Alberta...Canada's Solution to Our Population Trap

CEA's Transportation Connects Alberta Conference

> Presented by: Angus Watt Advisory Group March 11, 2024



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Why is Inflation Bad?





How?





Tax on individuals

Reduced purchasing power Spending more to receive less

Tax on industry

Increased cost of goods and services

Profits shrink unless they can increase productivity

Cost of inflation is passed on to the consumer



Tax on governments

All levels of government have some sort of debt

Cost of debt servicing increases, leads to:

- Decreased spending
- Cut programs
- Increased taxes



Canada's Debt Burden, 2023/24

Combined Federal and Provincial Debt as a share of the economy

 Combined federal and provincial debt interest this year (\$82bill) is equivalent to total spent on K-12 education in Canada during 2020-21.

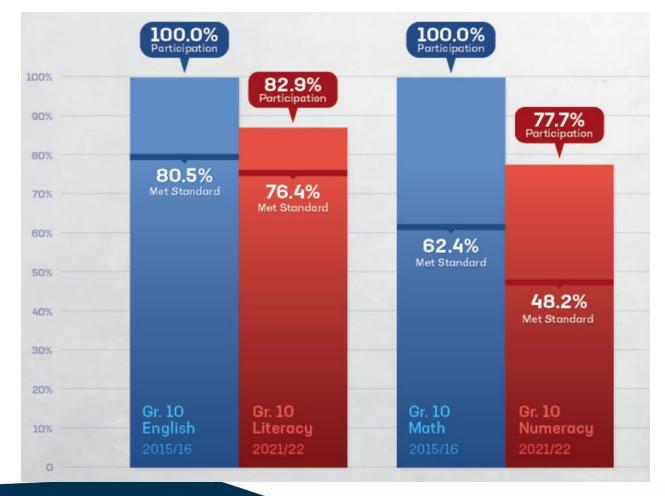


Source: https://www.fraserinstitute.org/file/growing-debtburden-for-canadians-2024-infographic-1-optjpg

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Participation Rates in Student Testing Falling in BC

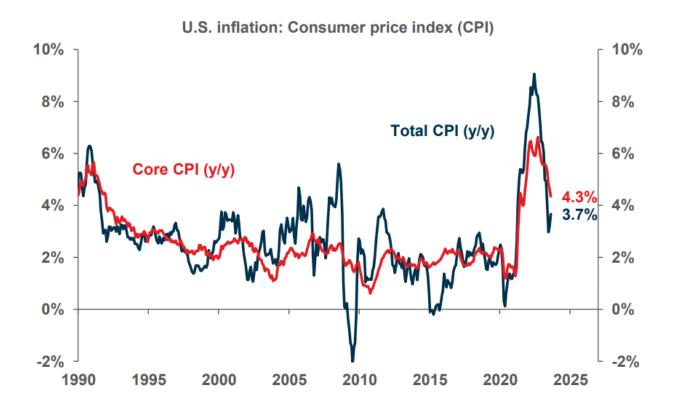
 Fewer that ½ of BC grade 10 students are now proficient in numeracy

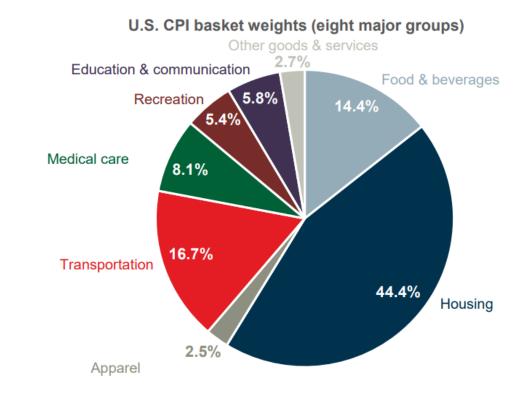




ANGUS WATT ADVISORY GROUP+ Source: <u>https://www.fraserinstitute.org/file/collapse-of-</u> student-testing-in-bc-high-schools-infographic-optjpg

US Inflation and CPI Composition

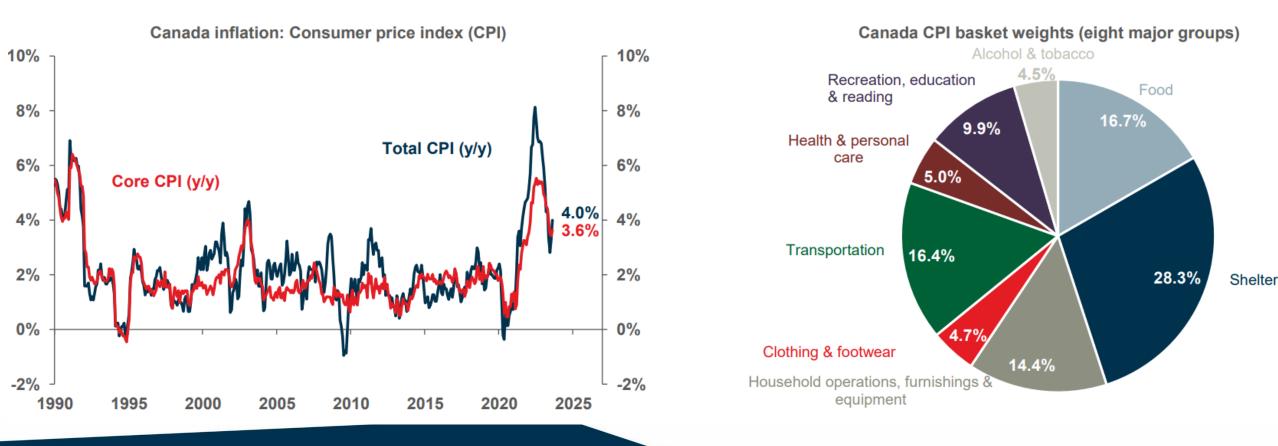




Source: National Bank CIO Office (Dada via Refinitiv)



Canada Inflation and CPI Composition



Source: National Bank CIO Office (Dada via Refinitiv)



Mortgages by Interest Rate - US

- According to US Census data nearly 38% of households are mortgage free
- As of October 18, 2023, US 30year mortgages are at 8.0%
- The average mortgage rate in the US is 3.4%

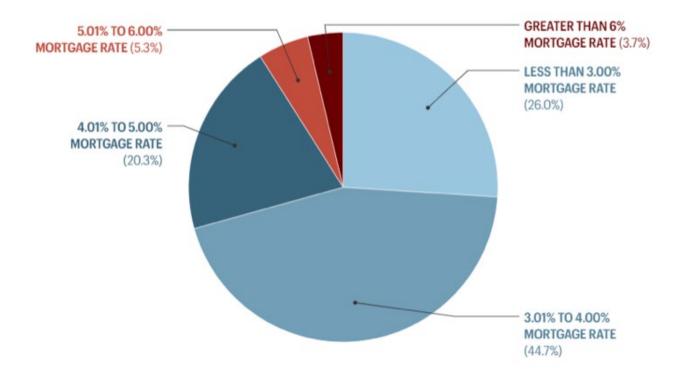


Chart: Lance Lambert. Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency, Morningstar

