



Workforce Services
Workforce Research & Analysis



Workforce **Research & Analysis**

Welcome



Southern Utah's Economic Landscape

Vocational Rehabilitation Training

Marilyn Cannon, Senior Economist

Utah Department of Workforce Services

July 28, 2026



Agenda



1. Labor Force and Job Market
2. Demographic Changes
3. Economic Pressures
4. Looking to the Future



Labor Market Information

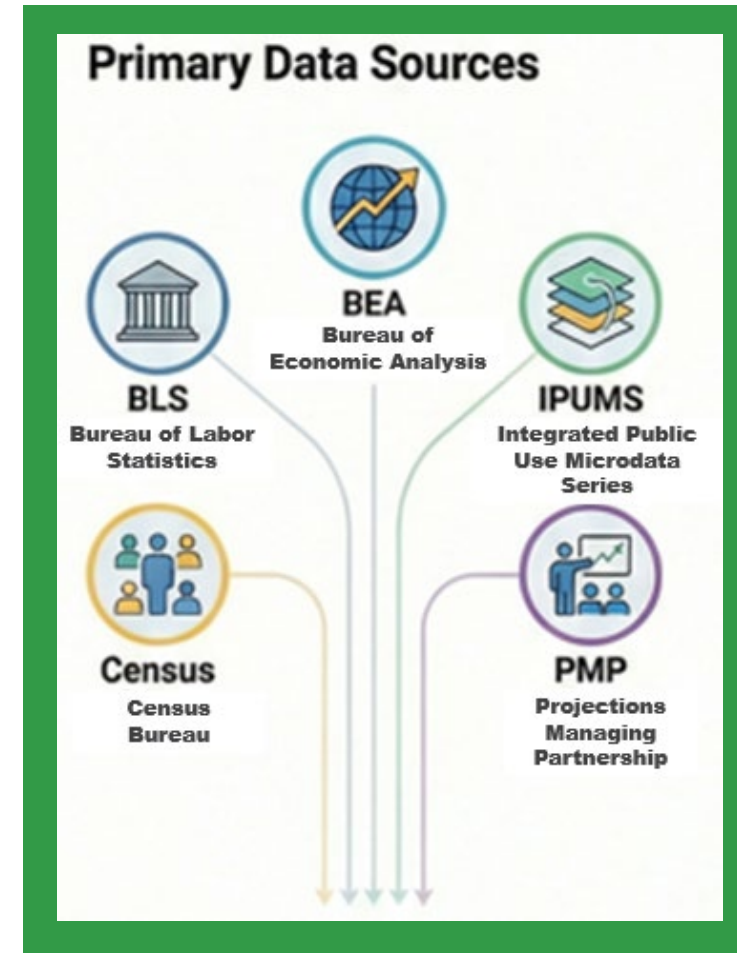
What is LMI?

Quantitative and qualitative data and analysis related to employment and the workforce



Examples

- Employment & Unemployment Statistics
- Job Forecasts
- Wages
- Demographic Characteristics



How is LMI Applied?

Informed Decision Making

- Business Investment
- Career Preparation
- Education & Training
- Job Search
- Hiring
- Public & Private Workforce Investments

Applications

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



Labor Market Trends in Utah

- ❑ Cooling Labor Market
- ❑ How Southern Utah stands out
- ❑ Industry Changes



Labor Market Trends

June 2026

Washington County

3.9%

Job growth rate

3.5%

Unemployment
rate

State of Utah

1.5%

Job growth rate

3.6%

Unemployment rate

United States

0.3%

Job growth rate

4.2%

Unemployment rate

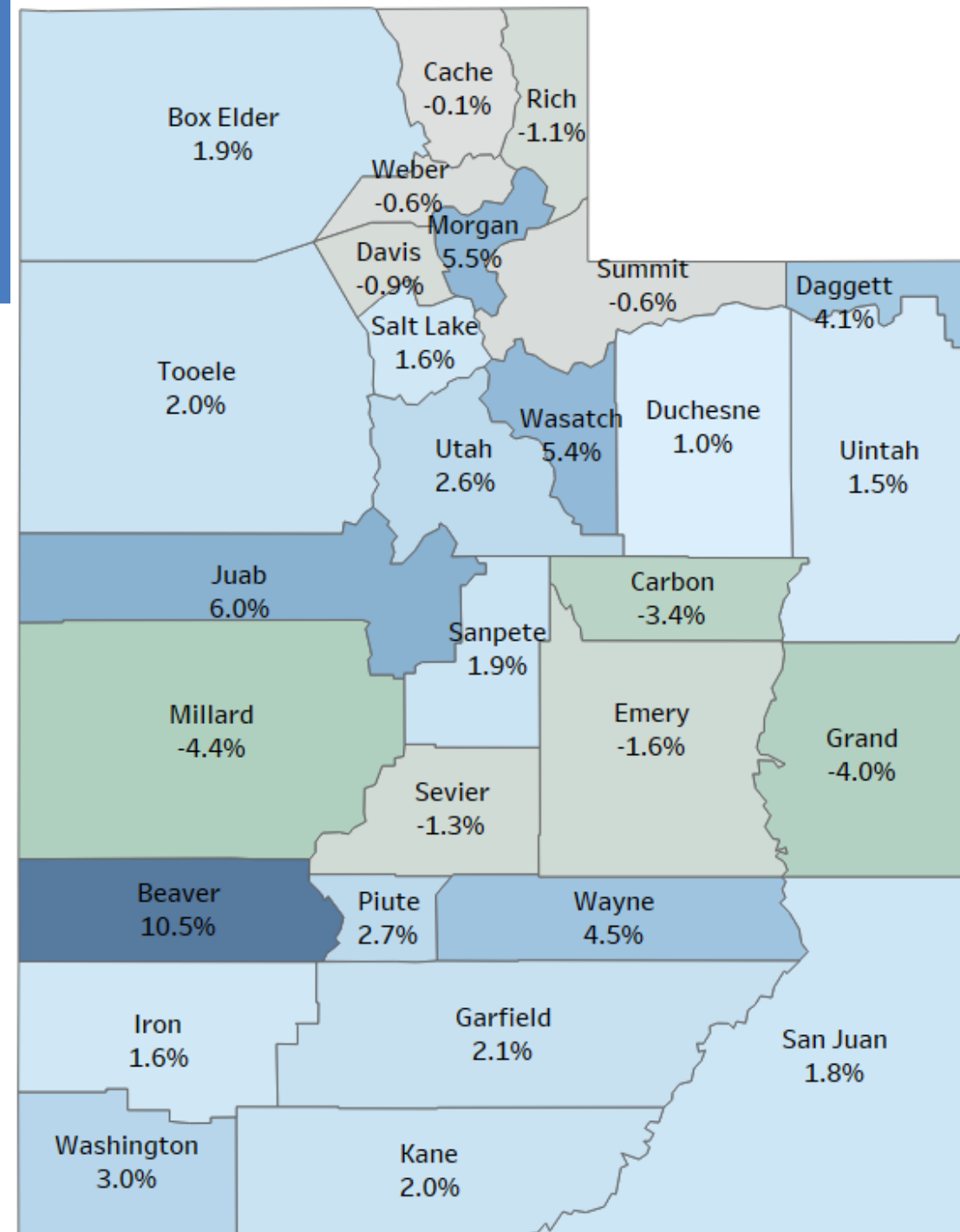
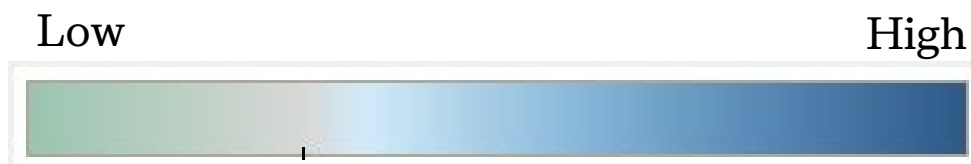


Year-over Change in Nonfarm Jobs Dec 2024-Dec 2025, by County

Latest Available County data: **4th
Quarter 2025**

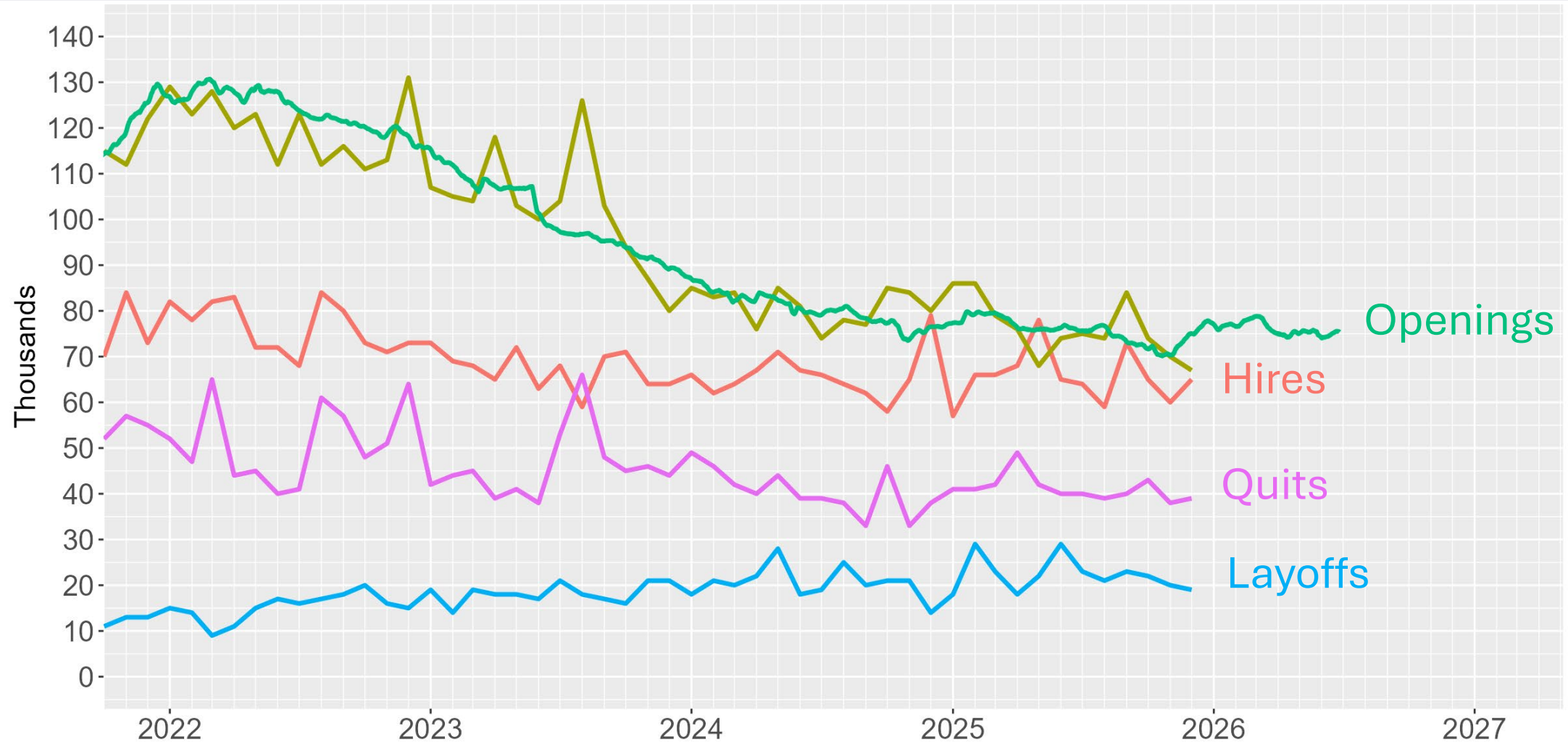
Job growth rates:

