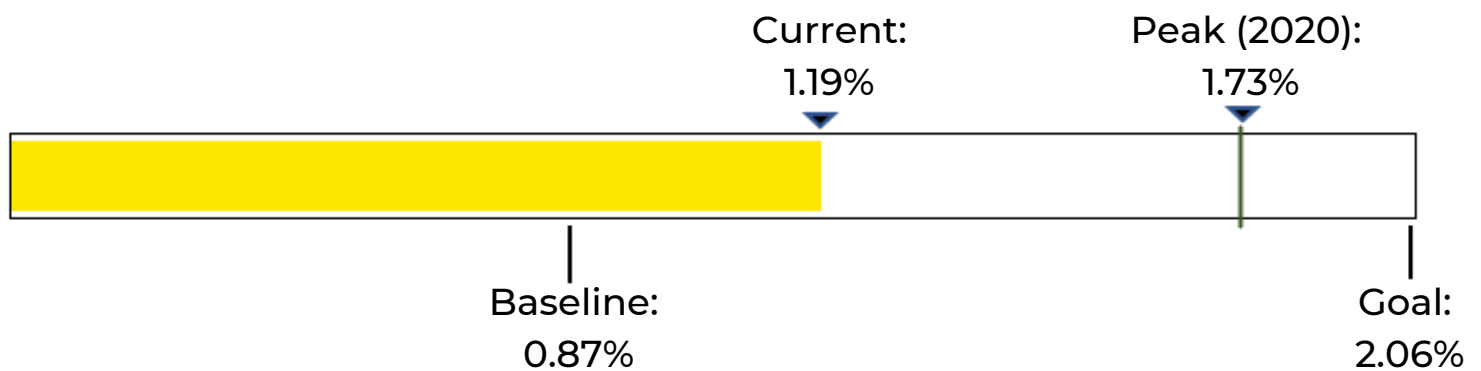




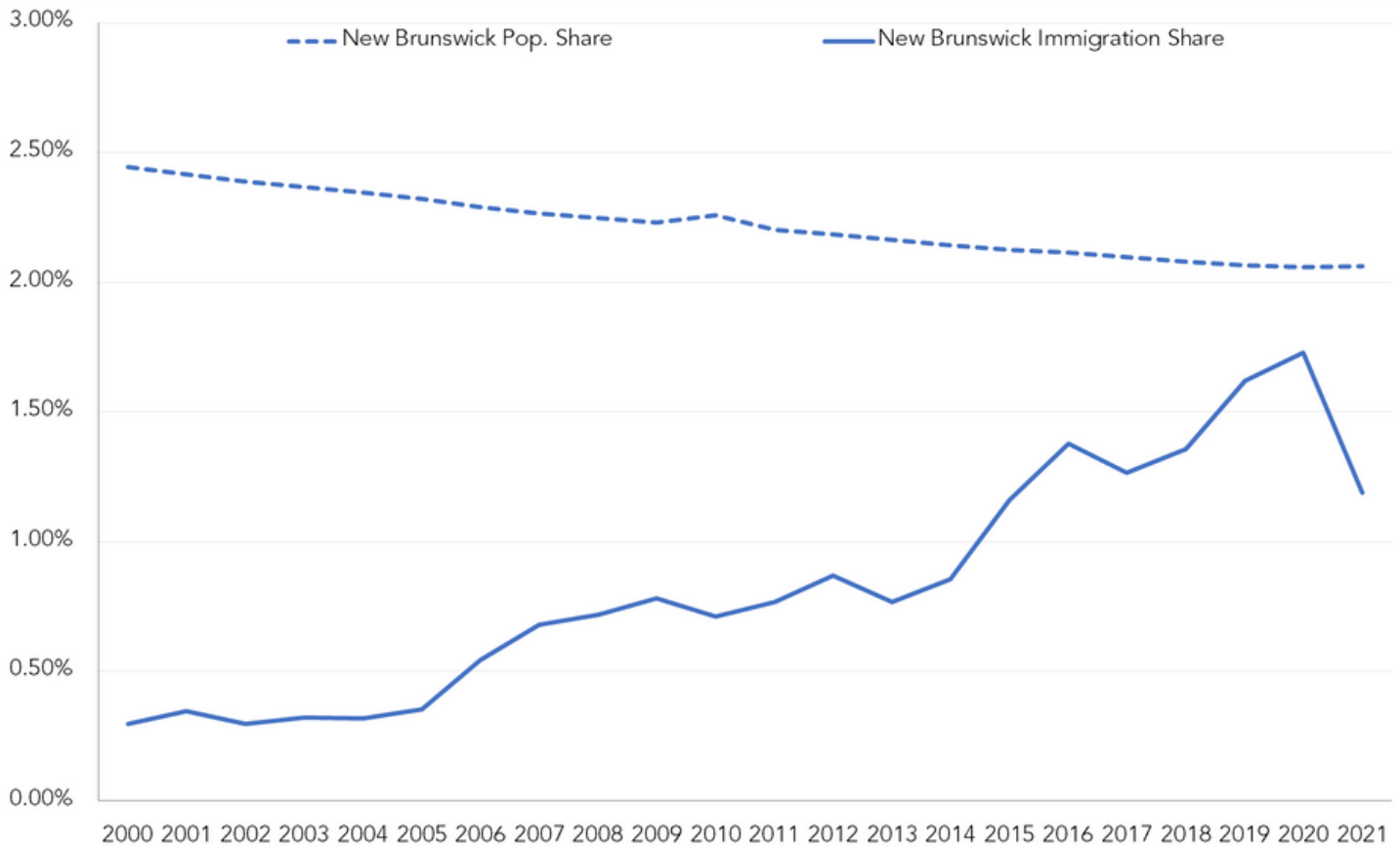
# INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRATION

STATUS: 🟡 PROGRESSING, NOT ON TRACK



New Brunswick will receive a percentage of international immigrants equal to its national population share.

# Figure 1: New Brunswick's Population and Immigration Share



(See full data in Appendix A)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- New Brunswick in the last fifty years has always received a smaller portion of immigrants than its population share.
- In 2021 New Brunswick received a far smaller share of immigrants than in previous years.
- In 2021 New Brunswick's population share was 2.06% but its share of immigrants was only 1.19%.
- Immigration of young, skilled workers is key to correcting New Brunswick's population demographics and creating a matched workforce.

# OVERVIEW

## Importance

International immigration is crucial to increasing New Brunswick's population. Immigration will help develop communities, meet employment needs in the province, and grow the local economy through consumption in the province increasing local demand. In this report, all numbers are compared to that of Nova Scotia because of the two provinces' comparable sizes and economies.

## Problem

New Brunswick's population share is shrinking due to an aging population and poor retention of youth and immigrants. In 1976, New Brunswick's population share peaked at 2.94%; however, it has since dropped by 30%, reaching 2.06% in 2021.

## Cause

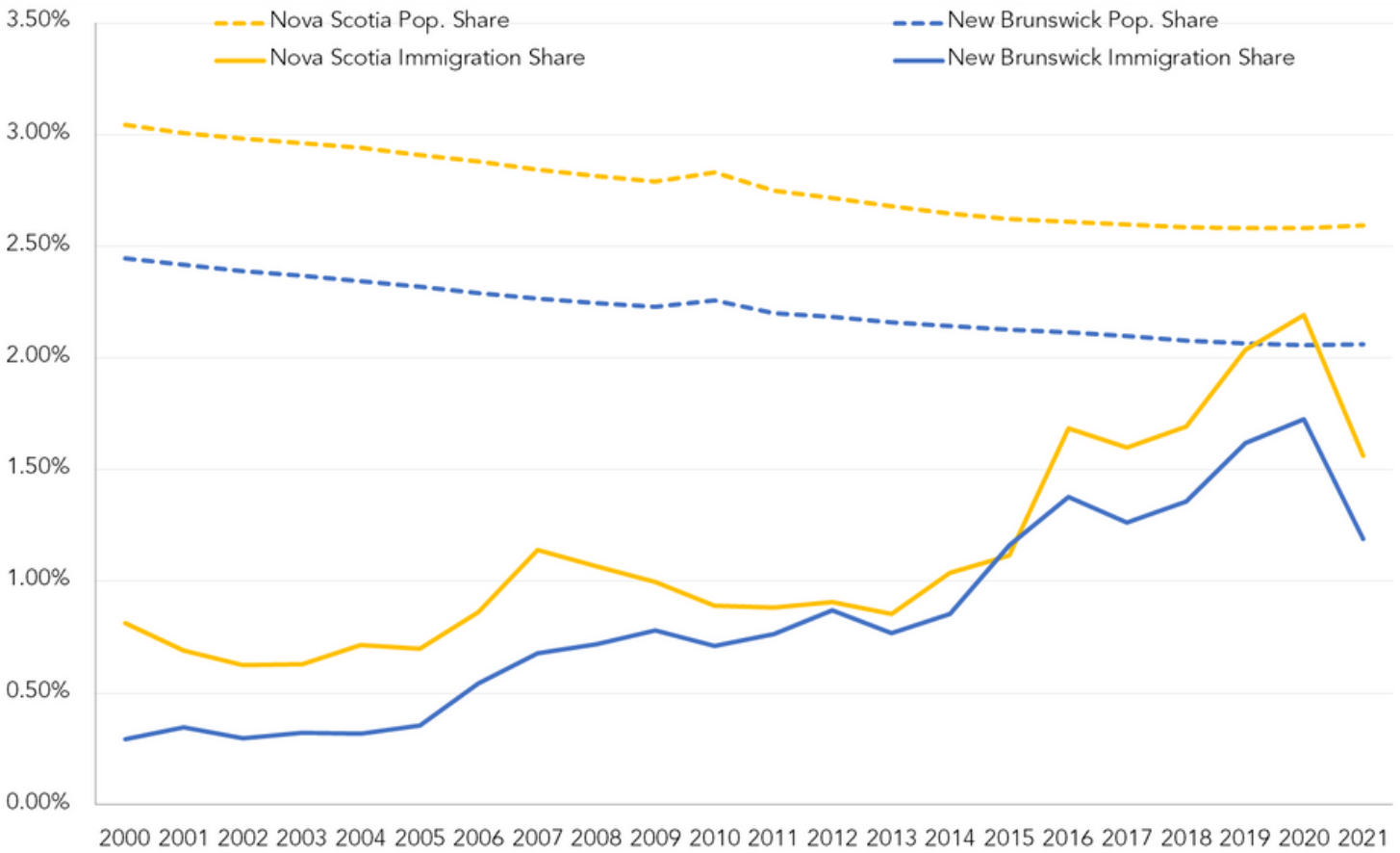
New Brunswick's low population growth rate can be seen as the result of several factors. First is an imbalance between the aging population and the youth population. Low fertility rates – too few births – have caused New Brunswick's death rates to exceed its birth rates every year since 2015. Youth leaving New Brunswick in search of employment has also put negative pressure on the province's population share. These factors can be offset by net positive immigration.

# IN THE NUMBERS

## International Immigration Share in the Province

Although New Brunswick was previously on track to attain a percentage of international immigrants equal to its population share, 2021 marked a sharp decrease in the province's immigration share. Figure 2 shows New Brunswick's population and immigration shares in comparison with Nova Scotia. In 2021, New Brunswick received only 1.13% of the immigrant population arriving in Canada, less than the approximated 2.06% population share.

