

# Annual Population Report

Alberta 2021-22

## Strong growth returns

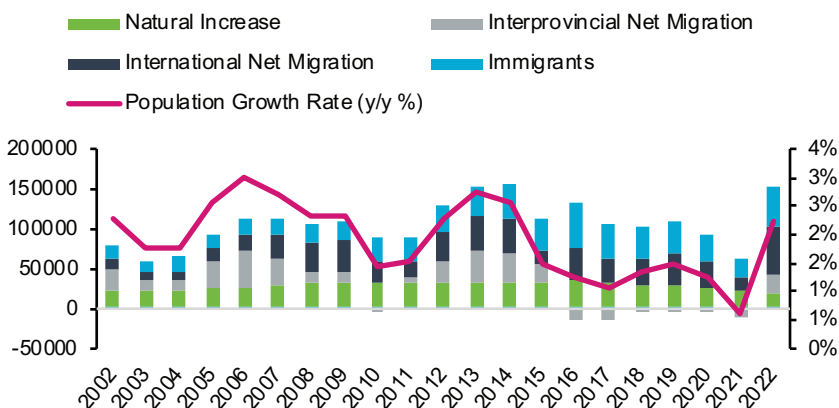
Alberta witnessed a dramatic turnaround in population growth for the 12 month period preceding July 1, 2022. The province's population expanded by 2.2%, the highest annual growth rate since 2013-14 and a substantial improvement from the unusually low growth of 2020-21 (0.6%). Huge gains from international landings and interprovincial migration were responsible for most of the growth.

## Annual population

Alberta's population grew by 2.24 % between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, adding 99,338 new residents. This was the first time since 2013-14 that the province's growth rate surpassed 2.0%. The acceleration of population growth was a result of significant gains from migratory components of growth (Figure 1). Relaxation of COVID-19 travel restrictions and higher federal immigration targets supported a surge in international migration. As the biggest driver of growth, the population expanded by 1.35% due to international migration alone, while natural increase and interprovincial migration contributed 0.40% and 0.49% respectively. Alberta was a preferred destination for people from other provinces, receiving more interprovincial migrants than any other province.

All provinces in Canada experienced significantly higher growth in 2021-22 when compared to 2020-21 (Table 1). A surge in international migration, due to loosened travel restrictions and higher federal immigration targets, resulted in a greater number of immigrant landings in all

**FIGURE 1: ALBERTA COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE**  
2002-2022



Source: Statistics Canada

**TABLE 1: POPULATION OF PROVINCES/TERRITORIES AS OF JULY 1, 2022 AND GROWTH RATES SINCE JULY 1, 2020**

	Population	y/y Growth Rate 2020-2021	y/y Growth Rate 2021-2022
Canada	38,929,902	0.58%	1.84%
NL	525,972	-0.17%	1.06%
PE	170,688	2.14%	3.60%
NS	1,019,725	0.96%	2.89%
NB	812,061	0.95%	2.74%
QC	8,695,659	0.30%	1.08%
ON	15,109,416	0.57%	2.03%
MB	1,409,223	0.88%	1.24%
SK	1,194,803	0.26%	1.13%
<b>AB</b>	<b>4,543,111</b>	<b>0.61%</b>	<b>2.24%</b>
BC	5,319,324	0.91%	2.25%
YT	43,789	2.58%	1.25%
NT	45,605	0.55%	0.02%
NU	40,526	1.41%	2.05%

jurisdictions across the country. For some provinces, increased regional movements also bolstered growth, as interprovincial inflows exceeded outflows.

## Migration

### International migration

Alberta gained 59,998 new international migrants between July 2021 and June 2022. This increase in net international migration into Alberta was almost 3.5 times higher than the 2020-21 gain of 17,668.

### Immigration

Immigration to Alberta rose dramatically in 2021-22, when compared to the previous year. In addition to changes to COVID-19 restrictions and higher immigration targets, as of October 2, 2022 an estimated 98,556 Ukrainians had arrived in Canada since the war began. In 2021-22, Alberta welcomed a total 52,573 immigrants, the highest number of arrivals since 2015-16.

On a quarterly basis, immigration was higher for all quarters of 2021-22 compared with the preceding year. In the second quarter of 2022, immigration was twice the level the same period in 2021, signifying a strong post-pandemic turnaround.

