



Labor shortage in Utah may come to a slow end according to economists

BY PAUL NELSON
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SALT LAKE CITY – According to economists, the labor shortage is decreasing in Utah, but not as quickly as employers want. Companies across the state are still having trouble finding enough employees for their open positions.

When the pandemic hit, it essentially halted the country's economy all at once, however, analysts reported the labor shortage can't end at the same speed as it began. Department of Workforce Services Chief Economist Mark Knold explained about 1.5 percent of Utah's labor force stopped working when COVID-19 shut everything down.

Knold said, "That's a good 35,0000 people who just, kind of, went off to the sidelines. Summer programs in parks and recreations centers across the Salt Lake Valley had to either cancel or reduce their classes due to a lack of workers. Knold said [Snowbasin Resort](#) had to cancel five of the events in their Blues, Brews and BBQ Concert Series because they couldn't find enough staffers.

Factors of labor shortage in Utah

So, why aren't people returning to the labor force as quickly as they left? Knold said there are four main reasons why. First, many workers are still worried about the spread of COVID-19, even if they've been vaccinated. "There's trepidation about coming back out into the COVID environment. They're not ready to come out and work, especially in some of the manual service jobs where it's face-to-face customer interaction." Knold said.

Other workers don't want to return because of changing workplace dynamics, as many people find their jobs have shifted to include different tasks. Also, in some cases, the workers aren't physically where they used to be. For instance, Knold said business owners in Logan are dealing with the side effects of remote learning.

"A big part of their labor force is college students, and they're not there. They won't be there until the fall comes around," he said.

However, Knold believes it's possible enhanced unemployment benefits during the pandemic were too attractive to many people. The state stopped offering the enhanced benefits at the end of June, and Knold says that may have convinced many Utahns to get back to work. He said, "The June jobs report showed that the labor force is responding to it. The job count kicked up. They are getting people to come back and respond. Again, it's not in the quantity they want."

RECAPING Q2 2021

2021 QTR 2 STR DATA		OCC Index	ADR Index	RevPAR Index
2021 QTR 2 Portfolio Average Index		103.71	107.11	111.96

2021 Qtr 2 Portfolio Average Change %	Q2 2021 Our Portfolio	Q2 2021 Comp Set	Q2 2021 Our Portfolio	Q2 2021 Comp Set	Q2 2021 Our Portfolio	Q2 2021 Comp Set
	OCC Chng %	OCC Chng %	ADR Chng %	ADR Chng %	RevPar Chng %	RevPar Chng %
	129.91	106.00	21.55	28.16	179.58	163.67



WHATEVER IT TAKES!

With extreme circumstances in the labor market, most of our locations have experienced severe shortages of staff. During this time, all team members have rolled up their sleeves and stepped in anywhere needed. Major shoutout to our teams that are working together every single day to deliver results, Whatever it Takes!



In April we Welcomed Michael Strong (pictured below) to the Status Hospitality team as the General Manager of the Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Sandy!



Throughout the 2nd Quarter we have faced tremendous struggles in receiving general supply. From guest room linen, chlorine for the pool, breakfast supply, key cards and more! We may continue to struggle as supply chains continue to be impacted by COVID-19 and travel restrictions.



In May we Welcomed Jared Tillman (pictured above) to the Status Hospitality team as the General Manager of the Hampton Provo!

Salt Lake airport returns to pre-pandemic levels as tourism booms

By Ladd Egan, KSL TV | Posted - July 7, 2021, at 9:07 a.m.

Even without the typical number of international and business visitors, the Salt Lake City International Airport reports that air travel is back to pre-pandemic levels. (Ladd Egan, KSL TV)

Salt Lake City Int'l Airport returns to pre-pandemic levels as tourism booms

SALT LAKE CITY — Even without the typical number of international and business visitors, the Salt Lake City International Airport reports that air travel is back to pre-pandemic levels. "Salt Lake is definitely back. The airport is back. Flying is back," said Bill Wyatt, the airport's executive director. Wyatt said he expects some record-breaking days at the airport this summer, despite the reduced level of international travel. "We're pretty much back to where we were pre-pandemic in Salt Lake," Wyatt said. "We're at 105% of where we were in 2019, and that puts Salt Lake City International at the top of the list."

He said Utah is a top destination because people feel safe in the outdoors. There was a strong demand for air travel during both the summer and winter tourism seasons. Zions Bank senior economist Robert Spendlove joined Wyatt at the airport for a press conference Tuesday morning and said the return of the travel industry is one of the final pieces needed for the state's economy to fully recover from the pandemic. "The busy Fourth of July travel weekend is a great sign that our travel and tourism industry is making a strong comeback," Spendlove said. "A boost in summer travel will have far-reaching impacts on the economy, bringing back jobs and stimulating additional growth." Spendlove said while it will take time for business travel to fully bounce back, several business conferences are booked in Utah for later this year, and many relocated from other cities. "The business side of tourism continues to recover, although much more slowly than the leisure side of travel," Spendlove said. In April, hotel occupancy rates in Utah returned to 2019 levels, according to a research brief, "Back to Baseline: Utah's Tourism Economy Rebounds Post-Pandemic," by the University of Utah's Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute. "One year since the arrival of COVID in the U.S. and Utah's tourism economy is back on track," the June report said. "Leisure and hospitality employment in southern Utah rebounded 'back to baseline' last fall, while the rest of the state began catching up this spring."

This March, 22 of Utah's 29 counties collected more transient room tax revenue than in the same month in 2019, according to the report. The counties still below their 2019 hotel tax revenues were Davis, Salt Lake, Summit, Uintah, Utah, Wasatch, and Weber. The report said that all signs indicate that urban travel will make "huge strides towards recovery" during the second half of this year. "Meanwhile, increased vaccine distribution, swollen savings accounts, and widespread remote employment will continue to bolster travel during the second half of this year, bringing the entire state back to — and even well above — 2019 baseline by 2022," the research brief said.

The Utah Office of Tourism said the state's world-renowned outdoor destinations continued to attract visitors during the pandemic. "Our Mighty Five national parks have been setting monthly visitation records every month since October 2020," said Anna Loughridge, the tourism office's public relations manager. Loughridge said the travel economy in urban areas will recover more fully as business, convention, and event travel resumes.

"There are two different stories here: urban destinations are definitely still working towards recovery but a lot of our rural, gateway communities have already reached those 2019 numbers," she said.

Getting to know you... Jayson Alexander!

Jayson is currently working as the General Manager for our Fairfield Inn, SLC Airport! Jayson has been with Status Hospitality for just over two years and has been in the hospitality industry for almost ten years! Jayson has been at the front desk,

a front office manager, revenue manager and now General Manager! Jayson has five kids and a standard poodle at home, and he loves the outdoors!

Jason's Favorites!

Color: Blue

Animal: Bear

Snack: Ritz crackers with cheese

Movie: Better off Dead

Drink: Dr. Pepper

Saying: "Pain is weakness leaving the body"

