

An Equity Profile of

# Greater Salt Lake City



# Profile Overview

This profile is adapted from a series of regional equity profiles that can be found at <http://nationalequityatlas.org/reports/equity-profiles>. We have included data for the Greater Salt Lake City area to illustrate how quality of life in our community differs when viewed through an equity lens, using charts and data from the National Equity Atlas.

The PolicyLink / PERE data in this document are drawn from a regional equity database that includes data for the 150 largest regions, the 100 largest cities, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the United States as a whole. This database incorporates hundreds of data points from public and private data sources including the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), and Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. For a more detailed and complete list of data sources, please visit <http://nationalequityatlas.org/about-the-atlas/data-methods>.

If you have any questions about this profile, or about the National Equity Atlas generally, please feel free to contact Tess Davis at [tess@utahchildren.org](mailto:tess@utahchildren.org).

# Introduction

## What does it mean to be an **equitable city**?

*Cities are equitable when all residents – regardless of their race/ethnicity, nativity, gender, family income, or ZIP code – are fully able to connect to their city's assets and resources and contribute to its economic vitality and readiness for the future.*

### **Strong, equitable cities:**

- Promote **economic vitality** by providing high-quality jobs to their residents and producing new ideas, businesses, and economic activity that are sustainable and competitive.
- Are **ready for the future**, with a skilled, ready workforce and a healthy population.
- Are **places of connection**, where residents can access the essential ingredients to live healthy and productive lives in their own neighborhoods, reach opportunities located throughout the city (and beyond) via transportation or technology, participate in political processes, and interact with other diverse residents.

# Introduction

## Equity Indicators Framework

*The indicators in this profile are presented in four sections. The first section describes the area's demographics, and the subsequent sections present indicators of the city's economic vitality, readiness, and connectedness. Below are the questions answered within each of the four sections.*

### Demographics:

*Who lives in the area, and how is this changing?*

### Economic Vitality:

*How are people in the area doing on measures of economic wellbeing?*

### Growth Model:

*How much stronger could our local economy be if we improved racial economic inclusion?*

### Implications:

*How can we ensure that the city's residents and neighborhoods connected to one another and to the city's assets and opportunities?*

