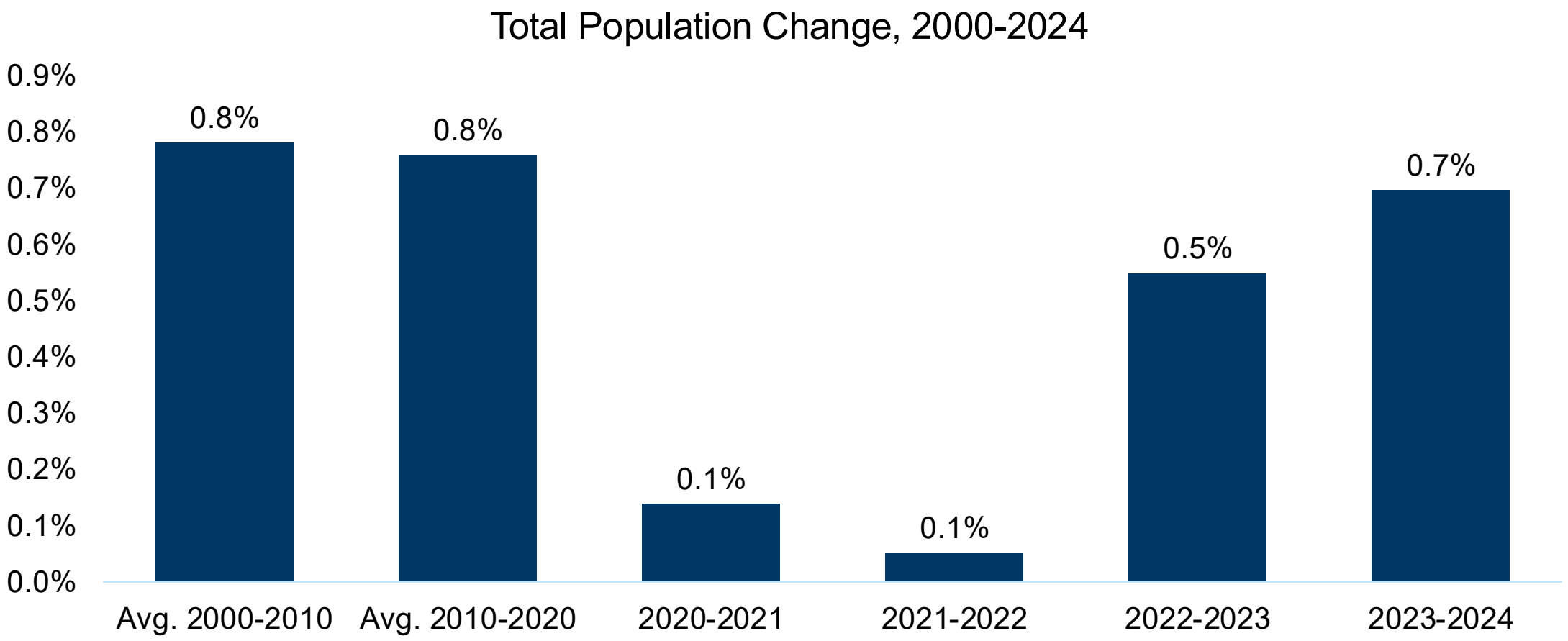
MINNESOTA STATE DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Demographic Update for Metropolitan School Districts

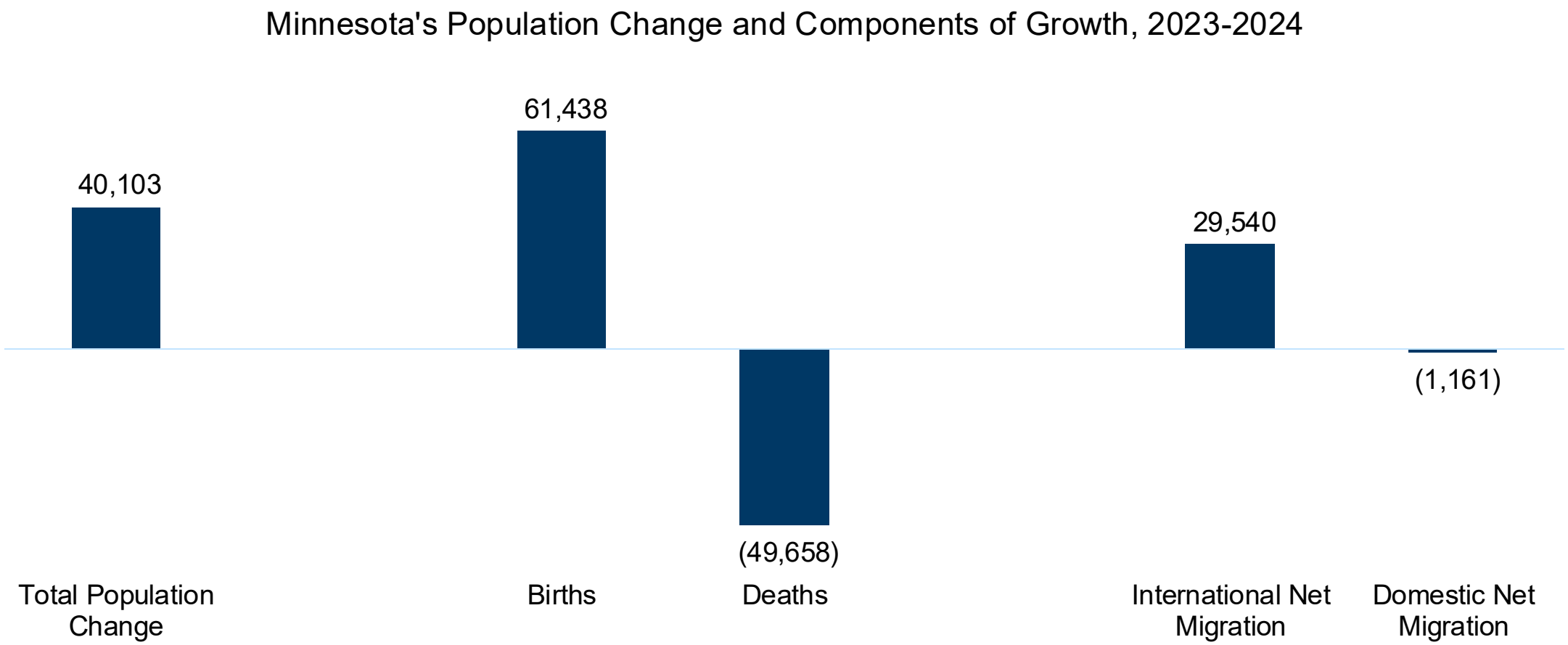
Susan Brower | Minnesota State Demographer
October 3, 2025

Population trends stabilize following COVID-19 disruptions.



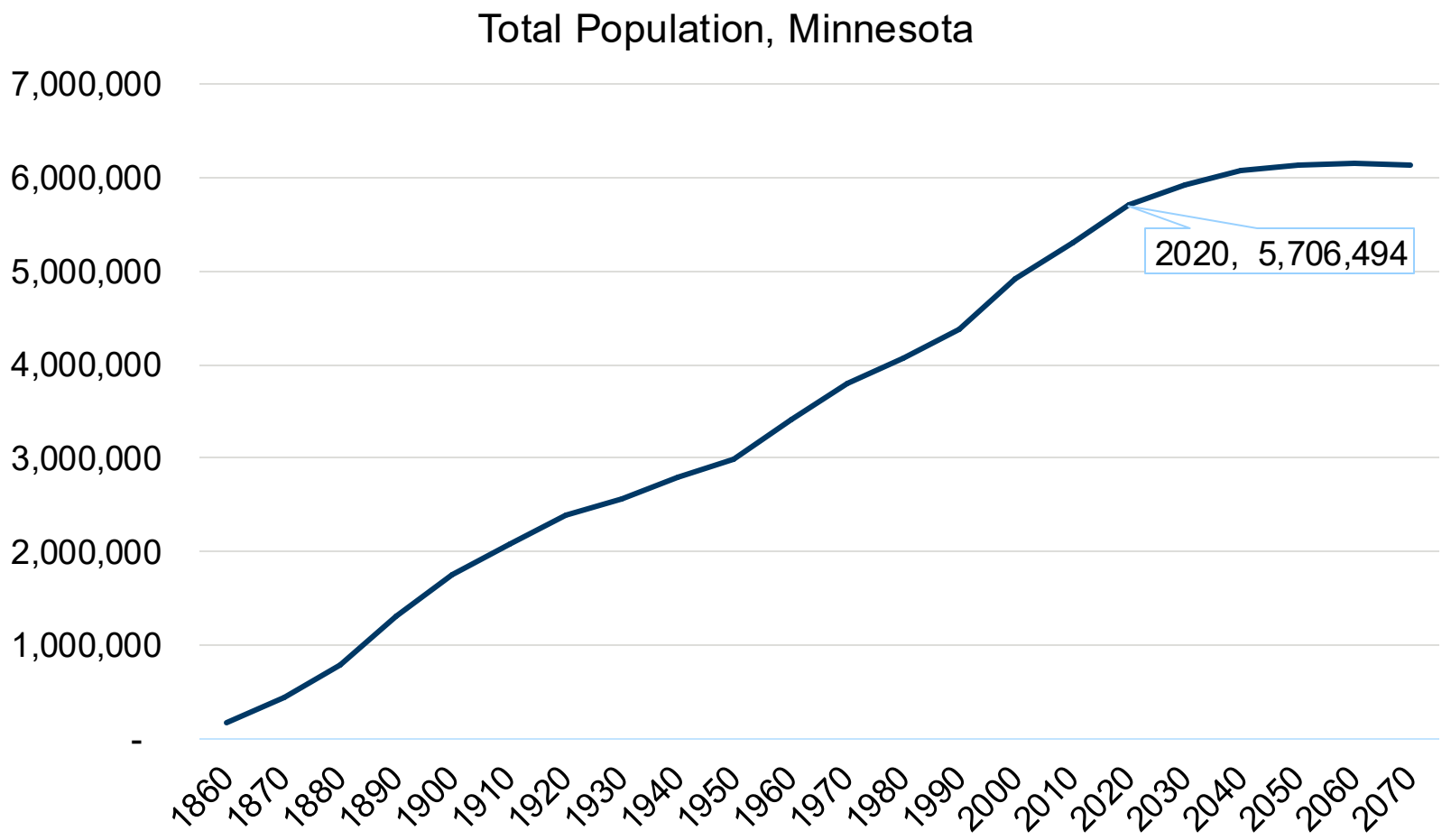
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses and Population Estimates Program

International migration has been a significant source of growth in recent years



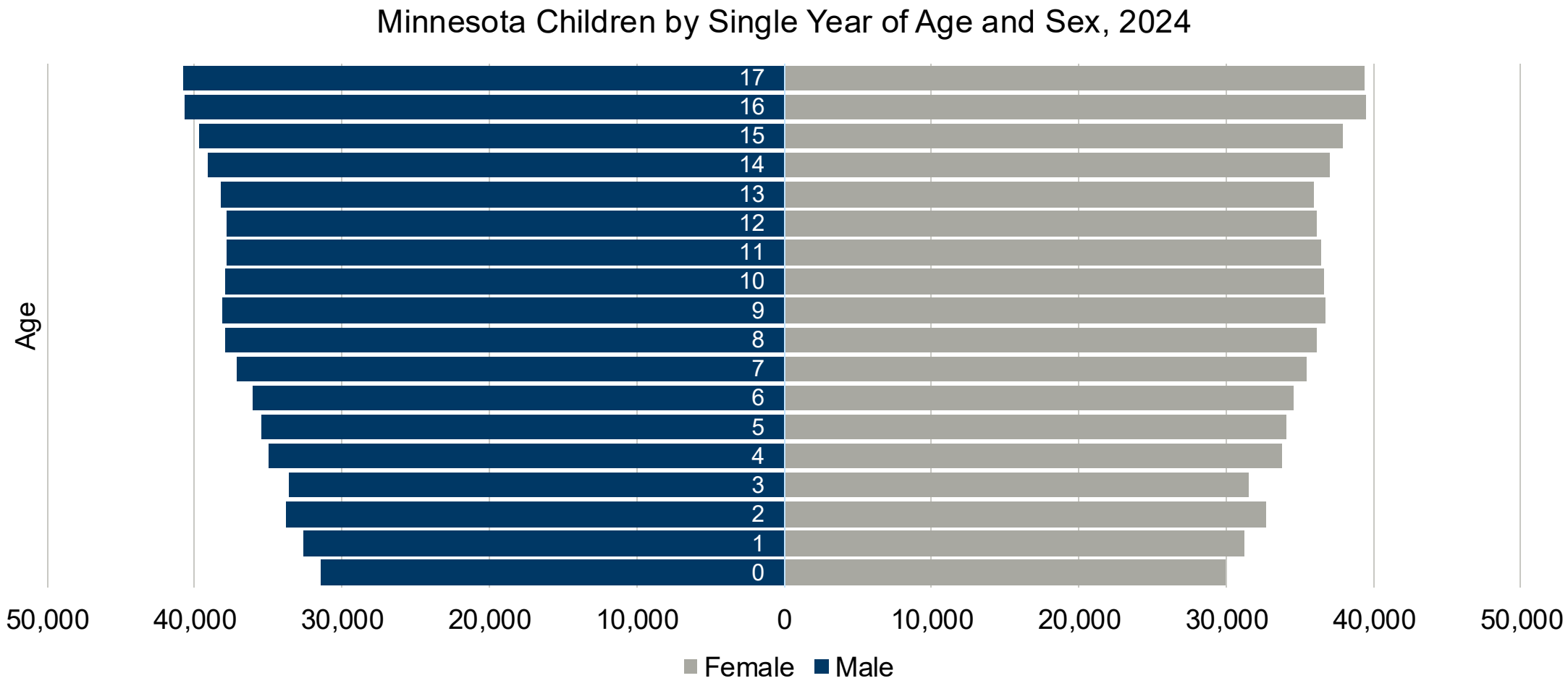
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Minnesota's long-term population growth is decelerating.



