

# UTAH AND THE WASATCH BACK'S CHANGING ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE



Dallin Koecher - Moderator

Heber Valley Chamber of Commerce



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Governor's Office of
Economic Opportunity



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Governments



Phil Dean
Kem C. Gardner Institute



Ted McLeer
Park City Angels



## **Utah Economic Insights**

Wasatch Back Economic Summit May 14, 2024



DAVID ECCLES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

#### The New Utah

OLD NEW **Growing Small State More Populous Mid-Sized State External Growth & Much Lower Fertility Internal Growth Less Multicultural More Multicultural** Young **Getting Older Strong Economy Elite Economy Affordable Housing Unaffordable Housing** 

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

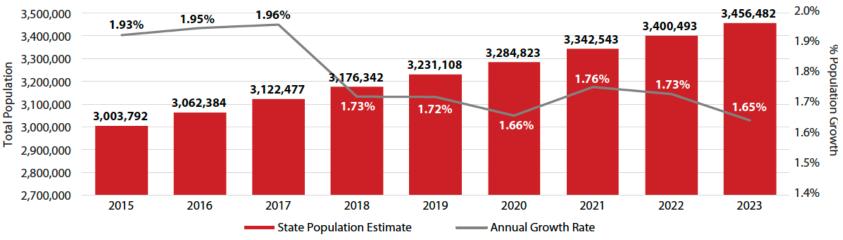
#### **Megatrend – Declining Fertility Rates**

# US fertility rate dropped to lowest in a century as births dipped in 2023

By Deidre McPhillips, CNN 3 minute read Updated 5:34 PM EDT, Thu April 25, 2024

### **Utah Population Growth Rate Slowing**

Figure 2: Utah Population and Annual Growth Rates, 2015-2023

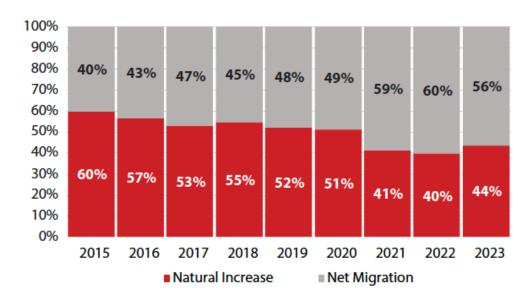


Note: 2021 and 2022 population estimates and net migration have been revised due to methodological improvements. Source: Utah Population Committee, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

#### In-Migration Driving More of Utah's Population Growth

Figure 6: Share of Utah Annual Population Growth by Components of Change, 2015-2023

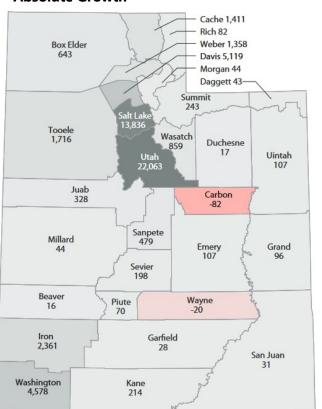


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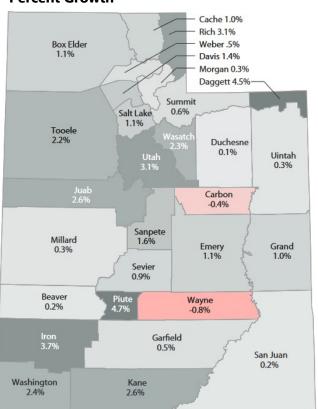
Source: Utah Population Committee, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

## **Utah Population Growth by County, 2023**

#### **Absolute Growth**



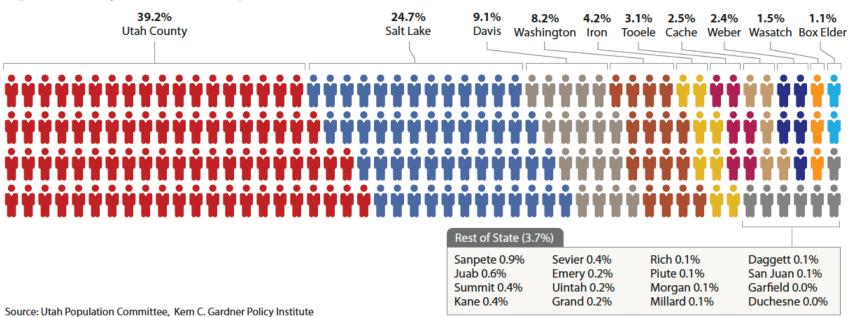
#### **Percent Growth**



Source: 2024 Economic Report to the Governor

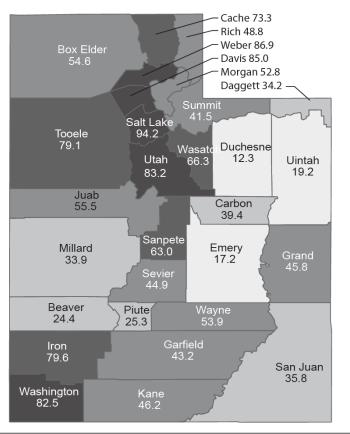
#### **Largest Growth In Utah County**

Figure 8: County Share of State Population Growth, 2022-2023



### **Utah's Economic Diversity by County, 2023**







Source: 2024 Economic Report to the Governor

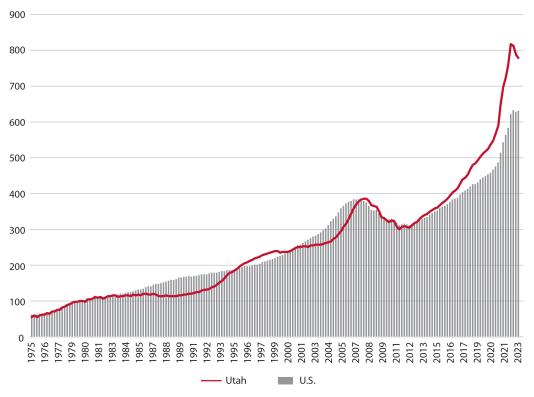
## Median Home Price by State Feb 2024

- 1. Hawaii (\$839K)
- 2. California (\$765K)
- 3. Massachusetts (\$596K)
- 4. Washington (\$576K)
- 5. Colorado (\$539K)
- 6. Utah (\$509K)

- 7. New Jersey (\$503K)
- 8. Oregon (\$487K)
- 9. New Hampshire (\$455K)
- 10. New York (\$453K)
- 18. Connecticut (\$384K)
- 20. Virginia (\$378K)

#### **Utah's Home Prices Well Above National Norms**

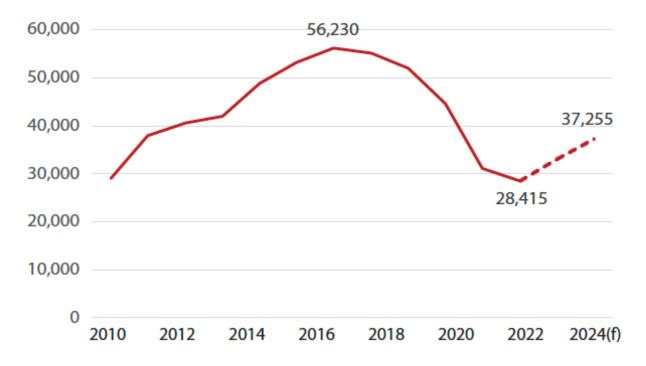
HOUSING PRICE INDEX: UTAH & UNITED STATES, 1975-2023



Source: U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency

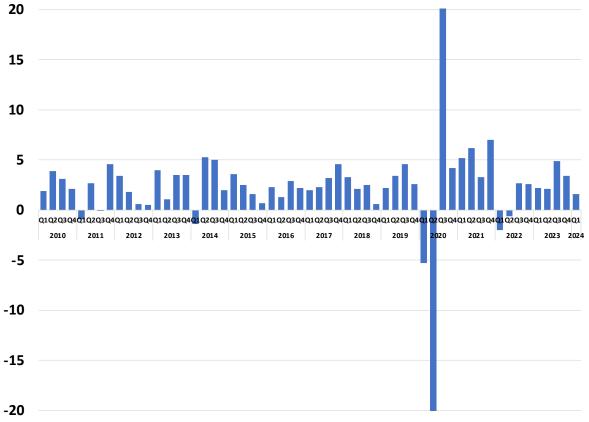
Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency

#### After Years of Progress, Increasing Housing Shortage in Utah



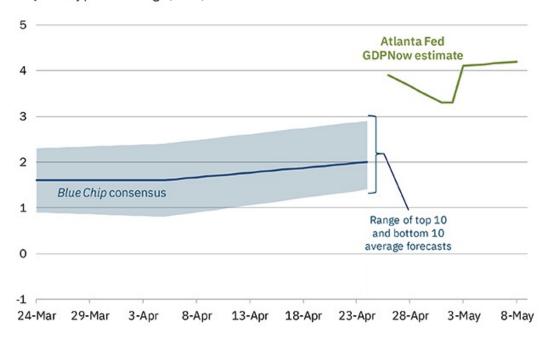
(f) = forecast (2023–2024) Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

#### **Historical U.S. GDP Growth**



#### U.S. GDP Growth Continues So Far in 2024 Q2

#### Evolution of Atlanta Fed GDPNow real GDP estimate for 2024: Q2 Quarterly percent change (SAAR)



#### Date of forecast

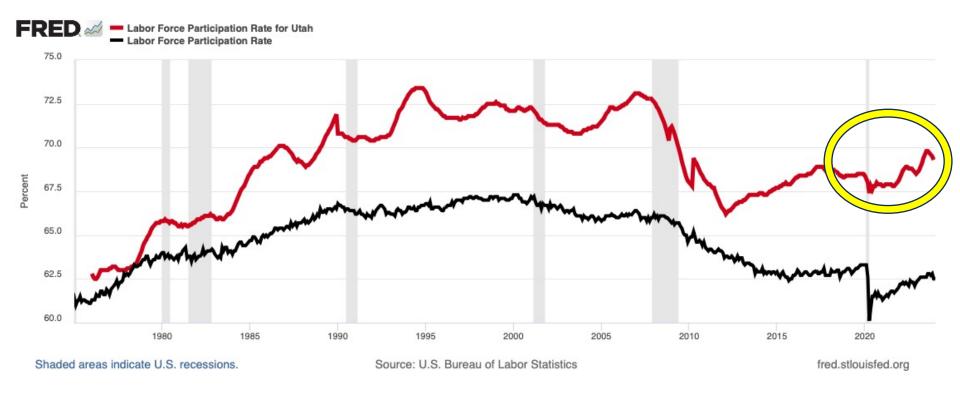
Sources: Blue Chip Economic Indicators and Blue Chip Financial Forecasts

Note: The top (bottom) 10 average forecast is an average of the highest (lowest) 10 forecasts in the Blue Chip survey.

### **Above-Average Nominal Wage Growth Continues**



#### **Higher Utah Labor Force Participation Continues**

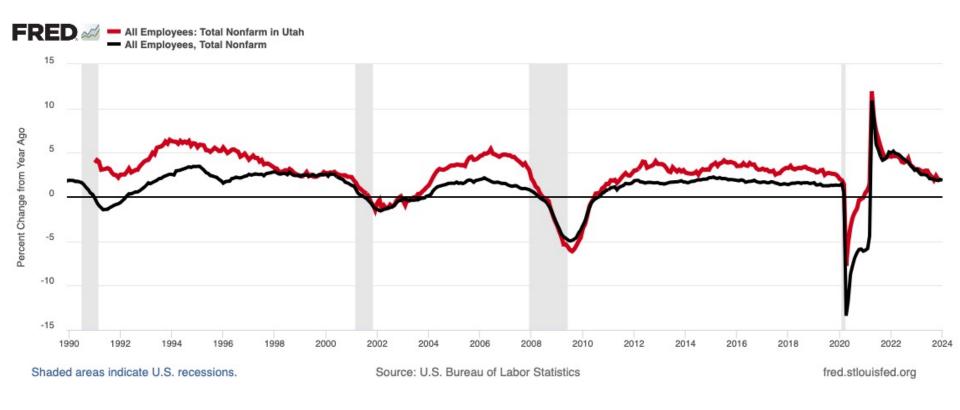


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Very Low Utah Unemployment, Even with Upticks

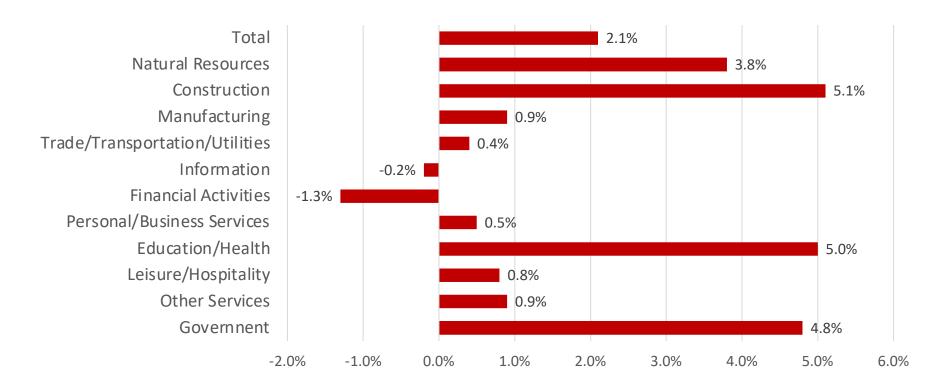


#### Job Growth Rates Moderating, Utah Tracking U.S.



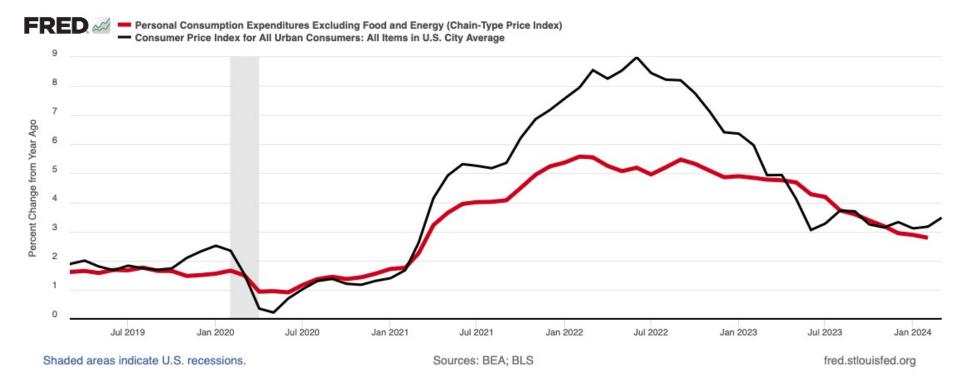
#### **Utah Job Growth by Industry**

March 2023-2024



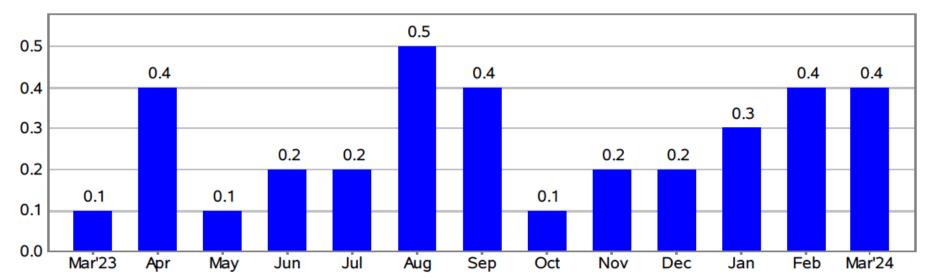
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

# Inflation Moderating - Head-fake or Continuing Disinflation?



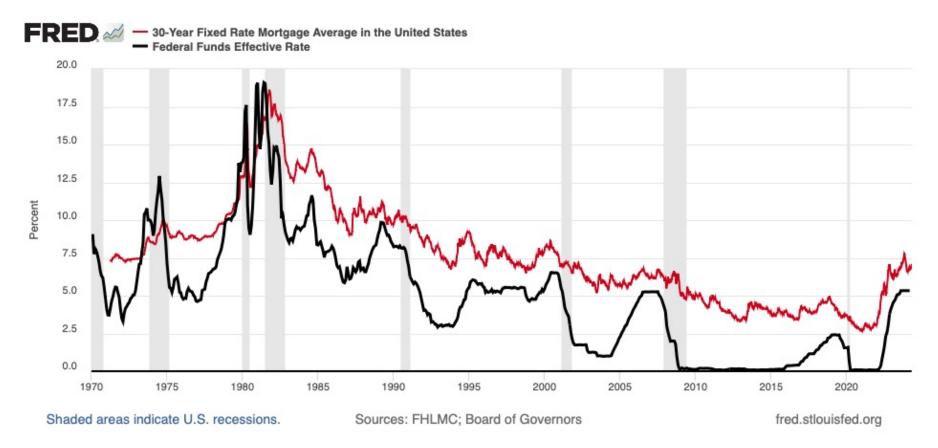
## **Increasing Monthly CPI Inflation**

Chart 1. One-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), seasonally adjusted, Mar. 2023 - Mar. 2024 Percent change



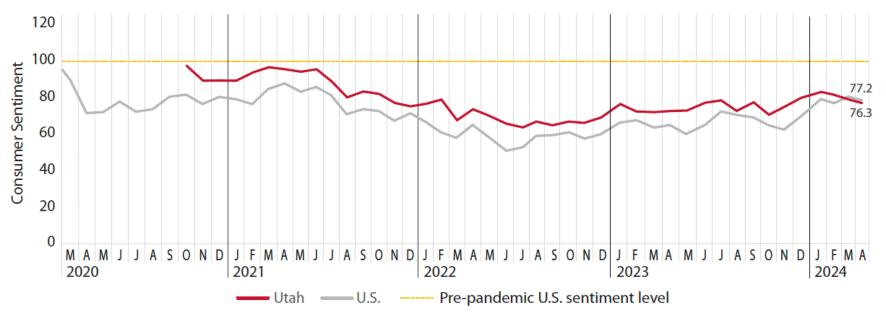
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

#### **Elevated Interest Rates**



#### **Recent Consumer Sentiment Flat and Still Low**

#### Consumer Sentiment Index: Utah and U.S.



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute and University of Michigan

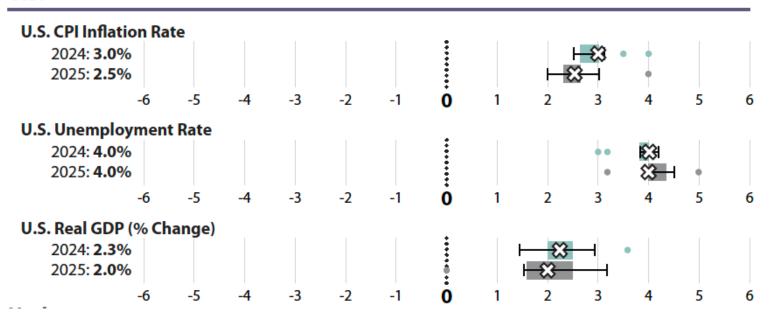
Economic forecasting is a fraught business. The economy is a complex, quickly changing set of relationships among not always rational households, businesses, and governments. It is continually buffeted by geopolitical, technological, and environmental shocks. In forecasting, it is wise to remain humble.

Mark Zandi

## Utah Economic Council Economic Forecast

#### March 2024 Forecast

#### U.S.



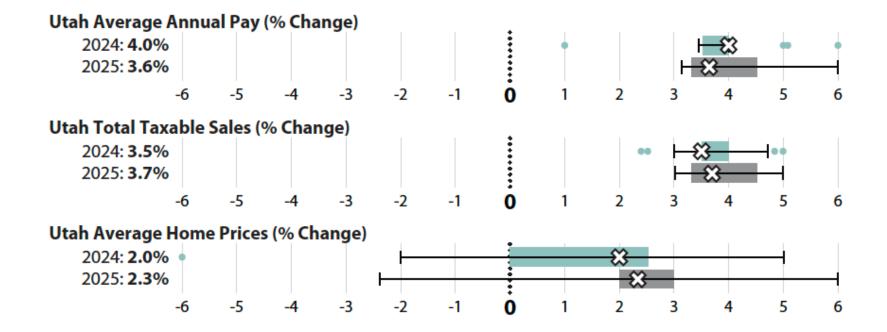


# Utah Economic Council Economic Forecast

#### Utah



# **Utah Economic Council Economic Forecast**





# Identify, Position and Promote the Wasatch Back

By: Jim Grover
For: Wasatch Back Summit
May 14, 2024



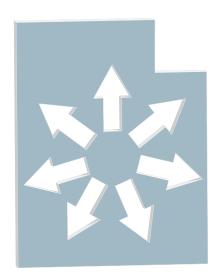
Under the governor's direction, leads and coordinates the economic development efforts in Utah

- Over 100 state workers
- 20+ offices and programs
- Statewide presence from Logan to St. George
- Administers \$140 million in funding to Utah businesses annually

### **Statewide Impact**

State workers mostly along the Wasatch Front, and in the following Utah counties:

- Cache
- Carbon
- Iron
- Utah
- Washington



#### Offices in:

- Cedar City
- Kaysville
- Logan
- Orem
- Price
- Salt Lake City
- South Salt Lake
- St. George

## **Identify, Position and Promote**

- what future do you want to create in your area

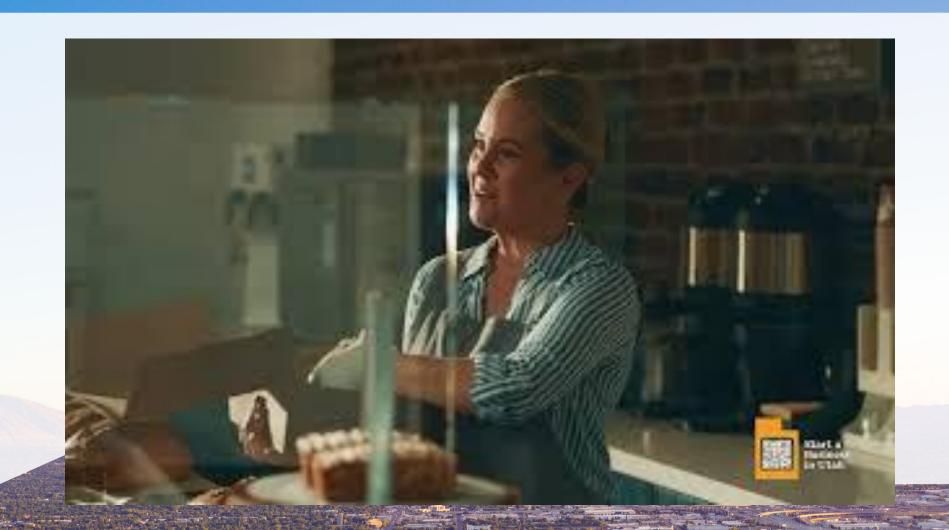
- Utah is a mature economic ecosystem
- Growth will occur vs. Direct where, how & what growth we want
- Statewide targeted industries
- Regional projects that are what communities want

## **Programs & Initiatives**

- that help Utah small businesses access funding and capital
- APEX Accelerator helps compete for government contracts for any sector, service, or product
- **Utah Innovation Center** helps compete for non-dilutive grants and contracts to fund the research and development of innovative technology
- Utah State Business Credit Initiative (USBCI) expand access to capital for small businesses in Utah, especially for underserved communities
- Business Incentives recommends grant and tax incentives for local and out-of-state companies seeking to expand or relocate to Utah

## **Programs & Initiatives**

- that support economic development in Utah
- International Trade & Diplomacy
- Center for Rural Development
- Utah Broadband Center
- Center for Immigration & Integration
- Unified Economic Opportunity Commission
- Office of Regulatory Relief
- Utah Film Commission
- Utah Office of Tourism









# Building Sustainable Regional Economic Ecosystems

## and the role of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and "start-up" Capital Partnerships

#### This EXCERPT has been provided by:

Ted McAleer | Founder and Managing Director, VBGS | M:(435)962-0126 | ted.mcaleer@gmail.com | https://www.linkedin.com/in/tedmcaleer/

for additional information on the learnings and teachings of *VBGS Institute*™ 2023, please contact Ted

### Who are Park City Angels, Pando and VBGS and their role in UT EconDev?





A 300+ person community of current and past entrepreneurs and mentors / advisors

Enabling Entrepreneurial Success in Utah since 2014



100+ current investing member network

Investing in Utah's Entrepreneurs since 2007



#### **VBGS SMARTStart™ Affiliates**

50+ people who have diverse Startup experiences *Helping scale companies from 2-20 Employees since 2018* 

"Ted Talks" on Technology-based economic development...

## 2024-4-9: WSJ recognizes Utah tech hub as #1 in USA





### 2024-5-5: US News recognizes Utah #1 in USA







#### Utah



Utah was dubbed "Deseret" by members of The READ MORE »

#9	Crime & Corrections	#3	Economy
#2	Education	#6	Fiscal Stability
#14	Health Care	#3	Infrastructure
#46	Natural Environment	#18	Opportunity



UTAH ranked in the Top 20 in seven of the eight categories and the Top 3 in Education, Economy and Infrastructure

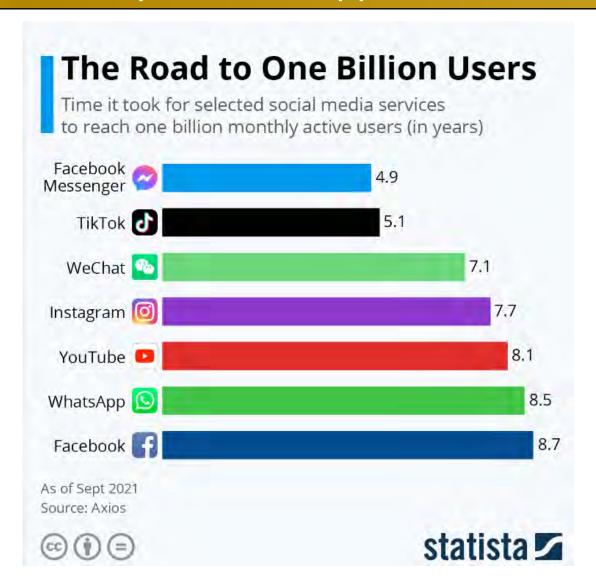
## "Ted Talks" on Technology-based economic development... Utah Unicorn growth from 2014 to 2021





## 2021 Popular B2C Apps and their time to 1 Billion...100M users

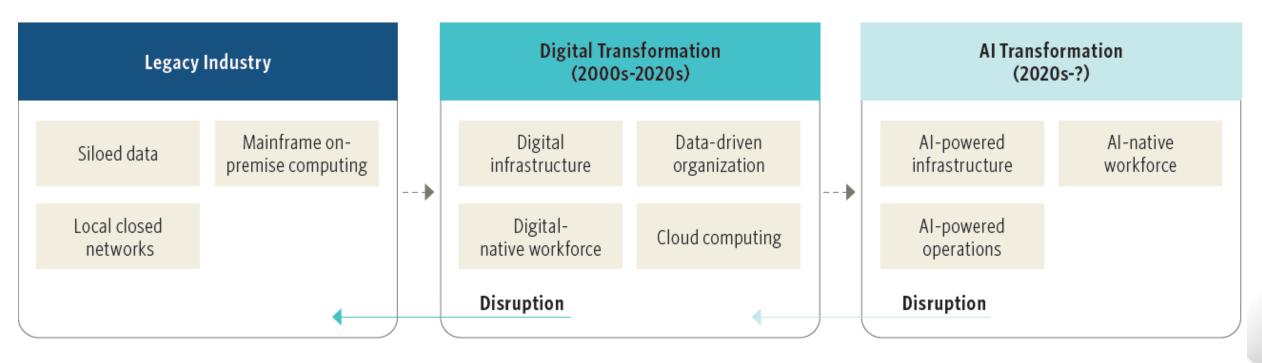






## In 2023, Consumer AI is accelerating the 4th IR





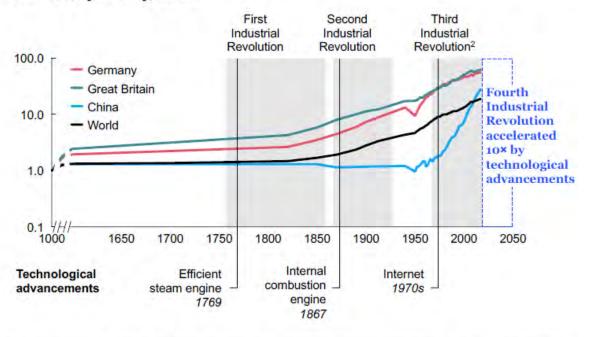
Source: PitchBook

## In 2024, the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution is impacting Utah



## Advancing technology has always spurred economic development, and now it's accelerating even faster.

Changes in GDP per capita brought about by technological investments, 1000–2000 AD, by country, indexed<sup>1</sup>



Estimated global GDP per capita in USD, adjusted to GDP in 1000 AD = 1; not exhaustive; 2. Includes Industry 4.0 (debate exists as to whether Industry 4.0 is seen as the Fourth Industrial Revolution or simply as the second phase of the Third Industrial Revolution).
 Source: Angus Maddison, "Statistics on World Population, GDP & Per Capita GDP, 1-2008 AD," Maddison Project Database: UBS Asset Management: OECD

1<sup>st</sup>: The use of water and steam to power <u>Mechanized</u> <u>Production</u>

2<sup>nd</sup>: The use of Electric Power to Create Mass Production

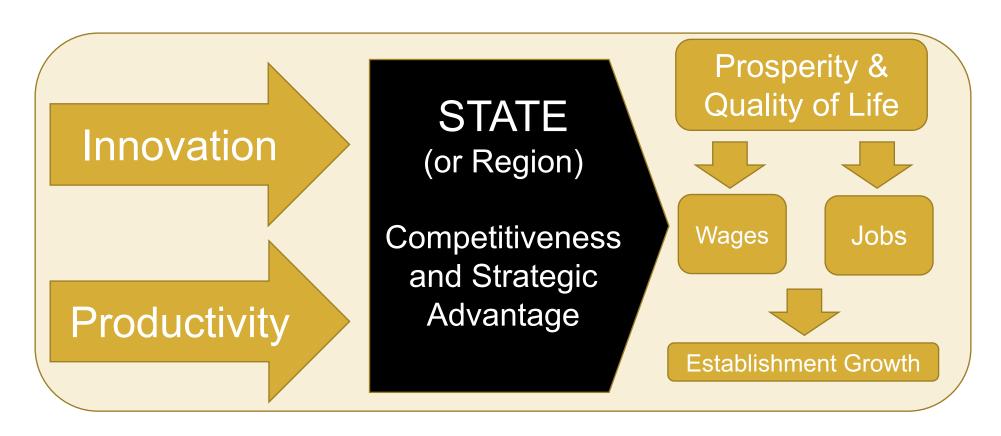
3<sup>rd</sup>: The user of <u>Information Technology (IT) to Automate Production</u>

The 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution (4<sup>th</sup> IR) is now: The Digital fusion of Physical and Biological Domains

We face a technology revolution "Unlike anything humankind has experienced before" - Klause Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum

#### Framework for sustainable economic prosperity in regional economies





How do Utah and the Wasatch Back create Ecosystems that foster innovation and increase involvement in convergence technology?

All States and Regions strive for identifying their "Competitive advantage" that can drive Prosperity and Quality of Life for their citizens...."Government" need to be thoughtful about how they partner with the private sector to encourage Innovation in their Entrepreneurial Ecosystems...

## Empowering Innovation...creating jobs through risk capital



## 3 Type of Innovation: "Empowering" Innovation



- Complicated costly products transformed to simpler cheaper products available for many
- Creates jobs and uses capital:

This MUST continue to be the focus of Utah and MAG Technology-based Economic Eevelopment (TBED) programs

Most B2B and B2C software is "Sustaining" or "Efficiency"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Sustaining" Innovation

<sup>•</sup> Replace old products with new models...these Create few jobs and have a neutral effect on economic activity and capital

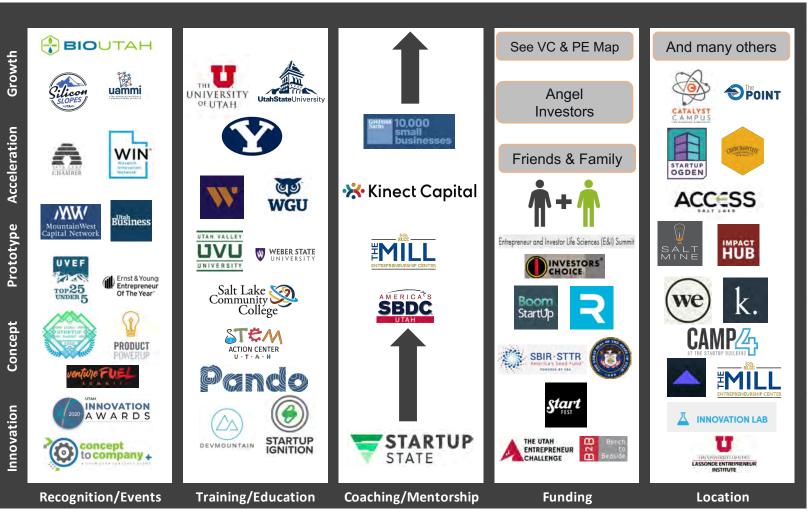
<sup>&</sup>quot;Efficiency" Innovation

<sup>•</sup> Reduce the cost of making and distributing existing products and services ... <u>Industry wide it cuts jobs</u> but preserves many of remaining jobs by keeping companies efficient

## 2024 The Utah Entrepreneur EcoSystem is thriving



#### **Utah's Entrepreneurial Eco-System**

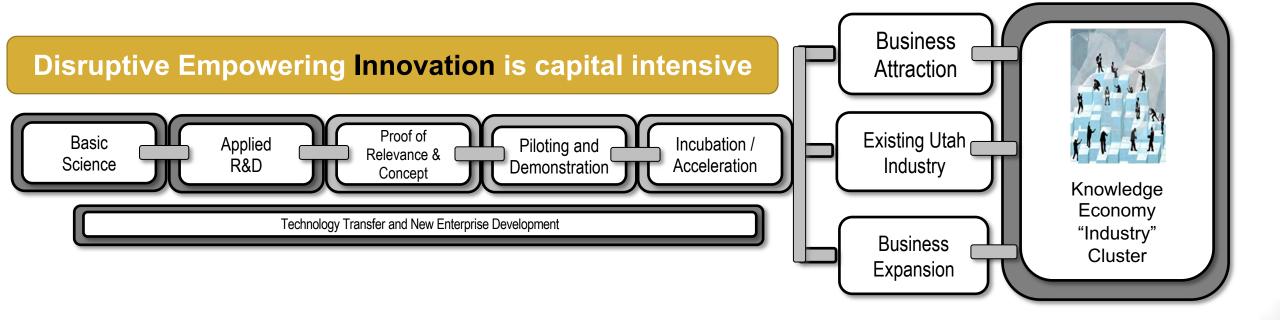


Resources

Stage

### Utah EconDev...A-C-E-P...Attract, Create, Expand, Promote





Entrepreneurs who are incubating "disruptive" products need access to:

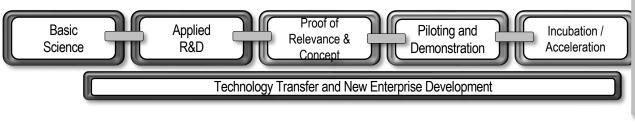
- Sophisticated equipment
- Strategic financial capital and
- Specialized human capital

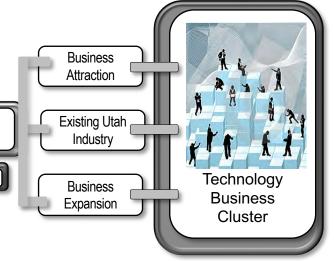
## Utah has sophisticated equipment



















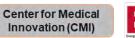






























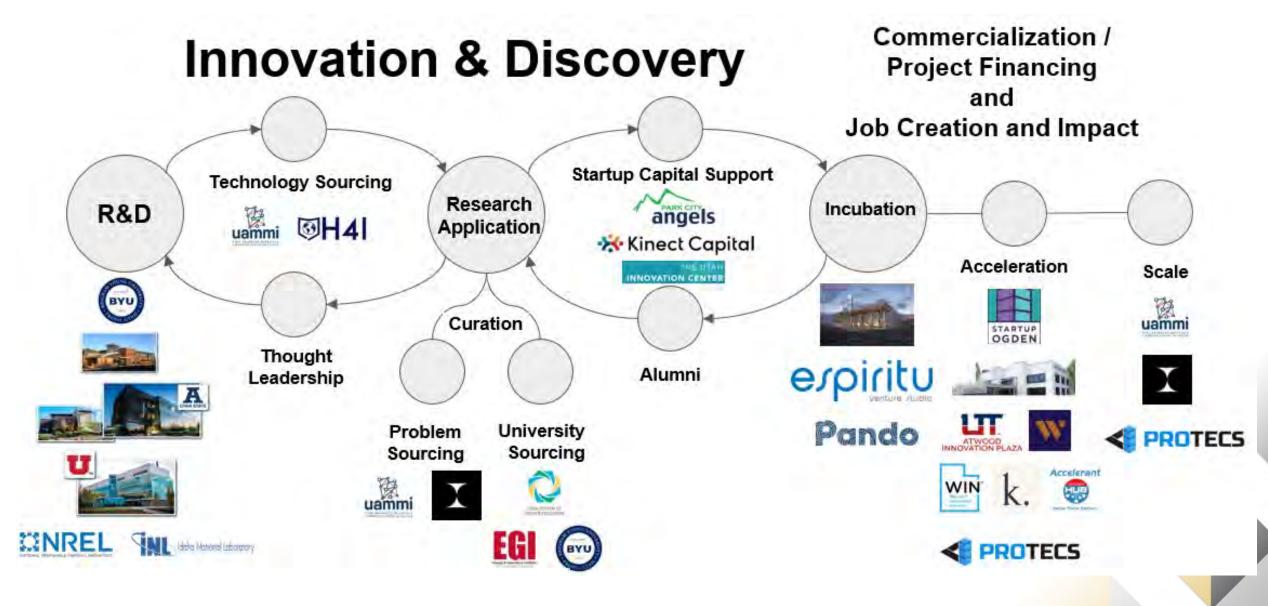






## Utah's Innovation Ecosystem "example" in 2024





### in 2024 PROTECS is helping Utah's Innovators grow their facilities



PROJECT DELIVERY, EVOLVED.

















## PANEL DISCUSSION

## **Building Sustainable Regional Economic Ecosystems**

and the role of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and "start-up" Capital Partnerships

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## **APPENDICES**

## **Building Sustainable Regional Economic Ecosystems**

and the role of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and "start-up" Capital Partnerships

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## How has Ted's diverse career shaped his thinking?



#### **OPERATIONS MGMT** experiences with leading brands and organizations (1987-2004)



HAH

**US Army Corps** 

of Engineers











#### **STARTUP AND VC-BACKED experiences** in Product Management, Professional Services, Business Development, and **Consulting (1999-2024)**



Wireless Advanced Vehicle Electrification



























LEADERSHIP experiences as a Founder, GM, Executive Director, Partner, Faculty, Board Member, or COO (2005-2024)





















**BioInnovations** 





PARK CITY







## Case Studies from Utah Innovation, 2005-2024



This is just a small sample of the technology-centric entrepreneurs in Utah that VBGS and our partners and affiliates have helped through our affiliated programs since 2005...























































**Boom**Startup



















Royal Street Ventures





























### In 2013, what were the 12 Tech Categories of the Future?



#### 12 \$Trillion Technology Categories of 2025

- Mobile Internet
- Automation of Knowledge Work
- Internet of Things
- Cloud
- Advanced robotics
- Next-generation genomics
- Energy Storage
- 3D Printing
- Advanced Materials
- Autonomous&Near Autonomous Vehicles
- Advanced oil and gas exploration
- Renewable Energy

Source McKinsey Global Institute



#### **Energy Driven Categories**

- Energy production
- Advanced oil and gas exploration
- Renewable Energy

#### **Manufacturing Categories**

- Advanced robotics
- Autonomous and Near Autonomous Vehicles
- 3D Printing
- Advanced Materials

#### <u>Information Technology Driven categories</u>

- Mobile Internet
- Automation of Knowledge Work
- Internet of Things
- Cloud

#### Life Science Driven categories

Next-generation genomics

## In 2024, what are the 15 Tech Categories of the Future?





The AI revolution	11
Applied Al	12
Industrializing machine learning	16
Generative AI	21



Building the digital future	
Next-generation software development	27
Trust architectures and digital identity	32
Web3	37



Compute and connectivity frontiers	42
Advanced connectivity	43
Immersive-reality technologies	48
Cloud and edge computing	53
Quantum technologies	58



Cutting-edge engineeering	63
Future of mobility	64
Future of bioengineering	69
Future of space technologies	74



A sustainable world	79
Electrification and renewables	80
Climate technologies beyond	
electrification and renewables	80

## Utah Technology Ecosytem "Innovation" Infrastructure and TRLs



Technology Readiness Level Development Pipeline					
Research	Proof Of Concept	Prototype	Product Development	Manufacturing	Mature Technology
TRL 1-2	TRL 3	TRL 4	TRL 5-6	TRL 7	TRL 8-9

