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Turning the Tide: Demographic Developments in New Brunswick, 1951-2020

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Turning the Tide: Demographic Developments in New Brunswick, 1951-2020

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Turning the Tide: Demographic Developments in New Brunswick, 1951-2020

Abstract

New Brunswick experienced virtually no population growth in the 17-year period from 1991 to 2007 after enjoying a 0.92 per cent average annual growth rate from 1951 to 1991. Since 2007, the tide has turned, and the population of the province is once again growing, averaging 0.36 per cent per year. The main driver of this development is gross immigration. After averaging less than 1,000 per year in the 1972-2007 period, gross immigration rose to around 2,000 per year between 2008 and 2013 and then jumped to an annual average of around 4,000 in the 2014-2020 period. Net interprovincial migration also contributed to the turnaround, rising from an average annual loss of around 600 in the 1972-2007 period to an average annual gain of about 900 in the 2017-2020 period. The report provides a detailed analysis of these demographic developments at the level of the province, the 15 census divisions (counties), and the three census metropolitan areas and four census agglomerations.

Turning the Tide: Demographic Developments in New Brunswick, 1951-2020

Executive Summary

This report aims to provide a thorough analysis of New Brunswick's population compared to that of Canada as a whole. By painting a detailed picture of New Brunswick's demographics, particularly the size and the age structure of its population, this report sheds light on fundamental aspects of the province's workforce and its economy's potential level of output.

The report is divided into four major parts. Part one provides a detailed overview of demographic developments in New Brunswick compared to Canada from 1951 to 2020. Part two examines New Brunswick's demographics by census division between 1981 and 2020. Part three analyzes New Brunswick's demographics by CMA and by CA between 2001 and 2020. Part four provides an overview of Statistics' Canada's population projections for New Brunswick and Canada as a whole from 2021 to 2043.

The examination of demographic developments in part one starts with an overview of New Brunswick's population growth between 1951 and 2020 relative to Canada's overall population growth. This analysis reveals that between 1951 and 2020, New Brunswick suffered weak population growth compared to the national average of the provinces and territories. Consequently, New Brunswick's share of the total Canadian population nearly halved over the period.

That said, the paper documents a dramatic turning point in New Brunswick's population growth. About 86 per cent of the province's total population growth between 1951 and 2020 occurred in the first 40 years of the period, between 1951 and 1991, when New Brunswick's population rose at a compound annual rate of 0.92 per cent. The province then suffered 17 years of virtually no population growth. The tide began to turn between 2007 and 2020, when New Brunswick's population increased by 0.36 per cent per year. After averaging less than 1,000 per year between 1972 and 2007, gross immigration rose to around 2,000 per year between 2008 and 2013 and then jumped to an annual average of about 4,000 over the 2014-2020 period. To a lesser extent, net interprovincial migration contributed to the turnaround in population growth, rising from a loss of around 600 per year in the 1972-2007 period to an average annual gain of about 900 between 2017 and 2020.

The pickup in New Brunswick's population growth was concentrated in the Moncton CMA and, to a lesser extent, the Fredericton CMA. Saint John CMA helped boost gross immigration to the province, but, overall, Saint John CMA's population growth lagged behind the provincial average over the first two decades of the 20th century, primarily as a result of the CMA's losses to interprovincial migration.

More specifically, key trends in New Brunswick's population growth include the following:

- Over the 1951-2020 period, New Brunswick's population grew at a compound annual rate of 0.60 per cent, from 517,000 to 781,476 persons. New Brunswick's population

growth rate between 1951 and 2020 was 0.85 points below the national rate of 1.45 per cent and the third lowest growth rate of the provinces.

- New Brunswick's share of the total Canadian population fell from 3.68 per cent in 1951 to 2.06 per cent in 2020.

Section II of part one discusses the age structures of New Brunswick and Canada between 1971 and 2020. In particular, the report looks at the increasing share of the population aged 65 and older compared to the shrinking shares of younger age groups and finds that population aging was more dramatic in New Brunswick than in Canada as a whole. Section III then shows that New Brunswick's population aging was reflected in its increasing average and median ages. Key trends are highlighted below.

- In 1971, the share of seniors in New Brunswick's population was 8.6 per cent, 0.6 points above the national average. By 2020, the share of seniors in New Brunswick's population had risen to 21.9 per cent, 3.9 percentage points above the national average. In 2020, New Brunswick had the second highest share of the population aged 65 years and over of the provinces.
- Between 1971 and 2020, the median age in New Brunswick nearly doubled; it rose from 23.9 years to 46.1 years, 5.2 years above the national median and the second highest of the provinces.

The report then briefly overviews trends in the sex ratio in New Brunswick and Canada as a whole between 1971 and 2020. The report does not find any significant differences between the sex ratio in New Brunswick and the national average.

Next, the report examines components of population growth in New Brunswick, analyzing the natural increase (births minus deaths) between 1951 and 2020 and international and interprovincial migration between 1972 and 2020. Key findings about the components of New Brunswick's population growth are summarized below.

- As a result of New Brunswick's aging population and declining fertility rates, the net natural increase has been declining since 1951, falling from a gain of 11,202 persons in 1951 to a loss of 1,917 persons in 2020. Between 2015 and 2020, cumulative deaths exceeded cumulative births by 6,881.
- As in Canada as a whole, between 1951 and 2020, New Brunswick's birth rate fell, and its death rate rose. New Brunswick's birth rate fell from 31.1 births per 1,000 persons in 1951 to 8.1 births per 1,000 in 2020. In 1951, New Brunswick's birth rate exceeded the national average by 4 births per 1,000 persons, but in 2020, the national birth rate exceeded New Brunswick's birth rate by 0.7 births per 1,000.
- New Brunswick's death rate rose from 9.4 deaths per 1,000 persons in 1951 to 10.5 deaths per 1,000 in 2020. In 2020, New Brunswick had the second lowest birth rate and the highest death rate of all the provinces. New Brunswick's death rate exceeded the national rate during most of the 1951-2020 period. In 1951, New Brunswick's death rate exceeded the national rate by 0.4 deaths per 1,000 persons. The gap between the two rates started to widen in 1990, and by 2020, New Brunswick's death rate exceeded the national rate by 2.3 deaths per 1,000 persons.

- Net international immigration to New Brunswick increased from -40 persons in 1972 to 4,456 persons in 2020, largely thanks to a pickup in immigration to the province after 2000 and then again after 2013.
- Overall, net international migration to New Brunswick exceeded net natural increase over 2002-2020; net international migration resulted in a cumulative gain of 45,891 persons, while net natural increase resulted in a cumulative gain of only 4,438.
- Overall, New Brunswick lost 29,841 more persons that it gained from other provinces between 1972 and 2020. However, between 2017 and 2020, New Brunswick gained more persons than it lost from other provinces.

Part one closes with a brief look at the distribution of the population between urban and rural areas in New Brunswick compared to the other Canadian provinces between 1996 and 2016. This review shows that New Brunswick was much more rural than the national average between 1996 and 2016. Roughly 50 per cent of New Brunswick's population lived in rural areas between 1996 and 2016. In contrast, the national share fell from 22.1 per cent to 18.7 per cent over those two decades. In both 1996 and 2016, New Brunswick had the second highest share of persons living in a rural area of all the provinces.

Part two of the report examines trends in New Brunswick's demographics by the province's 15 census divisions (all of which are counties) between 1981 and 2020. Key findings about the 15 counties' population size and growth include the following:

- The populations of eight of the 15 counties declined over the 1981-2020 period. Overall, the central and southern counties performed better than the northern counties.
- The population of Southeastern New Brunswick grew at a compound annual rate of 0.89 per cent, outpacing growth in the populations of Central and Southern New Brunswick by 0.47 points and 0.66 points, respectively.
- The populations of all four northern counties fell between 1981 and 2020. Overall, the population of Northern New Brunswick fell by 0.34 per cent per year over the 1981-2020 period.

The review of trends in age structure by census division shows that, consistent with the population aging at the provincial level, the populations in all 15 counties aged significantly between 1981 and 2020. The northern counties experienced the most dramatic aging. Population aging in the southern counties was likely partially offset by higher immigration rates (relative to the northern counties).

Next is an overview of the components of population growth by census division. In addition to the components examined at the level of the province (natural increase, international migration and interprovincial migration), the report looks at intraprovincial migration between census divisions. Key findings relating to the components of population growth include the following:

- Between 2002 and 2020, net international migration exceeded net natural increase in 12 of the 15 counties. This was consistent with the fact that net international migration exceeded net natural increase at the provincial level over the 2002-2020 period. Between

2002 and 2020, Westmorland saw the largest cumulative population gain from net international migration (16,158 persons).

- Immigration was stronger in the southern parts of the province than in the northern parts. York, Westmorland, and Saint John received the first, second and third most immigrants between 2002 and 2020, respectively. York received a cumulative 13,377 immigrants, well over a quarter of all immigrants to New Brunswick over the period.
- Immigration to New Brunswick started to pick up significantly after 2013. Although average annual immigration to all 15 counties increased in the 2014-2020 period relative to the 2002-2013 period, most of the increase at the provincial level was due to Westmorland, York and Saint John.
- Between 2014 and 2020, average annual emigration decreased relative to the 2002-2013 rate in two thirds of the counties, boosting average annual net international migration.
- Of all 15 counties, Westmorland (in southeast New Brunswick) saw the greatest cumulative net interprovincial migration over the 2002-2020 period; net interprovincial migration to Westmorland was 16,885 persons.
- In addition to seeing the greatest gain from interprovincial migration, Westmorland also saw the greatest cumulative net intraprovincial migration between 2002 and 2020.

The review of the shares of the populations of each census division living in a rural area between 1996 and 2016 shows that Northern New Brunswick consistently had the largest relative share of persons living in rural areas. The share of the population living in a rural area in Northern New Brunswick rose from 60.8 per cent in 1996 to 66.0 per cent in 2016. On the other hand, with 40.6 per cent of its population living in a rural area, Southeastern New Brunswick was the least rural region in 2016.

Part three of the report examines trends in population by census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs) by reviewing the same aspects of demographics examined by census division (except for the urban versus rural breakdown) — that is, trends in population size, age structure and components of population growth.

The analysis of population growth by CMA and by CA shows that the populations of all three CMAs increased between 2001 and 2020, while the populations of the four CAs decreased. In particular, Moncton's population grew at a compound annual rate of 1.35 per cent, making it the fastest growing CMA or CA in New Brunswick.

Examining trends in the age structures of the CMAs and CAs reveals that all of the CMAs and CAs aged significantly between 2001 and 2020. Over the period, in all of New Brunswick's CMAs and CAs, the median age increased, the share of seniors in the total population increased, and the share of persons under 15 in the total population decreased. However, the CMAs had younger populations than did the CAs. In particular:

- Over the entire 2001-2020 period, the shares of seniors in the total populations of the CMAs were lower than the provincial average between 2001 and 2020, and the shares of seniors in the total populations of the CAs were higher than the provincial average for most of the period.

- In 2001, the share of seniors in the total population of a CMA or a CA ranged from 11.4 per cent (in Fredericton CMA) to 15.4 per cent (in Campbellton CA). In 2020, the share of seniors in the total population of a CMA or a CA ranged from 17.6 per cent (in Fredericton CMA) to 27.9 per cent (in Bathurst CA).
- In 2001, the median age ranged from 36.5 years (in Fredericton CMA) to 40.4 years (in Edmundston CMA). In 2020, the median age ranged from 40.7 years (in Fredericton CMA) to 52.6 years (in Bathurst CA).
- The share of seniors in the total population of areas outside of CMAs and CAs was higher than the provincial average and the share of persons under 15 was lower than the provincial average for most of the period. Similarly, the median age in all areas outside of CMAs and CAs was consistently higher than the provincial median and higher than the medians in the CMAs between 2001 and 2020.

The trends in population growth by component in the CMAs and CAs were similar to those at the provincial level. In particular, between 2002 and 2020, net international migration was by far the largest contributor to population growth of the total population of all of New Brunswick's CMAs and CAs. Key findings about the other components of population growth are summarized here:

- Between 2002 and 2020, cumulative births exceeded cumulative deaths in Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton. In contrast, in all four northern CAs, cumulative deaths exceeded cumulative births. In all seven CMAs and CAs, average annual net natural increase was weaker in the 2014-2020 period than it was in the 2002-2013 period.
- Between 2002 and 2020, cumulative net international migration to CMAs and to CAs was 40,589 persons. Net international migration to areas outside of CMAs and CAs was much lower, at only 5,302 persons. This was largely due to that fact that between 2002 and 2020, CMAs and CAs received far more immigrants than did areas outside of CMAs and CAs (38,388 versus 6,662 persons).
- The central and southern CMAs and CAs performed better in terms of immigration than did the northern CAs. This was consistent with performance at the level of the counties.
- Overall, net international migration picked up significantly between the 2002-2013 period and the 2014-2020 period for both CMAs and CAs and areas outside of CMAs and CAs. These mirrored trends observed at the provincial level.
- Consistent with the fact that Westmorland had the greatest cumulative net intraprovincial migration between 2002 and 2020, Moncton had the greatest cumulative net intraprovincial migration of all the CMAs and CAs over the period.
- Over the 2002-2020 period, many people in New Brunswick left areas outside of CMAs and CAs for a CMA or a CA; between 2002 and 2020, net intraprovincial migration to CMAs and CAs was 16,941, while net intraprovincial migration to areas outside of CMAs and CAs was -16,941.

Finally, part four of the report overviews Statistics Canada's population projections for New Brunswick compared to Canada as a whole between 2021 and 2043. In particular, part three

looks at the projected population size of New Brunswick as well as New Brunswick's projected share in the national population under different assumptions. Key findings include the following:

- By 2043, New Brunswick's population is projected to be between 736,900 and 855,100.
- New Brunswick's share of the total Canadian population is projected to keep dropping under all scenarios. The minimum projected share is 1.6 per cent, and the maximum projected share is 1.8 per cent.
- New Brunswick is projected to maintain the second highest median age of the provinces and territories, at between 46.7 years (0.6 years above the 2020 median) and 51.2 years (5.1 years above the 2019 median).
- By 2043, the share of New Brunswick's population aged 65 and over is also projected to have increased from 21.9 per cent in 2020 to between 27.4 per cent and 32.4 per cent in 2043.

Turning the Tide: Demographic Developments in New Brunswick, 1951-2020

Introduction¹

This report aims to provide a thorough analysis of New Brunswick's demographics compared to those of Canada as a whole. By painting a detailed picture of New Brunswick's demographics, particularly the size and the age structure of its population, this report sheds light on fundamental aspects of the province's workforce and its economy's potential level of output. Demographics play a central role in any economy. The size of the working-age population sets a limit on the potential output of the economy and hence potential GDP per capita, a key determinant of living standards. Furthermore, the size of the population is a key determinant of spending in important sectors such as education and healthcare. Given the many important effects demographics have on an economy, a solid understanding of demographic trends is key to studying an economy.

The report is divided into three parts. Part one provides a detailed overview of demographic developments in New Brunswick compared to Canada from 1951 to 2020. Part two examines New Brunswick's demographics by region between 1981 and 2020. Finally, part three provides an overview of population projections for New Brunswick and Canada as a whole from 2021 to 2043.

The examination of demographic developments in part one has six sections. Section I provides an overview of New Brunswick's population growth between 1951 and 2020 relative to Canada's overall population growth. Section II then discusses the age structures of New Brunswick and Canada between 1971 and 2020. Next, section III briefly examines trends in the average and median ages in New Brunswick and Canada from 1971 to 2020. Section IV outlines trends in the sex ratio in New Brunswick and Canada. Section V overviews components of population growth in New Brunswick and Canada. Lastly, section VI takes a brief look at the distribution of the population between urban and rural areas in New Brunswick compared to the other Canadian provinces between 1996 and 2016.

Part two of the report examines developments in New Brunswick's demographics by the provinces 15 census divisions (all of which are counties) between 1981 and 2020. The report examines overall trends in population size by census division. It then reviews trends in age structure by census division. Next, the report provides an overview of the components of population growth by census division. In addition to the components examined at the overall provincial level (natural increase, international migration and interprovincial migration), part two of the report looks at intraprovincial migration between census divisions. The fourth part of the first section of part two briefly looks at the shares of the populations of each census division living in a rural area between 1996 and 2016.

¹ This report was written by Nettie Bonsall under the supervision of Dr. Andrew Sharpe. The database for the report is posted with the report at [link to be inserted once created].

Part three of the report examines trends in population by census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs) by reviewing the same aspects of demographics examined by census division (except for the urban versus rural breakdown) — that is, trends in population size, age structure and components of population growth.

Finally, part four of the report analyzes Statistics Canada’s population projections for New Brunswick compared to Canada as a whole between 2021 and 2043. In particular, part four looks at New Brunswick’s projected population size, its projected share of the national population under different assumptions and projections about the province’s age structure.

Part One: An Overview of Demographic Developments in New Brunswick, 1951-2020

Part one of this report overviews trends in demographics by age and sex in New Brunswick compared to Canada as a whole. Demographics play a key role in any economy. In particular, the size of the working-age population sets a limit on the potential output of the economy and hence potential GDP per capita, a key determinant of living standards. The size of the population is also key determinant of spending in important sectors such as education and healthcare. Given the many important effects demographics have on an economy, a solid understanding of demographic trends is essential to studying the economy.

Trends in total population are examined from 1951 to 2020, while trends by age and sex are examined from 1971 to 2020. Drawing on Statistics Canada data from the estimates program Annual Demographic Estimates: Canada, Provinces and Territories, as found in Table 17-10-0005-01, this section finds that New Brunswick's population is older than that of Canada. The average and median ages in New Brunswick were both below those in Canada in 1972, but the average and median ages in New Brunswick both surpassed their Canadian counterparts in 2020. The share of people 65 years and older in New Brunswick was greater than that in Canada over the entire period, and the gap widened significantly starting in 2001. This section also examines trends in the components of population growth. Trends in migration to and from New Brunswick are examined with data from Statistics Canada's annual demographic estimates (Table 17-10-0014-01), while trends in natural increase (births minus deaths) are drawn from Statistics Canada's vital statistics databases (Table 17-10-0008-01). These data show that the natural increase in New Brunswick has been declining since 1972 and that migration has been the sole contributor to population growth since 2015.

I. Population Size, 1951-2020

In 1951, New Brunswick had a population of 517,000, 3.7 per cent of the national population. New Brunswick's share of the Canadian population fell almost consistently from 1951 to 2020. By 2020, with a population of 781,476, New Brunswick represented 2.1 per cent of the total Canadian population. In other words, New Brunswick's share of the national population nearly halved between 1951 and 2020. New Brunswick was also the third smallest province by population in 2020 (Appendix Table xx).

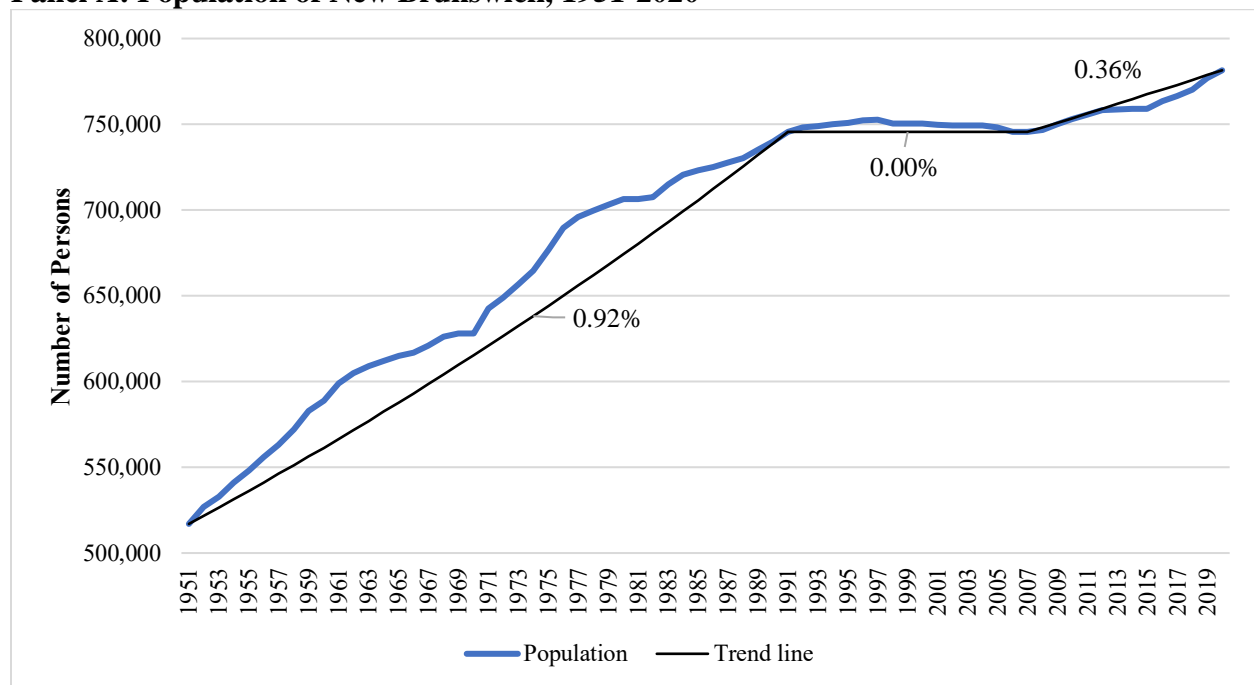
Between 1951 and 2020, New Brunswick's population grew at a compound annual rate of 0.60 per cent, 0.85 points below the national rate of 1.45 per cent (Table 1). New Brunswick's population increased by 264,476 persons, or 51.2 per cent, from 1951 to 2020 (Panel A of Chart 1). New Brunswick had the third lowest growth rate of all the provinces between 1951 and 2020 (Chart 2). From 1951 to 1960, national compound annual population growth exceeded growth in New Brunswick by 1.27 percentage points (New Brunswick's population grew at 1.46 per cent per year, while the total Canadian population grew at 2.73 per cent per year). The gap between the two growth rates was smallest between 1970 and 1980, when New Brunswick's population grew at 1.18 per cent per year, 0.22 percentage points below the national rate (1.40 per cent per year).

About 86 per cent of the total population growth between 1951 and 2020 occurred in the first 40 years of the period, between 1951 and 1991, when New Brunswick’s population rose at a compound annual rate of 0.92 per cent. The 1990s and early to mid 2000s then saw weak or even negative population growth. Between 1991 and 2007, New Brunswick saw virtually no population growth. The tide began to turn between 2007 and 2020, when New Brunswick’s population grew at a compound annual rate of 0.36 per cent.

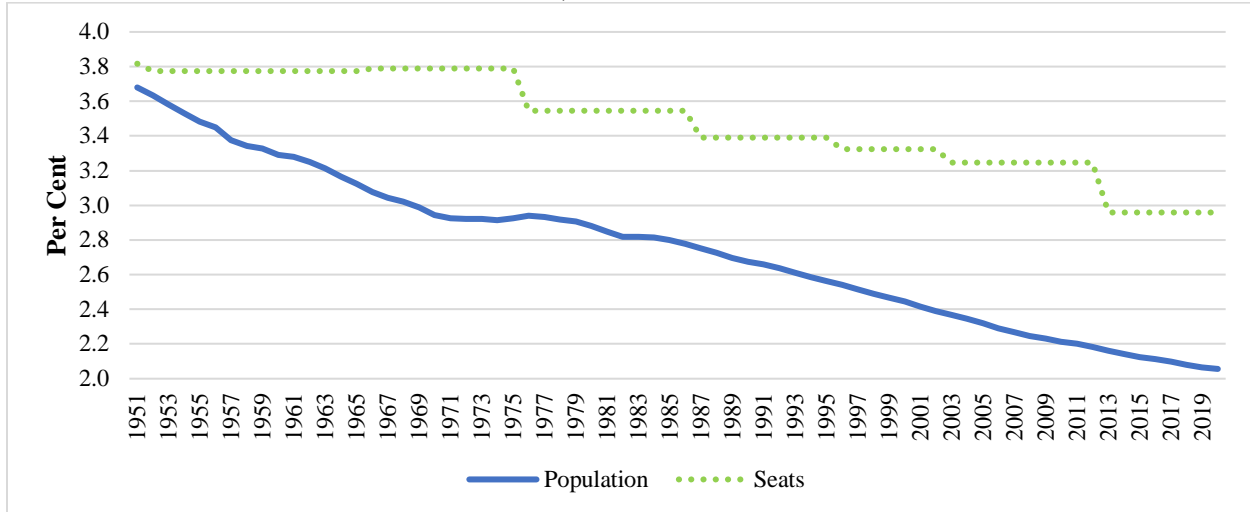
Of all the decades between 1951 and 2020, population growth was lowest in New Brunswick between 2000 and 2010, when New Brunswick’s population grew at 0.03 per cent per year, 1 percentage point below the national rate (1.03 per cent). During the 2010-2020 period, New Brunswick’s population growth picked up to 0.37 per cent per year, 0.75 percentage points below the national rate (1.12 per cent).

Chart 1: Trends in Population Size in New Brunswick and in Canada, 1951-2020

Panel A: Population of New Brunswick, 1951-2020



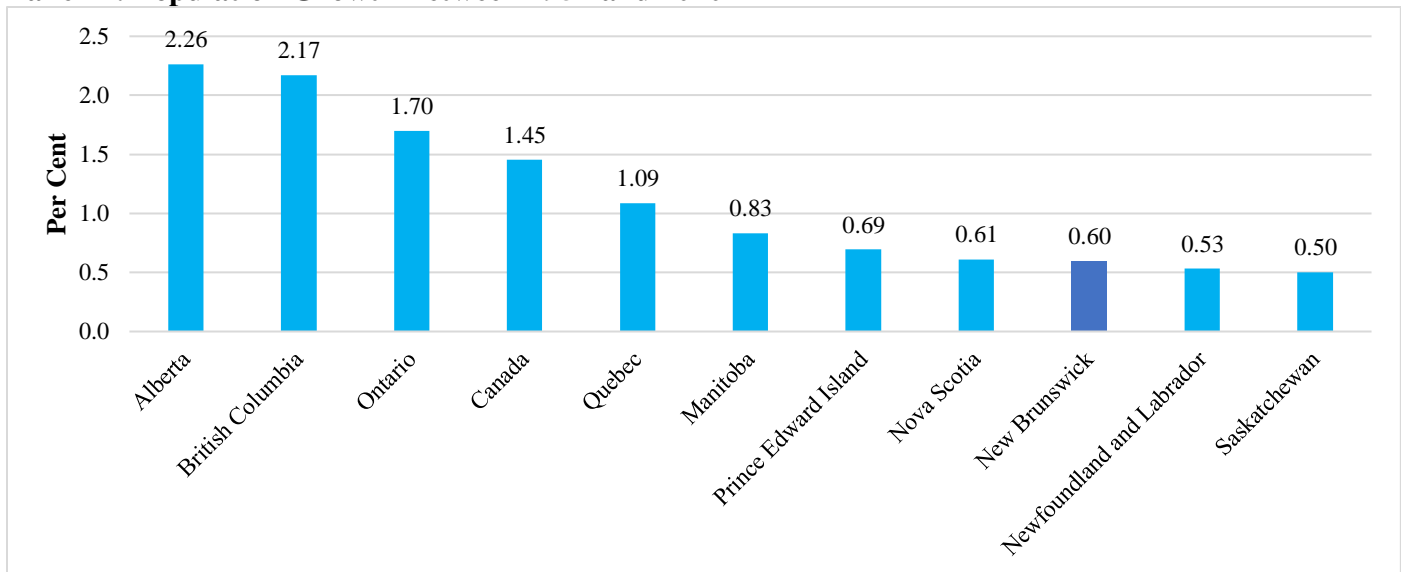
Panel B: New Brunswick's Share of the Canadian Population Compared to New Brunswick's Share of Seats in the House of Commons, 1951-2020²



Source, population: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0009-01. Population on July 1 (Quarter 3); source, seats in the House of Commons: Parliament of Canada, https://lop.parl.ca/sites/ParlInfo/default/en_CA/ElectionsRidings/Ridings

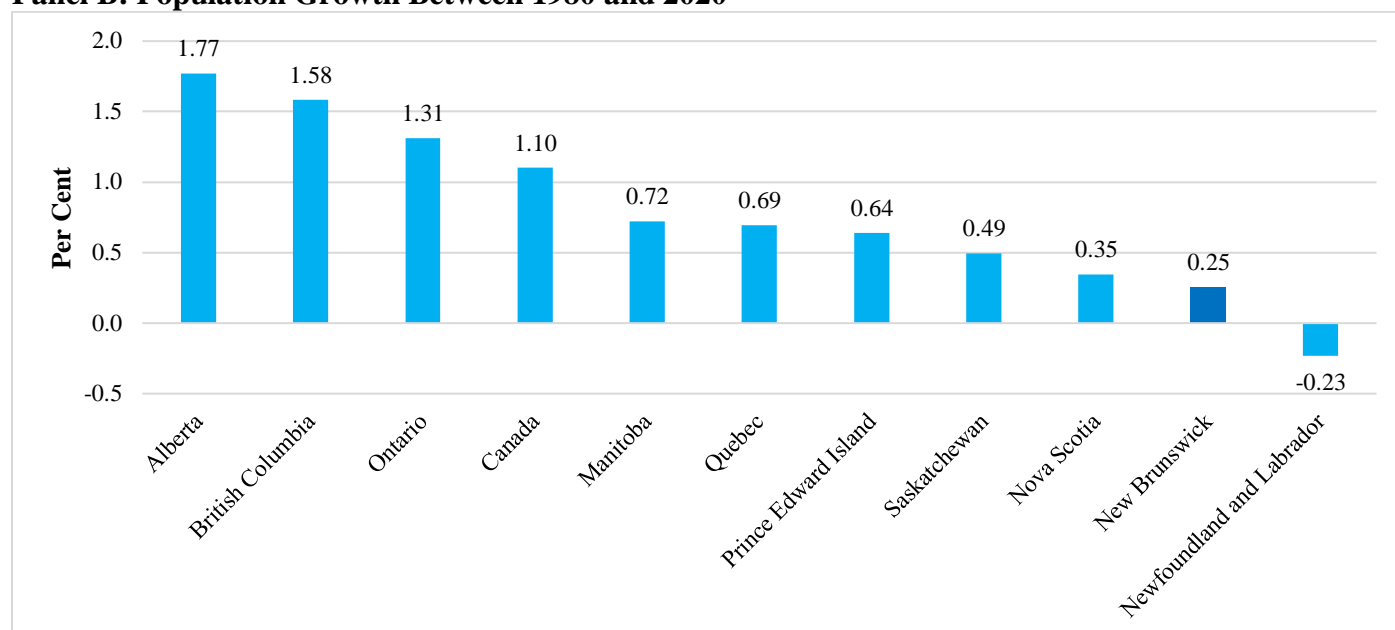
Chart 2: Population Growth by Province, Canada, 1951-2020 (Compound Annual Growth Rates)

Panel A: Population Growth Between 1951 and 2020



² Compared to New Brunswick's share of the total Canadian population, the province was overrepresented in the House of Commons over the entire 1951-2020 period. Moreover, the gap between New Brunswick's share of the total Canadian population and the province's share of the total number of seats in the House of Commons widened over the period. New Brunswick's share of the total Canadian population fell 1.62 points from 3.68 per cent in 1951 to 2.06 per cent in 2020. On the other hand, New Brunswick's share of the total seats in the House of Commons fell only 0.86 points from 3.82 per cent in 1951 to 2.96 per cent in 2020.

Panel B: Population Growth Between 1980 and 2020



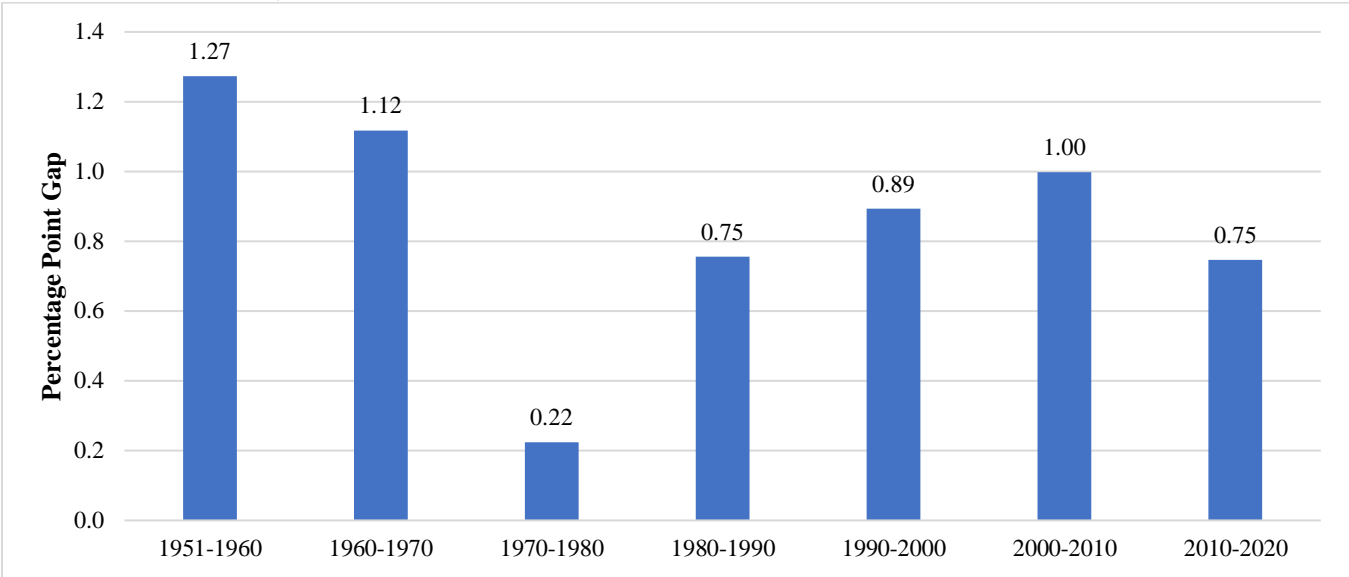
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0009-01

Table 1: Population Growth in Canada and in New Brunswick, 1951-2020 (Compound Annual Growth Rate)

Compound Annual Growth Rate	Canada	New Brunswick	Gap Between Population Growth in New Brunswick and Canada
1951-2020	1.45	0.60	0.85
1951-2000	1.61	0.76	0.84
2000-2020	1.08	0.20	0.87
1951-1960	2.73	1.46	1.27
1960-1970	1.76	0.64	1.12
1970-1980	1.40	1.18	0.22
1980-1990	1.23	0.47	0.75
1990-2000	1.03	0.14	0.89
2000-2010	1.03	0.03	1.00
2010-2020	1.12	0.37	0.75

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0009-01. Population on July 1 (Quarter 3)

Chart 3: Gap Between Population Growth in New Brunswick and Canada, 1951-2020 (Compound Annual Growth Rates)

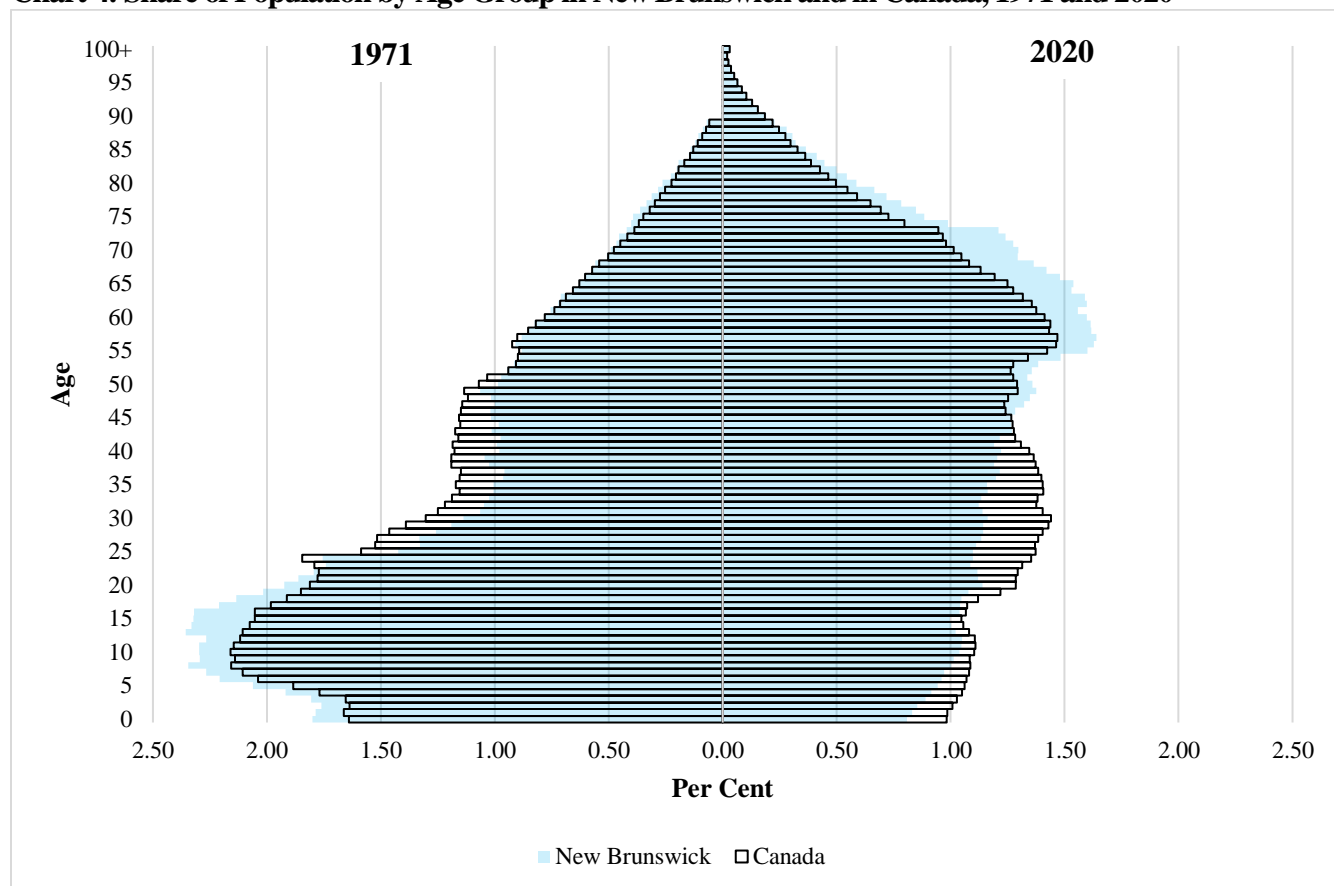


Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0009-01. Population on July 1 (Quarter 3)

II. Age Structure, 1971-2020

As in Canada overall, New Brunswick’s population has aged steadily over the past half-century as a result of increasing life expectancy and declining fertility rates. Chart 4 illustrates the dramatic population aging that occurred in both New Brunswick and Canada as a whole between 1971 and 2020. Over the past 50 years, the baby boom generation has had a significant effect on the age structure in New Brunswick and at the national level. The baby boom occurred from 1946 to 1965 in Canada. Data on births were not available for the first four years of the baby boom, but, between 1961 and 1965, 234,657 persons were born in New Brunswick. These 234,657 persons represented 33 per cent of the total births during the 1951-2020 period, though they were born over just 20 per cent of the total period. As the baby boom cohort moves through their life cycle, they have a significant impact on the underlying demography of New Brunswick. Between 1971 and 2020, the population bulge created by the baby boom moved from the bottom half to the top half of the population distribution, as shown in Chart 4.

Chart 4: Share of Population by Age Group in New Brunswick and in Canada, 1971 and 2020



Note: Data for the number of persons aged 90 years and over were not available for 1971.

Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0005-01

Panel A of Chart 6 compares the share of New Brunswick’s population aged 65 years or older with that of Canada. While the 65 and over group’s share of the population increased in both New Brunswick and Canada from 1971 to 2020, the share saw both a larger relative and absolute increase in New Brunswick. Between 1971 and 2020, the share of seniors in New Brunswick’s population rose 13.3 points, or 155.7 per cent. At the national level, the share of seniors increased only 10.0 points, or 124.1 per cent.

In 1971, there were 55,061 seniors in New Brunswick, accounting for 8.6 per cent of New Brunswick’s total population, 0.6 points above the national average (8.0 per cent). Until 2001, the share of New Brunswick’s population aged 65 years or older hovered between 0.3 and 0.6 percentage points above that of Canada. From 2001 to 2020, the percentage point difference between the New Brunswick and Canadian shares increased almost consistently (save between 2007 and 2008, when the percentage point difference did not change), resulting in a widening gap between the two shares. By 2020, the share of New Brunswick’s population aged 65 years or older was 21.9 per cent, 3.9 percentage points greater than that of Canada (18.0 per cent). In 2020, New Brunswick had the second highest share of people 65 and older of the provinces and territories (Chart 5).

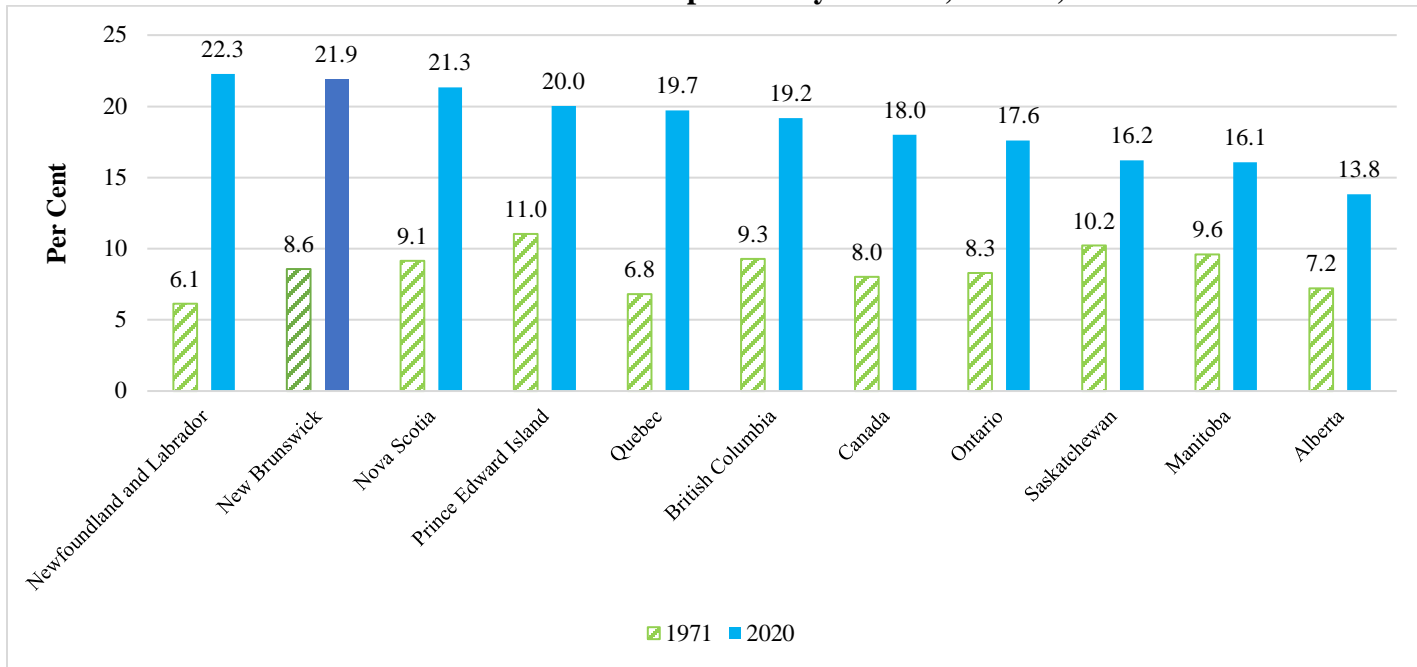
In both New Brunswick and Canada as a whole, the share of seniors in the total population started to increase significantly in 2011, the first year that baby boomers turned 65. In fact, 43 per cent of the 13.3-points increase in the share of seniors in New Brunswick's population occurred between 2011 and 2020, despite the fact that this 10-year period represented just 20 per cent of the total 1971-2020 period.

In contrast to the large increase in the share of seniors in the total populations of both New Brunswick and Canada, the shares of the under 15 groups in New Brunswick and in Canada both decreased substantially from 1971 to 2020, reflecting declining fertility rates over the period and the fact that the baby boom generation began to exit this age group after 1980 (when the first baby boomers turned 15). In 1971, the share of New Brunswick's population aged under 15 was 31.8 per cent, 2.5 points above the corresponding national share (29.3 per cent) (Panel A of Chart 6). The share of New Brunswick's population aged under 15 remained above that of Canada until 1991, when both shares were equal to 20.7 per cent. The share of persons under 15 in New Brunswick's population then fell below the national share, and it has remained below it since. By 2020, the share of persons under 15 in New Brunswick's population had fallen 17.4 points (54.9 per cent) from its level in 1971, reaching 14.3 per cent, 1.5 points below the share at the national level.

Also of note is the fact that in New Brunswick, seniors began to outnumber persons under 15 in 2009, when there were 115,850 seniors but only 114,666 persons under 15 in the province. The gap between the two age groups widened during every year between 2009 and 2020, evidence of the acceleration of population aging. Indeed, in 2020, seniors made up 21.9 per cent of New Brunswick's population, while persons under 15 accounted for only 14.3 per cent of the population. On the other hand, at the national level, seniors did not begin to outnumber persons under 15 until 2016. Moreover, there was a smaller gap between the share of seniors and the share of persons under 15 in the total population at the national level in 2020 (a gap of 2.1 percentage points nationally compared to a gap of 7.6 percentage points in New Brunswick).

In 1971, there were 383,191 persons aged 15 to 64 in New Brunswick, representing 59.6 per cent of New Brunswick's total population. The corresponding national share was 3.1 points higher (at 62.7 per cent) (Panel B of Chart 6). Baby boomers began to enter the 15 to 64 age group in 1961. The last boomers entered the 15 to 64 group in 1980. Between 1971 and 1980, the number of persons aged 15 to 64 in New Brunswick grew at a compound annual rate of 2.01 per cent. Growth slowed to 0.41 per cent per year between 1981 and 2011, as no new boomers entered the group after 1981. Boomers started leaving the 15 to 64 group in 2011. Their departure was reflected in the fact that the population aged 15 to 64 fell 0.49 per cent per year between 2011 and 2020. Over the same period, the share of persons aged 15 to 64 in New Brunswick's total population dropped by 5.1 points, from 68.9 per cent to 63.7 per cent, 2.4 points below the corresponding national share.