- Washington: 3.0%
- Iron: 1.6%



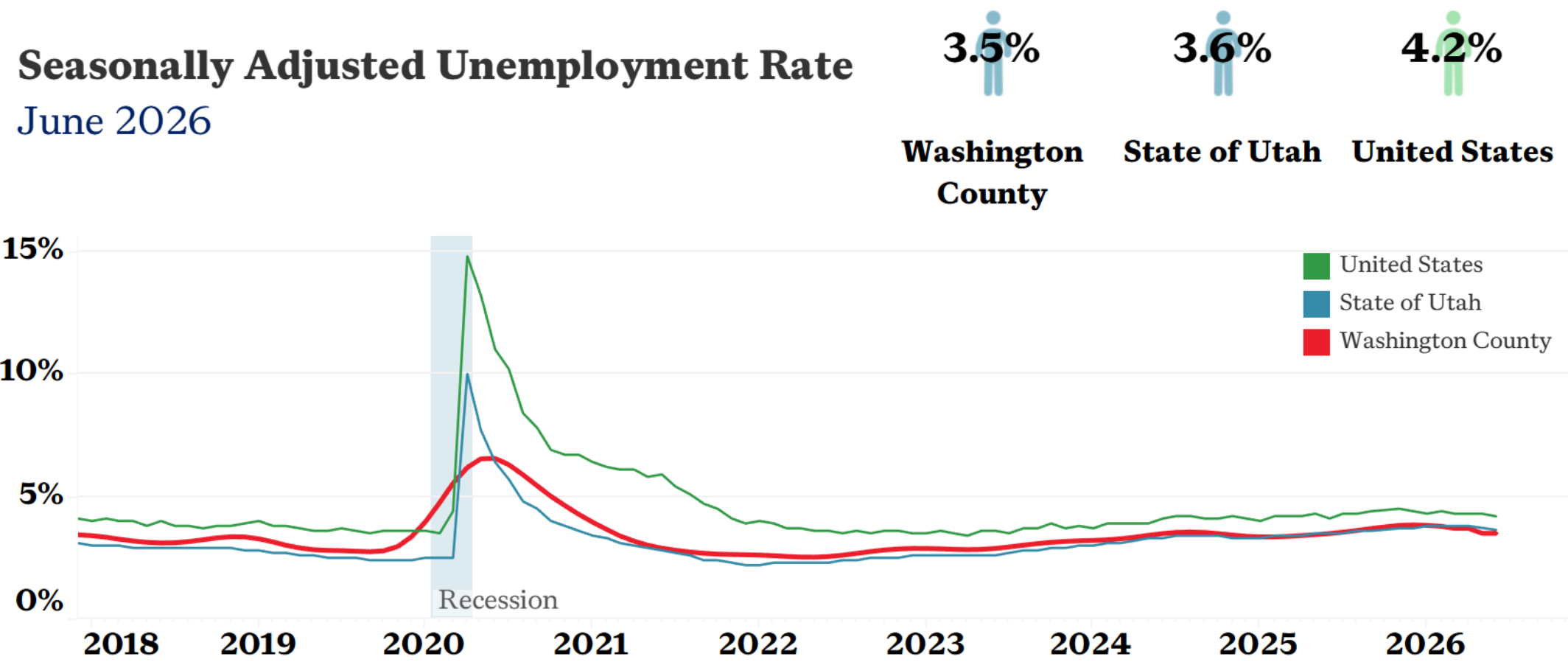
Utah Labor Market

Low Hire, Low Fire



Utah Unemployment Rates

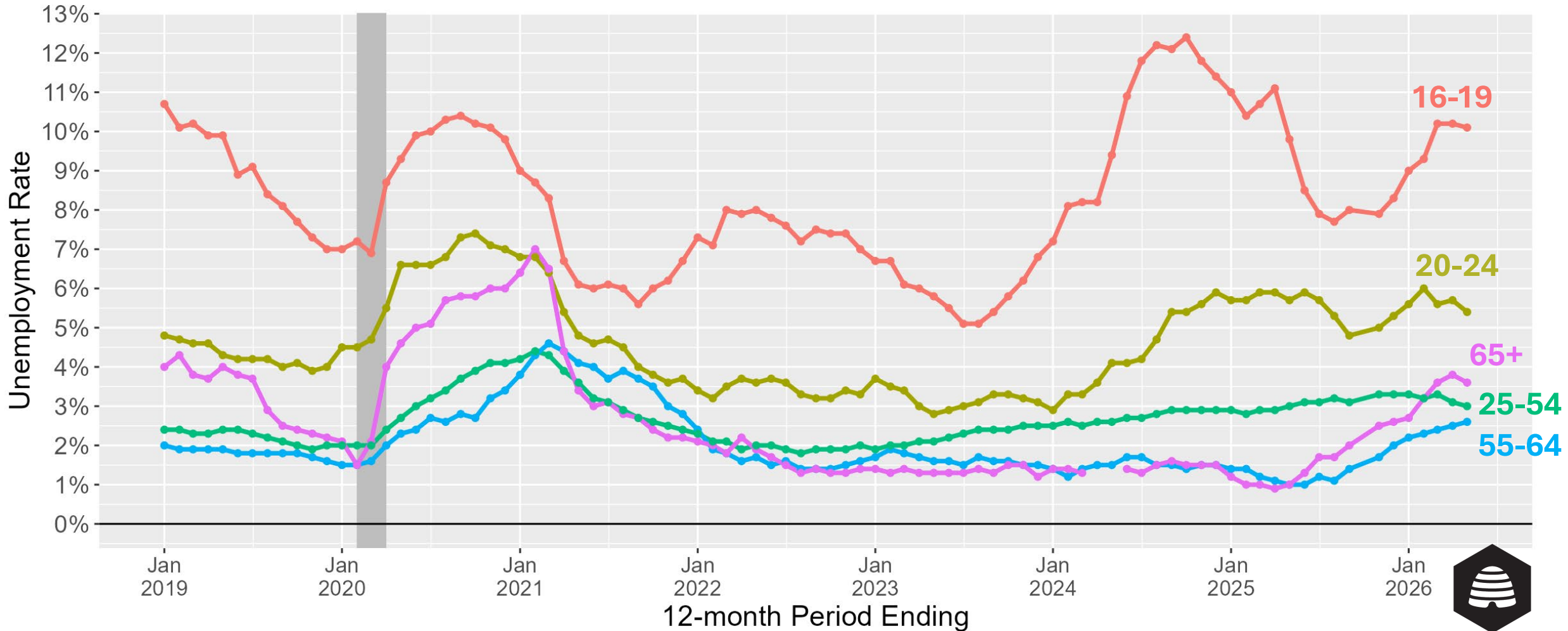
2018-2026



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, DWS

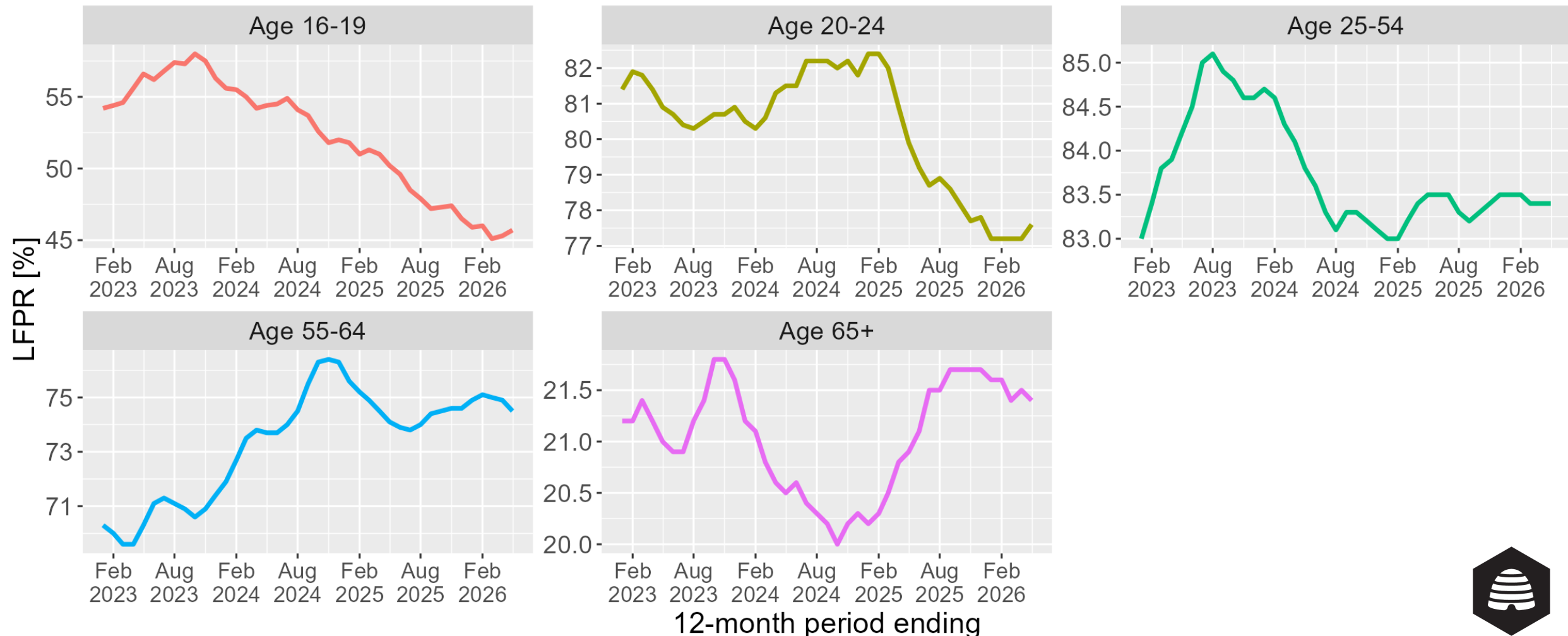


Utah Unemployment Rates By Age Group



Utah Labor Force Participation Rates

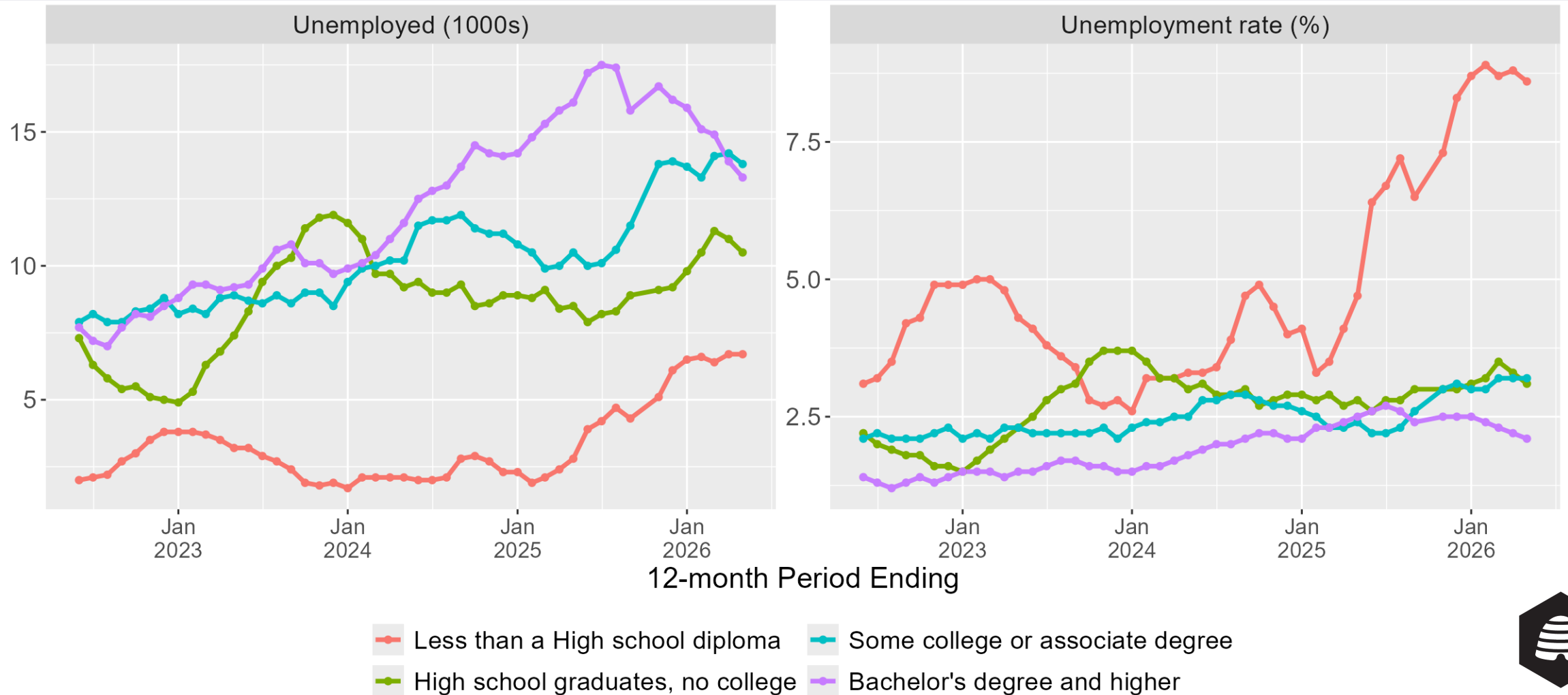
By Age Group



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

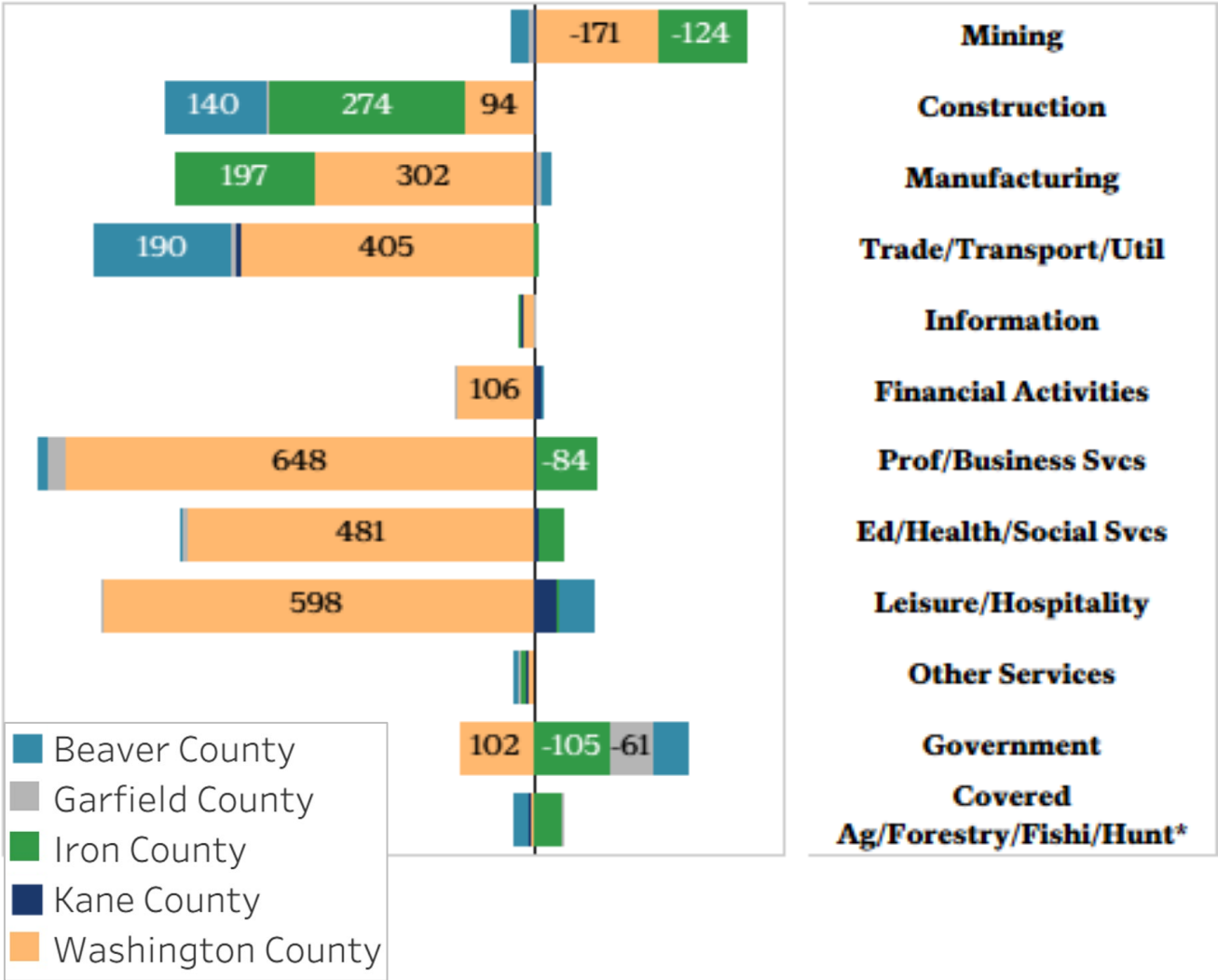


Labor Force By Educational Attainment



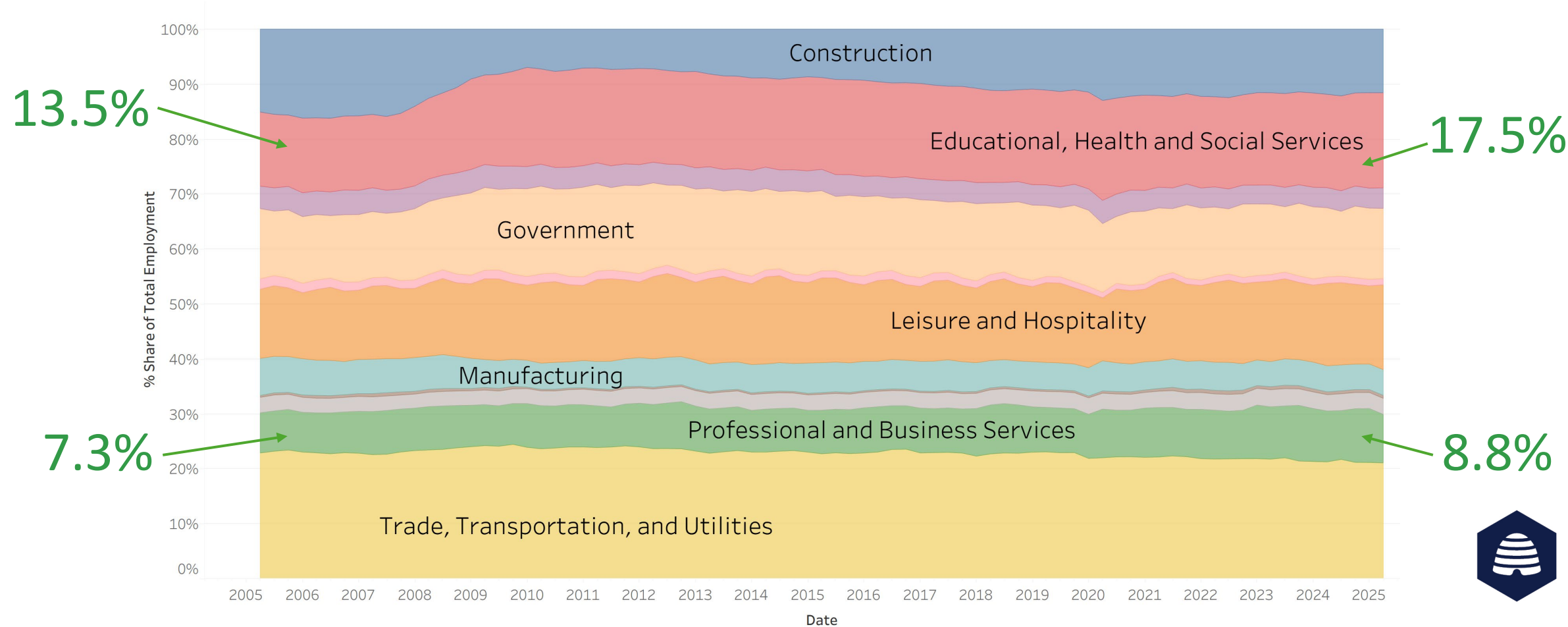
Southwest Utah Job Growth

- Washington County dominates job growth numbers, except for Construction
- Growth is led by the Construction and Education, Health, & Social Services industries
- Trade, Transportation, & Utilities is declining statewide, but still growing in Southwest Utah



Washington County Employment Share

Employment share in Washington County



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Economic Pressures

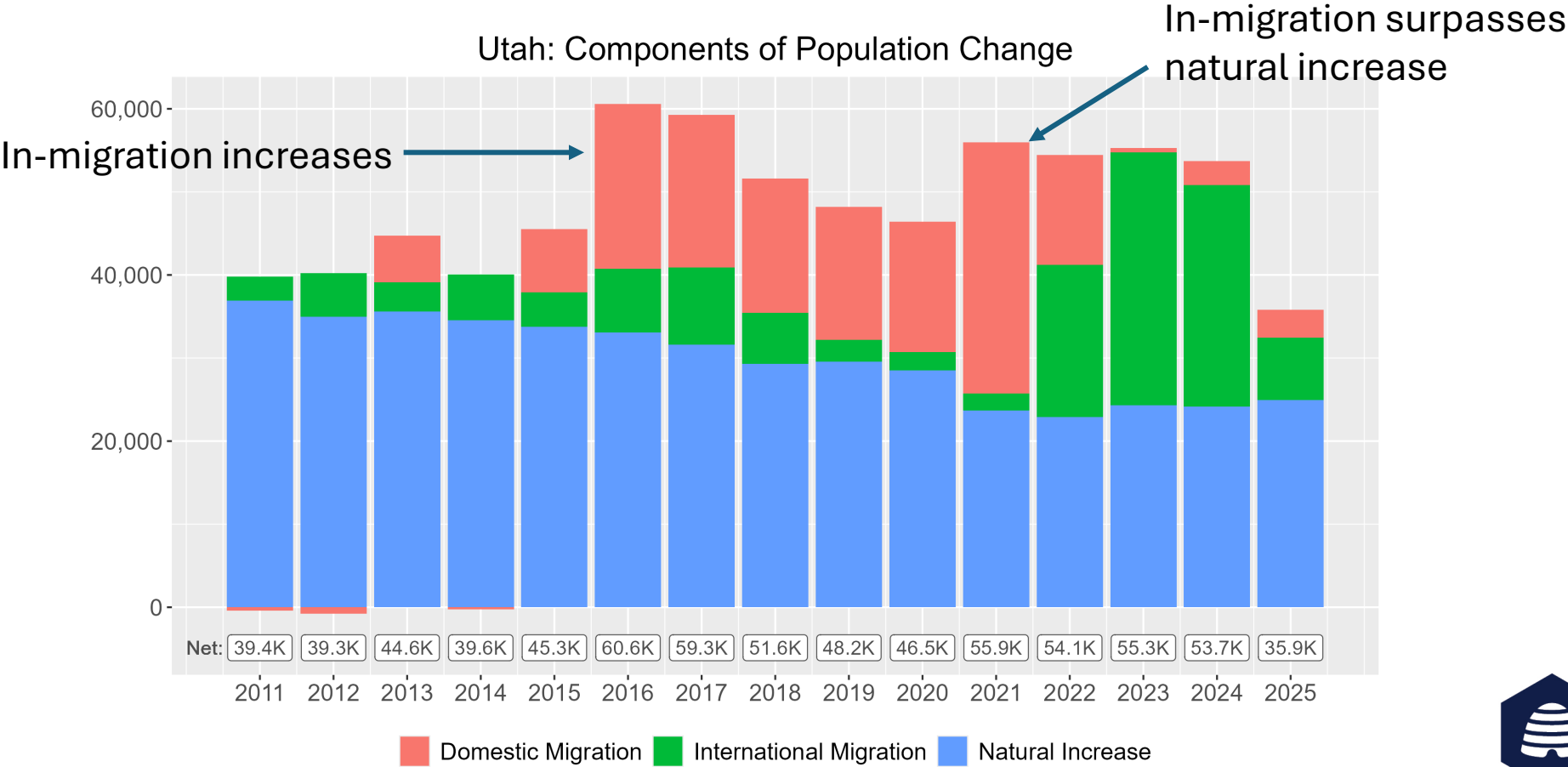
- ☐ Demographic Changes
- ☐ Rising Prices
- ☐ Aging Population



Utah Net Migration

2011-2025

2025 saw a reversal in trend, as natural increase outpaced in-migration for the first time in 4 years.



