



Workforce **Research & Analysis**

Welcome



Utah Labor Market Update

State Workforce Development Board

Ben Crabb, Chief Economist

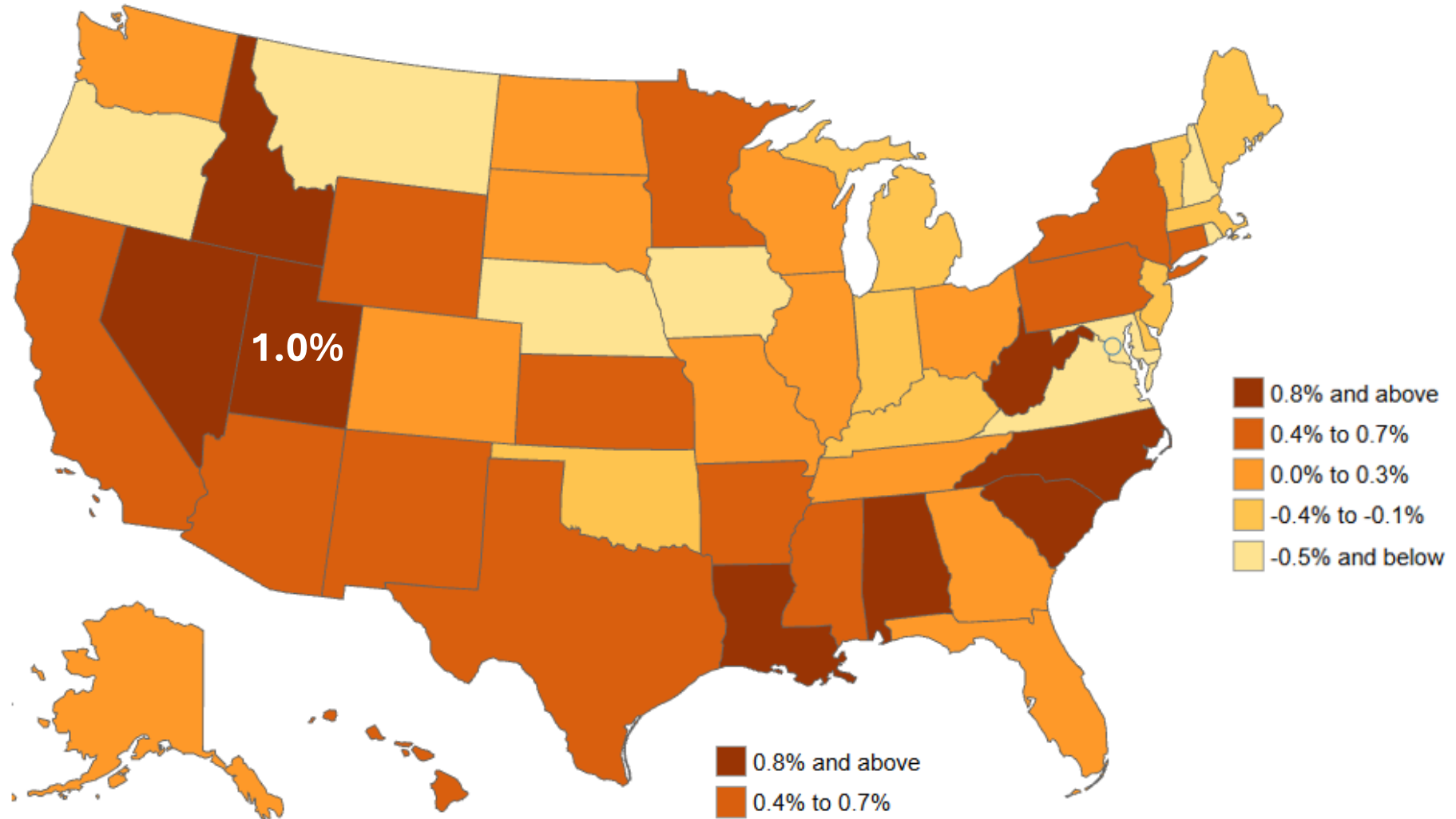
Utah Department of Workforce Services

July 9, 2026



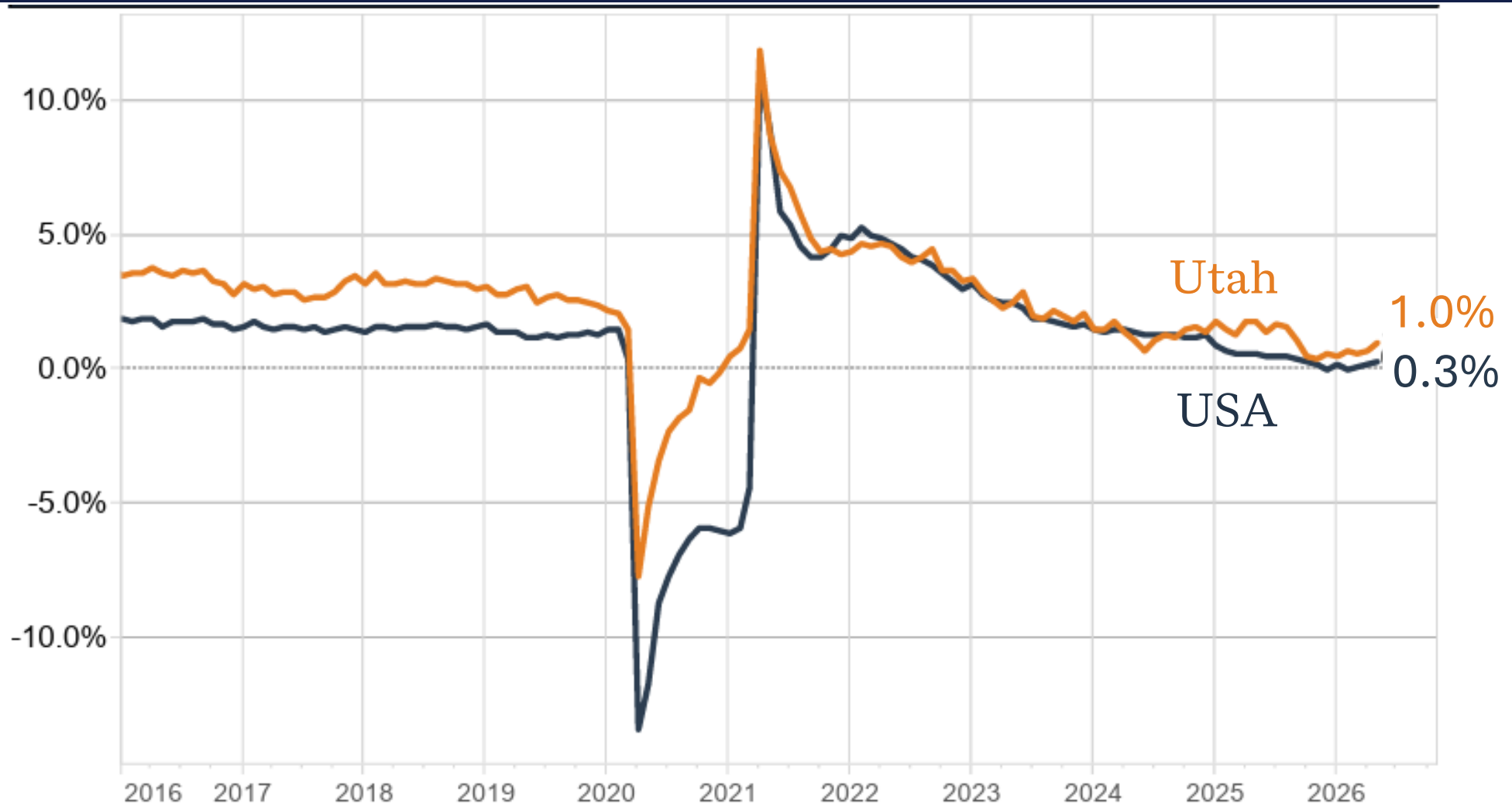
Change in Nonfarm Employment by State

May 2025 – May 2026



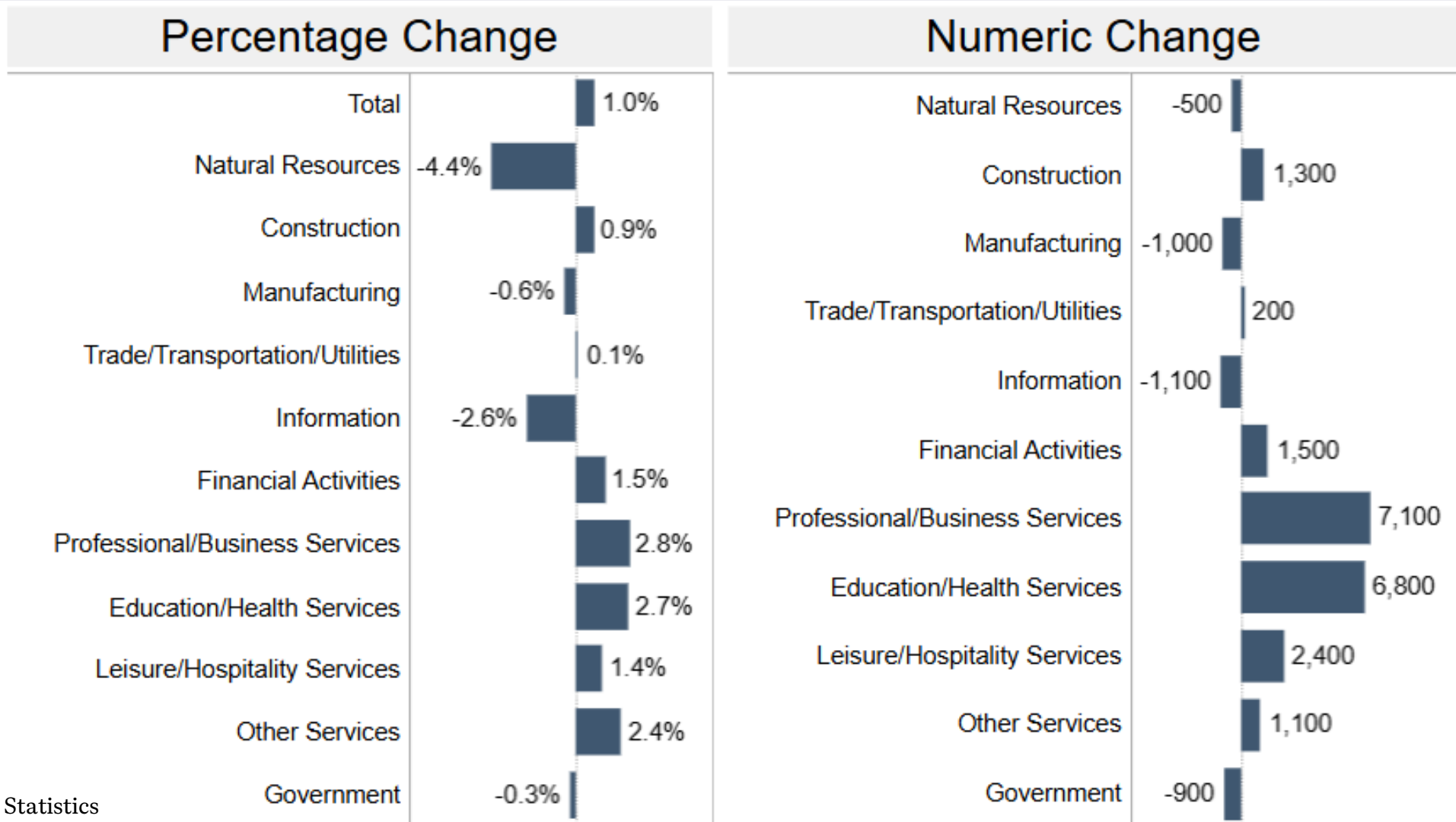
Year-over Change in Nonfarm Jobs

Utah and USA



Utah Nonfarm Industry Profiles

