

JOINT WATER COUNCIL MEETING

Coosa-North Georgia & Middle Chattahoochee Councils

September 22, 2025



**GEORGIA
WATER PLANNING**

waterplanning.georgia.gov

Meeting Objectives

- Meet members of neighboring councils and share perspectives on regional water planning
- Discuss population projections in preparation for next cycle of planning
- Learn about water-related funding opportunities
- Discuss how these councils operate, communicate, and coordinate
- Learn about economic development trends in Georgia
- Learn about the Great Wolf Lodge
- Meet in individual council meetings to address council specific business



Meeting Agenda

9:30	Registration	1:00	Economic Development Trends
10:00	Welcome and Introductions	1:40	Funding for Water Projects
10:15	Meeting Overview	2:25	Public Comment
10:20	Cross-Council Discussions	2:35	Joint Meeting Closing Discussion
10:50	Updates from GAEPD	2:50	Next Steps
11:00	2025 Population Projections	2:55	Adjourn to Breakout Council Meetings
11:30	Population Projections Discussions	3:00	Breakout Council Meetings
12:00	Lunch	4:00	Adjourn
12:25	Lunch Speaker: Great Wolf Lodge		



Introductions

HARRY LANGE

Council Vice Chair
Middle Chattahoochee

BROOKE ANDERSON

Council Chair
Coosa North Georgia

RUSSELL NIX

Georgia EPD

Regional Water Planning Lead

CHRISTINE VOUDY

Georgia EPD

Regional Water Planning Liaison
Coosa North Georgia

PARRIS MAGUIRE

Georgia EPD

Regional Water Planning Support

TIM FIELDS

Georgia EPD

Regional Water Planning Support

SARAH SKINNER

GWPPC

Council Support Team

MARK MASTERS

GWPPC

Council Support Team

KRISTIN ROWLES

GWPPC

Council Support Team

CAITLIN SWEENEY

GWPPC

Council Support Team



Middle Chattahoochee Council Members

Name	City	County
Steve Davis, Chair	Columbus	Muscogee
Harry Lange, Vice Chair	Cataula	Harris
Hannah V. Anderson	Fort Gaines	Clay
John M. Asbell	LaGrange	Troup
Victoria Barrett	Richland	Stewart
Laura Lee Bernstein	Columbus	Muscogee
Patrick Bowie	LaGrange	Troup
Jimmy Bradley	Cuthbert	Randolph
Barbie Crockett	Centralhatchee	Heard
Steve Davis, Chair	Columbus	Muscogee
Philip Eidson	Tallapoosa	Haralson
Tony Ellis	Tallapoosa	Haralson
James Emery	LaGrange	Troup
Gardiner Garrard	Columbus	Muscogee
Senator Jason Anavitarte (Ex-Officio)		

Name	City	County
Dan Gilbert	Columbus	Muscogee
Joseph Griffith	Buchanan	Haralson
Tim Grizzard	Franklin	Heard
Jimmie L. Hayes	Morris	Quitman
Kevin Hayes	Franklin	Heard
Bill Heath	Breman	Haralson
Carvel Lewis	Georgetown	Quitman
Adolph McLendon	Richland	Stewart
George E. Moon III	West Point	Harris
Mac Moyer	Lumpkin	Stewart
Denney Rogers	Ephesus	Heard
Kenneth M. Van Horn	Cusseta	Chattahoochee
Jason Weeks	Georgetown	Quitman
Don Watson (Alternate)	LaGrange	Troup
Matt Windom	Bowdon	Carroll
Representative Randy Nix (Ex-Officio)		



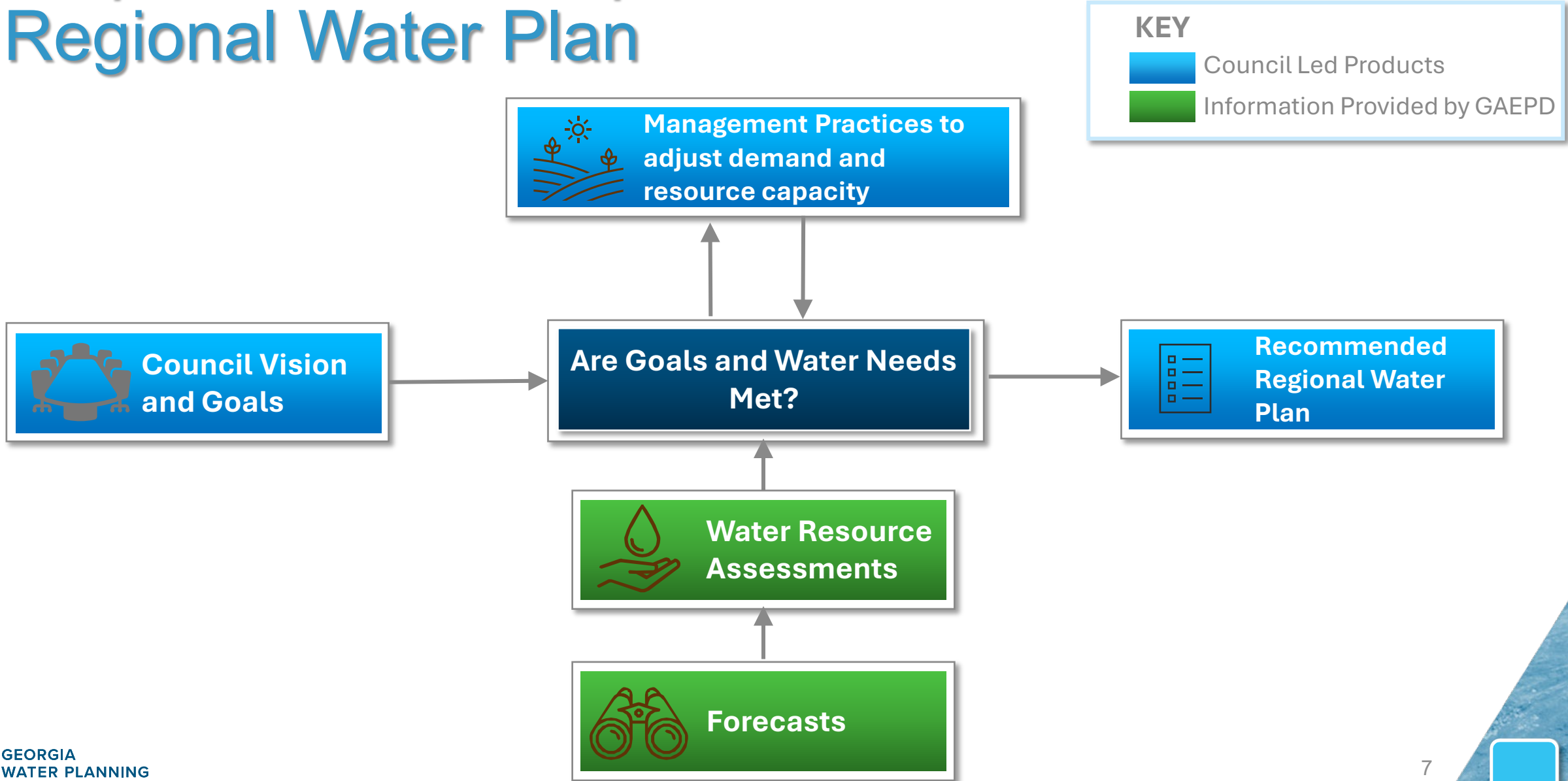
Coosa-North Georgia Council Members

Name	City	County
Brooke Anderson, Chair	Dawsonville	Dawson
Dee Anderson	Cornelia	Habersham
Donald Anderson	Cornelia	Habersham
Jerry Barnes		Pickens
John Bennett	Rome	Floyd
Mike Berg	Dawsonville	Dawson
Greg Bowman		Gordon
Mark Buckner	Dalton	Whitfield
Eddie Cantrell	Trenton	Dade
Larry Chapman	Blue Ridge	Fannin
Keith Coffey	Ringgold	Catoosa
Jim Comley	Blairsville	Union
Jerry Crawford	Plainville	Gordon
Kyle Ellis	Calhoun	Floyd
Keith Ethridge	Cornelia	Habersham

Name	City	County
Robert Goff	Trenton	Dade
Terry Goodger	Cleveland	White
Joel Hanner	Rome	Floyd
H. Haynes Johnson	Jasper	Pickens
Kevin Jones	Chatsworth	Murray
Rebecca Mason	Ringgold	Catoosa
Gary McVey	Ellijay	Gilmer
Tom O'Bryant	Cleveland	White
Lamar Paris	Blairsville	Union
Alex Sullivan	Eastanollee	Stephens
Scott Tidwell	Resaca	Gordon
Allison Watters	Rome	Floyd
Brandon Whitley	Flintstone	Walker
Senator Chuck Payne (Ex-Officio)		



Steps in the Development of the Regional Water Plan



Preliminary Schedule for Next Planning Cycle

2026	2027	2028
Q1 Council Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Vision and Goals • Set priorities for plan update 	Quarterly Council Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iterative review and revision of regional water plan based on Council discussions and technical products • Finalize forecasts and resource assessments by Q4 • Joint meetings (if needed/requested) 	Q1 Council Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize draft plans
Q2 All Council Meeting <i>tentative</i>		Q2 Council Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve final plans for submittal to EPD
Q3 Council Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Management Practices and Recommendations 		
Q4 Council Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary resource assessment results and forecasts 		



Cross-Council Discussions

- Who are you and what motivates you to be a part of the Council?
- What is the biggest water challenge in your region?
- What water resources do you share with the other council here today?
- What is going well – and what isn't – in the work of the Councils?

Updates from GAEPD

Christine Voudy and Veronica Craw
GAEPD





GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**Joint Meeting
Coosa North Georgia and Middle
Chattahoochee Councils**


EPD Updates

Christine Voudy and Veronica Craw



RWP SEED GRANT PROGRAM

Next funding cycle was announced in July 2025, with applications due by Oct. 31, 2025


**GEORGIA**
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Regional Water Planning Seed Grant > City of Happy | Trash Free Waters Education

Welcome, joyhinkle+5@gmail.com

Order by: Newest to Oldest

City of Happy | Trash Free Waters Education

 RWP Seed Grant Application

Submit

When both Project Description and Budget steps are complete, click 'Mark Complete' on each. The page will refresh and the "Submit" button to the right will become green and clickable. Click 'Submit'.

Application Section 1: Project Description

Complete

Edit

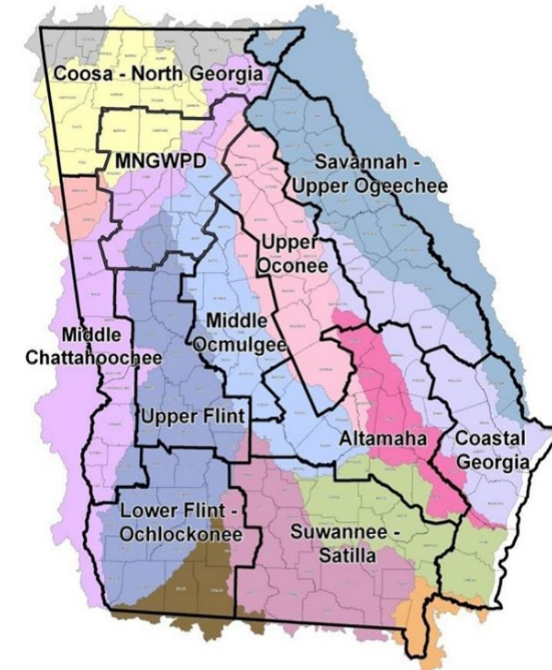
The blue button will update to reflect how you can interact with this step.

Application Section 2: Budget

Complete

Edit

The blue button will update to reflect how you can interact with this step.





GOOGLE GRANT OPPORTUNITY

- Google Request for Information - Water Efficiency and Quality Infrastructure Projects
 - Google has a goal of replenishing 120% of the freshwater we consume, on average, by 2030 in the watersheds where data centers operate.
 - Looking for shovel ready (could be under construction by 2028) water infrastructure projects, which includes any project that:
 - Conserves, restores, keeps water in the watershed that would otherwise be lost
 - Improves water quality
 - Desired outcomes
 - Reduce finished water loss
 - Improve water use efficiency
 - Replenish groundwater sources
 - Reuse or recycle treated wastewater
 - Capture, attenuate, or treat stormwater flows
 - Project impacts based on volumetric benefits
 - Preference given to projects above 100 million gallons per year (MGY)



FUNDING LEVELS AND RFI TIMELINE

Available funding ranges from \$350k to \$6m and can be combined with other funding sources – This is a \$0 match grant!

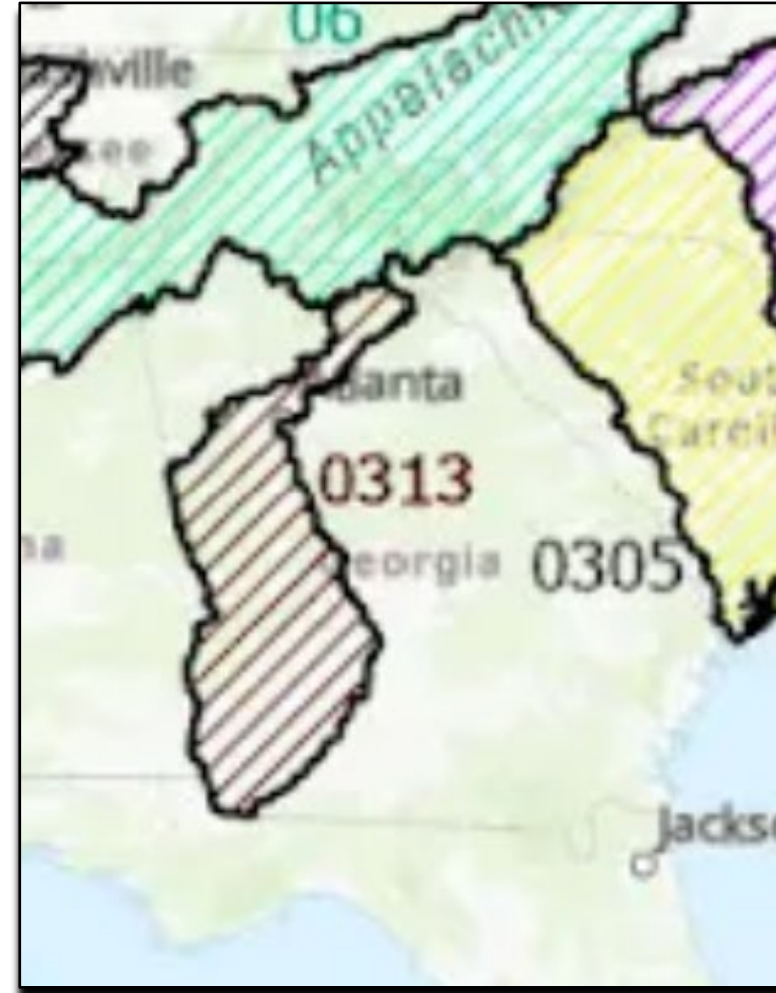
Round 1 submissions due by 5 pm PST, September 30, 2025

Proposals submitted after the deadline will be considered in subsequent RFP rounds.

Selected projects will be invited to submit a RFP to be considered for corporate funding.

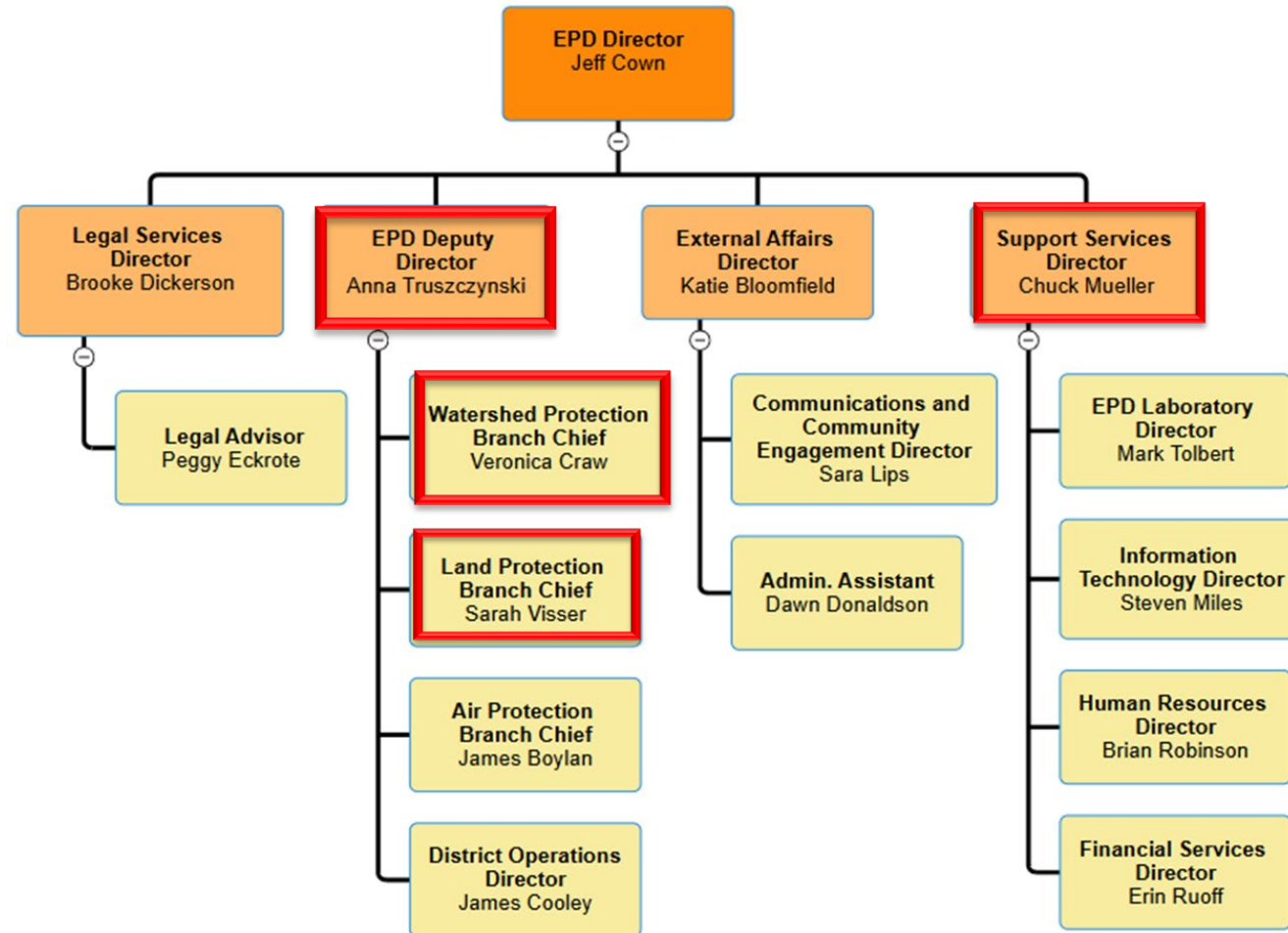
For more information -

<https://datacenters.google/water-rfi/>



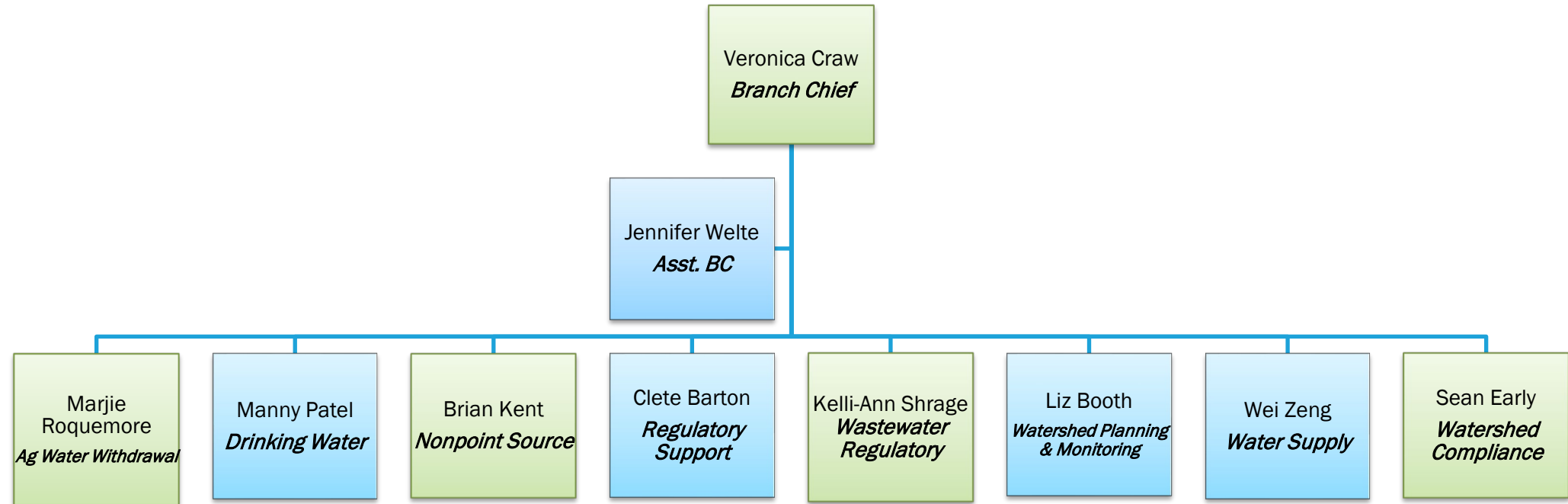


EPD ORGANIZATION





WPB ORGANIZATION UPDATE



No change



Newly filled



STATE WATER COUNCIL

- GA Code § 12-5-525(c): ...**the division shall review such plan ...**, and **at least every three years** thereafter, for purposes of determining whether revision of such plan is necessary or appropriate for recommendation.
- Section 14
 - Composition
 - Term
- Next Steps:
 - State Water Council Meeting: September 29, 2025
 - RWP Council Focus Group Meetings
 - Stakeholder Meeting and Public Comment Period
 - State Water Council Meeting to consider stakeholder feedback
 - State Water Council approval
 - Submittal to General Assembly for approval
 - Effective upon signature by Governor

2025 Population Projections

Taylor Hafley, Carl Vinson Institute of Government



How the Councils Use Population Projections

- Population projections are used as the basis for projecting future water and wastewater demands
- Forecasting is based on population projections and information on other factors:
 - Permitted water withdrawals and discharges
 - Utility audit data
 - Self-served population estimates (wells, septic systems)
 - Per capita use estimates
 - Council and utility input

Population projections are prepared by Carl Vinson Institute of Government at University of Georgia for the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB).

Population Projections for the Next Planning Cycle

Methods

May 2025 Webinar

2025 Estimates

Discussion: Today's Joint Meeting

2026 Estimates

Discussion and Forecasting: 2026
Council Meetings

The 2026 estimates will be the basis of the water and wastewater forecasts for the next regional water planning cycle.



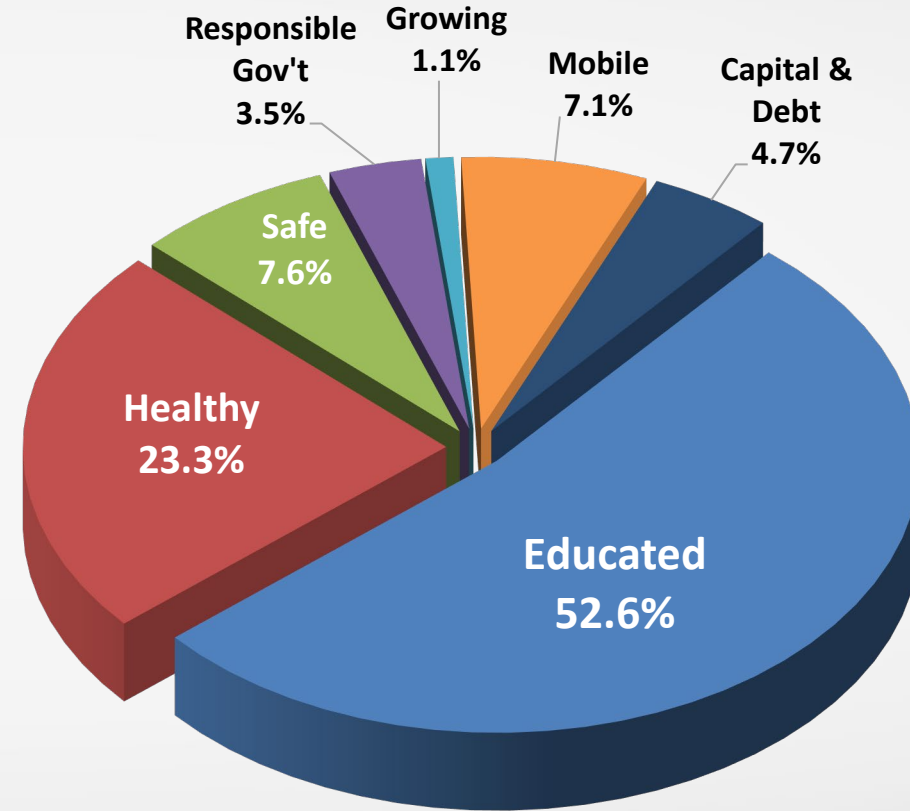
Office of Planning and Budget

- **Core Mission: assist the Governor in developing and administering Georgia's \$37.7budget**
 - Assess the effectiveness of state programs, weigh competing funding demands, work with agencies to set funding priorities
 - Monitor legislative action on appropriations and other spending legislation
 - Provide policy and fiscal management guidance to executive branch agencies, ensuring adherence to state budget policies
- **OPB also works with agencies to improve planning, performance, and management of state government programs and services**



How Georgia Spends State Dollars

<u>Policy Area</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>
Educated Georgia	\$19,875,902,309
Healthy Georgia	8,793,435,622
Safe Georgia	2,873,983,702
Responsible Government	1,337,593,096
Growing Georgia	401,636,243
Mobile Georgia	2,696,305,327
Capital & Debt Mgmt	1,782,831,026
TOTAL:	\$37,761,687,325





Population Projections

- O.C.G.A. §45-12-171: *“The Office of Planning and Budget shall be...responsible for preparing, maintaining, and furnishing official demographic data for the state”*
- [Annual, long-term population projections](#) for state and county resident populations, by age, sex, and race
- Internal and external uses include:
 - Education formula funding and enrollment
 - Healthcare service needs
 - Workforce and Capital Planning



**Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

Georgia's Demographics and Population Projections

Taylor Hafley

Regional Water Council Webinar

May 8, 2025

Agenda

- Demographic Trends
- Components of Population Change
- Population Projection Method
- Questions



TRIVIA



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

What is the current population of Georgia?

- A. 10.32 million**
- B. 11.18 million**
- C. 11.56 million**
- D. 12.42 million**



What is the current population of Georgia?

A. 10.32 million

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For Immediate Release: Thursday, November 09, 2023

U.S. Population Projected to Begin Declining in Second Half of Century

November 09, 2023

Press Release Number CB23-189

NOV. 9, 2023 — The U.S. population is projected to reach a high of nearly 370 million in 2080 before edging downward to 366 million in 2100. By 2100, the total U.S. resident population is projected to increase by only 9.7% from 2022, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau population projections released today. The projections provide possible scenarios of population change for the nation through the end of the century.

The 2023 National Population Projections is an update to the last series of projections, published in 2017, to account for the impact of COVID-19 and to reflect the results of the 2020 Census through its inclusion of [the Vintage 2022 National Population Estimates](#) as a base. It also extends the population projections to 2100, the first time since 2000 that the Census Bureau projections have stretched this far into [the future](#).

“In an ever-changing world, understanding population dynamics is crucial for shaping policies and planning resources,” stated Sandra Johnson, a demographer at the Census Bureau.

