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Ontario Demographic Quarterly: highlights of third quarter

Learn about Ontario’s economic performance and outlook for the third quarter of 2021.

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Population growth

Ontario’s population reached 14,915,270 on October 1, 2021, with a increase of 88,994 people during the third quarter of 2021. This compares to an unusual decrease of 5,008 people recorded in the same quarter of 2020.

Population growth, Ontario, Q3 2021

	Thousands
Population, July 1, 2021	14,826.3
Plus Births	36.4
Minus Deaths	25.4
Plus Immigrants	58.5
Minus Emigrants *	8.2
Plus Net Change in Non-Permanent Residents	34.5
Plus Interprovincial Arrivals	21.7
Minus Interprovincial Departures	28.6
Population, October 1, 2021	14,915.3

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

Births and deaths

There were 36,439 births during the third quarter of 2021, an increase of 1.0% from the same quarter of 2020. The number of deaths decreased by 5.2% to reach 25,440.

Natural increase (births minus deaths) was 10,999 in the quarter, up from 9,264 in the same quarter of 2020.

International migration

Immigration to Ontario was 58,548 in the quarter, up from 17,259 in the same quarter of 2020. Ontario received 47.7% of all immigrants to Canada in the quarter, an increase from 43.0% in the same quarter of

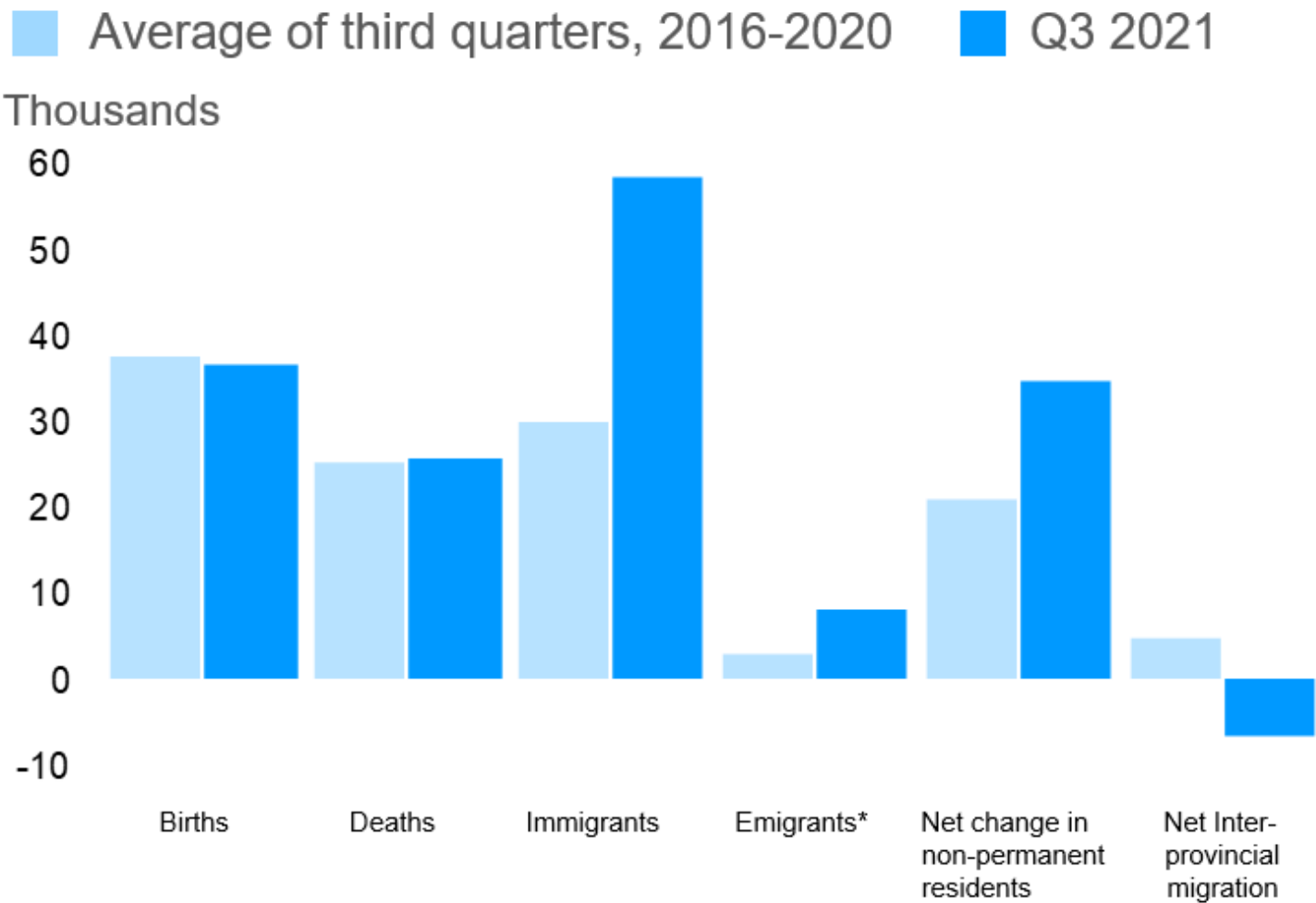
2020. Over the 12 months to September 30, Ontario received 149,154 immigrants, up sharply from 98,429 during the previous year.

There were 8,158 emigrants in the third quarter, compared to 394 during the same quarter of 2020. Ontario accounted for 44.6% 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 34,497 to about 619,000 in the quarter.

Overall, there was a net international migration gain of 84,887 in the third quarter, up from an unusual net loss of 15,003 in the same quarter of 2020.

Components of population growth, Q3 2021 and average for 2016-2020



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

[Accessible description of chart](#)

Interprovincial migration

In the third quarter of 2021, Ontario had a net outflow of 6,892 people to the rest of Canada, compared to a net inflow of 731 people in the same quarter of 2020. Ontario experienced net gains in its exchanges with 4 of the 12 other provinces and territories, with the largest net gains from Saskatchewan (890) and Manitoba (855). The largest net losses were to Alberta (-2,820) and Nova Scotia (-2,150). Over the 12 months to September 30, Ontario's total net interprovincial migration outflow was 24,708, compared to a net outflow of 875 during the previous year.

Year-over-year growth

Over the 12 months to September 30, Ontario's population grew by 174,566 or 1.2%, higher than growth of 102,457 (0.7%) during the previous year. Among the provinces, Ontario had the fifth fastest population growth rate after Prince Edward Island (2.8%), British Columbia (1.8%), Nova Scotia (1.8%) and New Brunswick (1.4%). Canada's population grew by 403,433 (1.1%) over the period.

For more information contact Alex Munger [437-242-7697](tel:437-242-7697).

Ontario Demographic Factsheet

Population (000s) - Estimates [1]							
Region	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021
Canada	32,571	34,339	36,109	37,065	37,601	38,037	38,246
Ontario	12,662	13,261	13,875	14,309	14,545	14,746	14,826

Ontario as % of Canada	38.9	38.6	38.4	38.6	38.7	38.8	38.7
Ontario average annual growth rate (Over previous year shown)	1.3	0.9	0.9	1.5	1.6	1.4	0.5

Population (000s) - MOF Projections [2]						
Region	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046	
Canada	40,315	42,271	44,115	45,844	47,479	
Ontario	16,076	17,091	18,083	19,058	20,016	
Ontario as % of Canada	39.9	40.4	41.0	41.6	42.2	
Ontario average annual growth rate (Over previous year shown)	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	

Age distribution (%) - Estimates [1]							
Age group	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021
0–4	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8
5–14	12.3	11.2	11.0	10.8	10.7	10.6	10.5
15–24	13.8	13.7	12.9	13.0	13.0	12.8	12.5
25–44	29.4	27.1	26.5	26.7	27.0	27.4	27.6
45–64	26.0	28.3	28.1	27.5	27.1	26.7	26.5
65–74	6.9	7.6	9.2	9.6	9.8	10.0	10.3
75+	6.2	6.6	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.8

Age distribution (%) - MOF Projections [2]							

Age group	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
0–4	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
5–14	10.0	9.9	10.0	9.9	9.9
15–24	12.9	12.7	12.4	12.4	12.5
25–44	28.4	28.3	27.8	26.9	26.3
45–64	24.1	22.7	22.8	23.6	24.2
65–74	10.9	11.3	10.5	9.4	9.0
75+	8.9	10.2	11.7	13.0	13.3

Selected age groups (%) - Estimates [\[1\]](#)

Age group	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021
0–14	17.8	16.6	16.1	15.8	15.6	15.5	15.3
15–64	69.2	69.1	67.6	67.3	67.1	66.9	66.6
65+	13.0	14.2	16.3	16.9	17.3	17.6	18.1

Selected age groups (%) - MOF Projections [\[2\]](#)

Age group	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
0–14	14.9	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8
15–64	65.4	63.7	62.9	62.8	62.9
65+	19.8	21.6	22.3	22.4	22.2

Other characteristics - Estimates [\[1\]](#)

Other characteristic	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021
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Total dependency ratio (%) [3]	60.6	60.4	62.6	63.2	63.4	63.6	63.9
Median age (years)	38.4	39.8	40.7	40.6	40.5	40.5	40.7
Age span of baby boom (years)	41-60	46-65	51-70	53-72	54-73	55-74	56-75
Total fertility rate [4]	1.55	1.56	1.51	1.45	1.42	n.a. *****	n.a. *****
Female life expectancy at birth (years) [4]	83.1	84.0	84.4	84.5	n.a. *****	n.a. *****	n.a. *****
Male life expectancy at birth (years) [4]	78.8	79.8	80.3	80.3	n.a. *****	n.a. *****	n.a. *****
Families (000s) *****	3,539	3,722	3,832	3,953	4,010	4,055	4,111
Households (000s) [5] *****	4,555	4,888	5,169	n.a. *****	n.a. *****	n.a. *****	n.a. *****

Other characteristics - MOF Projections [2] *****						
Other characteristic	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046	
Total dependency ratio (%) [3]	67.9	72.3	74.0	74.5	74.3	
Median age (years)	40.4	40.9	41.5	42.0	42.3	
Age span of baby boom (years)	61-80	66-85	71-90	76-95	81-100	
Total fertility rate [4]	1.39	1.39	1.42	1.46	1.50	
Female life expectancy at birth (years) [4]	85.2	85.9	86.6	87.3	87.9	
Male life expectancy at birth (years) [4]	81.2	82.2	83.1	84.0	84.8	
Families (000s) *****	n.a. *****	n.a. *****	n.a. *****	n.a. *****	n.a. *****	
Households (000s) [5] *****	n.a. *****	n.a. *****	n.a. *****	n.a. *****	n.a. *****	

Regional distribution (%) - Estimates [1]							
Region	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021

Greater Toronto Area	45.8	47.2	47.8	47.8	48.0	48.0	n.a. *****
Central	22.0	21.6	21.6	21.7	21.7	21.7	n.a. *****
Eastern	13.2	13.2	13.1	13.1	13.1	13.1	n.a. *****
Southwestern	12.6	12.0	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	n.a. *****
Northeastern	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.9	n.a. *****
Northwestern	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	n.a. *****

Regional distribution (%) - MOF Projections [2] *****						
Region	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046	
Greater Toronto Area	48.5	48.9	49.3	49.6	49.8	
Central	21.8	21.9	22.0	22.0	22.1	
Eastern	13.0	12.9	12.9	12.8	12.8	
Southwestern	11.6	11.4	11.3	11.2	11.1	
Northeastern	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	
Northwestern	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	

Components of change (000s) [6] — 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	106	34
Annual: 2019–20	14,545	201	140	112	28
Annual: 2020–21	14,746	81	137	117	20

Components of change (000s) ^[6] — year beginning July 1
International migration

Period	Immigrants	Net emigrants	Net NPRs	Net
Five-Year: 2001–06	653	125	44	573
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	72	195
Annual: 2019–20	127	–3	40	170
Annual: 2020–21	108	12	–18	78

Components of change (000s) ^[6] — 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	75	72	3
Annual: 2020–21	65	83	–17

Note: All population figures are for July 1st.

Sources: Ontario Ministry of Finance and Statistics Canada.

December 16, 2021
Office of Economic Policy

Accessible Image Description:

This bar chart compares the components of population growth in the third quarter of 2021 with the average of the same quarter of the previous five years (2016-2020). In the third quarter of 2021, deaths, immigration, emigration and the net change in the number of non-permanent residents were higher than the average of third quarters of the previous five years, while births and net interprovincial migration were lower.

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Related

- [Highlights of second quarter 2021](#)
- [Highlights of first quarter 2021](#)
- [Highlights of fourth quarter 2020](#)

Updated: December 21, 2021
Published: December 29, 2020

Footnotes

- [1]  Statistics Canada's population estimates based on the 2016 Census.
- [2]  All projections are produced by the Ontario Ministry of Finance (Spring 2021), except those for Canada (and Ontario as % of Canada), which are from Statistics Canada.
- [3]  Total dependency ratio is the ratio of the population aged 0–19 and 65+ to the population aged 20-64
- [4]  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).
- [5]  Households are Census data.
- [6]  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.



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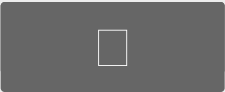
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