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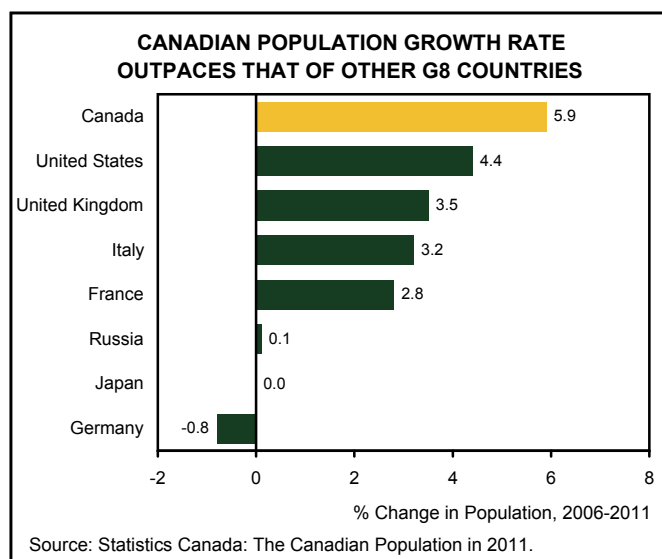
2011 CENSUS RELEASE: PAINTING A PICTURE OF THE CANADIAN POPULATION

Highlights

- From 2006 to 2011, Canada's population grew by 5.9%, up slightly from the previous intercensal estimate of 5.4% from 2001-06. There are now nearly 33.5 million people present in Canada, or double what was recorded just fifty years ago.
- All provinces and territories experienced population growth from 2006-11. This represents a remarkable turnaround for Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador, two provinces which recorded population contractions from 2001-06.
- While the territories, British Columbia and the Prairies continue to lead the way in terms of population gains, there were less regional differences noted from coast to coast relative to the 2001-06 period.
- Calgary, Edmonton and Saskatoon led the way on the population growth front from 2006-11. Toronto put in a respectable showing of 9.2%, but could not beat the tally recorded last Census. Thunder Bay and Windsor were the only two large urban regions in the country to see their populations shrink from 2006-11.

In releasing the 2011 Census numbers, Statistics Canada gave everyone a glimpse of how the national population has grown over the last five years. The number of Canadians grew at a rate of 5.9% during this period, thanks in large part to a small increase in fertility and a greater number of non-permanent residents. The population growth showing allows Canada to retain its championship belt relative to other G8 nations. However, at the sub-regional level, much has changed. Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador recorded population growth from 2006-11, in contrast to the declines recorded last Census. Ontario, on the other hand, saw its rate of population growth decelerate for the first time in nearly thirty years. At the sub-provincial level, all cities in western Canada, except Winnipeg and Victoria, scored better than the national average. Windsor and Thunder Bay were the only two large urban regions in the country to experience a population contraction from 2006-11.

With so many new numbers and estimates, including revised population projections, we boil down today's release into five key takeaways for readers. In a report to be released tomorrow, we will spell out some of the implications of an ageing population, and a slowing growing population, for regional income disparities and government budgetary balances over the long run.



1. Canada retains its first place ribbon in the G8 club

Canada's population grew by 5.9% from 2006-11, putting the nation ahead of its G8 counterparts. On the international stage, Canada tends to perform quite well in population growth races, due in large part to healthy, but fairly constant, immigration and non-permanent resident levels. Statistics Canada did not provide a breakdown between immigration and natural population growth increases from 2006-11, but in the 2006 Census, the split was roughly two-thirds and one thirds, respectively. While there was a small increase in fertility rates from 2006-11, immigration remains the driving influence. In fact, in updated population projection series released today, Statistics Canada reaffirms the long-held belief that in the absence of immigration, the national population growth rate would be close to zero.

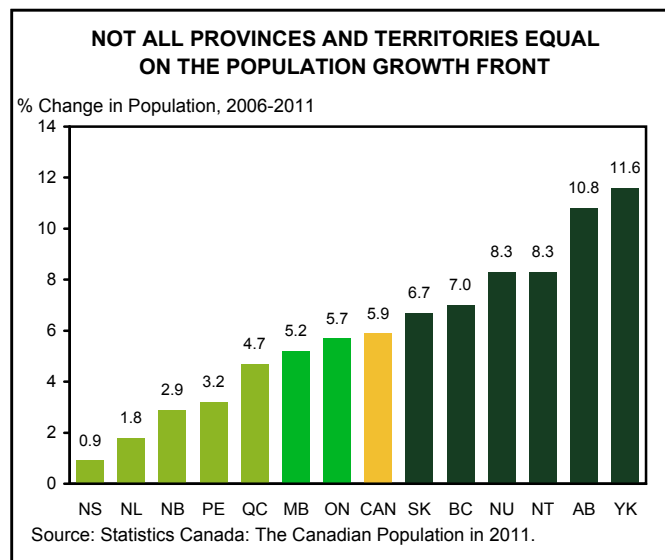
2. Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador on the positive side of population growth

If we rewind the clock back to the last Census release, it showed that Saskatchewan registered a 1.1% population decline from 2001-06. During this same period, Newfoundland and Labrador saw an even bigger contraction of 1.5%. With today's numbers, we can only say what a difference five years makes. From 2006-11, Saskatchewan was the third-ranked province, with population gains of 6.7%, behind only Alberta and British Columbia. In Saskatchewan's case, the province has tried to lure new immigrants and inter-provincial migrants with advertising and job recruitment campaigns. The province received more than 28,000 new immigrants from 2006-11, as compared to just 9,500 from 2001-06. Net new inter-provincial migrants were also recorded from 2006-11, in contrast to losses seen during the last intercensal estimate. Solid economic performances including strong employment growth and favourable labour market conditions underscore the population changes.

While Newfoundland and Labrador remains close to the bottom in the provincial rankings, it managed to register population growth of 1.8% from 2006-11. This represents the first time the province has seen gains since 1981-86. Firm commodity prices including crude oil, a quick rebound from the 2008-09 recession, and favourable employment conditions likely influenced the population growth turnaround.

3. Ontario's population growth rate decelerates for the first time in thirty years

Ontario saw its population change by 5.7% from 2006-



11, representing the slowest rate of increase since the 1981-86 period. With international immigration levels staying fairly constant throughout the 2006-11 period, there was a fixed pie of these individuals to distribute around the country. Statistics Canada states that there were 96,000 fewer immigrants to Ontario over 2006-11 as compared to the last Census report. While this loss is significant, it is important to keep in mind that Ontario still attracts the largest share of all new immigrants to Canada. There was also a pick up in migratory losses to other provinces and territories – twice the number seen during the last Census. With Ontario being particularly hard hit by the recession and experiencing a slow to return to pre-recessionary employment levels, these trends are not surprising. However, if these demographic shifts persist, they will have important implications for long run economic growth prospects.

4. Western provinces now have a greater population than the eastern provinces

Let us define western provinces to be British Columbia and the Prairies and eastern provinces to be the Atlantic provinces and Québec. With these geographical definitions, we see that for the first time in history, the population share of western provinces (30.7%) exceeds that of eastern provinces (30.6%). While the margin of victory for the west is small, the trend reinforces the diverging population growth expected to persist across the country over the next few decades. Higher immigration levels and more favourable inter-provincial migration conditions are just some of the factors supporting this outlook.

5. Large urban cities continue to grow in size

In 2011, there were more than 23 million individuals living in one of Canada's thirty-three Census Metropolitan Areas (a region recording more than 100,000 individuals). This translates into nearly seven in ten Canadians and corresponds to a greater degree of urbanization (69.1%) relative to where things stood in 2001-06 (68.1%). Municipal population growth from 2006-11 followed similar trends to that recorded at the provincial level. Calgary (12.6%), Edmonton (12.1%) and Saskatoon (11.4%) were the growth leaders and put forth a better showing than during the 2001-06 period. With more immigrants choosing other destinations to settle down, Toronto managed to record a 9.2% growth rate, equal

to its showing from 2001-06. Almost all Census Metropolitan Areas within Ontario saw a deceleration in the rate of population growth this time around. Still, Windsor (-1.3%) and Thunder Bay (-1.1%) were the only two regions in the country to experience population losses. We suspect that these performances were due to the regions being hard-hit by the 2008-09 global financial crisis and them still being very much in recovery and healing mode.

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