

US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET

Utah



Comparison at same scale

Utah
Area: 84,899 sq. miles
Population: 2.1 million

Jordan
Area: 35,467 sq. miles
Population: 4.4 million

Largest metropolitan areas by population (1996): Salt Lake City-Ogden (1,217,842), Provo-Orem (319,694)

Jordan



Largest urban area by population (1995): Amman (1,183,000)

Rapidly growing populations and scenic but arid landscapes characterize both Utah and Jordan, and increasing human demands for water will affect the future of both regions. But while Utah's robust modern economy masks many of the long-term threats from rapid population growth, Jordan's developing economy struggles to meet the basic needs of its people.

Jordan and Utah share a topography of mountains, valleys, and high desert plateaus, with low annual precipitation and high rates of evaporation. Portions of both areas near their major population centers are closed basins, where inflowing freshwater ultimately evaporates, leaving high concentrations of salt in Jordan's Dead Sea and Utah's Great Salt Lake. Such basins similarly collect and concentrate pollutants in the water, which is a serious concern for both areas because of their high

populations and intensive agriculture. While Utah is rich in minerals, especially petroleum and coal, Jordan lacks resources, except for phosphates and potash.

Jordan has experienced major human migrations for thousands of years but has long been occupied by Arabic people, who today make up more than 95 percent of its residents. Native Americans occupied Utah for over 10,000 years, but during the past 150 years people of European descent have largely supplanted them.

The fourth fastest growing state in the country, Utah has a high growth rate of 2.1 percent per year, which is driven largely by its total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.6 children per woman. This rate results in the youngest population in the country, with one-third of Utahans under the age of 18. Jordan's population growth rate is even higher, at 2.3 percent per year. Although its

TFR has dropped 25 percent in the past 20 years, at 5.6 children per woman it is almost double the TFR for Asia as a whole and produces a very young population as well. Since World War II, Jordan has changed from a largely rural nation to one that is 78 percent urban and mostly concentrated in cities in the northwestern part of the country. Similarly, nearly 80 percent of Utah's population is concentrated in the area of the greater Wasatch Front in North Central Utah.

With most of Jordan's growth occurring in the prime agricultural regions of the northwestern highlands and the Jordan River valley, precious arable land is being lost both to urban expansion and desertification. Population growth is driving a rapid increase in both energy use and demand for water. Even though Jordan's per capita energy use is less than 10 percent of
continued on back page

Demographic and Health Trends

- Since 1990, Utah has grown by nearly 20 percent (336,000 people). This is the fourth largest growth rate in the country.
- Almost one-third of Utah's growth in the 1990s resulted from net immigration (about 108,000 persons), 87,000 of whom were from other parts of the country. Working people are attracted to the amenities of life on the Wasatch Front and its rapid growth in high-tech jobs, while southwestern Utah is drawing retirees attracted to the Sun Belt.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- The West Davis Legacy Highway is a proposed stretch of road that is close to the southeastern shore of the Great Salt Lake. The Utah Department of Transportation favors building this roadway because of projected population increases in the area. Conservation groups are very concerned that the proposed roadway will have significant impacts on wetlands, farmlands, and air quality as well as increasing reliance on the automobile and furthering urban sprawl.
- The state has no organized strategy to reduce the amount of carbon

Socioeconomic Factors

- Utah has the nation's youngest population, with a median age of 27, largely due to high fertility levels. One in three Utah residents is under age 18, which suggests the importance of education issues to the state.
- Companies such as Corel Corporation and Novell have helped give Utah the second largest concentra-

- Two of the 10 fastest growing counties in the country are located in Utah: Summit County (in the Wasatch Back region east of Salt Lake City) has grown 66 percent since 1990 and Washington County has grown 62 percent. Still, the more urbanized Wasatch Front counties (Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, and Weber) account for the most growth—71 percent from 1990 to 1997.

