

YEAR 2021

GOAL 2: INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRATION

NEW BRUNSWICK WILL RECEIVE A
PERCENTAGE OF INTERNATIONAL
IMMIGRANTS EQUAL TO ITS NATIONAL
POPULATION SHARE.



STATUS: PROGRESSING ON TRACK

Overview

Importance

International immigration is crucial to increasing New Brunswick's population. Helping grow the local economy and develop communities, international immigration will enable skilled workers to meet the employment needs of current businesses while further boosting the local economy through the development of more small businesses. Immigration is the international movement of people to a destination country of which they are not natives or where they do not possess citizenship in order to settle as economic immigrants, permanent residents or naturalized citizens. In this report all numbers are compared to that of Nova Scotia because of the comparable size between the two provinces.

Problem

New Brunswick's population is shrinking due to an aging population and poor retention of youth and immigrants. In 1976, New Brunswick's population share peaked at 2.94%; however, it has since dropped by 30%, reaching 2.06% in 2020.

Cause

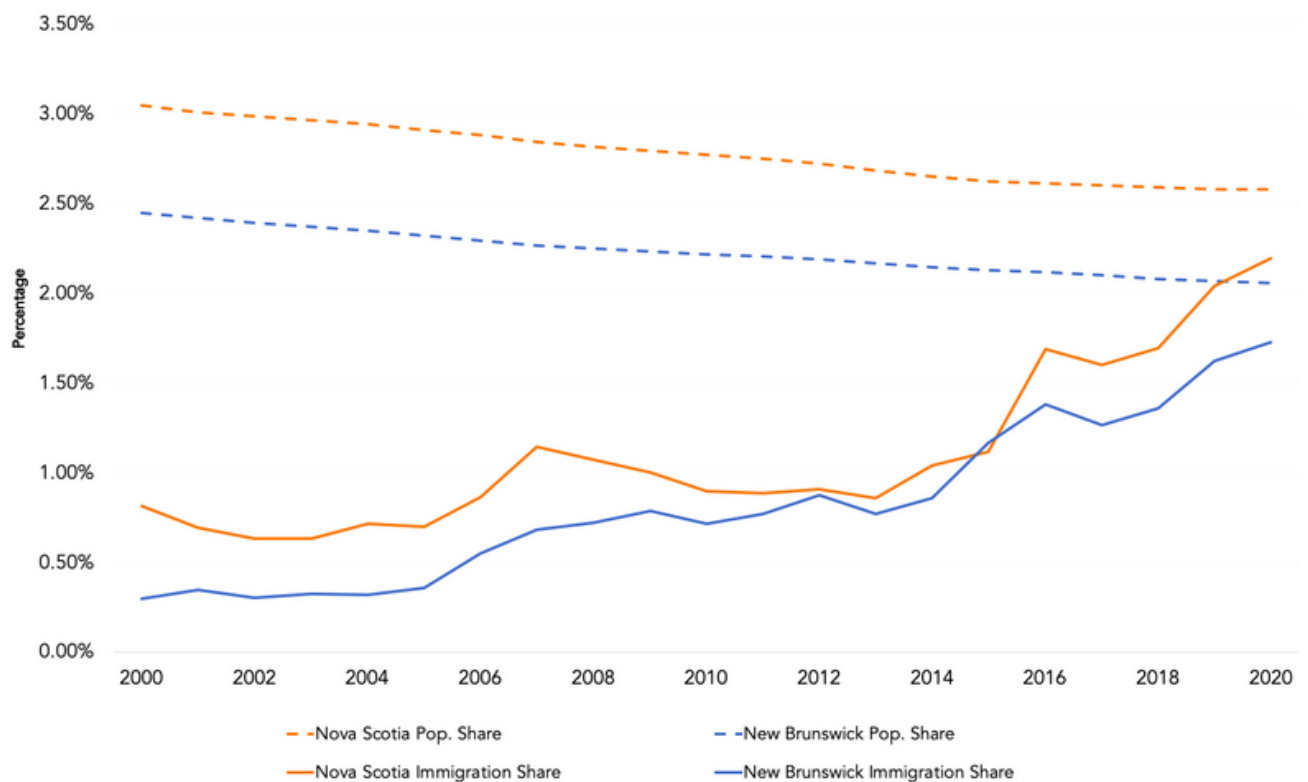
The imbalance between the aging population and youth population in New Brunswick reflects a low population growth rate in the province. Possibly due to a shortage of employment opportunities, the province's youth population is leaving, resulting in a net loss in interprovincial migration. In addition, New Brunswick has a low fertility rate. That is, the number of children being born is relatively low. As of 2020, the death rate is almost equal to the birth rate, resulting in a natural population increase of zero.

