



THE Q1 2019 | UTAH  
**GARDNER**  
REPORT

*presented by*

  
**Windermere**  
REAL ESTATE

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The following analysis of select counties of the Utah real estate market is provided by Windermere Real Estate Chief Economist Matthew Gardner. We hope that this information may assist you with making better-informed real estate decisions. For further information about the housing market in your area, please don't hesitate to contact me.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Utah's economy continues to outperform the country with the addition of 43,700 non-agricultural jobs over the past 12 months, representing a growth rate of 3.1% that is very solid compared to the U.S. rate of 1.7%. However, growth has started to slow — albeit modestly — and this is likely to continue given the maturity of the economic cycle. That said, I anticipate the state will continue to see job growth north of 3% in 2019.

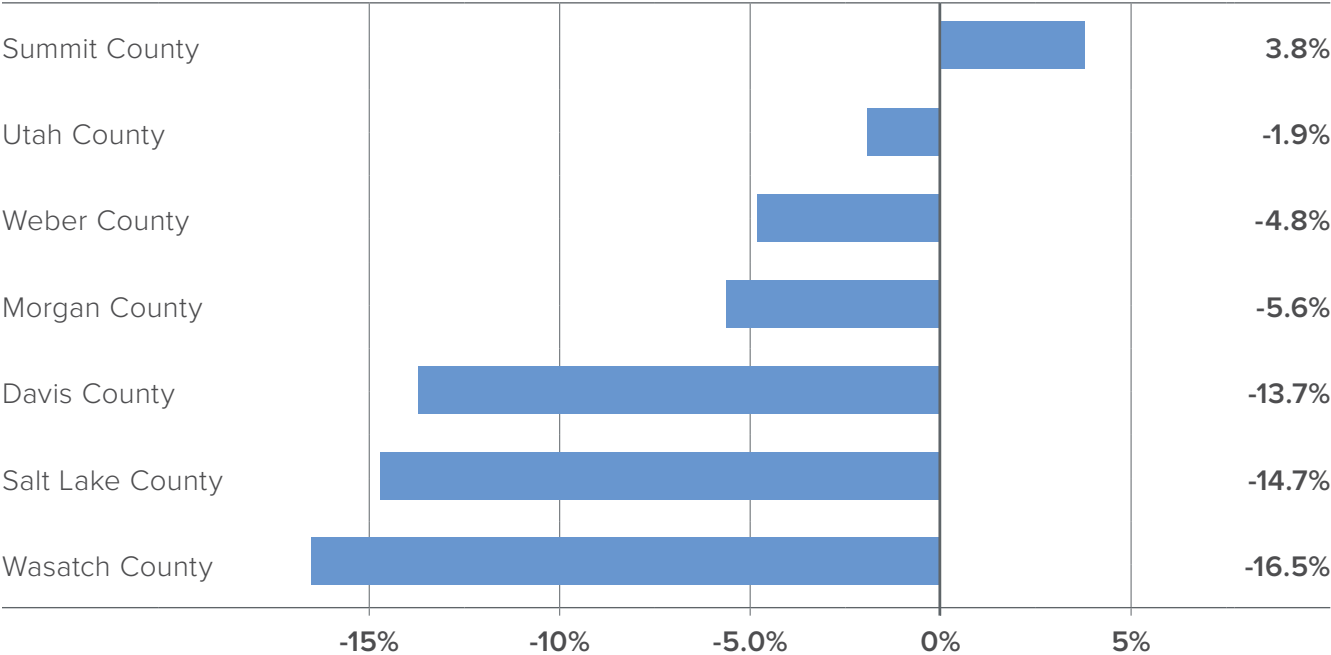
In February, the state unemployment rate was 3%, marginally below the 3.1% level a year ago.

