

## **GOAL 1: Interprovincial Migration**

*New Brunswick will average a net gain of 800 working-age persons per year.*

**Status: NOT PROGRESSING**

## Current Situation

For New Brunswick to effectively stimulate economic development, it should consider promoting population growth through interprovincial migration. If New Brunswick follows the goal set by Nova Scotia through *OneNS* (and adjusts the numbers to account for provincial differences) it should aim to average a net gain of 800 working-age individuals through interprovincial migration every year.

Census data shows that New Brunswick was the only Canadian province to experience a population decline between 2011 and 2016. This is due in part to the province's quickly aging population and the out-migration of working-age New Brunswickers to other provinces.

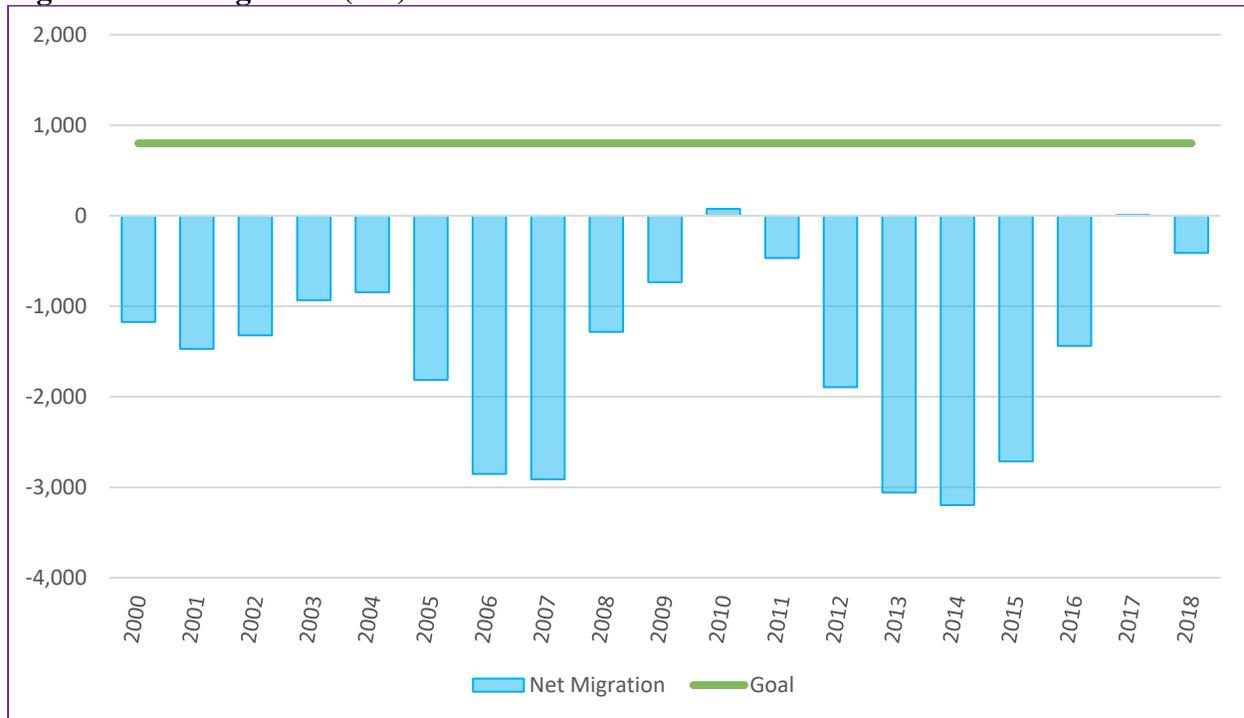
The data shows that New Brunswick has had a long-standing trend of population loss through net-migration. Figure 1 shows net migration for New Brunswick from 2000 to 2018, and the following table contains the full amount of data available from Statistics Canada. As seen in Figure 1, New Brunswick has only had two years (2010 and 2017) with positive net-migration – totaling 83 individuals – since 2000. Historically, New Brunswick has experienced larger, positive numbers of migration, with a net increase of just under 500 working-age individuals in 1991, as shown in the chart following Figure 1.

Net migration for New Brunswick was positive in 2017, but it was still far from reaching our suggested goal of a positive net-migration of 800 working-age individuals. More recently, in 2018, the province saw yet another return to net out-migration. Out-migration seems to be the most important factor influencing net-migration.

In contrast to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia met its goal of achieving net migration of 1,000 persons per year in 2016/17 and 2017/18 after prolonged net out-migration. This was largely due to lower numbers of out-migrants from the province. There was an increase in Nova Scotia's in-migration as well, but only after in-migration was at an all-time low.

## Section One: Net Migration in New Brunswick

**Figure 1: Net Migration (NB)**



### Interpreting the Data

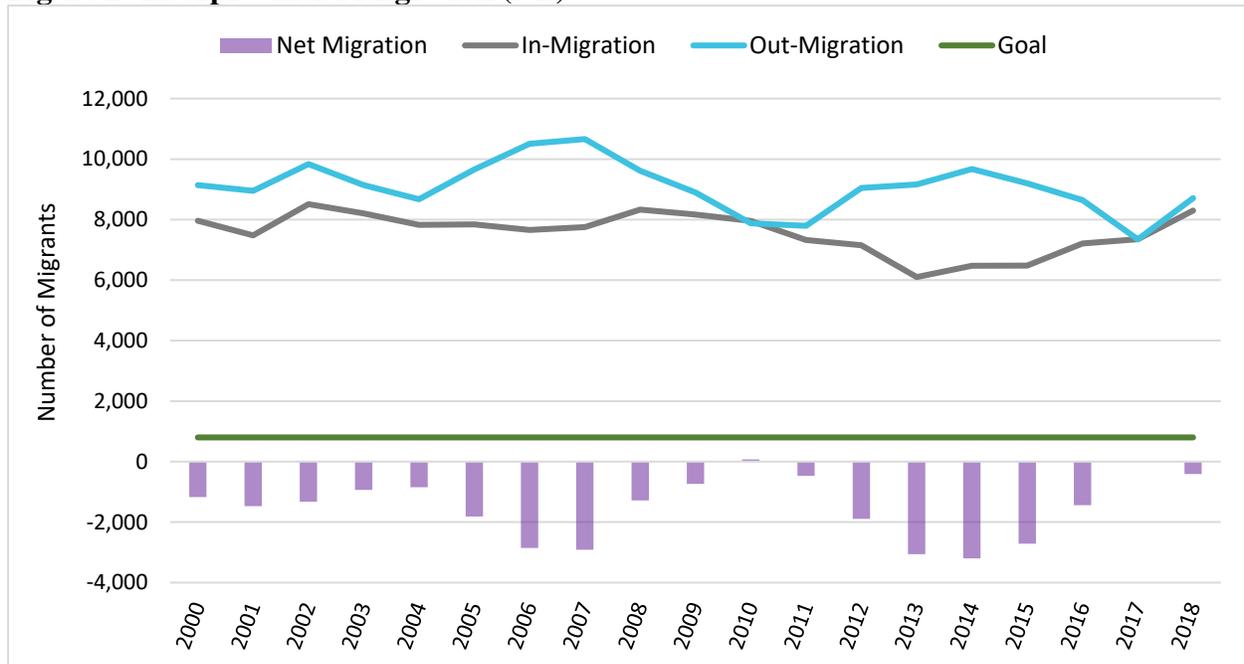
New Brunswick has not seen a multi-year, positive net interprovincial migration of working-age individuals since 1983-1984. New Brunswickers are consistently leaving the province, and not enough working-age individual from other provinces are migrating to New Brunswick to make up for the population loss. In-migration levels have returned to pre-2012 norms, and if the trend of decreasing out-migration had continued, New Brunswick may have been able to achieve the suggested 800 net-migration goal. However, following the historical trend, this decrease lasted only three years, and although net-migration was positive as a result, out-migration increased again in the 2017-2018 year.

Year	In-Migration	Out-Migration	Net Migration
<b>1972</b>	13,667	13,334	333
<b>1973</b>	14,155	12,683	1,472
<b>1974</b>	15,105	13,468	1,637
<b>1975</b>	15,771	11,776	3,995
<b>1976</b>	15,253	11,261	3,992
<b>1977</b>	10,185	10,105	80
<b>1978</b>	9,426	10,257	-831

<b>1979</b>	9,419	9,946	-527
<b>1980</b>	8,876	10,602	-1,726
<b>1981</b>	9,033	12,507	-3,474
<b>1982</b>	9,608	11,759	-2,151
<b>1983</b>	10,579	8,071	2,508
<b>1984</b>	8,922	7,556	1,366
<b>1985</b>	7,726	8,246	-520
<b>1986</b>	8,180	9,715	-1,535
<b>1987</b>	8,324	9,982	-1,658
<b>1988</b>	9,184	10,697	-1,513
<b>1989</b>	10,288	11,012	-724
<b>1990</b>	10,875	11,184	-309
<b>1991</b>	9,959	9,466	493
<b>1992</b>	8,914	9,056	-142
<b>1993</b>	8,211	9,206	-995
<b>1994</b>	7,567	8,304	-737
<b>1995</b>	7,619	8,441	-822
<b>1996</b>	8,314	8,836	-522
<b>1997</b>	7,786	8,957	-1,171
<b>1998</b>	7,684	10,257	-2,573
<b>1999</b>	7,362	8,627	-1,265
<b>2000</b>	7,964	9,138	-1,174
<b>2001</b>	7,480	8,951	-1,471
<b>2002</b>	8,510	9,832	-1,322
<b>2003</b>	8,204	9,138	-934
<b>2004</b>	7,827	8,672	-845
<b>2005</b>	7,840	9,654	-1,814
<b>2006</b>	7,656	10,509	-2,853
<b>2007</b>	7,750	10,662	-2,912
<b>2008</b>	8,331	9,615	-1,284
<b>2009</b>	8,166	8,900	-734
<b>2010</b>	7,956	7,880	76
<b>2011</b>	7,328	7,795	-467
<b>2012</b>	7,151	9,046	-1,895
<b>2013</b>	6,101	9,160	-3,059
<b>2014</b>	6,473	9,670	-3,197
<b>2015</b>	6,481	9,196	-2,715
<b>2016</b>	7,210	8,648	-1,438
<b>2017</b>	7,354	7,347	7
<b>2018</b>	8,298	8,709	-411

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0015-01 \*adjusted for working ages 18 to 64

**Figure 2: Interprovincial Migration (NB)**



### Interpreting the Data

There was great variation in the levels of interprovincial migration to and from New Brunswick between 1970 and 1990. Since then, migration trends have remained steady insofar 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 than by labour market conditions within the province.

New Brunswick saw significant levels of out-migration during the 2003-2007 economic expansion and following the recession of 2008-2009. As was argued by *OneNS* regarding Nova Scotia's similar experience, these patterns demonstrate that migration flows for working-age individuals have been driven by economic conditions and demands for labour in the western provinces, rather than by economic conditions at home.

To achieve our suggested goal of averaging a net gain of 800 working-age persons per year, New Brunswick needs to keep out-migration levels low. From 2007 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2017, the province saw a decline in out-migration. However, despite these brief trends, out-migration from New Brunswick has been significantly higher than in-migration, and this is the main reason for the negative levels of net-migration.

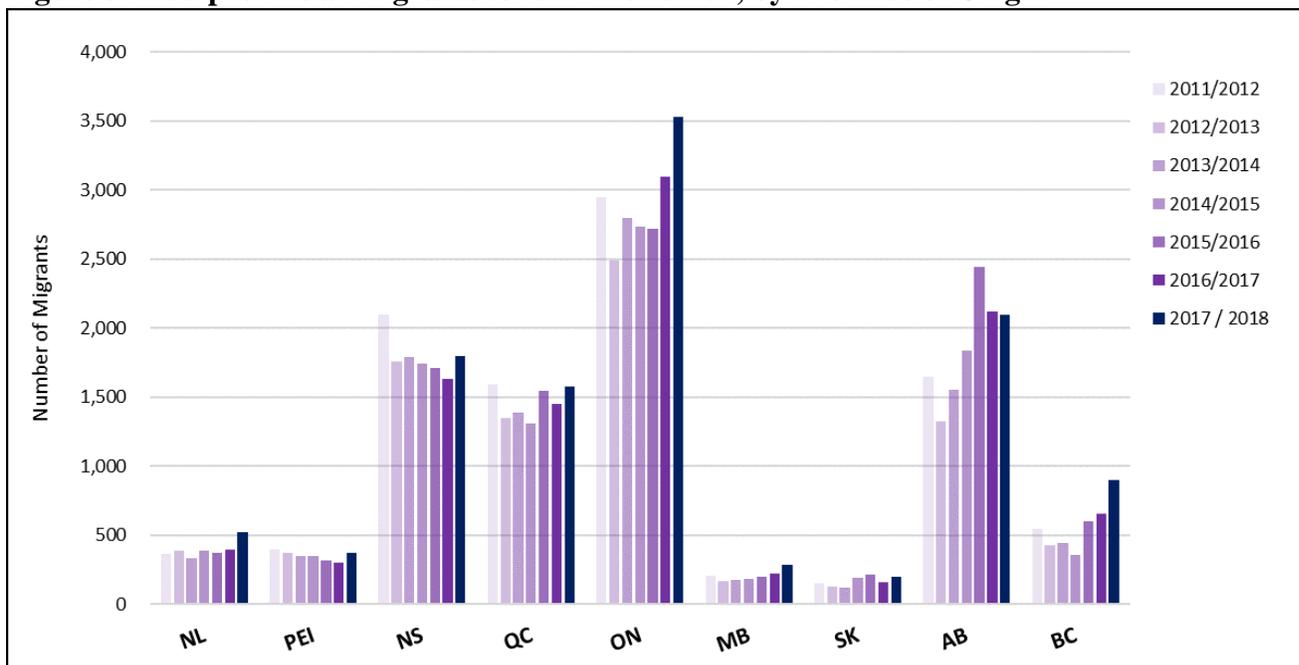
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Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0015-01 \*adjusted for working ages 18 to 64

## Section Two: New Brunswick's Migration in Relation to Other Provinces

**Figure 3: Interprovincial Migrants to New Brunswick, by Province of Origin**

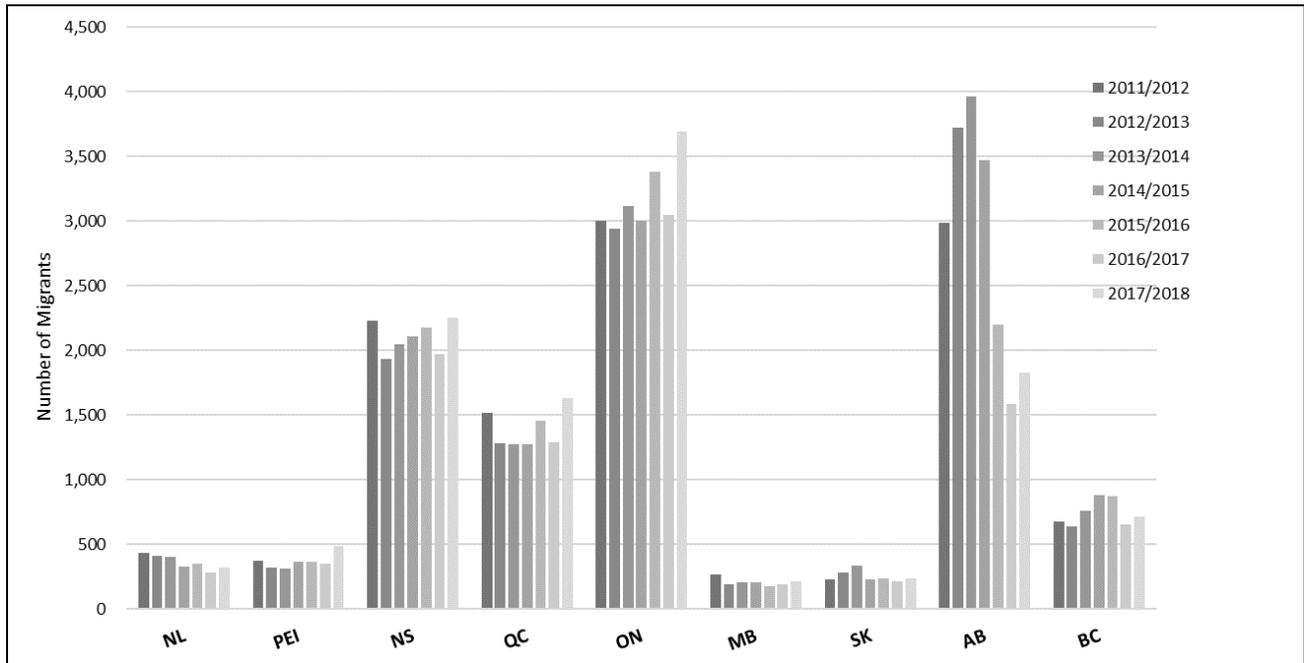


Province	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017 / 2018
<b>NL</b>	361	389	334	383	373	393	522
<b>PEI</b>	391	370	351	344	318	302	374
<b>NS</b>	2,093	1,759	1,787	1,739	1,714	1,633	1,796
<b>QC</b>	1,591	1,352	1,388	1,309	1,545	1,452	1,578
<b>ON</b>	2,947	2,489	2,799	2,734	2,718	3,094	3,527

<b>MB</b>	205	170	172	184	199	222	281
<b>SK</b>	148	130	120	186	217	158	199
<b>AB</b>	1,647	1,326	1,555	1,840	2,445	2,120	2,098
<b>BC</b>	545	426	440	358	602	654	896