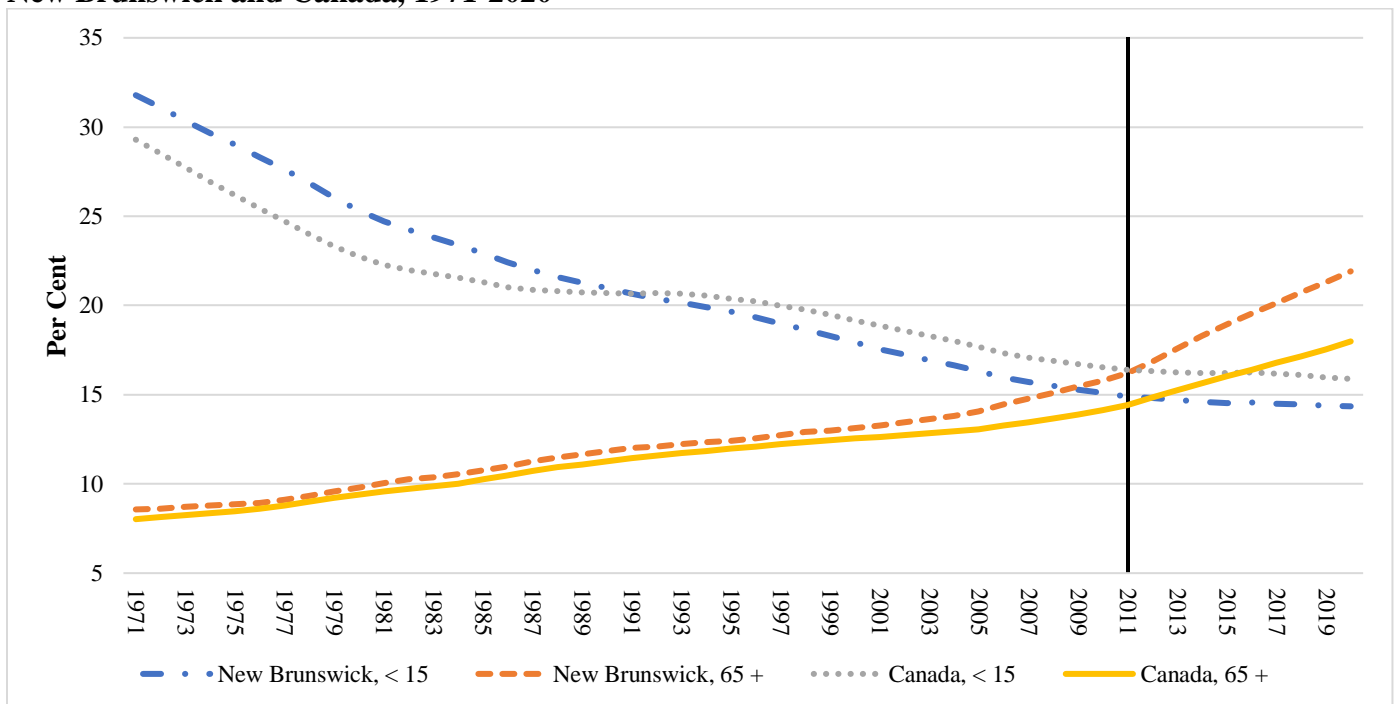
Chart 5: Share of Persons 65 and Older in the Total Population by Province, Canada, 1971 and 2020



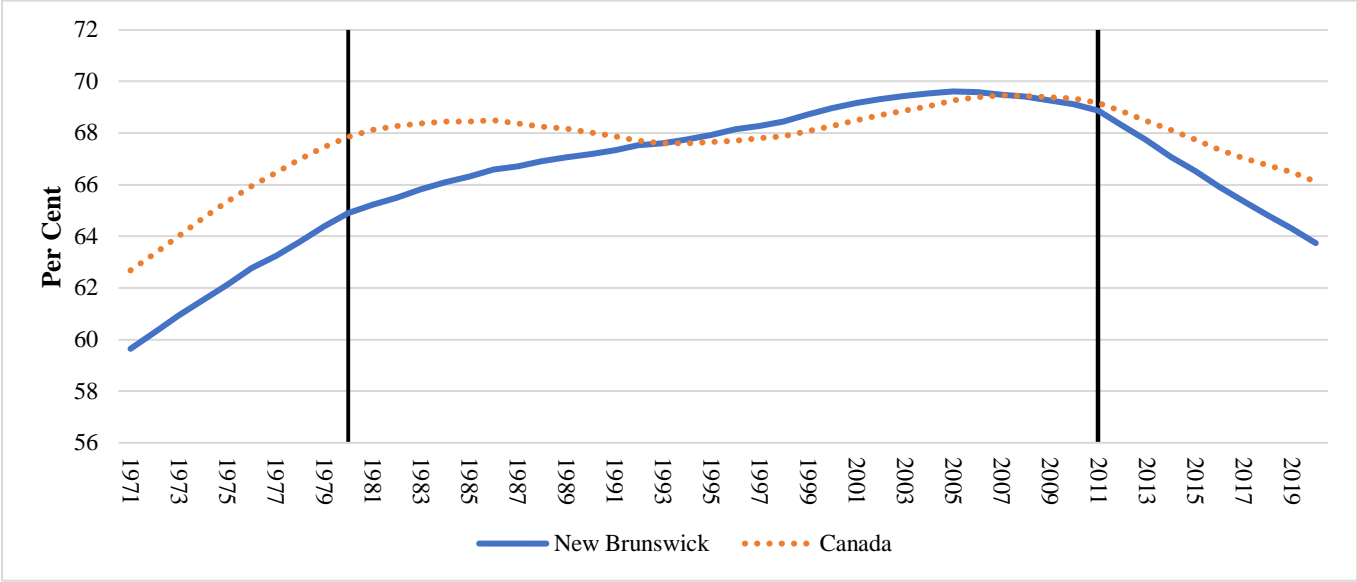
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0005-01

Chart 6: Population by Age Group, New Brunswick and Canada, 1971-2020

Panel A: Share of Persons Under 15 and of Persons 65 and Older in the Total Population, New Brunswick and Canada, 1971-2020



Panel B: Share of Persons 15 to 64 in the Total Population, New Brunswick and Canada, 1971-2020



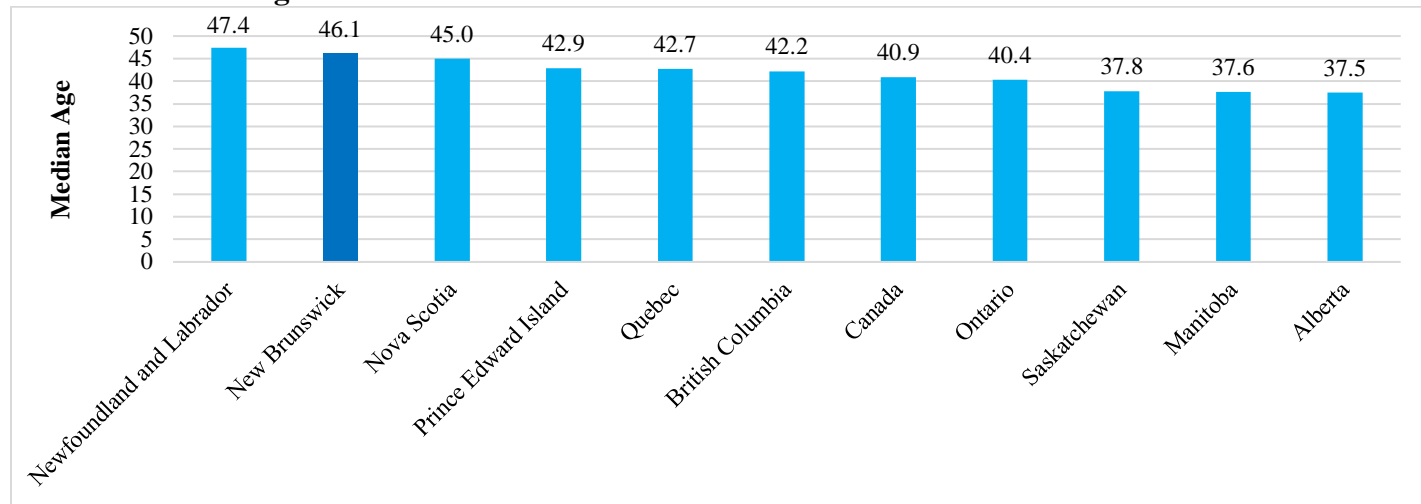
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0005-01

III. Median and Average Age, 1971-2020

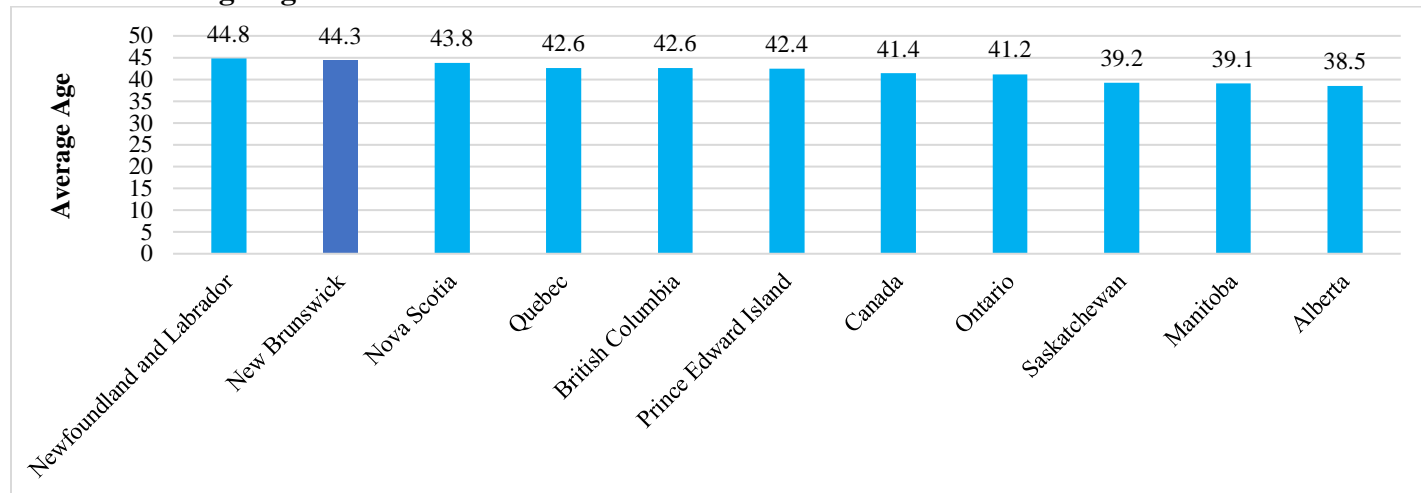
The population aging that occurred between 1971 and 2020 in New Brunswick and in Canada overall discussed in section II was manifest in large increases in the average and median ages over the period. Moreover, Chart 8 shows how population aging has been more dramatic in New Brunswick than at the national level: the province went from having lower median and average ages than the country's in 1971 to higher ones in 2020. The effect of the baby boom generation was also evident in the median and average ages of both New Brunswick and Canada. The increases in the median and average ages correspond with the aging of the baby boom population. As boomers age, they drag the median and average ages up with them because their disproportionately large share of the total population gives them a greater weight in the population than have other generations.

Chart 7: Median and Average Age by Province, Canada, 2020

Panel A: Median Age



Panel B: Average Age



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0005-01

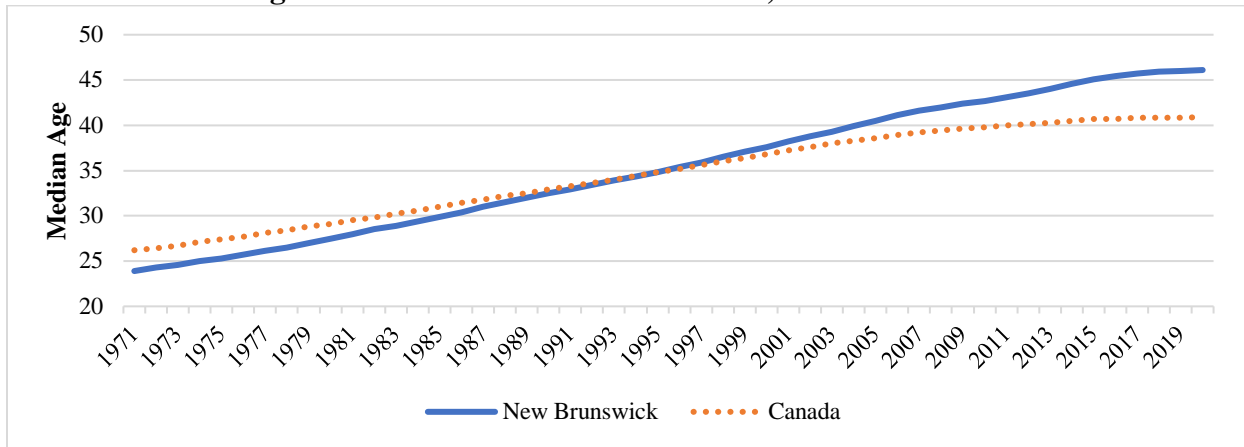
In 1971, the median age in New Brunswick was 23.9 years, 2.3 years below the national median of 26.2 years (Panel A of Chart 8). From 1971 to 2020, the median age in New Brunswick nearly doubled, reaching 46.1 years in 2020. The New Brunswick median age overtook the Canadian median in 1995 and has remained above it since. The gap between the median age in New Brunswick and that in Canada has been widening since 1995. In 2020, the median age in New Brunswick was 5.2 years above the Canadian median of 40.9 years and the second highest of the provinces (Panel A of Chart 7).

The average age in New Brunswick was 30.0 in 1971, 0.7 years below the Canadian average (Panel B of Chart 8). From 1971 to 2020, the average age in both New Brunswick and Canada increased steadily. The average in New Brunswick reached 44.3 years in 2020, an increase of 14.3 years from 1971 and 2.9 years above the Canadian average of 41.4 years. After Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick had the second highest average age of the provinces in 2020. The New Brunswick average age reached the Canadian average in 1992 (when both averages were equal to 35.5 years). The New Brunswick average age then overtook Canada's in 1993 and has remained above it since. The gap between the average age in New Brunswick and that in Canada has been widening since 1992.

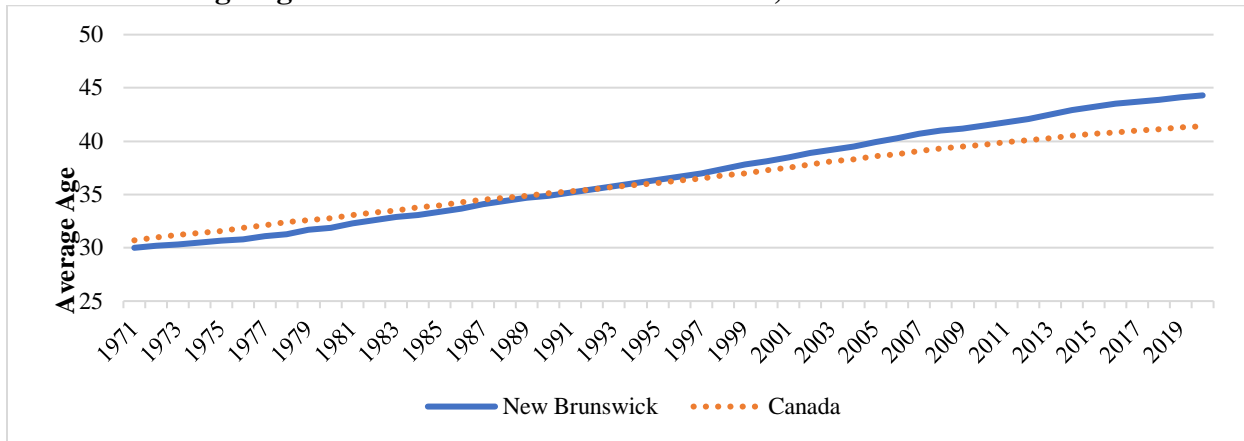
The median age is generally considered to be a more meaningful indicator of the age distribution of a population than the average age. In particular, the average age is more heavily influenced by older people than by younger people. Indeed, the relatively small share of seniors in 1971 skewed the average up above the median; in 1971, the average age in New Brunswick was 6.1 years above the median age (Chart 8). In 2020, New Brunswick's population was comparatively more evenly distributed by age (as illustrated by the shape of the age pyramid in Chart 4). Consequently, the median age was 1.8 years higher than the average age in 2020.

Chart 8: Average and Median Age in New Brunswick and in Canada, 1971-2020

Panel A: Median Age in New Brunswick and in Canada, 1971-2020



Panel B: Average Age in New Brunswick and in Canada, 1971-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0005-01

IV. Sex Ratio, 1971-2020

Chart 9 illustrates the sex ratio — that is, the number of males for every 100 females — in New Brunswick and in Canada from 1971 to 2020. There were no significant differences between the New Brunswick ratio and the national ratio.

In 1971, there were 101.8 males for every 100 females in New Brunswick, and there were 100.8 males for every 100 females in Canada (Panel A of Chart 9). New Brunswick's sex ratio fell below Canada's in 1999 (97.8 to 100 compared to 98.1 to 100) and has remained below it since. The gap between the two ratios was largest in 2006, when there were 96.6 males for every 100 females in New Brunswick and 98.3 males in Canada for every 100 females in Canada. The gap narrowed to 0.4 percentage points in 2011. In 2020, there were 98.0 males for every 100 females in New Brunswick, and there were 98.8 males for every 100 females in Canada. The decreases in the sex ratios in New Brunswick and Canada were likely driven by the population aging that occurred over the period, as females have higher life expectancies than have males (Chart 10).

From 1971 to 2020, the sex ratio for persons under 15 years old in New Brunswick decreased from 105.5 to 100 to 104.4 to 100, with most of the decrease occurring after 2010 (Panel B of Chart 9). In contrast, the Canadian ratio was more stable from 1971 to 2020; after varying slightly by year throughout the period, the national ratio returned to its 1971 value, 104.6 males for every 100 females. Notably, there were more males than females under 15 in both New Brunswick and Canada throughout the 1971-2020 period. This is explained by the fact that more males than females are born each year.

As shown in Panel C of Chart 9, the sex ratio for persons aged 15 to 64 years in New Brunswick was 102.8 to 100 in 1971. After reaching a minimum of 99.4 to 100 in 2006 and 2007, the sex ratio increased to 100.9 to 100 in 2020. The Canadian ratio was comparatively stable from 1971 to 2020; it decreased from 101.9 to 100 to 101.4 to 100 from 1971 to 2020.

Panel D of Chart 9 shows that the sex ratio for persons 65 years and older was much lower than that for the other age groups and for the overall population in both New Brunswick and Canada from 1971 to 2020. This is consistent with the fact the females have higher life expectancies than males. Indeed, in 1971, in New Brunswick, female life expectancy at birth was 76.5 years, 7.2 years above male life expectancy at birth (Statistics Canada, 2008). In 1971, there were 83.7 males 65 years and older for every 100 females 65 years and older in New Brunswick. The 1971 sex ratio of people 65 and older in Canada was slightly lower (81.3 males for every 100 females).

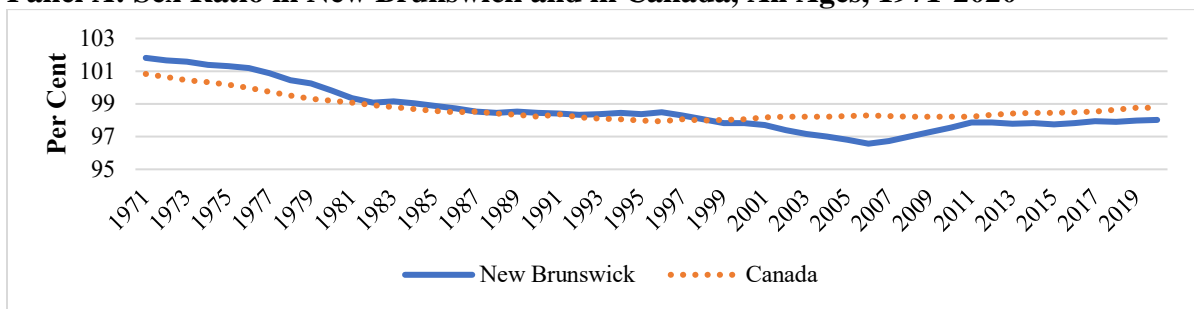
The sex ratios for seniors in both New Brunswick and Canada fell significantly from 1971 to 1989 (by 10 percentage points and 9.4 percentage points, respectively). This can be explained by the fact that the gap between male and female life expectancies in New Brunswick increased from 7.2 years in 1971 to 8.1 years between 1980 and 1982³ (Panel B of Chart 10). The gap returned to its 1971 level between 1987 and 1989.

³ Between 1981 and 2018, data on life expectancy were available as averages of three-year periods centered on a given year, starting with the year 1981.

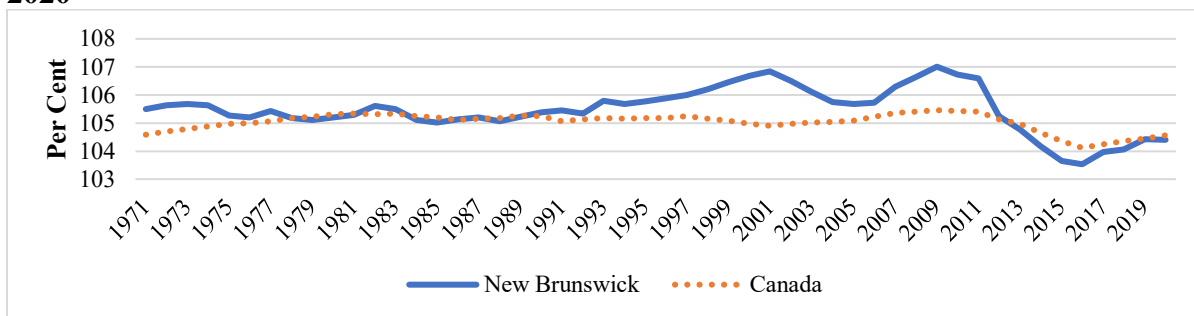
The Canadian sex ratio for seniors increased from 1990 to 2019, while the New Brunswick ratio varied by year before increasing consistently from 2000 to 2020. In 2020, the New Brunswick ratio was 86.4 to 100, 1.1 percentage points above the Canadian ratio (85.3 to 100). This decrease in the sex ratio between 2000 and 2020 is consistent with the narrowing of the gap between female and male life expectancy post 2000. Between 1999 and 2001, in New Brunswick, female life expectancy at birth exceeded male life expectancy at birth by 6.0 years. Between 2017 and 2019, in New Brunswick, female life expectancy at birth exceeded male life expectancy at birth by 4.2 years. Hence, the gap between female and male life expectancy narrowed by 1.8 years between 1989-2001 and 2017-2019.

Chart 9: Sex Ratio in New Brunswick and in Canada, 1971-2020

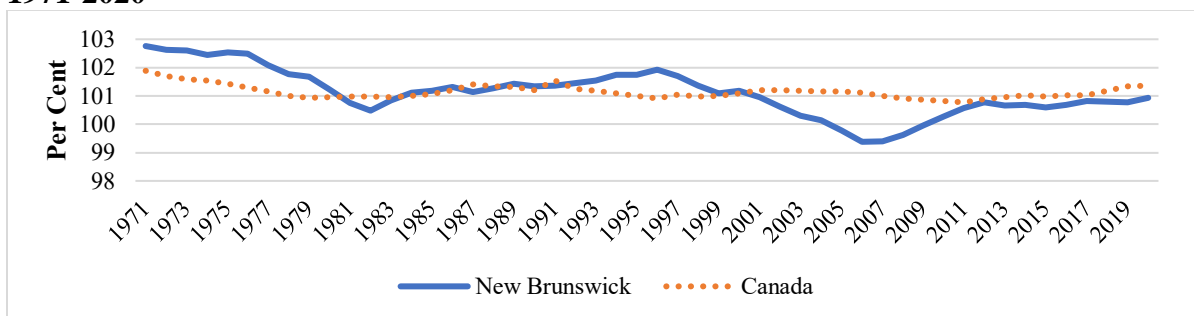
Panel A: Sex Ratio in New Brunswick and in Canada, All Ages, 1971-2020



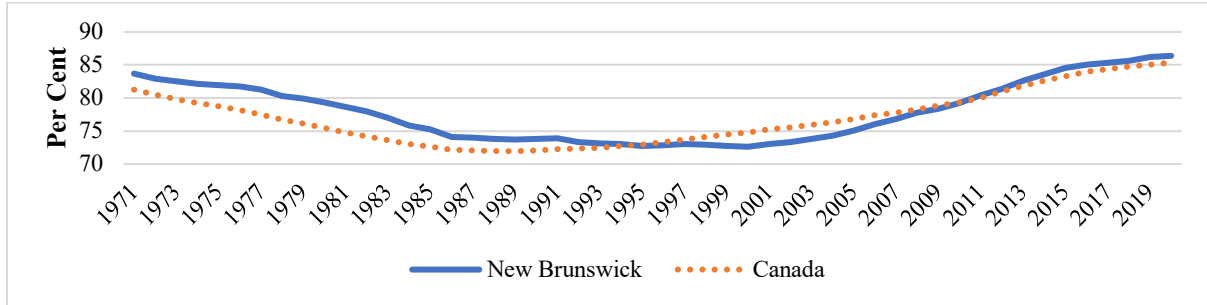
Panel B: Sex Ratio in New Brunswick and in Canada, Persons Under 15 Years Old, 1971-2020



Panel C: Sex Ratio in New Brunswick and in Canada, Persons Aged 15 to 64 Years Old, 1971-2020



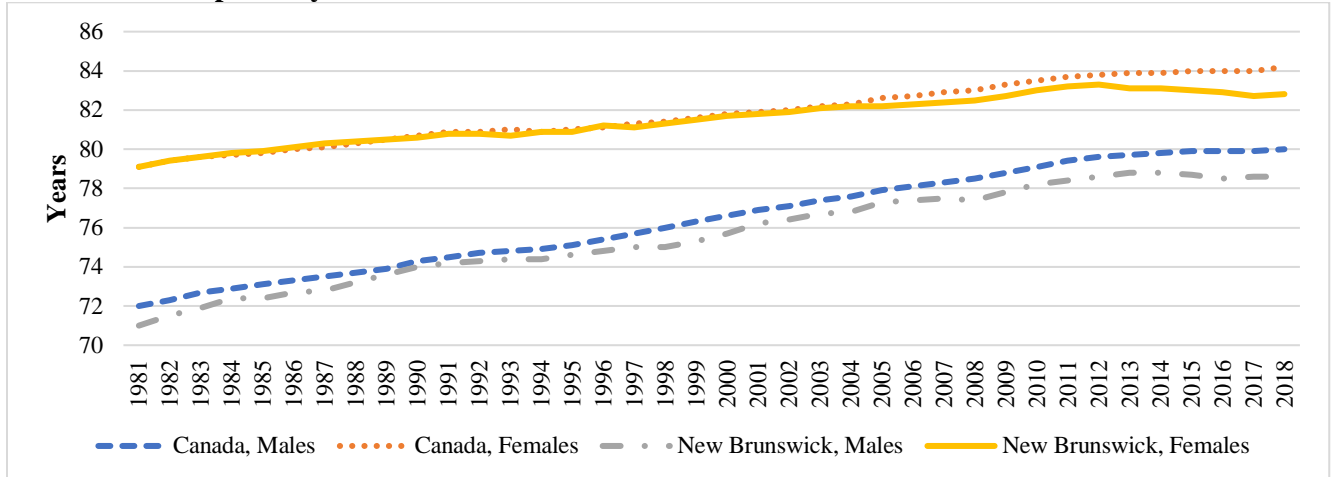
Panel D: Sex Ratio in New Brunswick and in Canada, Persons 65 Years and Older, 1971-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0005-01

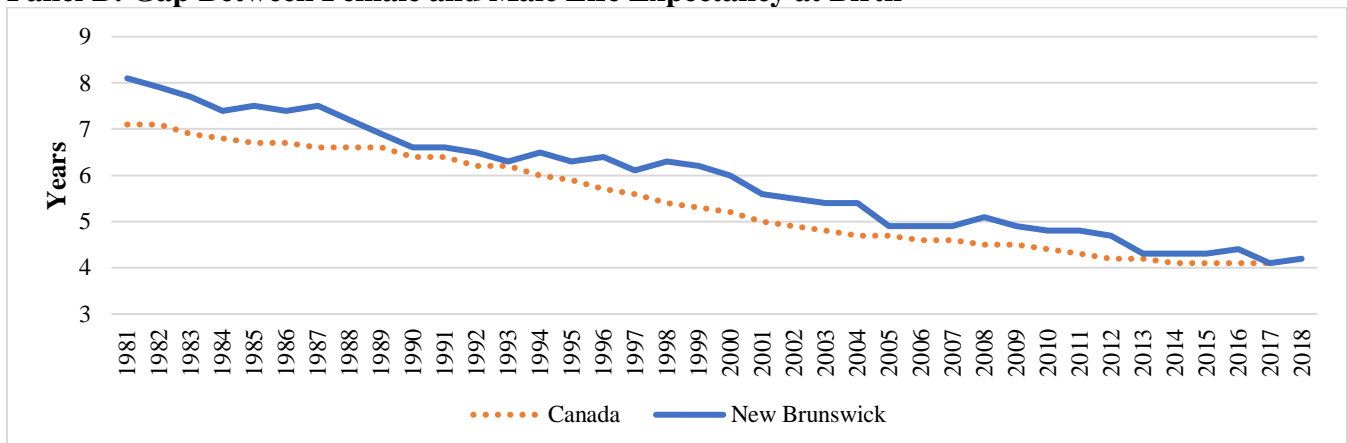
Chart 10: Life Expectancy at Birth, New Brunswick and Canada, 1981-2019

Panel A: Life Expectancy at Birth



Note: Each year refers to an estimate of the average life expectancy over a three-year period centered on the year in question.

Panel B: Gap Between Female and Male Life Expectancy at Birth



Note: Each year refers to an estimate of the average life expectancy over a three-year period centered on the year in question.

Source: Statistics Canada, Table 13-10-0114-01

V. Components of Population Change, 1951-2020

This section examines the components of population change in New Brunswick between 1951 and 2020. Total population change is the sum of net natural increase and net migratory increase. Net natural increase is the number of births minus the number of deaths. Net migratory increase is composed of net international migration and net interprovincial migration. Net international migration is the sum of the number of immigrants, returning emigrants and net non-permanent residents, less emigrants and net temporary emigration.⁴ Data for net natural increase were available between 1951 and 2020, while data for the other components of population growth were available between 1972 and 2020.

A. Natural Increase, 1951-2020

Net natural increase during a period is the number of births minus the number of deaths. Between 1951 and 2020, cumulative net natural increase in New Brunswick was 348,985 persons (741,122 births and 392,137 deaths), making net natural increase the leading component of population growth for the province. Indeed, about 132 per cent of the 264,476-person increase was attributable to net natural increase. Hence, New Brunswick lost a total of 84,509 persons to net migration over the period (in other words, the number of persons who left New Brunswick exceeded the number of persons who moved to New Brunswick by 84,509). Thus, net migration made up -32 per cent of the total population change over the period.

However, net natural increase fell over the period as a result of rising death rates (due to population aging) and declining birth rates. Net natural increase in New Brunswick fell from 11,202 persons in 1951 to -1,917 persons in 2020. In fact, between 2015 and 2020, deaths outnumbered births in New Brunswick, with cumulative deaths exceeding cumulative births by 6,881 persons.

The number of births per year fell from 16,075 in 1951 to 6,324 in 2020 (Chart 11). In contrast, as New Brunswick's population aged, the number of deaths rose from 4,873 per year in 1951 to 8,241 per year in 2020. The number of births was relatively strong and stable between 1951 and 1964, varying between 15,771 and 17,020 per year. Between 1964 and 1965 (the last year of the baby boom), the number of births fell by 1,163, or about 7.6 per cent. The number of

⁴ The following definitions were obtained from "Population and Family Estimation Methods at Statistics Canada," available at <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-528-x/2015001/gloss-eng.htm>.

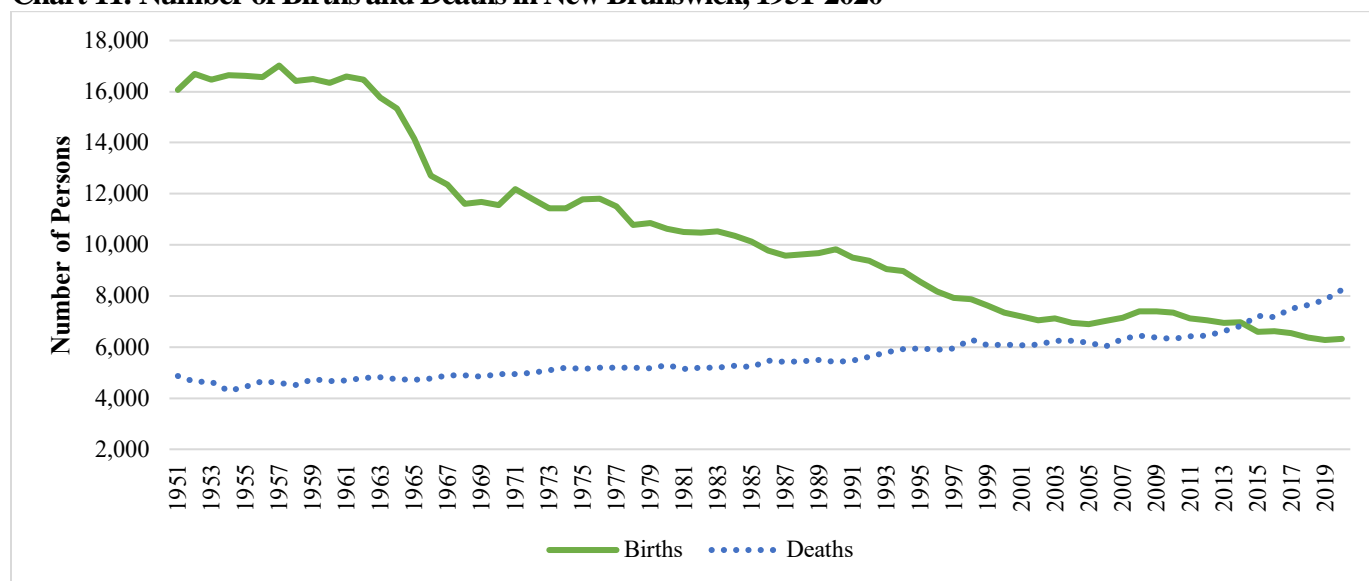
Returning emigrant: Canadian citizen or immigrant having previously emigrated from Canada and subsequently returned to the country to establish a permanent residence.

Non-permanent resident: A non-permanent resident is a person who is lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a valid document (work permit, study permit, Minister's permit or refugee) issued for that person along with members of his family living with them. This group also includes individuals who seek refugee status upon or after their arrival in Canada and remain in the country pending the outcome of processes relative to their claim. Note that Citizenship and Immigration Canada uses the term temporary resident rather than non-permanent resident.

Net temporary emigration: Net temporary emigration represents the variation in the number of temporary emigrants between two dates. Temporary emigration includes Canadian citizens and immigrants living temporarily abroad who have not maintained a usual place of residence in Canada.

births continued to fall over most of the rest of the period. In 2020, 6,324 persons were born in New Brunswick, down by 9,751 persons (or 60.7 per cent) from the number of births in 1951.

Chart 11: Number of Births and Deaths in New Brunswick, 1951-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0059-01

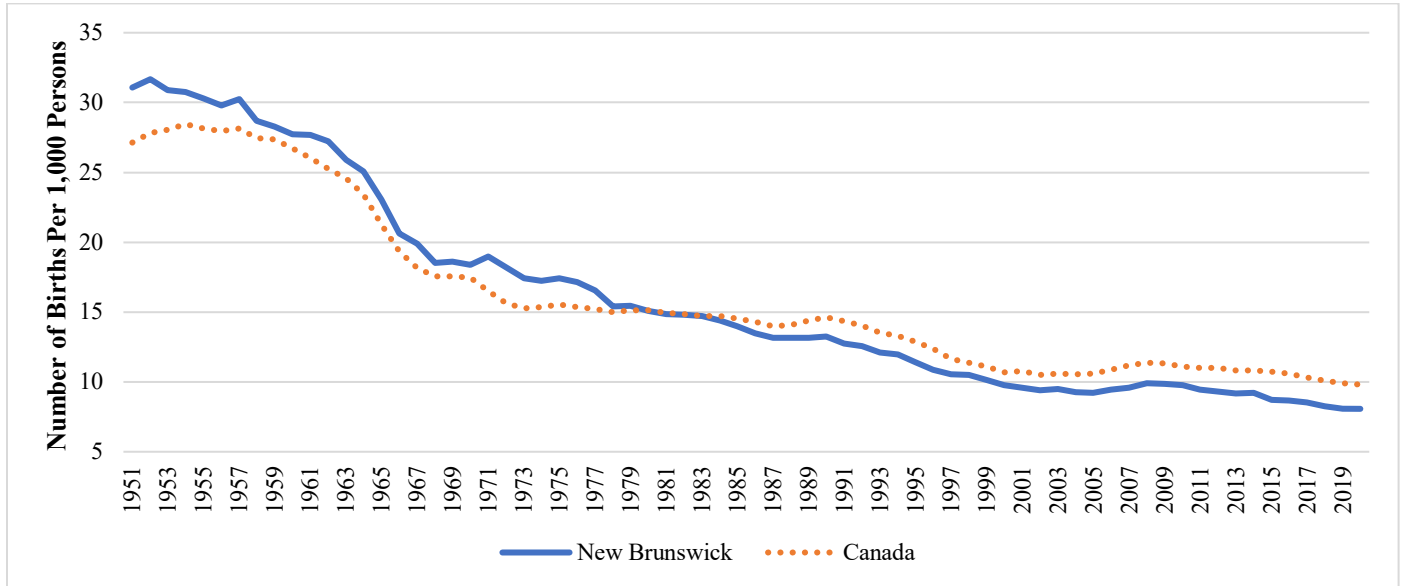
As was the case in Canada as a whole, between 1951 and 2020, New Brunswick’s birth rate fell, and its death rate rose. New Brunswick’s birth rate fell nearly three quarters, from 31.1 births per 1,000 persons in 1951 to 8.1 births per 1,000 persons in 2020 (Panel A of Chart 12). On the other hand, New Brunswick’s death rate rose by about 11.9 per cent, from 9.4 deaths per 1,000 persons in 1951 to 10.5 deaths per 1,000 persons in 2020.

In 1951, New Brunswick’s birth rate exceeded the national average by 4 births per 1,000 persons. New Brunswick’s birth rate dipped below the national rate in 1981 (when New Brunswick’s birth rate was 14.9 births per 1,000 persons and the national rate was 15.0 births per 1,000 persons). The two rates were equal in 1982 and 1983, and then New Brunswick’s birth rate fell back below the national rate and remained below it for the rest of the period. In 2020, the national birth rate exceeded New Brunswick’s birth rate by 1.7 births per 1,000 persons.

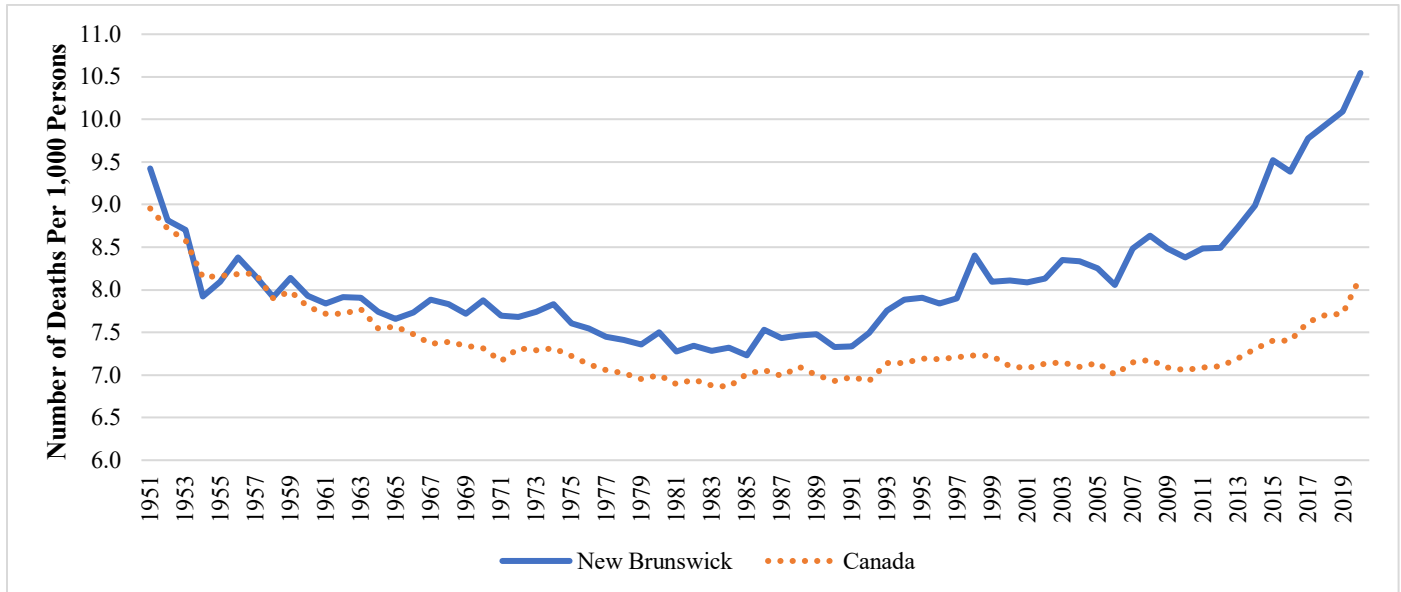
In 1951, New Brunswick’s death rate exceeded the national rate by 0.4 deaths per 1,000 persons. New Brunswick’s death rate exceeded the national rate for most of the 1951-2020 period (Panel B of Chart 12). The gap between the two rates started to widen in 1990, and by 2020, New Brunswick’s death rate exceeded the national rate by 2.3 deaths per 1,000 persons. New Brunswick’s death rate rose from 9.4 deaths per 1,000 persons in 1951 to 10.5 deaths per 1,000 persons in 2020. In 2020, New Brunswick had the second lowest birth rate and the highest death rate of all the provinces (Chart 13). New Brunswick’s death rate relative to other provinces is consistent with the fact that it had the second highest share seniors in its population in 2020. Indeed, Chart 14 shows that there was a positive correlation between the share of seniors in the total population and the death rate in 2020.

Chart 12: Birth and Death Rates in New Brunswick and in Canada, 1951-2020

Panel A: Birth Rates



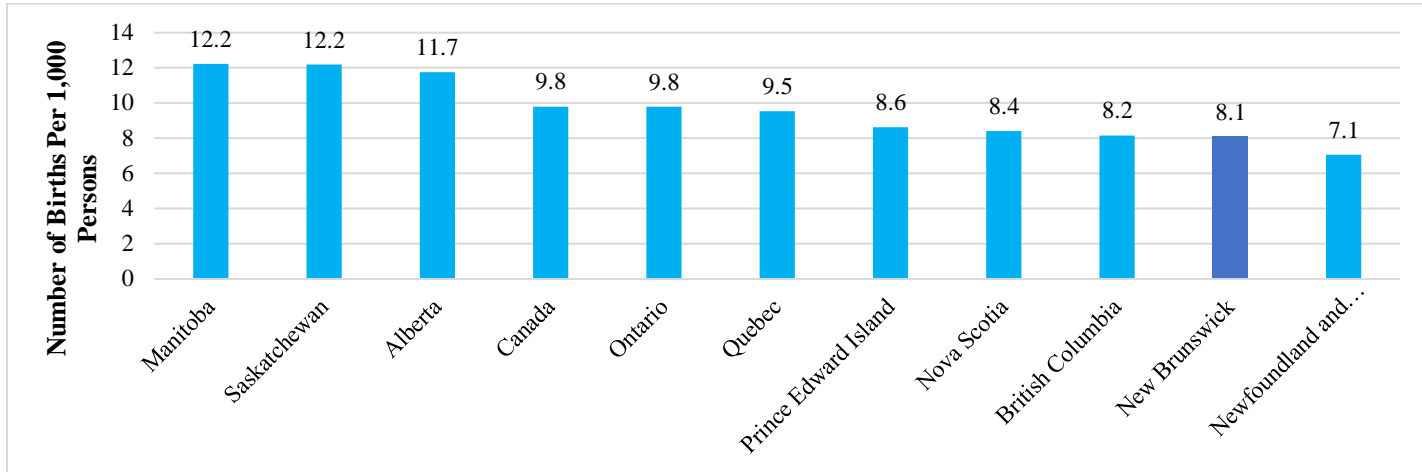
Panel B: Death Rates



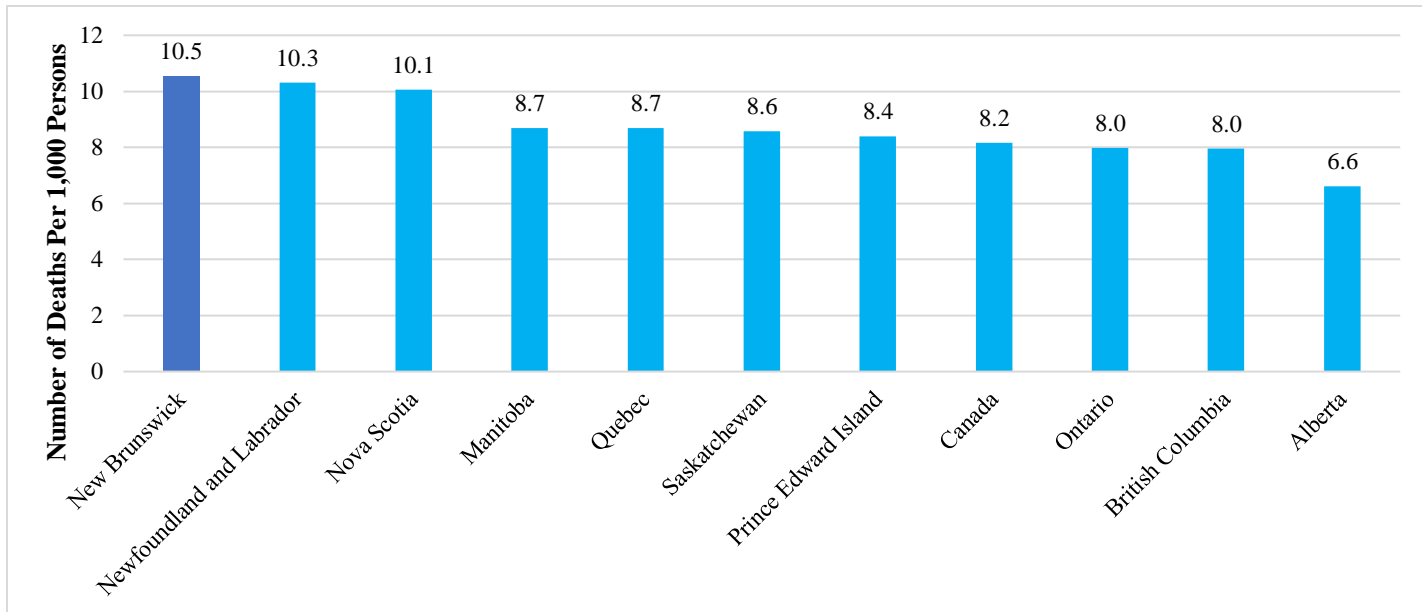
Source: Statistics Canada. Population: Table 17-10-0009-01. Population on July 1 (Quarter 3); Births and deaths: Table 17-10-0059-01

Chart 13: Birth and Death Rates by Province, Canada, 2020

Panel A: Birth Rates

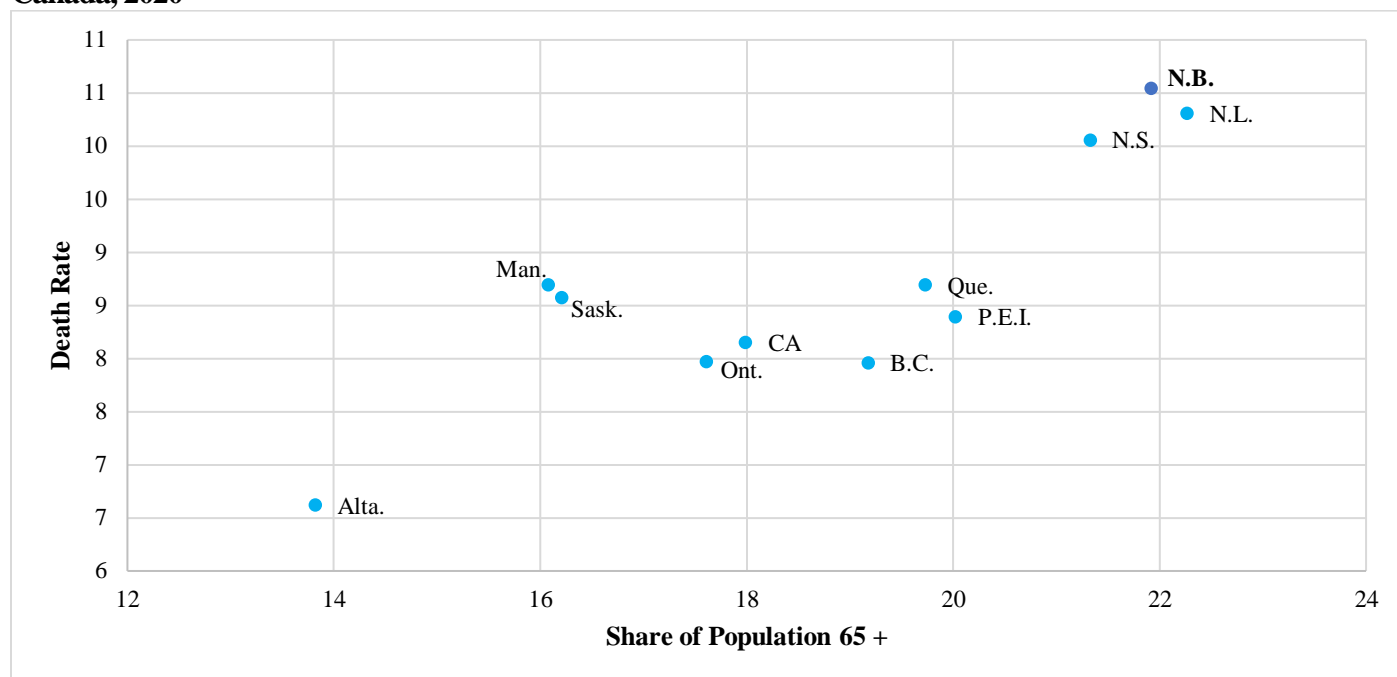


Panel B: Death Rates



Source: Statistics Canada. Population: Table 17-10-0009-01. Population on July 1 (Quarter 3); Births and deaths: Table 17-10-0059-01

Chart 14: Death Rate Compared to the Share of the Population Aged 65 or Older by Province, Canada, 2020



Source: Statistics Canada. Population: Table 17-10-0005-01. Population on July 1 (Quarter 3); Deaths: Table 17-10-0059-01

B. Migration, 1972-2020

As shown by the rise in New Brunswick’s median and average ages and in the rising share of seniors in New Brunswick’s population, the province’s population aged significantly between 1972 and 2020. Migration to New Brunswick is critical to countering the population aging occurring in New Brunswick and addressing labour market shortages.⁵ This section briefly examines trends in migration to and from New Brunswick from 1972 to 2020.⁶ The population change over a year refers to the population change between July 1 of the previous year and June 30 of the year in question.

⁵ For example, international students to New Brunswick help fill job vacancies and contribute to the economy. Kassim Doumbia, the first black mayor in New Brunswick, exemplifies the success of international students as immigrants to New Brunswick. Mr. Doumbia was elected mayor of Shippagan, a town in the Acadian Peninsula, in 2021: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-first-black-mayor-to-be-elected-in-new-brunswick-marks-change-in/>

⁶ For data on international migration by sex, see Tables 10 and 10A in the database. For data on interprovincial migration by sex, see Tables 12 and 12A in the database.

i. International Migration

Net international migration (the sum of gross immigrants, returning emigrants and net non-permanent residents less gross emigrants and net temporary emigrants) increased from 688 in 1972 to 5,274 in 2020 (Panel A of Chart 15).

Gross Immigration started to pick up around 2000. New Brunswick received 609 immigrants in 2000. Had immigration remained at the same rate between 2001 and 2020, New Brunswick's population would have been 746,557 persons in 2020, or 34,919 persons fewer than the actual population in 2020 (781,476 persons). There were 2 major stages in the post-2000 pickup in gross immigration to New Brunswick. From 2001 to 2013, New Brunswick received an average of about 1,448.2 gross immigrants a year. Between 2014 and 2020, average annual gross immigration to New Brunswick jumped to about 3,871.0 persons per year.

New Brunswick has historically received a low share of total gross immigrants to Canada. In 1972, New Brunswick accounted for 2.92 per cent of the total Canadian population, but gross immigrants to New Brunswick represented only 0.92 per cent of total gross immigrants to Canada (Chart 16). New Brunswick's share of total gross immigrants to Canada reached a minimum of 0.25 per cent in 1994. Between 1995 and 2020, New Brunswick's share of total gross immigrants to Canada broadly increased. In 2020, 1.73 per cent of gross immigrants to Canada settled in New Brunswick.

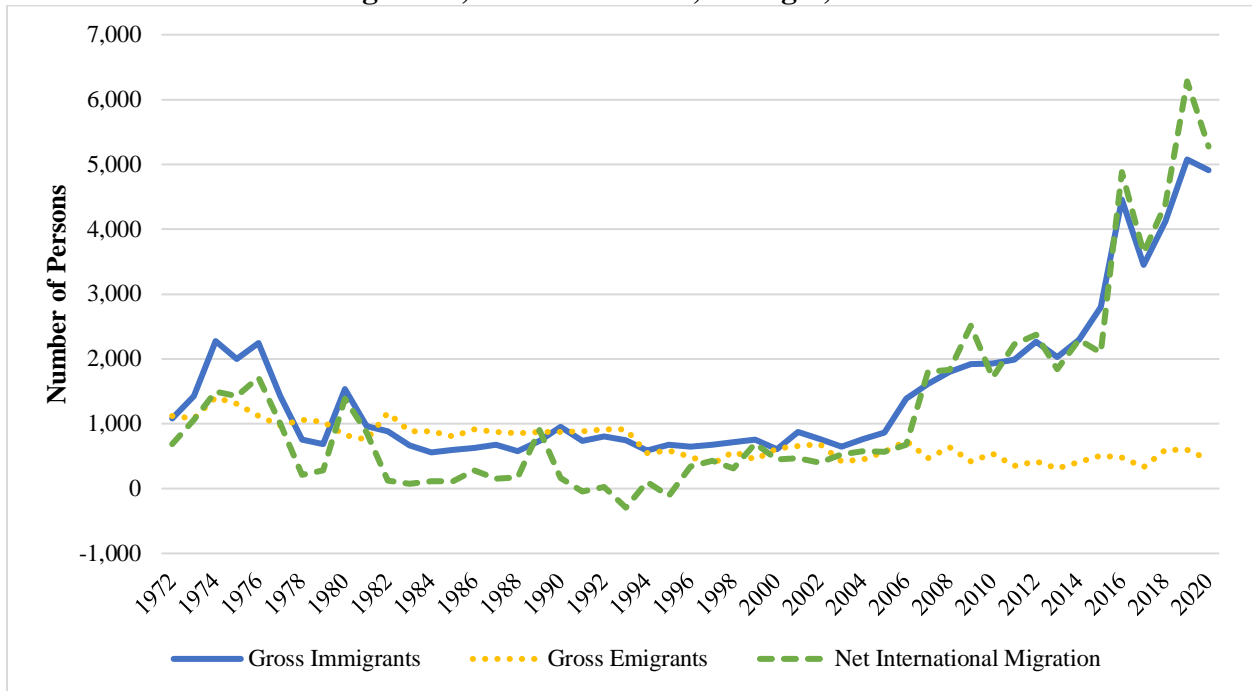
As a result of New Brunswick's historically low share of total gross immigrants to Canada, in 2016, New Brunswick had the second lowest share of immigrants in its total population of all the provinces (Chart 17). In 2016, immigrants made up 4.6 per cent of New Brunswick's population, 17.3 percentage points below the national average (21.9 per cent).

Panel B of Chart 15 shows that the majority of gross immigrants to New Brunswick were between the ages of 15 and 64 between 1972 and 2020. As well, throughout the period, the share of seniors in total gross immigrants to New Brunswick was much lower than the share of seniors in New Brunswick's total population. In other words, between 1972 and 2020, immigrants to New Brunswick helped to slow the population aging occurring in the province.

The share of persons aged 15 to 64 in total immigrants to New Brunswick varied between a minimum of 55.0 per cent in 1977 and a maximum of 76.3 per cent in 1991. In 2020, 71.1 per cent of immigrants to New Brunswick were between the ages of 15 and 64. In contrast, only 63.7 per cent of New Brunswick's total population was aged 15 to 64 in 2020. Persons under 15 accounted for a significant share of total immigrants to New Brunswick over the 1972-2020 period. The share of persons under 15 in total immigrants to New Brunswick varied between a minimum of 17.4 per cent in 1987 and a maximum of 41.2 per cent in 1977. In 2020, 28.1 per cent of all immigrants to New Brunswick were under the age of 15. This was nearly double the share of persons under 15 in the total population of New Brunswick in 2020 (14.3 per cent). Only a small share of immigrants to New Brunswick were seniors over the period. The share of seniors varied between a minimum of 0.6 per cent in 2017 and a maximum of 8.2 per cent in 1984. In 2020, 0.8 per cent of immigrants to New Brunswick were 65 and older, while 21.9 per cent of New Brunswick's total population were seniors.

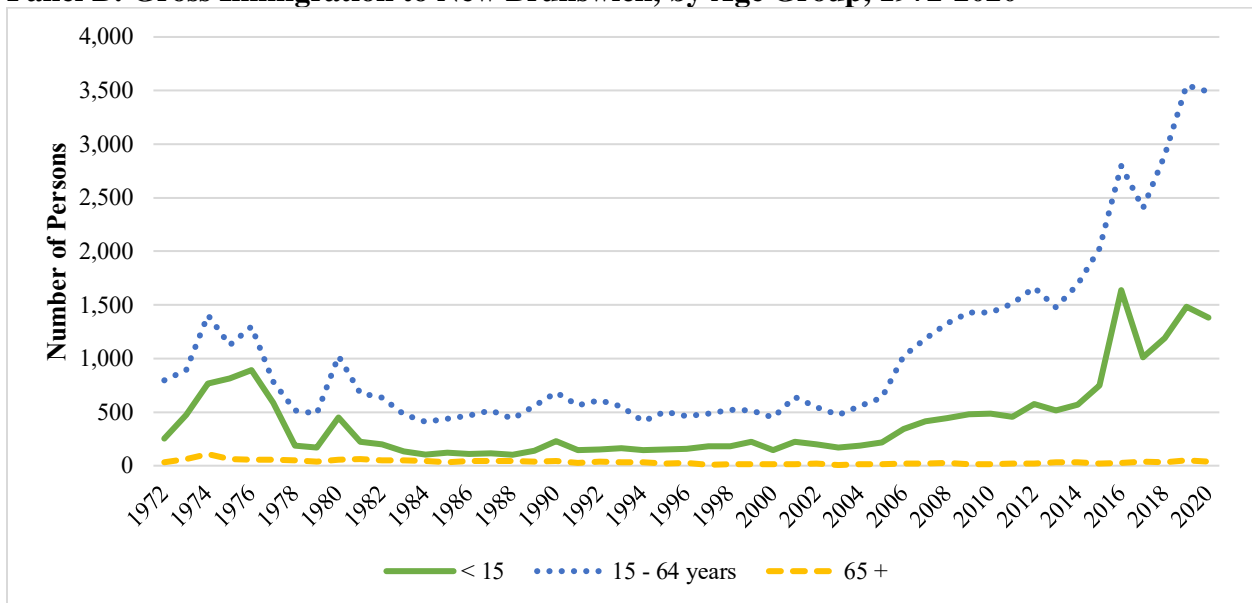
Chart 15: International Migration, New Brunswick, 1972-2020

Panel A: International Migration, New Brunswick, All Ages, 1972-2020



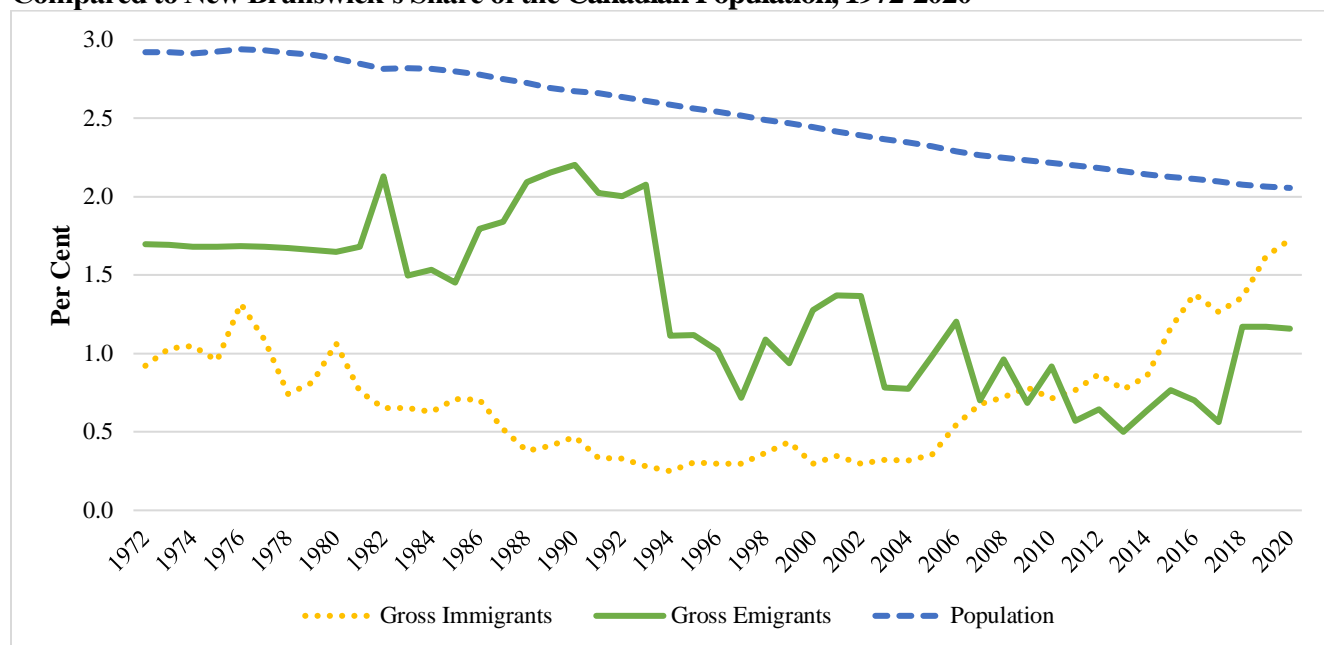
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0014-01

Panel B: Gross Immigration to New Brunswick, by Age Group, 1972-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0014-01

Chart 16: New Brunswick's Shares of Gross Immigration to and Gross Emigration from Canada Compared to New Brunswick's Share of the Canadian Population, 1972-2020



Note: Immigration and emigration are estimated between July 1 of the preceding year and June 30 of the year in question. Population is estimated on July 1 of the year in question.
 Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0014-01

a. Immigrants to New Brunswick by Country of Birth

In 2016, 22.5 per cent of New Brunswick’s immigrant population (that is, all persons who are, or who have ever been, a landed immigrant or a permanent resident and who have been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities)⁷ was born in the United States (Chart 18).⁸ Accounting for 13.6 per cent of New Brunswick’s immigrant population, persons born in the United Kingdom followed those from the United States as the second most important group. Persons from China made up the third most important group, accounting for 6.5 per cent of the province’s total immigrant population. Persons from Germany and South Korea accounted for 4.8 per cent and 4.4 per cent of New Brunswick’s total immigrant population, respectively.

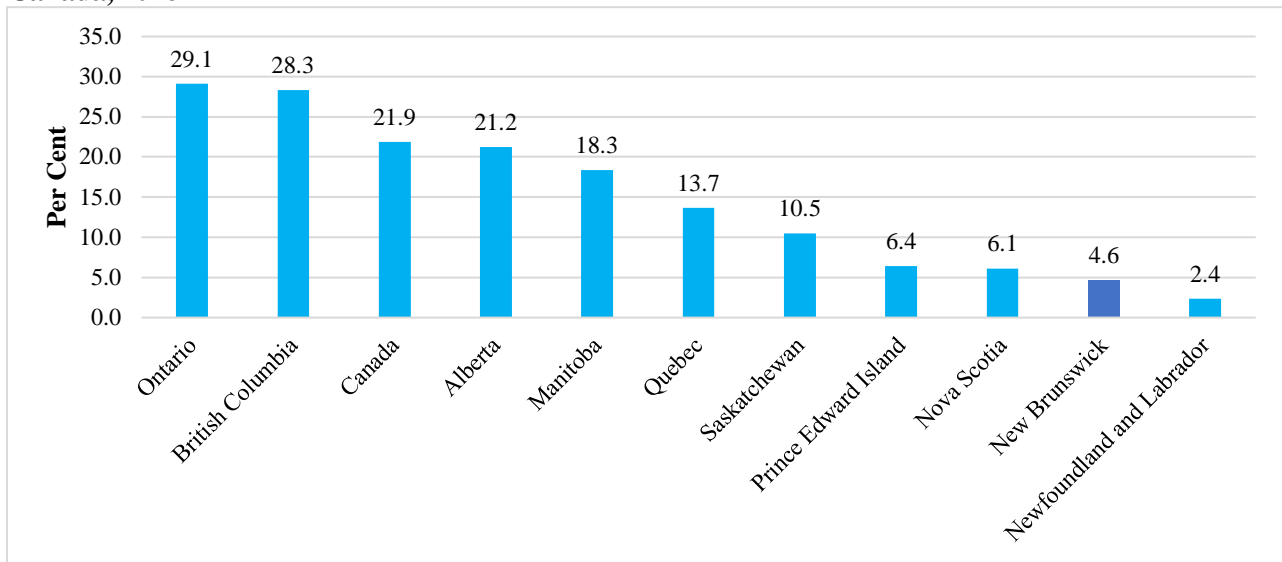
On the other hand, China was the leading source of immigrants to New Brunswick between 2011 and 2016. Between 2011 and 2016, 1,390 persons born in China immigrated to New Brunswick, accounting for 14.9 per cent of total immigrants to New Brunswick over the

⁷ The definition of “immigrant” is available from Statistics Canada at <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVD&TVD=297962&CVD=297962&CLV=0&MLV=1&D=1>.

⁸ In Canada, in 2016, the top five countries of birth of the immigrant population were (in order from greatest to least): India, China, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States (Statistics Canada, Ethnocultural Diversity Highlight Tables, 2016 Census).

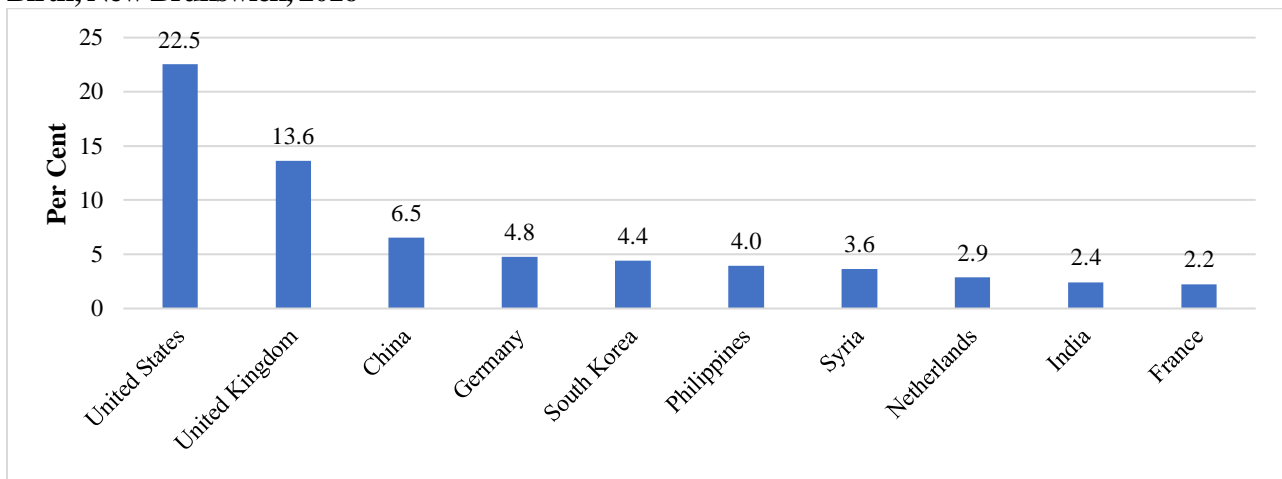
period (Chart 19).⁹ Syria followed as the second most important source of immigrants to New Brunswick between 2011 and 2016; 12.3 per cent of immigrants to New Brunswick over the 2011-2016 period were born in Syria. Immigrants from the Philippines to New Brunswick followed as the third most important group between 2011 and 2016. In fourth and fifth place, persons born in South Korea and the United States accounted for 6.4 per cent and 6.2 per cent of total immigrants to New Brunswick, respectively.

Chart 17: Share of Immigrants (Foreign-Born Persons) in the Total Population, by Province, Canada, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity Highlight Tables, 2016 Census

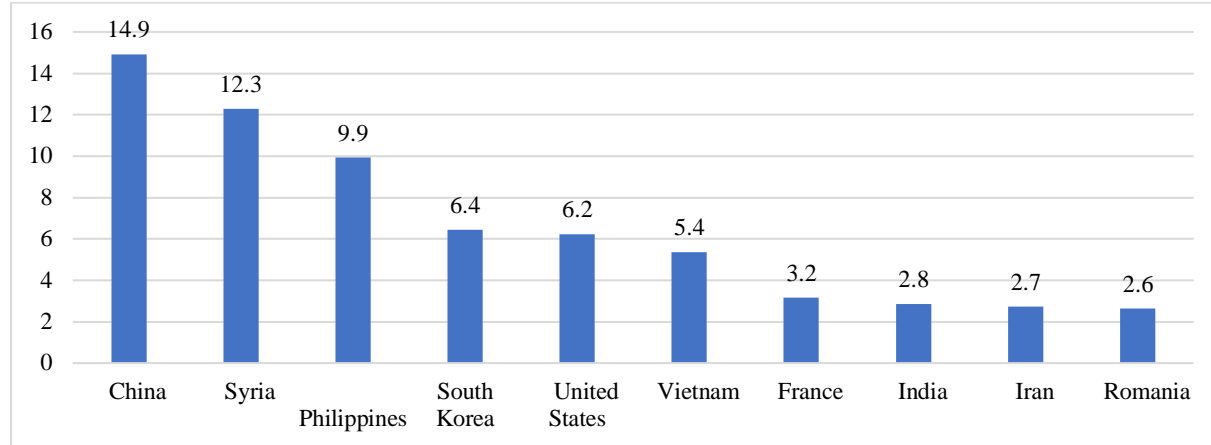
Chart 18: Share of Gross Immigrant Population (Foreign-Born Persons) by Top 10 Countries of Birth, New Brunswick, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity Highlight Tables, 2016 Census

⁹ Between 2011 and 2016, the top five countries of birth of gross immigrants to Canada were (in order from greatest to least): the Philippines, India, China, Iran and Pakistan. (Statistics Canada, Ethnocultural Diversity Highlight Tables, 2016 Census).

Chart 19: Share of Total Gross Immigrants to New Brunswick by Top 10 Countries of Birth, 2011-2016



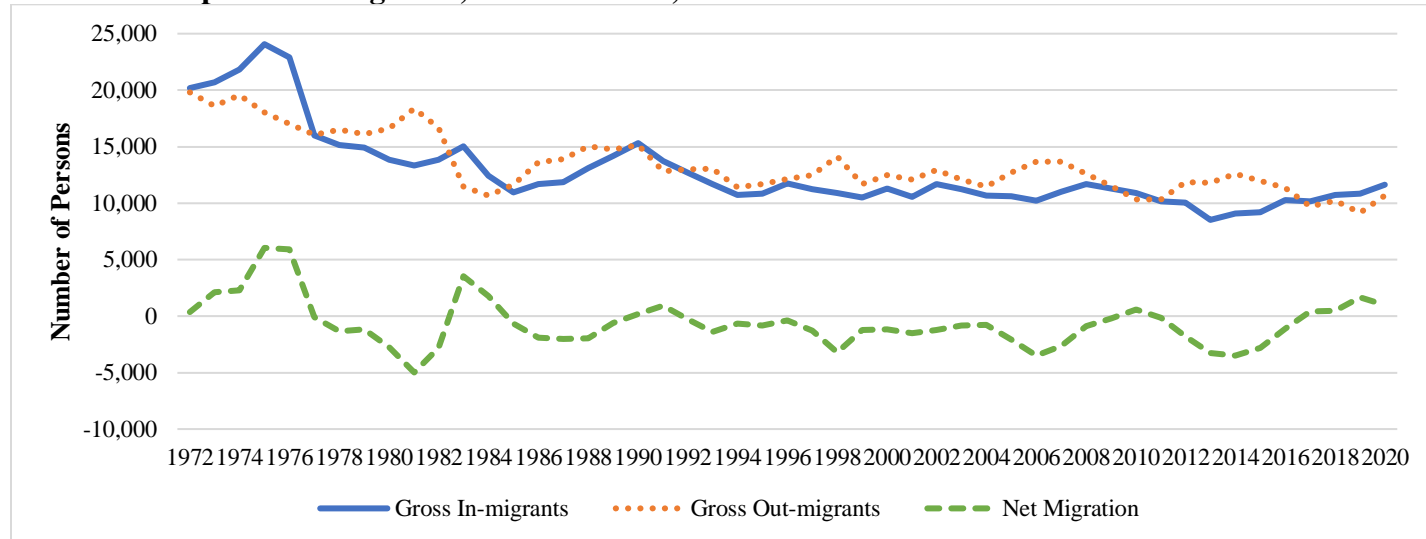
Source: Statistics Canada, Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity Highlight Tables, 2016 Census

ii. Interprovincial Migration

Net interprovincial migration varied by year between 1972 to 2020, resulting in an overall net cumulative loss of 29,841 people to other provinces or territories. Of this total loss, 75 per cent (22,245 persons) occurred between 2001 and 2020, while only 25 per cent (7,596 persons) occurred between 1972 and 2000 (Table 2).

In 1972, 20,190 people settled in New Brunswick from another province or territory, while 19,806 people left New Brunswick for another province or territory, resulting in net interprovincial migration of 384 (Chart 20). Net interprovincial migration reached a peak of 6,037 in 1975 and a minimum of -4,989 in 1981. From 1981 to 2020, net interprovincial migration varied by year. In 2020, interprovincial migrants to New Brunswick outnumbered those leaving New Brunswick for another province by 963 persons.

Chart 20: Interprovincial Migration, New Brunswick, 1972-2020



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0015-01

Between 1972 and 2020, 626,976 persons migrated to New Brunswick from another province or territory. Ontario was the leading source of interprovincial migrants to New Brunswick over the period. Persons from Ontario accounted for 33.4 per cent (209,389 persons) of these migrants (Panel A of Chart 21). Accounting for 122,505 persons or 19.5 per cent of total migrants to New Brunswick, persons from Nova Scotia followed those from Ontario as the second most important source of interprovincial migrants to New Brunswick between 1972 and 2020. 110,769 persons moved to New Brunswick from Quebec over the period, making Quebec the third most important source of interprovincial migrants to New Brunswick. Migrants from Alberta and British Columbia followed, accounting for 10.7 per cent and 5.6 of total migrants over the period, respectively.

In addition to being the most important source of interprovincial migrants to New Brunswick during the overall 1972-2020 period, Ontario was the leading source of interprovincial migrants to New Brunswick in 2020. In 2020, 4,016 persons moved from Ontario to New Brunswick, such that Ontarians accounted for 34.6 per cent of total interprovincial migrants to New Brunswick in 2020 (Panel B of Chart 20). 1,844 Albertans migrated to New Brunswick in 2020, representing 15.9 per cent of total interprovincial migrants to New Brunswick. Nova Scotia was a close third, supplying 15.7 per cent of interprovincial migrants to New Brunswick in 2020. Migrants from Quebec and British Columbia accounted for 12.5 per cent and 7.8 per cent of interprovincial migrants to New Brunswick in 2020, respectively.

New Brunswick lost 656,817 persons to other provinces or territories between 1972 and 2020. In addition to being the leading source of interprovincial migrants to New Brunswick, Ontario was also the leading destination of interprovincial migrants from New Brunswick over the 1972-2020 period (Panel C of Chart 20). Between 1972 and 2020, 208,638 persons migrated from New Brunswick to Ontario, representing 31.8 per cent of the total interprovincial migrants from New Brunswick over the period. Nova Scotia was the second most popular destination of persons leaving New Brunswick between 1972 and 2020; 128,603 persons (19.6 per cent of total out-migrants from New Brunswick) left New Brunswick for Nova Scotia over the 1972-2020 period. 100,195 persons migrated from New Brunswick to Quebec over the period, making Quebec the third most important destination of out-migrants from New Brunswick. Alberta and British Columbia attracted 15.2 per cent and 6.6 per cent of total interprovincial migrants from New Brunswick, respectively.

The same five most popular provinces of destination for interprovincial migrants leaving New Brunswick during the overall 1972-2020 period were the five most popular provinces of destination in 2020 (Panel D of Chart 20). In 2020, 10,643 persons left New Brunswick for another province or territory. 3,270 (or 30.7 per cent) of these persons settled in Ontario, making Ontario the leading destination of interprovincial migrants from New Brunswick in 2020. Alberta attracted 2,113 persons from New Brunswick, or 19.9 per cent of total interprovincial migrants from New Brunswick. 1,994 persons left New Brunswick for Nova Scotia. Quebec and British Columbia attracted 14.7 per cent and 8.1 per cent of total interprovincial migrants from New Brunswick, respectively.

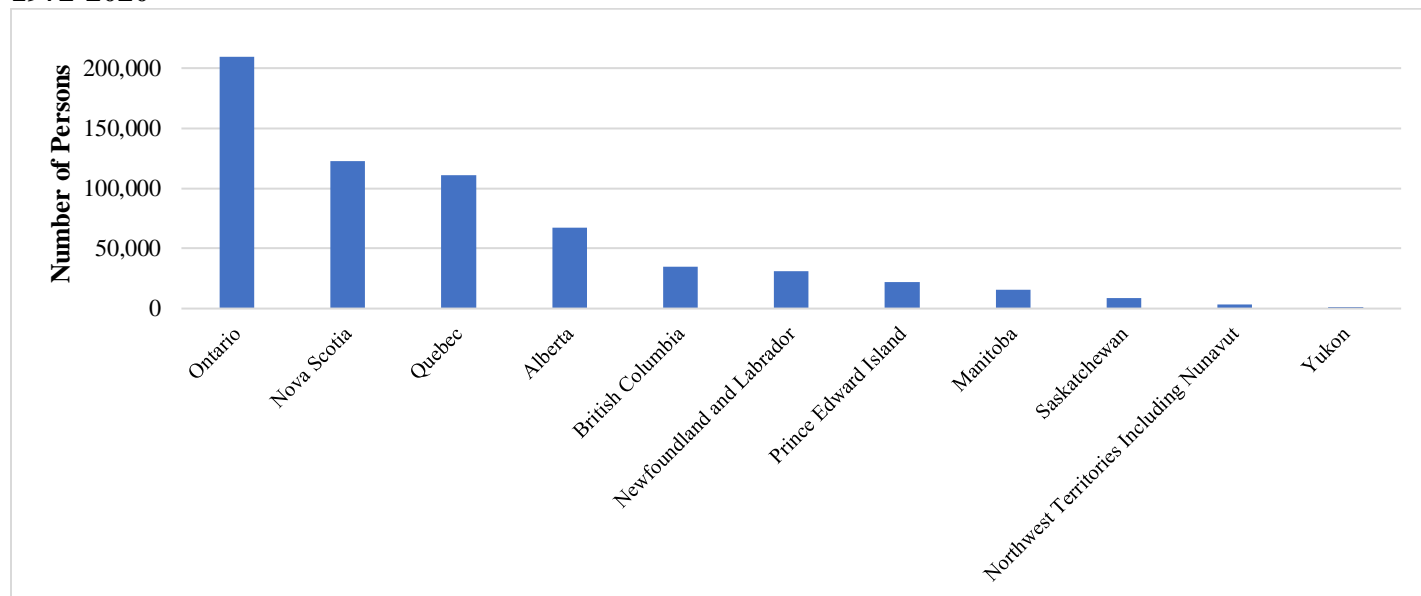
On net, between 1972 and 2020, New Brunswick gained the most interprovincial migrants from Quebec; net interprovincial migration from Quebec to New Brunswick was

10,574 persons over the period. On the other hand, interprovincial out-migrants from New Brunswick to Alberta exceeded in-migrants from Alberta to New Brunswick by 32,549 persons between 1972 and 2020, making Alberta the greatest source of net losses to interprovincial migration.

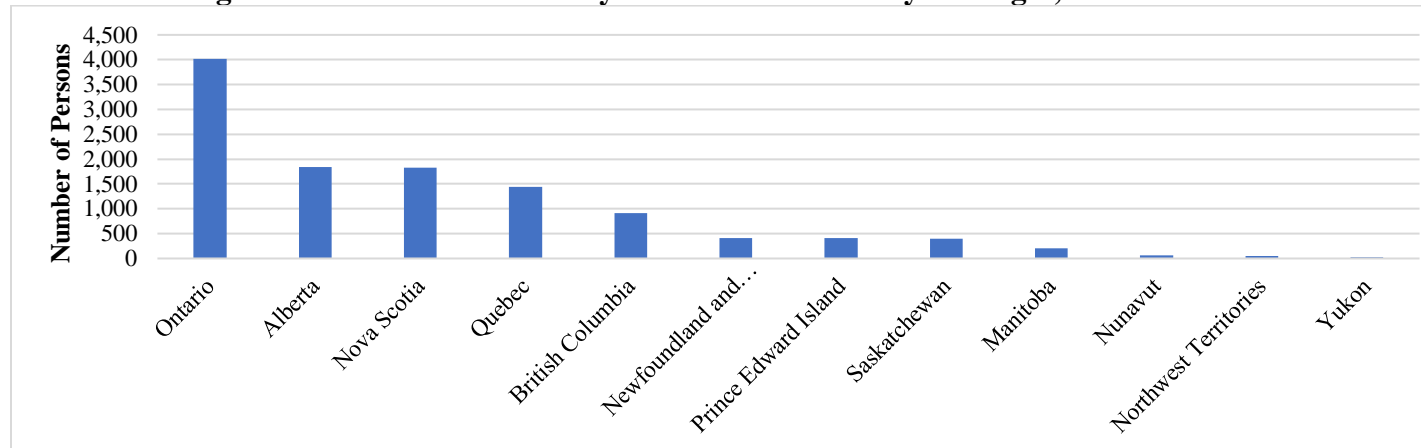
New Brunswick also lost the most net interprovincial migrants to Alberta in 2020; in 2020, interprovincial out-migrants from New Brunswick to Alberta exceeded in-migrants from Alberta to New Brunswick by 269 persons. In contrast, gains to New Brunswick from Ontario exceeded losses to Ontario by 746 persons, the greatest net interprovincial migration to New Brunswick from any of the provinces and territories in 2020.

Chart 21: Interprovincial Migration to and from New Brunswick by Province or Territory of Destination, 1972-2020

Panel A: Cumulative In-Migration to New Brunswick by Province or Territory of Origin, 1972-2020

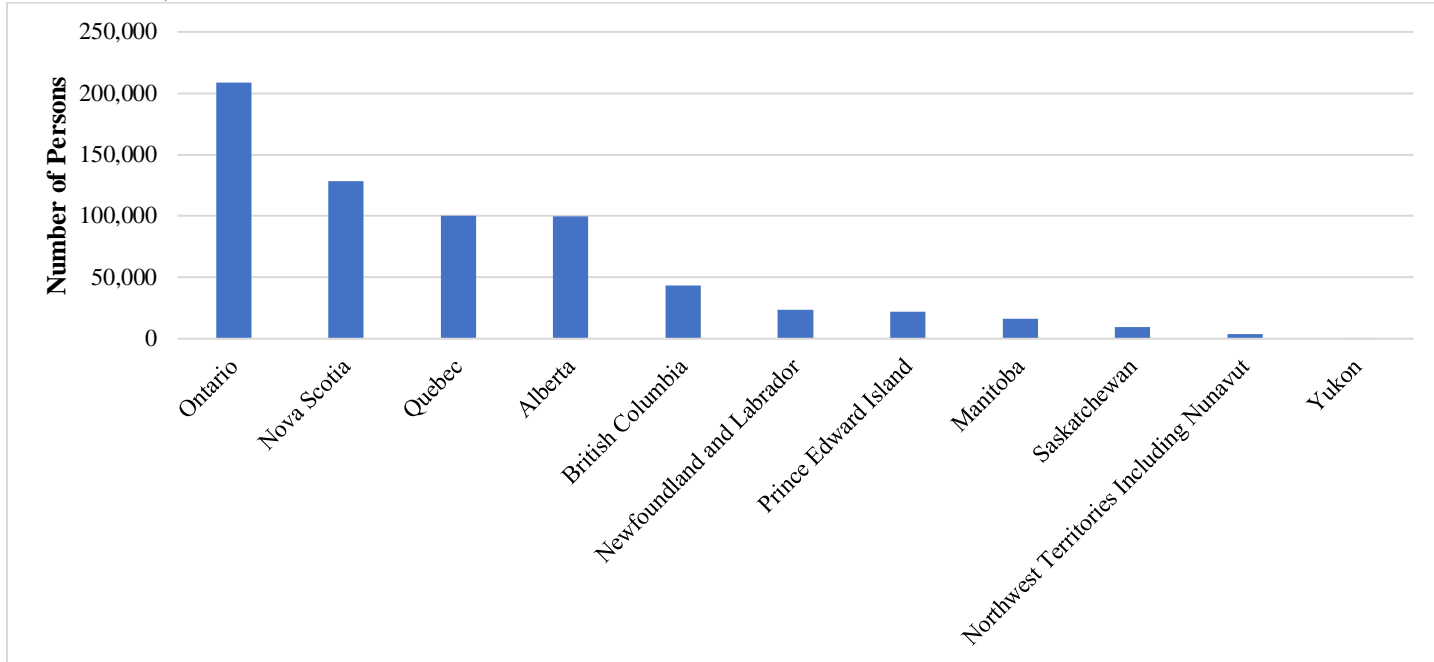


Panel B: In-Migration to New Brunswick by Province or Territory of Origin, 2020

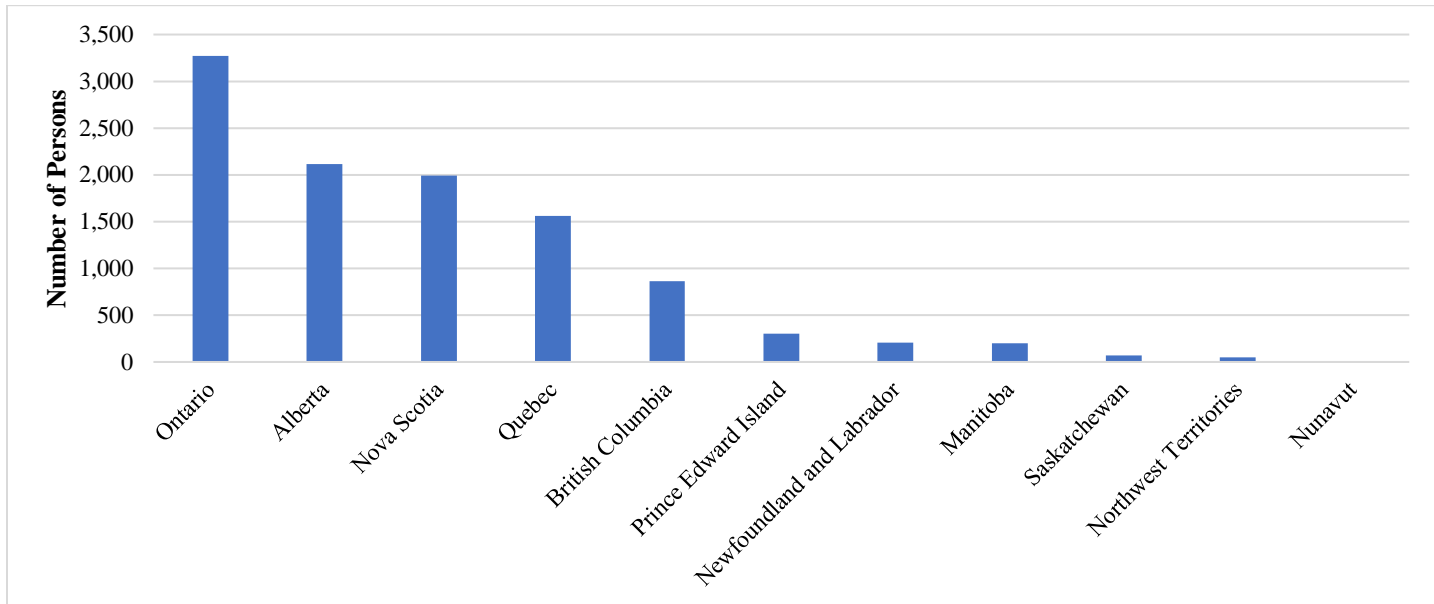


Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0022-01

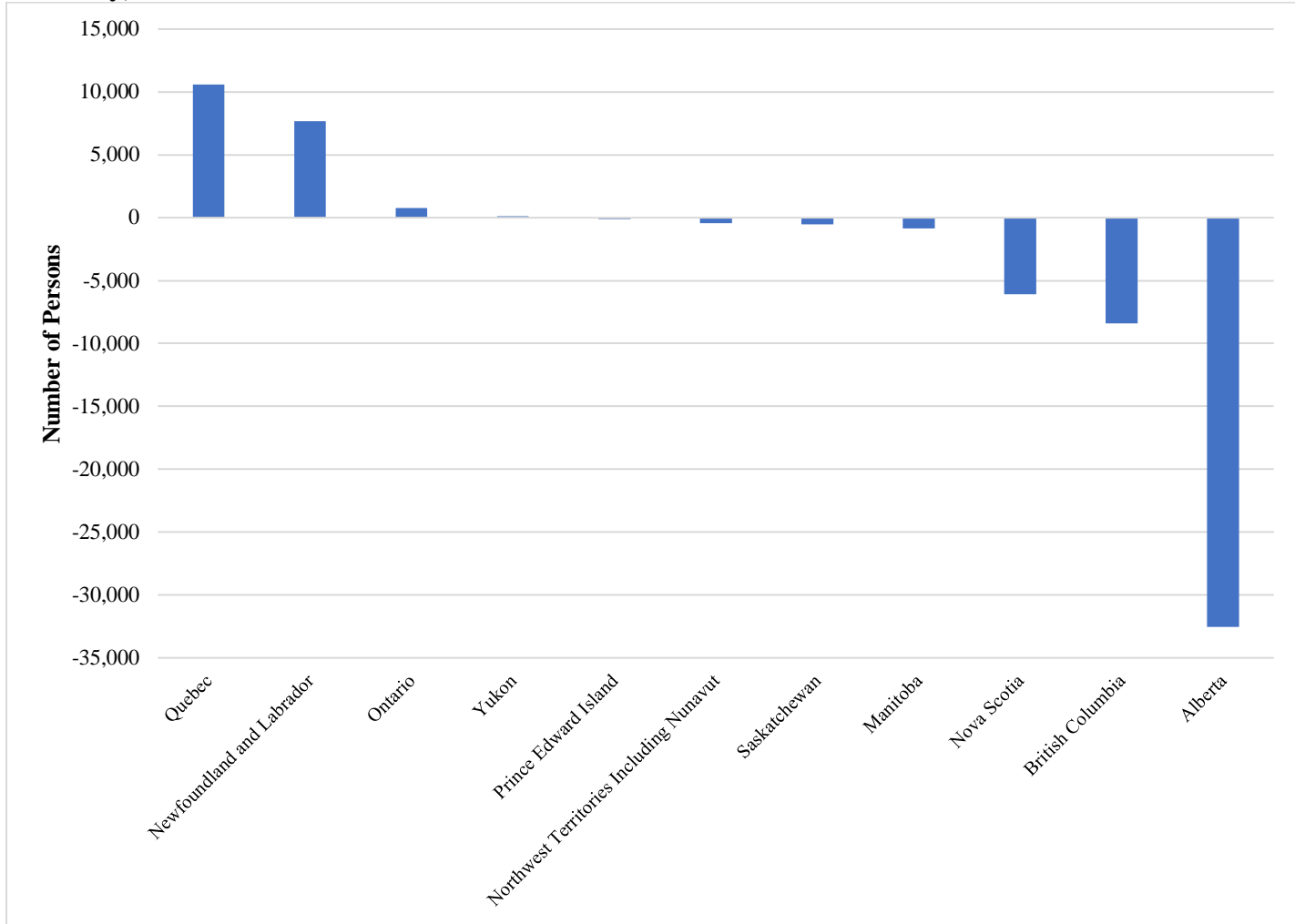
Panel C: Cumulative Out-Migration from New Brunswick by Province or Territory of Destination, 1972-2020



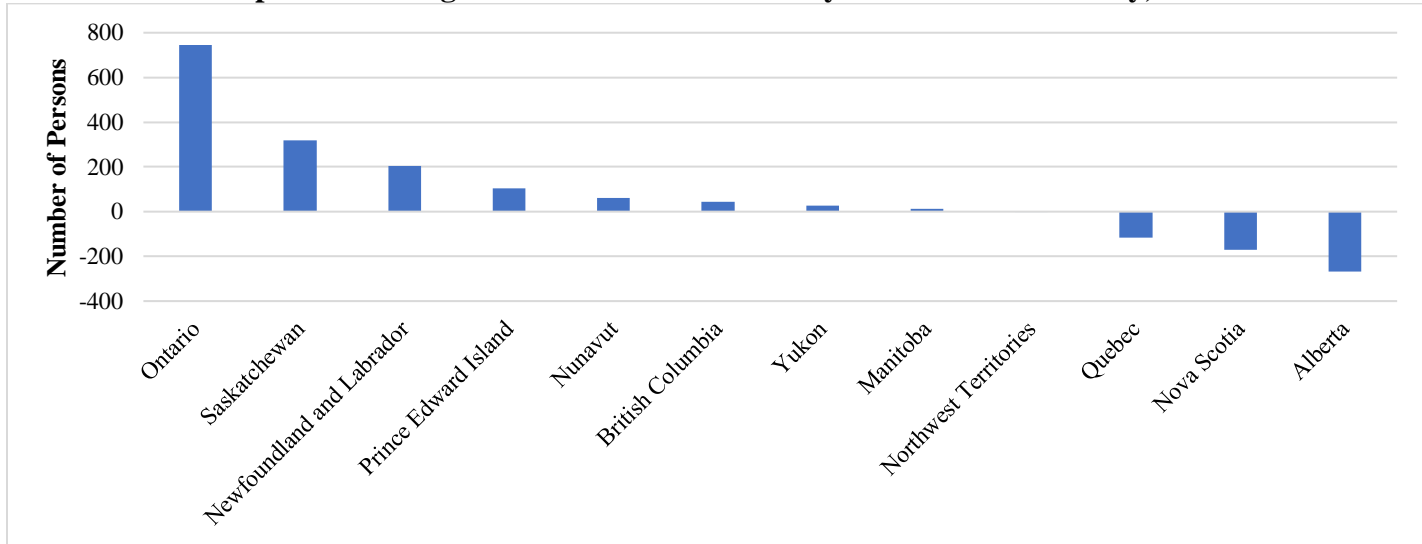
Panel D: Out-Migration from New Brunswick by Province or Territory of Destination, 2020



Panel E: Cumulative Net Interprovincial Migration to New Brunswick by Province or Territory, 1972-2020



Panel F: Net Interprovincial Migration to New Brunswick by Province or Territory, 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0022-01

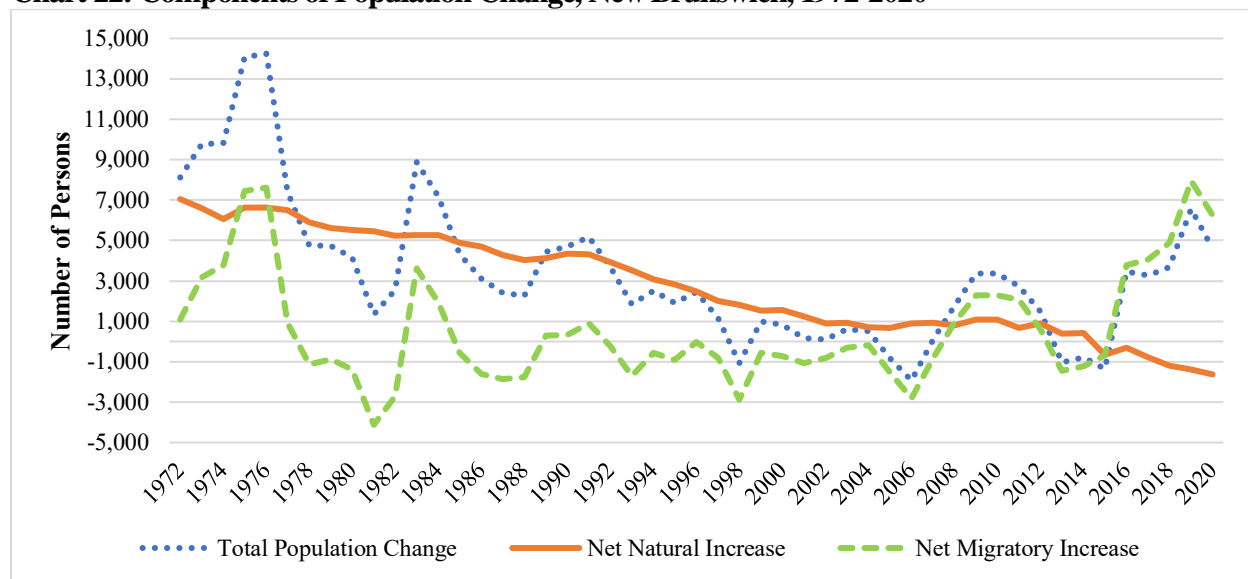
C. Natural Increase Compared to Migratory Increase

The cumulative natural increase in the population (births minus deaths) between 1972 and 2020 was 136,860, or 81.7 per cent of total cumulative population increase (Table 2). The cumulative population increase due to migratory increase was much smaller, at 18.3 per cent of the total cumulative population increase. But these overall numbers for 1972 to 2020 mask the recent shift in contributions to population growth: as New Brunswick’s natural rate of increase has dropped below zero, migration has become the sole contributor to population growth.

As shown in Chart 13, from 1972 to 2014, the natural increase exceeded the migratory increase in all but five years (1975 to 1976 and 2009 to 2011). Throughout this period, however, the natural increase steadily declined — so much so, that in 2015 the migratory increase climbed above the natural increase, where it has since stayed. From 2011 to 2020, the cumulative migratory increase was 26,164 persons, while natural increase caused a cumulative loss of 3,574 persons (Table 2).

In recent years, immigration has been bolstered by the Atlantic Immigration Pilot. Implemented in March 2017 as part of the Atlantic Growth Strategy, the Atlantic Immigration Pilot aims to address labour market shortages by working with employers to attract skilled immigrants to Atlantic Canada. By December 2019, the pilot had facilitated the arrival of more than 2,500 newcomers to New Brunswick (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, 2020).

Chart 22: Components of Population Change, New Brunswick, 1972-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0008-01

Table 2: Components of Population Change, New Brunswick, 1972-2020

Panel A: Cumulative Population Change, 1972-2020

Cumulative Change	Total Population Change	Net Natural Increase	Share of Total Change	Net Migratory Increase	Share of Total Change	Net International Migration	Share of Total Change	Net Interprovincial Migration	Share of Total Change
1972-2020	167,489	136,860	81.7	30,629	18.3	60,470	36.1	-29,841	-17.8
1972-2000	137,705	131,192	95.3	6,513	4.7	14,109	10.2	-7,596	-5.5
2001-2020	29,784	5,668	19.0	24,116	81.0	46,361	155.7	-22,245	-74.7
1972-1980	77,117	56,518	73.3	20,599	26.7	9,262	12.0	11,337	14.7
1981-1990	41,089	47,605	115.9	-6,516	-15.9	2,950	7.2	-9,466	-23.0
1991-2000	19,499	27,069	138.8	-7,570	-38.8	1,897	9.7	-9,467	-48.6
2001-2013	10,338	11,201	108.3	-863	-8.3	17,509	169.4	-18,372	-177.7
2014-2020	19,446	-5,533	-28.5	24,979	128.5	28,852	148.4	-3,873	-19.9
2001-2010	7,194	9,242	128.5	-2,048	-28.5	11,070	153.9	-13,118	-182.3
2011-2020	22,590	-3,574	-15.8	26,164	115.8	35,291	156.2	-9,127	-40.4

Note: Data for the number of net temporary emigrants were not available between 1972 and 1991. Consequently, total population change and net international migration may not be accurate for years before 1992.

Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0008-01

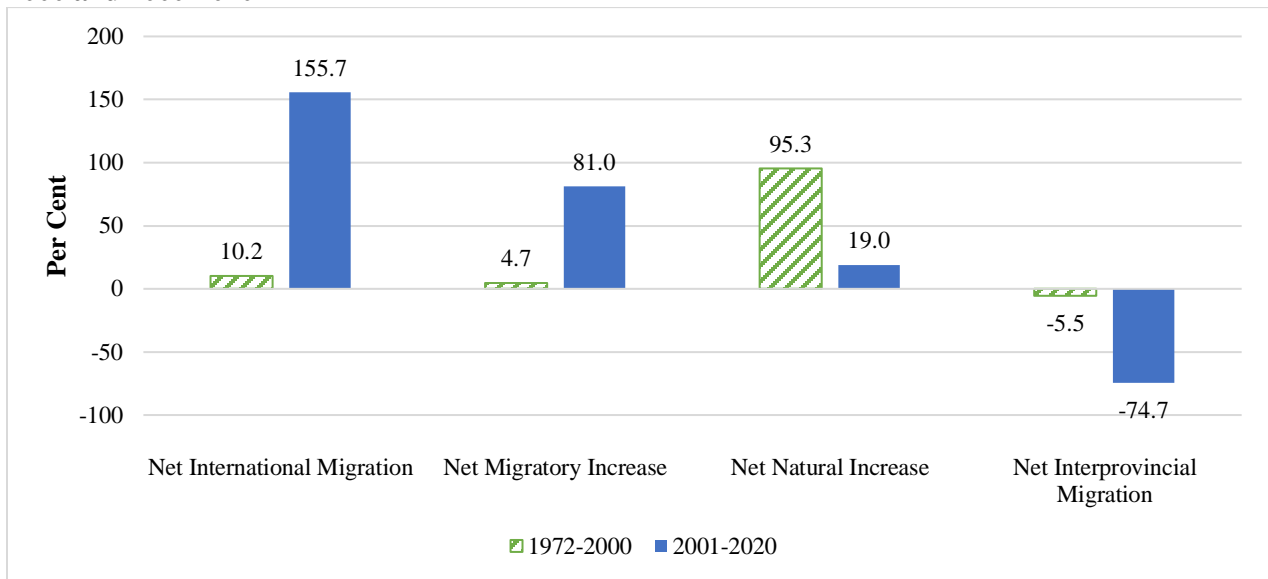
Panel B: Average Annual Population Change, 1972-2020

Average Annual Change	Total Population Change	Net Natural Increase	Net Migratory Increase	Net International Migration	Net Interprovincial Migration
1972-2020	3,418.1	2,793.1	625.1	1,234.1	-609.0
1972-2000	4,748.4	4,523.9	224.6	486.5	-261.9
2001-2020	1,489.2	283.4	1,205.8	2,318.1	-1,112.3
1972-1980	8,568.6	6,279.8	2,288.8	1,029.1	1,259.7
1981-1990	4,108.9	4,760.5	-651.6	295.0	-946.6
1991-2000	1,949.9	2,706.9	-757.0	189.7	-946.7
2001-2013	795.2	861.6	-66.4	1,346.8	-1,413.2
2014-2020	2,778.0	-790.4	3,568.4	4,121.7	-553.3
2001-2010	719.4	924.2	-204.8	1,107.0	-1,311.8
2011-2020	2,259.0	-357.4	2,616.4	3,529.1	-912.7

Note: Data for the number of net temporary emigrants were not available between 1972 and 1991. Consequently, total population change and net international migration may not be accurate for years before 1992.

Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0008-01

Chart 23: Share of Total Cumulative Population Change by Component, New Brunswick, 1972-2000 and 2000-2020



Note: Data for the number of net temporary emigrants were not available between 1972 and 1991. Consequently, total population change and net international migration may not be accurate for years before 1992.

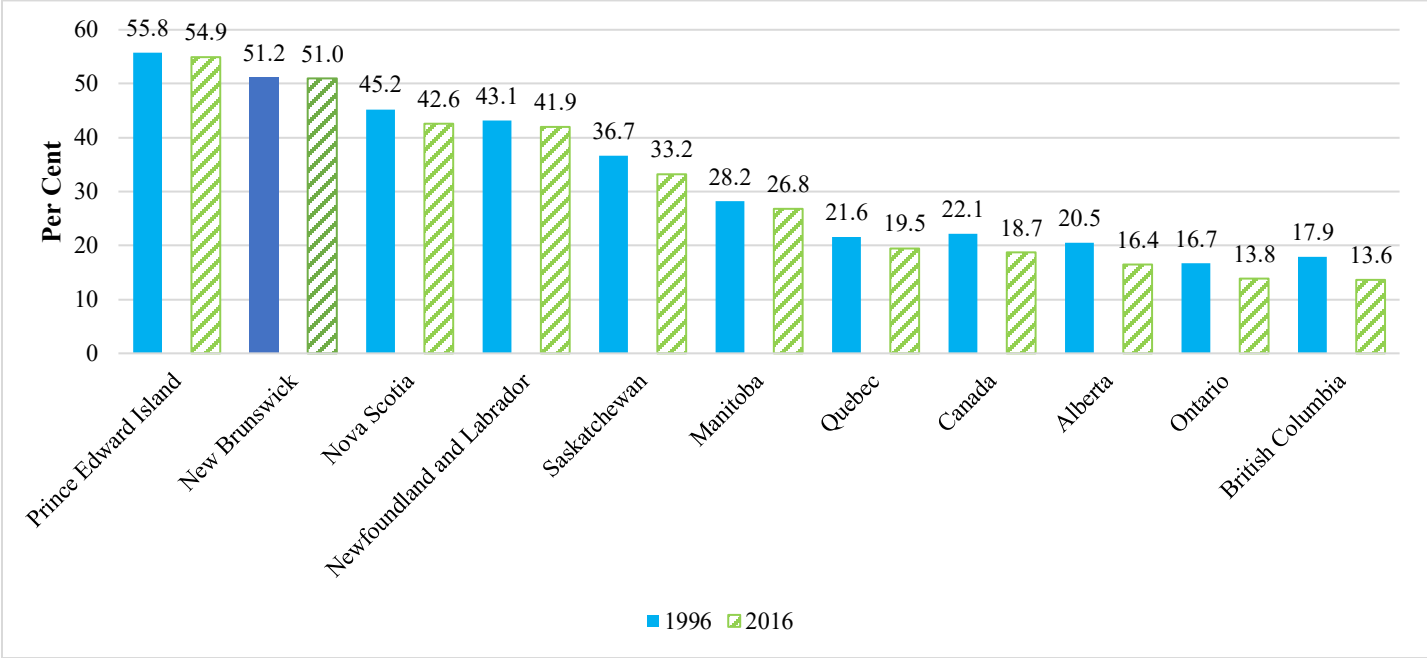
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0008-01

VI. Urban Versus Rural

Statistics Canada defines a rural area as an area outside of a population centre, which is an area with a population of at least 1,000 and a population density of 400 persons or more per square kilometre.¹⁰ Rural areas include areas outside of the population centre of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA), as well as rural areas outside of CMAs and CAs. This explains the fact that although only about one third of New Brunswick’s population lives outside of a CMA or a CA, about 50 per cent of the population lives in a rural area.

New Brunswick is much more rural than the national average. Roughly 50 per cent of New Brunswick’s population lived in rural areas between 1996 and 2016. In contrast, the national share fell from 22.1 per cent in 1996 to 18.7 per cent in 2016 (Chart 24). While the share of the population living in a rural area declined between 1996 and 2016 in all of the other provinces, the share of New Brunswick’s population living in a rural area saw virtually no change, from 51.2 per cent in 1996 to 51.0 per cent in 2016. In both 1996 and 2016, New Brunswick had the second highest share of persons living in a rural area of all the provinces.

Chart 24: Share of the Population Living in Rural Areas by Province, Canada, 1996 and 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census Data Tables

¹⁰ For a more detailed definition of a rural area, see <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/geo042-eng.cfm>. For a more detailed definition of a population centre, see <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/geo049a-eng.cfm>.

Part Two: New Brunswick’s Demographics by Census Division, 1981-2020

Part two examines New Brunswick’s population by region between 1981 and 2020. Overall, Southern and Central New Brunswick have performed better than Northern New Brunswick in terms of population growth, population aging and immigration.

I. Population Size of New Brunswick Census Divisions, 1981-2020

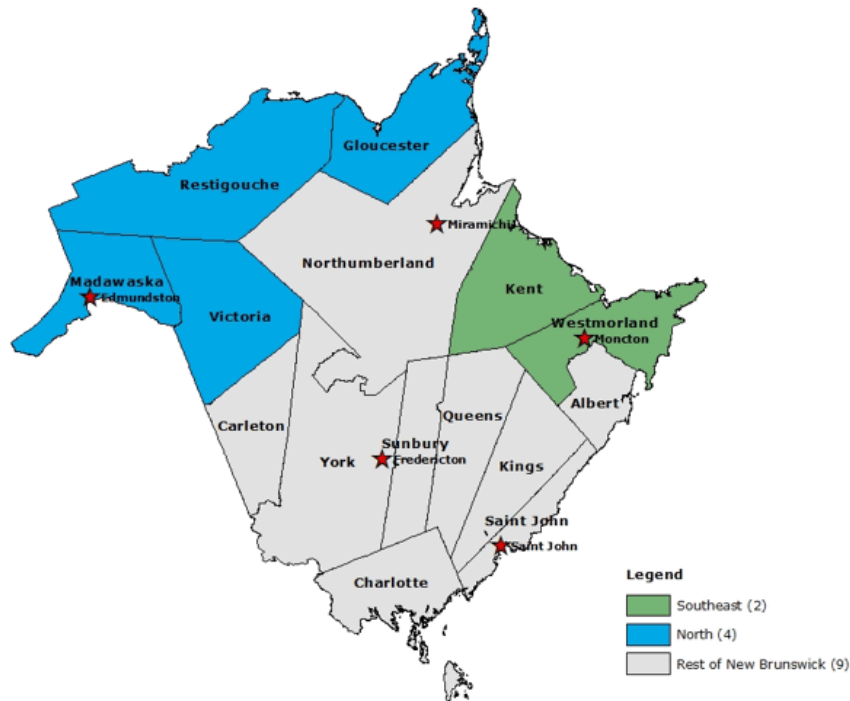
New Brunswick is divided into 15 census divisions, all of which are counties. This section examines population trends by census division between 1981 and 2020 using both census data between 1981 and 2016 and data from Statistics Canada’s estimates program “Annual Demographic Estimates: Subprovincial Areas,” as found in Table 17-10-0139-01 between 2001 and 2020. Northern New Brunswick includes Gloucester, Restigouche, Madawaska and Victoria counties. Central New Brunswick includes Northumberland, Queens, Sunbury, York and Carleton counties. Southern New Brunswick includes Albert, Kings, Saint John and Charlotte counties. Southeastern New Brunswick includes Kent and Westmorland counties. Chart 25 shows the shares of the counties in New Brunswick’s total population in 1981, 2001 and 2020. Westmorland is by far New Brunswick’s largest county by population; in 2020, Westmorland had a population of 164,065, or 21.0 per cent of New Brunswick’s population. In 2020, York had the second largest population (107,917, or 13.8 per cent of New Brunswick’s population). Gloucester and Saint John claimed nearly identical shares of New Brunswick’s population in 2020, at 10.1 per cent and 10.0 per cent, respectively. Queens had the smallest population; in 2020, Queens had a population of 10,263, or 1.3 per cent of New Brunswick’s population.

Geographic Relationship Between CMAs and Census Divisions in New Brunswick

Moncton CMA is located in Westmorland, Kent and Albert counties. Saint John CMA is located Saint John, Kings, Queens and Charlotte counties. Fredericton CMA is located in York and Sunbury counties.

In 2020, Central New Brunswick had a population of 219,251, or 28.1 per cent of the total population in New Brunswick. Southern New Brunswick had a population of 205,344, or 26.3 per cent of the total population of New Brunswick. With a population of 195,723, Southeastern New Brunswick accounted for a quarter of the province’s total population. Northern New Brunswick was the smallest region by population; Northern New Brunswick had a population of 161,158, or 20.6 per cent of the total population of New Brunswick.

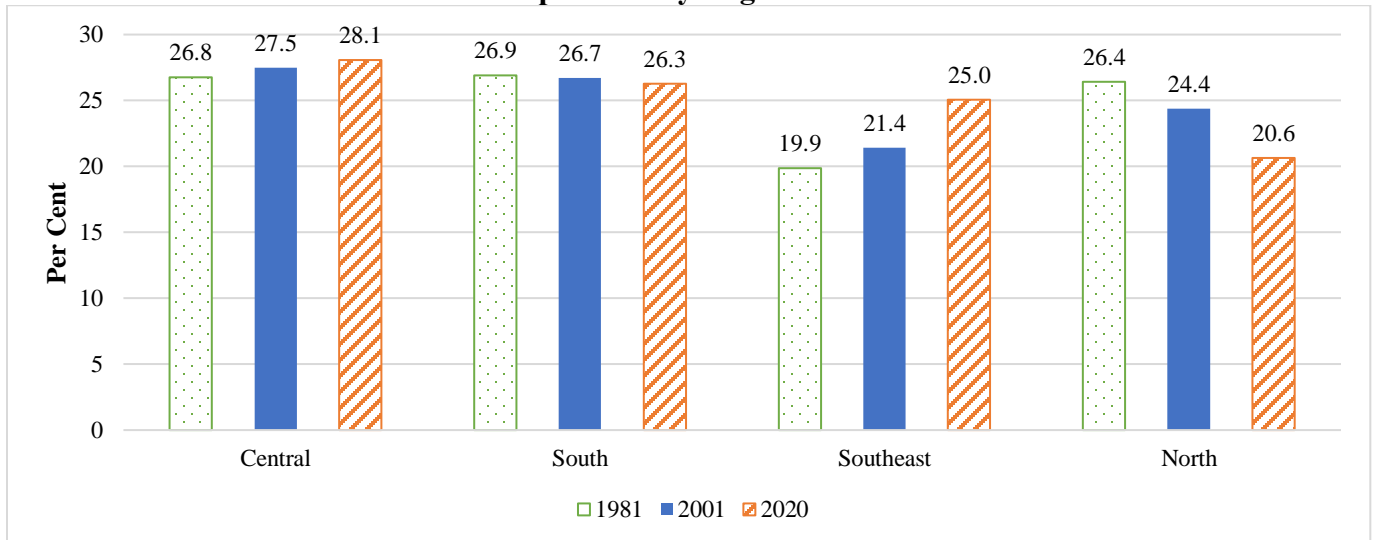
Map 1: New Brunswick Census Divisions (Counties)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-657-x/2016001/m-c/mc-a2-eng.htm>)

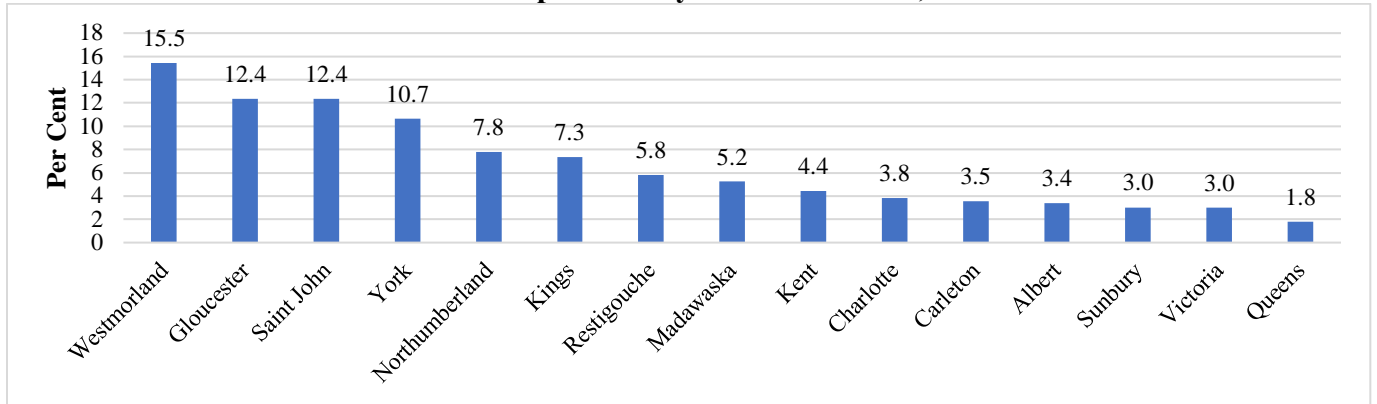
Chart 25: Share of New Brunswick’s Population by Region and by Census Division, 1981, 2001 and 2020

Panel A: Share of New Brunswick’s Population by Region



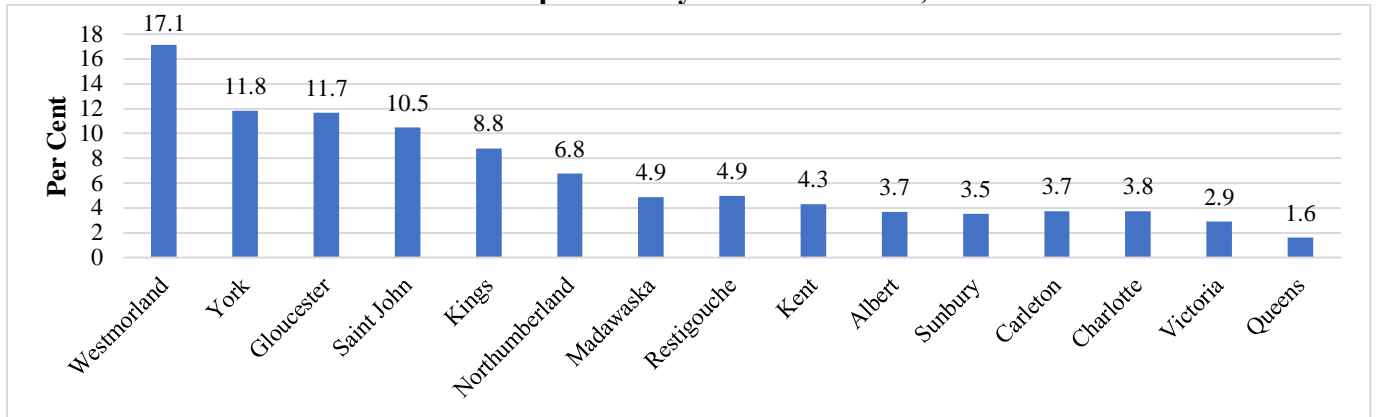
Source, 1981: Statistics Canada, Census Data Tables; Source, 2001 and 2020: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0139-01

Panel B: Share of New Brunswick's Population by Census Division, 1981



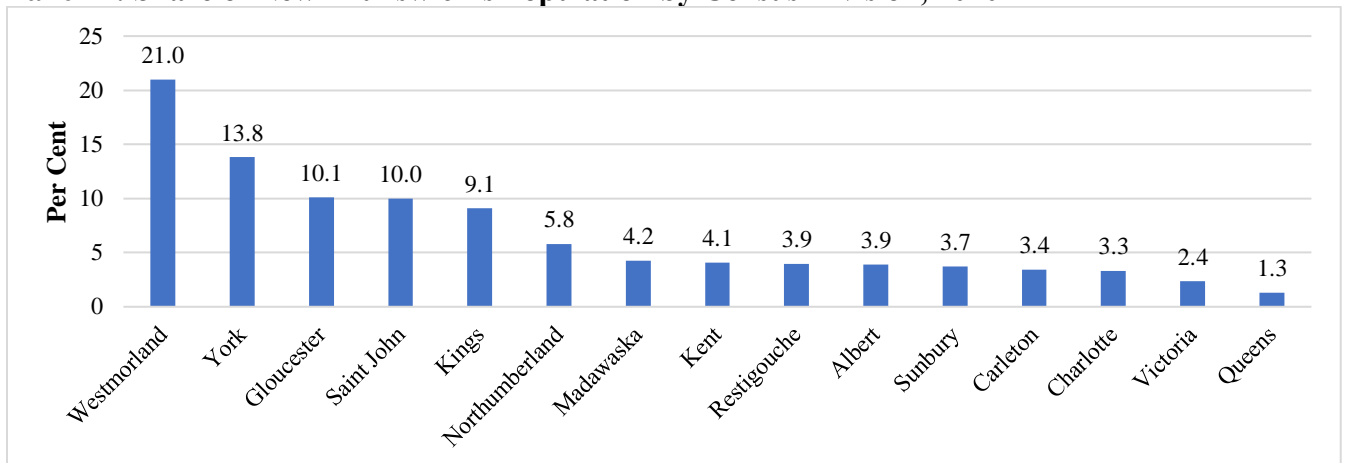
Source: Statistics Canada, Census Data Tables

Panel C: Share of New Brunswick's Population by Census Division, 2001



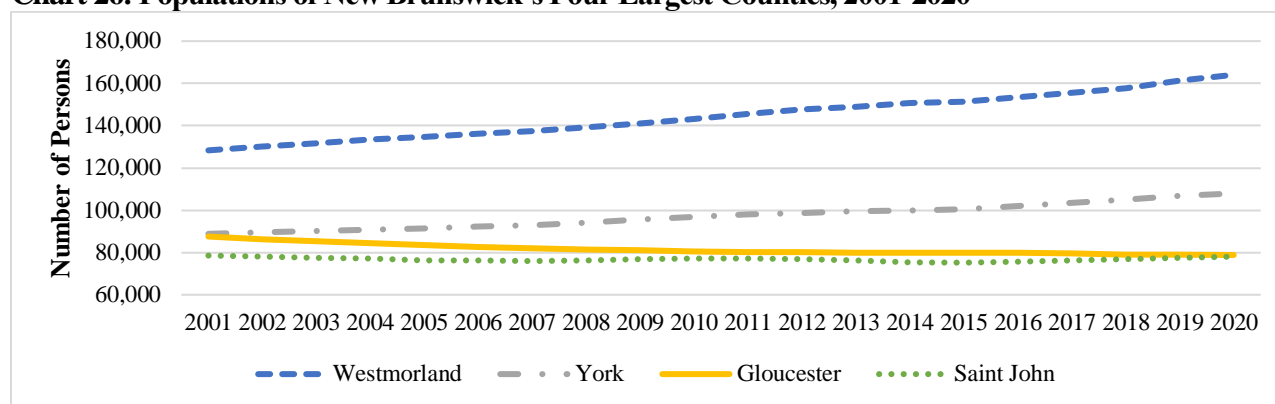
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0139-01

Panel D: Share of New Brunswick's Population by Census Division, 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0139-01

Chart 26: Populations of New Brunswick’s Four Largest Counties, 2001-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0139-01

Between 1981 and 2020, New Brunswick’s population grew at a compound annual rate of 0.30 per cent (Panel B of Table 3). Eight of the 15 counties suffered population declines over the 1981-2020 period (Table 6). For 12 of the 15 counties, the population either grew at a slower rate or declined even faster after 2001 than before 2001.

Between 1981 and 2020, Southeastern New Brunswick saw the strongest population growth. The population of Southeastern New Brunswick grew at a compound annual rate of 0.89 per cent, 0.59 points above the provincial rate (Panel B of Table 3). The population of Central New Brunswick followed, increasing at a compound annual rate of 0.42 per cent. The population of Southern New Brunswick increased by 0.23 per cent per year, while that of Northern New Brunswick fell by 0.34 per cent per year. The same order was preserved in each decade between 1981 and 2020.

The populations of all four northern counties (Gloucester, Restigouche, Madawaska and Victoria) declined over the 1981-2020 period (Panel B of Appendix Table xx). Restigouche saw the greatest decline; Restigouche’s population fell at 0.70 per cent per year, from 40,593 to 30,810 persons (Panel A and Panel B of Appendix Table xx). Victoria’s population posted modest growth of 0.08 per cent per year between 1981 and 2001 before declining by 0.86 per cent per year between 2001 and 2020. In the other three northern counties, the population decreased at a faster compound annual rate in the 2001-2020 period than in the 1981-2001 period.

Three of the five central counties (York, Sunbury and Carleton) saw their populations increase between 1981 and 2020, while the other two central counties (Northumberland and Queens) saw their populations shrink (Panel C and Panel D of Appendix Table xx). York’s population grew at the fastest rate over the period; York’s population rose at 0.96 per cent per year, from 74,213 to 107,917. Between 1981 and 2001, Sunbury posted the strongest growth, at 1.03 per cent per year. During the 2001-2020 period, Sunbury’s population growth fell to 0.46 per cent per year, while York’s population growth pulled ahead at 1.03 per cent per year.

The populations of half of the southern counties (Kings and Albert) increased during the 1981-2020 period, and those of the other half (Saint John and Charlotte) decreased (Panel E and Panel F of Appendix Table xx). Saint John saw the largest population decline; between 1981 and

2020, Saint John’s population fell at a compound annual rate of 0.26 per cent, from 86,148 to 77,921. Between 1981 and 2001, the populations of Kings, Albert and Charlotte all increased (at compound annual rates of 1.15 per cent, 0.62 per cent and 0.15 per cent, respectively), while Saint John’s population fell at 0.60 per cent per year. Population growth slowed in both Kings and Albert between 2001 and 2020. Charlotte’s population fell over the 2001-2020 period. Saint John’s population continued to fall, though at a slower rate than pre-2001 (0.04 per cent per year versus 0.26 per cent per year).

The populations of both southeastern counties (Westmorland and Kent) increased between 1981 and 2020, but Westmorland’s population growth outpaced that of Kent by 1.02 points (Panel H of Appendix Table xx). In fact, Westmorland experienced the strongest population growth of all 15 counties between 1981 and 2020; Westmorland’s population increased at a compound annual rate of 1.09 per cent, from 107,640 to 164,065 persons (Panel G of Appendix Table xx).

Table 3: Population by Region, New Brunswick, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2020

Panel A: Population by Region

	North	Central	South	Southeast
1981	183,996	186,503	187,465	138,439
1991	184,200	197,430	195,840	146,440
2001*	175,845	202,860	194,730	156,065
2001**	182,921	206,145	200,170	160,584
2011	166,217	210,228	202,786	176,474
2020	161,158	219,251	205,344	195,723

*Source: Census Data Tables; **Source: Table 17-10-0139-01

Source: Statistics Canada. 1981, 1991 and 2001: Census Data Tables; 2001, 2011 and 2020: Table 17-10-0139-01

Panel B: Population Growth by Region (Compound Annual Growth Rates)

Compound Annual Growth Rates	New Brunswick	North	Central	South	Southeast
1981-2020	0.30	-0.34	0.42	0.23	0.89
1981-2001*	0.23	-0.23	0.42	0.19	0.60
2001-2020**	0.22	-0.66	0.32	0.13	1.05
1981-1991	0.39	0.01	0.57	0.44	0.56
1991-2001*	0.08	-0.46	0.27	-0.06	0.64
2001-2011	0.08	-0.95	0.20	0.13	0.95
2011-2020	0.37	-0.34	0.47	0.14	1.16

*Both numbers from Census Data Tables; **Both numbers from Table 17-10-0139-01

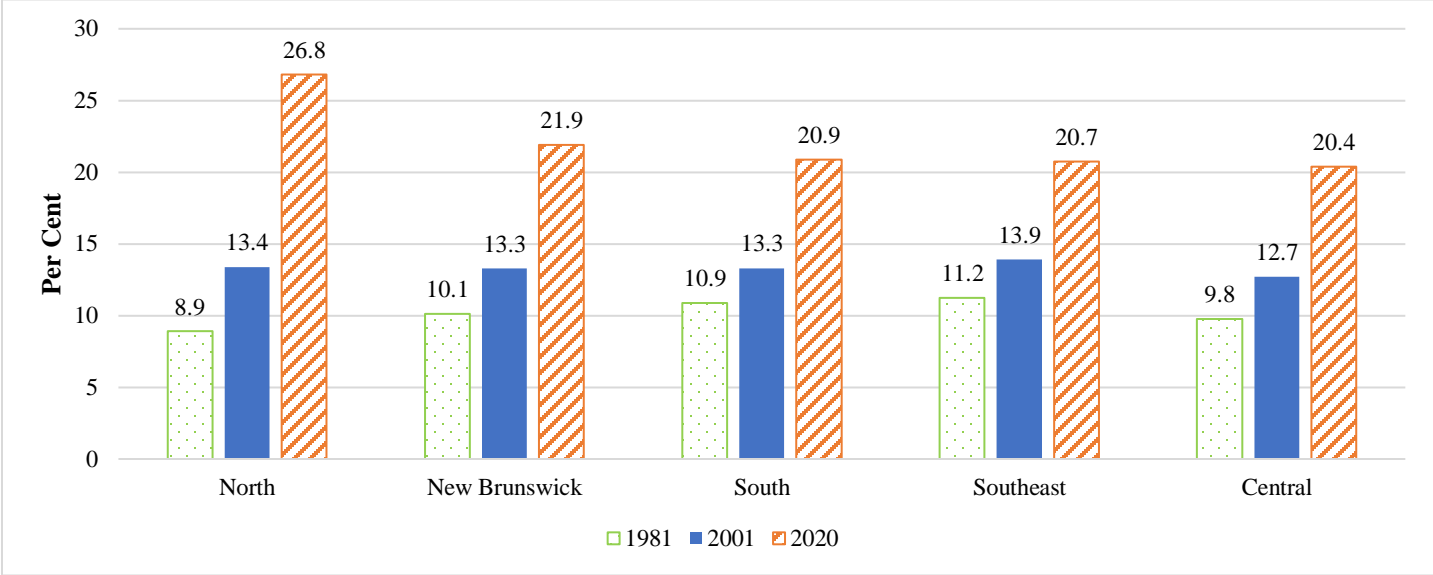
Source: Statistics Canada. 1981, 1991 and 2001: Census Data Tables; 2001, 2011 and 2020: Table 17-10-0139-01

II. Age Structure of New Brunswick Census Divisions, 1981-2020

Between 1981 and 2020, the share of seniors in New Brunswick’s population more than doubled; in 1981, seniors made up 10.1 per cent of New Brunswick’s population, and in 2020, seniors made up 21.9 per cent of New Brunswick’s population. Furthermore, while there were more than twice as many children under 15 as seniors in New Brunswick in 1981, by 2020, there were more than one and a half times as many New Brunswick seniors as there were people under 15. All of New Brunswick’s counties aged significantly between 1981 and 2020, but aging was not uniform across regions.

Of the four regions, Northern New Brunswick experienced the most dramatic aging between 1981 and 2020. In 1981, seniors made up 8.9 per cent of the population of Northern New Brunswick, the lowest share of the four regions (Chart 27). Between 1981 and 2020, the share of seniors in the population of Northern New Brunswick rose by 17.9 points (201.1 per cent), reaching 26.8 per cent in 2020. This was the largest share of all four regions. The shares of seniors in the total populations of the other three regions were all much lower, between 20 and 21 per cent.

Chart 27: Share of Seniors in the Total Population, by Region, New Brunswick, 1981, 2001 and 2020



Source, 1981: Statistics Canada, Census Data Tables; Source, 2001 and 2020: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0139-01

Victoria was the only northern county in which seniors made up a larger share of the population than did seniors at the provincial level (Panel A of Chart 28) in 1981. The shares of seniors in the other three northern counties (Gloucester, Restigouche and Madawaska) were below the provincial share. By 2001, the share of seniors in Restigouche’s population had shot up to 14.7 per cent, 1.3 points above the provincial share of 13.3 per cent (Panel B of Chart 28). In 2020, the shares of seniors in all four northern counties exceeded the provincial share (Panel C of Chart 27). Seniors made up 27.7 per cent of Gloucester’s population, the second largest share in all 15 counties. Between 1981 and 2020, Gloucester saw both the largest relative and absolute

increase in the share of seniors in its population; the share of seniors in Gloucester's population rose from 8.1 per cent to 27.7 per cent, an increase of 19.6 percentage points, or 241.9 per cent.

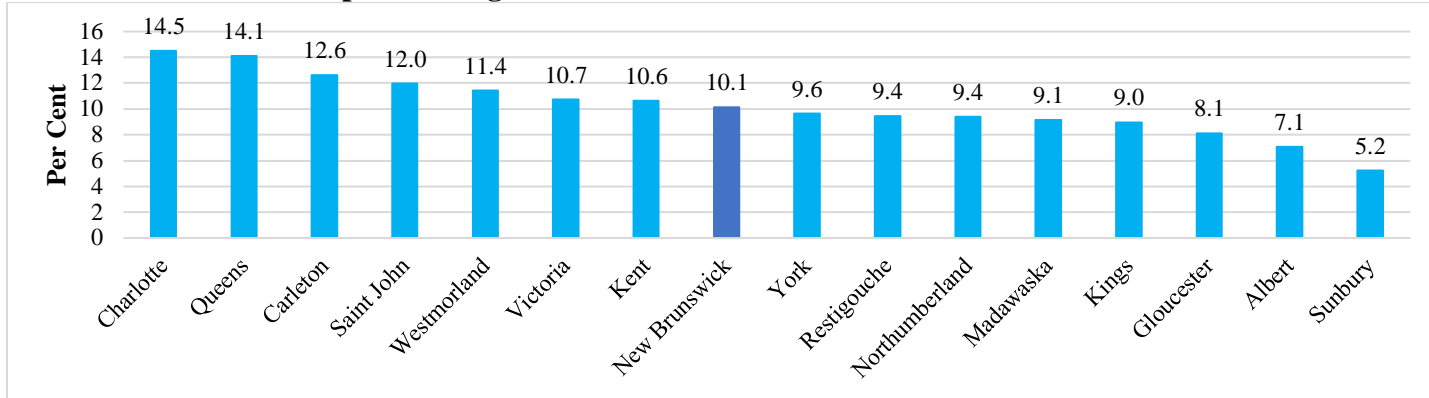
In 1981, the shares of seniors in two of the central counties (Queens and Carleton) exceeded the provincial share, and the shares in the other three central counties (Northumberland, Sunbury and York) were below the provincial share. Northumberland joined Queens and Carleton in exceeding the provincial share in 2001, while Sunbury and York remained below the provincial share. In 2020, seniors made up nearly a third of Queens' population, or 32.0 per cent, the largest share of seniors in all 15 counties. The share of seniors in Northumberland reached 25.9 per cent, 4.0 points above the provincial share. Sunbury, York and Carleton all had smaller share of seniors than did New Brunswick as a whole. Of all 15 counties, the share of seniors was lowest in Sunbury in 1981, 2001 and 2020.

In 1981, the shares of seniors in half of the southern counties (Saint John and Charlotte) exceeded the provincial share, and the shares in the other half (Albert and Kings) were below the provincial share. However, between 1981 and 2020, of all 15 counties, Saint John experienced the smallest absolute increase in the share of seniors in its population (7.8 percentage points). Consequently, in 2020, seniors made up 19.8 per cent of Saint John's population, such that the share of seniors in Saint John's population was below the provincial share and the fourth lowest share of all the counties. Charlotte saw the smallest relative increase in the share of seniors in its population (64.5 per cent). As a result, Charlotte went from having the highest share of seniors of all the counties in 1981 to the eighth highest in 2020, but it remained above the provincial share.

As for Southeast New Brunswick, the shares of seniors in Westmorland and in Kent were in the top half of the shares of all the counties and above the provincial share in both 1981 and 2001. However, while Kent remained in the top half and above the provincial average and 2020, Westmorland had fallen to third last by 2020. Between 2001 and 2020, the share of seniors in Westmorland rose 5.8 percentage points (42.1 per cent), from 13.8 per cent to 19.6 per cent. This was the smallest relative increase over the 2001-2020 period.

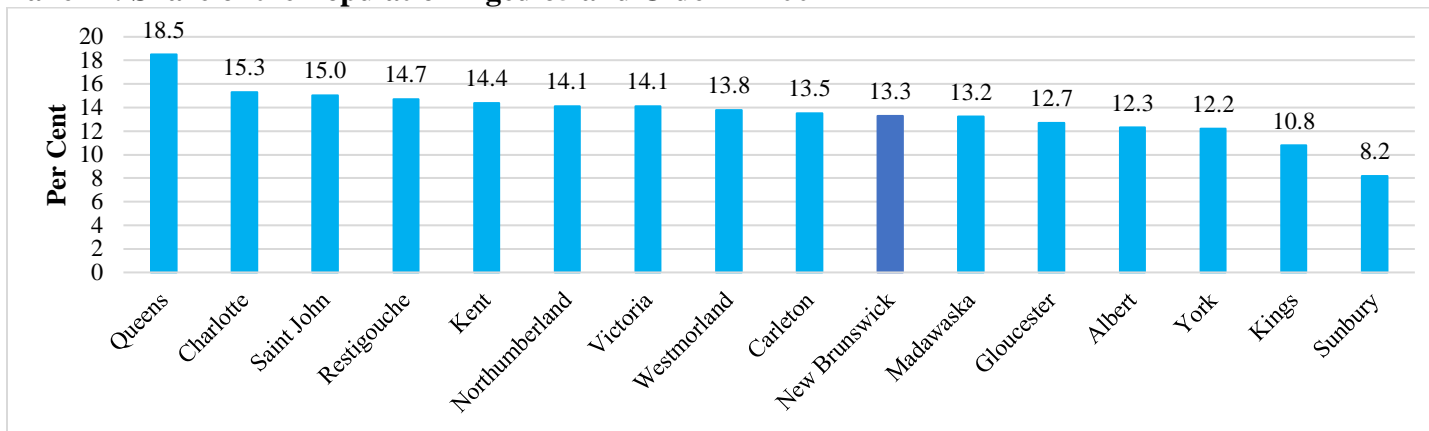
Chart 28: Share of Seniors in the Total Population, by New Brunswick Census Divisions, 1981, 2001 and 2020

Panel A: Share of the Population Aged 65 and Older in 1981



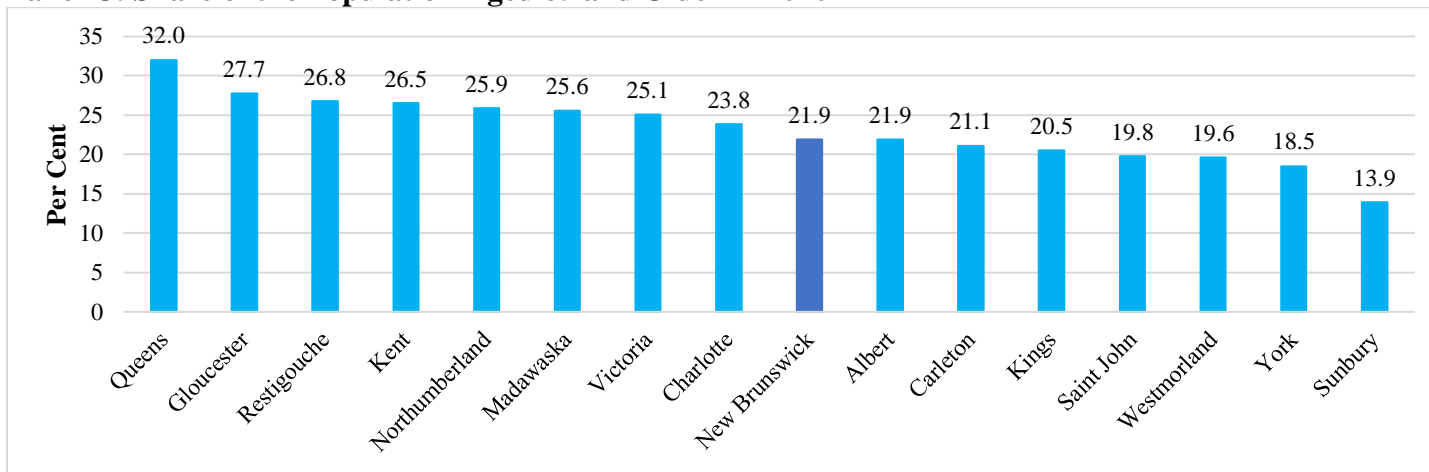
Source: Statistics Canada, Census Data Tables

Panel B: Share of the Population Aged 65 and Older in 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0139-01

Panel C: Share of the Population Aged 65 and Older in 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0139-01

III. Components of Population Growth in New Brunswick Census Divisions, 2002-2020

This section uses data from Statistics Canada’s estimates program “Annual Demographic Estimates: Subprovincial Areas,” as found in Table 17-10-0140-01, between July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2020. Each year refers to the population change between July 1 of the preceding year and June 30 of the year in question.

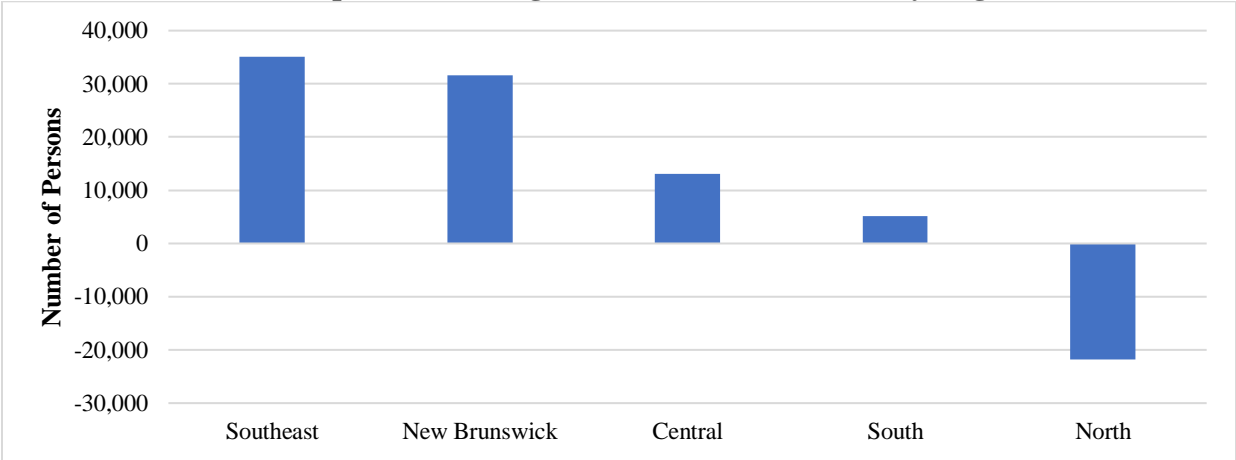
Between 2002 and 2020, New Brunswick experienced a net population gain of 31,656 persons. With a net cumulative increase of 35,139 persons over the 2002-2020 period, Southeastern New Brunswick was responsible for 111.0 per cent of the total provincial population gain. Central and Southern New Brunswick both boosted total cumulative population growth over the period, accounting for 41.4 per cent and 16.3 per cent of the total provincial population gain, respectively. On the other hand, Northern New Brunswick lost 21,763 persons, detracting from total provincial population increase.

Westmorland was responsible for Southeastern New Brunswick’s relatively strong performance over the 2002-2020 period. Between 2002 and 2020, Westmorland experienced by far the largest cumulative population increase of all the counties; Westmorland saw a cumulative increase of 35,741 persons, or 112.9 per cent of provincial population growth (Panel A and Panel B of Chart 30). On the other hand, Kent (the other southeastern county) suffered a cumulative loss of 602 persons between 2002 and 2020.

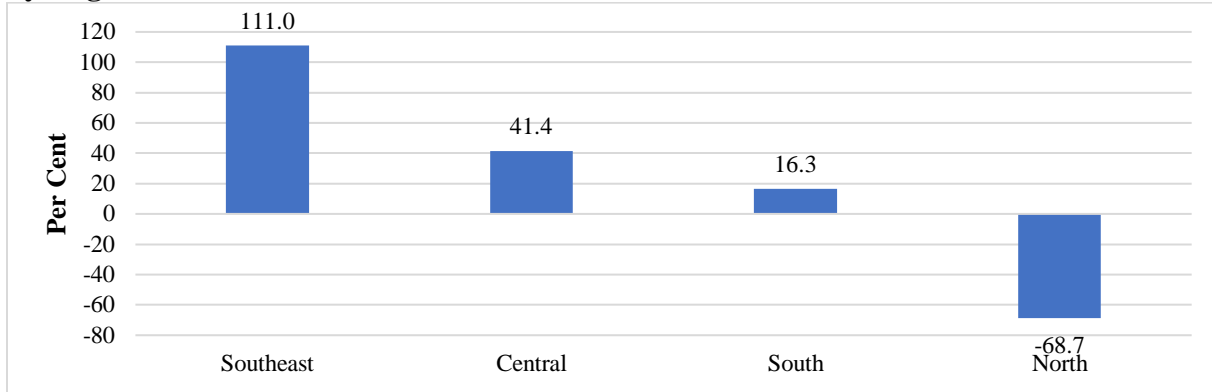
At the provincial level, net international migration was the largest contributor to population growth over the 2002-2020 period. New Brunswick gained 45,891 people from net international migration between 2002 and 2020. On the other hand, births exceeded deaths by only 4,438 people. This was reflected in the numbers observed in 12 of the 15 counties. Sunbury, Kings and Albert were the only counties in which net natural increase exceeded net international migration between 2002 and 2020. Both Kings and Albert are in southern New Brunswick, and Sunbury is in central New Brunswick.

Chart 29: Population Change by Region, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

Panel A: Cumulative Population Change Between 2002 and 2020 by Region



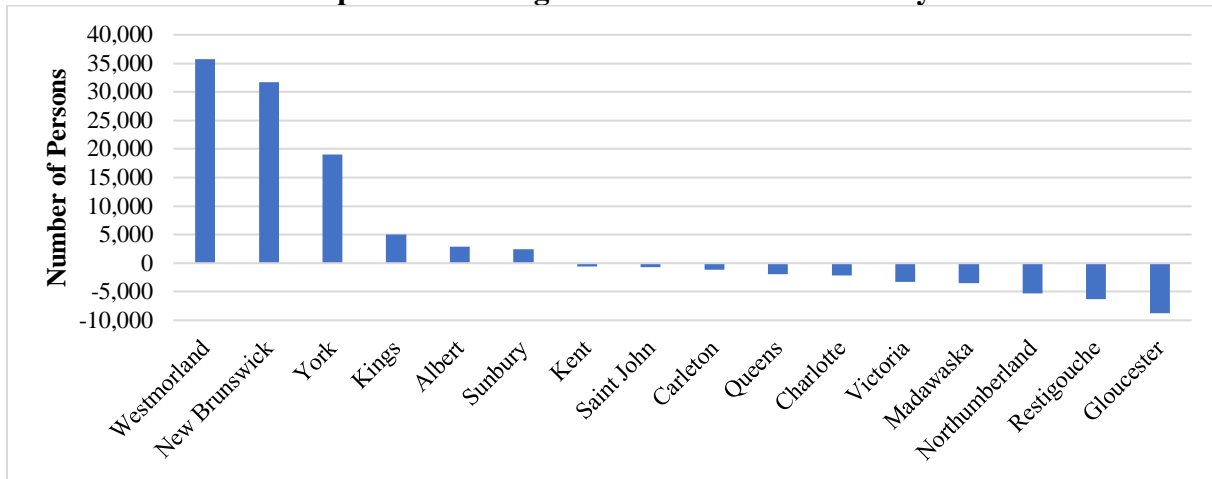
Panel B: Share of Total Cumulative Provincial Population Change Between 2002 and 2020 by Region



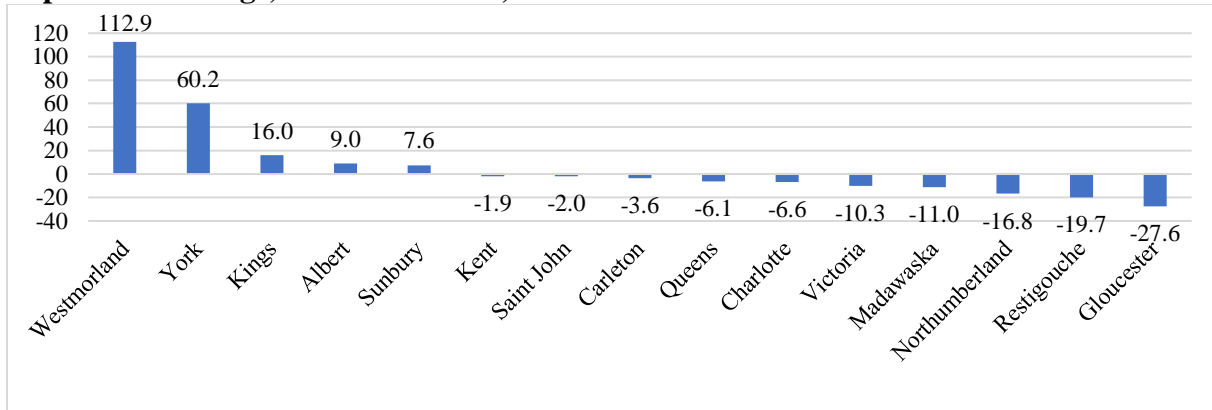
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

Chart 30: Cumulative Population Change, New Brunswick Census Divisions, 2002-2020

Panel A: Cumulative Population Change Between 2002 and 2020 by Census Division



Panel B: Total Population Change by Census Division as a Share of Total Provincial Population Change, New Brunswick, 2002-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

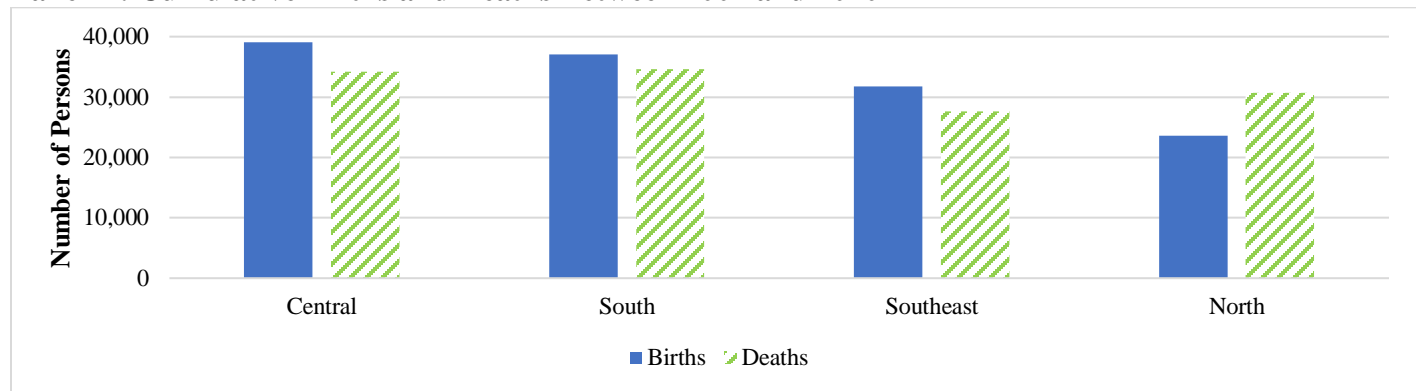
A. Natural Increase

As discussed in section V of part one, net natural increase in New Brunswick has been falling since 1951 as a result of the province’s aging population and declining fertility rates. Between 2002 and 2020, 131,517 persons were born in New Brunswick, and 127,079 persons died in the province, resulting in a cumulative net natural increase of 4,438 persons (Appendix Table xx). Deaths exceeded births in nine of the 15 counties, including all four northern counties, over the 2002-2020 period (Panel A of Chart 32). Deaths exceeded births by the widest margin in Gloucester, where the net natural increase was -2,936 persons. On the other hand, Westmorland saw the largest cumulative net natural increase of all the counties over the 2002-2020 period; 26,762 persons were born in Westmorland, and 22,349 persons died in Westmorland, resulting in a net natural increase of 4,413. York followed Westmorland with a cumulative net natural increase of 4,392 persons.

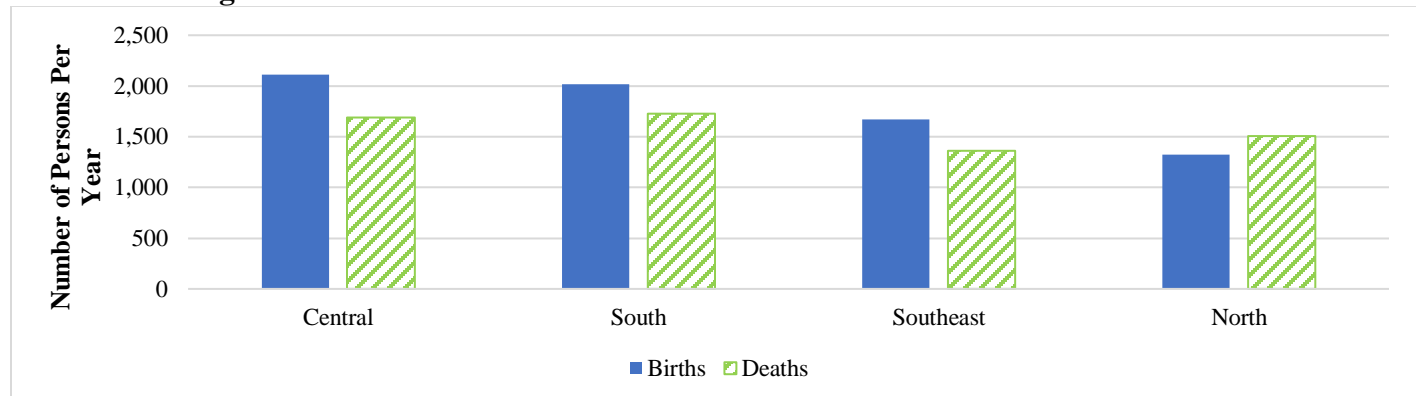
With a cumulative net natural increase of 4,943 persons, Central New Brunswick saw the strongest cumulative net natural increase of the four regions over the 2002-2020 period (Panel A of Chart 31). In Southeastern New Brunswick, cumulative births exceeded cumulative deaths by 4,095 persons. Southern New Brunswick gained a cumulative 2,448 persons from net natural increase. In contrast, deaths exceeded births by 7,048 persons in Northern New Brunswick.

Chart 31: Births and Deaths by Region, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

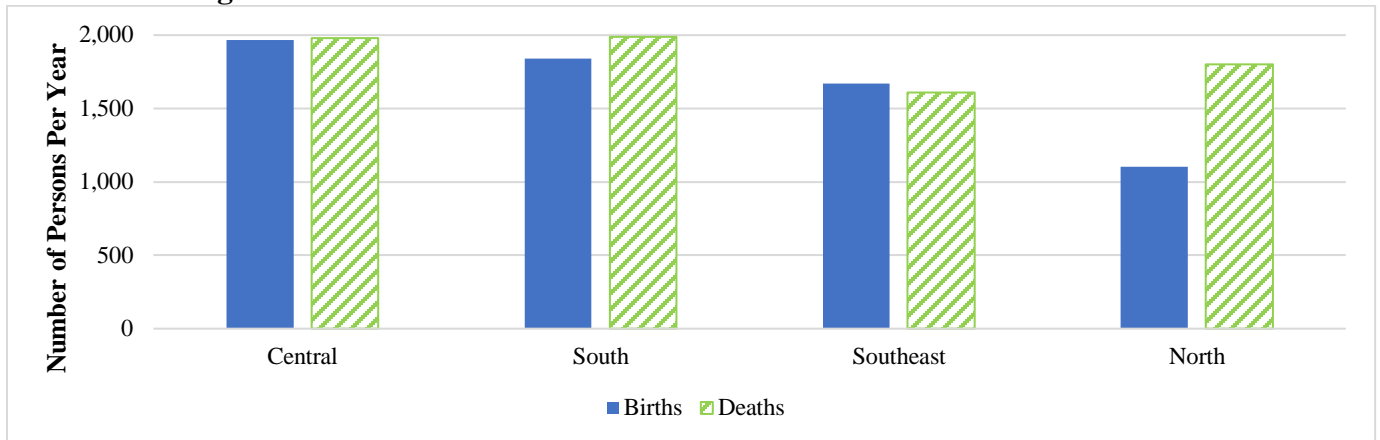
Panel A: Cumulative Births and Deaths Between 2002 and 2020



Panel B: Average Annual Births and Deaths Between 2002 and 2013



Panel C: Average Annual Births and Deaths Between 2014 and 2020



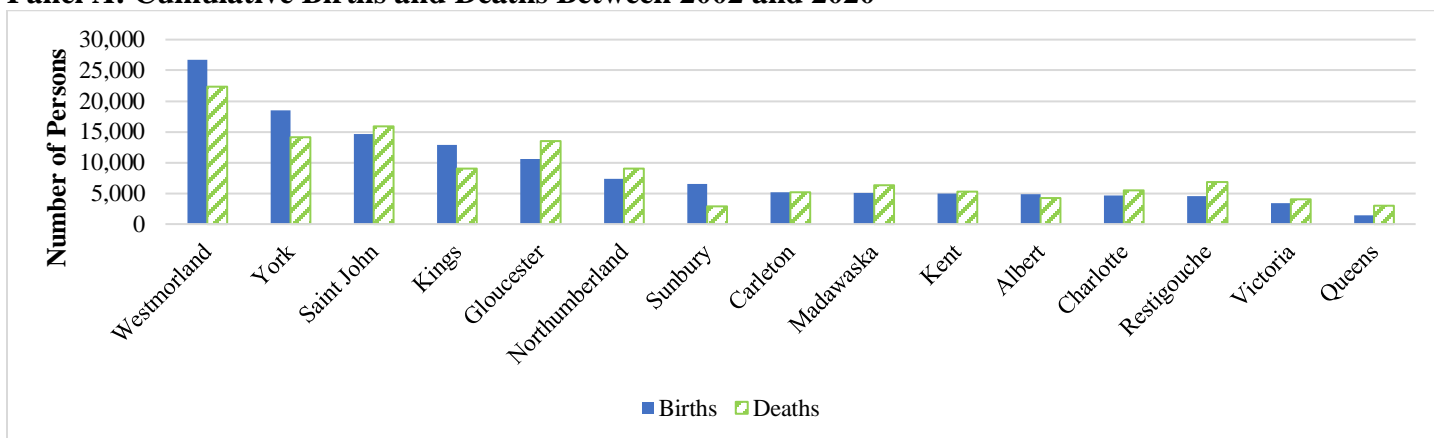
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

Between 2002 and 2013, births outnumbered deaths by about 830.9 persons per year in New Brunswick. However, deaths outnumbered births in nine of the 15 counties. The gap was widest in Restigouche, where deaths exceeded births by about 89.5 persons per year.

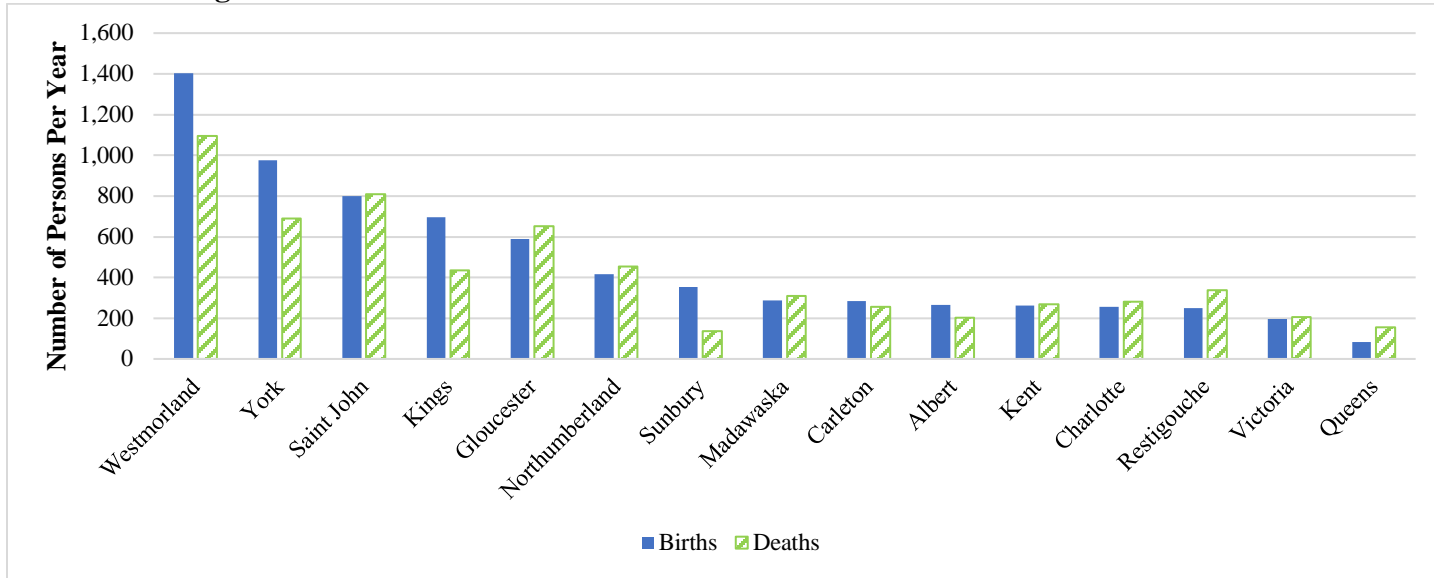
Between 2014 and 2020, there were more deaths than births in New Brunswick. The same trend was observed in 11 of the 15 counties. Furthermore, for those counties in which deaths had already exceeded births between 2002 and 2013, the gap widened between 2014 and 2020. Deaths exceeded births by about 314.9 persons per year in Gloucester. In contrast, in Sunbury, births exceeded deaths by about 152.4 persons per year. York and Westmorland followed with the second and third highest natural increase over the 2014-2020 period, respectively.

Chart 32: Number of Births and Deaths by Census Division, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

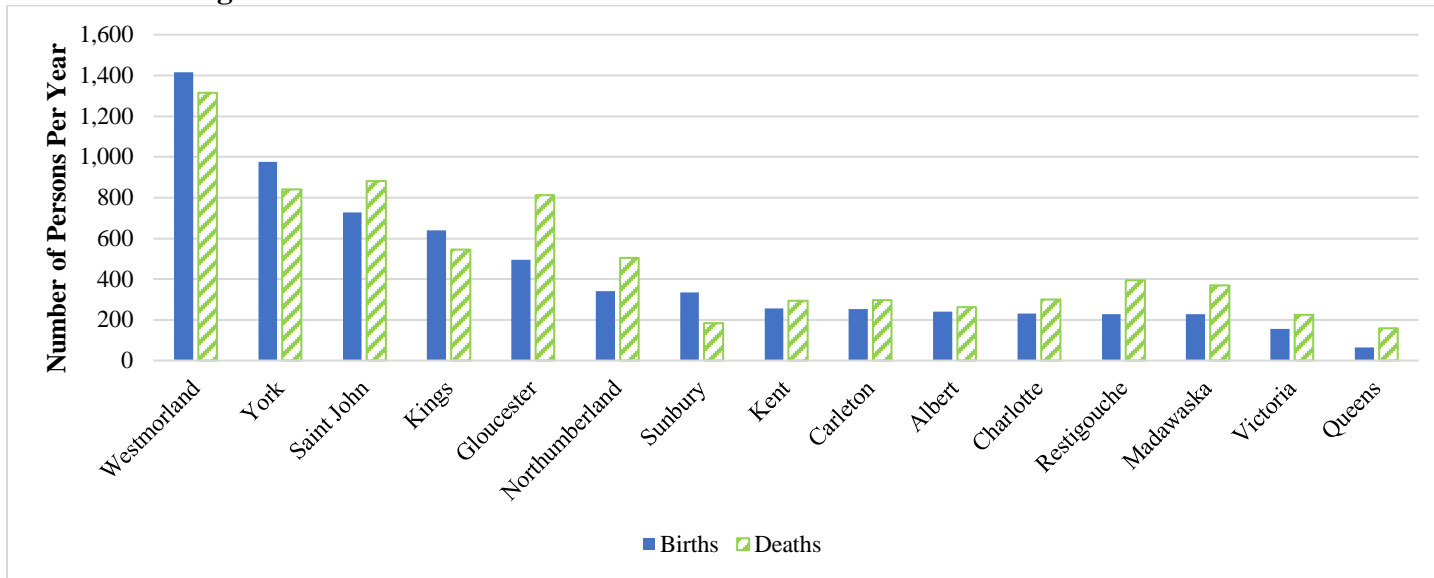
Panel A: Cumulative Births and Deaths Between 2002 and 2020



Panel B: Average Annual Births and Deaths Between 2002 and 2013



Panel C: Average Annual Births and Deaths Between 2014 and 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

B. International Migration

Net international migration was by far the largest contributor to New Brunswick’s cumulative population growth between 2002 and 2020. Over the 2002-2020 period, Southeastern New Brunswick gained 16,651 persons from net international migration. Southeastern New Brunswick’s strong performance relative to the other three regions was driven by Westmorland County, which saw a cumulative gain of 16,158 persons from net international migration (35.2 per cent of total net international migration to New Brunswick over the 2002-2020 period) (Panel A of Chart 33). Central New Brunswick followed Southeastern New Brunswick with cumulative net international migration of 14,995 persons between 2002 and 2020. Attracting net 12,575

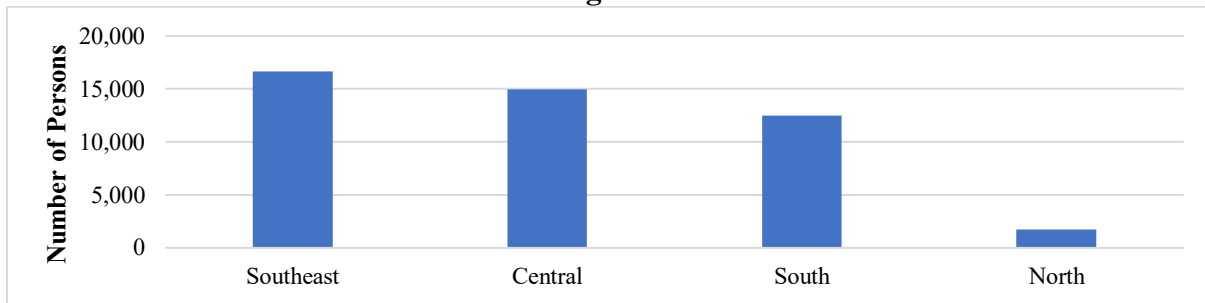
international migrants (27.4 per cent of total net international migration to New Brunswick over the 2002-2020 period), York County was the driving force behind net international migration to Central New Brunswick. Southern New Brunswick saw cumulative net international migration of 12,484 persons, of whom almost three quarters (9,221 persons, or 20.1 per cent of total net international migration to New Brunswick over the 2002-2020 period) settled in Saint John County. Northern New Brunswick had by far the weakest performance of the four regions in terms of net international migration over the 2002-2020 period; cumulative net international migration to Northern New Brunswick was 1,761 persons.

Between 2002 and 2020, Westmorland County saw the largest cumulative population gain from net international migration; cumulative net international migration to Westmorland was 16,158 persons, or about 850.4 persons per year (Panel A of Chart 34). Over the 2002-2020 period, Westmorland received 12,939 gross immigrants, over a quarter of all immigrants to New Brunswick over the period (45,050 people immigrated to New Brunswick between 2002 and 2020). More persons immigrated to York (13,377), but, largely as a result of greater emigration from York than from Westmorland (2,925 emigrants from York versus 1,714 emigrants from Westmorland), net international migration was greater in Westmorland.

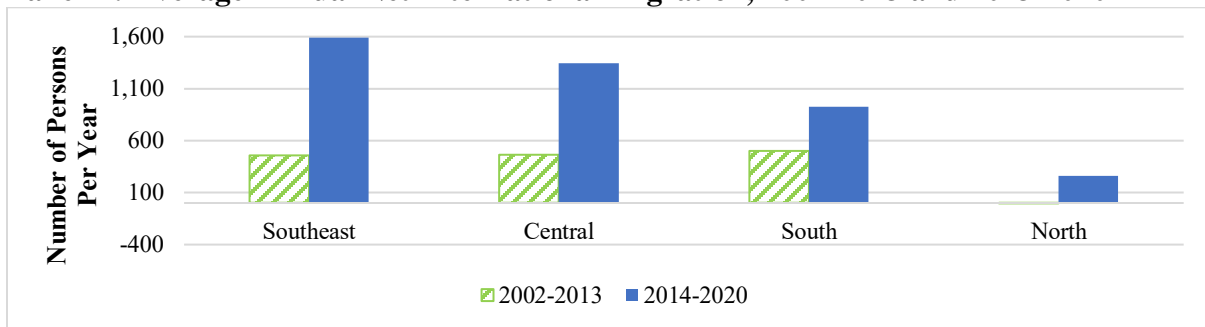
York followed with cumulative net international migration of 12,575 persons. With cumulative net international migration of 9,221 persons, Saint John saw the third largest gain from net international migration over the period. Net international migration to the other 12 counties ranged from 1,814 persons (in Kings) to -116 persons (Sunbury).

Chart 33: Net International Migration by Region, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

Panel A: Cumulative Net International Migration Between 2002 and 2020



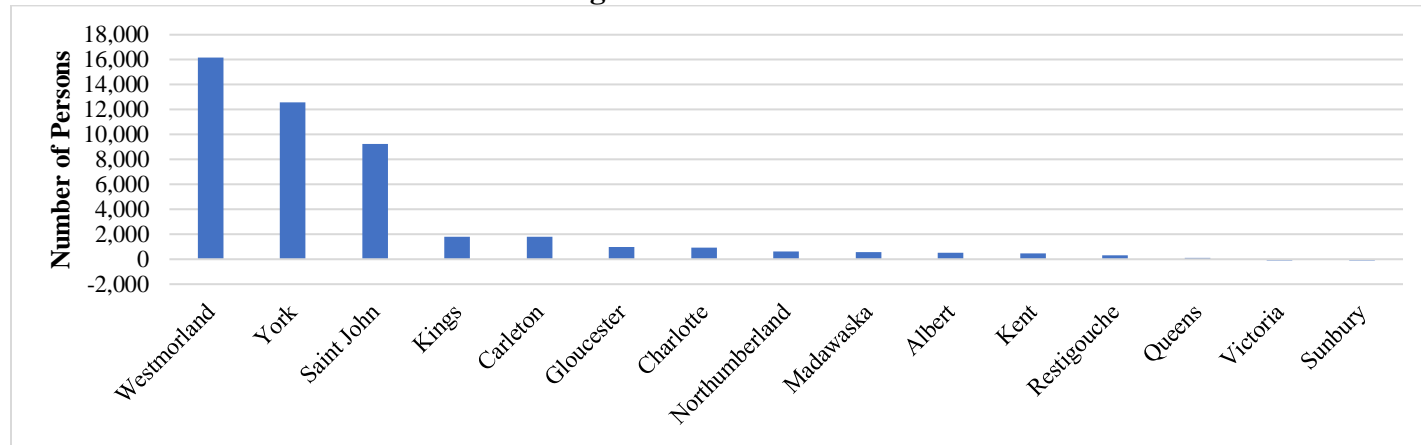
Panel B: Average Annual Net International Migration, 2002-2013 and 2014-2020



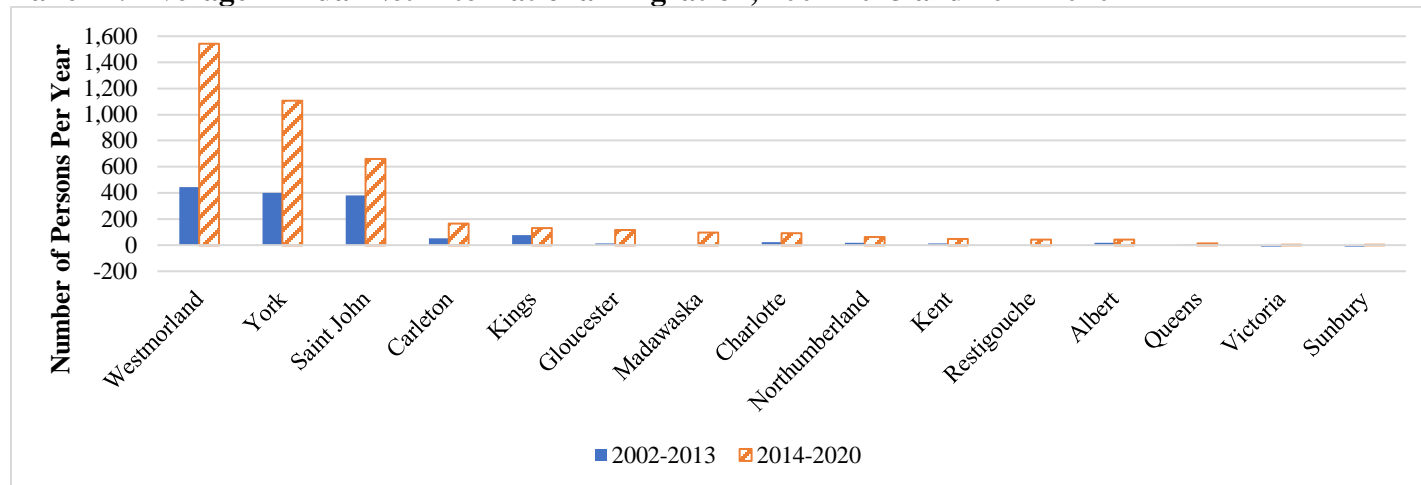
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

Chart 34: Net International Migration by Census Division, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

Panel A: Cumulative Net International Migration Between 2002 and 2020

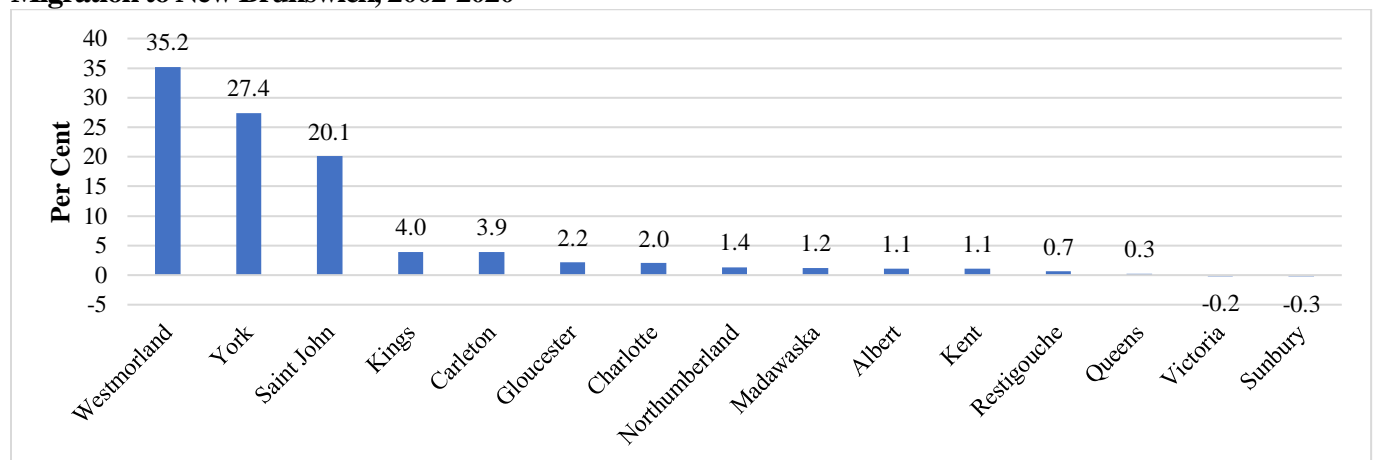


Panel B: Average Annual Net International Migration, 2002-2013 and 2014-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

Chart 35: Net International Migration by County as a Percentage of Total Net International Migration to New Brunswick, 2002-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

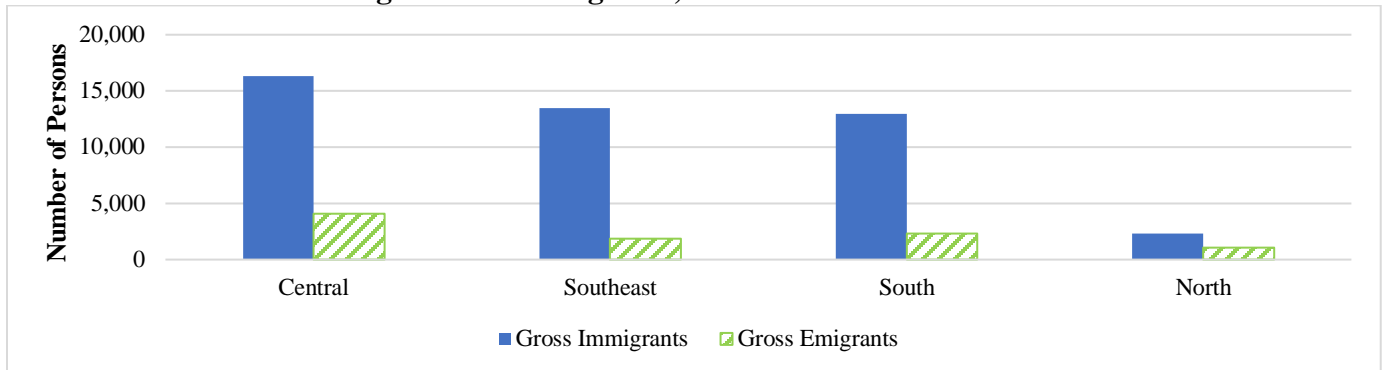
Of the four regions, Central New Brunswick received the most gross immigrants between 2002 and 2020. Central New Brunswick attracted 16,331 immigrants, or about two thirds of total gross immigrants to New Brunswick over the 2002-2020 period. 13,377 (81.9 per cent) of these immigrants settled in York County (Panel A of Chart 36 and Panel A of Chart 37). Southeastern New Brunswick attracted 13,455 gross immigrants, 29.9 per cent of total gross immigrants to the province. Westmorland County received 12,939 of these immigrants, while Kent (the other Southeastern county) received less than four per cent of the total immigrants to Southeastern New Brunswick. Southern New Brunswick followed Southeastern New Brunswick with 12,944 gross immigrants between 2002 and 2020. Saint John County attracted over two thirds (8,767 persons) of total gross immigrants to Southern New Brunswick. Northern New Brunswick was far behind the other regions, attracting only 2,320 gross immigrants, little more than 5 per cent of total gross immigrants to New Brunswick.

As discussed in section V of part one, gross immigration to New Brunswick started to pick up significantly after 2013. Although average annual gross immigration to all 15 counties increased in the 2014-2020 period relative to the 2002-2013 period, the majority of the increase at the provincial level was due to Westmorland, York and Saint John counties. Between 2002 and 2013, on average, about 449.4 persons immigrated to York County (Panel B of Chart 22). Saint John County received about 336.8 immigrants per year and Westmorland County about 335.8 immigrants per year. Between 2014 and 2020, each year Westmorland received an average of about 1,272.9 immigrants, an increase of about 937.1 persons (or 279 per cent) from the 2002-2013 period. The average annual number of immigrants to York increased by about 691.2 persons (or 154 per cent), to about 1,140.6 persons per year. The number of average annual immigrants to Saint John more than doubled, reaching about 675.0 persons per year between 2014 and 2020.

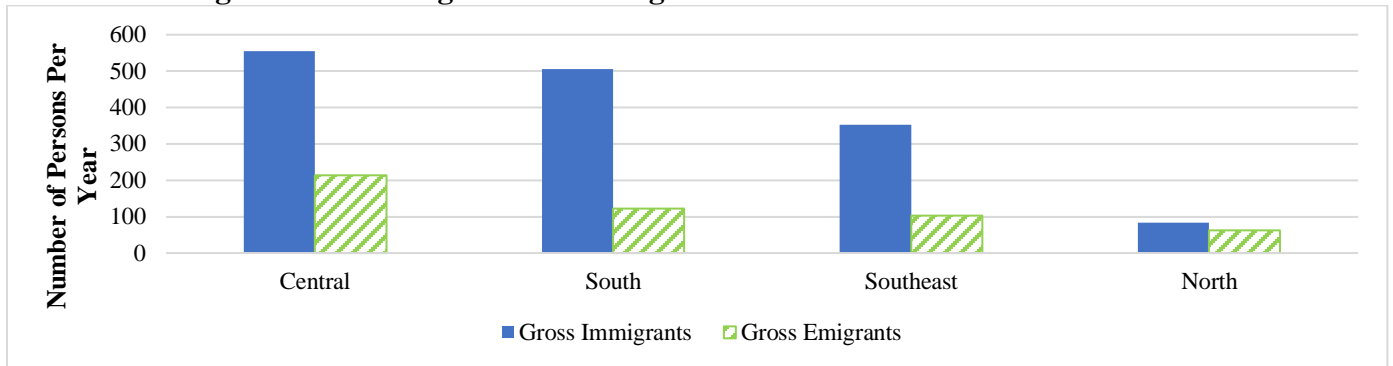
Between 2014 and 2020, average annual emigration decreased relative to the 2002-2013 rate in two thirds of the counties, boosting average annual net international migration. During the 2014-2020 period, Westmorland had the highest average annual net international migration; average annual net international migration to Westmorland was about 1,542.3 persons per year, up about 1,095.5 persons (or 245 per cent), the largest absolute increase of all the counties. At about 1,107.0 persons per year, York followed with the second highest average annual net international migration over the period. Net international migration to Saint John was about 662.6 persons per year. Average annual net international migration to the other 12 counties ranged from about 163.6 persons (in Carleton) to about 1.4 persons (in Sunbury).

Chart 36: Number of Immigrants and Emigrants by Region, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

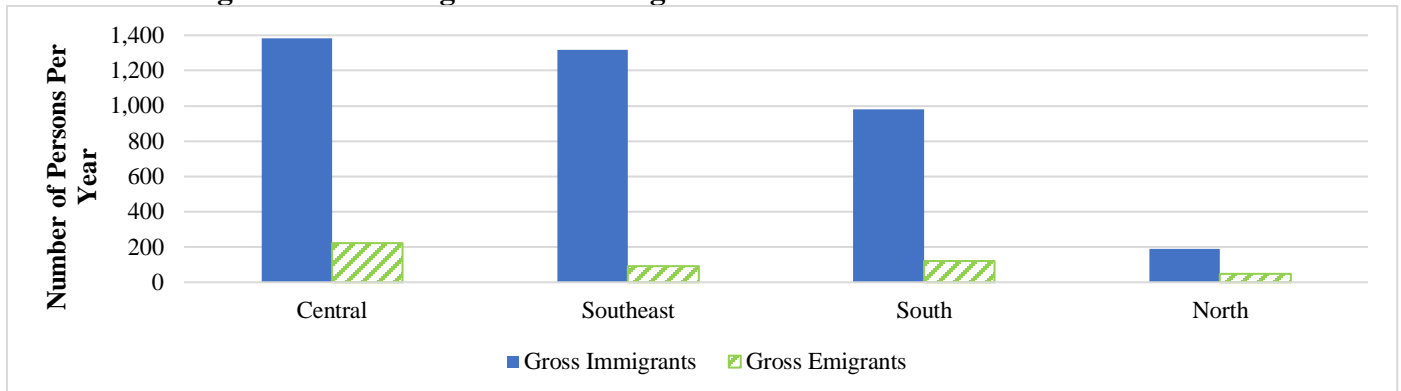
Panel A: Cumulative Immigrants and Emigrants, 2002-2020



Panel B: Average Annual Immigrants and Emigrants Between 2002 and 2013



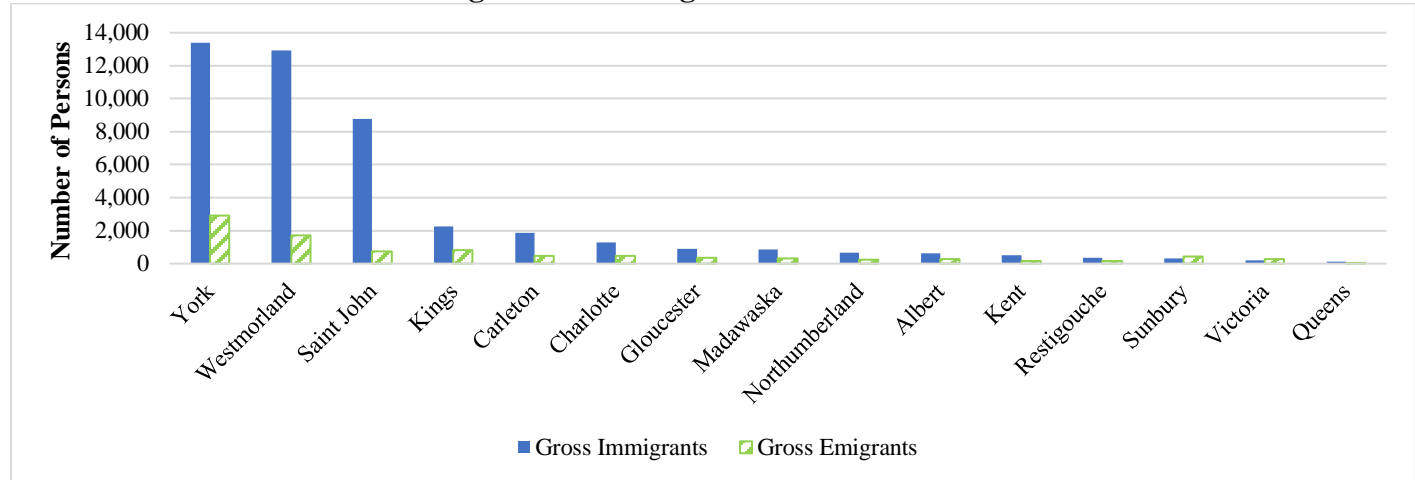
Panel C: Average Annual Immigrants and Emigrants Between 2014 and 2020



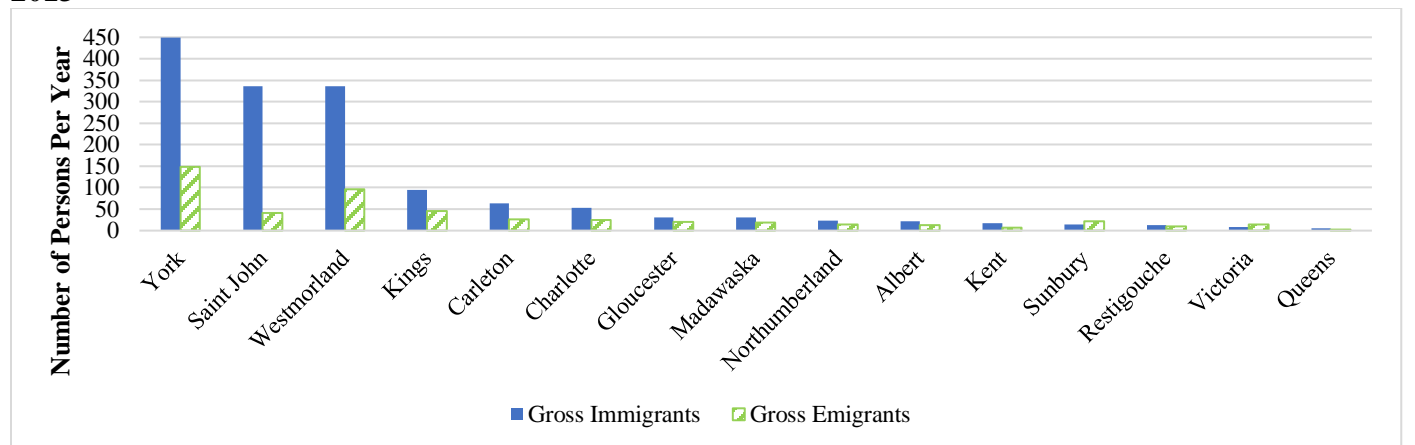
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

Chart 37: Number of Gross Immigrants and Emigrants by Census Division, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

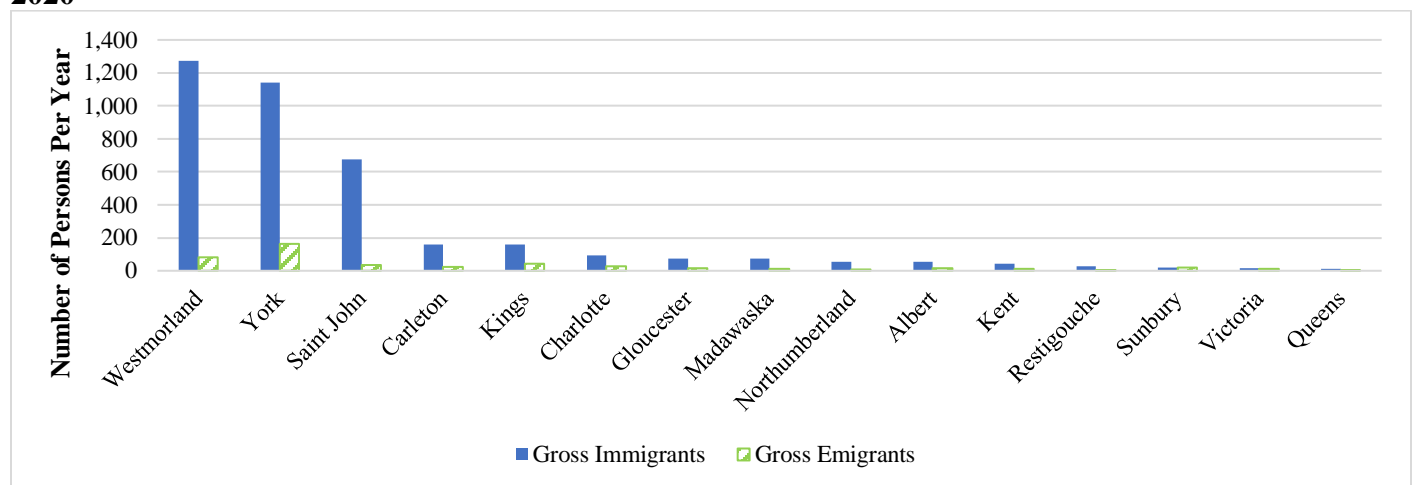
Panel A: Cumulative Gross Immigrants and Emigrants Between 2002 and 2020



Panel B: Average Annual Number of Gross Immigrants and Emigrants Between 2002 and 2013



Panel C: Average Annual Number of Gross Immigrants and Emigrants Between 2014 and 2020

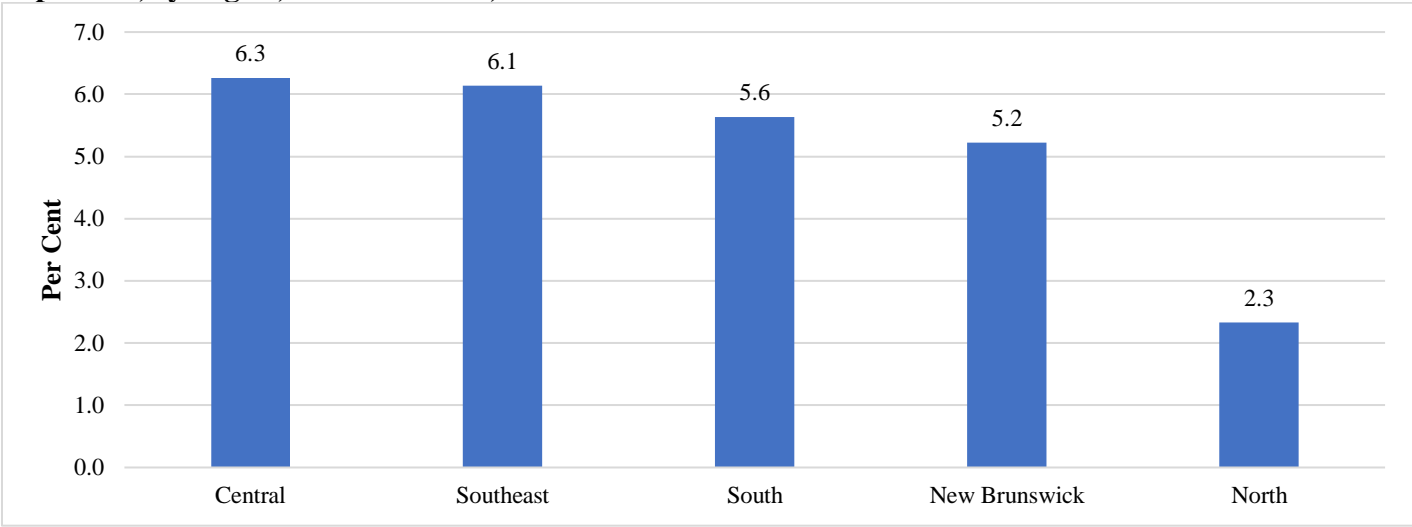


Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

Trends in the distribution of gross immigrants by region between 2002 and 2020 were consistent with the relative importance of immigrants and non-permanent residents in the total population by region in 2016. The share of immigrants and non-permanent residents was largest in the total population of Central New Brunswick; immigrants and non-permanent residents made up 6.3 per cent of the total population of Central New Brunswick in 2016 (Chart 38). Immigrants and non-permanent residents made up 6.1 per cent and 5.6 per cent of the total populations of Southeastern and Southern New Brunswick, respectively. On the other hand, immigrants and non-permanent residents made up only 2.3 per cent of the population of Northern New Brunswick.

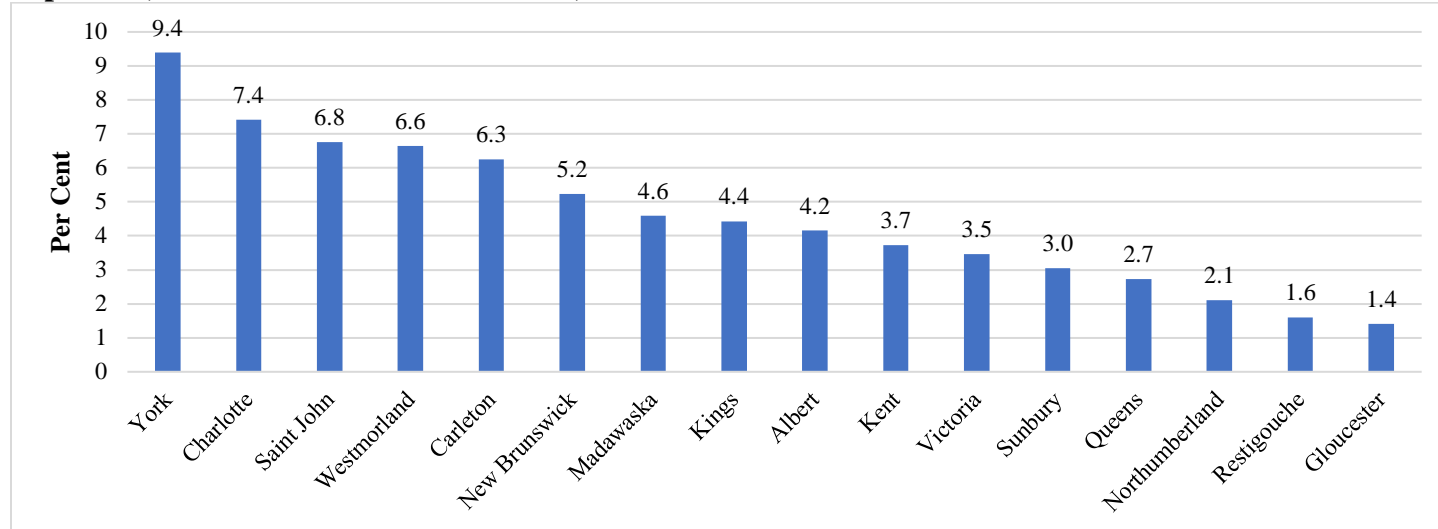
At the level of counties, the share of immigrants and non-permanent residents was largest in the total population of York County; immigrants and non-permanent residents made up 9.4 per cent of the total population of York County (Chart 39). Charlotte County had the second largest share of immigrants in its total population, at 7.4 per cent. Immigrants and non-permanent residents made up 6.8 per cent and 6.6 per cent of the populations of Saint John and Westmorland counties, respectively. On the other hand, immigrants and non-permanent residents accounted for only 1.4 per cent of the population of Gloucester County, the smallest share of all the counties.

Chart 38: Share of Immigrants and Non-Permanent Residents (Foreign-Born Persons) in the Total Population, by Region, New Brunswick, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity Highlight Tables, 2016 Census

Chart 39: Share of Immigrants and Non-Permanent Residents (Foreign-Born Persons) in the Total Population, New Brunswick Census Divisions, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity Highlight Tables, 2016 Census

C. Interprovincial Migration

As discussed in section V of part one, New Brunswick has historically lost many people to other provinces or territories. Between 2002 and 2020, cumulative out-migrants from New Brunswick to another province or territory exceeded in-migrants by 20,715 persons (Appendix Table xx). Net interprovincial migration was negative in 11 of the 15 counties over the 2002-2020 period (Panel A of Chart 41), including in all four northern counties. Overall, Northern New Brunswick suffered a net loss of 7,217 persons to interprovincial migration between 2002 and 2020. However, of the four regions, Central New Brunswick saw the largest net loss of persons to other provinces or territories between 2002 and 2020. Cumulative interprovincial out-migrants exceeded cumulative interprovincial in-migrants by 8,465 persons in Central New Brunswick (Panel A of Chart 40). The majority of Central New Brunswick's loss to other provinces and territories was due to York County, in which interprovincial out-migrants exceeded interprovincial in-migrants by 5,599 persons. Southern New Brunswick saw a net loss of 7,060 persons to interprovincial migration over the period. With net interprovincial migration of -4,869, Saint John County accounted for over two thirds of this loss.

Southeastern New Brunswick was the only region to post positive net interprovincial migration over the 2002-2020 period. Between 2002 and 2020, in-migrants from other provinces and territories exceeded out-migrants to other provinces and territories by 2,027 persons. Westmorland County saw cumulative net interprovincial migration of 1,261 persons, and Kent County less than a third of interprovincial migrants to Southeastern New Brunswick, at 766 persons.

Between 2002 and 2013, New Brunswick lost 16,842 more persons than it gained from other provinces. With a net gain of about 110.5 persons per year, Southeastern New Brunswick was the only region to see positive net interprovincial migration between 2002 and 2013.

Westmorland County drove Southeastern New Brunswick's relatively strong performance, gaining about 100.8 persons per year, or 0.07 per cent of its average annual population, on net from other provinces and territories between 2002 and 2013 (Panel B of Chart 41 and Panel B of Chart 42). Kent, Albert and Queens counties were the only other counties to post positive net interprovincial migration over the 2002-2013 period. As was the case in Westmorland County, average annual net interprovincial migration to Queens County was equal to 0.07 per cent of the average annual population of Queens County between 2002 and 2013. Average annual net interprovincial migration to Kent and Albert counties represented 0.03 per cent and 0.02 per cent of the average annual population, respectively.

New Brunswick again suffered a net loss to other provinces between 2014 and 2020. However, the province lost only about 553.3 persons per year, compared to about 1,403.5 persons per year during the 2002-2013 period. This improvement was reflected in the fact that nine of the counties saw positive net interprovincial migration between 2014 and 2020, compared to only four between 2002 and 2013 (Panel C of Chart 41).

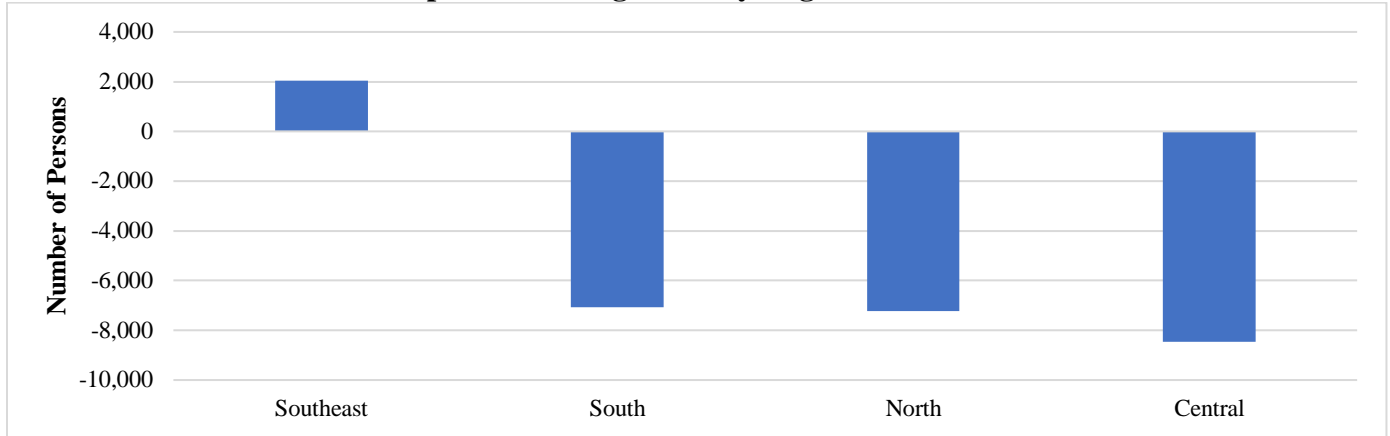
Interestingly, while all four northern counties saw negative net interprovincial migration during the 2002-2013 period, between 2014 and 2020, Madawaska was the only northern county to lose more persons to other provinces than it gained. Consequently, overall, Northern New Brunswick gained about 52.3 persons per year from net interprovincial migration, up from a net loss of about 631.9 persons per year between 2002 and 2013.

