Population Projections

Highlights

From the medium (reference) scenario:

- Alberta is projected to add roughly 2.3 million residents over the next 28 years, reaching 6.6 million by 2046; an average annual growth rate of 1.5%.
- The majority of the expected growth will be due to migration, with around 47% coming from international migration and 20% from interprovincial migration. Natural increase is projected to account for the remaining 34% of growth.
- Over the medium term, economic conditions are expected to improve in Alberta. This will help drive strong net interprovincial migration to the province between 2022 and 2026, increasing growth to 1.9% annually during this period.
- Alberta’s population is projected to continue aging, where the average age is expected to climb from 38.0 years in 2018 to 41.2 years by 2046.
- In 2018, a newborn girl could expect to live an average of 83.7 years, while a boy could live to 79.2 years. By 2046, life expectancy at birth is projected to rise to 87.1 years for females and 83.6 years for males.
- Between 2018 and 2025, the growth in the school-aged population (5 to 17 years) is expected to be particularly strong, increasing at an average annual rate of 2.0%. This is due to stronger migration and 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 64% by 2046.
- The number of seniors aged 65 and older is expected to more than double from over 551,000 in 2018, to over 1.1 million by 2040. Almost one in five Albertans is projected to be aged 65 and older by 2046.
- By 2046, CD 4 (Hanna) is projected to be the oldest region with almost 28% of its population aged 65 and older. By comparison, CD 17 (Slave Lake) is expected to be 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, CD6 (Calgary), CD 8 (Red Deer) and CD 11 (Edmonton), up from 76% in 2018.
- Positive population growth is expected in all regions of the province, except for CD 4 (Hanna) and CD 7 (Stettler). However, growth is projected to be very small in CD 13 (Whitecourt), CD 3 (Pincher Creek), CD 14 (Edson) and CD 15 (Banff).

For more information on the Population Projections see:
- Provides some discussion and details of the provincial and regional projected populations.

Data for Alberta Population Projections.
- Includes estimated (1996-2018) and projected (2019-2046) 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.
- Details the methodology and assumptions of the long-term population projections.

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