

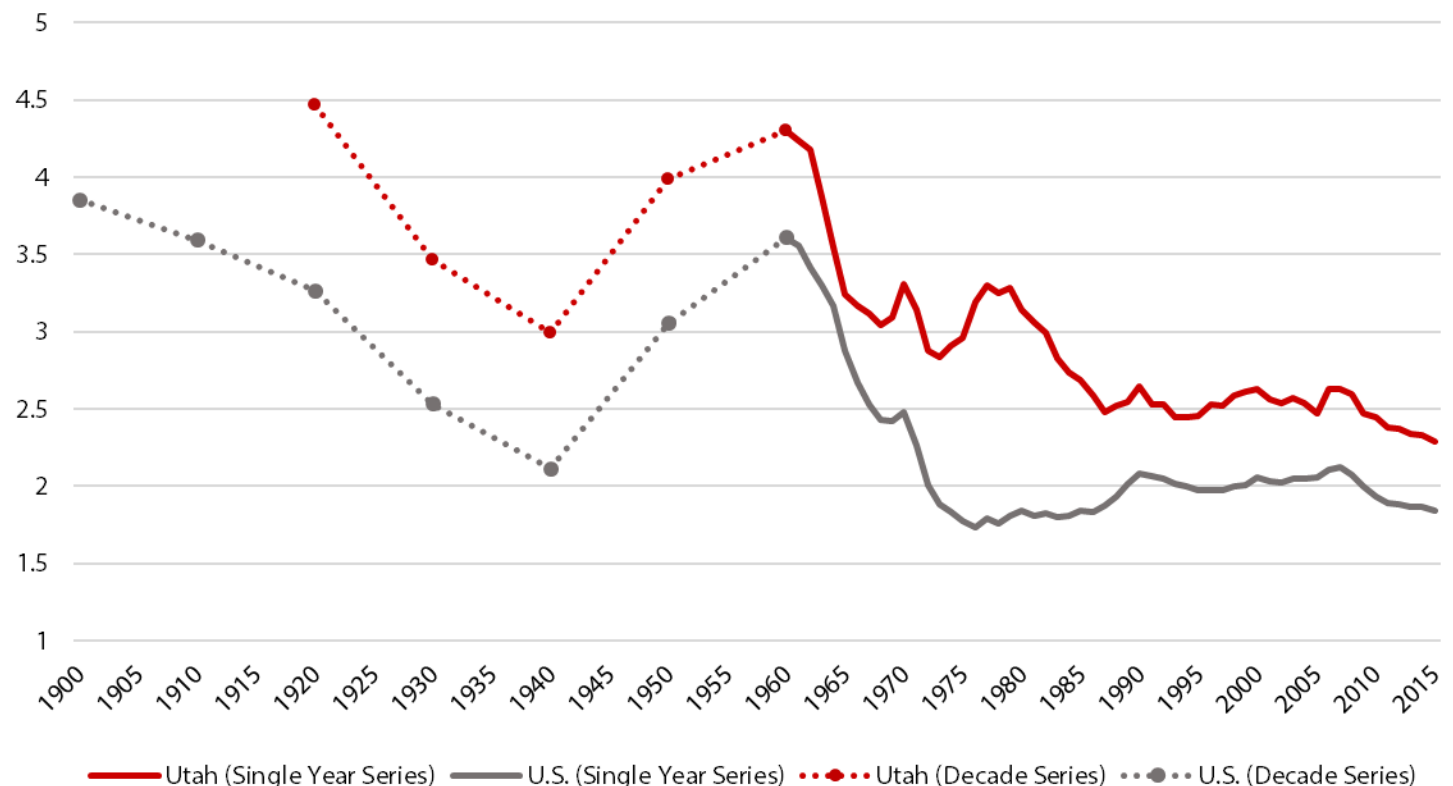
# Utah's Fertility since the Great Recession

The Utah economy continues to experience strong growth and recovered from the Great Recession several years ago. The recession, however, left a lingering imprint on the state's demographics. Starting in 2008, fertility rates in the state began to significantly decline and those declines continue. This may indicate a new trend in fertility rates for the state. Declining fertility, coupled with an aging population, will impact the types of services needed in the future. Resources required for children's health services, public schools, and pre-kindergarten programs will continue to grow, but the highest rates of increase will be for services utilized by seniors as the share of the population 65 years and older doubles to 1 in 5 Utahns.

## Utah's Fertility Rate

- Utah maintains the highest total fertility rate in the nation with 2.29 births per woman in 2015. The U.S. total fertility rate for the same year is 1.84.
- Between 2003 and 2015, Utah experienced its highest total fertility rate in 2007, peaking at 2.68.
- Utah's total fertility rate and annual births have continued to decline since 2008.
- Age-specific fertility rates from 2003 to 2015 reveal decreases for mid-teens, late teens, and those in their early 20s, and slight increases to those in their late 30s and 40s.
- Median age at first marriage has steadily increased over the past decade from 22.1 in 2005 to 24.3 in 2015.

**Figure 1: Total Fertility Rate, Utah and U.S.**



Sources: National Center for Health Statistics; Gapminder; Utah Department of Health; U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Counts; Utah Population Database, University of Utah

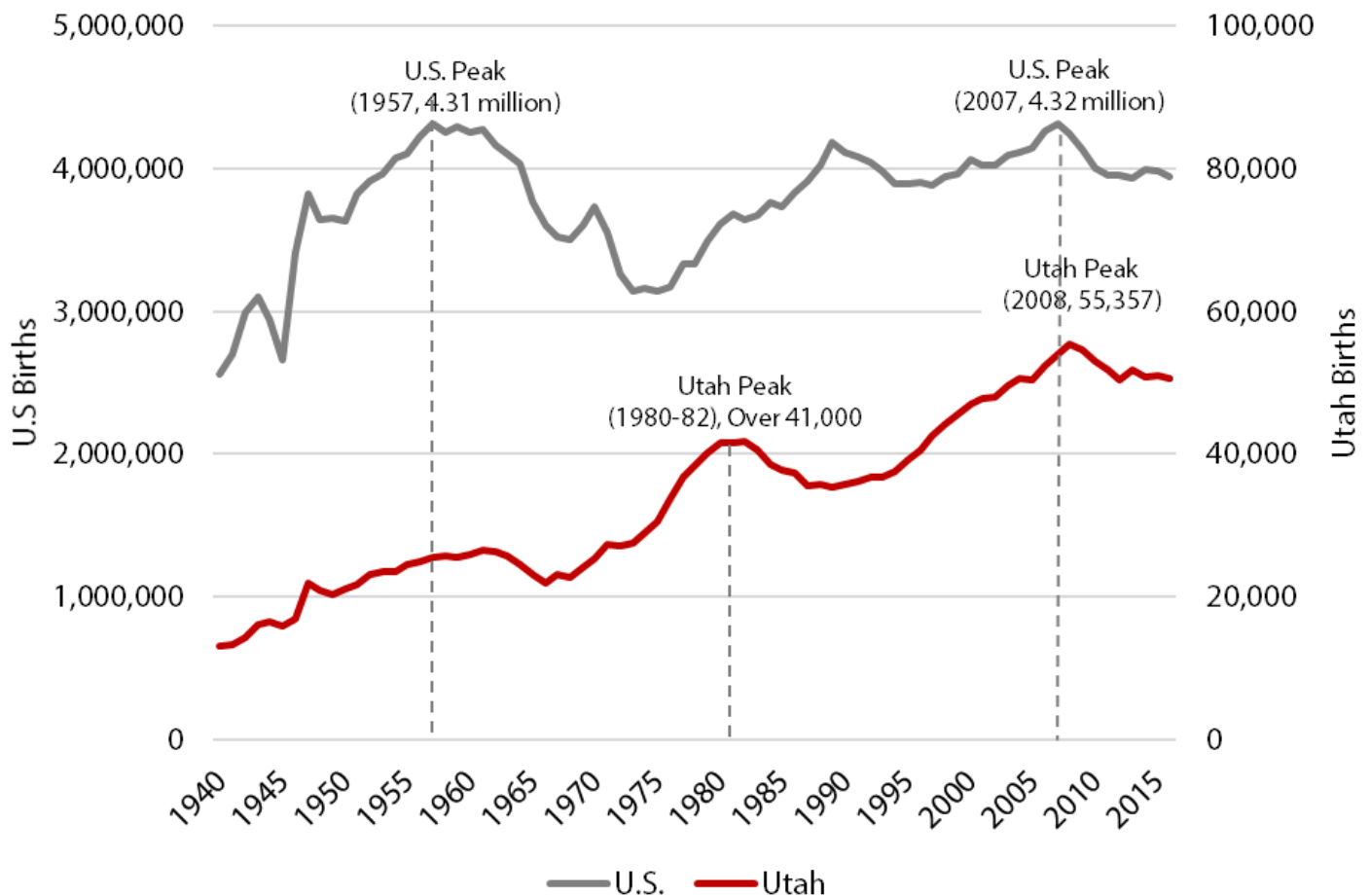
## Historical Births

In the past, Utah's births have peaked at different times than national births. The post-World War II baby boom was not as significant in Utah as it was nationally. In the 1980s, Utah births hit a high while nationally births slowly climbed. However, in 2007 and 2008, both Utah and the nation saw peaks in overall births, then drops in the following years. Figure 2 shows this overall comparison in births for Utah and the nation.

In Utah, the peak in the early 1980s was due to changes in the population, including an increase in migration, an acceleration in the fertility rate, and an increase in the population of women of child-bearing age.

Like the peak in the early 1980s, an increase in migration in the late 1990s impacted the high number of births in 2008. Additionally, females born in Utah during the early 1980s had reached peak childbearing age, further contributing to the 2008 peak.

**Figure 2: Historical Births, Utah and U.S.**



Sources: Utah Department of Health and U.S. Centers for Disease Control for years 1940-1980; U.S. Census Bureau for years 1980-1989; Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Population estimates by sex and single year of age for years 1980-1989; Governor's Office of Management and Budget, 2012 Baseline Projections for years 1990 to 2009; Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute 2015-2065 State and County Projections for years 2010-2065.