Southern and Central New Brunswick also saw improvements in average annual net interprovincial migration relative to the 2002-2013 period, but they continued to experience net losses to other provinces and territories. Southern New Brunswick lost about 283.3 persons per year (up from about 423.1 persons per year between 2002 and 2013), while Central New Brunswick lost about 422.4 persons per year (up from about 459.0 persons per year between 2002 and 2013).

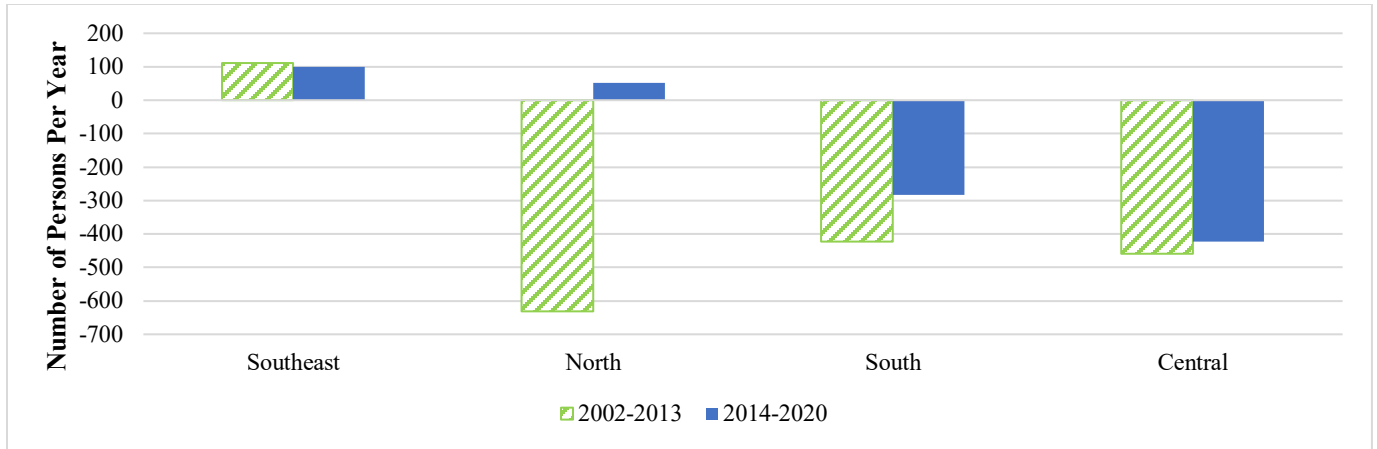
Southeastern New Brunswick was the only region in which average annual net interprovincial migration was weaker during the 2014-2020 period relative to the 2002-2013 period. Between 2014 and 2020, on average, interprovincial in-migrants to Southeastern New Brunswick exceeded interprovincial out-migrants from the region by about 100.1 persons per year, down from 110.5 persons per year between 2002 and 2013. This deterioration was due to the fact that average annual net interprovincial migration to Westmorland fell from about 100.8 persons per year between 2002 and 2013 to about 7.3 persons per year between 2014 and 2020. On the other hand, average annual net interprovincial migration to Kent County rose from about 9.7 persons per year (or 0.03 per cent of Kent's average annual population) between 2002 and 2013 to about 92.9 persons per year (or about 0.30 per cent of Kent's average annual population) between 2014 and 2020. In fact, of all the counties, Kent had the largest average annual net interprovincial migration as a share of its average annual population.

Chart 40: Net Interprovincial Migration by Region, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

Panel A: Cumulative Net Interprovincial Migration by Region Between 2002 and 2020



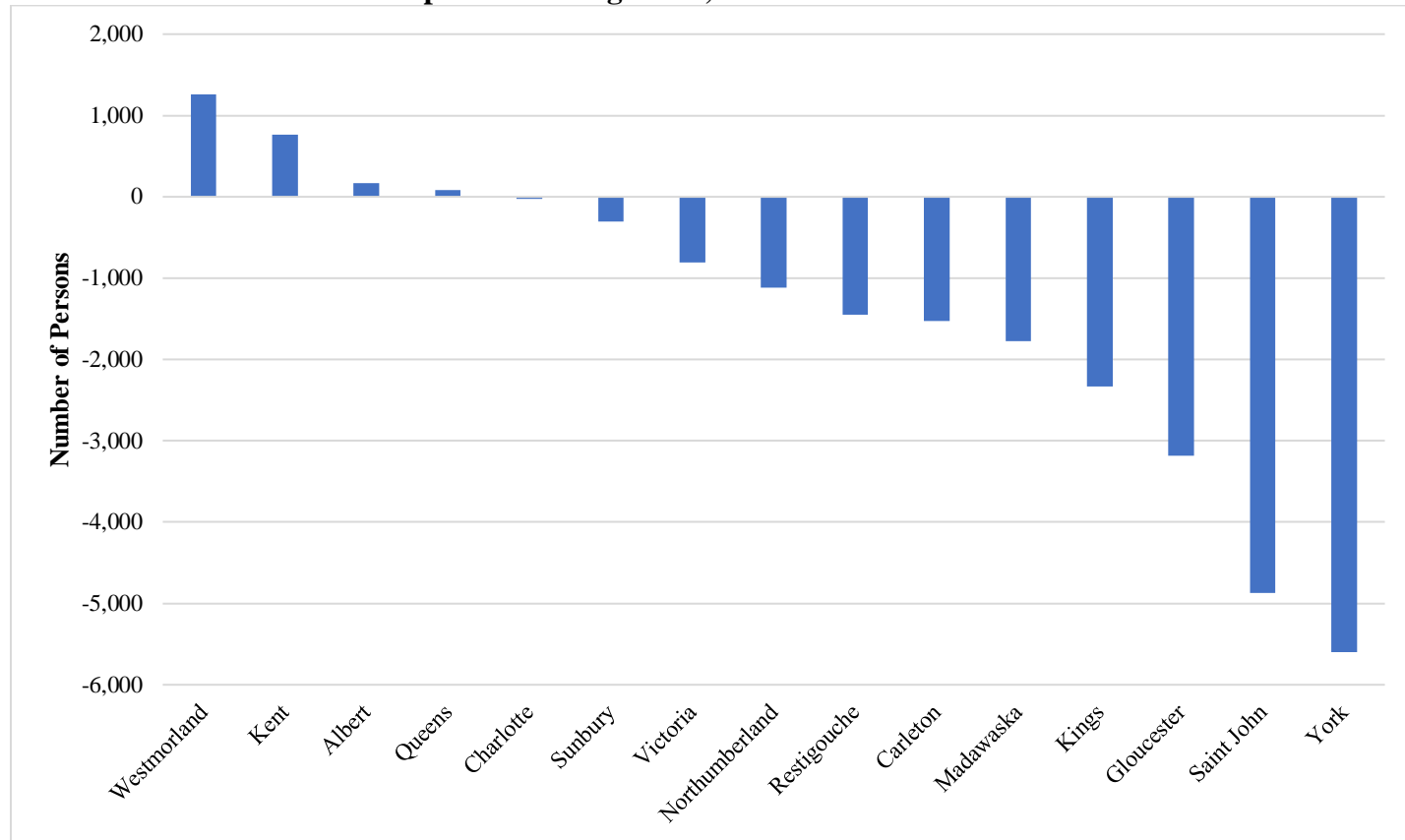
Panel B: Average Annual Net Interprovincial Migration by Region, 2002-2013 and 2014-2020



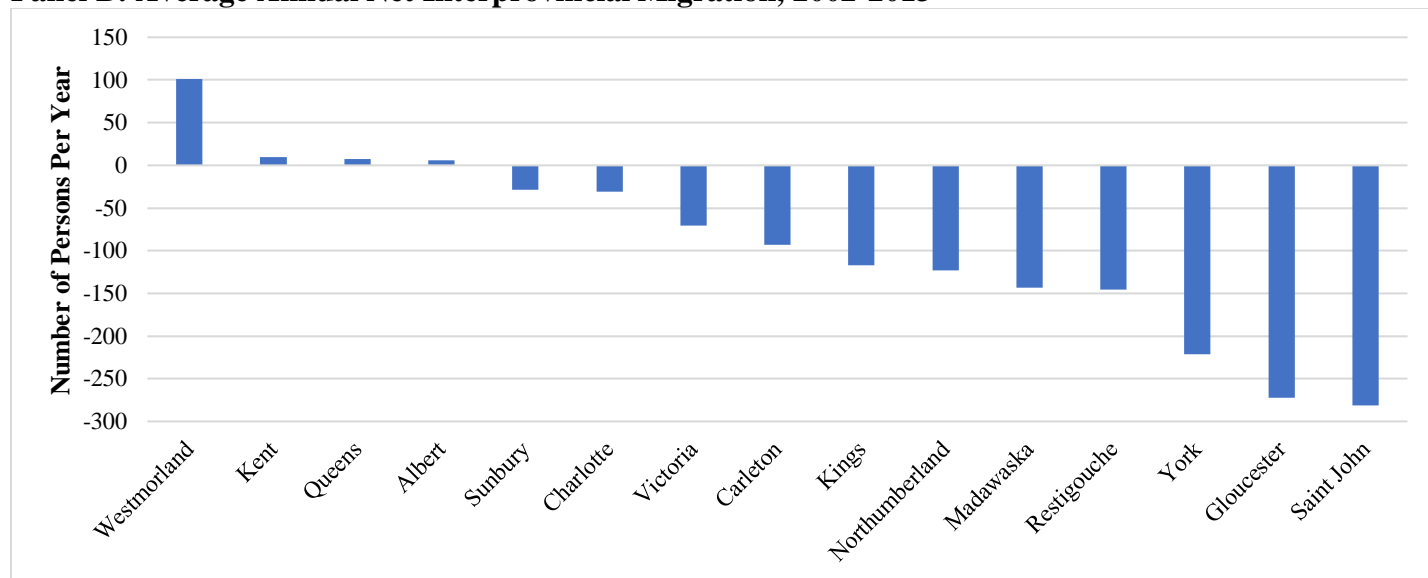
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

Chart 41: Net Interprovincial Migration by Census Division, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

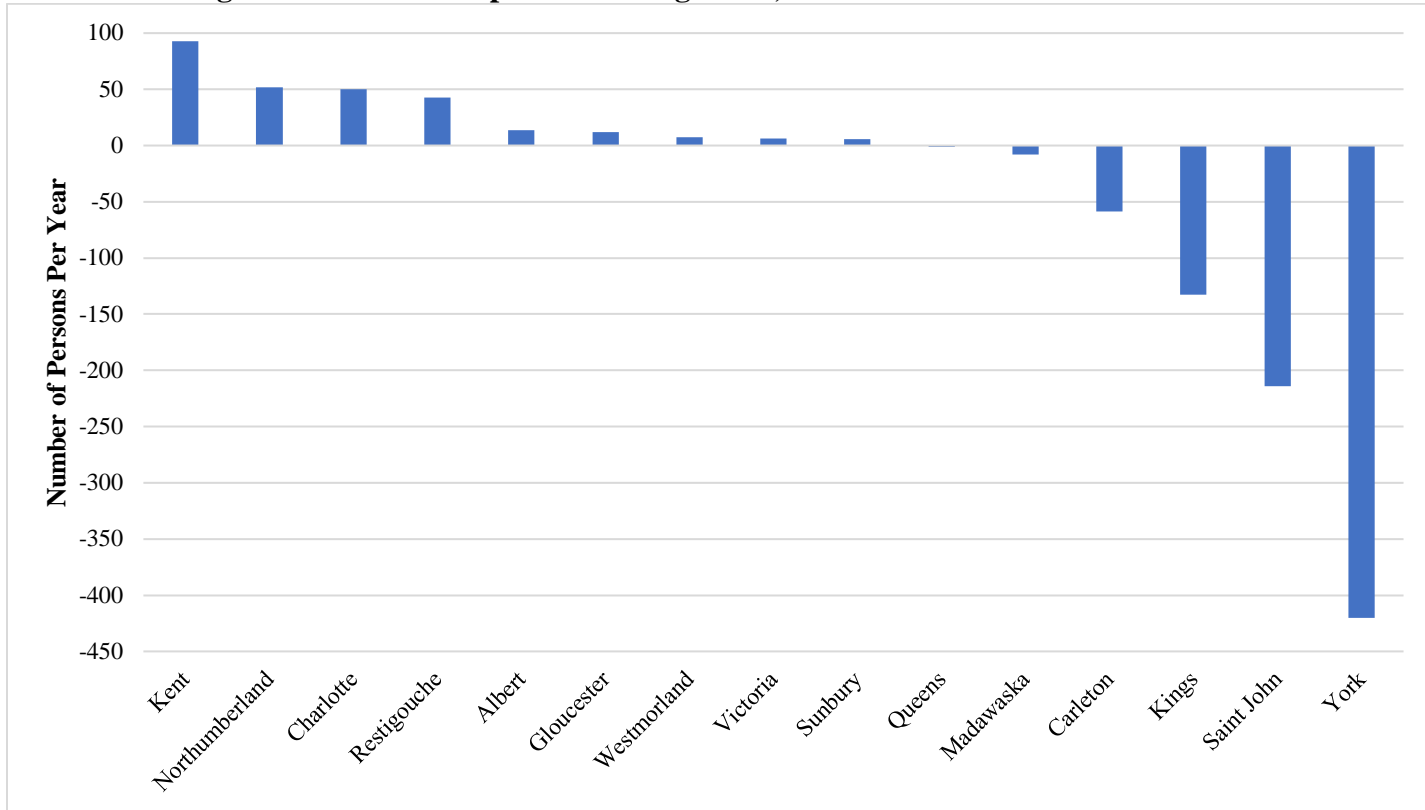
Panel A: Cumulative Net Interprovincial Migration, 2002-2020



Panel B: Average Annual Net Interprovincial Migration, 2002-2013



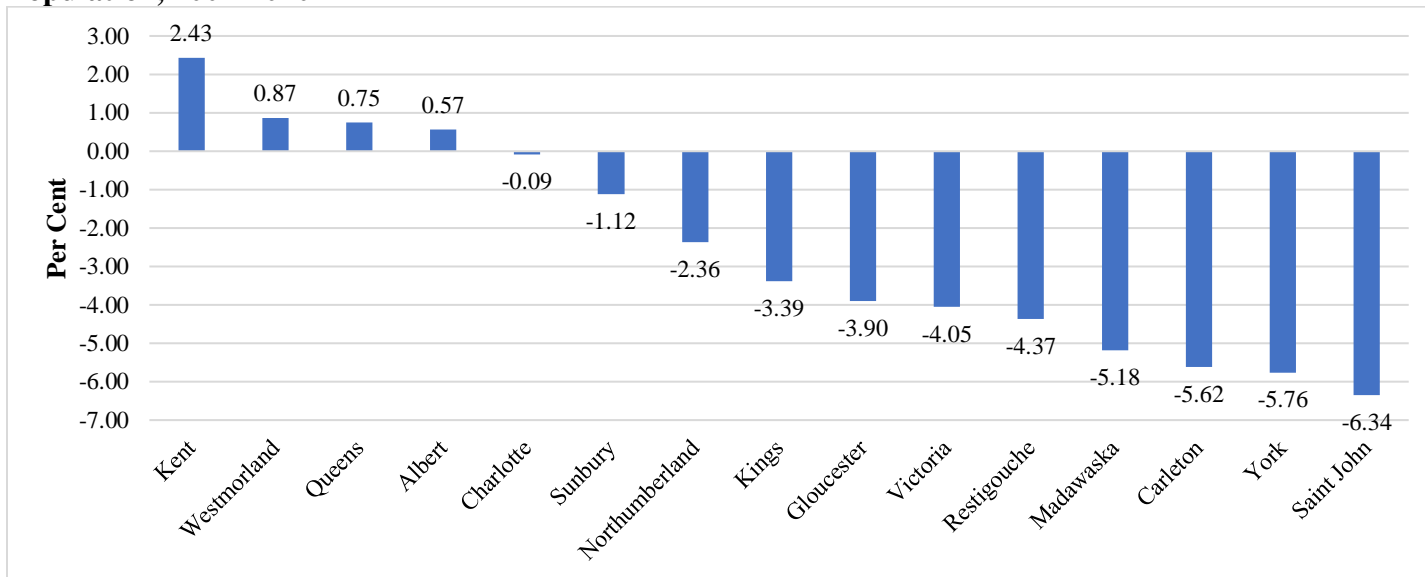
Panel C: Average Annual Net Interprovincial Migration, 2014-2020



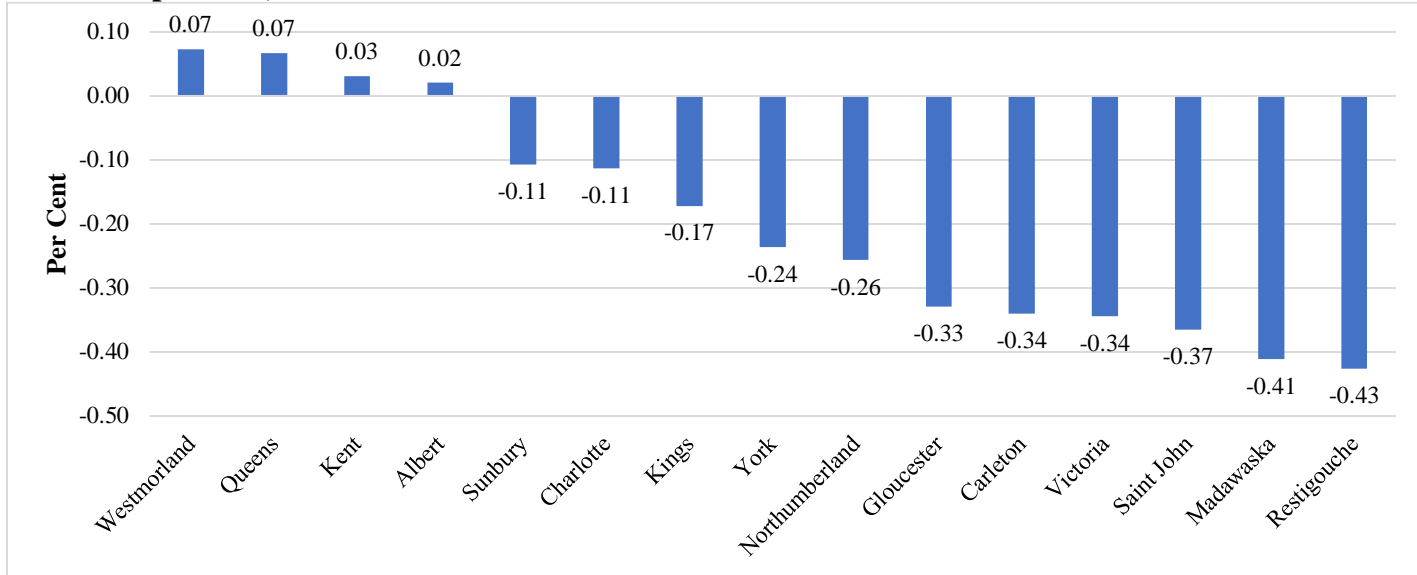
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

Chart 42: Net Interprovincial Migration as a Percentage of the Average Annual Population by New Brunswick Census Divisions, 2002-2020

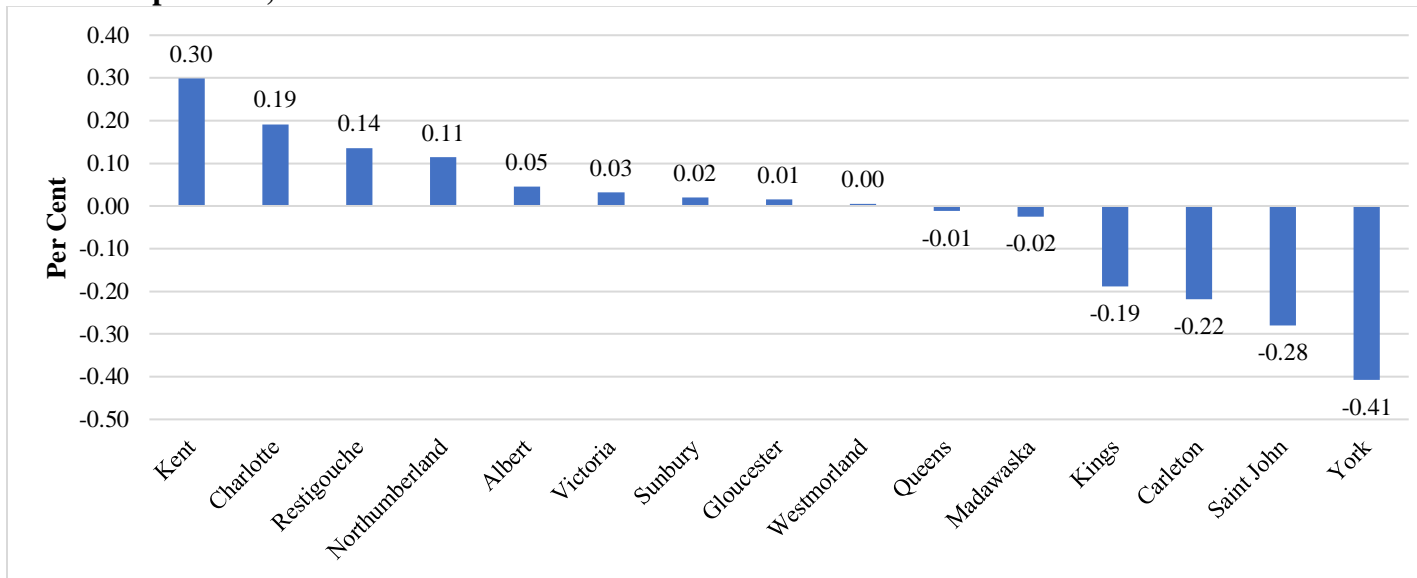
Panel A: Cumulative Net Interprovincial Migration as a Percentage of the Average Annual Population, 2002-2020



Panel B: Average Annual Net Interprovincial Migration as a Percentage of the Average Annual Population, 2002-2013



Panel C: Average Annual Net Interprovincial Migration as a Percentage of the Average Annual Population, 2014-2020



Note: Net interprovincial migration is calculated between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2020. The average annual population is calculated between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2020.

Sources: Net interprovincial migration: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01; Population: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0139-01

D. Intraprovincial Migration

Between 2002 and 2020, all four Northern counties suffered cumulative net losses of persons to other regions in New Brunswick. In particular, intraprovincial out-migrants from Gloucester County outnumbered intraprovincial in-migrants to the county by 6,565 persons, the largest net loss due to intraprovincial migration experienced by any of the counties. In total,

intraprovincial migrants from Northern New Brunswick exceeded intraprovincial migrants to Northern New Brunswick by 14,691 persons. Southern New Brunswick also experienced a net loss of persons to other regions of the province over the 2002-2020 period. Although Kings and Albert counties both saw net gains from other regions of New Brunswick (of 1,353 and 1,235 persons, respectively), the net losses from Saint John and Charlotte counties (of 1,889 and 2,095 persons, respectively), outweighed these gains, leading to a net loss of 1,396 persons from Southern New Brunswick.

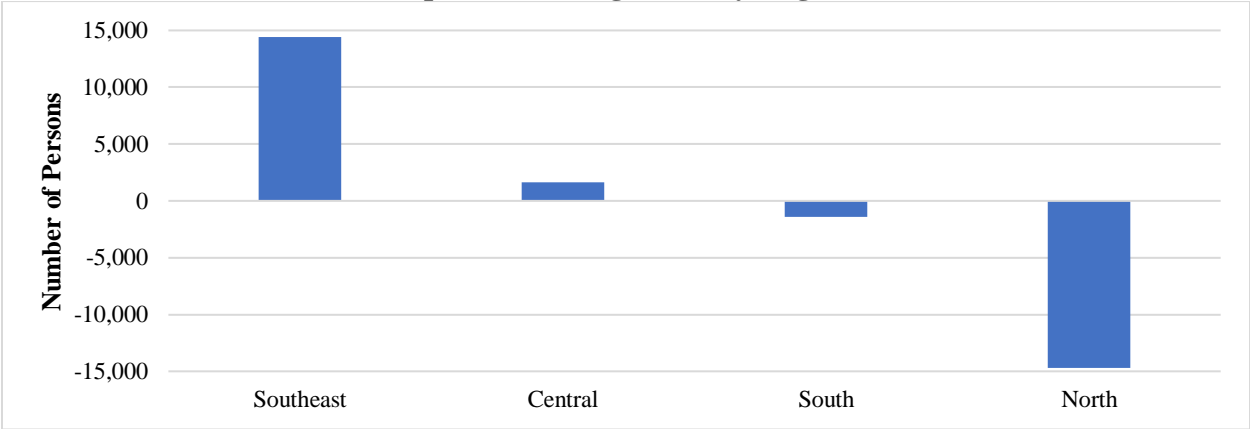
On the other hand, Central New Brunswick saw a net gain of 1,658 persons from other regions of New Brunswick between 2002 and 2020. Although Northumberland, Queens, Sunbury and Carleton counties all lost more persons than they gained from other regions of New Brunswick, the 9,095-person net gain to York County’s population outweighed these losses.

With net intraprovincial migration of 16,885 persons, Westmorland County saw by far the greatest net gain of persons from other counties in New Brunswick. Consequently, despite the fact that Kent County suffered a net loss of 2,456 persons to other counties, Southeastern New Brunswick experienced the greatest net gain of persons from other regions of the province over the 2002-2020 period.

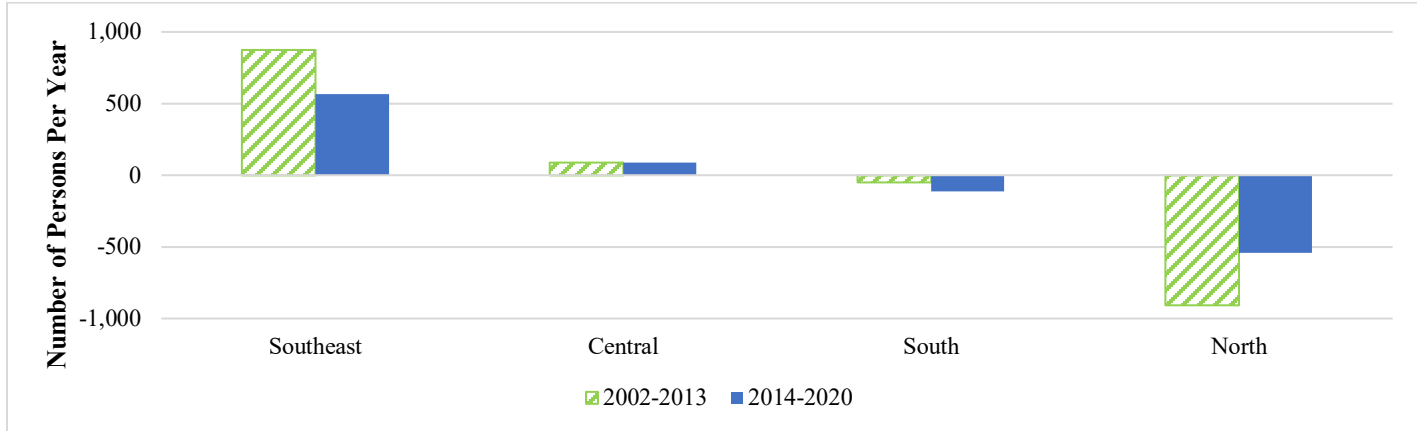
Between 2002 and 2013, Westmorland, York, Kings and Albert counties all saw positive cumulative net intraprovincial migration (Panel B of Chart 44). Westmorland, York and Albert again experienced positive net intraprovincial migration between 2014 and 2020, but Kings saw negative intraprovincial migration over the 2014-2020 period. Although Westmorland continued to make the greatest average net gains from other provinces between 2014 and 2020, average annual net intraprovincial migration to Westmorland fell from about 1,053.3 persons per year between 2002 and 2013 to 606.6 persons per year between 2014 and 2020. On the other hand, average annual net intraprovincial migration to York picked up between the two periods, from about 451.8 to 524.9 persons per year. After losing more persons than it gained from other counties between 2002 and 2013, Saint John saw modest positive net intraprovincial migration of 5.9 persons per year between 2014 and 2020.

Chart 43: Net Intraprovincial Migration by Region, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

Panel A: Cumulative Net Intraprovincial Migration by Region, New Brunswick, 2002-2020



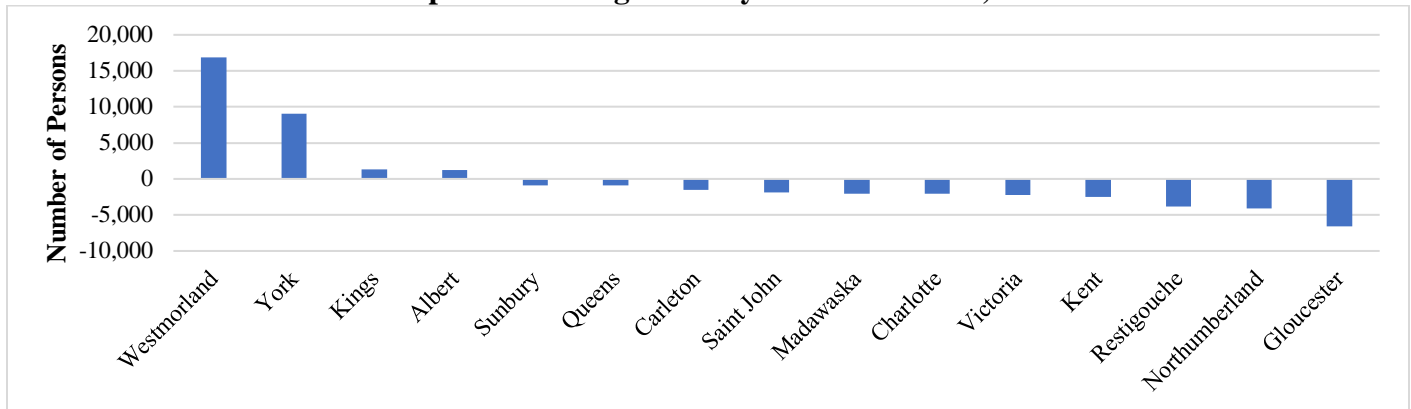
Panel B: Average Annual Net Intraprovincial Migration by Region, 2002-2013 and 2014-2020



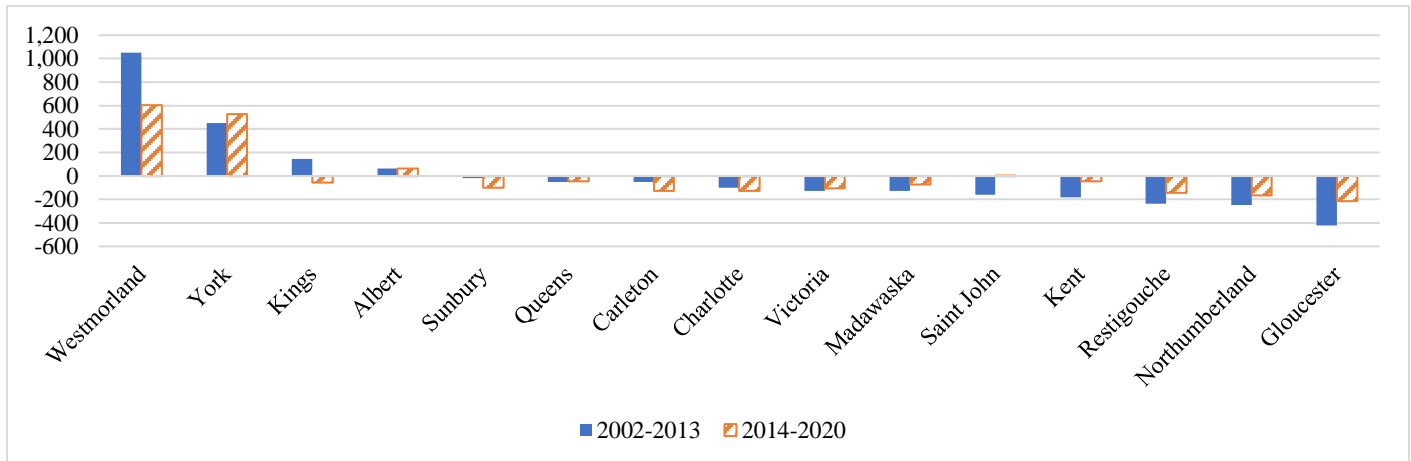
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

Chart 44: Net Intraprovincial Migration by Census Division, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

Panel A: Cumulative Net Intraprovincial Migration by Census Division, 2002-2020



Panel B: Average Annual Net Intraprovincial Migration by Census Division, 2002-2013 and 2014-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0140-01

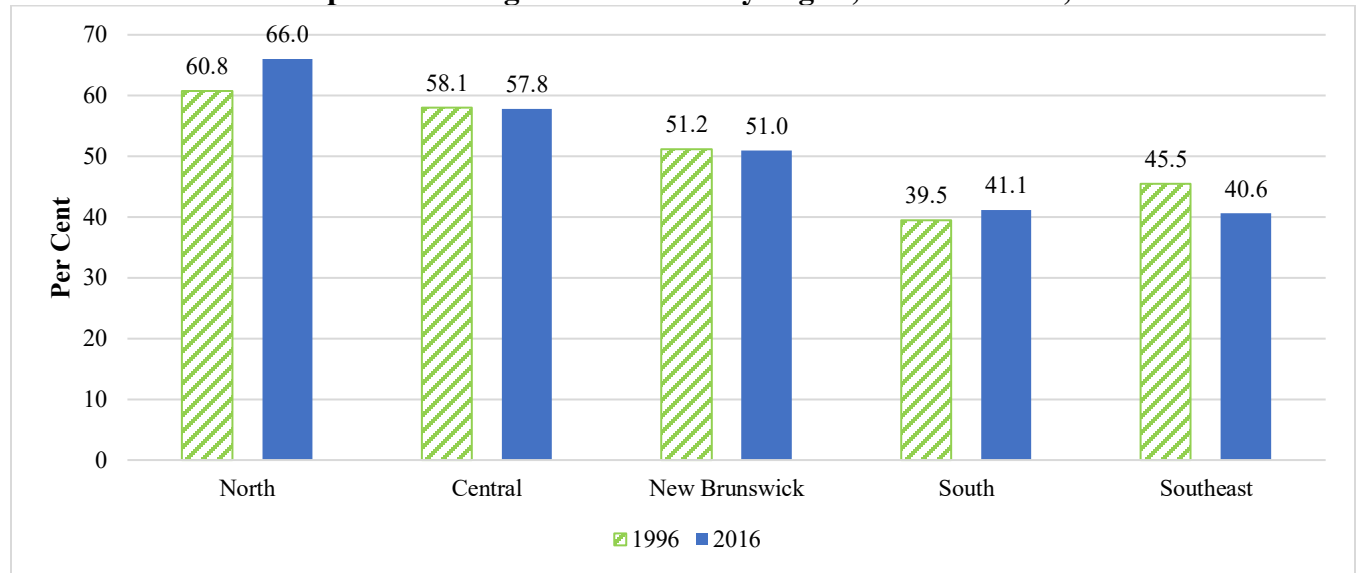
IV. Rural Versus Urban

In all the census years between 1996 and 2016, Northern New Brunswick had the largest relative share of persons living in rural areas (Appendix Table xx). The share of the population living in a rural area in Northern New Brunswick rose from 60.8 per cent in 1996 to 66.0 per cent in 2016 (Chart 45). In both 1996 and 2016, the share of persons living in rural areas in each northern county exceeded the provincial average.

On the other hand, at 39.5 per cent, Southern New Brunswick had the lowest share of persons living in a rural area in 1996. However, the share of the population of Southern New Brunswick living in a rural area increased to 41.1 per cent in 2016, while the share of the population living in Southeastern New Brunswick fell from 45.5 per cent in 1996 to 40.6 per cent in 2016. As a result, Southeastern New Brunswick was the least rural region in 2016.

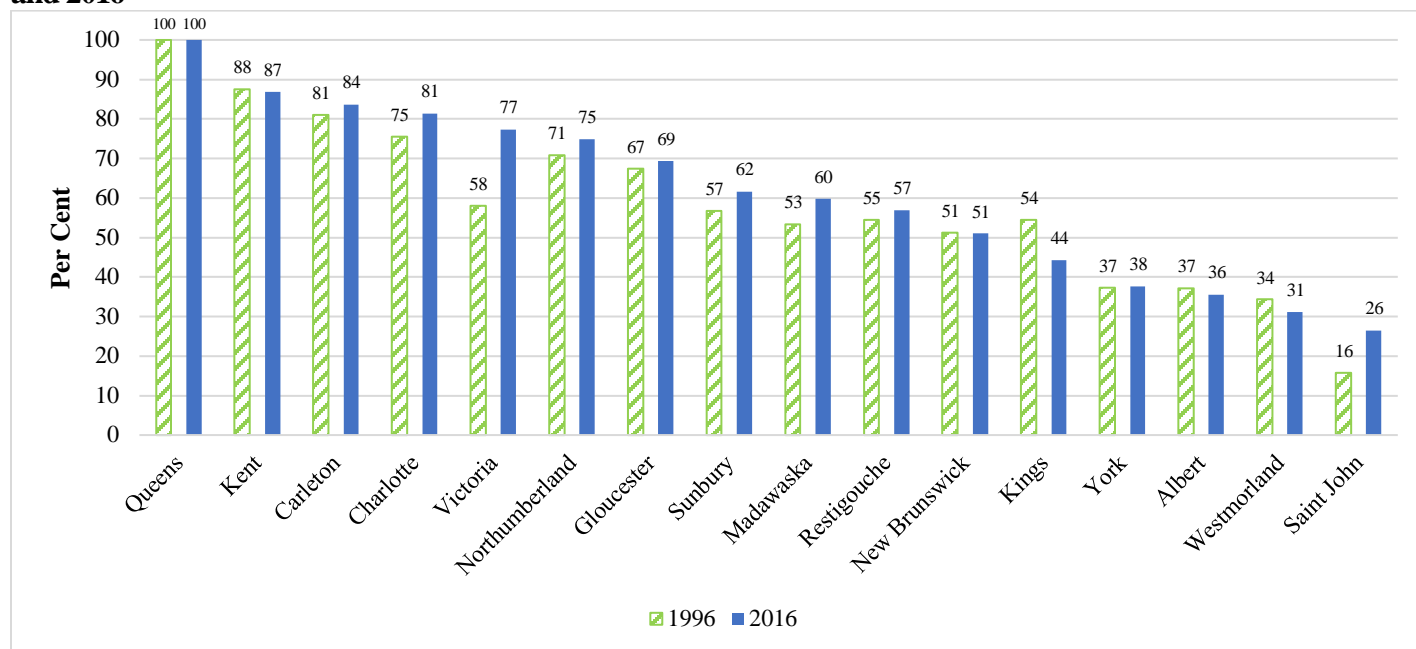
The entire population of Queens County lived in a rural area in all of the census years between 1996 and 2016 (Appendix Table xx). On the other hand, Saint John was the least rural county in all of the census years between 1996 and 2016. In 1996, 15.7 per cent of Saint John's population lived in a rural area (Chart 46). Between 1996 and 2016, the share of Saint John's population living in a rural area reached a minimum of 13.7 per cent in 2011. Between 2011 and 2016, the share nearly doubled, reaching 26.5 per cent in 2016. Despite this large increase, Saint John remained well below the provincial average in 2016.

Chart 45: Share of the Population Living in a Rural Area by Region, New Brunswick, 1996 and 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census Data Tables

Chart 46: Share of the Population Living in a Rural Area by Census Division, New Brunswick, 1996 and 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census Data Tables

Part Three: Demographics by Census Metropolitan Area and by Census Agglomeration, New Brunswick, 2001-2020

Part three of the report overviews trends in demographics by New Brunswick census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs)¹¹ between 2001 and 2020 using data from Statistics Canada’s estimates program “Annual Demographic Estimates: Subprovincial Areas,” as found in Table 17-10-0135-01. In 2020, New Brunswick had three CMAs and four CAs.¹² Between 2001 and 2020, the majority of New Brunswick’s population lived in a CMA or a CA (Database Table 20).¹³ In 2001, 59.4 per cent of New Brunswick’s population lived in a CMA or a CA. By 2020, this share had risen to 63.7 per cent.

¹¹ According to Statistic Canada’s 2016 Census Dictionary, “A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the core based on adjusted data from the previous Census of Population Program. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000 also based on data from the previous Census of Population Program. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from data on place of work from the previous Census Program.” For more details, see the full dictionary entry at <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/geo009-eng.cfm>.

¹² Fredericton became a CMA in 2012. Prior to 2012, Fredericton was a CA. This report will always refer to Fredericton as a CMA.

¹³ In 2020, the Moncton CMA had a population of 158,695, of which 50.1 per cent (79,508 persons) lived in the city of Moncton. The Saint John CMA had a population of 131,772, of which 54.2 per cent (71,364 persons) lived in the city of Saint John. The Fredericton CMA had a population of 111,024, of which 57.8 per cent (64,180 persons) lived in the city of Fredericton.

I. Population Growth by CMA and by CA, 2001-2020

The first two decades of this century saw the overall share of New Brunswick's population living in a CMA or CA solidify its majority, rising from 59.4 per cent in 2001 to 63.7 per cent in 2020. This gain was entirely due to population gains in the Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton CMAs, as population actually edged down in the Bathurst, Miramichi, Edmundston and Campbellton CAs.¹⁴

By 2020, 497,882 New Brunswickers lived in a CMA or a CA, representing 63.7 per cent of the total population of the province. With a population of 158,695, Moncton was New Brunswick's largest CMA in 2020. The Saint John CMA was the second largest CMA, with a population of 131,772. Fredericton had a population of 111,024, the smallest of the three CMAs. The Bathurst CA had a population of 31,691 in 2020, making it New Brunswick's largest CA. The Miramichi CA had a population of 27,997. The Edmundston CA had a population of 23,778. Finally, 12,925 lived in the part of the Campbellton CA located in New Brunswick in 2020.

Between 2001 and 2020, the Moncton CMA saw the strongest population growth of all the CMAs and CAs, followed by the Fredericton CMA and then the Saint John CMA. Population growth outpaced the provincial average in both the Moncton and the Fredericton CMAs between 2001 and 2020 and between the subperiods 2001-2011 and 2011-2020. On the other hand, Saint John's population growth slightly outpaced the provincial average between 2001 and 2011 but lagged behind it over the 2011-2020 period.

Between 2001 and 2020, Moncton's population grew at a compound annual rate of 1.35 per cent, making it the fastest growing CMA or CA in New Brunswick and outpacing the provincial average by 1.13 points (Table 4). Moncton's population grew at 1.35 per cent per year between 2001 and 2011, from 123,093 to 140,698 (Panel A of Appendix Table xx). Population growth continued at the same rate (1.35 per cent per year) between 2011 and 2020, such that Moncton's population reached 158,695 persons in 2020.

With a population of 131,772, Saint John (CMA) was the second largest of New Brunswick's CMAs and CAs in 2020. In 2001, Saint John's population exceeded that of Moncton by almost 4,000 people; Saint John had a population of 127,363 in 2001, while Moncton's population was 123,093. However, between 2001 and 2020, Saint John's population grew at a compound annual rate of 0.18 per cent, much weaker than the 1.35 per cent observed in Moncton over the period and 0.04 points below the provincial average (Panel B of Appendix Table xx). Consequently, in 2020, Saint John had a population of 131,772, almost 30,000 fewer people than Moncton. Between 2001 and 2011, Saint John's population grew at 0.20 per cent per year, from 127,363 to 129,927. Compared to the first decade following 2001, Saint John's population growth was slightly weaker between 2011 and 2020; the population grew at 0.16 per cent per year, 0.21 points below the provincial average.

¹⁴ The Campbellton CA is located partly in Restigouche (Northern New Brunswick) and partly in Quebec. This report will always refer to the part of Campbellton located in New Brunswick. According to Statistic Canada's Table 17-10-0135-01, in 2020, Campbellton had a total population of 15,901. 12,925 persons (81.3 per cent of the total population) lived in the part of Campbellton located in New Brunswick, while 2,976 persons (18.7 per cent of the total population) lived in the part of Campbellton located in Quebec.

Of all New Brunswick's CMAs and CAs, Fredericton saw the second fastest population growth between 2001 and 2020. Between 2001 and 2020, Fredericton's population grew at a compound annual rate of 1.20 per cent, from 88,455 to 111,024 (Panel C of Appendix Table xx). Population growth in Fredericton outpaced the provincial average by 0.98 points. Fredericton's population had reached 99,338 by 2011, as a result of compound annual growth of 1.17 per cent between 2001 and 2011. Between 2011 and 2020, Fredericton's population growth picked up slightly to 1.24 per cent per year. In 2020, Fredericton had a population of 111,024.

In contrast to the growth in New Brunswick's CMAs, the populations of all four of the province's CAs fell between 2001 and 2020 and between the subperiods 2001-2011 and 2001-2020. However, compared to the 2001-2011 period, the population decline slowed between 2011 and 2020 in all of the CAs.

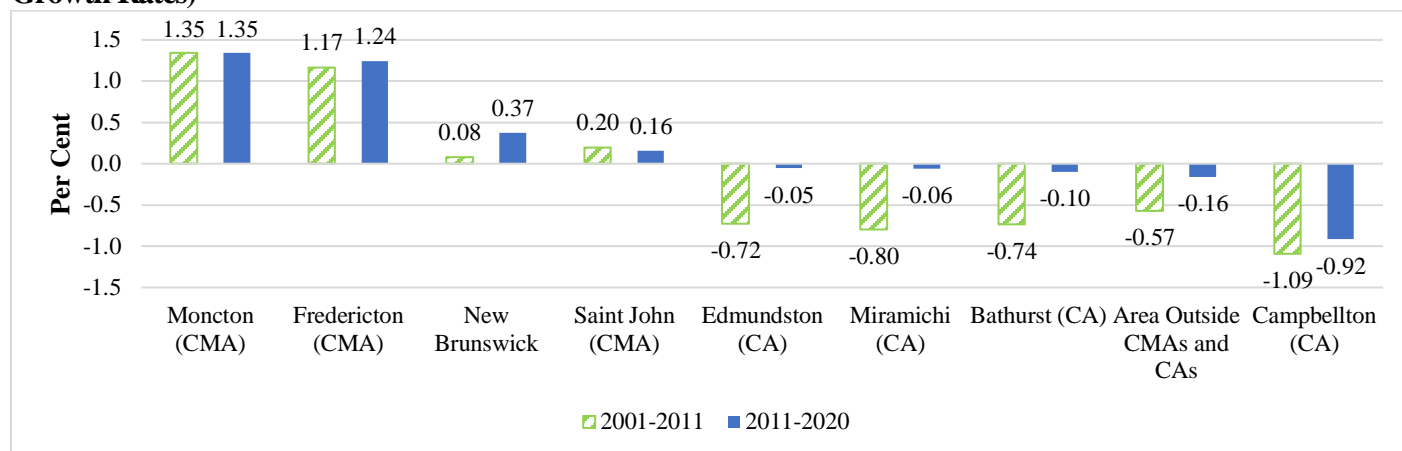
With a population of 31,691, Bathurst was New Brunswick's largest CA in 2020. Between 2001 and 2020, Bathurst's population decreased at a compound annual rate of 0.44 per cent, from 34,433 to 31,691 persons. Miramichi was New Brunswick's second largest CA in 2020. Between 2001 and 2020, Miramichi's population fell at a compound annual rate of 0.45 per cent, from 30,500 to 27,997. Edmundston followed Miramichi in population size in 2020. Between 2001 and 2020, Edmundston's population decreased at a compound annual rate of 0.41 per cent, from 25,692 to 23,778. Between 2001 and 2020, Campbellton's population fell faster than any other New Brunswick CMA or CA; Campbellton's population decreased at a compound annual rate of 1.01 per cent, from 15,668 in 2001 to 12,925 in 2020.

Table 4: Population Growth by New Brunswick CMAs and CAs, 2001-2020 (Compound Annual Growth Rates)

Compound Annual Growth Rate	New Brunswick	Moncton (CMA)	Saint John (CMA)	Fredericton (CMA)	Bathurst (CA)	Miramichi (CA)	Edmundston (CA)	Campbellton (CA), New Brunswick part	Area Outside CMAs and CAs
2001-2020	0.22	1.35	0.18	1.20	-0.44	-0.45	-0.41	-1.01	-0.38
2001-2011	0.08	1.35	0.20	1.17	-0.74	-0.80	-0.72	-1.09	-0.57
2011-2020	0.37	1.35	0.16	1.24	-0.10	-0.06	-0.05	-0.92	-0.16

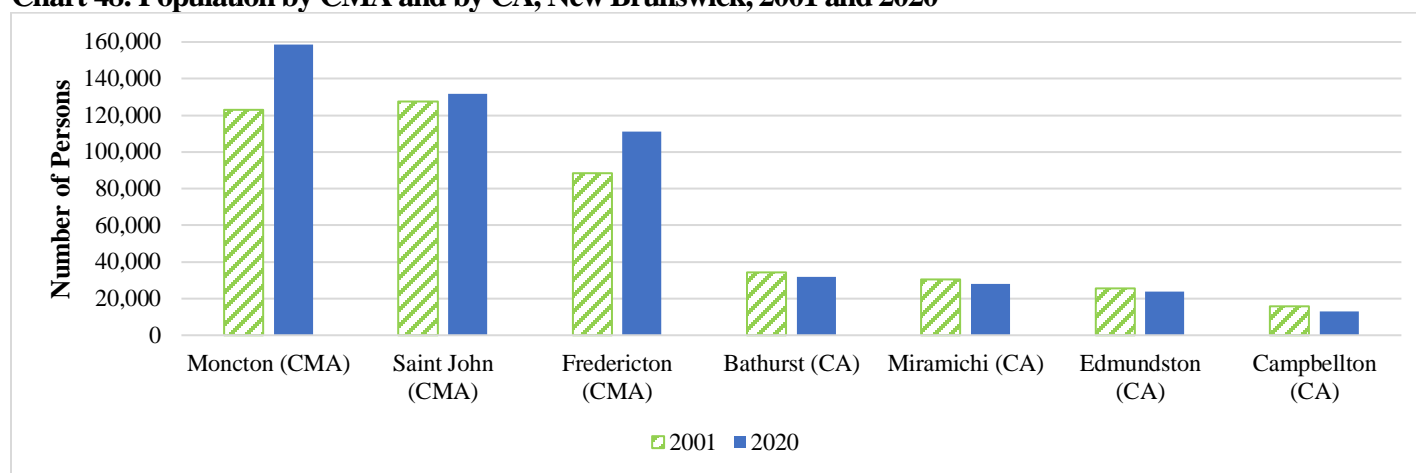
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0135-01

Chart 47: Population Growth by New Brunswick CMAs and CAs, 2001-2020 (Compound Annual Growth Rates)



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0135-01

Chart 48: Population by CMA and by CA, New Brunswick, 2001 and 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0135-01

II. Age Structure of New Brunswick’s CMAs and CAs, 2001-2020

Consistent with population aging observed at the provincial level post-2000, between 2001 and 2020, in all of New Brunswick’s CMAs and CAs, the median age increased, the share of seniors in the total population increased, and the share of persons under 15 in the total population decreased.