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Mortgages – Canada

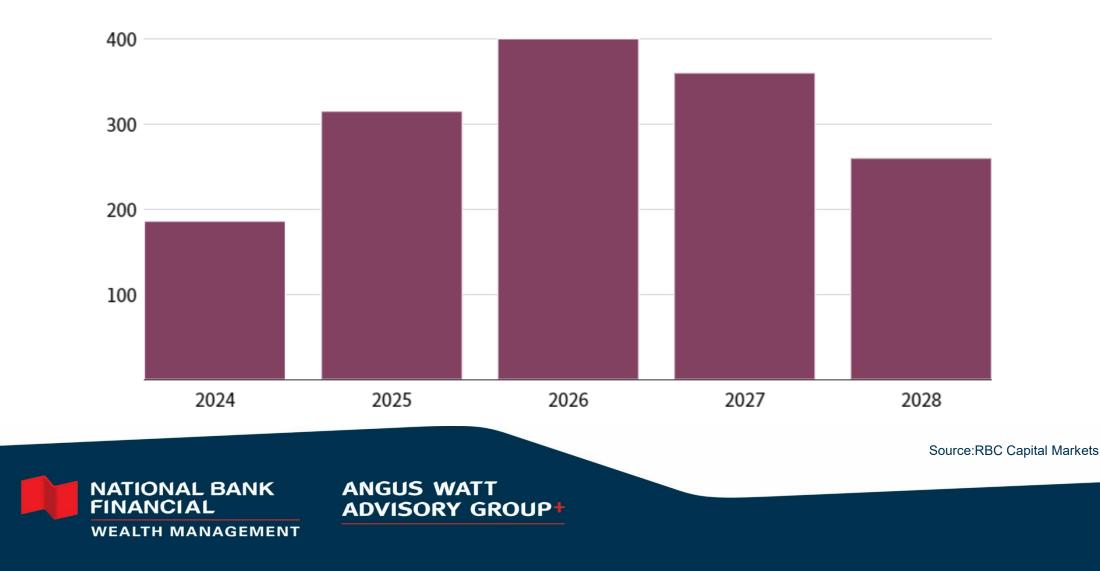


- 66% of Canadians are homeowners
- 50% have a mortgage
 - 70% have a fixed-rate mortgage that is not immediately affected by higher interest rates

Bank of Canada: Financial System Review 2022



Canadian residential mortgages up for renewal Billions of dollars, by renewal year



The Pandemic Hangover



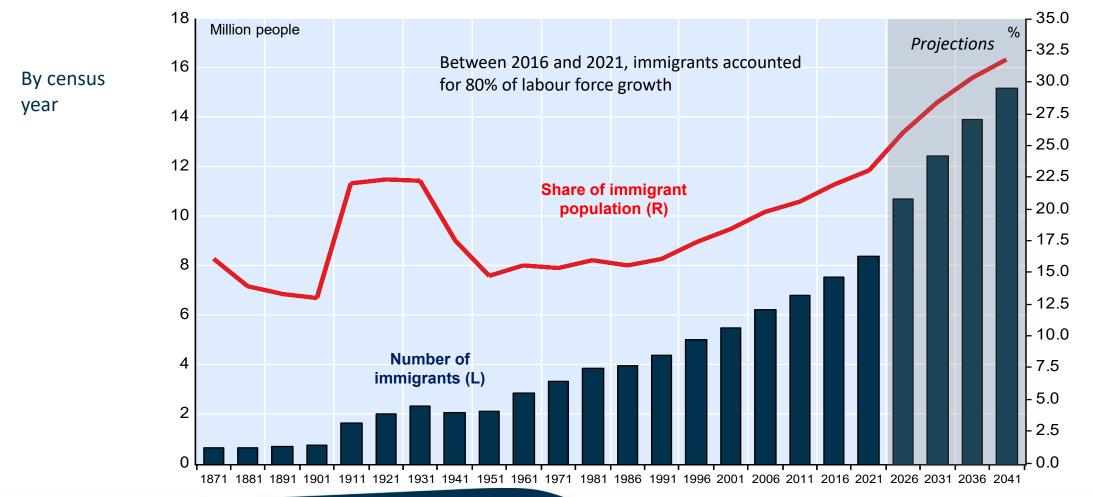
Workplace stress	Physical health	Social fear		
Delay of relationships & marriages	Higher cost of living	Higher cost of family home		
Delay of starting families:				

Delay of starting families: average age of first-time mothers: 31.6 (2022) versus 26.7 (1976)

