

County Economic *Snapshots*

Designed to deliver quality information about each of the 29 counties.



If quick, current, summary data on your county's economy is what you're after then we have just the thing for you!

The Workforce Information unit of the Department of Workforce Services has just added a new product to the line of tools designed to deliver quality information about each of the 29 counties across the state. This new tool gives you the most current and topical information to describe the county labor market conditions and paint a clear picture of the overall economic situation facing workers, businesses and policy makers of the local area. Snapshots for every county can be found at <http://jobs.utah.gov:8080/opencms/wi/pubs/currenteconomicsnapshot/index.html>.

Key indicators of the county's economic health are provided in the "Quick Facts" section on the first page of the County Snapshot. Data in this section includes

the unemployment rate, job growth rate, housing permit information, and quarterly sales information from the state Tax Commission. Just think of the Quick Facts as the current key indicators of the local economic situation.

The rest of the Economic Snapshot consists of graphs and charts that essentially provide an explanation of the Quick Facts. Data is displayed in such a way to give detail to those numbers so that they can be understood in a historical and area-specific context.

The graphs are broken into categories: labor force, sales and building, unemployment claims, and an open category. For labor force data, our forte, the graphs available include: job growth over a two-year span, current job count by major industry, three years of seasonally adjusted unemployment rates, current job growth rates by major industry, and county comparisons. Another important piece of labor force provided

in the Snapshot is data on initial unemployment claims within the county.

Rounding out the county economic picture are charts showing a five-year series of yearly percent-change in permits for dwelling units and total permitted construction values, as well as a three-year breakdown of local percent-change in taxable sales.

The final graph (shall we call it "la pièce de résistance"?), is what we like to call the wild card. The data shown in this graph is chosen specifically by the regional economist and depicts an economic indicator uniquely important to that local economy. For example, Washington County's Snapshot currently includes a housing-price index graph, while Davis's highlights federal employment counts.

If quick and easy-to-understand local economic data is your desire, the County Snapshots are your best source. ●

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A recent copy of the snapshot for Washington County.