

Metro

An aerial photograph of Salt Lake City, Utah, showing a dense urban area with several prominent skyscrapers. In the background, the Wasatch Mountains are visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The city's layout is a grid, and the buildings vary in height and architectural style, including a large, ornate white building with spires.

Areas Lead Utah's Employment Growth

It is not surprising that most of the growth is along the Wasatch Front

Utah's employment growth for 2011 registered 2.4 percent. A nice rebound considering the prior two years combined for a steep employment contraction.

Most of the growth is concentrated along the Wasatch Front. This isn't necessarily surprising. If Utah's economy is going to grow, it has to come from the populous metropolitan corridor. Yet many of the state's rural economies have yet to "perk up." An energy boom in the Uintah Basin is primarily helping Duchesne and Uintah counties, and a construction project to install windmill energy devices helped Beaver County, but most of the remaining rural counties are not yet experiencing a trickle down effect from the metropolitan area's expansion.

Barring any unforeseen economic shock, Utah should continue to experience notable employment growth throughout 2012, to the degree that will support both metropolitan and rural economic expansion. ①