

# Idaho 2025 rural profile

Craig Shaul, research analyst, supervisor  
Jan Roeser, southwestern Idaho labor economist  
Seth Harrington, south-central Idaho labor economist

March 25, 2025



# 2025 rural profile

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- Project plan
  - A. Demographics**
    - I. Rural definition
    - II. Population
    - III. Age
    - IV. Education
  - B. Economics and workforce, June 2025**
  - C. Critical trends, September 2025**
  - D. Summary report, December 2025**

# Today's experts

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- **Craig Shaul**

Research analyst, supervisor

- **Jan Roeser**

- Labor economist, Southwestern, Idaho

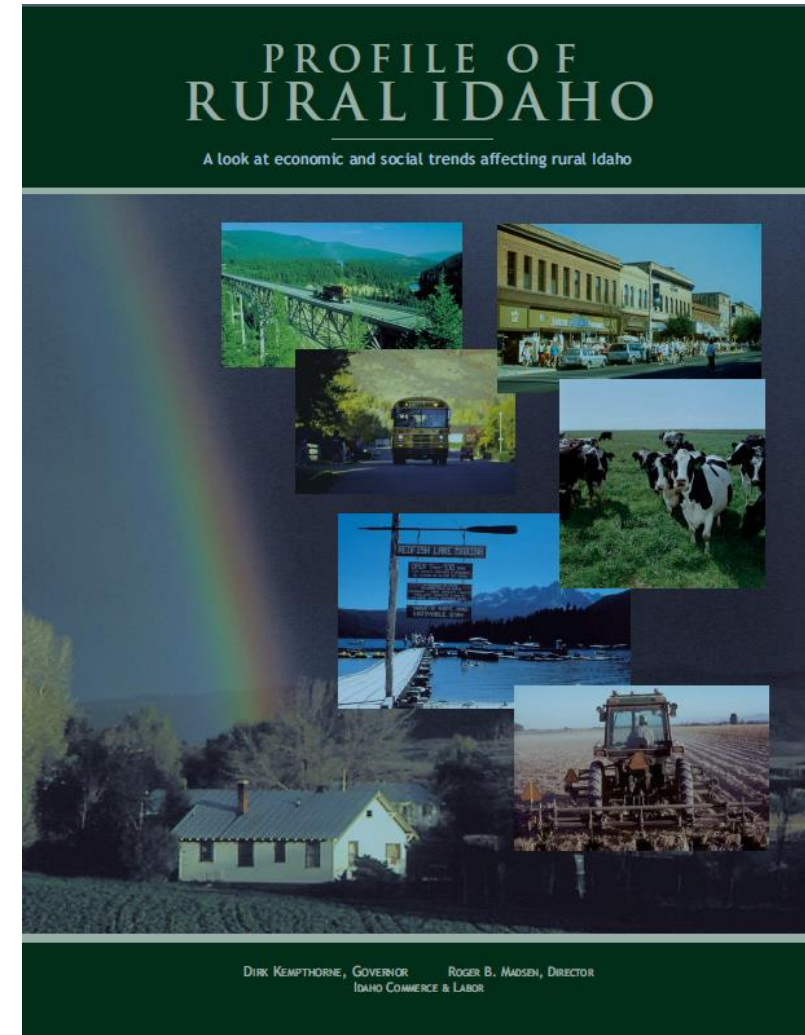
- **Seth Harrington**

- Labor economist, South Central, Idaho

# The 2005 report

## Demographic highlights

- Idaho's population growth was nearly double national rate.
- Thirteen rural counties lost population from 2000 to 2003, where only two had lost population in each decade from 1970.
- Urban population growth impacting rural areas in new ways.





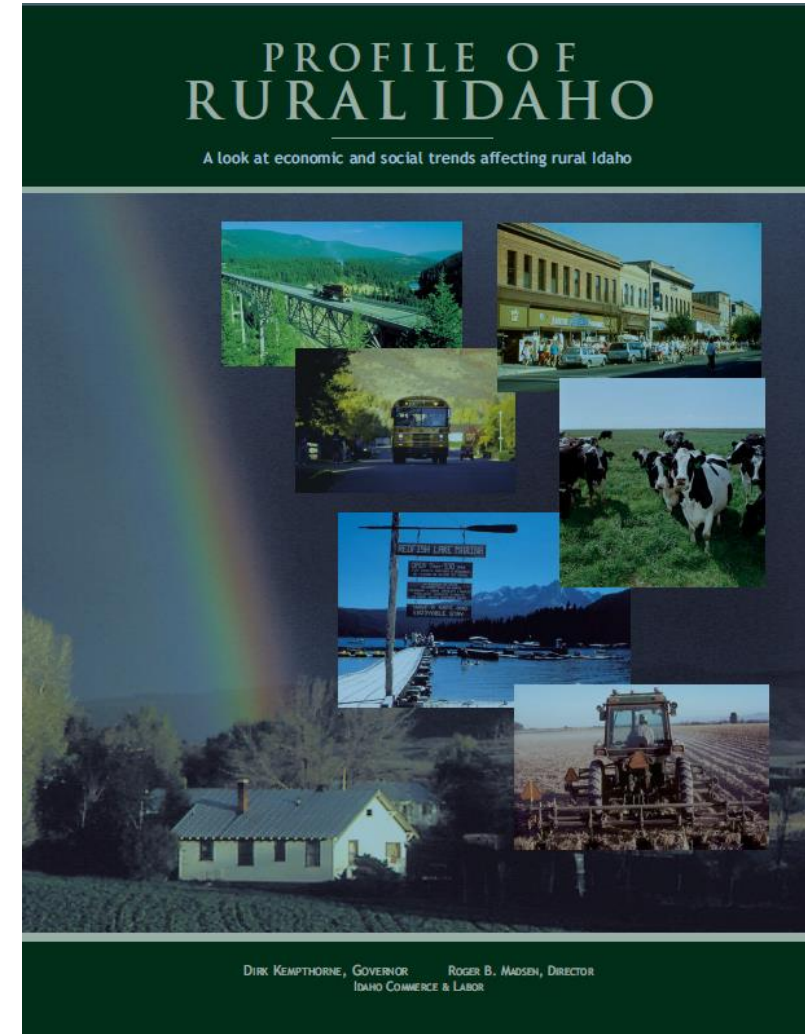
# What is rural?

## Basic classification definitions

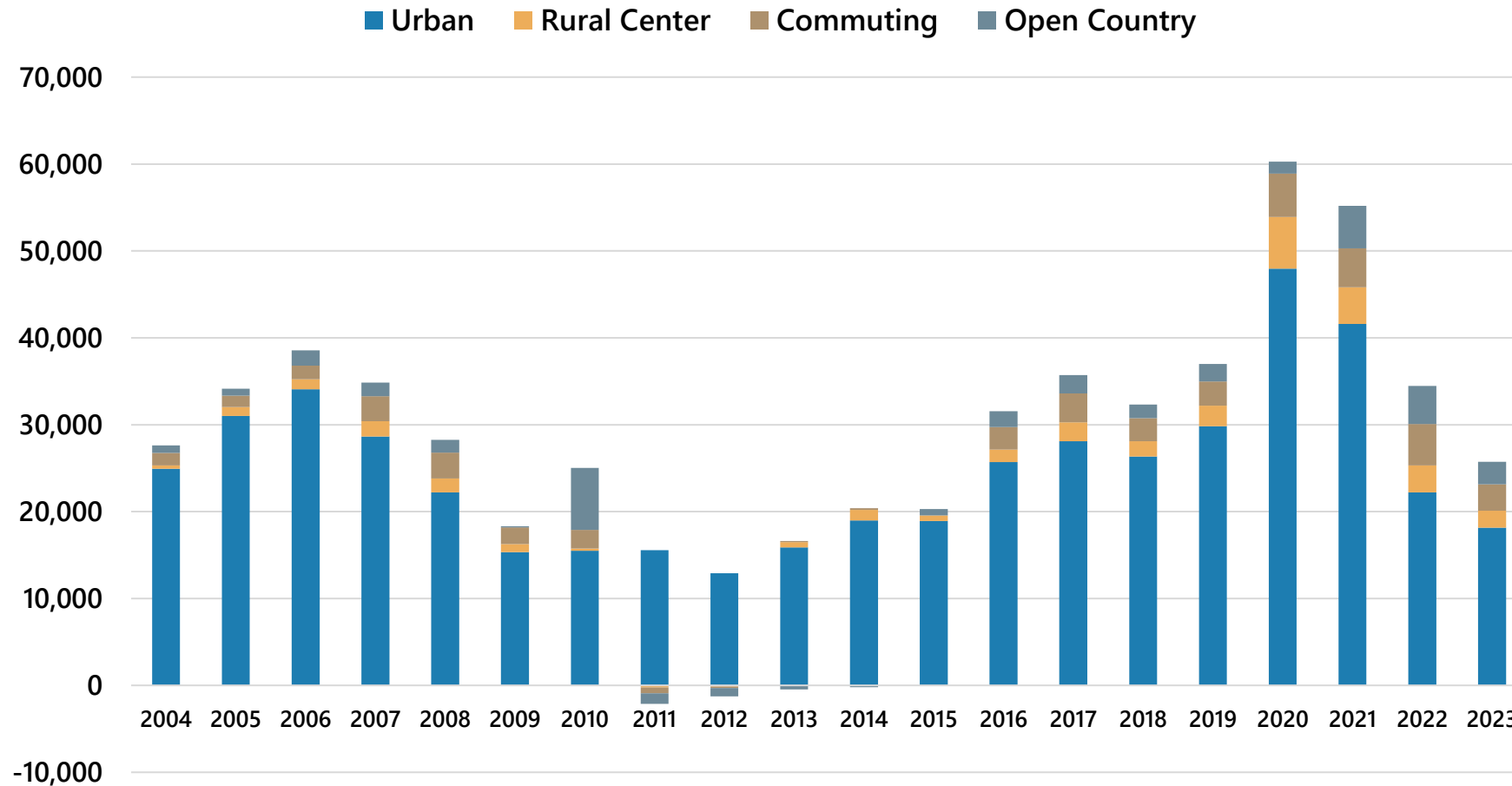
- **Urban** – at least one city with 20,000+ residents.
- **Rural** – no city with 20,000+ residents.

## Detailed classification definitions

- **Urban** – at least one city with 20,000+ residents.
- **Commuting** – at least 25% of the workforce commutes to a metro county.
- **Rural center** – urban cluster of at least 7,500 but without a central city of 20,000+ and no strong commuting ties to a metro country.
- **Open country** – no urban cluster of at least 7,500 and no strong commuting ties to a metro country.



# Idaho population annual growth, 2003-2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

[Imi.idaho.gov](https://imi.idaho.gov)





The background image is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, there's a grassy field with a few small farm buildings, including a light blue one with a greenhouse-like structure. A white fence runs across the middle ground. Behind the fence, there are several large, tall trees with yellow and orange autumn foliage. In the background, a large, dry, brown hill rises, dotted with small shrubs. At the top of the hill, a few small houses are visible. The overall scene is a peaceful rural setting during autumn.

# Trivia/poll 1

Please respond to the  
question in Zoom.



# What is rural? How do we define it?

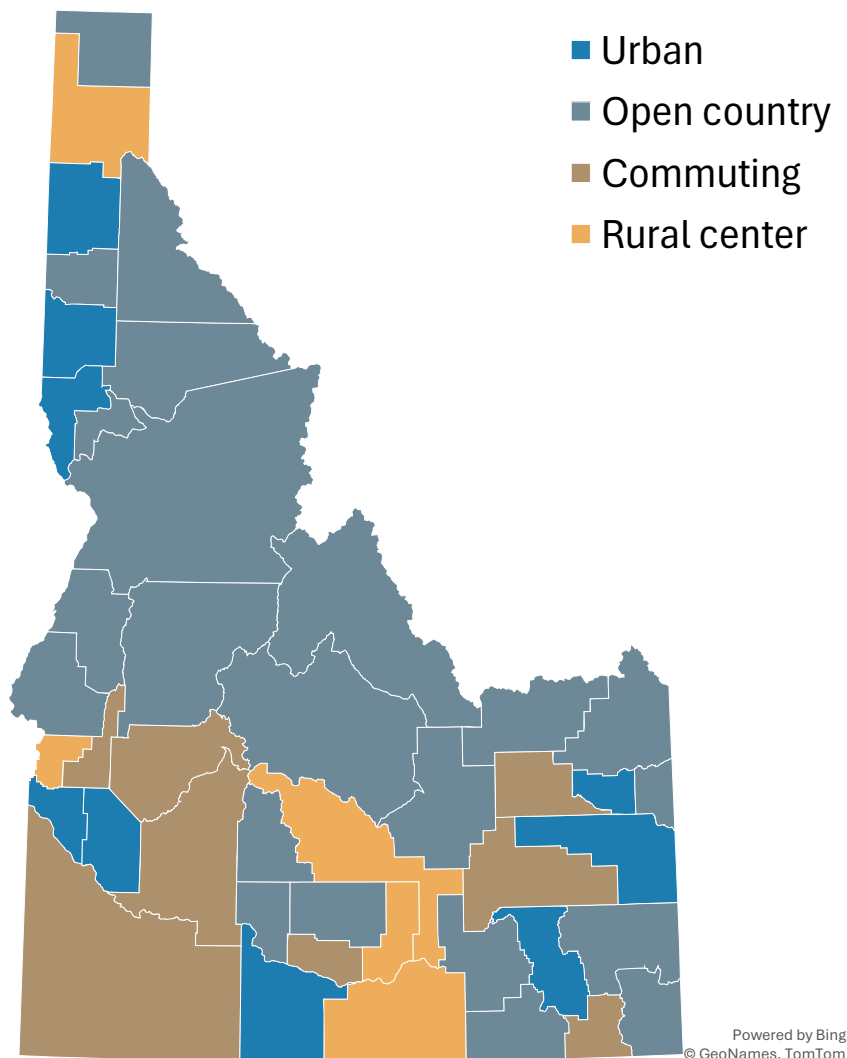
- **Basic classification definitions**
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  - **Urban** – at least one city with 20,000+ residents.
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  - **Open country** – no urban cluster of at least 7,500 and no strong commuting ties to a metro country.

