

## Salt Lake County Economic Development Information

As the reality of the New Economy becomes ever more apparent, many states and counties are re-orienting their economic development programs. Fortunately, Utah already has a head start in this regard. It already has well established information technology and bioscience industry clusters, with some 3,500 companies employing over 80,000 workers. It is also fortunate to have Old Economy attributes that also influence the location decisions of high tech companies, including:

**Labor force:** Utah has a growing workforce which is young, technology-literate, and benefits from a strong, closely-coupled higher education system. This system includes three major research universities, a comprehensive system of four-year colleges and universities, as well as a network of community colleges, applied technology centers, and specialty technical schools.

**Infrastructure:** Salt Lake County has the necessary transportation and communications infrastructure required by high tech companies. This infrastructure has been significantly upgraded in the past several years, partly in preparation for the 2002 Winter Olympic Winter Games.

**Location:** Although not as critical as in the past, geographic location and critical mass are still an important consideration in developing industry clusters. Utah has a central proximity to all the developing technology hubs in the western U.S.



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Some of Salt Lake County's biggest industries include: bioscience, distribution, financial services, real estate, manufacturing and high technology.

Some of Salt Lake County's largest employers are: University of Utah, Delta Airlines, State of Utah, UPS, Smiths Food & Drug, Primary Children's Medical Center, Dick Simon Trucking, Snowbird Ski Resort, and American Express. For

more information about economic development in the County log on to  
<http://www.econdev.slco.org>.