

# Carbon County

# FACTS

Updated August 2009

## Population

As of July 1st	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Total Population</b>	19,385	19,338	19,504	19,730	19,841
<b>% Change of the Prior Year</b>	-0.9%	-0.2%	0.9%	1.2%	0.6%

Source: Utah Population Estimates Committee.

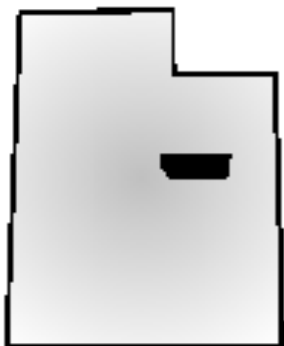
<http://governor.utah.gov/dea/datatables.html>

## City Population

As of July 1st	2008
<b>East Carbon</b>	1,258
<b>Helper</b>	1,876
<b>Price</b>	8,039
<b>Scofield</b>	26
<b>Sunnyside</b>	377
<b>Wellington</b>	1,571

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

<http://www.census.gov/popest/cities>



## Labor Force

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008p
<b>Labor Force</b>	9,389	9,599	9,899	9,622	10,074
<b>Employed</b>	8,761	9,124	9,553	9,252	9,643
<b>Unemployed</b>	628	475	346	370	431
<b>Rate</b>	6.7%	4.9%	3.5%	3.8%	4.3%
<b>Nonfarm Jobs</b>	8,550	8,944	9,421	9,250	9,675
<b>%Chng Prior Year</b>	-0.6%	4.6%	5.3%	-1.8%	4.6%
<b>Mining</b>	706	791	894	866	1,299
<b>Construction</b>	285	293	394	346	348
<b>Manufacturing</b>	302	403	419	358	362
<b>Trade/Trans/Utilities</b>	1,992	2,195	2,286	2,293	2,316
<b>Information</b>	113	108	127	116	100
<b>Financial Activities</b>	255	248	251	280	288
<b>Profess/Business Svcs</b>	617	622	648	559	543
<b>Ed/Health/Social Svcs</b>	969	987	1,055	1,076	1,159
<b>Leisure/Hospitality</b>	746	740	813	832	780
<b>Other Services</b>	359	335	365	377	336
<b>Government</b>	2,206	2,220	2,169	2,147	2,147
<b>Total Establishments</b>	663	686	686	668	673
<b>Total Wages (\$Millions)</b>	246.9	268.3	303.2	311.8	358.1

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information.

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoLaborforce.do>

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoIndustry.do>

Coal has dominated Carbon County's economic history. During the 90's the economic base began diversifying into trade, transportation, utilities, government and various services. The College of Eastern Utah also contributes employment opportunities.

p = preliminary      r = revised

# Carbon County

## —Employment Rebounds

After tragedy struck the Crandall Canyon mine located in neighboring Emery County, the economies of both Carbon and Emery counties slumped as 2007 came to a close. In 2008 and even into the first quarter of 2009, employment rebounded in Carbon County—a situation which seems to have ignored the national recession. Nevertheless, as long as the county remains dependent on natural resource extraction as its primary economic driver, it will be subject to continued economic turbulence.

### Population

Carbon County's population has limped along, typically contracting for most of the past several decades. In addition, population growth in 2008 was hardly stellar—only 0.6 percent. This sluggish expansion registered as the third-lowest performance in the state.

On the other hand, 2008 marked the third straight year of Carbon County population growth—a pleasant change from the previous seven years of no growth or population losses. Moreover, 2008 registered the third straight year of net in-migration (more people moved in than moved out.)

### The Labor Market

After two years of strong job growth Carbon County slipped into negative territory in 2007. That year's 1.8 percent decline represented a fairly sharp contraction across the economy in response to the unprecedented closures and shutdowns of coal mines in the region after the Crandall Canyon disaster. In 2008, the county's labor market rebounded. On the surface, employment increased by a robust 4.6 percent—425 jobs. Obviously, the recession had not made itself felt in any substantial way during 2008. Statewide, jobs increased by a paltry 0.1 percent. However, part of the Carbon County gain can be explained by a coding change in mining rather than true economic gain.

