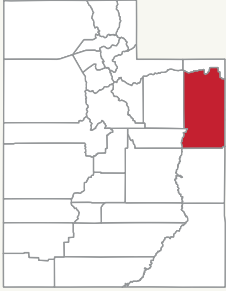


## Uintah County



Uintah County is the eleventh largest county in Utah, with a 2020 Census population of 35,620.<sup>1</sup> Between 2010 and 2020, Uintah County grew by 3,032 residents, driven by natural increase. The county lost population and experienced out-migration in eight of the past 10 years.

From 2020 to 2060, Uintah County is projected to continue to experience below state average population and employment growth. Uintah County's population is projected to grow from 35,679 on July 1, 2020 to 46,446 in 2060. The median age is projected to rise from 33.0 in 2020 to 42.2 in 2060. Additional details on age groups are included below.

Uintah County's economy ranks among Utah's most economically specialized. Bonanza, Uintah County's coal-fired powerplant, is slated for closure in 2030.<sup>2</sup> Analysts expect the economy to recover, driven a hardworking workforce, Utah State University Uintah Basin, favorable broadband access, and proximity to the Greater Salt Lake economic region.

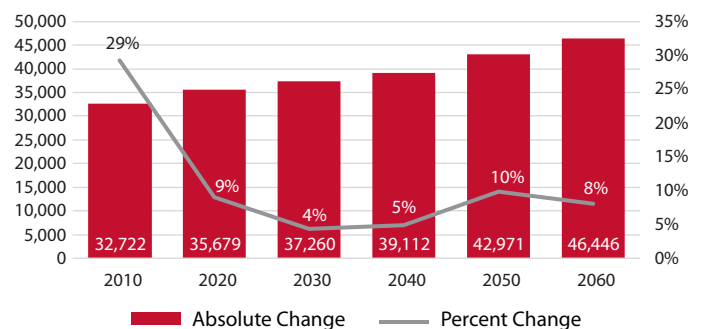
## Key Findings

- **Historical population context** – Between 2010 and 2020, Uintah County grew by 3,032 residents. Driven by natural increase, this resulted in a 2020 Census population of 35,620, the 11th largest in Utah.
- **Regional context** – Uintah 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** – Uintah County's population is projected to grow from 35,679 on July 1, 2020 to 46,446 in 2060. Uintah County's overall population ranking is projected to decrease from 11<sup>th</sup> largest in Utah in 2020 to 12<sup>th</sup> by 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** – Uintah County's population ages over the projection horizon. The share of the total population age 65 and older is projected to increase from 11.0% in 2020 to 23.6% in 2060. The share of the population under 18 is projected to decline, from 33.0% in 2020 to 23.8% in

2060. The median age is projected to rise from 33.0 in 2020 to 42.2 in 2060.

- **Economic growth** – Uintah County's employment is projected to increase from 18,059 in 2020 to 24,083 in 2060. Uintah County's economy is projected to diversify from 2020 to 2060 as extractive industries and utilities employment contribute a smaller share of the total. Growth sectors include accommodation and food services, construction, and health care and social assistance.

