

A survey on the effect of immigration on Canadian population

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ABSTRACT

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Immigration plays an essential role for population growth in many countries. Immigrants create jobs and opportunities in immigration-based countries. Canada is the host of millions of people from different ethnic groups and regions. Every year, thousands of new immigrants come to Canada and many of them are in the form families. This paper presents a review on studies associated with population growth and immigration policies in Canada. The survey performs research on 128 selected articles from 1958 to 2022.

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1. Introduction

Canada is a country located in the northern part of the United States with ten provinces and three territories. The country is extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and northward into the Arctic Ocean, covering well over 9.98 million square kilometers. The country is considered as the second-largest country by total area in the world. The country has a big neighborhood with the United States which is 8,891 kilometers which makes it the world's longest binational land border. The 2021 Canadian census enumerated a total population of 36,991,981, an increase of around 5.2% from the previous census in 2016 (Zimonjic, 2022). Immigration is the main driver of population growth (Edmonston & Fong, 2011). According to Zimmerman (2008), Canada is one of the most popular countries in the world in terms of the highest per-capita immigration rate. Presently, the annual immigration in Canada is around 300,000 new immigrants, which is considered as one of the highest rates per population of any country in the world. As of 2021, there were approximately eight million immigrants living in Canada whose status is permanent residence and this is roughly about 21.5% of the total population of Canada. According to Immigration Canada, English is the language of approximately 58% of the people who live in Canada while 21% of them speak French and 22.3% of the remaining speak different immigrant languages.

This paper presents an overview of the role of immigration on population growth of Canada.

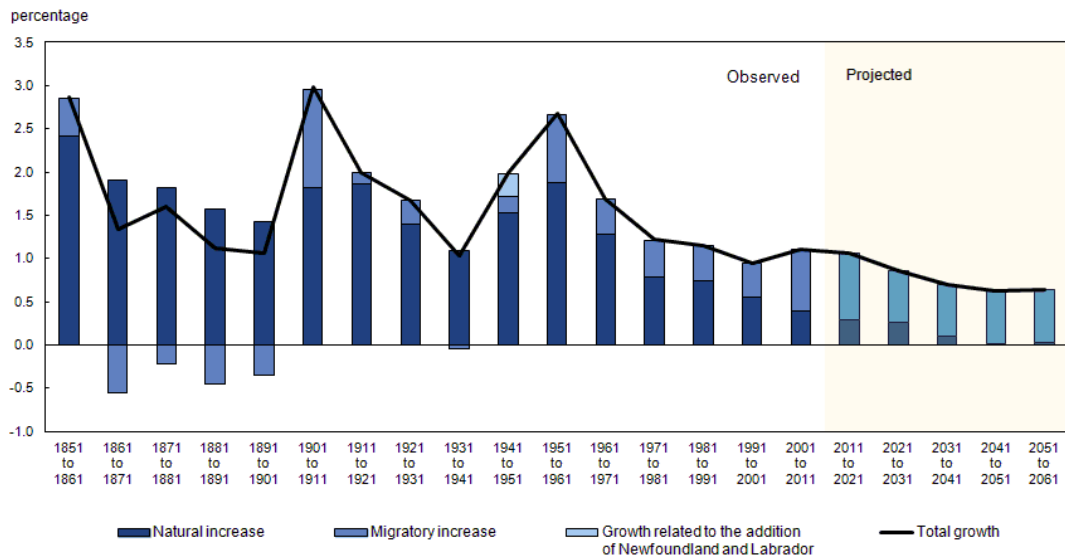
2. The population growth

Population growth is one of the most important factors in reaching sustainable growth in the economy (Guerra, 2015). In each country, there must be a flow of young people working and living to contribute and help the economy grow steadily.

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Young skilled workers are the primary source of taxpayers and there must be a growth in population to maintain a trend of youth in society. According to Immigration Canada given in Fig. 1, there is a positive growth of population, and this trend is expected to remain positive by 2061.



Note: Data from 1851 to 2011 is observed and data from 2011 to 2061 is projected.
 Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. "Population growth in Canada: From 1851 to 2061," *Census in Brief*, Census of Population 2011, Catalogue no. 98-310-x.

Fig. 1. Annual average growth rate, natural increase and migratory increase per intercensal period, Canada 1851-2061

Fig. 2 shows the trend of population growth over the period of 2018-2019. As we can observe from the figure, over 82% of the population growth is dedicated by Immigrant while only 18% of the population growth relies on natural.

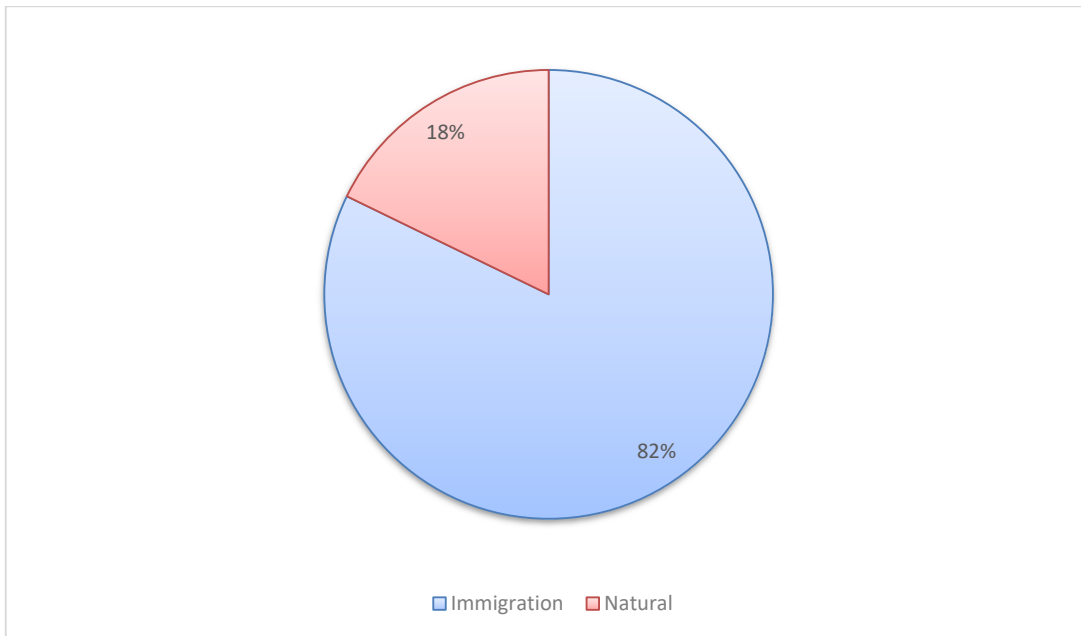


Fig. 2. The growth on population from 2018 to 2019 (Source: Immigration Canada)

Population growth resulting from natural increase began falling in the late 1960s because of two reasons. First, there was a steady decrease over the period 1960-1970, and it remained at a fairly constant level for years after. The second reason was a rise in the number of deaths, partly due to population aging. Therefore, migratory increase has played an increasingly essential role in recent population growth (Immigration Canada).

Since 1999, however, population growth in Canada has consistently been driven mostly by the migratory increase (primarily immigration, since emigration levels are low). About two-thirds of current population growth is the result of migratory increase, while natural increase accounts for the remaining one-third.

According to all scenarios considered in Statistics Canada's, natural increase could be anticipated to decline within the next few decades. This is primarily the outcome of a projected increased death rate while the projected figure of births could remain fairly constant.

Martori et al. (2016) performed a comprehensive survey and named several factors influencing population growth. The most important factor describing the growth of immigrant populations is household income followed by small dwellings and immigrant diversity. Kerr and Beaujot (2007) performed a comprehensive survey on the relationship between population growth and sustainability. They perform the survey into a broader international context by also considering U.N. projections at the world level. Growth of population is the issue of environmental sustainability, both in Canada and for the planet. Kerr and Beaujot (2007) considered Canada's projected demographic growth. As natural increase moves toward zero, Canada has the opportunity of keeping population growth through immigration. According to Simmons and Bourne (2007), from 2001 to 2006 Canada seems to have an even greater focus of growth in the largest metropolitan regions, as immigration accounts for bigger shares of population growth. Meanwhile the low trend in jobs in the resource sectors could lead to population decline in smaller and more peripheral urban centers (Bruce Newbold et al., 2017).

Alisauskas et al. (2004) applied a reverse-time capture-recapture method to directly forecast survival, seniority and capture probabilities for females of breeding age at Redberry Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada for 1975-1980 and 2000-2003. They also forecasted population size of breeding females for 1975-1985 and 2000-2003 based on capture-recapture data. First, the local population was in serious decline, but it was stabilized and could be slowly increasing. This reversal in trajectory probably yielded from increased recruitment rather than increased apparent survival.

Bartikowski and Cleveland (2016) emphasized on the importance of the ethnic minority consumers as brand ambassadors in terms of offering diversity in culture, adaptation, and global brand advocacy of Chinese migrants in Canada and France.

3. Summary

In this paper, we have presented a brief overview on the effects of immigration on population growth in Canada. The study has determined that due to several reasons, Canada needs to issue immigration permits to people from different regions of the world. This helps the economy to hire skilled people and, at the same time, grow the young population. The study has undermined that more than 82% of the population growth in Canada is contributed by immigrants.

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