Age Matters:
Colorado Population Trends

July 22, 2024

State Demography Office, Department of Local Affairs

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- Study Colorado's population
- Neutral, non-partisan, non-policy office
- Data is publicly available and used by:
  - State agencies
  - Local governments
  - Non-profit organizations
- Services provided:
  - Demographic and Economic data
  - GIS/Cartography
  - Technical assistance, training, outreach
    - Over 100 presentations every year

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State Demography Office

The primary source for Colorado population and demographic information

The State Demography Office provides population estimates and forecasts for Colorado's regions, counties, and municipalities developed by the State Demography Office and the U.S. Census Bureau.

You can access data visualizations, data spreadsheets, data lookup applications, data spreadsheets, data links, and technical documentation by topic or geography by clicking on one of the buttons on the left.

New Items (2/16/2024)

- 2022 Population Summary
- Colorado Results from the American Community Survey 2018-2022
- Total Estimated Jobs 2022: Colorado's Employment Landscape
- Task Force to Study Corporate Housing Ownership - HB23-1253 Program Page
- 2023 State Demography Summit Preesentations and Videos

Select County: Colorado

Navigation Menu

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Colorado Population Trends: Story and Visualization

Data by Topic

Population Totals, Age and Race/Hispanic Origin

Births, Deaths, and Migration

Population Estimates by Age

Single Year of Age Lookup

Ages	Number, 2021	Number, 2022	2030 Forecast
Total	5,811,129	5,838,738	6,386,548
0 to 17	1,260,302	1,250,481	1,260,206
18 to 24	536,615	539,270	584,322
25 to 44	1,712,664	1,727,962	1,878,132
45 to 64	1,402,333	1,392,996	1,477,447
65 +	899,215	928,029	1,186,441

Births, Deaths, and Migration

Housing Characteristics, 2022

County Population and Housing Lookup

Housing Type	Number	Change from 2021
Total Housing Units	2,598,686	2.21%
Household Population	5,715,606	0.34%
Group Quarters Population	123,130	7.36%
Annual Building Permits	48,839	−13.60%
Household to Population Ratio	2.2	

Housing Tenure, 2022

Selected Statistics, 2022

American Community Survey 2018-2022 5-year data

Topic	Number	Change from 2013-2017 ACS	U. S. Rank
% living in Poverty	9.55%	↓	46
% with Bachelor's Degree+	43.73%	↑	2
Median Household Income	$87,598	↑	9
Median Home Value	$465,900	↑	5
Median Gross Rent	$1,594	=	4

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Population Trends

- Population growing at a slowing rate – births down, deaths up

- Migration and mobility slowing
  - Harder to attract and retain labor force

- Concentrated growth

- Aging – impacts everything
  - Largest share of future growth is the 65+
  - Prime working age and youth becoming smaller share of total pop
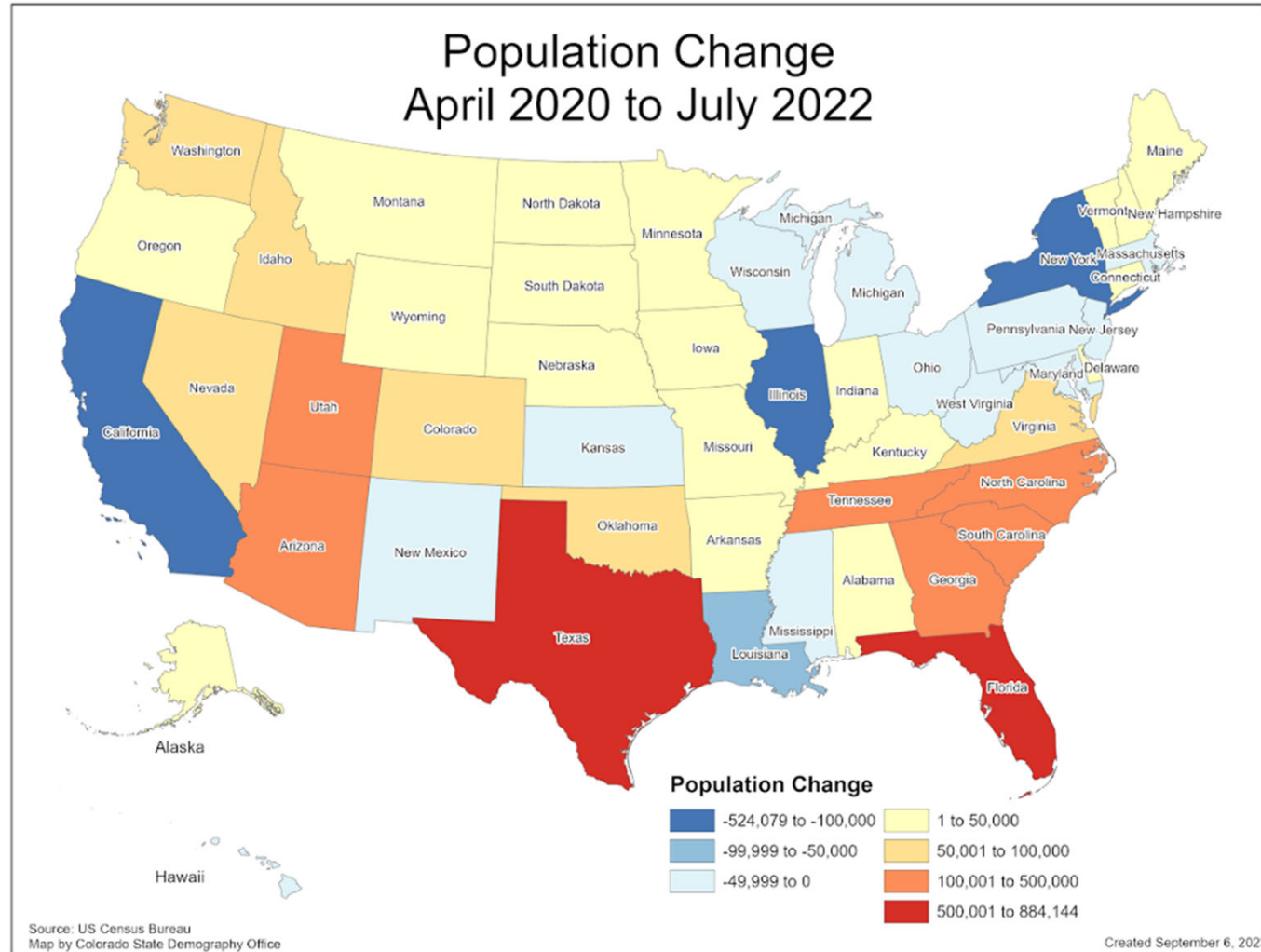
- Increasing racial and ethnic diversity

Big Picture: Growth is Slowing

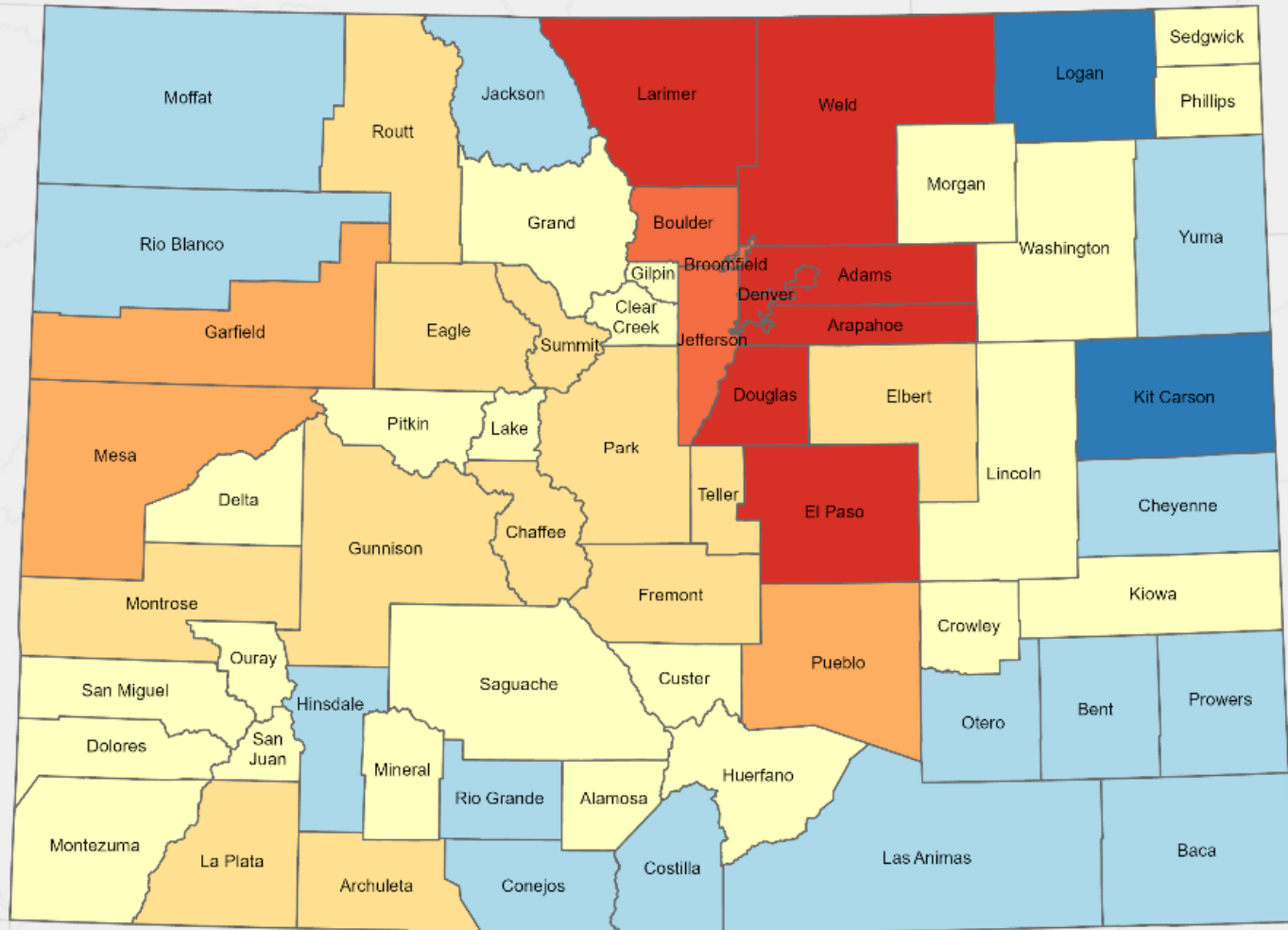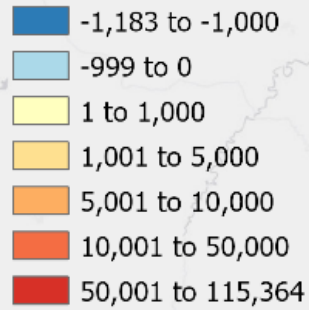United States

- Growth rate 0.6%
- 18 states lost population

Colorado

- Increased by 66,193
- 1.1% growth rate
- Ranked 12th in total growth
- Ranked 18th in percent growth

Population Change April 2020 to July 2022

Population Change

-524,079 to -100,000	1 to 50,000
-99,999 to -50,000	50,001 to 100,000
-49,999 to 0	100,001 to 500,000
	500,001 to 884,144

Source: US Census Bureau
Map by Colorado State Demography Office

Created September 6, 2023

Population Change by County
2010 to 2020

Population Change

- ■ -1,183 to -1,000
- ■ -999 to 0
- ■ 1 to 1,000
- ■ 1,001 to 5,000
- ■ 5,001 to 10,000
- ■ 10,001 to 50,000
- ■ 50,001 to 115,364

Moffat, Jackson, Larimer, Weld, Sedgwick, Logan, Phillips, Routt, Morgan, Grand, Boulder, Rio Blanco, Broomfield, Adams, Washington, Yuma, Gilpin, Clear Creek, Denver, Jefferson, Arapahoe, Garfield, Eagle, Summit, Douglas, Elbert, Kit Carson, Pitkin, Lake, Park, Lincoln, Mesa, Teller, Cheyenne, Delta, Chaffee, El Paso, Gunnison, Fremont, Kiowa, Montrose, Crowley, Ouray, Pueblo, San Miguel, Hinsdale, Saguache, Custer, Bent, Prowers, Otero, Dolores, San Juan, Mineral, Huerfano, Montezuma, Rio Grande, Alamosa, La Plata, Las Animas, Baca, Archuleta, Conejos, Costilla

UTAH

Source: 2020 US Census

Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS

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Annual Population Change
Colorado

■ Natural Increase ■ Net Migration

Source: State Demography Office, Vintage 2022

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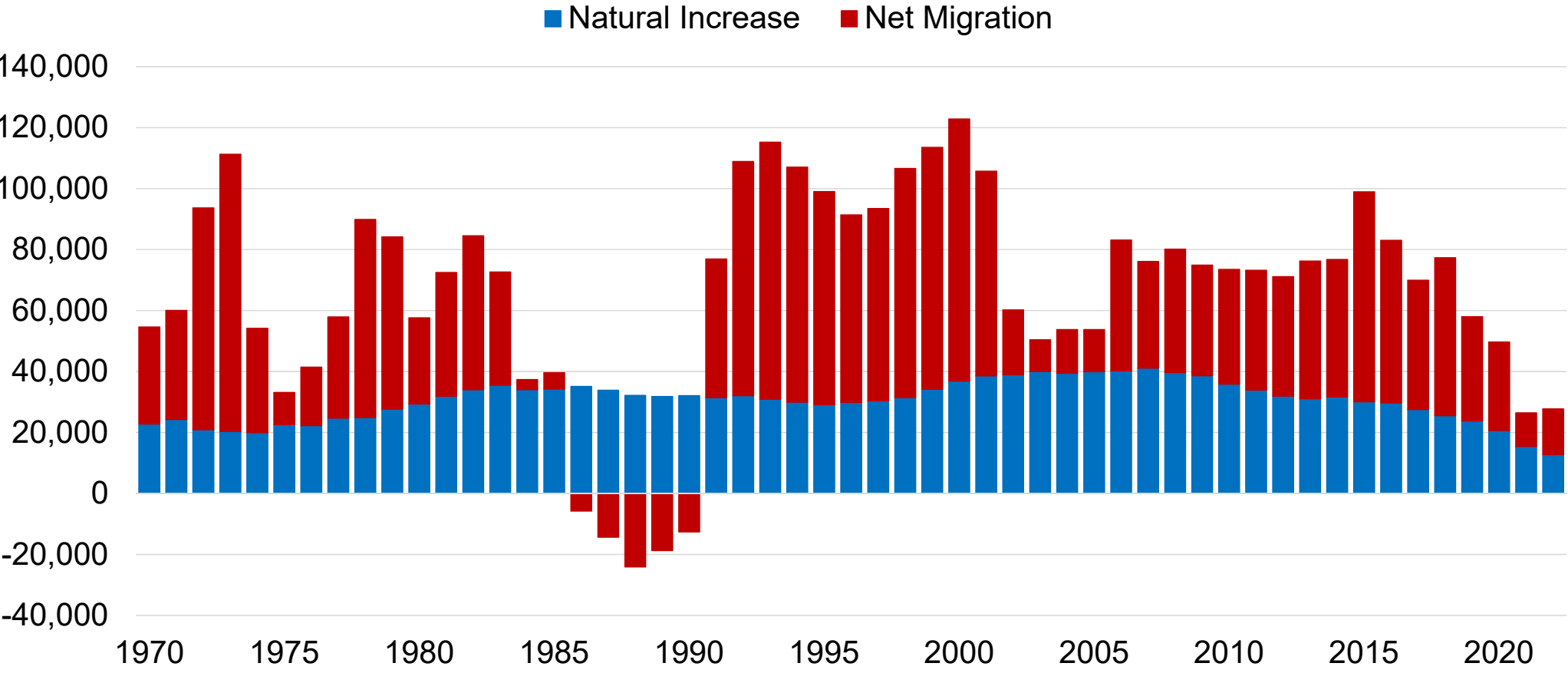
Annual Population Change
Larimer County

Legend: ■ Natural Increase ■ Net Migration

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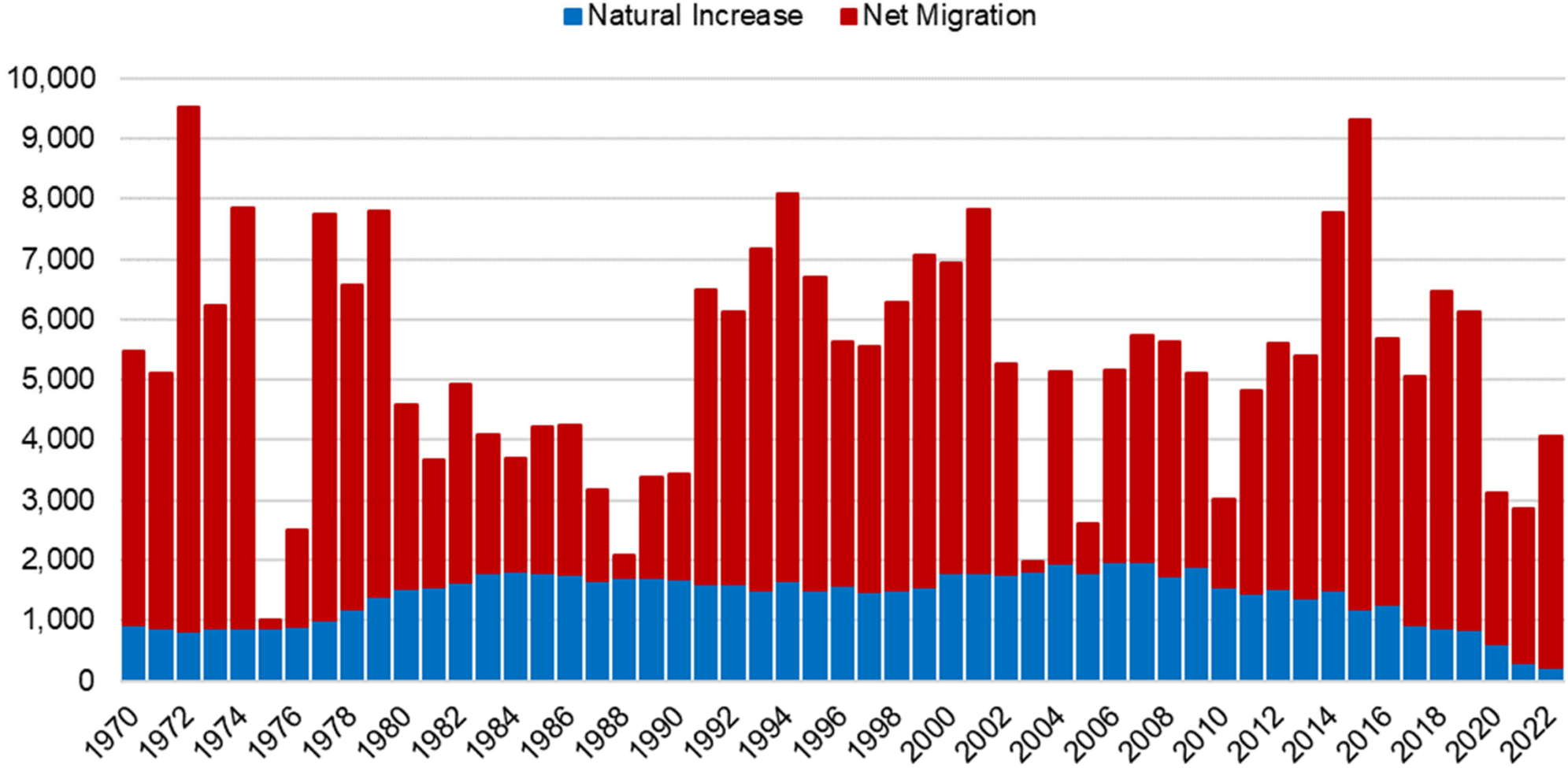
Colorado Births and Deaths, 1970 to 2050

Legend: Births — Deaths — Births (Projected) - - - Deaths (Projected) - - -

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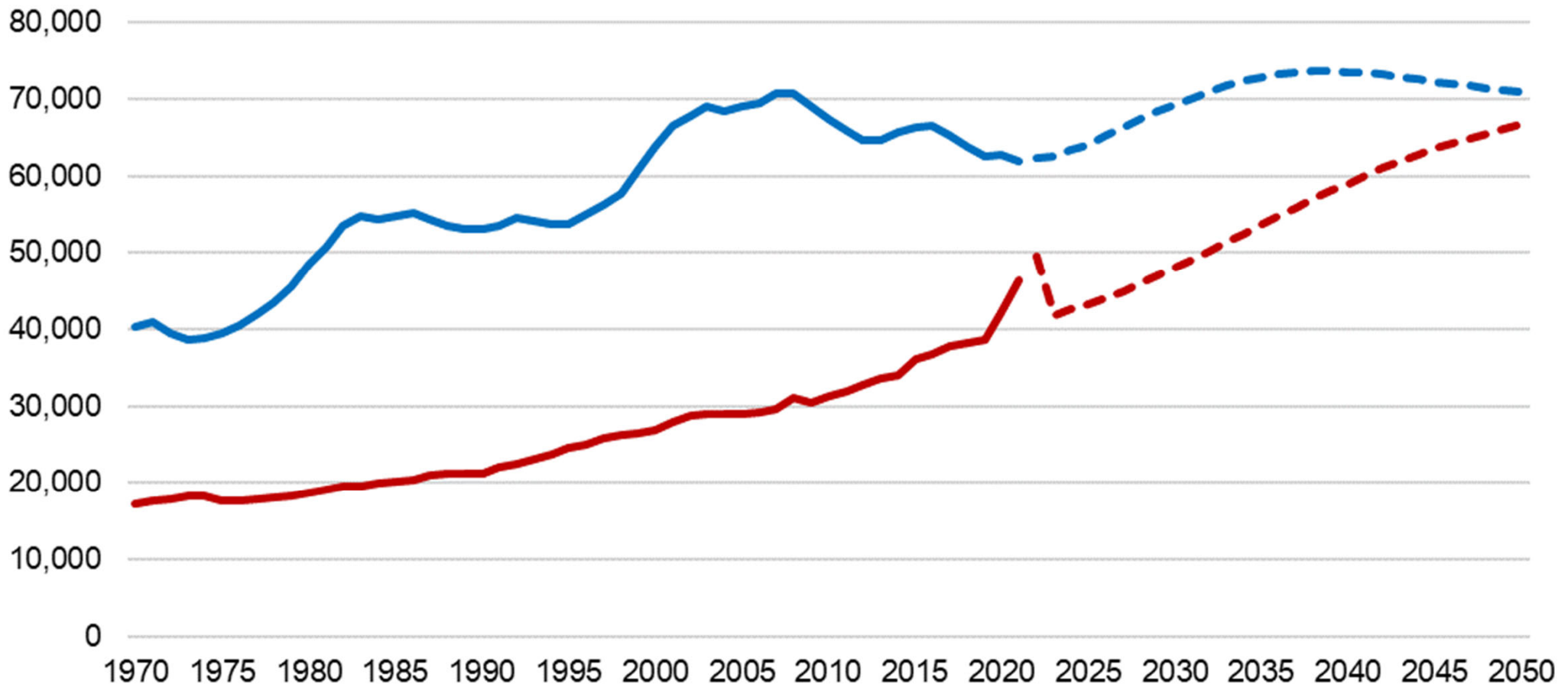
Change in Births by Age of Mother
Colorado, 2011-2020

Change in Births by Age 2011-2020
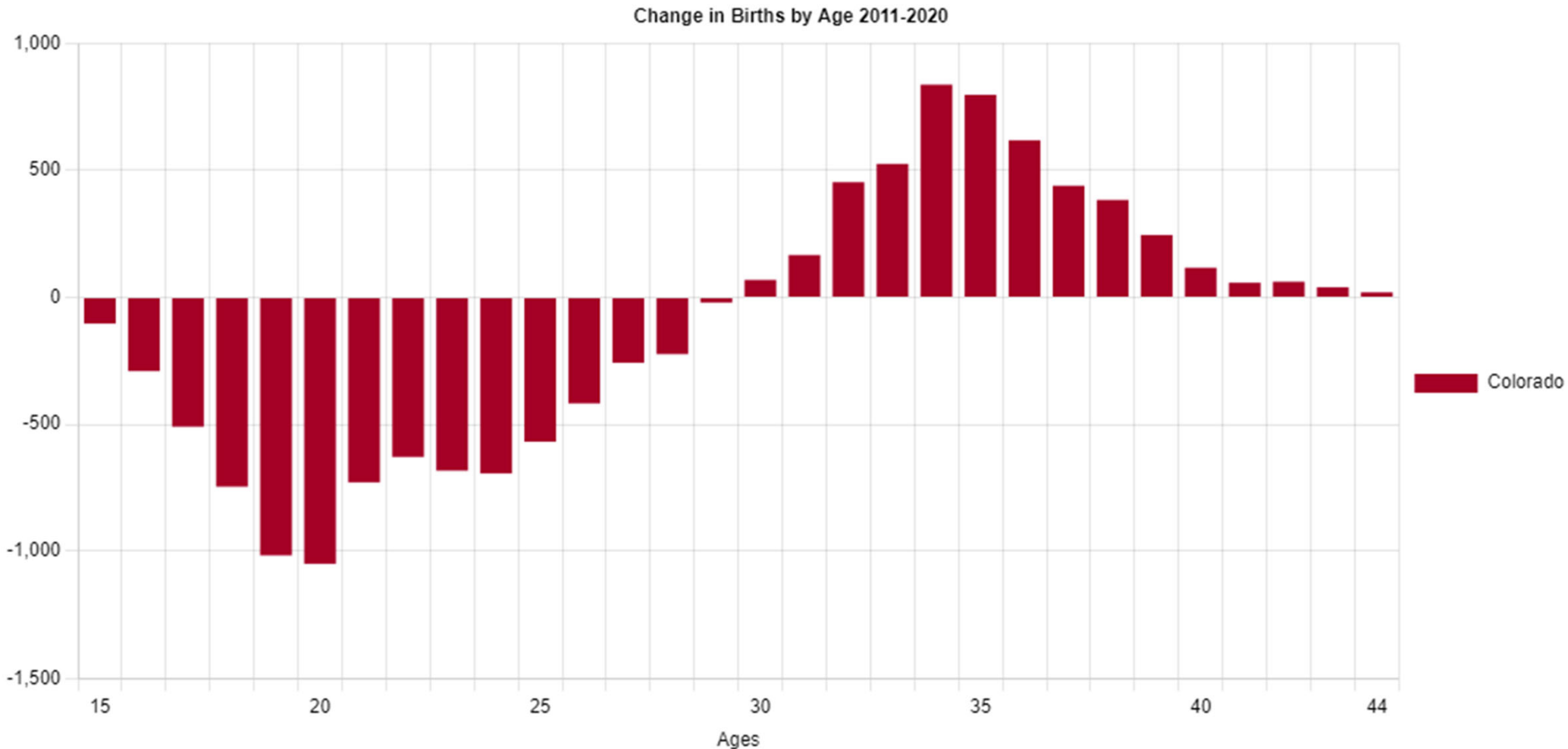
Source: Data and Visualization by Colorado State Demography Office. Print date: October 09, 2023

Change in Under 18 Populations
2010-2020
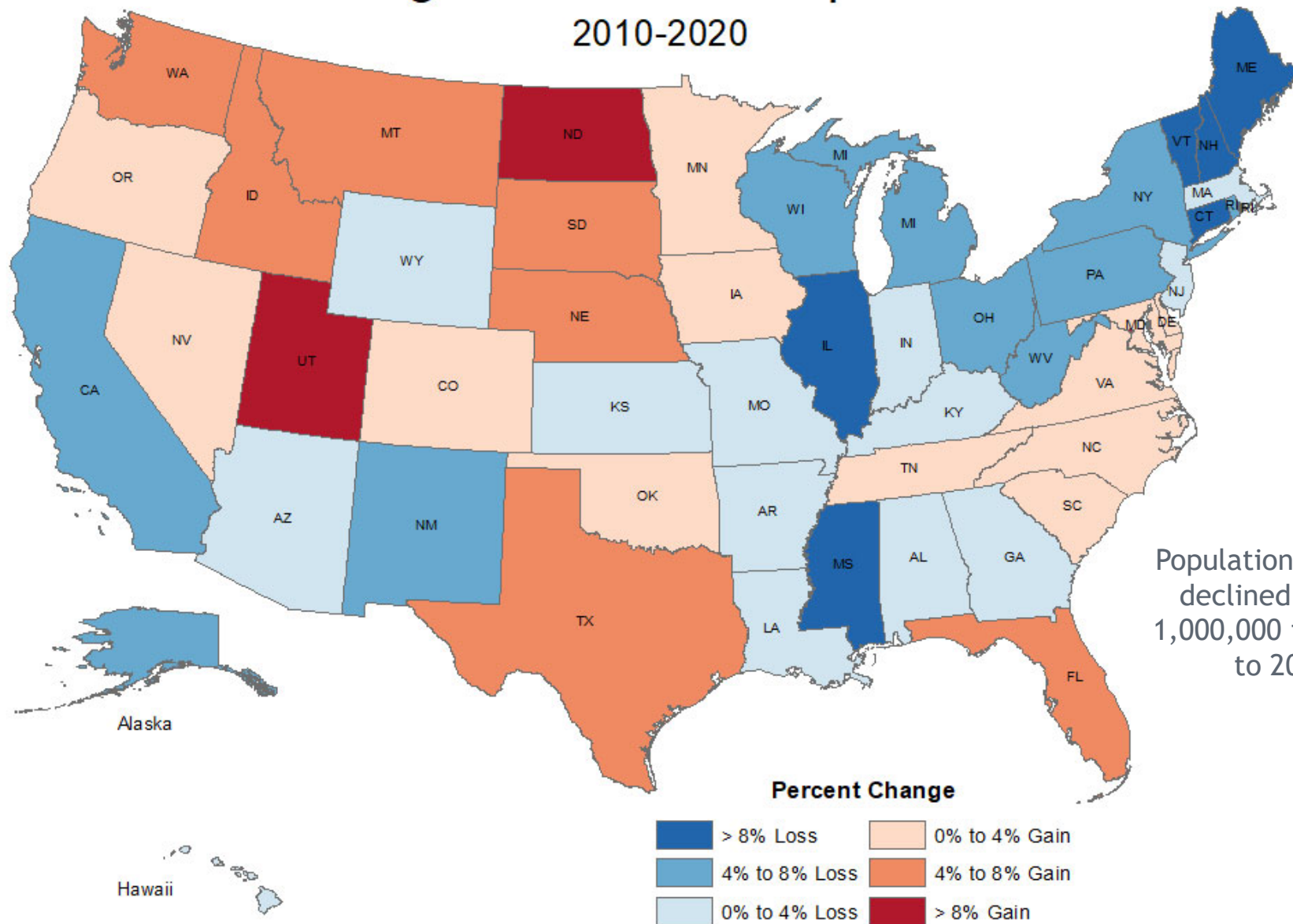
Population Under 18 declined by over 1,000,000 from 2010 to 2020.

Percent Change

■	> 8% Loss	■	0% to 4% Gain
■	4% to 8% Loss	■	4% to 8% Gain
■	0% to 4% Loss	■	> 8% Gain

Source: US Census Bureau
Map by Colorado State Demography Office

Created October 13, 2021

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Decennial Censuses

# Under 18 Population Change by County 2010 to 2020

Population Change
- ■ -5,246 to -1,000
- ■ -999 to -500
- ■ -499 to -100
- ■ -99 to 0
- ■ 1 to 100
- ■ 101 to 500
- ■ 501 to 5,000
- ■ 5,001 to 16,747

UTAH

Counties shown: Moffat, Jackson, Larimer, Weld, Sedgwick, Logan, Phillips, Routt, Grand, Boulder, Morgan, Washington, Yuma, Rio Blanco, Gilpin, Broomfield, Adams, Denver, Clear Creek, Garfield, Eagle, Summit, Jefferson, Arapahoe, Pitkin, Lake, Douglas, Elbert, Kit Carson, Mesa, Park, Teller, Lincoln, Delta, Chaffee, El Paso, Cheyenne, Gunnison, Fremont, Montrose, Kiowa, Ouray, Saguache, Custer, Crowley, Pueblo, San Miguel, Hinsdale, Bent, Prowers, Dolores, San Juan, Mineral, Huerfano, Otero, Montezuma, La Plata, Rio Grande, Alamosa, Costilla, Las Animas, Baca, Archuleta, Conejos

- Population Under 18 increased by 38K over the decade.
- Only 5% of the total 744,518 growth was from the under 18

Source: 2020 US Census

Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS

Colorado Net Migration By Age, 2010-2020
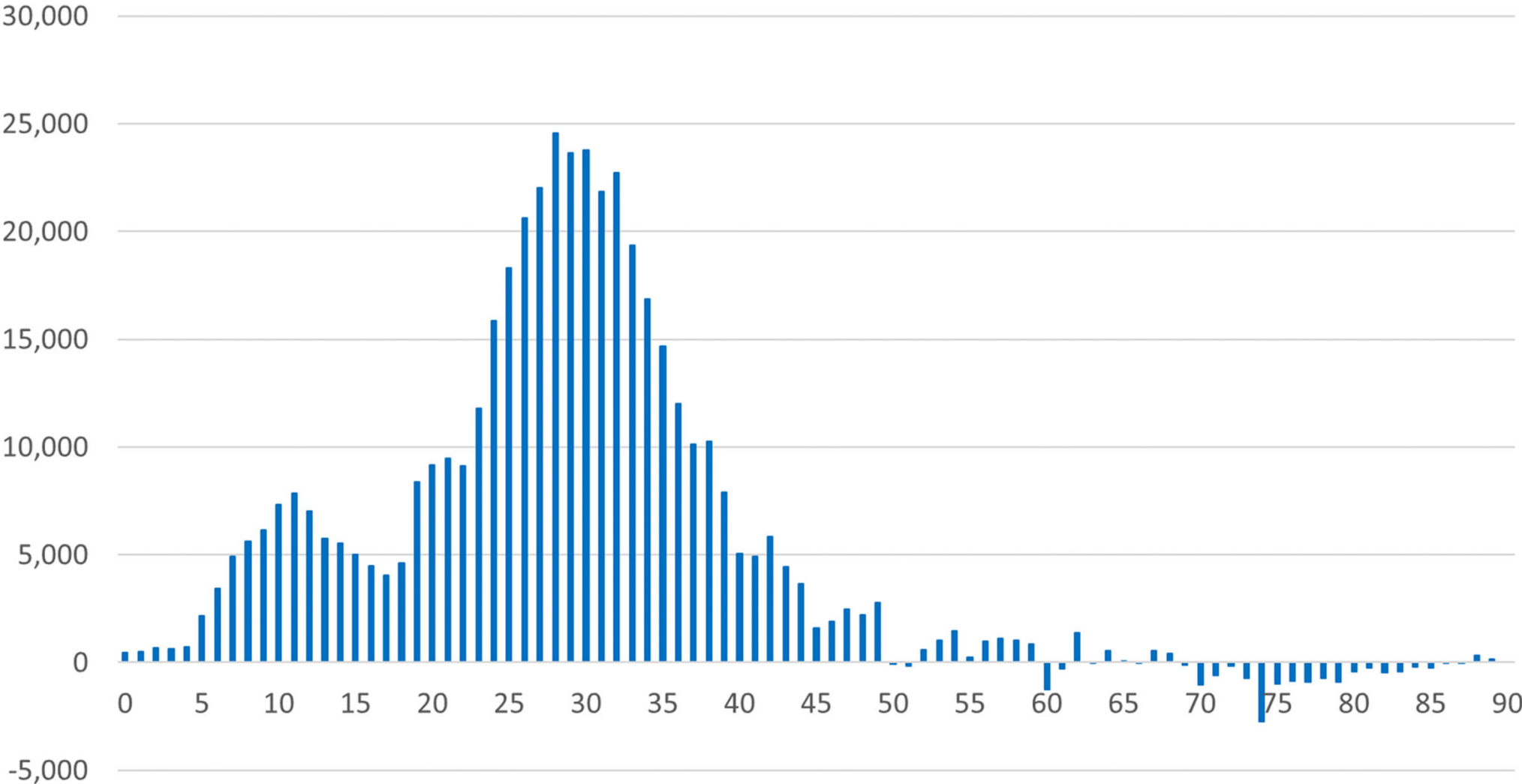
Colorado attracts early career young adults, families, and university students. Most older adults age in place. Trend has been consistent since the 1970's.
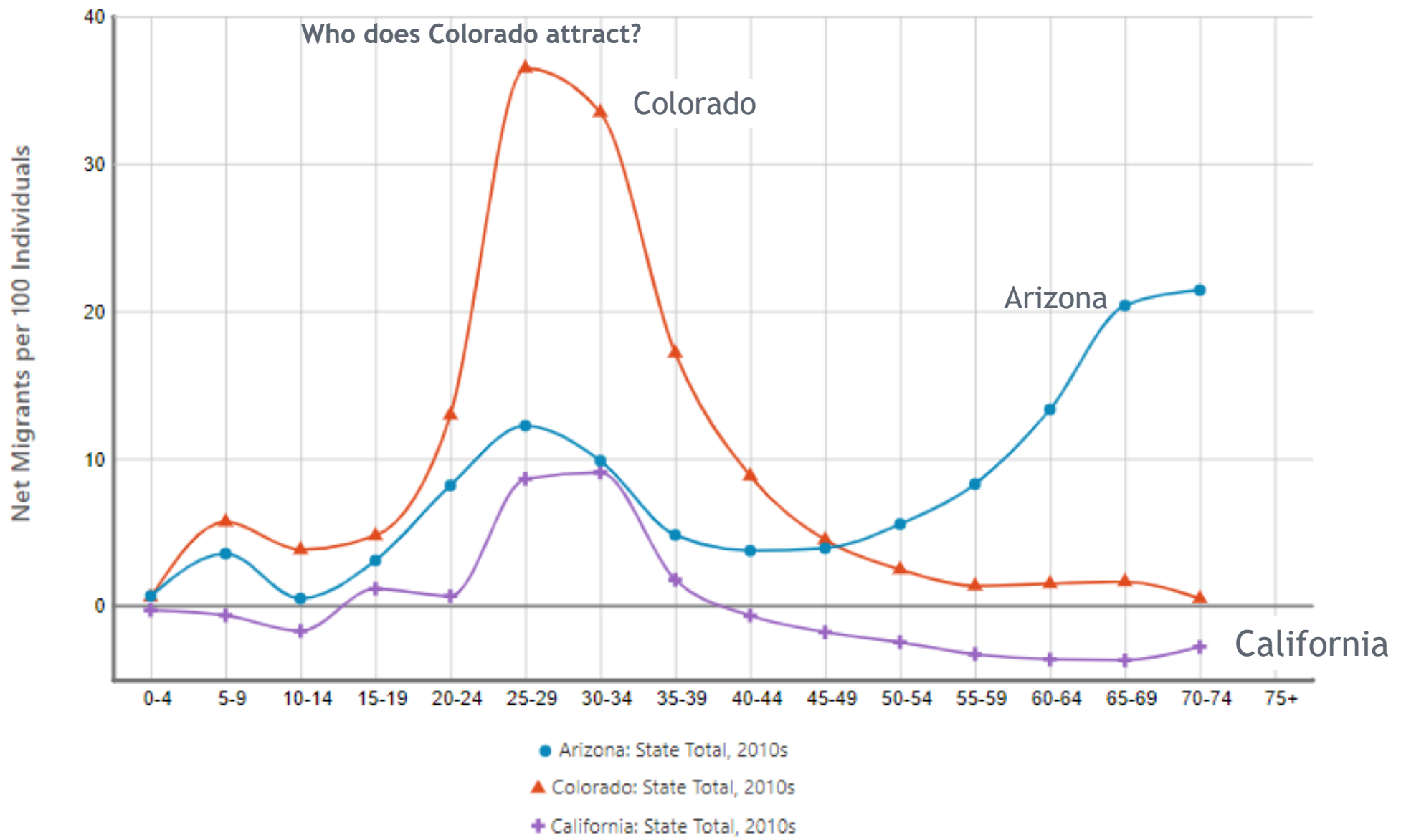
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Net Migration by Age - Larimer

Larimer County Net Migration By Age, 2010s

Net Migration by Age

Who does Colorado attract?

Colorado

Arizona

California

Net Migrants per 100 Individuals

40
30
20
10
0

0-4 5-9 10-14 15-19 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 55-59 60-64 65-69 70-74 75+

● Arizona: State Total, 2010s
▲ Colorado: State Total, 2010s
✛ California: State Total, 2010s
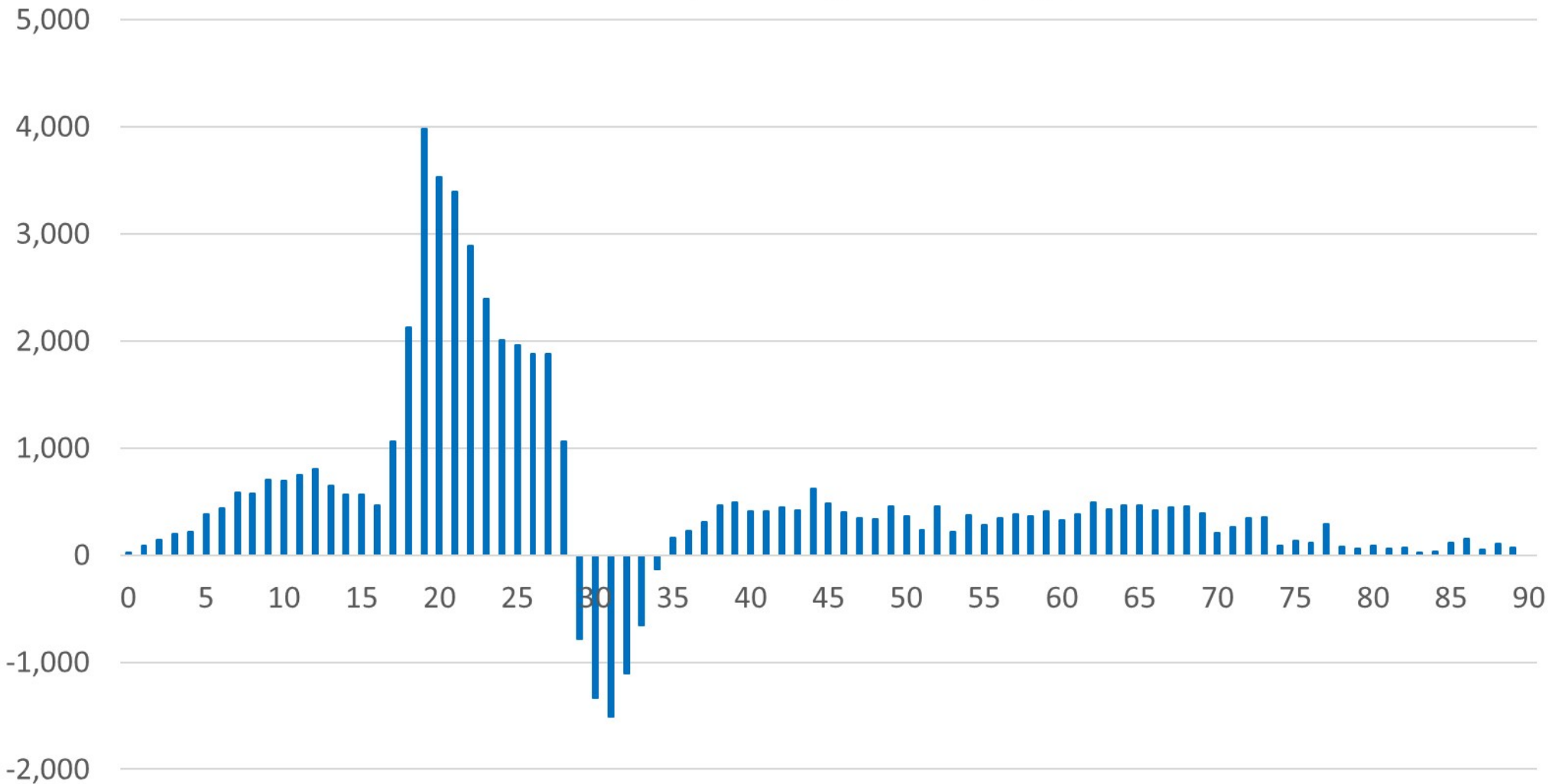
Egan-Robertson, David, Katherine J. Curtis, Richelle L. Winkler, Kenneth M. Johnson, and Caitlin Bourbeau, Age-Specific Net Migration Estimates for US Counties, 1950-2020. Applied Population Laboratory, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2023 (Beta Release). Web.

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https://netmigration.wisc.edu/

Net Migration 65 and over 2010-2020

Net Migration in selected age groups

	<=	-4,712
-4,711	to	-3,155
-3,153	to	-1,597
-1,596	to	-818
-817	to	-40
-38	to	307
308	to	653
654	to	1,346
1,347	to	2,039
2,040	to	2,732
2,733	+	
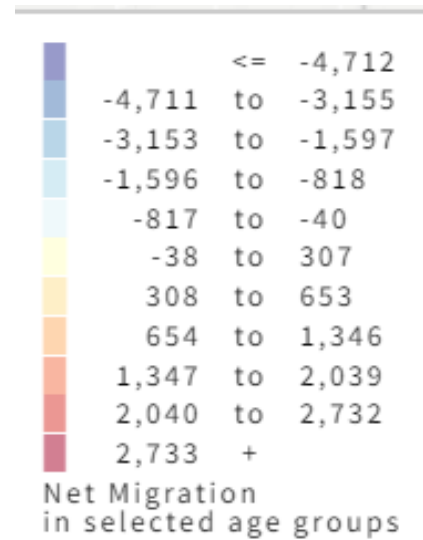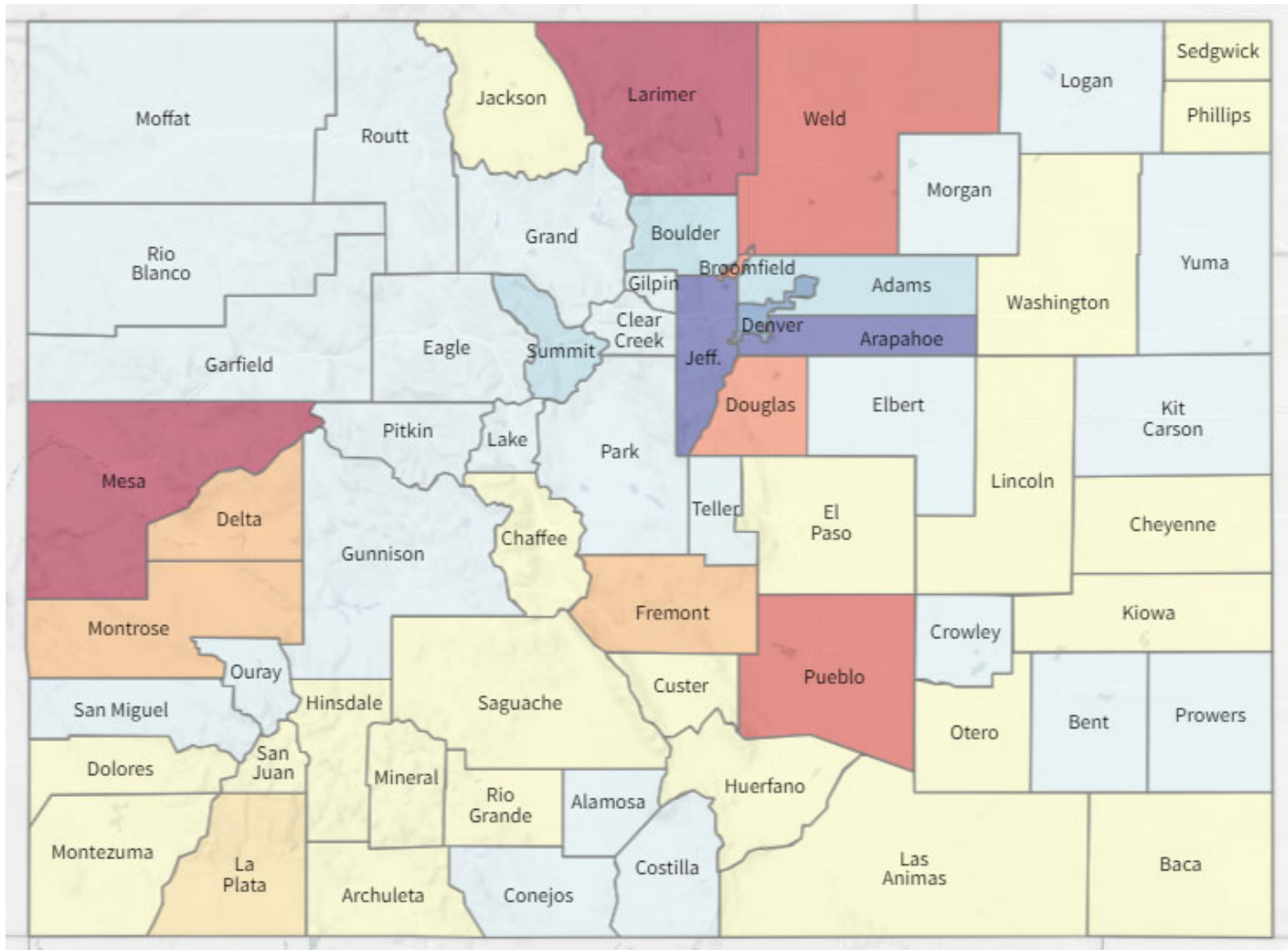
Age Matters

- Preferences – where people shop and what they buy.

- Housing – type, size, mobility

- Labor Force

- Income

- Service Demands

Share of Population 65 Years & Over

- 6th Youngest State in 2020
- 3rd Fastest-growing share of population 65 years and over between 2010 and 2020

Place	Total Pop % change 2010-20	65+ Pop % change 2010-20	2010 Share of pop 65+	2020 Share of pop 65+
United States	7.4%	38.6%	13.0%	16.8%
State of Colorado	14.8%	58.1%	10.9%	15.0%
El Paso County	17.4%	61.5%	10.0%	13.7%
Denver County	19.2%	38.0%	10.4%	12.0%
Douglas County	25.4%	129.0%	7.1%	13.0%
Clear Creek County	3.4%	76.2%	12.5%	21.2%

Colorado 2023

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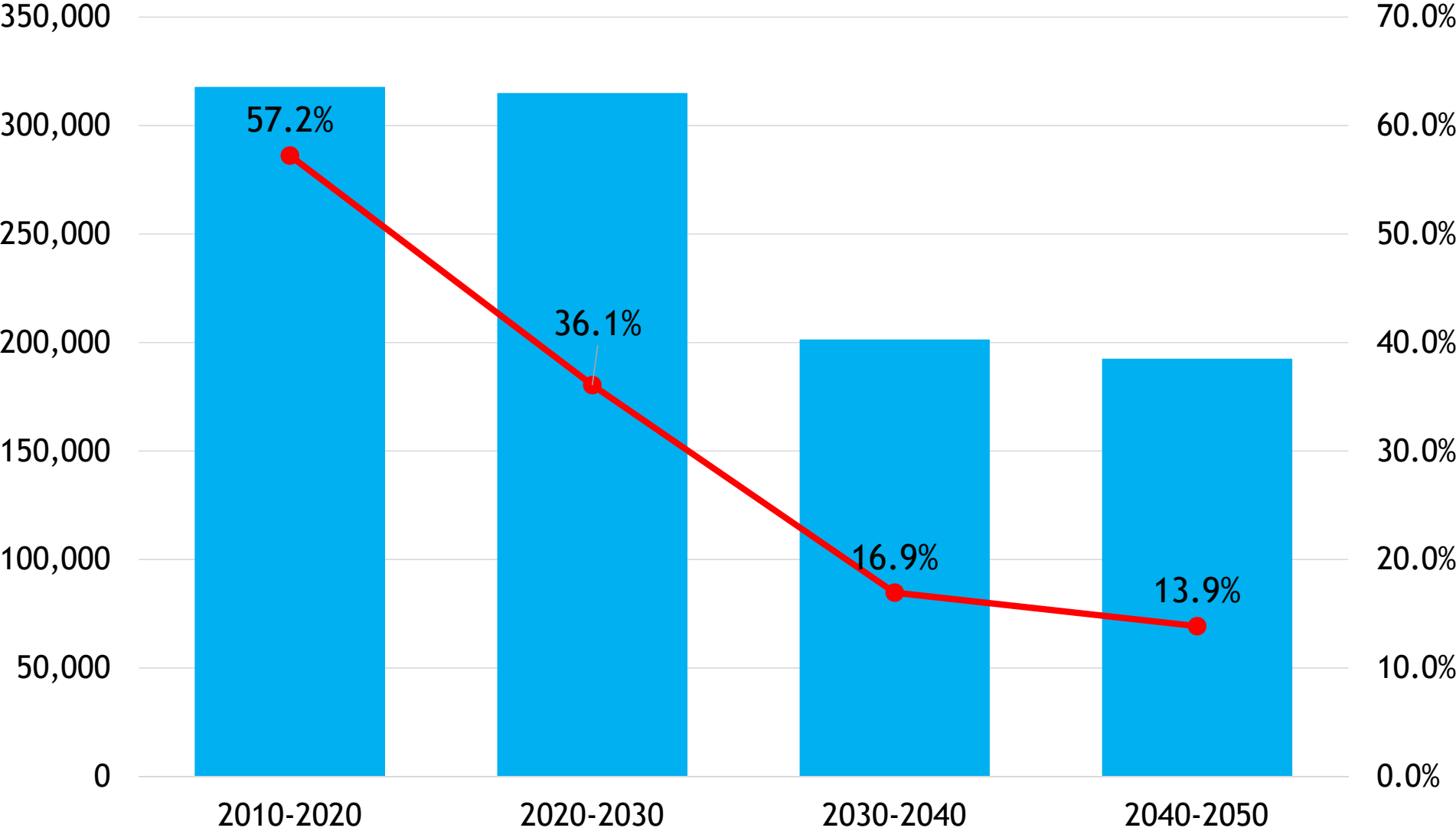Generation Z (1997 - 2014)
Millennials (1981 - 1996)

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https://gis.dola.colorado.gov/Age-Animation-Bars/

Larimer County — 2023
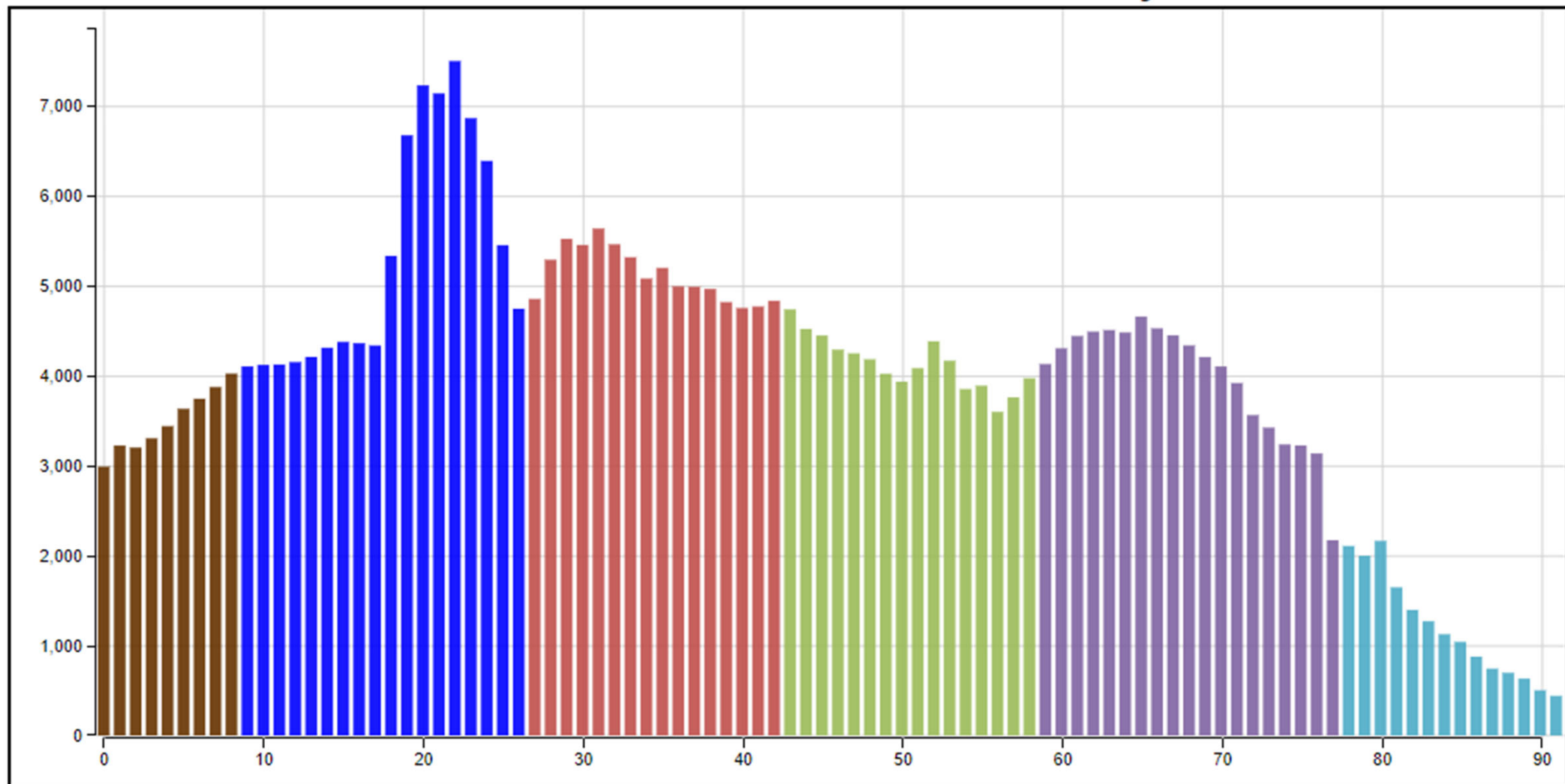
Legend:
- Generation X (1965 - 1980)
- Baby Boomers (1946 - 1964)
- Silent Generation (1928 - 1945)
- Greatest Generation (- 1927)
- Future Generations (2030 -)
- Generation Alpha (2015 - 2029)
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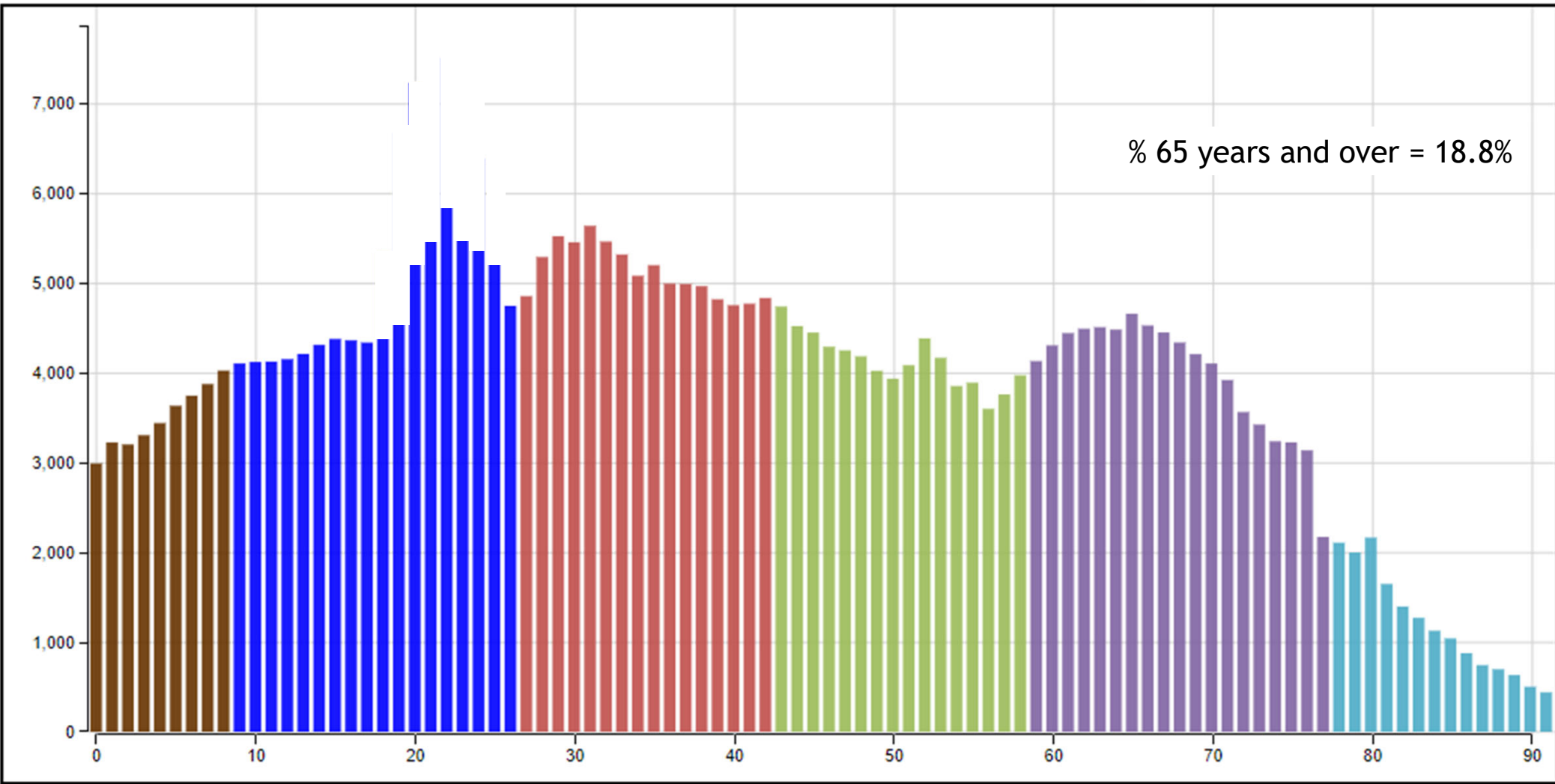
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Colorado - Population by Age

■ 2022 ■ 2032
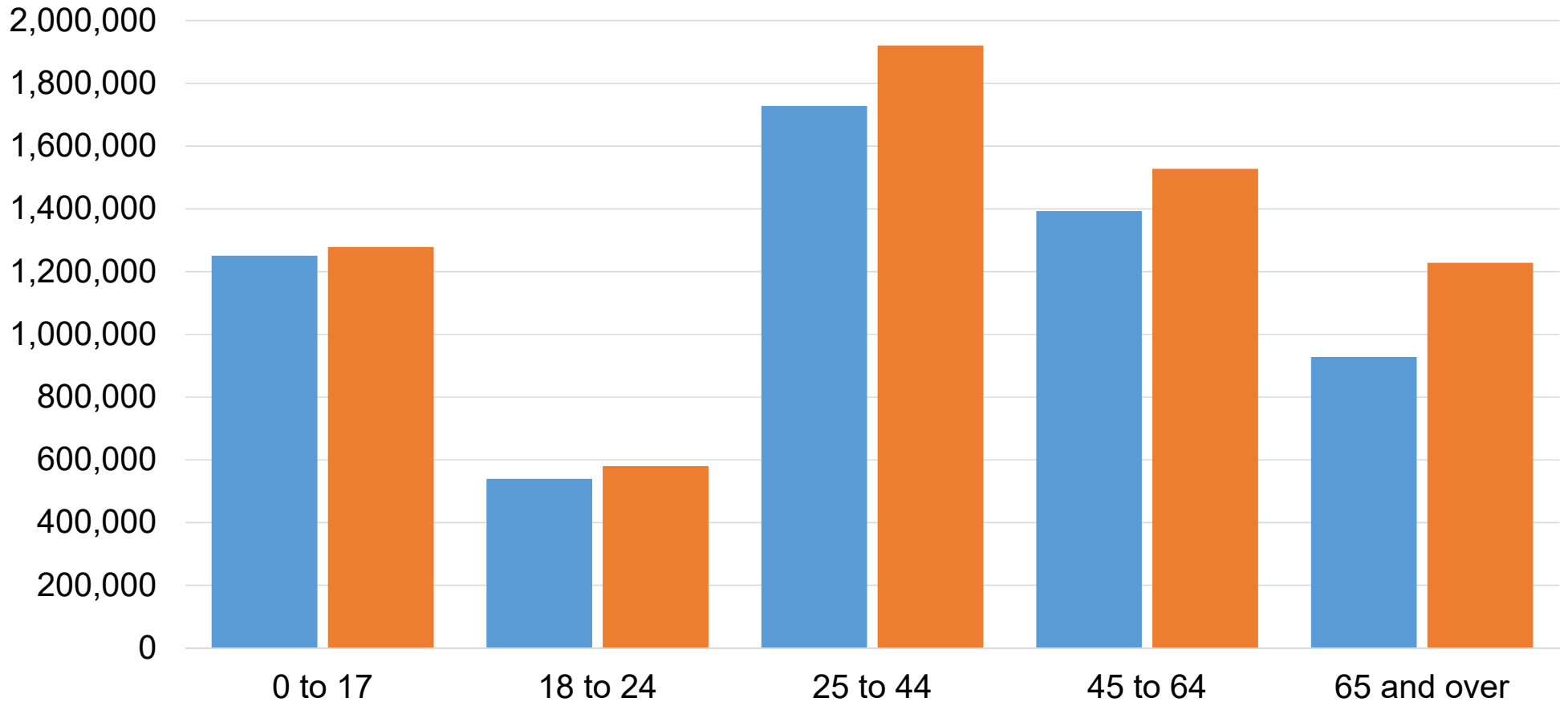
2022-2032	0 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Total
pop change	27,789	40,552	192,493	134,608	300,028	695,470
% change	2.2%	7.5%	11.1%	9.7%	32.3%	11.9%

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Aging Population 2020-2030

Projected Percent Change by Age Group - Colorado

Age Group	Percent Change
Total	10%
0 to 4	8%
5 to 17	-4%
18 to 24	8%
25 to 44	11%
45 to 64	5%
65 to 74	17%
75 to 84	75%
85 and over	50%
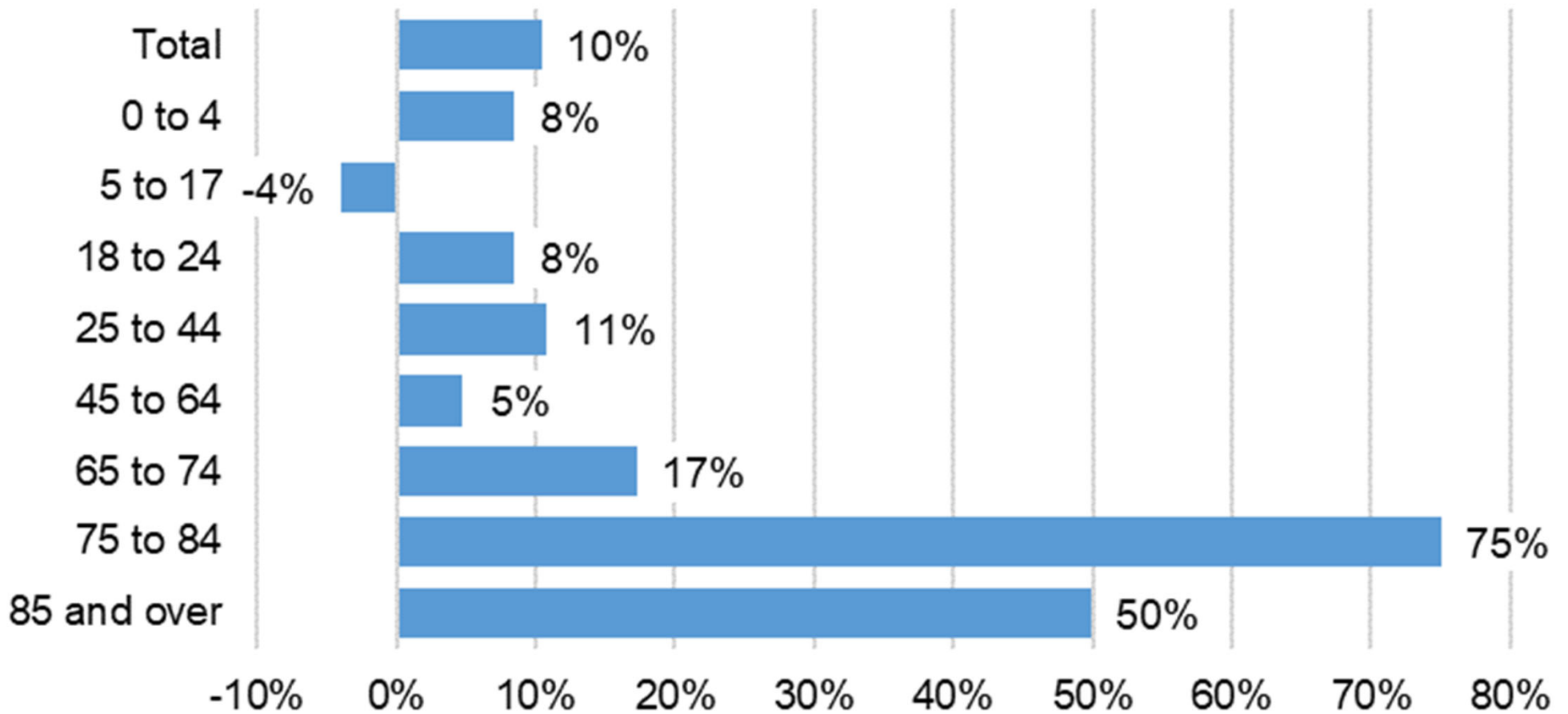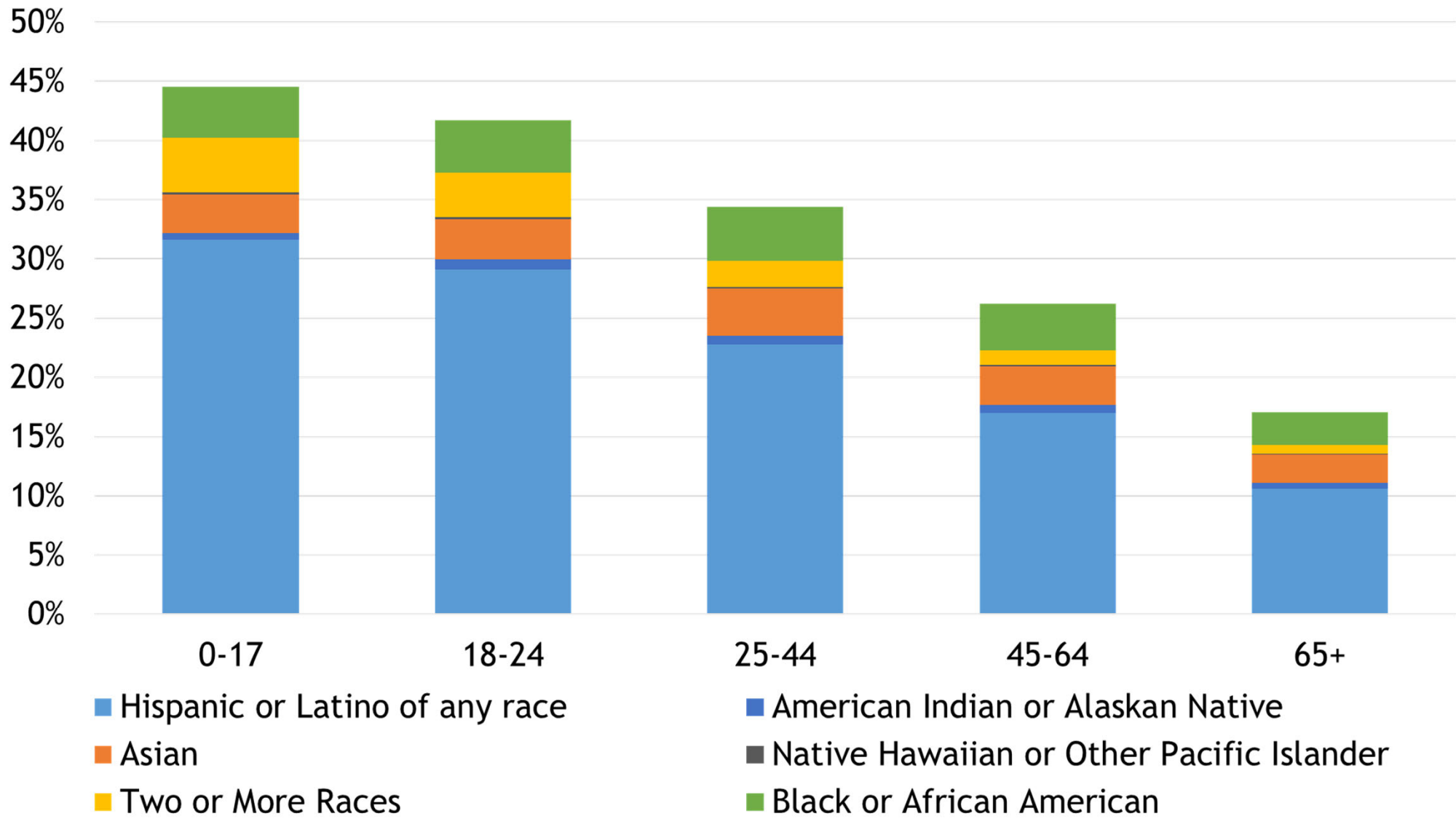
Implications From Aging

- Important Economic Driver
  - Consumer – spend money to purchase goods and services – health care and accommodations/food service largest expenditures
  - Supports about 1 job for every 4 people over the age 65.
- Housing
  - Rehab/remodel – more accessible to age in place
  - Move less often – impacts flow of housing stock
  - Owners – 82% owner occupied
    - Significant wealth, Transition planning – avoid probate
  - 570,250 Households 65+
   - 42% Living Alone (240,000)

Implications From Aging

- Labor Force
  - Employed adults ages 65+ increased 600% between 2000 and 2022, from 30,000 to over 180,000
  - This decade, forecasting 40,000 retirements per year, assuming increased participation for everyone ages 55+ (drives demand for migration)
  - Succession and transition planning – Industries with larger share of older workers – health care, utilities, manufacturing, agriculture

Colorado Aging

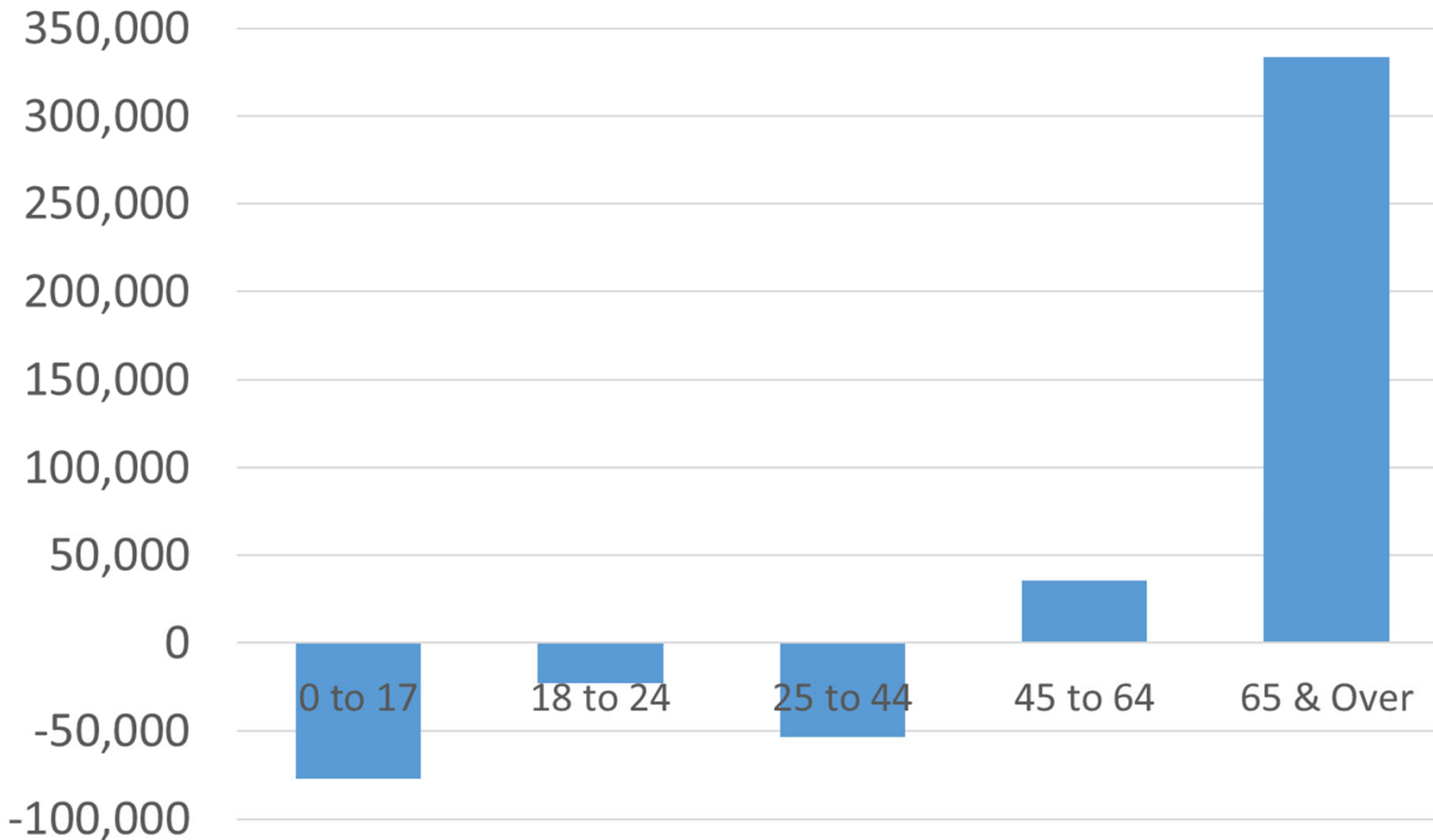## Colorado Population Change By Age, 2020-2030
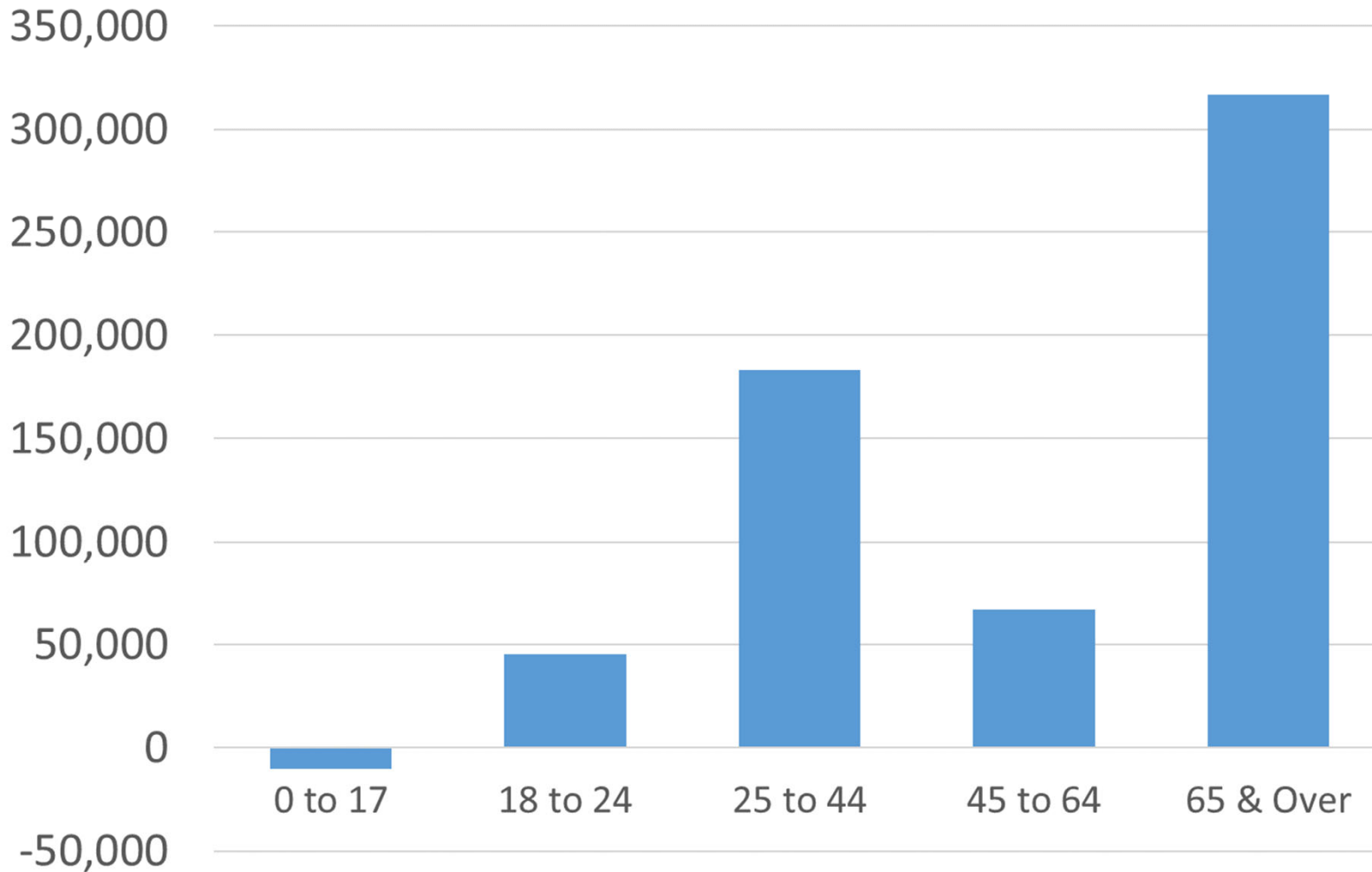
65 & over represents 53% of total growth

How much of the growth in each age group is due to assumed migration?

Colorado Aging

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

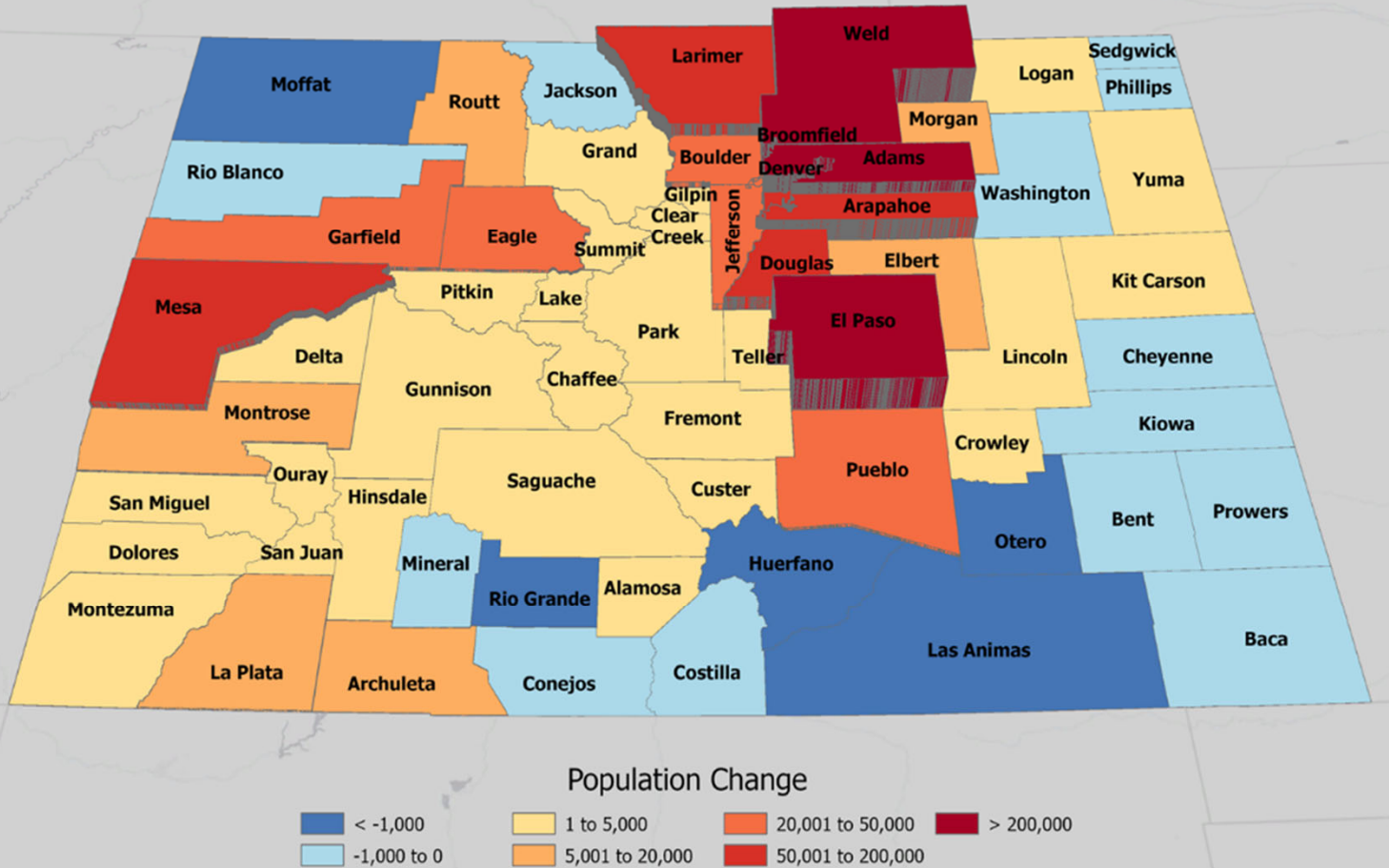If we assume no net migration over the next decade in Colorado:

- Statewide decline in the prime working age population

- All population growth could be attributed to the 65 & over population.

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Population Forecast 2050

7.49 million

Projected Population Change
2020 - 2050

Population Change

- < -1,000
- -1,000 to 0
- 1 to 5,000
- 5,001 to 20,000
- 20,001 to 50,000
- 50,001 to 200,000
- > 200,000

Source: Colorado State Demography Office   October 2023

Change 2020-2050
State: 1.65 million
Front Range: 1.47M
Western Slope: 170K
Central Mtns: 7K
San Luis Valley: 0
Eastern Plains: 13K

Uncertainties

- International migration
- Slower national growth, competition for labor?
- Housing supply, costs compared to rest of nation
- Industry changes, automation
- Natural disasters, water

Forecast Factors and Summary

- US population growth is slowing
- Births have slowed, deaths increase
- Migration/Mobility slowing, International migration uncertainty
- Aging – 65+ fastest growth, slower growth in young adults.
- Labor Force – more competition, new jobs + retirements (400K this decade) +remote workers
  - Retirements drive demand for migration
- Consumers/Jobs – Age drives consumption
  - Jobs drive migration – High and low wage services – growth industries
- Community Services
  - Housing – move less, household size
  - Transportation, public finance, others

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