

Labor Market Update: Utah's Economy and the Role of Adult Education

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January 20, 2026

Overview

1. Labor Market Snapshot
2. Role of Education in the Workforce
3. DWS Tools and Resources



LABOR MARKET INFORMATION



P.O. Box 100127
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- Employment Statistics
- Unemployment Statistics
- Job Forecasts
- Wages
- Demographic
Characteristics

Defining Labor Market Information (LMI) and LMI Customers

Defining Labor Market Information.

Labor market information includes all quantitative or qualitative data and analysis related to employment and the workforce. The goal of LMI is to help customers make informed plans, choices, and decisions for a variety of purposes, including business investment decision making, career planning and preparation, education and training offerings, job search opportunities, hiring, and public or private workforce investments.¹

ECONOMIC AND LABOR MARKET DATA

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

How is labor market information applied?

- ✓ Building Data Products
- ✓ Driving Policy
- ✓ Resource Allocation
- ✓ Strategic Planning
- ✓ Informing an Audience

MAIN SOURCES OF DATA



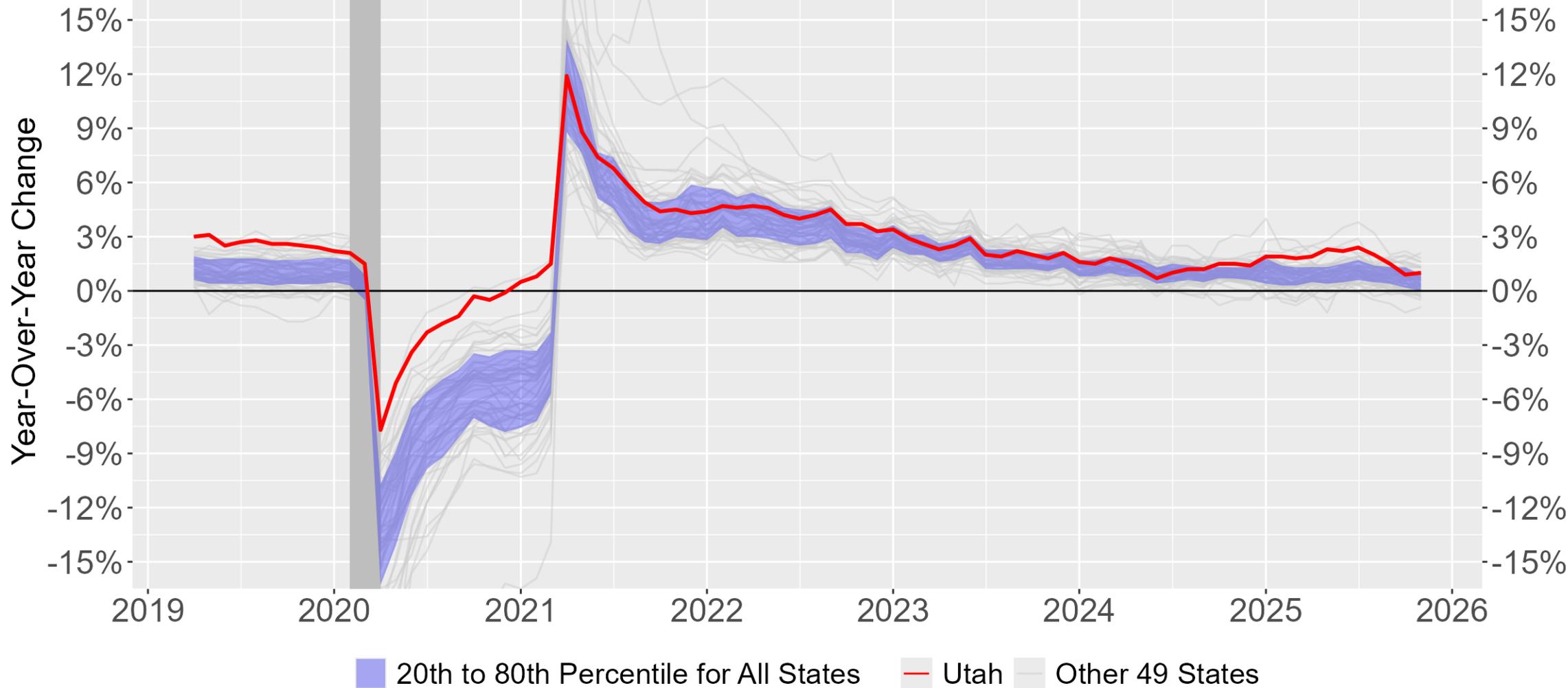
IPUMS

United States
Census
Bureau



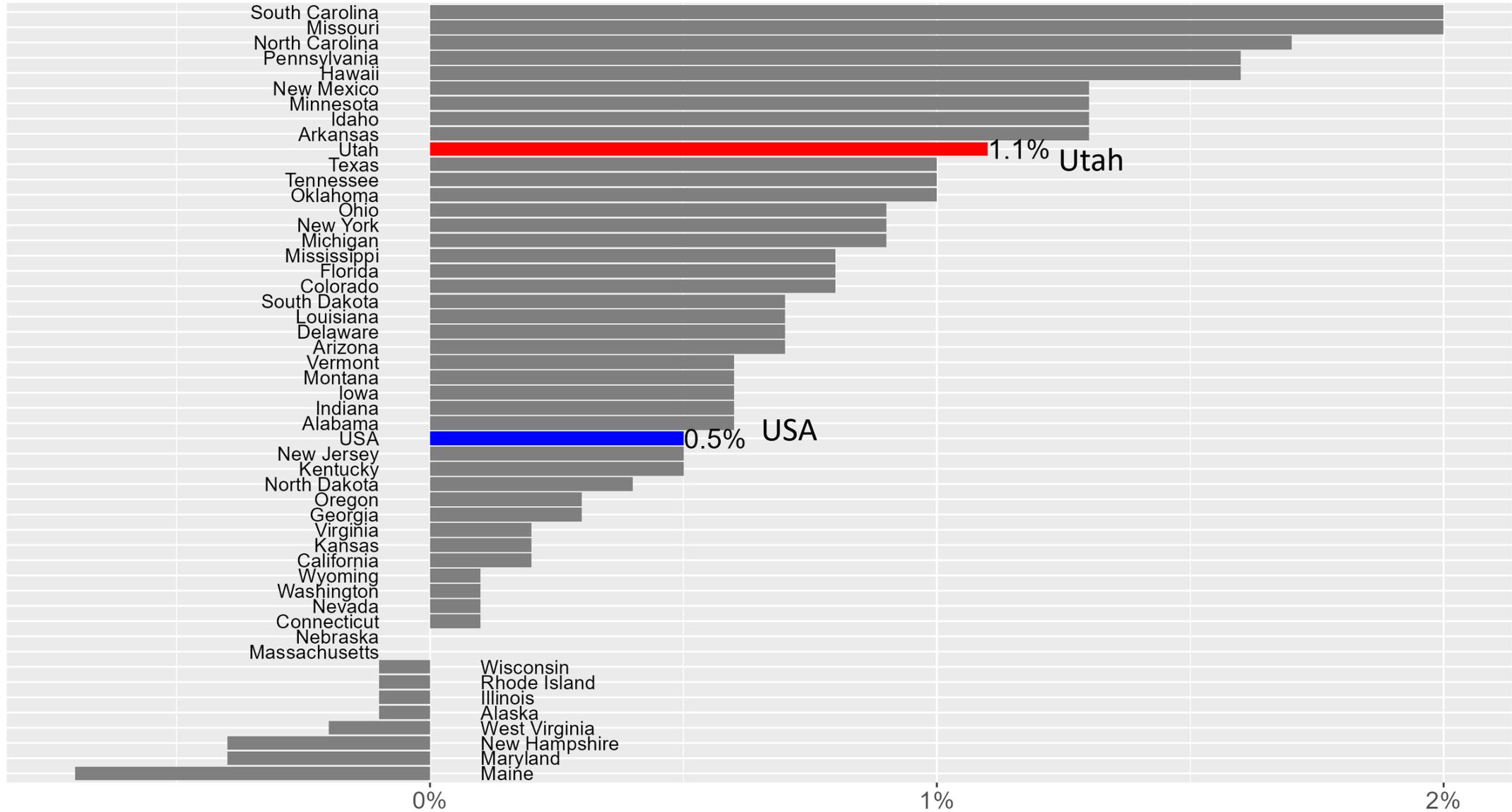
Job Growth, Utah & Other States

Total Nonfarm



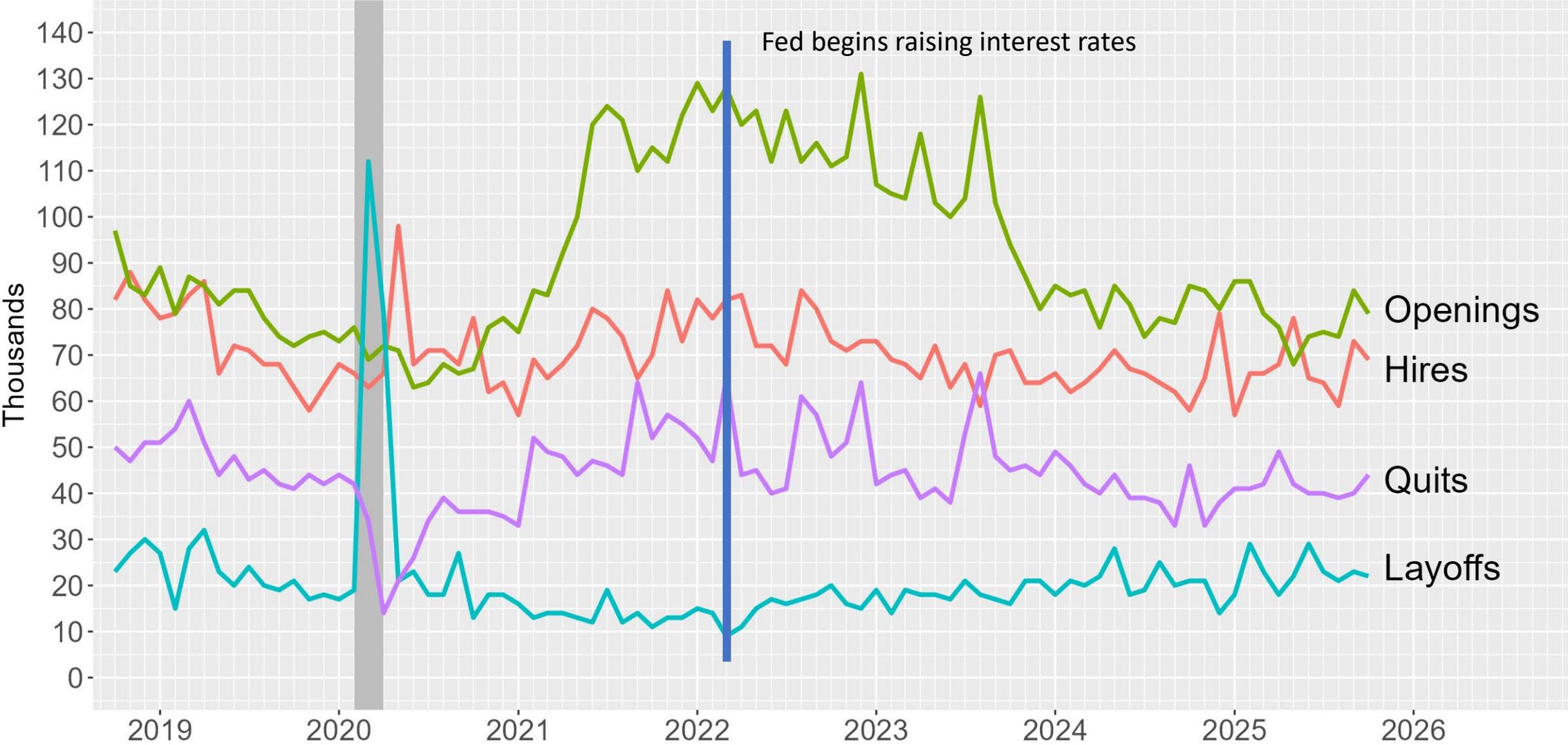
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Statistics (CES), not seasonally adjusted

Change in Nonfarm Jobs: November 2024 to November 2025



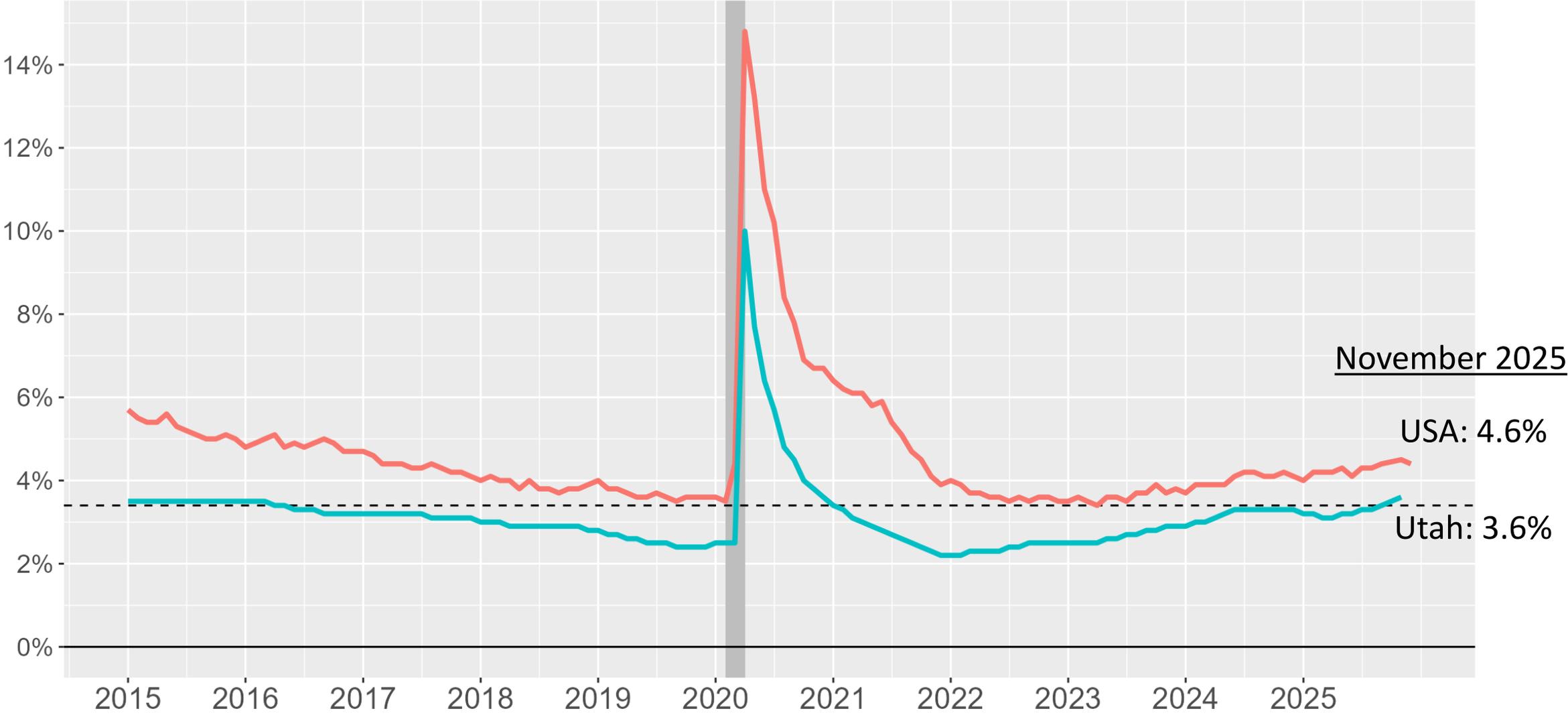
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Labor Market Showing Some Cooling



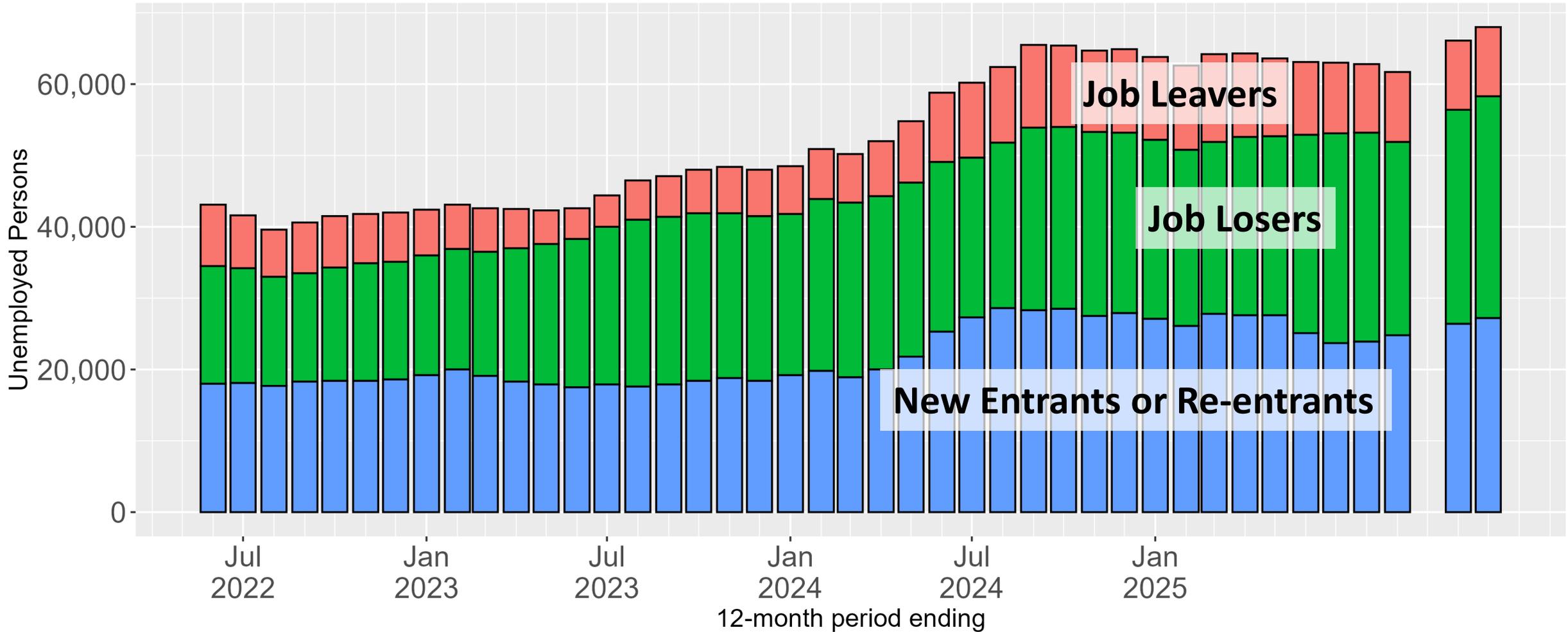
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Categories of the Unemployed

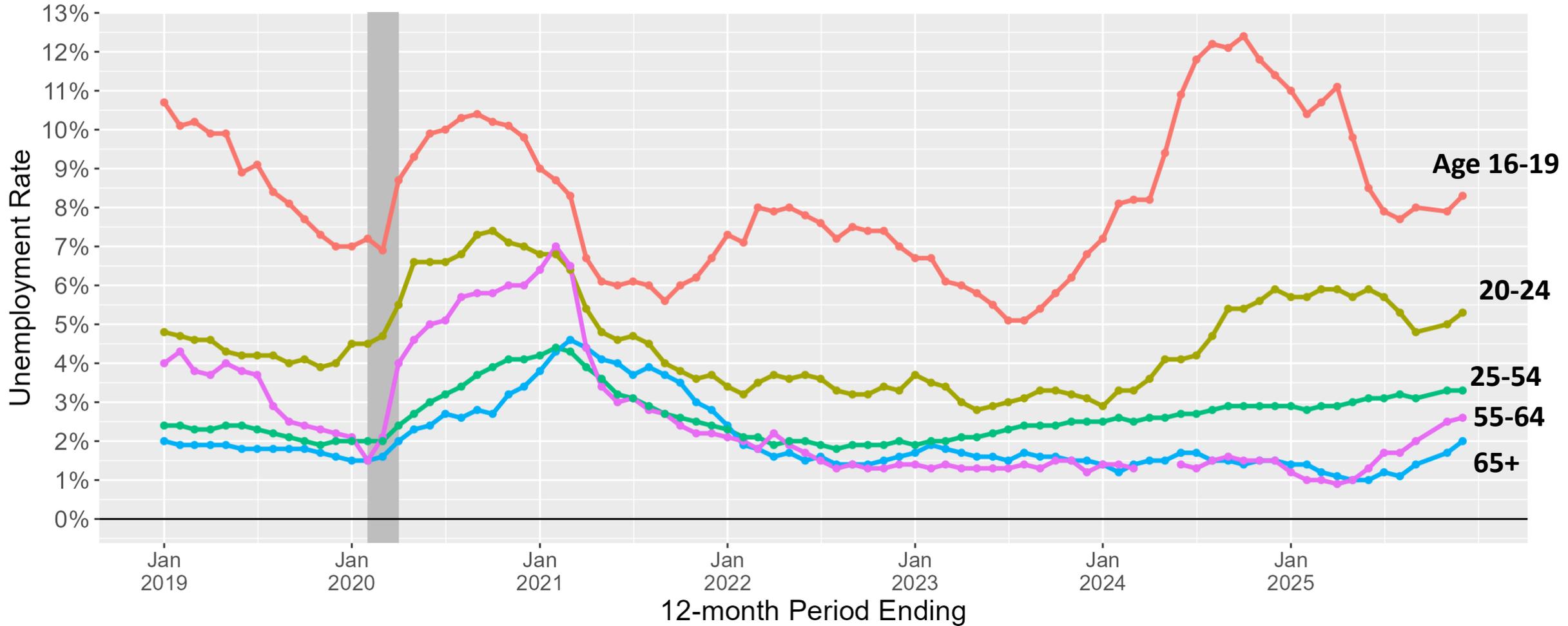


Job Leavers Job Losers New Entrants or Re-entrants

Source: Current Population Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics

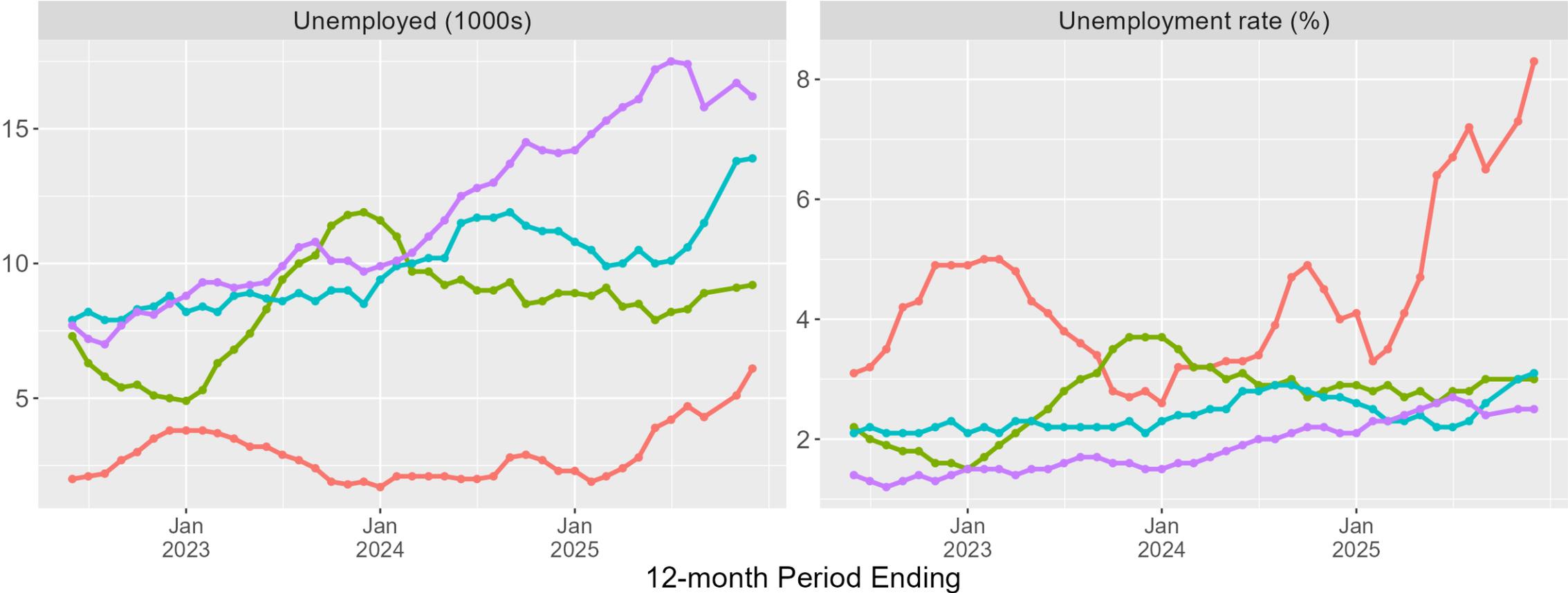
Utah Unemployment Rates by Age Group

Age 16-19 Age 20-24 Age 25-54 Age 55-64 Age 65+



Source: Current Population Survey & Bureau of Labor Statistics

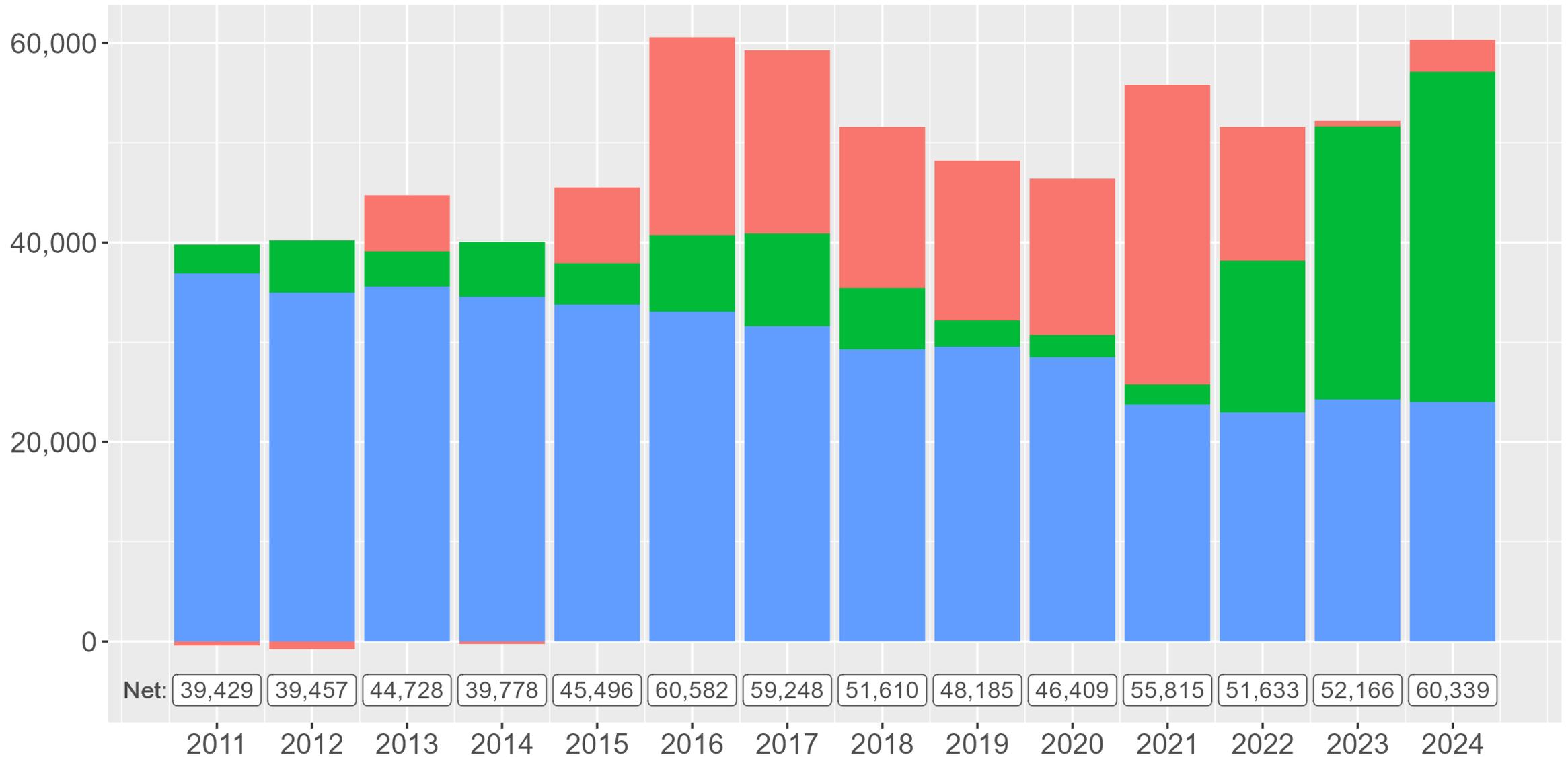
Utah Labor Force by Educational Attainment



- Less than a High school diploma
- Some college or associate degree
- High school graduates, no college
- Bachelor's degree and higher

