



# UTAH POPULATION GROWING RAPIDLY Surpasses 2.5 Million

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Utah's population grew by 78,159 between 2004 and 2005, to reach 2,547,389.
- This is the largest one-year increase in the state's history and, with 1992, is tied for the fastest one-year growth rate since 1961, 3.2 percent.
- Net migration, 40,647, (in-migrants minus out-migrants) proved surprisingly strong.
- Between 2000 and 2004, 41 percent of Utah's population increase consisted of minorities - most of them Hispanics.
- Most of the population growth of the state over the last year, 77.7 percent, occurred in just four counties: Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, and Davis.
- Most of Utah's fastest growing cities are located in southwest Salt Lake County, northern Utah County, and Washington County.
- Because of this rapid growth, Utah will almost assuredly receive a fourth congressional seat after the 2010 census.
- Rapid population growth creates great opportunities while posing infrastructure and education funding challenges for the state and local governments.

## IN-MIGRATION SETS A RECORD

Utah's population grew by 78,159 between July 1, 2004 and July 1, 2005, to reach 2,547,389.<sup>1</sup> Of that total, net migration amounted to 40,647 and natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for the remaining 37,512. This year's net migration is the largest in over 60 years, accounting for 52 percent of the population increase. (See Figure 1.) Annual net migration has only exceeded natural increase three times in the last 60 years.

Table 1, on page 4, shows the state's population increase each year from 1940 to the present, including natural increase and net-migration.<sup>2</sup> Net migration has been very strong for the last 15 years. During that time, 337,715 people have moved into the state. Strong net migration is the result of an economy healthy enough to attract out-of-state workers. From November 2004 to November 2005, Utah created 41,200 new jobs, which is an increase of 3.6 percent. This is more than twice as fast as the nation's growth rate of 1.5 percent.<sup>3</sup>

## WHERE ARE IN-MIGRANTS COMING FROM?

Minorities are an increasing portion of Utah's population. Figure 2 shows minorities have increased from 1.9 percent of Utah's population in 1960 to 14.7 percent in 2000.<sup>4</sup> The biggest reason for this growth in the state's minority

