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Canadian Demographics at a Glance

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.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
p	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

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-Recent immigration to Canada from the Balkans.

2002 Edition

-The Fertility of Immigrant Women and Their Canadian-born Daughters;
-Healthy Aging: the Determinants of Aging Without Loss of Independence Among Older Canadians.

2001 Edition

-A Comparative Study of Recent Trends in Canadian and American Fertility, 1980-1999;
-Changing Demographic Trends and the Use of Home Care Services.

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1991 Edition

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1990 Edition

-Recent Evolution of the Canadian and American Populations.

1988 Edition

-The Termination of Pregnancy in a Population Perspective;
-Long-term Consequences of Adolescent Marriage and Fertility.

Already published:

Report on the Demographic Situation in Canada (catalogue no. 91-209-XPE)

1986 Edition

-Childbearing Performance of Married Canadian-born Women;
-The Fertility of Single Women;
-The Strengthening of Majority Positions.

1983 Edition

Occasional

Family over the Life Course, by R. Beaujot, E.M. Gee, F. Rajulton and Z.R. Ravanera, catalogue no. 91-543E, 1995, 173 pages.

Aging of the Population and Seniors in Canada, by B. Desjardins, catalogue no. 91-533E, 1993, 128 pages.

Marriage and Conjugal Life in Canada, by J. Dumas and Y. Péron, catalogue no. 91-534E, 1992, 154 pages.

New Trends in the Family, by B. Ram, catalogue no. 91-535E, 1990, 96 pages.

Caribbean Immigrants, by A.H. Richmond, catalogue no. 91-536E, 1989, 85 pages.

Income of Immigrants, by R. Beaujot, K.G. Basavarajappa and R.B.P. Verma, catalogue no. 91-527E, 1988, 101 pages.

Fertility in Canada: from Baby-boom to Baby-bust, by A. Romaniuc, catalogue no. 91-524E, 1984, 156 pages.

Demographic Documents (Catalogue no. 910015MPE)

Document no. 8: "*Demographic Changes in Canada from 1971 to 2001 Across an Urban-to-Rural Gradient*" by É. Caron Malenfant, A. Milan, M. Charron and A. Bélanger, 2007, 31 pages.

Document no. 7: "*Research on Modifications to the Method of Preliminary Estimates of Interprovincial Migration*" by J. He & M. Michalowski, 2005, 64 pages.

Document no. 6: "*Estimates of Internal Migration Based on New and Old Methods for Combined Annual Periods 1996-1997 to 2000-2001*" by P. Wilkinson, 2004, 143 pages.

Document no. 5: "*A Review of Procedures for Estimating the Net Undercount of Censuses in Canada, the United States, Britain and Australia*" by D. Kerr, 1998, 28 pages.

Document no. 4: "*Advantages of the One Year Mobility Variable for Breaking Down Interprovincial Migration by Age, Sex and Marital Status*" by M. Bédard and M. Michalowski, 1997, 58 pages.

Document no. 3: "*New Birth Cohort Life Tables for Canada and Quebec, 1801-1991*" by R. Bourbeau, J. Légaré and V. Emond, 1997, 94 pages.

Document no. 2: "*The Population in Collective Dwellings: Canada, 1971-1991*" by G. Smith, 1996, 50 pages.

Document no. 1: "*Fertility Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016*" by R.B.P. Verma, S. Loh, S.Y. Dai and D. Ford, 1996, 28 pages.

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Laurent Martel, Chief
Demographic Analysis Section
Demography Division


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Introduction

Canadian Demographics at a Glance is designed to present a maximum of demographic information, giving users an up-to-date picture of the various aspects of the Canadian population. Each page of the document contains a chart or table, accompanied by a brief analytical commentary. Most of the charts contain both historical statistics and the most recent projections, so that phenomena can be analysed within a fairly broad timeframe. It is intended for a variety of users, including those working in government, educational institutions, businesses and the media, as well as any other organization or individual interested in Canadian demography.

For the most part, *Canadian Demograhics at a Glance* is a compendium produced from data, analyses and text taken from other Statistics Canada products, most of them from Demography Division or the Canadian censuses, updated where possible. Major publications from which the information presented in this document are gathered include:

- Report on the demographic situation
- Annual demographic statistics
- Population projections for Canada, provinces and territories
- Projections of visible minority groups
- Analytical series, 2001 and 2006 censuses

The source of the data and analysis presented in this publication can be found on each page, at the bottom of each figure and table. The interested reader can obtain more information by referring to these sources.

This publication begins by examining aspects of the demographic situation that relate to Canada's total population growth. To provide a good grasp of the mechanisms that underlie population growth, the document then analyses the three components of population change over time, namely fertility, mortality and migratory movements. It then analyses some effects of demographic dynamics on the composition of the population. The final part of the document is devoted to the demographic situation for the provinces, territories and metropolitan areas. A glossary, placed at the end of the document, defines terms and expressions useful for a better understanding of the text.

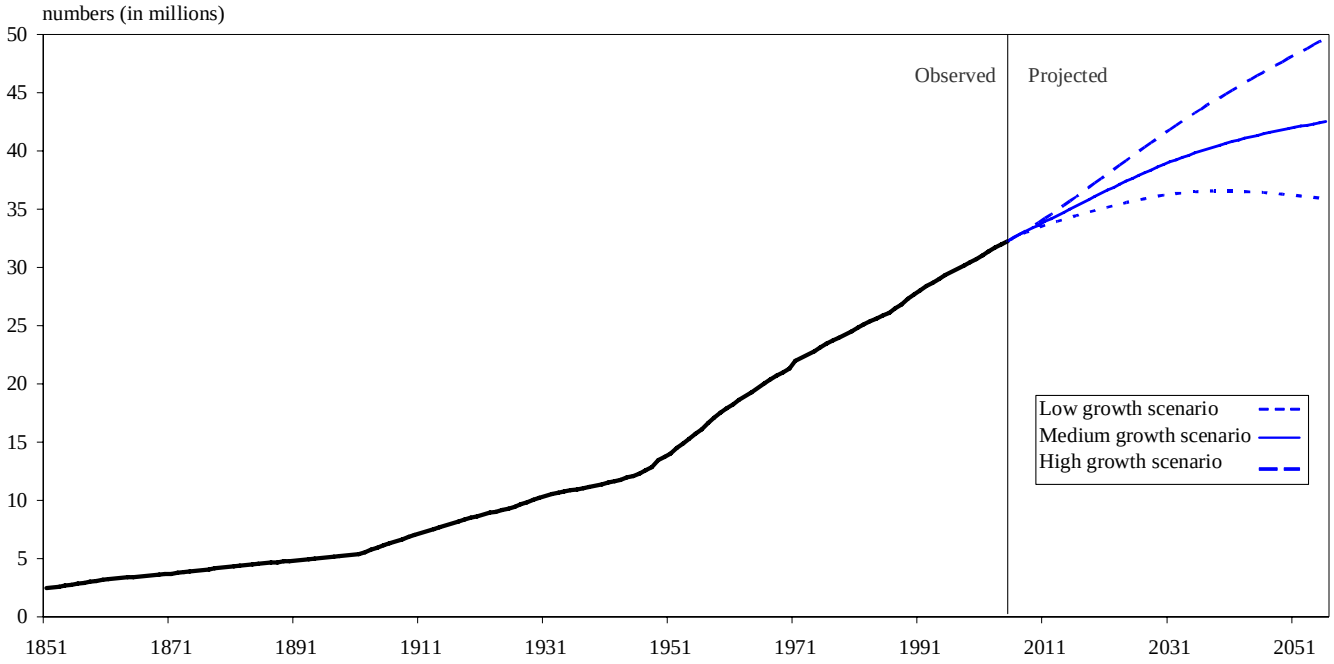
Finally, the reader will be aware that *Canadian Demographics at a Glance* should be updated at regular intervals. Its content could also be extended to other characteristics of the Canadian population in subsequent editions.

Population growth in Canada

Close to 42.5 million Canadians in 2056

- Since 1851, population growth in Canada has been defined by three distinct demographic regimes. From 1851 to 1900, the population grew slowly by a few million. High fertility was offset by very high mortality levels. Then, in the first half of the twentieth century (1901 to 1945), despite the two world wars, the growth rate generally accelerated, notably because of the settlement of Western Canada. Owing to the baby-boom and strong immigration, the second half of the twentieth century saw the Canadian population grow at an even faster pace. During the last 60 years (from 1946 to 2006), Canada's population went from 12.3 million to 32.6 million, an increase of more than 20 million.
- More recently, between 2001 and 2006, Canada's population grew at an average annual rate of approximately 1.0%, mainly owing to strong immigration.
- This growth is expected to continue in the coming decades, and Canada could have 42.5 million inhabitants in 2056, under the medium growth scenario of the latest population projections. However, Canada's population growth is expected to fall off somewhat, mainly because of a decline in natural increase.

Figure 1
Population of Canada, 1851 to 2056



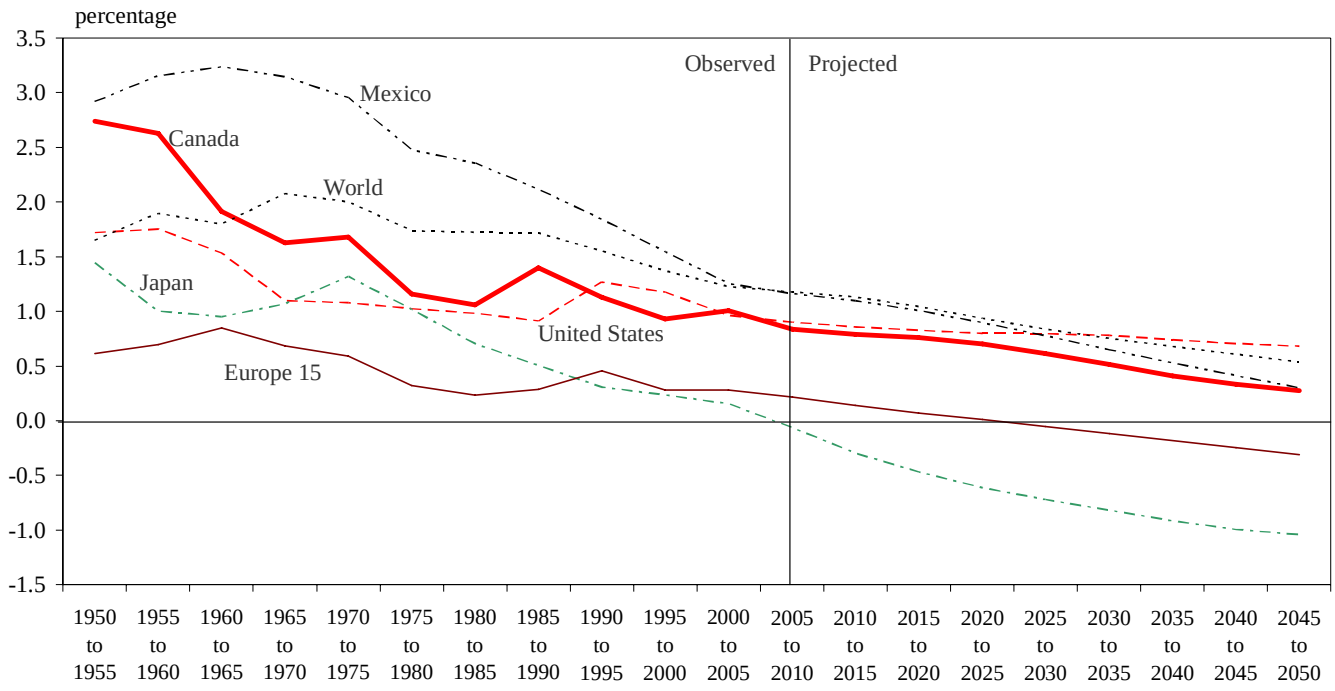
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2005-2031*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-520-XIE, scenarios 1, 3 and 6, censuses of population from 1851 to 1911, and Demography Division, annual population estimates from 1921 to 2005.

The Canadian population is growing rapidly compared to the rest of the industrialized world

- Compared to other developed countries, Canada in recent years has registered a relatively high average annual growth rate (approximately 1%). This rate was similar to that of the United States but higher than the average rate observed in the countries included in Europe 15. Compared to all other member countries of the G-8, Canada has the largest net international migration as a proportion of population growth (Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, September 28th, 2005).
- In the middle of the last century, Canada's population grew as fast as that of a number of developing countries, such as Mexico, where fertility levels were very high. Canada was then experiencing the effects of a big baby boom as well as an increased intake of immigrants. A drop in fertility starting in the early 1960s subsequently caused population growth to slow.
- The growth of many developed countries is expected to become negative in the coming decades. Indeed, this is already the case in some places. In Canada, as in the United States, no long-term population decline is projected. Nevertheless, Canada is slowly heading toward zero growth, while the United States are projecting growth that should remain relatively stable.

Figure 2

Average annual growth rate of the world population and selected countries, 1950 to 2050



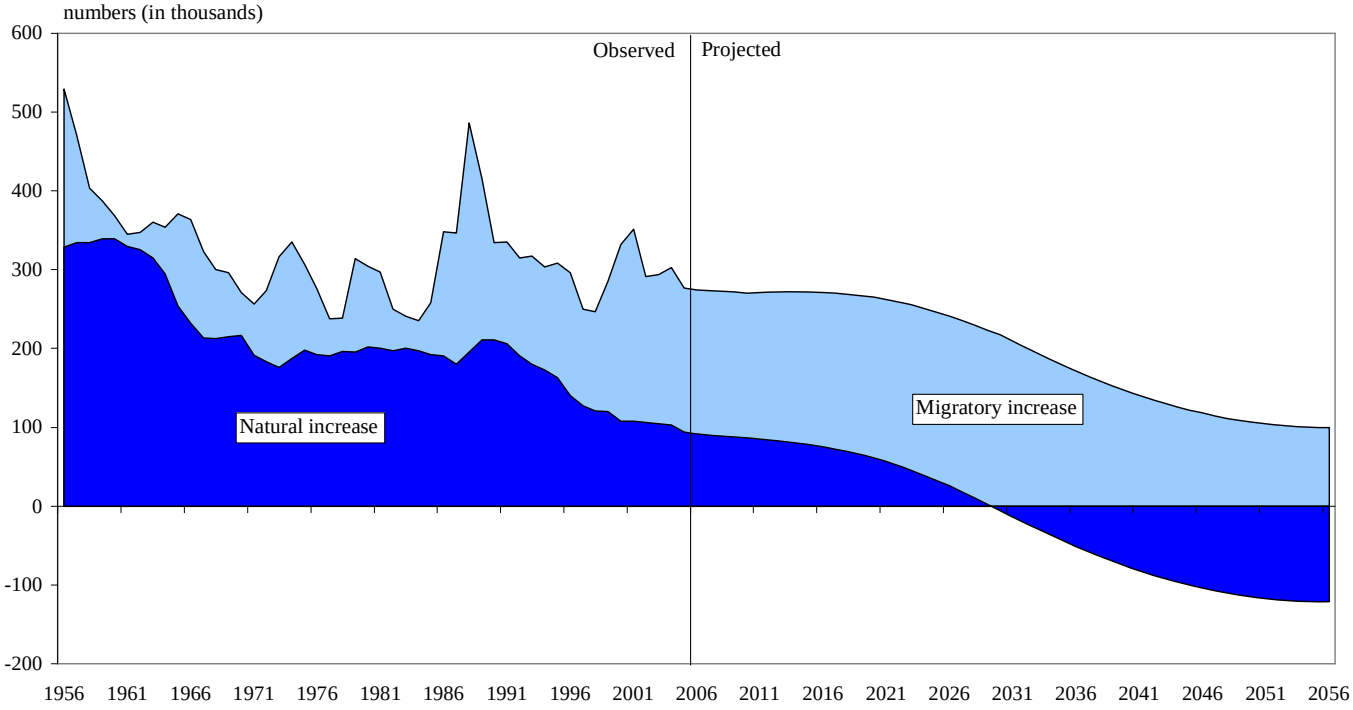
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2005-2031*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-520-XIE, scenario 3, Demography Division, annual population estimates from 1950 to 2005; and US Bureau of Census, International Data Base.

Immigration: soon to be Canada's only source of population growth

- In 2006, international migration accounted for two-thirds of Canadian population growth. The remaining third was provided by natural increase, the growth that results from the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths.
- Until the early 1990s, natural increase was almost always the main engine of Canada’s total population growth. However, in the mid-1990s, a reversal occurred: the migratory component became the main engine of Canadian growth, particularly because of low fertility and the aging of the population.
- Around 2030, deaths are expected to start outnumbering births. From that point forward, immigration would be the only growth factor for the Canadian population.

Figure 3

Migratory and natural increase of the Canadian population, 1956 to 2056



Sources: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2005-2031*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-520-XIE, scenario 3, and Demography Division, annual population estimates from 1956 to 2005.

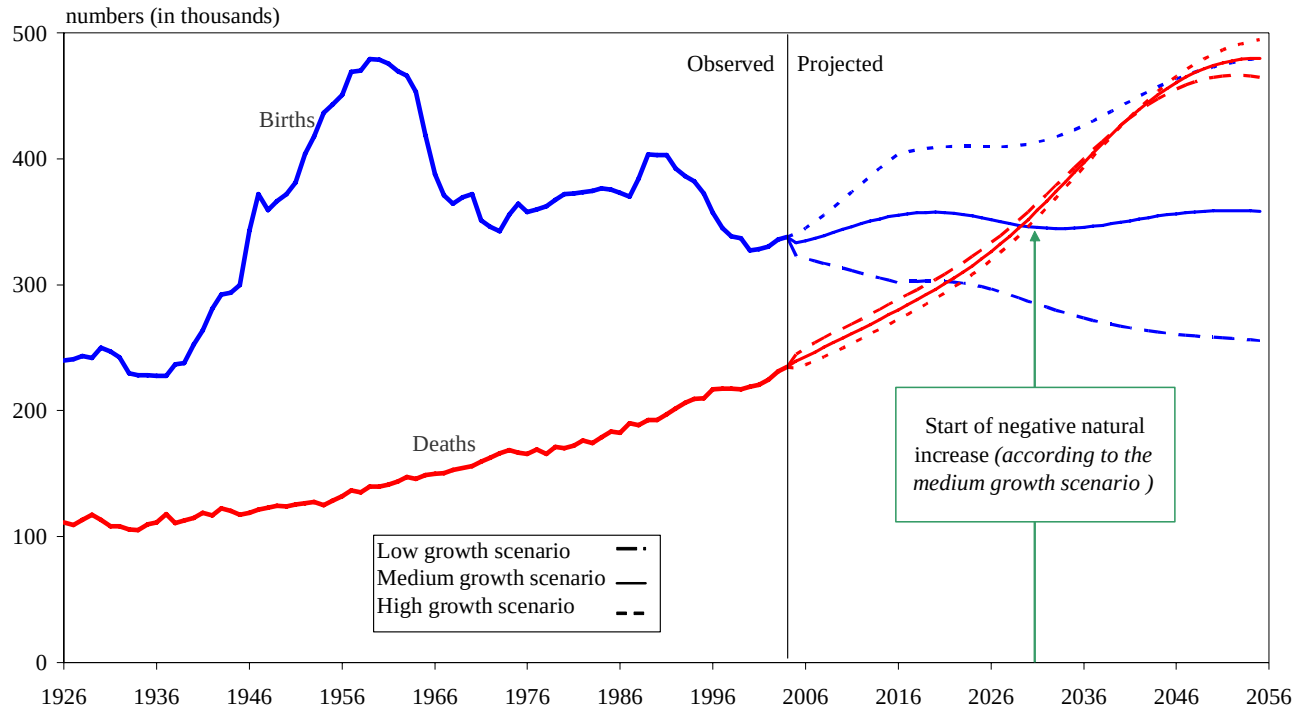
Components of population growth

Soon there will be more deaths than births

- In 2005, Canada registered more births (342,176) than deaths (230,132). Its natural increase was therefore positive at 112,000.
- In 1959, with the baby-boom in full swing, Canada recorded a record level of natural increase of 339,000. That year, Canadian women had given birth to 479,000 children.
- With Canada's population steadily growing from year to year, the number of deaths has understandably increased over time, and it will continue to do so in the future. When the baby-boom generations reach the ages of high mortality, this trend is expected to accelerate. Around 2030, this could lead to a situation where there would be more deaths than births. If fertility increases to 1.7 children per woman, the point when the deaths start to outnumber births could be postponed by some fifteen years. If fertility declines, that point could instead be reached by approximately 2020.

