

Canada's population estimates, fourth quarter 2018

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Canada's population continues to grow rapidly, driven by international migration

On January 1, 2019, Canada's population reached 37,314,442, up 71,871 from October 1, 2018, according to preliminary population estimates.

As has been the case over the last several years, population growth continued to be driven by international migration. Gains from international migration were due to 71,131 new immigrants having arrived in Canada in the fourth quarter.

Rapid population growth is not typical for a fourth quarter. In fact, this is when population growth is generally slowest because of seasonal patterns associated with births and the arrival of immigrants and non-permanent residents.

Across the country, Alberta and Nunavut (+0.4%) saw their population grow the fastest in the fourth quarter, while in Newfoundland and Labrador, population fell (-0.2%).

With the addition of the fourth quarter data, population estimates for 2018 are now complete. Canada grew by 528,421 in 2018, of which 80.5% was due to international migration. This level of increase has not been seen since the 1950s.



Note to readers

The estimates released today are based on 2016 Census counts adjusted for census net undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves, to which are added the population growth estimates for the period from May 10, 2016, to the date of the estimate.

This analysis is based on preliminary data. Since these data will be revised in the coming year, some trends described in this analysis may change as a result of these revisions. Therefore, this analysis should be interpreted with caution.

Canada's population clock (real-time model)

Canada's population clock was updated today with the most recent quarterly population estimates released by Statistics Canada.

Canada's population clock is an interactive learning tool aiming to give Canadians a sense of the pace of the country's population renewal. The [population estimates](#) and [Census counts](#) remain the measures used by various government programs.

Canada's population clock is available online in the Features section of our website.

Definitions

For the purpose of calculating **rates**, the denominator is the average population during the period (the average of the start-of-period and end-of-period populations). For the sake of brevity, the terms **growth**, **population growth** and **population growth rate** have the same meaning.

Natural increase is the difference between the number of births and deaths.

Net international migration basically refers to the total number of moves between Canada and abroad that result in a change in the usual place of residence. It is calculated by adding **immigrants** and **net non-permanent residents**, then subtracting **net emigration**. **Net emigration** distinguishes **emigrants**, **returning emigrants** and **net temporary emigration**.

An **immigrant** refers to a person who is or has been a landed immigrant (permanent resident) and who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Immigrants are either Canadian citizens by naturalization (the citizenship process) or permanent residents under Canadian legislation. Some immigrants have resided in Canada for a number of years, while others have arrived recently. Most immigrants are born outside Canada, but a small number are born in Canada. Also, children born in other countries to parents who are Canadian citizens who are temporarily residing in another country are not included in the category as they are Canadian citizens at birth. The terms **immigrant**, **landed immigrant** and **permanent resident** are equivalent.

A **non-permanent resident** is a person lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a valid document (work permit, study permit, ministerial permit) issued to that person along with members of their family living with them. This group also includes individuals who seek refugee status upon or after their arrival in Canada and remain in the country pending the outcome of processes relative to their claim. Note that Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada uses the term temporary resident rather than non-permanent resident. Net non-permanent residents is calculated by subtracting the number of **non-permanent residents** estimated at the beginning of the period from the number estimated at the end of the period.

Interprovincial migration represents all movement from one province or territory to another involving a change in the usual place of residence.

Available tables: [17-10-0009-01](#), [17-10-0020-01](#), [17-10-0040-01](#), [17-10-0045-01](#) and [17-10-0059-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3601](#).

The *Quarterly Demographic Estimates*, Vol. 32, no. 4 ([91-002-X](#)) publication is now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).