

# HVS Market Pulse – Salt Lake City, Utah

September 15, 2021 / By Katy Black, MAI, Ryan Mark

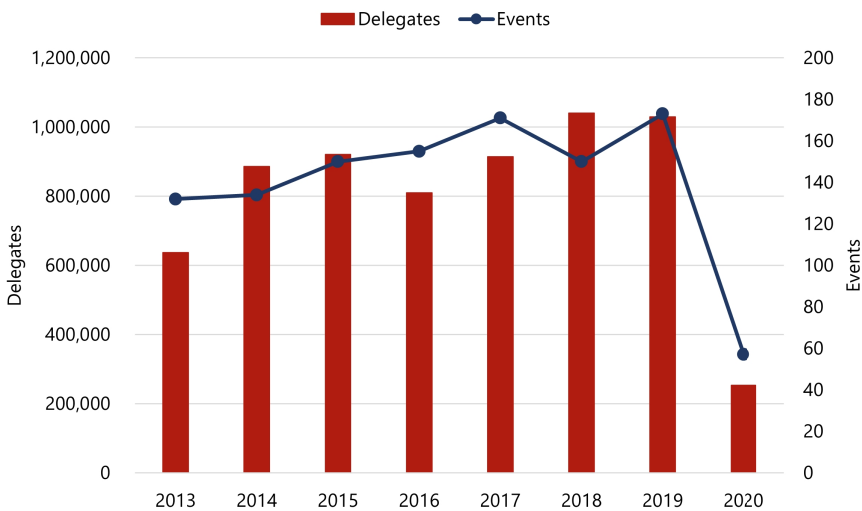


## Before the Pandemic

Occupancy within the Downtown submarket remained stable, consistently registering near the 70% mark, for the five years prior to the pandemic. Average daily rate (ADR) growth during that period was also consistent at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 3.0%.

These metrics illustrate the strength and stability of the local market, even in 2018 when the city lost its largest convention, **Outdoor Retailer**, as it moved to Denver, Colorado. The number of events held at the **Salt Palace Convention Center** rebounded in 2019. Convention attendance surpassed one million delegates in the two years prior to the pandemic.

Salt Palace Convention Center Statistics



Source: Salt Palace Convention Center

## Trends in 2020 and YTD 2021

In 2020, overall demand declined by approximately 50% in the Downtown submarket, while ADR decreased roughly 20%, generally in line with national trends. However, occupancy for the year-to-date period through July reached 50%, with strong month-over-month increases; moreover, occupancy surpassed the 60% mark in June and July of 2021. ADR lagged 2019 levels by roughly \$40 during the first four months of 2021. However, this spread was reduced to \$20 in May and \$10 in June and July. A look at recent passenger traffic numbers for **Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC)** further illustrates the improvements in travel in recent months.

2017–YTD 2021 Passenger Traffic (in Millions)



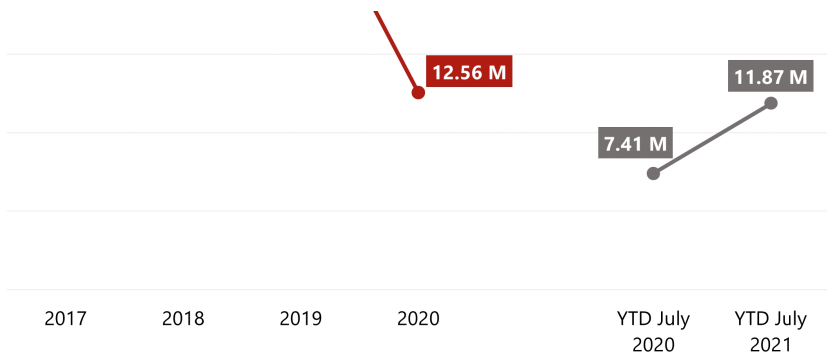
## Summary

Salt Lake City is well positioned for a strong recovery. Several office, hospitality, and residential projects downtown are ongoing and should support a swift recovery and continued growth in a post-pandemic environment. The addition of a convention center headquarters hotel, a potential bid for a future Winter Olympics, a new terminal and expanded airport, a favorable business climate, and proximity to the mountains are factors that are contributing to an overall positive long-term outlook.