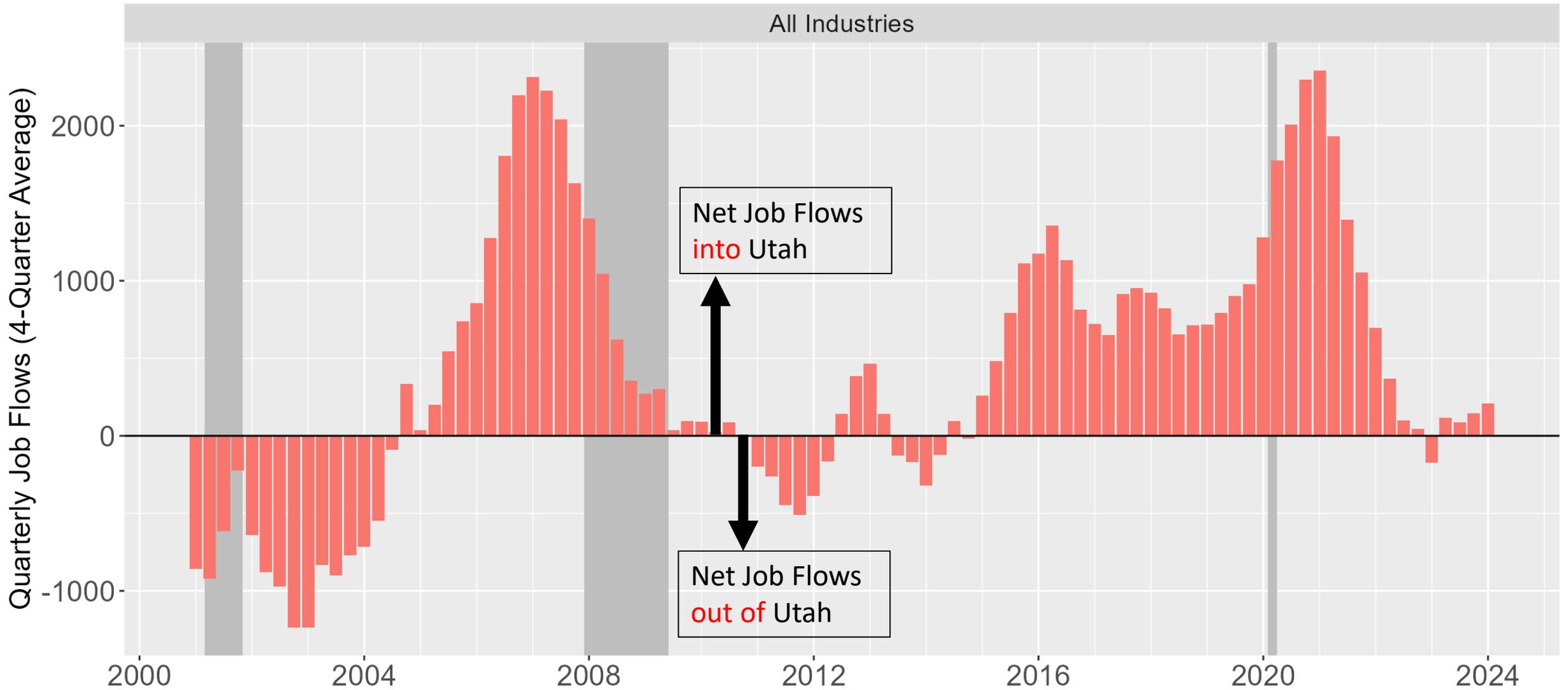
Source: Current Population Survey & Bureau of Labor Statistics

Utah: Components of Population Change



■ Domestic Migration
 ■ International Migration
 ■ Natural Increase

Utah Net Job Flows to/from Other States



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The Value of an Education

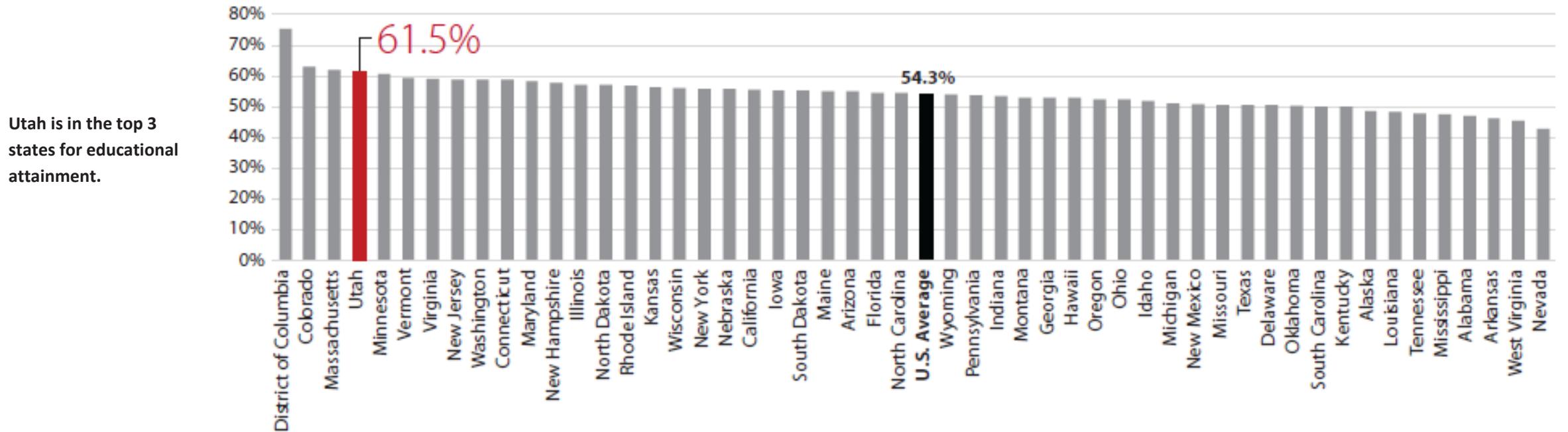
1. Utah's highly skilled workforce
2. Benefits to an education
3. Many Pathways to education



% of Adults with Post Secondary Education

A State-by-State Comparison

Figure 3: Percent of Adults with any Post-secondary Educational Attainment (ages 25-64), 2022



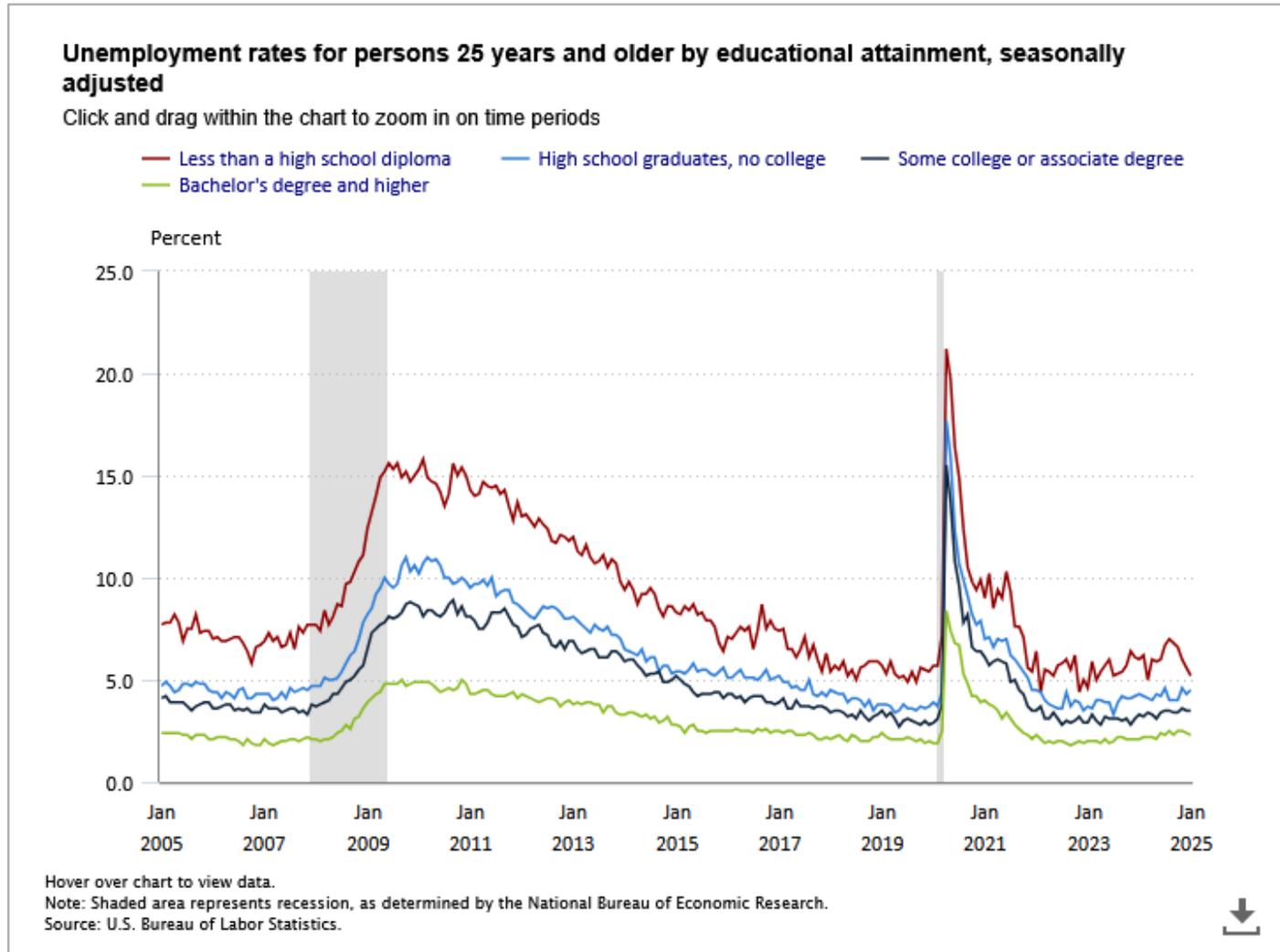
Source: Lumina Foundation analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS), One-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS), 2022 (includes short-term credentials)