Figure 1

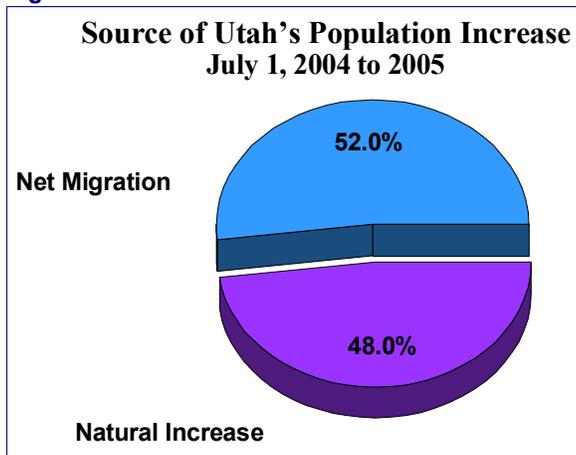


Figure 2

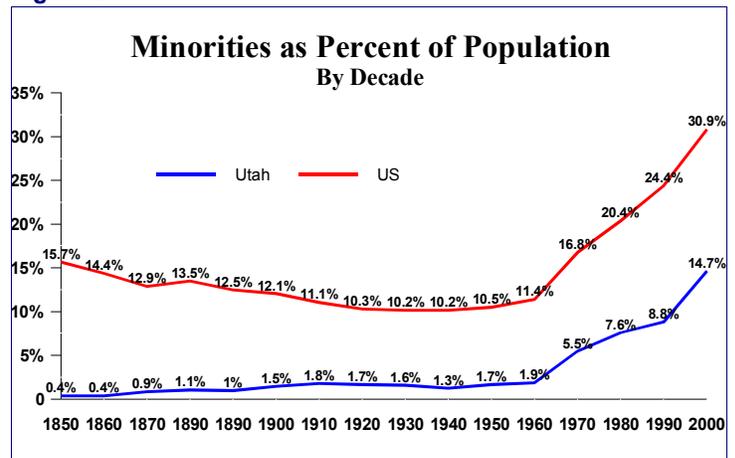
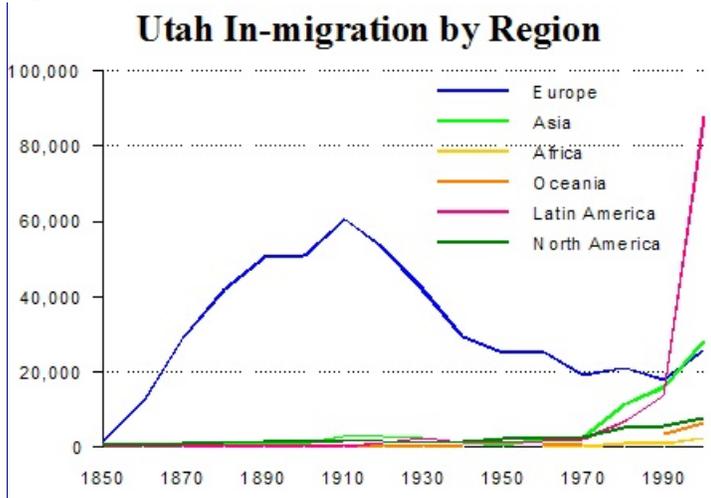


Figure 3



population is immigration from Latin America. Figure 3 shows the significance of this Latin American migration.<sup>5</sup> From 1990 to 2000, 35 percent or approximately 178,000 people of the 510,000 increase in Utah's population were minorities. The largest minority, Hispanics, accounted for 23 percent of the population increase. (See Figure 4.) Two-thirds of these Hispanics identify themselves as Mexican. Hispanics are Utah's largest minority, composing 61 percent of the state's minorities.

Figure 4

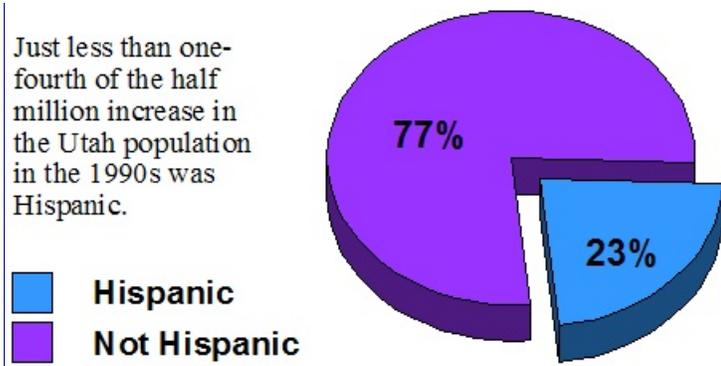
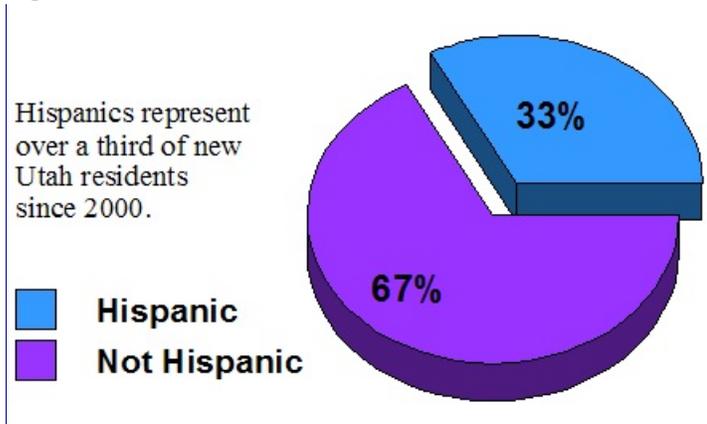


