Population Estimates and Forecasts
Mesa

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May, 2023

State Demography Office, Department of Local Affairs

Demography.dola.colorado.gov

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- Population
  - Estimates – program planning and funding allocation
  - Census Bureau Partner (NOTE: MORE CENSUS 2020 data to be released May 30th)
  - Projections – forecasts – program planning
  - Characteristics
  - Labor Force
- Economics
  - Estimates, forecasting
  - Bridging the economy and population
- GIS/Cartography/Mapping
  - Special districts
  - Support to Census, municipalities, others for mapping
  - Data visualization
- Technical Assistance, training, outreach
  - State Data Center – Census Bureau
  - Other states have these same offices

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Trends

- Jobs, labor force, population, age, housing - **connected**

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

- Migration and mobility slowing

  - Harder to attract and retaining the best and brightest.

  - Labor tight – very competitive in US

- Concentrated growth in Metro areas

- Aging – impacts everything... including the economy, labor force, housing, and public finance.

  - Largest share of future growth is the 65+

  - Retirements create demand for new workers
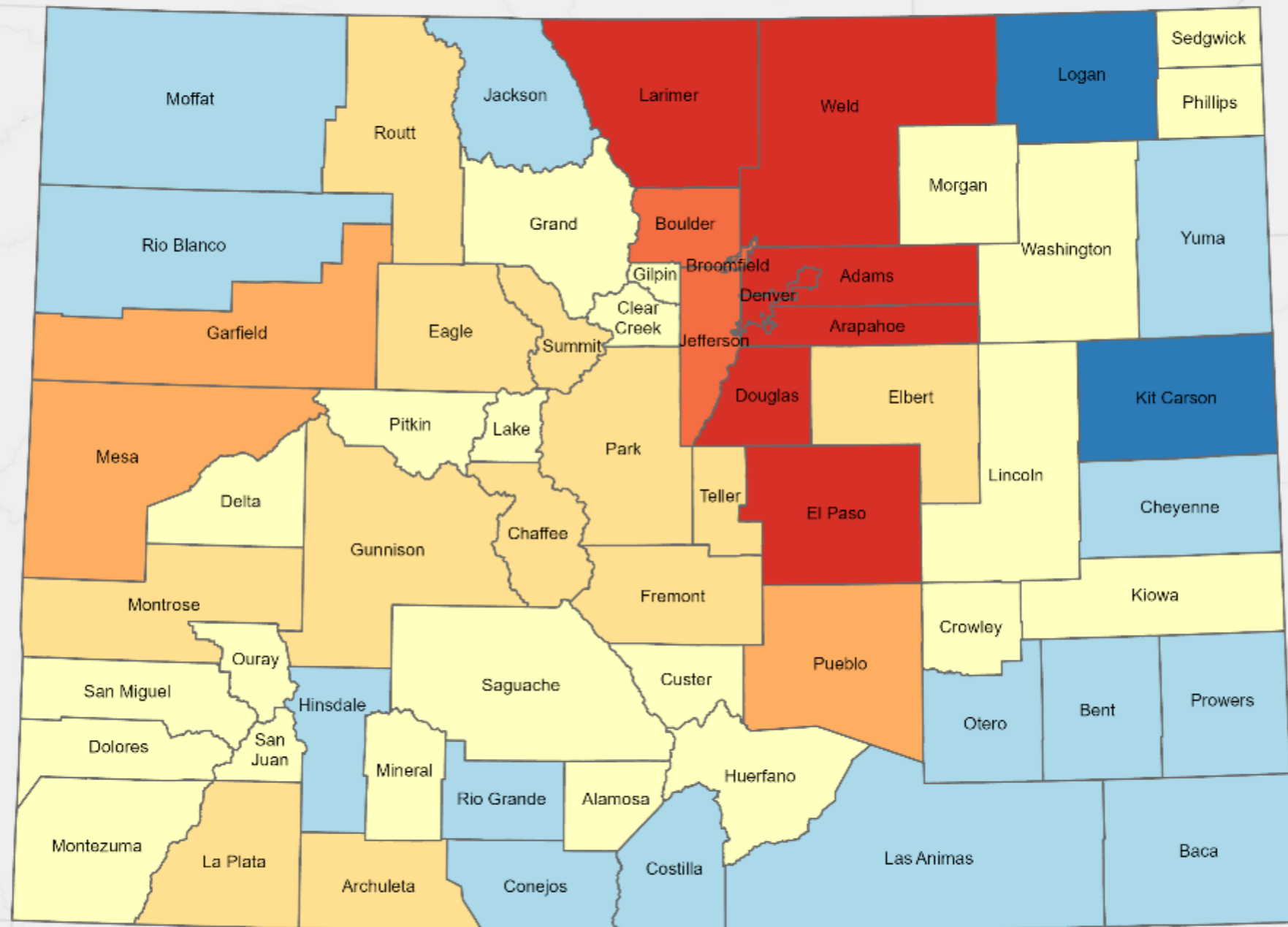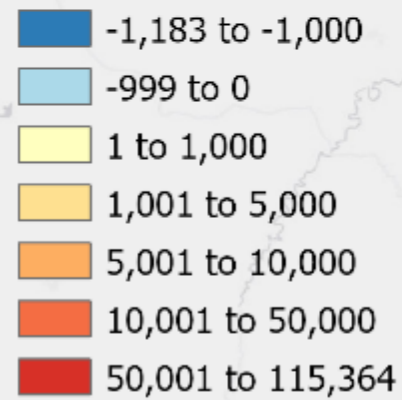
Big Picture

Growth is Slowing

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

- 2010 – 2020
  - Second slowest decade for US in terms of growth
- 2020 – 2021
  - Slowest year for US growth rate;
  - 17 states lost population
- 2021 – 2022
  - 19 states lost population

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

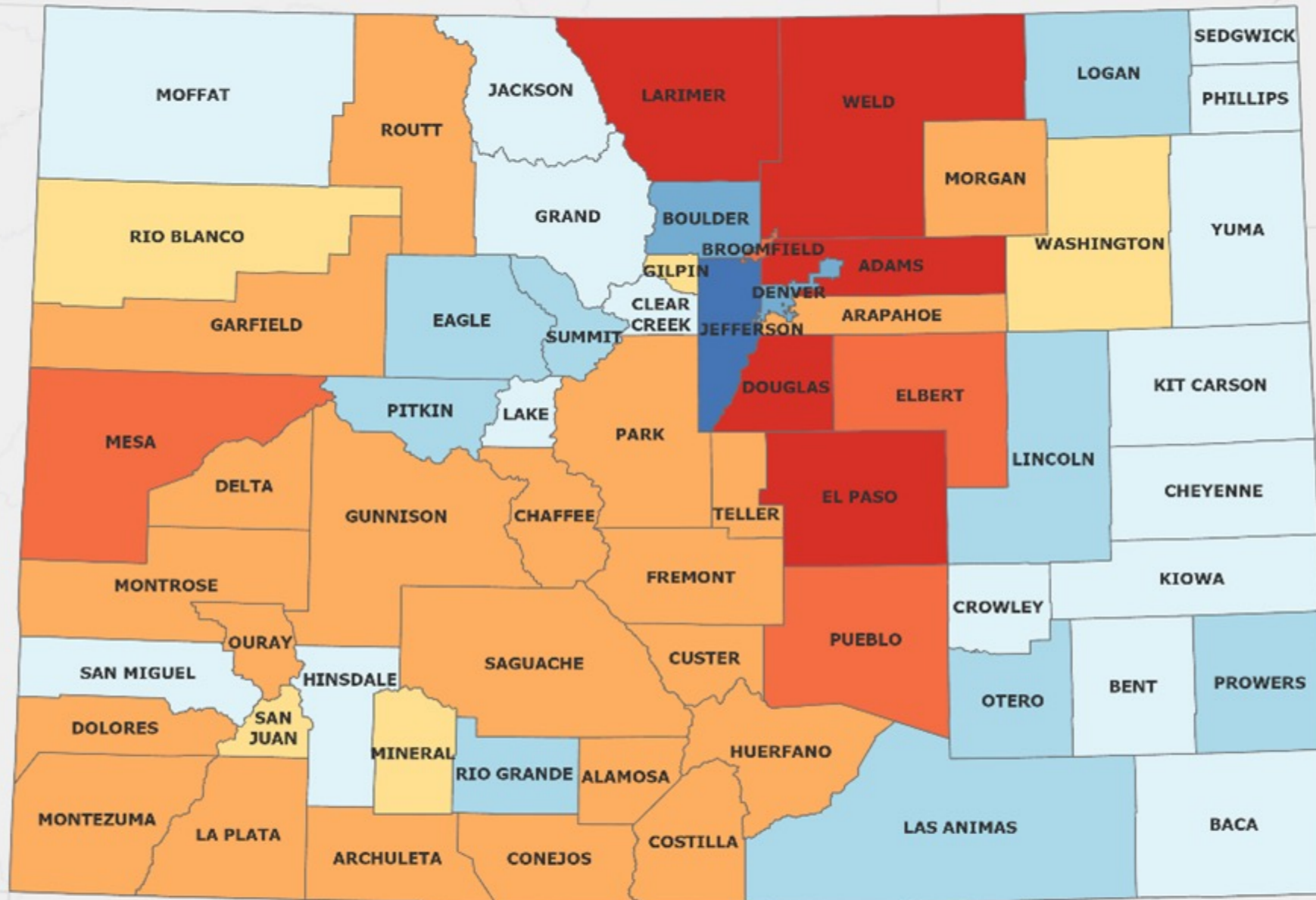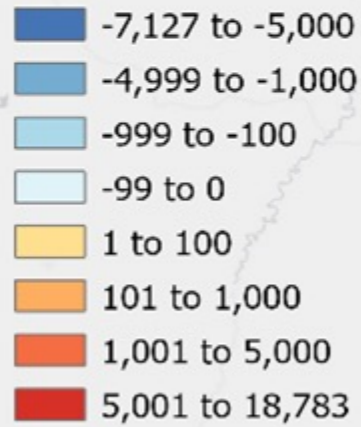Source: 2020 US Census

Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS

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

Total Population Change
2020 – 2022

Population Change
- -7,127 to -5,000
- -4,999 to -1,000
- -999 to -100
- -99 to 0
- 1 to 100
- 101 to 1,000
- 1,001 to 5,000
- 5,001 to 18,783

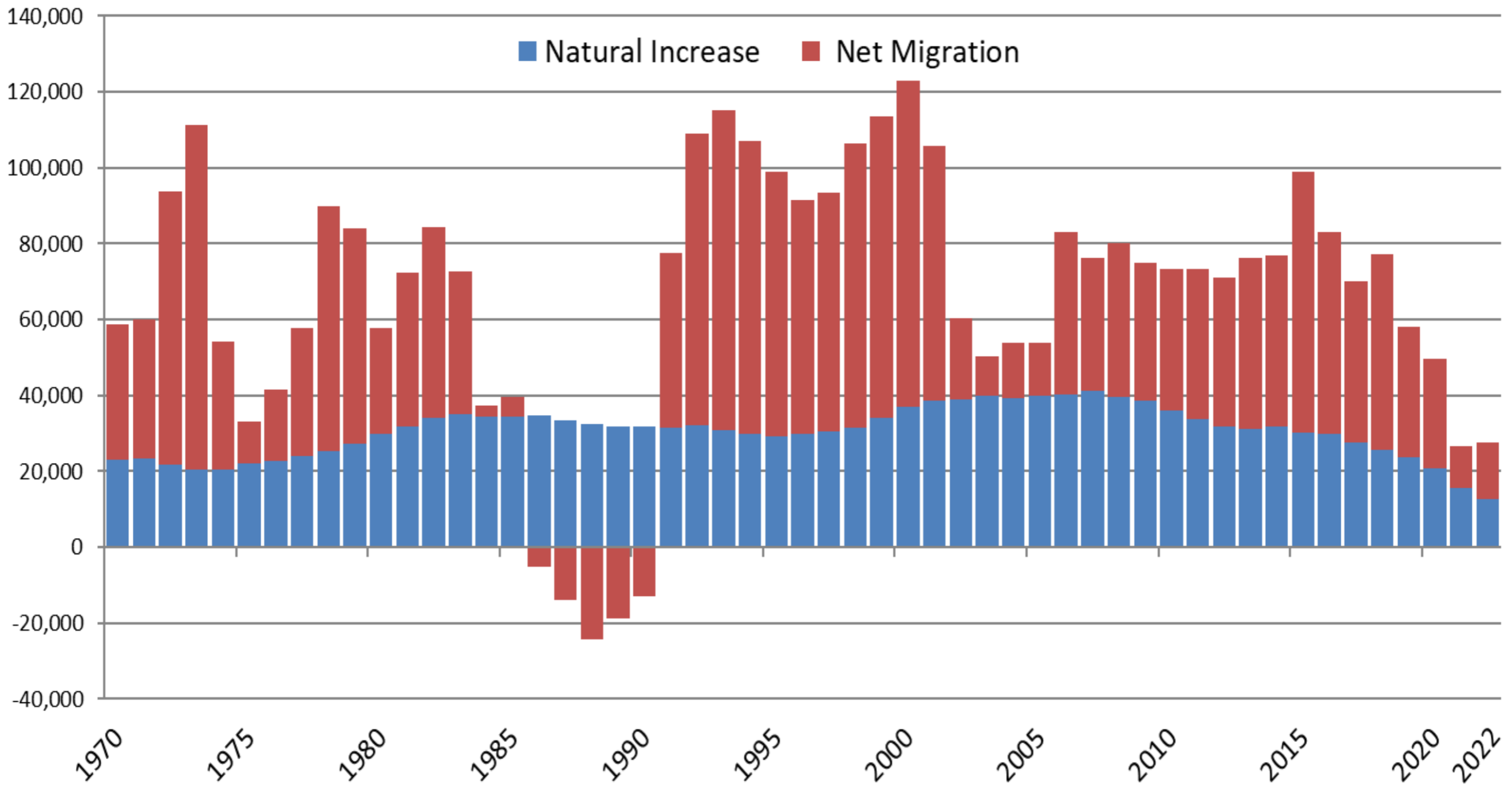Source: Colorado State Demography Office

April 2023

2020 to 2022 – Front Range Growth 75% of total. 28 counties lose population.

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Components of Colorado Population Change 1970-2022

Legend: ■ Natural Increase ■ Net Migration

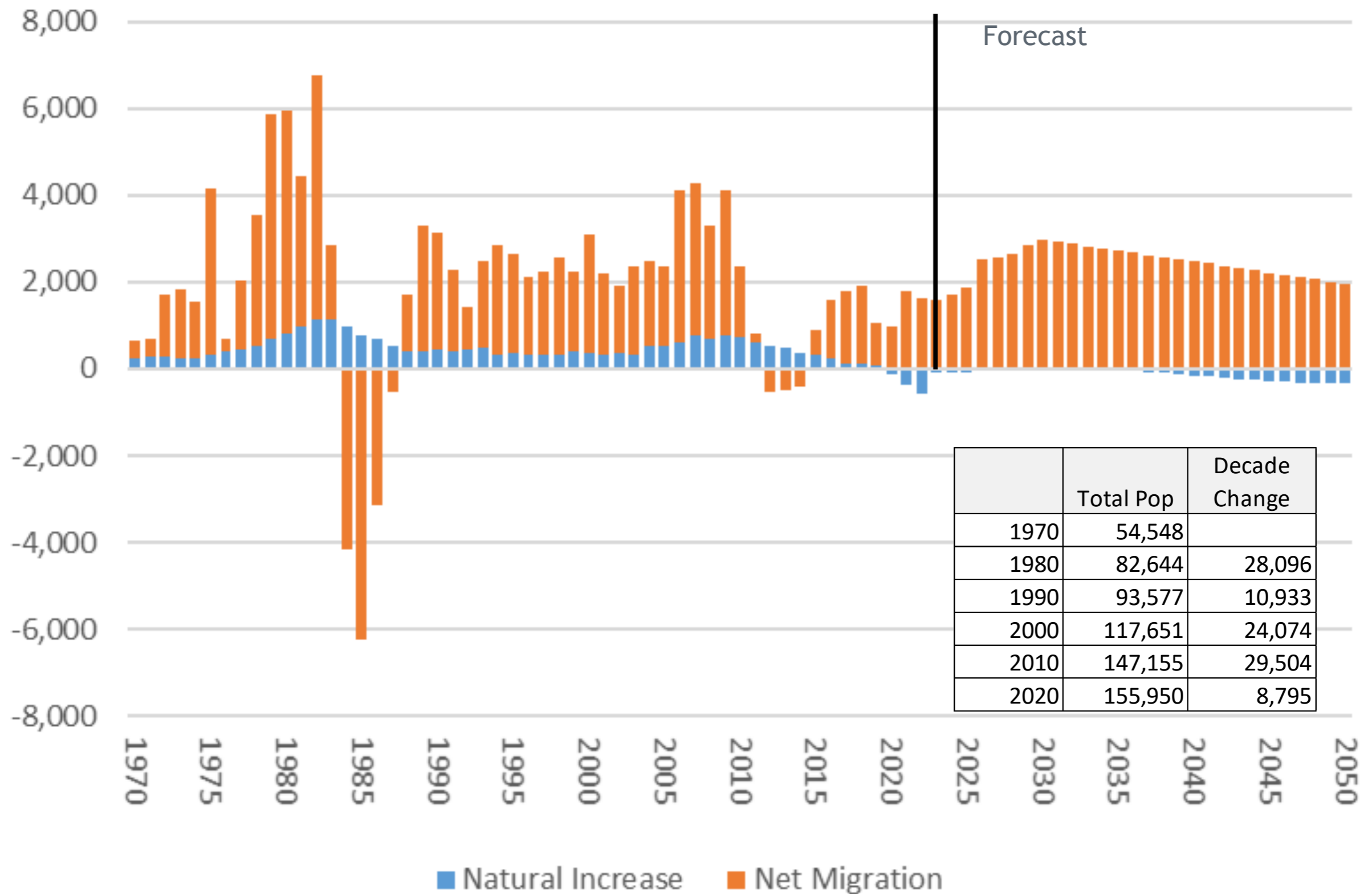| 2010-2020	
Births –	648,000
Deaths –	362,000
Net Migration –	445,000

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Source: State Demography Office

Components of Change Mesa

	Total Pop	Decade Change
1970	54,548	
1980	82,644	28,096
1990	93,577	10,933
2000	117,651	24,074
2010	147,155	29,504
2020	155,950	8,795

Forecast

■ Natural Increase   ■ Net Migration

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Births and Deaths, 1970-2021
Mesa County

Mesa Births and Deaths
Estimates and Forecasts
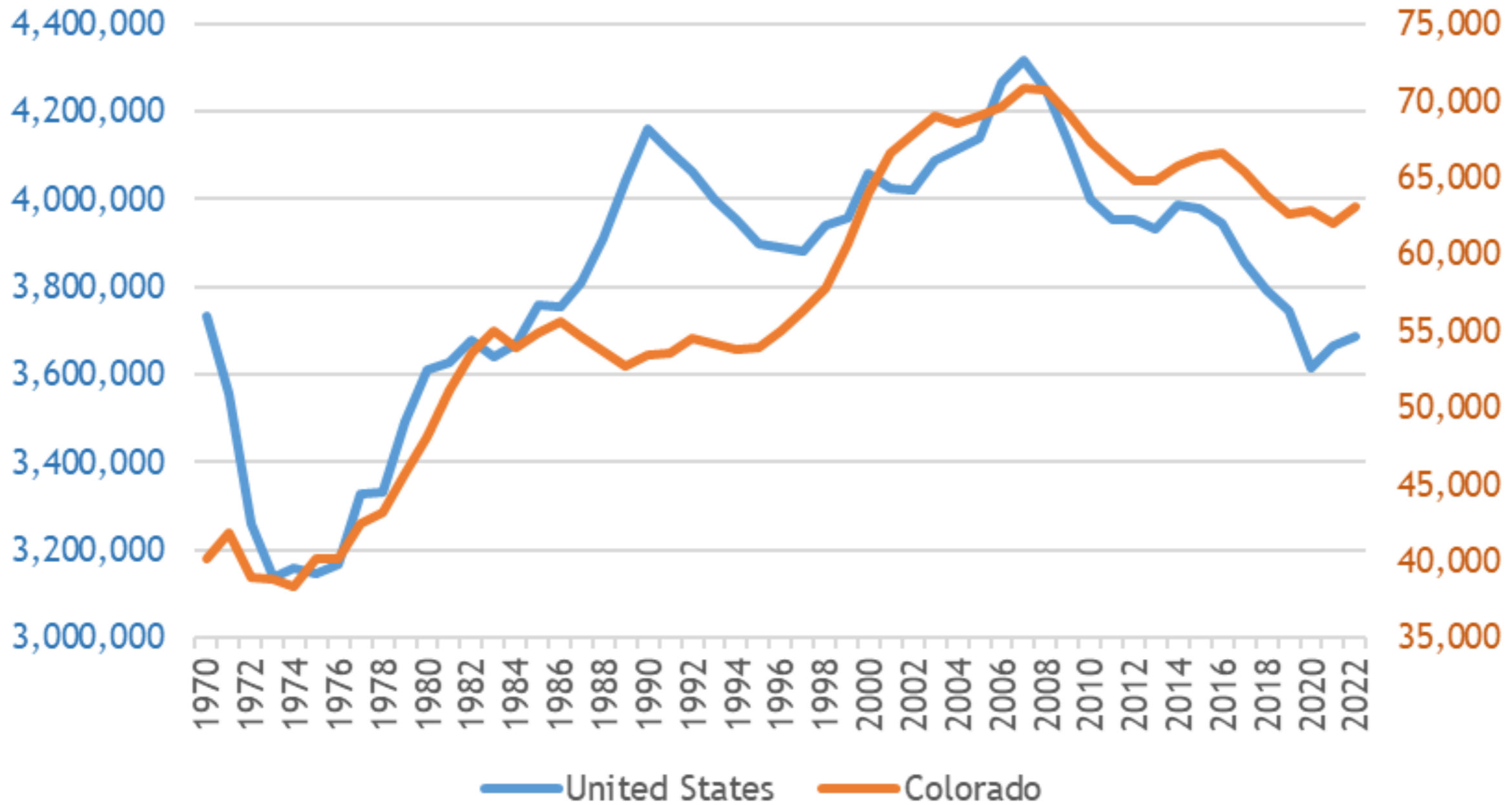
Births   Deaths

July Estimates
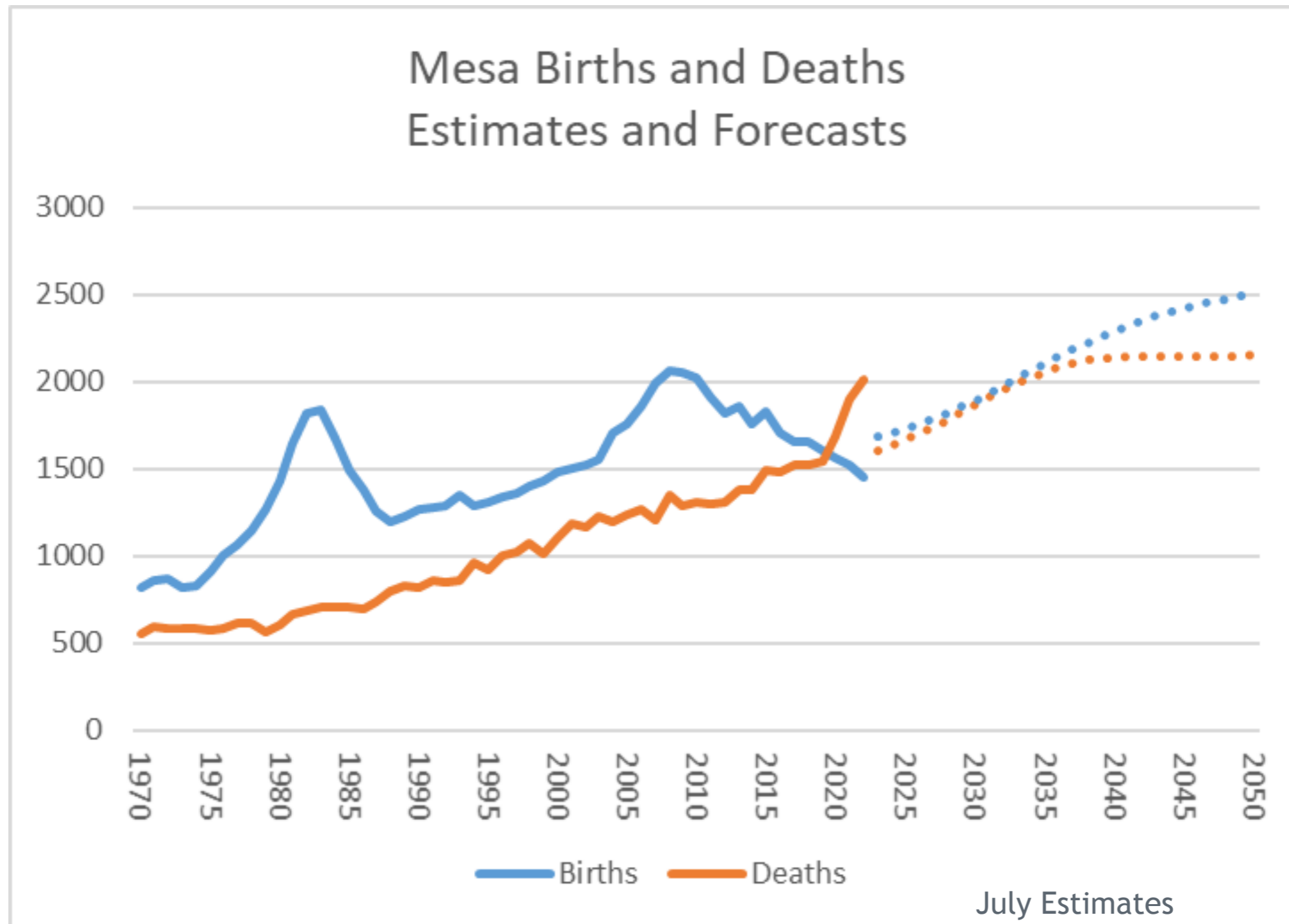
Births in Colorado and the US

Peak Births in 2007, currently 15-16 years old
Peak Millennial is 29 years old
More women of childbearing age yet:
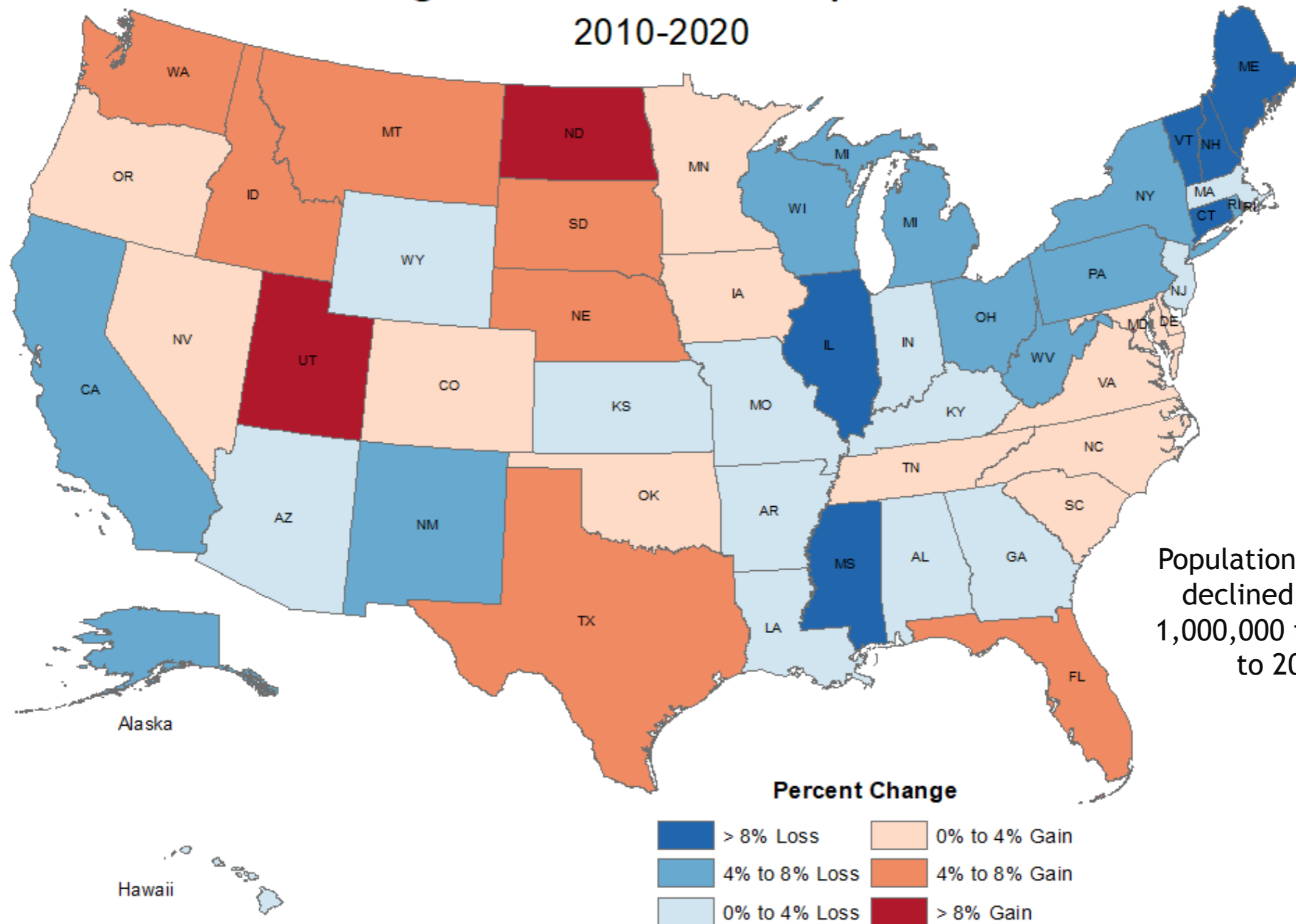628,000 (US) and 8,000 (CO) fewer births in 2022 than 2007
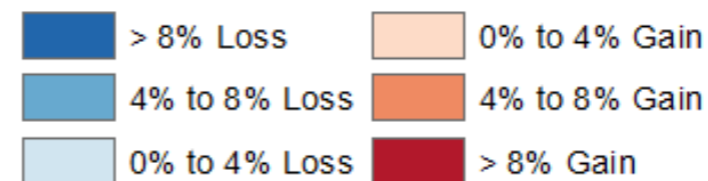
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Change in Under 18 Populations
2010-2020

Population Under 18 declined by over 1,000,000 from 2010 to 2020.

Percent Change

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

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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
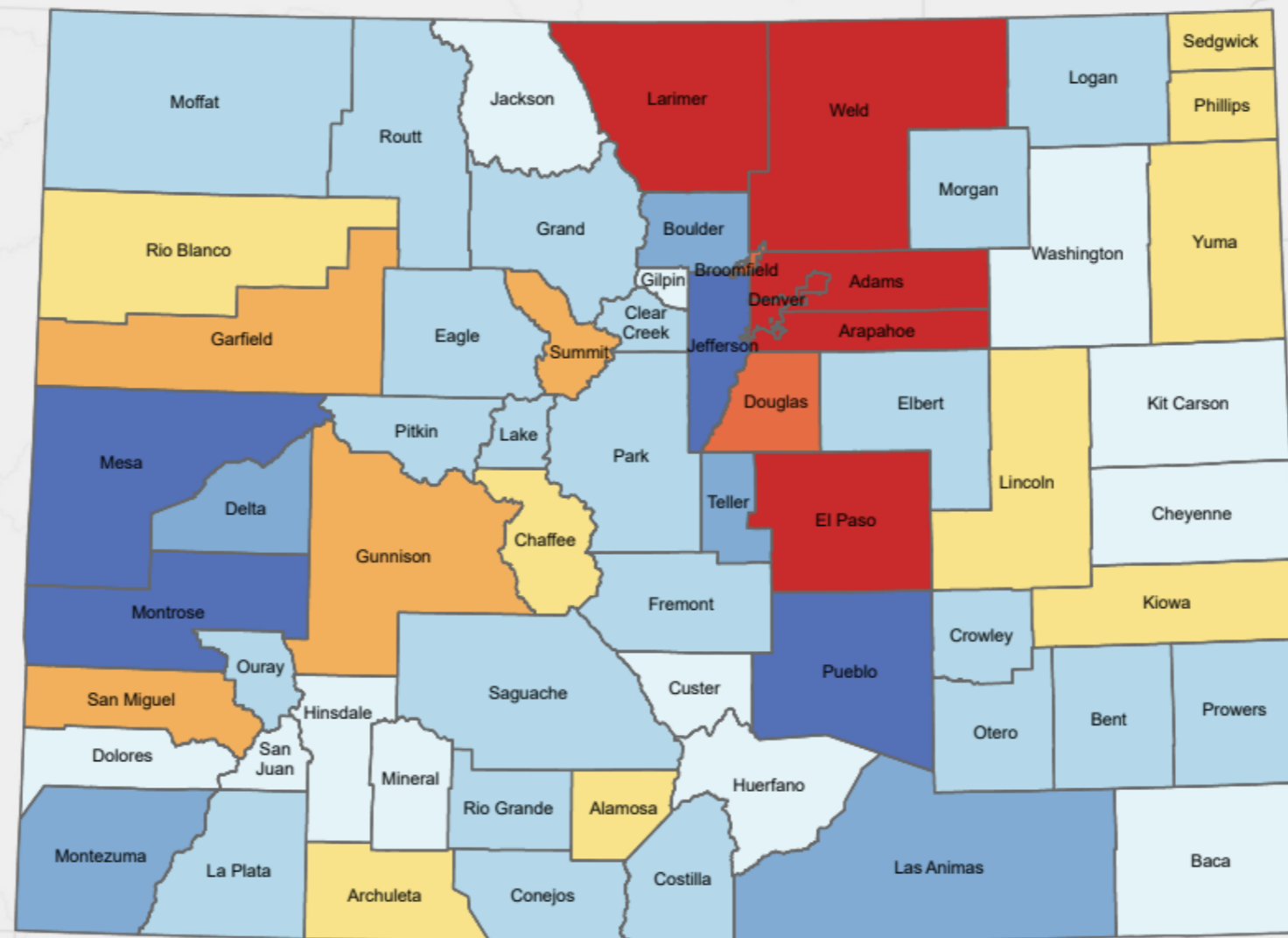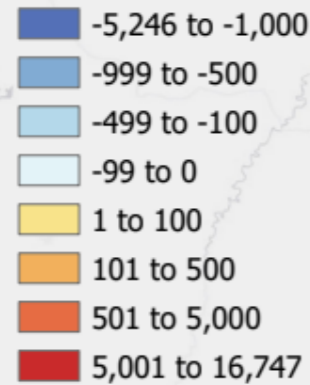
Source: 2020 US Census

Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS

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

	2020		Change 2010-20		Percentage Change	
Areaname	**Total**	**Age 0 to 17**	**Total**	**Age 0 to 17**	**Total**	**Age 0 to 17**
COLORADO STATE	5,773,714	1,264,138	744,518	38,529	14.8%	3.1%
MESA COUNTY	155,703	32,648	8,980	-1,869	6.1%	-5.4%
Collbran	369	67	-339	-126	-47.9%	-65.3%
De Beque	493	120	-11	-6	-2.2%	-4.8%
Fruita	13,395	3,444	749	-150	5.9%	-4.2%
Grand Junction	65,560	12,305	6,994	-122	11.9%	-1.0%
Palisade	2,565	461	-127	-140	-4.7%	-23.3%
Unincorp. Area	73,321	16,251	1,714	-1,325	2.4%	-7.5%

Colorado

Net Migration by Age, 2000 to 2010

Net Migration

14k
12k
10k
8k
6k
4k
2k
0
−2k

0   20   40   60   80
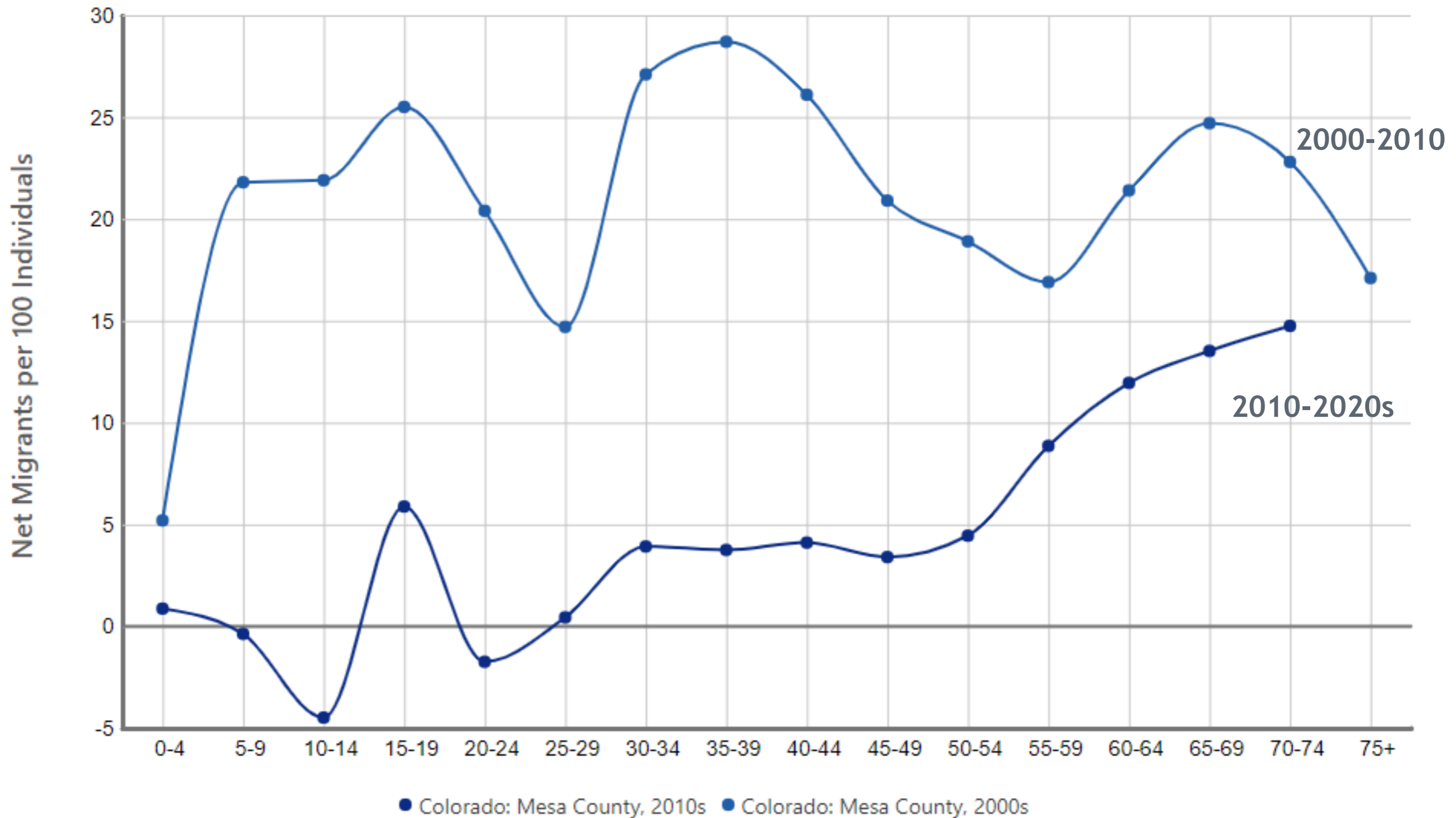
Age
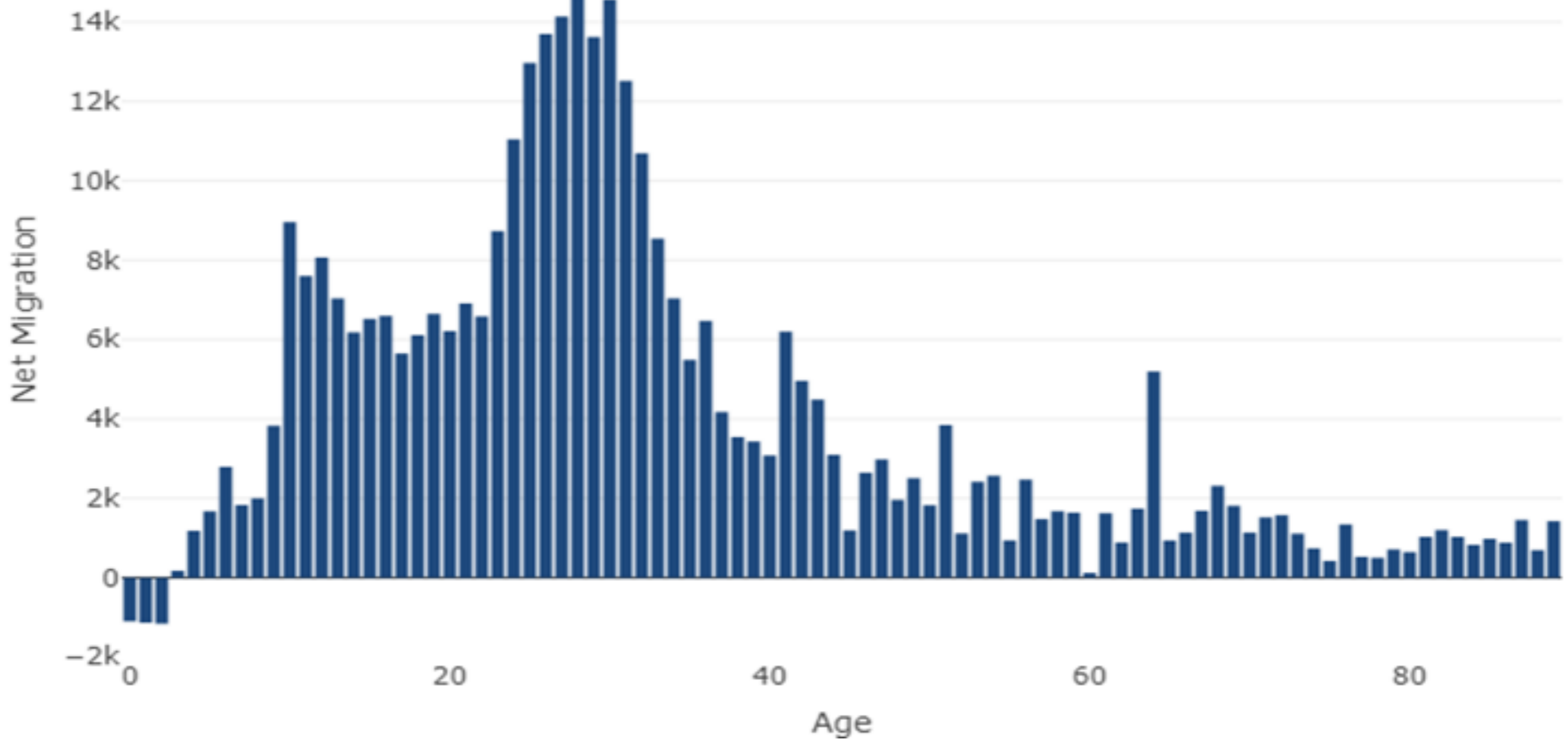
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Net Migration by Age   Mesa County

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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Colorado New Jobs and Net Migration
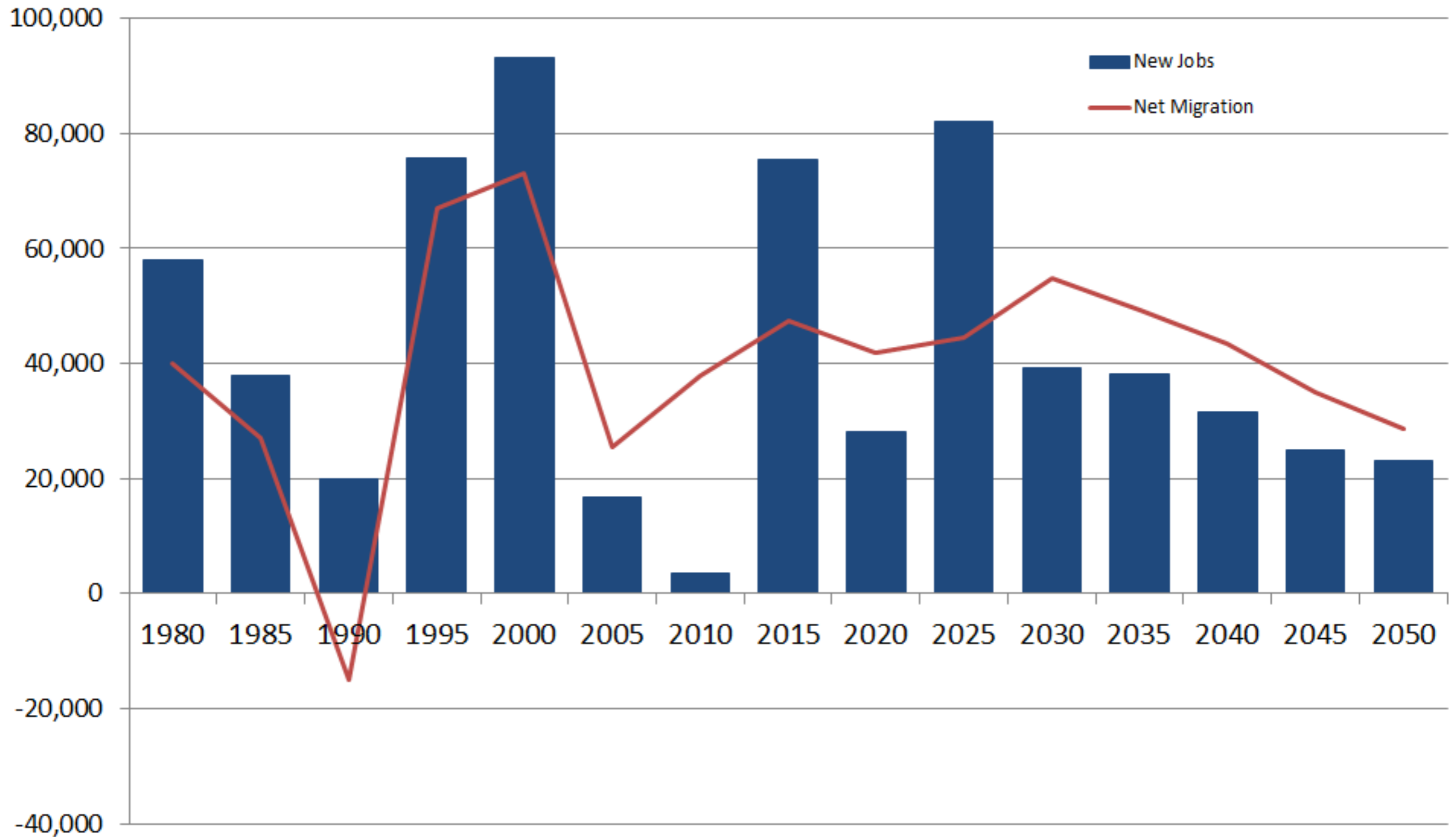
Jobs Are People

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Mesa Total Estimated Employment

Colorado 127% recovered by end of 2022
- Still behind in some places
- Still behind in some industries

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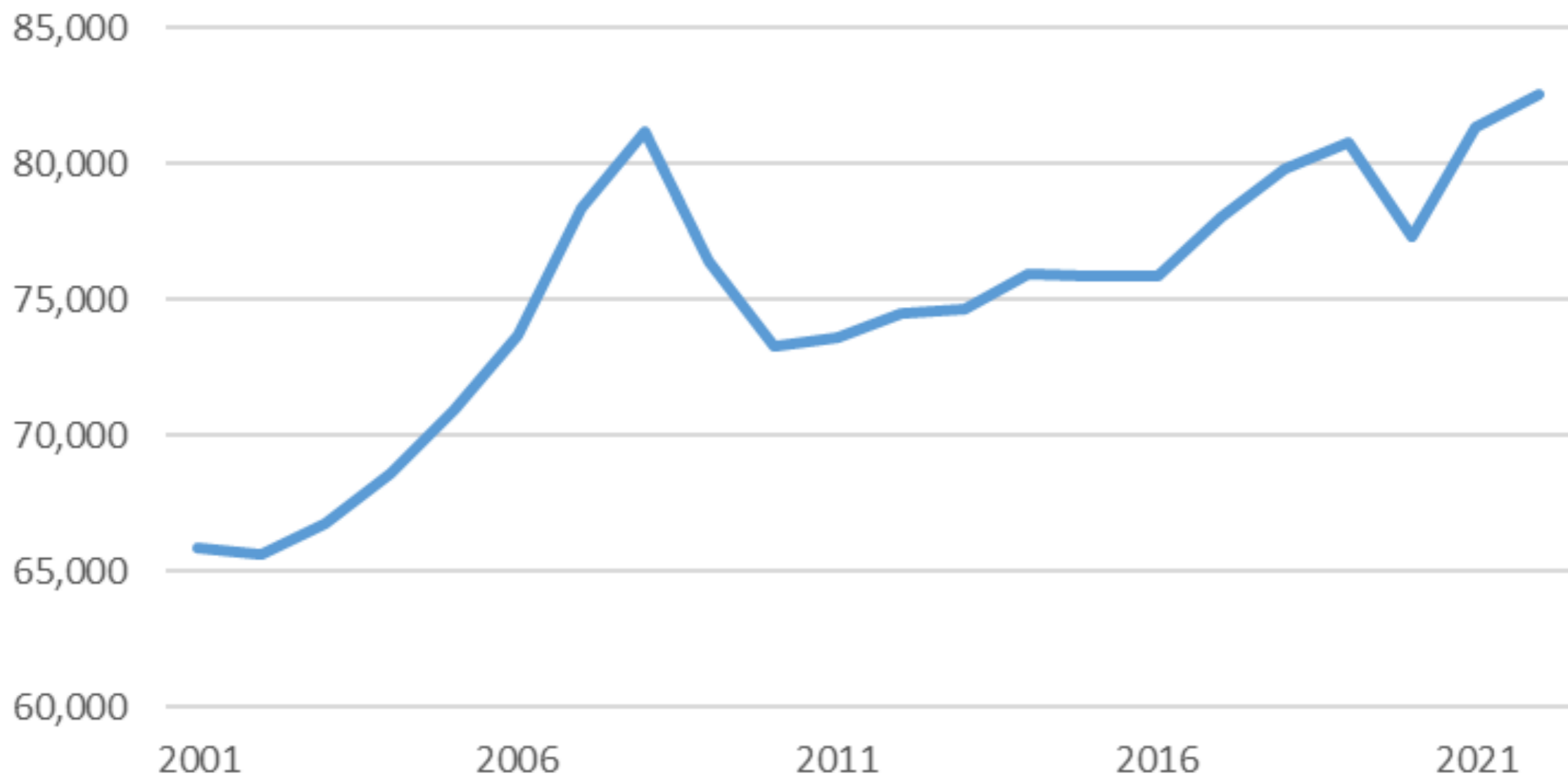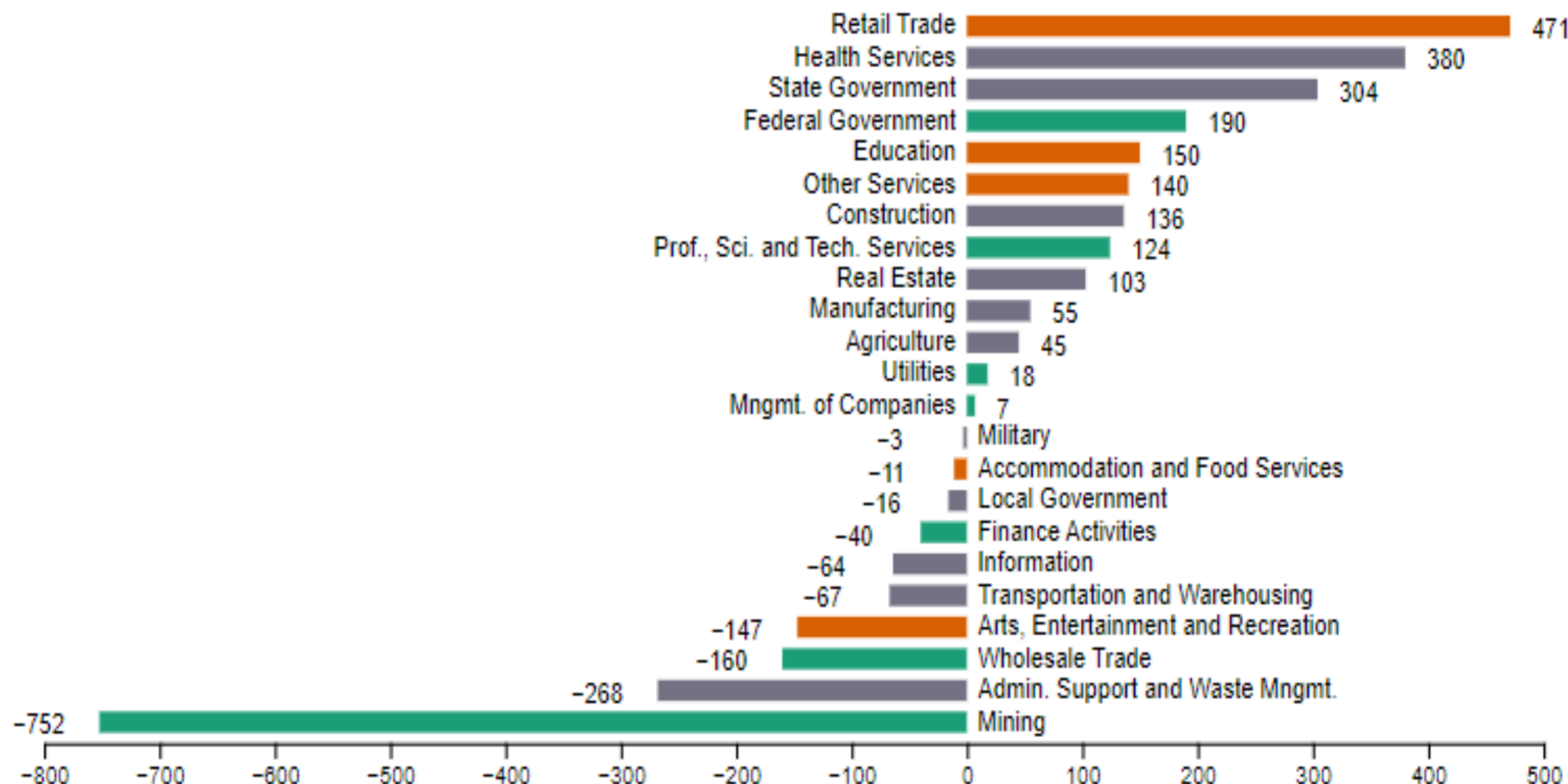# Employment Change by Sector. Mesa County 2019 to 2021

Sector	Value
Retail Trade	471
Health Services	380
State Government	304
Federal Government	190
Education	150
Other Services	140
Construction	136
Prof., Sci. and Tech. Services	124
Real Estate	103
Manufacturing	55
Agriculture	45
Utilities	18
Mngmt. of Companies	7
Military	−3
Accommodation and Food Services	−11
Local Government	−16
Finance Activities	−40
Information	−64
Transportation and Warehousing	−67
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	−147
Wholesale Trade	−160
Admin. Support and Waste Mngmt.	−268
Mining	−752

Job sector data is suppressed according to Bureau of Labor Statistics standards.
Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Source Date: July, 2022.
Visualization by the State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/08/2023

595 Total Employment Change
- Less than 80% of Average Weekly Wage
- Between 81% to 120% of Average Weekly Wage
- Greater than 120% of Average Weekly Wage

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Jobs by Sector: Mesa County, 2021

Sector	Jobs
Health Services	12,576
Retail Trade	9,895
Accommodation and Food Services	7,058
Construction	6,622
Local Government	6,189
Other Services	4,727
Prof., Sci. and Tech. Services	4,032
Admin. Support and Waste Mngmt.	3,584
Manufacturing	3,346
Real Estate	3,127
Transportation and Warehousing	2,919
State Government	2,880
Wholesale Trade	2,483
Finance Activities	2,389
Agriculture	2,133
Federal Government	1,826
Mining	1,552
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1,518
Education	1,043
Information	685
Military	378
Utilities	219
Mngmt. of Companies	154

Job sector data is suppressed according to Bureau of Labor Statistics standards.
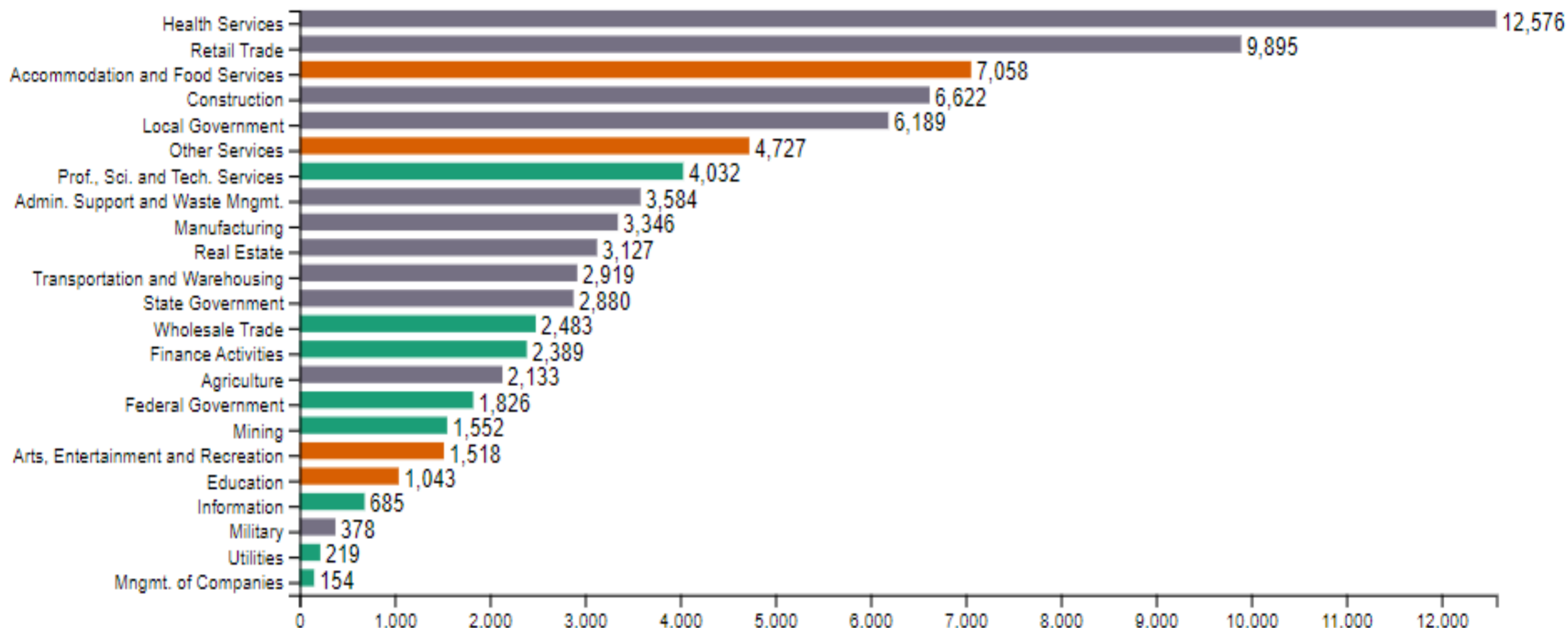Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Source Date: July, 2022.
Visualization by the State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/08/2023

81,335 Total Estimated Jobs
$49,705 Average Annual Wage
2021 Employment Share by Wage
■ Low Wage Jobs: ($19,799 - $36,702) 17.6%
■ Mid Wage Jobs: ($39,931 - $57,734) 68.9%
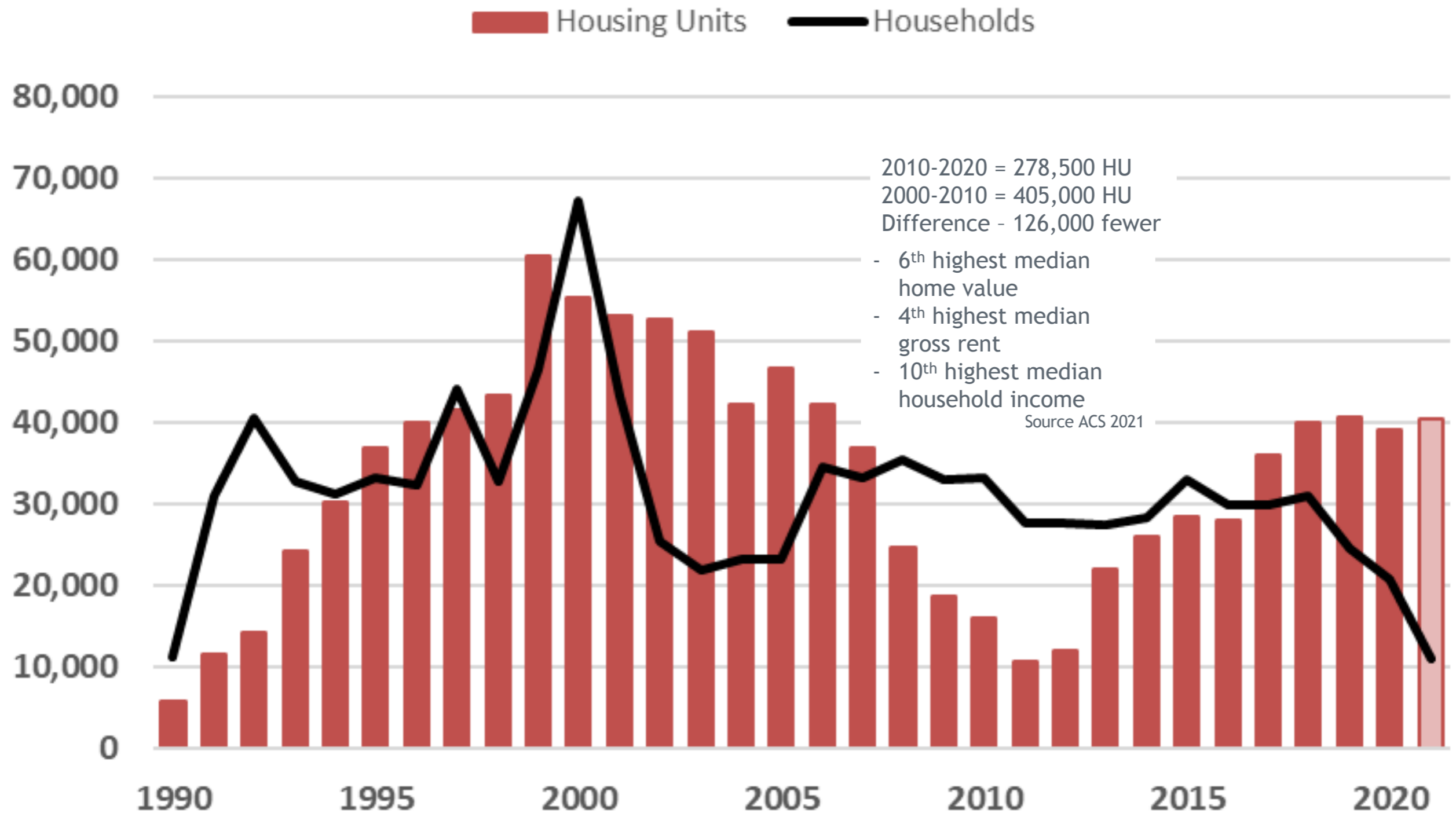■ High Wage Jobs: ($60,818 - $92,188) 13.5%

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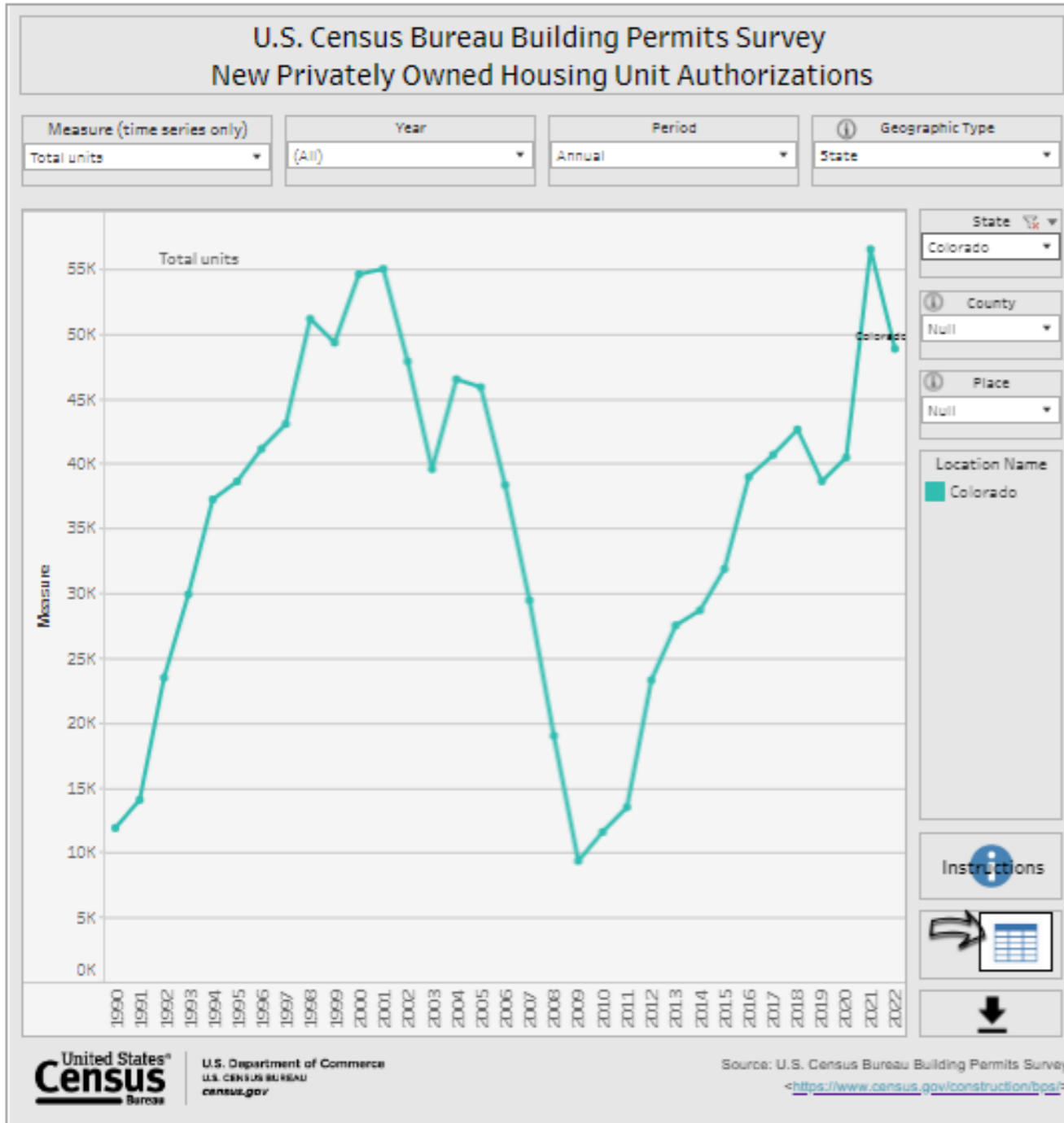Department of Local Affairs

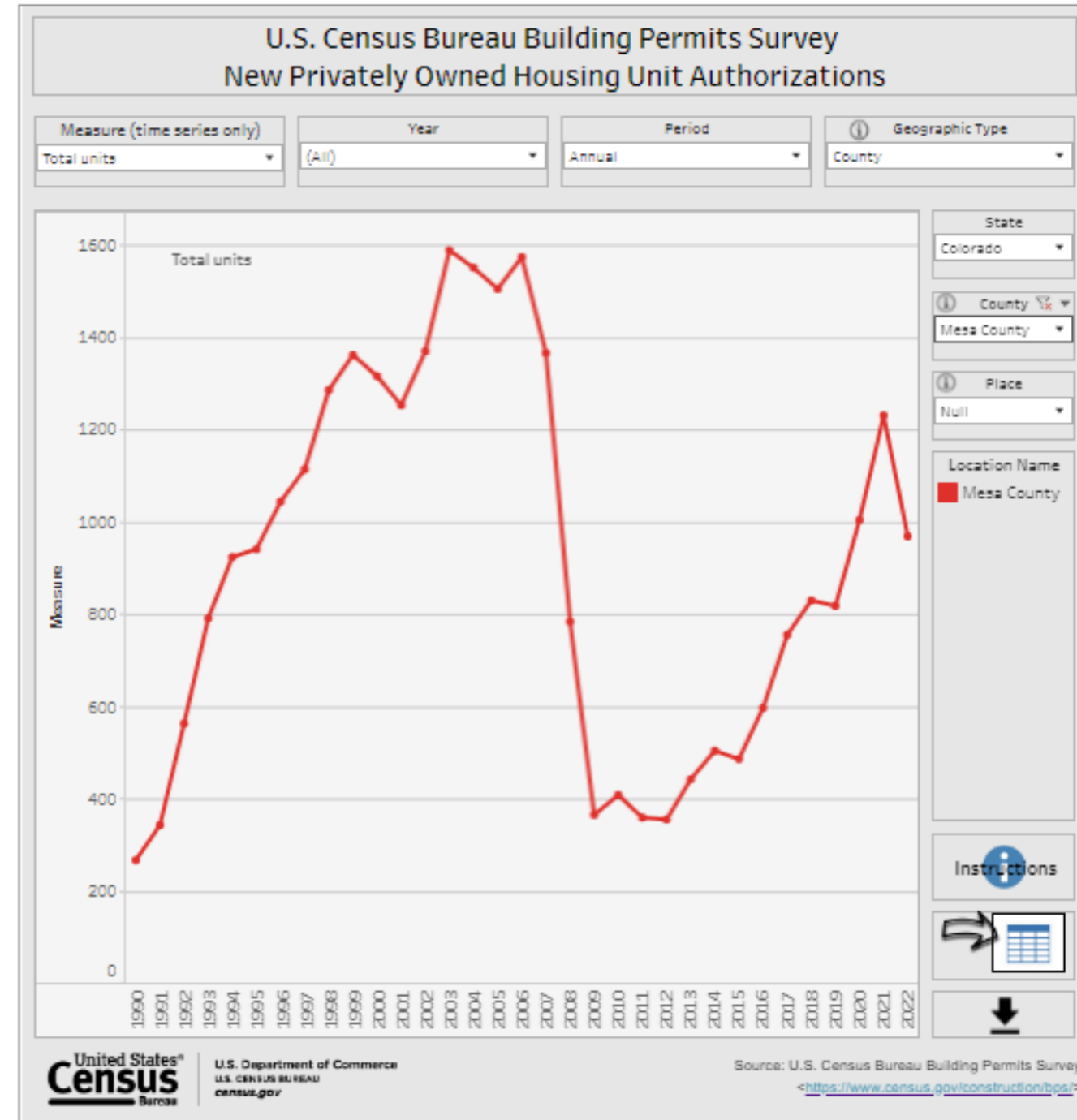# *Housing*

Colorado Annual Housing Units and Household Growth

Housing Units ■   **Households** —

2010-2020 = 278,500 HU
2000-2010 = 405,000 HU
Difference – 126,000 fewer

- 6th highest median home value
- 4th highest median gross rent
- 10th highest median household income

Source ACS 2021

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Building Permits

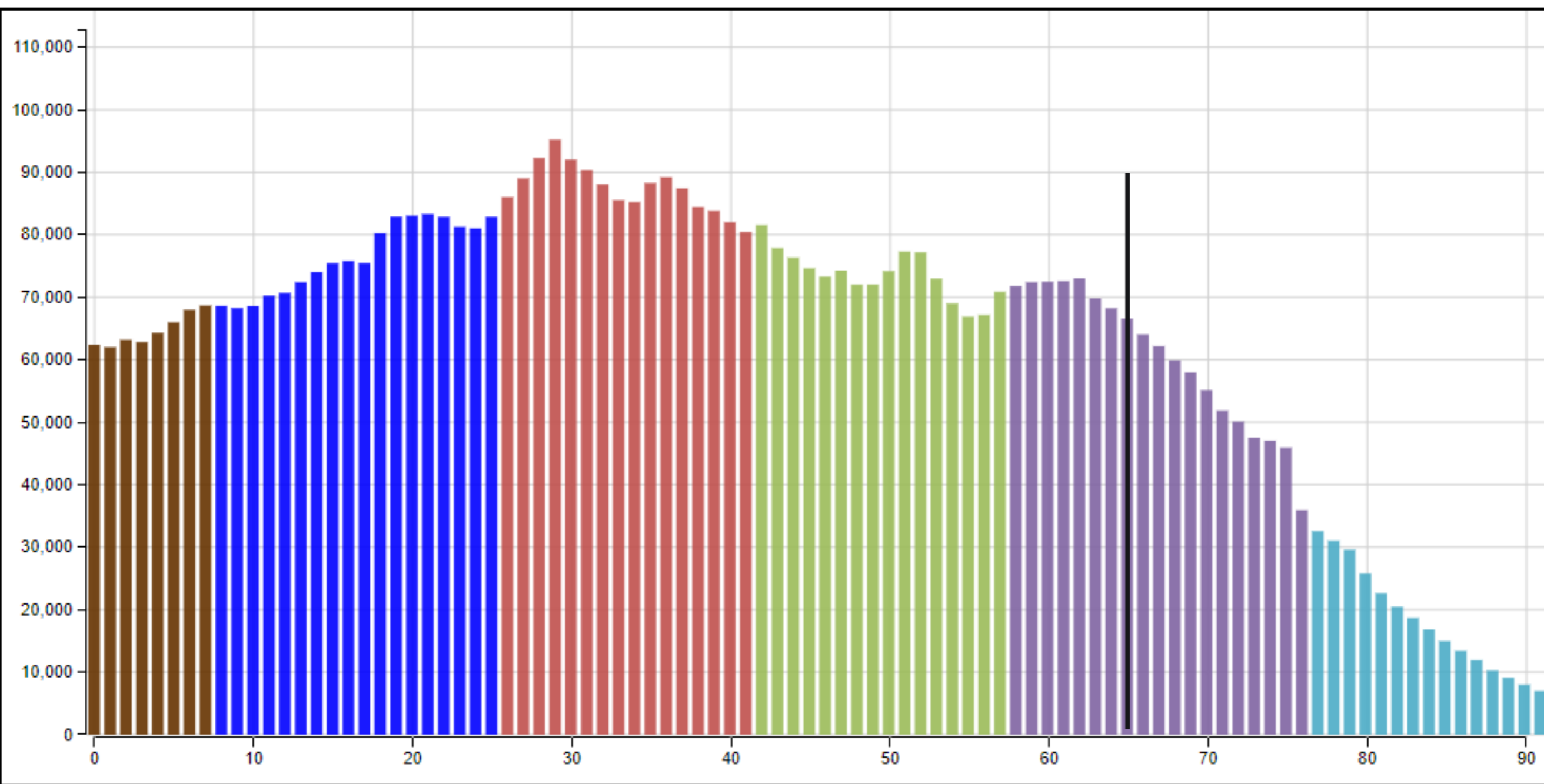Colorado

Mesa

Colorado   2022   Animate

Download Image

Colorado

2022

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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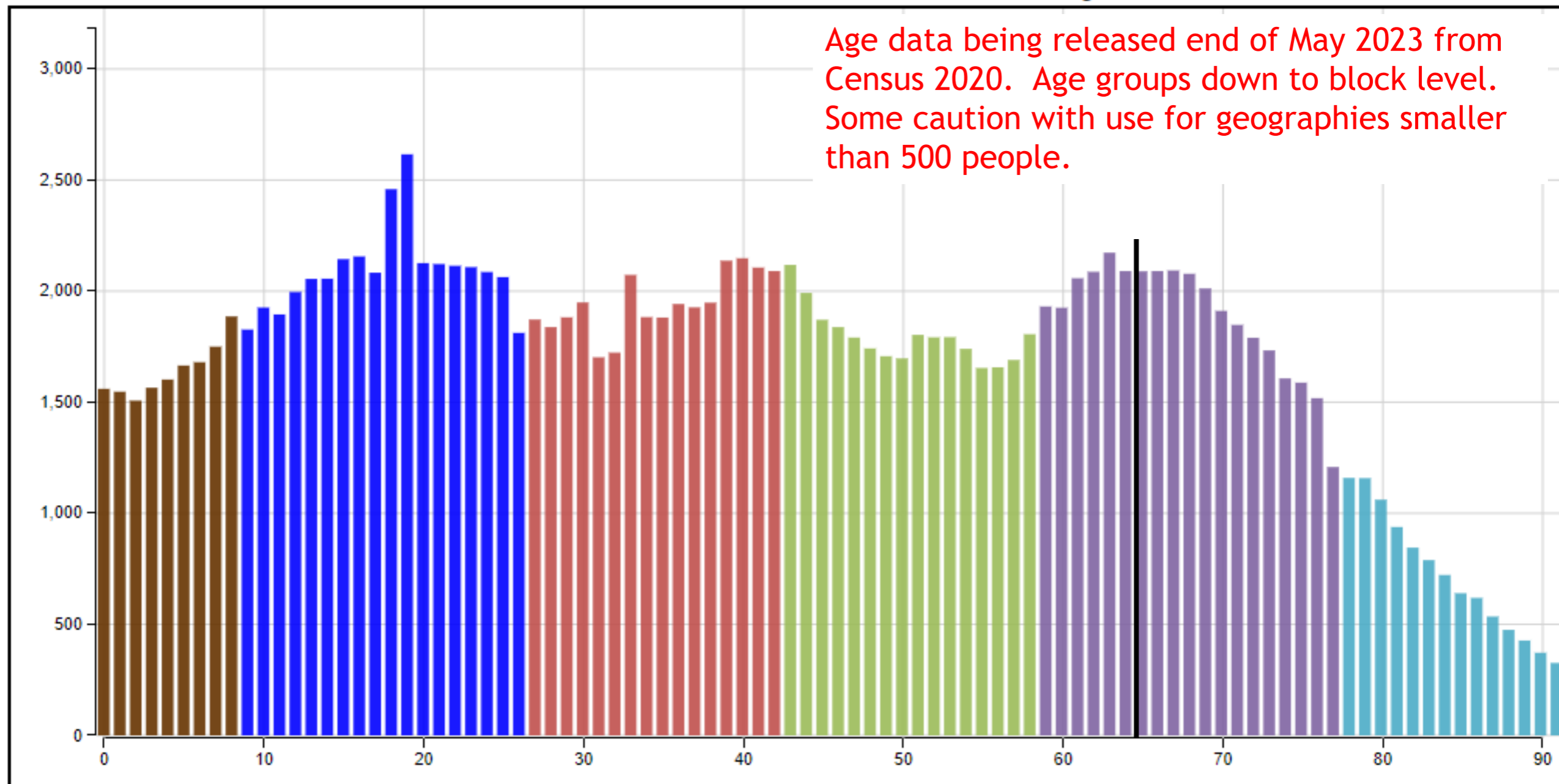**Department of Local Affairs**

| Mesa ▼ | 2023 ▼ | Animate |

| Download Image |

Mesa County

2023

Age data being released end of May 2023 from Census 2020. Age groups down to block level. Some caution with use for geographies smaller than 500 people.

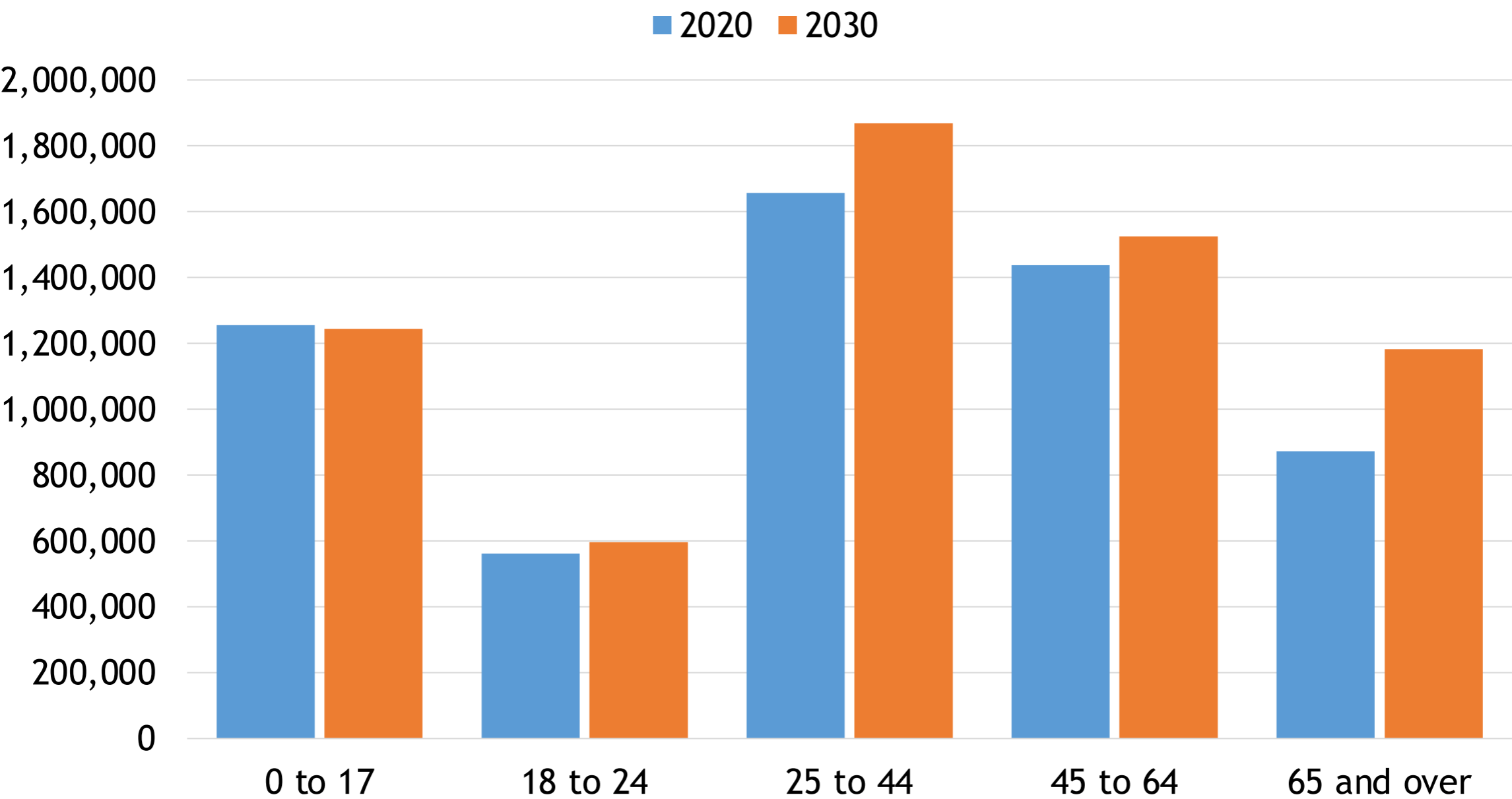| Generation X (1965 - 1980) | Baby Boomers (1946 - 1964) | Silent Generation (1928 - 1945) | Greatest Generation (- 1927) |
| Future Generations (2030 -) | Generation Alpha (2015 - 2029) | Generation Z (1997 - 2014) | Millennials (1981 - 1996) |

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Forecast by Age Group - Colorado

2020-2030	0 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Total
Pop change	-11,565	35,538	211,026	86,842	310,235	632,076
% change	-0.9%	6.3%	12.7%	6.0%	35.6%	10.9%

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Mesa Forecast by Age Group
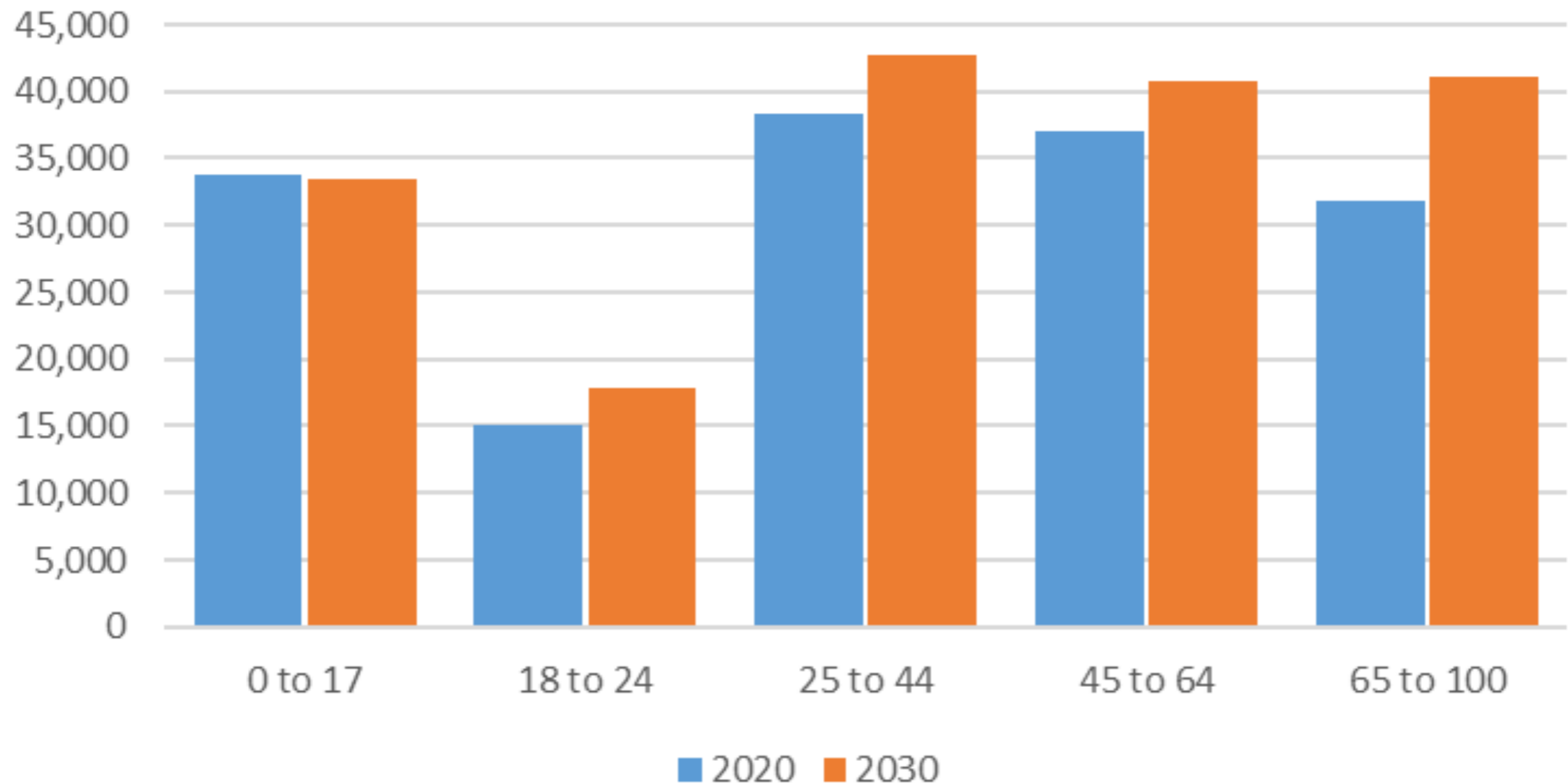
	0 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+	Total
2020	33,730	15,055	38,265	37,059	31,845	155,954
2030	33,442	17,918	42,720	40,838	41,116	176,034
Change	-288	2,863	4,455	3,779	9,271	20,080

School Age Population in Mesa
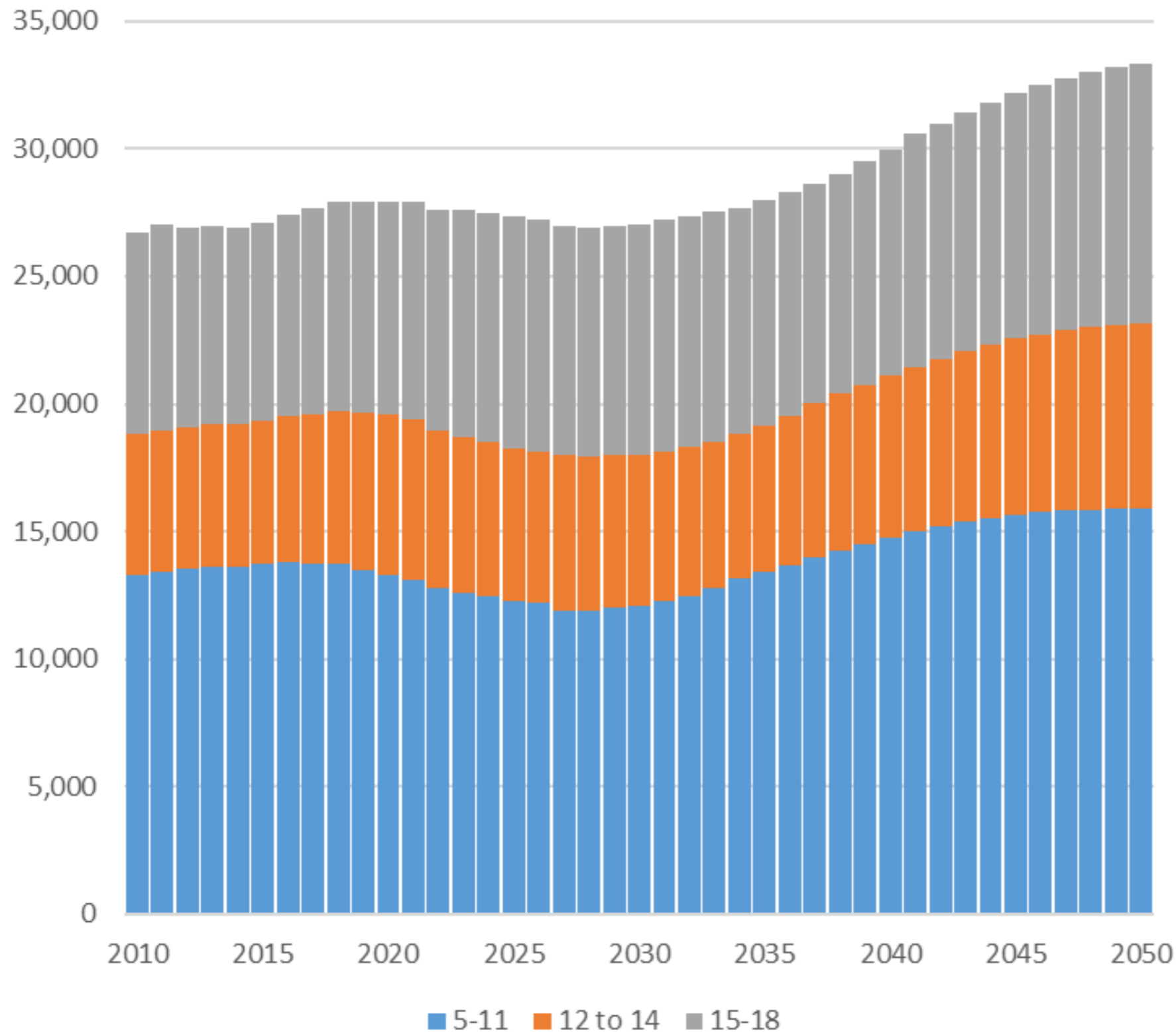
- Peak of 27,900 in 2020
- Return to 27,900 in 2035
- 5-11 peak 2016 return 2036
- 12-14 peak 2021 return 2039
- 15-18 peak 2025 return 2041

Legend: 5-11 | 12 to 14 | 15-18

Population forecast methodology

Economic forecast

Jobs

↓

- 2nd & 3rd job

↓

- Commuters

↓

Labor Demand

Cohort-component

+Births - Deaths

↓

+ Net Migration

↓

X LFPR

↓

Labor Supply

=

Differences resolved by net migration
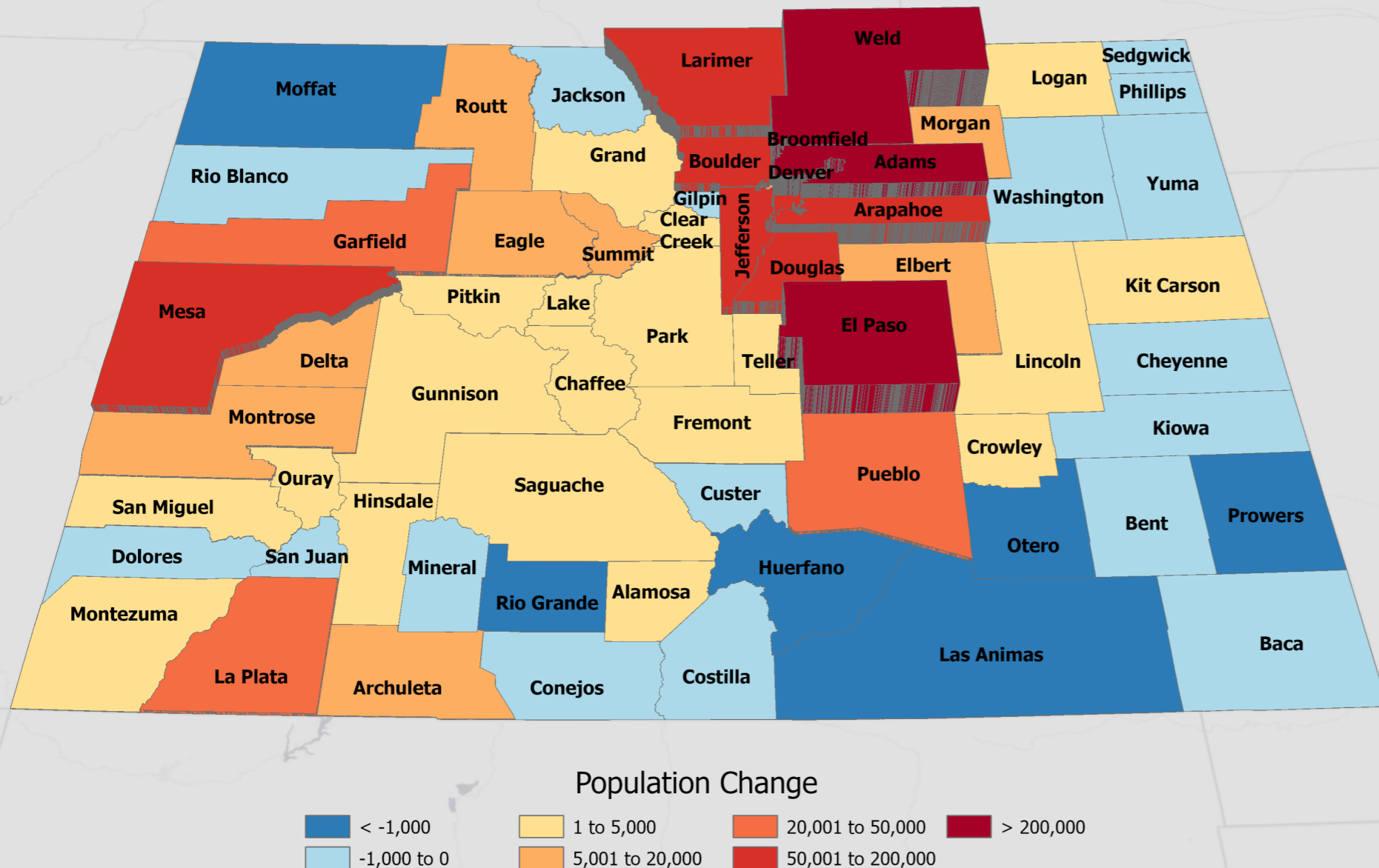
Forecast Factors - Population

- Population growth is slowing – but still growing
  - Births have slowed
  - Migration/Mobility slowing,
  - Harder to attract and retain people
- Fastest growth in the 65+
  - Retirements – will need new workers
  - Drive parts of the economy
  - Move less and smaller household size
- Job growth drives migration
  - New jobs and retirements
  - Housing, community services, schools

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Colorado Long-Term Forecast
7.5 million in 2050

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 2021

Change 2020-2050

State: 1.8 million
Front Range: 1.6M
Western Slope: 190K
Central Mtns: 1K
San Luis Valley: -2K
Eastern Plains: 7K

Mesa

	Pop Forecast
2020	155,950
2030	176,032
2040	202,388
2050	221,563

Uncertainties to the Forecast +/-

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

Thank you

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