



State of Utah

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UTAH'S EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY: DECEMBER 2009

Utah's nonfarm wage and salaried job count for December 2009, as generated by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), contracted by 2.8 percent over the past 12 months, a continuing trend toward moderating job losses. Approximately 34,700 jobs have been removed from the Utah economy since December 2008, lowering total wage and salary employment to 1,211,100.

Utah's other primary indicator of current labor market conditions also generated by BLS, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, jumped four-tenths of a percentage point to 6.7 percent. Last December, the state's rate was 4.1 percent, a 2.6 percentage-point increase over the past 12 months. Approximately 91,200 Utahns were considered unemployed in December 2009, compared against 57,300 last December, an increase of 33,900 unemployed workers. The United States unemployment rate did not change, remaining at 10.0 percent for December.

In October 2008, the nation entered the most scathing phase of this current national recession. Both nationally and in Utah, job losses rapidly accelerated as 2008 concluded and 2009 emerged. Time has now progressed far enough that the current employment counts are being compared back against that rapidly-falling employment phase. Since the current employment picture is not repeating last year's free fall, the year-over employment comparisons of the past several months have begun to improve. Another way of saying this is that up until September of this year, the current employment numbers were falling **away** from the higher employment levels of a year ago. Now, the 12-month ago employment levels are falling **toward** the current employment levels. The end result is the 12-month job change percentages are moderating.

Initial unemployment insurance filings still remain high, signaling further weakness and job losses in Utah's economy. Yet Utah job orders posted via internet channels have shown a noticeable increase over the past four months. The economy is finally offering some counterbalance to ongoing job losses. Utah's economy remains weak, but indications are that, at worst, the economy has stabilized and found a bottom, and at best is starting to expand and meekly add jobs again.

Construction still shows the largest job decline of a year ago—down 12,200. Construction is the industry that has been in this downturn the longest. Over the past two years, over 36,000 construction jobs have been shed. This has lowered Utah construction employment to levels equaling 2004. On the accounting ledger, all of the jobs created during Utah's mid-2000s construction boom have vanished.

Utah Labor Market Indicators

December 2009

Employment % Change: -2.8%
Employment # Change: -34,700
Unemployment Rate: 6.7%

United States

Employment Change: -3.0%
Unemployment Rate: 10.0%

Manufacturing continues to record an employment level significantly below the year-ago level—down 8,500 jobs, or -7.1 percent. Manufacturing is the other industry hurt particularly hard by this economic downturn. Its two-year employment losses are approaching 17,000, matching manufacturing's employment levels not seen since 2003.

From a retail standpoint, the 2009 Christmas season was slightly better than 2008, as December's retail trade employment count was 800 jobs better than the year prior. Leaner operating practices, though, have lowered wholesale trade employment by 3,700 positions across the same period.

Financial activities employment lost 2,900 jobs over the past 12 months. This can be traced to activities related to credit intermediation, securities and commodity contractors, insurance carriers, and real estate activities.

Employment losses in the professional and business services industry are still substantial—4,400 jobs lower than last December's total. But there is actually improvement within the industry. Employment services is the area of largest job loss in this sector over the past year, and remains as such. But there are indications that employment levels in this area have turned a corner and are picking up once again. Recent job gains have both closed the gap of year-over losses, and signal that employers are once again venturing out into the hiring pool, although cautiously, by using this industry as its hiring agent.

Healthcare continues to be Utah's strongest industry for employment additions. Over the past year, healthcare has added 6,200 new jobs to its Utah payrolls. Since the start of the recession, healthcare has added over 12,000 new jobs in Utah.

The leisure and hospitality group has been exposed during this recession. With year-over losses of 8,800 jobs, its 7.8-percent decline currently makes it the second most impacted industry in Utah. Restaurants have lost the most jobs in this sector, yet there are also losses in the accommodation industry as well. The ski season got off to a slow start this year, and that delay is reflected in the low December employment counts.

Government employment has expanded during this recession. Federal government employment has risen by 500 positions over the past 12 months. Local government payrolls have increased by 2,500. State government payrolls have contracted by 200 positions over the past 12 months.

