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Ontario Demographic Quarterly: highlights of fourth quarter 2020

Learn about key facts and figures of the province's demographics and changes from the previous quarter.

Population growth

Ontario's population reached 14,755,211 on January 1, 2021, with a increase of 21,705 people during the fourth quarter of 2020. This compares to an increase of 51,195 in the same quarter of the previous year.

Population growth, Ontario, Q4 2020

Components of population growth	Number of people (in thousands)
Population, October 1, 2020	14,733.5
Plus births	34.6
Minus deaths	30.6
Plus immigrants	17.3
Minus emigrants ^[1]	1.9
Plus net change in non-permanent residents	2.7
Plus interprovincial arrivals	12.0
Minus interprovincial departures	12.4
Population, January 1, 2021	14,755.2

Births and deaths

There were 34,634 births during the fourth quarter of 2020, an increase of 1.3% from the same quarter of 2019. The number of deaths increased by 9.3% to reach 30,609.

Natural increase (births minus deaths) was 4,025 in the quarter, down from 6,202 in the same quarter of 2019.

International migration

Immigration to Ontario was 17,281 in the quarter, down substantially from 32,781 in the same quarter of 2019. Ontario received 42.0% of all immigrants to Canada in the quarter, little changed from 42.4% in the

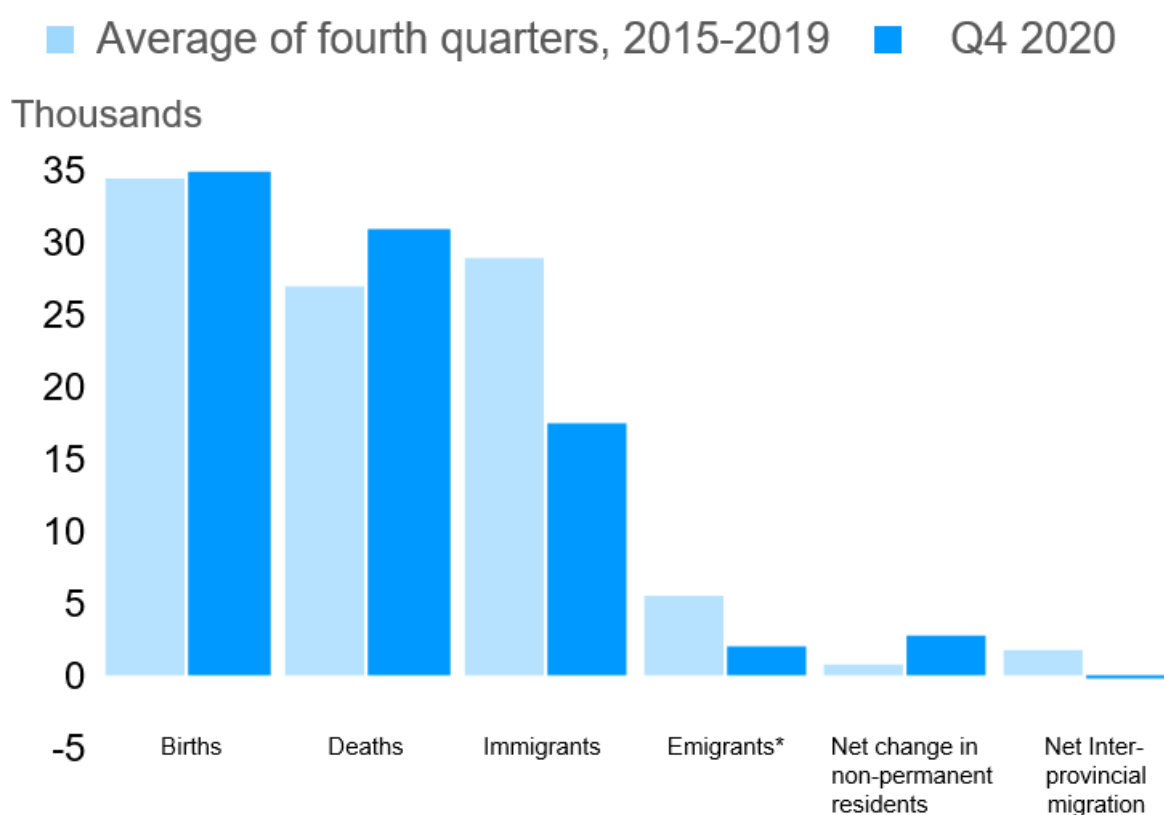
same quarter of 2019. Over the 12 months to December 31, Ontario received 82,981 immigrants, down sharply from 153,413 during the previous year.

There were 1,924 emigrants from Ontario in the fourth quarter, down considerably from 4,534 during the same quarter of the previous year. Ontario accounted for 39.5% of all emigration from Canada in the quarter.

The number of non-permanent residents in Ontario (NPRs – i.e. foreign students, visa workers and refugee claimants) increased by 2,663 to about 580,000 in the quarter.

In summary, there was a net international migration gain of 18,020 in the fourth quarter, down significantly from a net gain of 44,591 in the same quarter of 2019.

Components of population growth, Q4 2020 and average for 2015-2019



* Includes emigrants plus net change in temporary emigrants minus returning Canadians.
Source: Statistics Canada.

[Accessible description of chart](#)

Interprovincial migration

In the fourth quarter of 2020, Ontario had a net outflow of 340 people to the rest of Canada, compared to a net gain of 402 people in the same quarter of 2019. Ontario experienced net gains in its exchanges with 6 of the 12 other provinces and territories, with the largest net gains from Manitoba (672) and Quebec (553).

The largest net losses were to British Columbia (-1,212) and Nova Scotia (-488). Over the 12 months to December 31, Ontario's total net interprovincial migration loss was 3,488, compared to a net gain of 3,330 during the previous year.

Year-over-year growth

Over the 12 months to December 31, Ontario's population grew by 66,136 or 0.5%, lower than growth of 260,363 (1.8%) during the previous year. Among the provinces, Ontario had the third fastest population growth rate, after Alberta (0.8%) and Prince Edward Island (0.8%). Canada's population grew at a rate of 0.4% over the period.

For more information, contact Alex Munger at 437-242-7697.

Ontario Demographic Factsheet

Population (000s) - Estimates ^[2]

Region	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020
Canada	32,571	34,339	36,109	37,065	37,593	38,005
Ontario	12,662	13,261	13,875	14,309	14,545	14,734
Ontario as % of Canada	38.9	38.6	38.4	38.6	38.7	38.8
Ontario average annual growth rate (Over previous year shown)	1.3	0.9	0.9	1.7	1.6	1.3

Population (000s) - MOF Projections ^[3]

Region	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
Canada	38,285	40,315	42,271	44,115	45,844	47,479
Ontario	14,936	15,871	16,684	17,497	18,319	19,157
Ontario as % of Canada	39.0	39.4	39.5	39.7	40.0	40.3
Ontario average annual growth rate (Over previous year shown)	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9

Age distribution (%) - Estimates ^[2]

Age group	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020
0-4	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.9
5-14	12.3	11.2	11.0	10.8	10.7	10.6
15-24	13.8	13.7	12.9	13.0	13.0	12.8
25-44	29.4	27.1	26.5	26.7	27.0	27.4
45-64	26.0	28.3	28.1	27.5	27.1	26.7
65-74	6.9	7.6	9.2	9.6	9.8	10.0
75+	6.2	6.6	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.6

Age distribution (%) - MOF Projections ^[3]

Age group	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
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Age group	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
0-4	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9
5-14	10.5	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.9
15-24	12.9	12.8	12.6	12.3	12.4	12.4
25-44	27.3	27.7	27.3	26.7	25.9	25.6
45-64	26.4	24.4	23.0	23.1	23.6	23.9
65-74	10.2	11.0	11.6	10.8	9.7	9.3
75+	7.8	9.1	10.6	12.3	13.6	14.0

Selected age groups (%) - Estimates ^[2]

Age group	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020
0-14	17.8	16.6	16.1	15.8	15.6	15.5
15-64	69.2	69.1	67.6	67.3	67.1	66.9
65+	13.0	14.2	16.3	16.9	17.3	17.6

Selected age groups (%) - MOF Projections ^[3]

Age group	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
0-14	15.5	15.1	14.9	14.8	14.7	14.8
15-64	66.5	64.8	62.9	62.1	61.9	61.9
65+	18.0	20.2	22.2	23.1	23.4	23.3

Other characteristics - Estimates ^[2]

Other characteristic	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020
Total dependency ratio (%) ^[4]	60.6	60.4	62.6	63.2	63.3	63.6
Median age (years)	38.4	39.8	40.7	40.6	40.5	40.4
Age span of baby boom (years)	41-60	46-65	51-70	52-71	53-72	54-73
Total fertility rate ^[5]	1.55	1.56	1.51	1.45	N/A	N/A
Female life expectancy at birth (years) ^[5]	83.1	84.0	84.4	84.5	N/A	N/A
Male life expectancy at birth (years) ^[5]	78.8	79.8	80.3	80.3	N/A	N/A
Families (000s)	3,539	3,722	3,832	3,953	3,990	4,030
Households (000s) ^[6]	4,555	4,888	5,169	N/A	N/A	N/A

Other characteristics - MOF Projections ^[3]

Other characteristic	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
Total dependency ratio (%) ^[4]	64.8	69.7	74.7	77.0	77.7	77.6
Median age (years)	40.5	40.8	41.5	42.2	42.7	42.8
Age span of baby boom (years)	56-75	61-80	66-85	71-90	76-95	81-100
Total fertility rate ^[5]	1.46	1.44	1.45	1.48	1.51	1.55
Female life expectancy at birth (years) ^[5]	84.7	85.4	86.2	86.9	87.6	88.2