Alberta experienced a year on year stability in immigration share, attracting 11% of national admissions in both years. Even with the substantial landings in 2021-22, the province's share of total national landings remains below the peak of 18% in 2015-16. Every year, the federal government releases three-year immigration targets for Canada, which generally increase year-over-year. The target for the calendar year of 2022 is 431,645, increasing to 465,000 in 2023, 485,000 in 2024 and 500,000 in 2025.

### Net Emigration

As with immigration, more people migrated overseas during 2021-22. Post COVID-19 changes to travel regulations saw Alberta lose a net of 4,441 residents through emigration. On a year to year comparison, the net number of emigrants in 2021-22 was about 2,000 more than for 2020-21 (Table 3).

### Non Permanent Residents

On a net basis, Alberta welcomed 11,866 non-permanent residents (NPR) in 2021-22. This was almost entirely the result of a net inflow of 11,539 in the second quarter of 2022, the highest level on record for any single quarter (Table 3). In Alberta, NPRs are largely comprised of temporary foreign workers (TFWs), while foreign students make up a smaller, but growing group.

### Interprovincial migration

In 2021-22, the number of people moving between provinces and territories in Canada (349,563) was the highest since 1989-90 (356,807) and was up 39.7% from 2020-21 (250,297). Alberta's interprovincial migration patterns are heavily influenced by the economic conditions in the province. During 2021-22, Alberta gained 21,660 net interprovincial migrants, which was the highest net interprovincial inflow for the whole country. Alberta's net gain represents a remarkable turnaround for the province, as it reverses a six-year trend of net losses to the rest of the country. Other provinces also saw net inflows in 2021-22; BC with 15,869, Nova Scotia with 14,079 and New Brunswick with 10,612. Other regions recorded substantial net outflows, including Ontario (-47,212) and Manitoba (-10,203) (Table 2).

Over the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, Alberta gained the largest net flows from Ontario (14,143), Manitoba (4,660) and Saskatchewan

(4,181), and lost the largest net flows to British Columbia (-1,175) and Nova Scotia (-1,178) (Map 1).

Preliminary estimates of net interprovincial migration should be interpreted cautiously, since they are revised annually as new data becomes available. The difference between preliminary and revised estimates can be significant, and can change the story these estimates tell.

### Natural increase

Alberta added 17,680 new residents through natural increase in 2021-22. This was the net of 49,970 babies born and 32,290 deaths recorded. Compared to the 2020-21 period, there were almost one thousand more births and over 2,000 more deaths in 2021-22.

The impact of natural increase on population growth is diminishing over time as the population ages and the number of deaths accelerates relative to the number of births. However, natural increase continues to be a significant factor in Alberta's annual population growth, especially when compared to other provinces. Natural increase contributed about 0.40% to the province's population in 2021-22, the highest rate amongst the provinces. Saskatchewan (0.25%) and Manitoba (0.20%) had the next highest rates of population growth due to natural increase. British Columbia dipped into negative natural increase territory, joining New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

### Aging, but still young

After holding relatively steady between 2012 and 2015, the aging of Alberta's population began to accelerate along with interprovincial net outflows. In the years between 2015 and 2021, Alberta saw a net loss of almost 48,000 people, and just over 60%

of these were under the age of 40 years (Figure 2). Over the period, the province's median age increased from 36.1 years in 2015 to 38.0 years in 2021 and the average age increased from 37.4 years to 38.9 years. Robust net migration inflows in 2021-22 slowed the rate of population aging (Figure 2).

Despite this aging, Alberta remains a very youthful province. Although the median age ticked up to 38.1 years in 2022, it remained the second lowest among the provinces, with only Manitoba's median being lower (37.7 years). The average age of Alberta's population also rose to 39.0 years in 2022, but continued to be the lowest among the provinces.

Relative to the national population, Alberta's population is composed of greater proportions of children and working age persons, and a smaller proportion of seniors (Figure 3). In

2022, 18% of the Alberta population was in the age range of 0 to 14 years. For Canada, the share of children was 16%. Children outnumber seniors in Alberta, contrary to Canada where the opposite is true.

Alberta had the lowest proportion of the population aged 65 years and older out of all the provinces, comprising 15% of the population as of July 1, 2022. By contrast, 19% of Canada's population was in the senior age cohort.

Out of all the provinces, Alberta had the highest proportion of the working ages 15 to 64 years (67%), as well as those aged 25 to 54 years (or the core working ages) at 43%. At the national level, these shares are slightly lower at 66% and 40%, respectively.

