BACKGROUND: Every year, the US Census Bureau releases census estimates for each state, county, and municipality within the country. This should not be confused with the decennial head county every decade as required in the constitution. That head count was just done on 1 April 2010 and is vastly important in the data fields to reset our demographic counts. The annual estimates build upon the decennial census data.

DATA ANALYSIS: Last year, the 2011 series of census estimates seemed to be straight-lined from the 2010 Census data, leaving many to question their validity. All municipalities grew, but they all grew to their proportion within the county, leaving higher growth areas wondering. Normally, the Census Bureau uses different economic and construction indicators to develop the estimates. Being so close to the decennial census count, it seemed that the 2011 estimate used less of these indicators and more extrapolation.

The 2012 data seems to have similar issues. Provo and Orem have grown faster than what permit data would support. Lehi seems underestimated and Eagle Mountain, Mapleton and Vineyard to a smaller extent.

CHALLENGING ESTIMATES: This year the Census Bureau is accepting challenges to the census estimate. This means if you disagree with the census estimate, you can submit a challenge to the Census Bureau. Mountainland can help you with this process. The bureau accepts completed challenges for 90 days after the release of the estimates. The 2012 municipal estimates were issued on May 23, 2013 meaning if you decided to challenge, the process would have to start soon to be fully turned in to the bureau by Aug 21, 2013. More information can be found at http://www.census.gov/popest/data/challenge/index.html or by calling the Census Bureau at 301/763-2385.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item only.

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ATTACHMENTS: 2012 Census-State, County, Municipal Population Estimates
2012 Census Estimated Population vs. Building Permit Data