



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

Carl Vinson
Institute of Government

Rural Georgia in Focus

David Tanner, Associate Director
September 1, 2021

US POPULATON: Lower Growth Expectations

Census Bureau, CBO, Others Lower Outlook For U.S.

Fewer Americans

Projected U.S. population

410 million

400

390

380

370

360

350

340

330

320

2016 projection

2019 projection

Sept., 2020
projection

Census 2020 US total population was 331,449,281



Source: Congressional Budget Office

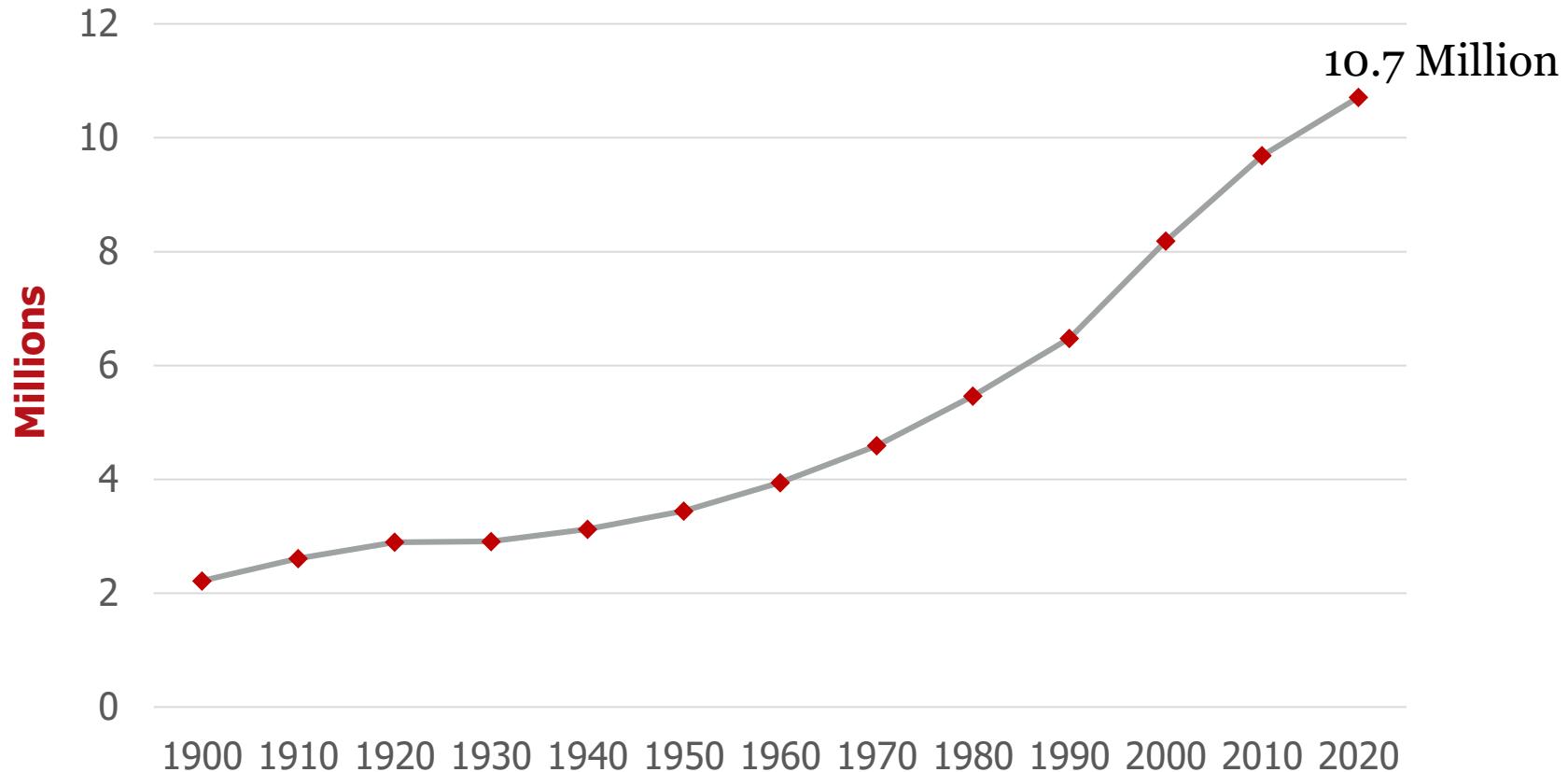


Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

US Population Change 2010-2020 7.3%

Slowest growth since the Great Depression

Population of Georgia, 1900-2020



Source: US Census Bureau



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

What is rural? How rural is Georgia?

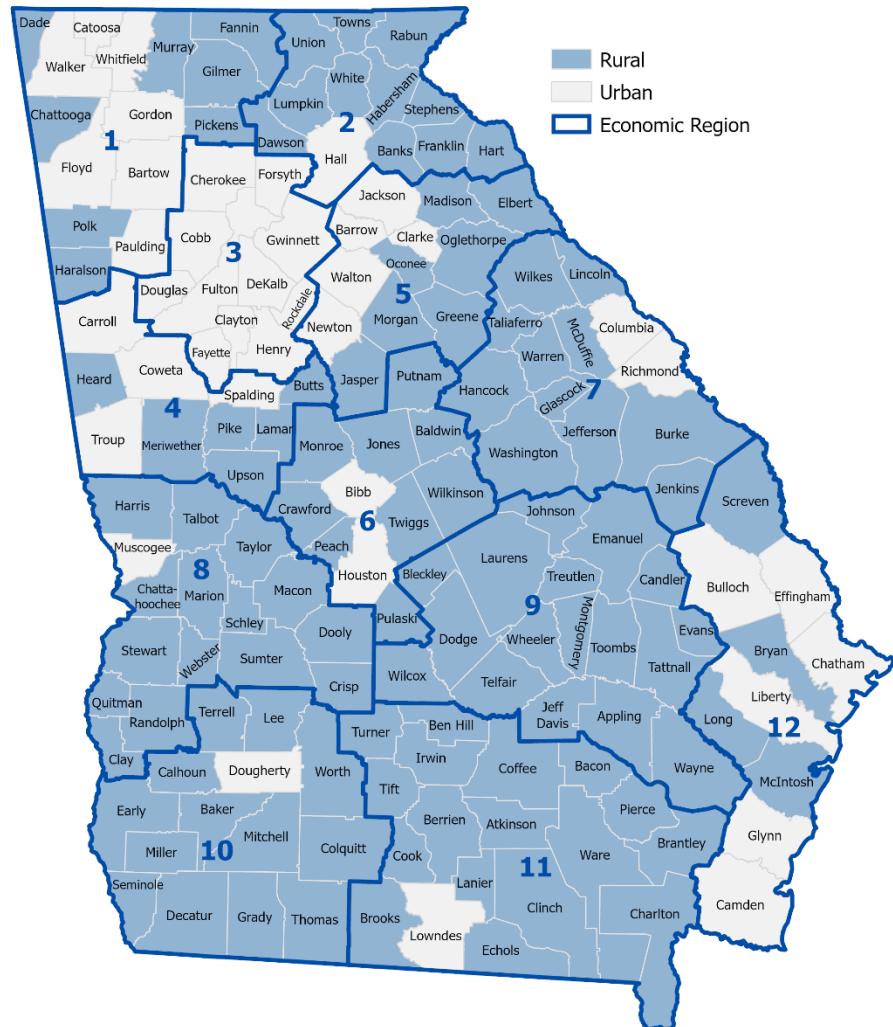
Urban Counties
39
75% of population in 2010

Urban Counties
39
79% of population in 2020

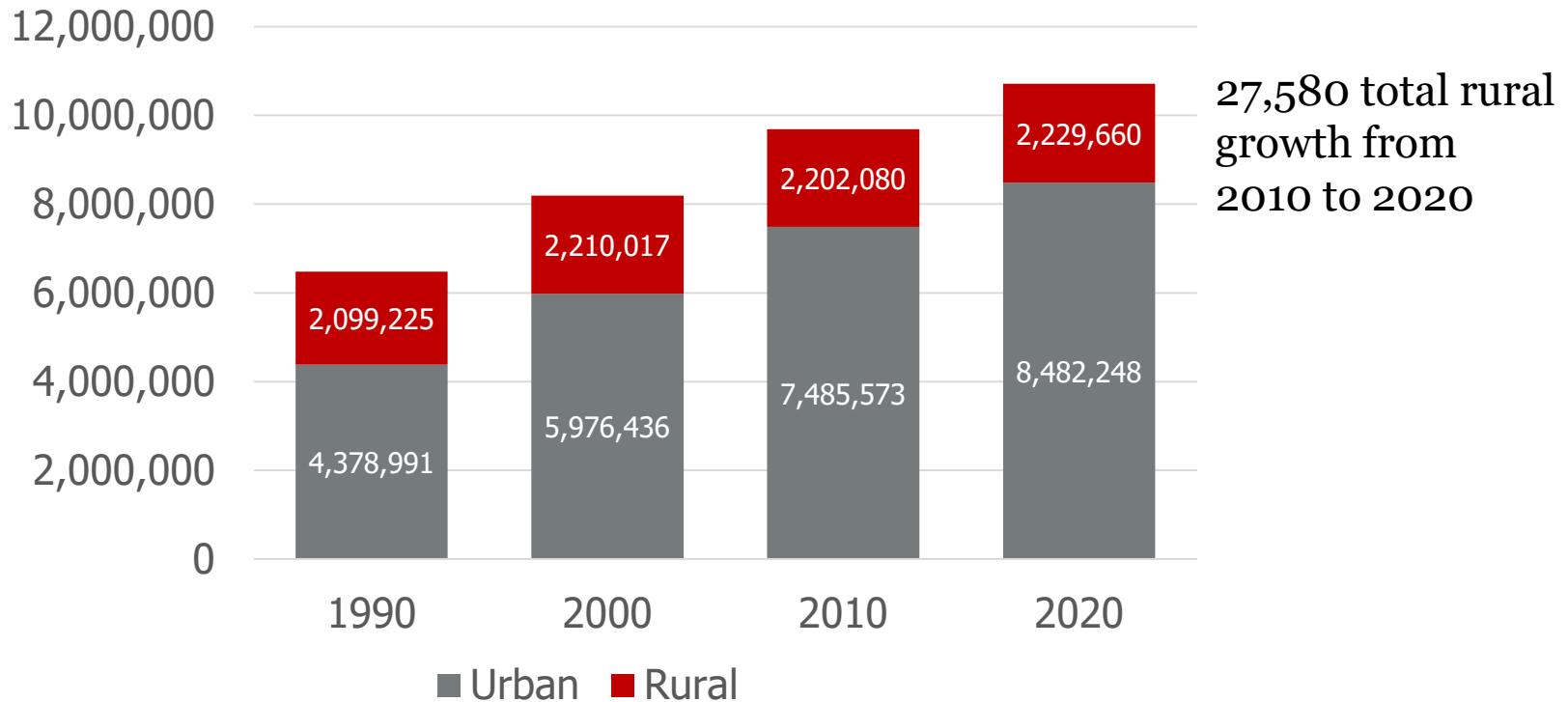
Rural Counties
120
25% of population in 2010

Rural Counties
120
21% of population in 2020

Source: Georgia House Budget Office; Georgia Department of Community Health, State Office of Rural Health; U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census; 2020 Census



Urban/Rural Growth 1990-2020



Based on the 2020 census data, if we removed rural counties in the North Georgia Mountains, Metro Atlanta border counties, and Bryan County, rural population declined by almost 38,000

Source: US Census Bureau

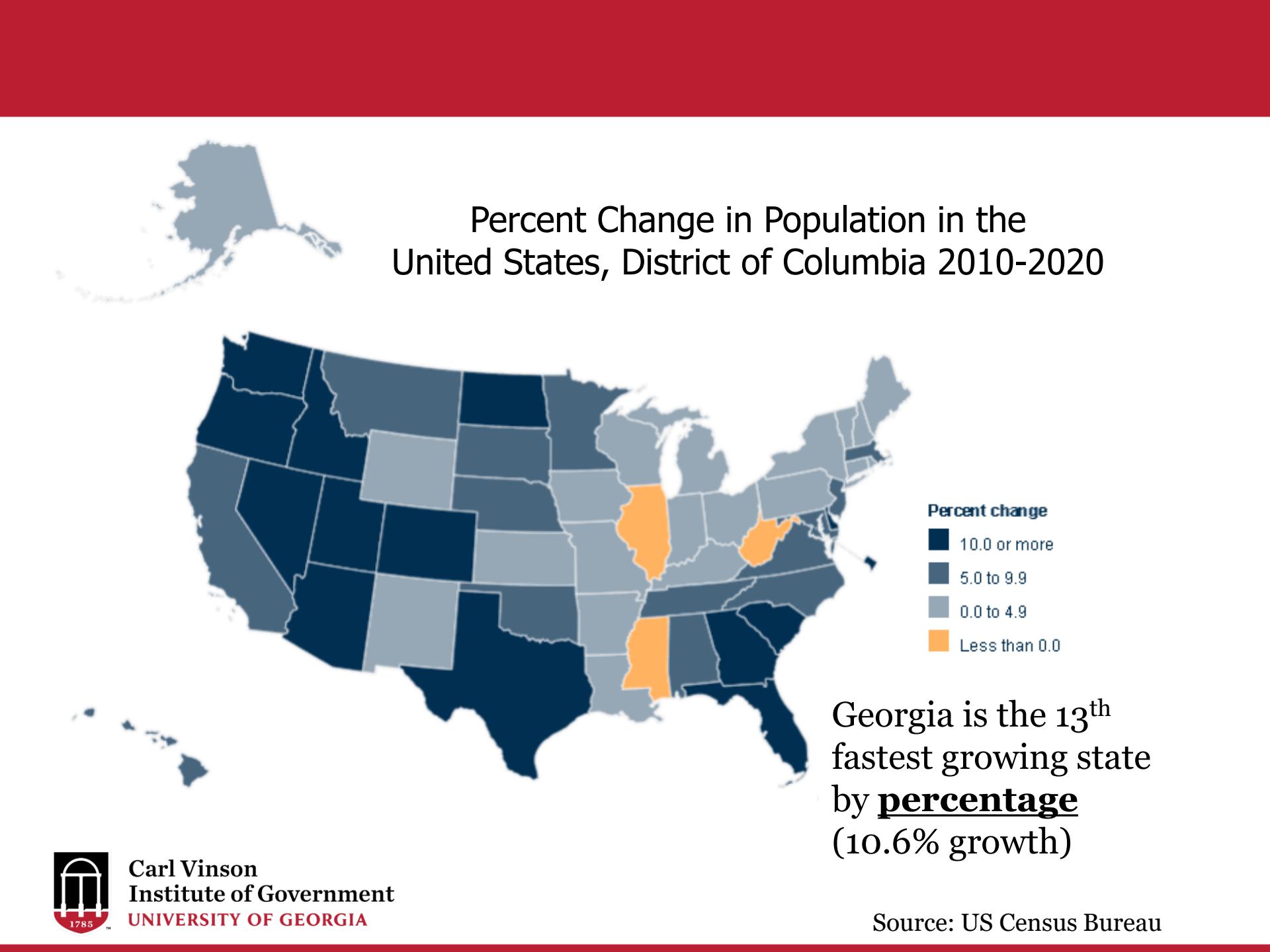


2010-2020

Demographic changes over the past 10 years



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Percent Change in Population in the United States, District of Columbia 2010-2020

Percent change

- 10.0 or more
- 5.0 to 9.9
- 0.0 to 4.9
- Less than 0.0

Georgia is the 13th
fastest growing state
by **percentage**
(10.6% growth)

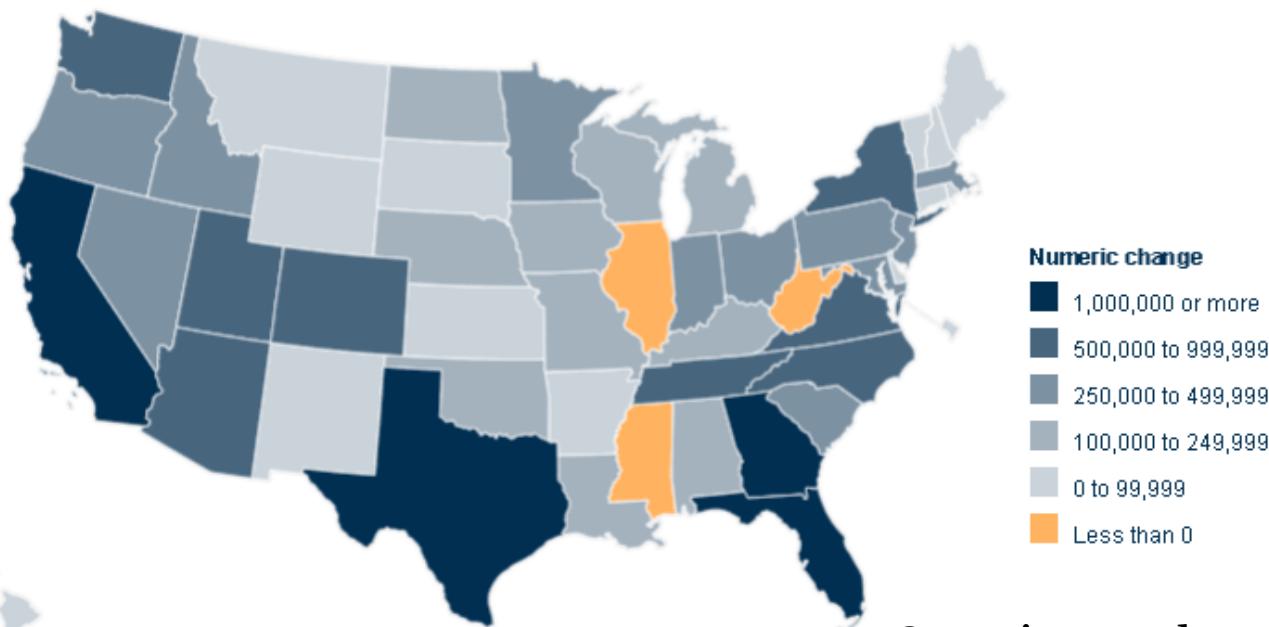


Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Source: US Census Bureau



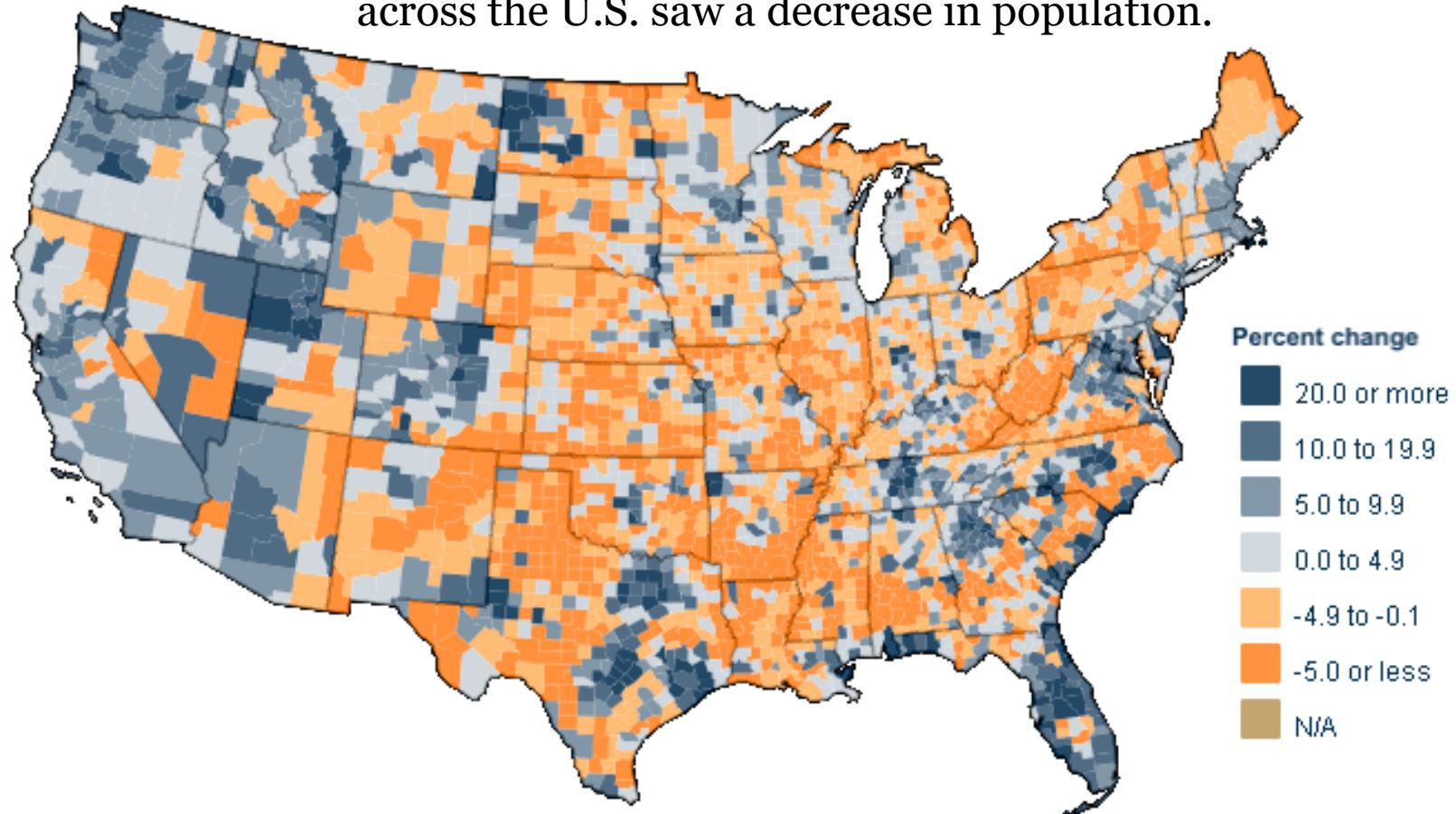
Numeric Change in Population in the United States, District of Columbia 2010-2020



Georgia was the 4th fastest growing state by **numeric change** only behind Texas, Florida, and California

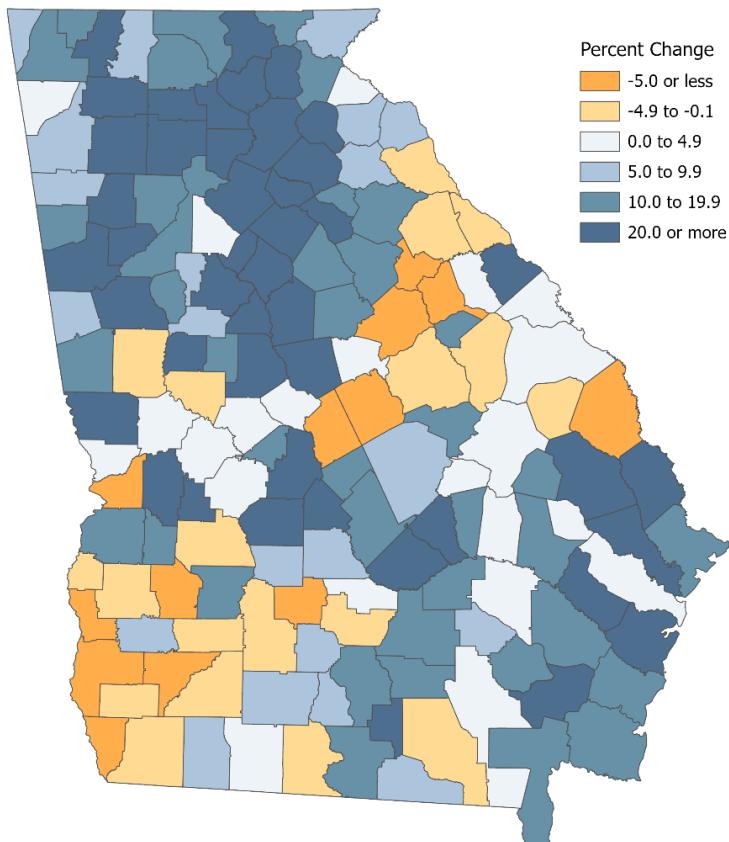


In the 2020 Census 1,660 counties across the US declined over the past decade. In the 2010 Census 1,082 counties across the U.S. saw a decrease in population.

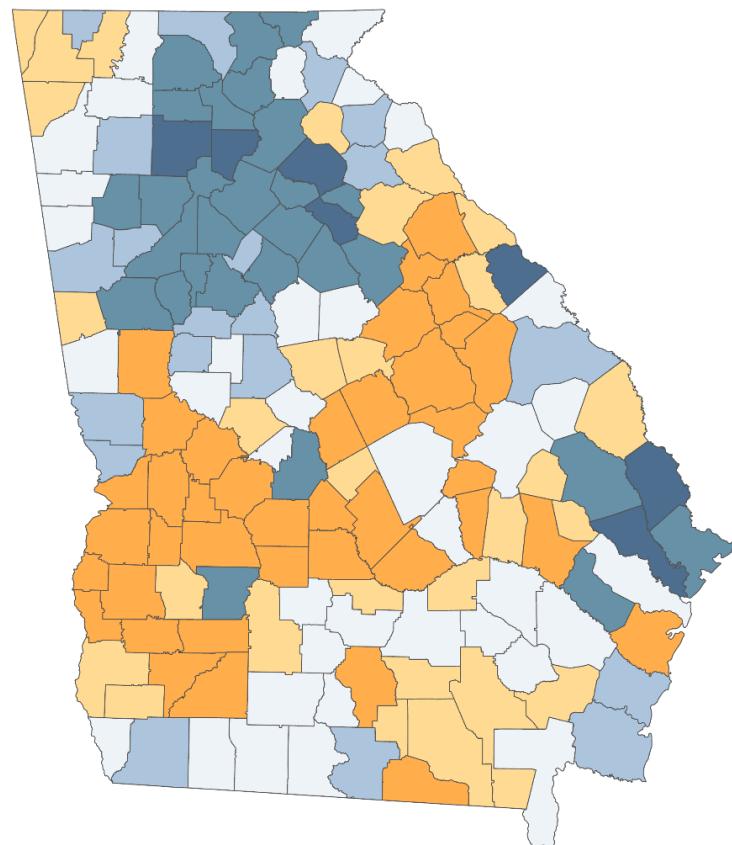


Population Growth in North Georgia, Metro Atlanta, Regional Hubs, and Coastal Georgia

2000–2010



2010–2020

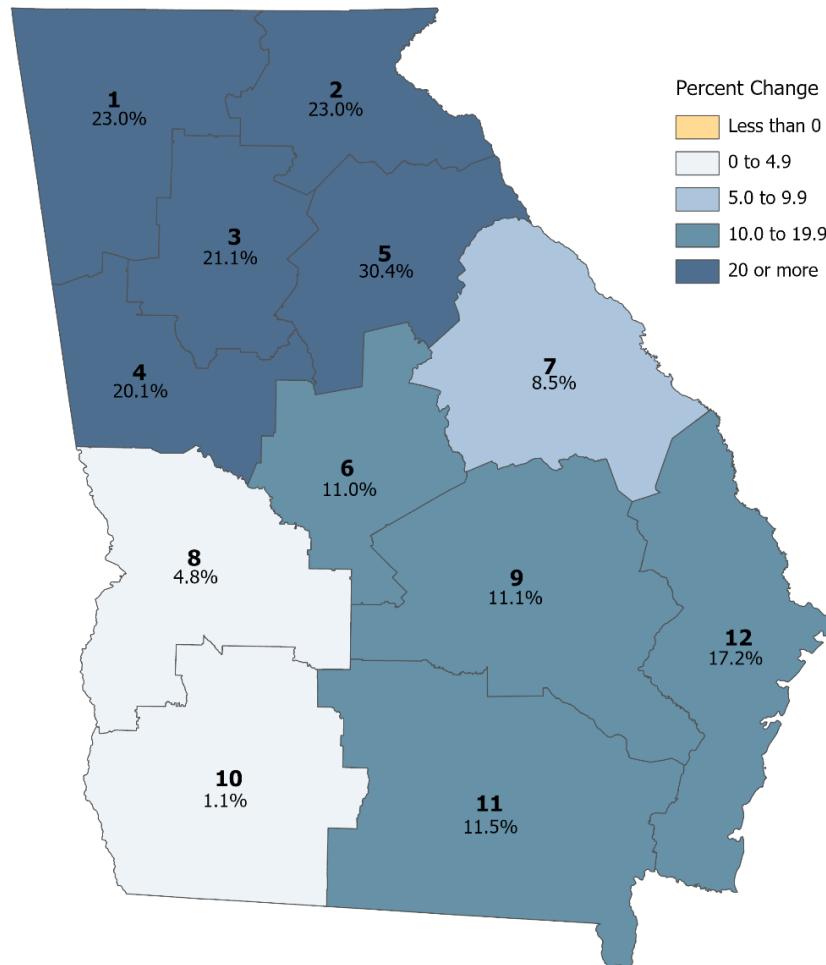


Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

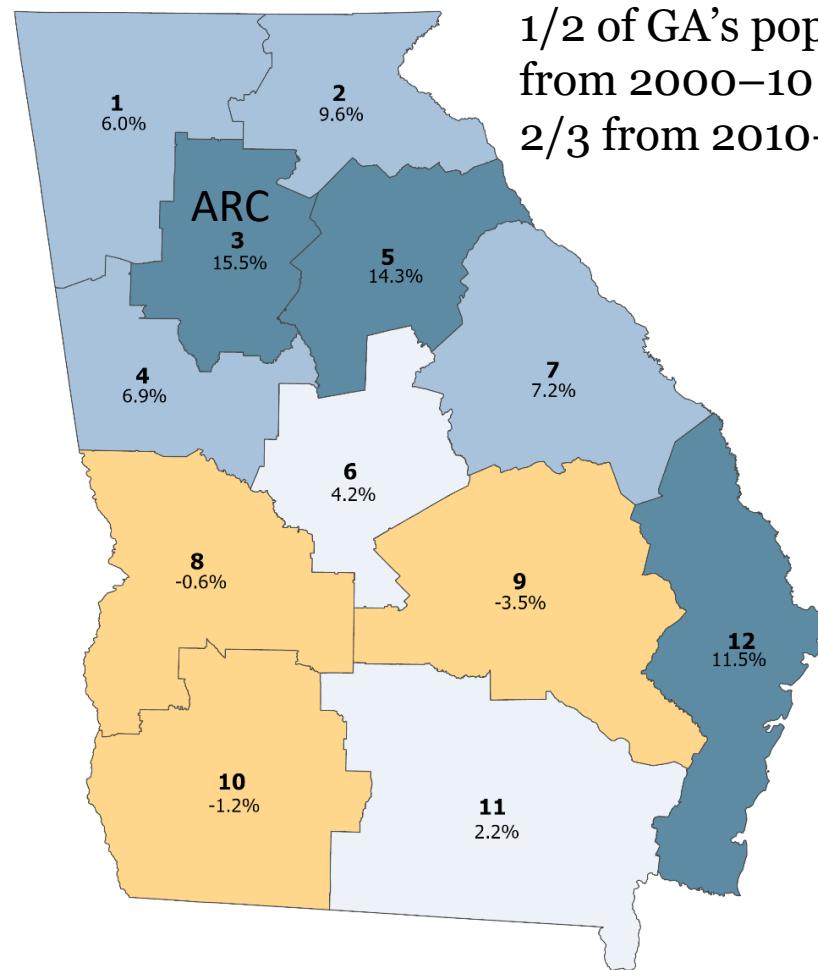
Source: US Census Bureau

Population Change by Regional Commission

2000–2010



2010–2020



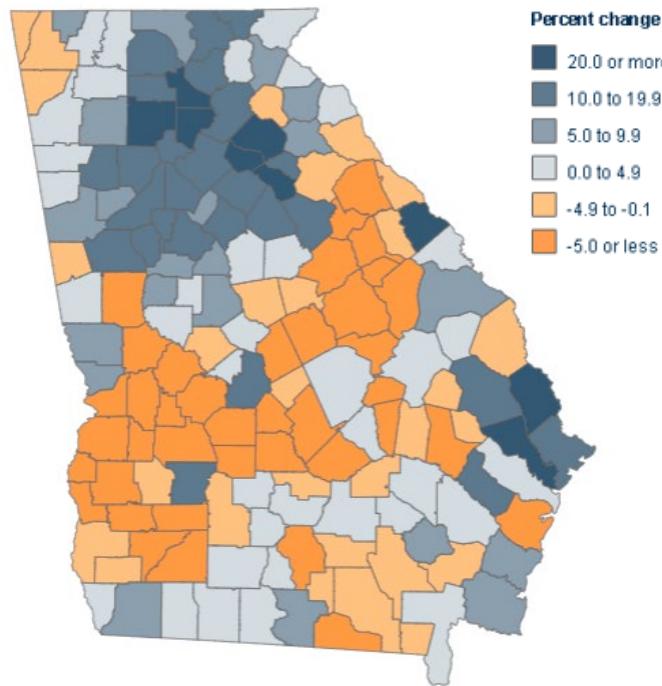
ARC accounted for
1/2 of GA's pop. growth
from 2000–10 and
2/3 from 2010–20



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Source: US Census Bureau

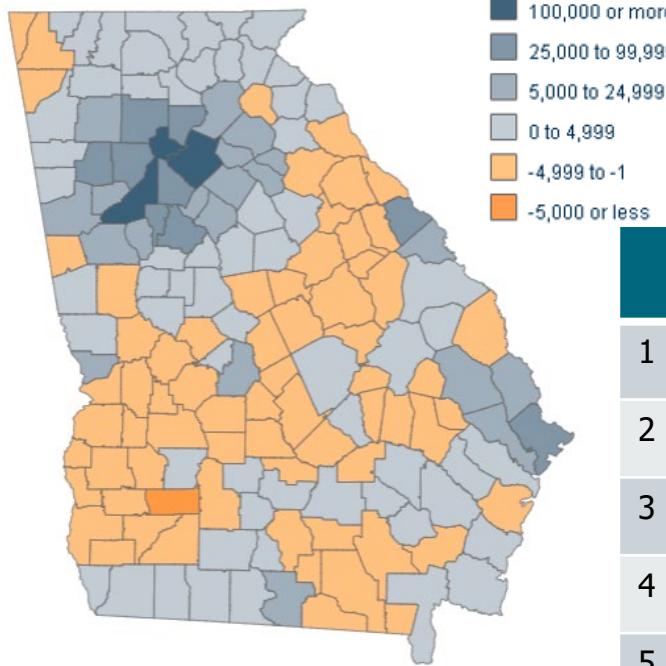
Percent Change in Population for Georgia Counties 2010-2020



	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

Numeric Change in Population for Georgia Counties 2010-2020



Source: US Census Bureau

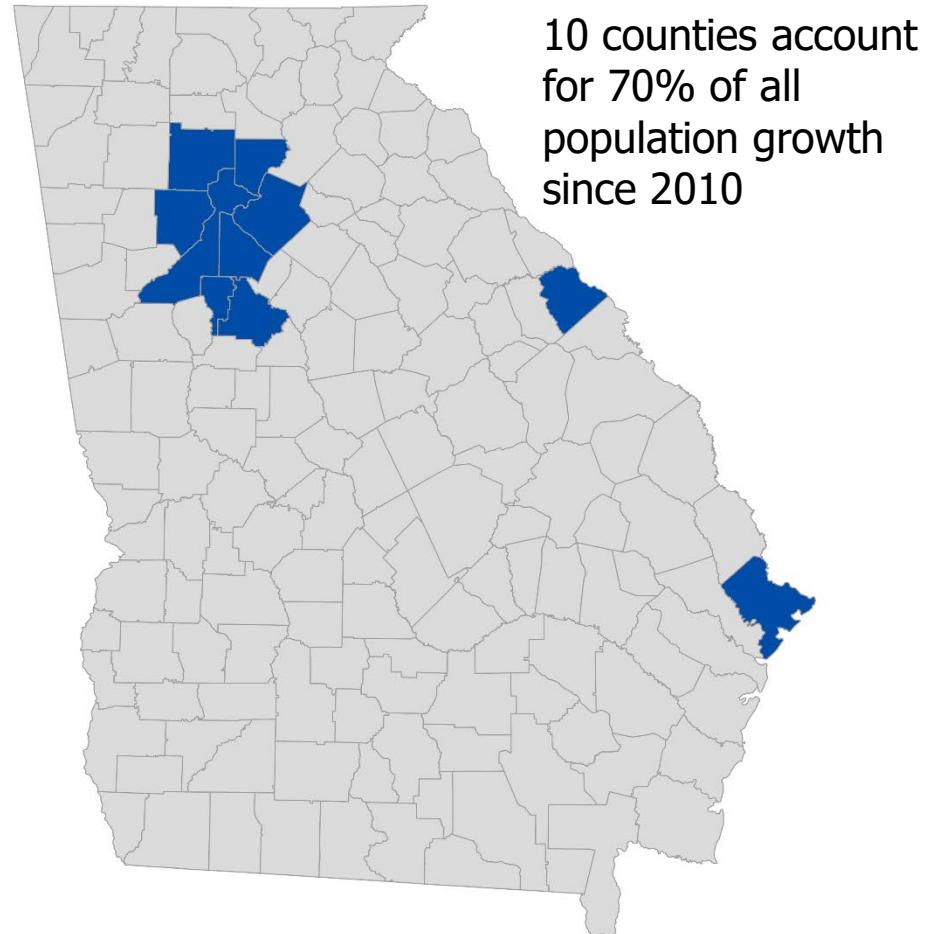
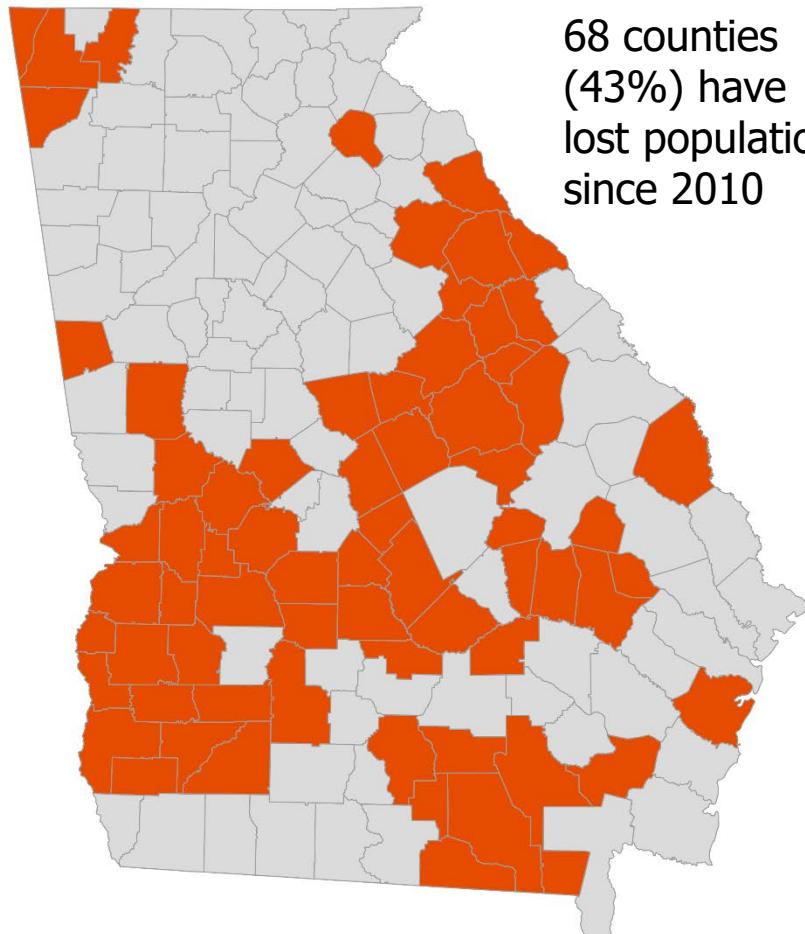


**Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

	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
6	Cherokee County	52,274
7	Clayton County	38,171
8	Henry County	36,790
9	Columbia County	31,957
10	Chatham County	30,163

	Largest Numeric Decrease	#
150	Baldwin County	-1,921
151	Pulaski County	-2,155
152	Macon County	-2,658
153	Tattnall County	-2,678
154	Sumter County	-3,203
155	Crisp County	-3,311
156	McIntosh County	-3,358
157	Dooly County	-3,710
158	Telfair County	-4,023
159	Dougherty County	-8,775

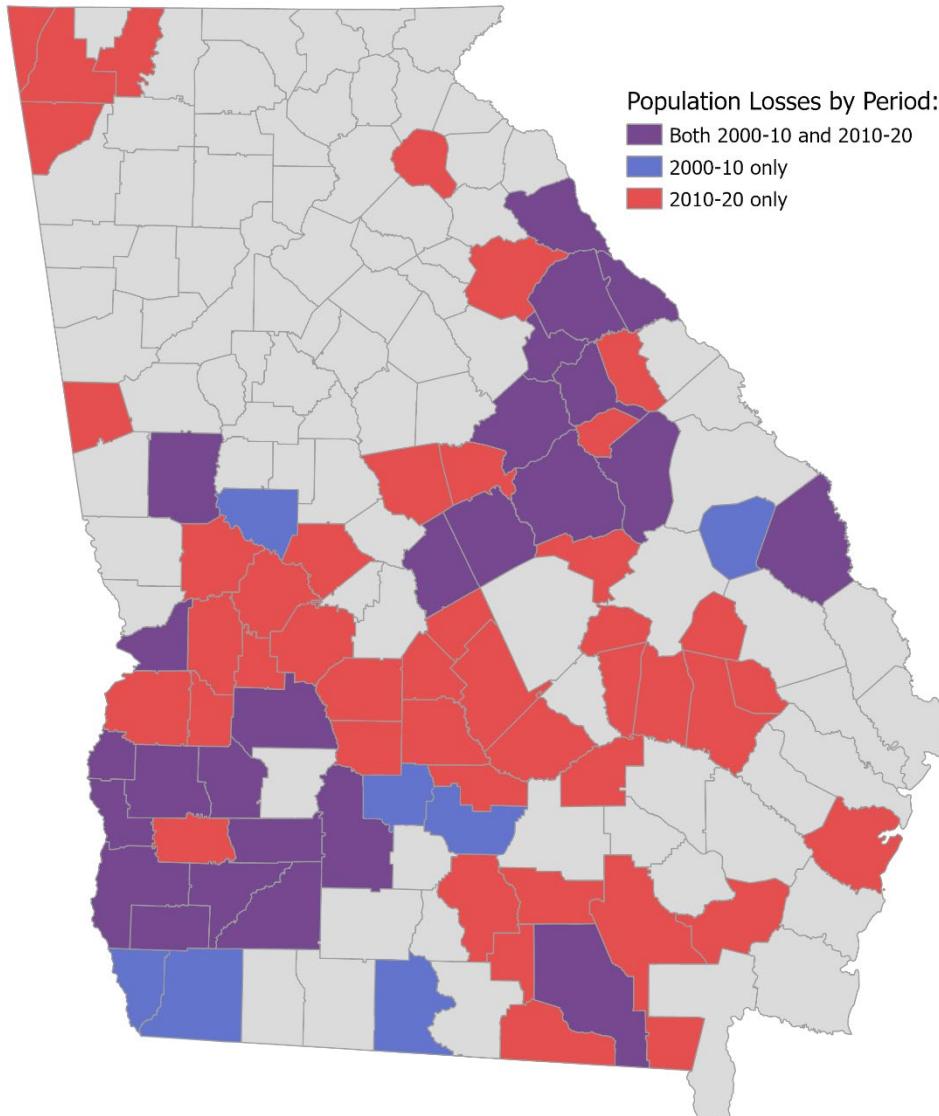
Change in Population, 2010-2020



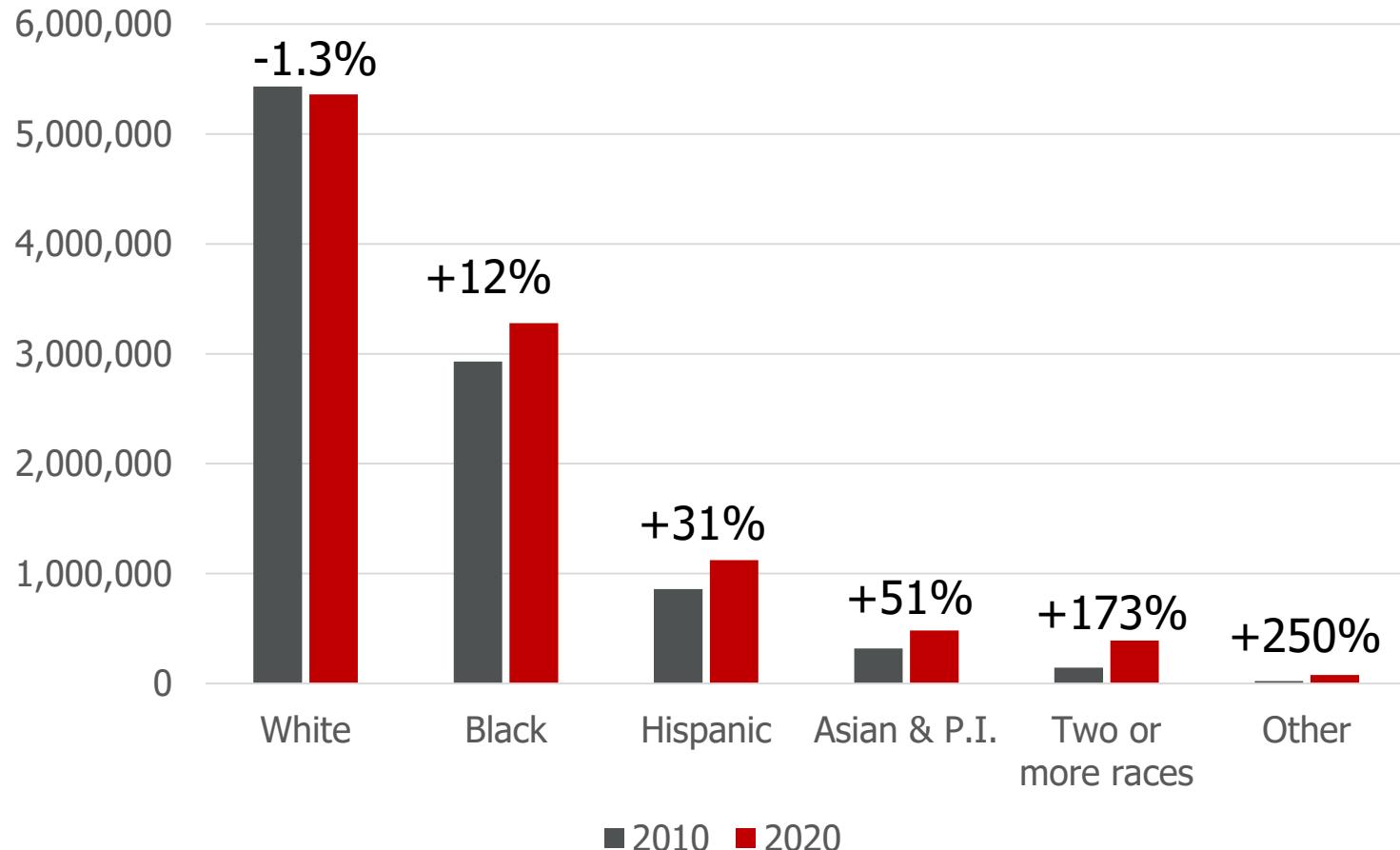
Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Source: US Census Bureau

25 counties show declining populations over the past 20 years

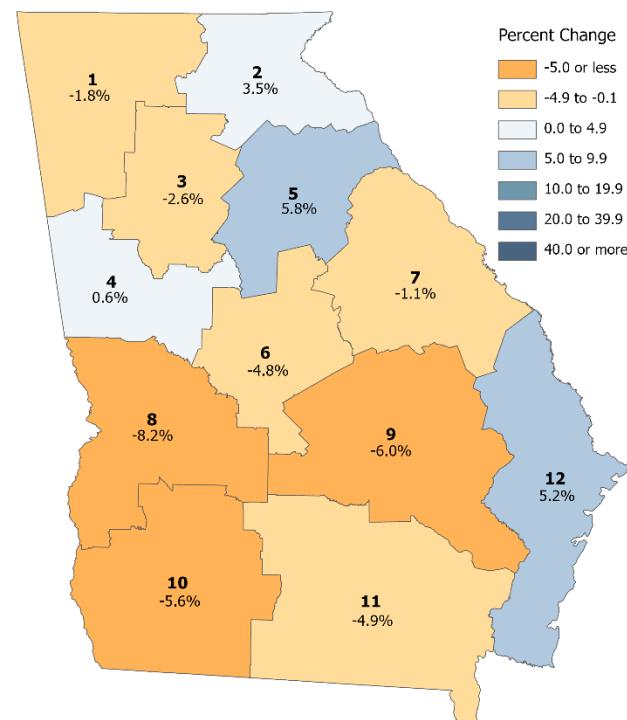


Breakdown of Racial Change

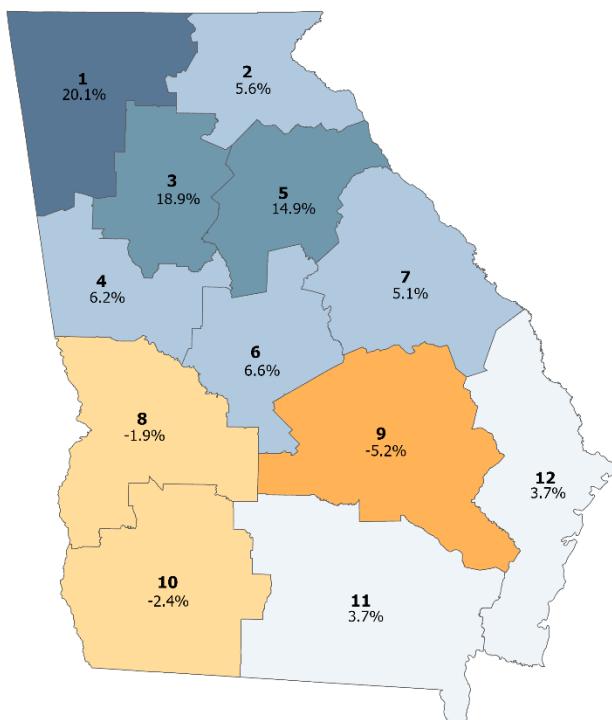


Racial Changes by Regional Commission, 2010 – 2020

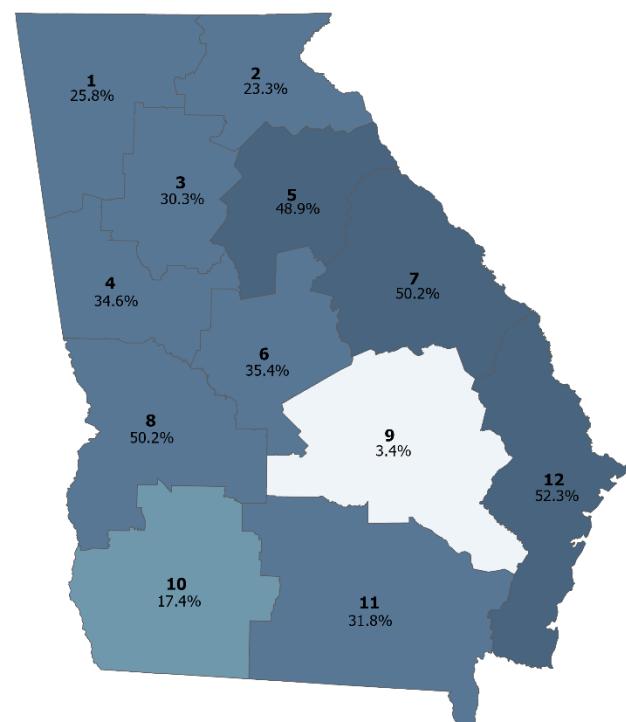
White



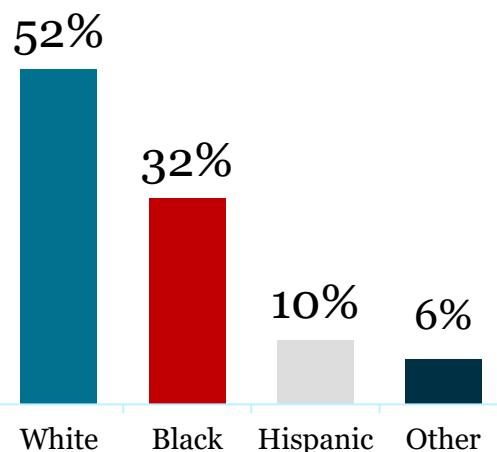
Black



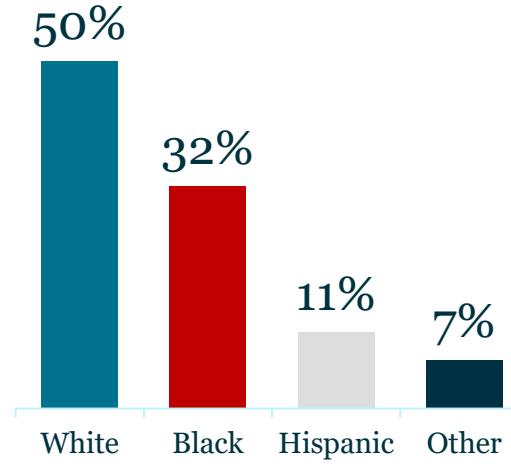
Hispanic



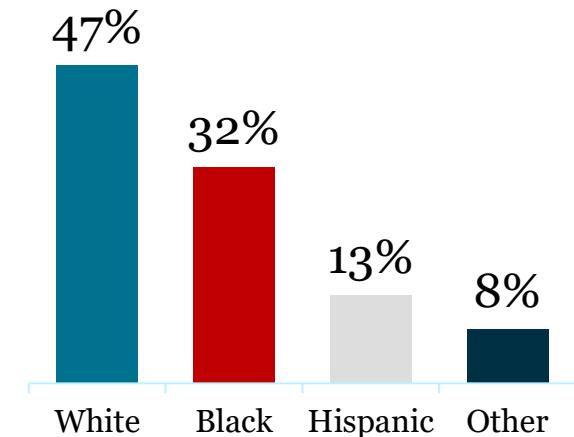
The trend in greater race and ethnic diversity is projected to continue.



2020



2030



2040

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Governor's Office of Planning and Budget Population Projections (2020 Series).



Components of Population Change

Births



Deaths



Migration



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

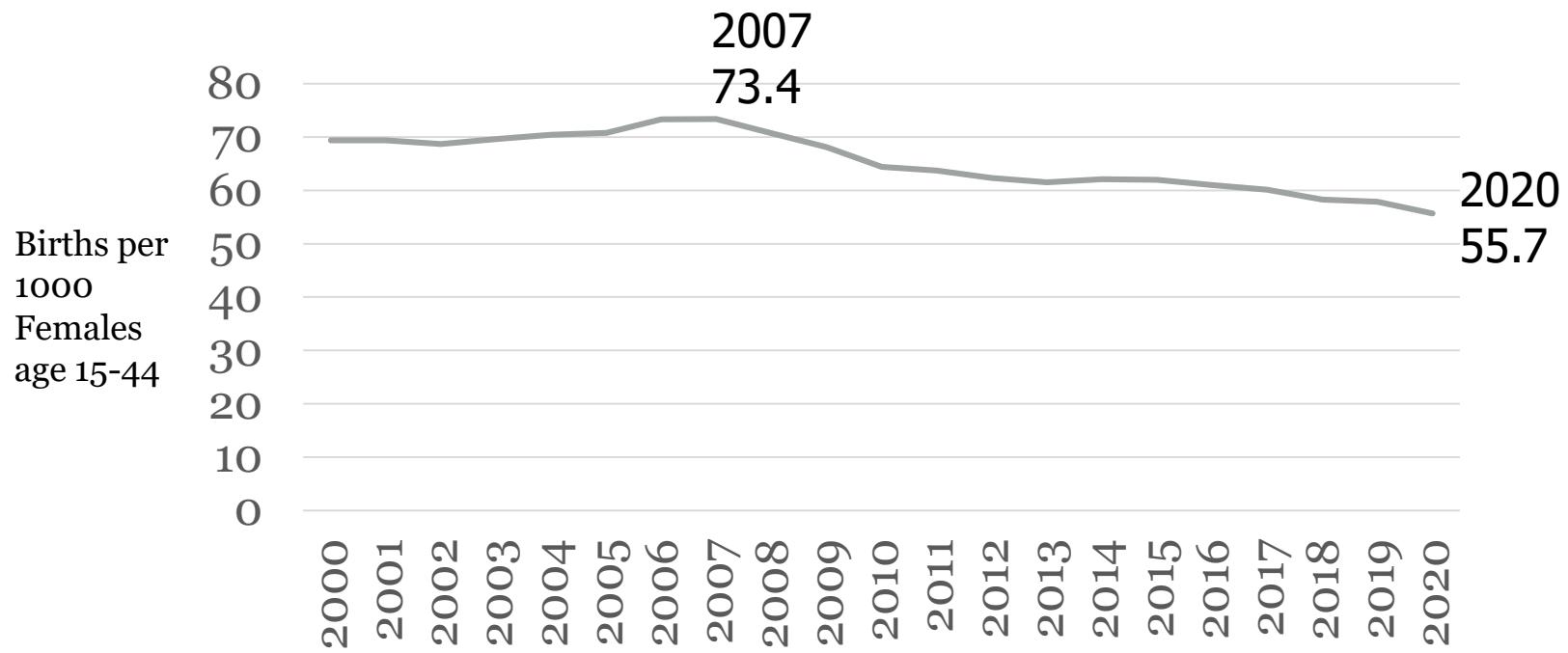
[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)



Carl Vinson Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT

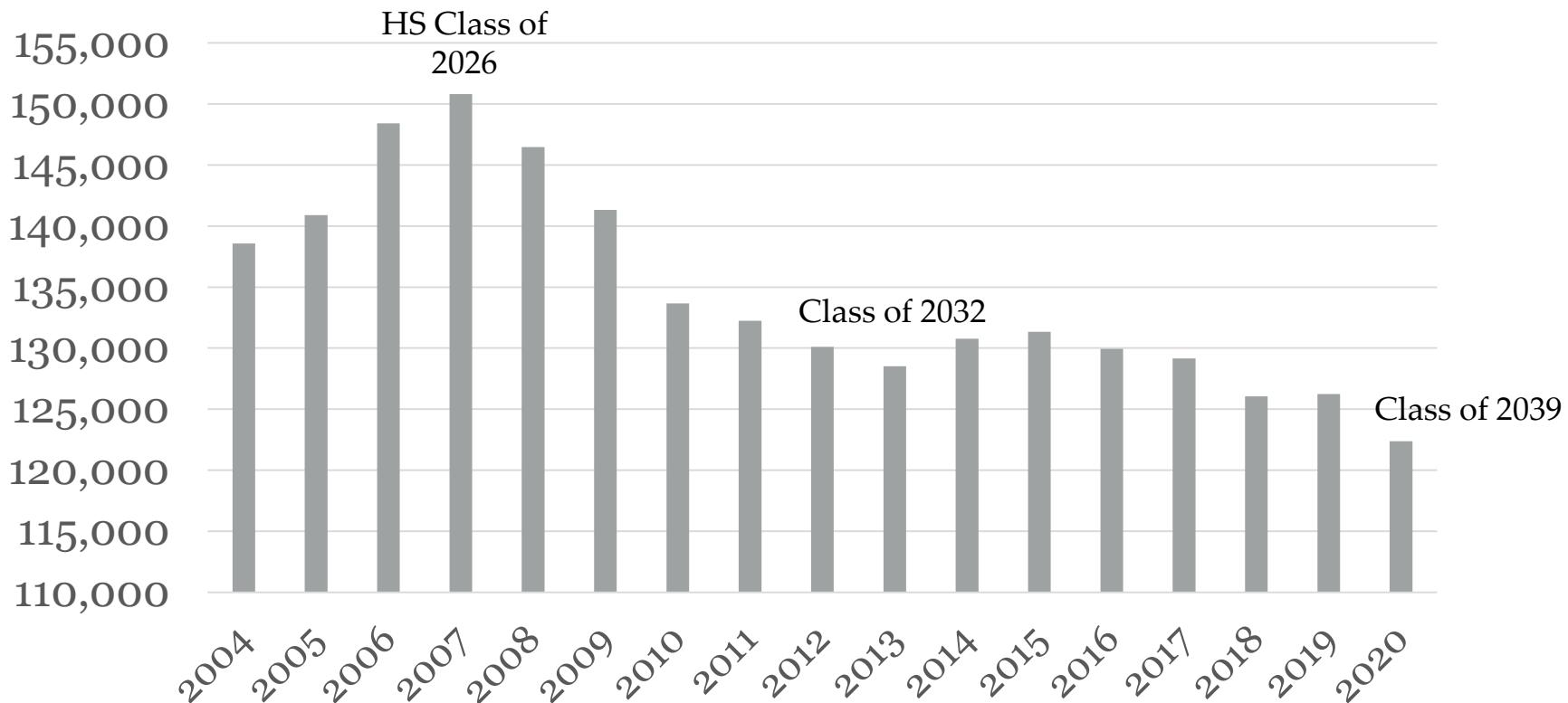
Birth rates have been declining since 2007



GEORGIA	2015-2019	2018	2019	2020
General Fertility Rate	59.8	58.3	57.9	55.7
Number of births	128,546 / yr.	126,051	126,250	122,379

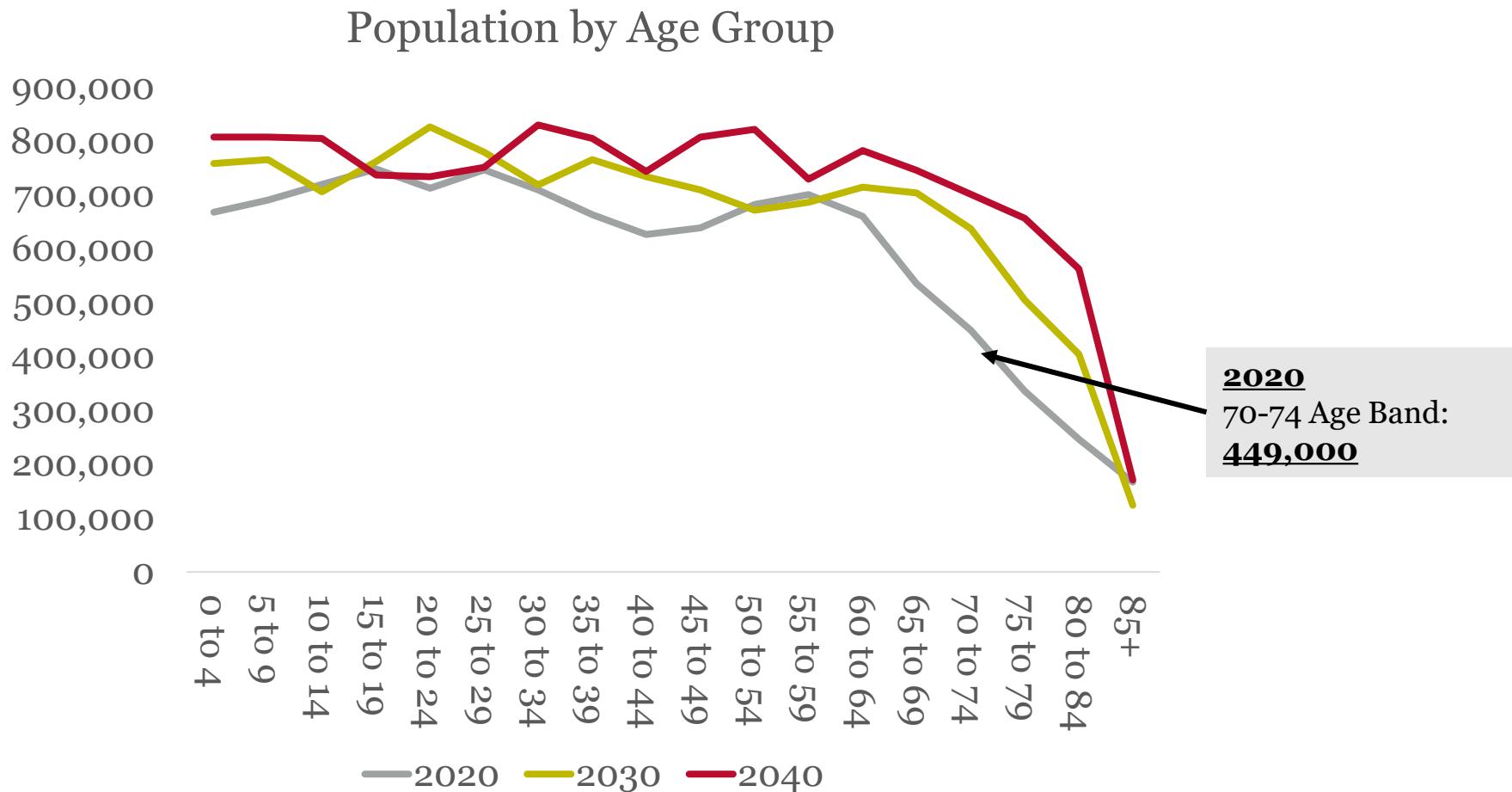
Source: Georgia Department of Public Health

Let's look at births another way



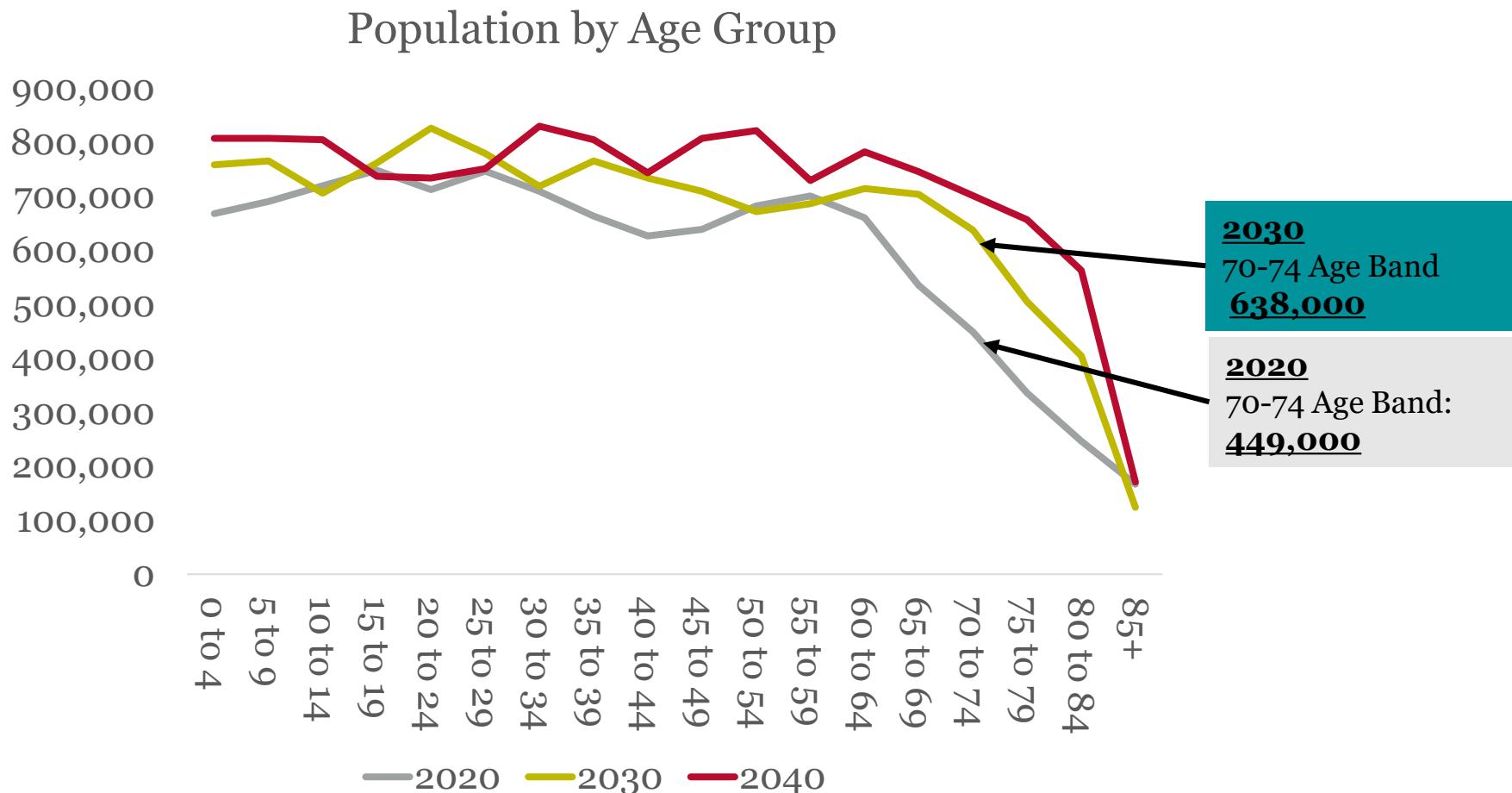
Source: Georgia Department of Public Health, OASIS

Georgia is aging, but we are still growing in overall population



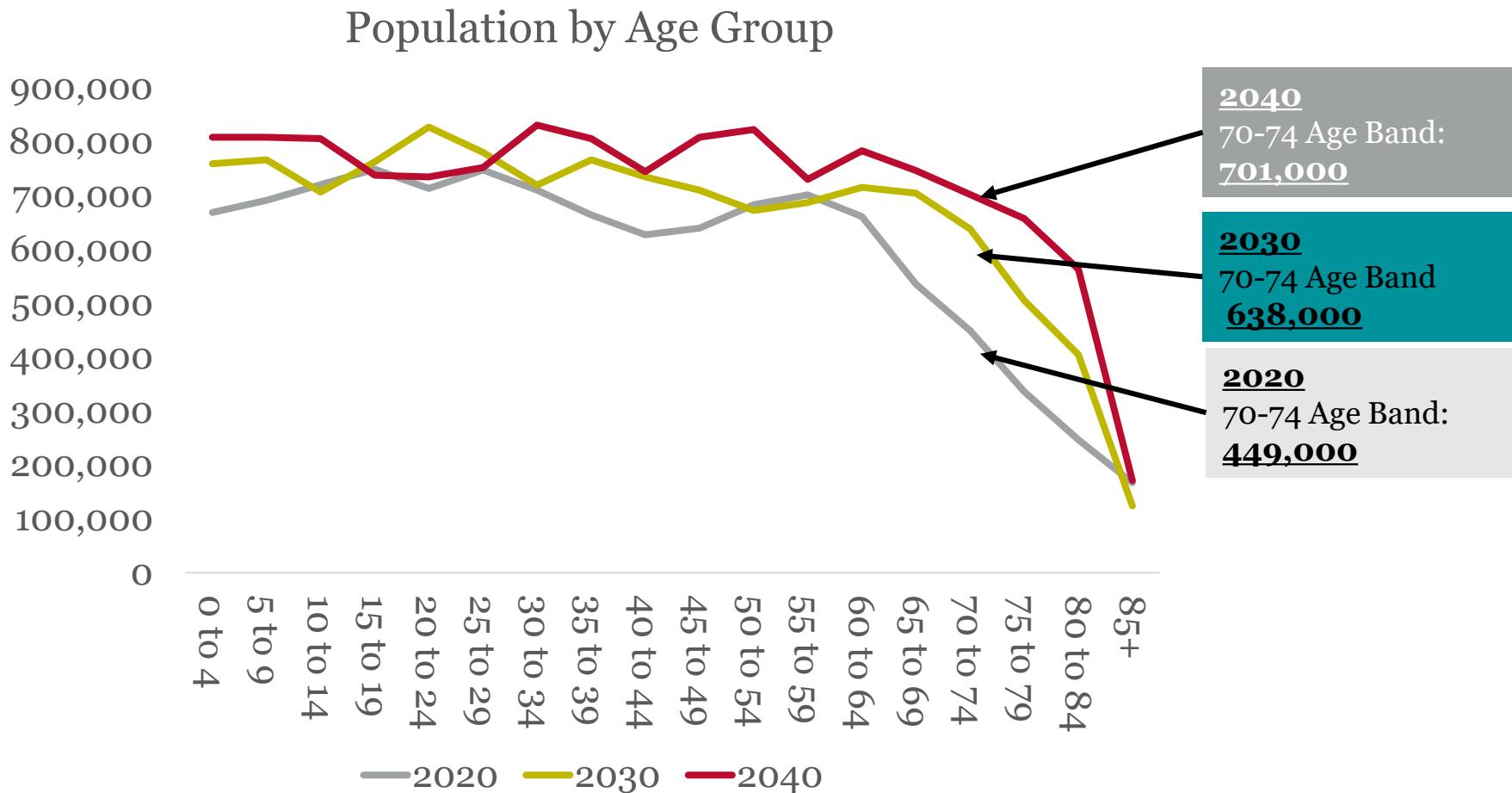
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Georgia Office of Planning and Budget 2020 Series

Georgia is aging, but we are still growing in overall population



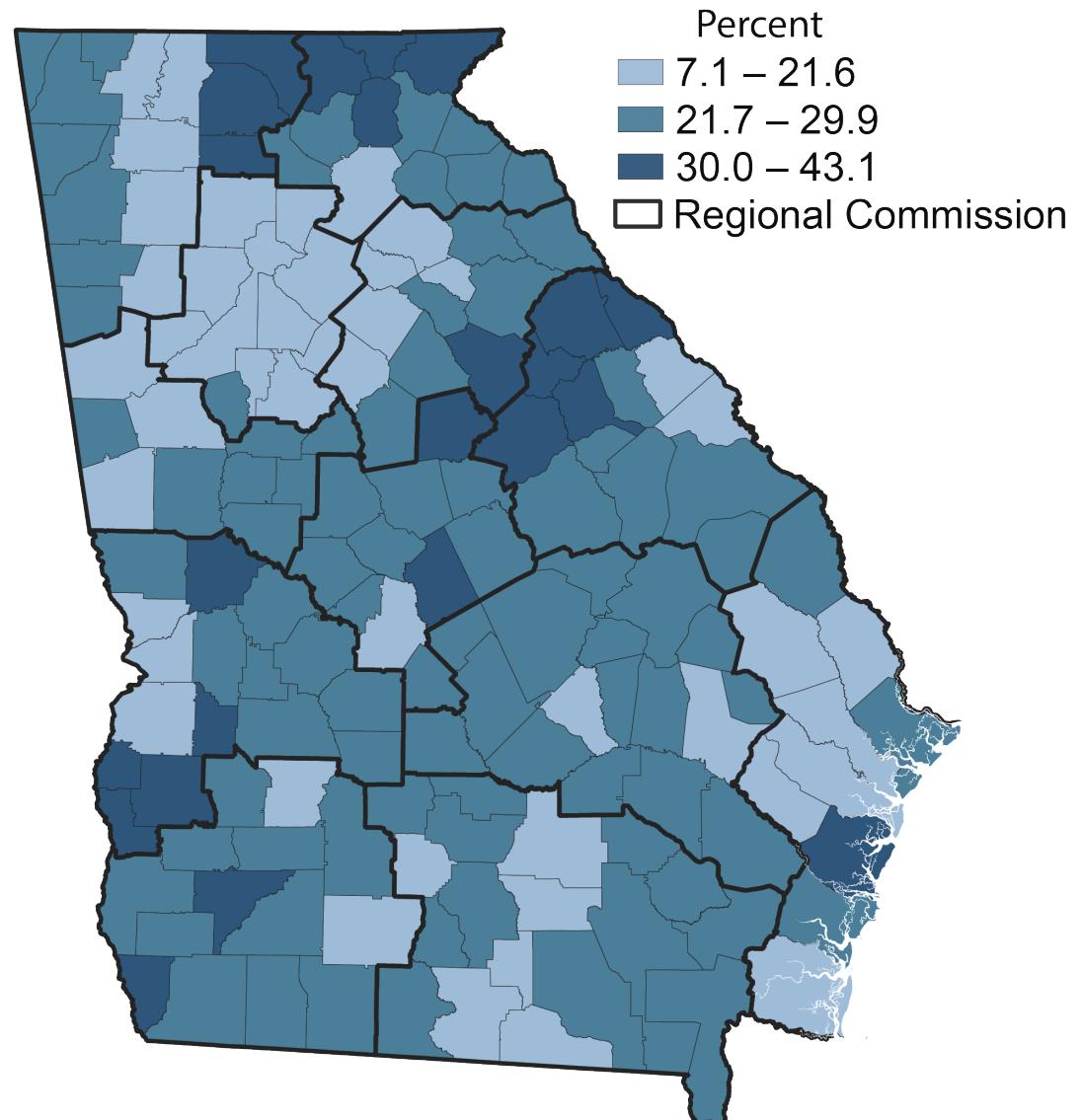
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Georgia Office of Planning and Budget 2020 Series

Georgia is aging, but we are still growing in overall population



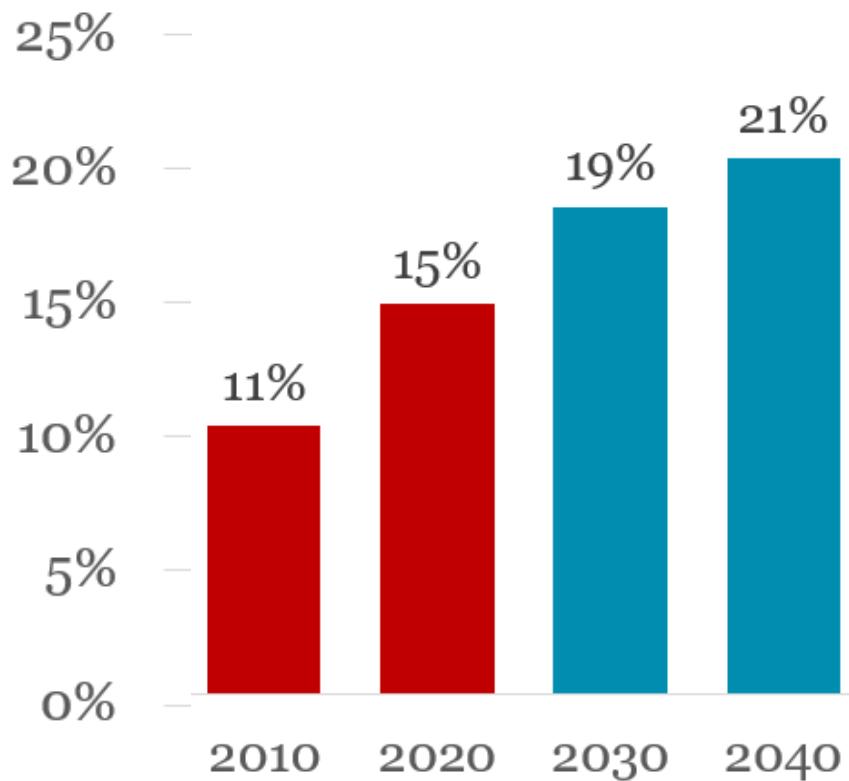
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Georgia Office of Planning and Budget 2020 Series

Population 60 years old and over, 2019 estimate

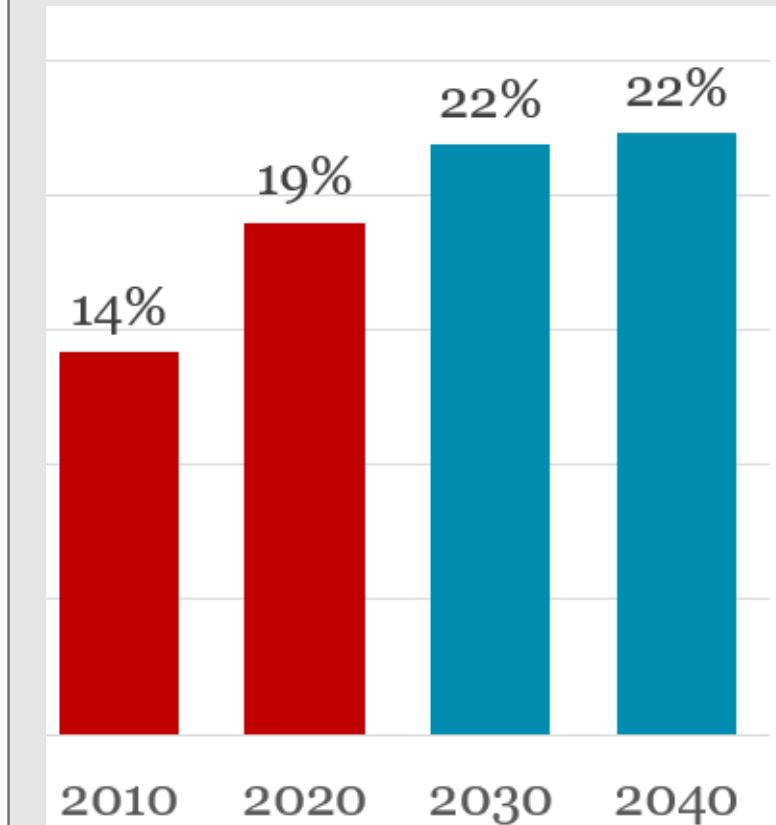


Senior Population has been Growing Faster in Rural Areas

Georgians Over Age 65+



Rural Georgians Over Age 65+



Source: Carl Vinson Institute of Government, US Census Bureau, OPB
Projections, 2020 series

Age Growth, Rural Georgia, 2020-2030

Age	2020	2030	%
0-19	552,743	534,379	-3.3%
20-64	1,267,482	1,231,711	-2.8%
65+	427,068	495,569	+16%



Ten Oldest Counties in Georgia

	County	Median Age		County	Median Age
Rural	Union	56	Rural	McIntosh	51
Rural	Towns	55	Rural	Talbot	51
Rural	Fannin	53	Rural	Rabun	50
Rural	Quitman	53	Rural	Taliaferro	50
Rural	Greene	51	Rural	Gilmer	49

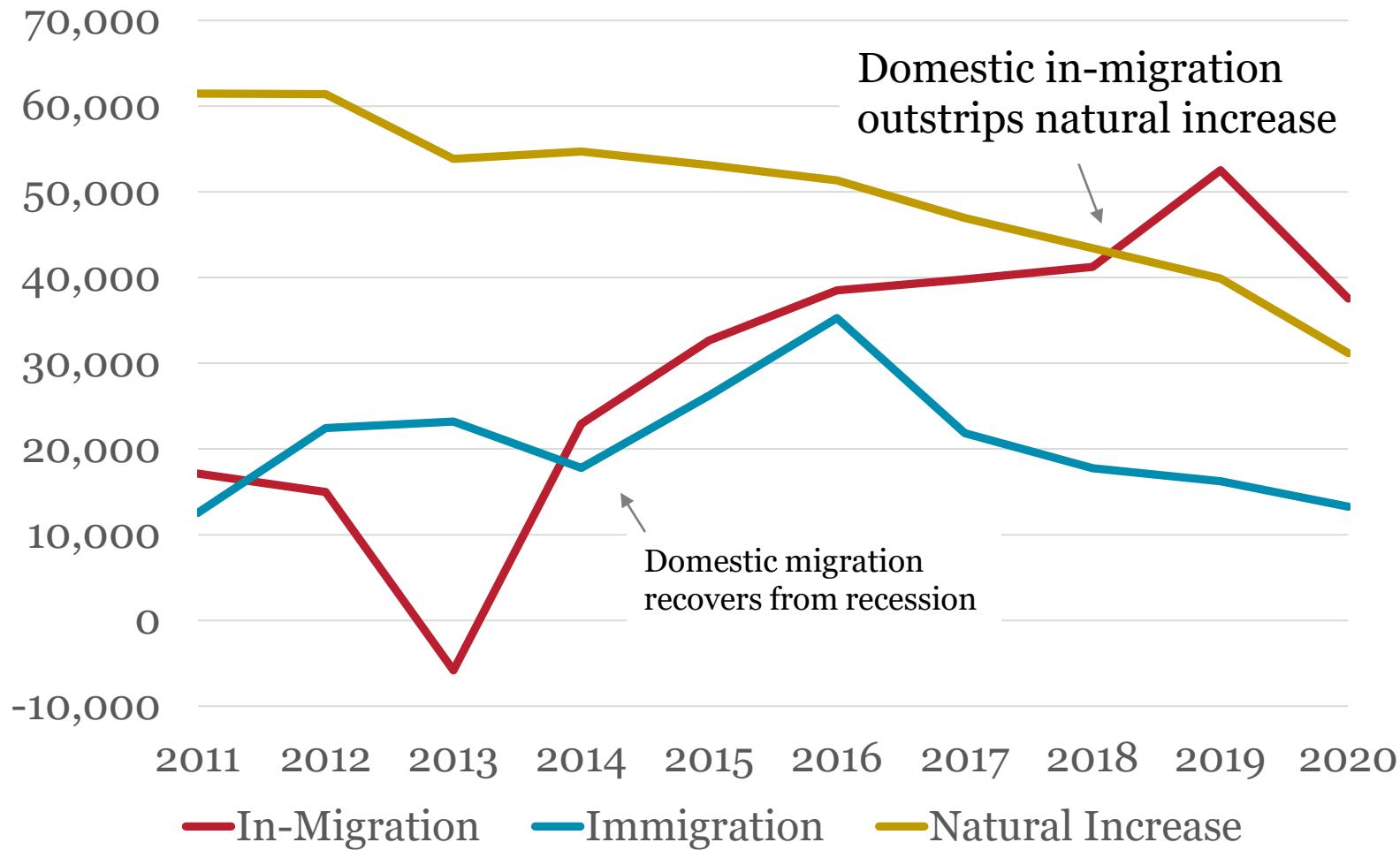
Georgia Average Age = 37

Source: US Census Bureau



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

People moving in from other U.S. states fuels Georgia's growth.