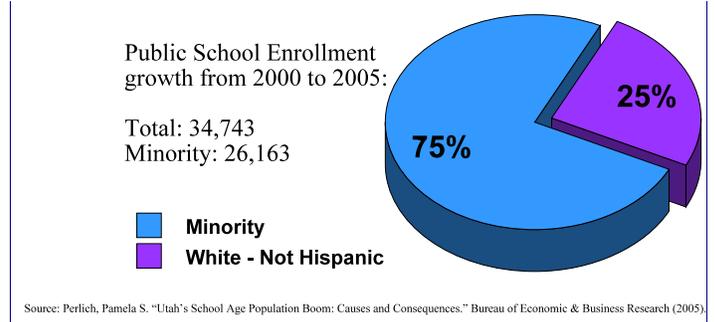
Figure 5



From 2000 to 2004, an even greater portion of Utah's population increase consisted of minorities. During this four-year period, 41 percent of the state's population increase were minorities. Thirty-three percent of these were Hispanic.<sup>6</sup> (See Figure 5.)

From 2000 to 2005, Utah's public school enrollment increased by 34,743. Of that amount 26,163, or 75.3 percent, were minorities. (See Figure 6.)

Figure 6



Source: Perlich, Pamela S. "Utah's School Age Population Boom: Causes and Consequences." Bureau of Economic & Business Research (2005).

## STATE POPULATION GROWTH

Figure 7 shows Utah's population by decade (1900 through 2000, and for 2005) and the state's average annual percent change (AAPC) from 1970 to the present.<sup>7</sup> As can be seen, the state is growing at a rate that is over twice as fast as the nation. Projections by the state Population Estimates Committee show continued rapid growth. (See Figure 8.) In rounded numbers, Utah's population is estimated to be 2.8 million by 2010, 3.5 million by 2020, and 4.1 million by 2030.<sup>8</sup>

Figure 7

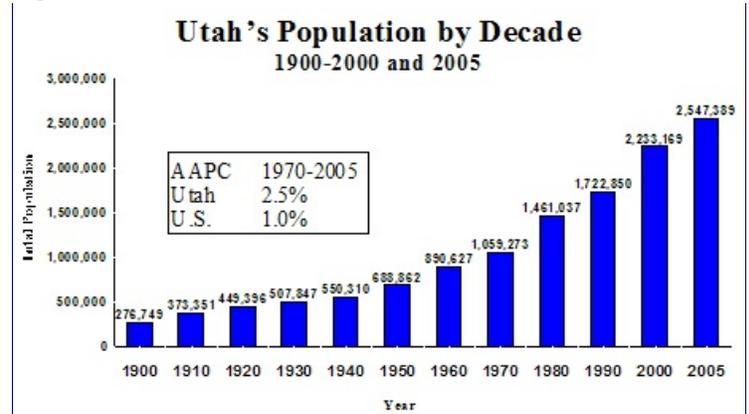
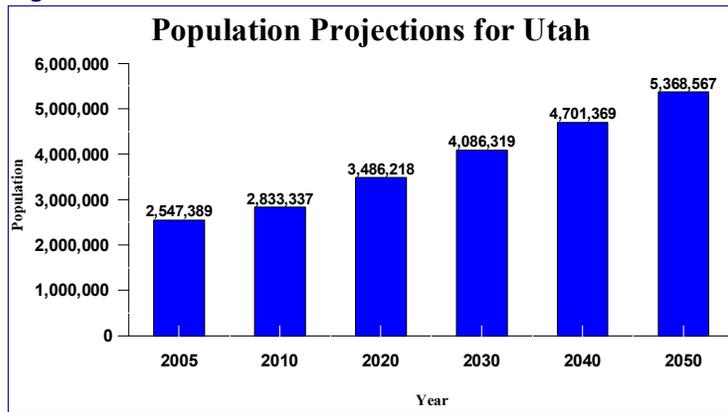


