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YEAR 2020

GOAL 1: INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRATION

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



STATUS: NOT PROGRESSING



Overview

Problem

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

Cause

Aging population and loss of working-age (ages 18 to 64) New Brunswickers through outmigration to other provinces.

Importance

In order to stimulate economic development, New Brunswick needs a skilled workforce that will attract private sector investment and create jobs.

Recommendation

New Brunswick should promote population growth through interprovincial migration. If New Brunswick follows the goal of 1,000 set by Nova Scotia through *OneNS*, it should aim to average a net gain of 800 working-age persons per year (after adjusting for provincial differences).

In the Numbers

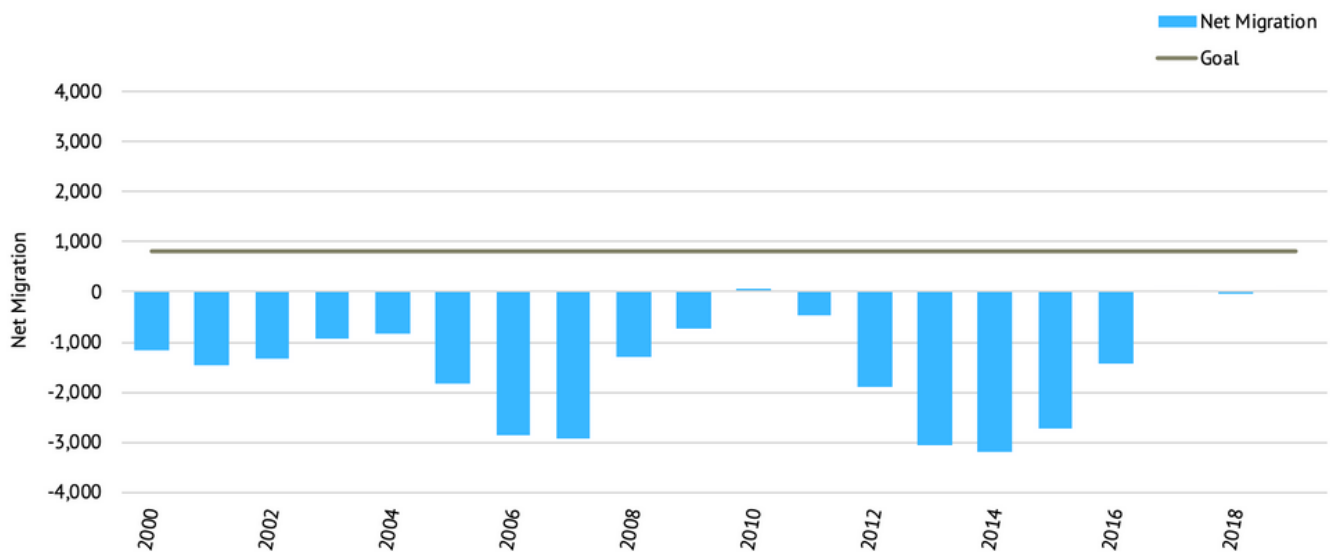
Historically

In the past, New Brunswick has experienced larger, 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 three years (2010, 2017, and 2019) with positive net-migration totalling 102 individuals. Figure 1 shows net migration between 2000 and 2018.

Figure 1: Net Migration



(See full data set in Appendix A)

Net migration was derived by subtracting in-migrants from out-migrants (not adjusted for age). Although net migration was 19 in 2019, it was -19 in 2018, so the province did not actually gain any new residents in the past two years. In general, the number of people leaving New Brunswick is much greater than the number of people coming to the province.

