

Utah Demographics

Utah is well-known for its signature demographics, which include the youngest population, largest household sizes, and one of the most rapidly growing populations.¹ The state is currently following many of the same trends as the nation with an increasing median age, greater ethnic diversity, and shrinking household sizes. Utah reached the 3 million person milestone in October 2015. This Fact Sheet provides some of the most requested demographic information about the State of Utah.

Utah's Total Population

- **July 1, 2015** – Utah's total population was 2,996,754.
- **Fifth fastest** – Utah experienced the fifth fastest population growth rate in the nation since the 2010 Census, adding an estimated 232,034 people as of July 1, 2015.

Table 1
Fastest Growing States or Equivalent

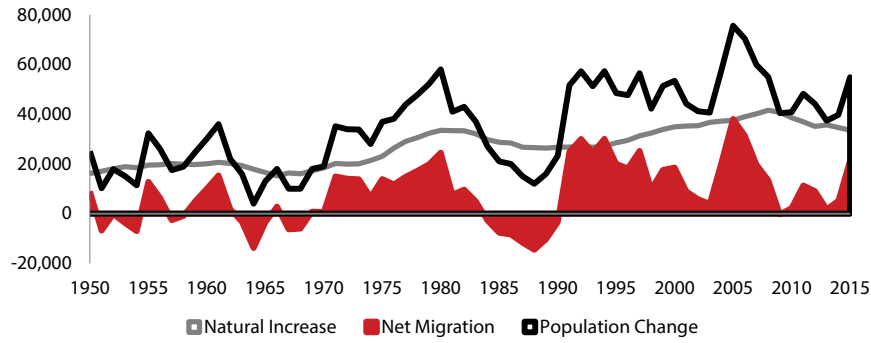
2014-2015			2010 Census-2015		
Rank	State	Change	Rank	State	Change
1	North Dakota	2.3%	1	North Dakota	12.5%
2	Colorado	1.9%	2	District of Columbia	11.7%
3	District of Columbia	1.9%	3	Texas	9.2%
4	Nevada	1.9%	4	Colorado	8.5%
5	Florida	1.8%	5	Utah	8.4%
6	Texas	1.8%	6	Florida	7.8%
7	Utah	1.7%	7	Nevada	7.0%
8	Washington	1.5%	8	Arizona	6.8%
9	Arizona	1.5%	9	Washington	6.6%
10	Oregon	1.5%	10	South Carolina	5.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

How Utah Grows

- **Natural increase** – From 1990 to 2015, approximately two-thirds of Utah's growth can be attributed to natural increase (births minus deaths). While Utah the number of 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 from 1990 to 2015 occurred because of net in-migration.
- **Migrants and their offspring** – Migrants to Utah are usually young and often have children once they relocate. If we consider the births to residents who have moved to the state, the full contribution of migrants to the state's population growth since 1990 is closer to one-half.²
- **Down to the minute** – From July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015, Utah's population increased by approximately one person every 12 minutes. A baby was born every 10 minutes, someone died every 33 minutes, and someone moved into the state every 55 minutes.

Figure 1
Utah Components of Population Change

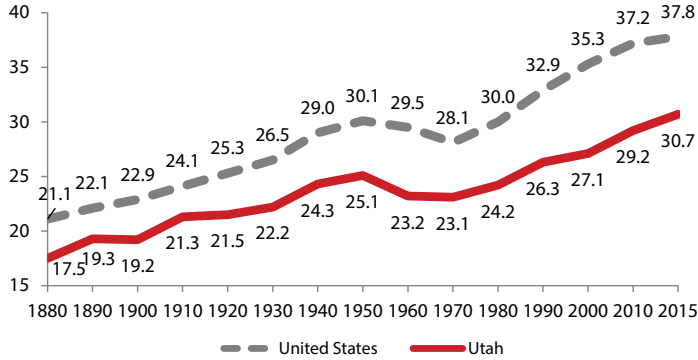


Sources: Utah Population Estimates Committee (1950-2009); DemographyUTAH Population Committee (2010-2015)

