



**34<sup>th</sup> Biennial Institute**  
FOR **Georgia Legislators**

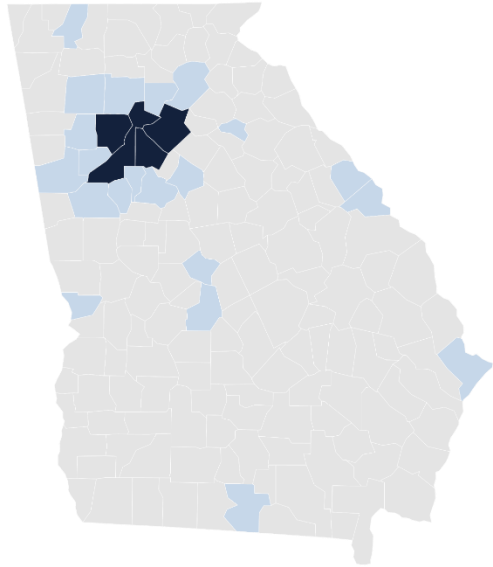
# GEORGIA'S DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Taylor Hafley

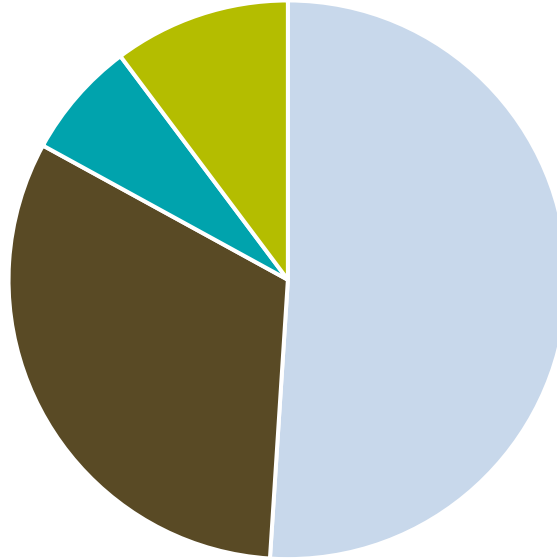
Applied Demographer

December 9, 2024

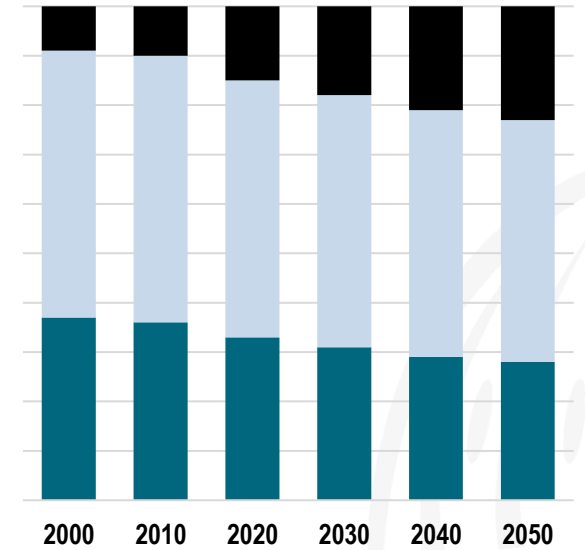




Geographic  
Concentration



Racial and  
Ethnic Diversity



Aging  
Population

# What is the current population of Georgia?

- A. 10 million**
- B. 11 million**
- C. 12.6 million**
- D. 13.5 million**

# What is the current population of Georgia?

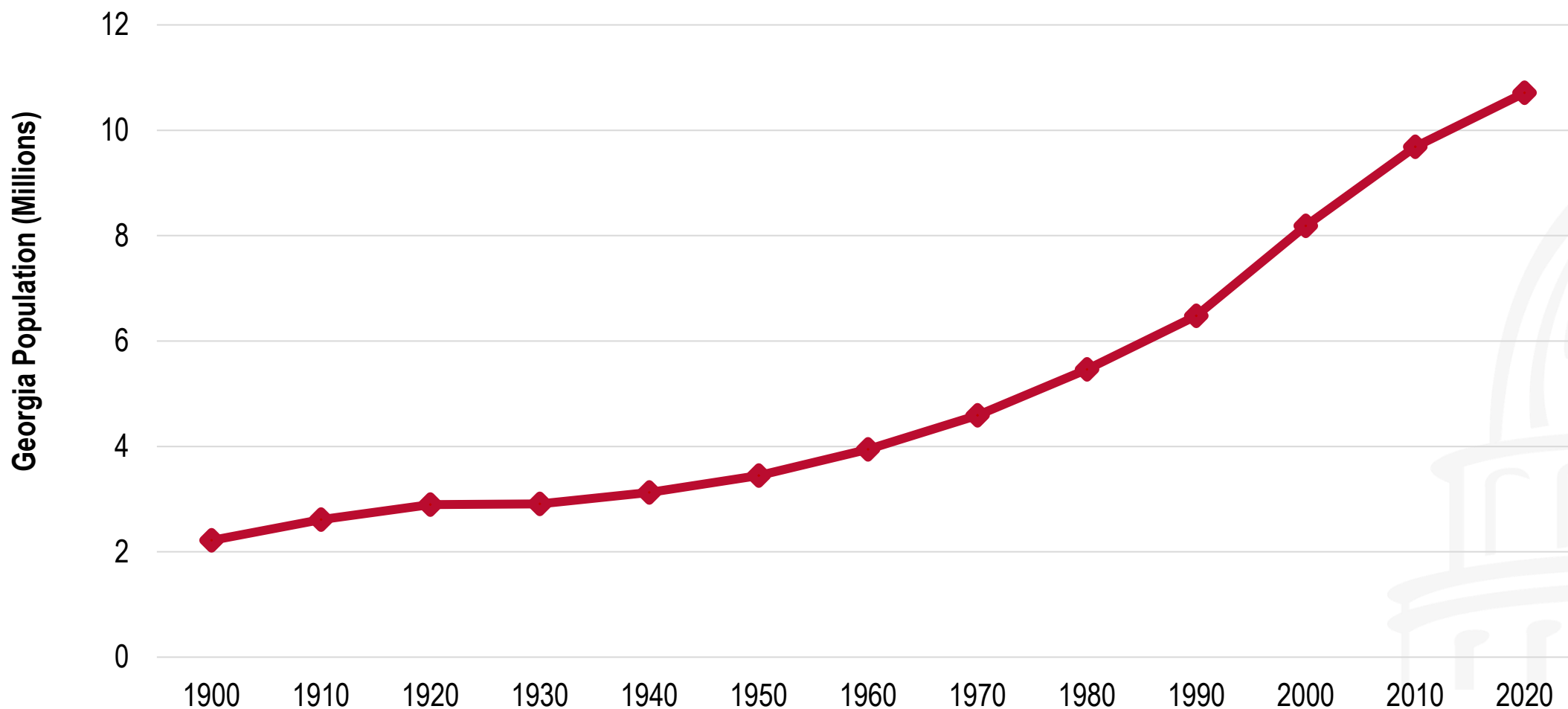
**A. 10 million**

**B. 11 million**

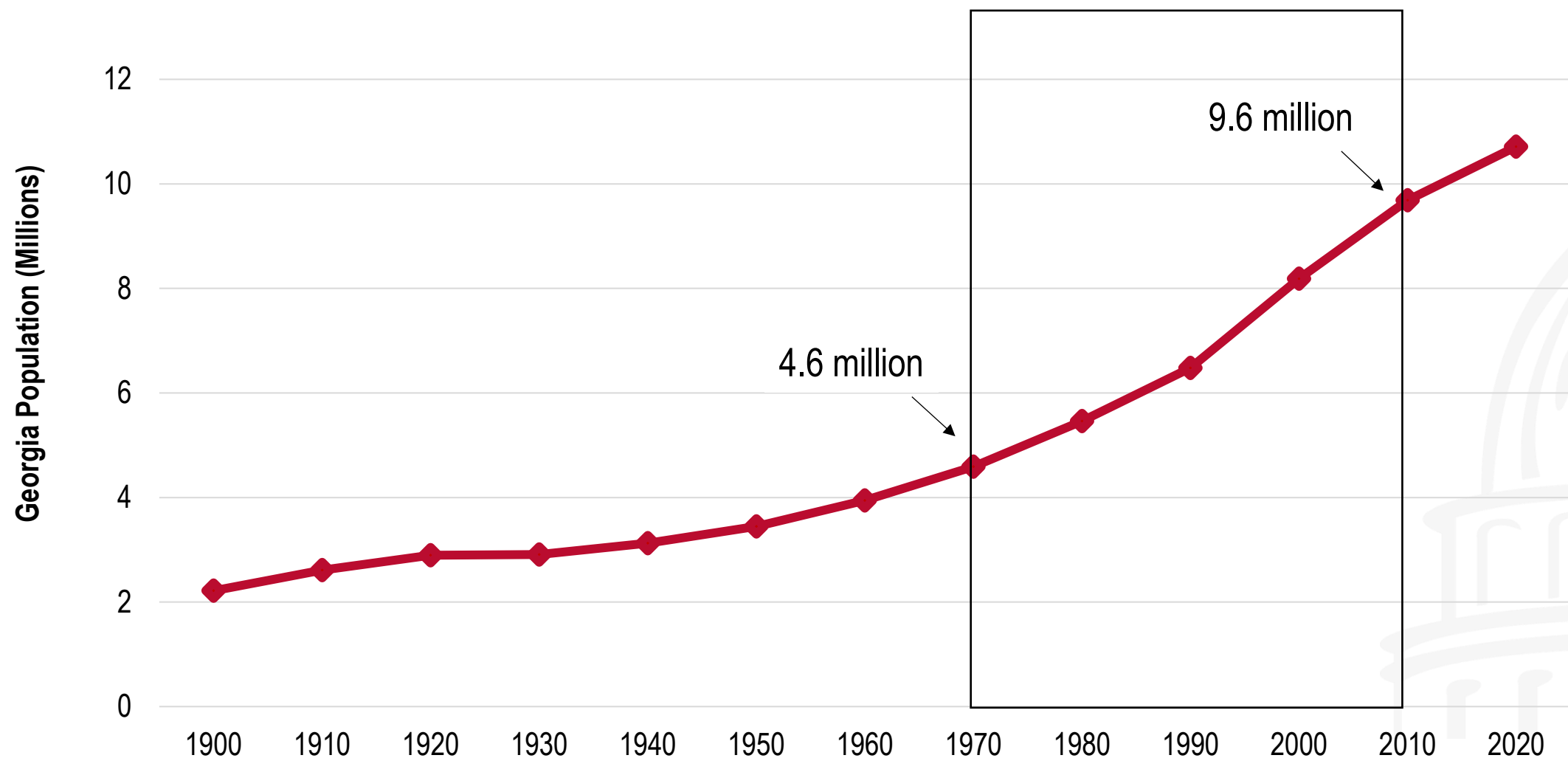
**C. 12.6 million**

**D. 13.5 million**

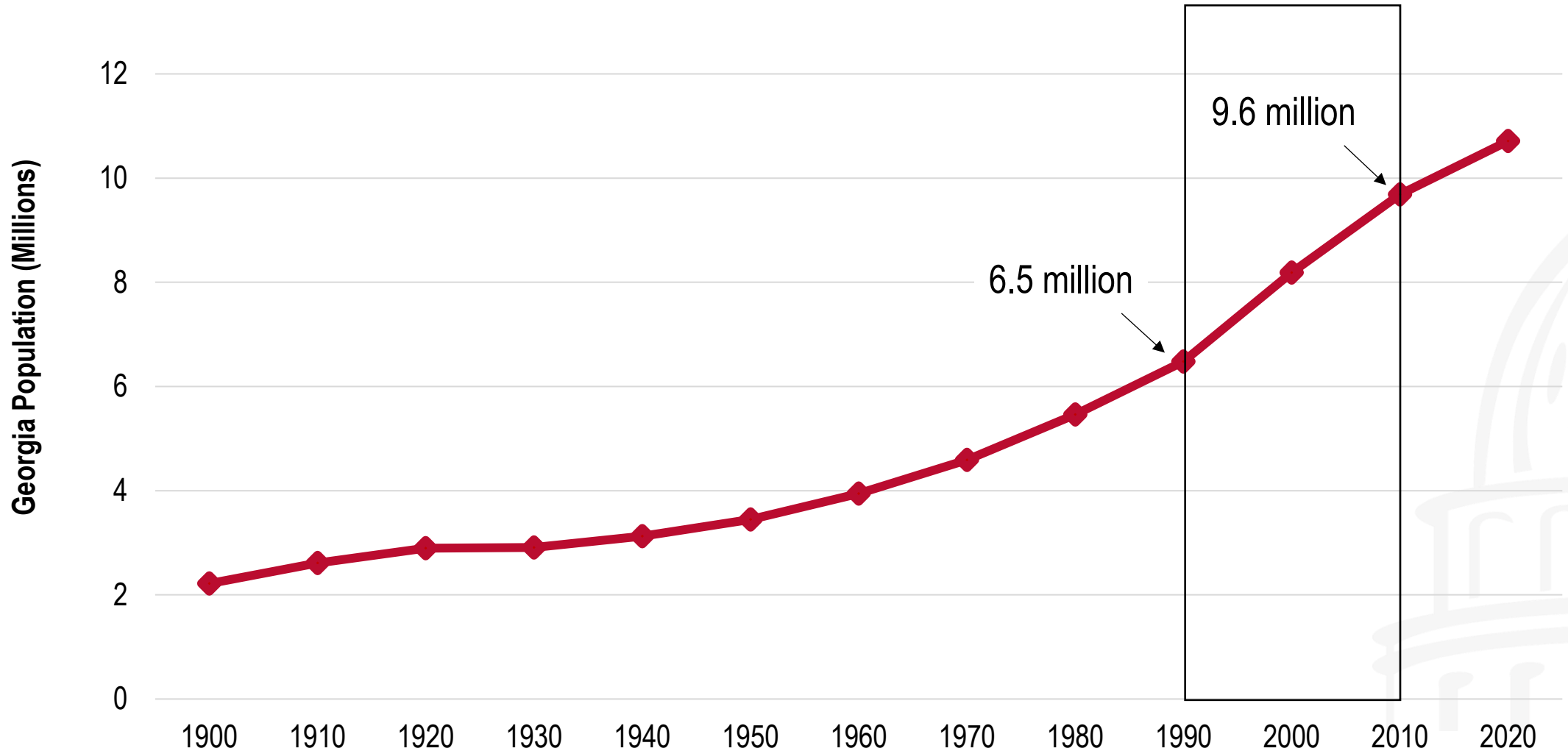
# Georgia's Population, 1900-2020



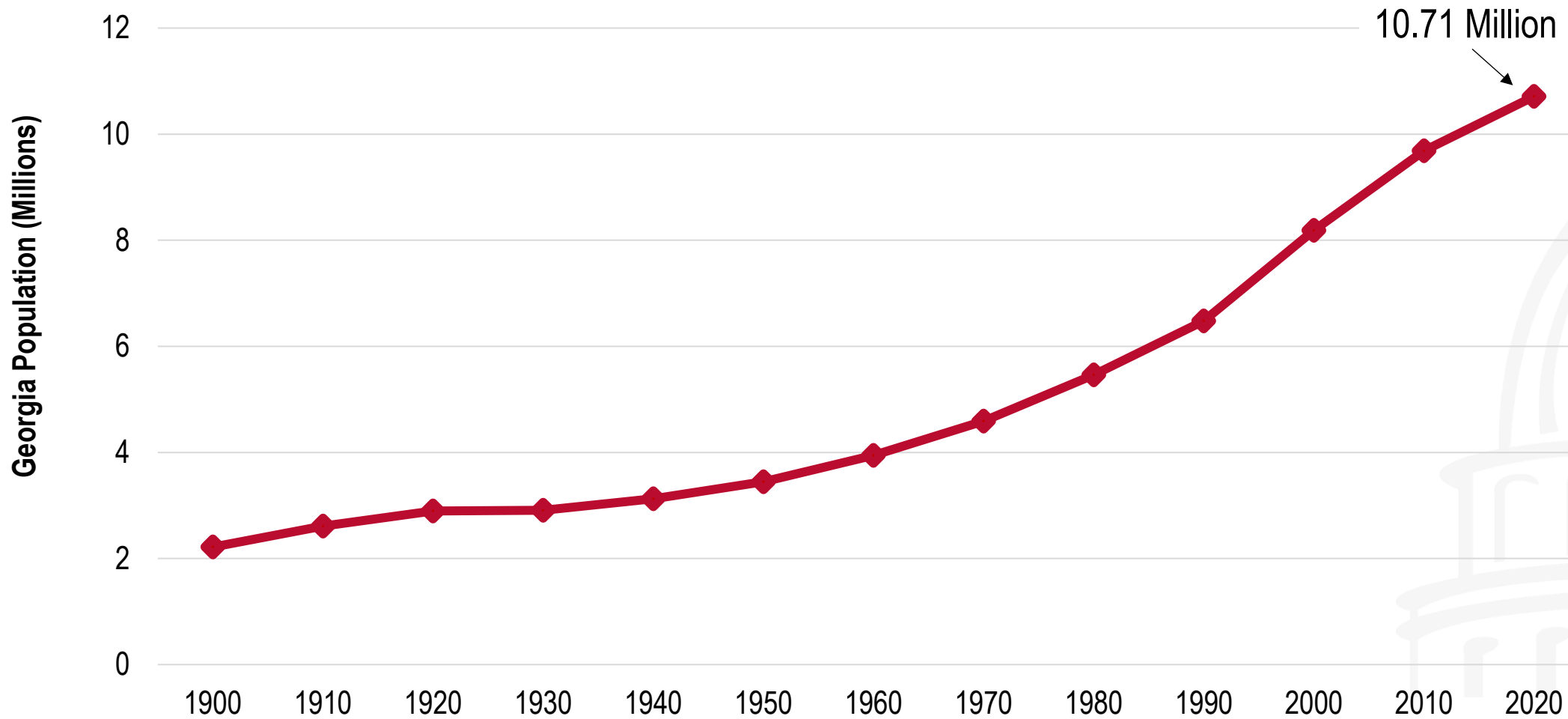
# Georgia's Population Doubles in Four Decades



# Three Million New Georgians in Two Decades



# Georgia's Population Growth Slows in 2010s



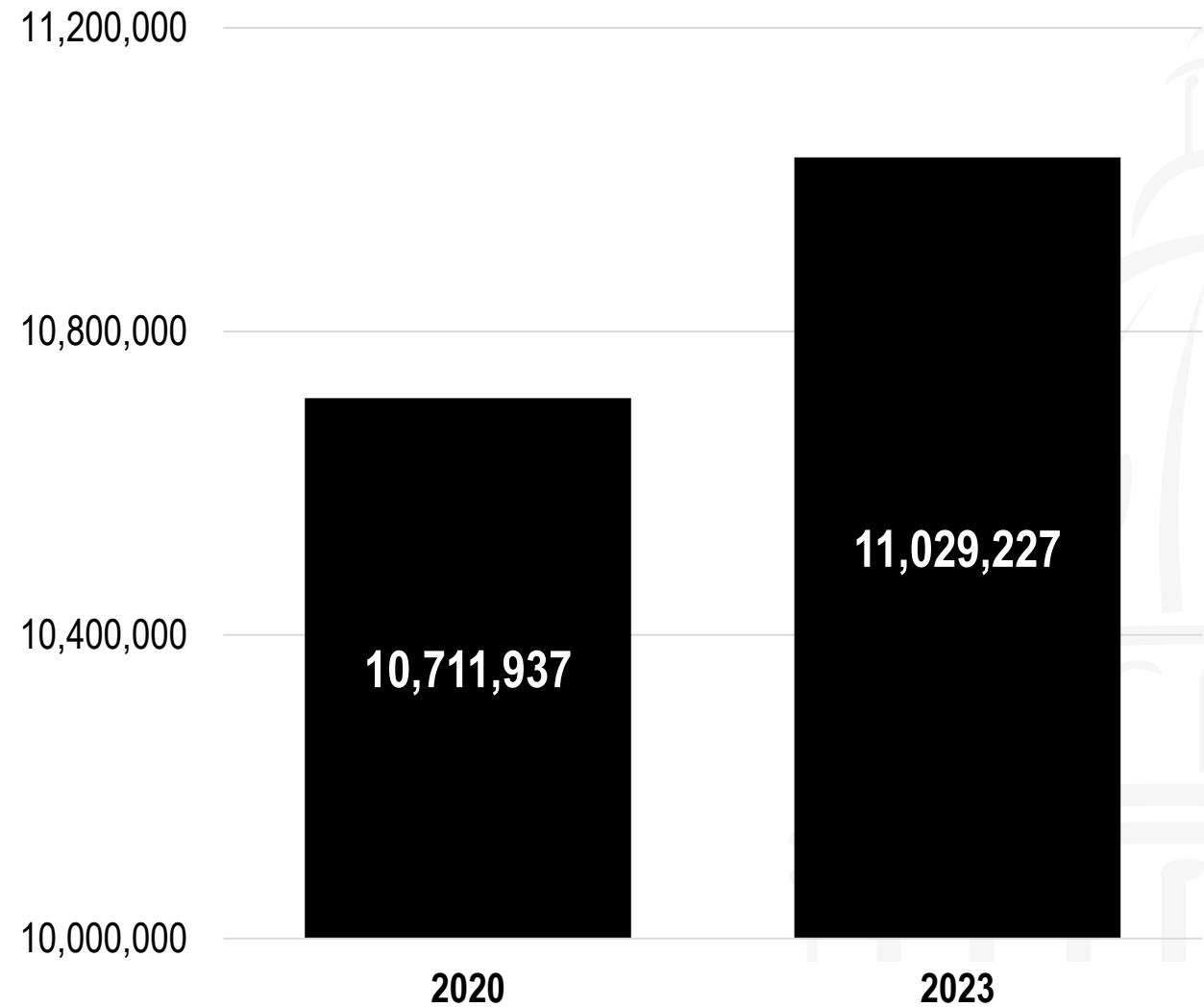


# Georgia's population growth slowed in 2010s compared to historical trends, but outpaced other states

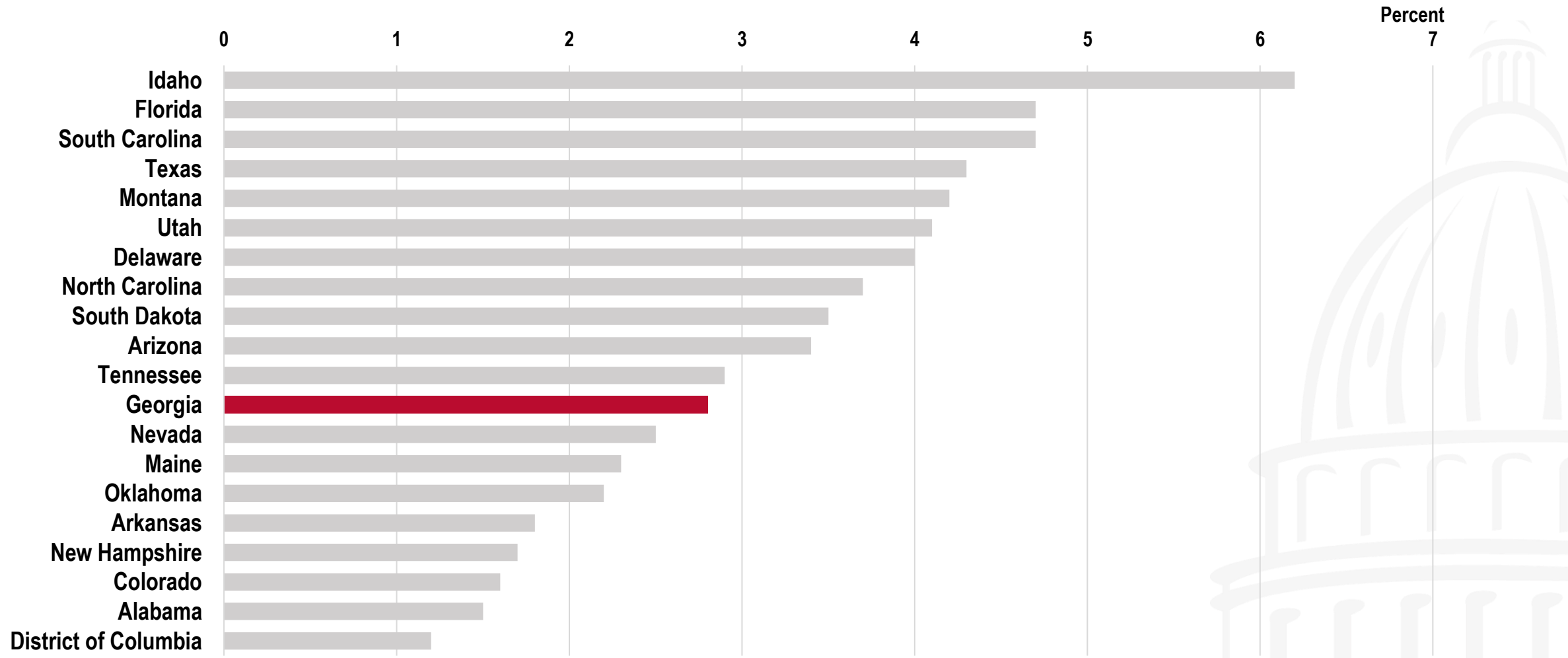
1. Georgia was the 13<sup>th</sup> fastest growing state
2. Georgia was one of only four states to exhibit a population increase of more than 1 million people

# What about since the 2020 Census?

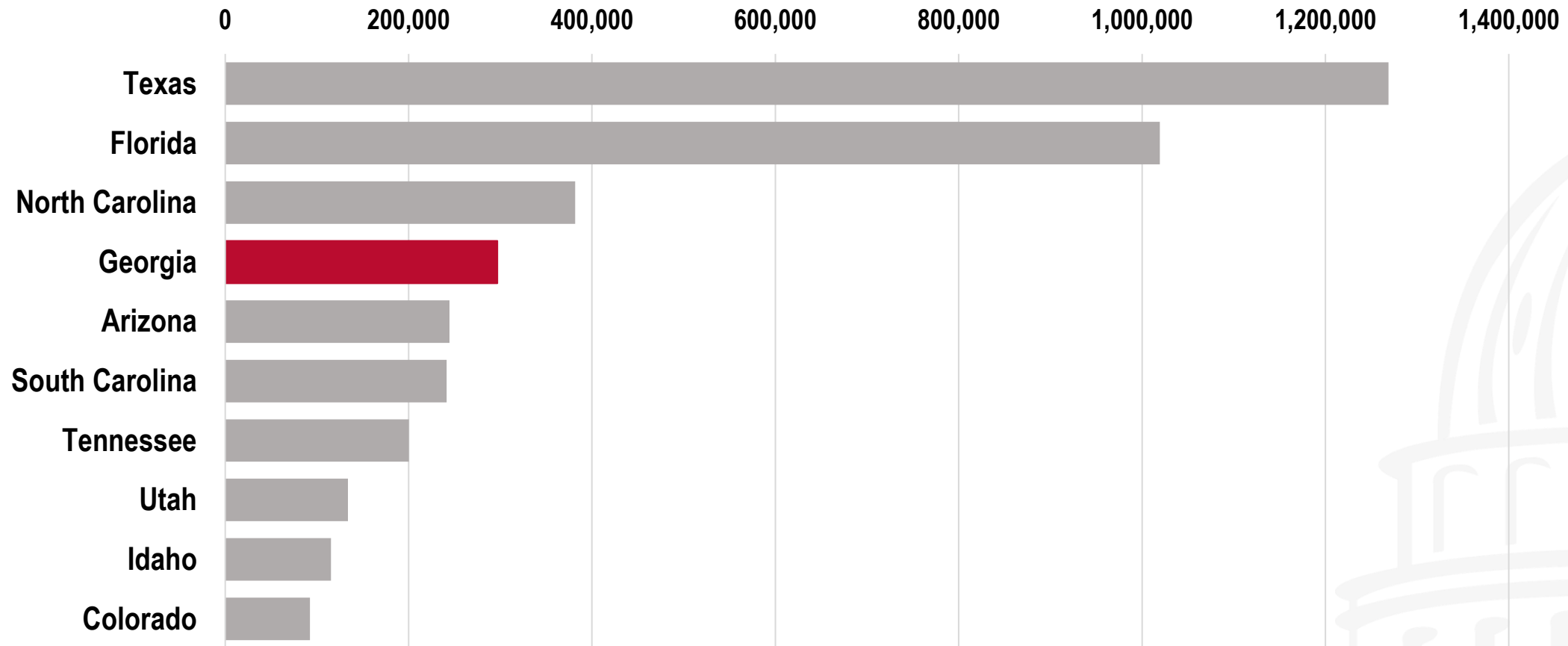
# Georgia's Population increased by ~315,000 between 2020 Census and 2023 Estimates



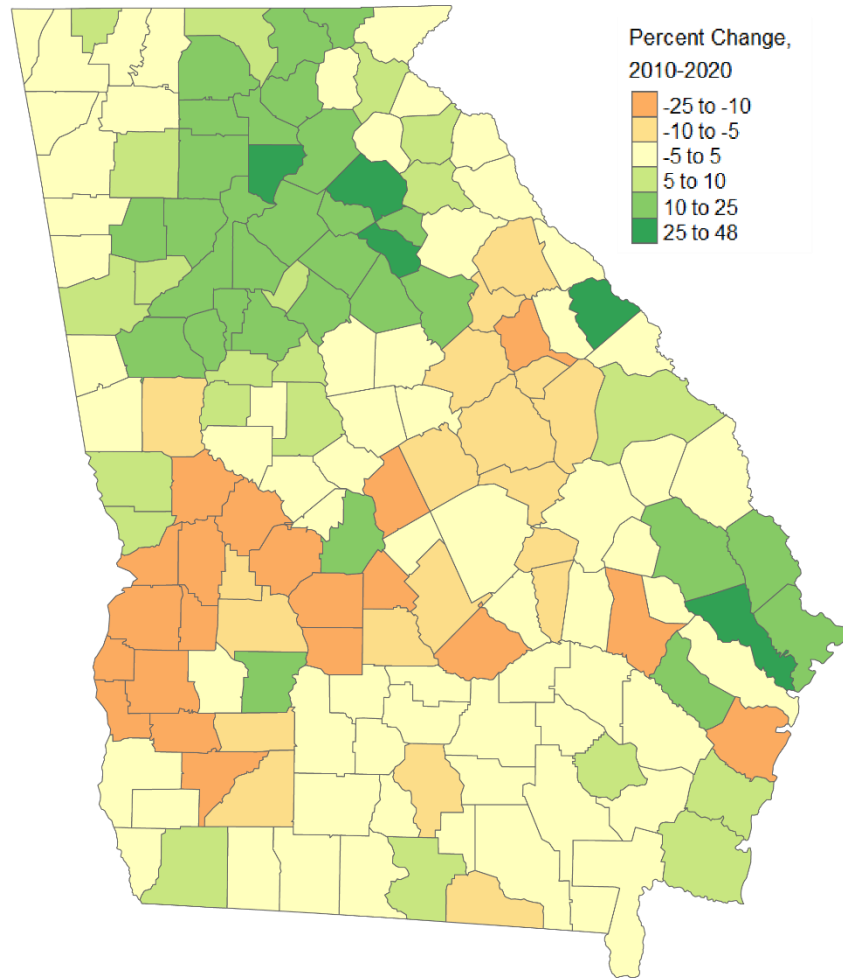
# Georgia is the 13<sup>th</sup> fastest growing state since 2020



# Georgia ranks 4th in numeric growth since 2020



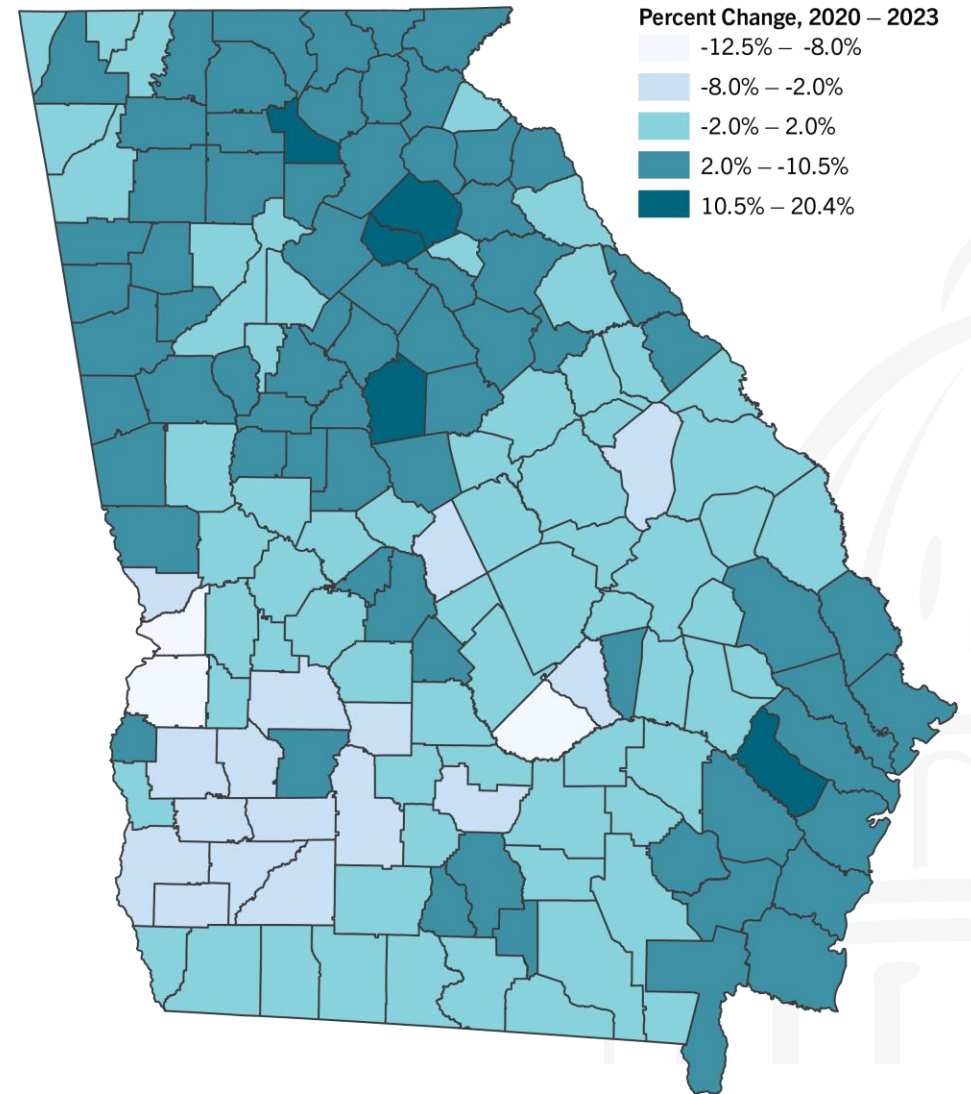
# Suburban and Exurban Population Growth in 2010s



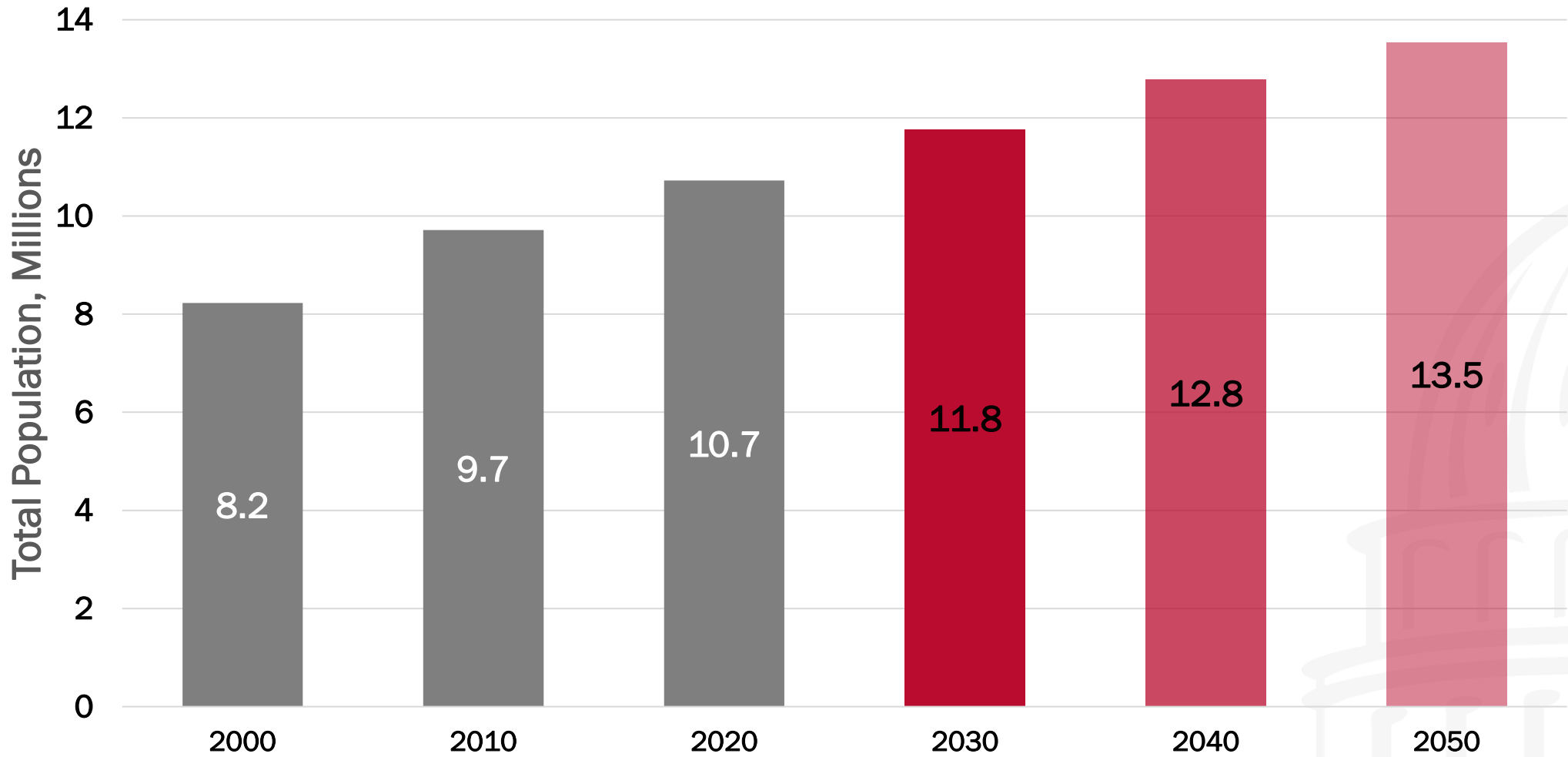
	Fastest Growing	%
1	Bryan County	48.0
2	Forsyth County	43.2
3	Oconee County	27.4
4	Columbia County	25.8
5	Jackson County	25.5
6	Cherokee County	24.4
7	Effingham County	24.0
8	Barrow County	20.4
9	Dawson County	20.0
10	Towns County	19.3

	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

# Post-pandemic (2020–2023) population change is similar to pre-pandemic population change

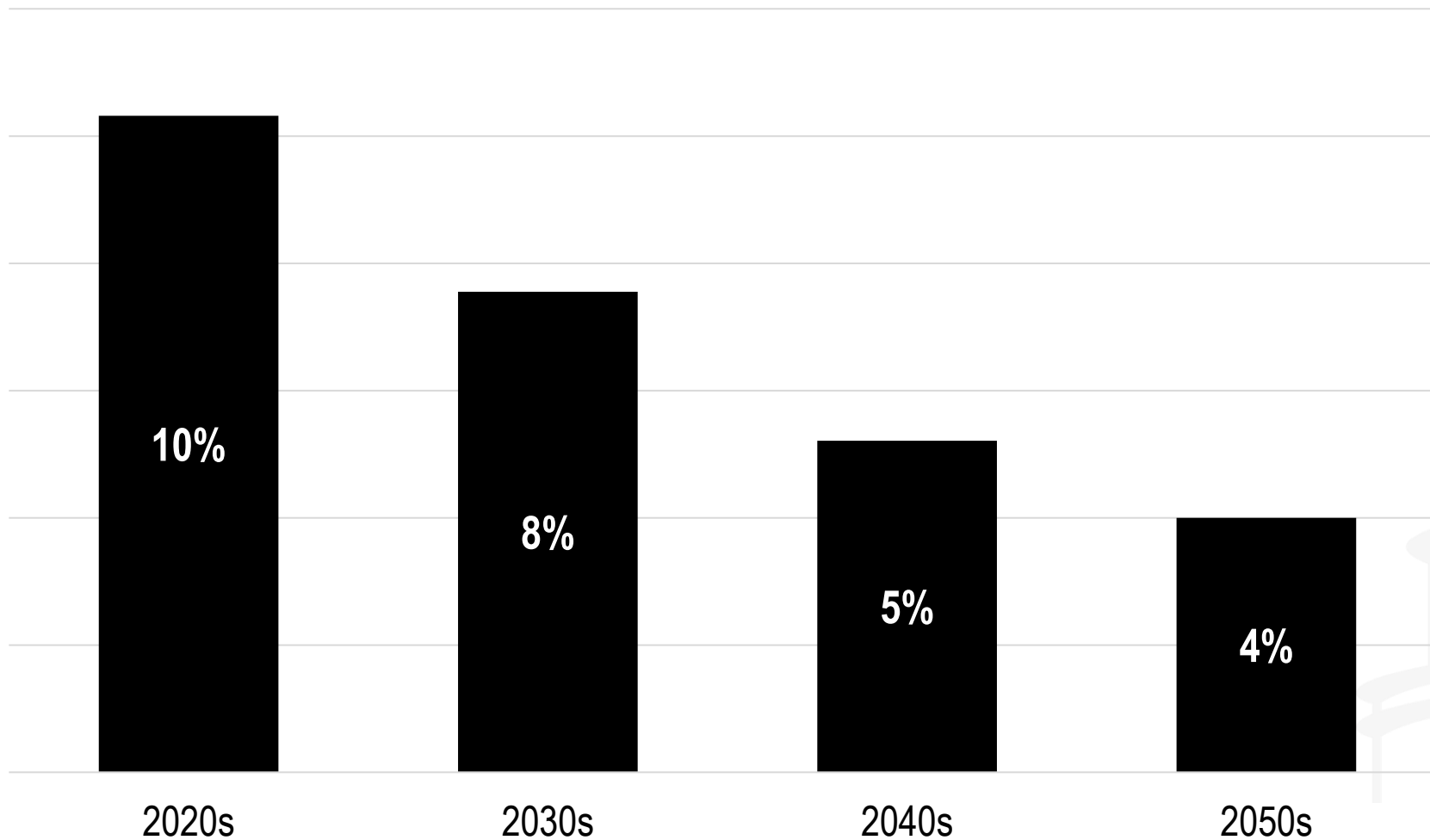


# Georgia's Projected Population through 2050



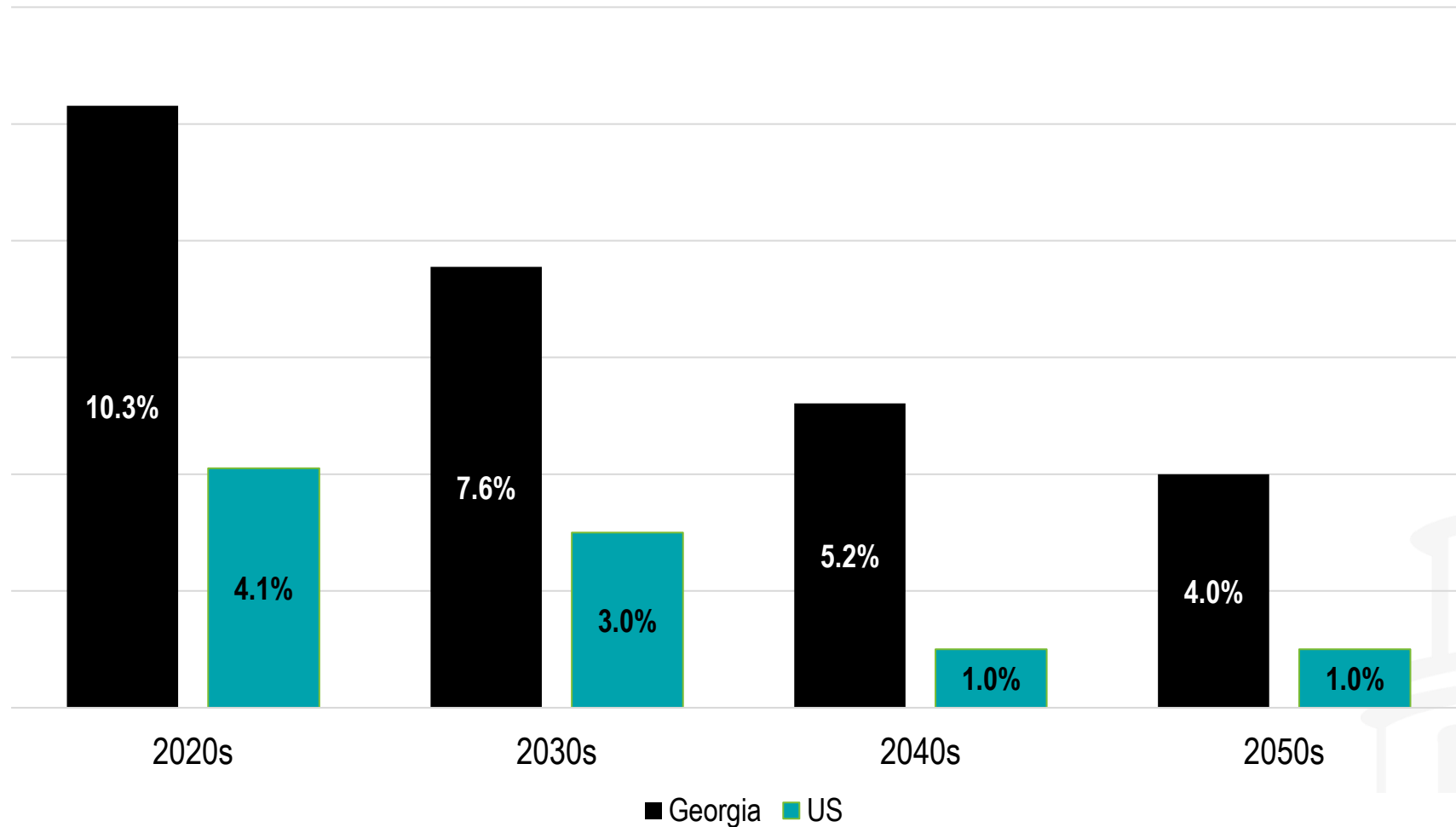


# Georgia's Projected Population Growth Rate



*Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2024 Series Population Projections*

# Georgia's Population Growth Projected to Outpace US



# Three Components of Demographic Change

---

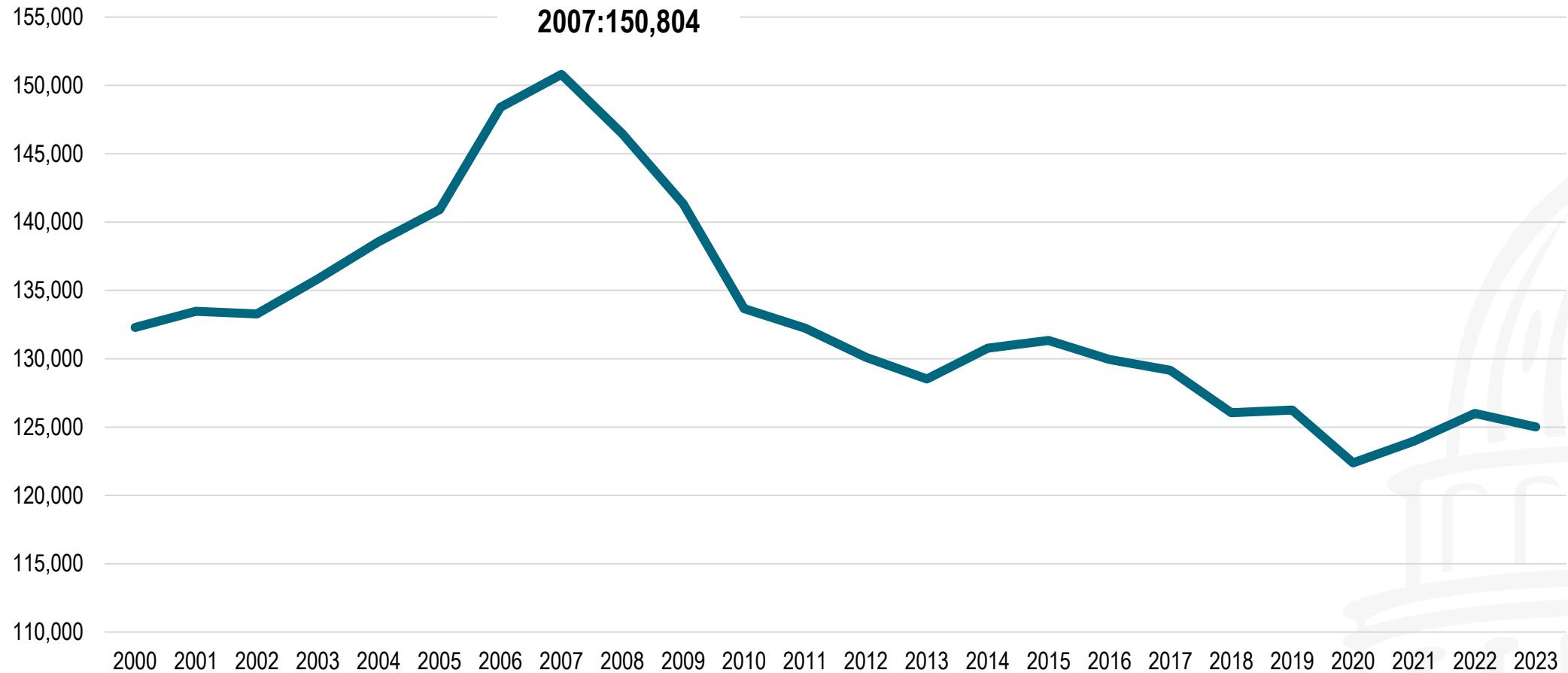
1. Births
2. Deaths
3. Migration

# Three Components of Demographic Change

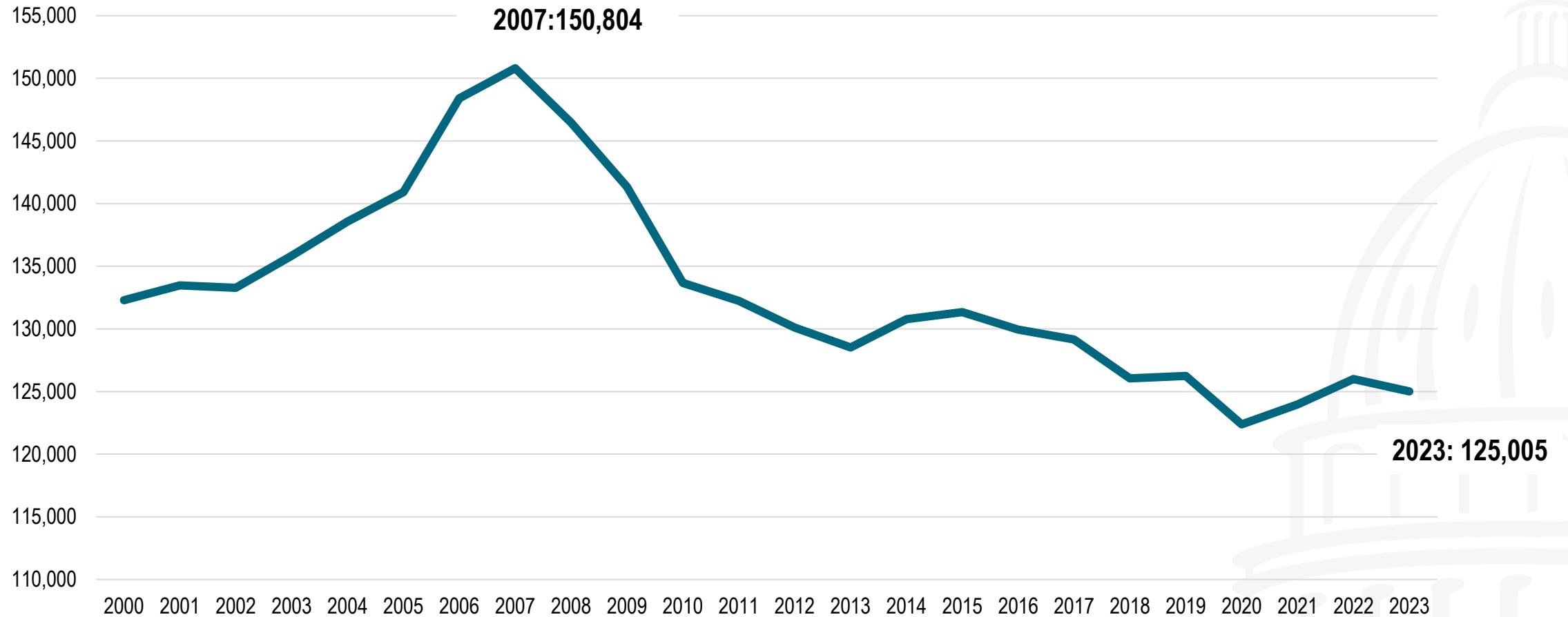
---

1. Births
2. Deaths
3. Migration

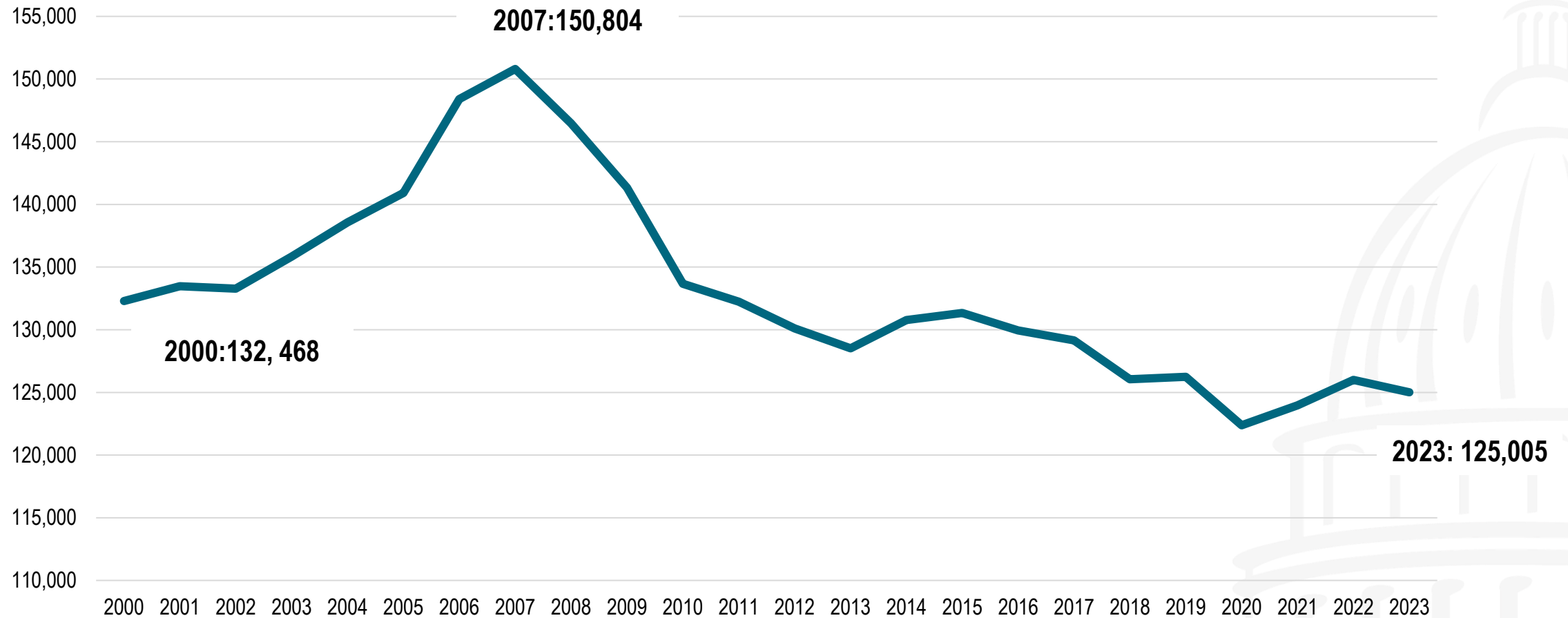
# Number of Births are Falling in Georgia



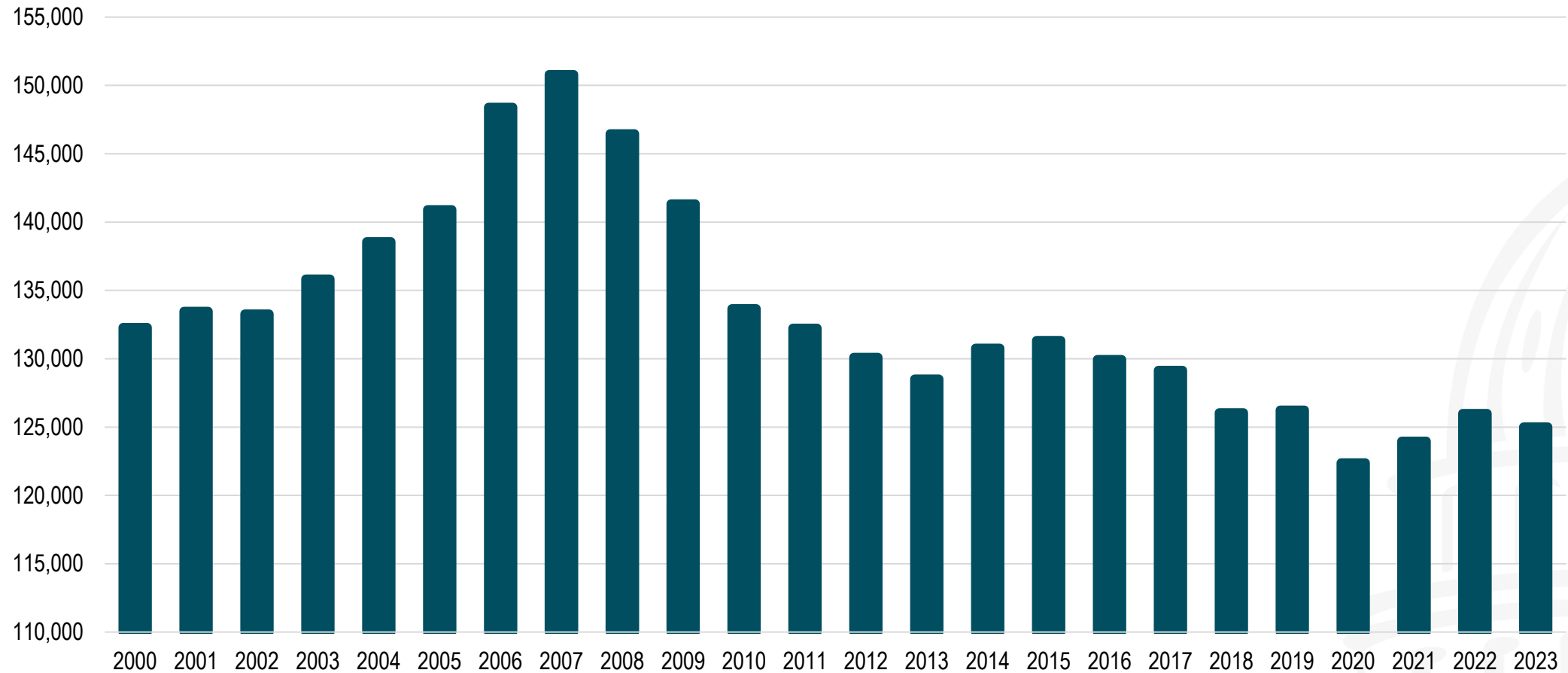
# Number of Births are Falling in Georgia



# Number of Births are Falling in Georgia

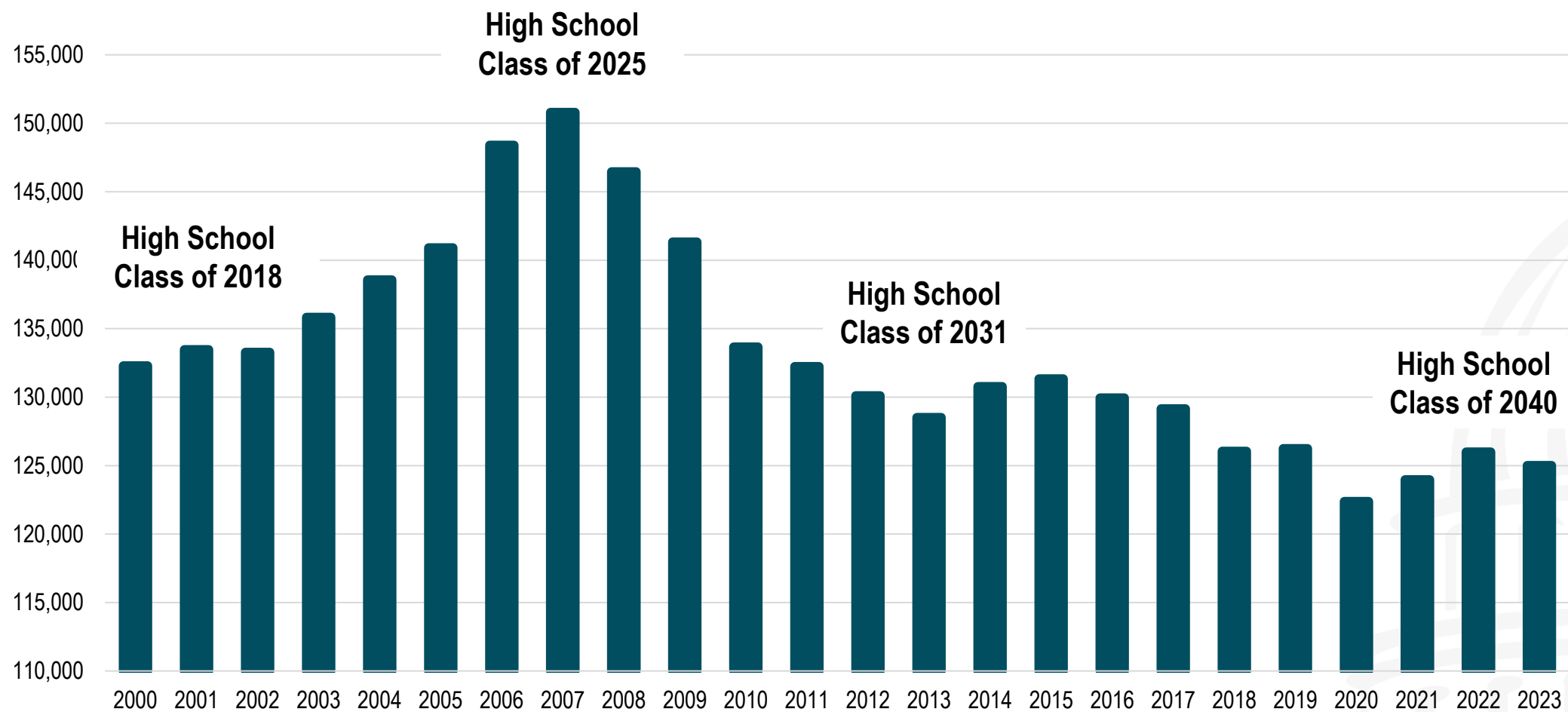


# Fewer Births Impacts Education and Workforce



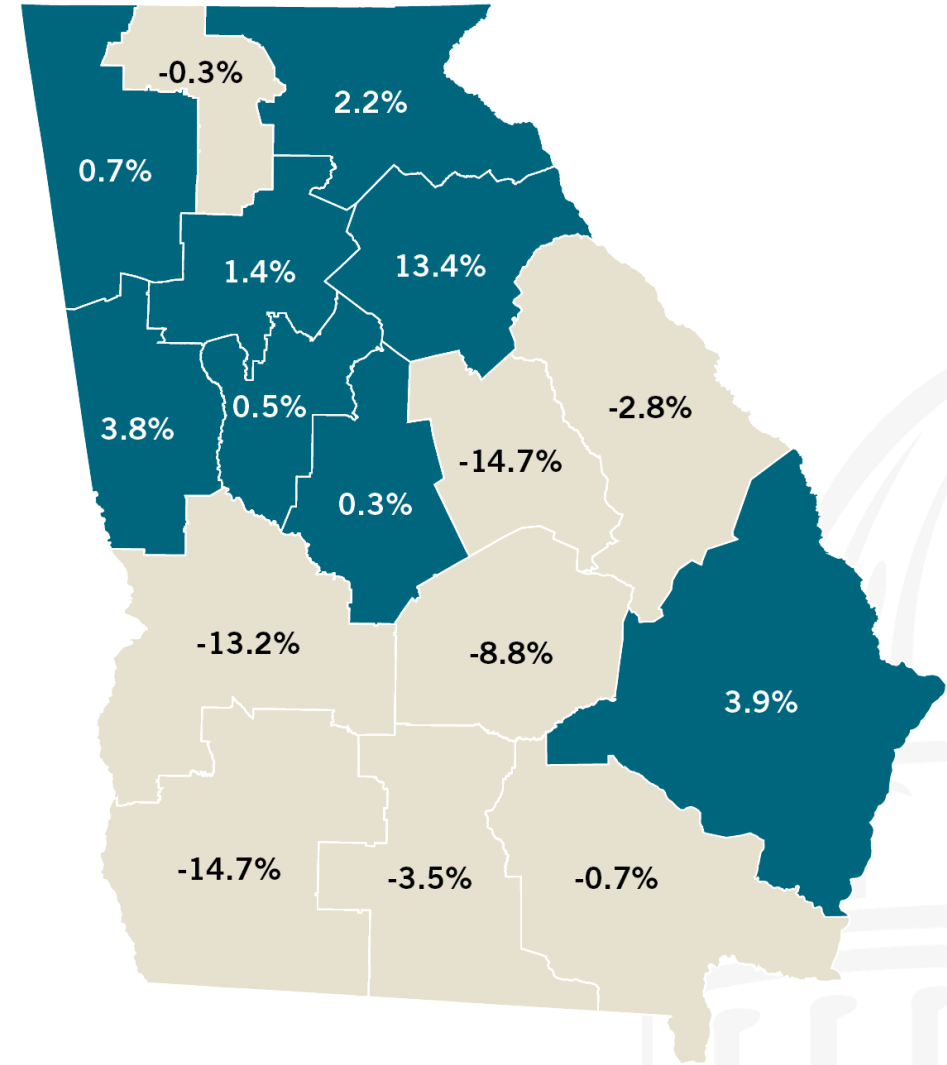


# Fewer Births Impacts Education and Workforce

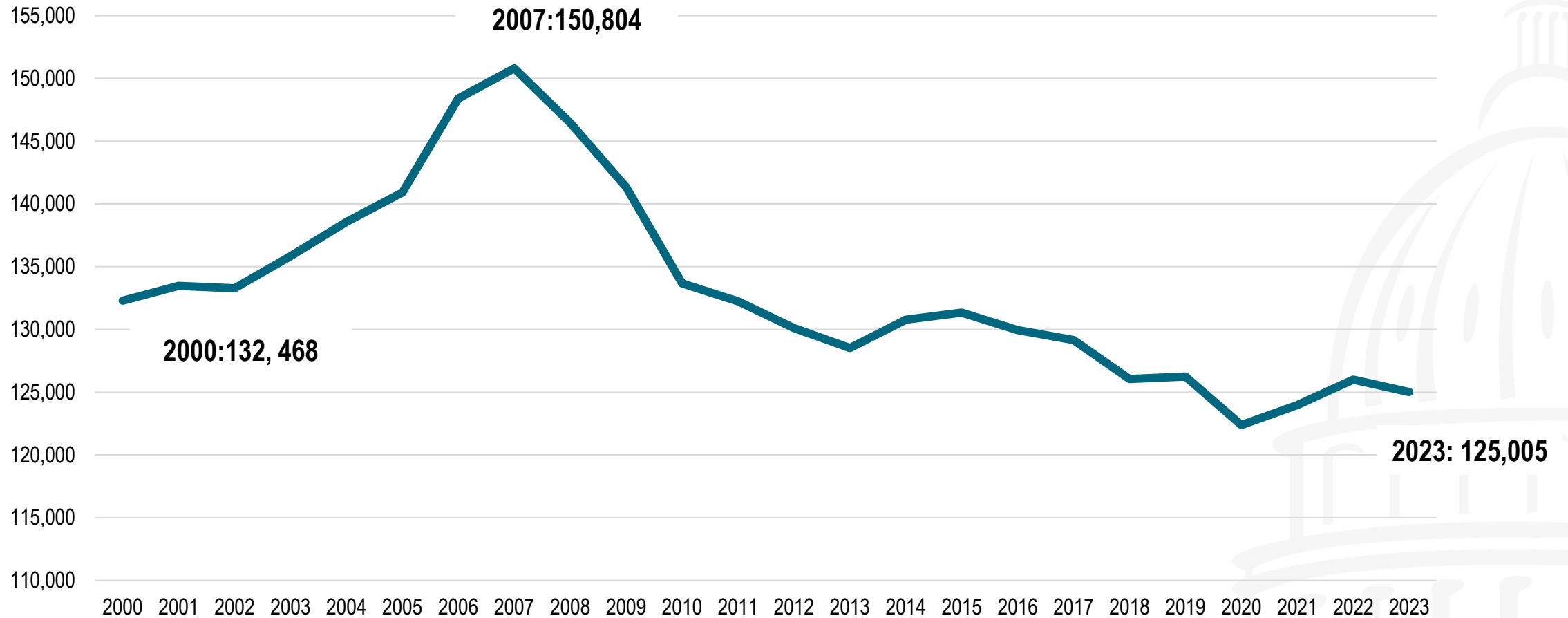


# Declining number of births already impacting local school systems

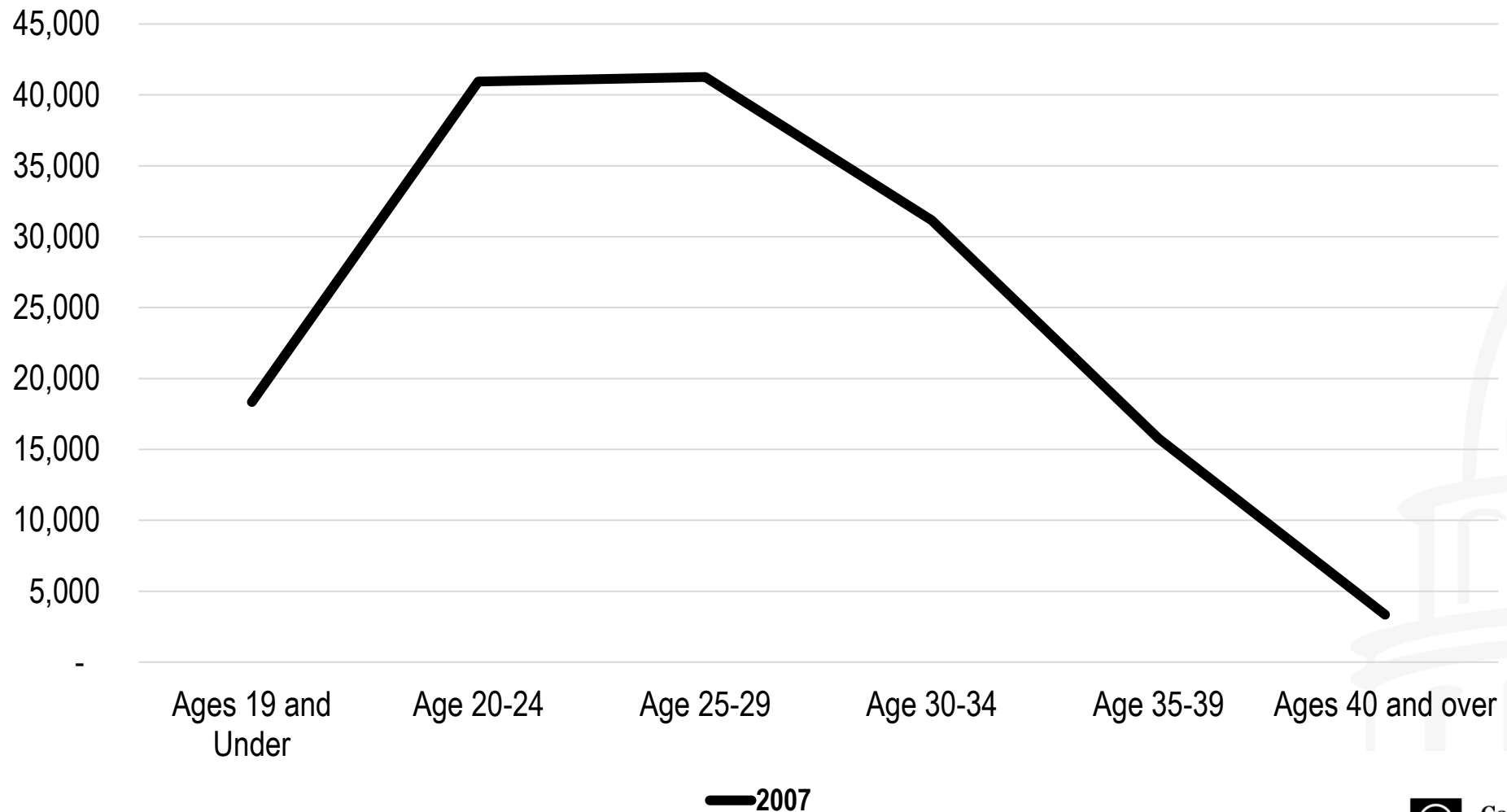
- K-12 Enrollments have declined in half of the Regional Education Service Areas (RESAs) over the past ten years



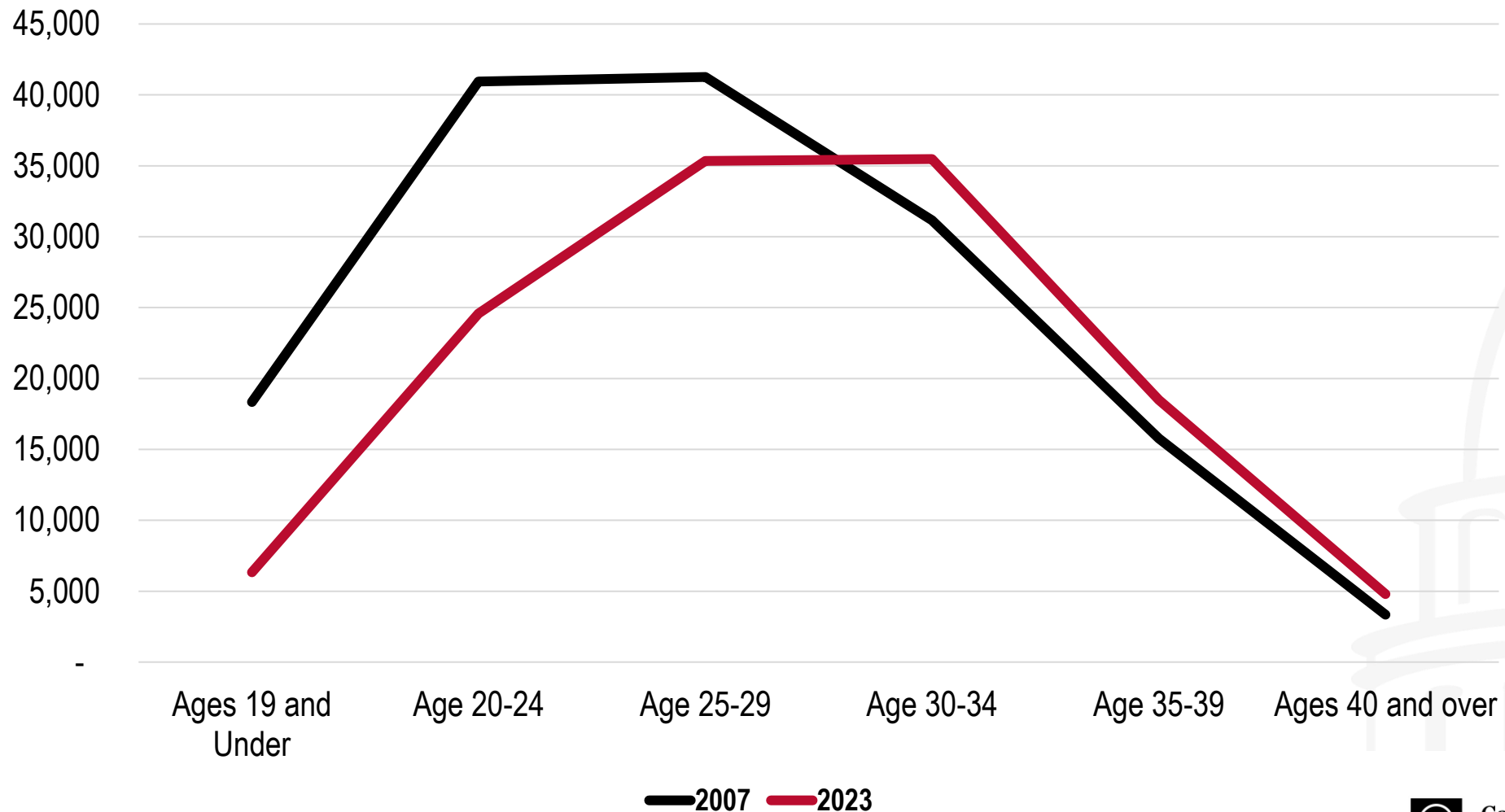
# Why?



# Georgia's Shifting Fertility Arc



# Georgia's Shifting Fertility Arc

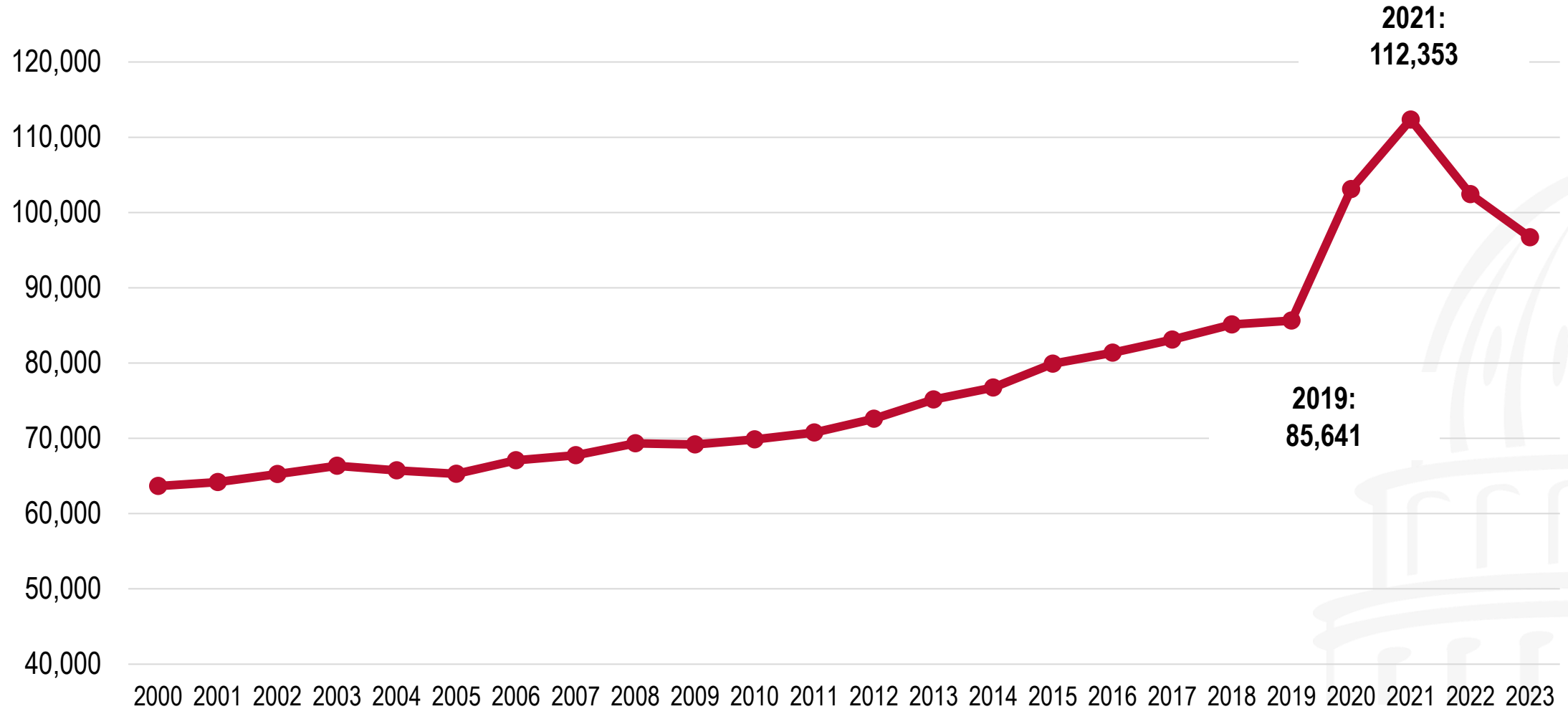


# Three Components of Demographic Change

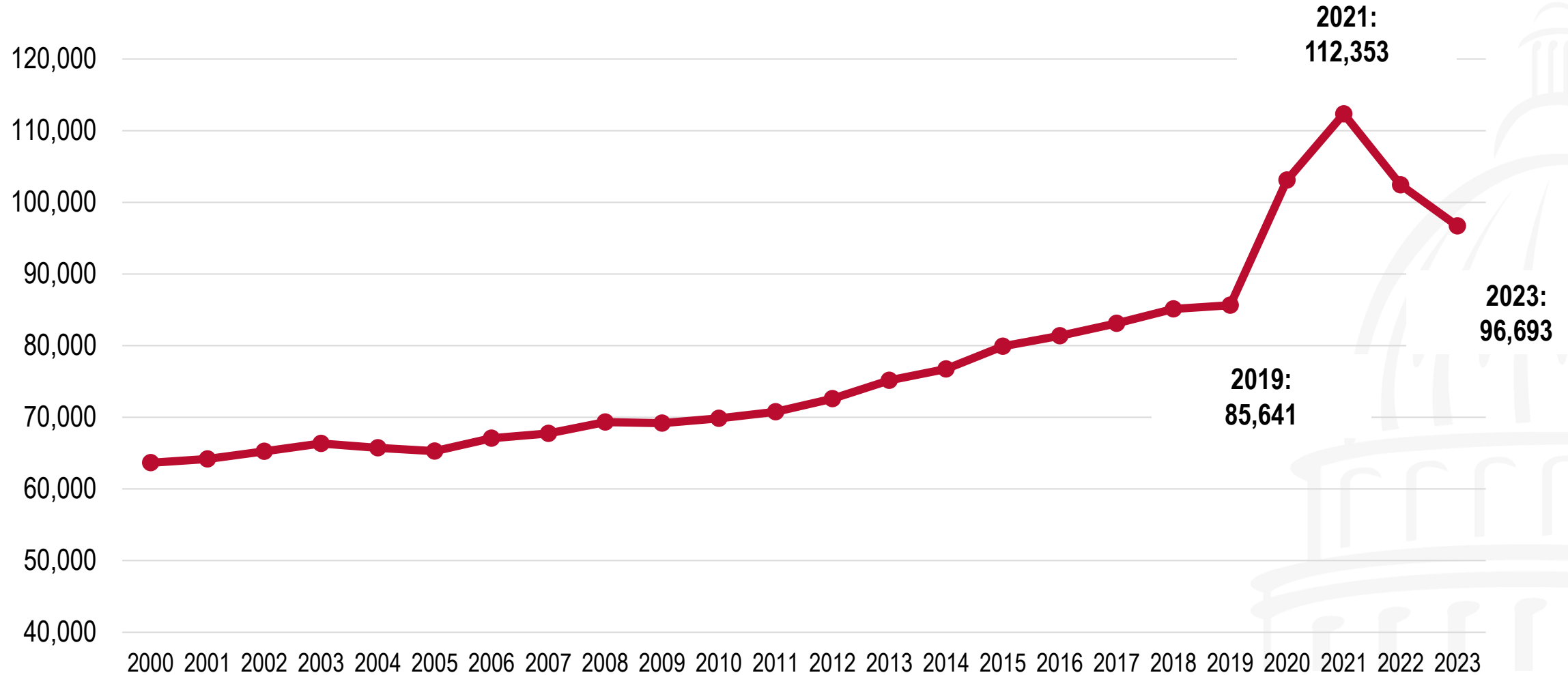
---

1. Births
2. Deaths
3. Migration

# Deaths peaked in 2021

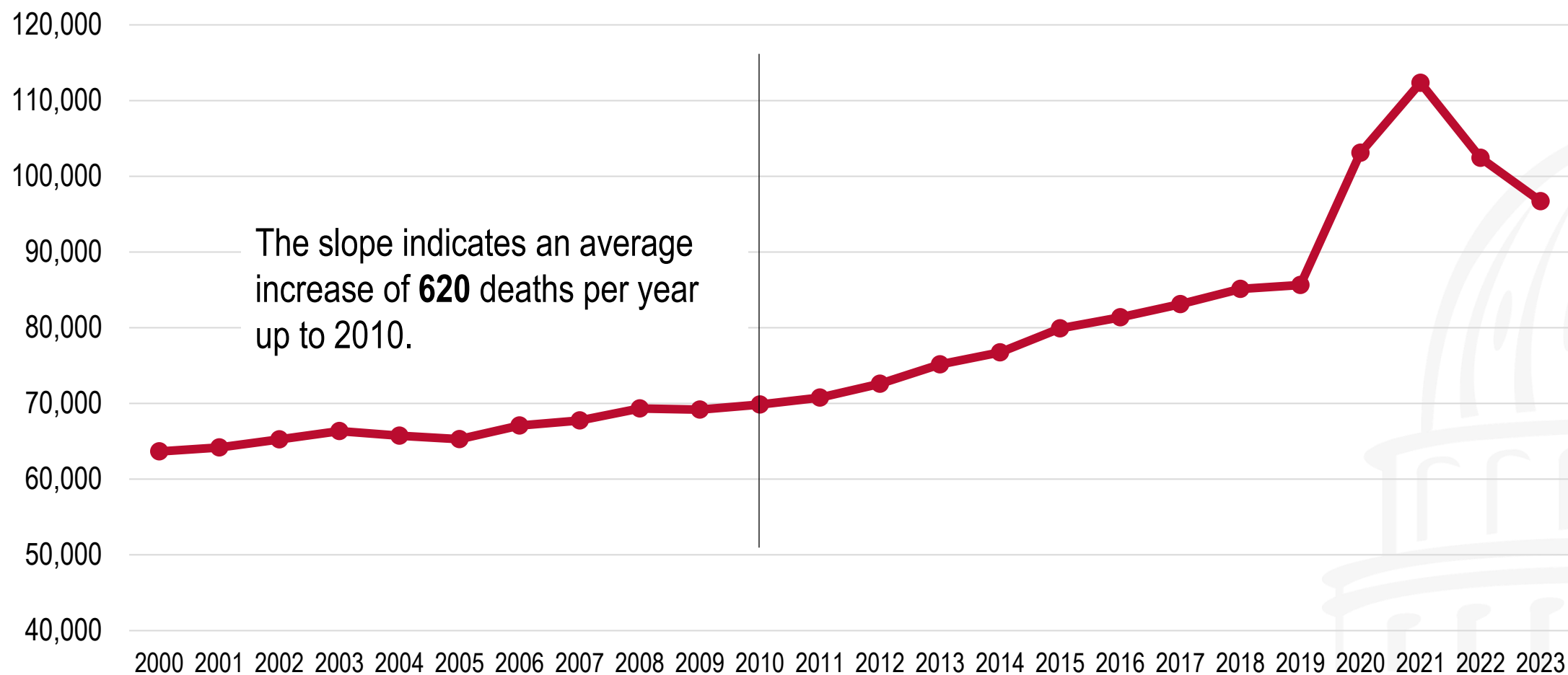


# Deaths peaked in 2021

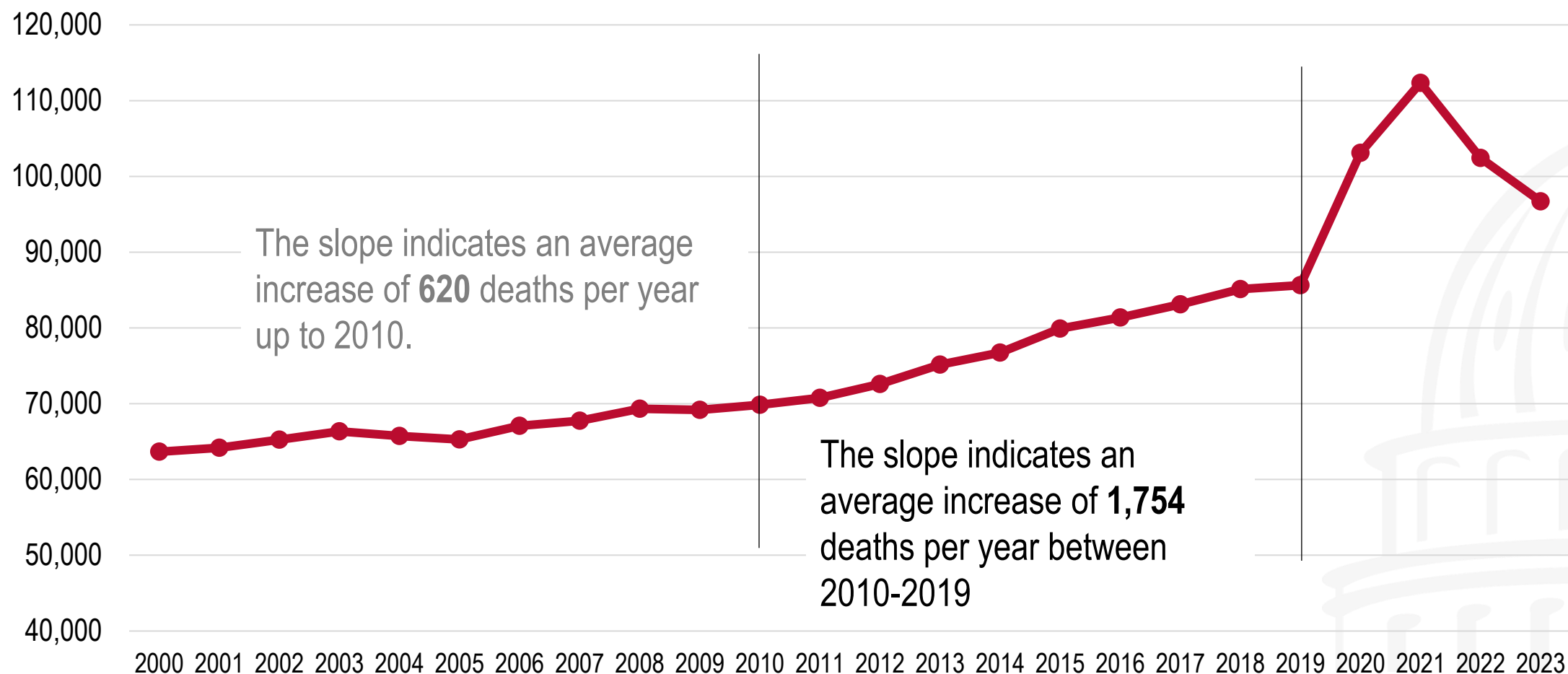




# Deaths were increasing prior to Covid-19



# Deaths were increasing prior to Covid-19

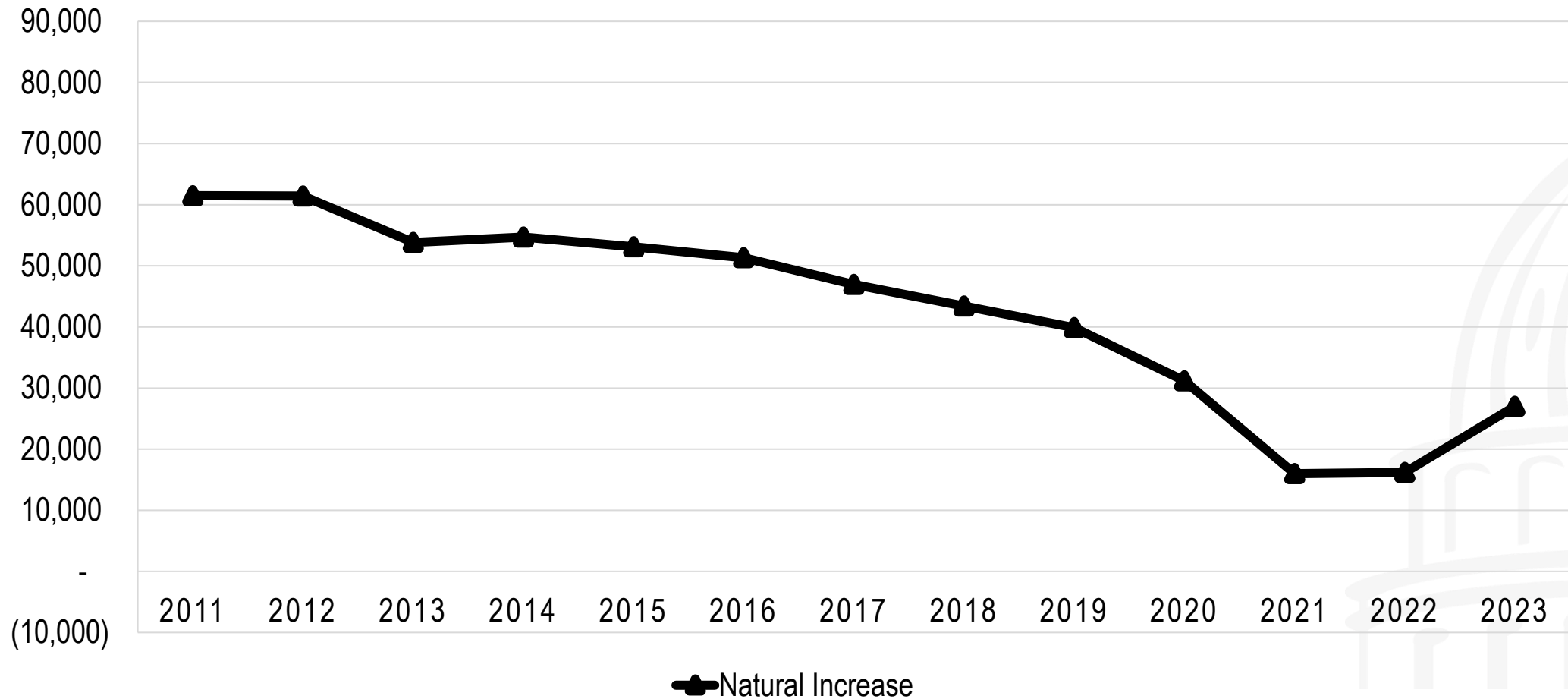


# Three Components of Demographic Change

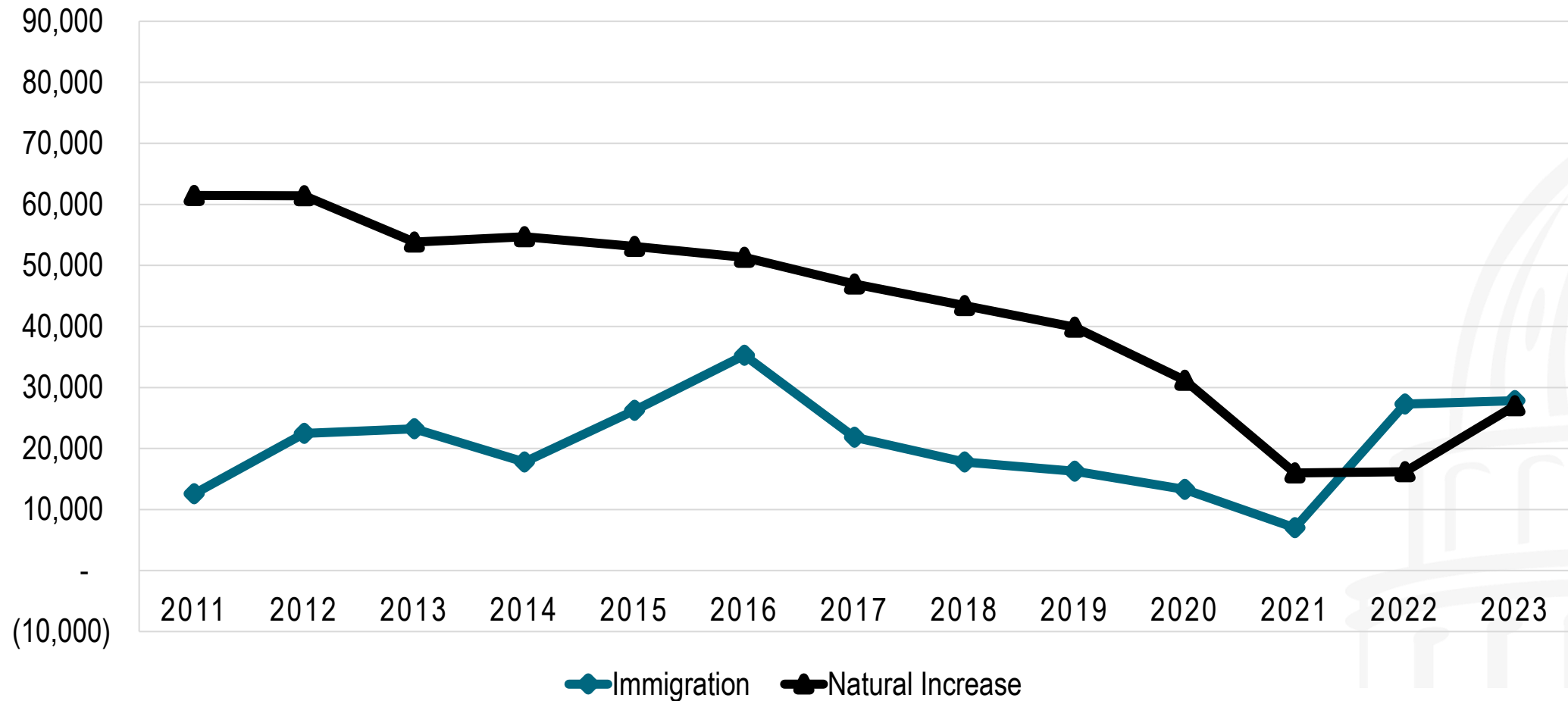
---

1. Births
2. Deaths
3. **Migration**

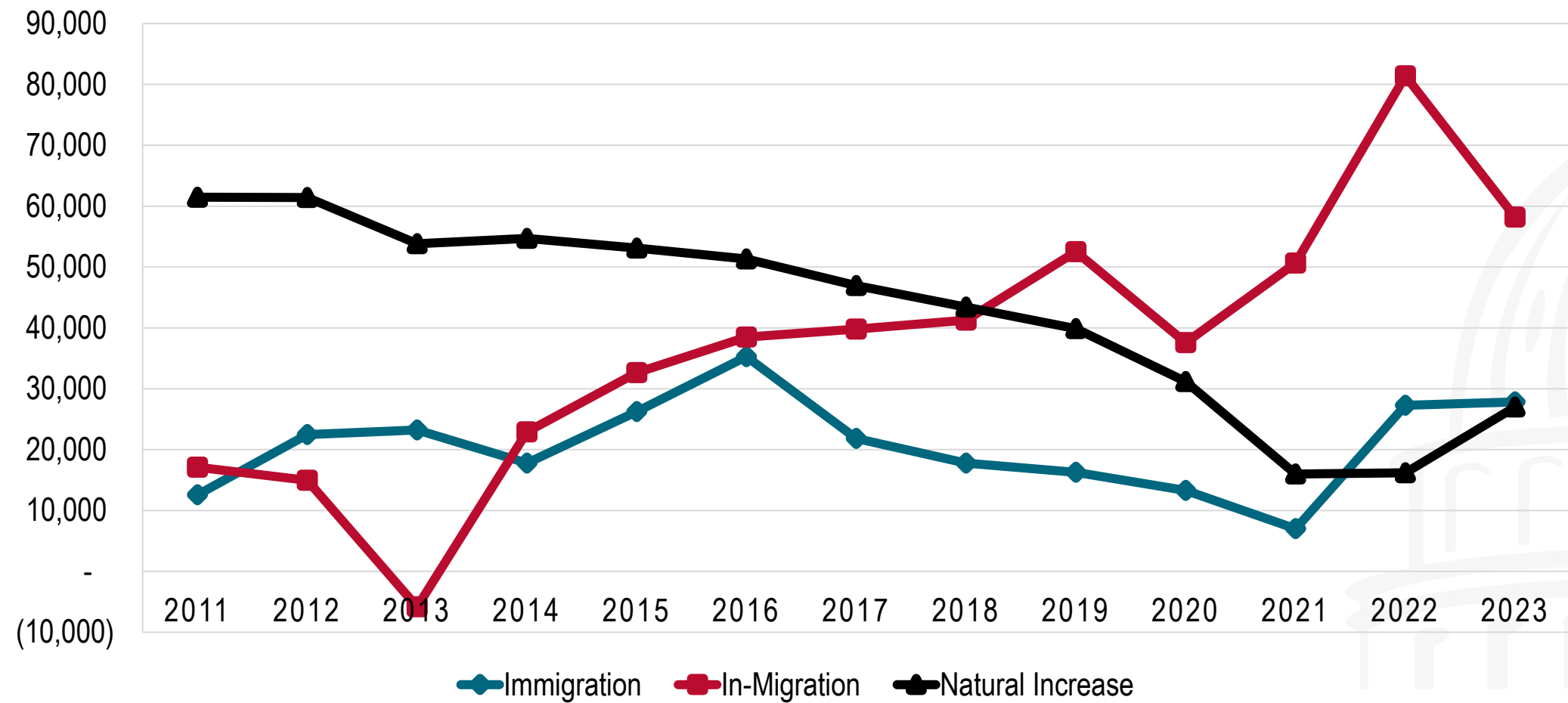
# Natural Increase Declines in Georgia



# International Migration Steady to Georgia

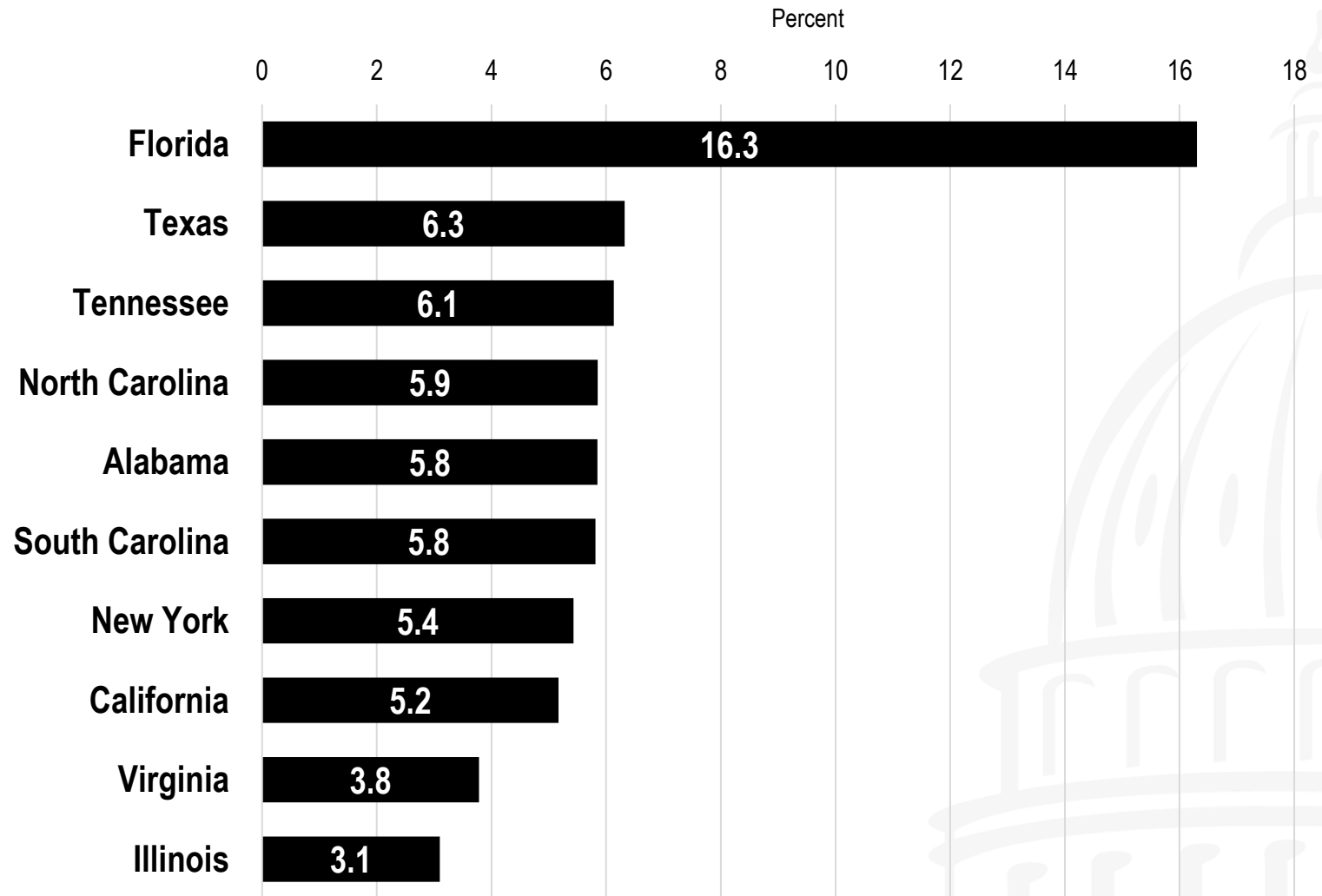


# Domestic Migration Leads Georgia's Growth



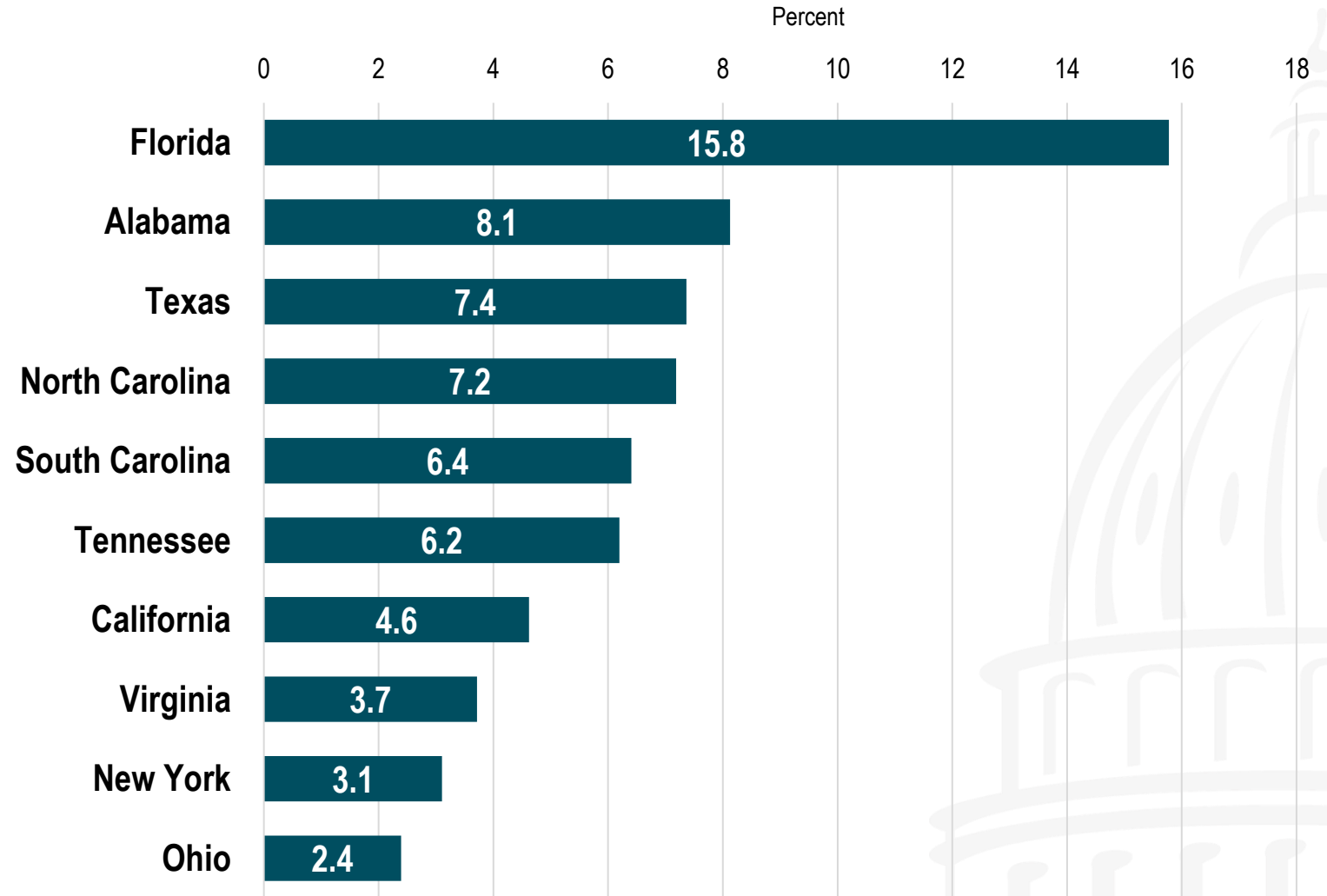
# What states do people move from?

- 63% of migrants into Georgia in the 2010s moved from one of ten states

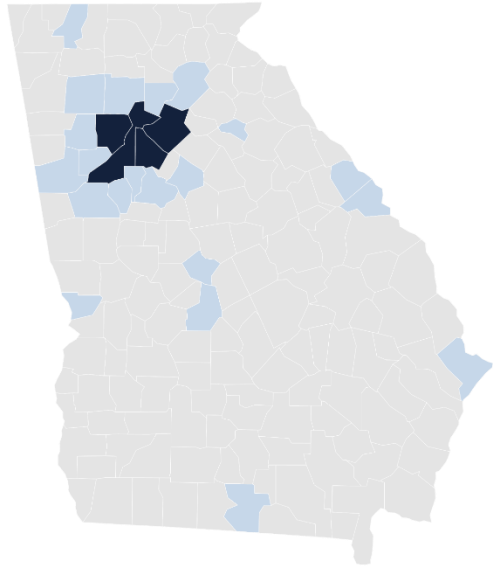


# Where do Georgians go?

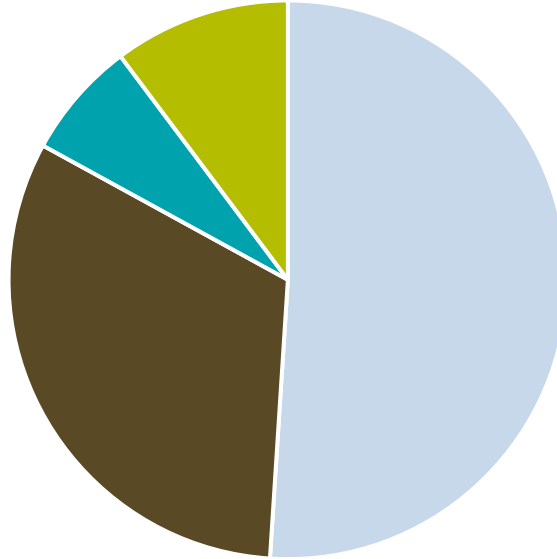
- 64% of migrants out of Georgia in the 2010s moved to one of ten states



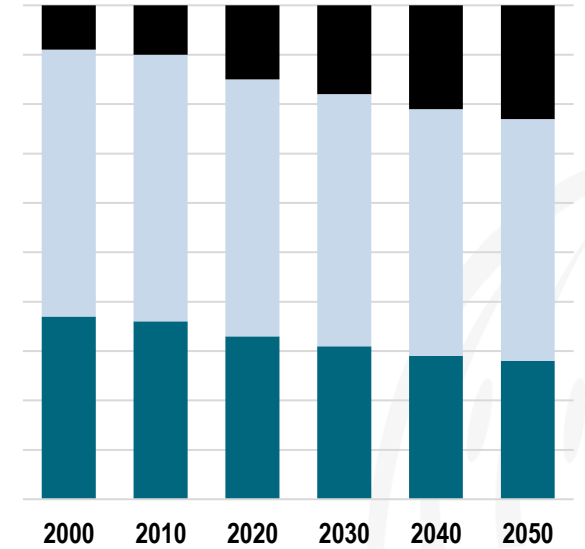




Geographic  
Concentration

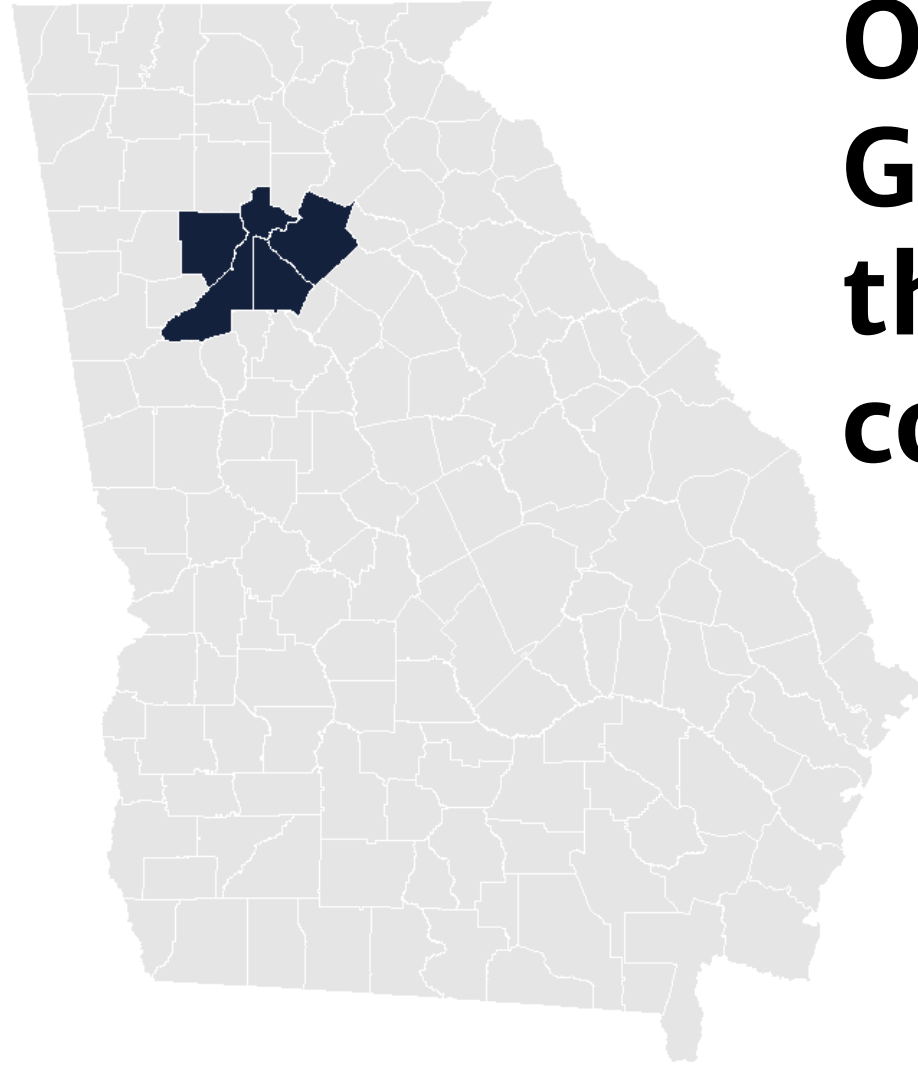


Racial and  
Ethnic Diversity

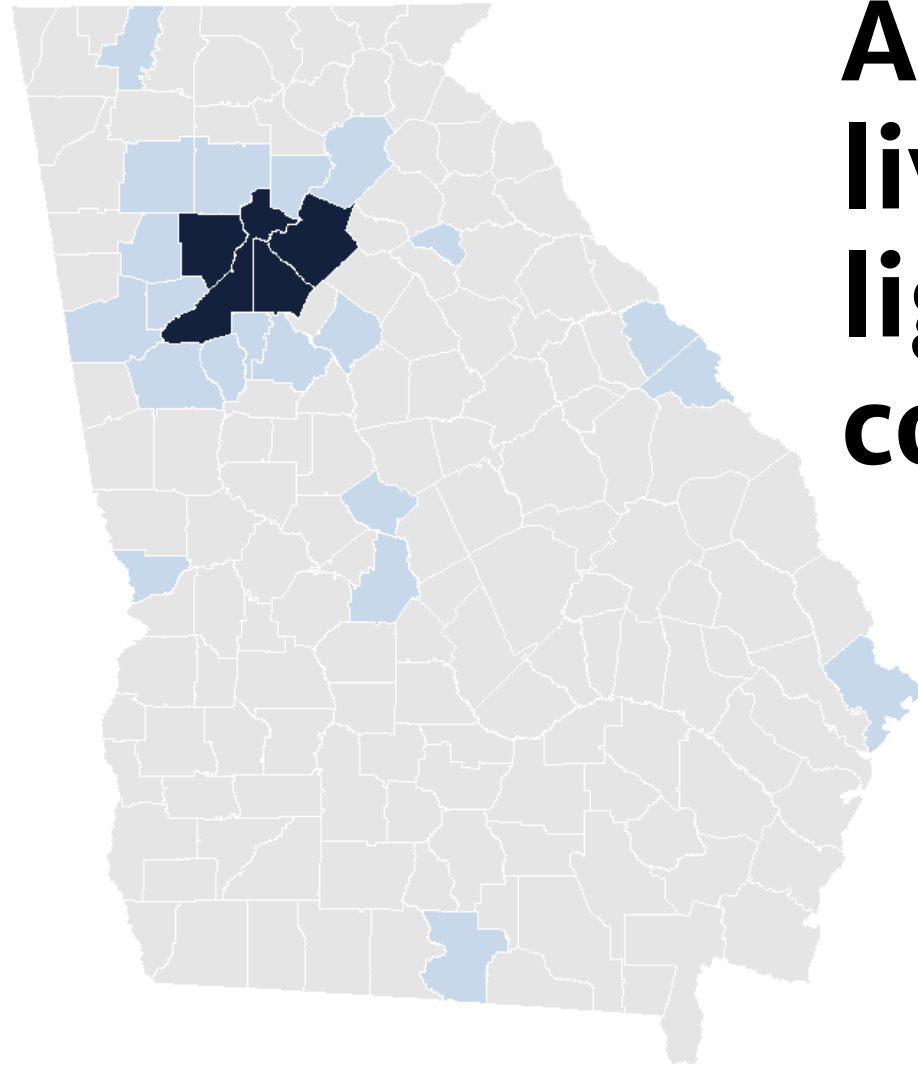


Aging  
Population

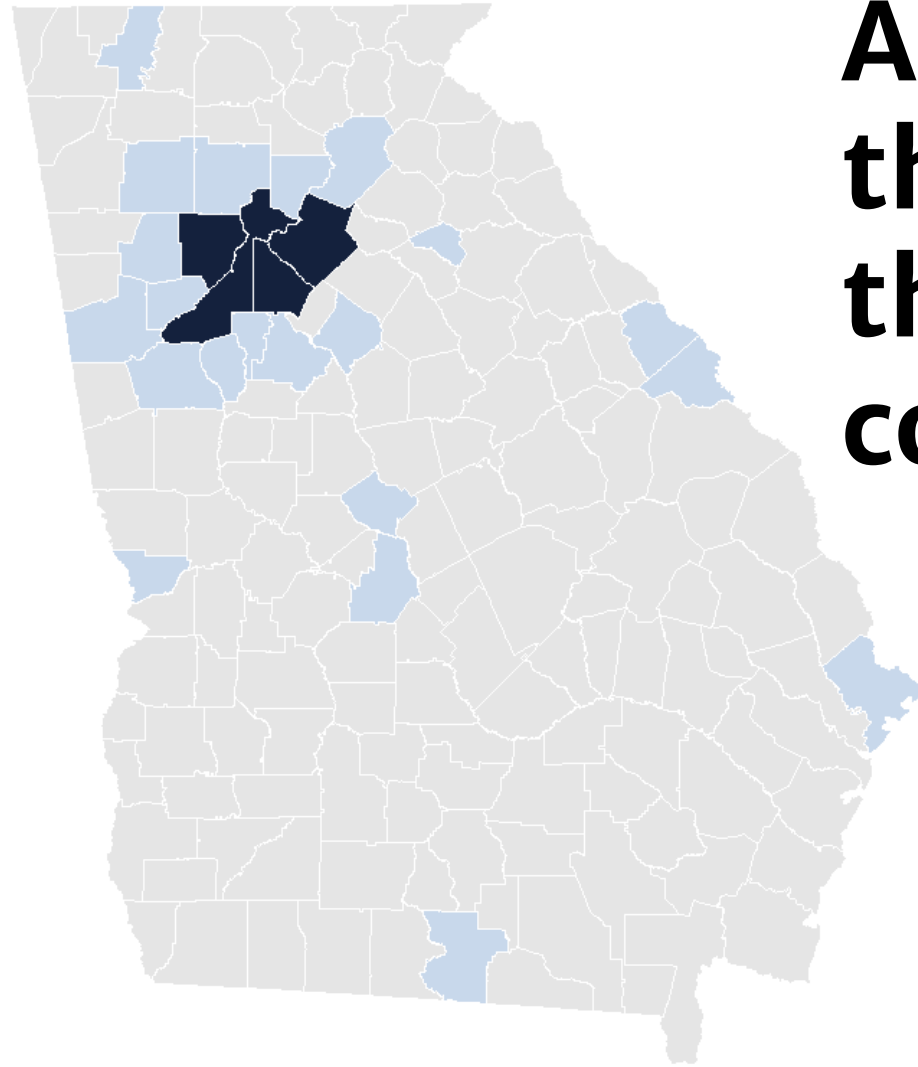
# One of three Georgians live in these four counties



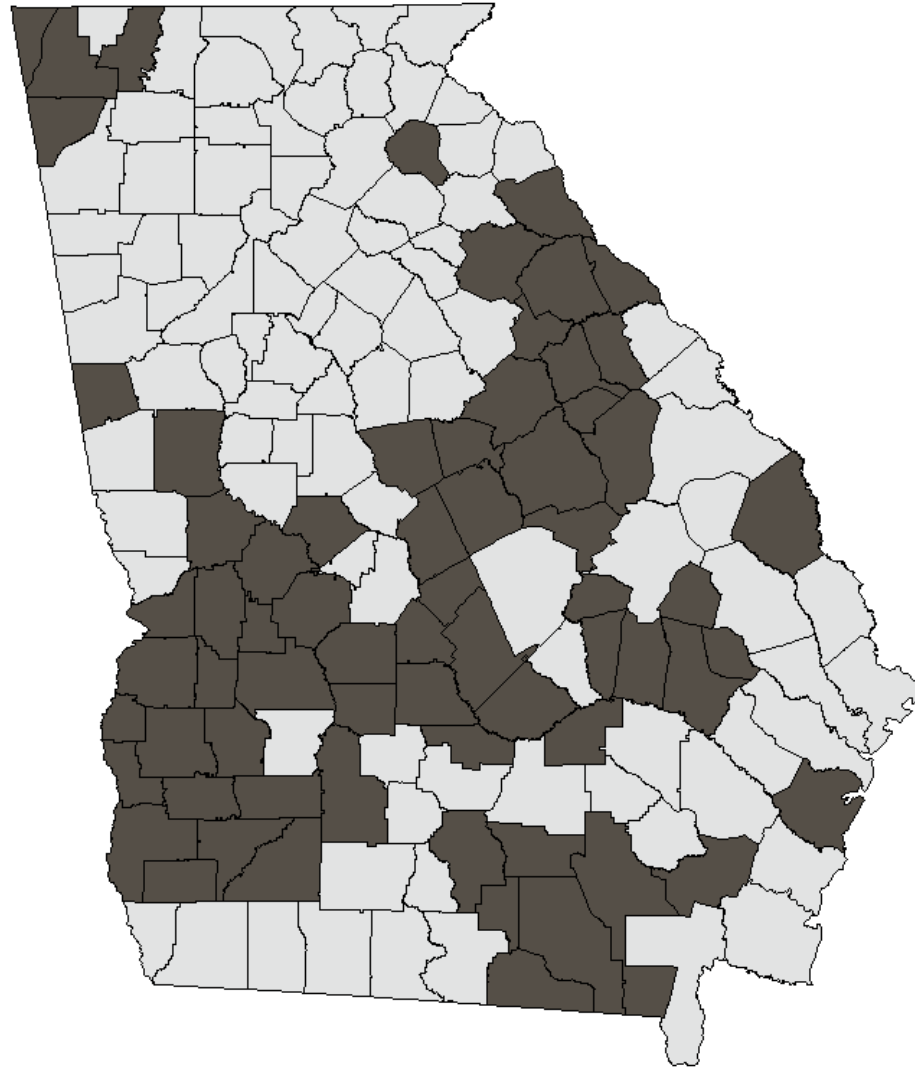
# Another third lives in the light blue counties



# And another third lives in the gray counties

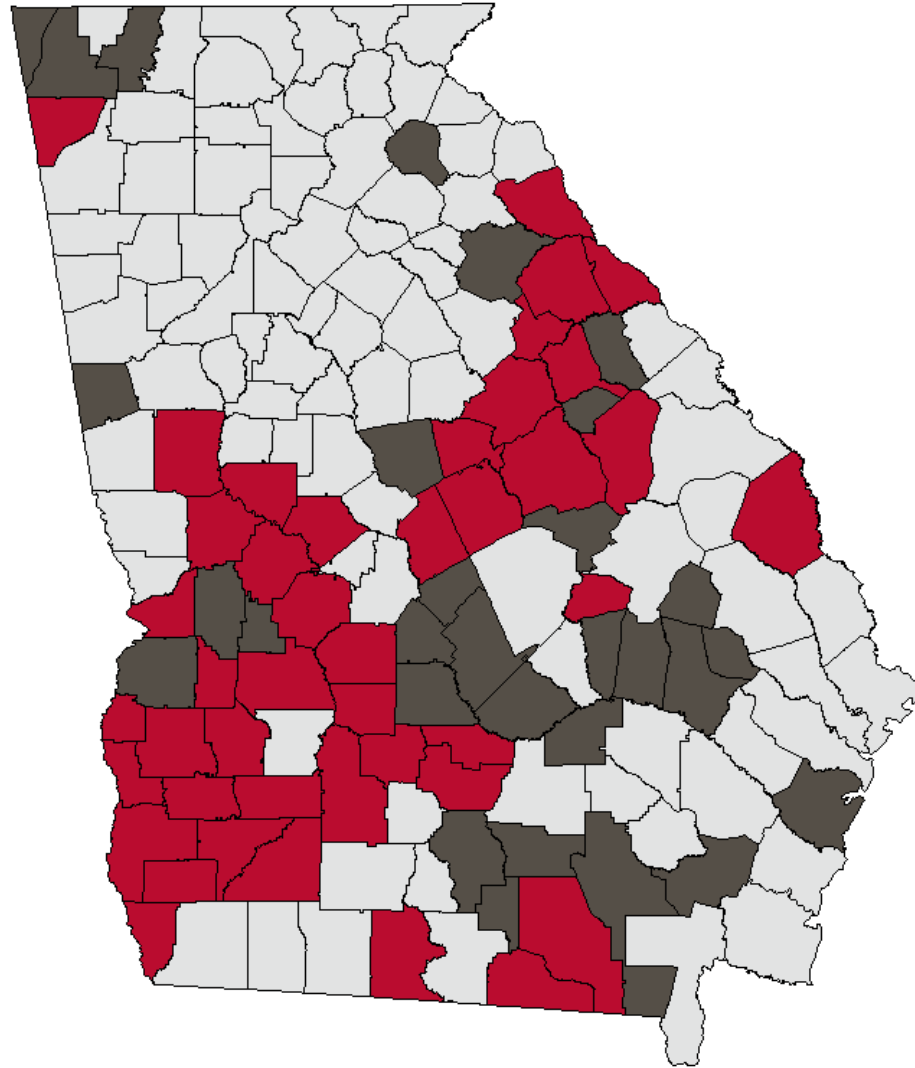


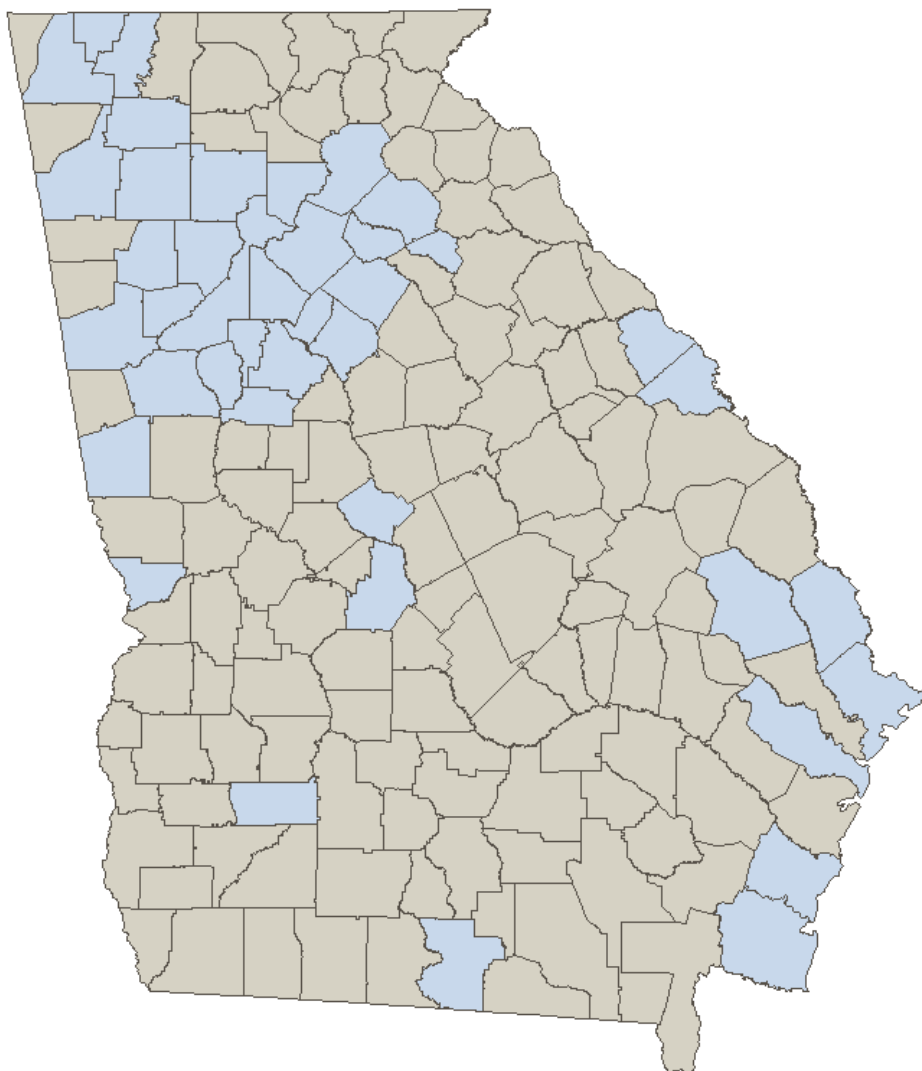
# 68 counties lost population between 2010 and 2020



**68 counties lost  
population between  
2010 and 2020**

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





**41 Urban Counties**

**79% of population  
in 2020**

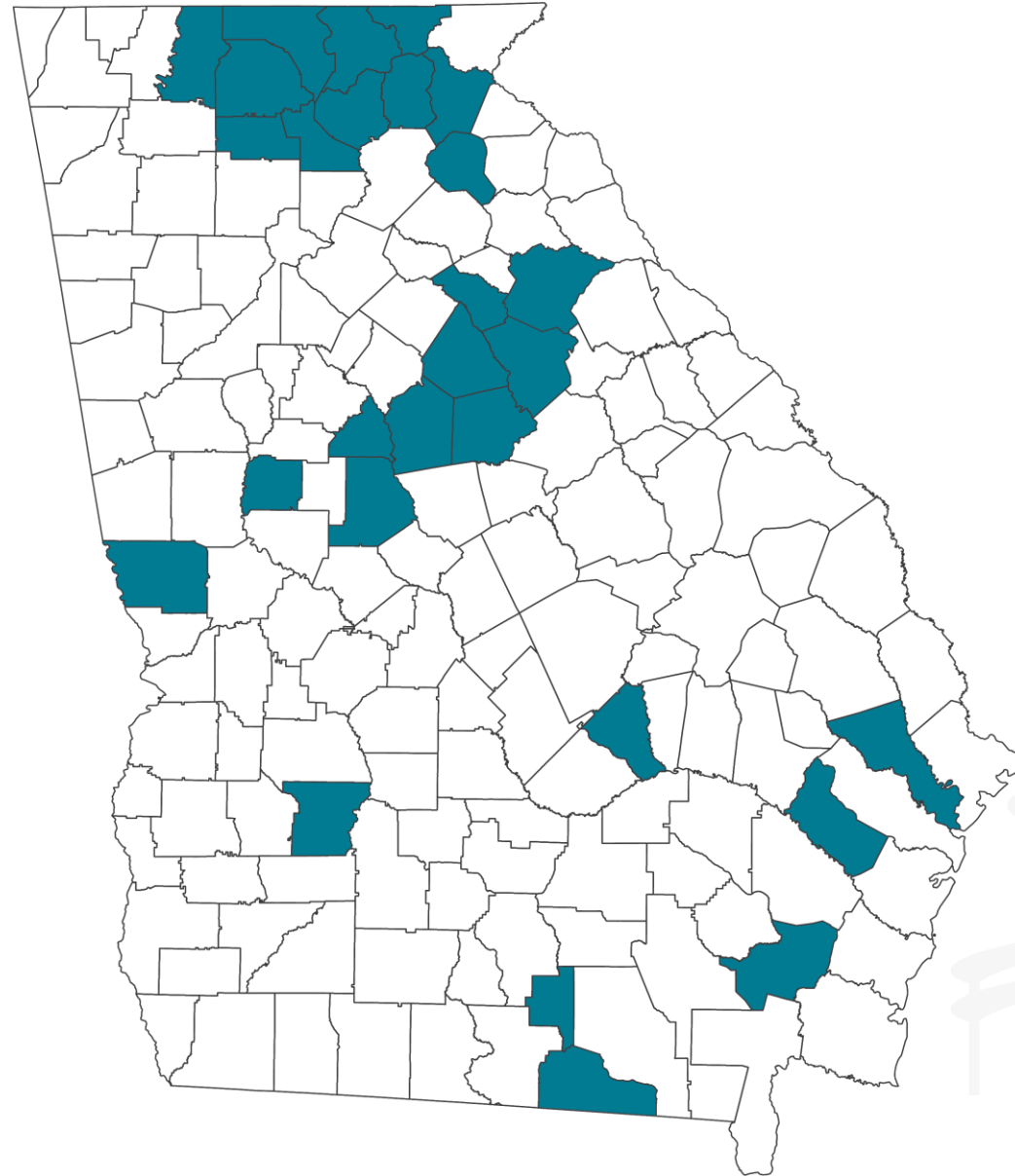
**118 Rural Counties**

**21% of population  
in 2020**

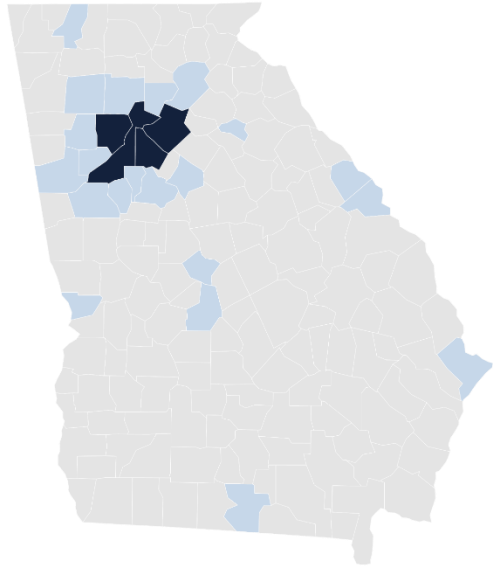
*Rural Counties defined as those with  
less than 50,000 people*

# Georgia's Rural Growth

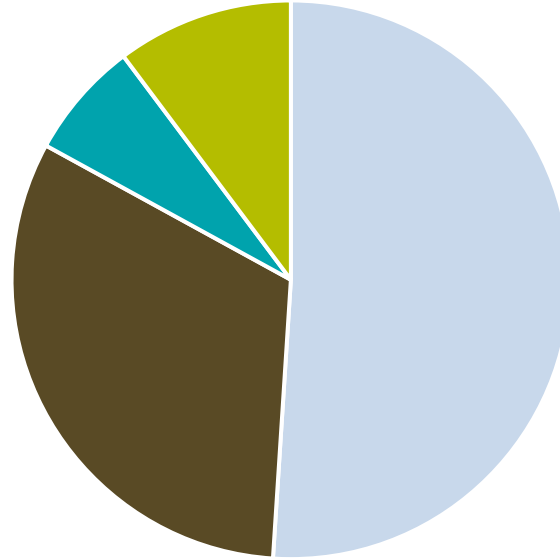
**28 rural counties have  
experience population  
increase of more than 50%  
since 1990**



