

# Wasatch Front Metropolitan Industry Projections



*Ten-year employment  
projections up to the  
year 2020.*

This past spring, the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) produced 10-year projections of industry employment up to year 2020 for eight separate regions encompassing all 29 counties within the state. Local economic structure, conditions and industry trends were used in conjunction with statewide and national trends to produce a long-term outlook for expected regional job growth by industry. These 2020 job counts are by-in-large compatible with a previously produced statewide analysis.

## **Wasatch Front Metros**

This article presents the projection results for the three metropolitan areas that comprise the Wasatch Front. A federally defined metropolitan statistical area (MSA) is an aggregation of counties around core metropolitan cities. The Wasatch Front has three MSAs: the Ogden-Clearfield MSA made up of Davis, Morgan and Weber counties; the Provo-Orem MSA made up of Utah and Juab counties; and the Salt Lake City MSA made up of

Salt Lake, Summit and Tooele counties. Businesses within these three contiguous metro areas have 82.9 percent of all nonfarm payroll jobs and pay out 85.9 percent of total wages in the state. In addition, 79.7 percent of Utahns reside in these three metro areas.

## **Ogden-Clearfield MSA**

Figure 1 displays the top five major industry groups that are expected to add the most jobs by 2020 in the Ogden-Clearfield area. Health care and social services, both public and private, will provide the most new jobs. Health care will not only lead in job growth across Utah's metropolitan areas, but is generally the leader in all regions across the state.

Construction, second on the list, is increasing from the depressed levels caused by the recent recession. Construction will grow at a relatively rapid annual rate of 3.5 percent and add 4,740 jobs from 2010 to 2020, yet will still be below the construction peak employment level achieved in 2007.

The Ogden-Clearfield area is projected to add 42,570 jobs by 2020, an annual average growth of 2.0 percent

per year from the 2010 base payroll employment of 191,090.

### Provo-Orem MSA

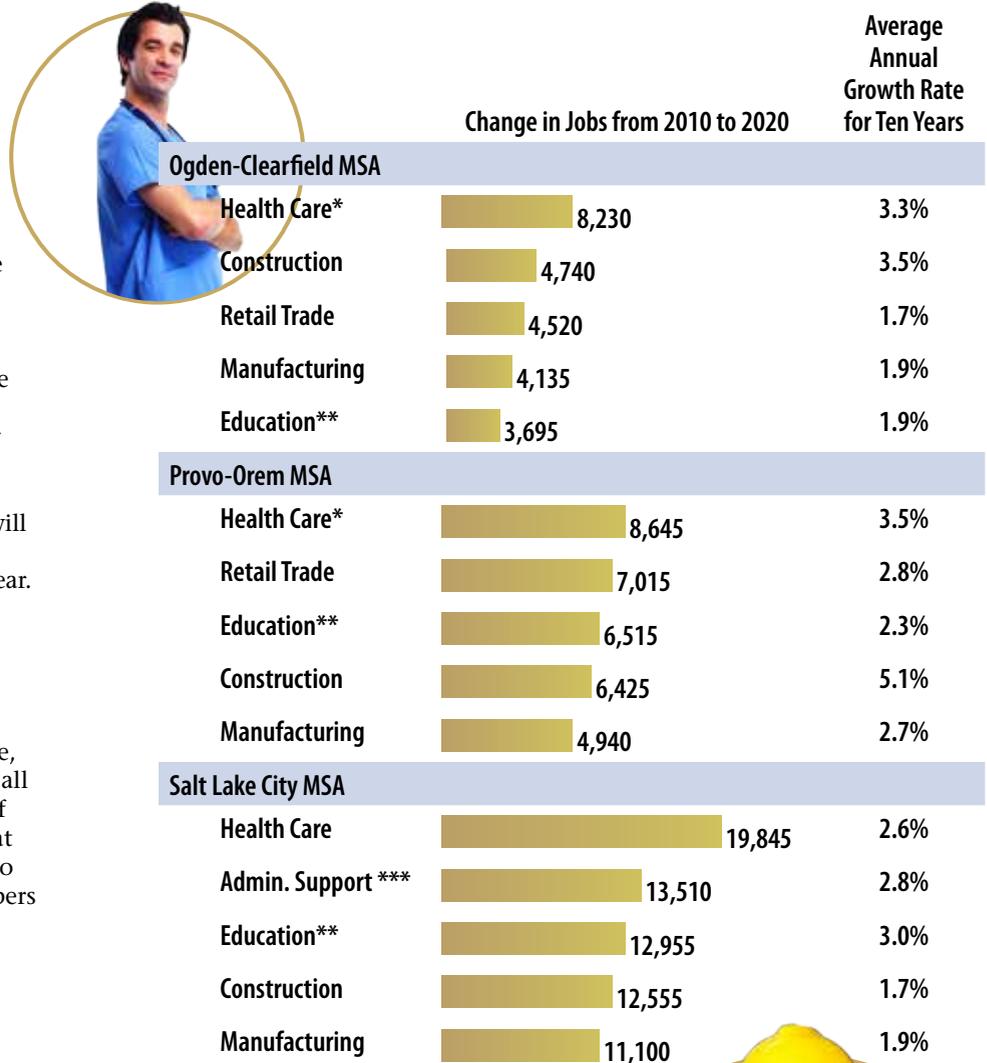
After health care, the Provo-Orem metropolitan area will see the most new jobs in retail trade, education, construction and manufacturing. Just as in the Ogden-Clearfield area, construction will grow significantly, making up for recessionary job losses and keeping up with expected significant population growth. Education continues to be a force for job growth with three main facets — public K-12 education, Utah Valley University and Brigham Young University. These major education players in Utah County follow population, labor force and business growth and provide vitality. Overall, the Provo-Orem employment base will increase by 55,600 jobs by 2020, growing about 2.9 percent per year.

### Salt Lake City MSA

The Salt Lake metropolitan area displays much of the same description in its top five job-producing industries. Health care, education and construction are all important as major producers of new job opportunities. Note that manufacturing in all three metro areas will have significant numbers of new jobs. Manufacturing employment is generally better than average quality with higher than average wages. Manufacturing activities often bring wealth to an area as much of its products are exported out of the region. The Salt Lake area is expected to increase each year on average from 2010 by 2.1 percent. This should provide an additional 138,720 jobs to the 2010 base employment of 607,495 jobs.

The look forward into regional industry job growth along the Wasatch Front gives context to the likely long-term economic and labor market environment faced by businesses and workers. ①

Figure 1:  
Top Five Industries for Projected Job Growth  
by Metropolitan Area along the Wasatch Front: 2010 to 2020



\*The health care industry includes social services and both private and government providers.

\*\*Education includes public and private institutions and businesses.

\*\*\*Administrative support and waste management industry.

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services