

Newly Born and Newly Arrived Diminish Impact of New Leavers: Quebec's Evolving Pattern of Population Growth

Analysis by
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- Quebec's Population Strategy should focus on discouraging people from leaving the province**
- Are immigrants leaving the province in increasing numbers and if so why?**
- Sherbrooke amongst a number of smaller Canadian cities that post gains in immigration in 2006**
- Montreal's percentage of immigration remains strong while Toronto and Vancouver shares decline**

Introduction

This week Statistics Canada released 2006 census data on age and sex revealing too little surprise that the Canadian population is aging. The Statistics Canada analysis contended that immigration did not provide a substantial offset against the aging of the population and thus did not provide a solution to the effects of aging on the ratio between workers and retirees. This is because immigrants arrive when they are about 30 years of age on average; they then age along with the rest of the population. Statscan did indicate that immigration has had a significant effect on the growth of Canada's population, the importance of which is by no means to be underestimated.

Quebec and Interprovincial Migration

For Quebec the news from Statistics Canada on the aging of the population was not as bad as expected.

In part this is because between 2001 and 2006 the province did not incur the losses from interprovincial migration that it had encountered for the better part of the last forty years. Still the demographic realities to which have traditionally preoccupied Quebec

forecasters (and starkly brought to public attention by Lucien Bouchard) have changed somewhat in the last couple of years. As widely

reported in the last eighteen months the big difference has been the rebound in the numbers of births of Quebecers

which has meant an improvement in the natural increase (births over deaths) of the provincial population.

But the larger numbers of births widely preferred by Quebecers as the solution to population aging

(see ACS March 15-“Reconciling Demography and Dependency: The Choices of Canadians) did

not reduce the province’s dependency on immigration in large measure because of the upswing in the numbers

of Quebecers leaving the province.

In 2006 the province of Quebec likely incurred the worst single year net loss

from interprovincial migration since the beginning of the 21st century and the first

quarter of 2007 (January-March) started out on a particularly negative note with

a 50% increase in the net loss on the basis of interprovincial migration compared to

the period January-March 2006. For the year 2006 the estimated loss on the basis

of interprovincial migration was over 12 500 over 150% higher than the previous year-2005.

All this despite an economy that many analysts describe as booming.

Quebec was not alone in 2006 in the experiencing a surge in net interprovincial losses as neighboring Ontario also fared poorly\ . However the year-to-year increase in Quebec in percentage terms was much greater than that of its neighbor between 2005 and 2006 and especially for the January-March quarters of 2006 and 2007 (where Ontario’s loss over

the Jan-March 2006 period was 5 041 compared with 4729 estimated for the Jan-March 2007 period).

Interprovincial Migration, 2001-2007 (January-March quarter for 2007)

	January- March 2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001 (July to December)
Newfoundland	-1850	-4054	-4433	-1807	-1103	-3187	-1055
New Brunswick	36	-3853	-2830	-678	-1277	-518	1498
Nova Scotia	-884	-2364	-4081	-431	142	-256	-362
Prince Edward Island	43	-240	-76	-318	224	65	65
Quebec-	-3032	-12 619	-4874	-3297	218	-4228	-1099
Ontario-	-4729	-33 856	-16852	-8 212	-5074	5048	641

Manitoba-	-228	-7 830	-9880	-3161	-3162	-2733	-3127
Saskatchewan	998	-3 737	-10846	-6027	-4590	-7431	-4135
Alberta	7384	62 984	51 160	19348	10234	17883	14691
British-Columbia-	2502	7823	4 811	7551	4055	-5216	-3910

Source: Statistics Canada, Quarterly Demographic Statistics, January-March 2007
Preliminary

As observed below it was in the July-September 2006 that Quebec took a big hit in losses arising from interprovincial migration compared to the same period in 2005. Quebec actually experienced an increase in the numbers coming to the province from elsewhere in Canada but the number of departures increased by 35% over the same quarter in 05.

It is interesting to note that in the July-September 2006 period nearly as many individuals left the province as immigrants that arrived here. The pattern below suggests that Quebec may be encountering heightened levels of secondary migration of immigrants that is immigrants settling here for a short period of time and moving on to another province.

Number of People coming to Quebec from other provinces of Canada and leaving Quebec for other provinces by quarterly period, 2005 and 2007 (January-March)

	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net Loss	Immigrants
January-March-07	4336	7368	-3022	9393
Oct-Dec-06	5378	8236	-2858	10 197
July-September-06	9728	13 650	-3922	13 988
April-June-06	6748	10631	-3833	11402
January-March-06	4916	6872	-1956	9106
Oct-Dec-05	4696	6337	-1641	8423
July-September-05	9267	9942	-675	13 052
April-June-05	6999	9844	-2845	12 493
January-March-05	4077	4790	-713	9347

Source: Statistics Canada, Quarterly Demographic Statistics, January-March, 2007

And increasingly Quebecers are headed to Alberta as more than one quarter that exit the province

choose that province compared to 50% choosing Ontario (a decade ago Ontario was the choice of some three-quarters of those who left the province). As to migration to Quebec from other provinces some two-thirds of entrants are from Ontario.

Total Population Growth by Province

The Canadian population is on the rise but as always some provinces have done better than others.

In Ontario overall growth dropped considerably between 2005 and 2006 largely because of net losses

in interprovincial migration and reductions in the overall number of immigrants. Alberta was a huge

demographic winner in 2006 nearly equal to Ontario in the numbers of growth a fairly unprecedented

shift and for the beginning of 2007 Alberta's overall gains were greater than those of Ontario.

Total Growth by Province, 2001-2007 (January through March 2007)

	2007 [Jan 1 st and April 1 st]	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001 (July to December)
Canada	122636	323 716	317272	301327	303987	319281	161197
Newfoundland	-2407	-4584	-2944	-1338	363	-2182	-757
New Brunswick	439	-2779	-973	153	531	240	175
Nova Scotia	-1206	-2194	-2282	-363	1821	1766	1220
Prince Edward Island	204	315	459	891	440	1649	-604
Quebec	17968	52852	49554	53581	52586	45980	24319
Ontario	31926	115 471	140 902	142116	151264	182178	89240
Manitoba	4430	3896	2083	9798	7199	5883	794
Saskatchewan	4353	-2978	5791	520	-622	-3430	-1915
Alberta	41598	111 477	78594	45514	43803	49960	30285
British-Columbia	25 367	52 464	56834	47997	45484	35669	18026

Source: Statistics Canada, Quarterly Demographic Statistics, January-March, 2007

Quebec Naturally Increases?

As mentioned in 2006 Quebec enjoyed an improvement in its natural increase and this permitted an offset to losses from interprovincial migration. But its overall gain on this basis from the first quarter of 2007 diminished somewhat owing to the number of deaths which was especially low in the first quarter of 2006

Natural Increase in the province of Quebec, 2005 and January-September, 2006

	January- March 2007	January-March 2006	2006	2005
Births	20 150	19 500	82 100	76 200
Deaths	15 750	13 700	53 950	55 400
Net Natural Increase	4400	5 800	28 150	20 800

Source: Statistics Canada, Quarterly Demographic Statistics, January-March, 2007

Immigration

Immigration continues to play a critical role in population growth in Canada and is the country's principal source of such change. The majority of new arrivals settled in Ontario from 2001 through 2006

(although it just barely stayed on the majority position in 2006). However in the first quarter of 2007 Ontario dropped below the majority mark in terms of the percentage of immigrants it took within Canada. What

is interesting in the table below is that it appears as though the ongoing efforts to direct immigrants to places outside of the larger centres of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia may be bearing some fruit as Alberta,

Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have all enjoyed modest increases in their real numbers of immigrants since 2005

Permanent Residents by Province or Territory and Urban Area, 1997-2007 (jan-march, 2007)*

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*	Jan-March 2007
Total	227,463	250,640	229,047	221,352	235,824	262,236	251,511	47881
Ontario	133,507	148,647	133,600	119,723	125,096	140,533	125,919(50.1)	22340 (46.6)
Quebec	32,501	37,603	37,585	39,555	44,245	43,308	44,708(17.8)	9393 (19.4)
British Columbia	37,434	38,466	34,054	35,235	37,022	44,767	42,204(16.8)	7992 (16.7)
Alberta	14,360	16,408	14,761	15,834	16,473	19,399	20,561(8.1)	3991 (8.3)
Manitoba	4,636	4,592	4,619	6,500	7,426	8,097	9,990(4.0)	2313 (4.8)
Saskatchewan	1,882	1,704	1,668	1,668	1,942	2,106	2,658	653
Nova Scotia	1,610	1,699	1,419	1,474	1,770	1,929	2,580	535
New Brunswick	759	798	705	665	795	1,092	1,633	376
Prince Edward Island	189	134	107	153	310	330	565	141
Newfoundland and Labrador	417	393	407	359	579	496	508	108

Although immigration declined between 2005 and 2006 in real numbers, such cities as Winnipeg, Halifax,

Saskatoon, Sherbrooke and Charlottetown all enjoyed noticeable increases in their numbers. Even Trois-Rivieres whose neighboring town of Herouxville seems less than immigrant friendly enjoyed a slight increase between 2005 and 2006 in the numbers of immigrants. Along with Sherbrooke, Saskatoon and Halifax both Edmonton and Calgary hit new records in their real numbers of immigrant admissions in 2006. Both Toronto and Hamilton dipped somewhat in their respective share of Canadian immigration as did Vancouver. Montreal enjoyed an increase in its share however there is reason to believe that many immigrants exited the province over that year.

Permanent Residents by Province or Territory and Urban Area, 1997-2006*

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*
Total	216,038	174,198	189,961	227,463	250,640	229,047	221,352	235,824	262,236	251,511
Toronto	98,858	76,408	84,447	110,008	125,142	111,687	97,546	99,867	112,790 (43.0)	99,142 (39.6)
Montréal	23,886	22,236	25,081	28,428	32,722	33,300	33,787	37,877	37,167 (14.1)	38,159 (15.1)
Vancouver	43,397	32,009	32,404	33,309	34,337	30,088	30,781	32,682	39,434(15.0)	34,915(13.9)
Calgary	6,957	6,008	6,838	8,494	10,182	9,067	9,266	9,443	11,185 (4.3)	11,762(4.6)
Winnipeg	3,257	2,481	2,996	3,709	3,755	3,809	5,143	5,910	6,182 (2.3)	7,625 (3.0)
Edmonton	4,458	3,795	3,843	4,301	4,583	4,226	4,819	5,056	6,013	6,305
Ottawa-Gatineau	5,795	5,287	6,628	7,833	8,501	7,170	5,984	6,375	6,389	6,271
Hamilton	2,580	2,066	2,775	3,217	2,838	3,107	3,540	4,089	4,543	3,948
Kitchener	1,970	1,672	1,951	2,339	2,035	2,199	2,396	2,767	2,963	3,156
London	1,529	1,324	1,563	1,998	1,990	1,720	2,005	2,328	3,213	2,929
Windsor	2,136	1,761	2,091	2,919	2,983	2,486	2,568	2,782	3,067	2,433
Halifax	2,627	1,791	1,321	1,333	1,398	1,137	1,115	1,355	1,488	1,888
Québec	1,521	1,596	1,581	1,432	1,862	1,386	1,707	2,130	2,043	1,732
Abbotsford	1,079	876	790	1,039	966	1,081	1,201	906	1,317	1,382
Saskatoon	773	694	806	791	769	721	631	802	832	1,143

Victoria	867	757	741	918	967	762	950	1,068	1,200	1,088
Sherbrooke	596	634	682	557	789	658	876	859	791	1,087
Ottawa-Gatineau	730	743	733	691	621	691	904	1,019	1,006	1,018
Regina	566	498	537	672	542	555	570	656	632	766
Oshawa	360	321	357	416	530	540	603	742	826	744
Charlottetown	119	116	99	133	103	70	109	224	233	446
Fredericton	235	277	240	249	263	206	159	195	312	423
Kingston	306	247	351	389	359	305	350	476	389	331
Trois-Rivières	85	148	78	143	185	164	306	243	241	327

*2006 data are preliminary estimates and are subject to change.

Immigration and Population Growth

As seen below in immigration represented an important source of Canada's population growth in 2006.

Percentage Immigration Represents in Total Population Growth in Canada, 2001-2006 (January-September)

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001 (July to December)
Canada Total Pop Growth	323 716	315 876	301 327	303 987	319 281	161 197
Canada Total Immigration	251,511	262 239	235 826	221 402	229 071	122 032
% of Immigration represents in total Growth	77.6	83.1	78.0	73.0	71.7	75.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Quarterly Demographic Statistics, July-September, 2006

And immigrants also contributed significantly to Quebec's population growth.

Immigration and Population Growth in Quebec, 2001-2006

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001 (July to December)
Quebec Total Pop Growth	52 852	51 004	53 581	52 586	45 980	24 319
Quebec Total Immigration	44,708	43 338	44 247	39 568	37 579	18 753

Source: Statistics Canada, Quarterly Demographic Statistics, July-September, 2006