

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: July 6, 2015

Information Contact: Janell Hyer (208) 332-3570 ext 3220 or Georgia Smith (208) 332-3570 ext 2102

Idaho Age Groups Show Significant Change in Four Years

Idaho's population is aging faster than the nation's according to estimates recently released by the Census Bureau. Idaho seniors – people age 65 and older - increased by nearly 19 percent from mid-2010 to mid-2014 compared with 14.2 percent for the nation. This group - which includes the oldest four years of the baby boom generation (born between 1946 and 1964) - accounts for 14.3 percent of the state's population.

The age distribution of Idaho's population has changed significantly over the past four years. The numeric change for three of the age groups –19 and younger, 20 to 39 and seniors age 65 and older – has more than doubled, while the number of middle-age individuals between ages 40 to 64 has decreased. Even so, people between the ages of 40 to 64 still account for the largest segment of Idaho's population at 47 percent.

While growth for all age groups through age 64 peaked in 2014, the number of seniors – people age 65 years old and older – has been growing more slowly each year since its peak in 2011.

Idaho residents between the ages of 20 and 39 years of age – identified as the state's workforce of the future – experienced the second largest increase at 1.5 percent and is filling in for a declining number of people between the ages of 40 to 64.

IDAHO	7/10-7/11	7/11-7/12	7/12-7/13	7/13-7/14
Total Change in Population	13,141	11,810	17,253	21,621
19 years and younger	-1,423	-1,996	706	2,654
20-39 years old	2,460	2,217	4,703	6,185
40-64 years old	6,250	1,031	1,357	2,481
65 & over years-old	5,854	10,558	10,487	10,301

Median Age

Idaho's median age at 35.7 was slightly lower than the nation's at 37.7 as of mid-2014. This means that half the population was older than this age and half younger.

Madison County, home of BYU-Idaho, had the lowest median age in the nation at 23.1. Latah County, where the University of Idaho is located, had the state's second lowest median age at 28.6.

Adams County had the highest median age in the state at 53.6. Boise, Clearwater, Custer and Lemhi counties, also with a median age above 50, are dominated by jobs in natural resources industries.

-more-

Idaho's Population Age Groups - Page Two

By the numbers, each of Idaho's 44 counties experienced shifts in population by age. Ada County saw the largest numeric increases across all age groups. Bingham County had the largest numeric decreases for the 19 year olds and younger and the 20 to 39 year olds, and Bannock County had the largest decrease in 40 to 64 year olds. Because more of Idaho's population moved into the 65 and older age group, only two counties – Butte and Clark – had a decrease in that age category.

Detailed Idaho data can be found at <http://lmi.idaho.gov/census>. Detailed data and tables for the nation, states and counties is available on the U.S. Census Bureau website at <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/>

-- end--

