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

CEA's Transportation Connects Alberta Conference

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



ANGUS WATT ADVISORY GROUP+

Research provided by: Stéfane Marion, Chief Economist & Strategist, National Bank

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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.

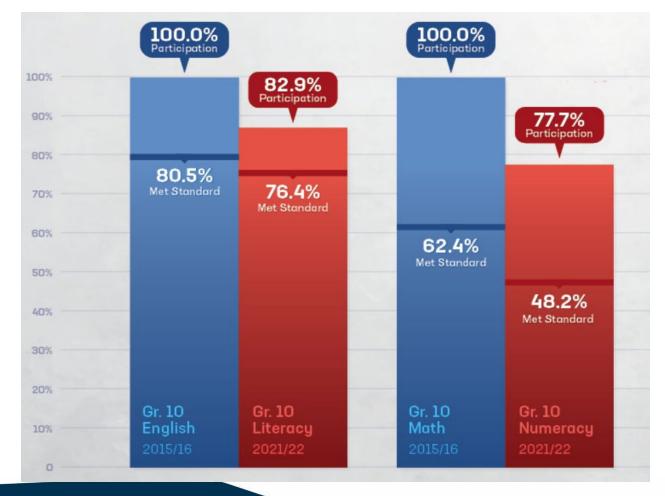


Source: https://www.fraserinstitute.org/file/growing-debtburden-for-canadians-2024-infographic-1-optjpg

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### Participation Rates in Student Testing Falling in BC

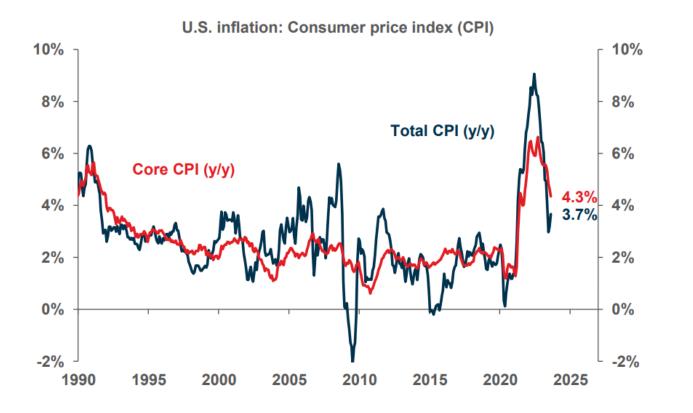
 Fewer that ½ of BC grade 10 students are now proficient in numeracy

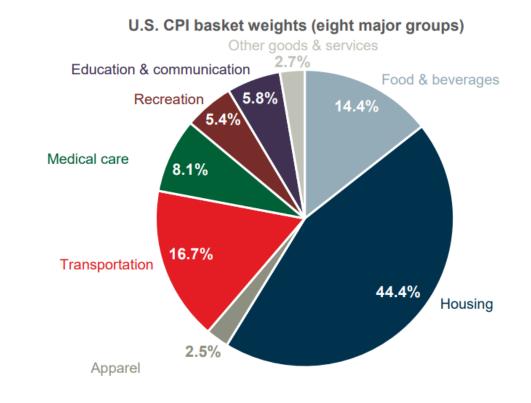




ANGUS WATT ADVISORY GROUP+ Source: <u>https://www.fraserinstitute.org/file/collapse-of-</u> student-testing-in-bc-high-schools-infographic-optjpg

### **US Inflation and CPI Composition**

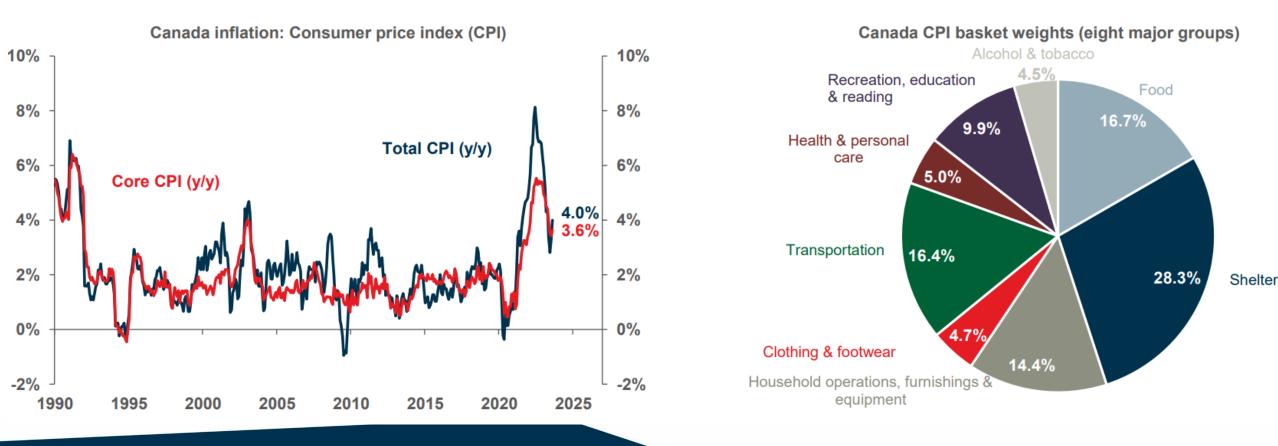




Source: National Bank CIO Office (Dada via Refinitiv)



### 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%

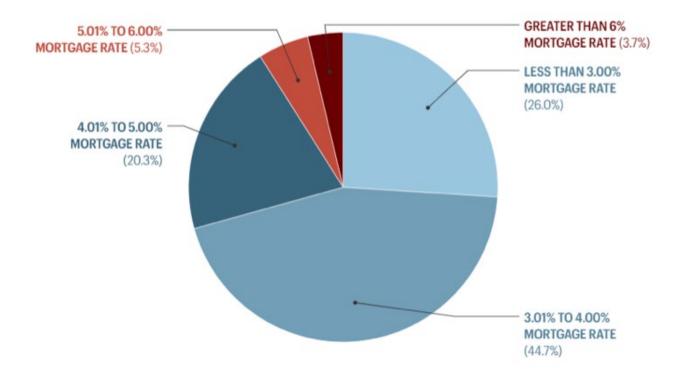


Chart: Lance Lambert. Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency, Morningstar

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### Mortgages – Canada

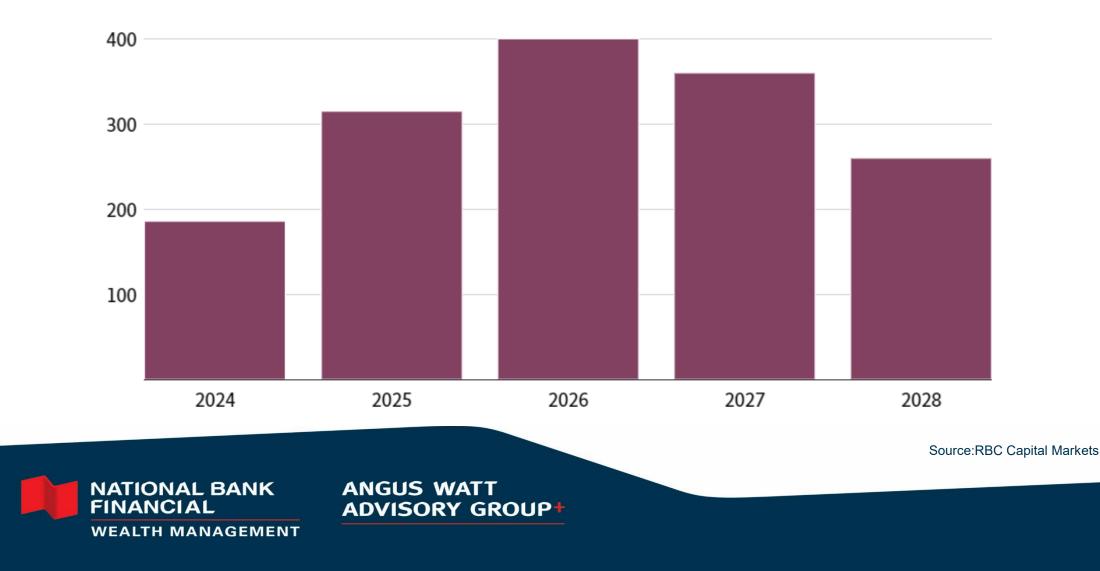


- 66% of Canadians are homeowners
- 50% have a mortgage
  - 70% have a fixed-rate mortgage that is not immediately affected by higher interest rates

