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The goal of Benchmarking Project is to identify a variety of economic trends affecting working families across Utah, and then to examine those issues through a comparative lens, evaluating Utah's overall progress by using a peer state as a benchmark. Colorado was chosen for this inaugural edition, in part for its geographic proximity to Utah — and thus relatively similar regional identity — as well as for its comparable rates of economic and population growth, demographics, and policy challenges.

Many existing economic comparison studies and rankings look at the economy as a whole or at its impact on specific sectors or on employers. This project seeks to augment those very useful comparisons by focusing on how the economy is experienced by middle and lower-income families. In particular, it is these families whose children are most at risk for not achieving their potential in school and later in the workplace and in society in general. Thus, how they experience the economy is

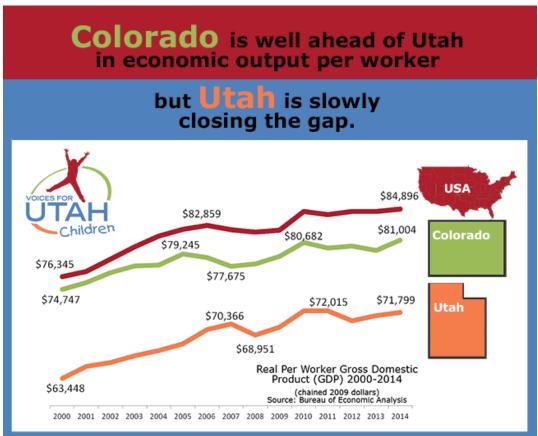
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of particular interest to Voices for Utah Children.

In Part I of the Project, we focus on economic opportunity. The dynamism, flexibility, and competitiveness of a state's economy is a major contributor to economic opportunity, so we look at this topic through a wide range of metrics, from business climate and entrepreneurship rankings to educational attainment and demographic gaps.

Utah ranks ahead of Colorado in:



Business

climate rankings

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth
- Lower unemployment
- Labor force participation
- Higher education system investment
- Referring fewer minority youth to the correctional system
- · Reducing inequality and increasing social mobility

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Colorado outpaces Utah in:

- Pre-K and kindergarten enrollment
- K-12 investment and performance
- Higher education attainment
- Workforce productivity
- Entrepreneurship
- The status of women in the economy