[Comments](#)

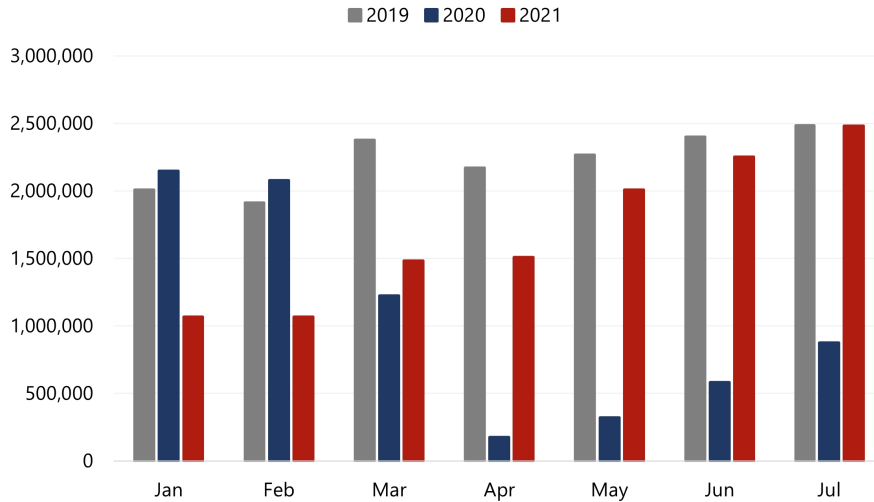
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- Salt Lake City
- Utah
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Source: Salt Lake City International Airport

### Monthly SLC Passenger Traffic through July



Source: Salt Lake City International Airport

## Market Outlook

Robust demand recovery is anticipated to continue through the remainder of 2021, as Salt Lake City remains a popular drive-to tourist destination. The return of conferences and events, including **FanX**, one of Salt Lake City's largest annual events (to be held in September 2021), should also support increased levels of demand, with occupancy levels expected to surpass 50% by year-end. Thereafter, occupancy levels are anticipated to exceed 70% in the summer of 2022; however, the 272-room dual-brand **Element/Tribute Hotel** and the 700-room **Hyatt Regency** are expected to open in the third and fourth quarters of 2022, respectively. Given this new supply, occupancy for the Downtown submarket is not anticipated to return to pre-pandemic levels until 2024/25.

Overall ADR growth for 2021 is expected to be approximately 8%, driven primarily by the anticipation that strong ADR growth will continue through the second half of the year. The return of FanX and other events at the convention center, as well as the expectation that employees will return to the office and that corporate travel will resume to some extent, should support ADR growth for the remainder of the year, in line with what was experienced in June and July of 2021. More significant growth is anticipated in 2022, likely near 10%, as the mix of business shifts to higher-rated corporate demand and as the new hotels raise the ADR ceiling for the overall market. ADR is expected to return to pre-pandemic levels by mid-year 2023. Growth above inflationary levels is also anticipated in 2024, as the new hotels ramp up operations and as stronger occupancy bases allow for continued rate increases.

For more information, contact either **Katy Black, MAI**, or **Ryan Mark** with our **HVS Denver** team.

### About **Katy Black, MAI**



Katy Black, MAI, is the Managing Director and Leader of the consulting and valuation practice of the Denver office. She is an appraisal and consulting expert in the lodging markets throughout the Western U.S. Since joining HVS in 2013, Katy has gained diverse experience spanning limited-service motels, city-center hotels, luxury assets, golf resorts, and mixed-use developments, as well as resort-residential and rental-management programs. She specializes in high-end, complex resorts and has provided valuation and consulting services for gaming assets and large hotel portfolios. In addition, Katy has worked extensively on unique lodging properties, such as glamping resorts, casino hotels, hostels, and waterpark resorts. Katy graduated from the University of Delaware with an honors BS in Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management. She also earned an MS in Accounting from the University of Akron. She is a state-certified general appraiser and a Designated Member of the Appraisal Institute (MAI). Contact Katy at (970) 305-2229 or [\[email protected\]](#).

### About **Ryan Mark**



Ryan Mark, a Director with HVS Denver, brings first-hand experience, excellent communication and problemsolving skills, and attention to detail to conduct hotel market studies, feasibility studies, and valuations. Before joining HVS, Ryan worked in various roles in housekeeping and front office management at the 1,100-room Hyatt Regency Denver; he also acted as Assistant Manager of the hotel. Ryan earned his BS in Restaurant and Resort Management from Colorado State University. Contact Ryan at (303) 881-4762 or [\[email protected\]](#).