Figure 8



### POPULATION GROWTH BY COUNTY (2004-2005)

Most of the population growth of the state over the last year, 77.7 percent, occurred in just four counties: Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, and Davis. (See Figure 9.) Eighty-seven percent of that growth occurred in six counties, the above mentioned four plus Weber and Cache counties.<sup>9</sup>

### PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH BY COUNTY (2005-2030)

As with the current population of the state, most of the future growth (2005-2030) will be concentrated in just a

few of the state's 29 counties. (See Table 2 on page 6.) It is projected that almost one-half, or 48.9 percent, of the state's population growth will occur in just two counties: Salt Lake (26.6 percent) and Utah (22.7 percent). Almost two-thirds, or 63.6 percent, of the state's growth is projected to occur in just three counties: Salt Lake, Utah, and Washington (14.7 percent). Over three-fourths, or 76.4 percent, of the state's population increase is projected to occur in just five counties: Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, Davis (6.8 percent), and Weber (6 percent).

### UTAH'S FASTEST GROWING CITIES - JULY 1, 2000 TO JULY 1, 2004

Several cities in Utah are experiencing tremendous growth. Not surprisingly, most of these are located in Salt Lake, Utah, and Washington counties. In actual increases (see Figure 10) three of the four fastest growing cities are in Salt Lake County. When measured by percent growth (see Figure 11) 5 of the 10 fastest growing cities are located in Utah County.<sup>10</sup>

### RAPID POPULATION GROWTH BRINGS BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

Rapid population growth brings significant benefits: it allows business to grow and prosper to meet the demands of