Distinctive Demographic Profile

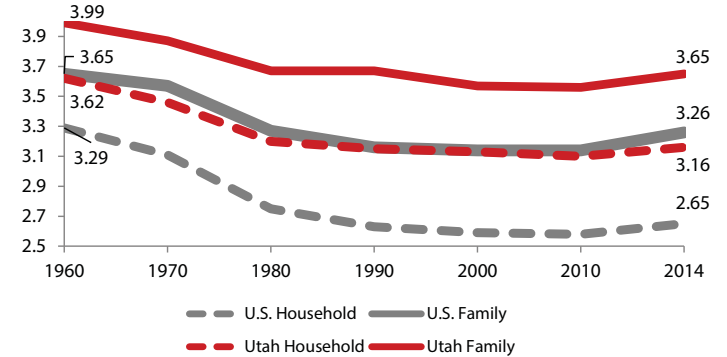
- **Young** – Utah has the lowest median age in the country at 30.7 in 2015, compared to 37.8 nationally. Like the nation, median age is increasing. Children under 18 years comprise 30.5 percent of Utah’s total population in 2015, the highest in the country. The national share is 22.9 percent.
- **Large household size** – Utah has the largest household size in the country at 3.16 persons per household in 2014 compared to 2.65 nationally. Both are trending down since 1960.
- **Fertility rate** – Utah has the highest fertility rate in the country at 2.33 births per woman in 2014 compared to 1.86 nationally. These rates have declined significantly since 1960.

Figure 2
Median Age for Utah and United States



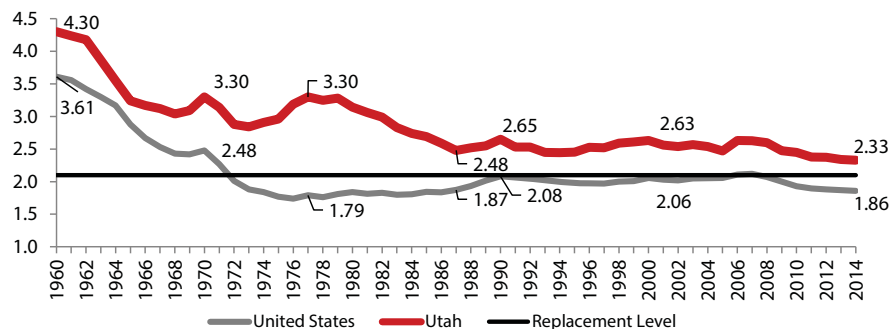
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census; U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

Figure 3
Average Household and Family Size for Utah and United States



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census; U.S. Census Bureau 2014 American Community Survey

Figure 4
Total Fertility Rate for Utah and the United States



Note: The Replacement Level is the fertility level (2.1) at which the current population is replaced.
Source: National Center for Health Statistics

County Population

Table 2
Fastest Growing Counties in Utah

2014-2015			2010 Census-2015		
Rank	County	Change	Rank	County	Change
1	Wasatch County	4.6%	1	Wasatch County	21.6%
2	Utah County	3.2%	2	Morgan County	17.0%
3	Morgan County	2.8%	3	Uintah County	14.8%
4	Washington County	2.7%	4	Utah County	13.3%
5	Iron County	2.5%	5	Washington County	11.9%
6	Cache County	2.5%	6	Duchesne County	11.9%
7	Piute County	2.4%	7	Davis County	9.7%
8	Juab County	2.3%	8	Tooele County	8.7%
9	Davis County	1.9%	9	Summit County	8.1%
10	Tooele County	1.7%	10	Cache County	8.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; DemographyUTAH Population Committee

Table 3
Largest Counties in Utah

2010 Census			2015 Estimate		
Rank	County	Population	Rank	County	Population
1	Salt Lake County	1,029,655	1	Salt Lake County	1,094,289
2	Utah County	516,564	2	Utah County	585,480
3	Davis County	306,479	3	Davis County	336,090
4	Weber County	231,236	4	Weber County	242,737
5	Washington County	138,115	5	Washington County	154,580
6	Cache County	112,656	6	Cache County	121,803
7	Tooele County	58,218	7	Tooele County	63,262
8	Box Elder County	49,975	8	Box Elder County	52,973
9	Iron County	46,163	9	Iron County	49,406
10	Summit County	36,324	10	Summit County	39,277

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; DemographyUTAH Population Committee

