

Geoscience in Your State: Utah

WHAT IS GEOSCIENCE?

Geoscience is the study of the earth and the complex geology, natural resources, and physical processes that sustain life and the economy. Understanding the earth's history and evolution, its resources, history, and development is critical to understanding our environment, health, and global challenges.



Image courtesy of the Utah Geological Survey

By the numbers: UTAH

- 4,224 geoscience employees (excludes self-employed)¹
- 1.15 billion gallons/day: total groundwater withdrawal²
- 2.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas production in 2017
- 7 total license categories, including 11 the Utah and 2 permit licenses: 105-107
- 920 million 45° E2 per acre in 2017

BOYCOTT WEATHER UTAH

- 21 million cubic feet of natural gas production in 2017
- 100,000 gallons of oil produced in 2017
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WATER IN UTAH

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Utah's water resources are a critical part of the state's economy and environment. The Utah Geological Survey (UTGS) is committed to providing accurate and reliable information about the state's water resources. For more information, visit <http://www.utahgeoscience.org>.

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- \$2.61 billion: value of nonfuel mineral production in 2017⁴
- 31 total disaster declarations, including 18 fire, 8 flood, and 2 severe storm disasters (1953-2017)⁶
- \$9.02 million: NSF GEO grants awarded in 2017¹⁴...

Read more in this Geoscience in Your State Factsheet...

Agencies Working on Geoscience Issues in Utah

Utah Department of Environmental Quality

<https://deq.utah.gov/>

DEQ's mission is, "Safeguarding and improving Utah's air, land and water through balanced regulation." We implement State and federal environmental laws and work with individuals, community groups, and businesses to protect the quality of our air, land and water.

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

<https://oilgas.ogm.utah.gov/oilgasweb/>

The mission of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining is to regulate the exploration and development of coal, oil and gas, and other minerals in a manner which encourages responsible reclamation and development; protects correlative rights; prevents waste; and protects human health and safety, the environment, and the interests of the state and its citizens.

Utah Geological Survey

<https://geology.utah.gov/>

The Utah Geological Survey provides timely scientific information about Utah's geologic environment, resources and hazards.

Maps & Visualizations



Interactive database for geologic maps of the United States

U.S. Geological Survey

The U.S. Geological Survey hosts the National Geologic Map Database (NGMDB). This interactive tool serves as a national archive for high-quality, standardized geologic maps created by the U.S. Geological Survey and state geological surveys. The MapView section of the NGMDB displays geologic maps...

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Case Studies & Factsheets



Creation of a zoning district for aggregate operations in Tooele County, Utah

Under pressure to restrict aggregate operations, county leaders in Tooele, Utah developed an ordinance to protect the stone, gravel, and sand industry as well as the environment. Between 1990 and 2000, the population of Tooele, Utah, increased 51.3 percent to 40,735. As demand for construction and...

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Webinars & Forums



2014 Critical Issues Forum: America's Increasing Reliance on Natural Gas: Benefits and Risks of a Methane Economy

The 2014 Critical Issues Forum, entitled "America's Increasing Reliance on Natural Gas: Benefits and Risks of a Methane Economy", examined the 5- to 30-year outlook for the development of a natural gas-dominant energy sector in North America and discussed the associated benefits and risks.

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