Unemployment Rate Tied Directly to Educational Attainment

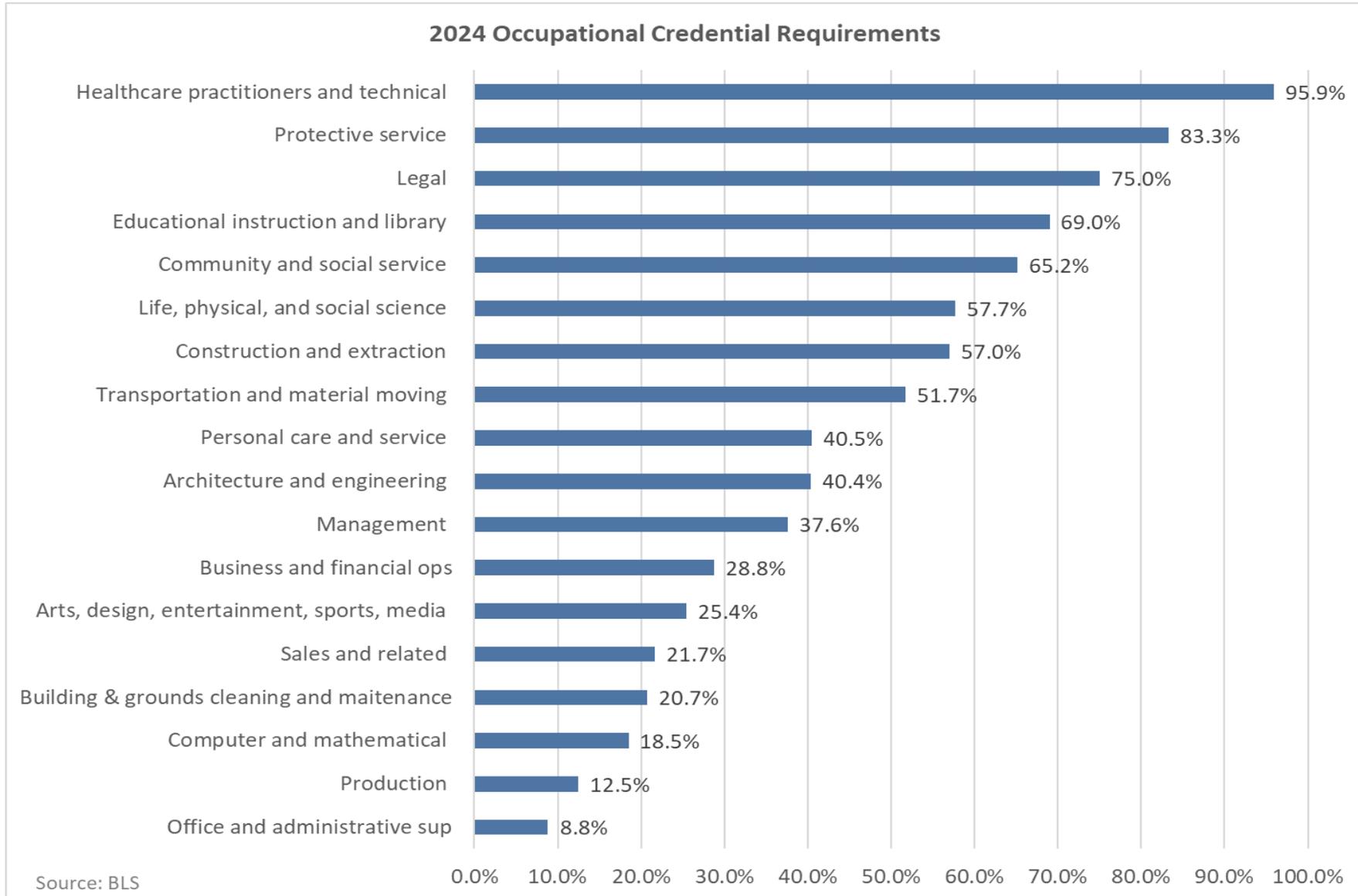
Education/certifications give people **value**.

The basic question of employment is: **do I produce more monetary value for the company than I cost?**

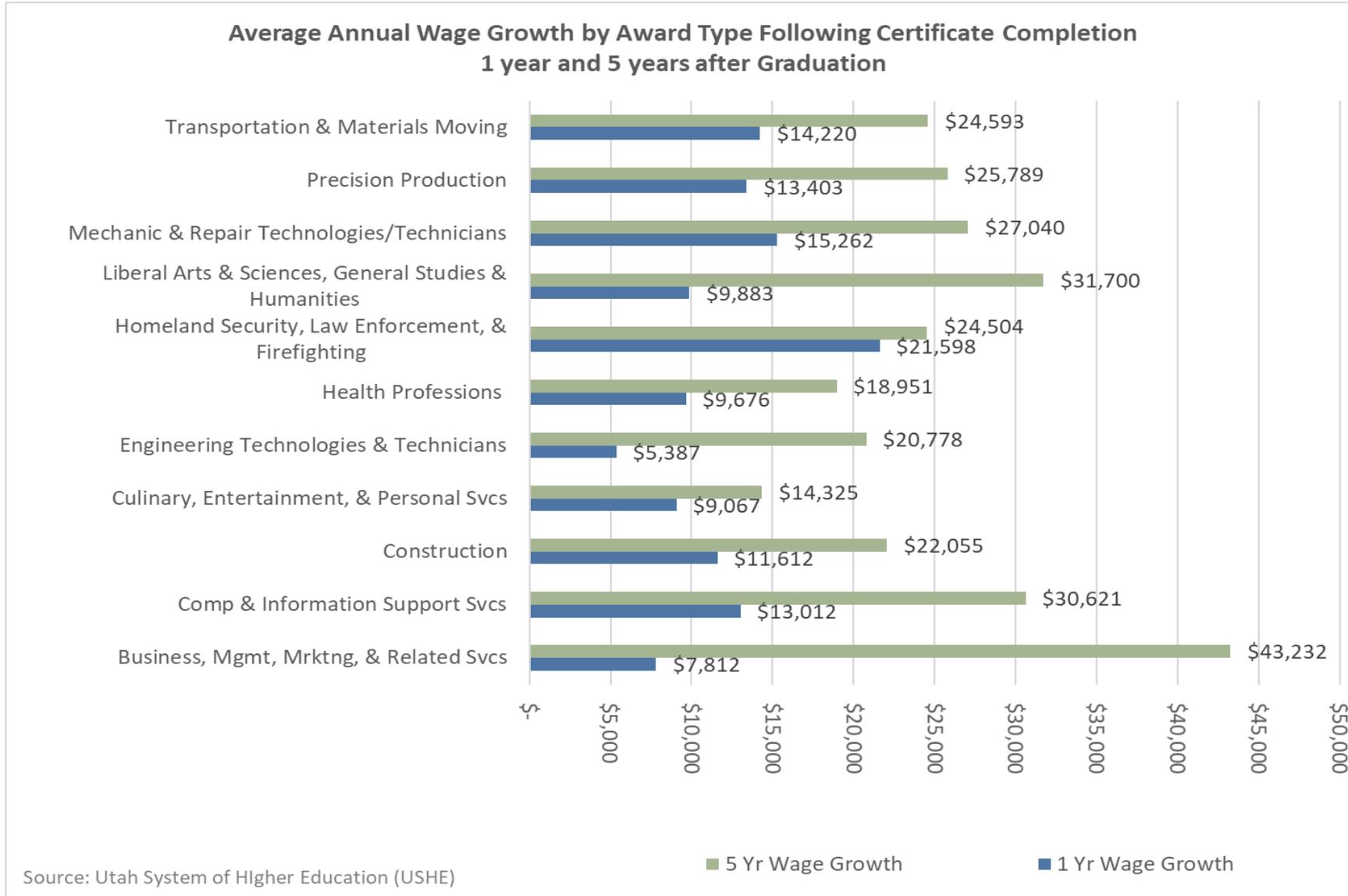
We are all labor sellers; we sell our time to employers to produce goods and services.



The Prevalence of Credentials



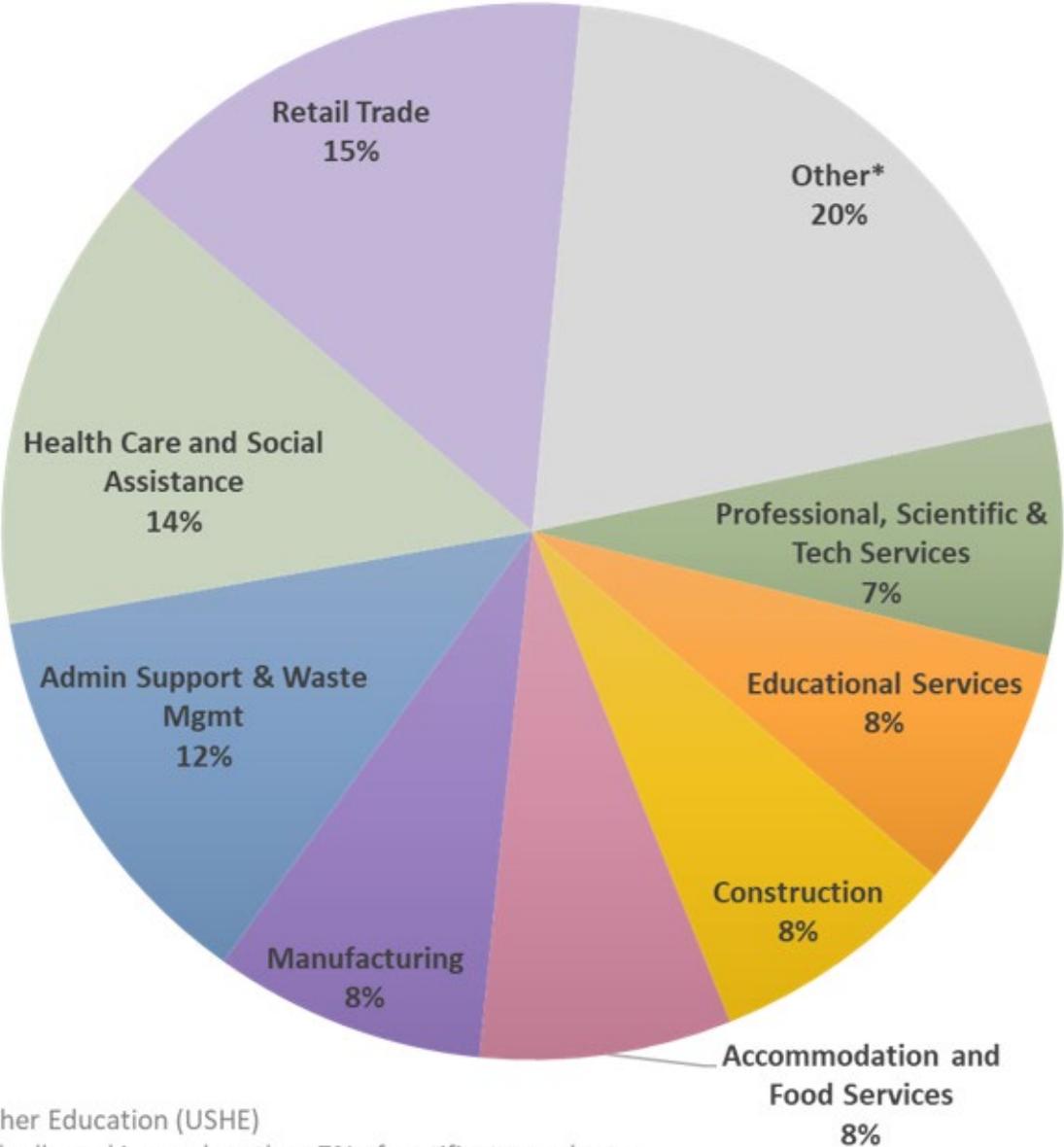
The Added Value of Certificate Completion



