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**GEORGIA**

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# Rural Georgia in Focus

David Tanner, Associate Director

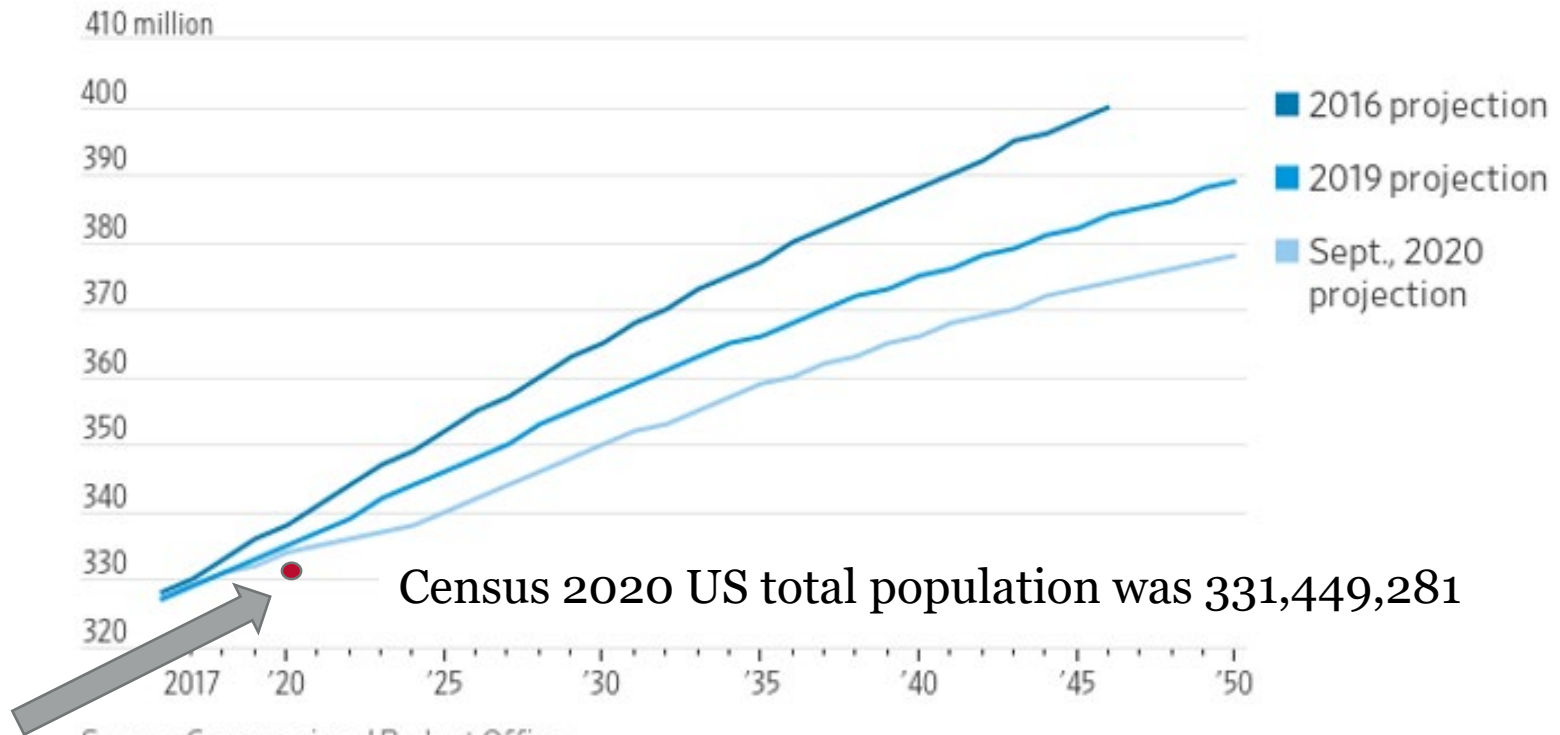
September 1, 2021

# US POPULATION: Lower Growth Expectations

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

## Fewer Americans

Projected U.S. population



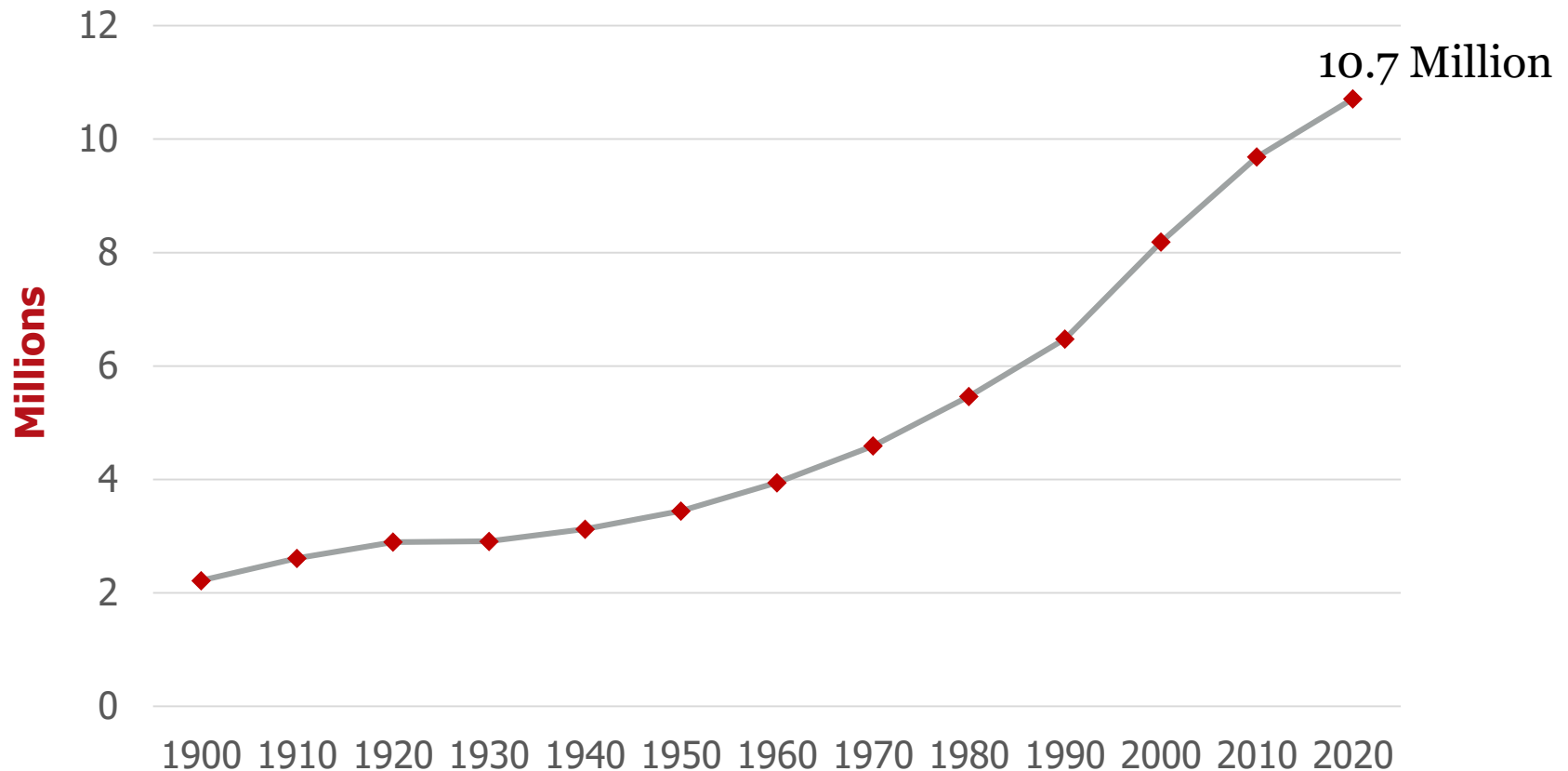
**US Population Change 2010-2020 7.3%**

**Slowest growth since the Great Depression**



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# Population of Georgia, 1900-2020



Source: US Census Bureau



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# What is rural? How rural is Georgia?

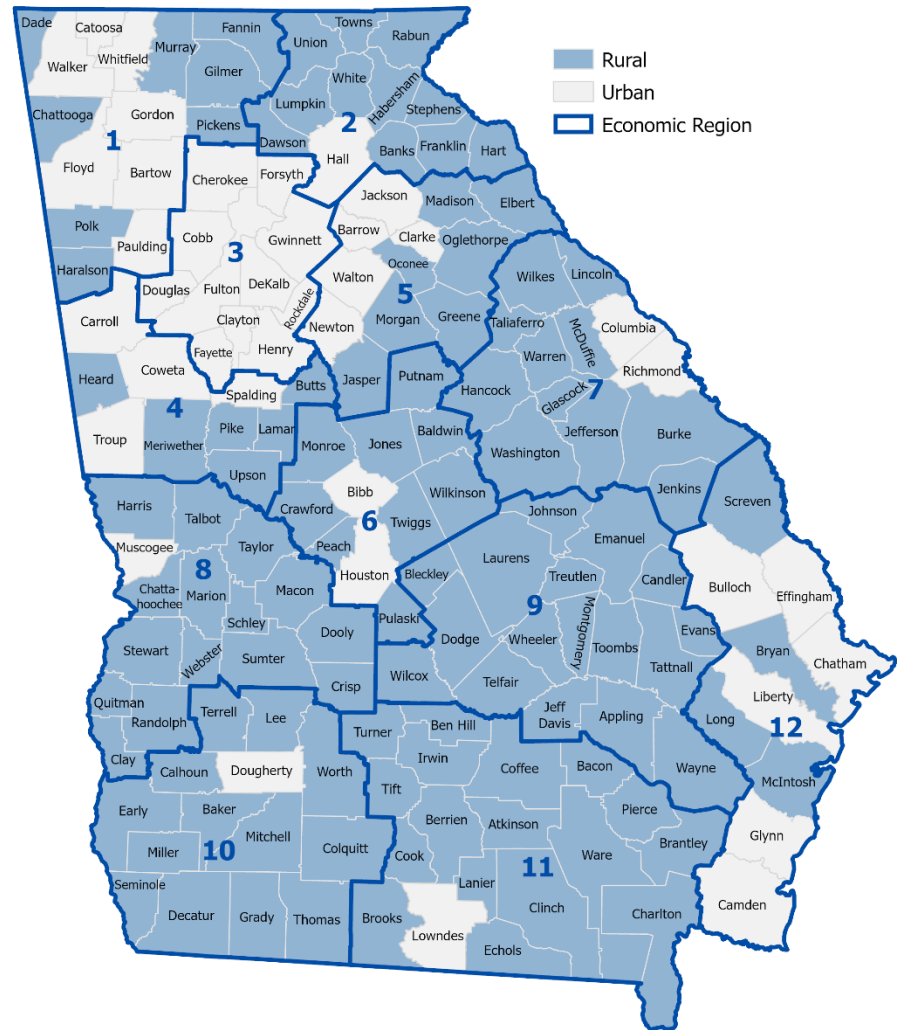
Urban Counties  
39  
75% of  
population in  
2010

