

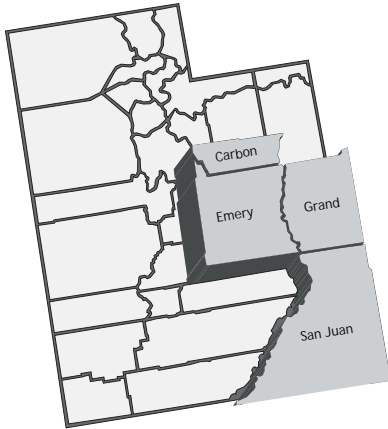
Workforce News



A quarterly publication of the Department of Workforce Services; issued December 2007

Southeast Utah: Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan

jobs.utah.gov



In the Shadow of Tragedy: Life after Crandall Canyon

Inside:

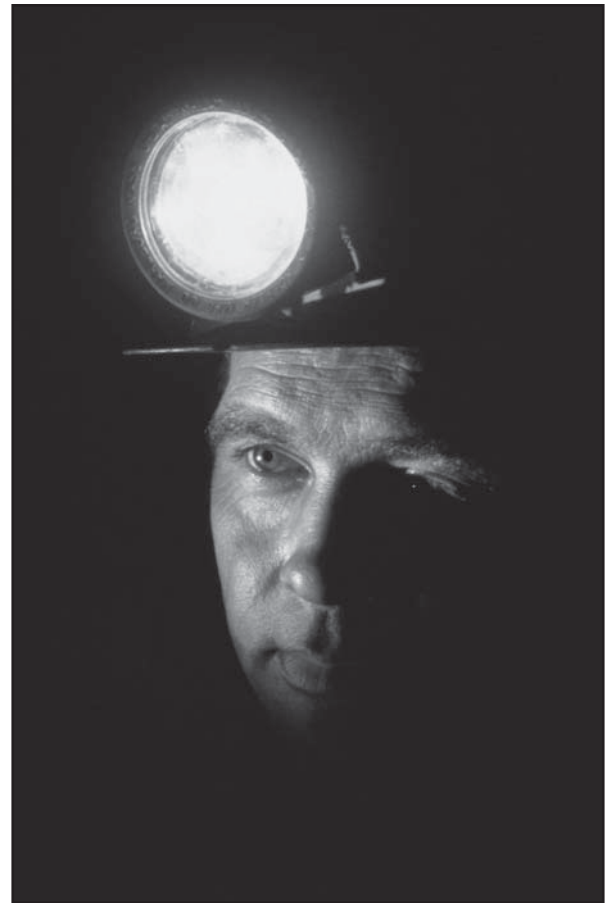
- ✦ Carbon's economy remains solid.
- ✦ Emery County lost jobs.
- ✦ Grand: Jobs still growing, but at a slower rate.
- ✦ San Juan's economy the strongest among southeastern Utah's counties.



Contact the author, your regional economist, with any questions on content:

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In the early hours of August 6th, 2007 a serious mountain “bump” shattered the day-to-day operations at the Crandall Canyon Mine, near Huntington, Utah. As rescue efforts swung into full gear, hope for a quick recovery grew. However, after 10 days—and a second bump resulting in an additional loss of life—it became increasingly clear that Utah's coal country would not be celebrating the return of their coal-mining heroes. This event was, and remains, a painful reminder of the dangerous nature of the work undertaken by coal miners.



In the aftermath of the tragedy, as the semblance of normal life returned, a common question arose and was often directed at my office: what will the economic impact of this event be for the area? Unfortunately, that is a question that is hard to answer for many reasons, not the least of which

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See the wealth of information at our Employer Resource Center Web page: <http://jobs.utah.gov/employer/resource>

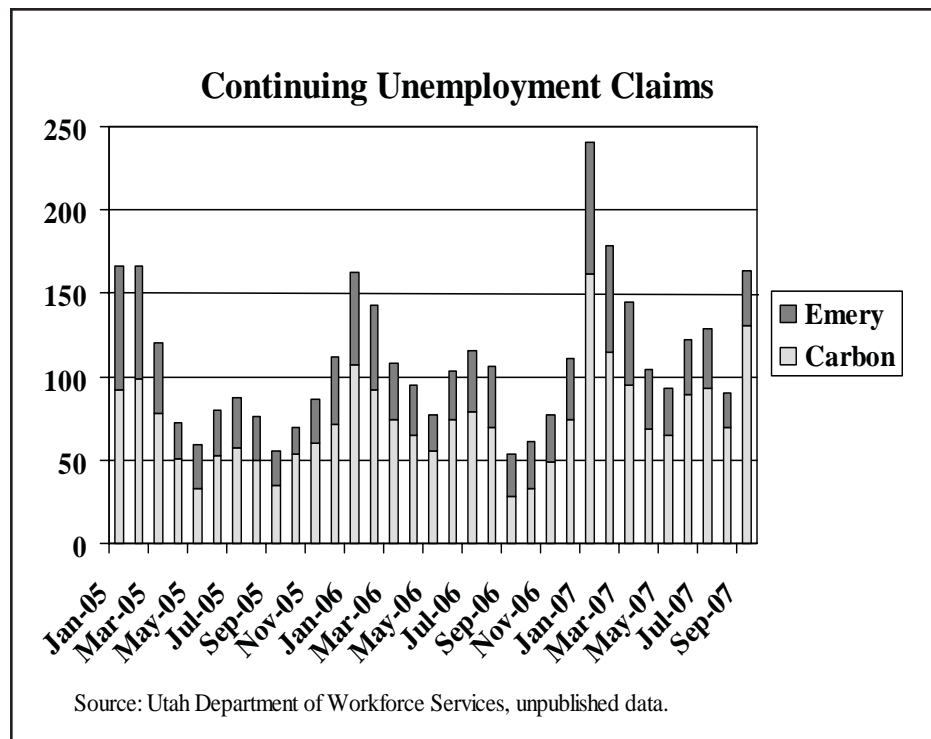
Life after Crandall Canyon

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being: how can we talk about cold numbers at a time of such grieving? Beyond that delicate issue comes another, more vexing in terms of numbers, issue. That is, with the lags in data collection inherent in our programs, we can't yet actually "see" the impact of what happened in the aftermath of August 6th.

With that said, there are some ways we can gauge the potential impact—at least in terms of jobs—to the area. One way is to examine how other coal mining areas have fared after undergoing similar tragedies. An example that immediately springs to mind is the Sago Mine incident of January 2nd, 2006. Upshur County in West Virginia, where the Sago mine is located, did see some slight slowdown for some months as mining activity in the area adjusted to the new realities on the ground. However, the relative size of that mine didn't create as large an impact as we might expect in Utah's coal county.

Another potential indicator of what may be happening right now in the



affected counties is the number of unemployment insurance claims being filed. This data is collected in a much more timely fashion, and while it is not always a reliable indicator, it may be insightful for us now. Looking at the latest data, we see that there was a spike in September claims that was unusually large when compared with previous years. There may be many reasons for this

increase, but it seems likely that the events of August have played a role in these numbers. The data also clearly shows the impact of previous mine layoffs in the area (as reported in the media) in January 2007.

The full impact of this tragedy will take years to unravel and fully appreciate. While the loss of loved ones is immediate and recognizable, the economic impacts tend to make themselves felt over time. In the coming months, as more data becomes available, we will have a better idea of just what the impact of August 6th was and what the future holds.

Check it Out

Find more in-depth information about your county on the Web at:

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

Upcoming Events / Seminars



You Can Do It . . . N.O.W.!

Non-Traditional Occupations for Women

Thursday, January 24, 2008
9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Davis Applied Technology College
550 East 300 South, Kaysville, Utah

Why would women consider training for a non-traditional occupation? It's simple, non-traditional jobs like advanced composites technician, welder, auto and diesel technician, machinist, electronics and industrial maintenance pay 25% more than jobs traditionally held by women.

Training for these well paying careers can be completed in two years or less. At the N.O.W. event women will have the opportunity to tour the Davis Applied Technology College and gain some hands-on experience in five different trades.

Workshops and tours of the DATC will run from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Our keynote speakers at lunch will be Pam Livingston-Lewis, lead welding instructor, at Weber Basin Job Corps and author of *"Hotter the Fire, Stronger the Steel"* that tells the story of her journey and success working in a non-traditional job; and Diana Guetschow, trainer at the University of Phoenix. Diane is an energetic presenter

and seasoned business professional with more than 25 years of sales and marketing experience.

A general job fair will be held from 2:00 pm-6:00 pm. If you have open positions you want to fill, plan to recruit at this job fair. Last year this job fair attracted more than 400 men, women, and students ready to work.

If you know a woman that is sick of low-paying, dead-end jobs and wants to change careers, tell her about this event! There is no cost to attend. A light lunch will be served; reservations for lunch are required.

To register for this free event or reserve your free booth for the job fair, contact Cory Olson 801-776-7820, coryolson@utah.gov. This event is sponsored by the Department of Workforce Services in partnership with the Davis Applied Technology College and LDS Employment Resources Services.

UTAH CONSTRUCTION CAREER DAYS

March 25-26, 2008 - Washington
County Fairgrounds, Hurricane

April 22-23, 2008 - Bridgerland Ap-
plied Technology College, Logan

April 29-May 1, 2008 - Davis County Events Center, Farmington



It is estimated that, nationally, the construction industry will create one million new jobs by 2014. In Utah, 22,200 jobs will be created in the same time period. Where will we find the next generation of construction workers?

Utah Construction Career Days (CDD) is a workforce development tool that is designed to introduce junior high and high school students to the interesting, lucrative, and viable careers in the construction and transportation industry, and can help fill the pipeline that will provide the skilled construction professionals of tomorrow. This event is a unique public / private partnership among leaders in the construction industry, Utah State Office of Education, Utah Local Technical Program, and the Department of Workforce Services.

In the past two years, these successful events have attracted more than 14,000 junior high and high school students from around the state. Each student has the opportunity to learn about the skilled trades through hands-on experience laying brick, painting, framing, laying pipe, and operating heavy construction equipment such as backhoes, loaders, scissor lifts, and cranes. They meet the men and women employed in the construction trades as apprentices and journeymen and learn first-hand what training each trade

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Upcoming Events / Seminars (cont'd)

entails. More important, they leave with new career ideas.

We need your help! In 2008, we will host three CCD events and we invite you to join us. This will be a great opportunity to showcase your company, network with educators and industry leaders, and help attract the next generation of construction workers to this industry.

For additional information, or to become a sponsor, exhibitor, and volunteer, contact Keri Shoemaker, 435 797-2931, keri.shoemaker@usu.edu, or visit www.utahccd.usu.edu.

San Juan County's 3rd Annual Business Expo

Friday, February 7, 2008
Blanding Arts and Events Center
715 West 200 South
Blanding, Utah

Mark your calendar—you won't want to miss The 3rd Annual San Juan County Business Expo! This exciting event will give you the opportunity to meet and network with business people and community leaders from around the region. Speakers will discuss online marketing, social networking, reducing cost of workers compensation, and keeping information secure in a digital world.

Our keynote speaker, George Wright, Blendtec Marketing Manager, is famous for his innovative marketing campaign "Will It Blend?" His unique marketing campaign not only introduced the Blendtec blenders to tens of millions of potential customers, but captured the imagination of marketing managers and business people around the world. The "Will It Blend?" video demonstrations are a standard of the Today Show, iVillage, YouTube and other multiple media show across the country and are a model for creative marketing online. George will tell us how this original marketing

campaign was born, using little more than imagination, and help you learn market your business online using social networking.

Ronnie Baird, the Manager of Goulding's Lodge and Tours, will discuss the importance of networking and give you tips to improve your skills.

San Juan County native, Charles Pugh, Workers' Compensation Fund, will share the best-kept secrets of how to keep your costs low and answer your questions about workers' compensation. Paul Bingham, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, will discuss ways we can protect the digital information of our customers and business.

To reserve your booth or for further information contact, Tim Chamberlain, DWS, tchamber@utah.gov or 435 678-1403.

55-Plus Job Fair

Thursday, March 27, 2008 Davis
County Events Center
Farmington, Utah

Want employees that are responsible, honest, organized, focused, and mature? Hire an older worker!

Older workers bring with them a wealth of experience, good organizational skills and a strong work ethic. They take pride in their work and can set an example for younger workers.

This job fair is especially for businesses and organizations looking to recruit older workers. It has attracted approximately 400 seniors from Davis, Weber, and Salt Lake Counties the past two years. For additional information or to reserve your free booth, contact Cory Olson 801-776-7820, coryolson@utah.gov.

Sponsored by the Department of Workforce Services in partnership with the Family Health and Senior Services, LDS Employment Resource Services and the Davis County Event Center.

Business Resources

Post a Job

Online: jobs.utah.gov E-mail: postajob@utah.gov
Phone (statewide): 1-888-920-WORK (9675)
Fax: 801-468-0070

UI Tax Information

jobs.utah.gov/ui 801-526-9235

Labor Market Information - Regional Economists

Jim Robson jrobson@utah.gov 801-526-9626
Central and Mountainland Regions

John Mathews johnmathews@utah.gov 801-526-9467
North Region

Michael Hanni mhanni@utah.gov 801-526-9403
Eastern Region

Lecia Parks Langston lecialangston@utah.gov
435-688-3115 Western Region

New Hire Reporting

jobs.utah.gov/newhire 801-526-4361

Pre-Layoff Assistance

jobs.utah.gov/employer/business/prelayoff.asp
801-526-4361

Employer Tax Credit

jobs.utah.gov/employer/business/wotc.asp
801-526-9480

Utah Labor Commission

laborcommission.utah.gov 801-530-6801

State Council on Workforce Services

jobs.utah.gov/edo/statecouncil/ 801-468-0095

Child Care Resource & Referral

jobs.utah.gov/opencms/occ 866-438-4847
801-355-4847

DOL Wage/Hour Division

801-524-5706

Employer 101: Labor Law Training

jobs.utah.gov/edo/laborlaw

Department of Workforce Services (main page)
jobs.utah.gov

DWS Economic & Labor Market Information

jobs.utah.gov/wi

Business.utah.gov

County News

Carbon County: The county's employment portfolio took a slight hit in the second quarter of 2007. Compared with the same quarter last year, the county lost roughly 90 jobs, or a decline of 0.9 percent. Previous layoffs at some administrative support firms, coupled with the prior closure of a local sawmill and employment reporting adjustments in primary and secondary education, were responsible for the reported loss of employment. However, strong job gains were posted in important industries like construction (+73) and mining (+41). This suggests that the county's economic fundamentals remain solid.

Emery County: Employment in Emery County slid in the second quarter of 2007 when compared with the same quarter last year. Over the year, there was a 2.8 percent decline in the number of jobs—roughly a loss of 115 positions. Layoffs from local coal mines in December 2006, as reported in the media, continued to keep mining employment from previous levels. This has spread somewhat into related industries. For example, transportation posted a loss of 70 jobs. On the positive side of the ledger, over the year there was a nice increase in administrative support services employment.

Grand County: Quarterly job statistics show employment expanding in Grand County by 3.0 percent in the second quarter of 2007—roughly 147 new jobs over last year. However, looking at the monthly data we see that job growth has been slowing through the quarter, from 5.2 percent in April to 1.6 percent in June. Nevertheless, solid job increases were apparent in several industries. For example, accommodation and food services and professional and business services were both up nicely, 82 and 29 positions respectively.

San Juan County: Of the state's southeastern counties, San Juan County was the best performer in the second quarter of 2007. With 3.9 percent year-over job growth, or an increase of 164 positions over last year, the county easily surpassed its sister counties in the region. Fueling this growth has been strong increases in mining and construction, both of which added 59 jobs each over the year. Strong gains were likewise posted in accommodations employment. Unemployment has climbed somewhat in the recent months, but given the size of the change and the confidence intervals of the estimate, the market has likely changed little.

What's Up?

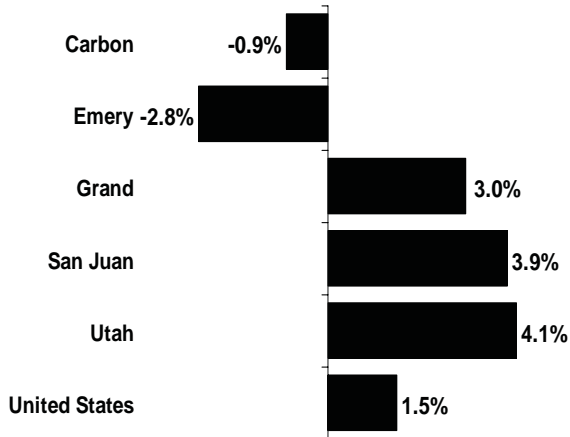
✦ The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded CellularOne Navajo Mountain a \$205,416 grant to develop community broadband connections. The funds will be used to build a wireless network for Navajo Mountain, San Juan County, whose nearest hospital is more than 100 miles away. The grant is expected to fund 10 computers to offer online public safety notices, educational opportunities and telemedicine services to the local community.
-*Deseret News, October 10th, 2007*

✦ Life after the Crandall Canyon Mine catastrophe has been an economic challenge for many families as they adjust to a sudden loss of income. However, since many of the area mines were operating below capacity, the majority of people displaced have been able to find positions with other local mining companies or in other states. Unfortunately, many of the unfilled jobs are lower level, so some workers have had to take pay cuts at least for the time being, and a few are choosing to wait to see if Murray Energy reopens the Tower Mine.
-*Deseret News, October 4th, 2007*

Southeast Utah: Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan

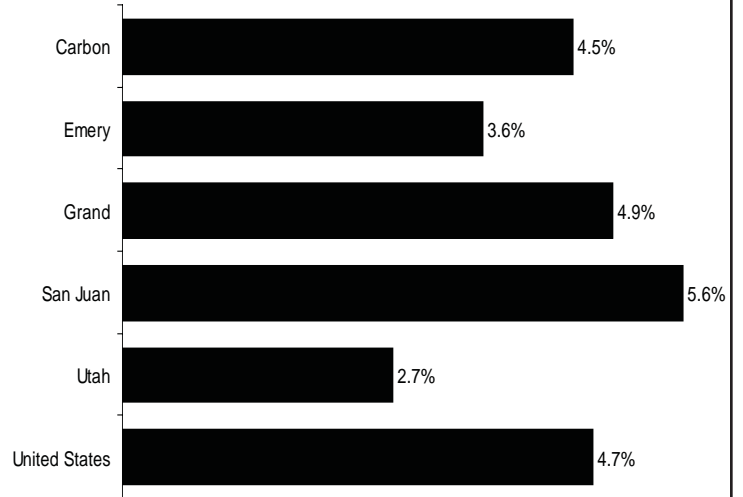
jobs.utah.gov

**Year-over Change in Nonfarm Jobs
June 2006 to June 2007**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate September 2007



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

03-51SE-1207