

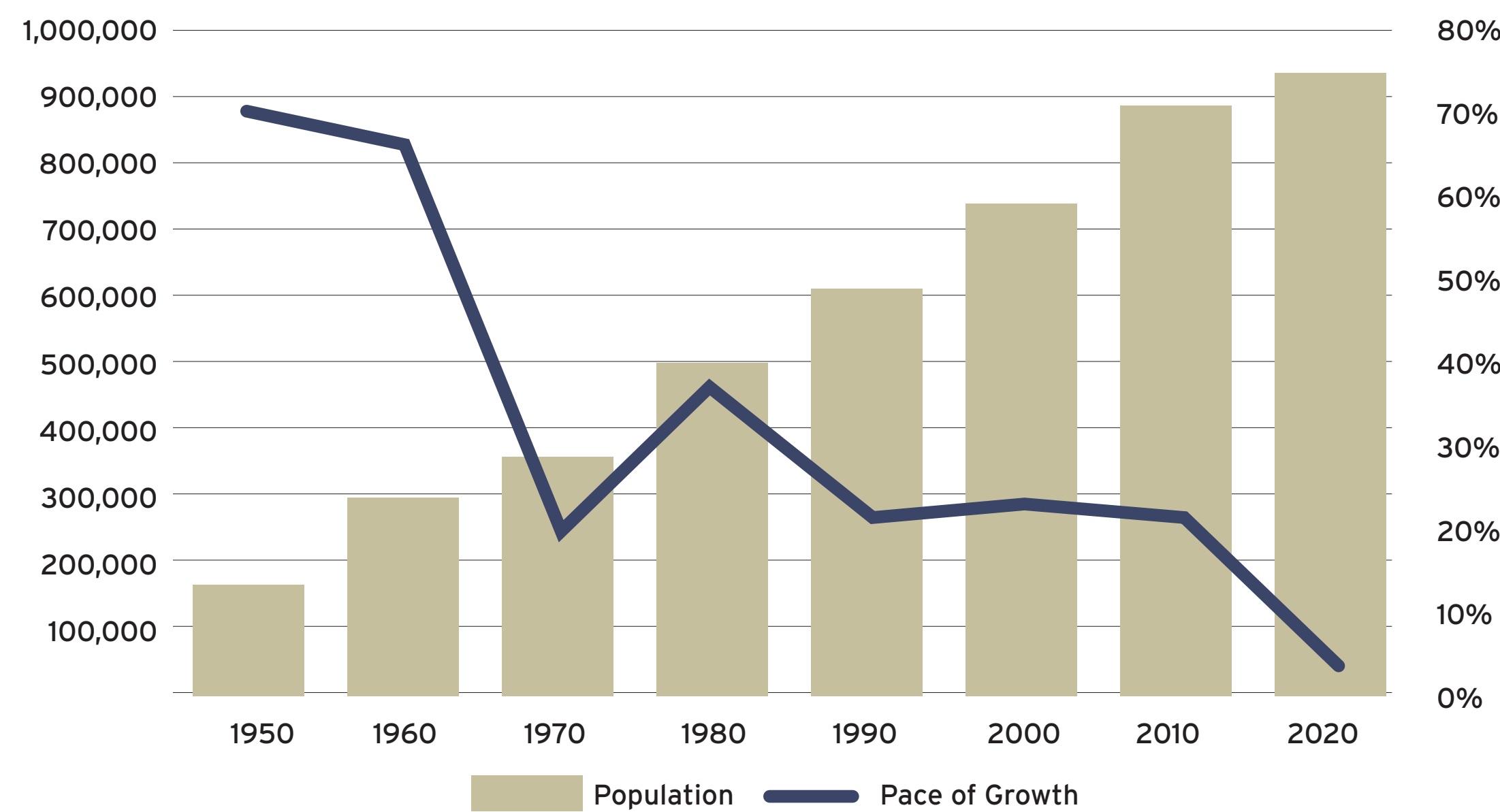
Growth in the Region

Population growth in the region has historically been fast-paced and our transportation system has been designed to handle increasing levels of traffic. As growth has slowed dramatically over the past 10 years, conversations have shifted from growing bigger, to growing smarter, safer, and more equitably.

HISTORICAL POPULATION GROWTH

Population Growth in the MRCOG Region, 1950-2020

Source: US Census Bureau



Following WWII, westward expansion fueled rapid growth in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area, which grew by at least 20 percent each decade between 1950 until 2010. The Great Recession, which occurred in the late 2000s, triggered a dramatic slow down on regional growth: between 2010 and 2020, the region grew by just three percent.

GROWTH BY COUNTY

Between 2012 and 2022, the region grew by 17,580 people. This growth was spurred primarily by Sandoval County (led by the City of Rio Rancho), and Valencia County (led by the Village of Los Lunas). While Bernalillo County lost some people over the last decade, it remains the region's most populous county and continues to serve as a hub for population and employment activity within the state.

Population Change by County, MRCOG Region 2012-2022

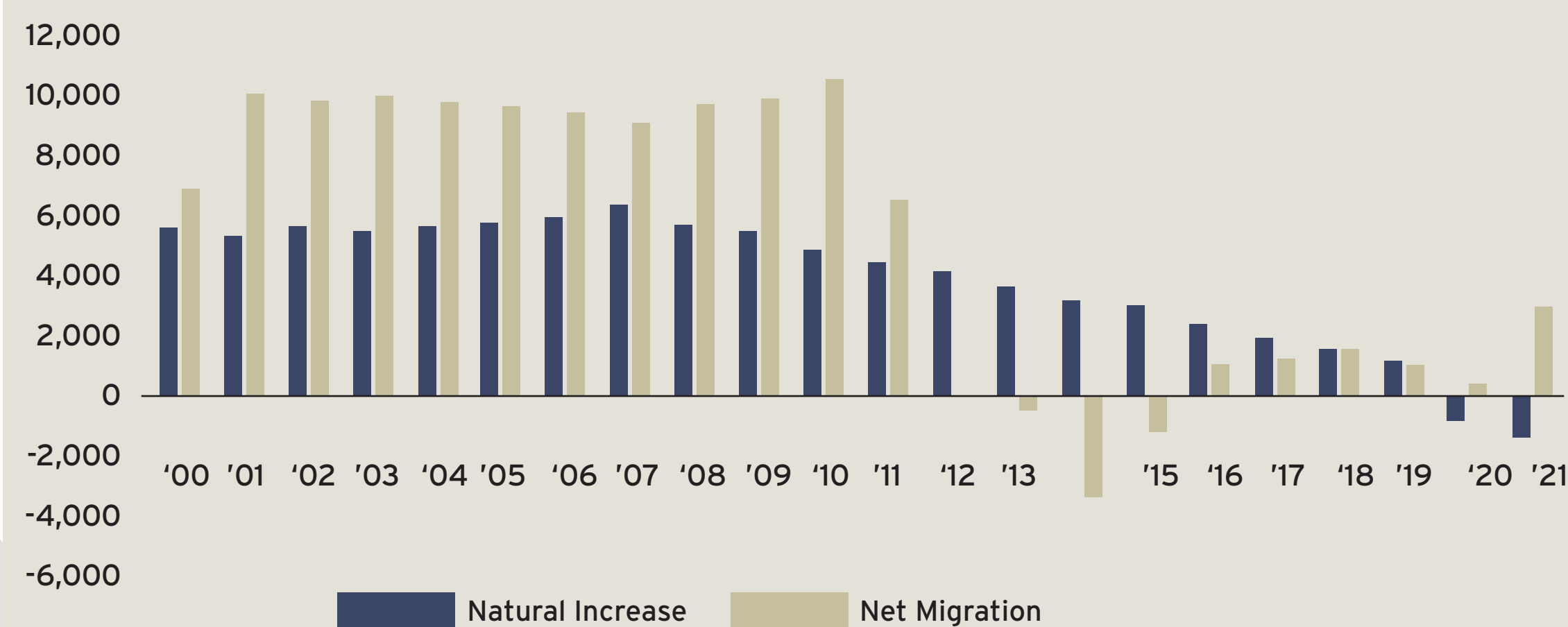
Source: US Census Bureau

County	2012	2022	Change	%Change
Bernalillo County	673,615	672,508	-1,107	-0.2%
Sandoval County	135,380	153,501	+18,121	13.4%
Torrance County	16,155	15,454	-701	-4.3%
Valencia County	76,789	78,080	+1,291	1.7%
Greater Edgewood	10,268	10,244	-24	-0.2%
MRCOG Region	912,207	929,787	+17,580	1.9%

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

Natural Increase and Net Migration, Albuquerque MSA 2000-2021

Sources: US Census Bureau, NM Department of Health, MRCOG

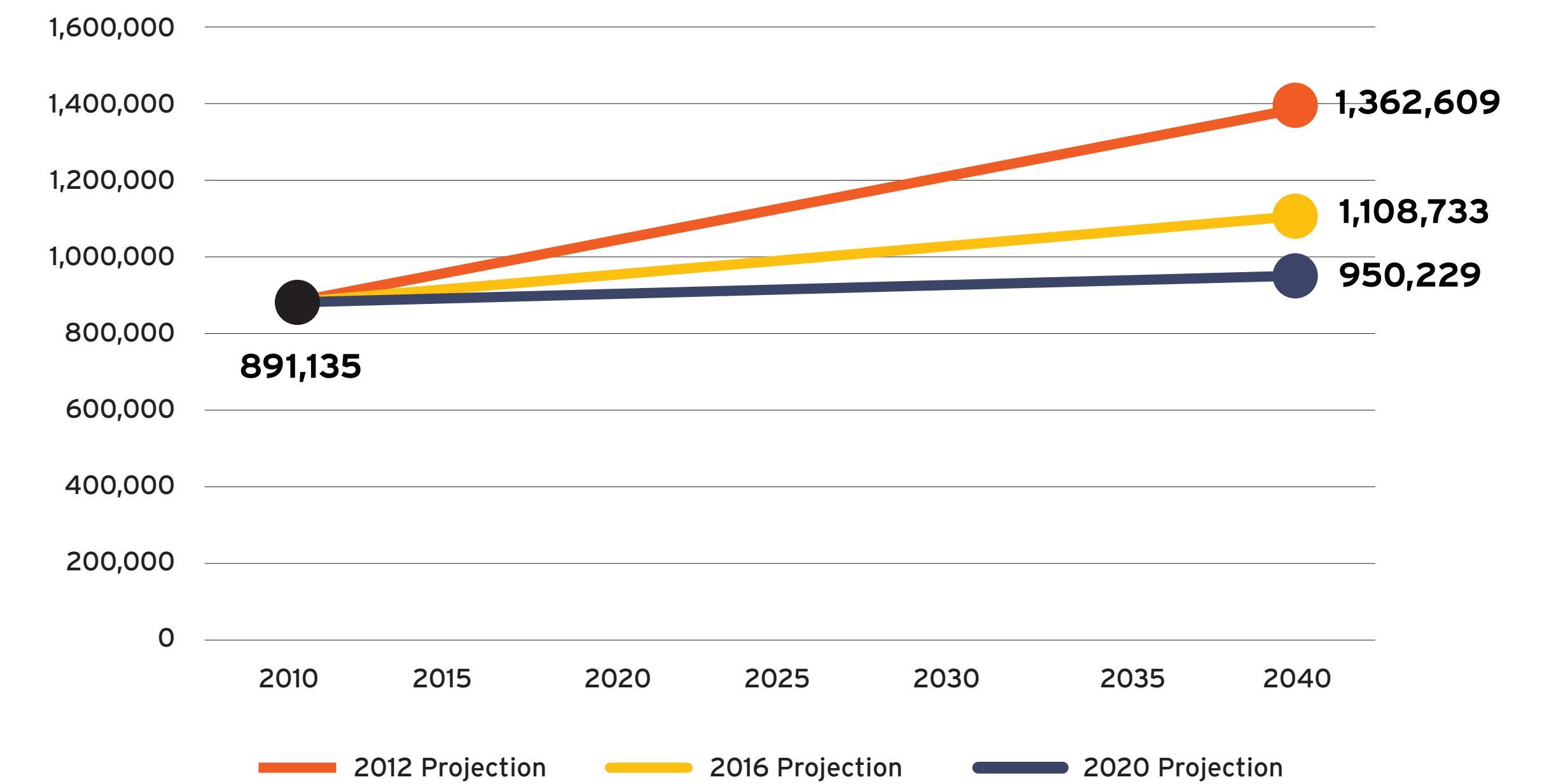


Population growth is the result of migration into and out of an area, and natural increase (births minus deaths). The region has historically experienced population growth from both of these forces. However, over the past 10 years migration has declined, and deaths have begun to outpace births. The latter is a national phenomenon that is a result of natural aging of the population, compounded by people having fewer children later in life.

POPULATION FORECASTS OVER TIME

Growth Projections for the MRCOG Region in 2012, 2016, and 2020

Sources: UMN Geospatial Population Studies, MRCOG



Population growth forecasts rely on historical trends. The slowdown of growth over the past 10 years necessitated an adjustment of the projected growth in our region. In 2012, the population was projected to grow by 300,000 over the next 20 years, but now that number has been adjusted down to just 31,000. Growth projections change as birth- death- and migration-rates change. If the recent uptick in migration continues, growth projections will need to be adjusted upward again.