Figure 9

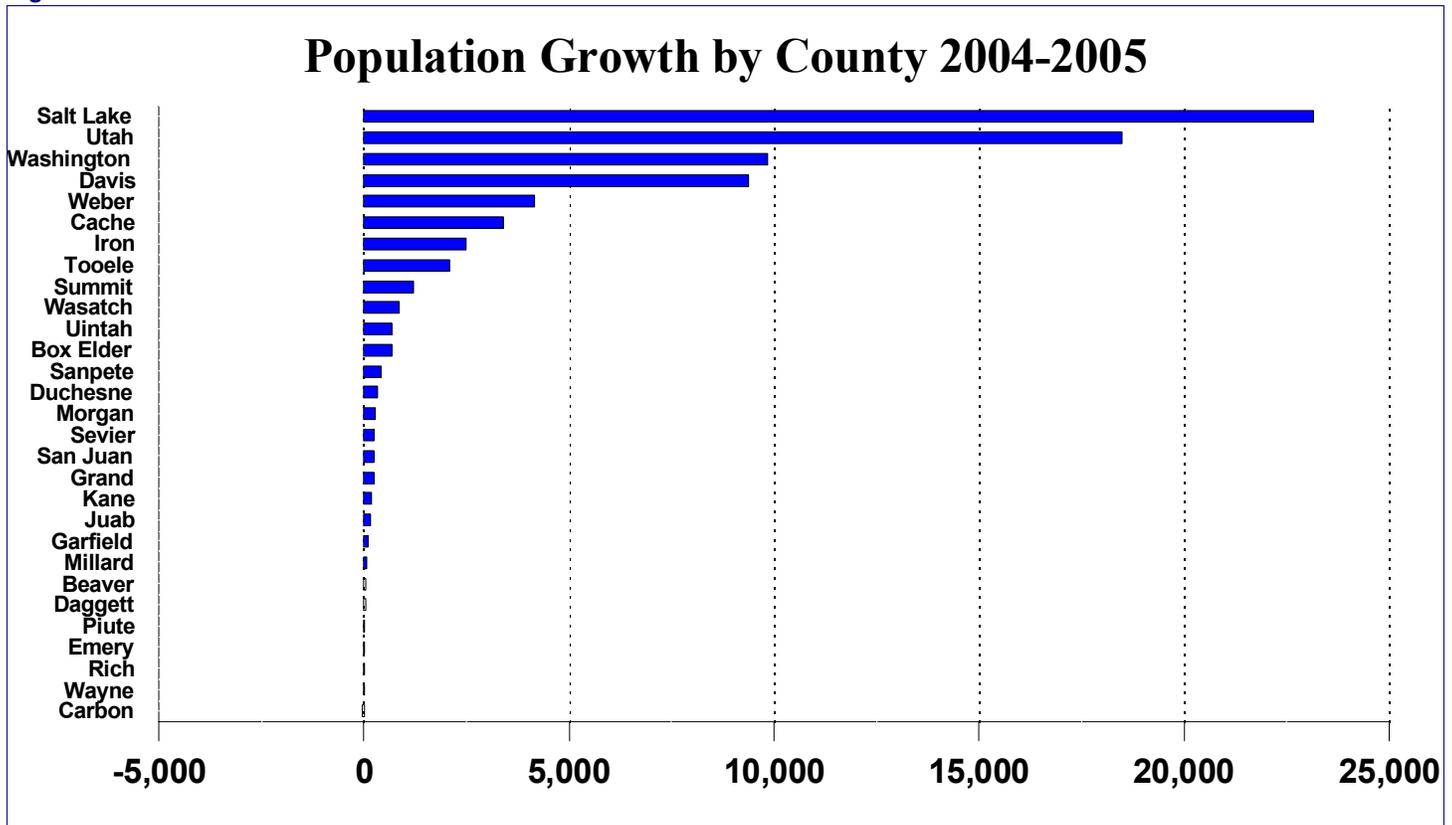


Figure 10

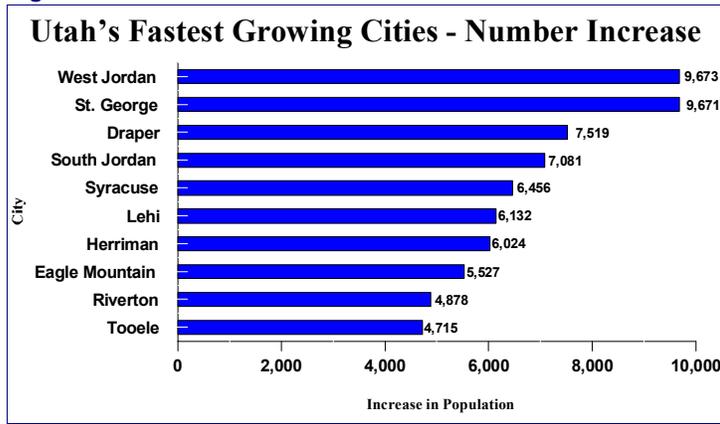
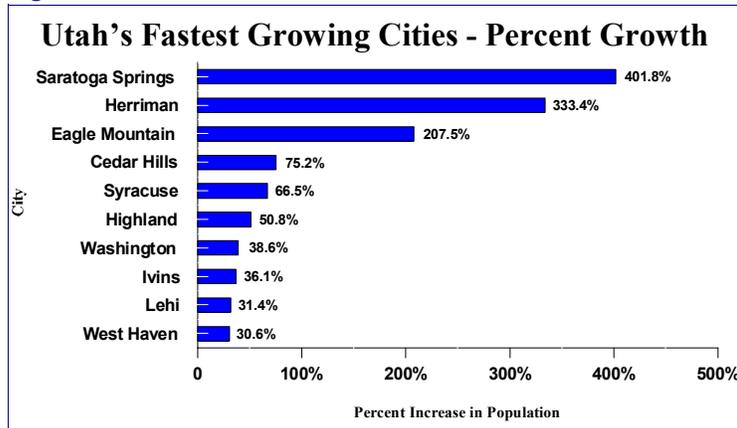


Figure 11



a growing population, it encourages new businesses to develop, and it attracts businesses from outside the state. Utah's rapid population growth will almost assuredly bring a fourth congressional seat after the 2010 census.

