

Long-Term

Employment Projections

for Utah's Non-Wasatch Front Regions



Every two years, economists from the Department of Workforce Services produce long-term (10-year) employment projections for different regions in Utah. 2013 marks the year when the latest long-term, substate regional projections are produced, starting from the base-year of 2010. The value in providing these employment projections is to identify which types of jobs are

most likely to be in high demand in the future. Projections give our future workforce (typically youth still preparing themselves in school) a sense of which industries are estimated to have abundant prospective employment opportunities. Projections assist employment counselors in communicating where abundant employment opportunities are expected to be. Projections can also direct the education community in shaping policies aimed at preparing the future workforce with those skills necessary and valued in order to meet the future employment demands. Ultimately, the long-term employment projections act as a forecasting measure by which individuals as well as organizations and agencies can plan ahead.

The substate regions are divided into the following eight geographical areas: Bear River, Central Utah, Eastern Utah, Ogden-Clearfield, Provo-Orem, Salt Lake City, Southwest Utah and St. George. Figure 1 illustrates which counties belong to which substate regions. What is the outlook for those substate regions outside of the Wasatch Front?

In any given region, industries that typically support the local population will tend to grow the most in

terms of absolute jobs. Usually, these are industries like education, health care, construction or trade. In addition, niche industries in a region that also employ relatively large shares of the workforce will tend to see significant numbers of new jobs projected to be added to the economy. Identifying population-supporting and niche industries in an area gives a further sense of local employment character as well as any industries that appear to be growing faster than average.

Bear River

Industries important to Bear River, which include manufacturing, educational services, retail and health care and social assistance, are projected to continue offering the most abundant employment opportunities. Health care and social assistance is projected to net over 2,000 more jobs over the 10-year projection period. Educational services will net slightly fewer than 1,900 and manufacturing will net almost 1,000. Construction and retail, industries typically tied to supporting the population, will also net well over 1,000 jobs each.

Central Utah

Health care and social assistance will net 775 more jobs between 2010 and 2020. In fact, social assistance is projected to grow annually at a rate of 5.7 percent. As is typically the case in rural areas, government will also continue to offer relatively more abundant employment opportunities, with a 587 net gain in jobs over the projected period. Other relatively meaningful employment opportunities in Central Utah will likely include transportation and warehousing, leisure and hospitality, and retail trade.

Southwest

Once again, health care and social assistance is likely to net the highest job gains in the 10-year interim at just over 1,000, with social assistance growing annually by 4.5 percent. Leisure and hospitality will net slightly fewer than 1,000 more jobs. Other population-driven industries, retail trade and government, will each add

Figure 1: Sub-State Regions



Sub-State Regions	Counties Comprising the Sub-State Region
Bear River	Box Elder, Cache and Rich Counties
Central Utah	Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier and Wayne Counties
Eastern Utah	Carbon, Daggett, Duchesne, Emery, Grand, San Juan, Uintah and Wasatch Counties
Ogden-Clearfield	Davis, Morgan and Weber Counties
Provo-Orem	Juab and Utah Counties
Salt Lake City	Salt Lake, Summit and Tooele Counties
Southwest	Beaver, Garfield, Iron and Kane Counties
St. George	Washington County

Figure 2: Long-Term Employment Projections for Non-Wasatch Front Regions, 2010-2020
Actual Job Growth and Compound Annual Growth Rates

Industry	Bear River		Central Utah		Southwest		St. George		Eastern Utah	
	Actual Job Growth	Compound Annual Growth Rate	Actual Job Growth	Compound Annual Growth Rate	Actual Job Growth	Compound Annual Growth Rate	Actual Job Growth	Compound Annual Growth Rate	Actual Job Growth	Compound Annual Growth Rate
Mining	2	0.4%	178	2.3%	27	1.9%	88	5.2%	2496	3.4%
Utilities	2	0.2%	-5	-0.1%	7	0.4%	54	4.1%	15	0.2%
Construction	1461	3.6%	-23	-0.3%	255	2.4%	3157	6.8%	1383	3.3%
Manufacturing	982	0.6%	259	2.0%	346	2.0%	744	2.9%	275	2.4%
Wholesale Trade	345	2.4%	119	2.4%	92	2.4%	442	3.7%	415	2.6%
Retail Trade	1275	1.7%	488	1.6%	552	1.8%	2741	3.3%	1380	2.2%
Transportation/Warehousing	699	2.5%	506	3.4%	119	1.9%	1014	3.2%	593	2.2%
Information	201	2.5%	-20	-0.7%	-21	-0.8%	107	1.4%	14	0.2%
Finance/Insurance	207	1.4%	42	1.1%	137	1.8%	296	2.3%	139	1.5%
Real Estate/Rental/Leasing	97	1.9%	24	1.8%	71	2.8%	227	2.9%	248	2.9%
Prof./Technical Services	908	2.7%	93	2.7%	-59	-1.5%	628	3.4%	491	3.3%
Mgmt. of Companies/Enterprises	0	0.0%	53	24.0%	6	1.9%	50	8.9%	40	2.8%
Admin./Waste Services	616	2.1%	250	4.3%	190	2.2%	770	3.4%	332	2.3%
Educational Services	1884	2.2%	209	0.8%	484	1.5%	1103	2.5%	550	1.2%
Health Care/Social Assistance	2113	2.8%	775	2.9%	1016	3.4%	2943	3.3%	1224	2.3%
Arts/Ent./Recreation	203	2.5%	30	2.9%	72	1.8%	234	2.6%	110	2.0%
Accomm./Food Services	861	1.7%	414	2.1%	909	2.3%	2160	3.2%	1376	2.3%
Other Services (except gov.)	238	1.4%	83	1.6%	112	1.2%	211	1.4%	359	2.2%
Government	637	1.4%	587	2.0%	505	1.9%	727	2.3%	1210	1.8%

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

over 500 more jobs over the projection period. The fastest growing industry is projected to be within miscellaneous manufacturing, while furniture and related product manufacturing is projected to shed 68 jobs (22 percent annually).

St. George

Although the construction industry has seen its employment woes since the great recession, this industry is, nevertheless, projected to provide the most abundant employment opportunities in St. George with a net of over 3,100 more jobs over the ten-year period. Construction of buildings is projected to grow at an annual rate of 10 percent, the highest rate of growth for any sub-industry in the region. Among the population-supporting industries of the region, health care and social assistance will net over 2,900 jobs by 2020, government about 730, retail trade over 2,700, accommodation and food services over 2,100 and educational services about 1,100. Transportation and warehousing, manufacturing and professional and technical services are estimated to net between 600 and 1,000 jobs each.

Eastern Utah

Mining, especially oil and gas extraction is the industry that seems to drive everything in Eastern Utah. At a net of 2,500 additional jobs by 2020, mining is by far the industry projected to provide the most abundant employment opportunities for the region. This projected figure is about twice that of the next highest ranking industries in terms of future employment opportunities: construction, retail trade, and accommodation and food services will net about 1,380 jobs each over the projection interim. Health care and social assistance as well as government, industries that support the population, will net just over 1,200 additional jobs each. Transportation and warehousing is slated to add about 600 additional jobs.

Patterns

As would be expected, any given region will see predictable and relatively sizable employment opportunities in population-supporting industries. Health care and social assistance is a primary industry of growth in all regions because of its function of supporting a growing population over time. Furthermore, the growing number of aging baby-boomers needing health care services heightens future demand. Other population-supporting industries, like government and retail trade, will also continue to provide relatively ample employment opportunities. Finally, niche industries like manufacturing in Bear River or mining (oil and gas) in Eastern Utah will also continue to provide more abundant employment opportunities in the future. 



Aging baby-boomers are creating a future demand for health care services—hence health care will continue its growth pattern.