

# Quarterly Population Highlights



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## B.C. Highlights

- As of April 1, 2025, the population of British Columbia reached an estimated 5,719,961, a net decrease of -2,357 (-0.04%) compared to the previous quarter (see all components of change in Table 1).
- In the previous 12 months, the population of B.C. grew by 53,073 (0.94%). The sharp slowdown in population growth seen in the last quarter continues, driven by lower levels of international migration in line with the [2025 -2027 Immigration Levels Plan](#) (ILP).
- In the first quarter of 2025, 251 net migrants came to B.C. from outside of Canada, the lowest level since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Immigration by permanent residents increased the province's population by 14,976.
- There was an estimated net outflow of 10,921 non-permanent residents (NPRs) leaving B.C. over the quarter, the largest outflow of NPRs since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Currently, NPRs make up 9.1% of B.C.'s population and 7.1% of Canada's population.
- The first quarter of 2025 was the seventh consecutive quarter in which B.C. saw a net outflow of interprovincial migrants, estimated at 1,636 individuals migrating from B.C. to other provinces during this period.
- The largest net loss for interprovincial migrants from B.C. was to Alberta (1,883), with 7,217 leaving B.C. for Alberta and 5,334 coming to B.C. from Alberta.

- Ontario provided the most significant net gain of interprovincial migrants to B.C. during this quarter, with a net inflow of 460.
- Natural population change was negative this quarter, with deaths numbering 11,505 and births totalling 10,533; a net loss to B.C.'s population of 972 individuals.

**Table 1: Population Components**

B.C. population January 1, 2025		5,722,318
Interprovincial migration		-1636
Interprovincial arrivals	+12,919	
Interprovincial exits	-14,555	
International migration		+251
Immigrants	+14,976	
Net emigrants	-3,804	
Net change in non-permanent residents	-10,921	
Natural change		-972
Births	+10,533	
Deaths	-11,505	
Net Change		-2,357
B.C. population April 1, 2025		5,719,961

## The Last 12 Months

During the 12-month period concluding on March 31, 2025, the population in B.C. grew by 53,073 individuals, resulting in a growth rate of 0.94%. This population expansion was driven by international migration, which added 58,355 individuals to B.C.'s population during the last 12 months. B.C. welcomed a net inflow of 8,677 non-permanent residents (NPRs) during this period, the lowest inflow of NPRs since the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Natural population change - the difference between births and deaths - resulted in a modest increase of 216 individuals from B.C.'s population over the last 12 months. However, interprovincial migration contributed to a net loss of 5,498 in B.C.'s population.

## National Overview†

Canada's population remained relatively stable in the first quarter of 2025, with a modest quarterly growth of 20,107 individuals (+0.05%), resulting in Canada's population reaching 41,548,787. This population increase was almost entirely concentrated in Alberta, which saw a population increase of 20,562 (+0.4%). Manitoba and Saskatchewan also experienced population growth this quarter, with increases of 3,307 (+0.2%) and 2,660 (+0.2%), respectively, during this period.

In contrast, five provinces and territories experienced population declines this quarter, with Ontario exhibiting the largest population loss of 5,664 individuals (-0.04%). B.C. and Quebec followed with reductions in their populations of 2,357 (-0.04%) and 1,013 (-0.01%) individuals. Newfoundland and Labrador and the Yukon also experienced population declines during this quarter, with modest reductions of 115 (-0.02%) and 15 (-0.03%) individuals, respectively.

## International Migration to B.C.

In the first quarter of 2025, Canada had a net influx of 25,735 international immigrants, the lowest level since the COVID-19 pandemic. B.C.

received less than 1% of the international migration that arrived in the country this quarter, ranking tenth nationally. Alberta was the province that received the largest number, capturing 39.9% of Canada's quarterly net international migrants. Quebec and Ontario, the provinces that historically tend to receive the largest shares of international migrants arriving in the country, received only 15.3% and 3.8% of the net international migrants welcomed in Canada this quarter.††

As in other parts of Canada, levels of international migration to B.C. have moderated, with net international migration to B.C. during the first quarter of 2025 totalling only 251 people.†† As such, the province experienced virtually no net international migration this quarter, in stark contrast with the net inflow of 42,199 net international migrants experienced a year ago. This also represents the lowest net international migration to B.C. since the third quarter of 2020.

The low level of international migration to B.C. this quarter was primarily due to a net outflow of 10,921 NPRs. This is the largest net outflow of NPRs in the province since the COVID-19 pandemic, and it continued the sharp decline in this component observed since the second quarter of 2024. This outflow was compounded by 3,804 net emigrants who left the province for an international destination, the largest level of this component since the first quarter of 2017.††† However, the province received 14,976 new immigrants with permanent resident status, giving the province a slightly net flow of international migrants this quarter.

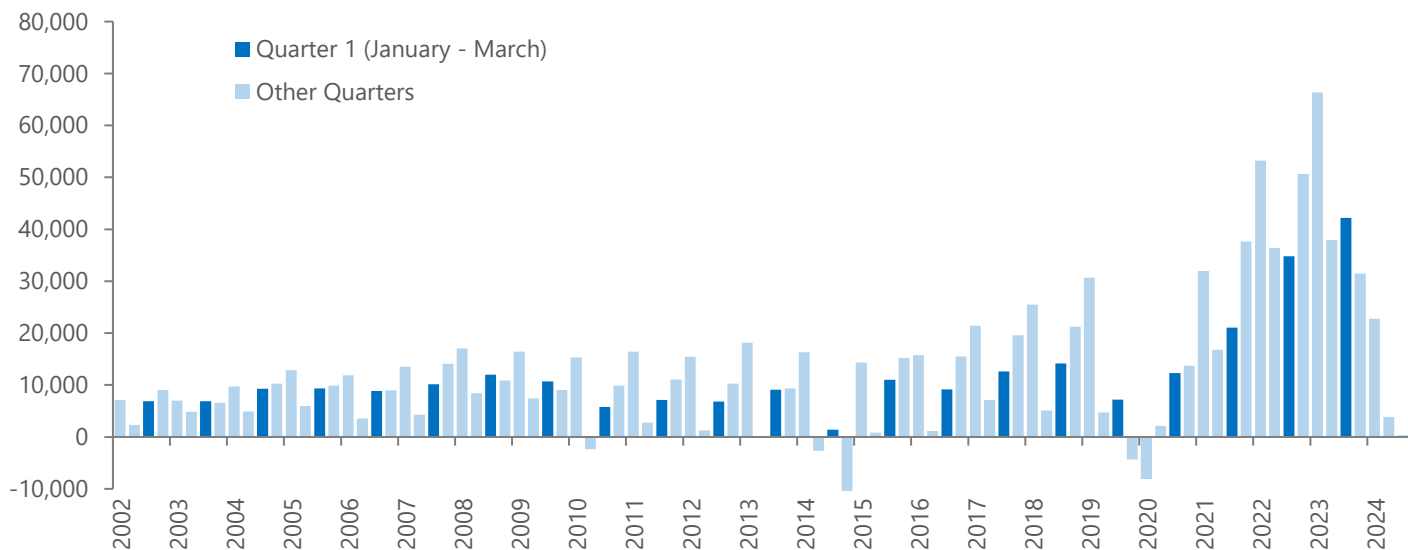
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† The numbers in parenthesis show the quarterly population growth rate.

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

††† 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.

Chart 1: B.C. Net International Migration by Quarter, 2002Q3 to 2025Q1



Source: Statistics Canada. Table [17-10-0040-01](#) (formerly CANSIM 051-0011) Estimates of the components of international migration, quarterly. Last updated June 18, 2025

Interprovincial Migration

British Columbia had an interprovincial inflow of 12,919 individuals and an outflow of 14,555 individuals for the first quarter of 2025, resulting in a total net loss of 1,636 people to other provinces and territories. This marks the seventh consecutive quarter in which B.C. had a net loss of interprovincial migrants.

