Population Projection

Highlights

From the medium (reference) scenario:

- Alberta is projected to add 1.8 million residents over the next 26 years, reaching 6 million by 2041; an average annual growth rate of 1.4%.

- Most of the province’s expected growth is due to migration: net international migration is expected to account for 46% of the growth, with net interprovincial migration accounting for 17%. Natural increase is projected to drive 37% of the growth over the 2015 to 2041 period.

- In the short term, the current economic downturn will lead to lower migration levels and slower population growth.

- Alberta’s population is projected to get older and the median age (where half the population is younger and half is older) is expected to climb to 40.3 years by 2041 from 36.2 in 2015.

- In 2015, a newborn girl could expect to live to 83.5 years of age on average, while a boy could see 79.0 years. By 2041, life expectancy at birth is projected to rise to 86.5 for females and 83.1 years for males.

- The number of seniors aged 65 and older is expected to more than double from about 490,000, or about 11% of the total population in 2015, to just over 1.1 million. Almost one in five Albertans is projected to be aged 65 or older in 2041.

- While the number of Albertans in working ages (15 to 64 years) is expected to increase, the population share of this cohort is projected to drop from its current 70% to 64% by 2041.

- Between 2015 and 2030, the population aged 5 to 17 years is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 1.7%.

- Growth is expected to be concentrated in regions with larger urban centres, especially the Edmonton-Calgary Corridor. By 2041, eight out of ten Albertans are projected to be living in the three census divisions that make up this region, CD6 (Calgary), CD 8 (Red Deer) and CD 11 (Edmonton), up from 75% in 2015.

- Except for CD 4 (Hanna) and CD 7 (Stettler), positive population growth is expected in all regions of the province. However, growth is projected to be very small in CD 3 (Pincher Creek), CD 13 (Whitecourt), CD 14 (Edson) and CD 18 (Grande Cache).

- All regions are projected to transition to an older age structure. By 2041 CD 4 (Hanna) is projected to be the oldest region with 27% of its population aged 65 or older. CD 17 (Slave Lake) is expected to be the youngest with a 13% population share of seniors.

For more information on the Population Projections see:

- Population Projections, Alberta and Census Divisions, 2016-2041. Provides some discussion and details of the provincial and regional projected populations.


- Population Projection Methodology and Assumptions. Details the methodology and assumptions of the long-term population projections.

Contact

Jennifer Hansen 780.427.8811