



County Economies: 2025 Profiles

Carbon County, Utah

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Gross Domestic Product (GDP), also known as economic output, is a key measure of economic health, reflecting the total value of goods and services produced within an economy over a given period. **Between 2022 and 2023, real GDP increased in 2,319 counties, decreased in 727 counties and remained unchanged in 23 counties.** Notably, GDP grew by more than 1 percent in 297 counties between 2021 and 2022 but then declined by more than 1 percent between 2022 and 2023.

Trends in GDP for Carbon County



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis - Local Area Gross Domestic Product, 2023 vintage.

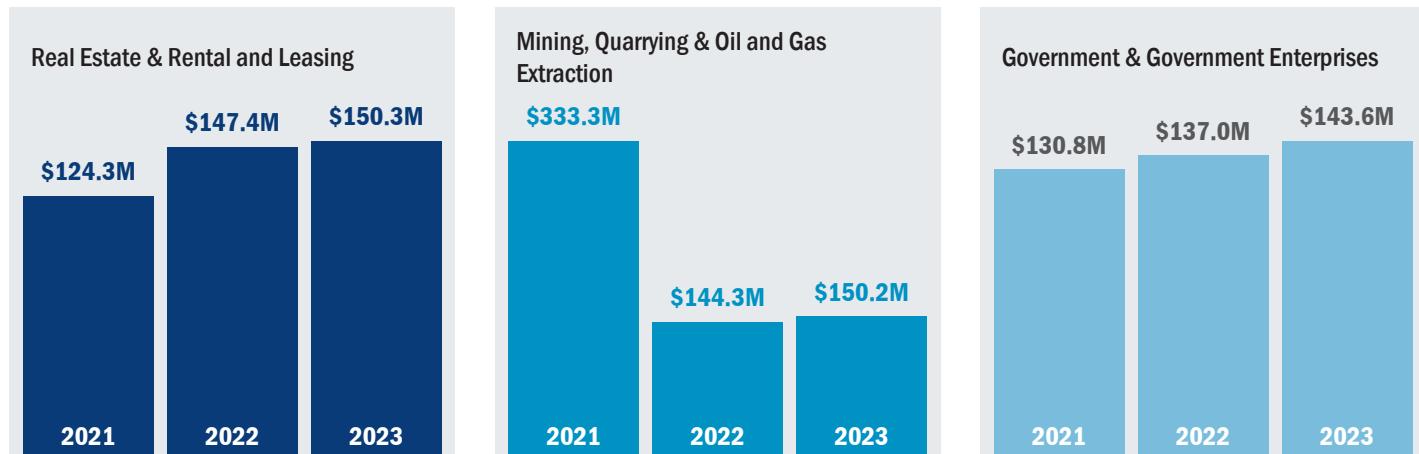
From 2020 to 2023, GDP in Carbon County decreased by 18.7 percent. In the three years prior (2017-2019), GDP within the county increased by 13.5 percent and the U.S. GDP grew by 5.5 percent.

GDP by year for the county - 2001 to 2023



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis - Local Area Gross Domestic Product, 2023 vintage.

Output for the three industries by GDP in the county - 2021 to 2023



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis - Local Area Gross Domestic Product, 2023 vintage.



DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

Demographic data aids with understanding a community's structure as it reveals information about age, gender, ethnicity, education and other primary factors of the population. Between 2023 and 2024, the U.S. experienced a slight population increase of one percent. **Nationwide, two-fifths of counties had population increases of more than 0.5 percent, while one-fifth experienced a decline of over 0.5 percent.** Carbon County, home to 20,613 residents, experienced no population change between 2023 and 2024.

County population components of change - 2024

-2.04 PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

natural population change

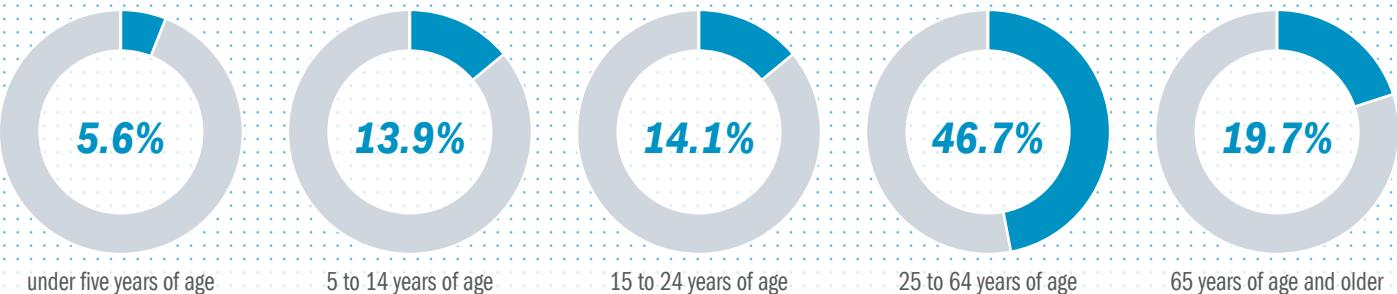
2.23 PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

net migration

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Population Estimates Program (PEP) - 2024.