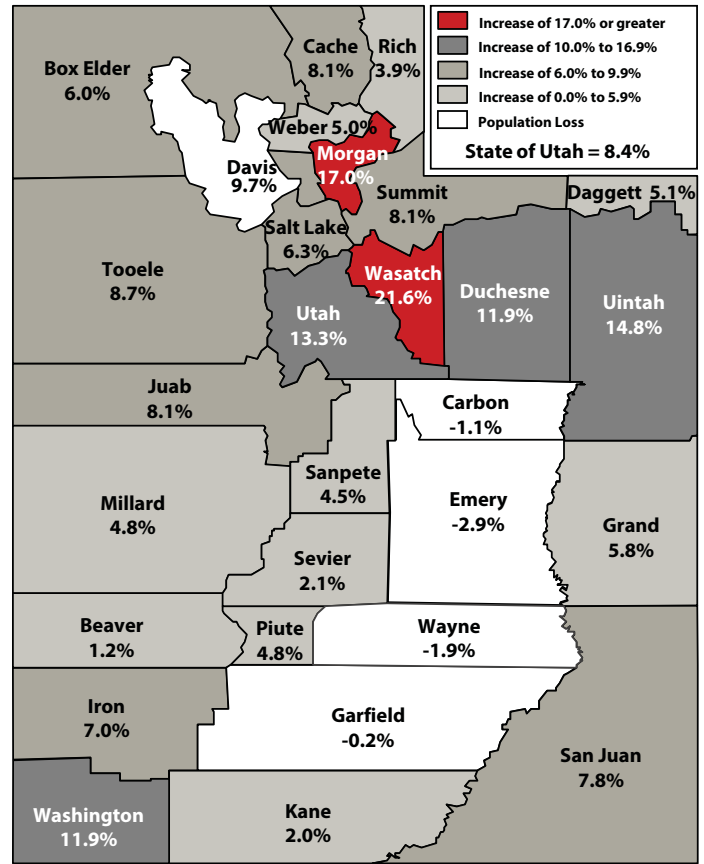
City Population

Table 4
Fastest Growing Cities in Utah (Population 5,000+)

2014-2015			Census 2010-2015		
Rank	City	Change	Rank	City	Change
1	Bluffdale	10.4%	1	Bluffdale	43.9%
2	Herriman	7.7%	2	Saratoga Springs	42.9%
3	South Jordan	6.0%	3	Herriman	41.5%
4	Heber	4.9%	4	South Jordan	32.2%
5	Eagle Mountain	4.6%	5	Washington	29.5%
6	Saratoga Springs	4.3%	6	Eagle Mountain	27.6%
7	Pleasant View	4.2%	7	Heber	25.9%
8	Washington	4.1%	8	Farmington	23.5%
9	Farr West	4.1%	9	Lehi	23.4%
10	Nibley	4.0%	10	Vernal	23.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

Figure 5
Utah Population Growth Rates by County:
April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015



Source: DemographyUTAH Population Committee

Table 5
Largest Cities in Utah

2010 Census			2015 Estimate		
Rank	City	Population	Rank	City	Population
1	Salt Lake City	186,440	1	Salt Lake City	192,672
2	West Valley City	129,480	2	West Valley City	136,208
3	Provo	112,488	3	Provo	115,264
4	West Jordan	103,712	4	West Jordan	111,946
5	Orem	88,328	5	Orem	94,457
6	Sandy	87,461	6	Sandy	93,613
7	Ogden	82,825	7	Ogden	85,444
8	St. George	72,897	8	St. George	80,202
9	Layton	67,311	9	Layton	74,143
10	Taylorville	58,652	10	South Jordan	66,648

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

Urban State

- Utah has the 9th highest urban population in the nation at 90.6 percent, meaning that the population is concentrated in urban areas. Maine is the least urban state with 38.7 percent.
- An area is considered urban if the core census block groups or blocks have a population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile and the surrounding census blocks have an overall density of at least 500 people per square mile.
- Just over 75 percent of the population in Utah is concentrated in the four counties along the Wasatch Front: Salt Lake, Utah, Davis, and Weber.

Race and Ethnicity

- Utah's population continues to become more diverse. The minority population in Utah has increased from 14.7 percent in 2000 to 19.4 percent in 2010 and 21.0 percent in 2015.