“The U.S. has experienced notable shifts in the components of population change over the last five years,” she explained. “Some of these, like the increases in mortality caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, are expected to be short term while

Share



Contact

Public Information Office
301-763-3030 or
877-861-2010 (U.S. and Canada only)
pio@census.gov

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**Census Bureau to
Announce Plans for the
2026 Census Test**

SAVE THE DATE
Tuesday, April 30 at 2 p.m. EDT

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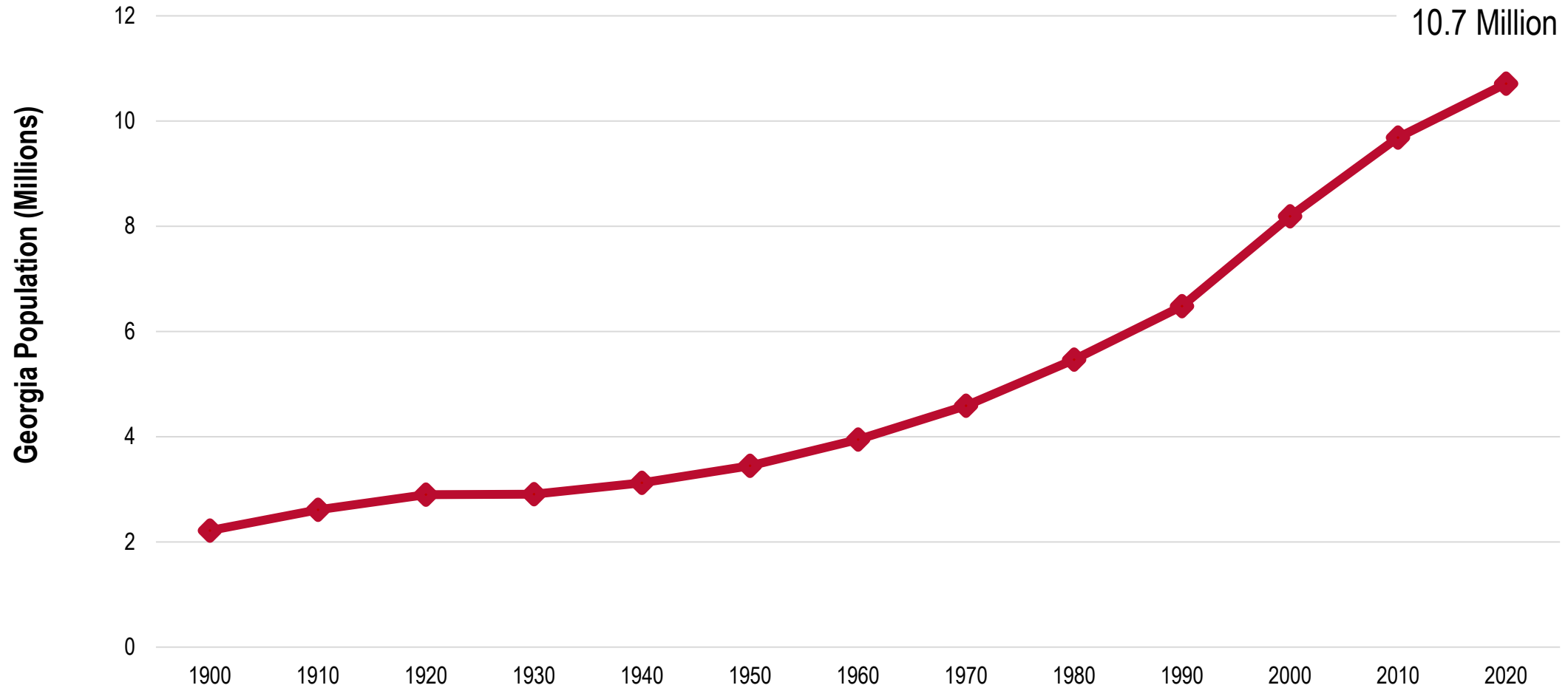
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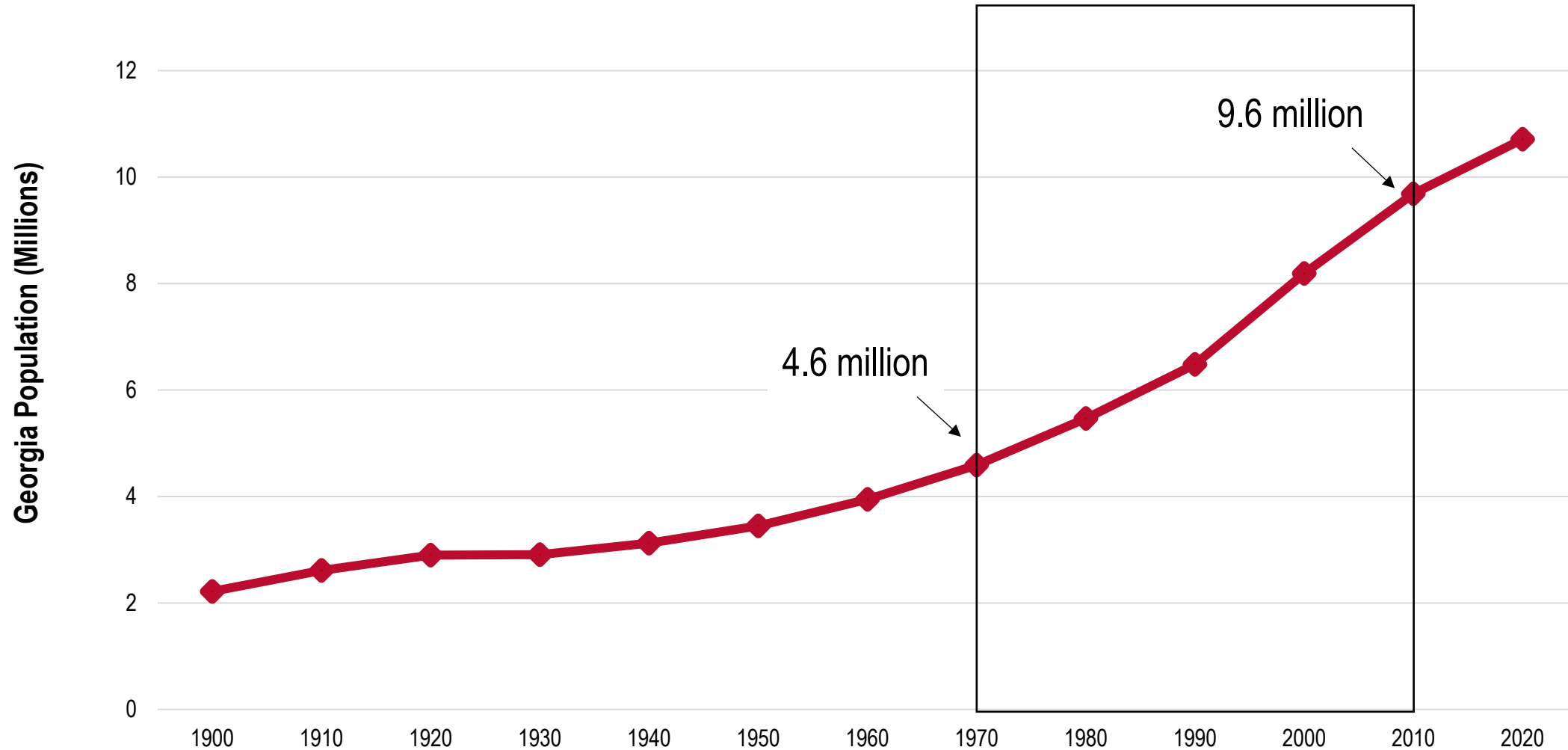
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Georgia's Population, 1900-2020

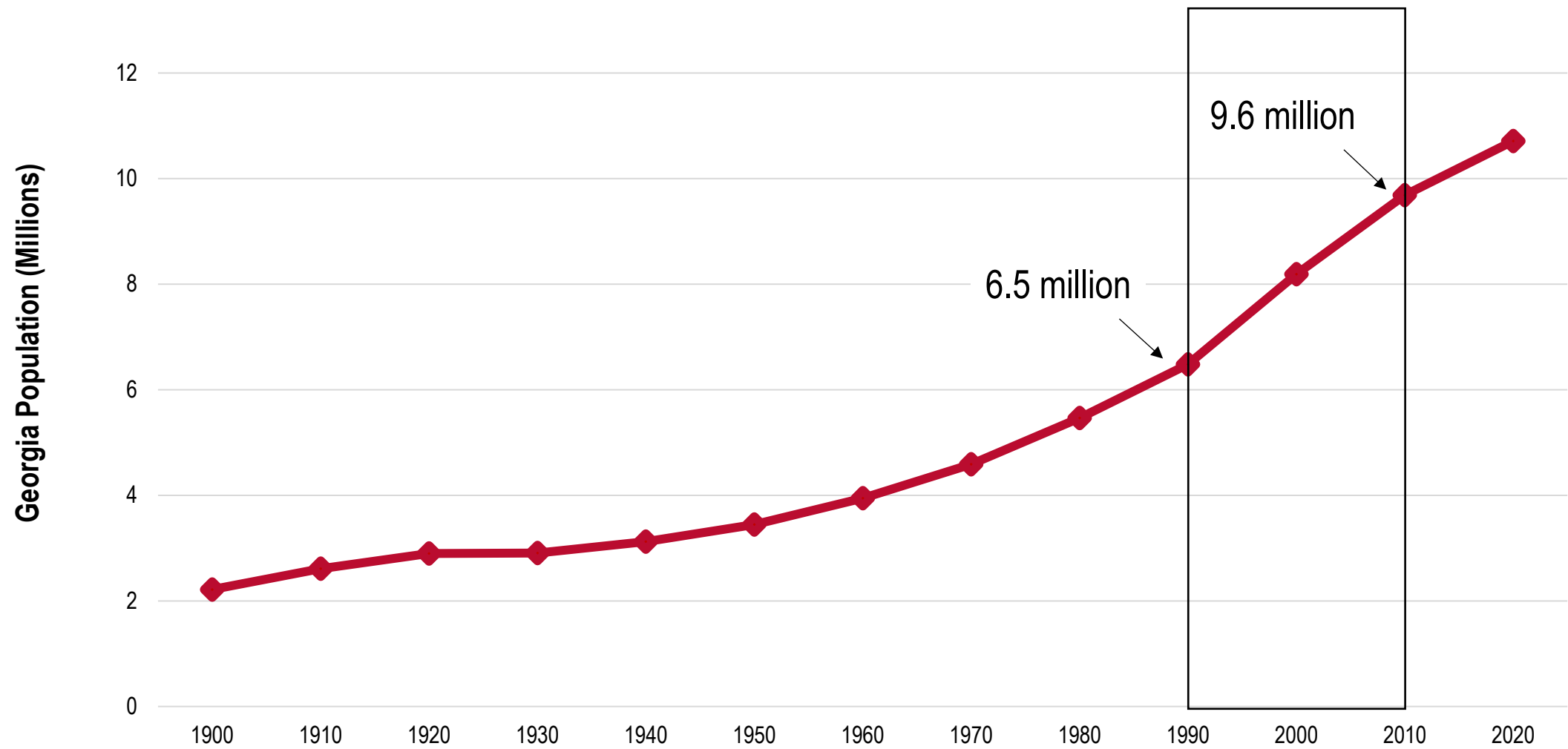


Georgia's Population Doubles in Four Decades



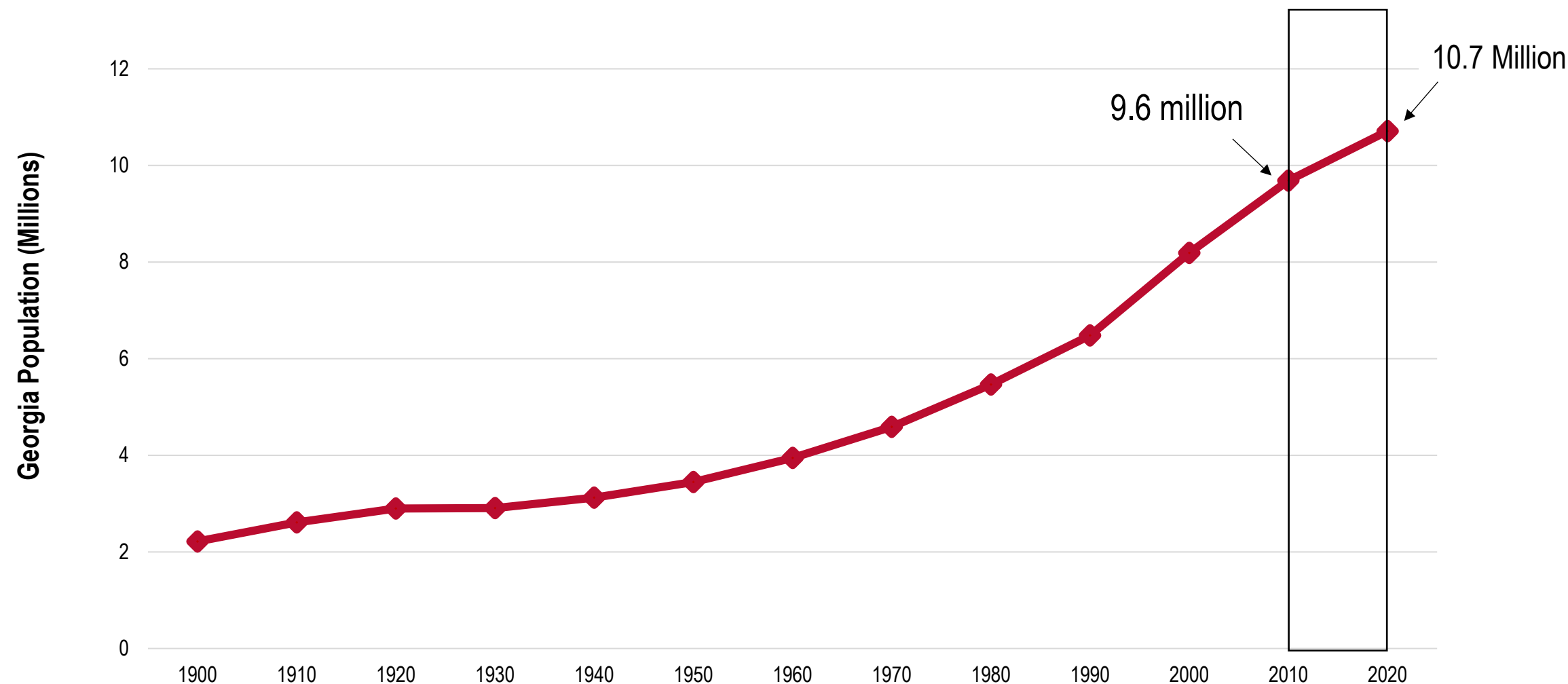


Three Million New Georgians in Two Decades

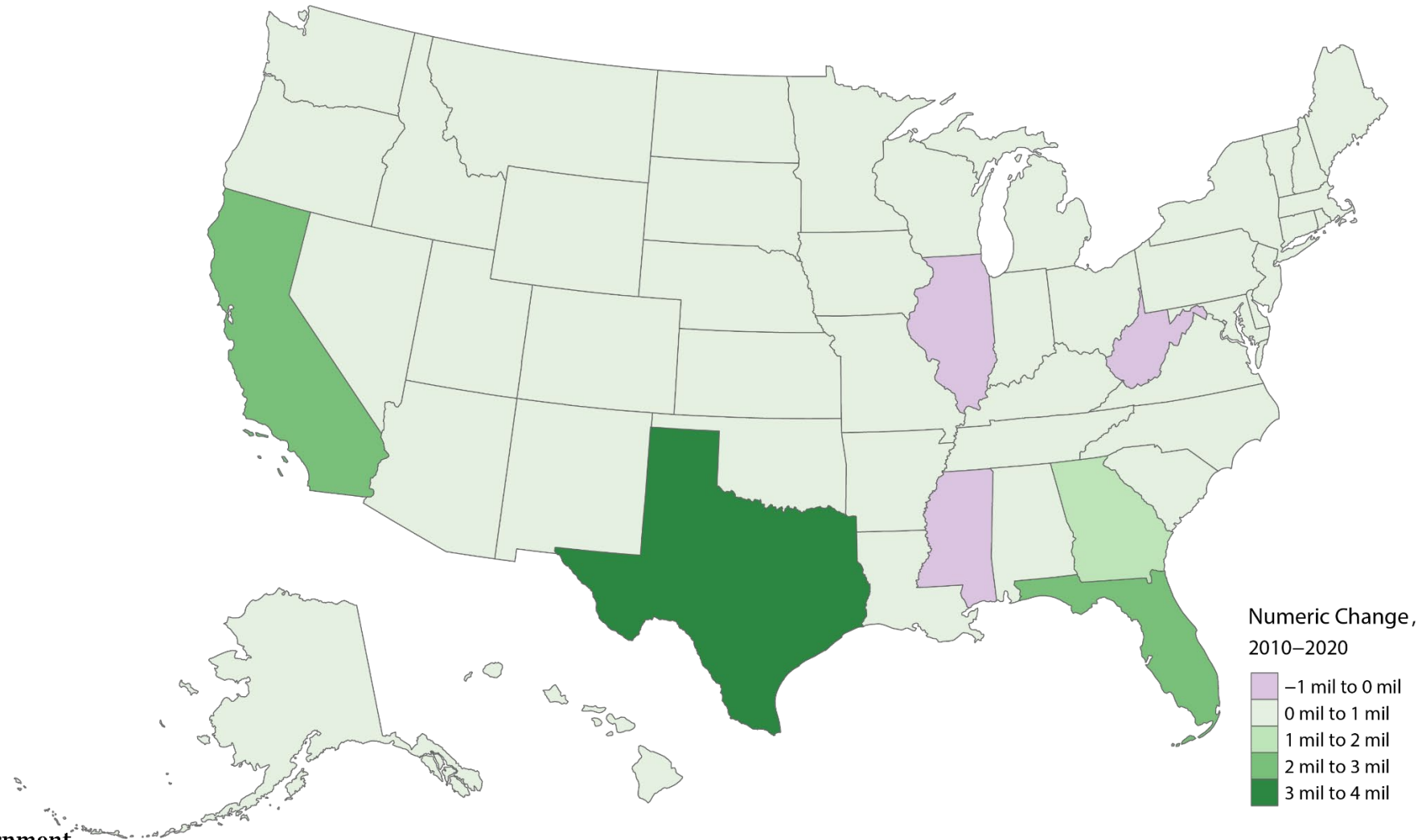




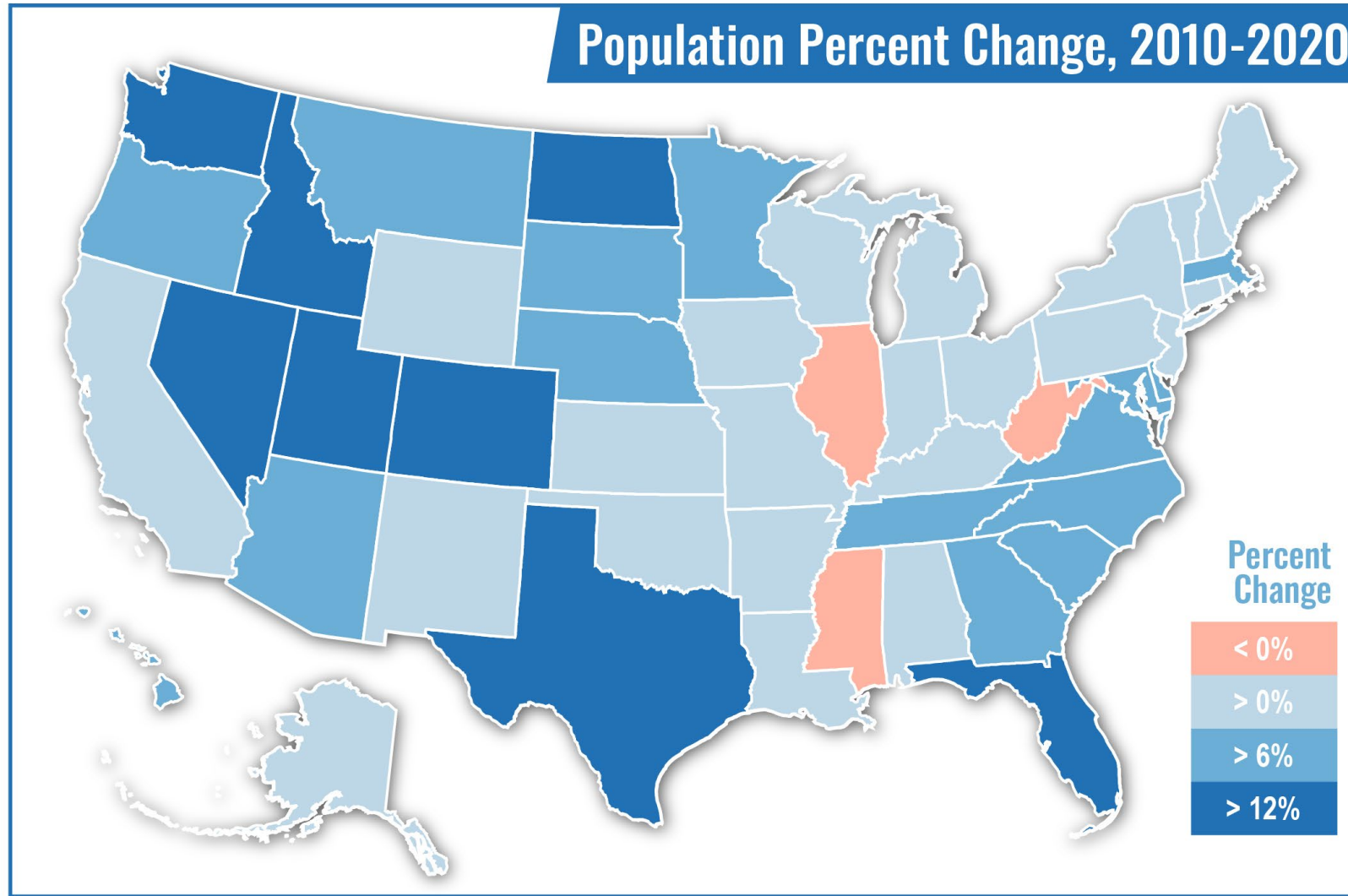
Georgia's Population Increases ~1 million in 2010s



Georgia Top 4 in Population Increase In 2010s



State's Rate of Growth (10.6%) Exceeds Nation (7.4%)



Georgia's growth in 2010s outpaced national average

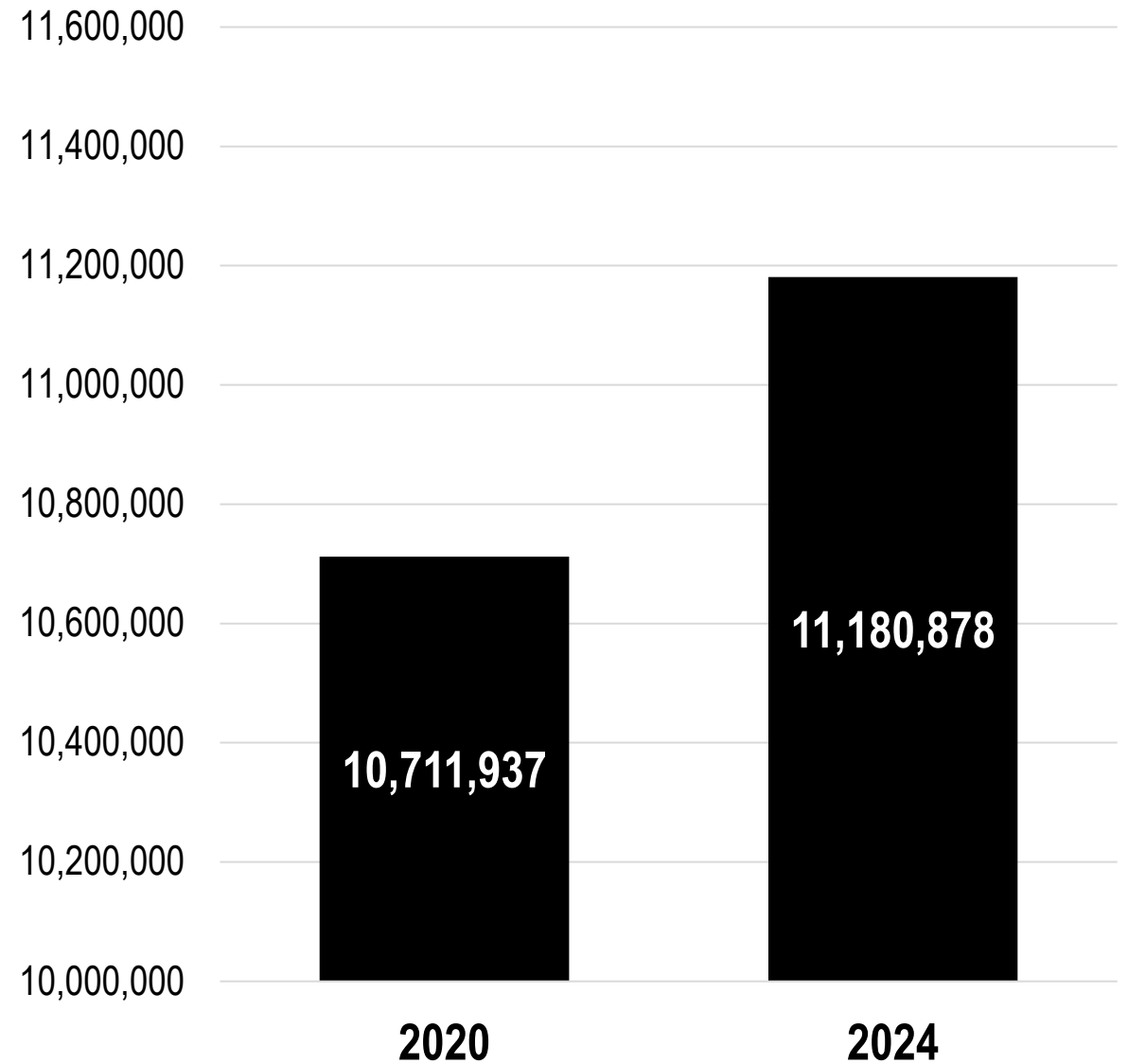
1. Georgia was the 13th fastest growing state
2. Georgia was one of only four states where the population increased by more than 1 million people



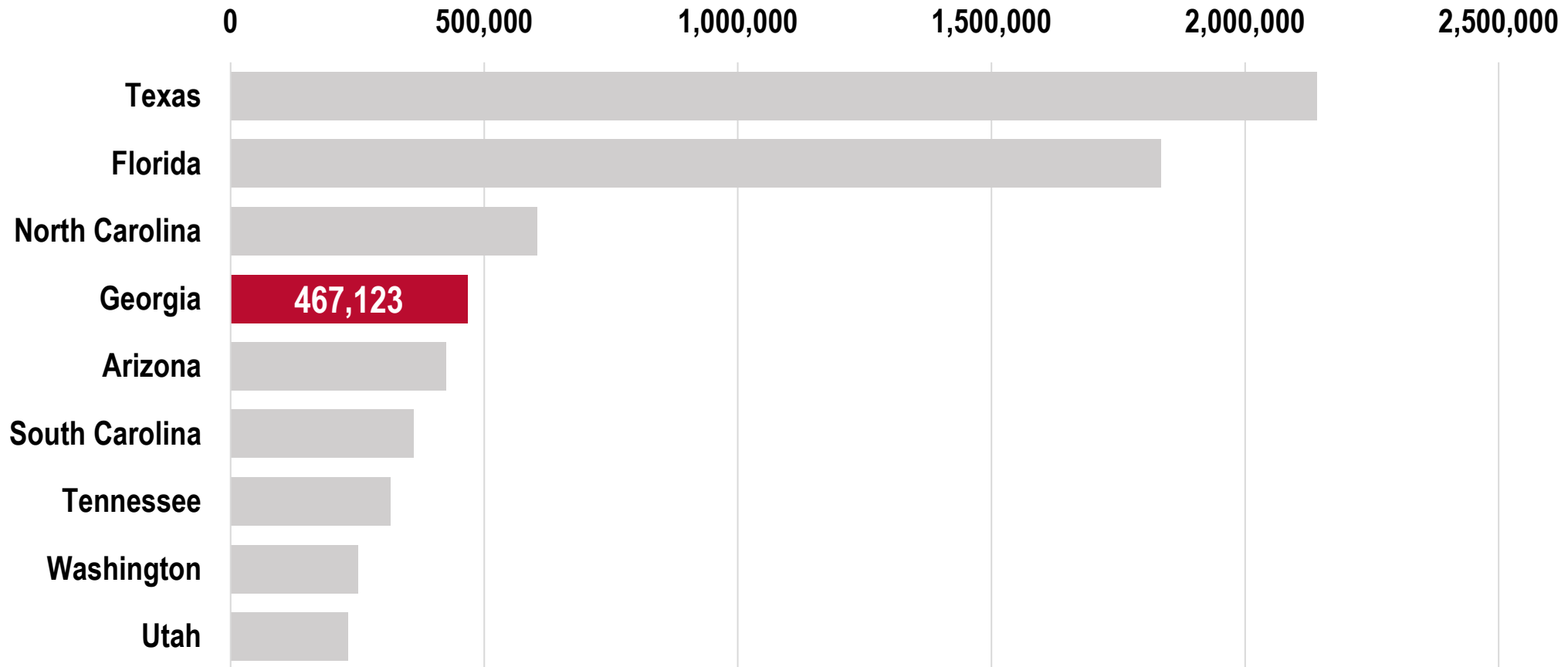
What about since the 2020 Census?

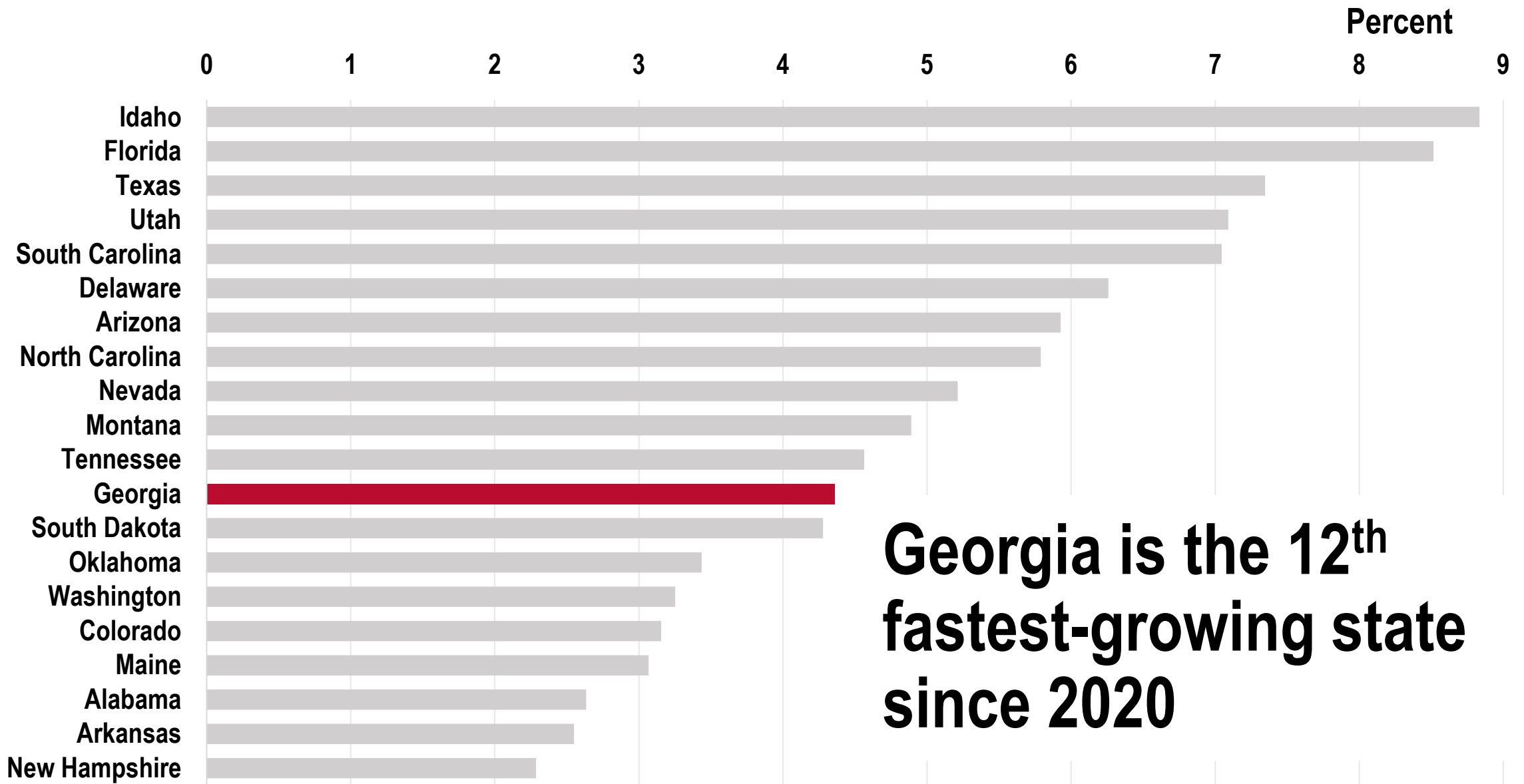


Georgia's Population increased by ~470,000 between 2020 Census and 2024 Estimates



Georgia ranks 4th in numeric growth since 2020

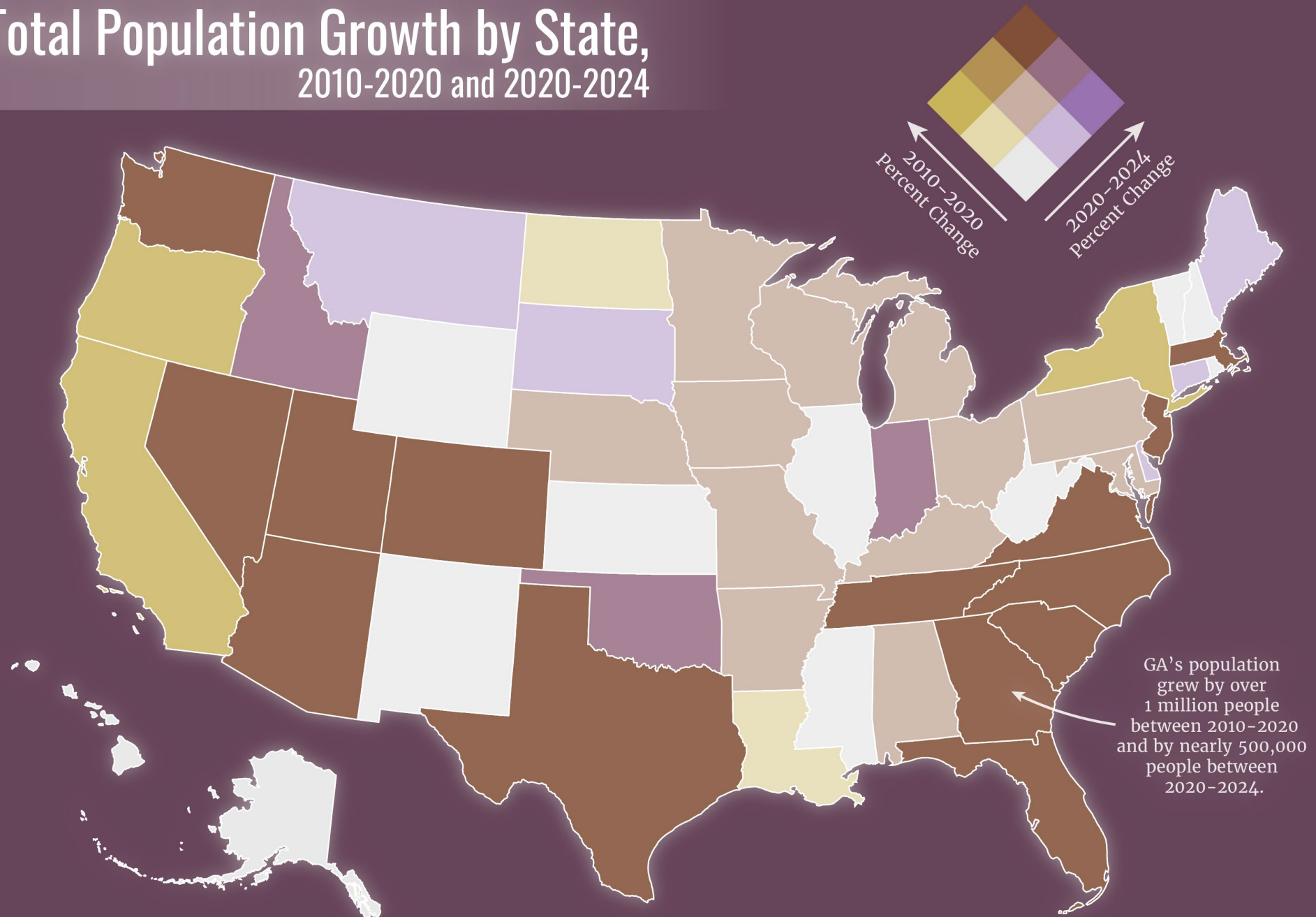




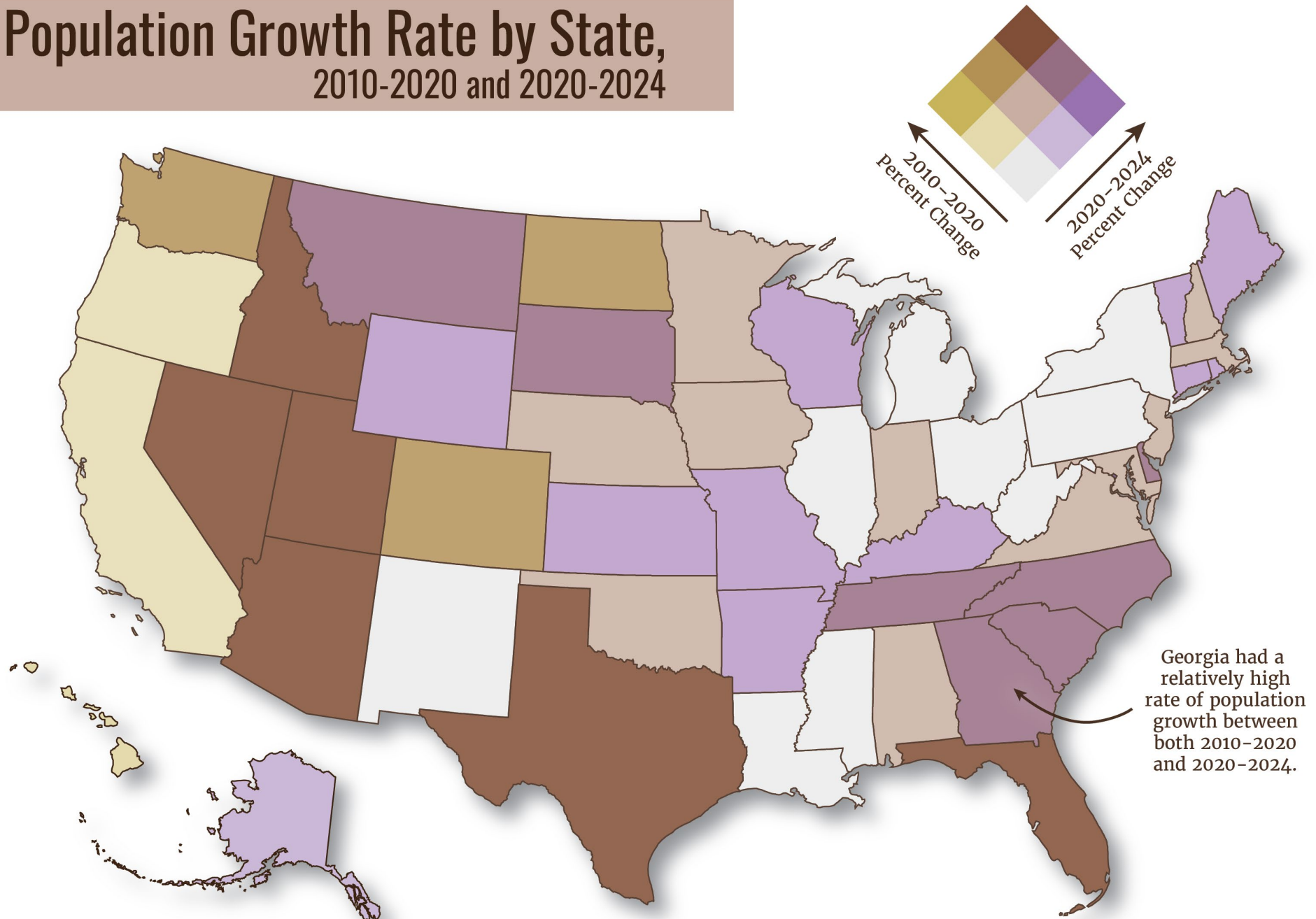
**Georgia is the 12th
fastest-growing state
since 2020**



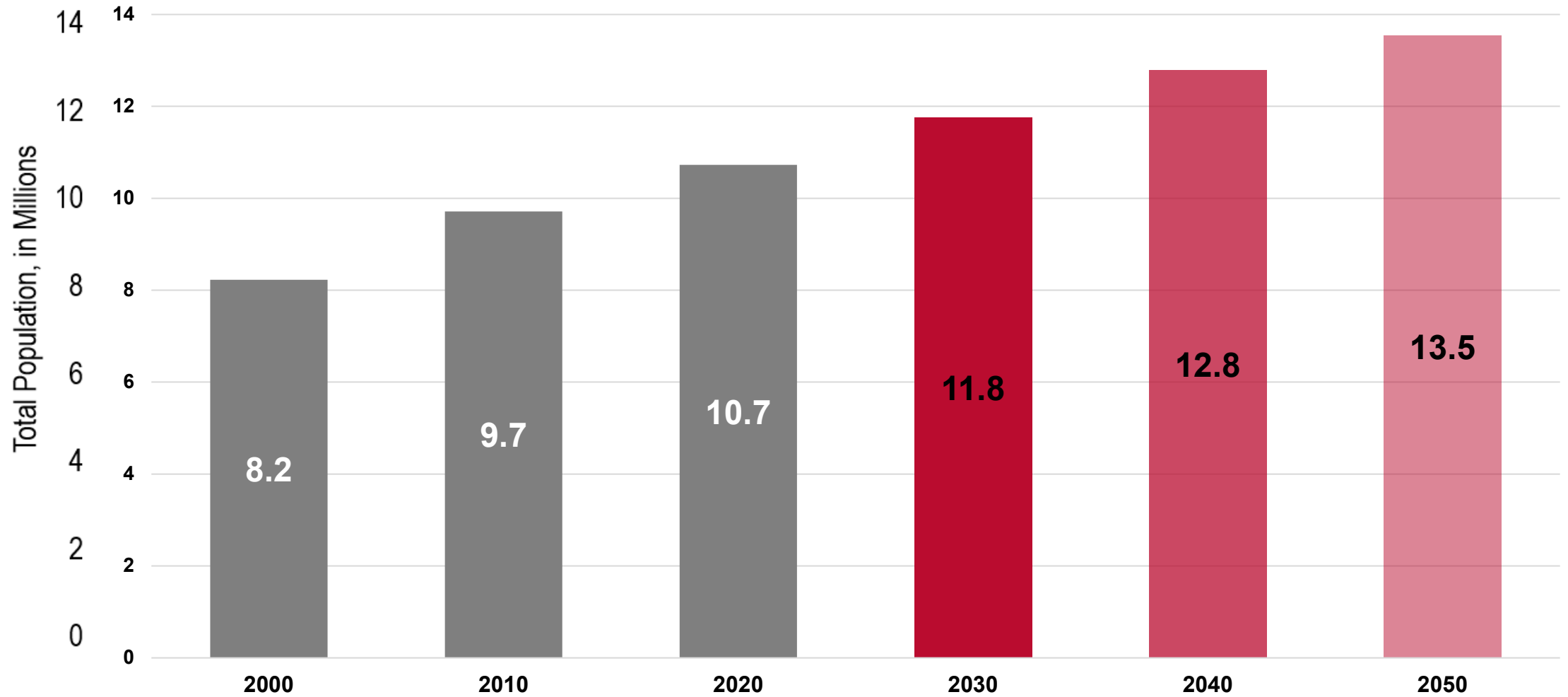
Total Population Growth by State, 2010-2020 and 2020-2024



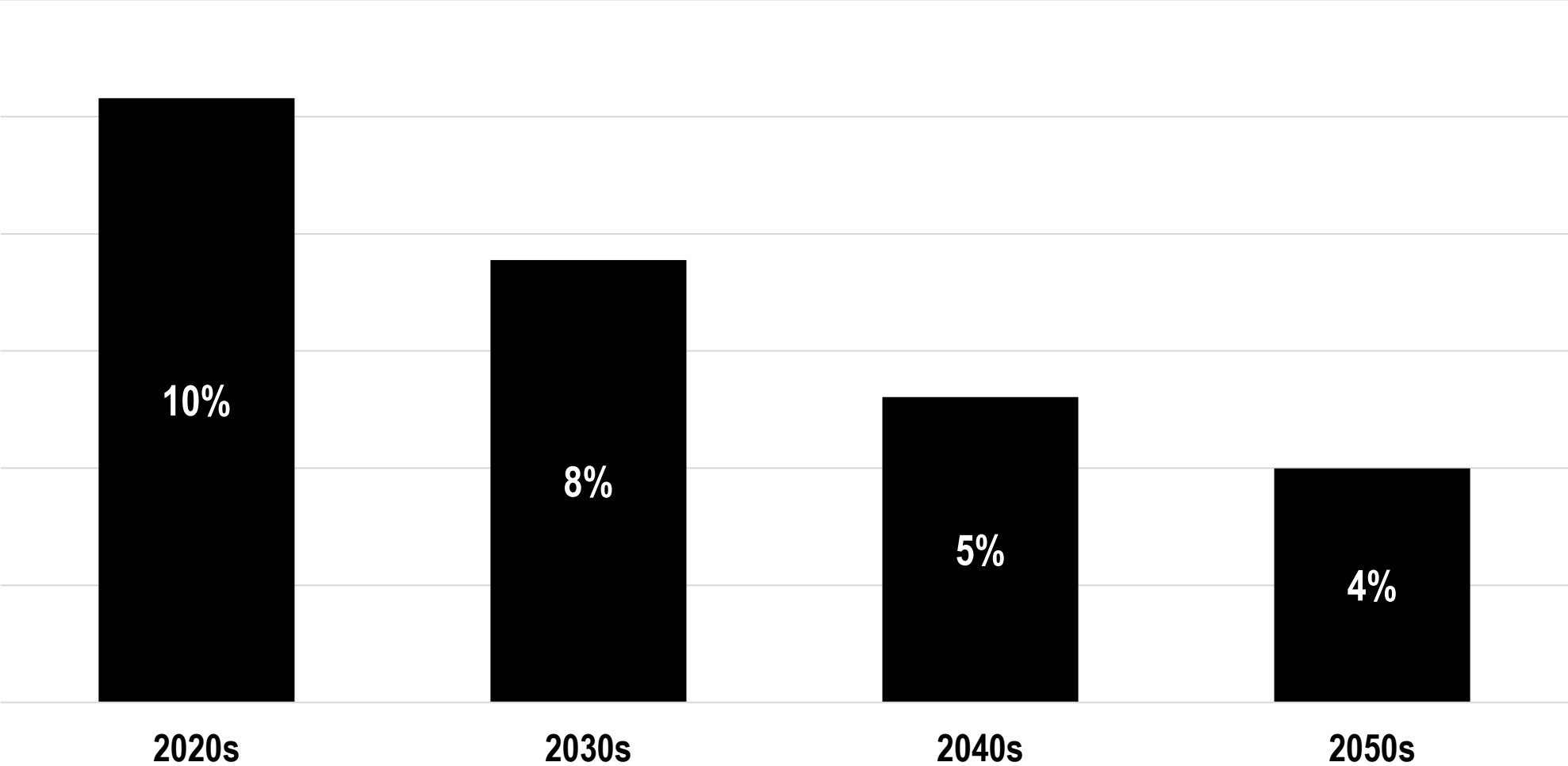
Population Growth Rate by State, 2010-2020 and 2020-2024



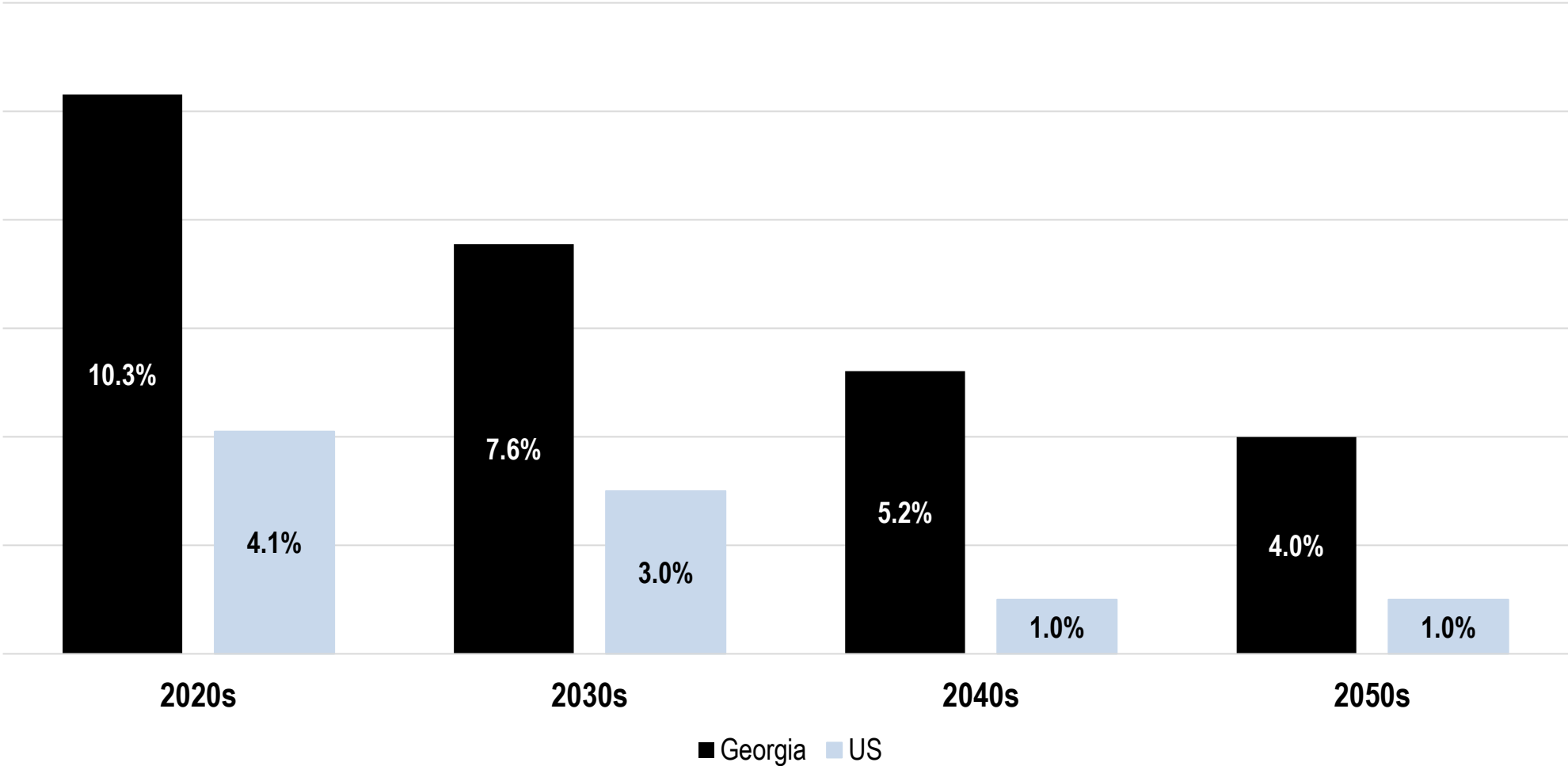
Georgia's Projected Population through 2050



Georgia's Projected Population Growth Rate



Georgia's Population Growth Projected to Outpace US

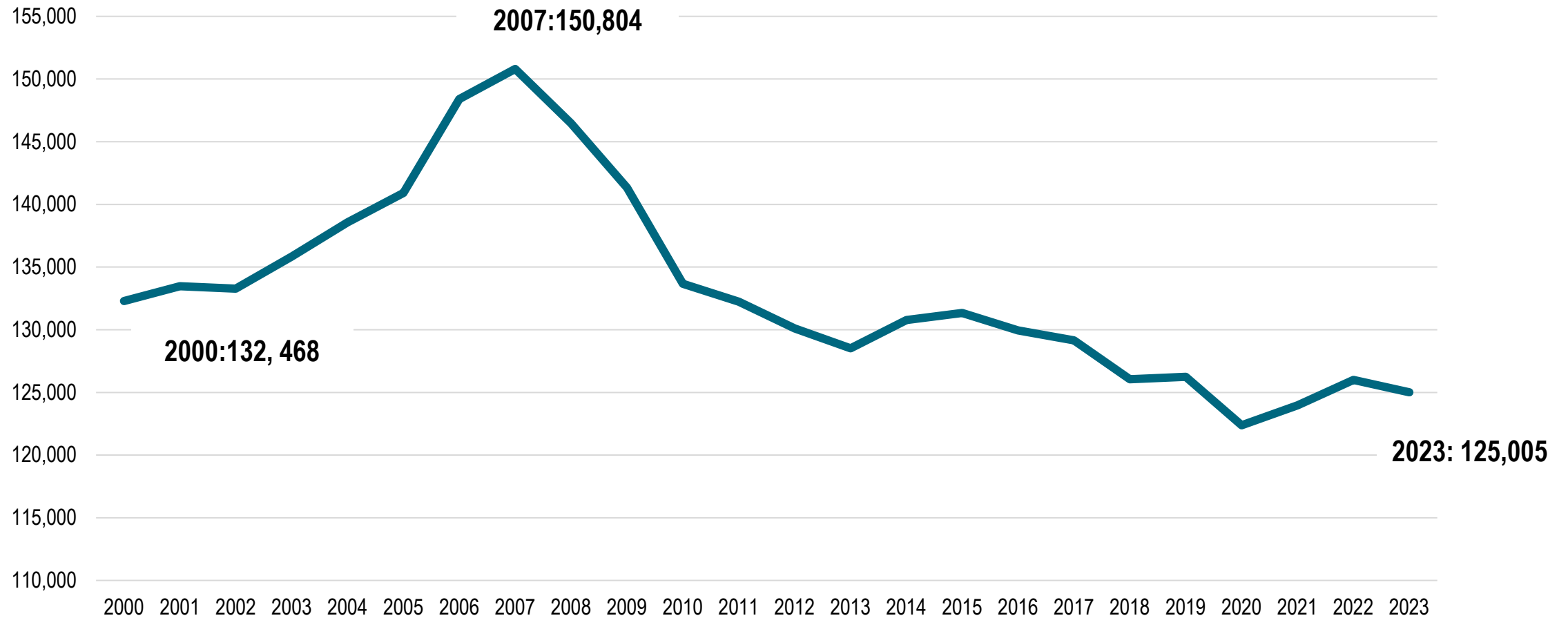


Three Components of Population Change

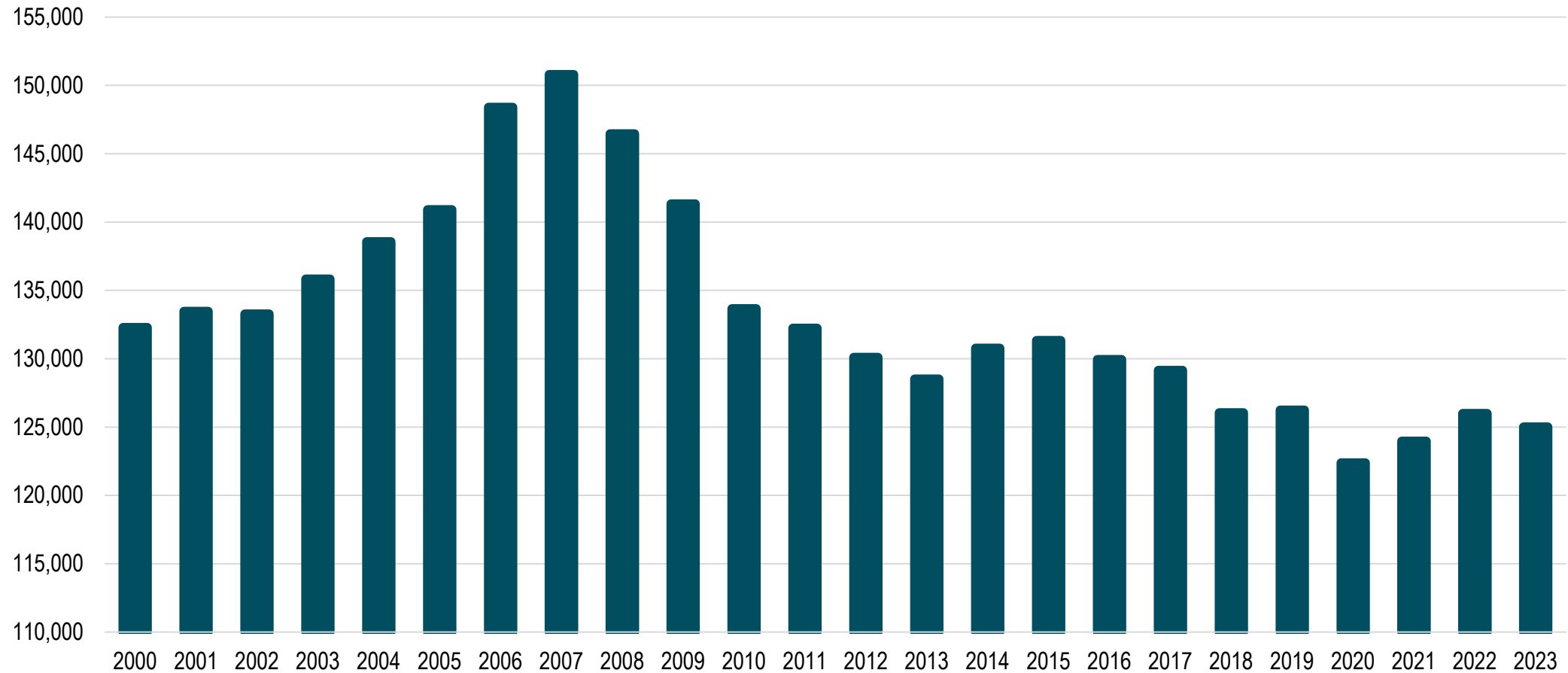
1. Births
2. Deaths
3. Migration



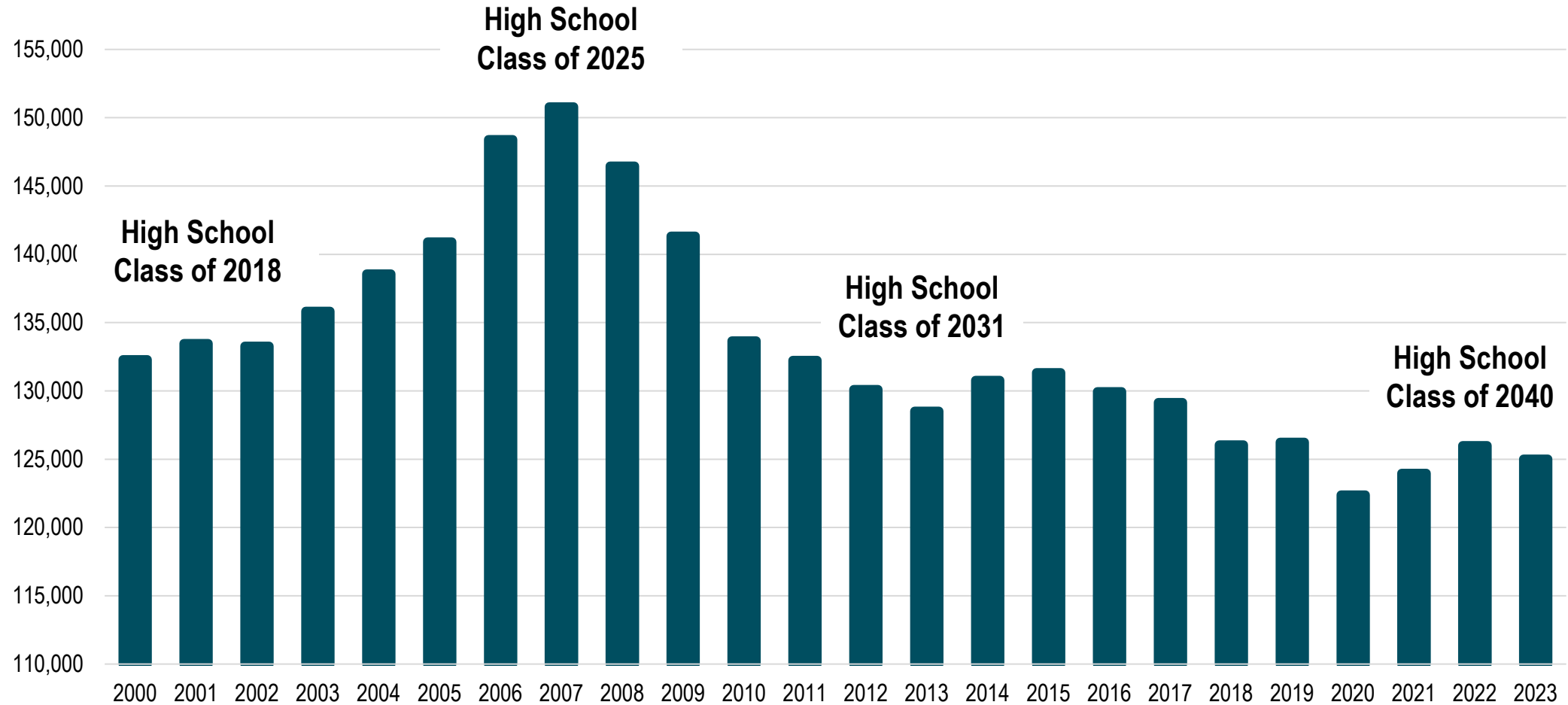
Number of Births are Falling in Georgia



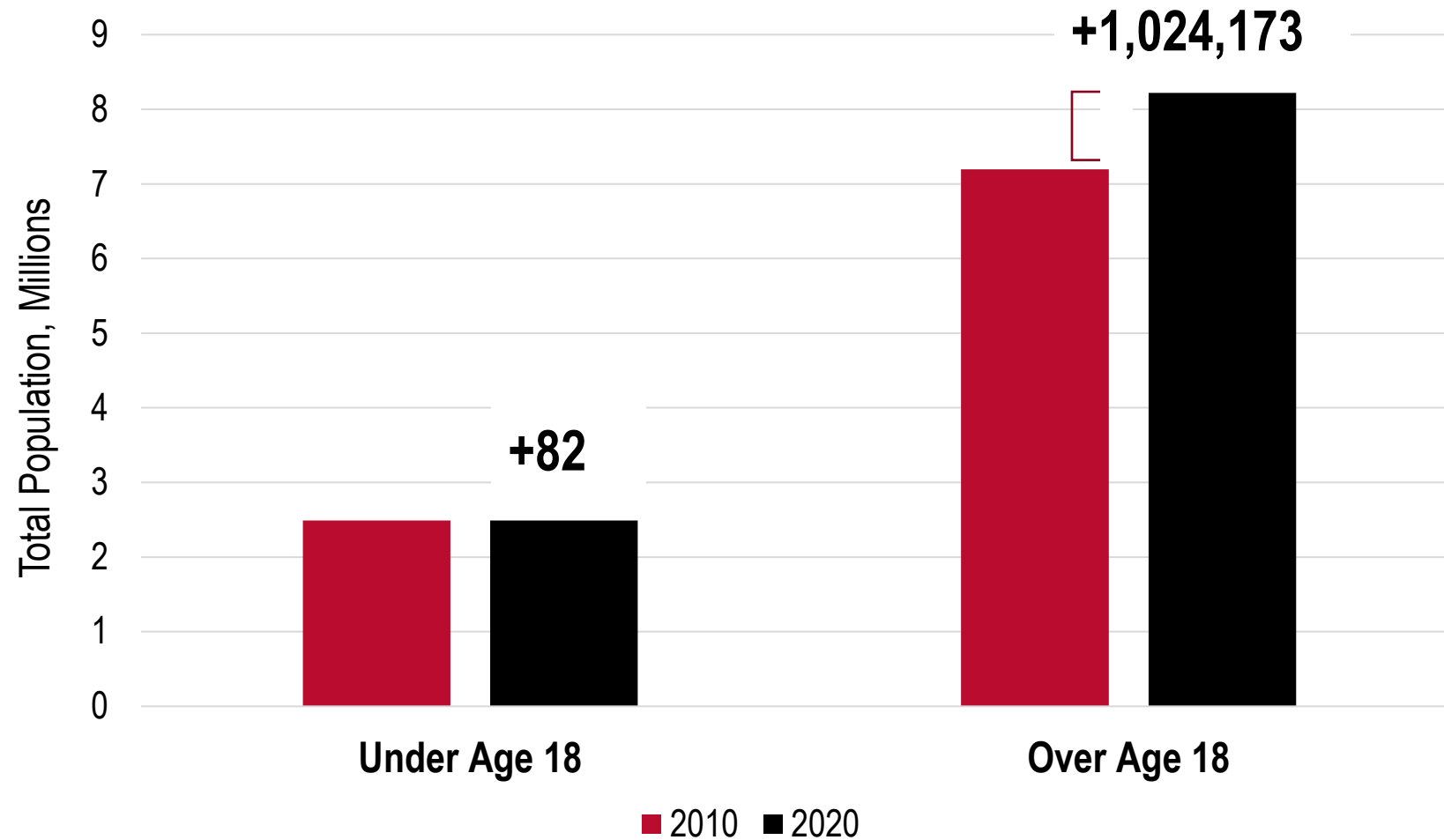
Fewer Births Impacts Education and Workforce