May 2025 – May 2026

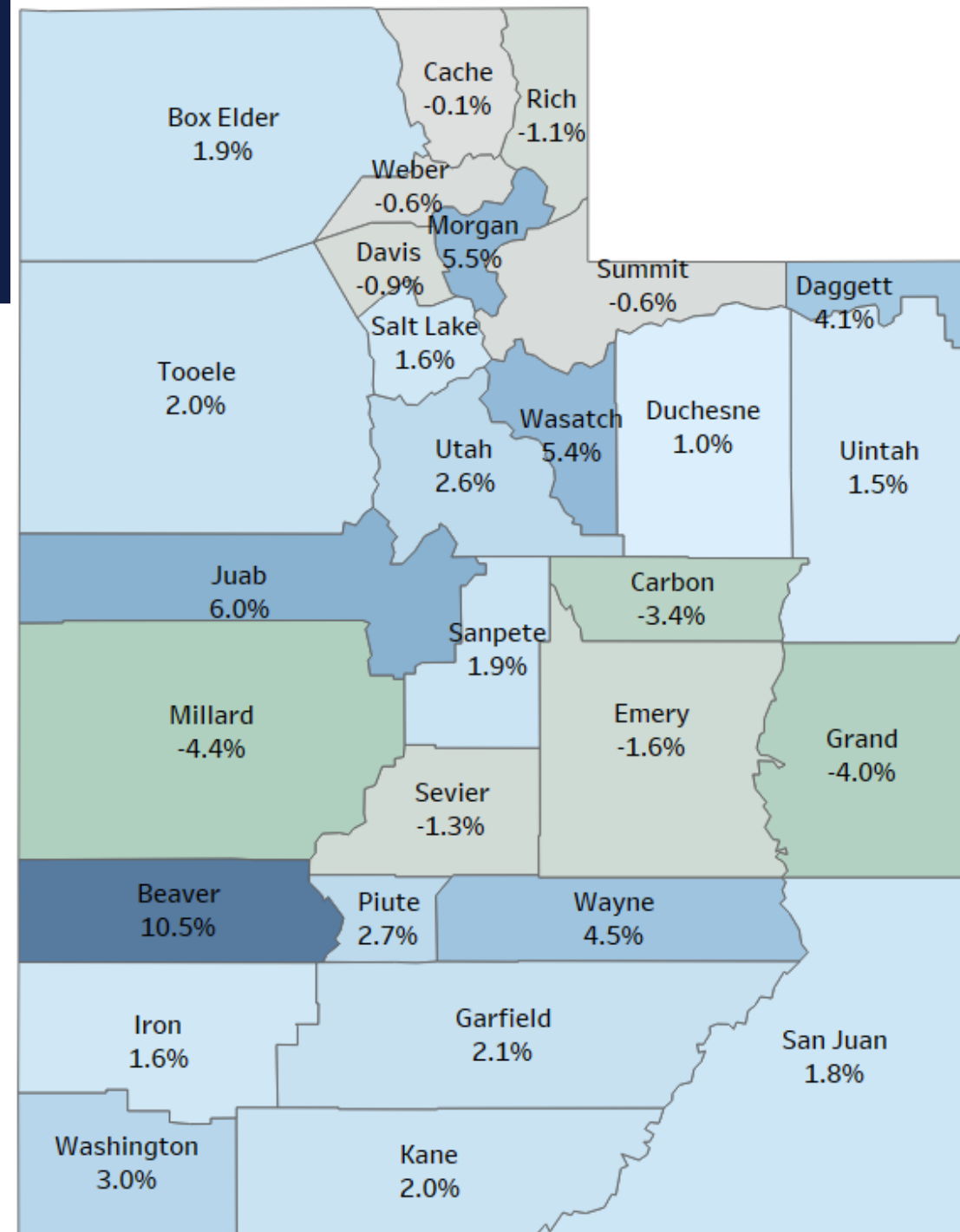


Year-over Change in Nonfarm Jobs Dec 2024-Dec 2025, by County

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

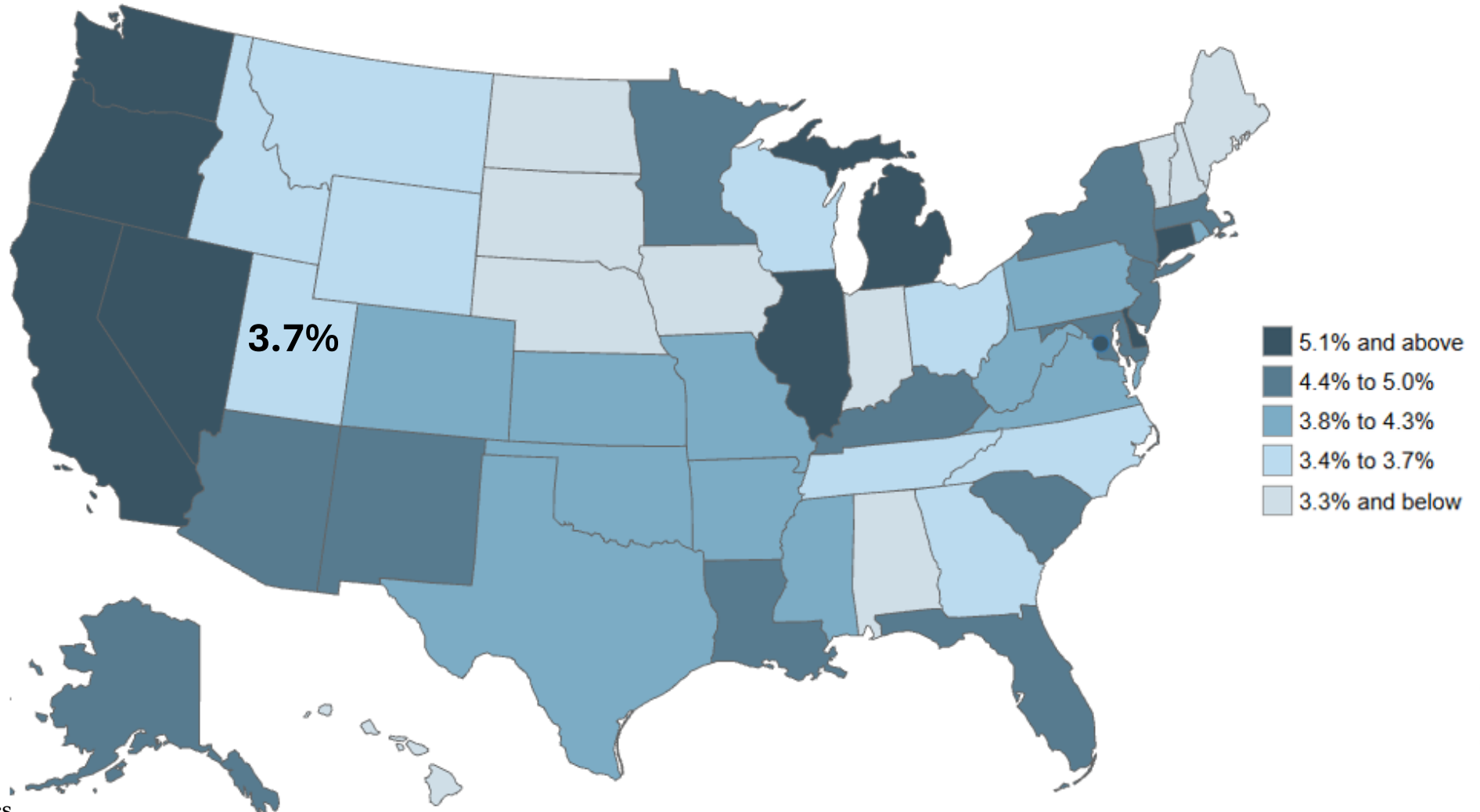
Job growth rates:

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



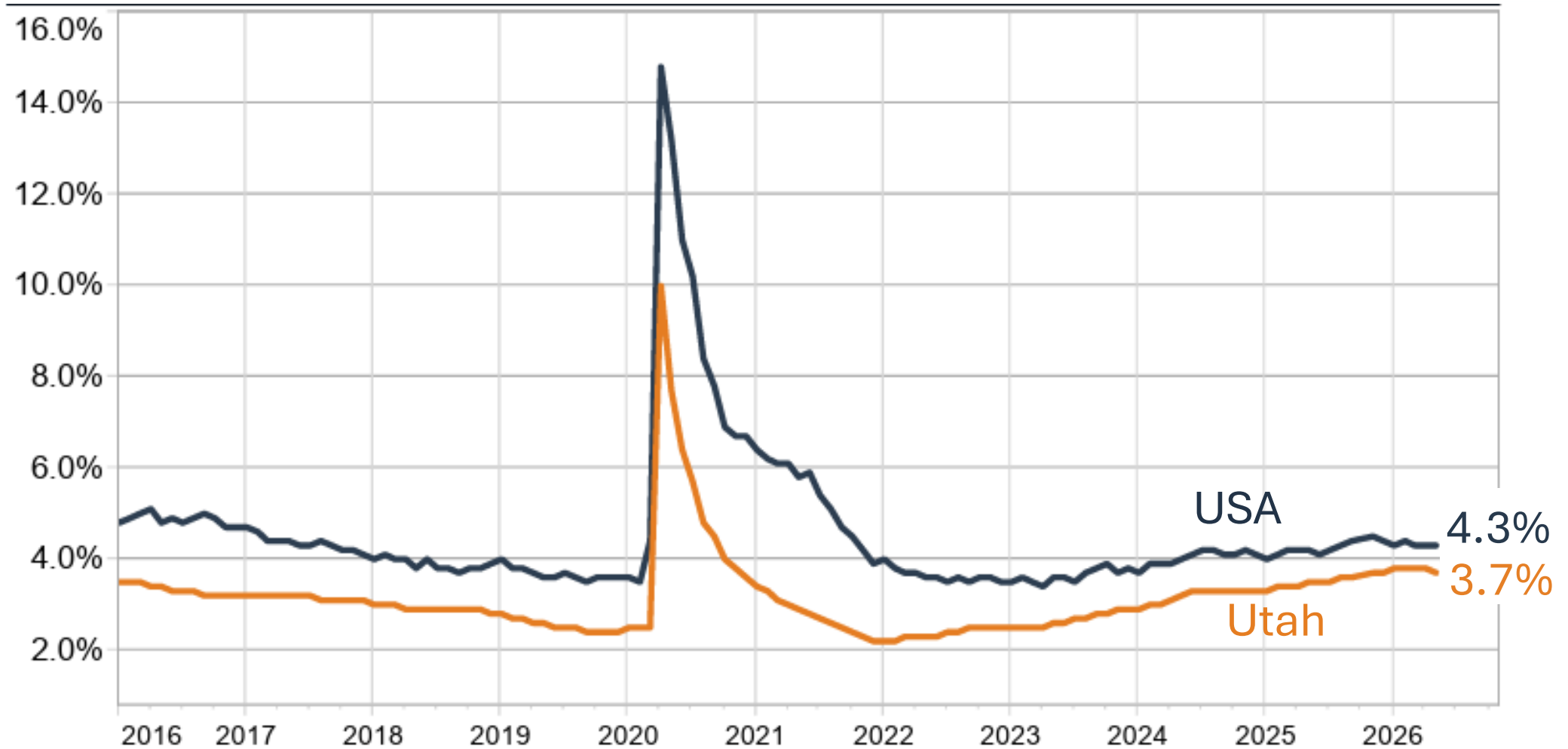
State Unemployment Rates, May 2026

Seasonally Adjusted



Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

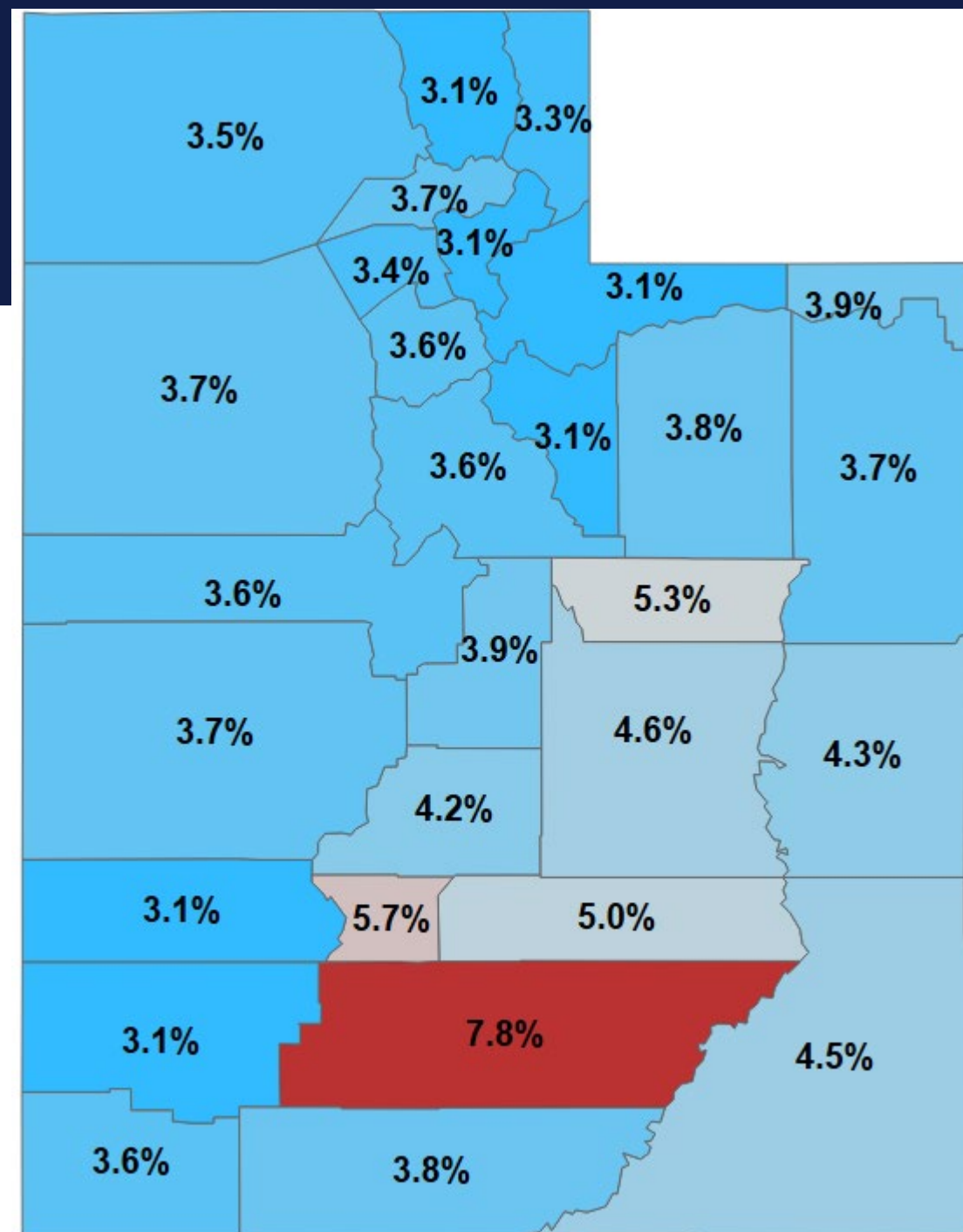
Utah and USA



May 2026 Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates By County

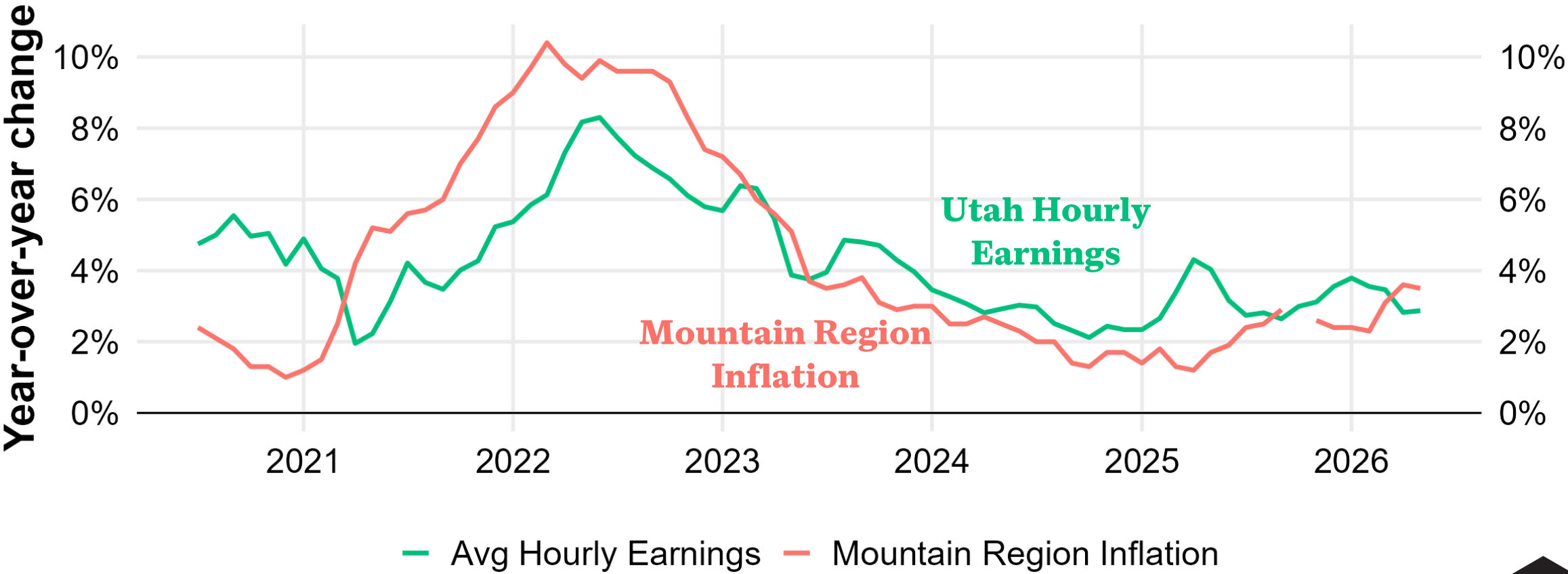
Unemployment rates:

- 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%



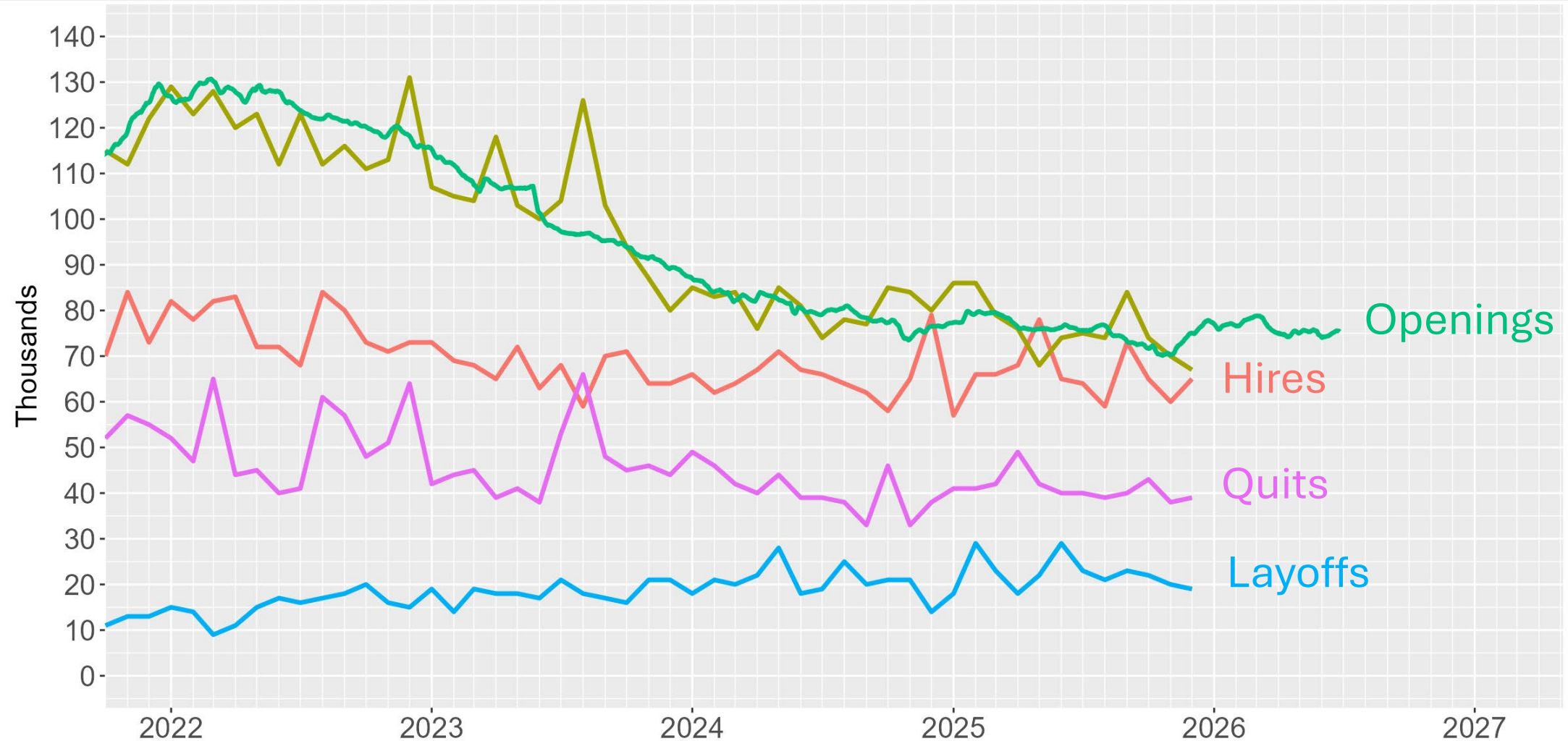
Hourly Earnings vs Inflation

Inflation now outpacing wage growth



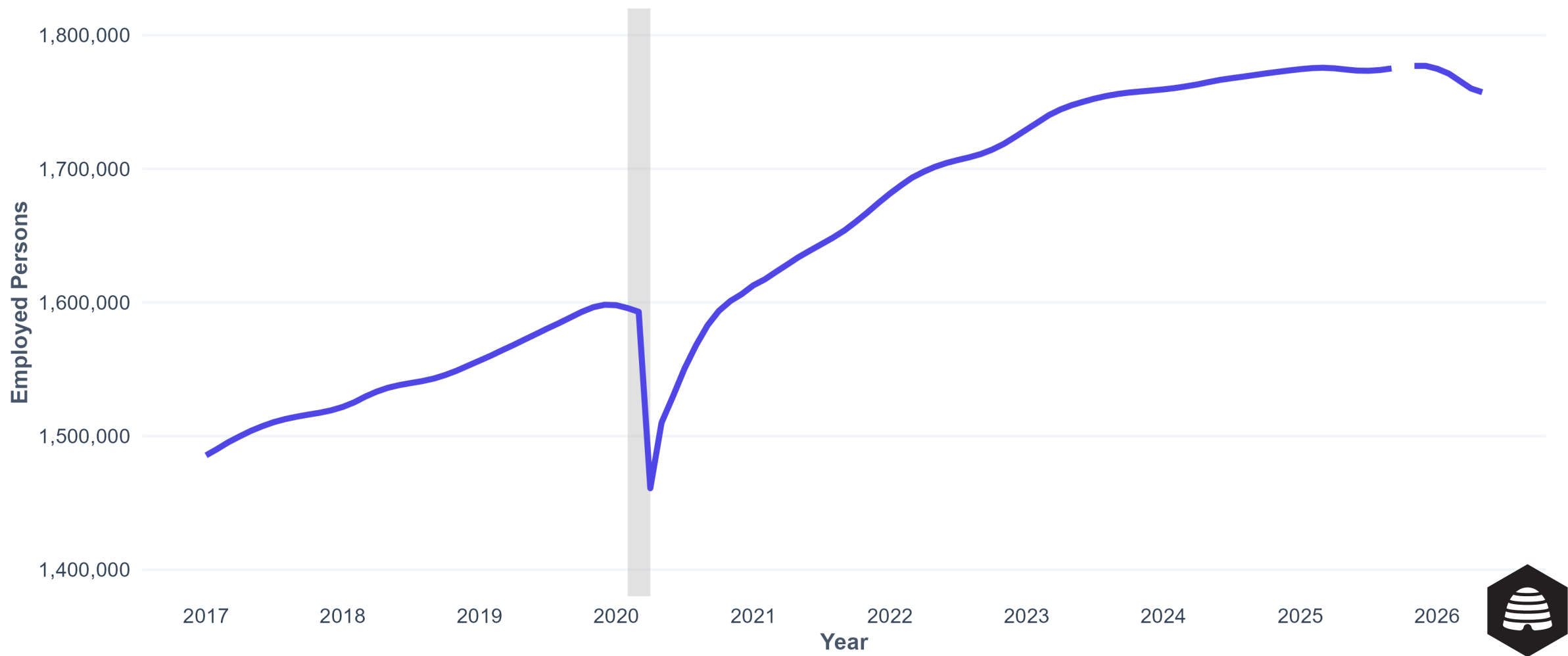
Utah Labor Market

Low Hire, Low Fire



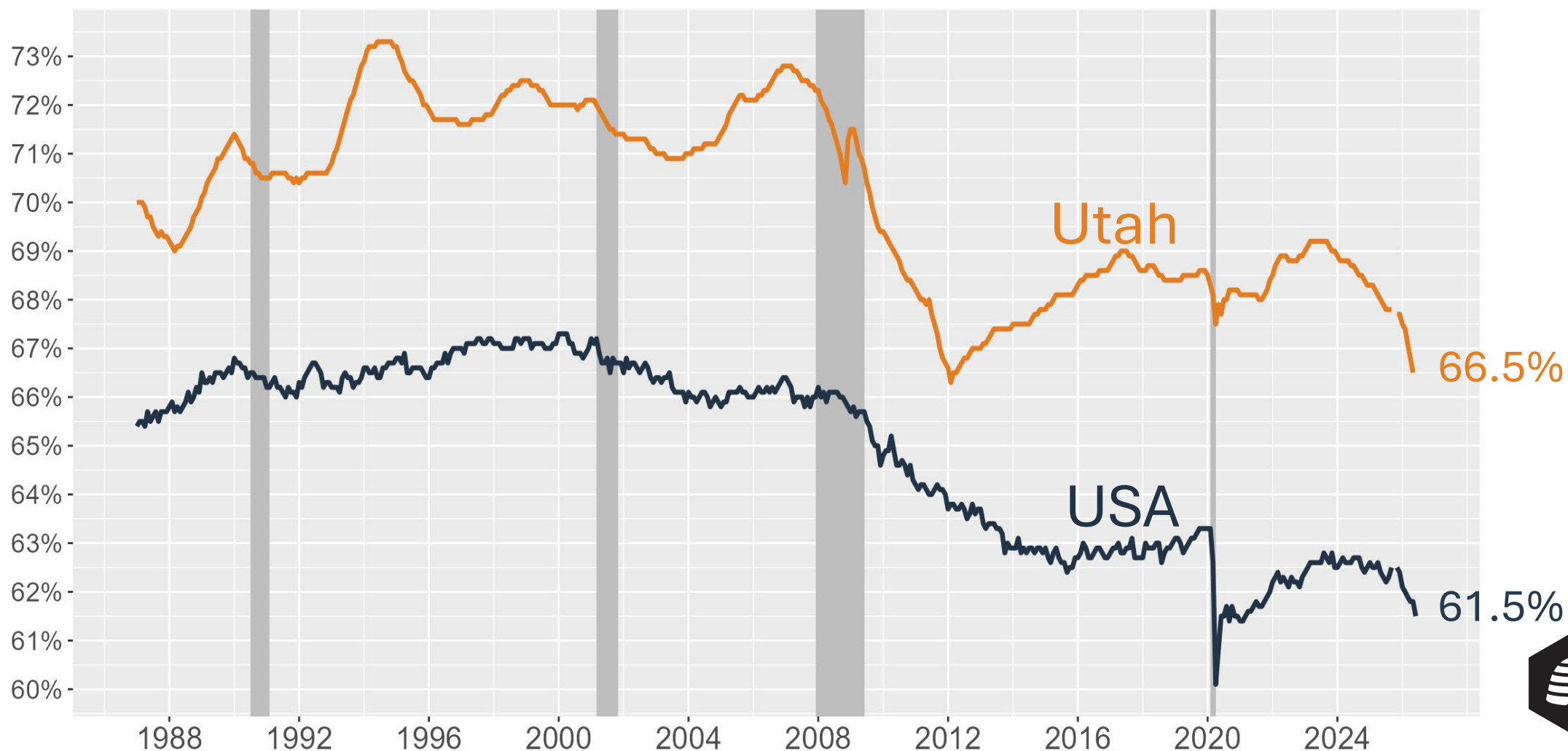
Labor Force

Total Number of Employed Utahns



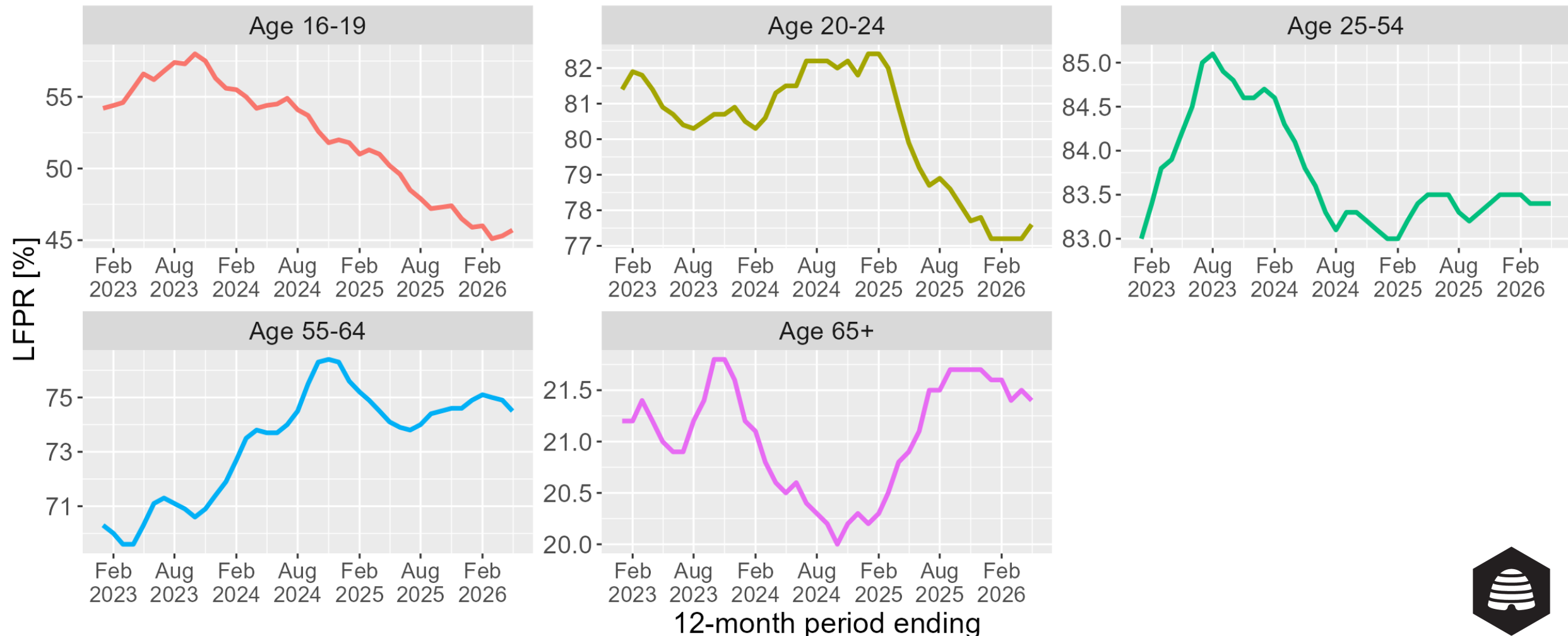
Labor Force Participation Rate

