

Households and Families in Utah, 2016

This snapshot provides insights about households and families in Utah using the 1-year estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a self-response based sample-survey. Data from the ACS are period estimates, representing the collection of information throughout the entire year. To compare, the decennial census provides point estimates.

The Census Bureau defines a household as all the people who occupy a housing unit as their regular place of residence. Three-quarters of Utah's households are family households. These are overwhelmingly married-couple families (over 80 percent). Utah has had the highest share of married-couple households in the United States for the past 11 years. The median age at first marriage for men and women has consistently been the youngest in the nation throughout the last decade. The marriage rates for both men and women were the highest in the nation in 2016.

Utah has had the highest share of married couples with their own children, and highest share of households with one or more people under 18 years old in the nation. However, the share of households with their own children under 18 decreased between 2005 and 2016, from 40 percent of households to 38 percent. Less than one-third (30 percent) of Utah households were married-couple families with children under 18 in 2016. This share also declined between 2005 and 2016.

In 2016, Utah had the third-lowest share of households with one or more people over age 65 in the nation at 23 percent. However, this population has been increasing since 2005.

Unmarried partners made up 4.3 percent of Utah households in 2016, an increase since 2005 (3.8 percent). Most of these were opposite sex partner households. A small share of unmarried-partner households were same sex partner households, although the share decreased between 2005 and 2016.

Table 1: Utah Household Composition

	2005	2010	2016
Total Households	791,929	880,025	943,147
Family households	74.9%	75.7%	75.4%
Married-couple family	82.1%	81.6%	81.3%
Male householder, no wife present	5.5%	5.6%	6.0%
Female householder, no husband present	12.4%	12.8%	12.7%
Households with children	40.3%	39.6%	37.9%
Married-couple family with children	32.4%	31.9%	30.4%
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	17.8%	19.9%	23.0%
Nonfamily household	25.1%	24.3%	24.6%
Living alone	78.4%	77.0%	76.0%
Not living alone	21.6%	23.0%	24.0%
Unmarried partner households (Share of total households)			
Same sex	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%
Opposite sex	3.3%	3.5%	4.0%

Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

Table 2: Household Size

	2005	2010	2016
Average household size	3.07	3.10	3.19
Married-couple family household	3.72	3.70	3.77
Male householder, no wife present family household	3.26	3.39	3.70
Female householder, no husband present family household	3.17	3.40	3.55
Nonfamily household	1.40	1.41	1.49

Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

The share of nonfamily households remained relatively consistent between 2005 and 2016. Three-quarters of these nonfamily households are people living alone. The share of nonfamily households with multiple people has increased since 2005.

Over the past decade, Utah has had the largest average household size in the nation. The average household size in the United States is 2.65, while Utah's was 3.19 in 2016. Married-couple family households were the largest (3.77) while nonfamily households were the smallest (1.49) in 2016.

The majority of Utahns speak English at home, although the share has decreased between 2005 and 2016. Of those who speak a language other than English at home, Spanish is the predominant language spoken. In 2016, over 10 percent of Utahns spoke Spanish at home.

In 2016, 10 percent of households in Utah fell below the poverty level. Over half (54 percent) of these households were family households. Of the family households in poverty, 49 percent were married couple families, 43 percent were female householders, and the remaining 8 percent were male householders. The share of households in poverty that were nonfamily was 46 percent.

Utah's households are predominantly owner-occupied. Younger householders (ages 15 to 34) are more likely to be renters than older householders, although the share of 65 and over renters has been increasing over the past decade.

Table 3: Marriage and Divorce in Utah

	2005	2010	2016
Median age at first marriage, men	24.6	25.6	26.3
Median age at first marriage, women	22.1	23.3	24.7
Marriage rate, women	n/a	26.4%	26.7%
Marriage rate, men	n/a	27.0%	26.6%
Divorce rate, women	n/a	12.9%	11.1%
Divorce rate, men	n/a	12.2%	7.1%

Note: Marriage and divorce rates are the number of marriages or divorces in the last year, per 1,000 men or women.

Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

Table 4: Language Spoken at Home, Utah Population 5 and over

	2005	2010	2016
Speak only English	86.1%	85.8%	84.7%
Speak a language other than English	13.9%	14.2%	15.3%
Spanish	8.9%	9.5%	10.4%
Other Indo-European language	2.4%	2.0%	1.9%
Asian and Pacific Island languages	1.9%	2.1%	2.2%
Other languages	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%

Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

Table 5: Poverty in Utah Households

	2005	2010	2016
Households below poverty level	83,871	107,879	95,286
Share of Total Households below poverty level	10.6%	12.3%	10.1%
Family Households	56.4%	60.0%	53.7%
Married couple families	52.5%	52.5%	49.1%
Male householder, no wife present	8.9%	10.2%	8.4%
Female householder, no husband present	38.6%	37.2%	42.5%
Nonfamily households	43.6%	40.0%	46.3%

Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

Table 6: Tenure of Utah Households with selected age groups of householders

	2005	2010	2015
Owner Occupied	70.6%	69.9%	69.9%
15 to 34	21.8%	18.9%	14.8%
35 to 64	60.4%	61.6%	61.6%
65 and over	19.6%	21.3%	25.2%
Renter Occupied	29.4%	30.1%	30.1%
15 to 34	57.5%	51.6%	47.7%
35 to 64	35.3%	39.4%	42.8%
65 and over	7.2%	9.1%	9.5%

Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.