Fewer Births Impacts Education and Workforce

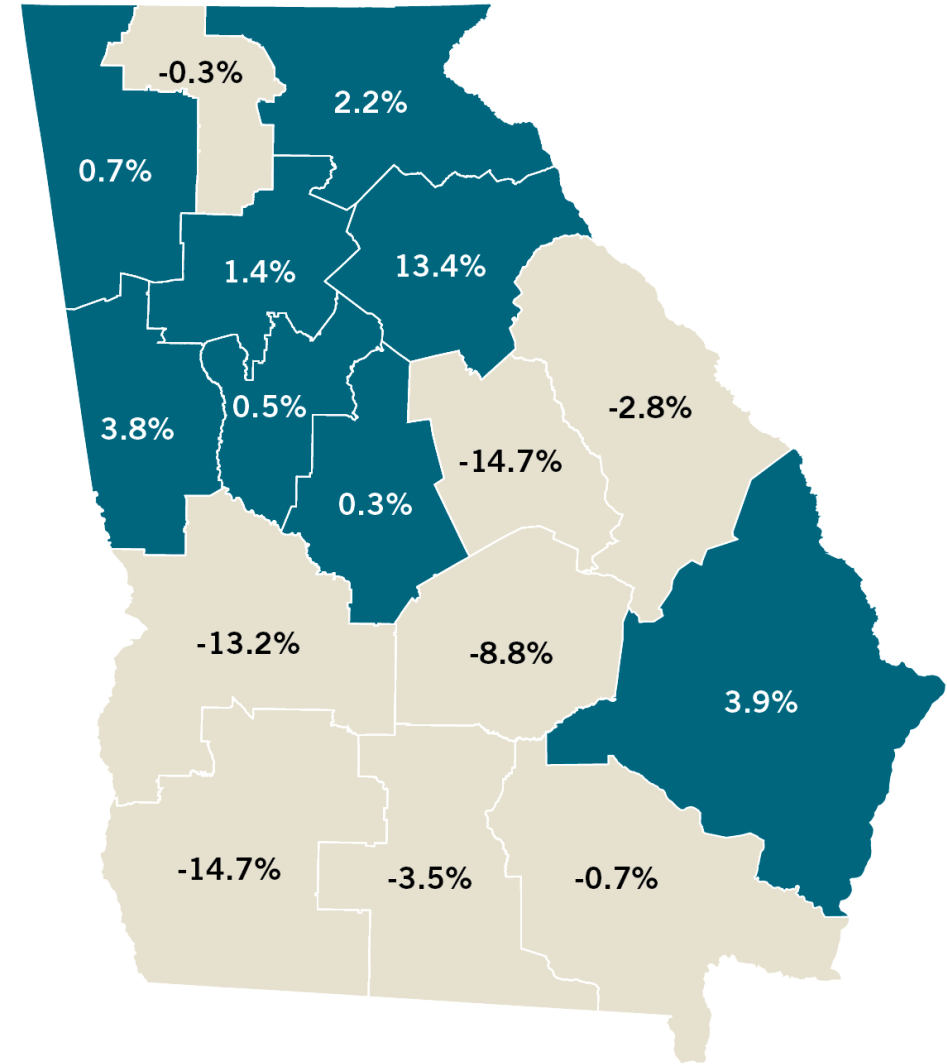


Georgia's Population Growth in 2010s was Adult Population Growth

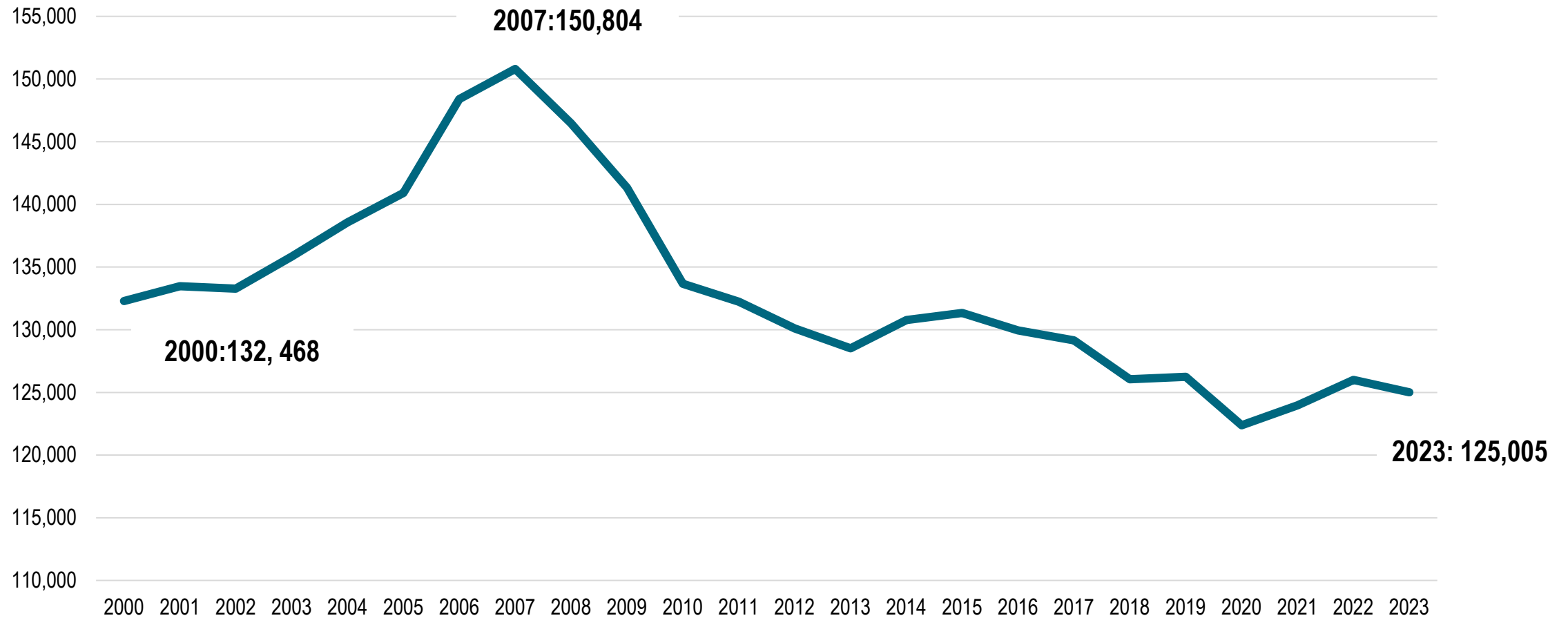


Declining number of births already impacting local school systems

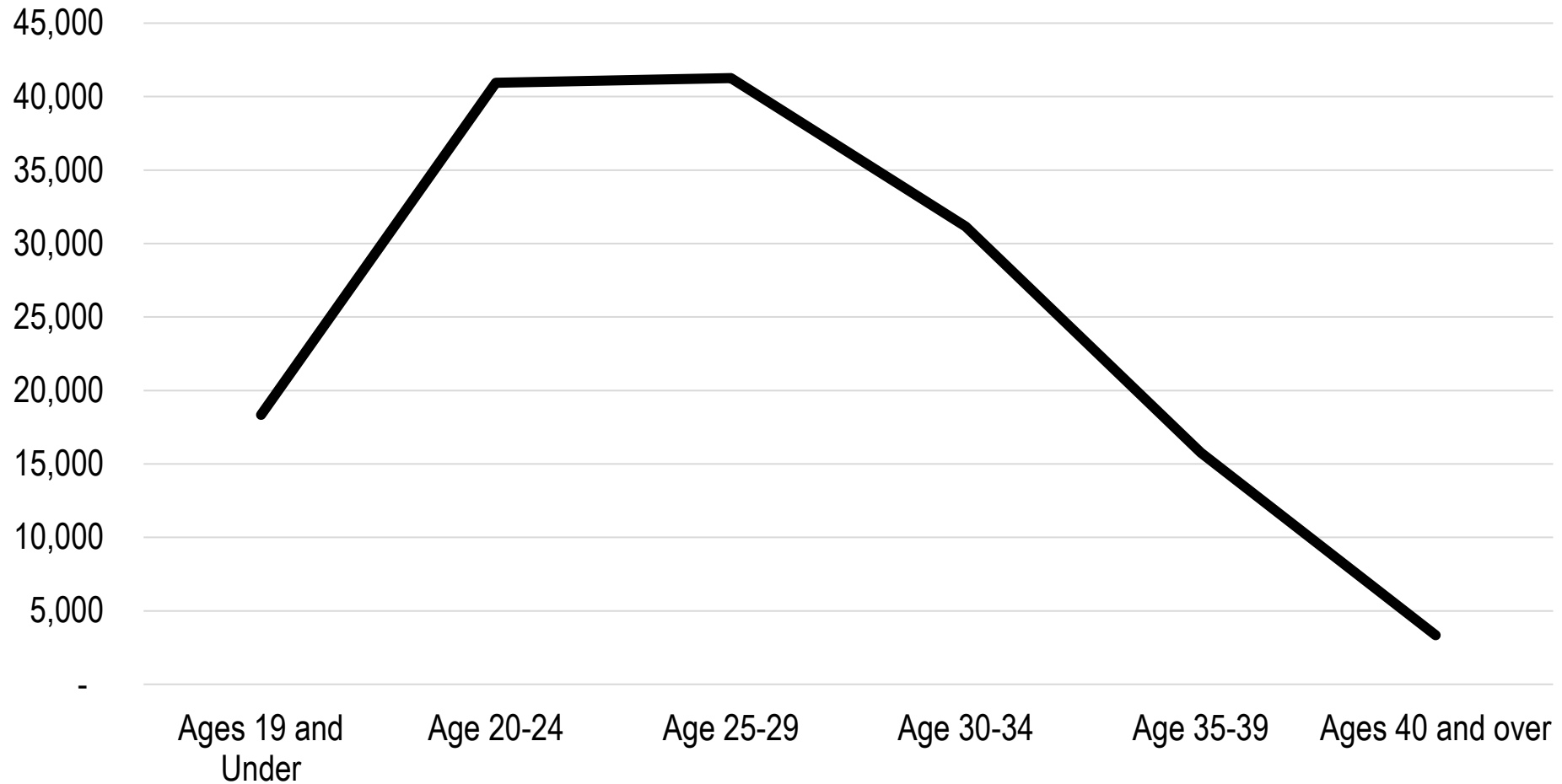
- K-12 Enrollments have declined in half of the Regional Education Service Areas (RESAs) over the past ten years (Fall 2013-2023)



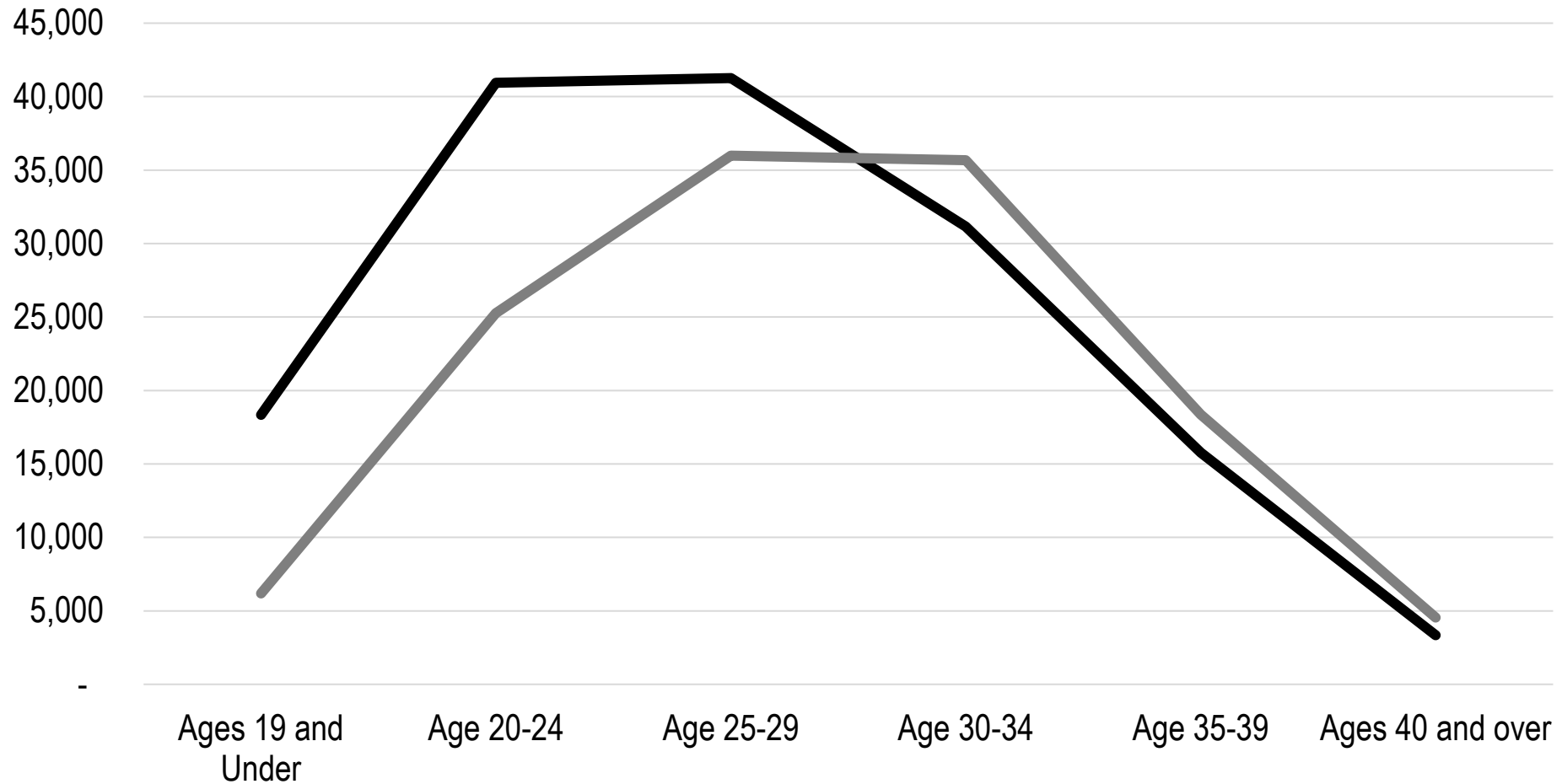
Why?



