

5 Huge Ways American Life Has Changed In The Past 50 Some Years

As generations pass and new ones emerge, it is normal for the present society to shift and change with the times, and also adapt to new technology and ideas. This is evident when comparing the present U.S.A. to one that existed 50 years ago. Here are a few, but not all, elements that have changed over the half-century.

1. Yearly Income - According to the United States Census Bureau, the median household income in 1965 was \$6,900. In 2014, the median household income was much higher at \$68,426. I know what you are thinking, *"WOW! That's a huge difference!"* It is a lot of money, but if we account for inflation, it is a much smaller increase. With inflation rates and loss of dollar value accounted for, the median household income of 2015 only amounts to \$9,092. You are probably thinking we hardly make more money at all. In some ways, that is true, but remember: median household incomes today are actually 24 percent higher than in 1965.

2. Political Views - I think we can all agree that politics today have changed drastically compared to that of 1965. Nowadays, non-citizen immigrants can vote in local elections and are on their way to voting in Federal elections. The amount of liberal voters has increased to its highest amount yet, 24 percent, while conservatives still lead the pack at 38 percent, though the gap is growing smaller every day. The biggest change in politics is the bias in mainstream media. Back in 1965, there was not near as much media coverage as there is today. It has gotten to the point where you cannot trust any popular media host because they are all biased, conservative, and liberal.

3. Technology - LED screen smart TVs, smartphones, virtual reality video games and self-driving cars;

these are a few of so many new personal technological advances in the last few years. So many things have changed technologically in the past half-century that it's almost impossible to list them all. Our world's technology is advancing at a rate we never could have imagined; a rate that excites me for the future

4. Average Life Expectancy - According to data360, the average human life expectancy in 1965 was approximately 70 years of age: 74 years for females and 67 for males. In 2015, the average human life expectancy is approximately 79 years: 82 years for females and 76 for males. This is most likely the result of advances in medicine, medical practices, and life-sustaining technology; advances for which I am very grateful.

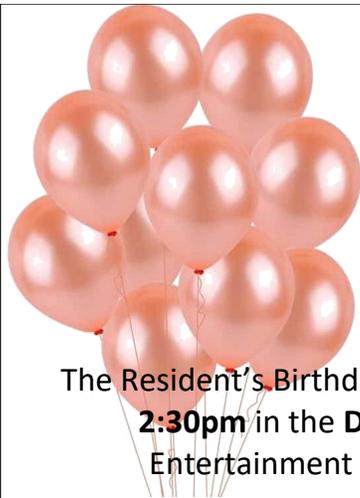
5. Total Population - In 1965, the United States Census Bureau recorded a total U.S. population of 194.3 million citizens. By 2017, this number reached 325.7 million. This is nearly a 41 percent increase in total population in 50 years. With this expected growth rate in the U.S., 100 years from now we will be around 460 million strong. This means that cities will grow denser, and more farmland will be used to accommodate more mouths to feed.

Other than that, not much has changed or will change in this 100-year segment of U.S. time. Times change, the world changes and people with it. Who knows where this country will be in 50 years?

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 Huge Ways American Life Has Changed | 1 |
| Birthdays, Welcome, Information | 2 |
| Trips, Tours & Shopping | 2 |
| Cost of Living in 1950's vs Today | 3 |
| What's Happening in Our Community | 4 |
| Word Search | 5 |
| Religious Services | 5 |
| Who's Who | 6 |

BIRTHDAYS... WELCOME... INFORMATION...



Happy, Happy Birthday

| | | | |
|------|-------|--------|-------|
| Ruby | 09/01 | Bill | 09/21 |
| Rita | 09/07 | Martha | 09/23 |
| Jon | 09/17 | Honey | 09/29 |

The Resident's Birthday Party is on **September 24, 2019** at **2:30pm** in the **Dining Room**. Birthday Cake and Entertainment sponsored by Martin Mancuso



Meet Your New Neighbor

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Ruby | 105 | Henry | 203 |
| Lucille | 108 | Star | 206 |
| Sharon | 123 | George & Willa | 212 |
| Norma | 134 | Honey | 213 |

TRIPS, TOURS AND SHOPPING

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays are Doctor Appointment Days
Tuesdays & Thursdays Trips, Tours and Shopping



| Day | Date | Time | Location of Activity |
|----------|------|-----------------------------|--|
| Tuesday | 3 | 9:00 - 11:30 2:00 - 4:00 | Wal-Mart Hobby Lobby/Barnes and Noble |
| Thursday | 5 | 9:00 - 11:30 2:00 - 4:00 | Dollar Tree Bank/ Post Office |
| Tuesday | 10 | 9:00 - 11:30 2:00 - 4:00 | Wal-Mart Wal-Mart |
| Thursday | 12 | 9:00 - 11:30 2:00 - 4:00 | 99 Cent Store TJ Maxx |
| Tuesday | 17 | 9:00 - 11:30 2:00 - 4:00 | Wal-Mart Savers Thrift Store |
| Thursday | 19 | 9:00 - 11:30 2:00 - 4:00 | Albertson's/ CVS Stein Mart |
| Tuesday | 24 | 9:00 - 11:30 2:00 - 4:00 | Wal-Mart Wal-Mart |
| Thursday | 26 | 9:00 - 11:30 2:00 - 4:00 | Target/Ross Red Rock Casino |

