



Dichotomy in Utah's Economic Recovery

Utah is a big state geographically, but its employment is very concentrated. About 90 percent of employment lies between Logan and Provo. As a result, Utah has developed two economic profiles within the state — a metropolitan concentration and a rural dispersion.

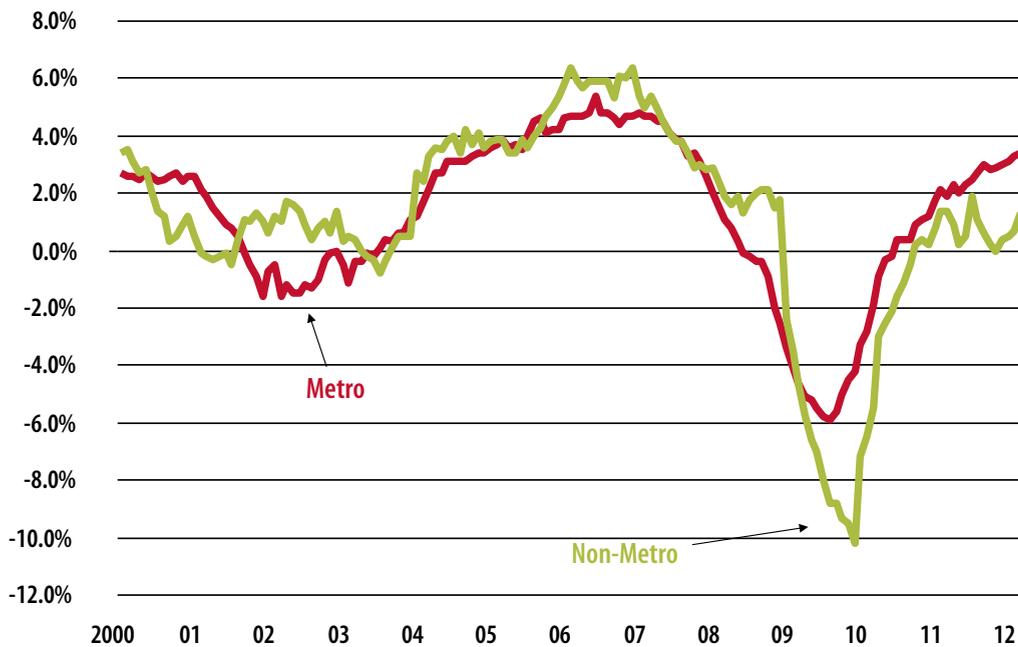
Figure 1 shows the metropolitan and rural percentage employment changes. Both regions suffered setbacks from 2008 to 2010. The recession put all areas into a tailspin, but the rural setback went deeper because of the rapid and sharp energy sector setback in 2009 that hit heavily in the Uintah Basin.

Currently, the metropolitan area is showing more bounce-back. Energy has come back strongly in the Uintah Basin, so it is pulling up the rural recovery. But remove that impact, and the rest of Utah's rural areas are still waiting for recovery to surface.

The current recovery needs more strength within the metropolitan core before lasting benefits trickle out to the rural economies. ①

Employment Growth: Metro vs. Nonmetro Utah

Monthly Year-Over Percent Change: 2000–2012*



Metro includes Cache, Weber, Morgan, Davis, Tooele, Salt Lake, Summit, Utah, Juab and Washington counties.

*Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services Note: *Through First Quarter 2012*