



Workforce Services
Workforce Research & Analysis



Workforce **Research & Analysis**

Welcome



Utah Labor Market Update

State Workforce Development Board

Ben Crabb, Chief Economist

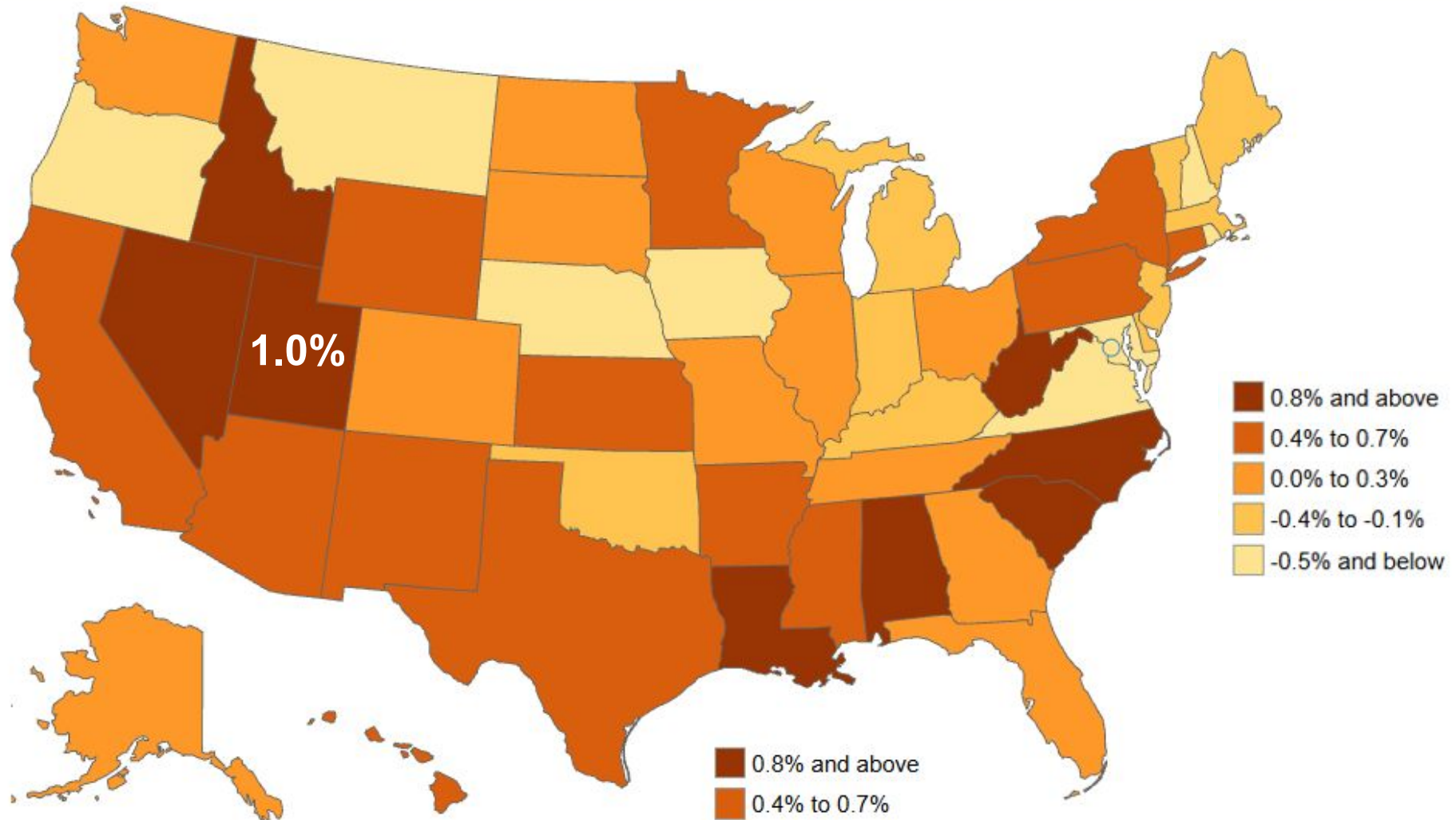
Utah Department of Workforce Services

July 9, 2026



Change in Nonfarm Employment by State

May 2025 – May 2026



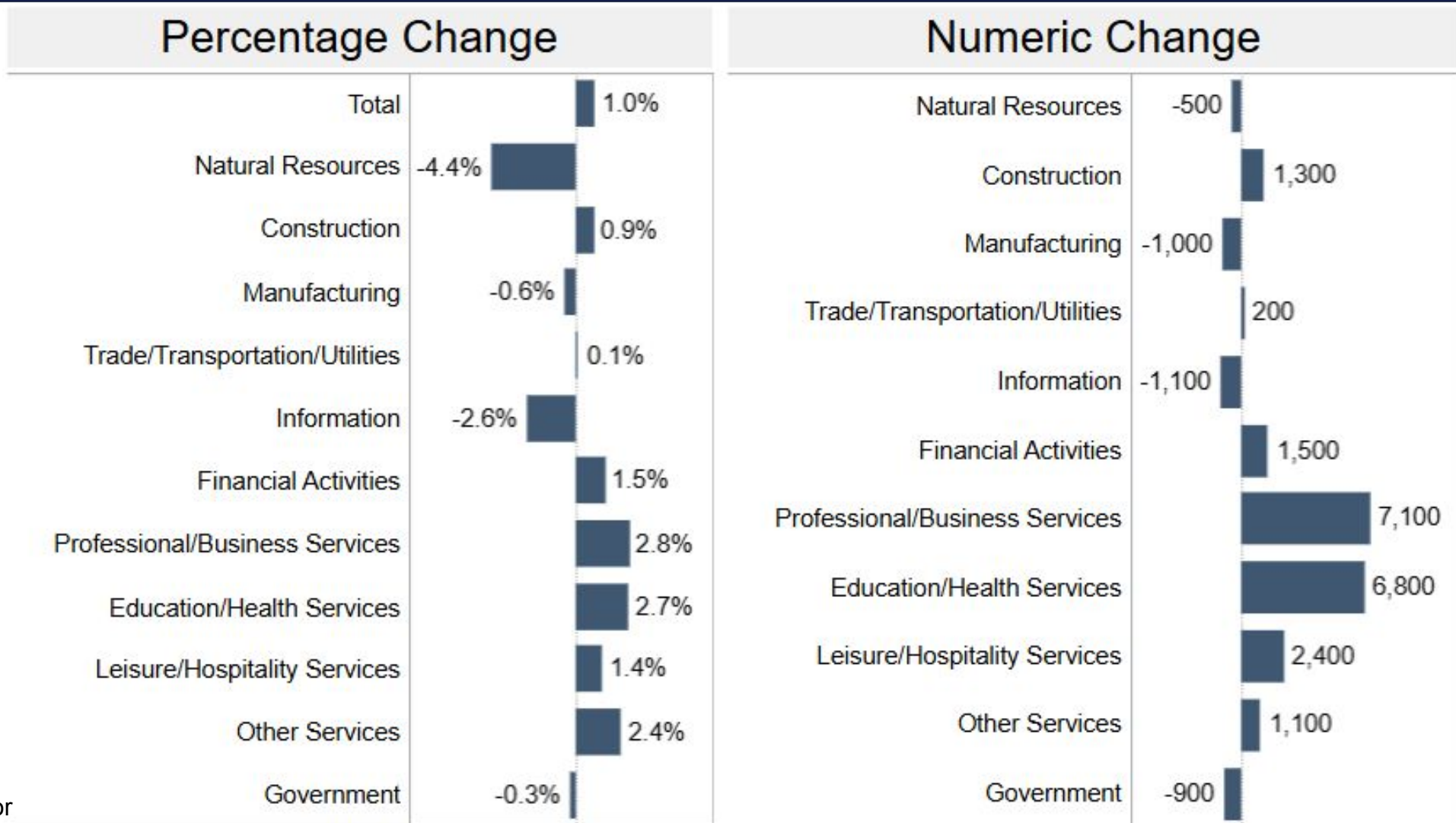
Year-over Change in Nonfarm Jobs

