

Workforce News



A publication of the Department of Workforce Services

Wasatch Front South: Salt Lake, Tooele jobs.utah.gov



Tightness in the Job Market

In Salt Lake and Tooele counties, the economy, with strong job growth and low unemployment, is expanding at a healthy pace across all major industrial sectors. The labor market has changed from the situation earlier in the decade of too many workers seeking too few jobs (an employer-favorable market), to a tight market in which employers say that there are not enough available workers with the skills they need to fully staff their enterprises.

When an area's unemployment rate drops below 4 percent for a sustained period of time, as it has along the Wasatch Front, employers find it increasingly necessary to compete for workers. Businesses often must increase their training programs in order to upgrade the skill levels of the workers available for hire. Ultimately, when demand for labor exceeds supply, its price—that is, wages—will increase. Sustained shortages inevitably increase prices.

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- ✦ What's Up?



Contact the author, your regional economist, with any questions on content:

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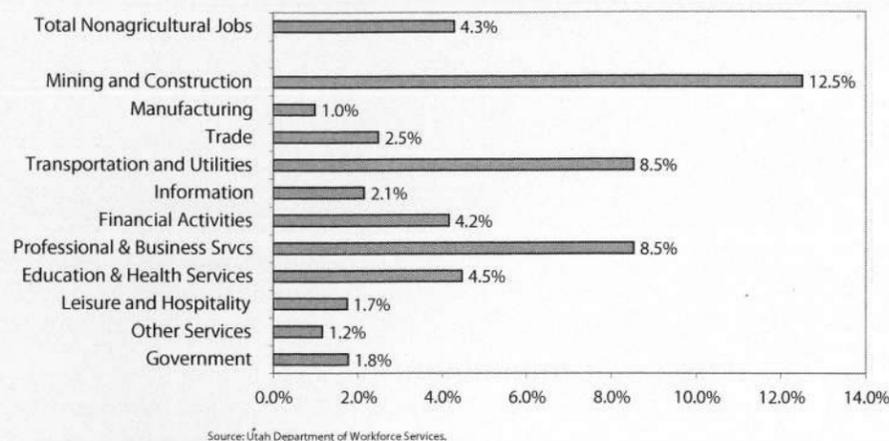
Tightness in the Job Market

(continued)

When job opportunities are relatively plentiful and unemployment is low, economists will characterize the labor market as having reached full employment. To the person on the street the question arises, how can any level of unemployment be considered full employment?

In a dynamic, expanding, free market economy there are two types of unemployment that are considered natural in that they will always and necessarily exist. First, there is unemployment due to normal turnover of people moving in and out of the labor market as a result of educational, lifestyle, or occupational choices. Students graduate and become new entrants to the labor force. People reduce or leave employment to have children or to attend to the health needs of a family member. People change their career direction in pursuit of a more fulfilling or lucrative

Non-Farm Job Growth in Wasatch Front South: 4th Quarter 2004 to 4th Quarter 2005



occupation. In the best economy, there are many workers who are temporarily between jobs. Economists refer to this as frictional unemployment.

Second, there is structural unemployment. The changing structure of industries by technology, automation, consumer tastes, or other similar reasons, results in jobs being lost in some areas or occupations.

There are also industries with pronounced seasonal work, such as construction, retail trade, and recreation, with substantially higher and lower demands at different times during the year.

Regardless of how you define full employment, this is a strong job market for workers.



Check it Out

Subscribe to get email updates on the economic data you need.

It's easy. Simply log on to <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi>, scroll to the bottom and click on "sign up" to select updates you want to receive.