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

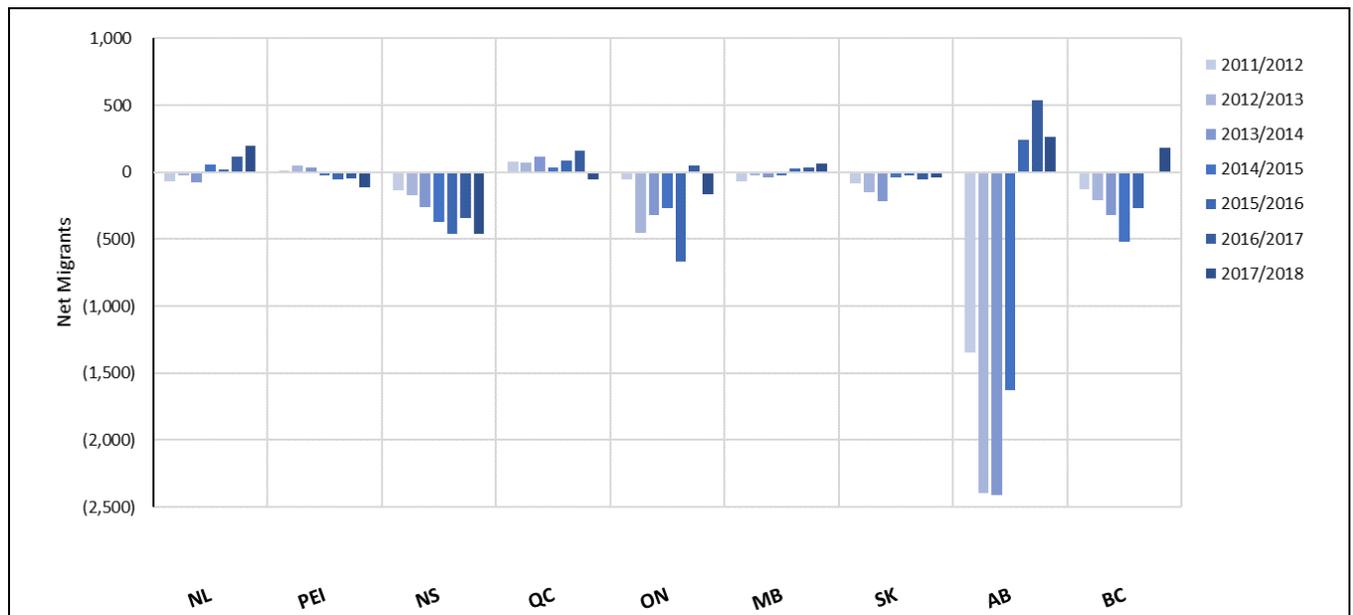
**Figure 4: Interprovincial Migrants from New Brunswick, by Province of Destination**



Province	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
<b>NL</b>	433	414	407	325	351	280	324
<b>PEI</b>	376	319	313	365	369	351	486
<b>NS</b>	2,232	1,931	2,048	2,110	2,175	1,973	2,254
<b>QC</b>	1,515	1,284	1,272	1,276	1,456	1,289	1,635
<b>ON</b>	3,001	2,944	3,119	3,001	3,385	3,046	3,689
<b>MB</b>	271	192	208	206	175	188	217
<b>SK</b>	233	281	334	229	238	215	235
<b>AB</b>	2,990	3,723	3,962	3,470	2,203	1,586	1,832
<b>BC</b>	674	637	762	881	872	651	714

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

**Figure 5: Net Provincial Migration (NB), by Province**



Province	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
NL	-72	-25	-73	58	22	113	198
PEI	15	51	38	-21	-51	-49	-112
NS	-139	-172	-261	-371	-461	-340	-458
QC	76	68	116	33	89	163	-57
ON	-54	-455	-320	-267	-667	48	-162
MB	-66	-22	-36	-22	24	34	64
SK	-85	-151	-214	-43	-21	-57	-36
AB	-1343	-2397	-2407	-1630	242	534	266
BC	-129	-211	-322	-523	-270	3	182

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

### Notes

- “Working-age” is defined as ages 18 to 64.
- Net provincial migration by province is derived by subtracting in-migrants from out-migrants (not adjusted for age).
- The suggested provincial goal of gaining 800 net interprovincial migrants per year is based on Nova Scotia’s goal of gaining 1,000 per year, while accounting for provincial differences in population sizes.