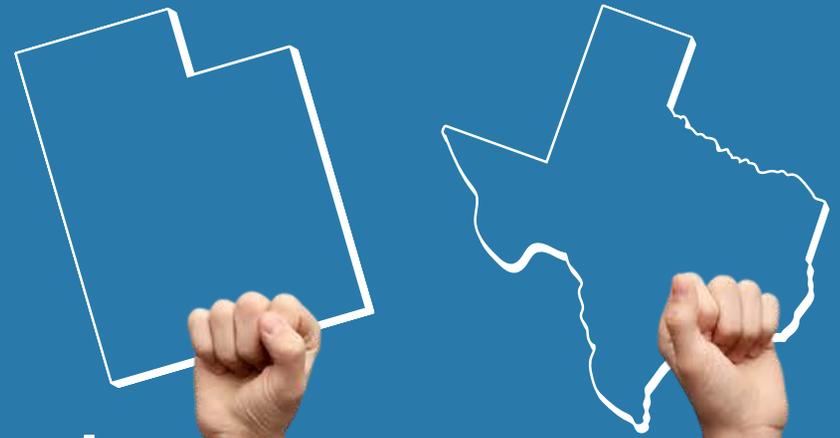


# Working Families Benchmarking Report Utah vs Texas



September 2022

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*Voices for Utah Children is the Utah affiliate of the State Priorities Partnership, a 42-state consortium of independent nonprofit research and policy organizations that use evidence and analysis to advance public policies and investments that reduce poverty and give all people the opportunity to achieve the American Dream.*

# ABOUT THIS PROJECT

The goal of the Working Families Benchmarking Project is to identify economic and quality-of-life issues affecting Utah families and examine them through a comparative lens, evaluating Utah using a peer state as a benchmark.

Many existing economic comparison studies and rankings look at the economy as a whole or at specific sectors or at how the economy is experienced by employers.

This project seeks to augment those comparisons by focusing on how the economy is experienced by moderate- and lower-income families. It is these families whose children are most at risk of not achieving their potential in school and later in the workplace. Thus, how they experience the economy is of particular interest to Voices for Utah Children.

Colorado was chosen for the inaugural edition in 2016, then Minnesota in 2017, Idaho in 2018, and Arizona in 2021. For this 5th edition in 2022, we are comparing Utah to the largest state in the south-central region of the U.S., Texas.

Texas is often lauded for its rapidly growing economy and cited as an economic development model for Utah to emulate. How well does that hold true from the perspective of moderate- and lower-income families?

We hope that this benchmarking project contributes in a constructive way to the broader economic policy conversation among experts, policymakers, and the general public.



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# SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

| PART 1: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY                                                                                                         |                             |                                    |                     |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| ("winner" highlighted and bolded)                                                                                                    | UTAH                        |                                    | TEXAS               |                        |
| <b>Business Climate Metrics</b>                                                                                                      |                             |                                    |                     |                        |
| Business climate average rank 2019-2020                                                                                              | 9th                         |                                    | <b>3rd</b>          |                        |
| Kauffman Index of entrepreneurship activity and rank 2020                                                                            | -1.4                        | 35th                               | <b>2.1</b>          | <b>11th</b>            |
| <b>Productivity &amp; GDP</b>                                                                                                        |                             |                                    |                     |                        |
| Real GDP per worker 2020 (US = \$96,368)                                                                                             | \$82,401                    | 37th                               | <b>\$101,076</b>    | <b>9th</b>             |
| Change in real GDP 2007-2021 (US = 24.3%)                                                                                            | <b>47.7%</b>                |                                    | 42.4%               |                        |
| Change in Real GDP per capita 2007-2021 (US = \$6,668, 12.9%)                                                                        | \$7,118 (14.9%)             |                                    | \$8,052 (14.9%)     |                        |
| <b>Employment</b>                                                                                                                    |                             |                                    |                     |                        |
| Unemployment rate 2021 (US = 5.3%)                                                                                                   | <b>2.7%</b>                 |                                    | 5.7%                |                        |
| Labor force participation rate, ages 16+, 2021 (US: all = 61.7%, men = 67.6%, female = 56.1%)                                        | <b>All: 67.9%</b>           | <b>M: 74.6%</b><br><b>F: 61.5%</b> | All: 63.3%          | M: 71.2%<br>F: 55.3%   |
| Percentage point change in the labor force participation rate for age 16+ 2007-2021 (US = -4.3%)                                     | -5.0%                       |                                    | <b>-2.5%</b>        |                        |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                     |                             |                                    |                     |                        |
| Public K-12 spending per pupil & rank 2020 (US = \$13,494)                                                                           | \$8,366                     | 49th                               | <b>\$10,342</b>     | <b>39th</b>            |
| K-12 education funding distribution fairness rank 2019                                                                               | <b>1st</b>                  |                                    | 34th                |                        |
| Percentage & rank of 3- and 4-year-olds below 200% of poverty level not enrolled in school 2015-2019 (US = 59%)                      | <b>62%</b>                  | <b>25th</b>                        | 63%                 | 29th                   |
| Percentage in full-day kindergarten 2018-2020 (US = 81%)                                                                             | 32%                         |                                    | <b>83%</b>          |                        |
| NAEP average rank of 4th and 8th grade math and reading scores 2015-2019                                                             | <b>11th</b>                 |                                    | 29th                |                        |
| High school graduation rates by race/ethnicity SY 2018-19 (US: White = 89.4%, Hispanic = 81.7%, Native Amer. = 74.3%, Black = 79.6%) | White: 93.7%                | Hispanic: 79.5%                    | <b>White: 93.7%</b> | <b>Hispanic: 88.2%</b> |
|                                                                                                                                      | Native: 79%                 | Black: 75%                         | <b>Native: 87%</b>  | <b>Black: 86.2%</b>    |
| Average higher education state spending per full-time student & rank 2020 (US avg = \$7,566)                                         | <b>\$8,415</b>              | <b>17th</b>                        | \$5,583             | 41st                   |
| Percentage with Bachelor's degree or higher, ages 25-64, 2019 (US: all = 34.6%, men = 32.0%, women = 37.1%)                          | <b>All: 35.4%</b>           | <b>M: 36.2%</b><br><b>F: 34.6%</b> | All: 31.6%          | M: 29.8%<br>F: 33.5%   |
| Percentage with Bachelor's degree or higher of Millennials (ages 25-34), 2019 (US: all = 36.9%, men = 32.9%, women = 41.1%)          | <b>All: 35.0%</b>           | <b>M: 33.1%</b><br><b>F: 36.9%</b> | All: 32.8%          | M: 29.5%<br>F: 36.2%   |
| <b>Income and Gender Equity + Mobility</b>                                                                                           |                             |                                    |                     |                        |
| Gini Index of income inequality state rank 2019 (1 most equitable)                                                                   | <b>1st</b>                  |                                    | 38th                |                        |
| Intergenerational mobility rank of U.S. 50 largest metros                                                                            | <b>1st (Salt Lake City)</b> |                                    | 15th (Houston)      |                        |
|                                                                                                                                      |                             |                                    | 18th (Fort Worth)   |                        |
|                                                                                                                                      |                             |                                    | 24th (San Antonio)  |                        |
|                                                                                                                                      |                             |                                    | 26th (Austin)       |                        |
|                                                                                                                                      |                             |                                    | 27th (Dallas)       |                        |
| Gender wage ratio of women's to men's earnings & rank 2019 (US = 82%)                                                                | 70%                         | 49th                               | <b>80%</b>          | <b>30th</b>            |

| PART 2: STANDARD OF LIVING                                                                                  |                                |             |                     |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| ("winner" highlighted and bolded)                                                                           | UTAH                           |             | TEXAS               |             |
| <b>Income and Wages</b>                                                                                     |                                |             |                     |             |
| Median household income & rank 2019 (US = \$65,712)                                                         | <b>\$75,780</b>                | <b>11th</b> | \$64,034            | 22nd        |
| Median hourly wage & rank 2021 (US = \$21.35)                                                               | \$19.98                        | 31st        | <b>\$20.01</b>      | <b>29th</b> |
| Median hourly wage adjusted for cost-of-living & rank 2020 (US = \$20.92)                                   | <b>\$20.87</b>                 | <b>31st</b> | \$20.07             | 42nd        |
| Minimum wage 2021 (US = \$7.25)                                                                             | \$7.25                         |             | \$7.25              |             |
| 10th percentile hourly wage & rank 2021 (US = \$11.70)                                                      | <b>\$10.98</b>                 | <b>33rd</b> | \$10.12             | 44th        |
| % of workers earning below poverty wage 2018 (US = 22.5%)                                                   | <b>22.1%</b>                   |             | 26.5%               |             |
| <b>Poverty</b>                                                                                              |                                |             |                     |             |
| Poverty rates 2019 (US: all = 12.5%, child = 16.8%)                                                         | <b>All: 8.9%</b>               |             | All: 13.6%          |             |
|                                                                                                             | <b>Child: 9.9%</b>             |             | Child: 19.2%        |             |
| Latino poverty rates 2019 (US: all = 17.2%, child = 23%)                                                    | <b>All: 16%</b>                |             | All: 19%            |             |
|                                                                                                             | <b>Child: 22%</b>              |             | Child: 26%          |             |
| Share & rank of children in single-parent households 2019 (US: all = 34%, Hispanic = 42%) (1 is the lowest) | <b>All: 19%</b>                | <b>1st</b>  | All: 35%            | 27th        |
|                                                                                                             | <b>Hispanic: 35%</b>           | <b>1st</b>  | Hispanic: 40%       | 13th        |
| Child food insecurity rate & rank 2019 (US = 15.2%)                                                         | <b>12.1%</b>                   | <b>4th</b>  | 21.6%               | 44th        |
| Child homelessness rate SY 2018-2019 (US = 2.5%)                                                            | <b>2.0%</b>                    |             | 2.1%                |             |
| <b>Cost of Living</b>                                                                                       |                                |             |                     |             |
| BEA Cost of Living Price Index 2020 (US = 100)                                                              | <b>95.3</b>                    |             | 99.5                |             |
| Household renting cost burden rank 2019 (1 is lowest)                                                       | <b>12th</b>                    |             | 33rd                |             |
| State + local own-source public revenue as % of personal income & rank 2019 (1 is highest) (US = 15.1%)     | <b>17.9%</b>                   | <b>10th</b> | 13.7%               | 40th        |
| <b>Quality of Life Metrics</b>                                                                              |                                |             |                     |             |
| Commute time to work in minutes 2019 (US = 27.6)                                                            | <b>22.5</b>                    |             | 27.2                |             |
| Homeownership rate & rank 2019 (US = 64.6%)                                                                 | <b>71.9%</b>                   | <b>8th</b>  | 62.4%               | 43rd        |
| Kids Count overall ranking 2022                                                                             | <b>4th</b>                     |             | 45th                |             |
| <b>Health</b>                                                                                               |                                |             |                     |             |
| State health system performance rank (Commonwealth Fund rank 2020/US News rank 2019)                        | <b>9th/12th</b>                |             | 42nd/18th           |             |
| Percentage without health insurance & rank 2019 (US: all = 9.2%, child = 5.7%)                              | <b>All: 9.7%</b>               | <b>33rd</b> | All: 18.4%          | 50th        |
|                                                                                                             | <b>Child: 8.3%</b>             | <b>45th</b> | Child: 12.7%        | 50th        |
| Percentage of Hispanic/Latino without health insurance & rank 2019 (US: all = 18.7%, child = 9%)            | <b>All: 23.4%</b>              | <b>37th</b> | All: 28.6%          | 45th        |
|                                                                                                             | Child: 17%                     | 43rd        | Child: 17%          | 43rd        |
| Most polluted metropolitan areas by PM2.5 & rank 2017-2019                                                  | 17th Salt Lake City-Provo-Orem |             | <b>45th Houston</b> |             |
| <b>Civic Engagement</b>                                                                                     |                                |             |                     |             |
| Percentage of eligible adults that voted in 2020 general election & rank (US = 67%)                         | <b>69%</b>                     | <b>22nd</b> | 60%                 | 44th        |
| Volunteerism rank 2018 (CNCS)                                                                               | <b>1st</b>                     |             | 37th                |             |

# KEY FINDINGS: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

*The dynamism, flexibility, and competitiveness of a state's economy are major contributors to economic opportunity; thus, we look at this topic through a wide range of metrics from business climate and entrepreneurship rankings to educational attainment and racial/ethnic gaps. Texas and Utah perform similarly in some areas, such as GDP growth, but there are several distinct areas where each stands out:*

## UTAH ADVANTAGE

- Utah outperforms Texas for our labor force participation rate and our low unemployment rate (see page 13).
- In education, while both states are in the bottom 10 for investment, Utah claims much better 4th and 8th grade math and reading scores. At the university level, Utah invests more and enjoys stronger educational attainment levels (though our younger generation has lost the lead over the nation enjoyed by our older generations.) (See page 17.)
- Utah ranks 1st in the nation for our low level of income inequality, while Texas ranks 38th. We also stand out for intergenerational mobility and rank #1 for education funding fairness while Texas ranks 34th (see page 21).



## TEXAS ADVANTAGE

- Though both are in the top 10 nationally, Texas ranks ahead of Utah for business climate and boasts dozens of Fortune 500 corporate headquarters, behind only New York and California. Texas also ranks higher for entrepreneurship (11th place), while Utah has fallen sharply in recent years, from 17th in 2018 to 35th in 2020 (see page 10).
- Texas also wins for real GDP per worker, ranking in the top 10 nationally. This can likely be attributed to the prominent role of the energy sector in the Texas economy (see page 12).
- In terms of education, both Utah and Texas are far below the national average for per-pupil K-12 funding. Texas leads Utah in early childhood education for pre-k and full-day kindergarten participation. Texas also claims some of the highest high school graduation rates in the nation, though some experts have raised questions about whether Texas is gaming the system in how it reports these numbers (see page 16 & 17).[1]
- Texas has a much smaller gender wage gap than Utah, which ranks as one of the worst states for gender equality (see page 22).

[1] See for example <https://www.idra.org/resource-center/texas-high-schools-reach-all-time-low-attrition-rate-but-still-lose-80000-students> <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2015/08/29/critics-scrutinize-texas-unusual-high-school-dropout-rates> and <http://dx.doi.org/10.14507/epaa.27.4222> and <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2019/01/05/the-rise-in-american-high-school-graduation-rates-looks-puffed-up>

# KEY FINDINGS: STANDARD OF LIVING

*Ultimately, it is by our standard of living that we judge the success of our economy. We measure the standard of living for moderate- and lower-income families by looking at measures such as wages, poverty, housing affordability, and health status. While Utah and Texas are tied in terms of minimum wages and median hourly wages, Utah comes out ahead by nearly every other metric we examined:*

## UTAH ADVANTAGE

- Utah is the clear winner of most standard of living measures. Utah enjoys much lower rates of poverty and uninsured children (though both states rank at the bottom for insuring Hispanic/Latino children) (see page 25).
- The most recent Kids Count overall ranking has Utah 4th and Texas 45th (see page 29).
- Utah also has shorter commutes, higher homeownership rates, and more volunteerism and voter participation (see page 33).

## TEXAS ADVANTAGE

- Texas has better rankings than Utah in mental health and immunized kids (see page 30).
- Texas also has higher CHIP and Medicaid participation rates among the eligible population, though Texas' income eligibility limits for Medicaid are the most restrictive in the nation (and Texas has failed to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act) (see page 32).



# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

*Looking at how Utah and Texas compare in terms of how the economy is experienced by lower- and moderate-income Utahns, it seems clear that Texas has more to learn from Utah than vice versa.*

*While the Economic Opportunity benchmarks come out nearly even, with Utah ahead in 11 and Texas ahead in eight, in the Standard of Living category Utah predominates in 20 categories and Texas in just two.*

## POVERTY & INEQUALITY

Utah's advantages stem primarily from our lower poverty rates, which result mostly from our high share of two-parent, two-income families and high labor force participation rate. It is noteworthy that Utah achieves these advantages without the benefit of high hourly wages; Utah and Texas are both far below the national average for median (50th percentile) and 10th percentile hourly wages, likely due to the fact that both are among the 20 states that never raised their minimum wages above the 2009 federal minimum of just \$7.25 (now at its lowest level since 1956 [2]), and both states are among the 27 that discourage union membership through "right-to-work" laws.

[2] Economic Policy Institute (EPI): <https://www.epi.org/blog/the-value-of-the-federal-minimum-wage-is-at-its-lowest-point-in-66-years/>

[3] "Mapping Inequality," American Panorama, Robert K. Nelson and Edward L. Ayers, accessed December 21, 2021, <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=9/41.107/-111.904>.

## RACIAL & ETHNIC GAPS

Racial and ethnic gaps remain a major challenge in the nation overall, and Utah and Texas are no exception. They are evident in almost every outcome where race and ethnicity are disaggregated, such as high school graduation rates, wages, gender pay gaps, poverty rates, and uninsured rates.

Other than health insurance rates, the gap between the White non-Hispanic and the Hispanic/Latino group is consistently larger in Texas. For the Native American and Black groups, the gap between them and non-Hispanic Whites is consistently larger in Utah.

It is important to note that these gaps were caused by social, economic, and political structures and policies that have perpetuated racial inequality.

*Examples of this in Utah include the following:*

- Redlining barred people of color from homeownership and thus the accumulation of intergenerational wealth and economic security, and its effects are still with us today.[3]
- Placement of Native American children in cultural assimilation programs wreaked havoc in Native communities and caused multi-generational harm still felt within those communities.
- Immigration policies that leave about one-fifth of Utah's Latino/Hispanic community members with undocumented status places them in a vulnerable position and reduces their economic mobility.

Such policies have had very serious consequences for people of color, especially children of color. Moreover, as in the rest of the nation, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these hardships. The US Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey revealed households of color with children experienced higher levels of hunger and job insecurity throughout the pandemic.

Addressing these gaps through investments in early childhood and K-12 education, specifically where there is a high concentration of children of color (which includes many communities along the Wasatch Front, including Ogden, Salt Lake City, South Salt Lake, West Valley City, Midvale, and Provo) would likely increase educational attainment, wages, and standard of living overall and would therefore contribute to reducing racial and ethnic gaps in the future.

