



## Think-Tank Part 1

# Littleton Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Think-Tank PART 1







## City of Littleton, Colorado Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Planning Process



**We are here**



# Littleton CEDS Think-Tank



## Part 1 – Explore Future Trends

- Macro trends shaping the future
- Key drives shaping the future
- Rating future impact of drivers

## Part 2 – Build ED scenarios

- Develop plausible scenarios of the future
- Identify expected and preferred futures
- Build strategic pillars

July 17

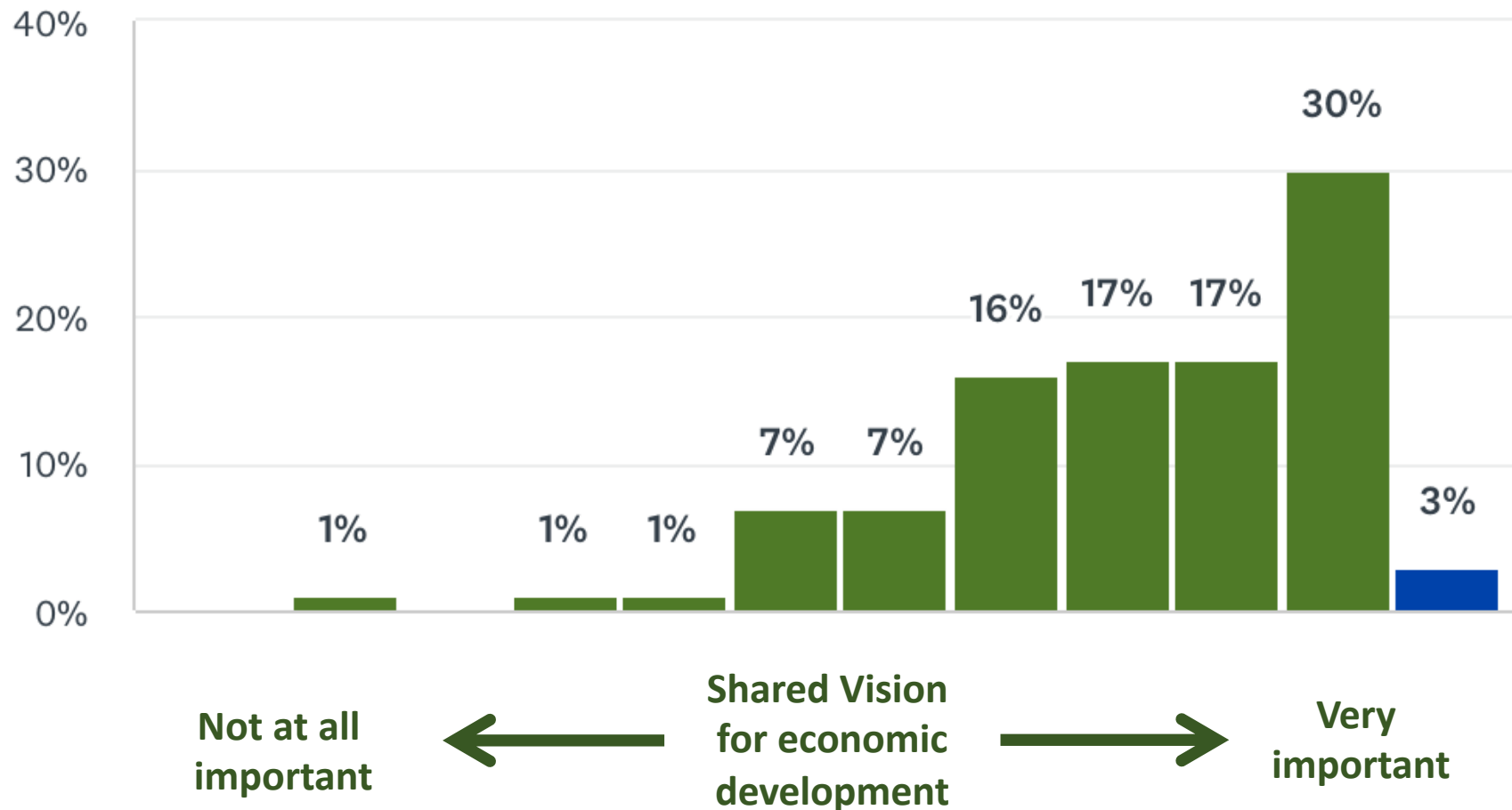


July 18



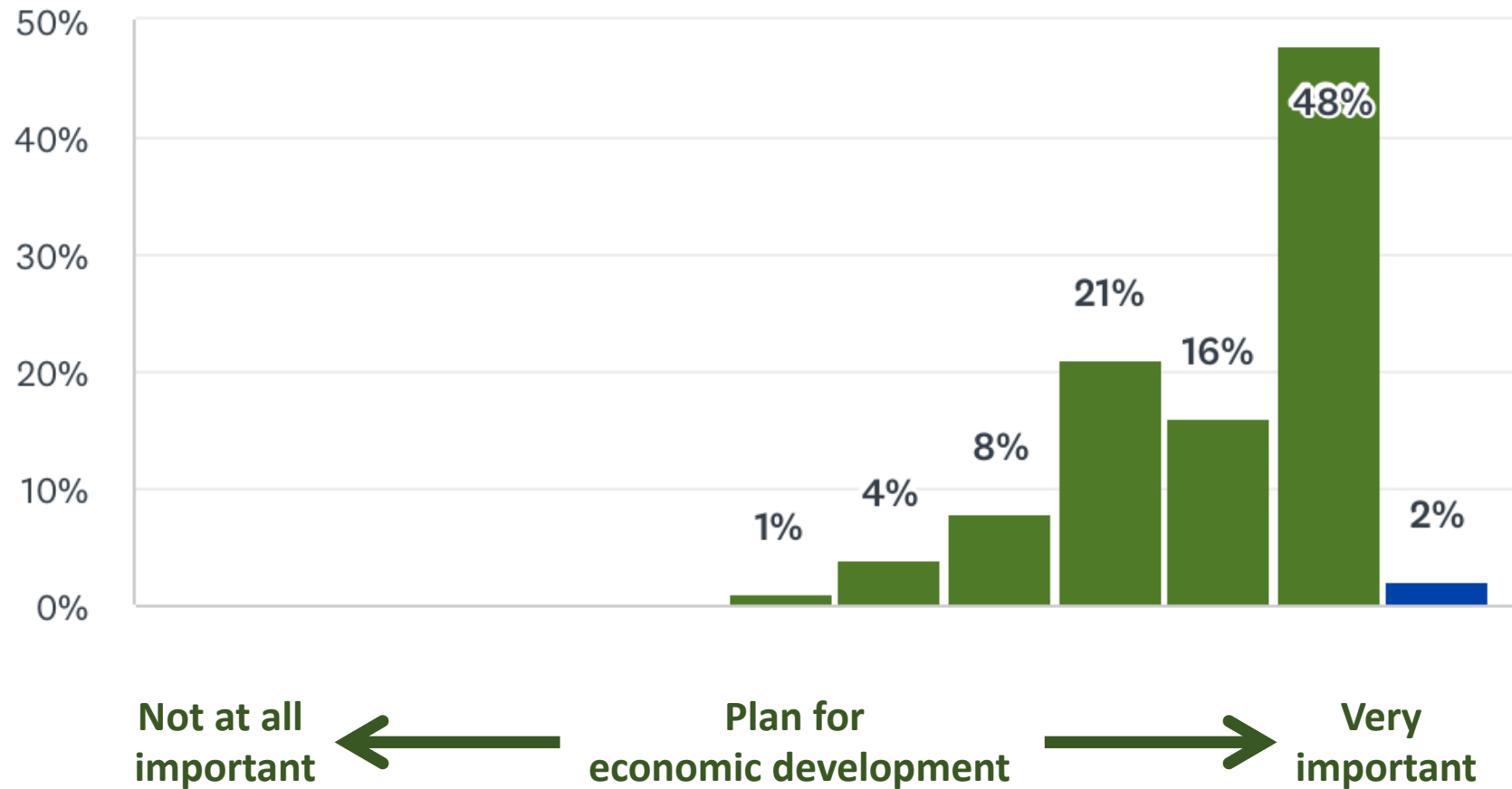


How important do you think it is to have a **SHARED VISION** for economic development in Littleton?  
(i.e. a vision or perspective on the future that is shared community-wide)  
Scale: 1 = Not at all important; 10 = Very important





How important do you think it is to have a **PLAN** for economic development in Littleton?  
(Scale: 1 = Not at all important; 10 = Very important)





An aerial night view of a city park featuring a large Ferris wheel on the left and a network diagram overlay of white nodes and lines on the right. The text is centered over the image.

# WELCOME TO THE LITTLETON, COLORADO COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECT

## The Importance of Future Thinking

The key to effective future thinking...

Consider both **trajectory** (direction of change)  
and **velocity** (speed of change).





## The challenge for the Think-Tank

- Explore the future -
- Ask the hard questions -
- Think creatively -

The outcome may be a new view of the future.







# Key emerging trends shaping the future of economic development in Littleton





# In a time of change and uncertainty....

- Which trends are being amplified and accelerated?
- What changes might be more elastic?
- Where are the potential tipping points?







Forces impacting the  
world, regions and  
people

What are the emerging  
macro drivers...



# Macro Trends and Forces of Change Related to . . .

- Demographics, population and mass urbanization
- Energy, food, water & climate change
- Technology driving change







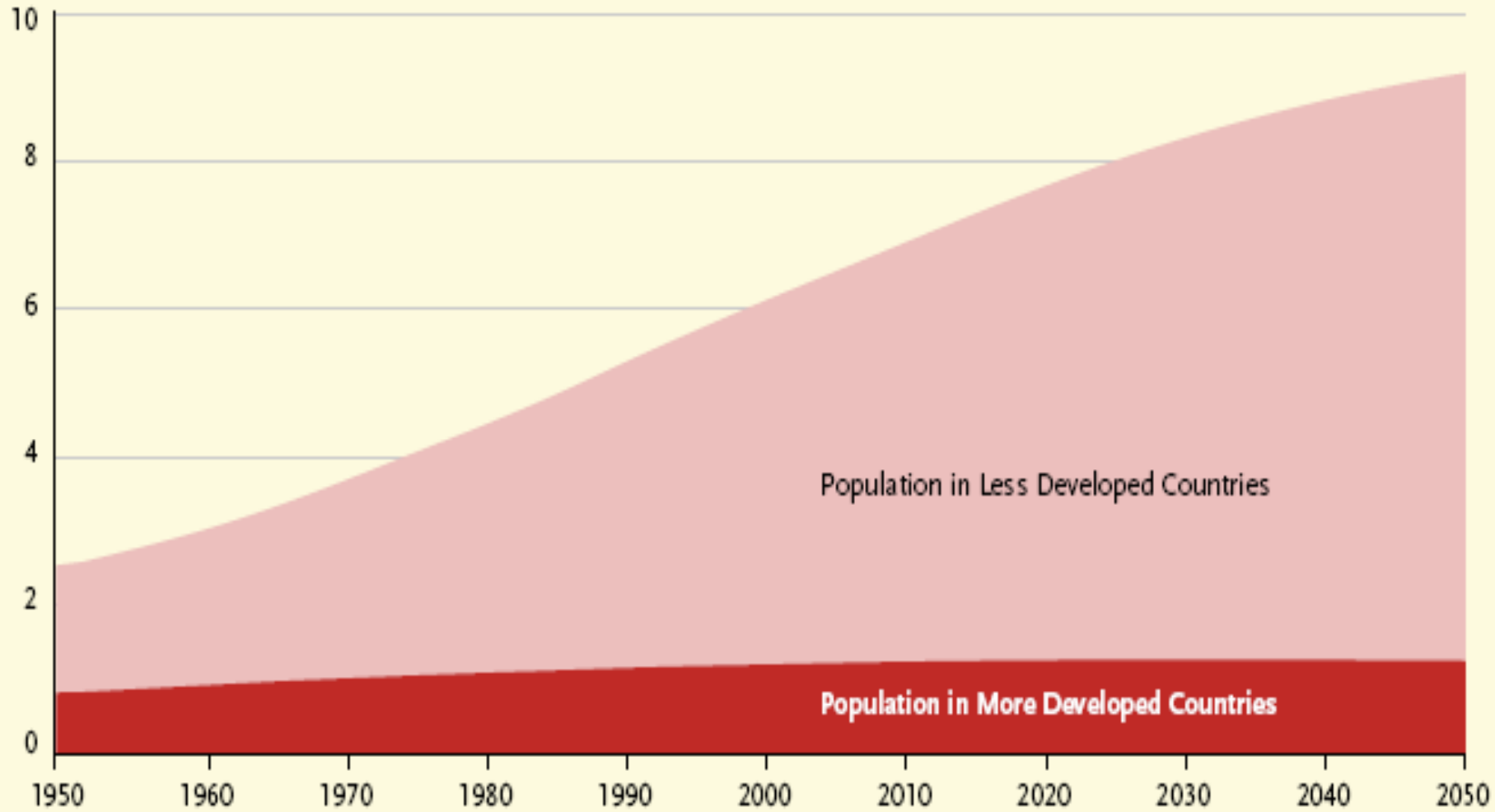
# Demographics, population and mass urbanization

future→iQ



## Global Population Growth Is Driven By Developing Countries.

World population in billions, 1950-2050 (projected)

