

News Release



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Utah energy companies boost job market, local coffers

(SALT LAKE CITY) – Energy development in Utah continues at a robust pace, and evidence of the overall benefits to local communities abounds, including unemployment rates that are well-below state and national averages.

Compared to the state (2.6%) and national unemployment averages (4.5%), Utah counties with high levels of oil and gas development have significantly lower unemployment rates, with an average of just 2.2% of their workforce listed as unemployed.

A vigorous energy sector invested millions of dollars last year across the state. As a result, counties that have traditionally depended on ranching and tourism are now able to strengthen and diversify their economies with quality, high-paying jobs. “Economic stability in areas where oil and gas development takes place ensures that local communities remain intact and that local citizens aren’t forced to move to urban areas to find work,” said Marc Smith, Executive Director of the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS).

Uintah County, the state’s largest producer of oil and natural gas, enjoys an unemployment rate of just 1.9%. “Compare that to Wayne County (4.2%) and Garfield County (5.9%), where little to no energy development occurs, and it’s easy to see why rural counties rich in oil and natural gas resources welcome development activity,” said IPAMS Vice President Bruce Kelso of Berry Petroleum.

Directly and indirectly, the oil and natural gas industry in Utah employs more than 6,000 people. Oil and natural gas industry employees, including full-time employees and sub-contractors, earn an average of \$45,000, which is 41% higher than the state’s average earnings of \$32,000.

Utah produces enough oil to fuel about half a million cars and to heat 200 thousand homes a day and enough natural gas to heat 3.4 million homes a day. Ranked 11th in the nation in production of natural gas and 13th in the production of oil, Utah’s future resources are substantial—there are 3.9 trillion cubic feet of proved natural gas reserves and 215 million barrels of crude oil.

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The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent oil and gas producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions and industry consultants in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.