Figure 4

Number of births and deaths in Canada, 1926 to 2056



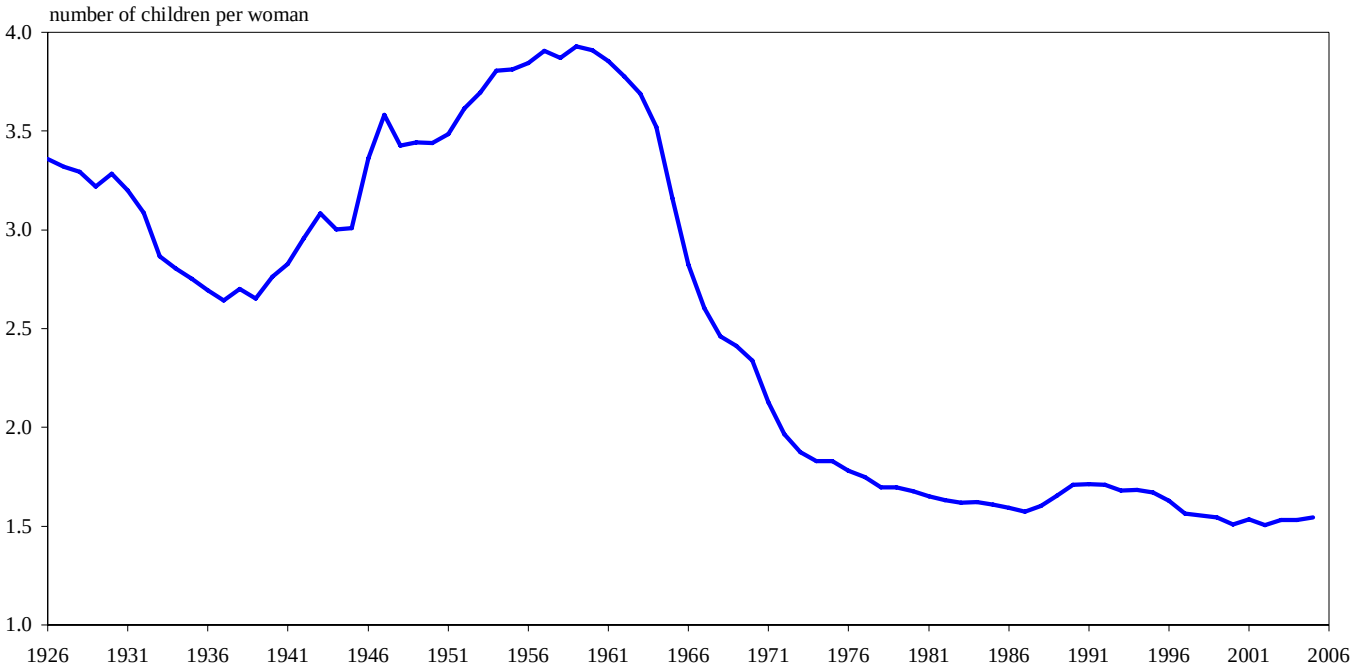
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2005-2031*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-520-XIE, scenarios 1, 3 and 6, and Demography Division, annual population estimates from 1926 to 2005.

Since the late 1990s, Canadian women have been having an average of 1.5 children

- In 2005, the total fertility rate of Canadian women was slightly above 1.5 children per woman. This rate, which indicates the average number of children that women would have during their lifetime if they conformed to the current age-specific fertility rates, has been hovering around this level since the late 1990s.
- For more than thirty years, the total fertility rate has been below the replacement level (which is currently approximately 2.1 children per woman). This means that on average, couples are no longer having enough children to replace them.
- This low-fertility regime resulted from the fall in the total fertility rate that followed the postwar baby-boom (1946 to 1965). During that high-fertility period, the total fertility rate remained at more than three children per woman, even reaching almost four children per woman in the late 1950s.

Figure 5

Total fertility rate in Canada, 1926 to 2005



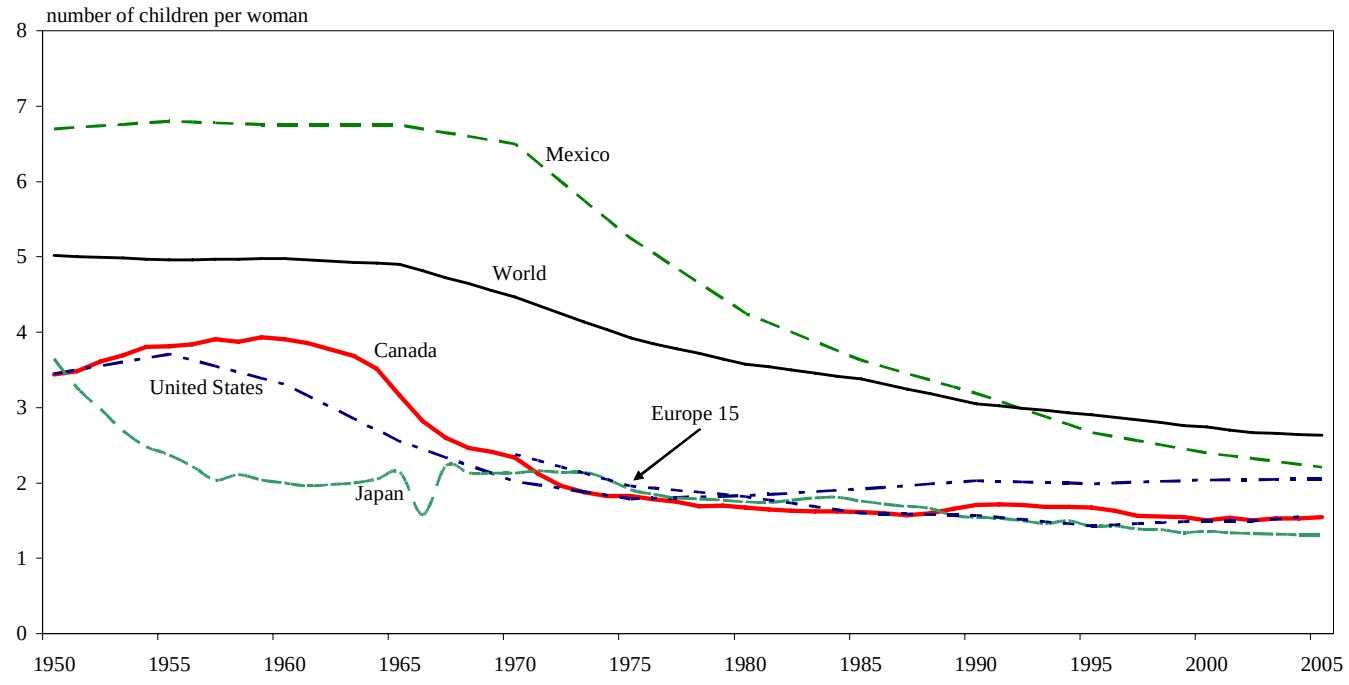
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006, *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 2003 and 2004*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-209-XIE, Demography Division, and Health Statistics Division.

Developed countries have low fertility, and Canada is no exception

- In 2005, Canada's total fertility rate was comparable to that of the Europe 15, at around 1.5 children per woman. Among industrialized countries, the United States is an exception, with levels which, since the early 1990s, have generally remained above the level of two children per woman. By contrast, Japan has very low fertility levels, with less than 1.3 children per woman.
- Fertility in industrialized countries was lower than world fertility, which was pushed up by less developed countries such as Mexico. However, during the second half of the twentieth century, global fertility declined, dropping from 5.0 to just over 2.5 children per woman. Fertility in industrialized countries appears to have stabilized at the low levels recorded in the mid-1980s, while the decline continues elsewhere.

Figure 6

Total fertility rate of the world population and selected countries, 1950 to 2005



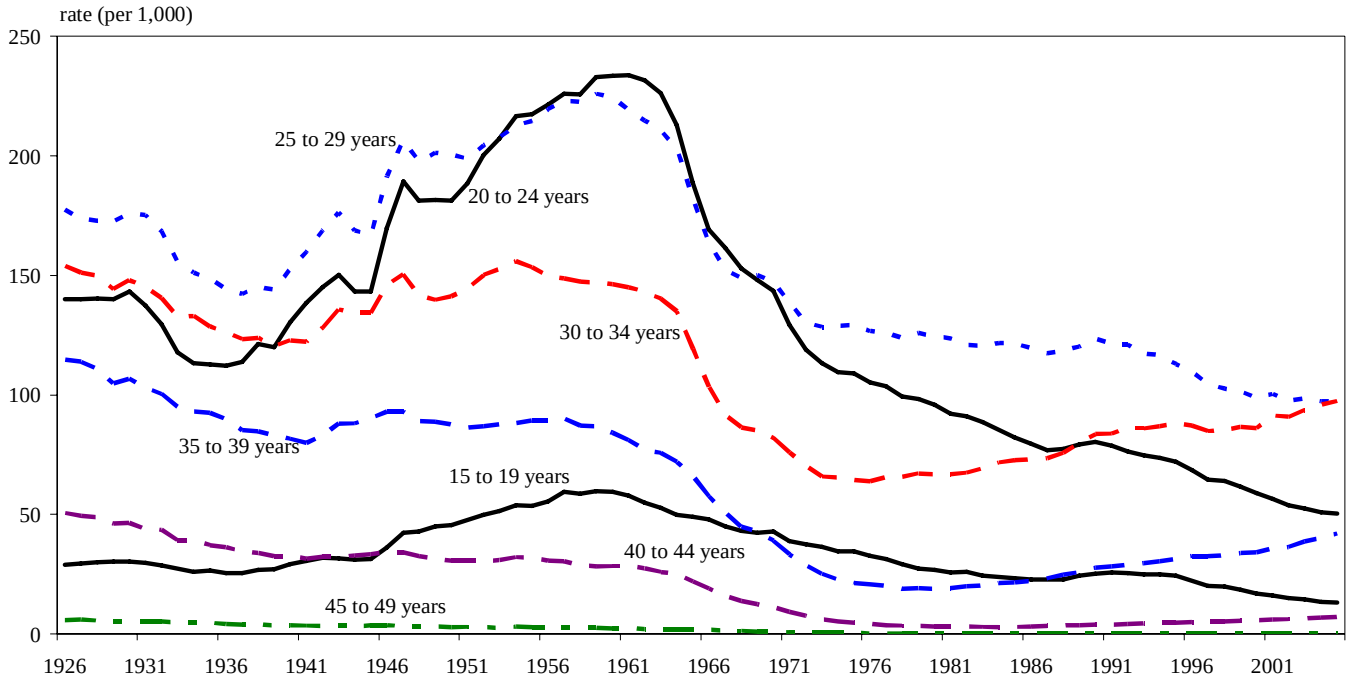
Sources: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Health Statistics Division; United Nations, World Population Prospects (the 2006 Revision); National Institute of Population and Social Security Research of Japan; and Sardon, J.-P., 2004, "Évolution démographique récente des pays développés", *Population*, volume 61, numéro 3.

The fertility of women aged 30 to 34 has caught up with that of women aged 25 to 29

- During the last century, age-specific fertility rates in Canada went through three distinct periods. In the inter-wars period, fertility declined almost continually in all age groups. Next came the baby-boom period (1946 to 1965), which saw the rates of age groups below 30 rise considerably before falling just as sharply. The most recent period, namely the past thirty years, stands out from the previous two in that fertility rates have declined for younger women (those under 30) but have risen for women in their thirties and early forties, resulting in an increase in the average age at childbirth.
- In 2005, women between 30 and 34 years of age became those with the greatest propensity to give birth, followed very closely by women aged 25 to 29. Women aged 25 to 29 had been the most fertile since the late 1960s.

Figure 7

Age-specific fertility rates in Canada, 1926 to 2005



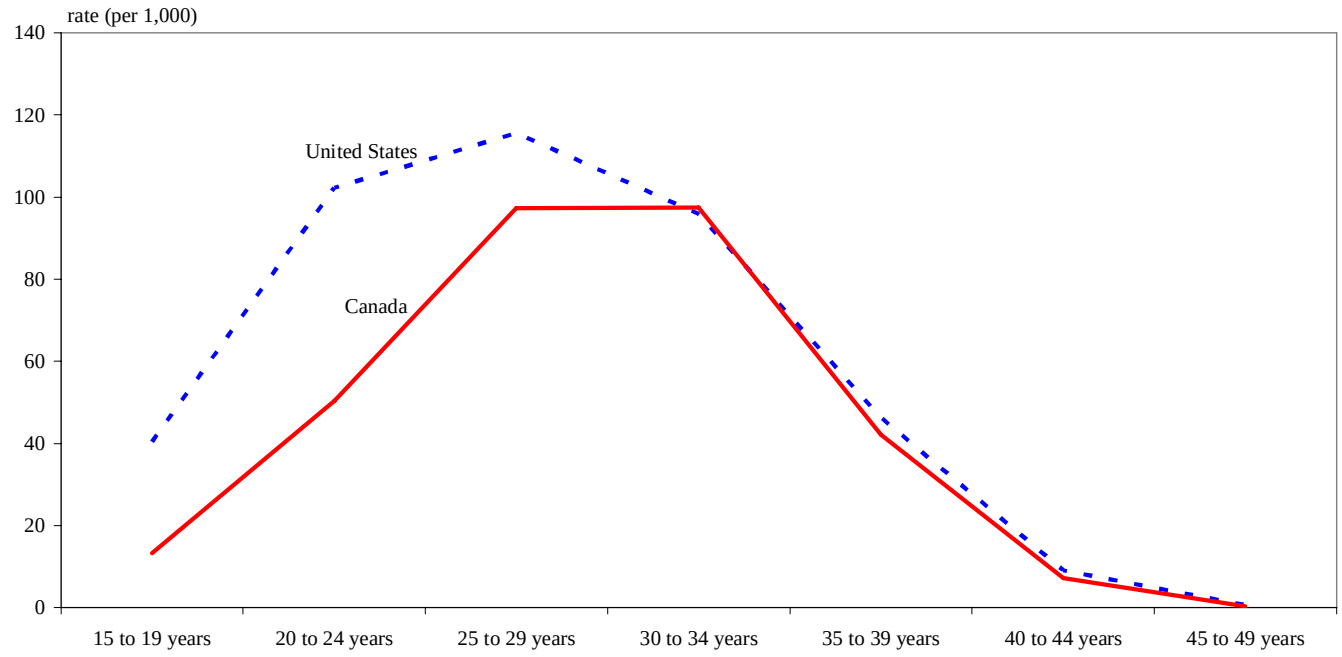
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006, *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 2003 and 2004*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-209-XIE, Demography Division, and Health Statistics Division.

Young Canadian women are less fertile than their American counterparts

- The lower fertility of Canadian women (approximately 1.5 children per woman) compared to American women (approximately two children per woman) is primarily due to the fact that in recent decades, the fertility of women under thirty years of age has declined substantially in Canada whereas it has remained stable in the United States (Bélanger and Ouellet, 2002).
- In 2005, the fertility rates for young American women were much higher than those in Canada for the age groups under 30, whereas they were similar beyond that age. Between ages 15 and 19, the fertility rate was three times higher in the United States than in Canada. The gap was two to one between ages 20 and 24.

Figure 8

Age-specific fertility rates, Canada and United States, 2005



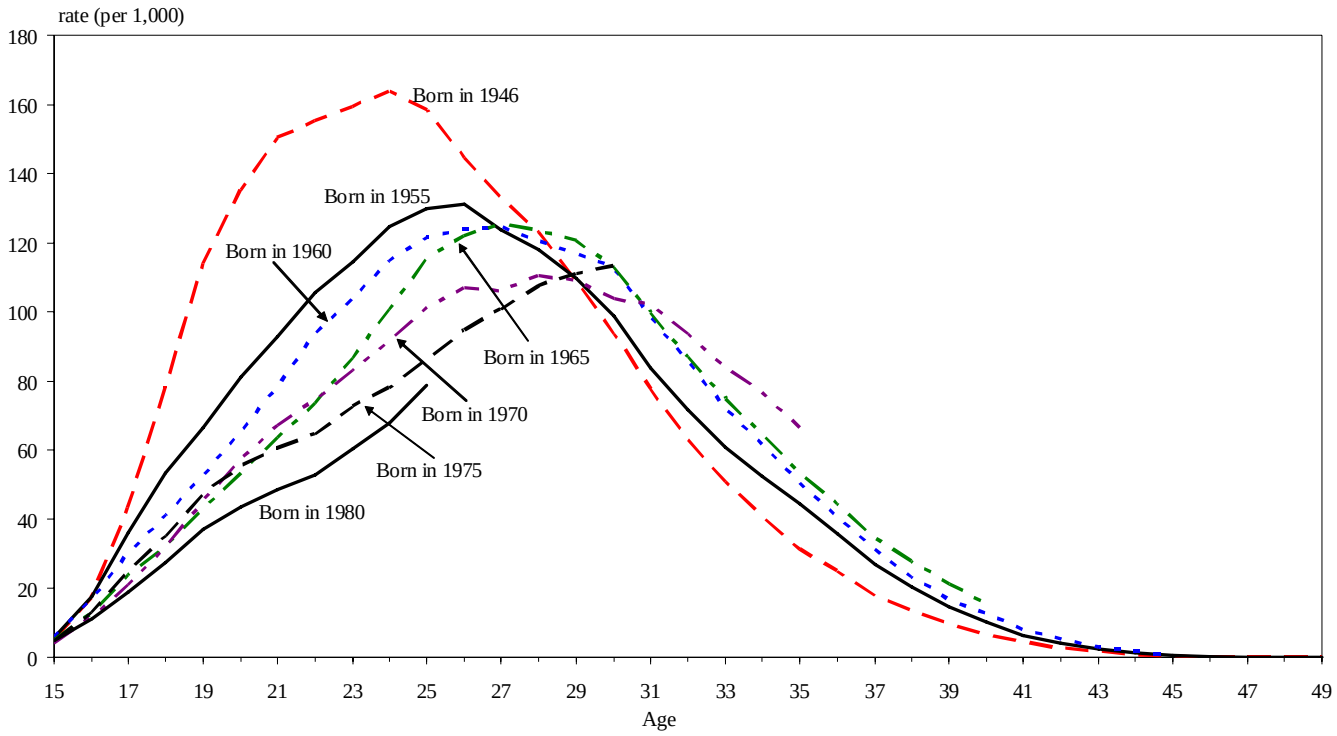
Sources: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Health Statistics Division; and United States National Vital Statistics Reports.

Generations: increasingly less fertile and having children later

- Age-specific fertility rates within the generations of women born between 1946 and 1980 clearly show the decline and "aging" of fertility that occurred during the second half of the twentieth century. On the one hand, from one generation to the next, there was a decrease in fertility at the youngest ages and an increase among older women. This postponement of births into the thirties does not, however, make up for the drop in fertility in the twenties, which characterized the generations born in the second half of the twentieth century. Also, the age at which fertility is the highest is gradually rising, showing once again that fertility is both declining and "aging."

Figure 9

Age-specific fertility rates for selected generations of women in Canada



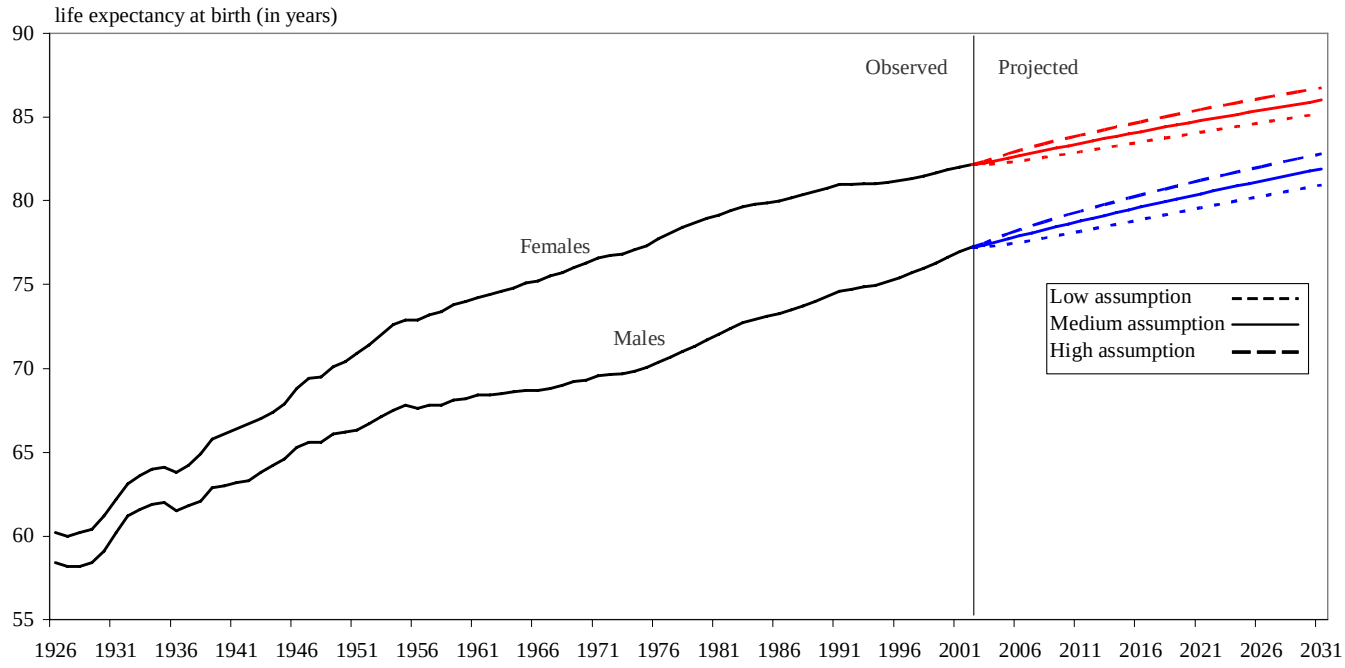
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006, *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 2003 and 2004*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-209-XIE, Demography Division, and Health Statistics Division.