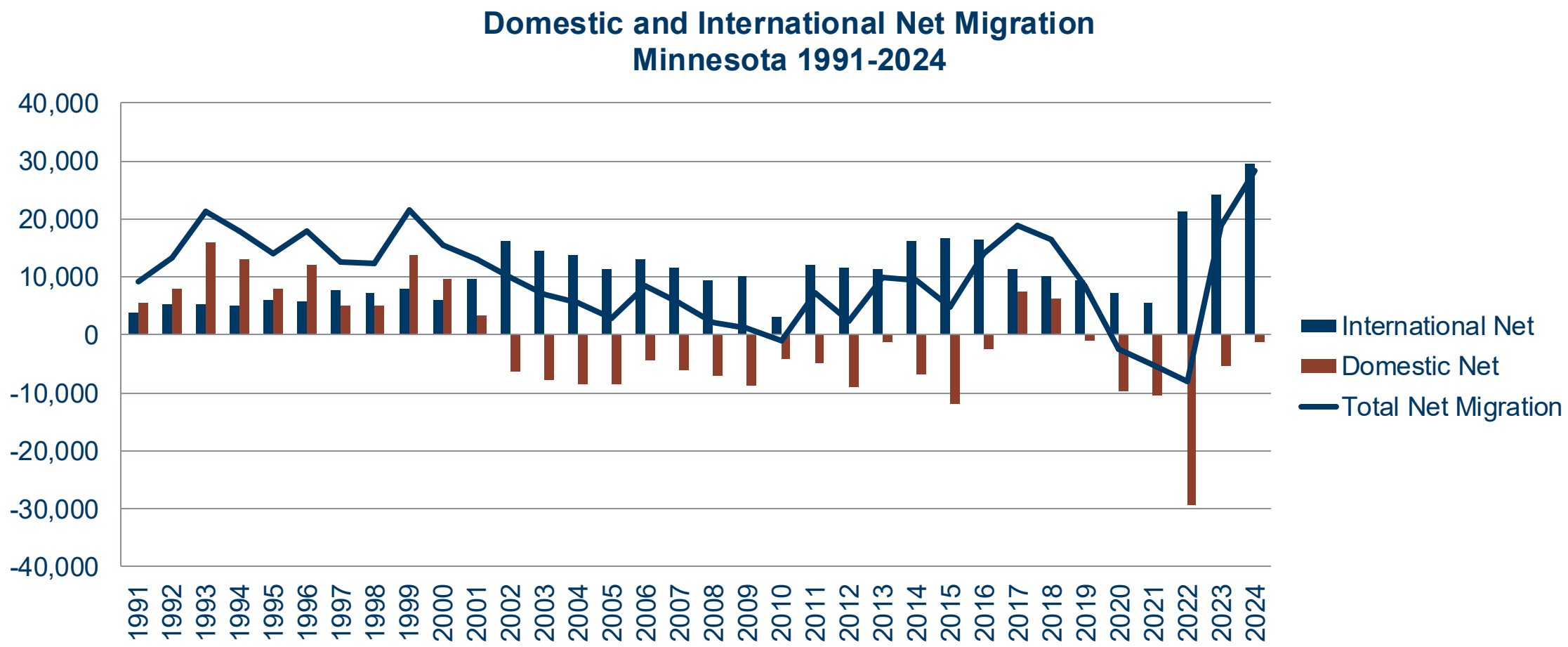
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses and Minnesota State Demographic Center Population Projections

Births have been declining statewide, creating successively smaller cohorts of school-age children.



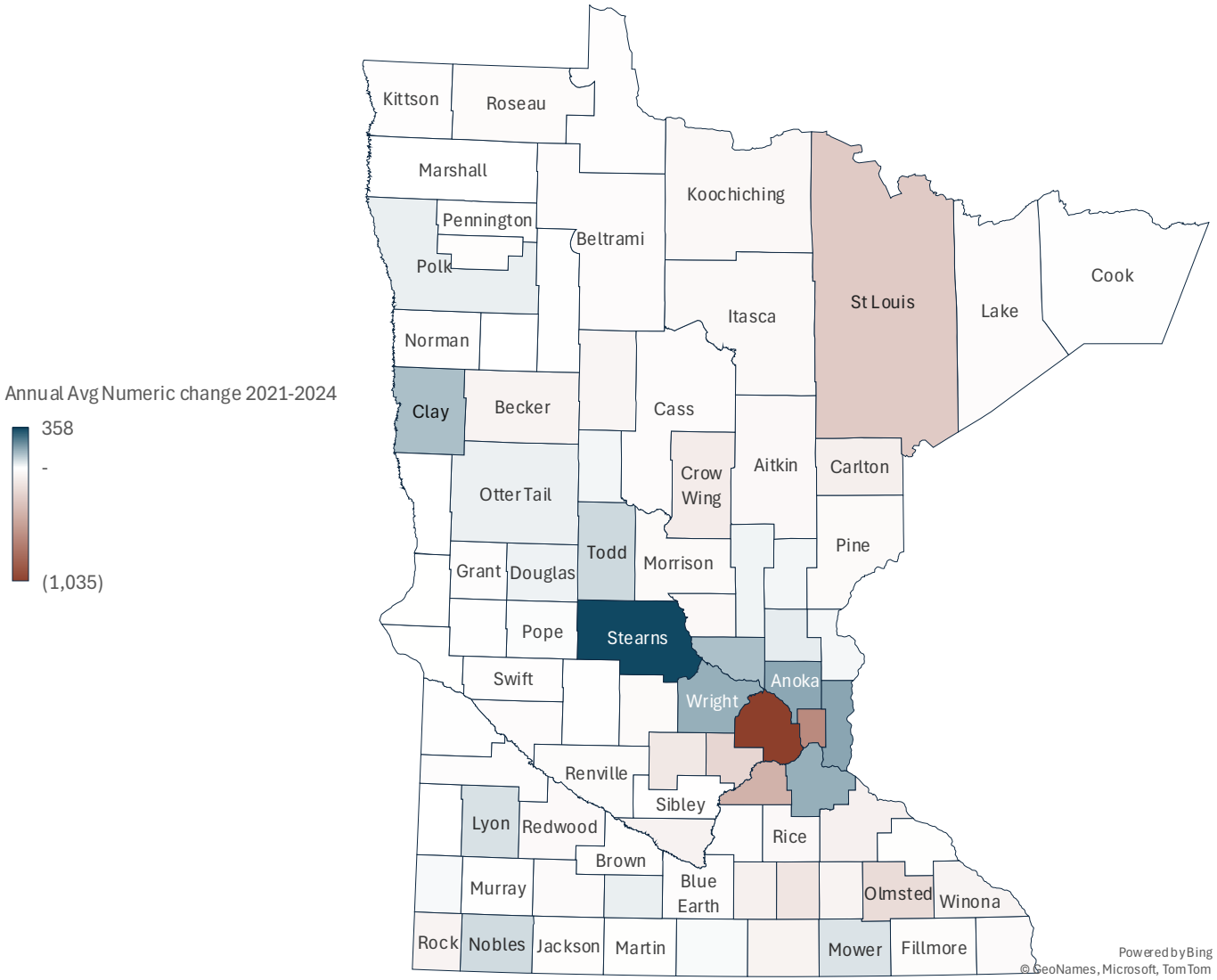
Source: 2024 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program

Minnesota loses residents to other states but gains residents from abroad.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau PEP Estimates

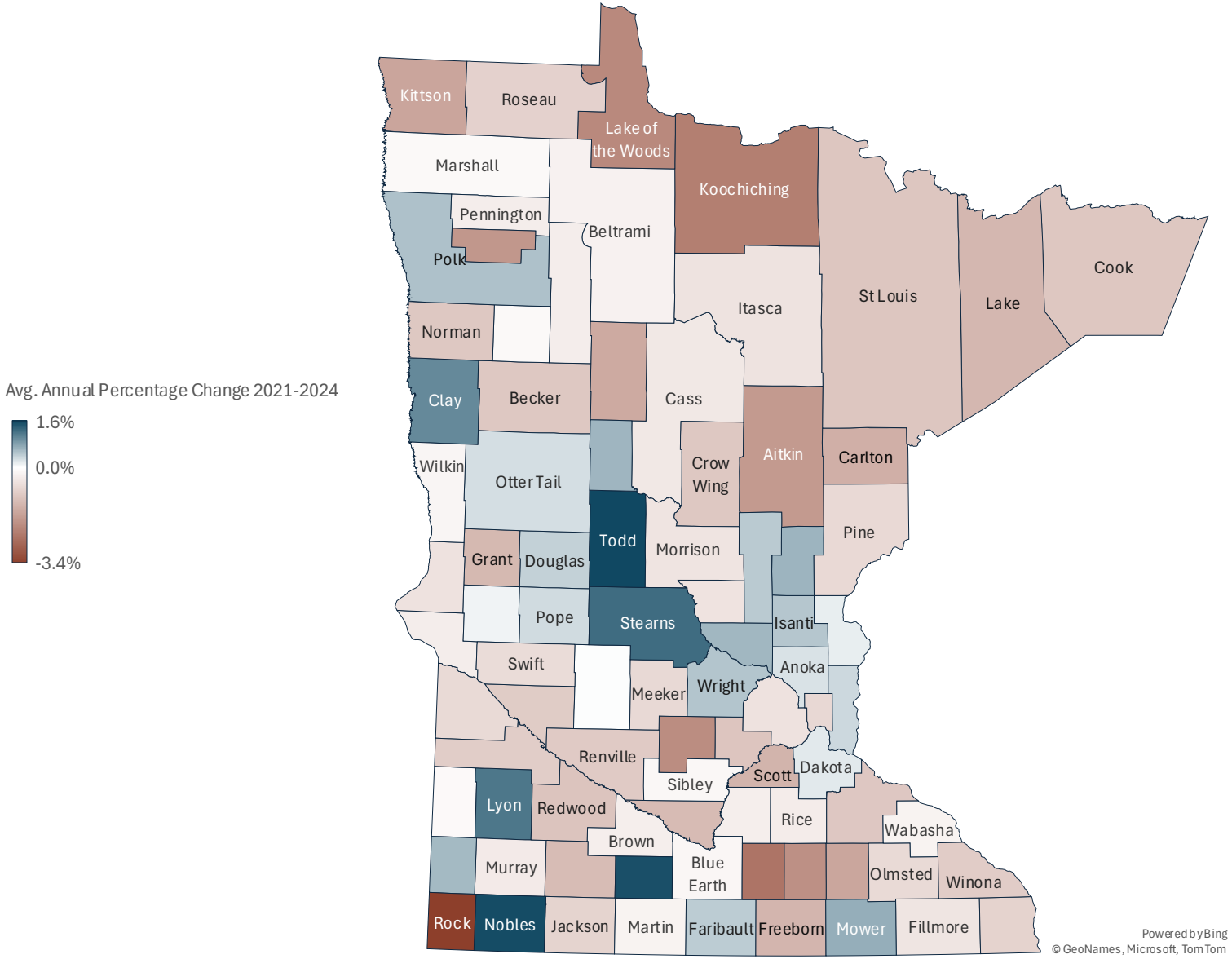
Average Annual Numeric Change in Population 5 to 17 Years by County 2021-2024



Largest annual gains:
- Stearns (+358)
- Washington (+175)
- Anoka (+172)

Largest annual losses:
- Hennepin (-1,035)
- Ramsey (-629)
- Scott (-415)