## THE ROLE OF EDUCATION

The link between education and income is well-established. States with higher education levels generally have higher levels of worker productivity, wages, and incomes.

In the current comparison with Texas, Utah's boasts a higher share of people with college degrees and also higher hourly wages and household incomes. While it is true that Texas claims some of the highest high school graduation rates in the nation, much higher than Utah's, some experts have raised questions about the accuracy of the Texas high school graduation rate data, amid reports that Texas has been gaming the system. [4]

These concerns are further reinforced by data such as the Kids Count Data Center's metric "Teens ages 16 to 19 not in school and not high school graduates in Texas," which shows Texas ranked at the national median rather than with the top 15 states (which include Utah). [5]

The most recent data from the Census Bureau [6] (from the 2019-2020 school year) show that, for the last two years now, Utah has defeated Idaho in the fight for 49th place in per-pupil education investment.

It is also fair to say that Utah has done well for its meager investment levels, achieving impressive gains in educational performance as measured by NAEP 4th and 8th grade math and reading scores. But will we be able to continue to advance without addressing the underfunding in our public education system?

While Utah "does more with less" in education compared to other states, we have growing challenges to address. Utah has racial/ethnic education gaps which are larger than the national average, such as for Hispanic and Black high school graduation rates.

Utah's pupil-to-teacher ratio is 22.6, ranking 48th, while the national average is 15.9. Moreover, Utah teacher pay has also fallen by 1.8% over the past 50 years, while nationally teacher salaries have increased 6.7%.

Voices for Utah Children has demonstrated elsewhere that Utah's education funding effort has fallen from top 10 in the nation in the 1990s to the bottom 10 states today. [7]

[4] See for example <https://www.idra.org/resource-center/texas-high-schools-reach-all-time-low-attrition-rate-but-still-lose-80000-students/>, <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2015/08/29/critics-scrutinize-texas-unusual-high-school-dropout-rates> and <http://dx.doi.org/10.14507/epaa.27.4222> and <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2019/01/05/the-rise-in-american-high-school-graduation-rates-looks-puffed-up>.

[5] Kids Count Data Center: <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/73-teens-ages-16-to-19-not-in-school-and-not-high-school-graduates?loc=45&loct=2#ranking/2/any/true/1729/any/381>.

[6] Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances.html>

At the college level, Utah historically was always ahead of the national average for attainment of bachelor's degrees and above. But Census data show Utah's lead shrinking relative to the nation with each successive generation, to the point now that Utah millennials (ages 25-34) have fallen behind their peers nationally, despite relatively generous state support and low tuition levels.

Utah would be better able to address these challenges if we were willing to restore our education funding effort closer to that made by earlier generations of Utahns.

In addition, for young adults who do not seek to complete a college degree, there are two policies that have proven their value for achieving higher wages:

- 1) Supporting apprenticeships and other training programs for skilled building and construction trades, including home building, electrical work, plumbing, and highway work.
- 2) Ensuring that state contracts for infrastructure pay the prevailing local wage so that our tax dollars are not creating incentives for contractors to bring in workers from lower-wage states and otherwise fueling a "race to the bottom" among contractors seeking to undercut each other with lower wages and worse benefits.

## TAX STRUCTURES: MIRROR IMAGES

Another important area where Utah holds a big advantage over Texas is in tax policies.

Texas applies one of the highest tax rates in the nation (6th highest) to households with the lowest incomes and applies one of the lowest tax rates (9th lowest) to households with the highest income.

In Texas, the lowest-income 20% and the middle 60% of the income distribution pay 4.3 and 3.1 times the tax rate paid by the top 1%.

By contrast, in Utah the lowest-income 20% and middle 60% pay 1.1 and 1.3 times as much as the top 1%, which is still regressive, but not nearly as regressive as Texas. This is because Texas has no personal or corporate income tax to offset the regressivity of their major revenue sources: sales, excise, and property taxes.

As a result, Texas is one of the highest-tax states in the nation for lower-income residents and one of the lowest-tax states for the wealthy. For our part, Utah made progress this year in reducing slightly the regressivity of our tax system by creating an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), though it excludes the lowest-income Utahns who need it most, because it is non-refundable.

## CAN UTAH BECOME A HIGH-WAGE STATE?

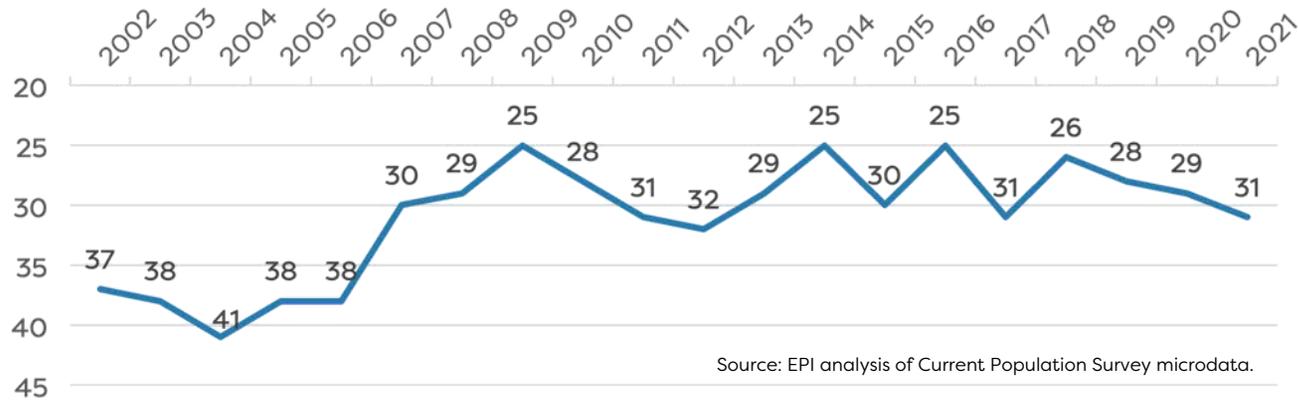
For many years, economists have debated whether Utah is a low-wage state, as the Utah Foundation discussed in their 2008 report, "Is Utah Really a Low-Wage State?"[8]. That report argued that our seemingly low wages were explained by our younger demographic profile and lower cost of living.

While this report does not examine how wages intersect with age demographics, Utah ranks 31st in median hourly wages, compared to 41st in 2004 (see chart on next page). When adjusted for our lower cost of living (based on 2020 federal data), Utah's median hourly wage in 2020 was \$20.87, just 5 cents lower than the national level.

[7] <https://www.utahchildren.org/newsroom/speaking-of-kids-blog/item/1127-good-news-and-bad-news-for-utah-in-new-census-report-on-state-education-investment>

[8] Source: <http://www.utahfoundation.org/reports/is-utah-really-a-low-wage-state/>

## Utah's Rank in Median Hourly Wages



These data seem to demonstrate that Utah has gone from being a low-wage state a generation ago to middle-wage status today, a considerable accomplishment.

One question Utah leaders may now wish to consider is, is that good enough? Should we declare, “Mission Accomplished”?

Or is Utah in a position, like Colorado and Minnesota before us, to become, over time, a high-wage state and set our sights on taking the necessary steps today to achieve that goal over the years and decades to come?

Similarly, how do we include those earning the lowest wages in the gains Utah has made and will potentially make in the future? Utah is not even a half percentage point lower than the national share of workers earning poverty-level wages and lags behind the nation’s 10th percentile wage, ranking 33rd.

Even as the state with the lowest income inequality ranking in the nation, Utah suffers from a tremendous gap between low-income workers and the rest of the income scale.

The main lesson that emerges from the Working Families Benchmarking Project reports comparing Utah to Colorado, Minnesota, Idaho, Arizona and now Texas is the following: Higher levels of educational attainment translate into higher hourly wages, higher family incomes, and an overall higher standard of living.

The challenge for policymakers is to determine the right combination of public investments in education, infrastructure, public health, and other critical needs that will enable Utah to continue our progress and achieve not just steady growth in the quantity of jobs, but also a rising standard of living that includes moderate- and lower-income working families from all of Utah’s increasingly diverse communities.

# PART 1: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

## BUSINESS CLIMATE METRICS

Utah and Texas are both top-rated states for business climate. However, Utah has fallen from 8th to 20th in the ranking by Site Selection, possibly because the most important location criteria removed quality of life and added land/building prices and supply.

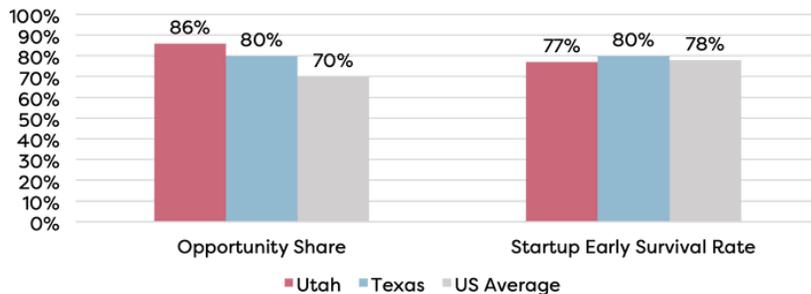
Figure 1 – Business Climate Rankings (1 is best, 50 worst)

|                                                       | UT   | TX  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------|-----|
| CNBC’s America’s Top States for Business, 2021        | 3rd  | 4th |
| Forbes Best States for Business, 2019                 | 3rd  | 2nd |
| Site Selection’s 2021 Top States for Business Climate | 20th | 3rd |

Source: Forbes Best States for Business, <https://www.forbes.com/best-states-for-business/list/#tab:overall>; CNBC America’s Top States for Business, <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/13/americas-top-states-for-business.html>; Site Selection Magazine, 2021 Business Climate Rankings, <https://siterelection.com/issues/2021/nov/brighter-horizons.cfm>

Figure 2 – Kauffman Index: Startup Activity, 2020

Opportunity share is percent of new entrepreneurs who created a business by choice instead of necessity. Startup early survival rate is the percent of startups that are still active after one year.



Source: State Report on Early-Stage Entrepreneurship in the United States: 2020 by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, <https://indicators.kauffman.org/>.

Figure 3 – Hachman Index of Industry Diversity Rank, FY 2020-21

The Hachman Index measures economic diversity by comparing the industry composition of a state to the industry composition of the nation.

| UT  | TX   |
|-----|------|
| 7th | 19th |

Source: EDCU Business and Economics in Utah profile, <https://edcutah.org/research>. The Hachman Index measures economic diversity by comparing the industry composition of a state to the industry composition of the nation.

Figure 4 – Venture Capital Disbursed Per \$1 Million of GDP, 2006-2019

This indicator represents the relative magnitude of venture capital investments in a state after adjusting for the size of the state's economy.



Source: National Science Board, <https://nces.nsf.gov/indicators/states/indicator/venture-capital-per-1-million-state-gdp/table>. This indicator represents the relative magnitude of venture capital investments in a state after adjusting for the size of the state's economy.

**Figure 5 – Research and Development as a Percentage of GDP, 2006-2018**

This indicator represents the extent to which research and development plays a role in a state's economy.



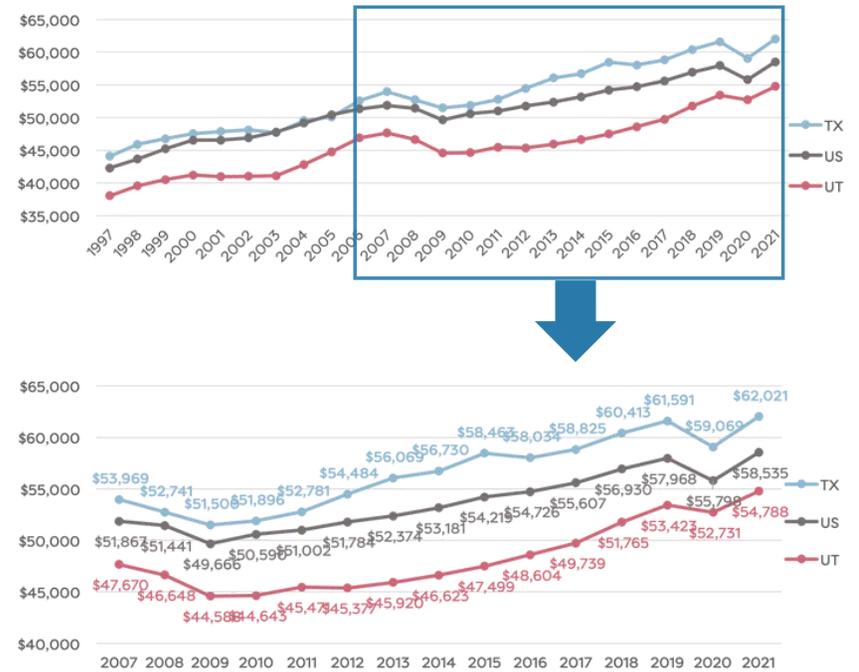
National Science Foundation, <https://ncses.nsf.gov/indicators/states/indicator/rd-performance-to-state-gdp/table>.



## GDP

Since the Great Recession, the GDP growth rates in Utah and Texas have far exceeded that of the nation overall. However, on a per-capita basis, Texas and the nation recovered to their pre-Great Recession level in 2012 and 2013 respectively, while Utah took until 2016 to fully recover. All three recovered to their pre-COVID levels during 2021.

**Figure 6 – Real GDP Per Capita, 1997-2021 (2012 dollars)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Real GDP in chained dollars (SAGDP9)," "Personal Income Summary: Personal Income, Population, Per Capita Personal Income (SAINCI)," <https://apps.bea.gov/itable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1> (accessed June 2, 2022).

Figure 7 – Difference in Real GDP Per Capita Compared to Pre-Great Recession 2007 to 2021

("winner" bolded and highlighted)

| UT      | TX             | US      |
|---------|----------------|---------|
| \$7,118 | <b>\$8,052</b> | \$6,668 |

Source: See Figure 6.

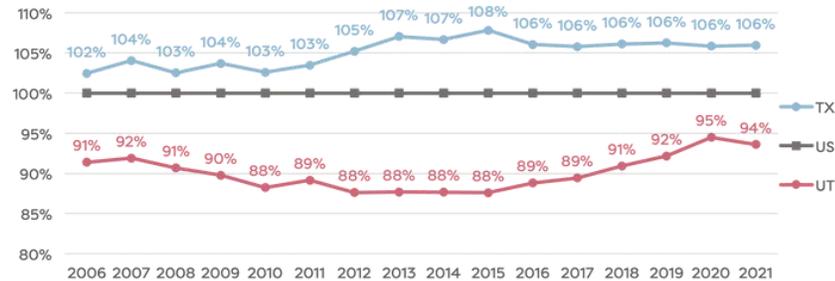
Figure 9 – Percentage Change in Real GDP 2007 to 2021

("winner" bolded and highlighted)

| UT           | TX    | US    |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| <b>42.7%</b> | 42.4% | 24.3% |

Source: See Figure 6.

Figure 8 – GDP Per Capita as Percentage of US Average, 2006-2021

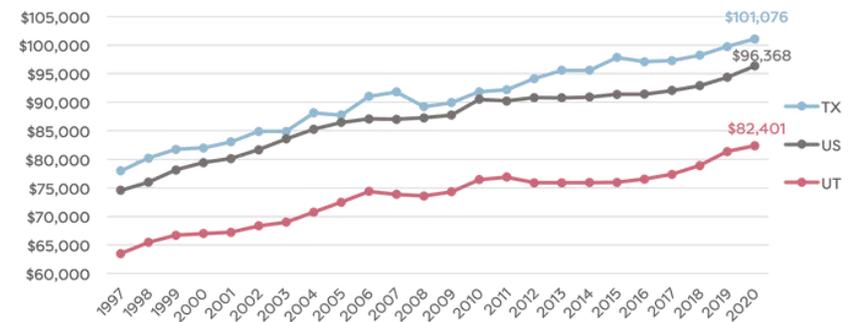


Source: See Figure 6.

## PRODUCTIVITY

Utah lags behind most states in productivity per worker at 37th place while Texas leads in 9th.

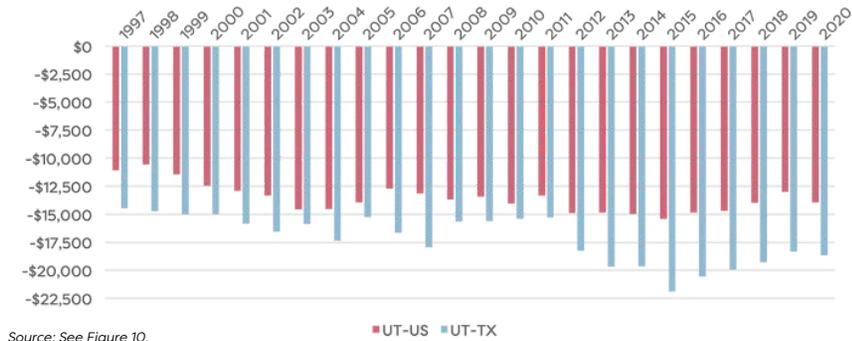
Figure 10 – Real GDP Per Worker, 1997-2020 (2012 dollars)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Real GDP in chained dollars (SAGDP9N)," "Personal Income and Employment by Major Component (SAINC4)," <https://apps.bea.gov/itable/itable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1> (accessed February 18, 2022).

**Figure 11 – Real GDP Per Worker Gap, 1997-2020**

As difference between UT and US (= UT - US) and UT and TX (= UT - TX)



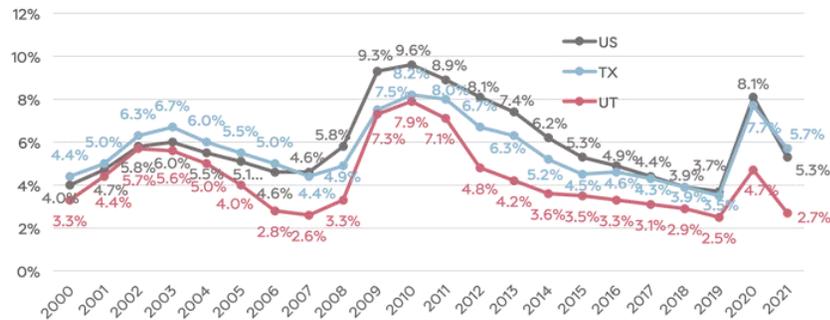
Source: See Figure 10.

## EMPLOYMENT

The US overall, Texas, and Utah achieved unemployment rates below pre-Great Recession levels between 2017 & 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, all three experienced a sharp increase in unemployment; Utah was the first to bounce back completely (in late 2021).

**Figure 12 – Unemployment Rates, 2000-2021**

People are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior 4 weeks, and are currently available for work.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Local Area Unemployment Statistics", <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost?la> (accessed June 2, 2022).

**Figure 13 – Underemployment Rates, 2003-2021**

The underemployment rate is the total unemployed plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for States, 2020 Annual Averages", <https://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt-archived.htm> (accessed June 2, 2022).

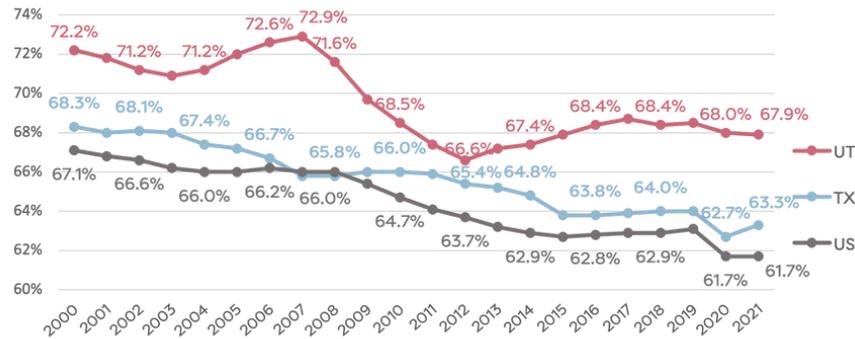
**Figure 14 – Prime Age Employment to Population Ratio (25-54 yrs.), 1979-2021**



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau.

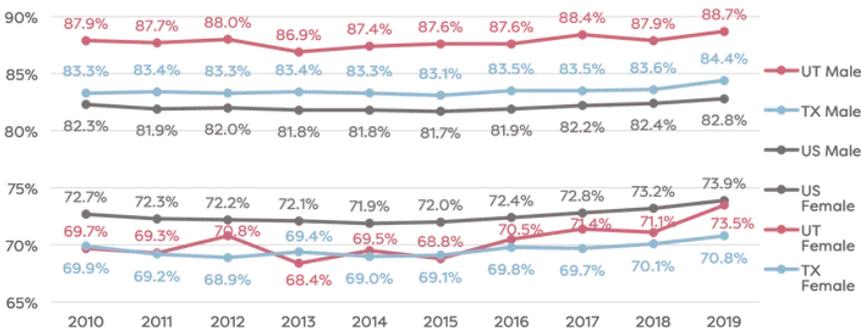
**Figure 15 – Labor Force Participation Rates, 2000-2021**

Labor force participation rates for ages 16+ fell sharply due to the Great Recession, but not as much for ages 20-64, reflecting fewer teens working and more Baby Boomers retiring. By both metrics, participation rates rose again in recent years before the COVID recession, and the prime age employment to population ratio had bounced back.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "States and selected areas: Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population," <https://www.bls.gov/lau/staadata.txt>, "Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population," <https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat01.htm>, (accessed March 24, 2022). The labor force participation rate is the labor force (sum of employed and unemployed persons) as a percent of the civilian noninstitutional population for ages 16 & older.

**Figure 16 – Labor Force Participation Rates Ages 20-64 by Sex, 2007-2019**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Employment Status Table ID: S2301, American Community Survey 1-year estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Table%20ID%20S2301&tid=ACST1Y2019.S2301>.

## EDUCATION

Neither Texas nor Utah shine in K-12 education funding, ranking 39th and 49th respectively for per-pupil investment. But for equity of funding, Utah ranks 1st and Texas 34th.

**Figure 17 – Spending Per Pupil for Public K - 12th Grade, 2012-2020 (Inflation adjusted to 2020 dollars)**

Note: Inflation adjusted using CPI-U, U.S. City Average, all items, 1982-84=100. Spending is the Elementary-secondary education school current expenditures total per pupil.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Per Pupil Amounts for Current Spending of Public Elementary-Secondary School Systems: US and State: 2012-2020," Table ID:GS00SS08, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=per%20pupil&g=0100000US>

**Figure 18 – Funding Level: Cost-Adjusted Per-Pupil, 2019**

("winner" **bolded and highlighted**)

Note: Funding levels don't match Figure 17 data because they are adjusted for geographic differences in the costs of running a school district.

|                                                       | UT       | TX              |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Funding level per-pupil adjusted for cost differences | \$10,080 | <b>\$12,079</b> |
| Rank                                                  | 49th     | <b>39th</b>     |
| Grade                                                 | F        | F               |
| Difference from national average (\$14,548)           | -\$5,406 | <b>-\$3,407</b> |

Source: Education Law Center, Making the Grade 2021, <https://edlawcenter.org/research/making-the-grade-2021.html>.

**Figure 19 – Funding Equity, 2019**

(“winner” bolded and highlighted)

|                                                                                           | UT              | TX              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Rank                                                                                      | <b>1st</b>      | 34th            |
| Grade                                                                                     | <b>A</b>        | D               |
| % more funding per pupil to high-poverty districts than low-poverty districts differences | <b>57%</b>      | -6%             |
| Low-poverty district funding per pupil                                                    | \$9,683         | <b>\$12,431</b> |
| High-poverty district funding per pupil                                                   | <b>\$15,194</b> | \$11,720        |

Source: Education Law Center, Making the Grade 2021, <https://edlawcenter.org/research/making-the-grade-2021.html>.

**Figure 20 – Education Funding Effort: PK-12 Education Revenue as a Percentage of State GDP, 2019**

|                                                       | UT    | TX           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| Rank                                                  | 43rd  | <b>34th</b>  |
| Grade                                                 | F     | <b>C</b>     |
| PK-12 State & Local Revenue as % of state’s total GDP | 2.82% | <b>3.22%</b> |
| Effort below the national average (3.39%)             | -.55% | <b>-.16%</b> |

Source: Education Law Center, Making the Grade 2021, <https://edlawcenter.org/research/making-the-grade-2021.html>.

**Figure 21 – Public K-12 Pupil to Teacher Ratios, 2019**

|                        | UT   | TX          | US   |
|------------------------|------|-------------|------|
| Pupil to teacher ratio | 22.6 | <b>15.1</b> | 15.9 |
| Rank                   | 48th | <b>29th</b> |      |

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Public elementary and secondary teachers, enrollment, and pupil/teacher ratios, by state or jurisdiction Fall 2019 [https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsdatatools/tables/dt21\\_208.40.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsdatatools/tables/dt21_208.40.asp).

**Figure 22 – Average Annual Salary of Teachers K-12, SY 2018-19**

(“winner” bolded and highlighted)

|                                               | UT                  | TX                         | US       |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Avg. teacher salary (cost-of-living adjusted) | \$50,342 (\$51,683) | <b>\$54,155 (\$54,644)</b> | \$61,730 |
| Rank (cost-of-living adjusted)                | 42nd (47th)         | <b>26th (35th)</b>         |          |

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Estimated average annual salary of teachers in public elementary and secondary schools, by state: Selected years, 1969-70 through 2018-19, [https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsdatatools/tables/dt19\\_211.60.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsdatatools/tables/dt19_211.60.asp), U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, “Regional Price Parities (RPP),” <https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&acrdn=8>

**Figure 23 – Percentage Change of Public School K-12 Teacher Salary (in constant 2019 dollars)**

|                         | UT           | TX           | US    |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| SY 1999-2000 to 2018-19 | <b>-3.7%</b> | -9.6%        | -1.3% |
| SY 1969-1970 to 2018-19 | -1.8%        | <b>11.3%</b> | 6.7%  |

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Table 211.60. Estimated average annual salary of teachers in public elementary and secondary schools, by state: Selected years, 1969-70 through 2018-19, [https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsdatatools/tables/dt19\\_211.60.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsdatatools/tables/dt19_211.60.asp).

**Figure 24 – Average Annual Salary of Teachers K-12, SY 1969-70 to 2018-19 (adjusted for inflation with 2019 dollars)**



Source: See Figure 23.

After adjusting for inflation, teachers' salaries today are lower than they were 50 years ago in Utah while they are up in Texas and nationally.

Utah's recent decision (FY 2016) to invest state tax dollars for the first time in public preschool is finally included in the national rankings, placing Utah 26th for 3-year-olds and 43rd for 4-year-olds in state-funded preschool enrollment.

### Figure 25 – Preschool Support, SY 2019-2020

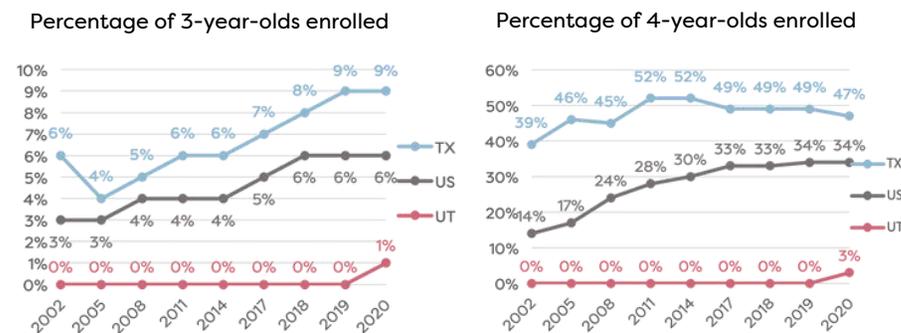
("winner" bolded and highlighted). Note: Texas did not report spending information for 2019-2020 so their spending information used here is estimated based on 2018-2019 information.

|                                                                                                          | UT          |                      | TX           |             | US                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| State pre-k spending                                                                                     | \$6,940,000 | <b>\$842,178,371</b> |              |             | \$9,012,338,009   |
| Local match required?                                                                                    | N/A         |                      | Not Required |             | 13 State Programs |
| State Head Start Spending                                                                                | \$0         |                      | \$0          |             | \$198,259,466     |
| State spending per child enrolled in preschool                                                           | \$3,074     |                      | \$3,693      |             | \$5,499           |
| 4-year-olds: percent enrolled in state-funded preschool & state rank                                     | 3%          | 26th                 | <b>47%</b>   | <b>9th</b>  | 34%               |
| 3-year-olds: percent enrolled in state-funded preschool & state rank                                     | 1%          | 26th                 | <b>9%</b>    | <b>11th</b> | 6%                |
| Percent & rank of all 3- and 4-year-olds not in school (2017-2019) (lower % is better)                   | <b>56%</b>  | <b>33rd</b>          | 57%          | 36th        | 52%               |
| Percent & rank of 3- and 4-year-olds below 200% of poverty not in school (2015-2019) (lower % is better) | <b>62%</b>  | <b>25th</b>          | 63%          | 29th        | 59%               |

Source: Rutgers Graduate School of Education, "The State of Preschool 2020," [https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/YB2020\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/YB2020_Full_Report.pdf); Kids Count Data Center, Young children not in school & by poverty, <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#USA/2/8/10,11,12,13,15,14,2719/char/0>.



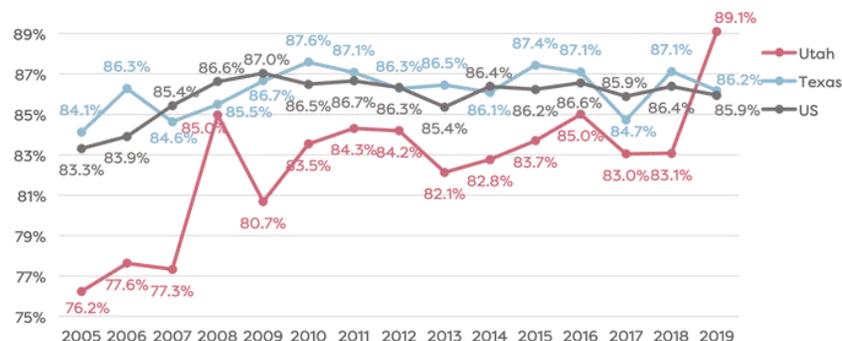
### Figure 26 – State-funded Preschool Enrollment Rates, 2002-2019



Source: Rutgers Graduate School of Education, "The State of Preschool 2020," [https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/YB2020\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/YB2020_Full_Report.pdf)

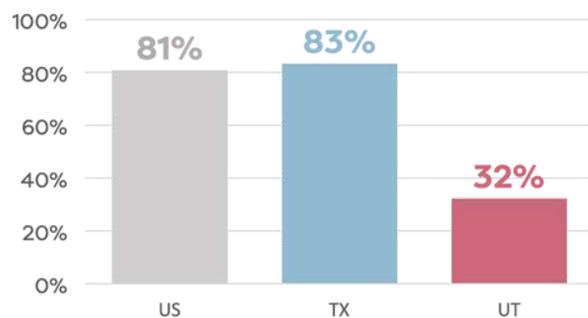
Utah enrollment of 5-year-olds (kindergarten age) exceeded the national level in 2019 for the first time, but only 32% attend full-day, compared to 81% nationally and 83% in Texas.

### Figure 27 – Percentage of 5-year-old Children Enrolled in School, 2005-2019



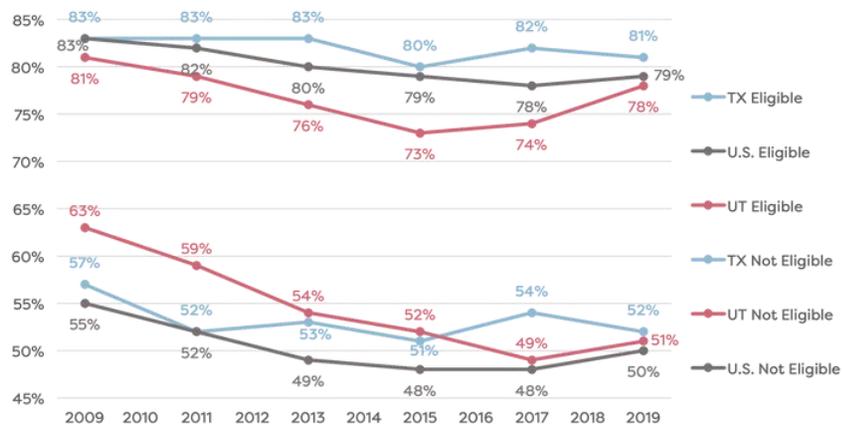
Source: Calculated by dividing the number of 5-year-olds enrolled in school by the population of 5-year-olds. Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau Microdata ACS-1-year estimates 2005-2019, available at <https://data.census.gov/mdat/#/>.

**Figure 28 – Percentage of Kindergartners in Full-Day Programs, 2018-2020**



Source: State Data: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), Current Population Survey: from Oct. 2018-2020. <https://doi.org/10.18128/DO30.V7.0>; National Data: U.S. Census Bureau, "School Enrollment in the United States: Oct. 2018-2020 - Detailed Tables," <https://www.census.gov/topics/education/school-enrollment/data/tables.2019.html>.

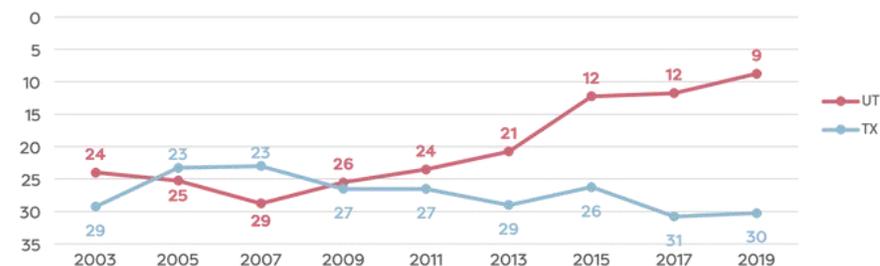
**Figure 29 – Percentage of 4th Graders Scoring Below Proficient Reading Level by Family Income (eligible vs not eligible for free/reduced school lunch)**



Source: Kids Count Data Center, fourth graders who scored below proficient reading level by family income in the United States. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#USA/2/8/10,11,12,13,15,14,2719/char/0>

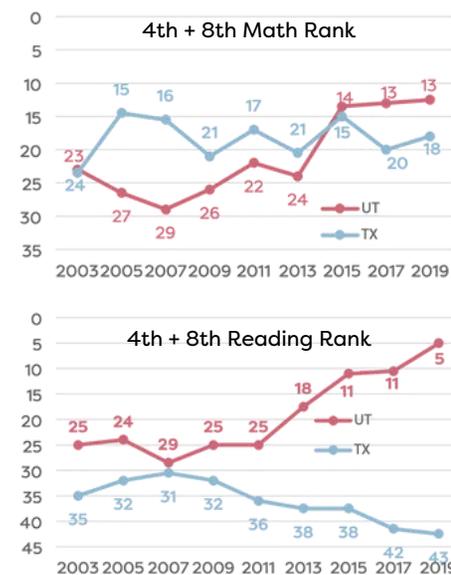
**Figure 30 – Average NAEP 4th + 8th Grade Math + Reading Rank, 2003-2019**

Utah's school performance has been climbing, while Texas has seen a decline since 2007, resulting in Utah ranking above Texas since 2009 overall, and in Math Scores since 2015.



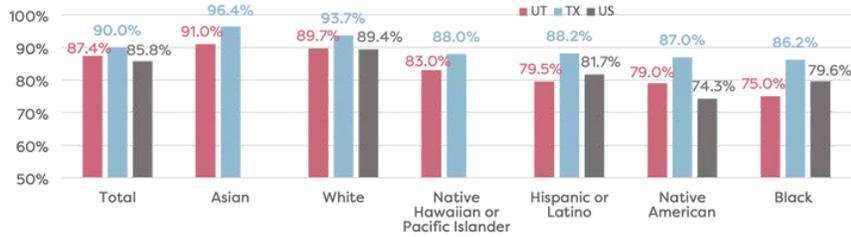
Source: U.S. Dept. of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles/stateprofile?chart=1&sub=MAT&sj=&sfj=NP&st=MN&year=2019R3>.