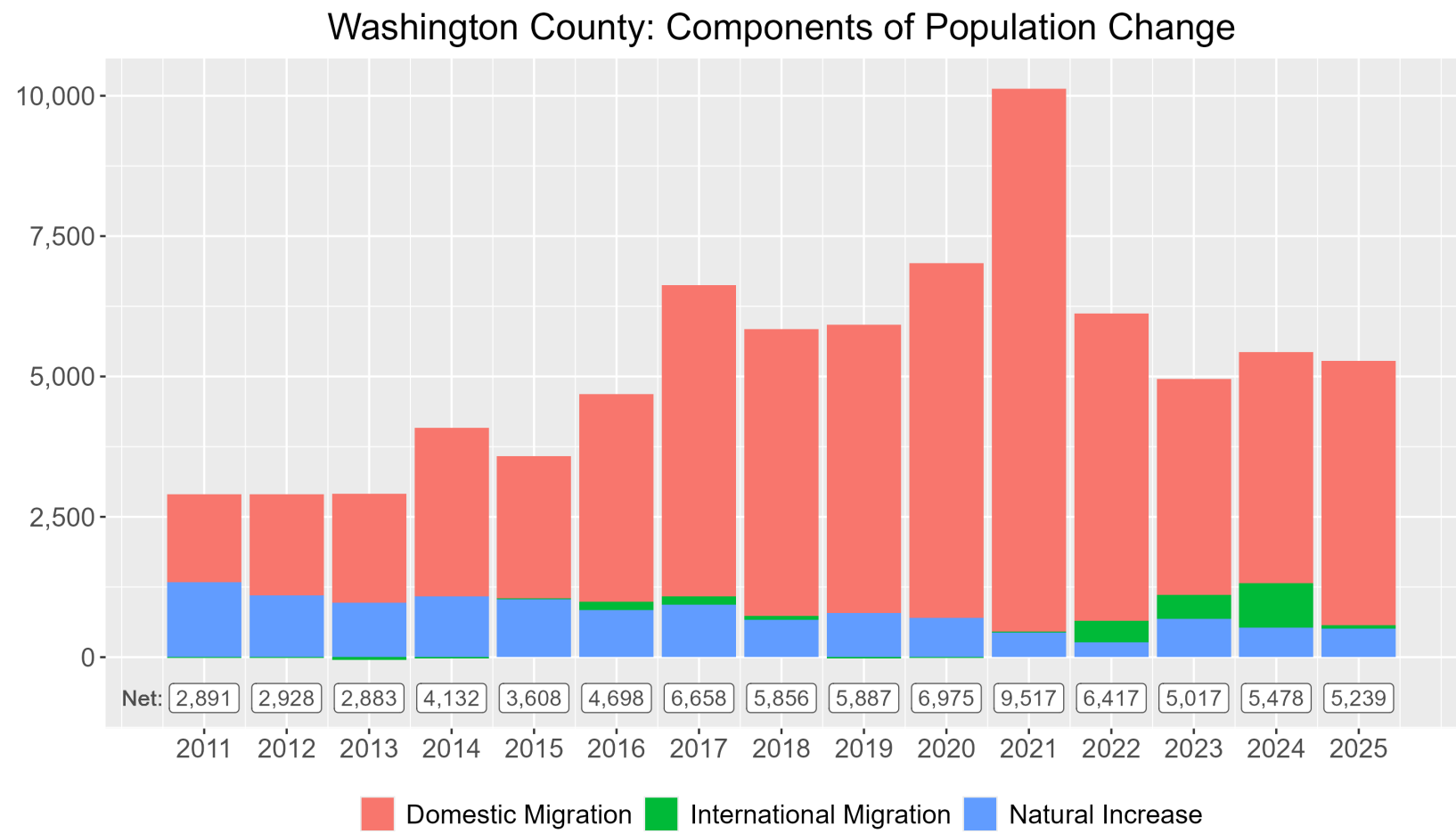
Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Washington County Net Migration

2011-2025

In-migration has been the main source of population growth in Washington County for more than a decade.

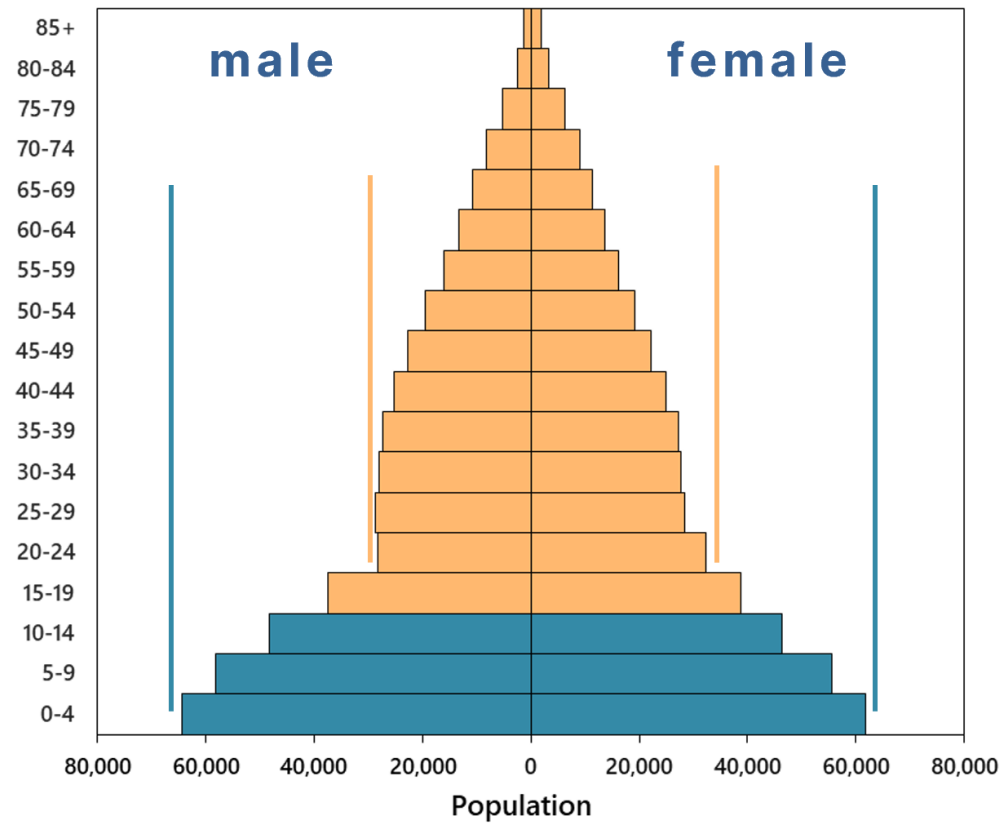


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

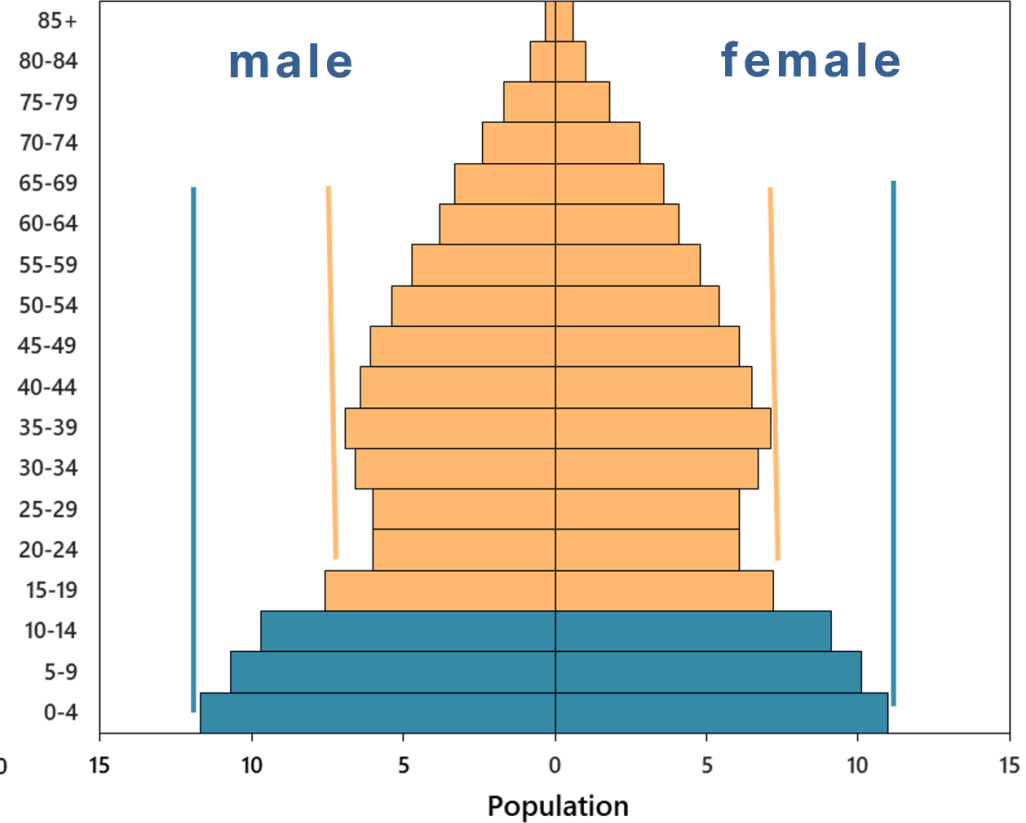


1960 Population Utah

U.S.



■ Baby Boom Generation



■ Baby Boom Generation

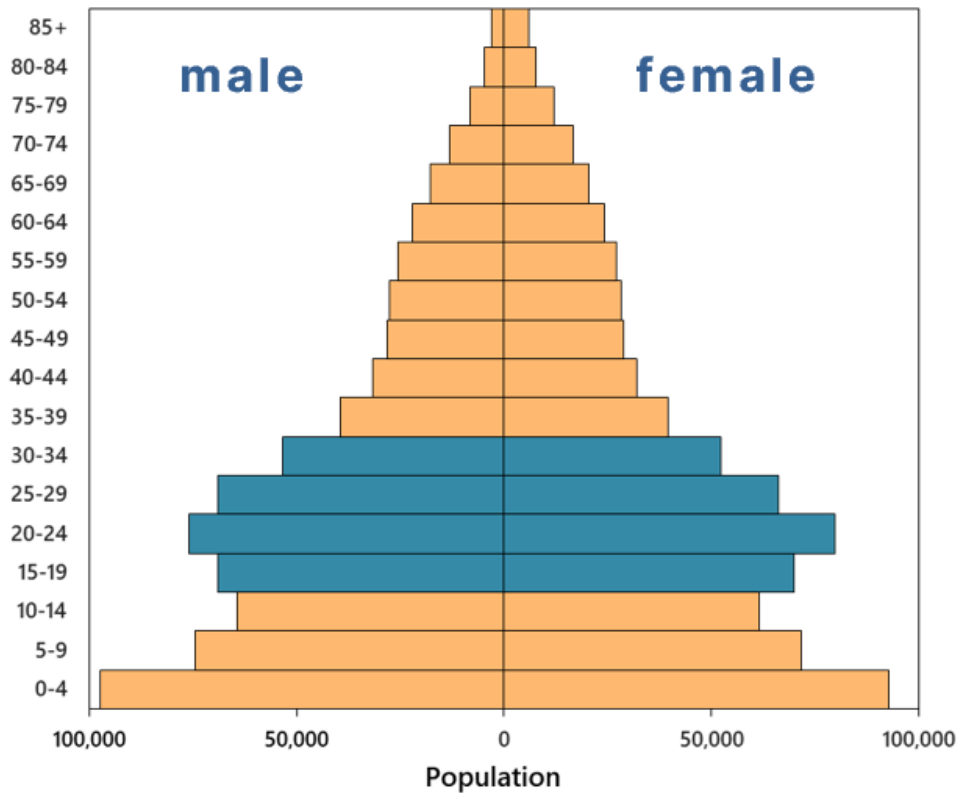
9%
65+

31%
0-14

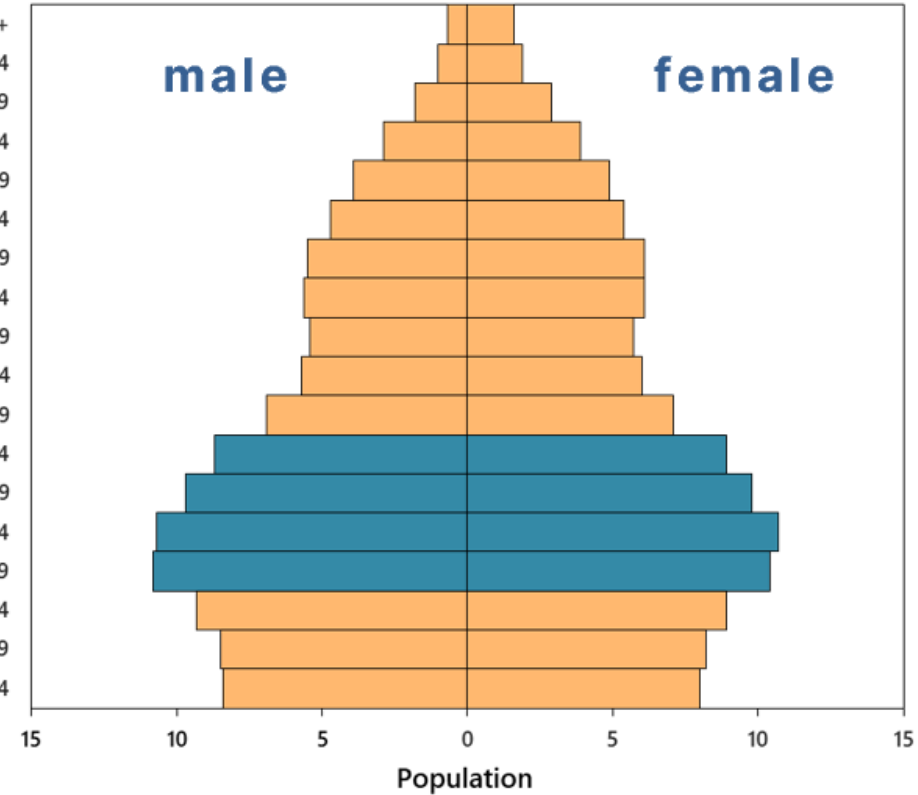


1980 Population Utah

U.S.