Life expectancy grew steadily throughout the twentieth century

- Since the start of the last century, the life expectancy of Canada's population has grown substantially. Between 1926 and 2005, males gained 20.0 additional years of life, while females gained an additional 22.7 years.
- In 2005, life expectancy at birth of Canadian females was 82.7 years, an increase of 0.8 years over 2000. Among Canadian males, life expectancy at birth was somewhat lower in 2005, at 78.0 years, but the increase since 2000 was greater at 1.4 years. As has been the case since 1979, the gap between the life expectancy at birth of males and females continued to decrease in recent years, differing by 4.7 years in 2005.
- According to the medium mortality assumption in the most recent population projections, the life expectancy at birth of Canadian males and females would reach respectively 81.9 and 86.0 years in 2031.

Figure 10

Life expectancy at birth by sex in Canada, 1926 to 2031



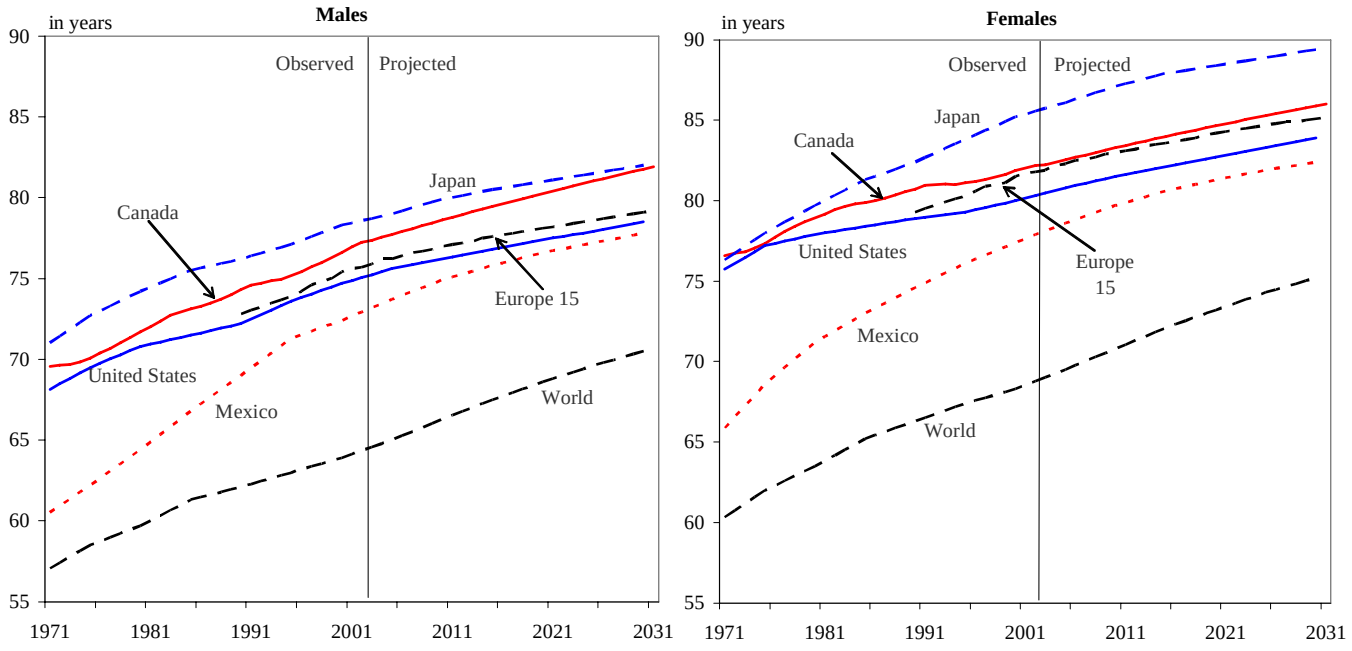
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006, *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 2003 and 2004*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-209-XIE, 2005, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2005-2031*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-520-XIE, and Health Statistics Division.

Life expectancy in Canada is one of the highest in the world

- Compared to other industrialized countries, Canada has one of the highest life expectancies at birth. In the United States, for example, life expectancy (74.8 years for males and 80.1 years for females) was, in 2003, more than two years lower than that observed in Canada, for males as for females.
- Life expectancy worldwide in 2000 (63.9 years for males and 68.3 years for females) was well below that of the population of Canada and other industrialized countries. In 2000, the gap between life expectancy in Canada and in the world as a whole was 12.7 years for males and 13.6 years for females.
- In the future, according to the middle assumption in the latest population projections, life expectancy will continue to increase in Canada, as it also will elsewhere in the world.

Figure 11

Life expectancy at birth by sex for the world population and selected countries, 1971 to 2031



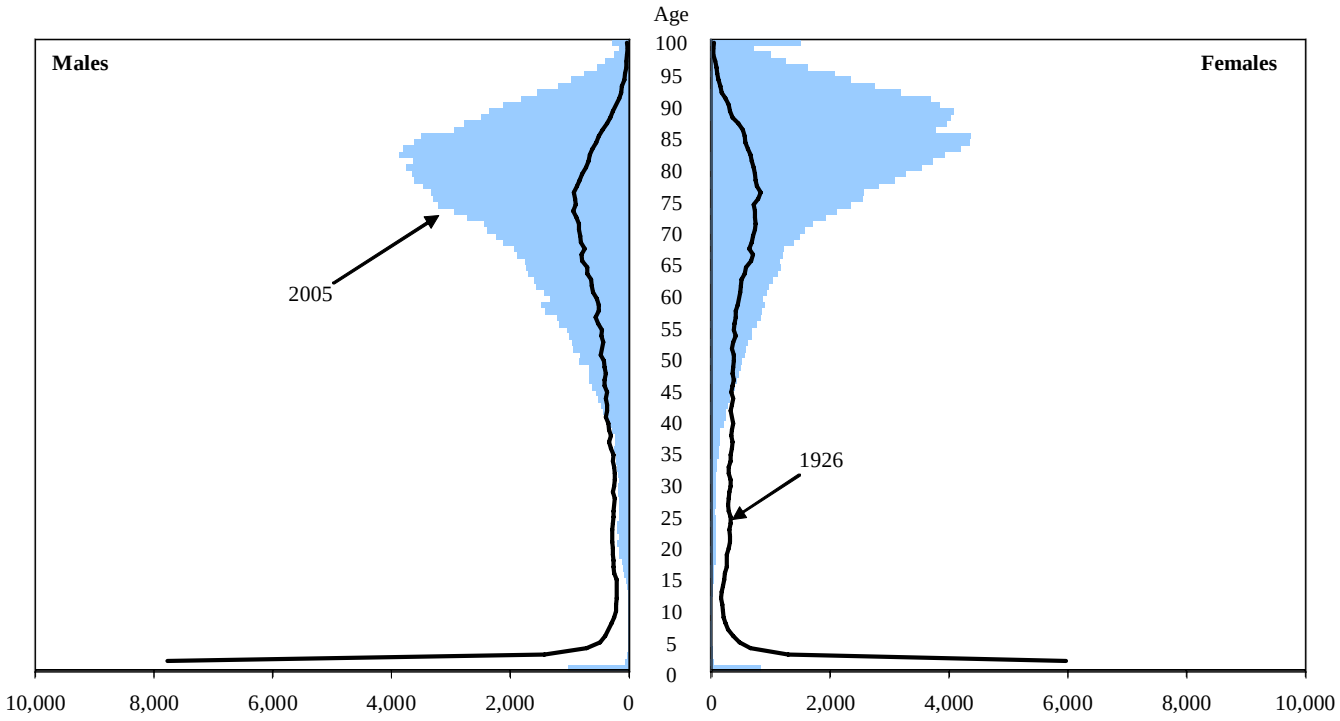
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006, *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 2003 and 2004*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-209-XIE, Demography Division, Health Statistics Division; United Nations, World Population Prospects (The 2006 Revision); Sardon, J.-P., 2006, "Évolution démographique récentes des pays développés", *Population*, volume 61, number 3; and US Bureau of Census, International Data Base.

Death strikes fewer children and more old people than before

- Compared to what was observed in 1926, the age and sex structure of deaths in Canada in 2005 was much different. First, the number of deaths that occurred between age 0 and 1 year in 2005 was less than 1%, compared to one in five in 1926. Second, only one third of the deaths in 1926 occurred above age 65; it was more than three out of four in 2005.
- This reversal is due in part to the remarkable progress made in the field of living conditions, public salubrity and medicine, which has led to a sizable reduction in early childhood mortality. It also attests to the fact that the main causes of death in Canada's population have generally evolved away from infectious diseases affecting children toward degenerative diseases and cancer, which tend more to affect older people.

Figure 12

Number of deaths by age and sex in Canada, 1926 and 2005



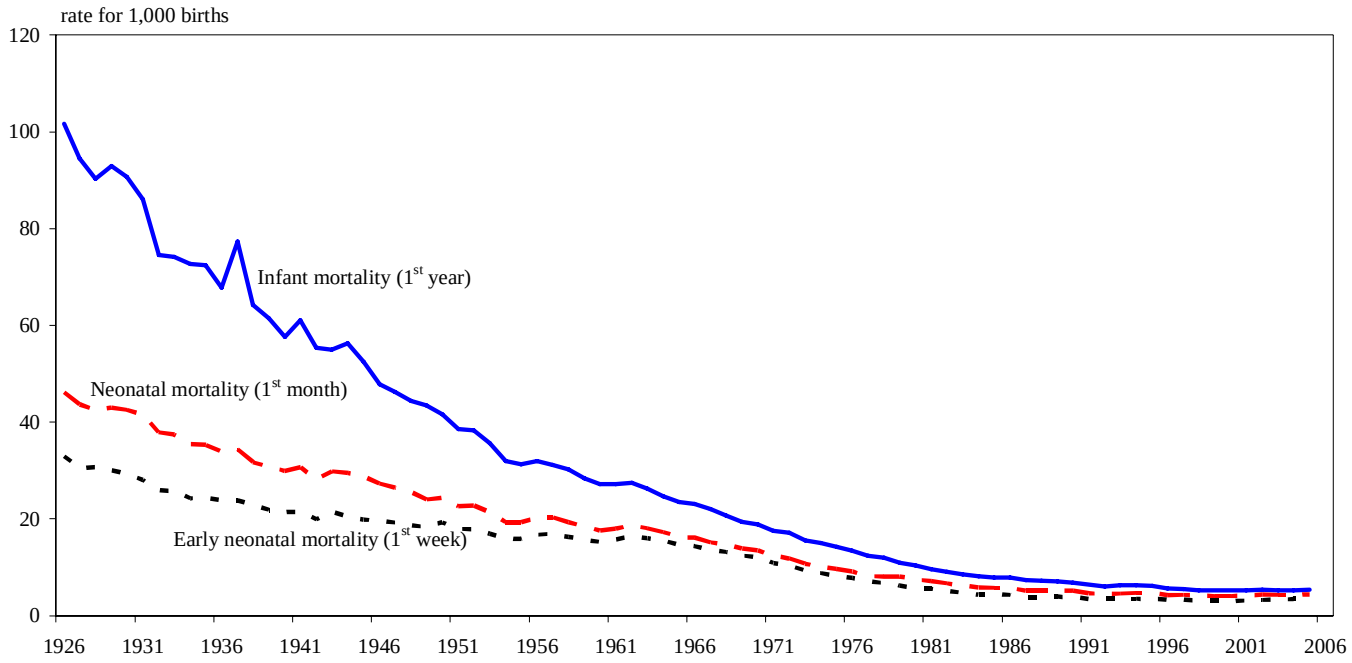
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006, *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 2003 and 2004*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-209-XIE, Demography Division, and Health Statistics Division.

The twentieth century saw the almost complete eradication of infant mortality

- At 5.4 per thousand births, the infant mortality rate was in 2005 at one of its lowest level ever recorded in Canada. In 1926, about one new-born out of 10 passed away in his or her first year of life. This division by 20 of the infant mortality rate in about one century reveals to what extent progress has been made in this regard.
- Although it was less spectacular, neonatal (first month of life) and early neonatal (first week of life) mortality has also decreased substantially during the 20th century. Today, the risks of dying for a new born are almost entirely concentrated in the first week of life.
- Although very low, infant mortality in Canada could continue to decline in the forthcoming years. In Japan or Sweden for example, infant mortality is lower (less than 3.5 per thousand births) than in Canada, showing that improvements can still be made.

Figure 13

Infant, neonatal and early neonatal mortality rates in Canada, 1926 to 2005



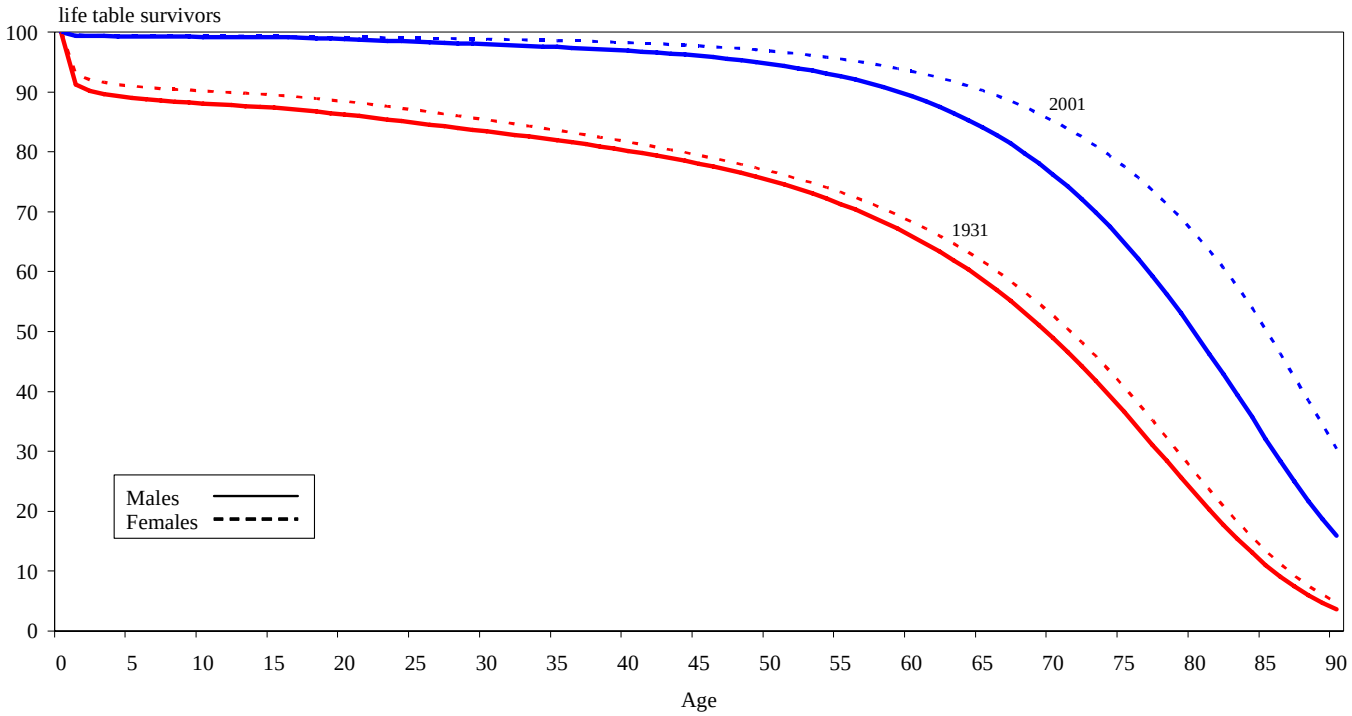
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006, *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 2003 and 2004*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-209-XIE, Demography Division, and Health Statistics Division.

In Canada, 84% of males and 90% of females reach at least age 65

- By applying mortality levels for a given year to a synthetic cohort of 100 individuals, it is possible to obtain a curve showing the number of survivors at each age and thus get an idea of the speed of the cohort's extinction. When the curves for 2001 and 1931 are compared, it becomes clear that Canadian males and females today are surviving in greater numbers to advanced ages. With the mortality that prevailed in 1931, less than 60% of males survived to age 65, compared to 84% with the 2001 mortality. In turn, the proportion of females who survived to age 65 was 62% in 1931; it exceeded 90% in 2001.
- The chances of survival have greatly improved, owing to the virtual eradication of infant mortality and the postponement of mortality to ever more advanced ages.

Figure 14

Life table survivors by sex in Canada, 1931 and 2001



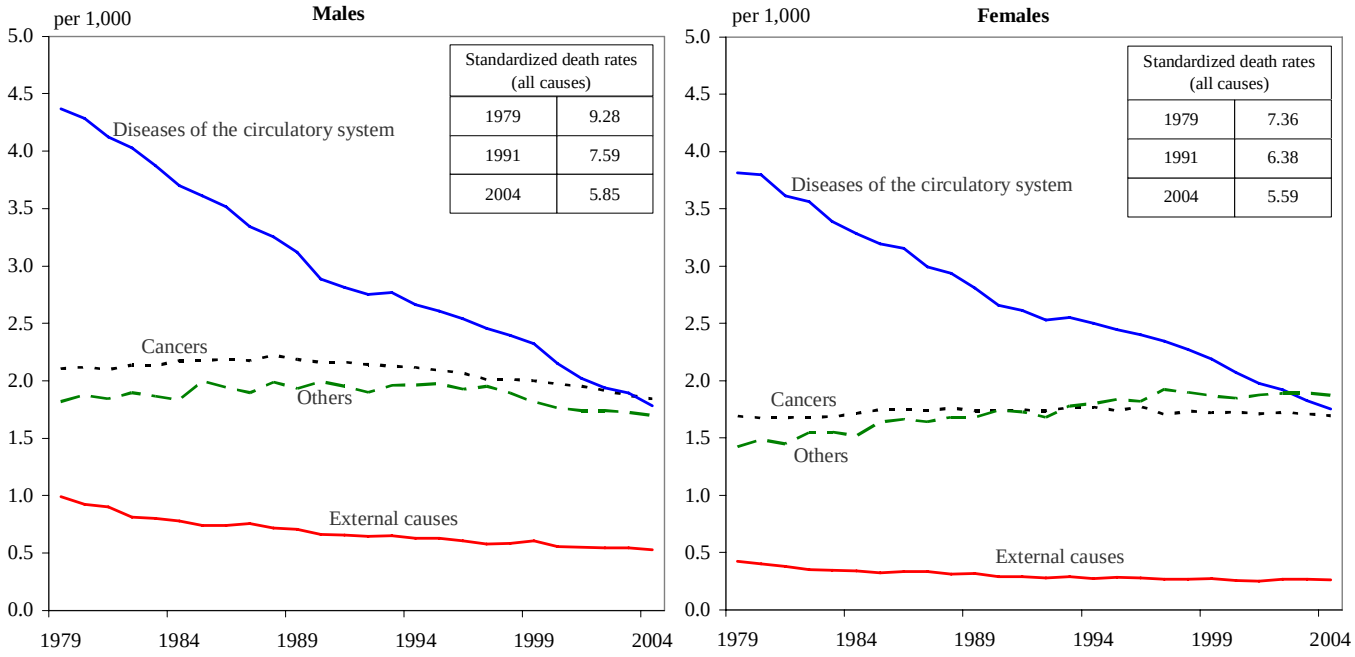
Sources: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, and Health Statistics Division.

Mortality due to diseases of the circulatory system has greatly diminished in the past 25 years

- In general, in Canada, the overall mortality rate declined significantly between 1979 and 2004. The overall standardized rate for males declined by one-third, going from 9.3 to 5.9 deaths per thousand men. Female mortality declined from 7.4 to 5.6 deaths per thousand women.
- This decrease in mortality within the Canadian population in recent decades is largely due to the drop in mortality for diseases of the circulatory system, which between 1979 and 2004 went from 4.4 to just under 1.8 per thousand for males and from 3.8 to 1.8 per thousand for females. During the same period, the mortality rate for external causes (accidents, suicides and homicides) fell by half for both males and females. Cancer mortality remained relatively stable, hovering around 2.0 deaths per thousand for Canadian males and 1.7 per thousand for Canadian females.