UTAH CERTIFICATE GRADUATES

2022-2023

Industries of Employment



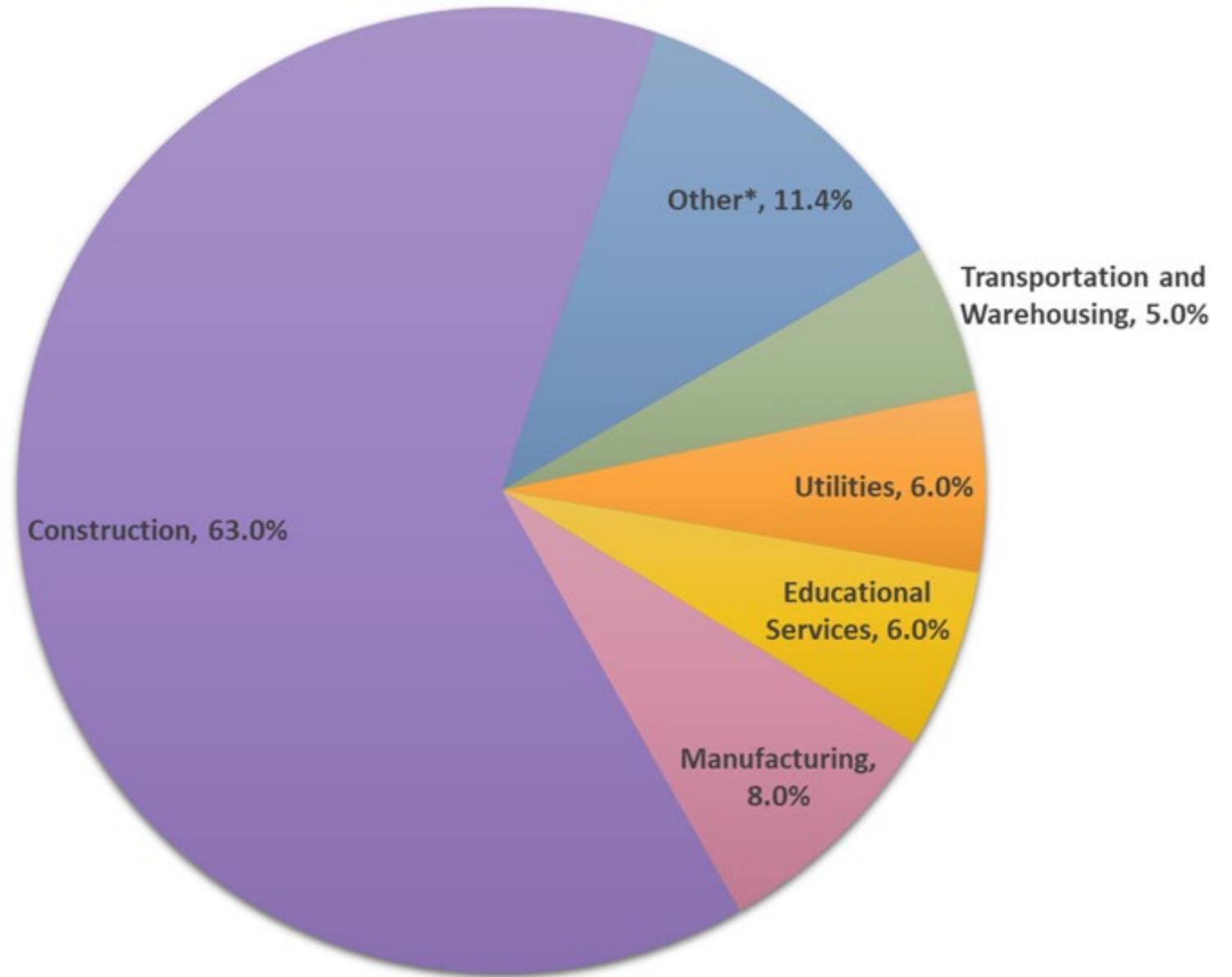
Source: Utah System of Higher Education (USHE)

* Includes industries individually making up less than 7% of certificate graduates

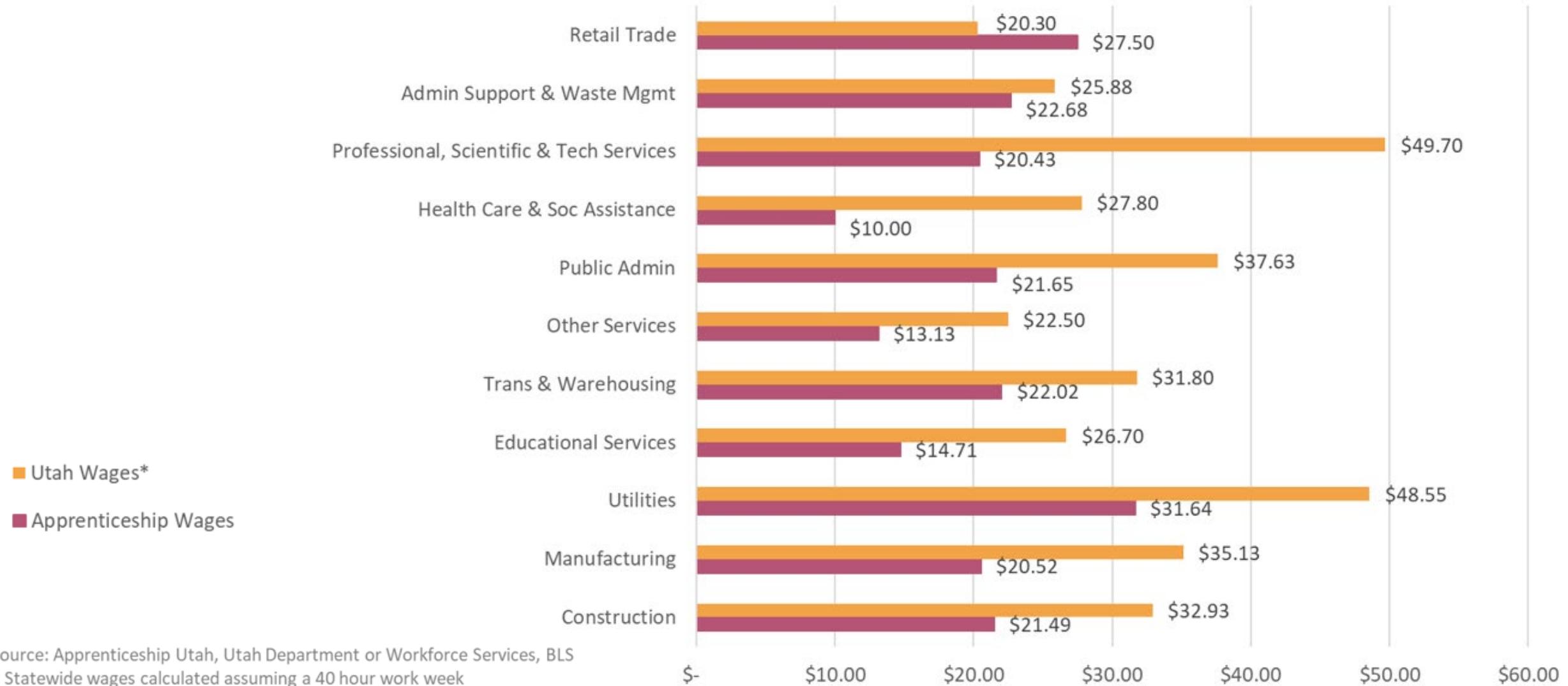
UTAH APPRENTICESHIPS

2024

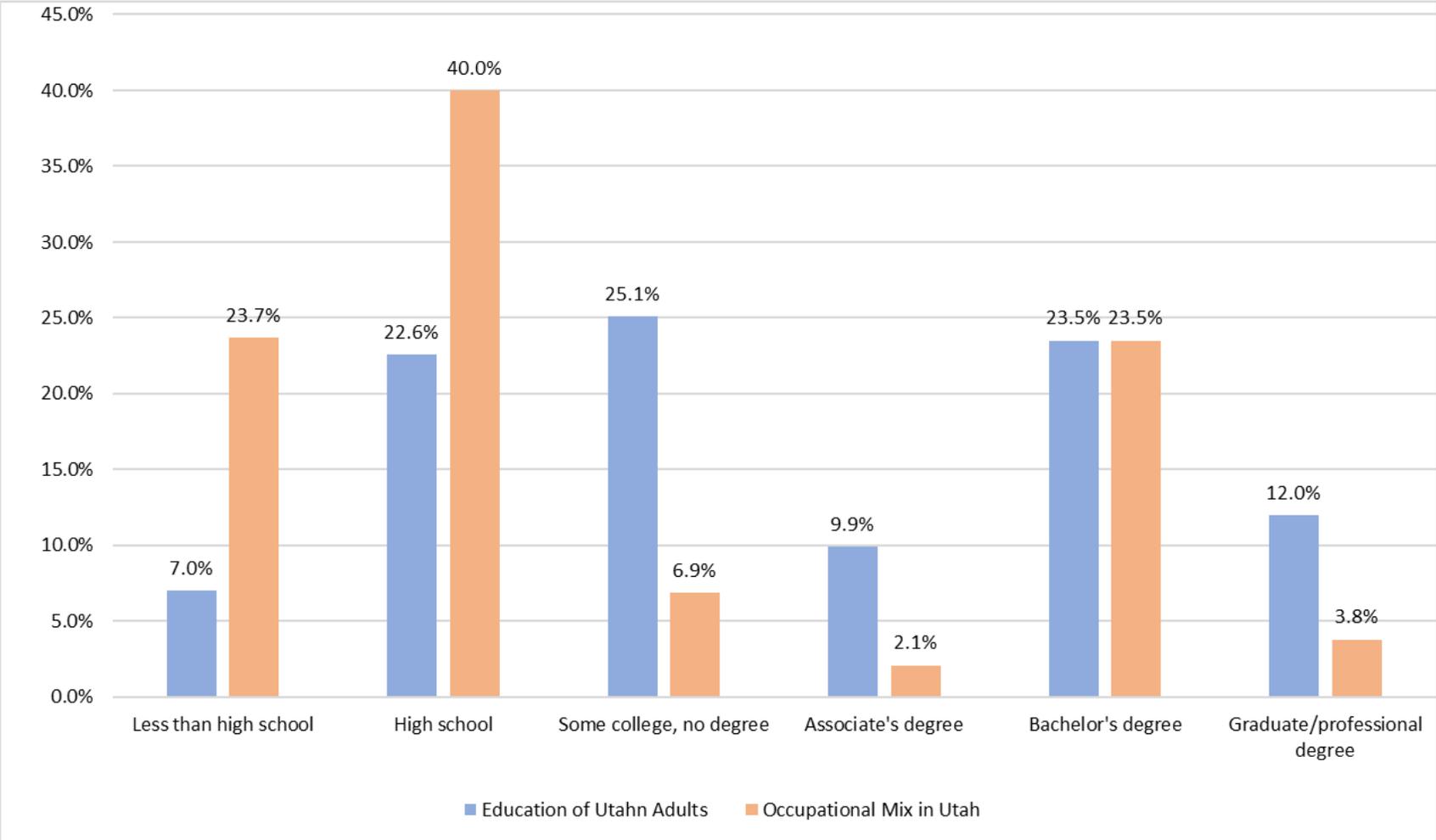
Industries of Employment



UTAH AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE BY INDUSTRY



Educational Mismatch



Education is outpacing Utah’s labor force needs.

