
COVID-19 GIVES US A GLIMPSE OF WHAT CANADA'S POPULATION GROWTH MIGHT LOOK LIKE WITH SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS TO IMMIGRATION

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INTRODUCTION

Historically with lower birth rates in Quebec and to a somewhat lesser extent elsewhere in Canada many observers have contended that the province and the rest of the country need immigration to ensure population growth. Owing to the global pandemic there has been a sharp decline in immigration across Canada since the month of April. The demographic evolution that we've seen in the past five months offers a glimpse of what population change might look like with lower rates of international immigration. It this provides us with an opportunity to test the short term impact of international immigration on population trends. We use two sources to provide insights in this regard. First, quarterly demographic estimates from Statistics Canada and second, monthly data reported by Immigration from IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada).

STATSCAN IS REPORTING THAT POPULATION GROWTH IN CANADA WAS THE LOWEST FOR ANY SECOND QUARTER FOR ANY Q2 PERIOD RECORDED TO DATE (SINCE 1972)

According to Statistics Canada's quarterly demographic estimates (released on September 29th) Canada's population surpassed the 38-million mark during the second quarter of 2020 to reach 38,005,238 on July 1, 2020. This was an increase of 25,384 (+0.1%) from April 1, 2020. This is the lowest growth for a second quarter over the period for which equivalent data are available (second quarters for 1972 to 2020). Comparatively, the second quarters of both 2018 and 2019 had two of the highest growth rates over the same period (both at +0.5% - the growth rate in the second quarter of 1989 was also +0.5%). Statscan concluded that the slower growth in the second quarter of 2020 is due mainly to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

QUEBEC POPULATION CHANGES FROM Q2 2019 TO Q3 2019 WHEN THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF 36 500 COMPARED WITH AN INCREASE OF 2500 OVER THE SAME TWO QUARTERS IN 2020; ONTARIO ALSO SEES A CHANGE FROM A GAIN OF 67 000 OVER THE Q2-Q3 2019 PERIOD SOME 10 500 OVER THE PERIOD Q2-Q3 2020

Geography	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020
Canada	37,417,155	37,593,384	37,802,043	37,899,277	37,979,854	38,005,238
Quebec	8,465,271	8,501,703	8,540,429	8,556,650	8,572,054	8,574,571
Ontario	14,467,162	14,544,718	14,637,880	14,689,075	14,723,497	14,734,014

Source: Statistics Canada Quarterly Demographic Estimates, September 29, 2020
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-002-x/91-002-x2020002-eng.htm>

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, natural increase was negative in Quebec (-400) for the first time in any quarter since comparable record keeping began (1971).

QUEBEC Q2 2019 NET NATURAL INCREASE DROPS FROM 4350 TO -400 FOR Q2 2020

Estimates Canada	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Births	94,260	99,736	90,245	90,170	94,734
Deaths	70,518	67,115	74,179	79,970	79,050
Net Natural Increase	23 702	32 621	16 066	10 200	15 684

Estimates Quebec	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Births	21,150	22,900	20,650	20,100	20,750
Deaths	16,800	15,500	17,450	18,750	21,150
Net Natural Increase	4350	7400	3200	1350	-400

Source: Statistics Canada Quarterly Demographic Estimates, September 29, 2020
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-002-x/91-002-x2020002-eng.htm>

THE NUMBER OF DEATHS IN QUEBEC INCREASED BY 26% WHEN COMPARING Q2 2019 TO Q2 2020 BY CONTRAST THE DIFFERENCE IN THE REST OVER THE SAME TWO QUARTERS WAS ABOUT 8%

Estimates Deaths	Q2 2019	Q2 2020	Increase Q2 2019 to Q2 2020
Canada	70,518	79,050	12%
Quebec	16,800	21,150	26%
Rest of Canada	53 718	57 900	7.8%

Source: Statistics Canada Quarterly Demographic Estimates, September 29, 2020
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-002-x/91-002-x2020002-eng.htm>

AS REGARDS INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRATION, QUEBEC FELL SLIGHTLY BACK INTO THE RED FOR THE Q2 2020 PERIOD

Interprovincial migration Quebec	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
In-migrants	8,678	8,807	4,879	5,703	8,314
Out-migrants	9,058	9,538	4,933	5,649	8,821
Net Change	-380	-731	-54	+54	-507

Source: Statistics Canada Quarterly Demographic Estimates, September 29, 2020
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-002-x/91-002-x2020002-eng.htm>

BC WIDENED THE GAP WITH QUEBEC AROUND INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRATION DURING Q2 2020

Geography, province of destination	Quebec, province of origin (left Quebec)		Quebec Province of Destination (came to Quebec)	
	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Newfoundland	77	34	61	192
Prince Edward Island	15	132	11	125
Nova Scotia,	148	227	204	356
New Brunswick	366	538	323	541
Quebec	'''
Ontario	3,624	5,267	3,445	4,947
Manitoba	98	131	200	195
Saskatchewan	77	134	200	137
Alberta	563	677	666	810
British Columbia	656	1,561	515	915

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA HAS DECLINED BY MORE THAN 60% OVER THE FIVE MONTHS SINCE THE CONTAGION (WITH QUEBEC DOWN BY ABOUT 58%)

Province/Territory Source:	2019		July –August 2019			2020		July –August 2020		
	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Jul	Aug	July/Aug Total	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Jul	Aug	July /August Total
Canada	65,955	94,275	36,615	31,585	68200	69,160	34,275	13,675	11,315	24,990
Newfoundland and Labrador	275	550	190	165	355	365	170	45	40	85
Prince Edward Island	545	600	325	275	600	495	285	60	85	145
Nova Scotia	1,270	2,125	1,025	660	1685	1,185	870	240	235	480
New Brunswick	1,055	1,705	750	560	1310	1,080	590	295	195	490
Quebec	8,045	10,175	4,545	2,785	7330	7,970	2,990	2,495	2,225	4,715
Percentage of Immigration in Quebec as a function of total immigration for Canada	12	10.6	12.4	8.8	10.7	11.5	8.8%	18.2	19.9	19.0
Ontario	31,155	43,525	16,335	14,150	30485	32,295	16,175	5,795	5,070	10,865
Manitoba	3,230	5,375	1,960	2,105	4065	3,025	1,465	795	465	1,265
Saskatchewan	2,855	3,930	1,660	1,680	3340	3,020	1,275	705	455	1,160
Alberta	8,545	12,420	4,130	3,990	8120	8,495	4,285	1,640	1,245	2,880
British Columbia	8,845	13,685	5,630	5,150	10780	11,075	6,120	1,580	1,295	2,875

Source: Government of Canada, Open Government Portal <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/360024f2-17e9-4558-bfc1-3616485d65b9>

ECONOMIC IMMIGRATION TO QUEBEC DROPPED BY 80% IN Q2 2019 TO Q2 2020; FAMILY AND REFUGEES BY 2/3RDS BUT REDUCTIONS WERE NOT AS HIGH IN THE JULY AUGUST PERIOD

Quebec Admission of Permanent Residents by Category of Immigration	2019					2020				
	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Jul	Aug	July August Total	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Jul	Aug	July August Total
Worker Program	3,110	4,410	2,030	1,510	3,540	4,035	925	1,540	1,295	2,835
Business	1,185	875	280	275	555	540	100	75	75	150
Economic - Total	4,295	5,280	2,305	1,790	4,095	4,570	1,025	1,615	1,370	2,985
Sponsored Family - Total	2,320	2,615	870	610	1,480	1,955	960	560	680	1,235
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada - Total	1,360	2,140	1,325	345	1,670	1,355	870	255	140	395
All Other Immigration - Total	70	135	45	40	85	85	130	65	35	95
Quebec - Total	8,045	10,175	4,545	2,785	7,330	7,970	2,990	2,495	2,225	4,715
Source: Government of Canada, Open Government Portal https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/360024f2-17e9-4558-bfc1-3616485d65b9										

IN REGARDS TO TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS THERE HAS BEEN A 20% REDUCTION IN THEIR NUMBER SINCE THE MONTH OF APRIL

Temporary Foreign Worker Program work permit holders (Gender and Skill Level)	2019					2020				
	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Jul	Aug	July and August Total	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Jul	Aug	July and August Total
Higher-skilled	1,260	1,595	550	580	1130	1,770	660	325	400	725
Lower-skilled	2,465	4,070	1,285	780	2065	1,615	2,215	620	475	1,095
Other occupations	--	10	--	--	0	10	--	0	--	--
Skill level not stated	60	85	25	30	55	135	30	40	35	75
Female Total	3,790	5,760	1,865	1,400	3265	3,530	2,905	980	910	1,890
Higher-skilled	4,230	5,055	1,755	1,685	3440	5,045	2,175	810	1,035	1,840
Lower-skilled	13,370	28,860	6,980	3,210	10190	11,055	26,410	6,180	5,410	11,585
Other occupations	5	15	--	--	0	5	--	--	0	--
Skill level not stated	75	80	30	35	65	145	80	25	25	50
Male Total	17,685	34,005	8,760	4,930	13690	16,250	28,665	7,020	6,475	13,480
Total	21,475	39,765	10,625	6,330	16. 955	19,780	31,570	8,000	7,385	15,375

Source: Government of Canada, Open Government Portal <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/360024f2-17e9-4558-bfc1-3616485d65b9>

LEADING SOURCES OF CANADA'S CURRENT IMMIGRATION HAVE SEEN CUTS IN NUMBERS BY UPWARDS OF 50%

Country of Citizenship	2019					2020				
	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Jul	Aug	July and August Total	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Jul	Aug	July and August Total
India	15,595	23,825	9,415	8,355	17,770	16,665	9,940	3,205	2,775	5,980
China, People's Republic of	6,840	8,495	2,835	2,870	5,705	6,630	3,515	865	780	1,645
Philippines	5,965	8,165	2,635	2,420	5,055	5,040	1,885	865	555	1,420
United States of America	2,145	2,950	1,150	1,115	2,265	2,435	1,435	405	375	780
Pakistan	2,160	3,045	1,225	880	2,105	2,270	1,050	640	395	1,035
Nigeria	2,100	3,605	1,510	1,210	2,720	2,380	970	560	415	975
Iran	1,035	2,050	640	375	1,015	1,225	885	405	210	615
France	850	1,160	505	465	970	1,565	680	290	165	455
Syria	1,645	2,655	1,750	745	2,495	1,760	385	245	180	425
United Kingdom and Overseas Territories	1,090	1,480	560	645	1,205	1,195	940	225	175	400
Brazil	925	1,380	525	715	1,240	1,250	1,000	130	120	250
Korea, Republic of	1,175	1,665	680	725	1,405	1,145	690	205	135	340
	Source: Government of Canada, Open Government Portal https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/360024f2-17e9-4558-bfc1-3616485d65b9									

STUDY PERMIT HOLDERS DROPPED ABOUT 75% IN CANADA FROM JULY AND AUGUST 2019 TO THE SAME PERIOD IN 2020

Study permit holders by province of intended destination

Canada and Province	2019				2020			
	Q2 Total	Jul	Aug	July and August	Q2 Total	Jul	Aug	July and August
Canada	83,375	32,530	112,775	145,305	64,475	13,355	40,130	53,430
Newfoundland and Labrador	425	160	790	950	370	85	155	240
Prince Edward Island	315	120	605	725	290	50	145	195
Nova Scotia	2,325	725	3,065	3,790	1,390	270	640	910
New Brunswick	595	320	1,565	1,885	515	155	310	465
Quebec	9,920	4,200	16,105	20,305	7,375	1,840	5,645	7,475
Ontario	41,390	16,415	55,210	71,625	32,380	6,695	19,370	26,035
Manitoba	2,670	1,010	2,945	3,955	2,485	520	1,005	1,525
Saskatchewan	1,275	460	1,810	2,270	925	205	480	685
Alberta	3,950	1,700	6,320	8,020	3,455	655	2,095	2,745
British Columbia	20,080	7,085	22,185	29,270	15,245	2,810	10,170	12,965

BIGGER DROP IN STUDY PERMIT HOLDERS FROM INDIA THAN CHINA BETWEEN JULY AND AUGUST 2019 TO JULY AND AUGUST 2020

Country of Citizenship	2019				2020			
	Q2 Total	Jul	Aug	July/ August Total	Q2 Total	Jul	Aug	July/ August Total
China, People's Republic of	24,320	10,540	21,500	32040	17,915	3,255	13,015	16,250
India	27,395	6,800	38,585	45385	16,105	2,905	12,870	15,770
Korea, Republic of	3,985	2,045	3,450	5495	3,010	650	1,320	1,965
France	1,400	965	7,265	8230	1,135	280	1,265	1,545
Vietnam	2,500	1,270	3,095	4365	4,400	735	615	1,350
Brazil	2,090	805	2,310	3115	1,310	285	930	1,215
United States of America	850	675	3,040	3715	960	300	845	1,150
Iran	1,830	875	2,240	3115	2,445	565	415	975
Nigeria	1,615	755	1,670	2425	2,210	520	455	970
Philippines	1,140	480	1,575	2055	875	335	585	915
Hong Kong SAR	545	290	695	985	345	200	530	725
Mexico	885	480	1,235	1,715	455	1,755	2210	1,095

ACCORDING TO STATSCAN THE NET NUMBER OF NON-PERMANENT RESIDENTS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2020 WAS NEGATIVE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1994

Essentially what this means is that Canada lost more non-permanent residents than it gained over the second quarter of 2020 (see next table). These losses were mainly the result of declining numbers of study permit holders and a reduction in asylum claimants connected with pandemic-related travel restrictions.

CANADA SEES A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THE NUMBERS OF MIGRANTS ENTERING AND EXITING THE COUNTRY

Components of population growth	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Immigrants	94,281	103,719	77,235	69,162	34,271
Emigrants	11,502	16,932	10,947	11,109	141
Returning emigrants	11,217	17,114	6,165	10,040	413
Net temporary emigrants	6,563	8,079	6,462	4,263	75
Net non-permanent residents	65,054	80,216	15,177	6,547	-24,768
	Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0040-01 Estimates of the components of international migration, quarterly				

CANADIANS DIVIDED OVER WHETHER TO ALLOW MORE IMMIGRANTS INTO THE COUNTRY

Do you support or oppose allowing more immigrants into your country July 31 to August 2, 2020	Canada	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	Alberta	British Columbia
Support	50.3%	61.9%	48.5%	50.3%	51.0%	45.1%	51.2%
Oppose	49.7%	38.1%	51.5%	49.7%	49.0%	54.9%	48.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, July 31 to August 2, 2020						

MOST CANADIANS PREFER STAYING THE COURSE AND EXTENDING REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBERS OF IMMIGRANTS OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

As a result of the contagion over the past few months Canada has seen a 50% to 75% reduction in the number of immigrants settling in Canada with the numbers for July and August dropping from 68 000 in 2019 to 25 000 for the same two months in 2020

October 23 to 25	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+	French	English	Others
Gradually increase immigration levels over the next twelve months	24%	29%	19%	29%	23%	21%	25%	22%	32%
Stay with the reduced numbers over the next 12 months	52%	48%	56%	55%	51%	52%	52%	52%	56%
Further reduce the numbers of immigrants	24%	23%	24%	16%	26%	27%	23%	26%	13%

WHILE CANADIANS ACROSS ALL PARTIES FAVOUR STAYING WITH REDUCED LEVELS OVER THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF CONSERVATIVES WOULD FURTHER REDUCE LEVELS

As a result of the contagion over the past few months Canada has seen a 50% to 75% reduction in the number of immigrants settling in Canada with the numbers for July and August dropping from 68 000 in 2019 to 25 000 for the same two months in 2020

October 23 to 25	Total	LPC	NDP	BQ	CPC
Gradually increase immigration levels over the next twelve m	24%	34%	32%	24%	11%
Stay with the reduced numbers over the next 12 months	52%	53%	51%	60%	50%
Further reduce the numbers of immigrants	24%	14%	16%	16%	39%

SOME ONE IN FIVE CANADIANS WANT TO RESTRICT IMMIGRATION FROM COUNTRIES WHERE COVID-19 CASES ARE HIGHEST

Which of the following should Canada do when it comes to admitting immigrants?					
October 23 to 25 2020	Total	LPC	NDP	BQ	CPC
Restrict the numbers of immigrants coming from countries where levels of COVID-19 are highest	22%	21%	15%	16%	25%
Require that immigrants, from wherever they come, to have been tested for COVID-19 before they arrive to ensure that they don't have the virus	78%	79%	85%	84%	75%

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