

Immigrant Contributions to the Regional Economy

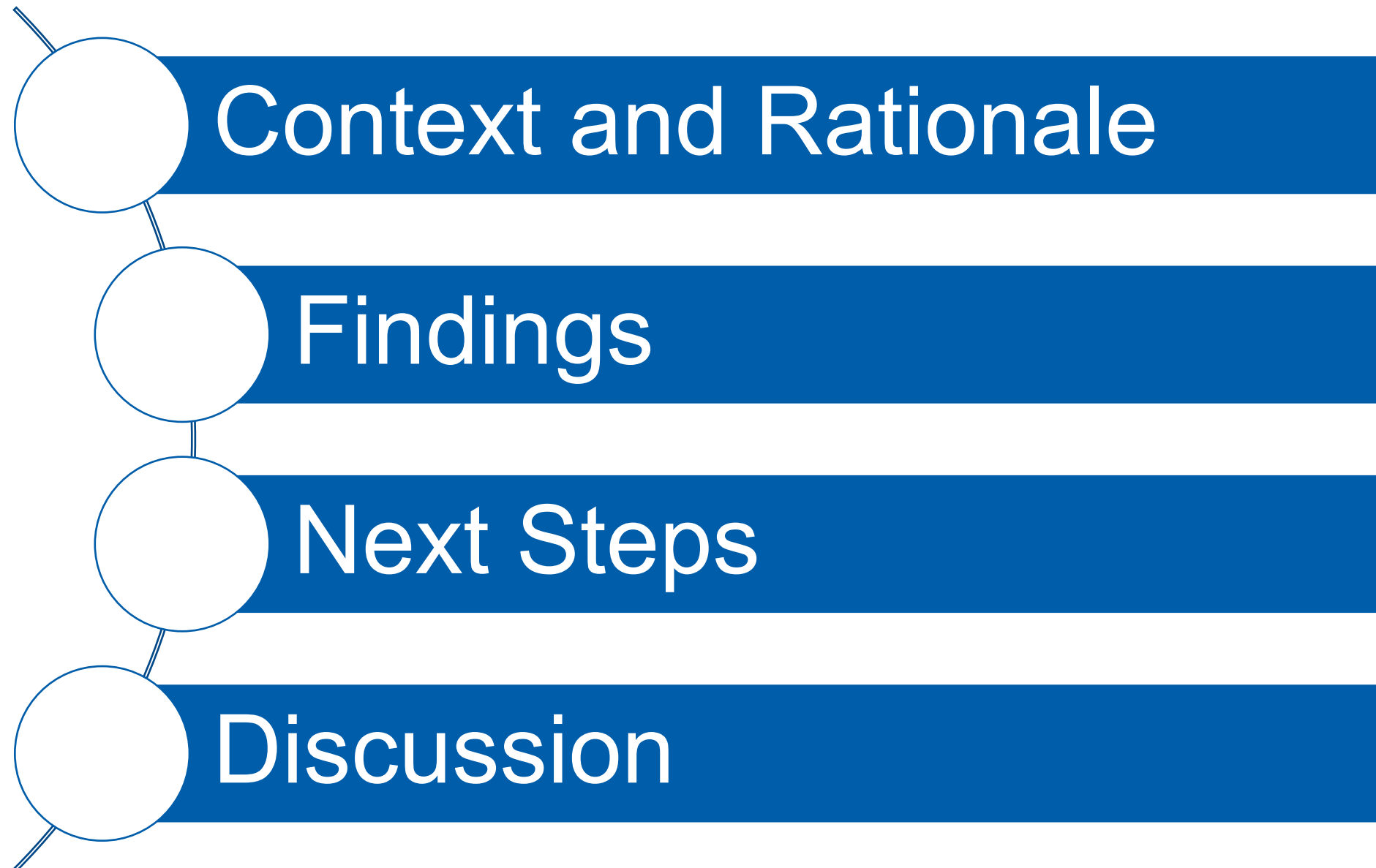


September 2026

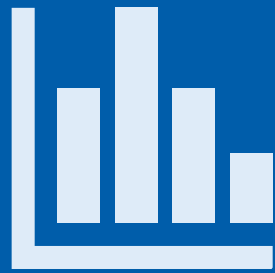
Baris Gumus-Dawes

metro council.org

Today's Presentation



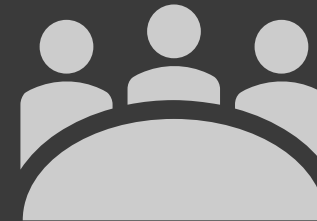
Three Components of the Project



Data on the economic contributions of immigrants to the Twin Cities region



Small business voices, highlighting Metro Surge's long-term impacts on main street businesses across the region.



Convening of regional stakeholders

Rationale

Imagine 2050: Dynamic and Resilient Goal

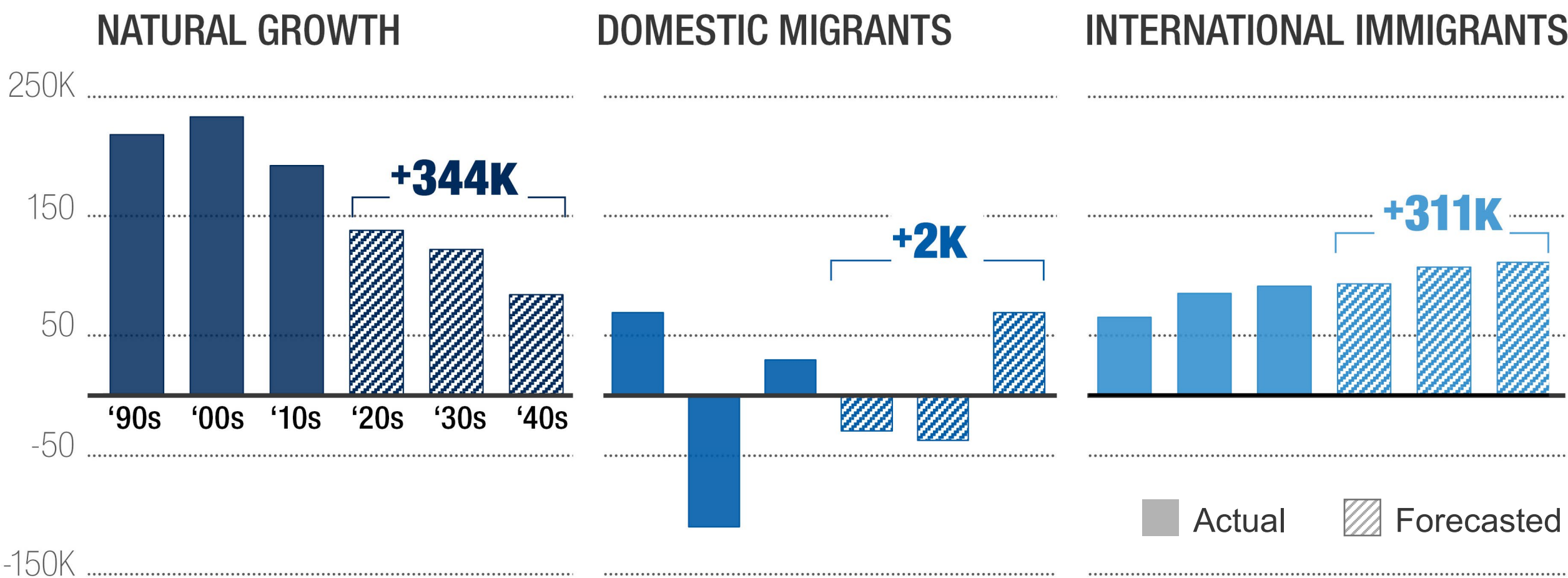
- Analyze impacts of an event that threatens the resilience of the region.
- Collaborate with regional partners to identify regional strategies.

2025 Regional Economic Framework

- Hold future convenings (as needed) that can help continue the conversation around the region's economy.

The region's future population growth will increasingly depend on international immigration

