Population Age Pyramid

US Population Age Pyramid

An animated view of the US population age pyramid from 1945 to 2025. Note the baby boomer bulge and the 85+ line the top and how it explodes over time. Data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Age Bands Over Time

Beginning in 2010 there is a sharp increase in % of the population aged 65+. Couple that with a slight decline in working-age population % and the ratio of older adults to working age adults rises sharply from 20% to 31%

population_age_trends.png

Data Sources and Details

Generations

Name	Start Year	End Year
Pre-1883	None	1882
Lost Generation	1883	1900
Greatest Generation	1901	1927
Silent Generation	1928	1945
Baby Boomers	1946	1964
Generation X	1965	1980
Millennials	1981	1996

Name	Start Year	End Year
Generation Z	1997	2012
Post-2012	2013	None

Years used	Official source	Population universe
1945–1979	PE-11 historical age/sex tables, released October 2004	Resident population **plus Armed Forces overseas**
1980–1989	1980–1990 quarterly intercensal files, resident `rqi` series, July quarter	Resident population
1990–1999	1990–2000 intercensal files, US-EST90INT-07, July rows	Resident population
2000–2009	2000–2010 intercensal estimates, single-age all-data file	Resident population
2010–2019	Revised 2010–2020 intercensal estimates, NC-EST2020INT-AGESEX-RES	Resident population
2020 onward	Latest completed annual vintage, NC-ESTyyyy-AGESEX-RES	Resident population

Coverage changes: 1945–1949 excludes Alaska and Hawaii; 1950 onward includes all 50 states and DC. Puerto Rico is excluded. The pre-1980 inclusion of Armed Forces overseas means this is not a fully uniform resident-only historical series. The chart states the universe applicable to its year. Boundary changes and revisions across source series can produce visible discontinuities.

Common age brackets: ages 0–84 are individual years, with a final **85+** bin. Historical files already end at 85+; newer files' ages 85 through their oldest open-ended bin are summed, preserving all people. No interpolation or disaggregation is used. The 85+ bar is an aggregate and can be wider than adjacent single-age bars. The population axis is fixed across all frames.

Revision #3
Created 27 November 2026 04:26:22 by Brian Dill
Updated 27 November 2026 04:51:55 by Brian Dill