Over the entire 2001-2020 period, the shares of seniors in the total populations of the CMAs were lower than the provincial average between 2001 and 2020, and the shares of seniors in the total populations of the CAs were higher than the provincial average for most of the period, with the exception that the share of seniors in Bathurst’s population was slightly lower than the provincial average for the first three years of the period (Appendix Table xx).

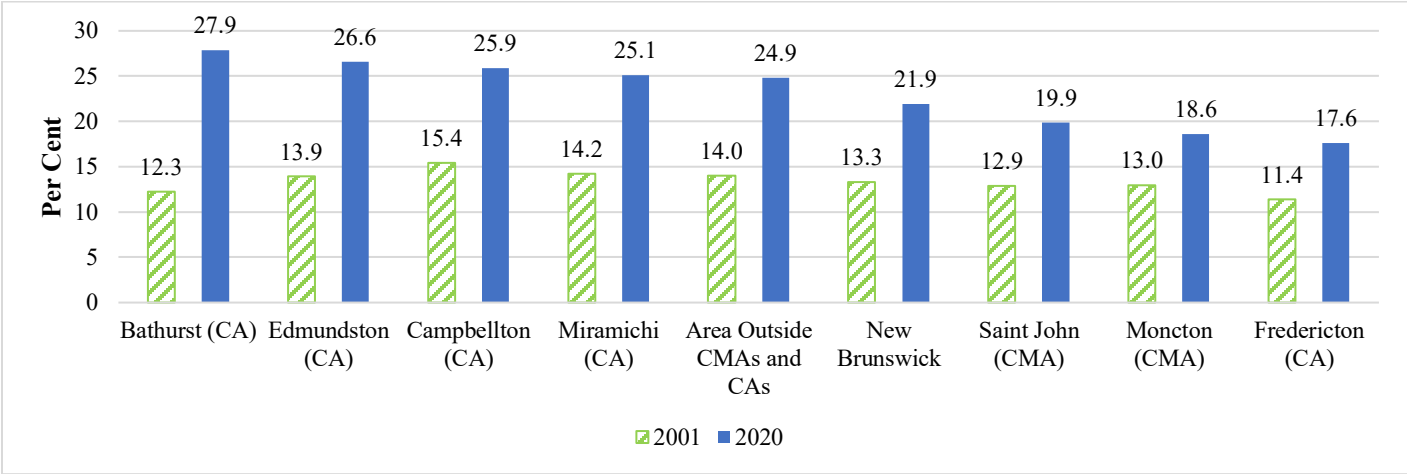
In 2001, the share of seniors in the total population of a CMA or a CA ranged from 11.4 per cent (in Fredericton CMA) to 15.4 per cent (in Campbellton CA). Between 2001 and 2020, Fredericton CMA saw both the smallest absolute increase and the smallest relative increase in

the share of seniors in its total population. In 2020, seniors accounted for 17.6 per cent of Fredericton’s total population, up 5.7 points (43.6 per cent) from 2001. On the other hand, Bathurst CA saw both the largest absolute increase and the largest relative increase in the share of seniors in its total population. In 2020, seniors made up 27.9 per cent of Bathurst’s population, up 15.6 points (127.2 per cent) from 2001. As a result, Bathurst CA had the highest share of seniors in its total population of all the CMAs and CAs in 2020.

In 2001, the share of persons under 15 in the total of a CMA or a CA ranged from 15.2 per cent (in Edmundston) to 18.8 per cent (in Saint John). In 2020, the share of persons under 15 was lowest in Bathurst’s total population, at 11.3 per cent. At the other end of the spectrum, the share of persons under 15 was highest in the total population of Fredericton, at 15.6 per cent.

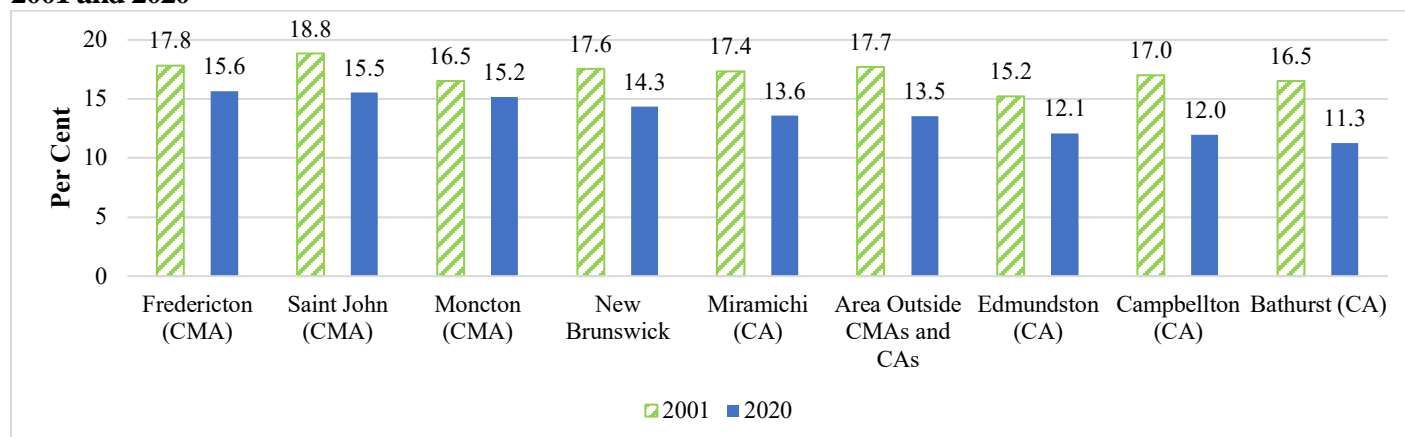
Between 2001 and 2020, Moncton CMA saw both the smallest absolute decrease and the smallest relative decrease in the share of persons under 15 in its total population. In 2020, persons under 15 made up 15.2 per cent of Moncton’s total population, down 1.3 points (8.2 per cent) from 2001. In contrast, Bathurst CMA experienced both the largest absolute decrease and the largest relative decrease in the share of persons under 15 in its total population. Persons under 15 made up 11.3 per cent of Bathurst’s population in 2020, down 5.3 points (31.9 per cent) from 2001.

Chart 49: Share of Seniors in the Total Population by CMA and by CA, New Brunswick, 2001 and 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0135-02

Chart 50: Share of Persons Under 15 in the Total Population by CMA and by CA, New Brunswick, 2001 and 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0135-02

Consistent with the fact that the share of seniors in the total populations of the CMAs was lower and the share of persons under 15 in the total populations of the CMAs higher than the corresponding shares in the total populations of CAs over the majority of the 2001-2020 period, the median ages in the CMAs were lower than the median ages in the CAs between 2001 and 2020. As well, the median ages were lower than the provincial average in the CMAs but higher than the provincial average in the CAs (Appendix Table xx).

In 2001, the median age ranged from 36.5 years (in Fredericton CMA) to 40.4 years (in Edmundston CMA) (Chart 51). Between 2001 and 2020, the CAs saw largest absolute increases in their median ages than did the CMAs.

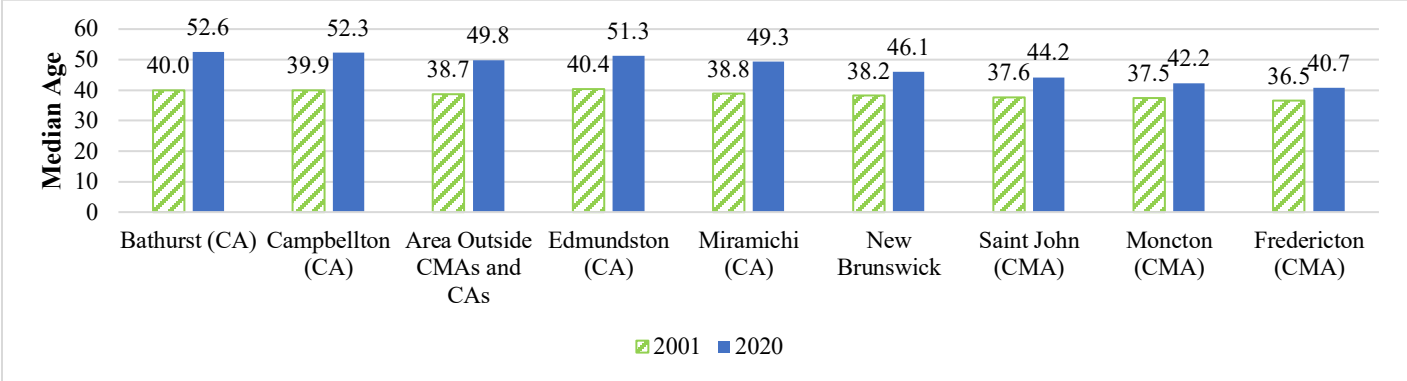
Fredericton CMA maintained the lowest median age of all the CMAs and CAs throughout the 2001-2020 period. This was consistent with the fact that Fredericton CMA had the smallest share of seniors in its total population and the largest or second largest share of persons under 15 in its total population. In 2020, Fredericton's median age was 40.7 in 2020, up 4.2 years from 2001 but 5.4 years below the provincial median. On the other hand, Bathurst CA had the highest median age of the CMAs and CAs, at 52.6 years, up 12.6 years from 2001 and 6.5 years above the provincial median.

The share of seniors in the total population of areas outside of CMAs and CAs was higher than the provincial share throughout the 2001-2020 period. In 2001, seniors made up 14.0 per cent of the total population of areas outside of CMAs and CAs, exceeding the provincial share by 0.7 points. In 2020, the share of seniors in the total population of areas outside of CMAs and CAs was 24.9 per cent, up 10.9 points from 2001 and 3.0 points above the provincial share.

On the other hand, in 2001, the share of persons under 15 in the total population in areas outside of CMAs and CAs was 17.7 per cent, 0.01 points above the provincial median. However, the share of persons under 15 in the total population in areas outside of CMAs and CAs dipped below the provincial share in 2004 and has remained below it since. In 2020, persons under 15 made up 13.5 per cent of the total population in areas outside of CMAs and CAs, down 4.2 points (23.5 per cent) from 2001 and 0.8 points below the provincial share.

Consistent with the fact the share of seniors in the total population of areas outside of CMAs and CAs was higher than the provincial average and that the share of persons under 15 was lower than the provincial average for most of the period, Similarly, the median age in all areas outside of CMAs and CAs was consistently higher than the provincial median and higher than the medians in the CMAs between 2001 and 2020. In 2001, the median age in areas outside of CMAs and CAs was 38.7 years, 0.5 years above the provincial median. By 2020, the median age in areas outside of CMAs and CAs had climbed up 11.1 years to 49.8 years, 3.7 years above the provincial median.

Chart 51: Median Age by CMA and by CA, New Brunswick, 2001 and 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0135-02

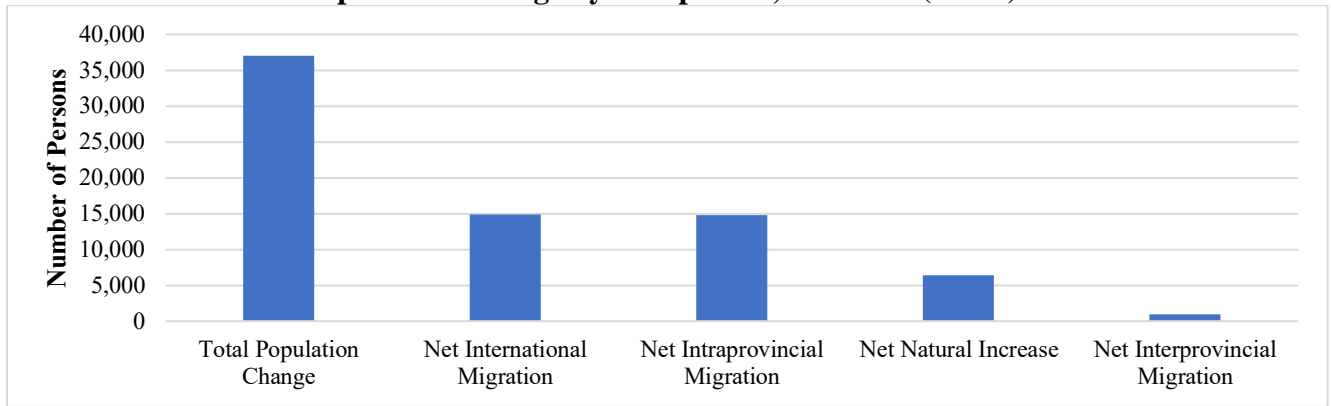
III. Components of Population Change by CMA and by CA, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

This section looks at the components of population change between July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2020, using data from Statistics Canada’s estimates program “Annual Demographic Estimates: Subprovincial Areas,” as found in Table 17-10-0136-01, between July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2020. Each year refers to the population change between July 1 of the preceding year and June 30 of the year in question.

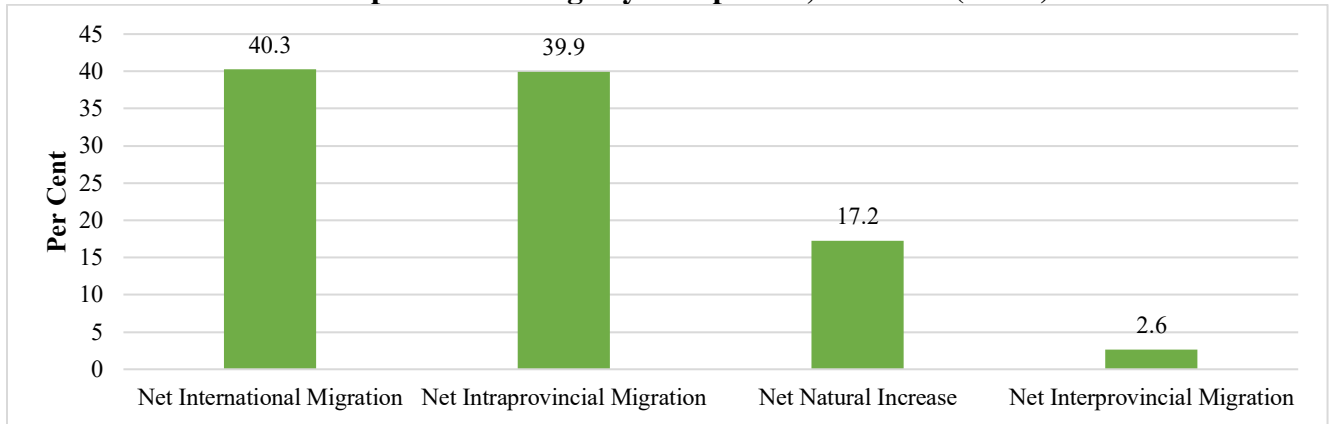
Between 2002 and 2020, net international migration was by far the largest contributor to population growth of the total population of all of New Brunswick’s CMAs and CAs (Chart 52). Over the 2002-2020 period, cumulative net international migration to CMAs and CAs was 40,589 persons. Net intraprovincial migration followed at 16,941 persons. Net natural increase was the weakest contributor to population growth, resulting in a cumulative gain of 9,965 persons. On the other hand, net interprovincial migration reduced population growth by 16,311 persons.

Chart 52: Cumulative Population Change by Component and by CMA and CA, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

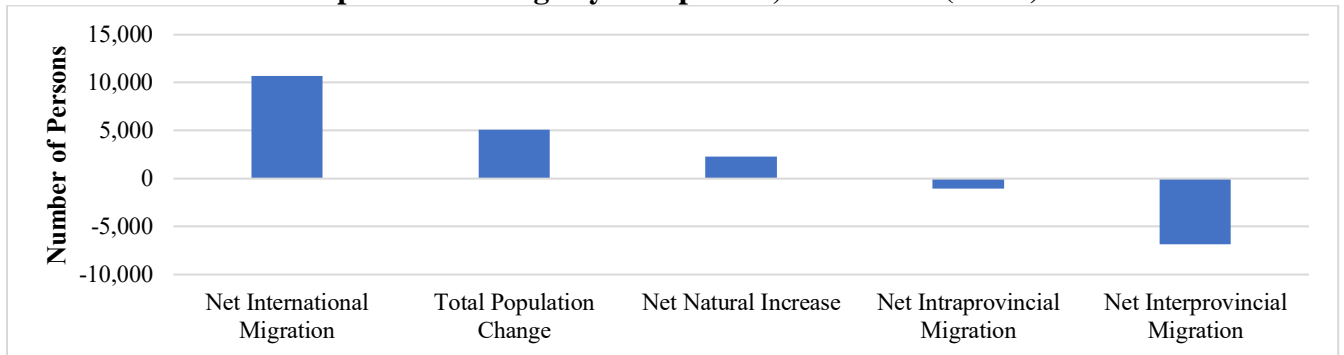
Panel A: Cumulative Population Change by Component, Moncton (CMA)



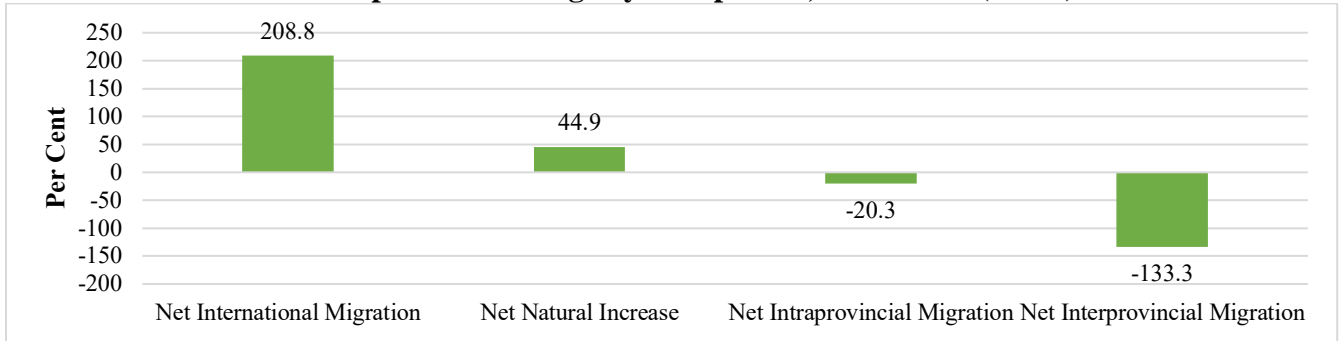
Panel B: Share of Total Population Change by Component, Moncton (CMA)



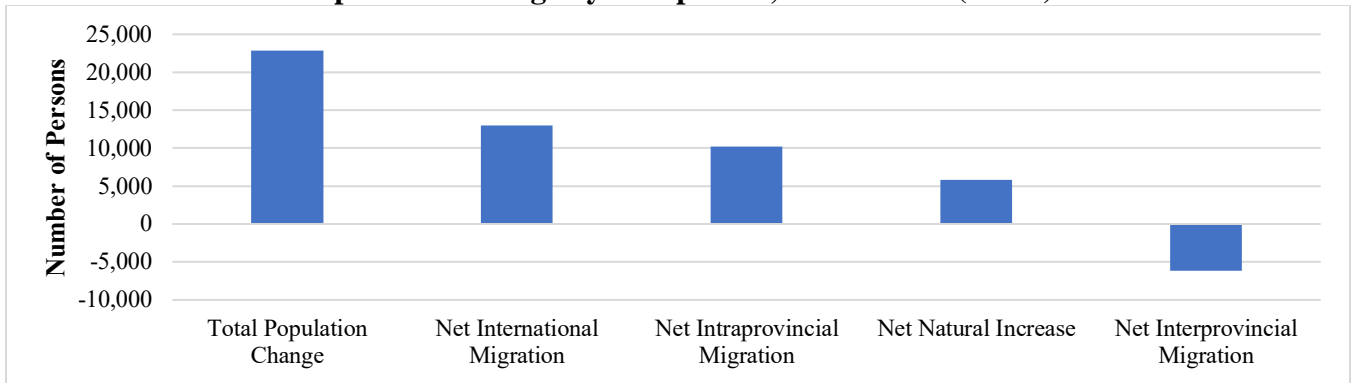
Panel C: Cumulative Population Change by Component, Saint John (CMA)



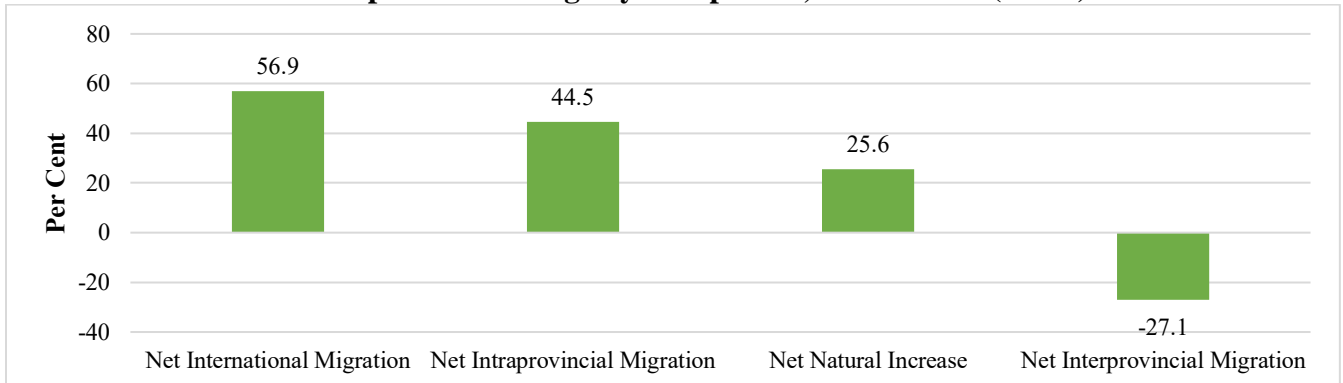
Panel D: Share of Total Population Change by Component, Saint John (CMA)



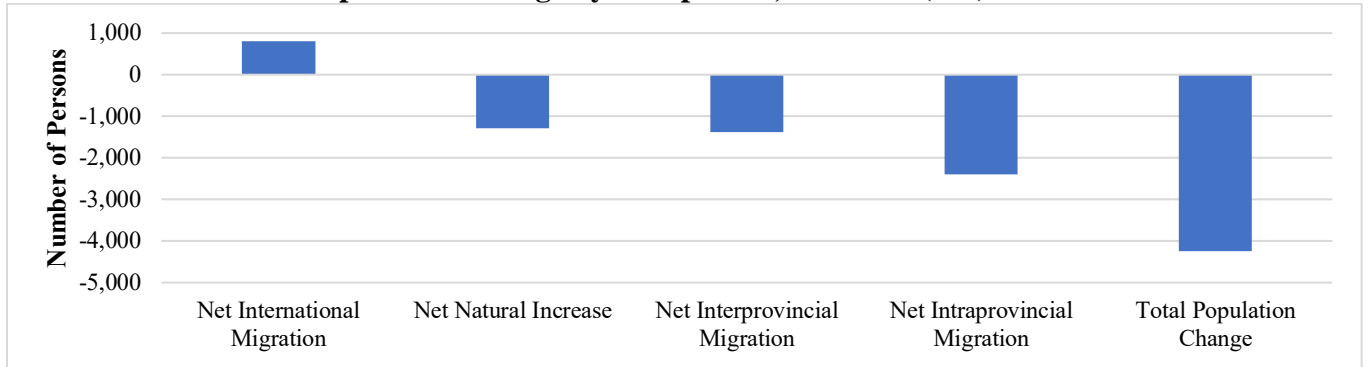
Panel E: Cumulative Population Change by Component, Fredericton (CMA)



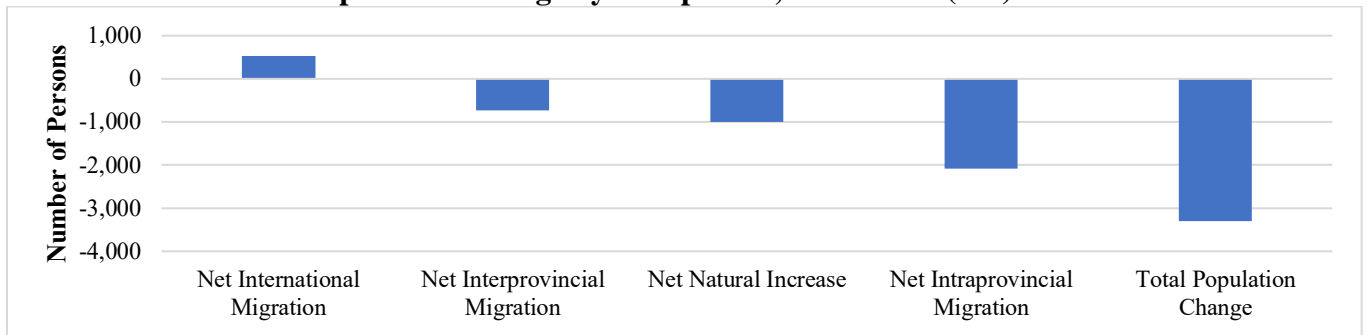
Panel F: Share of Total Population Change by Component, Fredericton (CMA)



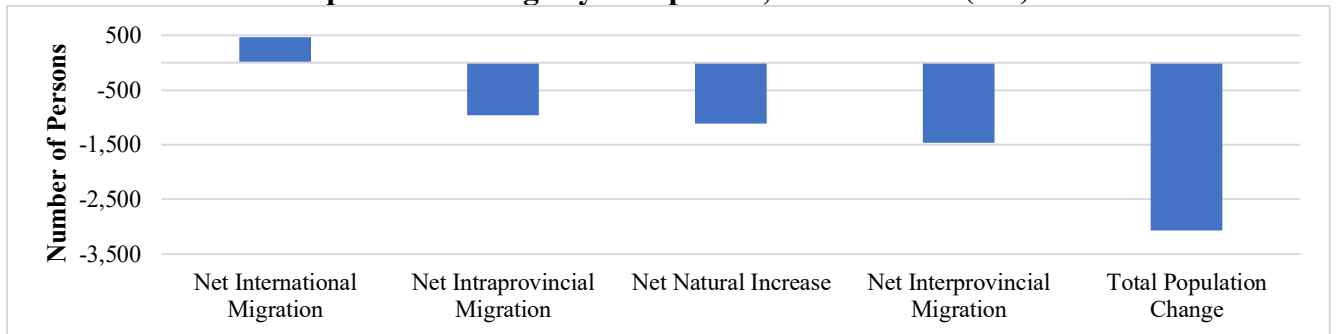
Panel G: Cumulative Population Change by Component, Bathurst (CA)



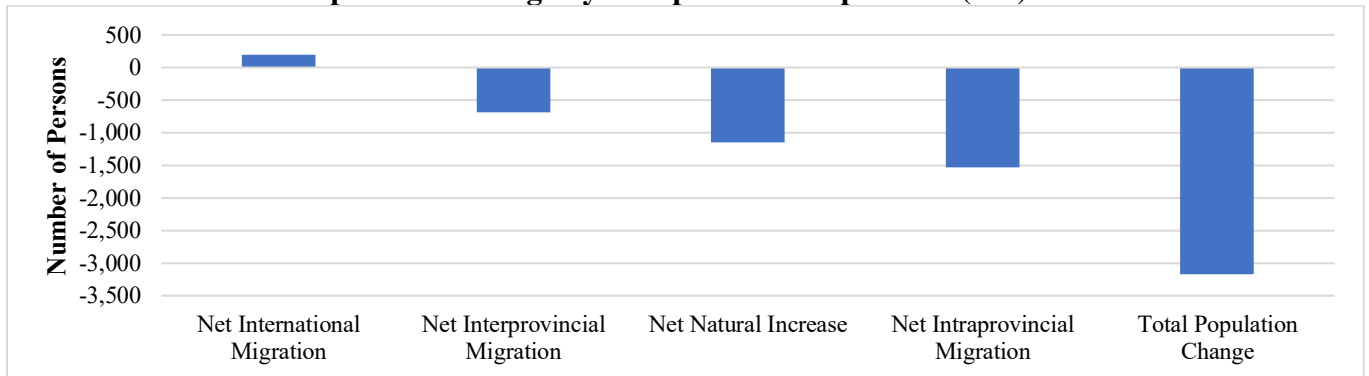
Panel H: Cumulative Population Change by Component, Miramichi (CA)



Panel I: Cumulative Population Change by Component, Edmundston (CA)



Panel J: Cumulative Population Change by Component Campbellton (CA)



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0136-01

A. Natural Increase

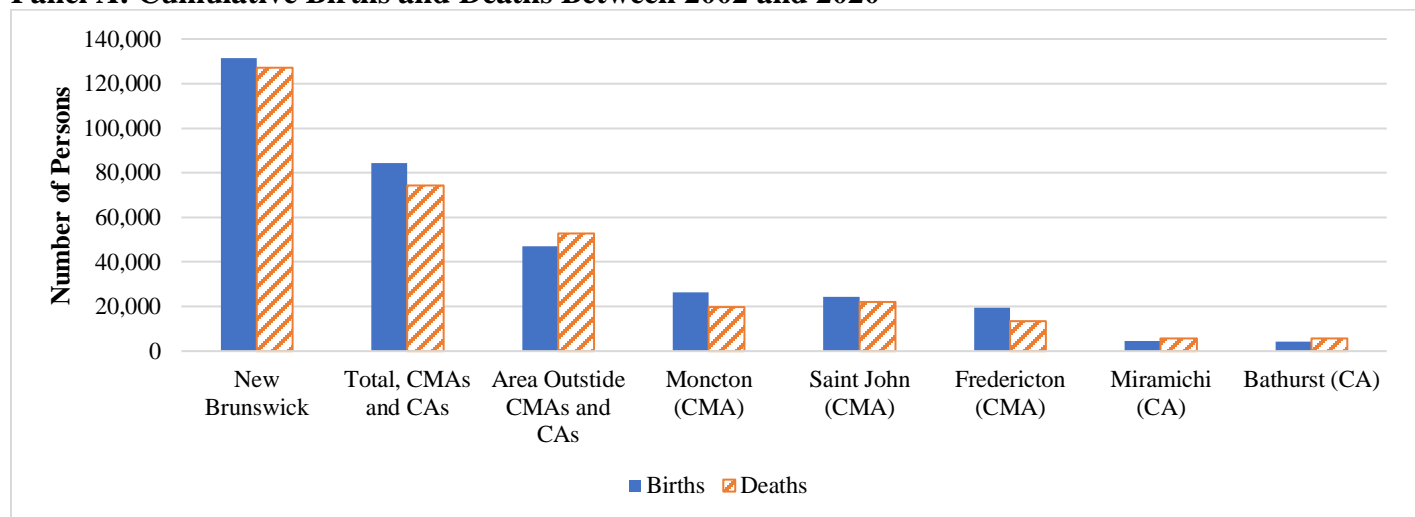
Cumulative births exceeded cumulative deaths in Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton CMAs between 2002 and 2020. In contrast, in all four CAs, cumulative deaths exceeded cumulative births, meaning that the four northern CAs experienced negative net natural increase over the period (Panel A of Chart 53). Between 2002 and 2020, 26,256 persons were born in Moncton and 19,887 persons died, leading to a net natural increase of 6,369 persons, the greatest net natural increase of all the CMAs and CAs. Fredericton saw the second largest net natural increase, with 19,367 births and 13,521 deaths. Saint John followed with 24,321 births and 22,026 deaths. Net natural losses in the northern counties ranged from 1,004 persons (in Miramichi) to 1,284 persons (in Bathurst).

In all seven CMAs and CAs, average annual net natural increase was weaker in the 2014-2020 period than it was in the 2002-2013 period. Between 2002 and 2013, total deaths exceeded total births in Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John. Births continued to exceed deaths during the 2014-2020 period in Moncton and Fredericton, but by a smaller margin (about 211.9 versus 407.2 persons per year in Moncton and about 217.3 versus 360.4 persons per year in Fredericton). On the other hand, in Saint John, more people died than were born between 2014 and 2020. During the 2014-2020 period, on average, about 1,207.1 persons were born and about 1,254.4 persons died per year in Saint John.

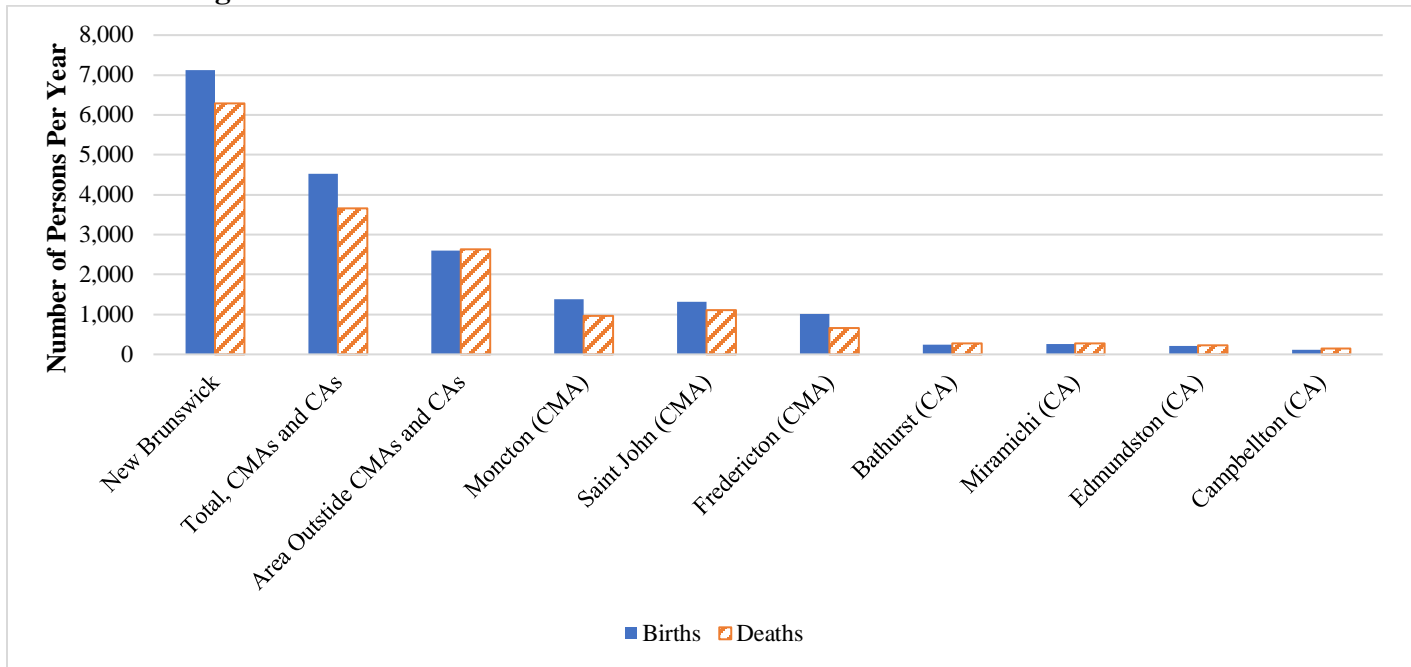
Average annual deaths exceeded average annual births in all four northern CAs in both the 2002-2013 and the 2014-2020 period, but the difference between deaths and births was greater between 2014 and 2020 than it was between 2002 and 2013. Of all the CMAs and CAs, Bathurst experienced the greatest net natural loss between 2014 and 2020; on average, about 208.1 persons were born and about 337.6 persons died per year in Bathurst during the 2014-2020 period.

Chart 53: Births and Deaths by CMA and by CA, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

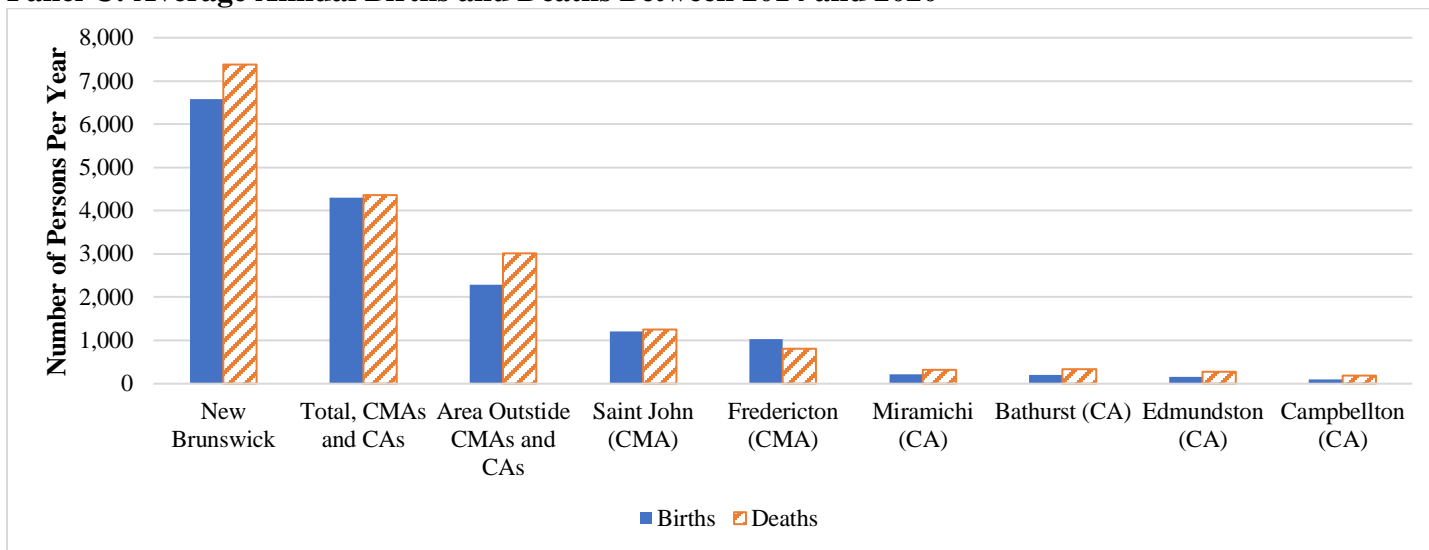
Panel A: Cumulative Births and Deaths Between 2002 and 2020



Panel B: Average Annual Births and Deaths Between 2002 and 2013



Panel C: Average Annual Births and Deaths Between 2014 and 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0136-01

B. International Migration

Between 2002 and 2020, cumulative net international migration to CMAs and to CAs was 40,589 persons. Net international migration to areas outside of CMAs and CAs was much lower, at only 5,302 persons. This was largely due to that fact that between 2002 and 2020, CMAs and CAs received far more immigrants than did areas outside of CMAs and CAs (38,388 versus 6,662 persons).

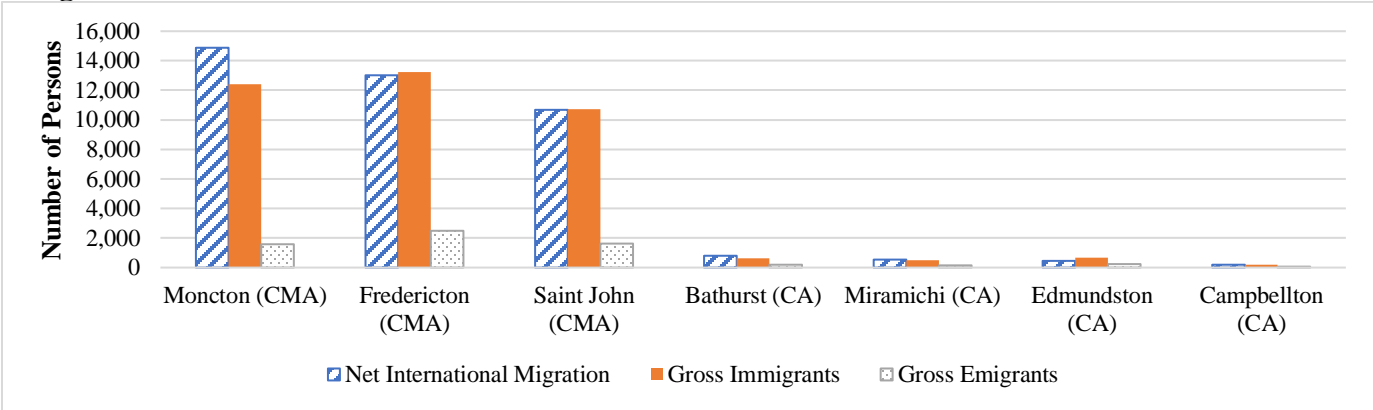
During the 2002-2020 period, Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John all saw much stronger cumulative net international migration than did the northern CAs (Panel A of Chart 54). At 14,901 persons, Moncton saw the greatest cumulative net international migration. Between 2002 and 2020, 12,931 persons immigrated to Moncton, and 1,560 persons emigrated from Moncton. Fredericton followed Moncton with cumulative net international migration of 13,004 persons. Saint John had cumulative net international migration of 10,683 persons. Among the northern CAs, cumulative net international migration ranged from 810 persons (in Bathurst) to 201 persons (in Campbellton).

Between 2002 and 2013, Edmundston was the only CA to post negative net international migration. On net, Edmundston lost about 6.0 persons per year to international migration over the 2002-2013 period. At about 444.8 persons per year, Saint John had the largest average annual net international migration between 2002 and 2013. Moncton and Fredericton followed with rates of about 413.5 and 401.0 persons per year, respectively.

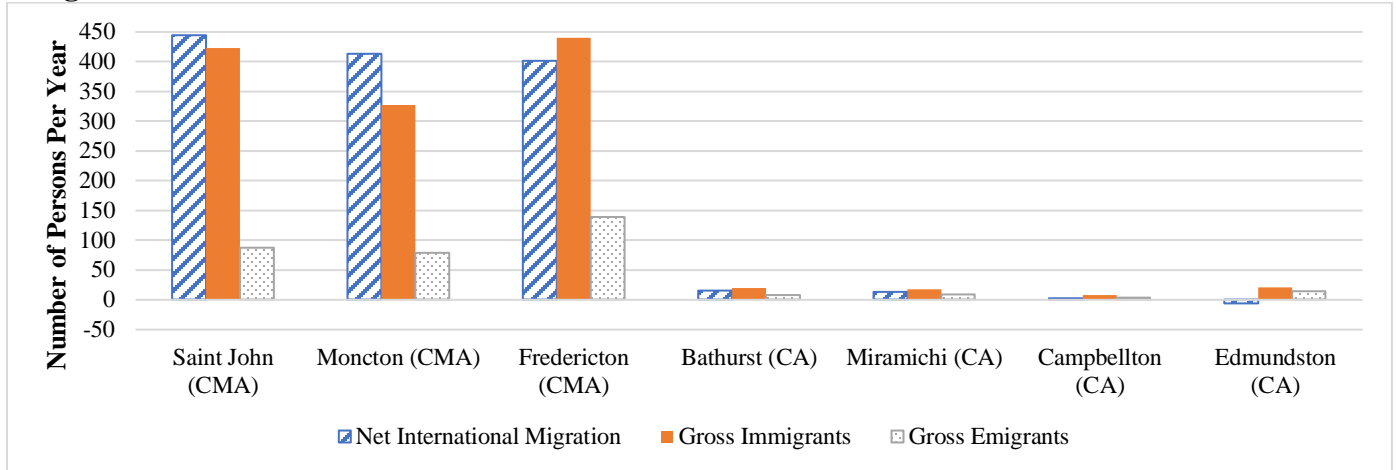
Overall, net international migration picked up dramatically between the 2002-2013 period and the 2014-2020 period. Both CMAs and CAs and areas outside of CMAs and CAs saw significant increases between the two periods. CMAs and CAs saw a greater absolute increase, while areas outside of CMAs and CAs saw a greater relative increase. Between 2002 and 2013, average net international migration to areas outside of CMAs and CAs rose from about 135.8 to 524.7 persons per year. Average annual net international migration to CMAs and CAs nearly tripled between the two periods, rising from about 1,284.2 to 3,597.0 persons per year. The majority of this increase was attributable to stronger performance by Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John. In particular, average annual net international migration to Moncton rose from about 413.5 to 1,419.9 persons per year, a 243 per cent increase. Between 2014 and 2020, on average, about 1,210.0 persons immigrated to Moncton per year, and about 87.9 persons emigrated from Moncton per year. Fredericton had the second highest average annual net international migration over the period; net international migration to Fredericton was about 1,170.3 persons per year between 2014 and 2020.

Chart 54: Net International Migration, Gross Immigration and Gross Emigration by CMA and by CA, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

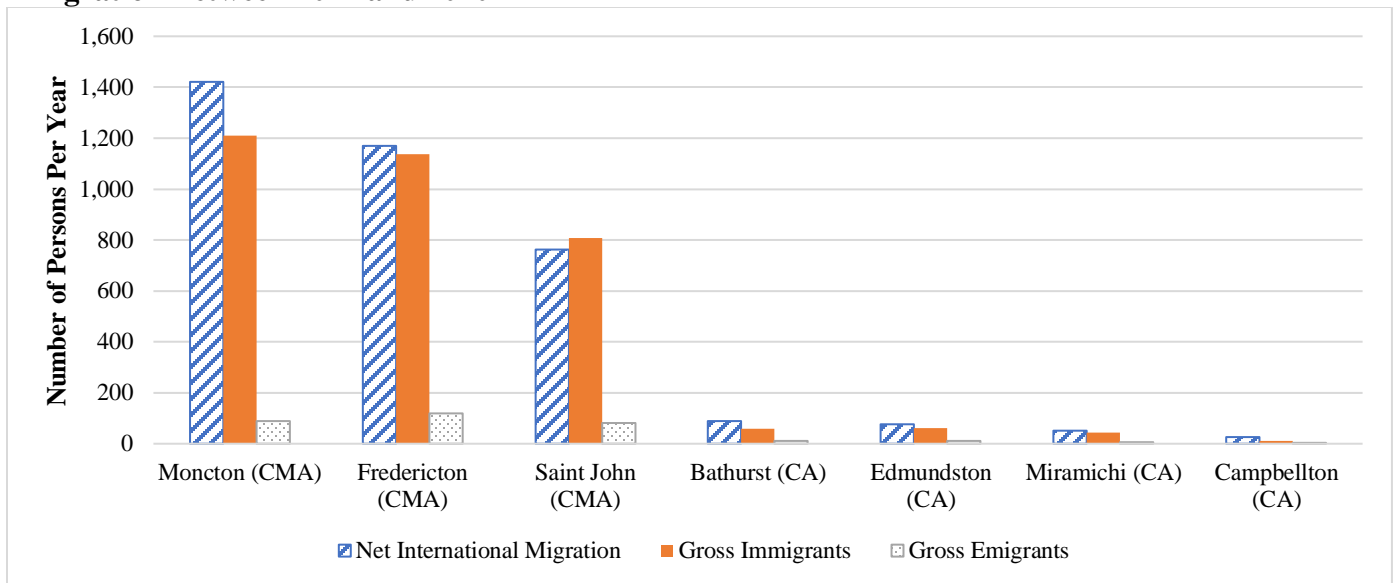
Panel A: Cumulative Net International Migration, Gross Immigration and Gross Emigration Between 2002 and 2020



Panel B: Average Annual Net International Migration, Gross Immigration and Gross Emigration Between 2002 and 2013



Panel C: Average Annual Net International Migration, Gross Immigration and Gross Emigration Between 2014 and 2020

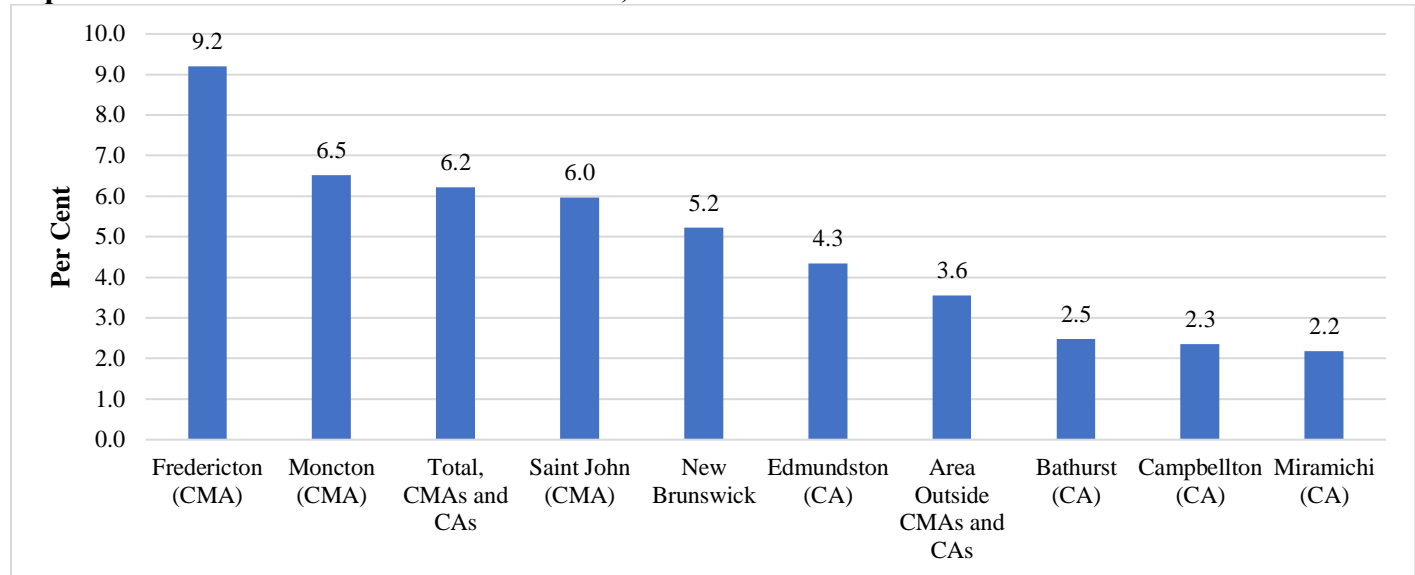


Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0136-01

Trends in the number of gross immigrants to CMAs and CAs between 2002 and 2020 were consistent with the share of immigrants and non-permanent residents in the total populations of the CMAs and CAs. As noted earlier, Fredericton CMA received the greatest number of gross immigrants between 2002 and 2020. In 2016, immigrants and non-permanent residents accounted for 9.2 per cent of Fredericton CMA’s total population, the largest share of all the CMAs and CAs (Chart 55). Immigrants and non-permanent residents accounted for 6.5 per cent and 6.0 per cent of the total populations of Moncton and Saint John CMAs, respectively. In contrast, immigrants and non-permanent residents made up only 2.2 per cent of the total population of Miramichi CA, the lowest share of all the CMAs and CAs.