### Historic and Projected Growth in Uintah County



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

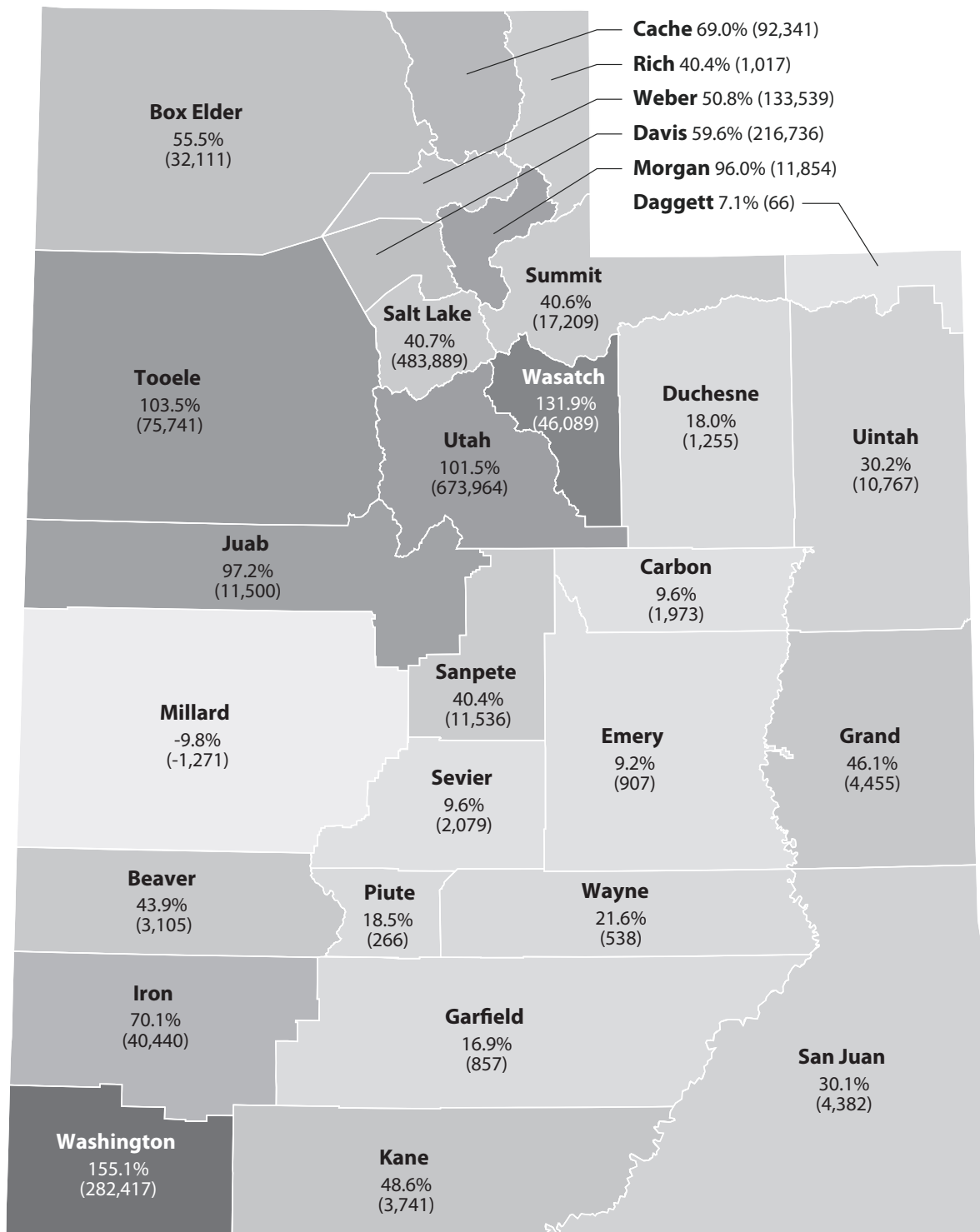
## Major Events/Projects

- **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.<sup>3</sup> With this plant closure, analysts expect utilities employment to decline in the region.

