Northwest Territories Population – January 2015

On January 1, 2015 Statistics Canada estimated that 43,595 people were living in the Northwest Territories, a decrease of 0.8% from the previous year. At the national level, Canada’s population increased by 1.0% between January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2015. With the exception of the Northwest Territories and some of the Atlantic provinces, all other provinces and territories experienced positive growth.

Table 1  Population Estimates and Annual Rate of Growth, by Province and Territory
January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2015

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2015 Jan 1 Change</th>
<th>2014 Jan 1 Change</th>
<th>2013 Jan 1 Change</th>
<th>2012 Jan 1 Change</th>
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<td>43,802 0.7</td>
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<td>36,167 -0.2</td>
<td>36,234 1.8</td>
<td>35,608 2.3</td>
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<td>4,522,027 0.9</td>
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<td>4,059,691 3.0</td>
<td>3,940,179 2.9</td>
<td>3,830,104 2.0</td>
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<td>1,115,244 1.7</td>
<td>1,096,594 1.9</td>
<td>1,076,124 1.6</td>
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<td>1,273,158 1.2</td>
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<td>528,479 0.1</td>
<td>528,142 0.4</td>
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Between January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2015, the population in the Northwest Territories decreased by 338 persons. The components of natural increase during this period consisted of 695 births and 201 deaths, resulting in a net increase of 494 persons. Inter-provincial migration accounted for 2,184 persons moving into the Northwest Territories from other provinces and territories, while 3,078 persons moved away, representing a net loss of 894 persons. Internationally, there was a net in-migration of 62 persons.
In terms of quarterly growth, the NWT population fell by 200 persons between October 1, 2014 and January 1, 2015. The population decrease was a result of a loss of 305 persons through migration offset by a gain of 105 persons through natural increase.

In the NWT, population growth is mainly driven by migration. The red line in Figure 1 shows that the quarterly NWT population growth before October, 2013, was relatively flat. Subsequently, population growth has fluctuated a little more, driven by large net out-migration. However, it is important to note that quarterly migration numbers are preliminary and are subject to future revisions.

Figure 1  Interprovincial Migration Patterns and Population Growth  
January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2015

The detailed components of population change for the Northwest Territories since 2008 are presented in Table 2.

For more information about these estimates or for community level population estimates and projections, please visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at http://www.statsnwt.ca or call (867) 873-7147.
## Table 2  Components of Population Change, by Time Period

Northwest Territories - January 1, 2008 to January 1, 2015

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<th>Beginning Population</th>
<th>Ending Population</th>
<th>Births</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>---- Interprovincial Migration ----</th>
<th>Net International</th>
<th>Error of Closure</th>
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Note:  *Net International* represents the net total of all Immigrants, Emigrants, Returning Canadians, Non-Permanent Residents and Individuals Temporarily Abroad.  
*Error of Closure* represents the difference in population change as measured by the individual components of growth and that observed using 2011, 2006, 2001 and 1996 census-based population estimates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.