

Utah—A Balanced Scorecard for Life



REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Utah offers a unique combination of a fast-paced high-tech work environment, an equal work/life balance, and abundant recreational opportunities.

EDUCATION IN UTAH

Utah's education system provides its residents with exceptional learning tools. In addition to its private and public schools, Utah also offers a growing number of innovative charter schools (nonsectarian public schools).

Utah ranks second in the U.S. in the percentage of people 25 years and older who have completed high school. And 94 percent of Utah's population between 18 and 64 years-of-age was classified as literate, the highest literacy rate in the nation, according to the Utah Facts 2008 book published by The Utah Division of Business and Economic Development.

In addition, Utah was one of only seven states to receive an "A" grade for college preparation in a National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education study, "Measuring Up 2006."

Utah students also have a variety of higher education opportunities to choose from within their own state. Utah has five public community colleges, one private two-year college, three public universities, one private college, and three major Ph.D.-level research universities.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS—DEGREES OFFERED

Brigham Young University	Private—Bachelor, Master and Doctorate
College of Eastern Utah	Public—Community College
Dixie College	Public—Community College
LDS Business College	Private—Two-Year College
Salt Lake Community College	Public—Community College
Snow College	Public—Community College
Southern Utah University	Public—Associate, Bachelor
University of Utah	Public—Bachelor, Master and Doctorate
Utah College of Applied Technology	Public—Professional Certificates, Associates
Utah State University	Public—Bachelor, Master and Doctorate
Utah Valley State College	Public—Associate and Bachelor
Weber State University	Public—Bachelor, Master and Doctorate
Westminster College	Private—Bachelor and Master

Utah high school students score consistently higher than the national average in advanced placement testing:

ACT, SAT AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTS

Utah average	Pass rate of 66 percent
National average	Pass rate of 58 percent

FAITHS IN UTAH

- » Assemblies of God
- » Baha'i
- » Baptist
- » Buddhist
- » Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake City
- » Catholic
- » Christian Science
- » Community of Christ
- » Congregational
- » Episcopal
- » Evangelical Free
- » Foursquare Gospel
- » Interdenominational
- » Islamic Society of Salt Lake City
- » Jehovah's Witness
- » Jewish
- » Lutheran ELCA
- » Methodist
- » Mormon—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- » Nazarene
- » Orthodox, Eastern
- » Pentecostal Church
- » Presbyterian
- » Quaker
- » Salt Lake Christian Fellowship
- » Seventh-day Adventist
- » Southside Church of Christ
- » Unitarian
- » United Church of Christ
- » Unity

During 2005-2006, Utah's public institutions of higher learning enrolled a combined 144,302 students. In the past 20 years, enrollment in Utah's higher-learning institutions has more than doubled.

HOUSING & THE ECONOMY IN UTAH

Utah's cost of living is, on average, below that of other major metropolitan areas in western states. Salt Lake City's overall cost of living, for example, at 100.4% of the national average, is less than that of Denver (102.3%), Las Vegas (109%), Portland (121.7%) or Phoenix (101.7%). It is dramatically less expensive than cities such as New York (214.7%), San Francisco (172.1%) or San Jose (156.8%), according to Utah Facts 2008.

Residents of smaller towns such as Logan and Cedar City enjoy a cost of living significantly lower than the national average, at 92.7% and 94.9% respectively.

The sales price for homes in Utah averages \$196,010, also well below the national average of \$225,570.

Utah has a growing economy and is experiencing a rapid increase in developing high tech companies. The economy is also receiving a boost due to national companies relocating their businesses to Utah because they experience "productivity increases of 15 to 30 percent," which they attribute to Utah's healthy lifestyle and ethics. They also claim that Utah employees are well-educated and technologically savvy (Utah Facts 2008).

- \$196,010** Average home price in Utah
- 30%** Productivity increase in companies relocating to Utah
- 3,107,070** Acres of breathtaking forest land to explore
- 100** Lakes to enjoy

RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT IN UTAH

Utah's diverse seasons and landscapes offer a variety of recreational opportunities. It is possible to mountain bike, golf, water ski, and snowmobile—all in one day.

Utah, host of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, is home to many world-class ski resorts that consistently produce the "Greatest Snow on Earth," over three million acres of breathtaking forest land (Utah Wilderness Inventory by the Bureau of Land Management) and a golfer's paradise with over one hundred courses offering spectacular surroundings at affordable prices. The majority of Utah's courses are

public, one of which—Thanksgiving Point (a Johnny Miller Signature Golf Club and the largest golf club in the state)—hosts the Annual Champions Challenge.

But that's not all. Some of the most amazing national parks in the U.S. reside in Utah. Explore the world's legendary parks—Arches, Canyonlands, Bryce, Zions and Capital Reef; enjoy water sports in over 100 lakes, or cycle through the bountiful red rock deserts of Moab.

Possessing a prosperous artistic and cultural atmosphere, Utah is home of the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespearean Festival and the world renowned and Robert Redford-owned Sundance Film Festival. Utah also offers hundreds of theater, dance and music organizations, including The Utah Symphony, Ballet West, and the Utah Opera Company.

RELIGION & DIVERSITY IN UTAH

Like our nation, Utah's historical roots are founded on the principle of religious freedom—freedom to worship how, when and where you desire. Utah embraces a diverse community represented by people of all ethnicities and cultures. The state's workforce is one of the most multilingual in the nation. More than 50 languages are taught at Utah universities and more than 130 languages are spoken in the state, according to the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, which also shows that approximately 80 percent of students at Brigham Young University are multilingual.

At its core, Utah is a state with a multitude of opportunities—four seasons, a rich heritage, and a variety of landscapes—for all to enjoy, from its majestic mountains and desert plains to the rustic red rock canyons to the sandy shores of Lake Powell. A diverse state, full of ethnicity and religious opportunities, Utah is much more than just a place to live. It is a place to call home.

RESOURCES:

Utah Facts 2008
goed.utah.gov/documents/FACTSBOOK2008.pdf

"Utah's extraordinary growth has been driven by a vibrant and creative business community. A productive workforce, low taxes and highly innovative research universities all combine with a business-friendly government to support economic growth."

JASON P. PERRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
UTAH GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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