Utah Long-Term Planning Projection Summary

January 31, 2022

Washington County

Washington County is the fifth largest in Utah, with a 2020 Census population of 180,279.[1] Between 2010 and 2020, Washington County grew by 42,164 residents, primarily driven by net migration.

Washington County's population is projected to grow from 182,111 on July 1, 2020 to more than 464,000 in 2060. The median age is projected to rise from 37.5 in 2020 to 51.9 in 2060. Additional details on age groups are included below.
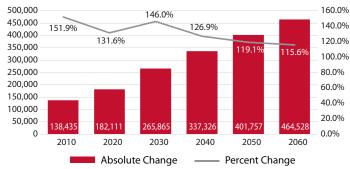
Washington County's economy will continue to grow as county leaders usher in a broader mix of industries driven by attractive economic assets, new tech- and innovation-focused real estate, Utah Tech University, Dixie Technical College, red rock tourism attractions, favorable transportation access, and a growing workforce.

Key Findings

- **Historical population context** – Between 2010 and 2020, Washington County grew by 42,164 residents. Driven by net migration, this resulted in a 2020 Census population of 180,279, the fifth largest county population in Utah.

- **Regional context** – Washington County is the largest population and employment center in Southwest Utah. The Southwest Region was the second fastest growing region, after the Greater Salt Lake Region. The Southwest Region has the smallest percentage of employees who commute from county to county for work.

- **Population growth** – Washington County's population is projected to grow from 182,111 on July 1, 2020 to 464,528 in 2060. Washington County's overall population ranking is projected to grow from the fifth largest county in 2020 to fourth largest by 2060.

- **Age composition** – Washington County's population ages over the projection horizon. The share of the total population age 65 and older is projected to increase from 22.3% in 2020 to 33.9% in 2060. The share of the population under 18 is projected to decline, from 26.3% in 2020 to 15.4% in 2060. The median age is projected to rise from 37.5 in 2020 to 51.9 in 2060.

- **Components of change** – Net migration is the primary driver of growth in Washington County, compensating for natural decrease in the latter half of the projection period (more deaths than births).

- **Employment growth and Industry composition** – Washington County's employment is projected to increase from 104,797 in 2020 to 214,794 in 2060. Projected growth sectors include accommodation and food services, retail, construction, and health care and social assistance. Combined these sectors are responsible for a projected 53% of total employment growth.

Historic and Projected Growth in Washington County

Year	Absolute Change	Percent Change
2010	138,435	151.9%
2020	182,111	131.6%
2030	265,865	146.0%
2040	337,326	126.9%
2050	401,757	119.1%
2060	464,528	115.6%

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

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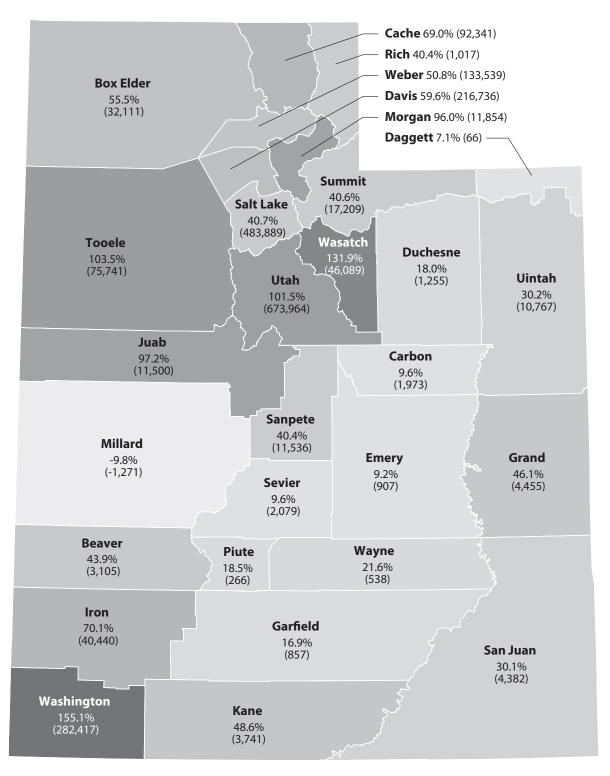
Major Events/Projects

- **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. Over the next five to 10 years the CEDS also calls for Washington County to emerge as an innovation hub that attracts highly skilled and technical workers in the 30-50-year age range.

