

MICHIGAN DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Presentation for the Incoming Legislators Program

05 December 2022

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State Demographer

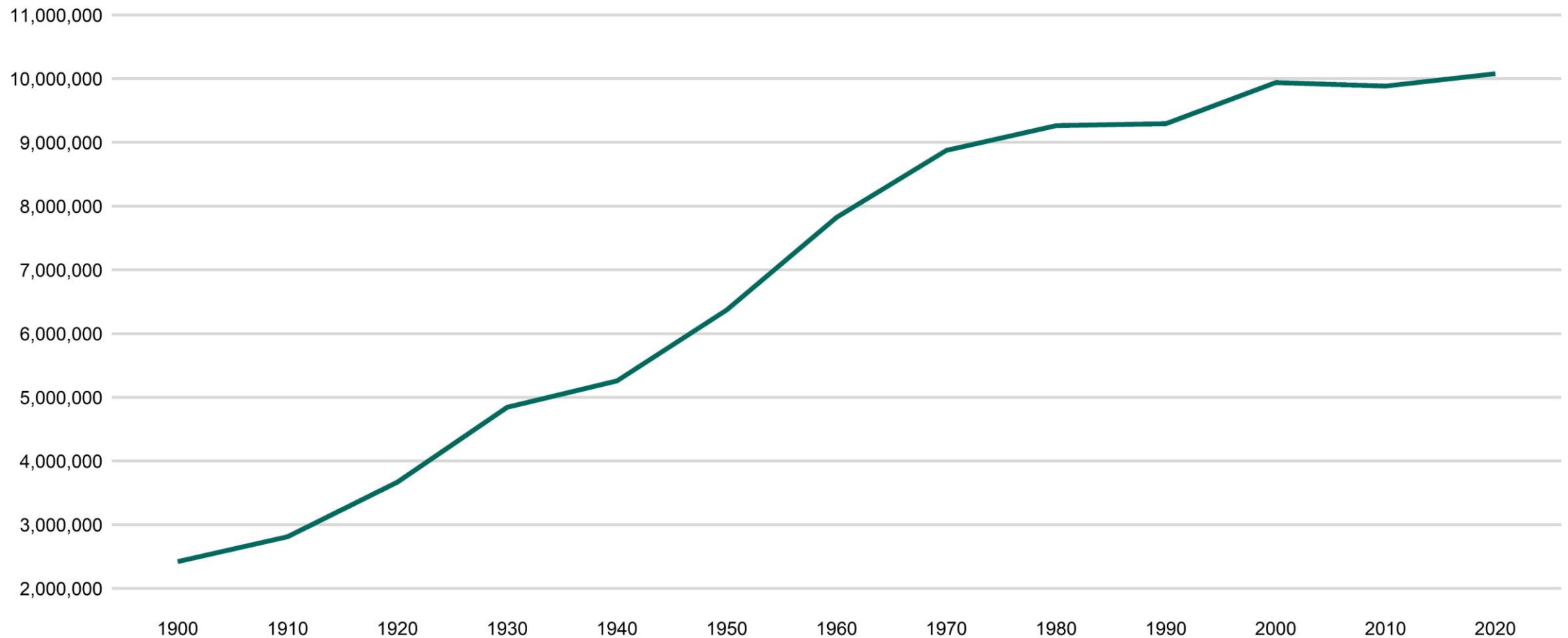
Functions of the Demography Team at LMISI

- Analysis of Michigan's changing population size and structure, population estimates, and population projections
- Michigan's liaison with the U.S. Census Bureau for most programs including population estimates, data dissemination, and the decennial census
- Lead for the State Data Center (SDC) and the Federal-State Cooperative (FSC)
- Advisors to state and local leaders, nonprofits, the media, and the general public on population and demographic data

MICHIGAN

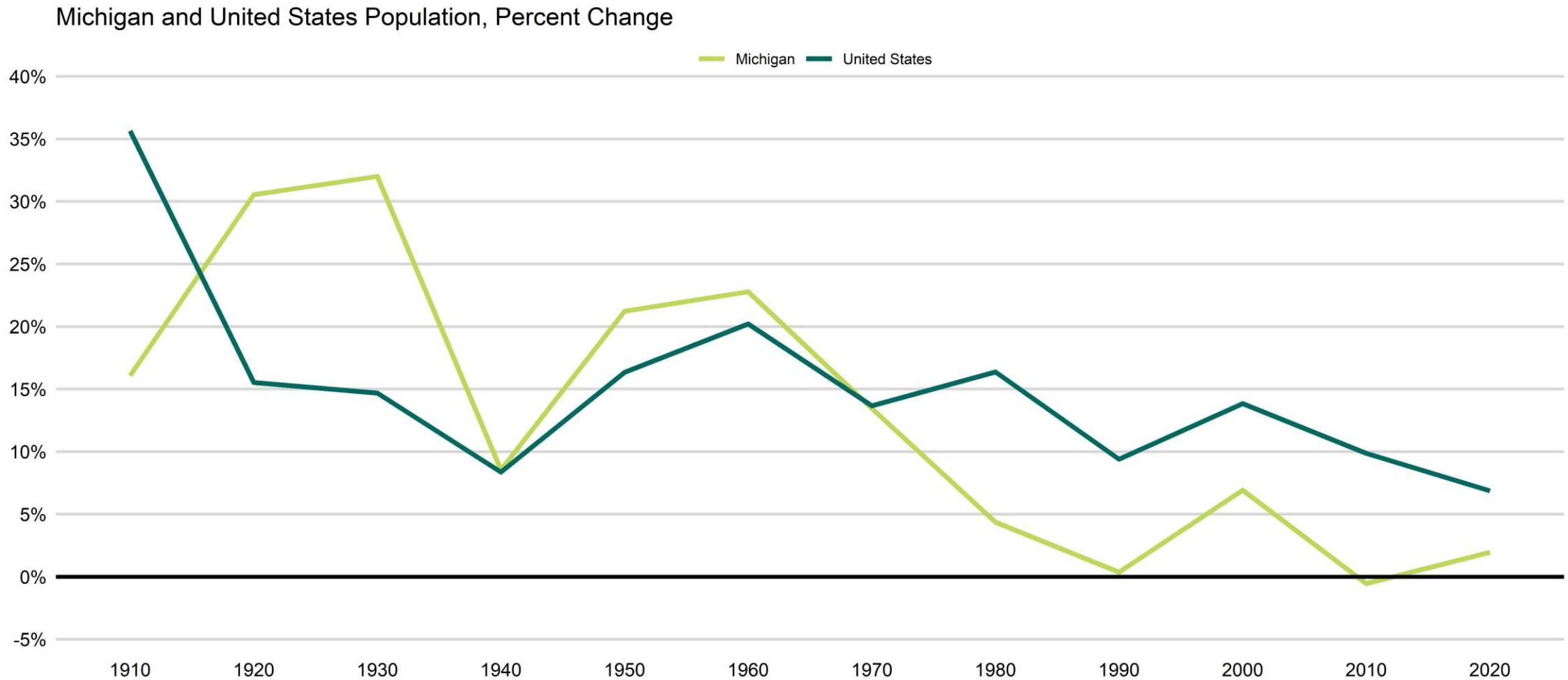
POPULATION TRENDS

Michigan's Total Population, 1900 to 2020



Source: Decennial counts extracted from IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, www.nhgis.org

Michigan had rapid population growth in the first half of the 20th century and slow growth (or decline) from the 1970s onward.



Source: Decennial counts extracted from IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, www.nhgis.org

Slow Growth and Population Decline in Michigan

Michigan's population grew by 2.0 percent from 2010 to 2020.

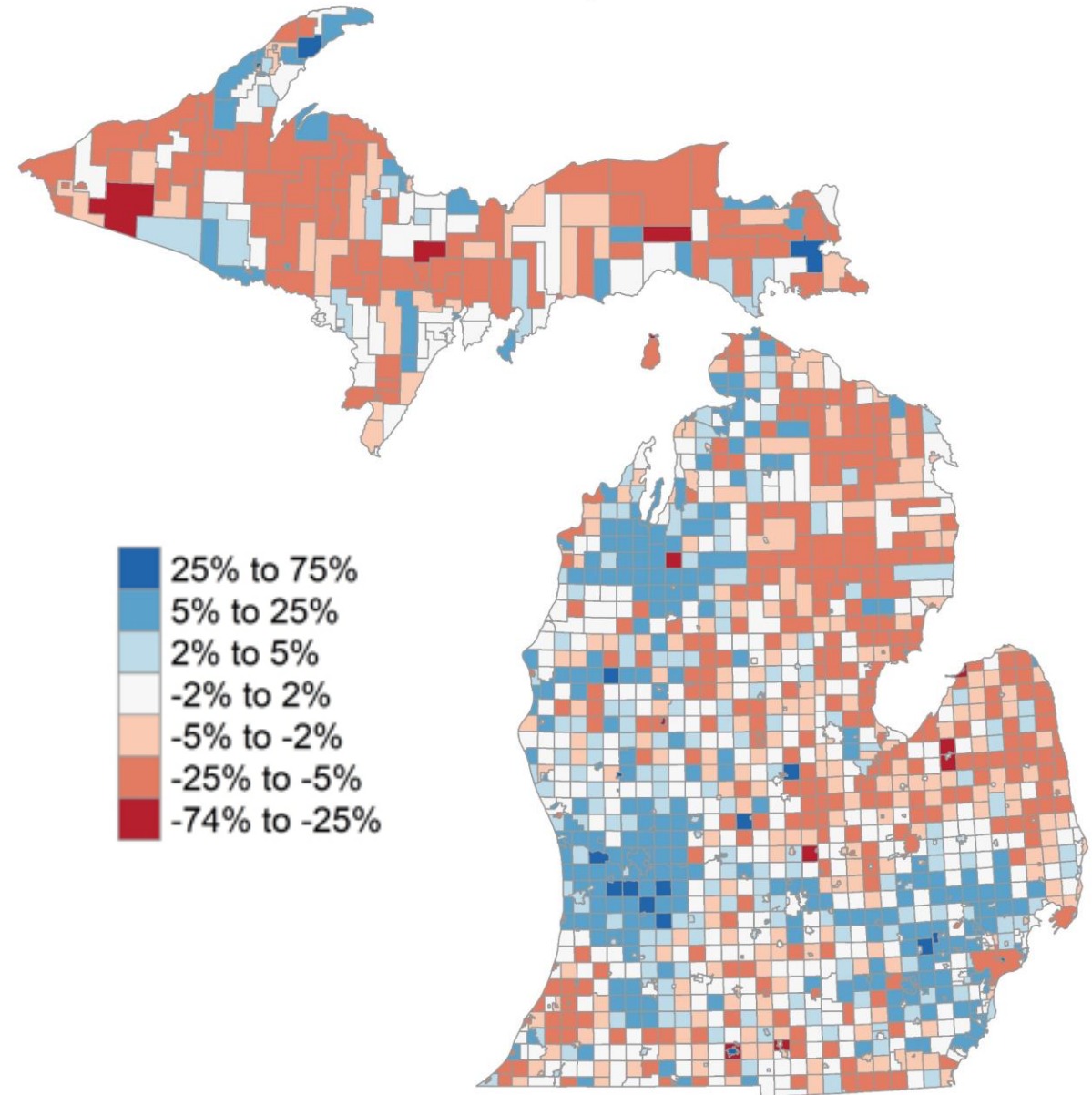
- Michigan had the 46th slowest population growth rate among the 47 states that experienced population growth from 2010 to 2020.
- The United States population increased by 7.5 percent in this period.

From 2020 to 2021, Michigan was among 25 states to experience natural decrease (more deaths than births) and among 17 states to experience population decline.

Patterns of population change are uneven within Michigan.

- Growth is concentrated in Southeastern Michigan, Grand Rapids, and Traverse City.
- Decline is concentrated in the Thumb, Northeastern Lower and much of the Upper Peninsula.

Percent Change in Population of Michigan's Cities and Townships, 2010–2020



Population Decline and Aging

- Although Michigan experienced statewide population growth from 2010 to 2020, 50 counties (60%) lost population between 2010 and 2020.
- There were 38 counties (46%) that experienced consecutive population decline between 2000-2010 and 2010-2020.
- Areas with population decline are generally older, have fewer births, and have negative migration. The reverse is true for areas with population growth.
- Average median age in 2020:
 - Population decline counties: **46.8 years**
 - Population growth counties: **42.3 years**

The Dynamics of Population Change

What demographic dynamics have contributed to historic and contemporary patterns of population change in Michigan?

What are the dynamics of population change?

There are only three components to population change:

- Births
- Deaths
- Migration

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Population} & & & & \text{Natural Change} & & \text{Net Migration} \\ \text{in Time 2} & = & \text{Population} & + & \text{(Births – Deaths)} & + & \text{(In-Migration – Out-Migration)} \\ \text{in Time 1} & & & & & & \end{array}$$

- When there are more births than deaths, this is natural increase.
- When there are more deaths than births, this is natural decrease.
- Migration consists of domestic (state to state) and international components.

MIGRATION

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Population} & & & & & & \\ \text{in Time 2} & = & \text{Population} & + & \text{Natural Change} & + & \text{Net Migration} \\ & & \text{in Time 1} & & (\text{Births} - \text{Deaths}) & & (\text{In-Migration} - \text{Out-Migration}) \end{array}$$

Michigan's Estimated Net Migration Per 100 Persons

(1900s through 2010s)

Net Migration
(In-Migration – Out-Migration)

=

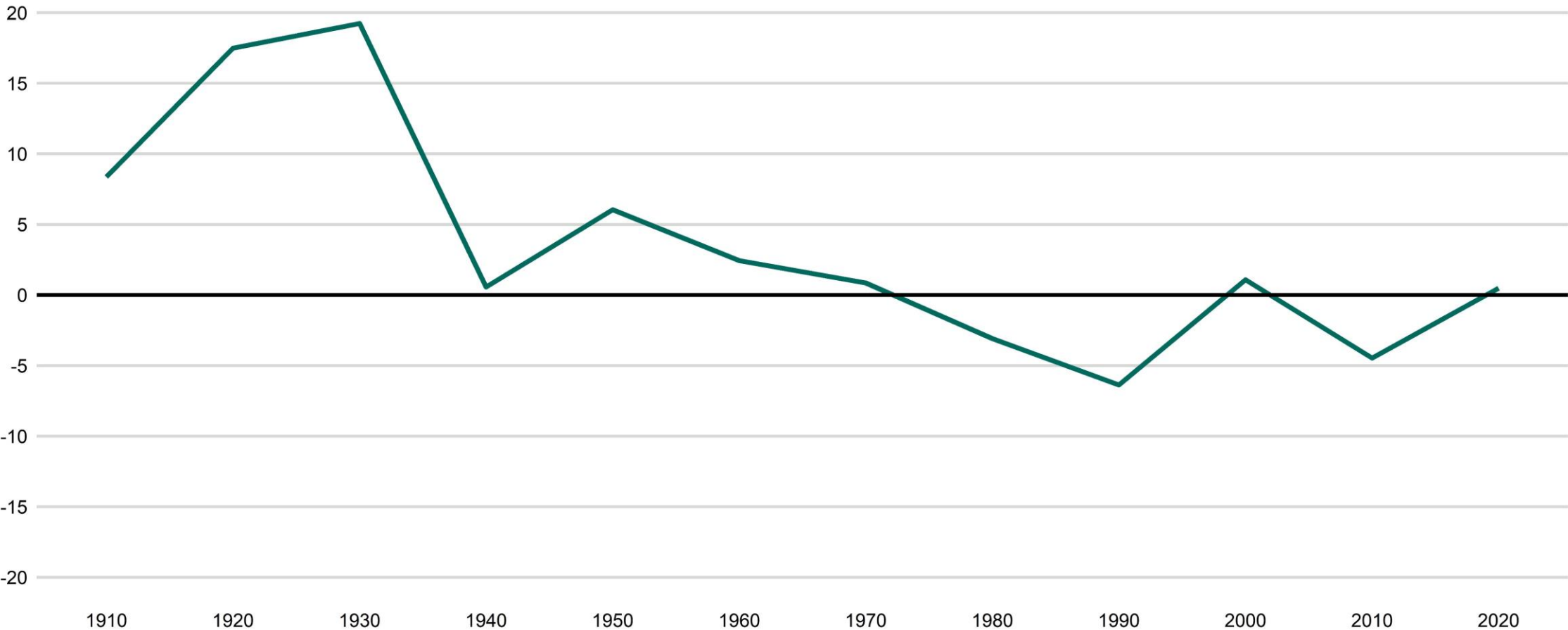
Population
in Time 2

–

Population
in Time 1

–

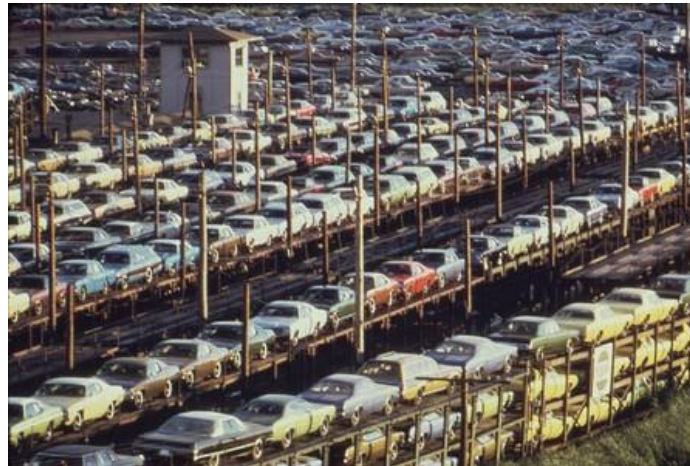
Natural Change
(Births – Deaths)



Source: Natural change data sourced from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; Decennial counts extracted from IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, www.nhgis.org

Historic and Contemporary Trends: The Great Migration and the Great Recession

The Great Migration: 1910 - 1970



New cars built in Detroit loaded for rail transport, 1973

Source: [The Culture Trip](#)

The Great Recession: 2007 - 2009



Michigan's Net Migrants, 1970 to 2018

Population
in Time 2

=

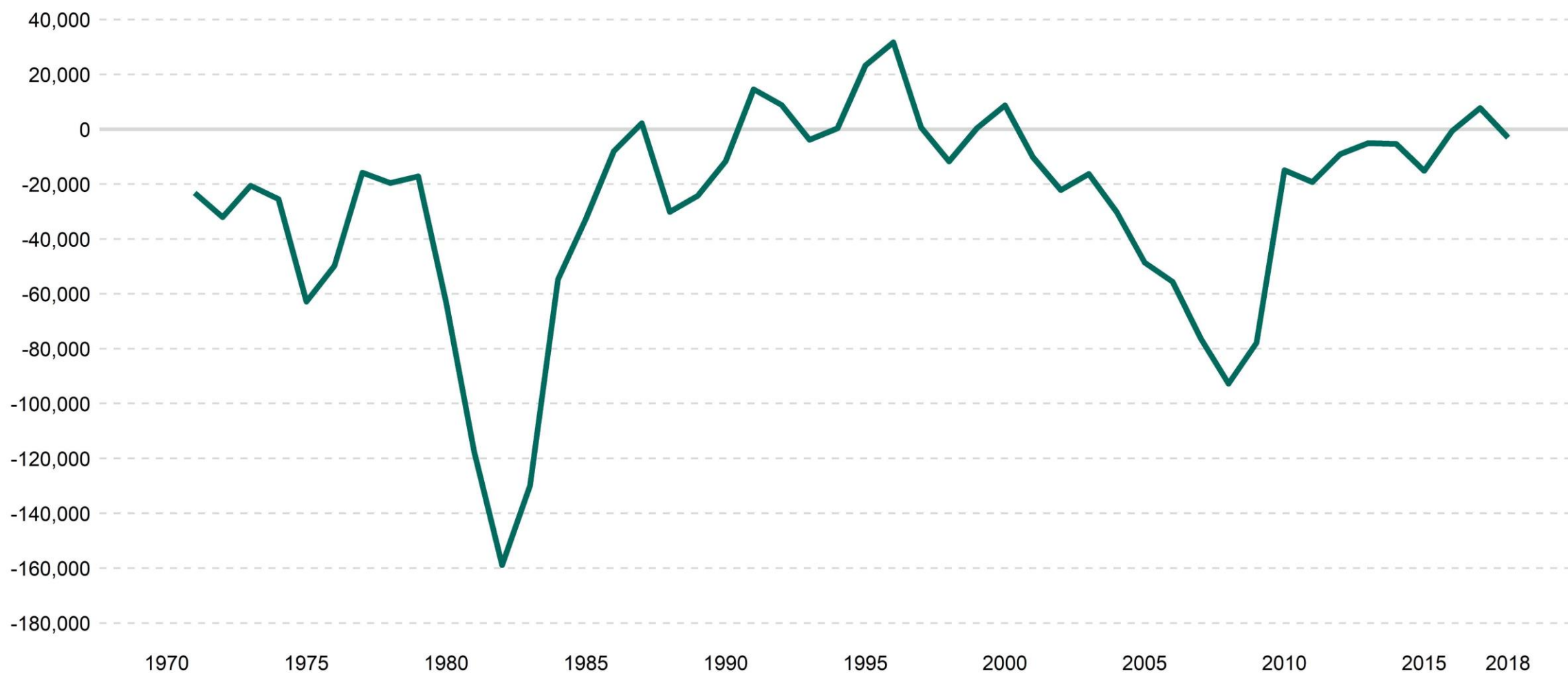
Population
in Time 1

+

Natural Change
(Births – Deaths)

+

Net Migration
(In-Migration – Out-Migration)



Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Michigan's Net Migration of Younger Adults, Ages 25-39

(2005 to 2020)

Population
in Time 2

=

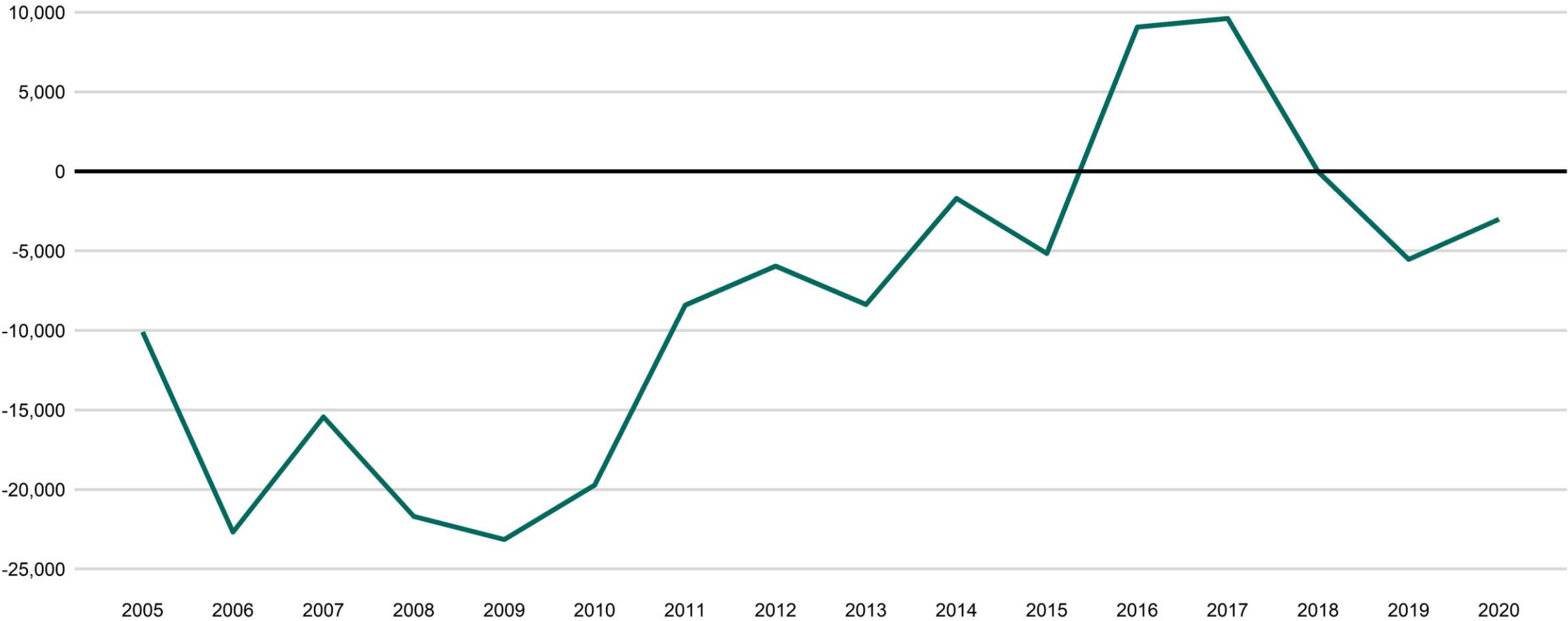
Population
in Time 1

+

Natural Change
(Births – Deaths)

+

Net Migration
(In-Migration – Out-Migration)



Source: American Community Survey (ACS) public-use microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

Michigan's population is aging.

Median Age

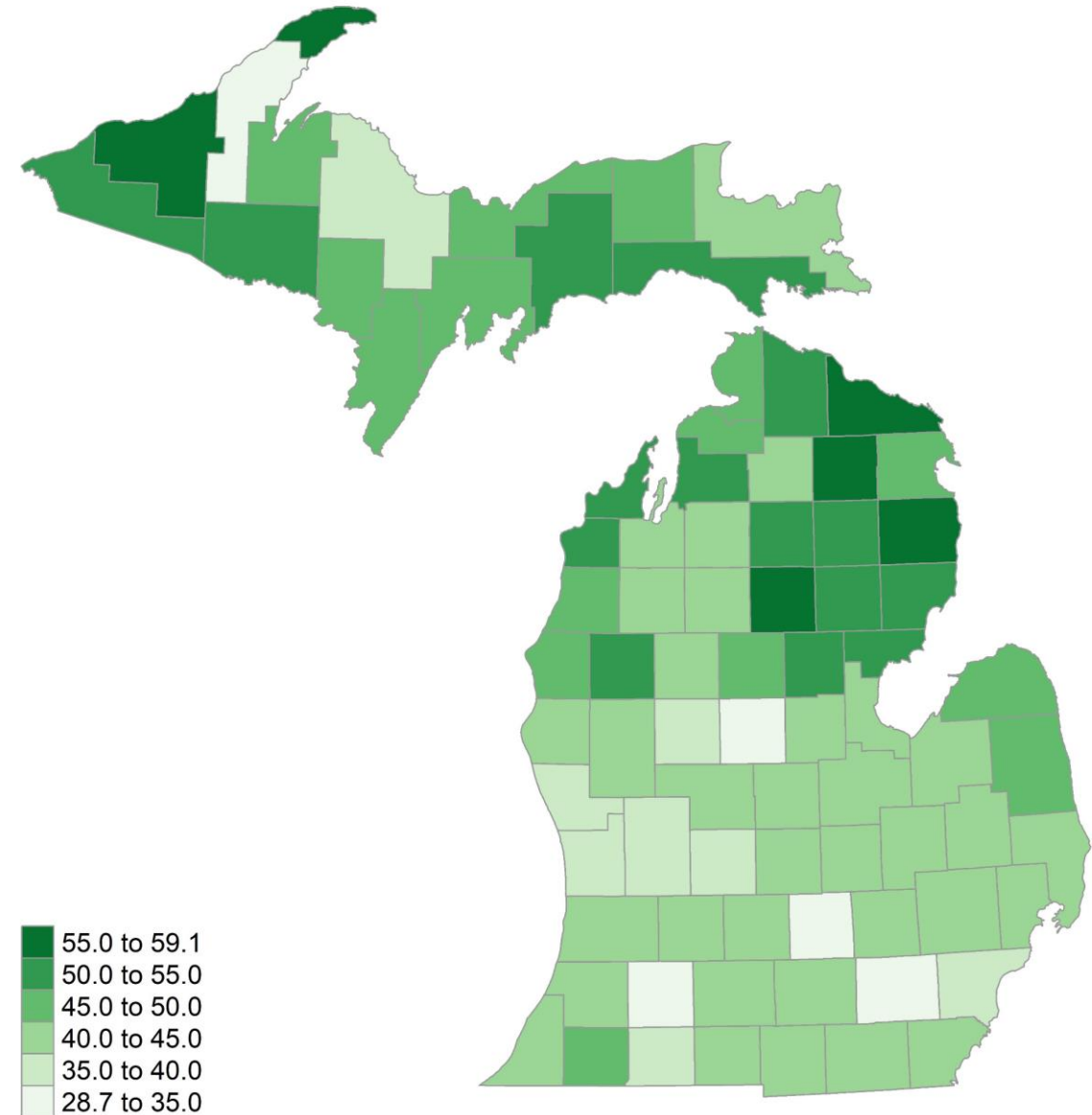
- 1990: 32.6
- 2020: 40.0

Percent of Population Age 65+

- 1990: 11.9 percent
- 2020: 18.2 percent

Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Median Age of Michigan's Counties in 2020



Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2016-2020 five-year estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