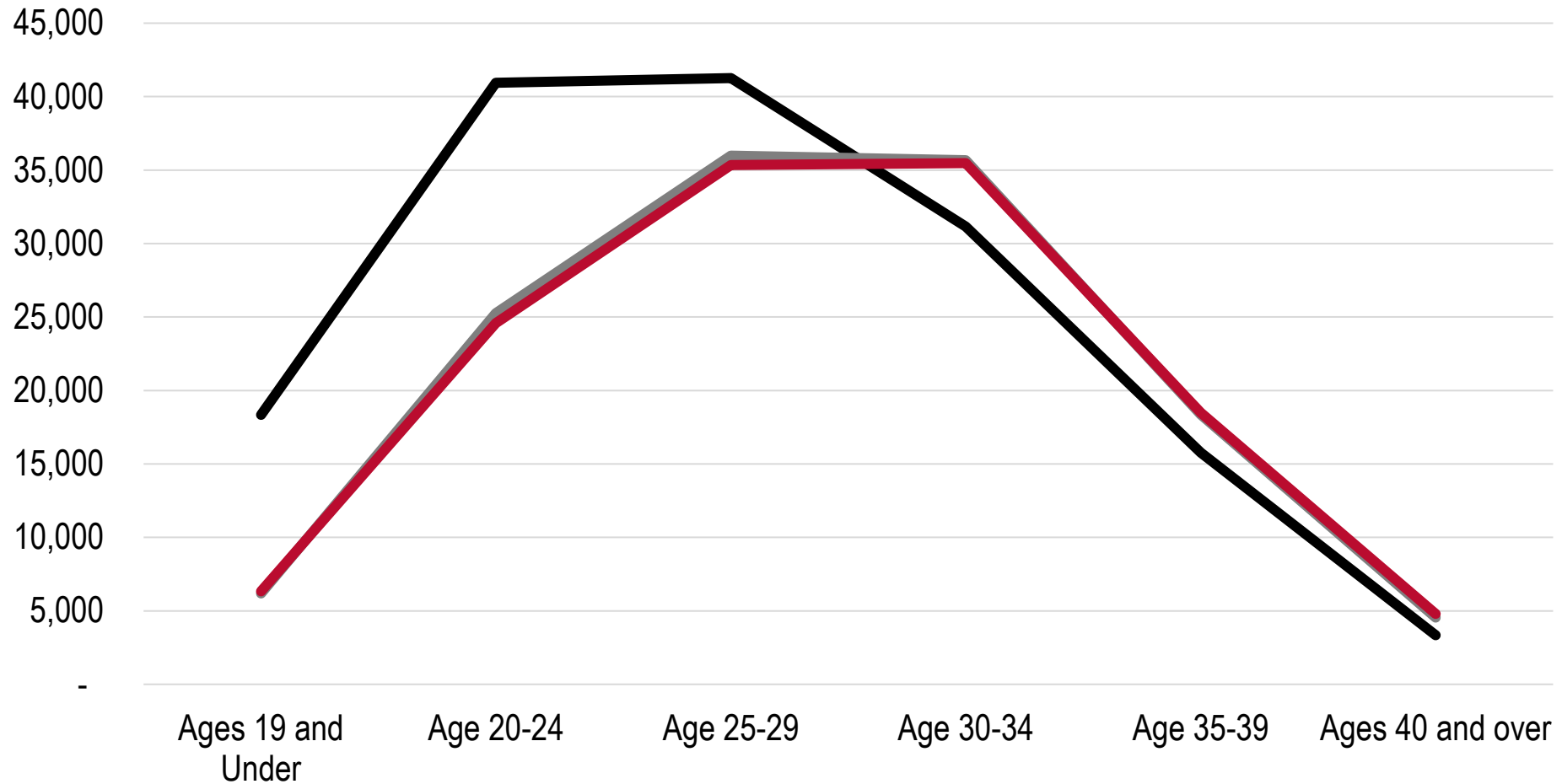
Georgia's Shifting Fertility Arc



Georgia's Shifting Fertility Arc



Georgia's Shifting Fertility Arc



Three Components of Population Change

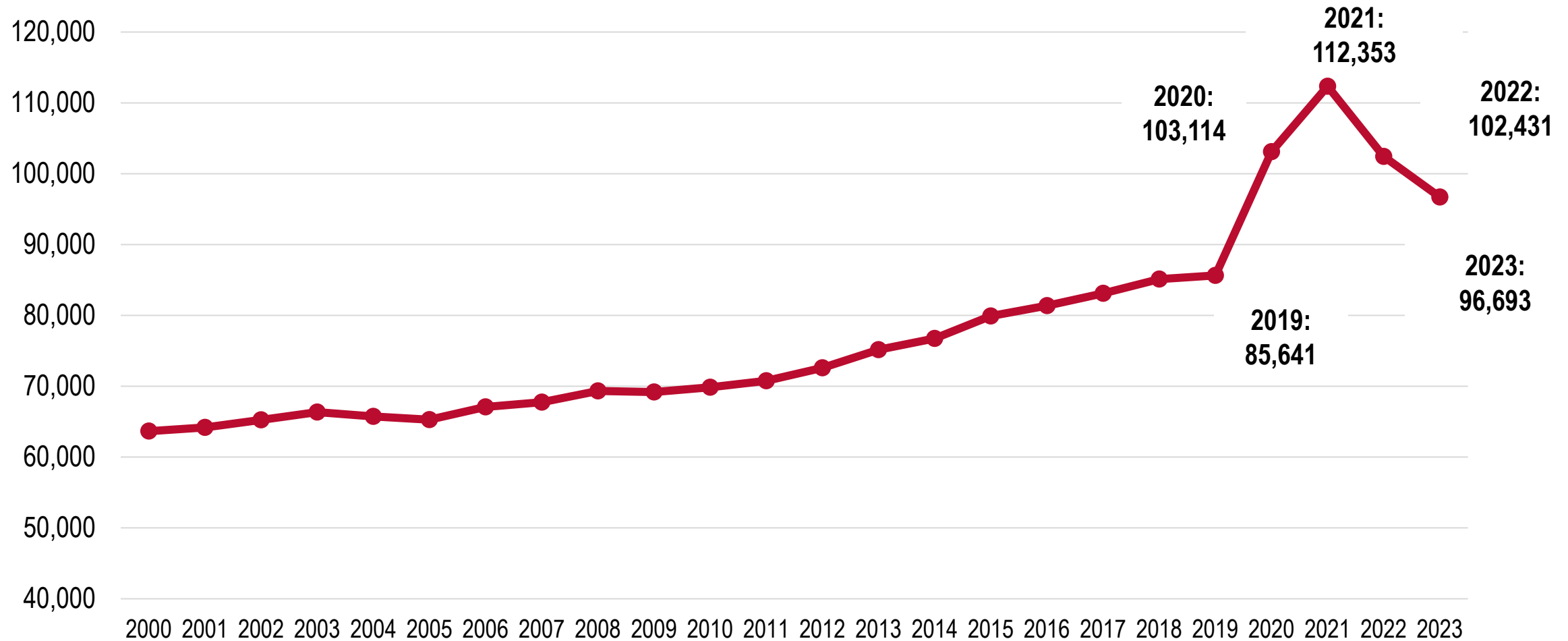
1. Births

2. **Deaths**

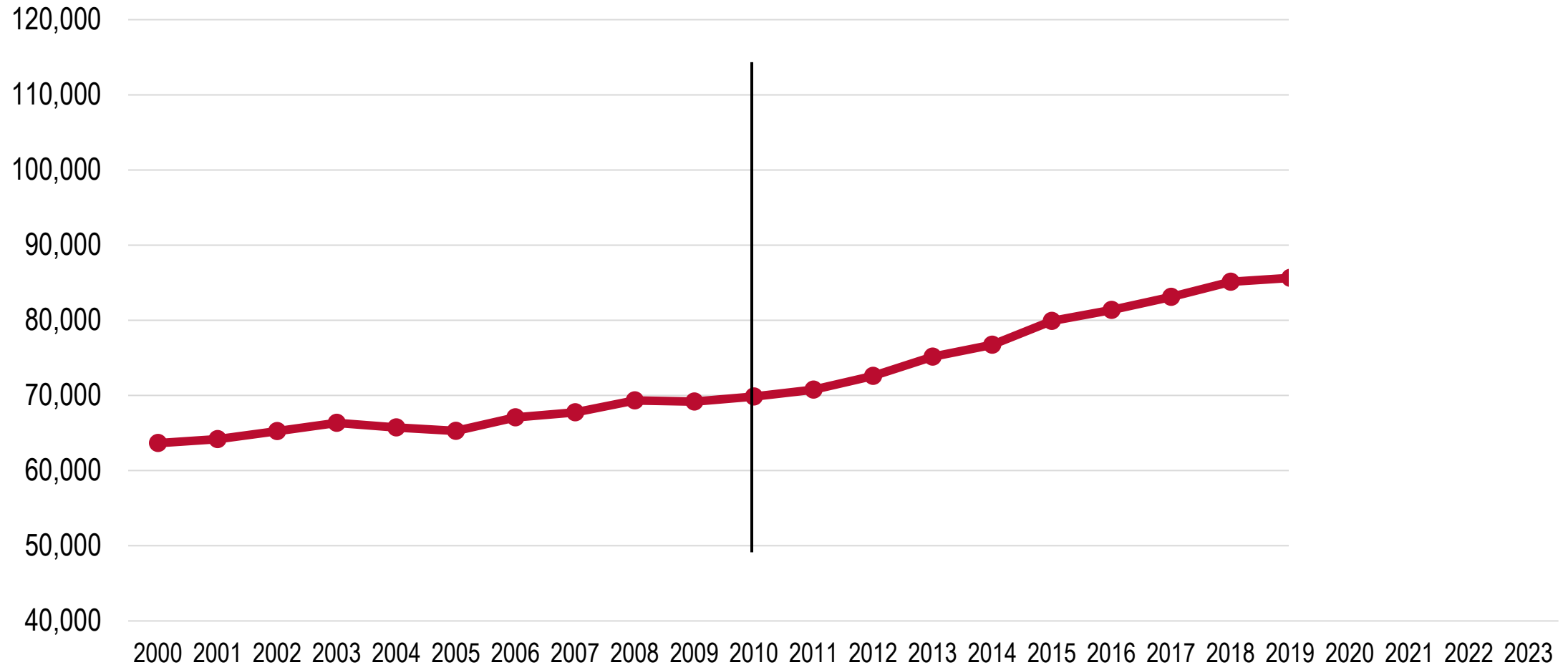
3. Migration



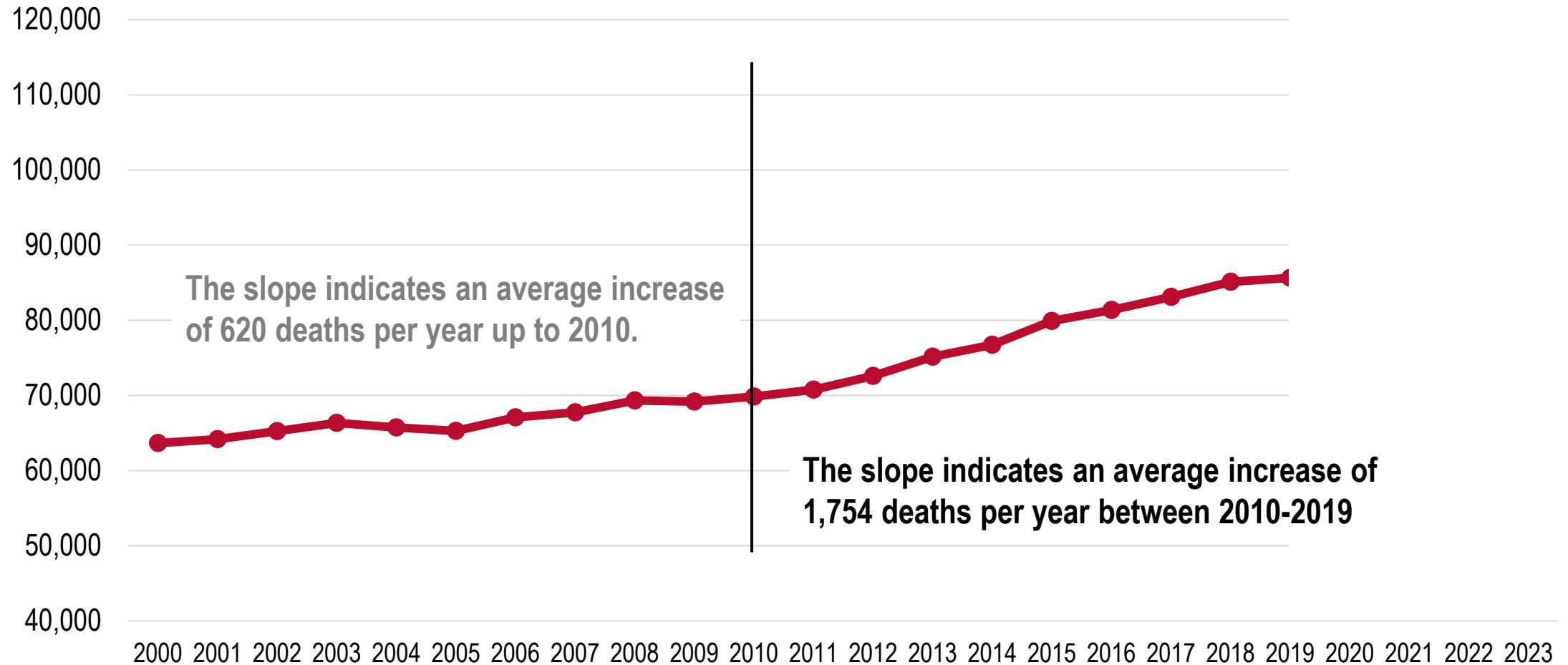
Deaths peaked in 2021



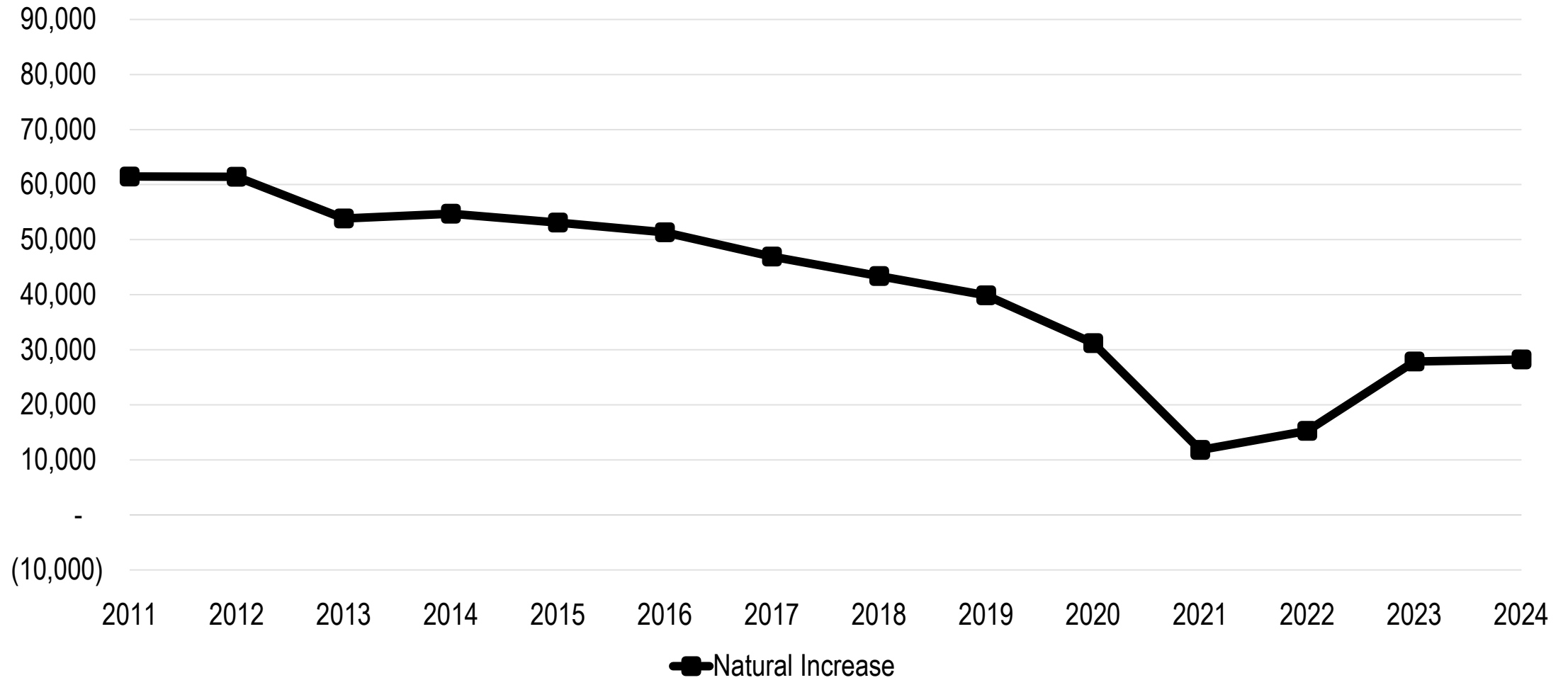
Deaths were increasing prior to 2021



Deaths were increasing prior to 2021



Natural Increase Slows in Georgia



Three Components of Population Change

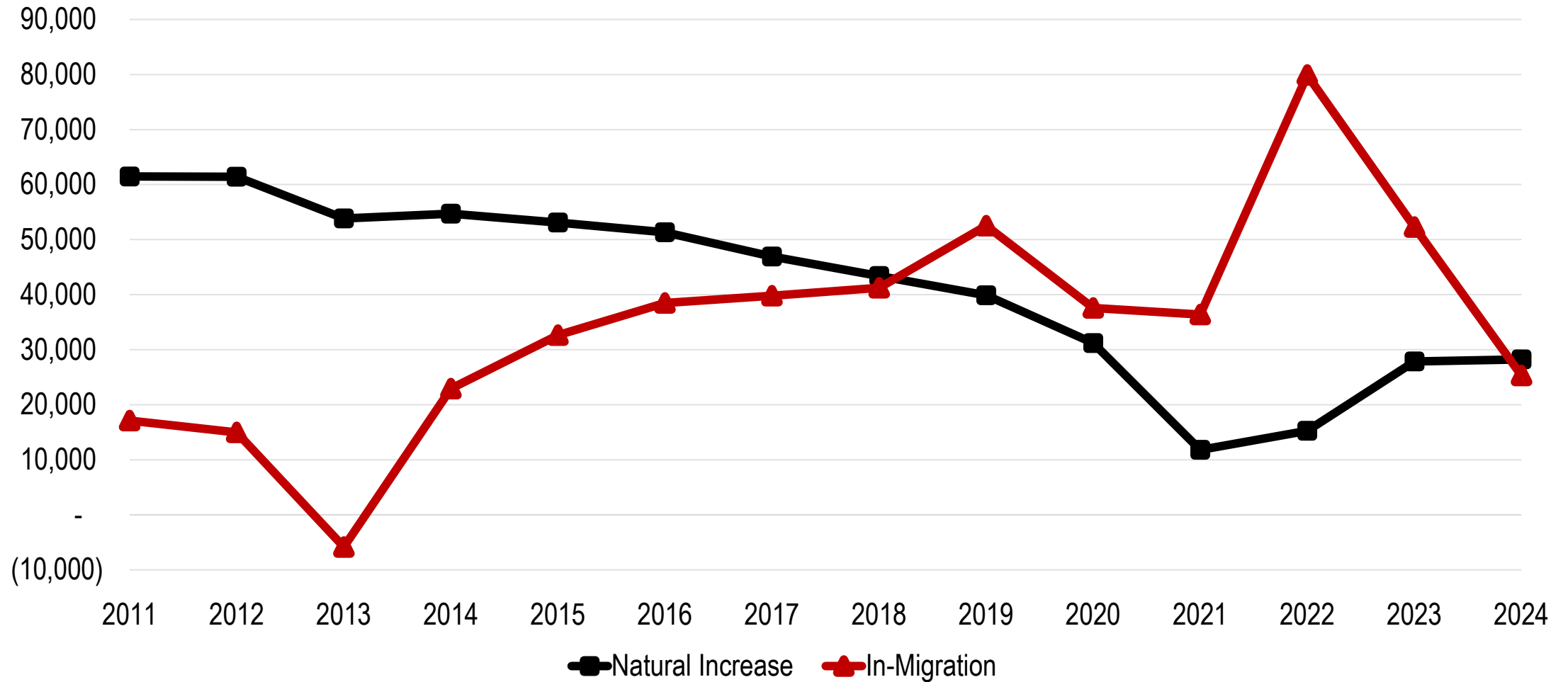
1. Births

2. Deaths

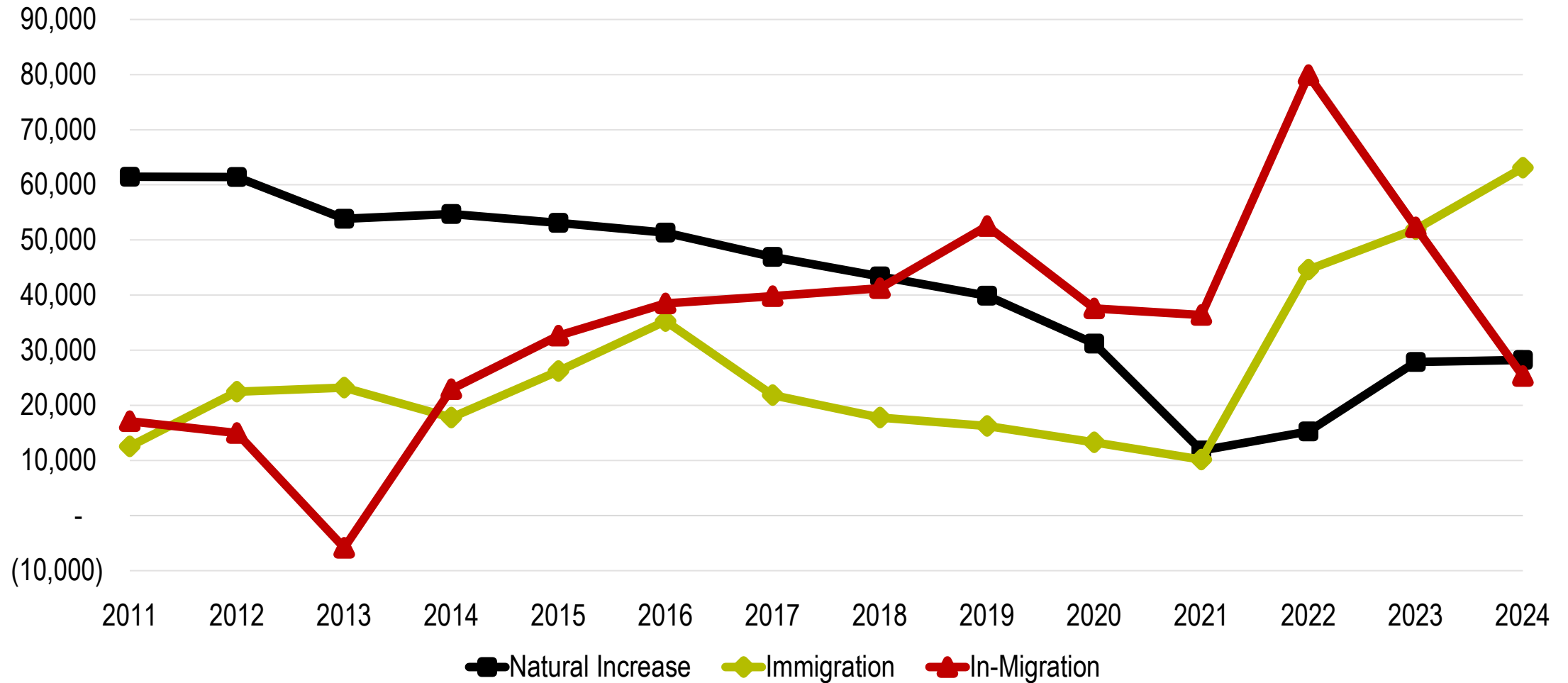
3. Migration



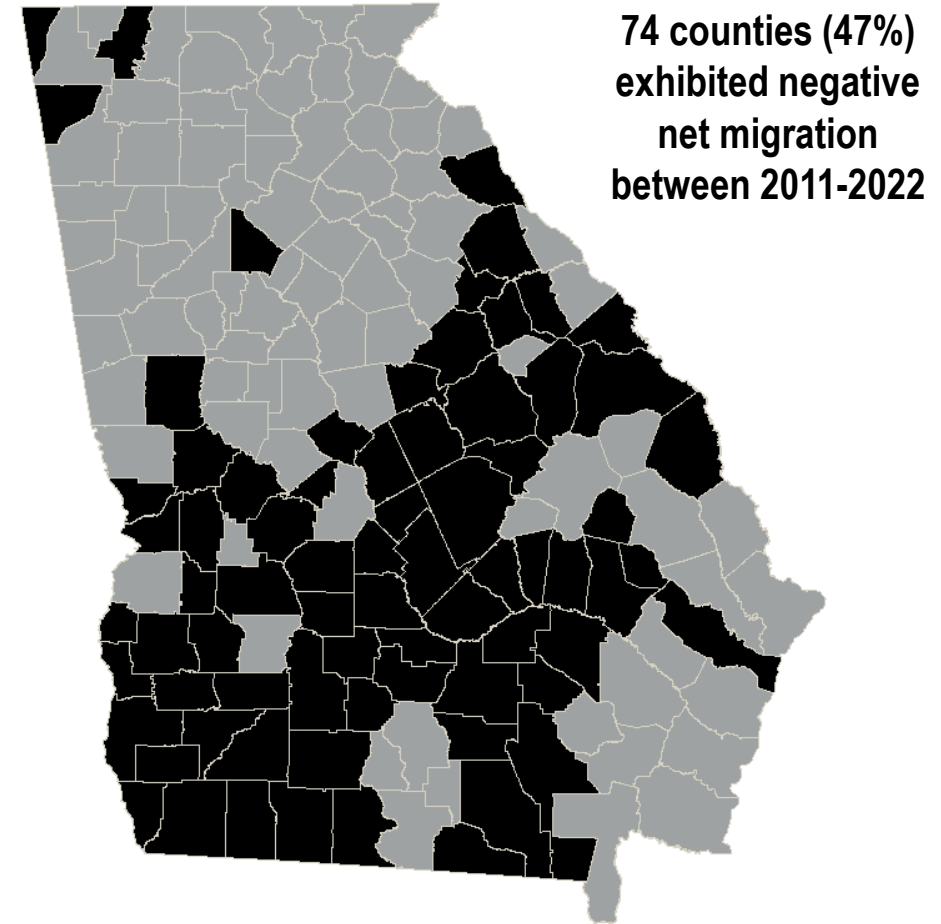
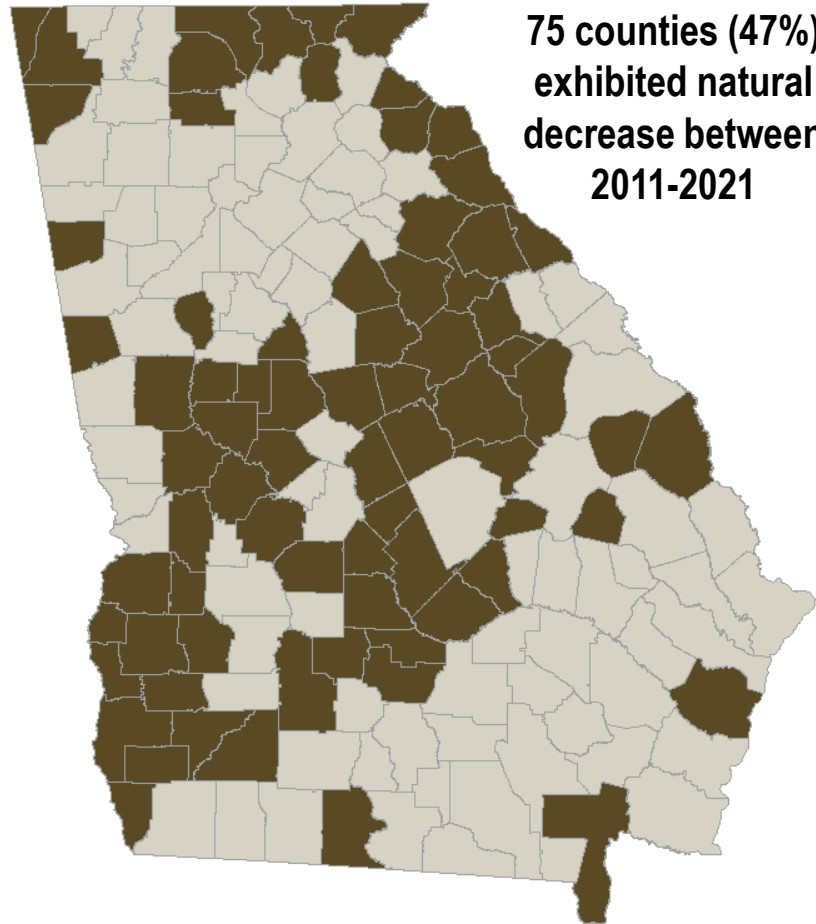
Domestic Migration has led Georgia's Growth



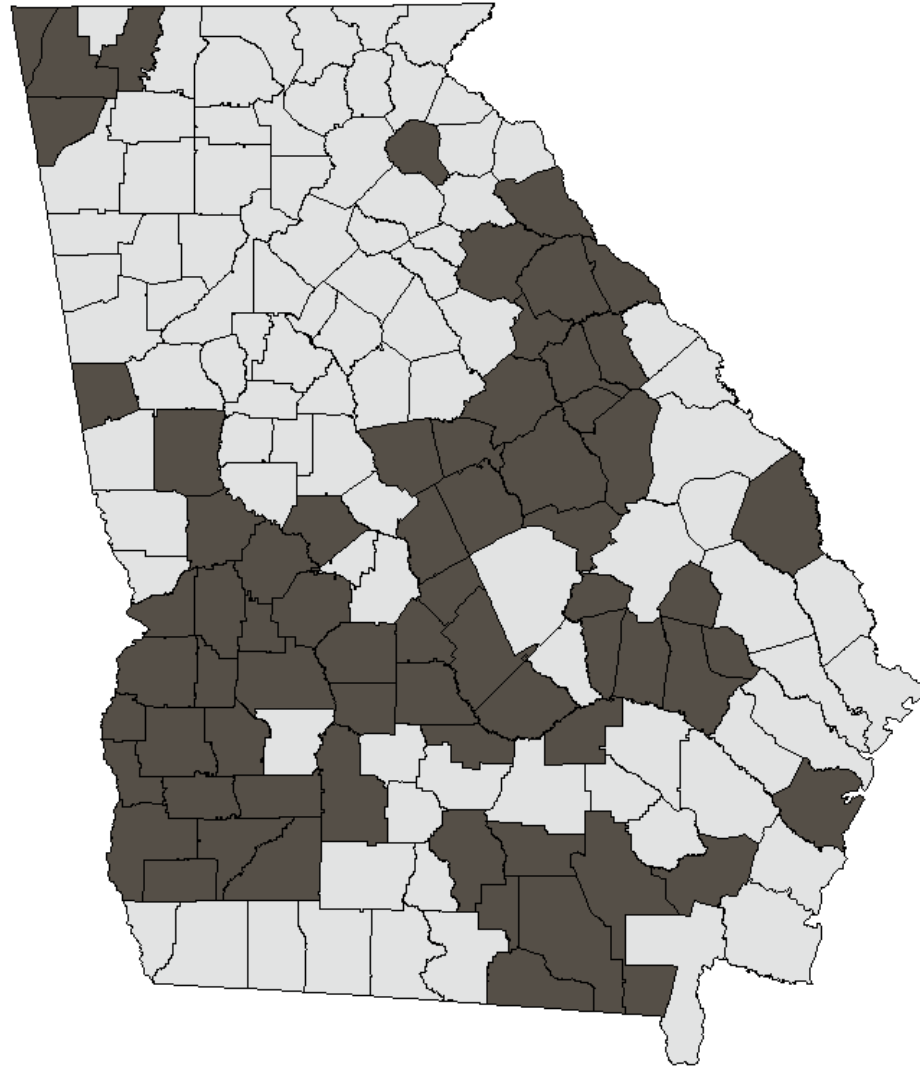
International Migration Increases in Recent Years



Mapping the Components of Population Change

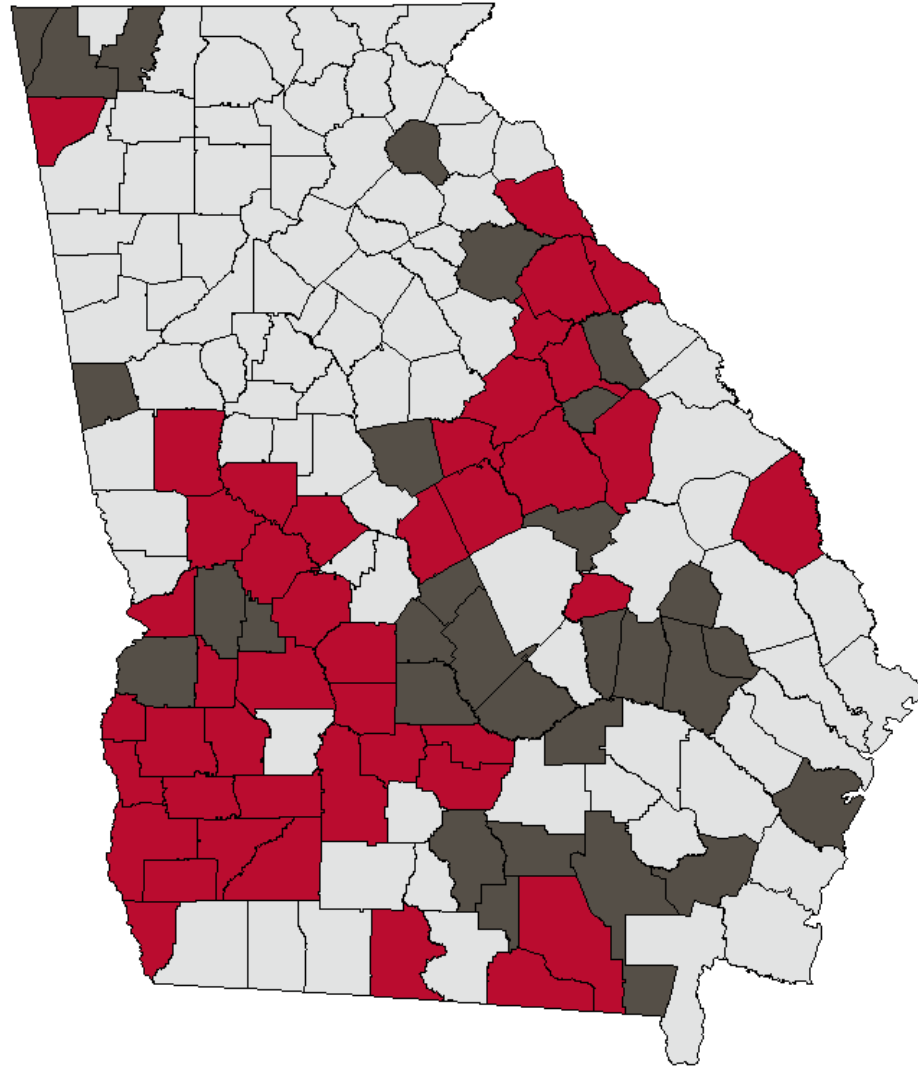


68 counties lost population between 2010 and 2020



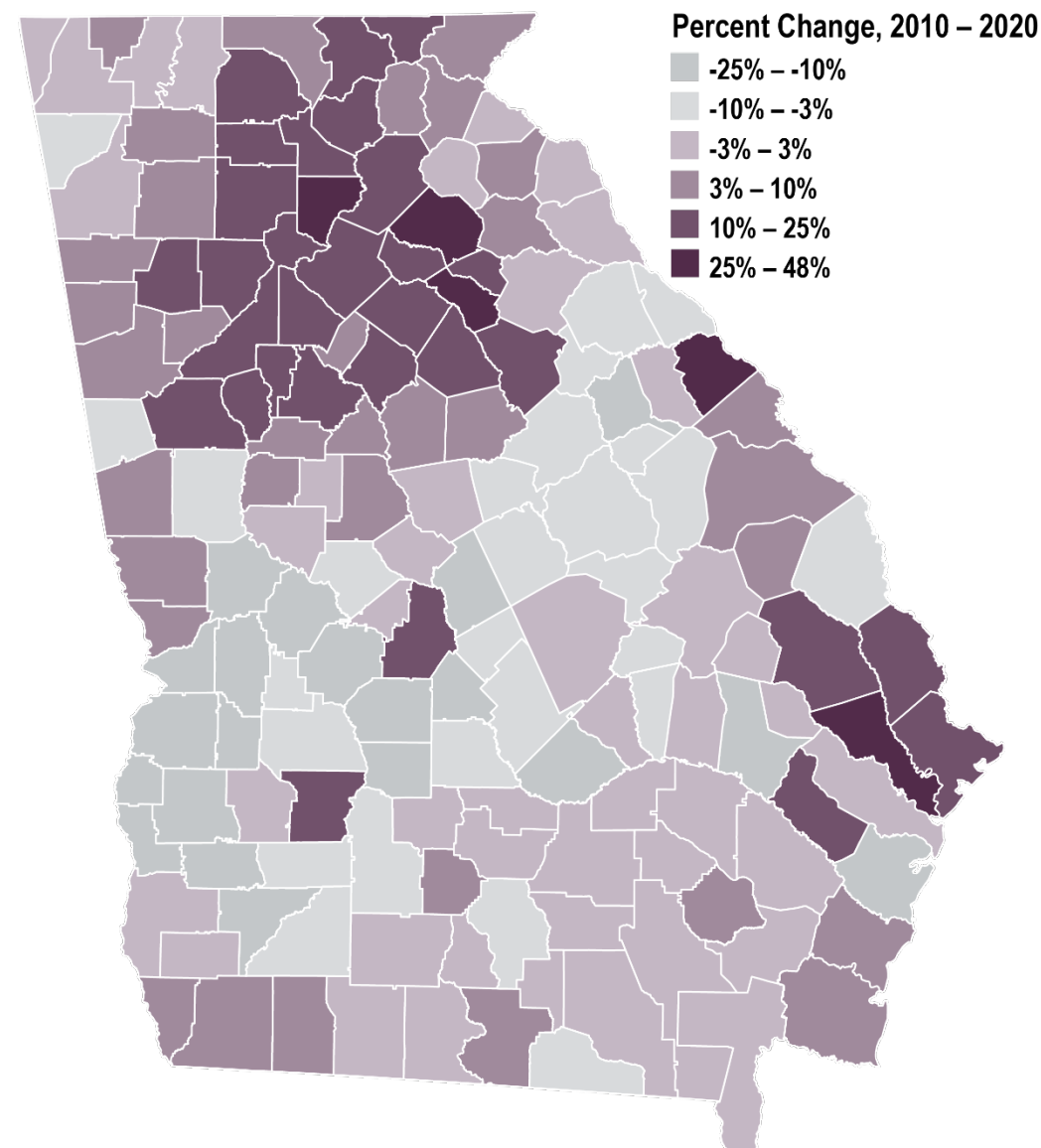
68 counties lost
population between 2010
and 2020

**43 counties have
fewer people in 2020
than in 2000**

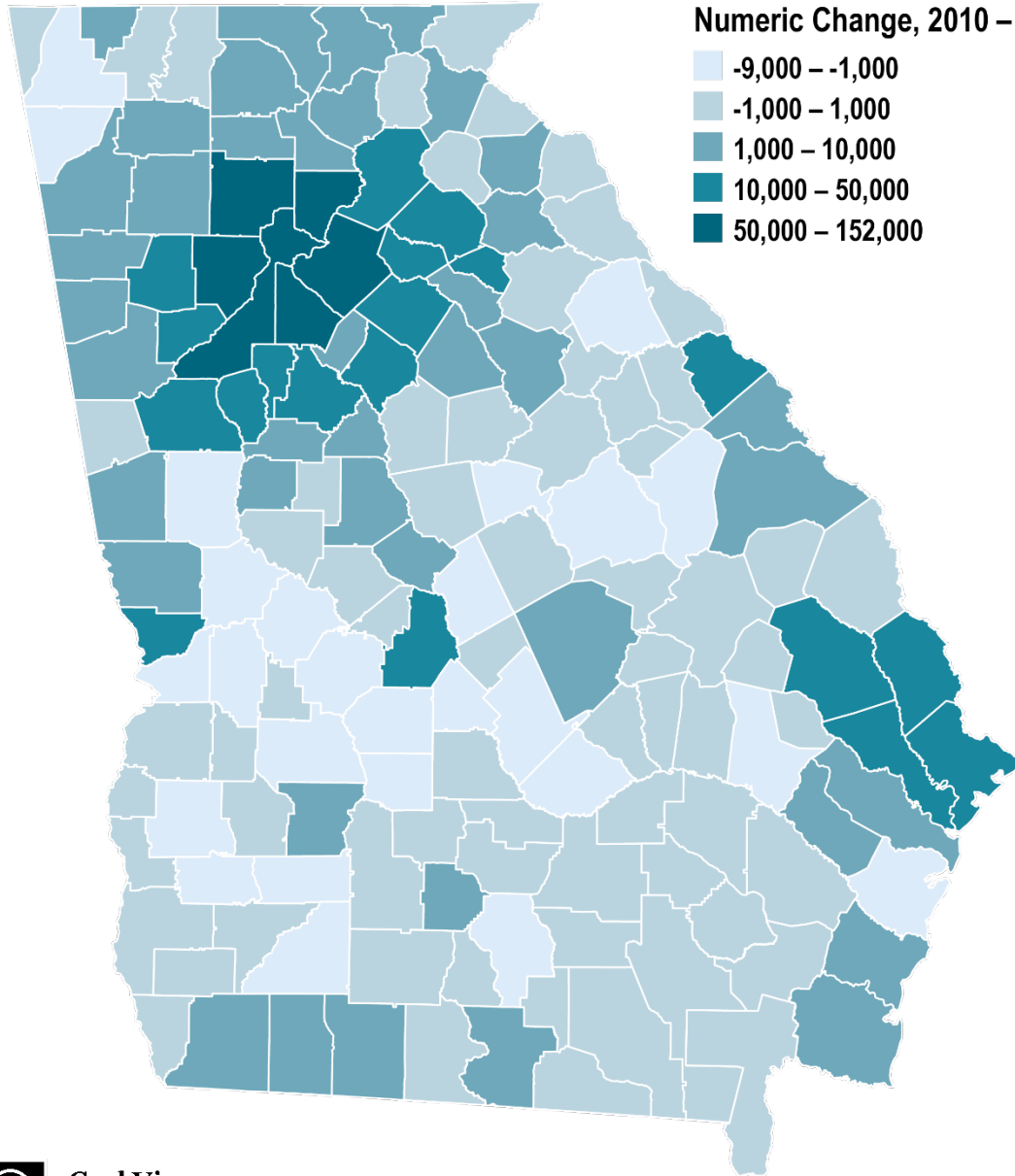
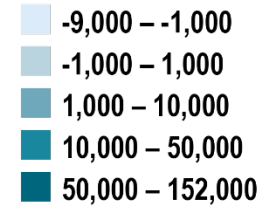


