



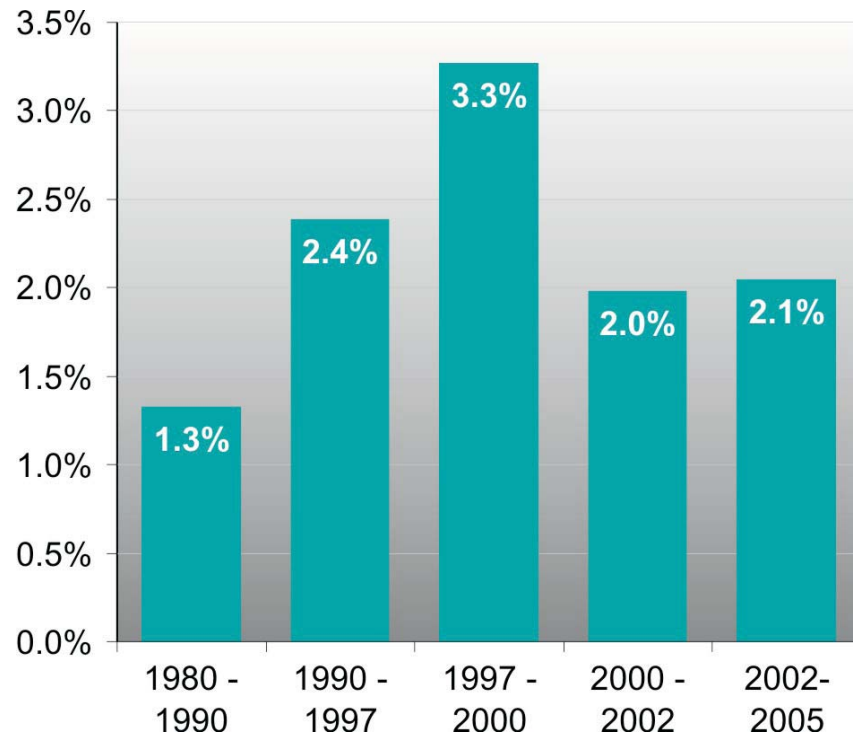
## Population Demographics

**Goal:** Maintain and improve quality of life in the Denver region while adapting to and accepting changes associated with an increasing population.

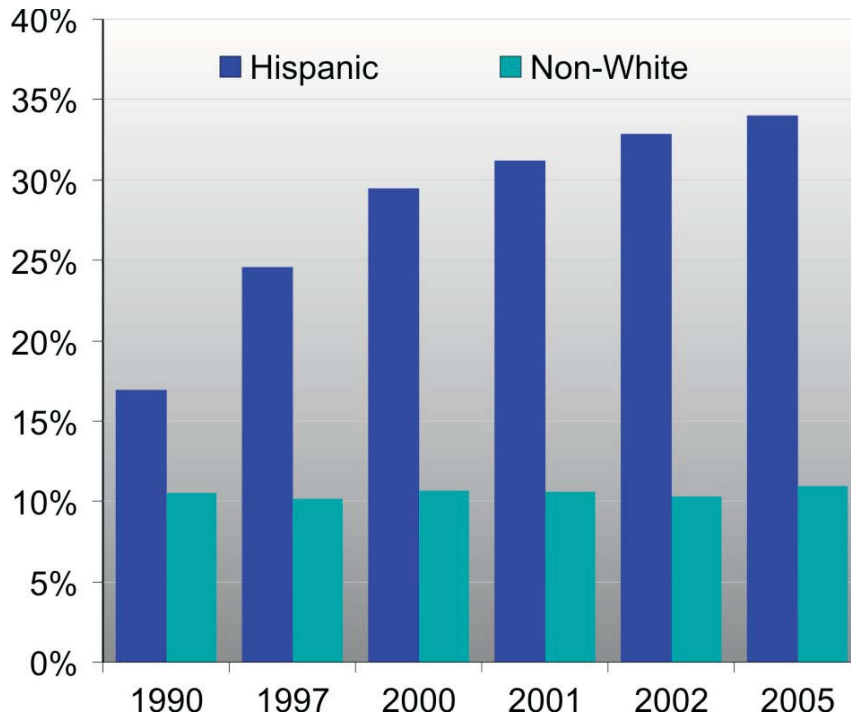
**Measures:** Population growth, diversity, education and age.

**Conclusions:** Regional population growth soared during the 1990s, reaching a high of 3.3 percent annual growth in the decade's last four years. By comparison, the population grew 1.3 percent annually during the 1980s. Since 2000, population growth has slowed to about 2 percent annually. DRCOG expects growth to continue at about 2.5 percent annually through the remainder of the decade.

Average Annual Population Growth Rate



### Births to Hispanic and Non-White Mothers (Percent of Total Births in 2005)

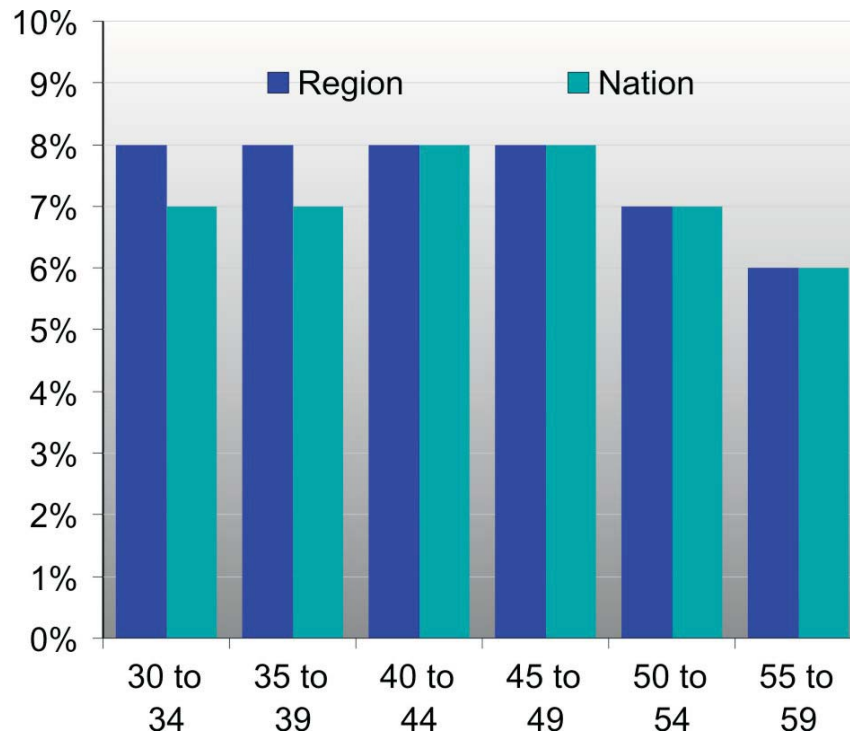


Racial and ethnic diversity can contribute to community vitality by expanding ideas and perspectives. Although our region’s racial composition changed very little during the 1990s, the Hispanic population grew dramatically during that time period (Hispanic identity is an ethnic characteristic and is independent of race). Much of this increase was due to people moving into the region, but just over one-third of the increase came from births to existing residents.

Residents over the age of 25 with bachelor’s degrees rose from 27 percent in 1990 to 30 percent in 2000. The share of residents with a graduate degree also rose from 10 percent to 12 percent over the same time period. Many of these individuals were educated outside the Denver region before moving here. The continued attraction and retention of highly educated residents is crucial for our region’s economic health.

The aging of the baby boomer population will also have a significant effect on the national and regional economy. Communities must consider the forthcoming changes to the labor force and the increasing demand for aging services as this population group ages.

Population Aged 30 to 59  
(Percent of Total Population in 2005)



**Action steps:** To promote continued vitality, our region can take the following actions:

- Support funding for K-12 and higher education.
- Retain individuals who are educated in Colorado's school system and encourage them to obtain higher levels of education.
- Plan to provide services, housing and transportation networks that meet the needs of a changing population, both in terms of ethnic and age characteristics.