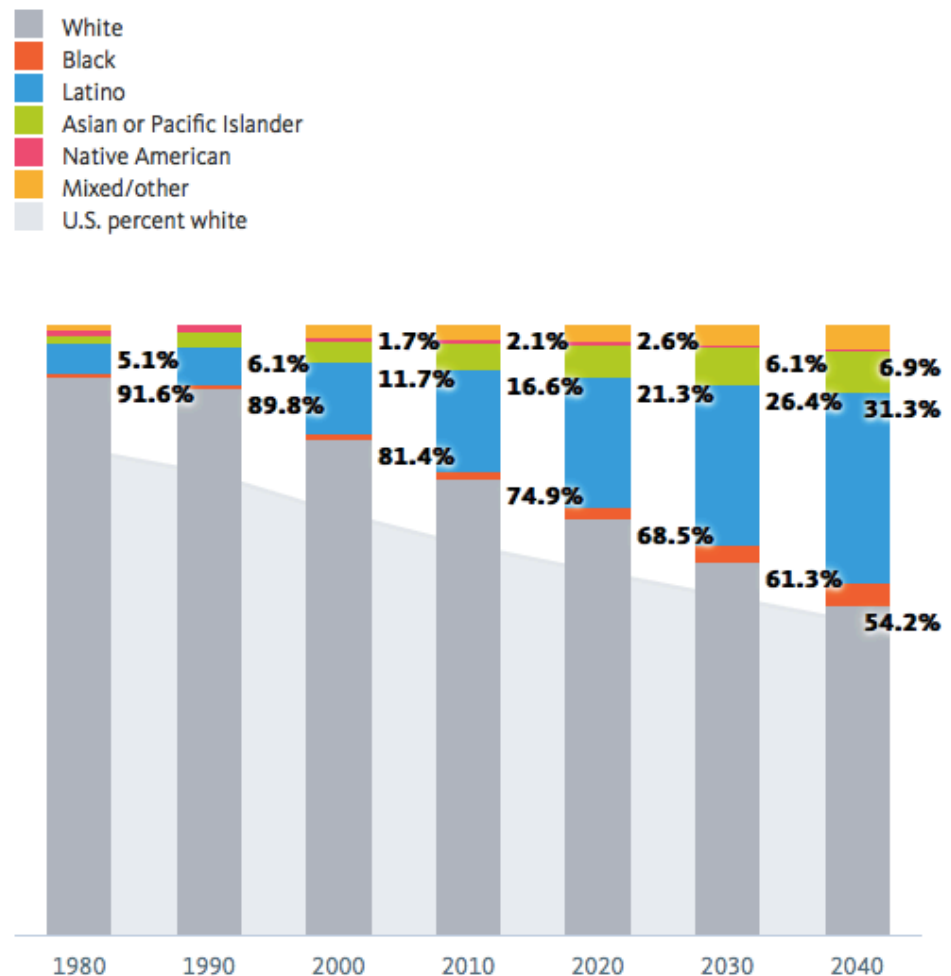
# Demographics

## Steady demographic change over the past several decades

*For the last several decades, communities of color have been driving growth. In the Salt Lake Metro, diverse communities of color have likewise continued to grow at a steady pace.*

*Over the last 30 years, the share of the SLC Metro population composed of **people of color increased from 8.4 percent to 25.1 percent**; the Black population accounted for the most significant growth in our community between 2000 and 2010, at a rate of just over 67 percent.*

**Racial/ethnic composition: Salt Lake City, UT Metro Area, 1980-2040**



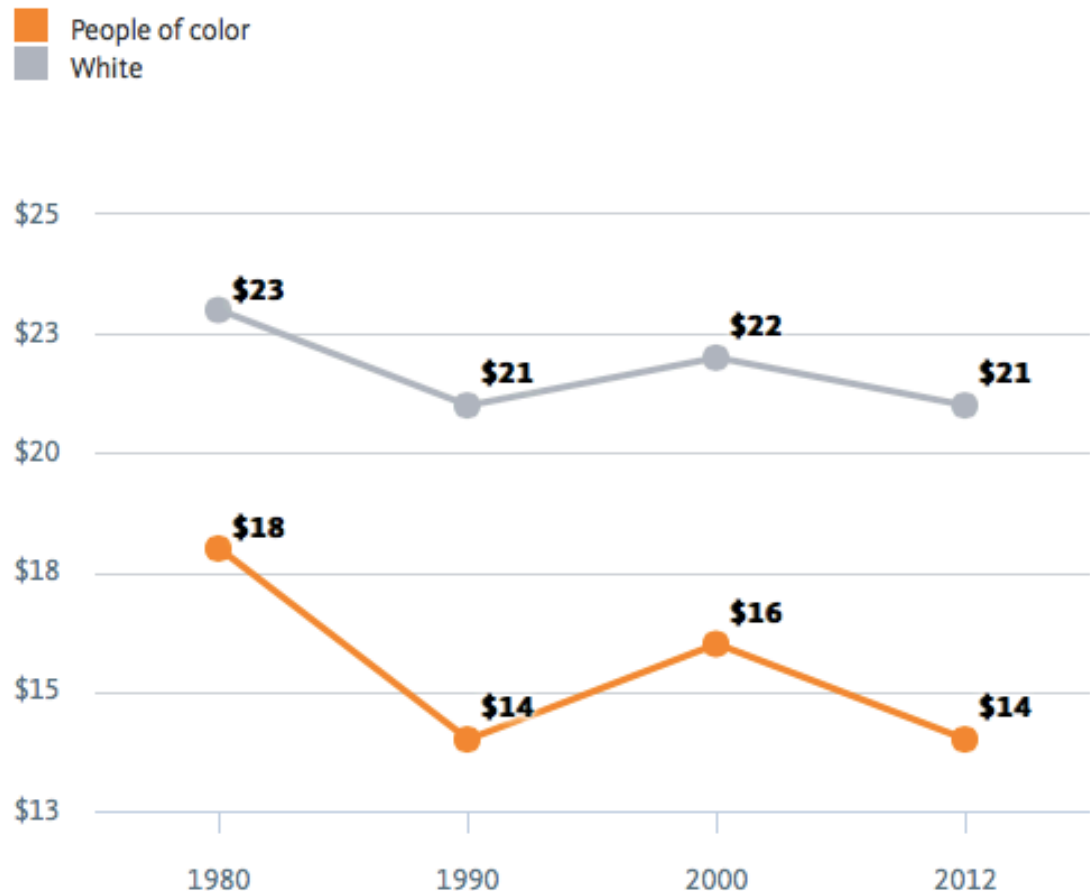
## Economic Vitality

### Racial economic gaps are wide and persistent

*Rising inequality disproportionately affects workers of color, who are concentrated in low-wage jobs that provide few opportunities for economic security or upward mobility. Workers of color consistently earn lower wages and are **more likely to be jobless compared to their white counterparts**, and racial gaps remain **even among workers with similar education levels**.*