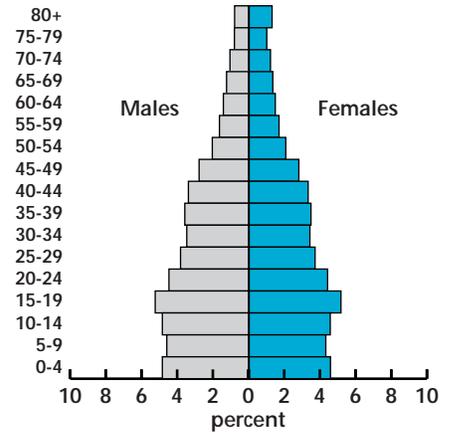
dioxide that Utahans release into the atmosphere. The state's carbon dioxide emissions total about 73 million tons annually; while this is just 0.9 percent of the world's total, Utah has 0.03 percent of the world's population. Carbon dioxide is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect.

- Utah's endangered and threatened animals include the whooping crane, the Mexican spotted owl, and the Utah prairie dog. The autumn buttercup, the dwarf bear-poppy, the Maguire primrose, and four species of catci are among its endangered and threatened plants.

tion of information technology firms in the country. These firms provide 39,000 jobs.

- Although state officials estimate the 2002 Winter Olympic Games will inject \$1.7 billion into Utah's economy, many residents fear that the Olympics will saddle Salt Lake City with debt and lead to uncontrolled growth.

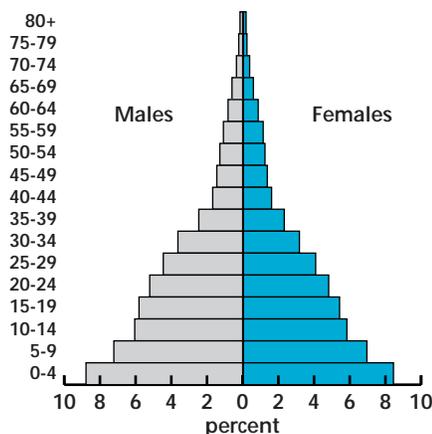
POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



UTAH FACTS

- Population, 1997: 2.1 million
- Projected population, 2025: 2.9 million
- Annual growth rate: 2.1%
- Doubling time (at current rate): 33 years
- Average number of children per woman: 2.6
- Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 5.4
- Life expectancy: 75 (male), 80 (female)
- Persons per square mile: 25
- Percent urban: 87
- Endangered/threatened animals: 18 species
- Endangered/threatened plants: 20 species
- Percent of land protected: 7
- Wetlands loss, 1780-1980: 30%
- Daily water use per capita: 2,286 gallons
- Water use for domestic purposes: 11%
- Water use for agriculture: 82%
- Water use for industry: 6%
- Water use for energy production: 1%
- Cropland per capita: 20.1 acres
- Energy use per capita: 56.2 barrels of oil equiv.
- Persons per motor vehicle: 1.3
- Adults who are high school graduates: 91%
- Elected officials who are women: 16%
- Labor force in agriculture: 3%
- Labor force in industry: 18%
- Labor force in services: 79%
- Gross State Product, 1994: \$21,815 per capita

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



JORDAN FACTS

Population, 1997: 4.4 million

Projected population, 2025: 8.5 million

Annual growth rate: 2.3%

Doubling time (at current rate): 30 years

Average number of children per woman: 5.6

Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 36

Life expectancy: 66 (male), 70 (female)

Persons per square mile: 130

Percent urban: 78

Threatened animals: 15 species

Threatened plants: 10 species

Percent of land protected: 3.3

Wetlands loss, through 1980s: n.a.

Percent with access to safe water: 98

Percent with adequate sanitation: 77

Daily water use per capita: 125 gallons

Water use for domestic purposes: 29%

Water use for agriculture: 65%

Water use for industry: 6%

Cropland per capita: 0.3 acres

Energy use per capita: 4.9 barrels of oil equiv.

Persons per motor vehicle: 15

Percent of girls in secondary school: 54

Percent of boys in secondary school: 52

Women as % of national legislature: 3

Labor force in agriculture: 21%

Labor force in industry: 32%

Labor force in services: n.a.

GDP per capita, 1995: US\$1,489

Demographic and Health Trends

■ Jordan's high fertility has resulted in a population with a significant proportion in the youngest ages (see figure). This means that even as fertility rates continue to decline, the population will grow rapidly because so many people will move into their reproductive years.

