045	88,403	585	0.7%	35.0	43,452	467	1.1%	33,450	405	1.2%	2.6
2046	88,982	579	0.7%	35.4	43,904	452	1.0%	33,841	391	1.2%	2.6
2047	89,556	574	0.6%	35.7	44,373	469	1.1%	34,223	382	1.1%	2.6
2048	90,133	577	0.6%	36.0	44,834	461	1.0%	34,585	362	1.1%	2.6
2049	90,712	579	0.6%	36.4	45,306	472	1.1%	34,948	363	1.0%	2.5
2050	91,299	587	0.6%	36.7	45,726	420	0.9%	35,321	373	1.1%	2.5
2051	91,902	603	0.7%	37.0	46,152	426	0.9%	35,718	397	1.1%	2.5
2052	92,520	618	0.7%	37.3	46,502	350	0.8%	36,134	416	1.2%	2.5
2053	93,160	640	0.7%	37.6	46,841	339	0.7%	36,581	447	1.2%	2.5
2054	93,818	658	0.7%	37.9	47,189	348	0.7%	37,031	450	1.2%	2.5
2055	94,492	674	0.7%	38.2	47,572	383	0.8%	37,491	460	1.2%	2.5
2056	95,183	691	0.7%	38.5	47,962	390	0.8%	37,962	471	1.3%	2.4
2057	95,891	708	0.7%	38.7	48,347	385	0.8%	38,433	471	1.2%	2.4
2058	96,616	725	0.8%	38.9	48,747	400	0.8%	38,939	506	1.3%	2.4
2059	97,354	738	0.8%	39.1	49,160	413	0.8%	39,469	530	1.4%	2.4
2060	98,098	744	0.8%	39.2	49,603	443	0.9%	40,004	535	1.4%	2.4

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.