

# Garfield County

# FACTS

Updated July 2009

## Population

As of July 1st	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Total Population</b>	4,625	4,703	4,772	4,872	5,044
<b>% Change of the Prior Year</b>	2.1%	1.7%	1.5%	2.1%	0.0%

Source: Utah Population Estimates Committee.

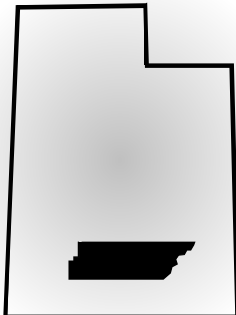
<http://governor.utah.gov/dea/datatables.html>

## City Population

As of July 1st	2008
<b>Antimony</b>	114
<b>Boulder</b>	186
<b>Cannonville</b>	138
<b>Escalante</b>	763
<b>Hatch</b>	118
<b>Henrieville</b>	148
<b>Panguitch</b>	1,520
<b>Tropic</b>	476

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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



## Labor Force

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008p
<b>Labor Force</b>	2,670	2,709	2,681	2,756	2,845
<b>Employed</b>	2,459	2,511	2,546	2,623	2,678
<b>Unemployed</b>	211	198	135	133	168
<b>Rate</b>	7.9%	7.3%	5.0%	4.8%	5.9%
<b>Nonfarm Jobs</b>	2,178	2,236	2,260	2,341	2,510
<b>%Chng Prior Year</b>	5.0%	2.7%	1.1%	3.6%	7.2%
<b>Mining</b>	7	7	12	11	9
<b>Construction</b>	86	73	83	86	63
<b>Manufacturing</b>	113	110	98	95	83
<b>Trade/Trans/Utilities</b>	229	215	239	248	261
<b>Information</b>	119	122	126	130	133
<b>Financial Activities</b>	32	33	35	33	32
<b>Profess/Business Svcs</b>	9	11	17	17	15
<b>Ed/Health/Social Svcs</b>	160	187	207	244	289
<b>Leisure/Hospitality</b>	795	859	821	854	989
<b>Other Services</b>	27	26	27	26	13
<b>Government</b>	598	593	595	597	622
<b>Total Establishments</b>	223	233	252	240	240
<b>Total Wages (\$Millions)</b>	47.0	48.5	51.7	56.4	58.7

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>

Garfield County depends more on tourism and recreation for employment than any other county in the state. With Bryce Canyon and Lake Powell, the county attracts many, many visitors each year. Garfield County exhibits one of the highest unemployment rates in the state due to the seasonal nature of the tourist economy.

p = preliminary      r=revised

# Garfield County

## —What Recession?

With an economy heavily dependent on tourism, Garfield County often suffers from downturns in the national business cycle, or even just a large increase in the price of gasoline. Yet, 2008 proved a banner year for Garfield County's leisure/hospitality industry. Employment, construction permitting and sales all showed improvement.

### Population

In 2008, Garfield County's population grew by 3.5 percent—the fastest rate in more than a decade—to reach more than 5,000 individuals. With its fifth year of positive net in-migration, Garfield County's rate of population growth measured substantially higher than the state average (2.2 percent).

### The Labor Market

Garfield County's leisure/hospitality industry accounts for the highest nonfarm employment share of any county in Utah. Almost 40 percent of the county's jobs can be categorized in this industry. This heavy dependence on tourism is reflected in much of the county's labor market activity.

For example, even in good economic years, Garfield County's unemployment rate ranks as one of the highest in the state. In 2008, Garfield County's jobless rate measured 5.9 percent—second highest in the state. The seasonality of the tourism-related industries means many workers are unemployed for part of every year—which perennially drives up the county's unemployment rate. In reality, 5.9 percent is a relatively low unemployment rate for Garfield County. In the 90s, joblessness reached as high as 13 percent.

After moderate employment growth in 2007, Garfield County's 2008 employment expansion popped up a notch to 7.2 percent—for a gain of almost 170 net new jobs. Recessionary pressures resulted in slower growth for most counties—statewide, jobs were up a mere 0.1 percent.

When it came to creating jobs, leisure/hospitality services took the lead in Garfield County as a new hotel and other

tourist-related venues came on-line in 2008. And, the national recession couldn't be ignored even in Garfield County. Employment in construction, manufacturing and other services declined noticeably.

### Wages

In 2008, Garfield County's average monthly nonfarm wage measured \$1,951. That's down about 3 percent from 2007. The loss of higher-than-average paying jobs in construction and manufacturing coupled with growth in lower-paying leisure-hospitality jobs dove-tailed to drive down the average wage in 2008.

In addition, this decline, plus the domination of many of the county's seasonal jobs, meant Garfield County's average monthly wage measured only 63 percent of the state average—the lowest figure in more than two decades. The county's average wage slipped to the second lowest wage in the state in 2008. The information industry sported the highest Garfield County average monthly wage in 2008—but maintained very few jobs. Next in the wage ranking came government. Despite its lower-pay ranking, only the leisure/hospitality industry demands higher average monthly wages than the state average.

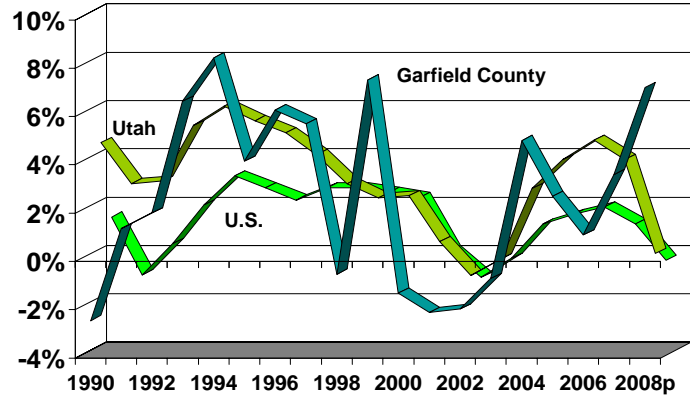
### Other Indicators

As in many other locales, residential construction permitting activity slipped in 2008. However, the permitting of new tourist-related buildings drove the total value of permits up by almost 40 percent in 2008. Gross taxable sales also bucked the recessionary trend with a year-to-year increase of almost 5 percent.

### Into 2009 . . .

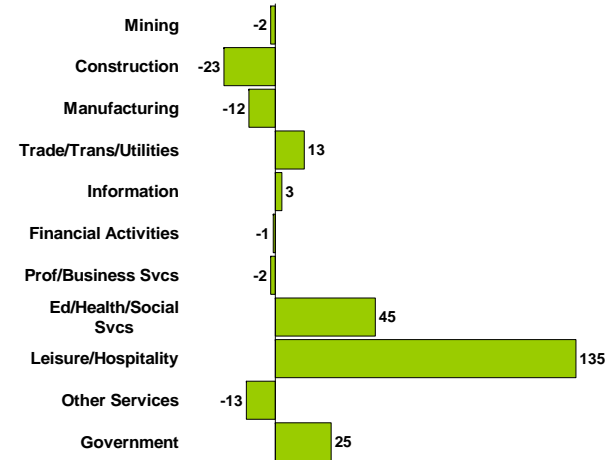
During the first quarter of 2009, recession reared its ugly head as Garfield County saw employment gains evaporate. Tourism-related jobs and retail trade jobs still showed expansion during first quarter 2009. However, a sizeable loss in manufacturing employment, more than offset those gains.

## Garfield County Nonfarm Jobs



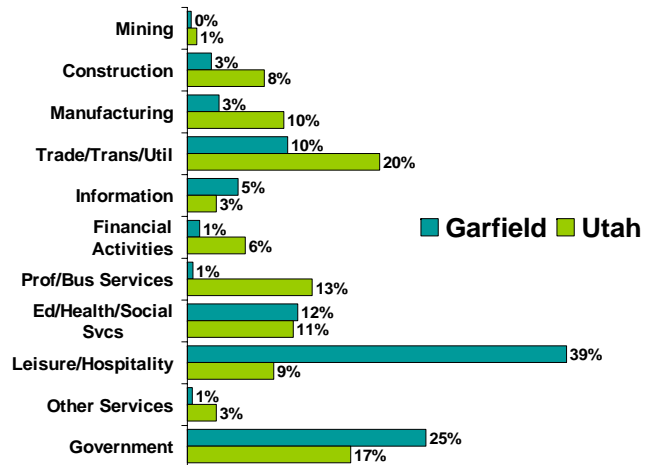
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

## 2008 Garfield County Numeric Change in Jobs by Industry



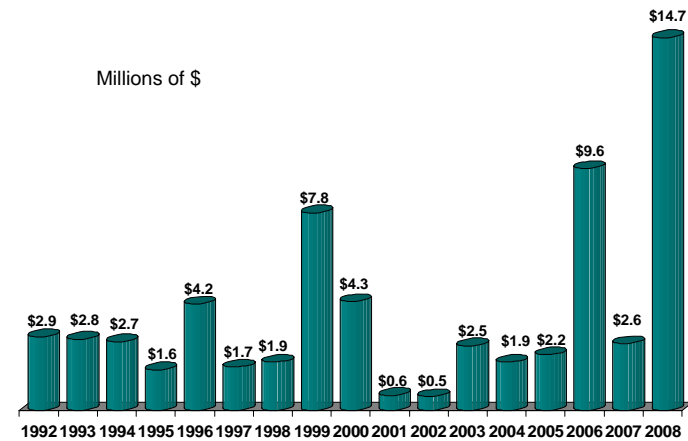
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

## 2008 Nonfarm Job Distribution by Industry\*



\*Does NOT include covered agriculture.  
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

## Garfield County New Nonresidential Building Permit Valuation



Source: Utah Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

# Income and Wages

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008p
<b>Total Personal Income (\$Millions)</b>	97.2	104.5	105.3	109.4	NA
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	22,227	24,075	23,949	24,167	NA
<b>Median Household Income Estimates</b>	37,454	38,751	40,269	41,553	NA
<b>Average Monthly Nonfarm Wage</b>	1,787	1,806	1,908	2,007	1,951

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

# Sales and Building

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008p
<b>Gross Taxable Sales (\$000s)</b>	77,649	79,464	83,538	95,299	100,540
<b>Permit Authorized Construction (\$000)</b>	10,189	11,633	25,876	19,999	27,603
<b>New Residential Building Permits</b>	54	61	86	139	60
<b>Residential Build Permits Value (\$000)</b>	7,045	8,969	15,677	16,765	11,984

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	32.6%
65 years and over	14.1%
Median Age	33.8
Persons per Household	2.92
Persons per Family	3.43
Female-Headed Families	8.9%
High School Graduates	85.8%
College Graduates	20.3%
Labor Force	
Female Participation	58.7%
Male Participation	68.5%
Self-Employed	10.1%
Commute Time (minutes)	13.9
Median Family Income	\$40,192
Median Earnings	
Male, full-time, year-rnd	\$30,239
Female, full-time, yr-rnd	\$20,408
Persons Below Poverty	8.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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

## Largest Employers

- Ruby's Inn
- Garfield School District
- Federal Government
- South Central Utah Telephone
- Garfield Memorial Hospital
- Silverado Boys Ranch
- Garfield County
- State of Utah
- Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Inc
- Clarks Country Market
- Turn About Ranch
- Offshore Marina
- Bryce Canyon Pines
- Skyline Forest Resources, Inc.
- New Frontiers for Families
- Garkane Power Association
- Silver Eagle
- New Western Motel

Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services.

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

## Other

Population by Race	2008
White	92.7%
Black	0.2%
American Indian	1.9%
Asian	0.4%
Pacific Islanders	0.0%
Other	1.0%
Hispanic/All Races	3.8%

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)

