

U.S. Census Bureau 2014-2018 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates

Today marks the release of the 2014-2018 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS) Estimates. The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides information on social, demographic, and economic characteristics of communities. The ACS began in 2008 and replaced the Census Long Form in 2010. Each year, the Census Bureau provides a new update to both the 1 and 5-Year Estimates. This is the second release shared on the new data.census.gov platform.

This release is particularly relevant for Utahns, because the 5-Year Estimates are available for all geographies, from the state down to census tracts. The 1-Year ACS Estimates are limited to populations over 65,000. Additionally, this release allows the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute to compare changes with the 2009-2013 5-Year Estimates. A selection of the statistically significant changes between the 2009-2013 and 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates are presented in this Fact Sheet. All data points included are available from the Census Bureau at data.census.gov.

Utah in the National Context

The focus of the national release was on the 65 and older population. In this analysis, two counties in Utah received notice in the release for their low and high national rankings. The new data indicates that Utah County has one of the lowest shares of 65 and older people living alone, and Summit County has one of the highest shares of 65 and over individuals with broadband subscriptions.

Trends throughout the decade

Since the ACS provides annual estimates, trends emerge and can be tracked throughout the decade. This approach reduces the likelihood of surprising findings. However, the data reveal the continuation of trends and lends itself to expected findings from the 2020 Census. Some of the major events that have influenced Utah's demographics since 2010 include declining births and fertility rate, an aging population, increasing racial and ethnic diversity, and a strong economy. The ACS data support these trends.

Findings presented do not include Daggett, Piute, Rich, or Wayne counties. These counties do not appear in the comparison tables shared by the Census Bureau, which analyze

Summary of Statistically Significant Changes for Selected Characteristics in Utah

	2009-2013	2014-2018
Median Age	29.6	30.7
Share of population under age 18	31.3%	30.2%
Share of population over age 65	9.3%	10.5%
Family Households with children under 18	39.3%	37.8%
Nonfamily Households, Living Alone, 65 Years and Over	6.7%	7.2%
Foreign-born population	231,369	256,560
Median household income (dollars)	\$63,507	\$68,374
Median family income (dollars)	\$71,941	\$77,732
Median nonfamily income (dollars)	\$36,198	\$38,643
Share of Total Households With Retirement Income	15.4%	16.3%
Share of women age 16 and over employed in labor force	55.8%	57.7%
Share of employed workers with children under 6 with all parents in labor force	50.3%	51.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables CP02, CP03, and CP05

differences between estimate periods. These counties have small populations, which translate to small sample sizes and high margins of error on many of the attributes shared in the comparison tables.

Changing Age Structure

Two major factors have impacted Utah's overall age structure: declining births and an aging population. As previous Gardner Institute analysis has noted, both the total number of births and total fertility rate in Utah have been declining since 2008.¹ Meanwhile, the population in the Baby Boom generation is aging. Although this population is a smaller share of the total population in Utah than in other states, the magnitude of this large aging group still impacts Utah's age structure.

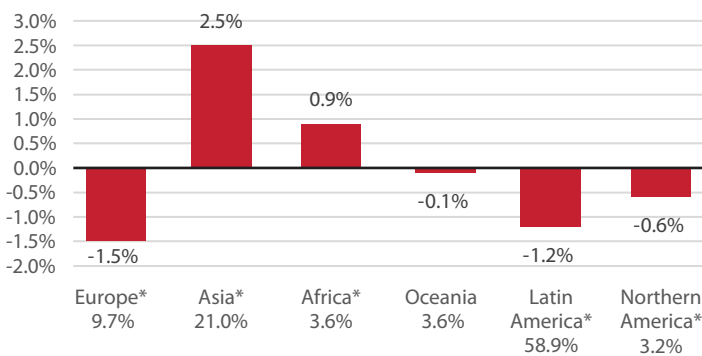
The most recent data indicate that Utah remains the youngest state in the nation, despite the median age increasing from 29.6 to 30.7. The share of population under age 18 decreased statewide from 31.3% to 30.2%. The share of population aged

65 and older increased statewide (9.3% to 10.5%) and in 24 of the 25 included counties. Similarly, family households with children under 18 decreased as a share of total households (39.3% to 37.8%), while the share of 65 and older people living alone increased (6.7% to 7.2%).

Increasing Diversity

Since 2010, net migration has become a more stable component of Utah's population growth.² Migration-driven growth in the 1990s and 2000s brought in new populations to Utah.³ These new populations have increased diversity in Utah across race, ethnicity, ancestry, cultural backgrounds, and more.

World Region of Foreign Born in Utah, Change from 2009-2013 to 2014-2018 with 2014-2018 Total Share



* indicates statistically significant change

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table CP02

Statewide, the foreign-born population increased to over 250,000 individuals by 2014-2018. Previous analysis of the foreign-born population has indicated shifts in country of origin, which were also evident in this data. The Asian-born population has increased significantly, largely due to increasing Asian-born migration since 2010. In this timeframe, the share of the foreign-born population from Asia increased by 2.5%, resulting in 21% share of the foreign-born population in Utah in 2014-2018. The Latin American-born population increased in number but decreased as a share, to 59%.

The racial and ethnic minority population increased from 19% to 21%, with the largest increases in the non-Hispanic Asian and non-Hispanic Two or more race groups. Although the share of Hispanic or Latino population did not increase statewide, they remain the largest minority population in the state with over 420,000.

Strong economy

Utah's economy was one of the fastest growing in the nation this decade.⁴ The strong economy was reflected in several different areas. The share of women in the labor force increased (56% to 58%). The share of workers with children under age 6 with all parents are working increased (50% to 52%). The median household incomes for the total population and for families also increased. Once again, the influence of the aging population was seen, with the state and seven counties experiencing increases in the share of households receiving retirement income.

Endnotes

- Hollingshaus, M., Bateman, M., Harris, E., & Perlich, P. S. (2017). *Fertility in Utah since the Great Recession: The New Normal or a Pregnant Pause*. Salt Lake City: Gardner Business Review, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute.
- Harris, E. (2019). *State and County Population Estimates for Utah: 2019*. Salt Lake City: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute.
- Hollingshaus, M., & Perlich, P. S. (2016). *Migrant Today, Parent Tomorrow: A Zero Migration Simulation*. Salt Lake City: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, David Eccles School of Business, University of Utah.
- Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute. (2019). *2019 Economic Report to the Governor: Highlights*. Salt Lake City: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute.