



Prince Edward Island Statistics Bureau  
Department of Finance  
Economics, Statistics and  
Federal Fiscal Relations

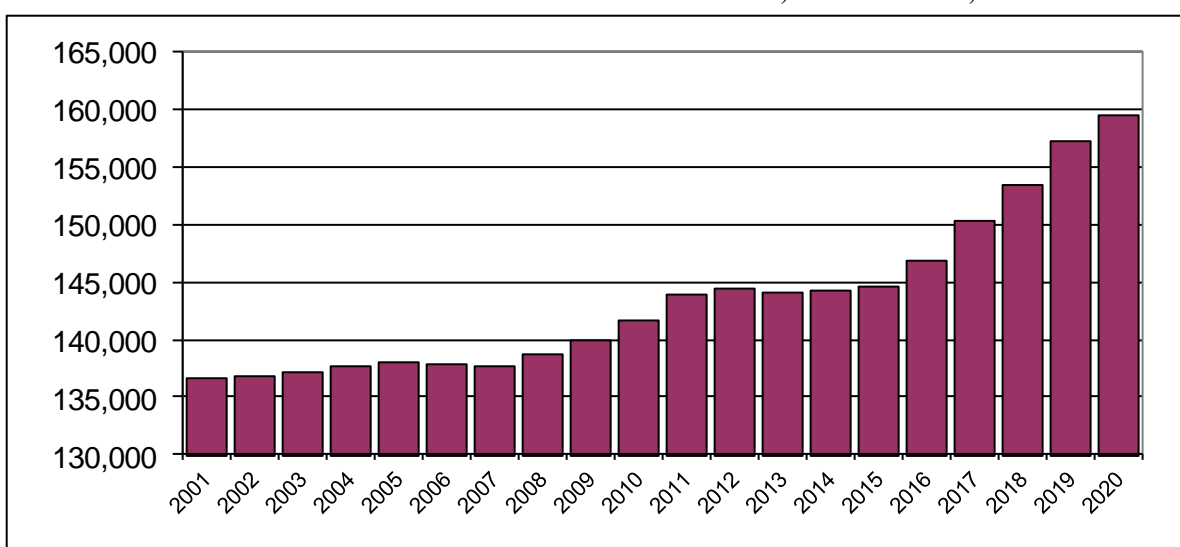


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## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POPULATION REPORT 2020

### OVERVIEW

DIAGRAM 1: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POPULATION, AS OF JULY 1, 2001 - 2020



On September 29, 2020 Statistics Canada published its preliminary provincial population estimates for July 1, 2020, as well as revisions to the 2017 to 2019 population estimates. As of July 1, 2020, Prince Edward Island's population is estimated to be 159,625. This represents a yearly increase of 2,363 persons or a 1.5 per cent annual growth rate. This was the highest growth rate among provinces for 2020, the fifth consecutive year leading the provinces in population growth. Alberta and Ontario had the next highest growth rates at 1.4 per cent and 1.3 per cent respectively, while Nunavut had the highest growth of all jurisdictions at 1.9 per cent. The growth rate for Canada was 1.1 per cent in 2020. PEI's three year growth rate (2017 to 2020) at 6.1 per cent leads all provinces and territories.

International immigration continues to be the driver of population growth on Prince Edward Island. Natural increase (births minus deaths) has been declining steadily since the early 1990's and in recent years has crossed into the negative. Inter-provincial migration has been a source of population growth in recent years, however historically periods of inter-provincial growth have been followed by periods of net loss, usually dependent on the economic situation both on Prince Edward Island and in western provinces. Population growth on PEI will be dependent on international immigration for the foreseeable future.

Statistics Canada also released revisions to the 2017, 2018, and 2019 population estimates. PEI's July 1, 2017 population estimate has been revised down slightly, from 150,483 to 150,402. The July 1, 2018 population estimate was revised down from 153,584 to 153,396. The July 1, 2019 population estimate was revised up from 156,947 to 157,262. The revised estimates and growth rates for Canada and Prince Edward Island can be seen in Table 1.

