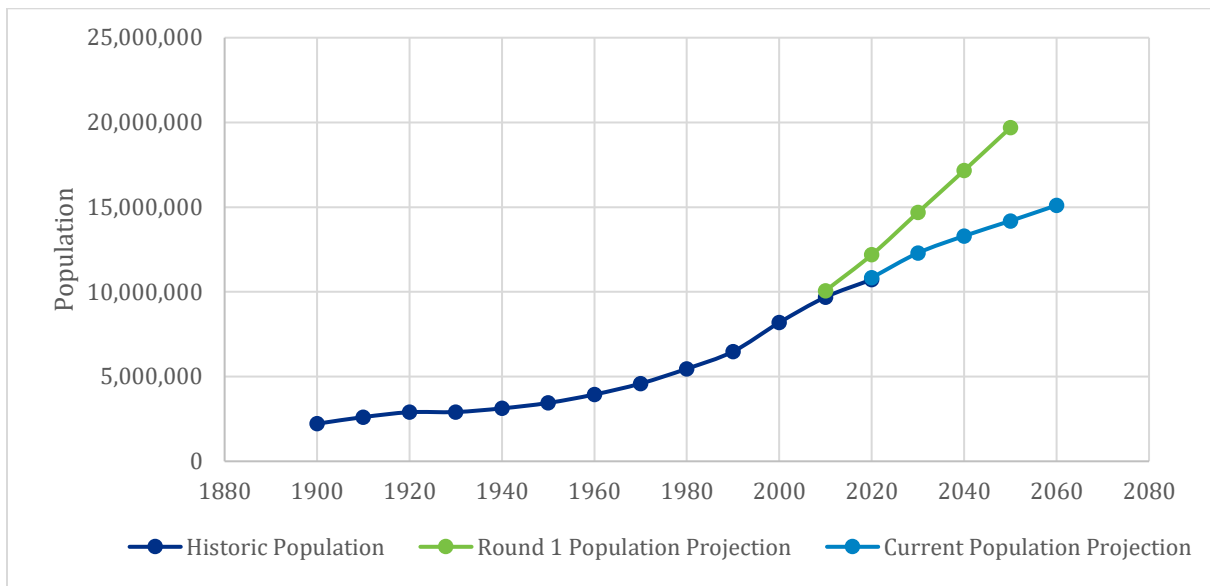


- **Agricultural** – this sector includes major crops such as cotton, corn, peanuts, soybean, pecans, specialty crops, and nursery and horticulture; a snapshot of major livestock water use and golf course water use
- **Energy** – this sector includes thermoelectric power generation

## 1.2 Population Update

State and County population projections are provided by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget (OPB). These projections are used consistently throughout the state for multiple purposes such as transportation planning and allocation of education funds. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is required to use these population projections in statewide water planning. The 2010 Census statewide population count was lower than had been projected for 2010 in the Round 1 projections, although this trend of lower population than projected does not hold true for all counties. The Round 1 forecast had the State’s population growing at an annual rate of 1.83 percent while the current updated forecast grows at an annual rate of only 0.87 percent as shown in **Figure 1-1**.



**Figure 1-1**  
**Georgia’s Historic Population and Growth Projections**

While the trend of a lower population in 200 than projected was seen statewide, each county had its own individual trend. For the region as a whole, the population obtained from the 2019 OPB data was 9.5 percent lower than the Round 1 projection for 2020. In addition, lower growth rates moving forward are predicted leading to a projected population in 2050 that is 33 percent less than the Round 1 estimate as shown in **Figure 1-2**. The new population projections (OPB, 2019) by county are shown in **Table 1-1**.