In the Numbers

International Immigration Share in the Province

Although New Brunswick is on track to attain a percentage of international immigrants equal to its population share, it has not seen a substantial increase in the number. This is partly due to the province's slow population growth. Figure 1 shows that both New Brunswick's population and immigration shares fall below those of Nova Scotia. Furthermore, in 2020, New Brunswick received only 1.73% of the immigrant population arriving in Canada, rather than the approximated 2.06% population share.

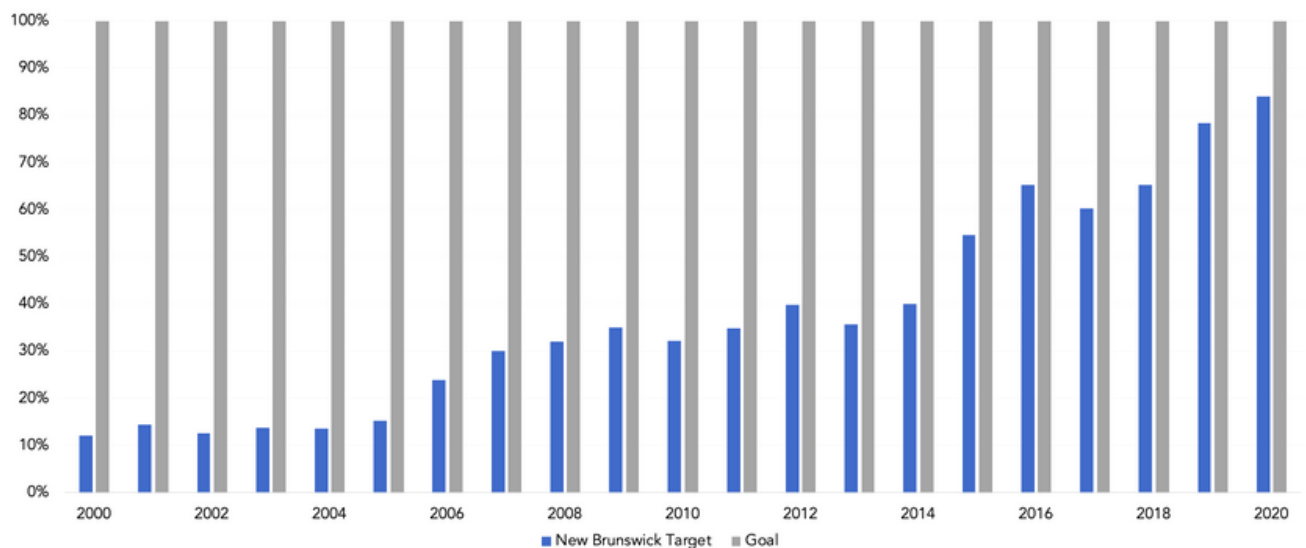
Figure 1: Population and Immigration Share



(See full data set in Appendix A)

Thus, as presented in Figure 2, even with increasing numbers of immigrants coming to New Brunswick, the province only achieved 78% of the suggested goal in 2019 and 84% in 2020 which is a slight increase.

Figure 2: Percentage of Goal - Share of Immigrants to Share of National Population