**TABLE 1: NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL POPULATION & GROWTH RATES, JULY 1**

	Canada		Prince Edward Island	
July 1	Population	Growth rate (%)	Population	Growth rate (%)
2010	34,004,889	1.1	141,654	1.3
2011	34,339,328	1.0	143,963	1.6
2012	34,714,222	1.1	144,530	0.4
2013	35,082,954	1.1	144,094	-0.3
2014	35,437,435	1.0	144,283	0.1
2015	35,702,908	0.7	144,546	0.2
2016	36,109,487	1.1	146,969	1.7
2017 <sup>(r)</sup>	36,545,295	1.2	150,402	2.3
2018 <sup>(r)</sup>	37,065,178	1.4	153,396	2.0
2019 <sup>(r)</sup>	37,593,384	1.4	157,262	2.5
2020 <sup>(p)</sup>	38,005,238	1.1	159,625	1.5

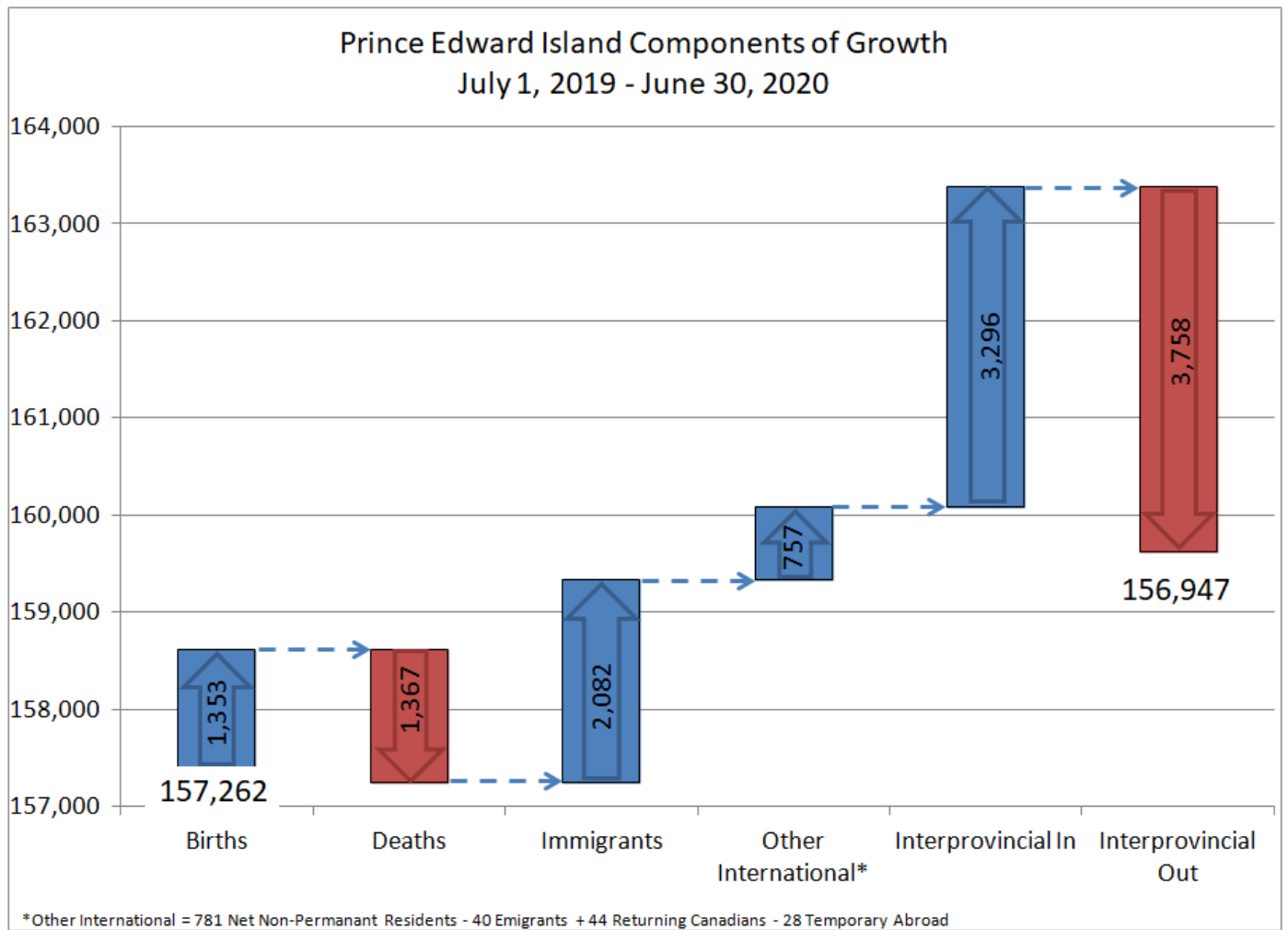
Newfoundland and Labrador was the only jurisdiction to see population decline in 2020. Population estimates for July 1, 2019 and 2020 for all provinces and territories are shown in Table 2 below.

