


# Garfield County, Utah

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## AT - A - GLANCE

### Main job growth sector:

■ Leisure and  
hospitality 

Visitors during the Panguitch  
Valley Balloon Festival each  
June:

25,000 +

Residents:

5,080

Percentage of adults with  
a high school diploma:

91%



## County Overview

Tourism is currently Garfield County's leading industry sector with many of these jobs providing seasonal and moderate wages. The greatest potential for the county exists in the area's natural resources--coal, timber, and natural gas. With affordable land and a high quality of life, newcomers to Garfield County find the small community and local feel to be the area's strongest asset. The county is in the process of developing moderate income housing throughout the area and bringing new industries and businesses to the county, as well as helping to grow existing businesses.

Investors in the county's opportunity zones will find great broadband and utility connectivity and the possibility to support the area's growth with housing and jobs. The county's active commitment to workforce development means businesses will find support for customer service training, marine mechanic training, and more. The county aims to bring in more full-time positions with sustainable wages and increase the area's manufacturing sector.

## Investable Projects

In line with the County's priorities, an economic development plan was recently implemented with an established target of creating between 125 and 150 new jobs within the next five years and a total of between 200 and 300 jobs over the next ten years. Strategies to meet these economic goals include:

- Maintaining existing enterprises
- Developing infrastructure
- Managing public lands to benefit the environment and local communities
- Diversifying and enhancing tourism and outdoor recreation
- Attracting new enterprises
- Initiating special projects:
  - Dinosaur Museum and Science Center in Escalante
  - 11-County Forestry Stewardship Initiative
  - Upper Wide Hollow Reservoir in Escalante
  - Panguitch City Watershed Restoration
  - Rural Coworking and Innovation Centers

As a result, Garfield's OZ presents many investable sectors for deals, including housing, commercial and retail development in downtown Panguitch, and new employment sectors such as:

- Computer technical services (including educational opportunities for employees)
- Light manufacturing
- Retail and commercial services
- Visitor and resident commercial services
- Professional services (e.g., veterinary)
- Trades (e.g., appliance repair, plumbing)
- Value-added forest products
- Local meat processing facility & value-added livestock products

On the housing front, Garfield is ideally positioned for:

- Affordable, high quality, medium density housing for families, new residents, seasonal workers
- Housing facilities targeted at people with disabilities and senior citizens
- Reuse/Rehab of vacant and underutilized homes, restoration of older homes
- Phase out of older, deteriorated mobile homes in favor of high-density/mixed-use housing

## Available Incentives

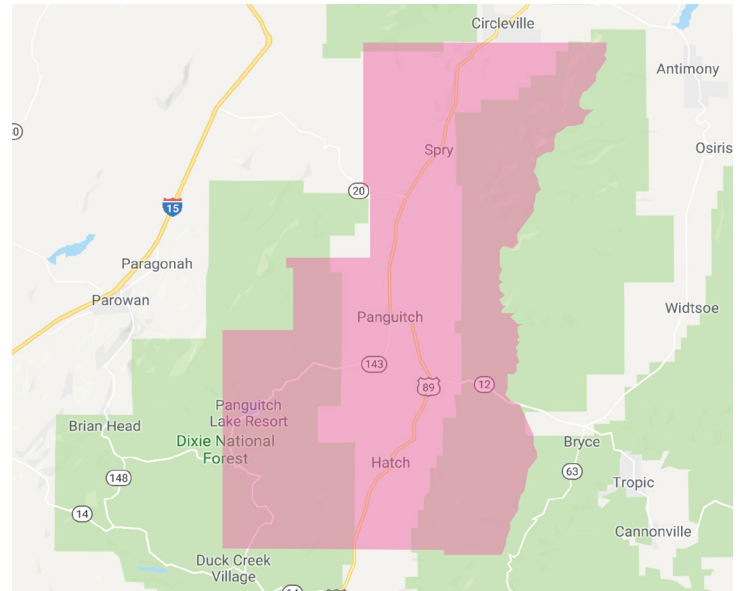
Garfield County is committed to deploying an array of local, state and federal incentives to attract potential investors. For example, Yogurtland recently came to Panguitch with the help of a Rural Fast Track Grant. This effort included a 50/50 fund match up to \$50,000 of the total project cost of \$105,000. This retail establishment created new jobs that pay over 110% of the average wage in the area, which demonstrates a success for employees, their families, and the local economy.

At present, Garfield County is committed to leveraging the following incentives to support project development and delivery:

- Rural Economic Development Incentive (REDI) Grant
- Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR)
- Rural Online Initiative (ROI)
- Rural Coworking and Innovation Center (RCIC) Grant
- Utah Rural Jobs Program
- Targeted Business Tax Credits
- Rural Rapid Manufacturing Grant

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### Tract 49017000300 (Panguitch)



Panguitch is located 30 miles from Interstate 15, Highway 89, Scenic Highway 12 and Highway 143, as well as nine different municipalities.

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