Utah's 2018 population was estimated at 3,116,647. Between 2010 and 2018, it grew by 394,274, representing an average annual percentage growth rate of 1.7 percent. The state remains relatively young with 29.7 percent of the population being preschool or school age (under 18), compared to 10.9 percent of retirement age (65 and older).

However, like the rest of the nation, the state continues to age rapidly as birth rates drop, people live longer, and Baby Boomers reach retirement ages. Between 2010 and 2018, median age rose from 29.3 to 31.4. The retirement age population grew faster than any other age group, averaging 4.1 percent growth annually. For all ages, the state is expected to continue growing, in large part due to above-average birth rates and positive net migration. Utah has emerged as a consistent net in-migration state because of an expanding economy, wide array of outdoor opportunities, and vast network of global cultural and economic interconnections.

How do these Estimates Differ from Census Bureau Estimates?

The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute produces an annual suite of detailed population estimates. These control to official numbers published by the Utah Population Committee. The Census Bureau produces similar population estimates that are used for federal?
purposes. Our estimates incorporate local data sources and knowledge to account for unique Utah characteristics, and also add additional detail. They are generated using statistical models including the Utah Demographic and Economic Model (UDEM).

**Definitions:**
Population is the “usual resident” population, which resides in the geography for more than half the year. Sex ratio is the number of males divided by females. Median age is the age at which half the population is older and younger. Youth dependency ratio is the population under age 18, divided by the population 18 through 64. Retirement dependency ratio is the population 65 and older, divided by the population 18 through 64. Total dependency ratio is the sum of the youth and retirement dependency ratios. All estimates are dated July 1.

**Sources:**
Utah Department of Workforce Services. (2018). Largest Employers by County. Salt Lake City, UT.