Utah and USA



Utah Nonfarm Industry Profiles

May 2025 – May 2026



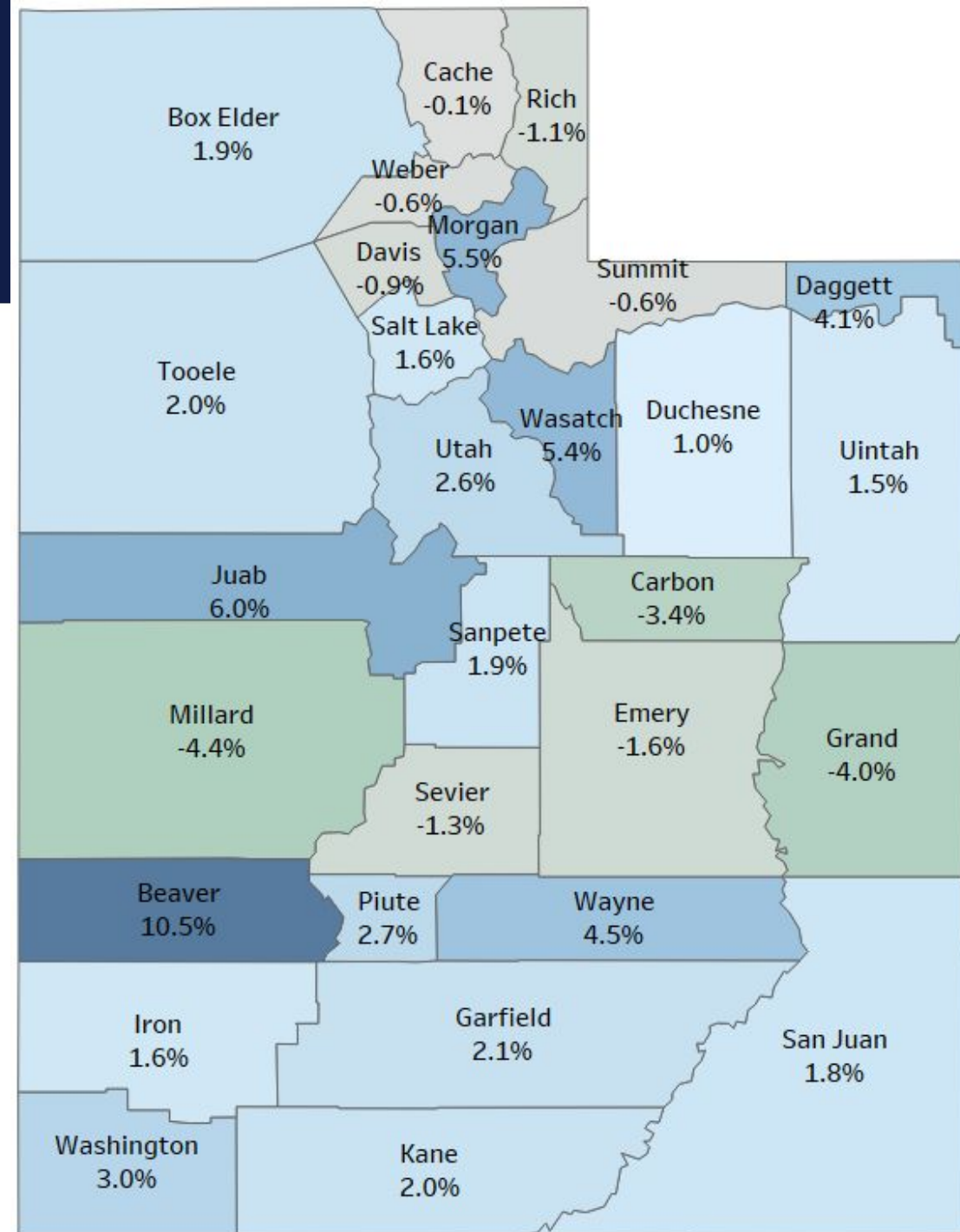
Year-over Change in Nonfarm Jobs

Dec 2024-Dec 2025 by County

Latest Available County data: **4th Quarter 2025**

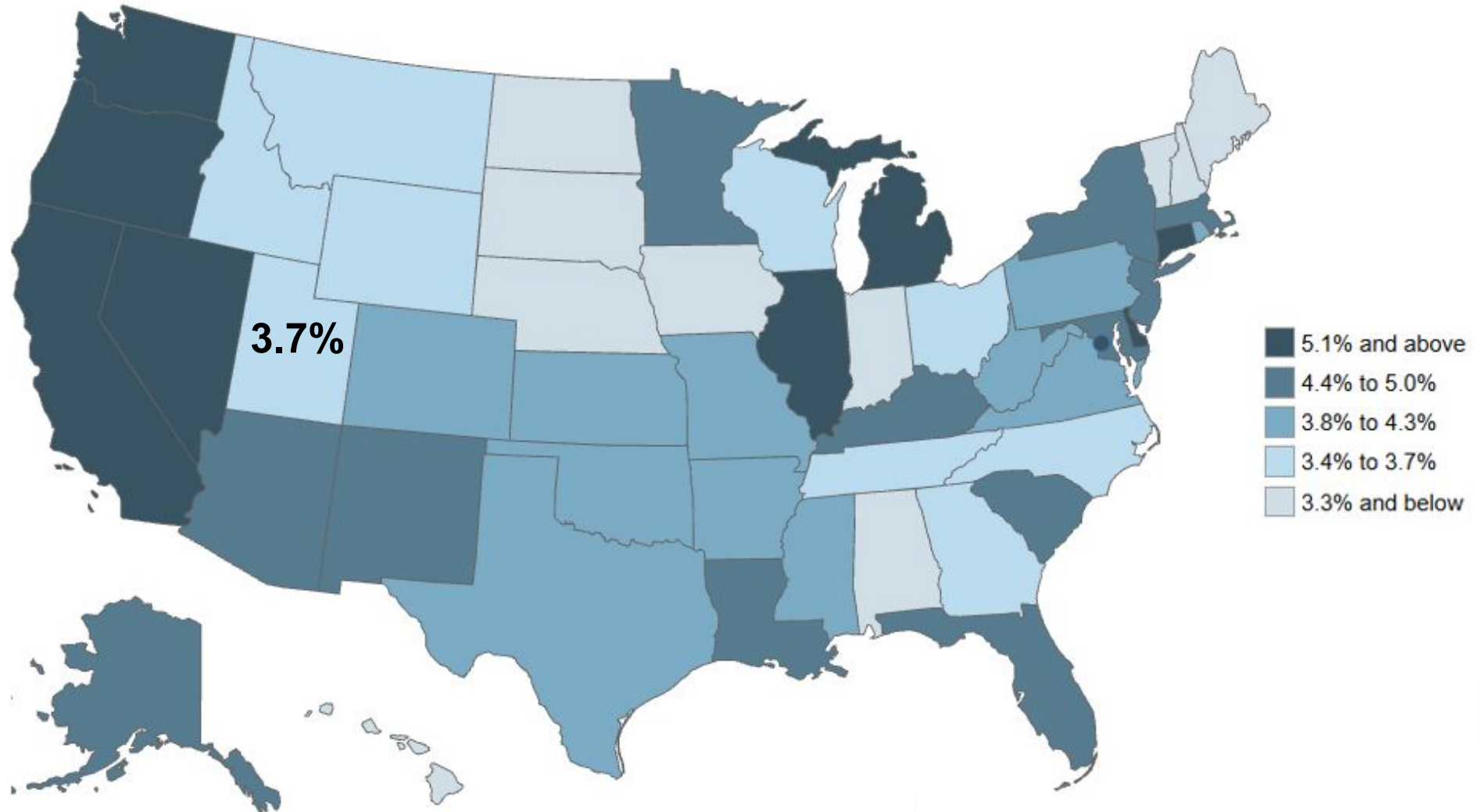
Job growth rates:

- Statewide: 1.4%
- Salt Lake: 1.6%
- Utah County: 2.6%
- Davis: -0.9%
- Weber: -0.6%
- Cache: -0.1%
- Washington: 3.0%



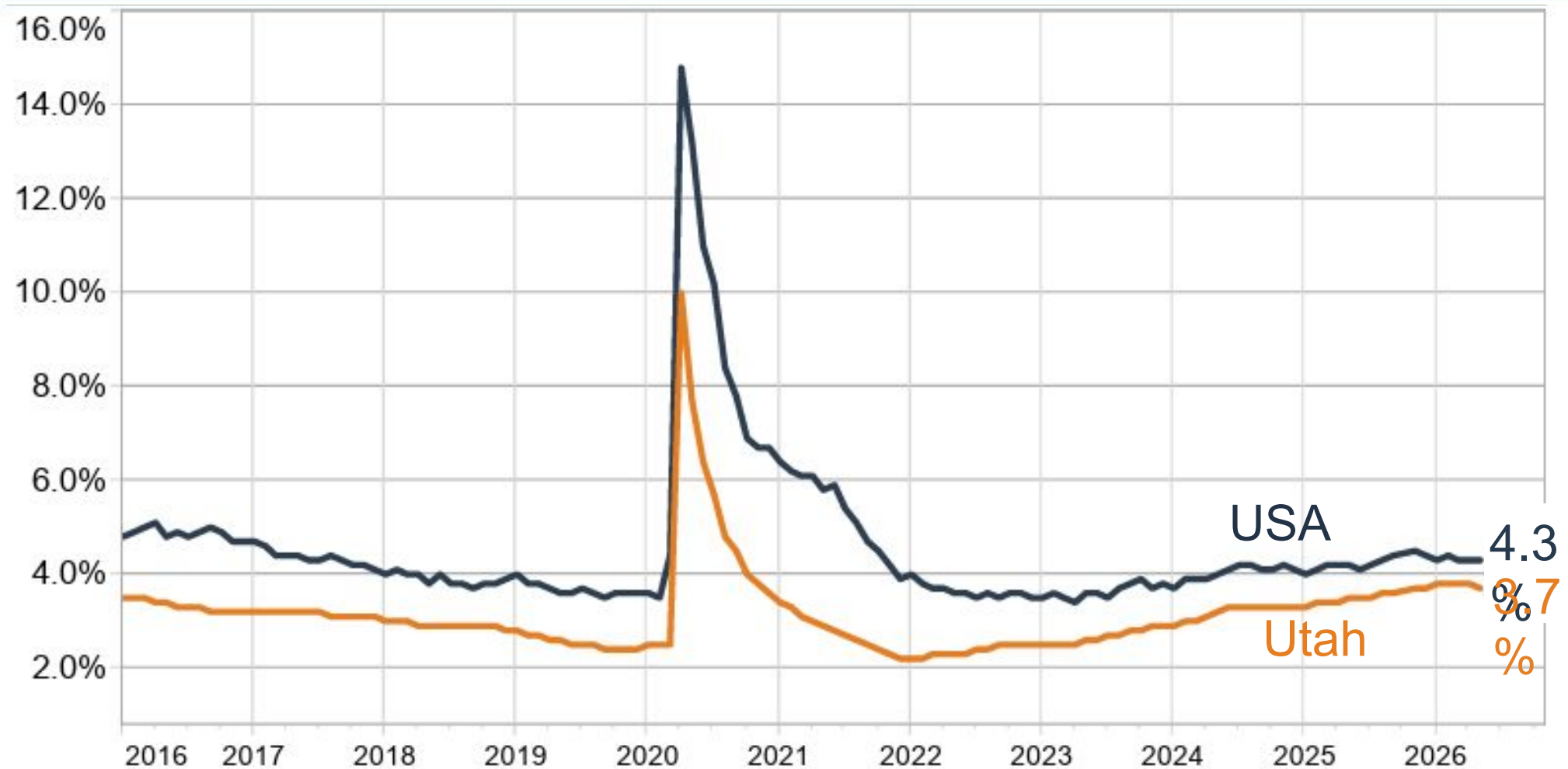
State Unemployment Rates, May 2026

Seasonally Adjusted



Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

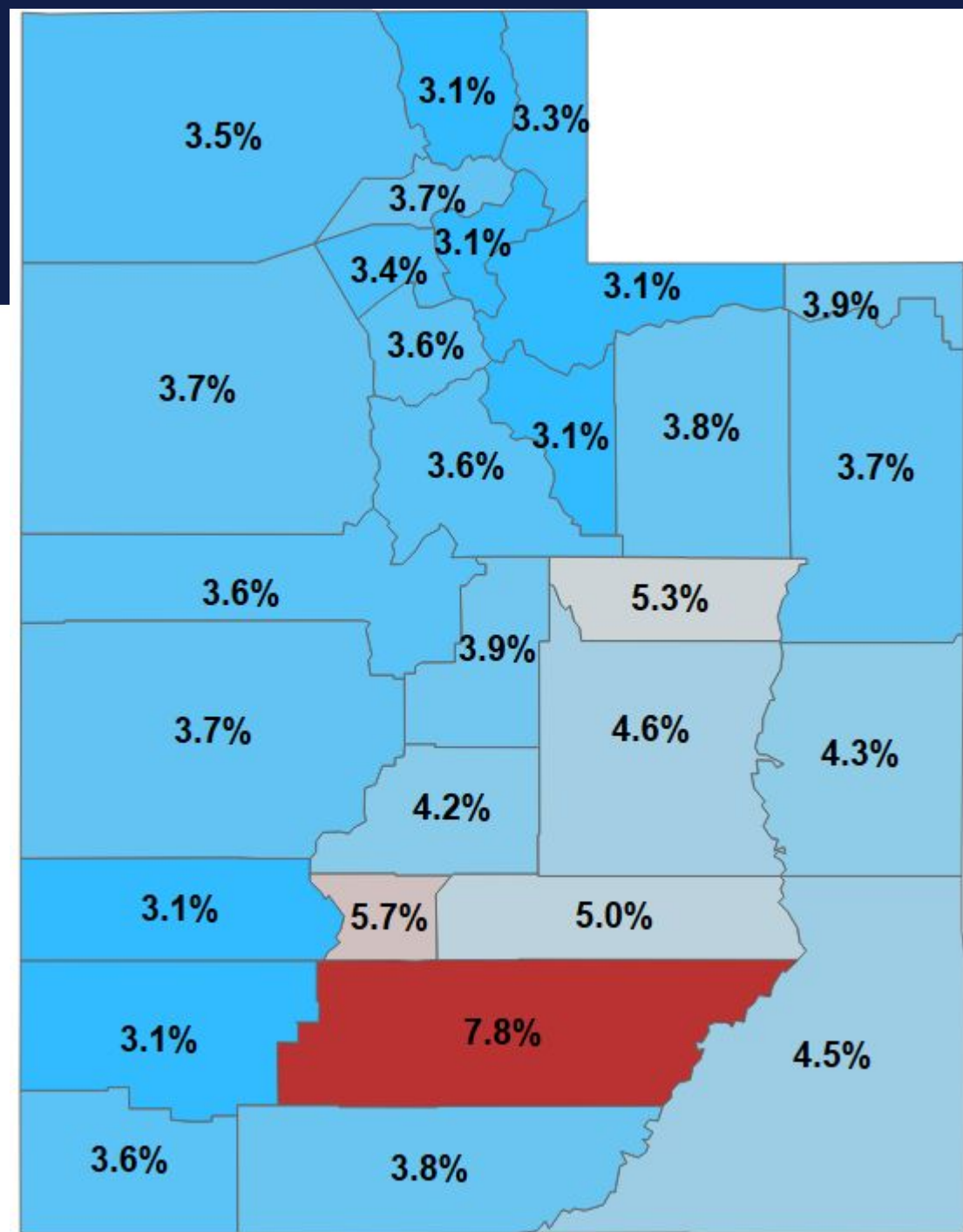
Utah and USA



May 2026 Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates By County

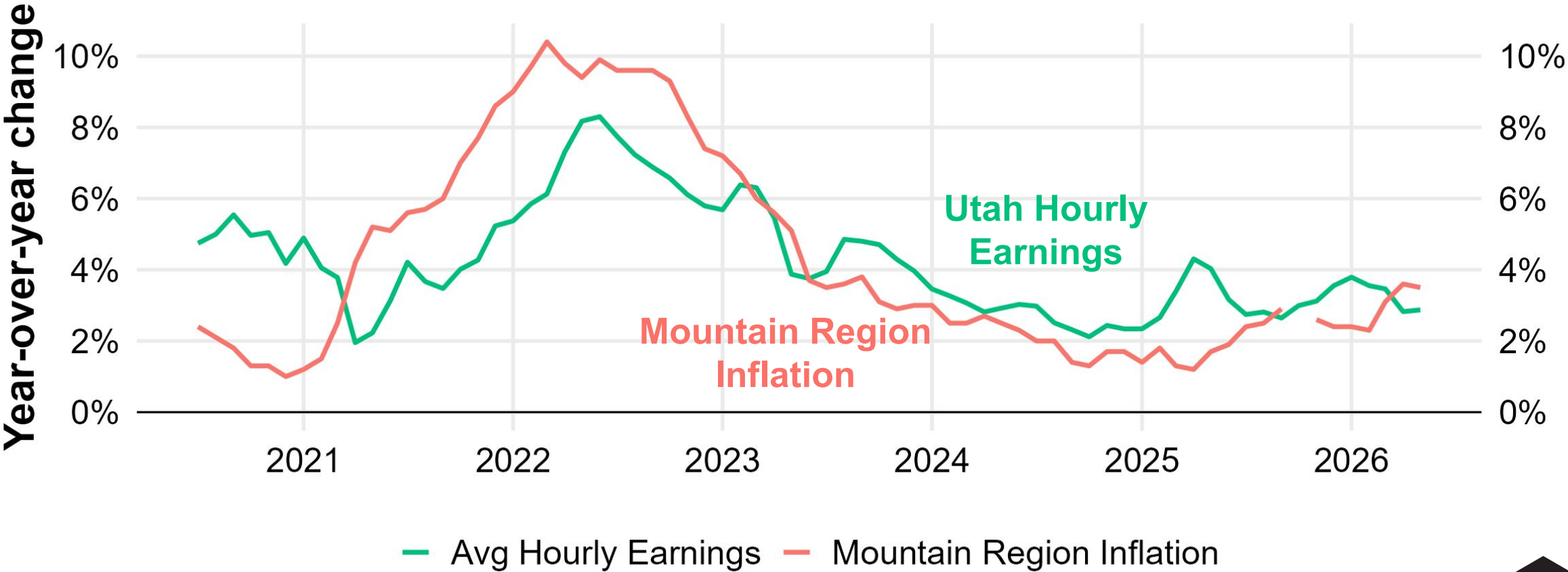
Unemployment rates:

- Statewide: 3.7%
- Salt Lake: 3.6%
- Utah County: 3.6%
- Davis: 3.4%
- Weber: 3.7%
- Cache: 3.1%
- Washington: 3.6%
- Garfield: 7.8%



Hourly Earnings vs Inflation

Inflation now outpacing wage growth

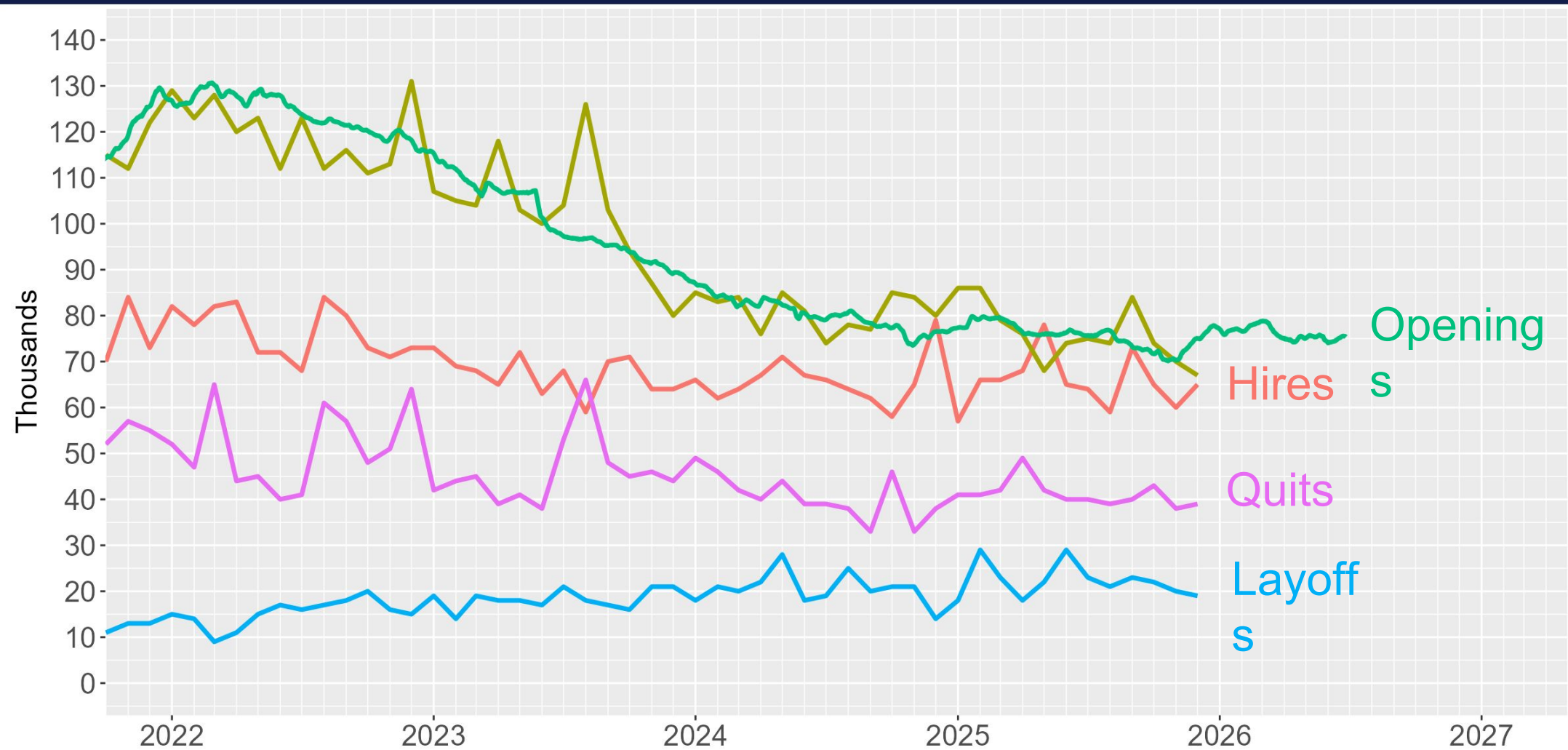


Source: Bureau of Labor
Statistics



Utah Labor Market