**Figure 31 – Average NAEP 4th + 8th Grade Rank by Subject, 2003-2019**



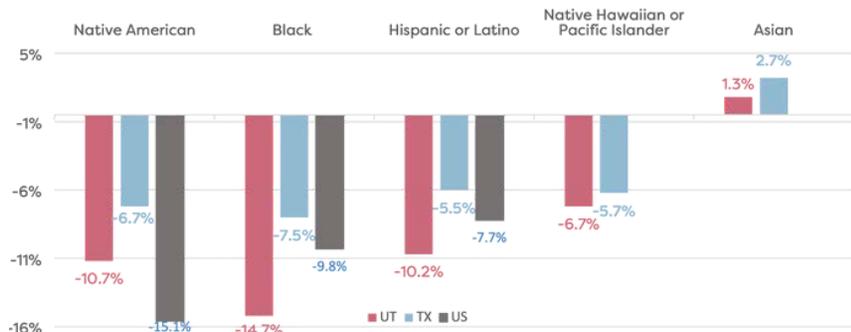
Source: See Figure 30

**Figure 32 – High School Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity for School Year 2018–2019**



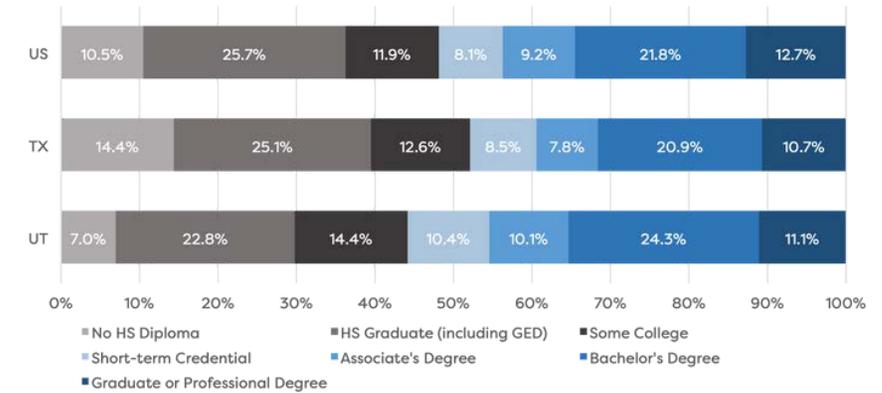
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, "Public high school 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR), by selected student characteristics and state: 2010-11 through 2018-19," [https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20\\_219.46.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20_219.46.asp). Note: The US rate for the Asian & Pacific Islander race were only available together. There is concern that Texas has an artificially high ACGR due to removing students from the cohort when they drop out which might be why Texas has a higher status dropout rate among persons 16 to 24 years old, [https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20\\_219.85a.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20_219.85a.asp), <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2015/08/30/critics-scrutinize-texas-unusual-high-school-dropout-rates/>.

**Figure 33- Percentage Point Difference between the Graduation Rates of White Students & Students in other Racial/Ethnic Groups, SY 2018–2019**



Source: See Figure 32.

**Figure 34 –Educational Attainment Ages 25–64, 2019**



Source: A Stronger Nation, Tracking America's Progress toward 2025, <https://luminafoundation.org/stronger-nation/report/#/progress>.

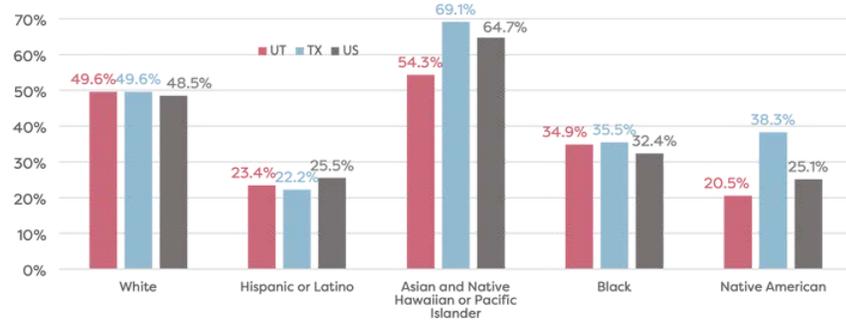
**Figure 35 - Percentage & Ranking of Educational Attainment including All Post-High School Certifications, Ages 25–64, 2019**

("winner" *bolded and highlighted*)

| UT           |            | TX    |      | US    |
|--------------|------------|-------|------|-------|
| <b>55.8%</b> | <b>9th</b> | 47.9% | 39th | 51.9% |

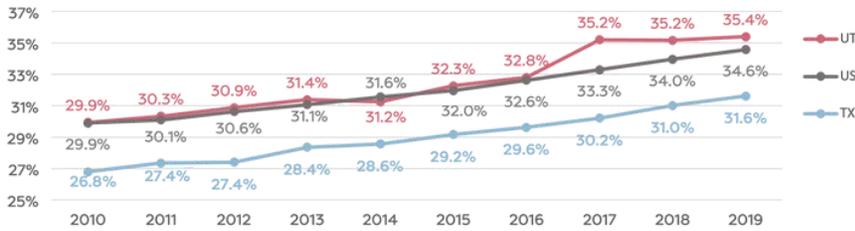
Source: Lumina Foundation, Utah's attainment rates across five racial and ethnic groups, <https://www.luminafoundation.org/stronger-nation/report/2021/#state/UT&s-esid=byAttainment&s-ecmps=AZ>. Note: Attainment rate is defined as a graduate or professional degrees, bachelor's degrees, and associate degrees.

**Figure 36 – Educational Attainment – Associates Degrees and Above, Ages 25-64 by Racial & Ethnic Groups, 2019**



Source: Lumina Foundation, *Utah's attainment rates across five racial and ethnic groups*, <https://www.luminafoundation.org/stronger-nation/report/2021/#state/UT&s-esid=byAttainment&s-ecmps=AZ>. Note: Attainment rate is defined as a graduate or professional degrees, bachelor's degrees, and associate degrees.

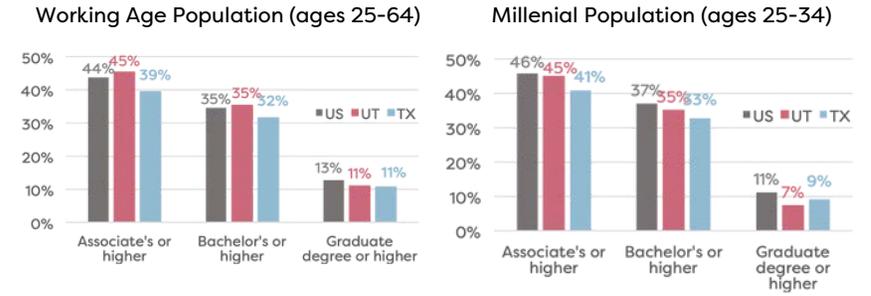
**Figure 37 – Ages 25-64 with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, 2010-19**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Educational Attainment Table ID: S1501," ACS 1-Year Estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=education%20attainment&tid=ACST1Y2019.S1501&hidePreview=false>.

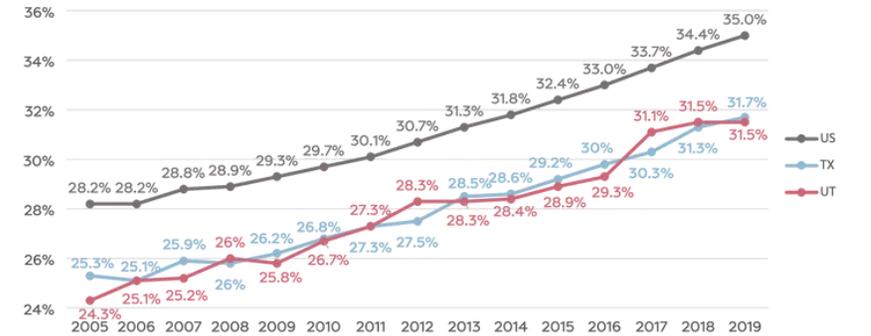
**Figure 38 – Educational Attainment by Age Group, 2019**

Millennials in Utah and Texas are behind Millennials nationally for higher educational attainment.



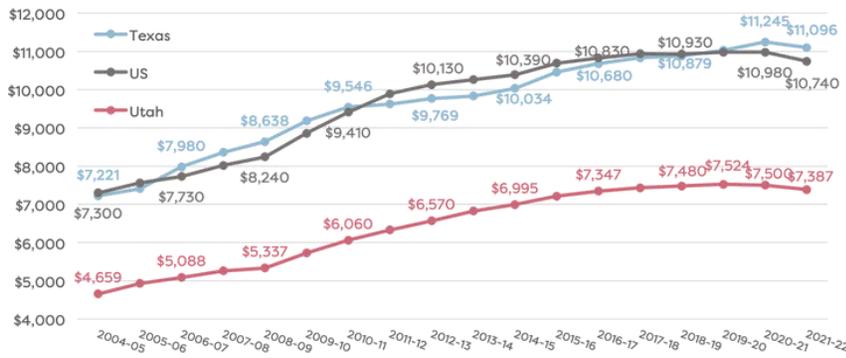
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Sex by Age by Educational Attainment for the Population 18 years and over", Table B15001, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Table%20B15001&tid=ACSDT1Y2019.B15001&hidePreview=false>.

**Figure 39 – Percentage of Labor Force with Bachelor's Degrees, 2005-2019**



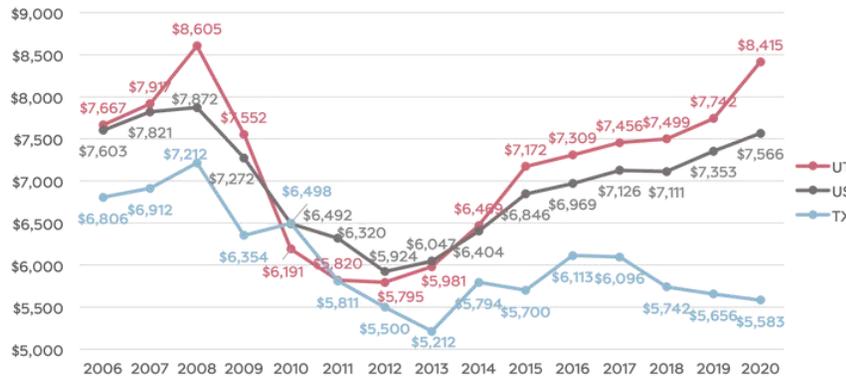
Source: National Science Board, 2019, "Bachelor's Degree Holders in the Labor Force." Science and Engineering Indicators 2019, State Indicators, <https://nces.nsf.gov/indicators/states/indicator/bachelors-degree-holders-in-labor-force>.

**Figure 40 – Average Public Four-Year In-State Public University Tuition & Fees, 2004-2022 (2021 dollars)**



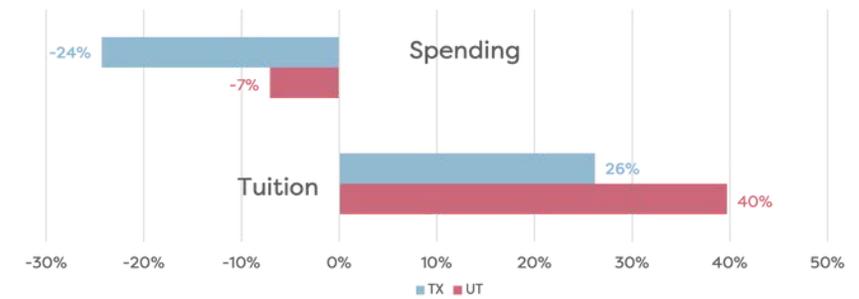
Source: College Board, Trends in College Pricing, <https://research.collegeboard.org/trends/college-pricing>.

**Figure 41 – State Support for Higher Education Per Full-Time Equivalent Student, 2006-2020 (Inflation adjusted to 2020 dollars)**



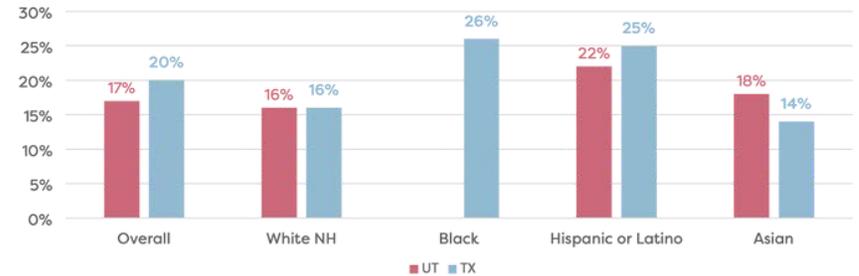
Source: National Science Board, "State Support for Higher Education per Full-Time Equivalent Student," Science and Engineering Indicators: State Indicators. Alexandria, VA: National Science Foundation. <https://nces.nsf.gov/indicators/states/indicator/state-support-for-higher-education-per-fte-student>. (Accessed on April 11, 2022). Note: Inflation adjusted using CPI-U, U.S. City Average, all items, 1982-84=100.

**Figure 42 – Percentage Change in State Spending for Higher Education Per Student and Average Annual Tuition at Public Four-Year Colleges between 2008-2019 (inflation-adjusted)**



Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "States Can Choose Better Path for Higher Education Funding in COVID-19 Recession," <https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/states-can-choose-better-path-for-higher-education-funding-in-covid>.

**Figure 43 – Average Net Price at Public Four-Year University as Share of Median Household Income, 2018**



Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "States Can Choose Better Path for Higher Education Funding in COVID-19 Recession," <https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/states-can-choose-better-path-for-higher-education-funding-in-covid>. Note: Estimates for Black households in Utah are not included due to a large standard error.

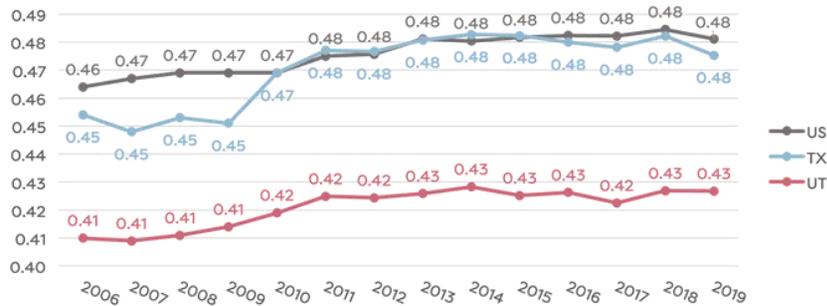
# EQUITY

Utah ranks at or near the top of the national scale, ahead of the nation and Texas, for income equity and intergenerational social mobility.

**Figure 44 - GINI Index, 2006-2019**

Note: higher values indicate greater inequality.

2019 Rank:  
UT #1  
TX #38



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Gini Index of Income Inequality ACS 1-Year Estimates Table ID: B19083, [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=gini&g=0100000US\\_0400000US04\\_49&tid=ACSDT5Y2020.B19083](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=gini&g=0100000US_0400000US04_49&tid=ACSDT5Y2020.B19083).



**Figure 45 - Intergenerational Upward Mobility Rankings**

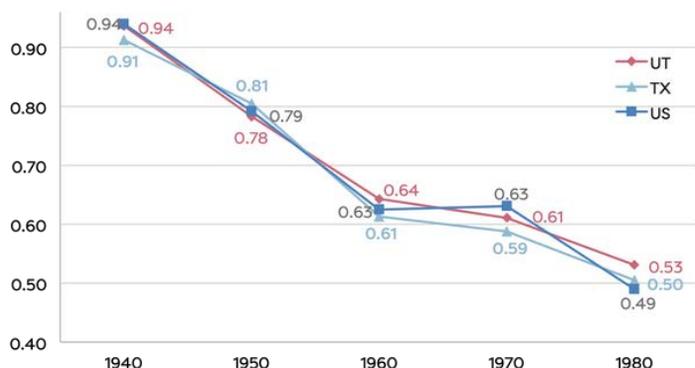
(higher expected income percentile rank for a person whose parents were at the 25th income percentile)

|                                                                | UT                             | TX                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Among the 50 largest commuting zones (urban + rural) in the US |                                |                                             |
|                                                                | <b>#1 - Salt Lake City, UT</b> | #15 - Houston, TX                           |
|                                                                |                                | #18 - Fort Worth, TX                        |
|                                                                |                                | #24 - San Antonio, TX                       |
|                                                                |                                | #26 - Austin, TX                            |
|                                                                |                                | #27 - Dallas, TX                            |
| Among 381 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (urban only)          |                                |                                             |
|                                                                | <b>#3 - Logan, UT-ID</b>       | #6 - Odessa, TX                             |
|                                                                | #16 - Provo-Orem, UT           | #12 - Midland, TX                           |
|                                                                | #35 - Ogden-Clearfield, UT     | #65 - Abilene, TX                           |
|                                                                | #41 - Saint George, UT         | #66 - Laredo, TX                            |
|                                                                | #43 - Salt Lake City, UT       | #80 - El Paso, TX                           |
|                                                                |                                | #87 - McAllen-Edinburg-Mission              |
|                                                                |                                | #92 - Longview, TX                          |
|                                                                |                                | #95 - Wichita Falls, TX                     |
|                                                                |                                | #102 - Victoria, TX                         |
|                                                                |                                | #105 - Brownsville-Harlingen, TX            |
|                                                                |                                | #118 - Amarillo, TX                         |
|                                                                |                                | #123 - San Angelo, TX                       |
|                                                                |                                | #125 - Corpus Christi, TX                   |
|                                                                |                                | #128 - Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX             |
|                                                                |                                | #130 - Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX |
|                                                                |                                | #176 - College Station-Bryan, TX            |
|                                                                |                                | #183 - Sherman-Denison, TX                  |
|                                                                |                                | #187 - Tyler, TX                            |
|                                                                |                                | #198 - San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX        |
|                                                                |                                | #206 - Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX      |
|                                                                |                                | #218 - Lubbock, TX                          |
|                                                                |                                | #220 - Killeen-Temple, TX                   |
|                                                                |                                | #234 - Austin-Round Rock, TX                |
|                                                                |                                | #277 - Texarkana, TX                        |
|                                                                |                                | #278 - Waco, TX                             |
| Average MSA Rank                                               | <b>28th</b>                    | 140th                                       |

Source: Chetty, Raj, et al. "Where is the land of opportunity? The geography of intergenerational mobility in the United States." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 129.4 (2014): 1553-1623. [https://www.nber.org/system/files/working\\_papers/w19843/w19843.pdf](https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w19843/w19843.pdf); Data available online at: <https://opportunityinsights.org/data>.

