

Quarterly Population Report

Fourth Quarter 2017

Alberta leads the provinces in growth ¹

The fourth quarter of 2017 marks the first time in two and a half years that Alberta led the provinces in population growth. Natural increase made the largest contribution, while net international migration also continued to be a key driver of gains. Growth was also buoyed by the second straight quarter of net interprovincial inflows, a turnaround from two years of net losses.

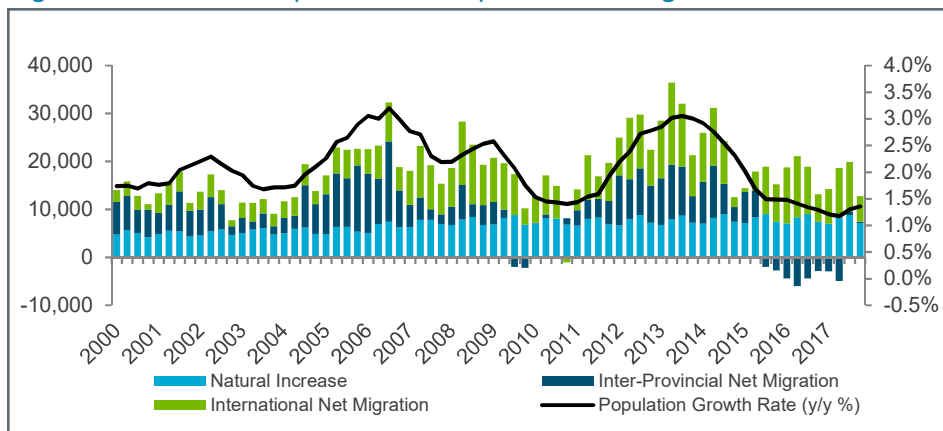
As of January 1st, 2018, Alberta had an estimated population of 4,318,772, an addition of 12,733 new residents over the three month period (Figure 1). This amounts to 0.30% growth, significantly higher than the national average (0.21%) and the highest among the provinces. Natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for 0.17%, while international migration accounted for 0.12%. Although net interprovincial migration was small, the net inflow supported growth.

- 1 All data are from Statistics Canada. Estimates from 2007–2018 are based on the 2011 Census adjusted for net census undercount and incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves. All estimates are subject to revision.
- 2 This growth represents year-over-year variation (January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2018)

Table 1: Population & Growth Rates Canada and Alberta

Population			Year over Year Growth Rate		
1-Jan	Canada	Alberta	1-Jan	Canada	Alberta
2012	34,536,389	3,826,708	2012	1.08%	1.92%
2013	34,936,495	3,932,995	2013	1.16%	2.78%
2014	35,334,385	4,051,281	2014	1.14%	3.01%
2015	35,689,014	4,145,224	2015	1.00%	2.32%
2016	36,017,869	4,206,927	2016	0.92%	1.49%
2017	36,474,968	4,261,116	2017	1.27%	1.29%
2018	36,963,854	4,318,772	2018	1.34%	1.35%

Figure 1: Alberta Components of Population Change, 4th Quarter



On a year-over-year basis, Alberta's growth (1.35%)² was significantly higher than last year's figure (1.29%), and slightly above the national figure of 1.34% (Table 1). P.E.I. and Ontario had the highest year-over-year growth rates at 1.66%, while Newfoundland was the only province to see negative growth (-0.47%) (Table 2).

Migration

Alberta received its highest fourth quarter total net migration in four years, gaining 5,599 new residents (Table 4). A reversal of interprovincial outflows supported overall migration growth, which improved by over 3,000 people compared to the previous year. International migration was slightly lower than the same quarter last year, but remained a strong contributor to growth.

Table 2: Population of Provinces/Territories as of Jan. 1, 2018 and Growth Rates since Jan. 1, 2017

	Population	Growth Rate (y/y)
Canada	36,963,854	1.34%
NL	527,613	-0.47%
PEI	152,768	1.66%
NS	957,470	0.68%
NB	760,744	0.34%
QC	8,439,925	1.06%
ON	14,318,750	1.66%
MB	1,346,993	1.44%
SK	1,169,752	1.16%
AB	4,318,772	1.35%
BC	4,849,442	1.38%
YT	38,825	1.61%
NT	44,597	0.33%
NU	38,203	2.04%

Interprovincial migration

For the second quarter in a row, Alberta experienced a small net inflow of interprovincial migrants. A net of 302 people was gained (Table 3)—the fourth highest of the provinces. Ontario continued to be the most popular destination for interprovincial migrants, gaining a net of 4,376 people, followed by B.C. (854) and Nova Scotia (305).

In economic downturns, Alberta tends to see a net loss of interprovincial migrants to its neighbour, British Columbia. This past recession was no different. As the economy recovers, these outflows are moderating. In the fourth quarter, Alberta saw a net loss of 769 people to B.C. (Map 1), about 60% less than the same quarter last year. After B.C., Alberta lost the most interprovincial migrants to Ontario (-652), which was about 20% less than the same quarter last year. Alberta gained the most migrants from Saskatchewan (875), followed by Manitoba (635).

Net International Migration

International migration remained an important contributor to growth this quarter, adding 5,327 people to the province's population. This was the lowest fourth quarter increase since 2014, when 2,068 net international migrants arrived. The dip in 2014 was due to large net outflows of non-permanent residents (NPRs); this quarter's drop was due to a softening in the number of immigrants and net outflows of NPRs. Given that the province has been recovering from a recession, lower immigration levels are not surprising, since immigration responses likely lag economic changes.

Since the late 2000's, Alberta's share of immigrants has been in the double digits and rising. In the past two quarters, this share has softened slightly, but remains well above previous historical periods. Alberta welcomed 7,999 immigrants this quarter, the lowest fourth quarter level since 2011. At 12.2%, Alberta's share of all immigrants to Canada (65,539) was the fourth highest of the provinces, behind Ontario (47.9%), Quebec (14.6%) and B.C. (13.7%).

National immigration targets are set by the Federal government on a calendar year basis. About 290,000 immigrants were welcomed to Canada in 2017—slightly below the target of 300,000. Of these, Alberta welcomed about 42,000, or 14.7%, the third highest share behind Ontario (39.1%) and Quebec (18.3%).

Net outflows of NPRs are common in the fourth quarter, due to the expiration of temporary foreign worker permits. As a result, a net of -1,224 NPRs left the province this quarter. While slightly more NPRs left this quarter compared to the same quarter last year, it was still only a third the amount seen in 2015 (-3,631), and about a fifth of the number seen in 2014 (-5,614).

Natural increase

Alberta's young population continues to help drive its population growth. In the fourth quarter of 2017, Alberta added 7,134 people through natural increase—the result of 13,931 births and 6,797 deaths. Of the provinces, Alberta had the highest natural growth rate, accounting for 0.17% of population growth. The province with the next highest natural growth rate was Manitoba at 0.12%, followed by Saskatchewan (0.10%).

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Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta October 1 to December 31, 2017

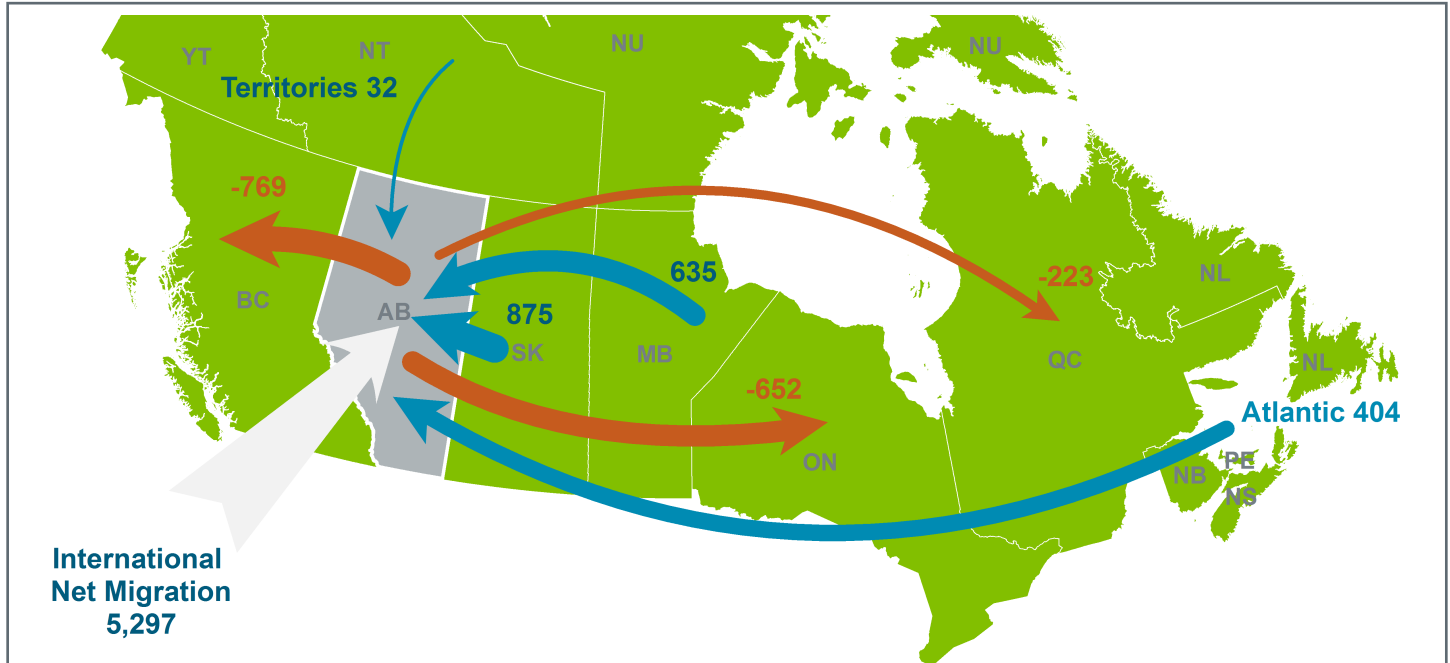


Table 3: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants October 1 to December 31, 2017

	Destination													
	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU	
Origin	NL	0	79	165	34	26	593	10	23	476	65	0	5	0
	PE	5	0	88	115	0	386	5	8	100	124	0	0	0
	NS	95	66	0	259	156	1,045	5	76	684	101	0	0	16
	NB	48	100	470	0	192	600	31	18	323	70	8	0	0
	QC	29	43	127	270	0	3,646	41	85	367	591	0	10	17
	ON	398	126	1,031	497	2,509	0	580	484	2,744	2,445	73	68	0
	MB	17	0	27	49	44	1,316	0	310	977	632	0	19	8
	SK	48	0	80	60	156	943	293	0	2,057	683	0	3	0
	AB	236	85	438	420	590	3,396	342	1,182	0	4,392	75	57	0
	BC	75	76	319	107	531	3,043	217	344	3,623	0	106	10	0
	YT	0	0	13	0	0	105	0	0	46	87	0	4	0
	NT	5	6	24	8	6	104	16	7	113	88	22	0	0
	NU	5	0	26	10	24	154	4	6	5	27	0	7	0
		NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU
IN		961	581	2,808	1,829	4,234	15,331	1,544	2,543	11,515	9,305	284	183	41
OUT		1,476	831	2,503	1,860	5,226	10,955	3,399	4,323	11,213	8,451	255	399	268
NET		-515	-250	305	-31	-992	4,376	-1,855	-1,780	302	854	29	-216	-227
Q4 2017		NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU
Outflow to AB		476	100	684	323	367	2,744	977	2,057	0	3,623	46	113	5
Inflow from AB		236	85	438	420	590	3,396	342	1,182	0	4,392	75	57	0
Net Flow to AB		240	15	246	-97	-223	-652	635	875	0	-769	-29	56	5

Table 4: Alberta Components of Growth by Quarter

Quarters in Census Year	Interprovincial Migration ¹			International Migration						Total	Vital Events		Total ⁴
	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents ²	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net	Total Net Migration ³	Births	Deaths	Sum of Components
2014-2015													
Jul-Sep	22,189	15,803	6,386	10,283	14	2,973	665	2,242	8,901	15,287	14,587	5,644	24,230
Oct-Dec	14,650	11,574	3,076	9,150	-5,614	1,777	529	838	2,068	5,144	13,598	6,164	12,578
Jan-Mar	22,849	16,367	6,482	8,203	-5,855	1,767	545	768	804	7,286	13,509	6,391	14,404
Apr-Jun	29,786	24,136	5,650	11,970	-7,127	1,979	546	1,603	3,921	9,571	14,257	5,929	17,899
Total	81,540	59,946	21,594	39,606	-18,582	8,496	2,285	5,451	15,694	37,288	55,951	24,128	69,111
2015-2016													
Jul-Sep	19,080	21,077	-1,997	14,172	-2,836	2,984	665	2,242	9,929	7,932	14,825	5,835	16,922
Oct-Dec	10,187	12,898	-2,711	12,876	-3,631	1,782	529	838	7,772	5,061	13,786	6,369	12,478
Jan-Mar	15,118	19,508	-4,390	15,366	-2,138	1,773	545	768	11,678	7,288	13,700	6,604	14,384
Apr-Jun	19,513	25,523	-6,010	15,425	-1,773	1,986	546	1,603	12,723	6,713	14,475	6,123	15,065
Total	56,978	72,086	-15,108	57,839	-10,378	8,525	2,285	5,451	42,102	26,994	56,786	24,931	58,849
2016-2017													
Jul-Sep	18,097	22,518	-4,421	10,074	1,178	2,989	665	2,242	9,840	5,419	15,046	6,025	14,440
Oct-Dec	9,810	12,664	-2,854	8,349	-1,101	1,786	530	838	5,770	2,916	13,956	6,572	10,300
Jan-Mar	15,762	18,704	-2,942	13,364	-4,610	1,777	545	768	7,200	4,258	13,835	6,811	11,282
Apr-Jun	20,945	25,859	-4,914	12,304	-971	1,990	546	1,603	10,400	5,486	14,557	6,307	13,736
Total	55,661	70,792	-15,131	44,091	-5,504	8,542	2,286	5,451	33,210	18,079	57,394	25,715	49,758
2017-2018													
Jul-Sep	17,775	17,032	743	8,440	3,335	2,989	665	2,242	10,363	11,106	15,013	6,214	19,905
Oct-Dec	11,515	11,213	302	7,999	-1,224	1,786	530	838	5,297	5,599	13,931	6,797	12,733
Jan-Mar	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Apr-Jun	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	29,290	28,245	1,045	16,439	2,111	4,775	1,195	3,080	15,660	16,705	28,944	13,011	32,638

¹ 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.

² 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)

³ Includes NPRs

⁴ 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.