Average Annual Numeric Change in Population 5 to 17 Years by County 2021-2024



Largest annual gains:

- Todd (+1.6%)
- Nobles (+1.6%)
- Watonwan (+1.6%)

Largest annual losses:

- Rock (-3.4%)
- Waseca (-2.5%)
- Koochiching (-2.3%)

School districts with the largest numeric gains in resident population (Age 5 to 17 years)

School District	Population added 2020-2023	Percent change 2020-2023
Wayzata	2,586	20.5%
St. Cloud	2,024	14.4%
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan	1,894	6.4%
South Washington County	1,777	8.6%
Anoka-Hennepin	1,693	3.8%
Elk River	1,690	11.2%
Moorhead	977	12.8%
Mounds View	972	7.9%
Spring Lake Park Public Schools	949	18.1%
Osseo	794	2.9%
Mankato	760	8.1%
Lakeville	685	5.4%
Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools	656	7.3%
Columbia Heights	602	16.0%
Rochester	539	2.4%

Note that population changes shown are attributable to school district boundary changes between 2020 and 2023 in addition to changes that are attributable to demographic changes (births and migration of families).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program

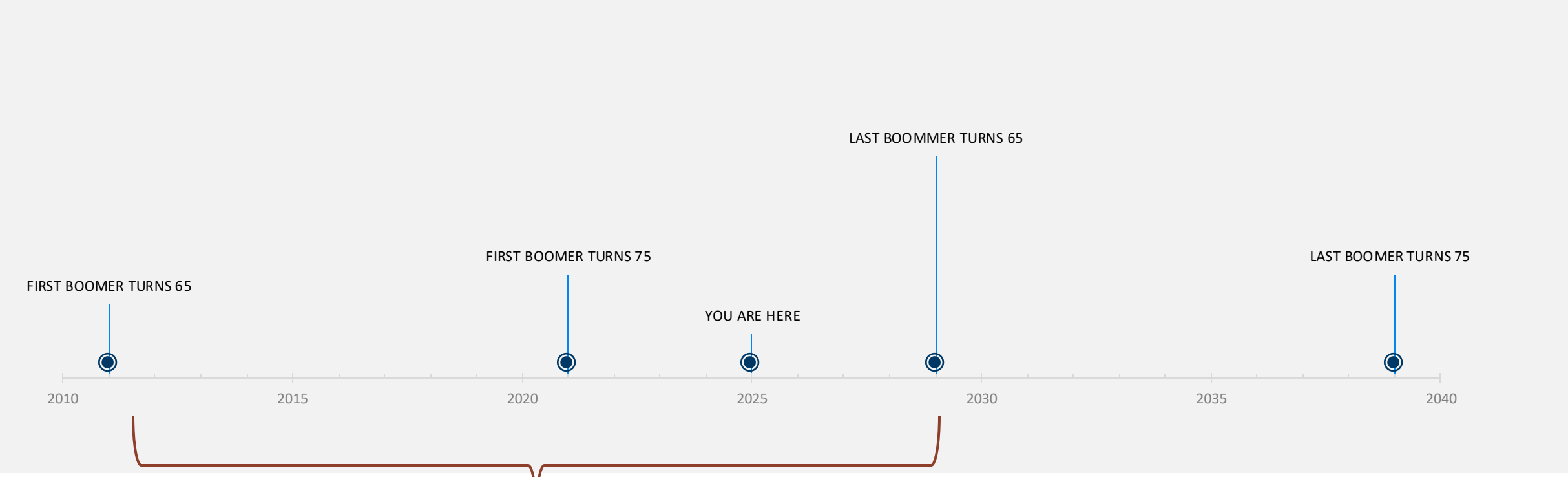
School districts with the largest numeric declines in resident population (Age 5 to 17 years)

District	Population decline 2020-2023	Percent change 2020-2023
St. Paul	(1,470)	-2.7%
Eden Prairie	(1,218)	-10.1%
Robbinsdale	(852)	-5.3%
White Bear Lake	(620)	-5.7%
Minnetonka	(602)	-6.6%
Inver Grove Heights Schools	(399)	-8.3%
Hastings	(393)	-6.8%
Rocori	(350)	-12.8%
Hopkins	(341)	-3.7%
St. Francis	(311)	-4.8%
Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton	(260)	-16.1%
Maple River	(238)	-19.4%
Burnsville	(234)	-2.0%
Melrose	(204)	-11.0%
New Prague Area Schools	(202)	-4.6%

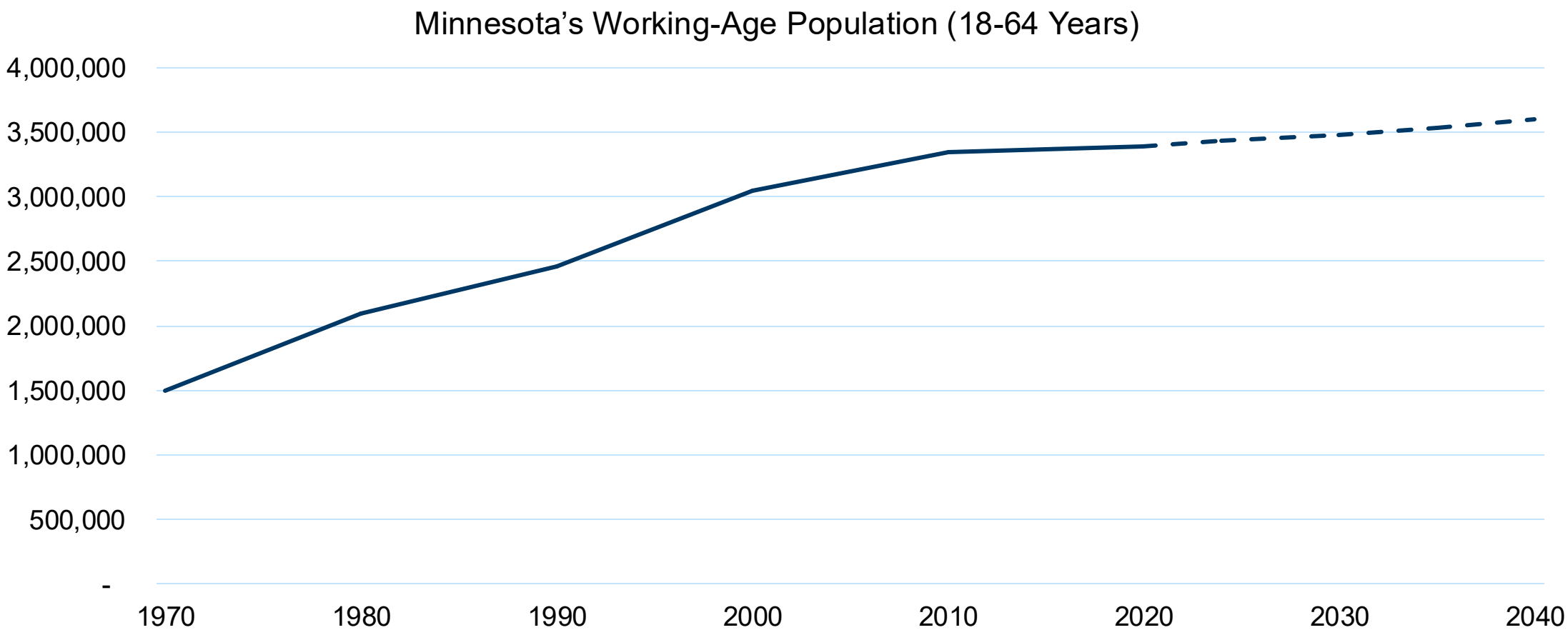
Note that population changes shown are attributable to school district boundary changes between 2020 and 2023 in addition to changes that are attributable to demographic changes (births and migration of families).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program

When will we feel the impact of population aging?

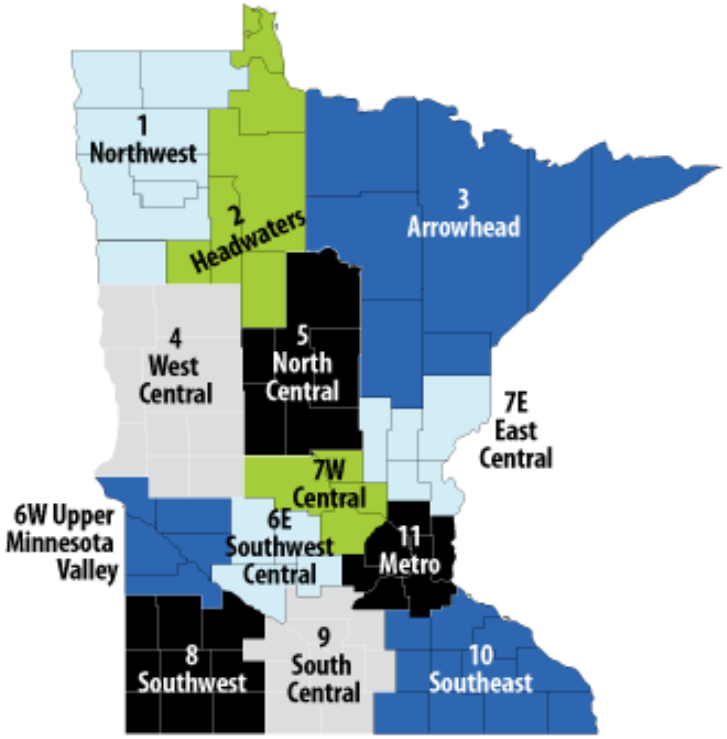


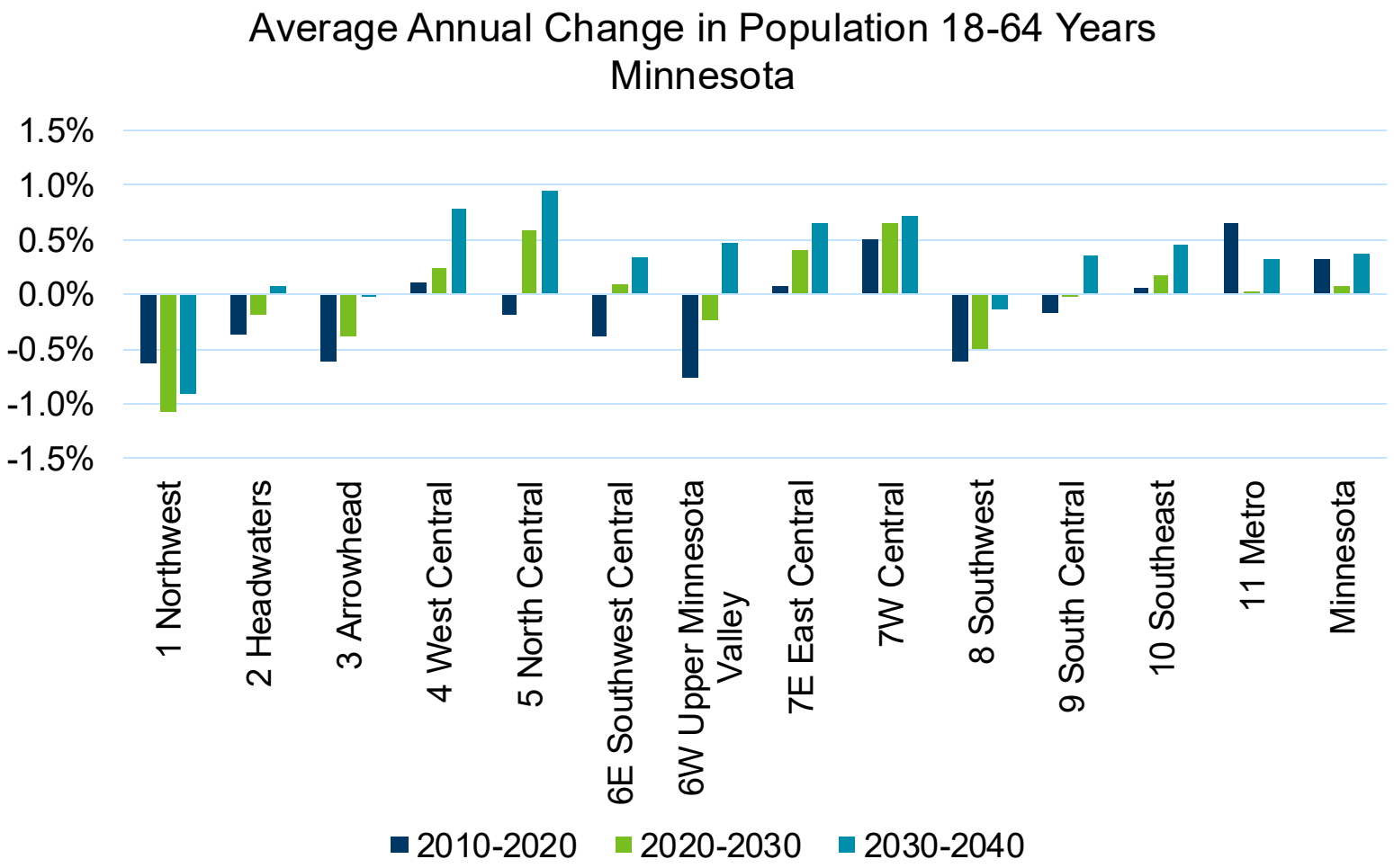
Minimal growth expected in the working-age population.



Source: ipums.org and Minnesota State Demographic Center Projections, 2023

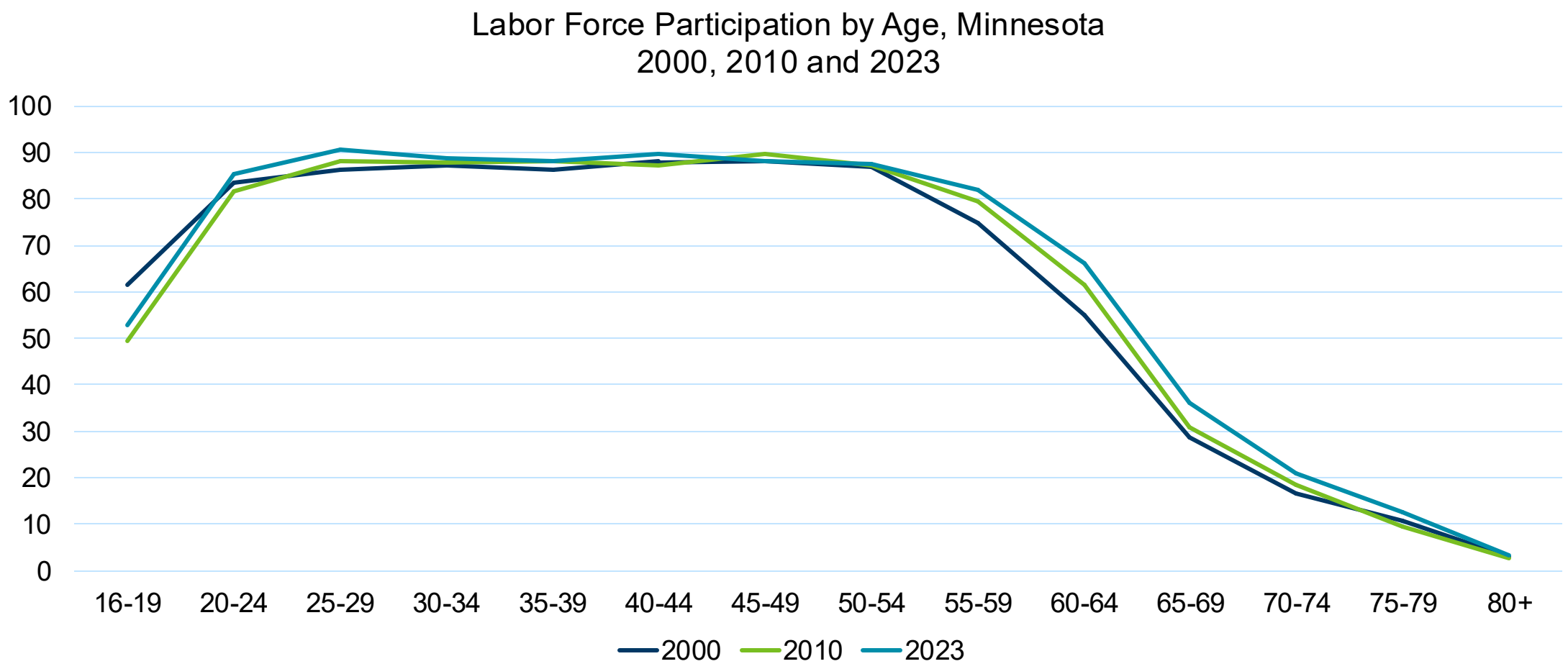
Northern and southwestern regions will experience declines in working-age populations.



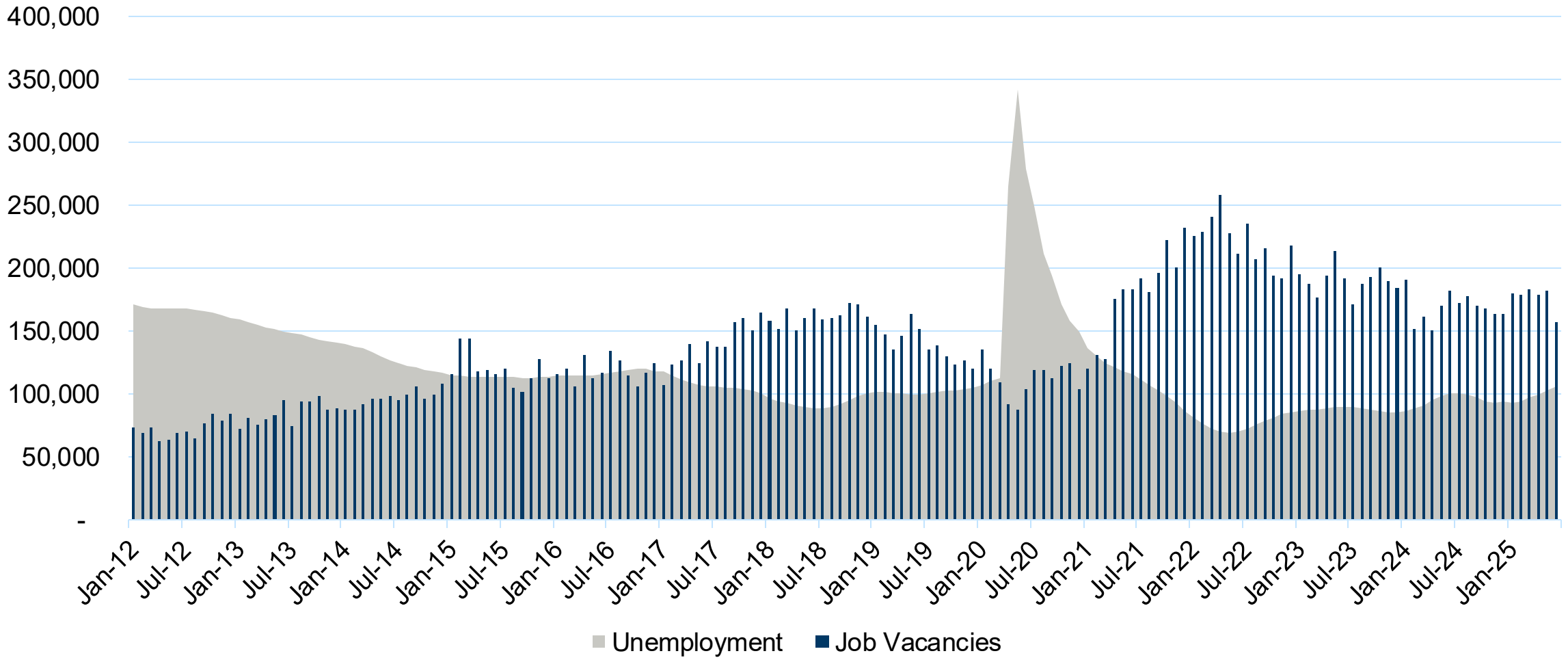


Source: ipums.org and Minnesota State Demographic Center Projections, 2023

Labor force participation remains among the highest in the nation

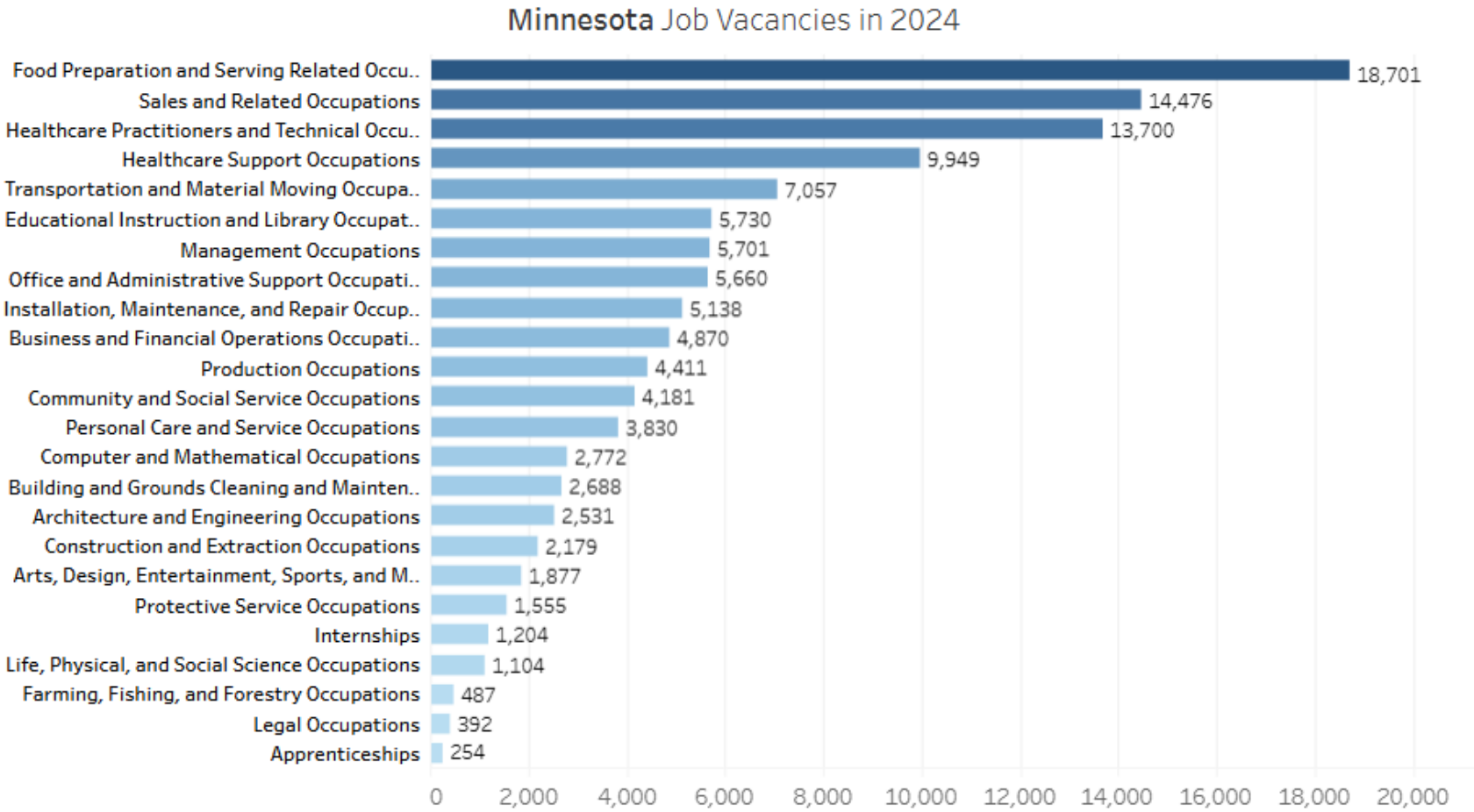


Q2 2025—Average monthly job openings: 173,000
Average unemployed: 103,000



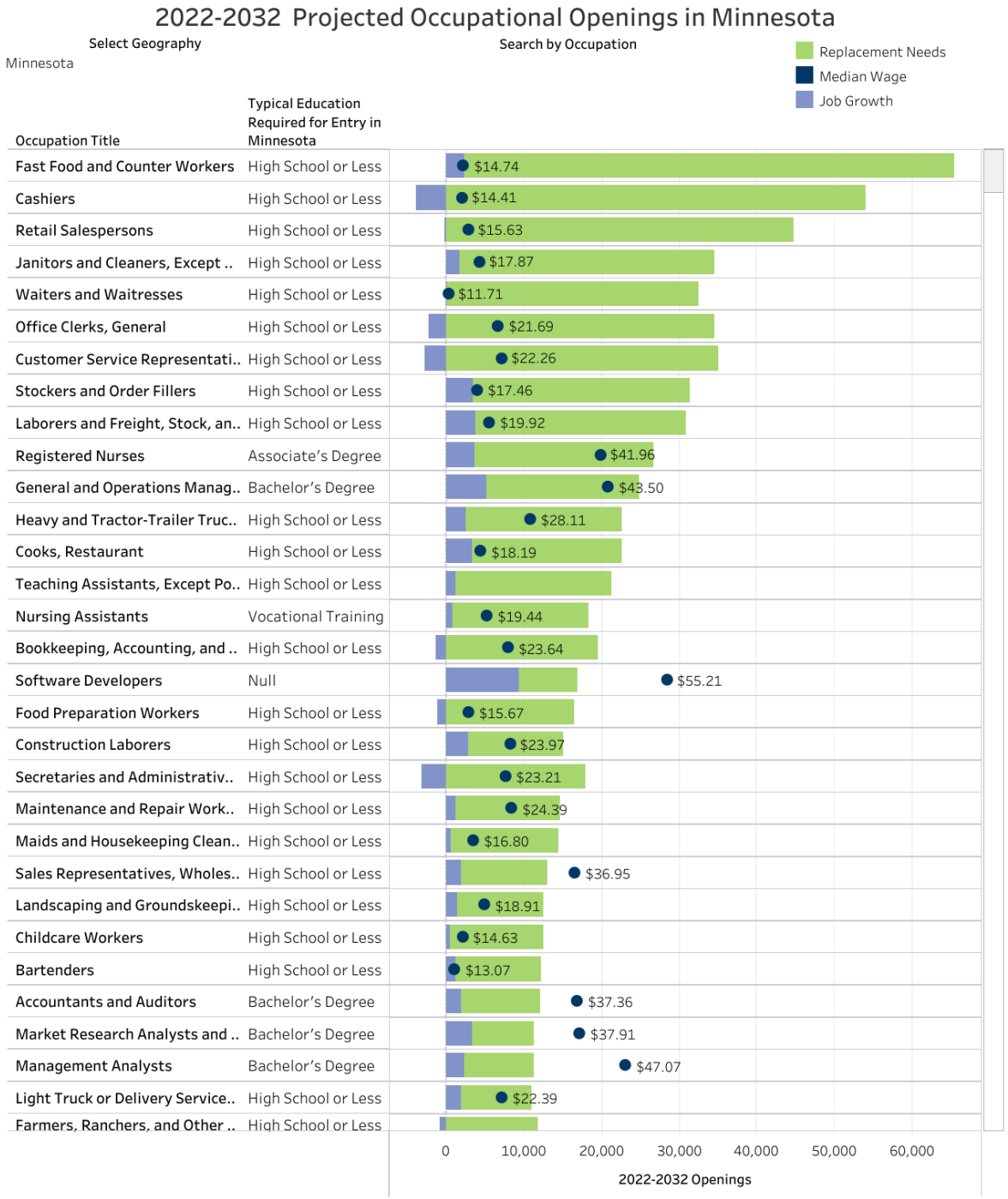
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey

While vacancies are concentrated in lower-wage sectors, openings exist across all occupational categories.



https://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/job-vacancy/

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey



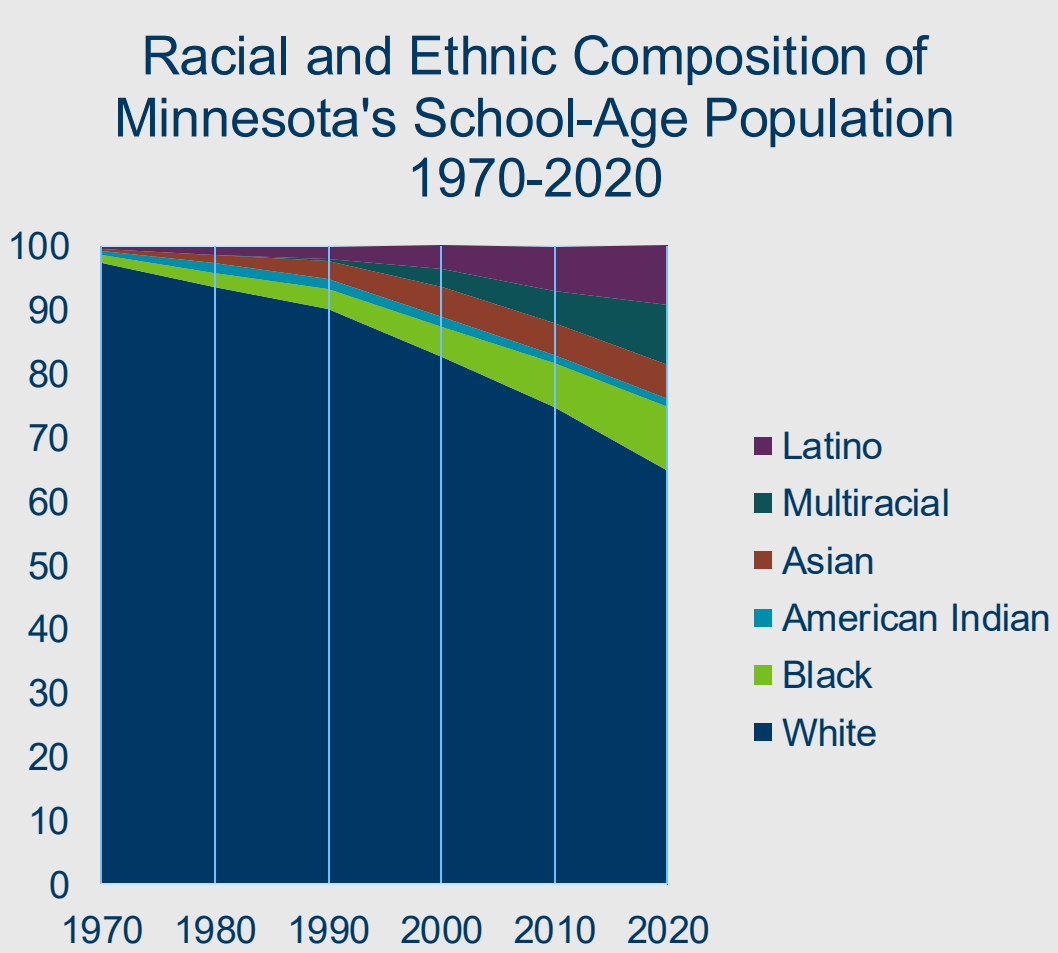
DEED projects that Minnesota will have 3,280,273 jobs by 2033, up 144,592 jobs from 2023.

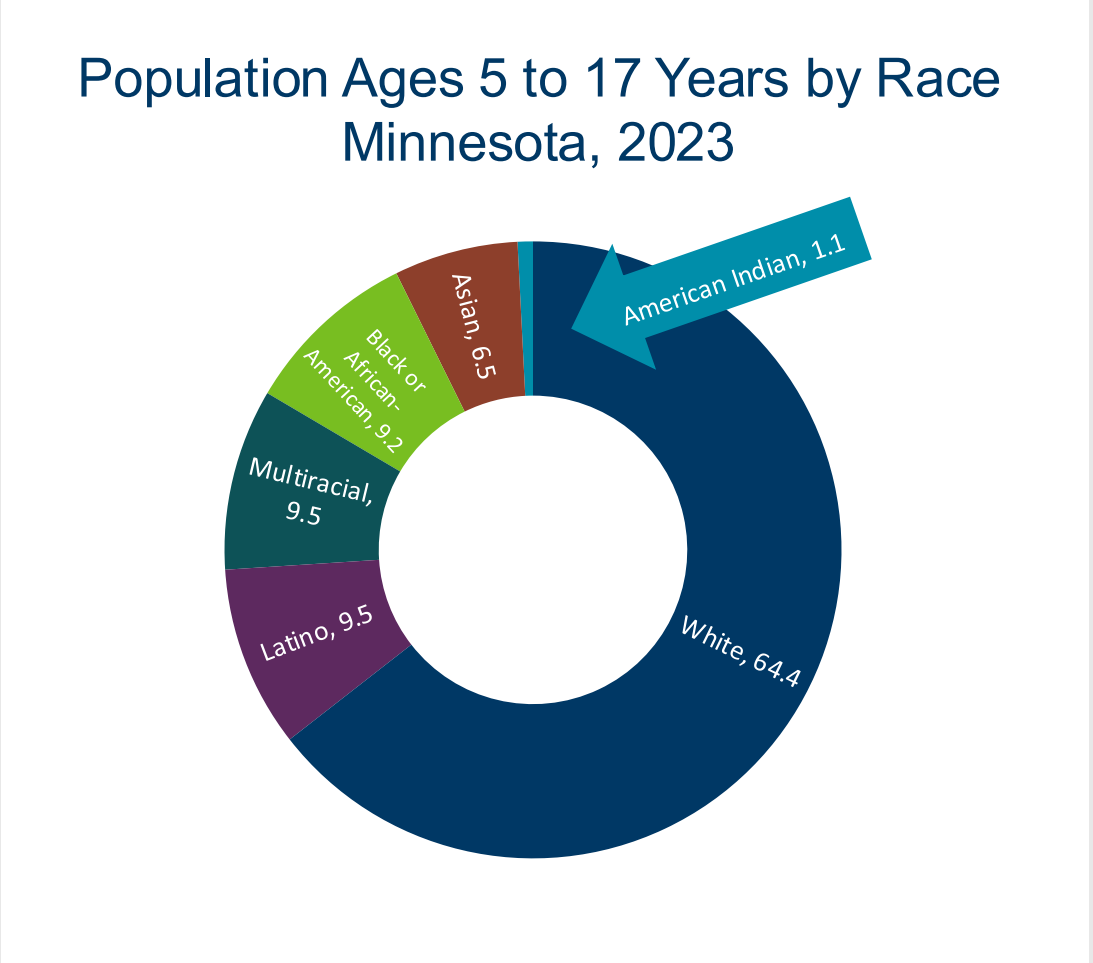
My office projects 97,620 more people of working age over the same period, not all of whom will be in the labor force.

Most of the hiring that occurs over the next 10 years will be to replace workers rather than openings due to job growth.

3,590,115 total job openings are projected over 10 years.

The racial and ethnic diversity of Minnesota's school-age population continues to increase.





Source: ipums.org from U.S. Census Bureau data

Detailed Race of Minnesota's Children (Ages 0 to 17), 2020

American Indian and Alaska Native			White	
Chippewa	8,907		German	431,183
American Indian, not specified	7,094		Irish	198,339
American Indian and Alaska Native, not specified	9,962		Norwegian	166,308
Asian			English	148,258
Hmong	36,943		Swedish	99,370
Asian Indian	15,669		Polish	63,033
Chinese, except Taiwanese	11,097		French	52,979
Vietnamese	9,415		Italian	41,640
Korean	9,393		Scandinavian	34,548
Filipino	7,877		Scottish	30,228
Burmese (including Karen)	7,594		Dutch	28,040
Black or African American			Finnish	26,101
African American	68,831		Czech	23,909
Somali	42,112		Danish	18,112
Ethiopian	9,322		Russian	10,789
Other Black or African American, not specified	43,956		French Canadian	8,424
Latino			Welsh	8,056
Mexican	82,176		Swiss	5,936
Puerto Rican	6,001		Other White, not specified	314,397
Guatemalan	5,289		Other	
			Other Some Other Race, not specified	9,273

Source: 2020 Census, DHC-A. Because these groups include children with multiple racial, ethnic, or cultural identities, some children will be counted in more than one group and the categories will not sum to the total number of children in Minnesota. Only groups with 5,000 or more children are shown.

In Minnesota, 20% of children have a foreign-born parent.

Minnesota Children (0-17 Years) by Nativity of Parent(s) and Presence of Parent(s) in the Household, 2018-2022

	Two Parents Present	One Parent Present	No parent present	All living arrangements	Percent of all children
All parents in household are U.S.-born	813,163	199,432		1,012,595	78%
All parents in household are foreign-born	135,650	49,474		185,124	14%
One parent foreign-born, One parent U.S.-born	73,332			73,332	6%
All Children Ages 0 to 17 Years	1,022,145	248,906	35,094	1,306,145	100%

Source: ipums.org from 2018-2022 U.S. Census Bureau data
Note: Includes only children living in households, not those living in group quarters.

Key Takeaways

- Population and workforce growth will be slow into the foreseeable future.
- International migration is most realistic mechanism for future growth. An increase in the birth rate is unlikely, and domestic migration tends to flow out of Minnesota.
- Most job openings over the next 10 years will be in lower-paid occupations.
- Supporting jobs in essential industries (like healthcare) will be essential, especially given the competition from employers for workers.
- Supporting educational opportunities for working adults aligns with a slow growth, high-competition context.

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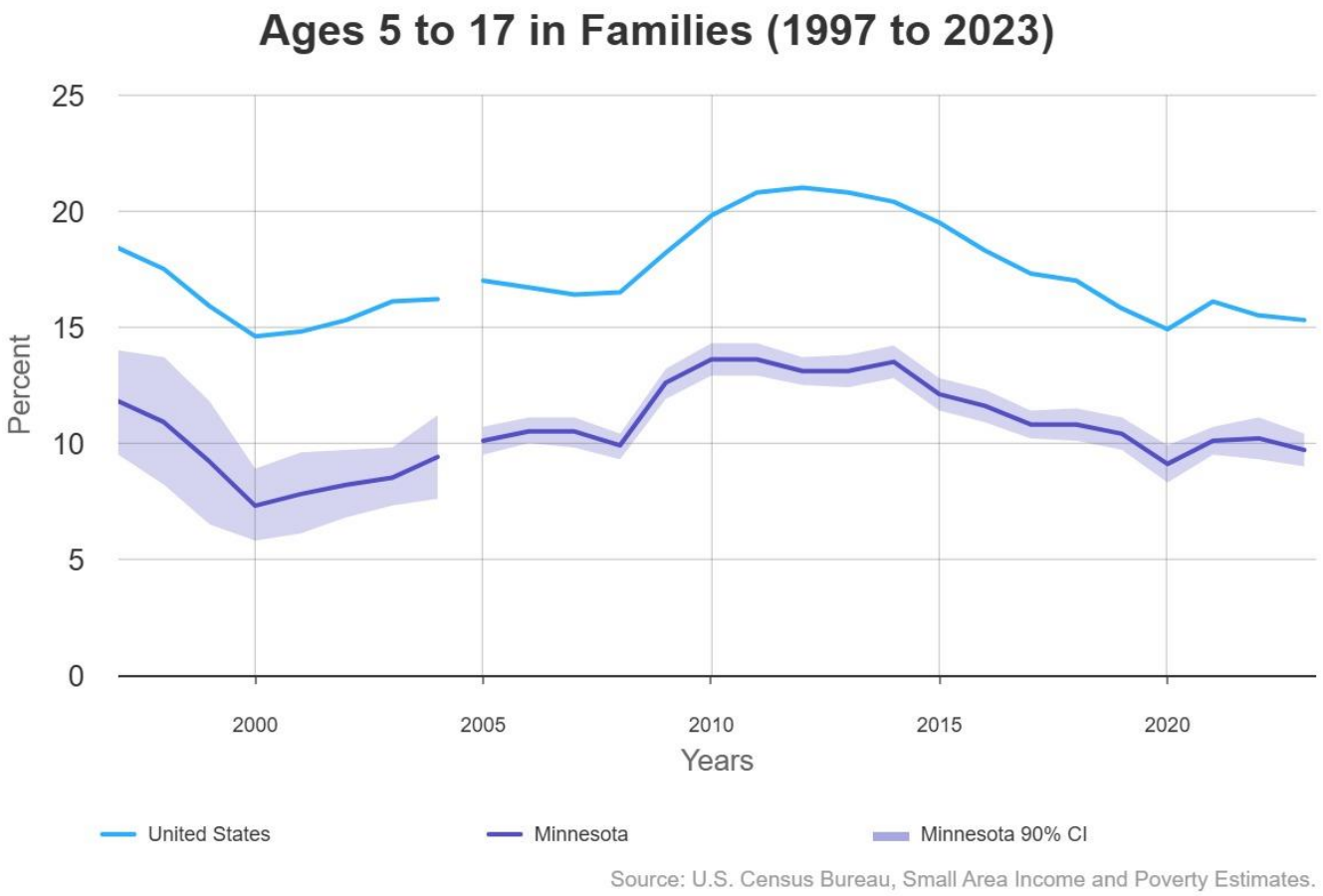
What questions do you have?

Email: demography.helpline@state.mn.us

Website: mn.gov/demography

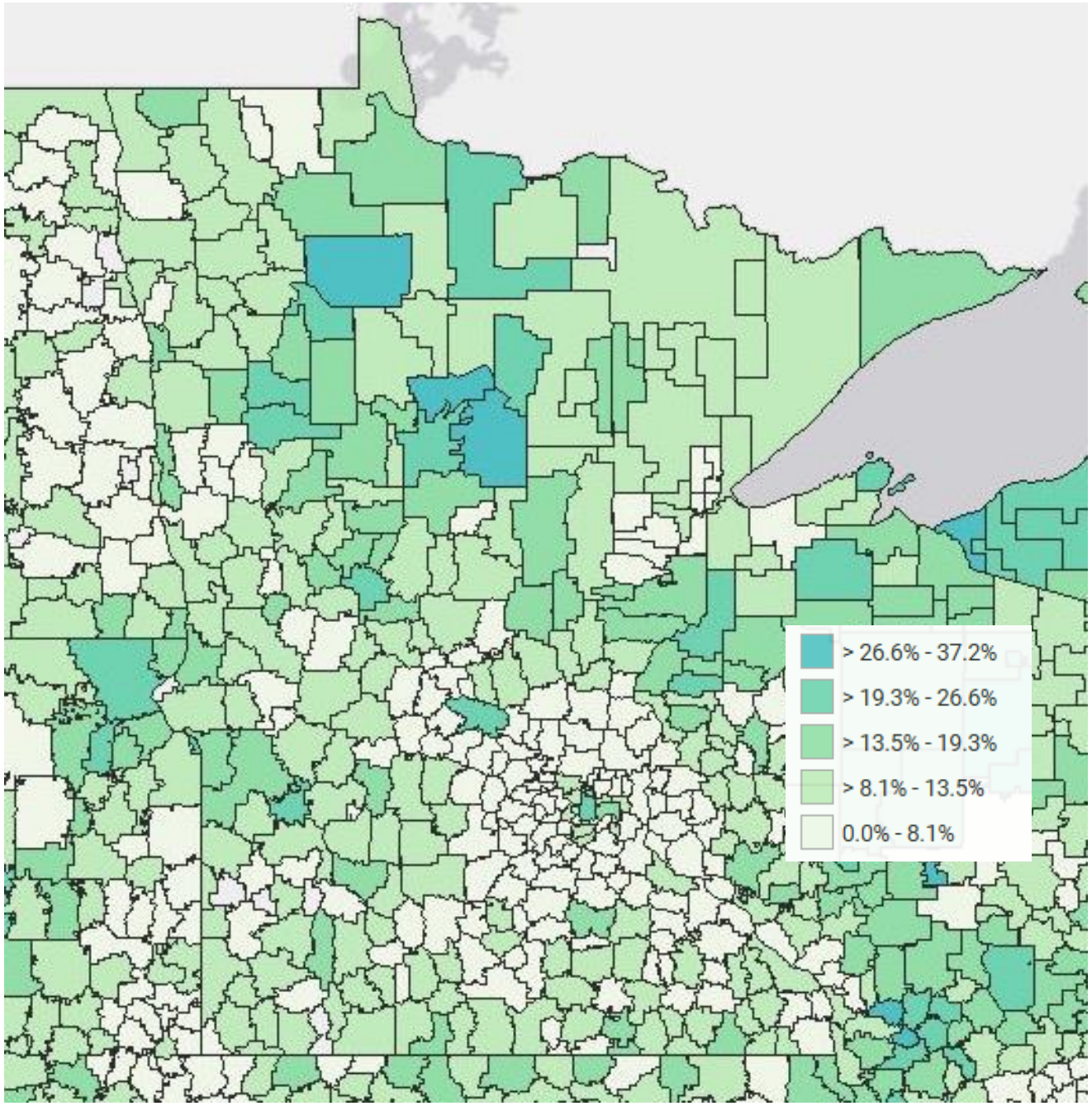
The following slides will not be presented unless they help answer questions that the audience has.

Poverty among school-age children declined in 2023, declined in 2023, after several consecutive increases during the pandemic years



In 2023, 9.7% of Minnesota school-age children live in poverty, compared to 15.3% of school-age children nationally.

Source: 2024 U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates



Poverty rate by school district, 2023

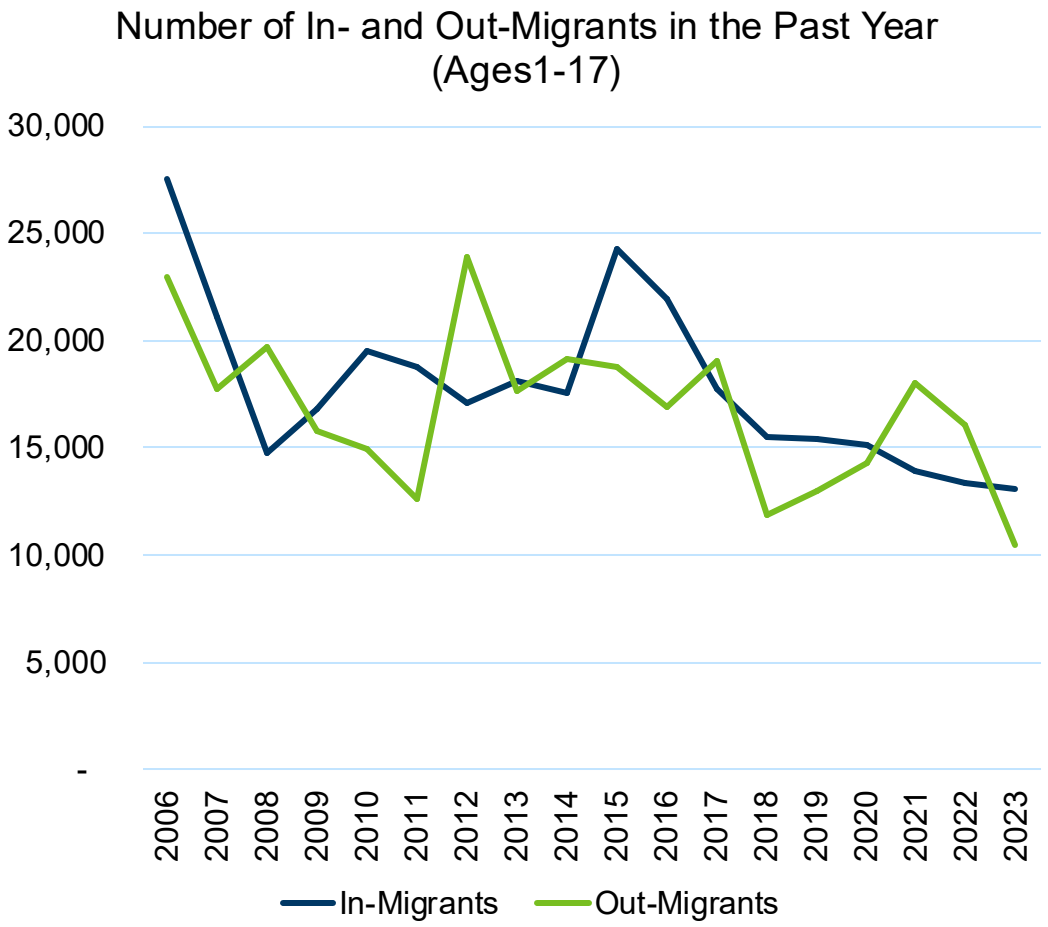
Districts with highest rates of poverty

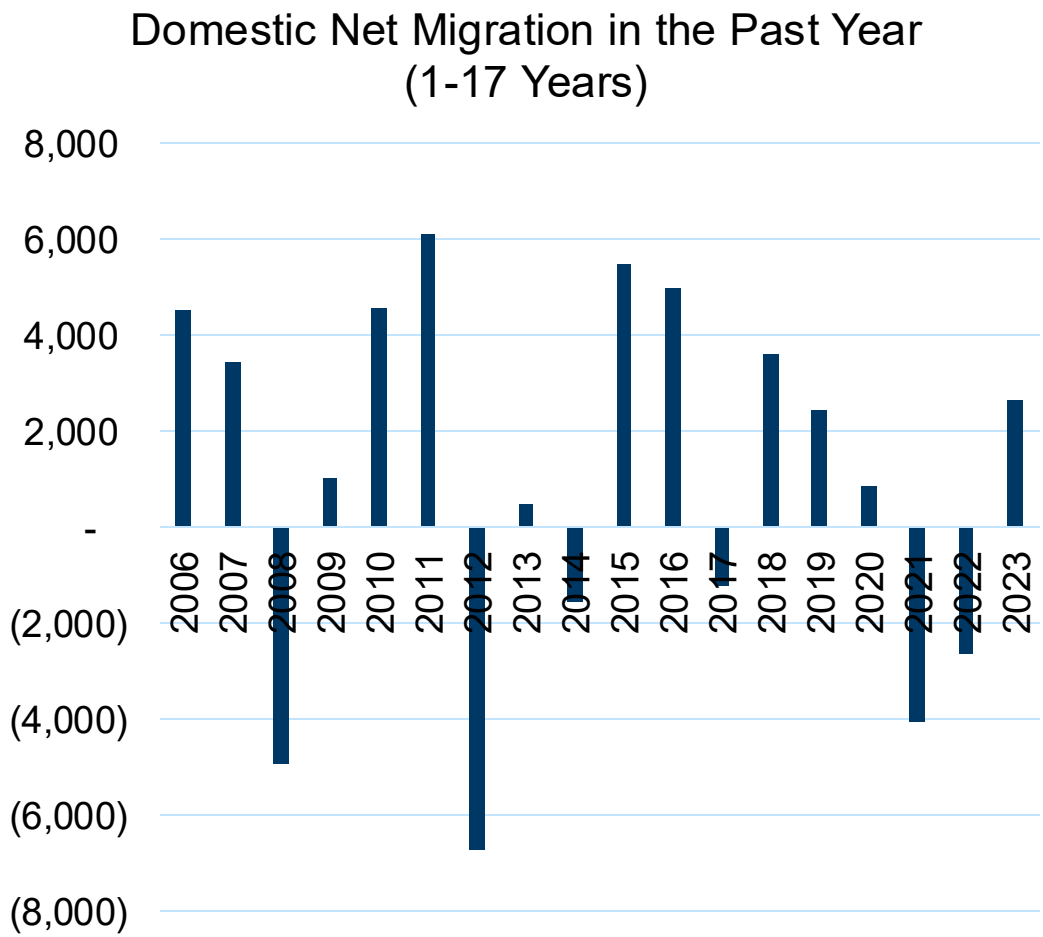
- Red Lake Public School District, 34.5%
- Cass Lake-Bena Public Schools, 30.7%
- Northland Community Schools, 26.9%

For data on individual school districts, see: https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/saipe/#/

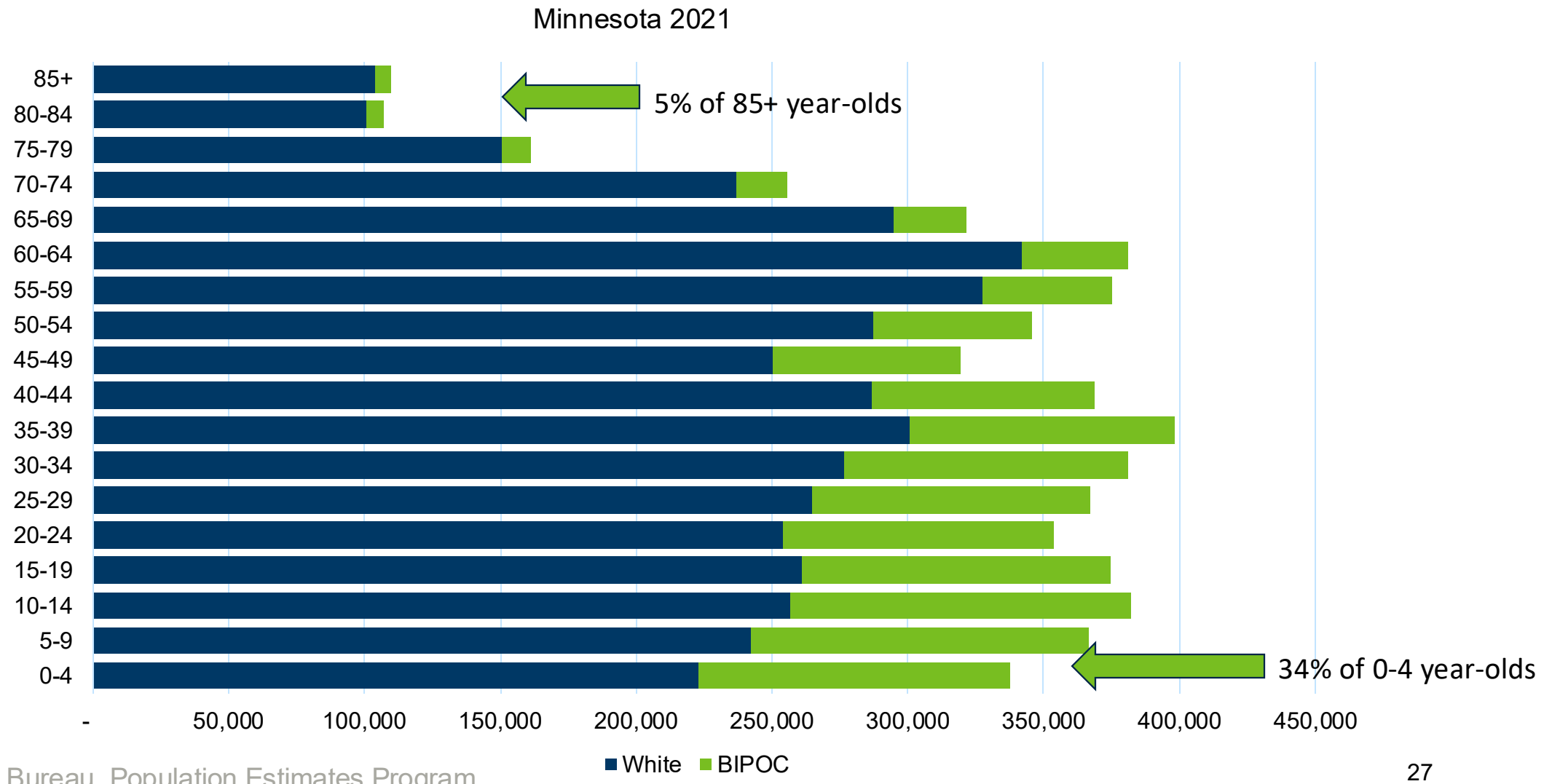
Source: 2024 U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

Generally, the domestic migration of families with children has slowed over time, but this has not resulted in large net gains or losses of children for Minnesota.



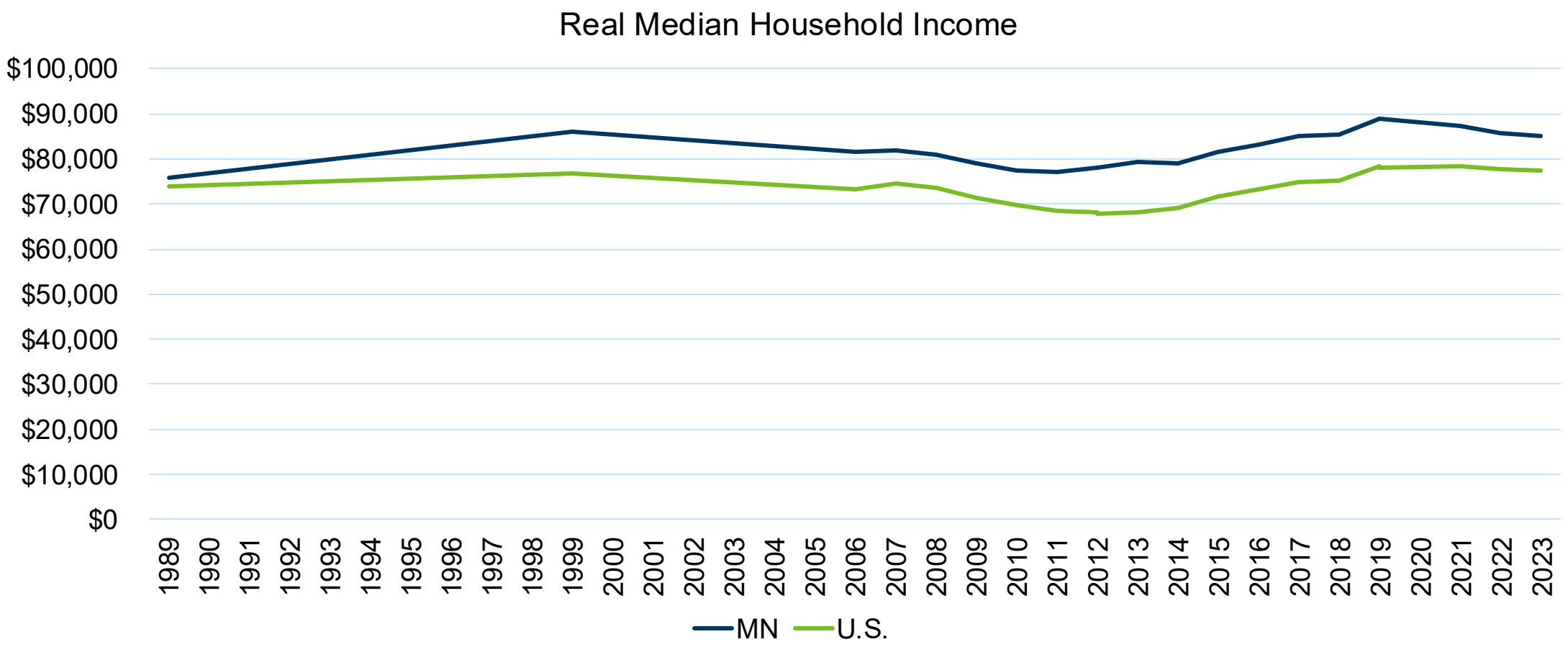


Minnesota's population will continue to grow more racially and culturally diverse.



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

Real median household income has declined in recent years.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey

Job Openings & Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (https://www.bls.gov/jlt/)

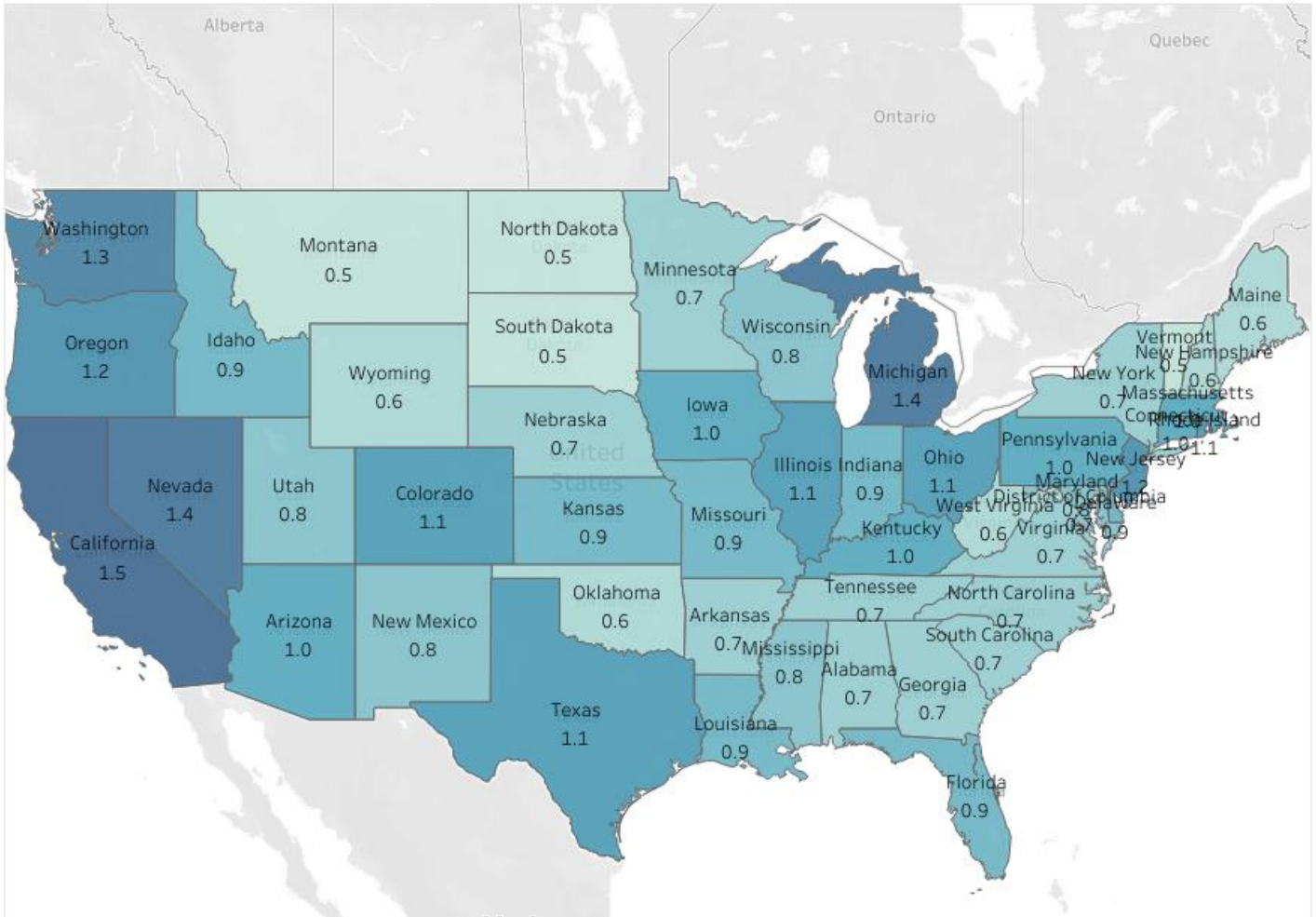
EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MINNESOTA

Select an Element: Unemployed persons per job openin..

Select Level or Rate: Rate

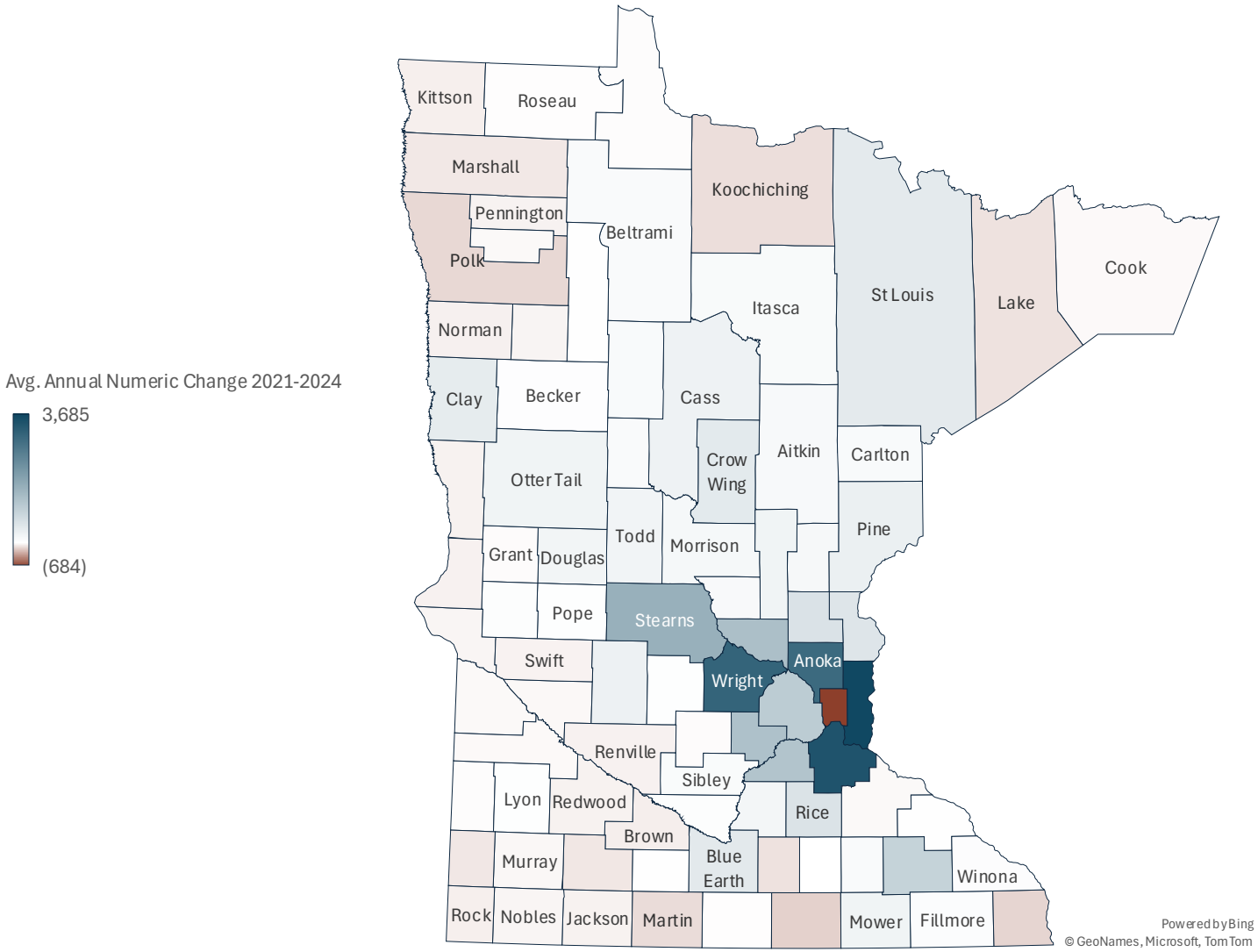
Select Adjustment: Seasonally Adjusted

June 2025 Unemployed persons per job opening ratio, Rate, Seasonally Adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey

Avg. Annual Numeric Change in Population, 2021-2024



Largest annual gains:

Washington (+3,685)
Dakota (+3,457)
Wright (+3,128)

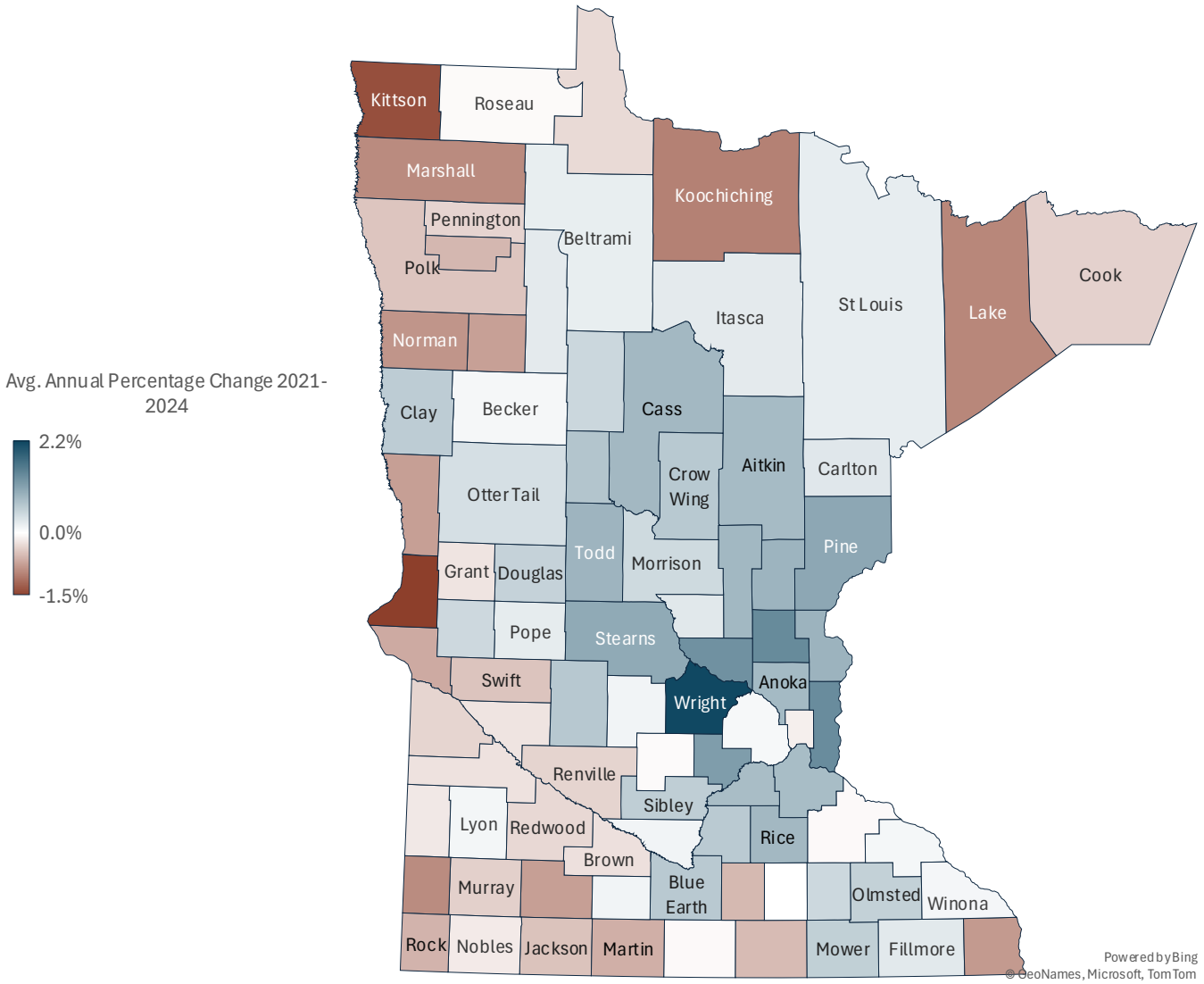
Largest annual losses:

Ramsey (-684)

Freeborn (-163)
Houston (-148)

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

Avg. Annual Percentage Change in Population, 2021-2024

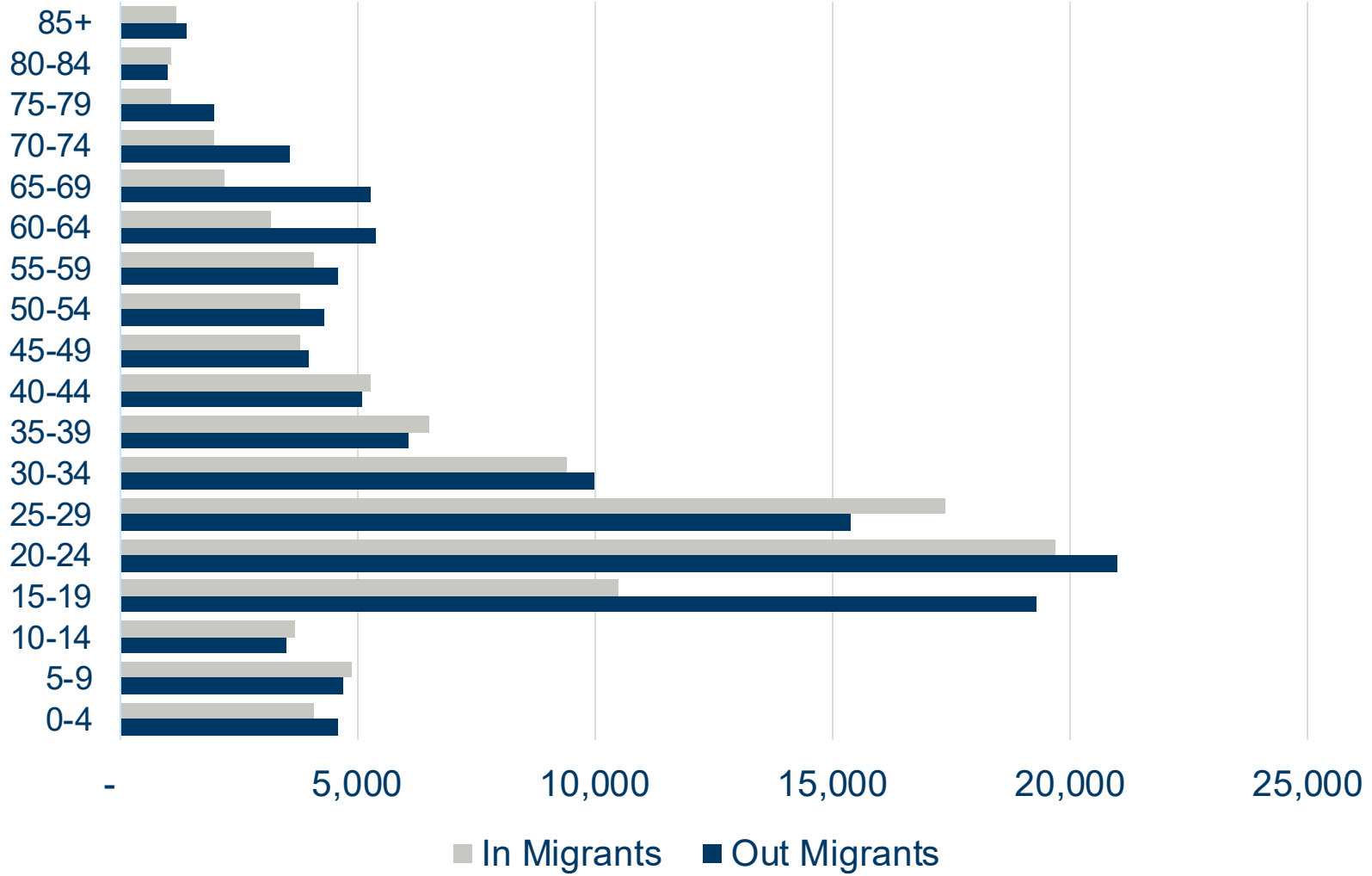


Largest annual gains:
- Wright (2.2%)
- Isanti (1.4%)
- Washington (1.4%)

Largest annual losses:
- Traverse (-1.5%)
- Kittson (-1.4%)
- Koochiching (-1.0%)

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

In- and Out-Migrants by Age
Minnesota, 2018-2022



Younger adults are the most mobile, with the largest net losses seen among college-age residents.

Source: ipums.org from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

How do I find data for my district?

- https://data.census.gov/advanced
  - Choose "All Geographies" under the Geographies filter on the left navigation
  - Choose "State Legislative District (Lower Chamber)" for House districts > Minnesota>State House District X
  - 2,582 tables will appear. Choose the one you're interested in by scrolling or filtering by topic on the left navigation or search field.
  - Data will be in 5-year groups with the most recent 2019-2023. Change the data in the table to a different year by clicking on the "2023: ACS-5 Year Estimates" drop down under the table title.
- Need something different? Email: susan.brower@state.mn.us