

Inter-provincial Migration: Quebec Scores First Winning Year in Three Decades

Jack Jedwab
 Association for Canadian Studies
 April 28, 2004

I. Quebec Gains

Quebec has finally overcome the persistent annual losses in population from migration out of the province. The year 2003 marked the first in three decades where more people arrived in Quebec from other provinces than Quebec residents departed elsewhere in Canada according to figures released last week by Statistics Canada. For the year 2003 Quebec made a net gain of 118 persons and while this was not substantial it nonetheless marked a major turnaround from 2002 when the province lost 4 179 persons to inter-provincial migration

Table 1
Quebec Inter-provincial Migration, 1972-2003

	In	Out	
2003	28 017	27 899	118
2002	25 355	29 534	-4 179
2001	24 605	32 980	- 8 375
2000	24 037	36 405	-12 368
1999	22 122	35 675	-13 553
1998	25 500	41 400	-15 900
1997	23 300	41 100	-17 800
1996	20 800	36 200	-15 400
1995	23 100	33 400	-11 300
1994	22 700	33 000	-10 300
1993	24 500	32 000	-7 500
1992	25 500	35 300	- 9 800
1991	24 500	37 600	- 13 100
1990	26 900	36 400	-9 500
1989	29 500	37 800	- 8 300
1988	27 800	34 800	-7 000
1987	26 000	33 400	-7 400
1986	26 000	29 000	- 3 000
1985	25 400	31 400	- 6 000
1984	25 200	36 200	-11 000
1983	22 300	41 400	-19 100
1982	19 900	48 100	- 28 200
1981	23 600	46 100	- 22 500
1980	21 900	46 200	- 24 300
1979	23 600	53 700	-30 100
1978	24 500	57 900	-33 400
1977	24 400	71 000	-46 600
1976	31 600	52 400	-20 800
1975	34 500	46 800	-12 300
1974	39 300	51 200	-11 900
1973	39 600	54 400	-14 800
1972	36 200	56 000	-19 800

While Quebec has emerged with its first gain from interprovincial migration, the province of Ontario suffered its first loss in the past five years hence also creating another first for Quebec as regards population indicators.

Table 2
Overall Net Gains and Losses from Interprovincial Migration, Quebec and Ontario ,1997-2003

Period	Quebec	Ontario
2003	118	-7 414
2002	-4 179	6 479
2001	- 8 375	11 388
2000	-12 368	22 691
1999	-13 553	16 624
1998	-15 900	10 200
1997	-17 800	5 100

II. Patterns of Migration

While 2003 marked Quebec's first gain from inter-provincial migration the quarterly data tell us little about the manner in which such population flows affect the cities and regional demographics. On the basis of an analysis of the 1996-2001 data it is safe to predict that the Montreal region will be the biggest beneficiary of the recently improved migratory situation. Over the 1996-2001 period Montreal experienced the biggest loss from inter-provincial (about 44 000) followed well behind by Winnipeg, Regina, Quebec City and Vancouver. The biggest winner was Calgary, followed by Toronto and Edmonton. On the other hand as to the number of persons arriving in the Metropolitan region from within the province-intraprovincial migration, Montreal was by far the winner followed by Ottawa while Toronto's CMA was the biggest net loser. Of course these losses were quite substantially offset by international immigration to the Toronto region.

Table 3
Migratory Flows for Canada and major cities, 1996-2001

1996-2001	Total in-migrants	Intra-provincial migrants	Inter-provincial migrants	Total out-migrants	Intra-provincial migrants	Inter-provincial Migrants
Canada	5458735	3577105	905670	4482770	3577105	905 665
Halifax	54655	16515	31565	40395	11390	29 005
Québec	60950	50325	4465	68130	57995	10 140
Montréal	285300	137555	32525	182685	106285	76 395
Ottawa	136740	49010	48460	73065	40815	32 255
Toronto	587955	127275	86500	258275	198215	60 060
Hamilton	88690	56815	10345	50525	42725	7 805
Winnipeg	63645	22205	26555	56735	16935	39 800
Regina	23005	12435	8015	26315	9915	16 395
Calgary	181825	43150	96255	82420	36895	45 525
Edmonton	131795	46190	61510	78530	41415	37 115
Vancouver	289005	54095	66785	141415	71650	69 760
Victoria	49645	23830	17795	39365	22385	16 975

III. Montreal: Language and Migration within and outside of the province

As to migration of Montrealers both within and outside the province over the years 1996 and 2001 on the basis of mother tongue as observed below the region was actually a net gainer of francophones. Its principal sources of francophone in migration were from Quebec City, Chicoutimi-Jonquiere, Sherbrooke and Trois-Rivieres. Toronto and Ottawa were the regions that gained most from the departure of Montreal francophones. In fact Toronto was the second choice after Quebec City for francophones that left Montreal over the 1996-2001 period.

Table 4

Mother Tongue-French, 1996-2001	Left Montreal For	Came to Montreal From	Net
Canada	113655	136560	+22 095
Calgary	695	340	-355
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	1690	5385	+3 695
Edmonton	480	155	-325
Oshawa	280	70	-210
Ottawa - Hull	6125	6190	+65
Ottawa	2835	1570	-1 265
Hull	3290	4625	+1 340
Québec	10 295	23 370	+13 075
Sherbrooke	3310	6115	+2 805
Toronto	3685	2070	-1 615
Trois-Rivières	2180	4370	+2 190
Vancouver	1445	1135	-310

As to Montreal Anglophones that left the region between 1996 and 2001 Toronto continued to be the principal destination followed by Ottawa and Calgary. Some gains were made from Quebec City Anglophones moving to Montreal.

Table 5

Montréal Mother Tongue English, 1996-2001	Left Montreal For	Came to Montreal From	Net
Canada	42095	20460	-22 035
Calgary	3365	565	- 2 800
Edmonton	830	365	-455
Halifax	780	690	-90
Hamilton	1290	315	-975
Kingston	565	270	-295
Kitchener	650	175	-475
London	480	150	-330
Oshawa	775	135	-640
Ottawa	4440	1550	-2 890
Québec	230	1135	+905
Regina	90	175	+85
Saskatoon	120	60	-60
Sherbrooke	125	400	+275
Toronto	12075	3535	-8 540
Vancouver	2640	1400	-1 240
Victoria	455	295	-160
Winnipeg	550	450	-100

As to allophones Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver were the principal regions that benefited from the departure of Montreal allophones while allophones arrived in non-negligible numbers from Quebec City

Table 6

Geography: Montreal Allophones	Left Montreal For	Came to Montreal From	
Canada	23790	10645	-13 145
Calgary	1115	115	- 1 000
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	60	145	+85
Edmonton	245	160	-85
Hamilton	560	120	-440
Kingston	220	45	-175
Kitchener	385	55	-330
Ottawa	3525	695	-2 830
Québec	295	1865	+1 570
Sherbrooke	105	525	+520
Toronto	9715	2170	-7 545
Trois-Rivières	40	210	+170
Vancouver	2520	650	-1 870
Windsor	475	130	-345
Winnipeg	105	260	+155

IV. Mobility Pays: Most Canadian-born that switched provinces made Economic Gains

On average those who move from their native province (province of birth) to another province improve their employment and income prospects. The 2001 census reveals that this is the case for all parts of Canada with the exceptions of cities in Quebec and a number of the mid-sized centres in Ontario where such relocation does not appear to have resulted in improvements.

Table 7

Unemployment rate In 2001	Non-immigrant population	Born in province of residence	Born outside province of residence
Halifax	7.2	7.6	6.3
Saint John	9.3	9.7	7.5
Québec	6.8	6.7	7.9
Sherbrooke	6.7	6.6	9.2
Trois-Rivières	9.1	9.1	12.5
Montréal	6.2	6.2	7.3
Ottawa - Hull	4.9	5.1	4.5
Ottawa - Hull (Que. part - Partie Qc)	4.9	4.9	5.1
Ottawa - Hull (Ont. part - Partie Ont.)	4.9	5.2	4.3
Toronto	5.1	5.2	4.4
Hamilton	5.4	5.5	4.4
St. Catharines - Niagara	6.0	6.0	6.3
Kitchener	5.0	4.9	5.4
London	6.4	6.4	6.5
Windsor	5.5	5.5	5.8
Greater Sudbury	9.3	9.4	8.8
Thunder Bay	9.0	9.2	7.5
Winnipeg	5.7	5.7	5.6
Regina	6.1	6.1	6.0
Saskatoon	6.7	6.8	6.4
Calgary	4.9	5.4	4.3
Edmonton	5.5	5.7	5.3
Vancouver	6.4	6.7	6.0
Victoria	6.7	7.5	5.8
Yukon Territory - Territoire du Yukon	12.3	21.0	9.2
Northwest Territories - Territoires du Nord- Ouest	10.2	18.1	4.9
Nunavut	18.0	23.1	11.5

As regards average employment income in 2001 nearly every major city those Canadian-born outside the province do better than those born in the province with the exception of Montreal and London, Ontario.

Table 8

Selected Income: Average employment income \$ 2001	Non-Immigrant	Born in the Province	Born Outside the Province
Halifax	37 421	35 761	42 633
Saint John	35 815	34 719	40 335
Québec	41 105	41 050	47 492
Sherbrooke	39453.0	39 356	44 329
Trois-Rivières	36030.0	35 904	42 366
Montréal	38 438	38 464	35 867
Ottawa - Hull (Ont. part - Partie Ont.)	42 598	41 926	44 477
Kingston	52 987	50 548	57 998
Oshawa	42 330	41 207	46 882
Toronto	47 652	47 255	49 910
Hamilton	57 149	55 148	65 963
St. Catharines - Niagara	47 908	47 259	52 571
Kitchener	41 089	40 837	43 619
London	45 332	45 382	45 040
Windsor	43 984	43 504	47 796
Greater Sudbury	49 325	49 080	52 737
Thunder Bay	42 853	42 359	47 706
Winnipeg	36 920	35 900	41 230
Regina	35 260	34 533	39 068
Saskatoon	41 152	40 474	44 354
Calgary	44 542	42 055	47 810
Edmonton	50 712	48 314	52 719
Vancouver	40 810	39 850	42 358
Victoria	49 689	47 377	53 200
Yukon Territory - Territoire du Yukon	41 693	39 941	43 633
Northwest Territories - Territoires du Nord- Ouest	44 515	39 735	45 676
Nunavut	51 885	42 453	55 823