The negative natural population rate of change for Carbon County indicates deaths outnumbering births and can lead to population decline in the community. The county's net migration rate is positive which indicates an inflow of people, or that more people are moving into the county than leaving.

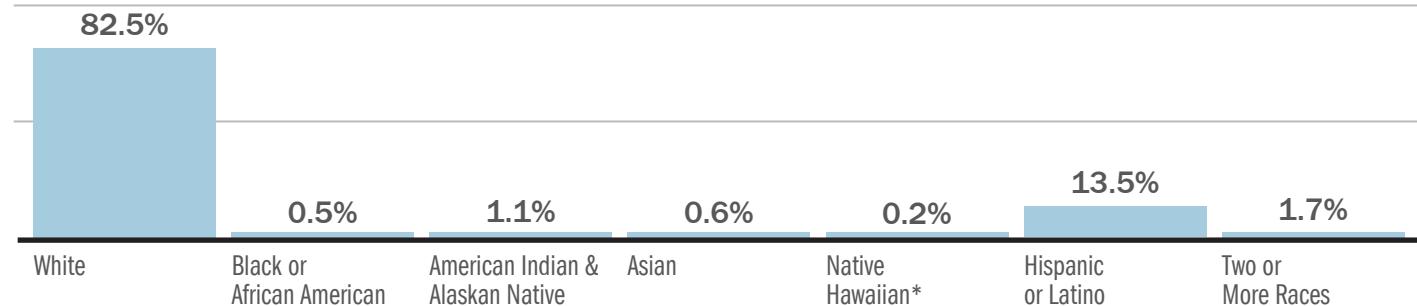
County population breakdown by age - 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Population Estimates Program (PEP) - 2024.

Age distribution data helps plan for the economy, healthcare resources, education, labor force, social services and housing demands. Community leaders may use the data to formulate policies and programs that address various age groups' needs and challenges.

County population breakdown by race and ethnicity - 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Population Estimates Program (PEP) - 2024. Notes: * Native Hawaiian includes other Pacific Islanders

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The labor market is a key determinant of economic growth and residents live in places where they can find work. Labor force indicators, such as the unemployment rate and labor force size, assess local economic dynamics and employment trends. Through analysis of these metrics, decision-makers can gain insights into workforce health, anticipate future labor needs and identify areas for intervention. **The nation's unemployment rate, which was at 4.0 percent in 2024. More than half (56 percent) of counties had unemployment rates below this national figure in 2024.**

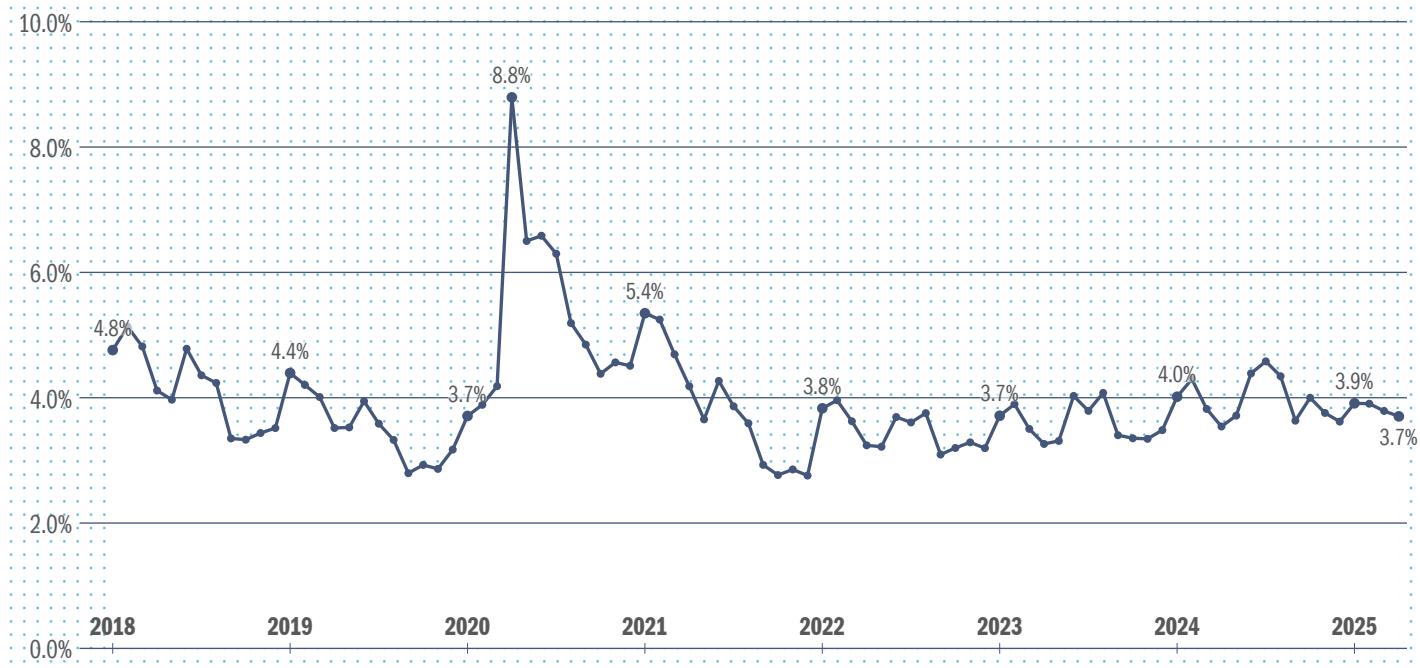
Labor force trends in Carbon County - 2024 annual estimates

8,695 civilians	4.0 PERCENT unemployment	8,348 employed individuals	347 unemployed individuals
---------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), 2024 annual averages.

In Carbon County, labor market statistics show that there are 8,695 individuals either employed or actively seeking employment. Out of these, 8,348 people are currently employed. **The unemployment rate in the county stands at 4.0 percent, which matches the national average of 4.0 percent.**

Unemployment rate change within the county Jan. 2018 to Apr. 2025 data



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), 2025 data.

Note: unemployment rate for April 2025 is preliminary.

Sources

1- University of Wisconsin-Madison - [Local & Regional Economic Analysis](#).

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Statistics on household income help with understanding the financial state of families and individuals living in local communities. The data can be used by decision-makers to inform planning and policy formulation, allocate resources and target areas based on needs. **From 2019 to 2023, the median household income in the U.S. stood at \$78,538, with four out of five counties having a household income below this national median.**