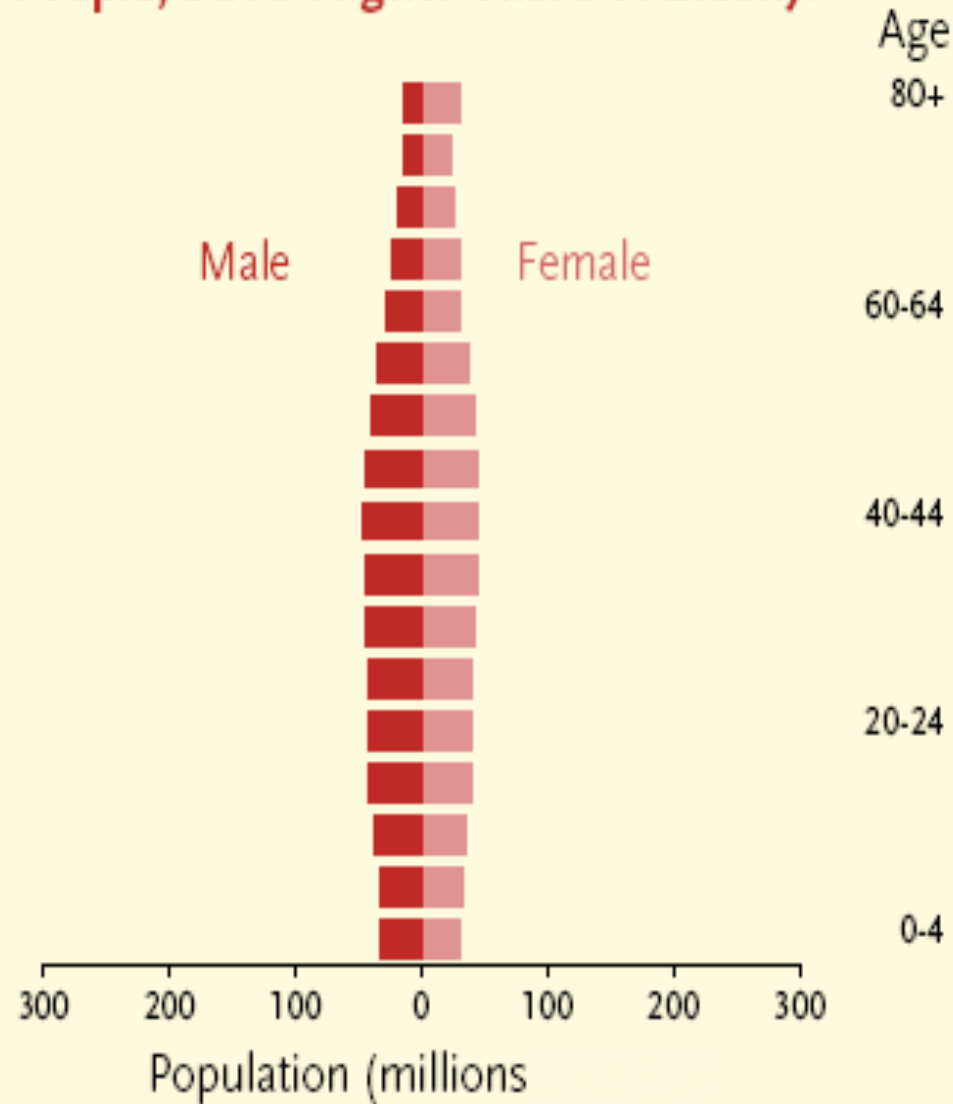


SOURCE: United Nations, *World Population Prospects*.

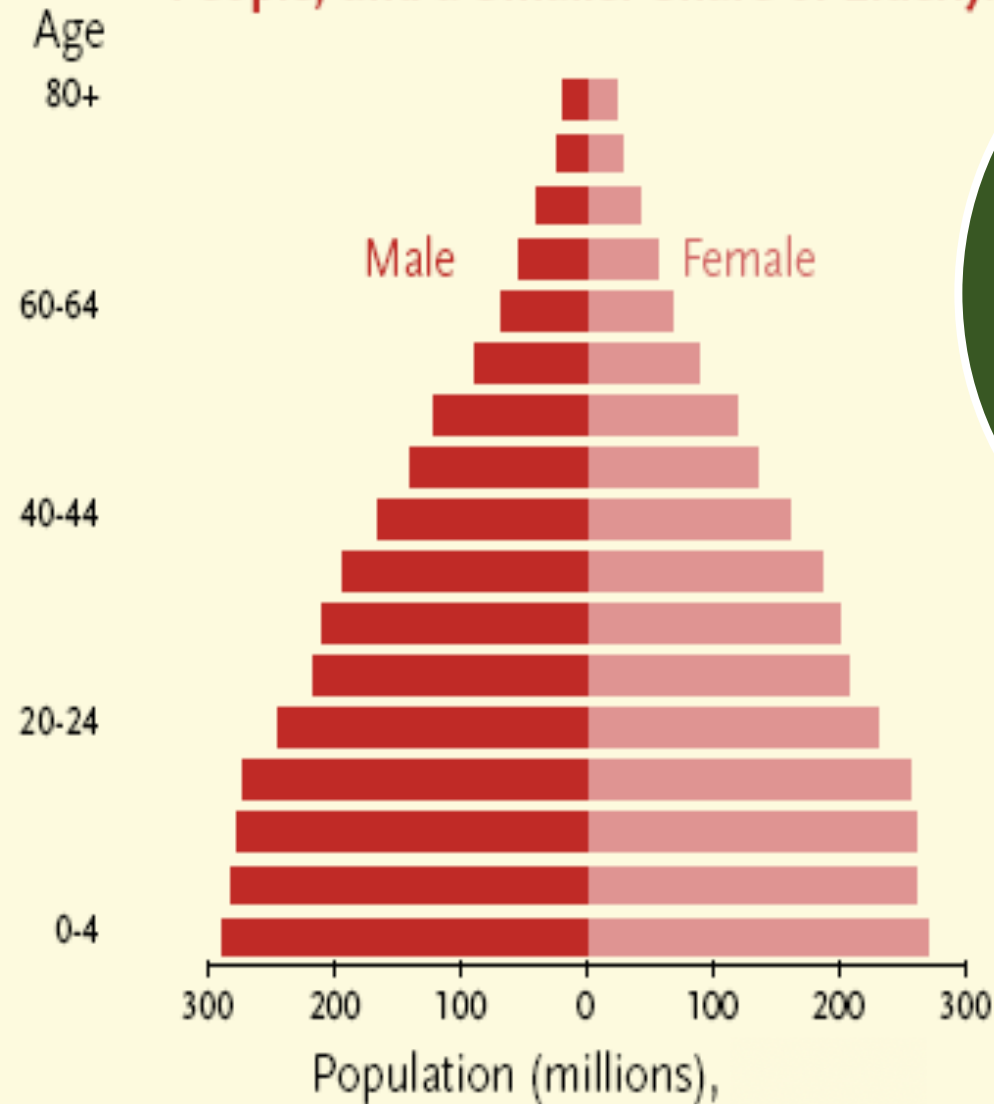
**Global  
population**



Developed Countries Have Fewer Young People, but a Higher Share of Elderly.



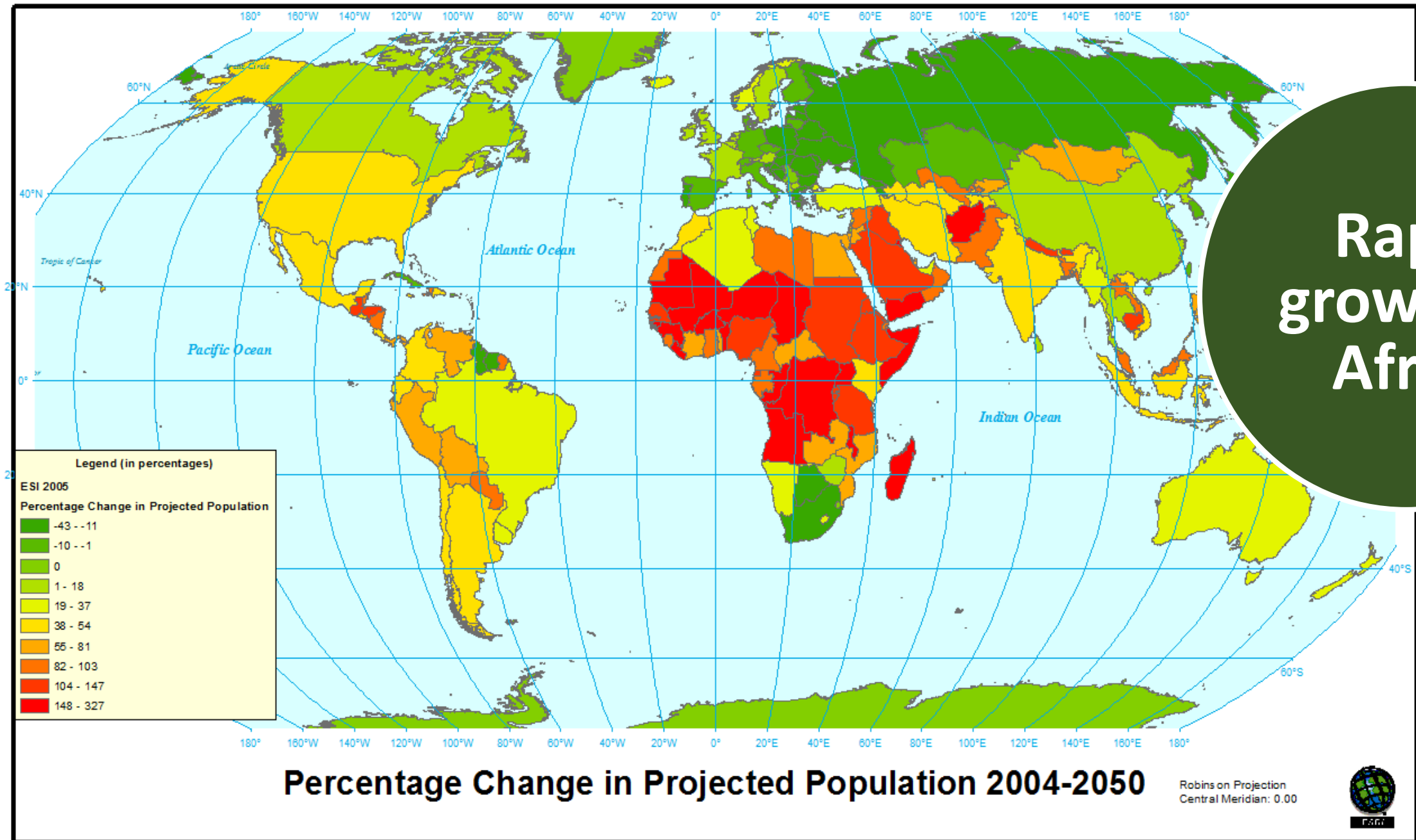
Developing Countries Have More Young People, and a Smaller Share of Elderly.



**Global  
population age  
profiles**

SOURCE: United Nations, *World Population Prospects*:







# AN URBAN WORLD

This graphic depicts countries and territories with 2050 urban populations exceeding 100,000. Circles are scaled in proportion to urban population size. Hover over a country to see how urban it is (percentage of people living in cities and towns) and the size of its urban population (in millions).