Urban Counties  
39  
79% of  
population in  
2020

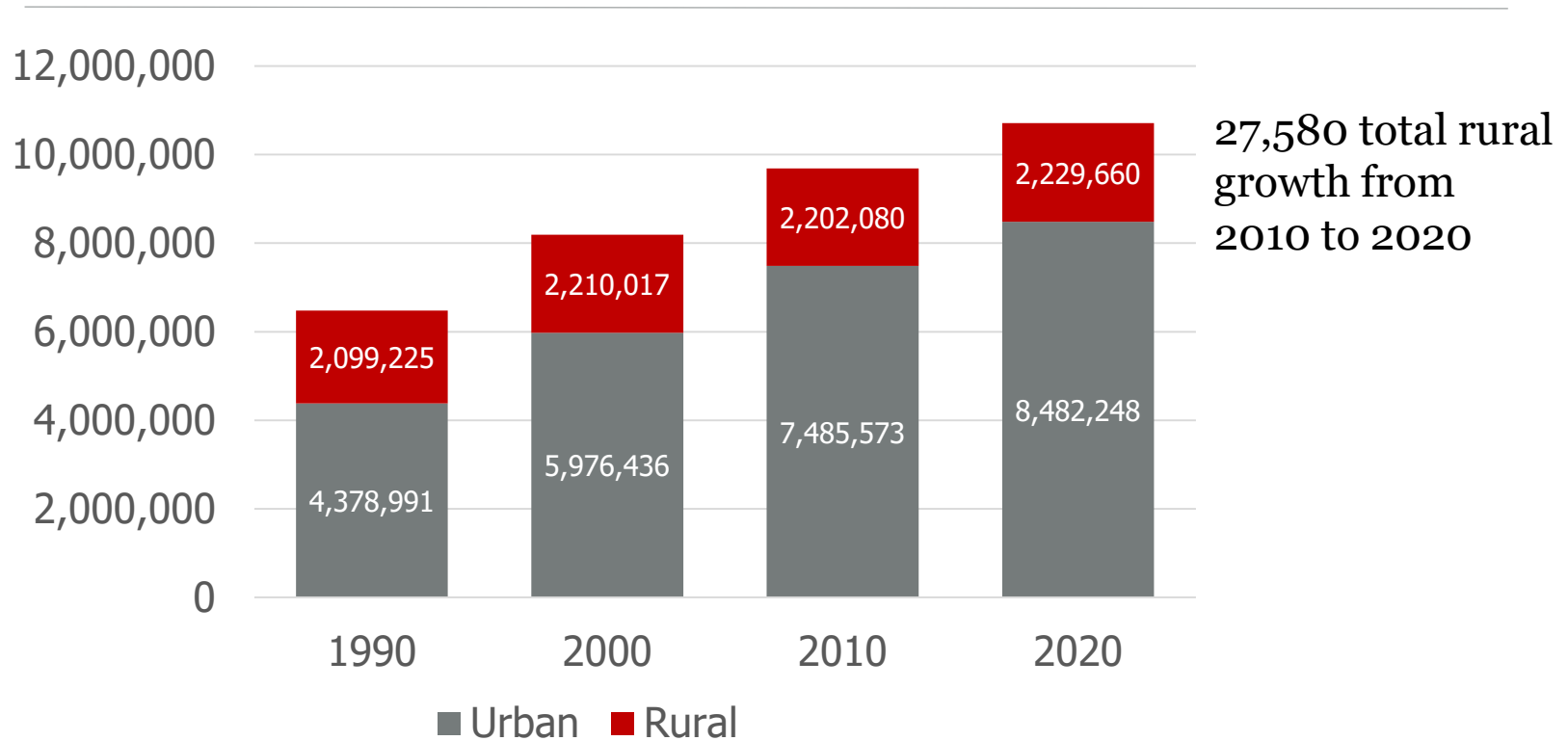
Rural Counties  
120  
25% of  
population in  
2010

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



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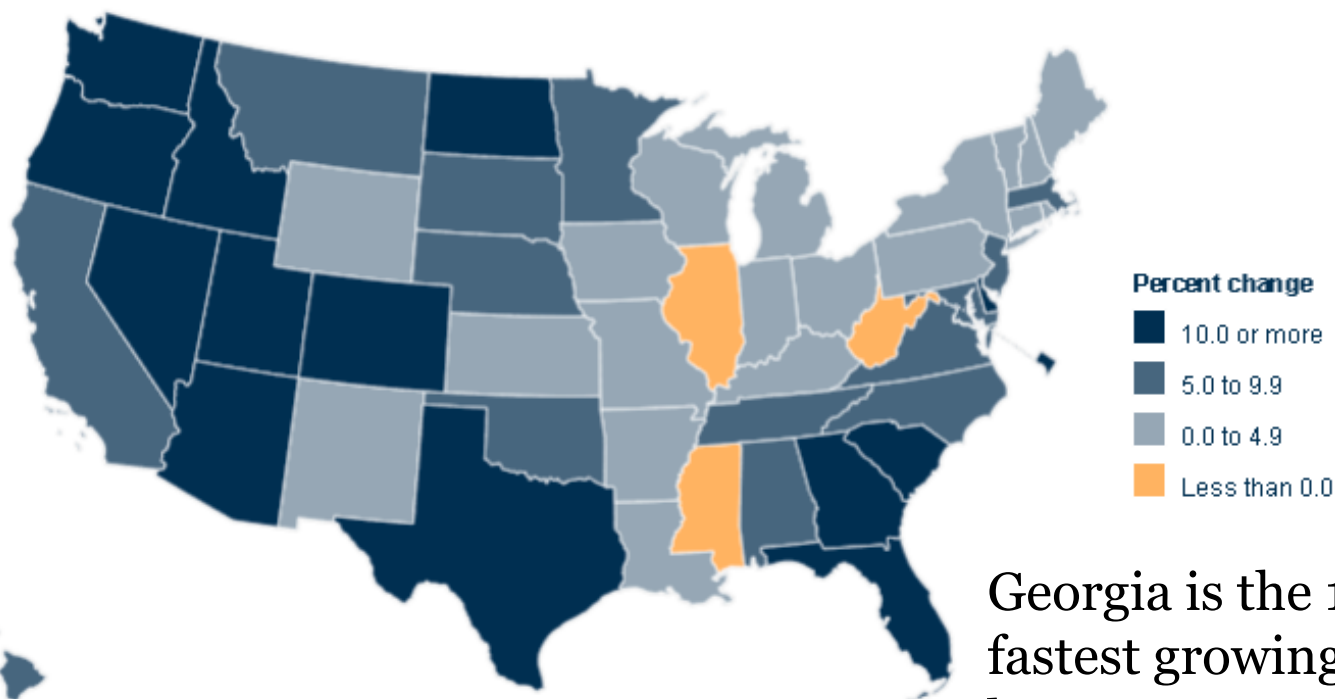
# 2010-2020

## Demographic changes over the past 10 years



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



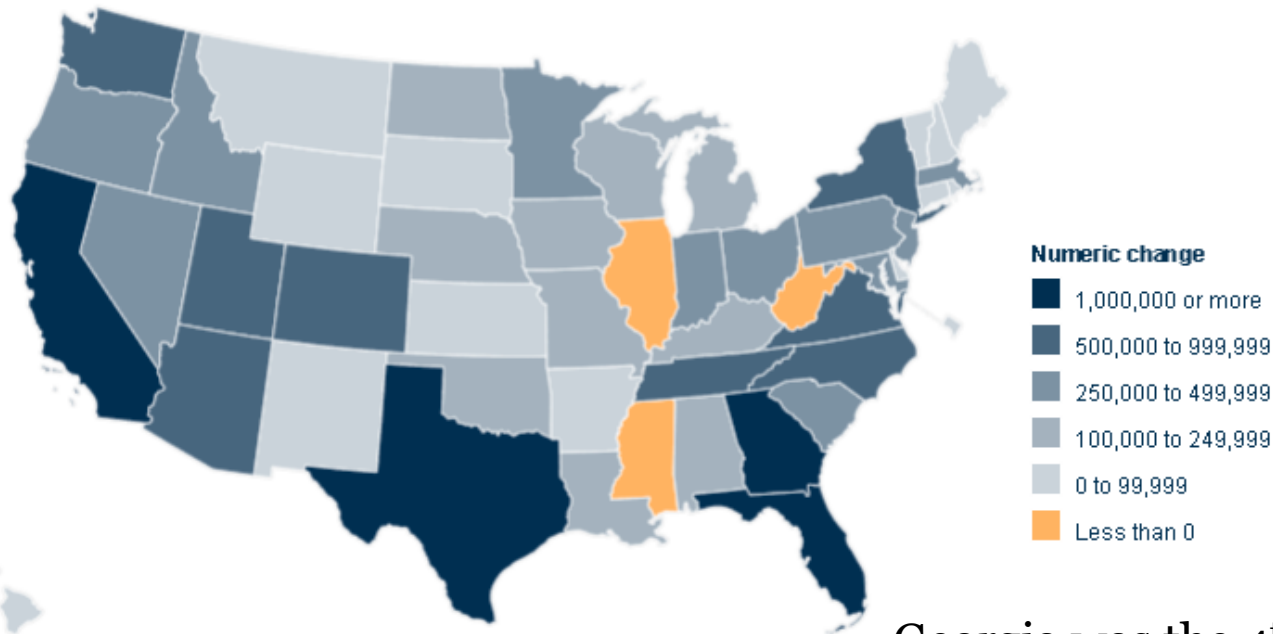
Georgia is the 13<sup>th</sup>  
fastest growing state  
by **percentage**  
(10.6% growth)



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Source: US Census Bureau

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

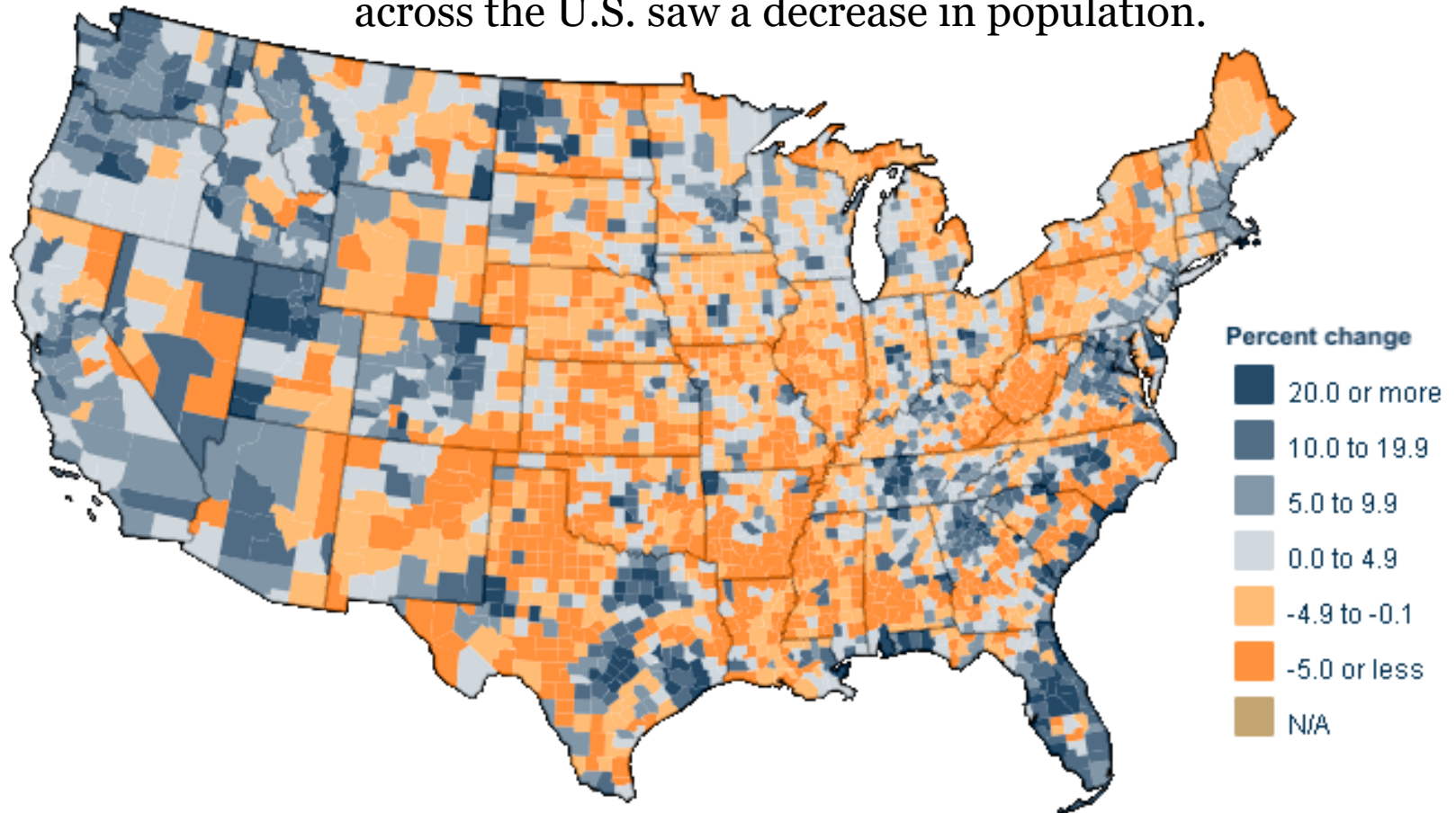


Georgia was the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest growing state by **numeric change** only behind Texas, Florida, and California



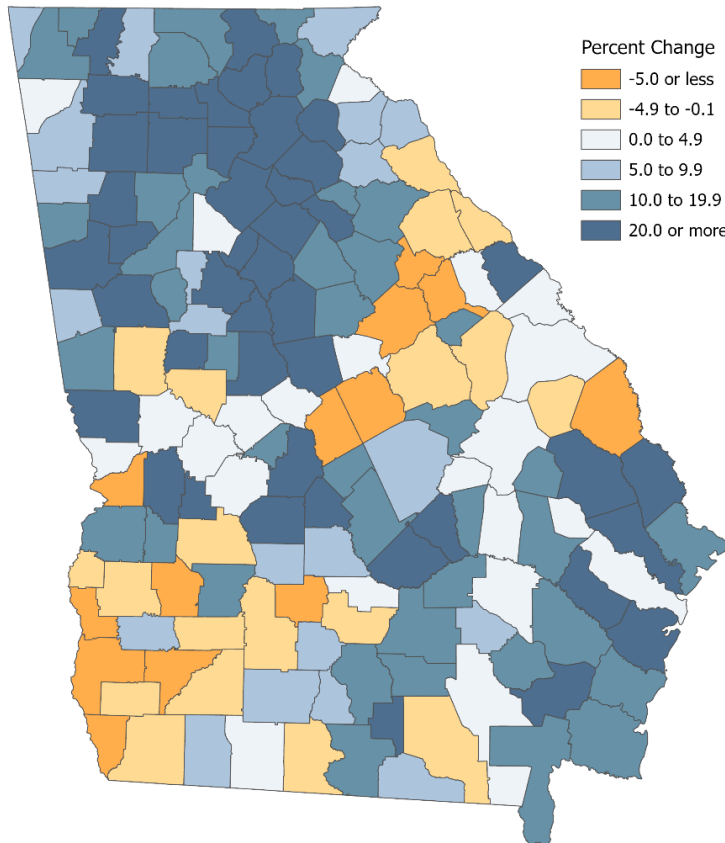


In the 2020 Census 1,660 counties across the US declined over the past decade. In the 2010 Census 1,082 counties across the U.S. saw a decrease in population.

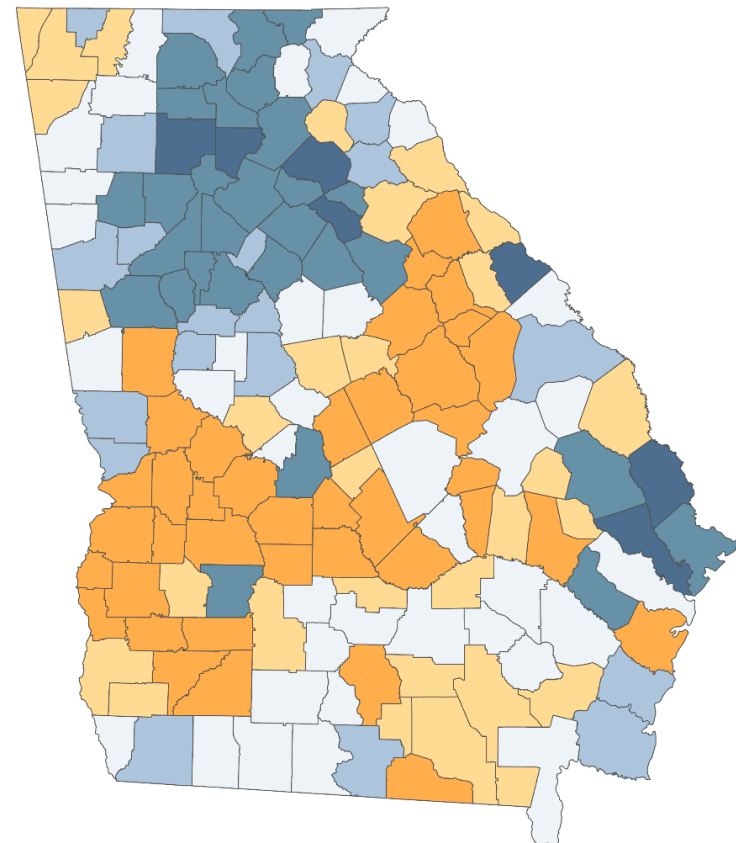


# Population Growth in North Georgia, Metro Atlanta, Regional Hubs, and Coastal Georgia

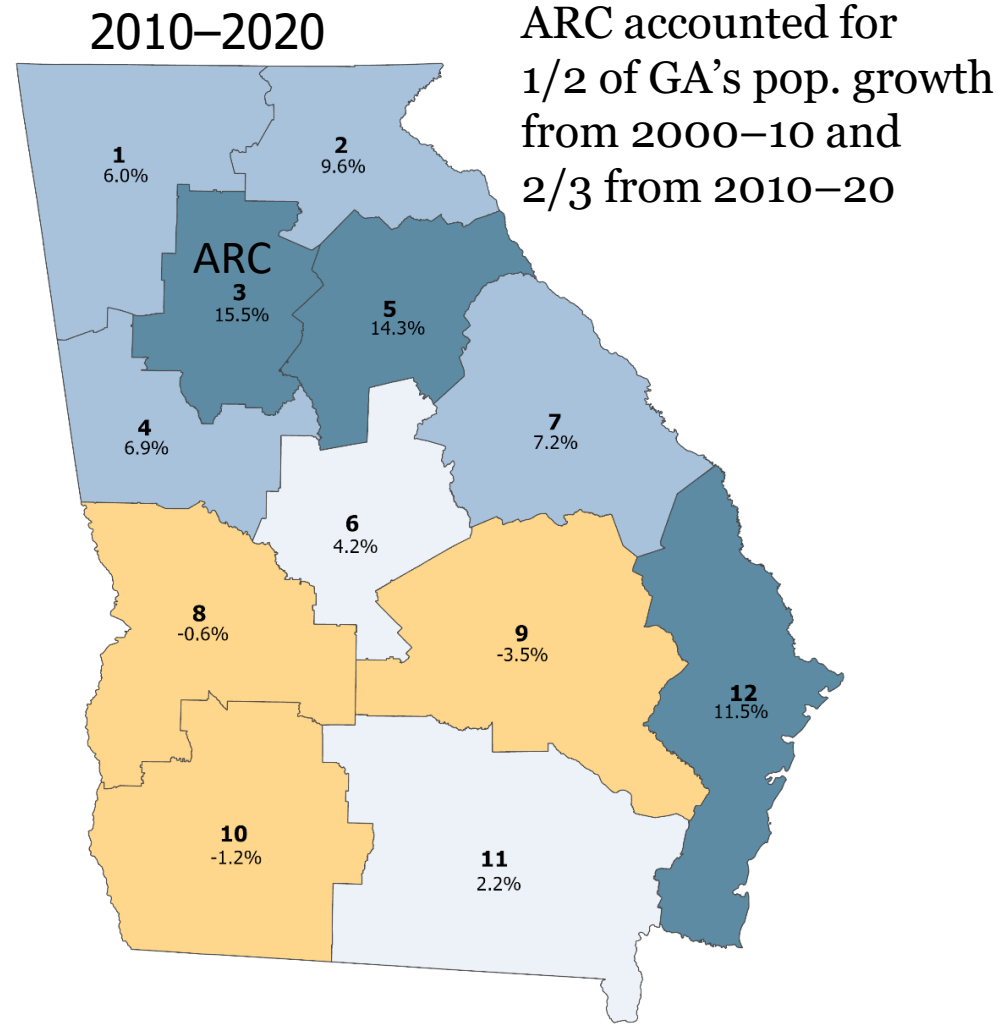
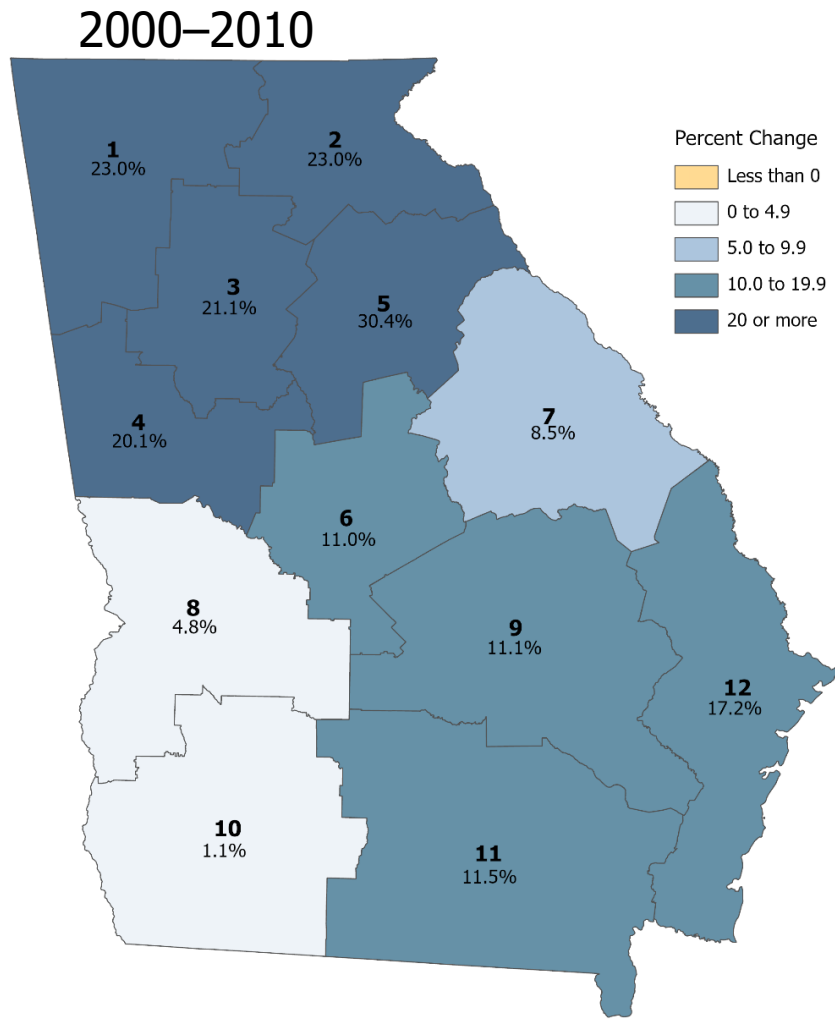
2000–2010



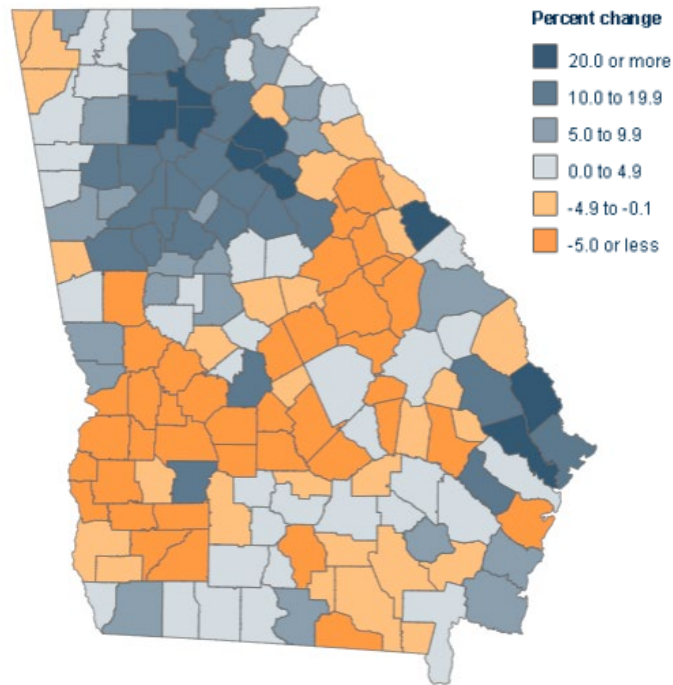
2010–2020



# Population Change by Regional Commission



## Percent Change in Population for Georgia Counties 2010-2020

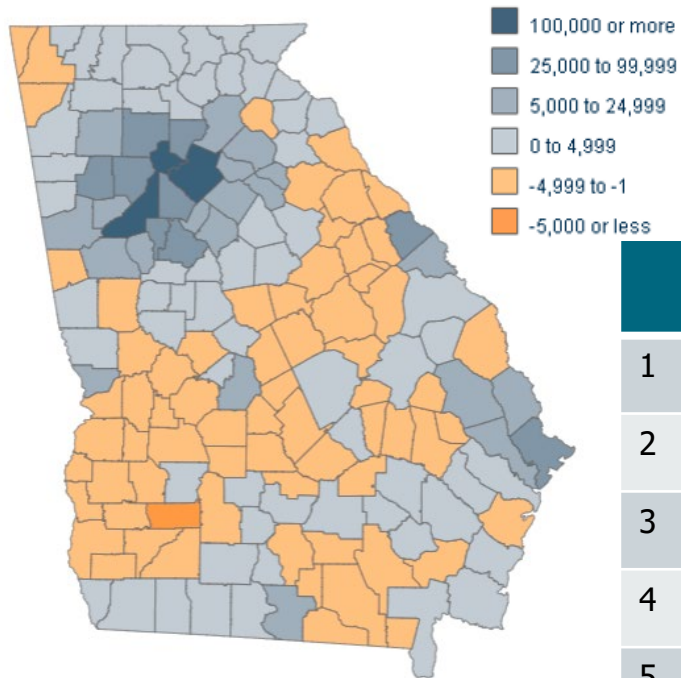


	Fastest Growing	%
1	Bryan County	48.0
2	Forsyth County	43.2
3	Oconee County	27.4
4	Columbia County	25.8
5	Jackson County	25.5
6	Cherokee County	24.4
7	Effingham County	24.0
8	Barrow County	20.4
9	Dawson County	20.0
10	Towns County	19.3

	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



	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

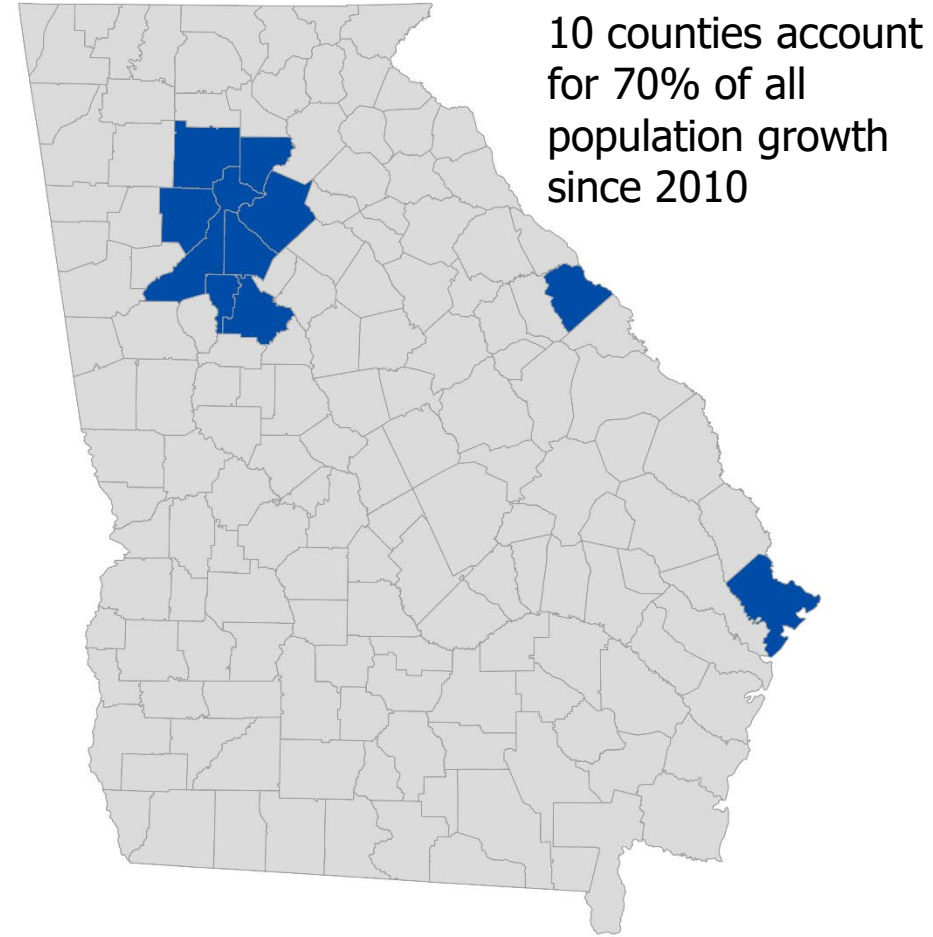
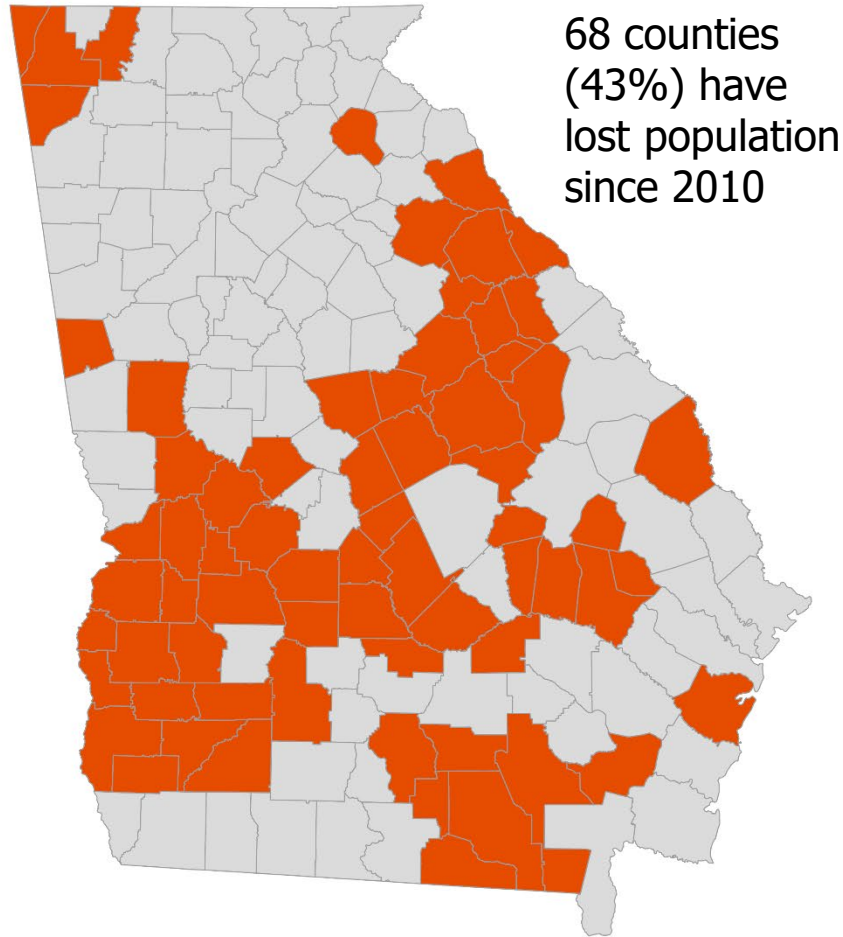
	Largest Numeric Decrease	#
150	Baldwin County	-1,921
151	Pulaski County	-2,155
152	Macon County	-2,658
153	Tattnall County	-2,678
154	Sumter County	-3,203
155	Crisp County	-3,311
156	McIntosh County	-3,358
157	Dooly County	-3,710
158	Telfair County	-4,023
159	Dougherty County	-8,775

Source: US Census Bureau



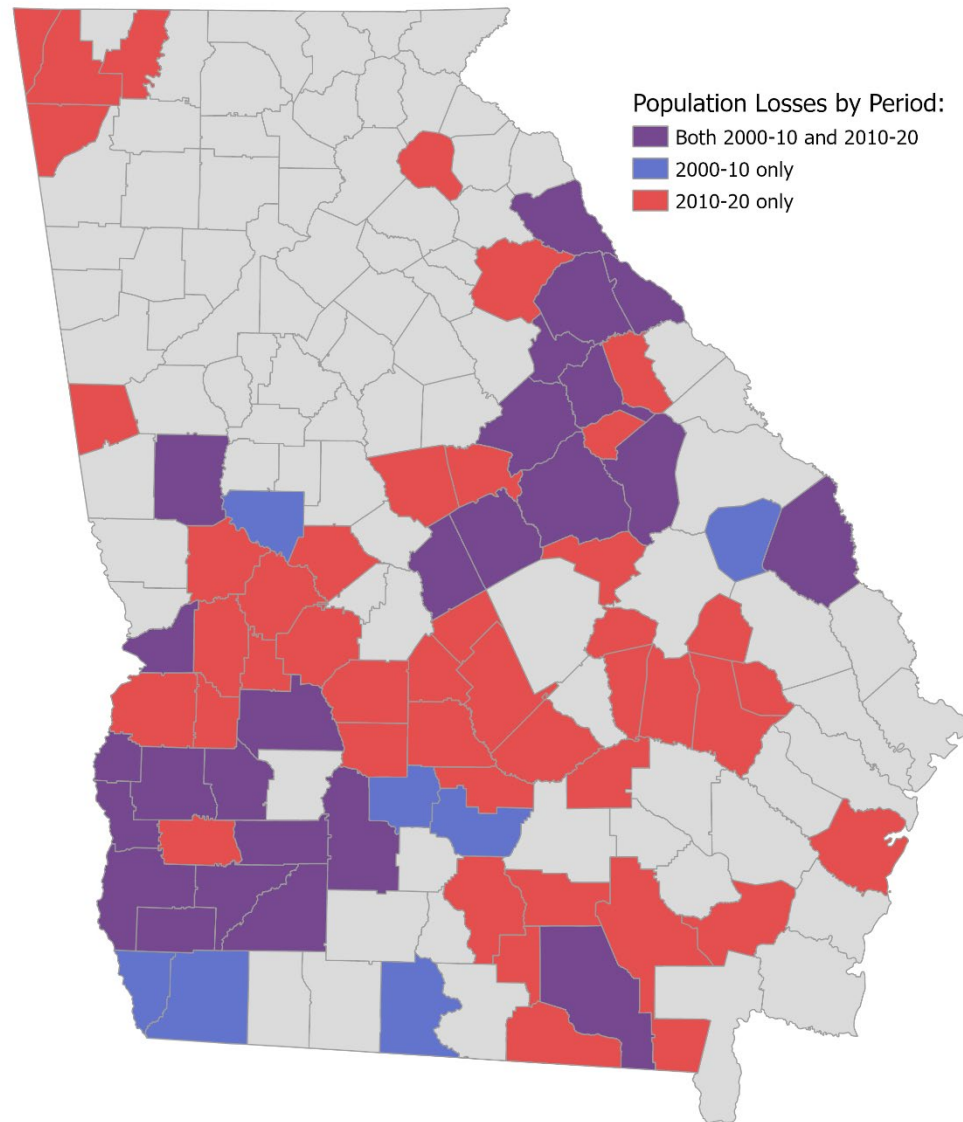
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# Change in Population, 2010-2020

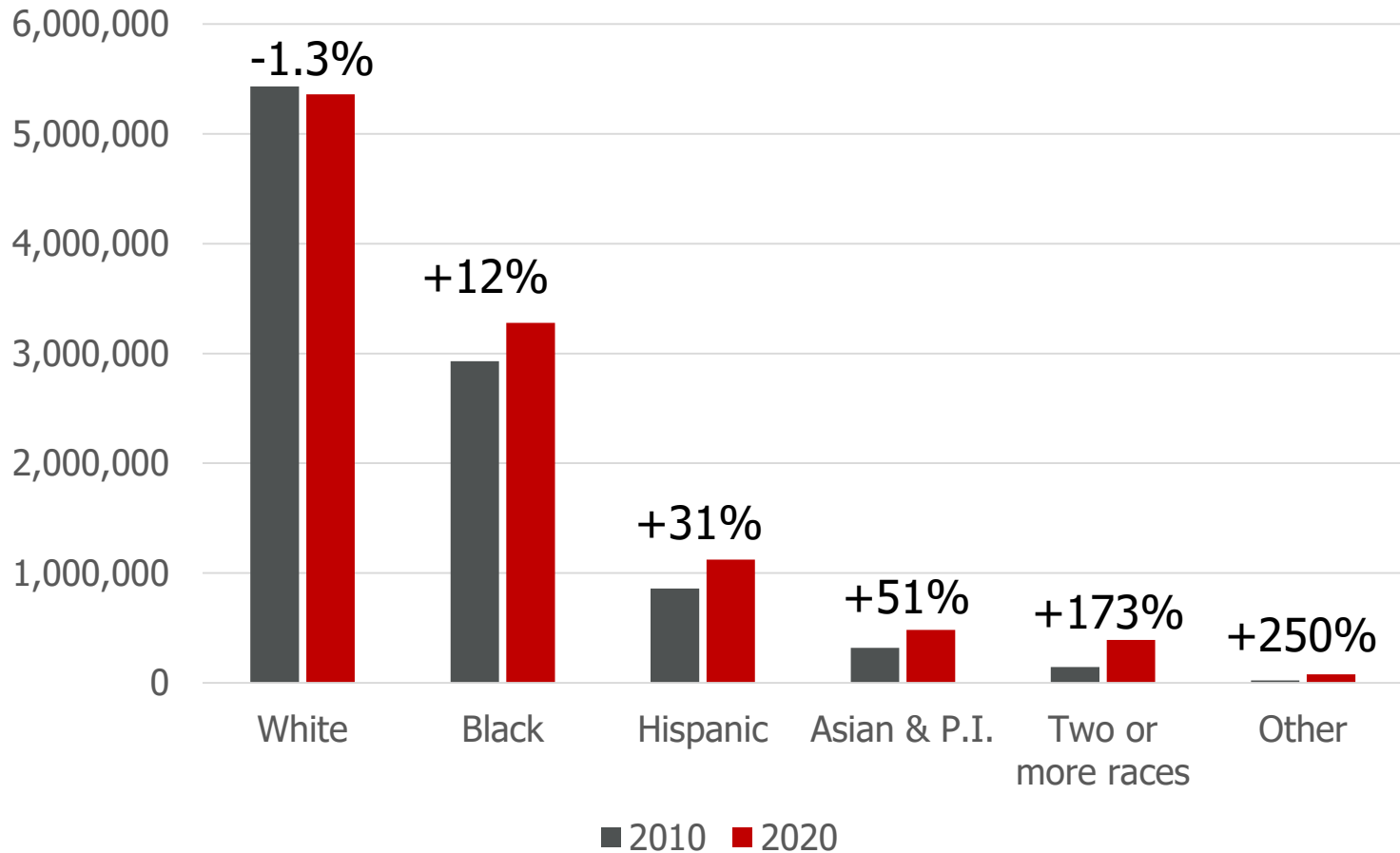




# 25 counties show declining populations over the past 20 years



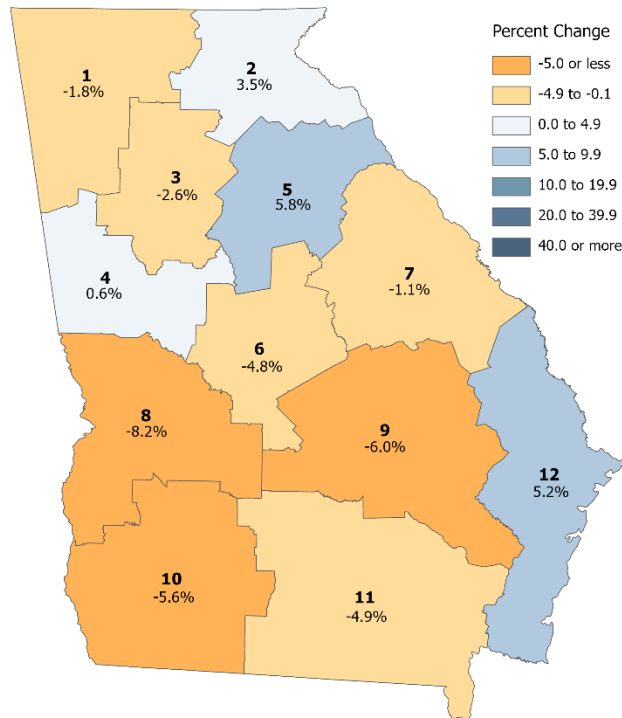
# Breakdown of Racial Change



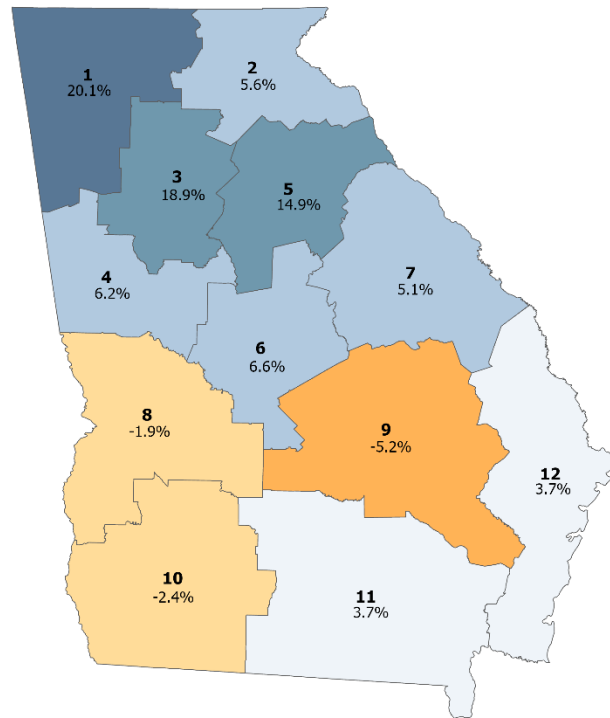


# Racial Changes by Regional Commission, 2010 – 2020

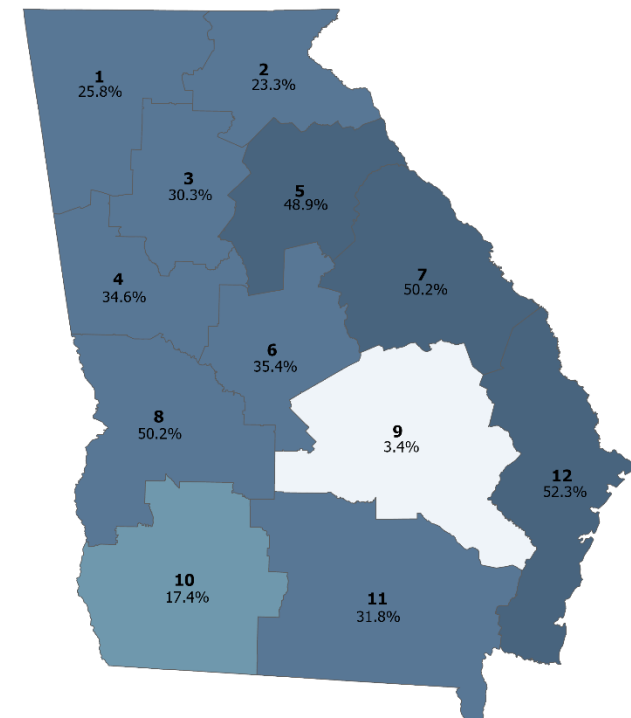
## White



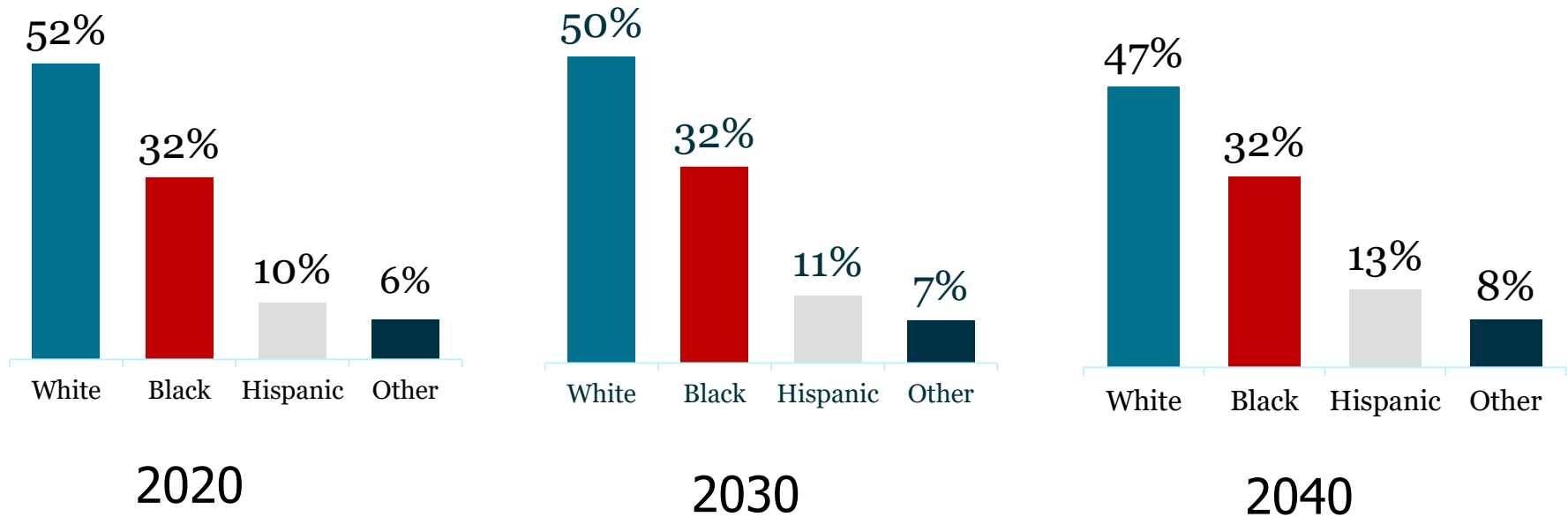
## Black



## Hispanic



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



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



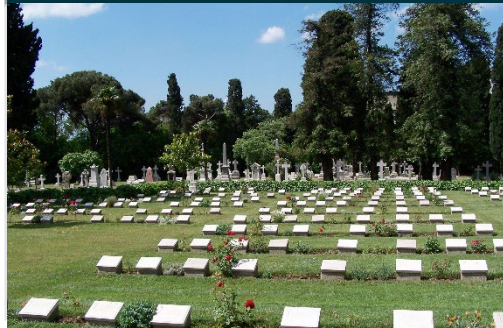
# Components of Population Change

## Births



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## Deaths



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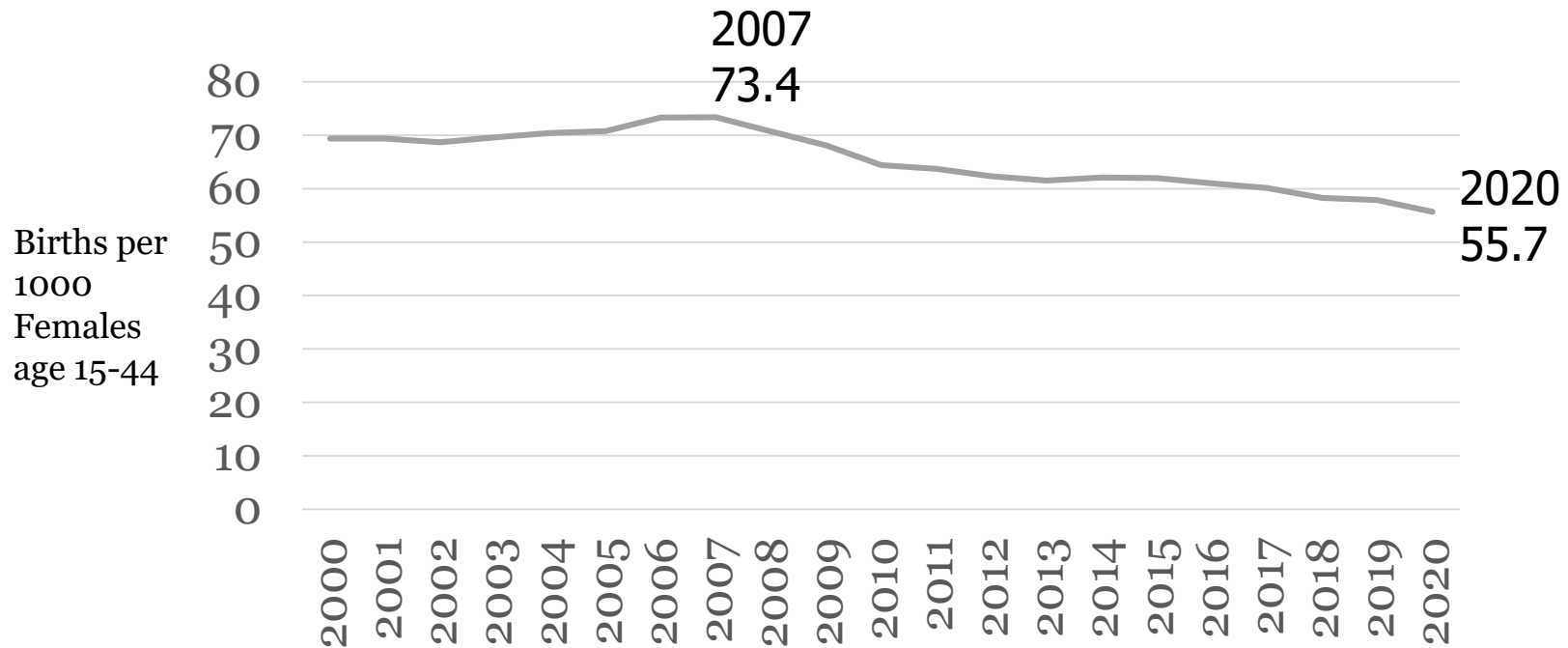
## Migration



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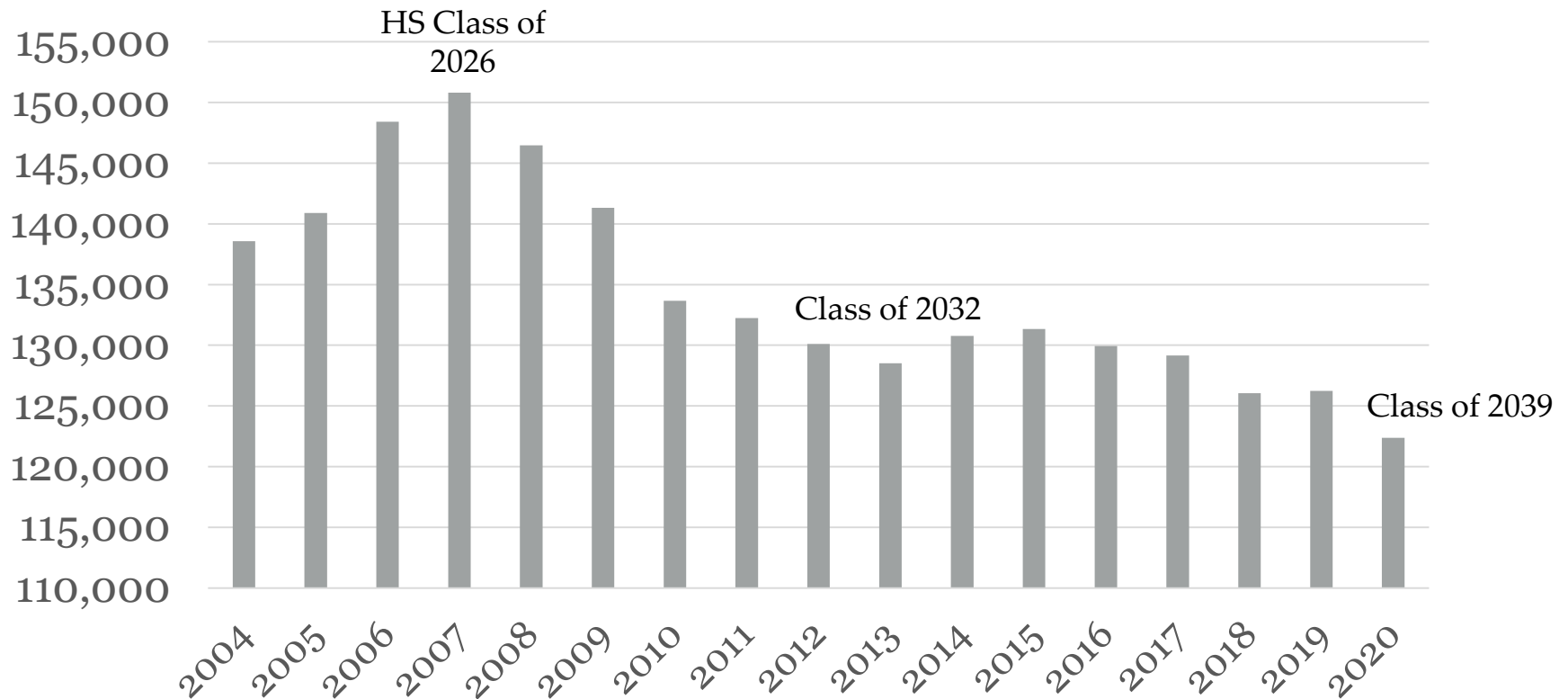
# Birth rates have been declining since 2007



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

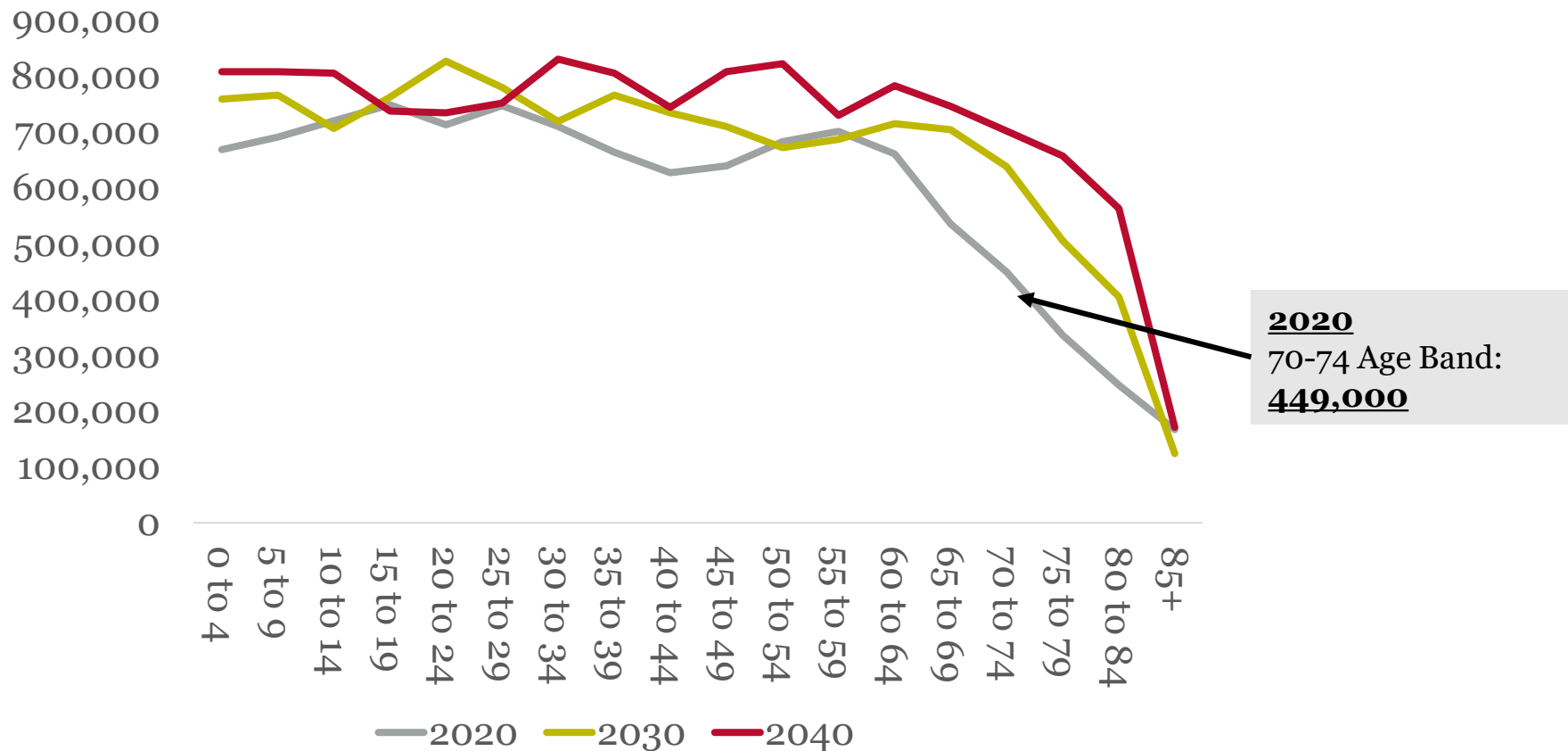
# Let's look at births another way



Source: Georgia Department of Public Health, OASIS

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

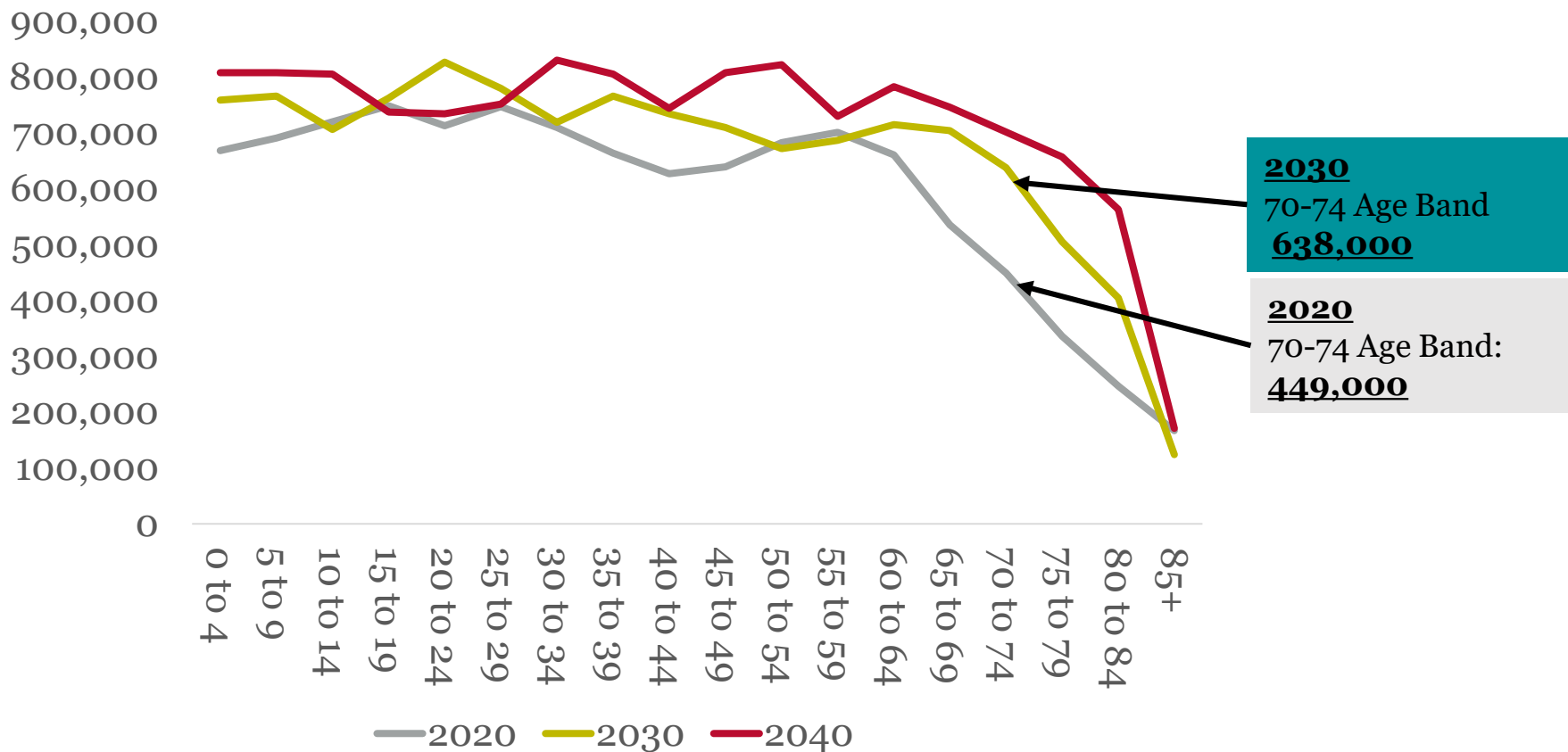
Population by Age Group



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

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

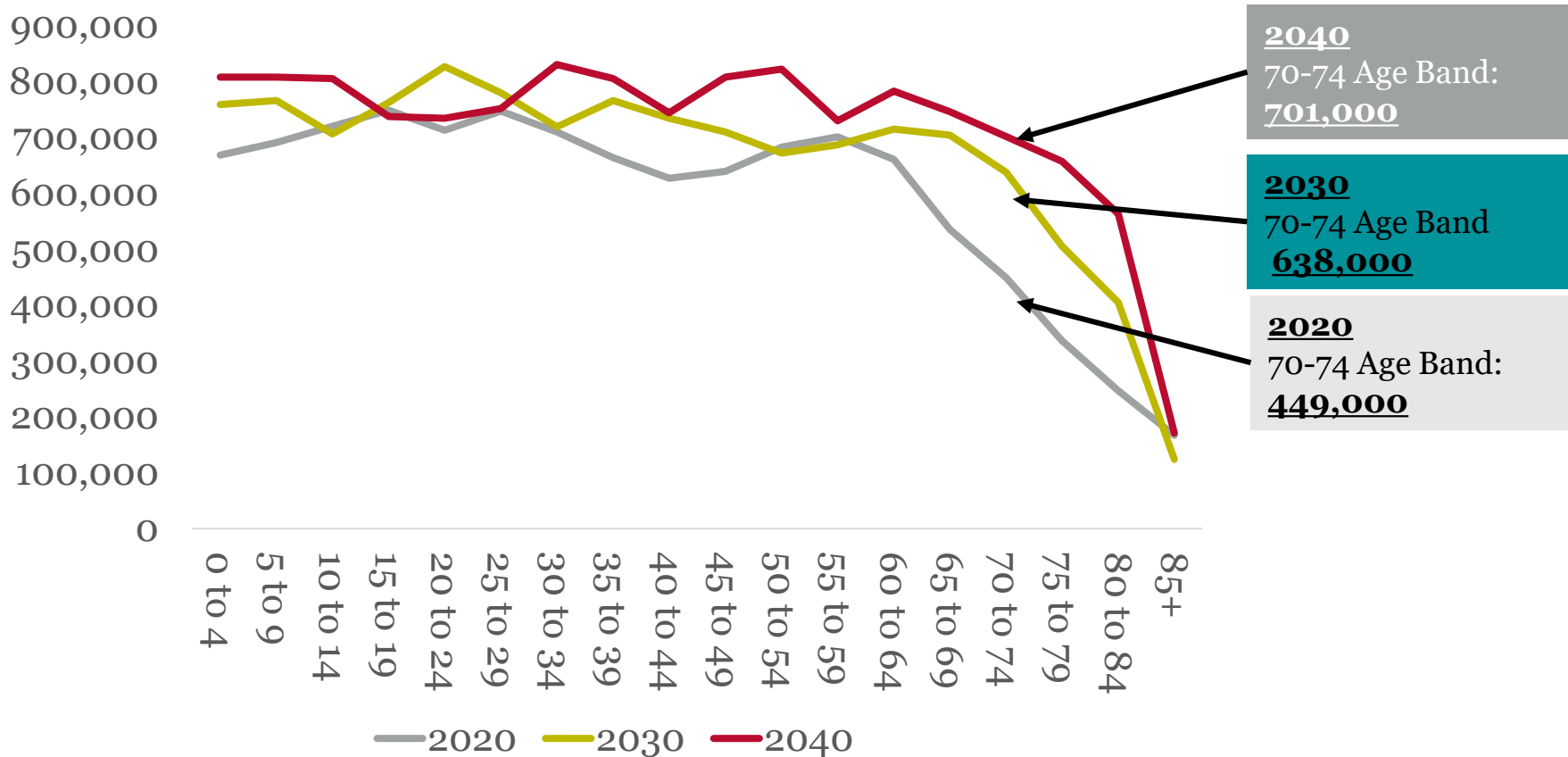
Population by Age Group



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

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

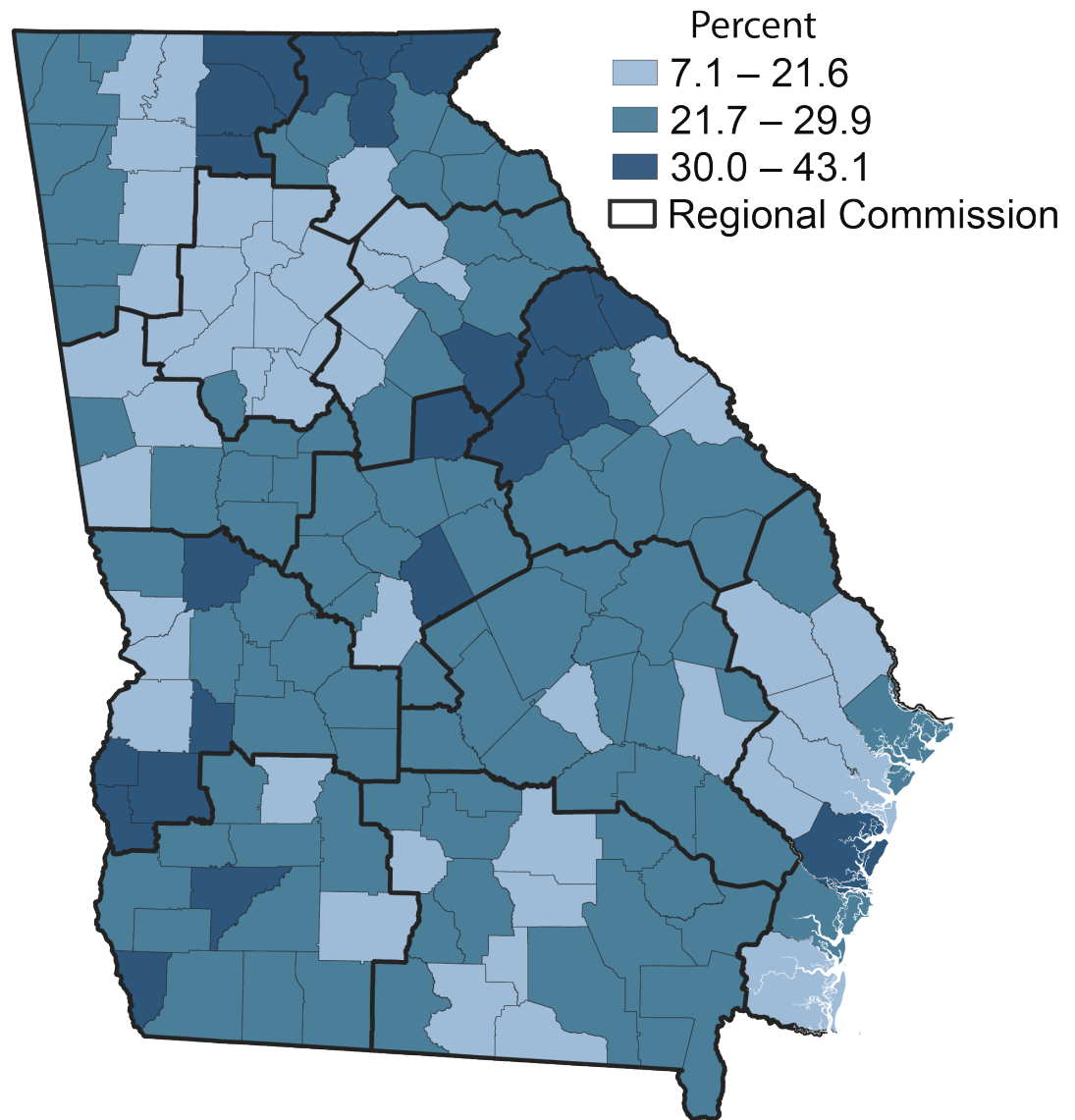
Population by Age Group



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



# Population 60 years old and over, 2019 estimate

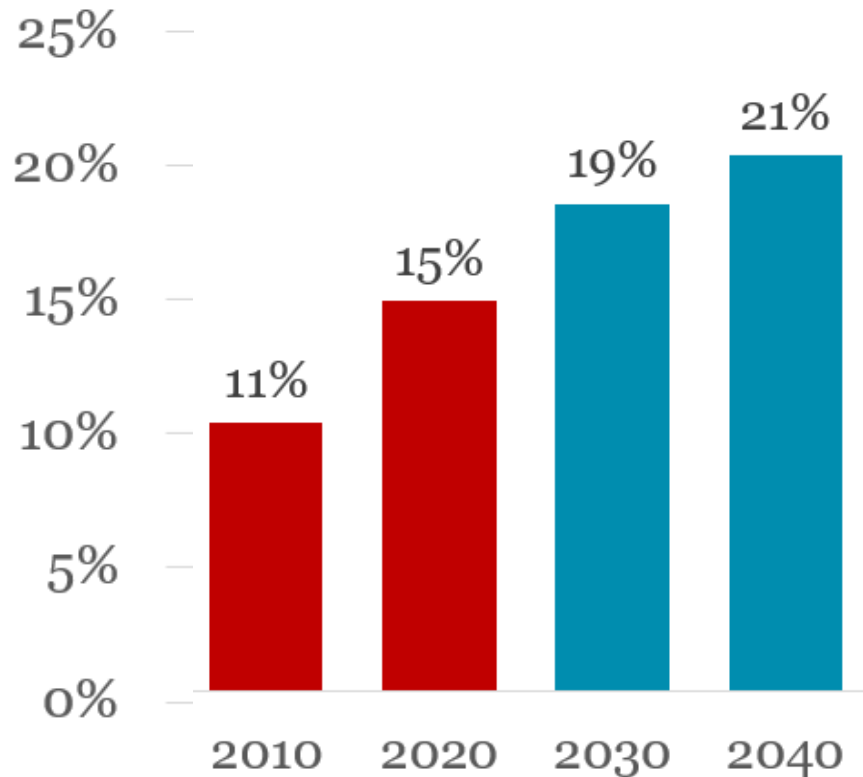


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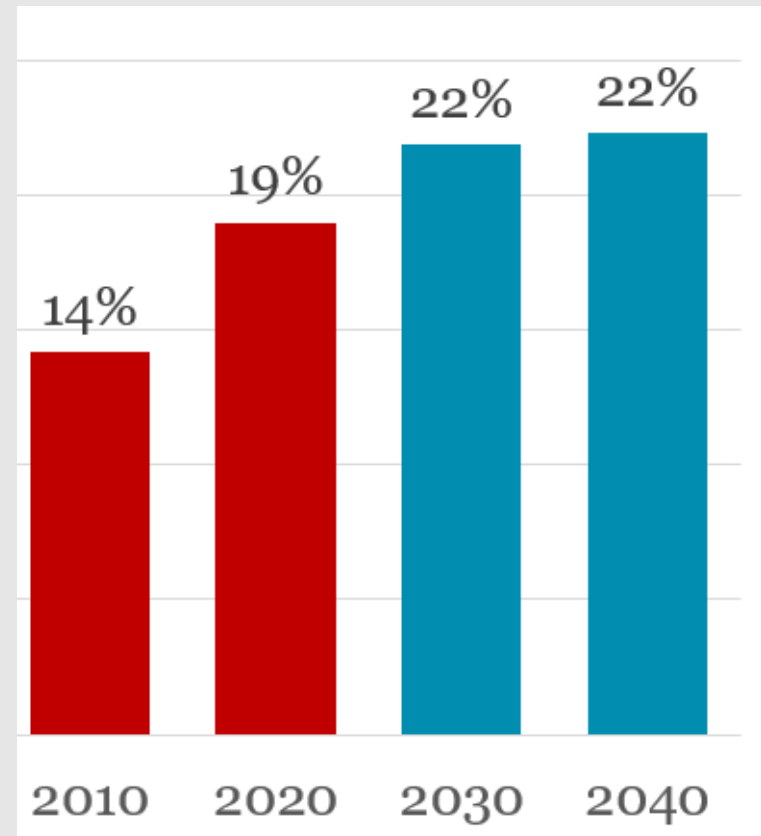
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# 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

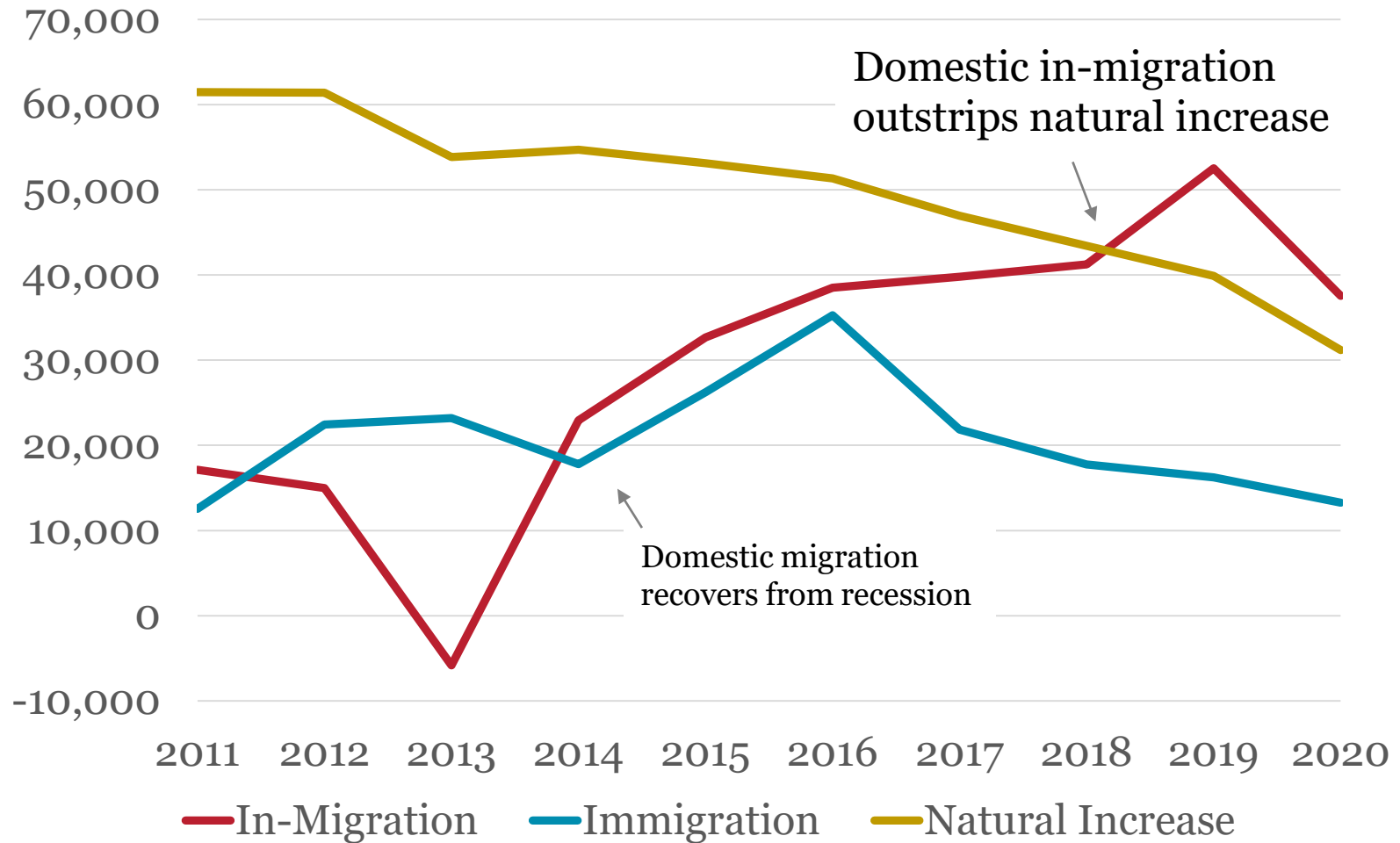
	County	Median Age		County	Median Age
Rural	Union	56	Rural	McIntosh	51
Rural	Towns	55	Rural	Talbot	51
Rural	Fannin	53	Rural	Rabun	50
Rural	Quitman	53	Rural	Taliaferro	50
Rural	Greene	51	Rural	Gilmer	49

Georgia Average Age = 37

Source: US Census Bureau



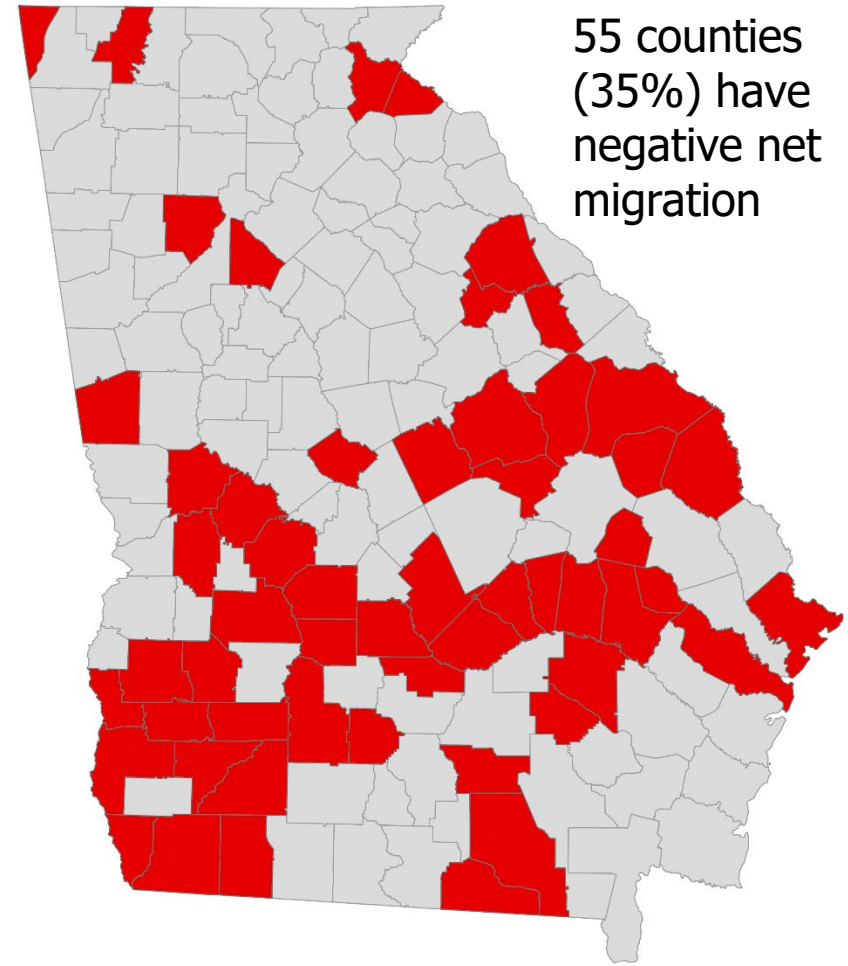
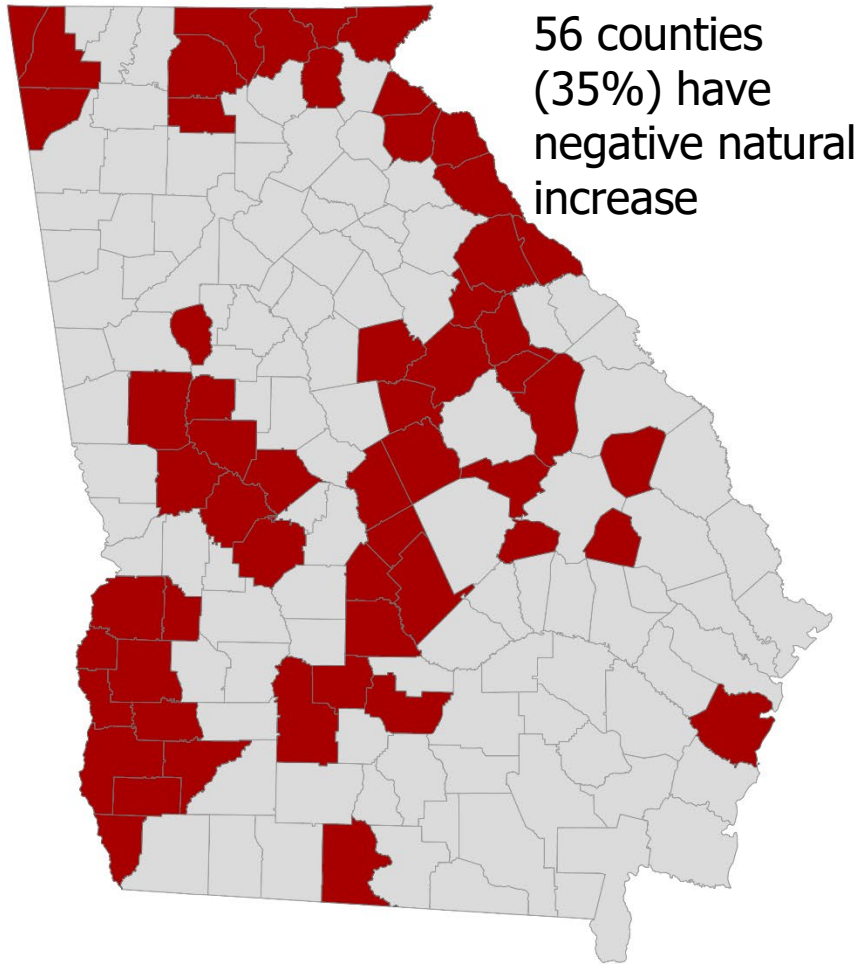
# People moving in from other U.S. states fuels Georgia's growth.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Estimates Program.



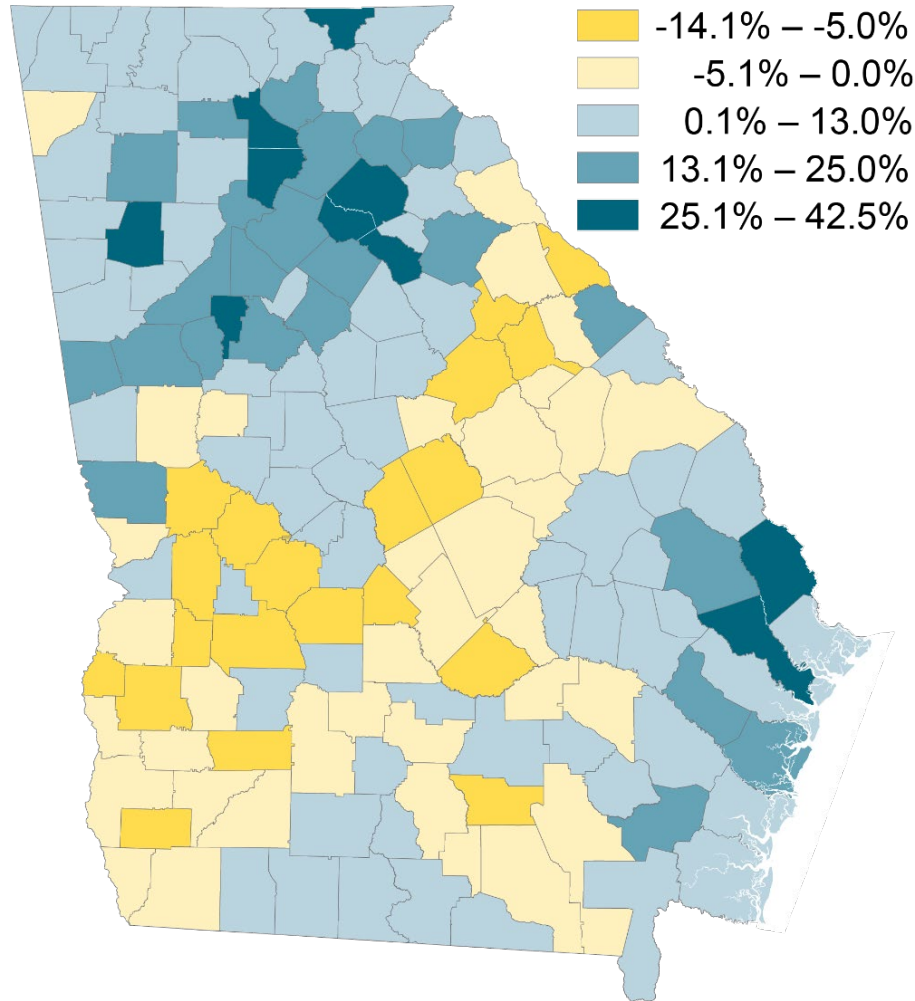
# Change in Population, 2015-2019



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Source: US Census Bureau;  
OASIS

# Population Change 2019 to 2030

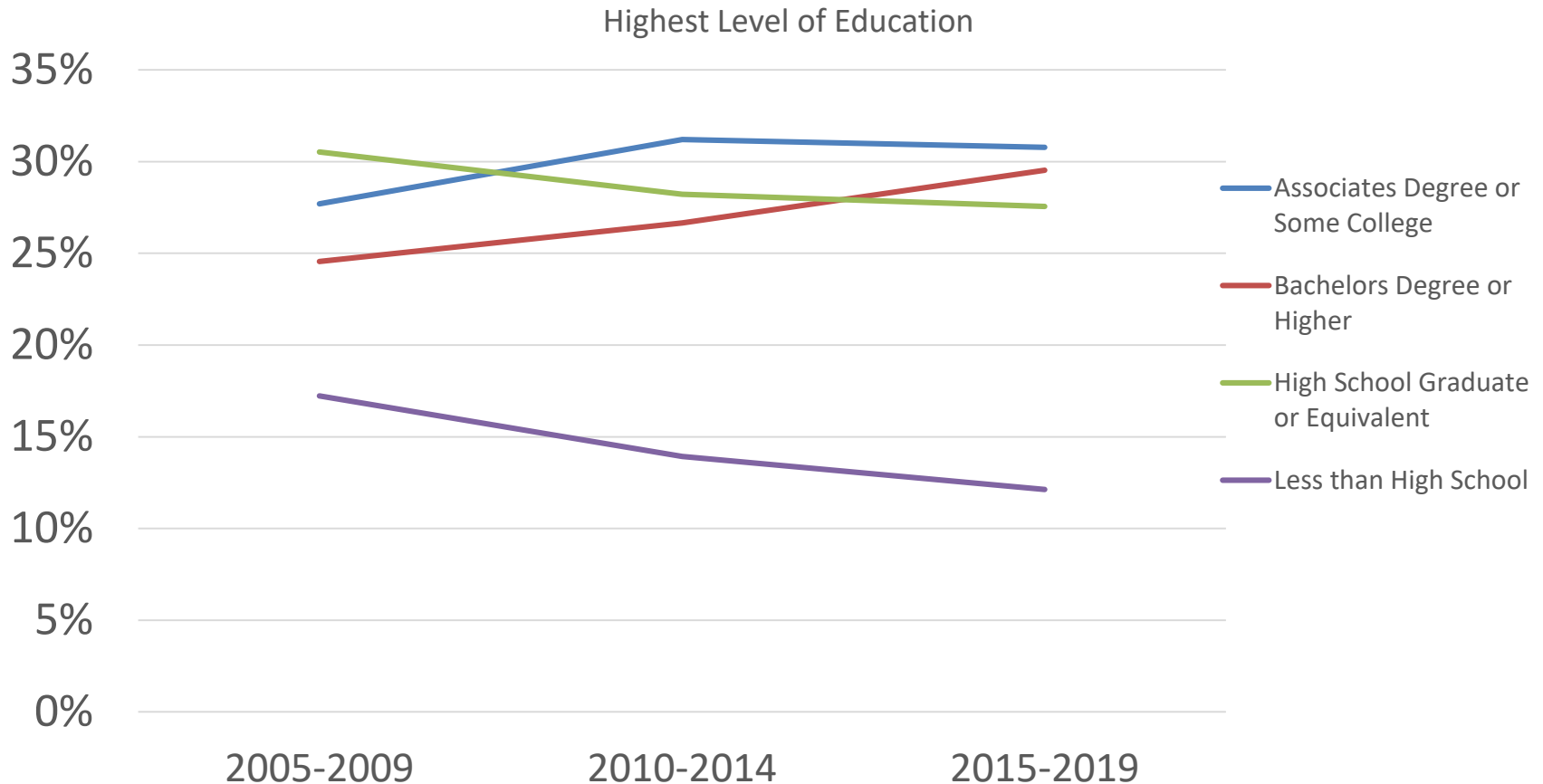


Rural counties, especially in the middle and south, are projected to lose population, while suburban, rural north, and coastal counties are projected to gain population.

Source: 2020 OPB Population Projections



# Education Attainment is Improving





# 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



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