Workplace shortages: need 100,000 agriculture workers in Canada by 20<u>30</u>

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Canada: A growing share of the population is immigrants

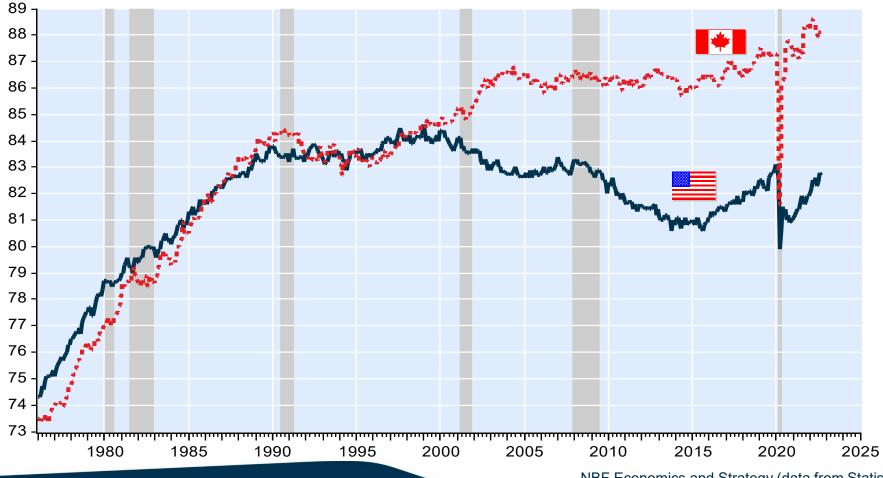


NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/221026/g-a001-eng.htm

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Canada: Labour force participation near a record high

Labour force participation rate for population aged 25-54



NBF Economics and Strategy (data from Statistics Canada, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

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Canada's Immigration Targets

2022: 431,645
2023: 465,000
2024: 485,000
2025: 500,000

Challenges are many:

- schools
- healthcare
- housing

We will need an additional 3.5 million homes above the current home-building projections by 2030 – CHMC.

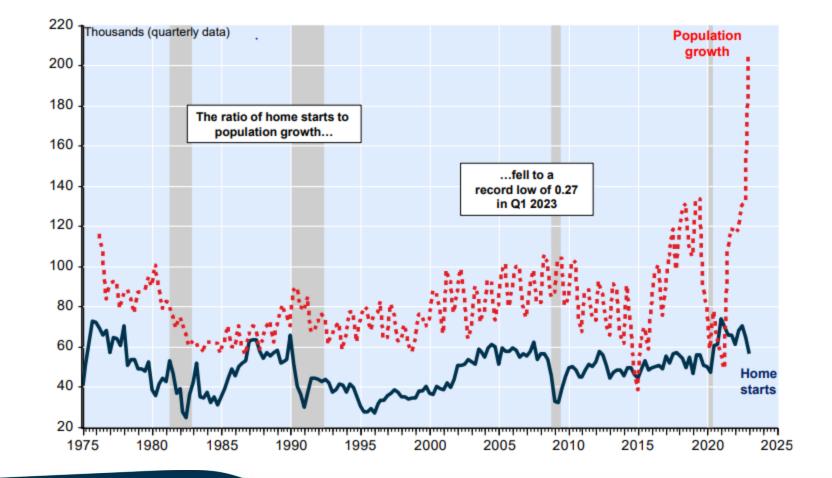
Do we have the labour capacity to build, fill and run these new schools, hospitals and homes?