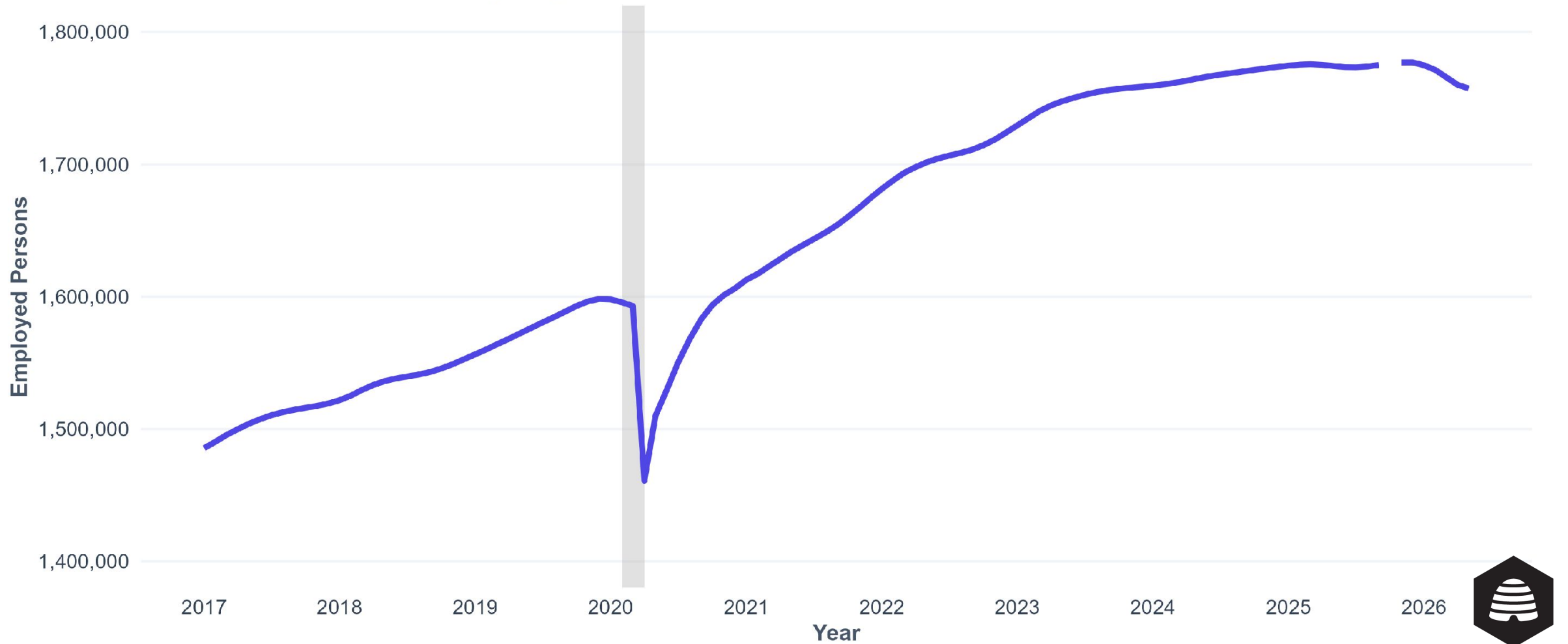
Low Hire, Low Fire



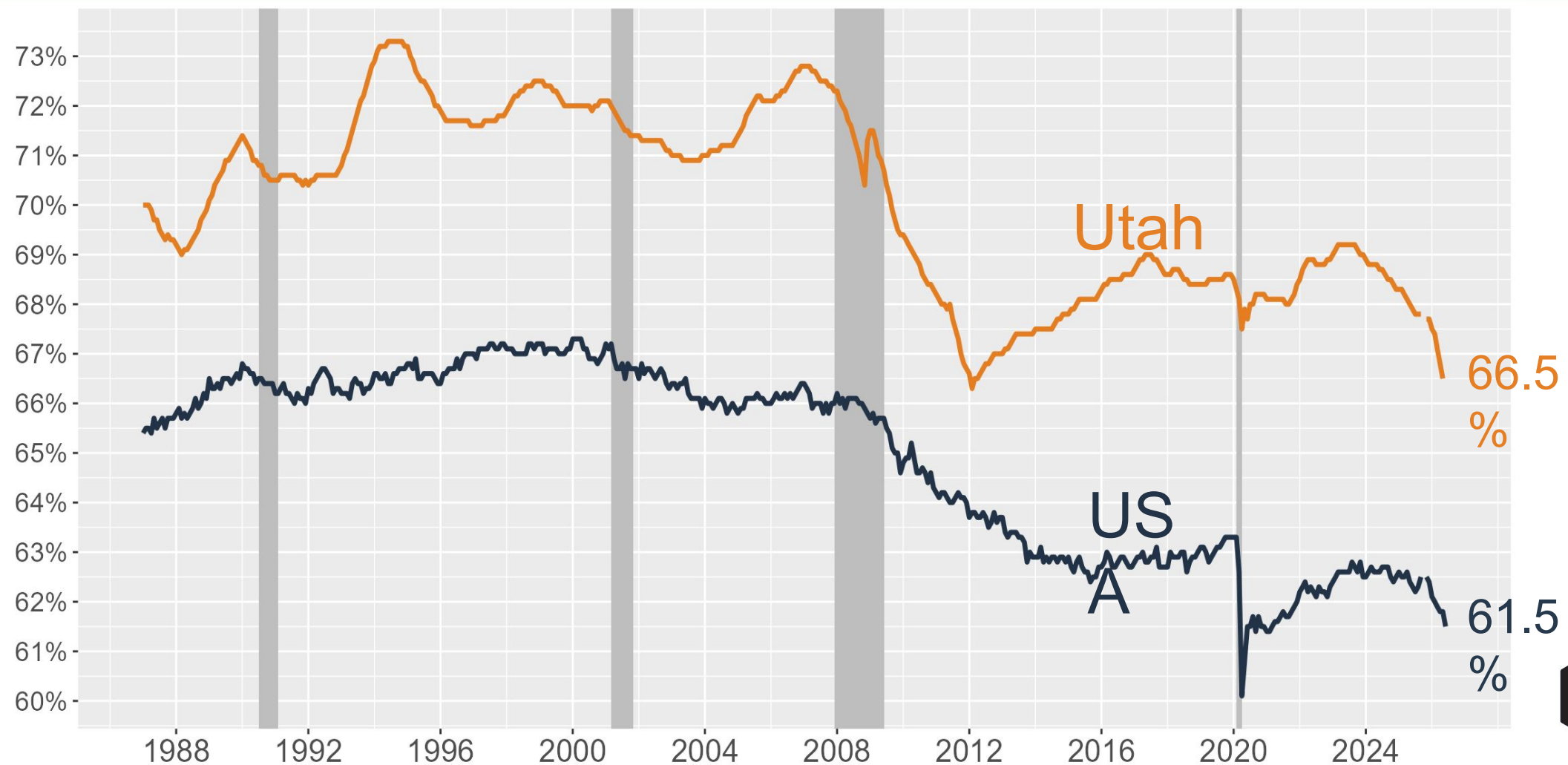
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics,

