

Generations in Utah, 2016

This snapshot provides insights about generational groups in Utah using data from the long term state and county Projections produced by the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute.¹

Within the context of this snapshot and larger public conversations, generations are a combination of demographic and sociological factors. The nomenclature typically used in these conversations (i.e. Baby Boomers, Gen X, or Millennials) have been placed on populations that were born in a set time frame and have a shared experience of certain historical events or significant developments in technology.

While definitions for older generations are more concrete, the bounding years for Millennials and the following generation are still being determined. The definitions below will be used within this snapshot, with the understanding that the final year of the Millennial generation may change in the future.

In this snapshot, generations are defined as:²

- The Greatest Generation - born between 1901 and 1927
- The Silent Generation - born between 1928 and 1945
- The Baby Boom - born between 1946 and 1964
- Generation X - 1965 to 1980
- Millennials - 1981 to 1998
- Generation Z - 1999 to 2016

Analysis of 2016 data shows that Generation Z was the largest generational group in Utah at 30 percent of the population. The next largest group were the Millennials at 26 percent. Generation X came in third place with 21 percent. Baby Boomers were 17 percent and the generations born prior to 1945 were 6 percent. Nationally, Millennials are the largest share of the population at 23.4 percent. Baby Boomers are the second largest share at 22.9 percent, followed closely by Generation Z at 22.8 percent.

The differences between the state and national shares are a reflection of Utah's national ranking as the youngest state, lowest share of the population aged 65 and over, and higher than the national average fertility rate.

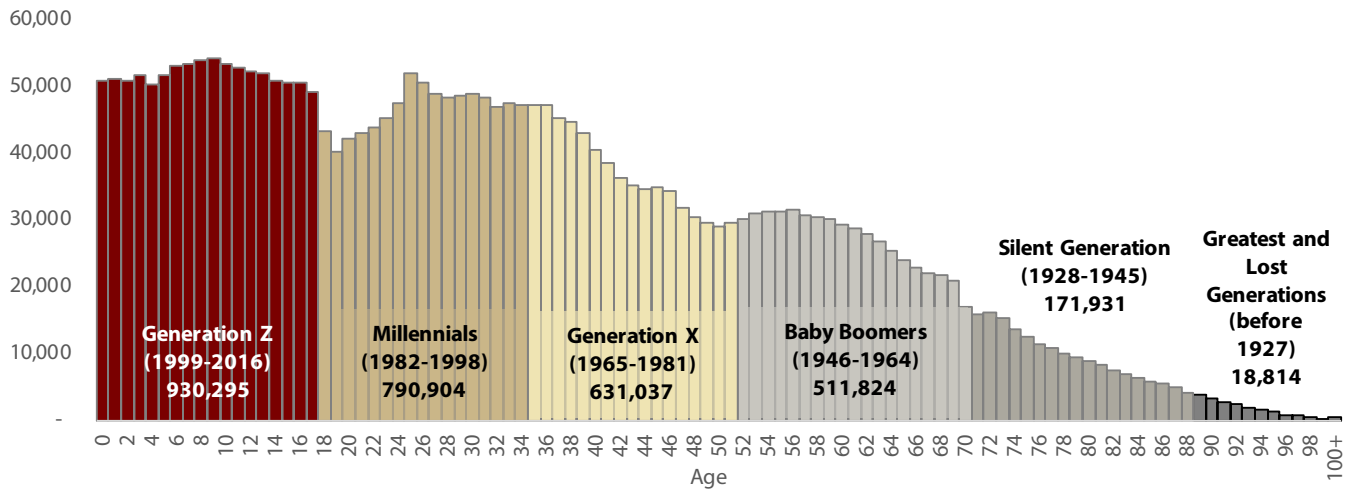
Examining newer generations through a historical lens, Utah experienced a boom of births in the early 1980s and a wave of migration in the 1990s which brought young adults to the state. The 1980s babies have grown up and are having their own children. The young adults who came to Utah in the 1990s also impacted births and in turn, the size of Generation Z.

