



Carl Vinson  
Institute of Government  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# Georgia's Demographic Trends

GeorgiaForward 2023 Forum, Columbus, GA

October 20, 2023

Taylor Hafley, Applied Demographer

# Georgia's Changing Demographics

- Geographic Concentration and Regional Population Shifts
- Georgia is more Racially and Ethnically Diverse
- Georgia is Getting Older
- Summary and Questions

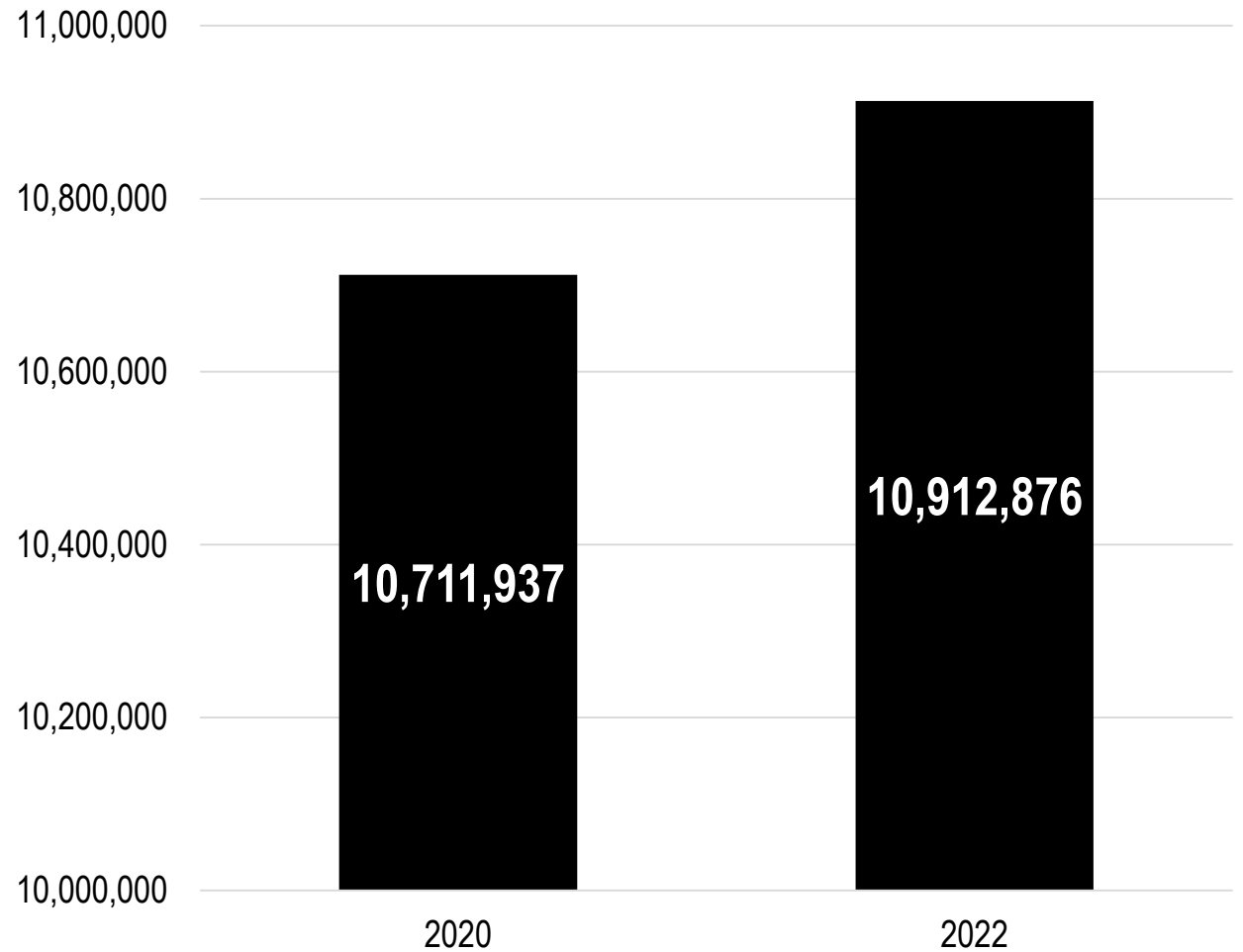


# What is the current population of Georgia?

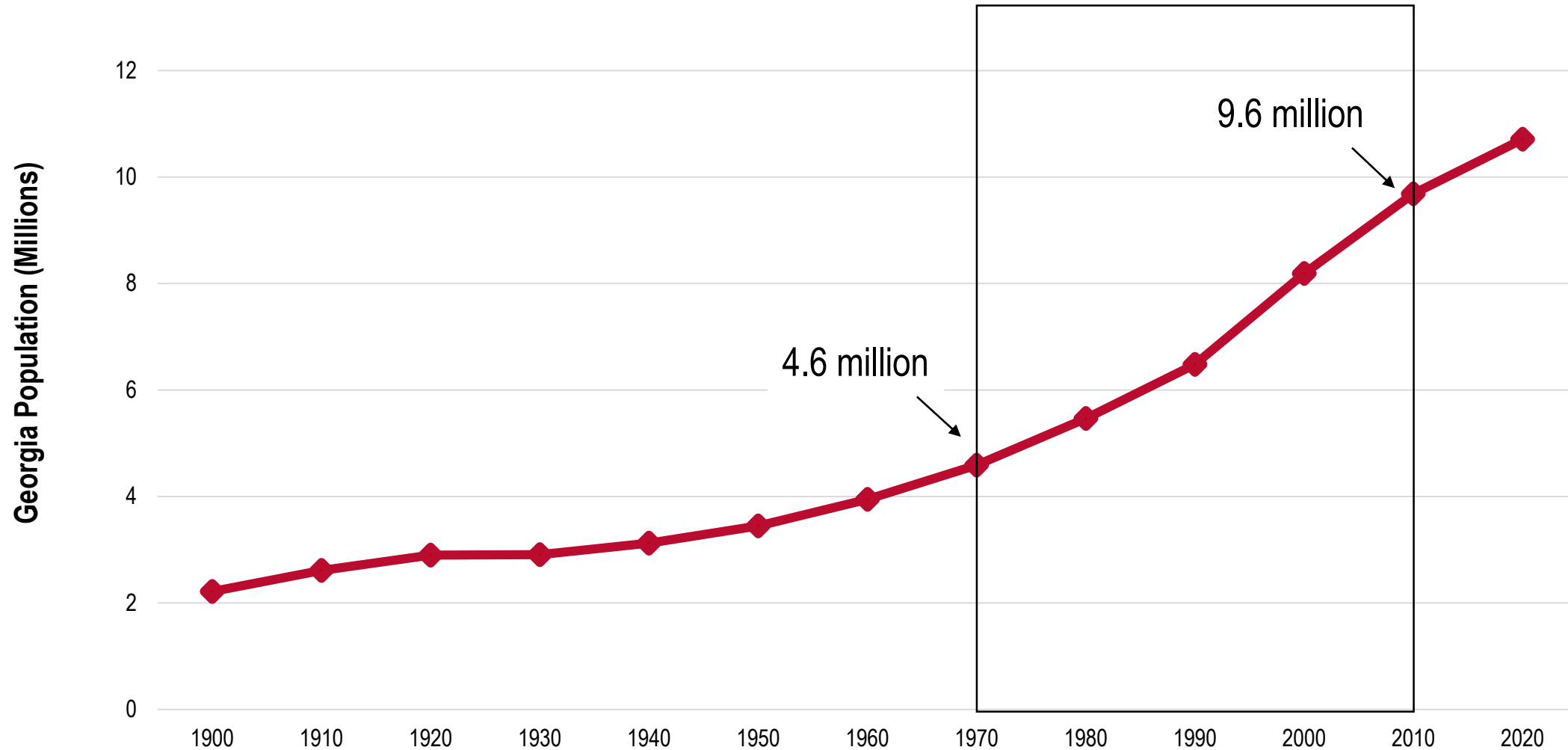
- A. 9.8 million
- B. 10.9 million**
- C. 11.6 million
- D. 12.2 million



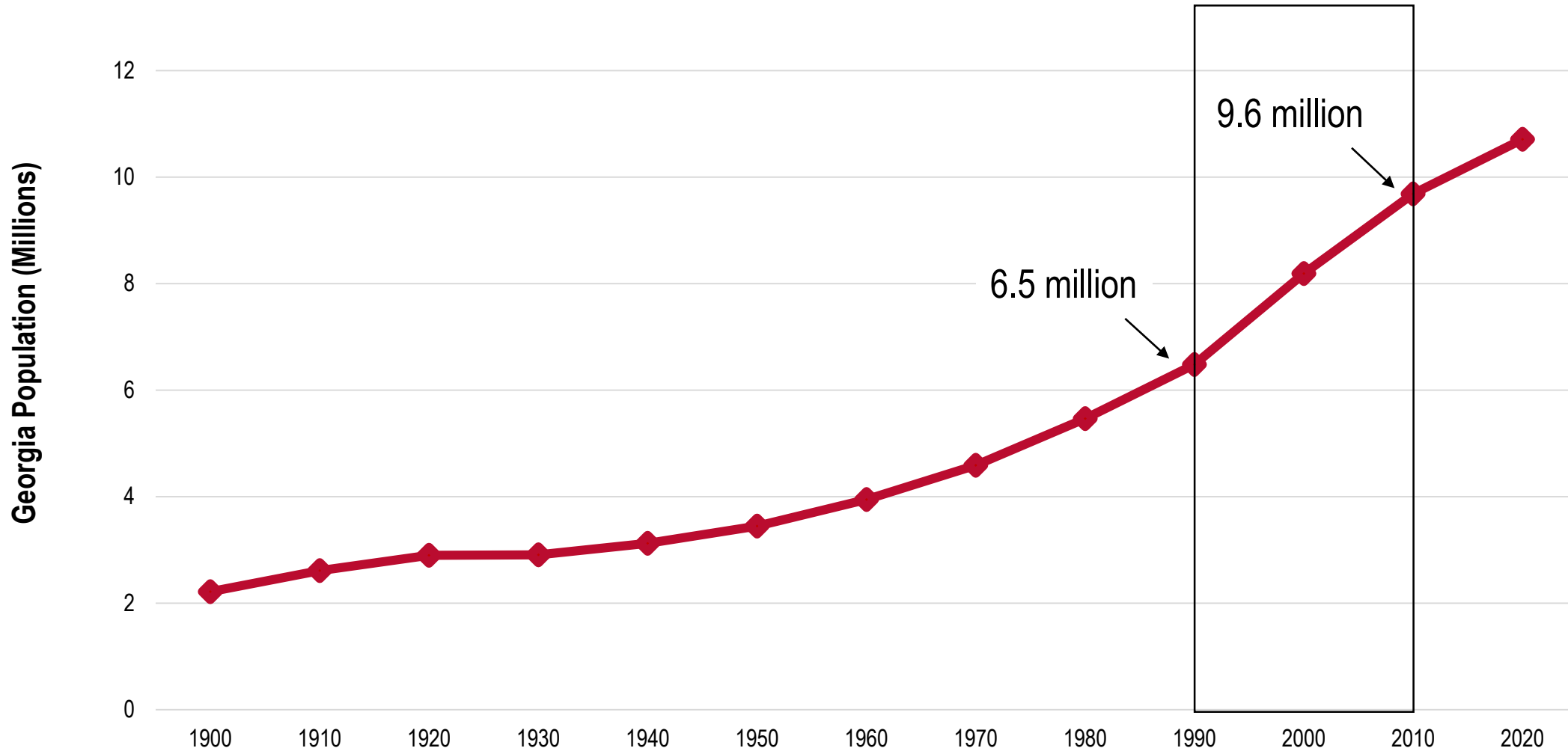
# Georgia's Population increased by 200,000 between 2020 Census and 2022 Estimates



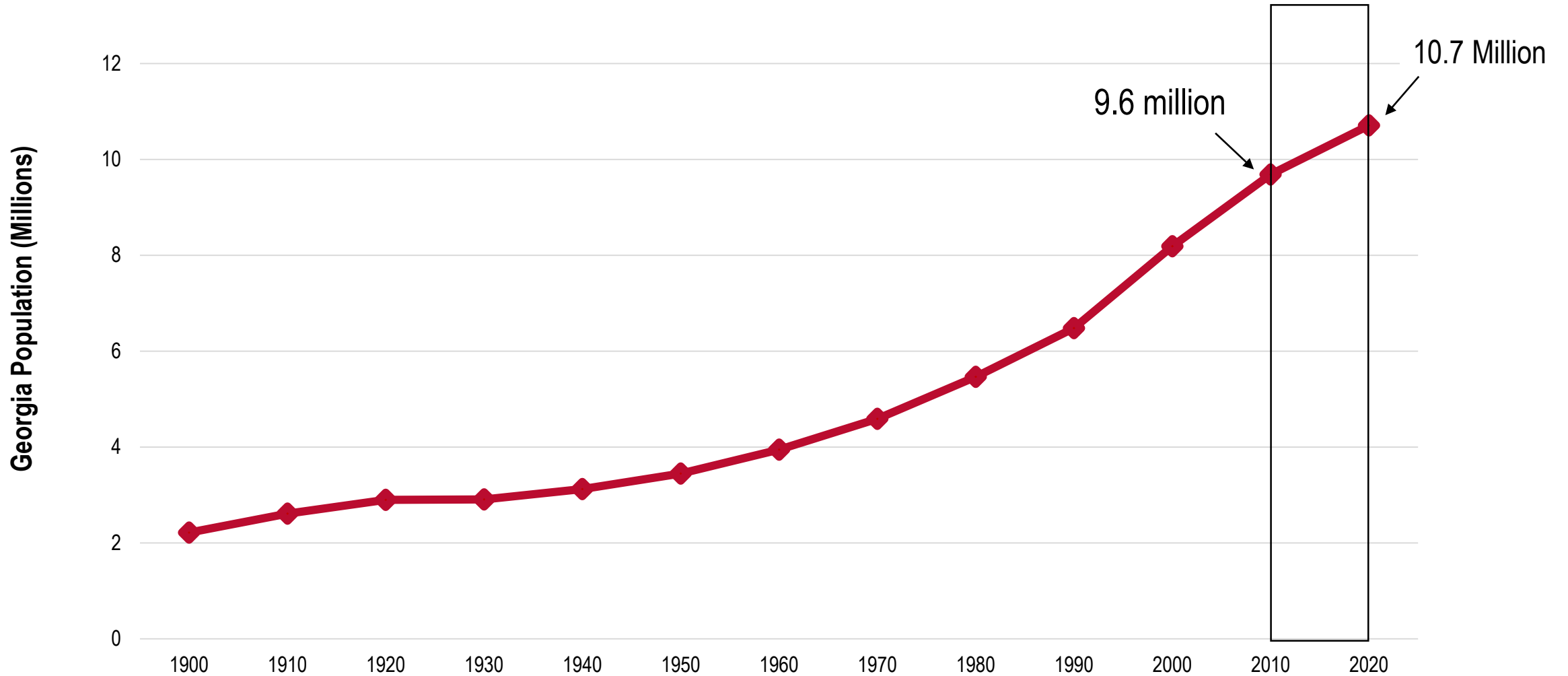
# Georgia's Population Doubles in Four Decades



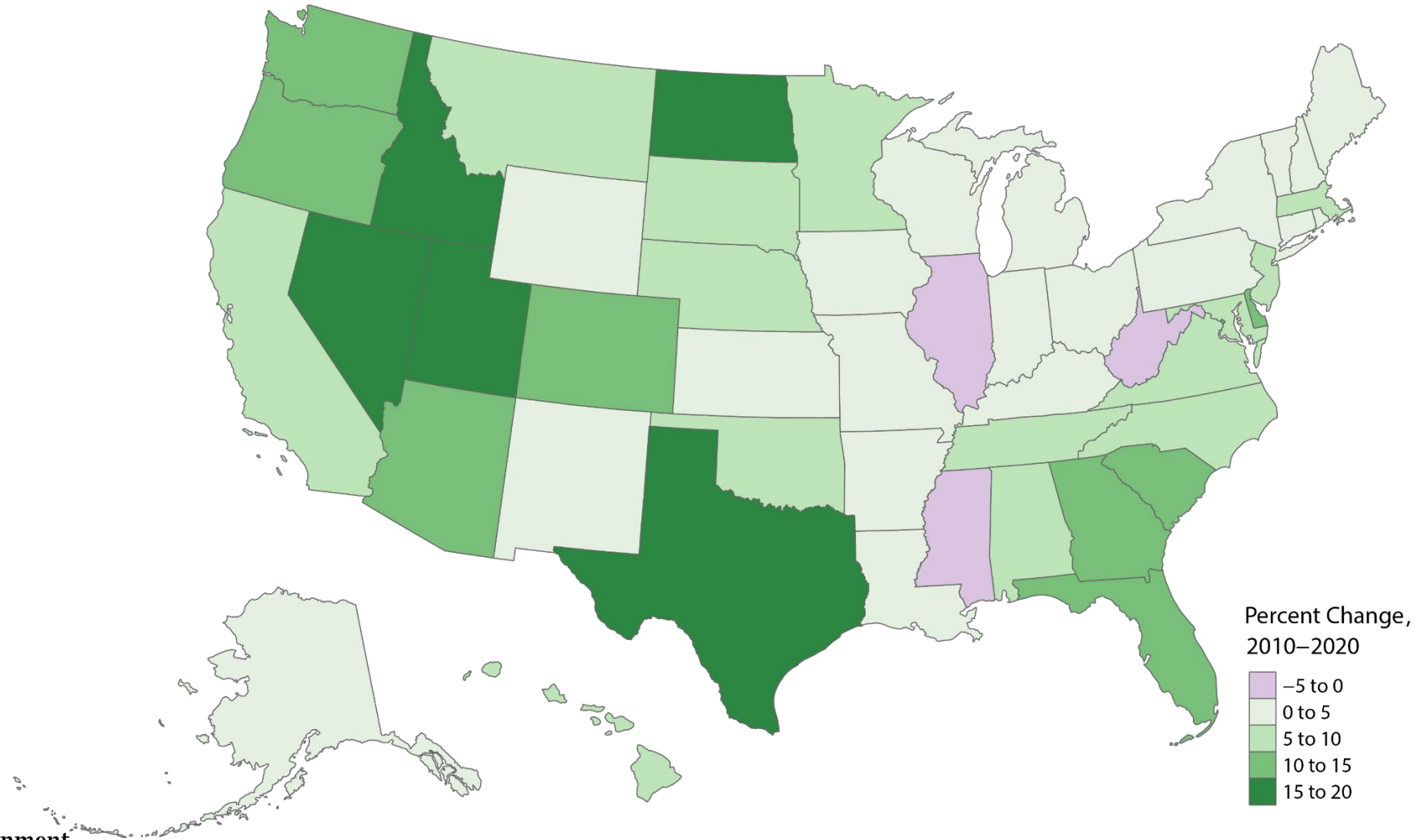
# Three Million New Georgians in Two Decades



# Georgia's Population Growth Slows in 2010s

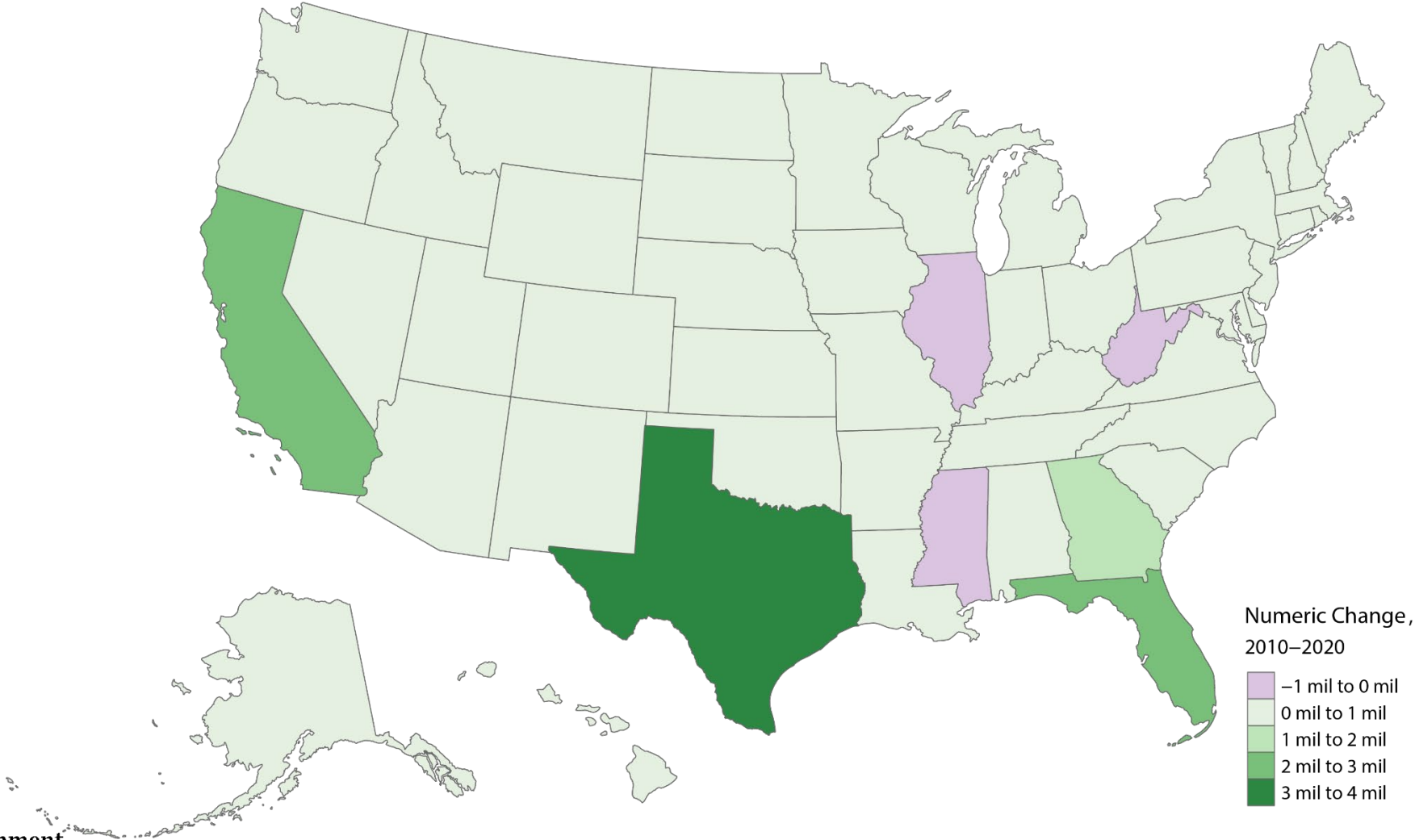


# State's Rate of Growth (10.6%) Exceeds Nation (7.4%)





# Georgia Top 4 in Population Increase In 2010s

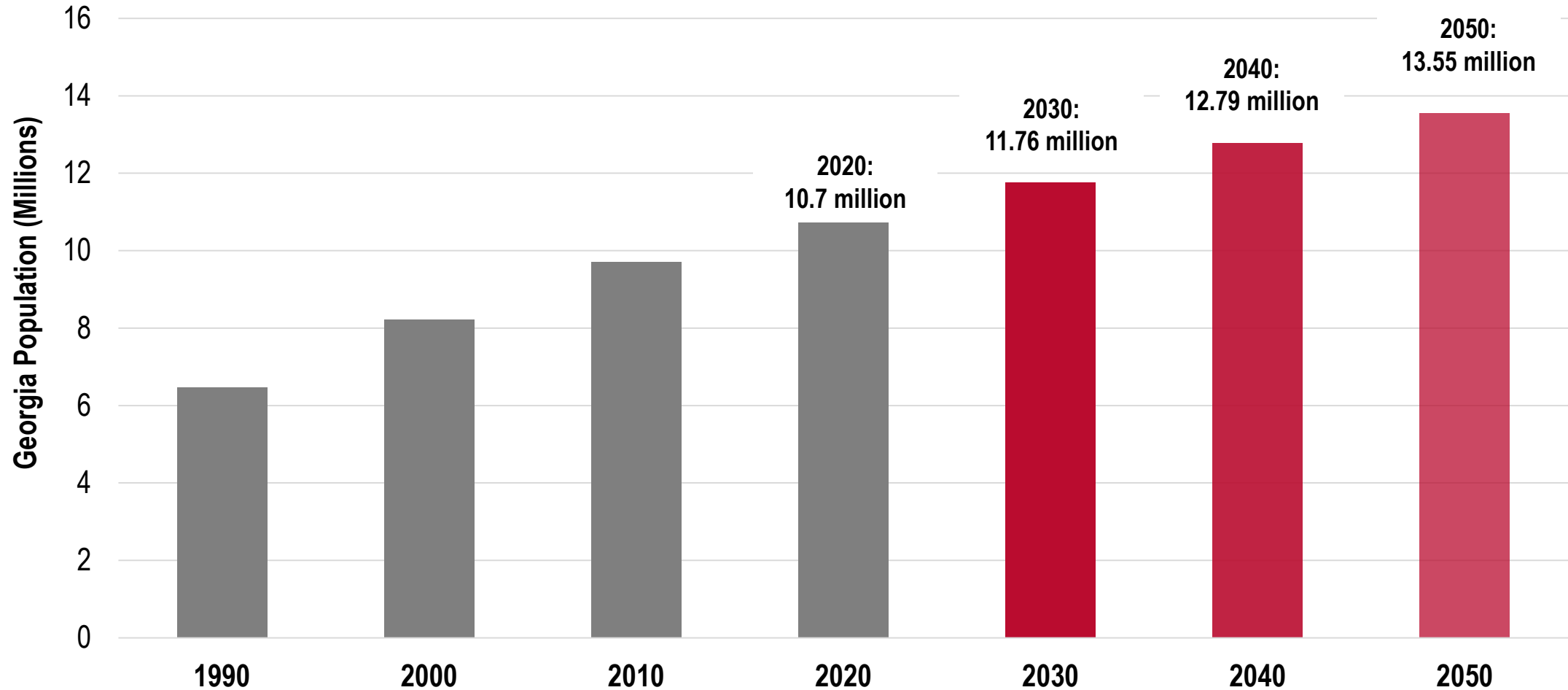


# Georgia's growth in 2010s outpaced national average

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



# Georgia's Projected Population through 2050



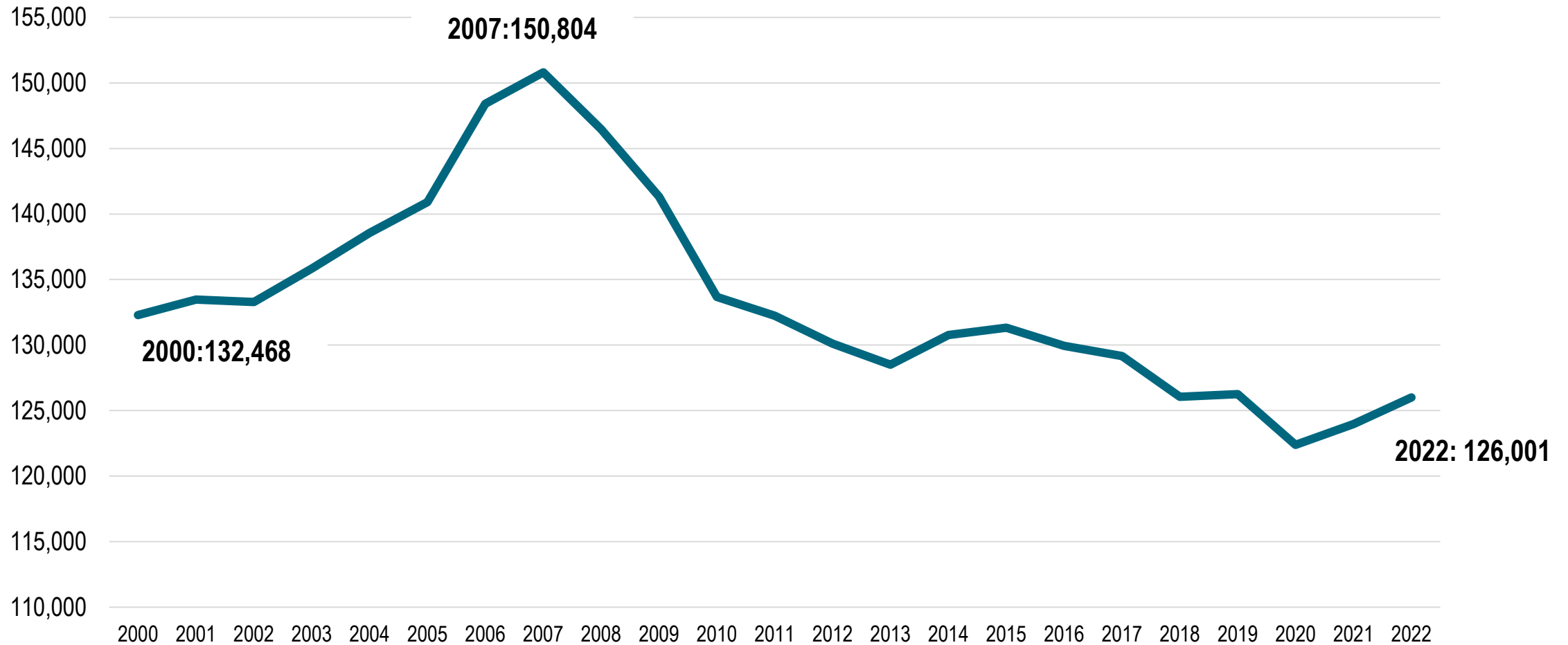
# Three Components of Population Change

---

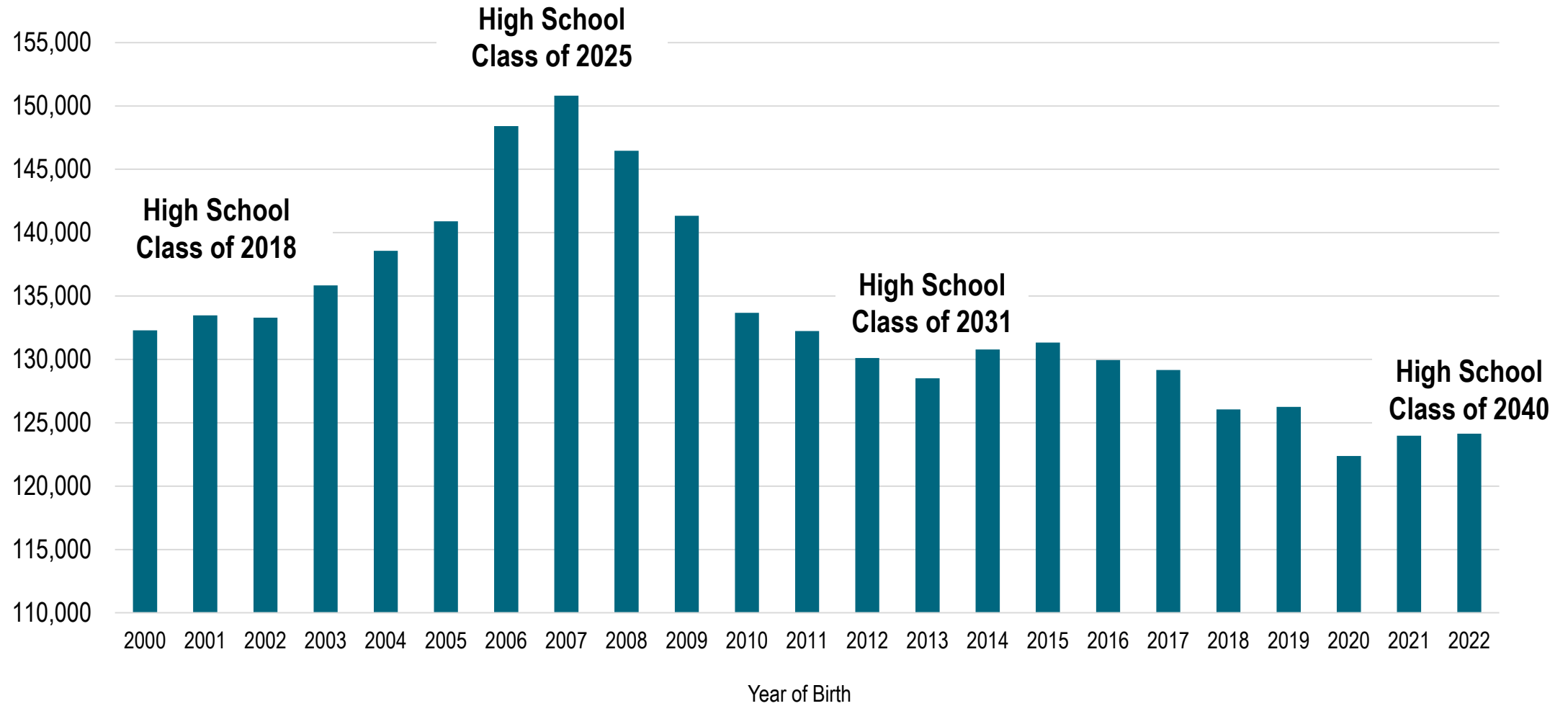
1. Births
2. Deaths
3. Migration



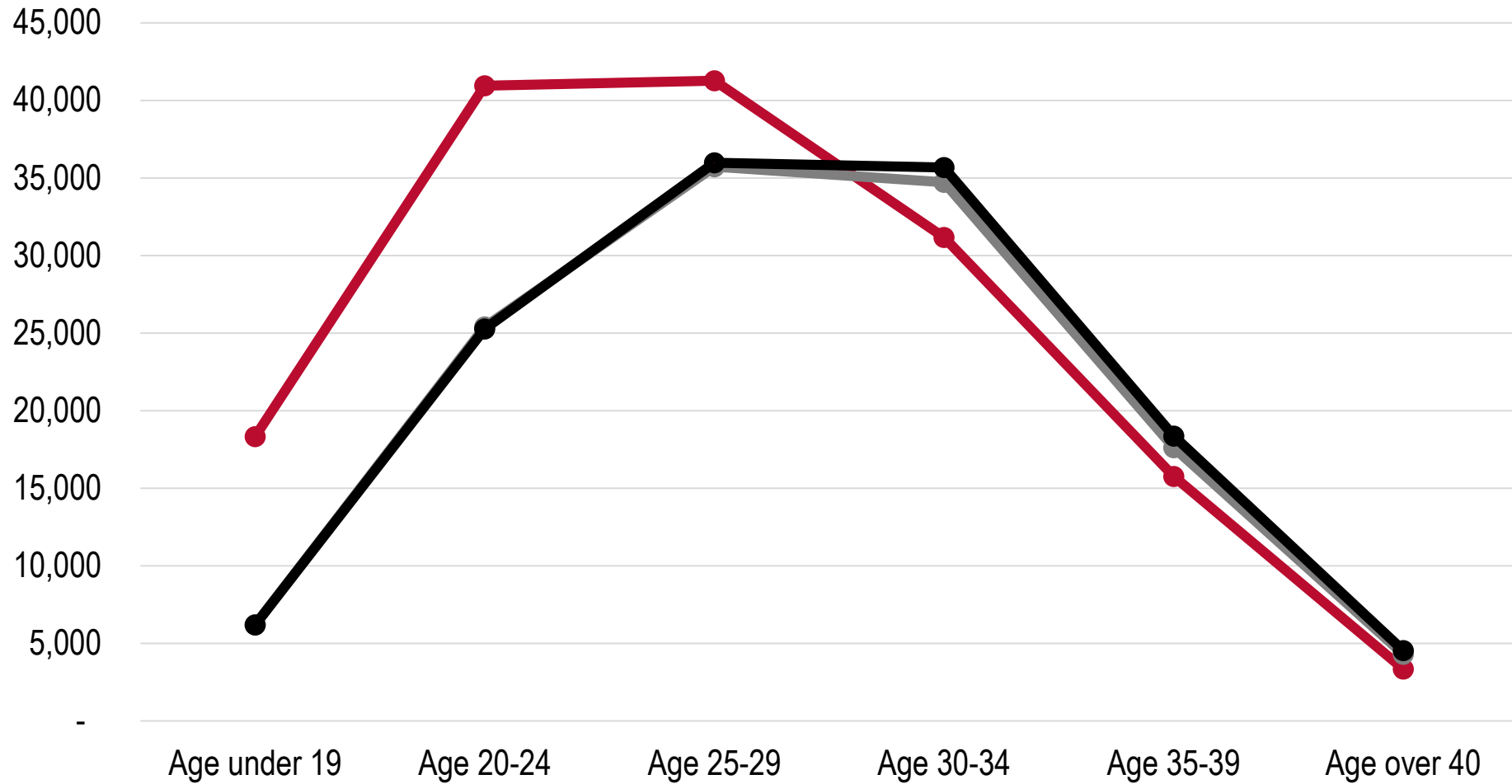
# Number of Births are Falling in Georgia



# Fewer Births Impacts Education System



# Georgia's Shifting Fertility Arc



# Three Components of Population Change

---

1. Births

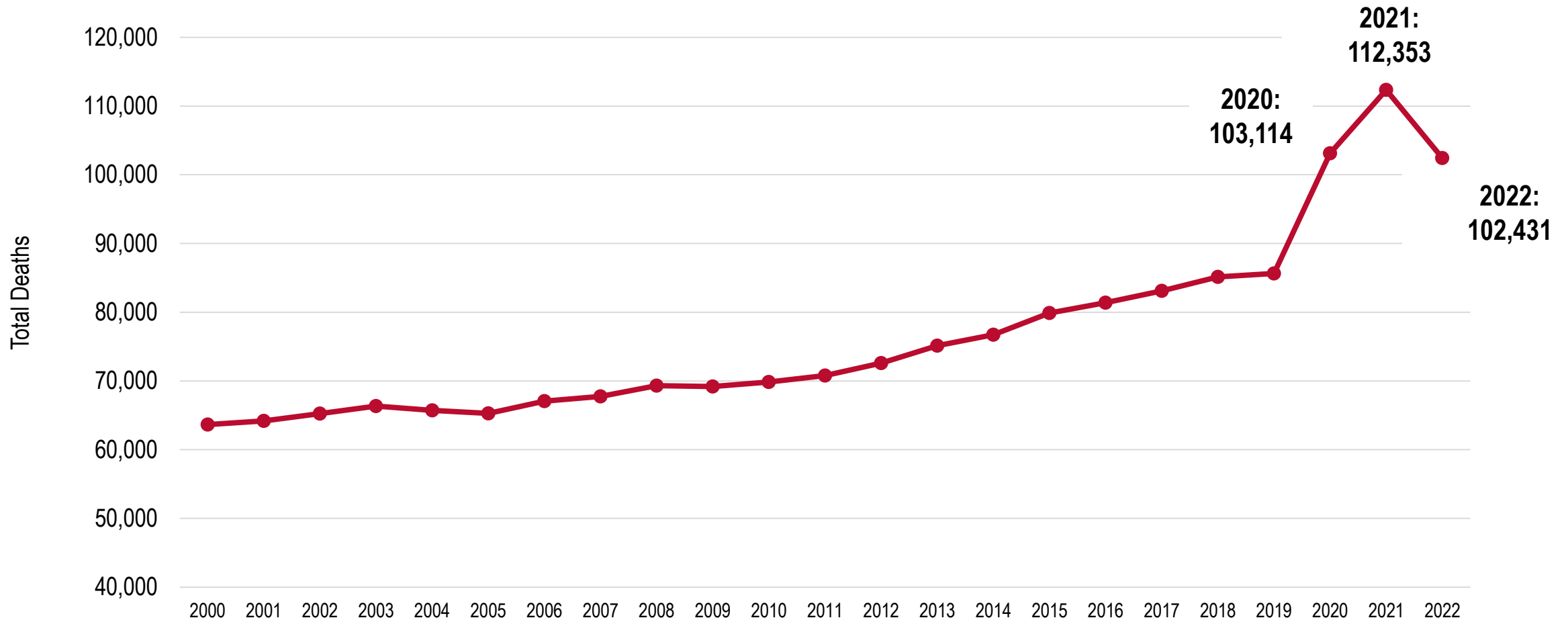
2. **Deaths**

3. Migration

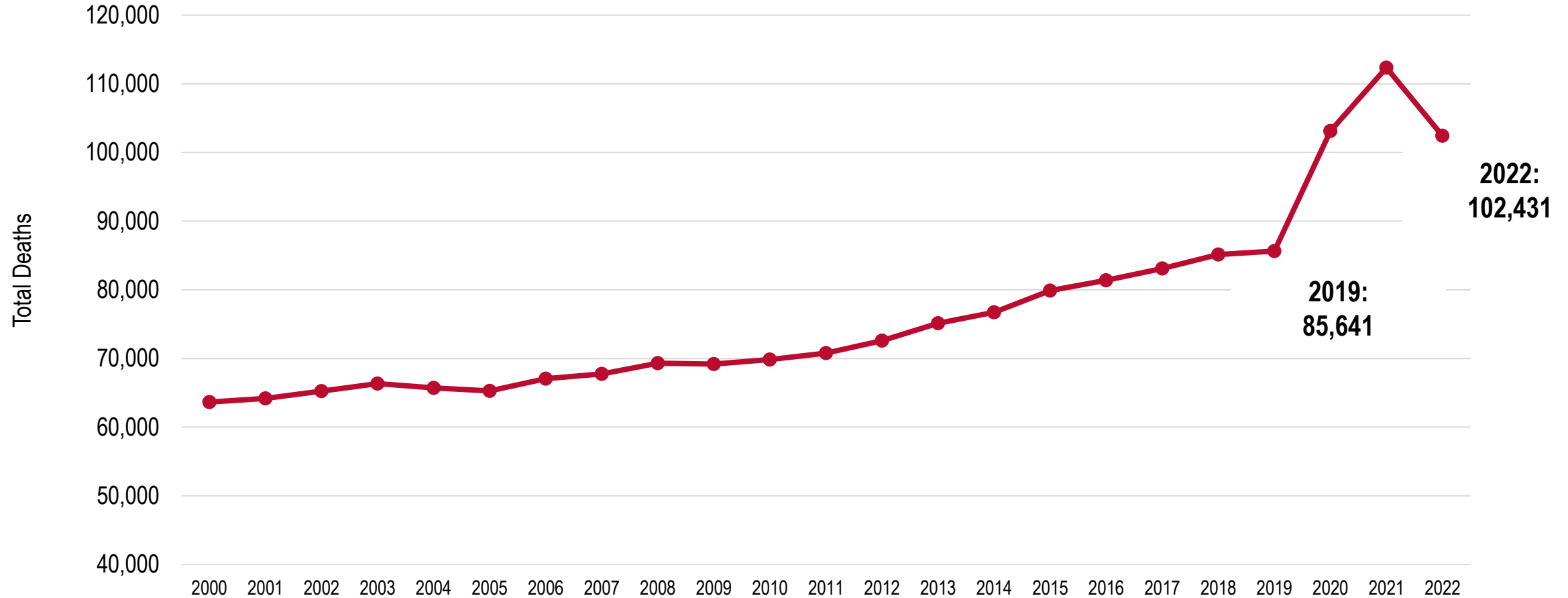




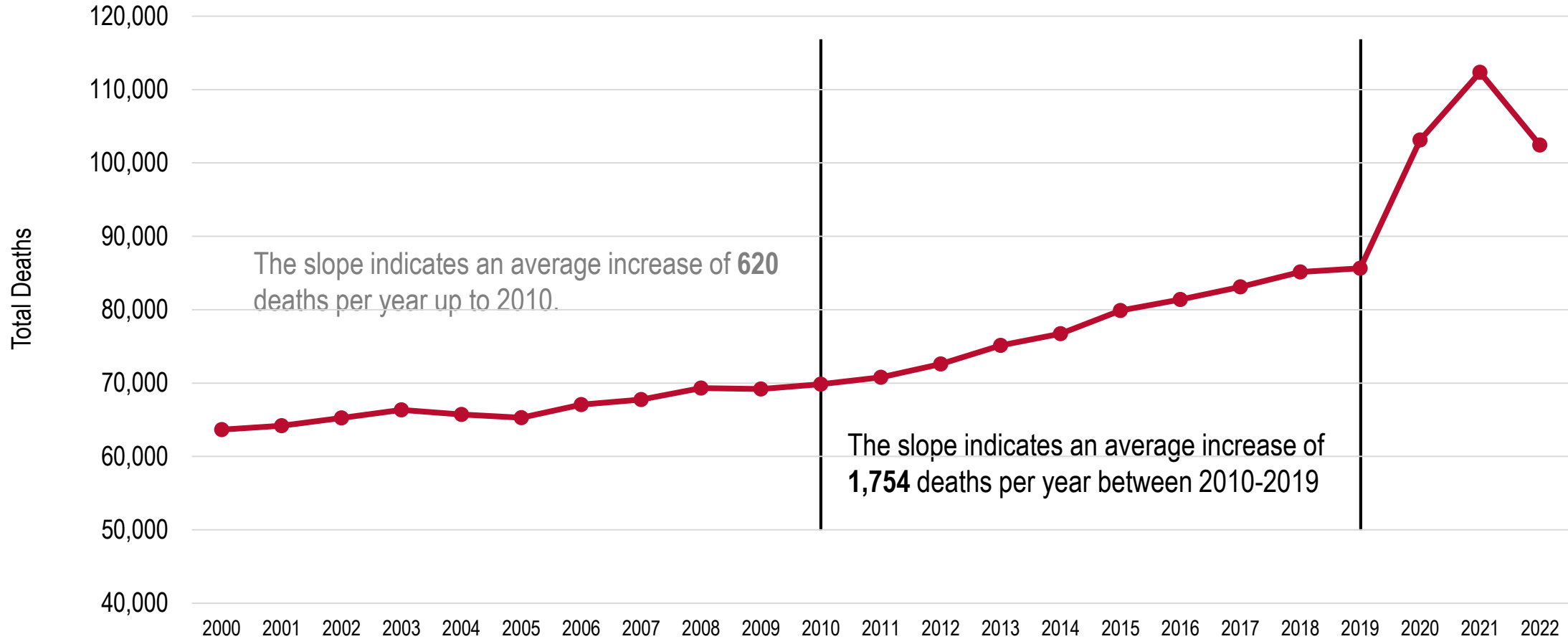
# Deaths (hopefully) peaked in 2021



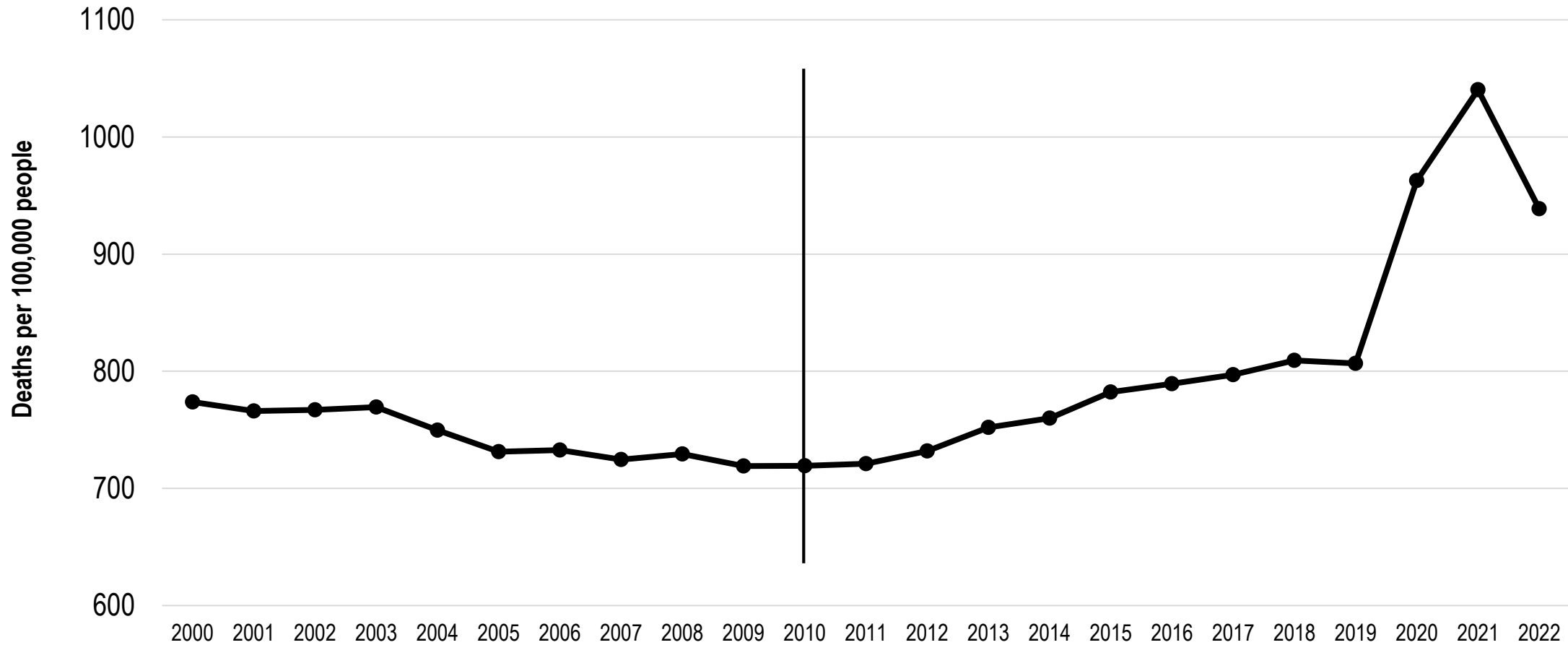
# Deaths (hopefully) peaked in 2021



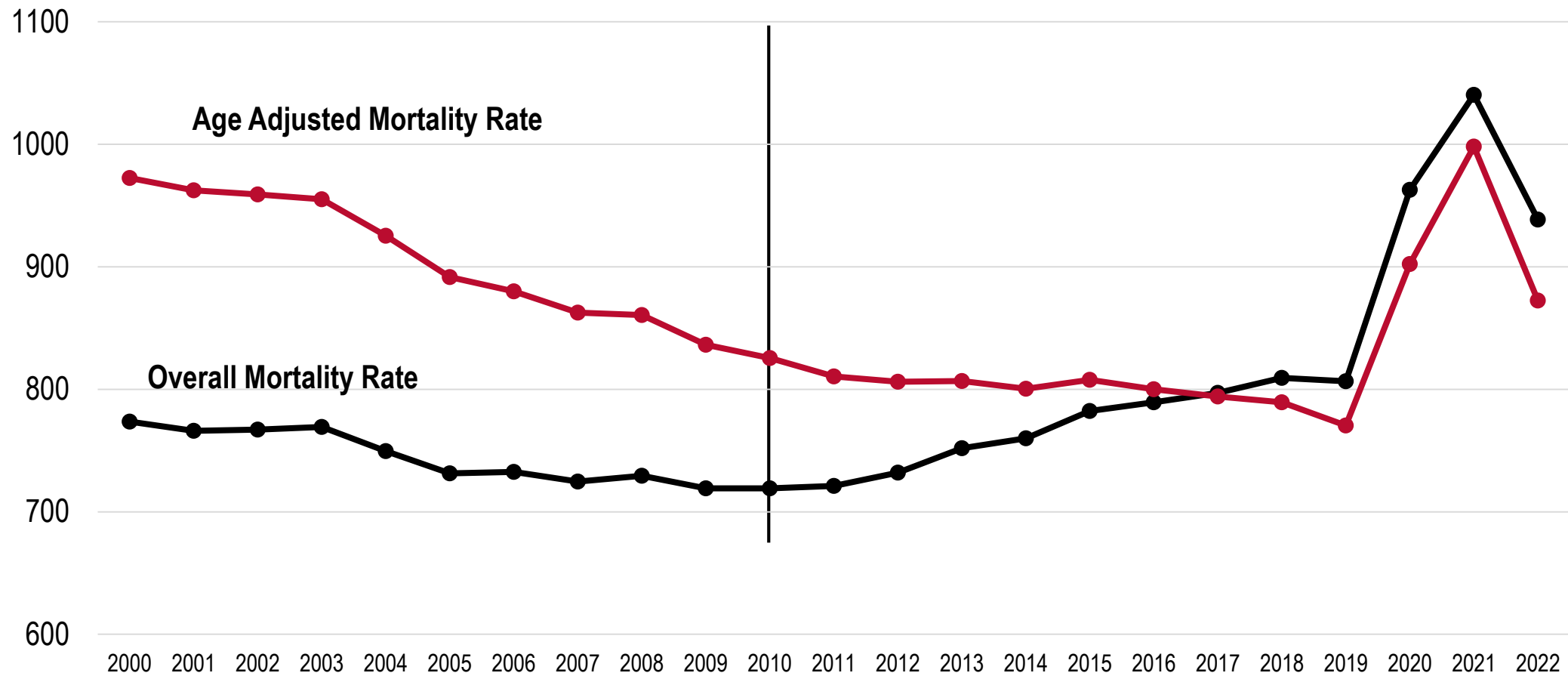
# Deaths were increasing prior to Covid-19



# Mortality Rate Increasing since 2010, too



# Mortality Rate vs. Age Adjusted Mortality Rate

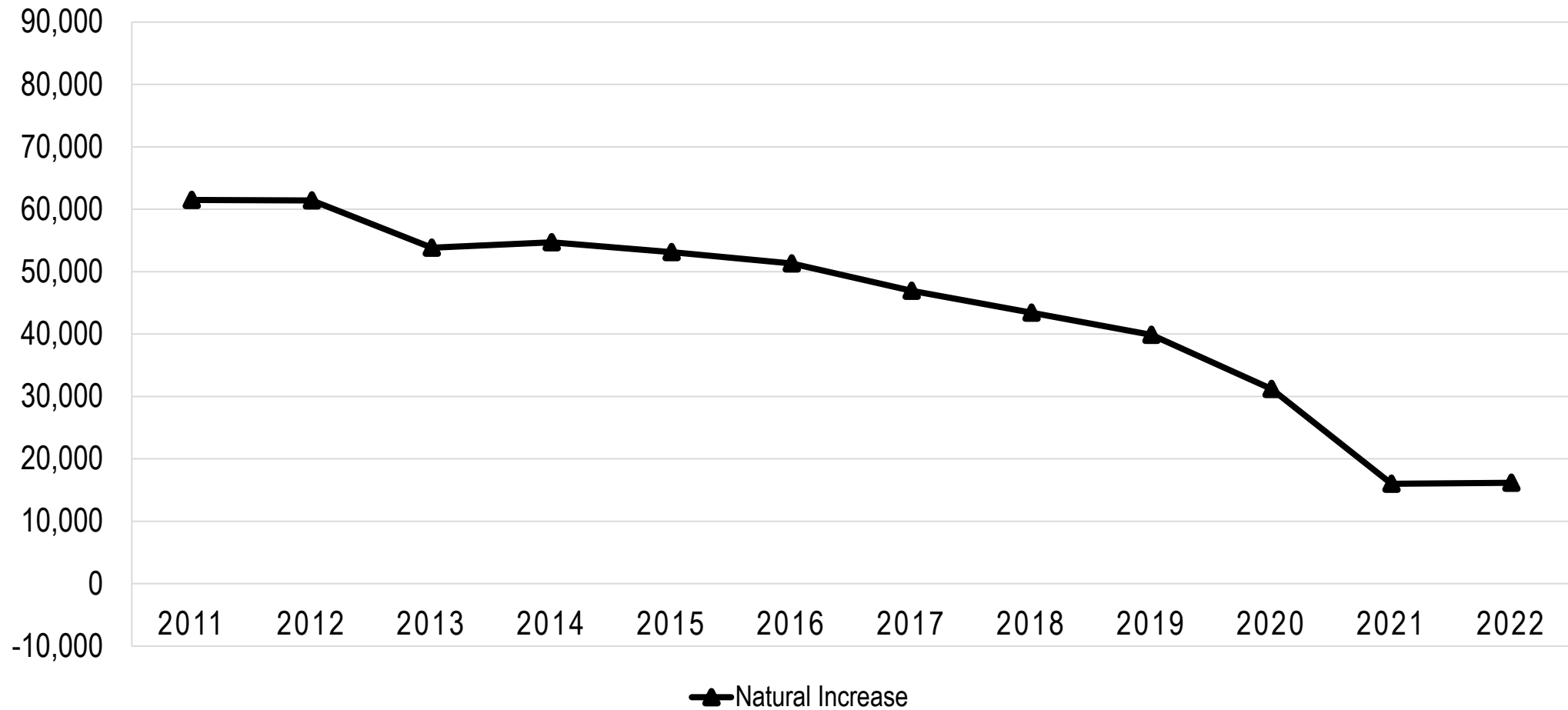


**Natural Change = Births - Deaths**

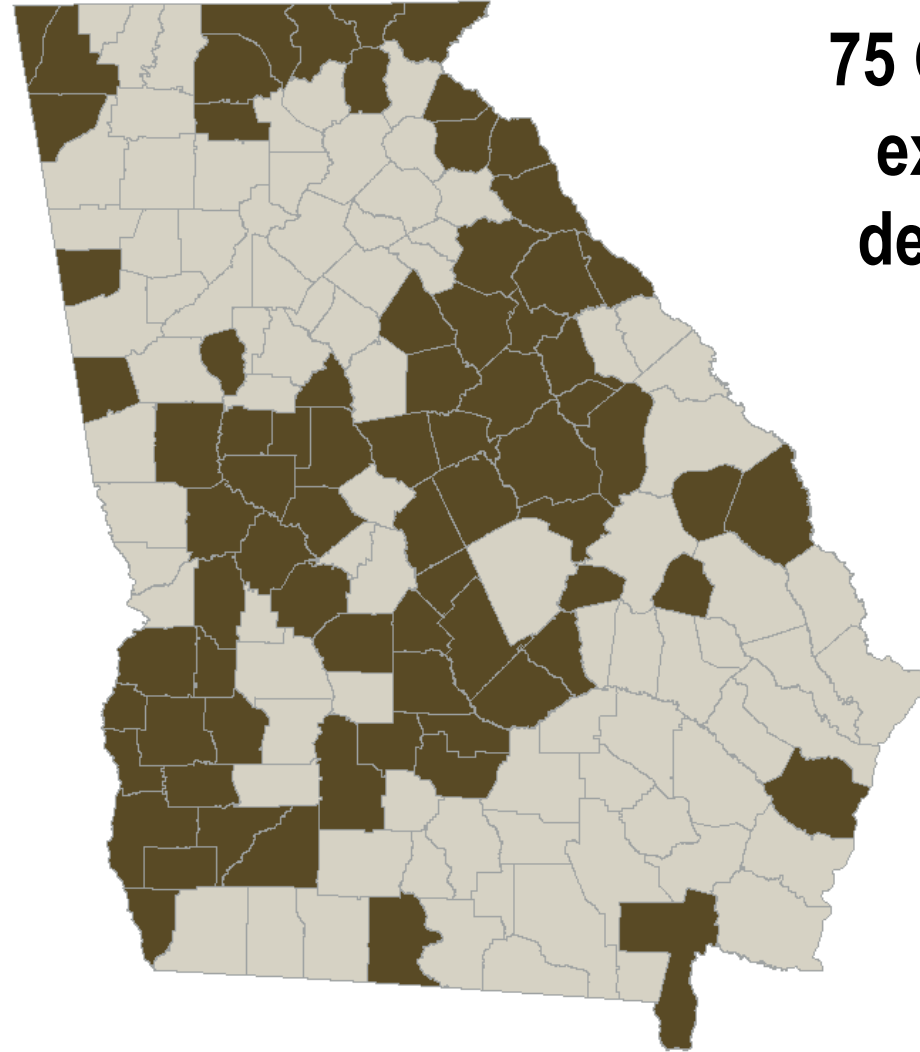
Components of  
of Population Change



# Natural Increase Slows in Georgia



**75 Georgia counties  
exhibited natural  
decrease between  
2011-2021**





# Three Components of Population Change

---

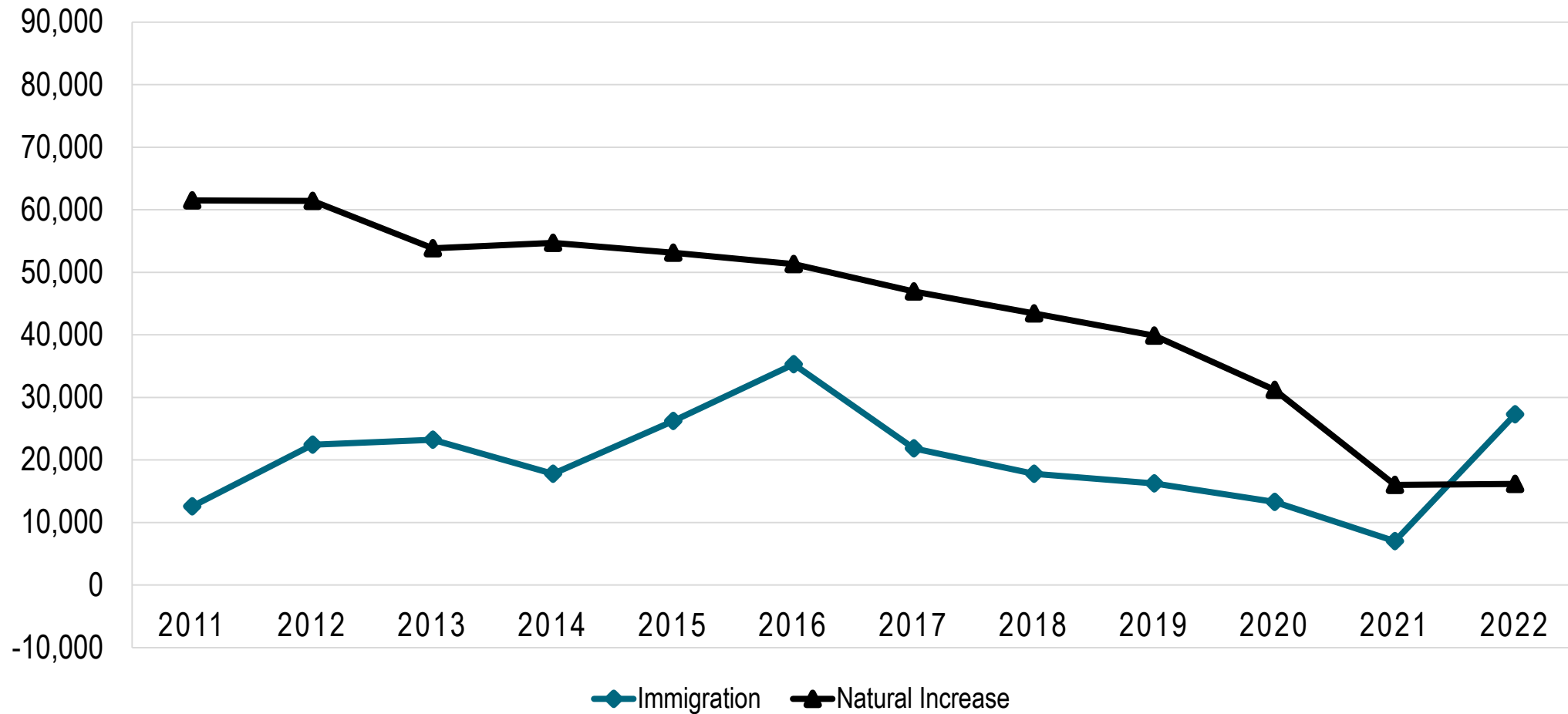
1. Births

2. Deaths

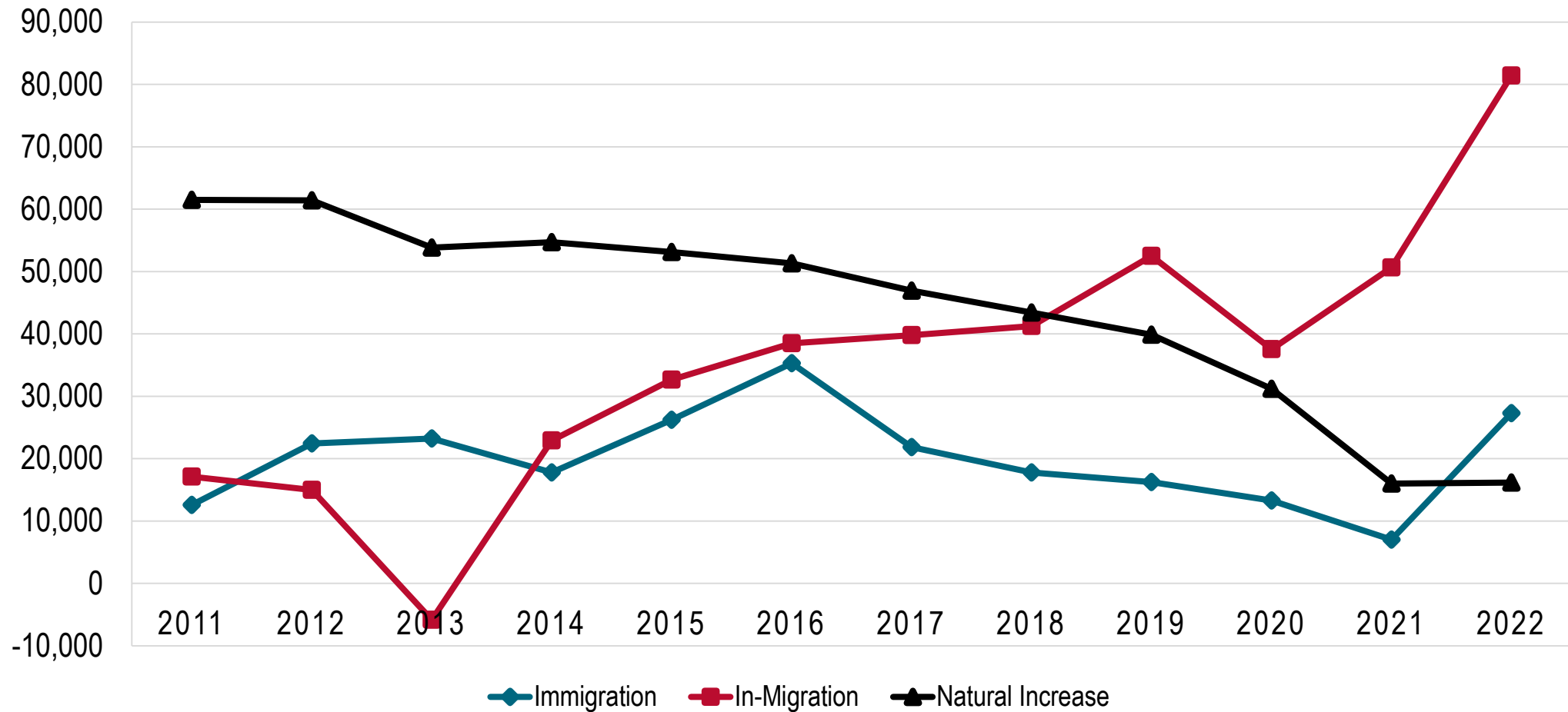
**3. Migration**



# International Migration to Georgia

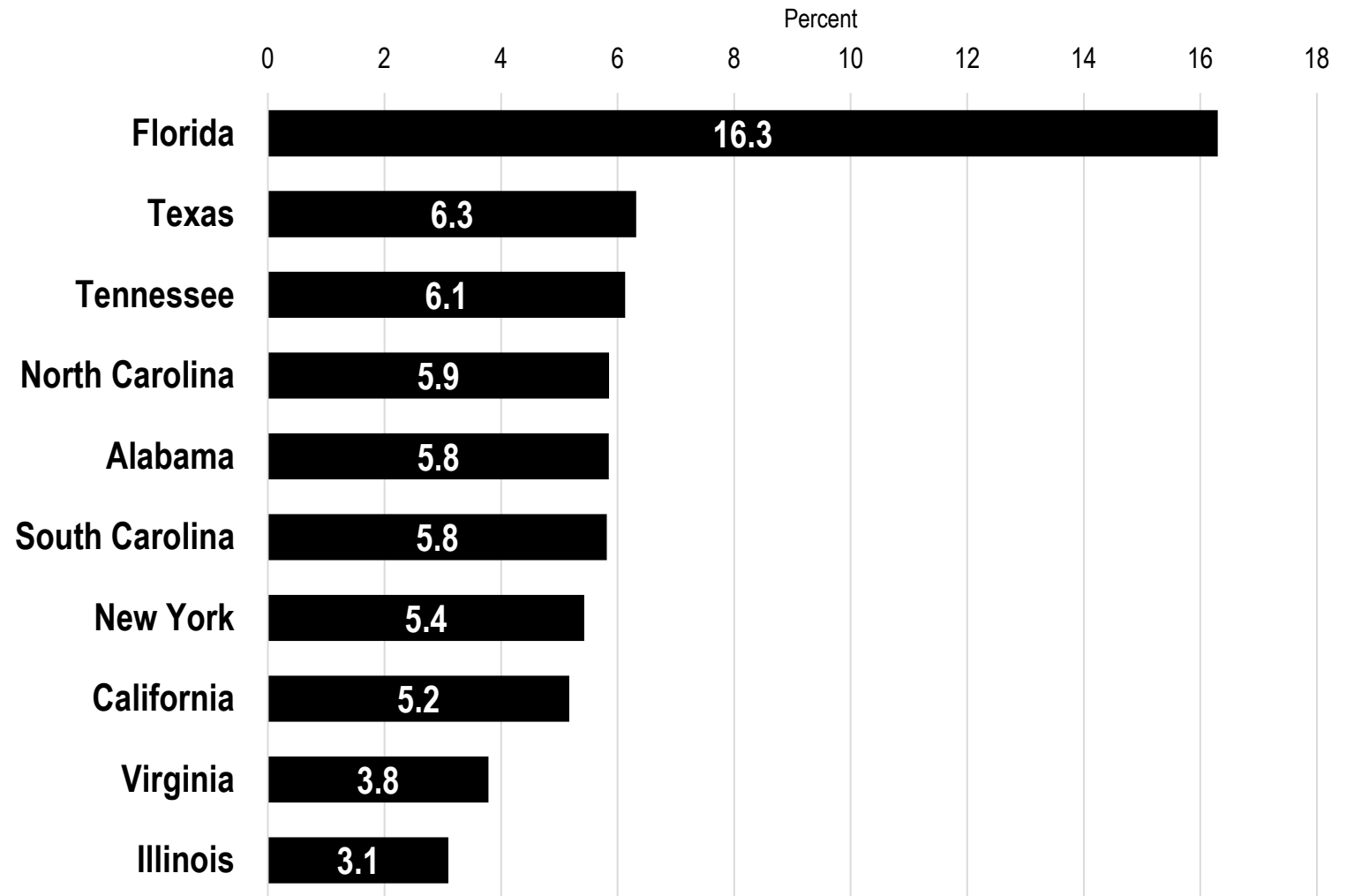


# Domestic Migration Leads Georgia's Growth



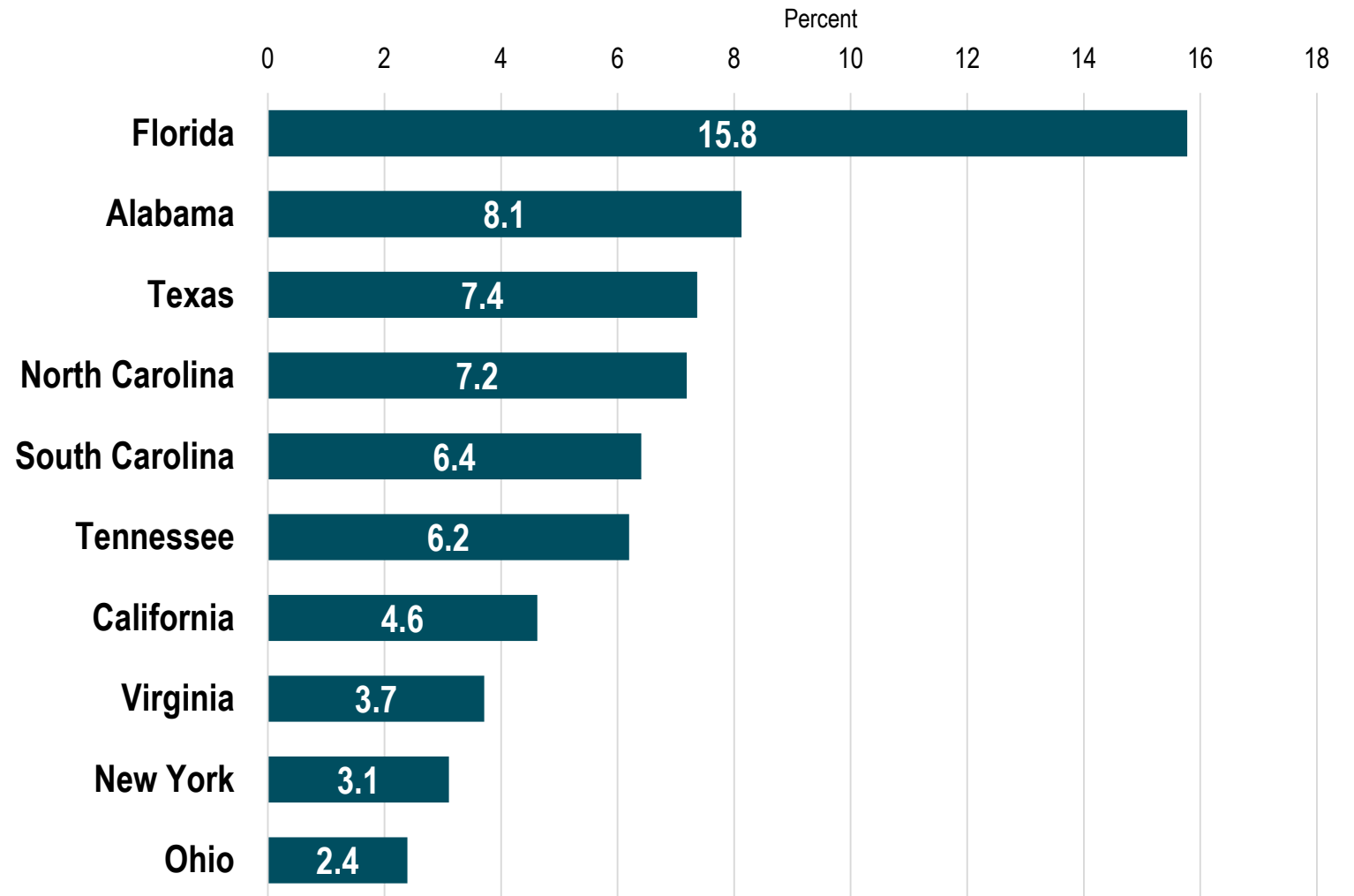
# What states do people move from?

- 63% of migrants in to Georgia come from ten states

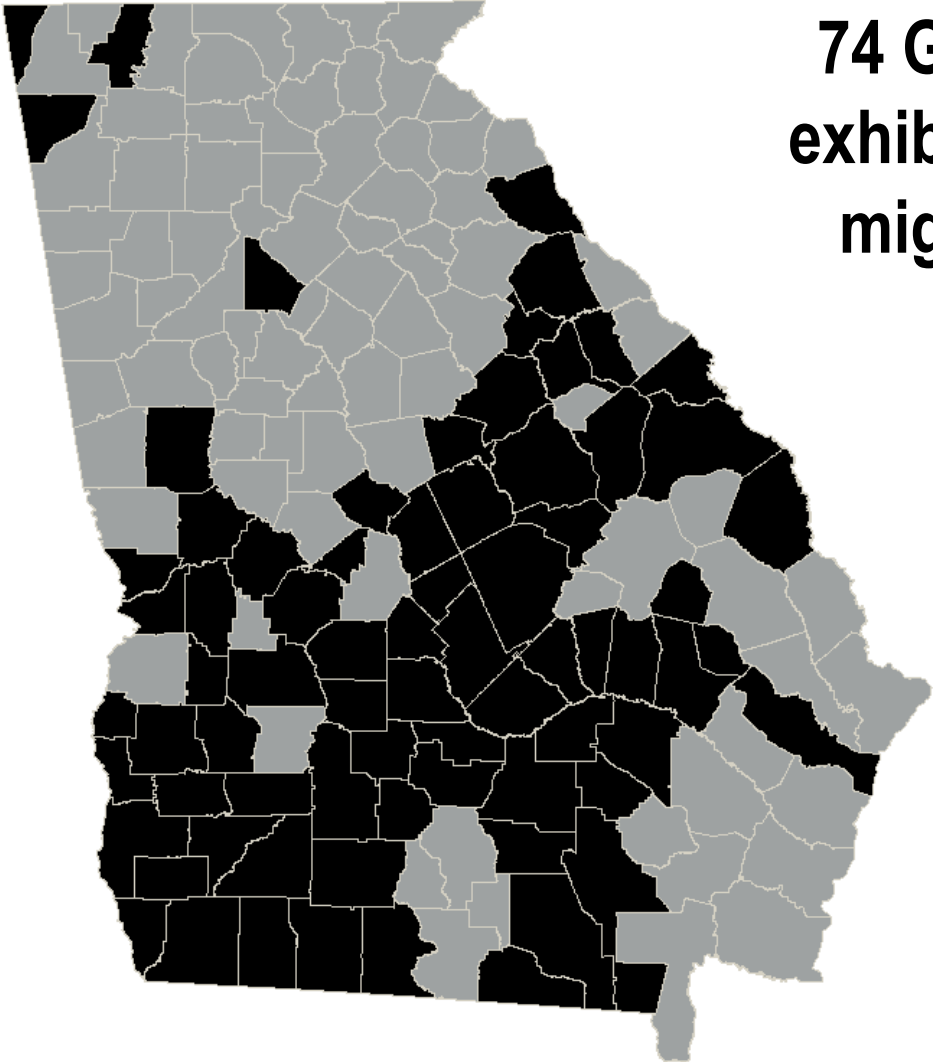


# Where do Georgians go?

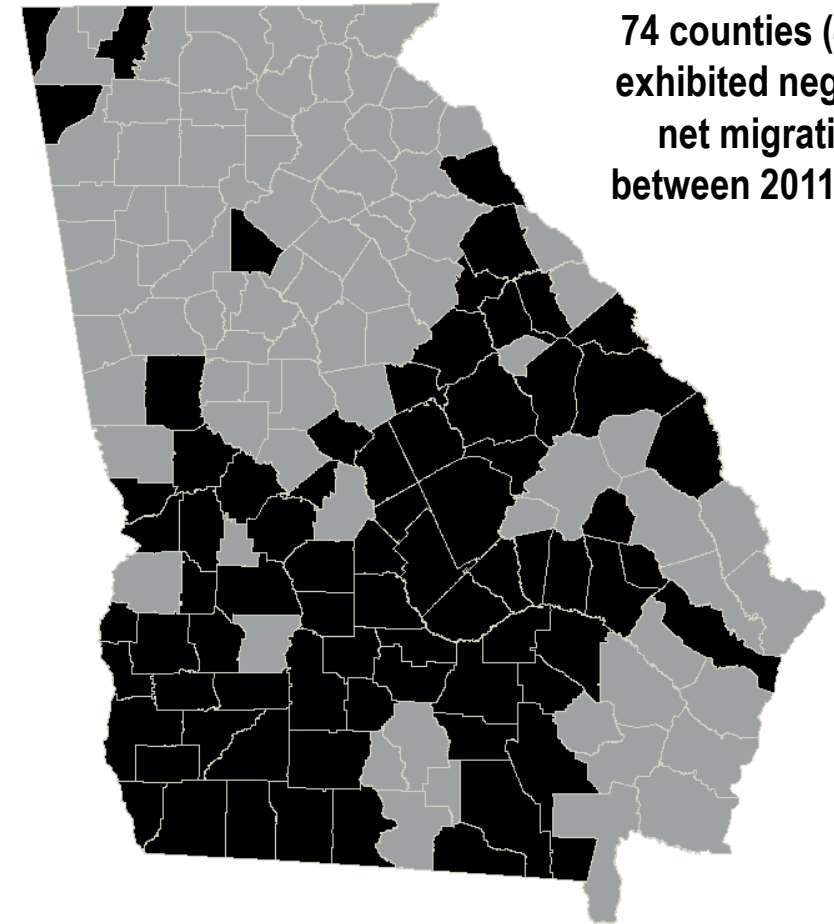
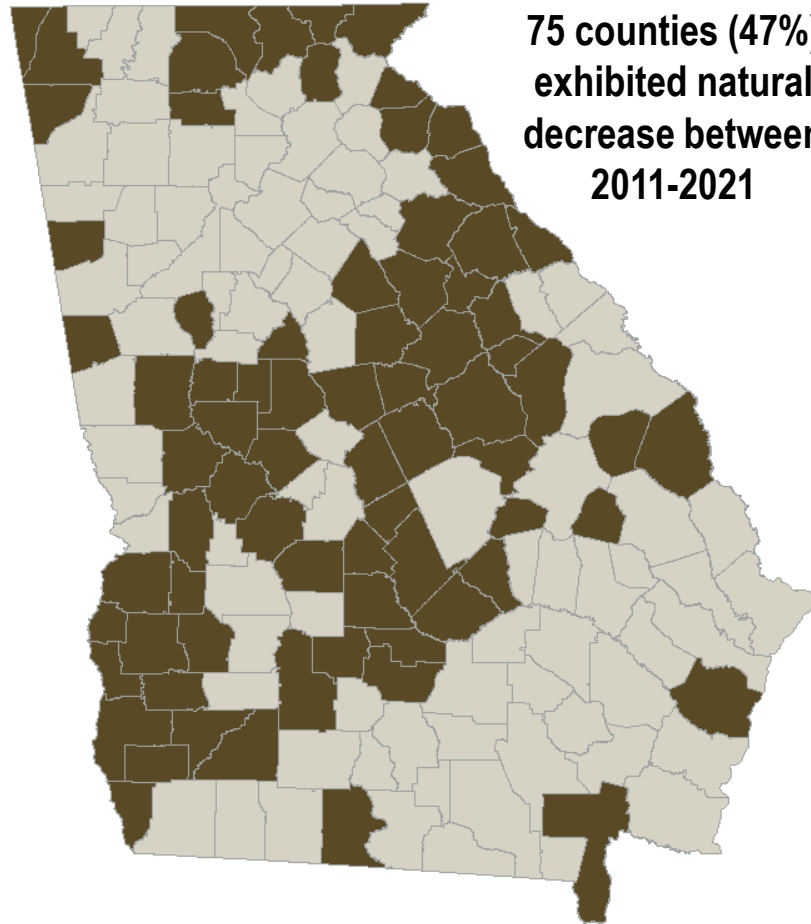
- 64% of migrants out of Georgia move to one of ten states