Baby Boom Generation

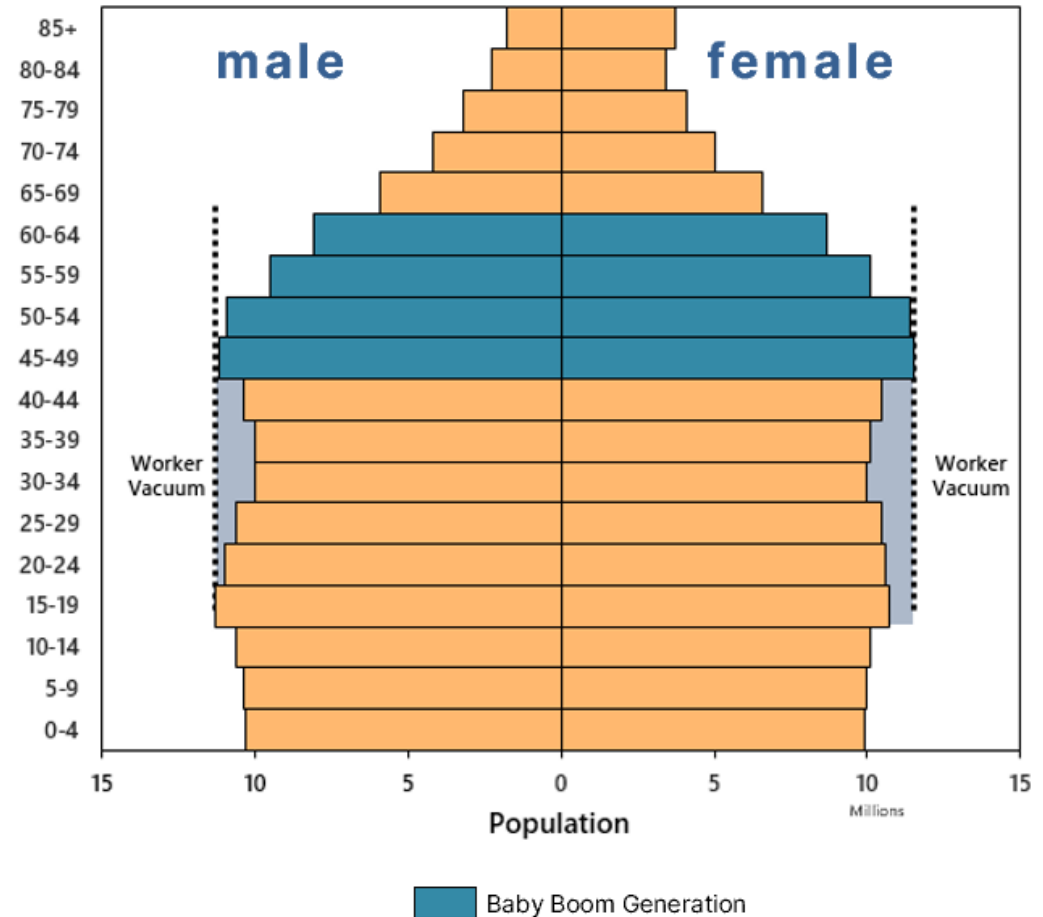
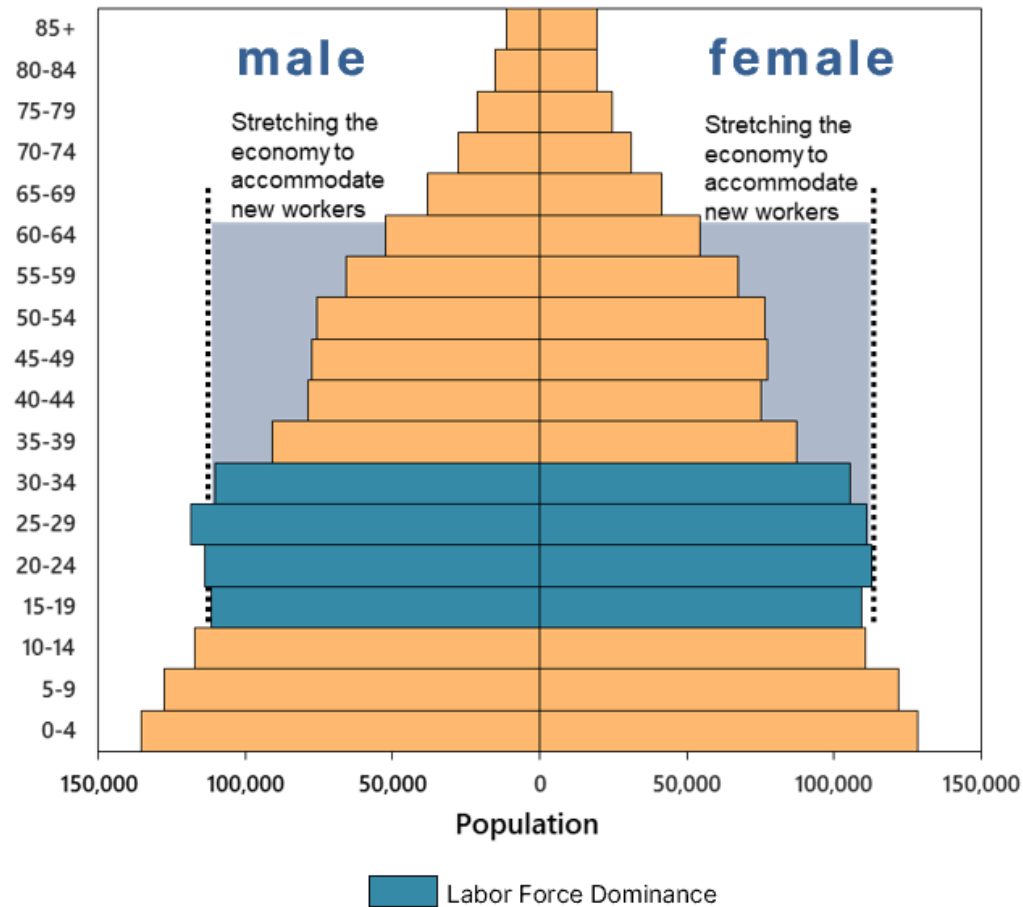


Baby Boom Generation



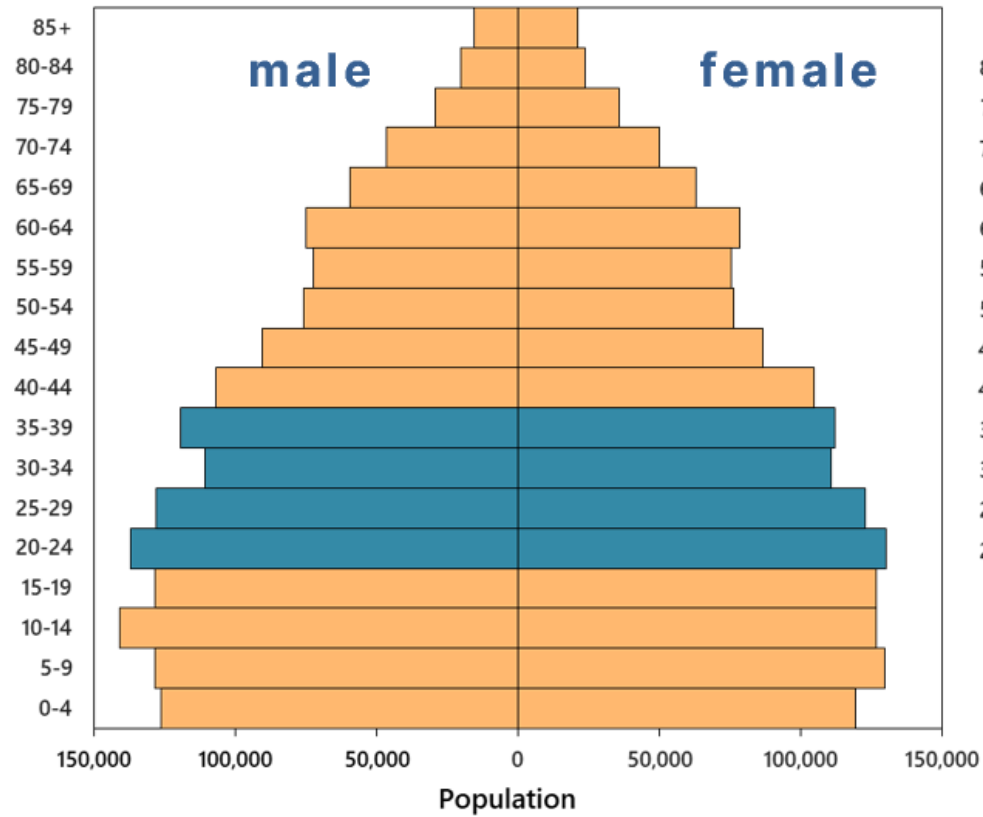
2010 Population Utah

U.S.

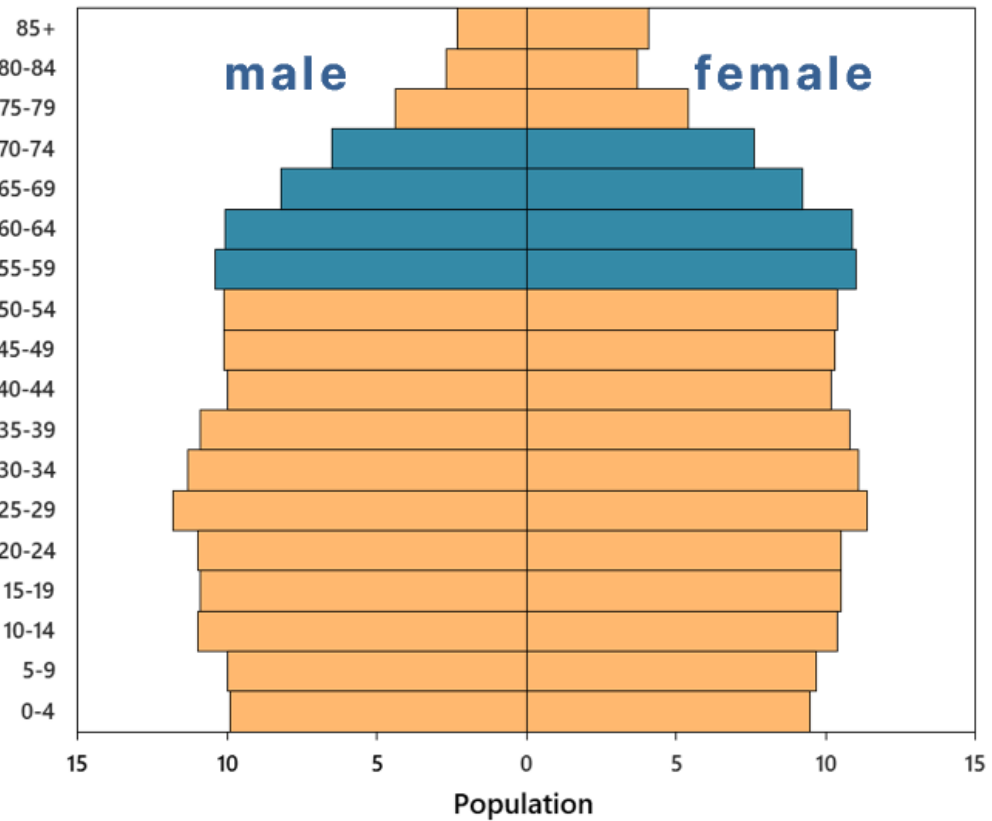


2020 Population Utah

U.S.



Labor Force Dominance



Baby Boom Generation

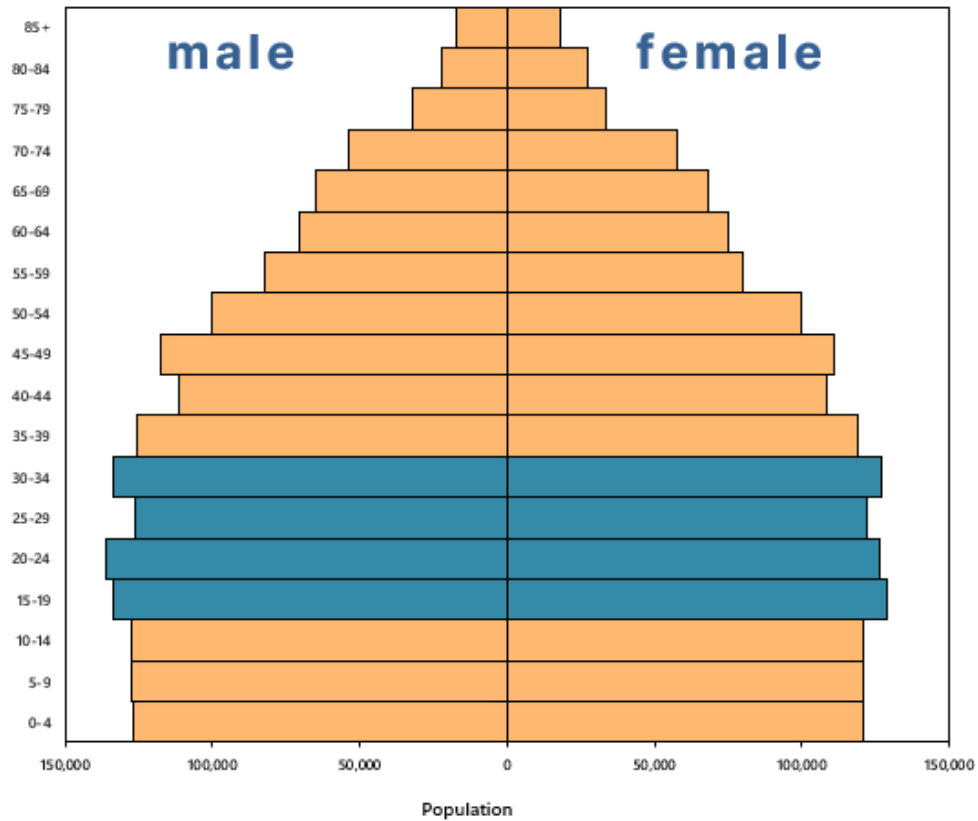
16.6%
65+

18.4%
0-14

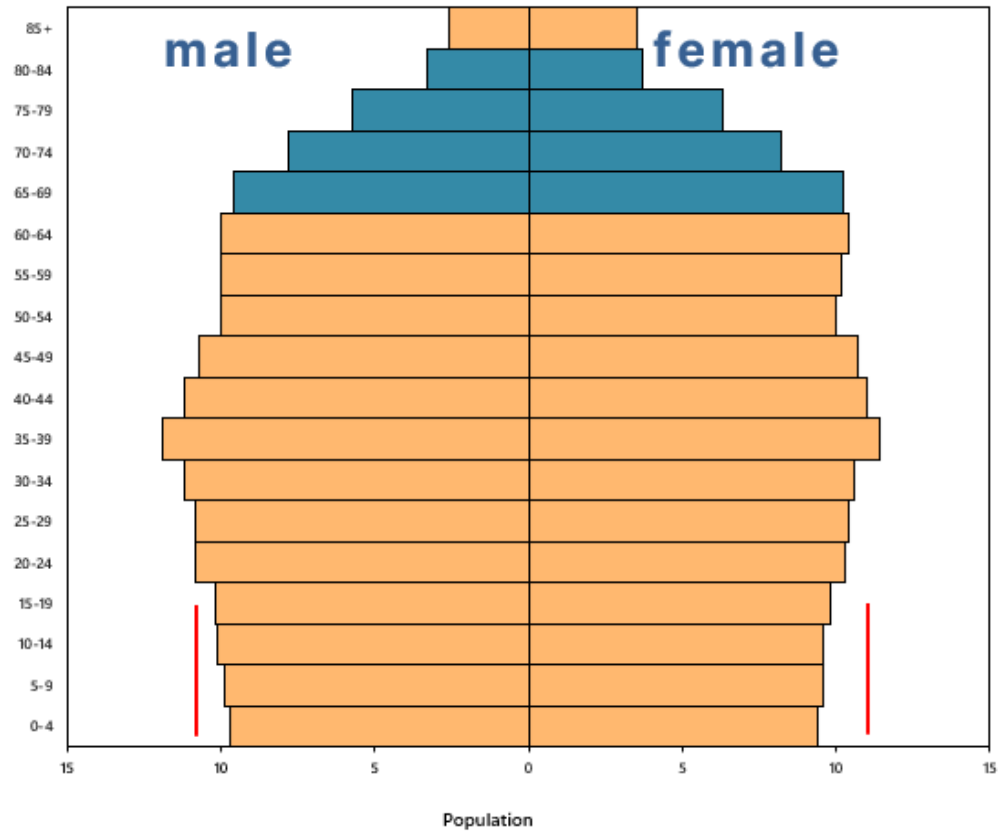


Projected 2030 Population

Utah U.S.