Find your county's economic information at:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/counties>

Industry Focus

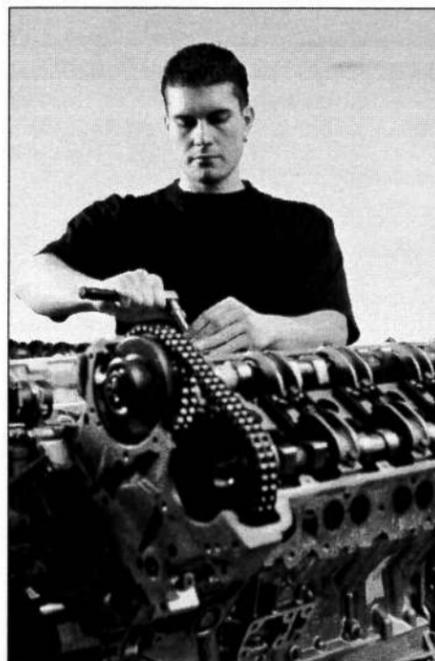
MotorFest Event Targets Auto Industry Jobs

The Automotive Industry is one of the largest industries in the United States. It creates 6.6 million direct and spin-off jobs and produces \$243 billion in payroll compensation.

Nationally, the projections for 2004-2014 for automotive service technicians are estimated to change by 15.7% and for diesel technicians 14.4%, which means 126,000 new jobs.

In Utah, the projections for automotive service technicians are up 37%, which means 5000 new jobs annually and for diesel technicians 37%, which means 3500 new jobs annually. (average each year 2004-2014)

To help educate students and the community about the need for skilled technicians, the **MotorFest Event** was created.



The objective of MotorFest is to provide students in the Salt Lake/Tooele Valley with hands-on exposure to the diverse and exciting careers the Automotive/Diesel industry offers. The event will feature professional demonstrations, hands-on student involvement, interactive exhibits and required training information in some of the most in-demand occupations.

MotorFest is slated to take place on **September 27th and 28th, 2006** at the Larry H. Miller Campus of Salt Lake Community College. It is expected that 2000 students will attend.

To learn more, become a sponsor, exhibitor or volunteer please contact Melisa Stark at 801-776-7240 or mstark@utah.gov.

Did you know?

Did you know that you can find economic data for your county or any other Utah county? Use the Utah Economic Data Viewer jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoCounties.do

Online Services

Employer Online Recruitment Services

jobs.utah.gov

WHAT:

Learn how to post your positions online, search for qualified applicants and make changes to your posting 24 hours a day.

WHEN:

Training for July, August and September, 2006
 July 12, 2006 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 July 13, 2006 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Aug. 16, 2006 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 Aug. 17, 2006 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Sept. 20, 2006 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 Sept. 21, 2006 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

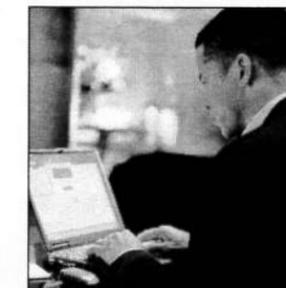
Call (801) 468-0097 to schedule a training date.

WHERE:

Department of Workforce Services
 1385 S. State Street
 Salt Lake City, Utah

It's easy, convenient and available 24/7.

You'll wonder why you haven't been recruiting online with us. We'll show you how easy it is.



More information available online!

<http://jobs.utah.gov/employer/business/workshops.asp>

Central Region Business Services News

jobs.utah.gov

DWS Contacts

Business Consultants:

Salt Lake City:

Downtown Employment Center
Melissa Steinaker (801) 524-9272

Metro Employment Center
Amber Adams (801) 536-7173

Midvale:

Midvale Employment Center
Connie Carter (801) 567-3940

Taylorsville:

South County Employment Center
Lauren Royle (801) 269-4762

West Valley City:

West Valley Employment Center
Carmen Bowles (801) 840-4437

On-the-Job Training:

Katherine Haymond (801) 468-0038

Unpaid Internships:

Karen Gardner (801) 468-0109

Resources

Business Services Center: 801-468-0097

Child Care Resource & Referral: 801-355-4847

Labor Market Info: 801-526-9340

New Hire Reporting: 801-526-4361

Pre-Layoff Assistance: 801-526-4312

UI Benefit/Tax Info.: 800-222-2857

DOL Wage/Hour Div.: 801-524-5706

Utah Labor Commission: 801-530-6801

Workforce Council: 801-468-0095

Employer Tax Credit: 801-526-9480

Upcoming Events / Seminars

For information about upcoming DWS seminars and workshops:
<http://jobs.utah.gov/employer/business/workshops.asp>

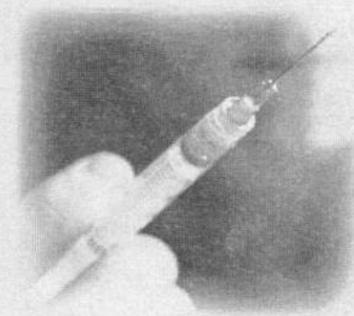
Better Your Business Workshop (free)**Drug/Assessment Testing**, presented by

Dr. Paul D. Traynor

Support a drug-free workplace – learn what drug testing to ask for and how your company can save time and money in the drug screening process.

Wednesday, June 21, 7:30 a.m.

DWS Central Region Business Services Center
1385 S State Street, Room #157, SLC UT
R.S.V.P. with Sylvia Farrand at (801) 468-0239

**Salt Lake & Tooele Employer Committee Seminar****Motivating Your Employees**, presented by Lori Chandler Thurston

With a full-employment economy and employers facing the lowest number of available workers in decades, come discover effective techniques for motivating your employees.

Wednesday, July 19, 11:00 a.m.

Little America Hotel Ballroom
500 S Main Street, SLC UT
\$32.00 per participant (includes luncheon)

Must prepay. Make check payable to:

DWS, SLTEC, c/o Sylvia Farrand
1385 S. State, SLC, UT 84115

Or to charge by phone using VISA or MasterCard only,
Call: (801) 468-0239 or (801) 468-0097

Better Your Business Workshop (free)**27 Ways to Avoid Losing a UI Appeal**, presented by Mike Medley

Learn what preventive measures an employer can take to avoid charges incurred by unemployment insurance claims.

Wednesday, August 16, 7:30 a.m.

DWS Central Region Business Services Center
1385 S State Street, Room #157, SLC UT
R.S.V.P. with Sylvia Farrand at (801) 468-0239

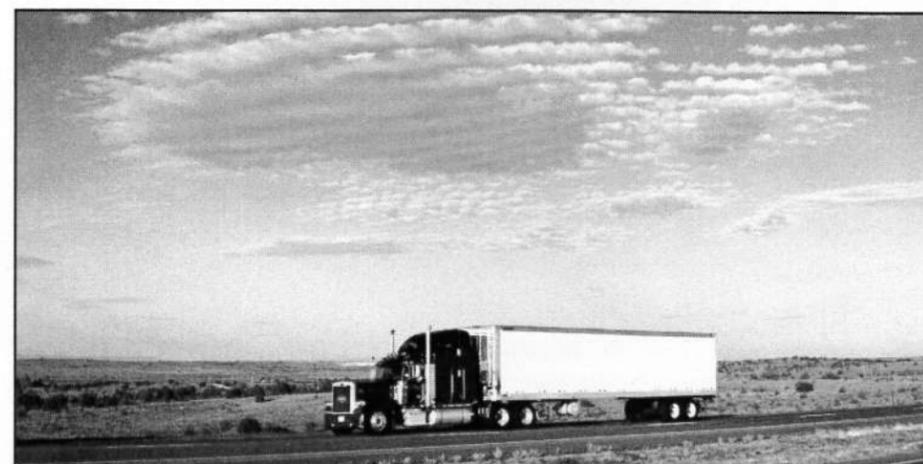
County News

Now that many of the statistical measures of economic activity for 2005 have been tallied, a clear picture of vitality has been documented. Economic conditions in Salt Lake County ended the year on a particularly positive note. Job growth in the fourth quarter of 2005 was up by 4.1 percent compared to the previous year, with a net gain of 22,280 payroll jobs since the fourth quarter of 2004.

Employment gains were broad-based, occurring among all major industrial sectors. The strongest job growth occurred in professional and business services, increasing by 7,240 or a year-over growth of 8.6 percent. While interest rates have increased slightly from their record low rates, construction jobs increased at a robust rate of 11.5 percent, with 3,700 more workers. Other industries with a significant number of new jobs in the fourth quarter of 2005 compared to the previous year were: trade (2,180), healthcare (1,900), and financial activities (1,825).

Other important indicators of Salt Lake County economic vitality include \$4.9 billion in taxable sales, increasing by 11.3 percent in the fourth quarter compared to a year ago, and \$570 million in permit-authorized construction, increasing by 39.3 percent compared to fourth quarter 2004.

Tooele County: The big labor market story for Tooele County in 2005 was the nearly 1,000 job increase in transportation and warehousing. The Wal-Mart distribution center in Grantsville, with announced hiring in excess of 700 positions, has been the major contributor to the total Tooele County employment gain of 1,720 jobs at the end of 2005 compared to 2004. There were also notable employment gains in accommodation and food services (183) and in construction (172).



What's Up?

✦ The Miller Motorsports Park is ready to open this summer. This is a world-class, \$80-million dollar, 4.5-mile racetrack developed by Larry Miller in Tooele County.

✦ In the first quarter of 2006, the median price of a single-family house in Salt Lake County rose to \$200,747, up 16.7 percent from \$172,000 in the first quarter of 2005, according to the Wasatch Front Regional Multiple Listing Service.

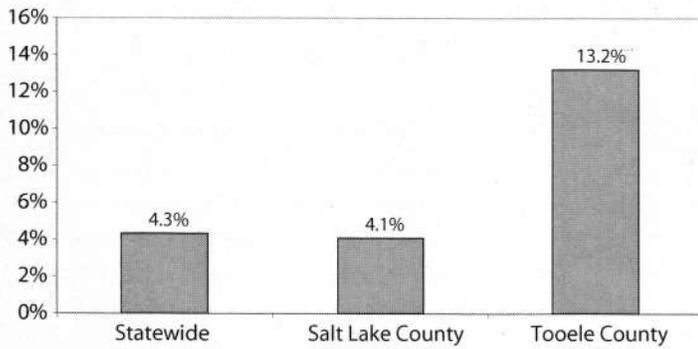
✦ The South Towne Center mall, 10450 S. State, announced plans to build a 100,000-square-foot lifestyle center onto its west side, creating the state's first hybrid, indoor/outdoor shopping mall. The Village at South Towne Center, which will be connected to the mall between Dillard's and Meier & Frank (soon-to-be Macy's), will include about 20 retailers and restaurants positioned around a central outdoor plaza.
–Deseret Morning News

✦ IKEA, the Sweden-based home furnishing retailer broke ground on what will be its first store in Utah, located in Draper to the north and west of I-15 and Bangerter Highway. When complete, the 310,000-square-foot store will employ 300 to 400 workers, house 10,000 items and include 50 room settings, three complete home displays, a restaurant and bistro.
–Deseret Morning News

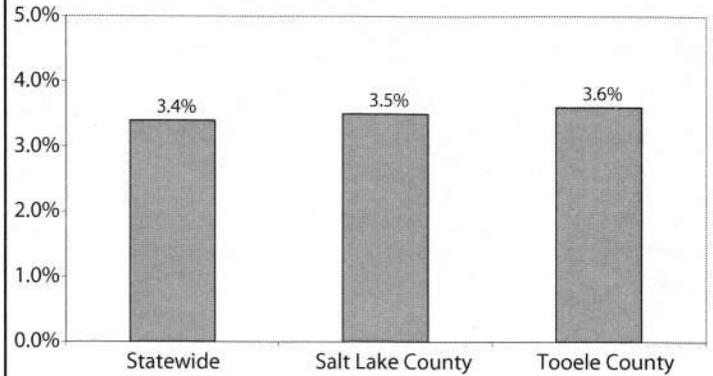
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jobs.utah.gov

Nonfarm Job Growth:
December 2004 to December 2005



March 2006 Unemployment Rate
(seasonally adjusted)



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

03-51WS-0606