

Utah's School- and College-Age Populations

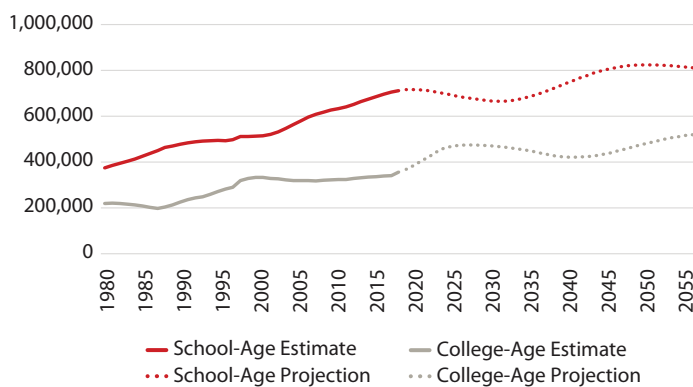
2021 Long-Term Planning Projection Update

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Projections indicate an increase of over 284,000 residents in the school- and college-age groups in Utah between 2020 and 2060. However, this growth is slower than other age groups, and both age groups decrease as shares of the total population. As the state population reaches 5.5 million in 2060, school- and college-age populations are projected to represent 15% and 10% of all Utahns, respectively, compared with 21% and 11% in 2021. While trends vary by county, Utah County drives a significant portion of the absolute growth of both these populations, being home to two-thirds of school-age and one-third of college-age population growth.

The age detail provided in the long-term planning projections published by the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute illustrates how changes in age structure and declines in births impact the school (5-to-17-year-old) and college (18-to-24-year-old) age populations throughout the state over the next four decades.

Figure 1: Utah School-Age and College-Age Estimates and Projections, 1980-2060



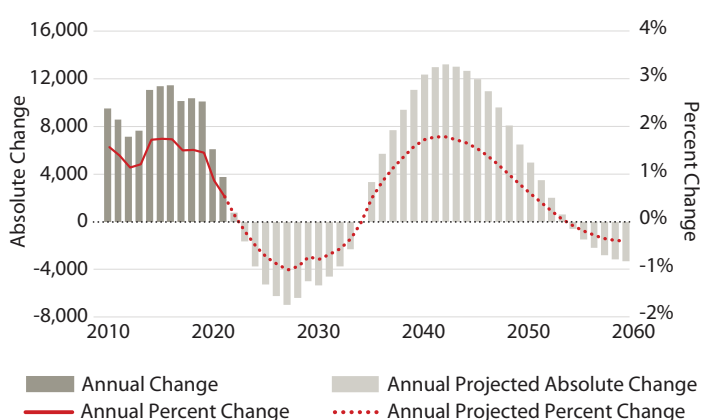
Note: School-age reflects population ages 5 to 17. College-age reflects population ages 18 to 24.
Sources: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Population estimates by sex and single year of age: 1980-1989; Governor's Office of Management and Budget (1990 to 2009), Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Utah State and County Annual Population Estimates by Single Year of Age and Sex: 2010-2019, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute State and County Projections 2020-2060

School-Age State Level Projections

Projections indicate an increase to Utah's school-age, or 5-to-17-year-old, population of nearly 106,000 between 2020 and 2060, with a 0.3% average annual rate of change. This growth will not occur uniformly over the projection period. The school-age population is projected to decrease throughout the 2020s and 2030s before recovering and resuming growth in the 2040s. However, declines are projected to begin again in the 2050s.

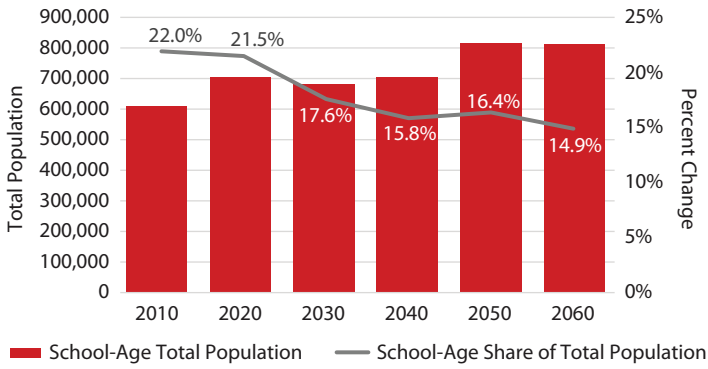
Projections show Utah's school-age population will grow slower than any other age group in the state. Utah's total population is expected to increase by 66% from 2020 to 2060, with the 65 and over population quadrupling. Meanwhile, the school-age population is projected to grow by 15%. As shown in Figure 3, while the absolute school-age population increases, it also declines as a share of the state's population.

