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Utah's Population Surpasses 2.6 Million

Salt Lake City, Utah - Utah's population reached 2,615,129 persons in 2006, according to the Utah Population Estimates Committee. This 2.7 percent increase from 2005 represents an increase of 67,740 persons, approximately the population of St. George, Utah.

Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. lauded the new estimate as consistent with Utah's continued competitive position in the nation. "This year's estimate reflects what we already know: Utah remains a growing and dynamic State and a great place in which to live and do business. I am pleased that it continues to add to our economic vitality."

Utah's growth in 2006 continued the trend of large number of births compared to relatively few deaths. The State's natural increase was 39,010, which is the number of births minus deaths. Utah once again saw record number of births of 52,368. In addition, Utah also had a record number of deaths of 13,358. The record high number of births resumed a trend of yearly record births that started in 1997 but was broken in 2005.

The Committee also estimated net in-migration to Utah to be 28,730 in 2006. The number of immigrants to Utah did not surpass the record amount of 40,647 in 2005; however the number represents 42.4 percent of Utah's population growth.

Robert Spendlove, the Chair of the Utah Population Estimates Committee, commented about this year's in-migration estimate for Utah, "Though 2006 showed lower in-migration numbers than last year's record, Utah's high in-migration continues to reflect a healthy, sustainable economy that is attractive to people outside of the State."

Utah continues to rank as one of the fastest growing states in the nation in employment growth. And with the dramatic increases in residential construction, all while housing prices in the State remain below national averages, Utah continues to be an attractive alternative to more expensive locations in other parts of the country.

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The most rapid regional growth rates occurred in counties on or adjacent to the Wasatch Front and in the southwest corner of the state. The populations in Washington, Wasatch, Iron, Morgan, Tooele, and Utah counties are all expanding rapidly. These counties enjoy close proximity to urban services, but still provide many desirable characteristics found in a suburban setting.

Washington and Iron in southwestern Utah, where the urban cities of St. George and Cedar City are located, experienced rapid growth in 2006. Washington County experienced population growth more than twice the State rate in 2006. Washington County kept its title as the fastest growing county in the State, with a growth rate of 6.1 percent in 2006, a growth rate similar to that of the early 1990s.

For 2006, the following counties had the highest population growth rates:

Washington	6.1%	Utah	4.2%
Wasatch	5.3%	Juab	3.8%
Iron	4.9%	Uintah	3.2%
Morgan	4.4%	Davis	3.0%
Tooele	4.3%	Rich	2.9%

For 2006, the following counties had the highest population increases:

Utah	19,352	Tooele	2,242
Salt Lake	18,089	Weber	2,186
Davis	8,269	Cache	2,107
Washington	7,772	Iron	2,027

While the overall state population and the population of many counties in the state increased in 2006, Emery County and Daggett County experienced population loss during 2006.

Attachments:

- Tables
 - Utah Population Estimates, Net Migration, Births and Deaths: 1980-2006
 - Utah Population Estimates by County: 2000-2006
- Figures
 - Utah Population Growth Rates by County: 2005-2006 (Map)
 - Utah Population – Annual Percent Change: 1950-2006
 - State of Utah Components of Population Change: 1950-2006

The Utah Population Estimates Committee is a statutory committee charged with preparing the official population estimates for the State of Utah. The Committee's primary data sources are vital statistics (from birth and death certificates), school enrollment, LDS membership, residential building permits, and income tax returns. When preparing the estimates, the Committee also considers job growth and utility connections. Committee membership includes representatives from key data providers and others knowledgeable in the methods used to prepare population estimates, along with people from academic institutions, and the public and private sectors. The Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget staffs the Committee.