

Quarterly Population Highlights



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B.C. Highlights

The population of B.C. was estimated at 5,110,917 as of January 1, 2020, growing by 5,341 persons in the fourth quarter of 2019 (up 0.10% from October 1, 2019).

Combined net in-migration from all sources (inter-provincial and international) totalled 4,817 persons during the fourth quarter of 2019, up 20% from the same quarter in 2018. Most of the population growth in the fourth quarter was due to international immigration. Broken down, net international in-migration contributed 2,932 persons to population growth, with net interprovincial migration accounting for an additional 1,885. Rounding out the fourth quarter growth was a natural increase (births minus deaths) of 524 persons.

The Last Twelve Months

B.C.'s total population grew by 79,025 persons (+1.6%) over the twelve months ending December 31, 2019, mostly due to international migration. On an annual basis, net international migration accounted for a gain of 64,441 while net interprovincial migration contributed 9,551 persons from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. Natural increase added another 5,032 people during the last twelve months.

Population October 1, 2019	5,105,576
Interprovincial migration	+ 1,885
Add interprovincial arrivals	+ 10,022
Minus interprovincial departures	- 8,137
International migration	+ 2,932
Add immigrants	+ 11,778
Minus total net emigrants ⁽¹⁾	- 3,514
Add non-permanent residents	- 5,332
Natural increase	+ 524
Add births	+ 10,394
Minus deaths	- 9,870
Population January 1, 2020	5,110,917

National Overview

The population of Canada grew by an estimated 97,303 persons (+0.26%) to 37,894,799 during the fourth quarter of 2019, a slightly higher growth than in the same quarter of 2018. Nunavut (+0.58%) led the growth at the provincial and territorial level, followed by Alberta (+0.40%), Ontario (+0.36%), Manitoba (+0.27%) and Saskatchewan (+0.26%). Quebec (+0.17%), PEI (+0.16%), Yukon (+0.14%), British Columbia (+0.10%), Nova Scotia (+0.07%) and Northwest Territories (+0.02%) saw population increases lower than the national average in the fourth quarter of 2019. Finally, New Brunswick (-0.004%) and Newfoundland (-0.11%) saw population decreases.

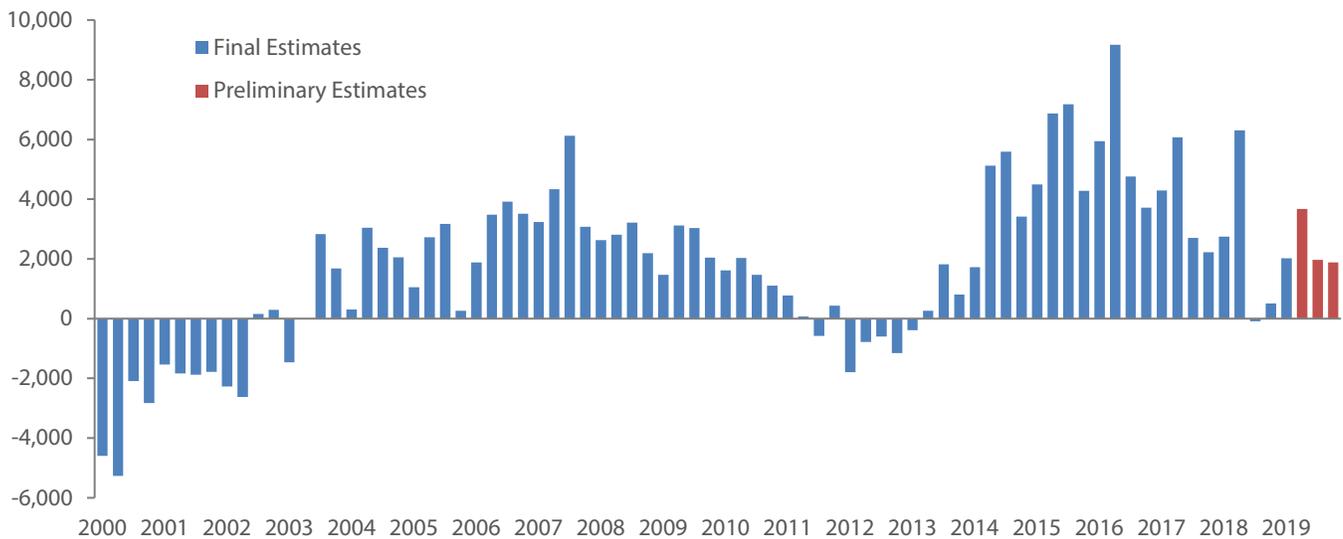
International Migration

Net international in-migration to British Columbia (immigrants plus the net change in non-permanent residents (NPRs), plus returning emigrants, less emigrants and persons temporarily abroad) resulted in a gain of 2,932 in the fourth quarter. This compares to a net gain of 3,518 in the fourth quarter of 2018. The total number of immigrants arriving in British Columbia from October 1 to December 31 was 11,778. The province also saw a net NPR loss of 5,332 which compares to a net loss of 2,760 NPRs observed in the same quarter of 2018. In regard to persons exiting B.C. for international destinations, an estimated 3,164 left on a permanent basis and 1,300 were away temporarily in the fourth quarter of 2019.

Interprovincial Migration

British Columbia experienced a net population gain due to interprovincial migration in the fourth quarter of 2019. An inflow to B.C. of 10,022 was offset by an outflow of 8,137, for a net gain of 1,885. British Columbia's net exchange with Alberta was positive, with an estimated net gain of 202 people from Alberta to B.C. The province also reported positive net migration from Ontario (+839), Manitoba (+505), Saskatchewan (+304), Northwest Territories (+88), Yukon (+66), Newfoundland (+58), PEI (+20) and New Brunswick (+2). B.C. reported net migration losses to Nunavut (-52), Quebec (-71) and Nova Scotia (-76).

B.C. Net Interprovincial Migration by Quarter, Q1 2000 to Q3 2019



Source: Statistics Canada: Table 17-10-0020-01 (formerly CANSIM 051-0017) – Quarterly estimates of the components of interprovincial migration, last updated October 7th, 2019.

Visit the [Demography](#) page on the BC Stats website for more information.

Did You Know?

As of 2018, the total dependency ratio of the British Columbia population was close to 50, steadily increasing from 44 in 2010. The dependency ratio is an age-population ratio of *dependents* not in the labour force and those in the *productive* population. The total dependency ratio is the ratio of the sum of young (0 to 14 years old) and senior (65 and over) population to the working age population (15 to 64 years old), multiplied by 100. It is a simple indicator of the economic pressure on the productive population to support service delivery to the dependent population. A ratio of 50 means that, for 100 people of productive age in British Columbia, there are 50 people who depend on their economic output to support services delivered to them.

In general, a low dependency ratio means government has more resources to deliver services such as education, healthcare and pension payments. For the same level of services, a higher ratio will mean increased financial stress on the working-age population since there is more people for them to support. Like other jurisdictions in Canada with an aging population, British Columbia is expected to see this ratio go up.

Population projections produced by BC Stats indicate that the total dependency ratio for British Columbia will continue to increase over the next 20 years. By 2038, this ratio could reach 65, a 30% increase from the current levels. This outlines the importance of population projection for government planning, as well as the importance of developing and implementing strategies to make sure future British Columbians can receive the services they need in the future.