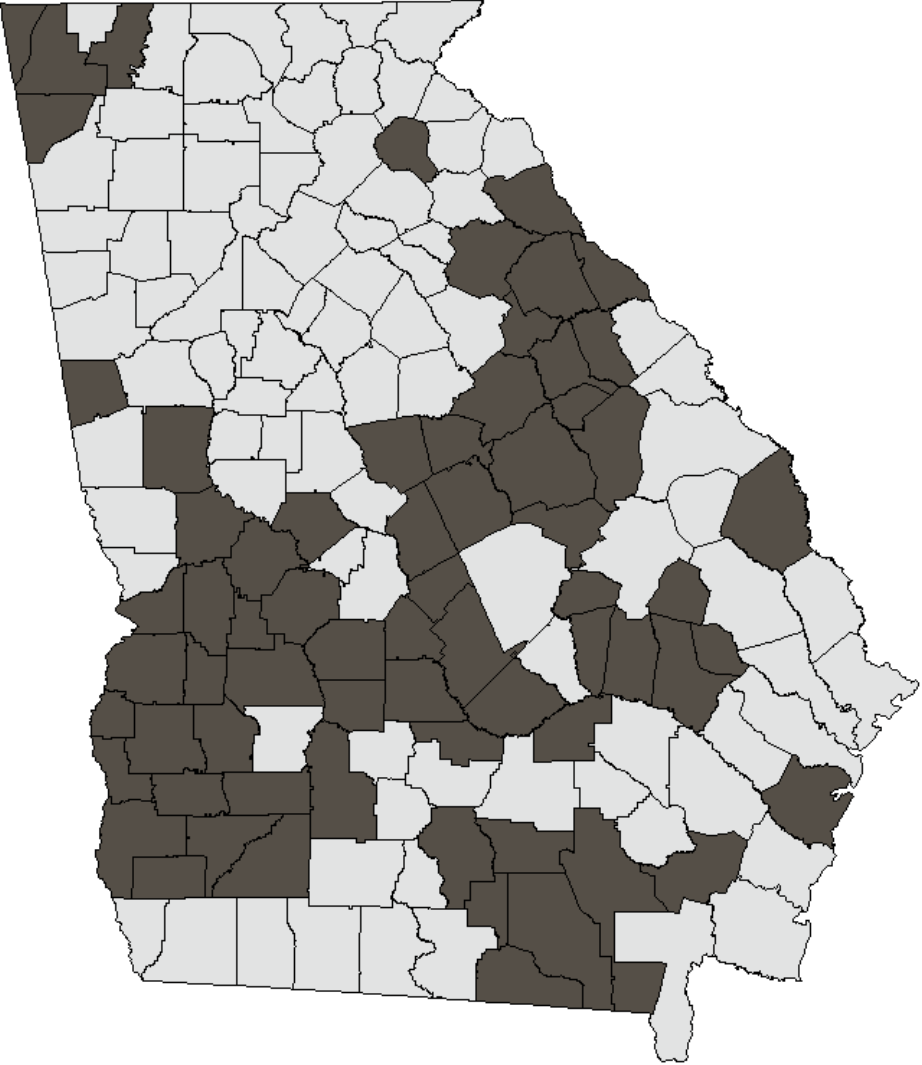
**74 Georgia counties  
exhibited negative net  
migration between  
2011-2022**



# Mapping the Components of Population Change



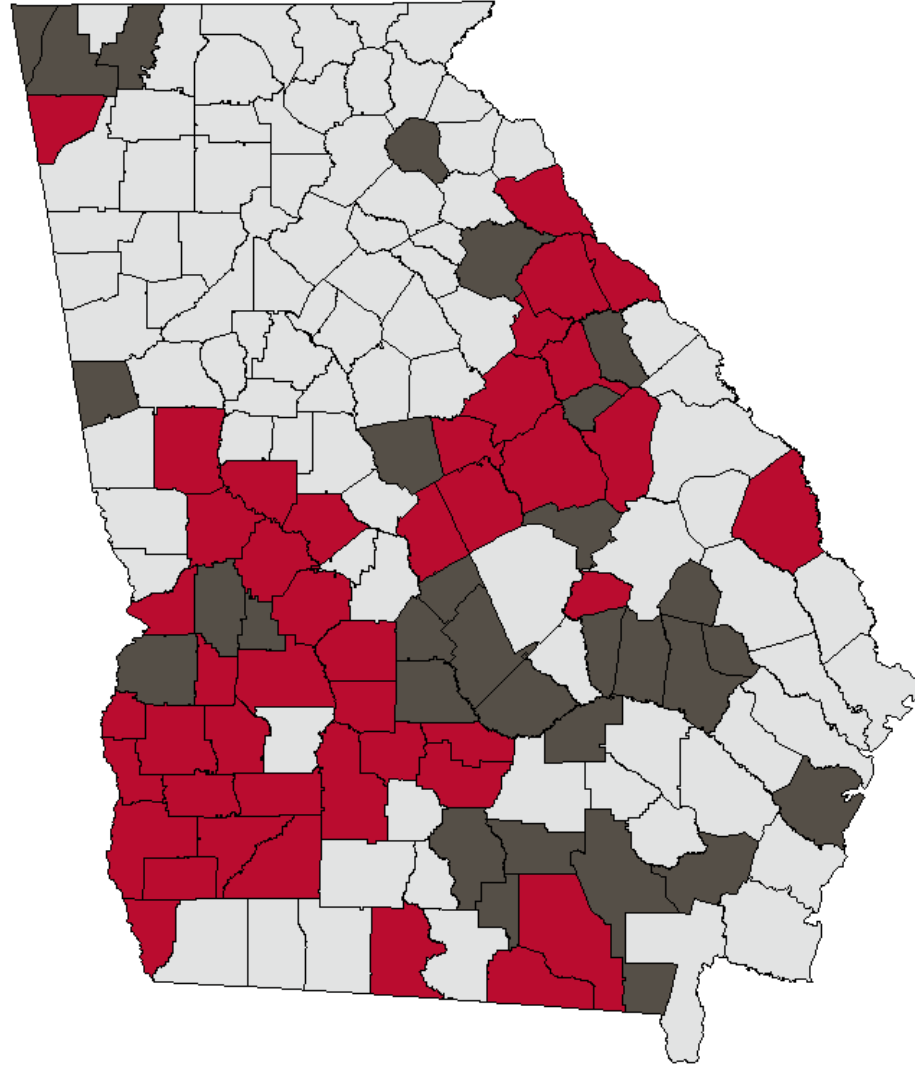
# 68 counties lost population between 2010 and 2020



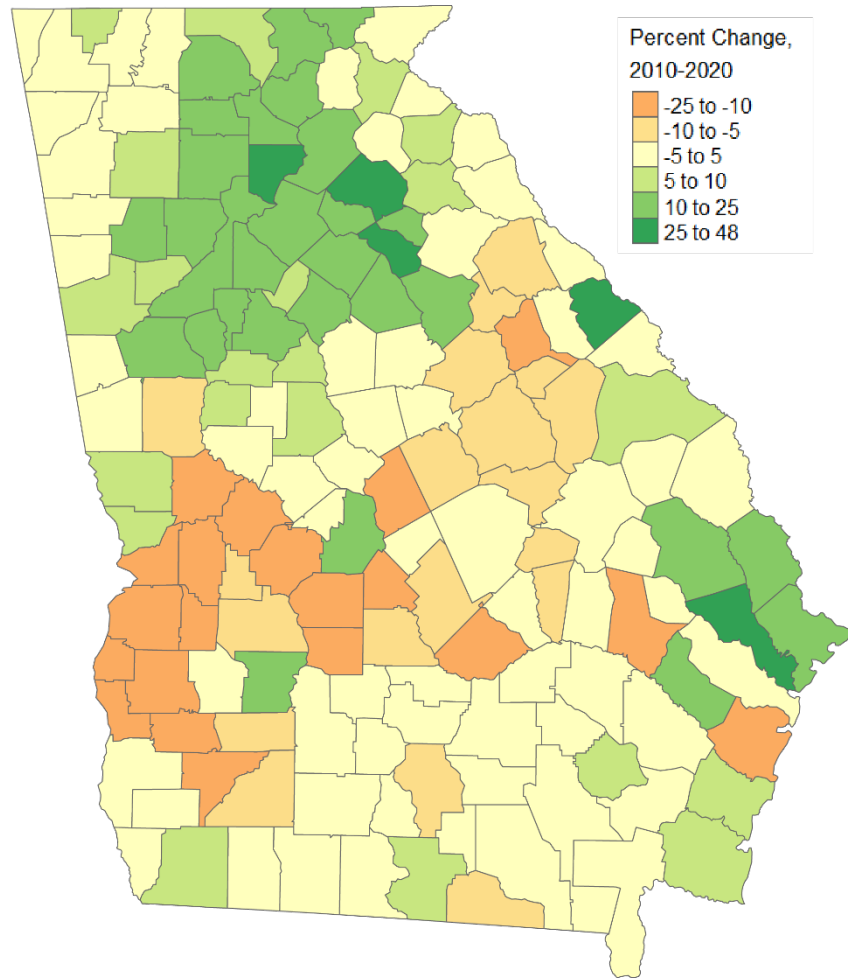


68 counties lost  
population between 2010  
and 2020

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



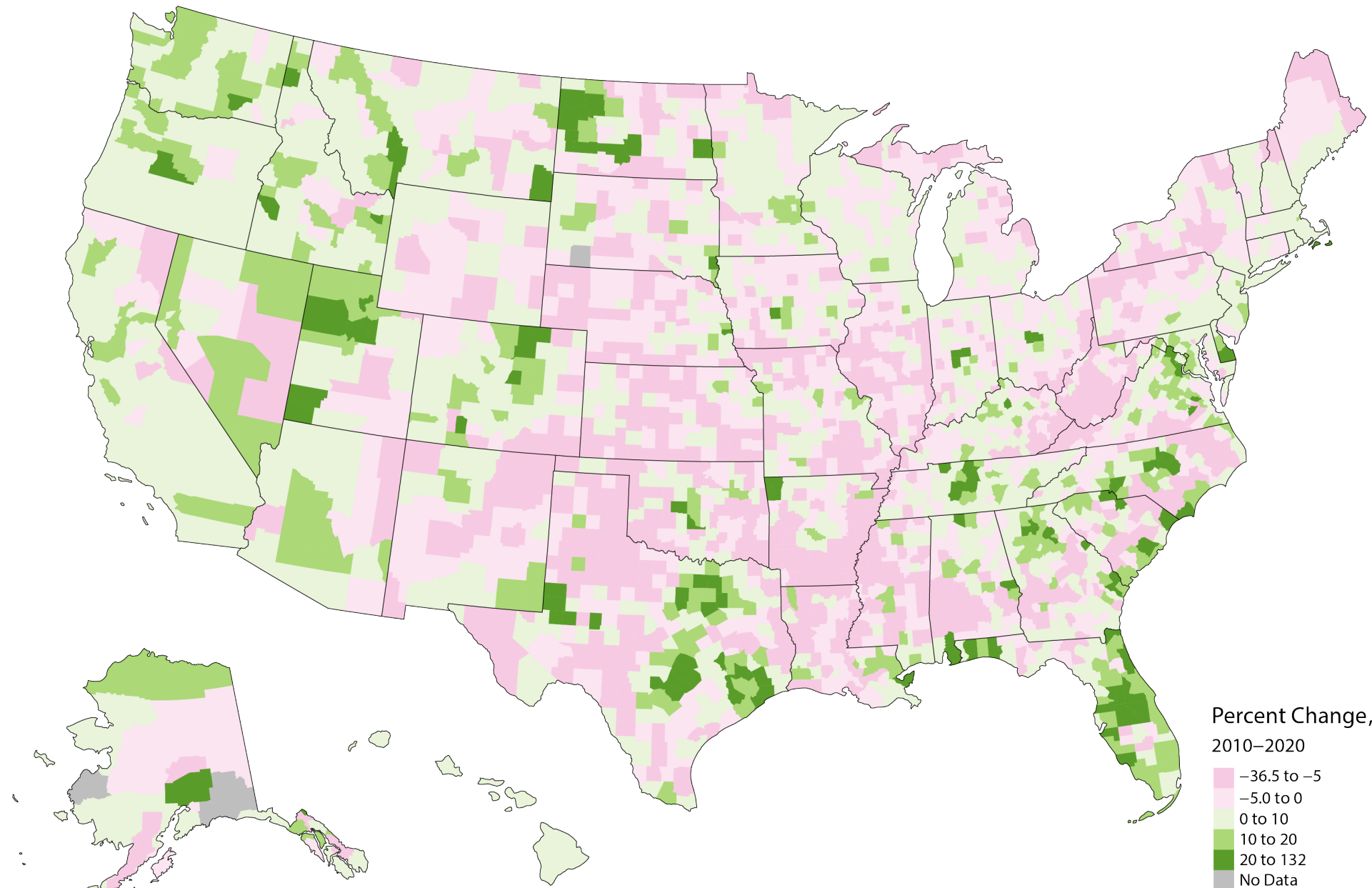
# Suburban and Exurban Population Growth



	Fastest Growing	%
1	Bryan County	48.0
2	Forsyth County	43.2
3	Oconee County	27.4
4	Columbia County	25.8
5	Jackson County	25.5
6	Cherokee County	24.4
7	Effingham County	24.0
8	Barrow County	20.4
9	Dawson County	20.0
10	Towns County	19.3

	Largest Decrease	%
150	Webster County	-16.1
151	Talbot County	-16.5
152	Baker County	-16.7
153	Calhoun County	-16.7
154	Randolph County	-16.8
155	Pulaski County	-17.9
156	Macon County	-18.0
157	McIntosh County	-23.4
158	Telfair County	-24.4
159	Dooly County	-24.9





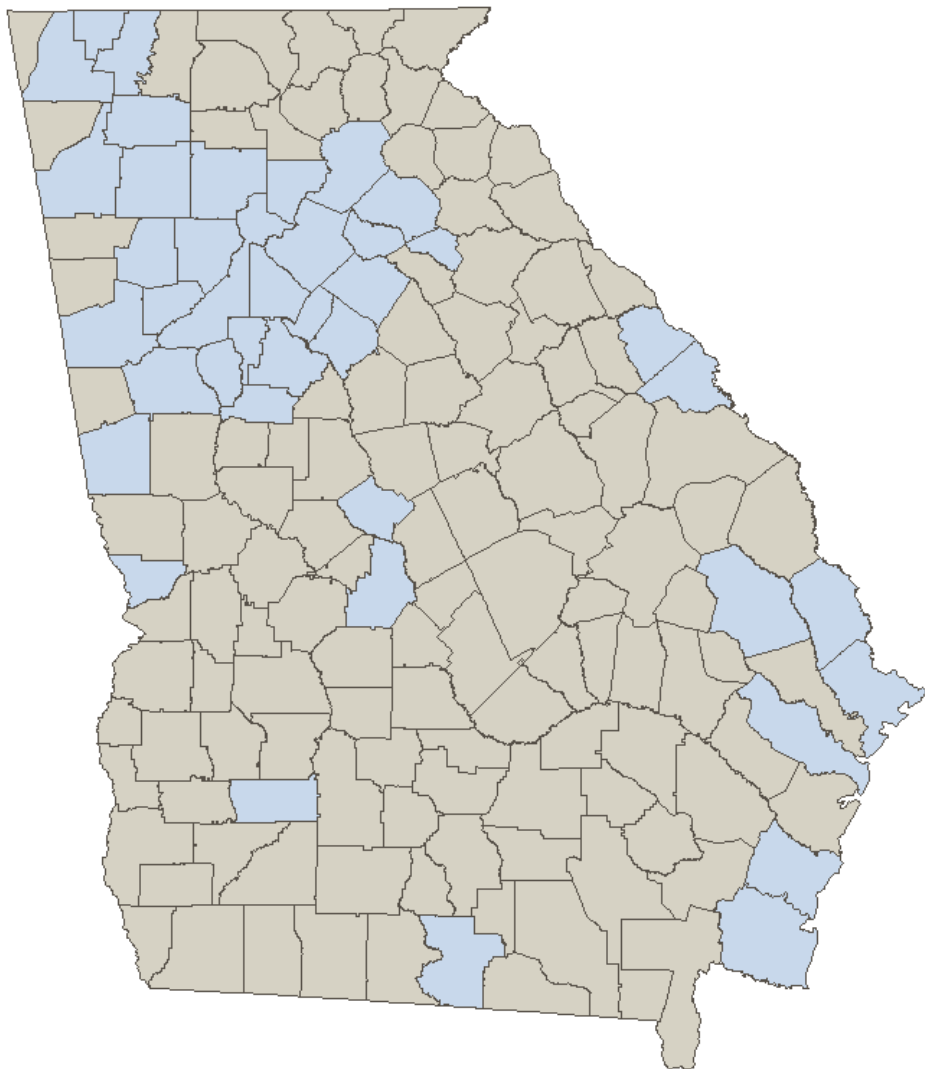
Percent Change,  
2010–2020

- 36.5 to -5
- 5.0 to 0
- 0 to 10
- 10 to 20
- 20 to 132
- No Data

# Georgia's Population Concentration



Carl Vinson  
Institute of Government  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



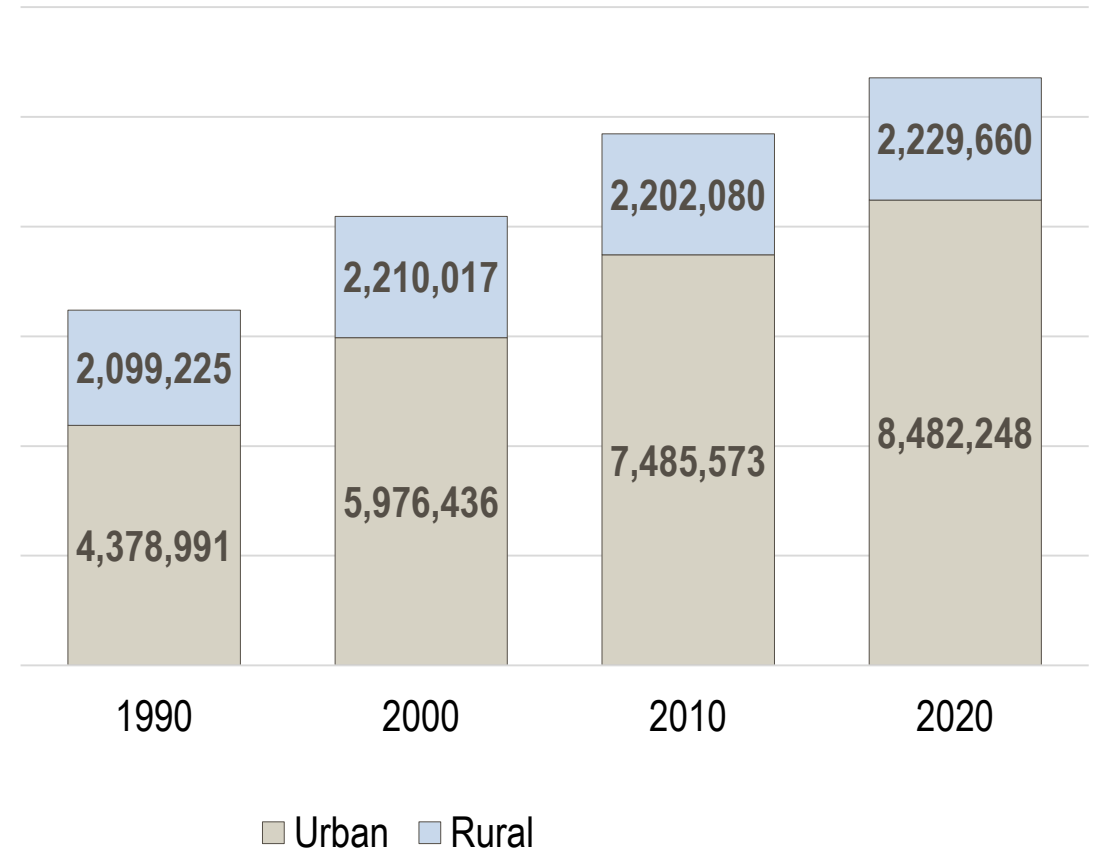
**41 Urban Counties**  
**79% of population in 2020**

**118 Rural Counties**  
**21% of population in 2020**

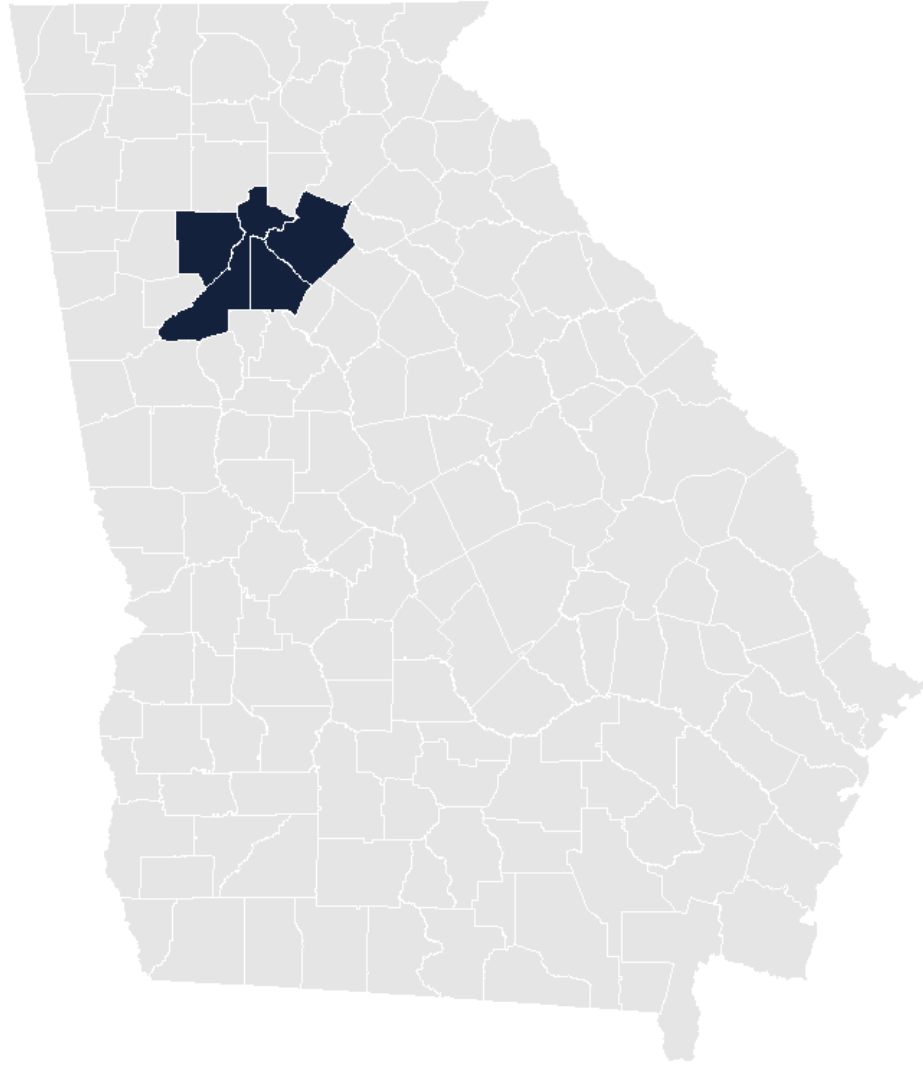
*Rural Counties defined as those with  
less than 50,000 people*

# Three Decades of Urban Growth in Georgia

- Urban population grew by ~4.1 million
- Rural Population increased by ~130,000
  - Decline in 2000s
  - Recent growth concentrated in only a few counties



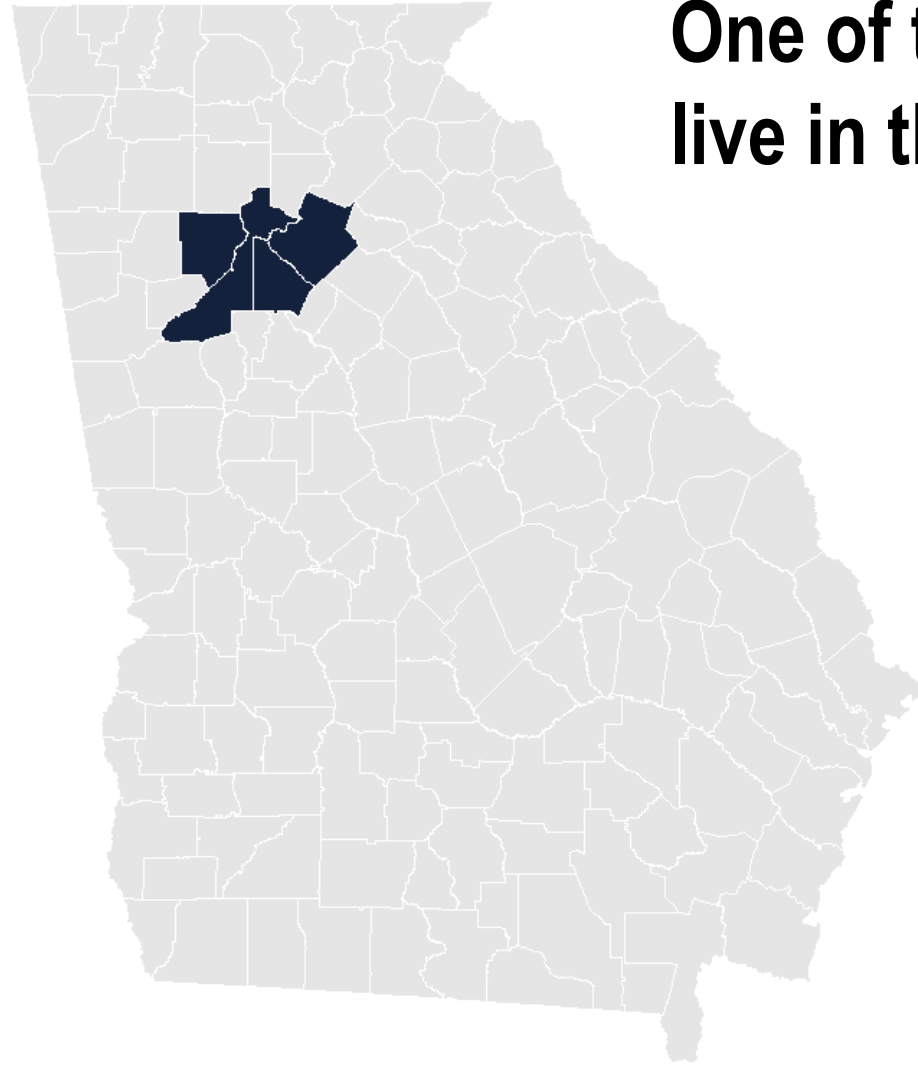




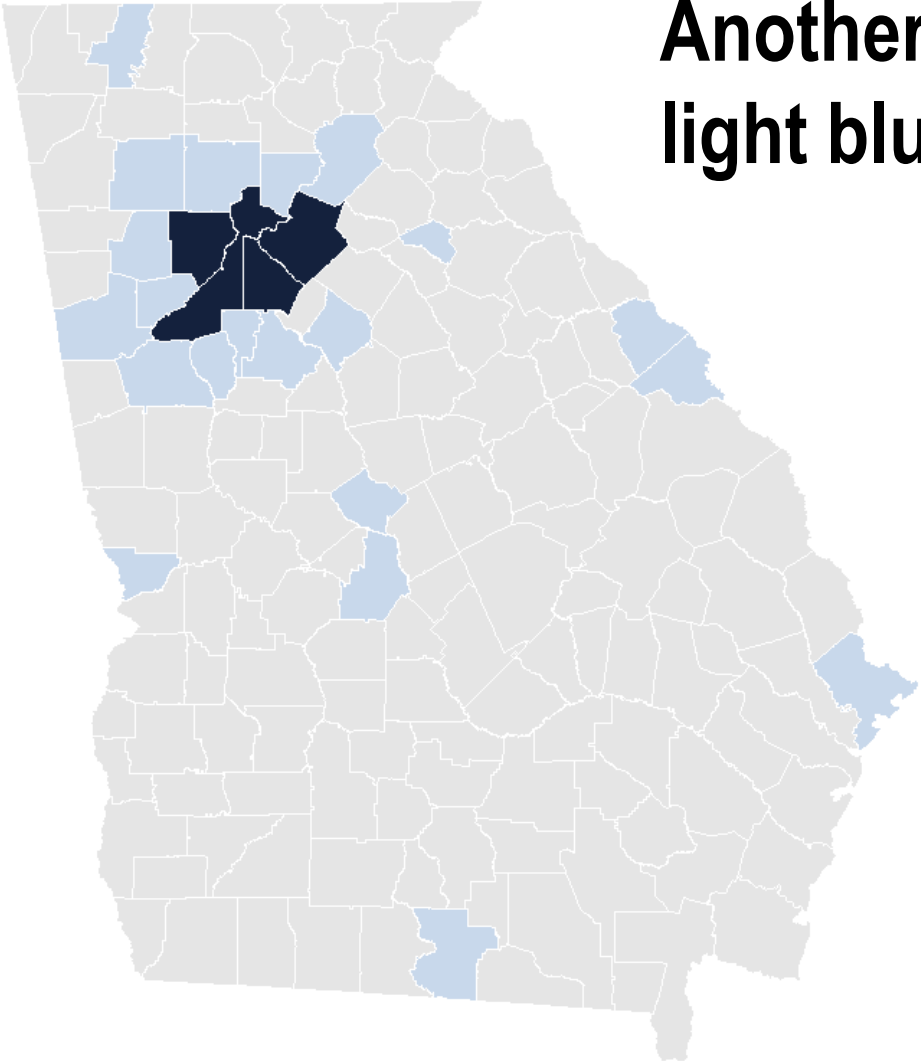
Carl Vinson  
Institute of Government  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

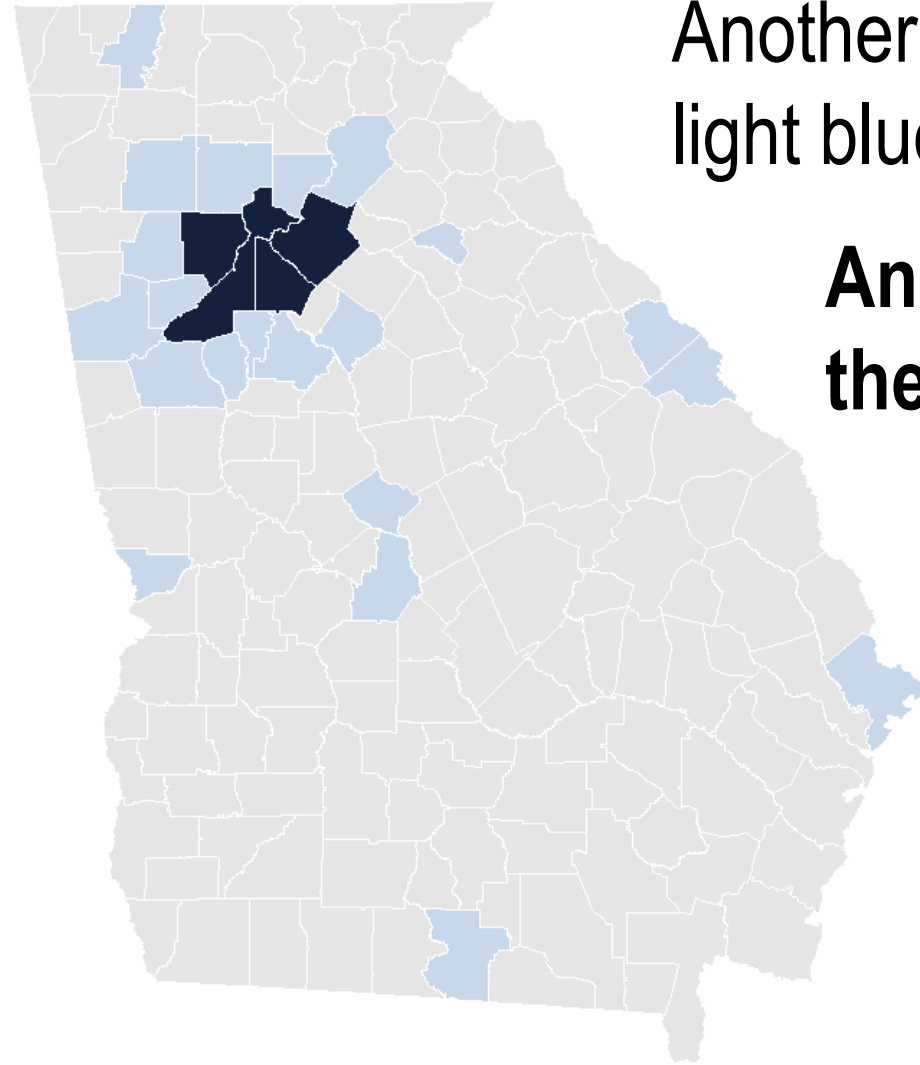


**One of three Georgians  
live in these four counties**



# Another third lives in the light blue counties





Another third lives in the  
light blue counties

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

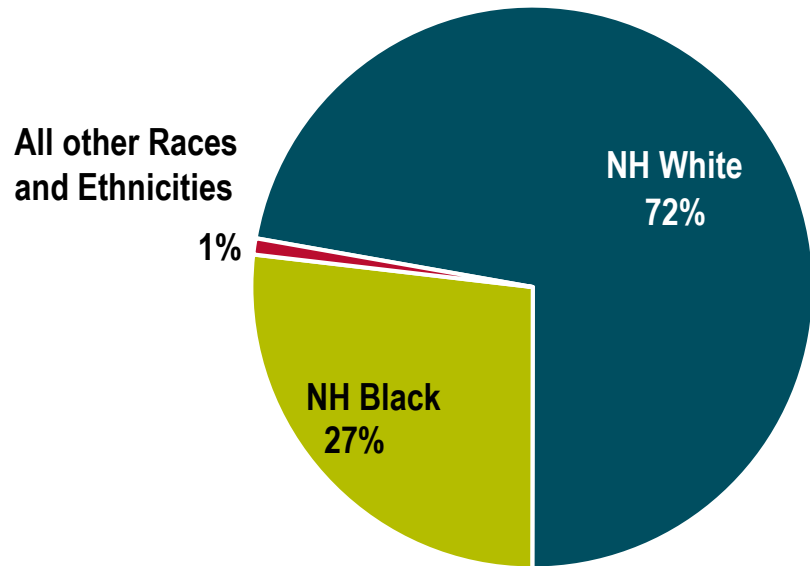


# Racial and Ethnic Transition

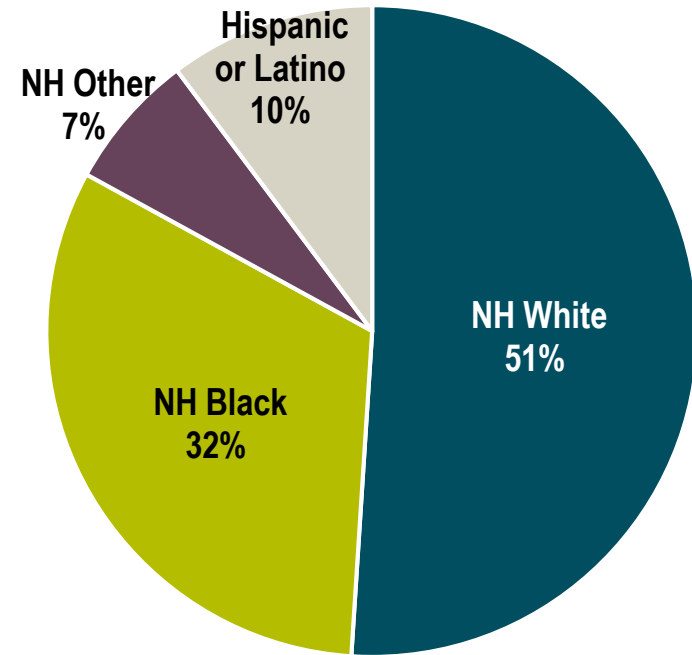


Carl Vinson  
Institute of Government  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# Georgia's Racial and Ethnic Demographic Trends