*** Utah's January employment information will be released at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2010.**

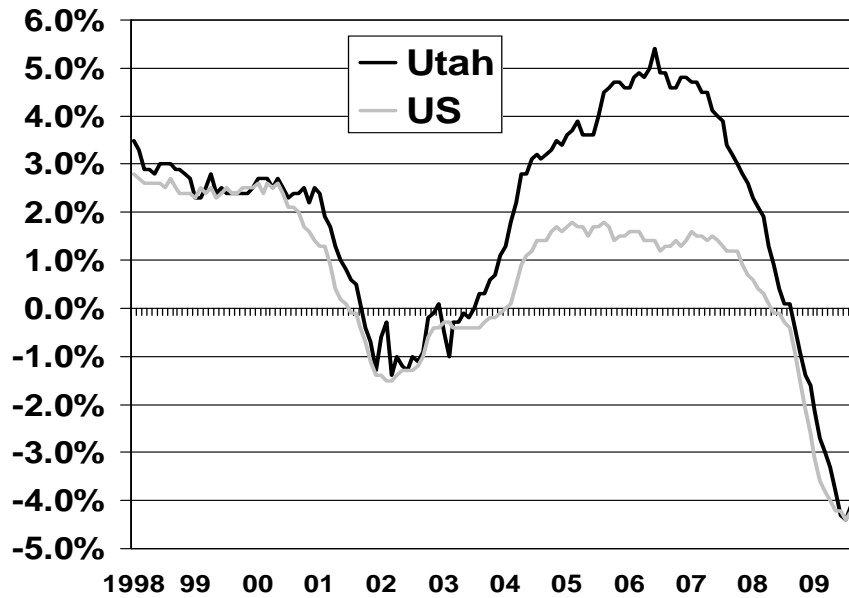
*** County unemployment rates for December will be posted by January 25 at <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/une/season.pdf>**