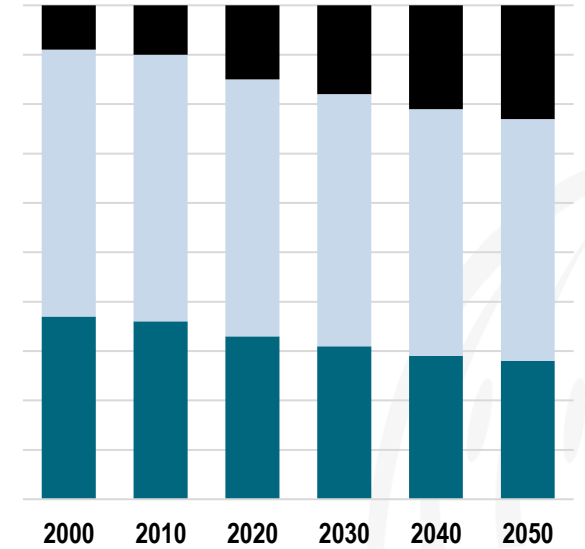




Geographic  
Concentration

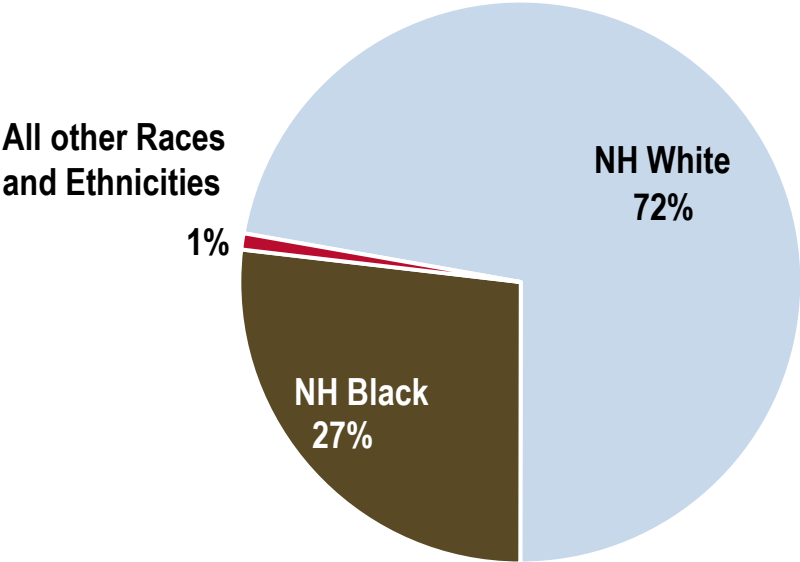


Racial and  
Ethnic Diversity



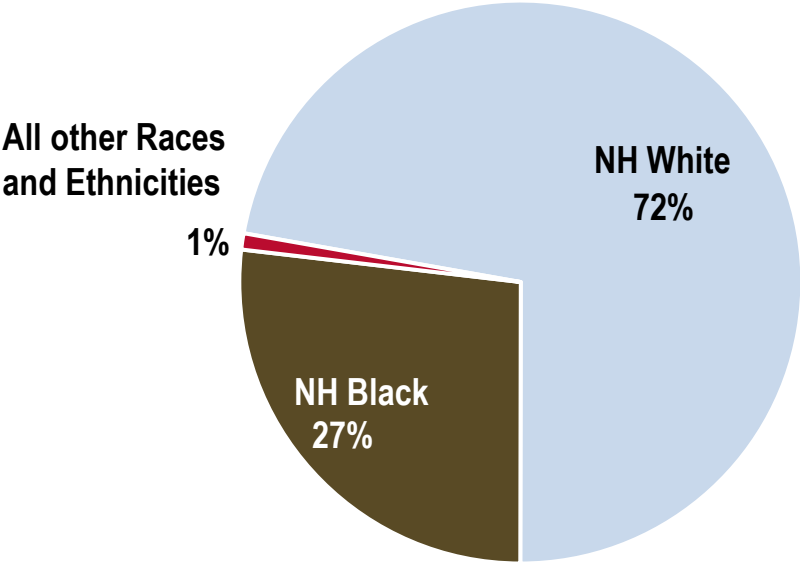
Aging  
Population

# Georgia's Racial and Ethnic Demographic Trends

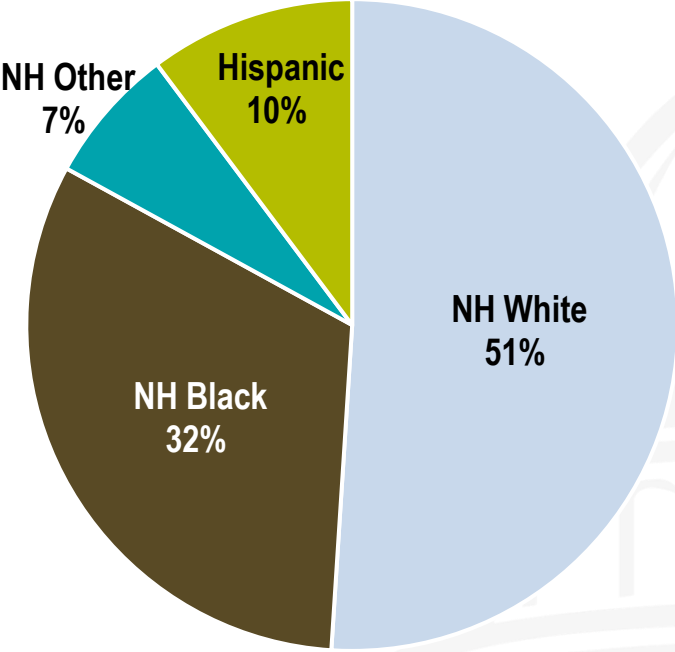


1980

# Georgia's Racial and Ethnic Demographic Trends

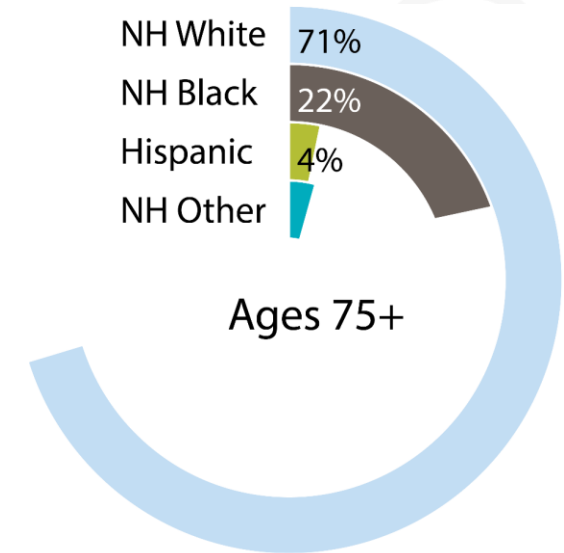


1980

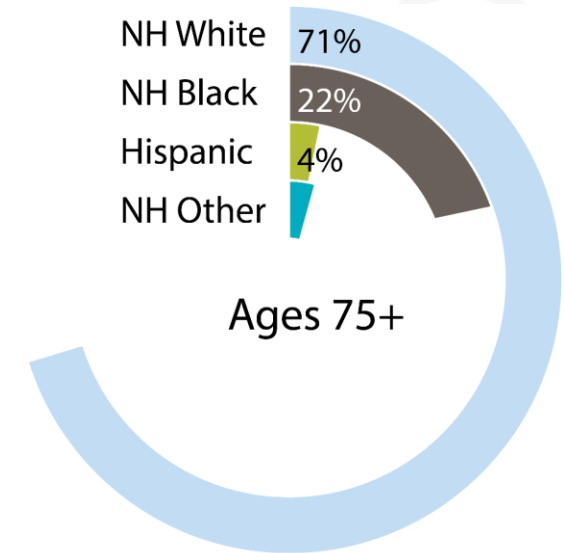
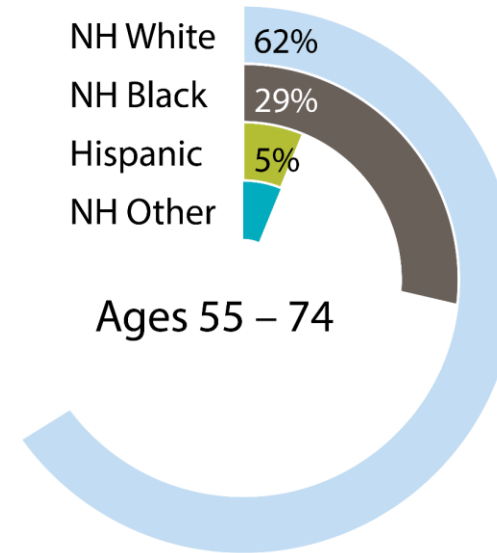


2021

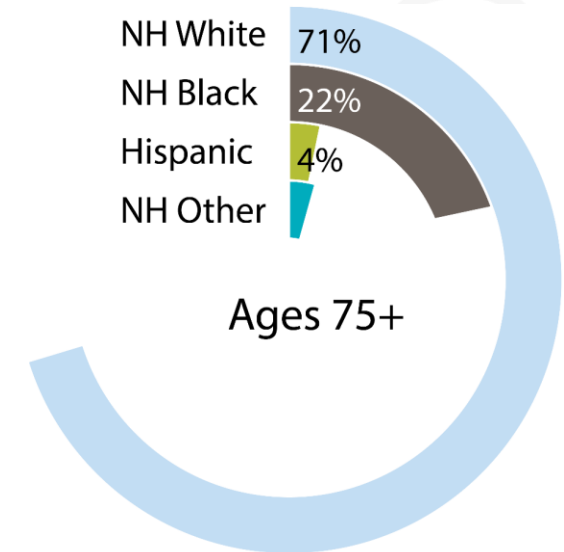
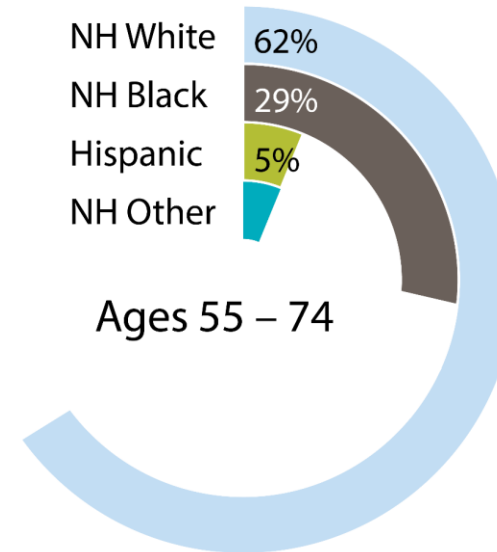
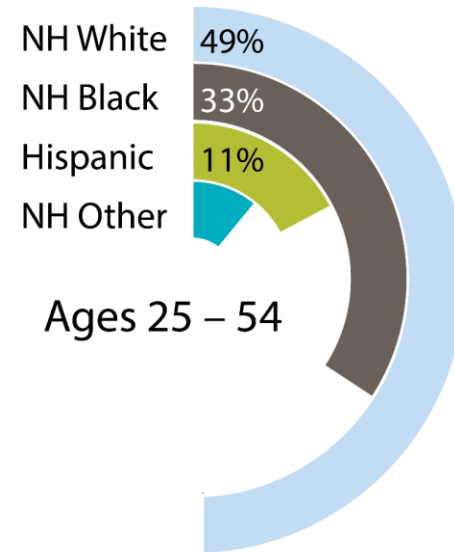
# Race and Ethnicity by Age



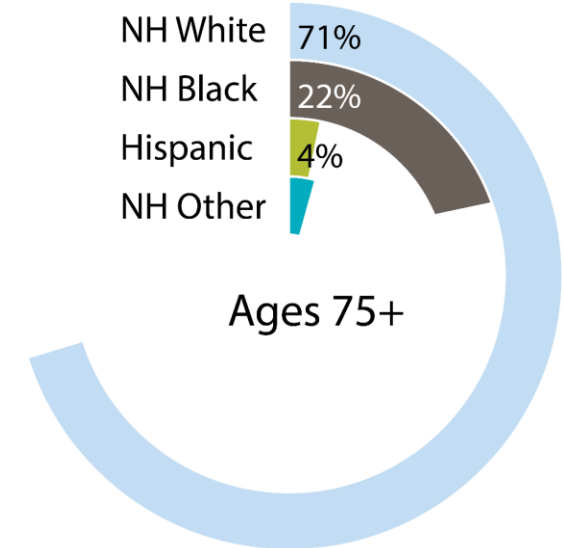
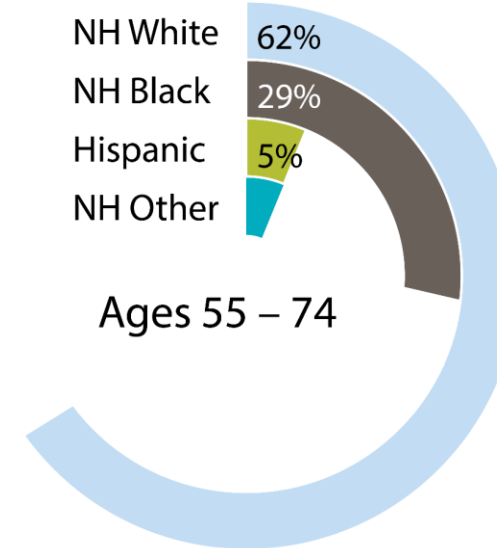
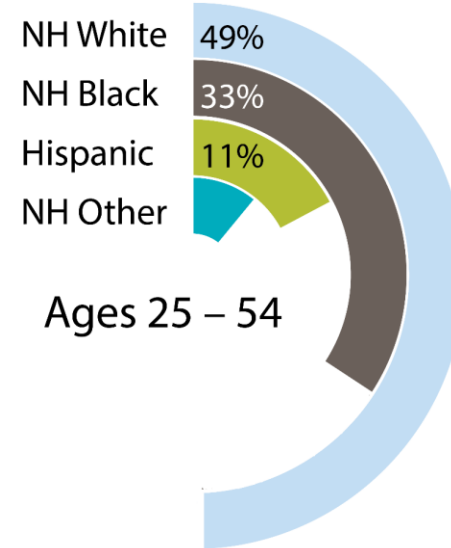
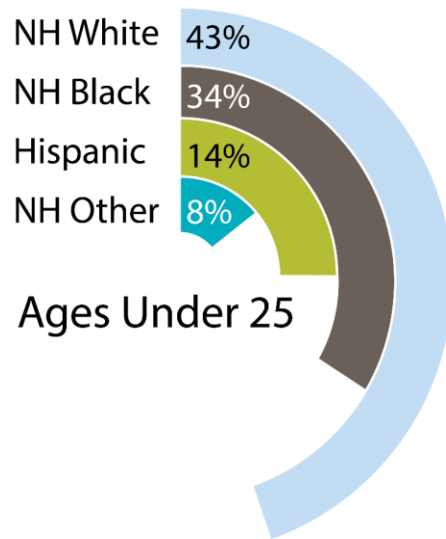
# Race and Ethnicity by Age

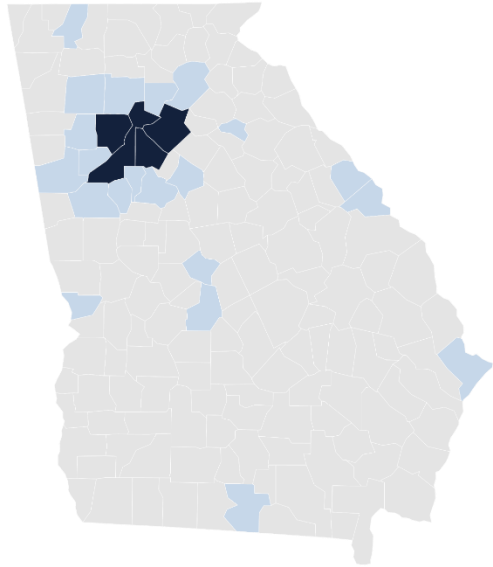


# Race and Ethnicity by Age

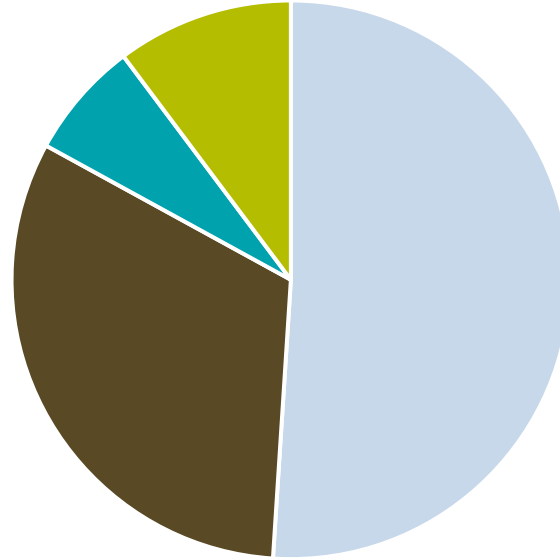


# Race and Ethnicity by Age

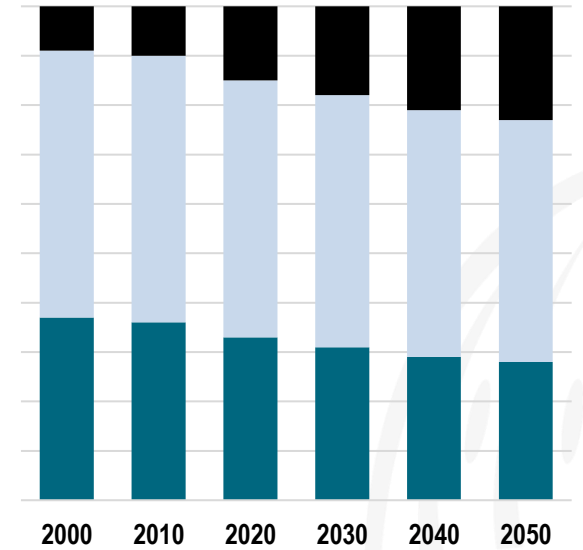




Geographic  
Concentration



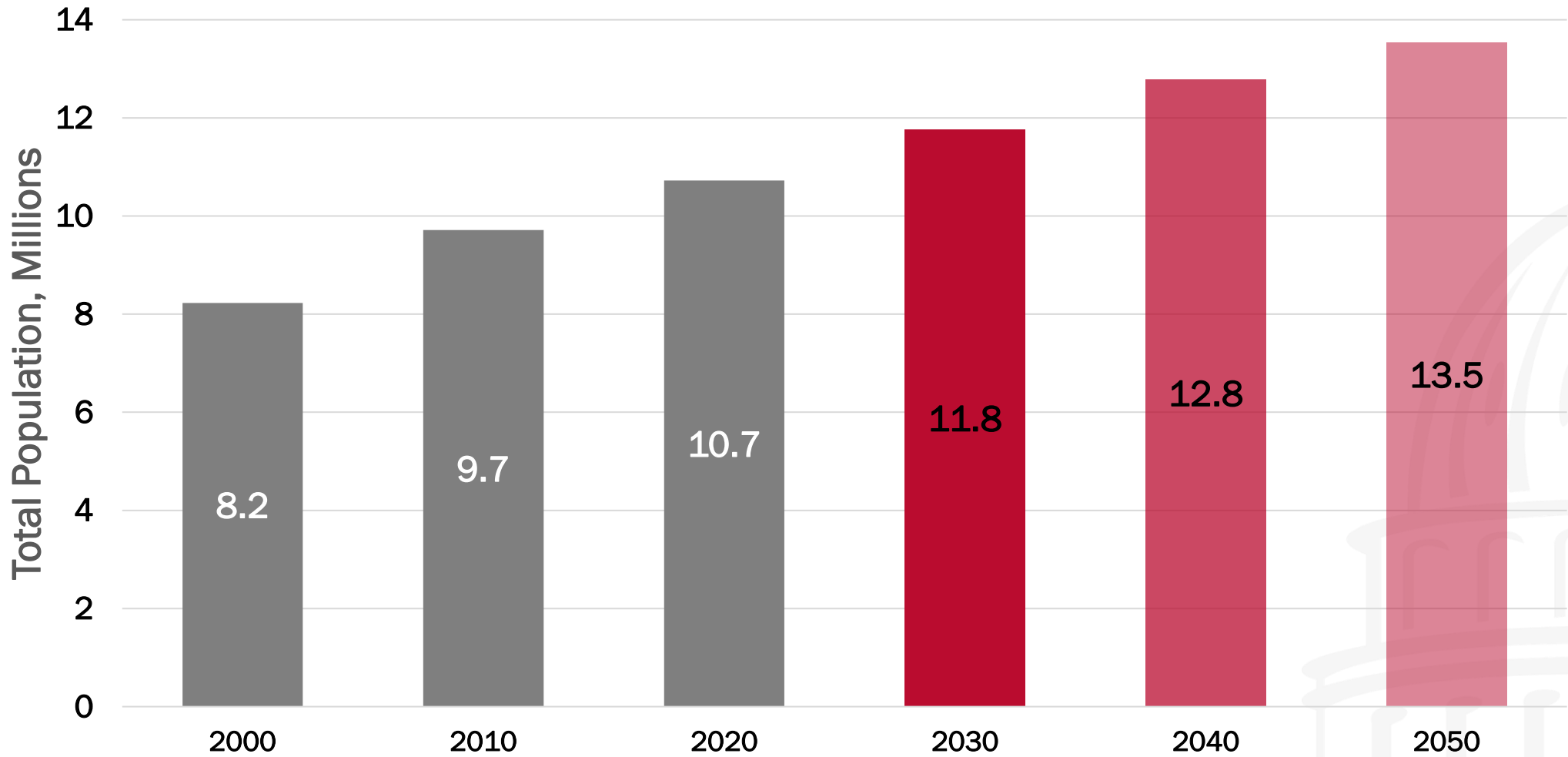
Racial and  
Ethnic Diversity



Aging  
Population



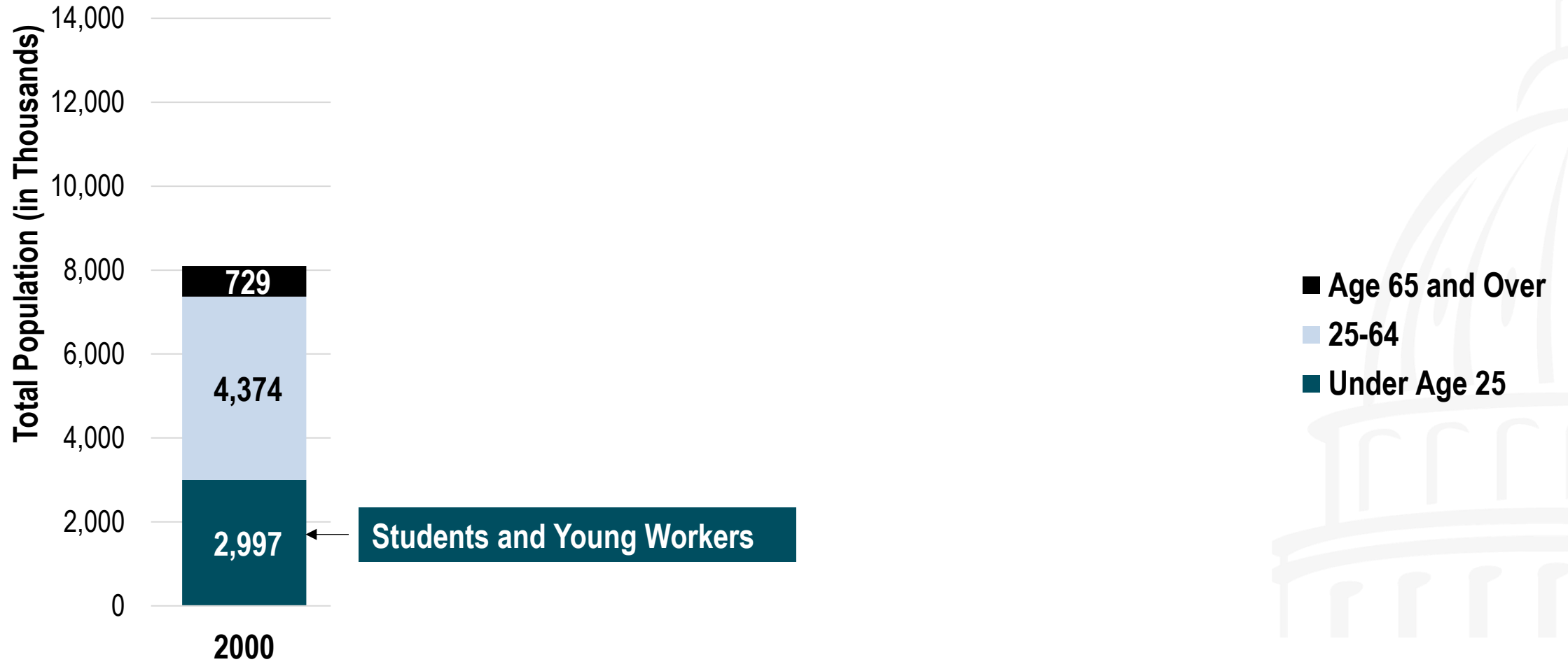
# Georgia's Projected Population through 2050



