



Summary Report

New Brunswick Population and
Demographic Counts: December 2022

March 2023



NB-IRDT

New Brunswick Institute for
Research, Data and Training

Project Title

New Brunswick population and demographic counts: December 2022

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How to Cite This Product

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Why is This Study Important?

Whether we embrace change or dread it, change is unavoidable. In New Brunswick, the population is always changing: children are born, students graduate, and families move around the province looking for new opportunities. In recent years, change has been even more rampant, with the COVID-19 pandemic impacting factors like immigration, population mobility, and remote work opportunities.

Because the world around us keeps changing, we believe it is important to revisit research and update results so New Brunswickers have access to the most up-to-date information about the province they live in.

In 2021, NB-IRDT released the first report¹ in a new series that provides a snapshot of the population of New Brunswick twice each year. These reports measure the total population count of New Brunswick and include information on New Brunswickers' demographic and geographic characteristics, as well as movement to and from the province. Each new report provides an overview of how the population has changed since the previous report was released. This is the third report in the series, and it updates our population snapshot from July 2021 to the end of June 2022, comparing new results back as far as July 2020.

In this report, we not only look at movement to and from New Brunswick, like the previous reports,^{1,2} but we also consider movement within the province, and whether new arrivals had lived here before. These new areas of focus allow us to see whether New Brunswick is attracting brand new residents, or if individuals who previously left are now returning. It also allows us to see which areas of the province see the most population movement, and which are seeing the most growth.



How Was This Study Completed?

To undertake this study, researchers at NB-IRDT used updated Citizen Data holdings (Medicare registry data) for the period July 2021 until June 2022. Residence in New Brunswick is determined by Medicare eligibility status, with a newly "Active" eligibility status suggesting arrival in the province and an unexplained "Terminated" status (i.e., not due to death) signaling out-migration from the province. Migration periods are presented in terms of annual quarters: Q1 = January-March; Q2 = April-June; Q3 = July-September; Q4 = October-December. Results using updated data from Q3, 2021 - Q2, 2022 are compared to previous results from Q3, 2020 - Q2, 2021.

This report uses demographic and geographic information in the Citizen Data to present population counts and movement to, from, and within the province according to age, sex, immigrant status, and New Brunswick geography. New factors considered in this report include an "NB Returnee" status, as well as intra-provincial migration.



Limitations

While reading the results on the next pages, it is important to remember that there are certain limitations to this study. For instance, health insurance regulations in most provinces require a 3-month waiting period before an inter-provincial mover can apply for health insurance in their new province of residence. This means the dates of in- and out-migration noted in this report may involve a 3-month lag. This is not the case for international arrivals, who are generally eligible to apply for health insurance on arrival in the host province.

Another limitation is that data on the province of destination for people leaving NB are not available in the Citizen Data, which means we can see that they leave, but we cannot see where they go.

NB Population Snapshot (July 2020 - June 2022)

New Brunswick has seen positive net migration in each quarter since July 2020. Quarter 3, 2021 saw the highest net migration,* with a population growth of **4,600** over 3 months.



All areas of NB saw positive migration, but some saw more than others:

- Net migration was **highest** in Moncton and the Rest of NB (a grouping of all regions with less than 10,000 people).
- Net migration was **lowest** in Fredericton and the Census Agglomerations (a grouping of regions with 10,000-100,000 people).

Which New Brunswickers Are the Most Mobile?

The 25-35 age group appears to be the most mobile, as this group had the highest rates of **in-migration** and **out-migration** for the study period.



However, in Quarter 3, 2021, the 0-17 age group had the highest rate of in-migration, suggesting the arrival of families with multiple children.

Males are more mobile than females, with more **in-** and **out-migrations**.

Canadian citizens are **more mobile** than Temporary and Permanent Residents, with Permanent Residents the **least mobile** of all.

*What is Net Migration?

Net migration refers to the outcome we're left with after in-migration and out-migration have both been accounted for. For example, if 10 people moved to New Brunswick but 8 people left, we would have a net migration of 2. We only present net migration for moves to and from New Brunswick, not from one region of the province to another.

Where Are New Arrivals to NB Coming From?

44,140 people moved to New Brunswick between Quarter 3, 2020 and Quarter 2, 2022. Here's where they moved from:

40%

Ontario

36%

Rest of Canada

24%

Outside Canada



Nearly half (**48%**) of in-migrants from Alberta are **NB Returnees**, meaning they lived in NB before.

NB Returnees also make up:

34%

of arrivals from
Nova Scotia

13%

of arrivals
from Ontario

21%

of arrivals from
Rest of Canada

1.5%

of arrivals from
Outside Canada

Which New Brunswickers are the Most Likely to Leave?

20,370 people moved away from New Brunswick between Quarter 3, 2020 and Quarter 1, 2022. Nearly half of them (**9,160**) had previously lived in another province. This group makes up the largest proportion of out-migrants.



What Does Movement Inside NB Look Like?

The most intra-provincial migration takes place **outside the 3 largest cities** (Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John). Between Quarter 3, 2020 and Quarter 2, 2022, this combined area produced **38%** of the province's departures and received **47%** of arrivals.

↳ That being said, intra-provincial migration of immigrants and temporary residents is largely comprised of moves to Moncton.

Conclusions

Overall, this study finds that many of the updated results are similar to the results we saw in the two previous reports^{1,2} in this series. We see that positive migration trends are continuing, and they still show a notable increase compared to pre-pandemic migration levels.

The updated data show that a large spike in in-migration occurred in Quarter 3, 2021, which could be due to a backlog in the processing of immigration applications during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be interesting to see how in-migration levels look in the future, now that these processes are becoming more stabilized.

While most results in this study are similar to our findings for the previous reporting period, this report does include some new measures which offer additional insights into migration to, and within, New Brunswick. For instance, we learn through these new measures that net migration for Permanent Residents (7.36%) is significantly lower than for Temporary Residents (26.53%), and it is highest for Canadian Citizens (66.11%).

Similarly, we now know the proportion of in-migrants that had previously lived in NB, and we can see that the highest proportion comes from Alberta, where almost half (48.19%) of in-migrants are NB Returnees. Interestingly, we also learn that most intra-provincial migration comes from/to the areas outside Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John. These new measures will continue to be investigated in future work, with this report's findings serving as a baseline.

References

1. Balzer, A., McDonald, T., & Mokhtar, R. (2021). New Brunswick population and demographic counts: October 2021. Fredericton, NB: New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training.
2. Balzer, A., McDonald, T., & Mokhtar, R. (2022). New Brunswick population and demographic counts: June 2022. Fredericton, NB: New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training.