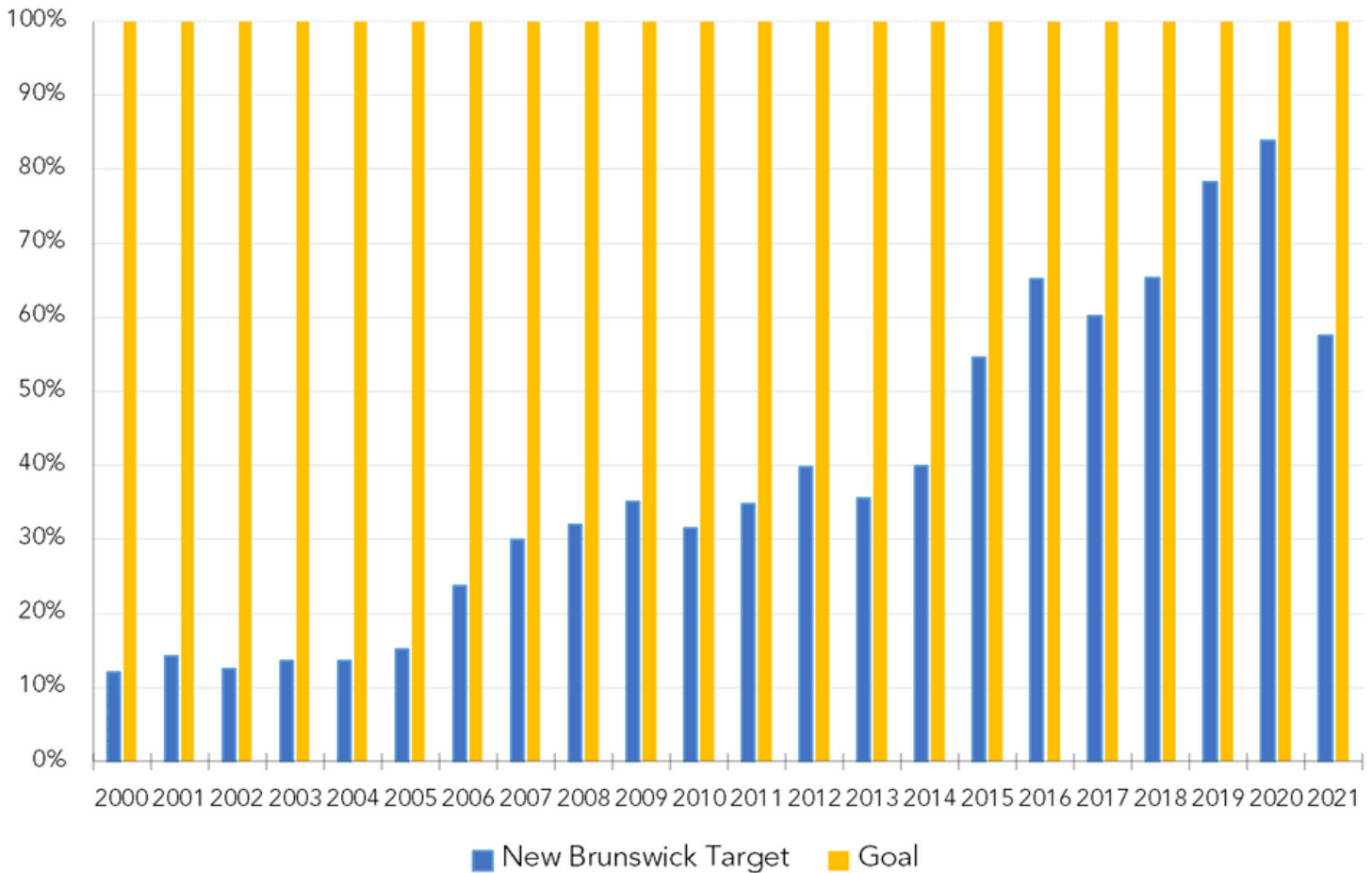
Figure 2: Population and Immigration Share of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia



(See full data in Appendix A)

As presented in Figure 3, the province achieved 84% of the suggested goal in 2020. This number