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Northwest Territories Population April 2023

On April 1, 2023 Statistics Canada estimated that 45,668 people were living in the Northwest Territories (NWT), a decrease of 0.1% from the previous year. At the national level, Canada's population increased by 3.1% between April 1, 2022 and April 1, 2023. Except for the Northwest Territories, all jurisdictions saw population increases with Prince Edward Island experiencing the largest rise followed by Alberta, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Ontario (Table 1).

Historically, the NWT has had the highest population among the three territories; however, the gap has narrowed over the last 20 years (Figure 1). Over the same period, both Yukon and Nunavut have grown faster than the NWT.

Figure 1 Population Estimates
April 1, 2004 to April 1, 2023

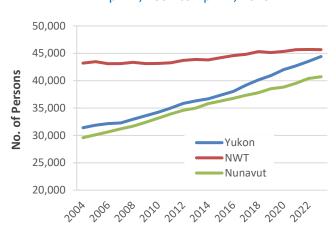


Figure 2 Components of Population Change*
April 1, 2022 – April 1, 2023

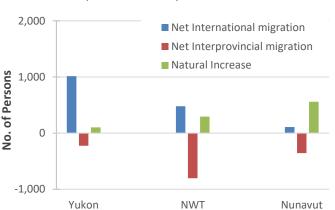


Figure 2 highlights the differences in population growth among the three territories. While all three territories experienced net interprovincial out-migration last year, international migration was the main driver for population in the Yukon while Nunavut's growth was the result of natural increase (births minus deaths). In the NWT, net international migration and natural increase were not quite high enough to offset the losses from interprovincial migration.

Note:

^{*} Net international migration is calculated by adding immigrants, returning emigrants and net non-permanent residents, then subtracting emigrants and net temporary emigration; net interprovincial migration is calculated as the difference between interprovincial in- and out-migrants.

Table 1 Population Estimates and Annual Rate of Growth, by Province and Territory April 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023

	2023 01-Apr	(%) Change	2022 01-Apr	(%) Change	2021 01-Apr	(%) Change	2020 01-Apr	(%) Change
Canada	39,858,480	3.1	38,644,920	1.4	38,124,373	0.4	37,986,182	1.5
Northwest Territories	45,668	-0.1	45,698	0.1	45,660	0.7	45,351	0.5
Nunavut	40,715	0.8	40,403	2.2	39,519	1.8	38,834	0.8
Yukon	44,412	2.1	43,518	1.9	42,719	1.7	42,015	2.6
British Columbia	5,437,722	3.1	5,273,809	1.9	5,176,360	0.5	5,150,199	1.7
Alberta	4,703,772	4.5	4,502,858	1.5	4,436,944	0.5	4,414,332	1.6
Saskatchewan	1,221,439	2.8	1,188,338	0.6	1,181,040	0.1	1,179,409	0.9
Manitoba	1,444,190	3.0	1,401,967	1.0	1,388,726	0.7	1,379,138	1.1
Ontario	15,500,632	3.4	14,996,014	1.5	14,773,618	0.4	14,718,133	1.7
Quebec	8,831,257	2.1	8,650,692	0.8	8,585,460	0.1	8,574,709	1.3
New Brunswick	831,618	3.6	802,862	2.1	786,529	0.6	782,092	1.0
Nova Scotia	1,047,232	4.0	1,007,360	2.2	985,238	0.6	979,075	1.4
Prince Edward Island	176,113	4.6	168,358	3.4	162,866	1.5	160,390	2.9
Newfoundland & Labrador	533,710	2.0	523,043	0.6	519,694	-0.5	522,505	-0.3

Between April 1, 2022 and April 1, 2023, the population in the Northwest Territories decreased by 30 persons. The components of natural increase during this one-year period consisted of 545 births and 251 deaths, resulting in a net increase of 294 persons. There was a net loss of 803 interprovincial migrants and a net gain of international migrants of 479 persons.

The detailed components of population change for the Northwest Territories since 2017 are presented in Table 2.

These population estimates are based on the 2016 Census, adjusted for census net undercoverage. Data may be revised over the coming years, and it is possible that trends will change as a result of future revisions.

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) 767-9169.

Table 2 Components of Population Change, by Time Period Northwest Territories – July 1, 2017 to April 1, 2023

		Beginning	Ending Population	Births	Deaths —	Interprovincial Migration			Net
		Population				In	Out	Net	International
Quarterly									
2023									
	Jan-Mar	45,493	45,668	144	56	872	921	-49	13
2022		-,	-,						
	Oct-Dec	45,602	45,493	119	59	190	496	-306	13
	Jul-Sep	45,605	45,602	153	70	384	588	-204	11
	Apr-Jun	45,698	45,605	129	66	789	1,033	-244	8
	Jan-Mar	45,710	45,698	145	73	493	639	-146	6
2021									
	Oct-Dec	45,607	45,710	119	68	284	283	1	5
	Jul-Sep	45,597	45,607	153	69	469	597	-128	5
	Apr-Jun	45,660	45,597	131	53	561	762	-201	6
	Jan-Mar	45,355	45,660	145	72	663	478	185	4
2020									
	Oct-Dec	45,275	45,355	136	69	234	253	-19	3
	Jul-Sep	45,346	45,275	163	77	203	344	-141	-1
	Apr-Jun	45,351	45,346	144	78	536	583	-47	-2
	Jan-Mar	45,270	45,351	127	58	627	663	-36	4
2019									
	Oct-Dec	45,186	45,270	161	54	279	353	-74	5
	Jul-Sep	45,070	45,186	141	63	470	482	-12	5
	Apr-Jun	45,137	45,070	140	59	563	757	-194	4
	Jan-Mar	45,202	45,137	149	49	393	614	-221	5
Annual									
2021-2022	July - June	45,597	45,605	546	276	1,862	2,379	-517	25
2020-2021	July - June	45,346	45,597	575	271	1,445	1,621	-176	12
2019-2020	July - June	45,070	45,346	573	253	1,814	1,983	-169	12
2018-2019	July - June	44,981	45,070	599	225	1,578	2,047	-469	18
2017-2018	July - June	44,891	44,981	622	237	1,592	2,021	-429	13

Note: 1. Net International represents the net total of all Immigrants, Emigrants, Returning Canadians, Non-Permanent Residents and Individuals Temporarily Abroad.

^{2.} The sum of the quarterly estimates for the in- and out- interprovincial migrants is not equal to the annual estimates. Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.