

# Quarterly Population Highlights



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## B.C. Highlights

The population of British Columbia reached an estimated 5,519,013 as of July 1, 2023, a notable increase of 52,367 individuals compared to the previous quarter. From July 1, 2022, the population of B.C. has experienced an annual growth rate of 3.0%, marking the highest annual increase since 1974.

During the second quarter of 2023, B.C. witnessed a migration of 53,313 individuals from countries outside of Canada, setting a new quarterly record. Notably, there was a net increase of 37,307 non-permanent residents (NPRs).

B.C. saw a net outflow of an estimated 300 individuals that migrated to other provinces during this period, marking the fourth consecutive quarter of net loss. However, this quarter's net loss was smaller than any quarter since the net losses began in the third quarter of 2022. On the other hand, Alberta (13,296) and Nova Scotia (2,773) had the highest interprovincial net gains. Most of the out-

migration from B.C. was directed towards Alberta (12,114) and Ontario (5,428). Similarly, B.C. had the most in-migration from Alberta (8,596) and Ontario (8,001) relative to the other provinces.

<b>B.C. population April 1, 2023</b>	<b>5,466,646</b>
Interprovincial migration	- 300
Interprovincial arrivals	+22,371
Interprovincial exits	- 22,671
International migration	+53,313
Immigrants	+17,298
Net emigrants	- 1,292
Net change in non-permanent residents	+37,307
Natural change	- 646
Births	+10,151
Deaths	- 10,797
<i>Net Change</i>	+52,367
<b>B.C. population July 1, 2023</b>	<b>5,519,013</b>

Overall, in the second quarter of 2023, net international and interprovincial migration was the primary source of population growth, contributing to a population gain of 53,013 driven primarily by international migration. In contrast,

natural population change contributed to a net loss of 646 individuals with 10,151 births and 10,797 deaths recorded. This resulted in a total population gain of 52,367 for the second quarter of 2023.

## The Last Twelve Months

B.C. witnessed its highest annual population increase since 1974 during the twelve-month period concluding on July 1, 2023, as the number of people grew by 162,729, indicating an annual growth rate of 3.0%. This increase was primarily driven by international migration, contributing 175,024 individuals to B.C.'s population during the same period. Notably, 117,339 net non-permanent residents (NPRs) arrived in B.C. during this period, representing the highest annual number recorded since 1972. In contrast, net interprovincial migration resulted in a loss of 8,228 individuals in B.C.'s population, while natural population change due to births and deaths reduced the population by 4,067.

## National Overview<sup>†</sup>

During the second quarter of 2023, the population of Canada experienced an estimated growth of 358,128 individuals, representing a quarterly growth rate of 0.96%. This surge propelled the total population to reach 40,097,761. The provinces and territories with the strongest population growth during the second

quarter of 2023 were Ontario with an increase of 151,294 (0.98%) followed by Quebec with a growth of 60,676 individuals (0.69%). B.C. and Alberta were the provinces with the third and fourth largest population growth in the second quarter of 2023 with growth rates of 52,367 (0.96%) and 50,061 (1.1%), respectively. On the other hand, Nunavut had the smallest quarterly population change increasing by 192 individuals followed by the Northwest Territories with a change of 294 individuals.

## International Migration to B.C.

In the second quarter of 2023, Canada witnessed its highest quarterly level of immigration since 1979, with an influx of 117,872 individuals. Among the provinces, B.C. attracted 14.7% of all immigrants to Canada, ranking second only to Ontario, which received 46.6% of the newcomers during that time.

During the second quarter of 2023, B.C. welcomed 17,298 new immigrants and recorded 1,292 net emigrants leaving B.C. for international destinations. The province experienced a net gain of 37,307 non-permanent residents (NPRs), the second-largest gain recorded since 1971.

B.C. had a net international in-migration<sup>††</sup> of 53,013 people during the second quarter of 2023, a count that adds immigrants to the net change in non-permanent residents (NPRs) and subtracts

<sup>†</sup> The numbers in parenthesis show the quarterly population growth rate.

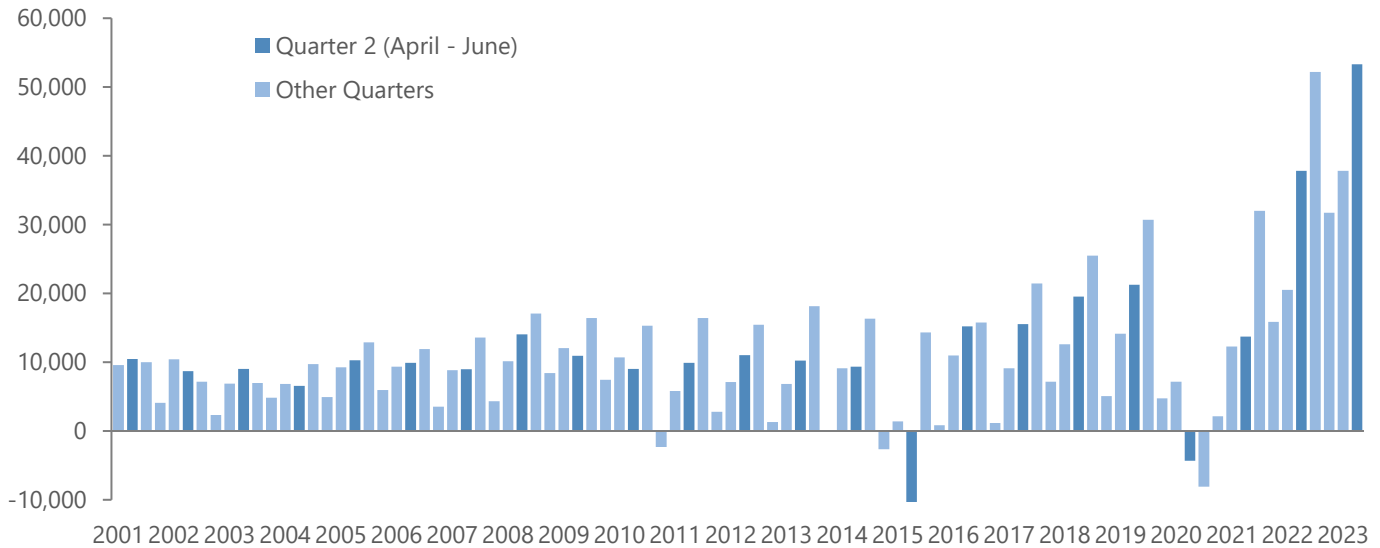
<sup>††</sup> Net international migration is calculated as immigrants entering B.C., plus the net change in NPRs, minus net emigrants.

<sup>†††</sup> Net Emigrants are calculated as Emigrants plus Net Temporary abroad minus Returning Emigrants. The component of Net Temporary Abroad was discontinued after the second quarter of 2016. This component was added to Emigrants and Returning Emigrants after this period.

net emigrants<sup>†††</sup>. This figure represents an increase of 14.5% compared to the net gain of 46,288 observed during the same period in 2022

and represents the highest total net international migration in a quarter since 1971.

### B.C. Net International Migration by Quarter, 2001Q1 to 2023Q2



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0040-01 (formerly CANSIM 051-0011) Estimates of the components of international migration, quarterly. Last updated September 27, 2023

### Interprovincial Migration

During the second quarter of 2023, British Columbia experienced an inflow of 22,371 individuals and an outflow of 22,671 individuals, resulting in a total net loss of 300 people to other provinces and territories. Although the net interprovincial loss has reduced since the third quarter of 2022, this marks the fourth

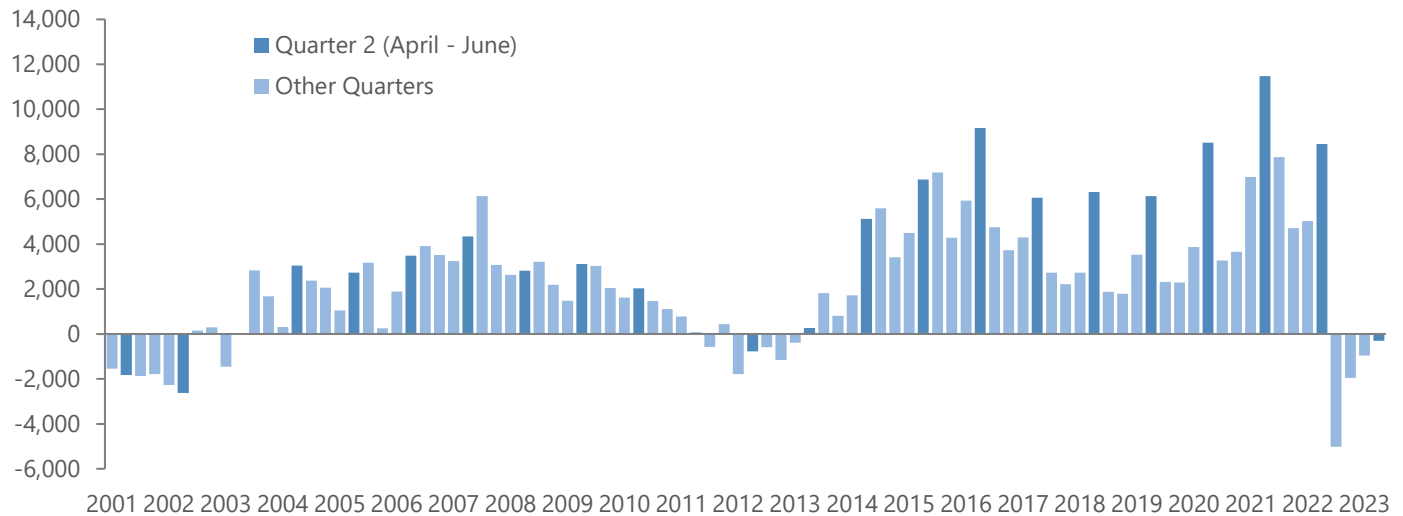
consecutive quarter with a net loss of interprovincial migrants. The highest net loss in interprovincial migration was to Alberta, with 12,114 people leaving B.C. for Alberta and 8,596 people arriving from Alberta (net loss of 3,518). Conversely, the highest net gain was from Ontario, with 8,001 individuals arriving from Ontario while 5,428 individuals left B.C. for Ontario (net gain of 2,573).

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## B.C. Net Interprovincial Migration by Quarter, 2001Q1 to 2023Q2



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0020-01 (formerly CANSIM 051-0017) Estimates of the components of interprovincial migration, quarterly. Last updated September 27, 2023.

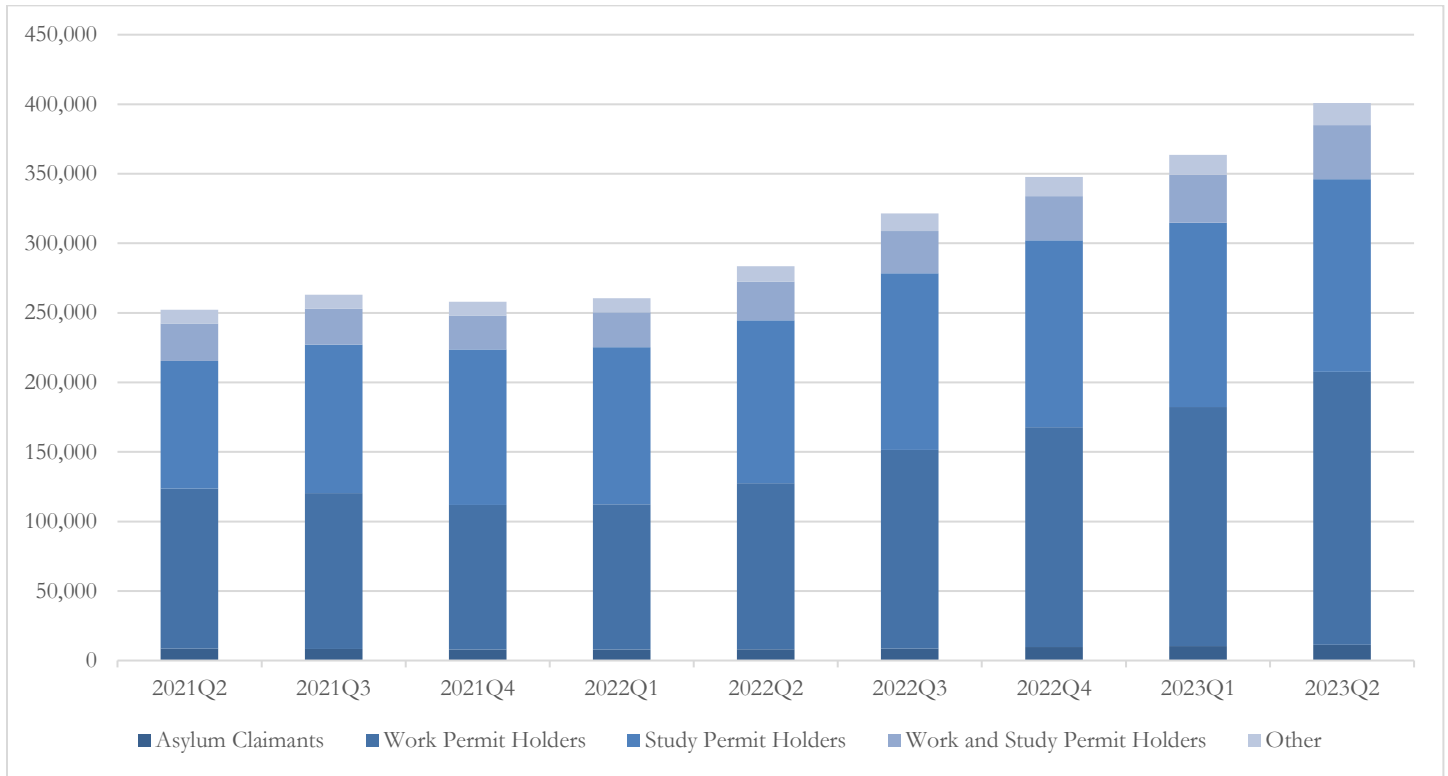
### Decomposition of Non-Permanent Residents in B.C.