Household income statistics for Carbon County: 2019 - 2023 data

8,023

Households

\$53,673

Median Household Income

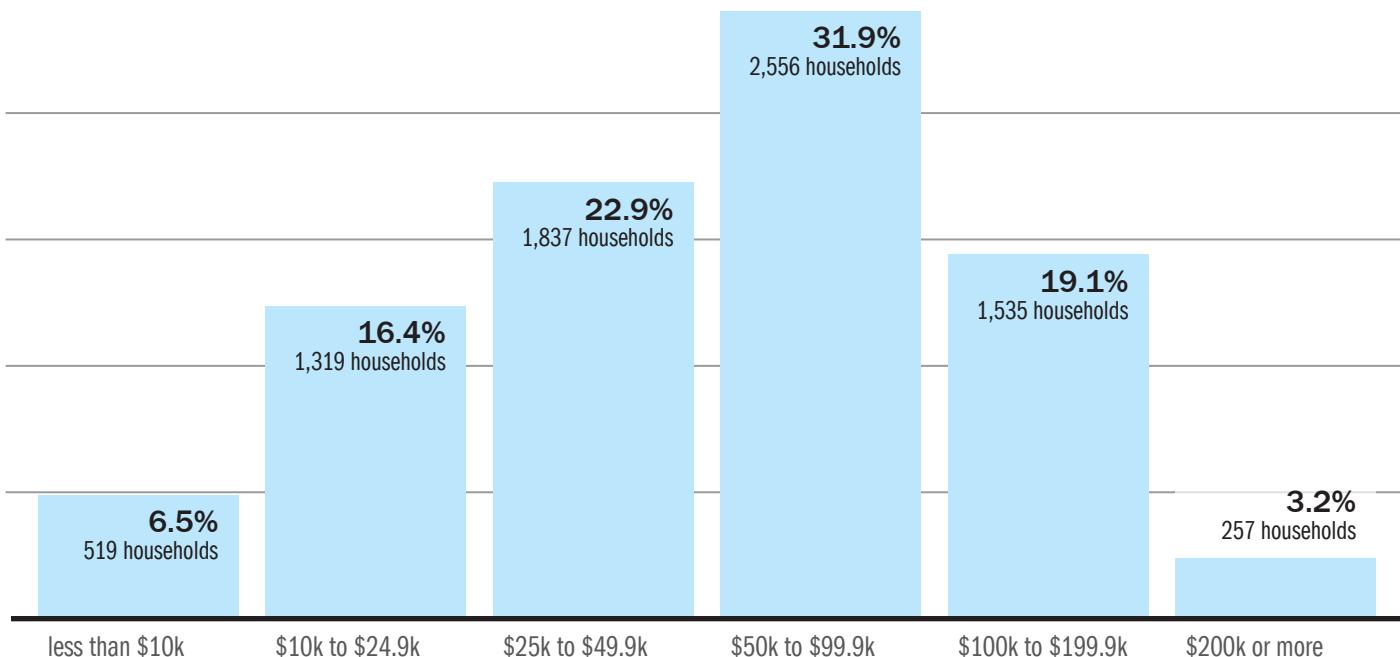
\$70,471

Average Household Income

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (ACS) 5 year estimates, 2019-2023: B19001, B19025 and B19049 tables.

The median household income for Carbon County stands at \$53,673, which falls below the national median by 31.7 percent. The county has an average household income of \$70,471 among its 8,023 households.

Distribution households within the county by income levels: 2019 - 2023 data



Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (ACS) 5 year estimates, 2019-2023: B19001 table.

Notes

Household income includes the pretax cash income of the householder and all other people 15 years old and older in the household.

Sources

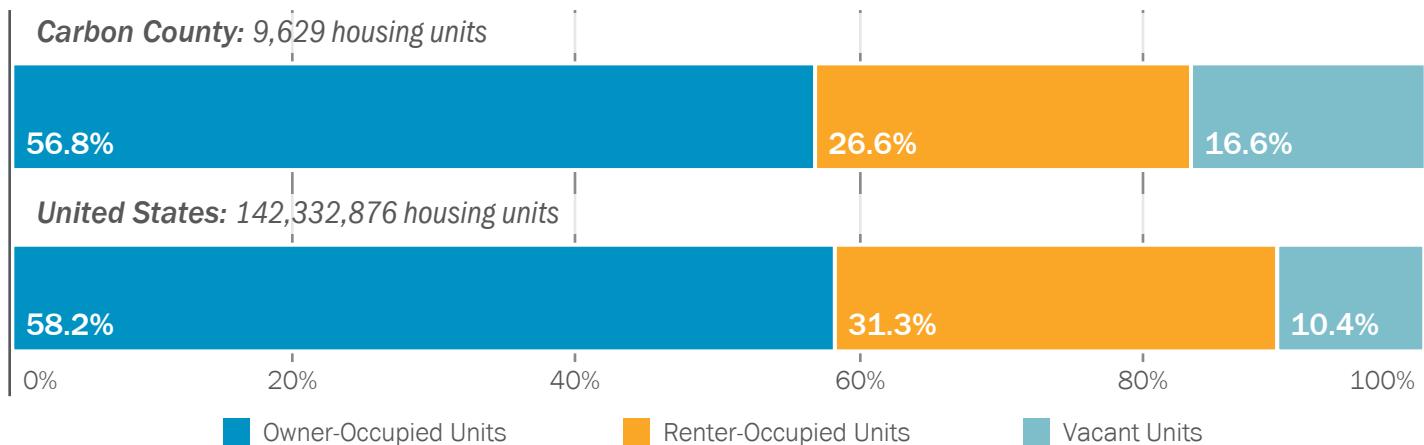
- 1- United States Census Bureau - American Community Survey Briefs. Link: [Household Income: 2021](#)
- 2- United States Census Bureau - American Community Survey Briefs. Link: [Income in the United States: 2022](#)



HOUSING UNITS

Housing statistics provide insights into a community's economic status, social structure and overall condition. **These figures cover various factors**, including occupancy and vacancy rates, housing affordability and other demographics factors. Combining housing data with indicators such as homeownership rates, access to education and infrastructure can inform aspects of planning and development.