- **Lake Powell Pipeline** – A new 140-mile pipeline to draw water from the Colorado River will deliver more than 83,000 acre feet of water per year to St. George, Washington, Hurricane, Santa Clara, Ivins, La Verkin, Toquerville, Leeds, Virgin, and Apple Valley. These population projections are not constrained by water supply.

- **Tech-Ridge** – located on a bluff above downtown St. George, Tech Ridge will host more than 1 million square feet of office space, 60 acres of park and trails, 2,400 residential units, and other mixed uses like restaurants. Tech Ridge is designed to attract technology companies, with access to Utah Tech University, Atwood Innovation Plaza, and Dixie Technical College.

- **Atwood Innovation Plaza** – The Atwood Innovation Plaza includes a Business Resource Center, a co-working center, the Innovation Guidance and Solutions Center, a makerspace, a business incubator, a startup lounge, and educational programs. These resources are available to entrepreneurs and students from Utah Tech University.

- **St. George Regional Airport** – The airport opened in 2011 after the previous airport was too land-constrained for expansion. The new airport includes commercial service by SkyWest, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and United Airlines. The surrounding real estate includes hundreds of acres of developable land in St. George City.

Assumptions

- **Fertility** – The estimated 2020 Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for Washington County is 2.05. The TFRs in all regions are predicted to decline, resulting in a TFR of 1.83 in Washington 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 Washington County males is 79.7 and 84.0 for females. Based on historical trends, we project it to rise to 85.8 for males and 89.5 for females by 2060.

- **Resource constraints and policy choices** – These projections for Washington 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

Cache 69.0% (92,341)

Rich 40.4% (1,017)

Weber 50.8% (133,539)

Davis 59.6% (216,736)

Morgan 96.0% (11,854)

Daggett 7.1% (66)

Box Elder
55.5%
(32,111)

Summit
40.6%
(17,209)

Salt Lake
40.7%
(483,889)

Tooele
103.5%
(75,741)

Wasatch
131.9%
(46,089)

Duchesne
18.0%
(1,255)

Uintah
30.2%
(10,767)

Utah
101.5%
(673,964)

Juab
97.2%
(11,500)

Carbon
9.6%
(1,973)

Sanpete
40.4%
(11,536)

Millard
-9.8%
(-1,271)

Emery
9.2%
(907)

Grand
46.1%
(4,455)

Sevier
9.6%
(2,079)

Beaver
43.9%
(3,105)

Piute
18.5%
(266)

Wayne
21.6%
(538)

Iron
70.1%
(40,440)

Garfield
16.9%
(857)

San Juan
30.1%
(4,382)

Washington
155.1%
(282,417)

Kane
48.6%
(3,741)