Utah Nonagricultural Jobs by Industry and Components of the Labor Force

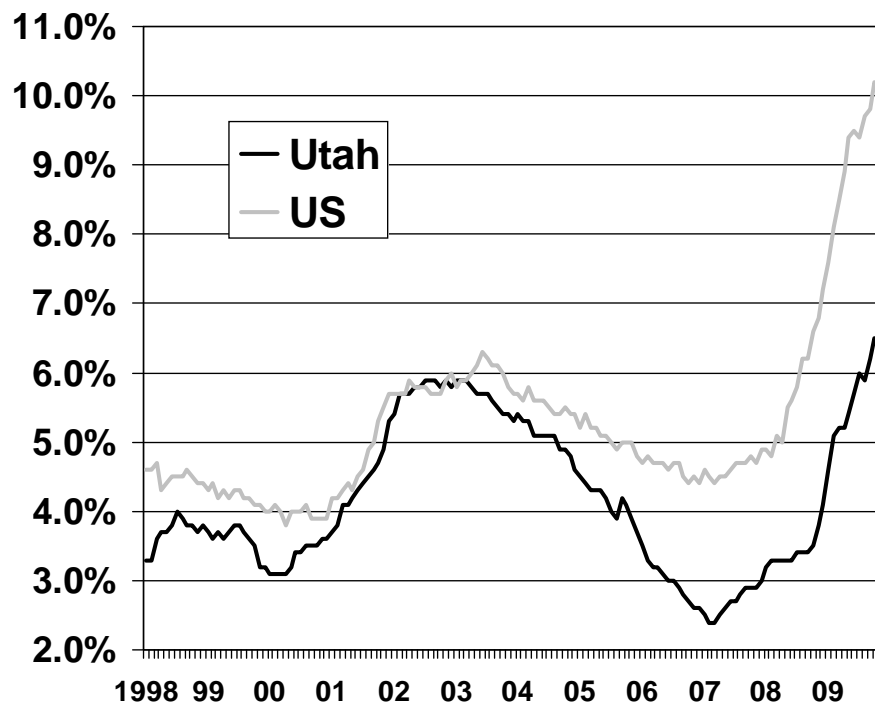
Numbers are in thousands	Dec.(p) 2009	Dec. 2008	Percentage Change	Nov.(r) 2009	Nov. 2008	Percentage Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (seasonally-adjusted)	1,356.1	1,400.1	-3.1	1,363.4	1,394.0	-2.2
Employed	1,264.9	1,342.8	-5.8	1,277.1	1,341.4	-4.8
Unemployed	91.2	57.3	59.2	86.3	52.6	64.1
Unemployment Rate	6.7	4.1		6.3	3.8	
NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)	1,211.1	1,245.8	-2.8	1,214.4	1,249.2	-2.8
Not seasonally-adjusted						
GOODS PRODUCING	194.4	214.9	-9.6	198.6	221.6	-10.4
Natural Resources, and Mining	13.3	13.1	1.2	13.3	13.5	-1.0
Construction	69.9	82.1	-14.9	73.6	85.5	-13.9
Construction of Buildings	13.8	16.5	-16.2	14.7	17.0	-13.5
Heavy and Civil Engineering	9.0	9.0	-0.9	9.9	9.7	
Specialty Trade Contractors	47.1	56.6	-16.7	49.0	58.8	-16.6
Manufacturing	111.2	119.7	-7.1	111.6	122.6	-8.9
Durable Goods	71.9	78.9	-8.8	72.0	81.3	-11.5
Primary and Fabricated Metals	15.9	15.7	1.1	15.8	16.1	-2.2
Computer and Electronic Products	13.1	13.3	-2.0	13.0	13.3	-2.8
Transportation and Equipment Manufacturing	12.5	13.7	-8.4	12.8	13.8	-7.4
Non-Durable Goods	39.3	40.8	-3.8	39.7	41.3	-3.9
SERVICES PROVIDING	1,016.8	1,030.8	-1.4	1,015.8	1,027.7	-1.2
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	245.5	251.0	-2.2	244.2	250.1	-2.4
Wholesale Trade	44.3	48.0	-7.6	43.7	47.9	-8.8
Retail Trade	152.7	151.9	0.5	152.1	151.2	0.6
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	17.4	17.2	1.2	17.5	17.7	-0.6
Food and Beverage Stores	25.0	25.0	0.1	24.9	24.8	0.2
General Merchandise Stores	30.2	31.5	-3.9	30.0	31.0	-3.2
Transportation and Utilities	47.9	51.1	-6.3	48.4	51.0	-5.2
Utilities	3.9	4.2	-5.8	4.0	4.1	-3.2
Transportation & Warehousing	44.0	47.0	-6.3	44.8	46.9	-4.4
Air Transportation	6.0	6.6	-9.3	6.1	6.6	-7.2
Truck Transportation	18.1	19.5	-7.0	18.6	19.6	-5.0
Information	31.3	30.6	2.2	31.0	30.6	1.3
Publishing Industries	9.5	9.9	-4.1	9.5	9.8	-3.5
Motion Picture and Sound Recording	4.2	4.0	5.1	4.2	4.1	2.8
Telecommunications	5.1	5.1	0.3	5.0	5.2	-2.0
Internet Service Providers	6.0	5.7	5.6	6.0	5.5	8.6
Financial Activities	71.0	73.9	-3.9	71.2	73.0	-2.5
Finance and Insurance	54.7	55.8	-2.1	54.7	55.3	-1.0
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	16.4	18.1	-9.2	16.2	17.7	-8.7
Professional and Business Services	154.4	158.8	-2.8	153.0	159.9	-4.3
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	68.4	69.1	-1.1	66.8	68.5	-2.5
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	13.6	13.5	1.1	13.6	13.6	0.0
Computer Systems Design and Related	16.0	16.1	-0.2	16.0	16.2	-0.9
Management of Companies and Enterprises	20.7	20.4	1.2	20.5	20.5	-0.1
Administration & Support & Waste Management & Remediation	65.4	69.3	-5.7	65.9	70.9	-7.0
Employment Services	18.1	19.2	-5.5	18.0	20.2	-10.8
Business Support Services	16.4	16.7	-1.6	16.2	16.6	-2.3
Education and Health Services	158.5	152.3	4.1	159.6	151.8	5.2
Educational Services	35.9	34.4	4.3	35.9	34.6	3.6
Health Services and Social Assistance	122.6	117.8	4.0	123.3	117.2	5.2
Ambulatory Health Care Services	50.8	47.8	6.4	51.3	47.8	7.3
Hospitals	32.4	32.0	1.0	32.6	31.4	3.7
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	22.6	21.5	4.9	22.6	21.4	5.2
Social Assistance	16.8	16.5	2.1	16.9	16.5	2.1
Leisure and Hospitality	104.0	112.8	-7.8	102.6	109.9	-6.6
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	16.9	17.8	-5.1	15.3	15.8	-3.3
Accommodation and Food Services	87.1	95.0	-8.4	88.1	94.0	-6.3
Accommodation	17.6	18.3	-3.9	16.9	17.2	-1.9
Food Services and Drinking Places	69.5	76.8	-9.4	71.2	76.8	-7.3
Other Services	33.3	34.8	-4.5	33.8	34.9	-3.2
Government	219.4	216.6	1.3	220.5	217.5	1.4
Federal Government	35.5	35.0	1.4	35.8	35.2	1.5
Federal Defense	15.9	15.8	0.6	15.9	15.7	1.0
Other Federal Government	19.6	19.2	2.0	19.9	19.5	1.9
State Government	65.8	66.0	-0.3	66.3	66.4	-0.1
State Schools	37.1	37.3	-0.5	37.6	37.5	0.2
Other State Government	28.7	28.7	0.1	28.7	28.8	-0.4
Local Government	118.1	115.6	2.2	118.4	115.9	2.2
Local Education	68.3	67.0	1.8	68.4	67.1	1.9
Other Local Government	49.9	48.5	2.7	50.0	48.8	2.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics p = preliminary r = revised January 21, 2010