Figure 2: Annual Absolute and Percent Change of Utah School-Age Population, 2010-2060



Note: School-age reflects population ages 5 to 17.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute State and County Projections 2020-2060

Figure 3: Utah School-Age Population and Share of Overall Population, 2010-2060

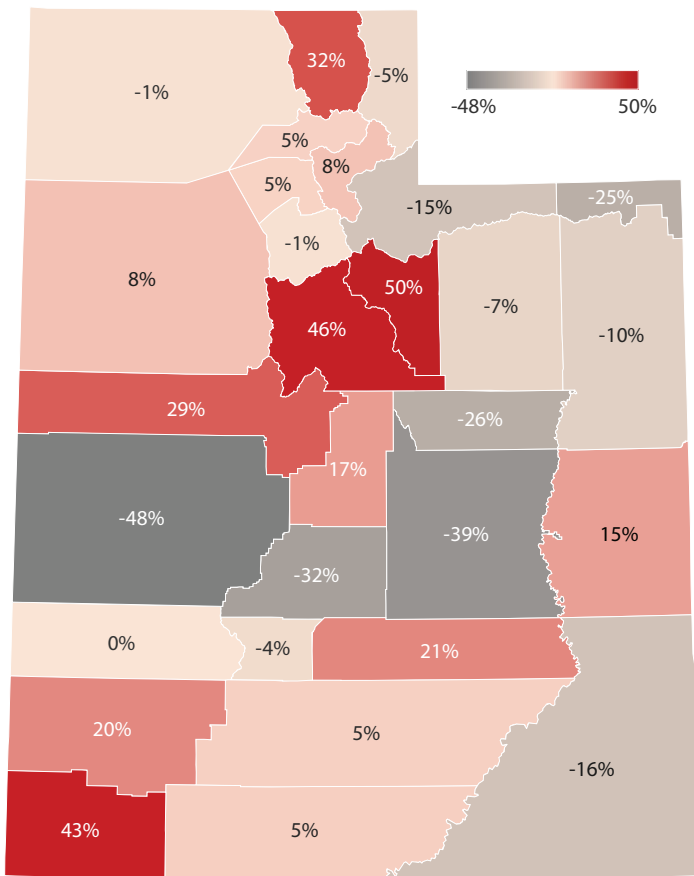


Note: School-age reflects population ages 5 to 17.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute State and County Projections 2020-2060

School-Age County Level Projections

Although 16 counties in Utah are projected to add school-age residents, the share these young residents represent in the total population is projected to decrease. Nearly 93% of the statewide change is driven by three counties – Utah, Washington, and Cache.

Figure 4: Percent Change in School-Age Population by County, 2020 to 2060

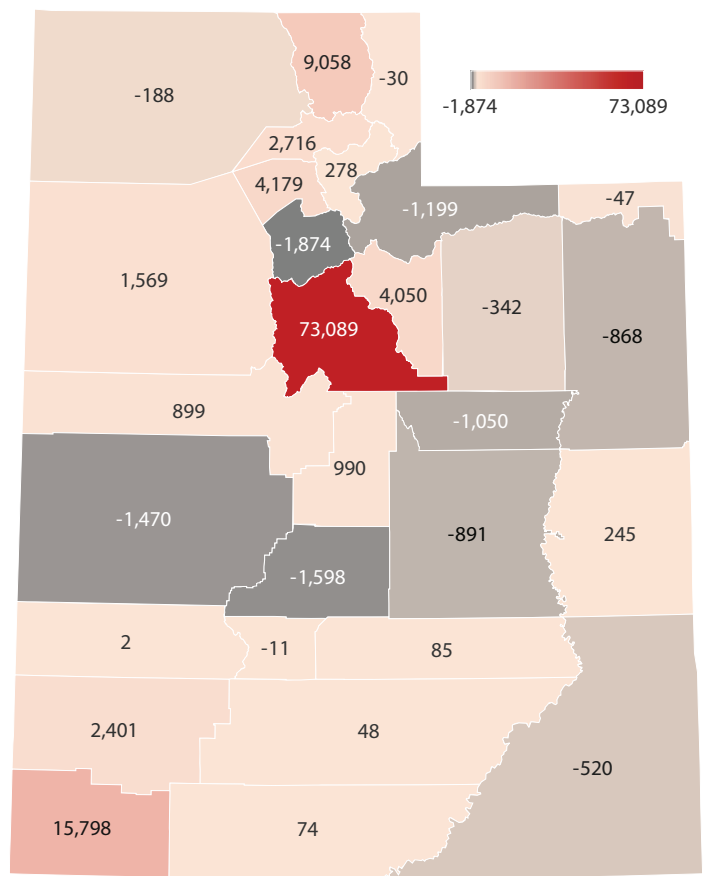


Note: School-age reflects population ages 5 to 17.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute State and County Projections 2020-2060