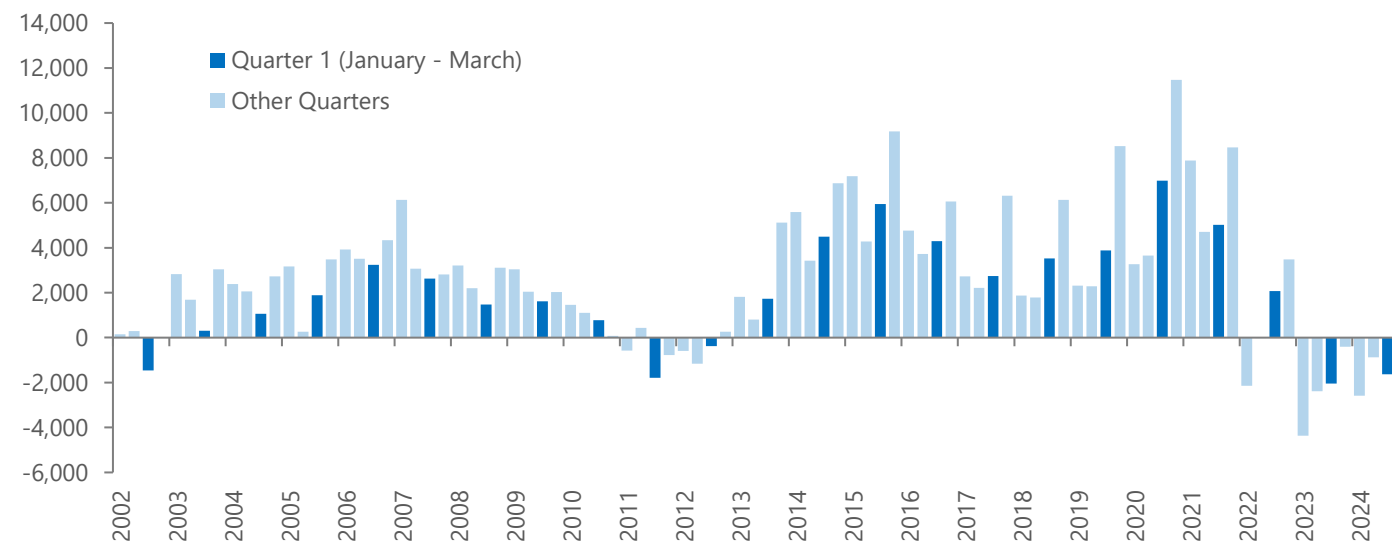
Alberta remained the most popular destination for interprovincial migrants from B.C., with 7,217 people leaving B.C. for Alberta, while 5,334 people arrived from Alberta (net loss of 1,883). The province experienced net interprovincial losses with most provinces and territories in the country, including Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, resulting in a combined net loss of 421 interprovincial

migrants among these provinces and territories.

Ontario provided the highest net inflow of interprovincial migrants into B.C. during the quarter, as 4,429 individuals arrived in B.C. from Ontario, while 3,969 individuals left B.C. for Ontario (net gain of 460). B.C. also experienced a net interprovincial gain with Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba, with a combined total net gain of 208 from these provinces and territories.

B.C. had the second-largest net loss of interprovincial migrants in the country, only behind Ontario, which had a net interprovincial loss of 5,237 individuals. In contrast, Alberta gained the largest number of interprovincial migrants in the country (net gain of 7,176), far exceeding the second-largest net gain of Prince Edward Island (498).

Chart 2: B.C. Net Interprovincial Migration by Quarter, 2002Q3 to 2025Q1



Source: Statistics Canada. Table [17-10-0020-01](#) (formerly CANSIM 051-0017) Estimates of the components of interprovincial migration, quarterly. Last updated: June 18, 2025.

Composition of Non-Permanent Residents in B.C.

B.C. had its second consecutive quarter of net outflows of Non-Permanent Residents (NPRs), which contrasts with the eleven consecutive quarters of net inflows between the first quarter of 2022 and the third quarter of 2024. However, a total of 8,677 net NPRs arrived in B.C. over the last 12 months, increasing the number of NPRs living in B.C. from 512,787 to 521,464 (1.7%). Currently, NPRs make up 9.1% of B.C.’s population and 7.1% of Canada’s population.

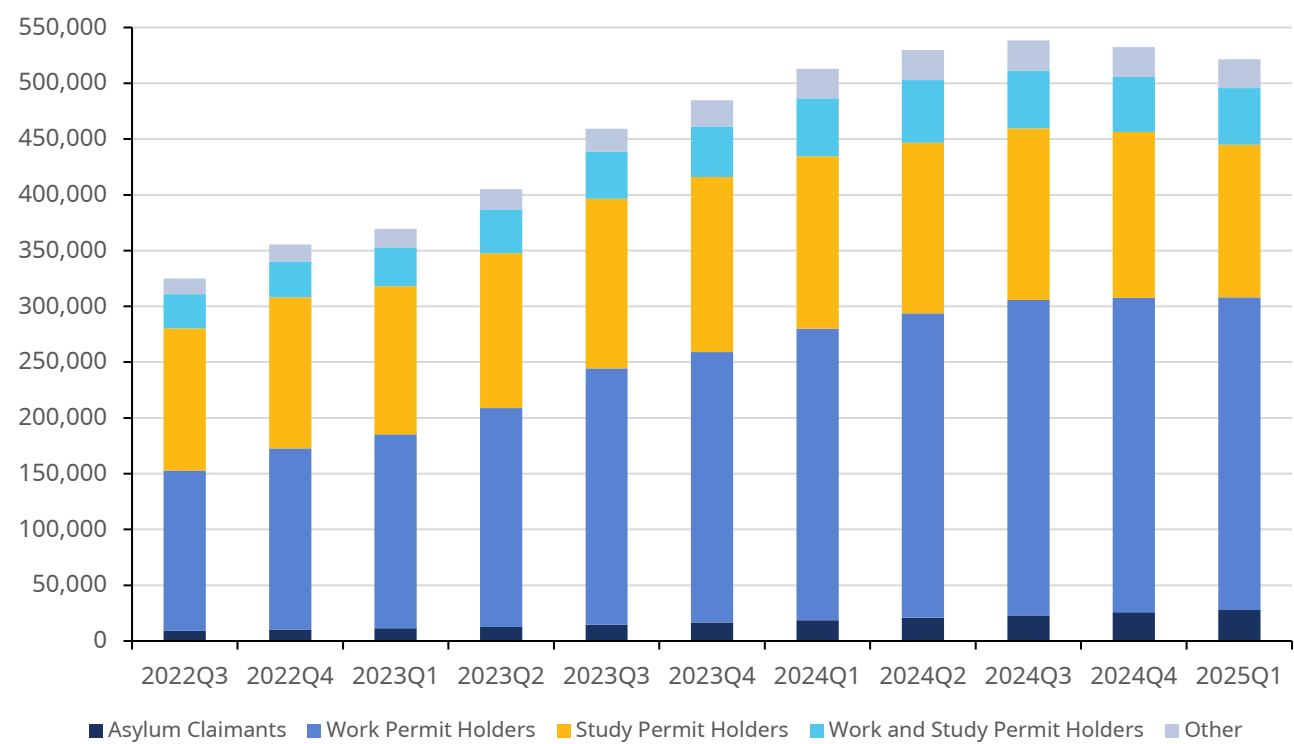
The primary driver of B.C.’s NPR increase over the last 12 months was the growing number of work permit holders, which increased from 261,386 to 280,187 (7.2%) in the past 12 months. The share of total NPRs who only hold a work permit in B.C. grew from 51.0% to 53.7% in the last 12 months.

The number of study permit holders in B.C. decreased by 11.4% in the last 12 months,

changing from 154,511 to 136,877. Similarly, the percentage of NPRs holding a study permit in the province declined from 30.1% to 26.2% in the last 12 months. Individuals holding work and study permits decreased from 51,839 to 50,774 (-2.1%), with their share of the total NPRs in B.C. decreasing from 10.1% to 9.7% over the same period.

Asylum claimants and individuals with other types of permits remain the smallest categories of NPRs in B.C., with shares of 5.3% and 4.9%, respectively, in the first quarter of 2025. Asylum claimants in B.C. increased from 18,638 to 27,826 (49.3%) in the last 12 months, making them the fastest-growing segment of NPRs in B.C. Finally, the number of NPRs with other types of permits dropped from 26,413 to 25,800 in the past 12 months (-2.3%).

Chart 3: Non-Permanent Residents by Type, 2022Q3 to 2025 Q1



Source: Statistics Canada. Table [17-10-0121-01](#) Estimates of the number of NPRs by type, quarterly. Last updated: June 18, 2025.

## 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 households as residents; this is an example of census overcoverage. Census undercoverage and overcoverage can cause estimates of the censal population to differ from the actual population count at the time of the Census.

After the census data collection, 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, which aims 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 the release on September 27, 2023, 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 the 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.