

Quarterly Population Report

Fourth Quarter 2016

Alberta's growth outpaces national average¹

Despite the downturn, Alberta's population grew through the fourth quarter. Alberta added 11,198 new residents between October and December, reaching a population of 4,280,127 as of January 1, 2017 (Table 1). This amounts to a rate of 0.26%, the lowest quarterly growth since 2010, but still well above the national average of 0.16%.

Despite emerging signs of economic recovery, interprovincial net outflows continued to weigh on growth, lowering the population by 0.06% this quarter. Natural increase and international migration drove the gains, contributing 0.18% and 0.14% respectively.

Year-over-year, Alberta's rate of 1.51%² was the slowest calendar year growth since 2010, yet remained above the national average of 1.29% (Table 2). This amounts to an absolute increase of 63,752 Albertans; only Ontario (218,893) and Quebec (69,008) added more individuals. Manitoba and Ontario had the top year-over-year growth rates with 1.67% and 1.58% respectively.

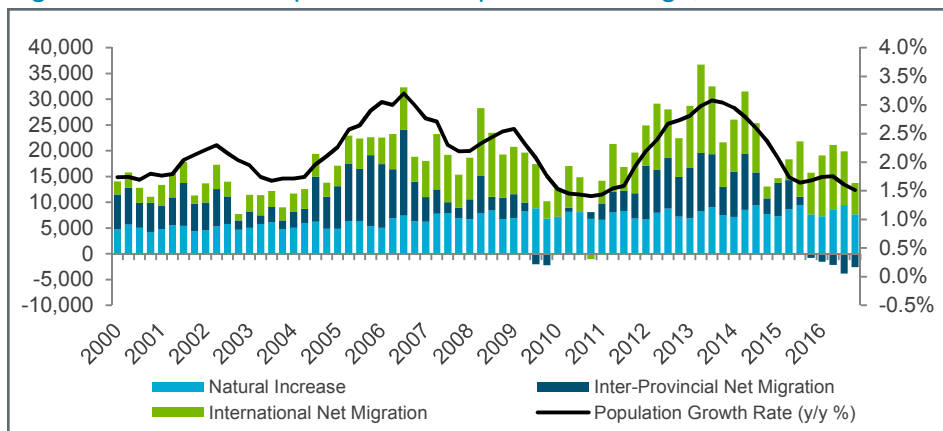
1 All data are from Statistics Canada. Estimates from 2007–2017 are based on the 2011 Census adjusted for net census undercount and incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves. All estimates are subject to revision.

2 This growth represents year-over-year variation (Jan. 1, 2016 to Jan. 1, 2017).

Table 1: Population & Growth Rates Canada and Alberta

Population			Yearly Growth Rate		
1-Jan	Canada	Alberta	1-Jan	Canada	Alberta
2012	34,536,389	3,826,708	2012	1.08%	1.92%
2013	34,935,909	3,931,225	2013	1.16%	2.73%
2014	35,339,468	4,050,711	2014	1.16%	3.04%
2015	35,701,743	4,146,691	2015	1.03%	2.37%
2016	36,038,515	4,216,375	2016	0.94%	1.68%
2017	36,503,097	4,280,127	2017	1.29%	1.51%

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



Migration

Migration plays a prominent role in Alberta's population growth. Net migration was down considerably from the same quarter last year, which contributed to slower growth. Total net migration increased the population by only 3,555 (Table 4) between October and December, less than half the level over the same period last year. This was the lowest fourth quarter level since 2010 – primarily a result of net outflows of interprovincial migrants and non-permanent residents.

Interprovincial migration

Alberta continued to see net interprovincial outflows for the fifth consecutive quarter, losing 2,573 people to other provinces (Table 4). Alberta posted the largest net loss of any jurisdiction. Other provinces with notable net losses included Quebec (-1,854), Saskatchewan (-1,115) and

Table 2: Population of Provinces/Territories as of Jan. 1, 2017 and Growth Rates since Jan. 1, 2016

	Population	Growth Rate (y/y)
Canada	36,503,097	1.29%
NL	529,696	0.04%
PE	149,383	1.45%
NS	952,024	0.65%
NB	757,771	0.38%
QC	8,356,851	0.83%
ON	14,094,167	1.58%
MB	1,328,346	1.67%
SK	1,158,339	1.51%
AB	4,280,127	1.51%
BC	4,777,157	1.31%
YT	37,693	1.47%
NT	44,263	-0.37%
NU	37,280	1.35%

Manitoba (-874) (Table 3). Consistent with recent trends, Alberta again saw the largest net losses of its population to British Columbia (-1,913) and Ontario (-783) (Map 1). Among the provinces, only Ontario (3,983) and British Columbia (3,292) were net receivers of interprovincial migrants this quarter.

Net International Migration

Net international migration was the second largest contributor to Alberta's growth in this quarter, with a net increase of 6,128 (Table 4). International migration remained strong and continued to offset negative net interprovincial migration.

However, immigration to the province was down this quarter to 8,801 from 12,872 in the same quarter last year (Table 4), largely reflecting lower national levels. Alberta's share of all immigrants to Canada was 15.8%. While the share is down slightly from 18.5% in 2015, Alberta remained the third most popular destination for immigrants, behind only Ontario (39.1%) and Quebec (17.5%).

Immigration to Canada was more muted this quarter, with Canada adding 14,000 fewer new immigrants compared with the same quarter last year. This may be related to the annual federal immigration target for the country.

Canada's 2016 Immigration Levels Plan aimed to settle 280,000-305,000 immigrants in the 2016 calendar year. Over the 2016 calendar year, Canada welcomed 296,371 immigrants to the country. Since immigration levels were so strong in the first two quarters of the year, the third and fourth quarters were slower. Due to a lower national level, all the big receivers of immigrants (Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia) also had lower fourth quarters.

Net international migration was pulled down by a return to net outflows of non-permanent residents (NPRs) this quarter (-1,376). These net outflows

were not unexpected as temporary foreign worker permits (the largest component of NPRs in Alberta) tend to expire at the end of the calendar year. As of January 1st, Alberta had about 80,000 NPRs.

The only provinces to have a net inflow of NPRs were Ontario (1,244) and Manitoba (939). Quebec had the greatest losses with -4,157, followed by British Columbia (-3,640) and then Alberta.

Natural increase

Alberta added 7,643 people through natural increase, which is the result of 14,166 births and 6,523 deaths. While natural increase has been fairly stable over the past quarters, the dampened impact of migratory factors helped to make natural increase the most significant component of population growth this quarter. Alberta continues to have the highest natural growth rate out of all the provinces (0.18%).

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Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta October 1 to December 31, 2016

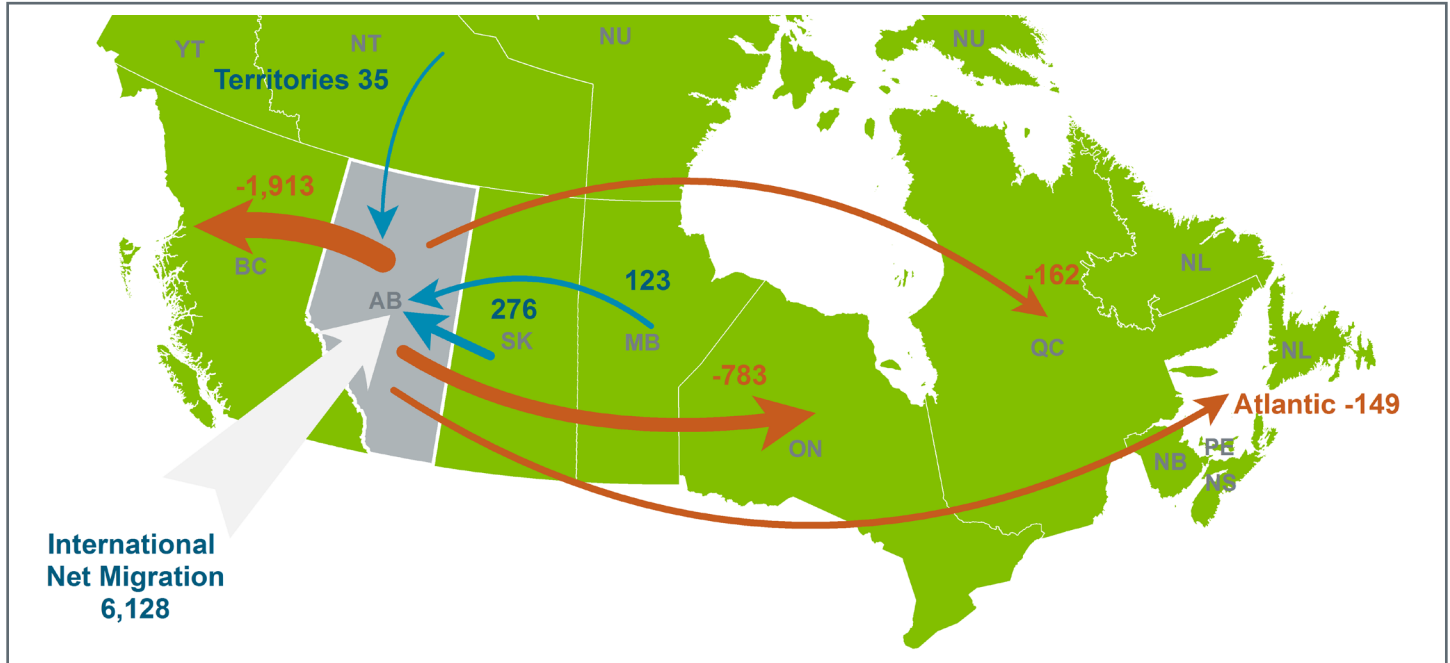


Table 3: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants October 1 to December 31, 2016

	Destination													
	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU	
Origin														
NL	0	23	166	69	77	431	50	0	251	30	4	0	8	
PE	22	0	58	43	13	164	0	7	72	64	0	0	0	
NS	68	61	0	363	77	869	42	23	444	267	0	0	51	
NB	49	45	269	0	340	663	26	44	346	238	0	0	0	
QC	11	25	142	183	0	3,763	87	41	466	553	0	23	10	
ON	305	182	597	384	1,780	0	560	323	2,653	2,470	72	29	38	
MB	9	14	69	28	37	904	0	355	662	597	44	13	0	
SK	18	4	61	15	108	831	268	0	1,716	739	14	3	0	
AB	285	56	582	339	628	3,436	539	1,440	0	4,921	18	108	6	
BC	59	16	234	101	371	2,197	290	396	3,008	0	87	28	17	
YT	7	0	11	0	0	16	7	26	42	133	0	6	0	
NT	5	0	23	7	5	41	5	7	120	84	22	0	5	
NU	39	3	13	0	14	61	11	0	5	0	0	17	0	
IN	877	429	2,225	1,532	3,450	13,376	1,885	2,662	9,785	10,096	261	227	135	
OUT	1,109	443	2,265	2,020	5,304	9,393	2,732	3,777	12,358	6,804	248	324	163	
NET	-232	-14	-40	-488	-1,854	3,983	-847	-1,115	-2,573	3,292	13	-97	-28	
Q4 2016														
Outflow to AB	251	72	444	346	466	2653	662	1716	0	3008	42	120	5	
Inflow from AB	285	56	582	339	628	3436	539	1440	0	4921	18	108	6	
Net Flow to AB	-34	16	-138	7	-162	-783	123	276	0	-1,913	24	12	-1	

Table 4: Alberta Components of Growth by Quarter

Quarters in Census Year	Interprovincial Migration			International Migration						Total	Vital Events		Total
	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net	Total Net Migration	Births	Deaths	Sum of Components
2012-13													
Jul-Sep	25,552	15,767	9,785	9,086	1,862	2,843	660	2,020	9,465	19,250	14,058	5,274	28,034
Oct-Dec	15,730	8,026	7,704	9,103	-355	1,473	531	771	7,515	15,219	12,888	5,671	22,436
Jan-Mar	21,438	11,692	9,746	8,095	5,284	1,522	547	745	12,055	21,801	12,835	5,947	28,689
Apr-Jun	29,833	18,470	11,363	10,582	7,316	1,661	545	1,440	17,132	28,495	13,760	5,549	36,706
Total	92,553	53,955	38,598	36,866	14,107	7,499	2,283	4,976	46,167	84,765	53,541	22,441	115,865
2013-14													
Jul-Sep	25,511	15,277	10,234	9,156	4,752	2,499	647	2,382	13,144	23,378	14,591	5,487	32,482
Oct-Dec	16,387	10,900	5,487	8,806	1,092	1,570	540	830	8,618	14,105	13,401	5,897	21,609
Jan-Mar	22,290	13,522	8,768	10,351	1,326	1,798	548	805	10,136	18,904	13,336	6,176	26,064
Apr-Jun	31,613	20,720	10,893	12,753	210	1,784	550	1,469	12,098	22,991	14,278	5,761	31,508
Total	95,801	60,419	35,382	41,066	7,380	7,651	2,285	5,486	43,996	79,378	55,606	23,321	111,663
2014-15													
Jul-Sep	22,189	15,803	6,386	10,283	43	2,515	646	2,382	9,547	15,933	15,100	5,690	25,343
Oct-Dec	14,650	11,574	3,076	9,150	-5,580	1,580	541	830	2,279	5,355	13,824	6,114	13,065
Jan-Mar	22,849	16,367	6,482	8,203	-5,775	1,811	548	805	874	7,356	13,692	6,396	14,652
Apr-Jun	29,786	24,136	5,650	11,970	-7,049	1,797	550	1,469	4,043	9,693	14,588	5,964	18,317
Total	89,474	67,880	21,594	39,606	-18,361	7,703	2,285	5,486	16,743	38,337	57,204	24,164	71,377
2015-16													
Jul-Sep	21,440	19,832	1,608	14,172	-2,662	2,523	646	2,382	10,723	12,331	15,351	5,884	21,798
Oct-Dec	11,355	12,150	-795	12,872	-3,541	1,586	541	830	8,034	7,239	14,001	6,323	14,917
Jan-Mar	16,869	18,394	-1,525	15,357	-1,980	1,817	548	805	11,817	10,292	13,875	6,609	17,558
Apr-Jun	21,837	24,002	-2,165	14,983	-1,633	1,802	550	1,469	12,467	10,302	14,808	6,164	18,946
Total	71,501	74,378	-2,877	57,384	-9,816	7,728	2,285	5,486	43,041	40,164	58,035	24,980	73,219
2016-17													
Jul-Sep	18,087	21,937	-3,850	10,072	1,159	2,523	646	2,382	10,444	6,594	15,529	6,073	16,050
Oct-Dec	9,785	12,358	-2,573	8,801	-1,376	1,586	541	830	6,128	3,555	14,166	6,523	11,198
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	27,872	34,295	-6,423	18,873	-217	4,109	1,187	3,212	16,572	10,149	29,695	12,596	27,248