**Basic urban/rural classification for Idaho**

	2003	2024
Urban	9	9
Rural class		
Commuting	6	8
Rural center	8	5
Open country	21	22
Rural total	35	35
Total	44	44



# County classification

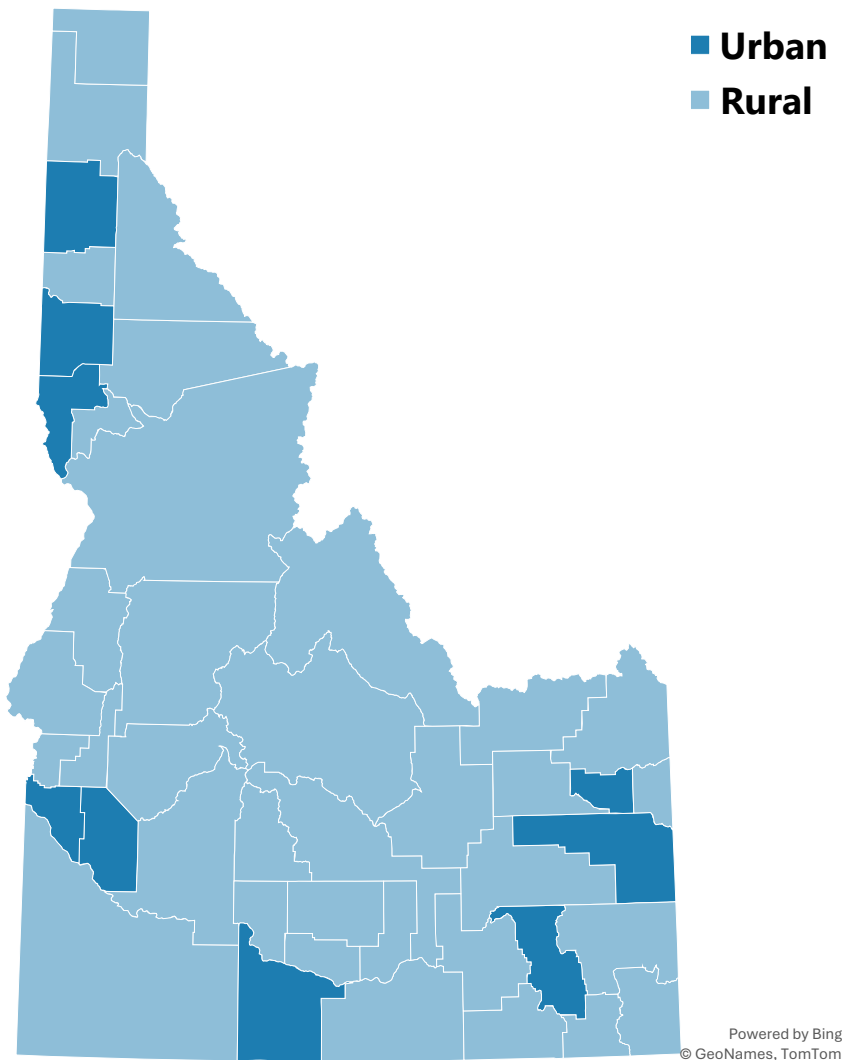


Source: Idaho Department of Labor

[lmi.idaho.gov](https://lmi.idaho.gov)

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# Urban counties

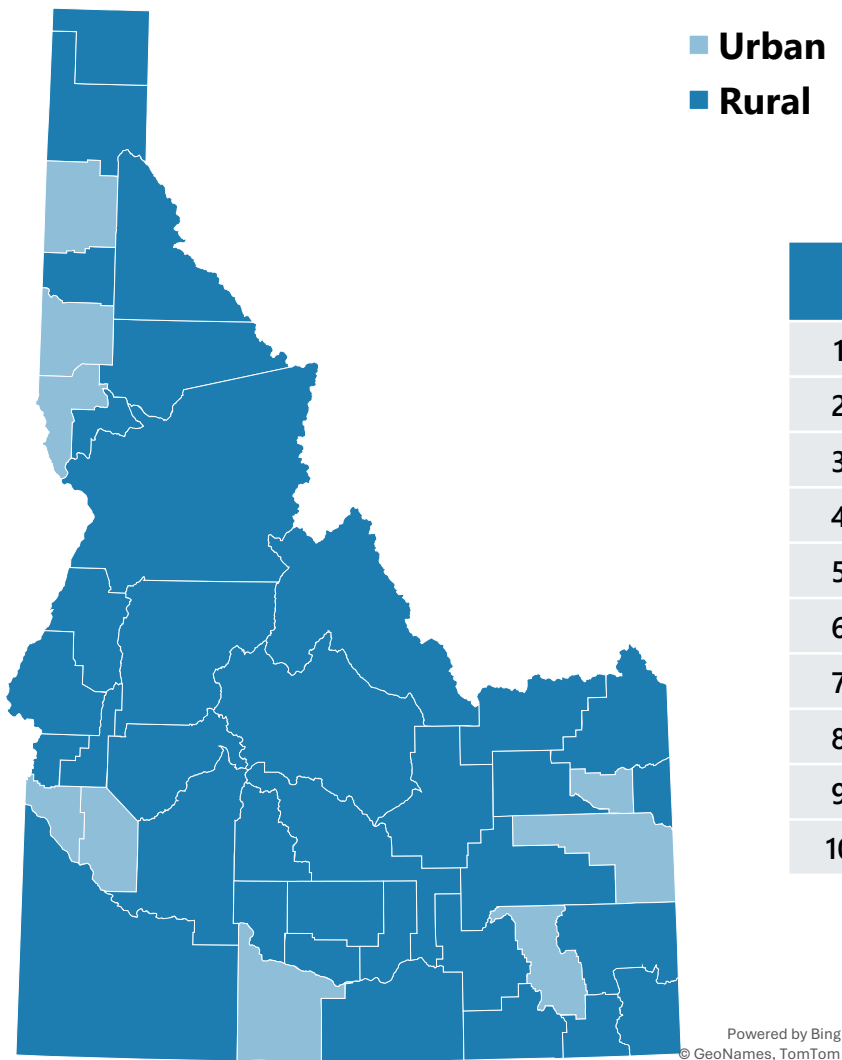


Urban counties	
1	Ada
2	Bannock
3	Bonneville
4	Canyon
5	Kootenai
6	Latah
7	Madison
8	Nez Perce
9	Twin Falls

Source: Idaho Department of Labor



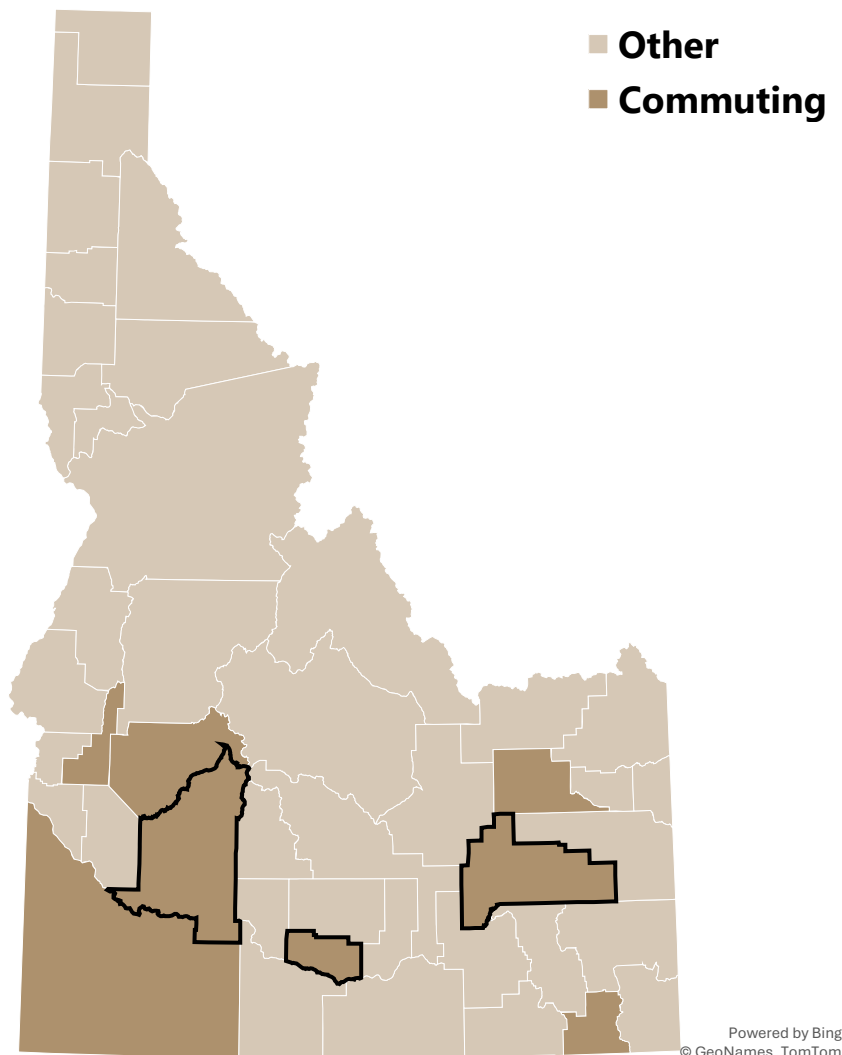
# Rural counties



Rural counties							
1	Adams	11	Caribou	21	Idaho	31	Power
2	Bear	12	Cassia	22	Jefferson	32	Shoshone
3	Benewah	13	Clark	23	Jerome	33	Teton
4	Bingham	14	Clearwater	24	Lemhi	34	Valley
5	Blaine	15	Custer	25	Lewis	35	Washington
6	Boise	16	Elmore	26	Lincoln		
7	Bonner	17	Franklin	27	Minidoka		
8	Boundary	18	Fremont	28	Oneida		
9	Butte	19	Gem	29	Owyhee		
10	Camas	20	Gooding	30	Payette		

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

# Commuting rural counties

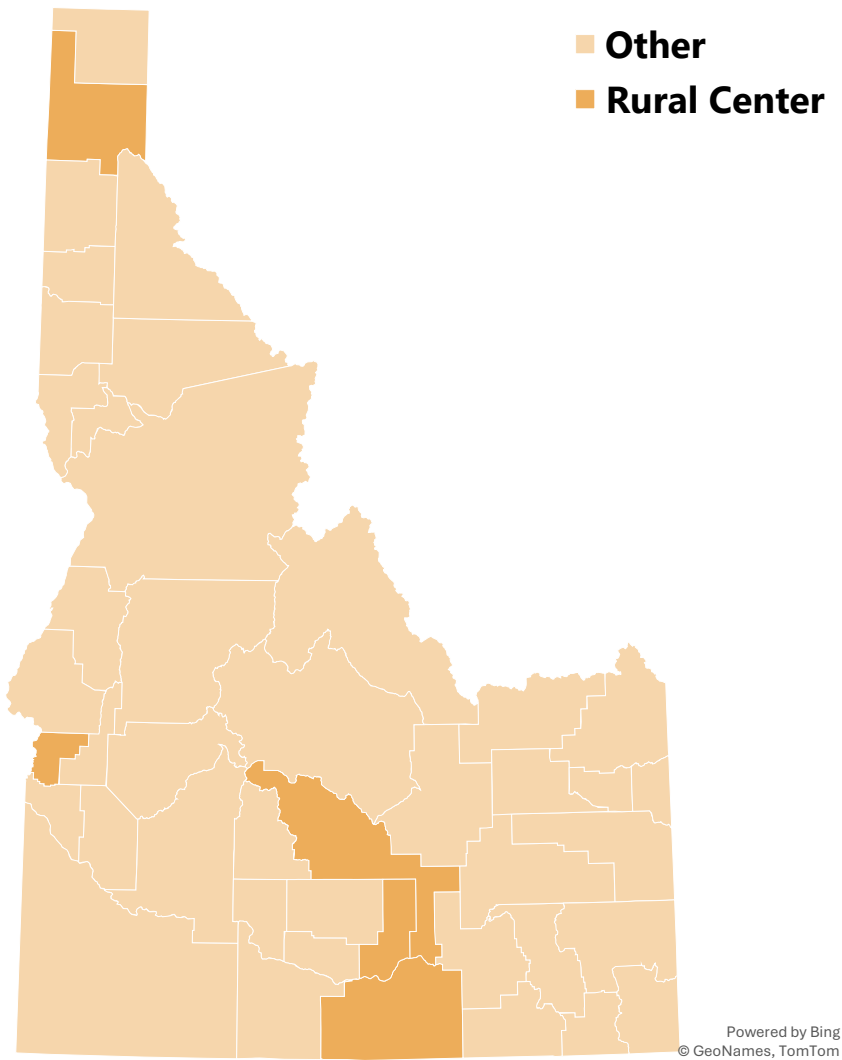


Commuting counties			
1	Bingham	5	Gem
2	Boise	6	Jefferson
3	Elmore	7	Jerome
4	Franklin	8	Owyhee

