

CANADA

MIGRATION

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Scale 1:7 500 000 or 1 centimetre represents 75 kilometres
75 150 300 450
kilometres
Lambert Conformal Conic Projection, Standard Parallels at 49°N and 77°N
Modified Polyconic Projection, North of Latitude 80°

MIGRATION

This map displays three different aspects of migration for the period 1971-86: the overall level of in- and out-movement (gross migration), the effect of this movement on population growth, or in- minus out-migration (net migration), and the level of in-movement from abroad (immigration). Total population, 1986, is used as the backdrop for the representation of migration activity. The three migration characteristics shown have unique national and regional patterns indicating different social and economic impacts.

Some of the highest rates of gross migration occur in small communities in the North and along the coast of British Columbia that are located on the periphery of the main areas of contiguous settlement. In such resource-based communities the opportunities for education, employment, and even selection of spouse, are limited so that major life-cycle adjustments may require a move out of the community. In contrast, almost all places east of Montreal display very low turnover (gross migration) rates. (Turnover rates range from a low of 40% over 15 years in Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec to a high of 270% in Stikine, British Columbia.) Low turnover rates in rural areas of eastern Canada (for example, in Newfoundland and Quebec) may be partially explained by the fact that these regions have developed traditional lifestyles with roles for all community members.

Net migration demonstrates the most transient pattern of the three migration characteristics. The next 15 years could produce a dramatically different distribution. Regionally, the high growth areas of Alberta and British Columbia contrast with low growth areas in the Atlantic provinces, especially Newfoundland. Slow economic growth leads to chronic out-migration while the opposite is true of areas with greater economic opportunities. However, an out-migration trend is also evident from large urban centres. The Montreal and Toronto urban cores, for example, exhibit a net loss of migrants who, in search of housing, relocate to the surrounding suburbs. As a result, these peripheral areas are gaining population.

The highest rates of immigration are associated with the largest cities or with rapidly growing frontier areas; conversely, the lowest values are found in rural census divisions. These are the most sharply defined patterns on the map. There is also a regional component to the pattern: western Canada can be seen as a significant recipient of immigrants, whereas few centres east of the Ontario-Quebec border receive high influxes. The growth of centres of immigration tends to be self-perpetuating. Waves of immigrants, responding to economic opportunities, have developed into substantial concentrations; in the process, communities and institutions have been established that further attract newcomers. Although immigration rates seldom affect population growth, they may have significant impacts on the social structure of a community by introducing new values and traditions.

It is possible to classify places for this time period according to combinations of these three migration characteristics. Since most census divisions are rural, the groupings that appear most frequently are also rural:

- resource towns in the West and North facing rapid population decline (low net, high gross migration; low immigration);
- isolated census divisions in Quebec and the Atlantic region that have undergone long-term net out-migration (low net, low gross migration; low immigration);
- rural service centres in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces that have been less severely affected by out-migration (medium net, low gross migration; low immigration);
- rapidly growing suburbs in Quebec and ex-urban retreats in Ontario and the West (high net, high gross migration; low immigration);
- rapidly growing city areas in Alberta and British Columbia (high net, high gross migration; medium to high immigration).

The most prevalent of all combinations—low net and medium gross migration—is found in urban census divisions (Toronto, Montreal), in rural census divisions in the West (mainly Manitoba and Saskatchewan) and in resource-based census divisions in Ontario. The census divisions that fall within this category are diverse and cannot be related by a single factor.

The migration rates for the three characteristics are based on census data and were calculated for each five-year census interval and added together to obtain a total migration rate for the 1971-86 period (see legend for details on calculations). Cumulating rates for each 5-year period minimizes error due to minor boundary changes of census divisions from one census to the next. The census records an individual's address at the time of census-taking and the place of residence 5 years earlier. As additional interim movement is ignored, total migration is underestimated.

The spatial units used for the map are the 266 census divisions defined for the Census of Canada, 1986. For Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver, two or more divisions were combined to reflect the reality of the integrated metropolitan region. The symbols on the map are generally located at the population centroid of a census division. However, when the population is dispersed evenly throughout a census division the symbol is placed at the geographic centre of the census division.