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Business Climate Average Rankings 2010-2015	Working Benchmark Children Project		
Namployment Rate 2015 3.5% (5th lowest) 3.9% (10th lowest)	Economy	Utah vs. (Colorado
Labor Force Participation Rate 2015 68.1% (7th place) 66.7% (14th place)		3 rd place	5 th place
Decline in LFPR 2007-2015 3.8 points 5.5 points	Unemployment Rate 2015 (US = 5.3%)	3.5% (5 th lowest)	3.9% (10 th lowest)
Increase in Real GDP 2009-2014 12.5% 11.7%	Labor Force Participation Rate 2015 (US = 62.7%)	68.1% (7 th place)	66.7% (14 th place)
Total Change in Real Per Capita GDP 2007-2014 -4.0% 0.5%	Decline in LFPR 2007-2015 (US = 3.4 points)	3.8 points	5.5 points
Same	Increase in Real GDP 2009-2014 (US = 10.1%)	12.5%	11.7%
Entrepreneurship: Kauffman Index 2015 Rank 15th place 4th place	Total Change in Real Per Capita GDP 2007-2014 (US = 0.6%)	-4.0%	0.5%
Entrepreneurship: Kauffman Index 2015 Rank 15th place 4th place	Productivity Per Worker 2014 (US=\$93,199)	\$79,210 (37 th place)	\$88,828 (19 th place)
Section Sect	Entrepreneurship: Kauffman Index 2015 Rank		
Enrollment in Full-day Kindergarten 2013 (US=77%) Enrollment in Public Preschool of 4-year-olds 2014-15 (US=41%) NAEP Rankings: Average Rank on 4th, 8th grade Math and Reading 2013-2015 Higher Education State \$/Student 2016 Bachelor's Degree ages 25-64 2013 (US = 31.1% overall, Men=29.5%, Women=32.7%) Bachelor's Degree ages 25-34 2013 (US = 32.3% overall, Men=28.3%, Women=36.3%) Bachelor's Degree or Higher ages 25-64 2014 41.9% CUS=40.4%) CUITY Status of Women Average Rank Gender Wage Gap 2013 (US = 2013 (US = 2013) (U		\$6,555 (50 th place)	\$8,647 (40 th place)
Enrollment in Public Preschool of 4-year-olds 2014-15 (US=41%) NAEP Rankings: Average Rank on 4 th , 8 th grade Math and Reading 2013-2015 Higher Education State \$/Student 2016 Bachelor's Degree ages 25-64 2013 (US = 31.1% overall, Men=29.5%, Women=32.7%) (US = 32.3% overall, Men=28.3%, Women=36.3%) Associate's Degree or Higher ages 25-64 2014 (US=40.4%) EQUITY Status of Women Average Rank Gender Wage Gap 2013 (US=21 cents/dollar) Referral Rates of Black, Latino Students to Law Enforcement 13% (50 th place) 18 th place 18 th place 14 th place 44,754 38.6% Men=37.1% Women=37.1% Women=30.3% and Men=28.5% Women=40% and Men=28.5% Women=40% and Men=28.5% Women=31.0% and Men=28.5% Women=40% and Men=28.5% Women=40.1% and Men=28.5% Women=30.3% and Men=28.5% Women=40.1% and Me	Enrollment in Full-day Kindergarten 2013		
NAEP Rankings: Average Rank on 4th, 8th grade Math and Reading 2013-2015 18th place 14th place Higher Education State \$/Student 2016 \$7,752 \$4,754 Bachelor's Degree ages 25-64 2013 (US = 31.1% overall, Men=29.5%, Women=32.7%) 31.4% Men=32.5% Women=30.3% 38.6% Men=37.1% Women=40% Bachelor's Degree ages 25-34 2013 (US = 32.3% overall, Men=28.3%, Women=36.3%) 29.8% Men=28.5% Women=31.0% 37.7% Women=42.1% LOS=40.4%) 41.9% 48.2% EQUITY 30 cents/dollar (47th place) 20 cents/dollar (18th place) Gender Wage Gap 2013 (US=21 cents/dollar) 30 cents/dollar (47th place) 20 cents/dollar (18th place) Referral Rates of Black, Latino Students to Law Enforcement 23rd most disproportionate 10th most disproportionate	Enrollment in Public Preschool of 4-year-olds	13% (50 th place)	37% (22 nd place)
Higher Education State \$/Student 2016 Bachelor's Degree ages 25-64 2013 (US = 31.1% overall, Men=29.5%, Women=32.7%) Bachelor's Degree ages 25-34 2013 (US = 32.3% overall, Men=28.3%, Women=36.3%) Associate's Degree or Higher ages 25-64 2014 (US=40.4%) Status of Women Average Rank Gender Wage Gap 2013 (US=21 cents/dollar) Referral Rates of Black, Latino Students to Law Enforcement \$7,752 \$44,754 Men=32.5% Women=30.3% \$1.4% Men=32.5% Women=31.0% ### Place \$1.1th place \$2.9.8% Place \$4,754 \$44,754 \$38.6% Men=37.1% Women=40% \$41.9% \$48.2% \$4.2% \$48.2% \$48.2%	NAEP Rankings: Average Rank on 4th, 8th grade	18 th place	
Bachelor's Degree ages 25-34 2013 (US = 32.3% overall, Men=28.3%, Women=36.3%) Associate's Degree or Higher ages 25-64 2014 (US=40.4%) Status of Women Average Rank Gender Wage Gap 2013 (US=21 cents/dollar) Referral Rates of Black, Latino Students to Law Enforcement 29.8% Men=28.5% Women=31.0% Vomen=31.0% Vomen=42.1% 41.9% 41.9% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2%	-	\$7,752	\$4,754
Bachelor's Degree ages 25-34 2013 (US = 32.3% overall, Men=28.3%, Women=36.3%) Associate's Degree or Higher ages 25-64 2014 (US=40.4%) Status of Women Average Rank Gender Wage Gap 2013 (US=21 cents/dollar) Referral Rates of Black, Latino Students to Law Enforcement 29.8% Men=28.5% Women=31.0% Vomen=31.0% Vomen=42.1% 41.9% 41.9% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2%	Bachelor's Degree ages 25-64 2013 (US = 31.1% overall, Men=29.5%, Women=32.7%)		
Equity Status of Women Average Rank Gender Wage Gap 2013 (US=21 cents/dollar) Referral Rates of Black, Latino Students to Law Enforcement 41.9% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 48.2% 11th place 11th place 20 cents/dollar (18th place) (18th place) 10th most disproportionate	Bachelor's Degree ages 25-34 2013		
Status of Women Average Rank 34th place 11th place Gender Wage Gap 2013 (US=21 cents/dollar) 30 cents/dollar (47th place) 20 cents/dollar (18th place) Referral Rates of Black, Latino Students to Law Enforcement 23rd most disproportionate 10th most disproportionate		41.9%	48.2%
Average Rank Gender Wage Gap 2013 (US=21 cents/dollar) Referral Rates of Black, Latino Students to Law Enforcement Square Place 30 cents/dollar (47th place) 20 cents/dollar (18th place) 23rd most disproportionate 11 m place 20 cents/dollar (18th place)	Equity		
(US=21 cents/dollar) (47th place) (18th place) Referral Rates of Black, Latino Students to Law Enforcement 23rd most disproportionate 10th most disproportionate		34 th place	11 th place
Enforcement most disproportionate most disproportionate	Gender Wage Gap 2013 (US=21 cents/dollar)		
Income Inequality Rank 2014 3rd lowest 20th lowest			
	Turanua Turanualihu Dank 2014	3rd lowest	20th lowest