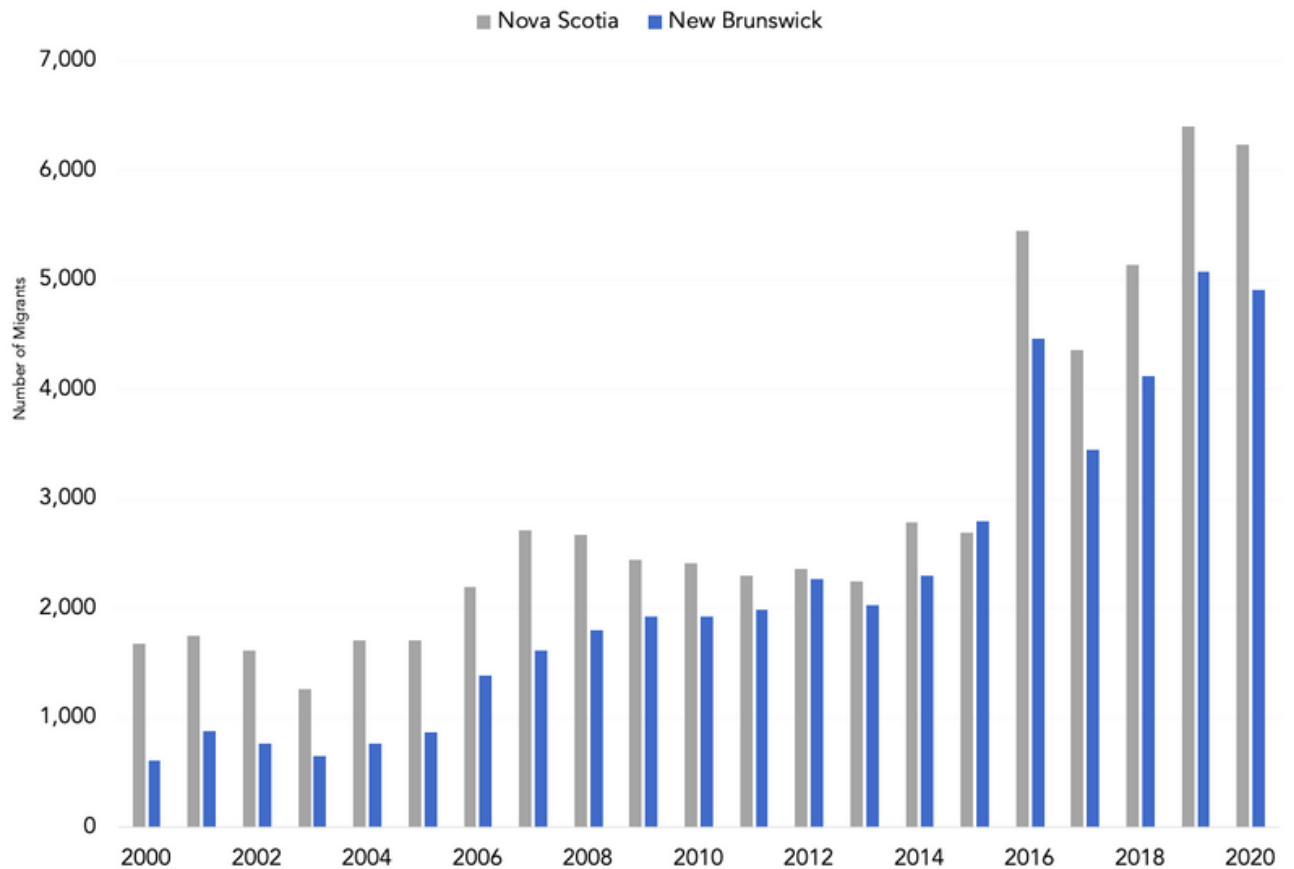
(See full data set in Appendix B)

A Closer Look

Annual Immigration Settlement

From 2000 to 2005, New Brunswick experienced its lowest immigration levels in 40 years, whereas Nova Scotia saw substantially higher numbers (see Figure 3). From 2006 to 2019, New Brunswick's immigration numbers increased, reaching their highest point in 2016. This was due to a high influx of Syrian refugees. In 2020, immigration numbers decreased in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia due to various factors, including the ongoing pandemic, although Nova Scotia received more immigrants than New Brunswick.

Figure 3: Number of Migrants Settling Annually



(See full data set in Appendix C)

Summary

New Brunswick's population is declining, likely due to an aging population and poor retention of its younger population. Increasing the province's population size could stimulate economic growth, and this could be accomplished not only by promoting Interprovincial Migration (see BoostNB Goal 1) but also by receiving a larger number of international immigrants and students.

If New Brunswick adopts the same strategy outlined by OneNS (onens.ca), it should aim to receive a percentage of international immigrants equal to New Brunswick's share of the Canadian population. This goal is progressing, as the province has seen higher levels of international immigration in recent years.