Labor Force

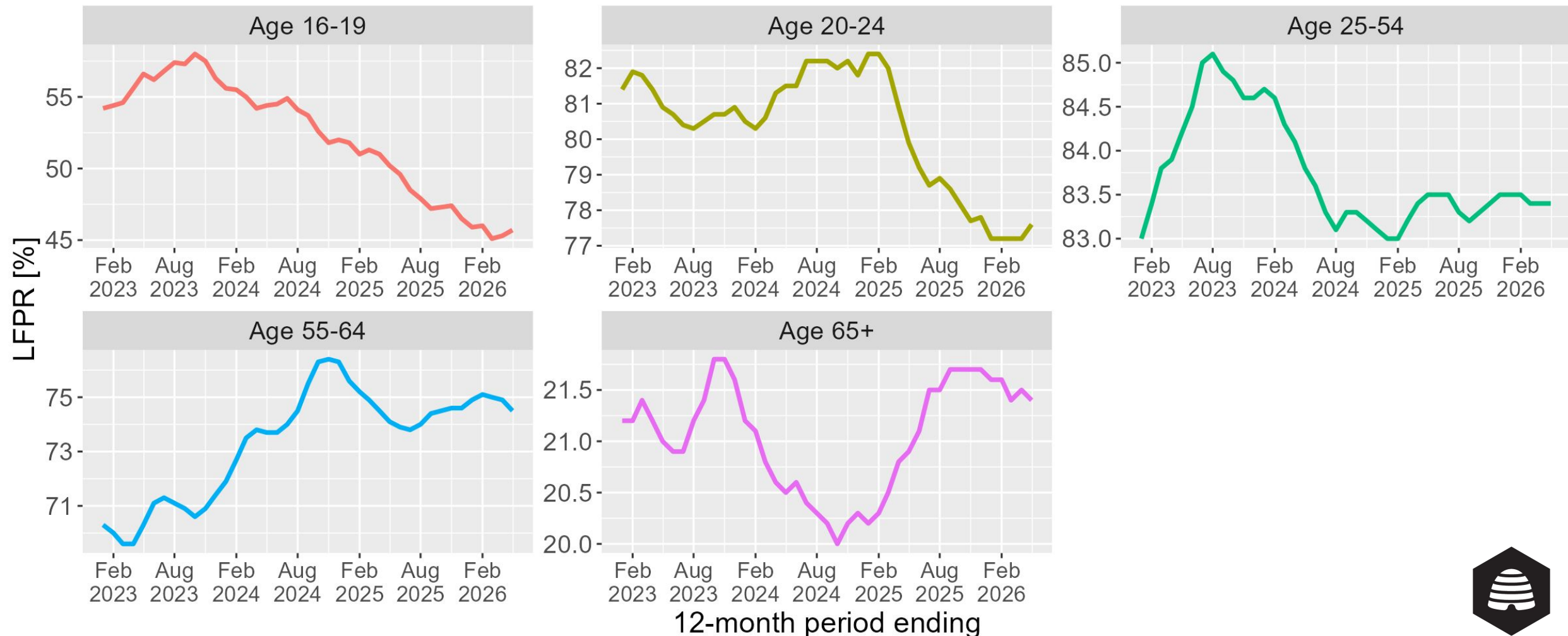
Total Number of Employed Utahns



Labor Force Participation Rate On the Decline



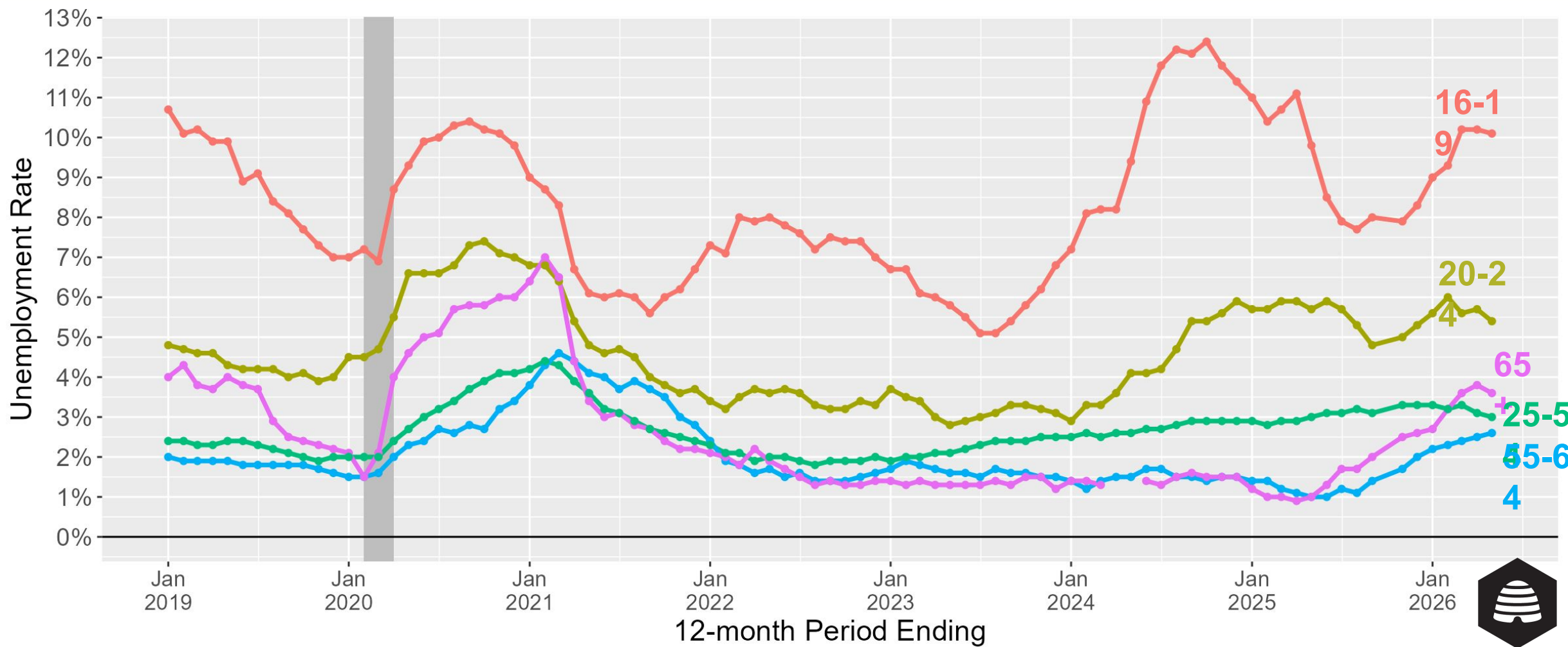
Utah Labor Force Participation Rates By Age Group



Source: Bureau of Labor
Statistics

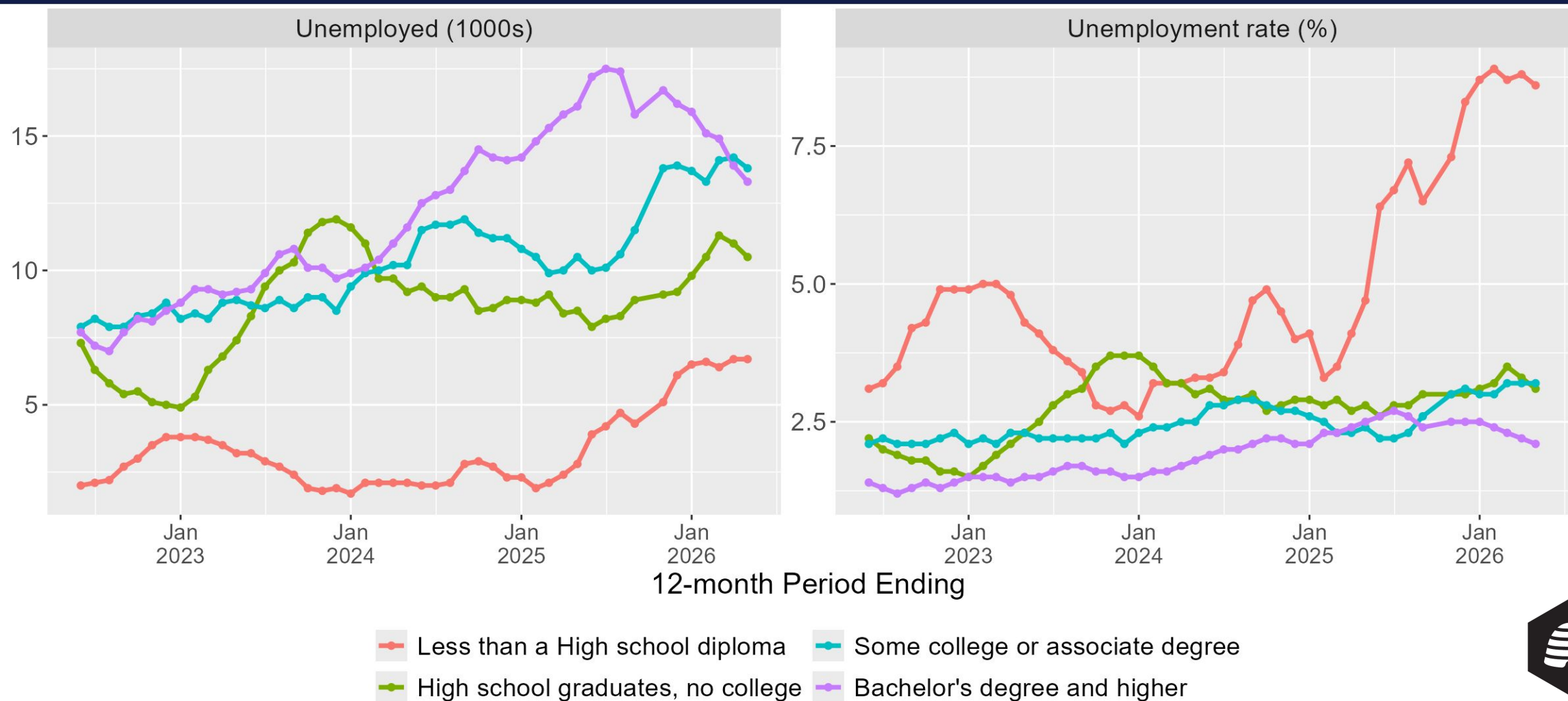


Utah Unemployment Rates By Age Group



Source: Bureau of Labor
Statistics

Labor Force By Educational Attainment





Current Skills Gaps



3-1-2026

Workforce Needs and Labor Market Trends in Utah [Special Report]