Suburban and Exurban Counties Grew Fastest in the 2010s

	Fastest Growing	%	Fastest Decrease	%
1	Bryan County	48.0	Dooly County	-24.9
2	Forsyth County	43.2	Telfair County	-24.4
3	Oconee County	27.4	McIntosh County	-23.4
4	Columbia County	25.8	Macon County	-18.0
5	Jackson County	25.5	Pulaski County	-17.9



Numeric Change, 2010 – 2020

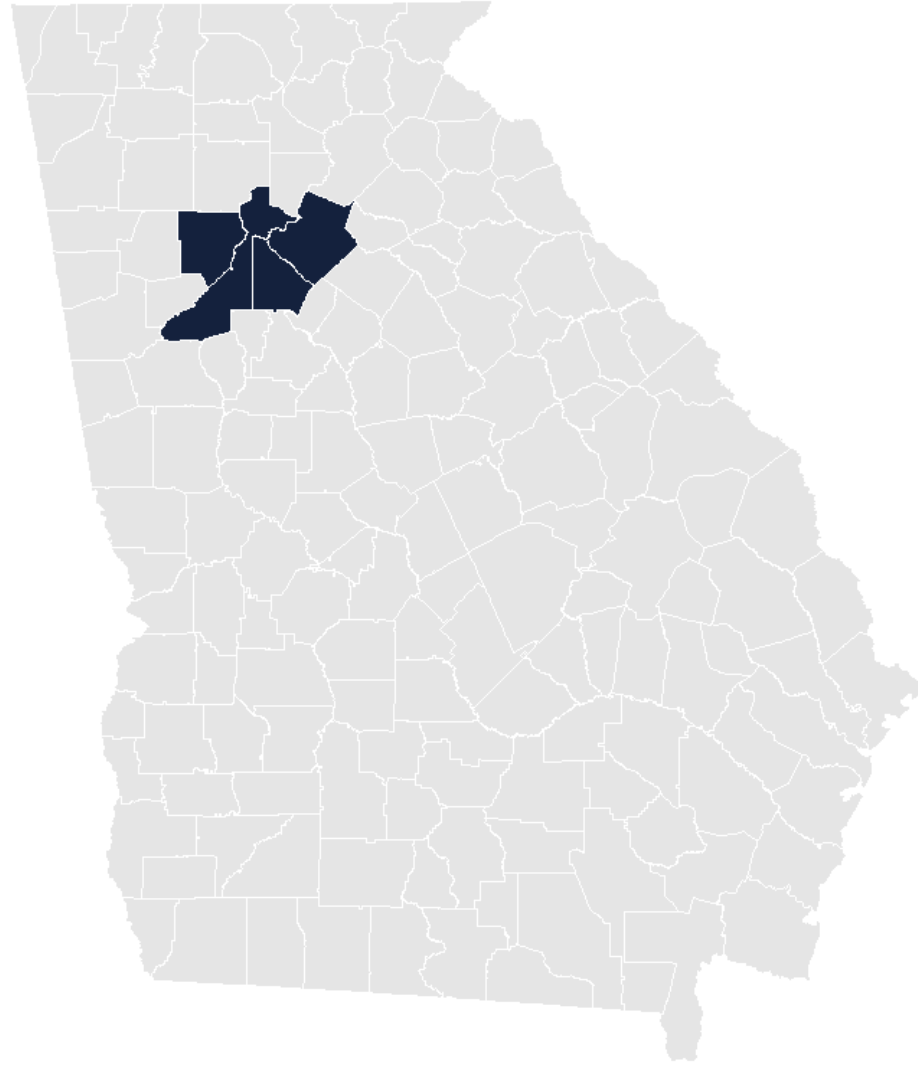


Population Growth was Concentrated in Population Centers during the 2010s

	Numeric Increase	#
1	Gwinnett County	151,741
2	Fulton County	146,129
3	Cobb County	78,071
4	Forsyth County	75,772
5	DeKalb County	72,489

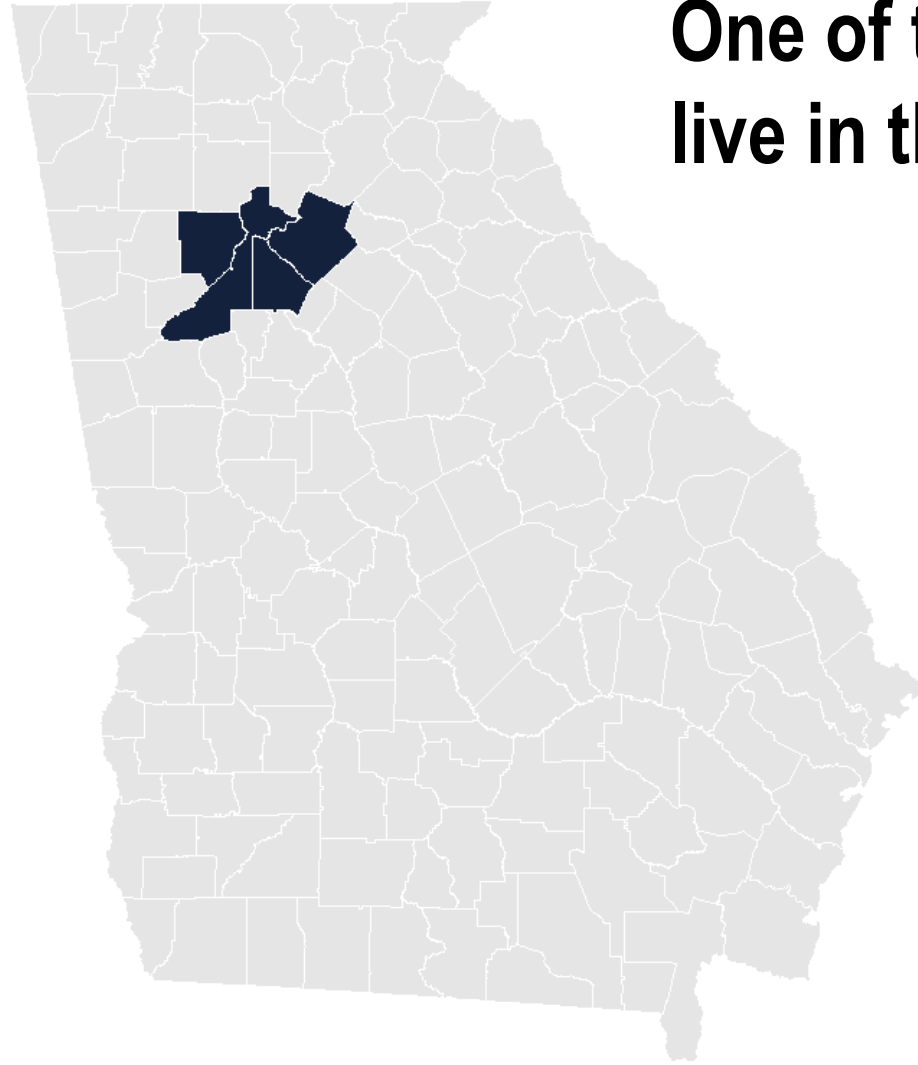
	Numeric Decrease	#
	Dougherty County	-8,775
	Telfair County	-4,023
	Dooly County	-3,710
	McIntosh County	-3,358
	Crisp County	-3,311



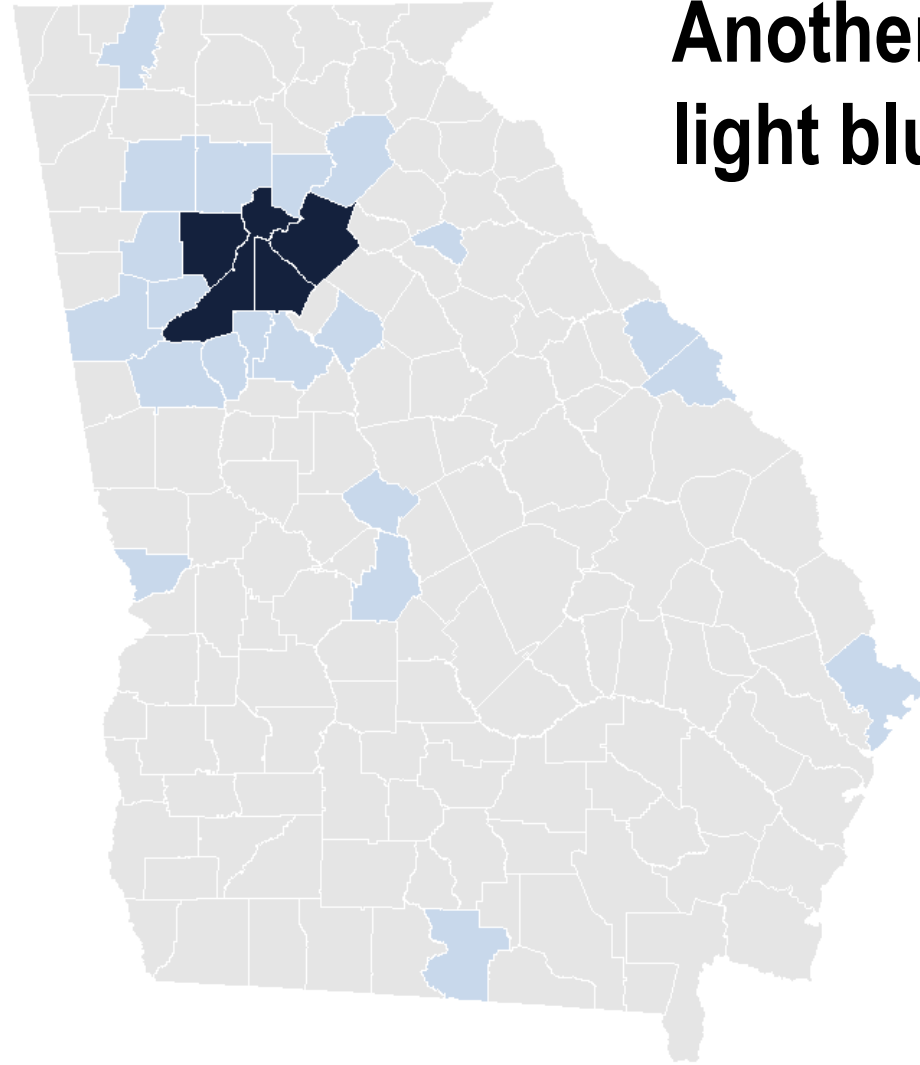


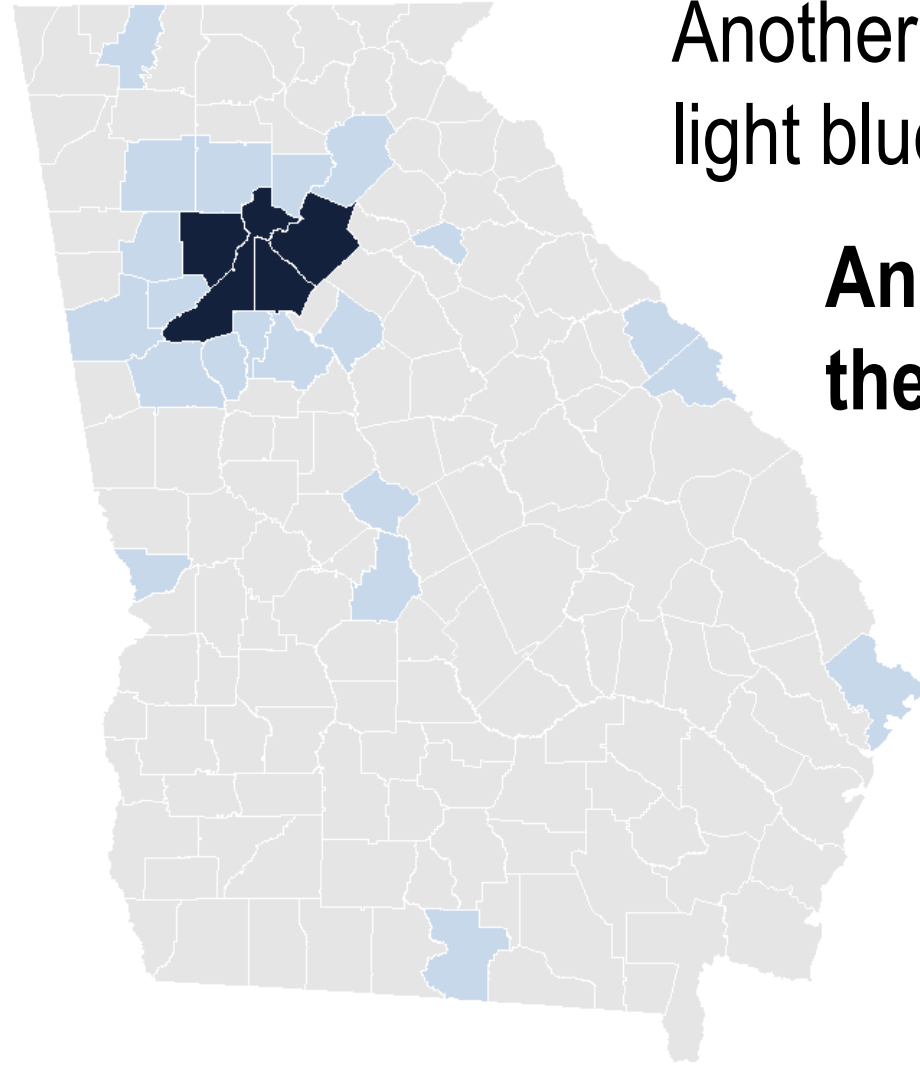
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**One of three Georgians
live in these four counties**



**Another third lives in the
light blue counties**





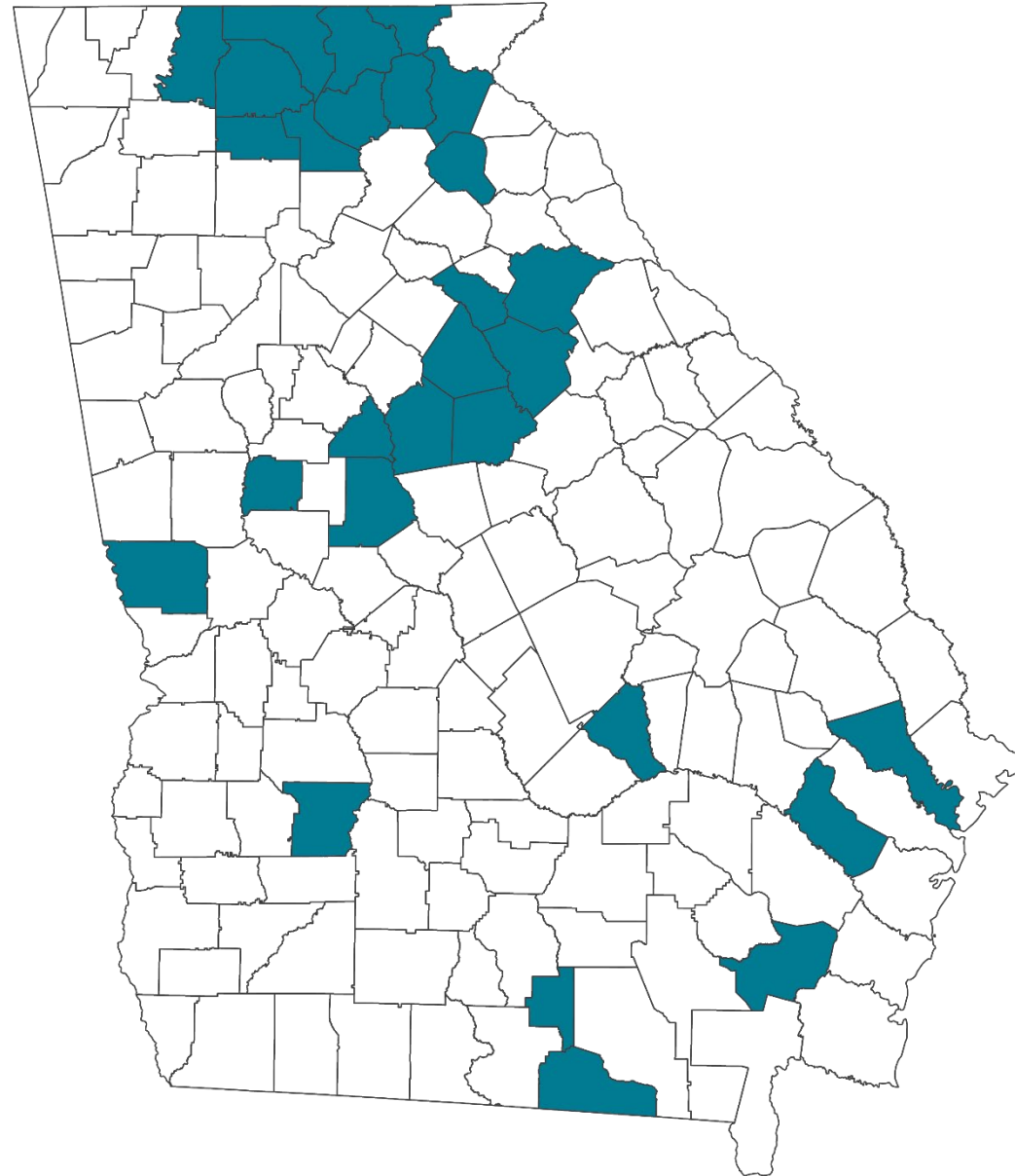
Another third lives in the
light blue counties

**And another third lives in
the gray counties**



Georgia's Rural Growth

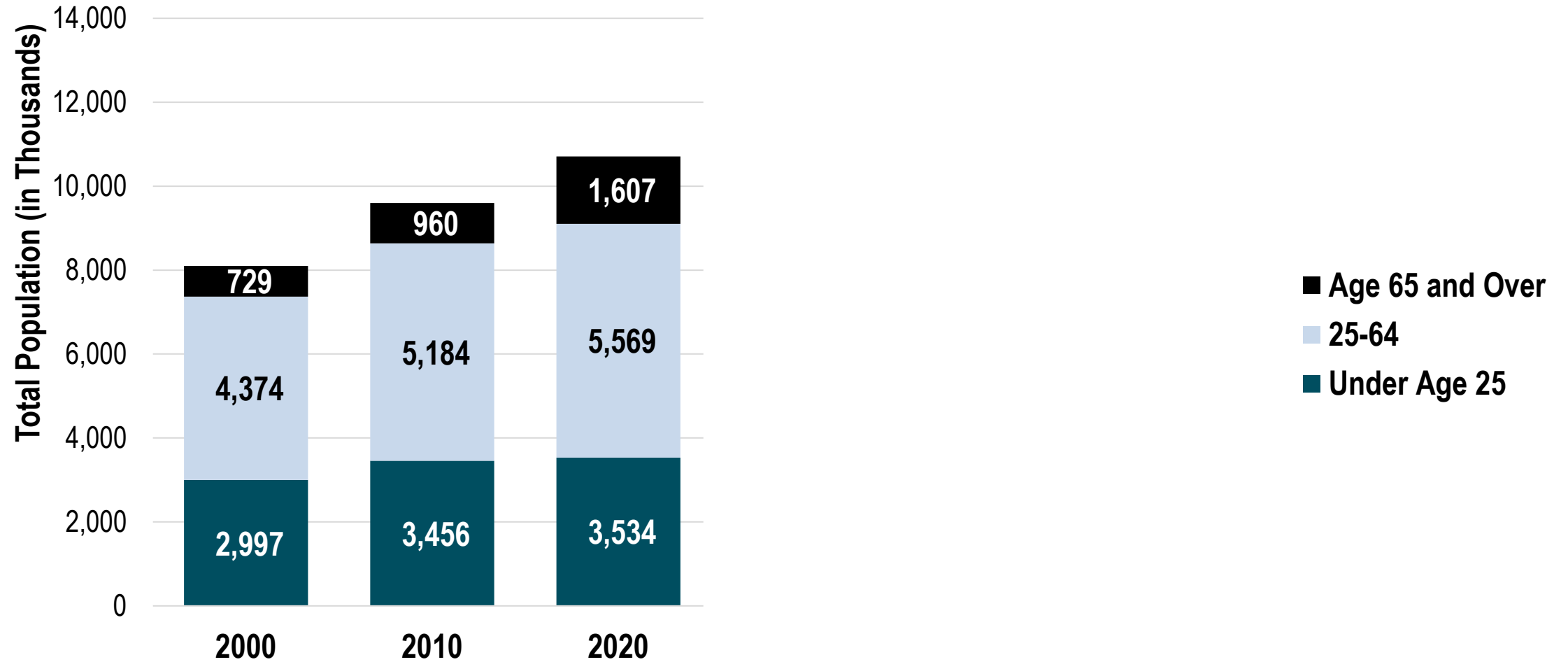
**28 rural counties have
experience population
increase of more than 50%
since 1990**



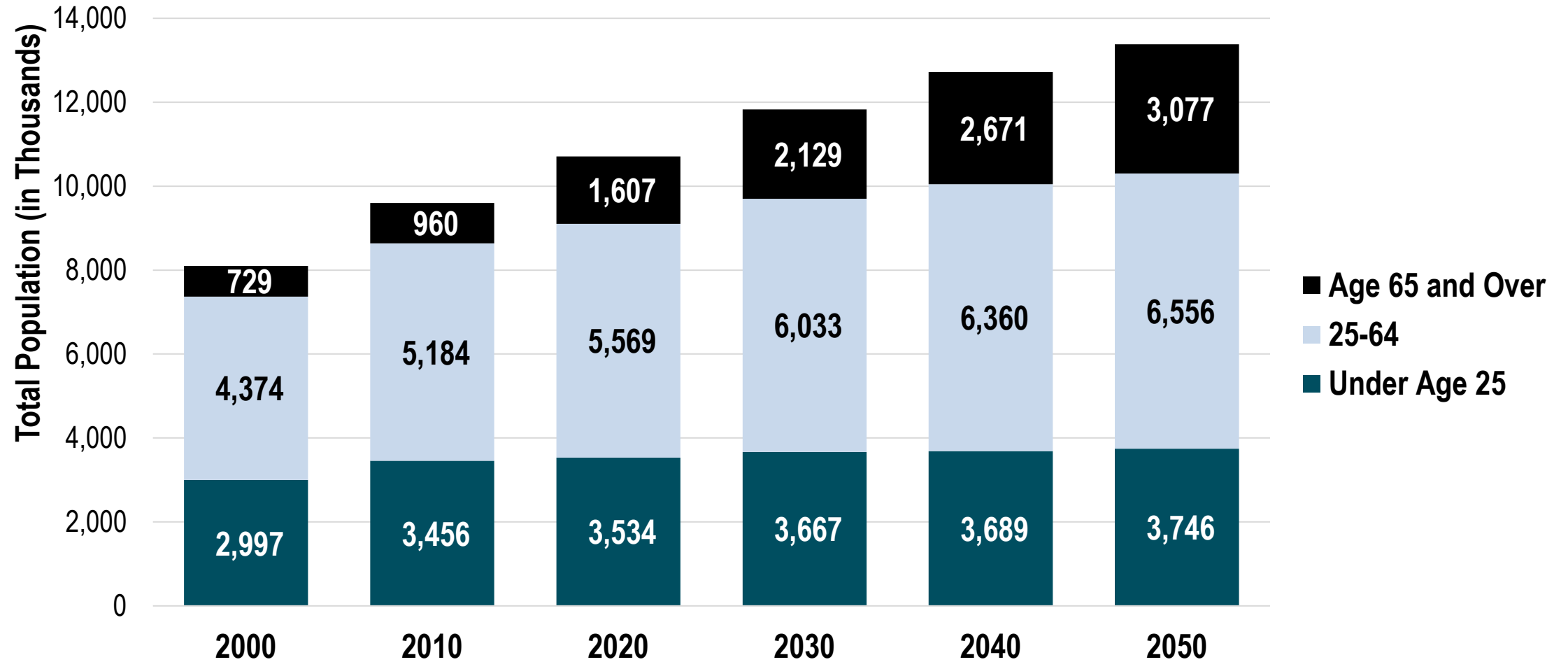
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Source: US Census Bureau, NHGIS, Minnesota Population Center

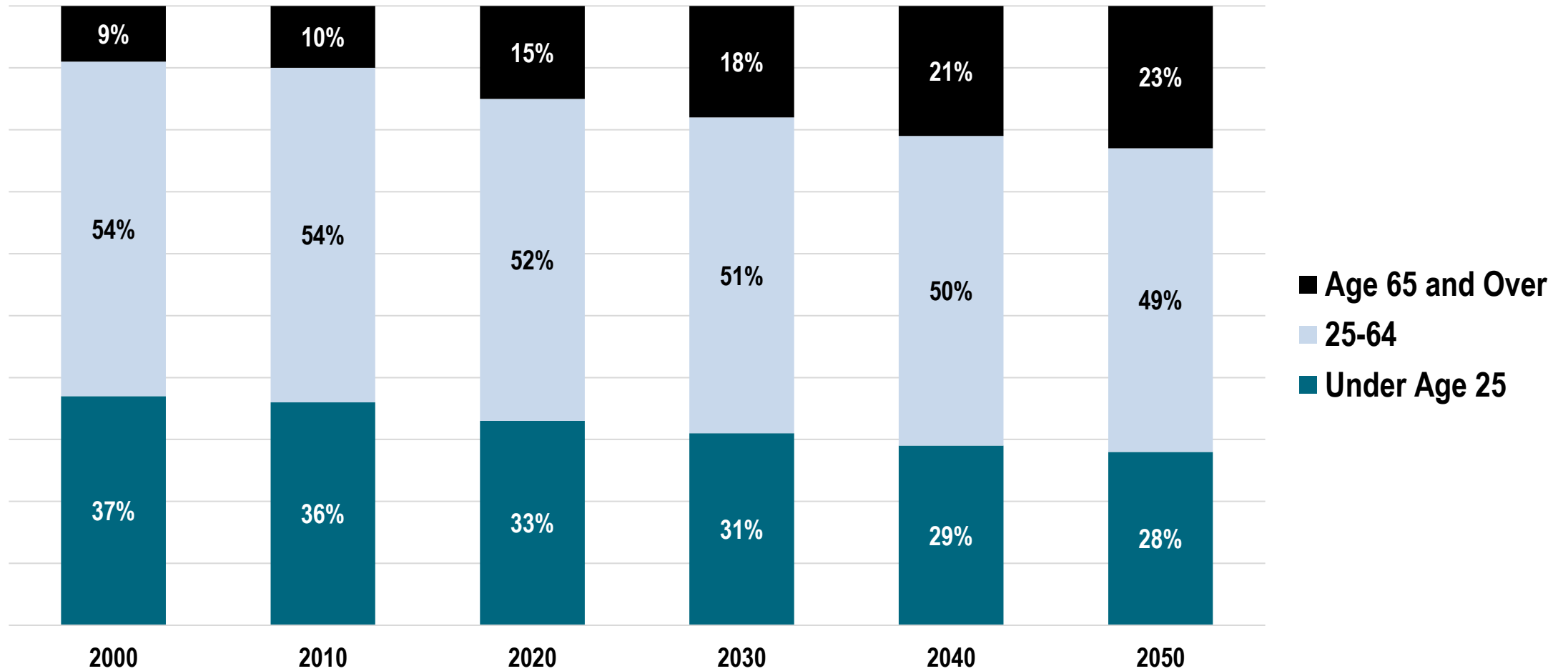
Georgia's Population is Aging



Georgia's Population is Aging



Georgia's Changing Age Distribution



Georgia Demographics in Summary

- Georgia's Population Growth Slowed in 2010s
 - Remains among the fastest-growing states in the country
 - Migration drives Georgia's population growth
- Georgia's Demographics are Attractive to Economic Development
 - Georgia has the 10th youngest median age
- Aging Population
 - Over age 65 population is growing faster than the rest of the state
- Suburban and Exurban areas are projected to experience the fastest growth in the next 20 years



Residential Population Projections Method

Cohort – Component Method



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Demographic Turning Points for the United States: Population Projections for 2020 to 2060

Population Estimates and Projections

Current Population Reports

By Jonathan Vespa, Lauren Medina, and
David M. Armstrong

P25-1144

Issued March 2018

Revised February 2020

DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

The projections in this report are the third series of national population projections based on the 2010 Census. They project the total U.S. population as of July 1 for the years 2017 to 2060, using official population estimates for 2016 as the base population. When both population estimates and projections are available, estimates are the preferred data. The universe is the resident population of the United States (50 states and the District of Columbia). The 2017 National Population Projections include projections of the resident population by several demographic traits, including age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and nativity.

