



YEAR 2021

GOAL 1: INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRATION

NEW BRUNSWICK WILL AVERAGE A NET GAIN OF
800 WORKING-AGE PERSONS PER YEAR.



STATUS: NOT PROGRESSING

Overview

Importance

Interprovincial migration refers to the movement of people from one province or territory to another with the intention of settling. In order to stimulate economic development, New Brunswick needs a skilled workforce that will attract private sector investment and create jobs.

Problem

Data shows that New Brunswick was the only Canadian province to experience a population decline between 2011 and 2016.

Cause

An aging population and loss of working-age New Brunswickers (18-64 years old) through outmigration to other provinces are contributing to this population decline.

In the Numbers

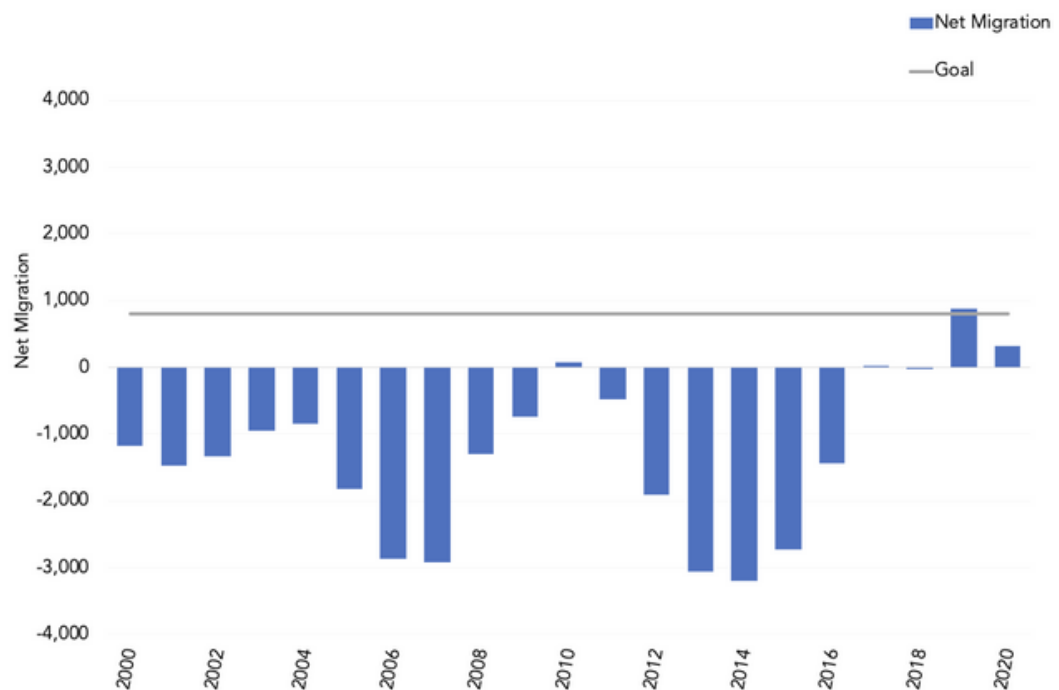
Historically

In the past, New Brunswick has experienced larger, more positive numbers of migration, with a net increase of just under 500 working-age individuals in 1991 (See Appendix A).

Today

Since 2000, New Brunswick has had four years (2010, 2017, 2019, and 2020) with positive net migration. New Brunswick was above its target of gaining 800 working-age persons in 2019; however, the province experienced lower numbers in 2020, although still net positive. Figure 1 shows net migration between 2000 and 2020.

Figure 1: Net Migration



(See full data set in Appendix A)

BoostNB derived net migration by subtracting the number of in-migrants from out-migrants (not adjusted for age). Net migration has been positive over the past two years, with a total of 1,188 new residents since 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, it is difficult to determine the accuracy of these numbers. In general, the number of people leaving New Brunswick is much greater than the number of people coming to the province.

A Closer Look

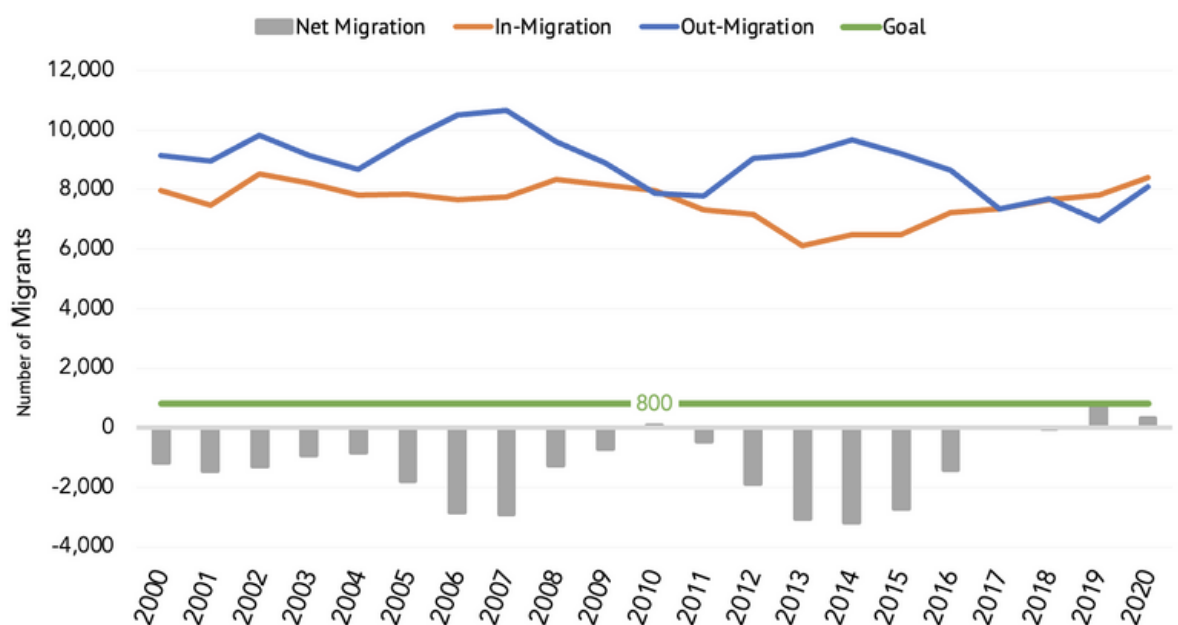
Historically

The levels of interprovincial migration to and from New Brunswick between 1970 and 1990 were highly variable. Since then, migration trends have remained steady, as out-migration has overall been higher than in-migration. As a result, a negative trend in net migration has been ongoing since the 1990s. However, New Brunswick experienced positive net migration levels following 1981, 1990, and 2009, which suggests there are low levels of out-migration during national recessions. Out-migration appears to be more heavily influenced by opportunities outside the province rather than labour market conditions within the province.

Today

Figure 2 shows interprovincial migration between 2000 and 2020. New Brunswick saw significant levels of out-migration during the 2003–2007 economic expansion and following the recession of 2008–2009. These patterns further demonstrate that migration flows for working-age individuals are driven by economic conditions and demands for labour in the western provinces, rather than by economic conditions at home. With a possible recession caused by the global pandemic in 2020, trends show that both in-migration and out-migration are on the rise.

