



Where Do We Grow From Here? Population Trends and Transitions in Colorado and El Paso County

UCCS Economic Forum, September 2024

State Demography Office, Department of Local Affairs

[Demography.dola.colorado.gov](https://demography.dola.colorado.gov)



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Big Picture Trends

- Population growing at a slowing rate - births down, deaths up
- Migration and mobility slowing
 - Harder to attract and retaining the best and brightest
 - “In” migration similar levels, growing “out” migration
- Demand for labor (new jobs and retirements) drives migration
- Aging - impacts everything
 - Largest share of future growth is the 65+
 - Early working age and youth becoming smaller share of total pop
 - Growing race and ethnic diversity.



Big Picture Numbers

	2010-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-23	
United States	22.3MM	7.4%	520k	0.1%	1.256MM	0.4%	1.643	.5%
Colorado	744.5k	14.8%	26.5k	0.5%	27.7k	0.5%	36.5	.6%
Colorado Rank	9th	6th	11th	20th	12th	19th	9th	18th

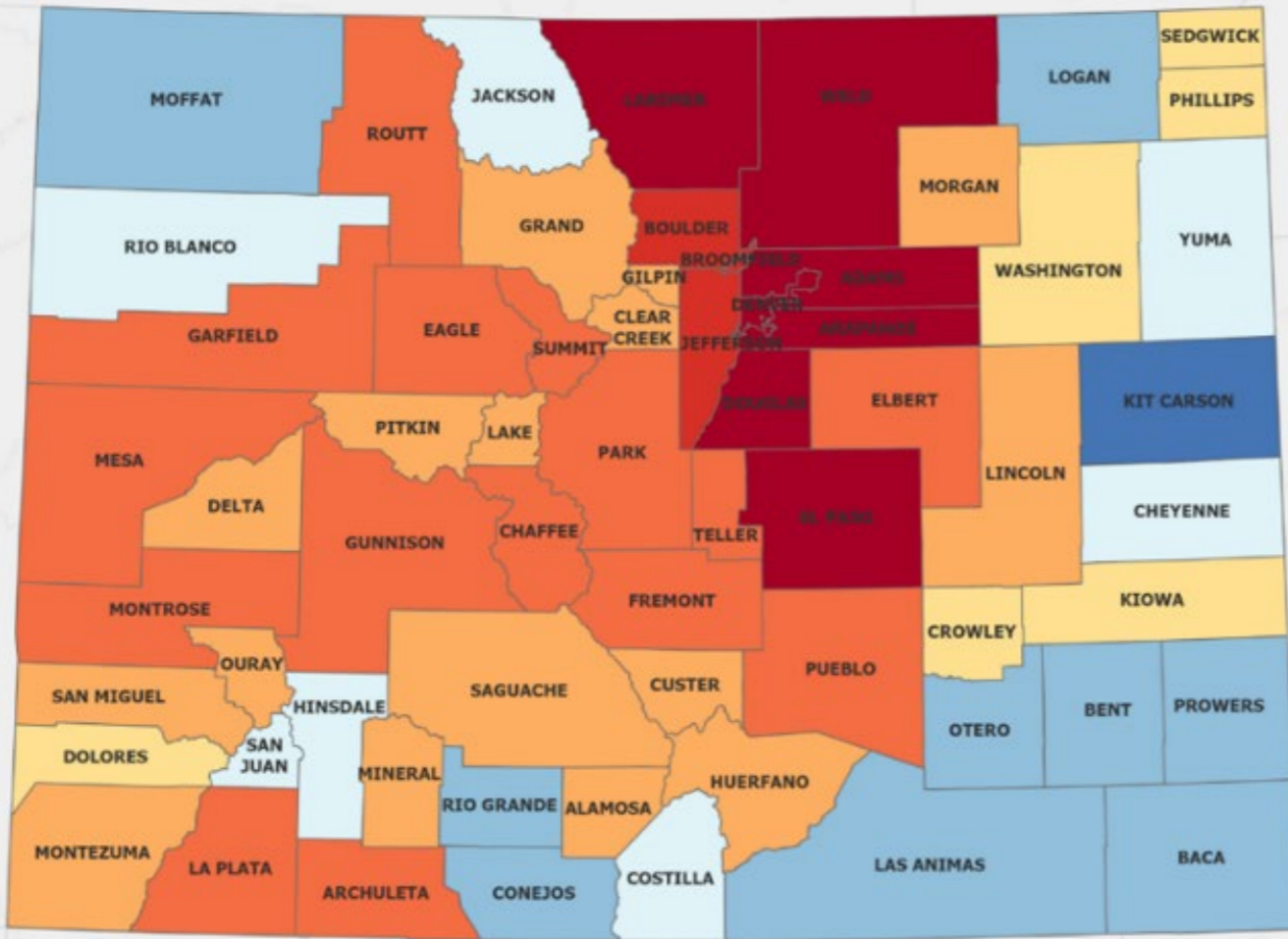
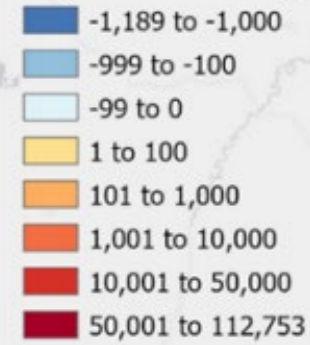
- 2010 - 2020 - Second slowest decade for US in terms of growth
- 2020 - 2021 - Slowest ever recorded growth rate -17 states lost population
- 2021 - 2022 - Some return to pre-COVID19 states lost population
- 2022 - 2023 - 8 states lost population - 19 states natural decline, immigration increases



Total Population Change

2010 - 2020

Population Change



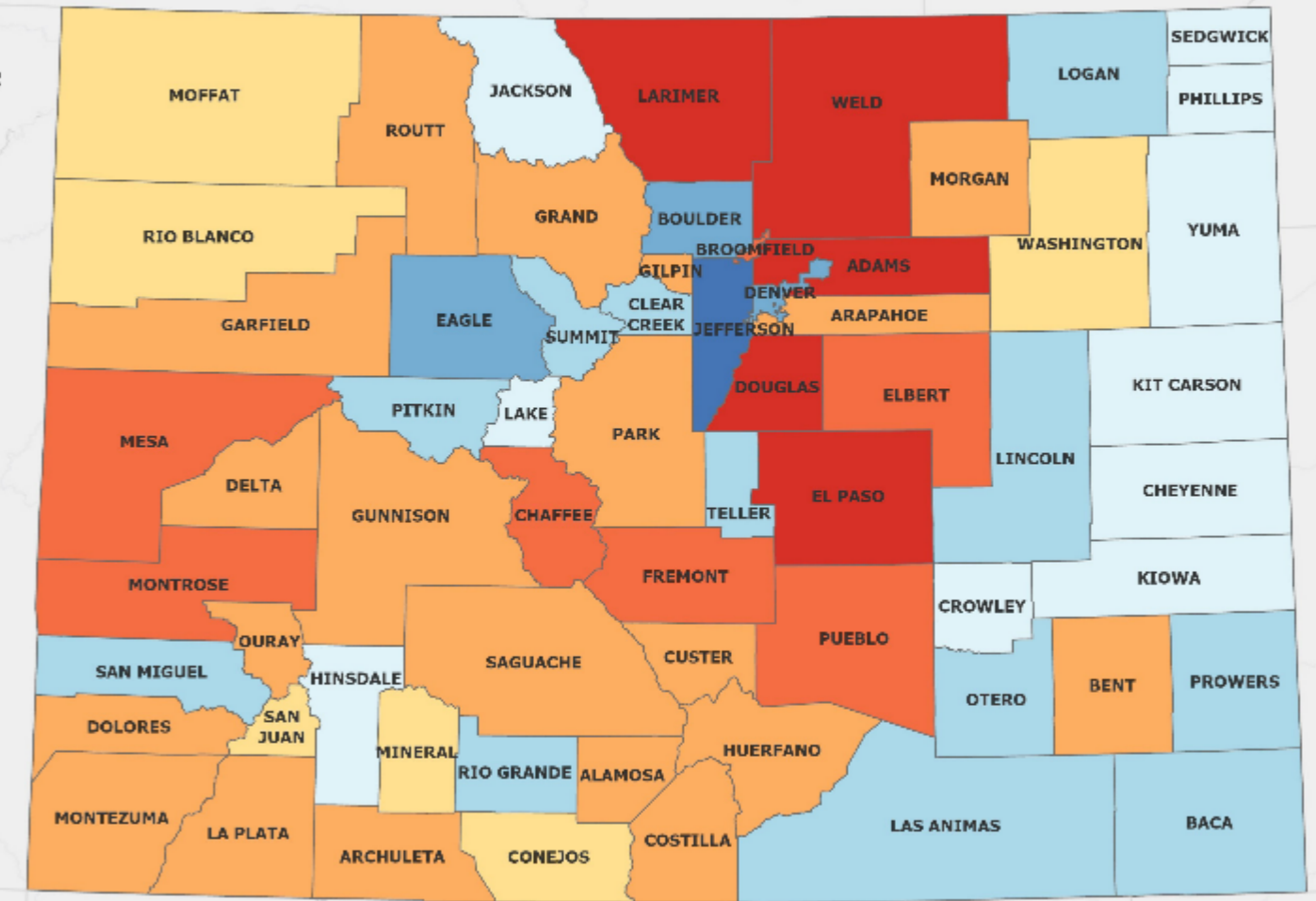
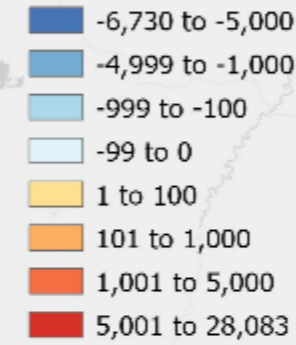
Source: Colorado State Demography Office

November 2021

Total Population Change

2020 - 2023

Population Change



Source: Colorado State Demography Office

April 2024

2010 to 2020 - 95% of population and job growth along Front Range

2020 to 2022 - Decreased to 75%, with a number of Denver Metro Counties losing population

2022 to future - Forecast to return more of a pre-COVID trend

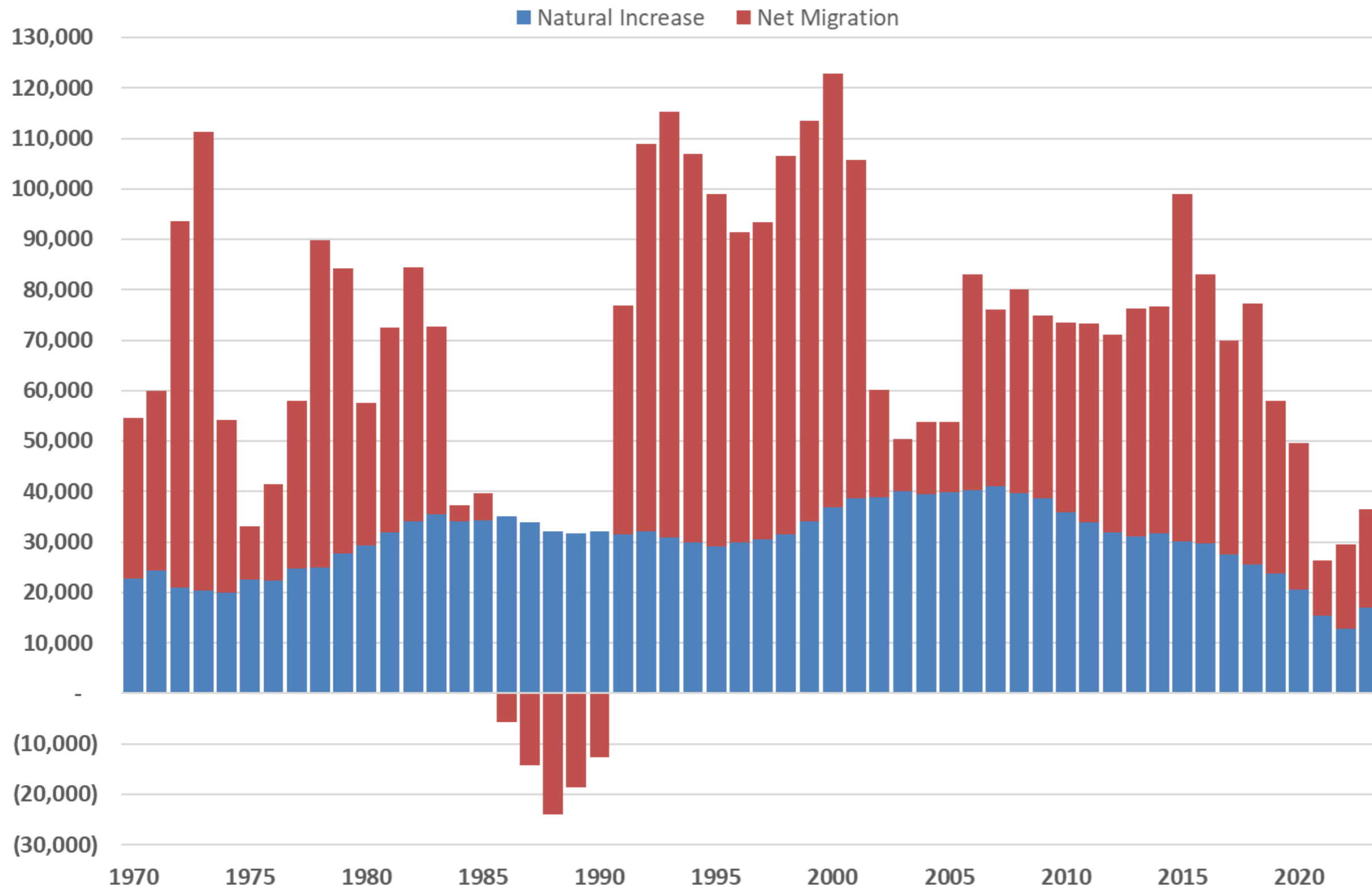


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Source: Colorado State Demography Office Population Estimates, Accessed March, 2024

<https://gis.dola.colorado.gov/ComponentsOfChange/>

Components of Colorado Population Change 1970-2023



2023

62K - Births

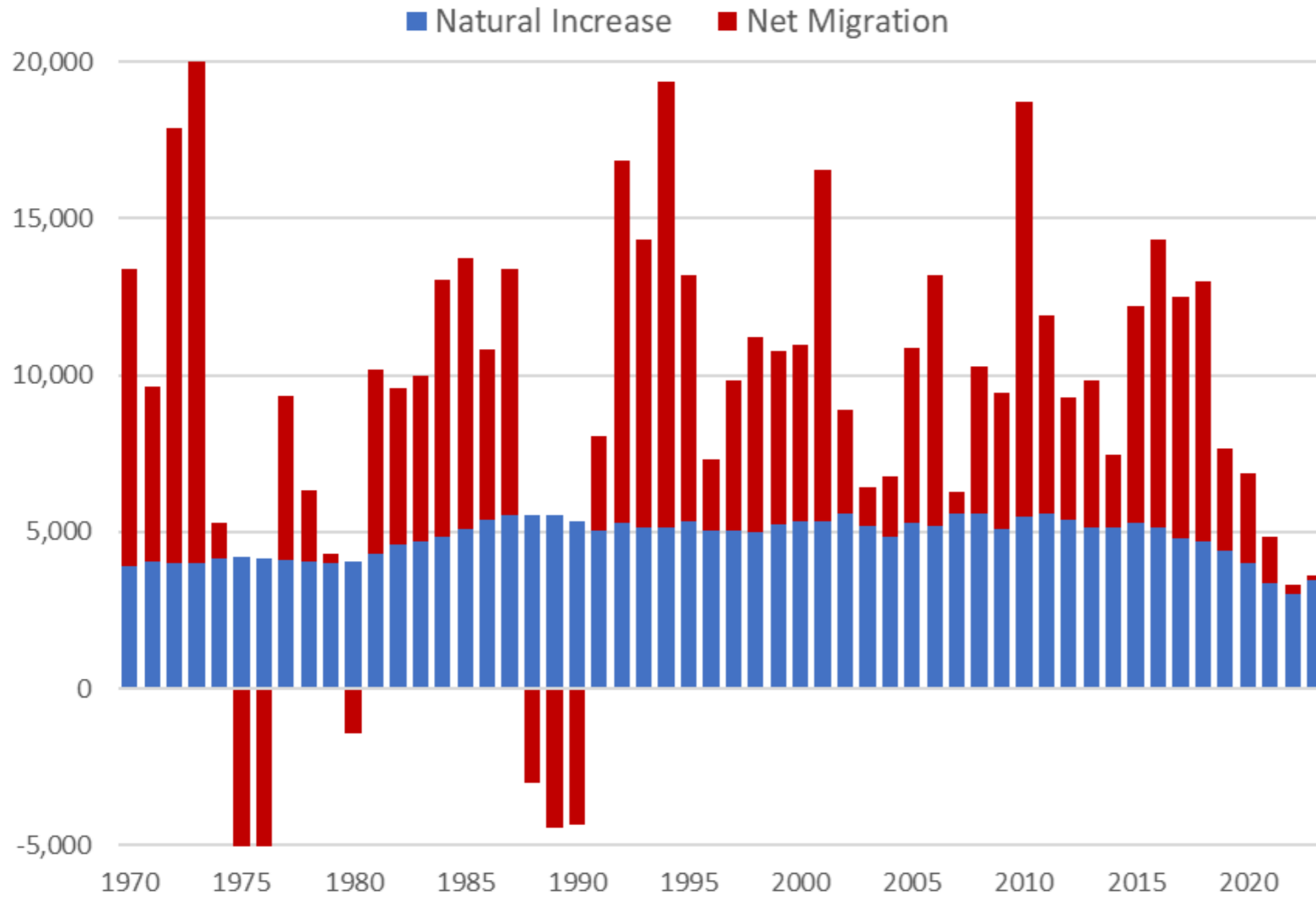
45K - Deaths

20K - Migration

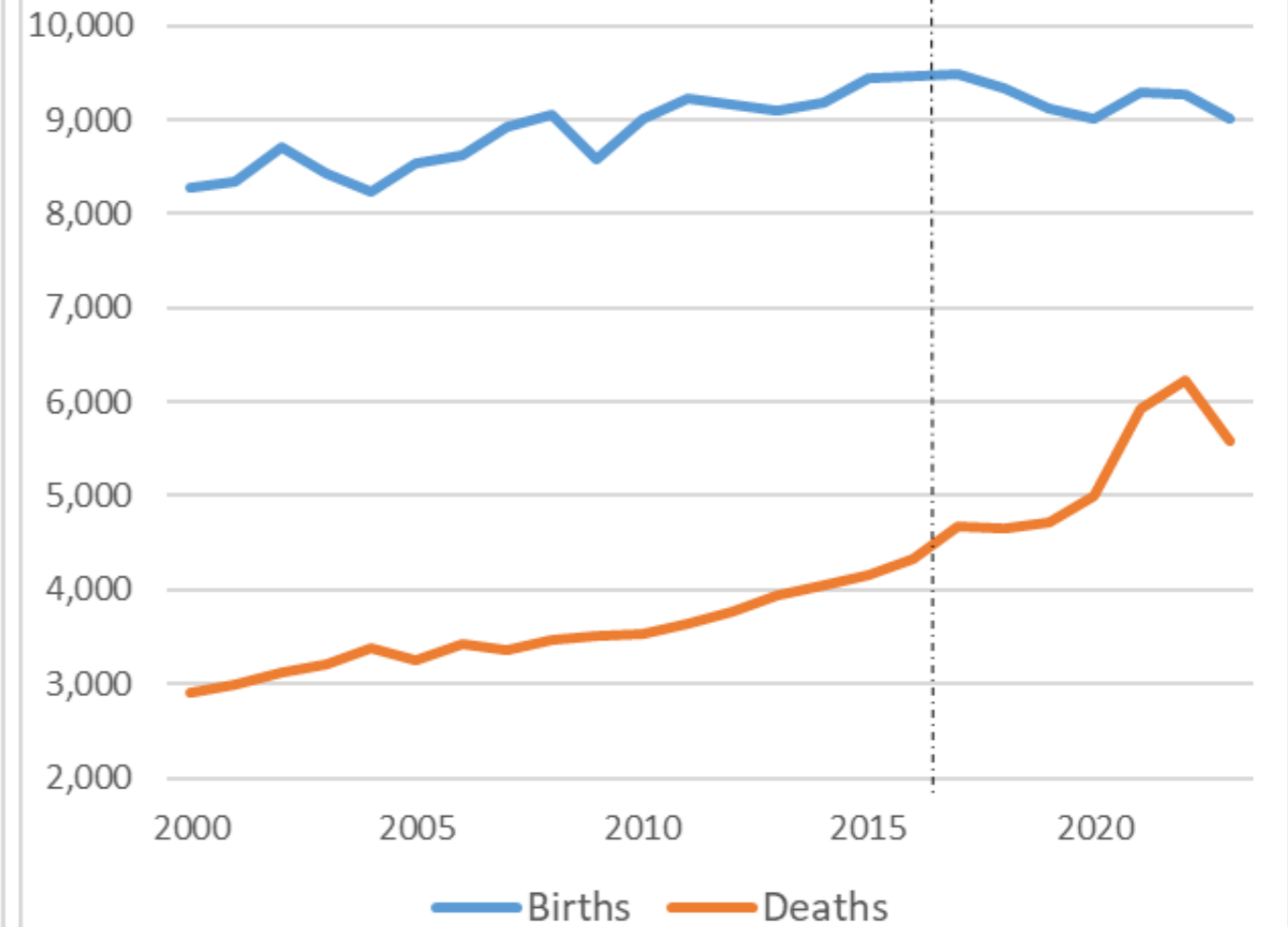
Colorado growth slows from an annual average of 74K last decade to 30,000 average so far this decade



El Paso County Population Change



Births and Deaths



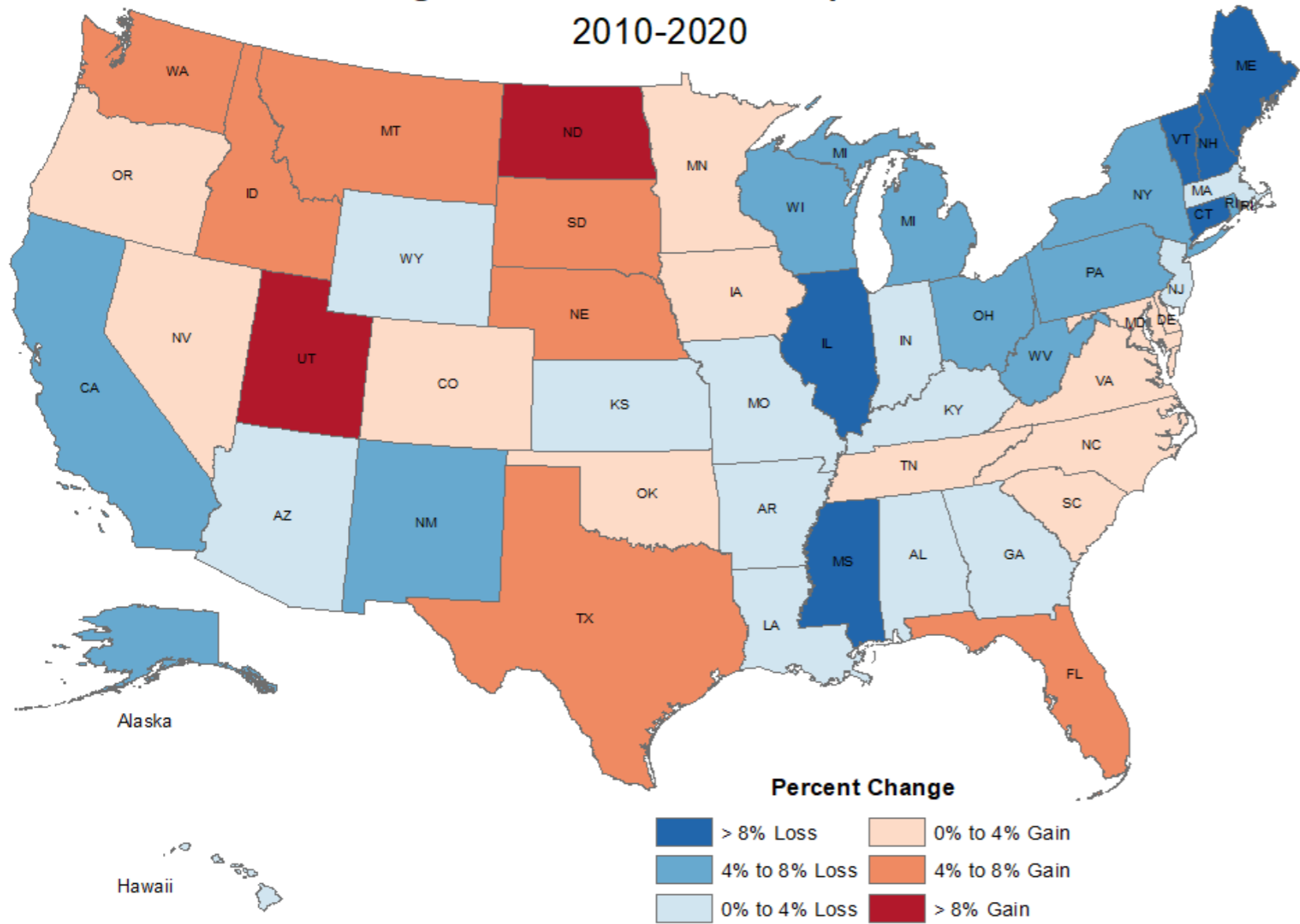
Peak birth in 2017

	Total Pop	Births	Deaths	Migration
2021	737,239	9,280	5,925	1,479
2022	740,539	9,267	6,238	277
2023	744,153	9,020	5,580	174
Total		27,567	17,743	1,930



Change in Under 18 Populations

2010-2020

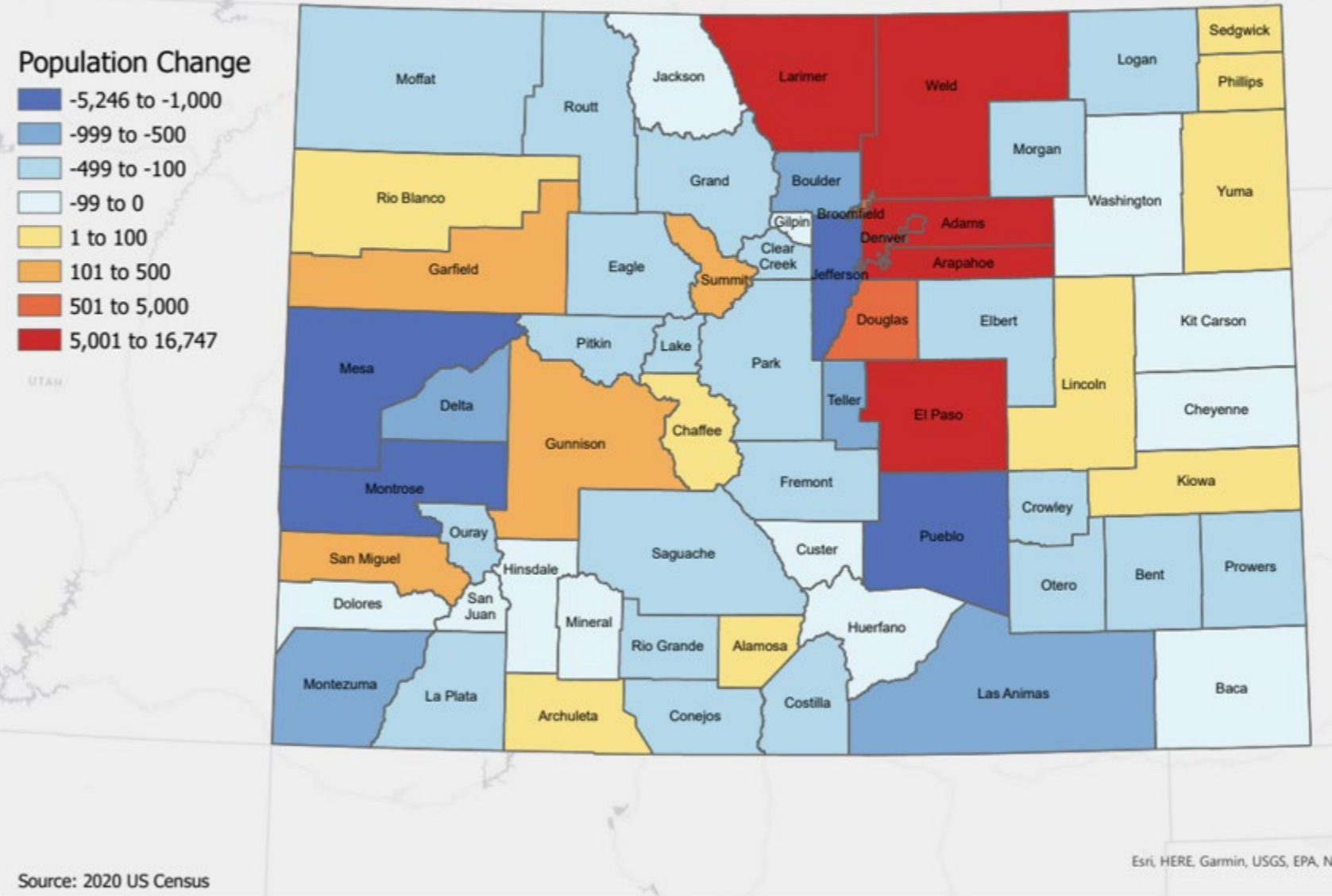


Source: US Census Bureau
Map by Colorado State Demography Office

Created October 13, 2021

Under 18 Population Change by County

2010 to 2020



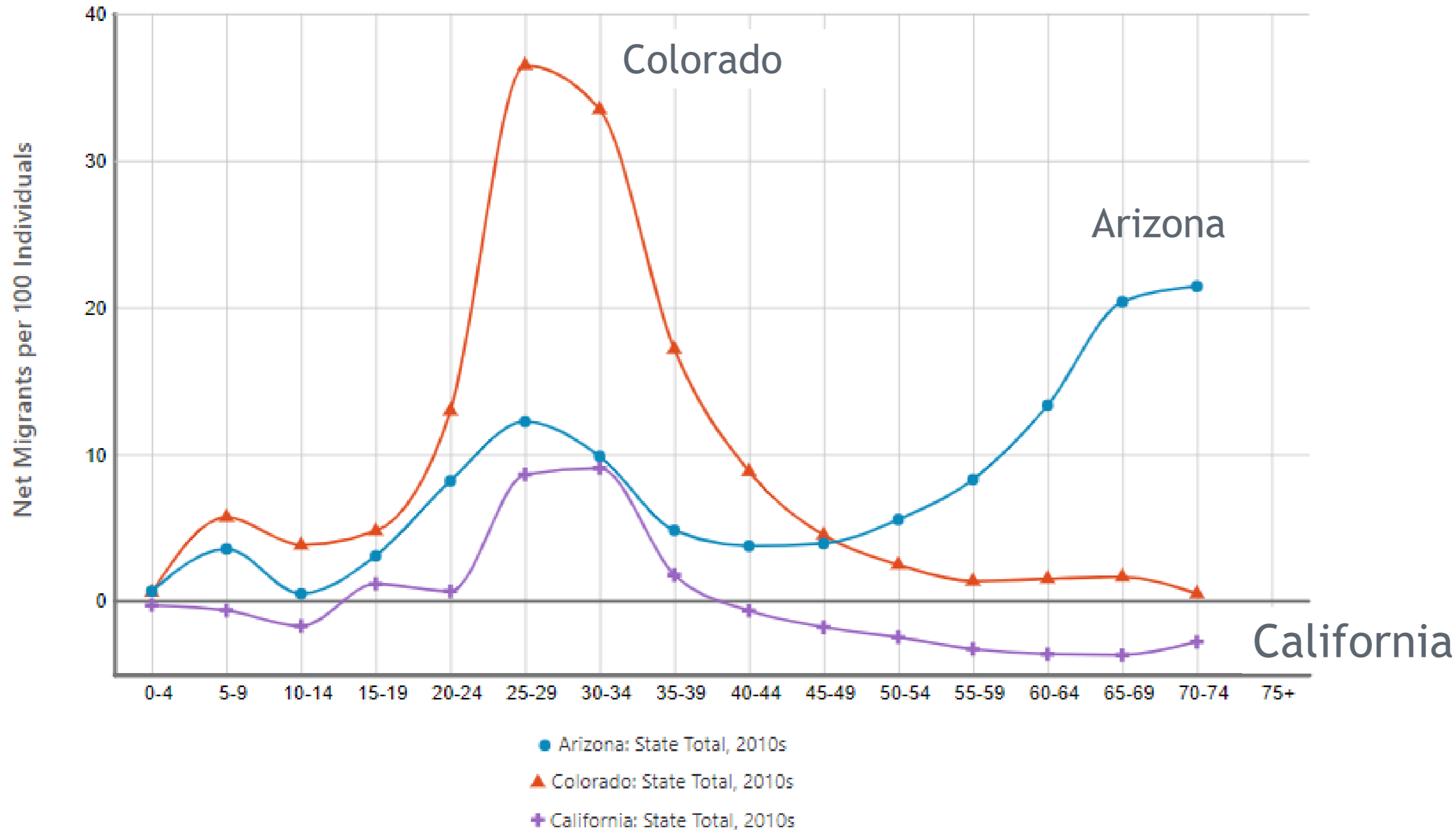
Source: 2020 US Census

Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS

- Births down 650,000 in the US compared to peak in 2007.
- Population Under 18 Declined by over 1,000,000 over the decade
- 27 states lost population under 18
- Colorado births down 8K compared to peak in 2007 +38,000 over decade, 43 of 64 declined



Net Migration by Age Who does Colorado attract?



Characteristics

- Colorado attracts early career young adults, families, and university students
- Most older adults age in place
- Same since 1970s
- Fewer young adults to attract in future - impact?

Egan-Robertson, David, Katherine J. Curtis, Richelle L. Winkler, Kenneth M. Johnson, and Caitlin Bourbeau, *Age-Specific Net Migration Estimates for US Counties, 1950-2020*. Applied Population Laboratory, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2023 (Beta Release). Web.



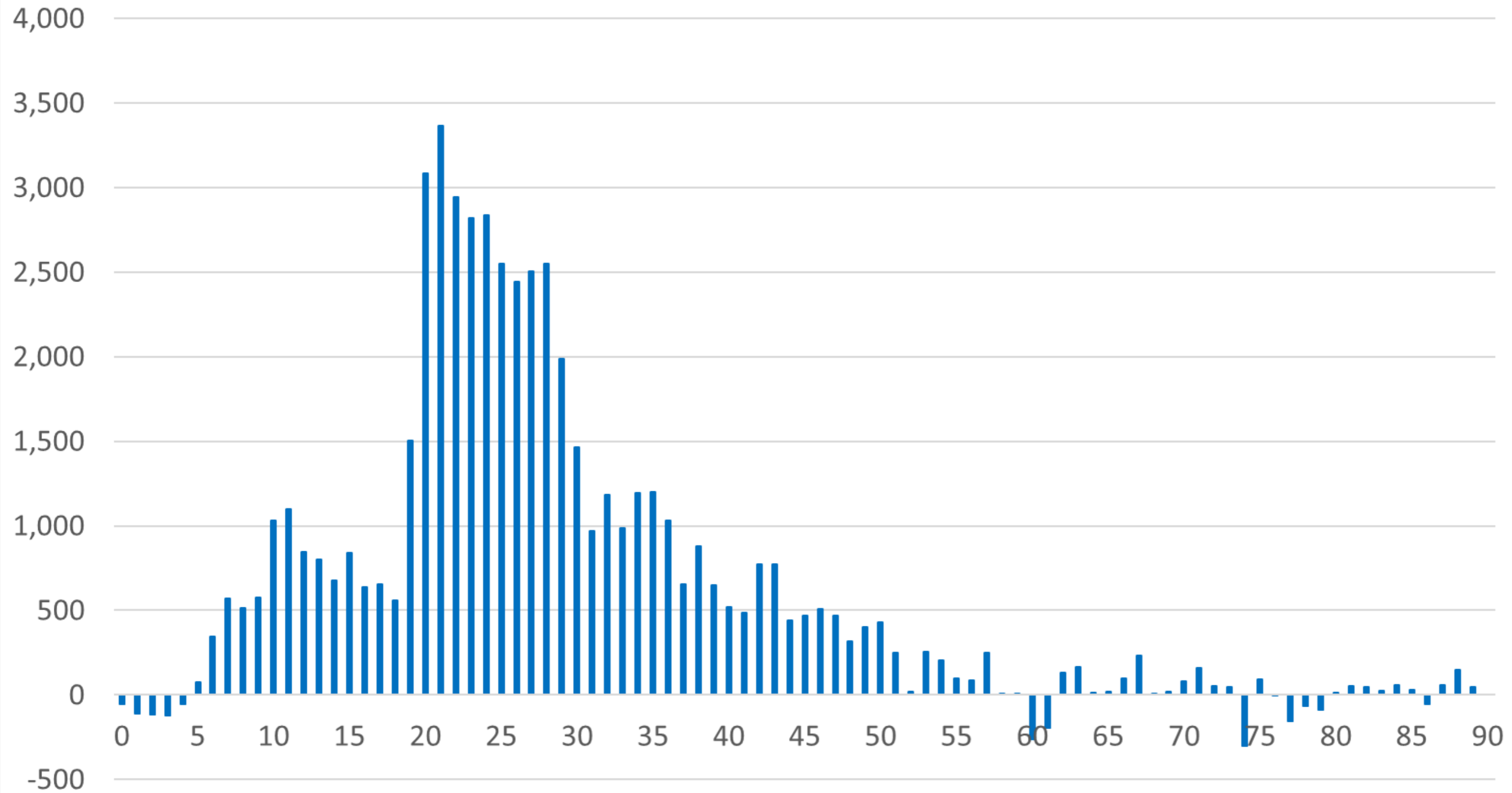
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States - <https://netmigration.wisc.edu/>

Counties - <https://demography.dola.colorado.gov/assets/html/netmigcomp.html>

El Paso County

El Paso County Net Migration By Age, 2010s

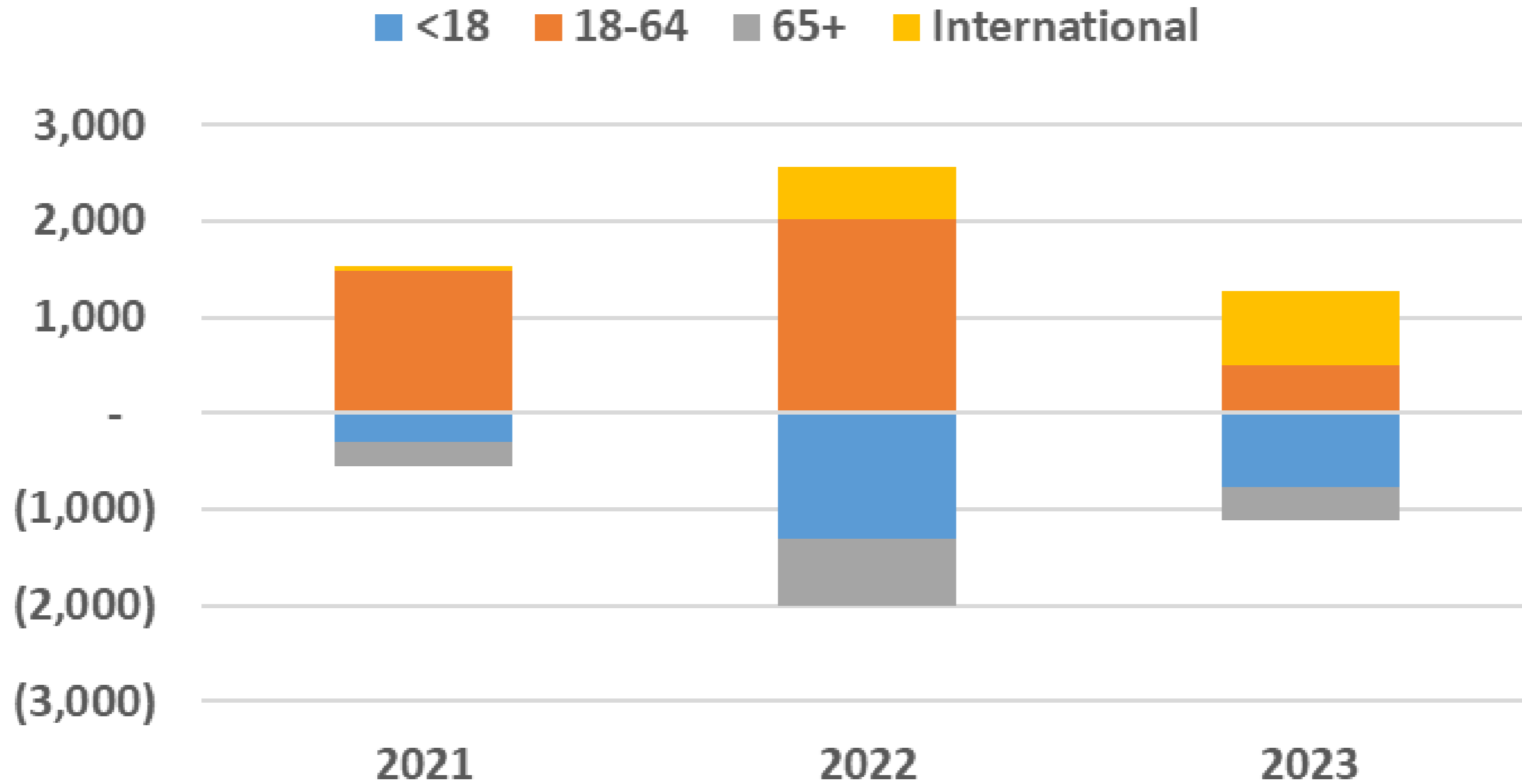


Characteristics

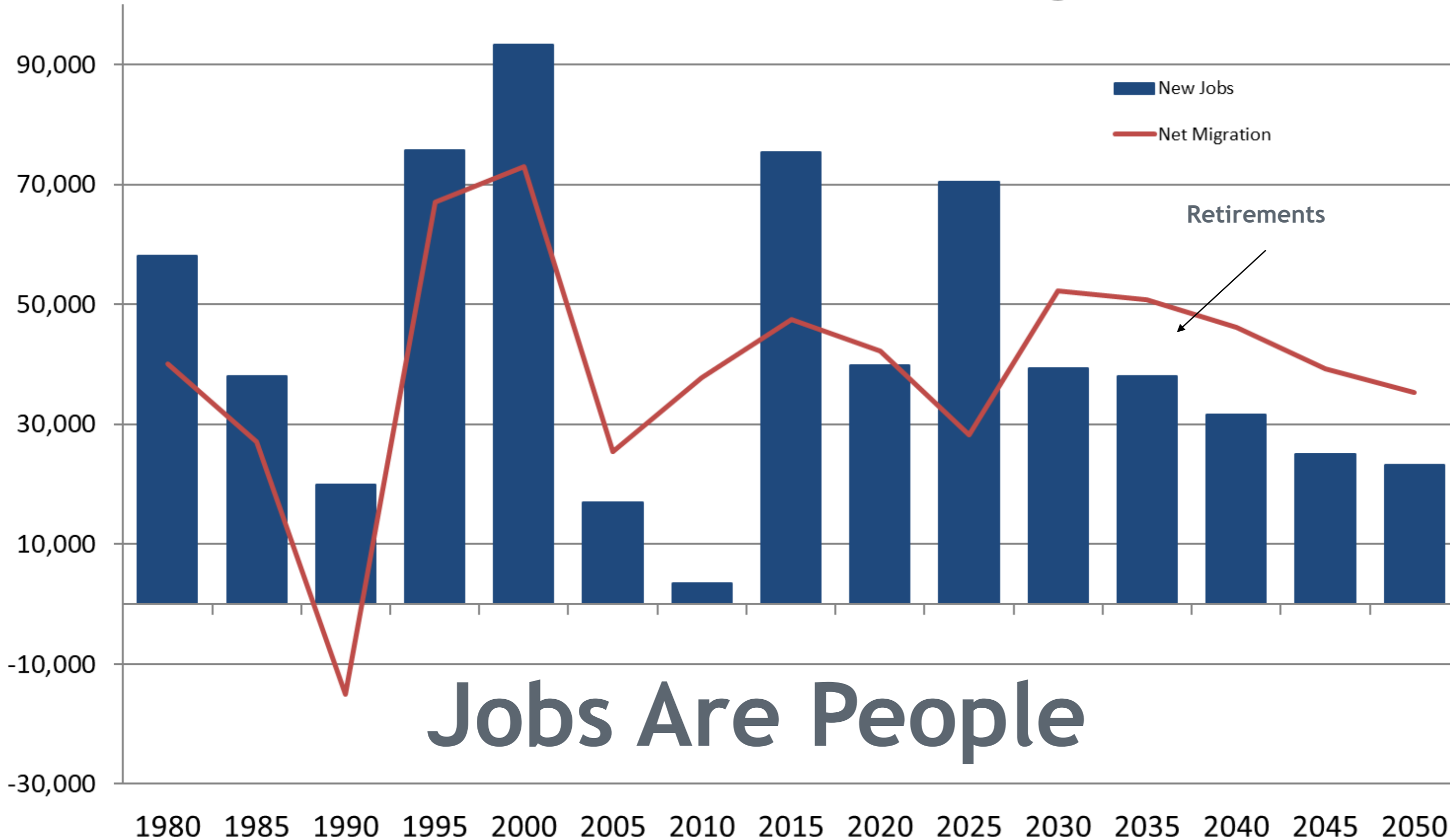
Military,
university,
early career
and young
family



Migration, El Paso



Colorado New Jobs and Net Migration



New Jobs + Retirements
= Demand for Migration

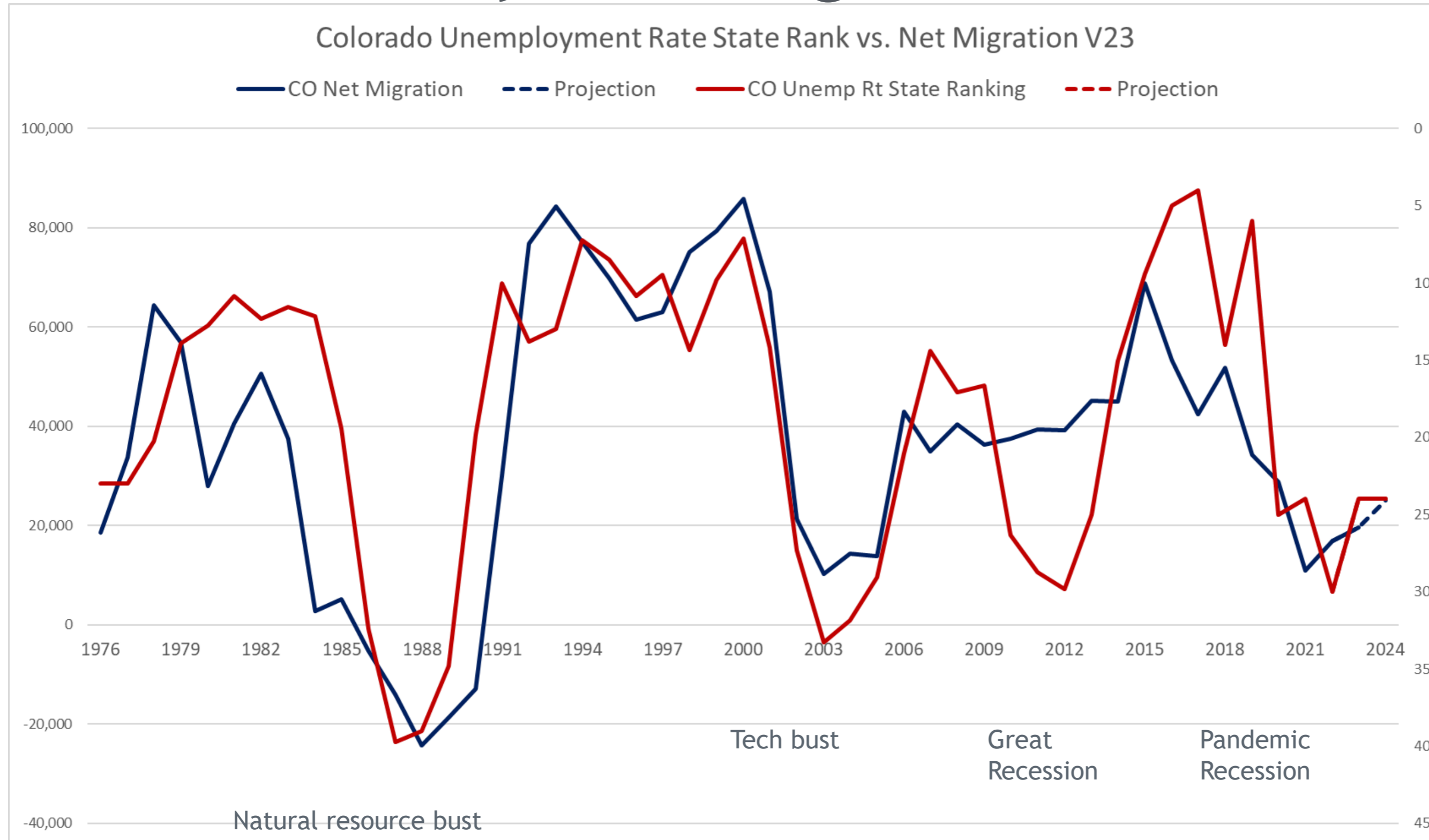
- 40K new jobs
 - 40K retirements
 - ?? remote jobs
- = 80K+ workers

Retirements

Jobs Are People



Evaluation of net migration



The Economy



Economy Doing Relatively Well

- State ranked middle of the pack in key variables
- +171,000 jobs since 2019
- Fast growth in high wage jobs like Professional Business Services
- Wage growth - especially in low wage jobs
- Low Unemployment, High Levels of Labor Force Participation
- 1.5 Job Openings to every 1 Unemployed
- Job growth drives demand for labor (people)
 - Retirements - estimated 40,000 per year
 - Attract and retain best and brightest - competition
- Remote Workers? - Depends - consider cost of living and wages



Commuting - El Paso

Inflow/Outflow Job Counts in 2021
All Workers



- 64,330 - Employed in Selection Area, Live Outside
- 75,902 - Live in Selection Area, Employed Outside
- 198,223 - Employed and Live in Selection Area

Inflow/Outflow Job Counts (All Jobs)

	2021	
	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	262,553	100.0%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	64,330	24.5%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	198,223	75.5%
Living in the Selection Area	274,125	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	75,902	27.7%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	198,223	72.3%

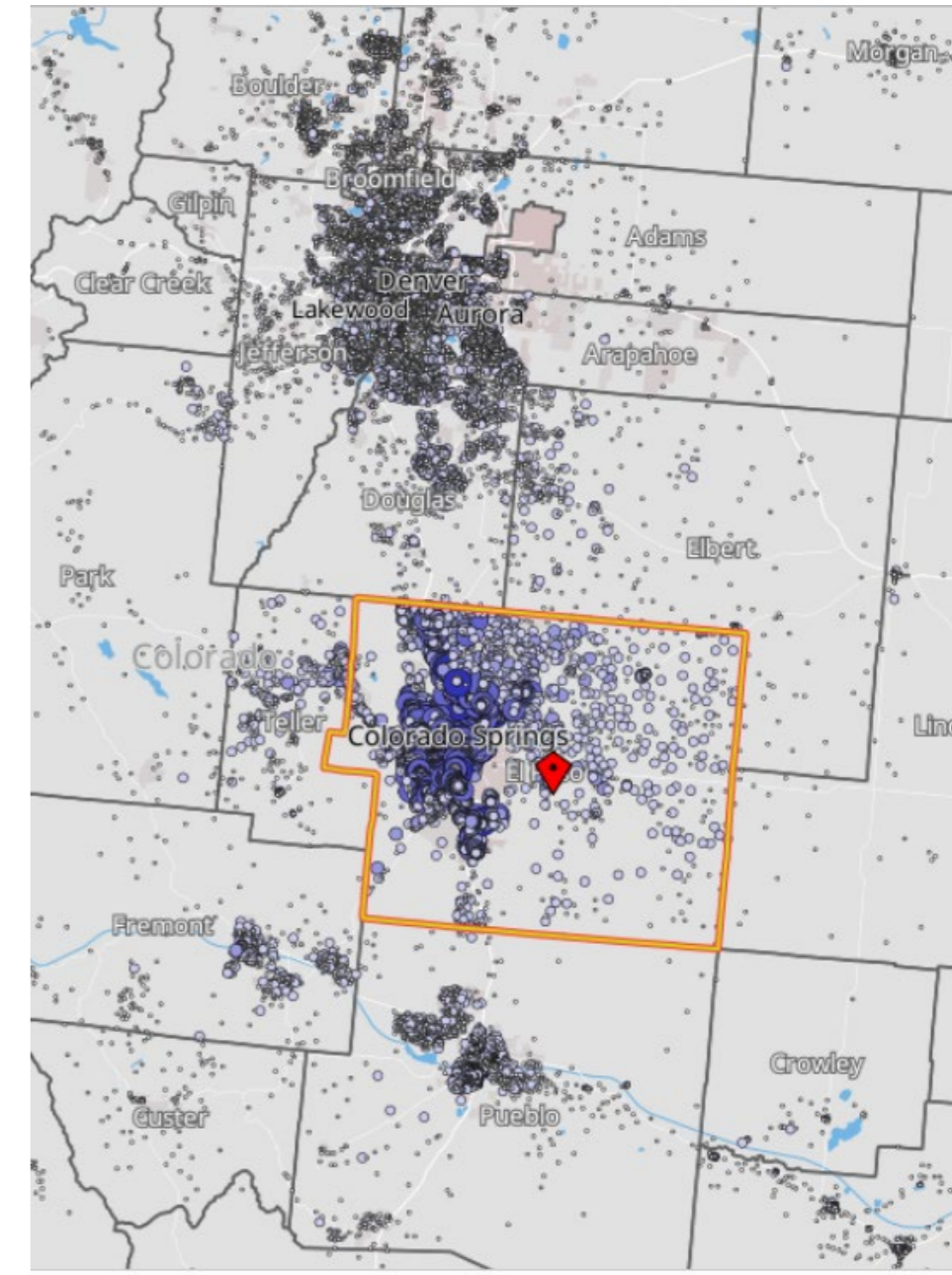
Jobs by Distance - Work Census Block to Home Census Block

	2021	
	Count	Share
Total All Jobs	262,553	100.0%
■ Less than 10 miles	152,722	58.2%
■ 10 to 24 miles	46,992	17.9%
■ 25 to 50 miles	21,910	8.3%
■ Greater than 50 miles	40,929	15.6%

Job Counts by Counties Where Workers Live - All Jobs

	2021	
	Count	Share
All Counties	262,553	100.0%
■ El Paso County, CO	198,223	75.5%
■ Pueblo County, CO	7,905	3.0%
■ Arapahoe County, CO	7,079	2.7%
■ Jefferson County, CO	6,080	2.3%
■ Douglas County, CO	6,039	2.3%
■ Denver County, CO	5,778	2.2%
■ Adams County, CO	4,338	1.7%
■ Teller County, CO	3,302	1.3%
■ Larimer County, CO	3,164	1.2%
■ Weld County, CO	2,678	1.0%
All Other Locations	17,967	6.8%

Where workers in El Paso County live



Age Matters

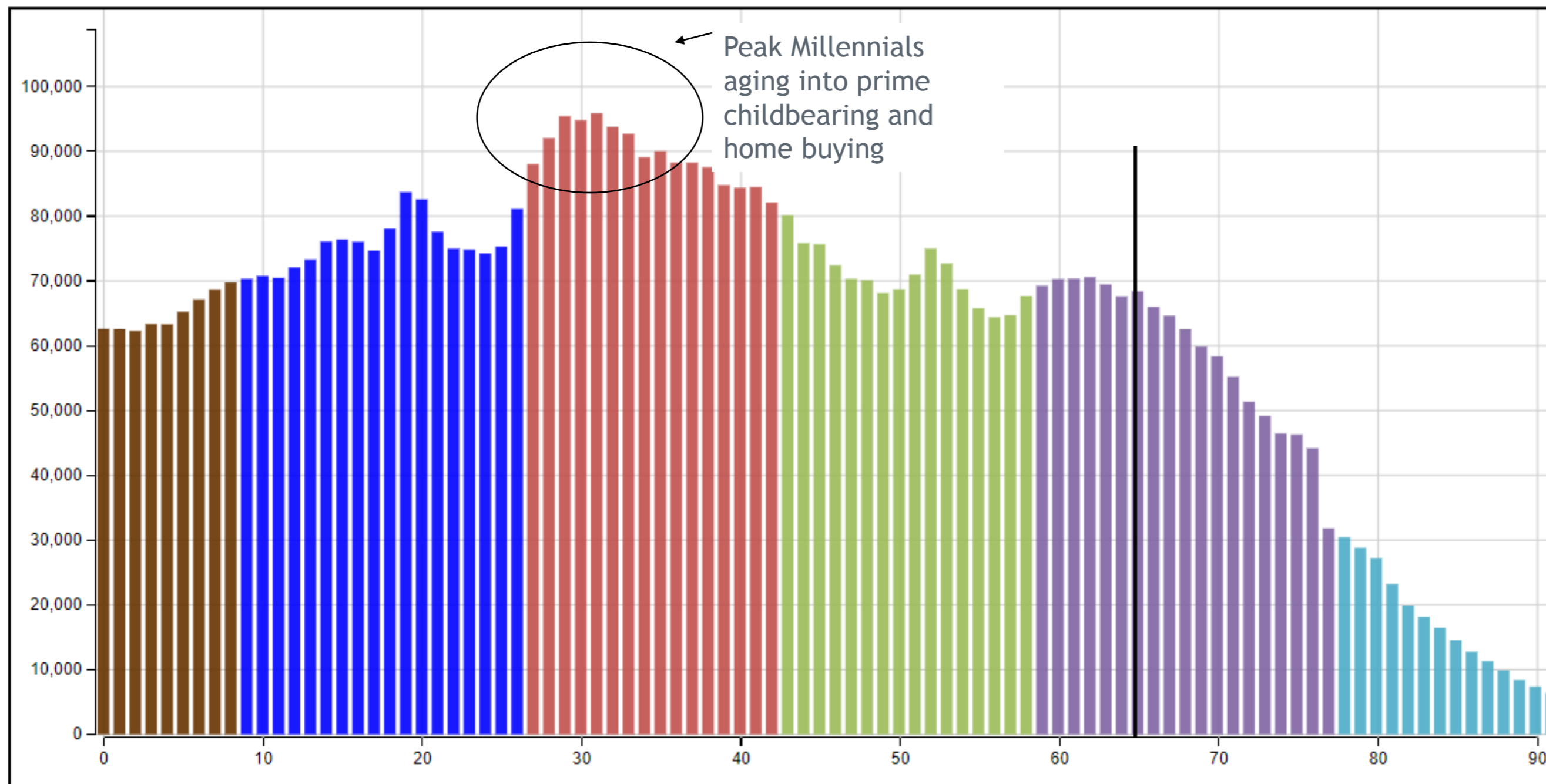
Colorado is young but aging

- Preferences - where people shop and what they buy.
- Housing - type, size, mobility
- Labor Force
- Income
- Service Demands

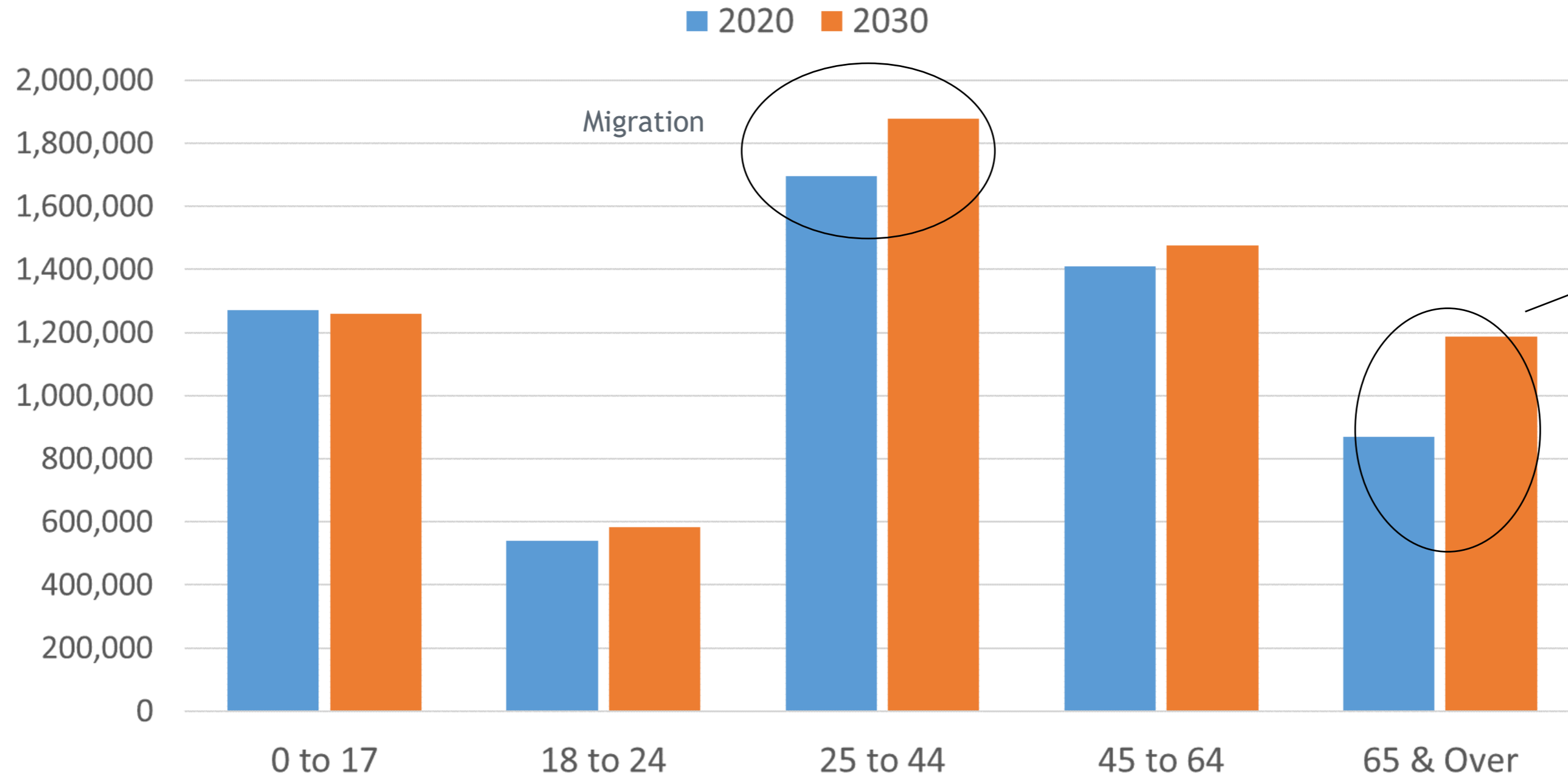


Colorado

2023



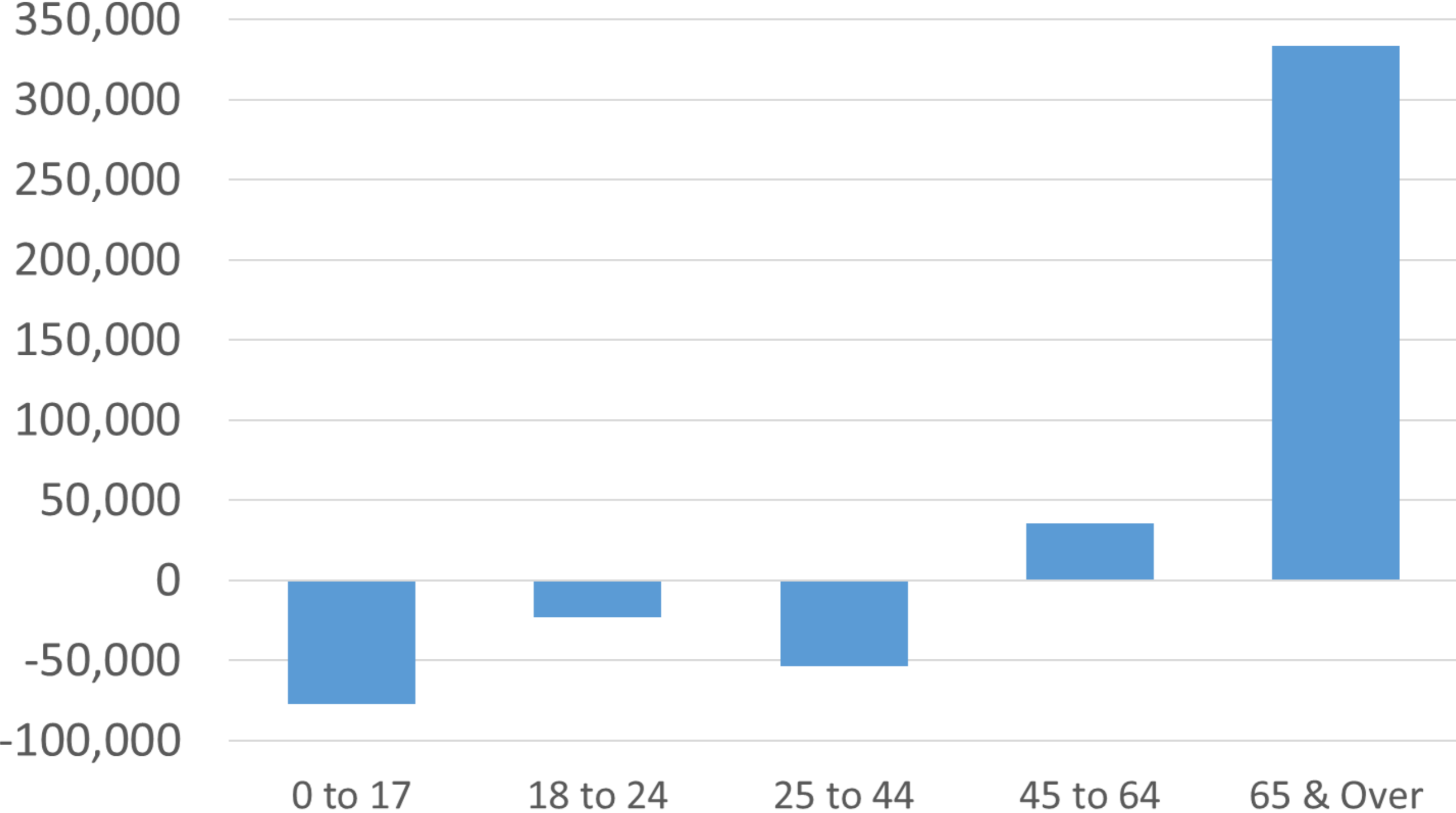
Colorado Population By Age, 2020 to 2030



	0 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 & Over	Total
2020	1,270,519	539,144	1,694,991	1,410,374	869,556	5,784,584
2030	1,260,203	584,329	1,878,133	1,477,443	1,186,435	6,386,542
Change	-10,316	45,185	183,142	67,069	316,879	601,958
Pct Ch	-0.8%	8.4%	10.8%	4.8%	36.4%	10.4%

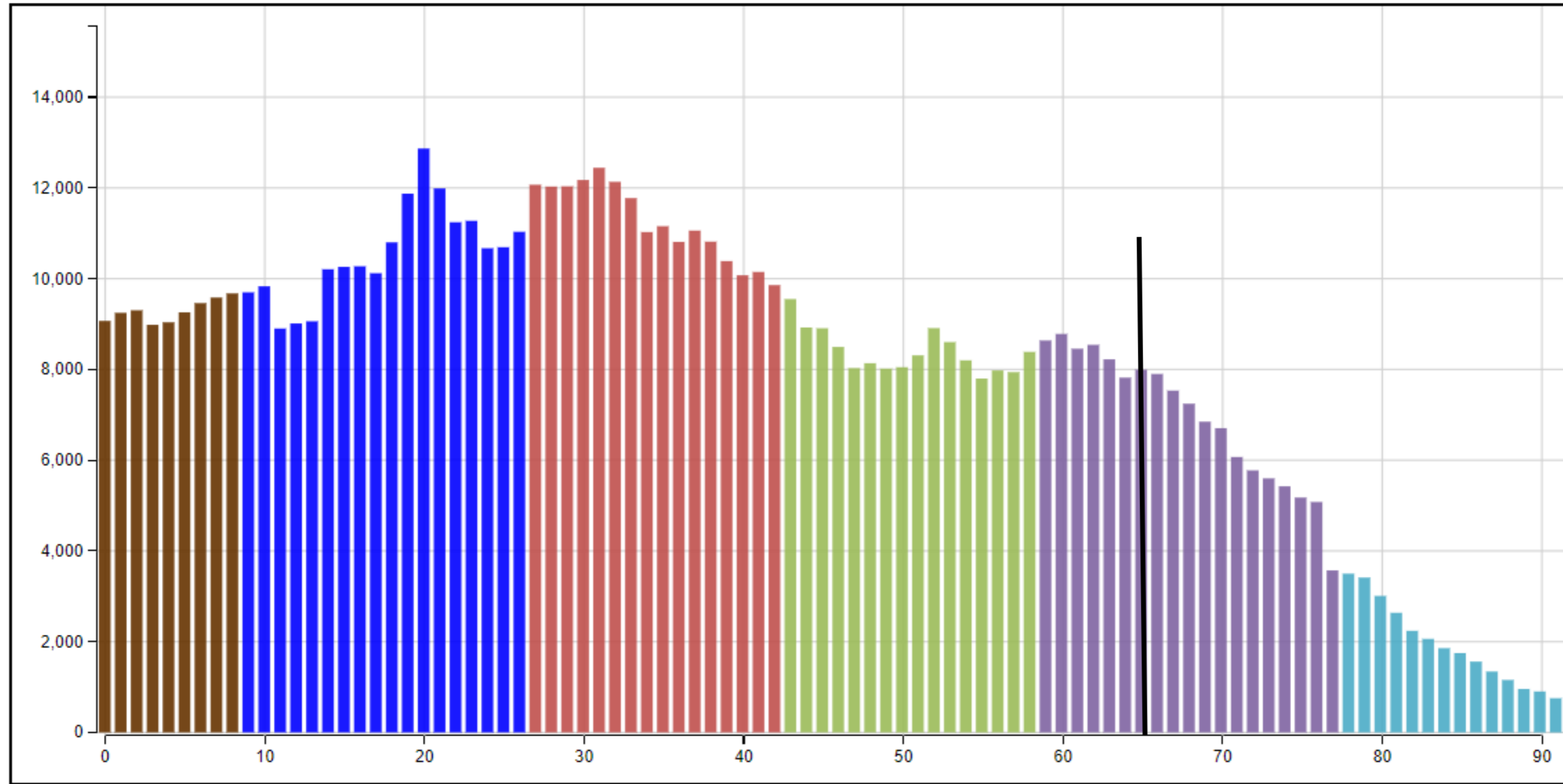


Colorado Population Change By Age, With Zero Net Migration, 2020-2030



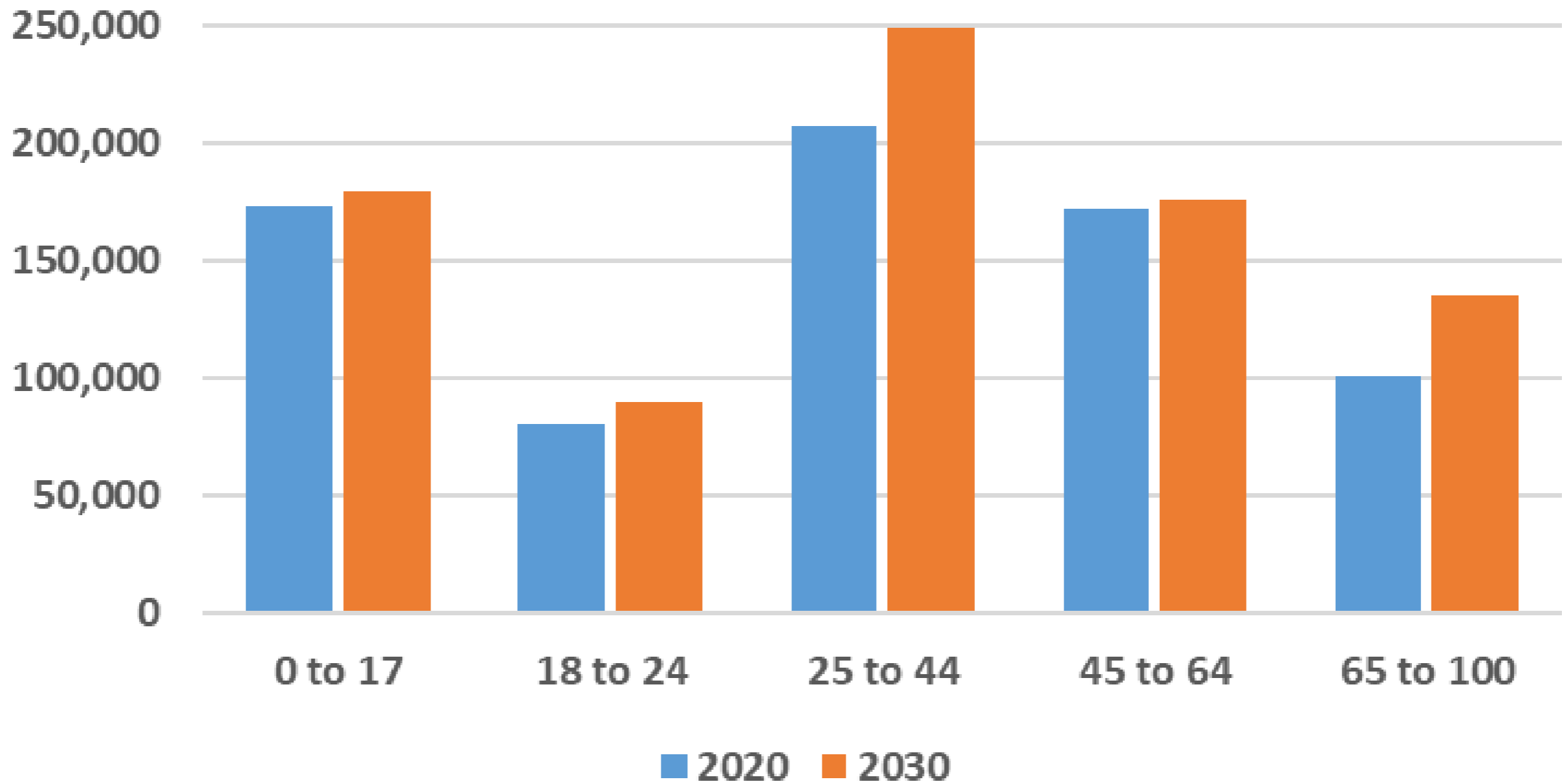
El Paso 2023 Animate
Download Image

El Paso County 2023



- Generation X (1965 - 1980)
- Baby Boomers (1946 - 1964)
- Silent Generation (1928 - 1945)
- Greatest Generation (- 1927)
- Future Generations (2030 -)
- Generation Alpha (2015 - 2029)
- Generation Z (1997 - 2014)
- Millennials (1981 - 1996)

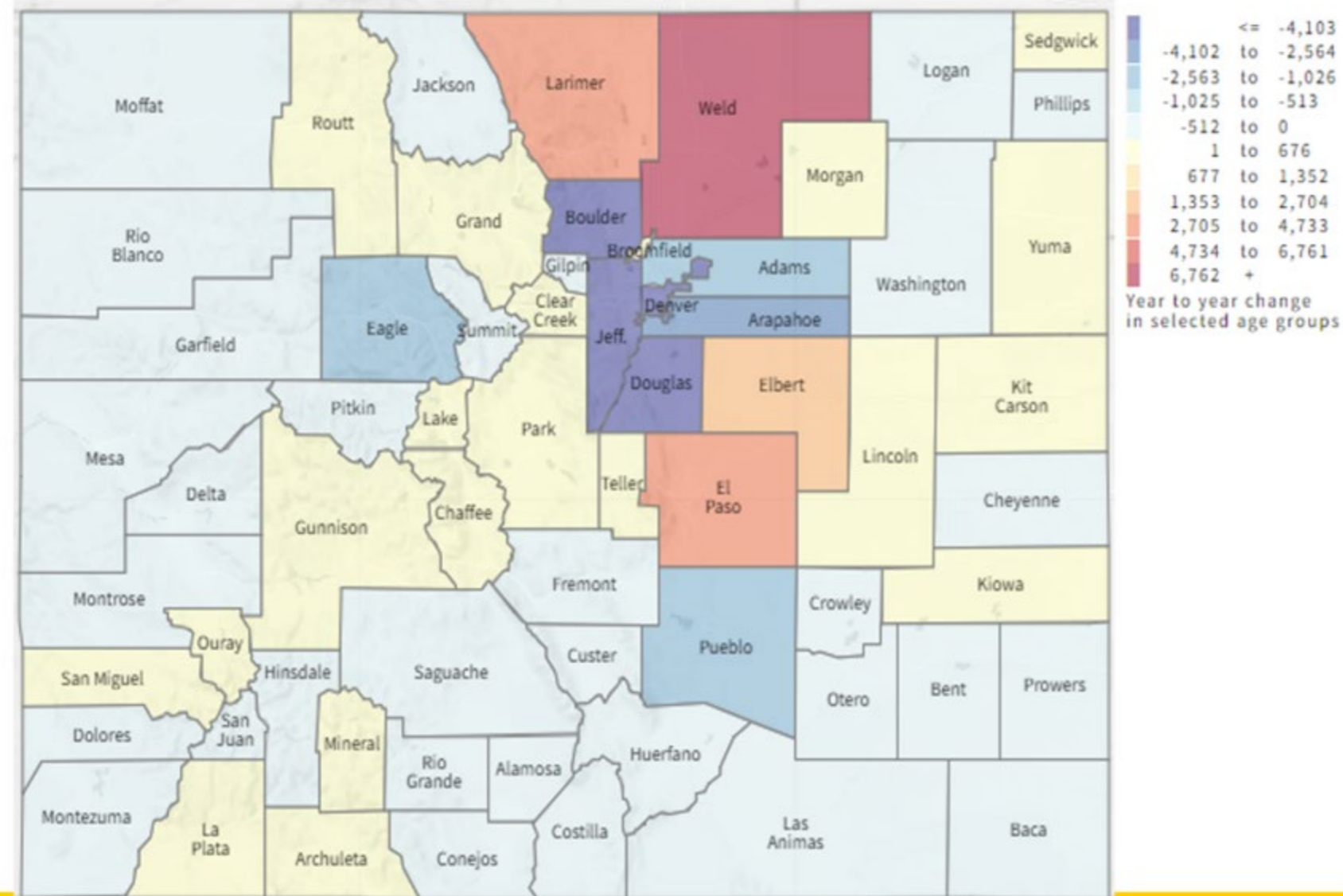
Population by Age in El Paso



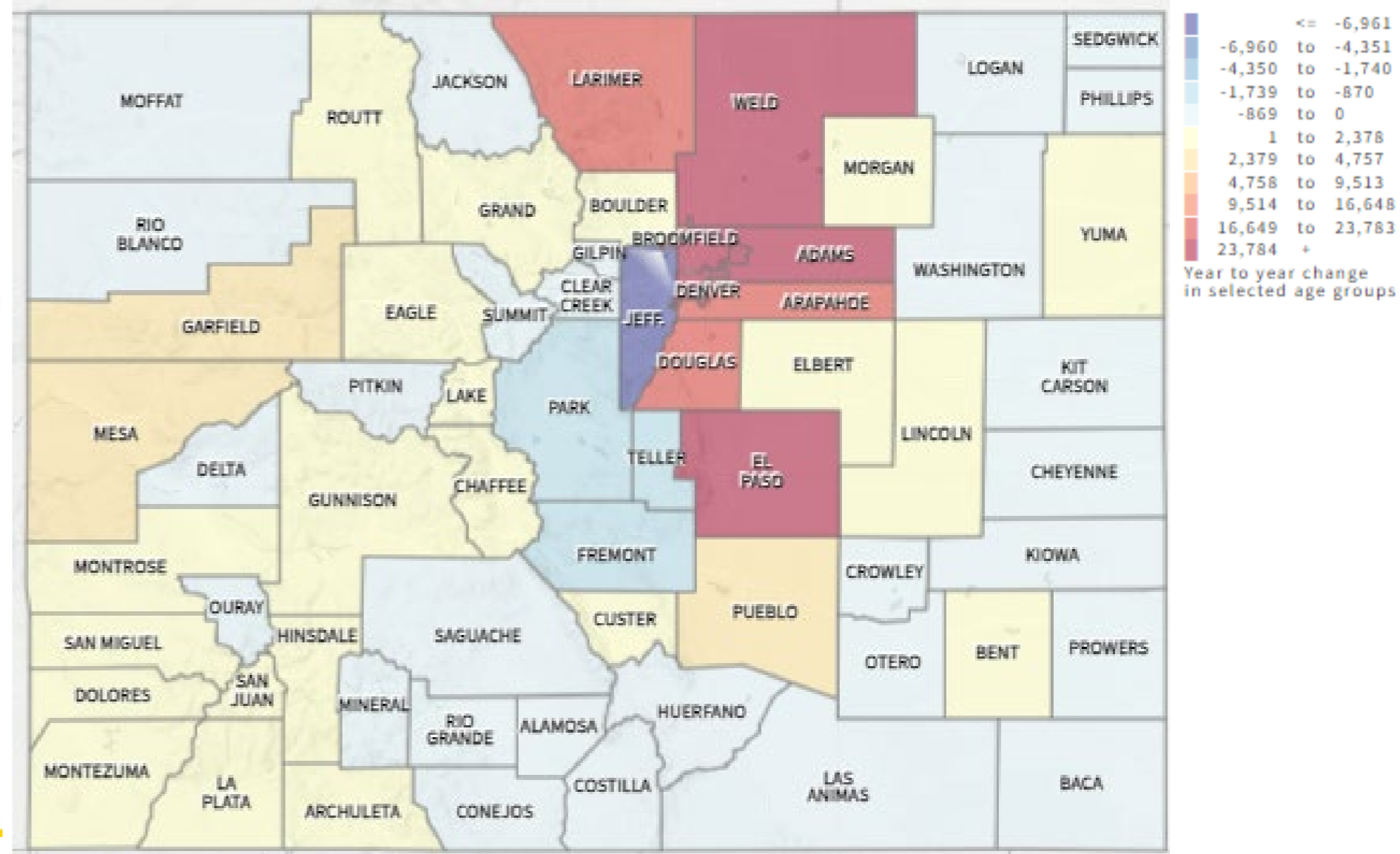
	0 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+	Total
2020	172,522	80,328	207,321	171,974	100,221	732,366
2030	179,681	89,273	248,642	175,604	135,189	828,389
Change	7,159	8,945	41,321	3,630	34,968	96,023



Change in the School Age Population 2020-2030

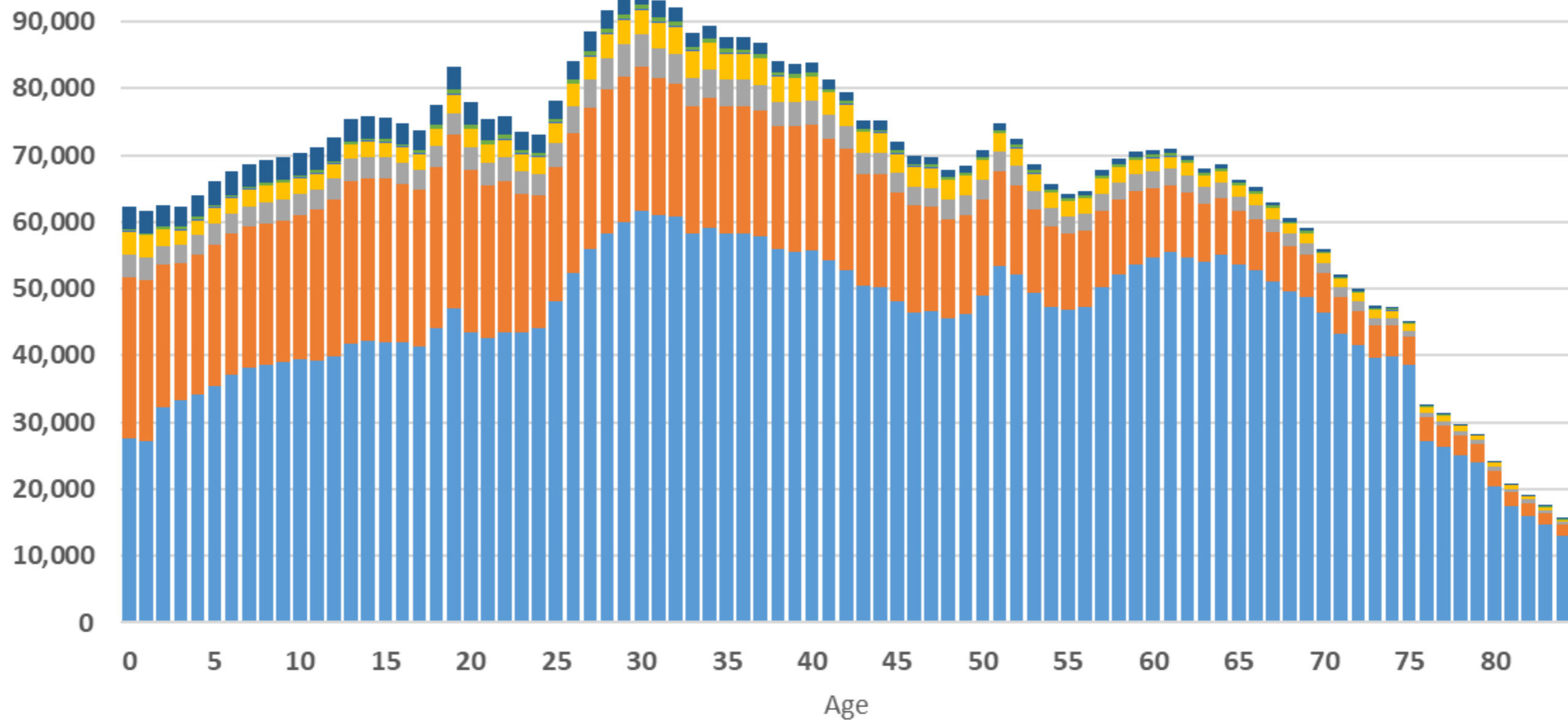


Change in Prime Working Age 25-64 2020-2030



Population by Single Year of Age and Race and Ethnicity, 2022

- White Alone NH
- Black Alone NH
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Alone NH
- Two or More Races, NH
- Hispanic
- Asian Alone NH
- American Indian, NH



Implications From Age and Aging

- Consumer demand
 - Older - fastest growth, services vs. goods
 - Younger - more diverse
- Labor force
 - Faster growth in retirees (40K/year), slower growth in new entrants
 - Young entrants more diverse
 - Migration will be needed if jobs are to be filled - more competition
- Housing
 - Demand from retiree replacements
 - Aging home owners - rehab, move less, owners, transition planning
 - Millennials aging into prime home buying and second home buying
 - Gen Z - entering into rentals and first time home buying
 - Gen Alpha will be smaller



Housing and Households Impacts from Jobs and Aging



Households and Housing Are Complicated

Demand

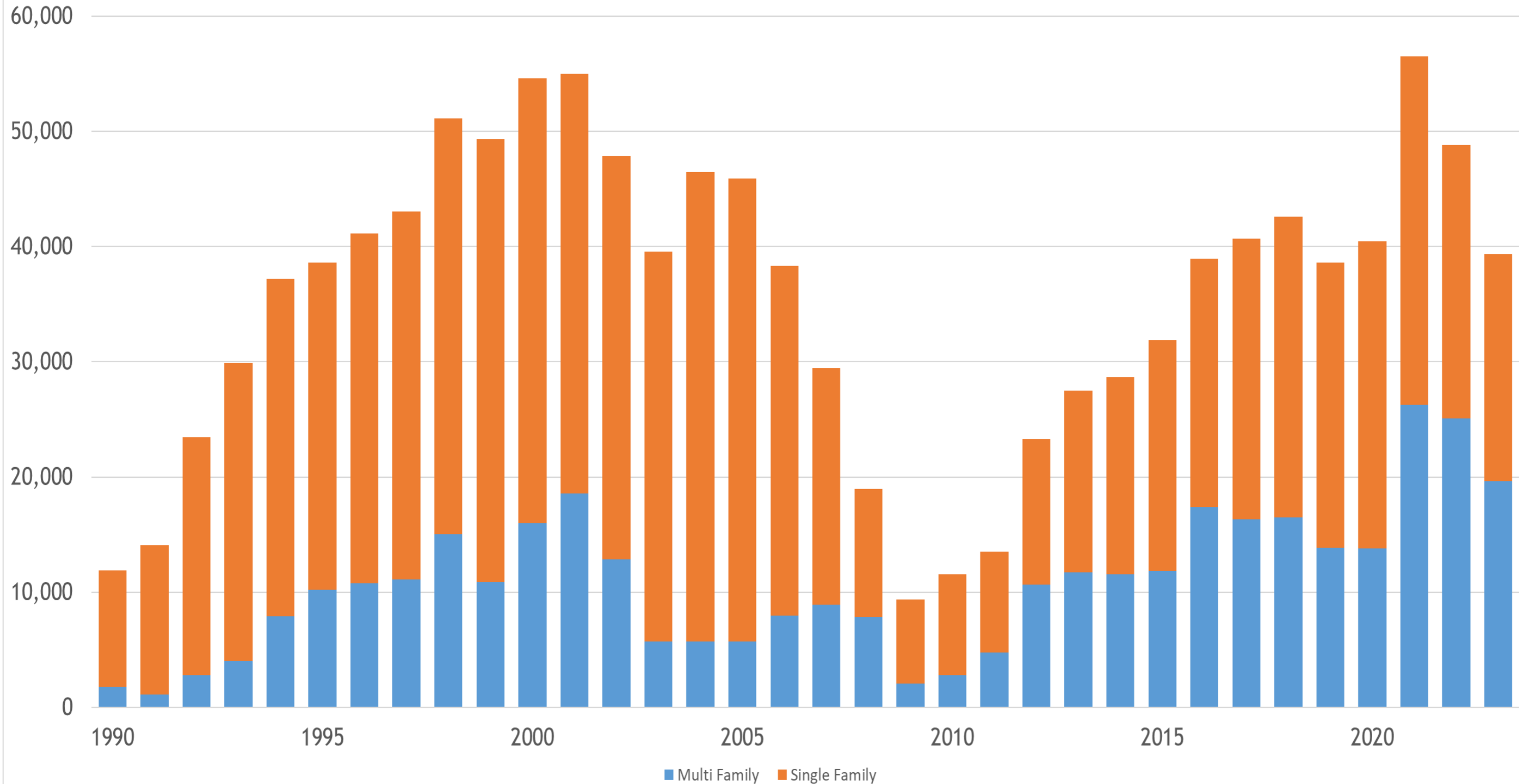
- Occupied Housing Units = Households
 - Jobs = New + Retirements + Remote
 - Income vs. Cost of housing
 - Non -Workers
 - Age - growth different by age groups
 - HH size, mobility, tenure, income
 - Worker/Non-Worker
 - Interest Rates/Price
- Vacant/ Non-primary Residence
 - Seasonal, Second home, VRBO
 - Investor - VRBO or Vacant
 - Other - remodel, hold, probate, storage

Supply

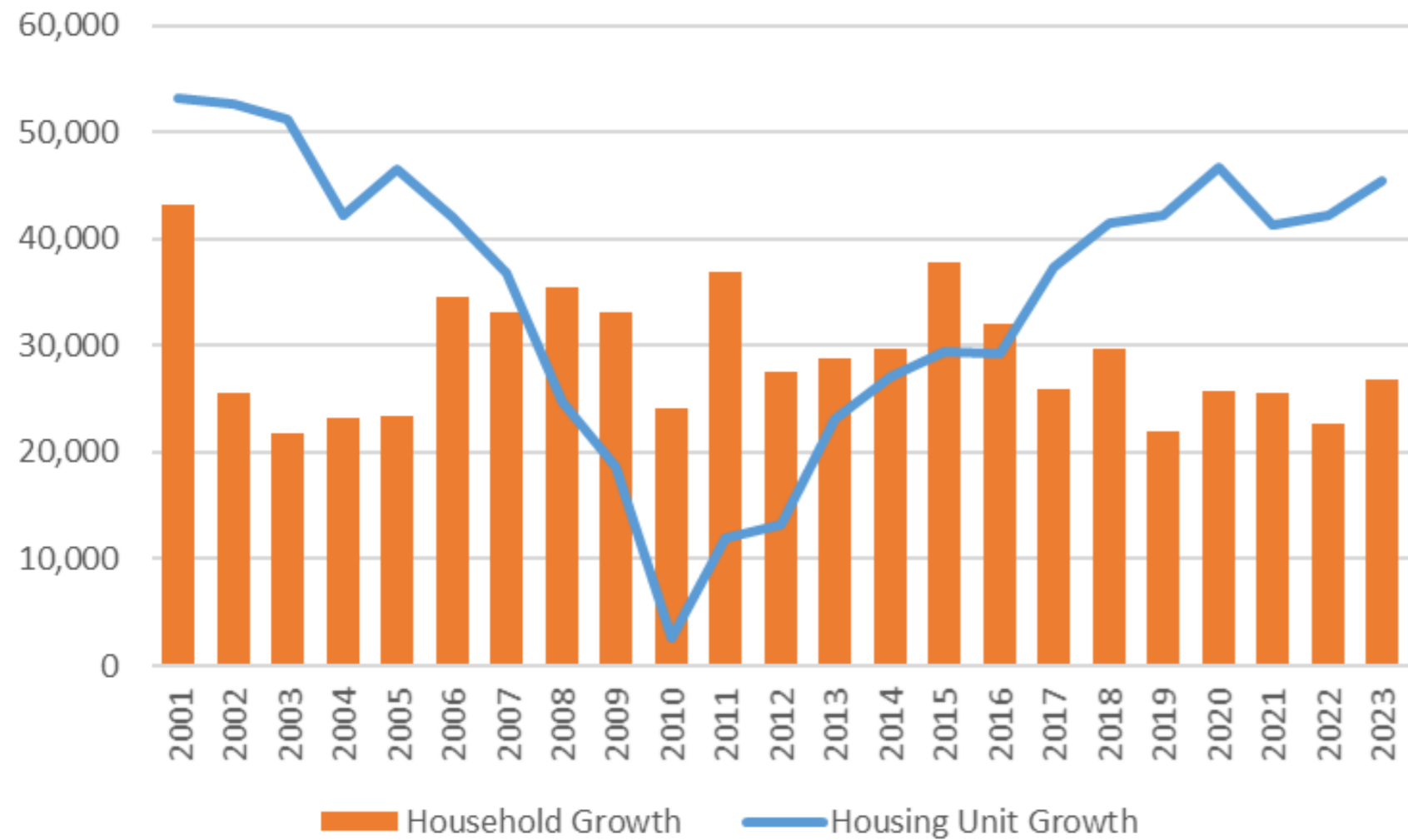
- Single family, multi-family
- Boom and Bust Cycle
- Financing dried up in Great Recession
- Slow industry to start and stop
- Water
- Public will
- Interest rates



Total Single and Multi Family Building Permits Colorado

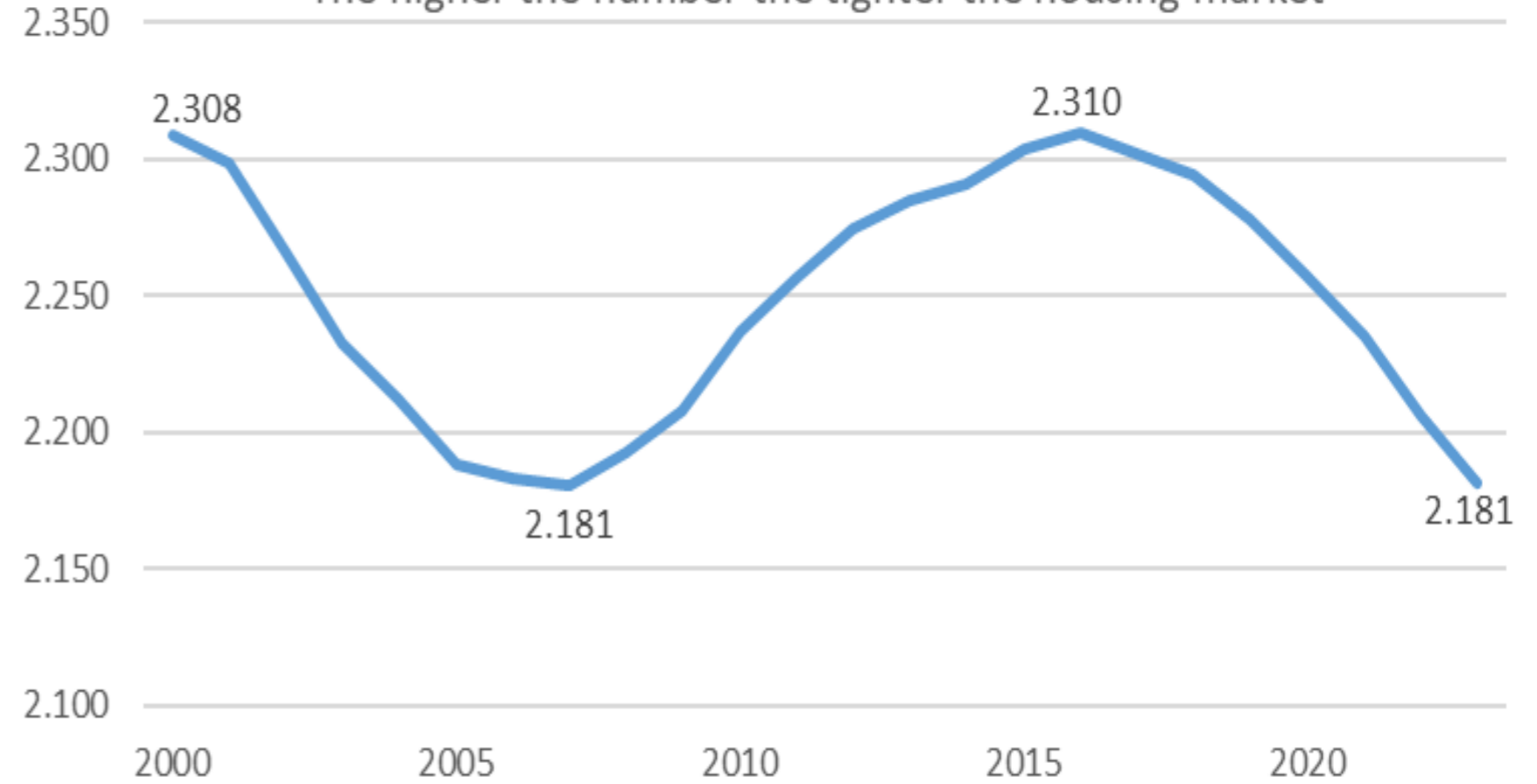


Household Growth and Housing Unit Growth



Household Population to Housing Unit Ratio

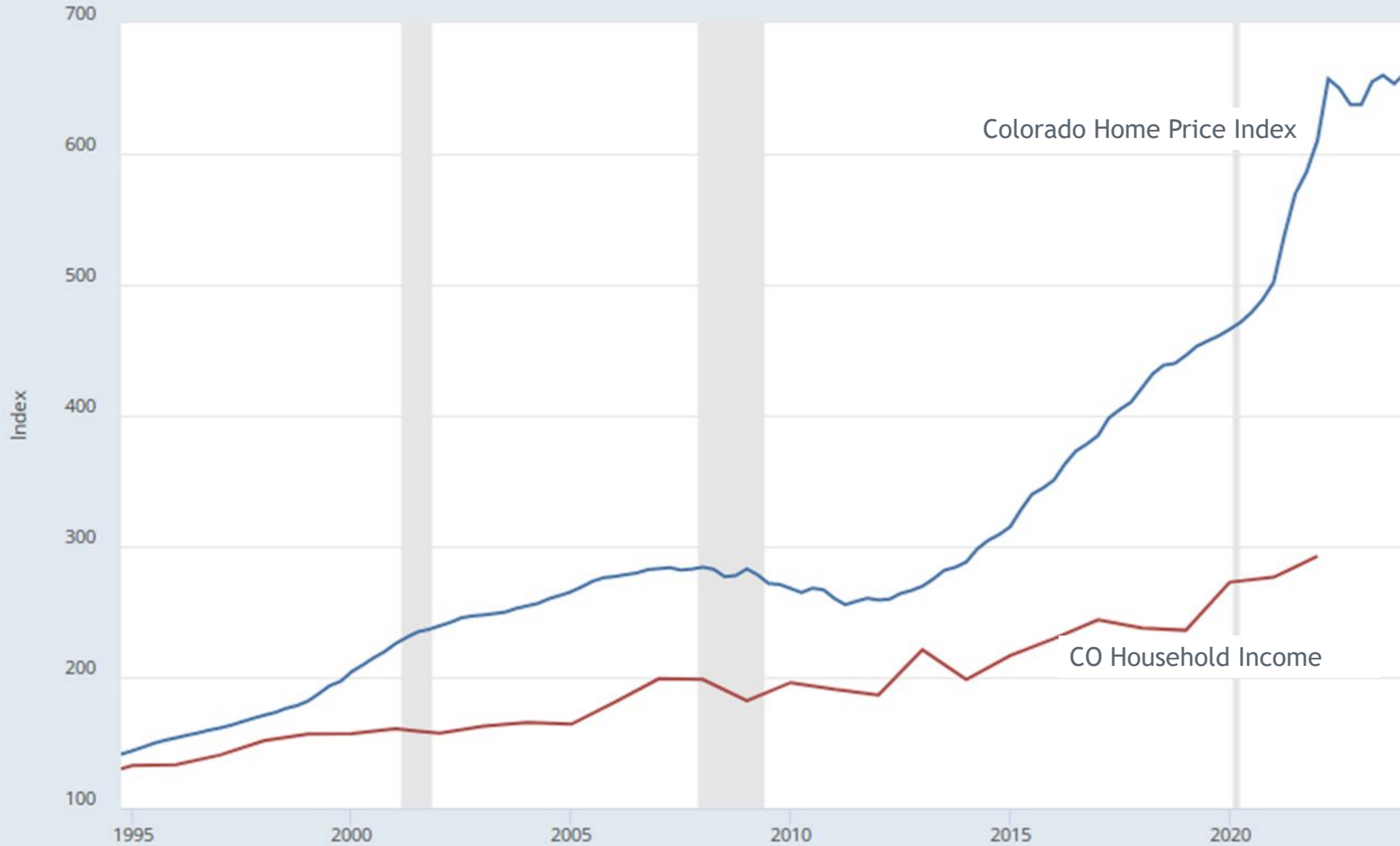
The higher the number the tighter the housing market



Concern with:

- Boom and bust cycle of housing construction.
- Creates long run impacts on the industry.
- Long run impact on housing costs - affordability will remain an issue
- Ability to support business & community





Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency

myf.red/g/1tpKK

Long run impact on affordability.

- How to temper prices
- Build units priced below median?
- “Average” price to build a “door” is about the median home price.
- How to raise incomes?
- How to support home-ownership?

Summary: Factors Influencing Housing

Demand

- Job growth = workers = housing
- Aging - smaller household size, non workers
- Household formation rates by age
- Changes in where people live/work - remote
- Investors

Supply

- Built 40K + units per year since 2018
- Interest Rates - downward pressure on building
- Increased cost of construction
- Supply chain and tight labor
- Water, infrastructure

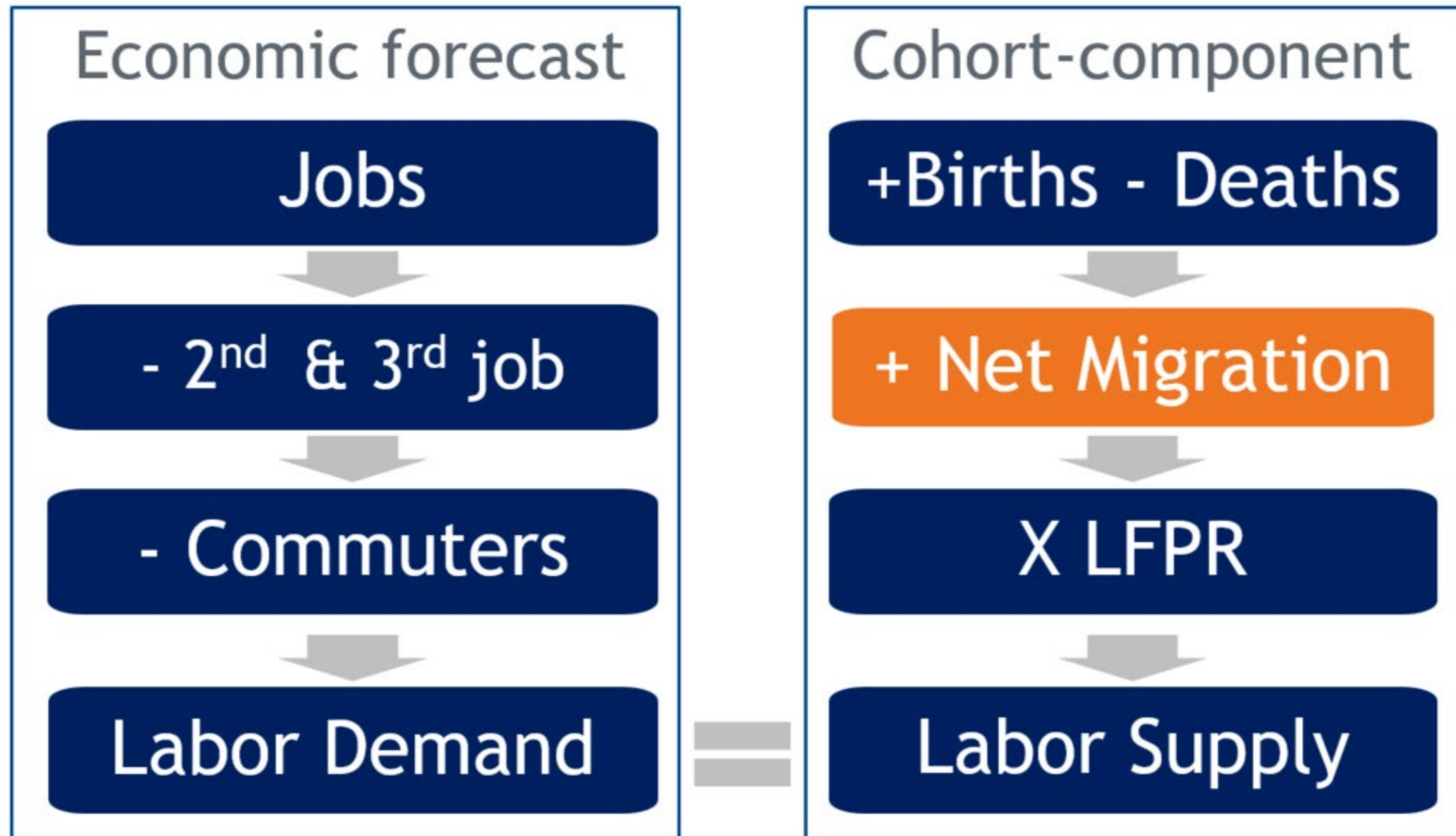
- How to soften the Boom and Bust cycle?
- How to continue to build when macro factors are not in our favor? Interest rates? labor?
- Retrofitting and Renovations - old housing and older residents
- How to help people move when macro and demographic factors are against them?
- How do we preserve resident owned housing when there is demand by investors and second home owners.
- Once interest rates fall, demand will spike again impacting price.
- Better research on effective strategies and better public data on housing



Forecast



Colorado population forecast methodology



Differences resolved by net migration



Forecast Factors

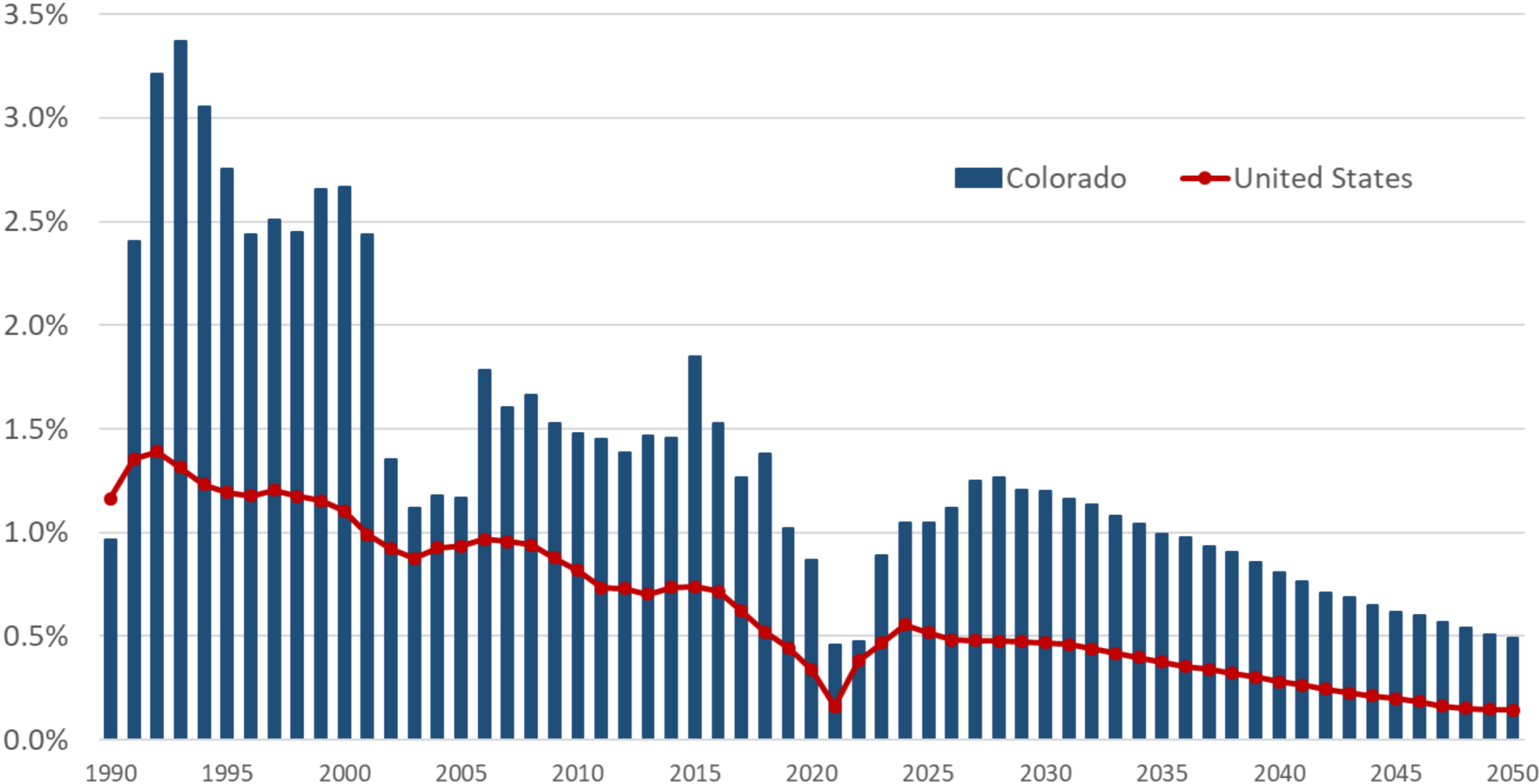
- US population growth is slowing - slowing economy
- Births have slowed, deaths increase
- Migration/Mobility slowing, International?
- Aging - impact on consumption and labor

- Labor Force - tight, more competition, new jobs + retirements (400K this decade) +remote workers
 - Reimagine, strategic, employee centered, housing
- Consumers/Jobs - Age drives consumption
 - Jobs drive migration
- Community Services
 - Housing - move less, household size,



Population growth rates are slowing

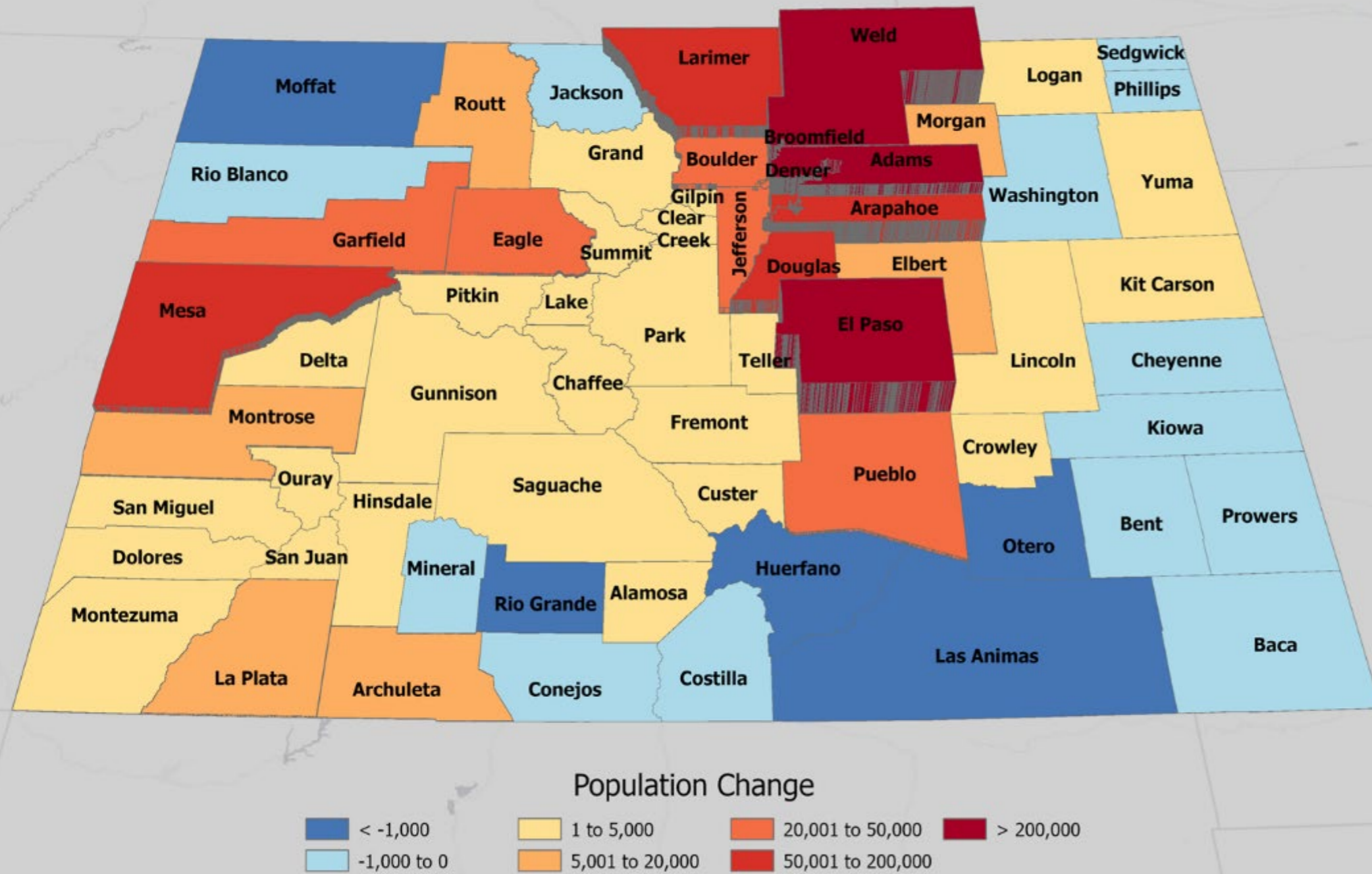
Colorado and U.S. Growth Rate, 1990 - 2050



- Global population trends have changed, reached peak child
- U.S. and CO total fertility rates firmly below replacement
- 2020-2030
 - Top 5 Total - TX, FL, CA, GA, WA, CO (9th)
 - Top 5 % - UT, ID, TX, ND, NV, CO (6th)



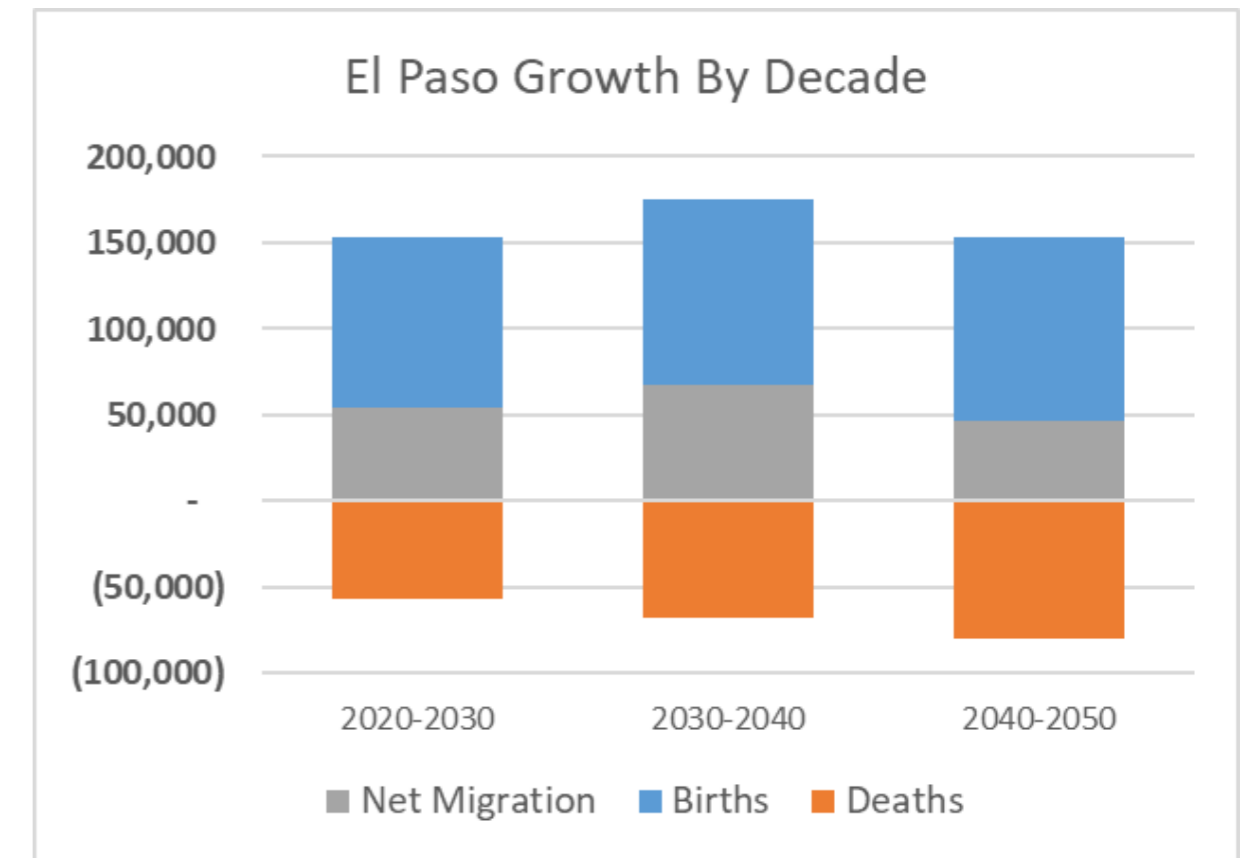
Projected Population Change 2020 - 2050 5.7 to 7.4 Million



Source: Colorado State Demography Office

October 2023

Change 2020-2050
State: 1.7 million
Front Range: 1.49M
Western Slope: 200K
Central Mtns: 4K
San Luis Valley: -2K
Eastern Plains: 11K



	Births	Deaths	Net Migration	Change	Total
2020-2030	98,487	(56,703)	54,246	96,030	828,394
2030-2040	107,878	(67,843)	66,942	106,977	935,373
2040-2050	107,227	(80,142)	46,028	73,113	1,008,489



Uncertainties to the Forecast +/-

- Intl' immigration
- Water
- Housing - supply, price, type, location
- Industry changes - boom/bust, competitiveness
- Aging - labor force, prepared labor force
- Infrastructure/Transportation
- Natural disasters - nationally
- State Budget





Thank you

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