Source: Idaho Department of Labor



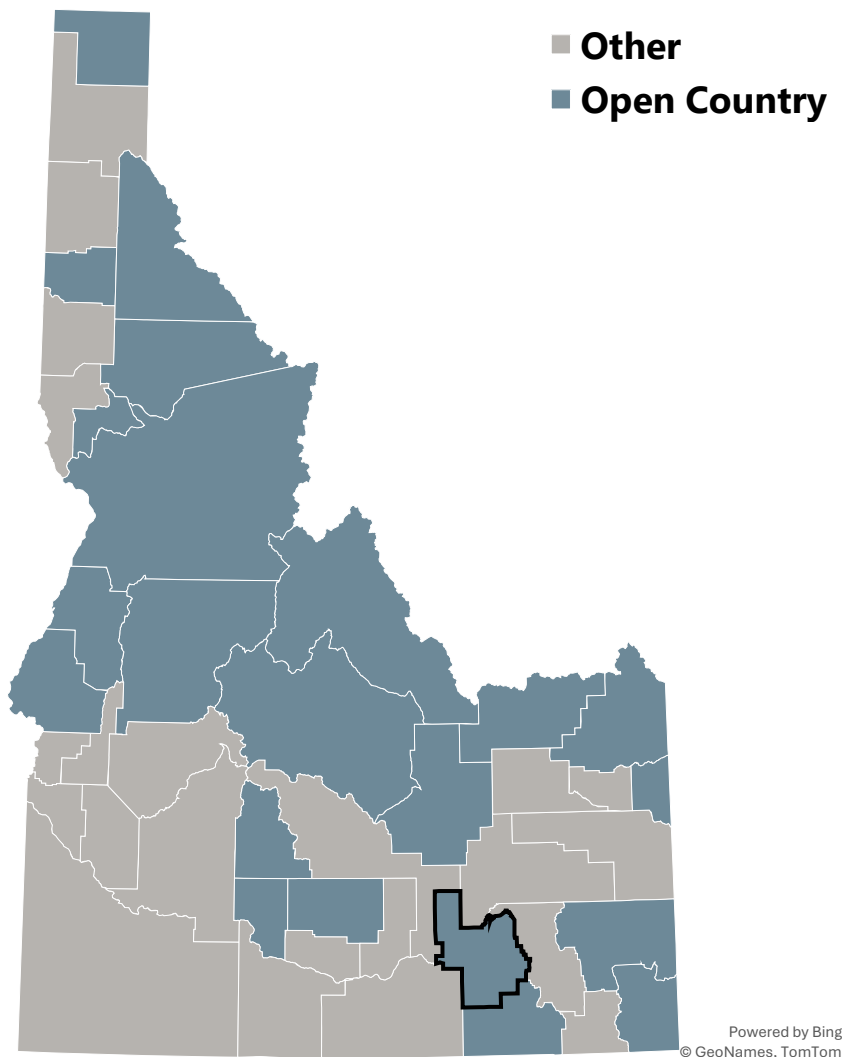
# Rural center counties



Rural center counties	
1	Blaine
2	Bonner
3	Cassia
4	Minidoka
5	Payette

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

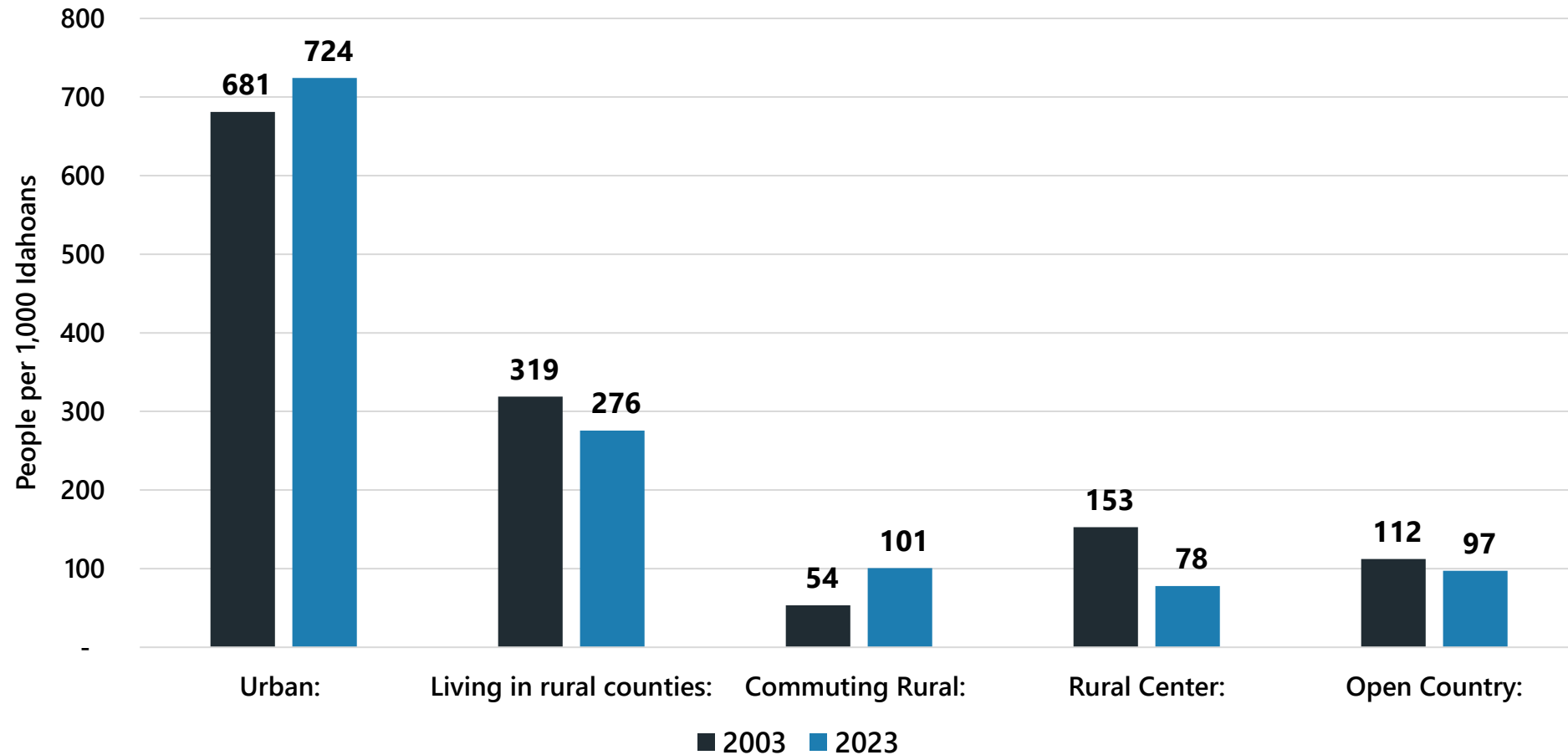
# Open country rural counties



Open country counties					
1	Adams	11	Fremont	21	Valley
2	Bear	12	Gooding	22	Washington
3	Benewah	13	Idaho		
4	Boundary	14	Lemhi		
5	Butte	15	Lewis		
6	Camas	16	Lincoln		
7	Caribou	17	Oneida		
8	Clark	18	Power		
9	Clearwater	19	Shoshone		
10	Custer	20	Teton		



# Change in proportions, 2003-2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

[Imi.idaho.gov](https://imi.idaho.gov)



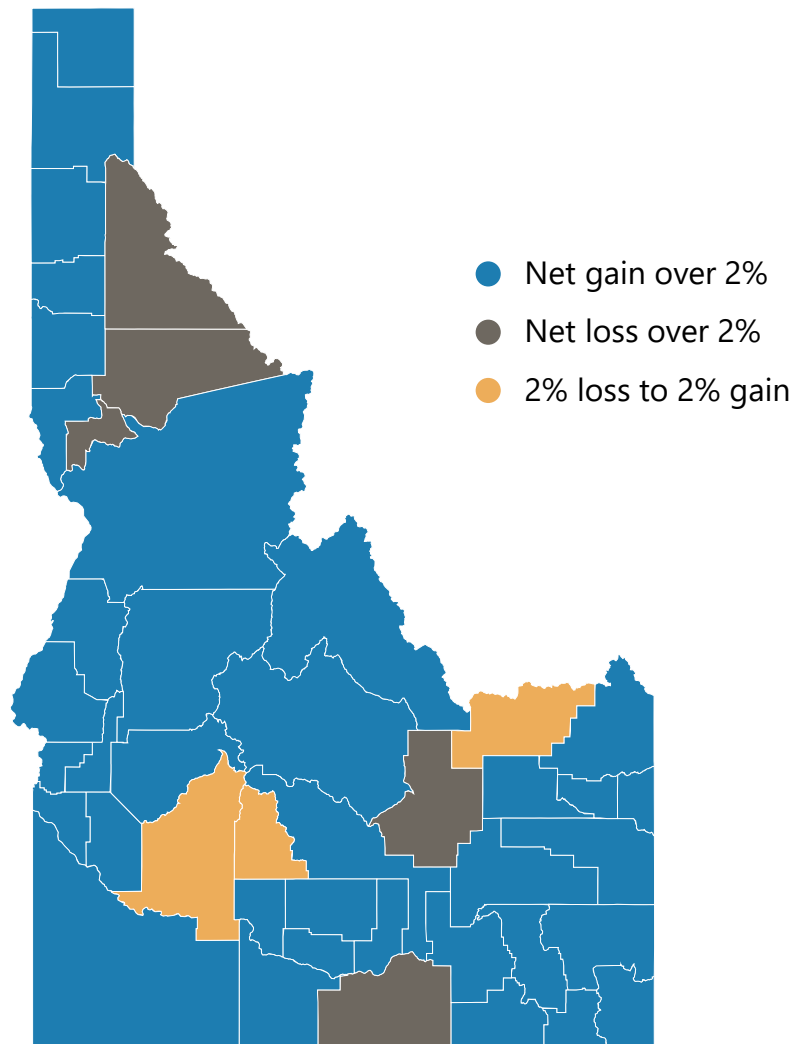


# Trivia/poll 2

Please respond to the  
question in Zoom.



# In-migration, 1970-1979



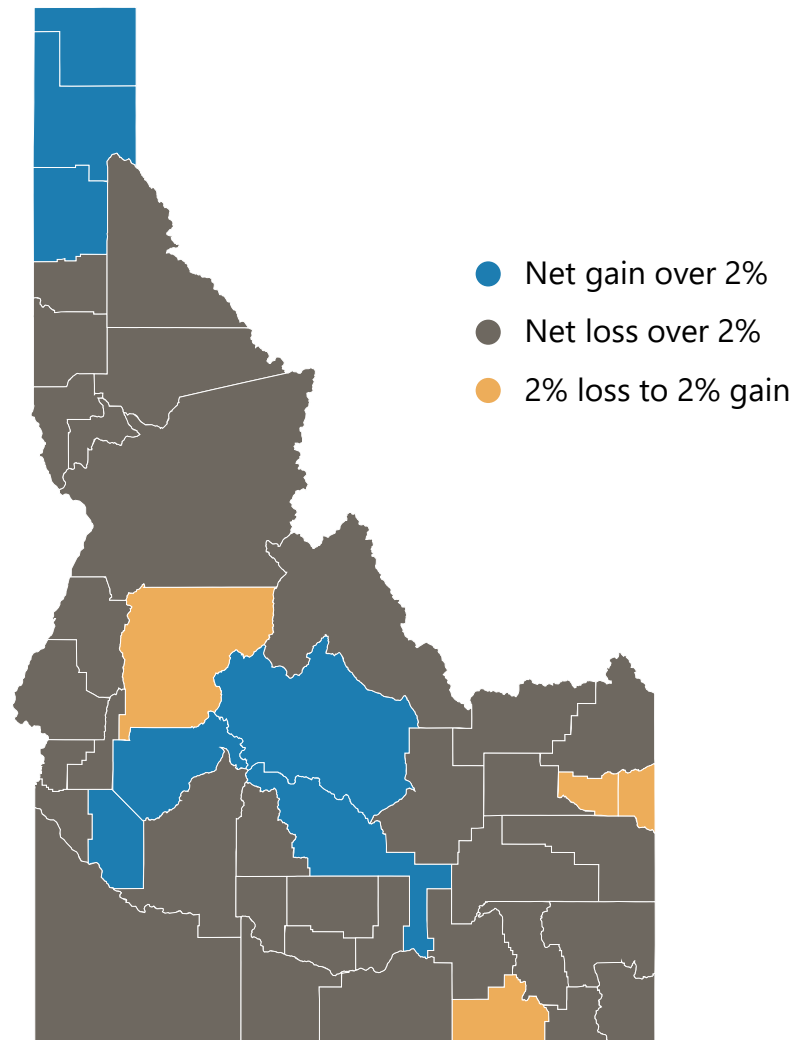
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

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# In-migration, 1980-1989

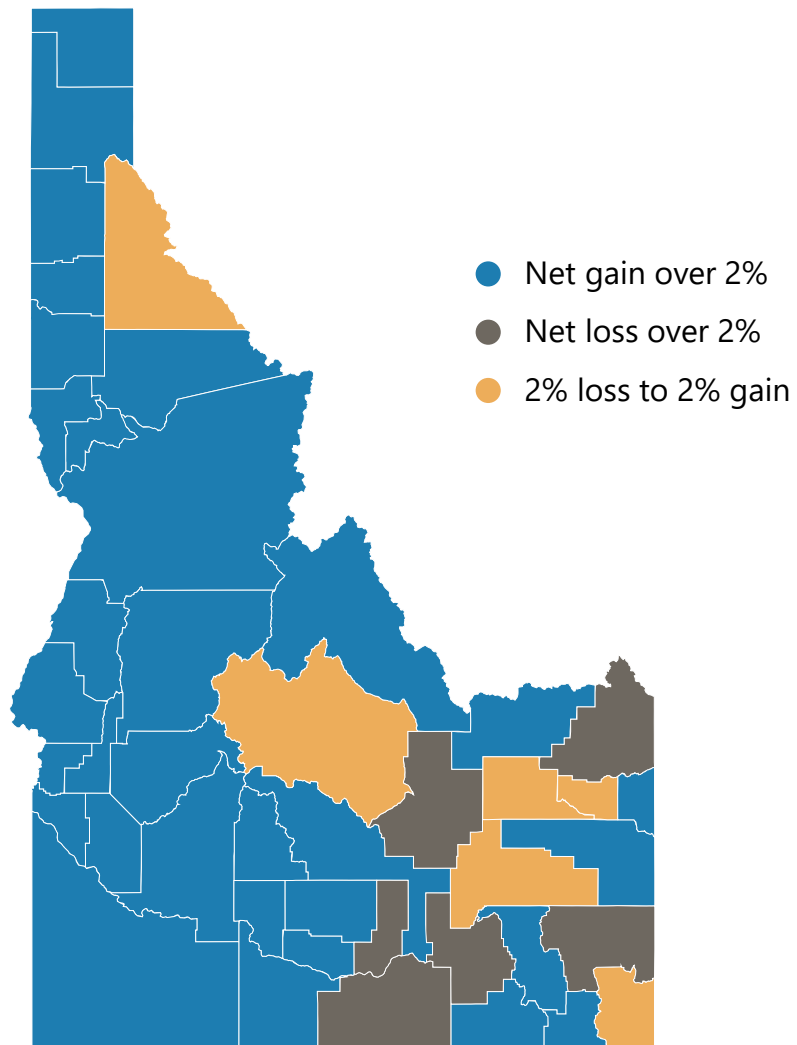


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

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# In-migration, 1990-1999

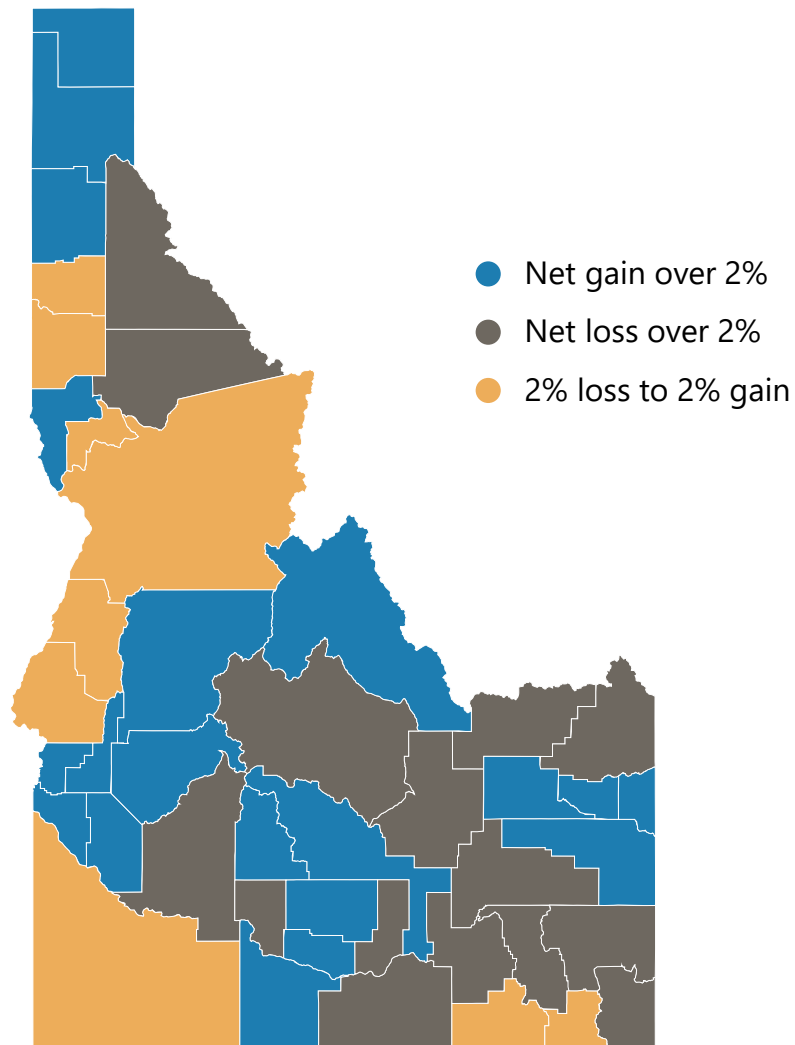


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

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# In-migration, 2000-2009



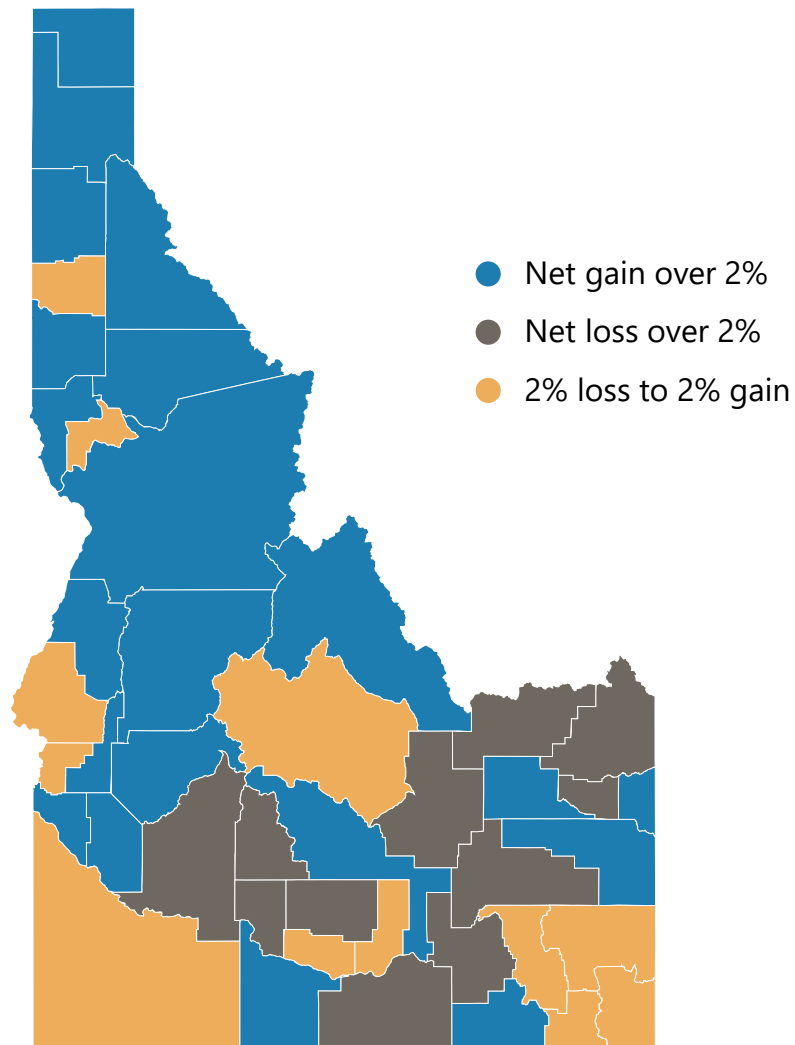
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

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# In-migration, 2010-2019

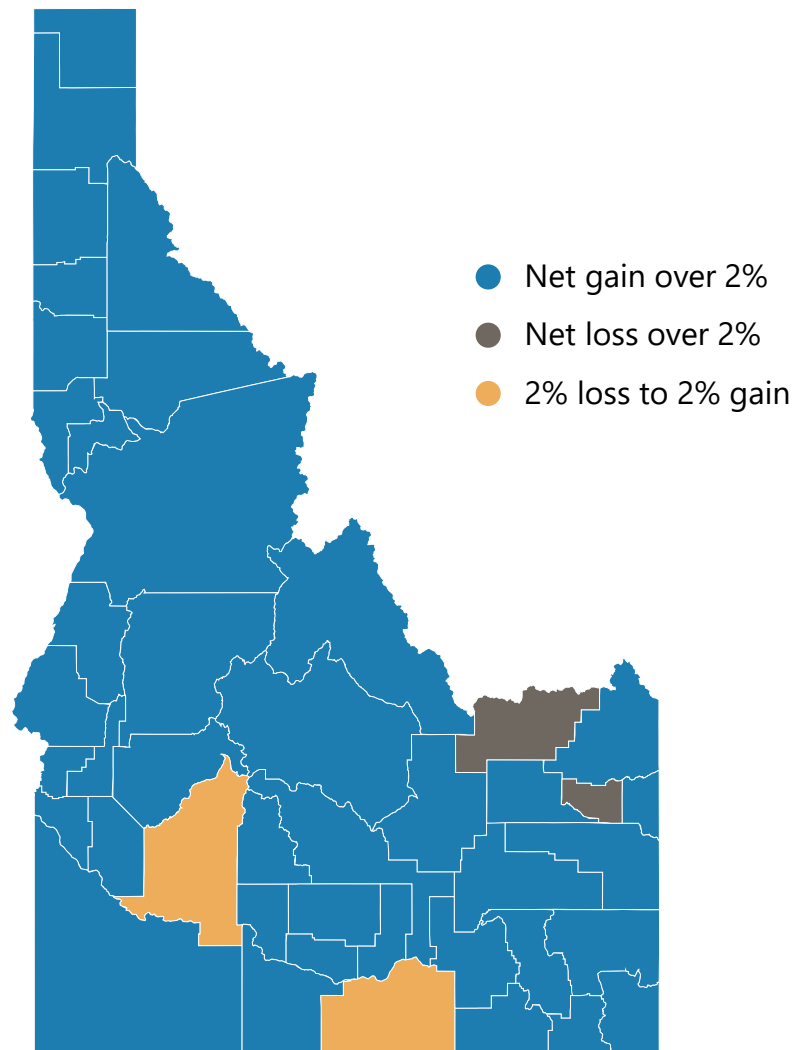


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

[Imi.idaho.gov](https://imi.idaho.gov)



# In-migration, 2020-2023

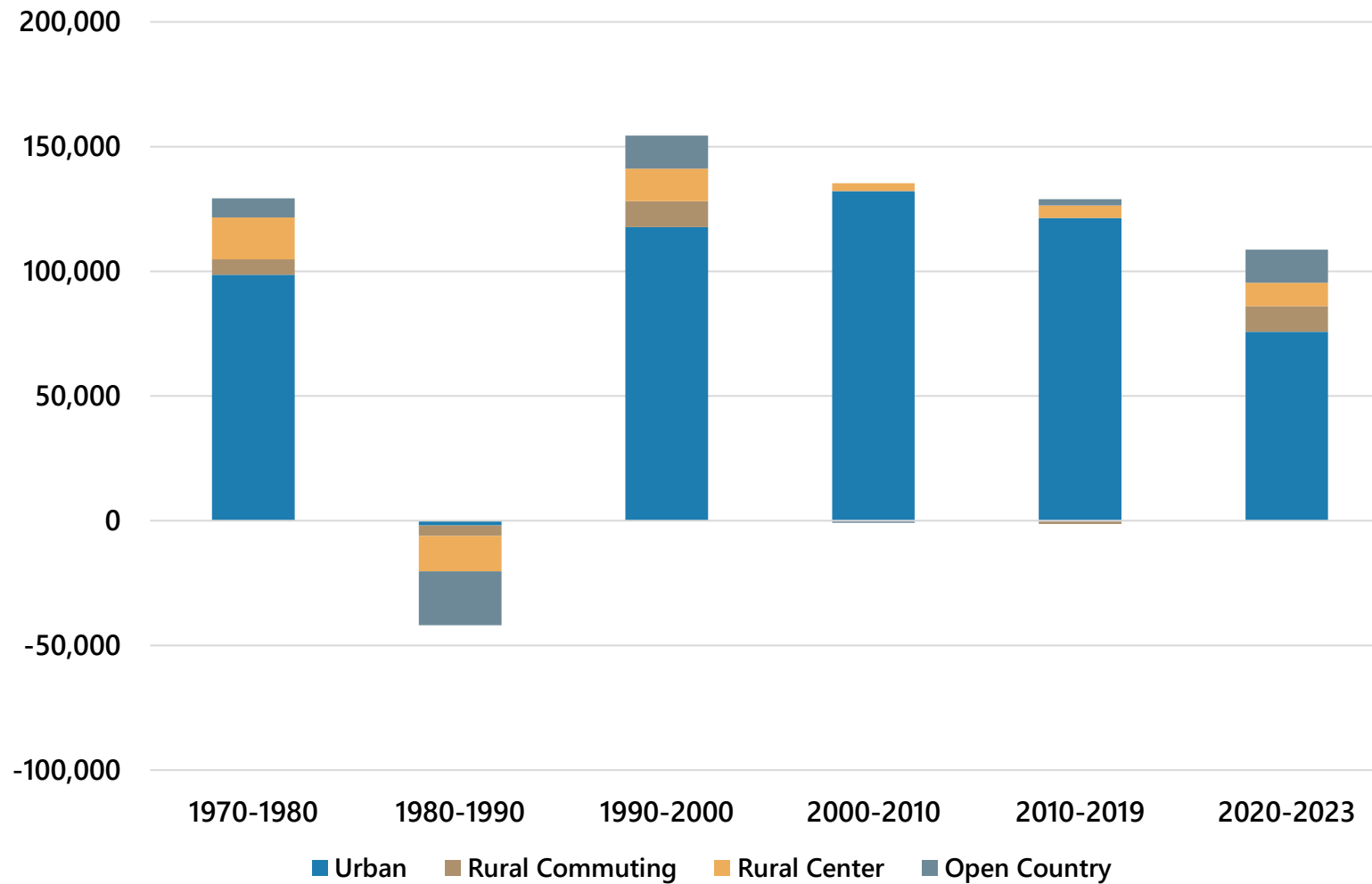


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

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# Idaho net migration by county type

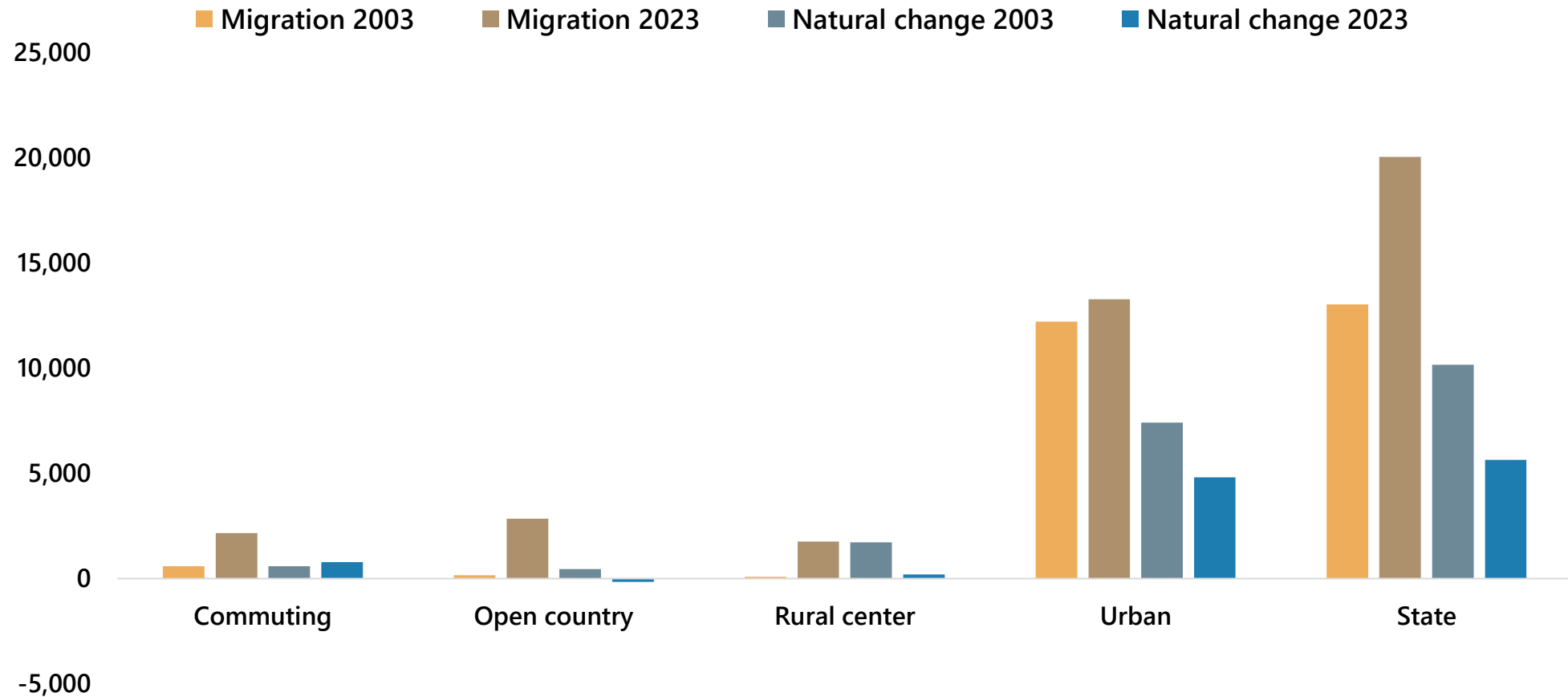


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

[Imi.idaho.gov](https://imi.idaho.gov)



# Population change due to in-migration



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

[Imi.idaho.gov](https://imi.idaho.gov)

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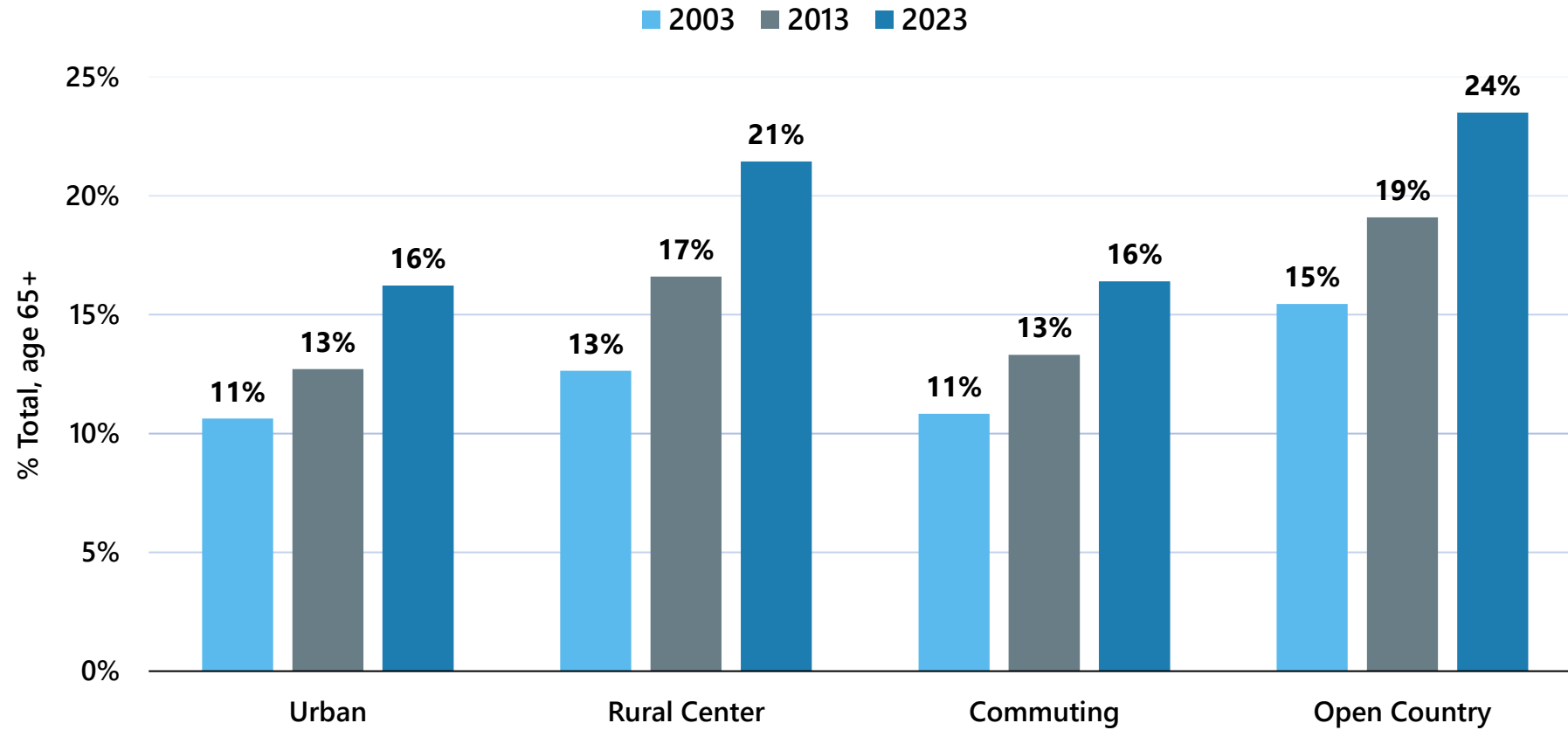




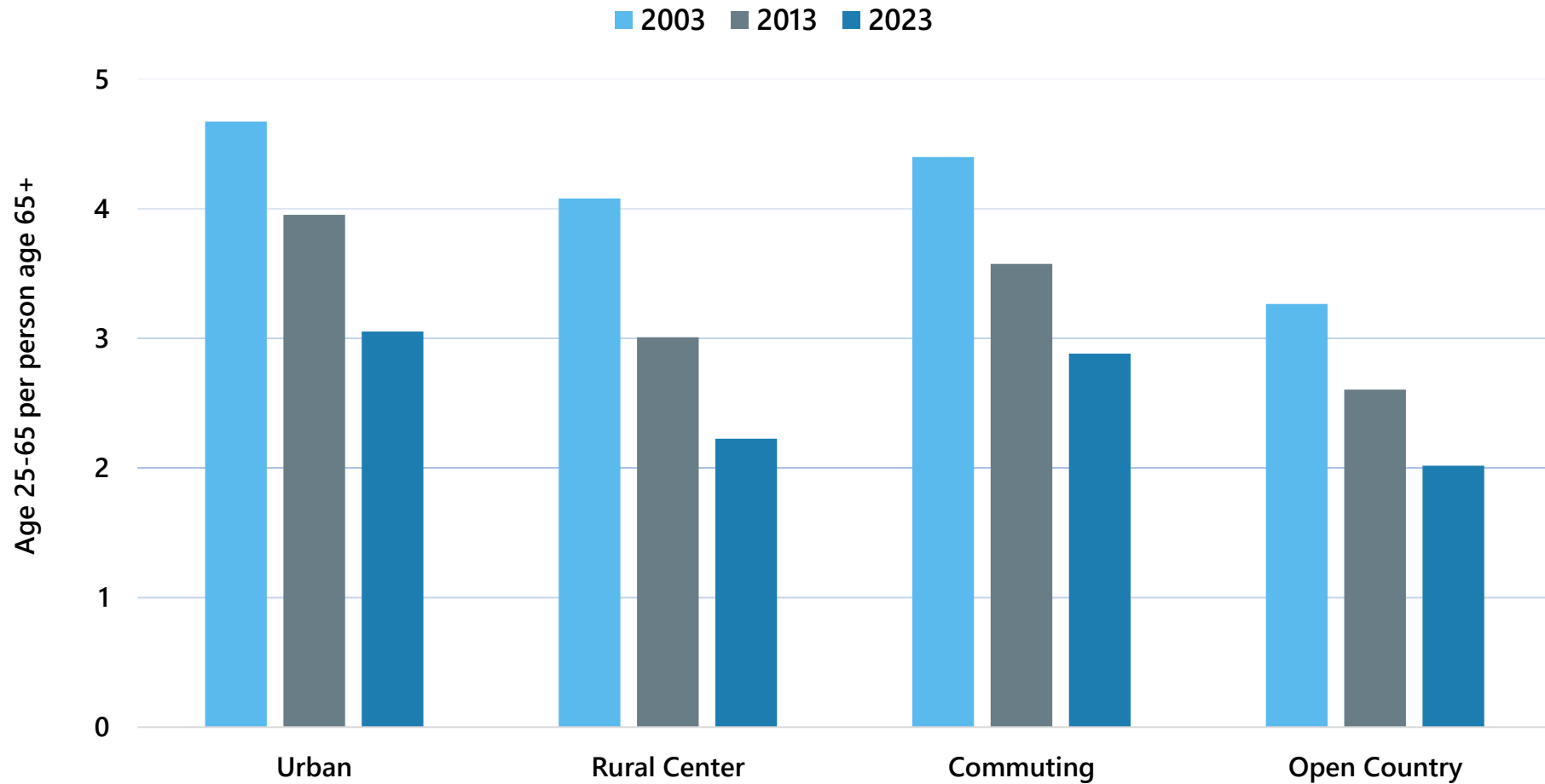
# Trivia/poll 3

Please respond to the  
question in Zoom.

# Share of Idaho population age 65+



# Potential workers, age 25-65 per retiree



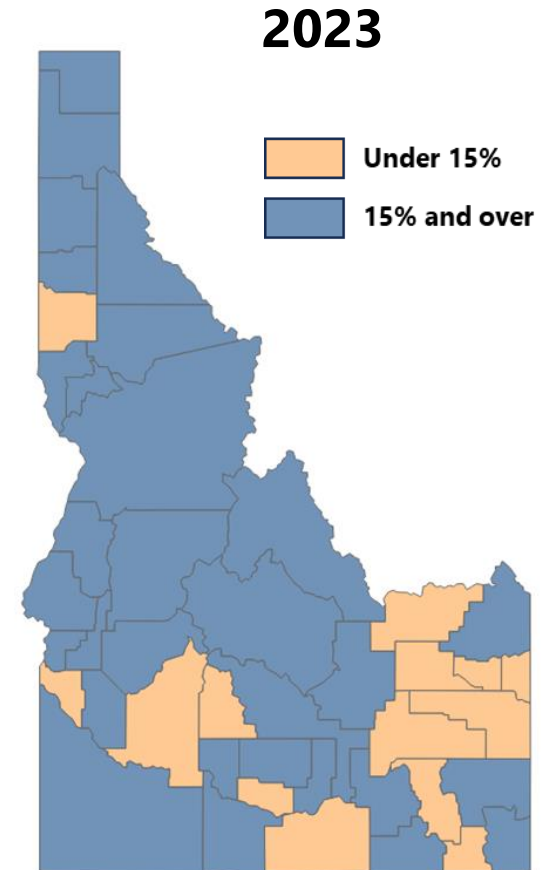
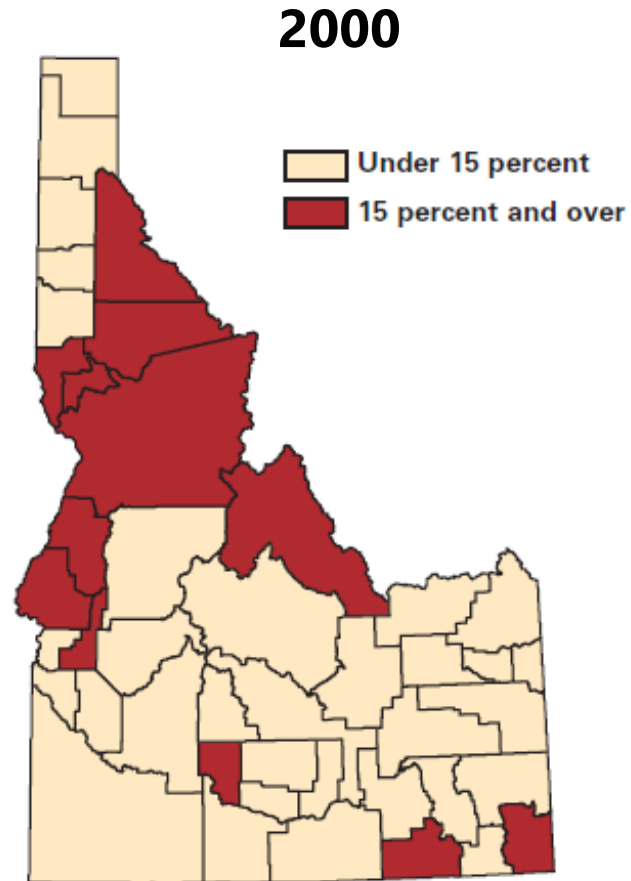
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

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# Population, 65 years of age and older

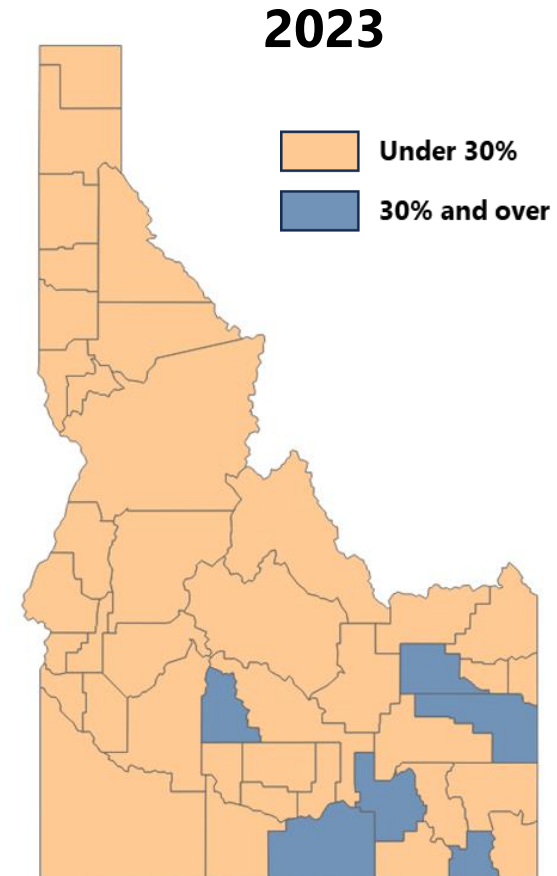
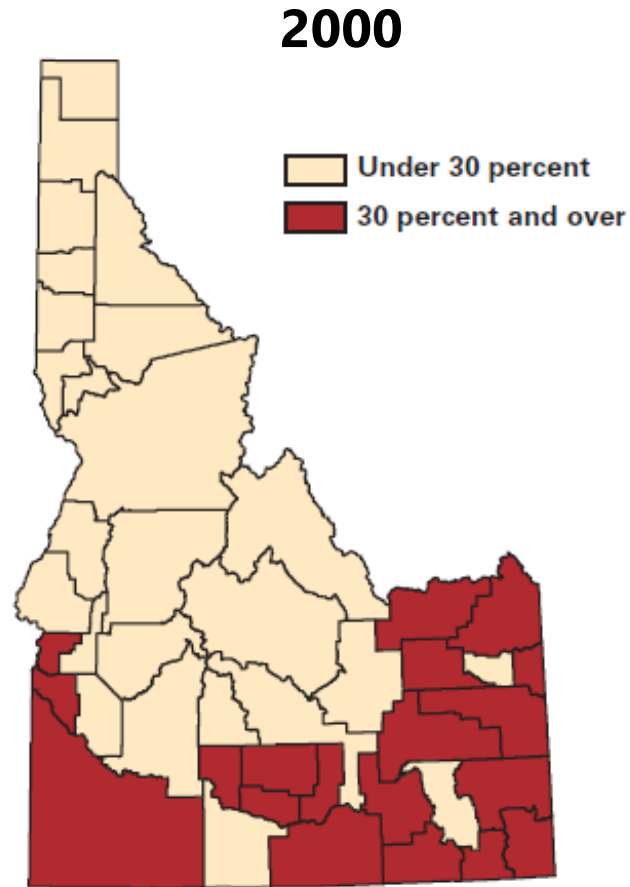
**At least 15% of the population is 65 years of age and over.**





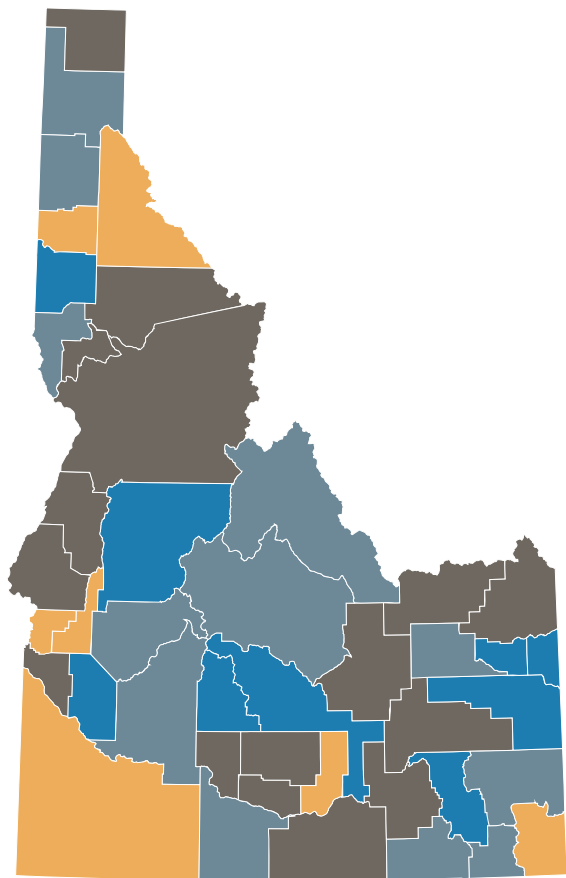
# Population, under 18 years of age

At least 30% of the population is under the age of 18.



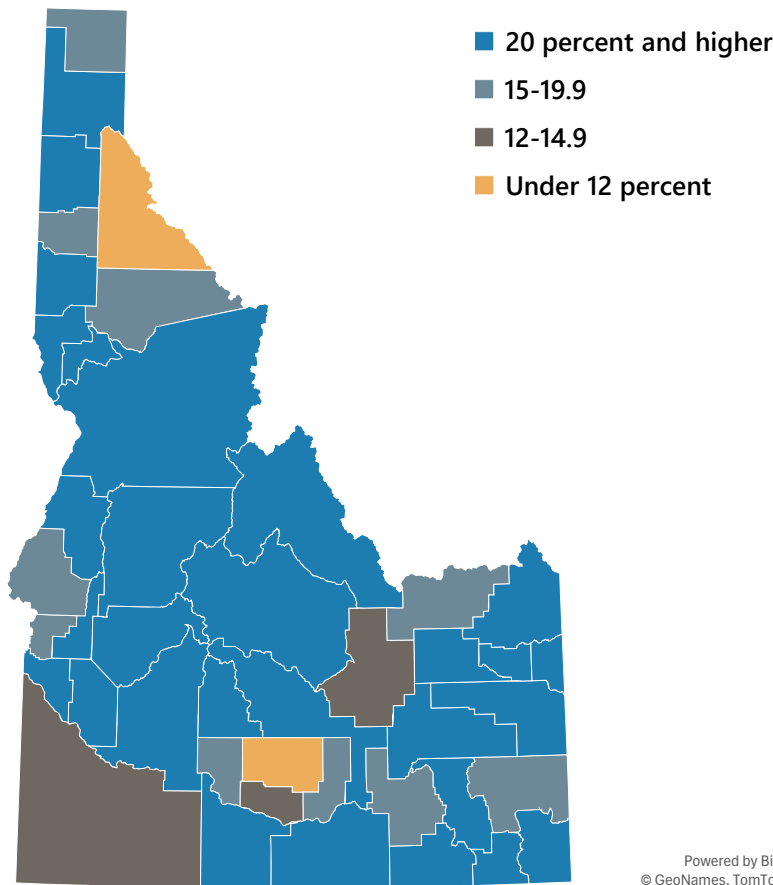
# Education

Population 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree or higher, 2000



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Population 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree or higher (American Community Survey, 2019-2023)



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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

# The 2025 Rural Profile

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- A comprehensive study.
- Parts:
  1. Population and Demographics – March
  2. Economy / Labor Market – June
  3. Critical Trends – September
  4. Full report compilation - December

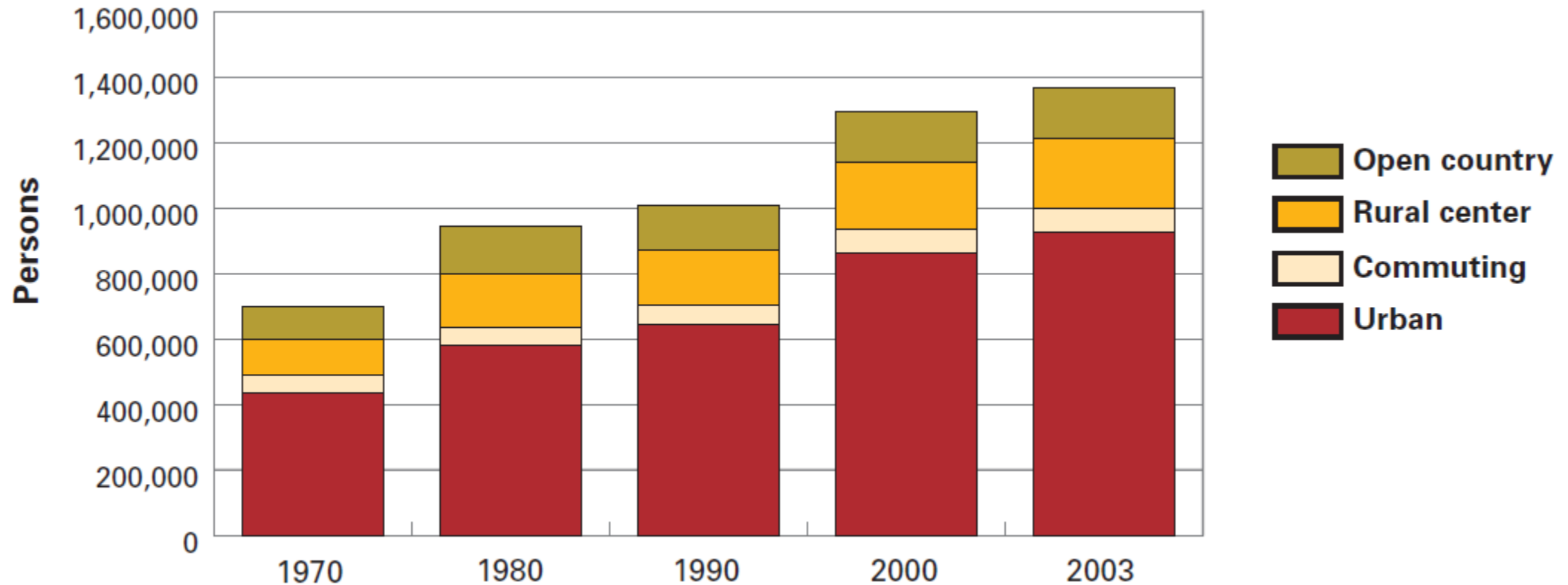
# Thank you. Any questions?

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Need more information? Contact:

- [craig.shaul@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:craig.shaul@labor.idaho.gov)
- [jan.roeser@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:jan.roeser@labor.idaho.gov)
- [seth.harrington@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:seth.harrington@labor.idaho.gov)

# Idaho population growth, 1970-2003



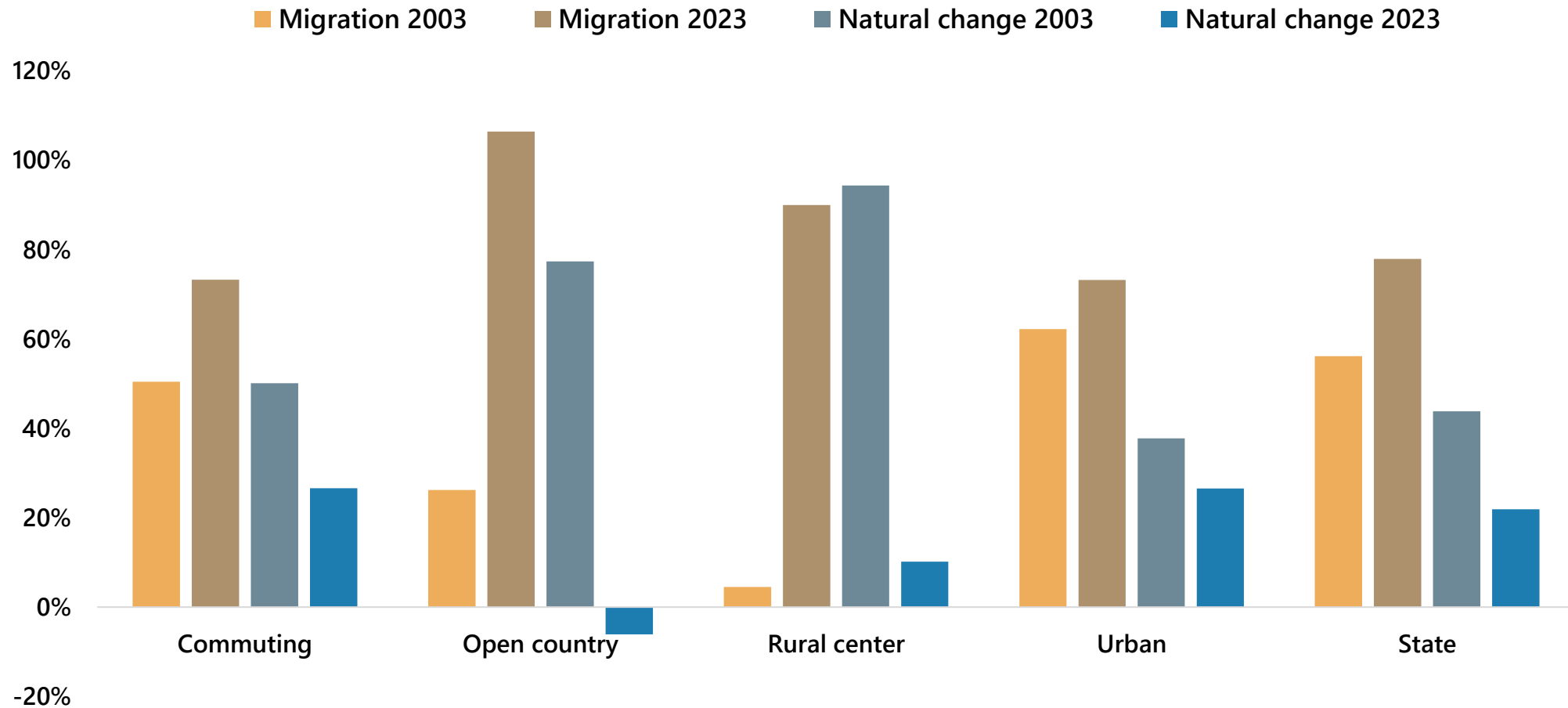
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

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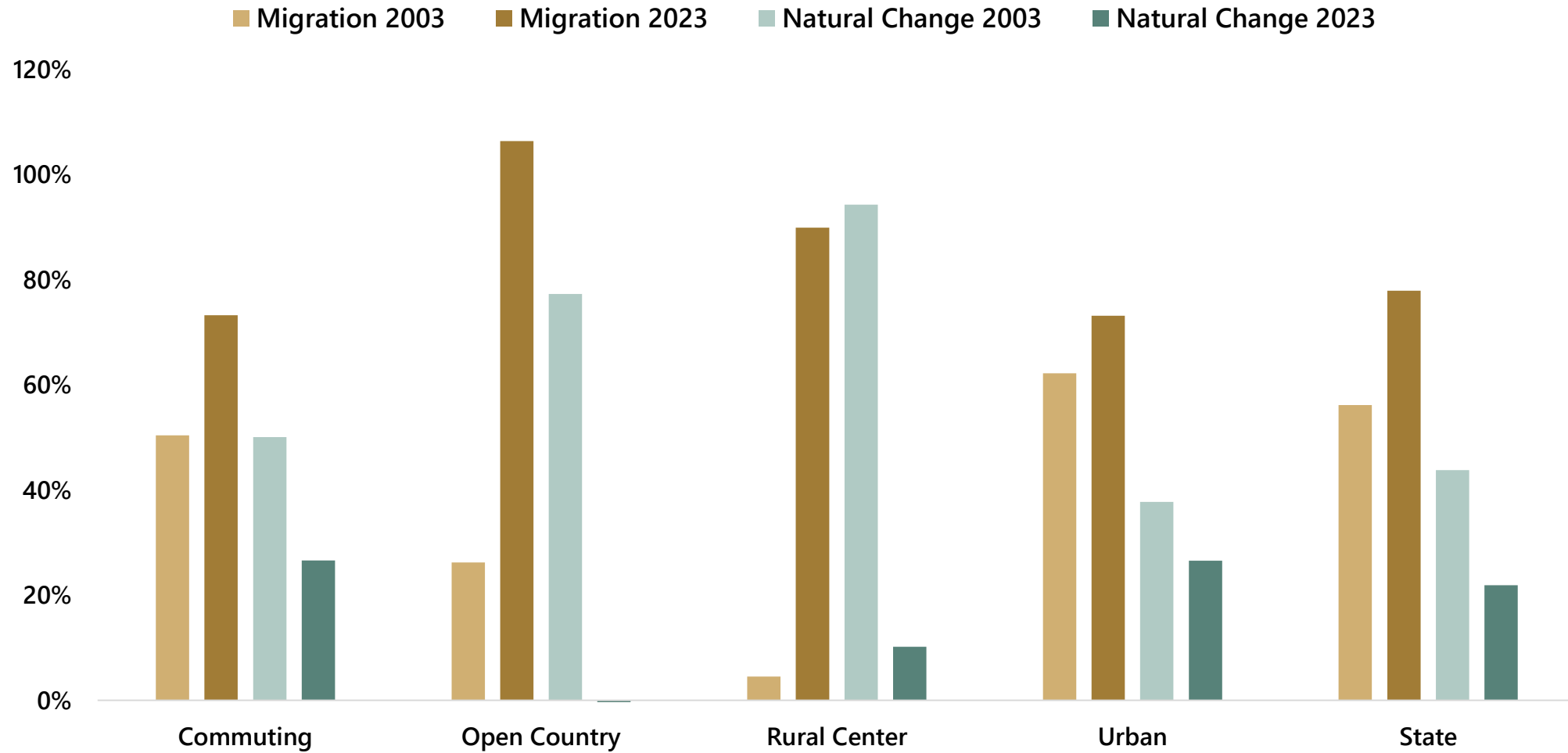
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# In-migration, change to population share



# In-migration, change to population share



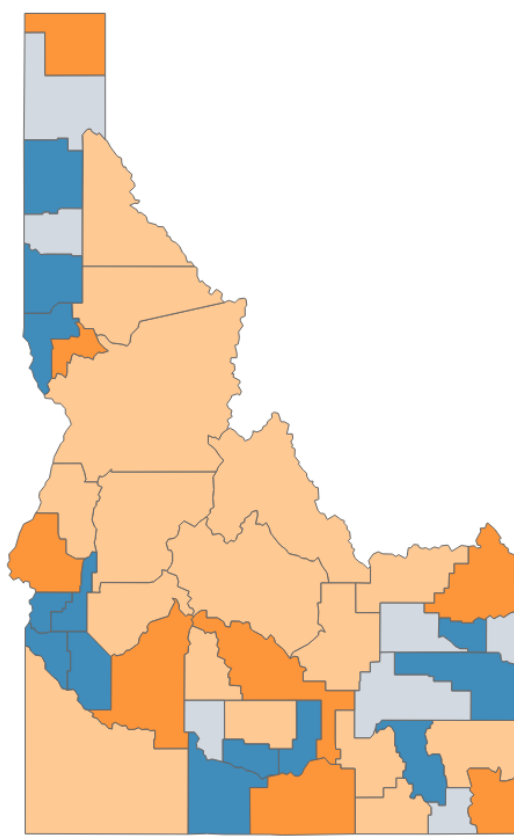
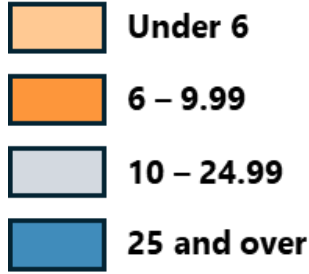
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

[Imi.idaho.gov](https://imi.idaho.gov)

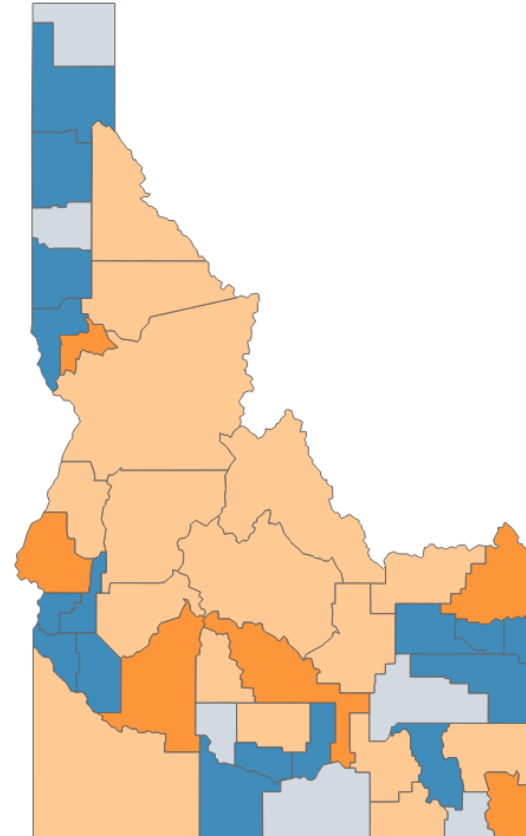


# County population density, 2003-2023

Persons per square mile

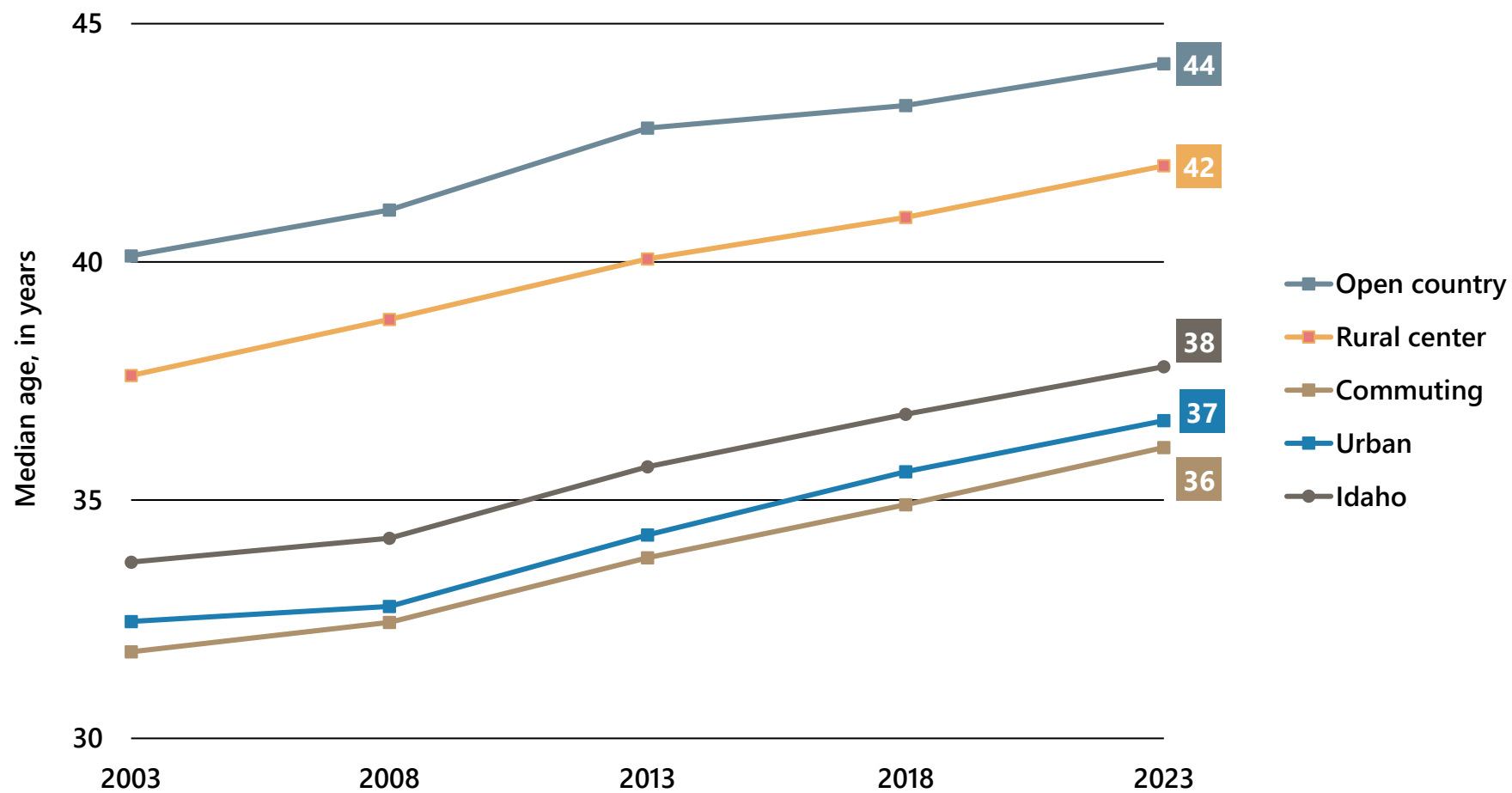


2003



2023

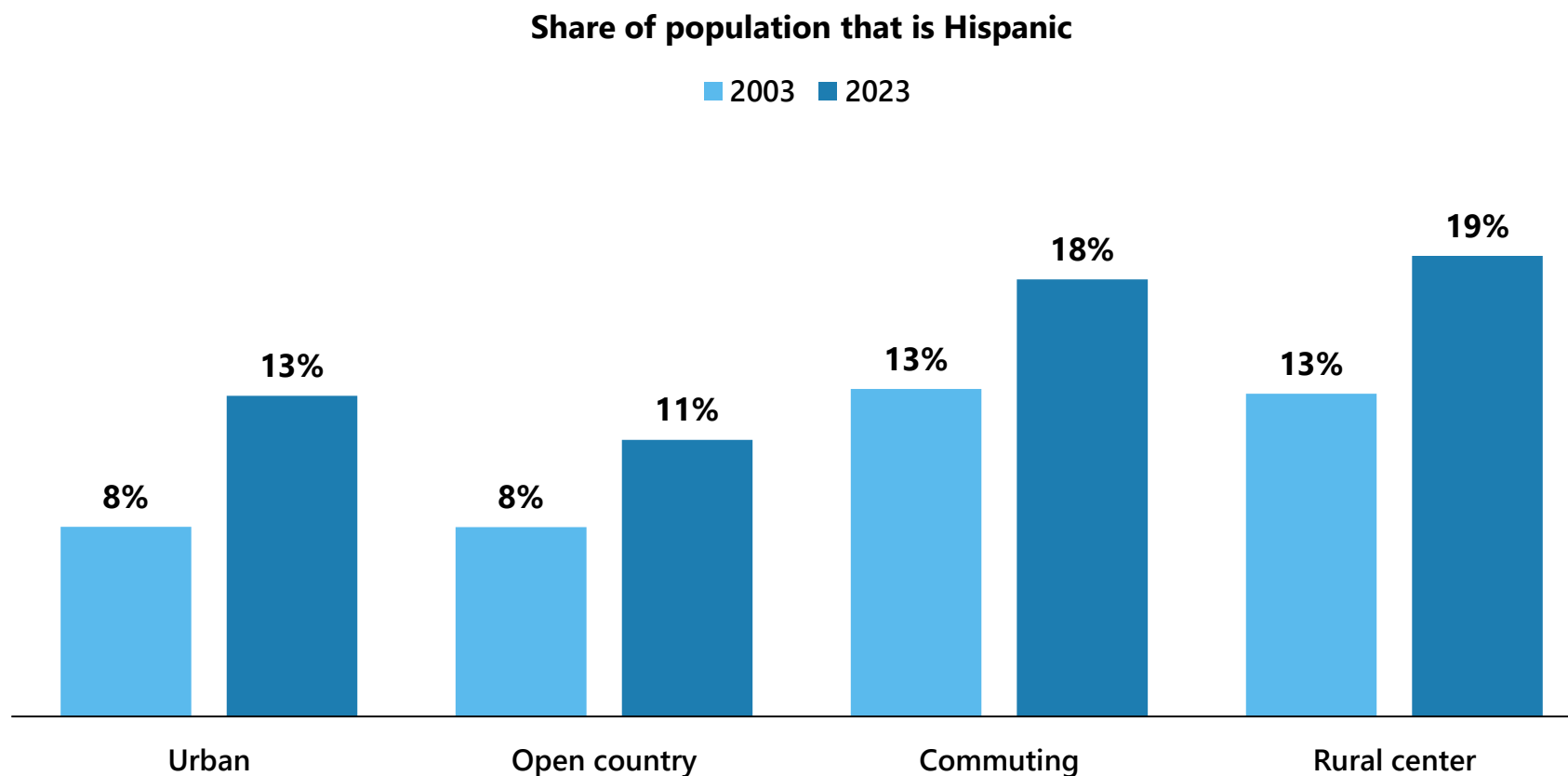
# Idaho median age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

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# Hispanic population



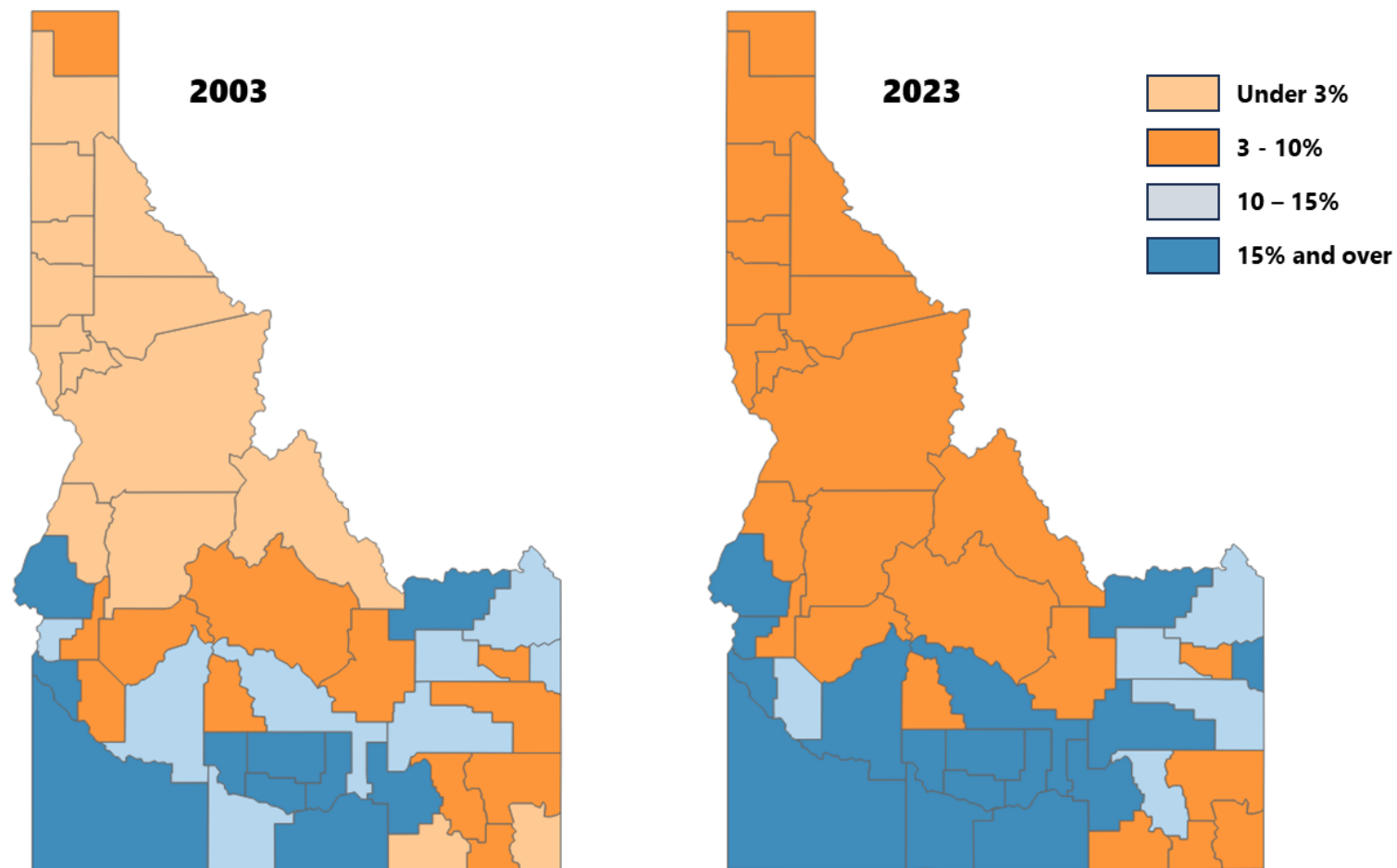
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

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# Race/ethnicity

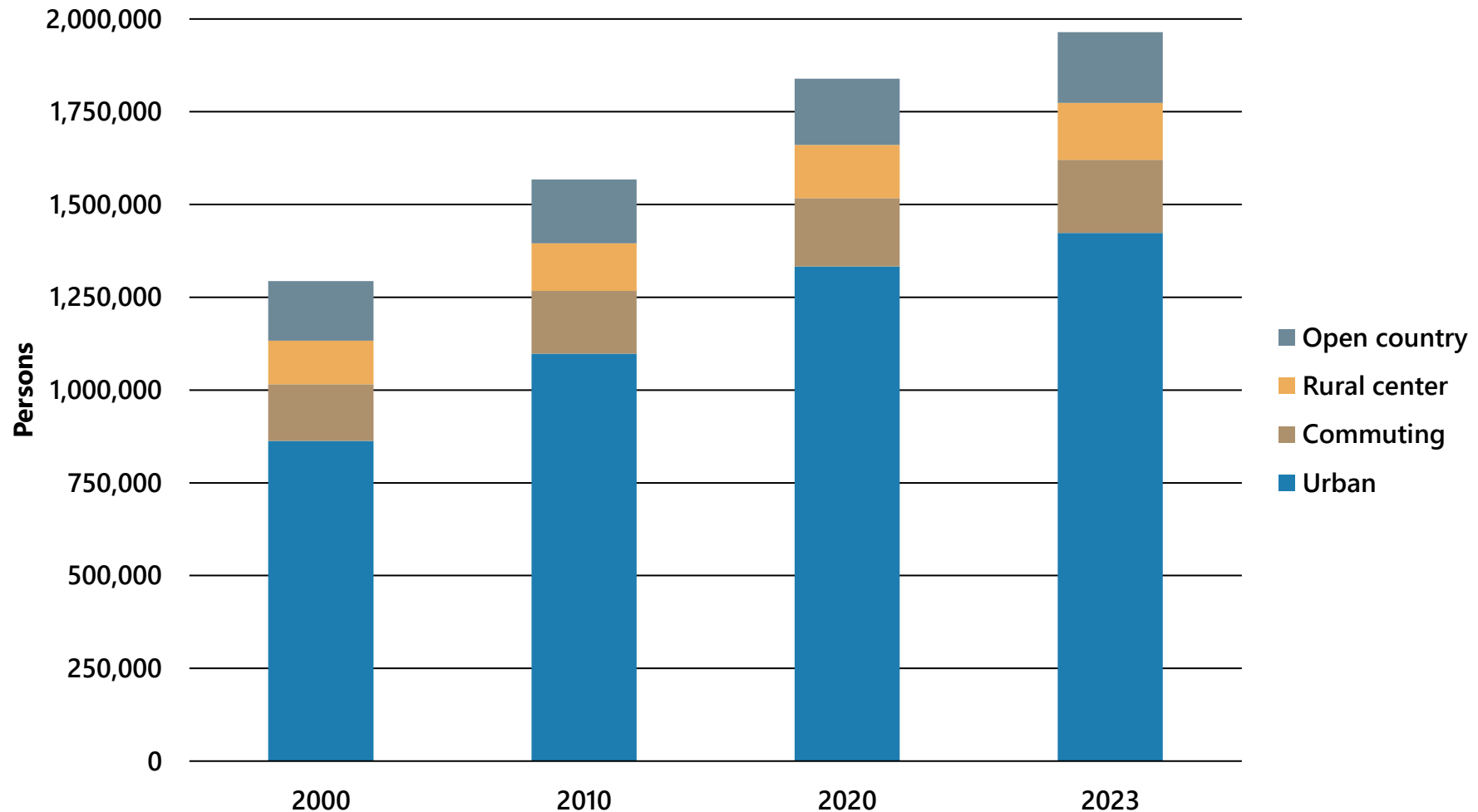


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

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# Idaho population, 2000-2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Labor

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