Mining was certainly the source of most of the employment expansion—with a little help from private health/social services and trade/transportation/utilities. On the other side

of the coin, both other services and leisure/hospitality services took noticeable employment hits. The remaining major industries experienced little change in employment totals.

Unemployment did tick up a notch to 4.3 percent in 2008. That's almost a full percentage point above the statewide average of 3.4 percent. Despite this increase, joblessness in Carbon County remained relatively low in historical terms. As recently as 2003, the county's unemployment rate measured almost 8 percent.

### Wages

During 2008, Carbon County's average monthly wage surged to \$3,085—an annual gain of almost 10 percent. That gain increased the purchasing power of workers far faster than the rate of inflation. Moreover, it pushed Carbon County's average monthly wage up to 99 percent of the state average—a level not reached since 1992.

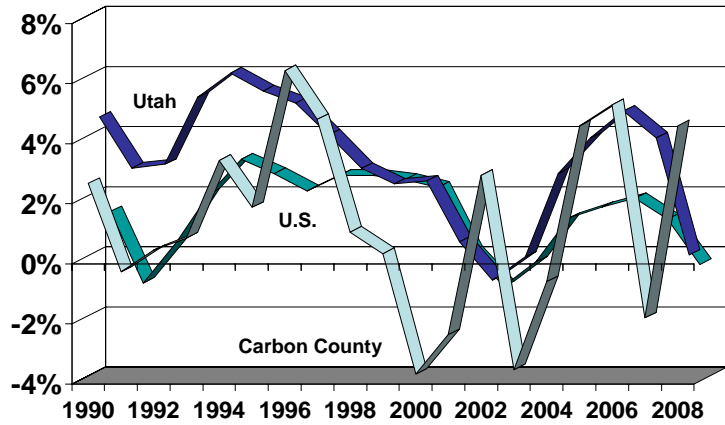
### Other Indicators

As in much of the United States, home-building imploded in Carbon County during 2008. The number of new homes permitted dropped almost 50 percent compared to 2007. Even a 19-percent increase in nonresidential permitting wasn't enough to save the county from an overall drop in permit values of 15 percent. On the other hand, gross taxable sales reflected the county's labor market expansion with an annual increase of almost 4 percent.

### Into 2009. . .

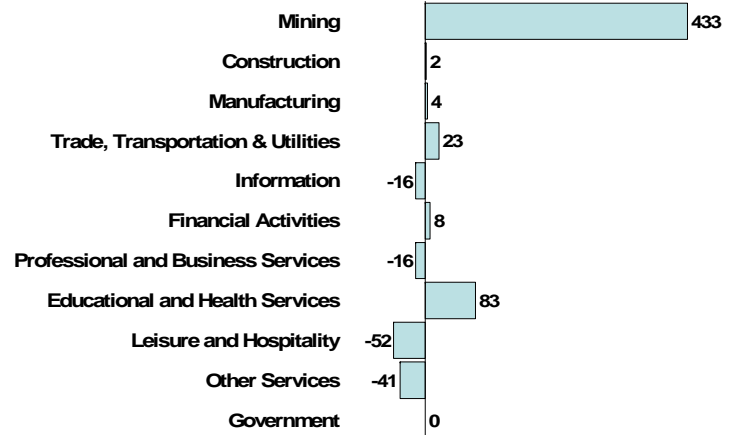
Carbon County's labor market managed to avoid recession in the first quarter of 2009. Employment continued to increase, but mining continues as the one-industry wonder of the current expansion. However, unemployment has increased slightly—although it remains a full percentage point below the state average. Construction continued to slide in the first half of the year with total permit values down 20 percent.