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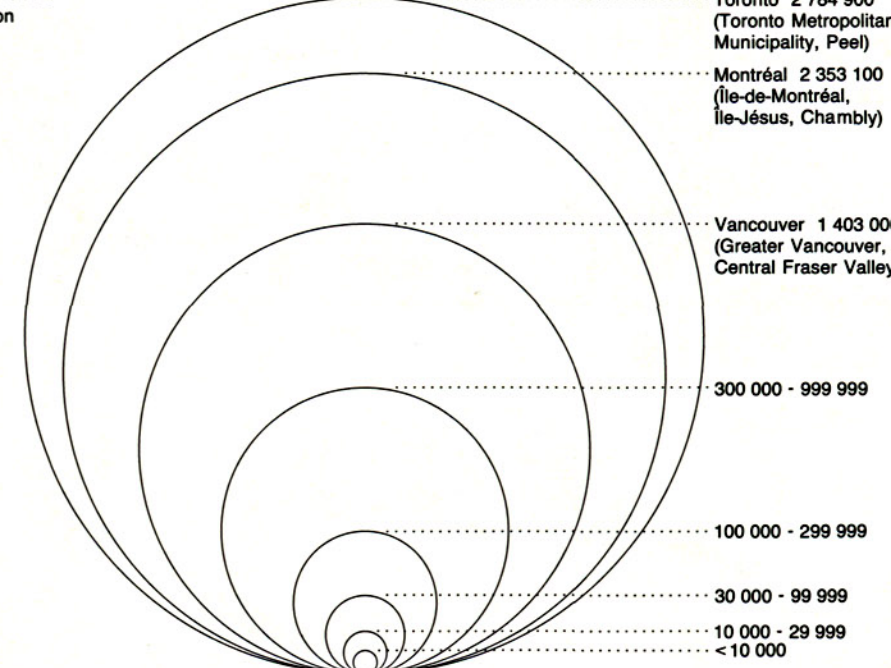
Digital technologies were used in part for the production and publication of this map.

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POPULATION, 1986

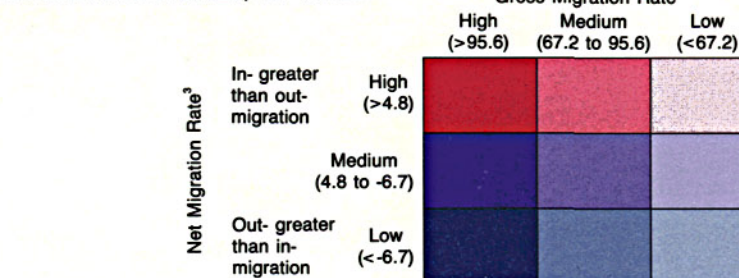
by Census Division



IMMIGRATION RATE, 1971-1986



GROSS AND NET MIGRATION RATES, 1971-1986



Immigration Rate: Immigration is defined as the movement of people from abroad into Canada. For each census division the immigration rate was calculated for the 1971-76 census period as follows:

$$\text{Immigration Rate} = \frac{\text{number of immigrants from abroad (1971-76)}}{\text{total population 5 years old and over (1976)}} \times 100$$

This calculation was repeated for the 1976-81 and 1981-86 census periods, and the three rates were summed to arrive at the final immigration rate used on this map sheet.

Gross Migration Rate: Gross migration is defined as the number of in-migrants plus the number of out-migrants and represents total movement. For each census division the gross migration rate was calculated for the 1971-76 census period as follows:

$$\text{Gross Migration Rate} = \left(\frac{\text{number of internal in-migrants (1971-76)}}{\text{total population 5 years old and over (1976)}} \times 100 \right) + \left(\frac{\text{number of internal out-migrants (1971-76)}}{\text{total population 5 years old and over (1976)}} \times 100 \right)$$

This calculation was repeated for the 1976-81 and 1981-86 census periods, and the three rates were summed to arrive at the final gross migration rate used on this map sheet.

Net Migration Rate: Net migration is defined as the number of in-migrants minus the number of out-migrants and shows the change in total population resulting from migration. For each census division the net migration rate was calculated for the 1971-76 census period as follows:

$$\text{Net Migration Rate} = \left(\frac{\text{number of internal in-migrants (1971-76)}}{\text{total population 5 years old and over (1976)}} \times 100 \right) - \left(\frac{\text{number of internal out-migrants (1971-76)}}{\text{total population 5 years old and over (1976)}} \times 100 \right)$$

This calculation was repeated for the 1976-81 and 1981-86 census periods, and the three rates were summed to arrive at the final net migration rate used on this map sheet.