# Georgia's Population is Aging



# Georgia's Population is Aging



# Georgia's Population is Aging

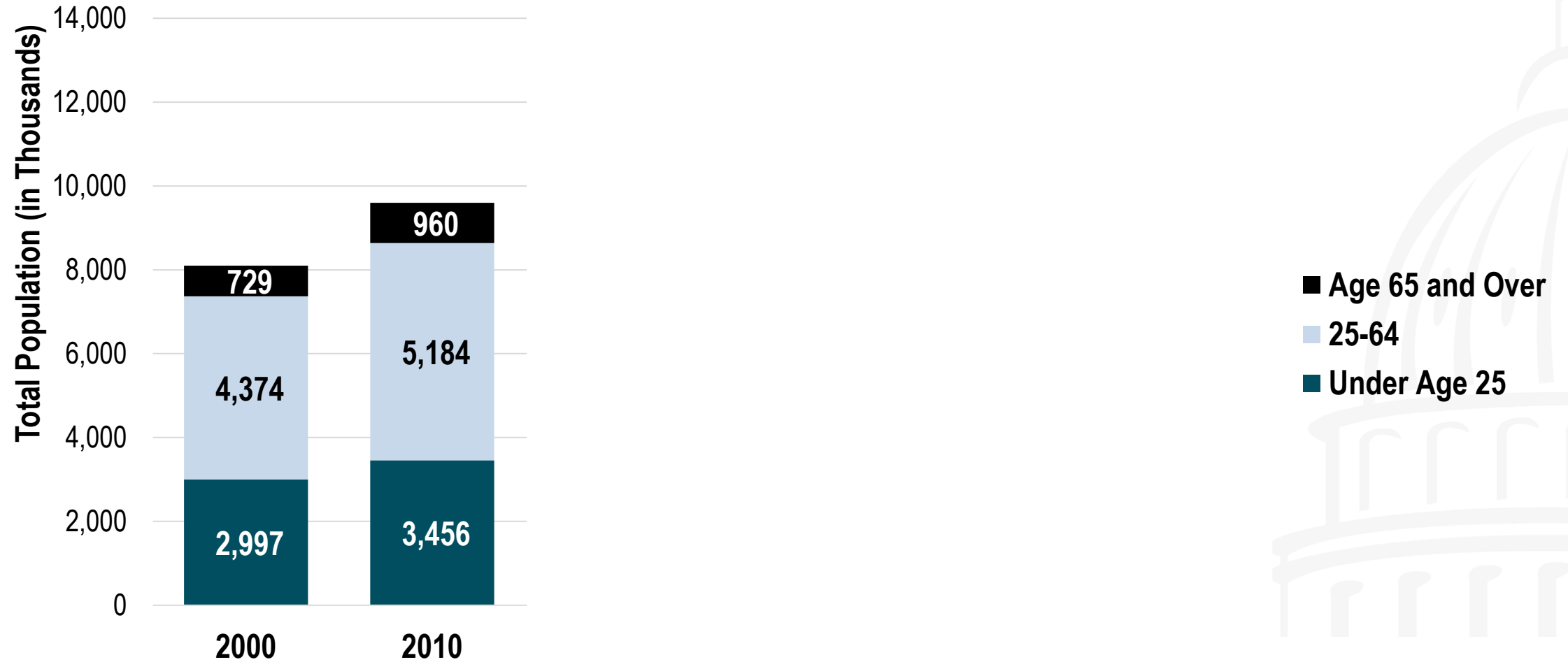


# Georgia's Population is Aging



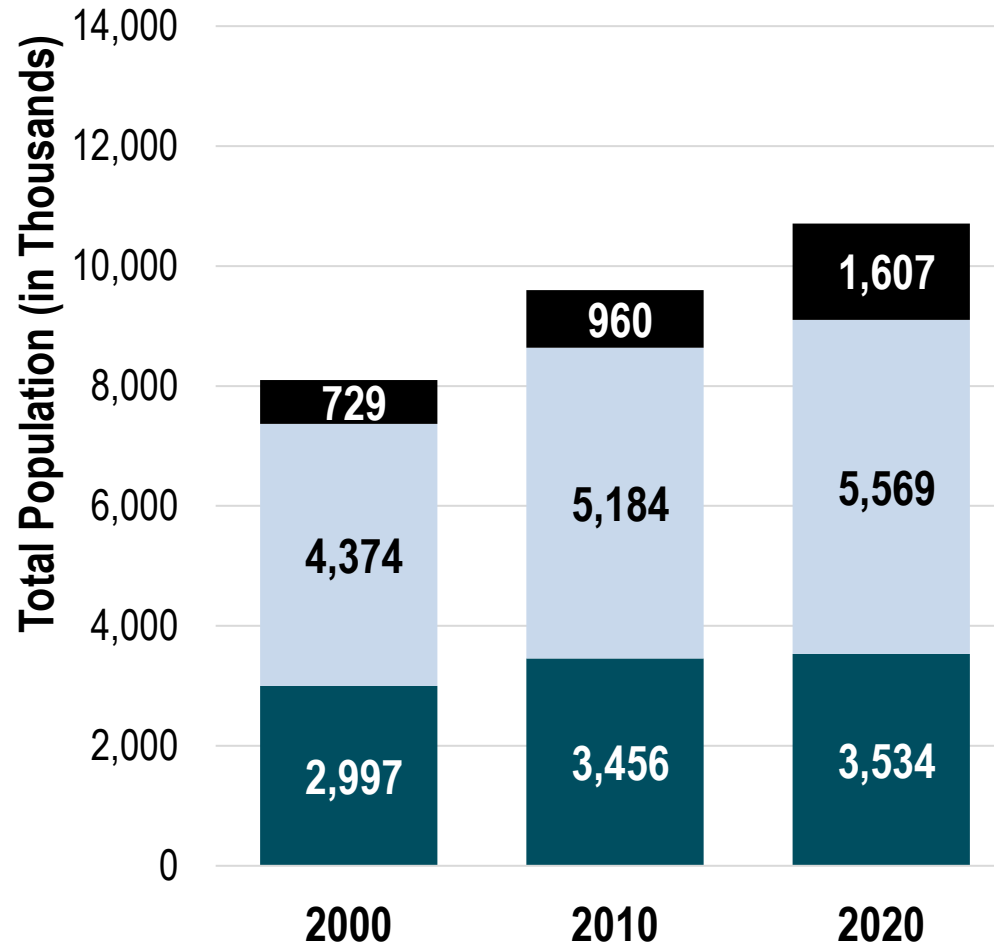
Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2024 Series Population Projections

# Georgia's Population is Aging



Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2024 Series Population Projections

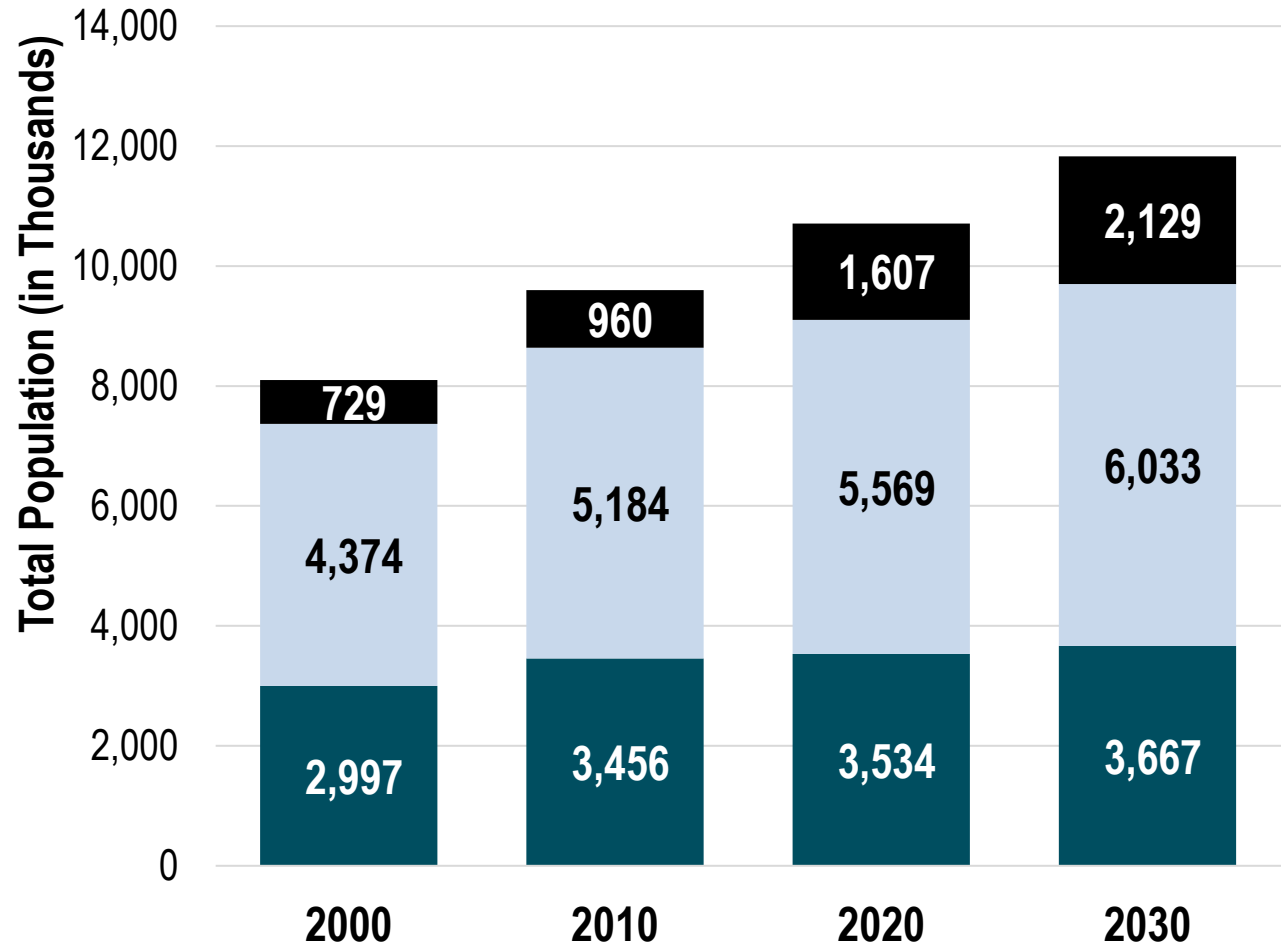
# Georgia's Population is Aging



- Age 65 and Over
- 25-64
- Under Age 25

Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2024 Series Population Projections

# Georgia's Population is Aging

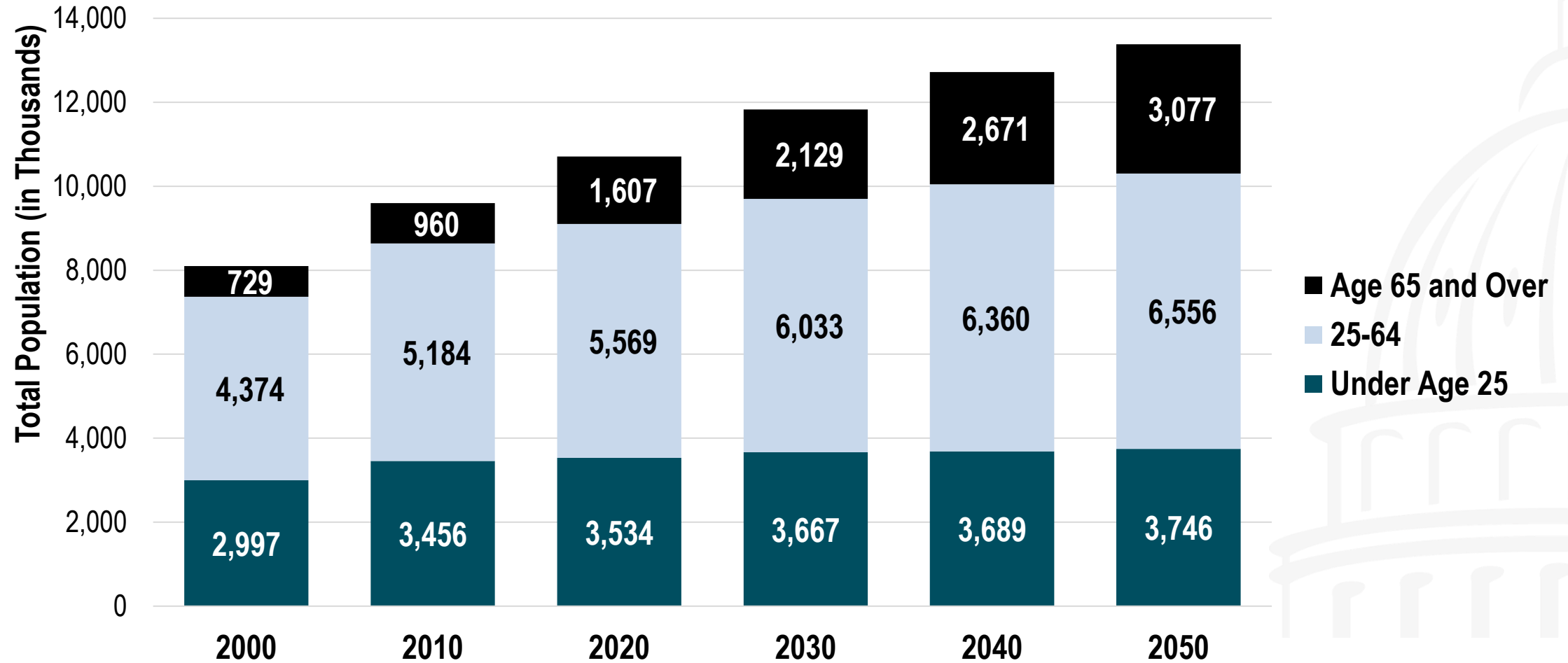


- Age 65 and Over
- 25-64
- Under Age 25

Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2024 Series Population Projections

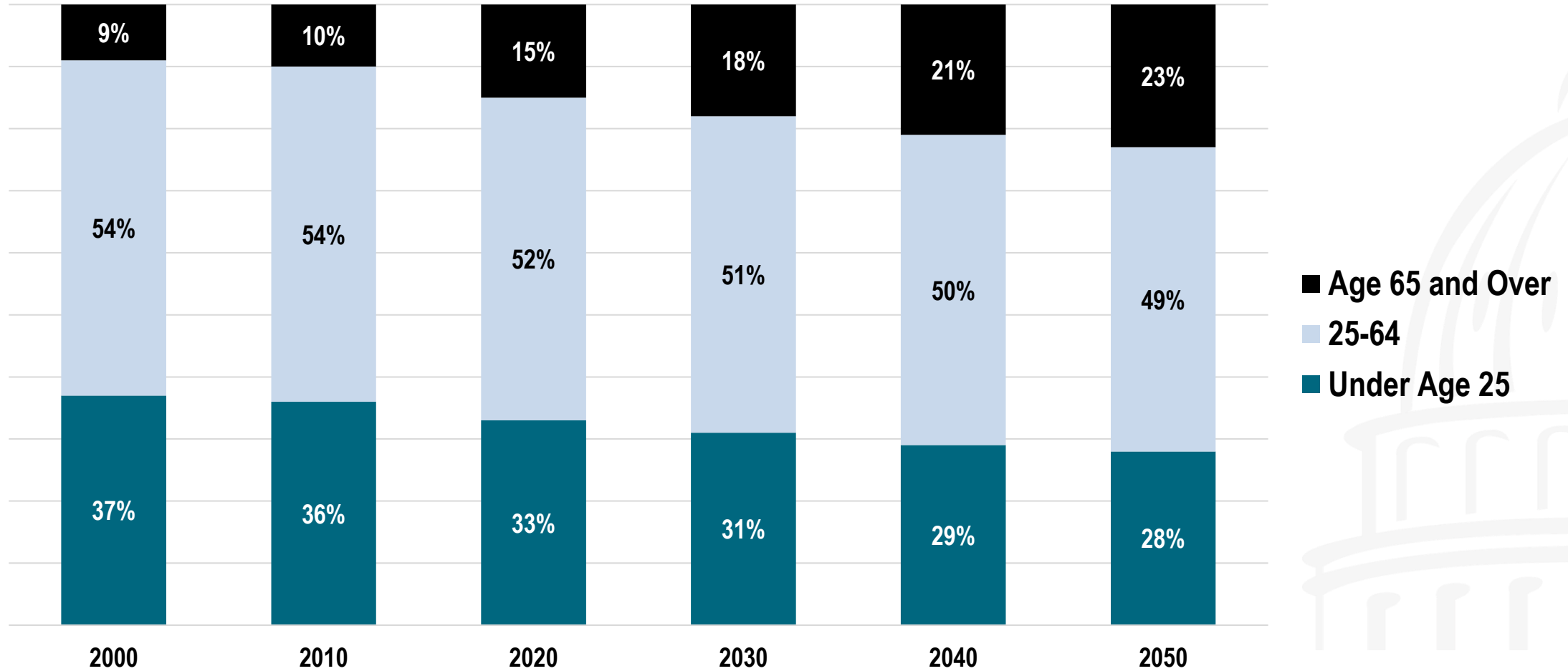


# Georgia's Population is Aging



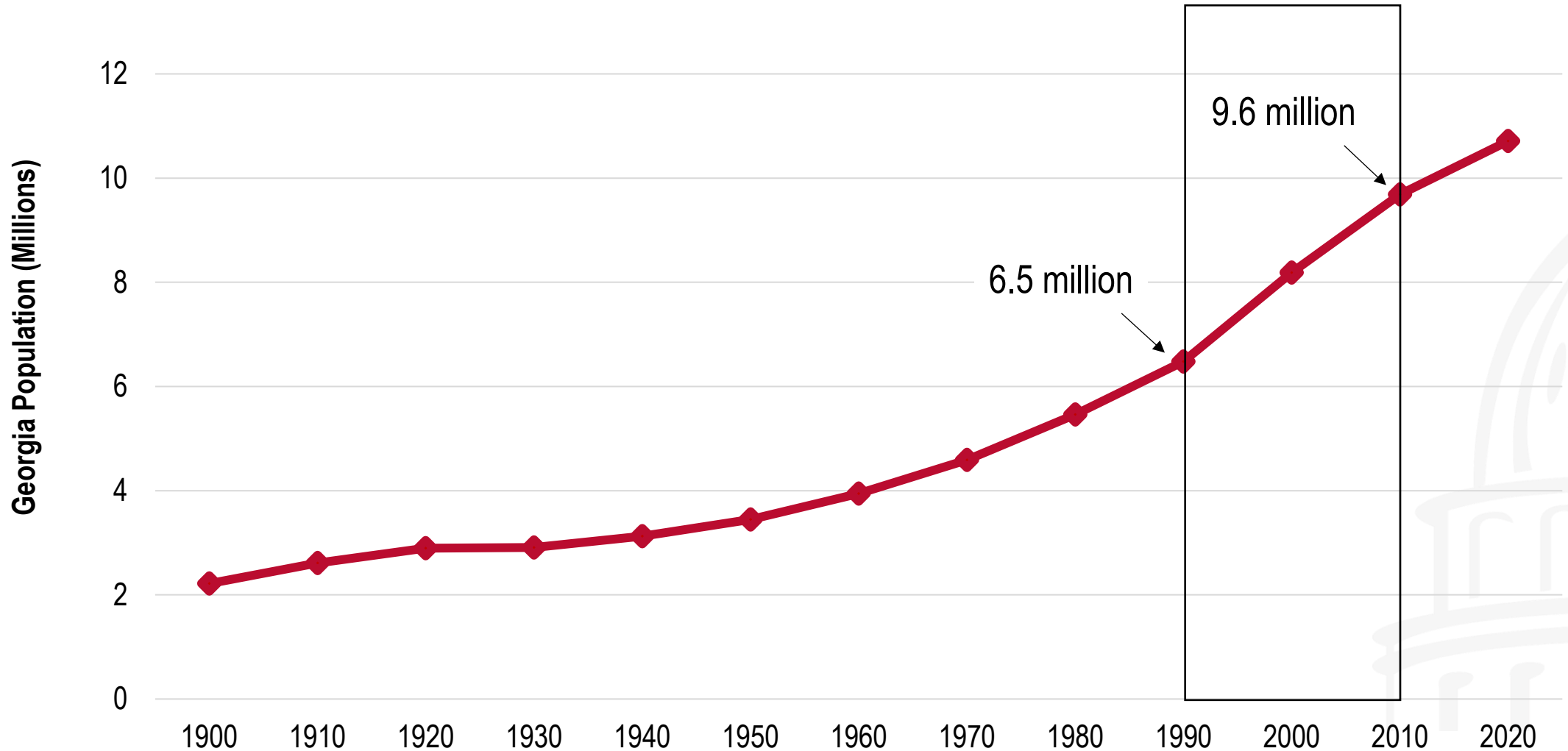
Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2024 Series Population Projections

# Georgia's Changing Age Distribution



# Why is Georgia's population aging?

# Three Million New Georgians in Two Decades



# Georgia's Demographic Trends, In Summary

- Georgia's Population Growth has slowed
  - Remains among fastest and largest growing states in the country
  - Domestic migration drives Georgia's population growth
- Georgia's Demographics are Attractive to Economic Development
  - Georgia has the 10<sup>th</sup> youngest median age
- Aging Population
  - Over age 65 population is growing faster than rest of state
- Racial and Ethnic Transition
  - Especially among younger generations
- Suburban and Exurban areas projected to experience fastest growth in next 20 years

# questions?

---

Taylor Hafley  
Applied Demographer  
taylor.hafley@uga.edu



**34<sup>th</sup> Biennial Institute**  
**FOR Georgia Legislators**