Lendel K. Narine
Utah State University, lendel.narine@usu.edu

Paul Hill
paul.hill@usu.edu

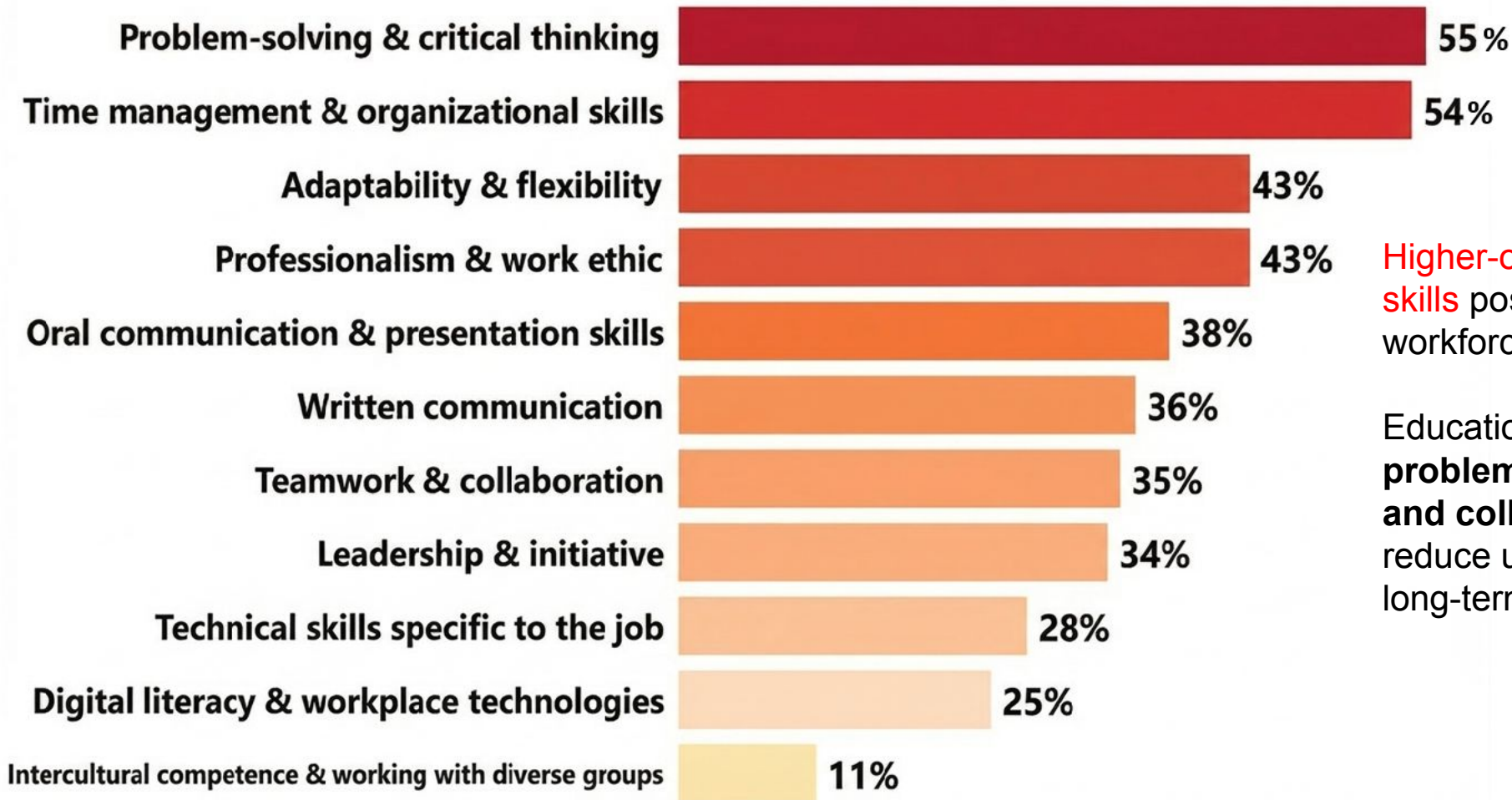
Andree' Walker Bravo
Utah State University, andree.walker@usu.edu

This study examined Utah employers' perceptions of workforce preparedness, hiring challenges, and emerging skill needs.

*Data were collected from **226 employers across different industries** to identify priority competency gaps in the state's workforce.*



Areas of Employees' Underperformance, According to Employers

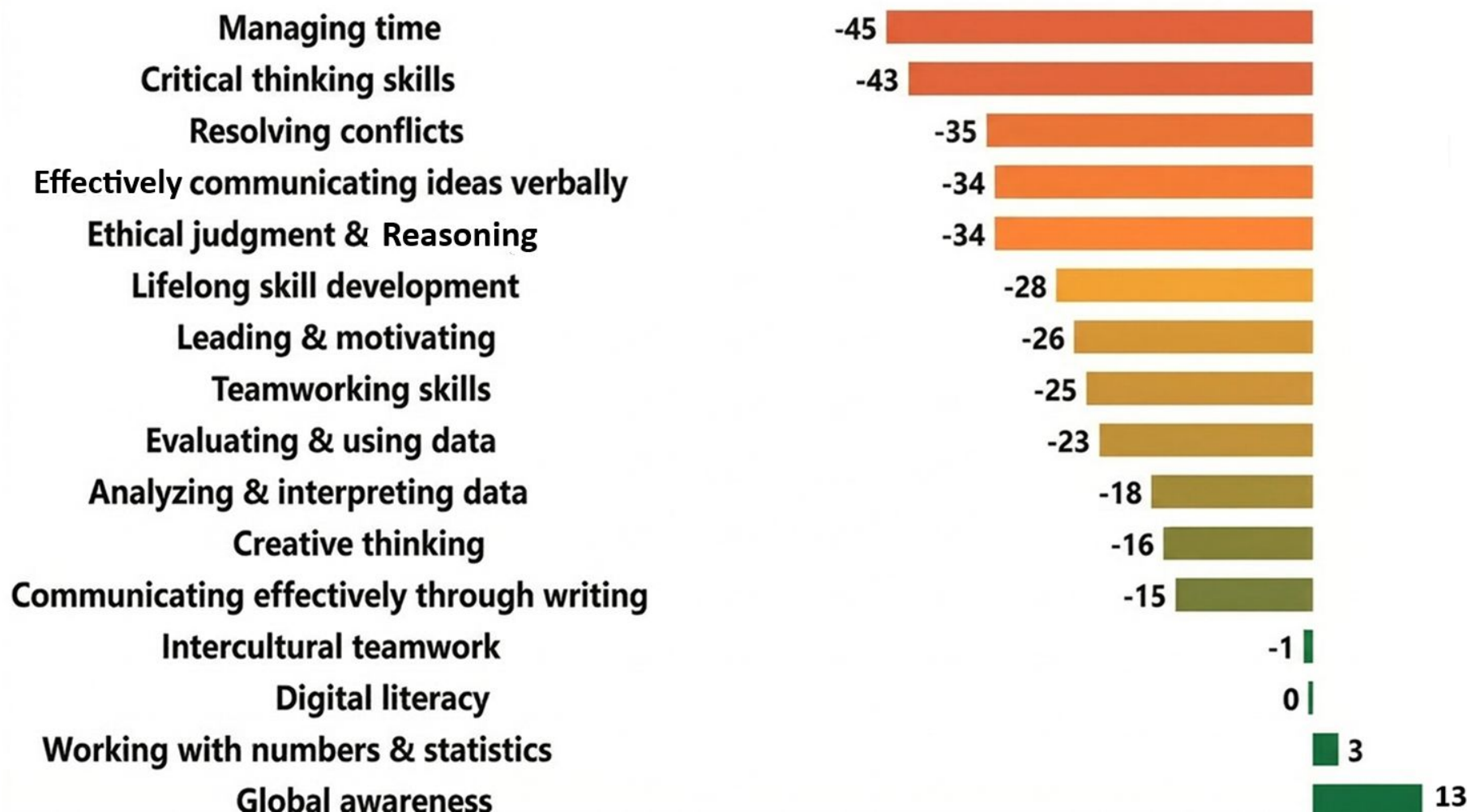


Higher-order cognitive and interpersonal skills pose the greatest challenge for workforce readiness in Utah.