Figure 15

Changes in causes of death by sex in Canada, 1979 to 2004



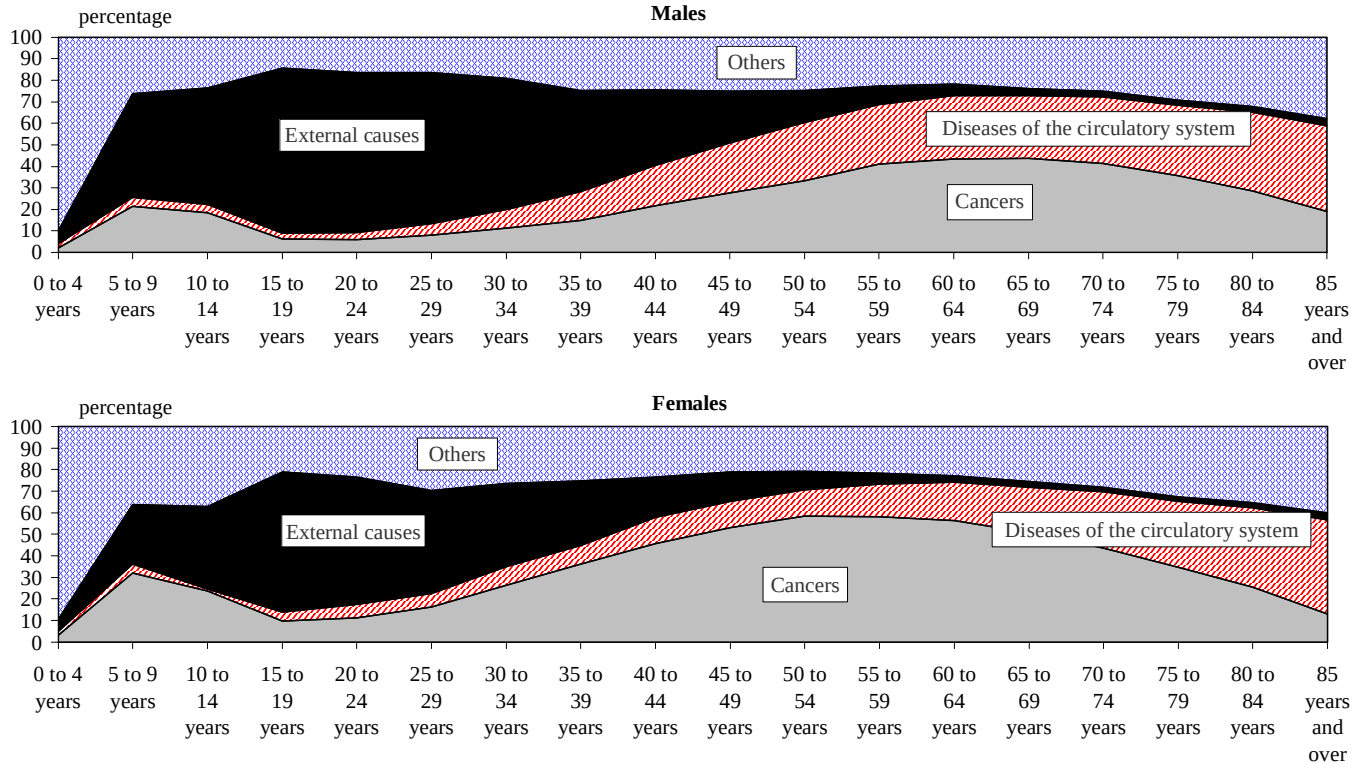
Note: Standardized on the age and sex structure of the 1991 Canadian population.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, and Health Statistics Division.

The main causes of death vary with the age of the individual

- It is not only the risks of dying that vary as one grows older, so do the causes of death. Older persons are more likely to die of cancer and diseases of the circulatory system than younger persons. Teenagers and young adults are more likely to be stricken by external causes of death such as accidents, suicides and, to a lesser extent, homicides. Young children, between 0 and 4 years of age, more often die as a result of problems related to malformations, chromosomal abnormalities or other conditions originating in the perinatal period.
- Females are more likely than males to die as a result of cancer. On the other hand, males are more affected than females by diseases of the circulatory system and external causes of death.

Figure 16

Deaths by age group, cause and sex in Canada, 2004



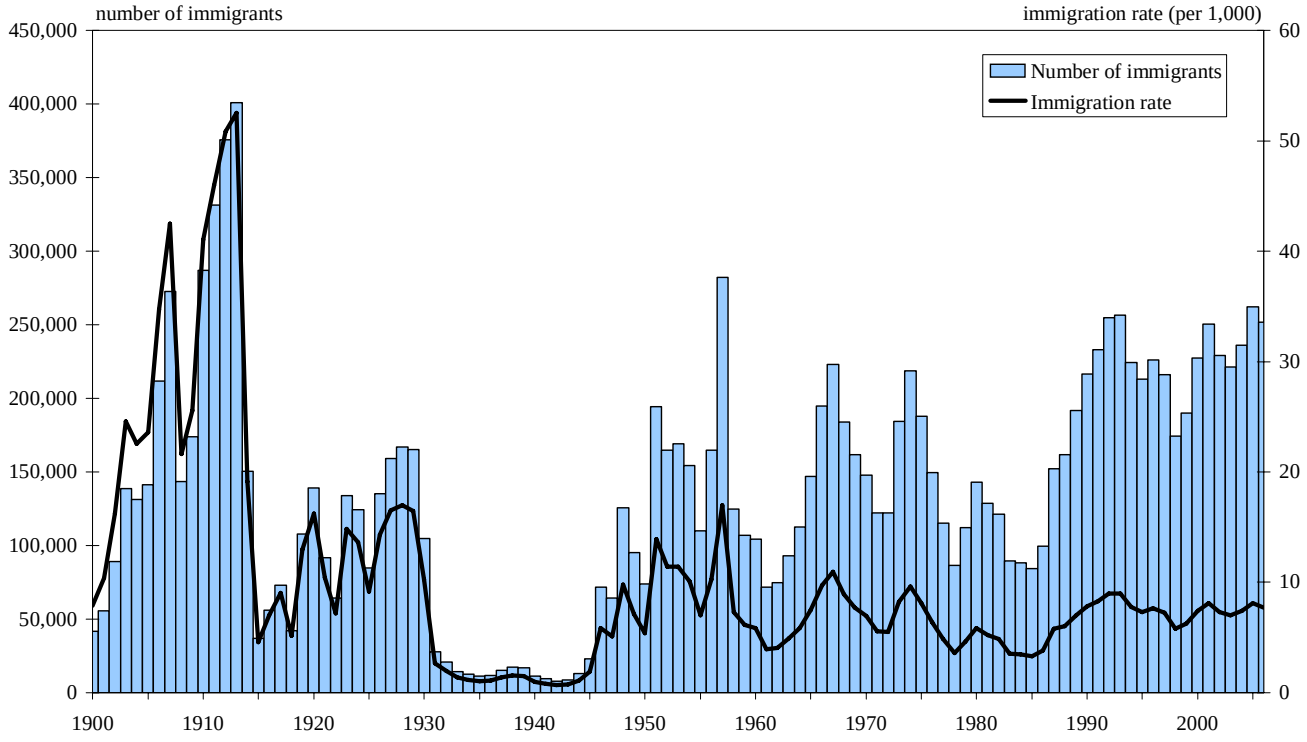
Sources: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, and Health Statistics Division.

More than 225,000 immigrants admitted to Canada each year, on average, since the early 1990s

- In 2006, 252,000 immigrants were admitted to Canada, representing an immigration rate of 8 newcomers per thousand persons. This rate has remained relatively constant since 1990.
- During the twentieth century, the annual number of international immigrants to Canada varied considerably. In the early years of the century, record numbers of immigrants were admitted in the drive to settle the Western provinces. In 1912 and 1913, the immigration rate even exceeded 50 per thousand, a rate almost seven times higher than in 2006.
- The Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II had the effect of almost totally halting the entry of international immigrants into Canada. Over a ten-year period, between 1934 and 1943 inclusive, fewer than 125,000 persons in all immigrated to Canada. This represents less than half the number of immigrants admitted to Canada for the year 2006 alone.

Figure 17

Number of immigrants and immigration rate in Canada, 1900 to 2006



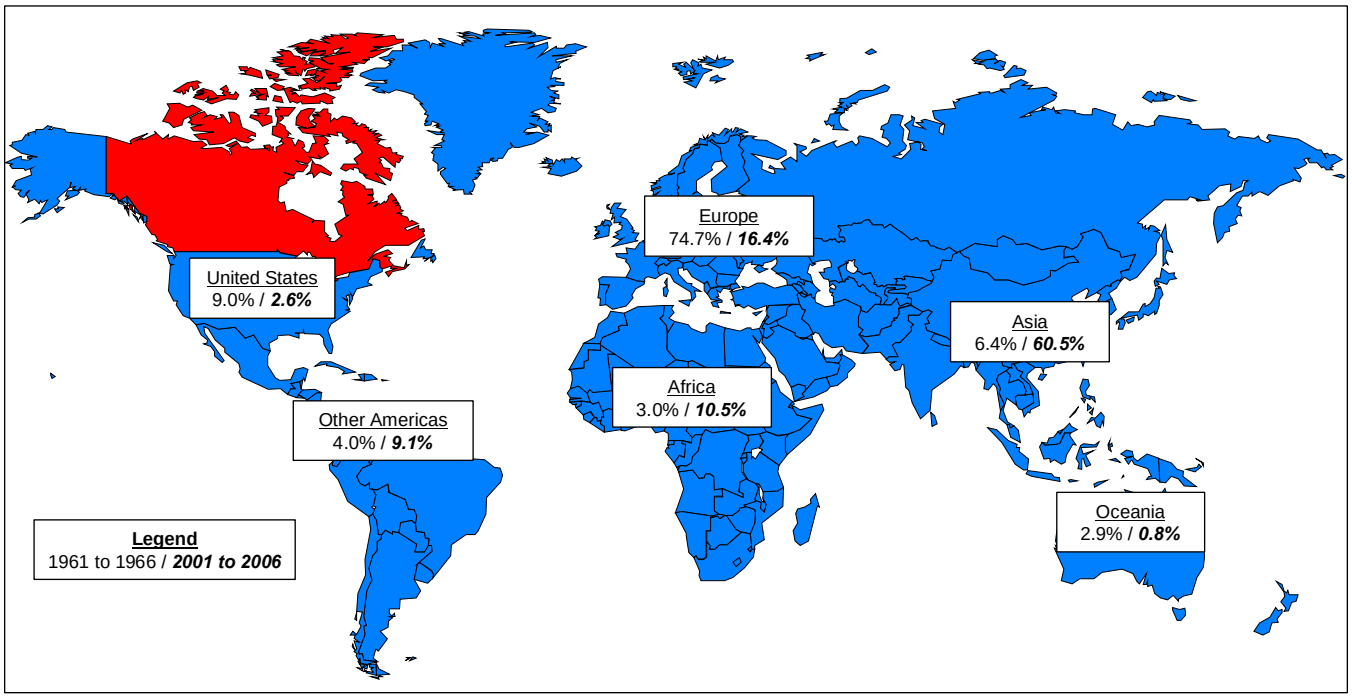
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006, *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 2003 and 2004*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-209-XIE; and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

The majority of today's immigrants to Canada are coming from Asia

- Between 2001 and 2006, just over 60% of newcomers to Canadian soil were from Asia. This strongly contrasts with the situation that prevailed forty years earlier, when Asians accounted for scarcely 6.4% of immigrants. In the years following World War II, Canadian immigration policies were more favourable to the admission of individuals from European countries. As a result, between 1961 and 1966, nearly three immigrants in four were from Europe.
- The relative weight of immigrants from African countries more than tripled between the early 1960s and the early 2000s. Between 2001 and 2006, they accounted for 10.5% of new immigrants, compared to 3.0% forty years earlier.
- The proportion of immigrants from the United States followed an opposite trend, dropping from 9.0% between 1961 and 1966 to less than 3% for the period 2001 to 2006.

Figure 18

Continent of birth of immigrants to Canada, 1961 to 1966 and 2001 to 2006



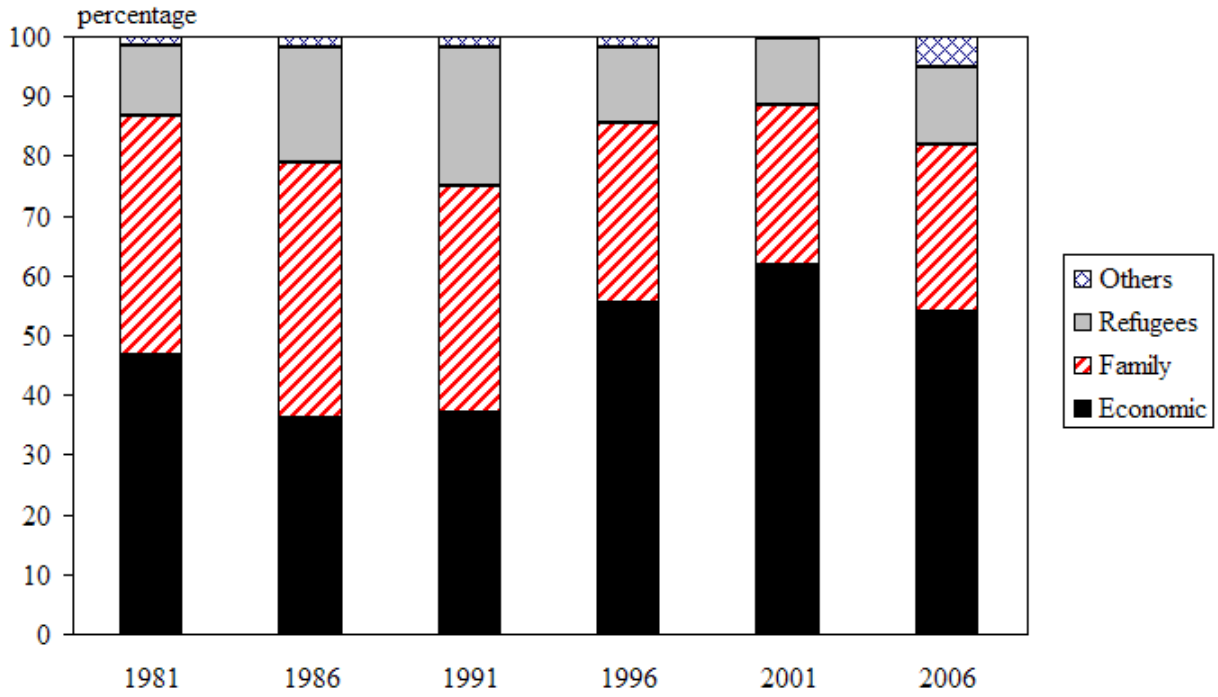
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

More than half of immigrants coming to Canada in 2006 were economic immigrants including spouses, partners and dependents of principal applicants

- In 2006, 54% of immigrants were admitted under the economic component of the immigration policy (including principal applicants as well as their spouses, partners and dependents). Among those immigrants, the principal applicants were selected for economic reasons—meaning that they were considered to be more likely to stimulate the economy or integrate into the labour market given their age, education level and knowledge of Canada's official languages.
- The current situation differs from the early 1980s, when Canada admitted on average more immigrants in the family reunification category than economic immigrants.
- In the past twenty-five years, the proportion of refugees among the new immigrants admitted each year has ranged between 9.1% and 23.2%. In 2006 it was 12.9%.

Figure 19

Immigrants to Canada by category, 1981 to 2006



Note: The category "Others" includes deferred removal order class, post-determination refugee claimant class, temporary resident permit holders and humanitarian and compassionate/public policy cases.

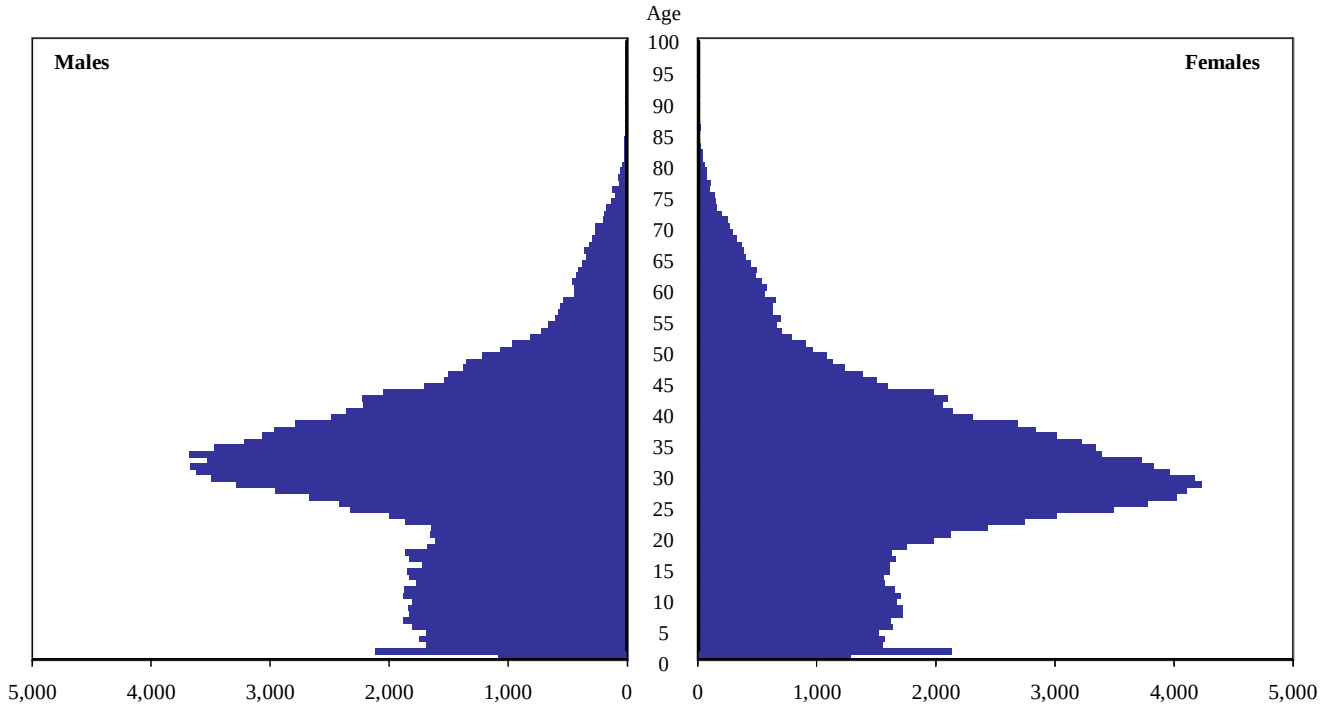
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006, *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 2003 and 2004*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-209-XIE; and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Immigrants come to Canada in the prime of life

- In 2006, most newcomers to Canada were between 25 and 44 years of age. Their age and sex distribution was thus quite different from that of the rest of Canada's population. The median age of immigrants arriving in 2006 (29.8 years) was 9 years lower than that of Canada's overall population in the same year (38.8 years).
- Visible at the base of the pyramid is the effect of international adoptions. There is a larger contribution of newcomers one year old, for males as for females.

Figure 20

Number of immigrants to Canada by age and sex, 2006



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

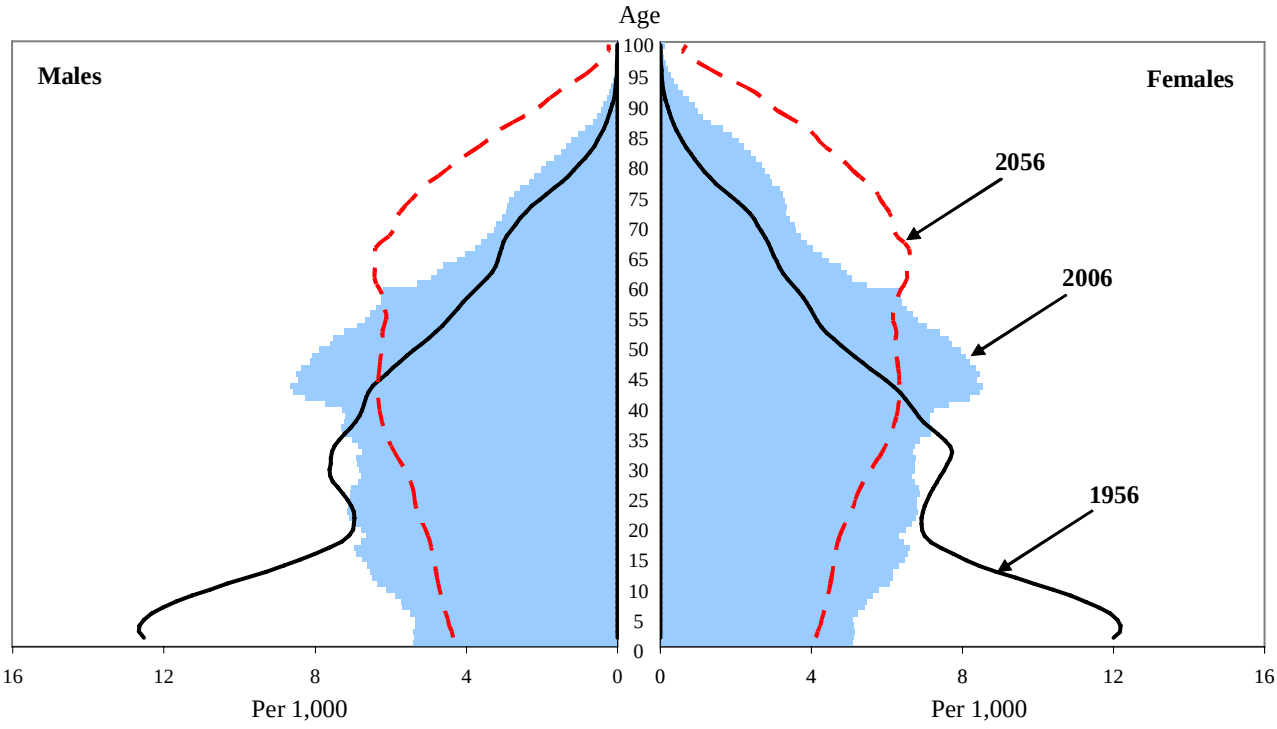
Some facts about the demographic and ethnocultural composition of the population

The Canadian population is aging

- The age and sex structure of Canada's population has changed considerably in the past fifty years. Whereas in the mid-twentieth century, the population distribution was pyramidal owing to the large number of young people, by 2006 the population structure ceased to resemble a pyramid. This transformation is the result of the drop in fertility and the steady increase in life expectancy. The bulge in the age structure at mid-height represents the large cohorts of the baby-boom.
- These changes reflect the aging that has taken place in Canada over the past fifty years. Between 1956 and 2006, the median age of the Canadian population went from 27.2 to 38.8 years, a gain of more than 10 years over a span of fifty years. By 2056, the median age is expected to reach 46.9 years, or 20 years more than it was in 1956.

Figure 21

Changes in the age structure of the Canadian population by sex, 1956, 2006 and 2056



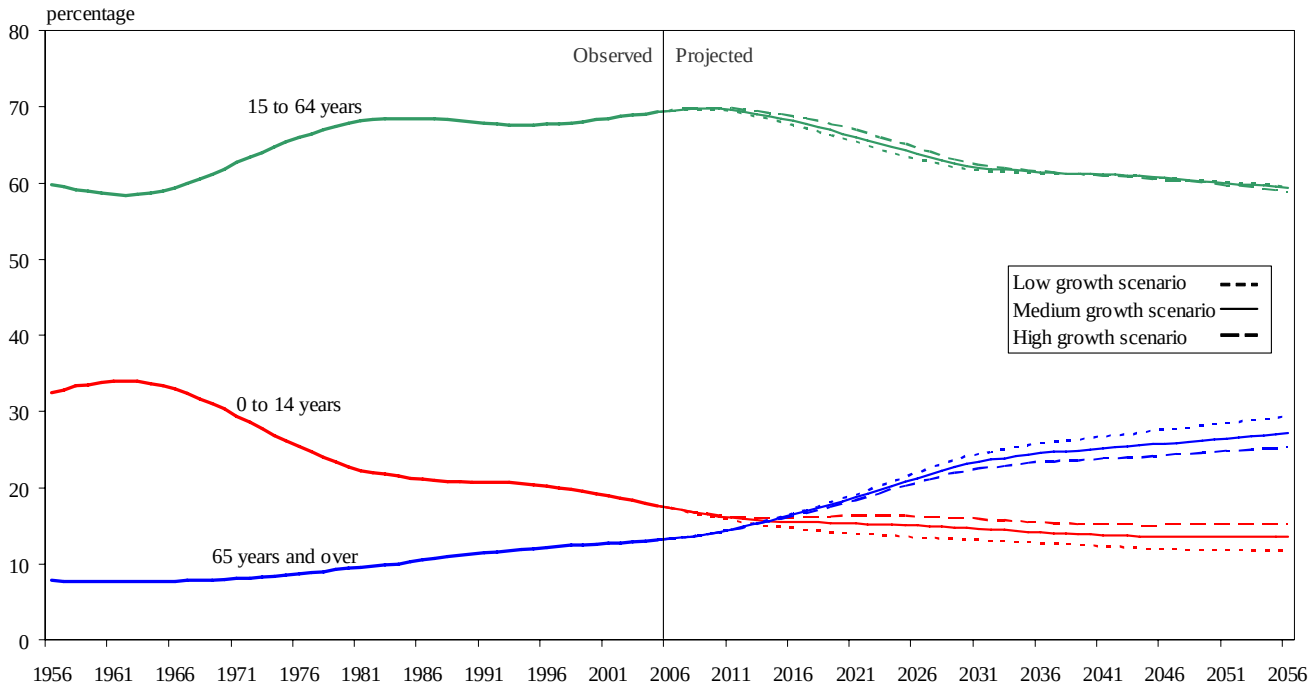
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2005-2031*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-520-XIE, scenario 3, and Demography Division, annual population estimates, 1956 and 2006.

A historic reversal: proportionally more seniors than children toward 2015

- In 2006, 17% of Canada's population consisted of young people under 15 years of age, 69% of persons aged 15 to 64 years, and 13% of persons aged 65 years and over. The most recent population projections show that toward the middle of the 2010 decade, the proportion of elderly might exceed the proportion of children, a historic first. Owing to population aging, and especially the arrival of baby-boomers at age 65, the proportion of elderly could reach double that of children toward the middle of the twenty-first century.
- Over the next fifty years, it is also expected that the group consisting of persons aged 15 to 64 years (potential workers) will represent a proportion of the Canadian population similar to what it was in the early 1960s, in the range of 60%. This is ten percentage points below the current level.

Figure 22

Proportion of the population aged 0 to 14 years, 15 to 64 years and 65 years and over in Canada, 1956 to 2056



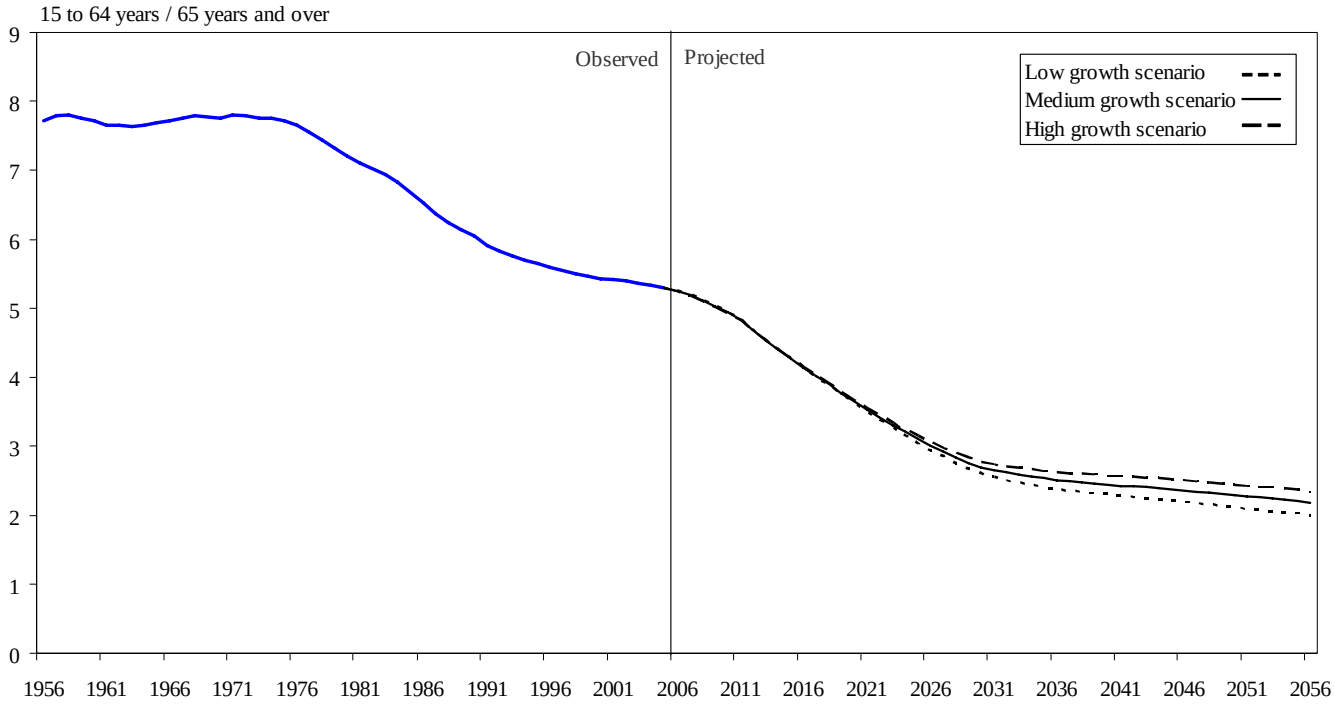
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2005-2031*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-520-XIE, scenarios 1, 3 and 6, and Demography Division, annual population estimates from 1956 to 2005.

Drop in the number of working-age persons per elderly person

- The demographic dependency ratio for seniors in 2006 was just over 5 persons aged 15 to 64 years for each person aged 65 years and over. This ratio gives an approximation of how many elderly persons there are in relation to the potential pool of workers.
- During the third quarter of the twentieth century, there were almost 8 adults between 15 and 64 years of age in Canada for each person aged 65 years or over. However, during the last twenty-five years, the ratio has gradually declined substantially to its current level.
- This downward trend could continue into the future, according to recent population projections. Regardless of the scenario selected, those projections show a continuation of the decline of this indicator of population aging. According to the projections (medium growth scenario), in 2056 there would be only 2.2 working-age persons for each person aged 65 years or over.

Figure 23

Number of persons aged 15 to 64 years for each person aged 65 years and over in Canada, 1956 to 2056



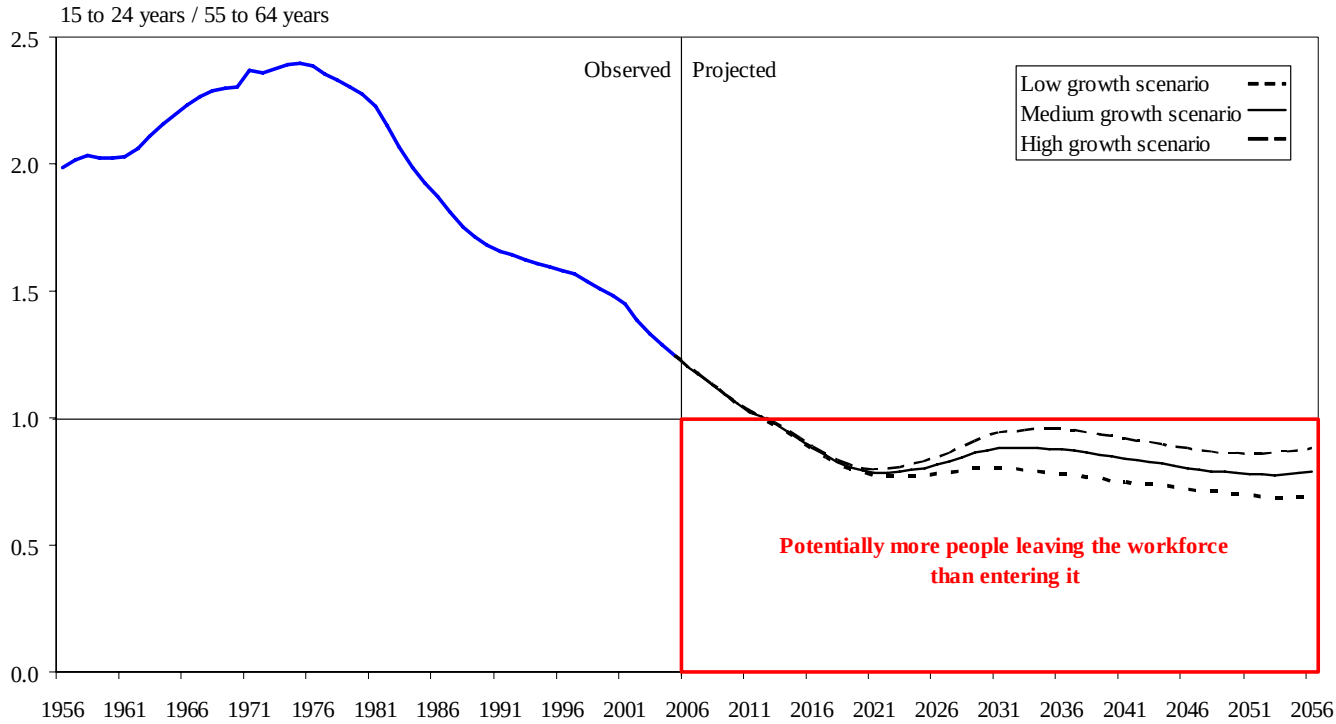
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2005-2031*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-520-XIE, scenarios 1, 3 and 6, and Demography Division, annual population estimates from 1956 to 2005.

By the start of the next decade, people old enough to leave the labour market will outnumber those old enough to join it

- Within the 15 to 64 years age group, some major changes have occurred in recent decades. When the large cohorts of the baby-boom reached age 15 between 1961 and 1981, they greatly contributed to the rejuvenation of the 15 to 64 years age group. In the mid-1970s, persons aged 15 to 24 years were 2.4 times more numerous as those aged 55 to 64 years. Consequently, in that period, the ratio of potential entrants to the labour market to potential leavers was at its highest.
- With the aging of the baby-boomers, there has been a decrease in the ratio of young adults to persons on the threshold of retirement. In 2006, that ratio was approximately 1.2, or half of what it was thirty years earlier.
- This trend is expected to continue in the coming years. According to the most recent population projections, this ratio should fall below one in 2013, meaning that the number of persons aged 55 to 64 years would start to exceed the number of persons aged 15 to 24 years.

Figure 24

Number of persons aged 15 to 24 years for each person aged 55 to 64 years in Canada, 1956 to 2056



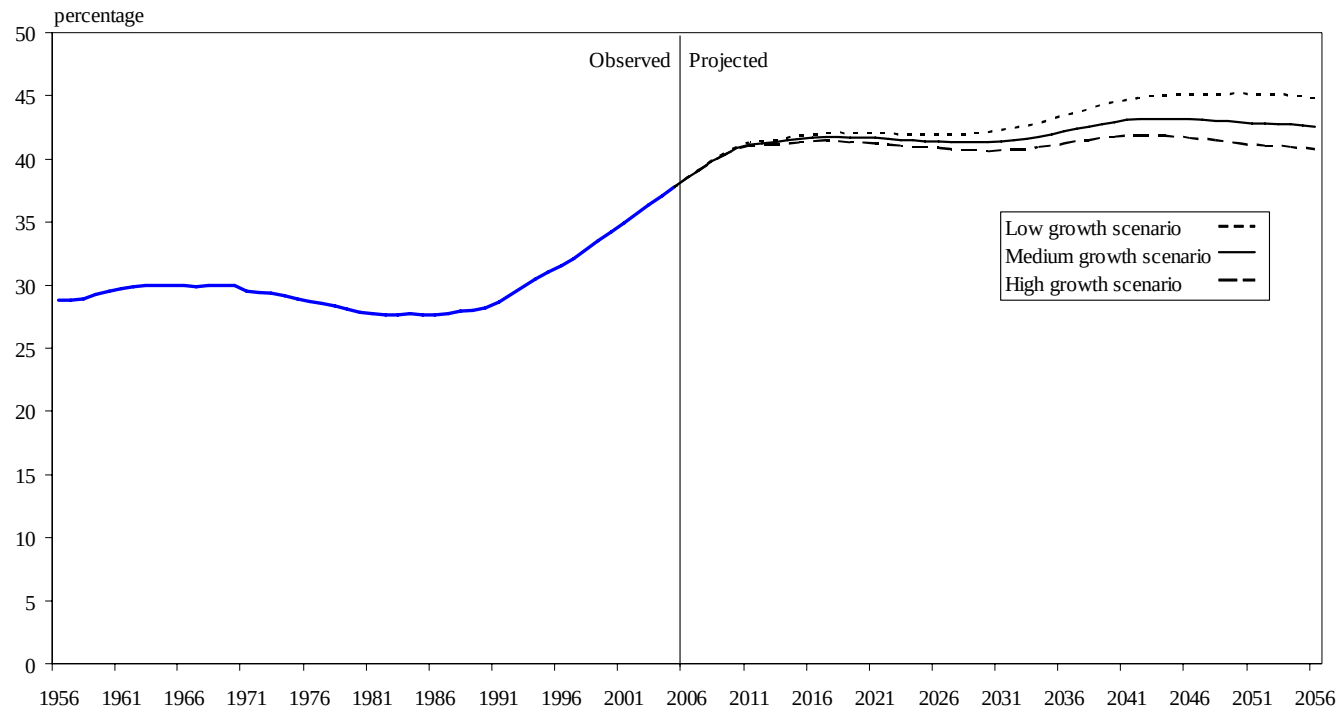
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2005-2031*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-520-XIE, scenarios 1, 3 and 6, and Demography Division, annual population estimates from 1956 to 2005.

The working-age population is aging

- The number of persons aged 45 to 64 years as a percentage of the 15 to 64 age group is an indicator of the aging of the working-age population.
- Since the first baby-boomers reached age 45, the proportion of persons aged 45 to 64 years within the 15 to 64 population has begun to increase rapidly. Whereas in the late 1980s, people aged 45 to 64 years comprised approximately 28% of the working-age population, they comprised 38% in 2006.
- According to the most recent population projections, this indicator could reach more than 42% by the mid-2010s and then stabilize above 40% until 2056.

Figure 25

Proportion of persons aged 45 to 64 years in the working-age population (15 to 64 years) in Canada, 1956 to 2056



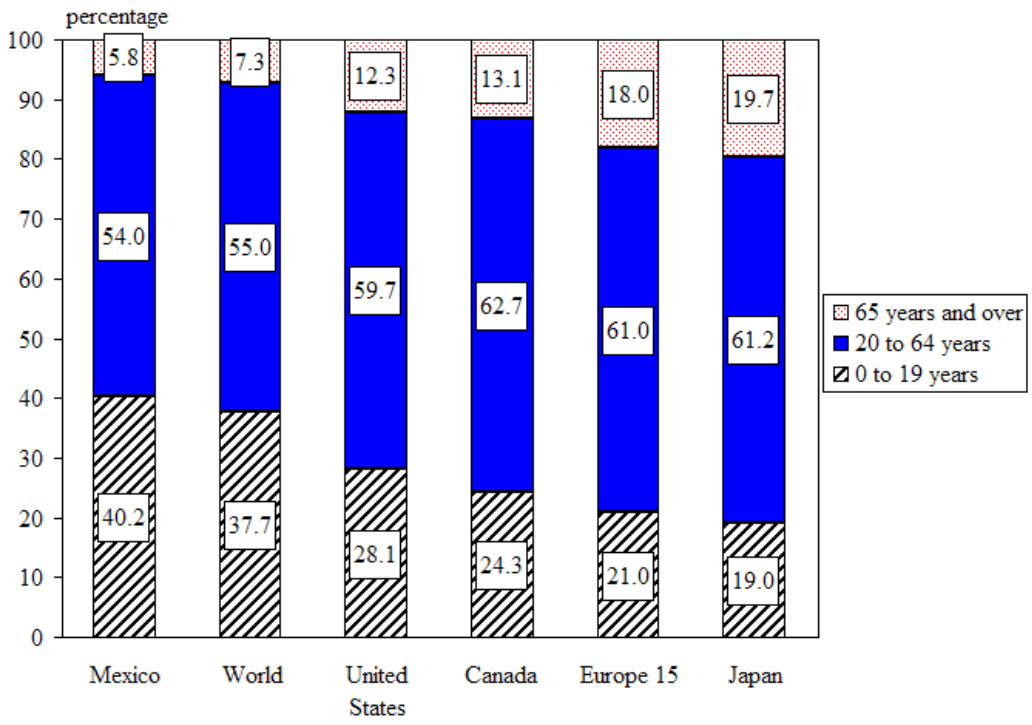
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2005-2031*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-520-XIE, scenarios 1, 3 and 6, and Demography Division, annual population estimates from 1956 to 2005.

Canada is one of the youngest industrialized countries

- Canada has proportionally fewer seniors and more young people in its population than the Europe 15 and Japan, while the reverse is true in relation to the United States. The world population, like that of Mexico, has a much larger proportion of young people than Canada, along with a smaller proportion of elderly.
- However, the size of the baby-boom that Canada experienced following World War II should contribute to more rapid aging of the population in Canada than in other industrialized countries.

Figure 26

Distribution by three large age groups of the world population and selected countries, 2005



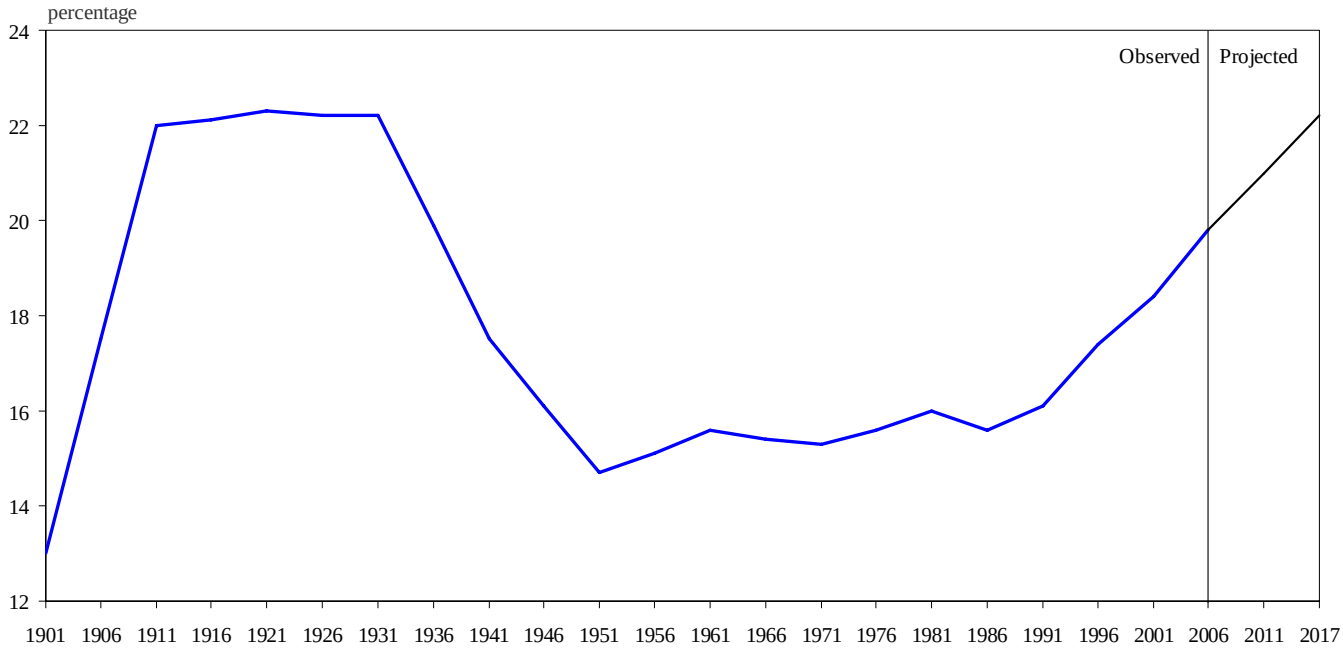
Sources: Statistics Canada, Demography Division; US Census Bureau; and United Nations, World Population Prospects (The 2006 Revision).

