

Demographic Change in North America: Canada

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Intro: Canada Past, Present, and Future

- Canada is the 2nd largest country in the world after Russia
- But with a population of 40 million, our population density is low with 11 people per square mile (i.e., implications for infrastructure)
- The majority of Canadians live within 100 miles of the US border, where you find most of Canada's major cities (i.e., CMAs)
- Canada is a constitutional monarchy, and a member of the Commonwealth of Nations (i.e., former British Empire)
- Yes, King Charles III is our king, too

Official Languages

- At the federal level, Canada is officially bilingual: English and French
- 18% of Canadians are bilingual (English and French)
- At the provincial level, only New Brunswick is officially bilingual
- Quebec, of course, is officially French
- Nova Scotia has recognized Mi'Kmaq as the province's first language

Indigenous Peoples (5% in 2021 Census)

- First Nations (more than 630 First Nations communities)
- Inuit (the Indigenous peoples of the Arctic)
- Métis (people of mixed European and Indigenous ancestry)
- In 2021, Canada passed UNDRIP into law
- In 2023, Canada's DRIPA action plan was introduced

Statistics Canada



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Subjects

Data

Analysis

Reference

Geography

Census ▾

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October 10,
2023



Trade of
culture and sport products,
2021

The year 2021 saw both
Canadian exports and imports

Canada's population reaches 40 million



There are now 40 million Canadians.
Learn more about this historic
milestone.

Key indicators | [★ All indicators](#)

Canada

[Quarterly population estimate](#)

(Note) (July 1, 2023)

40,097,761

0.9% ↑

(quarterly change)

[Consumer Price Index](#)



Demographic Change: Census Questions Evolve

(Stats Can, 2015, December 30; 2022, April 27a)

- 1991: Census asked about cohabitation for the first time
- 2001: Census first asked about same-sex couples
- 2006*: Census asked about same-sex marriages
- 2011: Census first asked about step- and foster families
- 2021: Census asked about “sex at birth” and adult “gender”

“Sex at Birth” and “Gender”



Understanding who we are:

Sex at birth and gender of people in Canada

The Canadian 2021 Census of Population collected data on gender for the first time.

Following extensive engagement with the Canadian population, Statistics Canada published new statistical standards on gender and sex at birth in April 2018. Based on this new standard, the 2021 Census collected data on sex at birth and gender. Results from this census therefore provide a more detailed portrait of the population.

Sex at birth and gender refer to two different, but interrelated, concepts.

- **Gender identity** refers to the gender that a person feels internally and individually.
- **Gender expression** is the outward presentation of gender, regardless of gender identity, through body language, behaviour

Nuptiality and Fertility

Canadians more likely to say “I don’t” (Stats Can, 2022, December 12)

- Cohabitation is increasing (27%, the G7 high)
- Marriage rate is decreasing (half of what it was 50 years ago)
- Age at marriage is increasing (i.e., 35 years*)
- Fertility rate is decreasing (below replacement level of 2.1 children/woman)
- Maternal age at birth is increasing (i.e., 31 years)

Care Arrangements: Children

(CWELCC; Government of Canada, 2023)

- \$61-a-day daycare, Toronto (Fortin, 2017)
- \$56-a-day daycare, Vancouver
- \$7-a-day daycare*, Montreal

- \$10-a-day, Canada-wide (Government of Canada, 2023)
- \$8.35-a-day**, Quebec

Care Arrangements: Older Canadians

(Stats Can, 2021, May 26; 2022, April 27b; 2022, August 22)

- 7% of Canadians 65+ live in collective dwellings (e.g., nursing homes)
- 15% of Canadians 75+ live in collective dwellings
- 28% of Canadians 85+ live in collective dwellings
- 54% of Canadians 100+ live in collective dwellings
- Meanwhile, 25% of working Canadians are providing care for an aging family member (i.e., 5 billion hours of unpaid care a year), Fast et al., 2023

COVID-19 Inequalities

(Stats Can, 2022, August 30)

- Canadians who died of COVID-19 (54,000+) were more likely to be:
 - Men
 - Indigenous and ethnic minorities
 - People in lower-income neighbourhoods
 - Residents of apartments
 - Older Canadians living in collective dwellings

Health Care as Affected by COVID-19

(SHCWEP; Stats Can, 2022, June 3)

- 95% of health care workers (HCWs) said their jobs were affected
- 85% of HCWs said they felt more stressed at work
- 75% of HCWs reported having an increased workload

- 25% of nurses see themselves leaving or changing jobs soon
- 20% of other HCWs see themselves leaving or changing jobs

An Aging Population

(Life Expectancy; Stats Can, 2018, May 17)

	Men	Women
1930-32	60 years	62 years
1950-52	66 years	71 years
1970-72	70 years	77 years
1990-92	75 years	81 years

MAID: Medical Assistance in Dying

4th annual report (Health Canada, October, 2023)

- Legal since 2016, MAID is primarily for individuals whose deaths are *reasonably foreseeable* (e.g., terminal cancer in 2/3s of all cases)
- Since legalization, 44,958 Canadians have taken advantage of MAID; in 2022, these provisions accounted for 4% of all deaths in Canada that year
- Slightly more males than females take advantage of MAID; the average age at death in 2022 was 76 years for males, and 78 years for females
- Most common reasons: loss of ability to engage in meaningful activity (86%), loss of ability to perform ADLs (82%), and inadequate control of pain (59%)

Stats Canada Immigration Projections for 2041

(2022, September 8)

- By 2041, it is expected that:
 - 50% of Canadian residents will be immigrants or Canadian-born children
 - 25% of Canadian residents will be born in either Africa or Asia:
 - Blacks will be more likely to live in Montreal
 - South Asians more likely to live in Toronto
 - Chinese more likely to live in Vancouver
- Canada will clearly need to address housing shortages and discrimination

Immigration: Canada's "Secret Sauce"

Gerald Butts (BBN Bloomberg, 2023, January 4)

- Broad Canadian support for immigration generally:
 - Across the political spectrum (i.e., don't have a two-party system; less polarized than the U.S.)
 - Throughout the population (approximately 70% are in agreement with current immigration levels)
 - So, in spite of concerns about infrastructure (e.g., housing), immigration is seen as Canada's "secret sauce"

Regional Differences

The Case of Quebec

- Recent laws designed to protect Quebec's language and values:
 - *Bill 21, An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State* (Quebec, 2019)
 - *Bill 96, An Act Respecting French, the Official and Common Language of Quebec* (Quebec, 2022)
- *Bill 96* in particular has implications for non-francophone immigrants (e.g., anglophones, allophones)
- As a result, Quebec admits fewer immigrants than other parts of Canada, in part on purpose

Support for Learning French



[Home](#) < [Education](#) < [Learn French](#)

Learn French

French is the common and official language of Québec. Communicating in French allows for full participation in Québec society, particularly in the job market.

The Government of Québec offers free French courses to all persons 16 years of age and older who are living in Québec, who are not subject to mandatory school attendance and who wish to receive French learning services, as well as to persons who are planning to settle in Québec. These courses may be eligible for financial assistance under certain conditions.

If you are thinking of immigrating to Québec, your knowledge of French will be taken into account in the selection process. For more information, see the page on [the importance of French in Québec](#).

In Sum, Though....

Immigration: Canada's Primary Answer to An Aging Population

- Canadians of tomorrow will be more diverse in terms of:
 - Ethnicity
 - Religion
 - Language—maternal and spoken
 - Gender—and gender identity
 - Age

Recommended that Canada:

- Continue to promote and support immigration to grow our shrinking labour force due to the aging population
- Promote broader national acceptance of ethnic, religious, cultural, linguistic, and gender diversity and differences
- Prioritize housing and other infrastructure such as clean water and sustainable transportation
- Support women's labour force participation with accessible, affordable, quality child care (e.g., CWELCC)
- Honour our commitment to UNDRIP as a step toward truth and reconciliation with respect to Canada's First Peoples

Thank you! Merci!