

Quarterly Population Report

First Quarter 2018

Population growth picks up speed¹

With interprovincial migration continuing its positive rally, Alberta's population growth picked up the pace during the first quarter of 2018. Natural increase continued to make the largest contribution to growth and net international migration followed suit, contributing almost the same amount. Net interprovincial migration registered its largest contribution to growth since 2015.

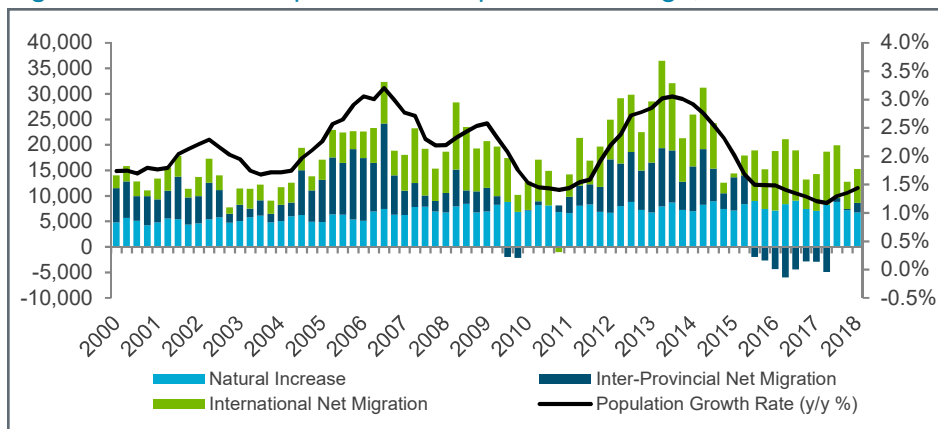
As of April 1st 2018, Alberta's population was 4,334,025. The population grew by 0.35% during the first quarter, an addition of 15,253 new residents. Alberta's gain was second only to Ontario (0.39%), and well above that of Canada (0.28%). Natural increase was the largest contributor to growth (0.16%), followed closely by net international migration (0.15%). Net interprovincial migration, which only turned positive two quarters ago, added 0.04% to the province's growth. While this contribution was small, the impact was large due to the reversal of outflows; 4,800 more people moved into the province, as compared to the same quarter last year (Figure 1).

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.

Table 1: Population & Growth Rates in Canada and Alberta

Population			Yearly Growth Rate		
1-Apr	Canada	Alberta	1-Apr	Canada	Alberta
2013	35,019,500	3,961,496	2013	1.15%	2.85%
2014	35,414,073	4,077,218	2014	1.13%	2.92%
2015	35,734,156	4,159,628	2015	0.90%	2.02%
2016	36,122,379	4,221,311	2016	1.09%	1.48%
2017	36,560,776	4,272,398	2017	1.21%	1.21%
2018	37,067,011	4,334,025	2018	1.38%	1.44%

Figure 1: Alberta Components of Population Change, 1st Quarter



Alberta's year-over-year growth continued to trend upwards, hitting 1.44%² in April (Table 1), outstripping the national average (1.38%). The province had the third highest year-over-year growth, behind Ontario (1.77%) and PEI (1.56%) (Table 2).

Migration

First-quarter net migration from January to March was the highest it has been in the last four years, with 8,500 new residents moving into the province (Table 4). This was partly due to the net inflow of interprovincial migrants, a reversal from the net outflows observed in the past two years. While net interprovincial migration was up this quarter, net international migration was down slightly from the same period last year.

² This growth represents year-over-year variation (April 1, 2017 to April 1, 2018).

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

	Population	Growth Rate (y/y)
Canada	37,067,011	1.38%
NL	525,983	-0.61%
PEI	153,116	1.56%
NS	958,400	0.67%
NB	761,214	0.40%
QC	8,455,402	1.07%
ON	14,374,084	1.77%
MB	1,348,809	1.26%
SK	1,171,240	1.01%
AB	4,334,025	1.44%
BC	4,862,610	1.39%
YT	38,936	1.73%
NT	44,736	0.34%
NU	38,456	2.12%

International Migration

The first quarter of 2018 saw the province add a net of 6,638 international migrants, an increase over the previous quarter. However, it was the lowest first quarter level since 2015, due to a lagged response to labour market conditions during the economic downturn. While interprovincial migration was quick to respond to the downturn, showing outflows beginning in the second half of 2015, international migration did not decrease until the second half of 2016. Now, as the economy continues to recover, interprovincial migration is showing improvement, while the response from international migration has been somewhat delayed.

Alberta became home to 10,627 new permanent residents through immigration between January and March. The province's share of the national total was 13.3%, the fourth highest in the country, behind Ontario (44.1%), British Columbia (15.2%) and Quebec (13.8%).

Over the past few years, Alberta's share of Canada's immigrants fell from a high of 18.5% in the fourth quarter of 2015 to a low of 12.0% in the third quarter of 2017, before it started increasing again to its current share. Despite being lower than the recent past, this quarter's share is well above the single-digit historical average of the late 1980s to mid 2000s. Alberta has not seen a single-digit share of immigration in almost a decade. Outflows of net non-permanent residents (NPRs) continued this quarter, marking four years of first-quarter net outflows. However, these sustained net outflows are softening; the province lost 2,435 net NPRs between January and March, about half that of the same quarter last year (-4,610). Due to continued net outflows, as of April 1st, Alberta had close to 76,000 NPRs in the province, down almost 35,000 from its peak of October 1st, 2014.

Interprovincial migration

Net interprovincial migration made its largest contribution to quarterly population growth in more than two years, adding 1,862 new residents to Alberta from other parts of the country. Alberta had the second largest gain in the country, following Ontario (4,024) (Table 3).

The largest portion of people moving into Alberta originated from Saskatchewan (1,304) and Newfoundland (605). By comparison, Alberta continued to lose the largest portion of people moving out of the province to Ontario (-530).

Natural increase

Natural increase added 6,753 new residents during the first quarter, the net difference of 13,799 births and 7,046 deaths. This is the lowest gain in five years, mainly due to an increase in the number of deaths. However, natural increase still made the largest contribution to first quarter growth.

Despite slowing slightly, Alberta still led the provinces in regards to the natural growth rate (0.16%), followed at a distance by Saskatchewan (0.11%) and Manitoba (0.10%). This is in sharp contrast to the Maritimes, where the natural growth rate is negative (i.e., there are more deaths than births). Due to Alberta's large proportion of young adults, the province contains large potential for continued growth due to natural increase.

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Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta January 1 to March 31, 2018

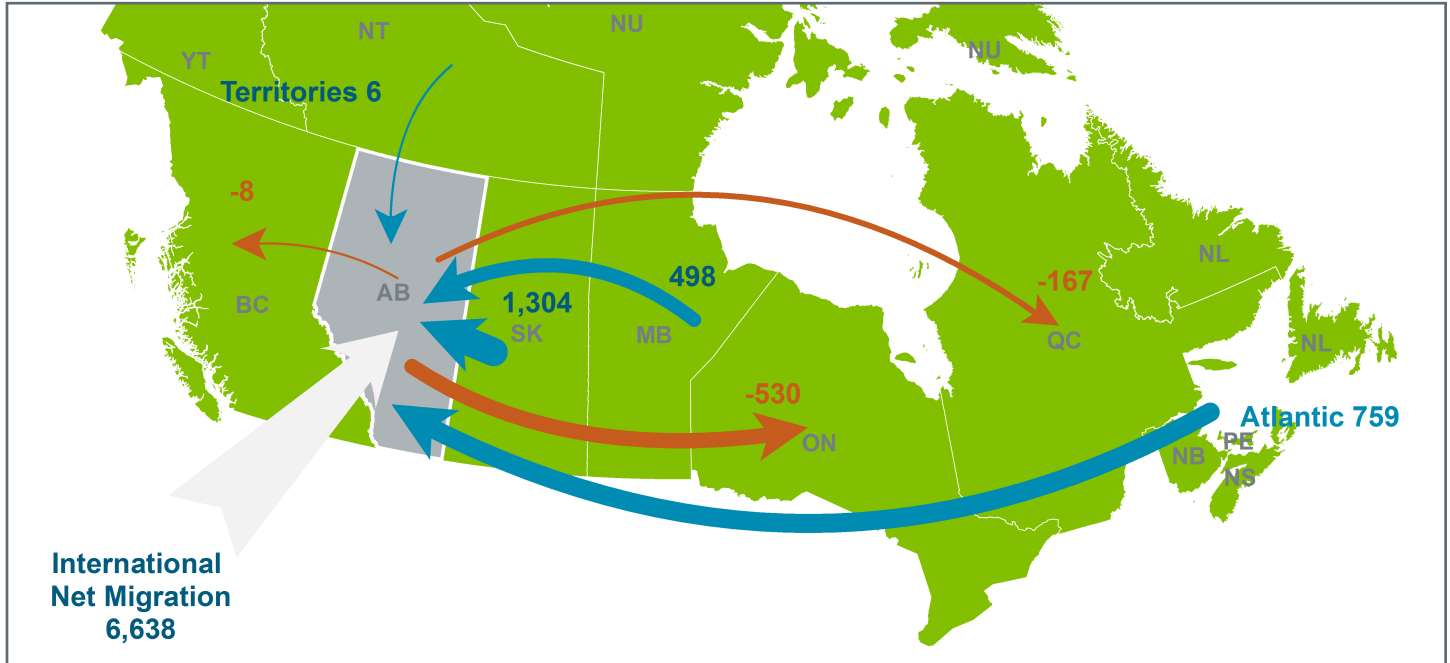


Table 3: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants January 1 to March 31, 2018

	Destination													
	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT	
Origin														
NL	0	52	311	138	161	696	25	63	934	163	4	44	0	
PEI	60	0	142	91	26	418	0	15	125	62	13	5	0	
NS	196	48	0	498	228	1,555	64	57	774	383	19	36	8	
NB	124	173	649	0	408	883	53	18	494	145	0	0	18	
QC	97	53	151	361	0	4,405	81	89	468	512	21	21	52	
ON	511	294	1,403	1,046	3,232	0	719	568	3,689	3,126	93	40	229	
MB	31	13	124	87	105	1,692	0	668	1,126	1,046	5	47	30	
SK	20	13	89	63	104	1,238	478	0	2,992	1,186	34	10	0	
AB	329	98	621	520	635	4,219	628	1,688	0	6,073	103	248	41	
BC	52	28	357	296	638	3,495	435	465	6,065	0	159	63	13	
YT	16	0	46	0	0	111	0	19	133	70	0	25	16	
NWT	21	6	32	0	6	141	29	38	246	84	12	0	4	
NVT	27	0	31	10	28	121	4	13	19	12	0	33	0	
IN	1,484	778	3,956	3,110	5,571	18,974	2,516	3,701	17,065	12,862	463	572	411	
OUT	2,591	957	3,866	2,965	6,311	14,950	4,974	6,227	15,203	12,066	436	619	298	
NET	-1,107	-179	90	145	-740	4,024	-2,458	-2,526	1,862	796	27	-47	113	
Q1 2018														
Outflow to AB	934	125	774	494	468	3689	1126	2992	0	6065	133	246	19	
Inflow from AB	329	98	621	520	635	4219	628	1688	0	6073	103	248	41	
Net Flow to AB	605	27	153	-26	-167	-530	498	1,304	0	-8	30	-2	-22	

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 ³	Total Net Migration	Births	Deaths	Sum of Components
2014-15													
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
2015-16													
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
2016-17													
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
2017-18													
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	17,065	15,203	1,862	10,627	-2,435	1,777	545	768	6,638	8,500	13,799	7,046	15,253
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	46,355	43,448	2,907	27,066	-324	6,552	1,740	3,848	22,298	25,205	42,743	20,057	47,891

¹ The sum of quarterly in- and out- interprovincial migrants may not 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.