#1 of 10: Spread in Mean Commute Across the Market, in Minutes (2024)

Salt Lake City-Murray leads Utah in commute spread

Source: U.S. News & World Report · Published November 20, 2026

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Spread in Mean Commute Across the Market, in Minutes (2024)

Salt Lake City-Murray has the highest average commute spread among all Utah cities ranked by U.S. News & World Report in 2026.

This metric measures the difference between the shortest and longest commutes within a city's metropolitan area. A higher spread indicates greater geographic disparity in access to employment hubs, which reflects both urban sprawl and infrastructure strain. For Salt Lake City-Murray, this figure signals a growing challenge in equitable mobility across neighborhoods.



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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-20-slc-murray-commute-spread

01

Sprawl drives commute inequality

While downtown and downtown-adjacent neighborhoods enjoy rapid access to transit and employment, suburban enclaves in the western and northern quadrants face extended travel times due to limited transit connectivity and corridor congestion. This imbalance impacts housing demand, affordability, and long-term quality of life for residents in peripheral areas.

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02

Infrastructure lags behind growth

Despite Salt Lake City-Murray's top ranking in livability, the city's transportation infrastructure has not kept pace with its rapid population expansion. The high commute spread reflects underinvestment in regional transit corridors, especially in Tooele County's western fringes and Salt Lake County's north-south corridors. Without targeted infrastructure upgrades—particularly in light rail and high-occupancy vehicle lanes—this disparity will only widen, undermining long-term sustainability and economic inclusivity.

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