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The gaps in educational attainment are perhaps the finding of greatest concern for Utah's long-term future.

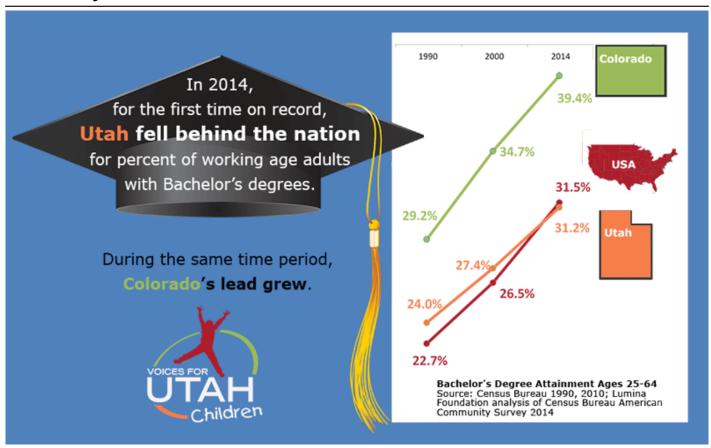
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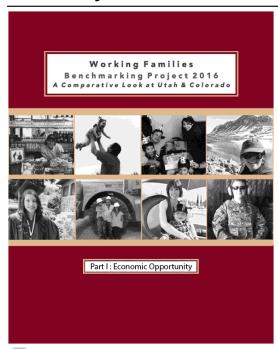
Since education is the foundation of opportunity and prosperity in a modern economy, Colorado's success in educating its population and attracting highly educated migrants from other states may well hold lessons for Utah. Utah is wise to invest more that Colorado in higher education to attempt to make up this gap and should apply a similar lesson in the area of pre-K-12 funding.

As Utah builds on its many assets and grapples with its challenges in the years to come, we hope that this benchmarking project may contribute in a constructive way to the broader economic policy conversation among experts, policymakers, and the general public.

For more detailed information, see the complete printer-friendly report:

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Working Families Benchmarking Project Part One: Economic Opportunity

These measures of economic opportunity also relate directly to the questions we address in Part 2: Standard of Living.

For 30 years now, Voices for Utah Children has called on our state, federal and local leaders to put children's needs first. But the work is not done. The children of 30 years ago now have children of their own. Too many of these children are growing up in poverty, without access to healthcare or quality educational opportunities.

How can you be involved?

Make a tax-deductible donation to Voices for Utah Children—or join our Network with a monthly donation of \$20 or more. Network membership includes complimentary admission to Network events with food, socializing, and opportunity to meet child

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advocacy experts. And don't forget to join our listserv to stay informed!

We look forward to the future of Voices for Utah Children and we hope you will be a part of our next 30 years.

Special thanks to American Express for sponsoring our 30th Anniversary Year.