Utah’s working population is over-educated for the job requirements of the market.

Current and predicted labor force shortages are largely in construction, healthcare, and other vocational work or specific degrees like programming, MD’s, engineering.

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

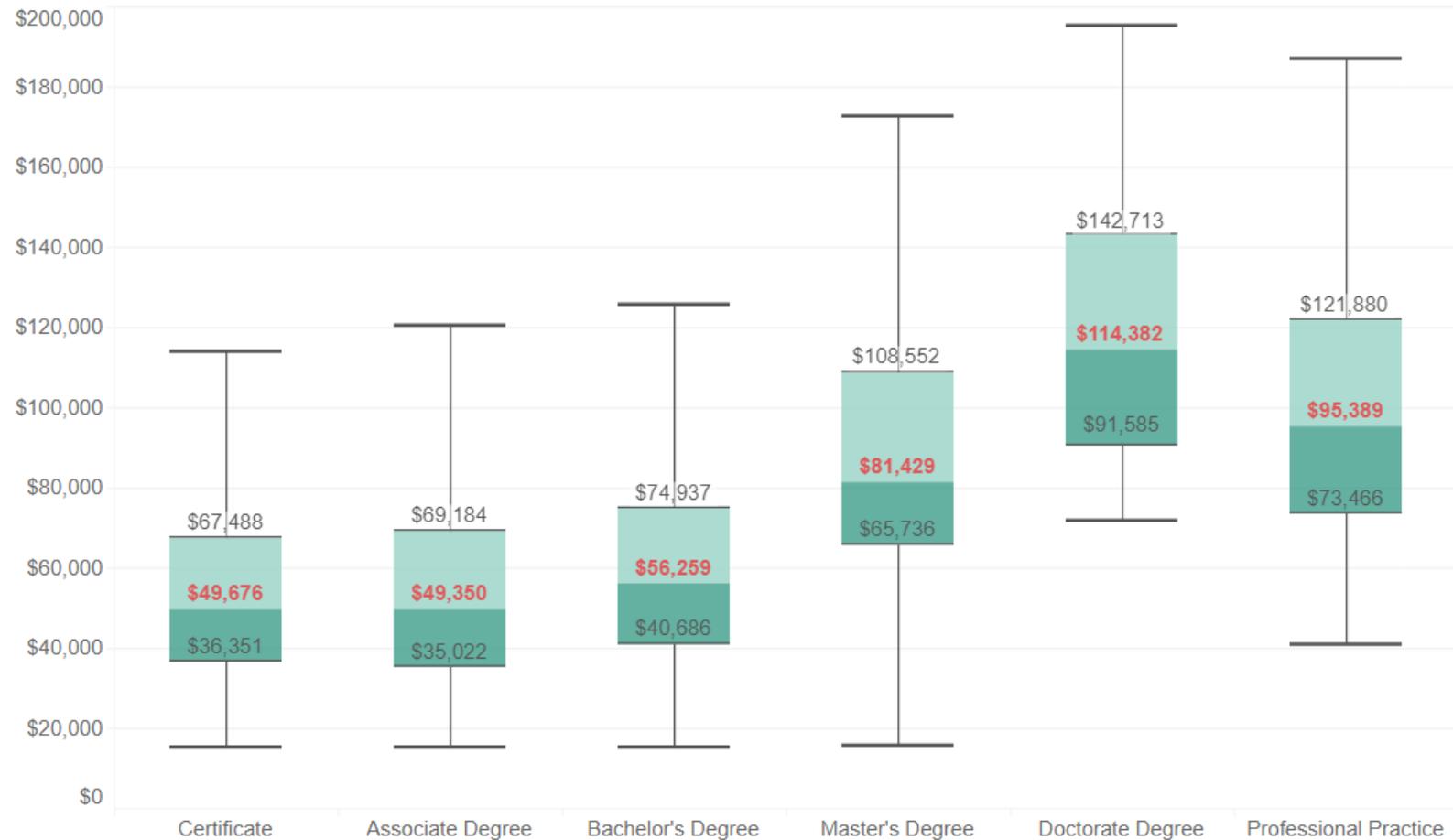
Higher Education Leads to Higher Wages

In the long-run, those with degrees tend to land better paying jobs than those without.

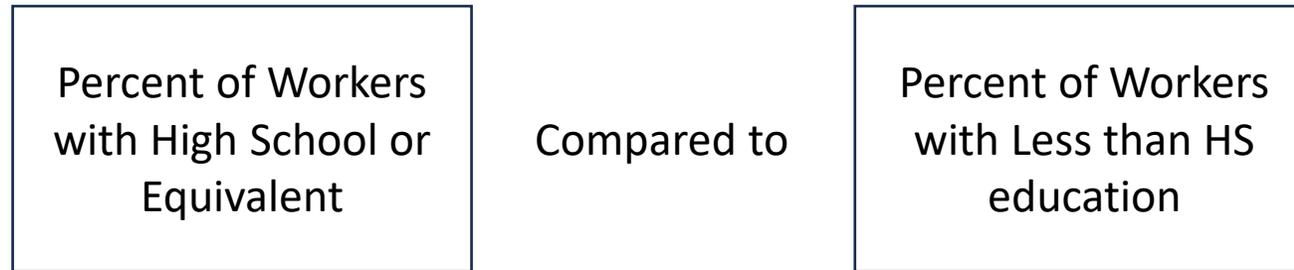
Salaries for 2022-23 Graduates, One Year After Graduation

All

Note: Values represent the 25th, 50th (median), and 75th percentiles within the groups



A Look at Careers made more available by attaining a high school education



Example: Automotive service technicians and mechanics

40%
High School or Equivalent

10%
Less than HS education

Unlocking Careers: The High School Advantage in Utah (Male dominated fields)

Occupation	% Male	Median Age	% of Workers By Educational Attainment			Median wages
			Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	HS vs no HS difference	
Industrial truck and tractor operators	90%	39	11%	58%	46%	\$48,000
Construction equipment operators	96%	40.5	13%	55%	42%	\$58,000
Welding, soldering, and brazing workers	97%	36.9	13%	54%	41%	\$56,000
Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers	99%	36.4	8%	42%	35%	\$56,000
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	76%	39.2	5%	39%	34%	\$67,000
Security guards and gaming surveillance officers	73%	36.6	2%	35%	33%	\$42,000
Shipping, receiving, and inventory clerks	58%	31.4	7%	40%	33%	\$38,000
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	91%	44.2	11%	44%	33%	\$51,000
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	97%	34.1	10%	40%	30%	\$47,000
Electricians	99%	34	3%	32%	29%	\$61,000

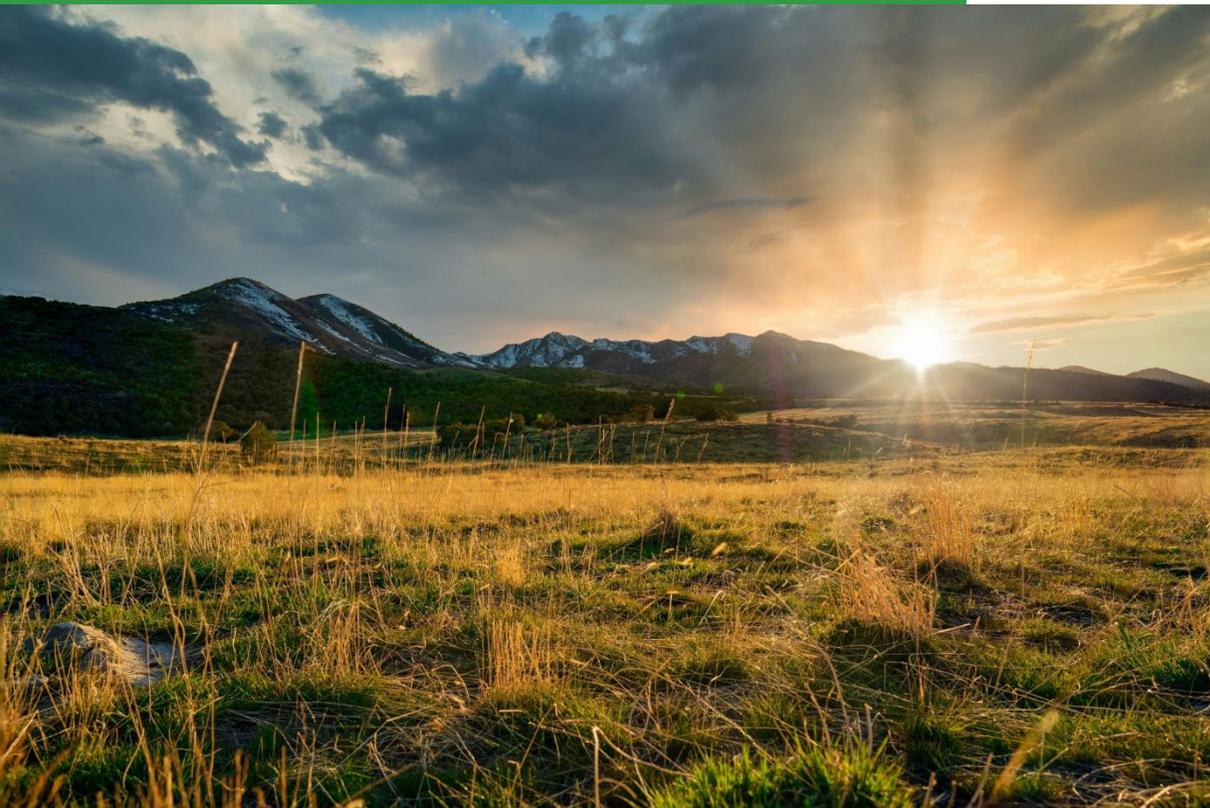
Average: \$52,400

Source: American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics

Unlocking Careers: The High School Advantage in Utah (Female dominated fields)

Occupation	% Female	Median Age	% of Workers By Educational Attainment			Median wages
			Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	HS vs no HS difference	
Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists	96%	35.4	4%	34%	30%	\$35,000
Personal care aides	78%	29.6	7%	37%	30%	\$36,000
Data entry keyers	81%	35	7%	33%	26%	\$42,000
Packers and packagers, hand	56%	31.4	19%	45%	26%	\$35,000
Billing and posting clerks	86%	41	5%	28%	24%	\$45,000
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	88%	40.7	20%	43%	23%	\$35,000
Office clerks, general	84%	40.2	4%	27%	23%	\$42,000
Dental assistants	95%	26.8	3%	26%	23%	\$37,000
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	86%	46.6	3%	26%	22%	\$48,000
Receptionists and information clerks	87%	30.7	5%	27%	22%	\$36,000

Average: \$39,100



Photograph by KSL

Tools and Resources

Utah Economic Data Viewer



Welcome to the Utah Economic Data Viewer. Search for Utah economic and demographic data using tools designed to meet your data needs.