dropped to 58% in 2021. This more than fully offset the gains made in interprovincial migration in the same year.

**Figure 3: Percentage of Goal - Share of Immigrants to Share of National Population**



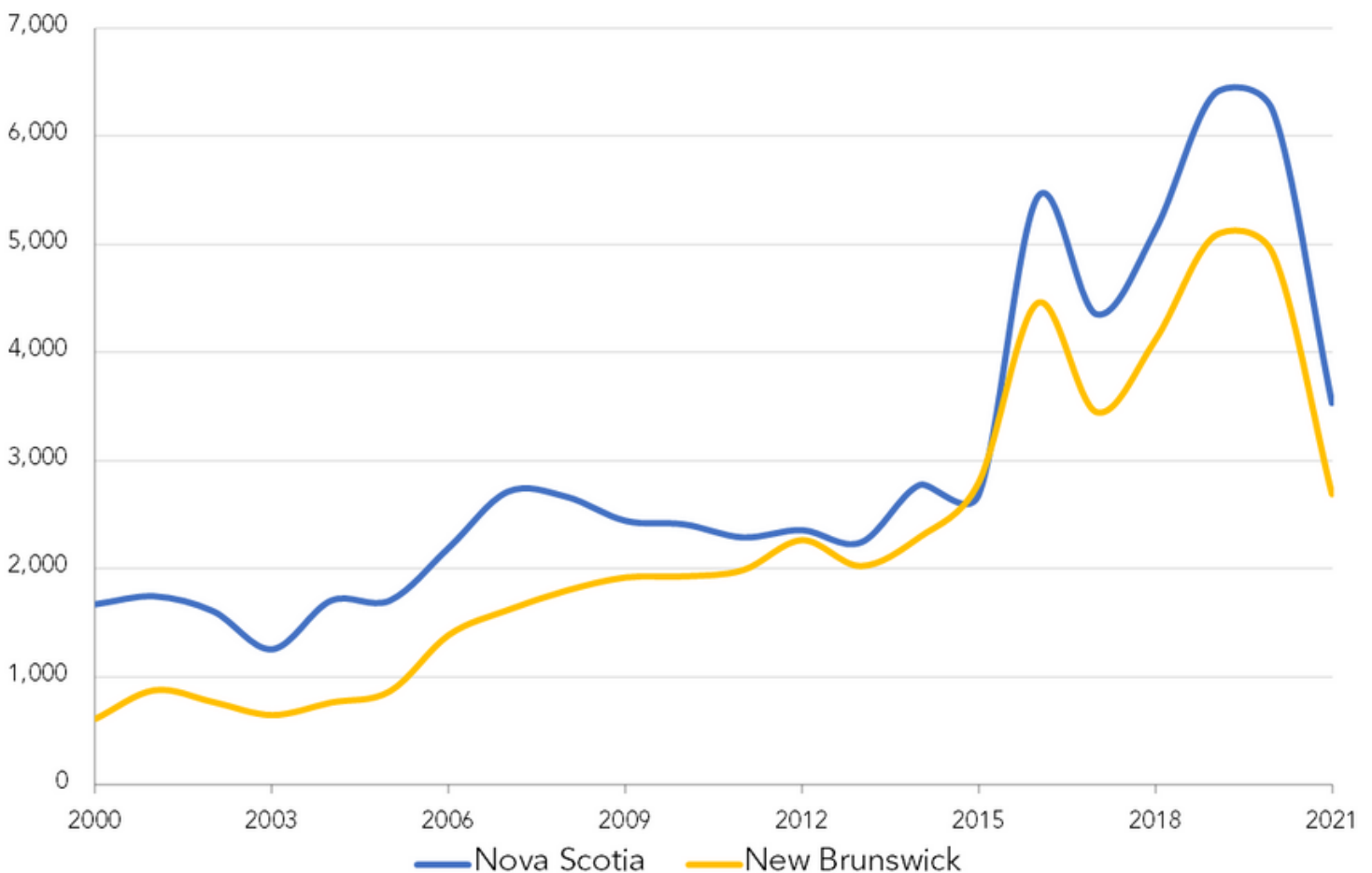
(See full data in Appendix B)

