

Visioning Wasatch Choices 2040 Population Demographics

The Wasatch Front's rapid growth presents unique challenges to maintaining our quality of life. *Census 2000* ranks Utah as the fourth fastest growing state in the nation increasing in population from 1990 to 2000 by 29.6%. Utah's population growth was surpassed only by Nevada (66.3%), Arizona (40.0%), and Colorado (30.6%) during this same time period. The state's rapid growth and the unique Wasatch Front geography necessitate thoughtful planning if we are to accommodate our increasing population while maintaining our quality of life.

Included in this document are several age pyramids based on US Census Bureau statistics. They illustrate Utah's population and show characteristics unique to Utah when compared with states of similar size from across the nation and with neighboring western states.

As you analyze these age pyramids, you will be able to easily recognize America's baby boom (1946-1964) and America's echo baby boom *Generation Y* (1980-1999). You will also notice that Utah's age pyramid tends to have more of a "Christmas Tree" shape when compared with age pyramids of other states because of Utah's high birth rate, indicating that the baby boom in Utah has never really ended. Finally, you will observe Utah's "missionary cave" which results from the thousands of nineteen, twenty, and twenty-one year old LDS missionaries who leave the state for a two year period.

The Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget estimates that the state's steadily increasing population will reach nearly 2.7 million people in 2008. Our population growth derives from two sources: (1) Utah has the nation's highest annual birth rate at 21.2 births per 1,000 Utahns, which is the equivalent of approximately 57,000 births annually and represents 62% of the state's growth; and (2) Utah has an annual net immigration of 13.1 people per 1,000 Utahns, which is the equivalent of 35,000 people who move to Utah each year and represents 38% of the state's growth.

Replacement level fertility is another useful statistic to consider when studying Utah's unique population growth. Replacement level fertility is the average number of children each woman would need to bear for the population to remain the same size over the long term. It is conventionally taken to be an average of 2.1 children per woman. Utah has a fertility rate of 2.5 children per woman, indicating more than a sustained population.



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

In comparison to states of similar size, Utah's growth is distinct and significantly higher. For example, West Virginia, a state of declining population, has a low fertility rate of 1.8 children per woman which is compounded by a net migration rate of -6.3 people per 1,000. In contrast, Utah's higher fertility rate and a net migration rate of 13.1 people per 1,000 indicate that growth in Utah will continue.

With the nation's lowest median age of 28.5 years, well below the 2005 national figure of 36.4 years, Utah is expected to continue to have the youngest population in the nation. Utah's high population average among reproductive adults combined with the state's high birth rate explain why natural increase is the primary contributor to Utah's rapid population growth. However, even though Utah remains the youngest state in the nation, Utah's senior (65 and older) population continues to grow, especially as Utah's baby boom generation ages beyond 65. An increasing and less mobile senior population will require different types of transportation and will benefit significantly from the development of walkable communities.

Utah's increasing young population and aging baby boomers, along with record-high gas prices and traffic congestion, necessitate that our communities consider various strategies to accommodate our changing demographics. The monetary benefits of living in a walkable neighborhood located near employment, schools and retail is explained in a July 17, 2008, MarketWatch article by Amy Hoak, entitled *Walk This Way*, wherein she includes recently released research by the Center for Neighborhood Technology that shows people who live near transit, jobs, schools, and retail spend up to \$2,100 less a year on gasoline than those who live in outer-ring suburbs where more driving is required.

The Wasatch Front Regional Council adopted the Wasatch Choices 2040 growth principles and encourages building neighborhoods where one can live, work and shop within a walkable distance and close proximity to transit. The Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget estimates Utah's population will double by 2040 reaching 5.1 million. The Wasatch Front Region (Salt Lake, Davis, Weber counties) will increase from 1.6 million in 2007 to 2.7 million by 2040. Working together in a collaborative endeavor, we can accommodate this growth by building and redeveloping our communities into neighborhoods with affordable housing and easy access to employment, transit, schools, retail centers, parks, and recreational opportunities.

The growth principles and strategies published in Wasatch Choices 2040 will help us visualize, prepare for, and plan Utah's future growth. Their implementation will result in sustainable, livable, and desirable neighborhoods where living, working, and shopping are a simple walk or bike ride away. Then, as our interdependent region continues to grow, Utahns will realize an improved quality of life.

Sources – All data is provided by the US Census Bureau at www.census.gov unless otherwise stated.

Population Demographics

**Utah's Age Pyramid
compared with those of
states of similar size**

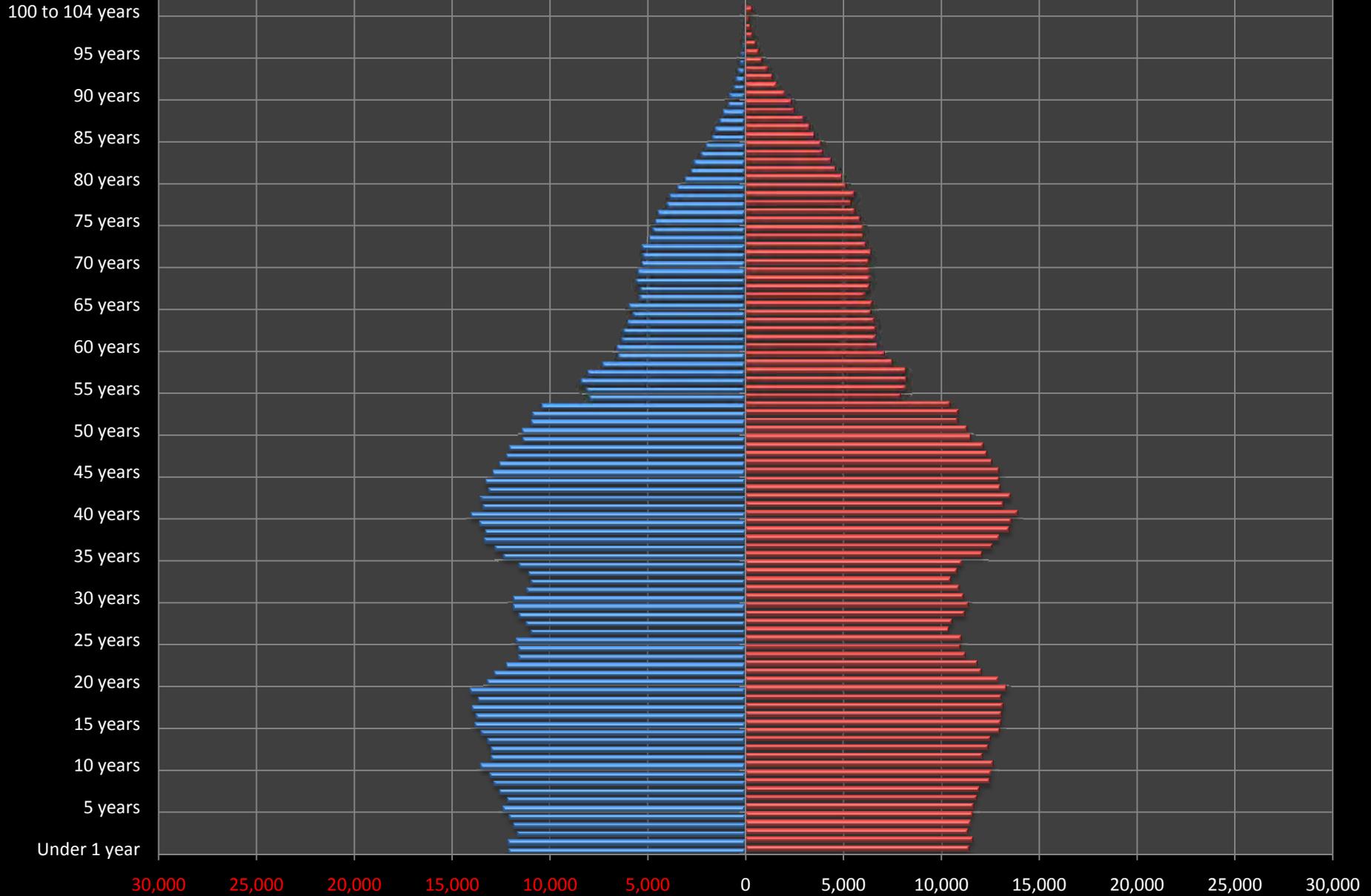
Nebraska Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 1,711,263
Birth Rate: 15.1