Housing units statistics for Carbon County: 2019 - 2023 data



Housing Affordability

Households that pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing are considered cost burdened and, **in most counties, renters are more likely to be cost-burdened than homeowners.**

Housing affordability statistics for Carbon County: 2019 - 2023 data

Owner-Occupied Housing Units		Renter-Occupied Housing Units	
Percent Moderately-Burdened Owners	12.4%	Percent Moderately-Burdened Renters	28.0%
Percent Severely-Burdened Owners	9.8%	Percent Severely-Burdened Renters	24.0%
Total Percent Cost-Burdened Owners	= 22.2%	Total Percent Cost-Burdened Renters	= 52.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (ACS) 5 year estimates, 2019-2023: B25070 and B25091 tables.

Nationwide, 50.4 percent of all renters are burdened by the cost of rent. **For Carbon County, the figure is 1.6 percentage points above the national average.** Out of all homeowners in the U.S., 22.2 percent of households are cost-burdened and the percentage for Carbon County is equal to the national average.



POVERTY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

After decreasing for years, the national poverty rate increased slightly from 2020 (11.5%) to 2021 (11.6%) but then declined to 11.5% in 2022 and further to 11.1% in 2023. Poverty tends to be concentrated in specific geographical areas and often persists over extended periods. Vulnerable groups, including individuals with disabilities, those residing in rural areas and specific racial and ethnic minorities, face higher risk of poverty.

Poverty statistics for the Carbon County - 2023

14.0 PERCENT

Poverty Rate

16.9 PERCENT

Child Poverty Rate

930 CHILDREN

Living in High Poverty Areas

Health Insurance

A healthy population contributes to a more productive workforce, and the health consequences of poverty are severe. People living in poverty, especially children, are at a higher risk for mental illness, chronic disease, higher mortality and a lower life expectancy.

Health insurance statistics in Carbon County - 2022 share

91.0 percent

14,954 residents

Health insurance plays an important role in ensuring access to health services. In 2022, 8.4 percent of all U.S. residents do not have health insurance. The share of residents in Carbon County with no health insurance is 9.0 percent, 0.6 percentage points above the national level.

Uninsured population within the county by poverty level - 2022

12.7%

12.2%

11.8%

10.5%

9.4%

at or below 138% of poverty

at or below 200% of poverty

at or below 250% of poverty

at or below 400% of poverty

between 138% and 400% of poverty

Sources

1- United States Census Bureau - [Poverty in the United States: 2023](#).

2- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - National Center for Health Statistics - [Health Insurance Coverage: 2024](#).

3- United States Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Social Determinants of Health Literature Summaries. Link: [Healthy People 2030](#).

EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS



A county needs working-age residents to support current and prospective companies, and counties with sufficient working-age residents tend to have training and educational opportunities for young workers to develop their skills. Educational statistics can help community leaders to recognize areas of need, distribute resources, formulate policies and initiatives and involve the community in discussions about educational requirements, including vocational training and skill development. **There are over 95,000 public schools, more than 8,600 libraries and over 5,800 community colleges and universities in the United States, serving our communities and contributing to the landscape nationwide.**