Statistics Canada

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Canada: Homebuilders aren't keeping up with Population Growth

Quarterly change in population aged 15+ vs. quarterly residential home sales



NBF Econmics and Strategy (data via Statcan and FRED)



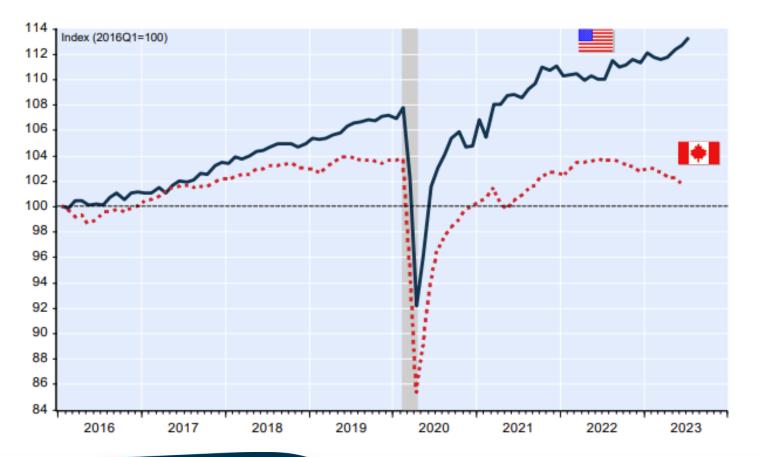
Canada: Shelter costs keep inflation above 3% CPI inflation: Total, housing and ex-housing



Source:NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada)

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Canada: Standard of living at a standstill Real GDP per capita



Source:NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada and BEA)



Consumer Confidence is Falling

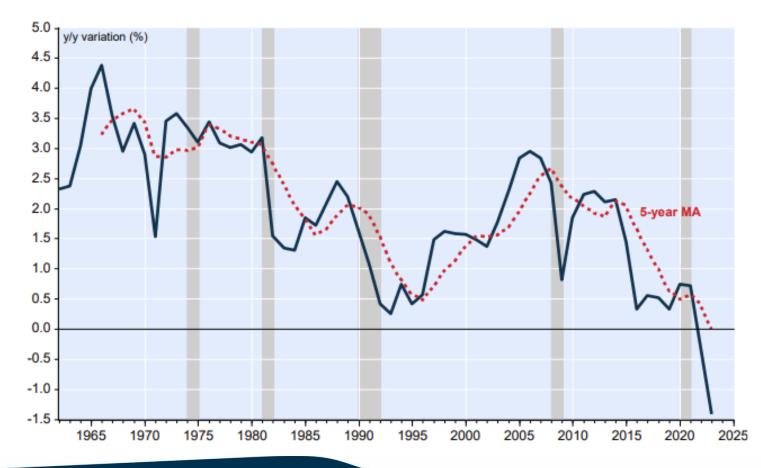


NBF Economics and Strategy (data from Conference Board of Canada)



Canada: Caught in a population trap

Net real capital stock at year-end per person, all sectors (NBF estimation for 2023)

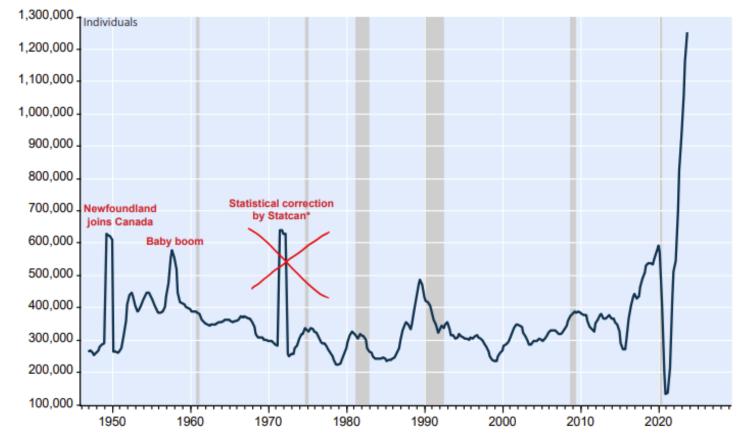


Source: NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada 34-10-0163-01, 36-10-0096-01, 17-10-0009-01)