A Closer Look

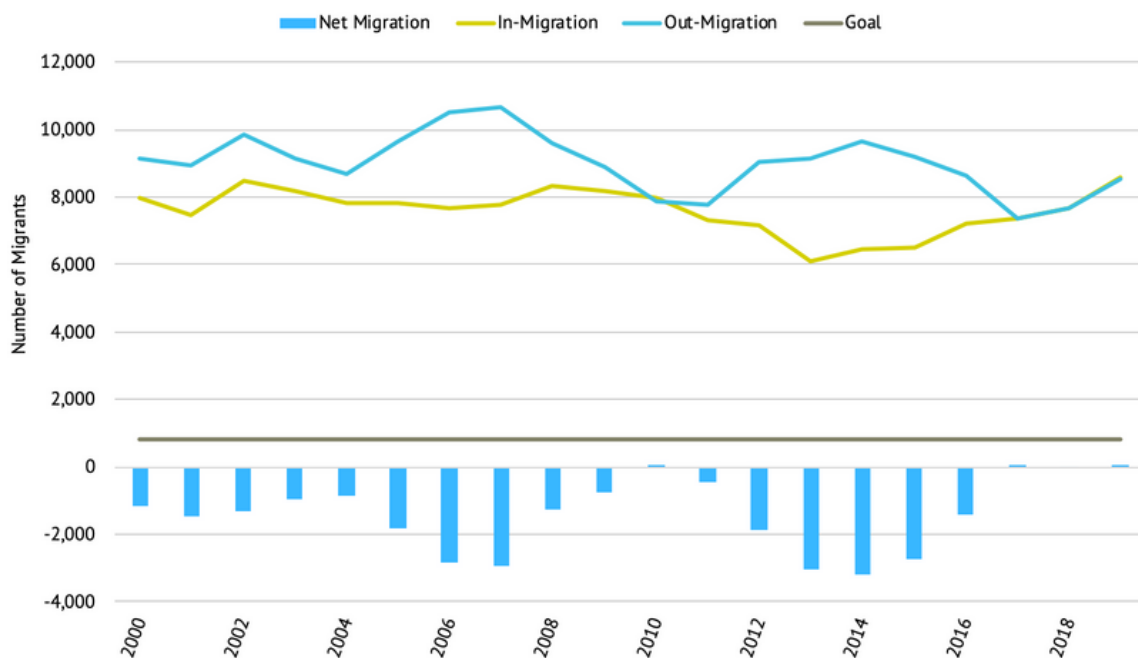
Historically

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 consistently 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 that 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 2019. 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.

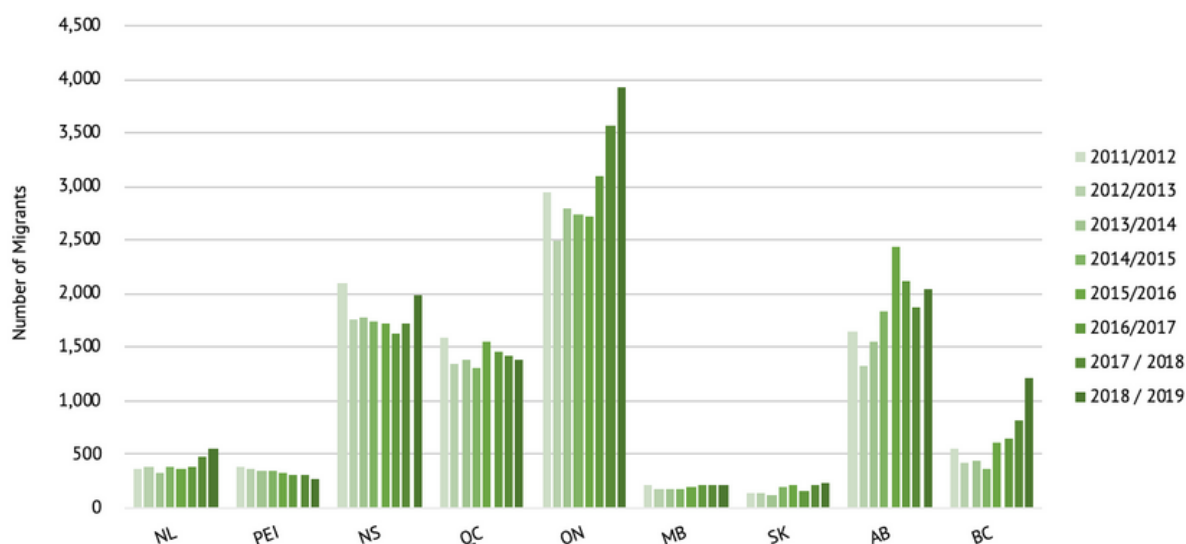
Figure 2: Interprovincial Migration



Patterns of Migration

The following figure separates incoming migrants to New Brunswick based on 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

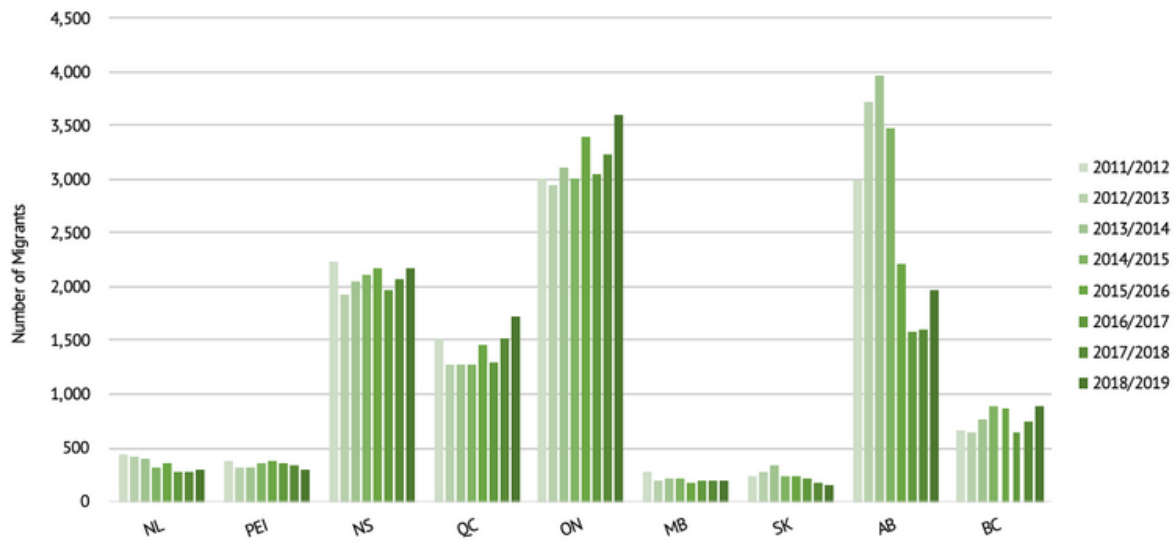


(See full data set in Appendix B)

Figure 4 shows the number of New Brunswickers leaving New Brunswick based on what province they relocate to. Interestingly, most New Brunswickers move to Ontario, Alberta, and Nova Scotia. At first glance it may appear the 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 the numbers are still close, the important distinction is 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 B)

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, it is concluded that this goal is not progressing. This goal is important as it results in population growth, attracts a skilled workforce, and stimulates economic development.

Appendix A

Net Migration

Year	In-Migration	Out-Migration	Net Migration
1972	13,667	13,334	333
1973	14,155	12,683	1,472
1974	15,105	13,468	1,637
1975	15,771	11,776	3,995
1976	15,253	11,261	3,992
1977	10,185	10,105	80
1978	9,426	10,257	-831
1979	9,419	9,946	-527
1980	8,876	10,602	-1,726
1981	9,033	12,507	-3,474
1982	9,608	11,759	-2,151
1983	10,579	8,071	2,508
1984	8,922	7,556	1,366
1985	7,726	8,246	-520
1986	8,180	9,715	-1,535
1987	8,324	9,982	-1,658
1988	9,184	10,697	-1,513
1989	10,288	11,012	-724
1990	10,875	11,184	-309
1991	9,959	9,466	493
1992	8,914	9,056	-142
1993	8,211	9,206	-995
1994	7,567	8,304	-737
1995	7,619	8,441	-822
1996	8,314	8,836	-522
1997	7,786	8,957	-1,171
1998	7,684	10,257	-2,573
1999	7,362	8,627	-1,265
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	8,562	8,543	19

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

Appendix B

Net In-Migration

Province	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
NL	361	389	334	383	373	393	522
PEI	391	370	351	344	318	302	374
NS	2,093	1,759	1,787	1,739	1,714	1,633	1,796
QC	1,591	1,352	1,388	1,309	1,545	1,452	1,578
ON	2,947	2,489	2,799	2,734	2,718	3,094	3,527
MB	205	170	172	184	199	222	281
SK	148	130	120	186	217	158	199
AB	1,647	1,326	1,555	1,840	2,445	2,120	2,098
BC	545	426	440	358	602	654	896

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
NL	433	414	407	325	351	280	324
PEI	376	319	313	365	369	351	486
NS	2,232	1,931	2,048	2,110	2,175	1,973	2,254
QC	1,515	1,284	1,272	1,276	1,456	1,289	1,635
ON	3,001	2,944	3,119	3,001	3,385	3,046	3,689
MB	271	192	208	206	175	188	217
SK	233	281	334	229	238	215	235
AB	2,990	3,723	3,962	3,470	2,203	1,586	1,832
BC	674	637	762	881	872	651	714

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