

May 26, 2020

To Our Data User Community:

As you know, the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute produces long-range demographic and economic projections for all counties in Utah. We published the [most recent baseline projections](#) on July 1, 2017. We had planned to release the next baseline on July 1, 2021. However, on April 13, 2020, Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham [announced](#) a proposed 120-day delay in Census 2020 operations, which awaits final Congressional approval. Because this will also delay the release of 2020 Census data that we need for our projections work, we are shifting the release date of our next baseline out by 120 days to October 1, 2021.

The initial Census data release of apportionment data, which includes state totals, is now scheduled to be delivered to the President on April 30, 2021, rather than December 31, 2020. The redistricting data will be released by July 31, 2021. This redistricting data includes basic population counts and age group counts (<18 years old and 18+ years old) for counties and much smaller geographies. This data is essential to set the baseline for our next set of projections. The full demographic detail file, Summary File 1, was released for Census 2010 on a rolling basis from June through August of 2011. If the four-month delay applies to the 2020 Demographic and Housing Characteristics file, it will be released from October through December of 2021.

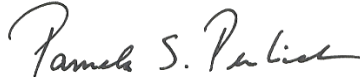
Milestone	Previous Schedule	Revised Schedule
Field operations and data collection complete	7/31/2020	10/31/2020
Apportionment data available	12/31/2020	4/30/2021
Redistricting data available	3/30/2021	7/31/2021
Demographic and Housing Characteristics file available*	6/2021 - 8/2021*	10/2021 - 12/2021*
Utah 2021 Baseline Projections release	7/1/2021	10/1/2021
Utah Refined 2021 Baseline Projections release*	Fall 2021*	Spring 2022*

\*Release schedule has not yet been announced.

We can produce technically defensible projections from the redistricting data, but not the apportionment data, with a delayed release date of October 1, 2021. A more refined version of our projections will be produced once the Demographic and Housing Characteristics file data are available, with a release date dependent on when Utah receives its data file. This later release will contain detailed age and sex distributions as well as household composition. We anticipate that the revision will improve the precision of demographic details, but will not significantly alter the initial baseline totals for population, households, or employment.

We hope that you can accommodate this unavoidable delay in the release of our next 50-year baseline projections. Please let us know of questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Pamela S. Perlich, Director of Demographic Research

CC:

Natalie Gochnour, Director, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute