



Carl Vinson  
Institute of Government  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# GEORGIA'S CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

Georgia Municipal Association

February 1, 2022

TAYLOR HAFLEY, APPLIED DEMOGRAPHER

# Agenda

- Georgia Population Overview
- Key Population Trends
- 2020 Census
- Summary



# What is the current population of Georgia?

- A. 9.8 million**
- B. 10.7 million**
- C. 11.6 million**
- D. 12.2 million**

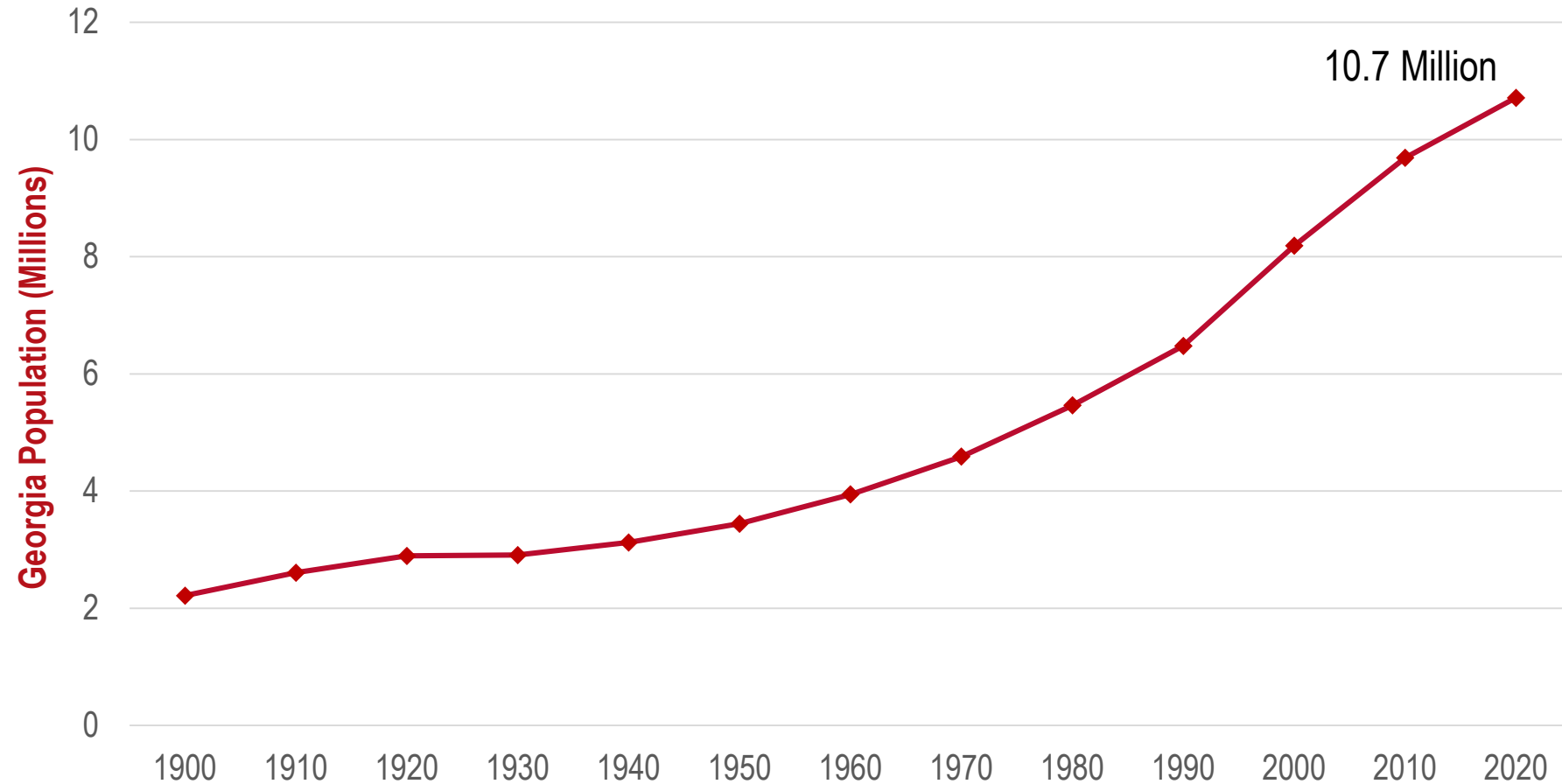


# What is the current population of Georgia?

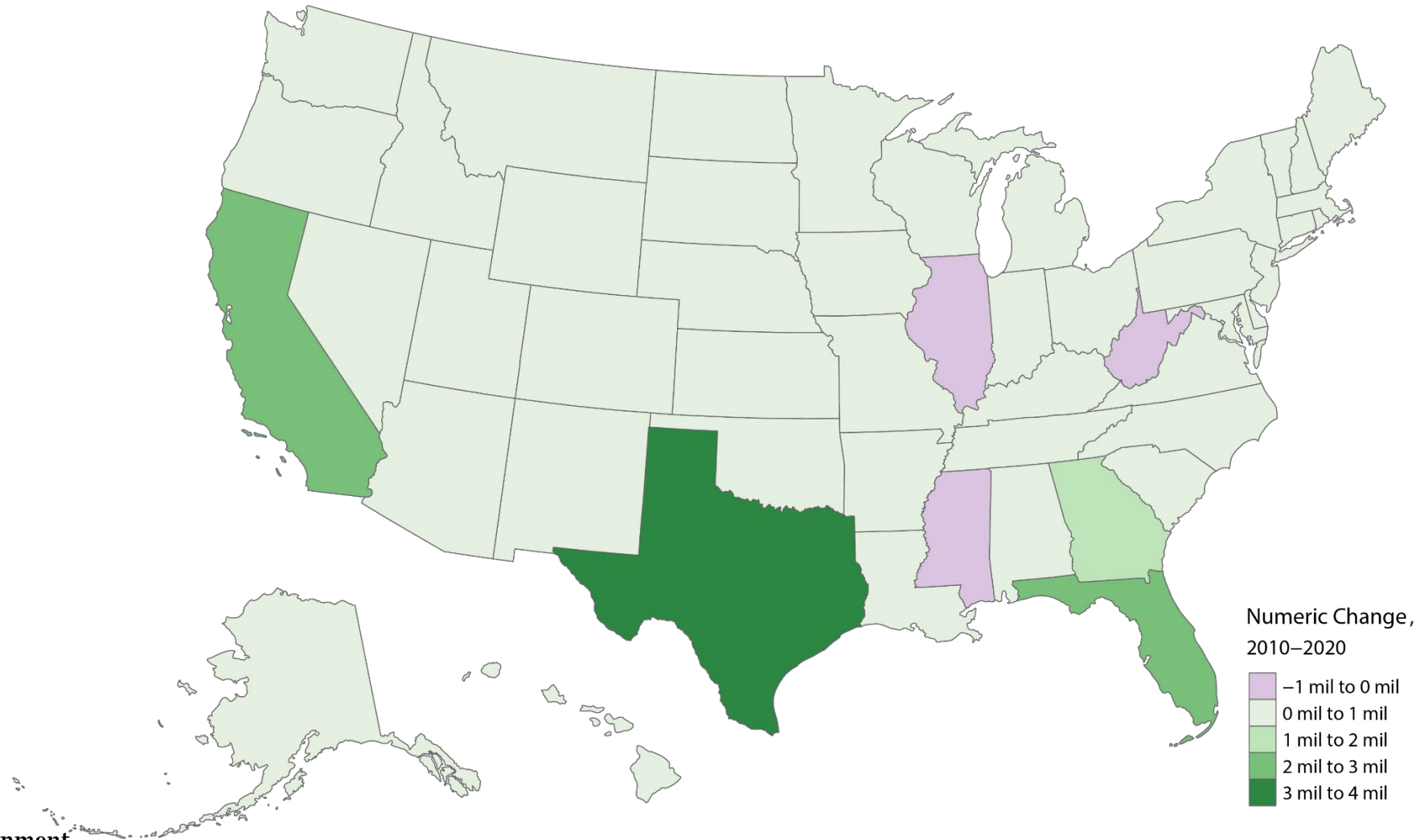
- A. 9.8 million
- B. 10.7 million**
- C. 11.6 million
- D. 12.2 million



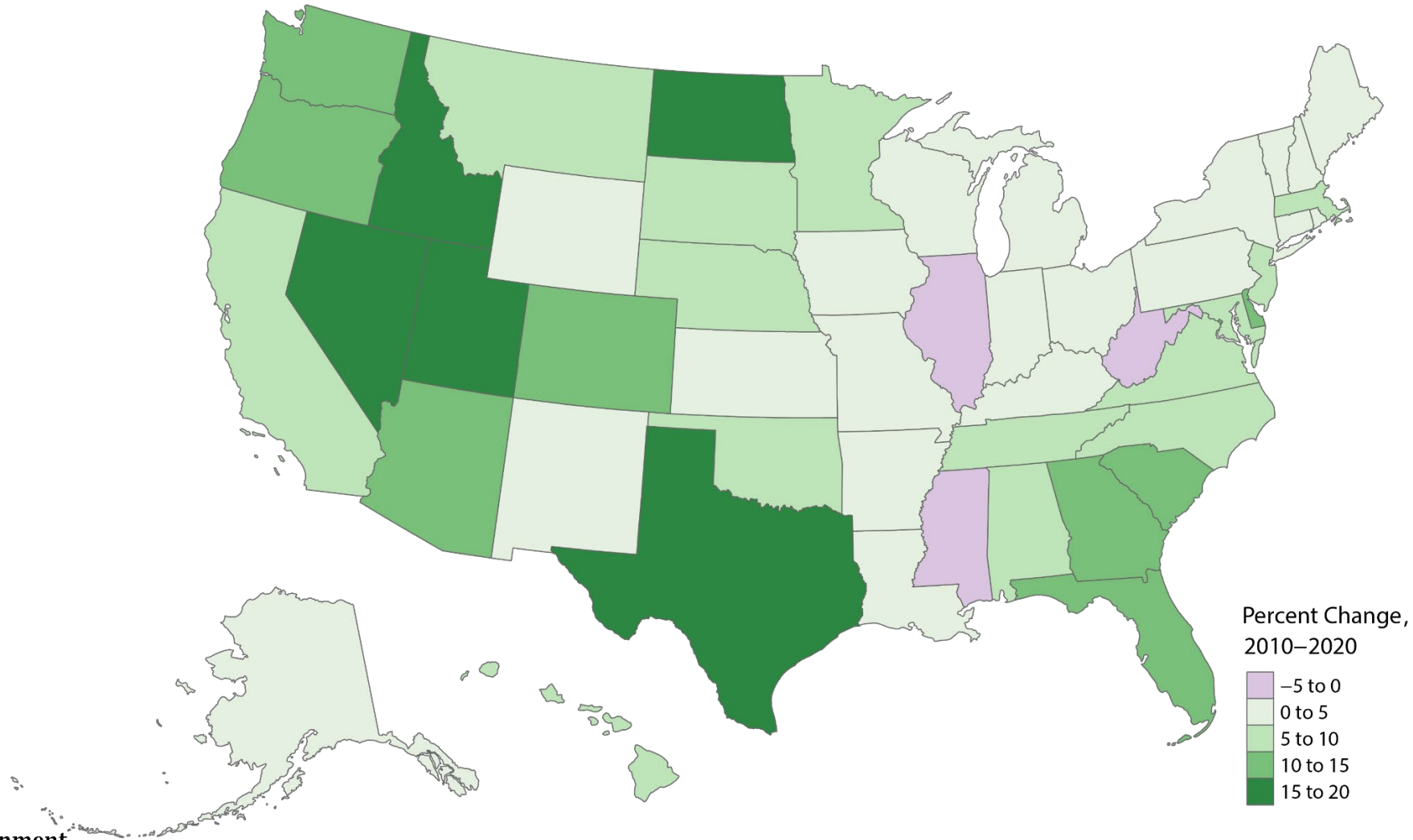
# Four Million New Georgians since 1990



# Georgia Top 4 in Population Increase Over Past Decade



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



# Three Components of Population Change

---

1. Births
2. Deaths
3. Migration





# How many babies were born in Georgia in 2020?

- A. 122,379**
- B. 73,982**
- C. 193,283**
- D. 48,791**



# How many babies were born in Georgia in 2020?

**A. 122,379**

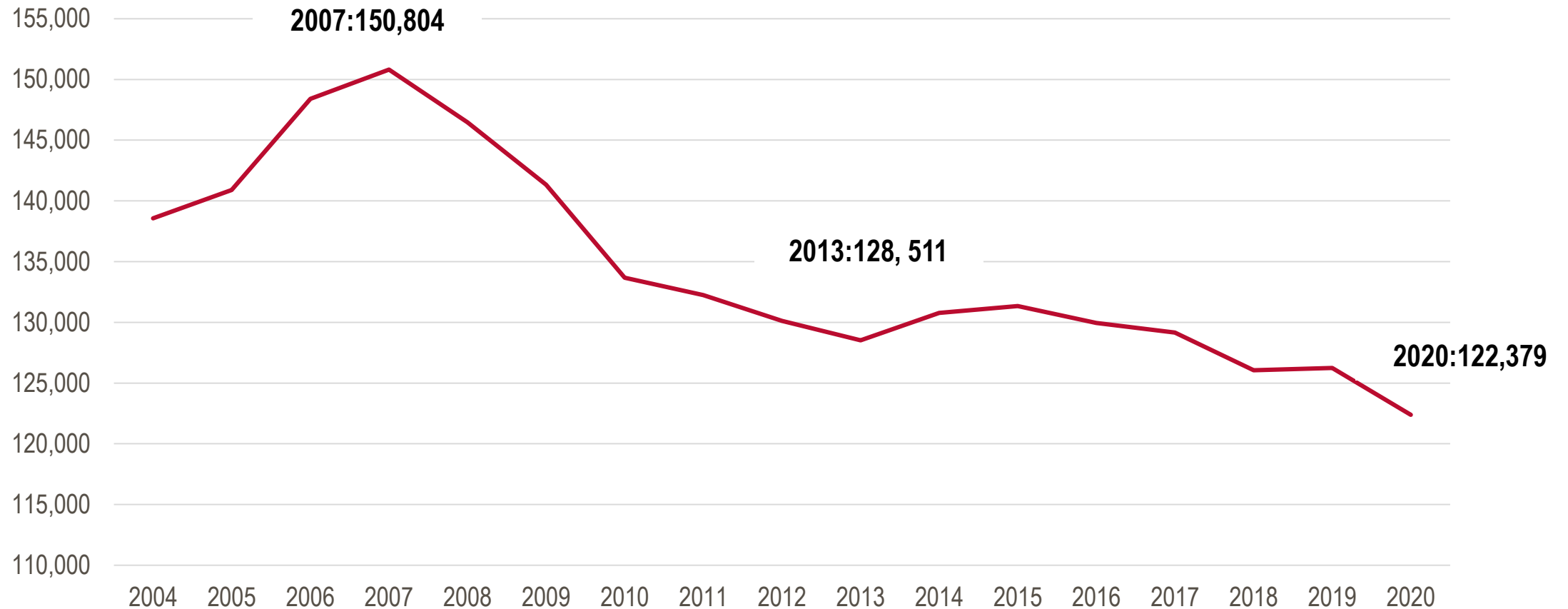
**B. 73,982**

**C. 193,283**

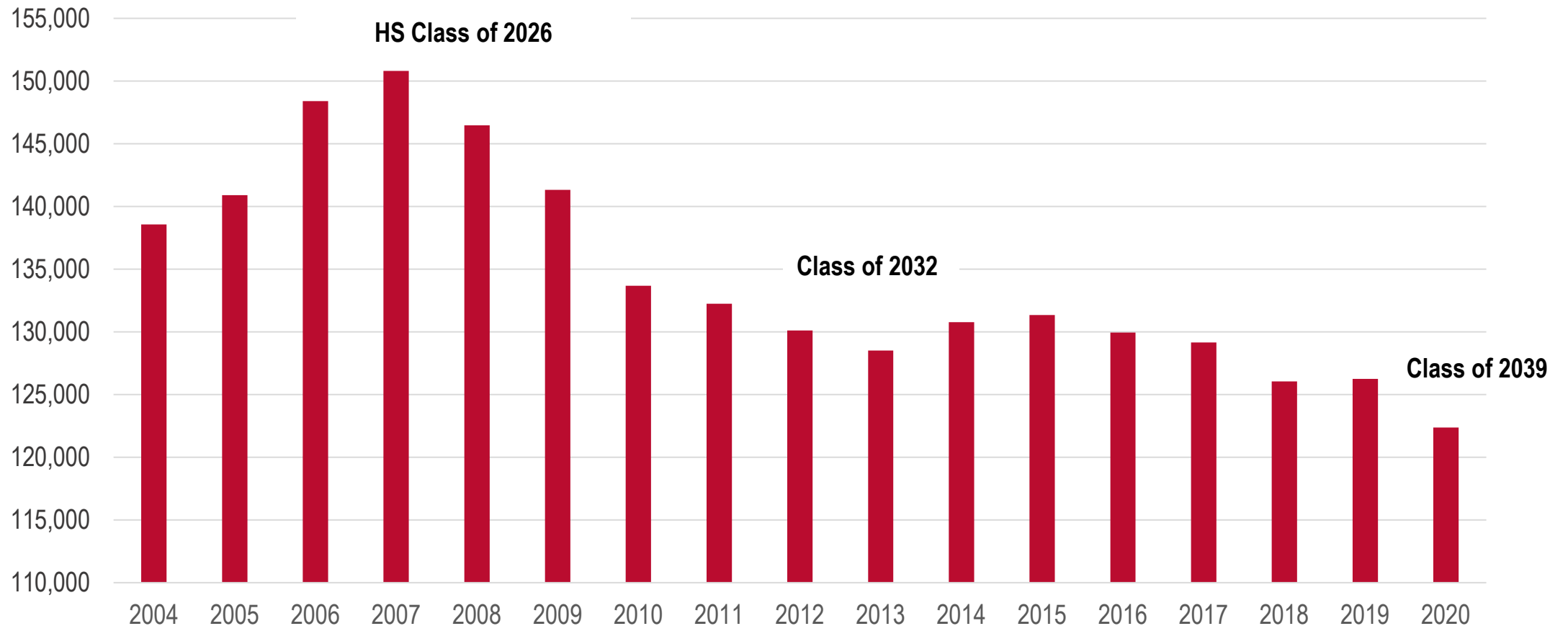
**D. 48,791**



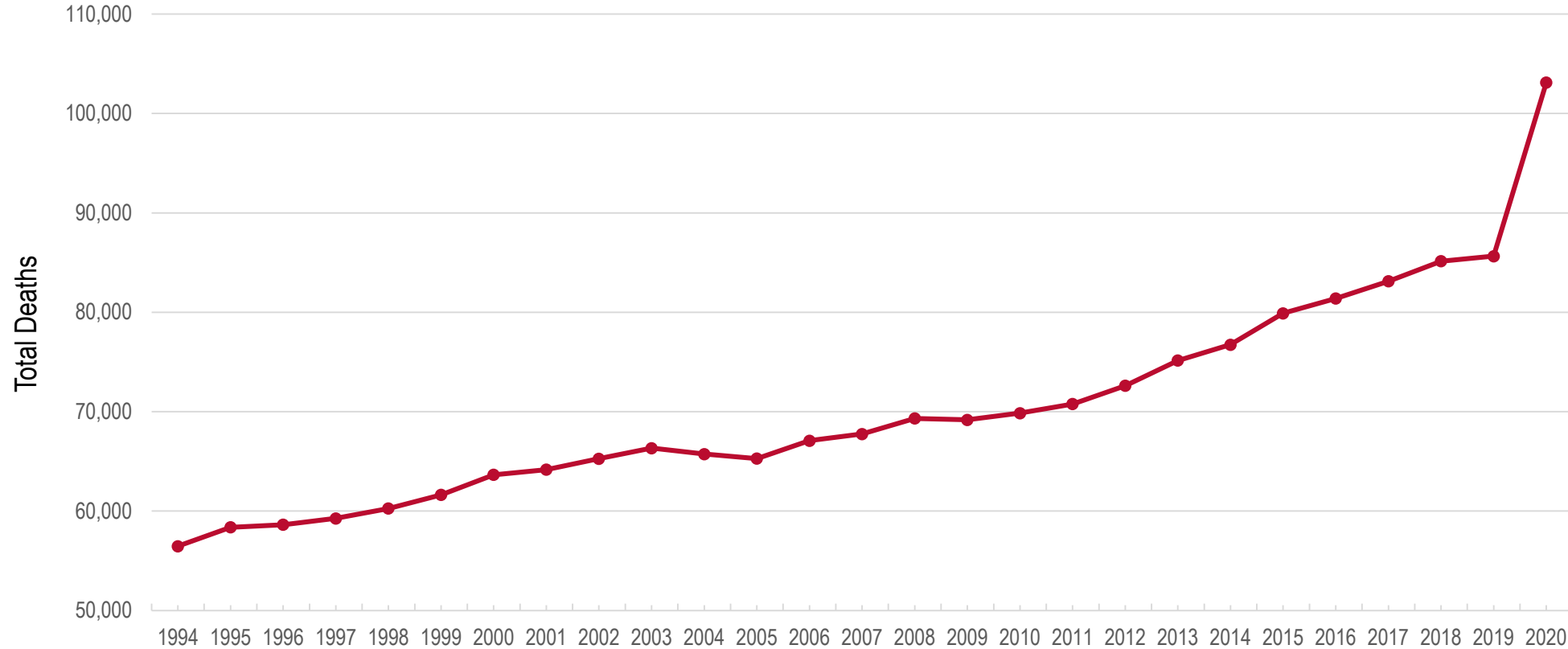
# Number of Births are Falling in Georgia



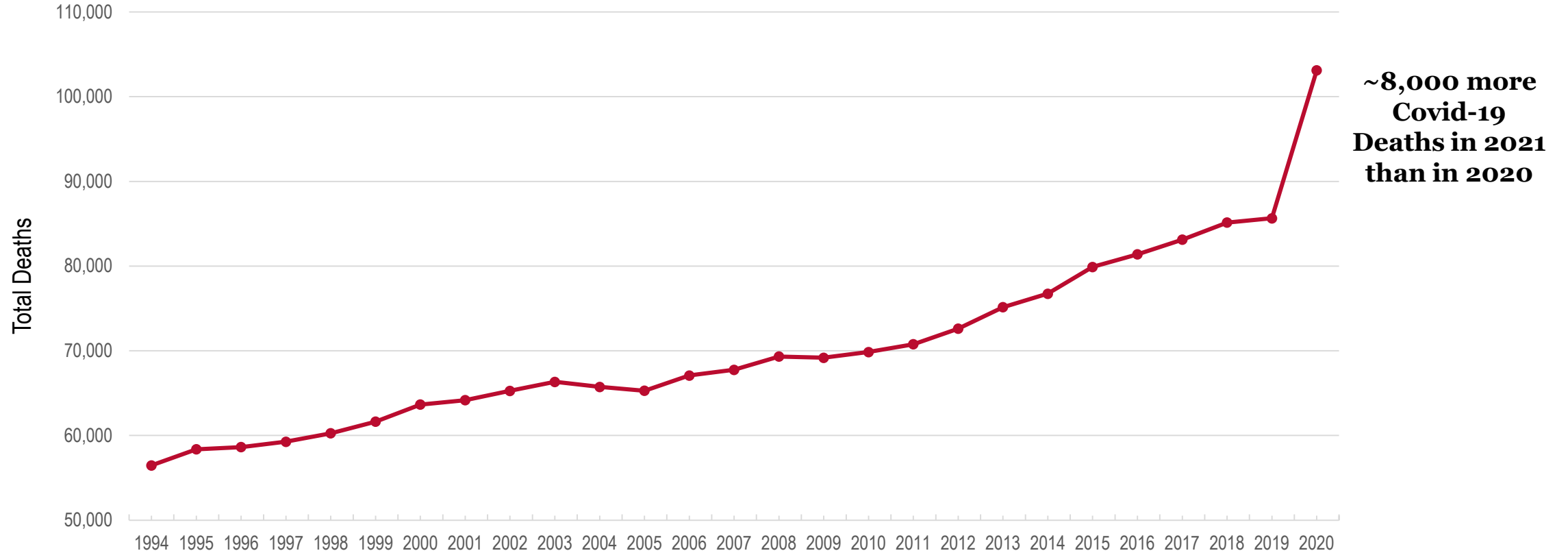
# Declining Births Impacts Education System



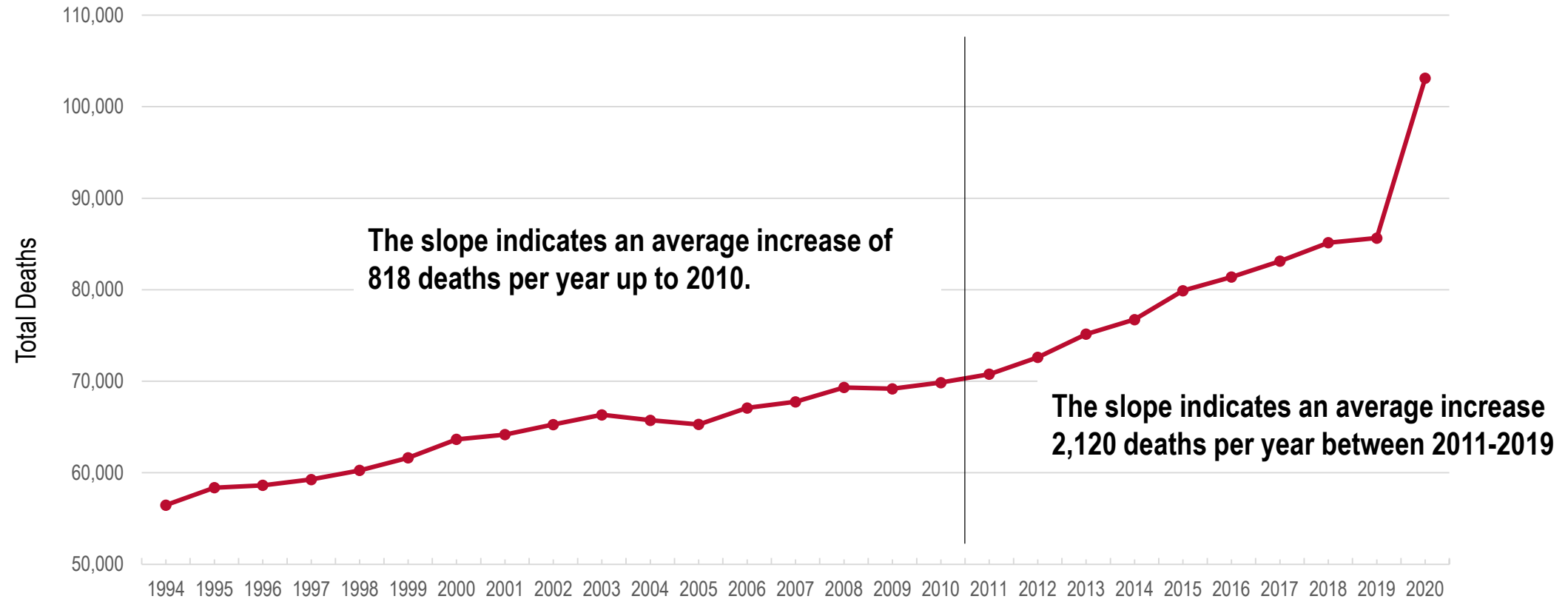
# 22,000 More Deaths in 2020 than in 2019



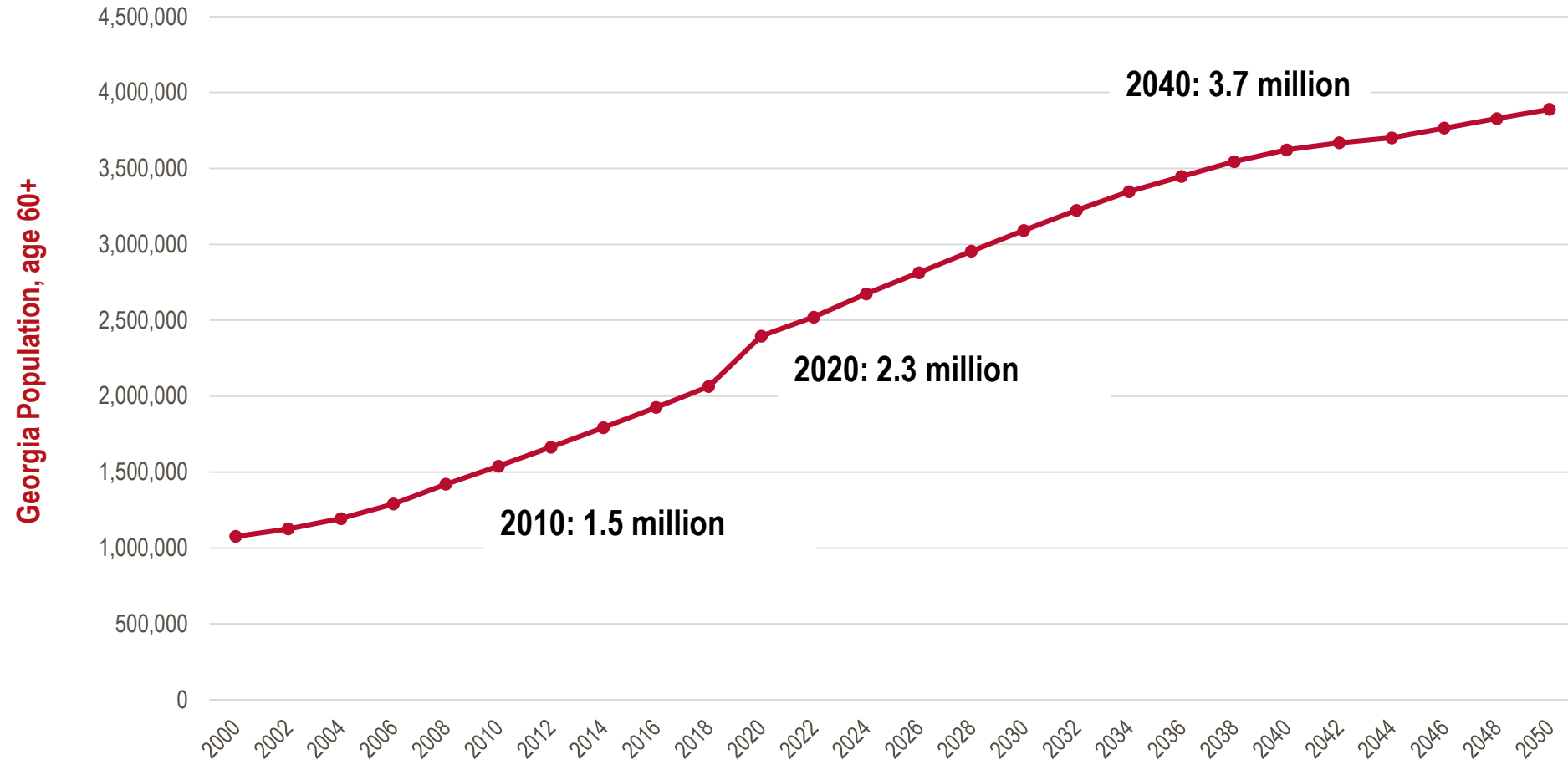
# 22,000 More Deaths in 2020 than in 2019



# Mortality Trend was Increasing prior to Covid-19

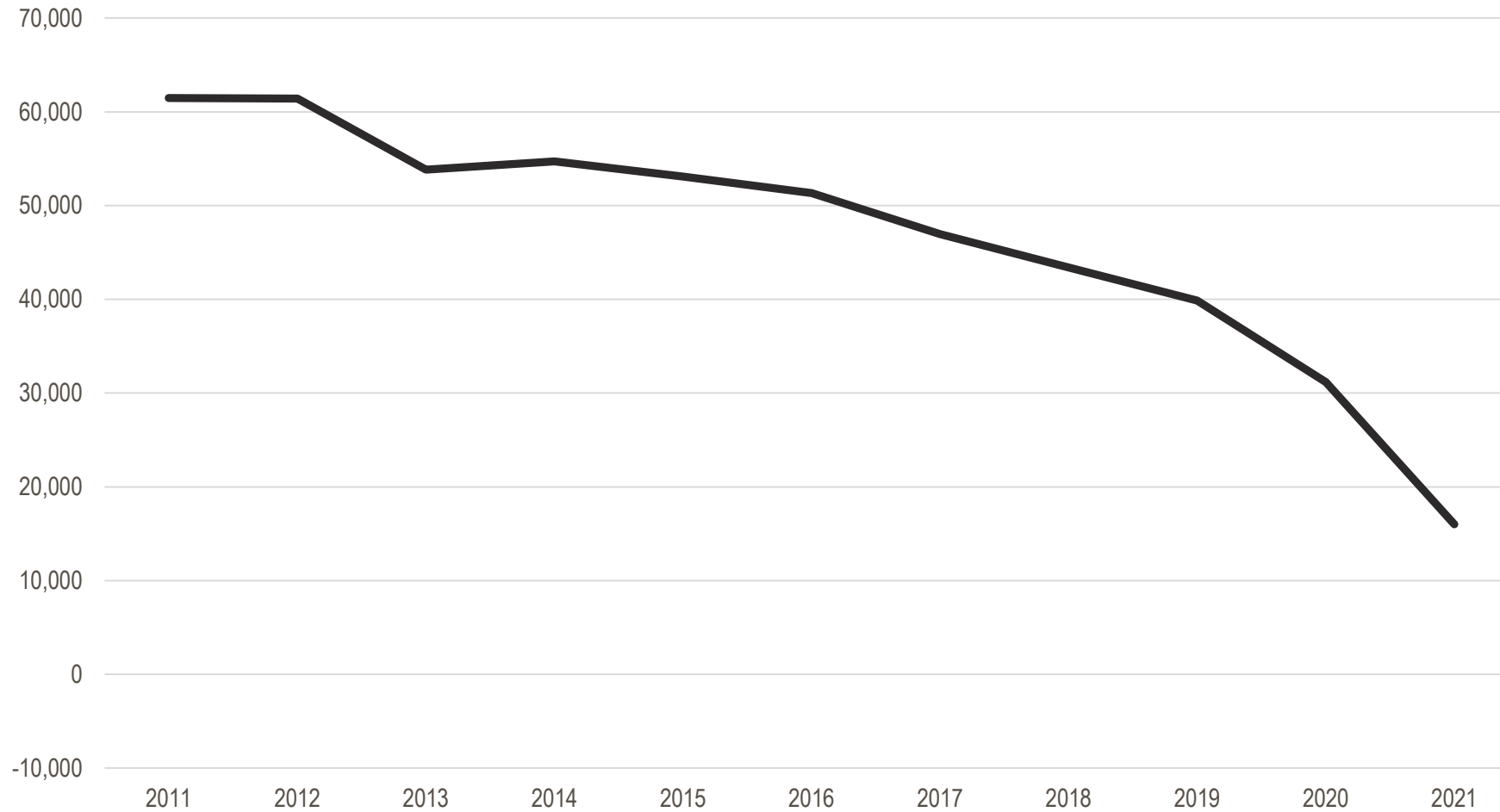


# Georgia's Growing Population over Age 60

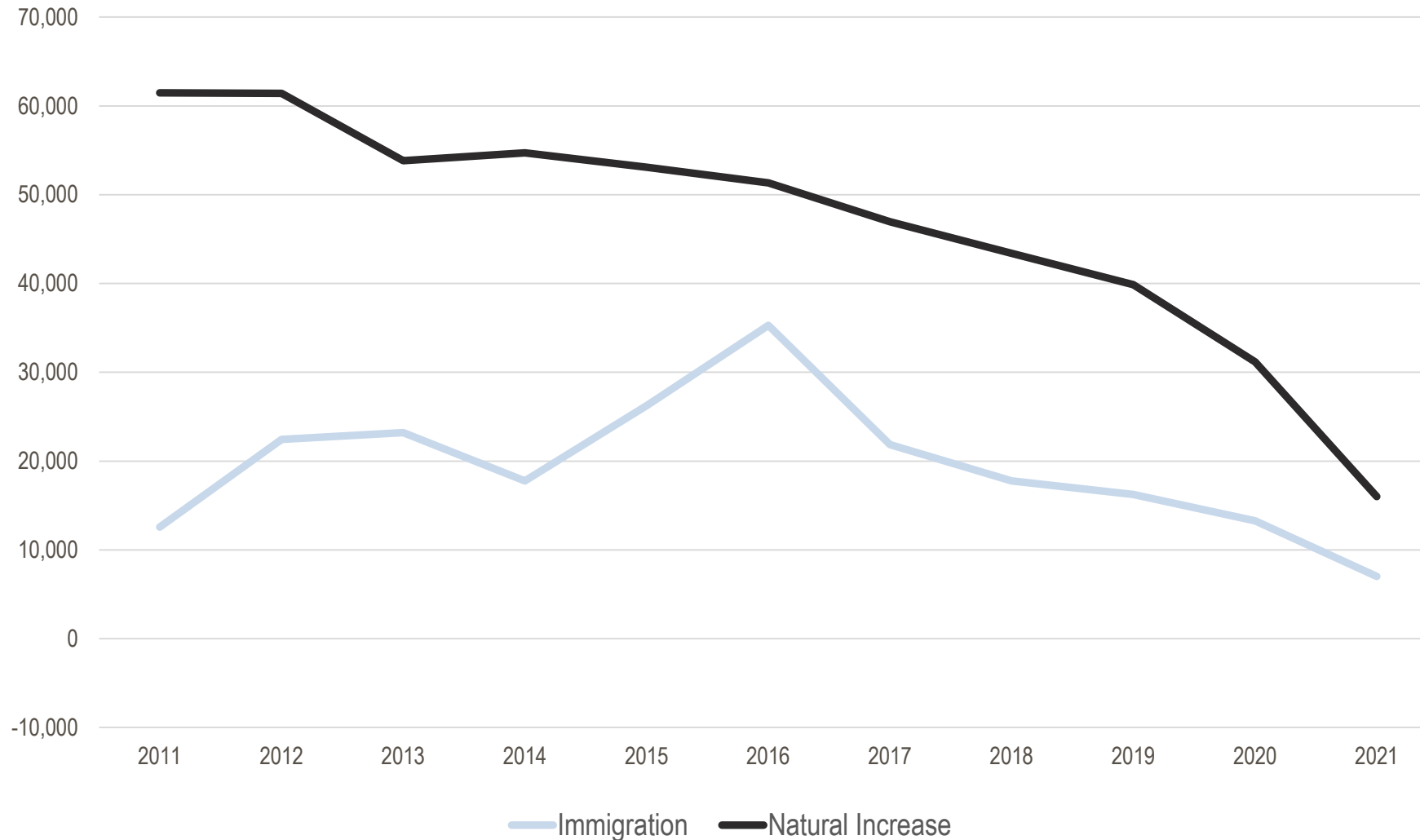




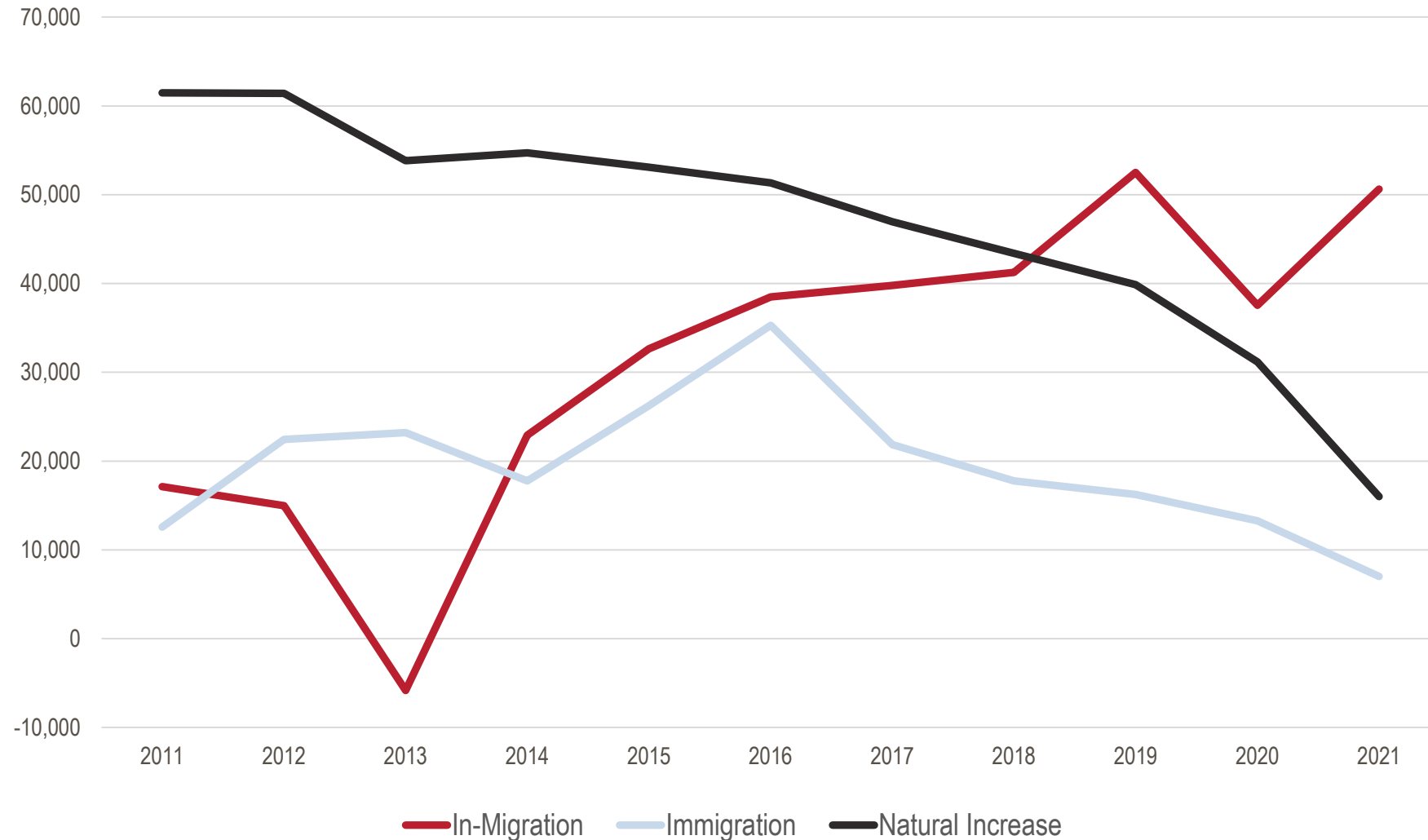
# Slower Natural Increase



# International Migration Stable Component of Growth



# Domestic Migration Propels Georgia Growth

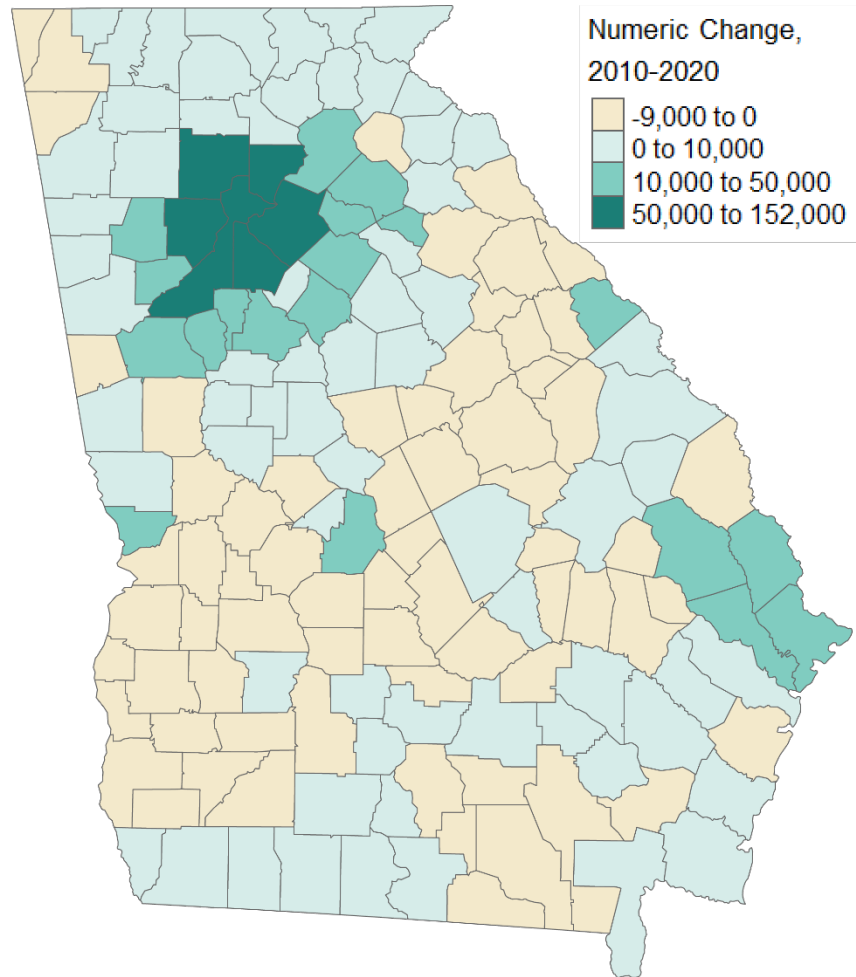


# REGIONAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Census 2020



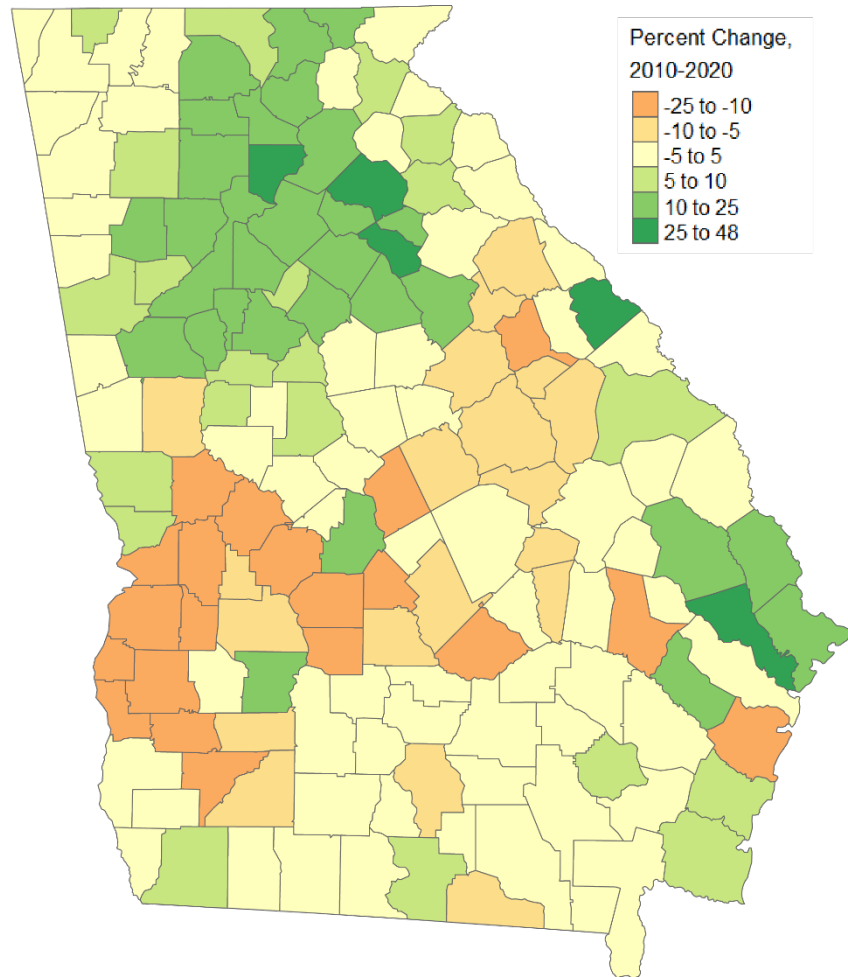
# Population Growth Concentrated in Population Centers



	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

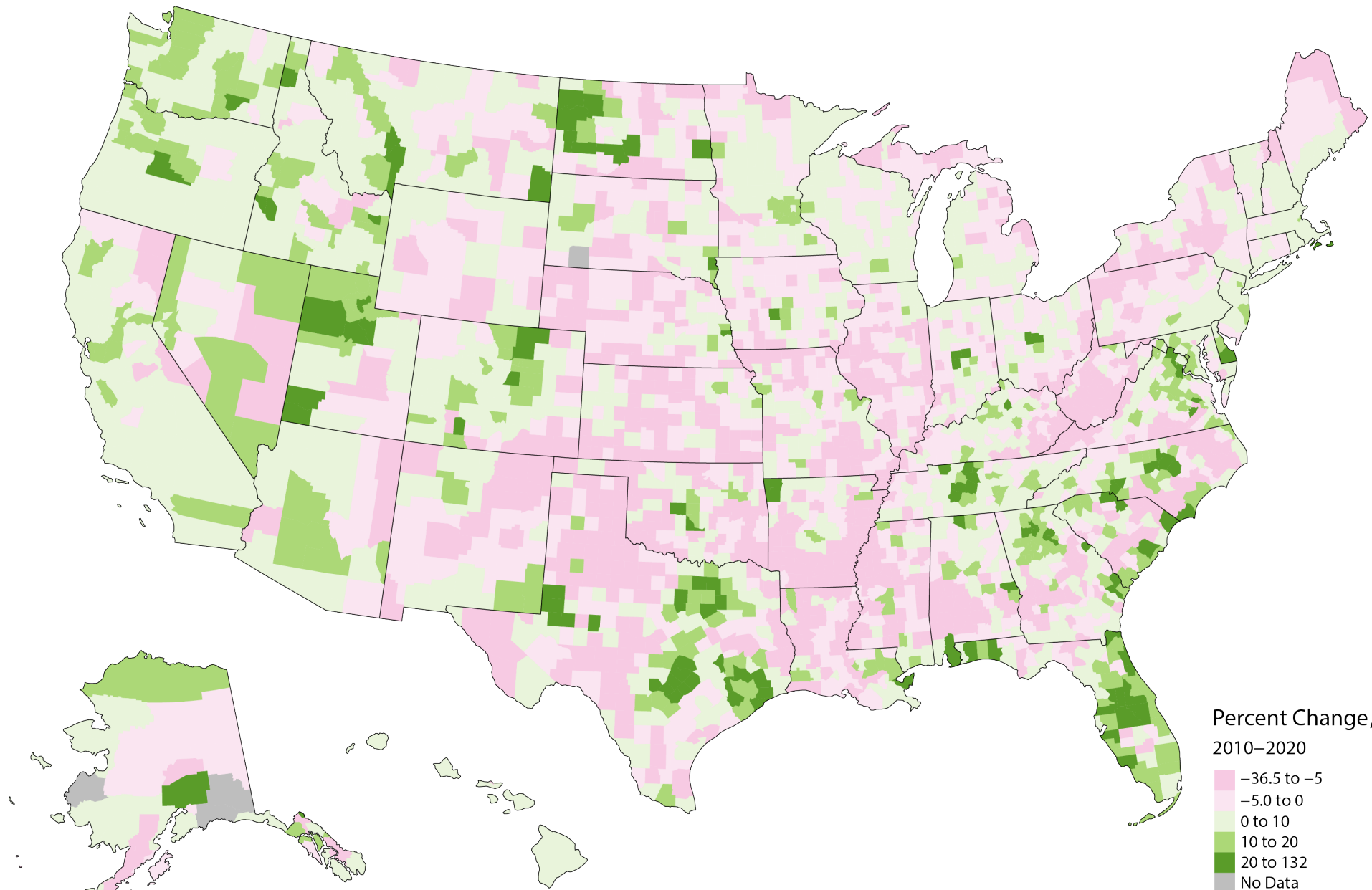
# Suburban and Exurban Population Growth



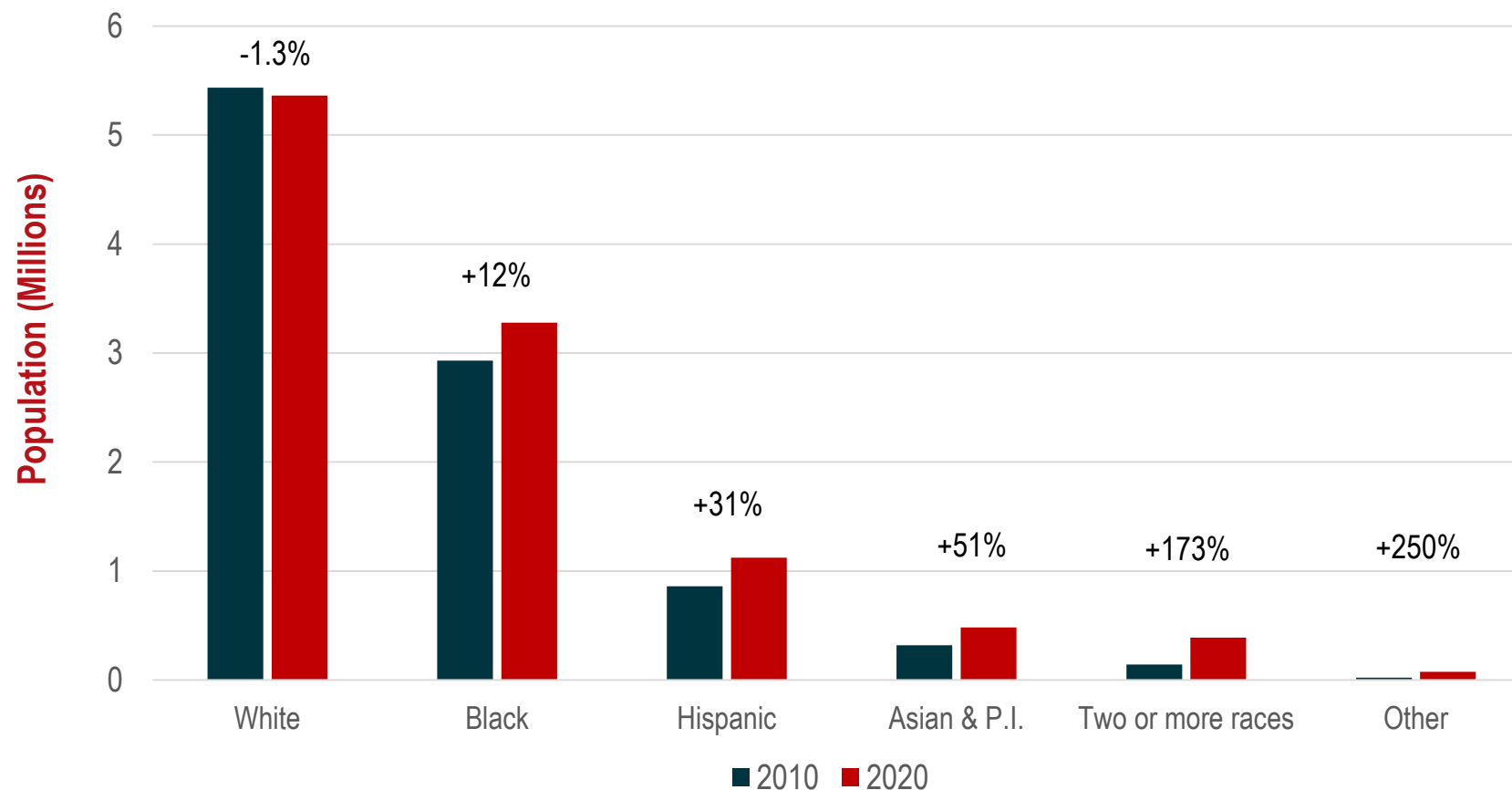
	Fastest Growing	%
1	Bryan County	48.0
2	Forsyth County	43.2
3	Oconee County	27.4
4	Columbia County	25.8
5	Jackson County	25.5
6	Cherokee County	24.4
7	Effingham County	24.0
8	Barrow County	20.4
9	Dawson County	20.0
10	Towns County	19.3

	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



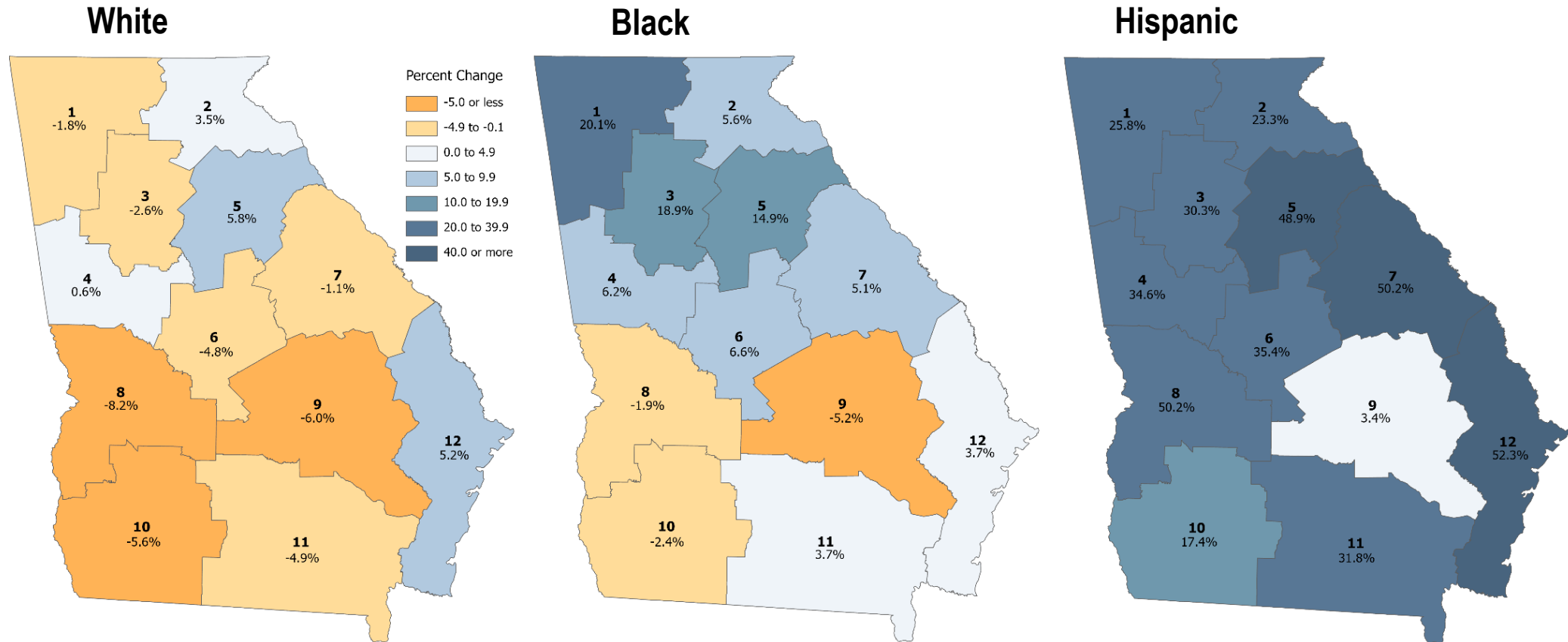


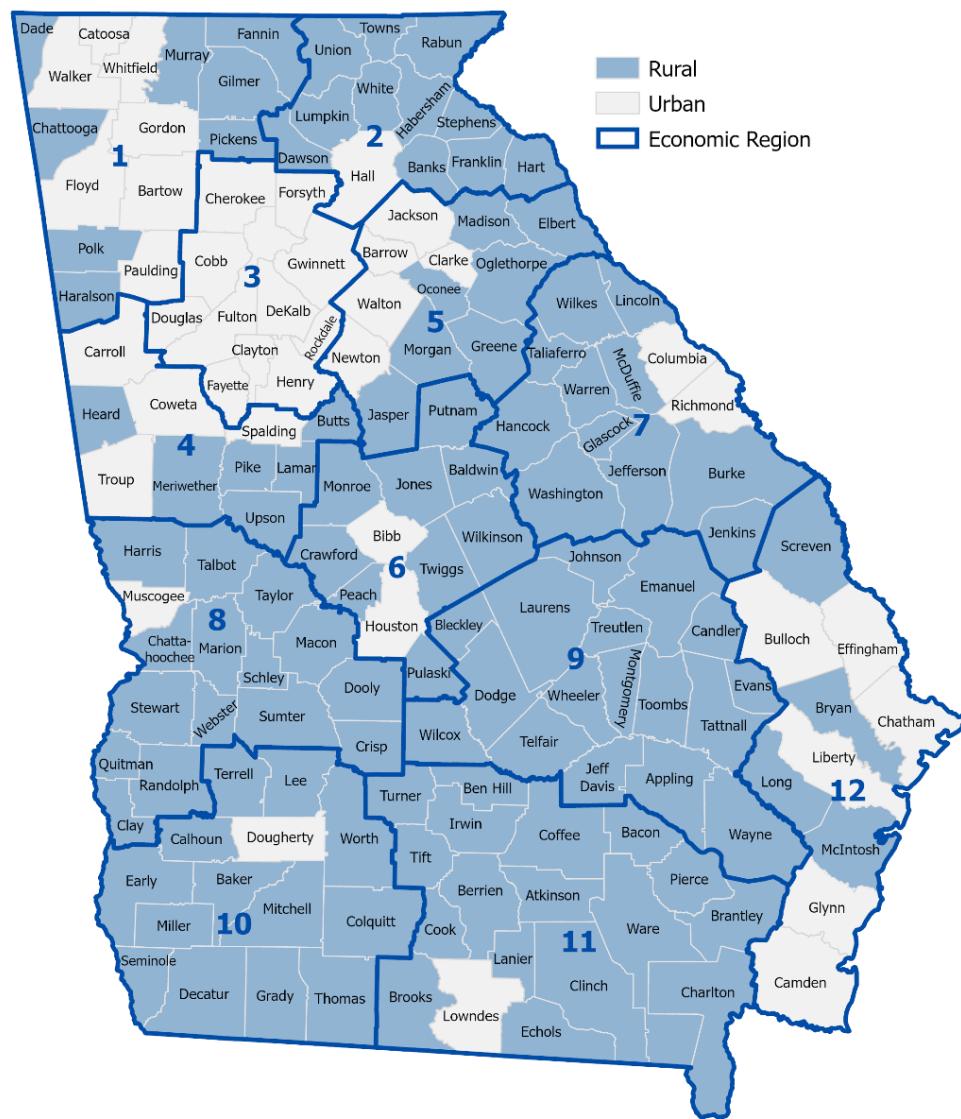
# Georgia's Changing Racial Composition, 2010-2020





# Racial Change by Regional Commission, 2010-2020





Urban Counties  
41  
75% of population in 2010

Urban Counties  
41  
79% of population in 2020

Rural Counties  
118  
25% of population in 2010

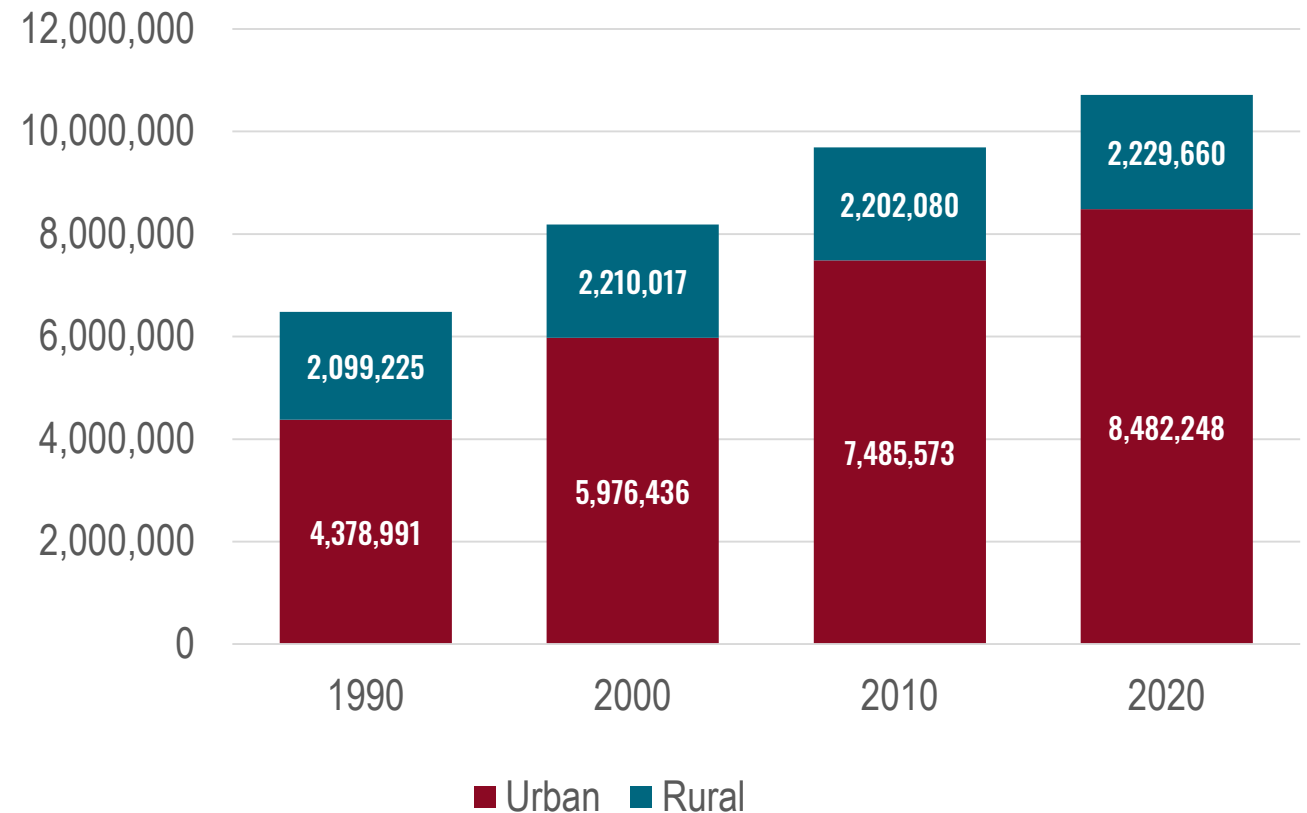
Rural Counties  
118  
21% of population in 2020

Rural Counties are those with  
populations below 50,000



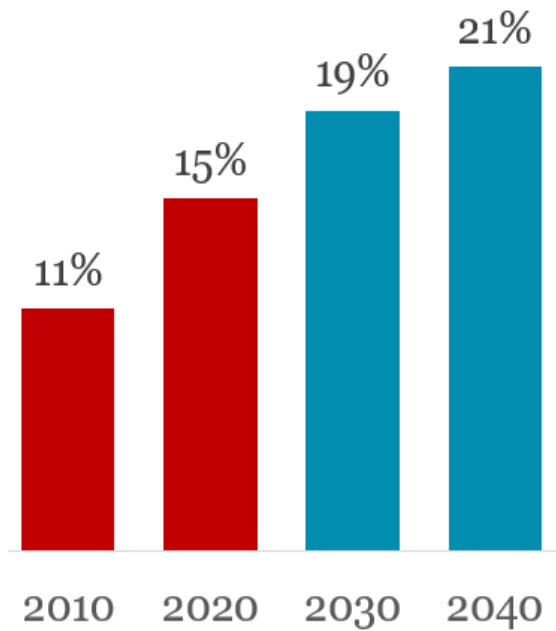
# Three Decades of Urban Growth

- Urban population grew by ~4.1 million
- Rural Population increased by ~120,000
  - Decline in 2000s
  - Recent rural population uptick, in aggregate

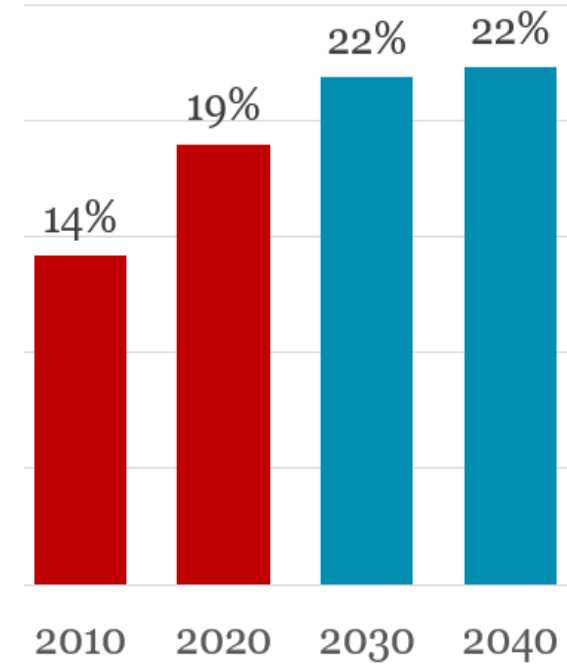


# Share of Senior Population Projected to Grow Faster in Rural Areas

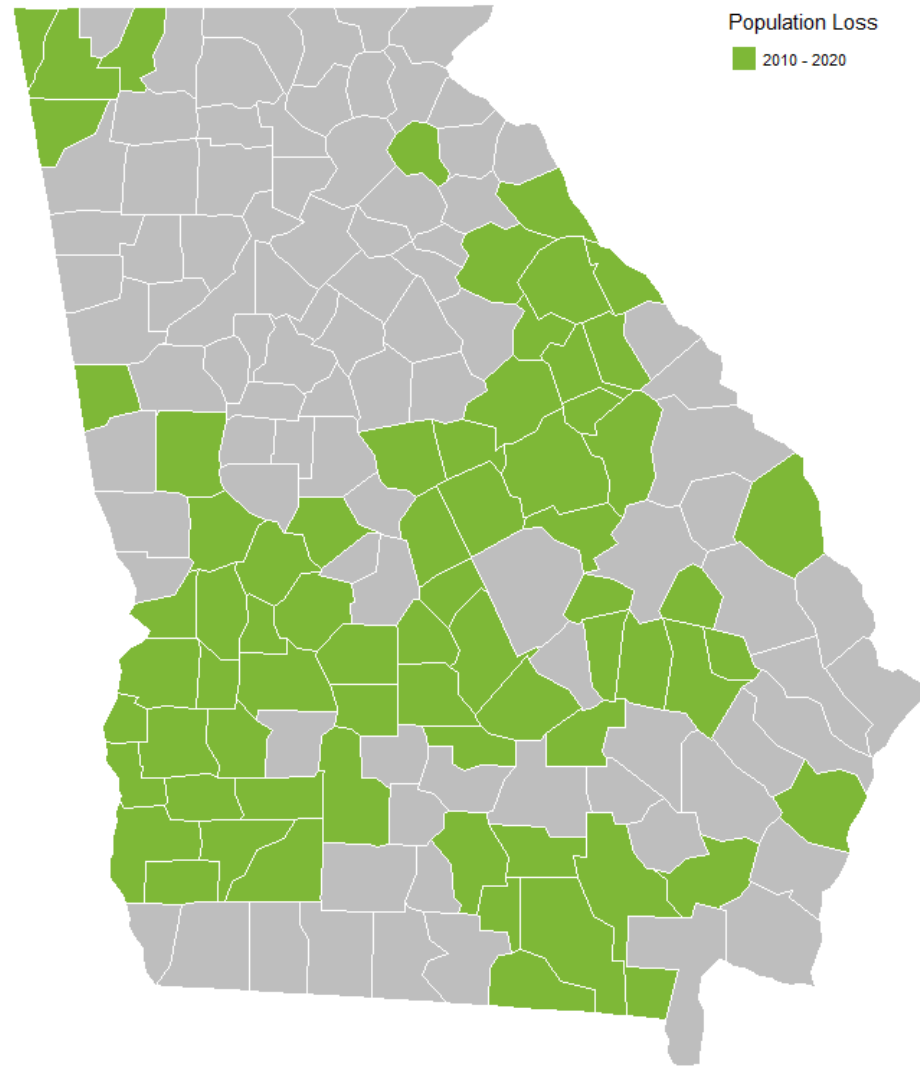
**Georgians Over 65 or Older**



**Rural Georgians 65 or Older**

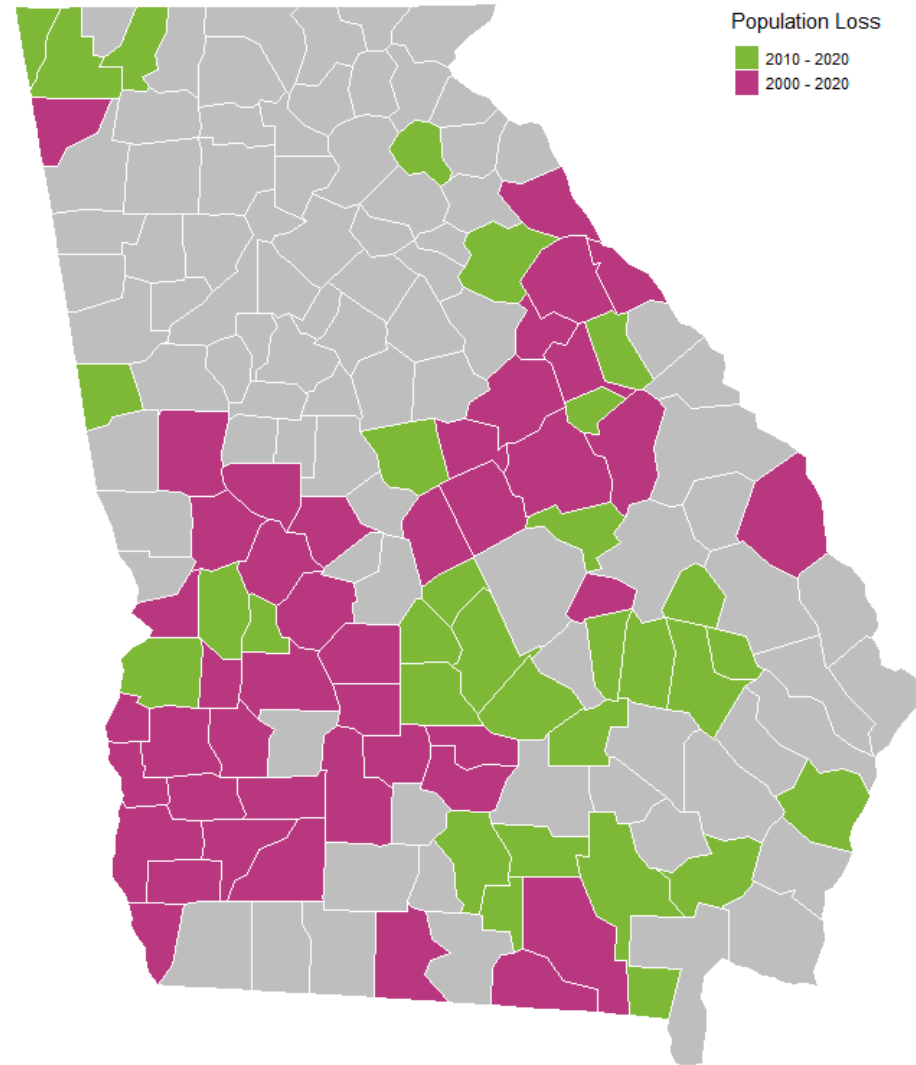


## 68 counties lost population between 2010 and 2020

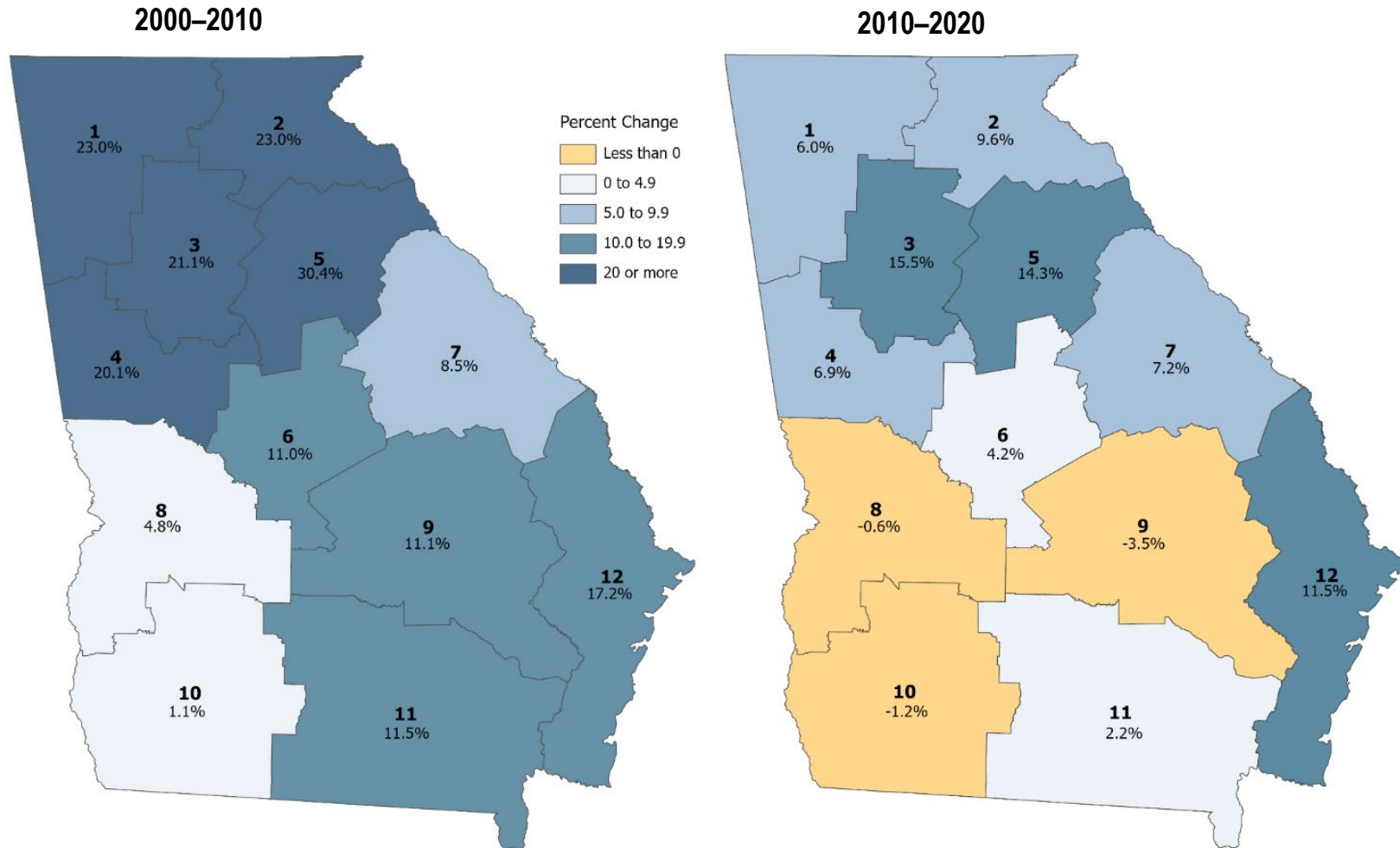


68 counties lost  
population between  
2010 and 2020

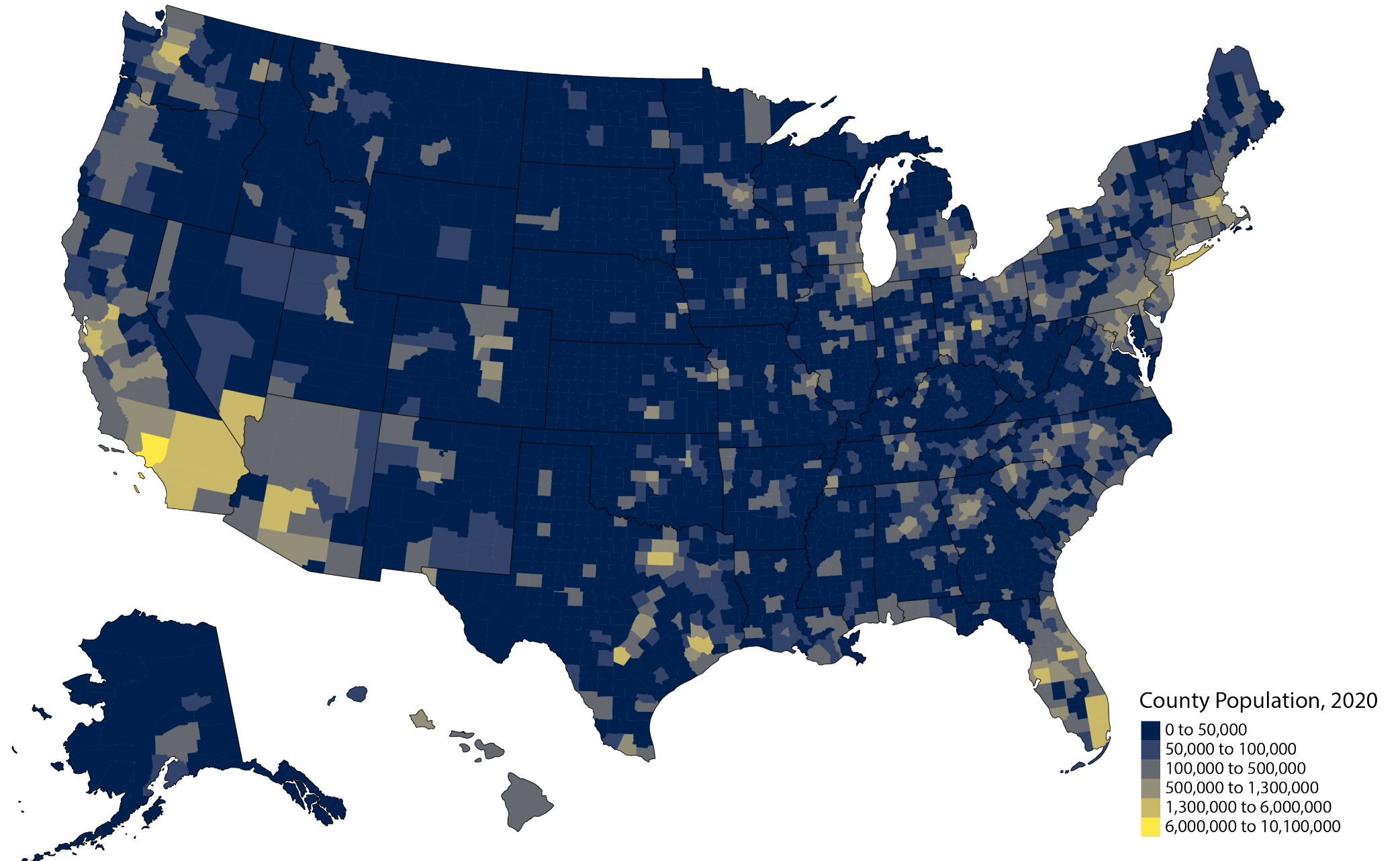
**43 counties have  
fewer people in  
2020 than in 2000**



# Population Change by Regional Commission



- Atlanta Regional Commission accounted for 1/2 of population growth from 2000–10 and 2/3 from 2010–20
- Population Declines in Three Regions over past decade





# Georgia Demographics in Summary

- Georgia is a growing state
  - Positive net in-migration fuels Georgia's growth
  - Declining Birth Rates
  - Aging Population
- Share of non-white population is growing
- Regionally Uneven Population Trends
  - Growth Concentrated in Metropolitan Atlanta, Mountains, and Coastal Areas
  - Population loss in central and southwest Georgia



# Data Resources at CVIOG



# Questions or Discussion

TAYLOR HAFLEY

Applied Demographer

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



# Connect With Us!



**facebook.com  
/VinsonInstitute**



**Carl Vinson  
Institute of Government**



**@CVIOG\_UGA**



**[www.cviog.uga.edu](http://www.cviog.uga.edu)**



**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.