#### **Utah Innovation Center**

University Tech Transfer Offices

**UAMMI** 

**Entrepreneurship Centers** 

SBDCs in 13 Utah locations

**APEX Accelerators** 

BioUtah with Biohive working w Altitude Labs

#### **USHE Innovation Fund**

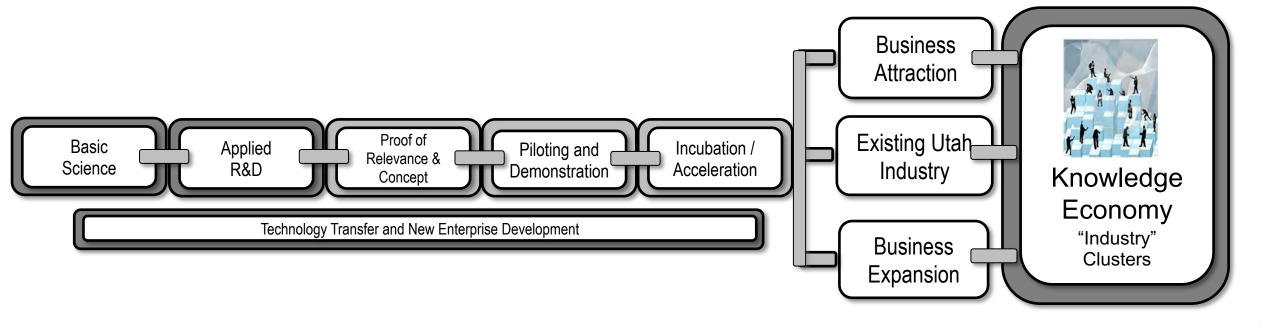
USHE Innovation District / Operator & Researcher Match programs

Angel Capital leading to Venture Capital

## "Ted Talks" on "Empowering" Innovation (cont)

Disruptive product innovation is capital intensive and requires "Patient Capital"





Entrepreneurs who are incubating "disruptive" products need access to:

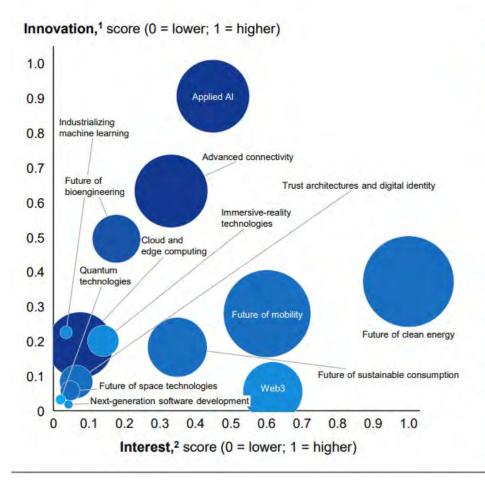
- Sophisticated equipment
- Strategic financial capital and
- Specialized human capital

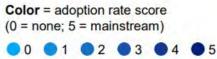
#### 2023: Domains for the Next Acceleration



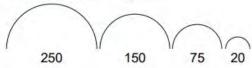


Innovation, interest, investment, and adoption, by technology trend, 2021









Note: Innovation and interest scores for the 14 trends are relative to one another. All 14 trends exhibit high levels of innovation and interest compared with other topics and are also attracting significant investments (\$2 billion minimum in 2021).

¹The innovation score combines the 0–1 scores for patent and research, which are relative to the trends studied. The patent score is based on a measure of patent filings, and the research score is based on a measure of research publications.
²The interest score combines the 0–1 scores for news and searches, which are relative to the trends studied. The news score is based on a measure of news publications, and the searches score is based on a measure of search engine queries.

McKinsey & Company

UTAH EcoSystem Leadership



Future of Bioengineering



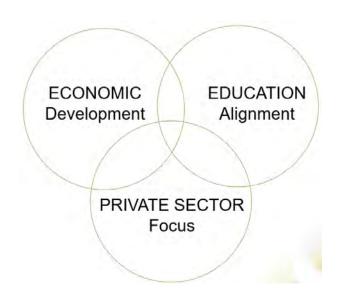
Future of Clean Energy

## Two examples of strong and growing industry associations





...BioUtah and UAMMI are focused on growing talent and being the catalyst for capital



























#### **UAMMI BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Marshall Hagen, Janicki Industries CHAIRMAN

David Ferro, Weber State University VICE CHAIRMAN

Jerome Berg, Northrop Grumman Corporation

Steve Black, Utah – MEP

Kori Ann Edwards, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity GOEO

Marshall Wright, Utah Black Chamber

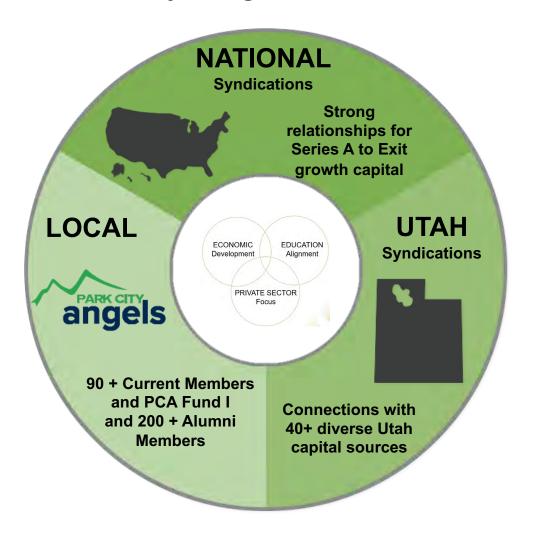
Andrew Buffmire, University of Utah

## Angel Capital has more flexibility than traditional Venture Capital

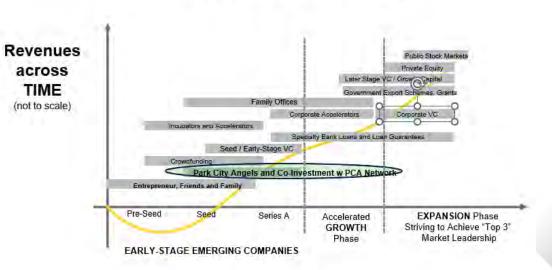




## Park City Angels' role in Utah



#### Type of Funding



Stages of a Company's Development

(not to scale)

## The Value of the Park City Angels NETWORK



## The Park City Angels "Network" is committed to your success!

Our "network reach" extends to all 50 States and most of the Fortune 500

Park City Angels "Network Mentors" are great resources to staff Startup Advisory Boards

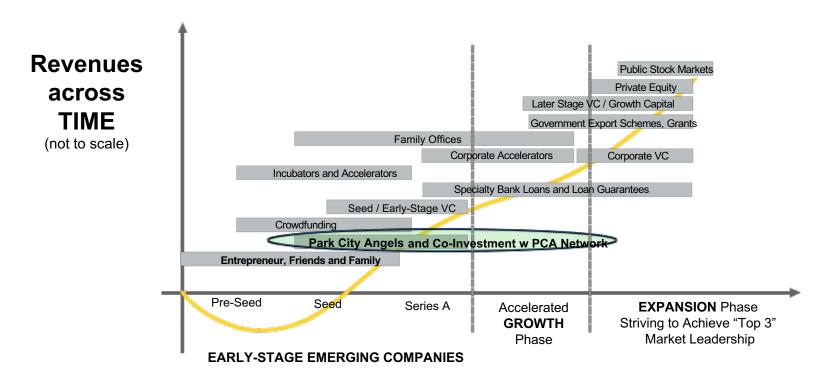


## Park City Angels and Keiretsu Forum

...providing capital along the funding continuum



## Type of Funding







#### Stages of a Company's Development

(not to scale)

Source: VBGS Institute™ Aug2022

## National Angel Investor Landscape

Keiretsu is a partner of Park City Angels and other regional Angel networks













Source: VBGS Institute™ 2023 adapted from Keiretsu Mtg Sept 2023

#### Keiretsu Syndication network includes over 30 Angel Networks























WUTIF Capital (VCC) Inc



























ARIZONA













PUGET SOUND PSVC VENTURE CLUB



Mossy





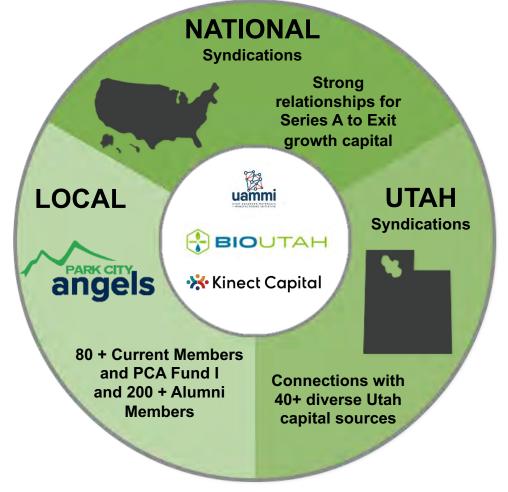


## Capital Partnerships makes the Innovation Ecosystem stronger

We welcome the opportunity to partner with your capital community



## Park City Angels (helping Utah Industry Partners)





































































**NJAngels** 







## Utah VC Landscape

Top VC Investor in Utah from 2016-2022



INVESTOR NAME	PREFERRED INDUSTRY	NUMBER OF INVESTMENTS	PRIMARY INVESTOR TYPE	ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT	HQ LOCATION
Kickstart Seed Fund	B2B, Software	35	Venture Capital	\$257.2M	Cottonwood Heights, UT
EPIC Ventures	Healthcare, Software	15	Venture Capital	\$208.3M	Salt Lake City, UT
Menio Ventures	IT, Healthcare, Software, Financial Services	10	Venture Capital	\$5.5B	Menio Park, CA
Signal Peak Ventures	IT, Software	10	Venture Capital	\$114M	Salt Lake City, UT
Y Combinator	Software	9	Accelerator / Incubator	\$772.8M	Mountain View, CA
Park City Angels	Software	8	Angel Group	Unknown	Park City, UT
Pelion Venture Partners	Software	8	Venture Capital	\$931M	Salt Lake City, UT
Album VC	Healthcare, Software	7	Venture Capital	\$152.09M	Lehi, UT
BoomStartup	Software	7	Accelerator / Incubator	Unknown	Salt Lake City, UT
Northwest Venture Partners	IT, Healthcare, Software	7	Venture Capital	\$10B	Palo Alto, CA
Origin Ventures	B2B, B2C, Software	7	Venture Capital	\$165M	Chicago, IL
Service Provider Capital	Healthcare, Software	7	Venture Capital	Unknown	Denver, CO
GV	B2C, Healthcare, Software	6	Corporate Venture Capital	\$4.5B	Mountain View, CA
Peterson Partners	Commercial Services, Healthcare, Software	6	PE / Buyout	\$1.63B	Salt Lake City, UT
Royal Street Ventures	Commercial Services, Software	6	Venture Capital	Unknown	Park City, UT

The Park City Angels (#6 on this list) have relationships with ALL of these Venture Capital Funds, Accelerators and more























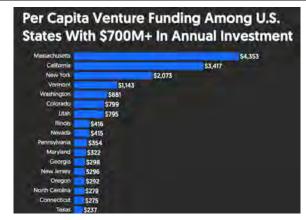


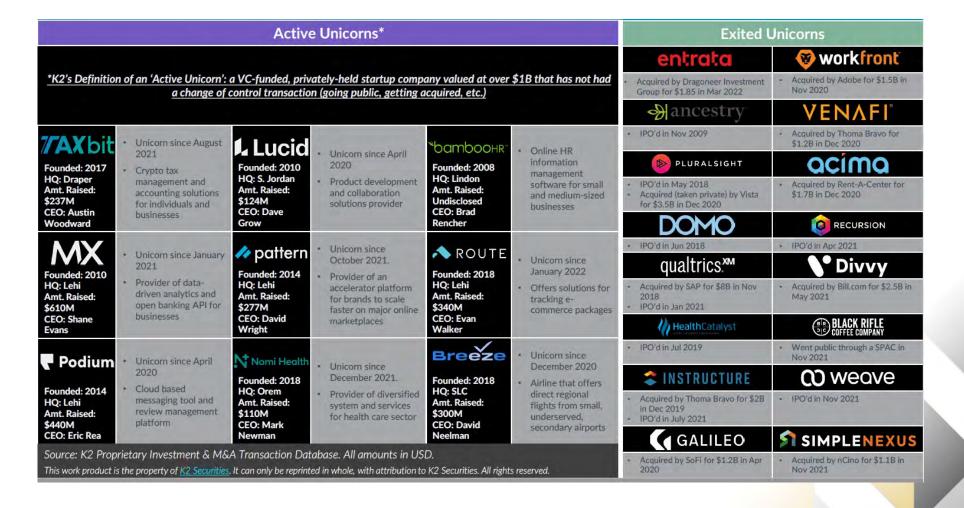
Source: VBGS Institute™ 2023 adapted from EDCUtah March 2021

## "Ted Talks" on 2023 Utah VC Landscape

Utah is "punching above our weight" in "Unicorns per capita" since 2015







## Support for: Utah Entrepreneurial Eco-System



#### Silicon Slopes in Utah is attracting investment form recognized brands



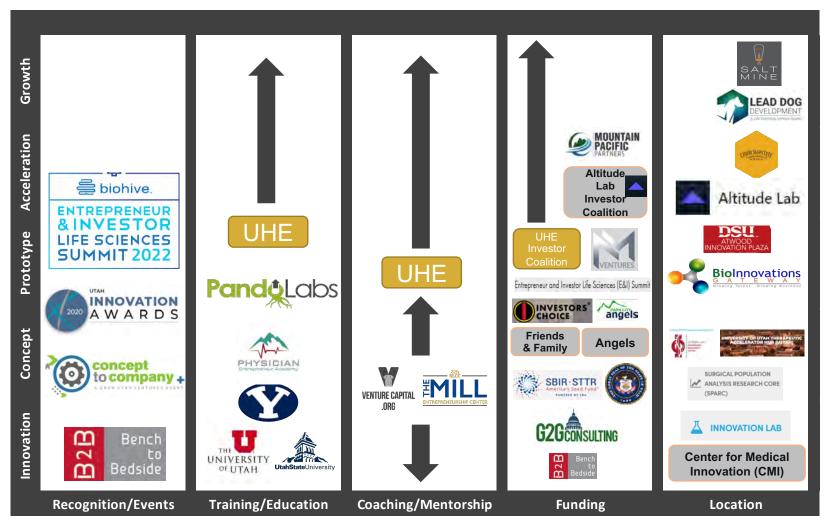
## Utah Entrepreneurial Eco-System (cont):

## Healthcare Focus

Stage



#### **Utah's Entrepreneurial Eco-System**



#### UHE

...fostering innovation and collaboration.

Working together, we are helping Utah to make Healthcare more affordable and accessible while improving work life for providers

#### Resources

## "Consumer AI" is advancing the 4<sup>th</sup> IR

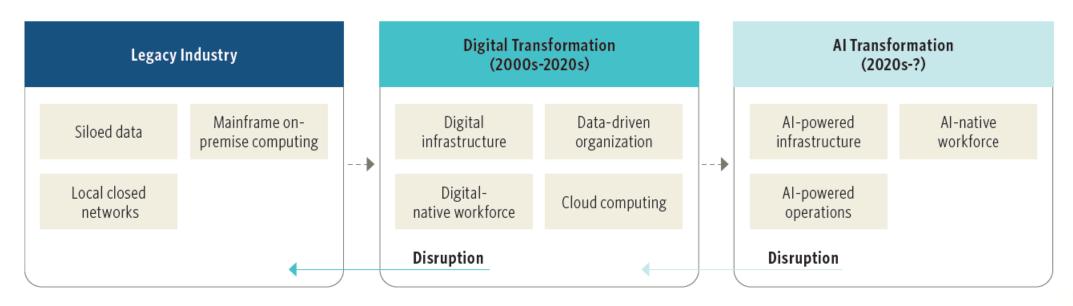


#### The dawn of Al transformation

The launch of ChatGPT has prompted broad recognition within the tech community that the maturation of transformer-trained large language models (LLMs) are likely to have wide-ranging impacts across many industries. While the technology is not necessarily new—it was first conceived by a Google team in 2017—the introduction of open-source foundational models has made it widely accessible for the first time, and this is prompting organizations to more seriously consider the potential opportunities and threats posed by these new capabilities.

At its core, ChatGPT represents the evolution of AI into an easy-to-use consumer-focused product with immediately apparent return on investment. The technology enables even the most unskilled worker to conduct advanced AI-powered research through a simple chat-based interface. For enterprises, LLMs could have broad implications for many operational functions including customer support, analytics, research & development, and software engineering, to name just a few—potentially driving a step-function lift in productivity and efficiency in ways that could transform organizational structure. Natural language chat bots are poised to revolutionize

how consumers interact with products and services and will be capable of providing hyper-personalized on-demand digital experiences that currently do not exist. While nimble startups may be well positioned to adopt and integrate LLM technology into existing processes and workflows, larger enterprises are likely to move more slowly as they evaluate an emerging set of risks and implications related to privacy, intellectual property rights, security and data quality, the growing costs of running AI infrastructure, and the emerging regulatory landscape.