**Figure 46 – Absolute Income Mobility by Child Birth Cohort and State, 1940-1980**

Absolute income mobility measures the ability of children to make more money than their parents. The values for this chart were calculated using the percent chance that a son’s household income is higher than his father’s by age 30. Absolute income mobility has been decreasing nationally, and Utah and Texas are no exception, a troubling trend.



Source: Chetty, Raj, et al. "Where is the land of opportunity? The geography of intergenerational mobility in the United States," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 129.4 (2014): 1553-1623, <https://opportunityinsights.org/data>.



## GENDER

Utah ranks among the worst for gender equality while Texas ranks toward the middle. In both states, women of color often have larger wage gaps.

**Figure 47 – Gender Pay Gap**

("winner" bolded and highlighted) Ranking: 1 is best, 50 is worst.

|                                                              | UT   | UT RANK | TX          | TX RANK     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Gender Wage Ratio of Women's to Men's Earnings, 2019         | 70%  | 49th    | <b>80%</b>  | <b>30th</b> |
| Projected year to close gender pay gap at current rate, 2015 | 2106 | 48th    | <b>2049</b> | <b>10th</b> |
| What Mothers Make for Every Dollar Fathers Make, 2019        | 63¢  | 49th    | <b>70¢</b>  | <b>33rd</b> |

Source: American Association of University Women (AAUW), *Gender Pay Gap by State* <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/gender-pay-gap-by-state/>; Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR), *Status of Women in the States: Projected Year the Wage Gap Will Close by State 2017 Report*, <https://iwpr.org/iwpr-general/projected-year-the-wage-gap-will-close-by-state/>; NWLC, *Wage Gap for Mothers by Race, State by State*, <https://nwlc.org/resource/motherhood-wage-gap-for-mothers-overall/>.

**Figure 48 – Age at which a Woman’s Career Earnings Catch Up to a White non-Hispanic Man’s at 60 & Lifetime Losses Due to Wage Loss Rank by Race & Ethnicity, 2019**

|                                            | UT         |             | TX        |             | US  |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----|
|                                            | Age        | Rank        | Age       | Rank        | Age |
| Overall                                    | 77         | 49th        | <b>70</b> | <b>24th</b> | 69  |
| White, non-Hispanic women                  | 79         | 49th        | <b>73</b> | <b>45th</b> | 71  |
| Asian women                                | 81         | 47th        | <b>70</b> | <b>26th</b> | 66  |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander women* | <b>92</b>  | <b>16th</b> | 97        | 17th        | 83  |
| Native American women*                     | 97         | 38th        | <b>90</b> | <b>36th</b> | 87  |
| Black women*                               | 98         | 41st        | <b>88</b> | <b>40th</b> | 83  |
| Latina women                               | <b>102</b> | <b>42nd</b> | 107       | 45th        | 92  |

Source: National Women’s Law Center (NWLC), <https://nwlc.org/issue/race-gender-wage-gaps/>.

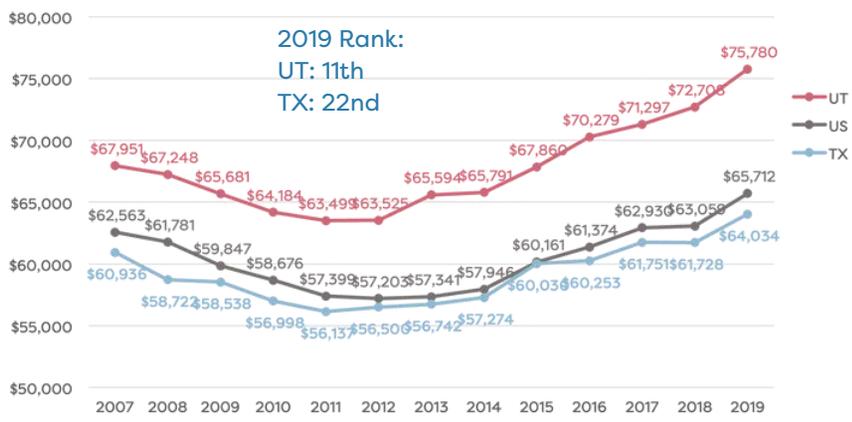
\*Note: 6 states were not included in the Native American, 4 in the Black, & 32 in the Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander rankings due to insufficient sample size.

# PART 2: STANDARD OF LIVING

## INCOME

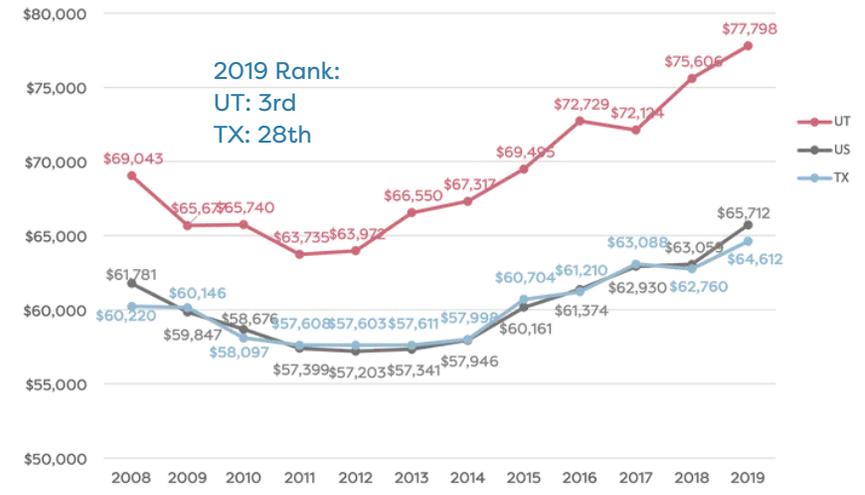
Utah is well ahead for household income, ranking 11th nationally while Texas lags behind at 22nd.

Figure 49 – Real Median Household Income, 2007-2019 (Inflation adjusted to 2019 dollars)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Income in the past 12 months (in 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars)," Table ID: S1901, ACS 1-Year Estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=table%20S1901>. Note: Inflation adjusted using CPI-U, U.S. City Average, all items, 1982-84=100.

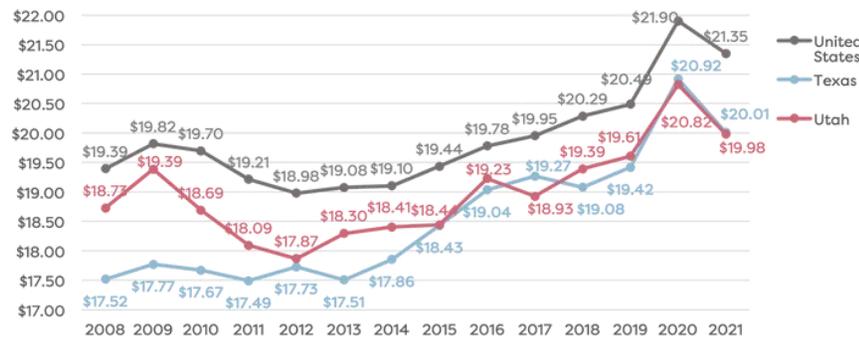
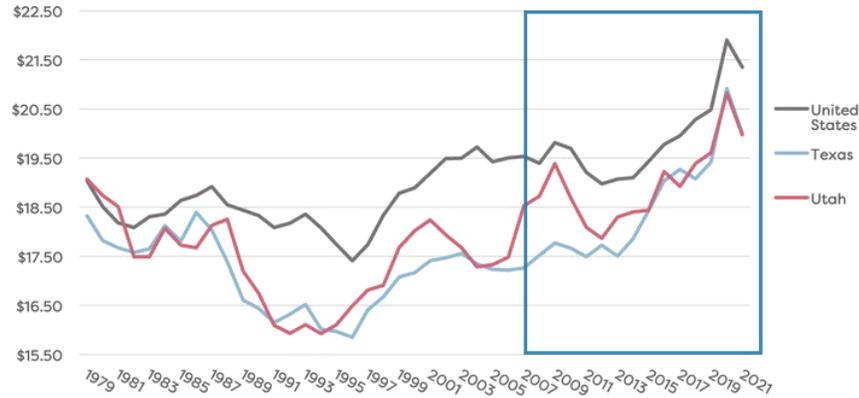
Figure 50 – Cost-of-Living Adjusted Real Median Household Income, 2008-2019 (2019 dollars)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Income in the past 12 months (in 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars)," Table ID: S1901, ACS 1-Year Estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=table%20S1901&tid=ACSST5Y2020.S1901>. U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Regional Price Parities (RPP)," (all items), <https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&acrdn=8> (accessed April 7, 2022).

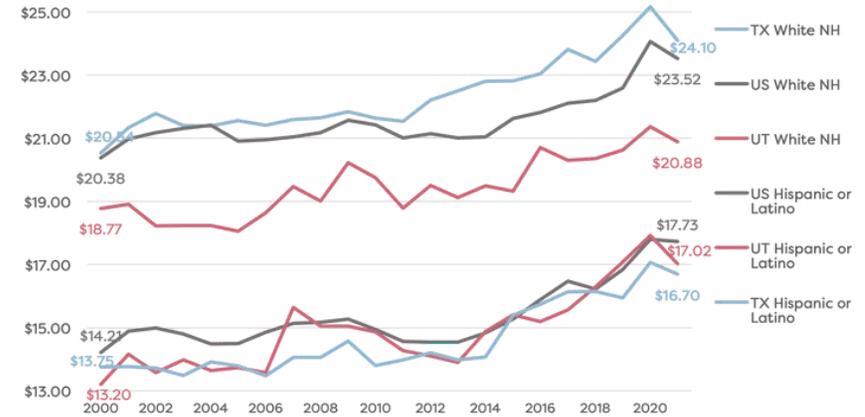


**Figure 51 – Real Median Hourly Wage, 1979-2021  
(Inflation adjusted to 2021 dollars)**



Source: EPI analysis of Current Population Survey microdata (accessed February 10, 2022). Note: Inflation adjusted using R-CPI-U, all items, 1977-2021. Median wages likely increased in 2020 due to many low-wage jobs being lost during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Figure 52 – Real Median Wage by Race & Ethnicity, 2000-2021  
(Inflation adjusted to 2021 dollars)**



Source: EPI analysis of Current Population Survey microdata (accessed February 10, 2022). Note: Inflation-adjusted using CPI-U, all items, 1977-2021. NH = non-Hispanic

**Figure 53 – Minimum Wage and 10th Percentile Wage**

(“winner” bolded and shaded)

|                                              | <b>UT</b>                    | <b>TX</b>      | <b>US</b> |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Minimum wage/hr. (2022)                      | \$7.25                       | \$7.25         | \$7.25    |
| Minimum wage inflation index (2022)          | No                           | No             | No        |
| Hourly Wage & rank at 10th percentile (2021) | <b>\$10.98</b>   <b>33rd</b> | \$10.12   44th | \$11.70   |

Sources: US Department of Labor, State Minimum Wage Laws, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/minimum-wage/state>; EPI analysis of Current Population Survey microdata (accessed February 10, 2022).

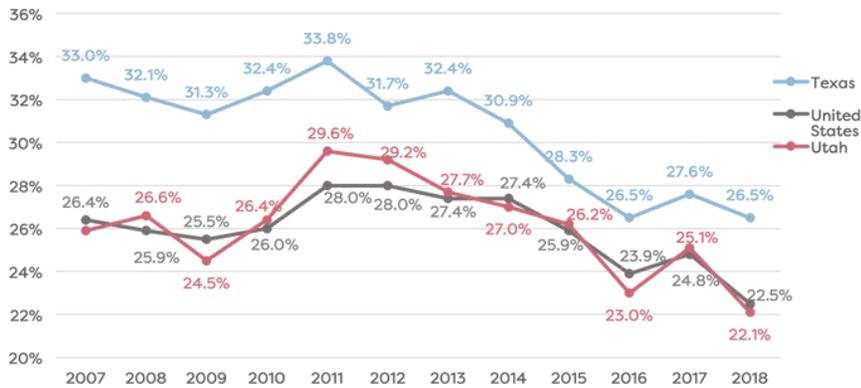
**Cost-of-living-adjusted median hourly wage 2020**

Utah \$20.87/31st

Texas \$20.07/42nd

**Figure 54 – Share of Workers Earning Poverty Level Wages, 2007-2018 (poverty wage for a family of four was \$12.36 in 2018)**

Compared to Utah and the nation overall, more Texans earn a poverty-level wage. Texas ranks 7th in the nation for the largest share of workers earning poverty level wages. Utah ranks 30th.

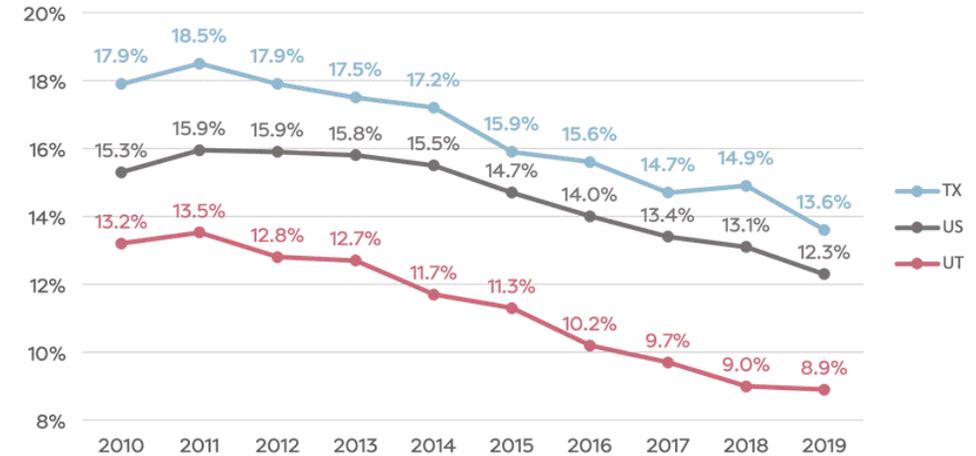


Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau, swx.epi.org microdata (accessed February 10, 2022).

## POVERTY

While Utah enjoys lower poverty rates, Texas is above the national average.

**Figure 55 – Poverty Rates, 2010-2019**



Source: Census Bureau, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, Table ID: S1701, ACS 1-Year Estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=s1701&tid=ACST5Y2020.S1701>.



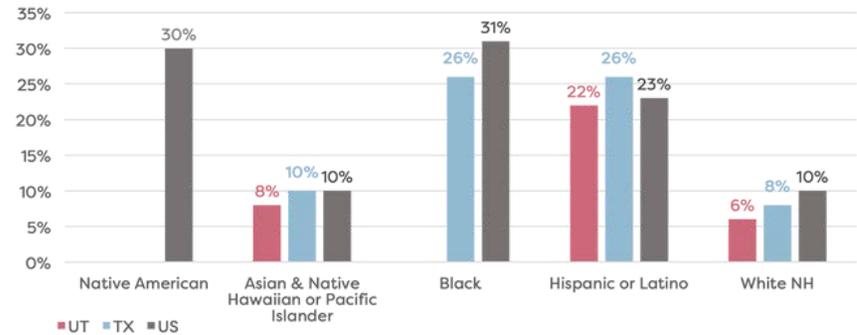
**Figure 56 – Supplemental Poverty Measure: Percentage of People in Poverty by State, 2017-2019**

The Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) counts poverty more accurately by accounting for local cost of living, household expenses such as taxes, childcare, and medical bills, and government safety net programs such as Social Security/SSI, SNAP/food stamps, TANF, unemployment insurance benefits, federal tax credits like the EITC, and government subsidies for housing and school lunches.

| UT   | TX    | US    |
|------|-------|-------|
| 8.0% | 13.7% | 12.5% |

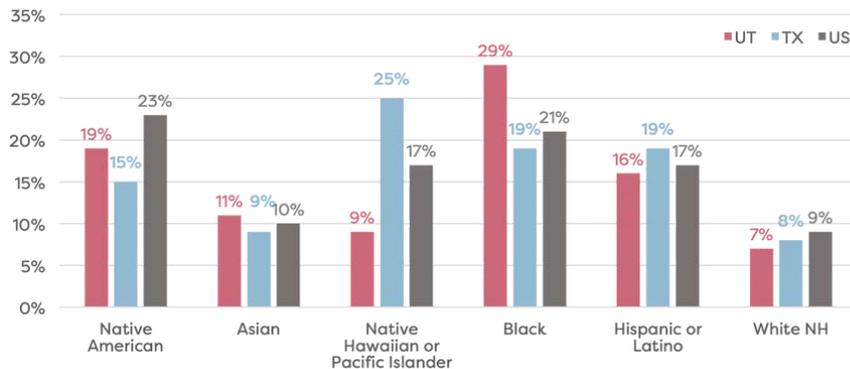
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Table 5. Number and Percentage of People in Poverty by state using 3-year average 2017-2019, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/demo/income-poverty/p60-272.html>.

