



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
 Kem C. Gardner
POLICY INSTITUTE

FACT SHEET

Three Million Utahns

Background

Demographers at the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute estimate the state of Utah reached a population of three million people this month. This milestone serves as a symbol of a fast-growing state that ranks as the 32nd most populous state in the nation. A technical memorandum documents the methodology behind this estimate and is available at www.Gardner.utah.edu.

Million milestones

- **Three million** – Analysts estimate Utah reached 3,000,000 people on approximately October 2015.
- **Time horizons** – It took 119 years (1966) from when the pioneers first entered the Salt Lake Valley for Utah to reach 1,000,000 persons, another 29 years (1995) to reach 2,000,000 persons, and 20 years to reach 3,000,000 persons. State analysts project the state will reach 4,000,000 persons in another 16 years (2031).

Rapid growth

- **5th fastest** – Utah experienced the fifth fastest population growth in the nation since the 2010 Census, adding an estimated 179,017 people as of July 1, 2014.
- **32nd most populous** – Utah likely surpassed Arkansas in the past year to become the 32nd most populous state in the nation.

How Utah grows

- **Natural increase** – Approximately two-thirds of Utah's growth since the two million population milestone can be attributed to natural increase (births minus deaths). While Utah births have declined from a high in 2008, Utah continues to have the highest fertility rate in the nation.
- **Migration** – Approximately one-third of Utah's growth since the two million population milestone occurred because of net in-migration. There are always people moving in and out of Utah, but on net in most years more people move into the state than depart. By the time we reached three million, an estimated 37,000 people on net have moved into Utah since the 2010 Census.
- **Down to the minute** – Utah's population increases by approximately one person every 13 minutes. A baby is born every ten minutes, someone dies every 35 minutes, and someone moves into the state every 90 minutes.

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Growth centers

- **Merging of Utah's two largest counties** – Northern Utah County and southern Salt Lake County are the epicenter of Utah's current population growth. The joining of Utah's most populous counties offers locational advantages and serves as the geographic center for tech-industry growth.
- **Population center** – The 2010 mean population center of Utah was Saratoga Springs in Utah County. This is the point at which an imaginary, flat, weightless and rigid map of Utah would balance perfectly if weights of identical value were placed on it so that each weight represented one person at their place of residence on the date of the Census. In 2000 the mean population center was Lehi City in Utah County.
- **Fastest-growing Utah counties** – The fastest growing counties since the 2010 Census include the following:
 - Wasatch County—17.8 percent
 - Uintah County—13.1 percent
 - Morgan County—12.0 percent
 - Washington County—10.0 percent
 - Duchesne County—9.5 percent
- **Fastest-growing Utah cities** – The fastest growing cities of 5,000 or more since the 2010 Census include the following:
 - Saratoga Springs—37.0 percent
 - Herriman—31.1 percent
 - Bluffdale—30.1 percent
 - South Jordan—24.5 percent
 - Washington—24.5 percent
 - Farmington—21.3 percent
 - Heber—19.7 percent
 - Eagle Mountain—19.5 percent
 - North Logan—19.4 percent
 - Vernal—19.3 percent

Distinctive demographic profile

- **Fertility rate** – Utah has the highest fertility rate in the country at 2.34 births per woman in 2013 compared to 1.86 nationally.
- **Young** – Utah has the lowest median age in the country at 30.5 in 2014, compared to 37.7 nationally.
- **Large household size** – Utah has the largest household size in the country at 3.16 persons per household in 2014 compared to 2.65 nationally.

SOURCES AND NOTE: These data have been compiled by the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute based on U.S. Census Bureau population estimates, 2000 and 2010 Census, American Community Survey, and center of the population definition and derivation; Governor's Office of Management and Budget population projections; and our own calculations. For additional information contact the DemographyUTAH team at the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at 801-581-3358, www.Gardner.utah.edu/utah-demographics/ or pam.perlich@utah.edu.

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