### Change in Carbon County Nonfarm Jobs



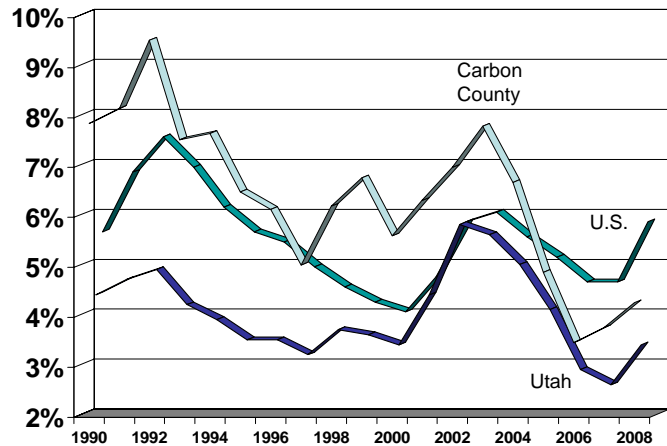
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

### 2007-2008 Carbon County Change in Jobs by Industry



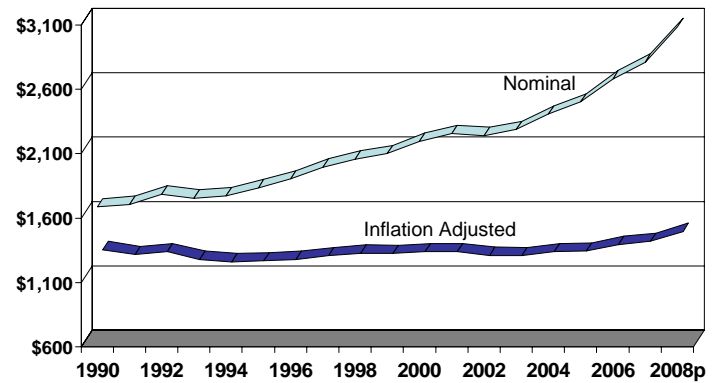
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

### Annual Unemployment Rates



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

### Carbon County Average Monthly Wage



Note: Inflation adjusted wages reflect the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index, 1982-84=100  
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

# Income and Wages

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008p
<b>Total Personal Income (\$Millions)</b>	476.2	522.6	551.9	563.3	NA
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	24,491	27,238	28,763	28,730	NA
<b>Median Household Income Estimates</b>	38,269	38,203	39,927	41,981	NA
<b>Average Monthly Nonfarm Wage</b>	2,407	2,500	2,682	2,809	3,085

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau, Utah Department of Workforce Services.

<http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saife/>

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoIndustry.do>

# Sales and Building

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008p
<b>Gross Taxable Sales (\$000s)</b>	379,036	430,474	478,221	487,709	505,533
<b>Permit Authorized Construction (\$000)</b>	17,415	12,902	15,882	28,305	24,168
<b>New Residential Building Permits</b>	70	60	72	110	57
<b>Residential Build Permits Value (\$000)</b>	7,515	5,887	9,416	16,965	9,177

Source: Utah Tax Commission and University of Utah Bureau of Economic and Business Research.

<http://tax.utah.gov/esu/income>

<http://www.business.utah.edu/bebr/>

## Demographics

	2000
Under 18	28.8%
65 years and over	13.3%
Median Age	33.6
Persons per Household	2.68
Persons per Family	3.19
Female-Headed Families	10.0%
High School Graduates	81.1%
College Graduates	12.3%
Labor Force	
Female Participation	52.7%
Male Participation	70.7%
Self-Employed	5.1%
Commute Time (minutes)	16.4
Median Family Income	\$40,900
Median Earnings	
Male, full-time, year-rnd	\$38,957
Female, full-time, yr-rnd	\$21,141
Persons Below Poverty	13.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

## Largest Employers

Carbon County School District  
 College of Eastern Utah  
 Canyon Fuels Company  
 Castleview Hospital  
 West Ridge Resources  
 Wal-Mart  
 State of Utah  
 Carbon County  
 Savage Industries  
 Price City  
 Andarko Petroleum  
 Joy Technologies  
 SOS Temporary Services  
 Hiawatha Coal  
 Pinnacle Canyon Academy  
 Pacificorp  
 Elkhorn Construction

Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services.

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoCounties.do>

## Other

Population by Race	2008
White	85.5%
Black	0.5%
American Indian	1.2%
Asian	0.6%
Pacific Islanders	0.0%
Other	0.9%
Hispanic/All Races	11.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

## For More Information . . .



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[jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi](http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi)