

# Population & Migration in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

**Regional Economic Conditions Conference**

**Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis**

**January 13, 2023**

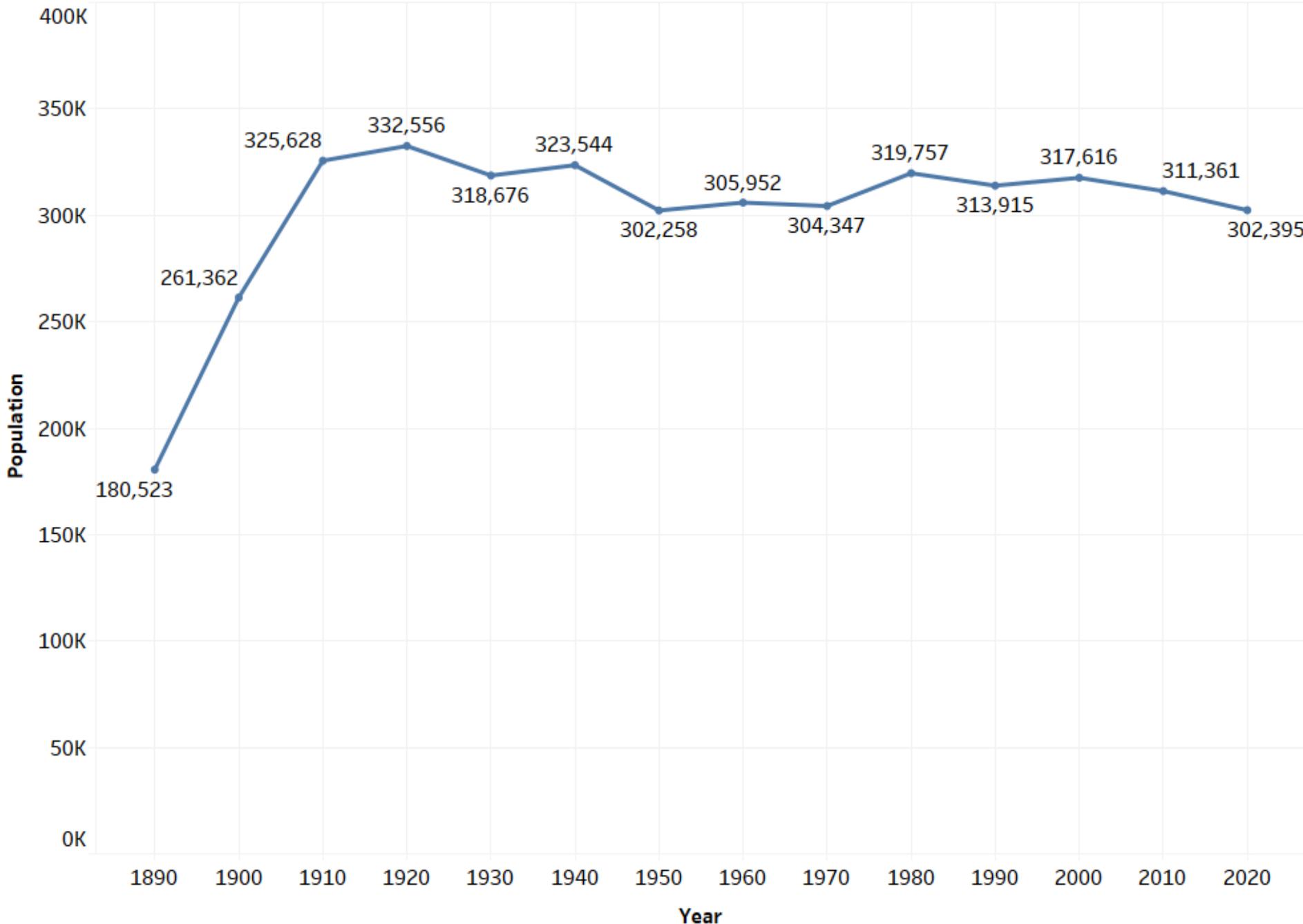
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# Upper Peninsula Total Population 1890-2020

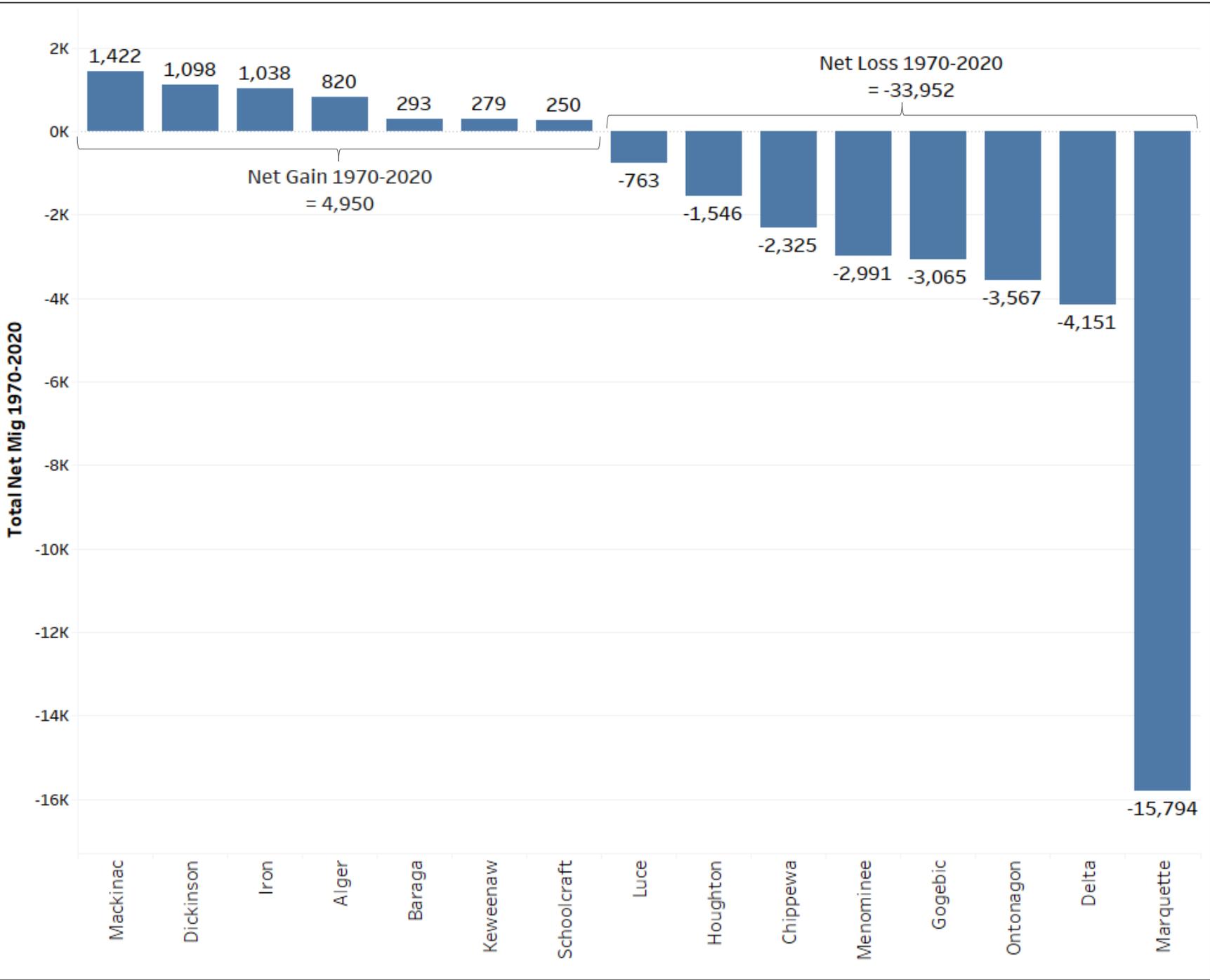
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses 1890-2020.  
Source for Luce County Data 2020 Only:  
U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates 2020.



# Total Net Migration by UP County 1970-2020

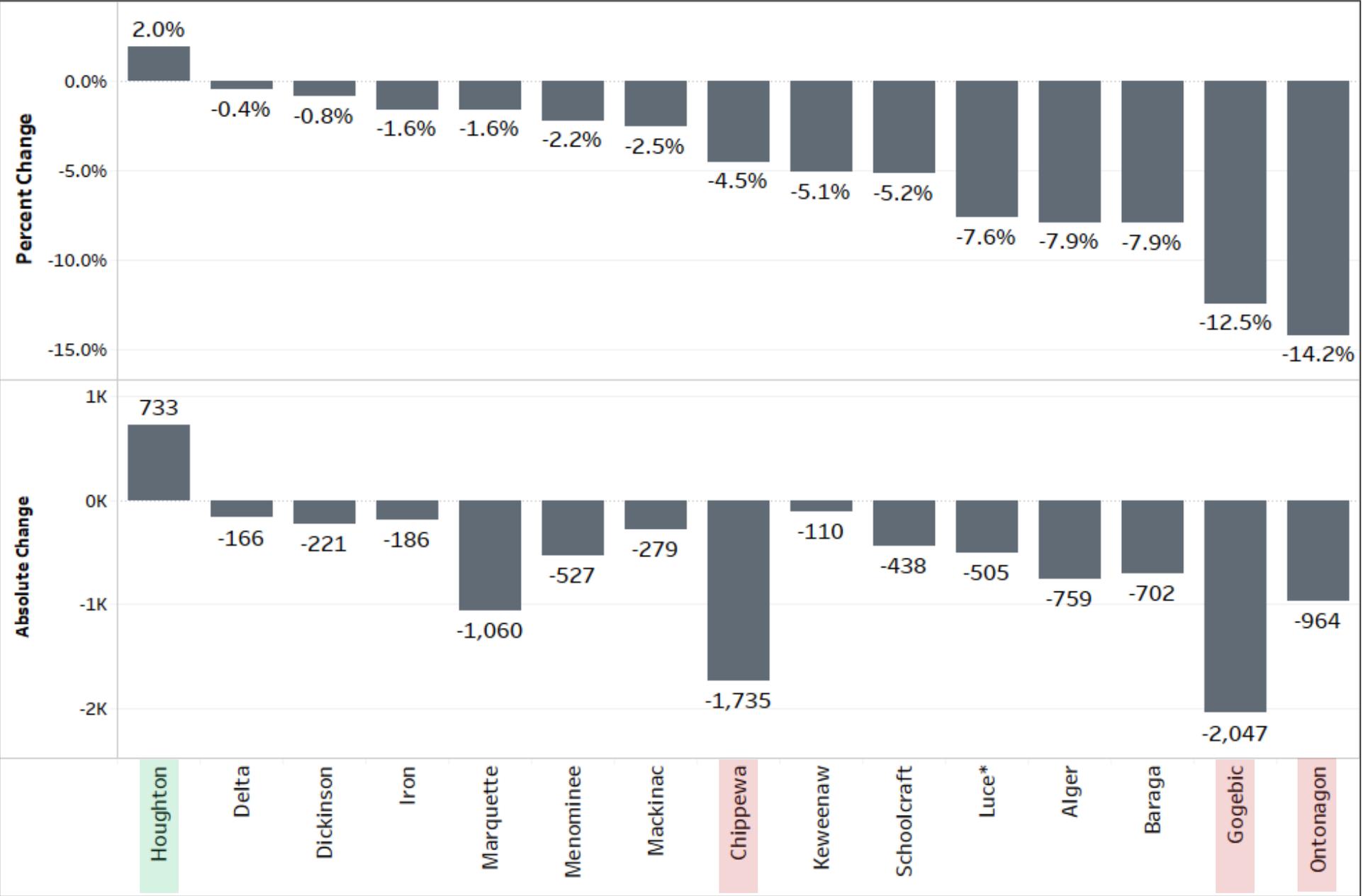
Source: [www.netmigration.wisc.edu](http://www.netmigration.wisc.edu)  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates 2020.

Net migration  
 1970-2020 = -29,002



# Net Population Change by UP County 2010-2020

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 2010, 2020.  
 \*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates 2020.



# Sneak Peak 2010-2020 for the District

## Net Migration Patterns for US Counties

[Data Details](#) [Data Use](#) [Links](#)

[About](#)

[Map](#)

[Charts](#)

[Data Download](#)

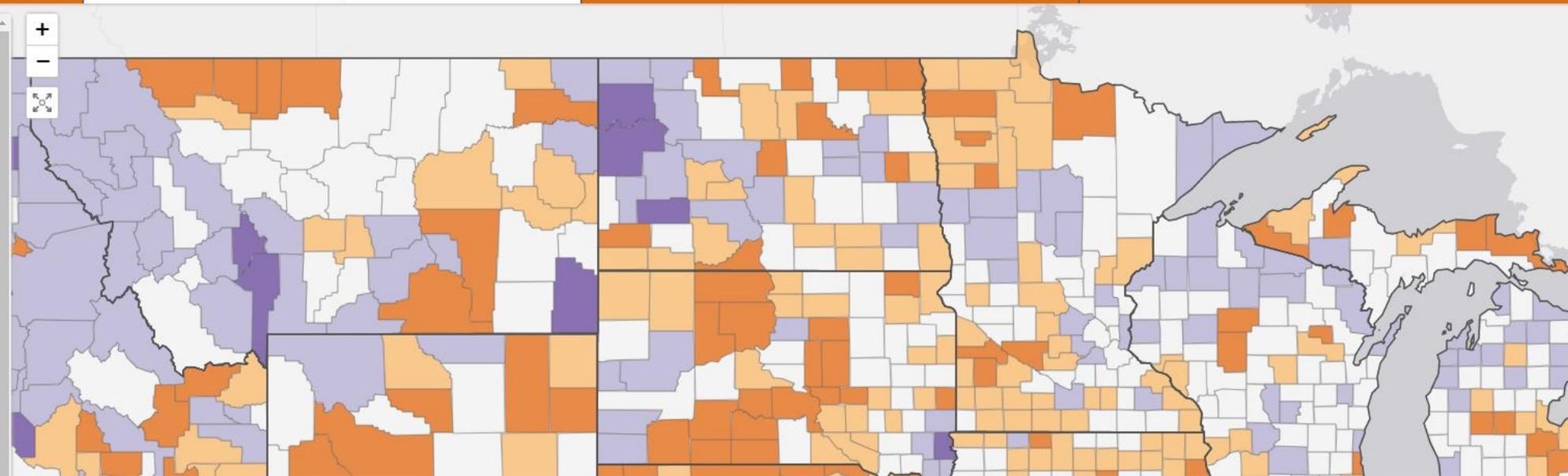
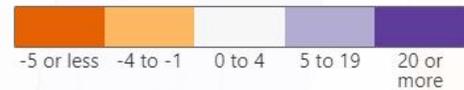
### Net Migration by County

Decade:  Age:   
Race/Ethnicity:  Sex:

[Update Map](#)

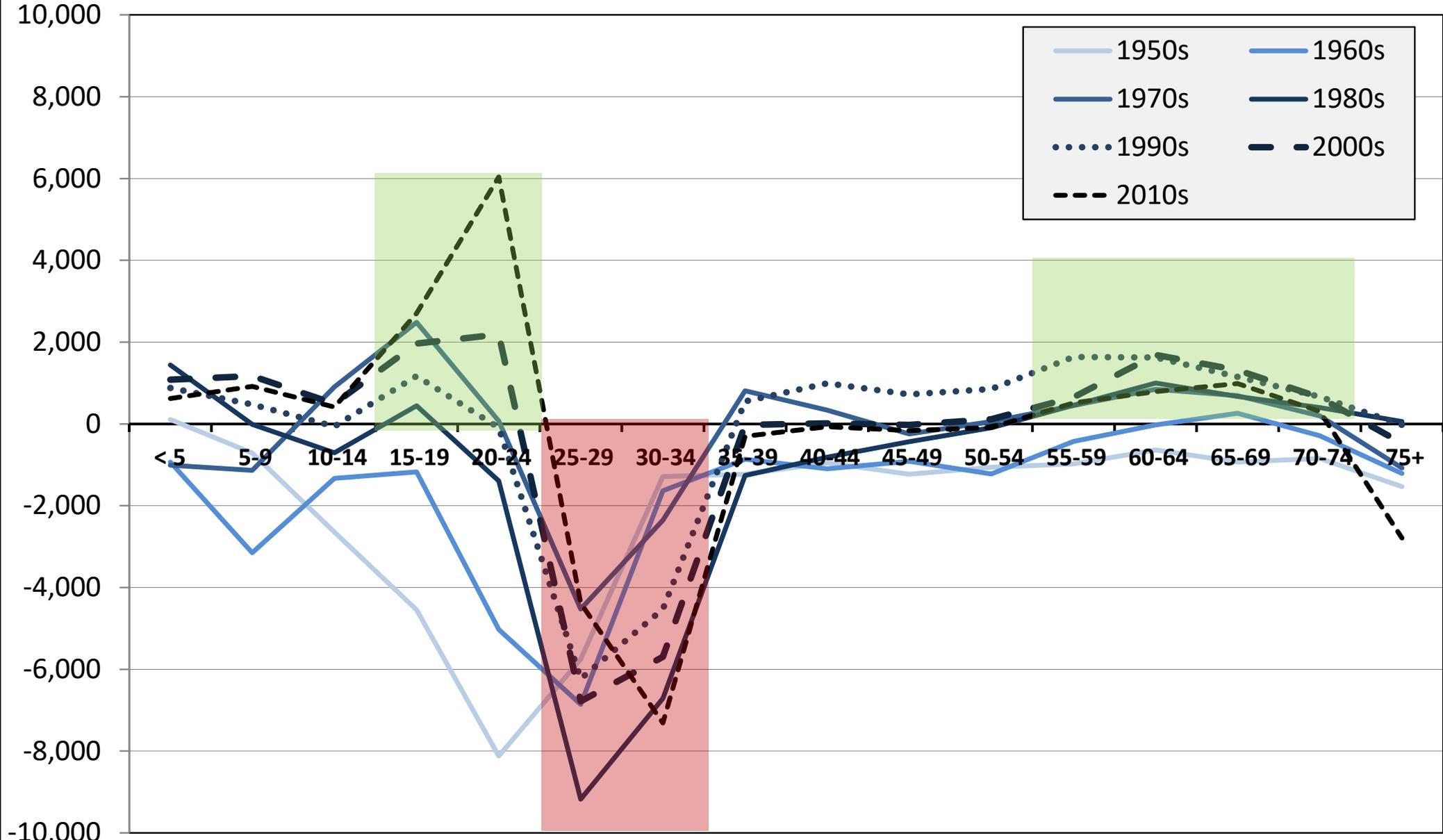
### 2010s Total Net Migration Rate

Net Migrants per 100 Individuals



[www.netmigration.wisc.edu](http://www.netmigration.wisc.edu)

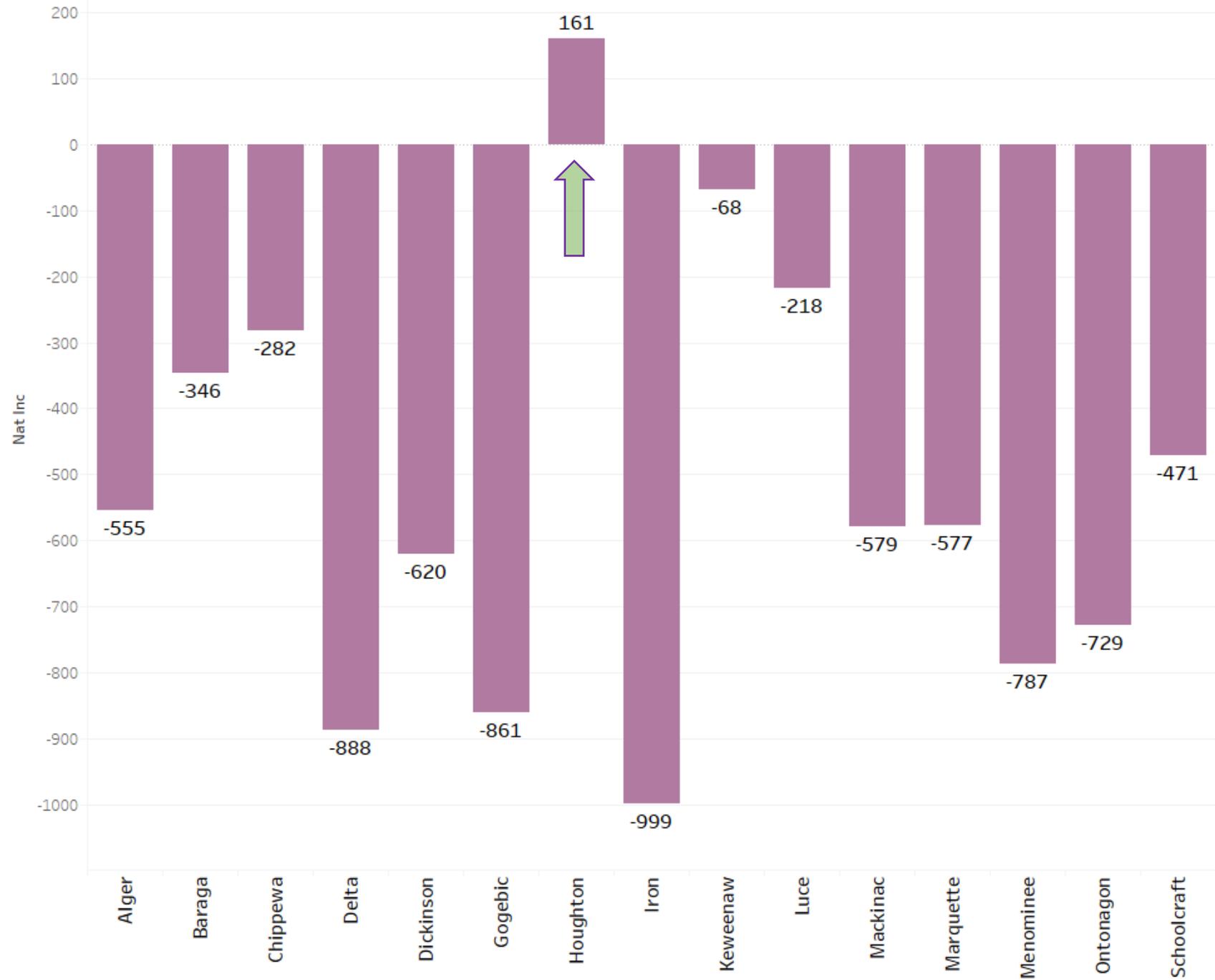
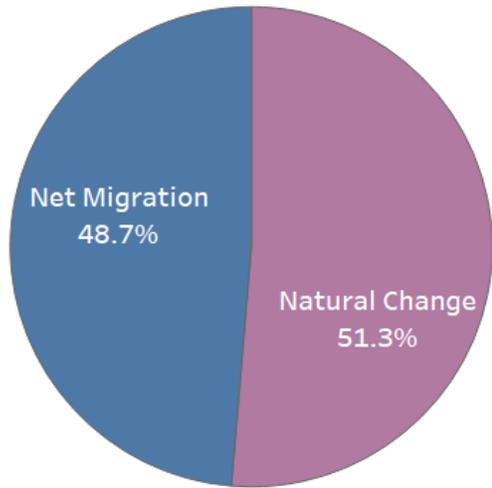
### Net Migration Estimates by Age (1950-2010): Upper Peninsula, MI



Source: Winkler, Richelle, Ken Johnson, Cheng Cheng, Paul Voss, and Katherine Curtis. Preliminary Estimates of Age-Specific Net Migration for US Counties, 1950-2010. Applied Population Laboratory, University of Wisconsin- Madison, 2012.

# Births, Deaths, & Natural Change 2010-2020

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates 2020



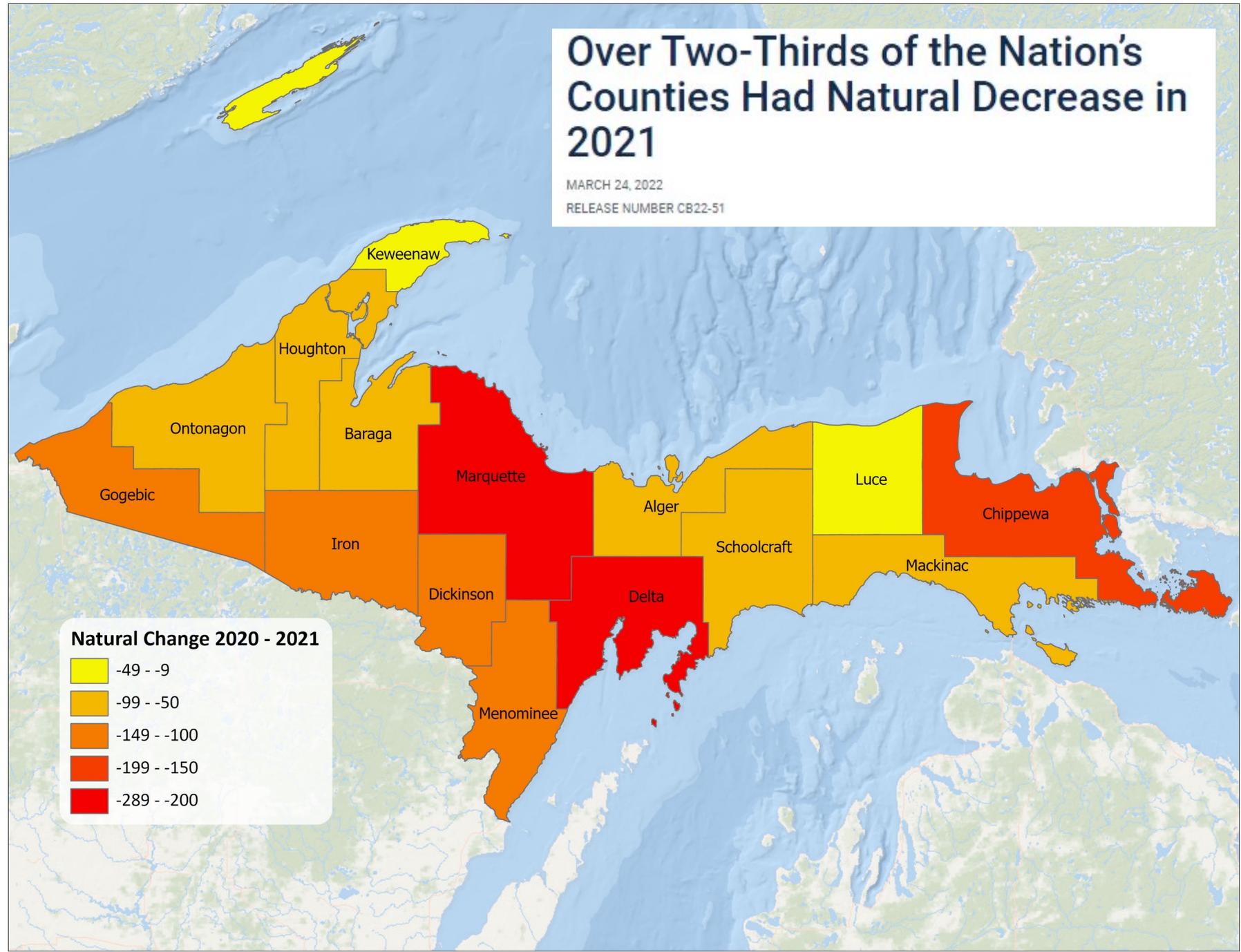
# Natural Change July 2020 - June 2021

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates 2021.

In last year, 24 states had natural decrease: Michigan, Montana & Wisconsin

Over Two-Thirds of the Nation's Counties Had Natural Decrease in 2021

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# Aging

- Population in the UP is aging quickly, which makes for natural decrease
- Median age in 2021 over 50 in 6 counties: Gogebic, Iron, Keweenaw, Mackinac, Ontonagon, and Schoolcraft counties
- Over 44 in another 6 counties
- Houghton, Marquette & Chippewa counties younger, but dominated by university and most of those out-migrate



# But...Some Promising Signs of Change

- Pandemic Migration
- Remote Workers
- University students/graduates



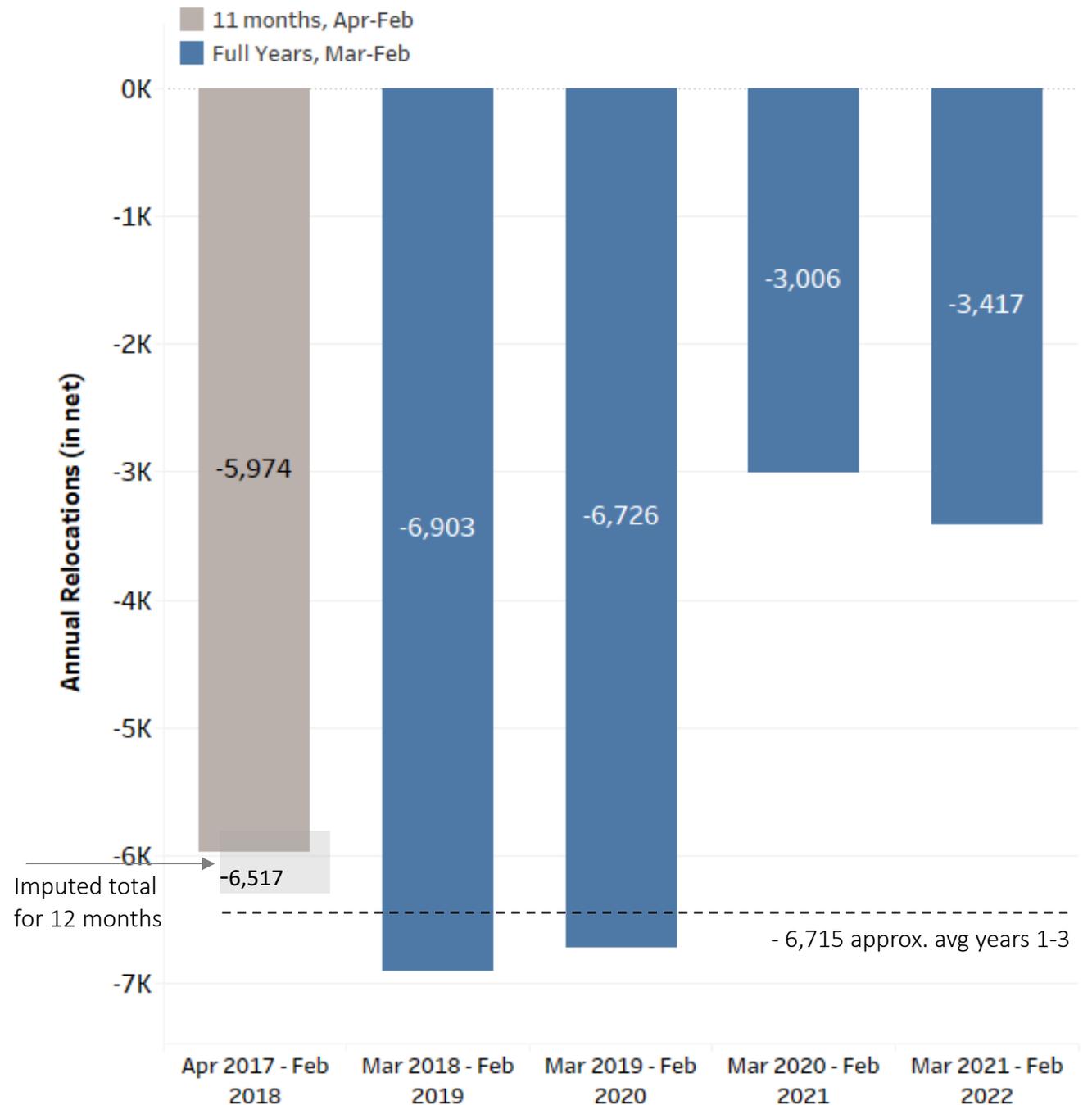
# Pandemic Migration

- Migration OUT of the UP (and rural America) slowed
- Domestic migration IN also slowed, but less than out
- **Less population loss than pre-pandemic years**
  - Data suggest shifts to **positive net migration** for almost all UP counties 2020-2022



# Annual Net Flow Upper Peninsula

Source: April 2017-Feb 2022 USPS  
Change-of-Address Data.

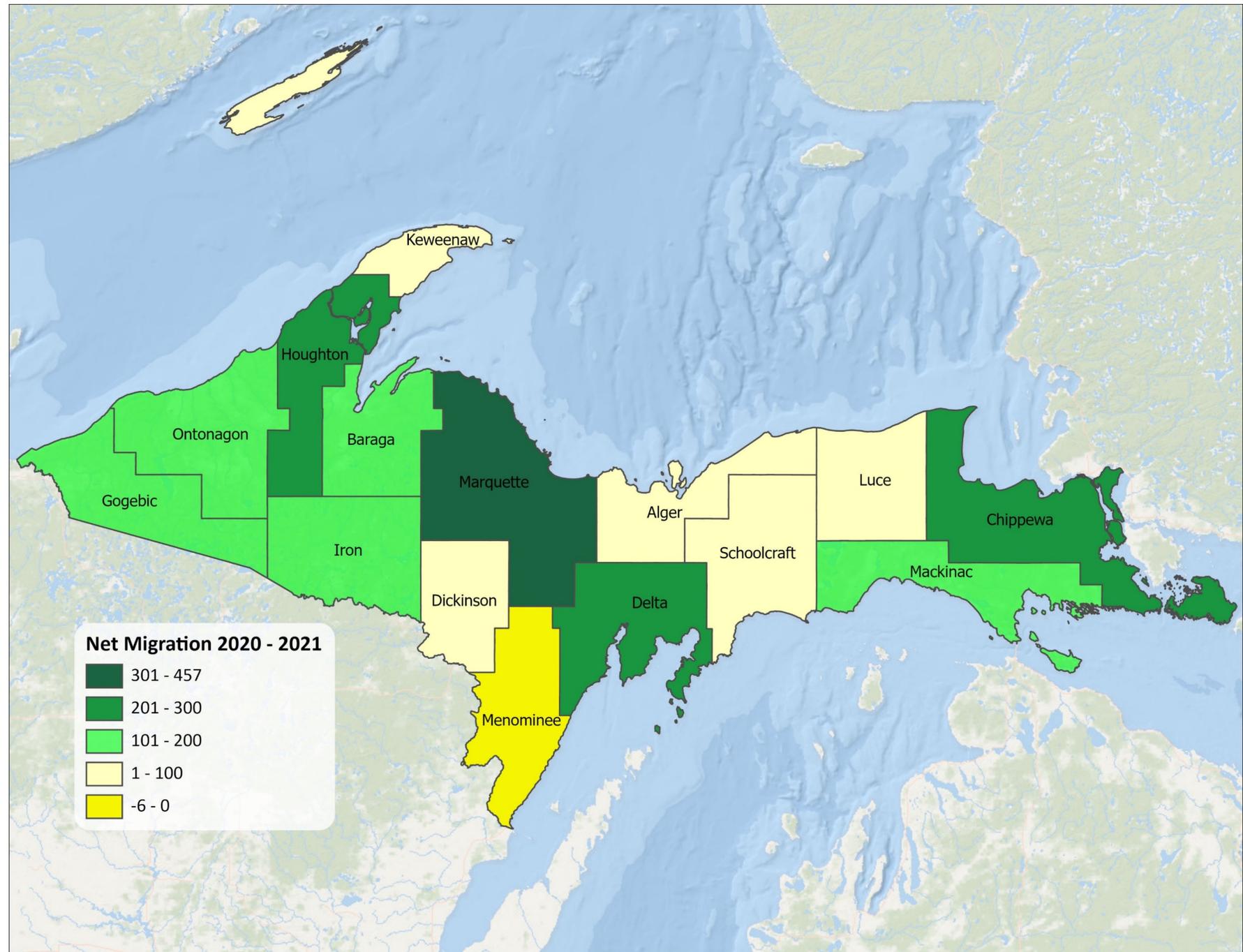


# Net Migration

July 2020 - June 2021

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates 2021.

## Driven by less out-migration





## Work remotely in the Keweenaw Peninsula

If you're seeking a more connected lifestyle, consider Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula for your remote work career. Could the Copper Country be the place for you?

**37,800**

residents in Houghton and Keweenaw County

**\$169,147**

average selling price of a home

**\$700**

median rent for a 2-bedroom apartment

**42%**

lower crime rate than the national average

**200**

inches of snowfall each winter

**125**

miles of Lake Superior Coastline

**200+**

miles of recreational trails

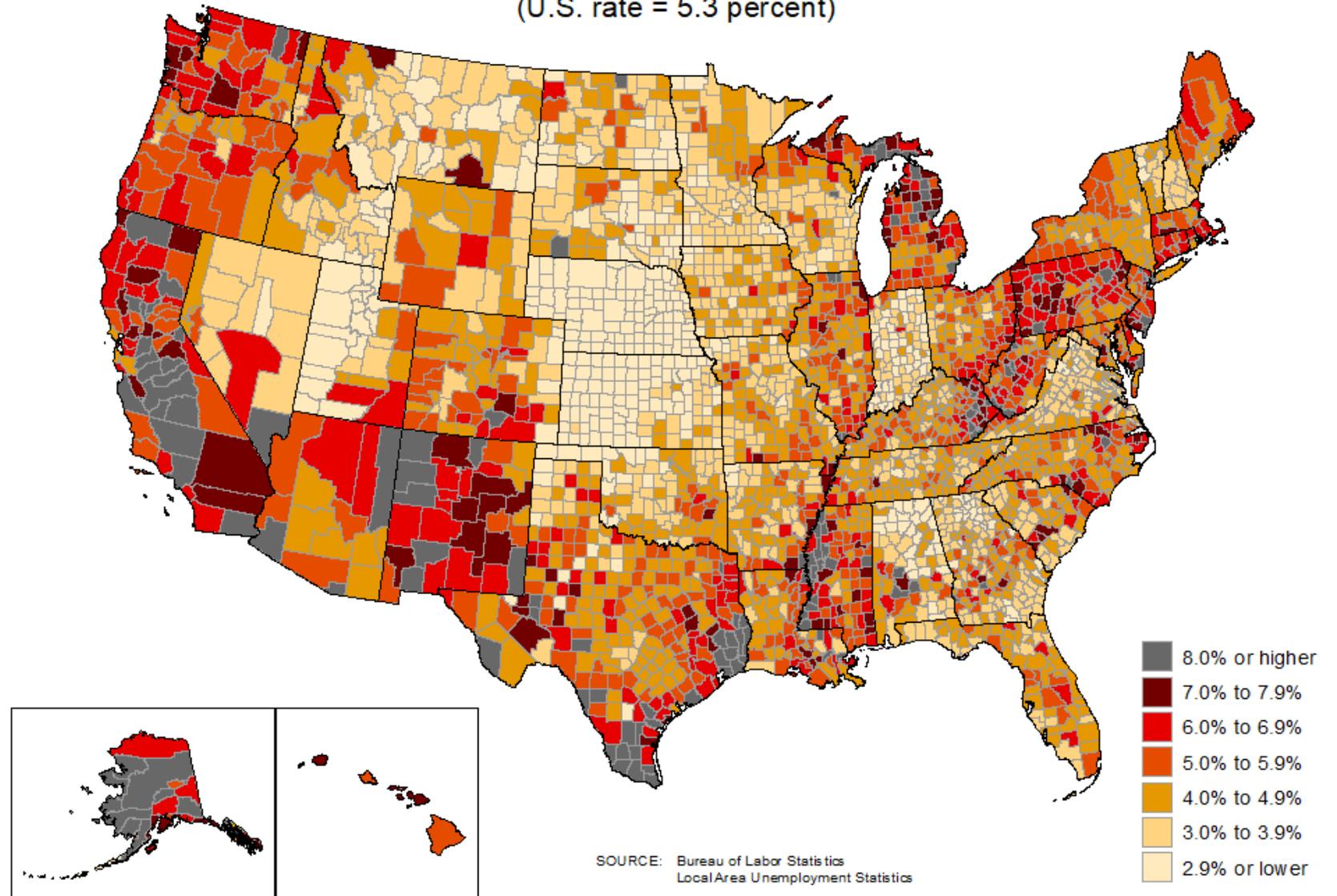
**84%**

of the Upper Peninsula is forested land

Unemployment rates remain relatively high in the UP

## Unemployment rates by county, 2021 annual averages

(U.S. rate = 5.3 percent)



# Implications/Complications for Labor Force

- 1) Population growth slowing across US– shrinking labor market
  - Aging & natural decrease will continue
  - Across US, especially Midwest, especially UP, especially outside Houghton & Marquette
  - Exacerbated by pandemic – more deaths, fewer births, less immigration
- 2) **Pandemic-related changes (positive for rural and UP!)**
  - Will “stuck” locals stay? Take local jobs? Gain skills?
  - Will pandemic migrants stay? Take local jobs?
- 3) **Growing numbers of university grads**
  - Can we keep more in the UP?
- 4) **Housing Shortages and Costs Increasing**
- 5) **Childcare deserts, exacerbated by pandemic**



# Questions | Discussion

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# Annual Flows Upper Peninsula May 2017-April 2021

Source: April 2017-Feb 2022 USPS Change-of-Address Data.

