

GOAL 1: INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRATION

New Brunswick will average a net gain of 800 working-age persons per year.

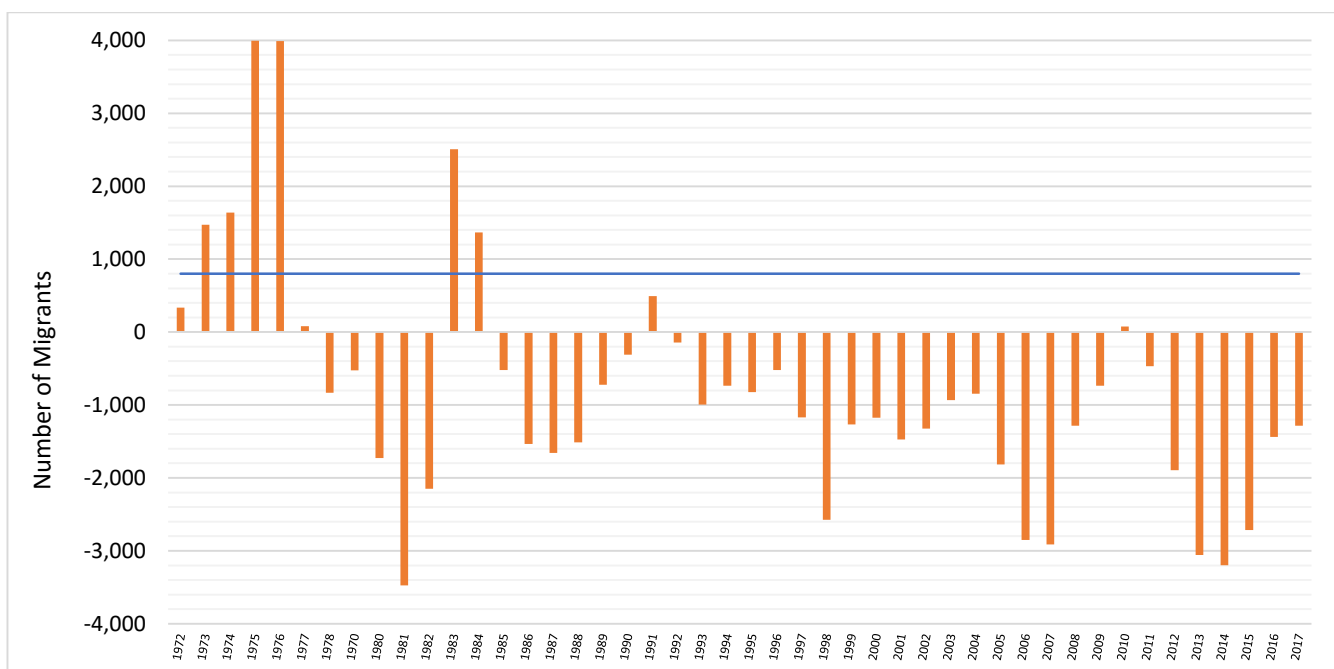
Status: NOT PROGRESSING

Current Situation

For New Brunswick to effectively stimulate economic development, it should consider promoting population growth through interprovincial migration. If it follows the goal set by Nova Scotia through *OneNS* (and adjusts it to scale), New Brunswick will aim to average a net gain of 800 working-age persons through interprovincial migration every year.

Census data shows that New Brunswick was the only Canadian province to experience a population decline between 2011 and 2016. This is due in part to the province's quickly aging population, as many younger, working-age New Brunswickers are migrating to other provinces. Meanwhile, not enough persons are migrating to New Brunswick to make up for this population loss. Since 1991, New Brunswick has only had one year of net gain in interprovincial migration (in 2010), and it has maintained a negative level since. Most recently, in 2017, the province saw a net loss of 1,283 working-age people. On a positive note, however, this number is lower than it was in previous years. Since 2014, New Brunswick has seen a reduction in the number of people leaving the province and migrating to other provinces such as Ontario and Alberta. Nonetheless, New Brunswick is still far from the suggested goal and continues to show an annual net loss. In addition, interprovincial migration has fluctuated historically, so we cannot be sure that the current progressive trend will continue. Although there have been fluctuations in the *extent* of out-migration, the larger trend over the last 30 years has been that working-age persons are leaving New Brunswick for other provinces.