The projections were produced using a cohort-component method beginning with an estimated base population for July 1, 2016. In this method, the components of population change are projected separately for each birth cohort (persons born in a given year) based on past trends. For each year from 2017 to 2060, the population is advanced 1 year of age using the projected age-specific survival rates and levels of net international migration for that year. A new birth



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Cohorts

- Race
- Sex
- Age

Components



Cohorts

- Race
- Sex
- Age

Components

- Births
- Deaths
- Migration



Cohorts

- Race
- Sex
- Age

Components

- Births
- Deaths
- Migration

Geography

- County



$$\text{Population Change} = \text{Births} - \text{Deaths}$$

$$\text{Population Change} = \text{Births} - \text{Deaths} + \text{Migration}$$

$$\text{Population Change} = \text{Births} - \text{Deaths} + \text{Migration}$$

$$\text{Population Projection} = \text{Fertility Rate} - \text{Mortality Rate} + \text{Net Migration Rate} + \text{Group Quarters}$$



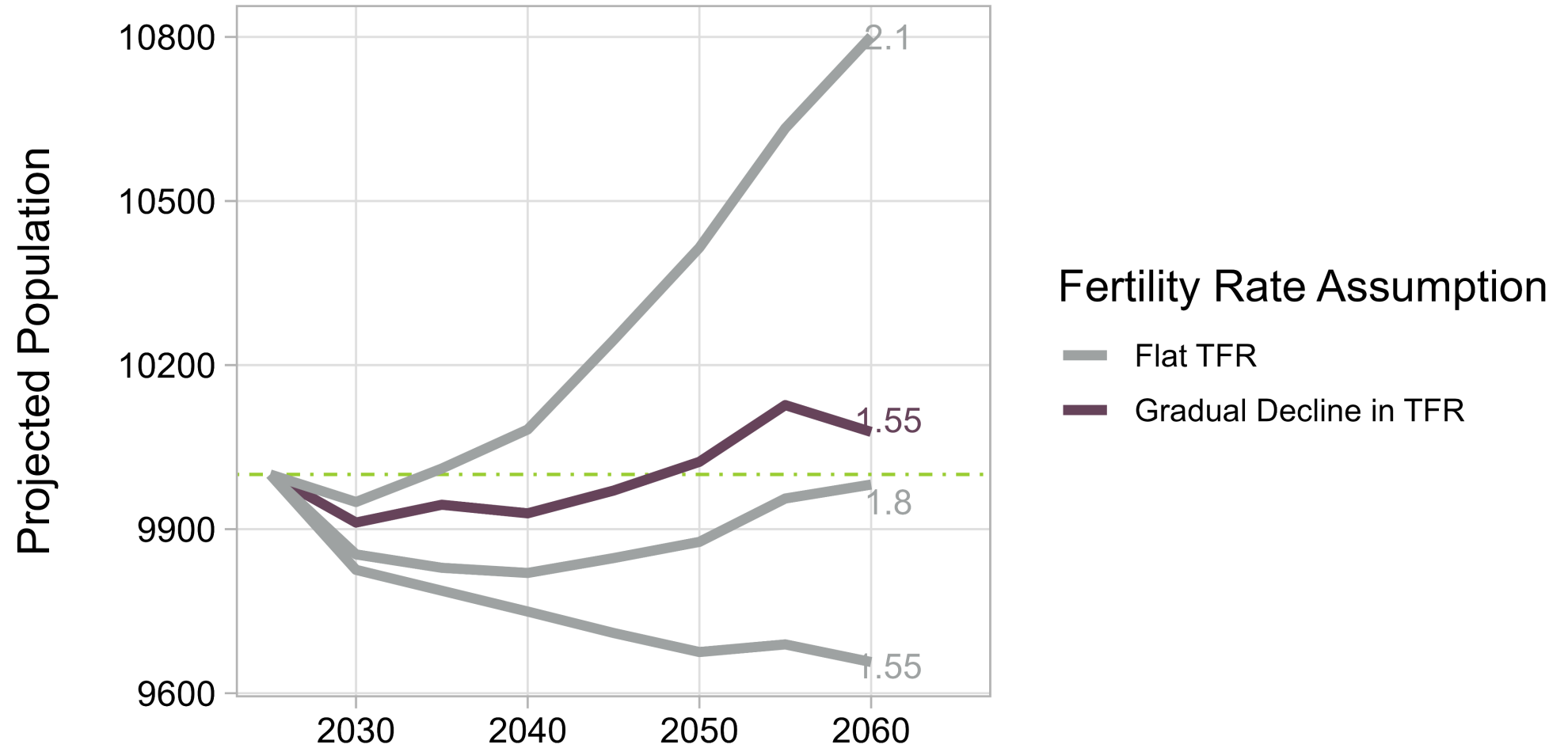


Projecting Rates and Guiding Assumptions

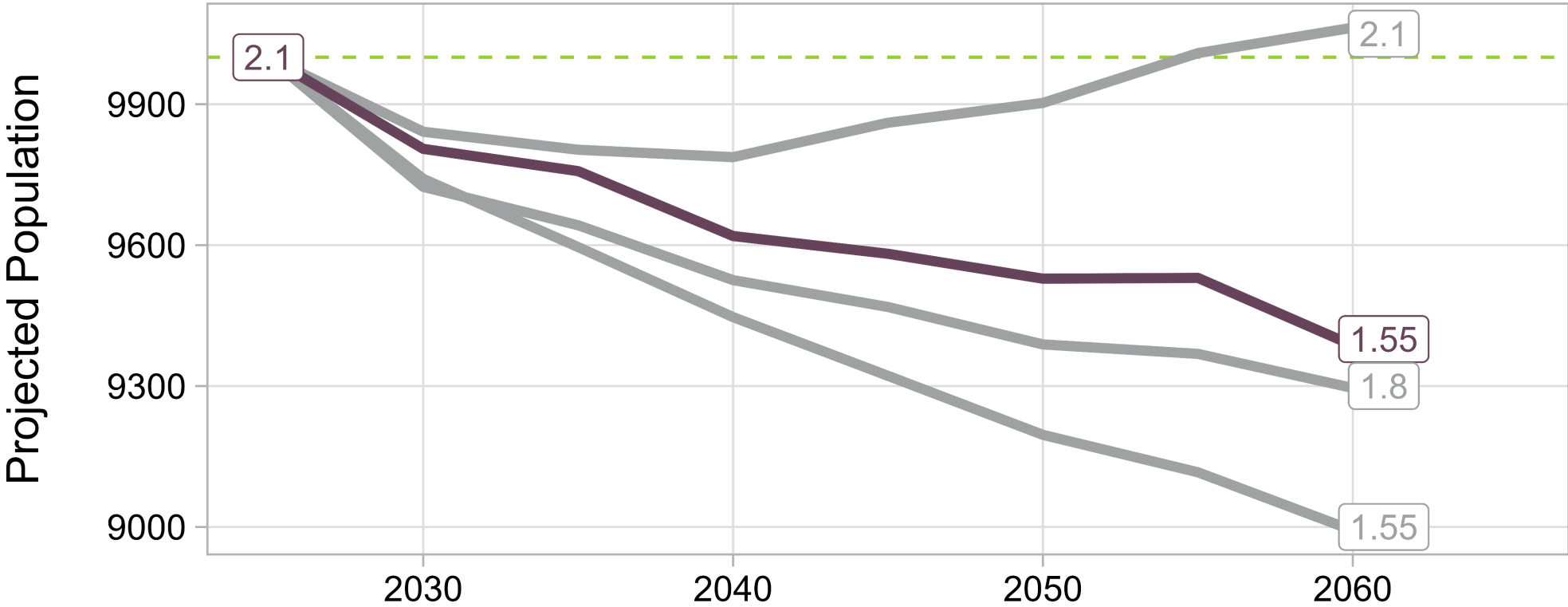
- Total Fertility Rate
 - Age-Specific and Tempo Adjusted Fertility Rates
 - TFR is below Replacement Rate (2.1)
 - Trends towards 1.55 TFR over the projection horizon
- Mortality Rates
 - Age, Race, and Sex Specific Mortality Rates
 - Infant Mortality
- Migration
 - Net Residual Migration Calculated from Census Bureau Population for the Age, Race, Sex Structure
 - Used County and Regional Rates



Partial Migration Scenario



Zero Migration Scenario



Fertility Rate Assumption — Flat TFR — Gradual Decline in TFR



Quantifying Population Change

Demography in 10 minutes



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Population Change = Births – Deaths



Population Change = Births – Deaths

Population Change = Births – Deaths + Migration



$$\text{Population Change} = \text{Births} - \text{Deaths}$$

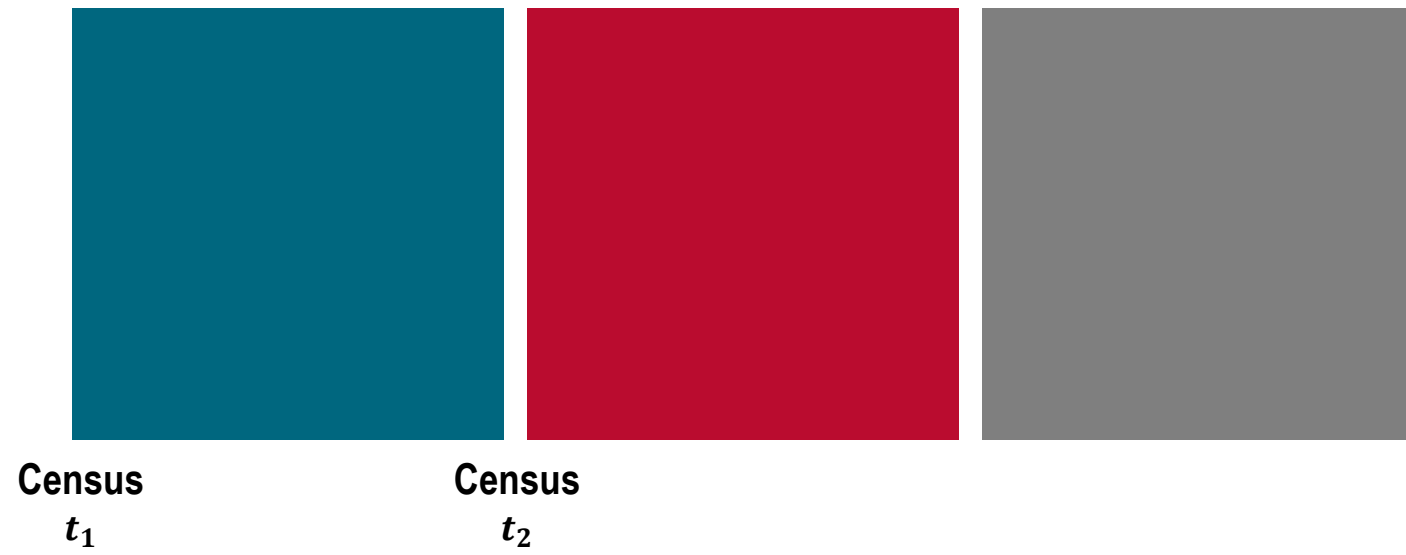
$$\text{Population Change} = \text{Births} - \text{Deaths} + \text{Migration}$$

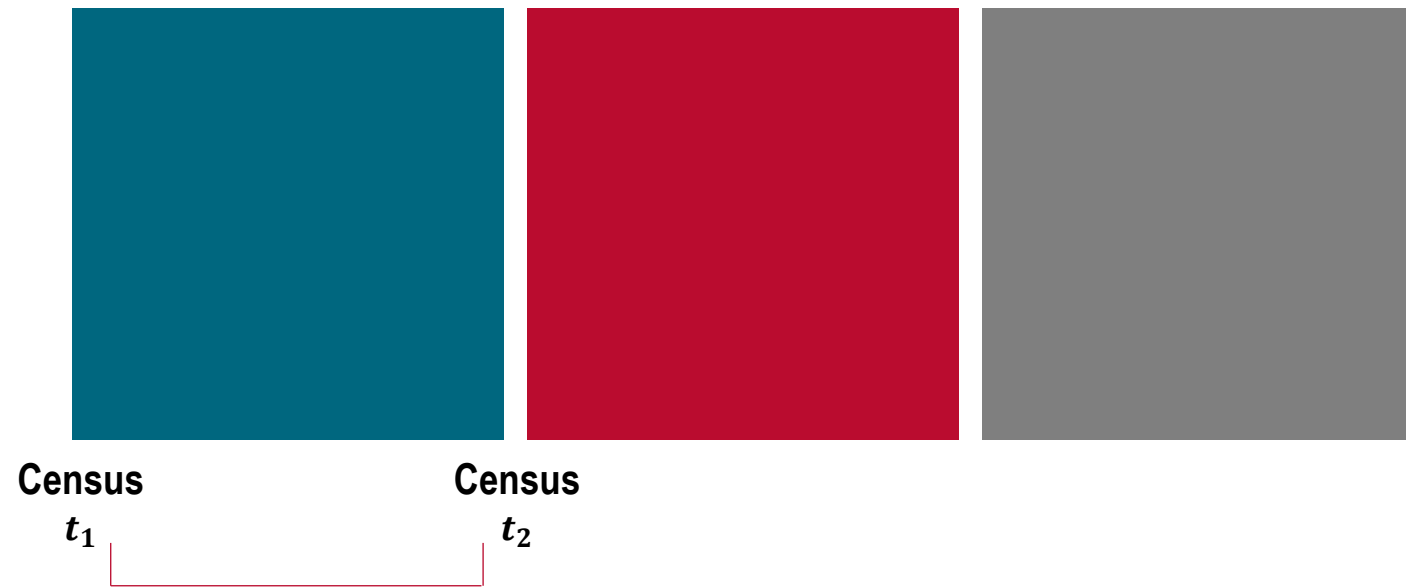
$$\text{Population Change} = \text{Births} - \text{Deaths} + \text{Migration} + \text{Group Quarters}$$

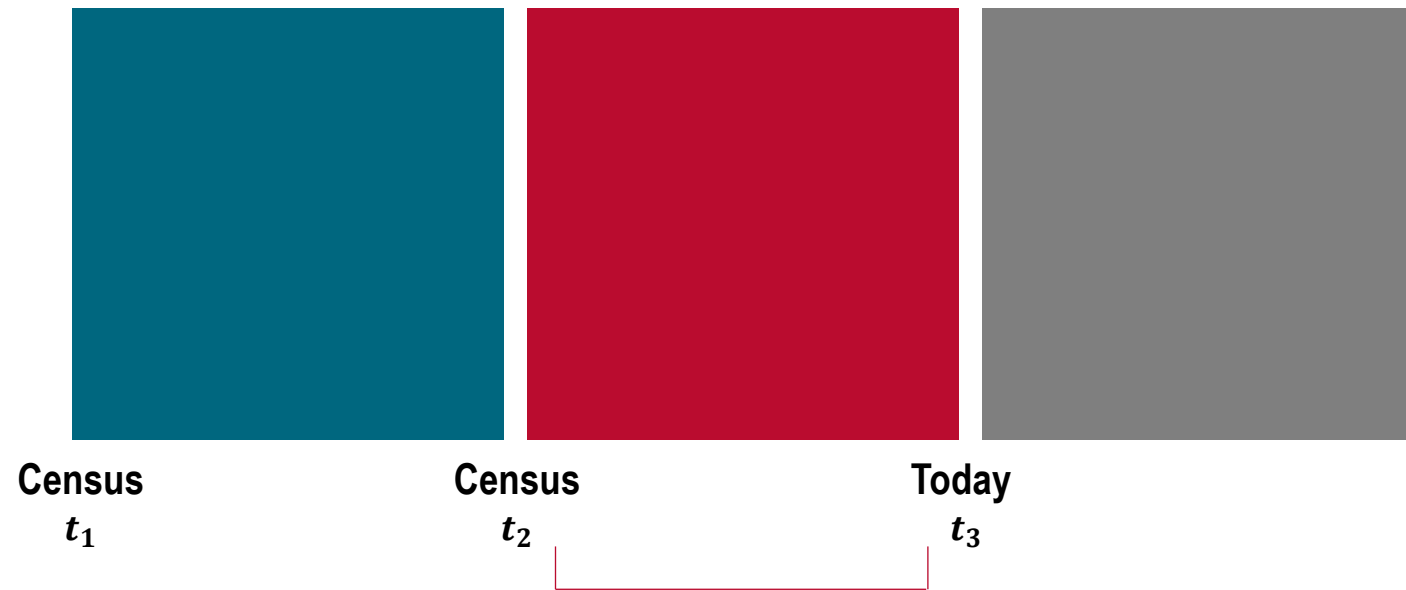


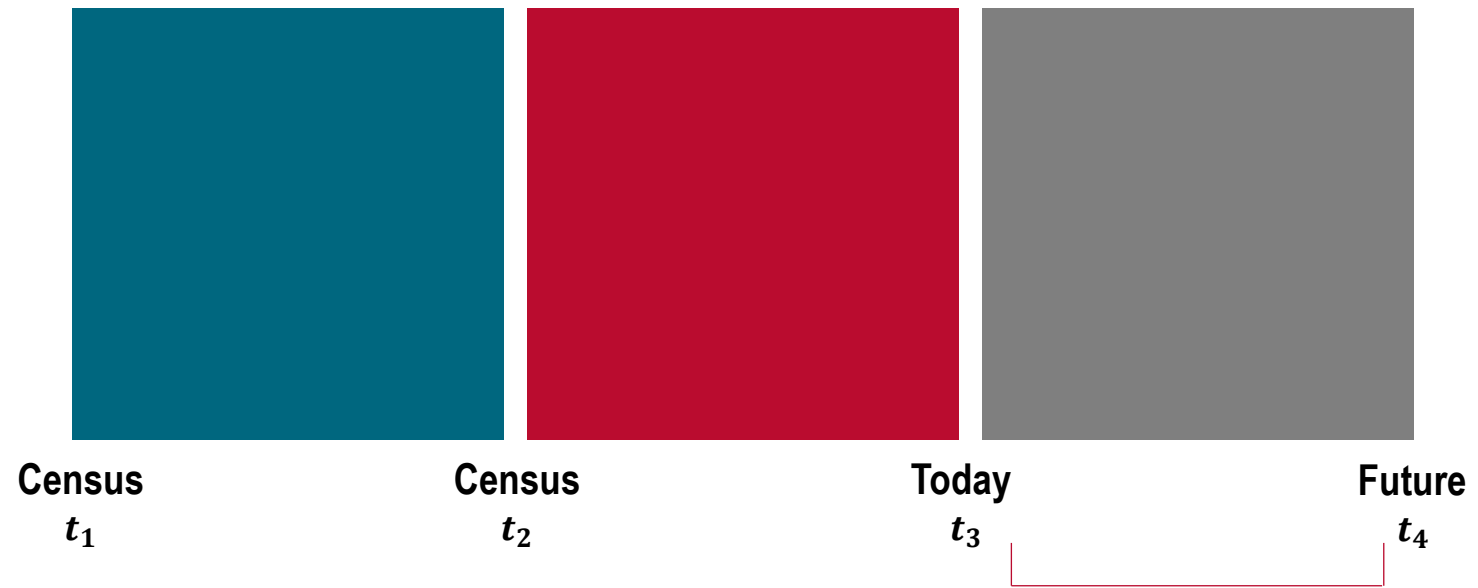
census:
an official count of a population