Other characteristic	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
Male life expectancy at birth (years) ^[5]	80.8	81.8	82.8	83.8	84.7	85.5
Families (000s)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Households (000s) ^[6]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Regional distribution (%) - Estimates ^[2]

Region	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020
Greater Toronto Area	45.8	47.2	47.8	47.8	48.0	48.0
Central	22.0	21.6	21.6	21.7	21.7	21.7
Eastern	13.2	13.2	13.1	13.1	13.1	13.1
Southwestern	12.6	12.0	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7
Northeastern	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.9
Northwestern	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6

Regional distribution (%) - MOF Projections ^[3]

Region	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
Greater Toronto Area	48.0	48.4	48.8	49.1	49.5	49.8
Central	21.8	21.9	22.0	22.0	22.1	22.1
Eastern	13.1	13.0	12.9	12.9	12.8	12.7
Southwestern	11.7	11.5	11.4	11.3	11.1	11.0
Northeastern	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.0
Northwestern	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3

Components of change (000s) ^[7] — year beginning July 1

Period	Population, beginning of period	Total change	Births	Deaths	Natural increase
Five-Year: 2001–06	11,898	764	658	418	240
Five-Year: 2006–11	12,662	600	697	441	256
Five-Year: 2011–16	13,261	614	702	471	231
Annual: 2016–17	13,875	195	141	102	39
Annual: 2017–18	14,070	239	141	107	34
Annual: 2018–19	14,309	236	140	109	31
Annual: 2019–20	14,545	189	143	115	28

Components of change (000s) ^[7] — year beginning July 1

International migration

Period	Immigrants	Net emigrants	Net NPRs	Net
Five-Year: 2001–06	653	125	44	573

Period	Immigrants	Net emigrants	Net NPRs	Net
Five-Year: 2006–11	558	104	57	511
Five-Year: 2011–16	519	123	85	481
Annual: 2016–17	98	19	63	142
Annual: 2017–18	132	16	78	194
Annual: 2018–19	139	16	75	198
Annual: 2019–20	127	9	43	161

Components of change (000s) ^[7] — year beginning
July 1

Interprovincial migration

Period	In	Out	Net
Five-Year: 2001–06	307	336	-30
Five-Year: 2006–11	296	355	-59
Five-Year: 2011–16	307	346	-39
Annual: 2016–17	72	58	13
Annual: 2017–18	70	60	10
Annual: 2018–19	67	60	7
Annual: 2019–20	70	70	0

Note: All population figures are for July 1st.

Sources: Ontario Ministry of Finance and Statistics Canada.

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Office of Economic Policy

Accessible image description:

This bar chart compares the components of population growth in the fourth quarter of 2020 with the average of the same quarter of the previous five years (2015-2019). In the fourth quarter of 2020, births, deaths and the net change in the number of non-permanent residents were higher than the average of fourth quarters of the previous five years, while immigration, emigration and net interprovincial migration were lower.

[Return to chart](#)

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- [Highlights of third quarter 2020 \(https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-demographic-quarterly-highlights-third-quarter-2020\)](https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-demographic-quarterly-highlights-third-quarter-2020) December 17, 2020
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- [Highlights of first quarter 2020 \(https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-demographic-quarterly-highlights-first-quarter-2020\)](https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-demographic-quarterly-highlights-first-quarter-2020) June 18, 2020
- [Highlights of the Fourth Quarter 2019 \(https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/quarterly/dhiq4.html\)](https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/quarterly/dhiq4.html) March 18, 2020
- [Highlights of the Third Quarter 2019 \(https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/quarterly/dhiq3.html\)](https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/quarterly/dhiq3.html) December 19, 2019
- [Highlights of the Second Quarter 2019 \(https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/quarterly/dhiq2.html\)](https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/quarterly/dhiq2.html) September 30, 2019
- [Highlights of the First Quarter 2019 \(https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/quarterly/dhiq1.html\)](https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/quarterly/dhiq1.html) June 19, 2019

Footnotes

- [1] [^] Emigrants plus net change in temporary emigrants minus returning Canadians.
Source: Statistics Canada.
- [2] [^] Statistics Canada's population estimates based on the 2016 Census.
- [3] [^] All projections are produced by the Ontario Ministry of Finance (Summer 2020), except those for Canada (and Ontario as % of Canada), which are from Statistics Canada.
- [4] [^] Total dependency ratio is the ratio of the population aged 0–19 and 65+ to the population aged 20–64.
- [5] [^] Total Fertility Rate estimates are for calendar year, and projections are for census year. Life expectancy estimates represent three-year averages (e.g., 2006 reported life expectancy corresponds to the average recorded over 2005–2007).
- [6] [^] Households are Census data.
- [7] [^] In the "Components of Change" table, flows are for the 12-month period July 1 to June 30. Net international migration is calculated as the net balance of immigrants, net emigrants and net non-permanent residents (NPRs). Components may not add up due to existence of residuals.