Figure 1: Net Migration (NB)



Data: Figure 1	In-Migration	Out-Migration	Net Migration
1972	13,667	13,334	333
1973	14,155	12,683	1,472
1974	15,105	13,468	1,637
1975	15,771	11,776	3,995
1976	15,253	11,261	3,992
1977	10,185	10,105	80
1978	9,426	10,257	-831
1970	9,419	9,946	-527
1980	8,876	10,602	-1,726
1981	9,033	12,507	-3,474
1982	9,608	11,759	-2,151
1983	10,579	8,071	2,508
1984	8,922	7,556	1,366
1985	7,726	8,246	-520
1986	8,180	9,715	-1,535
1987	8,324	9,982	-1,658
1988	9,184	10,697	-1,513
1989	10,288	11,012	-724
1990	10,875	11,184	-309
1991	9,959	9,466	493
1992	8,914	9,056	-142
1993	8,211	9,206	-995
1994	7,567	8,304	-737
1995	7,619	8,441	-822
1996	8,314	8,836	-522
1997	7,786	8,957	-1,171
1998	7,684	10,257	-2,573
1999	7,362	8,627	-1,265
2000	7,964	9,138	-1,174
2001	7,480	8,951	-1,471
2002	8,510	9,832	-1,322
2003	8,204	9,138	-934
2004	7,827	8,672	-845
2005	7,840	9,654	-1,814
2006	7,656	10,509	-2,853
2007	7,750	10,662	-2,912
2008	8,331	9,615	-1,284
2009	8,166	8,900	-734
2010	7,956	7,880	76
2011	7,328	7,795	-467
2012	7,151	9,046	-1,895
2013	6,101	9,160	-3,059
2014	6,473	9,670	-3,197
2015	6,481	9,196	-2,715
2016	7,210	8,648	-1,438
2017	7,827	9,110	-1,283

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0015-01 *adjusted for working ages 18 to 64

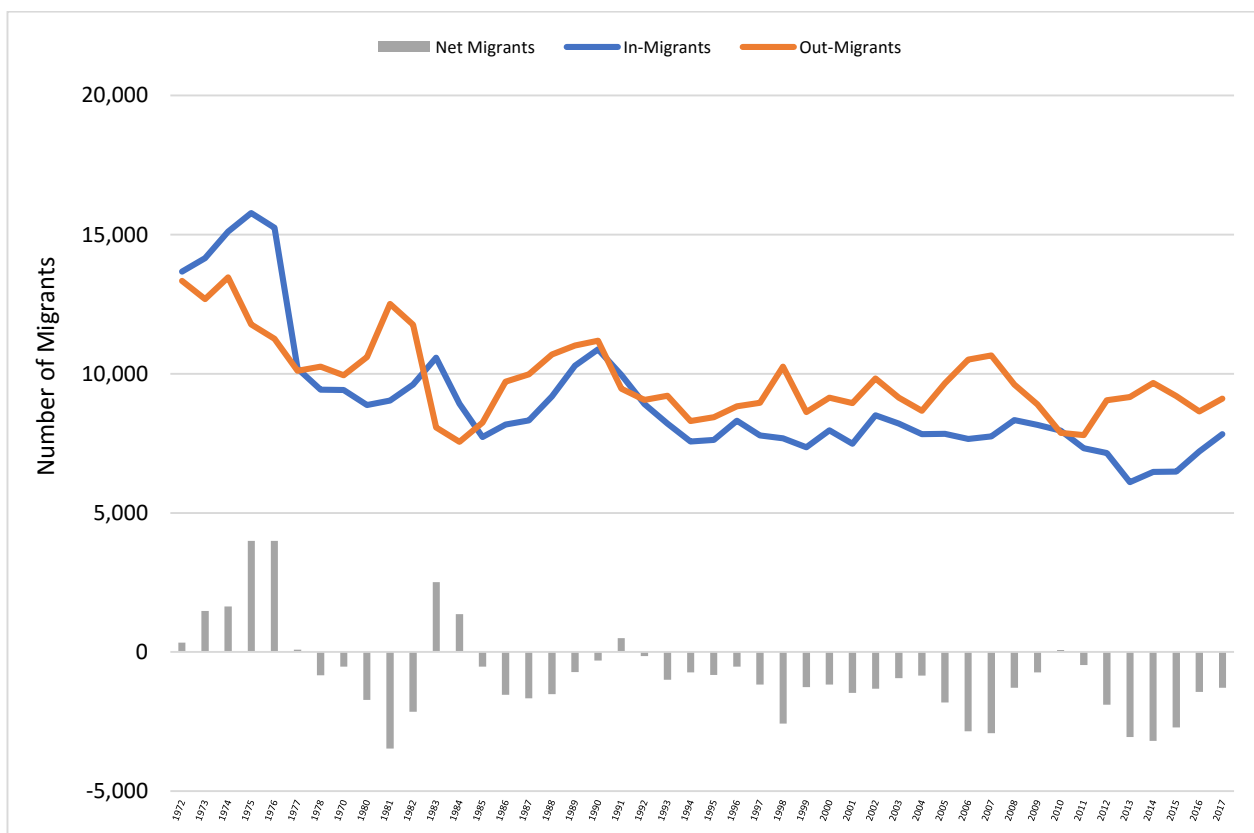
What This Means

New Brunswick has not seen a multi-year, positive net interprovincial migration of working-age individuals since 1982-1983. New Brunswickers are consistently leaving the province, and not enough working-age people from other provinces are migrating to New Brunswick to make up for the population loss. If the current trend of decreasing out-migration continues, the province may achieve the suggested goal; however, as positive trends in net migration levels have historically been short-lived, we cannot predict whether current trends will continue.

DEEP DIVE

There was great variation in the levels of interprovincial migration to and from New Brunswick between 1970 and 1990. Since then, migration trends have remained steady, insofar as out-migration has consistently been higher than in-migration. As a result, a negative trend in net migration has been ongoing since the 1990s. However, New Brunswick experienced positive net migration levels following 2009, 1990, and 1981, which suggest that there are low levels of out-migration during national recessions.

Figure 2: Interprovincial Migration (NB)



Data: Figure 2	In-Migration	Out-Migration	Net Migration
1972	13,667	13,334	333
1973	14,155	12,683	1,472

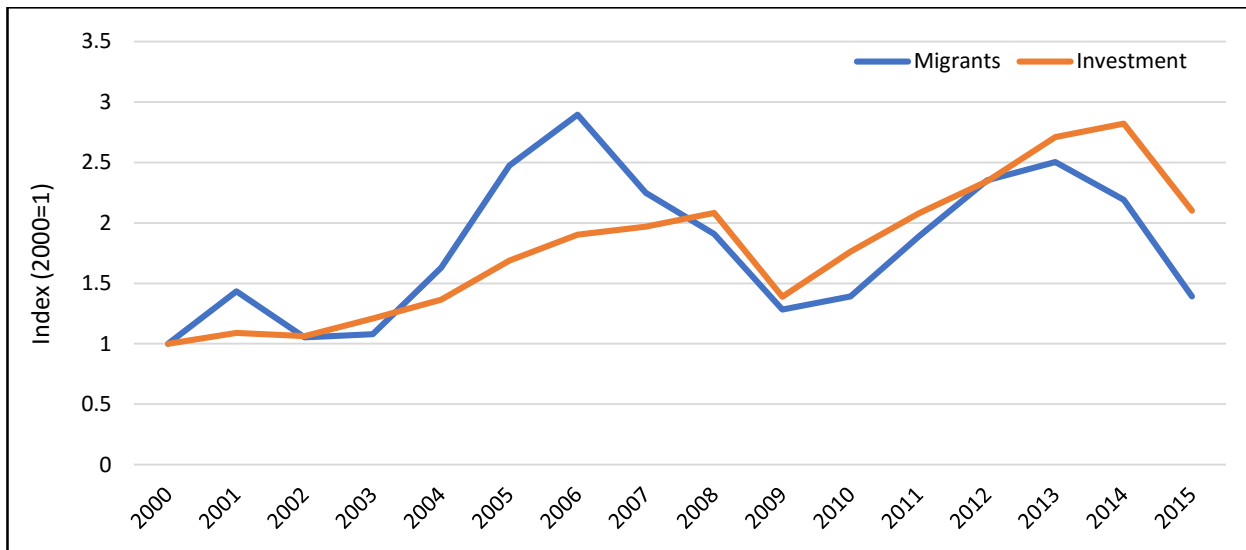
1974	15,105	13,468	1,637
1975	15,771	11,776	3,995
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Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0015-01 *adjusted for working ages 18 to 64