Figure 2: Interprovincial Migration

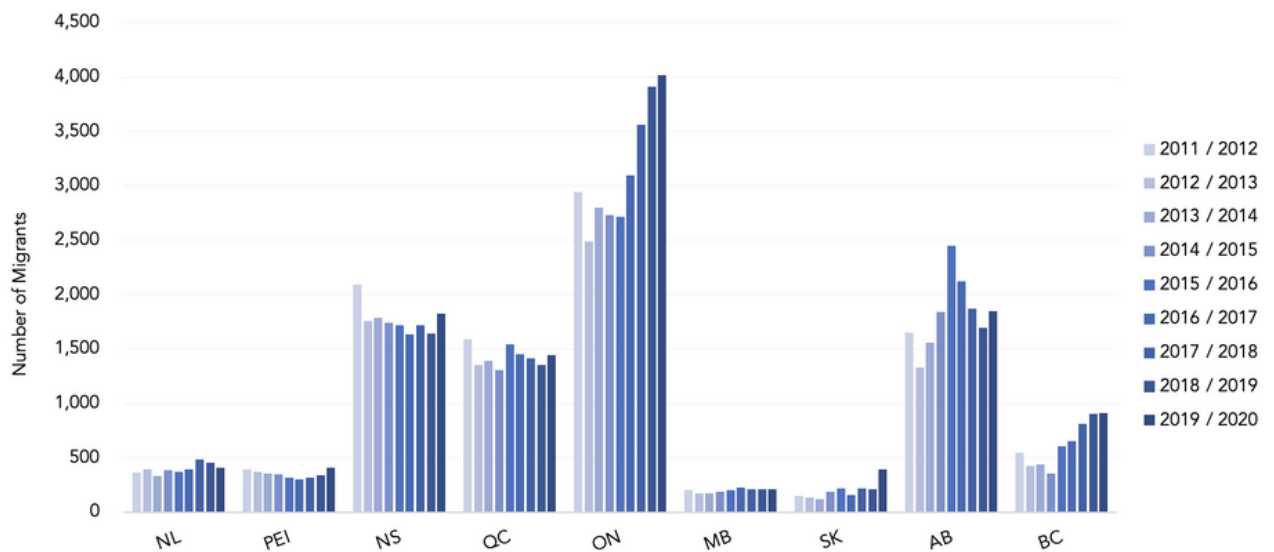


(See full data set in Appendix B)

Patterns of Migration

The following figure separates incoming migrants to New Brunswick based on their province of origin. As illustrated, most people move to New Brunswick from Ontario and Alberta, with Nova Scotia and Quebec trailing close behind.

Figure 3: Net In-Migration to New Brunswick

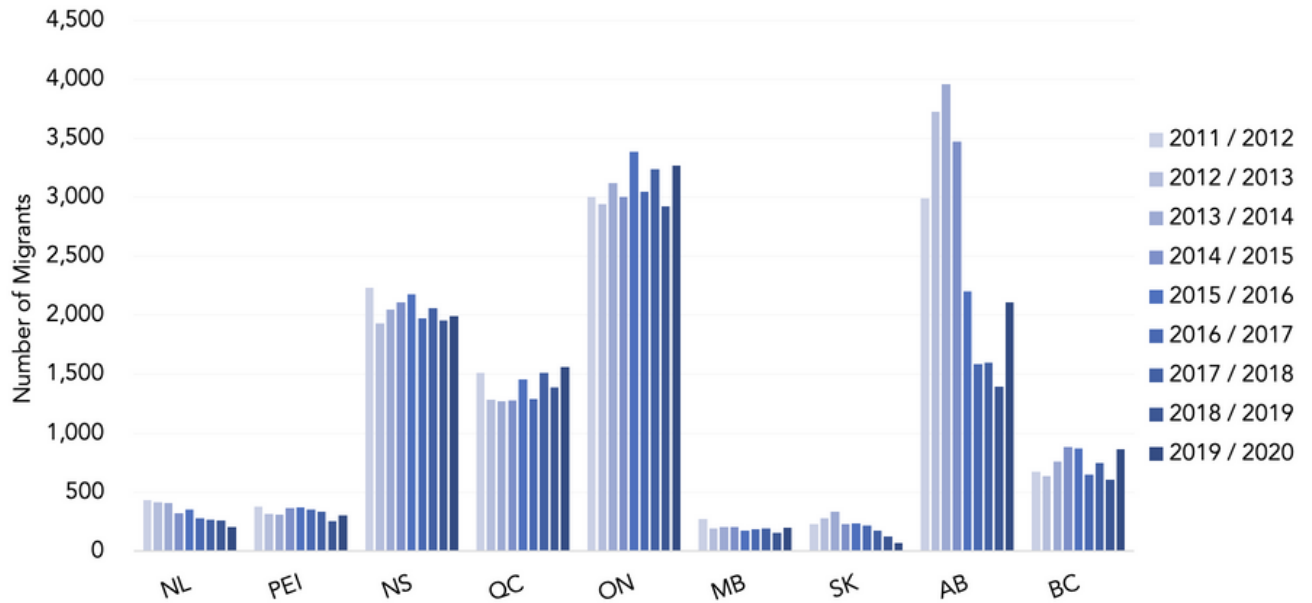


(See full data set in Appendix C)

Figure 4 shows the number of New Brunswickers leaving New Brunswick based on the province to which they relocate. Interestingly, most New Brunswickers move to Ontario, Alberta, and Nova Scotia. At first glance, it may appear that the two should cancel each other out, but the reason they do not is twofold:

- Note the vertical scale on both graphs: Figure 4 goes up to 4,500 people while Figure 3 only goes up to 4,000.
- Although these numbers are close, there is an important distinction in the age of the people leaving versus the people coming. New Brunswickers leaving the province tend to be working age (18–64), while incoming migrants tend to be older than 65.