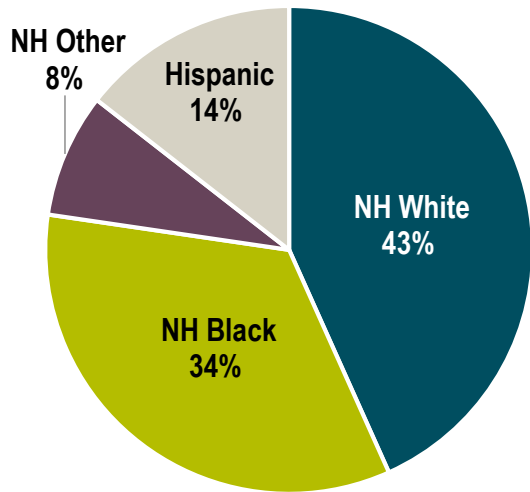
1980



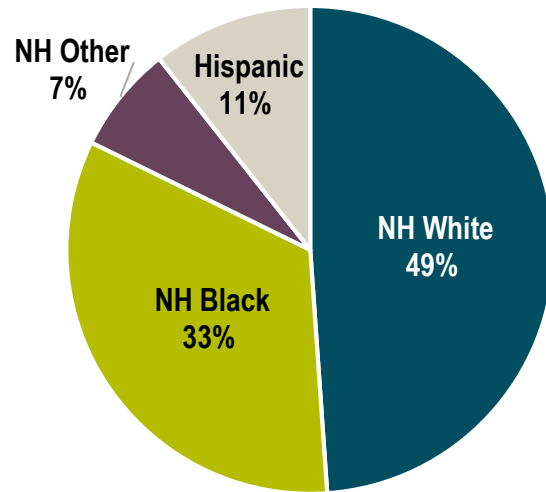
2021



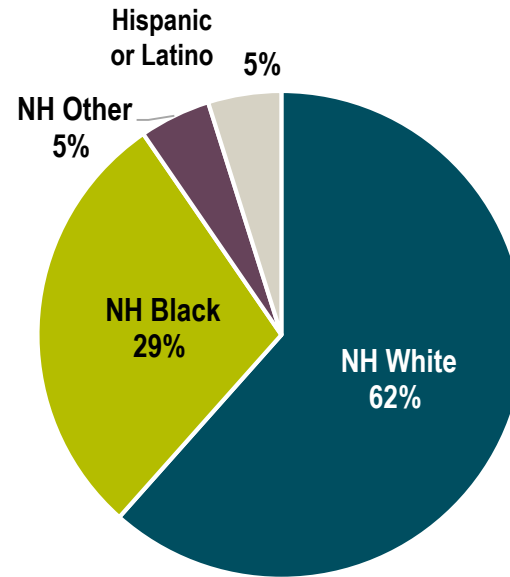
# Race and Ethnicity by Age in 2021



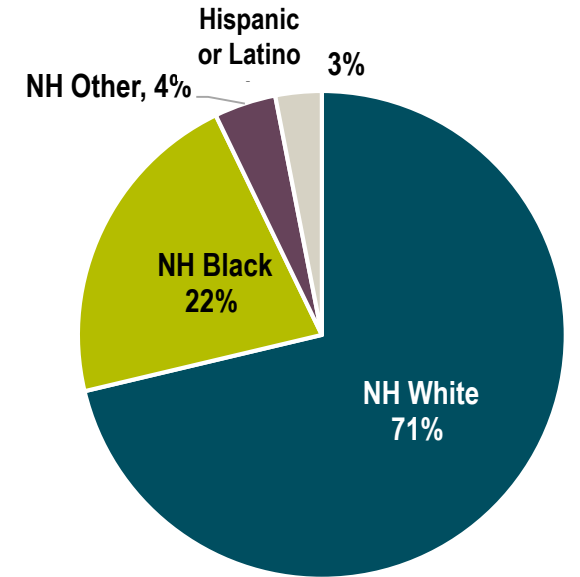
Under Age 25



Age 25-54



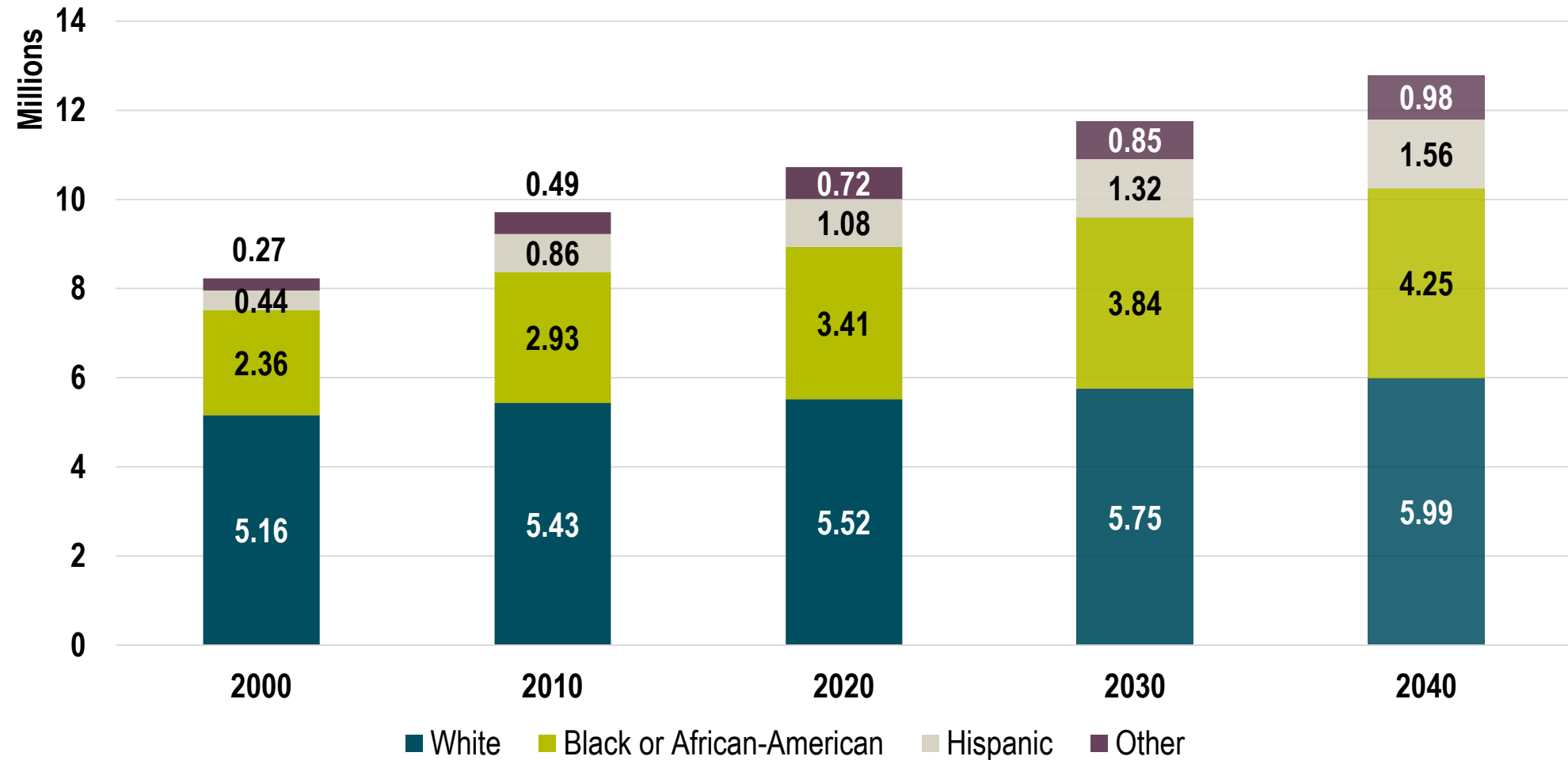
Age 55-74



Over Age 75



# Georgia's Future Racial and Ethnic Composition



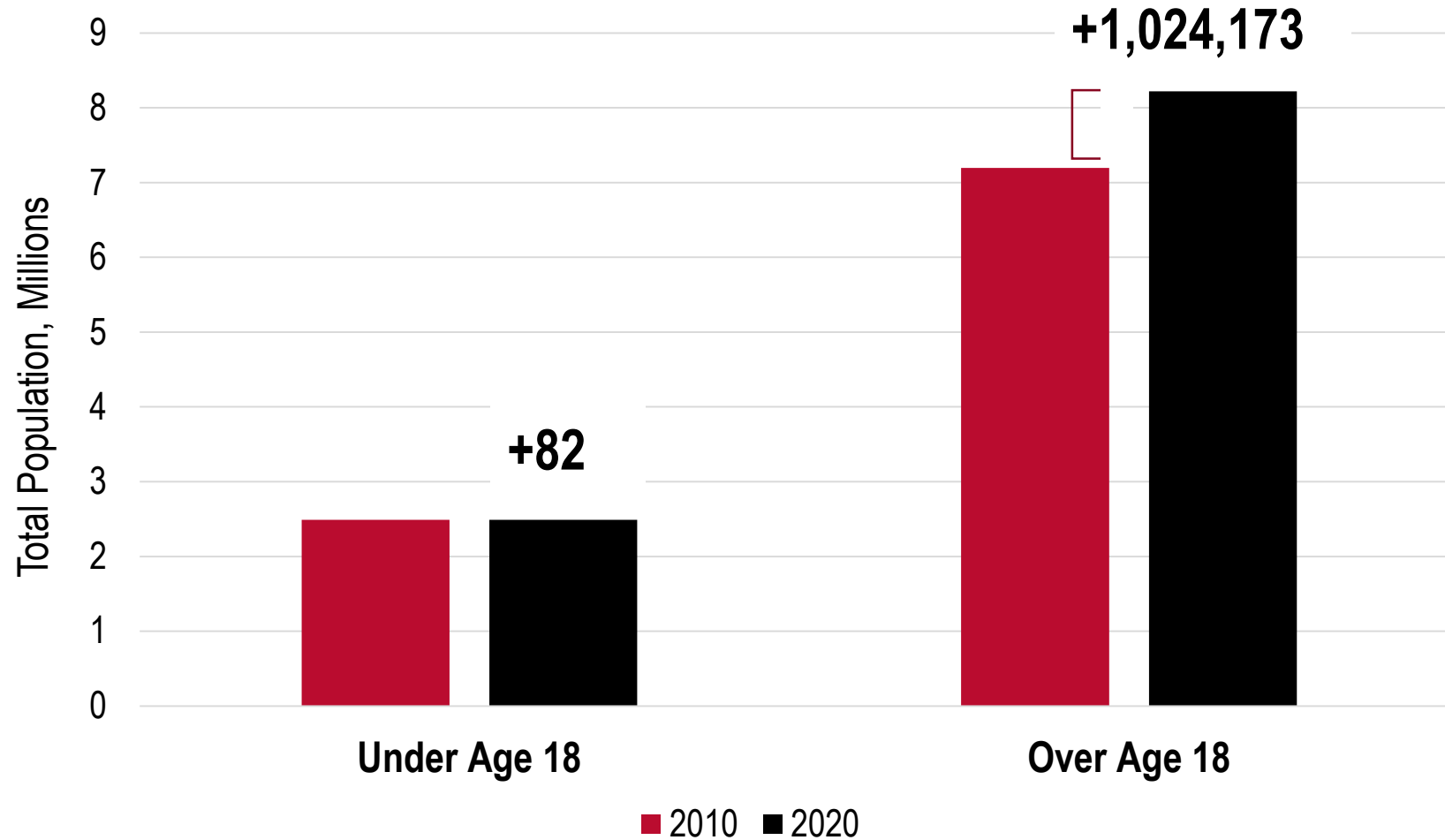
# Georgia's is Getting Older



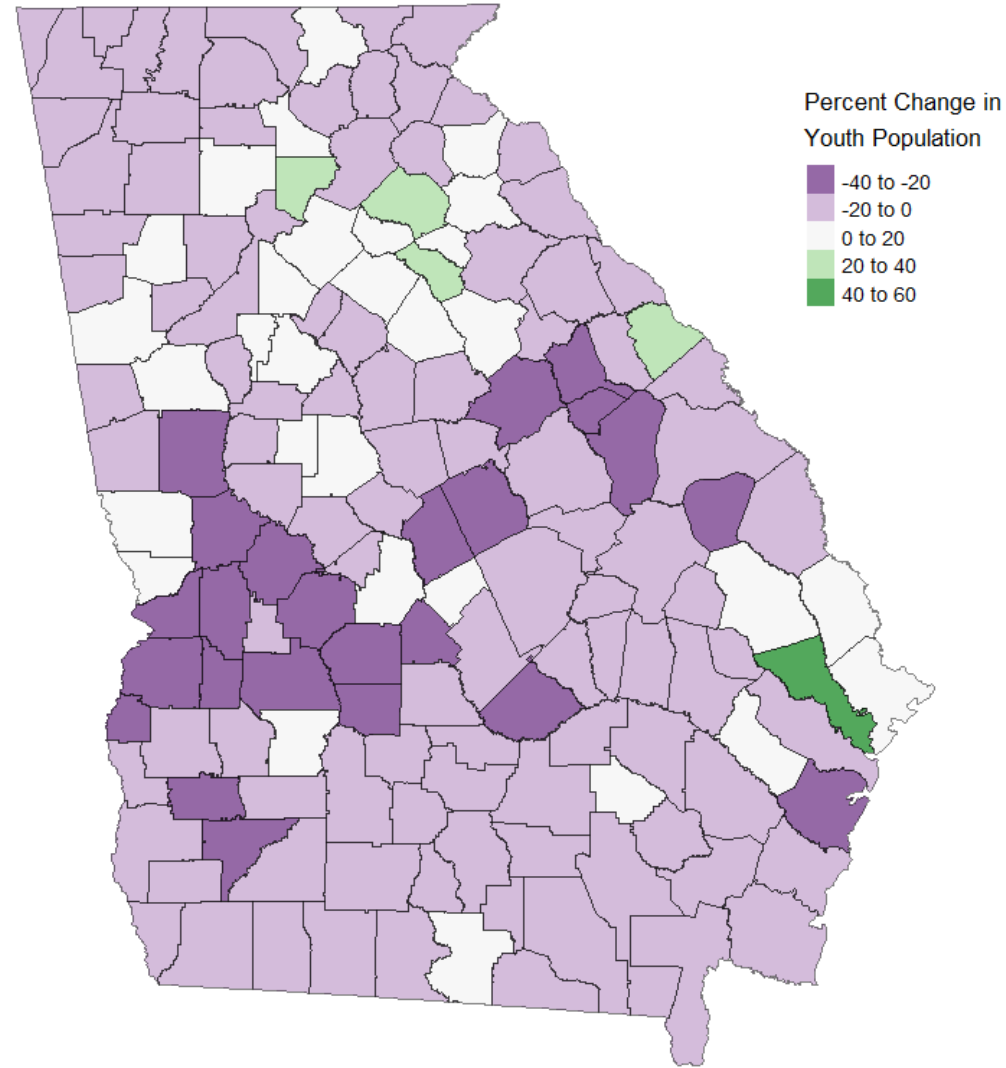
Carl Vinson  
Institute of Government  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



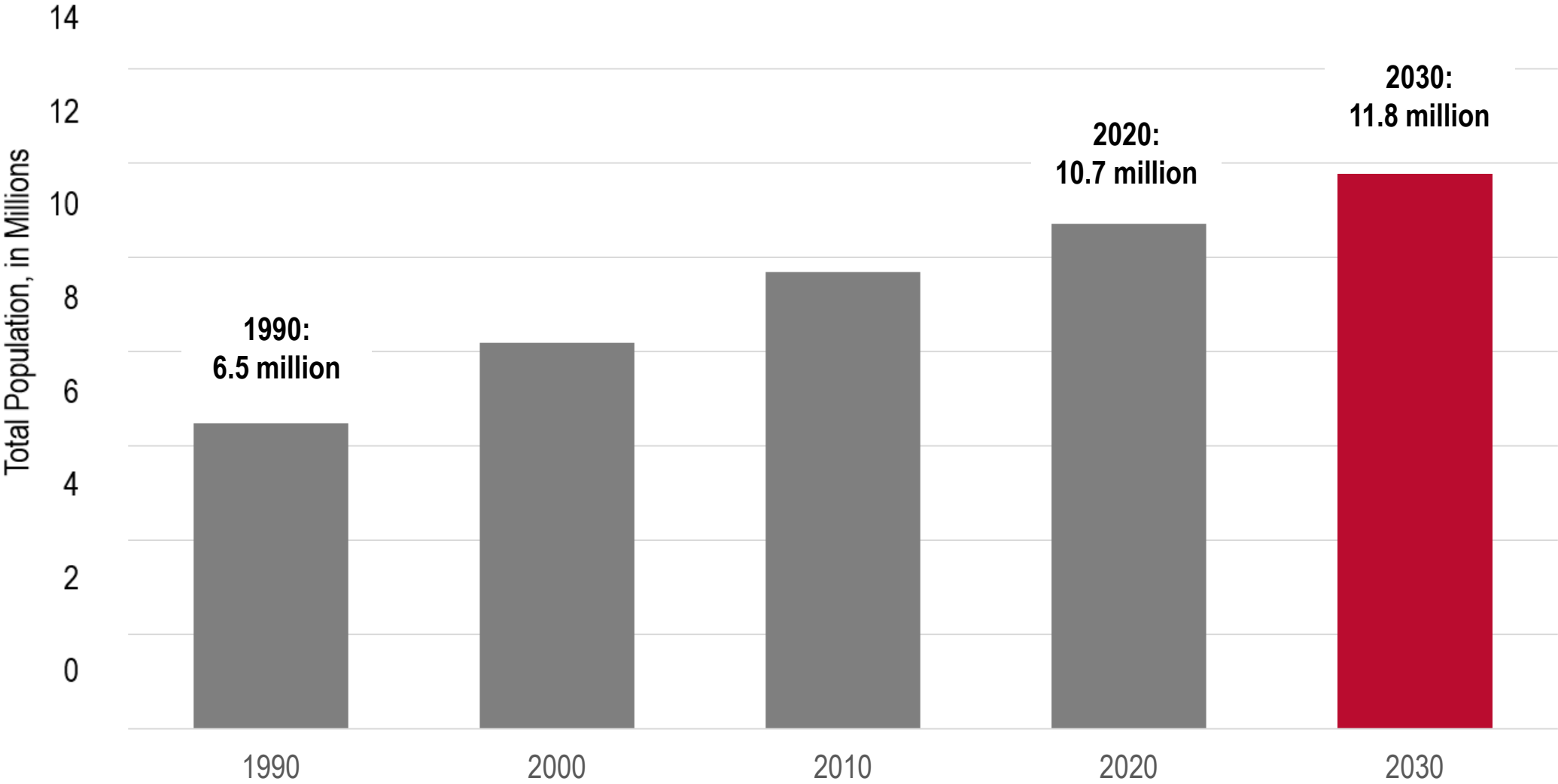
# Georgia's Population Growth in 2010s was Adult Population Growth



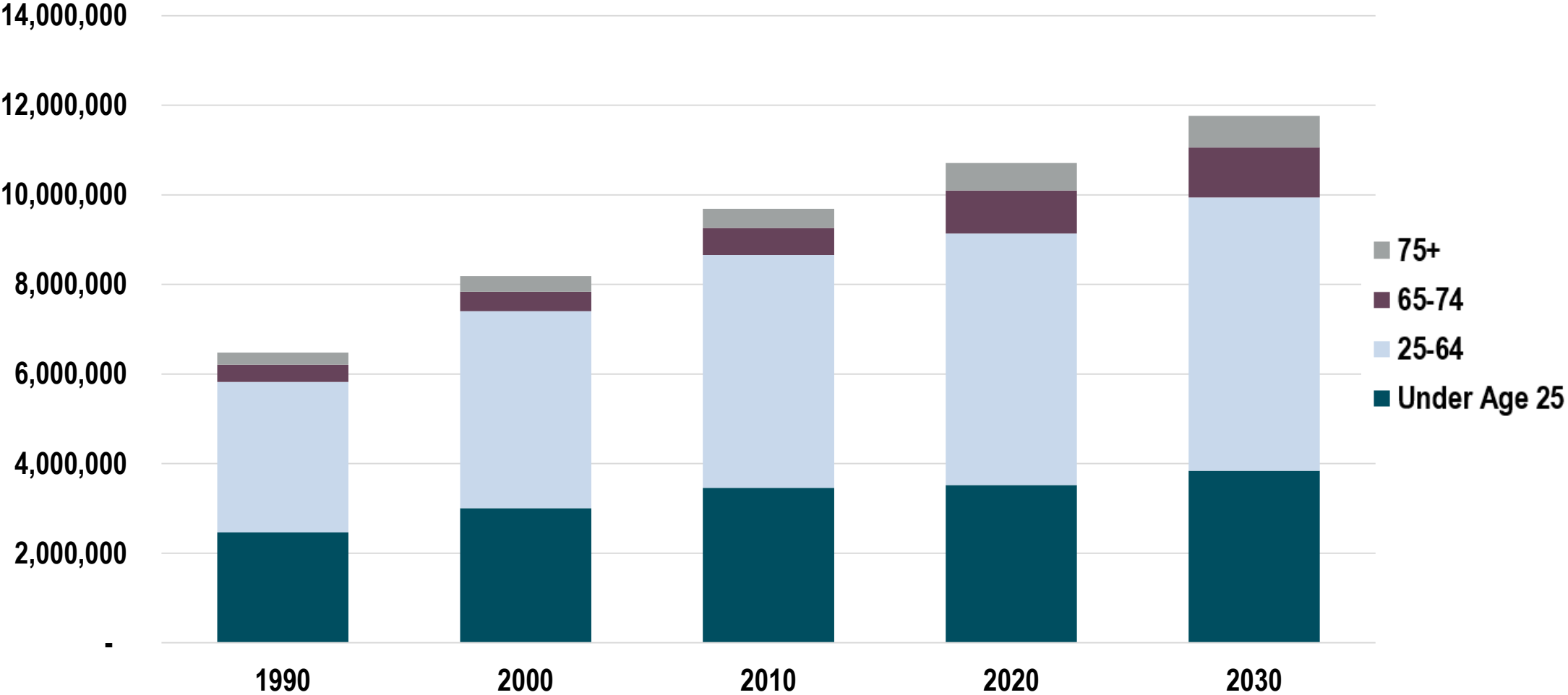
# Only 35 counties had a net gain in the Under Age 18 Population



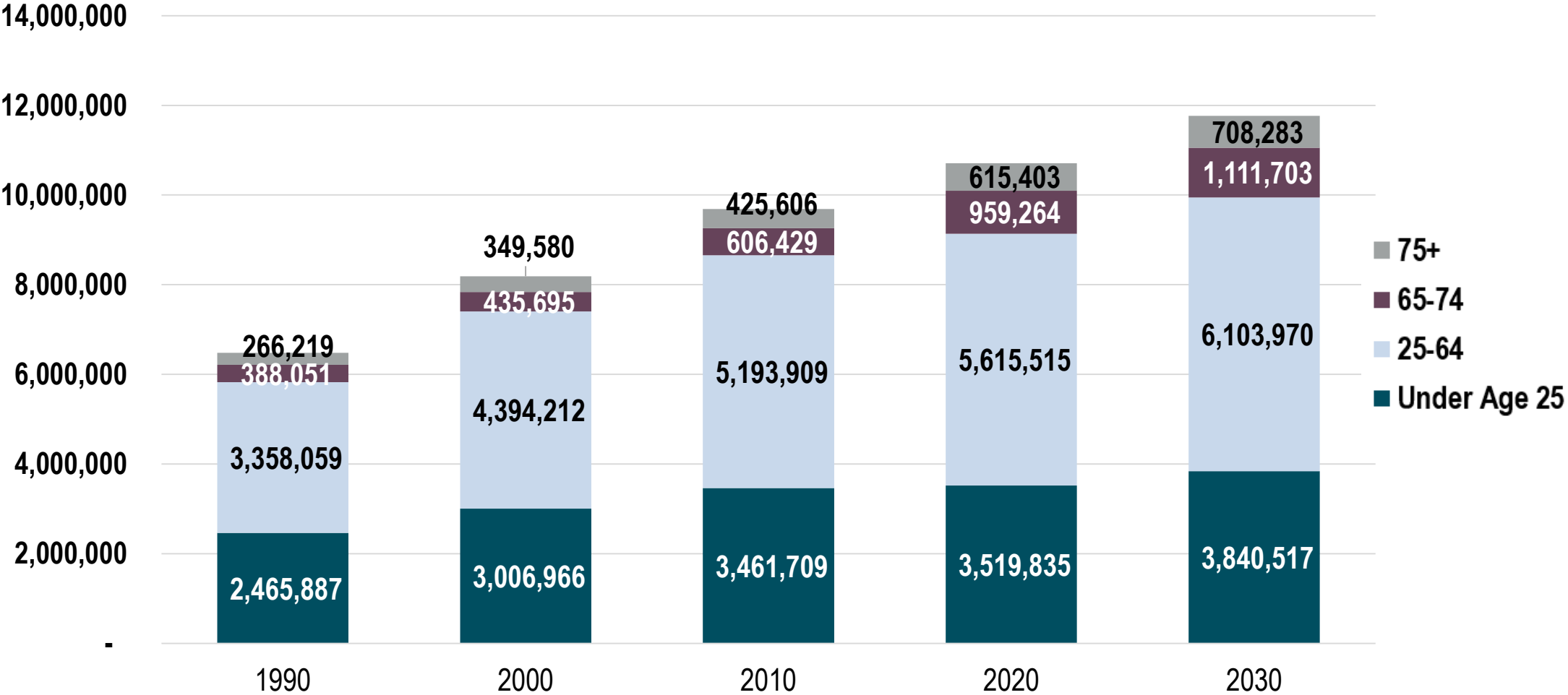
# Georgia's Growing and Aging Population