**Figure 58 – Child Poverty Rates by Race & Ethnicity, 2019**



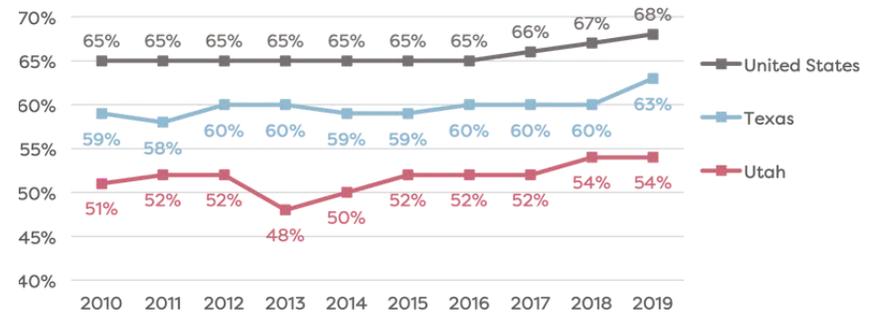
Source: Kids Count Data Center, Children in poverty by race and ethnicity in the United States, <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/44-children-in-poverty-by-race-and-ethnicity?loc=1&loc2=1#detailed/1/any/false/1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133/10,11,9,12,1,185,13/324,323>. Note: the missing poverty estimates for Native American and Black children in Utah and Texas are due to small sample sizes which further marginalizes them by removing their presence from this story. Combining the Asian & Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander race also skews both groups. NH = non-Hispanic

**Figure 57 – Household Poverty Rates by Race & Ethnicity, 2019**



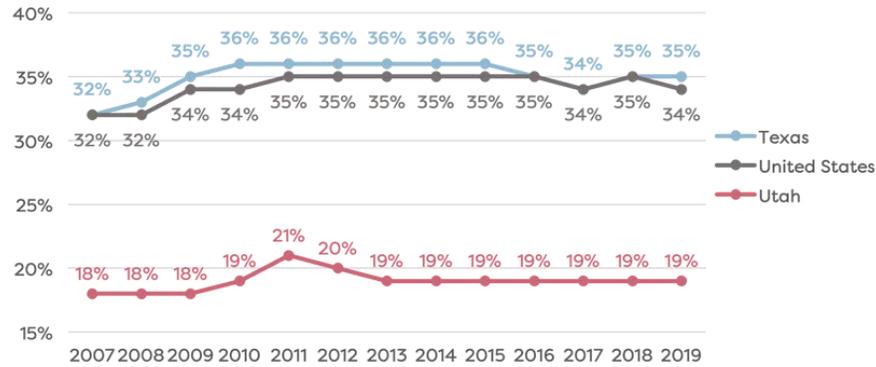
Source: Census Bureau, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, Table ID: S1701, ACS 1-Year Estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=s1701&tid=ACST5Y2020.S1701>. NH = non-Hispanic

**Figure 59 – Percentage of Children under age 6 with all available parents in the labor force, 2010-2019**



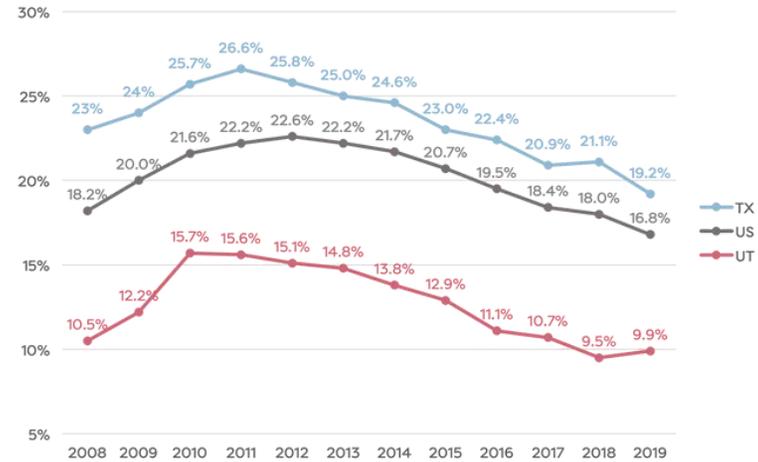
Source: Kids Count Data Center, Economic Well-Being Indicators, <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#USA/2/16/17,18,19,20,22,21,2720/char/0>.

**Figure 60 – Percentage of Children Living in Single-Parent Families, 2007-2019**



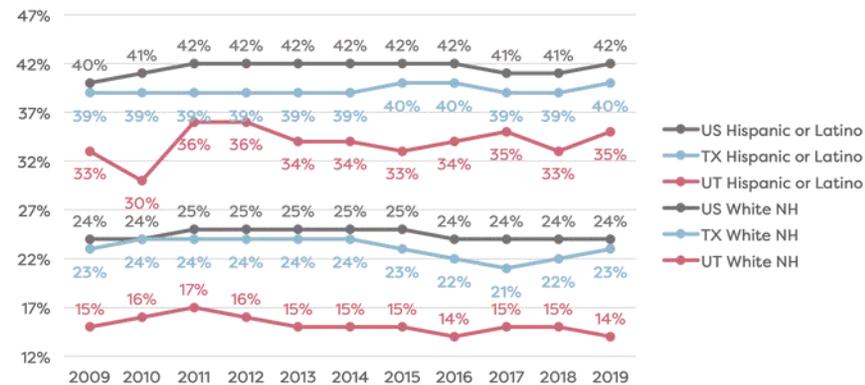
Source: Kids Count Data Center, *Children in single-parent families in the United States*, <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/106-children-in-single-parent-families?loc=1&loc=2#detailed/2/2-53/false/1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133/any/429,430>.

**Figure 62 – Child Poverty Rates, 2008-2019**



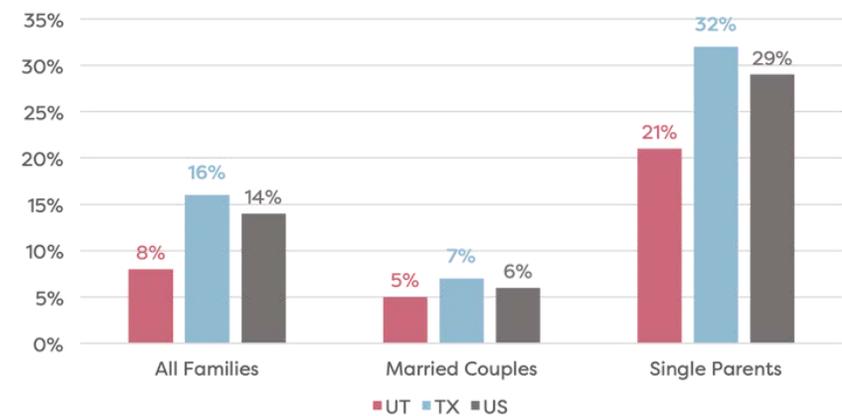
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Poverty Status in the past 12 months*, Table ID: S1701, ACS 1-Year Estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=child%20poverty%20&tid=ACST5Y2020.S1701> and <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/43-children-in-poverty-100-percent-poverty#detailed/2/45/false/871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133,38,35/any/321,322>.

**Figure 61 – Percentage of Children Living in Single-Parent Families by Race & Ethnicity, 2009-2019**



Source: Kids Count Data Center, *Children in single-parent families by race in the United States*, <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/107-children-in-single-parent-families-by-race?loc=1&loc=2#detailed/2/2-53/false/1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133/10,11,9,12,1,185,13/432,431>. NH = non-Hispanic

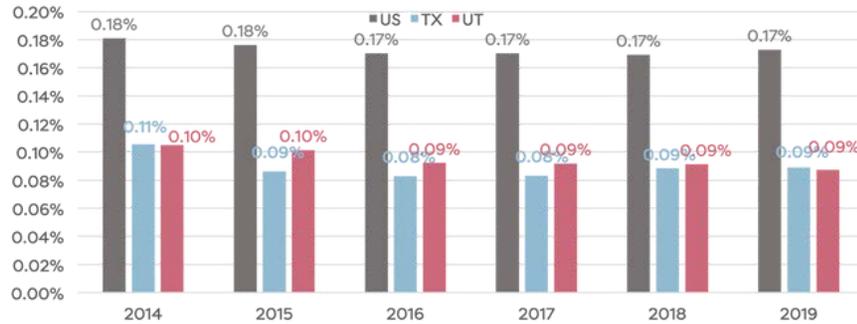
**Figure 63 – Family Poverty Rates, 2019**



Source: Kids Count Data Center, *Families with related children that are below poverty by family type*, <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/55-families-with-related-children-that-are-below-poverty-by-family-type?loc=1&loc=2#detailed/2/2-53/false/1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133/994,1297,4240/345,346>.

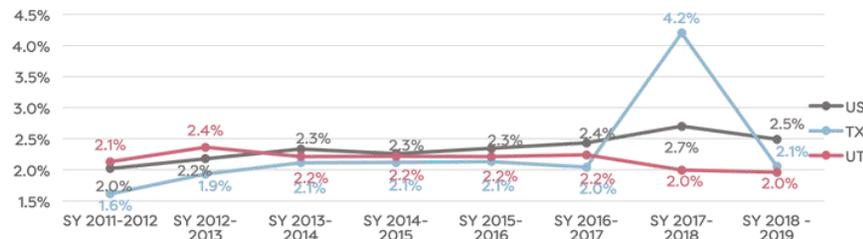
**Figure 64 – Homelessness Rates, 2014-2019 (as % of total population on a given night)**

Utah and Texas have a notably lower homelessness rate than the nation overall.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population, Table ID: PEPPANNRES, [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=population&g=0100000US&tid=PEPPOP2019.PEPPANNRES&hidePreview=false; HUD Exchange, CoC Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Reports, https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/?filter\\_Year=2014&filter\\_Scope=&filter\\_State=&filter\\_CoC=&program=CoC&group=PopSub](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=population&g=0100000US&tid=PEPPOP2019.PEPPANNRES&hidePreview=false; HUD Exchange, CoC Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Reports, https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/?filter_Year=2014&filter_Scope=&filter_State=&filter_CoC=&program=CoC&group=PopSub).

**Figure 65 – Child Homelessness Rates, SY 2011-12 & 2018-19 (ages 3-17, enrolled students)**



Note: The child homelessness rate in Texas spiked in SY 2017-18 due to severe weather event Hurricane Harvey. The child homelessness rate is calculated dividing the number of homeless students by the number of enrolled students. Source: National Center for Homeless Education, "Federal Data Summary: Education for Homeless Children and Youth," Table 2. Number homeless students by state and school year: 3-5 year old, K-12 and ungraded in Local Education Agencies, <https://nche.ed.gov/data-and-stats/>; U.S. Census Bureau, Children Characteristics, Table ID: B09001, Children 3 to 17 years enrolled in school, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=table%20S0901&g=0100000US&tid=ACSSTIY2017.S0901&moe=false&hidePreview=true>

**Figure 66 – Percentage of Children Facing Food Insecurity, 2019**

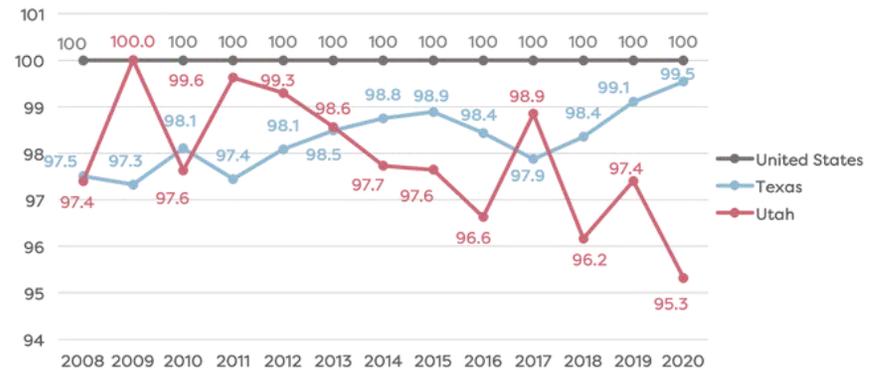
| UT    | TX    | US    |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 12.1% | 21.6% | 15.2% |

Source: Feeding America, Child Food Insecurity Rates by State, <https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Map%20the%20Meal%20Gap%202020%20Combined%20Modules.pdf>.

## COST OF LIVING

Utah's cost of living is below that of Texas, which by 2020 had risen nearly to the overall national level.

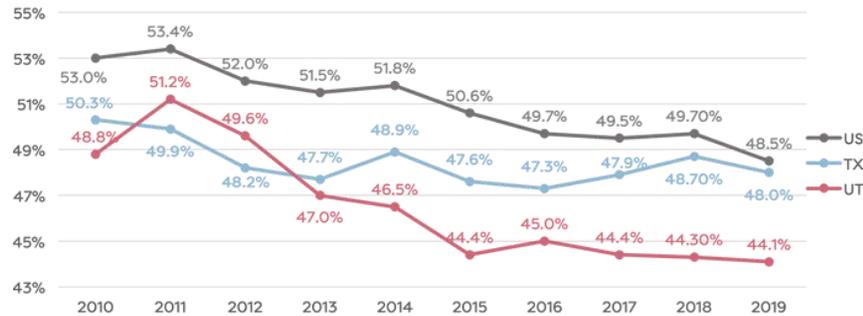
**Figure 67 – Regional Price Parities, 2008-2020 (where 100 = price index equal to national level)**



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Data, Regional Price Parities by state (all items), <https://www.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1&acrdn=8#reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1>. Note: In December 2021, the Bureau of Economic Analysis released new estimates of regional price parities (RPPs) for 2020 and revised estimates for 2008 to 2019.

**Figure 68 – Unaffordable Rent Burden Rates, 2010–2019**

% of renting households paying more than 30% of household income to gross rent.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Selected Housing Characteristics, table ID: DP04, American Community Survey 1-year estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=table%20DP04&tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP04>.

## TAXES

**Figure 69 – State & Local Revenue, 2019**

(“winner” **bolded and highlighted**) Rankings: 1 is highest, 50 is lowest.

|                                                                           | UT           |             | TX    |      | US TOTAL |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|------|----------|
| Total own-source revenue as a percentage of personal income & rank        | <b>17.9%</b> | <b>10th</b> | 13.7% | 40th | 15.3%    |
| Total state + local tax revenue as a percentage of personal income & rank | <b>10.6%</b> | <b>20th</b> | 9.2%  | 40th | 10.5%    |

Source: Federation of Tax Administrators, “2019 State & Local Revenue as a Percentage of Personal Income,” <https://www.taxadmin.org/2019-state-and-local-revenue-as-a-percentage-of-personal-income>. Note: Own-Source Revenue is all revenue collected by state & local government, including both taxes and fees (including university tuition and public hospital fees).

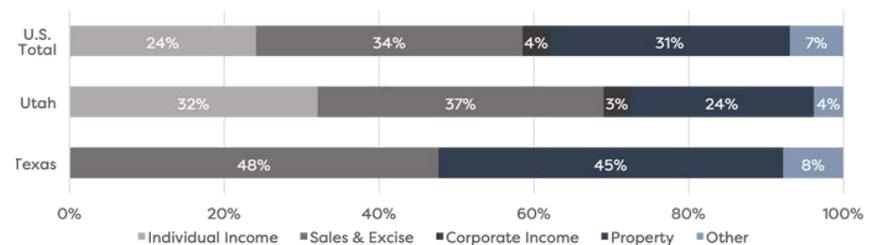
**Figure 70 – Total State and Local Taxes as a Share of Household Income for Non-Elderly Taxpayers, 2018**

Texas taxes a higher share of family income for those in the lower income quintiles and is only a low-tax state for the wealthy. This is because Texas has no individual or corporate income tax, instead relying on other types of taxes such as sales tax which impacts low- and middle-income families the most. Rankings: 1 is highest, 50 is lowest.

|            | UT   |      | TX    |      | US TOTAL |
|------------|------|------|-------|------|----------|
| Lowest 20% | 7.5% | 48th | 13.0% | 6th  | 11.4%    |
| Second 20% | 7.9% | 46th | 10.9% | 9th  | 10.0%    |
| Middle 20% | 8.2% | 41st | 9.7%  | 24th | 9.9%     |
| Fourth 20% | 8.8% | 34th | 8.6%  | 35th | 9.5%     |
| Next 15%   | 7.9% | 34th | 6.8%  | 38th | 8.9%     |
| Next 4%    | 7.3% | 32nd | 5.4%  | 41st | 8.0%     |
| Top 1%     | 6.8% | 26th | 3.1%  | 42nd | 7.4%     |

Source: ITEP, Who Pays? 6th Edition, <https://itep.org/whopays/>.

**Figure 71– State & Local Tax Collection by Source, 2018**

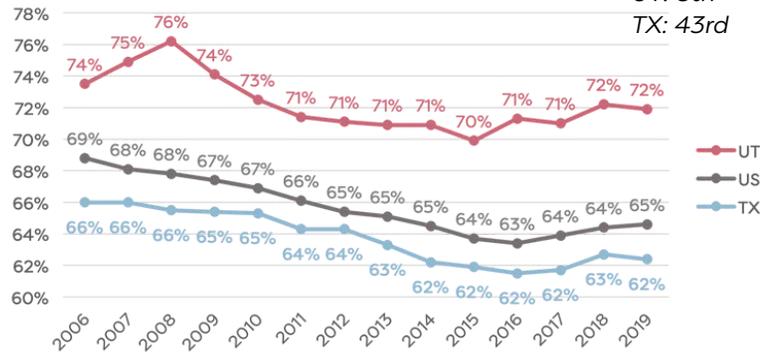


Source: Federation of Tax Administrators, “2019 State & Local Tax Collection by Source” <https://www.taxadmin.org/2019-state-and-local-revenues-by-source>. Note: Texas does not have individual or corporate income taxes.

# QUALITY OF LIFE

Compared to the nation and Texas, Utah has higher homeownership rates and shorter commutes to work.

**Figure 72 – Homeownership Rates, 2006-2019**  
(% of households that own)

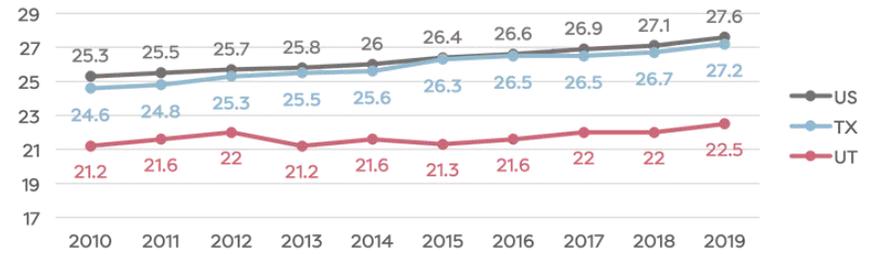


2019 Rank:  
UT: 8th  
TX: 43rd

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Homeownership Rates by State," Table 15, <https://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/data/ann19ind.html>.



