

# Population Projections

## Highlights

### From the medium (reference) scenario:

- Alberta is projected to add roughly 1.9 million residents over the next 26 years, reaching almost 6.4 million by 2046; an average annual growth rate of 1.4%.
- The majority of the expected growth will be due to migration, with 54% coming from international migration and 15% from interprovincial migration. Natural increase is projected to account for the remaining 31% of the growth.
- In the short term, net migration will be significantly lower than has been seen in the recent past, with population growth depressed by impacts of COVID-19 and the economic impacts of low oil prices. Between 2020 and 2022, Alberta's average annual growth is expected to be 0.8%.
- Alberta's population is projected to continue aging, where the average age is expected to climb to 41.5 years by 2046 from 38.5 years in 2020.
- In 2020, a newborn girl could expect to live an average of 83.9 years, while a boy could live to 79.2 years. By 2046, life expectancy at birth is projected to rise to 87.0 years for females and 83.7 years for males.
- Between 2020 and 2025, the growth in the school-aged population (5 to 17 years) is expected increase at an average annual rate of 1.0%. With lower migration in the short term, this is due to a larger cohort moving into this age group during those years.
- 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 level of 68% to 63% by 2046.
- The number of seniors aged 65 and older is expected to increase from almost 611,000 in 2020, to over 1.1 million by 2040, nearly doubling over this period. Almost one in five Albertans is projected to be aged 65 and older by 2046.
- By 2046, Census Division 4 (Hanna) is projected to be the region with the oldest population, with 29% of its population aged 65 and older. By comparison, CD 17 (Slave Lake) is expected to be the region with the youngest population in the province, with a 14% share of seniors.
- Growth is expected to be concentrated in regions with larger urban centres, especially the Edmonton-Calgary Corridor. By 2046, 80% of Albertans are projected to be living in the three census divisions that make up this region, CD 6 (Calgary), CD 8 (Red Deer) and CD 11 (Edmonton), up from 77% in 2020.
- Positive population growth is expected in all regions of the province, except for CD 4 (Hanna), CD 7 (Stettler) and CD 13 (Whitecourt). However, growth is projected to be very small in CD 14 (Edson), CD 15 (Banff) and CD 3 (Pincher Creek).

### For more information on the [Population Projections](#) see:

#### Population Projections, Alberta and Census Divisions, 2021-2046.

- Provides some discussion and details on the provincial and regional projected populations.

#### Data for Alberta Population Projections.

- Includes estimated (1996-2020) and projected (2021-2046) population of Alberta and its 19 Census Divisions by single year of age and sex as well as some summary statistics.

#### Population Projections Methodology and Assumptions.

- Explains the methodology and assumptions of the long-term population projections.

| Contact [Jennifer Hansen](#) at 780.427.8811