Utah County, expected to double in total population by 2060, is projected to drive two-thirds of the growth in Utah's school-age population in the same period. Over the next 40 years, this fast-growing county is expected to gain more than 73,000 school-age children, increasing by 46%. Washington County is projected to gain the second largest number of school-age residents, adding nearly 16,000 school-age children. Cache County ranks third for absolute growth in school-age population, adding more than 9,000 school-age residents. Though smaller in total numbers, the school-age population in Wasatch County is projected to increase by 50%, more than any other county in Utah.

Thirteen counties are projected to experience declines in their school-age population between 2020 and 2060. The school-age populations in Carbon, Millard, Salt Lake, Summit, and Sevier counties are projected to decline by more than 1,000 residents. Utah's smaller counties experience the most significant declines, with decreases of 48% and 39% in Millard County and Emery County, respectively.

Figure 5: Absolute Change in School-Age Population by County, 2020 to 2060



Note: School-age reflects population ages 5 to 17.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute State and County Projections 2020-2060

College-Age State Level Projections

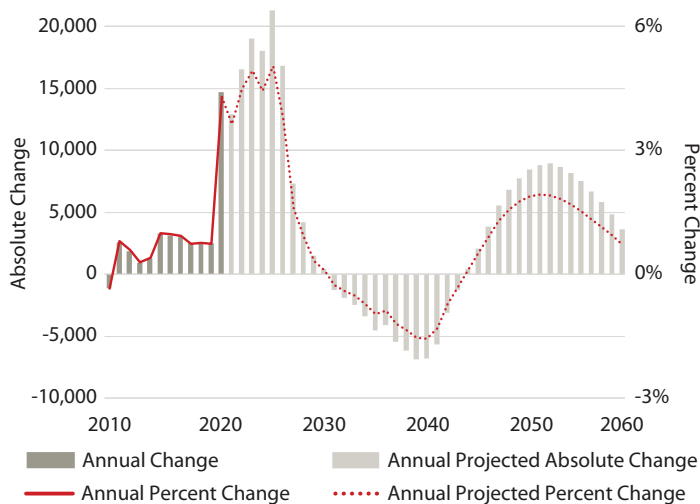
Between 2020 and 2060, Utah's college-age, or 18-to-24-year-old, population is projected to increase by almost 178,000 residents with an average annual rate of change of 0.9%. This population is projected to increase significantly during the 2020s. Projections indicate that the college-age population will decline during the 2030s and early 2040s before transitioning back to a more moderated growth pattern.

Despite periods of growth in Utah's college-age population, this age group is anticipated to grow at a slower pace than other adult age groups in Utah. While the state's population is expected to grow by 66% from 2020 to 2060, the college-age population is projected to increase by 52%. In contrast, the population of adults 65 and older is expected to grow more than 200%. As shown in Figure 7, while the absolute college-age population grows between 2020 and 2060, the group's share of the population drops from 11.5% to 9.5%.

College-Age County Level Projections

Five of the six counties projected to experience the most significant increases to their college-age populations are home to higher education institutions. Between 2020 and 2060, Utah County will see the greatest gains in college-age population of any county, with nearly 63,000 new college-age residents accounting for more than 35% of statewide college-age growth. More than 34,000 new college-age residents in Salt Lake County account for almost one-fifth of Utah's college-age growth. Davis County ranks third, adding almost 20,000 to its college-age population, while Cache, Weber, and Washington counties are each expected to add more than 10,000 college-

Figure 6: Annual Absolute and Percent Change in Utah College-Age Population, 2010-2060

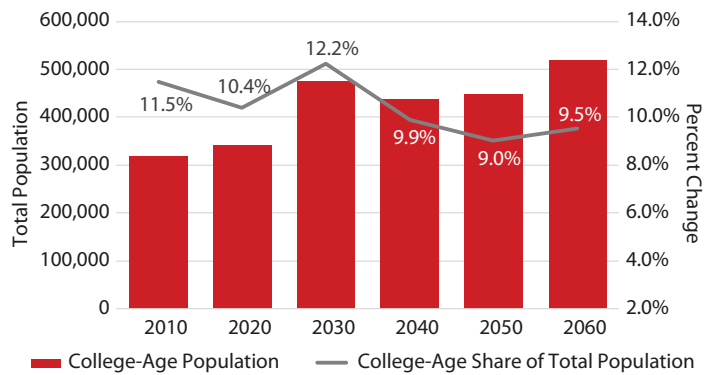


Note: College-age reflects population ages 18 to 24.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute State and County Projections 2020-2060

age residents. Millard County is the only county projected to lose college-age residents.

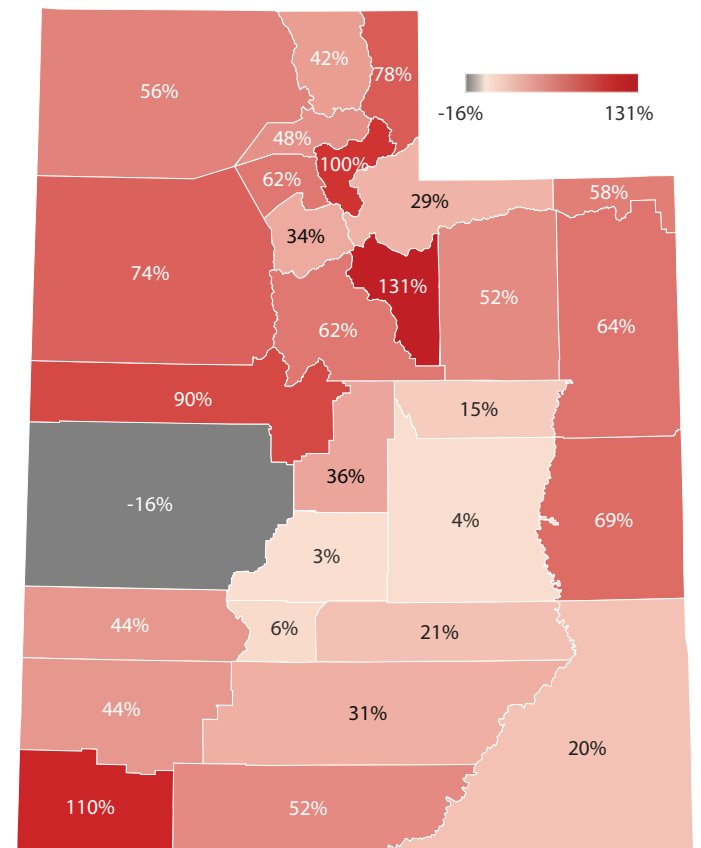
Projections show Wasatch, Washington, and Morgan counties doubling their college-age populations between 2020 and 2060. The college-age population in Wasatch County is projected to grow 131%, more than any other county.

Figure 7: Utah College-Age Population and Share of Overall Population, 2010-2060



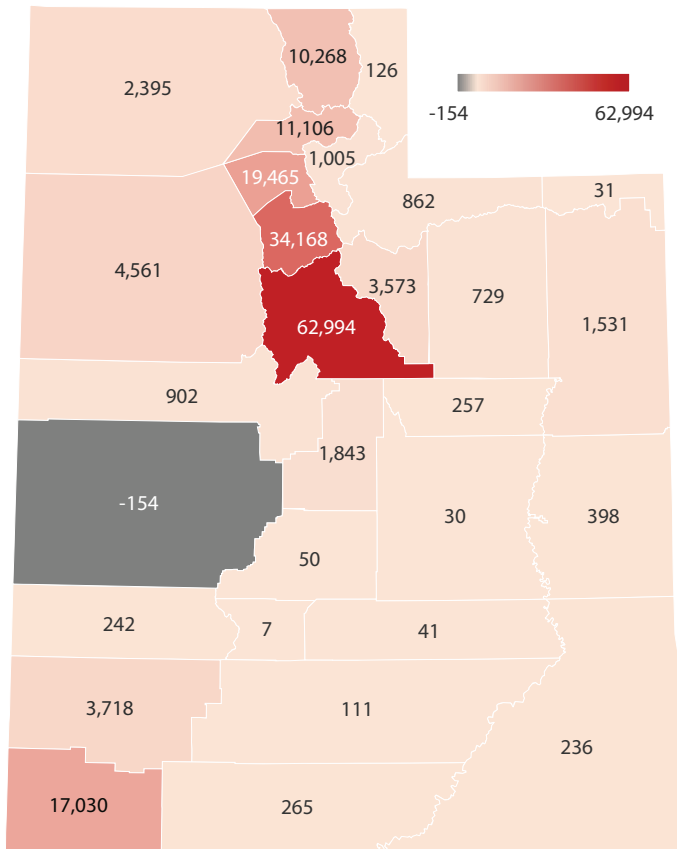
Note: College-age reflects population ages 18 to 24.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute State and County Projections 2020-2060

Figure 8: Percent Change in College-Age Population by County, 2020 to 2060



Note: College-age reflects population ages 18 to 24.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute State and County Projections 2020-2060

Figure 9: Absolute Change in College-Age Population by County, 2020 to 2060



Note: College-age reflects population ages 18 to 24.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute State and County Projections 2020-2060

A comparison with the last version of this report

Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute last released a report on School- and College-Age Populations in 2017, based on the 2017 Long-Term Demographic and Economic projections. The new Long-Term Planning Projections, released in 2022, included revised inputs and produced different results.

INPUTS:

- **Updated Population Estimates** – The 2021 vintage included total population data from the decennial census and intercensal estimates.
- **Different Fertility Assumptions** – Updated fertility rates indicate a continued decline since the 2017 projection series. As a result, the 2021 vintage projects lower fertility rates and lower births.

RESULTS:

- **Projected School-Age Growth Cut in Half**- The 2017 vintage predicted an increase of over 290,000 school-age children between 2015 and 2060, or a 44% increase. Current projections indicate an increase of nearly 159,000 school-age children during the same period, resulting in a much lower 24% increase.
- **Larger College-Age Population**- Current projections indicate nearly 520,000 college-age adults will reside in Utah in 2060. The 2017 vintage projected a 2060 population of over 490,000 college-age residents.

How do Utah’s past birth patterns impact future populations?

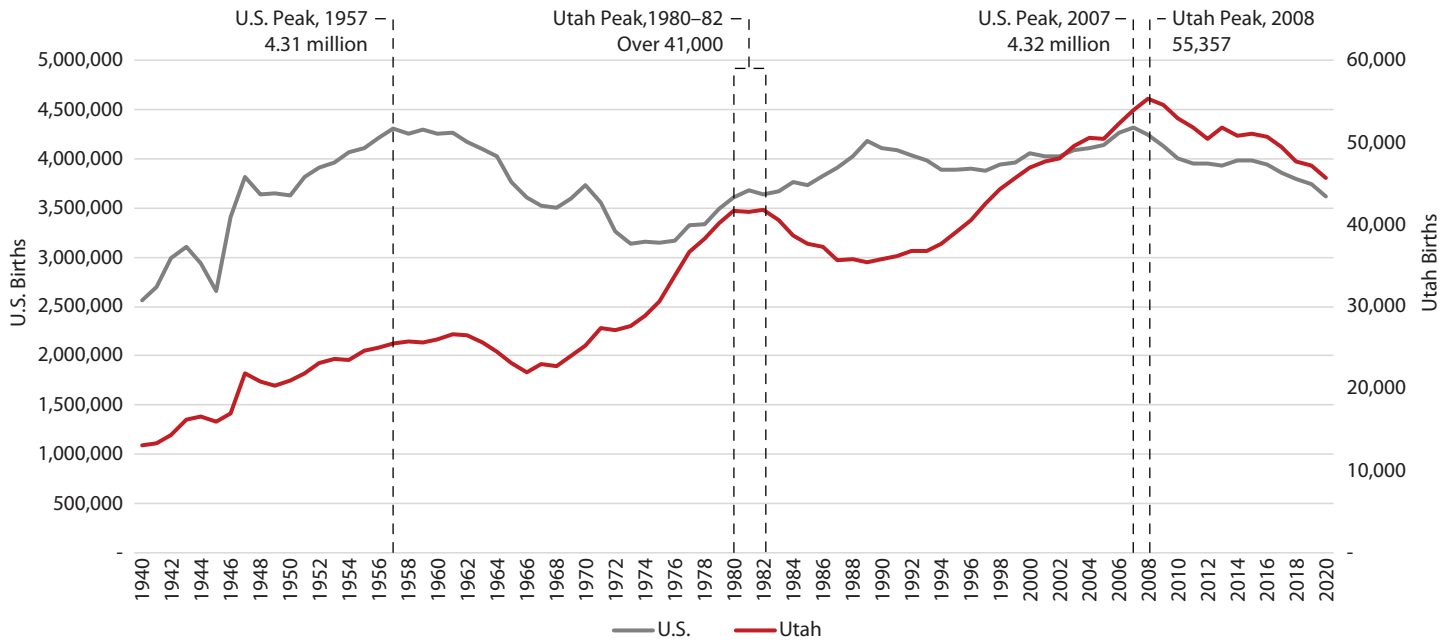
Looking back at birth patterns can provide insights into the fluctuations in the younger population, by linking the number of annual births in past years to the current age structure. To analyze the 5-to-17-year-old population in 2030, sum all the births between 2013 and 2025 and compare with the projected results. Figure 10 provides the starting point of births over time in the U.S. and Utah.

In the 2021 long-term planning projections, the decrease in the school-age population between 2025 and 2035 corresponds to fewer cumulative births 5-17 years prior. A projected decrease in the college-age population beginning in the 2030s corresponds to fewer births in the 2010s, followed by a projected decrease in births until the mid-2020s.

This exercise is helpful for understanding birth patterns and their effects on the current population in addition to inferring how many children in Utah are migrants or how many born here moved away. The differences between the cumulative births

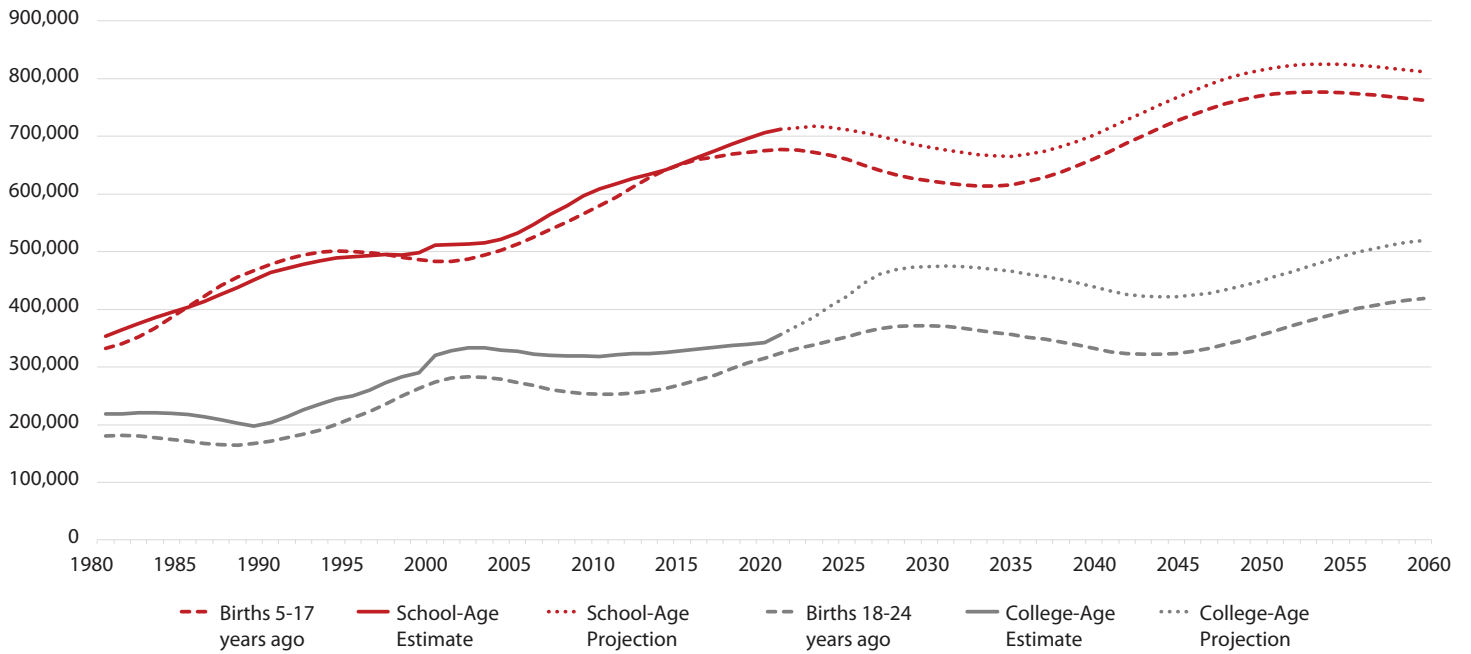
and the projected population, seen in Figure 11, highlight the impact of migration to these age groups. The analysis of these patterns serves as a reminder that it takes time to see the effect of demographic forces.

Figure 10: Historical Birth Series in Utah and the United States, 1940-2020



Sources: National Center for Health Statistics; Utah Department of Health

Figure 11: Utah Cumulative Births, Population Estimates, and Population Projections, 1980-2060



Note: School-age reflects population ages 5 to 17. College-age reflects population ages 18 to 24.

Sources: National Center for Health Statistics; Utah Department of Health, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Population estimates by sex and single year of age: 1980-1989; Governor's Office of Management and Budget (1990 to 2009), Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Utah State and County Annual Population Estimates by Single Year of Age and Sex: 2010-2019, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute State and County Projections 2020-2060

Table 1: Utah School-Age and College-Age Population, 2020-2060

Year	Total Population	School-Age Population (5-17)				College-Age Population (18-24)			
		Total	Absolute Growth	Growth Rate	Share of Total Pop.	Total	Absolute Growth	Growth Rate	Share of Total Pop.
2020	3,284,823	706,174	10,097	1.5%	21.5%	341,924	2,479	0.7%	10.4%
2021	3,343,552	712,289	6,115	0.9%	21.3%	356,612	14,688	4.3%	10.7%
2022	3,403,190	716,069	3,780	0.5%	21.0%	369,573	12,961	3.6%	10.9%
2023	3,464,887	716,832	763	0.1%	20.7%	386,153	16,580	4.5%	11.1%
2024	3,526,992	715,188	-1,644	-0.2%	20.3%	405,171	19,018	4.9%	11.5%
2025	3,588,325	711,428	-3,760	-0.5%	19.8%	423,181	18,010	4.4%	11.8%
2026	3,647,847	706,181	-5,247	-0.7%	19.4%	444,492	21,311	5.0%	12.2%
2027	3,707,365	699,955	-6,226	-0.9%	18.9%	461,304	16,812	3.8%	12.4%
2028	3,765,808	692,969	-6,986	-1.0%	18.4%	468,652	7,348	1.6%	12.4%
2029	3,823,047	686,577	-6,392	-0.9%	18.0%	472,857	4,205	0.9%	12.4%
2030	3,879,161	681,572	-5,005	-0.7%	17.6%	474,362	1,505	0.3%	12.2%
2031	3,934,602	676,240	-5,332	-0.8%	17.2%	474,798	436	0.1%	12.1%
2032	3,989,928	671,647	-4,593	-0.7%	16.8%	473,538	-1,260	-0.3%	11.9%
2033	4,045,806	667,883	-3,764	-0.6%	16.5%	471,616	-1,922	-0.4%	11.7%
2034	4,101,768	665,561	-2,322	-0.3%	16.2%	469,143	-2,473	-0.5%	11.4%
2035	4,158,181	665,512	-49	-0.0%	16.0%	465,753	-3,390	-0.7%	11.2%
2036	4,214,821	668,850	3,338	0.5%	15.9%	461,245	-4,508	-1.0%	10.9%
2037	4,271,482	674,546	5,696	0.9%	15.8%	457,161	-4,084	-0.9%	10.7%
2038	4,327,969	682,242	7,696	1.1%	15.8%	451,693	-5,468	-1.2%	10.4%
2039	4,384,194	691,631	9,389	1.4%	15.8%	445,548	-6,145	-1.4%	10.2%
2040	4,440,560	702,706	11,075	1.6%	15.8%	438,677	-6,871	-1.5%	9.9%
2041	4,496,514	715,056	12,350	1.8%	15.9%	431,836	-6,841	-1.6%	9.6%
2042	4,551,744	728,040	12,984	1.8%	16.0%	426,178	-5,658	-1.3%	9.4%
2043	4,606,307	741,271	13,231	1.8%	16.1%	423,040	-3,138	-0.7%	9.2%
2044	4,659,824	754,297	13,026	1.8%	16.2%	421,771	-1,269	-0.3%	9.1%
2045	4,712,762	766,978	12,681	1.7%	16.3%	422,193	422	0.1%	9.0%
2046	4,765,572	778,942	11,964	1.6%	16.3%	424,270	2,077	0.5%	8.9%
2047	4,817,728	789,884	10,942	1.4%	16.4%	428,103	3,833	0.9%	8.9%
2048	4,869,323	799,488	9,604	1.2%	16.4%	433,670	5,567	1.3%	8.9%
2049	4,920,070	807,575	8,087	1.0%	16.4%	440,464	6,794	1.6%	9.0%
2050	4,969,929	814,074	6,499	0.8%	16.4%	448,177	7,713	1.8%	9.0%
2051	5,019,857	819,056	4,982	0.6%	16.3%	456,612	8,435	1.9%	9.1%
2052	5,069,569	822,540	3,484	0.4%	16.2%	465,441	8,829	1.9%	9.2%
2053	5,119,019	824,546	2,006	0.2%	16.1%	474,359	8,918	1.9%	9.3%
2054	5,167,718	825,157	611	0.1%	16.0%	483,045	8,686	1.8%	9.3%
2055	5,215,630	824,578	-579	-0.1%	15.8%	491,238	8,193	1.7%	9.4%
2056	5,263,304	823,082	-1,496	-0.2%	15.6%	498,774	7,536	1.5%	9.5%
2057	5,310,621	820,890	-2,192	-0.3%	15.5%	505,447	6,673	1.3%	9.5%
2058	5,357,795	818,072	-2,818	-0.3%	15.3%	511,250	5,803	1.1%	9.5%
2059	5,404,637	814,909	-3,163	-0.4%	15.1%	516,051	4,801	0.9%	9.5%
2060	5,450,598	811,572	-3,337	-0.4%	14.9%	519,710	3,659	0.7%	9.5%