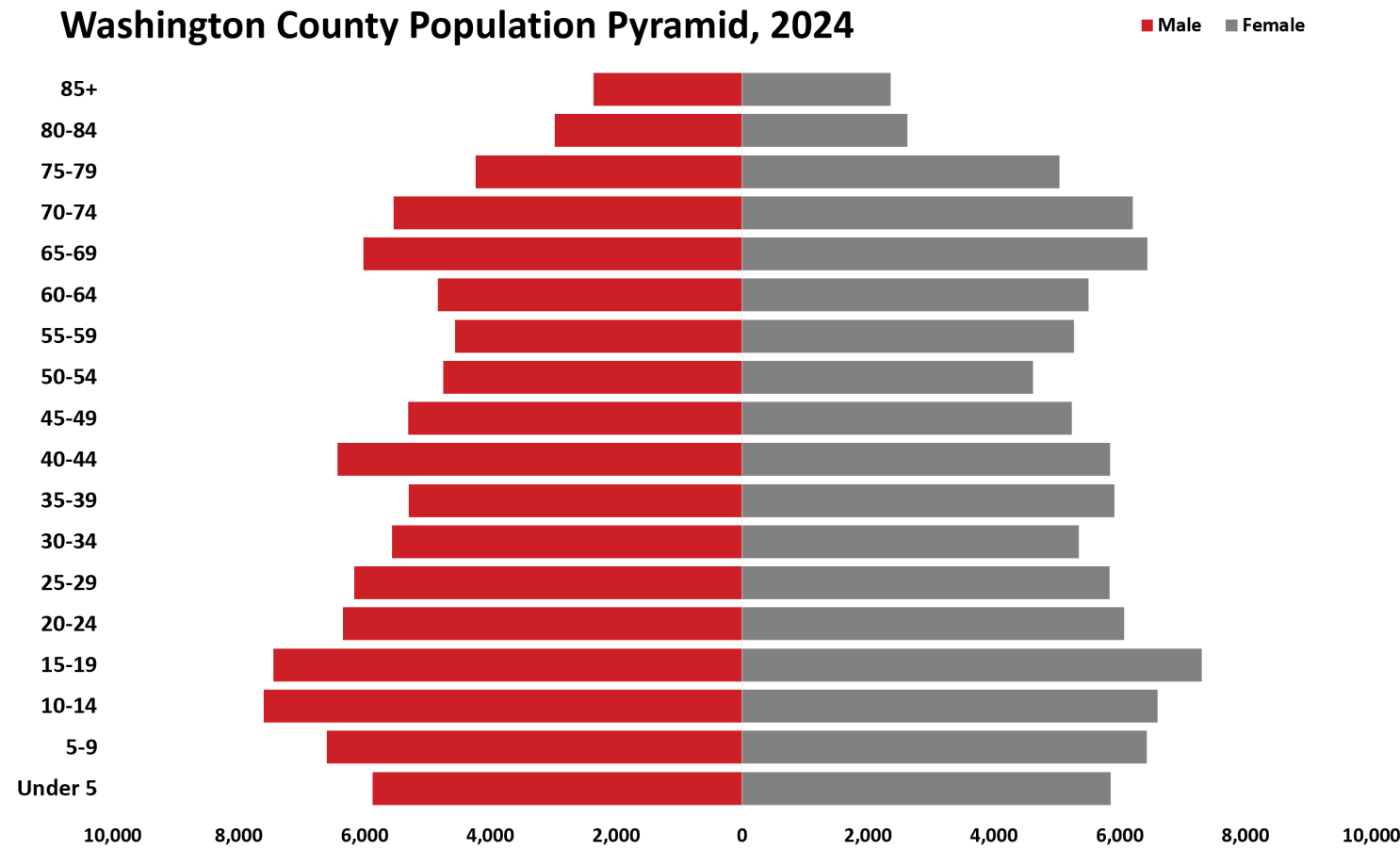
Labor Force Dominance



Baby Boom Generation



2024 Washington County Population

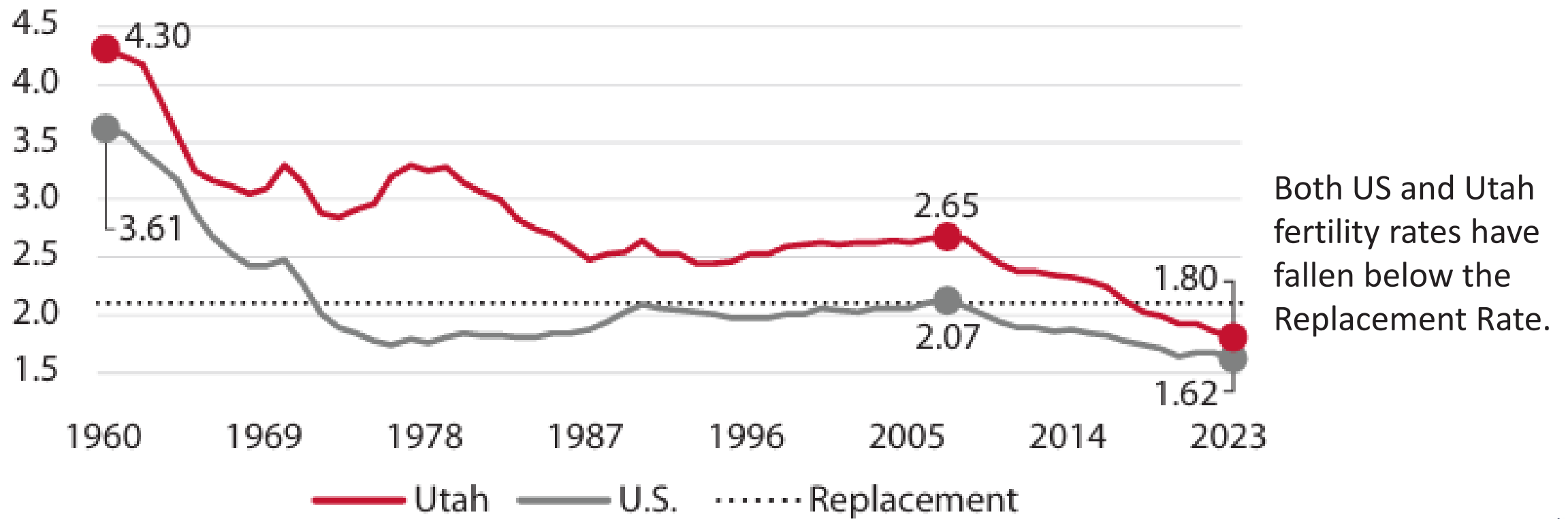


Source: US Census Bureau

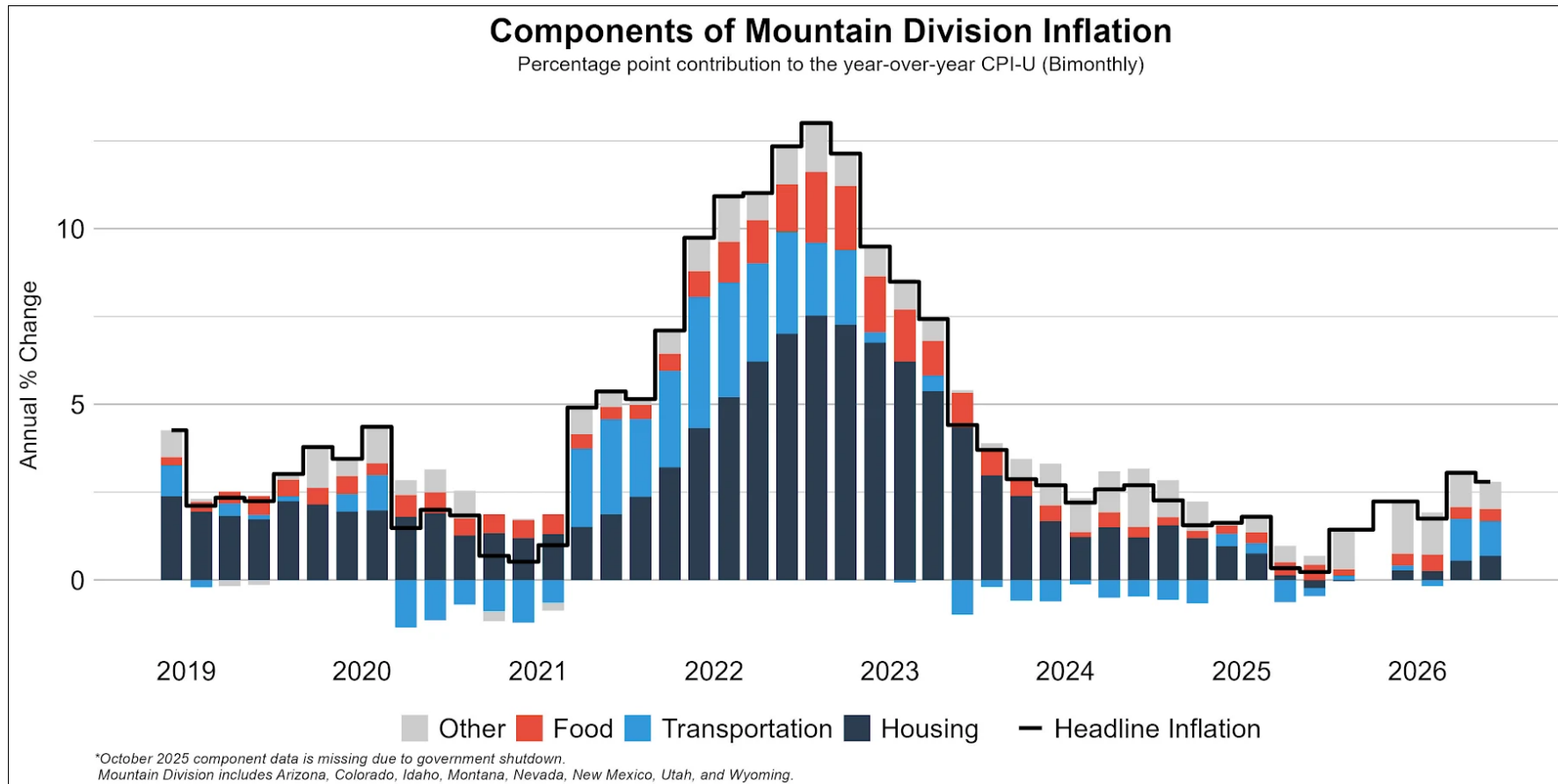


Total Fertility Rate

1960-2023



Components of Inflation



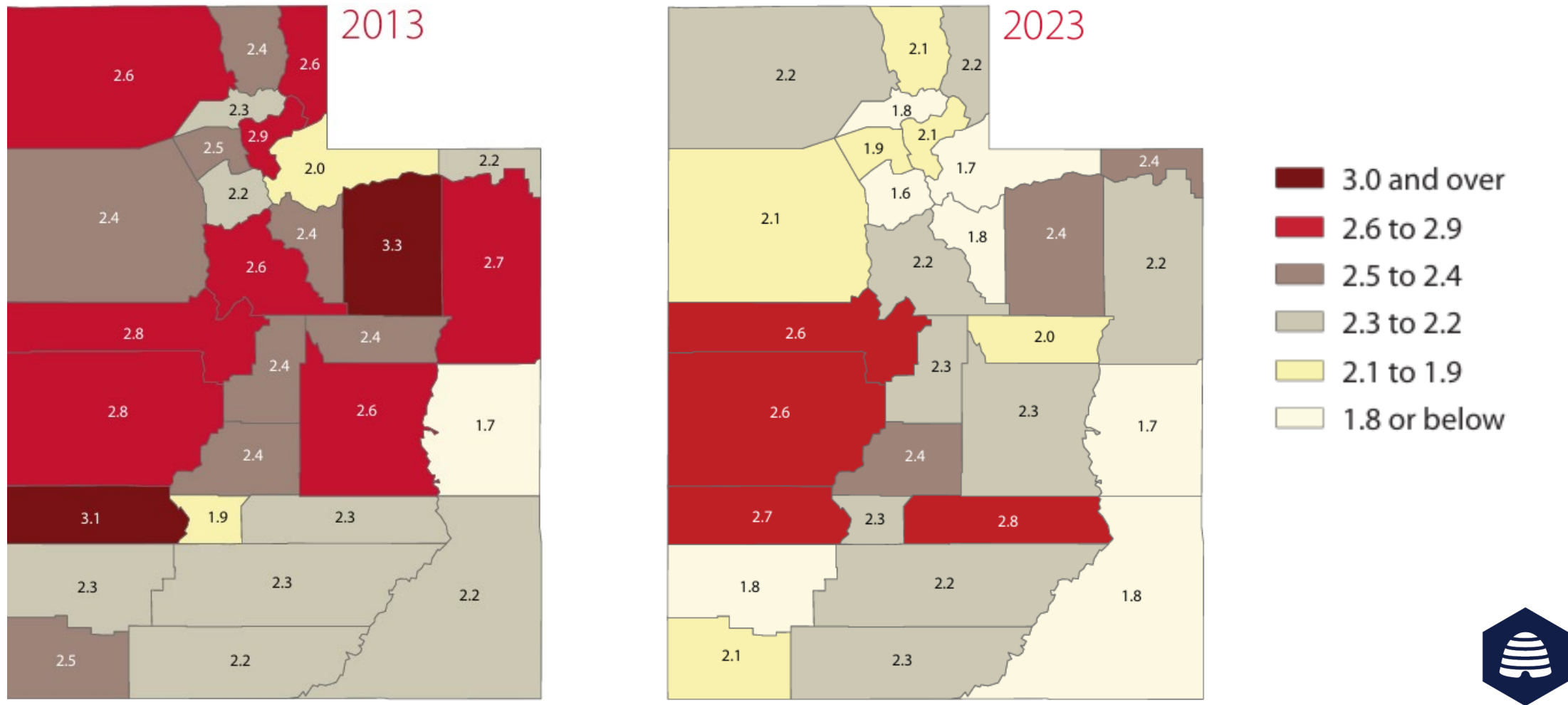
3.5% annual inflation rate, all items nationwide (June 2025 to June 2026)

Much of the inflation rate was driven by price changes in transportation (energy).



County Fertility Rates

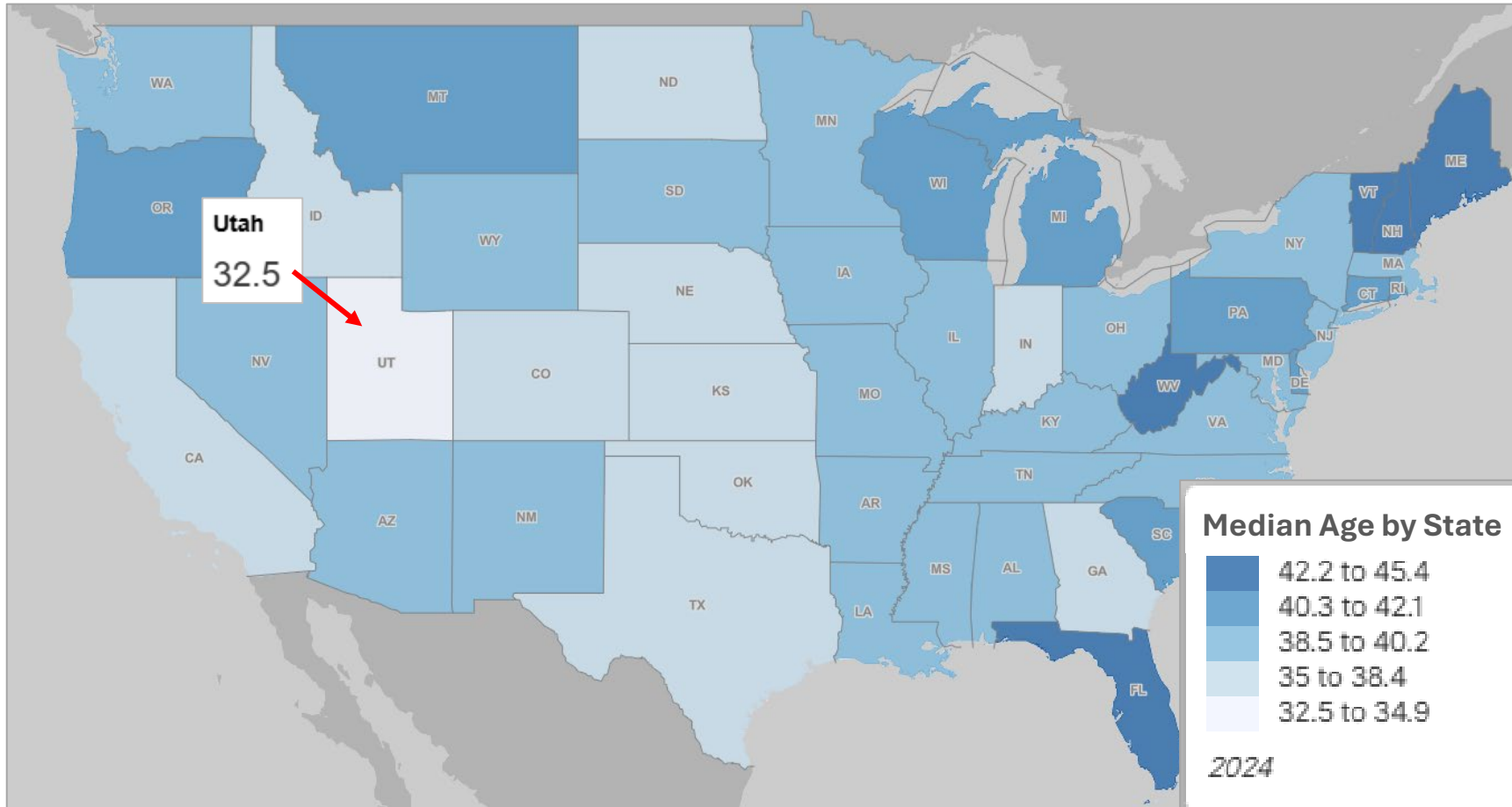
2013-2023



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, National Center for Health Statistics



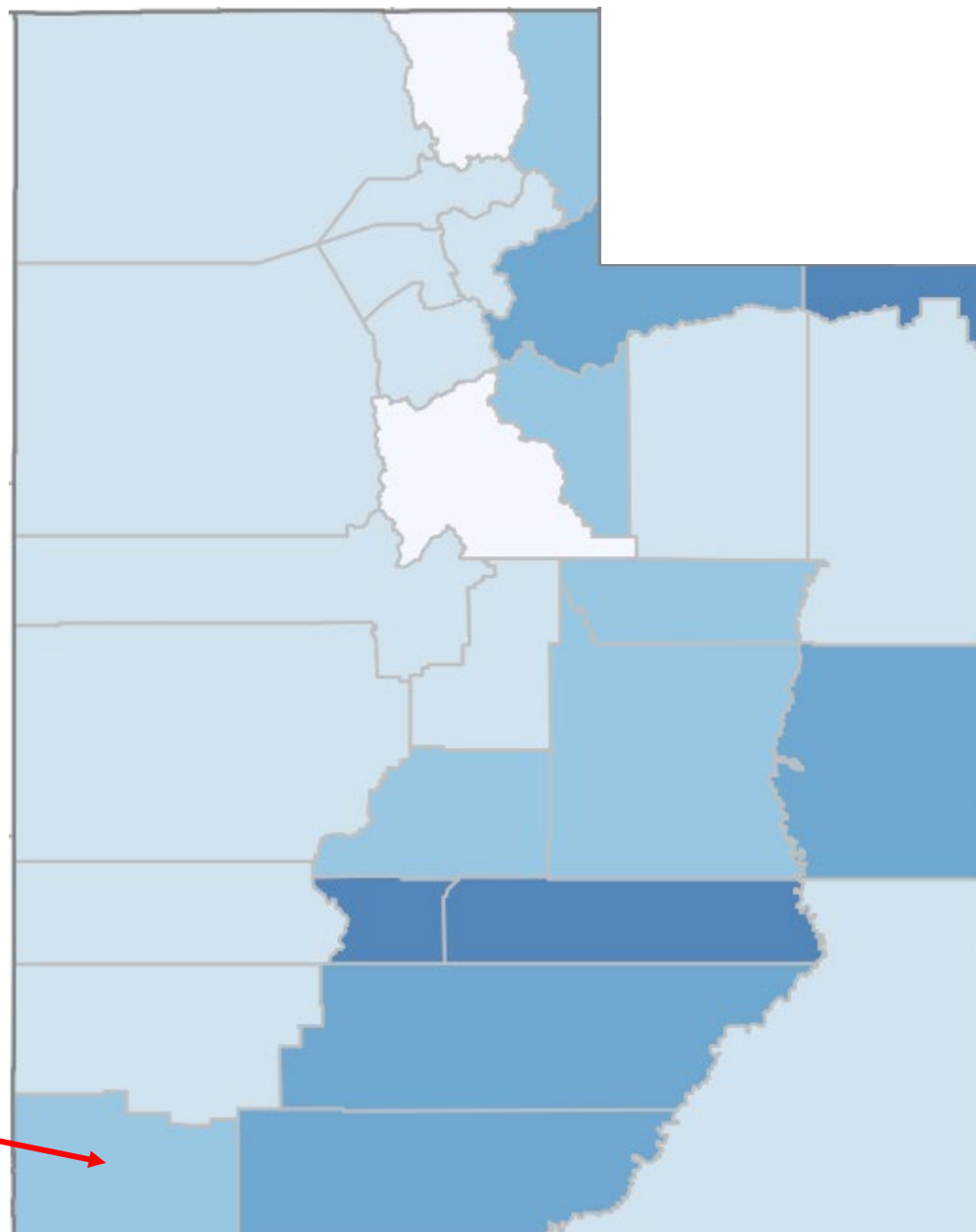
Utah is by far the Youngest State in the Nation



County Specific Median Ages 2024

Washington
County,
Utah

39.1



Number by County

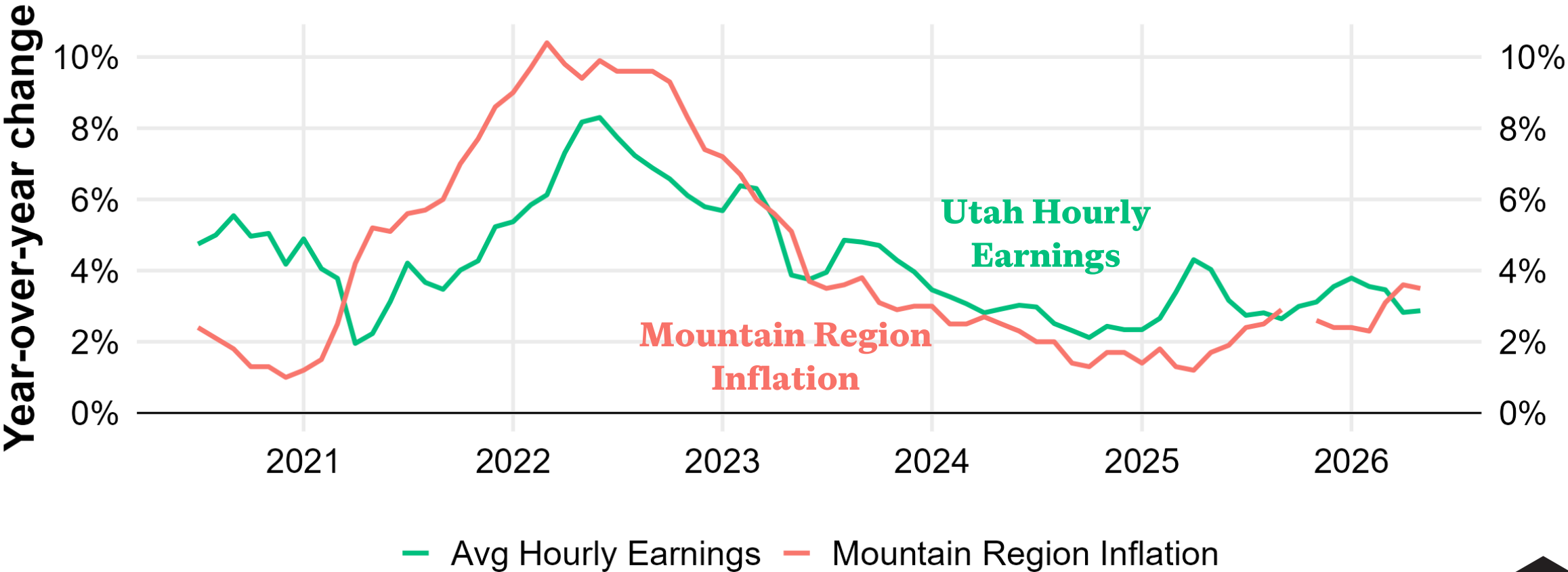
43.4 to 48.3
39.2 to 43.3
35.1 to 39.1
26.3 to 35
25.8 to 26.2

2024



Hourly Earnings vs Inflation

Inflation now outpacing wage growth



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Under Pressure Historic Inflation

***More money chasing fewer goods →
Inflation***

June 2025 inflation at 3.5% year-over-year

“The disinflation process during the last mile will be more uncertain, slower, and bumpier.”

– Isabel Schnabel, European Central Bank



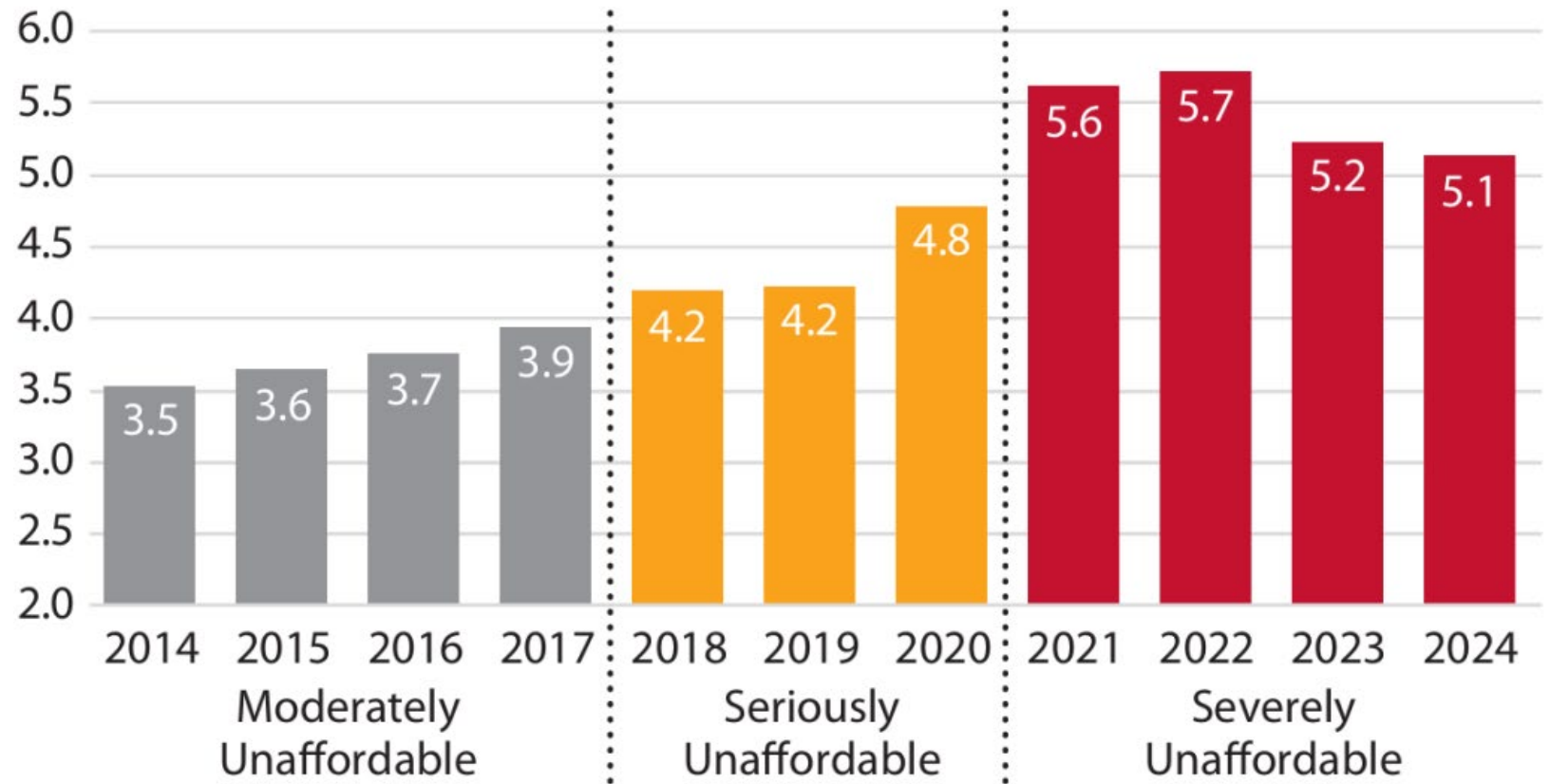
The Federal Reserve's Dual Mandate

Balancing Maximum Employment and Stable Prices



Utah More Unaffordable for New Buyers

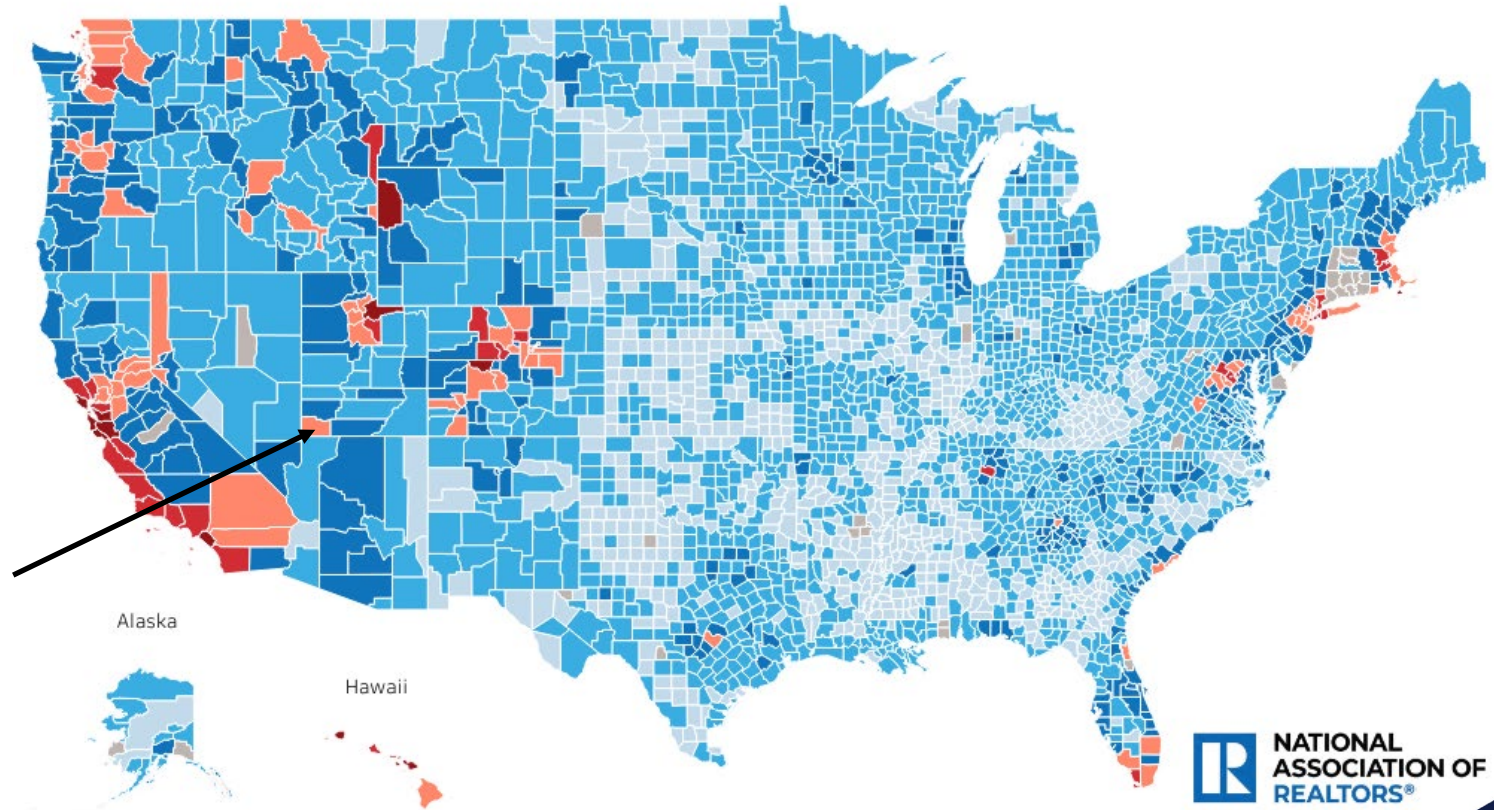
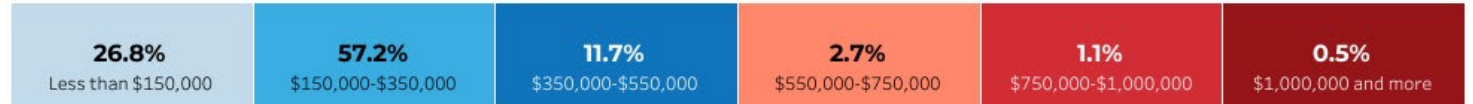
- Ratio of median home price to median household income – metric for affordability
- Peaked in 2022 at 5.7



Housing Prices

- Washington County is one of the most expensive counties nationwide

County Median Home Prices Q2 2025



**NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
REALTORS®**



Note: NAR Calculations of American Community Survey data; Federal Housing Finance Agency data.
See Methodology.