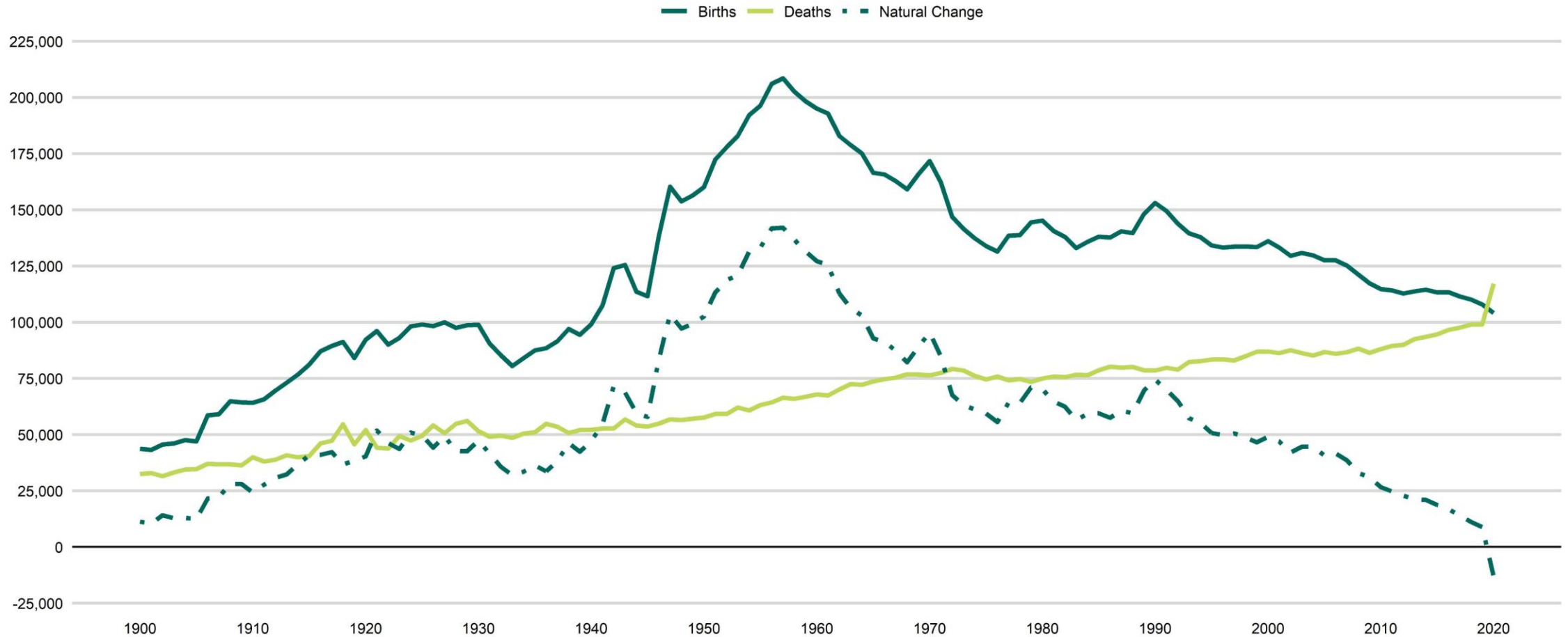
NATURAL CHANGE

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Population} & & & & \text{Natural Change} & & \text{Net Migration} \\ \text{in Time 2} & = & \text{Population} & + & \text{(Births – Deaths)} & + & \text{(In-Migration – Out-Migration)} \\ \text{in Time 1} & & & & & & \end{array}$$

Historic Natural Change in Michigan, 1900 to 2021

(Births and Deaths)

$$\text{Population in Time 2} = \text{Population in Time 1} + \text{Natural Change (Births - Deaths)} + \text{Net Migration (In-Migration - Out-Migration)}$$



Historic Components of Population Change in Michigan

(1900s through 2010s)

Population
in Time 2

=

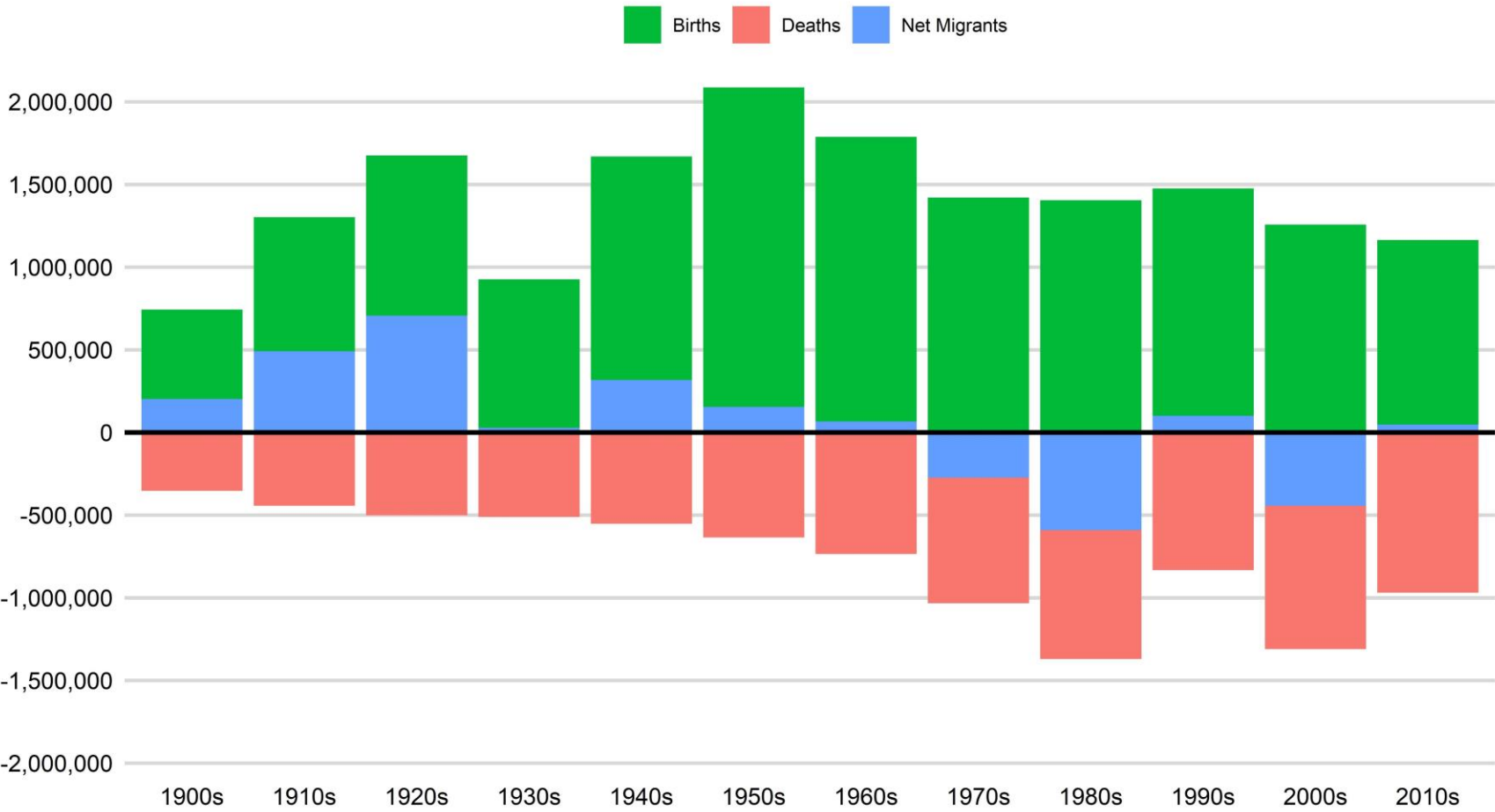
Population
in Time 1

+

Natural Change
(Births – Deaths)