Note: School-age reflects population ages 5 to 17. College-age reflects population ages 18 to 24.
 Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020–2060 Projections

Table 2: School-Age Population with Change by County, 2020 and 2060

County	2020	2060	Absolute Change 2020-2060	Percent Change 2020-2060
State of Utah	706,174	811,572	105,398	14.9%
Beaver County	1,645	1,647	2	0.1%
Box Elder County	13,910	13,722	-188	-1.4%
Cache County	28,257	37,315	9,058	32.1%
Carbon County	4,090	3,040	-1,050	-25.7%
Daggett County	189	142	-47	-24.9%
Davis County	88,822	93,001	4,179	4.7%
Duchesne County	4,800	4,458	-342	-7.1%
Emery County	2,302	1,411	-891	-38.7%
Garfield County	932	980	48	5.2%
Grand County	1,610	1,855	245	15.2%
Iron County	11,860	14,261	2,401	20.2%
Juab County	3,055	3,954	899	29.4%
Kane County	1,359	1,433	74	5.4%
Millard County	3,054	1,584	-1,470	-48.1%
Morgan County	3,402	3,680	278	8.2%
Piute County	286	275	-11	-3.8%
Rich County	602	572	-30	-5.0%
Salt Lake County	229,284	227,410	-1,874	-0.8%
San Juan County	3,352	2,832	-520	-15.5%
Sanpete County	6,011	7,001	990	16.5%
Sevier County	4,928	3,330	-1,598	-32.4%
Summit County	8,006	6,807	-1,199	-15.0%
Tooele County	18,613	20,182	1,569	8.4%
Uintah County	9,102	8,234	-868	-9.5%
Utah County	158,059	231,148	73,089	46.2%
Wasatch County	8,174	12,224	4,050	49.5%
Washington County	36,404	52,202	15,798	43.4%
Wayne County	415	500	85	20.5%
Weber County	53,652	56,368	2,716	5.1%

Note: School-age reflects population ages 5 to 17.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020–2060 Projections

Table 3: College-Age Population with Change by County, 2020 and 2060

County	2020	2060	Absolute Change 2020-2060	Percent Change 2020-2060
State of Utah	341,924	519,710	177,786	52%
Beaver County	556	798	242	44%
Box Elder County	4,310	6,705	2,395	56%
Cache County	24,710	34,978	10,268	42%
Carbon County	1,751	2,008	257	15%
Daggett County	53	84	31	58%
Davis County	31,540	51,005	19,465	62%
Duchesne County	1,392	2,121	729	52%
Emery County	709	739	30	4%
Garfield County	361	472	111	31%
Grand County	576	974	398	69%
Iron County	8,486	12,204	3,718	44%
Juab County	1,007	1,909	902	90%
Kane County	513	778	265	52%
Millard County	953	799	-154	-16%
Morgan County	1,002	2,007	1,005	100%
Piute County	121	128	7	6%
Rich County	162	288	126	78%
Salt Lake County	101,186	135,354	34,168	34%
San Juan County	1,163	1,399	236	20%
Sanpete County	5,072	6,915	1,843	36%
Sevier County	1,562	1,612	50	3%
Summit County	2,988	3,850	862	29%
Tooele County	6,124	10,685	4,561	74%
Uintah County	2,390	3,921	1,531	64%
Utah County	101,654	164,648	62,994	62%
Wasatch County	2,719	6,292	3,573	131%
Washington County	15,549	32,579	17,030	110%
Wayne County	199	240	41	21%
Weber County	23,114	34,220	11,106	48%

Note: College-age reflects population ages 18 to 24.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020–2060 Projections