■ Fertility has dropped 41 percent since the mid-1970s, from an average of 7.4 children per woman to 5.6 children per woman.

■ According to several measures of health and nutrition, Jordanians are

better off than people in other Middle Eastern and North African countries. Ninety-seven percent of the population, for example, has access to health services. Nonetheless, life expectancy in Jordan (68 years) is about equal to the average for Western Asia (67 years).

■ Jordan's population is increasingly urban—nearly 80 percent of the population now lives in urban environments. Urban growth, fueled by high fertility, constrains the amount of land available for cultivation.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

■ The Azraq Oasis, a primary water source, is threatened by agricultural and pastoral activities in the oasis region, including extensive irrigation, overgrazing, and industrial and domestic water demands in Jordan's capital, Amman.

■ Overpumping has changed the natural water system by lowering the water table that sustains the Azraq Oasis, which dries wetlands and leads to the salinization of freshwater resources.

■ Untreated industrial effluent and inadequate wastewater treatment from the King Talal Reservoir threaten public health and agriculture. This problem also poses an economic threat, as the reservoir is a crucial water source for agricultural exports.

■ Overhunting has eliminated most mammal species native to Jordan. Today, the imperial eagle and lesser kestrel are threatened.

Socioeconomic Factors

■ Though services account for two-thirds of the country's gross domestic product, most Jordanians work in subsistence agriculture. Remittances from workers abroad contribute substantially to the country's gross national product.

■ Adult literacy is much more prevalent in Jordan than in other countries of North Africa and the Middle East.

Eighty-six percent of Jordanian adults are literate, compared with 59 percent for the region. Jordanian men are more likely to be literate (93 percent) than women are (79 percent).

■ The use of commercial forms of energy increased 500 percent between the early 1970s and the early 1990s. Most of this increase was a result of the expanding population.

continued from page 1

Utah's, Jordan has no significant energy sources of its own. But severe water shortages are the greatest limitation on people's quality of life and are a serious threat to wildlife. By overpumping its underground aquifers to meet human needs, Jordan is lowering water tables, drying up important wetland habitats, and increasing the salinity of the Jordan River.

Utah's rapid growth and increasing demands for water, energy, and living space are threatening Utah's wildlife and scenic resources—the basis for its multibillion dollar tourism industry—while also straining municipal services and limited water resources. The growth on the Wasatch Front is overrunning some of Utah's most productive agricultural lands, while pollutant runoff from both urban and agricultural sources is seriously threatening the Great Salt Lake, where such pollutants become concentrated because it is a closed basin. The loss of wetlands to development adds to the cumulative threats facing the lake, an internationally important habitat for water birds and other wildlife. Extensive irrigation is reducing flows and increasing salinity in the Colorado River. The mining of energy resources on public lands conflicts with wilderness values, wildlife habitat protection, and expanding rec-

reational uses. Symptomatic of the impacts of its growth in population and consumption are Utah's 38 endangered and threatened species, including the threatened desert tortoise, which lives in the rapidly growing southwestern corner of the state.

Responding to Challenges

"Envision Utah" is a state initiative that brings together many interests, such as business, government, religious, and environmental leaders, to help achieve a better quality of life in the 12-county greater Wasatch Front. Taking into account a range of growth issues (including economics, conservation, and open lands), they will recommend alternative future scenarios to decisionmakers and the public.

Because water is crucial to maintaining peace and stability in Jordan and the Middle East, the United States is helping Jordan address its water conservation problems. The U.S. Agency for International Development's Water

Quality Improvement and Conservation Project is working with others in the international community to improve water management, reduce water pollution, and educate the public about water conservation. Acting through private U.S. firms, the project

People in Utah and Jordan, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth's resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

is partnering with Jordanian industries, farmers, environmental groups, and universities to help them implement better practices and educational programs. More than two dozen Peace Corps volunteers are also helping Jordan meet its growth and environmental challenges. ■

DEFINITIONS: **Doubling Time:** The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. **Average Number of Children Per Woman:** Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. **Endangered Species:** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Threatened Species:** Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. **Gross State Product (GSP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP.

SOURCES: Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

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