

Honestly, I've struggled to write this article. It's not that I don't love delving into the Census 2010 data; I do. It's not that there isn't enough to write about. There is. What's my problem? So much data, so little space to write about it. In the end, I've just decided to whet your appetite with a few of the interesting facts about Utah revealed by the 2010 Census.

But first, let's do a little review. The 2010 Census form was one of the shortest in history. The Census Bureau only asked Americans ten questions related to name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether they rented or owned their home. In other words, no one was asked income, employment, or other detailed demographic information (questions previously on the "long form"). If you are waiting for that type of information to be released from the 2010 Census, stop waiting! Detailed demographic statistics are now available on a regular basis from the American Community Survey (conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau).

The Census Bureau is steadily releasing data from the 2010 Census. As I write, data profiles for states, counties, and "places" are available. Information for smaller geographies (such as Census tracts) should be released later this summer. These data releases can be accessed at

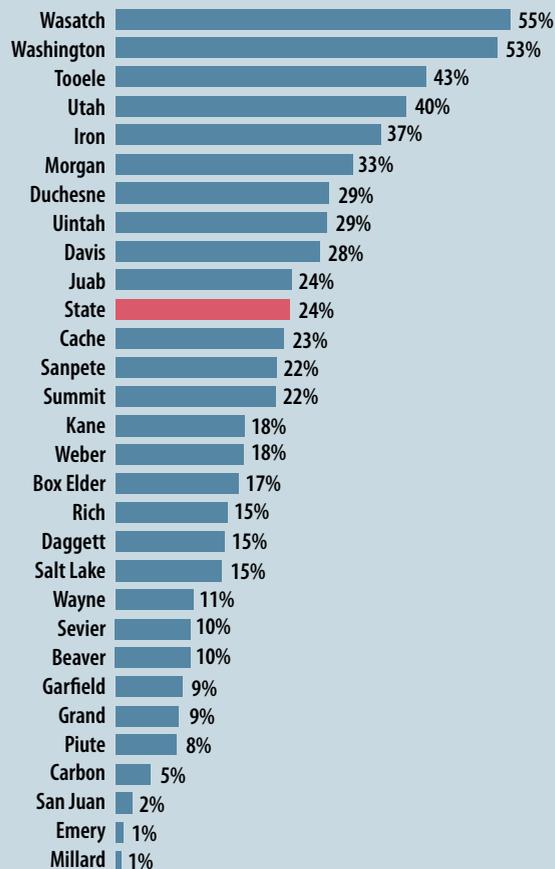
the Census Bureau's "New American Factfinder" web site (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>). I'll warn you right now, the interface is not all that user-friendly, but the site does include tutorials. Plus, the data is certainly worth the effort. Here are those few fascinating Census 2010 facts to spark your interest:

- Although Utah's median age increased from 27.1 in 2000 to 29.2 in 2010 (thanks to aging baby boomers—it is all about us), Utah is still the youngest state in the nation. (In Maine, the median age is a whopping 42.7 years.) In addition, Utah still shows the largest share of population under the age of 18 (32 percent).
- Utah exhibits the second lowest percentage of population in the 65-years-and-older category (9 percent). Only Alaska maintains a smaller share of seniors—7.7 percent.
- Between 2000 and 2010, Utah population ranked as the third fastest growing in the nation (24 percent). And, it was surrounded by other fast-growers—Nevada (fastest), Arizona (second), and Idaho (fourth). Incidentally, Nevada has been the fastest growing state in the nation for five straight decades.

2000—2010 Population Growth

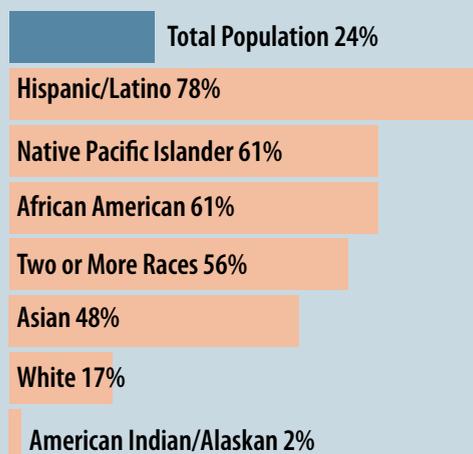
- Two of Utah’s Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) ranked among the fastest-growing in the country. The St. George MSA—Washington County—ranked second, and the Provo-Orem MSA—Utah and Juab counties—ranked sixth.
- Five of Utah’s counties—Salt Lake, Davis, Utah, and Washington—added 40,000 or more residents to their populations between 2000 and 2010.
- Hispanics and Latinos comprise Utah’s largest ethnic/racial minority—13 percent of the population. (Just a reminder—the Hispanic/Latino designation represents an ethnic group not a race. Individuals classified in this category can be a member of any racial group.) Asians—with just 2 percent of total population—make up the next largest minority group.
- Utah’s Hispanic/Latino population has exploded over the last decade with a 78-percent growth rate. In fact, almost all minority classifications experienced more rapid population growth than the majority “white” population. This is probably due not only to in-migration but differences in birth/death rates. Interestingly, Utah’s Native American Indian population barely changed between 2000 and 2010.
- Which Utah county shows the largest minority population? It is San Juan County with its large share of Native American residents. Roughly 56 percent of San Juan County’s population can be considered an ethnic or racial minority. (Once a group accounts for more than half the population, can it truly be considered a minority?) Morgan County shows the least racial/ethnic diversity—less than 4 percent of its population belongs to a minority group.
- Nationally, roughly 35 percent of the population can be categorized as a racial or ethnic minority. Statewide, minorities made up almost 20 percent of the population in 2010. While we may not think of Utah as particularly diverse, 13 states have even less diverse populations.
- Utah has the smallest share of population in institutionalized group quarters (0.8 percent) of any state in the nation. This population group includes people under formally authorized, supervised care or custody in institutions such as prisons, detention centers, nursing homes, mental hospitals, residential care facilities, live-in schools, etc.
- Who has the largest families in the nation? Yes, it is Utah with an average of 3.56 persons per family. However, California ranks a close second with 3.45 persons per family.

Now your data appetite should be thoroughly stimulated. So dig in and enjoy! 🍷



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Census.

2000—2010 Growth in Utah’s Population by Race and Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.