**Figure 73 – Mean Travel Time to Work, 2010-2019**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Means of transportation to work by selected characteristics," Table ID: S0802, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Table%20S0802%20&tid=ACST5Y2020.S0802>.

**Figure 74 – Overall Child Well-being Rankings, 2022**

While ahead of Texas, Utah's overall rankings have fallen behind from last year's report in the Health, Economic, Family and Community and Overall categories.

("winner" bolded and highlighted) Ranking: 1st is best, 50th is worst

|                      | <b>UT</b>   | <b>TX</b> |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Overall              | <b>4th</b>  | 45th      |
| Economic             | <b>6th</b>  | 36th      |
| Education            | <b>10th</b> | 33rd      |
| Health               | <b>10th</b> | 48th      |
| Family and Community | <b>1st</b>  | 47th      |

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, "2022 Kids Count Data Book," <https://www.aecf.org/resources/2022-kids-count-data-book>.

# HEALTH

Utah leads Texas by overall public health rankings, including the lowest smoking rate in the nation.

**Figure 75 – Selected Health Care Performance Rankings, 2019**

(“winner” bolded and highlighted)

|                                     | UT RANK     | TX RANK     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Overall Public Health Ranking       | <b>12th</b> | 18th        |
| Lowest Infant Mortality Rate (2018) | 17th        | <b>16th</b> |
| Lowest Mortality Rate               | <b>13th</b> | 24th        |
| Lowest Obesity Rate                 | <b>13th</b> | 31st        |
| Lowest Smoking Rate                 | <b>1st</b>  | 16th        |
| Lowest Suicide Rate                 | 39th        | <b>12th</b> |
| Mental Health                       | 33rd        | <b>12th</b> |

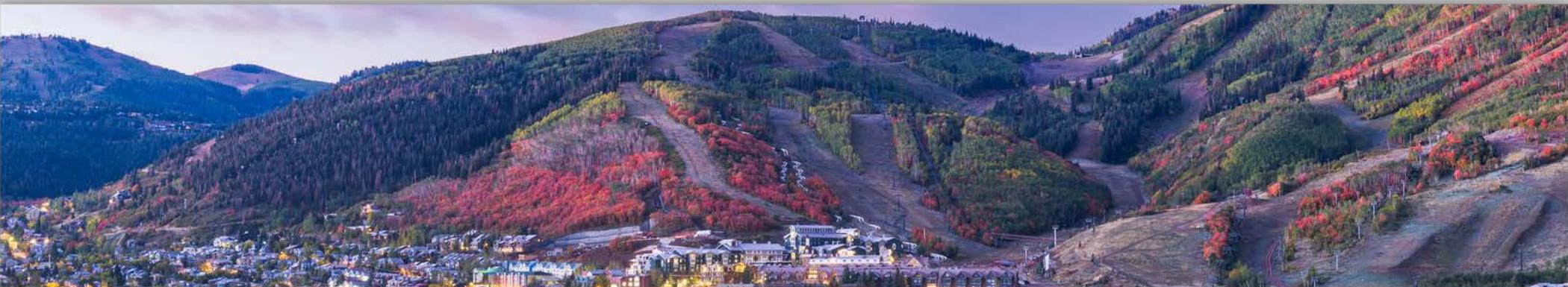
Source: U.S. News & World Report, Public Health Rankings <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/health-care/public-health>.

**Figure 76 – Health Measures**

(“winner” bolded and highlighted)

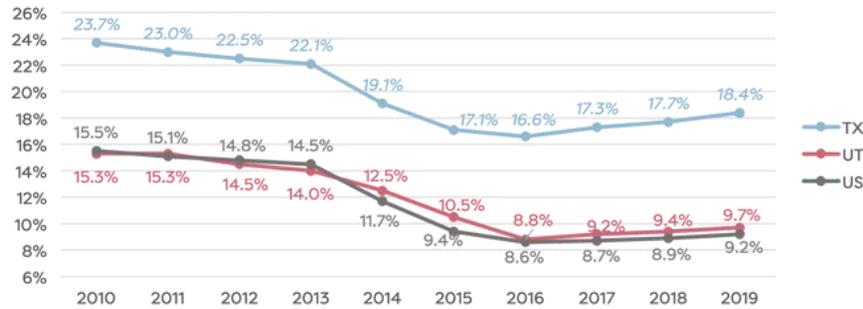
|                                                                      | UT         |                    |                    | TX           |                    |                    | US    |                    |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                                                      | Total      | White              | Hispanic or Latino | Total        | White              | Hispanic or Latino | Total | White              | Hispanic or Latino |
| Teen birth rate per 1000 women, by Race/Ethnicity (2019)             | 12         | <b>7</b>           | <b>29</b>          | 12           | 14                 | 32                 | 17    | 11                 | 25                 |
| Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births by race/ethnicity (2018) | 5.5        | 4.7                | 7.4                | 5.5          | <b>4.5</b>         | <b>5.1</b>         | 5.7   | 4.6                | 4.9                |
| Percentage of adults who smoke by race/ethnicity (2020)              | <b>7%</b>  | <b>7%</b>          | <b>8%</b>          | 13%          | 13%                | 12%                | 13%   | 13%                | 11%                |
| Percentage of children aged 0-35 months who are immunized (2018)     | 67.9%      |                    |                    | <b>83.9%</b> |                    |                    | 70.4% |                    |                    |
|                                                                      | White      | Hispanic or Latino |                    | White        | Hispanic or Latino |                    | White | Hispanic or Latino |                    |
| Heart disease deaths per 100,000 population by race/ethnicity (2019) | <b>152</b> | <b>80</b>          |                    | 175.3        | 128.5              |                    | 165.8 | 111.3              |                    |
| Diabetes Deaths per 100,000 population by Race/Ethnicity (2019)      | 23.9       | <b>28.7</b>        |                    | <b>18.6</b>  | 32.9               |                    | 19    | 25.6               |                    |
| Suicide Rate per 100,000 Individuals (2019)                          | 21.2       |                    |                    | <b>13.4</b>  |                    |                    | 13.9  |                    |                    |
| Suicide Rate per 100,000 Individuals (2019)                          | <b>14%</b> |                    |                    | 16%          |                    |                    | 14%   |                    |                    |

Source: Kids Count Data Center, Teen births by race/ethnicity, <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#USA/2/27/28,29,30,31,32,34,33/char/O>; KFF, State Health Facts: Health Status, <https://www.kff.org/state-category/health-status/>, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/default.htm>.



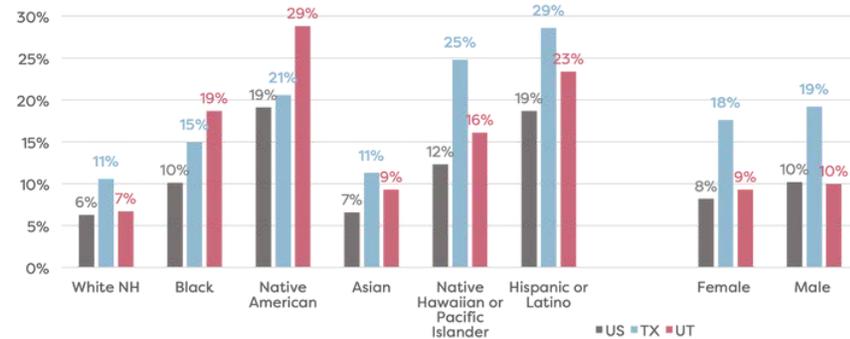
**Figure 77 – Percentage of Population without Health Insurance, 2010-2019**

Texas ranks 1st in the nation for the highest uninsured rate, while Utah is the 17th highest.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Selected characteristics of health insurance coverage in the United States," Table ID: S7201 ACS 1-year estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=table%20S2701&tid=ACSS15Y2020.S2701>.

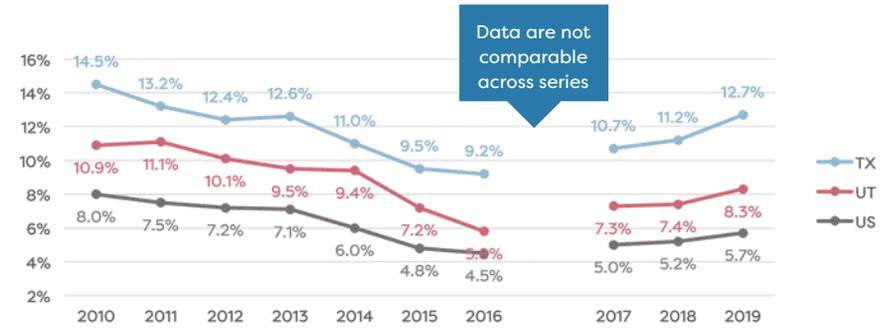
**Figure 78 – Percentage of Population without Health Insurance by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, 2019**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Selected Health Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, Table ID: S7201 ACS 1-year estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=health%20insurance&tid=ACSS1Y2019.S2701&moe=false&hidePreview=true>.

**Figure 79 – Percentage of Children without Health Insurance, 2010-2019**

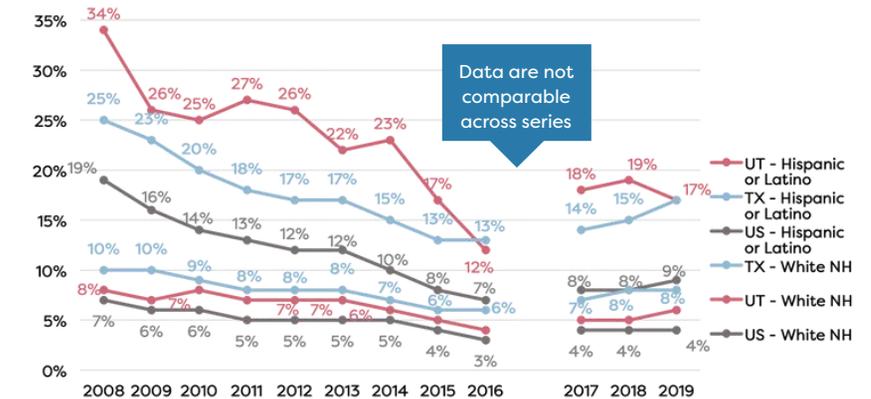
("winner" bolded and highlighted)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Selected characteristics of health insurance coverage in the United States," Table ID: S7201 ACS 1-year estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=table%20S2701&tid=ACSS15Y2020.S2701>. Note: series between 2008-2016 & 2017-2019 are not comparable because the U.S. Census Bureau began including 18-year-olds in the health insurance age group for children in 2017.

**Figure 80 – Percentage of White and Hispanic Children without Health Insurance, 2008-2019**

In 2019 Utah tied with Texas (& Tennessee) for the nation's highest percent of uninsured Hispanic children at 17%.



Source: Kids Count Data Center, "Children without health insurance by race and ethnicity," <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>. Note: series between 2008-2016 & 2017-2019 are not comparable because the U.S. Census Bureau began including 18-year-olds in the health insurance age group for children in 2017.

**Figure 81 – Medicaid and CHIP Metrics**

Texas has higher participation rates than Utah, but lower than the US overall, and participation rates have decreased from 2016-2019 for all three groups, the largest decrease from Utah. (“winner” bolded and highlighted)

|                                                                                                                                                                 | UT                            |           | TX                            |           | US                                                 |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| State adoption of 12-month continuous eligibility for children’s Medicaid and CHIP (January 2020)                                                               | Medicaid: No                  | CHIP: Yes | Medicaid: No                  | CHIP: Yes | Medicaid: 25 States Yes                            | CHIP: 25 States Yes |
| Medicaid/CHIP child participation rate, 2019 (% Point Change 2016-2019)                                                                                         | 79.4% (~7.9% points)          |           | <b>85.4% (~4.0% points)</b>   |           | 91.9% (-1.5% points)                               |                     |
| Medicaid Income Eligibility Limits for parents (in a single parent household and family size of three) as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level (January 2022) | <b>138%</b>                   |           | 16%                           |           | 138%                                               |                     |
| Medicaid Income Eligibility Limits for pregnant women (in a family of 3) as a percent of the federal poverty level (January 2022)                               | 144%                          |           | <b>203%</b>                   |           | 200%                                               |                     |
| Lawfully residing immigrant children covered without a 5-year wait (ICHIA option), by Medicaid/CHIP (January 2022)                                              | Yes                           |           | Yes                           |           | 35 States Yes                                      |                     |
| Lawfully residing immigrant pregnant women covered without a 5-year wait (ICHIA Option), by Medicaid/CHIP (January 2022)                                        | No                            |           | No                            |           | 25 States Yes                                      |                     |
| Presumptive Eligibility in Medicaid and CHIP for children (Medicaid or CHIP) and pregnant women (January 2022)                                                  | Children: No<br>Pregnant: Yes |           | Children: No<br>Pregnant: Yes |           | Children: 19 States Yes<br>Pregnant: 30 states Yes |                     |

Source: KFF, State Health Facts: Medicaid & Chip, <https://www.kff.org/state-category/medicaid-chip/>, Urban Institute, Uninsurance Rose among Children and Parents in 2019, Table A.3, <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/uninsurance-rose-among-children-and-parents-2019>.

**Figure 82 – Medicaid & CHIP Income Eligibility Limits for Children as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level, 2020**

| Location  | Medicaid Coverage for infants Ages 0-1 |                                    | Medicaid Coverage for children Ages 1-5 |                                    | Medicaid Coverage for children Ages 6-18 |                                    | Separate CHIP for Uninsured Children Ages 0-18 | Upper Income Limit |
|-----------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|           | Medicaid Funded                        | CHIP-Funded for Uninsured Children | Medicaid Funded                         | CHIP-Funded for Uninsured Children | Medicaid Funded                          | CHIP-Funded for Uninsured Children |                                                |                    |
| <b>US</b> | 195%                                   | 217%                               | 217%                                    | 217%                               | 138%                                     | 155%                               | 255%                                           | 255%               |
| <b>TX</b> | 203%                                   |                                    | 149%                                    |                                    | 138%                                     | 109%-138%                          | 206%                                           | 206%               |
| <b>UT</b> | 144%                                   |                                    | 144%                                    |                                    | 138%                                     | 105%-138%                          | 205%                                           | 205%               |

Source: KFF, <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/medicaid-and-chip-income-eligibility-limits-for-children-as-a-percent-of-the-federal-poverty-level/>.

**Figure 83 – Most Polluted Metropolitan Areas, 2017-2019**

|                                  | UT                               | TX                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| By Ozone                         | 8th Salt Lake City- Provo- Orem  | <b>11th Houston</b> |
| By Short-Term Particle Pollution | 17th Salt Lake City- Provo- Orem | <b>45th Houston</b> |

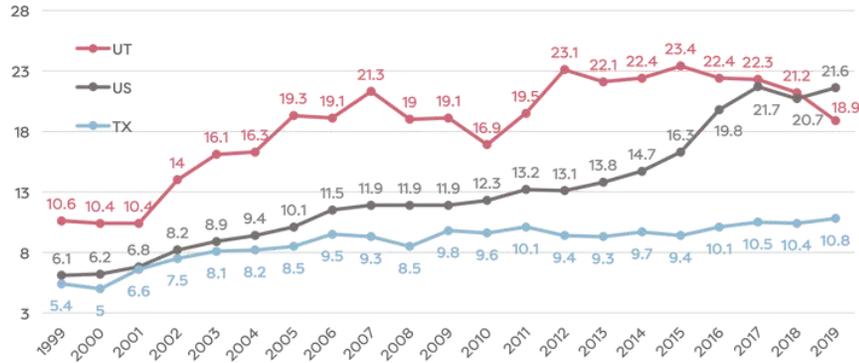
Source: American Lung Association, Most Polluted Cities, <https://www.stateoftheair.org/city-rankings/most-polluted-cities.html> (Accessed February 10, 2022).

**Figure 84 – Selected County Air Quality Report Card, (Scale A-F), 2017-2019**

| UT         | OZONE | PARTICLE POLLUTION | TX         | OZONE | PARTICLE POLLUTION |
|------------|-------|--------------------|------------|-------|--------------------|
| Box Elder  | D     | F                  | Bell       | F     | INC                |
| Cache      | B     | F                  | Bexar      | F     | B                  |
| Carbon     | C     | DNC                | Bowie      | DNC   | B                  |
| Davis      | F     | F                  | Brazoria   | F     | DNC                |
| Duchesne   | F     | C                  | Brewster   | A     | A                  |
| Salt Lake  | F     | F                  | Cameron    | A     | A                  |
| San Juan   | A     | DNC                | Collin     | F     | DNC                |
| Tooele     | F     | D                  | Dallas     | F     | C                  |
| Uintah     | F     | A                  | Denton     | F     | INC                |
| Utah       | F     | F                  | El Paso    | F     | B                  |
| Washington | B     | A                  | Ellis      | D     | B                  |
| Weber      | F     | F                  | Galveston  | F     | B                  |
|            |       |                    | Gregg      | B     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Harris     | F     | C                  |
|            |       |                    | Harrison   | A     | B                  |
|            |       |                    | Hidalgo    | A     | C                  |
|            |       |                    | Hood       | D     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Hunt       | C     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Jefferson  | F     | B                  |
|            |       |                    | Johnson    | F     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Kaufman    | B     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | McLennan   | B     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Montgomery | F     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Navarro    | C     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Nueces     | A     | B                  |
|            |       |                    | Orange     | D     | A                  |
|            |       |                    | Parker     | D     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Polk       | A     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Randall    | F     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Rockwall   | D     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Smith      | C     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Tarrant    | F     | A                  |
|            |       |                    | Travis     | F     | C                  |
|            |       |                    | Victoria   | B     | DNC                |
|            |       |                    | Webb       | A     | INC                |

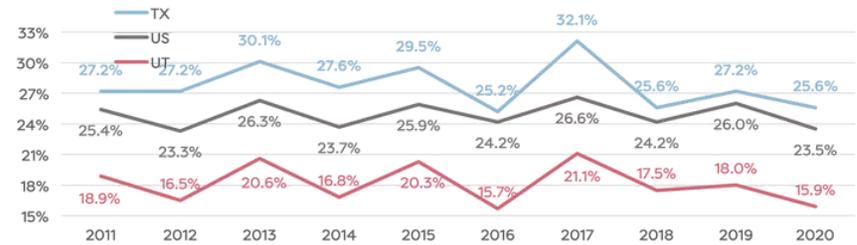
Source: American Lung Association, State Rankings, <http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/city-rankings/states>. Note: INC indicates incomplete monitoring data for all three years and DNC indicates there is no monitor collecting data.