# A CLOSER LOOK

## Annual Immigration Settlement

From 2000 to 2005, New Brunswick experienced its lowest immigration levels in 40 years, whereas Nova Scotia saw considerably higher numbers (see Figure 3). From 2006 to 2019, New Brunswick's immigration numbers increased, reaching their highest point in 2016. This was due to an influx of Syrian refugees. In 2021, immigration totals decreased in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia due to various factors, although Nova Scotia continued to receive more immigrants than New Brunswick.

Figure 3: Number of Migrants Settling Annually



(See full data in Appendix C)



# SUMMARY

- New Brunswick's population share is declining due to an aging population and poor retention of its younger population.
- Increasing the province's population share could stimulate economic growth. This could be accomplished by receiving a larger number of international immigrants and students.
- If New Brunswick adopts the same strategy outlined by OneNS ([onens.ca](http://onens.ca)), it should aim to receive a percentage of international immigrants equal to New Brunswick's share of the Canadian population, approximately 2.06%.
- This goal has shown progress over a twenty-year period, but recent data shows a sharp drop in 2021. This has caused us to downgrade the goal from progressing on track to progressing not on track.

# APPENDIX A

## Population and Immigration Share

Year	Nova Scotia Pop. Share	New Brunswick Pop. Share	Nova Scotia Immigration Share	New Brunswick Immigration Share
1972	3.61%	2.92%	1.46%	0.92%
1973	3.61%	2.92%	1.39%	1.03%
1974	3.59%	2.91%	1.41%	1.05%
1975	3.57%	2.93%	1.12%	0.95%
1976	3.56%	2.94%	1.18%	1.32%
1977	3.54%	2.93%	1.42%	1.09%
1978	3.52%	2.92%	1.21%	0.74%
1979	3.51%	2.91%	1.14%	0.82%
1980	3.48%	2.88%	1.31%	1.06%
1981	3.44%	2.85%	1.00%	0.76%
1982	3.42%	2.82%	1.09%	0.65%
1983	3.42%	2.82%	0.92%	0.65%
1984	3.43%	2.81%	1.06%	0.63%
1985	3.43%	2.80%	1.25%	0.71%
1986	3.41%	2.78%	1.10%	0.70%
1987	3.38%	2.75%	0.89%	0.52%
1988	3.35%	2.73%	0.80%	0.38%
1989	3.31%	2.70%	0.82%	0.41%
1990	3.29%	2.67%	0.71%	0.47%
1991	3.26%	2.66%	0.70%	0.33%
1992	3.24%	2.64%	0.79%	0.33%
1993	3.22%	2.61%	0.97%	0.28%
1994	3.20%	2.59%	1.31%	0.25%
1995	3.17%	2.56%	1.69%	0.31%
1996	3.15%	2.54%	1.56%	0.30%
1997	3.12%	2.52%	1.38%	0.30%
1998	3.09%	2.49%	1.33%	0.37%
1999	3.07%	2.47%	0.94%	0.43%
2000	3.04%	2.45%	0.81%	0.30%
2001	3.01%	2.42%	0.69%	0.35%
2002	2.98%	2.39%	0.63%	0.30%
2003	2.96%	2.37%	0.63%	0.32%
2004	2.94%	2.35%	0.71%	0.32%
2005	2.91%	2.32%	0.70%	0.35%
2006	2.88%	2.29%	0.86%	0.54%
2007	2.84%	2.27%	1.14%	0.68%
2008	2.81%	2.25%	1.07%	0.72%
2009	2.79%	2.23%	1.00%	0.78%
2010	2.83%	2.26%	0.89%	0.71%