Educational experiences such as **applied problem-solving, experiential learning, and collaborative projects**, may help reduce underperformance and enhance long-term employability across sectors



Workforce Competency Gaps, According to Employers



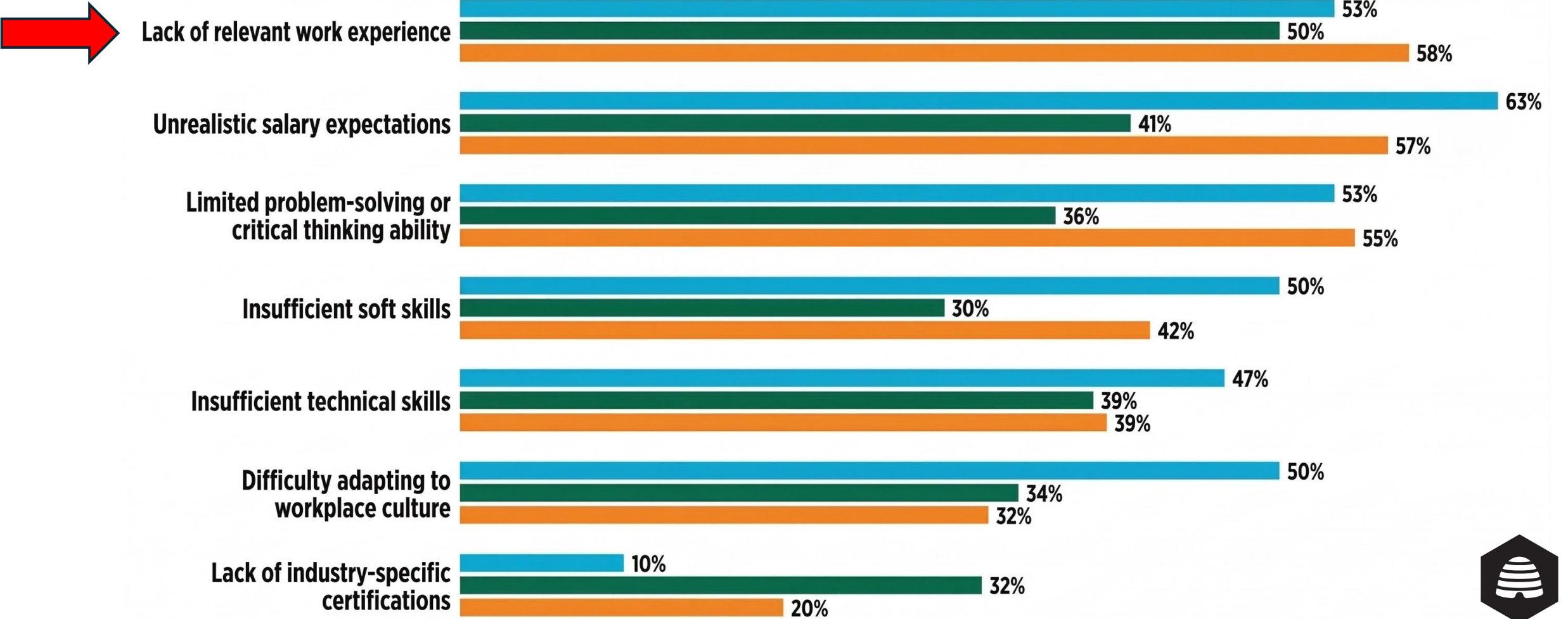
Ranked Discrepancy Scores (RDS):

- Range from -100 to 100
- More negative values indicate greater skill gaps/areas of need



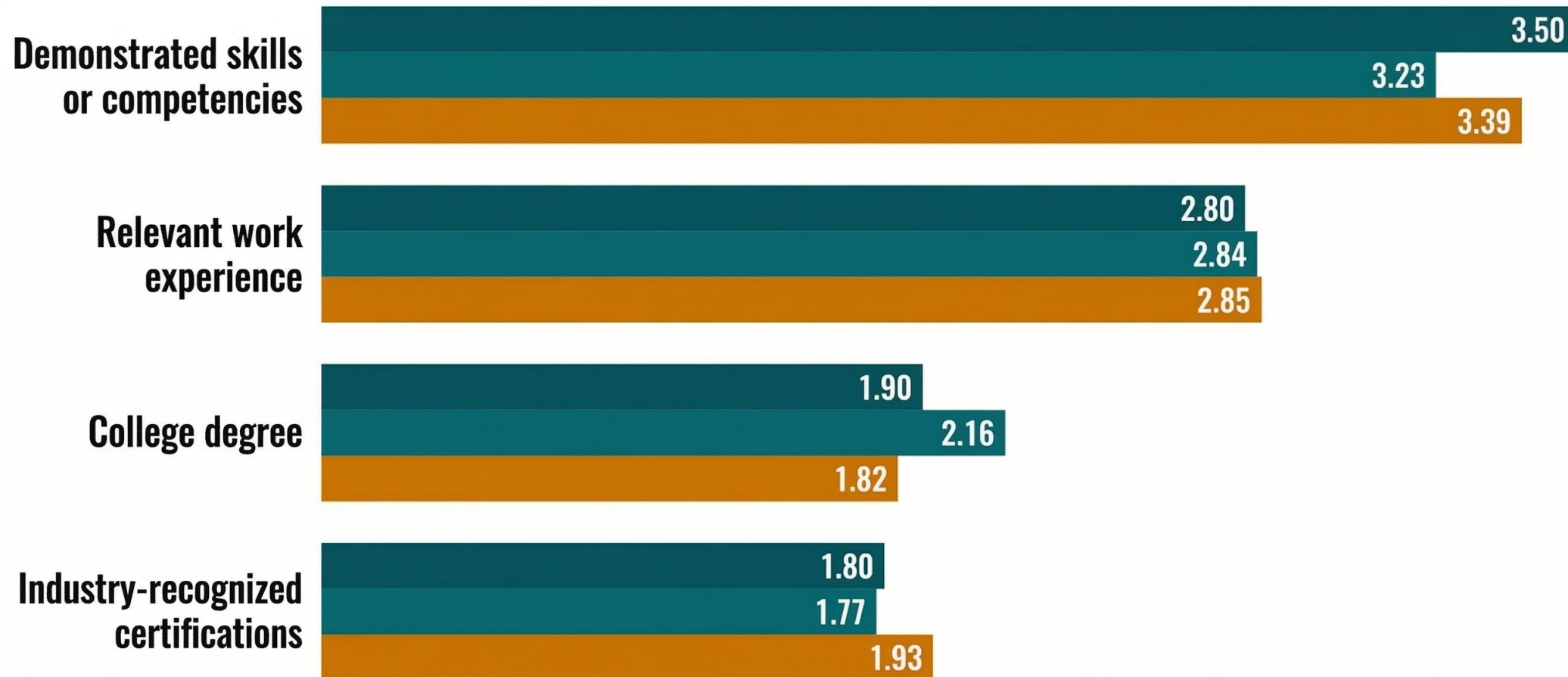
Hiring Challenges by Organization Size

● Large: >999 Employees ● Medium: 250-999 Employees ● Small: <250 Employees



Importance of Qualifications Ranked by Utah Employers: 1 (Not important) to 5 (Extremely important)

Large: >999 Employees Medium: 250-999 Employees Small: <250 Employees



Additional Online Resources

- **County and Regional Snapshots:**
 - Job growth, unemployment rates & claims, wages, taxable sales, construction permitting
 - County Snapshots: <https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/insights/county/index.html>
 - Regional Snapshots: <https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/insights/esa/index.html>
- **Utah Economic Data Viewer (UEDV):**
 - Employment and Wages by Industry: <https://jobs.utah.gov/utwid/industry/current>
 - Labor Force, including unemployment rates: <https://jobs.utah.gov/utwid/labor-force>
 - Wage and Occupational Openings Data: <https://jobs.utah.gov/utwid/almiswage-home>
 - Occupational Explorer: <https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/>
 - Firm Find (employer search tool): <https://jobs.utah.gov/utwid/firmfind-home>
- **Latest Employment Press Release:** <https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/update/index.html>
- **Additional Resources and Dashboards:** <https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/>



Contact Information:

Ben Crabb

Chief Economist
Utah Department of
Workforce Services

bcrabb@utah.gov

jobs.utah.gov/wra

Questions.





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