In 2017, more than one Canadian in five might be foreign-born

- Strong immigration to Canada in recent decades has led to a rise in the number of foreign-born persons and the portion of the population that they represent. Thus, from 1986 to 2006, the immigrant population went from 3.9 million to 6.2 million, accounting for respectively 15.6% and 19.8% of the Canadian population.
- If current immigration trends were to continue in the coming years, the proportion of immigrants in Canada could reach slightly over 22% by 2017. This would be equal to the highest level observed since the beginning of the last century, namely the 22% recorded between 1911 and 1931.
- Few countries have a larger proportion of foreign-born than Canada. In the United States, for example, the proportion of foreign-born was 12.5% in 2006. However, Australia stands out, with immigrants comprising 22.2% of its population.

Figure 27

Proportion of foreign-born among the Canadian population, 1901 to 2017



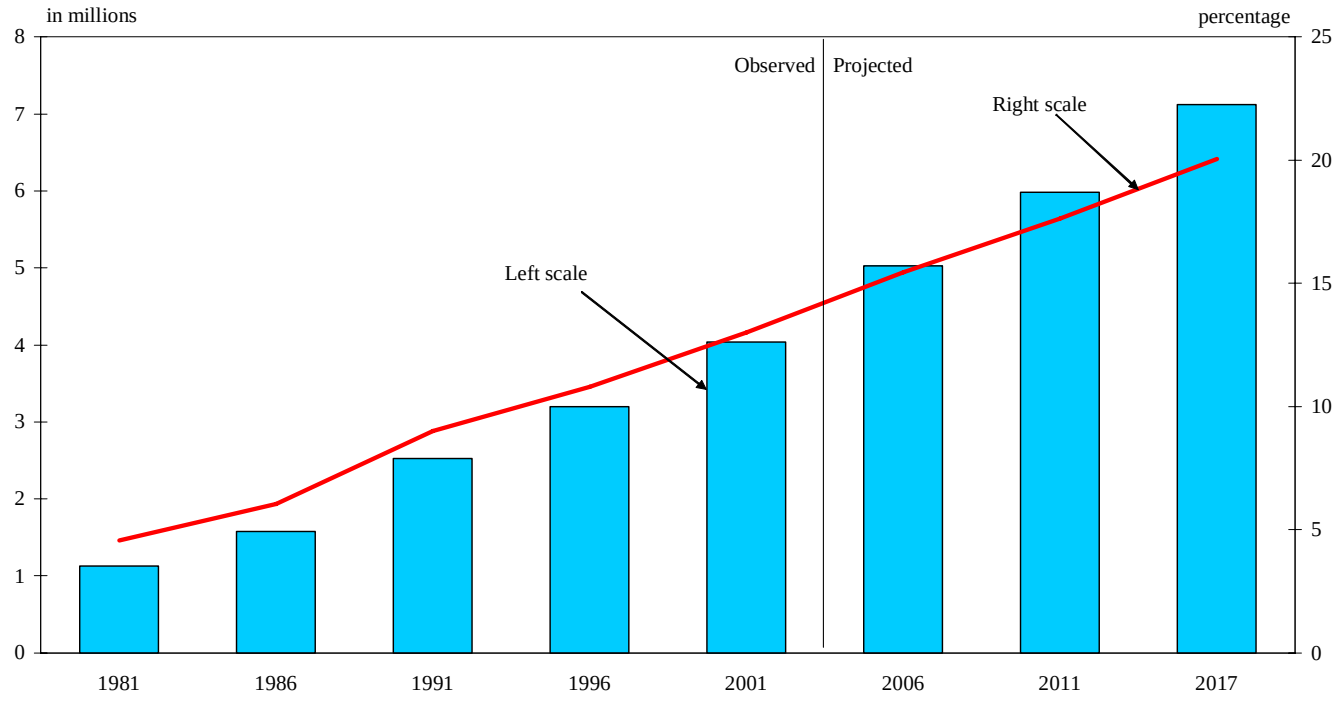
Sources: Chui, T., K. Tran and H. Maheux, 2007, *Immigration in Canada: a portrait of the foreign-born population, 2006 Census: findings*, 2006 Census Analysis series, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 97-557XWE2006007; and Bélanger, A. and É. Caron Malenfant, 2005, *Population projections of visible minority groups, Canada, provinces and regions, 2001-2017*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-541-XIE, reference scenario.

In 2017, approximately 20% of the Canadian population might belong to a visible minority group

- Primarily because of sustained immigration and the low percentage of Europeans among newcomers, the visible minority population in Canada has soared in the past two decades. Between 1981 and 2001, the number of persons belonging to a visible minority group almost quadrupled, from 1.1 million to approximately 4.0 million. This growth, much faster than that of the rest of the population, boosted the proportion of the population that visible minorities represent from less than 5% in 1981 to more than 13% in 2001.
- Under the reference scenario of the most recent projections of visible minorities, this increase will continue in the coming years, with the result that in 2017, the visible minority population would reach 7.1 million, representing approximately one Canadian in five.

Figure 28

Number and proportion of visible minority population in Canada, 1981 to 2017



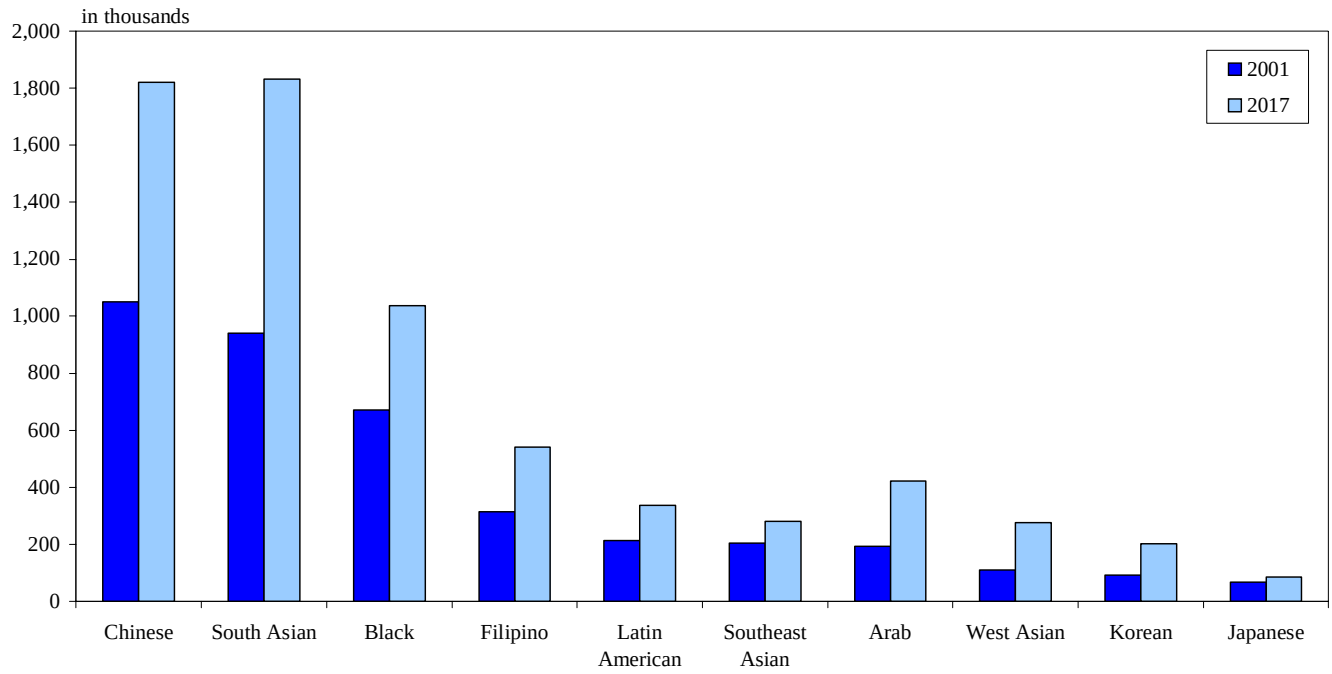
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2003, *Canada's ethnocultural portrait : The changing mosaic*, 2001 Census Analysis series, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 96F0030XIE2001008; and Bélanger, A. and É. Caron Malenfant, 2005, *Population projections of visible minority groups, Canada, provinces and regions, 2001-2017*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-541-XIE, reference scenario.

The largest visible minority groups are the Chinese and South Asians

- In the 2001 Census, the Chinese population numbered more than 1 million, making this visible minority group the largest in Canada. South Asians and the black population ranked respectively second and third with 941,000 and 671,000 individuals.
- Under the reference scenario in the latest projections of visible minority population, South Asians and Chinese would continue to be the two largest visible minority groups in 2017, with a population of just over 1.8 million each. With almost as high an immigration level as the Chinese but with a higher fertility rate, the South Asian group would thus catch up with the Chinese group in absolute numbers.
- Nevertheless, the visible minority groups that might increase the most rapidly between now and 2017 are West Asians, Koreans and Arabs, with their populations increasing by 150%, 120% and 118% respectively.

Figure 29

Visible minority groups in Canada, 2001 and 2017



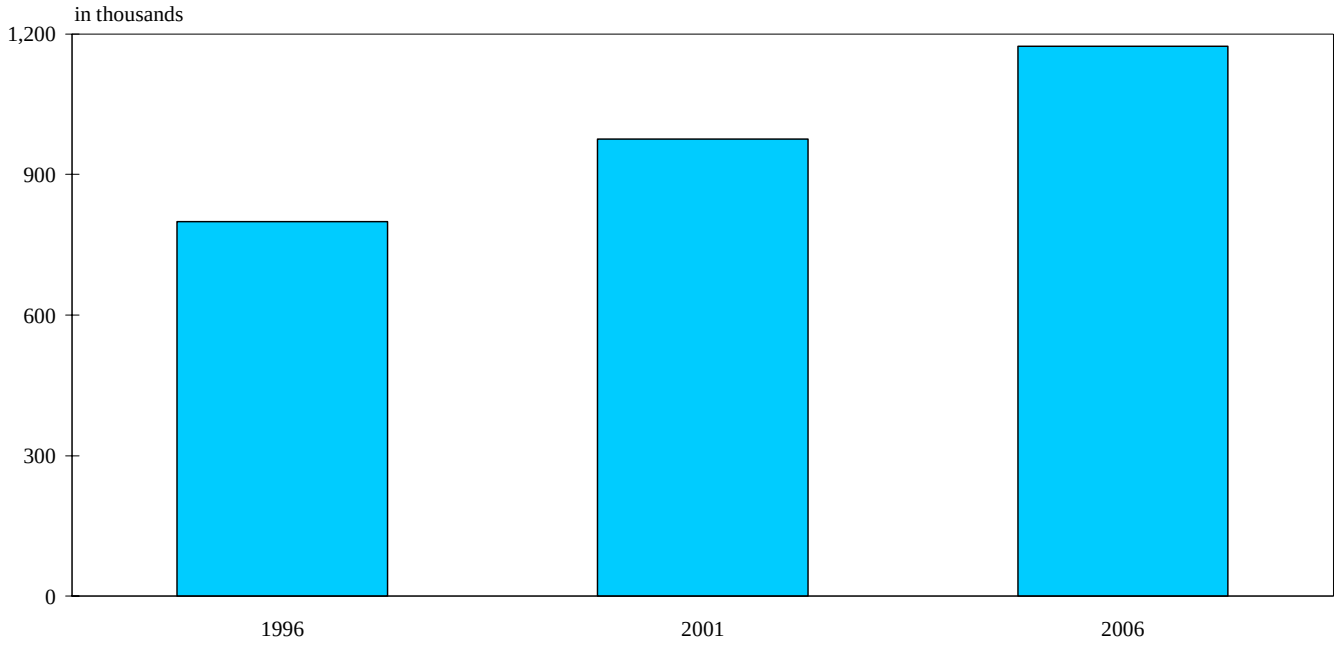
Source: Bélanger, A. and É. Caron Malenfant, 2005, *Population projections of visible minority groups, Canada, provinces and regions, 2001-2017*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-541-XIE, reference scenario.

Aboriginal population in Canada is close to 1.2 million

- Between 1996 and 2006, the population reporting Aboriginal identity grew by 45%, to reach close to 1.2 million persons, representing 3.8% of the Canadian population. The rest of the population grew more slowly (8%) during the same period.
- Compared to some other countries, the relative weight of the Aboriginal population in 2006 was smaller in Canada than in New Zealand but larger than in the United States or Australia.

Figure 30

Number of Aboriginal people among the Canadian population, 1996 to 2006



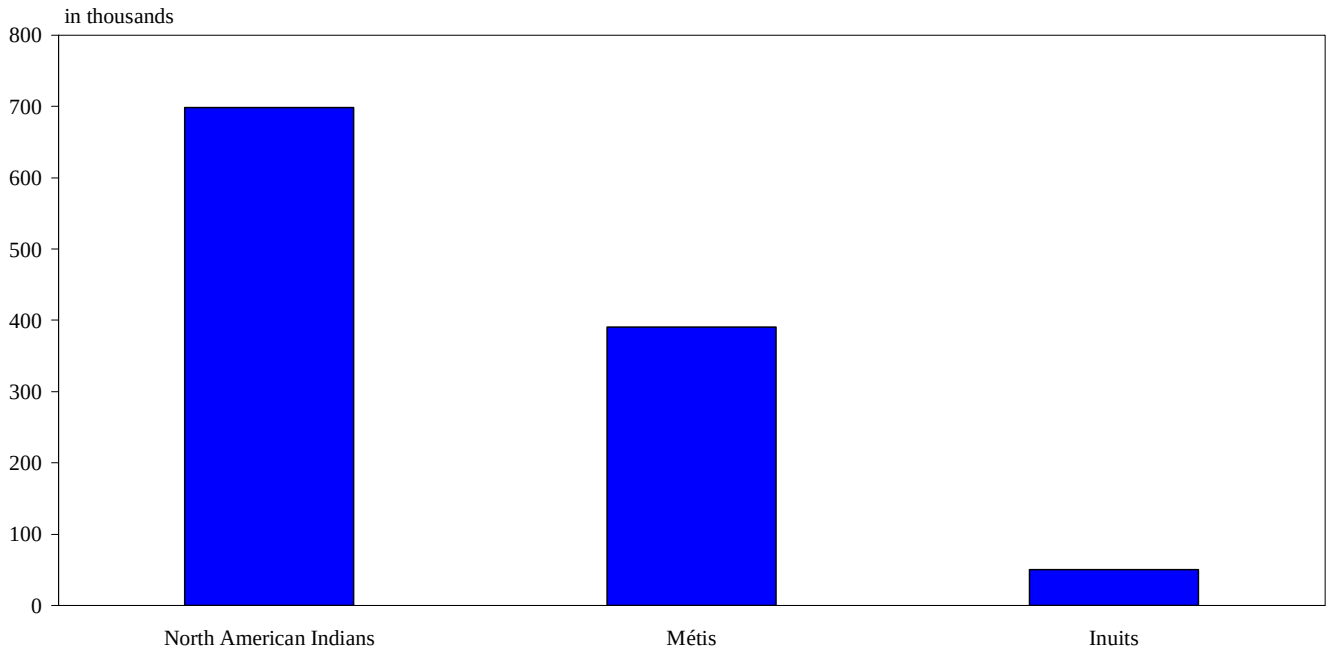
Source: Statistics Canada, 2008, *Aboriginal Peoples in Canada in 2006: Inuit, Métis and First Nations, 2006 Census*, Statistics Canada number 97-558-XIE.

60% of Aboriginals living in Canada are North American Indians

- In 2006, North American Indians were the largest Aboriginal group in Canada with roughly 698,000 persons, representing 60% of the population who declared an Aboriginal identity. Among the other groups, there were 390,000 Métis and 50,000 Inuits.
- In general, Aboriginal persons are seeing their numbers increase more rapidly than the rest of Canada's population, partly owing to high fertility. In 2001, the total fertility rate was 3.4 children per woman for Inuit and 2.9 and 2.2 children per woman for North American Indians and Métis respectively. It was about 1.5 in the rest of the population (Ram, 2004).

Figure 31

Number of persons in Aboriginal groups in Canada, 2006



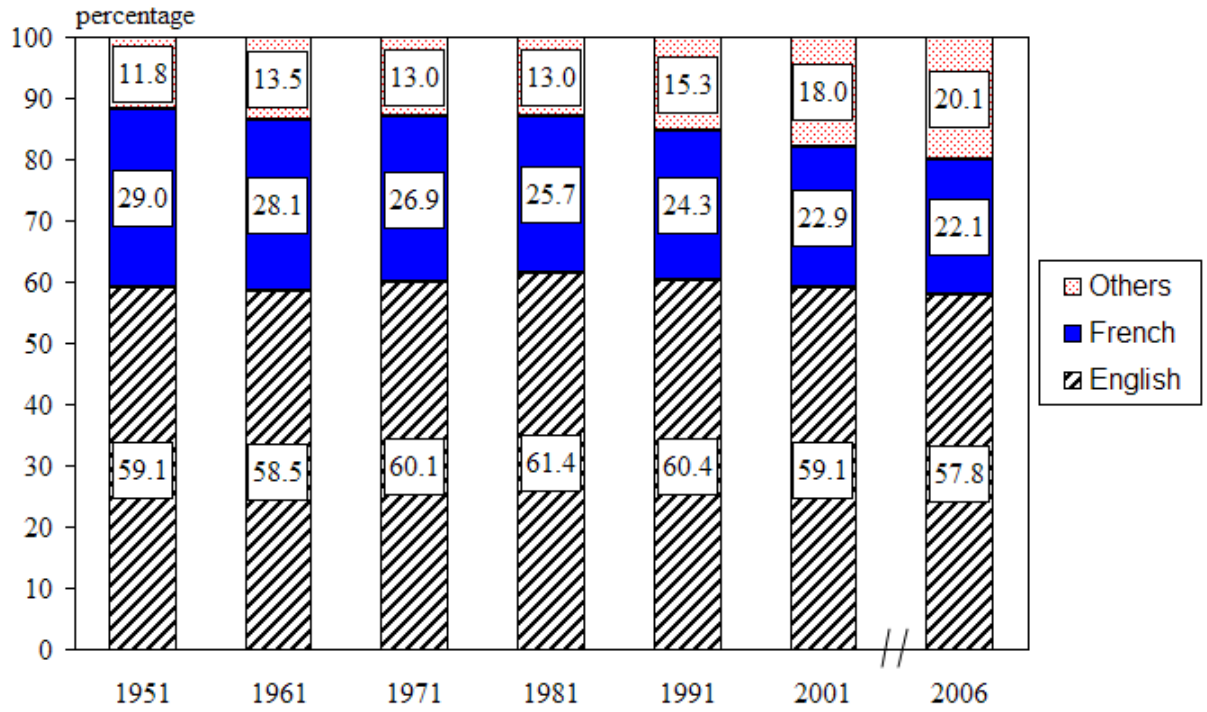
Source: Statistics Canada, 2008, *Aboriginal Peoples in Canada in 2006: Inuit, Métis and First Nations, 2006 Census*, Statistics Canada number 97-558-XIE.

The proportion of Francophones in Canada declined in the second half of the twentieth century

- In the 2006 Census, more than 18 million Canadians reported having English as their mother tongue, equivalent to 58% of the population. The second largest group consisted of those with French as their mother tongue, with 6.9 million people, comprising 22.1% of the population. Canada also had some 6.3 million people (20.1%) with a mother tongue other than English or French.
- Canada's demolinguistic profile in the early 2000s differs considerably from what it was in the middle of the last century. In 1951, the proportion of Canadians with French as their mother tongue (29%) was 6 percentage points higher than it is today. Also, only 12% of individuals enumerated in 1951 had a mother tongue other than English or French, which is lower than the current proportion.
- This downward trend in the proportion of Francophones and the increase in the percentage of Canadians with a mother tongue other than English or French is mainly due to sustained immigration coming from countries whose mother tongue is neither English nor French, the disappearance of higher fertility among Francophones and the linguistic mobility of Francophones toward English.

Figure 32

Population by mother tongue in Canada, 1951 to 2006



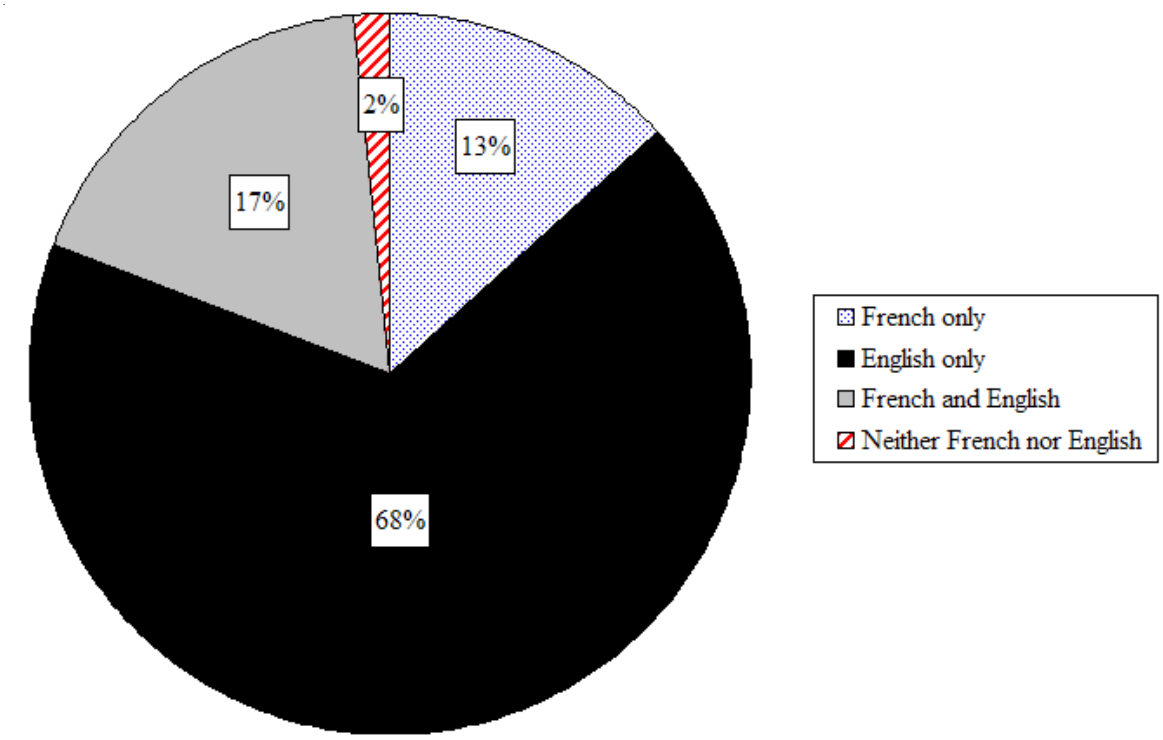
Sources: Marmen, L. and J.-P. Corbeil, 2004, *Languages in Canada : 2001 Census*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 96-326-XIE, and Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.

17% of Canadians are capable of conducting a conversation in either English or French

- In 2006, the vast majority (98%) of Canadians knew enough of one of the two official languages (English and French) to conduct a conversation. Two-thirds (68%) of the population knew only English while 13% knew only French. The proportion of bilingual Canadians, that is, who are capable of conducting a conversation in either English or French, was 17% according to the 2006 Census. It was 12% in 1951.
- Non-official languages for which we found in 2006 the highest number of speakers were Chinese (known by 3.9% of the population), Spanish (2.4%), Italian (2.1%), German (2.0%), Penjabi (1.5%) and Arabic (1.2%).

Figure 33

Population by official language knowledge in Canada, 2006



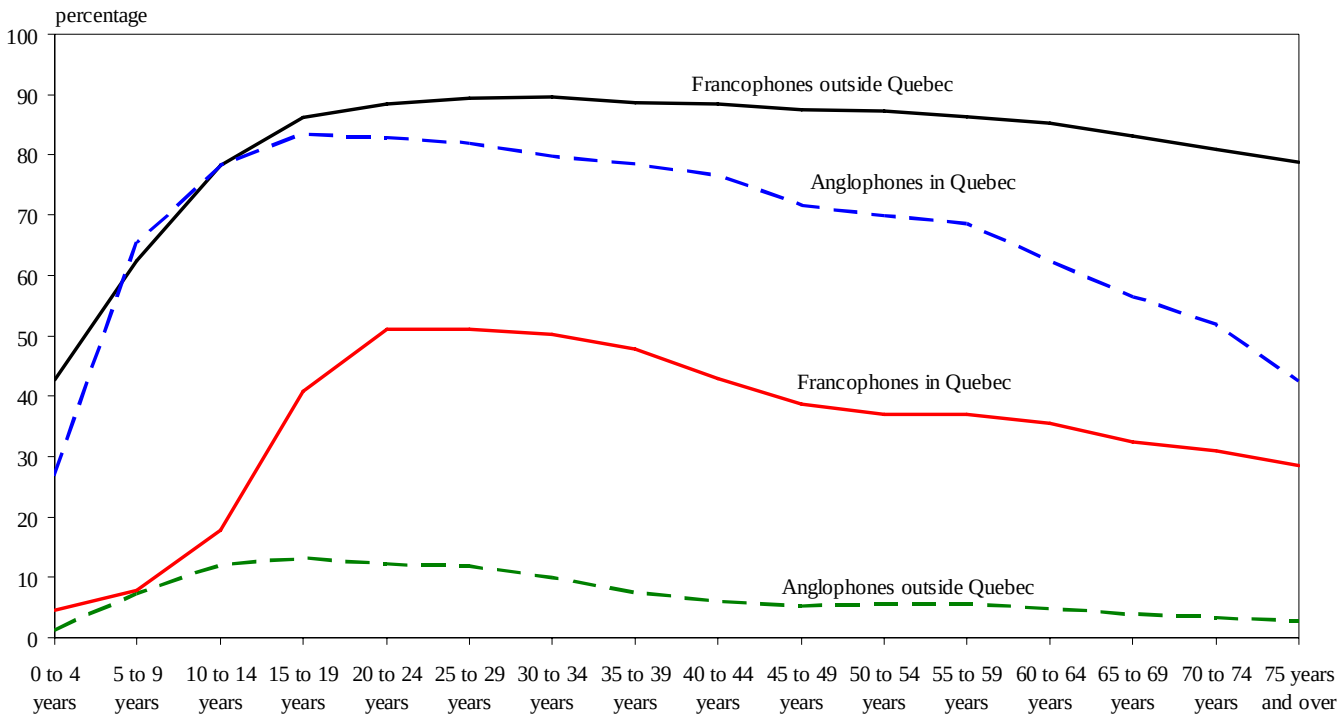
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.

English-French bilingualism is more widespread in official language minorities

- The proportion of Canadians capable to conduct a conversation in either English or French (bilinguals) varies greatly according to the place of residence. For those living in a linguistic minority situation such as Francophones outside Quebec and Anglophones in Quebec, bilingualism is more widespread than for those living in a majority situation, regardless of their age.
- In general, the Francophone population is comprised of more bilingual persons than the Anglophone population. This difference refers to the fact that Francophones have more opportunity to use English, for example, at work.
- Bilingualism also varies according to age, which can be explained in part by the way people learn their second language. Among Francophones living in Quebec, the bilingualism rate reaches a maximum between 20 and 29 years of age, as many of these individuals learn intensively English as they are entering the labor force. Among Anglophones living in other provinces and territories, the bilingualism rate reaches a maximum earlier, between 15 and 19 years of age. Most of these teenagers learn French during school, therefore bilingualism is at a maximum upon leaving high school (Marmen and Corbeil, 2004).

Figure 34

Proportion of bilingual persons (French and English) by linguistic group (French or English mother tongue, single response) by age in Canada, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.

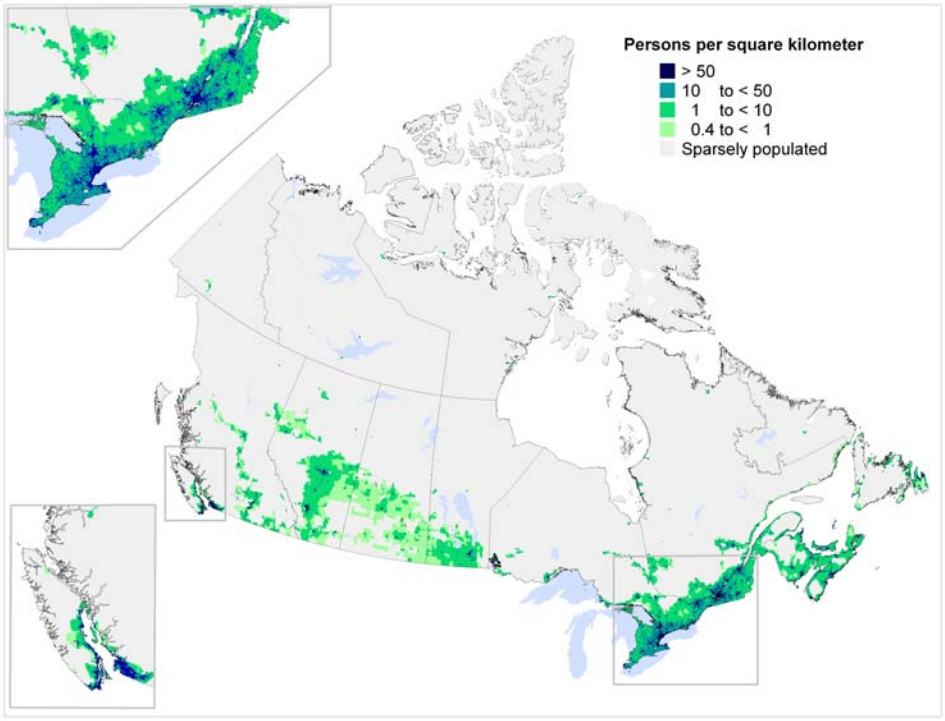
Provinces and regions

Canada's population is concentrated in the southern part of the country

- The population is not distributed uniformly throughout Canada's territory. The vast majority of people who make up the population of Canada live in the southern part of the country, near the American border, leaving the northern areas largely uninhabited.
- The strongest concentrations of population are located, firstly, along the axis extending from Quebec city to Windsor, that is, along the St Lawrence River and lakes Ontario and Erie, and secondly, in Western Canada, in Vancouver and Victoria in British Columbia and the area extending from Calgary to Edmonton in Alberta.

Figure 35

Population density by dissemination area (DA) in Canada, 2006



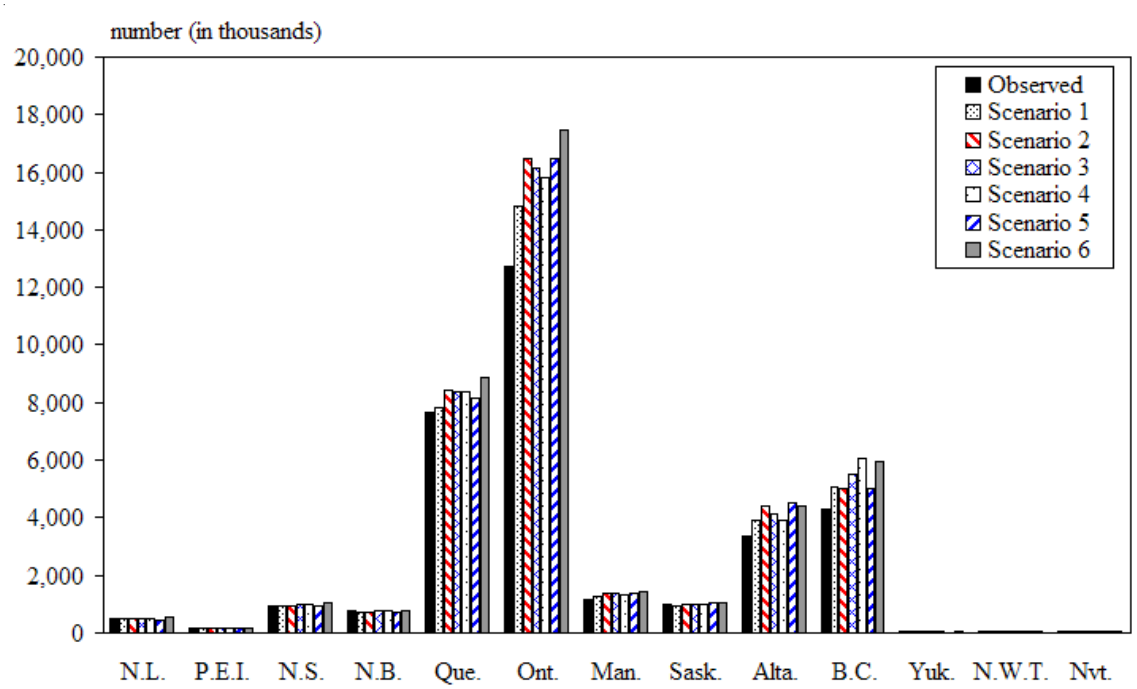
Source: Martel, L. and É. Caron Malenfant, 2007, *Portrait of the Canadian Population in 2006 : Findings*, 2006 Census Analysis series, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 97-550-XIE.

Ontario should remain the most populous province

- In 2006, Canada's population was very largely concentrated in four provinces: Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta. Approximately 86% of Canadians in 2006 were living in one of these four provinces. The 12.7 million Ontarians alone account for nearly 40% of Canadians.
- The population projected for 2031, under the six scenarios used for the most recent population projections, shows that in most cases, the population of the provinces and territories should be larger in 2031 than in 2006. Only three provinces and one territory—Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Yukon—are likely to have a smaller population in 2031 than in 2006, and this is under certain scenarios only. Thus, growth is expected everywhere else.

Figure 36

Population of the Canadian provinces and territories in 2006 and 2031



Notes: Observed: estimated population as of July 1st, 2006. Scenario 1: low growth. Scenario 2: Medium growth, recent migration trends. Scenario 3: medium growth, medium migration trends. Scenario 4 : medium growth, west coast migration trends. Scenario 5: medium growth, central-west migration trends. Scenario 6: high growth.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2005-2031*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-520-XIE, scenarios 1 to 6, and Demography Division, annual population estimates, 2006.

The drop in fertility has affected almost all provinces and territories in the past 25 years

- In 2005, Northwest Territories and Nunavut had the highest fertility levels in Canada with 2.11 and 2.72 children per woman. This situation is attributable to the presence of a large Aboriginal population. Similarly, the high fertility of the three Prairie provinces, compared to other provinces, is largely due to their Aboriginal population. The lowest fertility levels were registered in Newfoundland and Labrador, British Columbia, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with total fertility rates of respectively 1.34, 1.39, 1.41 and 1.40 children per woman. Quebec, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Yukon, on the other hand, had a fertility rate close to the national average (1.54 children per woman).
- Between 1981 and 2005, fertility levels declined in almost every province and territory. The largest drops occurred in the territories (Yukon and Northwest Territories) and Prince Edward Island. Manitoba is the only province in which fertility has not declined since 1981.

Table 1

Total fertility rate in Canada, provinces and territories, 1981 and 2005

Regions	1981	2005	Variation
Newfoundland and Labrador[1]	…	1.34	…
Prince Edward Island	1.88	1.48	-0.40
Nova Scotia	1.62	1.40	-0.22
New Brunswick	1.67	1.41	-0.26
Quebec	1.57	1.52	-0.05
Ontario	1.58	1.51	-0.07
Manitoba	1.82	1.82	0.00
Saskatchewan	2.11	1.87	-0.24
Alberta	1.85	1.75	-0.10
British Columbia	1.63	1.39	-0.24
Yukon	2.04	1.48	-0.56
Northwest Territories	2.84	2.11	-0.73
Nunavut[2]	…	2.72	…
Canada	1.65	1.54	-0.11

1. Data not available for Newfoundland and Labrador before 1991.
2. Nunavut is included in the Northwest Territories before 1991.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, and Health Statistics Division.

An increase in life expectancy in all provinces

- As in Canada as a whole, life expectancy observed in all provinces has been rising since 1971, for both males and females.
- British Columbia is the province which, in 2004, had the highest life expectancy with 78.5 years for males and 83.1 for females. On the other hand, Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest life expectancy (75.4 years for males and 80.9 years for females).
- According to the most recent population projections, this rise in life expectancy should continue in the upcoming years. Under almost all projection assumptions and in almost all provinces, it should exceed 80 years for males and 85 years for females.

Table 2

Life expectancy at birth by sex in Canada and provinces, 1971, 2004 and 2031

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
	Males										
1971	69.9	69.4	68.7	69.3	68.5	69.8	70.3	70.9	70.7	70.1	69.6
2004	75.4	76.9	76.5	76.7	77.3	78.1	76.2	76.3	77.5	78.5	77.6
2031											
Low assumption	79.3	79.8	80.3	80.5	80.5	81.4	80.3	80.4	81.3	81.9	81.1
Medium assumption	80.1	80.7	81.1	81.3	81.3	82.2	81.1	81.3	82.2	82.8	81.9
High assumption	80.8	81.5	81.9	82.1	82.0	82.9	81.9	82.4	83.3	83.7	82.6
	Females										
1971	75.9	77.4	76.3	76.5	75.4	76.9	77.1	77.9	77.6	77.1	76.6
2004	80.9	81.7	81.6	82.1	82.5	82.5	81.2	81.9	82.4	83.1	82.4
2031											
Low assumption	84.4	84.9	84.6	85.2	85.2	85.3	84.6	85.2	85.4	86.1	85.3
Medium assumption	85.1	85.6	85.3	85.8	85.8	85.9	85.3	85.9	86.1	86.7	86.0
High assumption	85.8	86.2	85.9	86.5	86.4	86.5	86.0	86.7	87.0	87.5	86.6

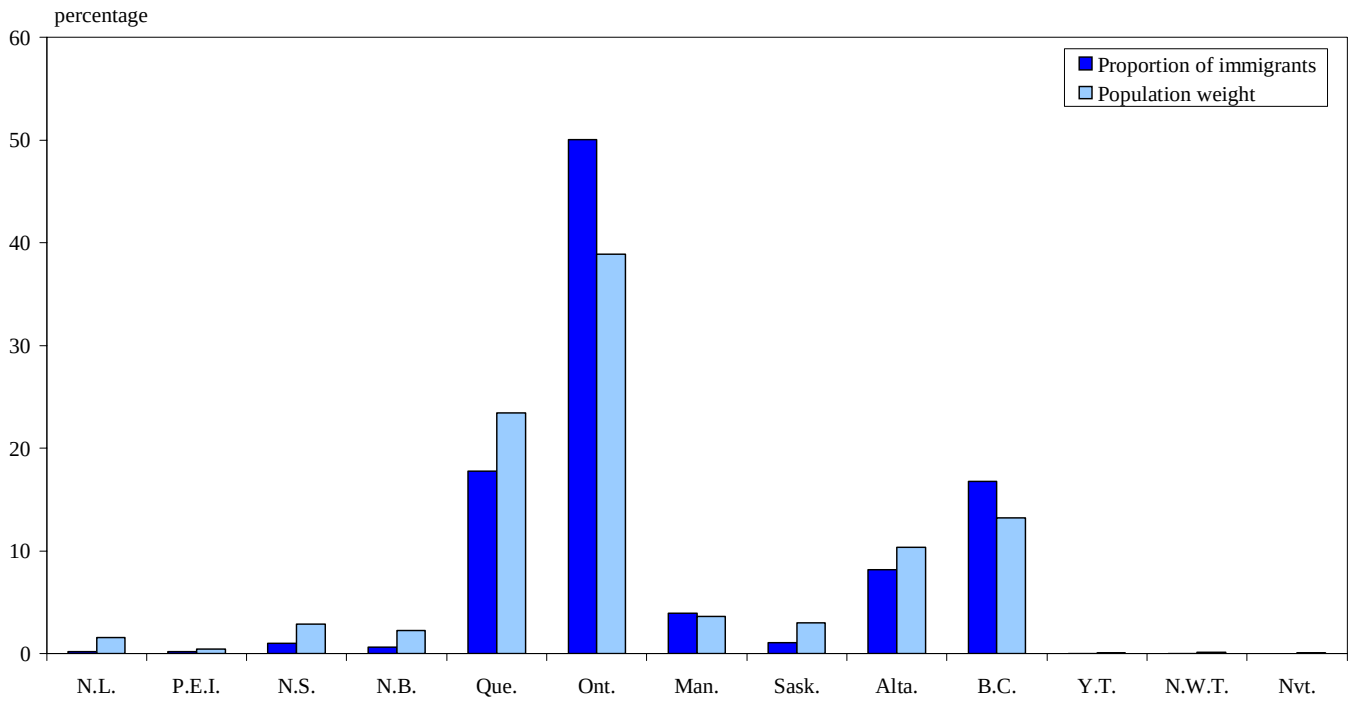
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2005-2031*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-520-XIE, Demography Division, and Health Statistics Division.

The majority of immigrants settle in Ontario

- In 2006, more than four immigrants out of five (85%) choose to settle in Quebec, Ontario or British Columbia. Ontario alone received half of Canada's newcomers in 2006, whereas the demographic weight of that province was less than 40%.
- This situation is a result of the strong concentration of Canadian immigration in the country's most urbanized areas. Indeed, the propensity of newcomers to settle in Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver is a major factor in the differential growth among the various provinces and territories.