**Figure 85 –All Drug Overdose Death Rates, 1999-2019 (Per 100,000 Population)**



Source: KFF, State Health Facts: Mental Health & Substance Use, Drug Overdose Death Rate (per 100,000 population) <https://www.kff.org/state-category/mental-health/>. Data has been age adjusted.

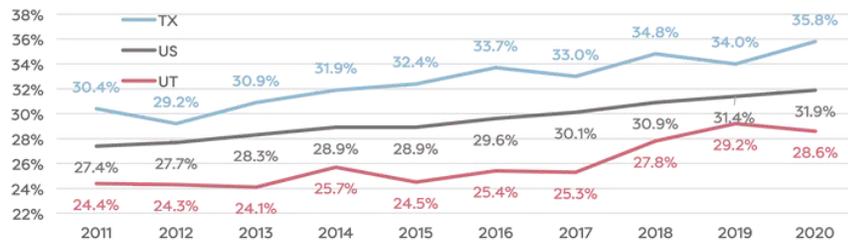
**Figure 87 – Percentage of Adults Who Reported No Physical Activity in the Last Month Outside of Work, 2011-2020**



Source: CDC, Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity: Data, Trends and Maps, <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/data-trends-maps/index.html>

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

**Figure 86 –Obesity Rates for Adults, 2011-2020**



Obesity defined by BMI≥30. Source: CDC Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity: Data, Trends and Maps <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/data-trends-maps/index.html>

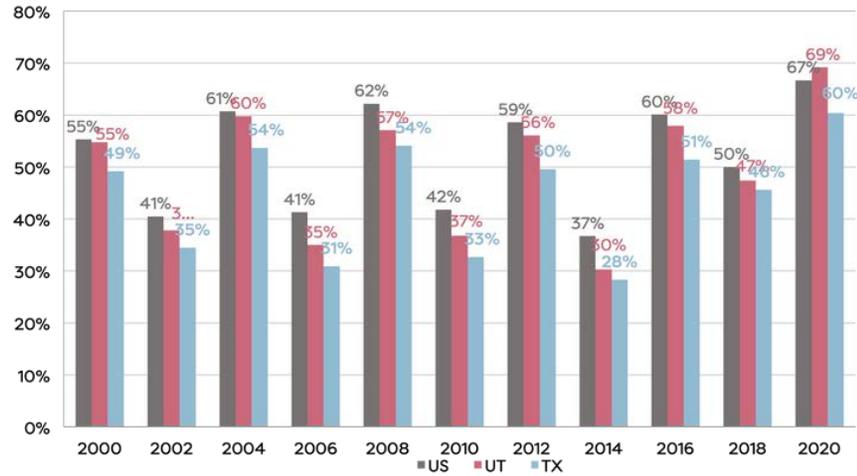
**Figure 88 – Volunteering in the Community, 2018**

In 2018, Utah placed #1 in Volunteering Among States by the US Commission for National & Community Service.

| Percent of Residents that...               | UT  | TX  |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Volunteer                                  | 28% | 51% |
| Do something positive for the neighborhood | 19% | 40% |
| Donate \$25 or more to charity             | 49% | 67% |

Source: AmeriCorps, Volunteering in America, States, <https://nationalservice.gov/serve/via/states>.

**Figure 89 – General Election Voter Turnout, 2000-2020**  
(as % of voting-eligible population)



Note: For years 2004-08 and 2012-14, Texas did not report total ballots counted, so the total votes for the highest office were used instead. Source: The United States Elections Project, Voter Turnout Data, <http://www.electproject.org/home/voter-turnout/voter-turnout-data>.

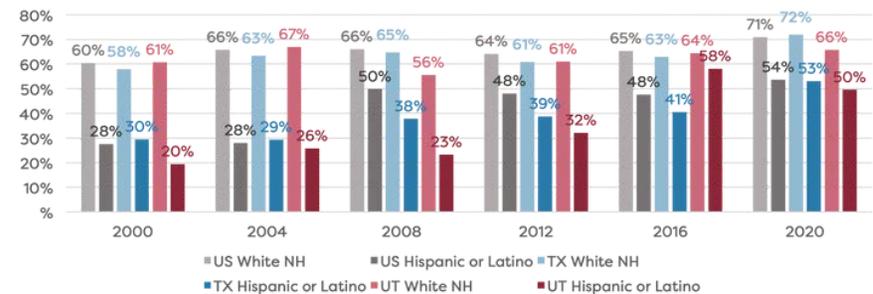
**Figure 90 – State Ranking for Voter Turnout**  
(1 is highest turnout)

The US overall, Texas, and Utah all had a slightly higher share of females and elderly that participated in the 2020 election relative to males and younger generations. Over the past two decades the share of voting White non-Hispanic Utahns has increased slightly and the share of Hispanic or Latinos voting has more than doubled which might account for Utah's improvement in voter turnout from 45th in 2008 to 22nd in 2020. Texas has remained in the bottom 10 states for voter participation over the last seven election cycles.

|      | UT   | TX   |
|------|------|------|
| 2020 | 22nd | 44th |
| 2018 | 28th | 41st |
| 2016 | 38th | 47th |
| 2014 | 44th | 48th |
| 2012 | 39th | 47th |
| 2010 | 47th | 50th |
| 2008 | 45th | 47th |

Source See Figure 89.

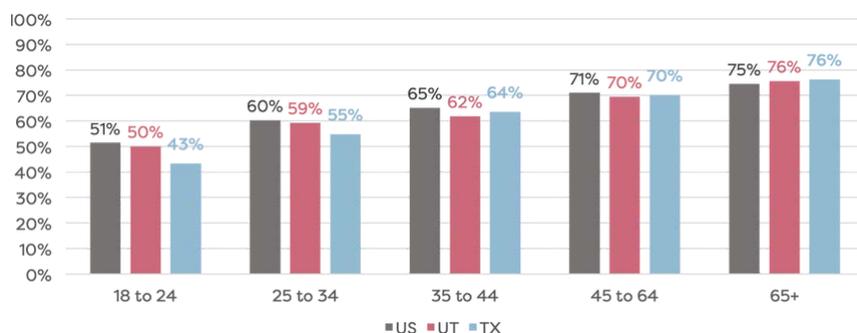
**Figure 91 – Reported Voting by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2000-2020**



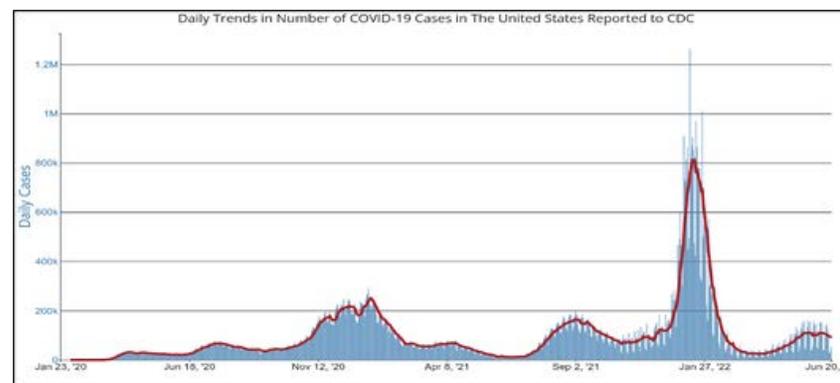
Source: United States Census Bureau Voting and Registration Tables. [https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/voting/data/tables.All.List\\_1863097513.html](https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/voting/data/tables.All.List_1863097513.html). Note: The Current Population Survey sample frame is the resident non-institutional population, which is smaller than all persons eligible to vote used above.



Figure 92 – Reported Voting by Age, November 2020



Source: See figure 91.



Source: CDC Covid Data Tracker.

## COVID-19 IMPACT AND RESPONSE

Figure 93 – Coronavirus Trends per 100,000 & Rank, January 2020 – July 2022

Utah and Texas had similar policy responses to the Coronavirus, with Texas having more stringent and earlier policy interventions of the two. This might explain why Texas has had much lower cases than Utah. Utah on the other hand has had fewer deaths compared to all states except Hawaii and Vermont.

Rankings: 1 is highest, 50 is lowest

|                                | US      | UT           | TX             |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------------|----------------|
| Total Cases per 100,000 & Rank | 26, 762 | 30,152 (5th) | 24, 388 (38th) |
| Total Deaths per 100,000       | 307     | 150 (48th)   | 306 (31st)     |
| Percent Fully Vaccinated       | 67%     | 65% (23rd)   | 62% (31st)     |

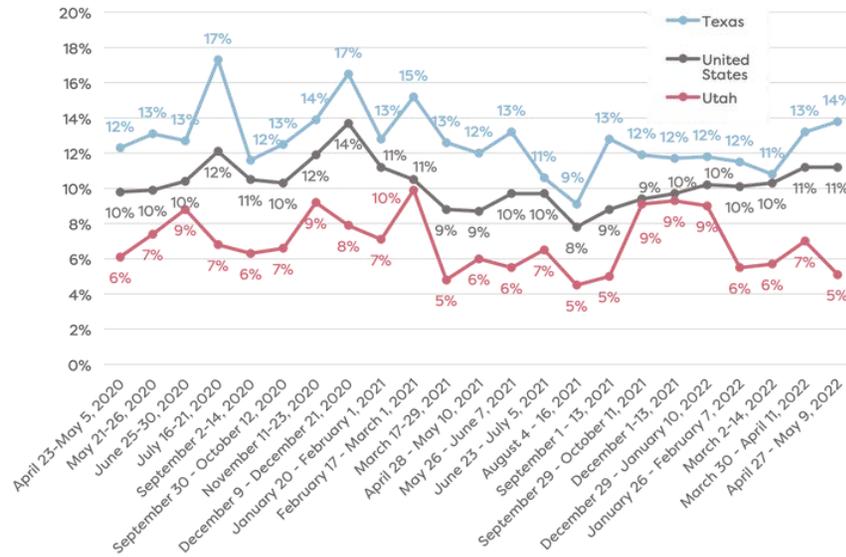
Source: Reported by the New York Times June 28, 2022. State and local health agencies (cases, deaths); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (test positivity, hospitalizations); Centers for Disease Control and state governments (vaccinations); Census Bureau (population and demographic data). Test positivity data is based on viral P.C.R. test results only and is a seven-day average. The daily average is calculated with data that was reported in the last seven days. Vaccination data is not available for some states. All-time charts show data from Jan. 21, 2020, to July 13, 2022.

Figure 94 – Utah & Texas Coronavirus Policies

| DATE             | Utah                                                                                                           | DATE                  | Texas                                                                                           |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 6, 2020    | First case identified                                                                                          | March 4, 2020         | First case identified                                                                           |
| March 6, 2020    | Gov. Herbert Declares State of Emergency                                                                       | March 13, 2020        | Gov. Abbott issues Disaster Declaration                                                         |
| March 16, 2020   | Statewide public schools close initially for 2 weeks but for the remainder of the year                         | March 19, 2020        | Statewide public schools close initially for 2 weeks but for the remainder of the year          |
| March 27, 2020   | Gov. Herbert urged to "Stay Safe, Stay Home." Davis, Salt Lake, and Summit County issued stay-at-home mandates | April 2, 2020         | Statewide stay-at-home mandate                                                                  |
|                  |                                                                                                                | March 26-May 21, 2020 | Quarantine requirements for out-of-state travelers                                              |
| May 1, 2020      | Allowed Gyms, salons, personal care business, and restaurants if they follow guidelines to open                | May 1, 2020           | Allowed libraries, museums, stores, malls, restaurants, and theaters to reopen at 25% occupancy |
| July 17, 2020    | The Utah Dept. of Health issued mandated face coverings for public and private schools                         |                       |                                                                                                 |
| November 9, 2020 | Statewide public mask order issued                                                                             | July 3, 2020          | Statewide public mask order issued                                                              |
| March 24, 2021   | Residents 16 and older eligible for coronavirus vaccine                                                        | March 29, 2021        | Residents 16 and older eligible for coronavirus vaccine                                         |
| April 10, 2021   | Statewide mask mandate ended                                                                                   | March 10, 2021        | Statewide mask mandate ended                                                                    |
| May 19, 2021     | Mask mandates in public schools are prohibited                                                                 | May 21- June 4, 2021  | Mask mandates in local governments or public schools are prohibited                             |

Source: Texas: [https://ballotpedia.org/Documenting\\_Texas%27\\_path\\_to\\_recovery\\_from\\_the\\_coronavirus\\_\(COVID-19\)\\_pandemic\\_2020-2021](https://ballotpedia.org/Documenting_Texas%27_path_to_recovery_from_the_coronavirus_(COVID-19)_pandemic_2020-2021) Utah: [https://ballotpedia.org/Documenting\\_Utah%27s\\_path\\_to\\_recovery\\_from\\_the\\_coronavirus\\_\(COVID-19\)\\_pandemic\\_2020-2021](https://ballotpedia.org/Documenting_Utah%27s_path_to_recovery_from_the_coronavirus_(COVID-19)_pandemic_2020-2021), <https://le.utah.gov/interim/2020/pdf/00003458.pdf>, <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2021/03/07/our-covid-year-timeline/>, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-stay-at-home-order.html>

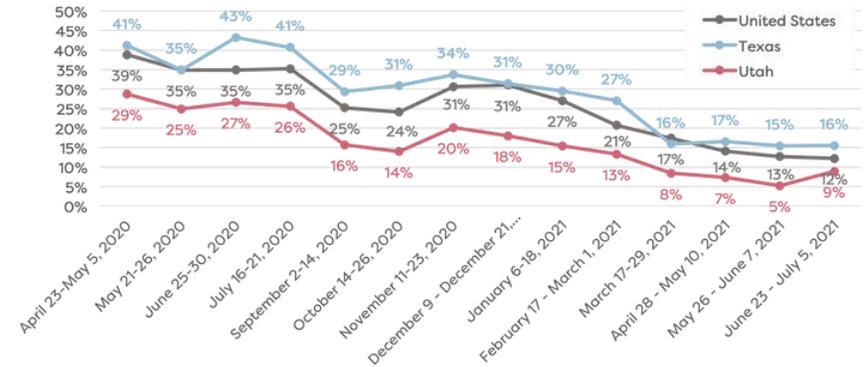
**Figure 95 - Food Scarcity: Adults in households where there was either sometimes or often not enough to eat in the last 7 days, April 23, 2020 – May 9, 2022**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey. Note: Data were collected at different intervals throughout the Household Pulse Survey but are presented to be spaced out consistently over two years.

**Figure 96 - Expected Loss in Employment Income: Adults in households who expect someone in their household to have a loss in employment income in the next 4 weeks, April 23, 2020 – July 5, 2021**

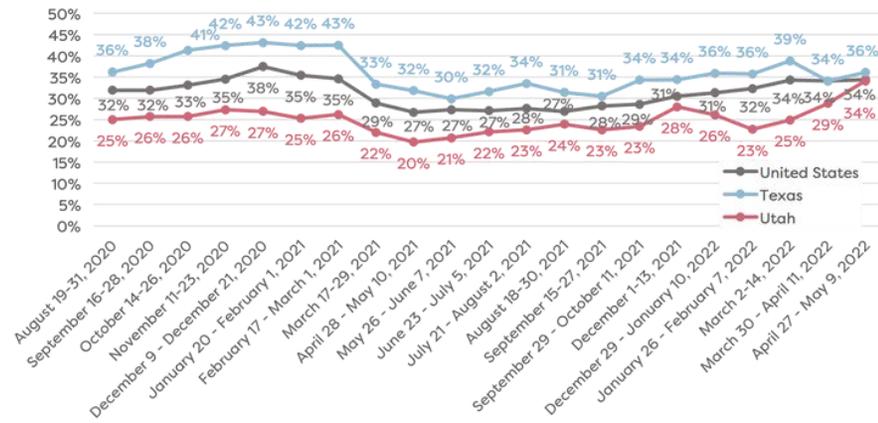
The Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey tables show that in Utah during the beginning of the pandemic Asian households were experiencing the most food insecurity, since then Black, Native American and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander households have seen very large increases especially in households with children which varies widely over time, likely due to the waves of COVID-19 infections.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey. Note: Data were collected at different intervals throughout the Household Pulse Survey but are presented to be spaced out consistently over time.

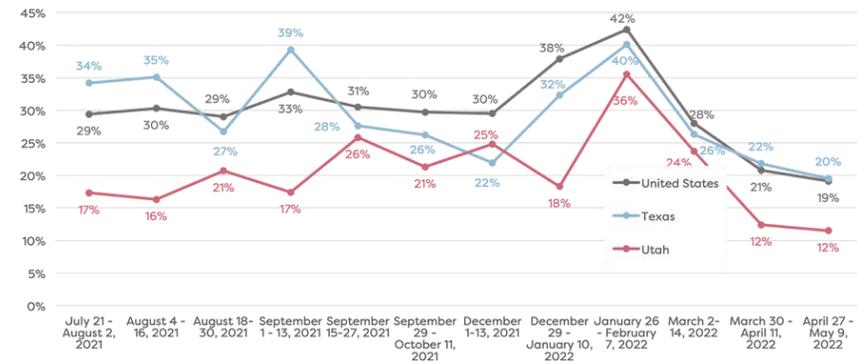


**Figure 97 - Difficulty Paying for Usual Household Expenses:** Adults in households where it has been somewhat or very difficult to pay for usual household expenses in the last 7 days, August 19, 2020 – May 9, 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey. Note: Data were collected at different intervals throughout the Household Pulse Survey but are presented to be spaced out consistently over time.

**Figure 98 - Childcare Disruptions for Kids Under 5:** Share of households where children under 5 were unable to attend daycare or another childcare arrangement in the last 4 weeks



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey.





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