

# Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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## *ISSUE BRIEF*

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### **Vermont's Population: Single-Year-of-Age Numbers for 1996 through 2030**

The Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) has posted a data file containing the number of Vermonters by single year of age for 1996 through 2030. Please note that the Census Bureau reports all people age 85 or older as one number.

The numbers reflect the Decennial Census results for 2000 and 2010 as well as American Community Survey (ACS) estimates for 1996-1999, 2001-2009, and 2011-2018. In addition, we have included the Consensus Administration and JFO projections for 2019 through 2030.

The Excel data file is available at

<https://lifo.vermont.gov/assets/Subjects/Demographics/477b55f47f/JFO-VT-population-1996-2030-july2019-to-post-v2.xlsx>

To illustrate some of the demographic trends that have affected Vermont in recent years and will continue to do so, we present several figures based on the data. Distributions of the population by single year of age in 2000, 2015, and 2030 appear on page 2. Percentage changes in the population by single year of age from 2000 to 2015 and from 2015 to 2030 are on page 3.

Some of the notable demographic trends evident from the figures are as follows:

- Ages 0-18: An on-going decline in the school-age population
- Ages 19-24: An increase in the college-age population prior to 2015, followed by a slight decline by 2030<sup>1</sup>
- Ages 25-44: A drop-off in adults in their early working years prior to 2015, followed by a small comeback by 2030
- Ages 45-64: A sizable increase in adults in their peak earning years prior to 2015 (largely the baby boomers), followed by a hollowing out by 2030
- Ages 65+: Significant increases in seniors in their traditional retirement years throughout the period

Other sources of Vermont population projections show slightly different numbers for both population totals and the distribution of the population by single year of age. However, similar overall patterns characterize the various projections. JFO has looked at projections for Vermont's population from the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center, Demographics Research Group (2018), as well as the now somewhat dated projections from Vermont's Agency for Commerce and Community Development (2013).

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<sup>1</sup> Vermont traditionally has large numbers of college students who stay for a limited number of years.