COST OF LIVING IN THE 1950'S VS. TODAY

The 1950s were a time of great prosperity and economic growth in the United States. Today, looking at the decade objectively, we realize it wasn't quite the post-war utopia portrayed in the media of the day or the nostalgic recreations since. Nonetheless, many look back fondly on what they view as a simpler time. One thing a lot of folks envy from that time is the cost of living. Everything in 2019 seems so much more expensive. Of course, no one in today's world expects to pay 18 cents for a gallon of gas, \$25 for a man's suit, or \$1,500 for a brand new car. Still, paychecks just don't seem to go as far now as they did then. Or do they?

Many Factors to Consider - When you compare the cost of living in the 1950s with today's cost of living, you have to consider a variety of factors. For example, some things are actually cheaper to produce now than they were in the 1950s. Of course, most of today's goods and services come with higher price tag, but people also get paid proportionately more.

Household Income Then and Now - In 1955, the median household income in the U.S. was around \$5,000. That means half of all households earned more than \$5,000, while half brought in less. Adjusted for inflation, that translates to around \$25,000 today. However, today's median household income is just over \$40,000. We're not really making that much more money though. That \$15,000 difference can be attributed, in large part, to the increase in the number of two-income households since the middle of the twentieth century. The big difference between expenses then and now is the amount of stuff we buy. We also tend to live in much bigger houses.

Average Home Size 1950 vs. Today - The average size of a new house in 1950 was 983 square feet. It now stands at 2,349 square feet. At the same time, family size went from about 3.5 persons per household, to around 2.5 today. A bigger house incurs more costs, even with fewer people living there.

Consumerism - We also buy more things to put into our homes today. Comedian George Carlin once described houses as "a place to keep your stuff while you go out and get more stuff." TVs, computers, mobile devices, game systems, microwave ovens, and gadgets of all sorts fill a typical 21st century dwelling. In the 1950s, a family had a television, a radio, and the most basic of household appliances and furniture. Today, many houses—certainly most new ones—have central air conditioning. This was unheard of in the 1950s, even in warmer climates.

There were fewer cars as well. By the end of the 1950s, less than 3% of households owned two or more vehicles. In 2009, it was almost 20%. More cars mean more car-related expenditures—from routine maintenance and fuel to major repairs and insurance premiums.

A Dollar Then, a Dollar Now - So, we're buying a lot more stuff with roughly the same amount of money, meaning consumption is taking up a bigger portion of household budgets. But do the items we purchase cost more today? The Bureau of Labor Statistics website has a fun little online gadget that allows you to convert dollar amounts from one year into those of another. For example, a loaf of bread in 1955 cost around 18 cents, which converts to about \$1.50 today. A new car in 1955 was about \$1,500. Today, that same car will cost you \$14,000.

TV Time - Of course, some items have come down in price; televisions for instance. In 1955, a new TV would set you back \$250.00. That's \$2,100 now. For that kind of money, you could now buy a top-of-the-line TV. Then again, we're buying a lot more of them. In fact, while the average household is 2.5 persons, it has 2.86 televisions. Also, in the 1950s, programming was free. Today, most people have cable, or satellite, a monthly expenditure that easily runs over \$100 a month. Add that to household expenses that people in mid-century America never dealt with, like Internet and mobile phone service.

Perhaps we need to assess what we really want from our standard of living, and adjust our expenditures accordingly. On average we are living better now than at any point in history, but the key to happiness may be in finding ways to make it more affordable



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY



FAMOUS SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS WORD SEARCH

G R Y S E A S E R G C S
 A F O V F V H E W A P M
 D L E I F R E P P O C A
 N Z N O S N E H Q P R I
 K A L Q G E T Q K L E L
 A E V H E R S H E Y M L
 E C A I V E C Y R T L I
 R N O T L S L L S W A W
 Q E I R O L G R S I P E
 V K A V O N U T J T R L
 P H K H R Z F S D T F K
 C K I N G I U E A Y J V

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Ray CHARLES | E. Buddy HOLLY | I. Arnold PALMER |
| B. David COPPERFIELD | F. Robert IRVINE | J. Ed SULLIVAN |
| C. Jim HENSON | G. Michael KEATON | K. Conway TWITTY |
| D. Milton S. HERSHEY | H. Stephen KING | L. Serena WILLIAMS |

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Wednesdays | 2:30pm Torah Class w/ Rabbi Chaiton (Every Other Wednesday / AR) |
| Thursdays | 2:00pm Catholic Services & Communion w/ Joe or Ray (TH) |
| Saturdays | 10:00am Prayer Group & Communion w/ Jenny (TH) |
| Sundays | 10:00am Bible Study w/ Resident Judy (AR) |