Table 1: Generational Groups in Utah and the U.S., 2016

Generational Groups	Estimate	Share of Total Population
Utah		
Generation Z	930,295	30.5%
Millennial	790,904	25.9%
Generation X	631,037	20.7%
Baby Boomers	511,824	16.8%
Silent Generation	171,931	5.6%
Greatest and Lost generations	18,814	.6%
United States		
Generation Z	73.6 M	22.8%
Millennial	75.5 M	23.4%
Generation X	69.9 M	21.6%
Baby Boomers	74.1 M	22.9%
Silent Generation	26.8 M	8.3%
Greatest and Lost generations	3.1 M	1.0%

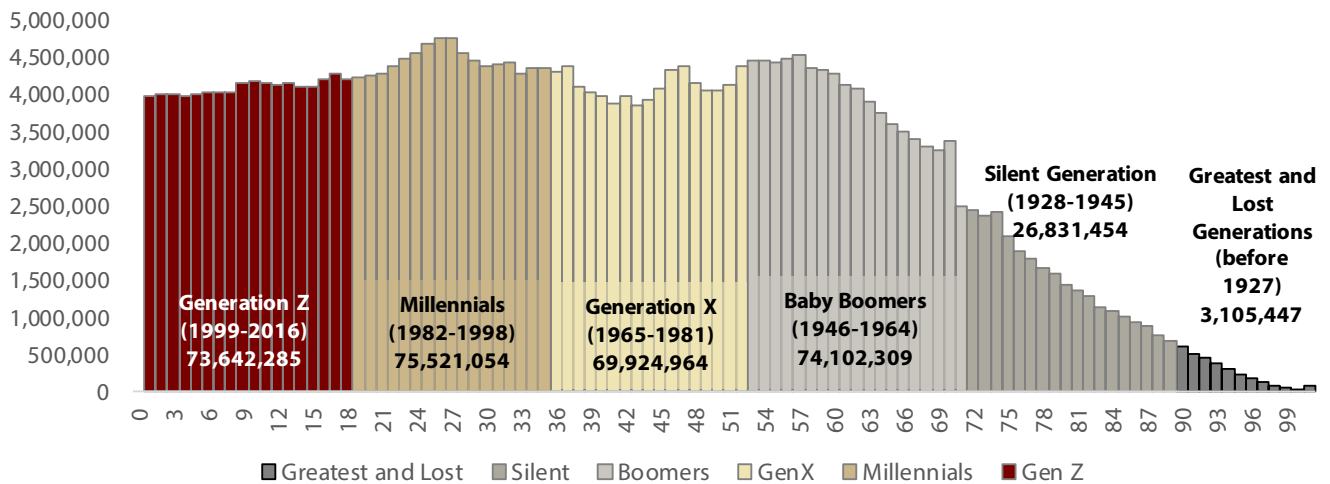
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute 2015-2065 State and County Projections; U. S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Division.

Figure 1: Utah Population by Generation, 2016



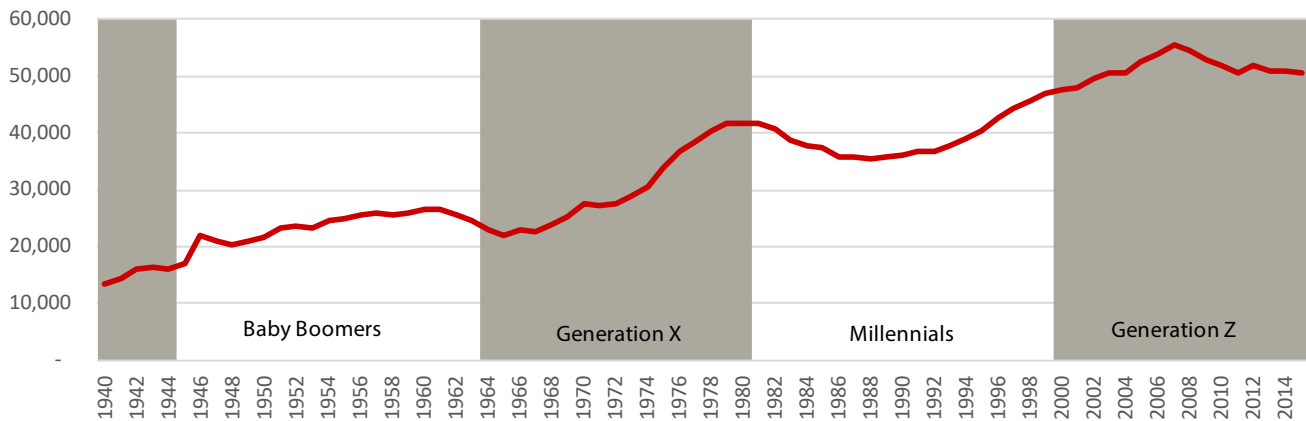
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute 2015-2065 State and County Projections.

Figure 2: United States Population by Generation, 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Division.

Figure 3: Births in Utah with Generational Markers



Source: Utah Department of Health.

Endnotes:

1. Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2015-2065 State and County Projections.
2. The definitions for The Greatest, Silent, Baby Boom, Generation X, and Millennial groups in this report are utilized by Pew Research Center. Pew Research Center does not include a generation after the Millennials in their definition. There are currently many different names being suggested for the generation following Millennials. Generation Z will be used for this snapshot.