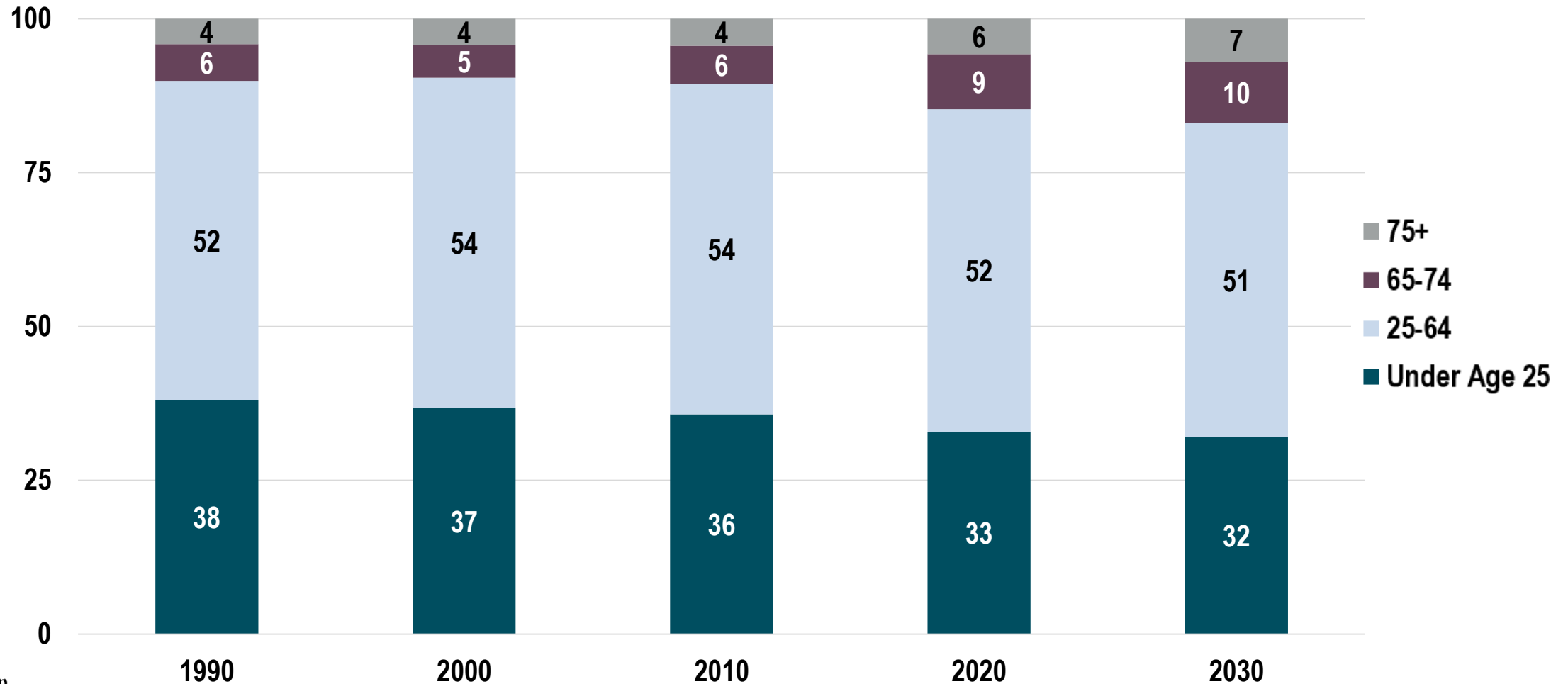
# Georgia's Aging Population



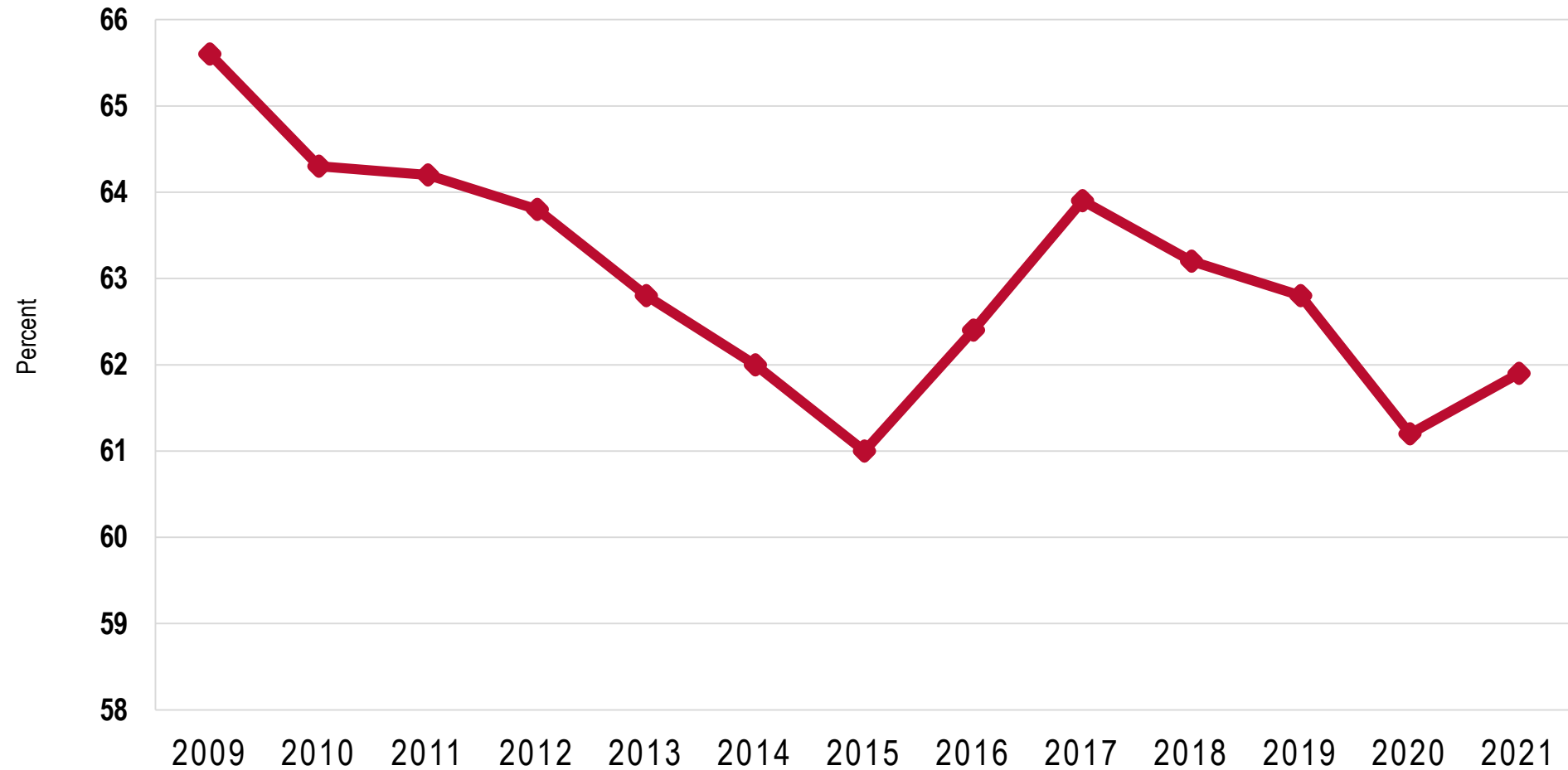
# Georgia's Aging Population



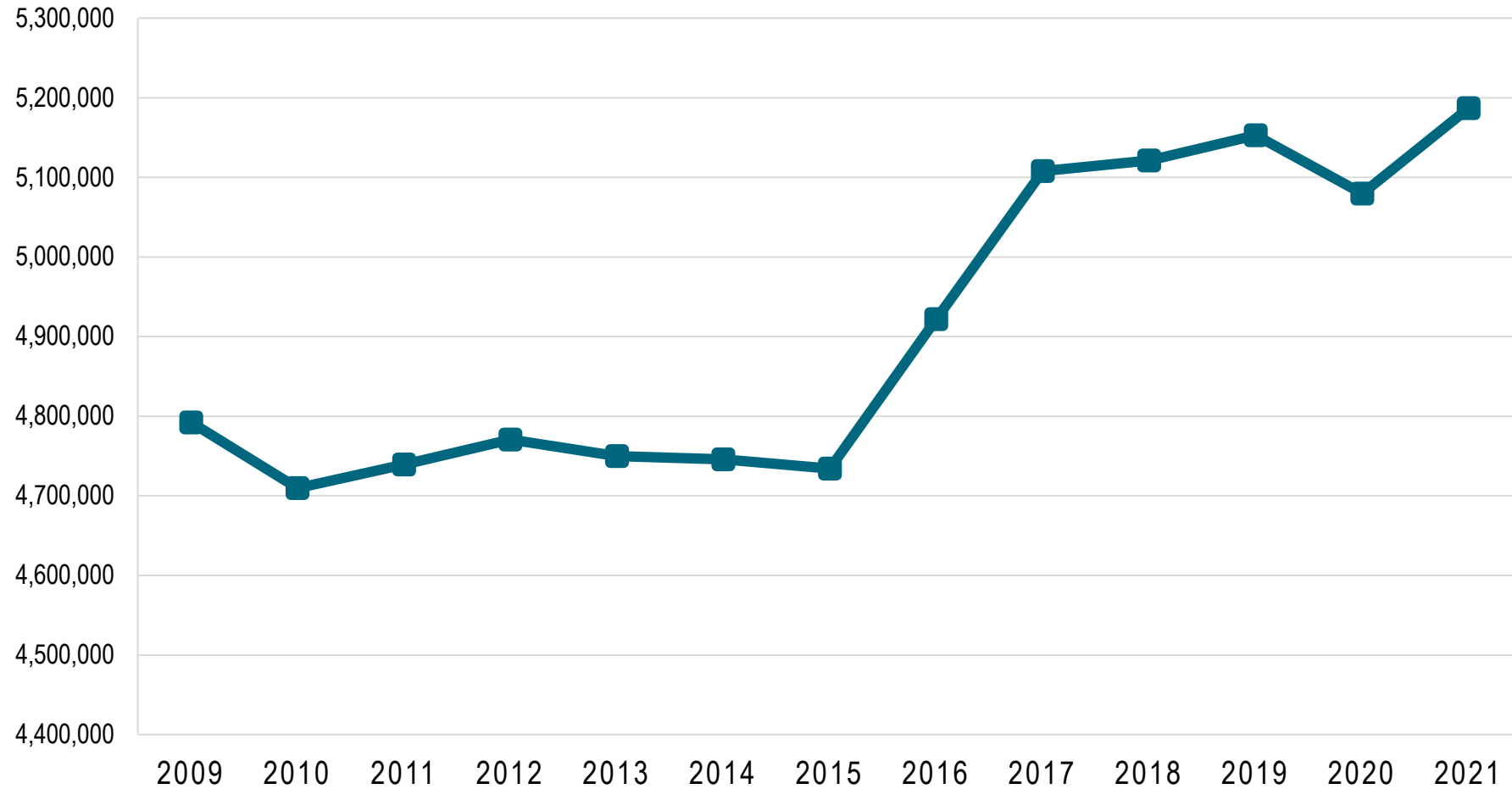
# Georgia's Changing Age Distribution



# Labor Force Participation Rate



# Total Population in Labor Force





# Calculating the Labor Force Participation Rate

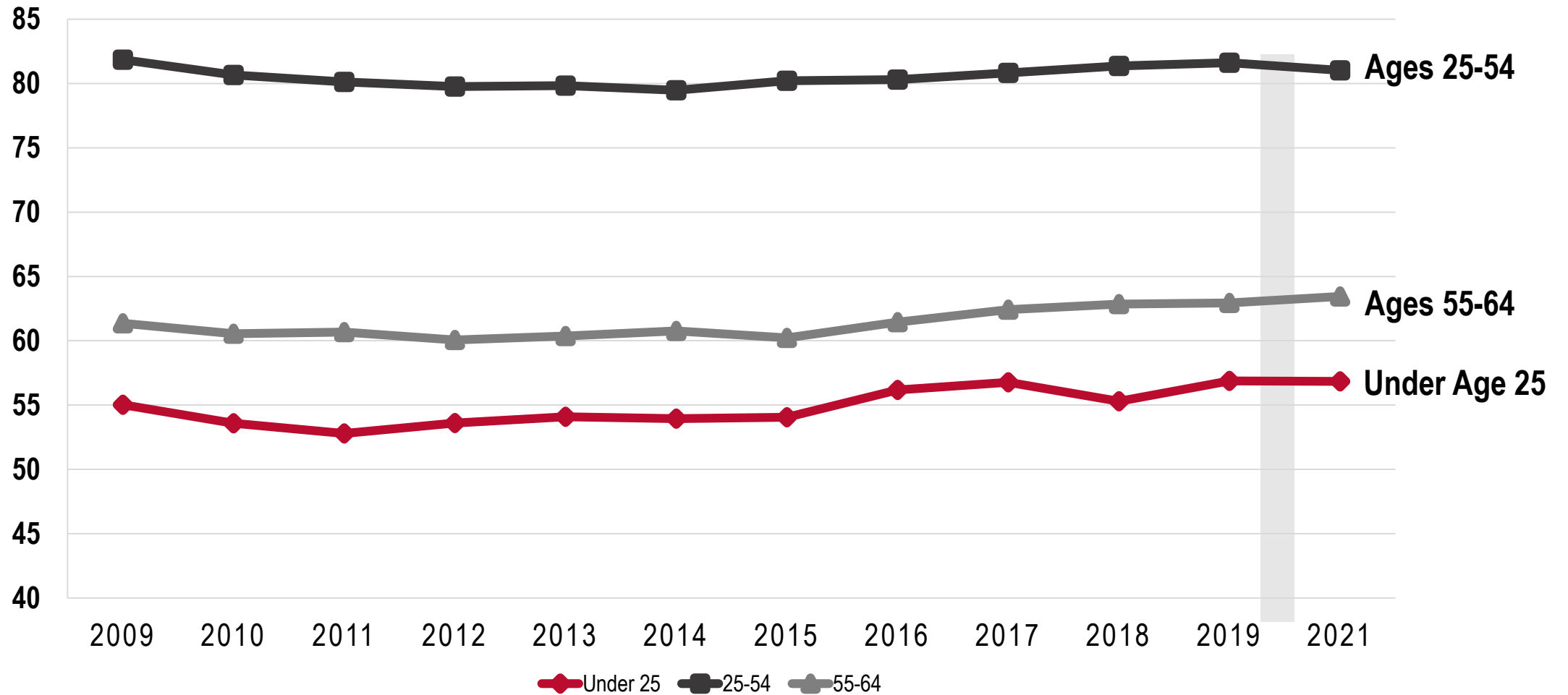
People in the Labor Force

---

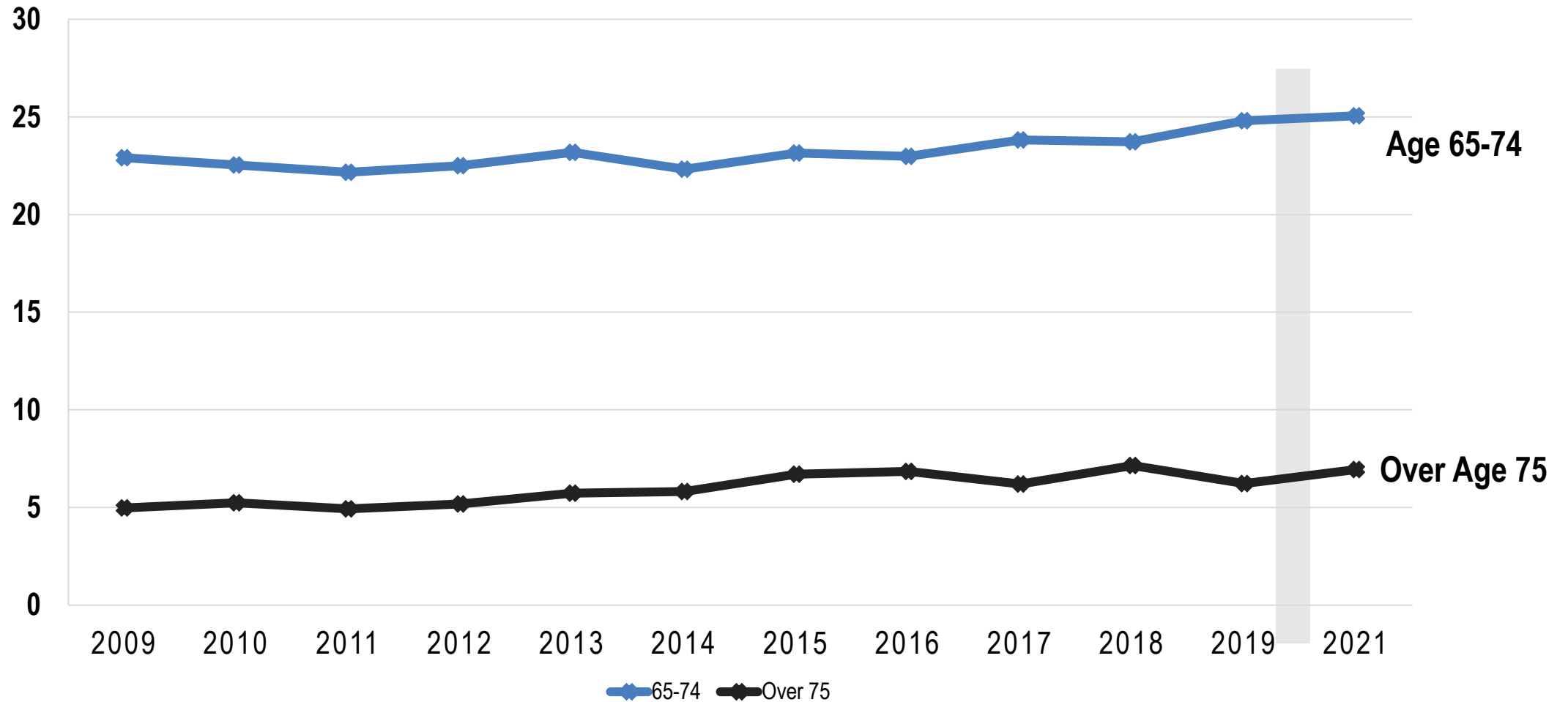
Civilian Population (over age 16)



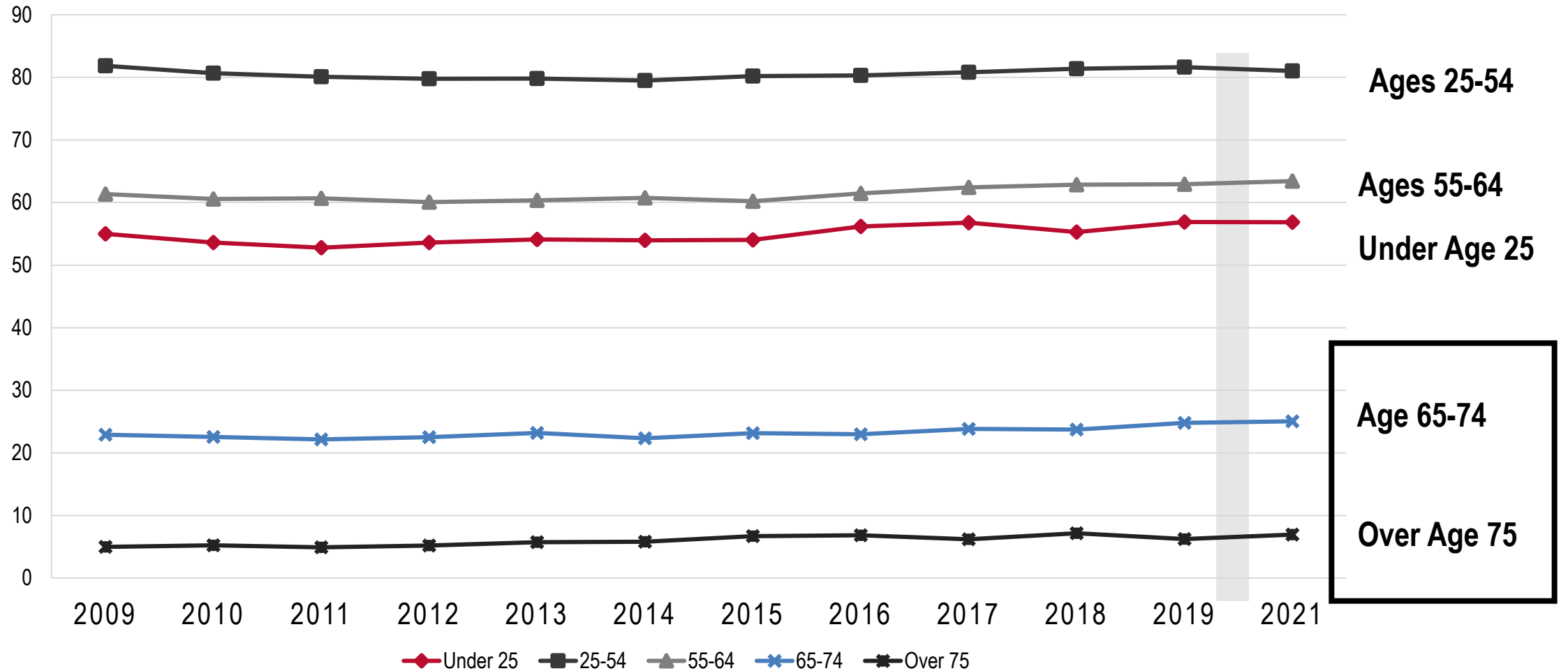
# Labor Force Participation Rate, by Age Group



# Labor Force Participation Rate, by Age Group



# Labor Force Participation Rate, by Age Group



# Georgia Demographics in Summary

- **Georgia's Population is growing from the outside**
  - Georgia is among fastest and largest growing states in the country
  - Domestic Migration is critical to Georgia's population growth
- **Suburban and Exurban Population Growth**
- **Racial and Ethnic Transition**
  - Especially Among Younger Generations
- **Aging Population**
  - Under Age 18 Population growth stagnates
  - Over Age 65 Population is growing faster than rest of state



# THANK YOU!

Taylor Hafley

Applied Demographer

[taylor.hafley@uga.edu](mailto:taylor.hafley@uga.edu)



Carl Vinson  
Institute of Government  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



**UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA**

**Carl Vinson  
Institute of Government**

Since 1927, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government has been an integral part of the University of Georgia. A public service and outreach unit of the university, the Institute of Government is the largest and most comprehensive university based organization serving governments in the United States through research services, customized assistance, training and development, and the application of technology.