Tools

- [Occupation Explorer](#)

Job opening projections, wages, skill requirements, related occupations, employment outlook, training and education information, and current openings listed with the Department of Workforce Services.

- [Related Occupations Explorer](#)

Find occupations where skills are transferable.

- [Wages and Occupational Openings Data \(WOOD\)](#)

Wage information for Utah jobs at the statewide and selected sub-state areas.

- [Labor Force Data Viewer](#)

Utah employment and unemployment data by county and statewide from 1990 - Current data.

- [Firm Find](#)

FirmFind provides names, addresses, phone numbers, industry, and employment size of virtually all firms in Utah. Information is available for specific county, groups of counties, or for the entire State.

- [Industry Employment and Wages](#)

Industry employment and wage data is collected through the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. The primary source for QCEW data are the reports submitted by employers to the Utah Unemployment Insurance program.

- [Population Data Viewer](#)

Utah population data is obtained from the Utah Population Estimates Committee. The Utah Population Estimates Committee prepares the official state and county population estimates for the State of Utah.

- [Data Axle Employer Database](#)

Employer information is provided by Data Axle.





Employment Update

Local Insights

Economic Data

Publications

Resources

Contact Us

Occupational Data

People find themselves employed in an occupation. Those who are looking toward a career are actually appraising occupations. Evaluating occupations can be multi-tiered. There are occupational descriptions and work environments, skills and education levels needed, anticipated wage compensation, licensing requirements, regional differences, and occupational needs and projections. This page is designed to help navigate the evaluation tiers.

EXPLORE OCCUPATIONS

- [Compare Occupations](#)
- [Occupational Explorer](#)
- [Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics](#)

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

- [Long-Term Projections](#)
- [Short-Term Projections](#)
- [Current Demand](#)

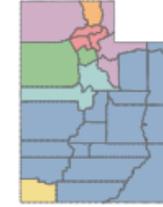
OCCUPATIONAL WAGES

- [Wages by Region](#)
- [Search Occupations Wages](#)

SKILLS & LICENSING

- [Search Transferable Skills](#)
- [Occupational Licensing Info](#)
- [Skills Based Projections](#)

Occupational Projections 2022-2032



State of Utah Education

Area

State of Utah

Education

High school diploma or equivalent

Total Annual
Openings



Annual Growth
Rate

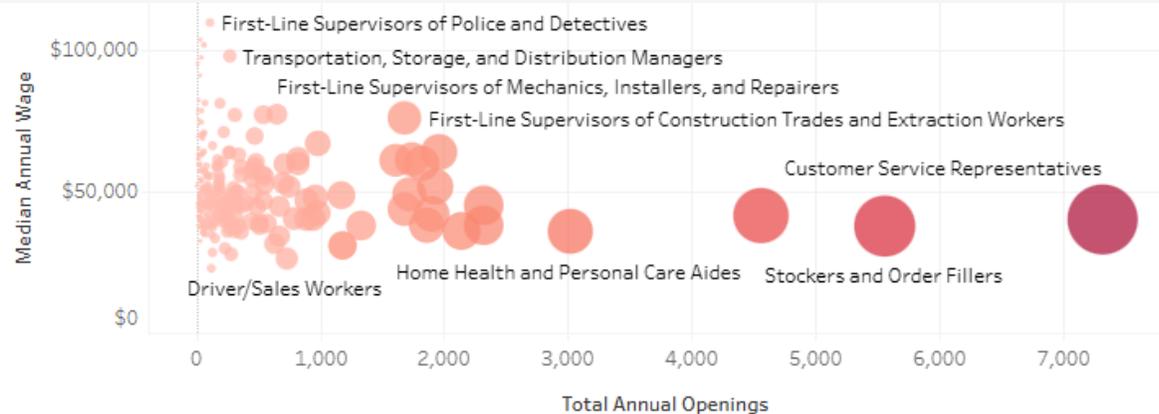
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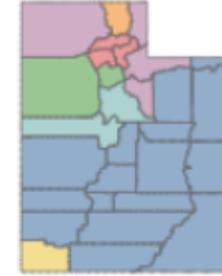
Annual Total Openings by
Star Rating



Openings by Median Wage



Occupational Projections 2022-2032



State of Utah Comparisons

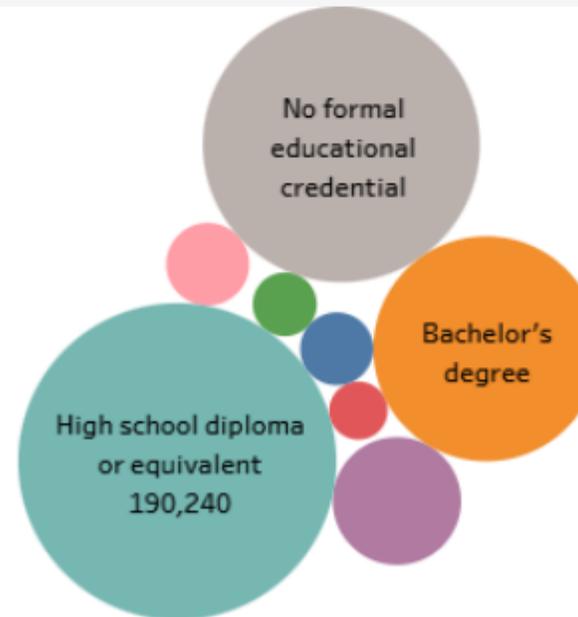
Area

State of Utah

Annual Growth Rate by Education

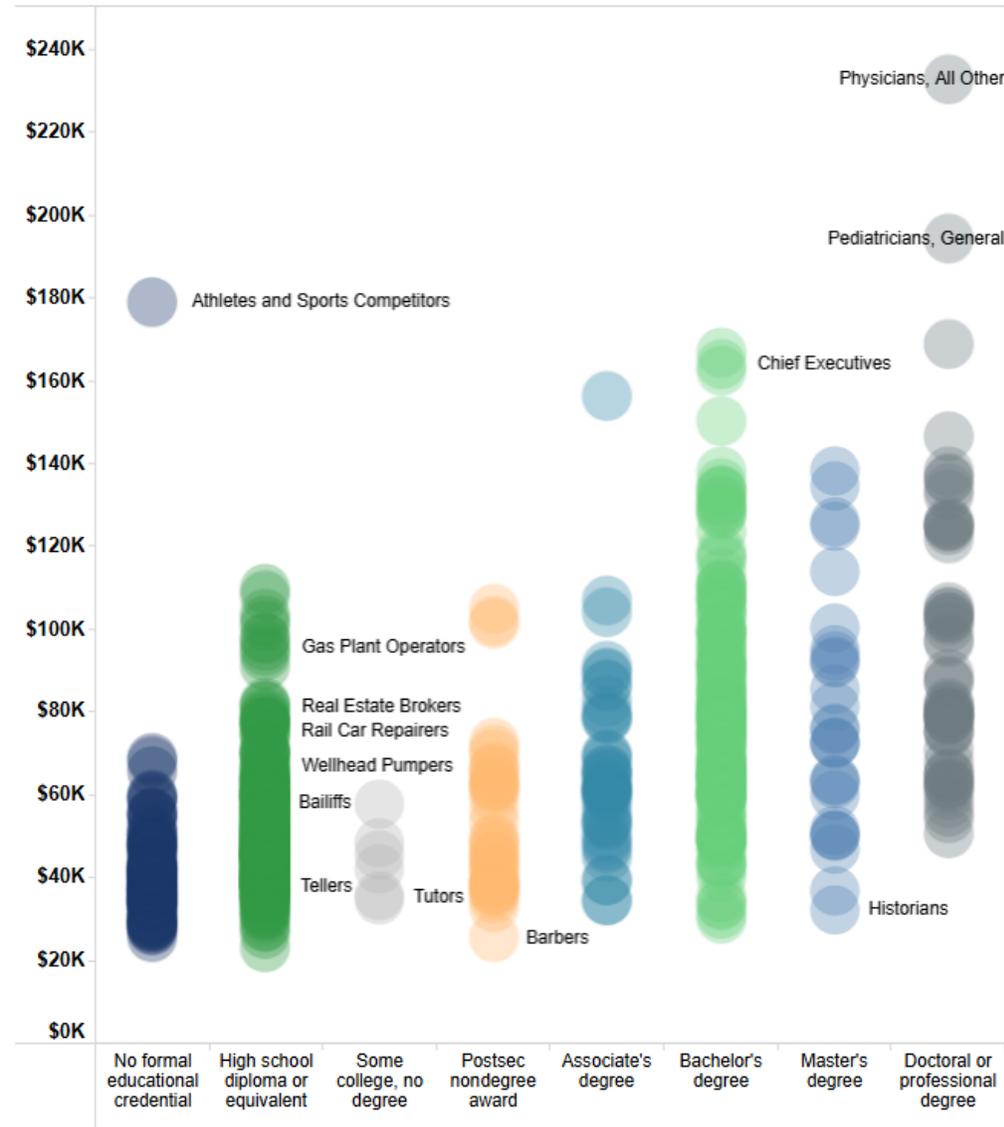
Doctoral or professional degree	↑ 2.7%
Master's degree	↑ 2.9%
Bachelor's degree	↑ 2.4%
Associate's degree	↑ 2.5%
Some college, no degree	↑ 1.6%
Postsecondary non-degree award	↑ 2.3%
High school diploma or equivalent	↑ 1.7%
No formal educational credential	↑ 2.2%

Annual Openings by Education



State of Utah

Median Annual Median Wage by Education**



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