*In 2012, the median wage for workers of color in the Salt Lake Metro was **\$7 less** than the median wage for white workers.*

**Median hourly wage by race/ethnicity: Salt Lake City, UT Metro Area, 1980-2012**



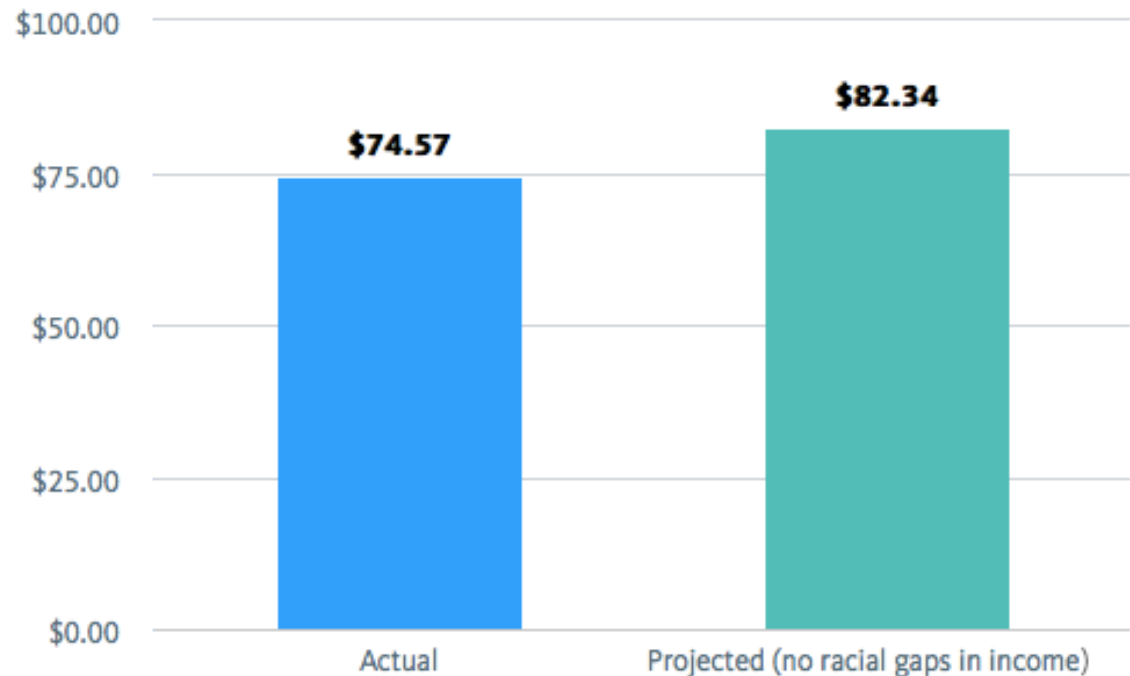
# Growth Model

## Equity delivers superior economic benefits

Racial economic inclusion is **good for families, good for communities, and good for the economy.**

In 2012, the SLC Metro economy would have been notably more robust—**\$7.77 billion larger**—if there had been no racial gaps in income.

**Actual GDP and estimated GDP with racial equity in income (billions): Salt Lake City, UT Metro Area, 2012**



# Implications

## Building a more equitable region

*We strongly recommend working with local coalitions to develop local strategies for economic inclusion.*

*An example from Detroit includes:*

### ***Strengthen Educational Pathways***

*Educational attainment for Black and Latino residents is a critical issue for the long-term economic strength of the region; while 43 percent of all jobs in Michigan by 2020 will require an associate's degree or higher, only 17 percent of Latino immigrants, 24 percent of Black residents, and 25 percent of U.S.-born Latinos have attained that level of education or higher. The region's rate of disconnected youth – those not in school or working – is 15 percent, higher than most Midwestern regions.*

*Programs like the [Detroit Scholarship Fund](#), administered by the Detroit Regional Chamber, grants free tuition for any Detroit-resident high school graduate for an associate's degree or technical certification at five local*

*community colleges. Such scholarships reduce financial barriers to higher education and can encourage high school students to stay connected to school, addressing the high rate of disconnected youth in the region.*

*Programs like these should be strengthened and expanded to increase high school and associate degree graduation rates throughout the region. Educational supports should begin even earlier, with middle-school and high-school curricula that introduce important 21st century skills, such as coding and app and website development.*



# Additional Content:

**Percent change in population: Salt Lake City, UT Metro Area, 2000-2010**

