



# **Utah Sewer Rates Study Mechanical Treatment Plants and Collection System Costs**

**September 2024**

**Wasatch Front Water Quality  
Council**



# 2024 – September Update - Sewer Rate Survey

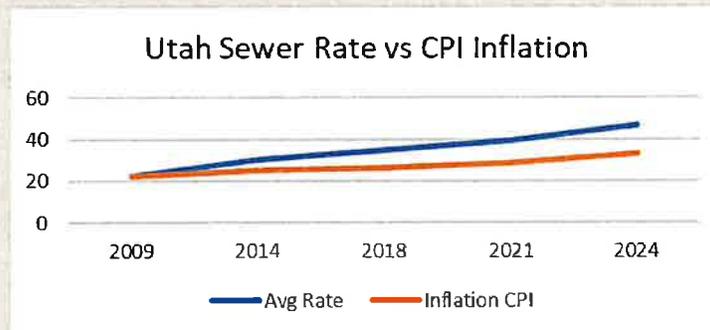
## Wasatch Front Water Quality Council

Given the amount of sewer rates volatility in Utah in 2024, the annual sewer rate study has been updated to reflect current conditions. Rates are increasing for four major reasons as identified below:

1. Increasingly more stringent regulatory requirements.
2. Increased capacity due to population growth.
3. Inflation, specifically increased cost for chemicals and supplies including energy.
4. Increased need for replacement of aging infrastructure.

### UTAH SEWER RATES INCREASING FASTER THAN INFLATION

Rates continue to increase at greater than the rate of inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). Starting with rates in 2009, as 100%, the CPI-U has increased to 149% by 2024. Using the same base date for sewer rates with the 2009 average being 100% the current rates in September 2024 is 210%. Below is a graph showing the change in rates.



### SEWER RATE VOLATILITY: UTAH AVERAGE INCREASES OVER \$2 IN 6 MONTHS

If property taxes are assessed for sewer, the applicable rate is applied against the area average house value and distributed across 12 months and using the monthly per household flow of 8,000 gallons per month (based on State average household of 3.2 persons and using 80 gallons per person per day) the following average monthly service charges are calculated changes since February 2024 are shown:

	Wasatch Front Average			% Increase
	Mar-24	Sep-24		
MIN	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00		0.0%
AVERAGE	\$ 44.31	\$ 46.55		5.1%
MEDIAN	\$ 42.34	\$ 44.82		5.9%
MAX	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00		0.0%

### UTAH NO LONGER ENJOYING SEWER RATES LOWER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

In 2009 Utah was about 74% of the National Average rate based on information from a NACWA Survey. In 2024 the State of Utah is now about 92% of the national average. Note that future regulatory changes being considered could cause significantly greater cost increases to occur.