Figure 37

Distribution of immigrants admitted in 2006 by province or territory of destination, Canada



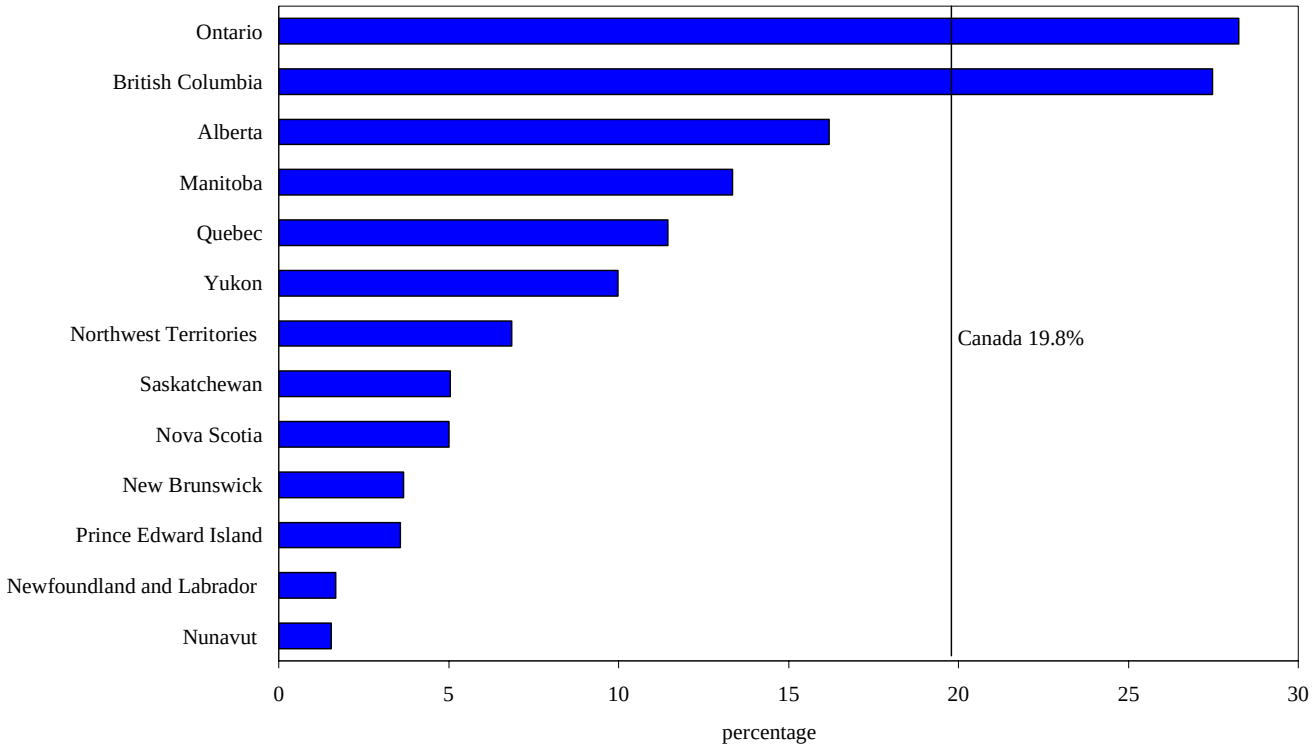
Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006, *Report on the demographic situation in Canada 2003 and 2004*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-209-XIE; and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

In Ontario and British Columbia, more than one person in four is foreign-born

- In 2006, the proportion of foreign-born enumerated in Canada was 19.8%. However, this proportion varied considerably among the different provinces and territories. In Ontario and British Columbia, it was above the national average at 28.3% and 27.5%. Following these two provinces were Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec and Yukon, whose populations were between 10% and 16% foreign-born.
- With respectively 1.5% and 1.7% foreign-born persons among their population, Nunavut and Newfoundland and Labrador are the two regions with the lowest proportions of foreign-born individuals. None of the Atlantic provinces in 2006 had more than 5% of their population comprised of immigrants.

Figure 38

Percentage of foreign-born population by province or territory in Canada, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.

Few provinces/territories yield interprovincial migration gains

- Owing to its economic vitality, which has generated a strong demand for workers, Alberta has for the last ten years been the province with the largest interprovincial migratory gains in Canada. Between 1996 and 2001 and between 2001 and 2006, that province had net interprovincial migration of 138,000 and 140,000 respectively. Historically, British Columbia has also generally gained in internal migratory exchanges with the rest of the Canadian provinces. However, it has experienced losses between 1996 and 2001.
- During the recent period, between 2001 and 2006, Saskatchewan had the largest negative net migration, followed by Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec. Of the other provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick experienced losses in the three five-year periods, while Prince Edward Island, by contrast, was the only province along with Alberta to experience positive net migration in the three periods considered.

Table 3

Net interprovincial migration of provinces and territories in Canada, 1991 to 2006

Provinces and territories	1991 to 1996	1996 to 2001	2001 to 2006
	in thousands		
Newfoundland and Labrador	-24.1	-32.1	-15.1
Prince Edward Island	2.0	0.2	0.1
Nova Scotia	-5.5	-6.4	-8.1
New Brunswick	-3.5	-8.4	-8.7
Quebec	-51.3	-69.0	-20.1
Ontario	-40.3	68.9	-33.5
Manitoba	-24.6	-21.0	-25.6
Saskatchewan	-26.1	-25.4	-37.1
Alberta	7.3	137.7	140.3
British Columbia	167.3	-37.5	10.3
Yukon	-0.8	-3.4	-1.8
Northwest Territories	0.1	-3.1	-0.2
Nunavut	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Newfoundland and Labrador has become the province with the oldest population

- Between 1971 and 2006, like Canada as a whole, all Canadian provinces and territories saw the median age of their population rise, even reaching record levels.
- Whereas in 1971, British Columbia was the province with the highest median age at 27.8 years, Newfoundland and Labrador became the oldest province in 2006 with a population whose median age was 41.3 years. The Maritime provinces, Quebec and British Columbia came next in the ranking.
- Ontario and the Prairie provinces, along with the territories, are the regions whose median age was below the national average of 38.8 years in 2006. Nunavut and the Northwest Territories are the youngest regions in Canada with median ages of respectively 23.2 and 30.9 years. The high fertility of the Aboriginal populations that live in these territories largely explains this situation.

Table 4

Median age of the population of Canada, provinces and territories, 1971 and 2006

Regions	1971	2006	Variation
	in years		
Canada	26.2	38.8	12.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	20.9	41.3	20.4
Prince Edward Island	24.8	39.8	15.0
Nova Scotia	25.4	41.0	15.6
New Brunswick	23.9	40.9	17.0
Quebec	25.6	40.4	14.8
Ontario	27.1	38.2	11.1
Manitoba	26.8	37.3	10.5
Saskatchewan	26.6	37.7	11.1
Alberta	24.9	35.5	10.6
British Columbia	27.8	39.8	12.0
Yukon	24.3	38.0	13.7
Northwest Territories	19.8	30.9	11.1
Nunavut	…	23.2	…

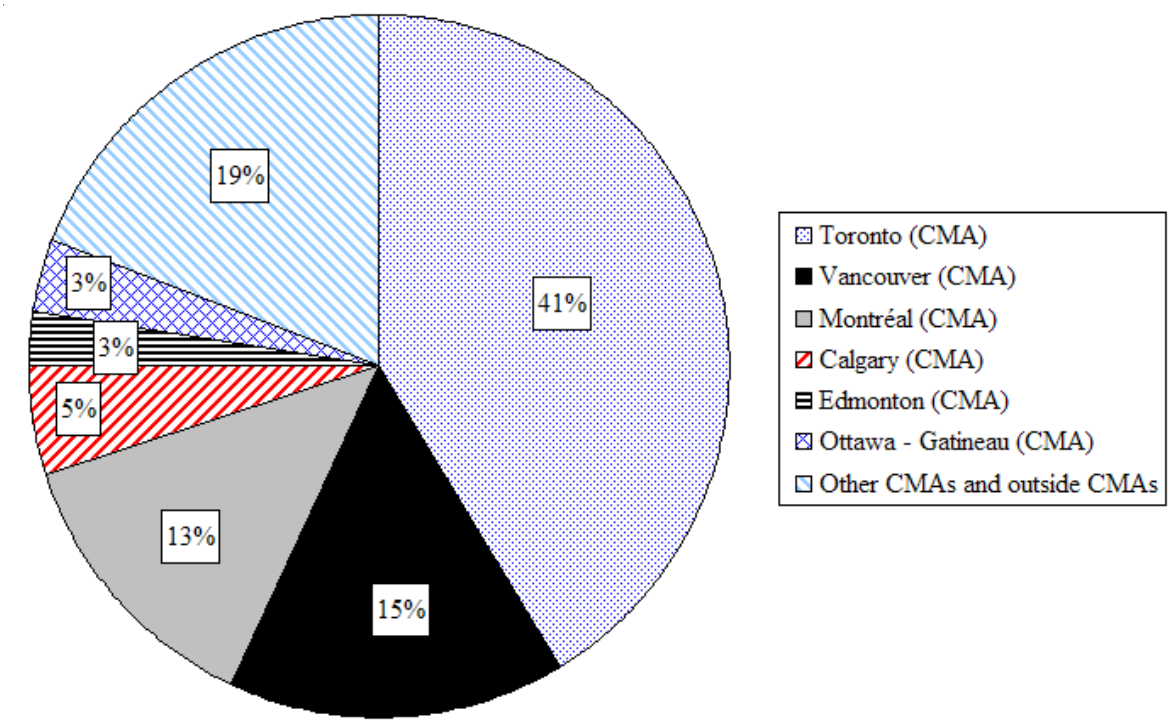
Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Strong concentration of immigrants in the largest urban centres

- In 2006, immigrants in Canada were strongly concentrated in the country's largest urban areas. In the 2006 Census, 81% of recent immigrants (i.e., who arrived in the ten years preceding the census) were living in Canada's six largest urban areas. In 1981, 70% of all recent immigrants were living in these same six large cities, that is, 11 percentage points less than 2006.
- The concentration is especially strong in Canada's three largest metropolitan areas, namely Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal, which in 2006 were home to 70% of recent immigrants. The Toronto census metropolitan area alone accounted for more than 41% of all recent immigrants to Canada.

Figure 39

Distribution of recent immigrants by place of residence in Canada, 2006



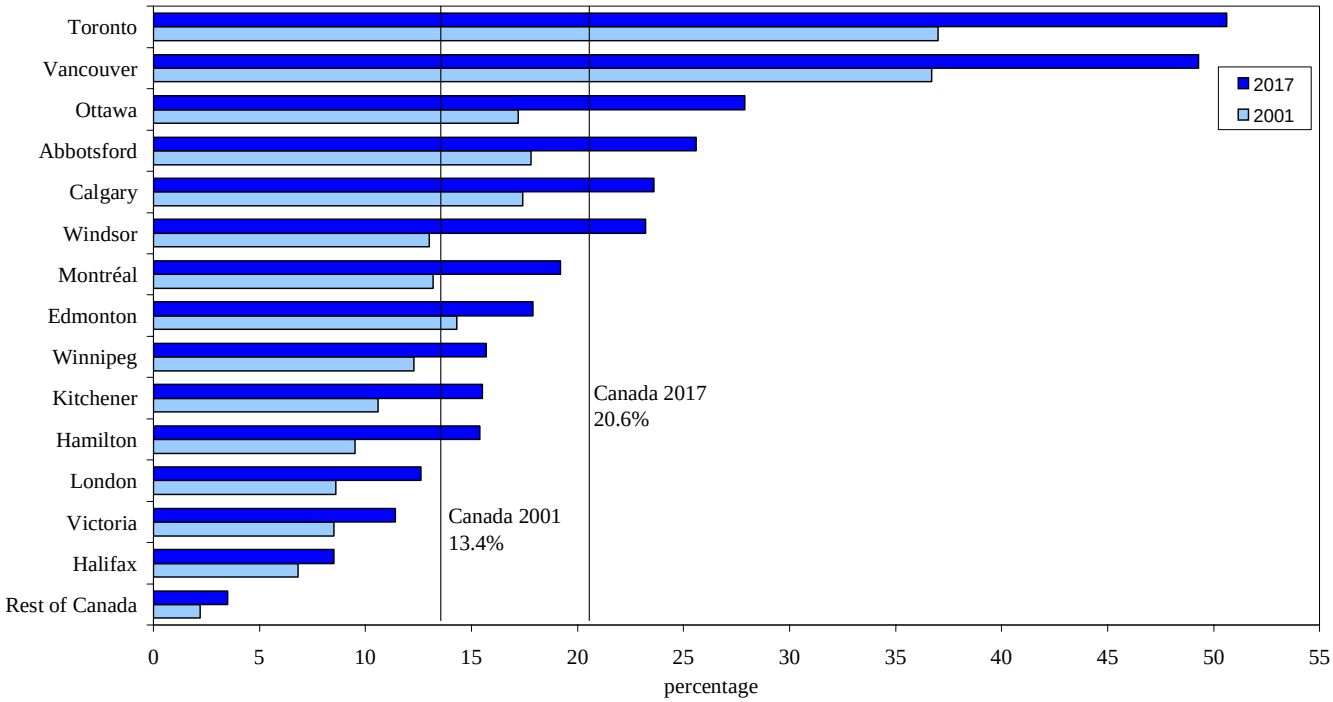
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.

In Toronto and Vancouver, one person in two would belong to a visible minority group in 2017

- In Canada, in 2001, slightly more than 13% of the population belonged to a visible minority group. However, this proportion varied greatly according to place of residence. In the Toronto and Vancouver census metropolitan areas, because of their large immigrant populations, the proportion exceeded 35%. In four other census metropolitan areas in 2001, the proportion of the population belonging to visible minorities was higher than the Canadian average: Ottawa, Abbotsford, Calgary and Edmonton.
- In 2017, according to the most recent projections of the visible minority population, approximately half of the population of the Toronto and Vancouver census metropolitan areas could belong to a visible minority group. Even though the proportion of individuals belonging to a visible minority group is expected to increase in all parts of Canada, it should remain markedly higher in Canada's urban areas than in the rest of the country.

Figure 40

Proportion of the population belonging to a visible minority group, selected census metropolitan areas and rest of Canada, 2001 and 2017



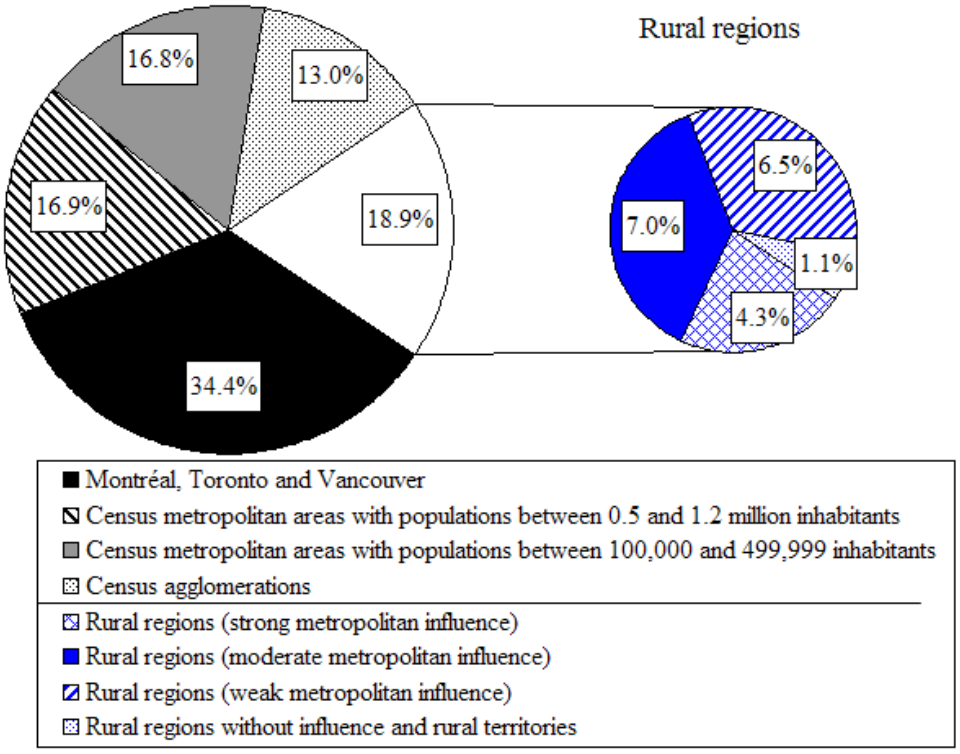
Source: Bélanger, A. and É. Caron Malenfant, 2005, *Population projections of visible minority groups, Canada, provinces and regions, 2001-2017*, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 91-541-XIE, reference scenario.

Four Canadians in five live in a metropolitan area

- In 2006, not only did four Canadians in five (81.1%) live in a metropolitan area, but one Canadian in three (34.4%) lived in one of Canada's three largest metropolitan areas, namely Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Census metropolitan areas with a population of more than 500,000 accounted for more than half of Canada's population.
- Of the 19% of Canadians living in rural areas, close to two-thirds were living in an area subject to the strong or moderate influence of one of Canada's metropolitan areas. Thus, 60% of the rural population was living in areas in which at least 5% of the employed labour force was commuting on a daily basis to the city for work purposes. Thus, less than 8% of Canada's population in 2006 was living in areas where direct metropolitan influence was low or non-existent.

Figure 41

Distribution of the population by place of residence in Canada, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.

Glossary

Aboriginal persons:

Person who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, and/or who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada and/or who was a member of an Indian Band or First Nation.

Age:

Age at last birthday.

Baby-boom:

The period following World War II, 1946 to 1965, marked by an important increase in fertility rates and in the absolute number of births.

Census agglomeration:

Area formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a large urban area (urban core). A census agglomeration must have an urban core with a population of at least 10,000, without being a census metropolitan area.

Census coverage:

Undercoverage:

Number of persons not enumerated in a census (who were intended to have been enumerated)

Net undercoverage:

Difference between undercoverage and overcoverage.

Overcoverage:

Number of persons who should not have been counted in the census or who were counted more than once.

Census metropolitan area (CMA):

Area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A census metropolitan area must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core.

Cohort:

Represents a group of persons who have experienced a specific demographic event during a given period which can be a year. For example, the married cohort of 1966 consists of the number of persons who married in 1966. Persons born within a specific year could be referred to as a generation.

Demographic dependency ratio:

The ratio of the population outside the working-age population, i.e. persons under 15 or 65 years and over, to the working-age population (15 to 64 years).

Early neonatal mortality:

Mortality in the first week after birth. It is a part of infant mortality.

Europe 15 :

Group composed of the population of the 15 European Union countries before its enlargement in 2004 : Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Austria, Germany, Luxemburg, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, United Kingdom and Ireland.

Generation:

If not otherwise specified, refers here to all persons born in a given year, i.e. between January 1st and December 31st.

Infant mortality:

Mortality of children less than a year old.

Intensity:

Frequency of occurrence of an event among members of a given cohort.

International migration:

Movement of population between Canada and a foreign country which involves a permanent change in residence.

Immigrant:

Person who has been permitted by immigration authorities to live in Canada permanently.

Emigrant:

Person who leaves Canada to settle in another country.

Interprovincial migration:

Movement from one province to another involving a permanent change in residence. A person who takes up residence in another province is an out-migrant with reference to the province of origin and an in-migrant with reference to the province of destination.

Knowledge of official languages:

Refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in English only, in French only, in both English and French, or in neither of the official languages of Canada.

Life expectancy:

A statistical measure derived from the life table indicating the average number of years of life remaining for a person at a specific age *x*, if that person would experience during his life the age-specific mortality rates observed in a given year (e_o refers to life expectancy at birth).

Mean age:

The mean age of a population is the average age of all its members.

Median age:

The median age is an age “x”, such that exactly one half of the population is older than “x” and the other half is younger than “x”.

Metropolitan influenced zone:

Region formed by municipalities that are not part of a census agglomeration or a census metropolitan area but are subject to their influence, as measured by the percentage of persons who commute to work between their municipality of residence and the urban core of a census metropolitan area or a census agglomeration. Metropolitan influenced zones may be strong, moderate, low or absent depending on the percentage of residents who commute to work in the urban core of a census metropolitan area or a census agglomeration.

Mother tongue:

Refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood.

Natural increase:

Excess of births over deaths.

Neonatal mortality:

Mortality in the first month after birth. It is a part of infant mortality.

Net migration:

Difference between immigration and emigration or in-migration and out-migration for a given area and period of time.

Population growth:

A change, either positive or negative, in population size over a given period.

Population pyramid:

Bar chart that shows the distribution of a population by age and sex.

Post neonatal mortality:

Mortality between the ages of one month and one year. It is a part of infant mortality.

Rate:

The frequency of demographic events (births, deaths, migration, etc.) in a population in a specified period, generally a year, taking the mean of the population for that period. Crude rates are rates computed for an entire population. Specific rates are rates computed for a particular subgroup – usually the population at risk of having the event occur. Thus, rates can be age-specific, sex-specific, etc. A rate is age-standardized (or age-adjusted) when it results from the sum of age-specific rates, weighted on the basis of a reference population. Standardized rates are mainly used to compare populations with different age structures. They show what the frequency of an event in each of the compared populations would be if those populations had an identical age structure.

Replacement level:

Mean number of births per woman necessary to assure the long-term replacement of a population for a given mortality level, but not migration. Currently, the replacement level for Canadians is around 2.1 children per woman.

Survival ratio:

Probability of a survivor of exact age x to survive at least to age $x+a$. It is the complement to 1 of the probability of dying.

Tempo:

Distribution over time, within the cohort, of the demographic events corresponding to the investigated phenomenon.

Total fertility rate:

The sum of age-specific fertility rates during a given year. It indicates the average number of children that a generation of women would have if, over the course of their reproductive life, they had fertility rates identical to those of the year considered.

Total rate:

Sum of age-specific rates during a period. One of the most frequently used rates.

Visible minority:

Refers to the visible minority group to which a person belongs. The *Employment Equity Act* defines visible minorities as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.”

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