HOME SALES

- 6,492 homes sold in the first quarter of 2019, representing a drop of 10.1% from the same period in 2018, and down 18.7% from the final quarter of 2018.
- Total sales activity dropped in all counties contained in this report except for Summit County, which saw sales rise by a modest 3.8%.
- The number of homes for sale in first quarter rose by a very significant 37.3% compared to the same period a year ago, but was 18% lower than the fourth quarter of 2018. There is significantly more choice in the market today than we've seen in many years, and this should bring relief to many home buyers.
- Pending sales in the first quarter were a mixed bag. Improvements were seen in Utah, Summit, Morgan, and Davis counties, but there were drops in Weber, Salt Lake, and Wasatch. This suggests that closings in the second quarter will be an improvement over current numbers.

ANNUAL CHANGE IN HOME SALES

Q1-2018 TO Q1-2019



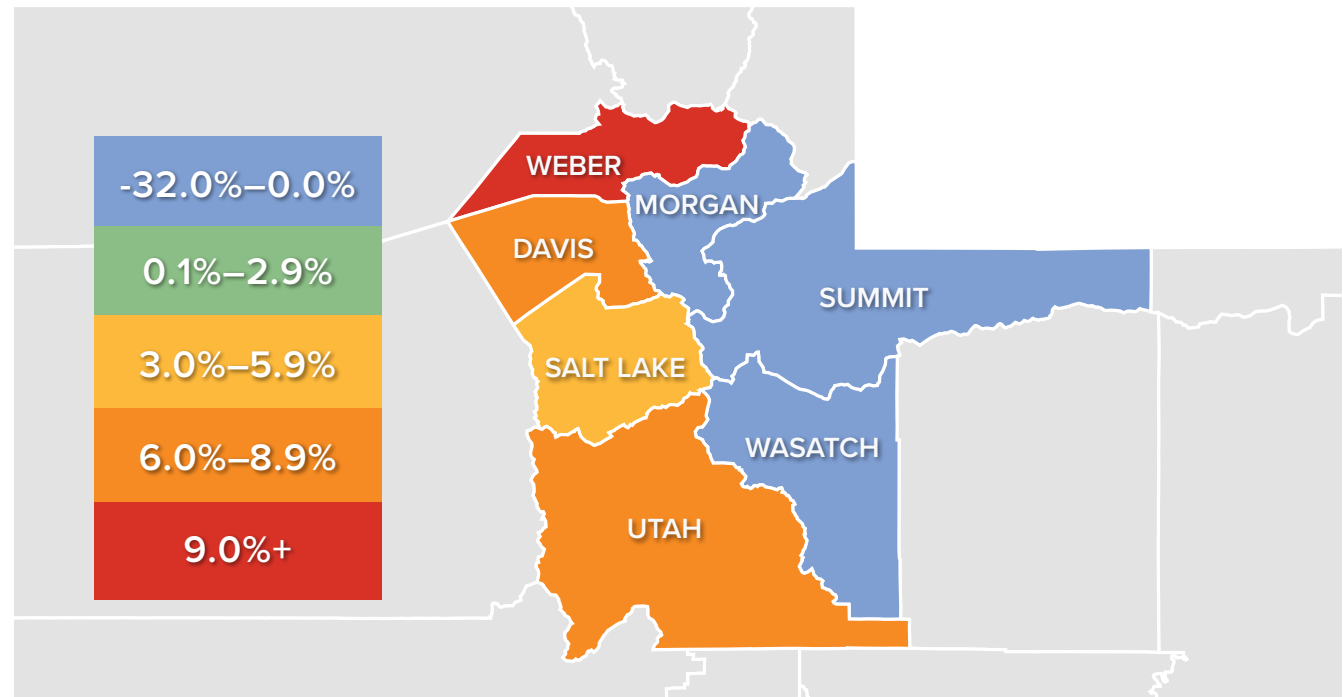
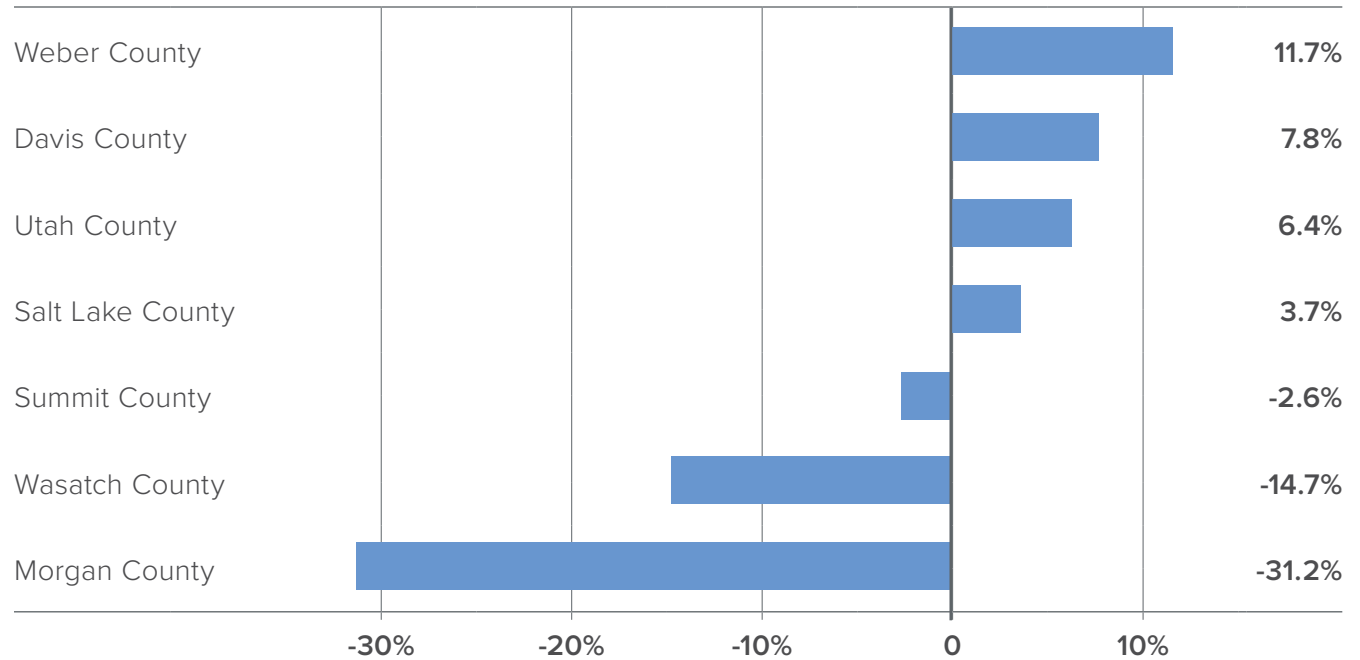


