



July 4, 2022

Prince Edward Island Population Projections 2022 – 2061

Population projections are a fundamental tool to understand the trends in the overall size and composition of a population. Projections are prepared annually by the PEI Statistics Bureau to provide organizations with a basis on which to analyze and make planning decisions on issues that are population dependent, such as estimating the future demand for schools, hospitals, long-term care, and the size of the labour force.

Population Projection Highlights – Medium Growth

Under the scenario considered:

- PEI’s medium growth scenario projects the population to increase to 261,223 by 2061. (see Diagram 1)
- After reaching 97,905 in 2011, the total working age population of persons aged 15 to 64 began to decline. Beginning in 2016, increased immigration helped to reverse this decline in the working age population, which is now projected to increase to 165,520 by 2061. (see Diagram 8)
- Natural increase (births minus deaths), which was adding nearly 1,000 people per year in the late 70’s, has since dropped to negative numbers in recent years. Immigration is projected to increase the number of women 15 to 40 years old and will in turn increase the number of births. This may be enough to turn natural increase positive again for the near future, however, the projected increase in the number of deaths is projected to outpace births once again by 2026. (see Diagram 2)
- With natural increase projected to turn negative in 2026, international and inter-provincial migration will have a large impact on population growth or decline. Diagram 5 shows the trend in past and projected levels of international migration while interprovincial migration trends are shown in Diagram 6.

Diagram 1

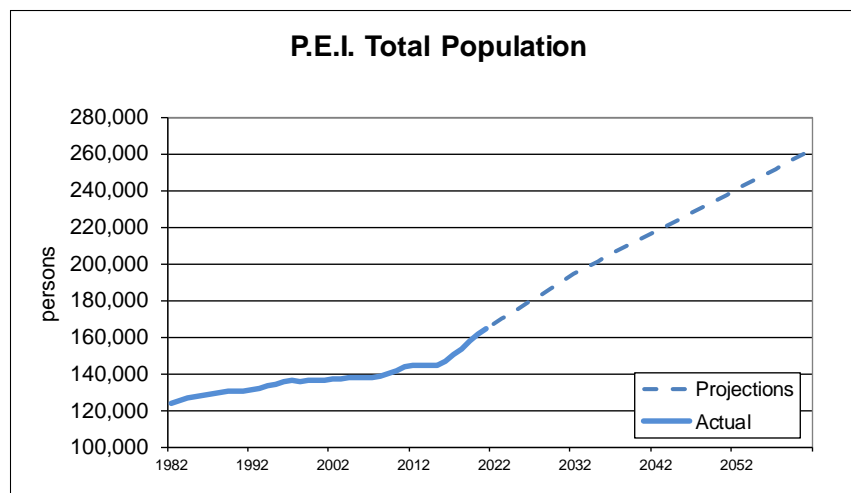


Diagram 2

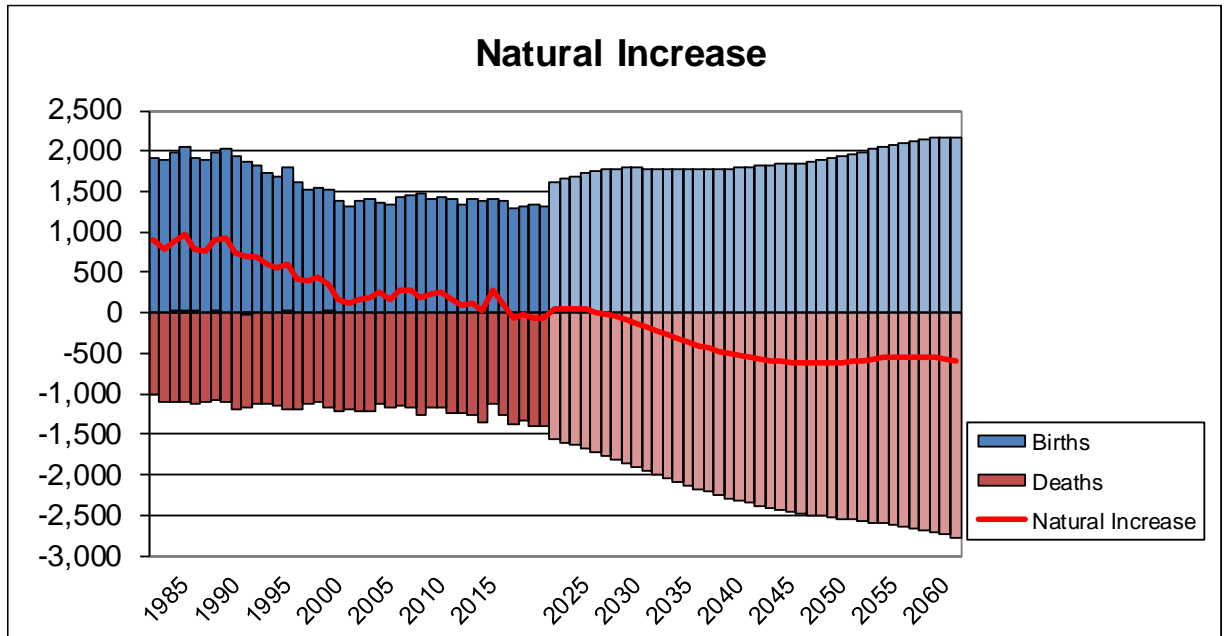


Diagram 3

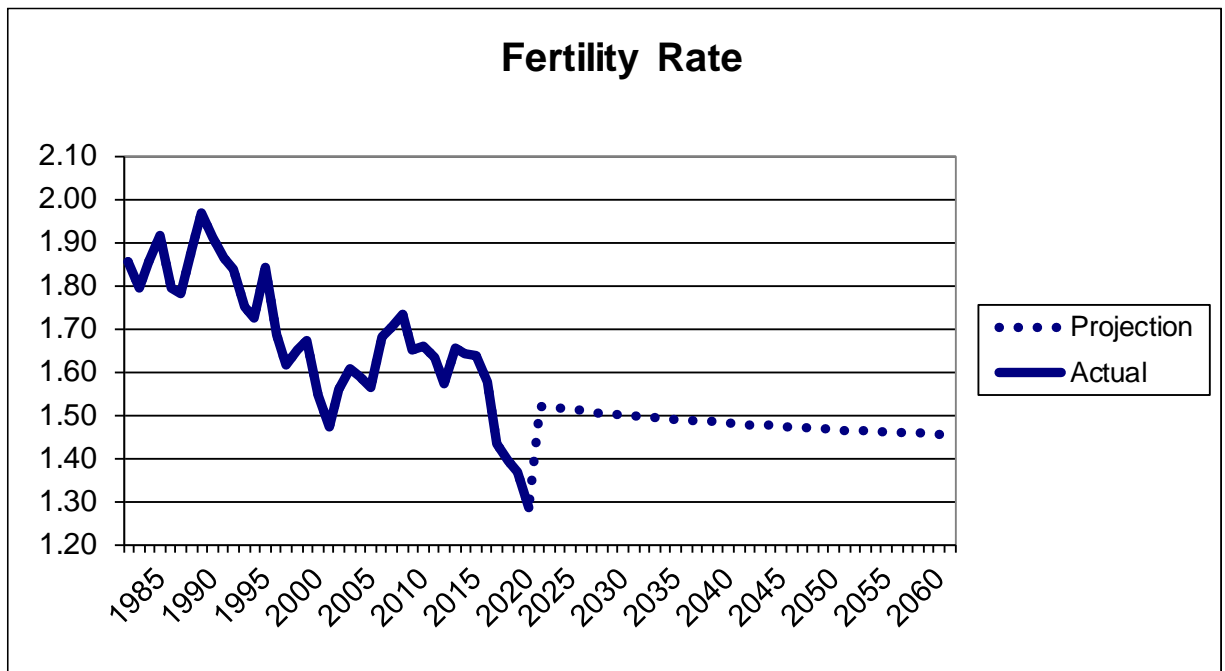


Diagram 4

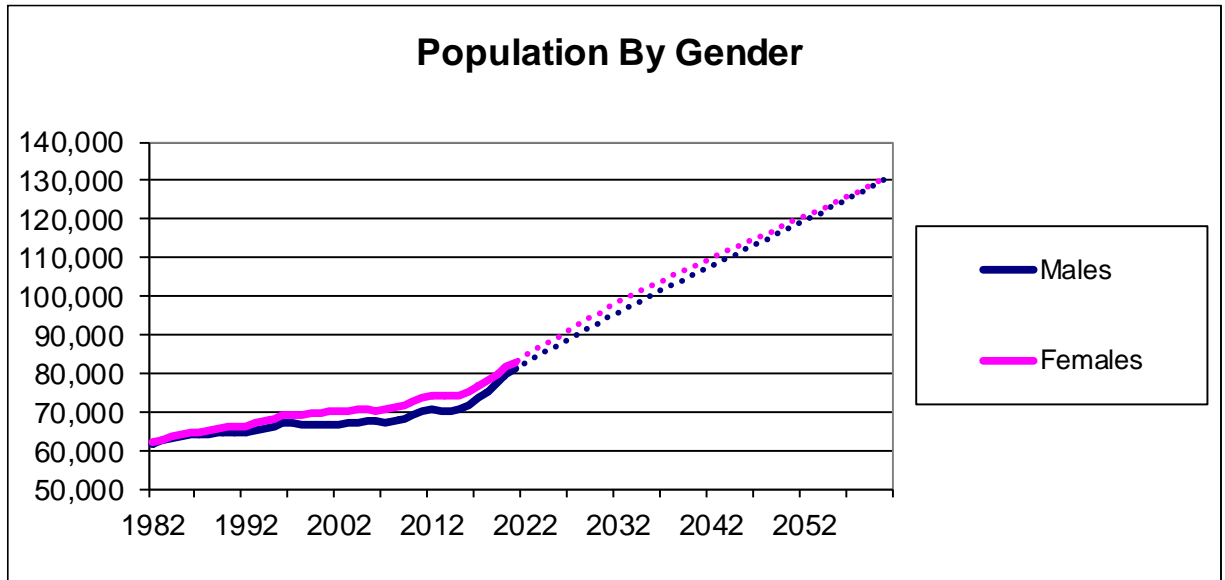


Diagram 5

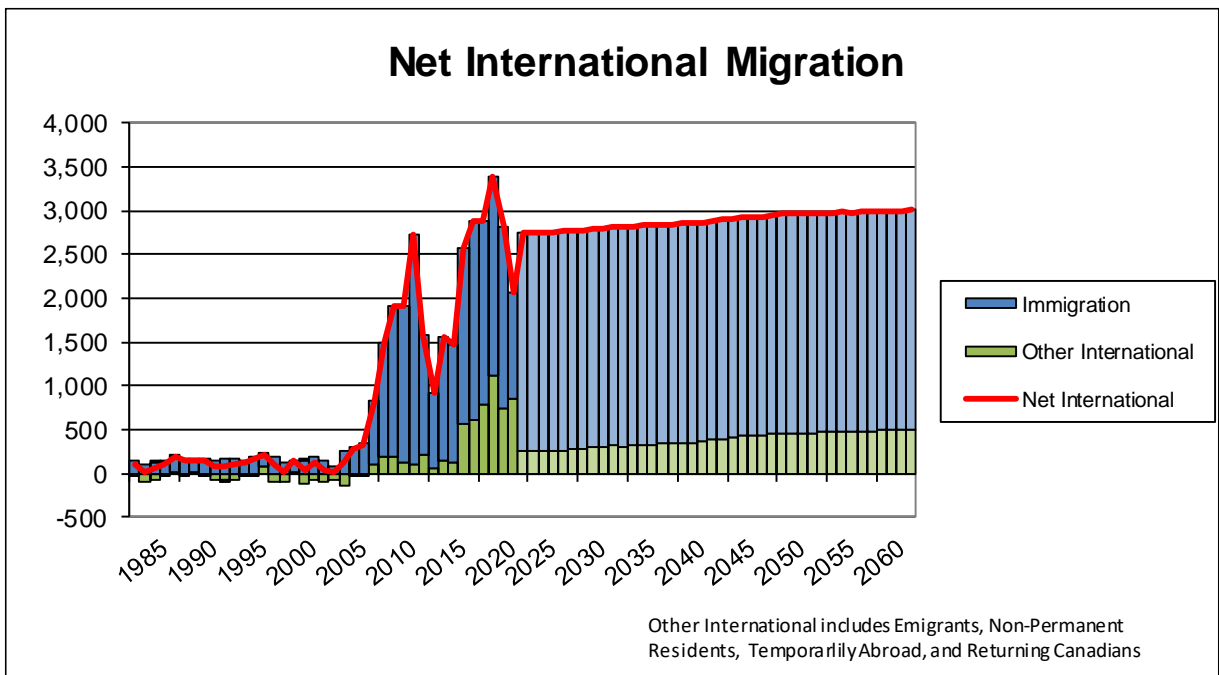


Diagram 6

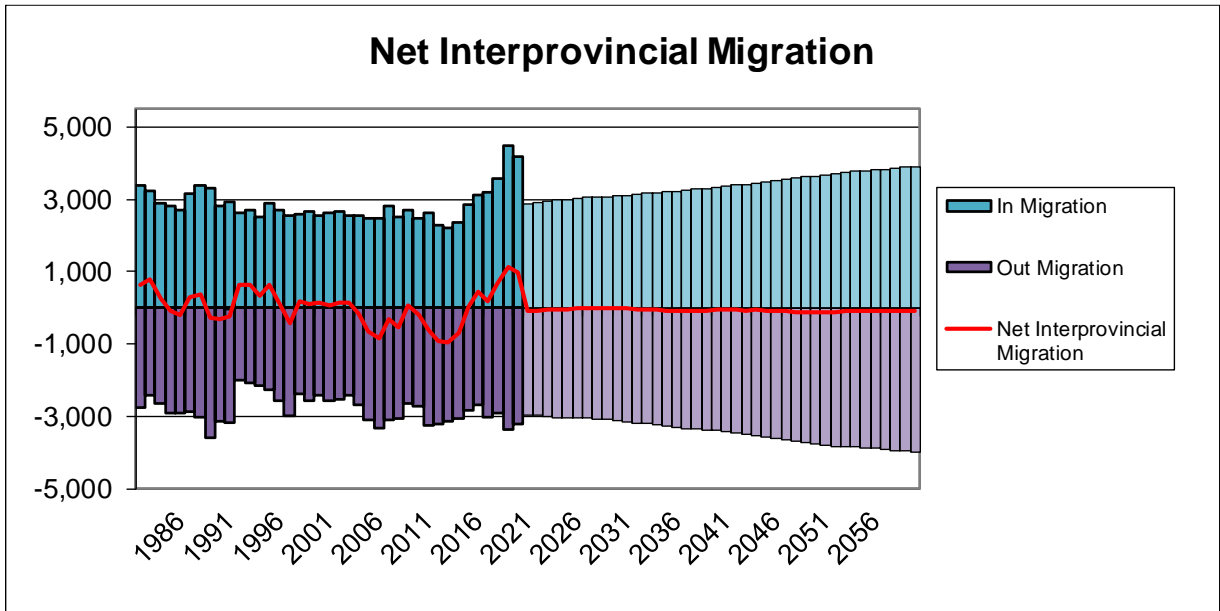
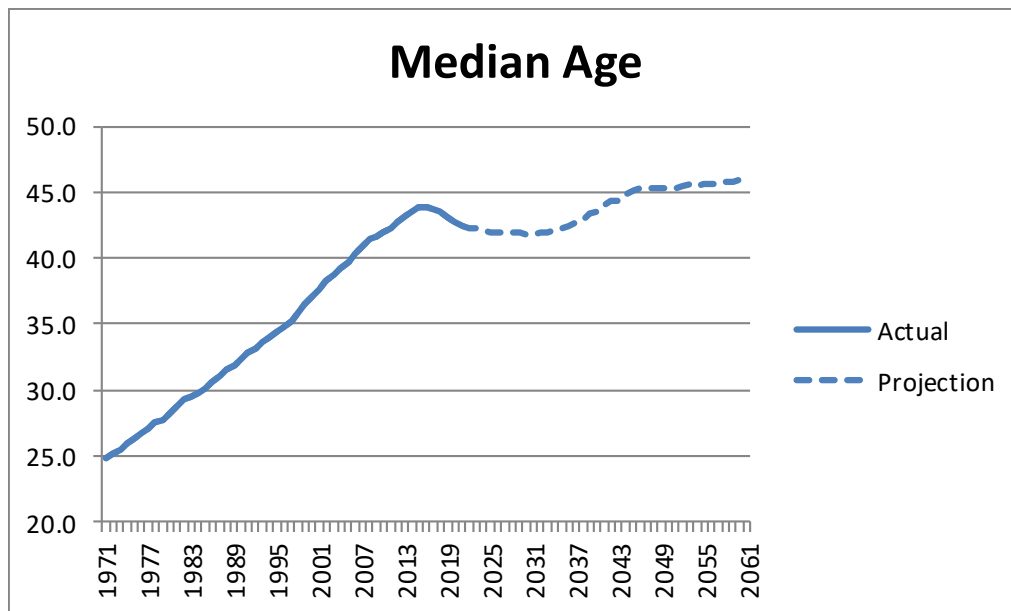


Diagram 7



Components of Population Growth, 1981-2021

In order to formulate population projections, we must first look at trends of the past. Annual population growth on PEI has averaged 0.7 per cent from 1981 to 2021. From 1981 to 1997, the growth rate averaged 0.6 per cent. The following decade, 1998 to 2007, the average annual population growth rate was just 0.1 per cent, with population declines in 3 of those 10 years. In more recent years, from 2008 to 2021, this rate of growth began to increase to reach an average of 1.3 per cent. PEI's population grew by 2.6 per cent in 2019, 2.5 per cent in 2020, and 1.9 per cent in 2021.

Natural increase (births minus deaths) has been steadily declining since the late 70's. An aging population and declining birth rates have resulted in an increase in the number of deaths and a lower number of annual births. Over the period 1981 to 2021, natural increase was highest in 1985-86 at 964 and lowest in 2020-21 at -76. The fertility rate declined during the period of 1980 to 2002, from a peak of 1.97 in 1989-90 to a low of 1.39 in 2018-19. The years following 2002 showed slight increases, climbing back to 1.73 by 2008-09 and averaging 1.58 from 2002 to 2021.

Inter-provincial migration has tended to go in cycles, with periods of net loss followed by periods of net gain. Despite these periods of net gains, on average over the period being examined (1981 to 2021), PEI has shown a net gain in inter-provincial migration. Over the past 10 years, PEI had a net gain of 311 people due to inter-provincial migration.

Table 1 on the following page shows PEI's annual population estimates and components of growth from 1981 to 2021.

Population Projections 2022-2061

Population change is related to many socio-economic factors, many of which cannot be predicted with certainty. The following population projections were compiled assuming that historical trends for births, deaths, and interprovincial migration seen through the 1981 to 2021 period will continue. International migration forecasts are developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders as a most likely scenario based on maintaining current policies.

“International immigration accounts for approximately 1.5% of annual population growth for each of the last five years. PEI has been recognized for the high percentage of immigration that contributes to population growth compared to other Canadian provinces. The goal is to continue to achieve a high attraction of immigration while working hard on continual improvement and success with immigrant integration and retention.”¹.

For the purpose of these projections, it is assumed that international immigration will remain at levels seen in recent years. It is also assumed that inter-provincial migration will continue with the recent 10 year trend of near net zero.

Increased immigration will have an effect on the median age, as we have seen since 2017. Approximately 70 per cent of immigrants who came to PEI over the past 10 years were under 40. The increase in the number of women under the age of 40 will in turn increase births. This influx of younger people and increased births is projected to decrease the median age slightly in the near future. However, as the senior population remains

¹ Island Investment Development Inc., Annual Report 2019-20, September 2020.

the fastest growing age cohort, the median age is projected to begin to rise again in the near future and to continue to increase over the course of the projection period (see Diagram 7).

The projections are based on the fertility rate declining slightly from the most recent 10 year average, which was 1.52 from 2012 to 2021. This projected fertility rate remains less than the replacement rate of 2.1 births per woman required for a stable population.

Table 1 shows PEI's annual population estimates and components of growth from 1981 to 2021, as provided by Statistics Canada, while Table 2 shows PEI's annual population projections and components of growth from 2022 to 2061. Tables 3 and 4 show the annual population estimates and projections by age group.

Table 1 – Components of Growth, 1981 – 2021

		July 1 - June 30							
Year	Population July 1	Natural Increase			Immigrants	Other International*	Interprovincial		Residual
		Births	Deaths	Net			In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	
1981	123,551	1,924	1,007	917	148	-35	3,375	4,231	137
1982	123,588	1,910	1,011	899	139	-24	3,403	2,767	136
1983	125,102	1,895	1,106	789	103	-92	3,219	2,422	136
1984	126,563	1,977	1,090	887	116	-61	2,904	2,654	136
1985	127,619	2,055	1,091	964	129	-30	2,830	2,906	170
1986	128,436	1,916	1,129	787	165	25	2,720	2,925	567
1987	128,641	1,883	1,112	771	165	-14	3,163	2,868	569
1988	129,289	1,984	1,085	899	139	12	3,390	3,009	567
1989	130,153	2,028	1,103	925	181	-34	3,322	3,575	568
1990	130,404	1,940	1,199	741	149	-68	2,809	3,134	532
1991	130,369	1,866	1,167	699	165	-73	2,937	3,174	96
1992	130,827	1,820	1,122	698	161	-67	2,649	1,995	96
1993	132,177	1,725	1,120	605	139	-10	2,688	2,066	96
1994	133,437	1,686	1,139	547	200	-22	2,514	2,165	96
1995	134,415	1,788	1,198	590	127	89	2,882	2,244	122
1996	135,737	1,616	1,192	424	185	-91	2,694	2,558	296
1997	136,095	1,530	1,132	398	123	-99	2,570	2,986	297
1998	135,804	1,539	1,108	431	125	24	2,579	2,386	296
1999	136,281	1,529	1,182	347	142	-107	2,662	2,558	297
2000	136,470	1,381	1,209	172	189	-73	2,567	2,402	258
2001	136,665	1,313	1,205	108	145	-102	2,639	2,577	-2
2002	136,880	1,374	1,217	157	89	-65	2,686	2,521	-1
2003	137,227	1,403	1,225	178	268	-139	2,570	2,426	-2
2004	137,680	1,371	1,126	245	312	-36	2,537	2,676	-2
2005	138,064	1,329	1,165	164	352	-20	2,460	3,099	54
2006	137,867	1,428	1,143	285	738	105	2,485	3,334	435
2007	137,711	1,447	1,166	281	1,282	202	2,821	3,112	436
2008	138,749	1,471	1,274	197	1,723	193	2,522	3,058	435
2009	139,891	1,407	1,177	230	1,792	116	2,709	2,649	435
2010	141,654	1,428	1,177	251	2,611	108	2,494	2,704	451
2011	143,963	1,404	1,250	154	1,375	206	2,620	3,238	550
2012	144,530	1,339	1,239	100	863	50	2,294	3,195	548
2013	144,094	1,397	1,270	127	1,406	146	2,198	3,139	549
2014	144,283	1,374	1,359	15	1,341	137	2,367	3,049	548
2015	144,546	1,397	1,114	283	2,015	567	2,874	2,844	472
2016	146,969	1,387	1,272	115	2,263	611	3,124	2,680	0
2017	150,402	1,295	1,368	-73	2,102	788	3,193	3,016	0
2018	153,396	1,307	1,326	-19	2,267	1,113	3,562	2,900	0
2019	157,419	1,344	1,409	-65	2,079	746	4,500	3,350	0
2020	161,329	1,317	1,393	-76	1,211	864	4,186	3,196	0
2021	164,318								

* Other International includes International Emigrants, Canadians Temporarily Abroad, Returning Canadians, and Non-Permanent Residents

Table 2 – Projections, Total Population and Components of Growth 2022 – 2061

Year	Population July 1	July 1 - June 30							Residual
		Natural Increase			Immigrants	Other International*	Interprovincial		
		Births	Deaths	Net			In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	
2021		1,613	1,560	53	2,500	257	2,862	2,954	0
2022	167,036	1,651	1,598	53	2,500	252	2,902	2,982	0
2023	169,761	1,689	1,640	49	2,500	254	2,945	3,007	0
2024	172,502	1,721	1,683	38	2,500	258	2,983	3,026	0
2025	175,255	1,745	1,731	14	2,500	269	3,004	3,030	0
2026	178,012	1,766	1,777	-11	2,500	272	3,033	3,039	0
2027	180,767	1,782	1,820	-38	2,500	283	3,050	3,050	0
2028	183,512	1,787	1,867	-80	2,500	294	3,065	3,076	0
2029	186,215	1,792	1,916	-124	2,500	305	3,084	3,095	0
2030	188,885	1,786	1,964	-178	2,500	316	3,100	3,113	0
2031	191,510	1,784	2,005	-221	2,499	312	3,123	3,147	0
2032	194,076	1,778	2,054	-276	2,499	327	3,142	3,175	0
2033	196,593	1,772	2,093	-321	2,502	328	3,164	3,202	0
2034	199,064	1,769	2,143	-374	2,500	334	3,189	3,244	0
2035	201,469	1,766	2,182	-416	2,501	340	3,210	3,278	0
2036	203,826	1,771	2,215	-444	2,499	346	3,227	3,306	0
2037	206,148	1,775	2,260	-485	2,500	357	3,255	3,334	0
2038	208,441	1,782	2,291	-509	2,500	355	3,276	3,351	0
2039	210,712	1,792	2,320	-528	2,500	369	3,303	3,371	0
2040	212,985	1,800	2,351	-551	2,500	382	3,331	3,386	0
2041	215,261	1,812	2,380	-568	2,500	397	3,362	3,417	0
2042	217,535	1,820	2,406	-586	2,500	415	3,397	3,445	0
2043	219,816	1,834	2,427	-593	2,500	429	3,423	3,486	0
2044	222,089	1,842	2,455	-613	2,501	432	3,462	3,524	0
2045	224,347	1,854	2,480	-626	2,499	439	3,491	3,566	0
2046	226,584	1,869	2,495	-626	2,500	448	3,523	3,613	0
2047	228,816	1,885	2,513	-628	2,500	461	3,556	3,649	0
2048	231,056	1,908	2,529	-621	2,500	461	3,586	3,699	0
2049	233,283	1,935	2,552	-617	2,500	465	3,619	3,729	0
2050	235,521	1,958	2,561	-603	2,500	465	3,643	3,767	0
2051	237,759	1,987	2,576	-589	2,500	477	3,679	3,791	0
2052	240,035	2,018	2,592	-574	2,500	480	3,705	3,818	0
2053	242,328	2,048	2,608	-560	2,500	484	3,735	3,835	0
2054	244,652	2,078	2,623	-545	2,500	481	3,779	3,850	0
2055	247,017	2,104	2,646	-542	2,500	489	3,791	3,873	0
2056	249,382	2,126	2,664	-538	2,501	489	3,820	3,887	0
2057	251,767	2,145	2,688	-543	2,499	495	3,841	3,911	0
2058	254,148	2,157	2,717	-560	2,500	502	3,864	3,933	0
2059	256,521	2,167	2,746	-579	2,500	499	3,894	3,958	0
2060	258,877	2,175	2,771	-596	2,500	506	3,918	3,982	0
2061	261,223								

* Other International includes International Emigrants, Canadians Temporarily Abroad, Returning Canadians, and Non-Permanent Residents

Age Structure

- In 1981 the median age² in PEI was 28.8. By 2015, median age had risen to a peak of 43.9. In 2017, this began to decline slightly, reaching 42.4 by 2021. The median age for the province is projected to once again begin to rise, reaching 45.9 by 2061.
- The number of people aged 65 and over in 2021 was 33,256. This is projected to rise to 41,808 by 2031, 44,077 by 2041, 47,665 by 2051, and 59,638 by 2061.
- In 2021, the number of people 75 and over was 13,362. There were 8.0 people of working age per one person 75 and over. This age group is projected to increase by 68.8 per cent over the next 15 years, reaching 22,560 by 2036. At that time, it is projected that there will only be 5.7 people of working age per one person 75 and over.
- In 2021, the working age population (between 15 and 64) was 106,631, the sixth consecutive year of increase following declines each year from 2012 to 2015. With immigration efforts, this age group is projected to increase to 120,768 by 2031, 139,331 by 2041, 157,299 by 2051 and to 165,520 by 2061. (see Diagram 9)
- The number of children under 15 years old has declined by 6,109 from 1981 to 2021. In 2021, this age group totaled 24,431, down from 24,525 in 2020, following 5 years consecutive years of growth. Over the period considered, this number is projected to increase steadily, reaching 36,065 by 2061. (see Diagram 8).
- The total dependency ratio is the number of persons under age 15 and those aged 65 and older shown as a percentage of persons aged 15 to 64. It is the sum of the youth dependency ratio and the senior dependency ratio and represents the relative size of the population being supported by the working age population. In 1981, the total dependency ratio was 58.3 per cent. By 2007, this had reached an all-time low of 46.8 per cent. Due to an increase in seniors, the total dependency ratio increased to 54.1 per cent by 2021. The ratio is projected to steadily increase, reaching 58.6 per cent by 2031, before declining to 57.8 per cent by 2061. Diagram 10 shows the dependency ratio for PEI since 1981 and projections to 2061.
- Since 1981, the youth dependency ratio has fallen from 39.1 per cent to a low of 22.9 per cent in 2021. This is projected to slowly increase for the next 15 years, reaching 24.3 per cent by 2036, before declining to 21.8 per cent by 2061. Over the same time period, the senior dependency ratio has increased from 19.1 per cent in 1981 to 31.2 per cent in 2021. This is projected to continue to increase over the next 10 years, reaching 34.6 per cent in 2031, before declining to 30.1 per cent by 2047, and increasing once again reaching 36.0 per cent by 2061.
- The aging of the population can be seen most evidently by looking at the age pyramid diagrams, which show the proportion of the population by gender and age groups. (Diagrams 11A –C)

² The median age is the age at which half the population is older and half the population is younger.

Diagram 8

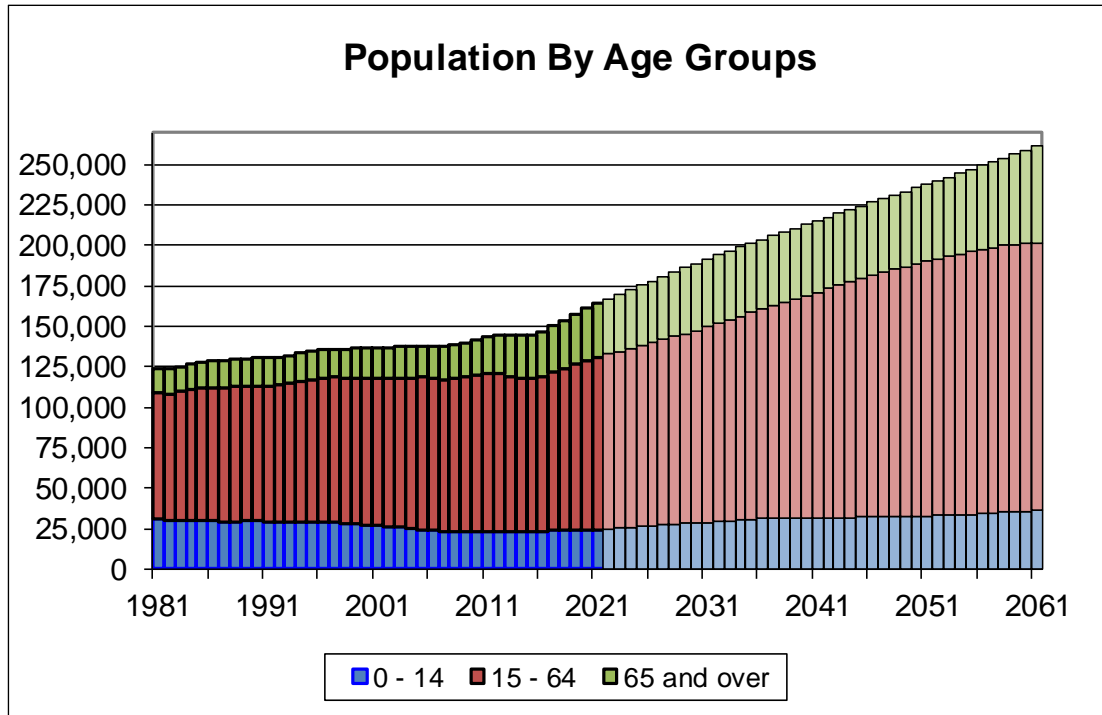


Diagram 9

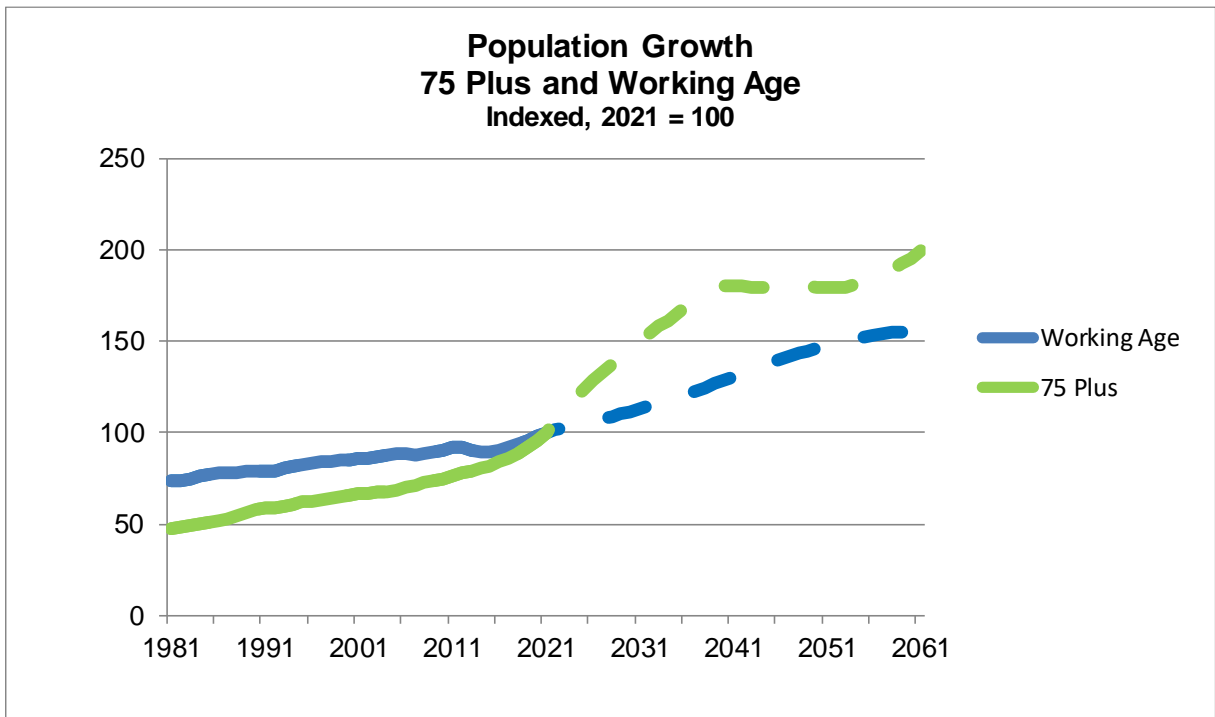
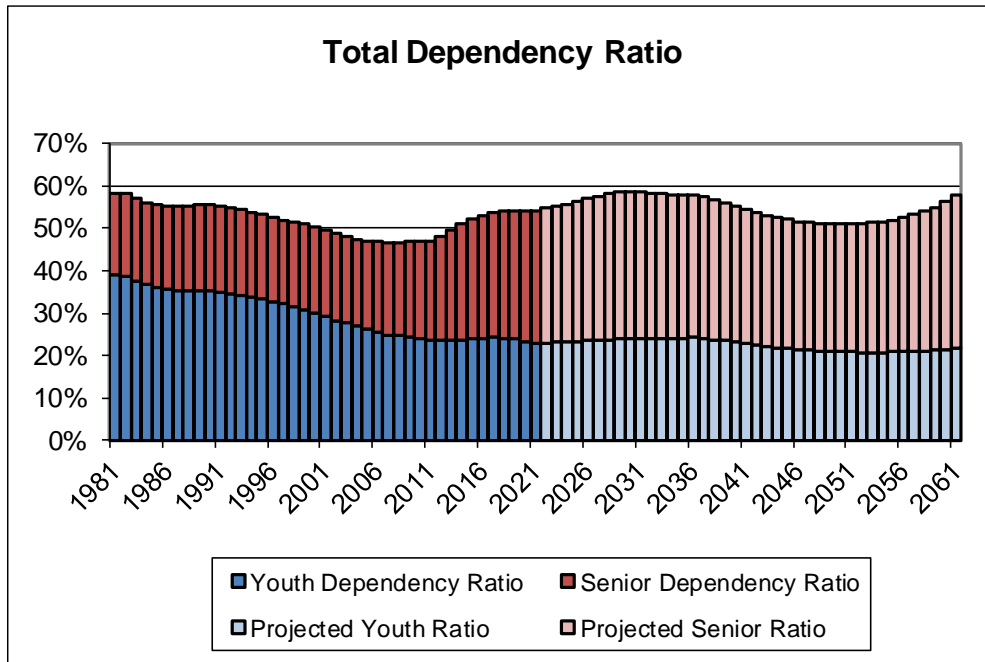


Diagram 10



Age Pyramids
Diagram 11a

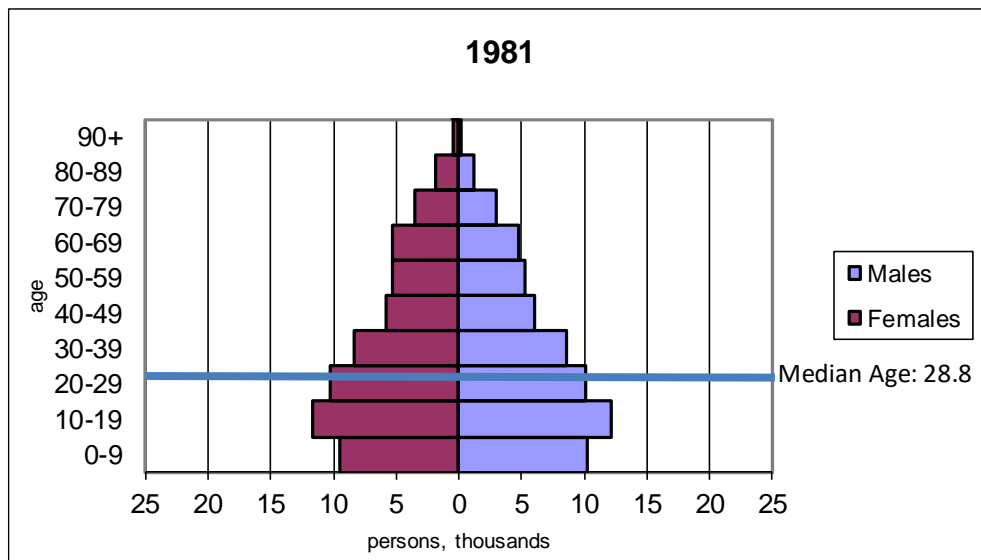


Diagram 11b – Current Year

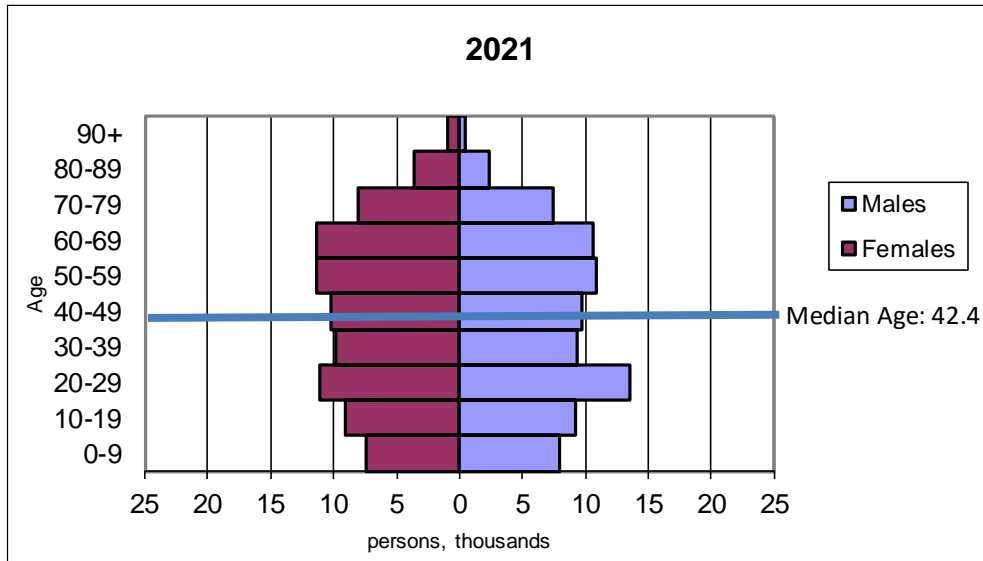


Diagram 11c

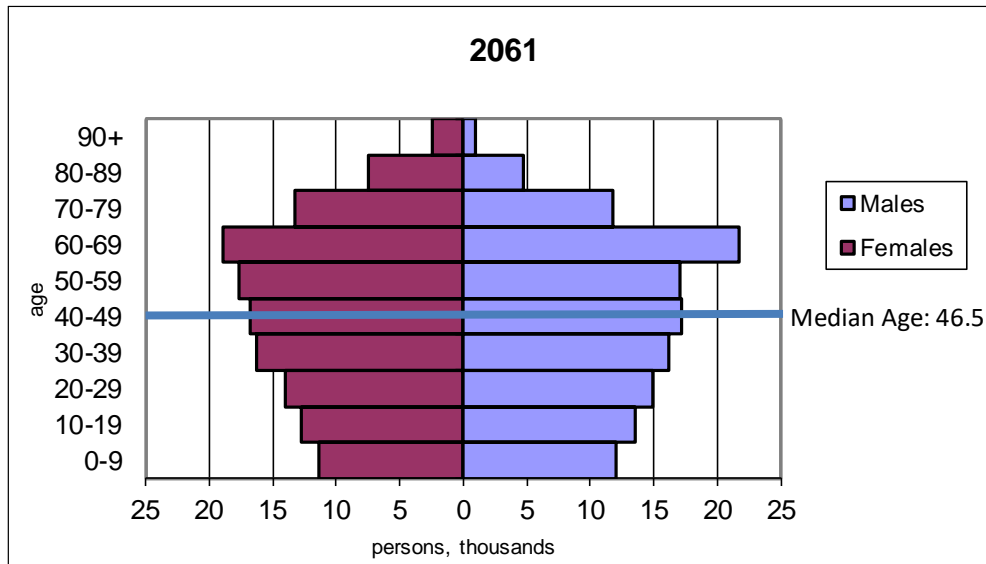


Table 3 – Population by Age Group, estimates 1981-2021

Year	0 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75 - 84	85 plus
1981	9,623	20,917	23,821	19,312	13,409	10,974	10,547	8,663	4,561	1,724
1982	9,524	20,730	23,131	19,225	14,097	11,099	10,560	8,814	4,622	1,786
1983	9,522	20,510	23,327	19,534	14,952	11,178	10,593	8,898	4,753	1,835
1984	9,491	20,292	23,509	19,884	15,743	11,341	10,568	9,049	4,847	1,839
1985	9,569	20,111	23,272	20,221	16,404	11,532	10,503	9,213	4,918	1,876
1986	9,677	19,835	22,719	20,822	16,906	11,719	10,522	9,288	5,060	1,888
1987	9,643	19,710	22,065	20,962	17,461	11,864	10,516	9,334	5,206	1,880
1988	9,637	19,788	21,270	21,253	18,148	12,012	10,547	9,356	5,414	1,864
1989	9,779	19,867	20,510	21,462	18,769	12,355	10,623	9,272	5,633	1,883
1990	9,775	19,801	19,896	21,338	19,251	12,691	10,648	9,265	5,824	1,915
1991	9,520	19,860	19,584	20,788	19,629	13,157	10,722	9,289	5,939	1,881
1992	9,440	19,796	19,492	20,358	19,732	13,940	10,858	9,337	5,967	1,907
1993	9,508	19,861	19,506	20,243	20,022	14,767	10,964	9,331	5,991	1,984
1994	9,416	19,908	19,656	20,070	20,244	15,591	11,119	9,341	6,060	2,032
1995	9,145	20,130	19,554	19,817	20,512	16,376	11,363	9,249	6,155	2,114
1996	9,065	20,169	19,601	19,686	20,937	17,116	11,633	9,217	6,173	2,140
1997	8,706	20,128	19,385	19,341	21,254	17,821	11,779	9,293	6,217	2,171
1998	8,335	19,881	19,116	18,524	21,581	18,464	11,978	9,355	6,324	2,246
1999	8,139	19,723	18,961	18,048	21,773	19,052	12,449	9,489	6,296	2,351
2000	7,954	19,372	19,090	17,352	21,864	19,679	12,854	9,571	6,314	2,420
2001	7,578	19,094	19,299	16,923	21,583	20,231	13,349	9,749	6,424	2,435
2002	7,323	18,740	19,340	16,772	21,317	20,299	14,256	9,887	6,504	2,442
2003	7,225	18,357	19,321	16,715	21,016	20,366	15,168	10,095	6,492	2,472
2004	7,071	18,013	19,368	16,681	20,782	20,457	16,026	10,279	6,515	2,488
2005	6,895	17,643	19,383	16,551	20,447	20,693	16,812	10,480	6,577	2,583
2006	6,772	17,138	19,172	16,259	19,983	21,086	17,378	10,767	6,631	2,681
2007	6,829	16,547	19,033	15,933	19,328	21,471	18,070	11,038	6,698	2,764
2008	6,992	16,266	18,920	15,964	18,859	21,964	18,818	11,268	6,853	2,845
2009	7,117	16,160	18,855	15,902	18,612	22,352	19,474	11,632	6,962	2,825
2010	7,181	15,986	19,035	16,047	18,349	22,763	20,230	12,112	7,054	2,897
2011	7,355	15,823	19,258	16,265	18,622	22,838	20,922	12,662	7,231	2,987
2012	7,276	15,680	19,136	16,273	18,322	22,827	21,083	13,533	7,357	3,043
2013	7,171	15,608	18,638	16,058	18,001	22,368	21,281	14,400	7,502	3,067
2014	7,151	15,624	18,191	15,981	17,904	21,993	21,452	15,233	7,697	3,057
2015	7,118	15,589	17,894	16,051	17,724	21,586	21,796	15,942	7,803	3,043
2016	7,214	15,906	17,980	16,596	17,852	21,306	22,271	16,659	8,055	3,130
2017	7,337	16,408	18,487	17,269	18,205	21,234	22,619	17,323	8,300	3,220
2018	7,364	16,709	19,137	17,901	18,430	21,052	22,970	18,057	8,472	3,304
2019	7,292	17,090	20,413	18,722	18,792	20,902	23,232	18,657	8,898	3,421
2020	7,228	17,297	21,638	19,898	19,078	20,665	23,407	19,321	9,285	3,512
2021	7,095	17,336	22,151	21,210	19,368	20,674	23,228	19,894	9,738	3,624

Table 4 – Population by Age Group, projections 2022-2061

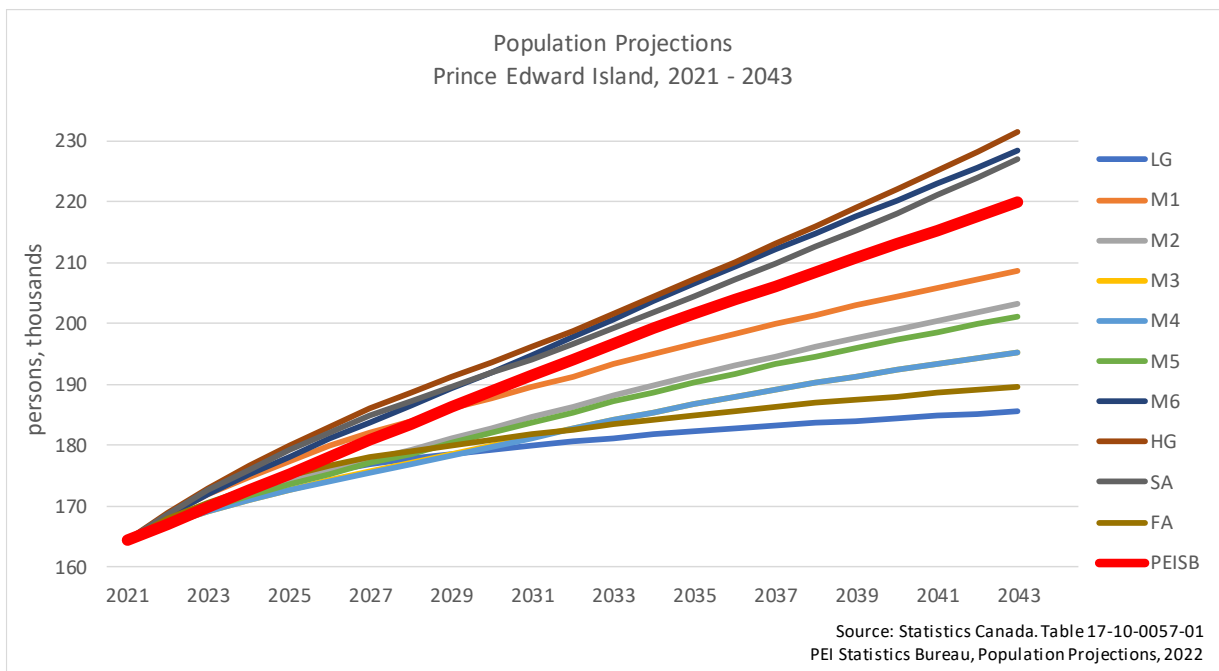
Year	0 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75 - 84	85 plus
2022	7,291	17,583	21,503	22,523	20,015	20,864	23,048	19,983	10,471	3,755
2023	7,636	17,674	20,935	23,822	20,611	21,124	22,792	20,100	11,220	3,847
2024	7,999	17,728	20,549	24,926	21,193	21,357	22,677	20,255	11,876	3,942
2025	8,373	17,778	20,393	25,686	21,938	21,590	22,429	20,531	12,480	4,057
2026	8,826	17,796	20,432	26,153	22,717	21,842	22,199	20,886	12,986	4,175
2027	8,987	18,084	20,797	26,211	23,521	22,202	22,043	21,190	13,453	4,279
2028	9,120	18,508	21,104	26,127	24,365	22,696	21,759	21,509	13,922	4,402
2029	9,216	18,845	21,492	25,936	25,346	23,201	21,503	21,702	14,345	4,629
2030	9,280	19,220	21,805	25,514	26,606	23,801	21,251	21,848	14,751	4,809
2031	9,315	19,619	22,146	24,775	27,919	24,615	21,313	21,664	15,121	5,023
2032	9,328	20,000	22,374	23,983	29,466	25,310	21,487	21,486	15,222	5,420
2033	9,319	20,555	22,396	23,276	31,022	25,915	21,735	21,244	15,338	5,793
2034	9,303	21,081	22,386	22,743	32,357	26,509	21,969	21,149	15,470	6,097
2035	9,279	21,597	22,367	22,499	33,247	27,294	22,190	20,929	15,707	6,360
2036	9,254	22,180	22,307	22,460	33,781	28,123	22,428	20,733	15,998	6,562
2037	9,236	22,355	22,603	22,794	33,814	28,995	22,784	20,601	16,240	6,726
2038	9,229	22,470	23,058	23,077	33,665	29,921	23,273	20,352	16,493	6,903
2039	9,237	22,531	23,430	23,448	33,362	31,017	23,780	20,130	16,659	7,118
2040	9,261	22,555	23,858	23,741	32,741	32,467	24,368	19,919	16,775	7,300
2041	9,300	22,553	24,326	24,084	31,719	34,009	25,193	19,977	16,621	7,479
2042	9,344	22,538	24,785	24,315	30,625	35,838	25,886	20,140	16,446	7,618
2043	9,393	22,512	25,457	24,309	29,658	37,643	26,486	20,365	16,242	7,751
2044	9,451	22,493	26,094	24,284	28,934	39,145	27,073	20,592	16,168	7,855
2045	9,504	22,487	26,715	24,243	28,599	40,093	27,873	20,808	16,012	8,013
2046	9,560	22,499	27,403	24,160	28,546	40,585	28,721	21,053	15,893	8,164
2047	9,618	22,527	27,619	24,499	28,969	40,469	29,614	21,413	15,816	8,272
2048	9,684	22,576	27,767	25,013	29,344	40,137	30,580	21,888	15,663	8,404
2049	9,760	22,646	27,848	25,429	29,806	39,654	31,713	22,380	15,532	8,515
2050	9,860	22,729	27,883	25,904	30,157	38,863	33,214	22,933	15,415	8,563
2051	9,971	22,834	27,886	26,392	30,568	37,634	34,819	23,718	15,483	8,454
2052	10,096	22,951	27,869	26,869	30,823	36,381	36,700	24,386	15,631	8,329
2053	10,235	23,075	27,833	27,578	30,808	35,296	38,527	24,956	15,804	8,216
2054	10,381	23,222	27,807	28,255	30,754	34,493	40,026	25,525	16,008	8,181
2055	10,525	23,391	27,793	28,914	30,682	34,133	40,942	26,289	16,202	8,146
2056	10,673	23,572	27,806	29,652	30,556	34,075	41,385	27,096	16,427	8,140
2057	10,821	23,774	27,833	29,857	30,910	34,526	41,192	27,950	16,758	8,146
2058	10,954	24,007	27,877	29,994	31,475	34,895	40,789	28,871	17,165	8,121
2059	11,067	24,260	27,946	30,058	31,918	35,385	40,256	29,949	17,575	8,107
2060	11,160	24,539	28,029	30,078	32,430	35,740	39,434	31,386	18,007	8,074
2061	11,233	24,832	28,133	30,054	32,978	36,165	38,190	32,928	18,647	8,063

Comparison to Statistics Canada Projections

Statistics Canada releases population projections for provinces and territories every five years, which include 10 growth scenarios. The low growth (LG) scenario assumes a lower fertility rate and lower international immigration than the PEI projection scenario discussed in this report. The 6 medium growth scenarios (M1 – M6) are based on a slightly higher fertility rate, with slightly lower international immigration. The difference in the 6 medium growth scenarios is the period on which the trends for inter-provincial migration is based. The high growth scenario (HG) is based on a much higher fertility rate and also higher international immigration. The slow aging scenario (SA) is also based on a much higher fertility rate and higher international immigration but with a lower life expectancy than the HG scenario. The fast aging scenario (FA) is based on a lower fertility rate and low international immigration.

As can be seen in Diagram 12, the PEI Statistics Bureau projections remain below Statistics Canada’s high growth, slow aging and medium growth 6 scenarios for the duration of the projection period, with a steeper growth trajectory than the other scenarios. The PEI projections assume a fertility rate compared to that used in the low growth and fast aging Statistics Canada scenarios but with an international immigration level compared to that used in the medium growth scenarios.

Diagram 12 – Statistics Canada Population Projection Scenarios



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0057-01 Projected population, by projection scenario, age and sex, as of July 1

Limitations of Population Projections

In general, all assumptions relating to the components of population change (i.e., migration, births and deaths) are based on past conditions, modified wherever possible to take into consideration current policy objectives and possible future changes. Consequently, the resulting population projections are not necessarily what will be, but rather what could be, given the realization of these conditions. It is certainly possible that unforeseen changes in factors such as government policy, economic development, land use and zoning will affect future populations. As a result, the projections should be regarded as only one possible scenario of the future size and age-gender structure of the population.

The Component/Cohort-Survival Method

Prince Edward Island population projections result from the application of a ‘component/cohort-survival’ population model to assumptions dealing with fertility, mortality and migration. The component/cohort-survival method requires separate projections of each of the components of population change, namely fertility, mortality and net migration. With this information, and with a base year age-specific estimate of population, a projection for any subsequent year is made by promoting each age group in the preceding year to next highest age group, while at the same time taking into account the effects of net migration, deaths and births.

Specifically, beginning from a base year estimate of population by single year of age and sex, each age (i) in the base year (t) is promoted to the next higher age group ($i+1$) in time ($t+1$), while at the same time taking into account the effects of net migration, births and/or deaths in that age cohort. This process is then repeated for the number of years required.

Data tables in Excel format are available on request.

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Projections are calculated by Prince Edward Island Statistics Bureau, based on historical population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division, 1981 to 2021.

Source of population estimates and components of growth 1981 to 2021:

Statistics Canada.

Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex

Table 17-10-0006-01 Estimates of deaths, by age and sex, annual

Table 17-10-0016-01 Estimates of births, by sex, annual

Table 17-10-0015-01 Estimates of the components of interprovincial migration, by age and sex, annual

Table 17-10-0014-01 Estimates of the components of international migration, by age and sex, annual

Table 17-10-0057-01 Projected population, by projection scenario, age and sex, as of July 1