Table 7
Utah Race and Hispanic Origin

	2010 Census		2015 Estimate	
	Population	Percent of Total	Population	Percent of Total
Total Population	2,763,885	100.0%	2,995,919	100.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino	2,405,545	87.0%	2,584,776	86.3%
White	2,226,363	80.6%	2,367,093	79.0%
Black	26,328	1.0%	31,430	1.0%
AIAN	27,228	1.0%	29,206	1.0%
Asian	54,794	2.0%	70,971	2.4%
NHPI	24,183	0.9%	27,809	0.9%
Two or More Races	46,649	1.7%	58,267	1.9%
Hispanic or Latino	358,340	13.0%	411,143	13.7%
Total Minority*	537,522	19.4%	628,826	21.0%

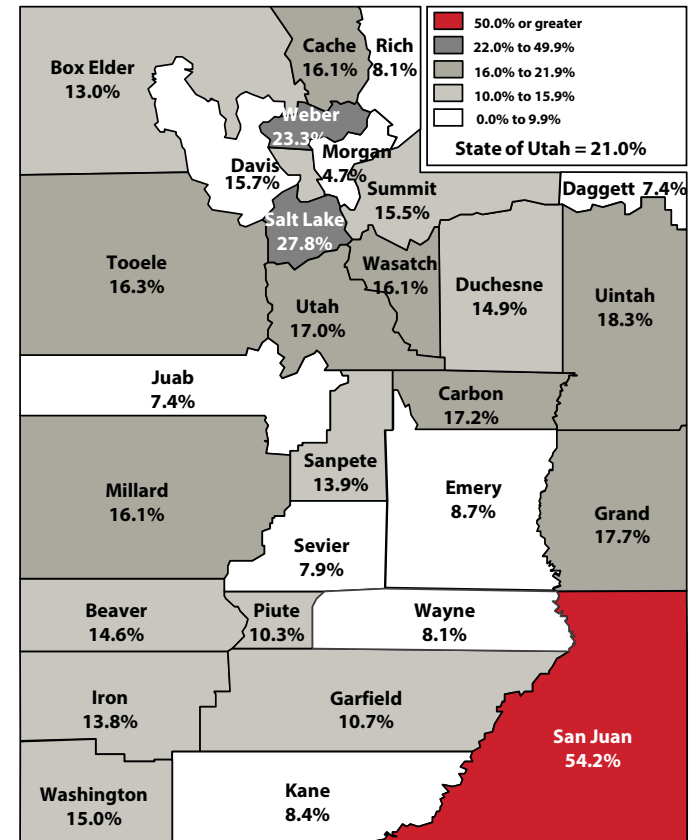
*Minority is the total population less White, not Hispanic or Latino
 Note: AIAN = American Indian or Alaska Native; NHPI = Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

Table 6
Ten Most Urban States or Equivalent

2000 Census			2010 Census		
Rank	State	Percent	Rank	State	Percent
1	District of Columbia	100.0%	1	District of Columbia	100.0%
2	New Jersey	94.7%	2	California	95.0%
3	California	93.2%	3	New Jersey	94.7%
4	Massachusetts	91.1%	4	Nevada	94.2%
5	Rhode Island	90.9%	5	Massachusetts	92.0%
6	Nevada	90.6%	6	Hawaii	91.9%
7	Hawaii	90.0%	7	Florida	91.2%
8	Florida	89.3%	8	Rhode Island	90.7%
9	Connecticut	87.9%	9	Utah	90.6%
10	Illinois	87.3%	10	Arizona	89.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 6
Minority Share of Population: July 1, 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Endnotes:

1. This Fact Sheet includes two primary sources for population estimates: The U.S. Census Bureau and the DemographyUtah Population Committee. The former is used for state-by-state comparisons, city (place) estimates, and decennial census counts. The latter is used for July 1 estimates at the state and county level. Any additional sources are noted.
2. Hollingshaus, M., & Perlich, P. S. (2016). Migrant Today, Parent Tomorrow: A Zero Migration Simulation. Salt Lake City, UT: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, University of Utah. http://gardner.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/20160316_3Million.pdf

Note:

The Utah Legislature recently funded the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute to provide demographic decision support to the State of Utah. The work program includes serving as the lead entity in Utah for the Census Bureau State Data Center program. For more information, visit <http://gardner.utah.edu/utah-demographics> or contact Effie Van Noy, Utah State Data Center Coordinator, at effie.johnson@utah.edu or (801) 587-9224.