Rapid population growth also brings challenges. The Utah Department of Transportation estimates \$22.6 billion in infrastructure needs through 2030. Water development needs are estimated to total \$5.3 billion: \$4.2 billion for drinking water and \$1.1 billion for waste water projects. School-age population is projected to grow by 324,000 between now and 2030, and by over 155,000 (48 percent of total projected increase) in just the next 10 years. A very large share of these new students will be minorities, mainly Hispanics. The Utah System of Higher Education projects significant enrollment increases between now and the 2024-2025 school year, which is the farthest they project. Fall headcount projections show 60,450 more students than are in the state's colleges now, an increase of 40.8 percent. Fall FTE projections show 38,810 more students, an increase of 36 percent.

## SUMMARY

- Utah's population is growing rapidly and is projected to continue to do so.
- The state's increase of 78,159 persons from July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005 was the largest one-year increase in the state's history and tied with 1992 for the highest growth rate since 1961, 3.2 percent.
- Net migration has been surprisingly strong, indicative of a strong economy that attracts out-of-state workers.
- Between July 1, 2004 and July 1, 2005, net migration was larger than the state's natural increase, something that historically has seldom happened.
- Most of Utah's in-migrants are minorities thus significantly changing Utah's demographic make-up.
- Most of the population growth of the state over the last year, 77.7 percent, occurred in just four counties: Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, and Davis.
- These same four counties are projected to account for 70.4 percent of the state's growth over the next 25 years.
- Because of the state's growth, Utah will almost assuredly obtain a fourth congressional seat as a result of the 2010 census.
- Rapid population growth is the sign of a strong economy and creates many opportunities for Utah businesses but also poses infrastructure and education funding challenges for state and local governments.