Source: PitchBook

Source: VBGS Institute™ 2023, adapted from Pitchbook Emerging Tech Rpt, 2023-5-1

## In 2023, what were the 15 Tech Categories of the Future?





The Al revolution	11
Applied Al	12
Industrializing machine learning	16
Generative Al	21



Building the digital future	26
Next-generation software development	27
Trust architectures and digital identity	32
Web3	37





Cutting-edge engineeering	63
Future of mobility	64
Future of bioengineering	69
Future of space technologies	74

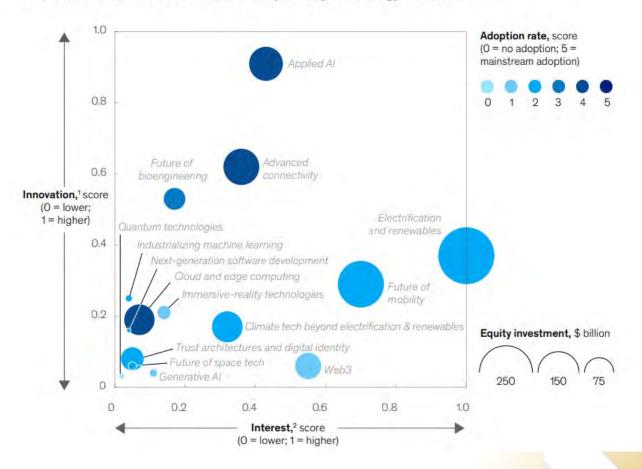


A sustainable world	79
Electrification and renewables	80
Climate technologies beyond	
electrification and renewables	80

Exhibit 3

We described each trend by scoring innovation and interest, and we also counted investments and rated their level of adoption by organizations.

Innovation, interest, investment, and adoption, by technology trend, 2022



# "Ted Talks" on Technology-based economic development... 2024-5-1: US News recognizes Utah #1 in USA



#### UTAH ranked in the Top 20 of seven of the eight categories and the Top 3 in Education, Economy and Infrastructure

#46





#### Utah



Utah was dubbed "Deseret" by members of The READ MORE »

#9 Crime & Corrections

Education

Health Care

#6 Fiscal Stability

#6 FISCAI Stability

Economy

#3 Infrastructure

**#18** Opportunity



- Health Care: 15.97%
  - Health Care Access
  - · Health Care Quality
  - Public Health
- Education: 15.94%
  - Higher Education
  - o Pre-K-12

- Economy: 13.36%
  - Business Environment
  - Employment
  - o Growth
- Infrastructure: 12.93%
  - Energy
  - Internet Access
  - Transportation

• Opportunity: 12.29%

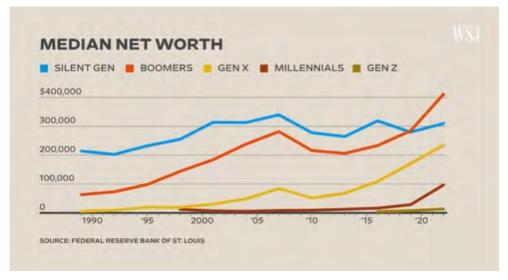
Natural Environment

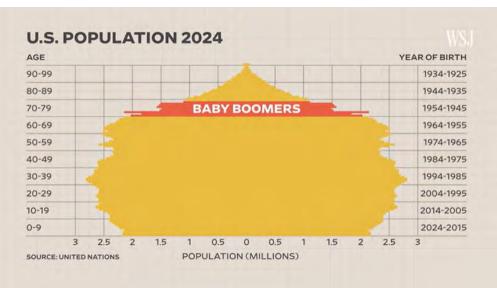
- Affordability
- Economic Opportunity
- Equality
- Fiscal Stability: 11.36%
  - Long-Term Fiscal Stability
  - Short-Term Fiscal Stability

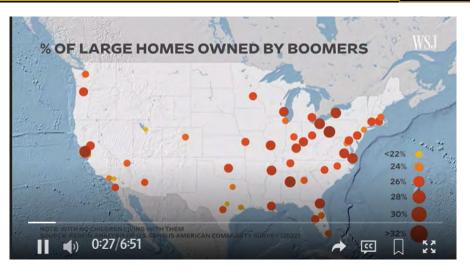
- Crime & Corrections: 9.16%
  - Corrections Outcomes
  - Public Safety
- Natural Environment: 8.99%
  - Air and Water Quality
  - Pollution

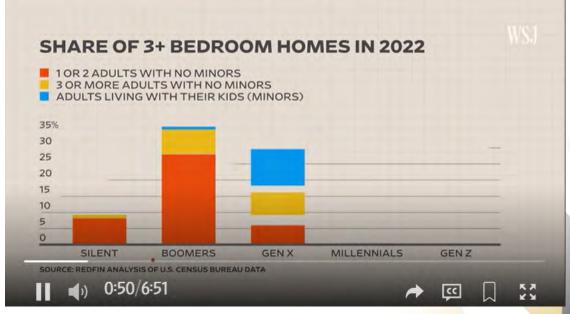
# "Ted Talks" on Technology-based economic development... Housing role for sustainable economic prosperity















# **Buffmire time to \$1Bil slide**

# MAG & Regional Economic Development 2024 Wasatch Back Economic Summit



## Who is MAG?

MAG's mission is to empower communities to achieve their vision in Summit, Utah, and Wasatch counties, with focus on informed aging, planning for growth, and community and economic development. We partner with city & county governments, state & federal partners, non-profits, chambers of commerce and local businesses, tourism groups, universites, healthcare stakeholders, and more to facilitate collaboration and solutions, advocate for local issues, and help communities and residents access funding and services.

# Why a regional focus?

Cities and counties are making substantial development progress, but challenges remain. Some challenges are local, but many today are regional, requiring expertise and decision making from many different stakeholders.

MAG works to bridge the gap, facilitating coordination on regional issues and improving the ability to make collective decisions.



## MAG and MEDD

#### Mountainland Economic Development District

Economic development districts are multi-county bodies recognized and overseen by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Currently 400+ districts nationwide that focus on:

- Strategic planning (economic development, disaster recovery and resilience, etc.)
- Identifying projects, priorities, and areas for regional collaboration
- Leveraging state/federal funding





### Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

"CEDS" is the foundation of MEDD's work — a five-year strategic plan for the Mountainland region designed to build local capacity and advance economic prosperity and resiliency. This strategy is the product of focused stakeholder engagement, community input, and data analysis.

Though we know that our communities are unique, this planning process revealed shared challenges and priorities across the MAG region.

Through CEDS, we aim to:

1. Educate 2. Invest 3. Collaborate



#### **STRENGTHS**

Natural Landscape Quality of Life Rapid Economic Growth Intellectual Capital Tech Industry & Startups



#### **WEAKNESSES**

Inconsistent Collaboration & Vision Cost-Burdened Households Transportation & Other Infrastructure High Cost of Living



#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

Infrastructure Improvements
Tourism Development
Address Housing Challenges
Increase Training & Coordination



#### **THREATS**

Environmental Impacts
Unmanaged Growth
Complexity of Housing Issues
Workforce Misalignment





## CEDS: 2024-2029 Regional Priorities

**Transportation:** Provide a safe, connected, and accessible regional transportation network to meet current and future needs.

Livability: Improve cost and quality of life to support the region's workforce and residents. (Includes issues of housing, education, childcare, and more).

Natural Resources: Balance regional growth, tourism development, and the protection of natural resources. (Includes issues of water and air quality.)

#### **Regional Collaboration:**

Accelerate problem-solving and build economic development capacity through increased regional collaboration.



#### **CEDS: Strategies**

01

#### <u>Transportation</u>

Provide a safe, connected, and accessible regional transportation network to meet current and future needs.

- 1.1: Expand public transit infrastructure, access, and awareness.
- 1.2: Align regional efforts to improve and execute transportation plans that minimize congestion, increase connectivity, and anticipate future trends.

02

#### Natural Resources

Balance regional growth, tourism development, and the protection of natural resources.

- 2.1: Use current data, best practices, and planning to catalyze action among regional partners.
- 2.2: Expand sustainable tourism initiatives.
- 2.3: Advocate for local governments to manage development with incentives, updated zoning and building codes, and code enforcement.



#### **CEDS: Strategies**



#### <u>Livability</u>

Improve quality of life to support the region's workforce and communities.

- 3.1: Coordinate regional efforts to address housing challenges.
- 3.2: Increase equitable access and affordability of quality education and childcare that meets the needs of students, families, and businesses.
- 3.3: Assess and address barriers to health and safety of residents, workers, and visitors.



#### Regional Collaboration

Accelerate problem-solving and build economic resiliency through increased collaboration.

- 4.1: Improve coordination between regional stakeholders, surrounding regions, and the state.
- 4.2: Advance efforts to further diversify the regional economy and increase competitiveness.

## Questions?

mountainland.org/medd-ceds