Moreover, in 2016, immigrants and non-permanent residents made up 6.2 per cent of the total population of the combined population of all CMAs and CAs. On the other hand, immigrants and non-permanent residents accounted for only 3.6 per cent of the total population of areas outside of CMAs and CAs.

Chart 55: Share of Immigrants and Non-Permanent Residents (Foreign-Born Persons) in the Total Populations of New Brunswick's CMAs and CAs, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity Highlight Tables, 2016 Census

C. Interprovincial Migration

The losses to interprovincial migration observed at the level of the province and at the level of the counties were reflected at the level of CMAs and CAs. Between 2002 and 2020, CMAs and CAs collectively lost a cumulative 16,311 persons more than they gained (Panel A of Chart 30). On the other hand, net interprovincial migration was only -4,404 persons in the total area outside of CMAs and CAs. Net interprovincial migration was the only component of population growth for which area outside CMAs and CAs outperformed CMAs and CAs.

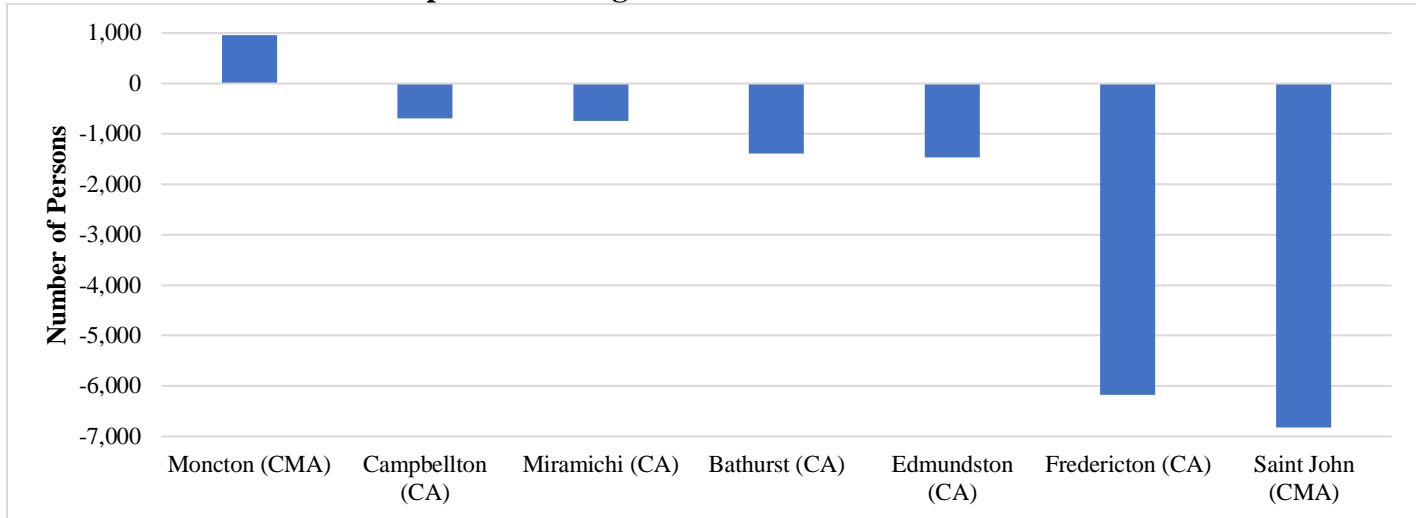
Between 2002 and 2013, Moncton was the only CMA or CA to post positive net interprovincial migration. Net interprovincial migration to Moncton was about 89.2 persons per year. Saint John suffered the greatest net loss of persons to other provinces; between 2002 and 2013, average net interprovincial migration to Saint John was about -373.6 persons per year.

Saint John and all four northern CAs performed better between 2014 and 2020 relative to their respective performances between 2002 and 2013. Net interprovincial migration to Saint John rose to 333.9 persons per year during the 2014-2020 period. Miramichi, Campbellton and Bathurst all had modest positive average annual net interprovincial migration. Miramichi saw the greatest net interprovincial migration, gaining about 23.7 persons per year on net. On the other hand, net interprovincial migration to Moncton fell from about 89.2 to -15.0 persons per year from the 2002-2013 period to the 2014-2020 period. Fredericton saw the greatest relative and absolute deterioration between the two periods; average net interprovincial migration to

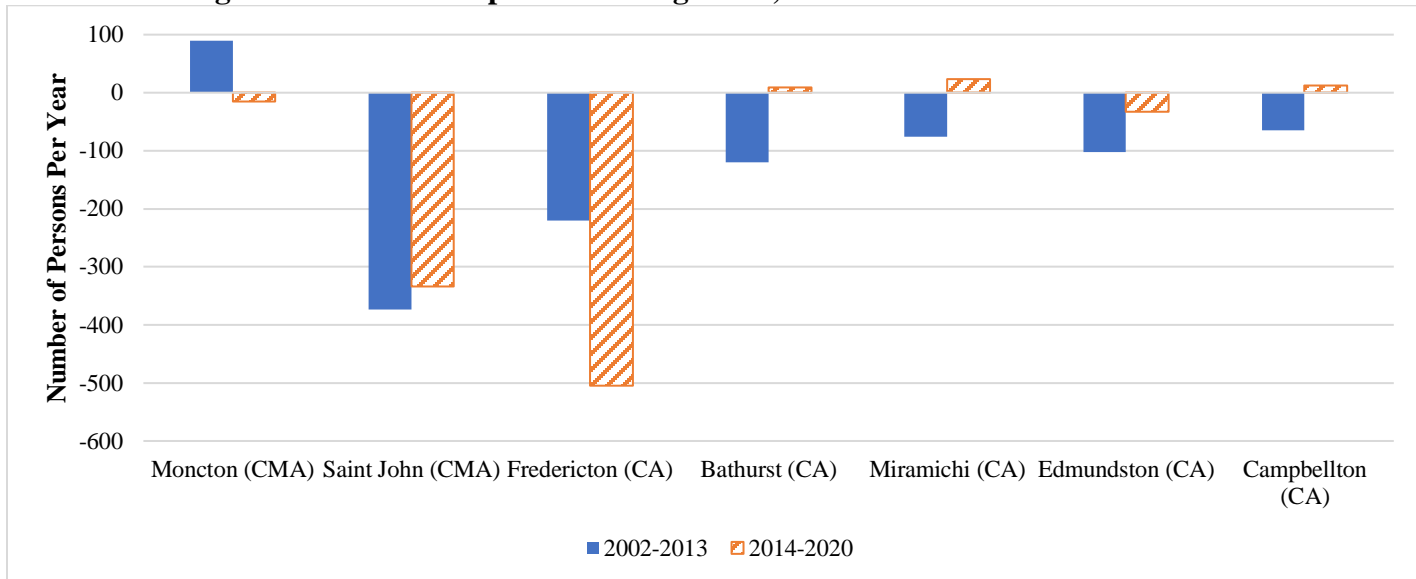
Fredericton fell from about -220.5 to -505.0 persons per year from the 2002-2013 period to the 2014-2020 period.

Chart 56: Net Interprovincial Migration by CMA and by CA, New Brunswick, 2002-2020

Panel A: Cumulative Net Interprovincial Migration Between 2002 and 2020



Panel B: Average Annual Net Interprovincial Migration, 2002-2013 and 2014-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0136-01

D. Intraprovincial Migration

Between 2002 and 2020, Moncton received by the far the most cumulative net intraprovincial migrants. This is consistent with Westmorland's performance at the level of counties. On net, a total of 14,778 persons moved to Moncton from another region of New Brunswick during the 2002-2020 period, representing about 40 per cent of Moncton's total population increase over the period (Panel A of Chart 57). Fredericton followed with a

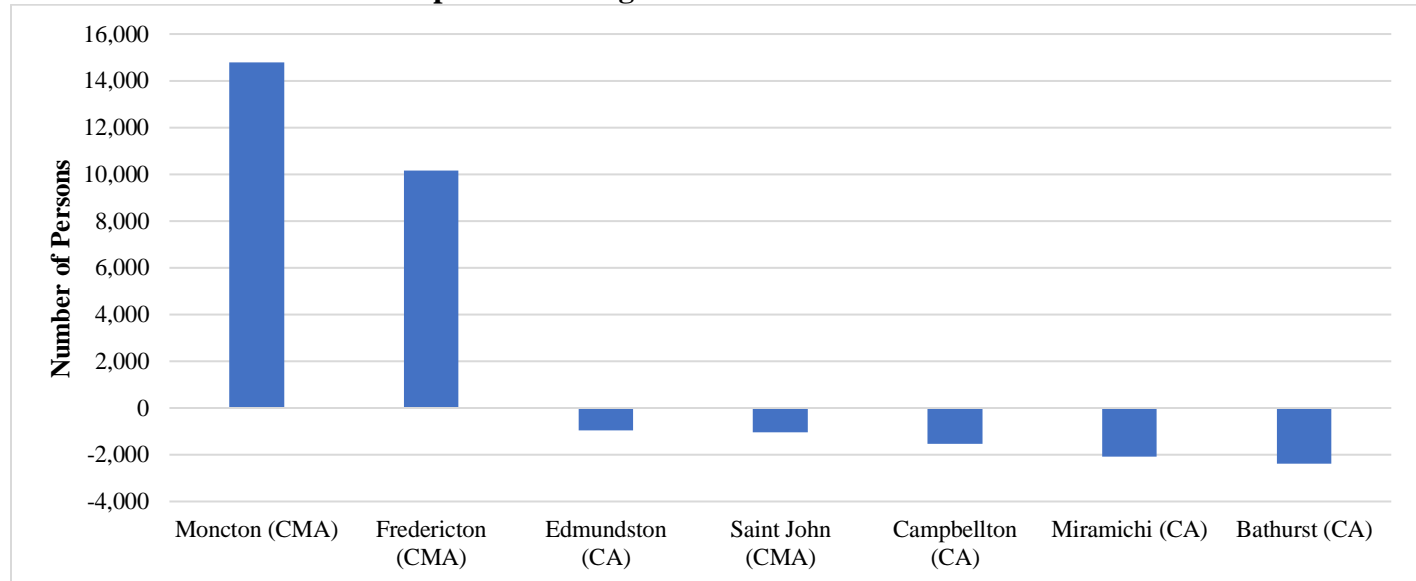
cumulative net intraprovincial migration of 10,173 persons. This was consistent with York’s performance at the level of counties.

On the other hand, Saint John and the four CAs all suffered cumulative net losses to interprovincial migration between 2002 and 2020. Bathurst saw the greatest net loss; during the 2002-2020 period, out-migrants from Bathurst to another region of New Brunswick exceeded in-migrants by 2,393 persons.

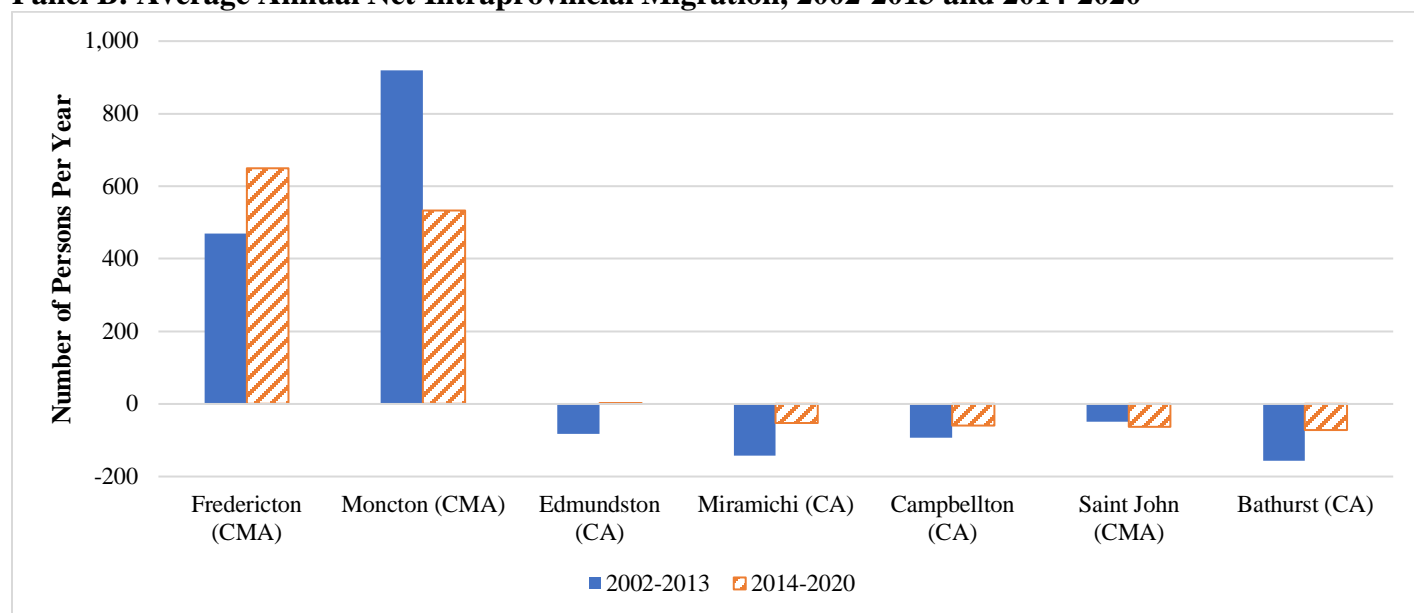
Overall, net intraprovincial migration to CMAs and CAs was stronger between 2014 and 2020 than it was between 2002 and 2013. During the 2002-2013 period, average annual net intraprovincial migration to CMAs and CAs was about 865.3 persons per year. Net intraprovincial migration rose to about 936.6 persons per year between 2014 and 2020. Moncton and Saint John were the only CMAs or CAs to perform better in the earlier period than in the latter period. Average annual net intraprovincial migration to Moncton fell from about 920.1 to 533.9 persons per year between the two periods. In Saint John, average annual net intraprovincial migration fell from about -49.6 to -63.7 persons per year. In contrast, net intraprovincial migration to Fredericton rose from about 468.9 to 649.4 persons per year from the 2002-2013 period to the 2014-2020 period. Consequently, while Moncton had the strongest performance during the 2002-2013 period, Fredericton had the strongest performance between 2014 and 2020. Edmundston was the only CA to post positive net interprovincial migration in at least one of the two periods. Between the first and the second period, average annual net intraprovincial migration to Edmundston rose from about -81.9 to 2.9 persons per year.

Chart 57: Net Intraprovincial Migration to New Brunswick CMAs and CAs Between 2002 and 2020

Panel A: Cumulative Net Intraprovincial Migration Between 2002 and 2020



Panel B: Average Annual Net Intraprovincial Migration, 2002-2013 and 2014-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0136-01

Part Four: Population Projections, 2021-2043

Part four of the report highlights results from Statistics Canada’s 2019 population projections. Statistics Canada released population projections for Canada to 2068 and for the provinces and territories to 2043 based on several scenarios with varying assumptions about the fertility rate, life expectancy, interprovincial migration and immigration. By 2043, New Brunswick’s population is projected to be between 736,900 and 855,100.¹⁵

I. Projected Population Growth

Two of the scenarios (the low-growth scenario and the fast-aging scenario) project New Brunswick’s population will be lower in 2043 than it is now, largely based on a total fertility rate of just 1.40 children per woman in 2042/43 (down from a fertility rate of 1.50 children per woman in 2017/18). Of these two scenarios, the lower population projection is due to a higher mortality rate, based on life expectancy at birth of 82.6 years for men and 86.4 years for women.

Under total fertility rates that rise to between 1.59 and 1.78 children per woman, the rest of the scenarios project New Brunswick’s population will increase over the next couple of decades. That growth will depend largely on immigration rates.

¹⁵ For more details about the projection assumptions, see Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: Technical Report on Methodology and Assumptions, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/91-620-X>.

New Brunswick's share of the Canadian population had already dropped from 3.7 per cent in 1951 to 2.1 per cent in 2020. That share is projected to keep dropping in all scenarios; the minimum projected share is 1.7 per cent, and the maximum projected share is 1.8 per cent (Appendix Table xx). In all scenarios, New Brunswick is projected maintain the second highest median age of the provinces and territories, at between 46.7 years (0.6 years above the 2020 median) and 51.2 years (5.1 years above the 2019 median). By 2043, the share of New Brunswick's population aged 65 and over is also projected to have increased from 21.9 per cent in 2020 to between 27.4 per cent and 32.4 per cent in 2043.

The low-growth scenario contains the following assumptions for New Brunswick in 2042/43: the total fertility rate is 1.4 children per woman; life expectancy at birth is 81.2 years for males and 85.3 for females; the net interprovincial migration rate is -0.07 per cent; the immigration rate is 0.33 per cent; the annual number of non-permanent residents is 9,310; the emigration rate is 0.06 per cent. For Canada in 2042/43, the total fertility rate is 1.40 children per woman; life expectancy at birth is 82.6 years for males and 86.4 for females; the immigration rate is 0.65 per cent; the annual number of non-permanent residents is 1,080,910; the emigration rate is 0.18 per cent.

Under the low-growth scenario, between 2021 and 2043, New Brunswick's population is projected to fall at a compound annual rate of 0.23 per cent, while the population of Canada as a whole is projected to rise by 0.48 per cent per year (Table 6). In 2043, New Brunswick would have a population of about 736,900 persons, 1.74 per cent of the total Canadian population (Chart 33).

The medium-growth scenario contains the following assumptions for New Brunswick in 2042/43: the total fertility rate is 1.59 children per woman; life expectancy at birth is 83.2 years for males and 86.9 for females; the net interprovincial migration rate is -0.07 per cent; the immigration rate is 0.43 per cent; the annual number of non-permanent residents is 12,033; the emigration rate is 0.05 per cent. For Canada in 2042/43, the total fertility rate is 1.59 children per woman; life expectancy at birth is 83.9 years for males and 87.5 for females; the immigration rate is 0.83 per cent; the annual number of non-permanent residents is 1,397,060; the emigration rate is 0.15 per cent.

Under the medium-growth scenario, between 2021 and 2043, New Brunswick's population would rise by 0.24 per cent per year between 2021 and 2032. Over the next 11 years of the projection period, New Brunswick's population would fall by 0.05 per cent per year. In 2043, New Brunswick would have a population of 794,000 persons, 1.71 per cent of the total Canadian population.

The high-growth scenario contains the following assumptions for New Brunswick in 2042/43: the total fertility rate is 1.78 children per woman; life expectancy at birth is 84.2 years for males and 88.2 for females; the net interprovincial migration rate is -0.07 per cent; the immigration rate is 0.58 per cent; the annual number of non-permanent residents is 16,747; the emigration rate is 0.05 per cent. For Canada in 2042/43, the total fertility rate is 1.79 children per woman; life expectancy at birth is 84.9 years for males and 88.7 for females; the immigration

rate is 1.08 per cent; the annual number of non-permanent residents is 1,944,400; the emigration rate is 0.13 per cent.

Under the high-growth scenario, between 2021 and 2043, New Brunswick's population would grow at a compound annual rate of 0.41 per cent, 0.91 points below the national rate (1.32 per cent). By 2043, New Brunswick's population would have risen to 855,100 persons, 1.66 per cent of the national population.

The slow-aging scenario contains the following assumptions for New Brunswick in 2042/43: the total fertility rate is 1.78 children per woman; life expectancy at birth is 81.2 years for males and 85.3 for females; the net interprovincial migration rate is -0.08 per cent; the immigration rate is 0.58 per cent; the annual number of non-permanent residents is 16,747; the emigration rate is 0.05 per cent. For Canada in 2042/43, the total fertility rate is 1.79 children per woman; life expectancy at birth is 82.6 years for males and 86.4 for females; the immigration rate is 1.08 per cent; the annual number of non-permanent residents is 1,944,400; the emigration rate is 0.13 per cent.

The slow-aging scenario would see New Brunswick's population fall by 0.26 per cent per year over the 2021-2043 period, 0.94 points below the national rate. In 2043, New Brunswick would have a population of 825,800 persons, 1.65 per cent of the national population.

The fast-aging scenario contains the following assumptions for New Brunswick in 2042/43: the total fertility rate is 1.40 children per woman; life expectancy at birth is 84.2 years for males and 88.2 for females; the net interprovincial migration rate is -0.06 per cent; the immigration rate is 0.33 per cent; the annual number of non-permanent residents is 9,310; the emigration rate is 0.06 per cent. For Canada in 2042/43, the total fertility rate is 1.40 children per woman; life expectancy at birth is 84.9 years for males and 88.7 for females; the immigration rate is 0.65 per cent; the annual number of non-permanent residents is 1,080,910; the emigration rate is 0.18 per cent.

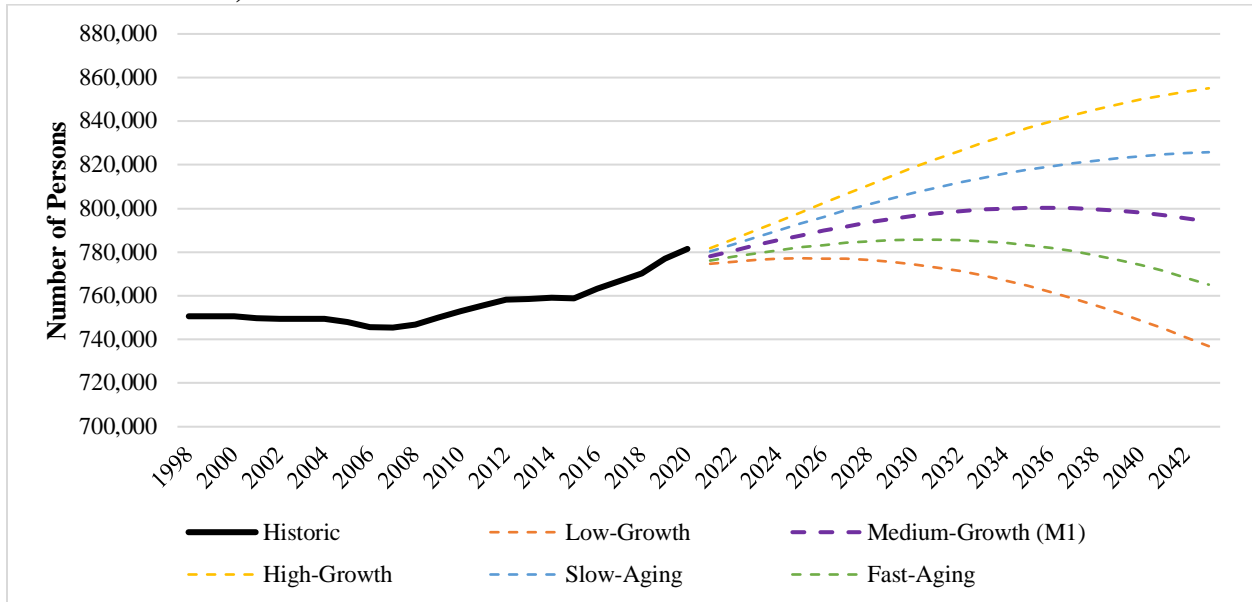
New Brunswick's population would rise by 0.11 per cent per year over between 2021 and 2032 under the fast-aging scenario. Between 2032 and 2043, New Brunswick's population would then fall by 0.24 per cent per year. In 2043, New Brunswick's population would be 765,100 persons, 1.76 per cent of the national population.

Table 5: Projected Population Growth, New Brunswick and Canada, 2021-2043 (Compound Annual Growth Rates)

Compound Annual Growth Rate	Projection Scenario									
	Low-Growth		Medium-Growth (M1)		High-Growth		Slow-Aging		Fast-Aging	
	CA	N.B.	CA	N.B.	CA	N.B.	CA	N.B.	CA	N.B.
2021-2043	0.48	-0.23	0.89	0.09	1.32	0.41	1.20	0.26	0.61	-0.06
2021-2032	0.63	-0.04	0.99	0.24	1.35	0.51	1.24	0.36	0.75	0.11
2032-2043	0.34	-0.41	0.79	-0.05	1.28	0.31	1.16	0.15	0.47	-0.24

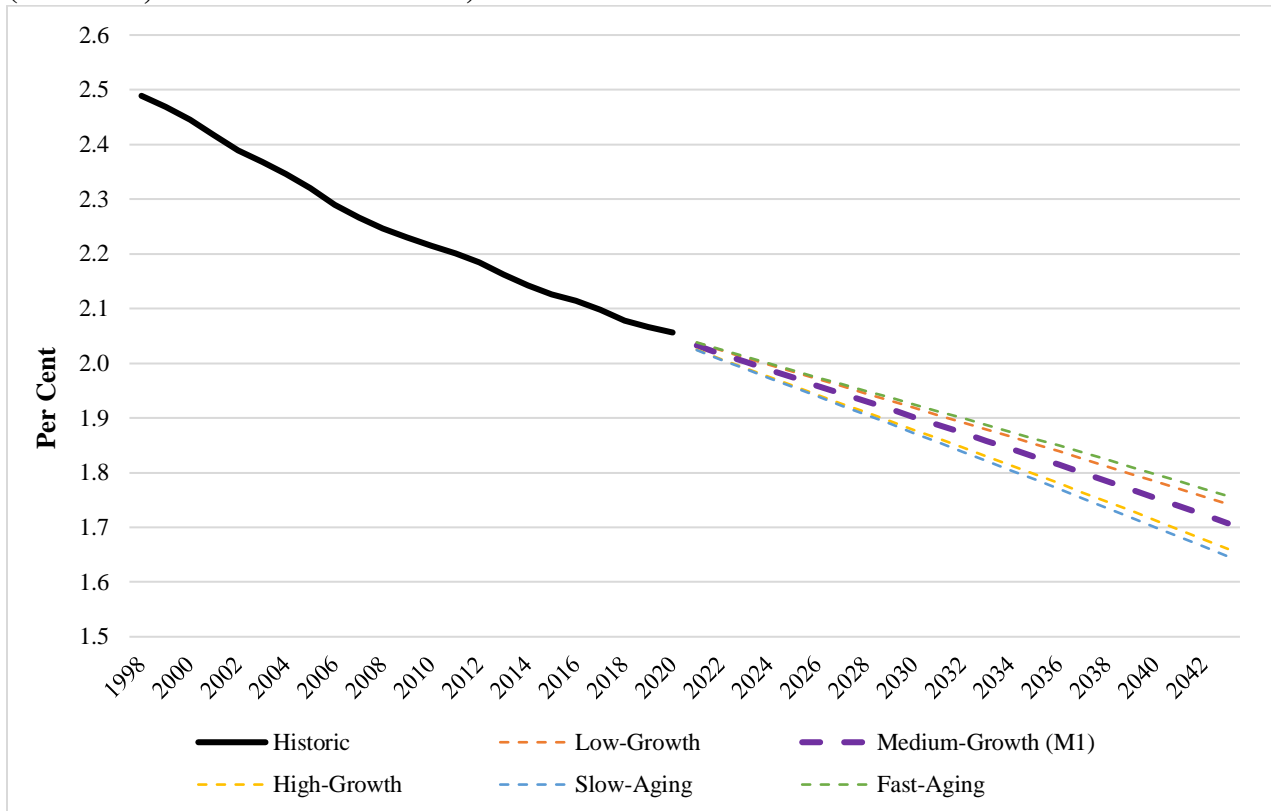
Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0057-01

Chart 58: Population of New Brunswick, Historic (1998-2020) and Projected (2021-2043, under different scenarios)



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0057-01

Chart 59: New Brunswick's Share of Canada's Population, Historic (1998-2020) and Projected (2021-2043, under different scenarios)



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0057-01

II. Projected Population by Age Group

The population aging observed in New Brunswick between 1971 and 2020 is projected to continue under all projection scenarios; under all projection scenarios, the share of seniors in New Brunswick's population is projected to rise, while the share of persons under 15 is projected to rise slightly or to shrink. Population aging is also projected to continue at the national level. However, as was the case during the 1971-2020 period, population aging is projected to be more dramatic in New Brunswick than in Canada as a whole.

In 2020, seniors made up 21.9 per cent of New Brunswick's population. The share of seniors in New Brunswick's population in 2043 is projected to be between 27.4 per cent (under the slow-aging scenario) and 32.4 per cent (under the fast-aging scenario) (Appendix Table xx). On the other hand, the share of seniors in the national population is projected to be between 21.1 per cent and 25.9 per cent.

Persons under 15 made up 14.3 per cent of New Brunswick's population in 2020. The share of persons under 15 in New Brunswick's population is projected to rise slightly between 2021 and 2043 under two projection scenarios. Under the high-growth scenario, the share of persons under 15 is projected to be 14.6 per cent in 2043, while the share of persons under 15 is projected to be 15.0 per cent under the slow-aging scenario. The lowest projected share of persons under 15 is that under the fast-aging scenario. Under the fast-aging scenario, the share of persons under 15 in New Brunswick's population is projected to have fallen to 11.8 per cent by 2043. Under the same scenario, the share of persons under 15 in the national population is projected to be 1.5 points higher, at 13.3 per cent.

Panel A of Chart 34 compares the projected share of seniors to the projected share of persons under 15 in both New Brunswick and Canada between 2021 and 2043 under the slow-aging scenario. In 2021, the share of seniors in New Brunswick's population is projected to be 22.6 per cent, 4.3 points above the nation share. The share of seniors in New Brunswick's population is projected to reach a peak of 27.6 per cent in 2035. The share is projected to remain at 27.6 per cent between 2035 and 2040, and then it is projected to drop slightly, reaching 27.4 (6.3 points above the national share) per cent in 2043. In contrast, overall, the share of persons under 15 in New Brunswick's population is projected to rise from 14.4 per cent in 2021 to 15.0 per cent (1.7 points below the national share) in 2043.

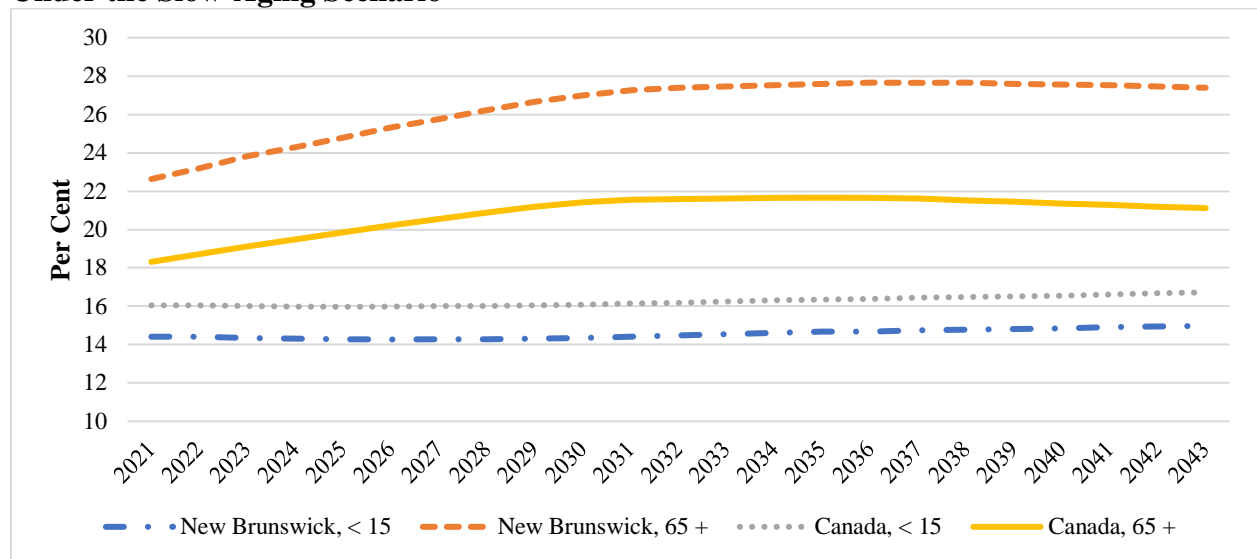
As shown in Panel B of Chart 34, under the fast-aging scenario, the share of seniors in New Brunswick's population is projected to rise over the entire 2021-2043 period, increasing from 22.9 per cent (4.2 points above the national share) in 2021 to 32.4 per cent (6.5 points above the national share) in 2043. On the other hand, the share of persons under 15 is projected to fall from 14.2 per cent (1.7 points below the national share) in 2021 to 11.8 per cent (1.5 points below the national share) in 2043.

Under both the slow- and fast-aging scenarios, the shares of seniors and of persons under 15 are expected to follow similar patterns at the national level. However, under both scenarios, the share of seniors is expected to be lower and the share of persons under 15 higher at the national level than in New Brunswick. As well, the gap between the share of seniors in New

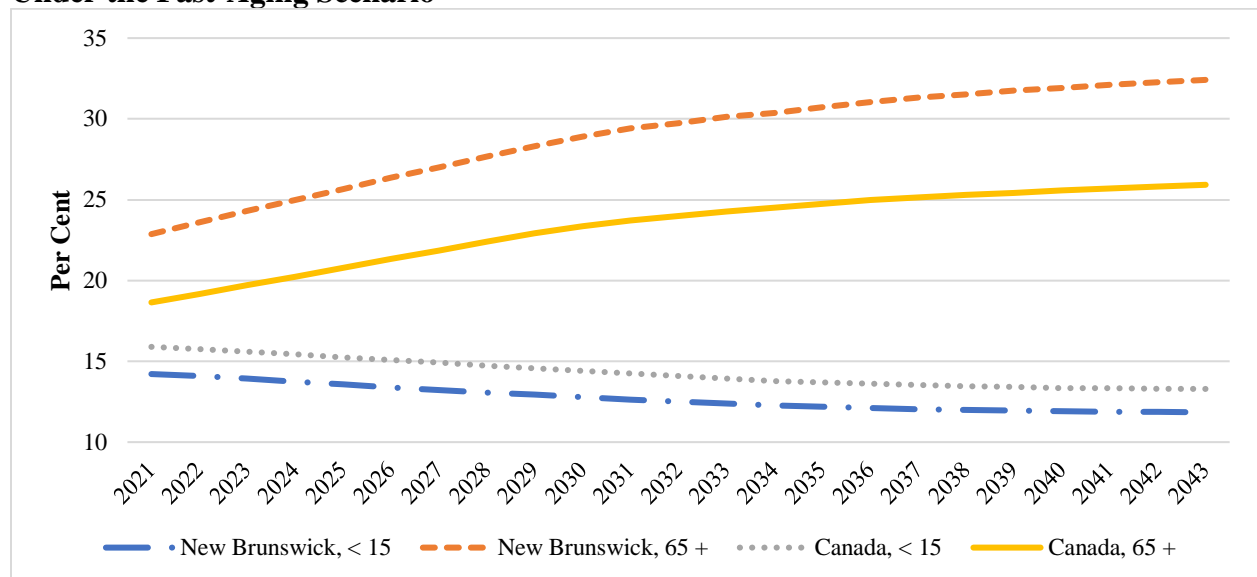
Brunswick’s population and the share of seniors in the national population is projected to widen over the period.

Chart 60: Projected Share of Seniors Compared to the Projected Share of Persons Under 15, New Brunswick and Canada, 2021-2043

Panel A: Projected Share of Seniors Compared to the Projected Share of Persons Under 15 Under the Slow-Aging Scenario



Panel B: Projected Share of Seniors Compared to the Projected Share of Persons Under 15 Under the Fast-Aging Scenario

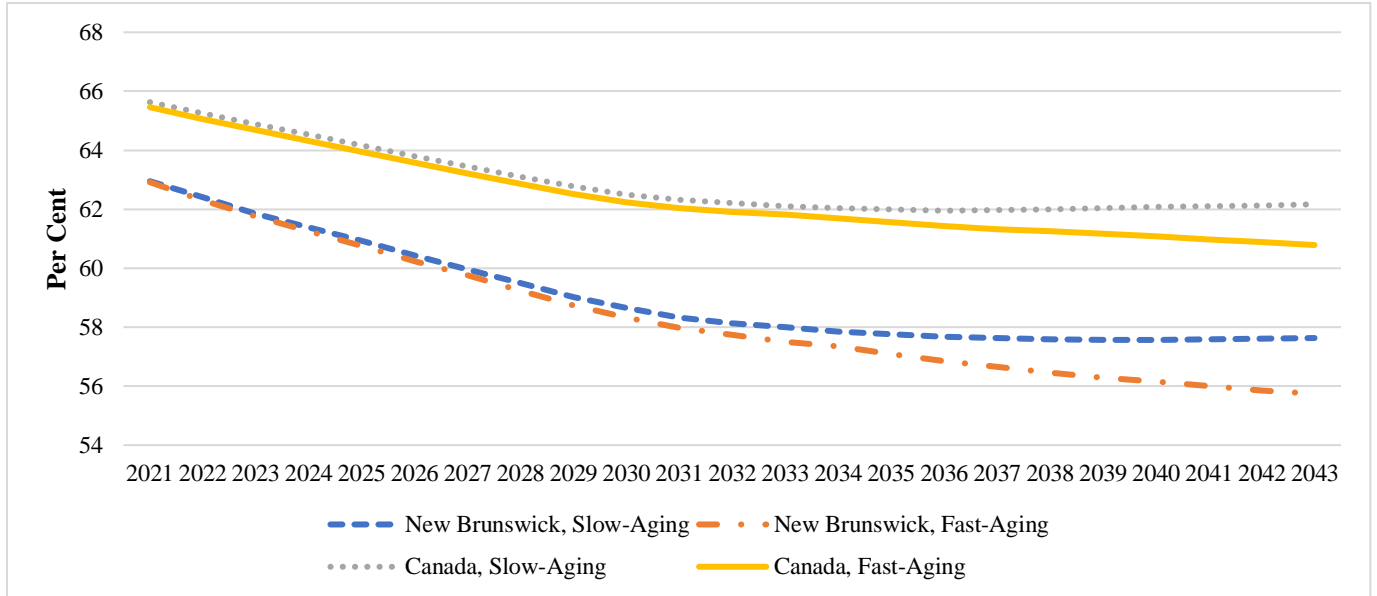


Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0057-01

In 2043, the share of persons aged 15 to 64 in New Brunswick’s population is projected to be between 55.7 per cent (under the fast-aging scenario) and 57.6 per cent (under the slow-

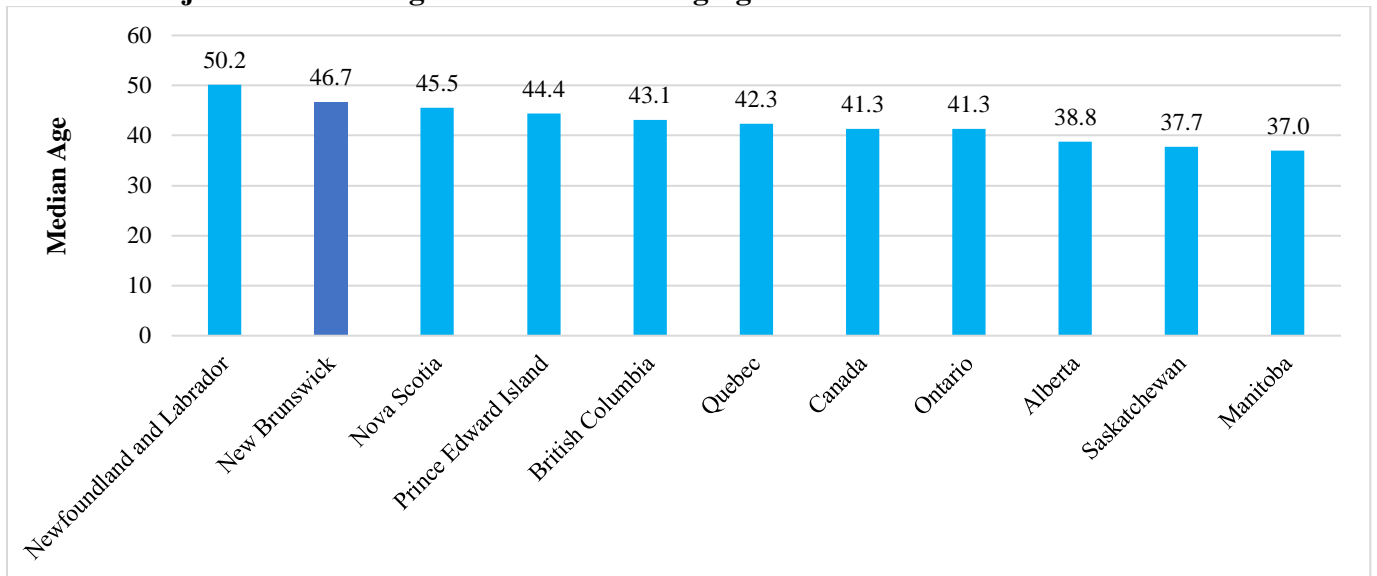
aging scenario). The share of working-age persons in the total Canadian population is projected to be higher under all scenarios as a result of a smaller share of seniors.

Chart 61: Projected Share of Persons 15 to 64 in the Total Population, New Brunswick and Canada, 2021-2043

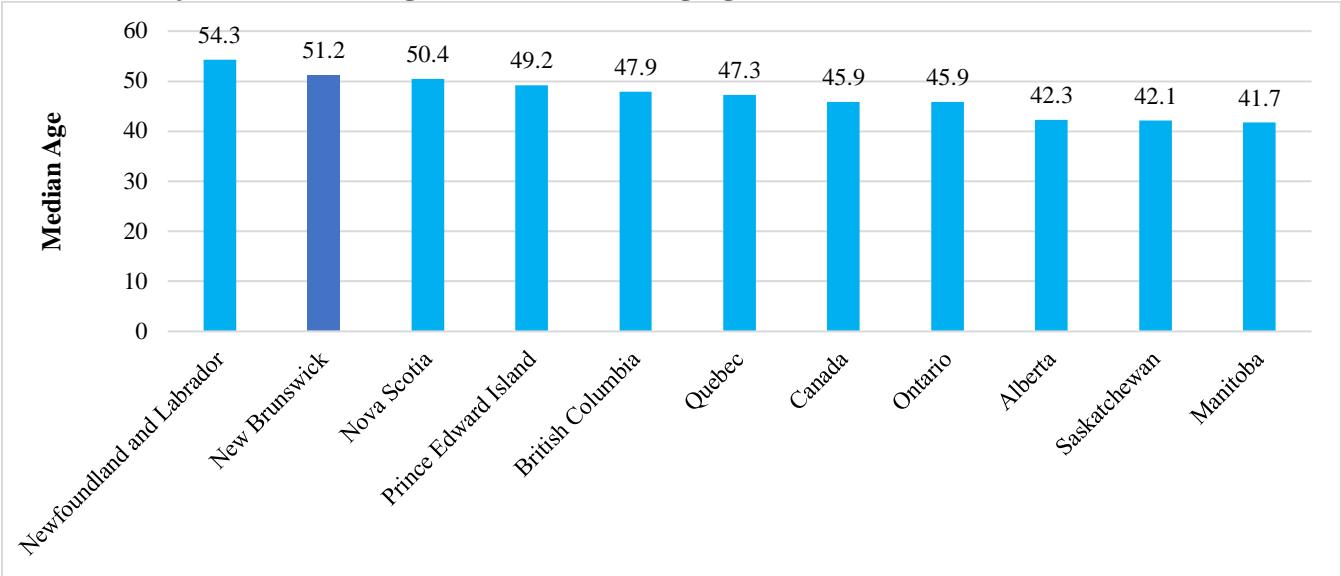


Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0057-01

Chart 62: Projected Median Age by Province, Canada, 2043
Panel A: Projected Median Age Under the Slow-Aging Scenario



Panel B: Projected Median Age Under the Fast-Aging Scenario



Source: Statistics Canada, Population Projections for Canada (2018 to 2068), Provinces and Territories (2018 to 2043), Section 3, Table 3.4

Conclusion

This report has provided a thorough analysis of demographic developments in New Brunswick from 1951 to 2020. The analysis of demographics at the provincial level showed that New Brunswick's population growth lagged behind the national average throughout the 1951-2020 period, leading to province's share of the total Canadian population falling by close to 50 per cent. Moreover, New Brunswick's population aged dramatically between 1971 and 2020. However, population growth began to pick up in 2007, largely as a result of a pickup in gross international immigration to New Brunswick and, to a lesser extent, as a result of reduced losses to interprovincial migration. The Moncton and Fredericton CMAs drove the pickup in New Brunswick's population growth.

Key findings about trends in new Brunswick's demographics at the provincial level are highlighted below.

- Between 1951 and 2020, New Brunswick's population grew at a compound annual rate of 0.60 per cent, 0.85 points below the national average. Consequently, New Brunswick's share of the total Canadian population fell from 3.68 per cent in 1951 to 2.06 per cent in 2020.
- Between 1971 and 2020, the share of seniors in New Brunswick's population rose from 8.6 per cent to 21.9 per cent, 3.9 points above the national average. Similarly, New Brunswick's median age nearly doubled over the 1971-2020 period, increasing from 23.9 years to 46.1 years, 5.2 years above the national median and the second highest of the provinces.
- As a result of New Brunswick's aging population and declining fertility rates, the net natural increase has been declining since 1951. Between 2015 and 2020, cumulative deaths exceeded cumulative births.
- Net international immigration to New Brunswick increased from -40 persons in 1972 to 4,456 persons in 2020, largely thanks to a pickup in immigration to the province after 2000 and then again after 2013. Net migratory increase has exceeded net natural increase since 2015.
- New Brunswick was much more rural than the national average between 1996 and 2016. Roughly 50 per cent of New Brunswick's population lived in rural areas between 1996 and 2016.

Part two of the report analyzed trends in New Brunswick's demographics by census division between 1981 and 2020. This analysis revealed that Northern New Brunswick has performed much worse than Central and Southern New Brunswick with respect to population growth, population aging and migration. In particular:

- Between 1981 and 2020, the population of Southeastern New Brunswick grew at a compound annual rate of 0.89 per cent, outpacing growth in the populations of Central and Southern New Brunswick by 0.47 points and 0.66 points, respectively. On the other

hand, the population of Northern New Brunswick fell by 0.34 per cent per year over the 1981-2020 period.

- Between 2002 and 2020, net international migration exceeded net natural increase in 12 of the 15 counties. Immigration was stronger in the southern parts of the province than in the northern parts. York, Westmorland, and Saint John received the first, second and third most immigrants between 2002 and 2020, respectively. York received a cumulative 13,377 immigrants, well over a quarter of all immigrants to New Brunswick over the period.
- Of all 15 counties, Westmorland (in southeast New Brunswick) saw the greatest cumulative net interprovincial migration over the 2002-2020 period; net interprovincial migration to Westmorland was 16,885 persons. In addition to seeing the greatest gain from interprovincial migration, Westmorland also saw the greatest cumulative net intraprovincial migration between 2002 and 2020.

Part three of the report examined trends in demographics in New Brunswick's CMAs and CAs between 2001 and 2020. Overall, the CMAs outperformed the CAs with respect to population growth, population aging, net natural increase and migration. Key findings about demographic developments by CMA and by CA are highlighted below.

- The populations of all three CMAs increased between 2001 and 2020, while the populations of the four CAs decreased. In particular, Moncton's population grew at a compound annual rate of 1.35 per cent, making it the fastest growing CMA or CA in New Brunswick.
- Over the entire 2001-2020 period, the shares of seniors in the total populations of the CMAs were lower than the provincial average between 2001 and 2020, and the shares of seniors in the total populations of the CAs were higher than the provincial average for most of the period.
- Between 2002 and 2020, cumulative births exceeded cumulative deaths in the three CMAs. In contrast, in all four CAs, cumulative deaths exceeded cumulative births.
- Net international migration was the leading component of population growth for the CMAs and the CAs.
- Over the 2002-2020 period, many people in New Brunswick left areas outside of CMAs and CAs for a CMA or a CA.

Finally, part four of the report examined Statistics Canada's population projections for New Brunswick compared to Canada as a whole between 2021 and 2043. This analysis revealed that New Brunswick's weak population growth relative to other provinces is projected to continue between 2021 and 2043. Consequently, New Brunswick's share of the Canadian population is projected to continue falling. Furthermore, the population aging examined between 1971 and 2020 is projected to continue; New Brunswick is projected to maintain the second highest median age of the provinces and territories in 2043.

This report has provided a detailed analysis of demographic developments in New Brunswick between 1951 and 2020. New Brunswick's slow population growth and dramatic population aging represent significant challenges for the future of the province's economy. These

challenges are particularly present in Northern New Brunswick. Immigration will likely be key to countering the province's low population growth and rapid aging.

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