

# MIGRATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE to and from First Nations reserves

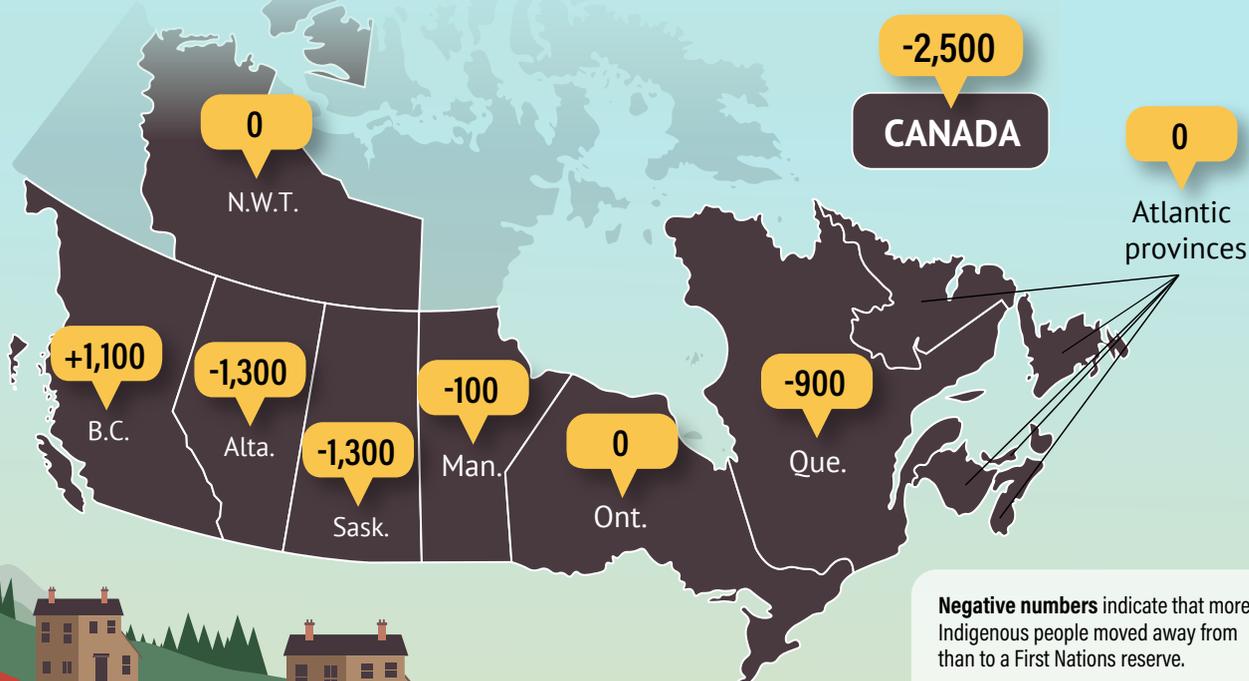
2016 to 2021

Indigenous people may decide to move to and away from First Nations communities for a variety of reasons, such as education, employment, family, and the connection to the community and home.<sup>1</sup>



**From 2016 to 2021, 29,000 Indigenous people moved to a First Nations reserve and 32,400 moved away from a reserve.** This difference between in- and out-migration represents a relatively small proportion of the Indigenous population living on reserve (1.2%).

Difference in the number of Indigenous people 15 years and over who moved to a First Nations reserve and away from a reserve, 2016 to 2021



**Negative numbers** indicate that more Indigenous people moved away from than to a First Nations reserve.  
**Positive numbers** indicate that more Indigenous people moved to than away from a First Nations reserve.

**More Indigenous people aged 30 and over moved to a reserve than away from a reserve, while the opposite was true for Indigenous people under 30**

Difference in the number of Indigenous people who moved to a First Nations reserve and away from a reserve, by age group, 2016 to 2021

Age group in 2016	Difference
0 to 14 years	-1,000
15 to 29 years	-3,500
30 to 59 years	+600
60 years or over	+300

**More Indigenous people aged 15 and over with a higher education level moved to a reserve than away from a reserve**

Difference in the number of Indigenous people 15 years and over who moved to a First Nations reserve and away from a reserve, by highest level of education, 2016 to 2021

Highest level of education	Difference
No certificate, diploma or degree	-3,900
High school diploma or equivalency certificate	+300
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	+1,100

1. First Nations Information Governance Centre, 2018.

**Notes:**

- Figures in this infographic are rounded to the nearest hundred. Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to rounding.
- While this infographic includes the entire Indigenous population, most Indigenous people who live on or move to or from a reserve identify as First Nations.
- Incompletely enumerated reserves and settlements as well as persons who were living in a collective dwelling in 2016 or 2021 are excluded from this infographic.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2016 Census long form and 2021 Census short form data linkage, and 2016 Census short form and 2021 Census long form data linkage; First Nations Information Governance Centre, 2018, *National Report of the First Nations Regional Health Survey Phase 3: Volume One*.

Catalogue number: 11-627-M | ISBN: 978-0-660-79247-7

© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Industry, 2025