Because of the large working age population, Alberta had the lowest overall dependency ratio out of all

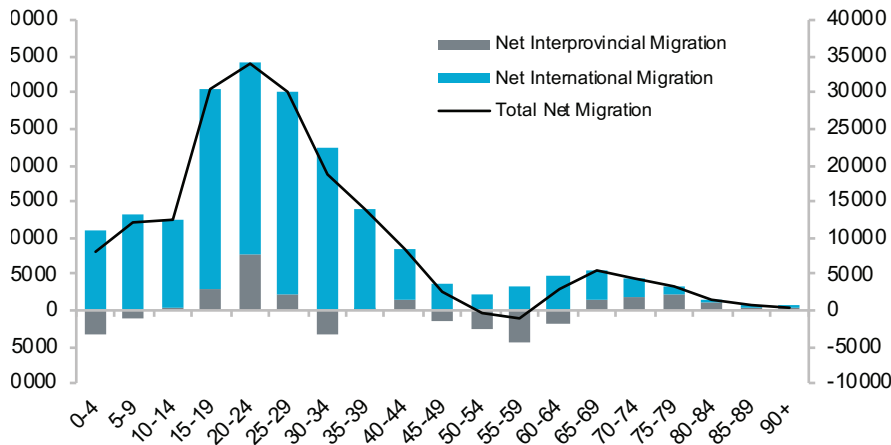
the provinces. For every 100 people in the working ages, there were 49 seniors (aged 65 and older) and youth (aged 0 to 14). In comparison, the 2022 dependency ratio for the national population was 52 per 100.

Alberta had the third highest youth dependency ratio (27 youths per 100 working age population) of the provinces, behind Manitoba and Saskatchewan (ratios of 29 and 30, respectively). The national youth ratio in 2022 was 24 per 100 people of working ages.

At the other end of the spectrum, Alberta had the lowest old age dependency ratio of all the provinces, at 22 seniors per 100 working age population. The national old age dependency ratio came in at 29, with Newfoundland and Labrador registering the highest ratio (37).