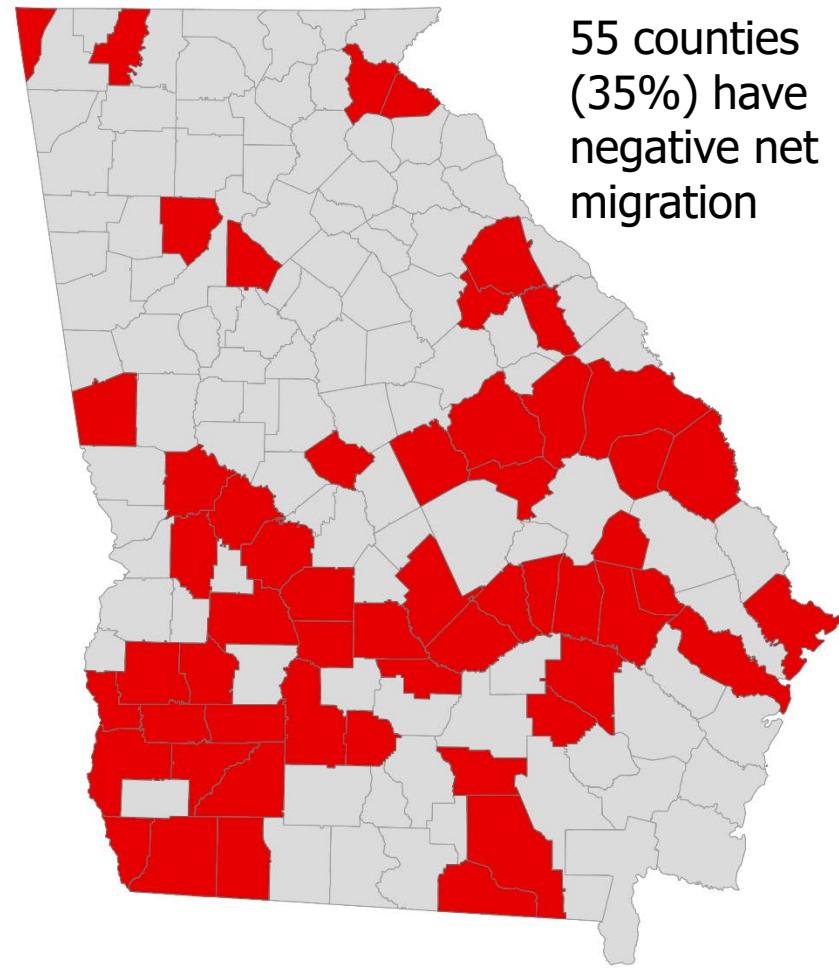
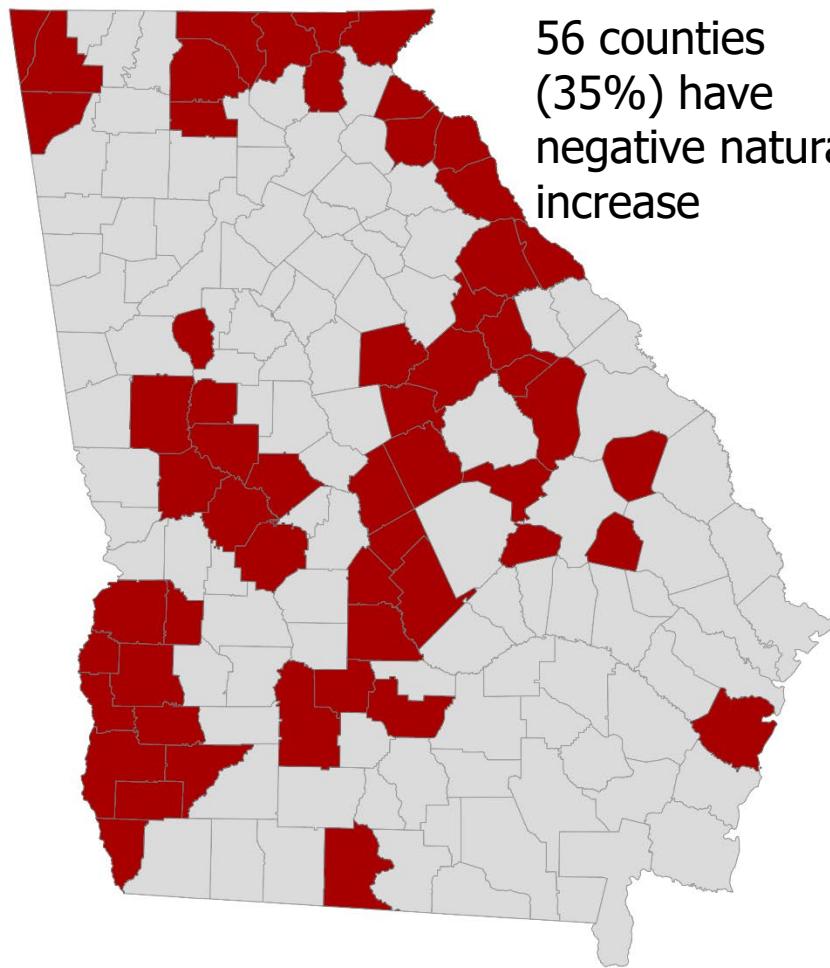
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Estimates Program.



Carl Vinson Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT

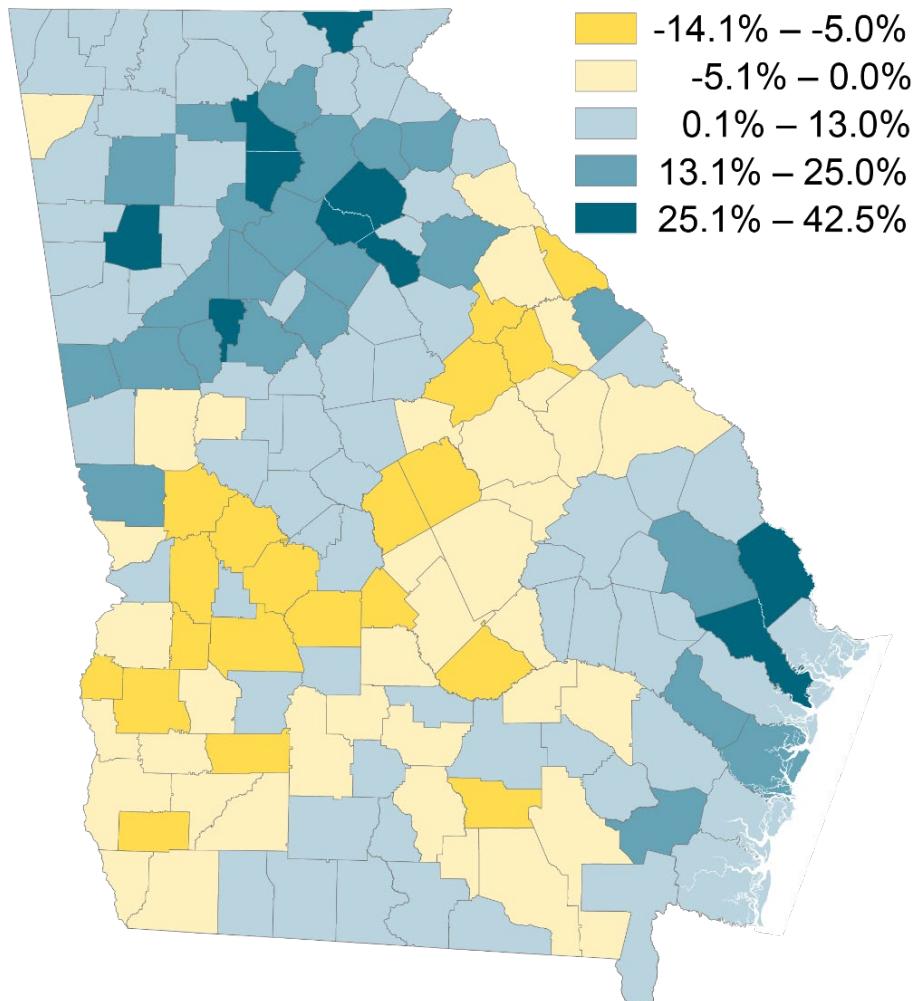
Change in Population, 2015-2019



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Source: US Census Bureau;
OASIS

Population Change 2019 to 2030

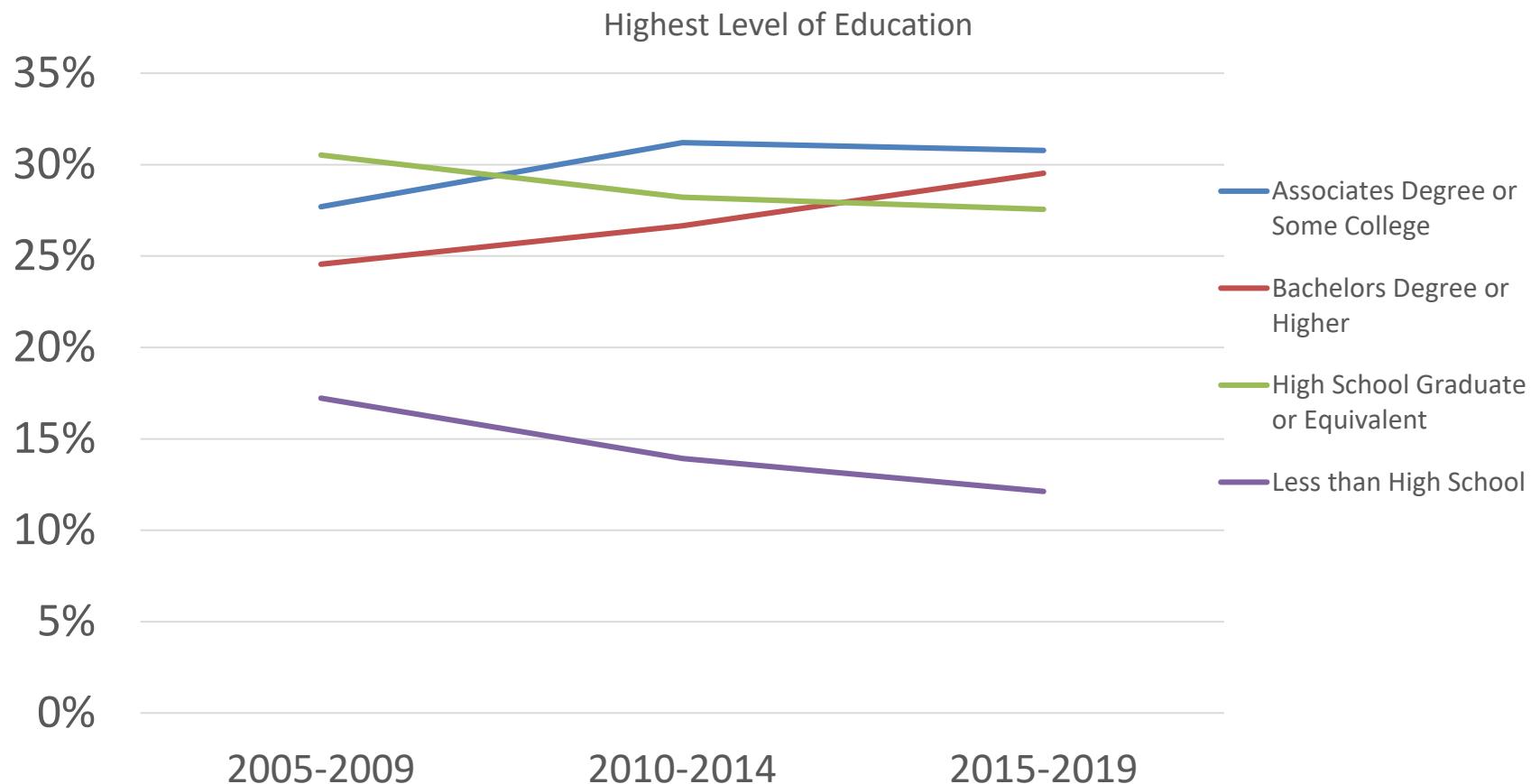


Rural counties, especially in the middle and south, are projected to lose population, while suburban, rural north, and coastal counties are projected to gain population.

Source: 2020 OPB Population Projections



Education Attainment is Improving



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Source: US Census, ACS

In summary

- Georgia population continues to grow
 - Positive Net Migration
 - Declining birth rates will impact long-term population
- Rural areas in central and southeast Georgia continue to exhibit decline in population
- Rural counties in northeast mountain counties are growing
- Rural areas tend to have older populations



Questions



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA