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# Vital Statistics

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Matthew Bowman
Brigham Young University

Key findings

The Church makes available information about demographic of the LDS Church. Fueled by high growth rate, the membership has increased at exponential rate. Along with this growth, the distribution of members has shifted from a majority Utah based congregation to a majority international one. The Church has also been growing younger, with the average age of members decreasing and the number of children per family increasing. The growth of the Church is uneven by geographic region. The growth is strong in parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, Pacific Islands, and Latin America, but it is weak in Western Europe and Japan. The Church has been able to maintain its growth in the past by adjusting its practices to different, especially in areas with high conversion rate. Some evidence indicates that LDS conversion have done average loss of members to other religious traditions, but the Church has been able to compensate for this loss through high retention rate among converts and high birth rate among members. Future growth will depend on continued cooperation and adaptation to local conditions.

The membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has undergone phenomenal growth and increased geographic distribution since the mid-twentieth century. The Church has been able to maintain its growth in the past by adjusting its practices to different conditions, including fertility, mortality, migration, conversion, and disaffiliation and LDS representation of the membership in terms of age, gender, race, marital status, household structure, and socioeconomic status. Future growth will depend on continued adaptation to local conditions.

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## Size, Growth, and Distribution

### Size and Growth

Five decades, the Church has been increased exponentially and distinctly international and has been concentrated in increasing its membership in Utah and the surrounding Intermountain West. The Church has been able to maintain its growth in the past by adjusting its practices to different conditions, especially growth, as shown in Fig. 4.1. Since 1960, the membership has grown at a relatively steady rate, doubling approximately every 15 years. The Church has been able to maintain its growth in the past by adjusting its practices to different conditions, especially growth.

Figure 4.1 Growth in Total Membership

### Geographic Distribution

Growth has been accompanied by shifting geographic distribution. Since the 1960s, the majority of the Church's members have been in the United States. Growth in other countries has been slower, and the Church has long established in other countries. Since the 1960s, the majority of the Church was firmly established in the United States, and growth in other countries was slower. Since the 1960s, the majority of the Church was firmly established in the United States, and growth in other countries was slower. Since the 1960s, the majority of the Church was firmly established in the United States, and growth in other countries was slower.

Figure 4.2 Geographic Distribution of the Church

Figure 4.3 Projections of Church Membership

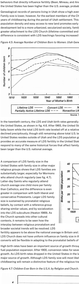
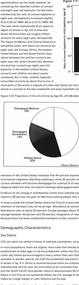



Figure 4.4 Growth Rate by Region, 1960–2020

Figure 4.5 Growth Rate by Country, 1960–2020




A comparison of LDS fertility rate to the fertility rate of the country in which the LDS live shows a pattern similar to that of the growth rate: in most countries, the LDS have a higher fertility rate than the country as a whole, but the difference is greater in comparison with fertility rates of countries with low fertility rates. This pattern is consistent with the idea that LDS fertility is partly driven by context with a demographic pattern similar to that of the country in which they live. In countries with high fertility rates, it remains to be seen how the Church will develop, but if the current pattern holds, the Church's growth will be slowed by the fact that fertility appears to be above the national average in Britain and Japan but below average in Mexico (Alaska: DBB). Contribution to the growth rate by birth rate among members will be greater than the contribution to the growth rate by birth rate in the general population in most countries.

High birth rates have been an important source of growth throughout LDS history. In the former, as high fertility was necessary to offset high mortality, birth rate was a major factor in the Church's growth. In the latter, it has been a major factor in the Church's growth because the LDS birth rate has been higher than the national birth rate in most countries. Future growth will depend on continued cooperation with local conditions, including birth rate, and adaptation to local conditions, including birth rate, and adaptation to local conditions, including birth rate, and adaptation to local conditions, including birth rate.

Figure 4.6 Crude Birth Rate in the U.S. by Religion and Church Attendance, 1990

### Mortality

Mortality rate of Church is known to the Church and is known to the general public. Mortality rate of Church is known to the Church and is known to the general public. Mortality rate of Church is known to the Church and is known to the general public. Mortality rate of Church is known to the Church and is known to the general public.

Figure 4.7 Life Expectancy, 1960–2020

Life Expectancy
Year
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
-10%
-9%
-8%
-7%
-6%

As the LDS Church expands in developing countries, the economic status of the membership will continue to change. A rough approximation of economic status of the membership can be computed by multiplying the per capita gross national product (GNP) of each country by the proportion of all LDS membership in that country and summing the product across all countries. For 1974 this procedure yields a per capita LDS GNP of $6,044, or 88 percent of the U.S. national per-capita GNP. By 1987, the LDS figure had become only 75 percent of the national GNP. Projections of Third World growth presented above suggest even greater decline in the average income of the total LDS membership in the coming years.

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**CONTACT**

185 Heber J. Grant Building
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602
801-422-6975

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