

# Quarterly Population Highlights



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## B.C. Highlights

The population of B.C. was estimated at 5,249,635 as of October 1, 2021, an increase of 34,830 from the previous quarter. B.C. annual population growth was 1.8% at the end of the third quarter of 2021 (twelve-month growth from Oct 1, 2020).

Total international migration recorded a moderate gain of 28,325, as international immigration continued to see a rebound from the declines recorded when travel restrictions were initially imposed in early 2020. At the same time, B.C. experienced a moderate inflow of migrants coming from other provinces and territories. In this quarter, B.C. reported a net gain of 5,777 new commers from other parts of Canada, similar to what was observed during the third quarter in recent years.

Combining net migrant numbers from all sources (interprovincial and international), B.C. recorded an overall net gain of 34,102 persons during the third quarter of 2021. This was a

strong gain when compared to many previous quarters, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic started. Natural population change (births minus deaths) indicated a net gain of 728. Both births and deaths were at an average level with 11,448 births and 10,720 deaths recorded during this quarter.

<b>B.C. population July 1, 2021</b>	<b>5,214,805</b>
Interprovincial migration	+ 5,777
<i>Add</i> interprovincial arrivals	+19,352
<i>Minus</i> interprovincial exits	+13,575
International migration	+ 28,325
<i>Add</i> immigrants	+23,048
<i>Minus</i> total net emigrants	- 3,481
<i>Net change</i> in non-permanent residents	+8,758
Natural change	+ 728
<i>Add</i> births	+11,448
<i>Minus</i> deaths	-10,720
<i>Net Change</i>	+34,830
<b>B.C. population Oct 1, 2021</b>	<b>5,249,635</b>

## The Last Twelve Months

Over the twelve months period ended September 30, 2021, B.C.'s total population grew by 93,048 (+1.8%) due mostly to net inflow of migrants. During this period, net international migration accounted for an increase of 57,997 while net interprovincial migration added another 35,290 to B.C.'s population growth. However, natural increase reduced the overall growth by 239 people over the past twelve months.

## National Overview

Over the three months ended September 30, 2021, the Canadian population increased by an estimate of 190,339 to a total of 38,436,447 persons on October 1, 2021. All provinces/territories reported population growth during the third quarter of 2021. Ontario reported the strongest population increase of 88,994 persons, followed by B.C. with 34,830 persons and Quebec being third with 26,652 persons. All other provinces and territories reported a combined net population gain of 39,863 persons during this period.

## International Migration

As a result of gradual removal of COVID-19 travel restrictions, this quarter continued to see

international population flows in B.C. catching up to pre-pandemic levels. Net international immigration to British Columbia was 28,325 persons (calculated as immigrants plus the net change in non-permanent residents (NPRs), plus returning emigrants, minus emigrants and persons temporarily abroad). This figure was a big jump when compared to the net loss of -8,065 persons over the third quarter of 2020. During the year of 2020, total net international migration to B.C. was at a record low with only 3,639 persons. B.C. received an average of 60,000 net international migrants annually during the three years prior to the pandemic.

Total number of immigrants arriving in British Columbia during the third quarter of 2021 was 23,048. The province also saw a net NPR gain of 9,035 during this quarter. For people exiting B.C. for international destinations, an estimated 3,481 left on a permanent basis while 1,415 were away temporarily during this three month period.

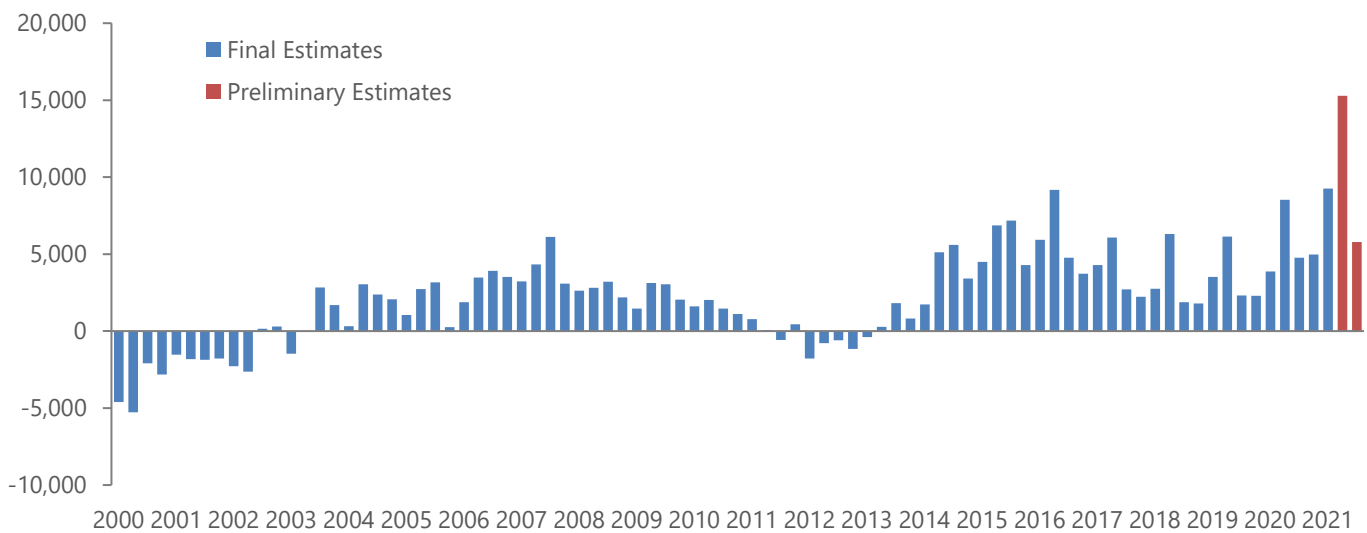
## Interprovincial Migration

British Columbia experienced a slightly higher than average population gain due to interprovincial migration during the third quarter of 2021. An inflow of 19,352 was offset by an outflow of 13,575 for a total net increase

of 5,777 from other provinces and territories. During this quarter, British Columbia had a positive net exchange of migrants from all other parts of the country. B.C. received the highest

interprovincial net exchange from Ontario at 1,679 persons. The province also gained 1,596 persons from Alberta, 1,193 from Manitoba, 706 from Saskatchewan, and 366 from Quebec.

### B.C. Net Interprovincial Migration by Quarter, Q1 2000 to Q3 2021



Source: Statistics Canada: Table 17-10-0020-01 (formerly CANSIM 051-0017) – Estimates of the components of interprovincial migration, quarterly. last updated June, 2021.

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