## Urban Population

- Greater than 75%
- 50% - 75%
- 25% - 50%
- Less than 25%



1950





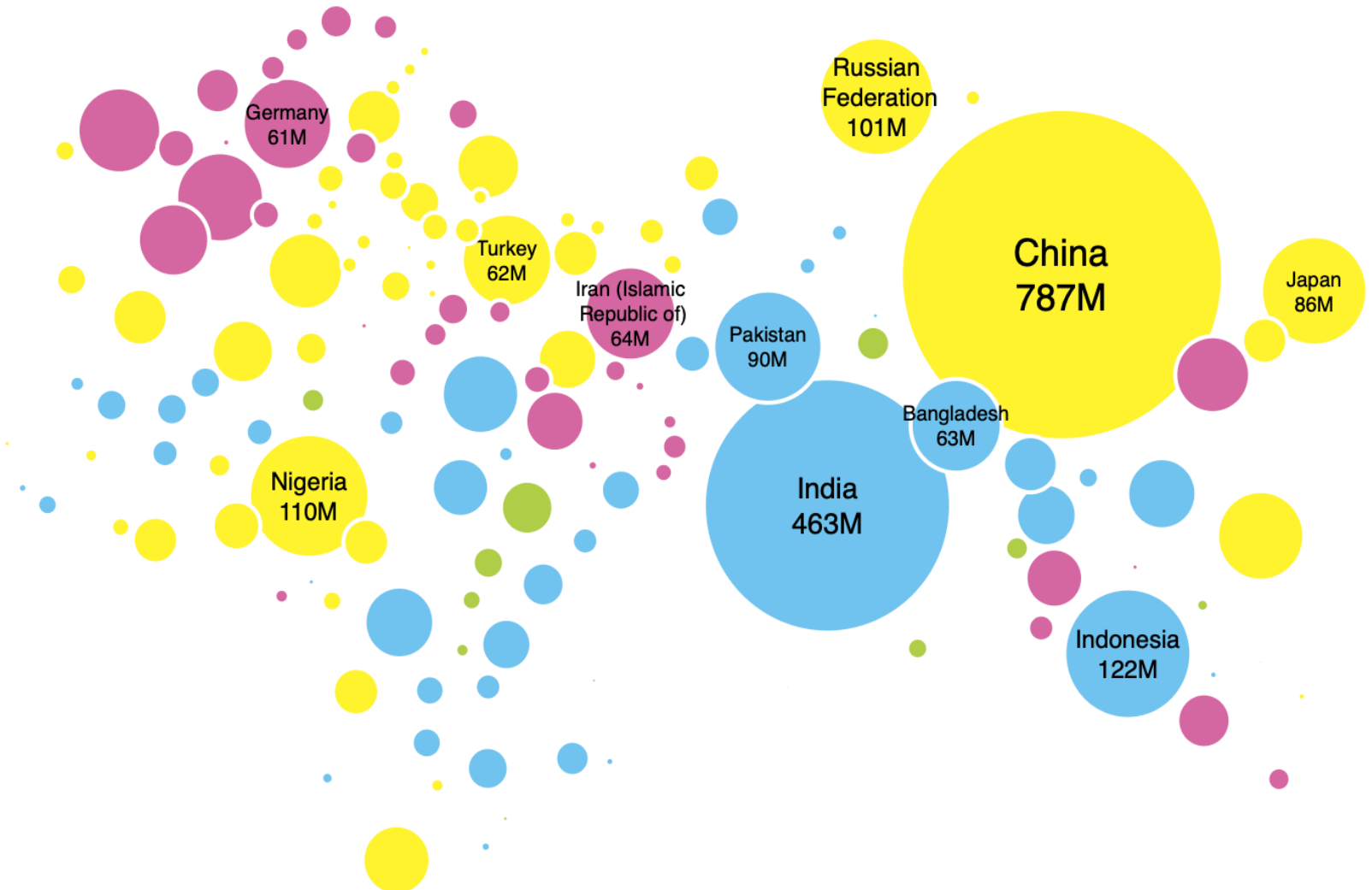
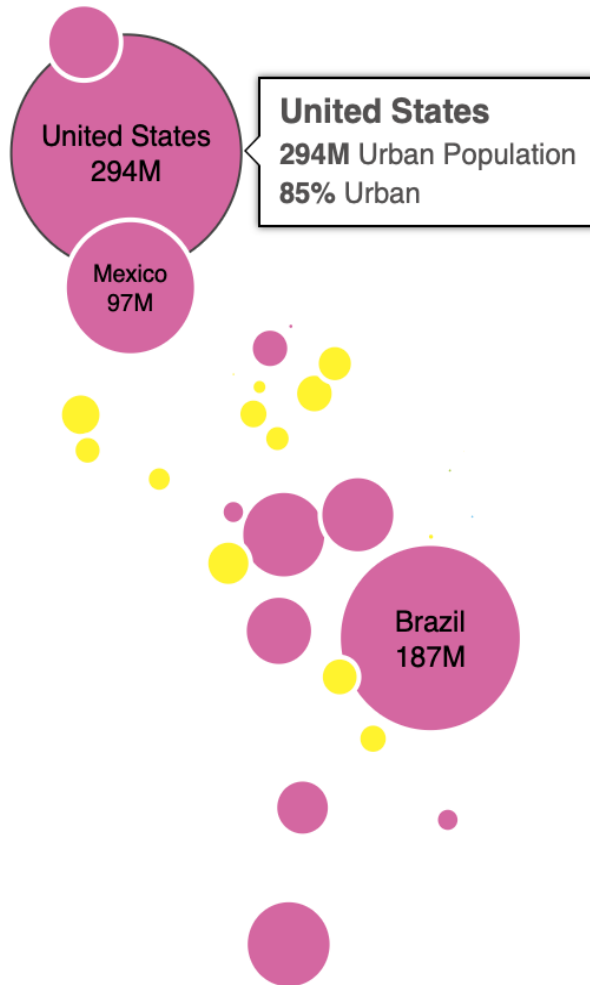
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2020





# AN URBAN WORLD

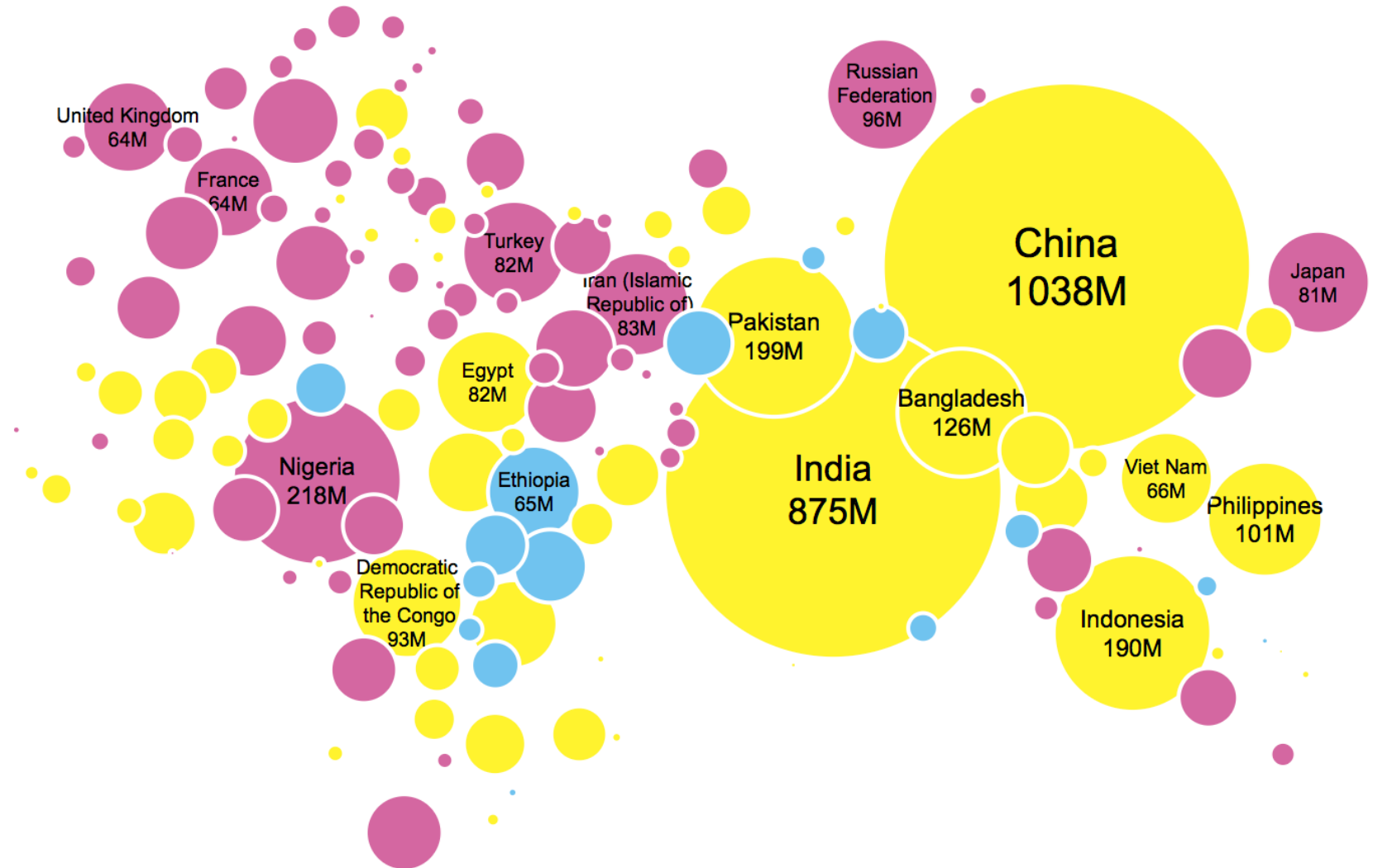
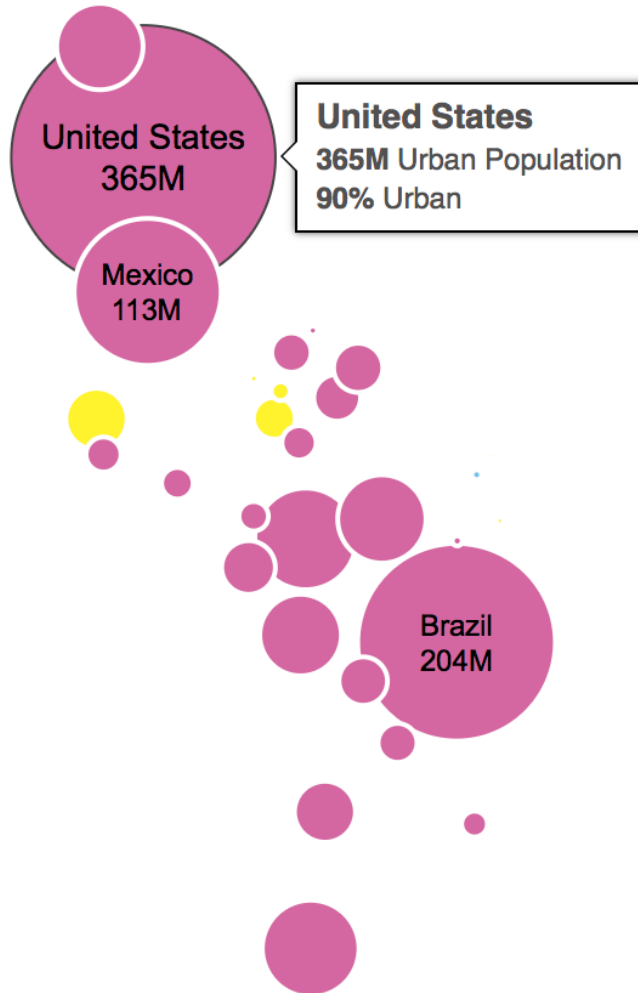
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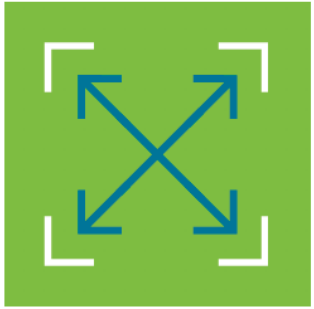


2050

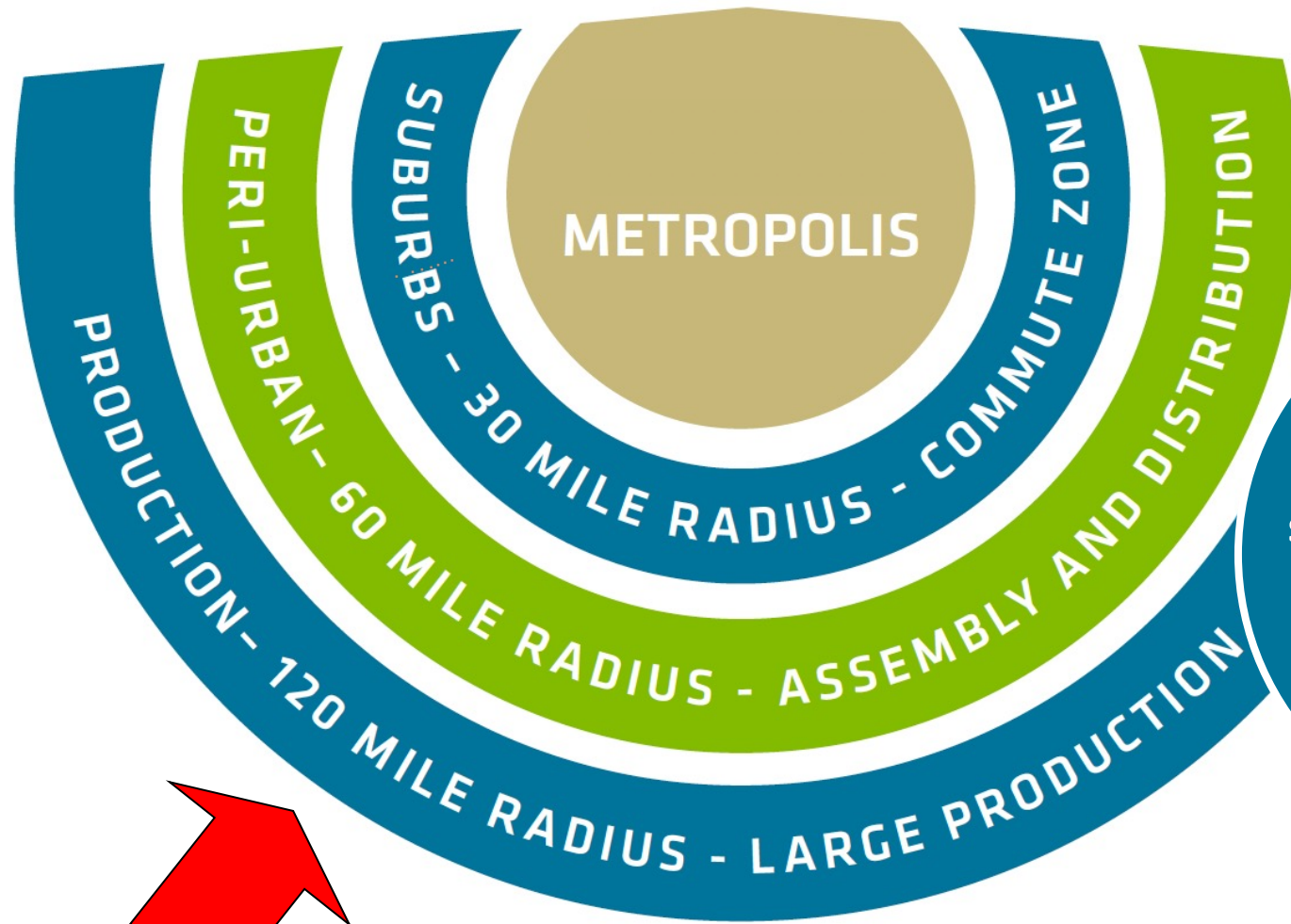




## Arc of Innovation



Future-Splitting  
Questions™



How does this  
strengthen the strategic  
proposition for a 'first-  
ring' city?

**Society is re-distributing into and  
around mega-cities**

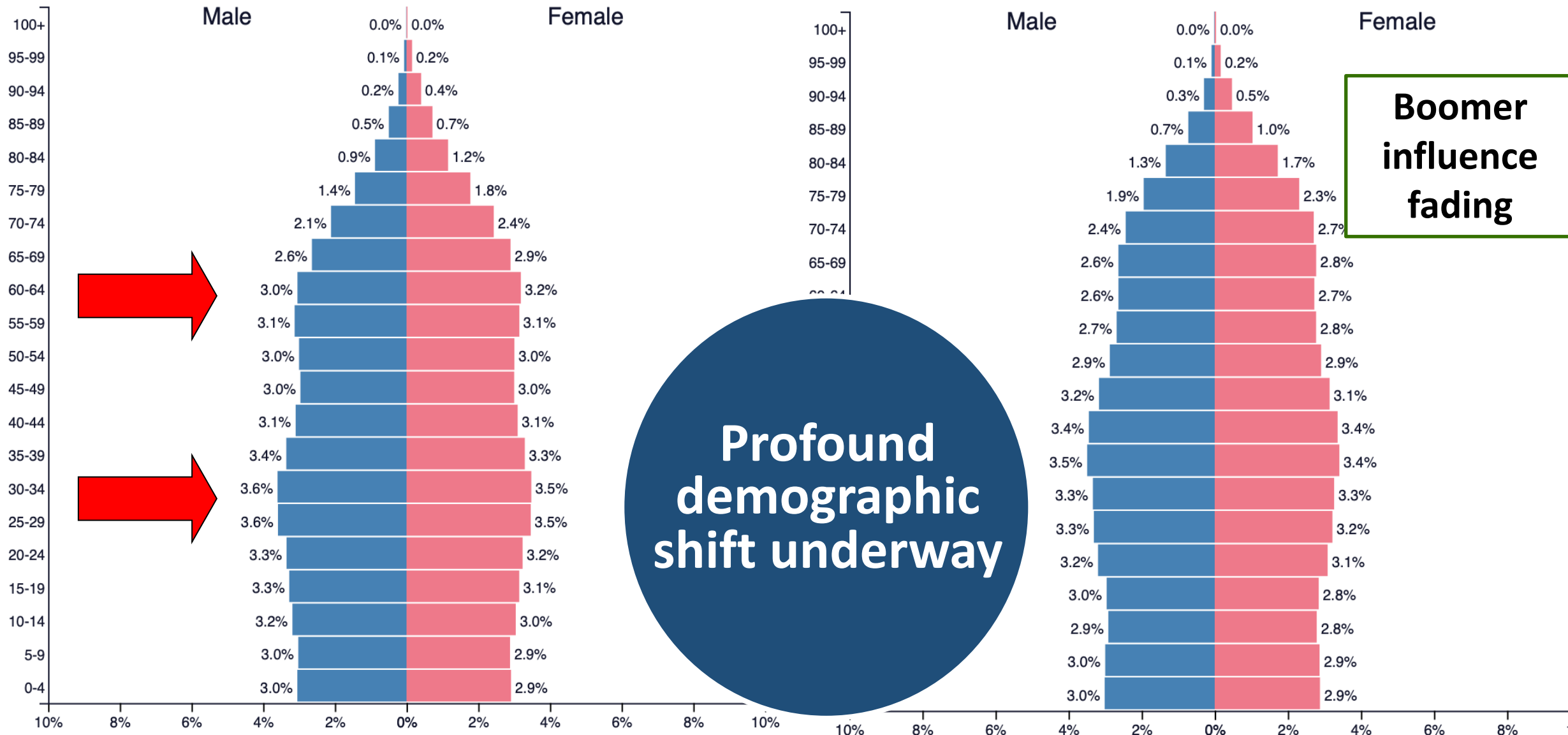


United States of America ▼  
2022

Population: 334,805,268

United States of America ▼  
2032

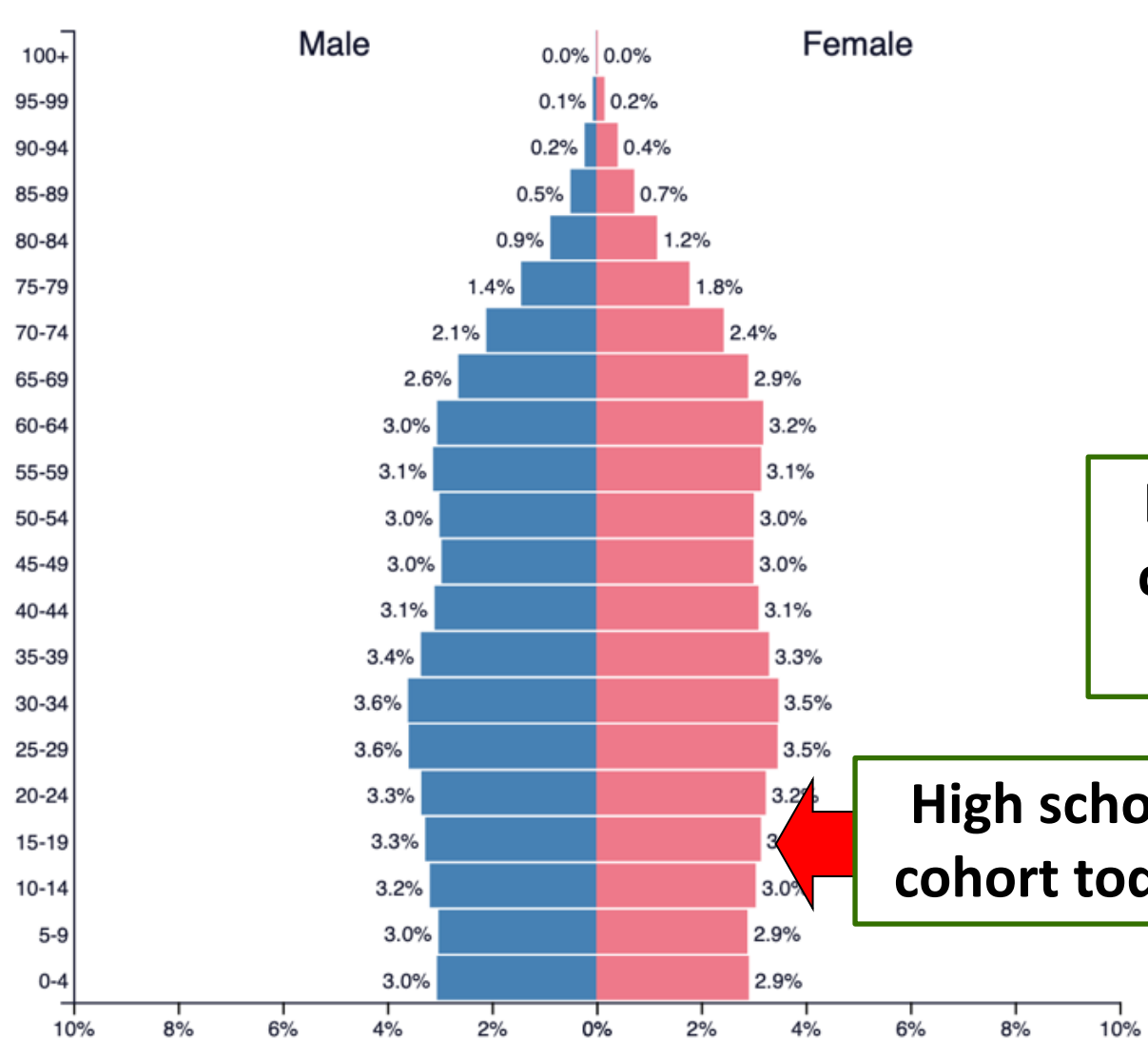
Population: 353,335,452





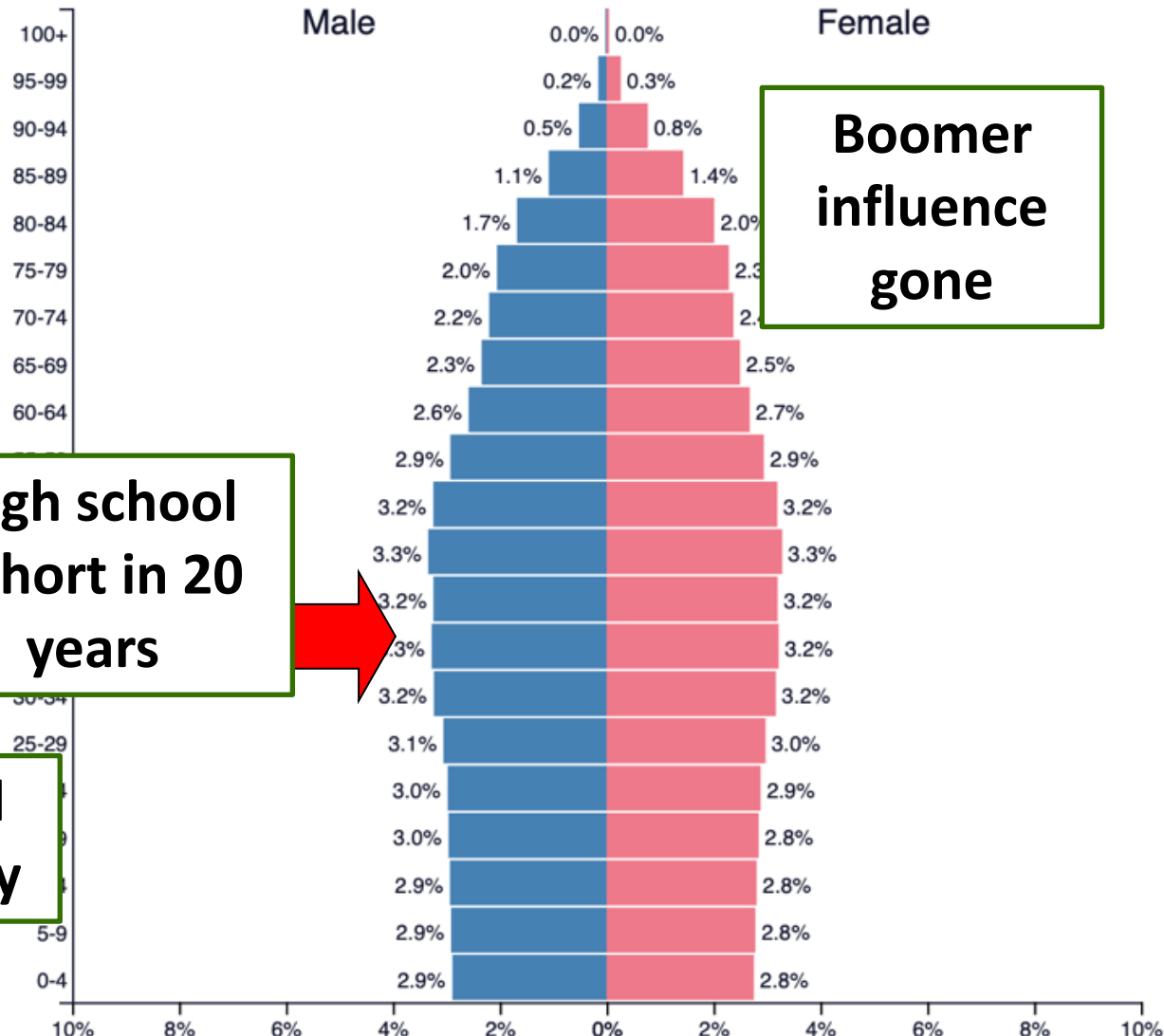
United States of America ▼  
2022

Population: 334,805,268



United States of America ▼  
2042

Population: 369,396,554



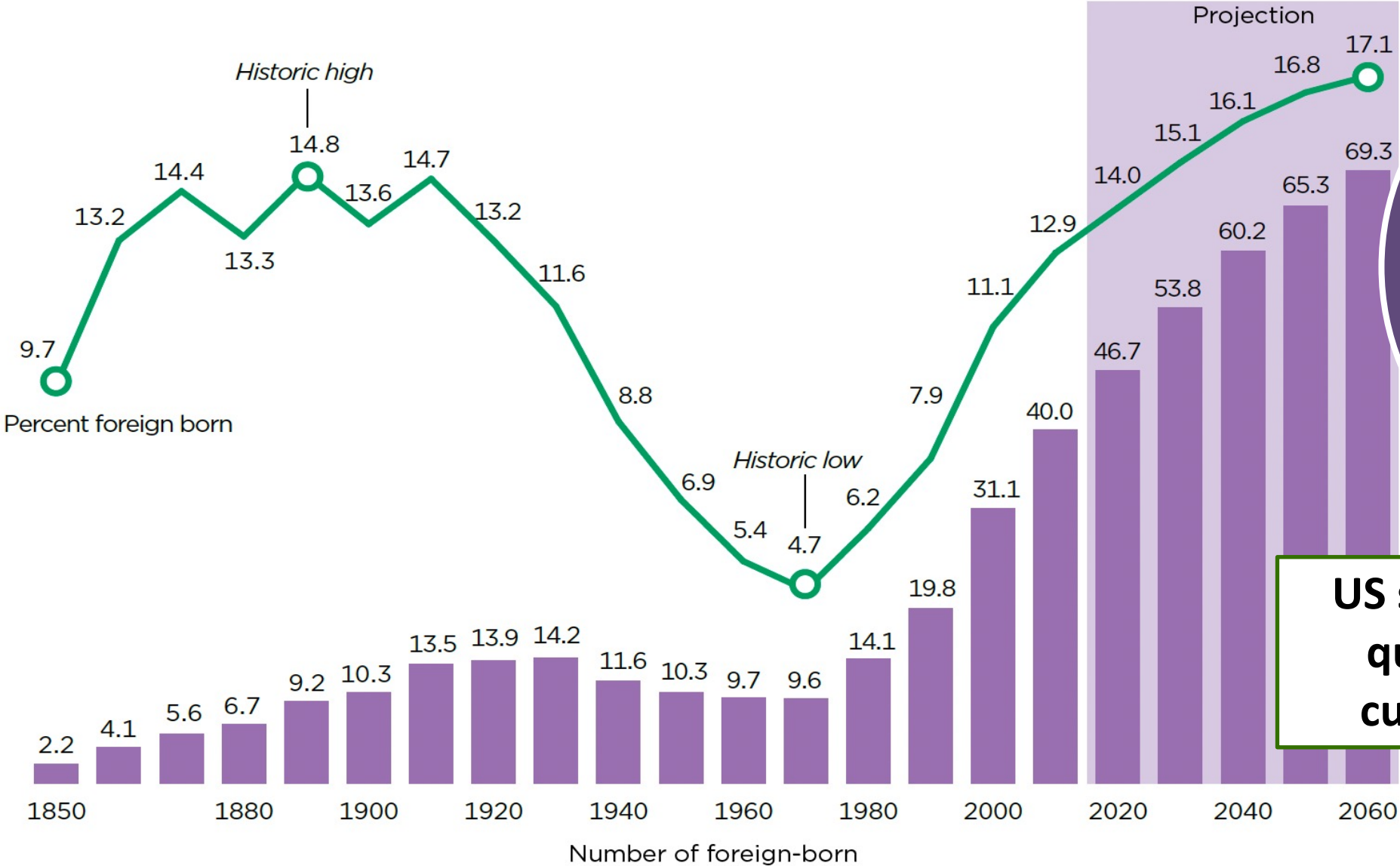
Boomer  
influence  
gone

High school  
cohort in 20  
years

High school  
cohort today



By 2028, the foreign-born share of the U.S. population is projected to be higher than at any time since 1850.



**Foreign born %  
increasing**

**US society is changing  
quickly, with more  
cultures and voices**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1850-2000 Decennial Censuses, American Community Survey 2010, 2017 National Population Projections for 2020-2060.





Shifting  
societal  
values



# Predictions and observations

- Generational change is coming which will trigger widespread upheaval of norms.
- People and industries will continue to cluster around mega-cities, in specialized cities and regional centers.







# Demographic + Population + Mass Urbanization

What does this mean for the  
the future of economic development in  
Littleton?



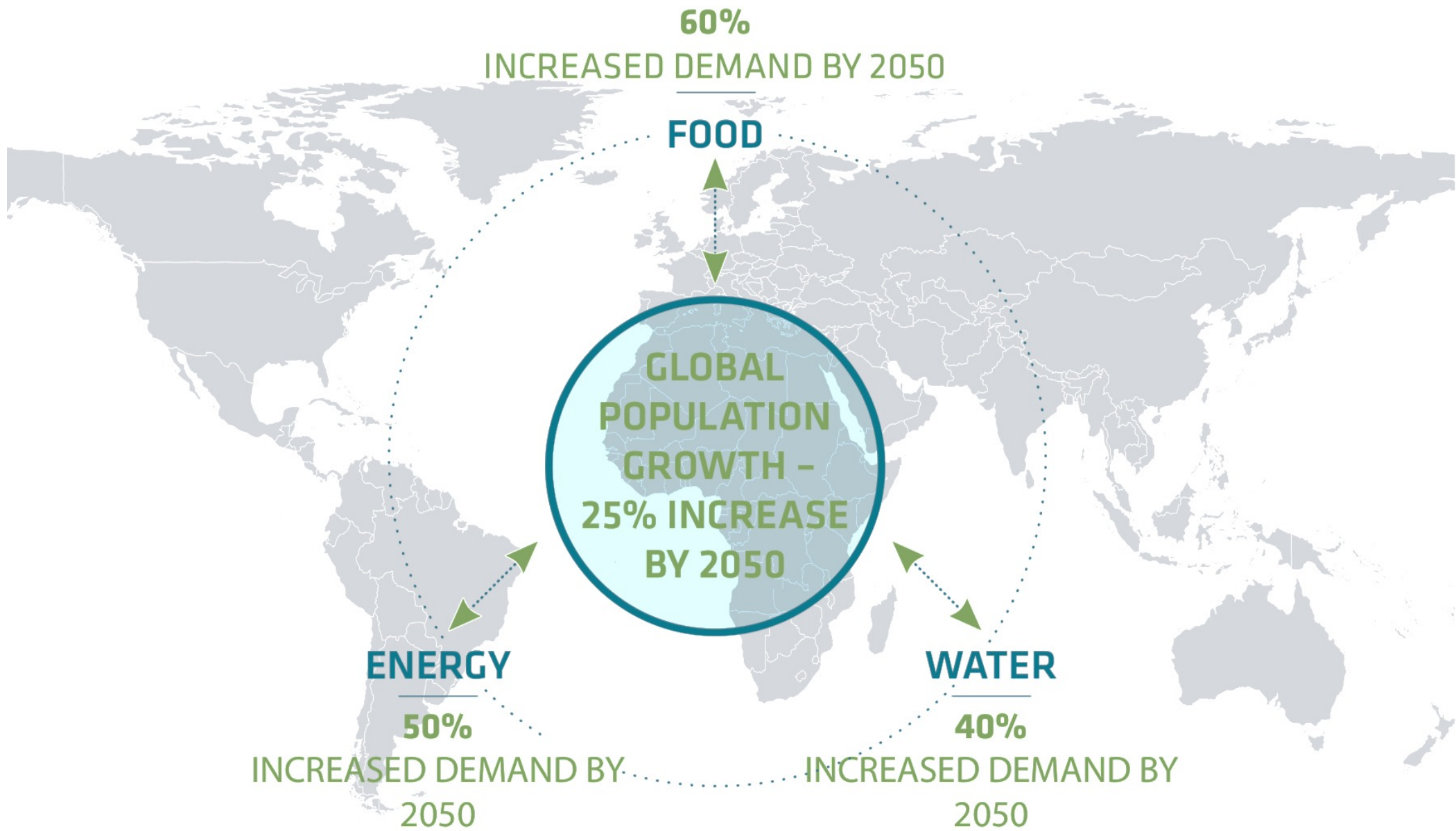




# Energy + Water + Food + Climate Change









# Renewable Energy

Potential for  
unlimited  
cheap energy

Electrification of the  
world is accelerating,  
driven by renewable  
energy



# FRESH WATER

- Nearly 450 million people in 29 countries now face severe water shortages
- As much as 2/3 of the world population could be water-stressed by 2025
- Half the world's rivers and lakes are seriously polluted





**2 BILLION**

PEOPLE DON'T GET ENOUGH VITAMINS AND MINERALS

**795 MILLION**

PEOPLE DON'T GET ENOUGH CALORIES

**161 MILLION**

CHILDREN ARE CHRONICALLY UNDERNOURISHED

WE HAVE A BIG PROBLEM WITH  
**UNDERNUTRITION**

WE HAVE A BIG PROBLEM WITH  
**OVERWEIGHT & OBESITY**

**1.9 BILLION**

ADULTS ARE OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE

**1 in 12**

ADULTS HAVE DIABETES

**42 MILLION**

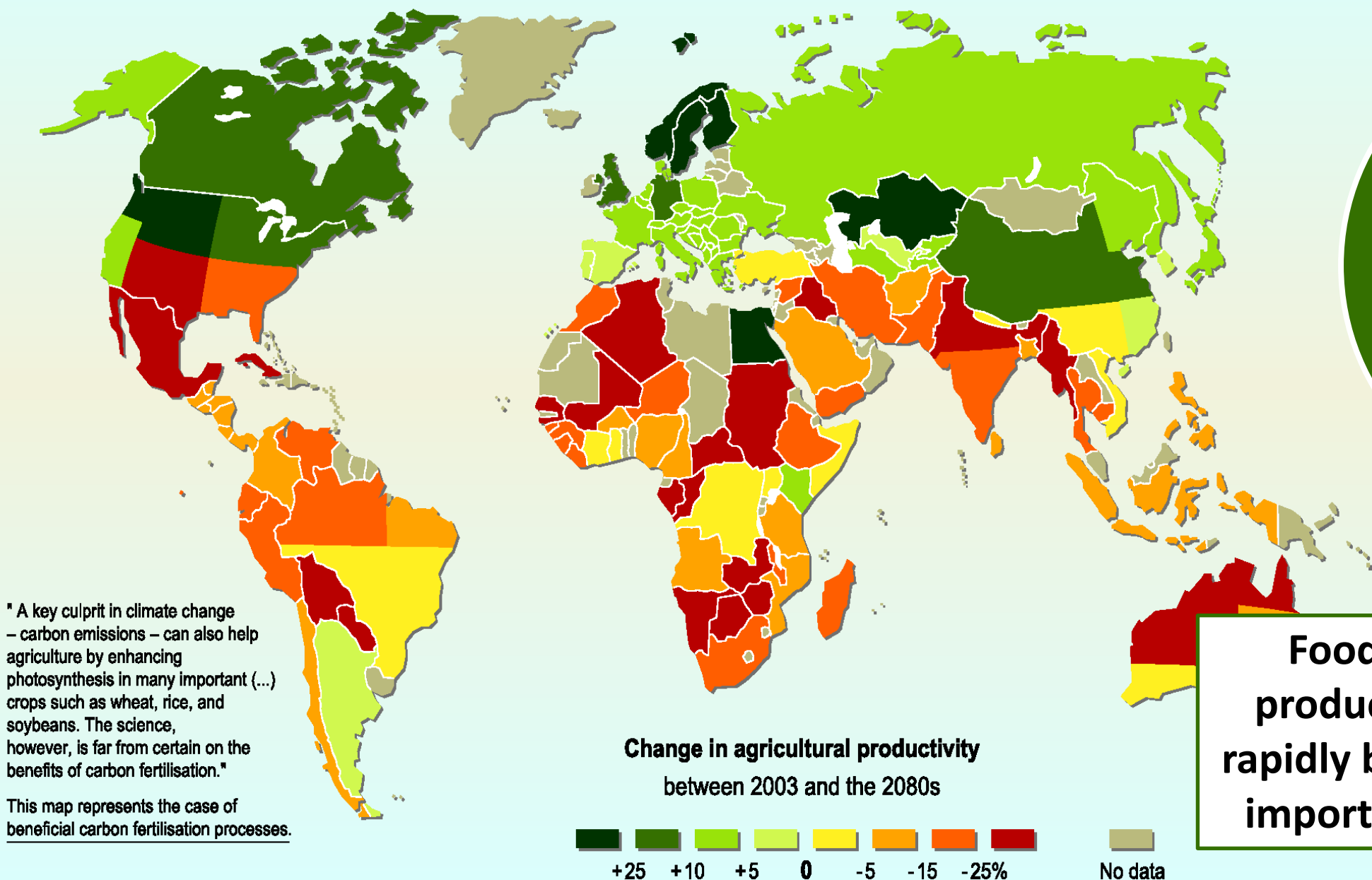
CHILDREN ARE OVERWEIGHT







# Projected impact of climate change on agricultural yields



" A key culprit in climate change – carbon emissions – can also help agriculture by enhancing photosynthesis in many important (...) crops such as wheat, rice, and soybeans. The science, however, is far from certain on the benefits of carbon fertilisation."

This map represents the case of beneficial carbon fertilisation processes.

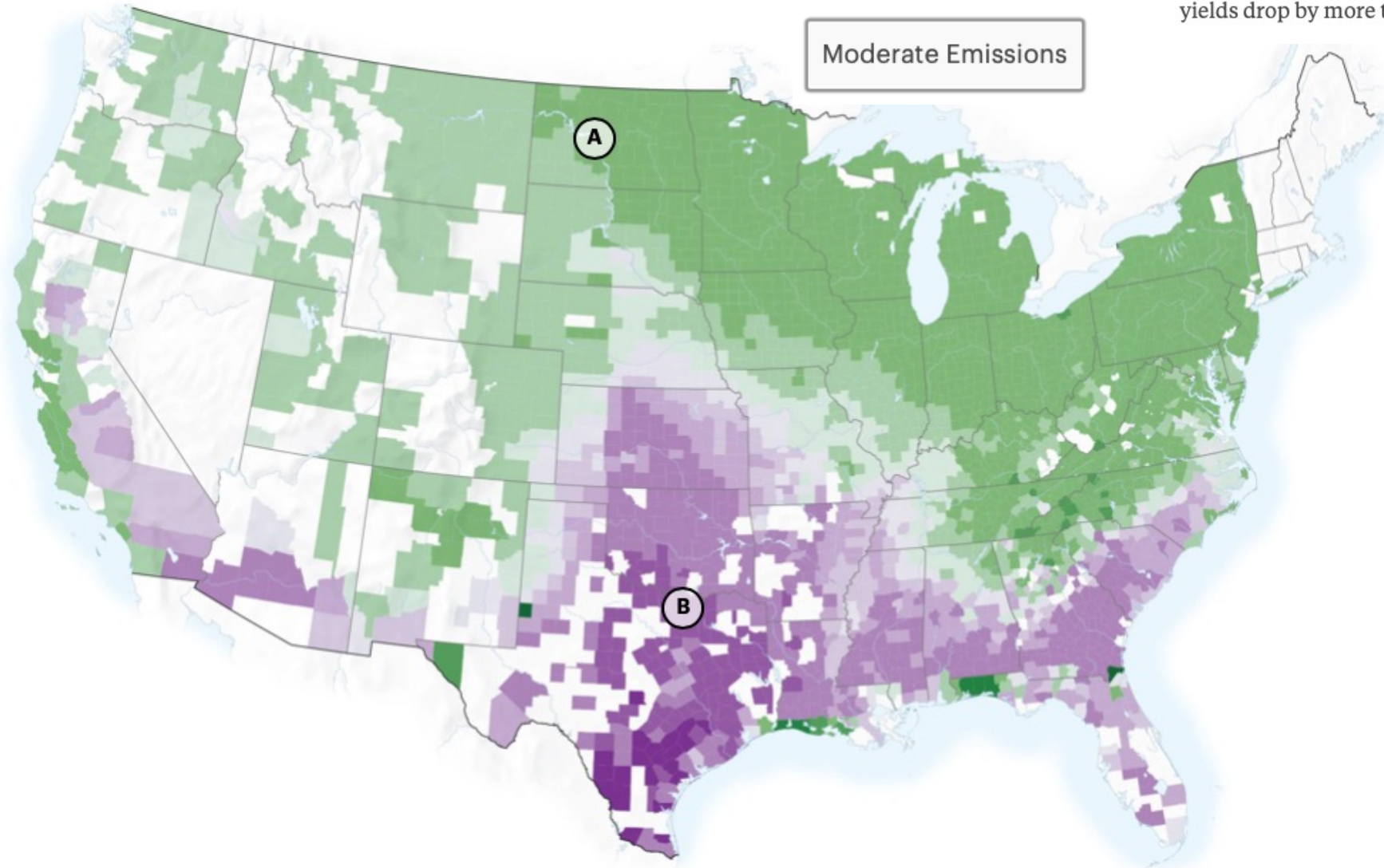
Increases  
and  
decreases

Food security and  
production capability  
rapidly becoming a more  
important global issue





## Farm Crop Yields: 2040-2060

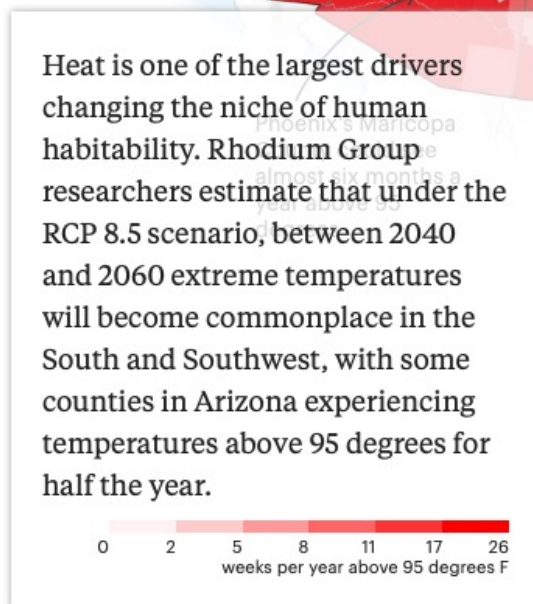


Corn and soy production is more sensitive to heat than drought, and it will decrease for every degree of warming. By midcentury, North Dakota **(A)**, which already harvests millions of acres of both crops, will warm enough to allow for more growing days and higher yields. But parts of Texas and Oklahoma **(B)** may see yields drop by more than 70%.





## Extreme Heat and Humidity: 2040-2060

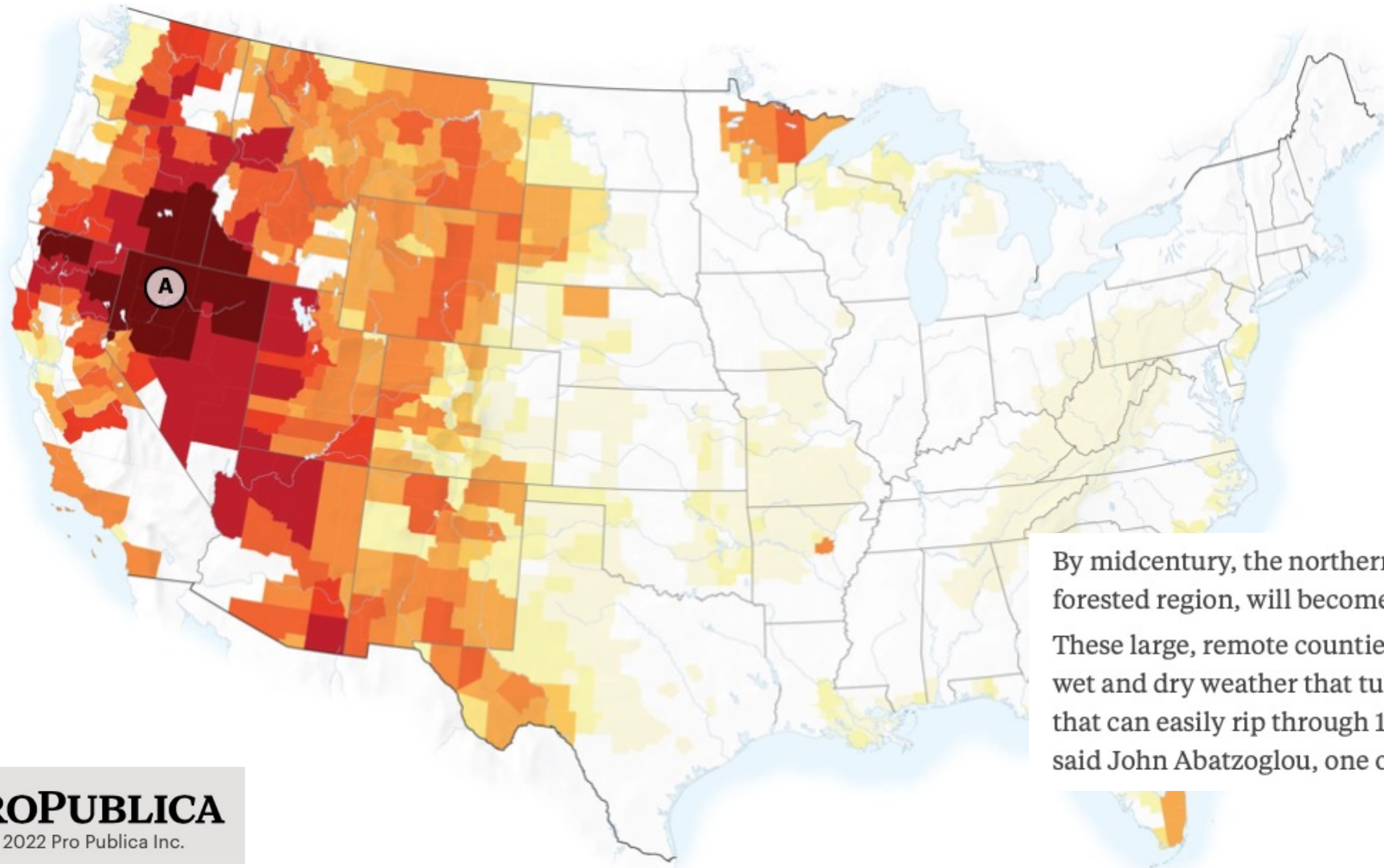
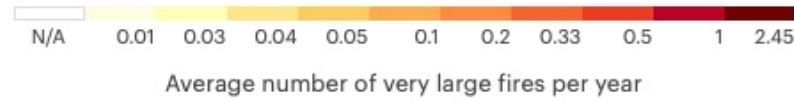




High Emissions



## Large Wildfires: 2040-2071



By midcentury, the northern Great Basin, though not a densely forested region, will become the epicenter of large wildfires (A). These large, remote counties in Nevada and Oregon see cycles of wet and dry weather that turn the grassland into the fuel for fires that can easily rip through 10,000 acres a day with strong winds, said John Abatzoglou, one of the authors of the study.



