

Utah Geography

SECTION 2 OF THE B&E PROFILE

11



Photo of Downtown Salt Lake City and Wasatch Mountains by MAOG

Geography

STATE OF UTAH MAP WITH COUNTY SEATS



Source: EDCUtah

TOPOGRAPHY, NATURAL FEATURES & CLIMATE

Geographic Areas

Utah is located in the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. and is a land of snow-covered peaks, natural rock formations, and beautifully colored canyons. Utah's geography can be classified into three major land areas: the Rocky Mountains, the Basin and Ridge Region, and the Colorado Plateau.

The Rocky Mountains

Utah has two ranges that extend through the northeast corner of the state: the Uinta Range and the Wasatch Range. The Uinta Range extends from Colorado east almost all of the way to Salt Lake City in the north central portion of Utah. The Wasatch Range extends from Mount Nebo in north central Utah northward into Idaho.

The Basin and Ridge Region

The Basin and Ridge Region of Utah spreads over the western portion of the state and is covered by small mountains and basins except on the east and west edges where the mountains are higher. The Great Salt Lake is located in the northeastern corner of this region with the Salt Lake Desert to the west and southwest of the lake.

The Colorado Plateau

The Colorado Plateau covers most of the southern and eastern portions of Utah and is characterized by broad high country cut by deep canyons and valleys. Famous areas such as Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks Canyon, and Zion Canyon are found in the Colorado Plateau area, as well as the Colorado River, which passes through Utah's southeastern corner.

Size and Elevation

Utah covers 84,904 square miles, making it the 13th largest of the 50 states. The highest point is Kings Peak at 13,528 feet above sea level, and the lowest point is Beaverdam Wash at 2,000 feet above sea level. Being one of the three highest states in the union, the mean elevation of the state is 6,100 feet above sea level. The elevations of most cities along the Wasatch Front average between 4,200 and 4,500 feet.

The Wasatch Front

The population of the state is geographically concentrated along the Wasatch Front. The Wasatch Front is generally considered to consist of Weber, Davis, Salt Lake and Utah counties, all of which are situated along the western slope of the range of mountains called the Wasatch Mountains. These counties contain approximately 75.9% of the population of the state.

Climate

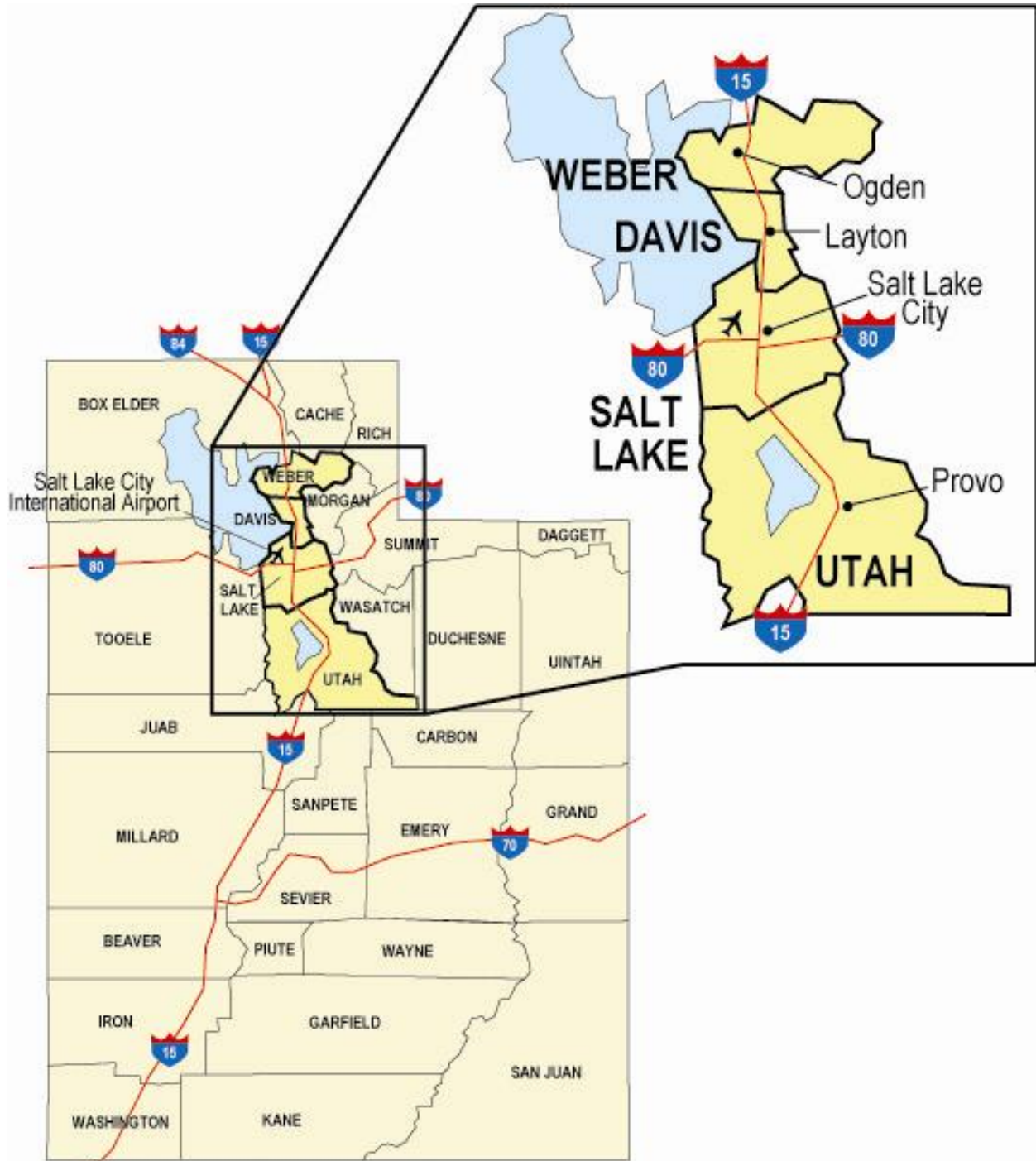
The highest temperature recorded in Utah is 117 degrees, Fahrenheit, recorded on July 5, 1985 in St. George. The lowest recorded temperature in Utah is -69 degrees, Fahrenheit, recorded on February 1, 1985 in Peter's Sink.

Salt Lake City Monthly Climate Averages

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Avg Max Temp (F)	37.3	43.4	52.5	61.5	72.1	83.0	92.6	90.3	79.5	65.8	49.9	38.7	63.9
Avg Min Temp (F)	20.4	24.7	31.7	38.2	46.3	54.6	62.8	61.5	51.4	40.2	29.8	22.2	40.3
Avg Total Precipitation (in)	1.34	1.30	1.77	2.07	1.75	0.92	0.71	0.79	1.06	1.33	1.36	1.34	15.72
Avg Total Snowfall (in)	13.8	10.3	9.3	5.5	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.5	6.7	12.9	60.8

Source: The Weather Channel

WASATCH FRONT MAP



Source: EDCUtah

SALT LAKE COUNTY



Source: EDCUtah