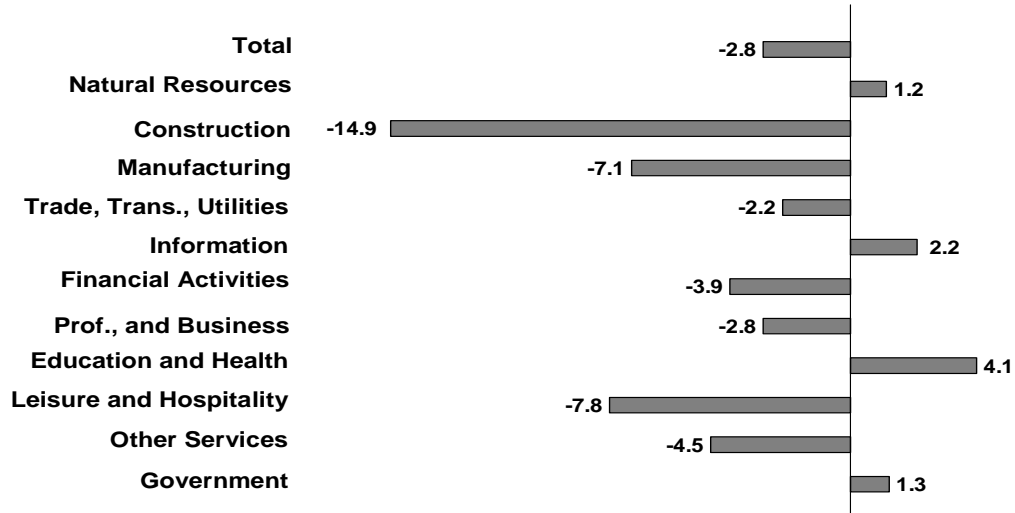
Year-Over Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs



Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

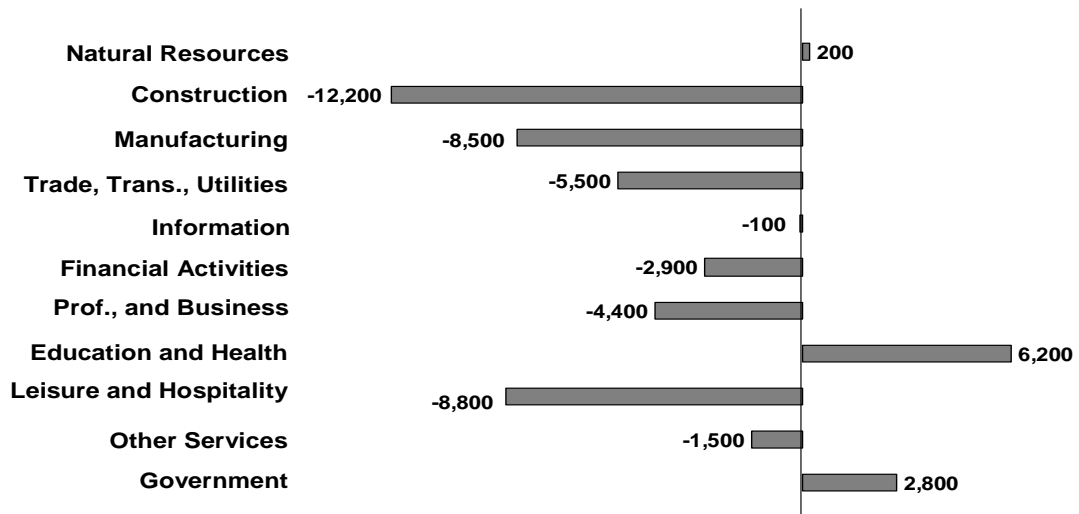


Utah Nonfarm Industry Profile (Percent Change) December 2008 – 2009



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Utah Nonfarm Industry Profile (Numeric Change) December 2008 – 2009



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN UTAH'S COUNTIES

	December(f) 2009(p)	December 2008	Percent Change	Nov.(f) 2009(r)	Oct.(f) 2009(r)
Bear River	68,856	71,925	-4.3	68,907	68,597
Box Elder	17,882	19,958	-10.4	17,959	18,016
Cache	50,345	51,288	-1.8	50,299	49,915
Rich	628	679	-7.5	649	667
Wasatch Front	791,198	815,559	-3.0	789,118	786,643
North	193,831	198,251	-2.2	194,555	194,665
Davis	101,358	101,778	-0.4	101,682	101,934
Morgan	1,891	1,873	1.0	1,920	1,904
Weber	90,582	94,600	-4.2	90,953	90,827
South	597,366	617,308	-3.2	594,563	591,978
Salt Lake	581,787	601,808	-3.3	579,025	576,421
Tooele	15,580	15,500	0.5	15,538	15,557
Mountainland	206,136	214,930	-4.1	203,290	202,477
Summit	22,204	24,123	-8.0	19,013	18,728
Utah	178,212	184,462	-3.4	178,469	177,823
Wasatch	5,720	6,345	-9.8	5,808	5,926
Central	23,132	24,214	-4.5	23,626	23,850
Juab	3,296	3,415	-3.5	3,295	3,287
Millard	3,826	3,965	-3.5	3,811	3,851
Piute	317	352	-10.1	326	333
Sanpete	7,062	7,573	-6.7	7,367	7,368
Sevier	7,685	7,928	-3.1	7,829	7,911
Wayne	946	981	-3.5	996	1,100
Southwestern	69,506	73,560	-5.5	70,258	71,016
Beaver	2,221	2,128	4.4	2,237	2,233
Garfield	1,794	1,992	-9.9	2,014	2,336
Iron	15,891	16,799	-5.4	15,996	15,963
Kane	2,843	2,950	-3.6	3,010	3,102
Washington	46,757	49,691	-5.9	47,001	47,381
Uintah Basin	20,780	25,033	-17.0	21,005	21,124
Daggett	337	345	-2.4	355	414
Duchesne	7,788	8,834	-11.8	7,818	7,692
Uintah	12,656	15,854	-20.2	12,832	13,018
Southeastern	21,093	21,737	-3.0	21,696	22,193
Carbon	9,684	10,121	-4.3	9,797	9,701
Emery	3,543	3,481	1.8	3,614	3,661
Grand	3,871	4,021	-3.7	4,217	4,621
San Juan	3,994	4,114	-2.9	4,068	4,209

f = forecast

Note: Numbers have been left unrounded for convenience rather than to denote accuracy.

Note: Employment numbers are not seasonally adjusted. Therefore, comparisons of employment levels from one month to the next should not be used as job creation/loss estimates between those months. Seasonal factors could be the reason. For example, employment levels in September are usually higher than in August, as school employment resumes.

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Research and Analysis, 1/21/10