Table 1

Table 1 Utah Population Estimates, Net Migration, and Natural Increase					
Year	July 1st Population	Percent Change	Increase	Net Migration	Natural Increase
1940	551,800				8,419
1941	551,000	-0.14%	-800	-9,631	8,831
1942	571,200	3.67%	20,200	10,231	9,969
1943	640,000	12.04%	68,800	57,284	11,516
1944	604,700	-5.52%	-35,300	-47,122	11,822
1945	589,100	-2.58%	-15,600	-26,992	11,392
1946	638,000	8.30%	48,900	36,649	12,251
1947	636,000	-0.31%	-2,000	-19,178	17,178
1948	653,000	2.67%	17,000	943	16,057
1949	670,800	2.73%	17,800	2,207	15,593
1950	695,900	3.74%	25,100	8,966	16,134
1951	706,100	1.47%	10,200	-6,842	17,042
1952	723,000	2.39%	16,900	-1,160	18,060
1953	739,100	2.23%	16,100	-2,789	18,889
1954	750,500	1.54%	11,400	-7,069	18,469
1955	782,800	4.30%	32,300	12,784	19,516
1956	808,800	3.32%	26,000	6,348	19,652
1957	826,300	2.16%	17,500	-2,639	20,139
1958	845,200	2.29%	18,900	-955	19,855
1959	869,900	2.92%	24,700	4,959	19,741
1960	900,000	3.46%	30,100	10,047	20,053
1961	936,000	4.00%	36,000	15,371	20,629
1962	958,000	2.35%	22,000	1,817	20,183
1963	974,000	1.67%	16,000	-3,317	19,317
1964	978,000	0.41%	4,000	-13,863	17,863
1965	991,000	1.33%	13,000	-3,553	16,553
1966	1,003,000	1.21%	12,000	2,810	15,190
1967	1,019,000	1.60%	16,000	-6,350	16,350
1968	1,029,000	0.98%	10,000	-6,029	16,029
1969	1,047,000	1.75%	18,000	798	17,202
1970	1,066,000	1.81%	19,000	612	18,388
1971	1,101,150	3.30%	35,150	14,966	20,184
1972	1,135,100	3.08%	33,950	14,046	19,904
1973	1,168,950	2.98%	33,850	13,810	20,040
1974	1,196,950	2.40%	28,000	6,621	21,379
1975	1,233,900	3.09%	36,950	13,897	23,053
1976	1,272,050	3.09%	38,150	11,761	26,389
1977	1,315,950	3.45%	43,900	14,824	29,076
1978	1,363,750	3.63%	47,800	17,220	30,580
1979	1,415,950	3.83%	52,200	19,868	32,332
1980	1,474,000	4.10%	58,050	24,536	33,514
1981	1,515,000	2.78%	41,000	7,612	33,388
1982	1,558,000	2.84%	43,000	9,662	33,338
1983	1,595,000	2.37%	37,000	4,914	32,086
1984	1,622,000	1.69%	27,000	-2,793	29,793
1985	1,643,000	1.29%	21,000	-7,714	28,714
1986	1,663,000	1.22%	20,000	-8,408	28,408
1987	1,678,000	0.90%	15,000	-11,713	26,713
1988	1,690,000	0.72%	12,000	-14,557	26,557
1989	1,706,000	0.95%	16,000	-10,355	26,355
1990	1,729,227	1.36%	23,227	-3,480	26,707
1991	1,780,870	2.99%	51,643	24,878	26,765
1992	1,838,149	3.22%	57,279	30,042	27,237
1993	1,889,393	2.79%	51,244	24,561	26,683
1994	1,946,721	3.03%	57,328	30,116	27,212
1995	1,995,228	2.49%	48,507	20,024	28,483
1996	2,042,893	2.39%	47,665	18,171	29,494
1997	2,099,409	2.77%	56,516	25,253	31,263
1998	2,141,632	2.01%	42,223	9,745	32,478
1999	2,193,014	2.40%	51,382	17,584	33,798
2000	2,246,553	2.44%	53,539	18,612	34,927
2001	2,305,652	2.63%	59,099	23,848	35,251
2002	2,358,330	2.28%	52,678	17,299	35,379
2003	2,413,618	2.34%	55,288	18,568	36,720
2004	2,469,230	2.30%	55,612	18,367	37,245
2005	2,547,389	3.17%	78,159	40,647	37,512

