

## Utah's Aging Population, 2016

This snapshot provides insights about Utah's 65 years and older, or retirement age, population using the 1-year estimates from the American Community Survey. 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.

Although Utah has the smallest share of retirement age residents in the nation, Utahns 65 and over are a growing share of the population. The aging of Utah's population in the past decade is due in large part to Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1965), reaching their mid-sixties. The oldest Boomers would have joined this age group beginning in 2011. Increasing life expectancies also play a role.

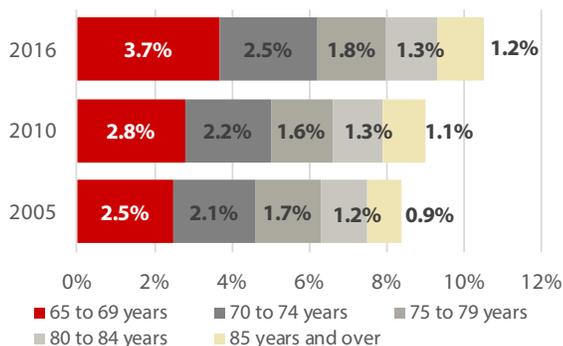
Utah's retirement age residents are much less diverse than the state as a whole. While 78.7 percent of the state's total population is White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, 91.1 percent of the 65 and older population fell in this same group in 2016.

**Table 1: Utah Population**

	2005	2010	2016
Total Population	2,427,350	2,776,469	3,051,217
<b>Population 65 and over</b>			
Count	205,548	250,800	319,490
Share of Total	8.5%	9.0%	10.5%

Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

**Figure 1: Share of Total Population, Utahns over 65 years**



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

**Table 2: Race and Ethnicity, Utah Population 65 and over**

	2005	2010	2016
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	3.7%	4.2%	5.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6%	0.8%	0.7%
Asian	1.4%	1.5%	1.9%
Black or African American	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%
Some other race	1.0%	0.9%	1.3%
Two or more races	0.3%	0.5%	0.8%
White	96.3%	95.4%	94.5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	94%	92.5%	91.1%

Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

**Table 4: Nativity and Language, Share of Utah Population 65 and over**

	2005	2010	2016
<b>Nativity</b>			
Native born	94.0%	93.9%	92.8%
Foreign born	6.0%	6.1%	7.1%
Naturalized U.S. citizen	66.1%	70.7%	74.2%
Not a U.S. citizen	33.9%	29.3%	25.8%
<b>Language</b>			
English only	91.7%	91.5%	92.0%
Language other than English	8.3%	8.5%	8.0%

Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

**Table 3: Veteran Status, Share of Total Utah Population and 65 and over**

	2005	2010	2016
Total population	8.5%	8.0%	5.8%
65 years and over	28.4%	25.5%	19.5%

Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

The retirement age population is overwhelmingly native born. Between 2005 and 2016, the share of the 65 and over population who are naturalized U.S. citizens increased. English is still the language predominantly used by the 65 and over population.

In 2016, just under one in five Utahns over age 65 or a total population of 319,490 were veterans. While this share is much higher than the statewide population, it has been decreasing over the past decade. In June 2016, the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs indicated that about 14 percent of Utah veterans had served in World War II or the Korean War. About 30 percent of Utah veterans had served in the Vietnam War.

Since 2005, the share of Utahns age 65 and over who are divorced or never married has increased, while the share of those who are widowed has decreased. Recent research by the Pew Research Center indicates that the divorce rate for those 50 and older roughly doubled between 1990 and 2015, while younger age groups experienced smaller increases or even declines.

Like the shift in share of total population, the share of retirement age households has increased since 2005. Statewide in 2016, 1 in 5 were retirement age households. Over one-third of households are nonfamily households, the majority of which are single-person households.

Over 80 percent of Utahns 65 or older own their homes. The average household size for owner-occupied homes of the 65 and over population is larger than for renter-occupied homes.

Dependency ratio is the ratio of non-working age people to 100 working age people. The dependency ratio of the retirement age population has increased in the past decade. In 2016, this ratio indicates that for every 100 working-age people, there were 17.7 people aged 65 and over. In 2010 the ratio was 13.9 for the same age group. While this increase is noticeable for Utah, the national dependency ratio for retirement age Americans was in 20.8 2010 and 24.6 in 2016.

Utah's shift to an increasing share of the population being retirement age residents is expected to continue in the future. Population projections produced by the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute show that growth of this population is projected to be most significant (over 5% annually) between 2017 and 2021.<sup>1</sup> This growth rate will result in a shift of 10.5 percent of the total population being retirement age in 2016 to 20.3 percent in 2065.

**Table 4: Marital Status, Utah Population 65 and over**

	2005	2010	2016
Divorced	7.4%	9.0%	11.8%
Never married	1.6%	2.2%	2.9%
Now married	66.5%	64.8%	65.5%
Separated	0.3%	0.6%	0.5%
Widowed	24.2%	23.4%	19.3%

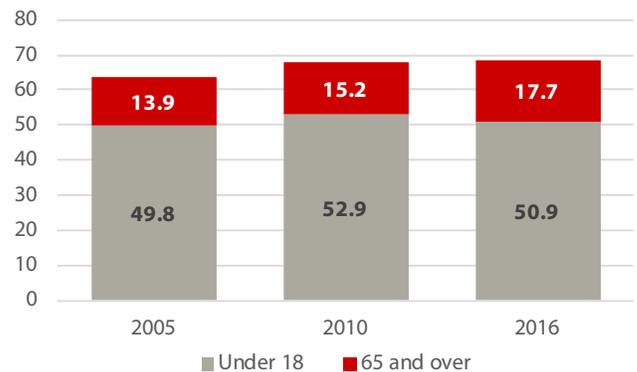
Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

**Table 5: Households, Utah Population 65 and over**

	2005	2010	2016
Share of Total Households	16.0%	17.6%	20.5%
Family households	62.8%	62.0%	64.0%
Female householder only	6.7%	6.9%	8.0%
Married-couple family	54.3%	53.2%	54.2%
Nonfamily households	37.2%	38.0%	36.0%
Householder living alone	36.1%	36.7%	35.0%
Owner-occupied	86.8%	84.5%	86.0%
Renter-occupied	13.2%	15.5%	14.0%
Average Household Size (Owner)	1.67	2.06	2.16
Average Household Size (Renter)	1.32	1.35	1.63

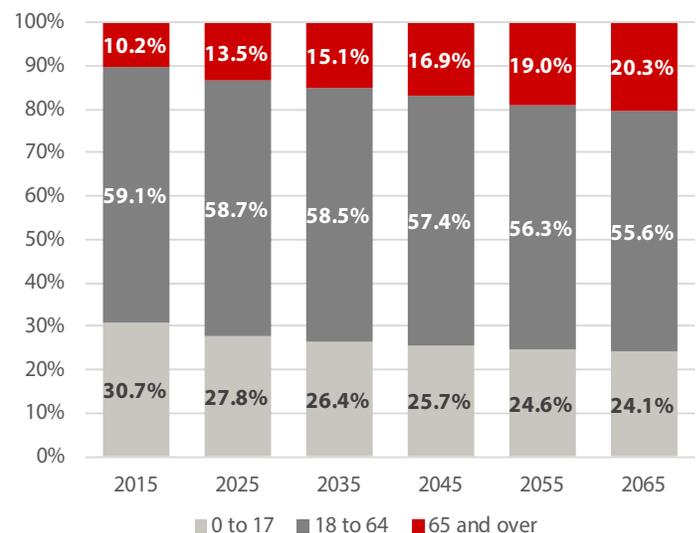
Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

**Figure 2: Youth and Retirement Age Dependency Ratio, Utah**



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

**Figure 3: Selected Age Groups as a Percent of Total Utah Population, 2015-2065**



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

Endnotes:

1. Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2015-2065 State and County projections.