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Ontario Demographic Quarterly: highlights of fourth quarter

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

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Population growth

Ontario’s population reached 14,951,825 on January 1, 2022, with a increase of 36,555 people during the fourth quarter of 2021. This compares to an increase of 18,727 people recorded in the same quarter of 2020.

Population growth, Ontario, Q4 2021

	Thousands
Population, October 1, 2021	14,915.3
Plus Births	32.7
Minus Deaths	30.2
Plus Immigrants	66.7
Minus Emigrants *	7.5
Plus Net Change in Non-Permanent Residents	-18.6
Plus Interprovincial Arrivals	12.3
Minus Interprovincial Departures	18.9
Population, January 1, 2022	14,951.8

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

Births and deaths

There were 32,678 births during the fourth quarter of 2021, an increase of 2.0% from the same quarter of 2020. The number of deaths decreased by 1.6% to reach 30,197.

Natural increase (births minus deaths) was 2,481 in the quarter, up from 1,371 in the same quarter of 2020.

International migration

Immigration to Ontario was 66,691 in the quarter, up from 17,315 in the same quarter of 2020. Ontario received 48.3% of all immigrants to Canada in the quarter, an increase from 42.0% in the same quarter of

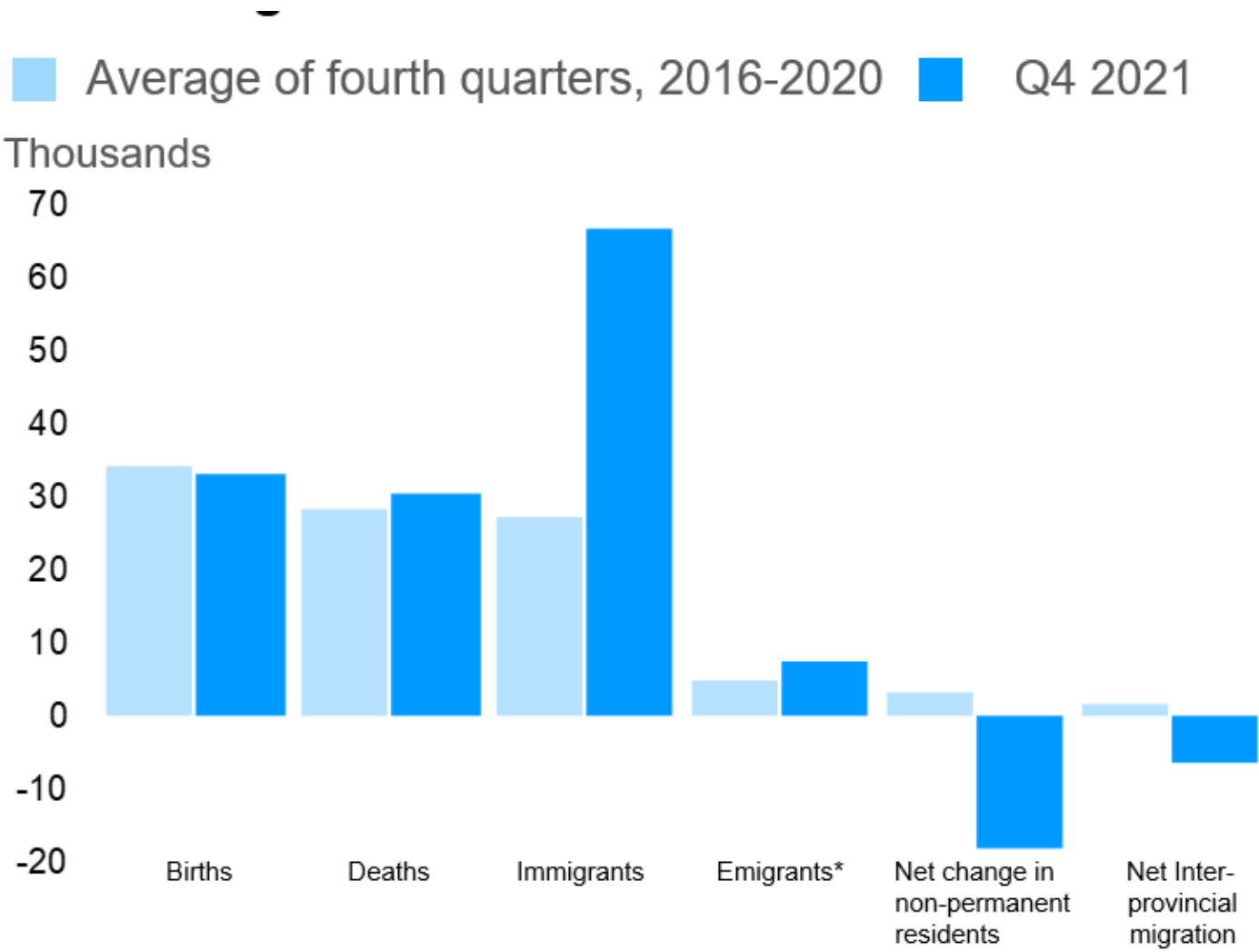
2020. During calendar year 2021, Ontario received 198,530 immigrants, up sharply from 82,963 in 2020.

There were 7,463 emigrants in the fourth quarter, compared to 2,000 during the same quarter of 2020. Ontario accounted for 43.6% 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) decreased by 18,558 to about 600,000 in the quarter.

Overall, there was a net international migration gain of 40,670 in the fourth quarter, up from a net gain of 17,428 in the same quarter of 2020.

Components of population growth, Q4 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 fourth quarter of 2021, Ontario saw a net interprovincial migration loss of 6,596 people to the rest of Canada, compared to a net loss of 72 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 Manitoba (701) and Saskatchewan (367). The largest net losses were to Alberta (-2,618) and Nova Scotia (-1,791). During calendar year 2021, Ontario’s total net interprovincial migration loss was 31,232, compared to a net loss of 1,769 in 2020.

Year-over-year growth

During calendar year 2021, Ontario’s population grew by 192,394 or 1.3%, faster than in 2020 (70,705 or 0.5%). Among the provinces, Ontario had the fifth fastest population growth rate after Prince Edward Island (3.0%), Nova Scotia (2.1%), British Columbia (1.9%) and New Brunswick (1.7%). Canada’s population grew by 457,888 (1.2%) 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
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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

[\[2\]](#)

Age distribution (%) - MOF Projections					
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
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]	83.2	84.1	84.4	84.4	84.7	84.4	n.a. *****
Male life expectancy at birth (years) ^[4]	78.7	79.9	80.4	80.2	80.4	79.9	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. *****	5,491

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	47.9
Central	22.0	21.6	21.6	21.7	21.7	21.7	21.8
Eastern	13.2	13.2	13.1	13.1	13.1	13.1	13.1
Southwestern	12.6	12.0	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7
Northeastern	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8
Northwestern	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6

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.

March 17, 2022
Office of Economic Policy

Accessible Image Description:

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

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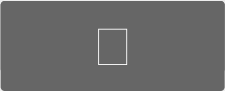
- [1] [Statistics Canada's](#) population estimates based on the 2016 Census.
- [2] [All](#) projections are produced by the Ontario Ministry of Finance (Spring 2021), except those for Canada (and Ontario as % of Canada), which are from Statistics Canada.
- [3] [Total dependency ratio](#) is the ratio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