Figure 4: Net Out-Migration from New Brunswick



(See full data set in Appendix C)

Summary

New Brunswick has not seen a multi-year positive net interprovincial migration of working-age individuals since 1983-1984. New Brunswickers are steadily leaving the province due to a shortage of jobs, and not enough working-age individuals from other provinces are migrating to New Brunswick to compensate for the population loss. As such, we conclude that this goal is not progressing. This goal to boost interprovincial migration is important, as it results in population growth, attracts a skilled workforce, and stimulates economic development.

Appendix A

Net Migration

Year	Net Migration
1972	333
1973	1,472
1974	1,637
1975	3,995
1976	3,992
1977	80
1978	-831
1979	-527
1980	-1,726
1981	-3,474
1982	-2,151
1983	2,508
1984	1,366
1985	-520
1986	-1,535
1987	-1,658
1988	-1,513
1989	-724
1990	-309
1991	493
1992	-142
1993	-995
1994	-737
1995	-822
1996	-522
1997	-1,171
1998	-2,573
1999	-1,265
2000	-1,174
2001	-1,471
2002	-1,322
2003	-934
2004	-845
2005	-1,814
2006	-2,853
2007	-2,912
2008	-1,284
2009	-734
2010	76
2011	-467
2012	-1,895
2013	-3,059
2014	-3,197
2015	-2,715
2016	-1,438
2017	7
2018	-19
2019	867
2020	321

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0015-01

Appendix B

Interprovincial Migration NB

Data: Figure 2	In-Migration	Out-Migration	Net Migration
2000	7,964	9,138	-1,174
2001	7,480	8,951	-1,471
2002	8,510	9,832	-1,322
2003	8,204	9,138	-934
2004	7,827	8,672	-845
2005	7,840	9,654	-1,814
2006	7,656	10,509	-2,853
2007	7,750	10,662	-2,912
2008	8,331	9,615	-1,284
2009	8,166	8,900	-734
2010	7,956	7,880	76
2011	7,328	7,795	-467
2012	7,151	9,046	-1,895
2013	6,101	9,160	-3,059
2014	6,473	9,670	-3,197
2015	6,481	9,196	-2,715
2016	7,210	8,648	-1,438
2017	7,354	7,347	7
2018	7,669	7,688	-19
2019	7,803	6,936	867
2020	8,411	8,090	321

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0015-01

Appendix C

Net In-Migration

Province	2011 / 2012	2012 / 2013	2013 / 2014	2014 / 2015	2015 / 2016	2016 / 2017	2017 / 2018	2018 / 2019	2019 / 2020
NL	361	389	334	383	373	393	483	457	411
PEI	391	370	351	344	318	302	314	336	405
NS	2,093	1,759	1,787	1,739	1,714	1,633	1,716	1,640	1,822
QC	1,591	1,352	1,388	1,309	1,545	1,452	1,415	1,353	1,447
ON	2,947	2,489	2,799	2,734	2,718	3,094	3,562	3,912	4,016
MB	205	170	172	184	199	222	206	208	211
SK	148	130	120	186	217	158	220	209	393
AB	1,647	1,326	1,555	1,840	2,445	2,120	1,868	1,693	1,844
BC	545	426	440	358	602	654	813	902	909

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0015-01

Net Out-Migration

Province	2011 / 2012	2012 / 2013	2013 / 2014	2014 / 2015	2015 / 2016	2016 / 2017	2017 / 2018	2018 / 2019	2019 / 2020
NL	433	414	407	325	351	280	267	263	206
PEI	376	319	313	365	369	351	333	253	302
NS	2,232	1,931	2,048	2,110	2,175	1,973	2,061	1,957	1,994
QC	1,515	1,284	1,272	1,276	1,456	1,289	1,511	1,388	1,564
ON	3,001	2,944	3,119	3,001	3,385	3,046	3,240	2,921	3,270
MB	271	192	208	206	175	188	196	158	198
SK	233	281	334	229	238	215	177	125	73
AB	2,990	3,723	3,962	3,470	2,203	1,586	1,601	1,398	2,113
BC	674	637	762	881	872	651	750	609	864

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