## HOME PRICES

- ▶ The average home price in the region continued to rise in the first quarter, with a year-over-year increase of 4.7% to \$366,509.
- ▶ Weber and three other counties saw decent price increases compared to a year ago. Home prices dropped the most in Morgan County, but it's important to remember that small counties such as Morgan, Wasatch, and Summit are subject to significant swings in value.
- ▶ Appreciation was strongest in Weber County, where prices rose by 11.7% to \$266,333. As the most affordable market in the area, this is not very surprising.
- ▶ The takeaway here is that home prices continue to appreciate, but the rate of growth is starting to taper. This trend is likely to continue as we move through the balance of 2019.

## ANNUAL CHANGE IN HOME SALE PRICES

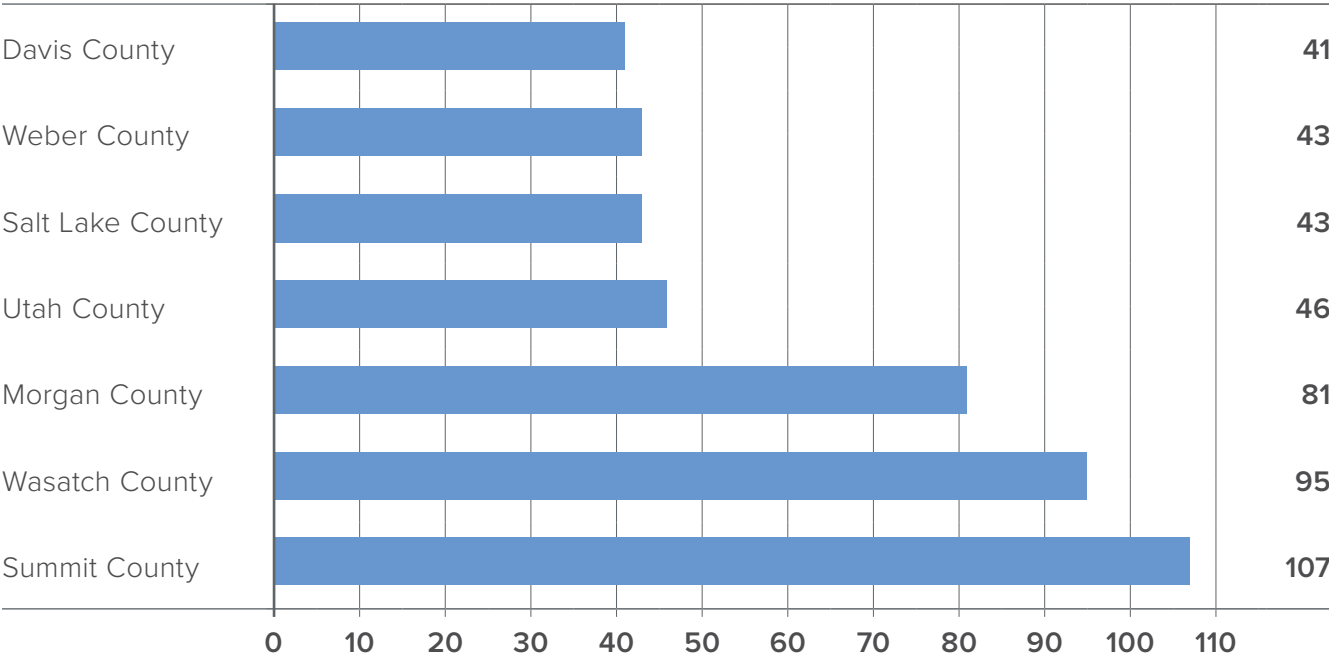
Q1-2018 TO Q1-2019



DAYS ON MARKET

- › The average number of days it took to sell a home in the counties covered by this report rose 16 days compared to the first quarter of 2018.
- › Homes sold fastest in Davis, Weber, and Salt Lake counties and slowest in Summit County. All counties saw days-on-market rise when compared to the first quarter of 2018.
- › During the first quarter of this year, it took an average of 65 days to sell a home in the region.
- › The regional economy is still performing very well, and this will continue to drive housing demand. That said, inventory levels are on the rise and this gives buyers more choice and less urgency, which will lead to an increase in days on market.

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET



CONCLUSIONS



This speedometer reflects the state of the region’s real estate market using housing inventory, price gains, home sales, interest rates, and larger economic factors.

For the first quarter of 2019, I have moved the needle very slightly toward buyers, though it clearly remains a sellers’ market. 2019 is very likely to be another good year for home sellers, but I expect home-price growth to continue to moderate.

ABOUT MATTHEW GARDNER

As Chief Economist for Windermere Real Estate, Matthew Gardner is responsible for analyzing and interpreting economic data and its impact on the real estate market on both a local and national level. Matthew has over 30 years of professional experience both in the U.S. and U.K.

In addition to his day-to-day responsibilities, Matthew sits on the Washington State Governors Council of Economic Advisors; chairs the Board of Trustees at the Washington Center for Real Estate Research at the University of Washington; and is an Advisory Board Member at the Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies at the University of Washington where he also lectures in real estate economics.