On the Decline



Utah Labor Force Participation Rates

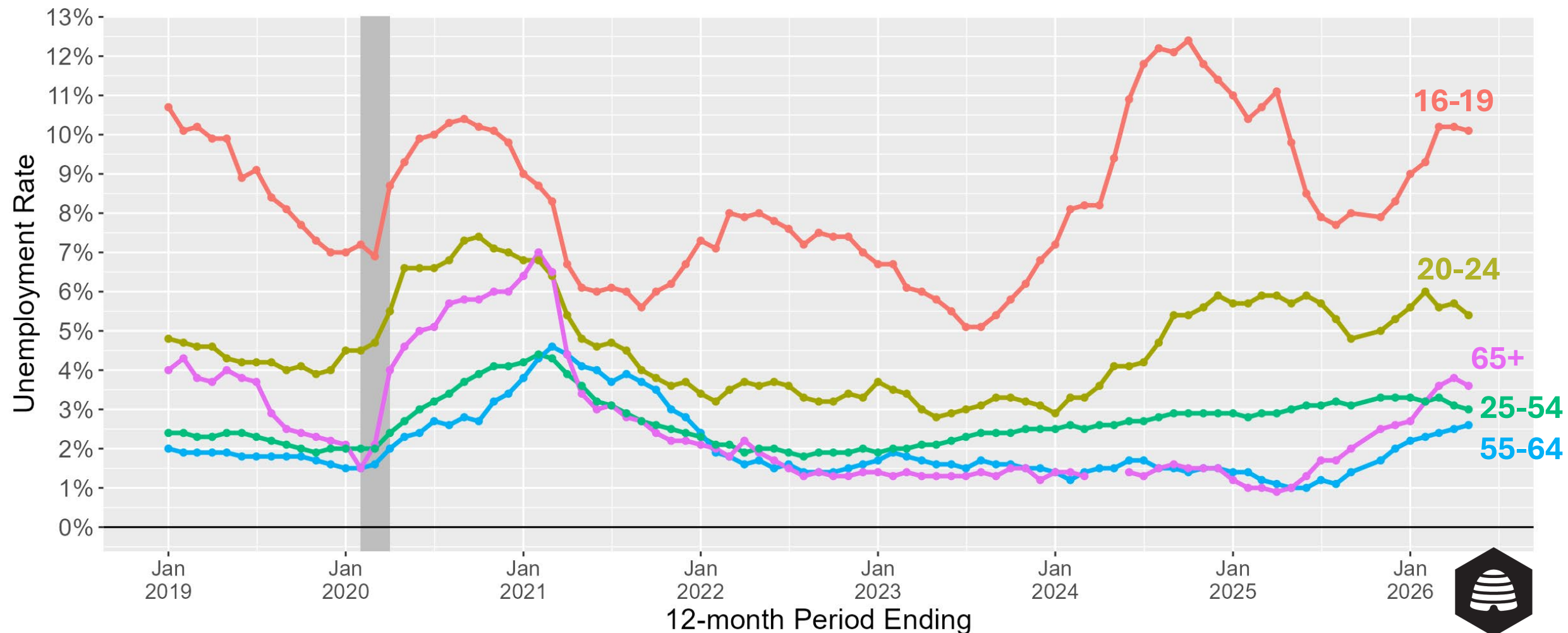
By Age Group



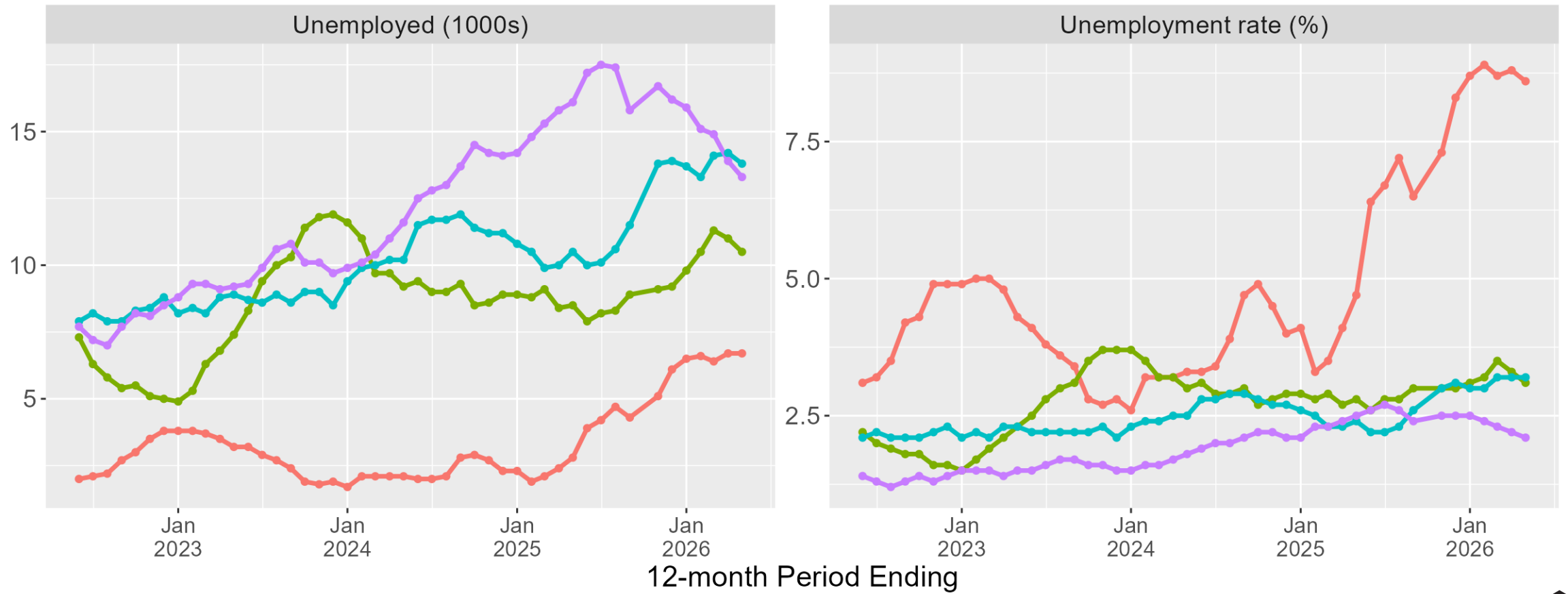
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Utah Unemployment Rates By Age Group



Labor Force By Educational Attainment



- Less than a High school diploma
- High school graduates, no college
- Some college or associate degree
- Bachelor's degree and higher





Current Skills Gaps



3-1-2026

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

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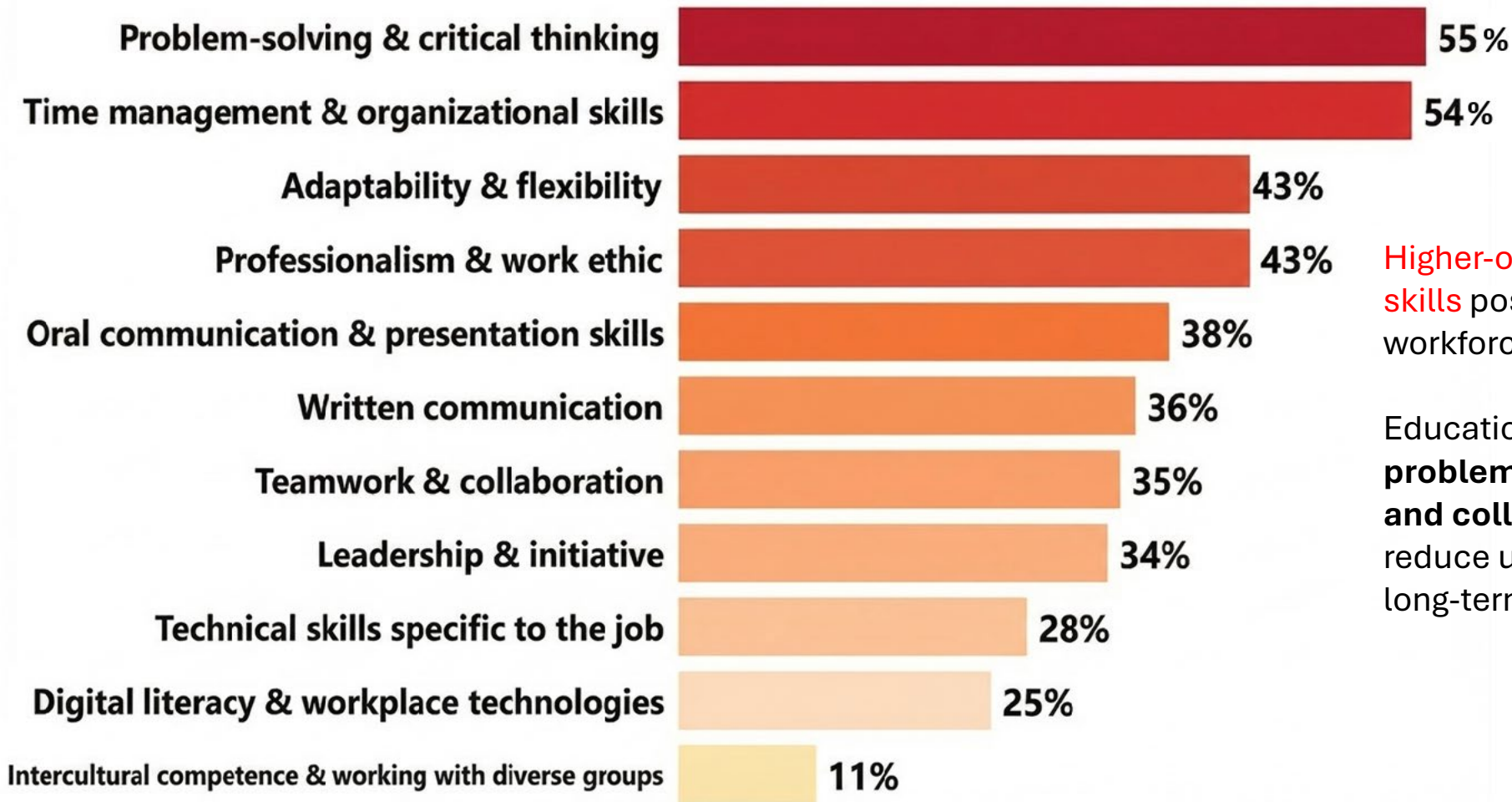
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This study examined Utah employers' perceptions of workforce preparedness, hiring challenges, and emerging skill needs.