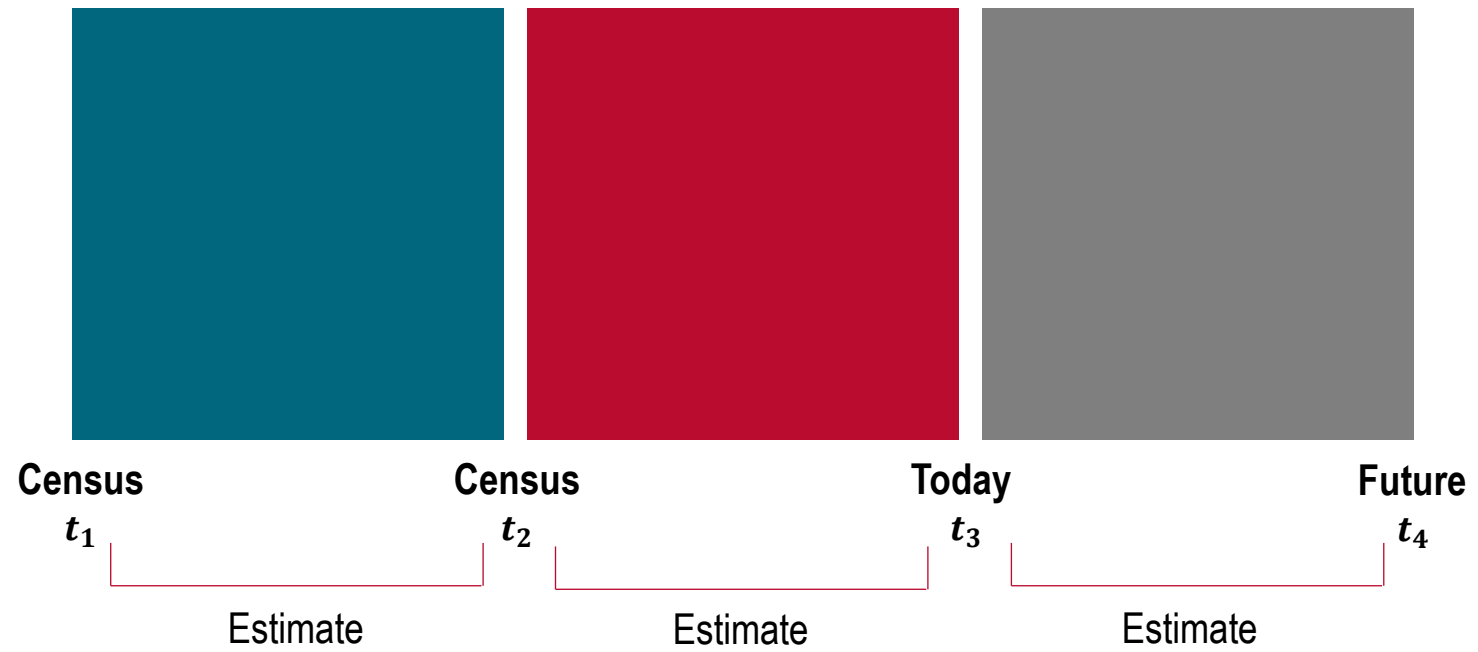


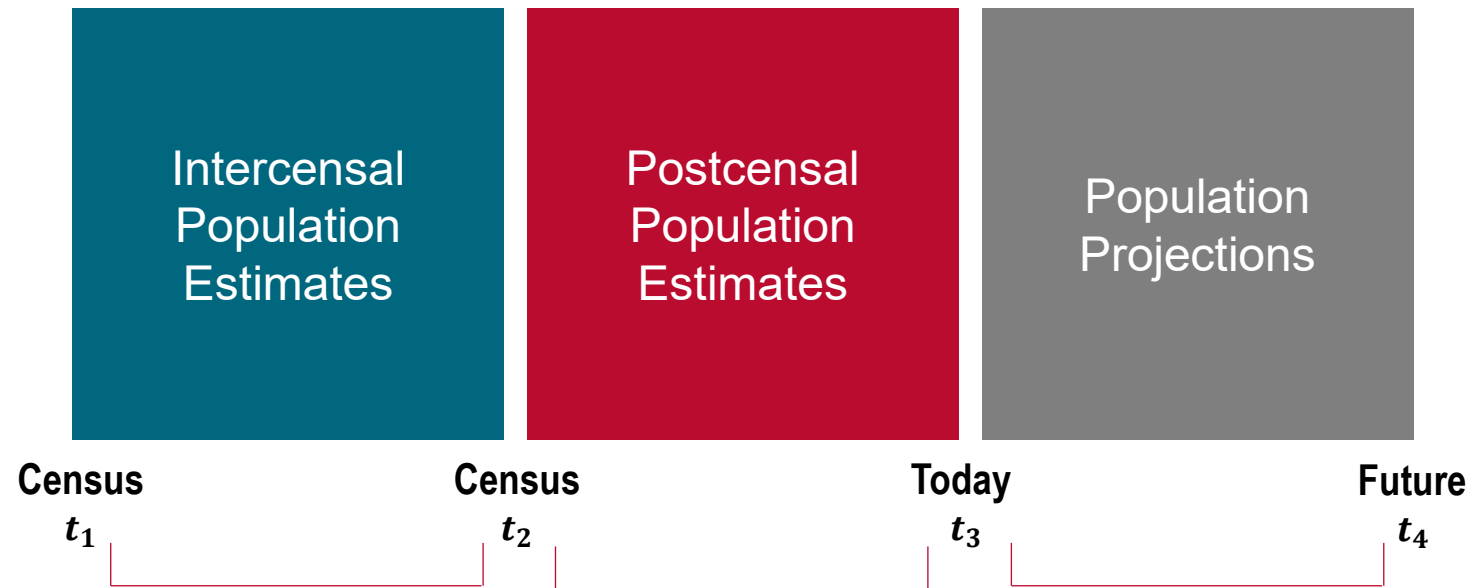


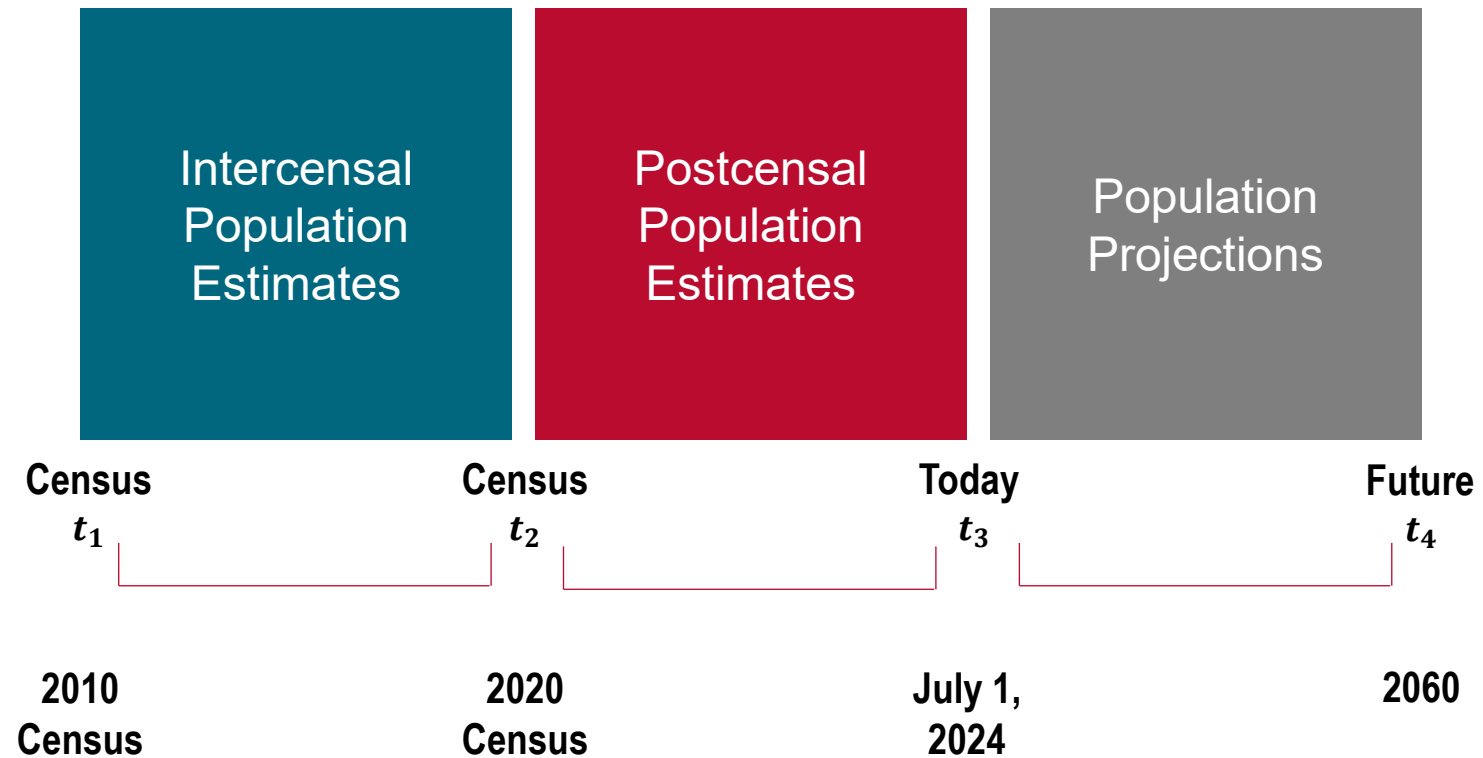




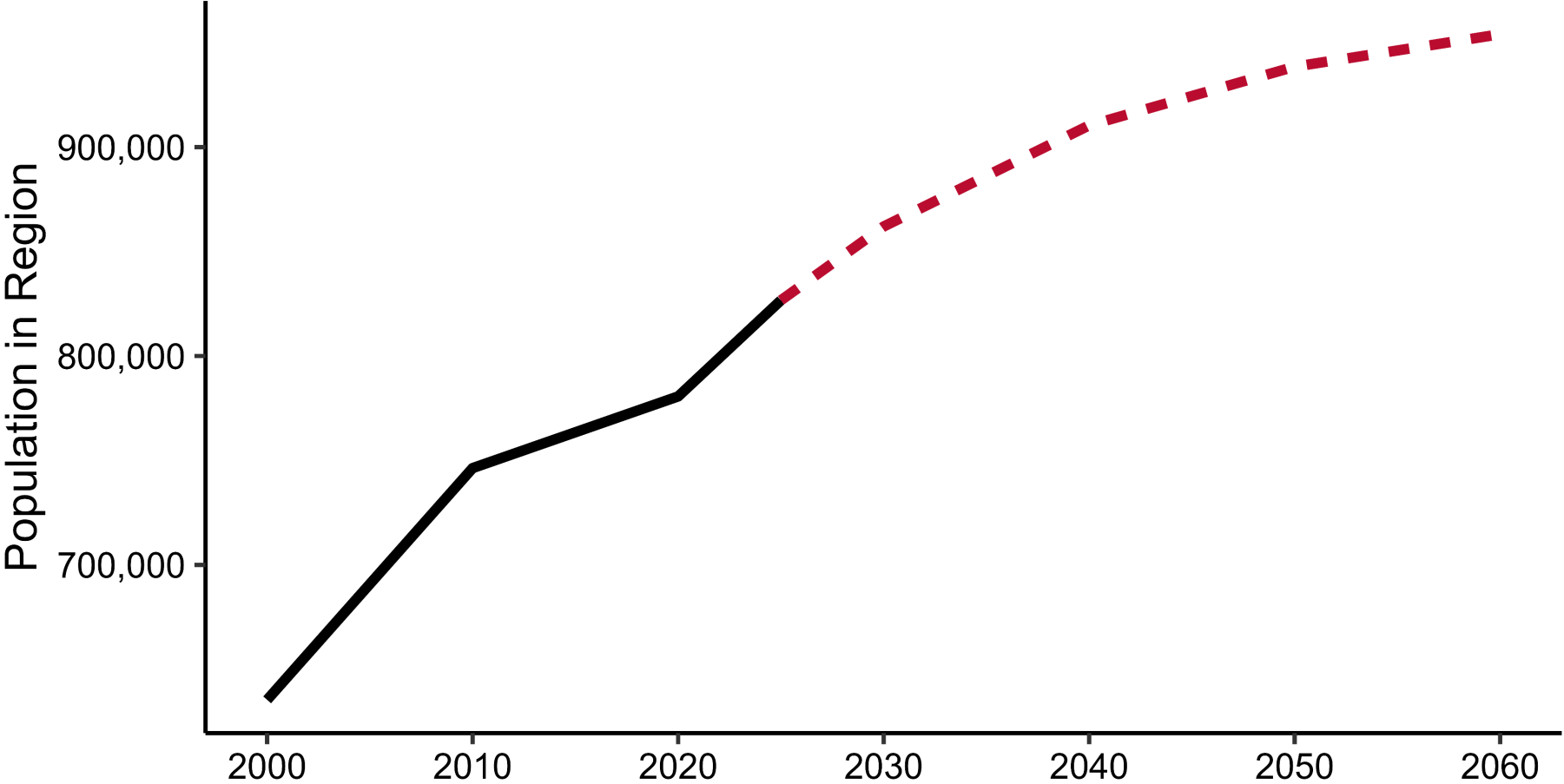








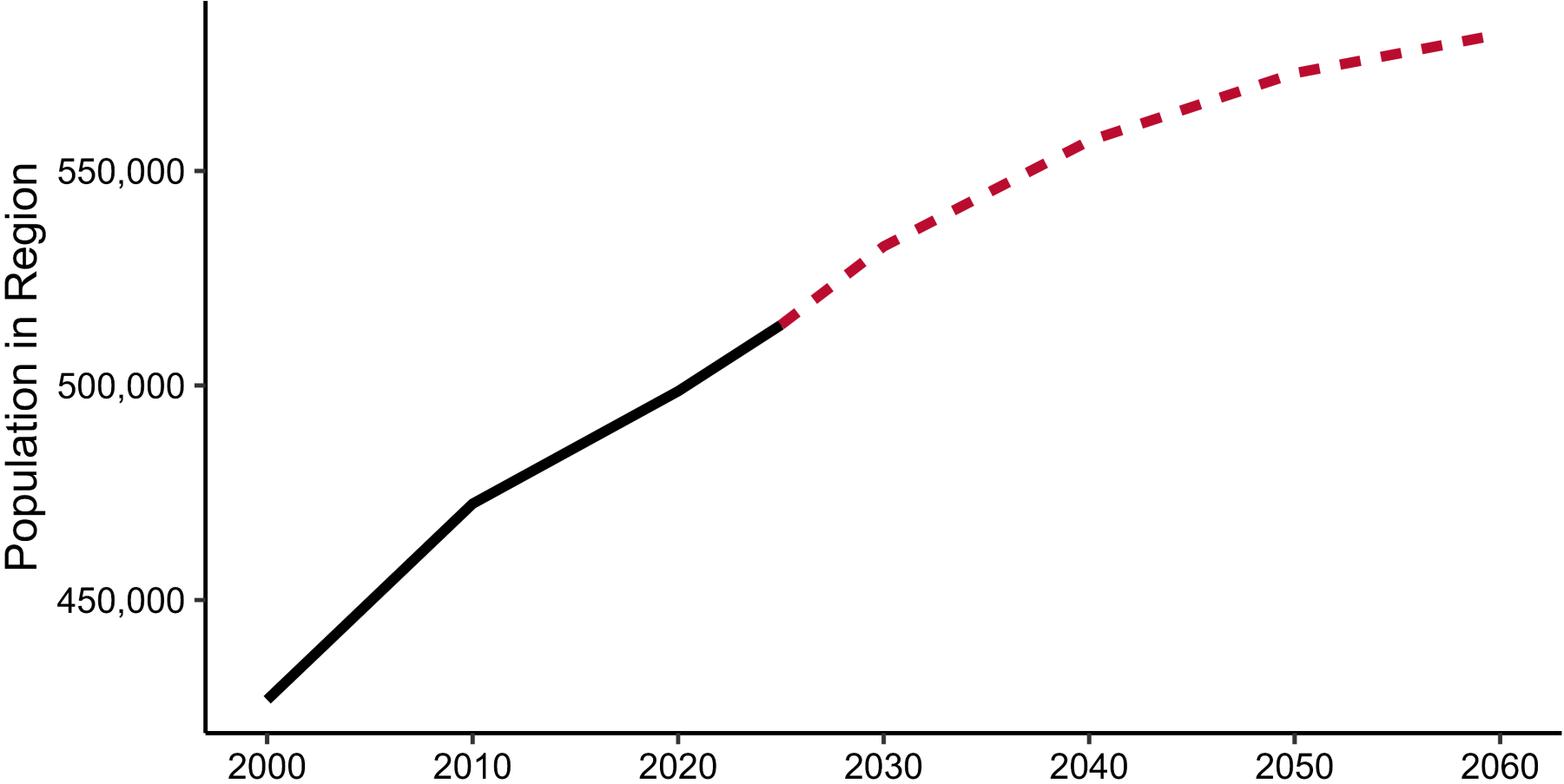
Population Projection for Coosa-North Georgia



Source: Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget Population Projections, 2025



Population Projection for Middle Chattahoochee



Source: Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget Population Projections, 2025



Questions?

Taylor Hafley

Applied Demographer

taylor.hafley@uga.edu



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Population Projections Discussions

- Are these projections what you expected for your county?
- What do these projections mean for the water needs in your county?
- Are you comfortable with these projections as the basis for water and wastewater forecasts in your region? Why or why not? What other information should be considered?
- What planning horizon is most useful to you (5, 10, 20, or more years)?
- What geographic scale is most useful to you?

Lunchtime Presentation: Great Wolf Lodge

Allen Headley, General Manager, Great Wolf Lodge Georgia





Great Wolf Lodge

#16

September 22, 2025

All about Great Wolf

How many lodges?



What we do?

- * * Close, convenient, and carefree
 - * * 90% of the population; Under one roof
 - * * Main Attraction – water park
 - * * Dry Attractions
 - * * Conference/Meeting space
 - * * 18,000 square feet of meeting space
 - * * Restaurants onsite
 - * * Retail onsite
 - * * Day passes
 - * * 457 hotel rooms
-
- * * Employee range from 650 to 720
 - * * Economic impact to local area
 - * * Donations



Main Attraction – Waterpark

- * 96,000 Square Feet
- * 12 water slides (825 gpm)
 - * 48,000 gallons
- * Ft. McKenzie (775 gpm)
 - * 22,000 gallons
 - * 500 gallon tipping bucket
- * Cub Paw pool (kiddie pool) (425 gpm)
 - * 12,000 gallons
- * Wave pool (2025 gpm)
 - * 115,000 gallons
- * Lazy River (1250 gpm)
 - * 89,000 gallons
- * Activity pool (925 gpm)
 - * 51,000 gallons
- * Outdoor pool (875 gpm)
 - * 103,000 gallons
- * Hot tub (199 gpm)
 - * 3,000 gallons



Equipment

- * 60 total pumps
 - * 8 filtration pumps
 - * 24 chemical pumps
 - * 8 chemical booster pumps
 - * 8 water feature pumps
 - * 11 slide pumps
- * Range .5 HP to 75 HP
- * Defender filters
 - * Down to 1 micron
 - * Less water waste (no backwash)
 - * Uses UV for additional sanitation

[Introduction to Defender® RMF](#)



Pump Room



Pump Room



Pump Room



Pump Room



Pump Room





Questions?????

Economic Development Trends

Ashely Morris Varnum, Georgia Power



Funding for Water Projects

Brian Woodham, GEFA



Ir
L

Georgia Joint Water Council Meeting

September 2025





What is GEFA and Who is Eligible

- GEFA's mission is to conserve and protect Georgia's energy, land, and water resources.
- GEFA has provided more than **\$6 billion** in low-interest loans and has funded more than **2,000 projects statewide**.
- Eligible water project borrowers and grantees:
 - **Counties and municipalities**
 - **Local water, wastewater, and sanitary districts**
 - **State and local authorities, boards, and political subdivisions created by the General Assembly**
 - **Nonprofit organizations (land conservation only)**
- Eligible project costs include planning, design, engineering, construction, and land acquisition (operations and maintenance costs are NOT eligible)



Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



2025 State Budget Update



- The Amended FY2025 budget provides **\$501.7 million** for the development and construction of surface water resources for **Georgia's coastal region to meet growth in demand.**
- The Amended FY2025 budget provides \$200 million for low-interest loans for water and wastewater infrastructure development in **local communities not benefitting from the additional coastal water supply funding**; \$250 million was also provided in the Amended FY2024 budget, for a total investment of **\$450 million over two years.**
- An additional **\$66.1 million** is included for **state direct investment** in water and sewer infrastructure.

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



GEFA Core Financing Programs

	Georgia Fund	Clean Water SRF	Drinking Water SRF
Project Type	Drinking water, water quality, and solid waste	Water quality	Drinking water
Funding Source	State funds	Federal funds	Federal funds
Borrowing limits/per project	\$15 million/year	\$12 million/year	\$10 million/year
Federal requirements for capital projects	No	Yes	Yes
Principal forgiveness opportunities	No	Yes	Yes

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



20-year Interest Rates

<u>Program</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Georgia Fund	3.49%
Drinking Water SRF	3.39%
Clean Water SRF	3.39%

Interest rate discounts are available for WaterFirst, PlanFirst, small and disadvantaged communities, and conservation projects.

Loans are charged a 1.50 percent origination fee.

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



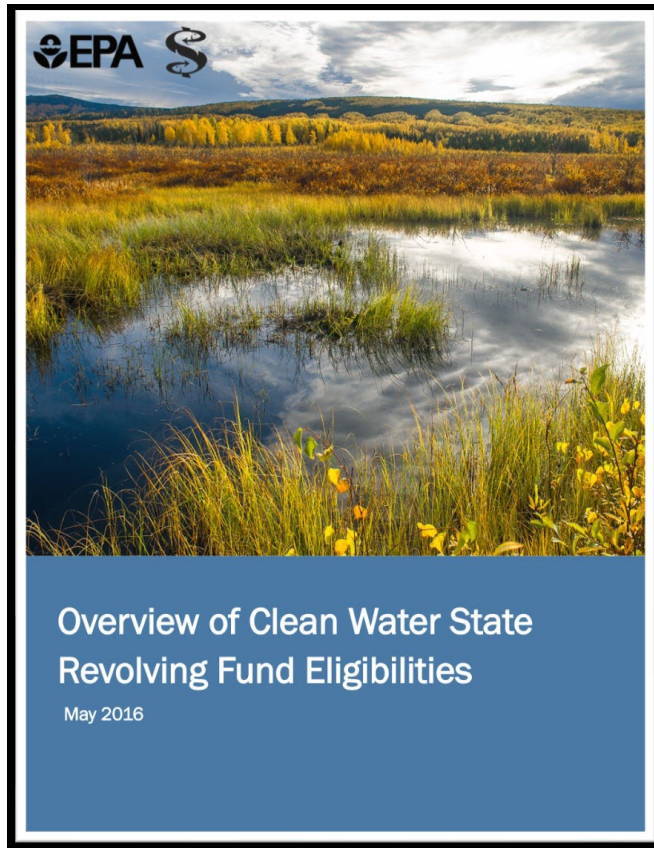
Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities

- Principal forgiveness/additional subsidy under the federal programs
- Interest rate reductions
- Up to 100 percent financing
- Affordability Scoring Criteria:
 1. Median Household Income
 2. % Unemployment
 3. % Not in labor force
 4. % of all people with income below poverty
 5. % with Social Security income
 6. % with Supplemental Security income
 7. % with cash public assistance
 8. % with Food Stamp/SNAP benefits
 9. Population change
 10. Population
 11. **Number of service connections**

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



Clean Water SRF Project Eligibilities



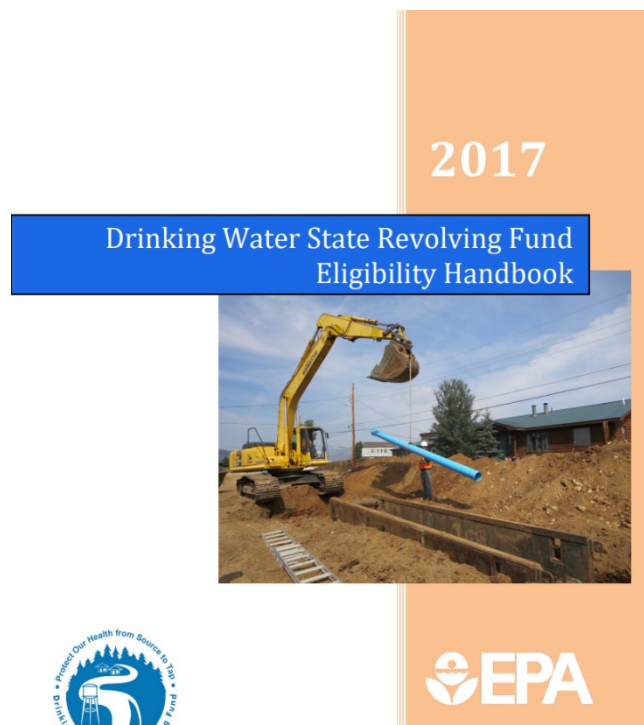
- Wastewater treatment
- Wastewater collection systems
- Stormwater management
- **Correcting infiltration/inflow**
- **Land acquisition**
- **Green infrastructure**
- **Nonpoint source pollution control**
- **Septic to sewer**
- **Renewable energy**

Bold indicates eligible for conservation interest rate discount

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



Drinking Water SRF Project Eligibilities



- Water treatment
- Water transmission and distribution
- Raw water intakes and wells
- Water storage
- Interconnections
- Consolidation
- **Reduction of water loss**
- **Advanced water meters**
- **Water reuse**
- **Source water protection**
- **Energy efficiency and renewable energy**

Bold indicates eligible for conservation interest rate discount and points in project scoring

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



SRF Project Scoring

Criteria	Maximum Points
Compliance and Water Quality/Public Health Benefits	20
Readiness to Proceed	20
Priority Planning Elements	30
Priority Project Types	15
Priority Applicant Status	15
Total	100

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



Georgia Fund Project Eligibilities



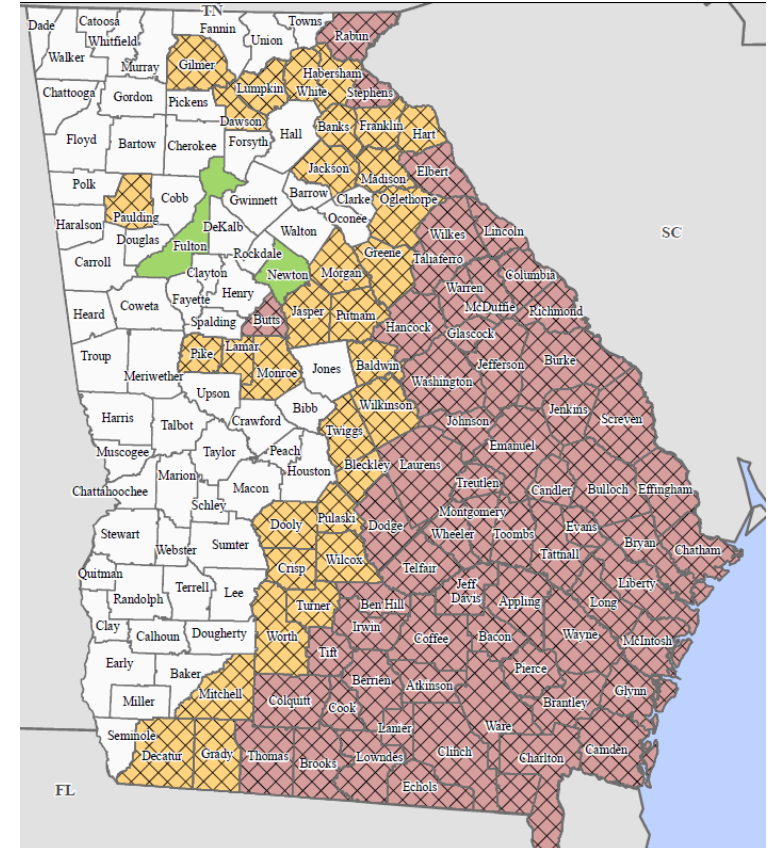
- Same as Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF eligibilities
- Solid waste projects
- Drinking water projects whose primary purpose is for economic development or population growth
- Dams
- Reservoirs
- Interim loans
- Environmental/public health emergency loans up to \$1 million

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



Helene Resilience Funding - Background

- Hurricane Helene – Sep 26-27, 2024
- Helene Disaster Declaration for Georgia – Sep 30, 2024
- FEMA Disaster Declaration Map – Nov 2024
- American Relief Act – Dec 2024
- EPA SA-HMW Implementation Memo – Mar 2025
- Call for Projects Opens – Oct 2025



Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



Hurricane Helene Funding Allotted for Georgia



- Clean Water SRF: \$125M
- Drinking Water SRF: \$359M
- Decentralized Systems: \$9M

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



Helene Resilience Funding (HRF) Background

- American Relief Act includes \$3 billion in Supplemental Appropriation for Hurricanes Helene and/or Milton and Hawai'i Wildfires (SA-HMW) for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs and additional \$85 million for resilience of decentralized system.
 - Florida, Georgia, Hawai'i, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia
- *“Projects must be SRF-eligible and have the purpose of reducing flood damage risk and vulnerability or enhancing resiliency to rapid hydrologic change or natural disaster.”*

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources

	CWSRF	DWSRF	Decentralized
Georgia Allotment	\$125M	\$359M	\$9M
Eligible Project Type	Water quality ¹	Drinking water ¹	Septic ¹
Eligible Recipients	Eligible GEFA SRF borrower that suffered Helene damage	Eligible GEFA SRF borrower that suffered Helene damage	Eligible GEFA SRF borrower
Eligible Location	Project must be in designated area or owner must demonstrate Helene impact	Project must be in designated area or owner must demonstrate Helene impact	Any location in Georgia eligible. Projects in designated areas or projects in areas that demonstrate Helene impacts get additional points
Principal Forgiveness	Minimum 30%; additional based on affordability score, project score, and underwriting. Planning 100%	Minimum 30%; additional based on affordability score, project score, and underwriting. Planning 100%	All projects 100%
Loan Max	None ²	None ²	\$2M

¹ See attachment in Call for Projects for full list of eligible projects

² GEFA may implement a maximum loan amount depending on response to Call for Projects



Hurricane Helene Supplemental Resilience Funding

Example Eligible SRF Projects



- **Planning** projects to assess vulnerability and analyze best approaches for resiliency
- Back-up **generators** and/or transfer switches
- Replacement of damaged equipment with **energy efficient equipment**
- **Relocation** of facilities and equipment to less flood prone areas
- Physical “hardening” or **waterproofing** of equipment
- Correction of **infiltration and inflow**
- **SCADA** to allow remote operation
- **Interconnections** with neighboring water systems
- Green infrastructure to **protect** collection system
- **Larger** storage tanks
- **Floodwater pumping systems**, retention, and channels/culverts

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



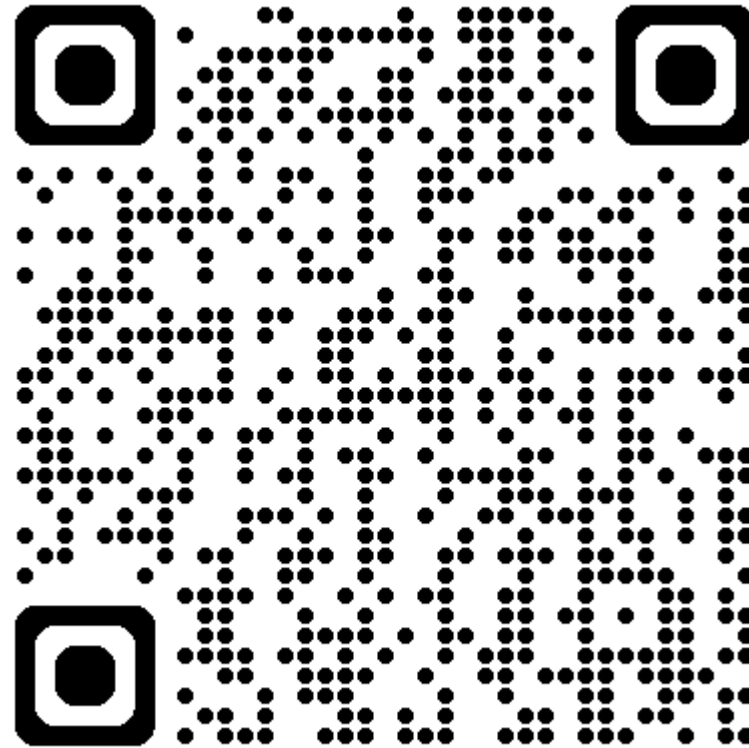
CWSRF and DWSRF Helene Resilience Project Scoring

Criteria	Maximum Points
System Resilience	35
Priority Project Types	24
Priority Planning Elements	10
Readiness to Proceed	20
Priority Applicant Status	11
Total	100

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



GEFA Water 101 Webinar:
Hurricane Helene
Resilience Funding
October 6 at 11am

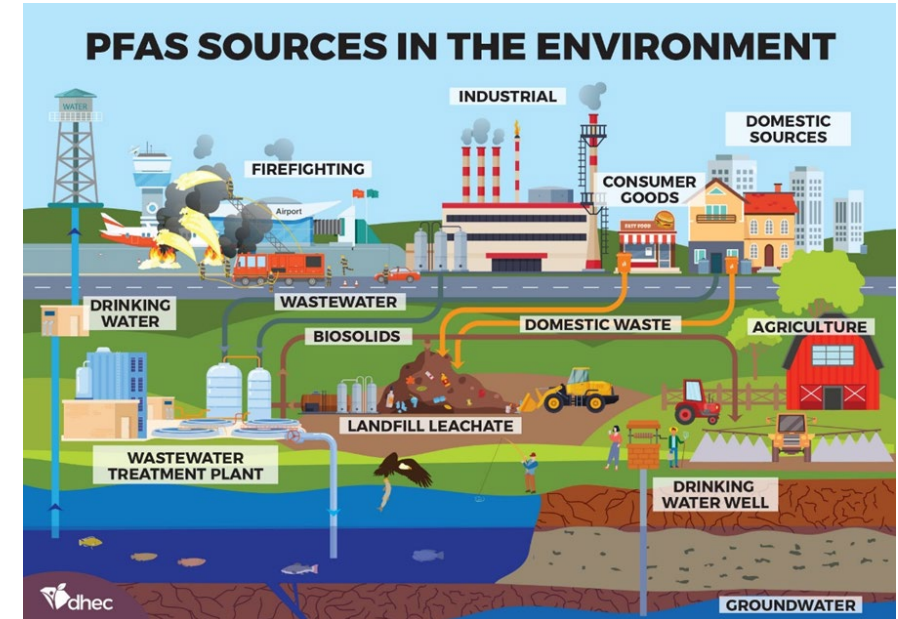


Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



Emerging Contaminants (PFAS) Funding

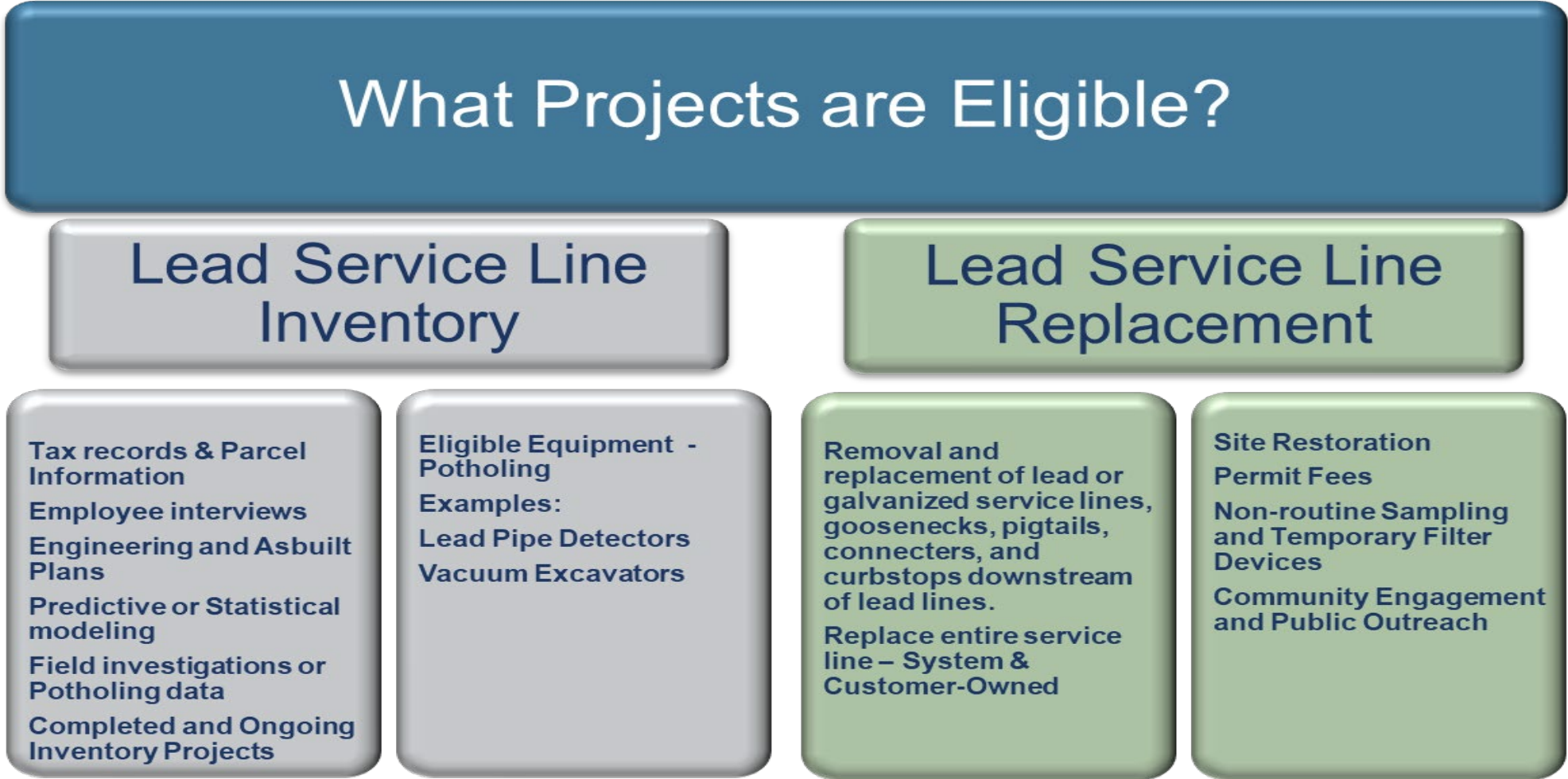
- **Clean Water Emerging Contaminants Program**
 - \$3.6 Million annually for Federal FY2024-26
 - FY2022 and FY2023 funding is already allocated to projects
 - FY2024 funding is still available!
- **Drinking Water Emerging Contaminants Program**
 - \$20.7 Million annually for FY2024-26
 - 25 percent specifically for small and disadvantaged communities
 - FY2024 funding is still available!



Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



Lead Service Line Funding



Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



WaterFirst Designation Benefits

- 1 percent interest rate reduction, new points on GEFA application
- Annual eligibility for DCA Community Block Development Grants
- Priority EPD 319(h) Grant funding
- Free WaterFirst Workshop attendance
- Statewide recognition, road signage



Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



Other Sources of State and Federal Funding



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
of COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



www.gafundersforum.org



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION



Georgia Association
of RC&D Councils

"Planting Seeds of Innovation"



SERCAP, INC.

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



FUNDED BY THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE
AUTHORITY AND FACILITATED BY IB ENVIRONMENTAL

2025 ONE- DAY WORKSHOP

FROM THE **GEORGIA FUNDERS' FORUM**

WED., OCTOBER 15, 2025
9:00-4:00 PM
CARROLLTON, GA

** This workshop is pending approval for 6 CEUs in Management Safety (MS)**

PURPOSE

- Workshop will provide access to managers of various state and federal financing programs
- Participants will learn how to access traditional funding sources and receive updates on newer sources of funding

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Local government water, wastewater, and stormwater system managers, clerks, treasurers, and elected officials in Georgia
- Consulting and engineering professionals who support local governments and their utilities

COST

- Governmental Staff: \$50 per ticket
- Non-Governmental Staff: \$100 per ticket
- Fee waivers available upon request



HOW TO REGISTER

Scan the QR code or visit the link below

<https://2025-GAFundersForum-Workshop.eventbrite.com>





Upcoming Dates

- Sept 30 – WaterFirst Day at State Capitol
- October 1 – Call for Projects opens for Helene Resilience Funding, Drinking Water SRF, Clean Water SRF, Georgia Fund, and Emerging Contaminants Program (deadline December 31)
- October 6 – Helene Resilience Webinar
- October 15 – Georgia Water Funders’ Forum Workshop in Carrollton
- October 27-29 – Presentation and Exhibit at Fall Georgia Rural Water Association Conference in Helen
- November 3 – Last day to submit application for consideration in February 2026 GEFA Board Meeting (*applications are accepted throughout the year*)
- November 3-6 – Tentative dates for Helene Resilience Funding Office Hours
- November 5-7 - Exhibit at Georgia Association of Regional Commissions Annual Training in St. Simons

Investing in Georgia’s Energy, Land, and Water Resources



Brian Woodham
bwoodham@gefa.ga.gov
404-584-1035



Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources

Public Comment



Next Steps



Next Steps

Adjourn to Council Breakout Sessions