**FIGURE 2: NET MIGRATION BY AGE GROUP**

July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022



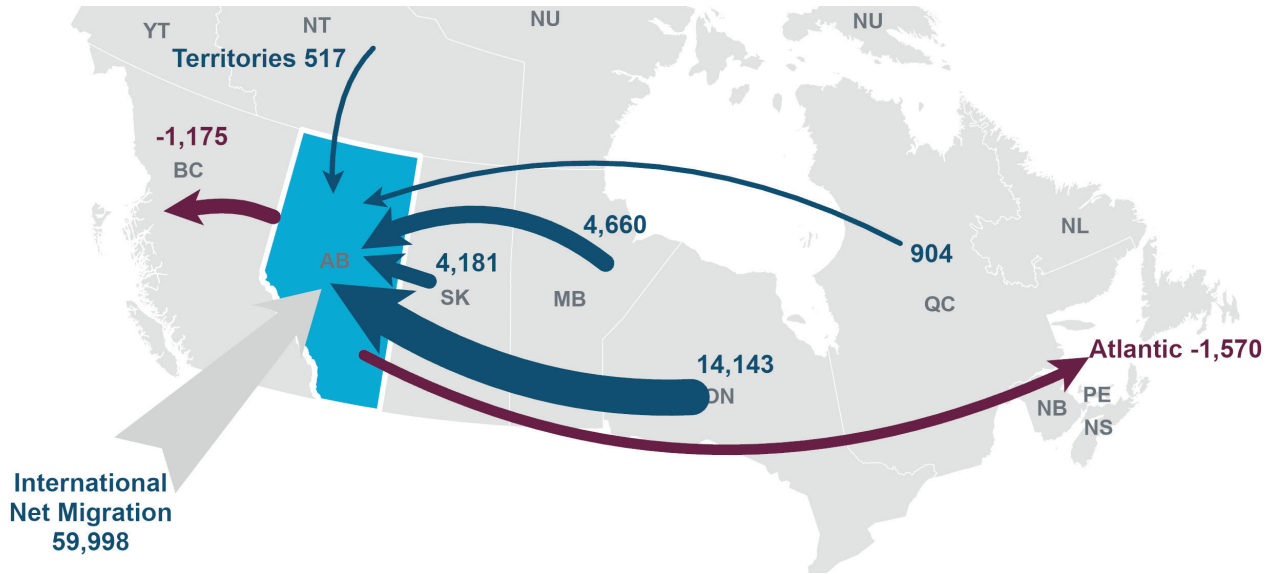
Source: Statistics Canada

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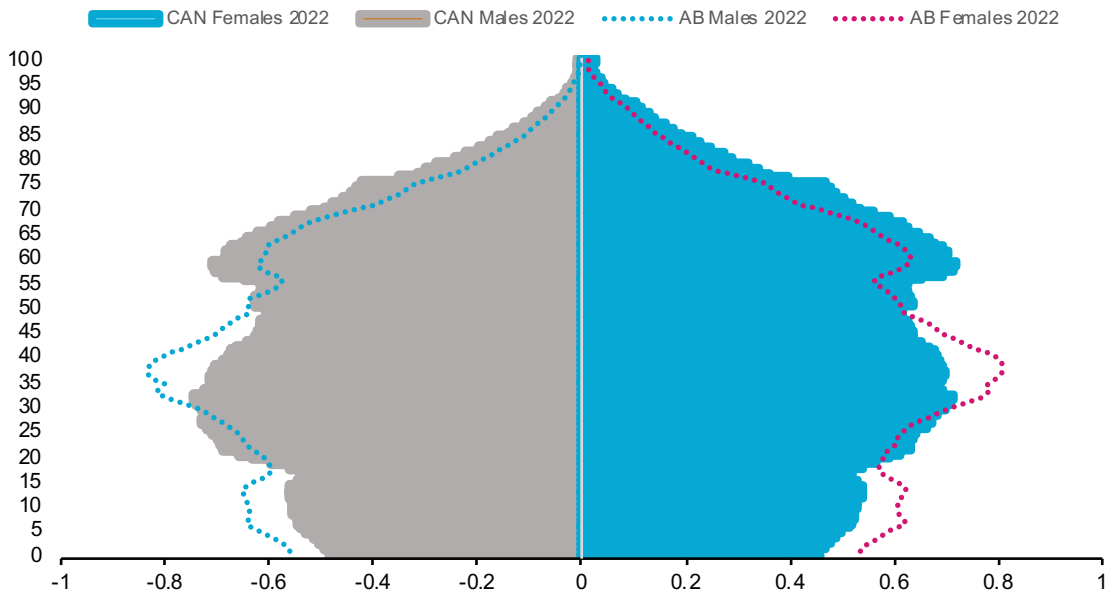
**MAP 1: NET POPULATION MOVEMENT FOR ALBERTA**

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022



**FIGURE 3: ALBERTA AND CANADA'S AGE PYRAMIDS**

Population age structure, as of July 1, 2022



Sources: Statistics Canada

**TABLE 2: ORIGIN AND DESTINATION OF INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRANTS**

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

		Destination												
		NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU
Origin	NL	0	85	796	510	350	2,203	98	67	1,819	442	0	87	50
	PE	102	0	729	439	138	1,604	5	5	603	357	11	0	17
	NS	1,039	453	0	2,180	1,044	5,244	212	339	2,675	1,630	74	88	51
	NB	663	432	2,273	0	2,173	3,534	244	148	1,658	668	31	107	75
	QC	241	268	1,143	2,026	0	19,306	727	481	3,756	4,142	24	136	159
	ON	4,644	4,084	16,478	13,171	19,134	0	5,689	4,143	31,587	24,126	517	563	778
	MB	173	34	443	405	812	6,838	0	1,876	7,209	5,851	20	17	96
	SK	73	48	583	233	498	5,460	1,375	0	11,315	5,815	117	42	50
	AB	1,757	522	3,853	2,193	2,852	17,444	2,549	7,134	0	32,644	259	609	232
	BC	567	299	2,512	1,345	3,352	14,711	2,502	3,305	31,469	0	502	232	58
	YT	8	19	24	5	62	254	32	130	544	609	0	68	0
	NT	158	9	128	80	122	419	90	70	999	314	112	0	51
	NU	12	17	146	31	123	685	48	82	74	125	5	86	0

	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU
IN	9,437	6,270	29,108	22,618	30,660	77,702	13,571	17,780	93,708	76,723	1,672	2,035	1,617
OUT	6,507	4,010	15,029	12,006	32,409	124,914	23,774	25,609	72,048	60,854	1,755	2,552	1,434
NET	2930	2260	14079	10612	-1749	-47212	-10203	-7829	21660	15869	-83	-517	183

2021-22	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU
Outflow to AB	1,819	603	2,675	1,658	3,756	31,587	7,209	11,315	0	31,469	544	999	74
Inflow from AB	1,757	522	3,853	2,193	2,852	17,444	2,549	7,134	0	32,644	259	609	232
Net Flow to AB	62	81	-1178	-535	904	14143	4660	4181	0	-1175	285	390	-158

**TABLE 3: ALBERTA COMPONENTS OF GROWTH BY QUARTER**

Quarters in Census Year	Interprovincial Migration <sup>1</sup>			International Migration						Total	Vital Events		Total <sup>4</sup>
	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents <sup>2</sup>	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net <sup>3</sup>	Total Net Migration	Births	Deaths	Sum of Components
2019-2020													
Jul-Sep	16,768	16,702	66	12,682	2,986	1,972	758	1,944	14,882	14,948	13,621	6,297	22,272
Oct-Dec	11,456	10,751	705	10,047	1,302	1,035	573	697	10,438	11,143	12,248	6,877	16,514
Jan-Mar	17,103	16,200	903	8,480	-622	1,197	600	787	6,848	7,751	12,328	7,109	12,970
Apr-Jun	16,872	20,923	-4,051	4,262	-3,377	480	158	424	671	-3,380	12,570	6,840	2,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,538</b>	<b>58,915</b>	<b>-2,377</b>	<b>35,471</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>4,684</b>	<b>2,089</b>	<b>3,852</b>	<b>32,839</b>	<b>30,462</b>	<b>50,767</b>	<b>27,123</b>	<b>54,106</b>
2020-2021													
Jul-Sep	10,595	11,234	-639	4,896	-5,058	1,155	304	1,668	47	-592	12,645	6,878	5,175
Oct-Dec	7,270	8,699	-1,429	5,318	790	915	354	689	5,528	4,099	11,526	8,405	7,220
Jan-Mar	12,793	15,813	-3,020	6,775	1,130	1,436	451	656	6,674	3,654	12,008	7,795	7,867
Apr-Jun	19,780	24,150	-4,370	7,018	-1,004	1,480	457	1,342	5,419	1,049	12,973	7,193	6,829
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,777</b>	<b>54,235</b>	<b>-9,458</b>	<b>24,007</b>	<b>-4,142</b>	<b>4,986</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>4,355</b>	<b>17,668</b>	<b>8,210</b>	<b>49,152</b>	<b>30,271</b>	<b>27,091</b>
2021-2022													
Jul-Sep	21,164	17,336	3,828	11,485	2,357	2,116	662	2,239	13,303	17,131	13,121	7,901	22,351
Oct-Dec	13,975	10,850	3,125	14,124	-2,703	1,710	794	781	9,698	12,823	11,847	8,409	16,261
Jan-Mar	21,447	16,597	4,850	12,735	673	1,526	570	659	11,971	16,821	11,985	8,333	20,473
Apr-Jun	37,122	27,265	9,857	14,229	11,539	1,542	548	1,348	25,026	34,883	13,017	7,647	40,253
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,625</b>	<b>63,965</b>	<b>21,660</b>	<b>52,573</b>	<b>11,866</b>	<b>6,894</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>5,027</b>	<b>59,998</b>	<b>81,658</b>	<b>49,970</b>	<b>32,290</b>	<b>99,338</b>

<sup>1</sup> The sum of quarterly in- and out- interprovincial migrants may not to be equal to annual interprovincial in- and out- migrants from 2011 onwards. It is however possible to add quarterly net interprovincial migration estimates to calculate annual estimates.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates of Non-Permanent Residents (NPRs) represent the number of "...persons who are lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a temporary resident permit, along with members of their family living with them. Non-Permanent Residents include foreign workers, foreign students, the humanitarian population and other temporary residents. The humanitarian population includes refugee claimants and temporary residents who are allowed to remain in Canada on humanitarian grounds and are not categorized as either foreign workers or foreign students." (Statistics Canada)

<sup>3</sup> Includes NPRs

<sup>4</sup> The sum of the components may not equal the quarterly population change due to differences in the methods used to derive intercensal and postcensal population estimates. All figures subject to revision.