## Assumptions

- **Fertility** – The estimated 2020 Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for Uintah County is 2.43. The TFRs in all regions are predicted to decline, resulting in a TFR of 2.17 in Uintah 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 Uintah 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 Uintah 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 Uintah 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	35,679	n/a	n/a	33.0	18,213	n/a	n/a	11,993	n/a	n/a	3.0
2021	35,975	296	0.8%	33.4	18,550	337	1.9%	12,119	126	1.1%	3.0
2022	36,173	198	0.6%	33.9	18,738	188	1.0%	12,255	136	1.1%	2.9
2023	36,336	163	0.5%	34.4	19,114	376	2.0%	12,371	116	0.9%	2.9
2024	36,479	143	0.4%	34.9	19,386	272	1.4%	12,501	130	1.1%	2.9
2025	36,610	131	0.4%	35.4	19,528	142	0.7%	12,645	144	1.2%	2.9
2026	36,740	130	0.4%	35.9	19,620	92	0.5%	12,783	138	1.1%	2.9
2027	36,873	133	0.4%	36.3	19,706	86	0.4%	12,937	154	1.2%	2.8
2028	37,015	142	0.4%	36.8	19,835	129	0.7%	13,085	148	1.1%	2.8
2029	37,168	153	0.4%	37.2	19,989	154	0.8%	13,234	149	1.1%	2.8
2030	37,260	92	0.2%	37.5	19,679	-310	-1.6%	13,359	125	0.9%	2.8
2031	37,352	92	0.2%	37.8	19,769	90	0.5%	13,504	145	1.1%	2.8
2032	37,457	105	0.3%	38.0	19,914	145	0.7%	13,656	152	1.1%	2.7
2033	37,585	128	0.3%	38.1	20,006	92	0.5%	13,812	156	1.1%	2.7
2034	37,733	148	0.4%	38.1	20,106	100	0.5%	13,975	163	1.2%	2.7
2035	37,896	163	0.4%	38.1	20,210	104	0.5%	14,118	143	1.0%	2.7
2036	38,090	194	0.5%	38.0	20,333	123	0.6%	14,260	142	1.0%	2.7
2037	38,310	220	0.6%	37.8	20,475	142	0.7%	14,402	142	1.0%	2.6
2038	38,551	241	0.6%	37.7	20,598	123	0.6%	14,538	136	0.9%	2.6
2039	38,815	264	0.7%	37.5	20,723	125	0.6%	14,688	150	1.0%	2.6
2040	39,112	297	0.8%	37.6	20,883	160	0.8%	14,842	154	1.0%	2.6
2041	39,432	320	0.8%	37.7	21,033	150	0.7%	15,010	168	1.1%	2.6
2042	39,773	341	0.9%	37.9	21,191	158	0.8%	15,172	162	1.1%	2.6
2043	40,137	364	0.9%	38.1	21,366	175	0.8%	15,345	173	1.1%	2.6
2044	40,522	385	1.0%	38.3	21,544	178	0.8%	15,527	182	1.2%	2.6
2045	40,913	391	1.0%	38.5	21,725	181	0.8%	15,699	172	1.1%	2.6
2046	41,314	401	1.0%	38.8	21,910	185	0.9%	15,882	183	1.2%	2.6
2047	41,723	409	1.0%	39.0	22,103	193	0.9%	16,082	200	1.3%	2.6
2048	42,136	413	1.0%	39.3	22,296	193	0.9%	16,275	193	1.2%	2.6
2049	42,554	418	1.0%	39.6	22,496	200	0.9%	16,478	203	1.2%	2.6
2050	42,971	417	1.0%	39.8	22,687	191	0.8%	16,689	211	1.3%	2.6
2051	43,388	417	1.0%	40.1	22,864	177	0.8%	16,898	209	1.3%	2.5
2052	43,798	410	0.9%	40.3	23,021	157	0.7%	17,092	194	1.1%	2.5
2053	44,200	402	0.9%	40.6	23,178	157	0.7%	17,306	214	1.3%	2.5
2054	44,582	382	0.9%	40.9	23,333	155	0.7%	17,515	209	1.2%	2.5
2055	44,955	373	0.8%	41.2	23,480	147	0.6%	17,725	210	1.2%	2.5
2056	45,313	358	0.8%	41.5	23,626	146	0.6%	17,954	229	1.3%	2.5
2057	45,638	325	0.7%	41.7	23,760	134	0.6%	18,174	220	1.2%	2.5
2058	45,929	291	0.6%	42.0	23,875	115	0.5%	18,362	188	1.0%	2.5
2059	46,194	265	0.6%	42.1	23,980	105	0.4%	18,540	178	1.0%	2.5
2060	46,446	252	0.5%	42.2	24,083	103	0.4%	18,712	172	0.9%	2.5

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 *ibid*