High Emissions

Moderate Emissions



# Sea Level Rise: 2040-2060

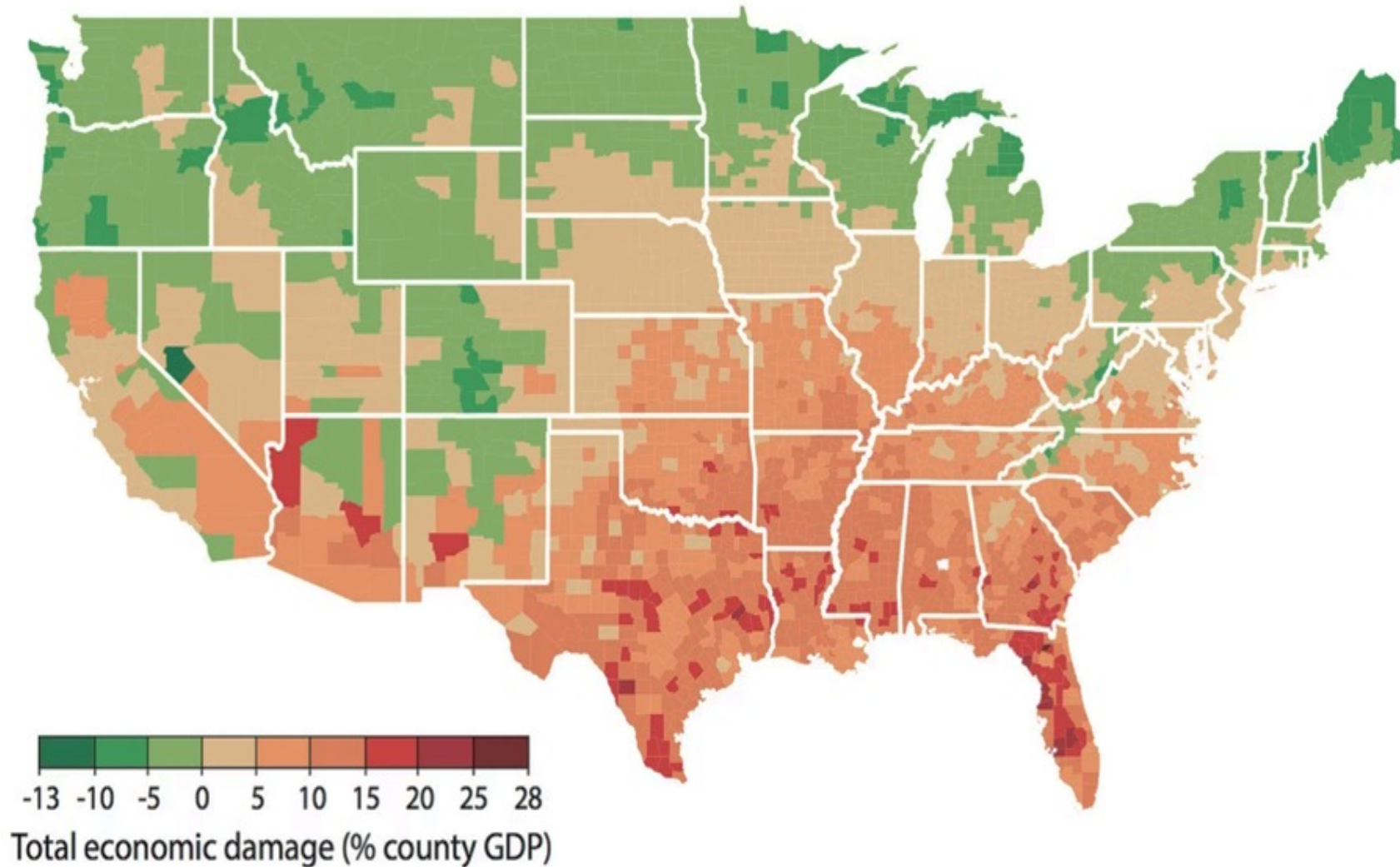


Percentage of property below high tide

Some 50 million Americans live in eight of the largest U.S. metro areas — Miami (A), New York (B) and Boston (C) among them — which all lie in some of the most affected counties in the U.S.







Potential economic damages are shown at the county level in a scenario in which emissions of greenhouse gases continue at current rates. Green indicates areas that could see economic benefits. To see an interactive version of this map, click [here](#).

Hsiang, Kopp, Jina, Rising, et al./Science

Source: [Christopher Joyce, MPR News, June 29, 2017](#)

**Long term  
GDP impact  
positive in  
north**

**Climate change may  
drive migration patterns  
within US may move to  
'north', and from 'west  
to center'**



# New Climate Maps Show a Transformed United States

by [Al Shaw](#), [Abrahm Lustgarten](#), ProPublica, and Jeremy W. Goldsmith,  
Special to ProPublica, September 15, 2020.

In the United States, that niche today blankets the heart of the country, from the Atlantic seaboard through northern Texas and Nebraska, and the California coast.

According to new data from the Rhodium Group analyzed by ProPublica and The New York Times Magazine, warming temperatures and changing rainfall will drive agriculture and temperate climates northward, while sea level rise will consume coastlines and dangerous levels of humidity will swamp the Mississippi River valley.





# Predictions and observations

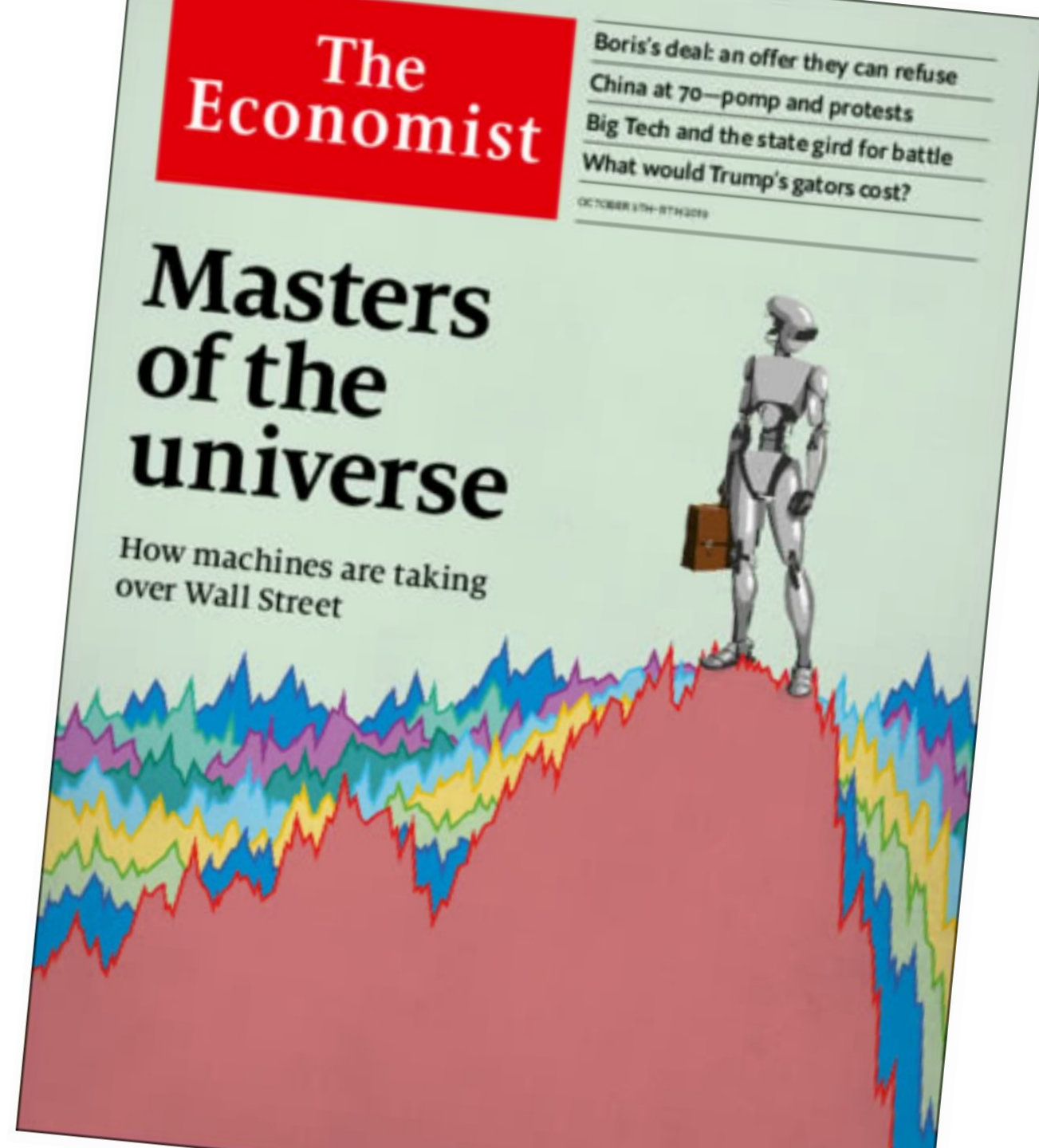
- Growing disconnect between where food will be consumed, and where it can be grown.
- New migration patterns are emerging





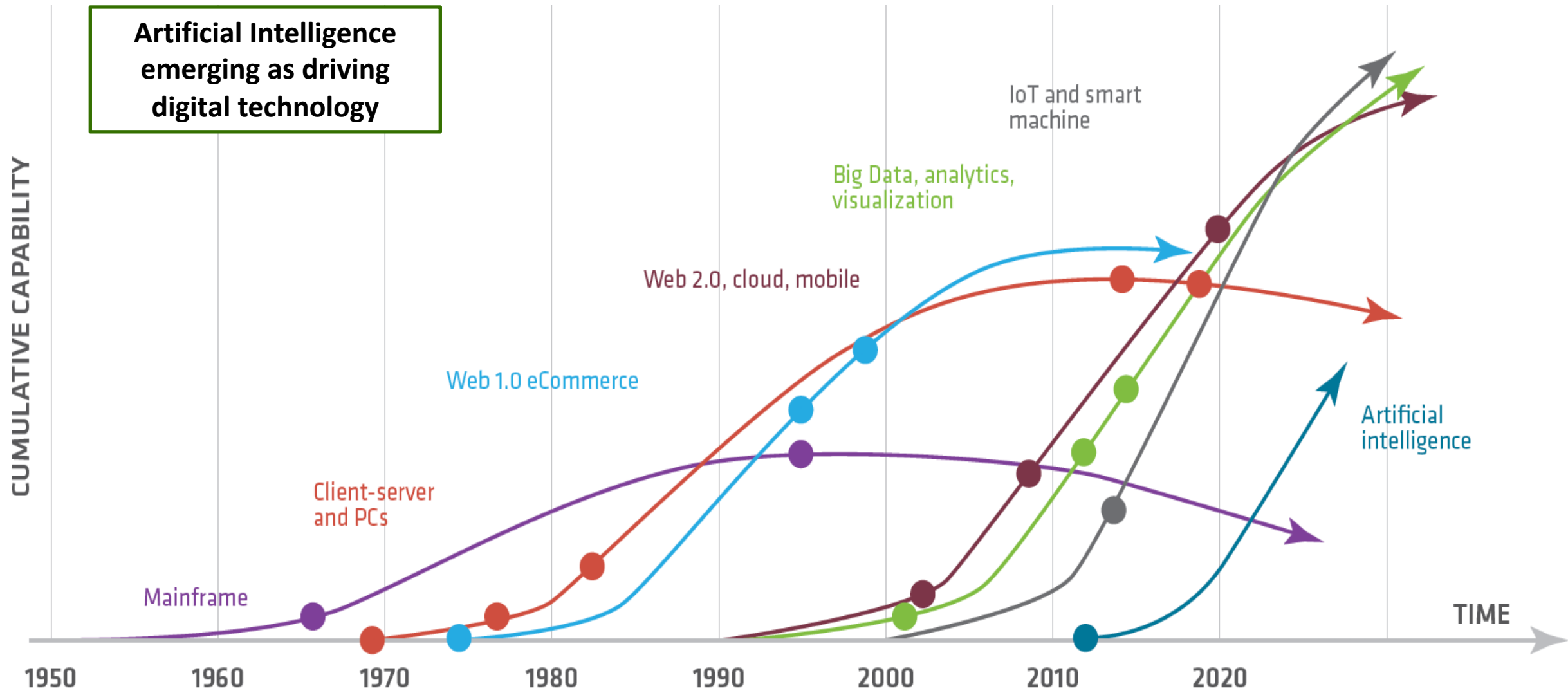


# Technology and the speed of change





## THE INCREASING CAPABILITY OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

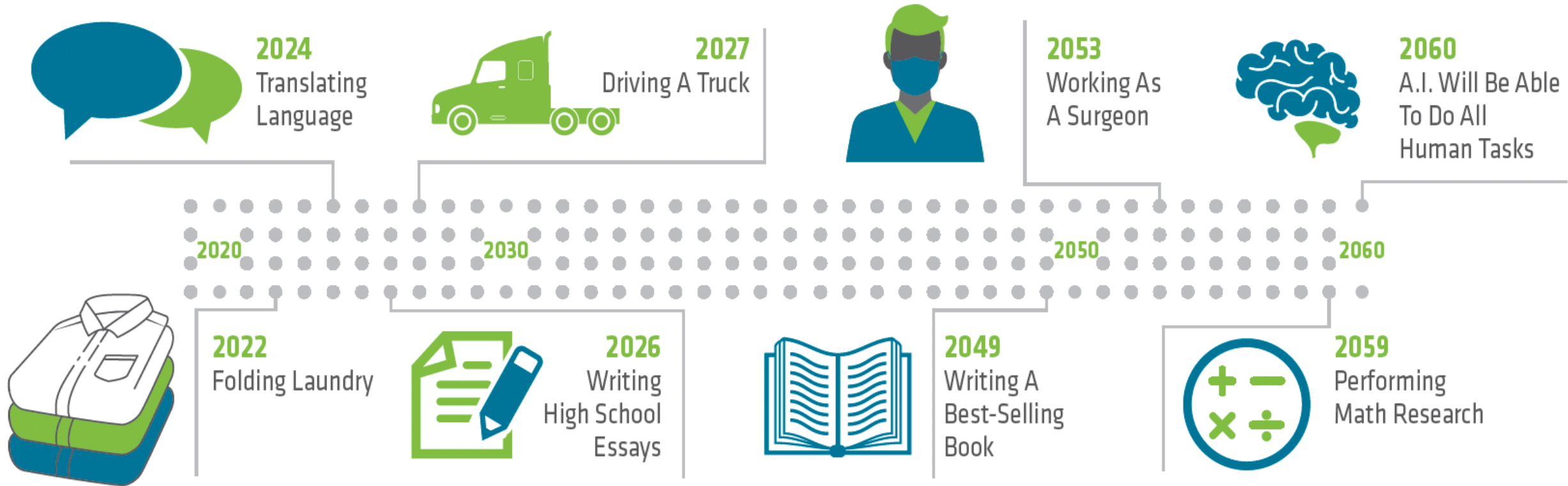




# When will AI outperform people?

**AI is reshaping our lives  
and industries – right  
now**

AI WILL LIKELY OUTPERFORM HUMANS AT...



Source: 'You Will Lose Your Job to a Robot—and Sooner Than You Think'. Kevin Drum, Mother Jones, November / December Issue, 2017. (adapted from 'When will AI exceed human performance? Evidence from AI Experts', Oxford and Yale University 2017)<sup>12</sup>

Reproduced from Next Industrial Revolution, Future iQ, 2018





Source: New Yorker Oct 23, 2017, and Max Planck Research 2009



# Rapid systemic change and technology integration

Adapted from: Source: Deloitte. 2014. Industry 4.0 Challenges and solutions for the digital transformation and use of exponential technologies

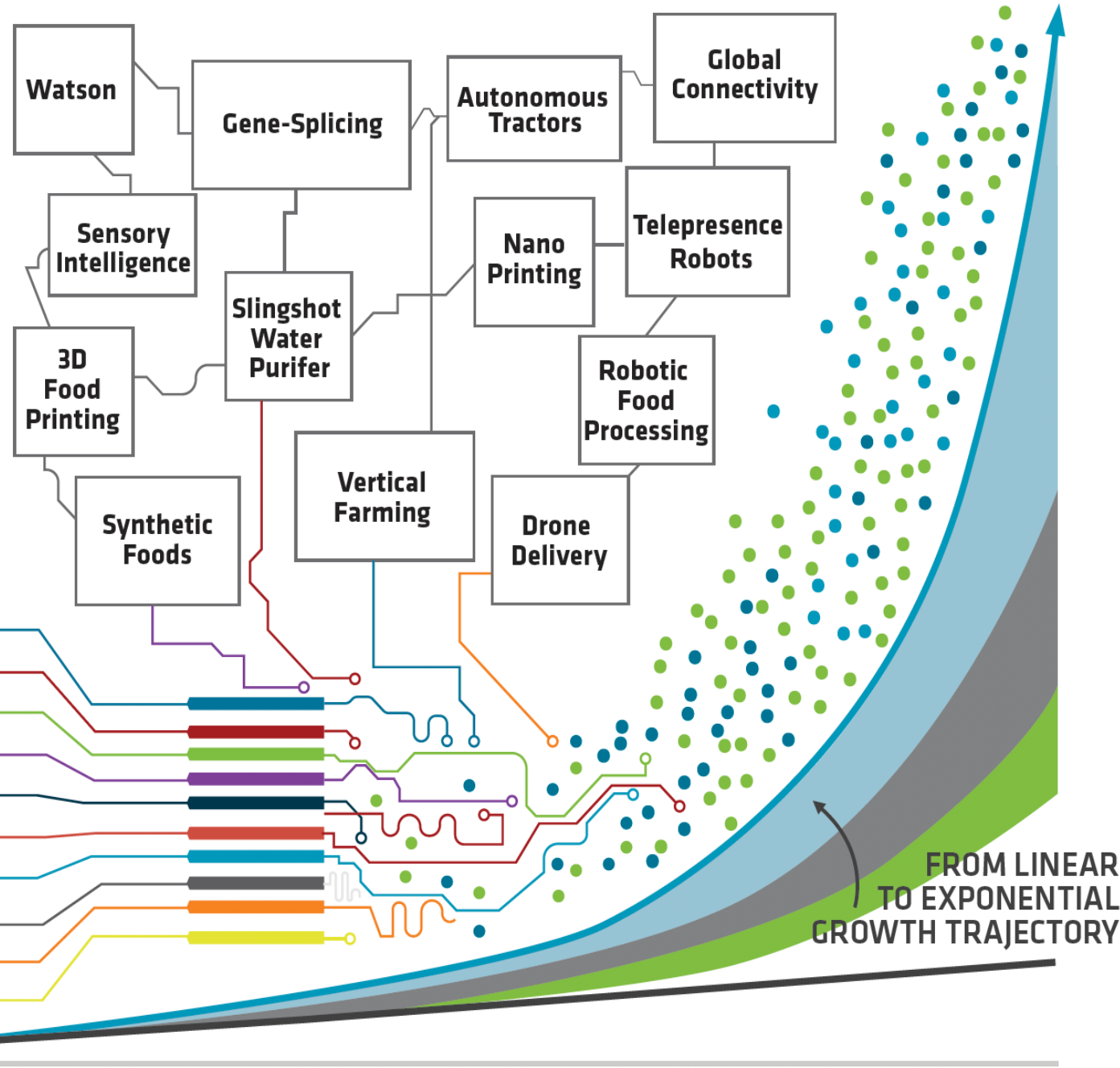
SPEED OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

EXPONENTIAL TECHNOLOGIES

**Technological Development**  
Moore's Law: The power of chips, bandwidth and computer doubles appr. every 18 months.

**The Human Factor**  
Technological dev. feeds and enables various trends in society: Democratisation, Social Connection, DIY, Decentralisation.

Biotech  
Neurotech  
Nanotech  
New Energy & Sustainability  
ICT & Mobile Technology  
Sensing  
3D Food Printing  
Artificial Intelligence  
Robotics  
Drones







# Technology and speed of change

- Waves of disruption and technology are reshaping education, industries and economies
- Speed of change is exponential







# **Demographics + Resources + Technology**

What do all these future trends mean for the future of economic development in Littleton?





# City of Littleton

## Economic Benchmark Report

Littleton Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy  
June 2023







# Littleton Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

## IDENTIFYING KEY DRIVERS





## **Key Drivers:**

What key drivers do you think are most important for the future of economic development in Littleton?

(Key drivers are events, trends, developments, catalysts or forces that actively influence or cause change.)

Table brainstorm





## Key Drivers Handout

**What are the most important key drivers shaping the future of economic development in Littleton?**

(Key drivers are events, trends, developments, catalysts of forces that actively influence or cause change.)

1.

2.

3.

**Table brainstorm –  
key drivers**



# Key Drivers – [list developed in Think-Tank]

1. Transportation, Connectivity and Traffic
2. Housing Affordability-Full Range
3. Natural Resources
4. Primary Jobs and Talent
5. Infrastructure – electrical/grid/fiber
6. Aging population
7. Building location and zoning
8. Small business/entrepreneur
9. Diversity of population
10. Future community needs and desires
11. Supporting businesses / adaptation
12. Sales tax revenue
13. Cultural fluency
14. External Legislation
15. Technology trends
16. Redevelopment trajectory
17. Mental health
18. Mass urbanization
19. Recreation, entertainment
20. Future of work





## Key Driver Details

Building an understanding of each driver

**DRIVER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Building an  
understanding  
of each  
driver

1. Key emergent high-level trends associated with this driver:
2. Potential impacts on economic development in Littleton over the next decade:
3. What is the big 'FUTURE-SPLITTING QUESTION' for this driver?
4. Future predictions – How impacts may 'play out' for this driver over the next decade:





# Littleton Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

## RANKING KEY DRIVERS







# Key Drivers – Future Impact Score

*Rate each driver on a 1 – 10 scale of future impact (1 = small impact; 10 = very large impact)*

DRIVER	DRIVER NAME	Community Fabric	Economic Development
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Rating the importance  
of each driver –  
individual scoring





# Littleton Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

## THINK-TANK PART 2

### Think-Tank Part 2







## Littleton Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

# THINK-TANK WORKSHOPS

Monday, July 17  
3:00pm – 6:00pm

Tuesday, July 18  
9:00am – 12:00pm

## AGENDA

### Session 1: Explore Future Trends

**Date:** Monday, July 17, 2023

**Time:** 3:00pm – 6:00pm

**Location:** Bemis Public Library  
6014 S. Datura Street  
Littleton, CO 80120

### Session 2: Build Scenarios

**Date:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023

**Time:** 9:00am – 12:00pm

**Location:** Bemis Public Library  
6014 S. Datura Street  
Littleton, CO 80120