**Table 2**

**Utah Population Projections by County  
2000 - 2030**

County	2000		2005		2010		2020		2030		Increase 2005-30	Percent Total Growth 2005-2030
	Population	Percent of Total State Pop.										
Beaver	6,023	0.3%	6,335	0.3%	7,575	0.3%	11,549	0.3%	13,761	0.3%	7,426	0.5%
Box Elder	42,860	1.9%	45,142	1.8%	49,254	1.7%	61,675	1.8%	73,833	1.8%	28,691	1.8%
Cache	91,897	4.1%	102,477	4.1%	114,304	4.0%	147,776	4.2%	183,989	4.5%	81,512	5.2%
Carbon	20,396	0.9%	19,205	0.8%	19,023	0.7%	20,982	0.6%	23,188	0.6%	3,983	0.3%
Daggett	933	0.0%	967	0.0%	1,024	0.0%	1,141	0.0%	1,209	0.0%	242	0.0%
Davis	240,204	10.7%	276,374	10.9%	304,502	10.7%	352,320	10.1%	382,219	9.4%	105,845	6.8%
Duchesne	14,397	0.6%	15,043	0.6%	15,897	0.6%	19,021	0.5%	21,497	0.5%	6,454	0.4%
Emery	10,782	0.5%	10,492	0.4%	10,346	0.4%	11,359	0.3%	12,536	0.3%	2,044	0.1%
Garfield	4,763	0.2%	4,645	0.2%	4,955	0.2%	5,973	0.2%	6,747	0.2%	2,102	0.1%
Grand	8,537	0.4%	8,691	0.3%	9,039	0.3%	9,751	0.3%	10,129	0.2%	1,438	0.1%
Iron	34,079	1.5%	40,212	1.6%	48,772	1.7%	65,607	1.9%	77,493	1.9%	37,281	2.4%
Juab	8,310	0.4%	8,917	0.4%	10,112	0.4%	12,798	0.4%	14,546	0.4%	5,629	0.4%
Kane	6,037	0.3%	6,093	0.2%	6,618	0.2%	8,359	0.2%	9,783	0.2%	3,690	0.2%
Millard	12,461	0.6%	13,305	0.5%	14,199	0.5%	18,386	0.5%	22,439	0.5%	9,134	0.6%
Morgan	7,181	0.3%	8,525	0.3%	10,183	0.4%	16,200	0.5%	24,595	0.6%	16,070	1.0%
Piute	1,436	0.1%	1,356	0.1%	1,503	0.1%	1,790	0.1%	1,797	0.0%	441	0.0%
Rich	1,955	0.1%	2,086	0.1%	2,147	0.1%	2,447	0.1%	2,636	0.1%	550	0.0%
Salt Lake	902,777	40.2%	970,748	38.4%	1,053,258	37.2%	1,230,817	35.3%	1,381,519	33.8%	410,771	26.4%
San Juan	14,360	0.6%	14,444	0.6%	14,481	0.5%	15,419	0.4%	16,910	0.4%	2,466	0.2%
Sanpete	22,846	1.0%	25,447	1.0%	27,904	1.0%	32,902	0.9%	35,181	0.9%	9,734	0.6%
Sevier	18,938	0.8%	19,494	0.8%	21,038	0.7%	24,855	0.7%	26,892	0.7%	7,398	0.5%
Summit	30,048	1.3%	36,417	1.4%	44,511	1.6%	65,001	1.9%	85,660	2.1%	49,243	3.2%
Tooele	41,549	1.8%	51,835	2.0%	67,150	2.4%	95,696	2.7%	112,722	2.8%	60,887	3.9%
Uintah	25,297	1.1%	26,317	1.0%	27,071	1.0%	29,289	0.8%	30,641	0.7%	4,324	0.3%
Utah	371,894	16.6%	453,977	18.0%	527,502	18.6%	661,319	19.0%	804,112	19.7%	350,135	22.5%
Wasatch	15,433	0.7%	20,138	0.8%	25,516	0.9%	37,082	1.1%	46,193	1.1%	26,055	1.7%
Washington	91,104	4.1%	125,010	4.9%	162,544	5.7%	251,896	7.2%	353,922	8.7%	228,912	14.7%
Wayne	2,515	0.1%	2,527	0.1%	2,764	0.1%	3,469	0.1%	3,943	0.1%	1,416	0.1%
Weber	197,541	8.8%	212,707	8.4%	230,145	8.1%	271,339	7.8%	306,227	7.5%	93,520	6.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,246,553</b>		<b>2,528,926</b>		<b>2,833,337</b>		<b>3,486,218</b>		<b>4,086,319</b>		<b>1,557,393</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**NOTES**

- Utah Population Estimates Committee, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, News Release, November 15, 2005.
- 2005 Economic Report to the Governor, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, p. 35. See also News Release, November 15, 2005.
- Department of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information, ([www.jobs.utah.gov.openccms/wi](http://www.jobs.utah.gov.openccms/wi)).
- 2004 Economic Report to the Governor, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Figure 75, p. 170.
- 2004 Economic Report to the Governor, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Figure 76, p. 170.
- "Utah's School-Age Population Boom: Causes and Consequences," Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Utah, Dr. Pam Perlich, p. 16.
- 2005 Economic Report to the Governor, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Figure 21, p. 33.
- "Population and Components of Change, By County and Multi-County District," Utah Population Estimates Committee, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget.
- Id.*
- Id.*