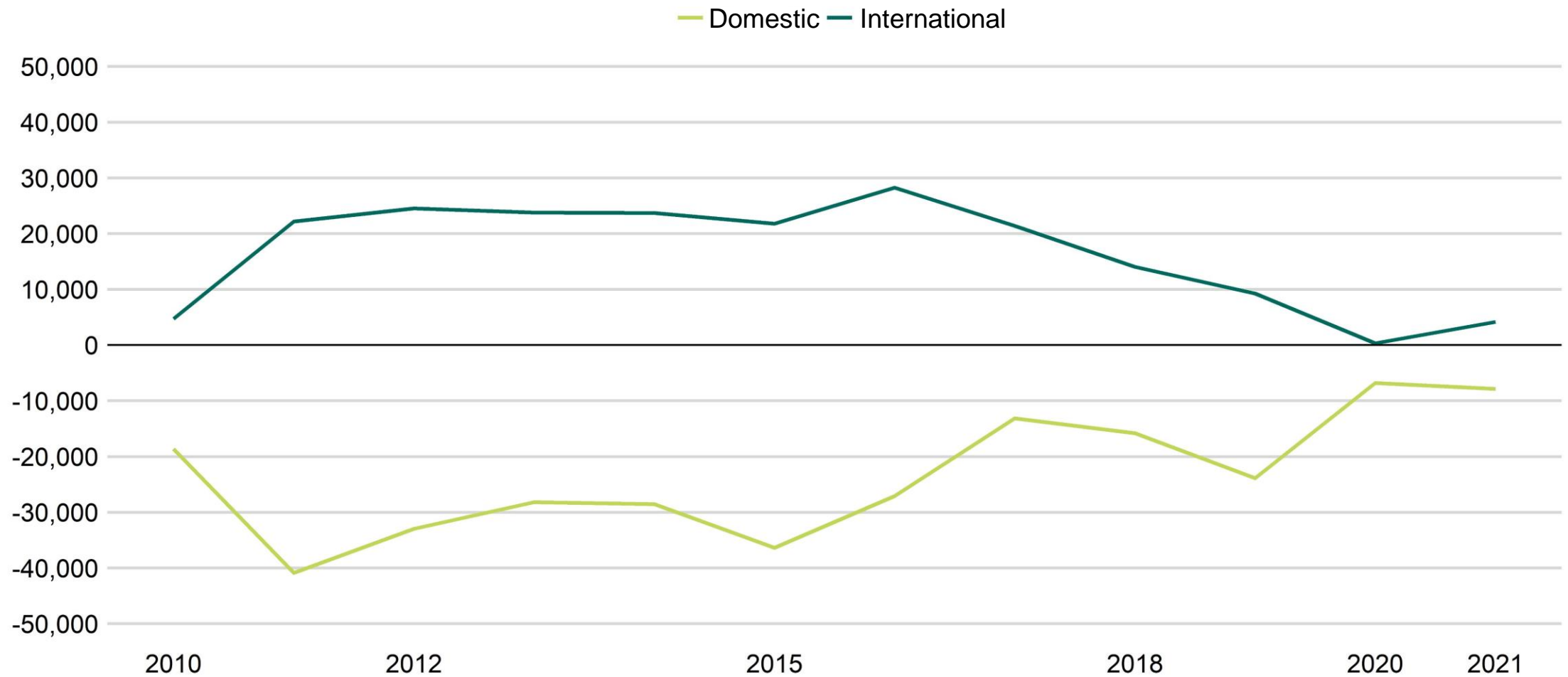
+

Net Migration
(In-Migration – Out-Migration)



Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

International migration in Michigan partially offsets domestic out-migration.



Annual Components of Population Change in Michigan

(2011 through 2021)

Population
in Time 2

=

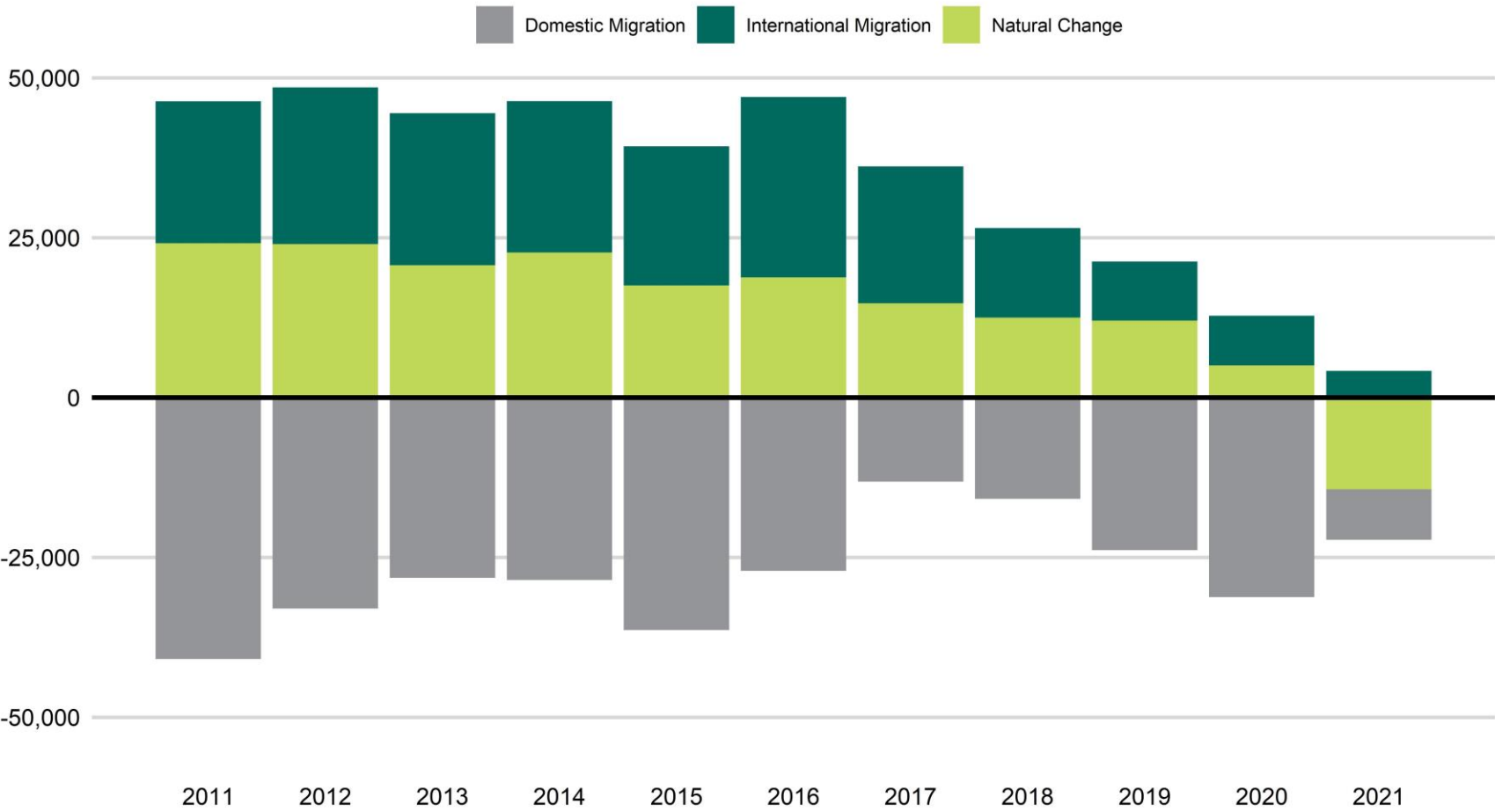
Population
in Time 1

+

Natural Change
(Births – Deaths)

+

Net Migration
(In-Migration – Out-Migration)



Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Slow Growth and Decline in Michigan, 1970s Onward

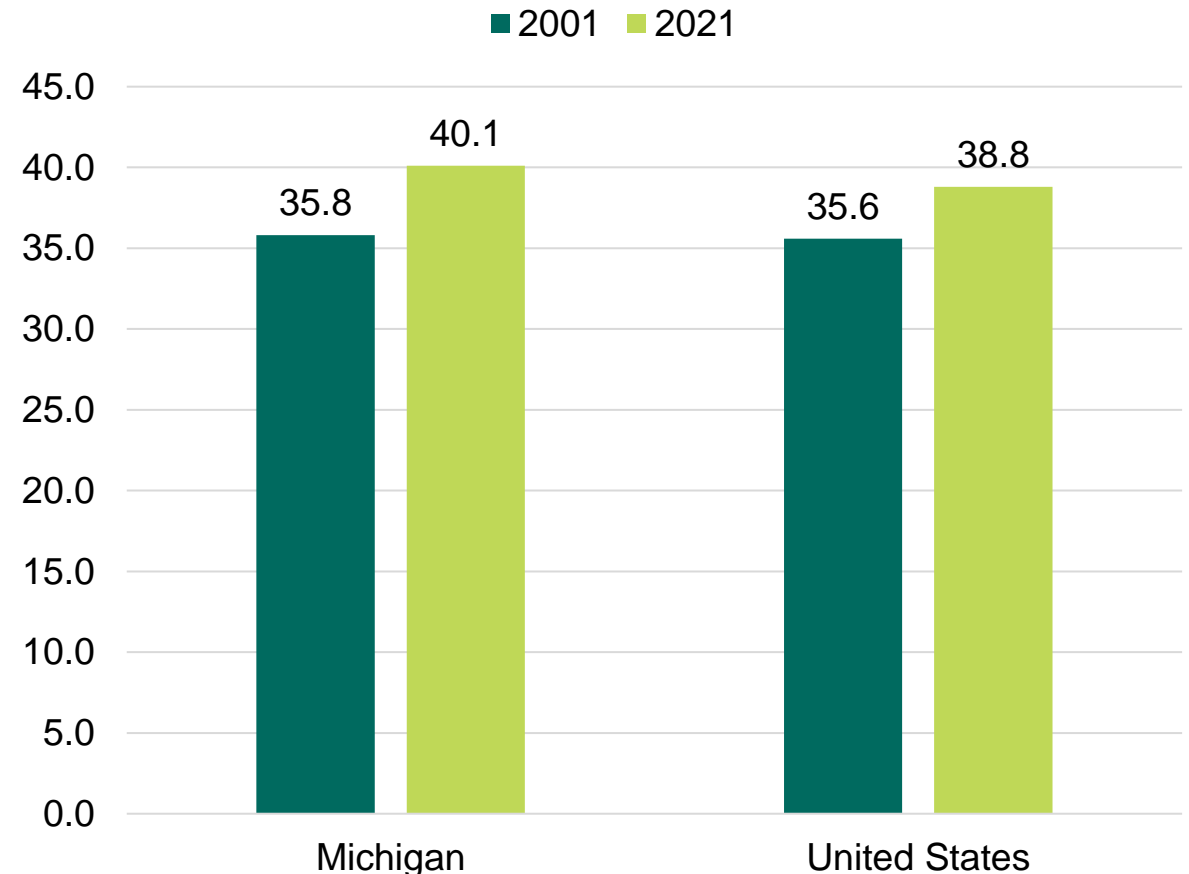
- Rapid rates of population growth in the first half of the 20th century have sustained Michigan's population growth since the 1970s.
- Michigan has experienced persistent net out-migration and declining birth rates since the 1970s, and, more recently, increased mortality due to the aging of the Baby Boomer generation and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Population growth is uneven across the state, and there are many areas which have experienced population decline since at least 2000.
- Michigan is estimated to have experienced more deaths than births in 2020 to 2021. This natural decrease, paired with continued domestic out-migration and low rates of international migration in that year, contributed to Michigan's overall population decline in 2020 to 2021.



MICHIGAN'S AGING POPULATION AND THE LABOR FORCE

Michigan is aging at a faster rate than the nation.

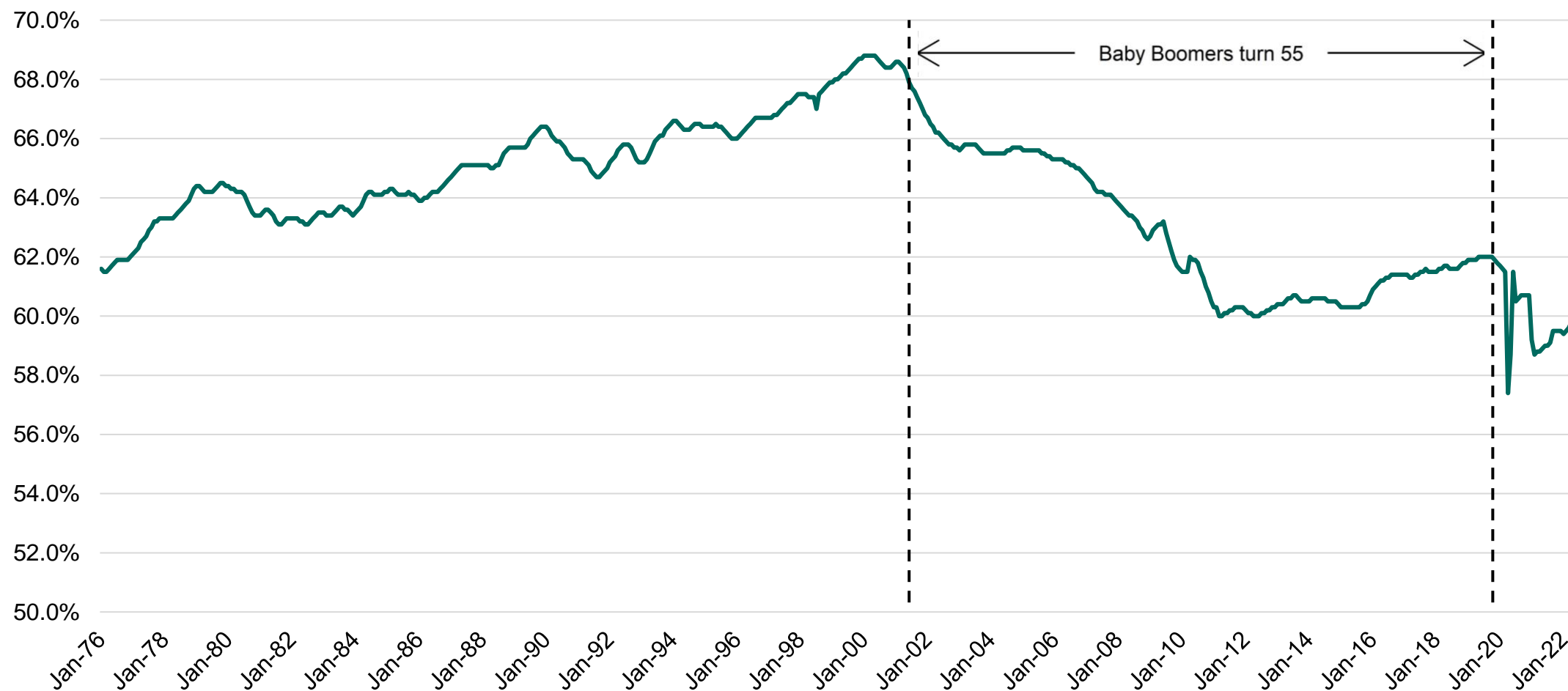
- The median age in Michigan increased by 4.3 years between 2001 and 2021.
- Michigan was the 29th oldest state in 2001 but is now the 14th oldest state.
- Michigan had the largest increase in median age among Midwestern states over the period.



Source: Population and Intercensal Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

Michigan's Total Labor Force Participation Rate

(1976 through 2022)



RACIAL-ETHNIC COMPOSITION

Race and Ethnicity in Census Data

These are the seven racial categories as established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB):

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian and Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders
- Some Other Race (SOM)
- Two or more Races (TOM)

Most Census products tabulate one ethnicity category: Hispanic/Latino. Hispanic ethnicity is often tabulated as an eighth separate group in Census data.

Michigan's Racial-Ethnic Composition, 2010 to 2020

- In 2020, Michigan's five largest racial-ethnic groups were non-Hispanic white (72.4%), non-Hispanic black (13.5%), Hispanic/Latino (5.6%), Two or More Races (4.4%), and non-Hispanic Asian (2.4%).
 - There are three counties where the American Indian and Alaska Native population comprises 10% or more of the total county population.
- Change in population from 2010 to 2020
 - Non-Hispanic White: -274,000 persons (-3.6%)
 - Non-Hispanic Black: -25,000 persons (-1.8%)
 - Non-Hispanic Asian: +96,000 persons (+40.5%)
 - Hispanic/Latino: +128,000 persons (+29.4%)

Change in the Non-Hispanic White and Black Populations (2010 to 2020)

- The **non-Hispanic white population** decreased in 80 percent of Michigan counties (67 counties).
 - Non-Hispanic white residents comprised the majority in every county in 2010 and 2020 except for Wayne County.
- The **non-Hispanic black population** decreased in 50% of Michigan counties (41 counties).
 - In terms of black population growth, the largest numerical and percent increases occurred in Macomb, Kalamazoo, Ingham, and Kent counties between 2010 and 2020. Oakland and Montcalm counties experienced large numerical increases.

Change in the Non-Hispanic Asian and Hispanic/Latino Populations (2010 to 2020)

The **non-Hispanic Asian population** increased in 70 percent of Michigan counties (57 counties) from 2010 to 2020.

- Most of this growth was concentrated in counties which already had large shares of Michigan's Asian population: Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Kent, and Wayne counties.

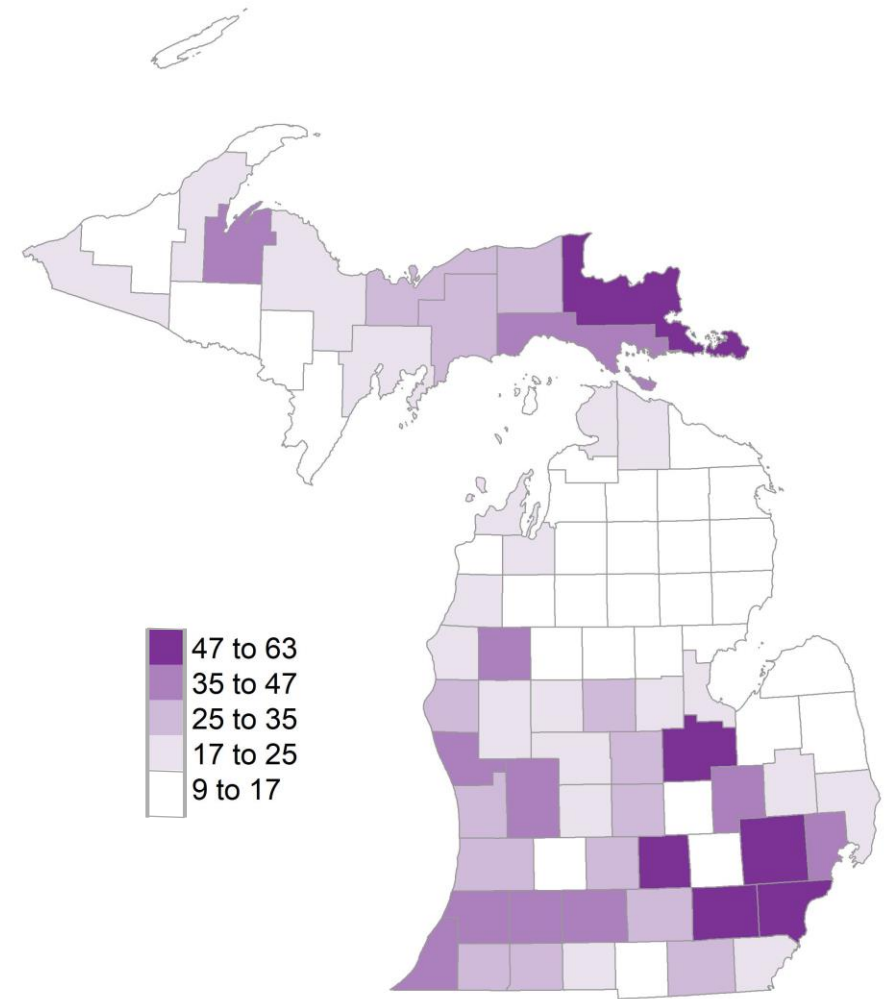
The **Hispanic/Latino population** increased in 98 percent of Michigan counties (81 counties).

- Similar to Michigan's black and Asian populations, there is a substantial Hispanic population in Metro Detroit, Grand Rapids area, Ingham County, and Washtenaw County. The Grand Rapids area experienced increases in all four racial-ethnic groups between 2010 and 2020: the Hispanic population and the non-Hispanic white, black, and Asian populations.
- In contrast to the non-Hispanic black and Asian populations, the Hispanic population is more geographically dispersed throughout Michigan and experienced growth in large metros, smaller metros, and rural areas of the state. For example, top Hispanic growth counties include Livingston, St. Joseph, Gratiot, Grand Traverse, and Lake County.

Measuring Diversity

- The Census Bureau's Diversity Index (DI) measure represents the likelihood randomly selecting people from different racial-ethnic groups.
 - Higher DI values represent higher levels of diversity.
- Top 5 most diverse counties in 2020:
 - Wayne, Ingham, Chippewa, Washtenaw, and Saginaw
- Top 5 counties with largest percentage point increase in the DI from 2010 to 2020 (data not displayed):
 - Lake, Macomb, Monroe, Kalamazoo, and Isabella
- Diversity has increased across Michigan's geography from 2010 to 2020 (data not displayed).

Diversity Index (2020)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, PL 94-171 Redistricting Data summary file

Key Takeaways

- **Population trends** – Michigan has experienced slow rates of statewide population growth (or decline) since the 1970s, and many areas have experienced persistent population decline.
- **Dynamics of population change** – Net negative migration (especially among family- and working-age adults), declining births, and increasing deaths have contributed to the state's slow rate of population growth and high rate of population aging.
- **Implications for the workforce** – As the Baby Boomer generation ages and exits the labor force through 2030, the share of people in prime working-age years is projected to shrink, which would lead to a slight decrease in the number of labor force participants. These dynamics can contribute to labor shortages.
- **Sources of growth** – Michigan has experienced net positive international migration and increases in the Hispanic/Latino and non-Hispanic Asian populations from 2010 to 2020. Since population momentum (natural increase) has slowed in Michigan, future population growth will be increasingly dependent on net positive domestic and/or international migration.

How to Stay Up-to-Date on Population and Labor Market Information

Research products:
www.MILMI.org/research

Website:
www.Michigan.gov/LMI

Twitter:
www.Twitter.com/MILMISI

Email updates:
www.Michigan.gov/LMIsubscribe

Thank you!

Jaclyn Butler, PhD

www.MILMI.org/Contact-Us