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.2
Net Migration Rate: -9.7

Male

Female



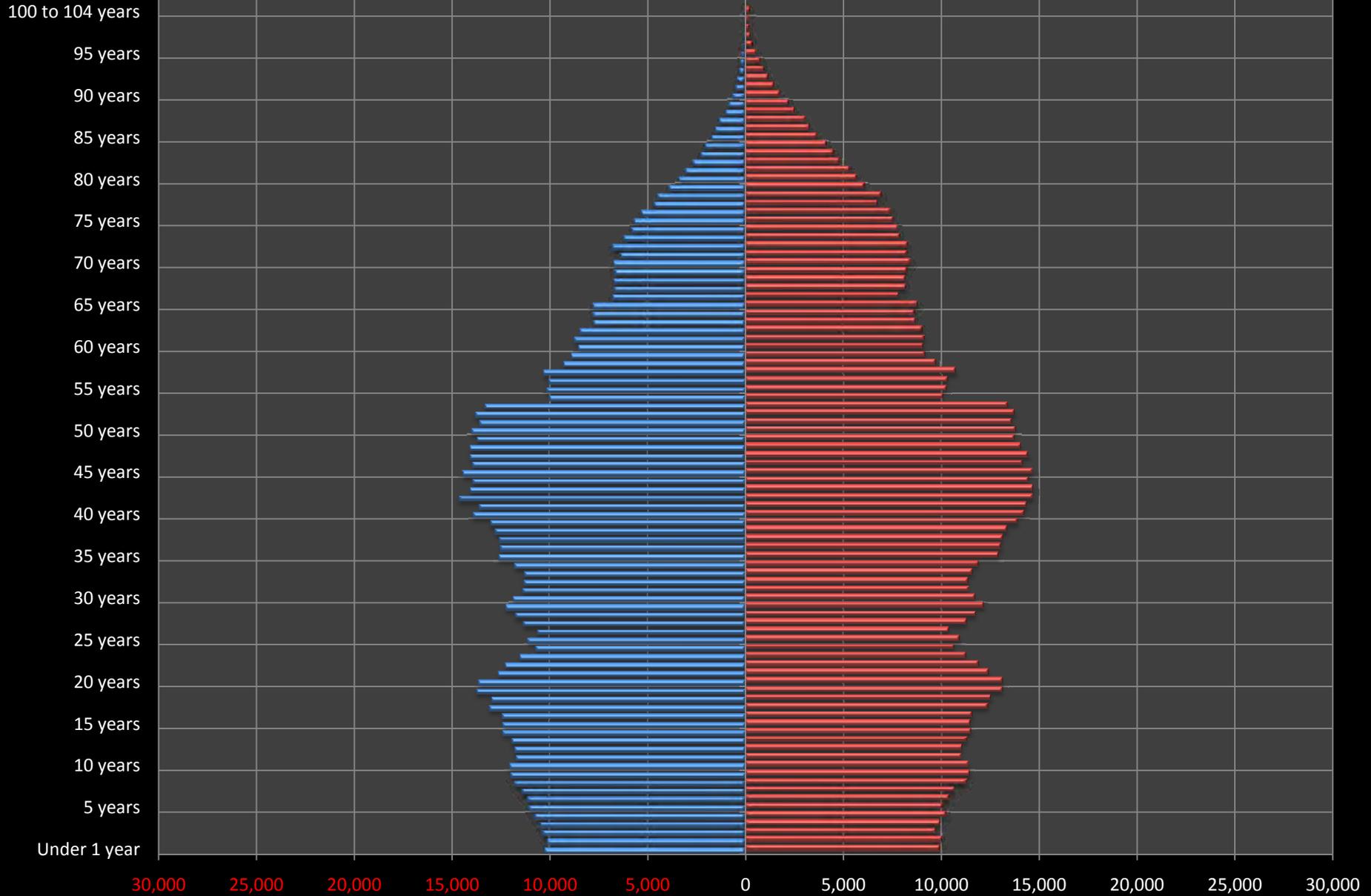
West Virginia Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 1,808,344
Birth Rate: 11.5

Replacement Level Fertility: 1.8
Net Migration Rate: -6.3

Male

Female



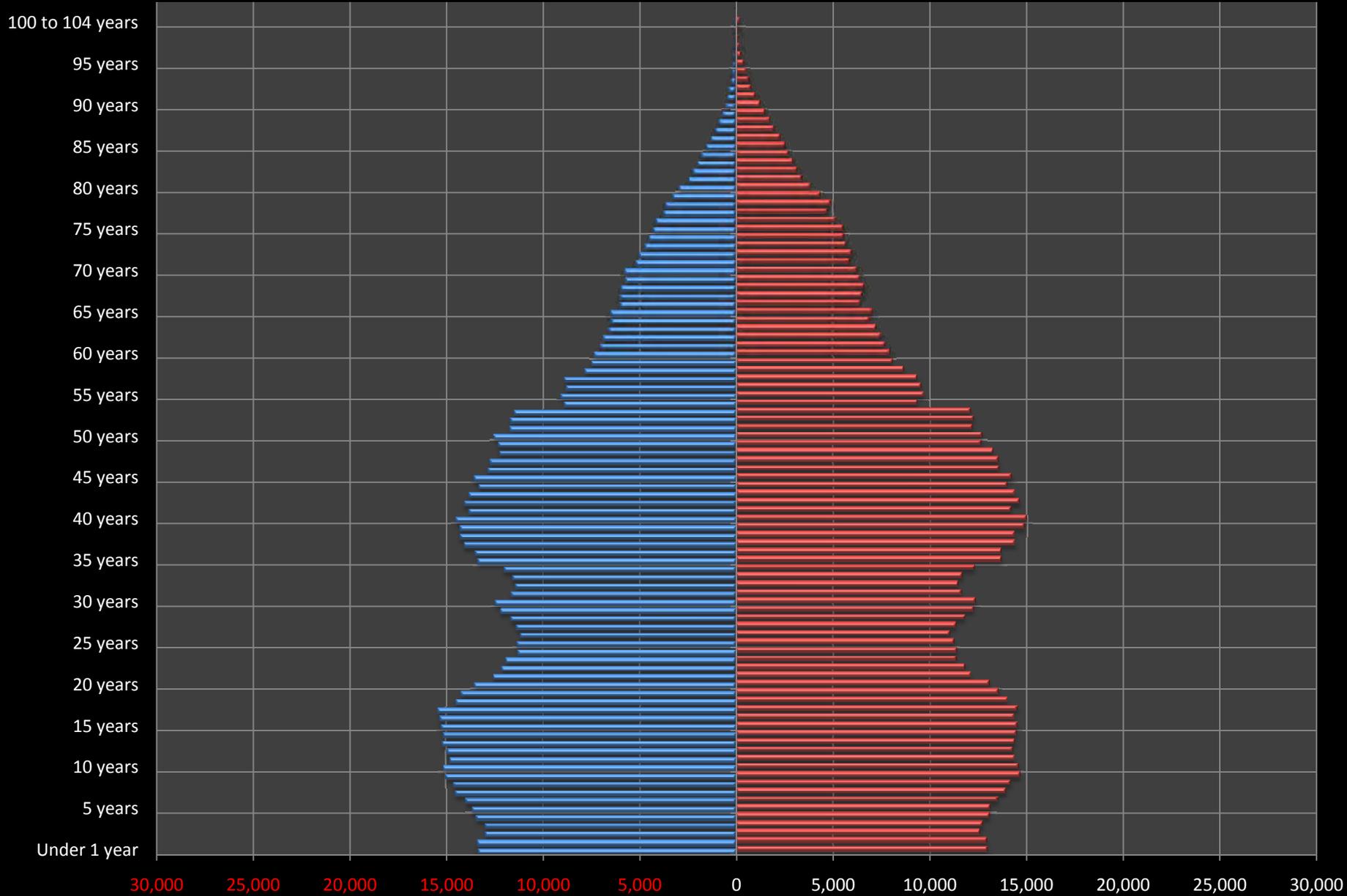
New Mexico Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 1,819,046
Birth Rate: 14.9

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.2
Net Migration Rate: -17.8