Educational resources in Carbon County

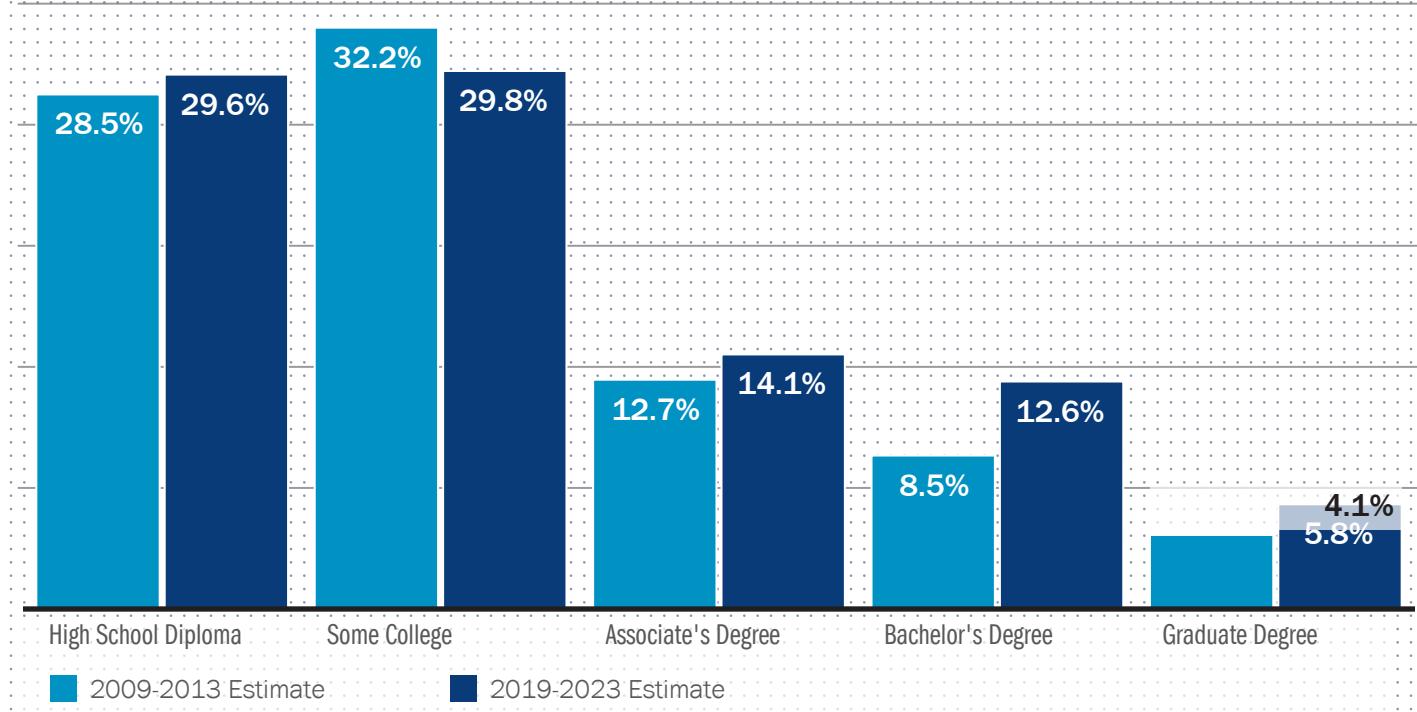
Public Libraries 2022 data	Operational Schools 2020 data	Colleges and Universities 2022 data
2 libraries	10 schools	—

There are 10 public school in Carbon County being operated by 3 separate districts. Out of the 10 institutions, 9 are locally operated.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education that an individual has completed.

Educational attainment in the county: 2009-2013 vs. 2019-2023 estimates



Sources

- 1- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - [Economic & Social Outcomes](#).
- 2- Brookings Institution - [What colleges do for local economies: A Direct Measure Based on Consumption](#).

NATURAL DISASTERS

Natural disasters can have a devastating impact on both the environment and local economies **causing an increase in people leaving the affected areas, a drop in home prices and higher rates of poverty**. Many residents are also facing increased insurance costs. In 2024, **the U.S. was impacted by 27 separate billion-dollar disasters, which resulted in approximately \$182.7 billion in damages**. Additionally, 1,207 counties experienced at least one federally declared major disaster in 2024.

Federally declared disasters for the county - 2000 to 2024



Like every other county in the nation, **Carbon County faced the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was declared a major disaster by the federal government**. Additionally, between 2000 and 2024, the county was affected by coastal storms which were also federally declared disasters.

The National Risk Index

The National Risk Index is a tool developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the U.S. to assess the risk of natural hazards and their potential impact on communities. It considers factors such as the probability of hazards occurring in specific areas, along with demographics, infrastructure, socioeconomic factors and the built environment. With a comprehensive assessment of risk levels at the county level, the index enables community leaders to prioritize resources and develop strategies for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Risk Index breakdown for Carbon County

Avalanche Very Low	Coastal Flooding Not Applicable	Cold Wave Very Low
Drought Very Low	Earthquake Very Low	Hail Very Low
Heat Wave Relatively Moderate	Hurricane Not Applicable	Ice Storm Very Low
Landslide Relatively Moderate	Lightning Relatively Moderate	Riverine Flooding Relatively Low
Strong Wind Very Low	Tornado Very Low	Tsunami Not Applicable
Volcanic Activity Not Applicable	Wildfire Relatively Low	Winter Weather Relatively Low

Sources

- 1- Leah Platt Boustan, Matthew E. Kahn, Paul W. Rhode and Maria Lucia Yanguas, "The Effect of Natural Disasters on Economic Activity in US Counties: A Century of Data." *Journal of Urban Economics* Volume 118, 2020, 103257.
- 2- See First Street, "The Insurance Issue" (Sep. 2023) and Shannon Martin, "The impact of natural disasters on insurance rates in 2024," *Bankrate* (Jun. 2023).