*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

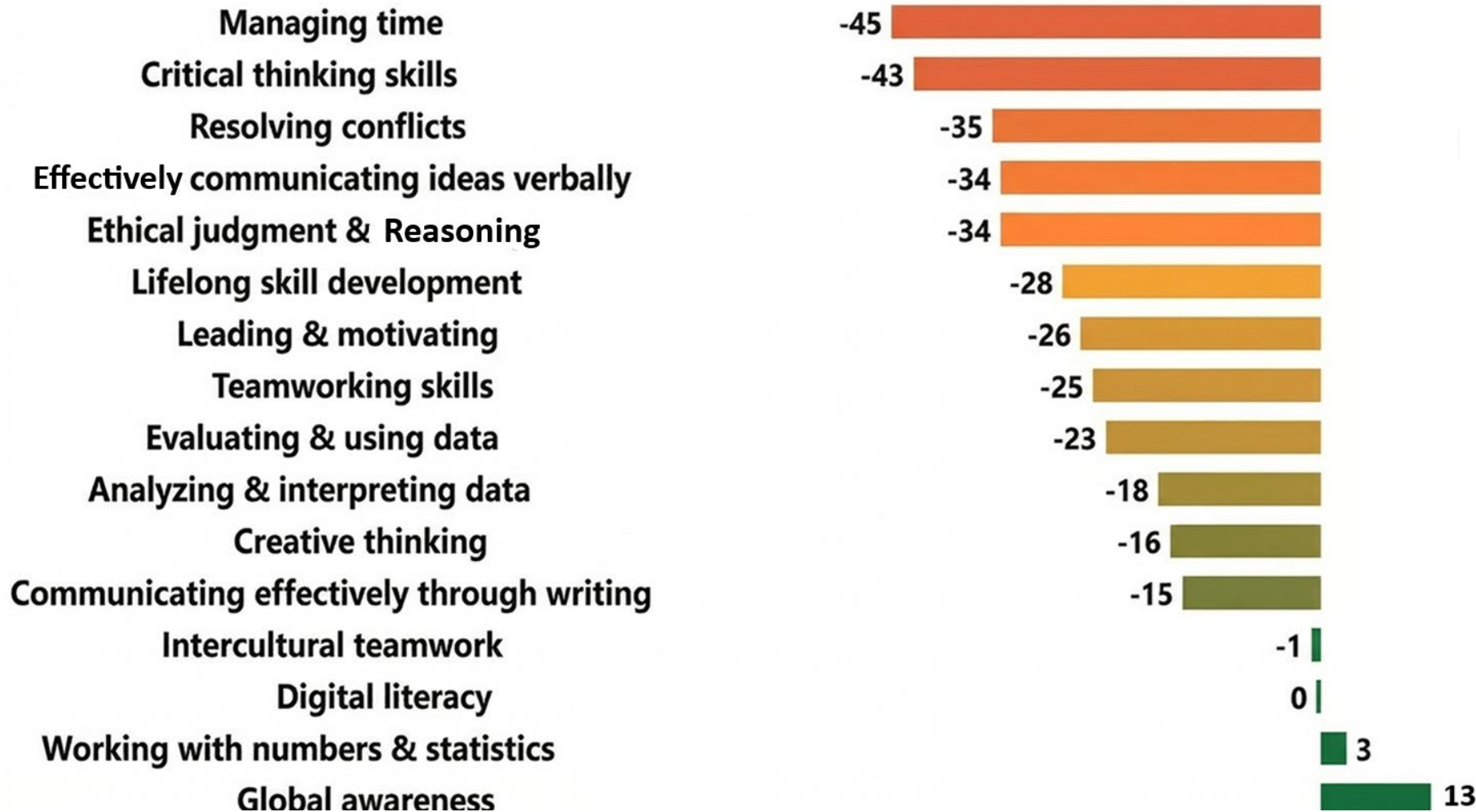


Higher-order cognitive and interpersonal skills pose the greatest challenge for workforce readiness in Utah.

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



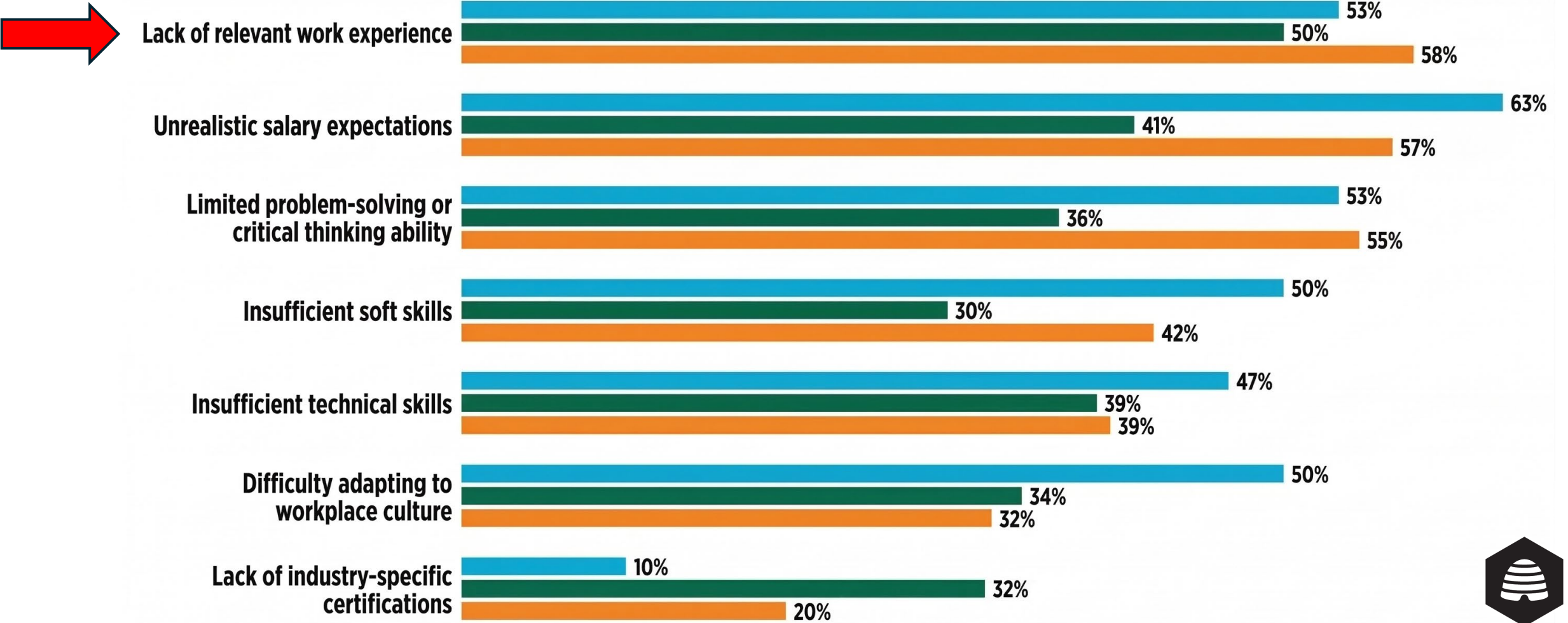
Ranked Discrepancy Scores (RDS):

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



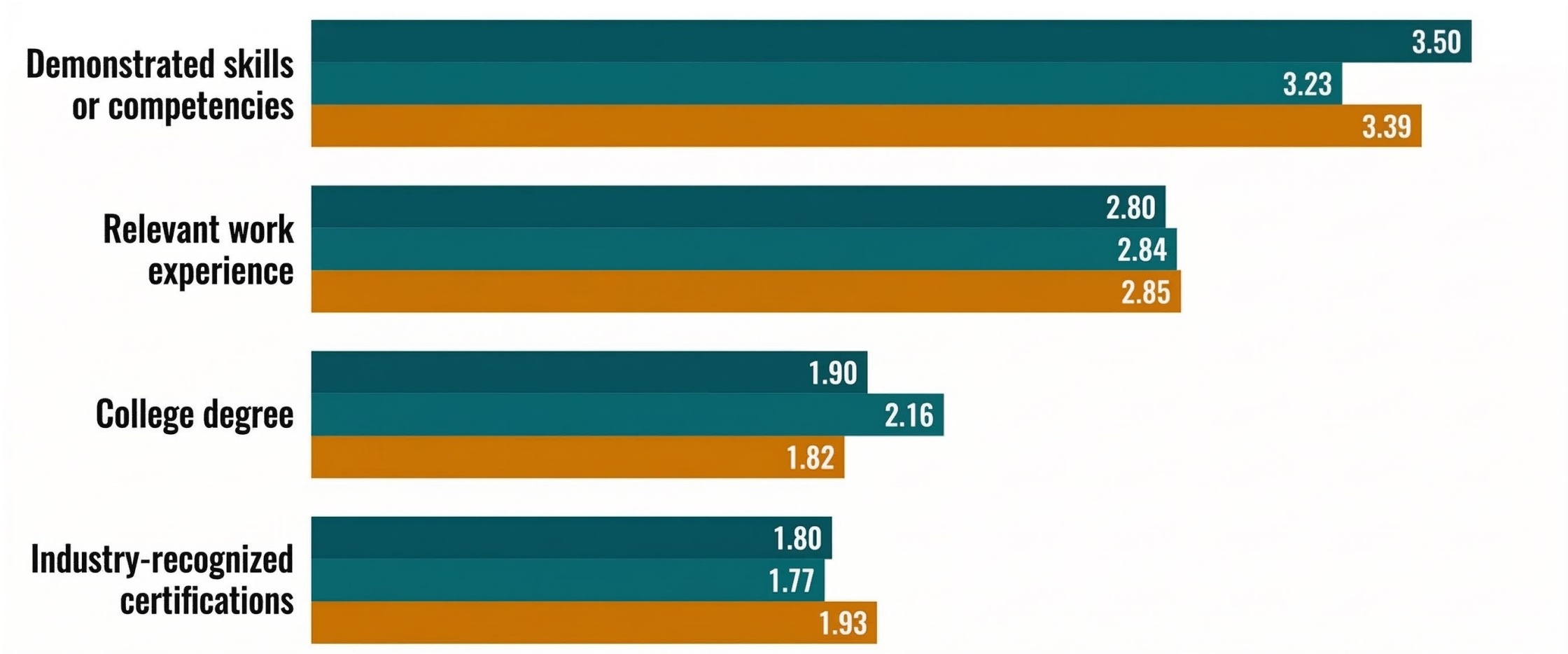
Hiring Challenges by Organization Size

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



Importance of Qualifications Ranked by Utah Employers:

1 (Not important) to 5 (Extremely important)



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/>



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Questions.





Workforce Services
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