Male

Female



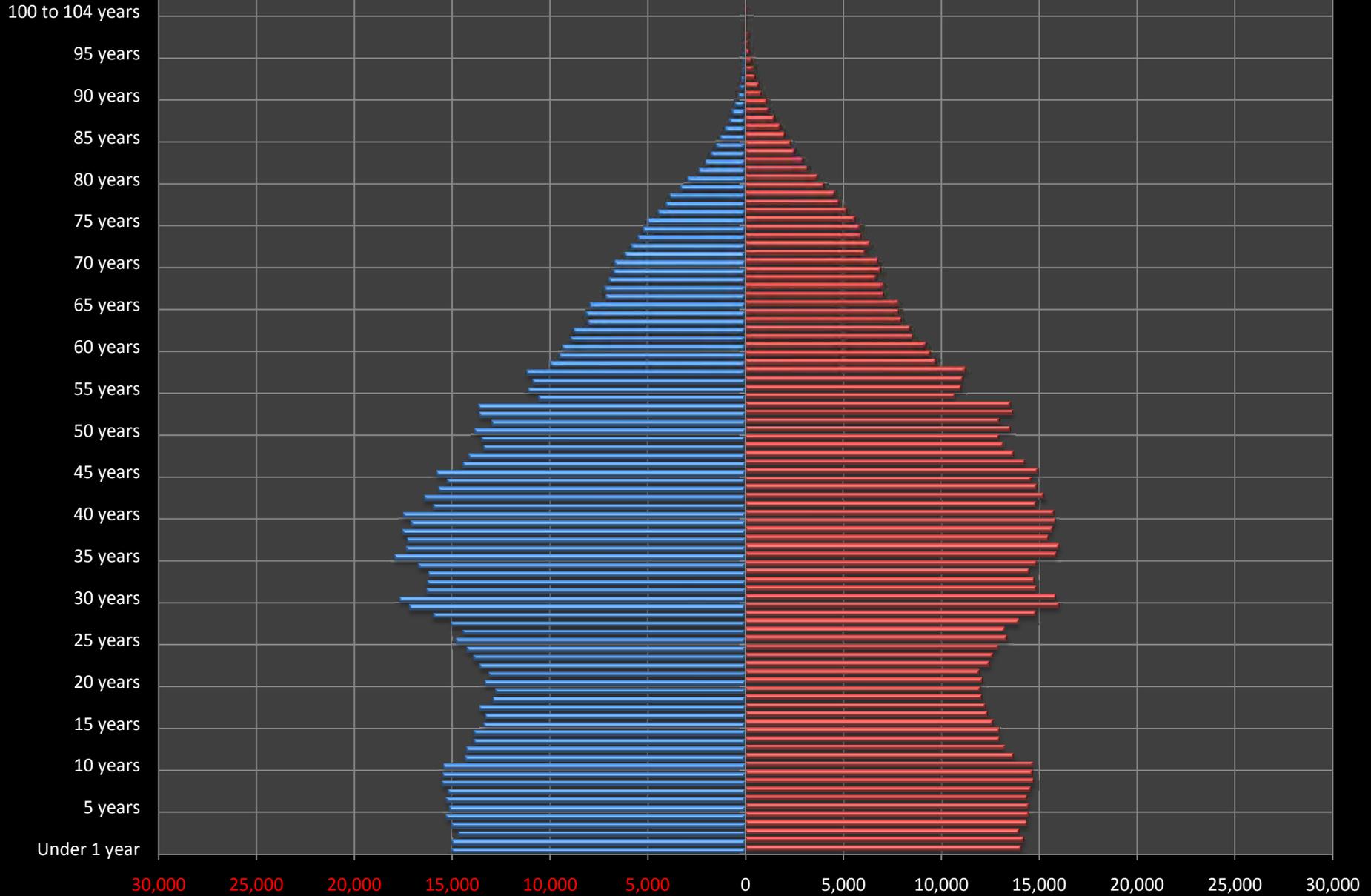
Nevada Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 1,998,257
Birth Rate: 15.1

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.2
Net Migration Rate: 151.5

Male

Female



Utah Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 2,233,169
Birth Rate: 21.2

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.5
Net Migration Rate: 13.1

Male

Female



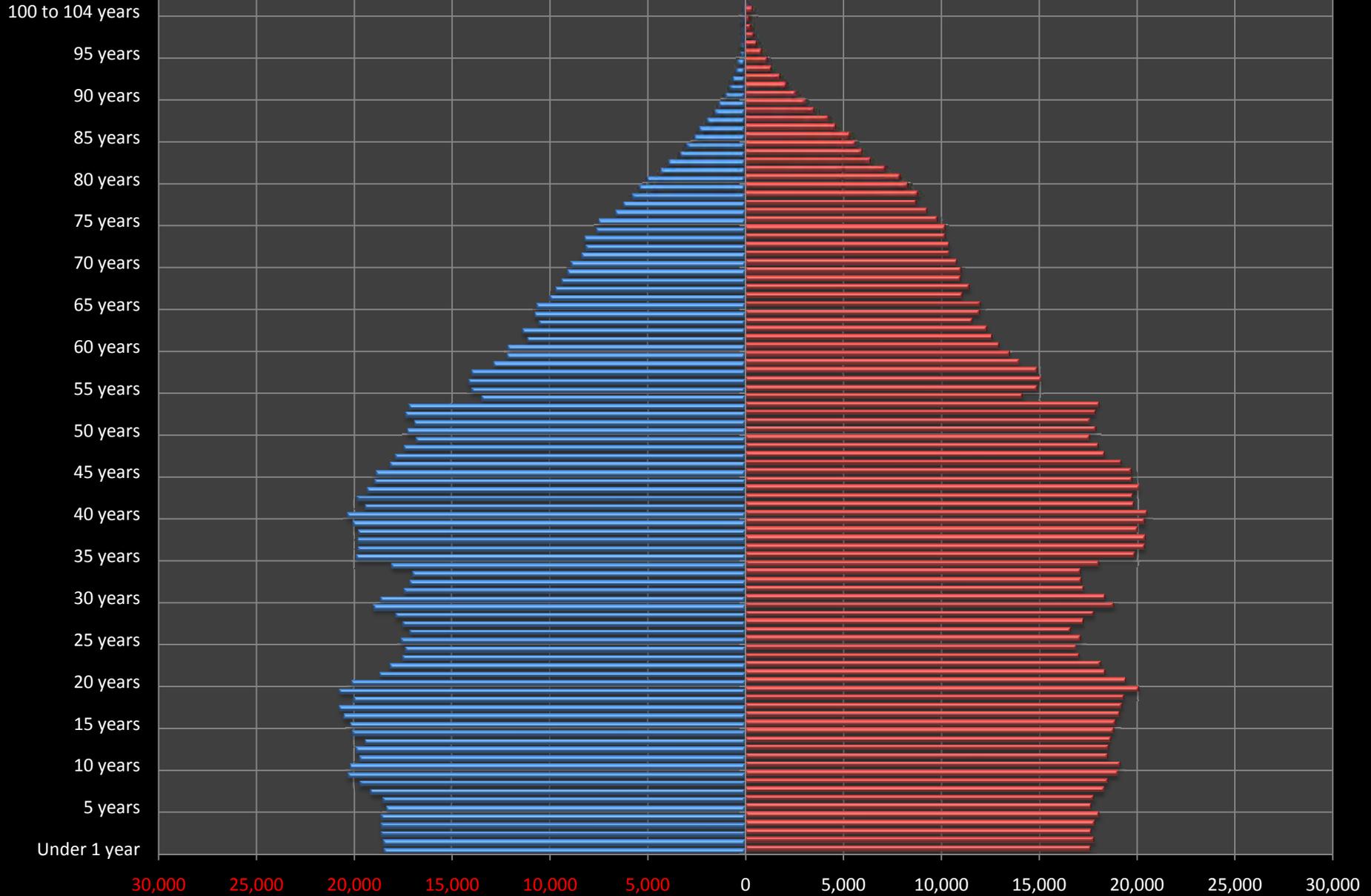
Arkansas Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 2,673,400
Birth Rate: 14.0

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.1
Net Migration Rate: 17.4

Male

Female



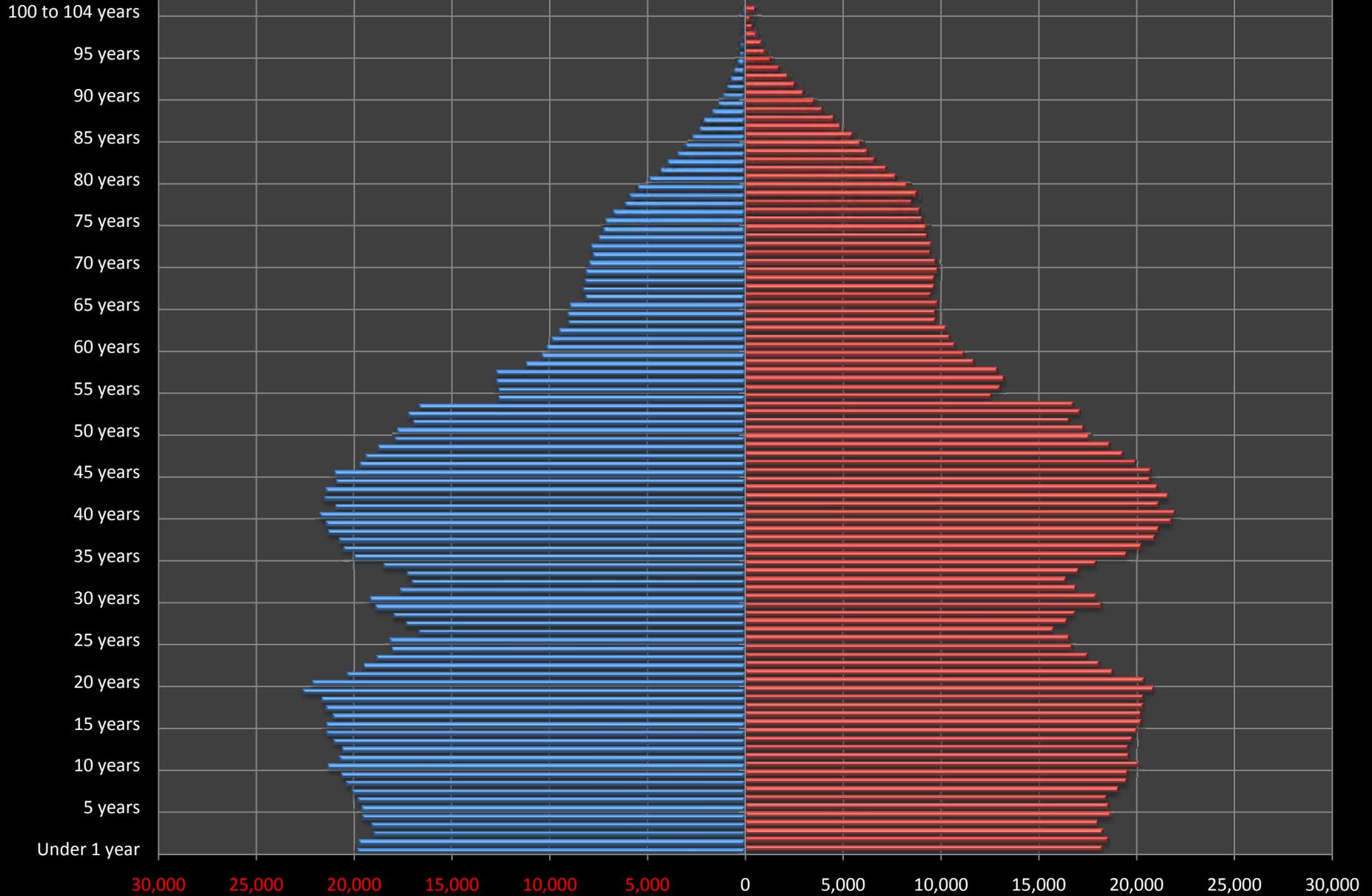
Kansas Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 2,688,418
Birth Rate: 14.5

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.1
Net Migration Rate: -3.2

Male

Female



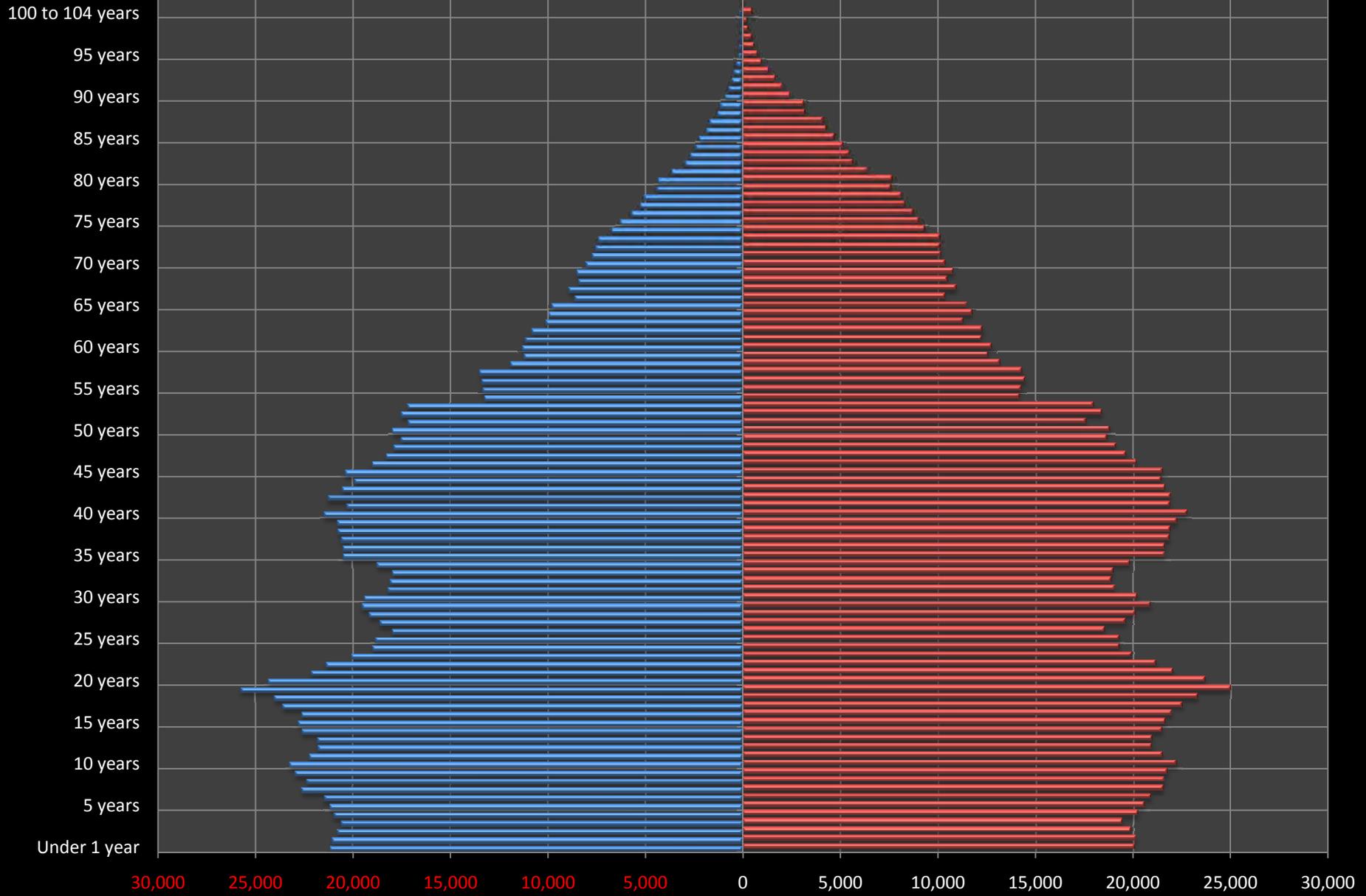
Mississippi Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 2,844,658
Birth Rate: 14.8

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.0
Net Migration Rate: 10.4

Male

Female



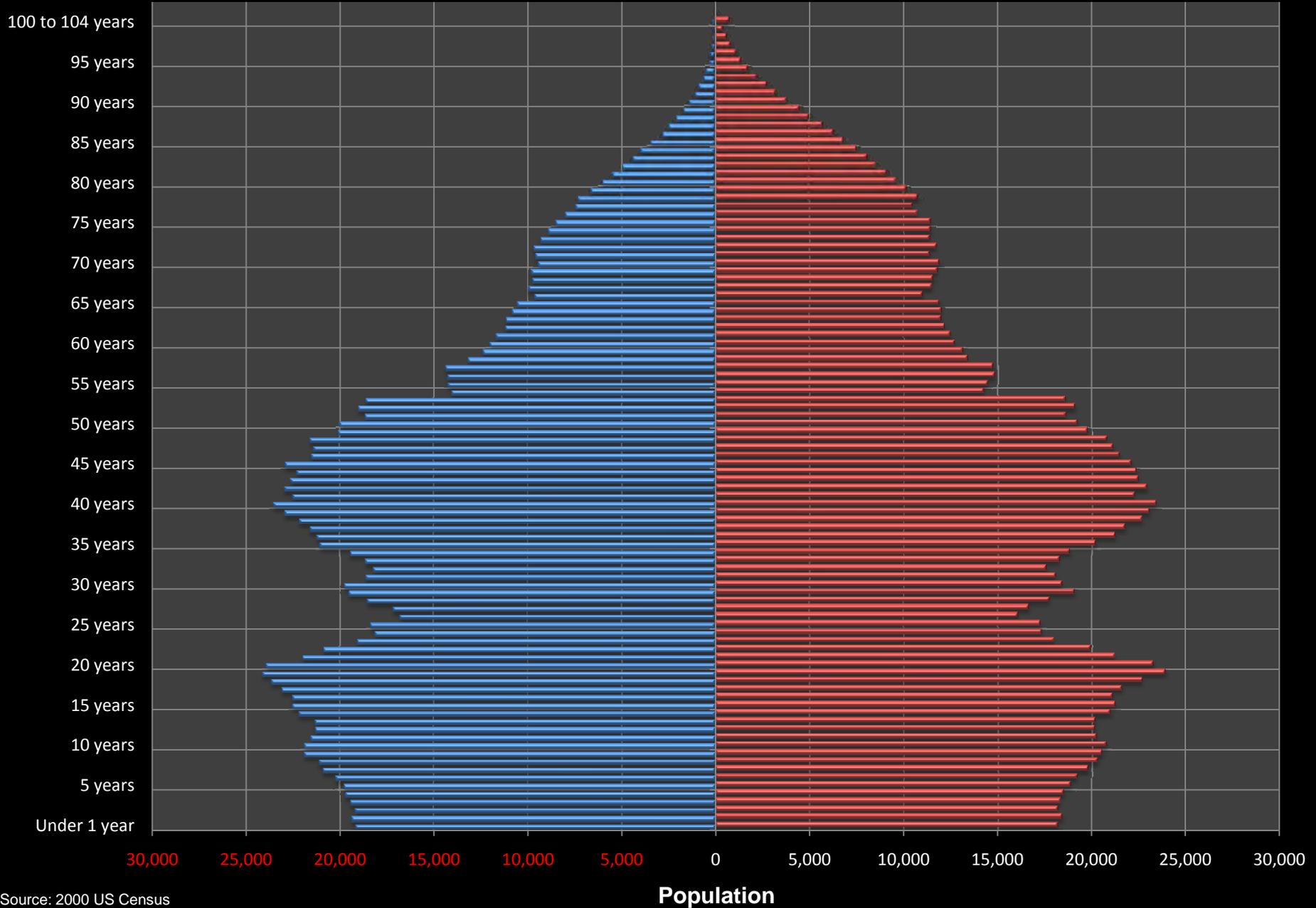
Iowa Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 2,926,324
Birth Rate: 13.0

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.0
Net Migration Rate: -12.1

Male

Female



Population Demographics

Utah's Age Pyramid compared with those of the eleven western states

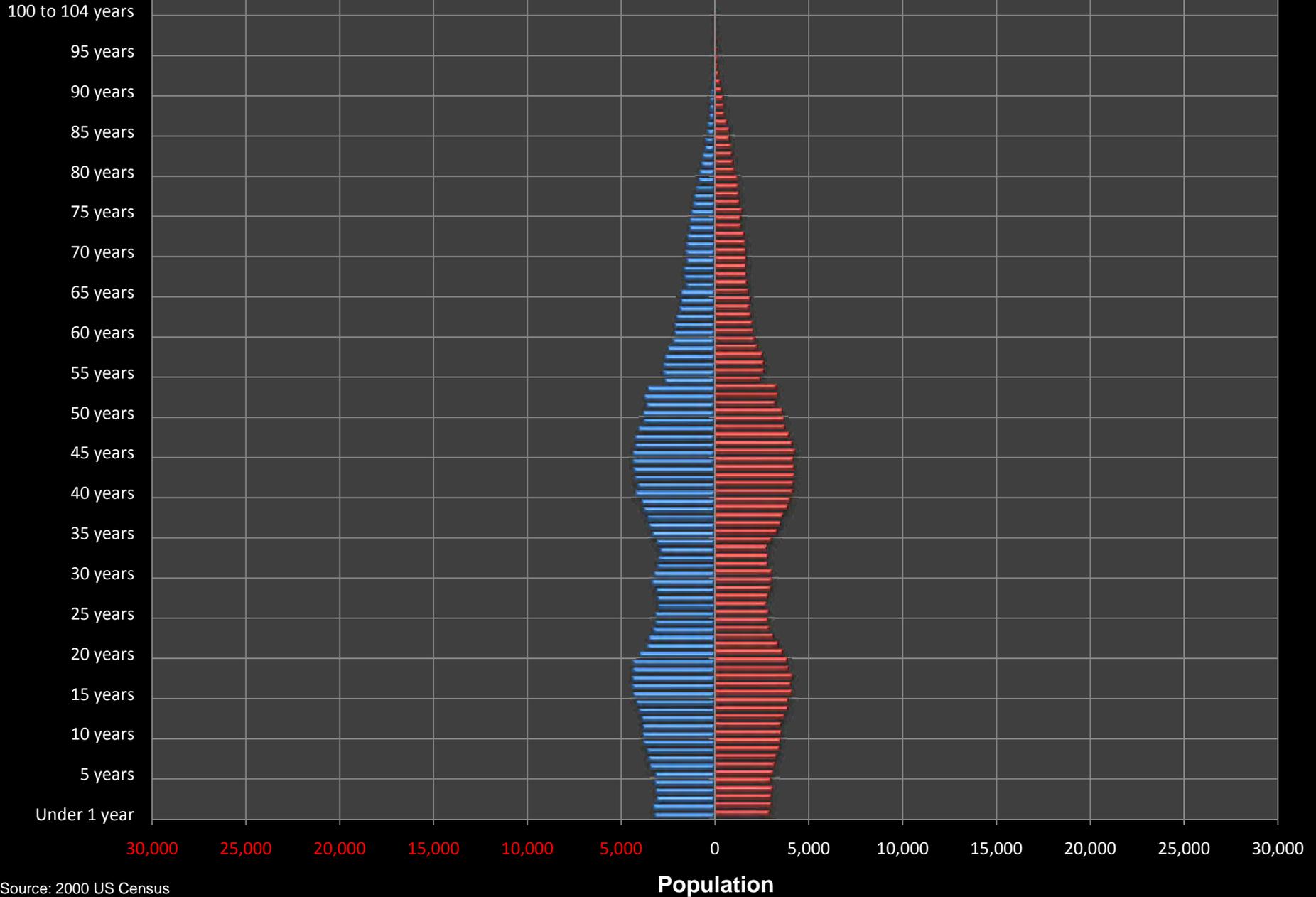
Wyoming Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 493,782
Birth Rate: 13.4

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.1
Net Migration Rate: -26.6

Male

Female



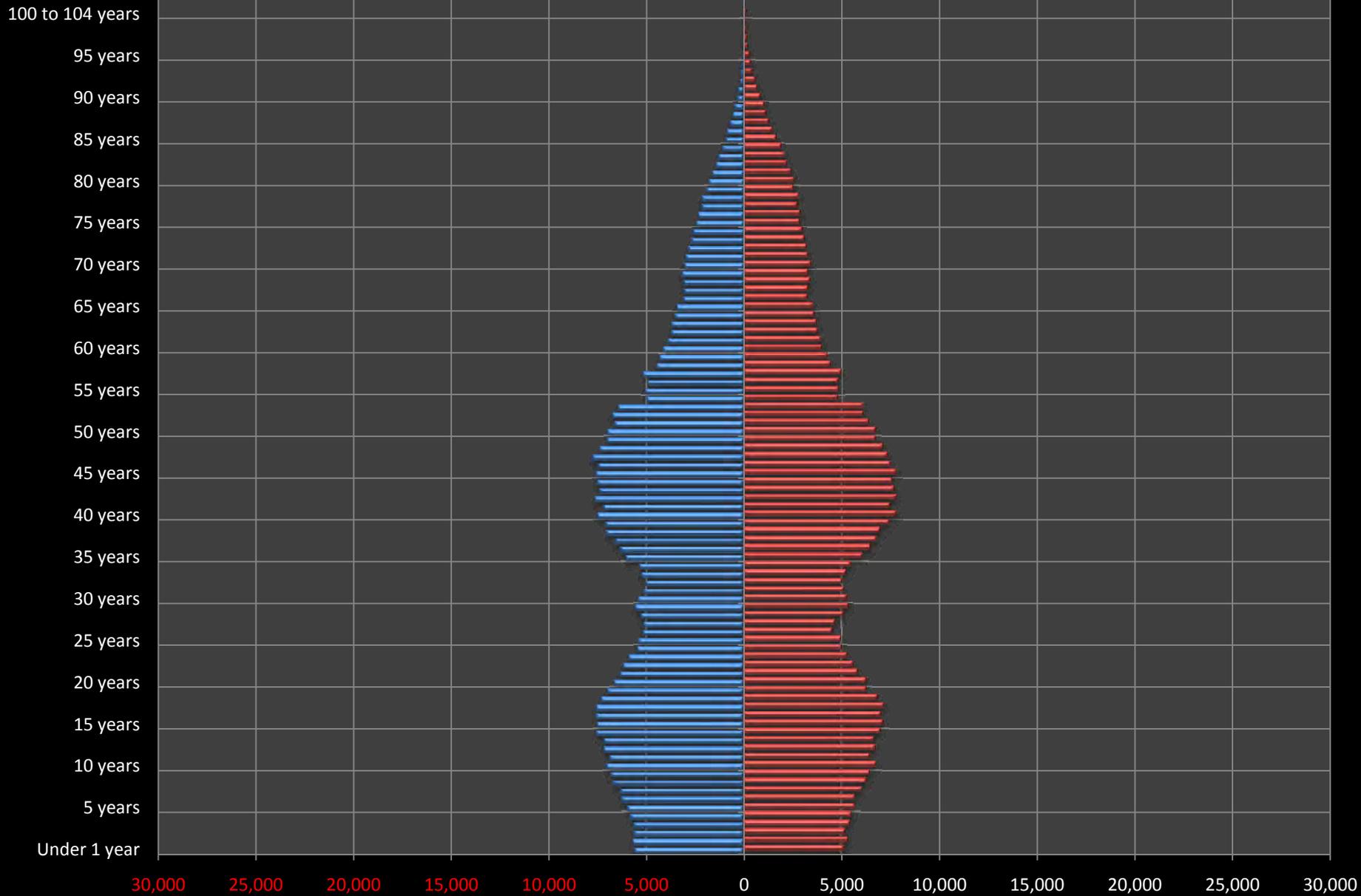
Montana Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 902,195
Birth Rate: 12.4

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.0
Net Migration Rate: -6.1

Male

Female



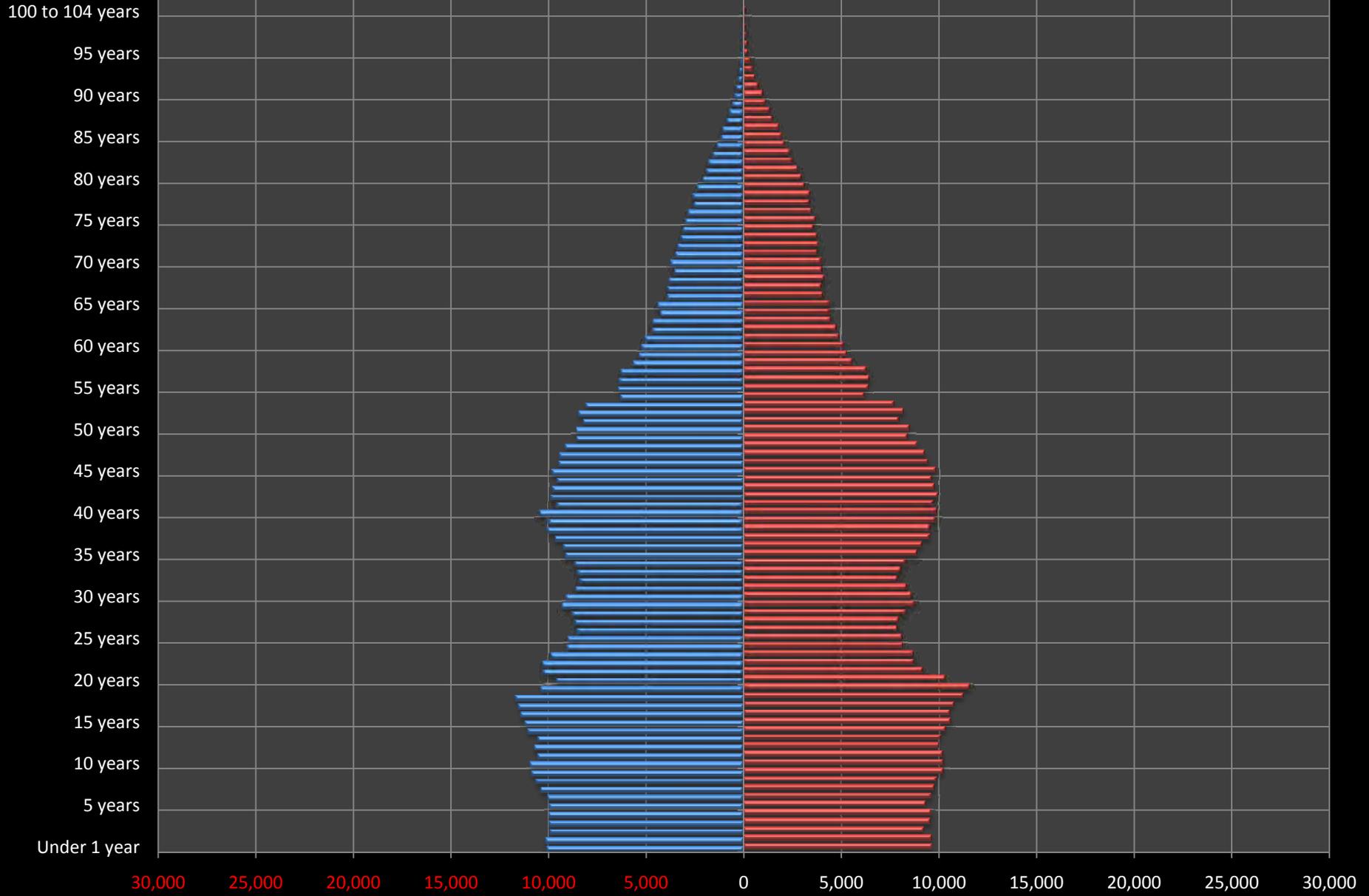
Idaho Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 1,293,953
Birth Rate: 16.2

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.3
Net Migration Rate: 29.6

Male

Female



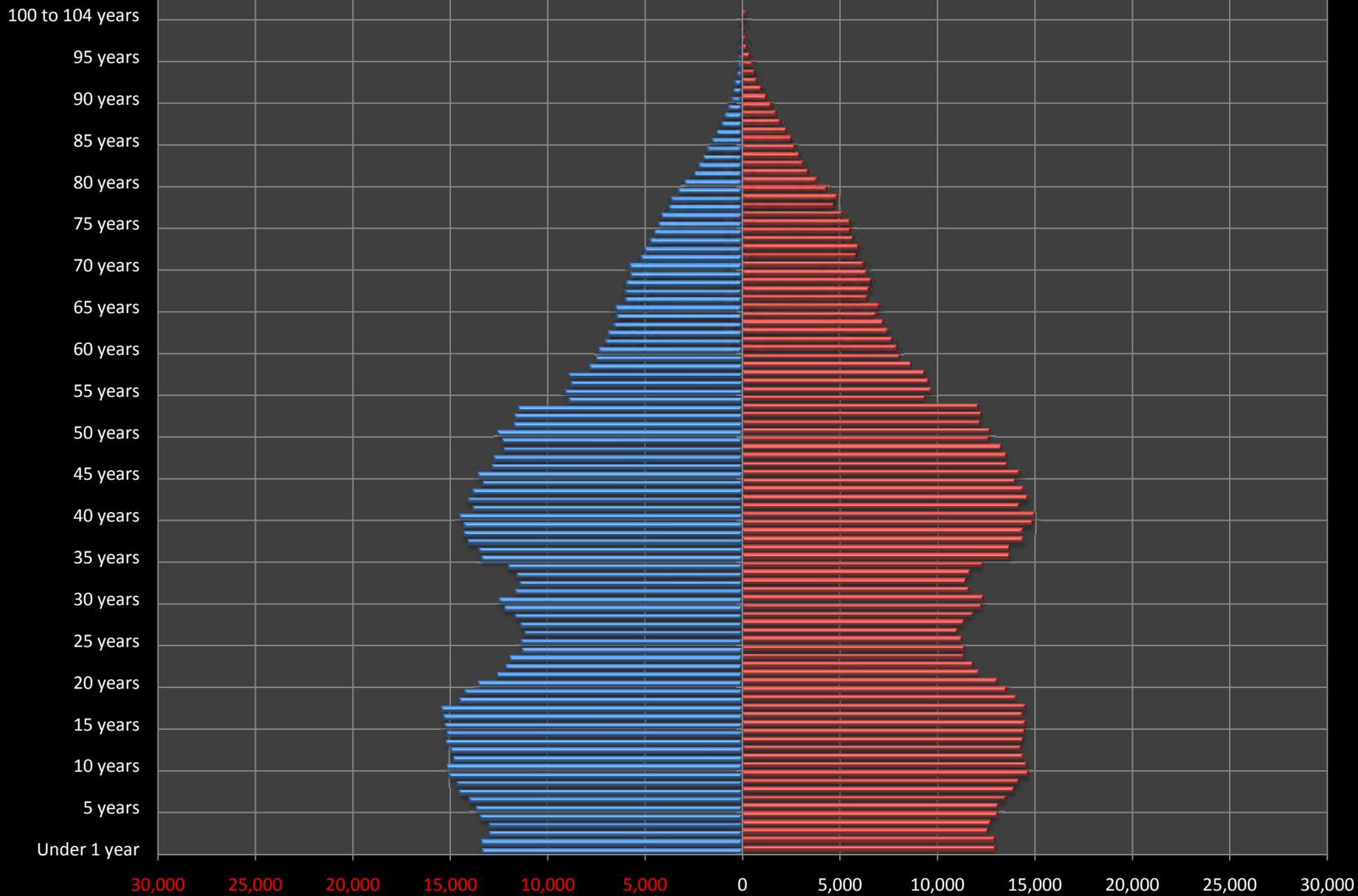
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Female



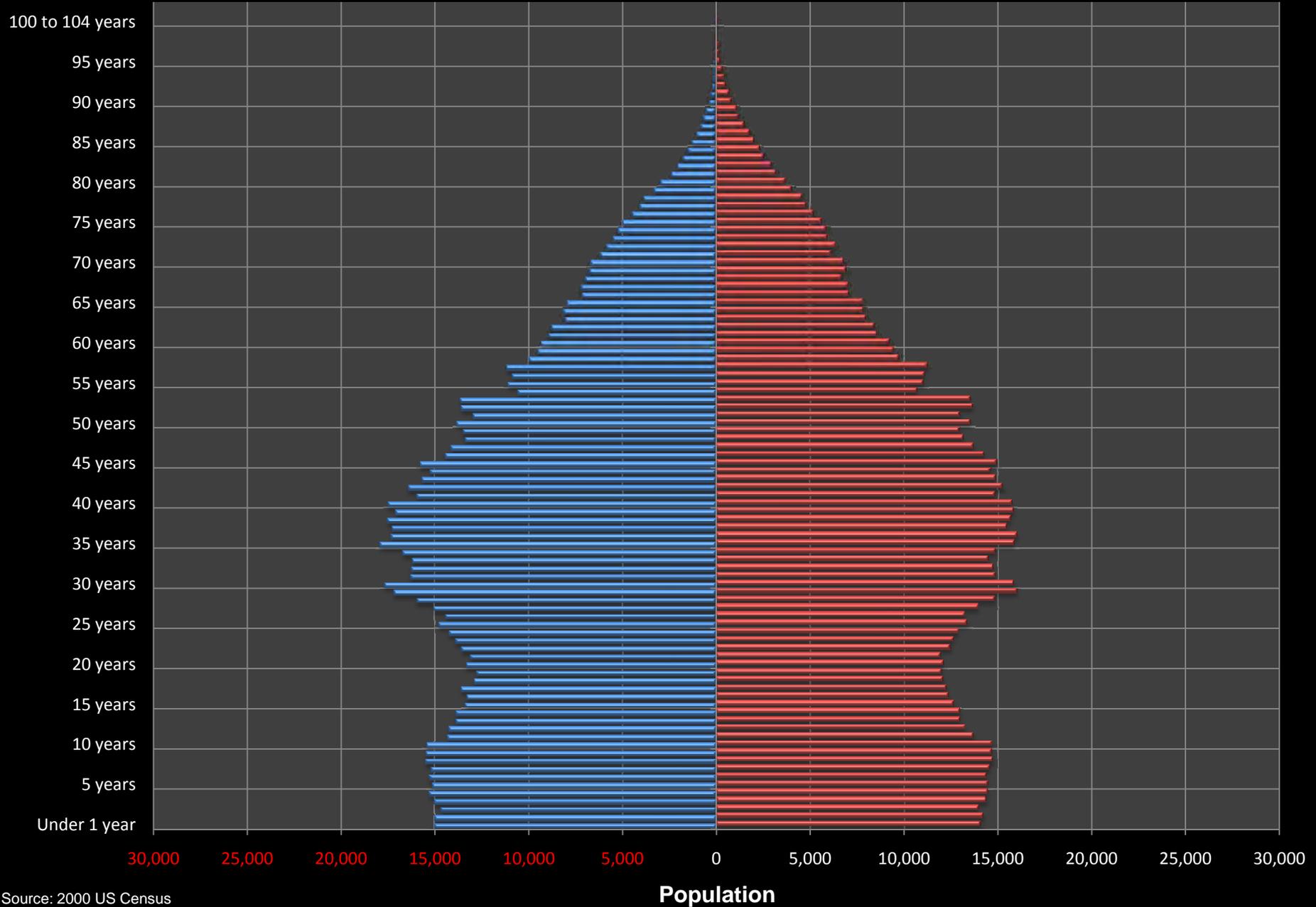
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Male

Female



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Female



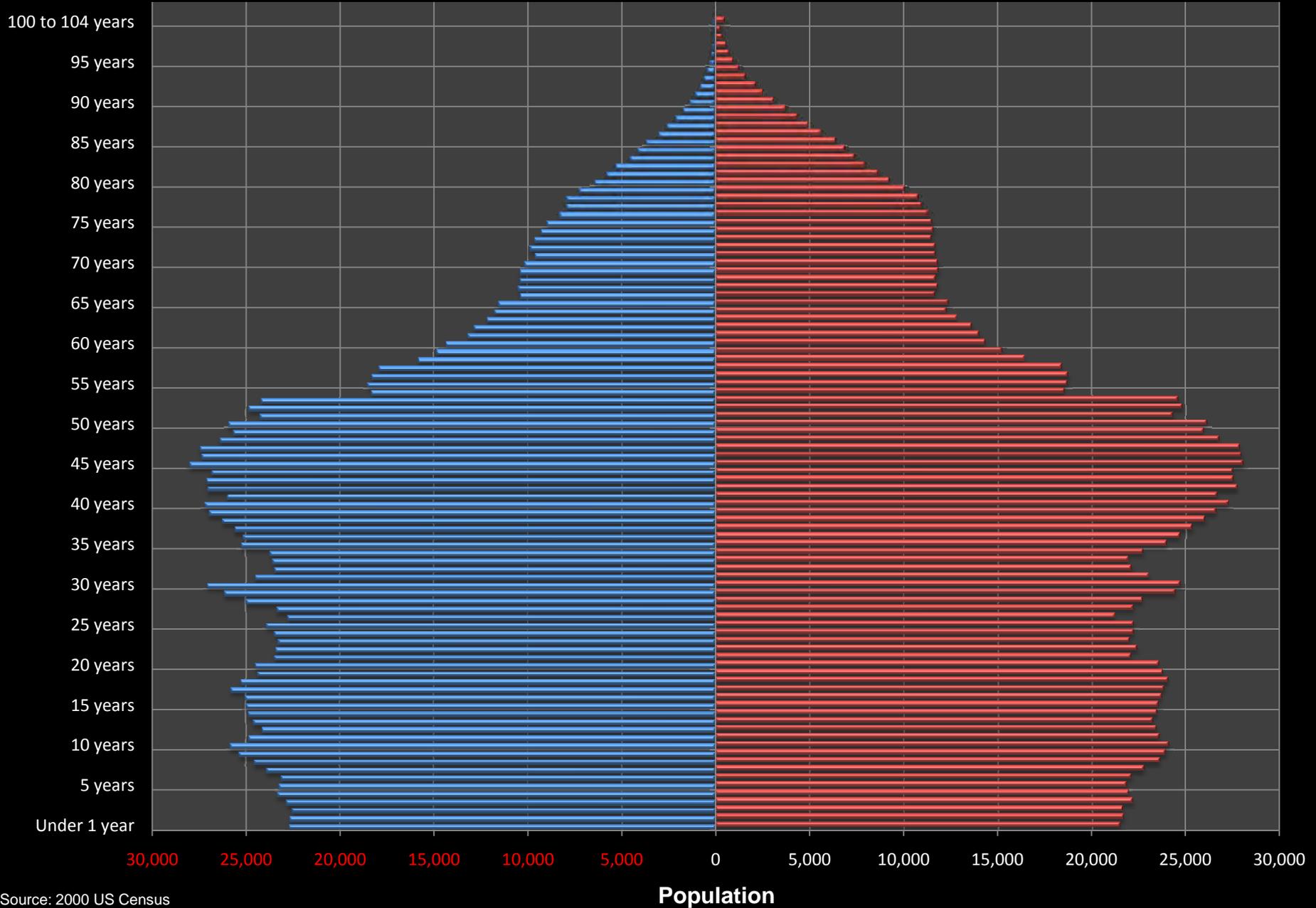
Oregon Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 3,421,399
Birth Rate: 12.7

Replacement Level Fertility: 1.9
Net Migration Rate: 24.6

Male

Female



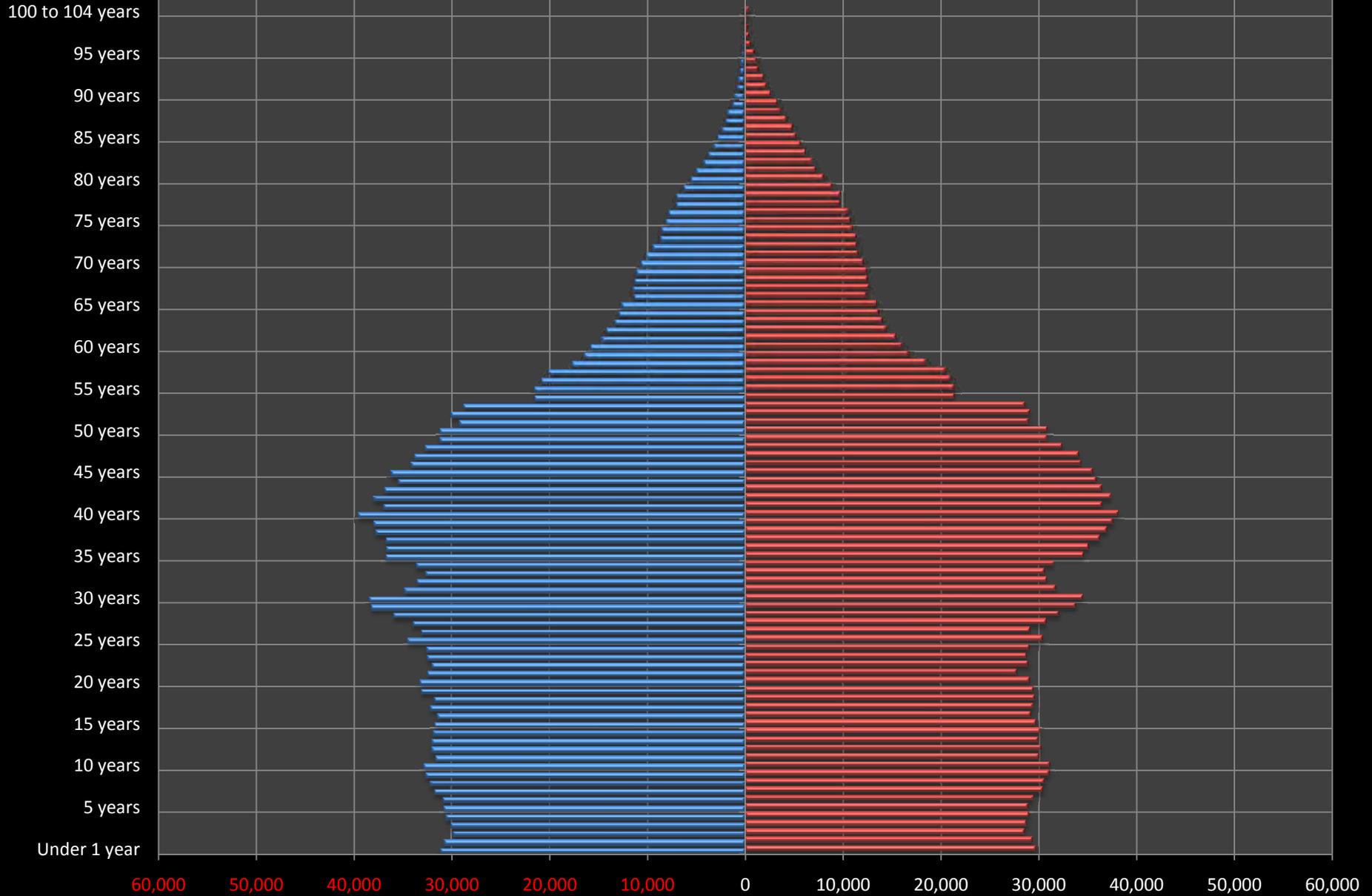
Colorado Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 4,301,261
Birth Rate: 14.9

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.1
Net Migration Rate: 43.8

Male

Female



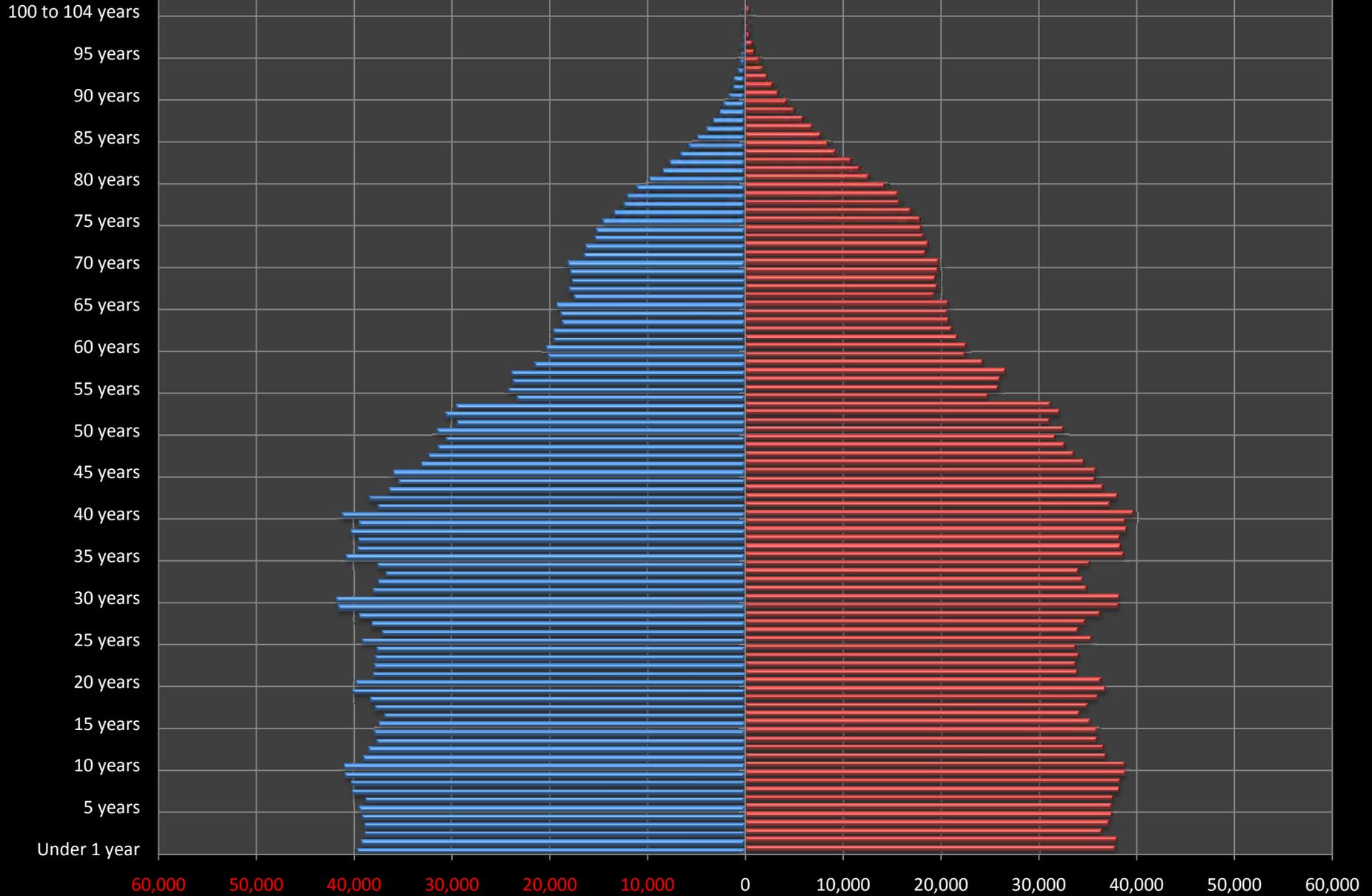
Arizona Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 5,130,632
Birth Rate: 16.3

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.4
Net Migration Rate: 74.3

Male

Female



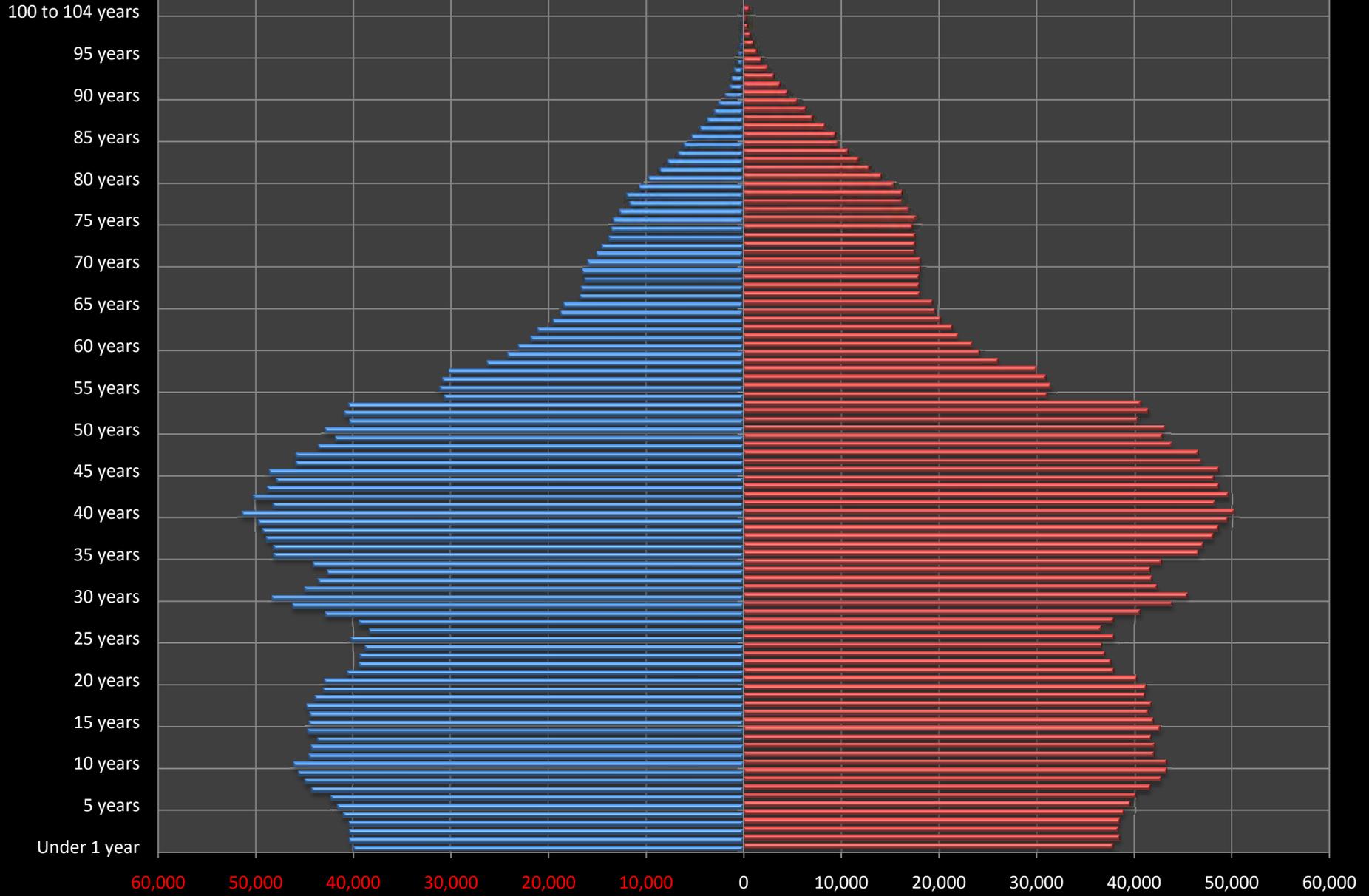
Washington Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 5,894,121
Birth Rate: 13.2

Replacement Level Fertility: 1.9
Net Migration Rate: 14.3

Male

Female



California Age Pyramid 2000

Total Population: 33,871,648
Birth Rate: 15.2

Replacement Level Fertility: 2.2
Net Migration Rate: -24.6

Male

Female