Appendix A

Population and Immigration Share

Year	Nova Scotia Pop. Share	New Brunswick Pop. Share	Nova Scotia Immigration Share	New Brunswick Immigration Share
1972	3.61%	2.92%	1.46%	0.92%
1973	3.61%	2.92%	1.39%	1.03%
1974	3.59%	2.91%	1.41%	1.05%
1975	3.57%	2.93%	1.12%	0.95%
1976	3.56%	2.94%	1.18%	1.32%
1977	3.54%	2.93%	1.42%	1.09%
1978	3.52%	2.92%	1.21%	0.74%
1979	3.51%	2.91%	1.14%	0.82%
1980	3.48%	2.88%	1.31%	1.06%
1981	3.44%	2.85%	1.00%	0.76%
1982	3.42%	2.82%	1.09%	0.65%
1983	3.42%	2.82%	0.92%	0.65%
1984	3.43%	2.81%	1.06%	0.63%
1985	3.43%	2.80%	1.25%	0.71%
1986	3.41%	2.78%	1.10%	0.70%
1987	3.38%	2.75%	0.89%	0.52%
1988	3.35%	2.73%	0.80%	0.38%
1989	3.31%	2.70%	0.82%	0.41%
1990	3.29%	2.67%	0.71%	0.47%
1991	3.26%	2.66%	0.70%	0.33%
1992	3.24%	2.64%	0.79%	0.33%
1993	3.22%	2.61%	0.97%	0.28%
1994	3.20%	2.59%	1.31%	0.25%
1995	3.17%	2.56%	1.69%	0.31%
1996	3.15%	2.54%	1.56%	0.30%
1997	3.12%	2.52%	1.38%	0.30%
1998	3.09%	2.49%	1.33%	0.37%
1999	3.07%	2.47%	0.94%	0.43%
2000	3.04%	2.45%	0.81%	0.30%
2001	3.01%	2.42%	0.69%	0.35%
2002	2.98%	2.39%	0.63%	0.30%
2003	2.96%	2.37%	0.63%	0.32%
2004	2.94%	2.35%	0.71%	0.32%
2005	2.91%	2.32%	0.70%	0.35%
2006	2.88%	2.29%	0.86%	0.54%
2007	2.84%	2.27%	1.14%	0.68%
2008	2.81%	2.25%	1.07%	0.72%
2009	2.79%	2.23%	1.00%	0.78%
2010	2.77%	2.21%	0.89%	0.71%
2011	2.75%	2.20%	0.88%	0.77%
2012	2.72%	2.18%	0.91%	0.87%
2013	2.68%	2.16%	0.85%	0.77%
2014	2.65%	2.14%	1.04%	0.86%
2015	2.62%	2.13%	1.12%	1.16%
2016	2.61%	2.11%	1.68%	1.38%
2017	2.60%	2.10%	1.60%	1.26%
2018	2.59%	2.08%	1.69%	1.36%
2019	2.58%	2.07%	2.04%	1.62%
2020	2.58%	2.06%	2.19%	1.73%

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0004: Components of population growth, Canada, provinces and territories, annual (persons) (1); Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0005: Estimates of population, Canada, provinces and territories, quarterly (persons) (1,2,3,6)

Appendix B

Percentage of Goal: Share of Immigrants to Share of National Population

Year	NB Share Target
1972	31.63%
1973	35.31%
1974	35.96%
1975	32.64%
1976	44.83%
1977	37.11%
1978	25.48%
1979	28.06%
1980	36.93%
1981	26.59%
1982	23.16%
1983	23.17%
1984	22.39%
1985	25.37%
1986	25.38%
1987	18.82%
1988	13.98%
1989	15.29%
1990	17.55%
1991	12.54%
1992	12.48%
1993	10.74%
1994	9.67%
1995	11.95%
1996	11.69%
1997	11.89%
1998	14.81%
1999	17.59%
2000	12.10%
2001	14.32%
2002	12.49%
2003	13.67%
2004	13.55%
2005	15.24%
2006	23.80%
2007	29.94%
2008	32.05%
2009	35.06%
2010	32.18%
2011	34.83%
2012	39.84%
2013	35.58%
2014	39.96%
2015	54.66%
2016	65.25%
2017	60.27%
2018	65.29%
2019	78.33%
2020	83.95%

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0004: Components of population growth, Canada, provinces and territories, annual (persons) (1); Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0005: Estimates of population, Canada, provinces and territories, quarterly (persons) (1,2,3,6)

Appendix C

Number of Migrants Settling Annually

Year	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick
1972	1,709	1,081
1973	1,923	1,428
1974	3,064	2,279
1975	2,342	1,998
1976	2,004	2,241
1977	1,854	1,425
1978	1,219	751
1979	967	689
1980	1,885	1,530
1981	1,271	963
1982	1,470	883
1983	937	662
1984	939	558
1985	1,049	596
1986	974	625
1987	1,170	678
1988	1,212	580
1989	1,452	732
1990	1,454	954
1991	1,542	738
1992	1,927	804
1993	2,599	748
1994	3,084	589
1995	3,726	676
1996	3,397	646
1997	3,111	673
1998	2,590	717
1999	1,624	752
2000	1,674	609
2001	1,747	874
2002	1,609	765
2003	1,257	645
2004	1,707	760
2005	1,708	865
2006	2,197	1,386
2007	2,715	1,616
2008	2,668	1,797
2009	2,446	1,918
2010	2,413	1,928
2011	2,292	1,986
2012	2,360	2,263
2013	2,246	2,024
2014	2,779	2,293
2015	2,688	2,797
2016	5,442	4,458
2017	4,357	3,448
2018	5,137	4,116
2019	6,395	5,076
2020	6,239	4,909

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0004: Components of population growth, Canada, provinces and territories, annual (persons) (1)