2011	2.75%	2.20%	0.88%	0.77%
2012	2.72%	2.18%	0.91%	0.87%
2013	2.68%	2.16%	0.85%	0.77%
2014	2.65%	2.14%	1.04%	0.86%
2015	2.62%	2.13%	1.12%	1.16%
2016	2.61%	2.11%	1.68%	1.38%
2017	2.60%	2.10%	1.60%	1.26%
2018	2.59%	2.08%	1.69%	1.36%
2019	2.58%	2.07%	2.04%	1.62%
2020	2.58%	2.06%	2.19%	1.73%
2021	2.59%	2.06%	1.56%	1.19%

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0004: Components of population growth, Canada, provinces and territories, annual (persons) (1); Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0005: Estimates of population, Canada, provinces and territories, quarterly (persons) (1,2,3,6)



# APPENDIX B

## Percentage of Goal: Share of Immigrants to Share of National Population

Year	NB Share of Target
1972	31.63%
1973	35.31%
1974	35.96%
1975	32.64%
1976	44.83%
1977	37.11%
1978	25.48%
1979	28.06%
1980	36.93%
1981	26.59%
1982	23.16%
1983	23.17%
1984	22.39%
1985	25.37%
1986	25.38%
1987	18.82%
1988	13.98%
1989	15.29%
1990	17.55%
1991	12.54%
1992	12.48%
1993	10.74%
1994	9.67%
1995	11.95%
1996	11.69%
1997	11.89%
1998	14.81%
1999	17.59%
2000	12.10%
2001	14.32%
2002	12.49%
2003	13.67%
2004	13.55%
2005	15.24%
2006	23.80%
2007	29.94%
2008	32.05%
2009	35.06%
2010	31.56%
2011	34.83%
2012	39.84%
2013	35.58%
2014	39.96%
2015	54.66%
2016	65.25%
2017	60.27%
2018	65.29%
2019	78.32%
2020	83.92%
2021	57.61%

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0004: Components of population growth, Canada, provinces and territories, annual (persons) (1); Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0005: Estimates of population, Canada, provinces and territories, quarterly (persons) (1,2,3,6)

# APPENDIX C

## Net In-Migration by Province

Year	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick
1972	1,709	1,081
1973	1,923	1,428
1974	3,064	2,279
1975	2,342	1,998
1976	2,004	2,241
1977	1,854	1,425
1978	1,219	751
1979	967	689
1980	1,885	1,530
1981	1,271	963
1982	1,470	883
1983	937	662
1984	939	558
1985	1,049	596
1986	974	625
1987	1,170	678
1988	1,212	580
1989	1,452	732
1990	1,454	954
1991	1,542	738
1992	1,927	804
1993	2,599	748
1994	3,084	589
1995	3,726	676
1996	3,397	646
1997	3,111	673
1998	2,590	717
1999	1,624	752
2000	1,674	609
2001	1,747	874
2002	1,609	765
2003	1,257	645
2004	1,707	760
2005	1,708	865
2006	2,197	1,386
2007	2,715	1,616
2008	2,668	1,797
2009	2,446	1,918
2010	2,413	1,928
2011	2,292	1,986
2012	2,360	2,263
2013	2,246	2,024
2014	2,779	2,293
2015	2,688	2,797
2016	5,442	4,458
2017	4,357	3,448
2018	5,137	4,116
2019	6,395	5,076
2020	6,234	4,910
2021	3,536	2,689

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0004: Components of population growth, Canada, provinces, and territories, annual (persons) (1)