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

Projected Washington 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	182,111	n/a	n/a	37.5	104,797	n/a	n/a	62,416	n/a	n/a	2.9
2021	189,432	7,321	4.0%	38.1	112,686	7,889	7.5%	65,479	3,063	4.9%	2.9
2022	197,745	8,313	4.4%	38.6	114,272	1,586	1.4%	68,926	3,447	5.3%	2.8
2023	206,618	8,873	4.5%	39.1	118,806	4,534	4.0%	72,618	3,692	5.4%	2.8
2024	215,743	9,125	4.4%	39.6	122,970	4,164	3.5%	76,435	3,817	5.3%	2.8
2025	224,866	9,123	4.2%	40.1	126,469	3,499	2.8%	80,296	3,861	5.1%	2.8
2026	233,794	8,928	4.0%	40.5	129,910	3,441	2.7%	84,116	3,820	4.8%	2.7
2027	242,399	8,605	3.7%	41.0	133,313	3,403	2.6%	87,845	3,729	4.4%	2.7
2028	250,610	8,211	3.4%	41.5	136,649	3,336	2.5%	91,501	3,656	4.2%	2.7
2029	258,414	7,804	3.1%	41.9	139,942	3,293	2.4%	95,063	3,562	3.9%	2.7
2030	265,864	7,450	2.9%	42.3	143,157	3,215	2.3%	98,497	3,434	3.6%	2.7
2031	273,071	7,207	2.7%	42.6	146,328	3,171	2.2%	101,855	3,358	3.4%	2.6
2032	280,204	7,133	2.6%	43.0	149,448	3,120	2.1%	105,192	3,337	3.3%	2.6
2033	287,395	7,191	2.6%	43.3	152,516	3,068	2.1%	108,582	3,390	3.2%	2.6
2034	294,536	7,141	2.5%	43.7	155,536	3,020	2.0%	112,003	3,421	3.2%	2.6
2035	301,775	7,239	2.5%	44.0	158,498	2,962	1.9%	115,432	3,429	3.1%	2.6
2036	309,010	7,235	2.4%	44.4	161,398	2,900	1.8%	118,819	3,387	2.9%	2.6
2037	316,212	7,202	2.3%	44.7	164,254	2,856	1.8%	122,147	3,328	2.8%	2.6
2038	323,310	7,098	2.2%	45.0	167,053	2,799	1.7%	125,386	3,239	2.7%	2.5
2039	330,365	7,055	2.2%	45.3	169,798	2,745	1.6%	128,600	3,214	2.6%	2.5
2040	337,326	6,961	2.1%	45.5	172,488	2,690	1.6%	131,765	3,165	2.5%	2.5
2041	344,178	6,852	2.0%	45.7	175,123	2,635	1.5%	135,290	3,525	2.7%	2.5
2042	350,893	6,715	2.0%	45.9	177,695	2,572	1.5%	138,735	3,445	2.5%	2.5
2043	357,465	6,572	1.9%	46.1	180,220	2,525	1.4%	142,116	3,381	2.4%	2.5
2044	363,870	6,405	1.8%	46.3	182,691	2,471	1.4%	145,456	3,340	2.4%	2.5
2045	370,193	6,323	1.7%	46.5	185,107	2,416	1.3%	148,798	3,342	2.3%	2.5
2046	376,494	6,301	1.7%	46.8	187,469	2,362	1.3%	152,186	3,388	2.3%	2.4
2047	382,780	6,286	1.7%	47.0	189,777	2,308	1.2%	155,592	3,406	2.2%	2.4
2048	389,080	6,300	1.6%	47.2	192,031	2,254	1.2%	159,007	3,415	2.2%	2.4
2049	395,403	6,323	1.6%	47.4	194,229	2,198	1.1%	162,440	3,433	2.2%	2.4
2050	401,757	6,354	1.6%	47.7	196,373	2,144	1.1%	165,946	3,506	2.2%	2.4
2051	408,159	6,402	1.6%	48.1	198,461	2,088	1.1%	169,557	3,611	2.2%	2.4
2052	414,581	6,422	1.6%	48.5	200,492	2,031	1.0%	173,178	3,621	2.1%	2.4
2053	421,040	6,459	1.6%	48.9	202,471	1,979	1.0%	176,825	3,647	2.1%	2.3
2054	427,490	6,450	1.5%	49.4	204,394	1,923	0.9%	180,564	3,739	2.1%	2.3
2055	433,954	6,464	1.5%	49.8	206,264	1,870	0.9%	184,421	3,857	2.1%	2.3
2056	440,418	6,464	1.5%	50.2	208,079	1,815	0.9%	188,391	3,970	2.2%	2.3
2057	446,703	6,285	1.4%	50.6	209,840	1,761	0.8%	192,334	3,943	2.1%	2.3
2058	452,866	6,163	1.4%	51.1	211,546	1,706	0.8%	196,235	3,901	2.0%	2.3
2059	458,779	5,913	1.3%	51.5	213,198	1,652	0.8%	200,082	3,847	2.0%	2.3
2060	464,528	5,749	1.3%	51.9	214,794	1,596	0.7%	203,901	3,819	1.9%	2.2

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.