Given the growing importance of Non-Permanent Residents (NPRs) as a contributor to population growth, Statistics Canada has started to publish estimates on the number of NPRs residing in the provinces and territories of Canada. In the second quarter of 2021, NPRs residing in B.C. totaled 252,211. By the second quarter of 2023, this number had risen by nearly 59% to 400,964. This growth was mainly the result of the increase in total permit holders and their family members, which grew from 243,694 to 389,580—a growth of about 60% during this

period. In contrast, asylum claimants rose from 8,517 to 11,384, during the same period.

The growth in total permit holders residing in B.C. reflected the increase of work permit holders, which increased from 115,185 to 196,259 between the second quarter of 2021 and the second quarter of 2023, and study permit holders, which grew from 91,703 to 138,434 during this period. Individuals holding both work and study permits experienced a 44% increase, going from 26,905 to 38,848.

## Non-Permanent Residents by Type, 2021Q2 to 2023Q2



## Did You Know?

**While data collected from the 2021 Census provides a characterization of the Canadian population at a point in time, it is not an entirely accurate picture.** The Census doesn't count people who did not complete their census questionnaire, e.g., because they were on holiday or travelling on business; this is an example of census undercoverage. It may also count persons more than once, e.g., parents sharing custody of their child(ren) and each adding them to both of their individual households as residents; this is an example of census overcoverage. Census undercoverage and overcoverage can both cause estimates of the censal population to differ from the true population count at the time of the Census.

After the census data collection is complete, Statistics Canada conducts a comprehensive evaluation of its accuracy, a process that takes about two years to complete. This evaluation is referred to as the Census Coverage Studies, the goal of which is to estimate the amount of census over- and undercoverage. The 2021 Census Coverage Studies are now complete and, after correcting for census net undercoverage, the new censal population estimate adjusted B.C.'s population upwards by approximately 24,300 persons or 0.47% as of July 1, 2021.

Starting with this quarterly release, the population estimates for Canada, the provinces and territories are based on 2021 Census population counts adjusted for census net undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves. Statistics Canada population estimates have been revised back to 2001.

## Using the Information

Detailed results from the quarterly population and migration estimates for B.C are published in Microsoft Excel format and are available on the [Population](#) page on the BC Stats website. The [Excel file](#) contains additional information and tables with data from 2000 to date that help users to look deeper.

BC Stats updates the quarterly population and migration estimates for B.C. on a regular basis. Readers are encouraged to provide feedback. In addition to your feedback, we'd love to know:

- Are there any different population and migration statistics and trends that you would like to see?
- What is a research problem you have and how do you think this report might help?

Please submit your suggestions and feedback at [www.gov.bc.ca/BCStatsRequests](http://www.gov.bc.ca/BCStatsRequests)!

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