What This Means

New Brunswick saw significant levels of out-migration during the 2003-2007 economic expansion, as well as following the recession of 2008-2009. As was argued by *OneNS* regarding Nova Scotia's similar experience, these patterns demonstrate that migration flows for working-age people have been driven by economic conditions and demands for labour in the western provinces, rather than by economic conditions at home.

Figure 3: Alberta Investment and Migration from New Brunswick



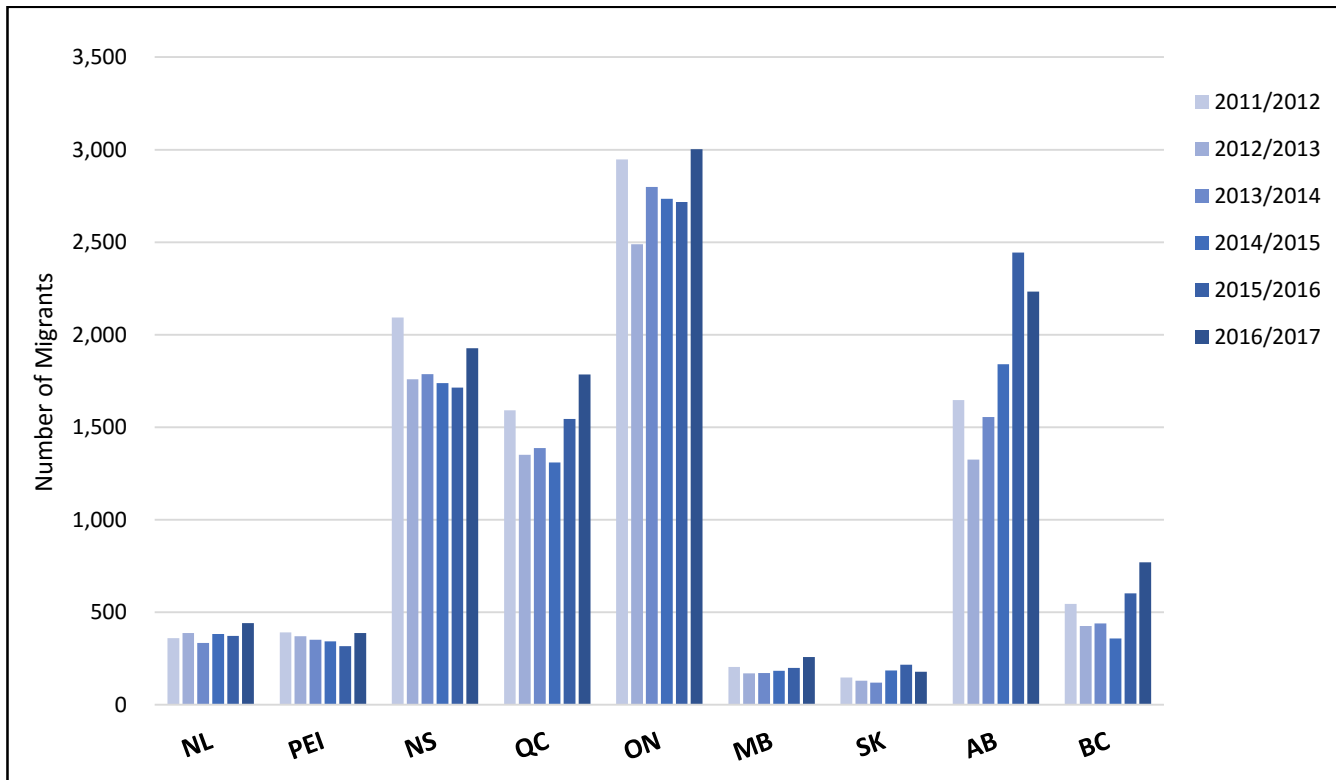
Data: Figure 3	Index of Migrants (2000=1)	Index of Investment (2000=1)
2000	1	1
2001	1.434618	1.09074
2002	1.053064	1.063062
2003	1.079596	1.209013
2004	1.628553	1.363783
2005	2.473784	1.688273
2006	2.895136	1.90166
2007	2.248895	1.968057
2008	1.908402	2.08192
2009	1.283007	1.388054
2010	1.390398	1.761481
2011	1.888819	2.078909
2012	2.351864	2.344854
2013	2.502843	2.710071
2014	2.19204	2.820528
2015	1.391661	2.102033

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0022-01; *OneNS* (Alberta Investment Levels)

Historically, Ontario has been the main destination for migrants from New Brunswick. However, Alberta periodically replaced Ontario as the primary destination for New Brunswickers from 2012/2013 to 2014/2015 (see Figure 5). In periods of growth and increased investment in Alberta’s oil economy, interprovincial migrants have responded to the rising labour demand.

Meanwhile, low oil prices and declining capital investment in Alberta beginning in 2013 have been accompanied by a decrease in migrants originating from New Brunswick. In 2017, only 1,929 New Brunswickers moved to Alberta—2,033 less than in 2013. In the same year, 2,223 migrants from Alberta moved to New Brunswick—678 more than in 2013. As a result, New Brunswick eliminated its net population loss to Alberta and has had positive migrant numbers since 2015. It has also eliminated its net population losses to British Columbia and Manitoba and maintained a net positive population gain from Quebec (see Figure 6).

Figure 4: Interprovincial Migrants to New Brunswick, by Province of Origin

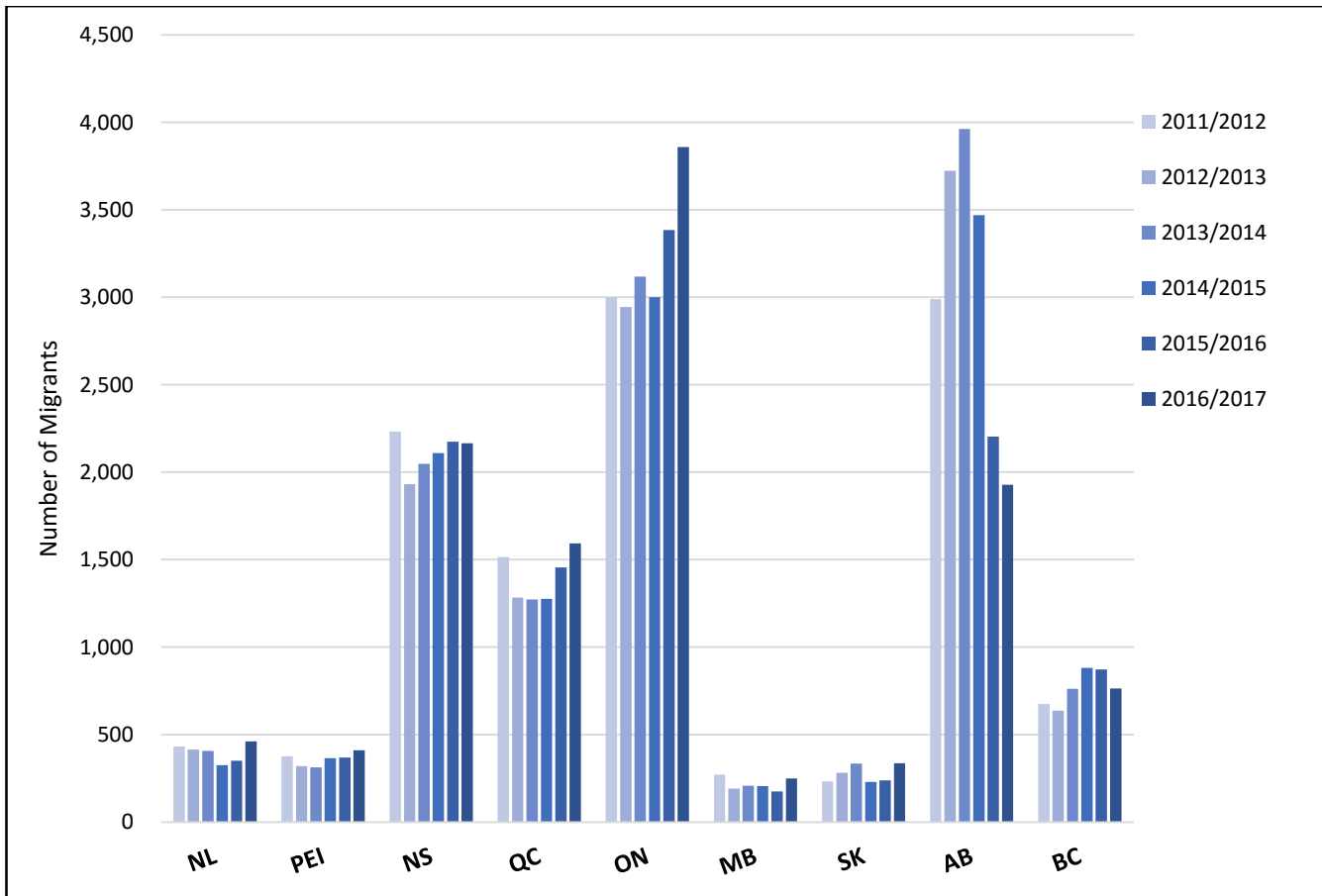


Data: Figure 4	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
NL	361	389	334	383	373	442
PEI	391	370	351	344	318	388
NS	2,093	1,759	1,787	1,739	1,714	1,928
QC	1,591	1,352	1,388	1,309	1,545	1,785

ON	2,947	2,489	2,799	2,734	2,718	3,003
MB	205	170	172	184	199	258
SK	148	130	120	186	217	179
AB	1,647	1,326	1,555	1,840	2,445	2,233
BC	545	426	440	358	602	771

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0022-01

Figure 5: Interprovincial Migrants from New Brunswick, by Province of Destination

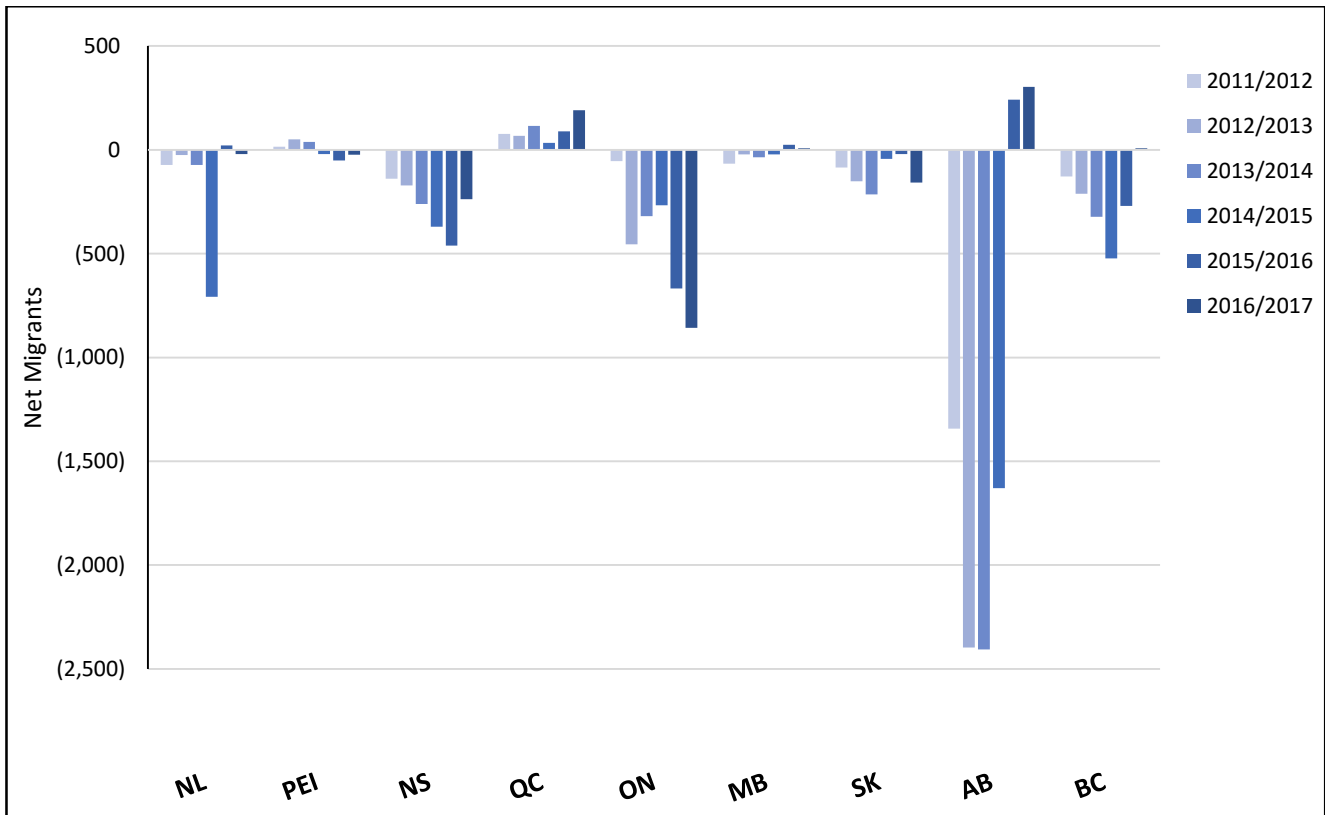


Data: Figure 5	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
NL	433	414	407	325	351	462
PEI	376	319	313	365	369	411
NS	2,232	1,931	2,048	2,110	2,175	2,166
QC	1,515	1,284	1,272	1,276	1,456	1,594
ON	3,001	2,944	3,119	3,001	3,385	3,860

MB	271	192	208	206	175	250
SK	233	281	334	229	238	337
AB	2,990	3,723	3,962	3,470	2,203	1,929
BC	674	637	762	881	872	764

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0022-01

Figure 6: Net Provincial Migration (NB), by Province



Data: Figure 6	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
NL	-72	-25	-73	-708	22	-20
PEI	15	51	38	-21	-51	-23
NS	-139	-172	-261	-371	-461	-238
QC	76	68	116	33	89	191
ON	-54	-455	-320	-267	-667	-857
MB	-66	-22	-36	-22	24	8
SK	-85	-151	-214	-43	-21	-158
AB	-1,343	-2,397	-2,407	-1,630	242	304
BC	-129	-211	-322	-523	-270	7

**Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0022-01*

Notes

- “Working-age” is defined as ages 18 to 64.
- Net provincial migration by province is derived by subtracting in-migrants from out-migrants (not adjusted for age).
- The suggest provincial goal of gaining 800 net interprovincial migrants per year is based on Nova Scotia’s goal of gaining 1,000 per year, while accounting for provincial differences in population sizes.