Canada: Unprecedented Surge Annual growth in total population

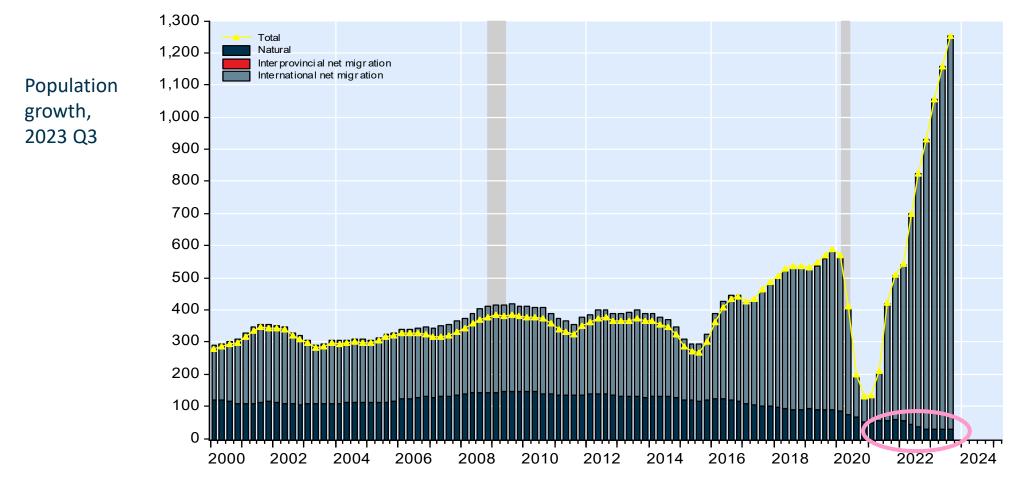
* 1972 is a statistical correction from a rebenchmarking by Statistics Canada



Source:NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada)



Canada: Population growth decomposition

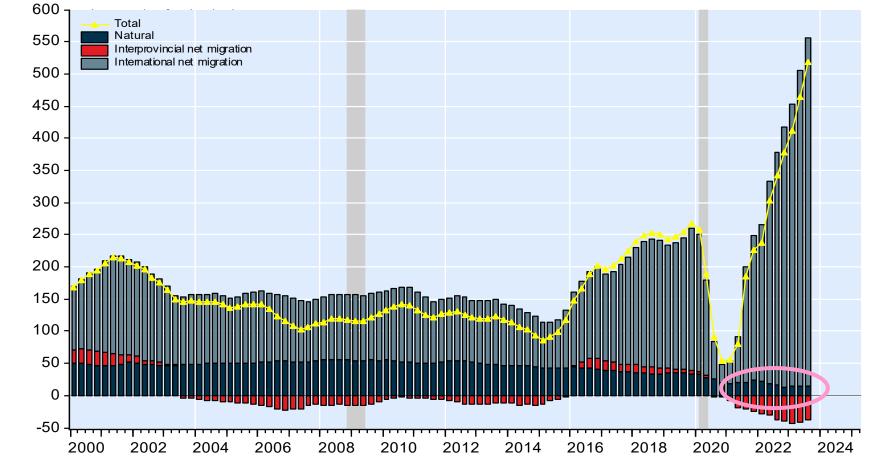


NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada)



Ontario: Population growth decomposition

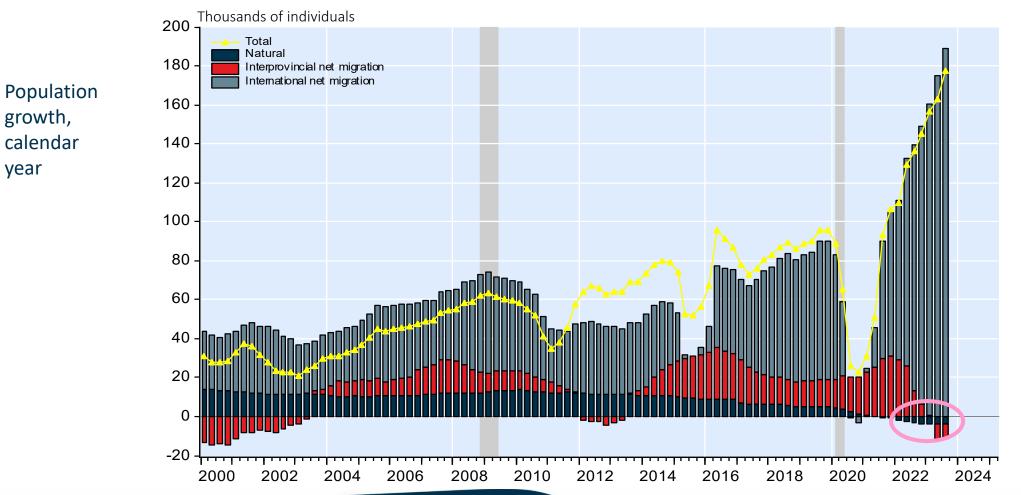
Population growth, calendar year



NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada)



British Columbia: Population growth decomposition

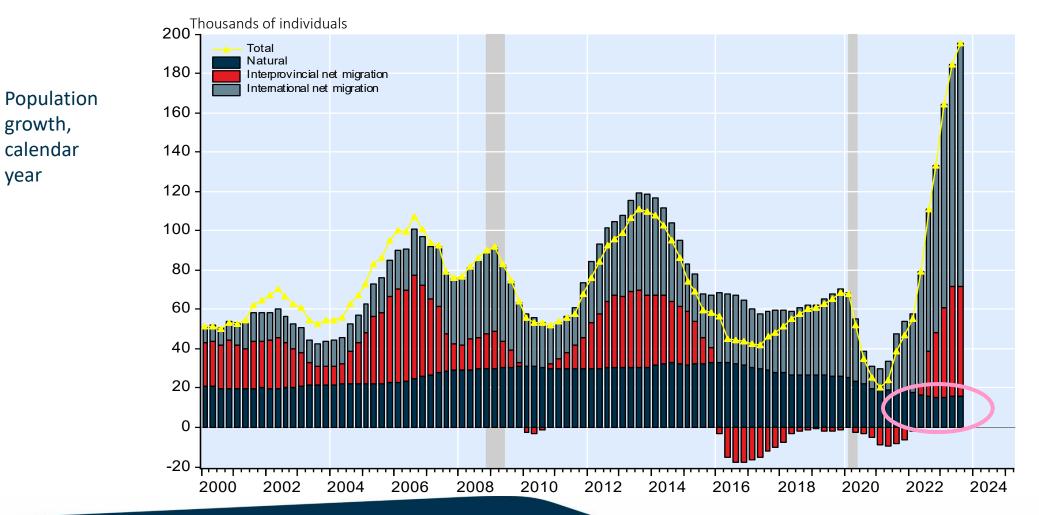


NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada)

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year

Alberta: Population growth decomposition



NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada)



year

Canada: Q3 2023 Perspective on Housing Affordability

Monthly mortgage payment on median home price, all types of dwellings (25-year amortization, 5-year term)



NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada, Teranet-National Bank, CREA)

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Canada: Q3 2023 Housing Affordability (non-condo)

City	Average price of home in metropolitan market	Household annual income needed	Months of saving for downpayment (10% savings rate)	Mortgage payment as % of income (MPPI)
Toronto	\$1,219,008	\$254,216	311	89.1%
Vancouver	\$1,673,264	\$348,949	464	133.3%
Calgary	\$630,562	\$154,454	50	47.2%
Edmonton	\$456,068	\$112,943	30	34.1%



ANGUS WATT ADVISORY GROUP+ NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada, Teranet-National Bank)

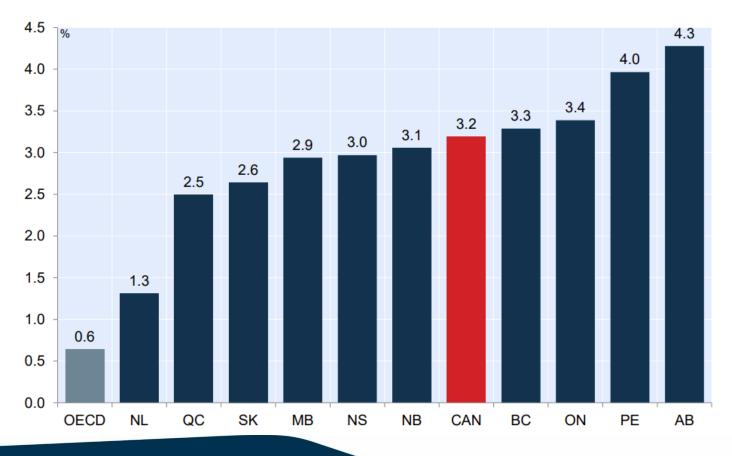


"Build the highway...and they will come."

Fasten your seatbelts, Highway 2 is about to explode as our Province takes off.



Canada: All provinces grow at least twice as fast as OECD Population change (2023Q3 vs 2022Q3)

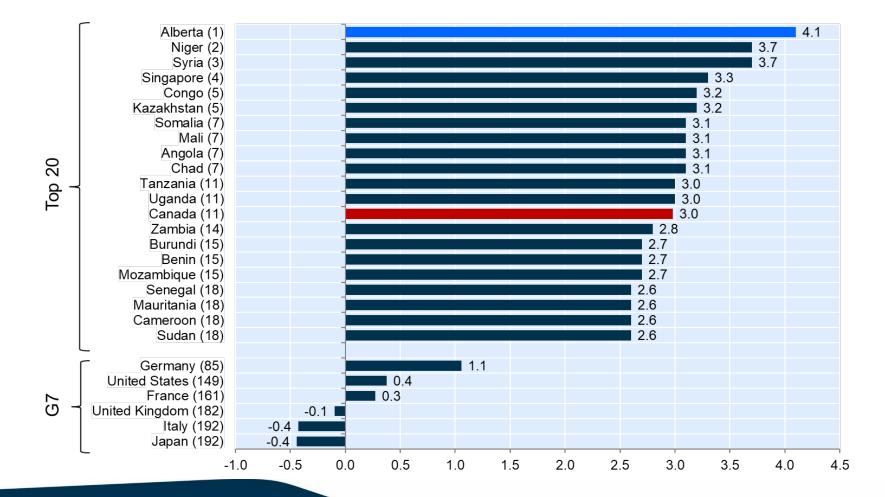


Source:NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada, OECD)



Alberta: Population Growth is the Fastest in the World

Population growth in 2022, top 20 countries + Alberta and G7 economies (2023 data for CA and AB)



NBF Economics and Strategy (data via World Bank, Statistics Canada)

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Alberta – Connecting the dots: the Next 5 Years

Strong interprovincial and international migration.

Increased demand in housing, schools, healthcare and infrastructure.

Shortage of skilled workforce.

New residents to Alberta are looking for:

- A home, a backyard, and a school nearby
- A place to develop a career
- A place to raise a family

Need a tax regime that supports corporations and the people of Alberta. Need provincial research incentives.

"We are a province of problem solvers" *Joe Lukacs*





Joe Lukacs

• I'm a serial problem solver. I have had a couple dozen successful innovations, but the ideas came from solving problems.





Don Stanley

- A Harvard graduate in environmental engineering searching for work, Dr. Stanley sent out 600 letters and drove 27,000 kilometers (17,000 miles) in 4 months, visiting small communities in western Canada.
- An innovator in developing techniques for the construction and operation of environmental installations
- Grew from one man operation into an international, multi-disciplinary organization with 28,000 employees in over 400 locations across 6 continents



Questions

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