“The New Utah”
Media Roundtable
October 9, 2023
The New Utah

OLD

Small State

Internal growth (births)
34% of growth from migration (2000-2020)

Less Multicultural
10% minority (1990)

Young
11.5% are 65+ (2020)

Strong Economy
Utah job growth strong, but ebbs and flows

Affordable Housing
Utah housing costs to wages highly competitive

NEW

Mid-Sized State
Population rank 30th (2020)

External growth (migration)
61% of growth from migration (2021 and 2022)

More Multicultural
23% minority (2021) (30+% in 2040)

Older
20.0% are 65+ (2050)

Elite Economy
Utah job growth consistently best in nation and COVID outcomes

Unaffordable Housing
Utah housing costs represent major economic risk

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute
Mid-Sized State

Utah leap-frogged four states – Iowa, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Nebraska – over the last decade to become a mid-sized state for the first time in history. Utah now ranks 30th in population size.
Utah is Now a Mid-Sized State

State rank by population size

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*Includes District of Columbia

Source: Census Bureau, Decennial Census
20 States had Smaller Populations than Utah in 2020

Note: States shaded gray had populations less than 3,271,616 in 2020. D.C. also has a smaller population than Utah.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
External Growth

Net in-migration contributed approximately two-thirds of Utah’s population growth in each of the past two years. In the past, two-thirds of Utah’s growth has come from internal growth.
Utah Components of Population Change

Source: Utah Population Committee, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute
Utah Net Migration

Utah experienced net migration in 31 of the past 32 years

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, and Utah Population Committee
Utah In-Migrant Domestic Origins, 2021

Note: International out-migrants are not included in the data or analysis
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
Utah in-Migrant Place of Birth, 2021

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
Total Fertility Rate

1960-2021

Source: National Center for Health Statistics
Utah’s population 65 and older is projected to increase from approximately one in ten today to one in five by 2050. This occurs because of an aging population and relatively low fertility rates.
Utah Population 65+

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute
Multicultural

Nearly one in four Utahns are now a racial/ethnic minority, making Utah more diverse than states like Indiana, Nebraska, Missouri, Ohio, Minnesota, and Wisconsin and about the same as Pennsylvania. Within the next two decades this ratio is projected to increase to one in three.
Utah Minority Population Shares

Source: 1990 Census and 2017-2021 ACS

1990: 9.5%
2022: 23.3%

- Minority Population
- Non-Hispanic White Population

Source: 1990 Census and 2017-2021 ACS
Racial/Ethnic Minority SHARE of Population by state, 2022

Source: Utah Population Committee, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute
Elite Economy

Utah’s economy from 2000-2010 generally outperformed the nation, with some exceptions. Since 2011, Utah’s economy consistently outperformed other states and demonstrated considerable strength relative to other states during the COVID-19 pandemic. Utah’s economy has become elite.
Job Growth by State

Source: Utah Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget and US Bureau of Labor Statistics
Cumulative Job Growth by State, Feb 2020 to June 2023

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Unaffordable Housing

Historically Utah’s home prices roughly tracked with national home prices. Today, Utah’s home prices far exceed national home prices. Only six states (Hawaii, California, Massachusetts, Washington, Oregon, and Colorado) have higher median single family home prices than Utah.
Housing Price Index

Utah and U.S., All Transactions

Source: U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency
Housing Affordability by Age, 2021

Share of households with housing cost burden above 30% income by age

Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year, 2021