**TABLE 2: POPULATION OF PROVINCES & TERRITORIES,  
JULY 1, 2019, 2020 & ANNUAL GROWTH RATES**

	2019	2020	Growth
<b>CAN</b>	37,593,384	38,005,238	1.1%
<b>NL</b>	523,476	522,103	-0.3%
<b>PE</b>	157,262	159,625	1.5%
<b>NS</b>	969,747	979,351	1.0%
<b>NB</b>	776,868	781,476	0.6%
<b>Atlantic</b>	2,427,353	2,442,555	0.6%
<b>QC</b>	8,501,703	8,574,571	0.9%
<b>ON</b>	14,544,718	14,734,014	1.3%
<b>MB</b>	1,369,540	1,379,263	0.7%
<b>SK</b>	1,172,302	1,178,681	0.5%
<b>AB</b>	4,361,694	4,421,876	1.4%
<b>BC</b>	5,090,955	5,147,712	1.1%
<b>YK</b>	41,477	42,052	1.4%
<b>NT</b>	45,028	45,161	0.3%
<b>NU</b>	38,614	39,353	1.9%

## COMPONENTS OF GROWTH

DIAGRAM 2: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND COMPONENTS OF GROWTH JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020



### *Natural Increase*

There were 1,353 births and 1,367 deaths on Prince Edward Island from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, for natural increase of minus 14. According to the revised data, this is the third consecutive year that deaths have outnumbered births on Prince Edward Island. Compared to the other Atlantic Provinces, this first occurred in 2006-07 in Newfoundland and Labrador, in 2012-13 in Nova Scotia and in 2014-15 in New Brunswick. All other jurisdictions continue to have positive natural increase.

The revised data now show that from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, there were an estimated 1,295 births and 1,368 deaths, for natural increase of -73. From July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, there were an estimated 1,308 births and 1,389 deaths, for natural increase of -81.

**TABLE 3: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POPULATION  
AND COMPONENTS OF GROWTH, 2010 – 2020**

Year	July 1 Population	July 1 - June 30						
		(+) Births	(-) Deaths	(+) Immigrants	(+) Other International*	(+) Interprovincial In-Migration	(-) Interprovincial Out-Migration	(-) Residual
2010	141,654	1,428	1,177	2,611	108	2,494	2,704	451
2011	143,963	1,404	1,250	1,375	206	2,620	3,238	550
2012	144,530	1,339	1,239	863	50	2,294	3,195	548
2013	144,094	1,397	1,270	1,406	146	2,198	3,139	549
2014	144,283	1,374	1,359	1,341	137	2,367	3,049	548
2015	144,546	1,397	1,114	2,015	567	2,874	2,844	472
2016	146,969	1,387	1,272	2,263	611	3,124	2,680	0
2017	150,402	1,295	1,368	2,102	788	3,193	3,016	0
2018	153,396	1,308	1,389	2,267	1,018	3,562	2,900	0
2019	157,262	1,353	1,367	2,082	757	3,296	3,758	0
2020	159,625							

\*Other International = Net Non-Permanent Residents - International Emigrants + Returning Canadians - Canadians Temporarily Abroad

### ***International Migration***

From July 2019 to June 2020, a total of 2,082 international immigrants came to the province, a decrease of 8.2 per cent as compared the previous year. This follows a 7.8 per cent increase in immigrants in 2018/19. The decline was due to a drop during the second quarter of 2020 (April to June), which was at the height of the Covid-19 shutdown. International immigration during the second quarter was 286, compared to 601 over the same period in 2019. At a rate of 13.1 per thousand<sup>1</sup>, the province had the highest immigration rate in the country, ahead of Saskatchewan at 11.4 per thousand. The immigration rate for Canada was 7.6 per thousand.

Net international migration was estimated to be 2,839 persons. This consisted of the 2,082 international immigrants, 781 net non-permanent residents, and 44 returning Canadians entering the province, while 40 international emigrants and 28 temporarily abroad Canadians left the province.

### ***Inter-Provincial Migration***

Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, Prince Edward Island had an estimated net inter-provincial out migration of 462 people (3,296 in-migrants less 3,758 out-migrants). This follows four consecutive years of positive net inter-provincial migration from 2015-16 to 2018-19.

As shown in Table 4, the primary source of PEI's inter-provincial in-migrants during this period was from Ontario, followed by Nova Scotia, Alberta, New Brunswick, and British Columbia. The main destinations of out-migrants from Prince Edward Island were to Ontario, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Alberta. British Columbia saw the largest gain from inter-provincial migration, as 24.4 per cent of all interprovincial migrants from other provinces were destined for BC. In terms of gross flows, PEI had the most mobile population among provinces but well below the percentage of people moving to and from the Territories. Diagram 3 shows gross flows of interprovincial migrants as a percentage of total population for the provinces and territories for 2019/20.

**TABLE 4: ORIGIN & DESTINATION OF INTER-PROVINCIAL MIGRANTS,  
JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020**

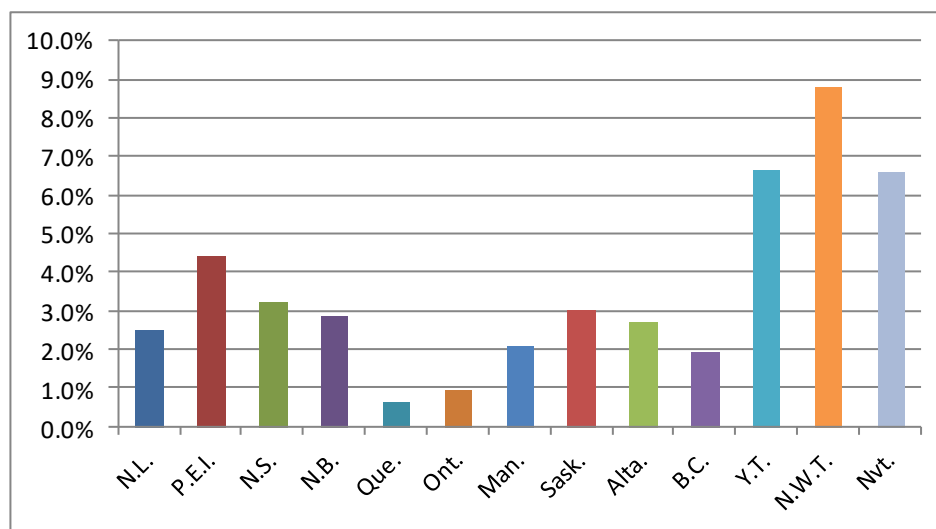
<sup>1</sup> Immigration rates are calculated by the PEI Statistics Bureau based on Statistics Canada population estimates.

ORIGIN	DESTINATION												
	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
N.L.	0	110	1,226	411	375	2,051	83	66	2,326	446	52	67	50
P.E.I.	74	0	680	405	285	1,489	45	53	311	410	0	0	6
N.S.	759	506	0	1,822	1,058	4,808	347	152	2,404	1,472	29	152	172
N.B.	206	302	1,994	0	1,564	3,270	198	73	2,113	864	0	52	7
Que.	166	166	755	1,447	0	17,181	359	315	2,632	3,456	50	91	81
Ont.	2,238	1,336	6,607	4,016	14,696	0	3,256	2,470	15,905	17,719	305	343	627
Man.	107	66	535	211	836	6,239	0	1,503	4,858	4,143	27	50	42
Sask.	177	86	406	393	625	5,594	1,501	0	9,949	4,507	89	80	20
Alta.	1,484	445	2,946	1,844	2,992	16,053	2,179	5,096	0	23,799	385	648	119
B.C.	468	251	1,951	909	2,688	12,236	1,856	2,308	18,508	0	464	236	171
Y.T.	0	5	101	28	85	203	39	50	284	426	0	53	5
N.W.T.	48	23	144	51	116	335	44	69	778	434	68	0	31
Nvt.	67	0	237	69	141	422	21	25	105	78	29	60	0

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
IN	5,794	3,296	17,582	11,606	25,461	69,881	9,928	12,180	60,173	57,754	1,498	1,832	1,331
OUT	7,263	3,758	13,681	10,643	26,699	69,518	18,617	23,427	57,990	42,046	1,279	2,141	1,254
NET	-1,469	-462	3,901	963	-1,238	363	-8,689	-11,247	2,183	15,708	219	-309	77

**DIAGRAM 3: GROSS FLOW OF INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRANTS AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION, PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES, JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020**

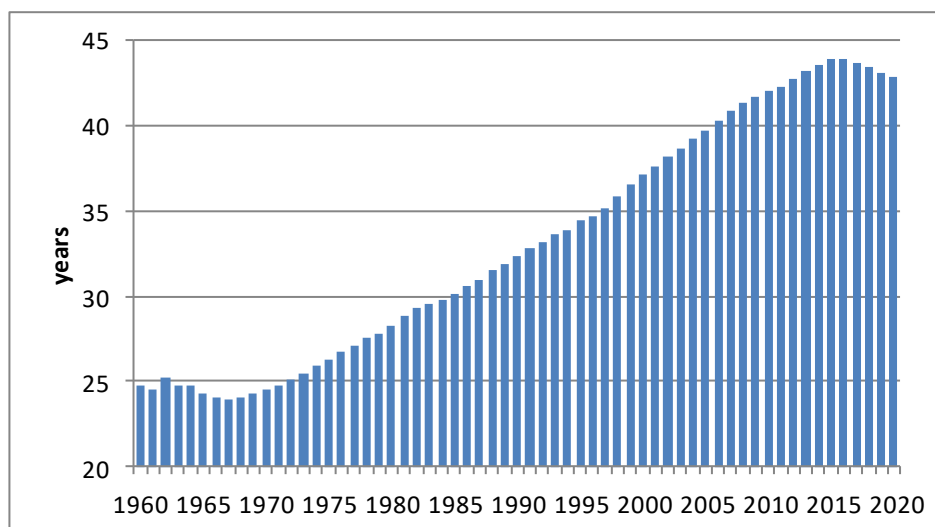


## POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER

On July 1, 2020, Prince Edward Island's population consisted of 81,117 females (50.8 per cent) and 78,508 males (49.2 per cent). The median age<sup>2</sup> on Prince Edward Island on July 1, 2020 was 42.9, a decline of 0.2 from 2019 and the fourth consecutive year the median age has declined. The last time this occurred was when median age declined for five consecutive years from 1963 to 1967. Median age has been declining recently as a result of the larger number of international immigrants under 40 entering the province.

By comparison, the median age in 2010 was 42.0 and 37.1 in 2000. Since a low of 23.9 in 1967, the median age has risen by 19.0 years (see diagram 4).

**DIAGRAM 4: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MEDIAN AGE, 1960 – 2020**

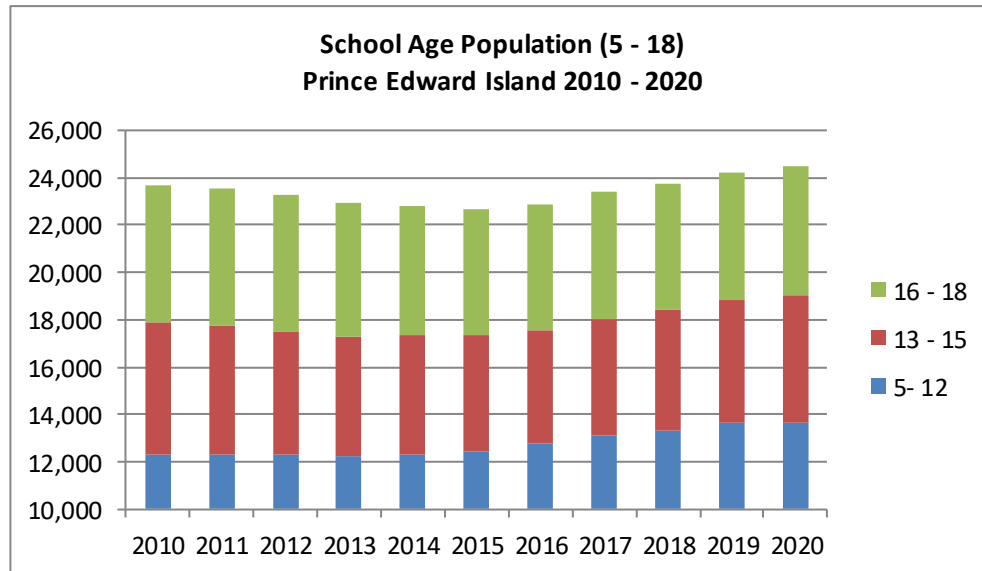


## School Aged Population

The number of children aged 5 to 18 on Prince Edward Island was estimated to be 24,462 on July 1, 2020, an increase of 1.0 per cent over 2019. From 2010 to 2020, the total school aged population has risen by 3.4 percent or 802 people. However, it is important to note that this age cohort was in decline from 1997 to 2015. Since reaching a low of 22,629 in 2015, there has been an increase of 1,833 children, or growth of 8.1 per cent. Over this five year period, the elementary school age group has increased by 9.5 per cent, the intermediate school age group by 10.8 per cent and the high school age group by 2.3 per cent. Diagram 5 shows the school aged population for Prince Edward Island from 2010 to 2020.

<sup>2</sup> The median age is the age at which exactly half the population is older and half the population is younger.

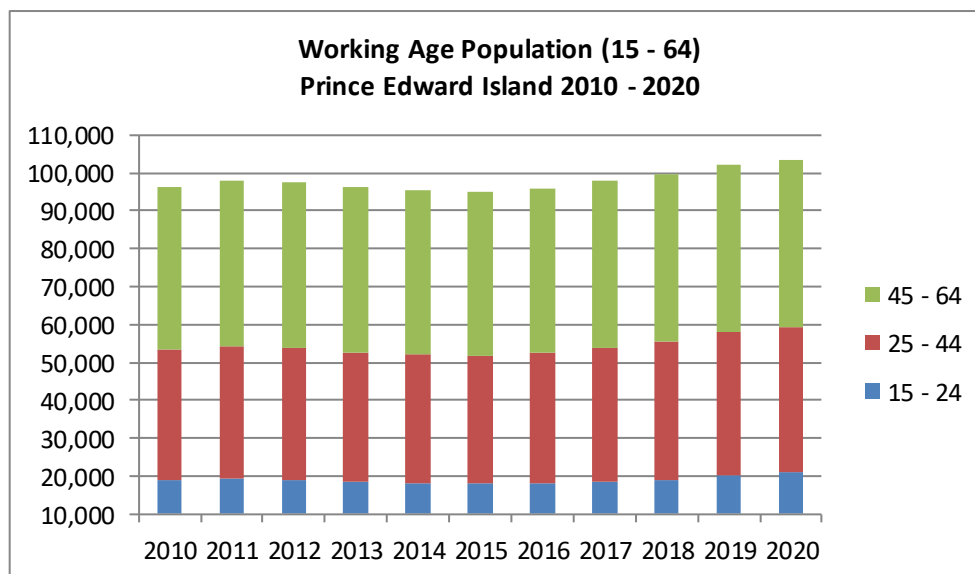
**DIAGRAM 5: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POPULATION AGED 5 - 18, 2010 – 2020**



### Working Age Population

The number of people aged 15 to 64 on Prince Edward Island was estimated to be 103,225 on July 1, 2020, an increase of 1.3 per cent over 2019. From 2010 to 2020, the working age population has risen by 7.1 percent or by 6,831 people. This age cohort was in decline from 2012 to 2015. Since 2015, there has been an increase of 8.6 per cent, or 8,204 people, over just a five year period. The majority of the growth over this period occurred in the 25 to 44 age group, which increased by 4,658 people, or 13.8 per cent. Diagram 6 shows the working aged population for Prince Edward Island from 2010 to 2020.

**DIAGRAM 6: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POPULATION AGED 15 - 64, 2010 – 2020**



## Senior Population

The age cohort with the largest percentage increase over the past ten years has been for those aged 65 and over. The number of people aged 65 and over on Prince Edward Island was estimated to be 31,957 on July 1, 2020, an increase of 3.3 per cent over 2019. This age group has been increasing steadily since the mid 90's, with accelerated growth of 2.0 per cent or more per year since 2006. From 2010 to 2020, the senior population has risen by 44.8 percent or by 9,894 people. The largest increase has been in the 65 to 74 age group, as the baby boomers move into retirement age. This age group has increased by 58.7 per cent since 2010, or by 7,110 people. The 75 to 84 age group increased by 30.8 per cent (2,176 people) over this period, while the 85 and over age group increased by 21.0 per cent (608 people). Diagram 7 shows the senior population for Prince Edward Island from 2010 to 2020.

**DIAGRAM 7: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POPULATION AGED 65 AND OVER, 2010 – 2020**

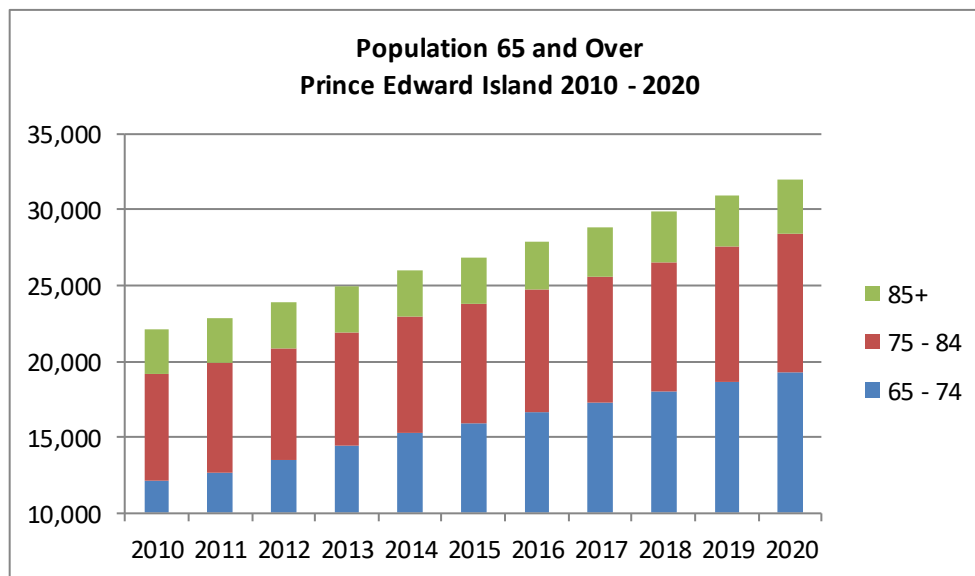




Table 5 shows the age and gender breakdown of PEI's July 1, 2020 population, as well as the rate of change from 5 and 10 years ago.

**TABLE 5: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER,  
JULY 1, 2020 & 5 AND 10 YEAR RATES OF CHANGE**

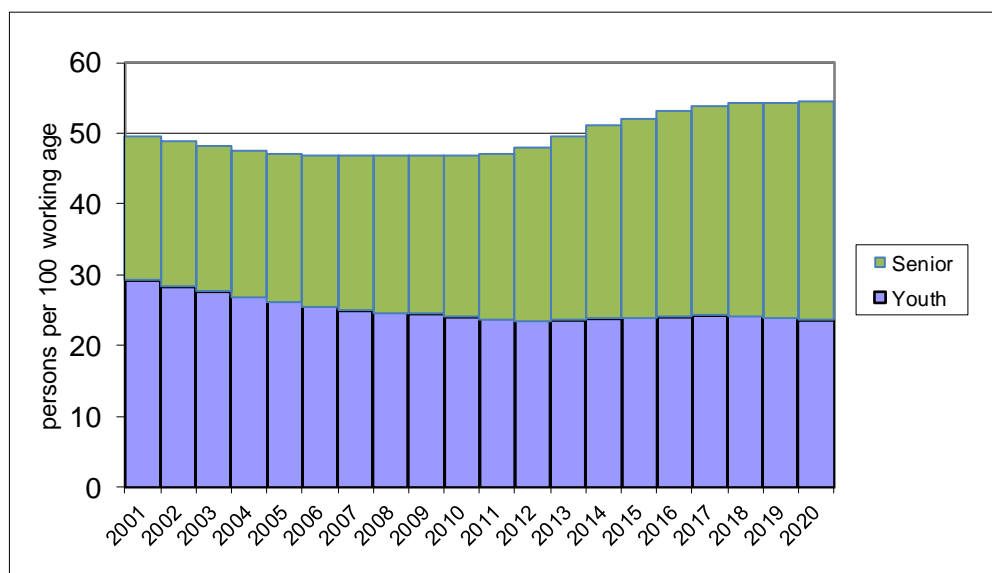
	July 1, 2020 Population				% change from July 1, 2015			% change from July 1, 2010		
	Male	Female	Total	% of Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,508</b>	<b>81,117</b>	<b>159,625</b>		<b>11.5%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>12.7%</b>
<b>0 - 14</b>	12,456	11,957	24,413	15.3	8.6%	6.4%	7.5%	5.5%	5.3%	5.4%
<b>0-4</b>	3,780	3,419	7,199	4.5	3.5%	-1.3%	1.1%	4.7%	-4.2%	0.3%
<b>5-9</b>	4,195	4,053	8,248	5.2	8.2%	4.8%	6.5%	12.7%	11.9%	12.3%
<b>10-14</b>	4,481	4,485	8,966	5.6	13.7%	14.9%	14.3%	0.2%	7.6%	3.7%
<b>15 - 29</b>	16,379	14,859	31,238	19.6	24.7%	15.8%	20.3%	20.3%	11.0%	15.7%
<b>15-19</b>	4,737	4,603	9,340	5.9	4.2%	4.6%	4.4%	-5.3%	-3.2%	-4.3%
<b>20-24</b>	6,212	5,365	11,577	7.3	35.5%	23.1%	29.4%	33.6%	16.0%	24.8%
<b>25-29</b>	5,430	4,891	10,321	6.5	35.6%	20.0%	27.7%	37.0%	22.0%	29.4%
<b>30 - 44</b>	13,604	14,508	28,112	17.6	9.5%	9.3%	9.4%	5.1%	7.6%	6.4%
<b>30-34</b>	4,466	4,746	9,212	5.8	15.0%	16.2%	15.6%	14.3%	13.9%	14.1%
<b>35-39</b>	4,517	4,797	9,314	5.8	10.4%	7.0%	8.6%	4.2%	6.7%	5.5%
<b>40-44</b>	4,621	4,965	9,586	6.0	3.8%	5.6%	4.8%	-1.8%	3.1%	0.7%
<b>45 - 59</b>	15,953	16,602	32,555	20.4	-0.7%	-1.8%	-1.2%	-1.6%	-1.4%	-1.5%
<b>45-49</b>	5,024	5,207	10,231	6.4	4.5%	4.3%	4.4%	-12.1%	-11.0%	-11.5%
<b>50-54</b>	5,096	5,223	10,319	6.5	-11.5%	-13.4%	-12.4%	-6.3%	-9.3%	-7.8%
<b>55-59</b>	5,833	6,172	12,005	7.5	6.1%	5.0%	5.5%	15.4%	17.9%	16.7%
<b>60 - 74</b>	14,773	15,799	30,572	19.2	15.5%	16.4%	16.0%	37.7%	39.5%	38.6%
<b>60-64</b>	5,452	5,898	11,350	7.1	7.2%	10.6%	8.9%	11.3%	17.0%	14.2%
<b>65-69</b>	4,886	5,230	10,116	6.3	4.0%	6.2%	5.1%	48.1%	48.3%	48.2%
<b>70-74</b>	4,435	4,671	9,106	5.7	47.5%	40.9%	44.1%	75.5%	69.3%	72.3%
<b>75+</b>	5,343	7,392	12,735	8.0	18.8%	16.4%	17.4%	37.2%	22.1%	28.0%
<b>15 - 64</b>	51,388	51,867	103,255	64.7	10.0%	7.3%	8.6%	7.8%	6.4%	7.1%
<b>65 and Over</b>	14,664	17,293	31,957	20.0	20.2%	18.6%	19.3%	50.8%	40.1%	44.8%

## Dependency Ratios

The total dependency ratio continues to increase, due solely to an increasing senior dependency ratio. The total dependency ratio is the ratio of persons under age 15 plus those aged 65 and older to the working age population 15 – 64. It is expressed as the number of youth and seniors per 100 persons aged 15 to 64. The youth dependency ratio is the ratio of the youth population to the working age population, while the senior dependency ratio is the ratio of the senior population to the working age population.

The total dependency ratio for PEI declined steadily from the early '70s until 2007, where it was lowest at 46.8 per 100 working aged people. This was due to a declining youth dependency ratio as the number of 0 – 14 year olds declined and the working age population increased. The senior ratio remained relatively unchanged over this period, rising by only 2.7 from 1971 to 2007. However, from 2007 to 2020, the senior dependency ratio has risen by 9.1, of which 6.4 has been since 2012. This increase in the senior ratio can be seen in diagram 8.

**DIAGRAM 8: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND DEPENDENCY RATIOS, 2001 – 2020**



**Sources:**

Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0008-01 Estimates of the components of demographic growth, annual  
 Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0022-01 Estimates of interprovincial migrants by province or territory of origin and destination, annual  
 Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0040-01 Estimates of the components of international migration, quarterly  
 Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0059-01 Estimates of the components of natural increase, quarterly  
 Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex

Prepared by PEI Statistics Bureau

r: revised data p: preliminary data

For more information about Canada's population, now available is Statistics Canada's new [Population and Demography Statistics Portal](#). As part of the agency's commitment to making information more accessible and increasing Canadians' statistical literacy, the new portal provides a single access point for users to find, use and analyze population and demography related information.

**Note to Readers:**

These estimates are based on 2016 Census counts adjusted for census net undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves, to which are added the population growth estimates for the period from May 10, 2016, to the date of the estimate.

This analysis is based on preliminary data. These data will be revised over the coming year, and it is possible that some trends described in this study will change as a result of these revisions. Therefore, this analysis should be interpreted with caution.