Looking to the Future

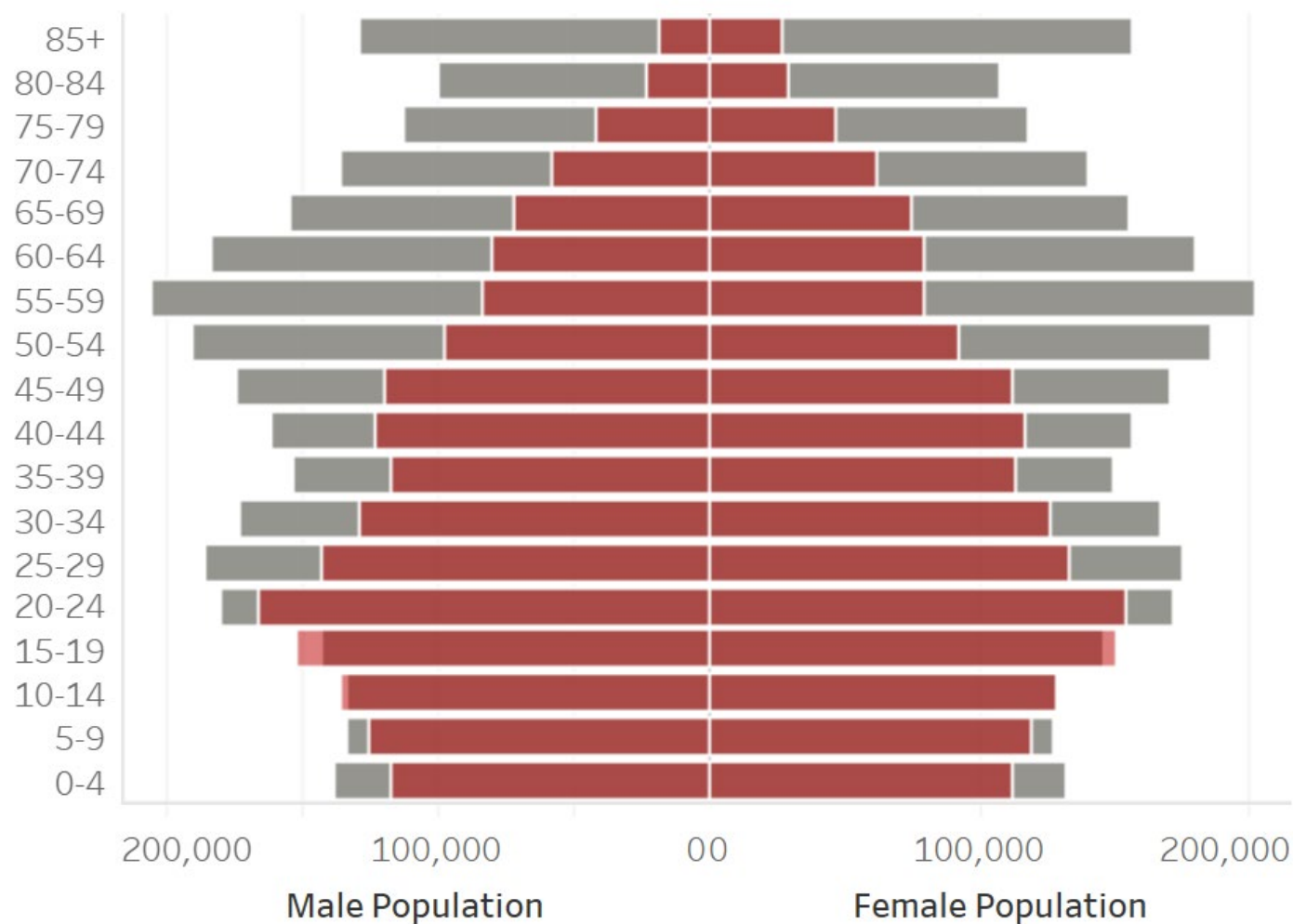
- ☐ Population Growth
- ☐ National Uncertainty
- ☐ Expectations for 2026



Utah Population Projections 2025-2065

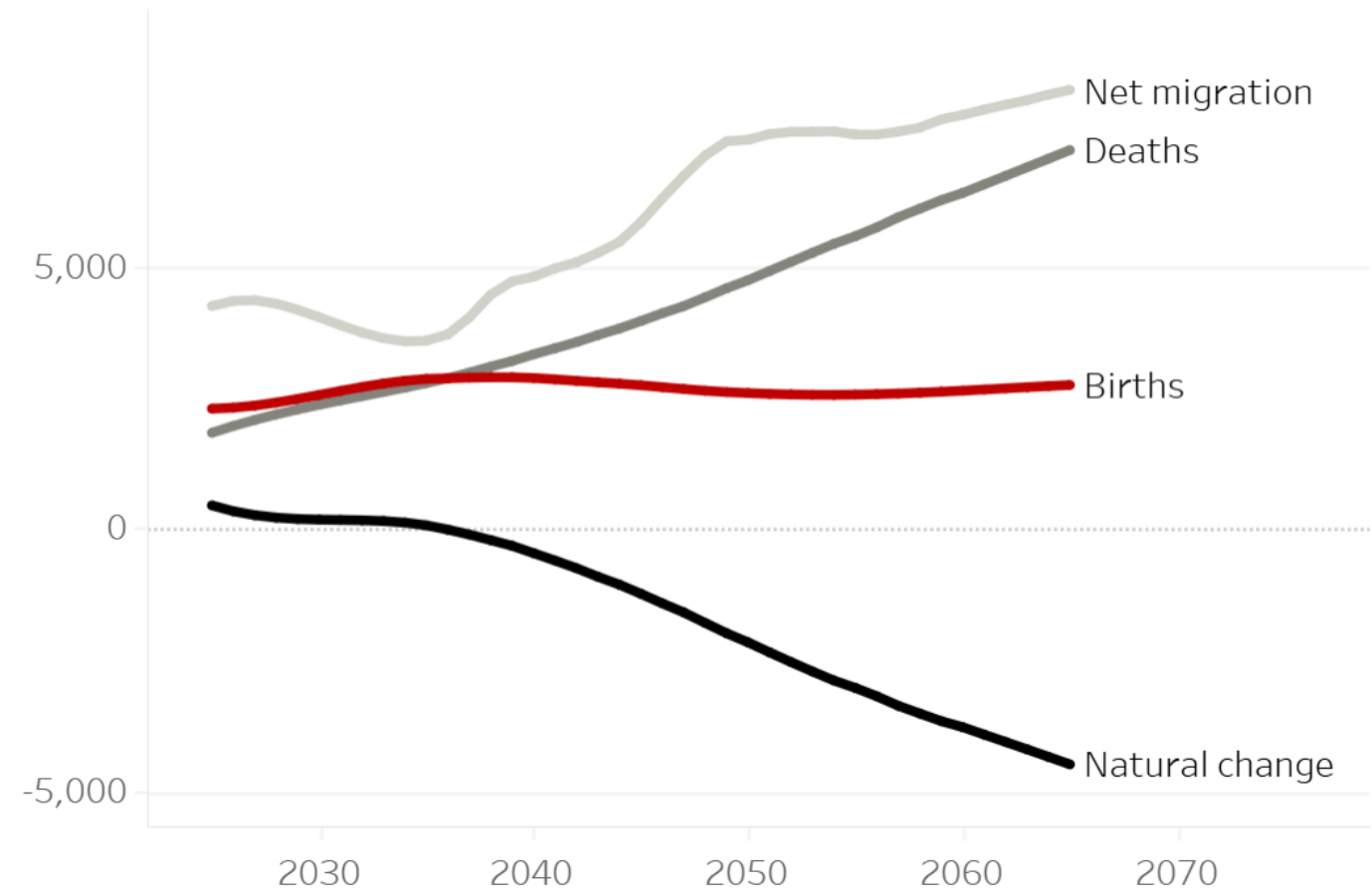
Population Pyramid: 2025 and 2065

2025 2065



Washington County Population Projections 2025-2065

Components of Change: 2025 - 2065

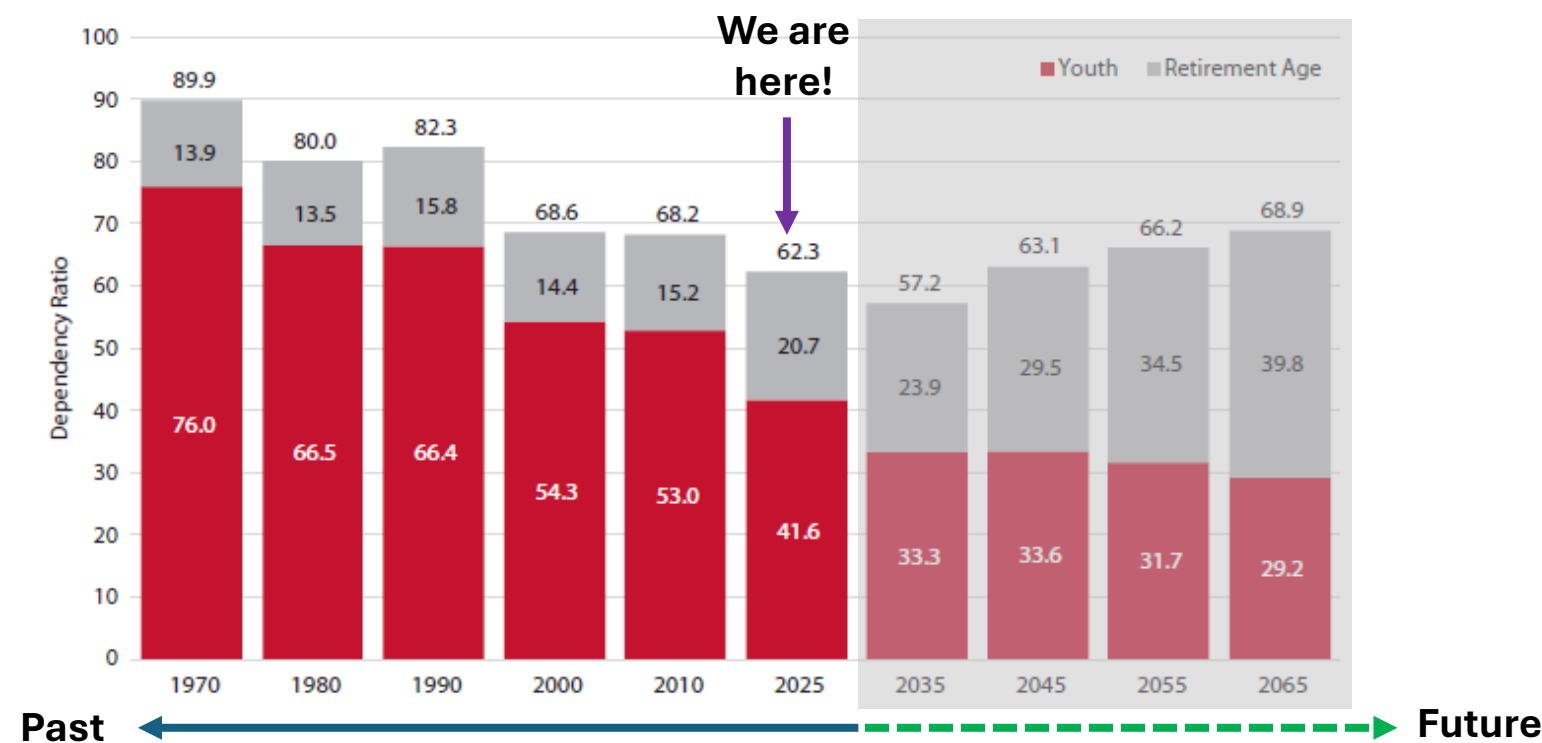


Utah's Population Looking Ahead

High growth in
healthcare

Impacts on
inflation

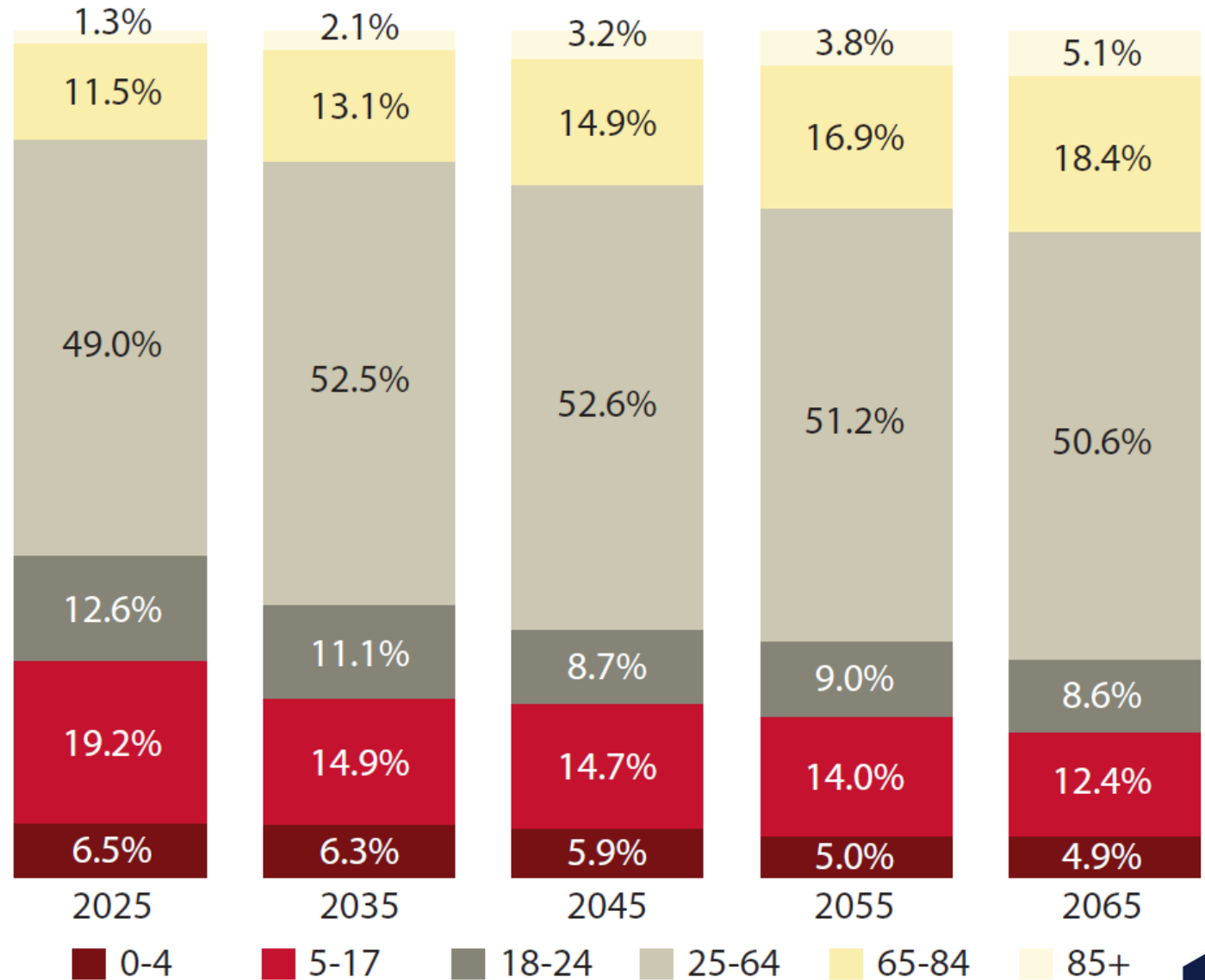
Figure 27.4: Utah Dependency Ratios, 1970–2065



Note: Dependency Ratios are computed as the number of non-working-age persons per 100 working-age (18-64-year-old) persons in the population. Youth are less than 18 years old and retirement age is 65 years and older.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census data and Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute 2025–2065 Long-Term Planning Projections

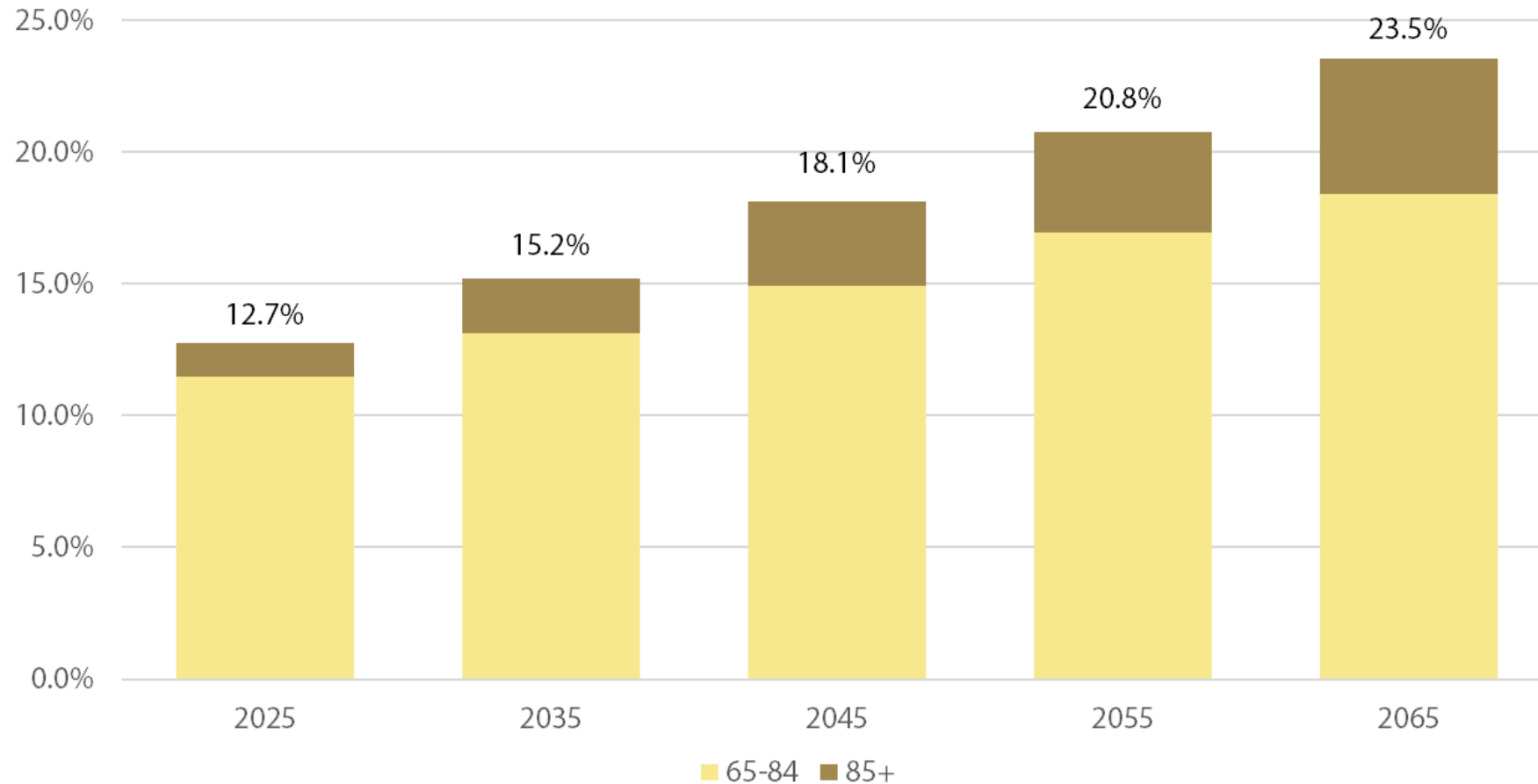


Utah Projected Population by Age 2025-2065



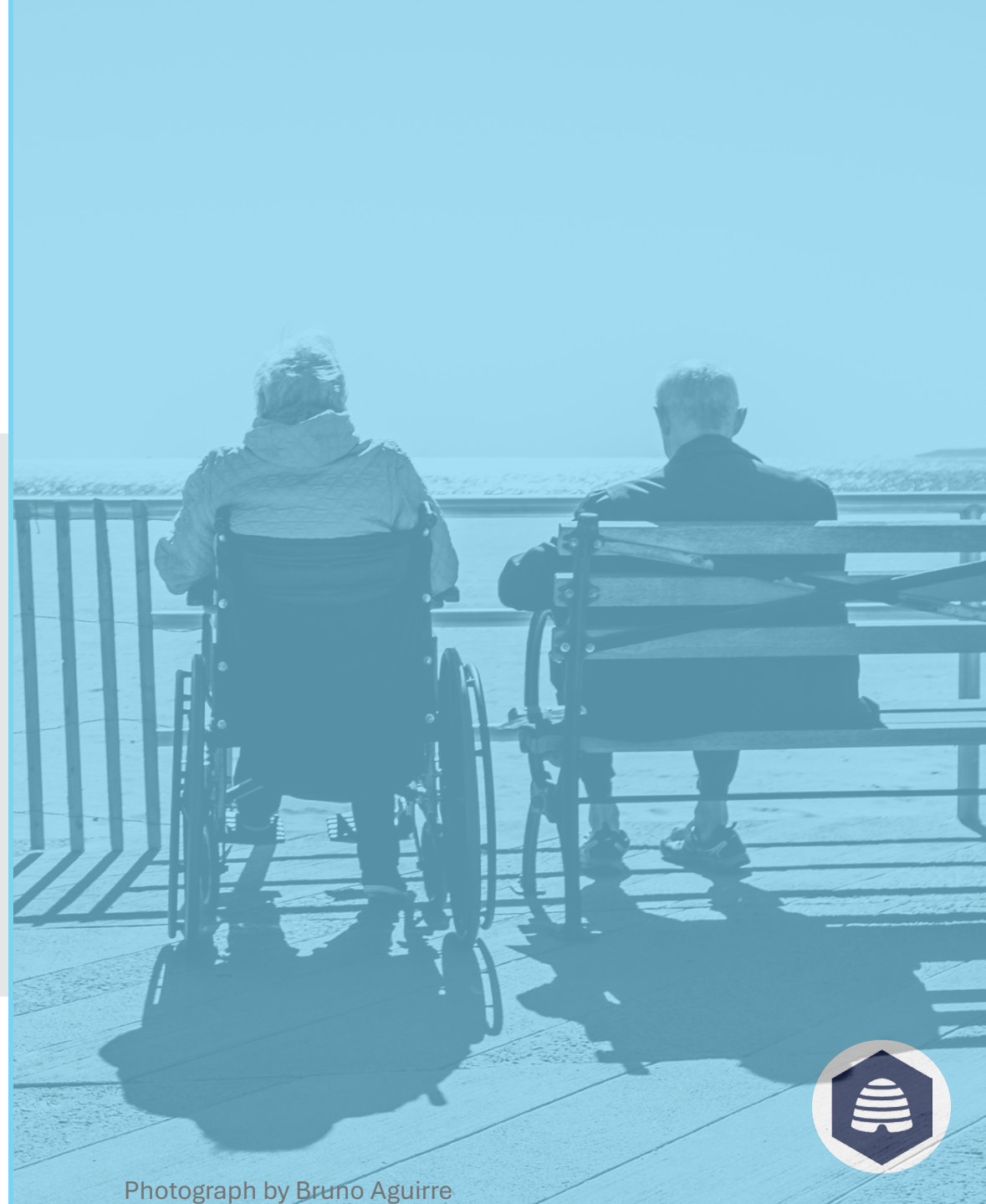
UTAH

Projected Population Aged 65+



Utah's Aging Population

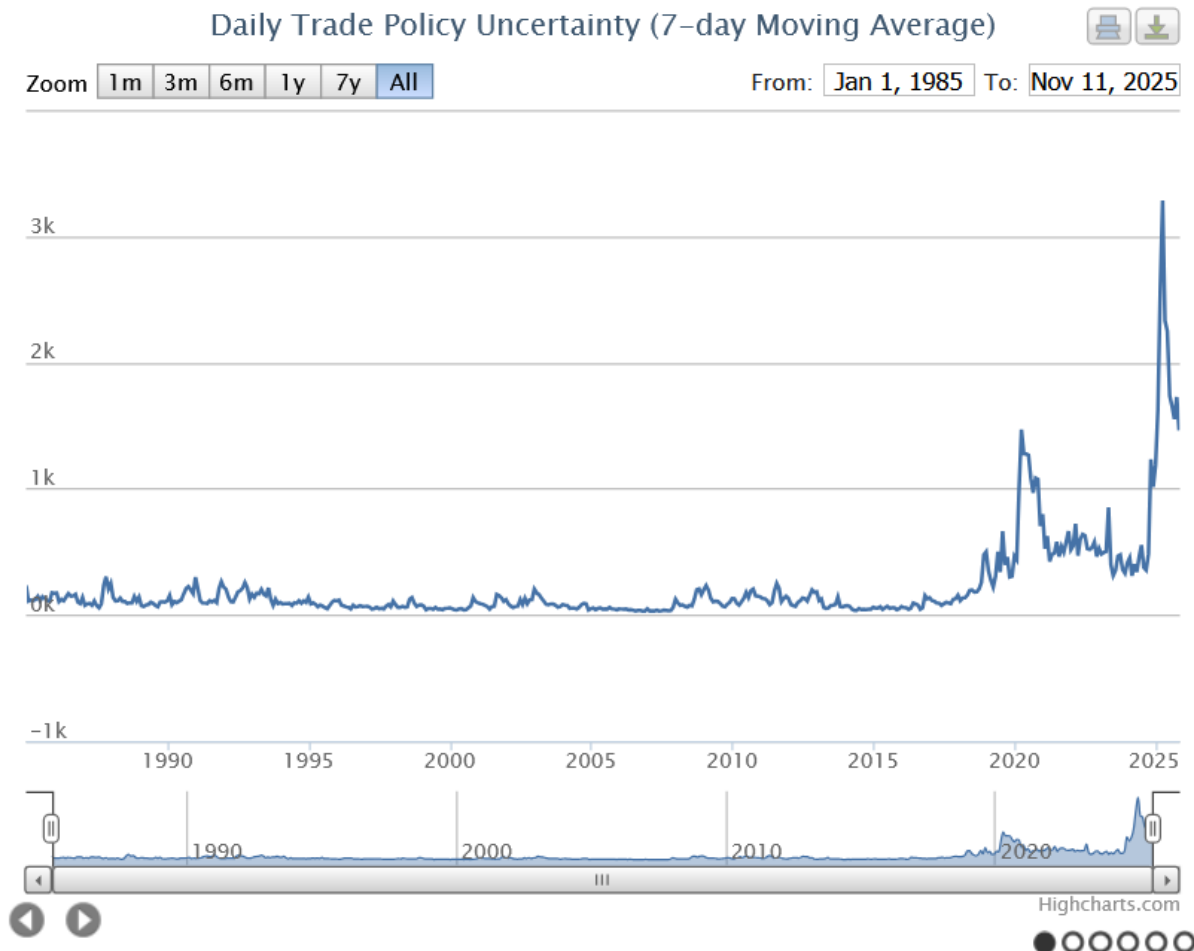
- Labor markets will remain tight as Utah's older population ages out of the workforce.
- Health care sector will continue to grow to support the aging population.
- Industries that support elderly consumers (home delivery, landscaping, home care services, etc.) will grow to support a larger customer base.
- Adds to inflation as there's more consumption but a smaller workforce to produce goods and services.



Photograph by Bruno Aguirre



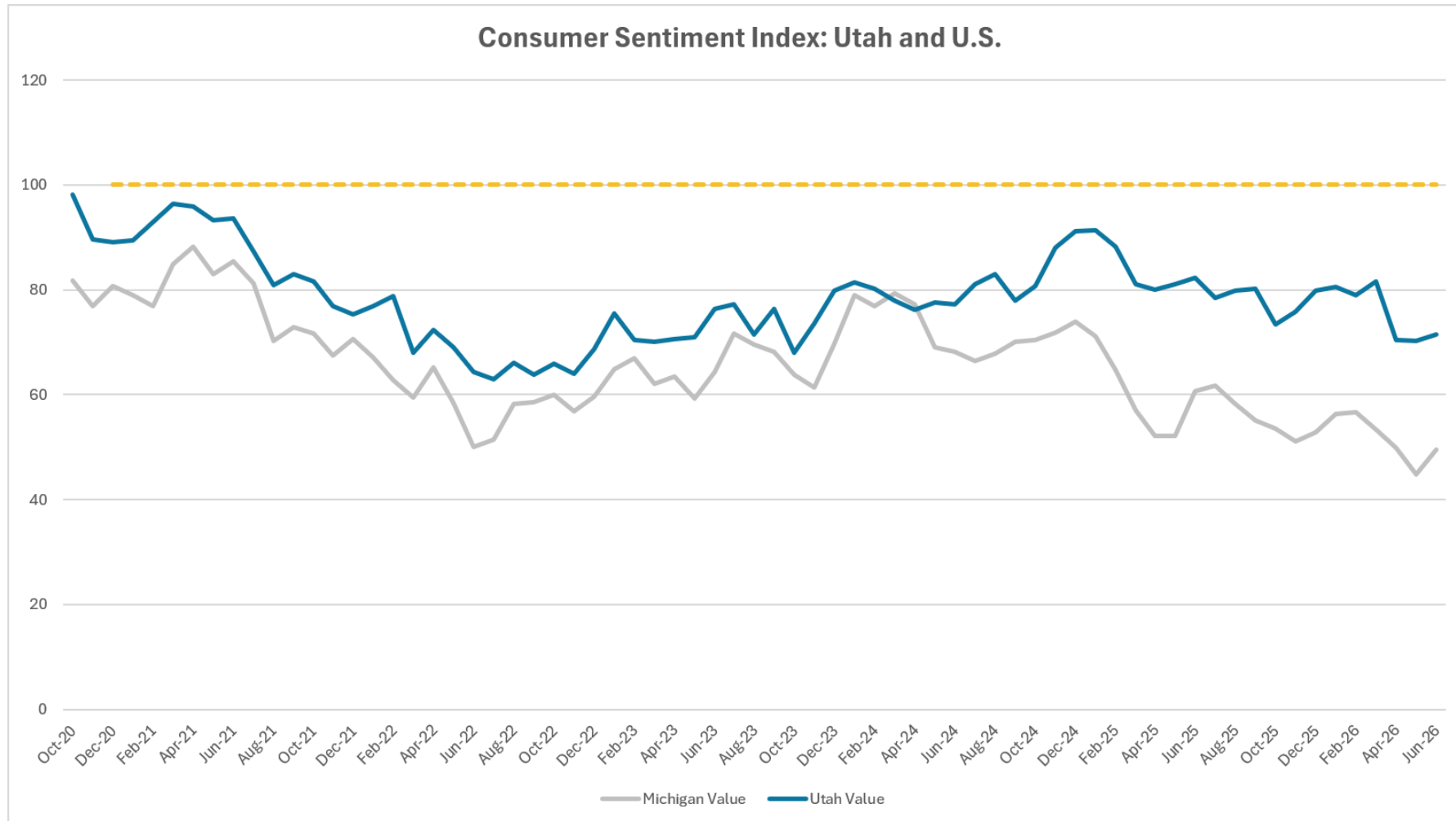
Economic Uncertainty



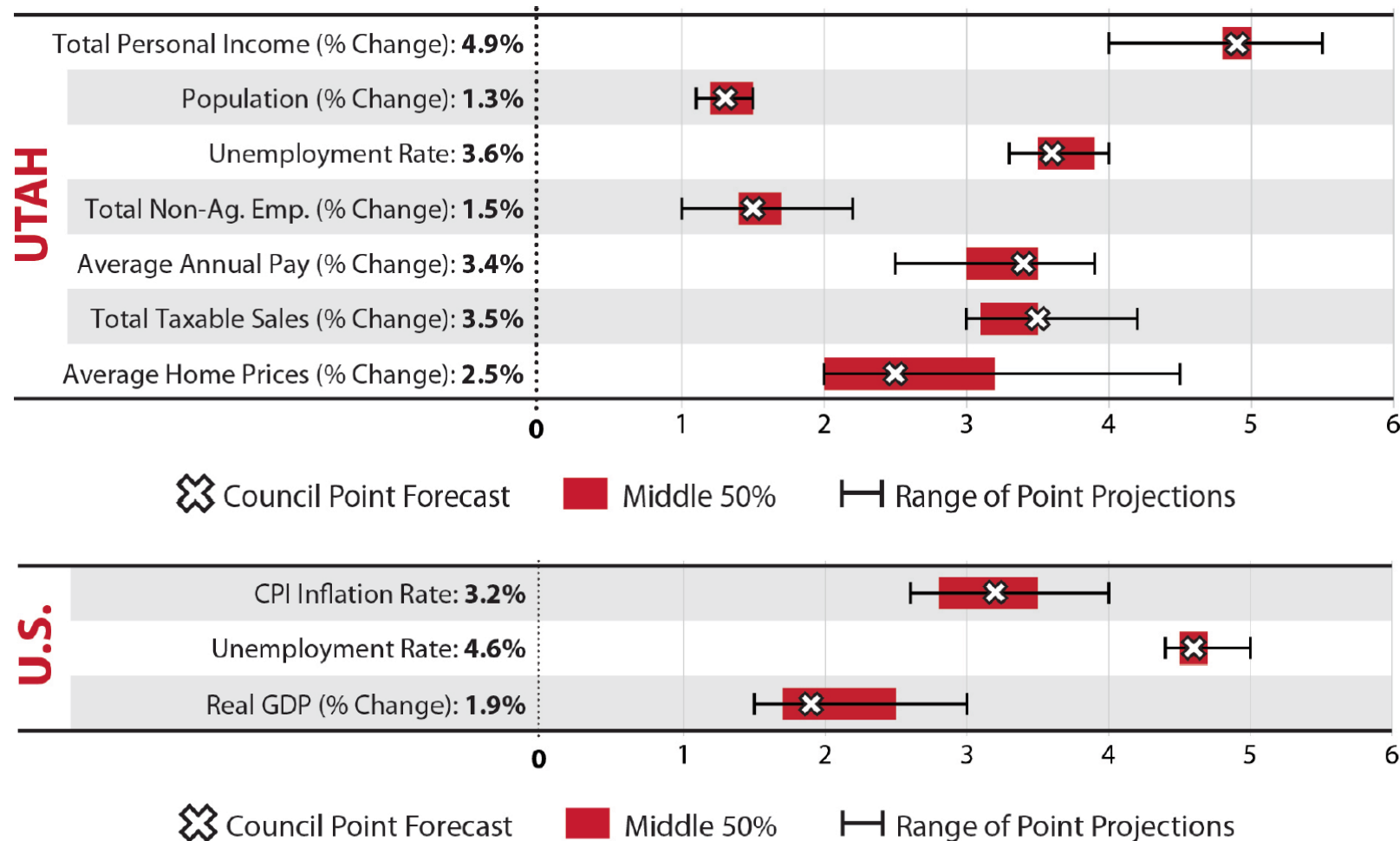
- Uncertainty slows growth as businesses and consumers reduce spending amid unclear economic outlook
 - Reduces consumer spending
 - Delays business investment
 - Disrupts financial markets
- Short-run phenomenon



Economic Uncertainty



Utah Economic Outlook 2025-2026



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Questions.



THANK YOU



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