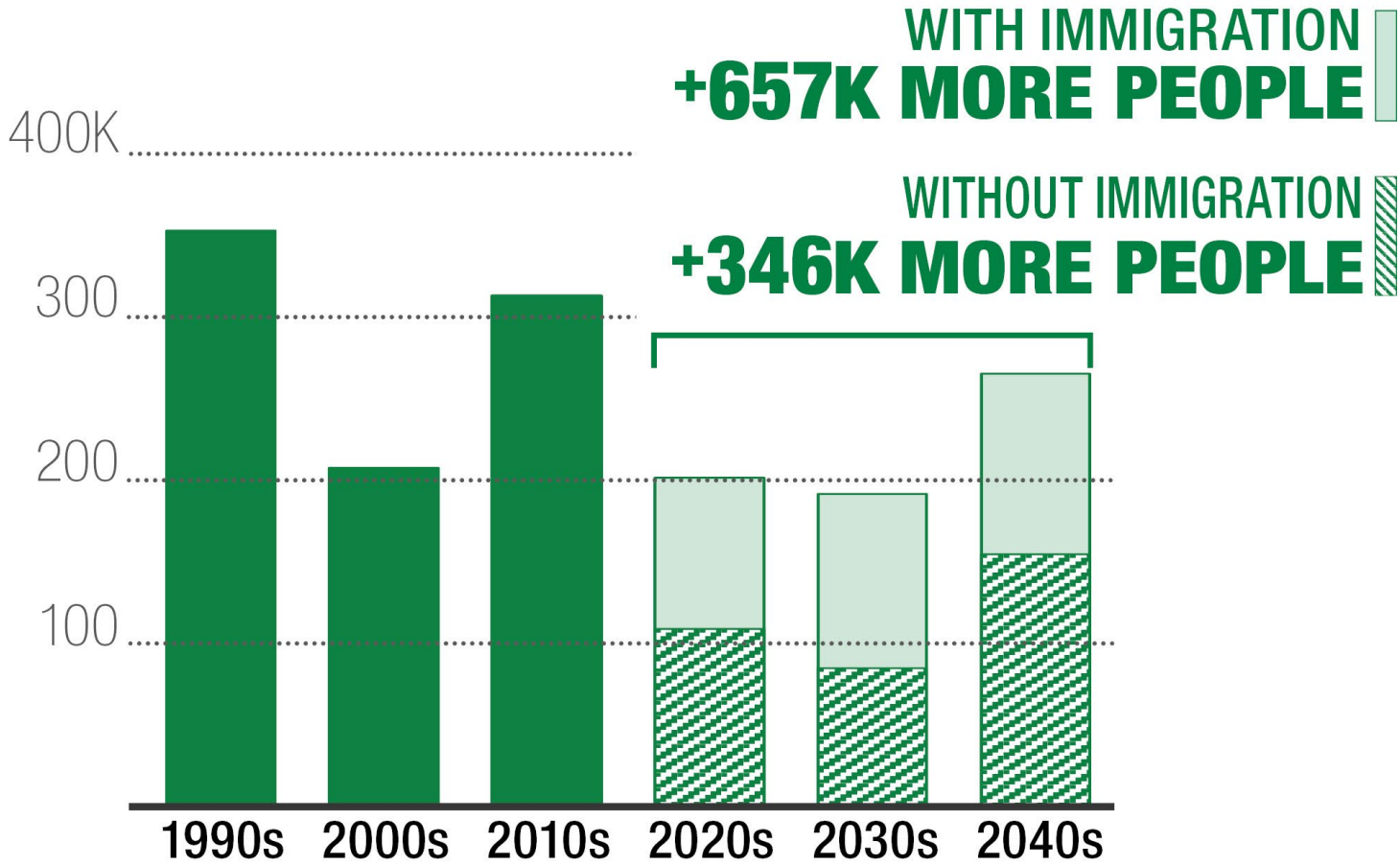
Sources of Population Change, Twin Cities Region



International immigration will increasingly drive net population growth

International immigration accounts for 47% of all regional population growth forecasted through 2050

Net Population Change by Decade, Twin Cities Region

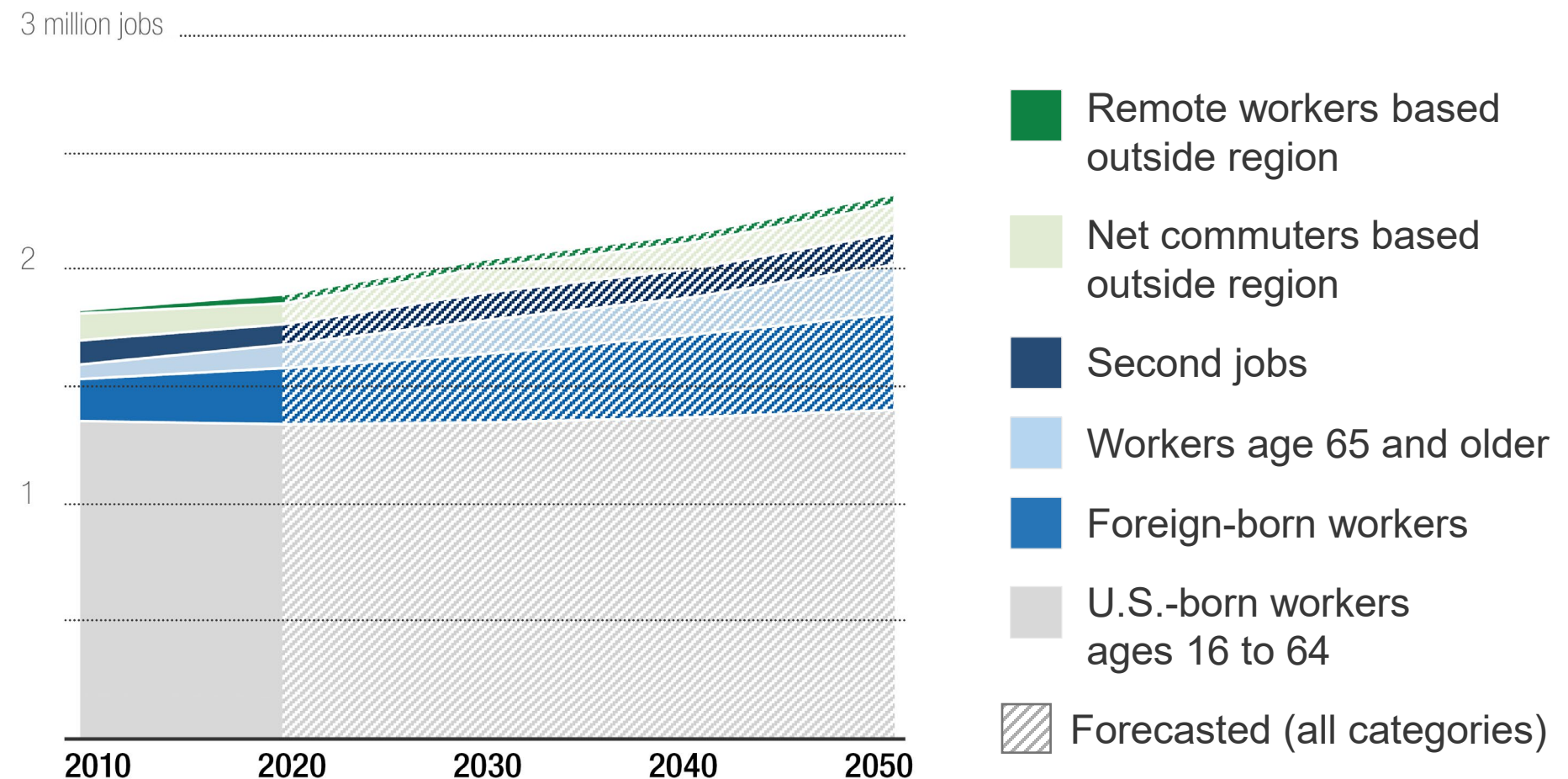


Source: Metropolitan Council's Regional Forecast to 2050, April 2023.

The region's economic growth will stall without international immigrants entering the workforce.

- Share of U.S.-born workers is expected to remain flat, limiting ability to offset growing labor shortages
- Immigrants expected to become growing share of workforce and to play a central role in filling jobs and sustaining economic expansion.

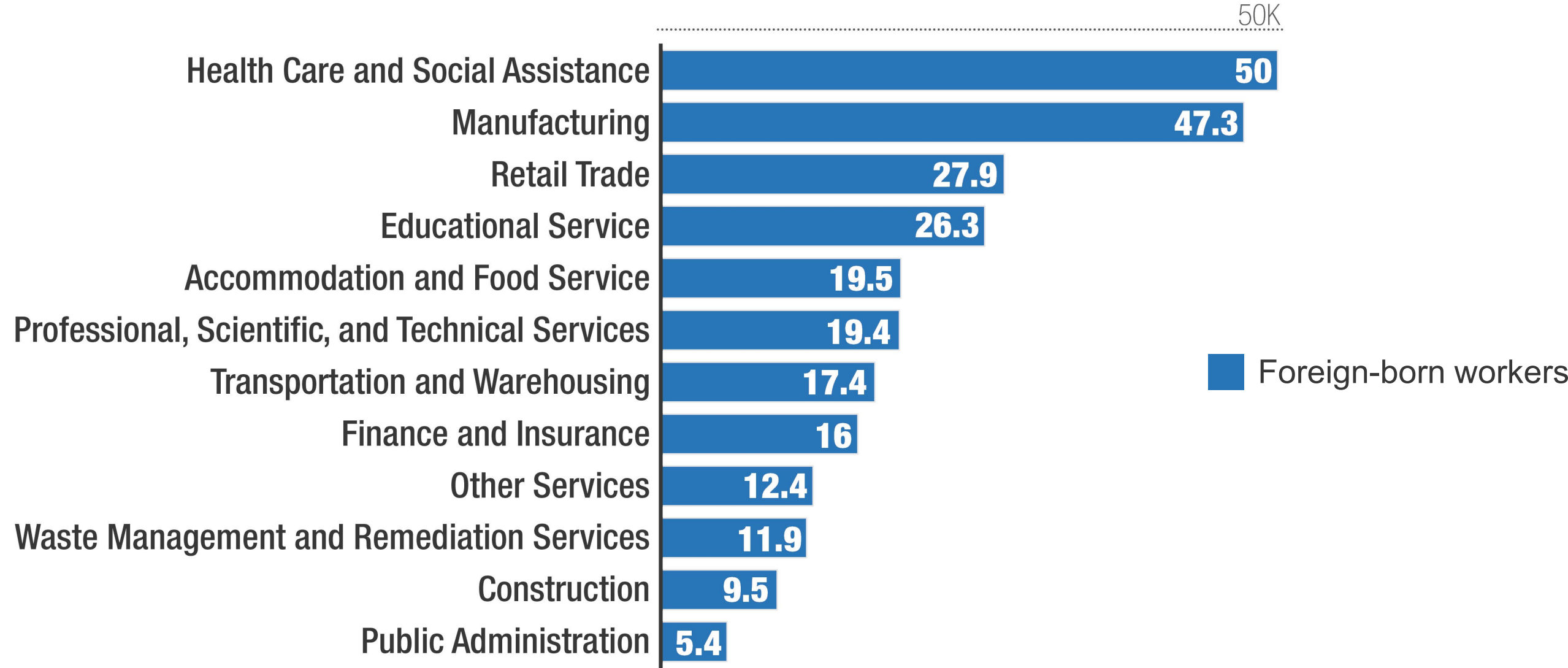
Forecasted Workforce Characteristics, Twin Cities Region



Source: Metropolitan Council's Population and Employment Forecasts (2023)

Immigrant labor is an integral part of the workforce in all major industries

12 Largest Industries in the Twin Cities Region



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (1-Year), 2024.

Immigrant workers support the regional economy by doing essential, everyday work

Immigrants provide core services as physicians, nurses, and cleaners.



Immigrants enable workers to participate in the workforce by providing care for their dependents—older adults and children.

Immigrants contribute to innovation and growth in high-tech computer occupations.

Immigrants contribute to the regional economy as entrepreneurs, starting new businesses and creating jobs

Business Ownership, Twin Cities Region

Without paid employees



With paid employees



■ Foreign-born ownership

■ U.S.-born ownership

Sources: (Top) Metropolitan Council staff calculations from U.S. Census Bureau Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics (NESD) estimates, 2023; (Bottom) Metropolitan Council staff calculations from U.S. Census Bureau Annual Business Survey (ABS), 2023.

Immigrants pay taxes, supporting essential public services across the region.

Estimated Taxes Attributed to Immigrants in the Seven-County Twin Cities Region

Tax Type	Estimated Tax Contribution
Federal Income Tax	\$2.24 billion
Payroll Taxes	\$1.07 billion
Minnesota Income Tax	\$0.87 billion
Sales & Excise Taxes	\$0.50 billion
Property Taxes	\$0.27 billion
TOTAL TAXES	\$4.94 billion

Source: Metropolitan Council Staff Estimates

Immigrants help sustain the region's economy.

WITHOUT THE REGION'S
408,400 IMMIGRANTS

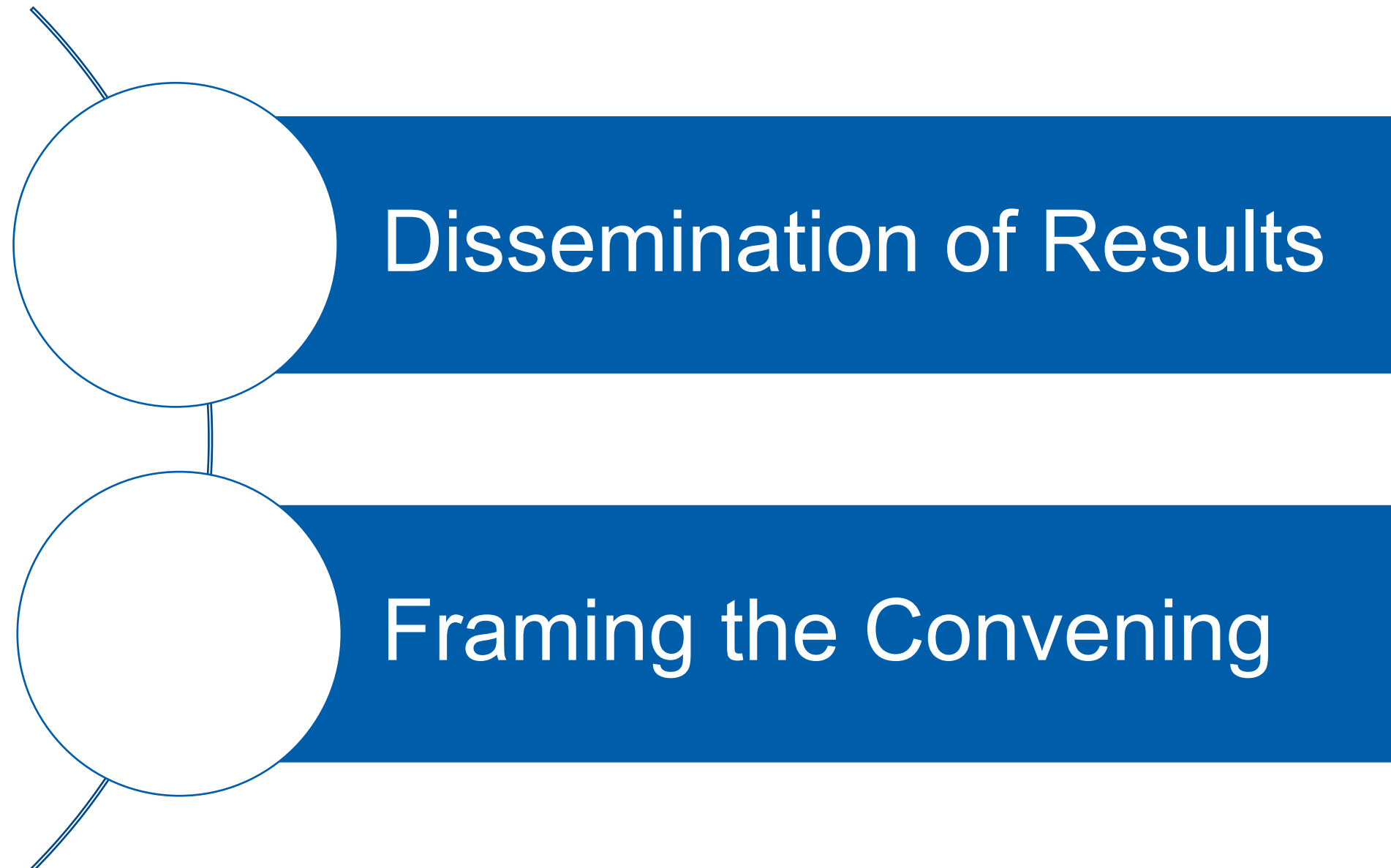


\$49.1 BILLION IN LOST GDP
13.7% of the Twin Cities economy



335,000 FEWER JOBS
13.85% of all jobs in the region

Next Steps



Dissemination of Results

Example

1. Who: Hmong-American Partnership
2. How: Advocacy and Lobbying
3. Where: State Legislature



Convening regional stakeholders

Potential outcomes:

1. Highlight challenges facing small businesses in impacted corridors.
2. Identify gaps in support systems and pinpoint barriers to recovery.
3. Develop strategies for economic recovery and long-term resilience of immigrant-owned small businesses.

Discussion Questions

Dissemination of Results

- Who are the audiences you anticipate for these research results?
- How would you see the audiences use these findings?
- Where should we disseminate the results?

Framing the Convening

- What key conversations and outcomes would you hope to see emerge from a post-Metro Surge small business resiliency convening?



Thank you!

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Planning Analyst, Research