Bank of Canada: Financial System Review 2022



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



### The Pandemic Hangover



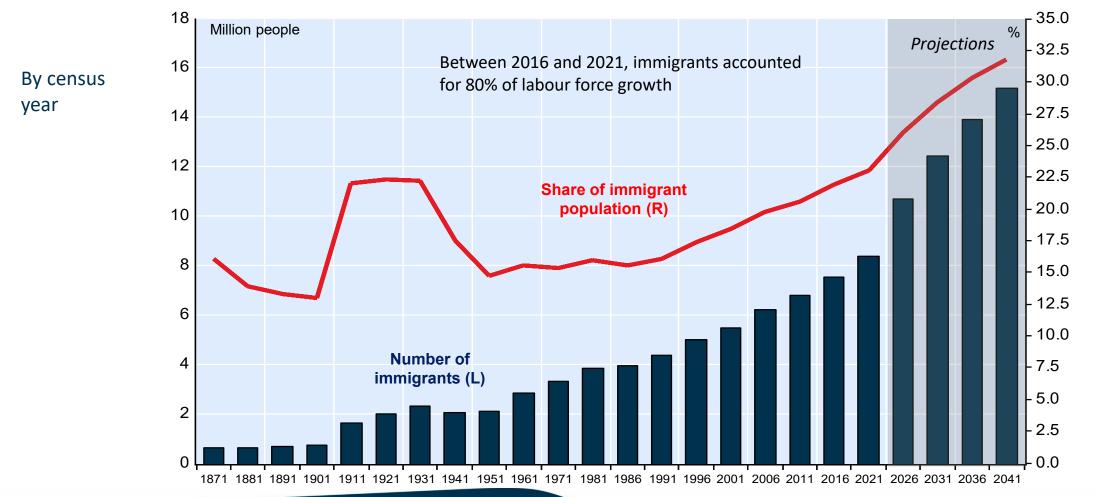
Workplace stress	Physical health	Social fear		
Delay of relationships & marriages	Higher cost of living	Higher cost of family home		
Delay of starting families:				

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

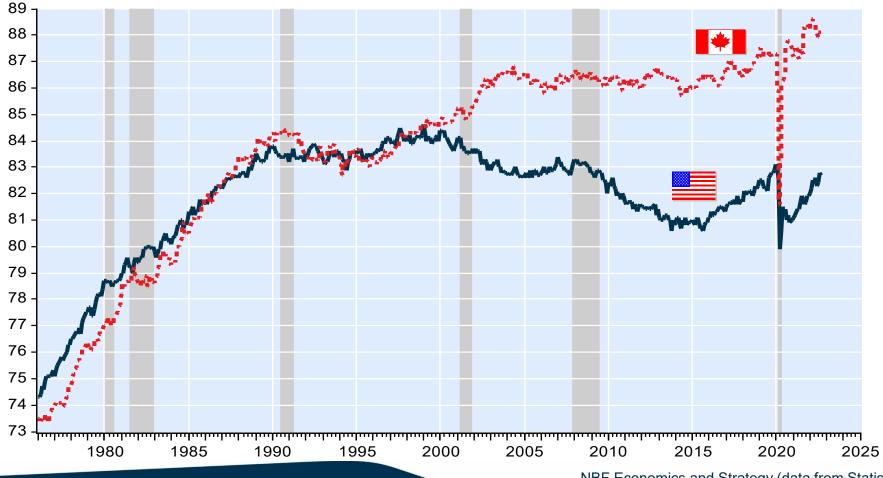


NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/221026/g-a001-eng.htm

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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.

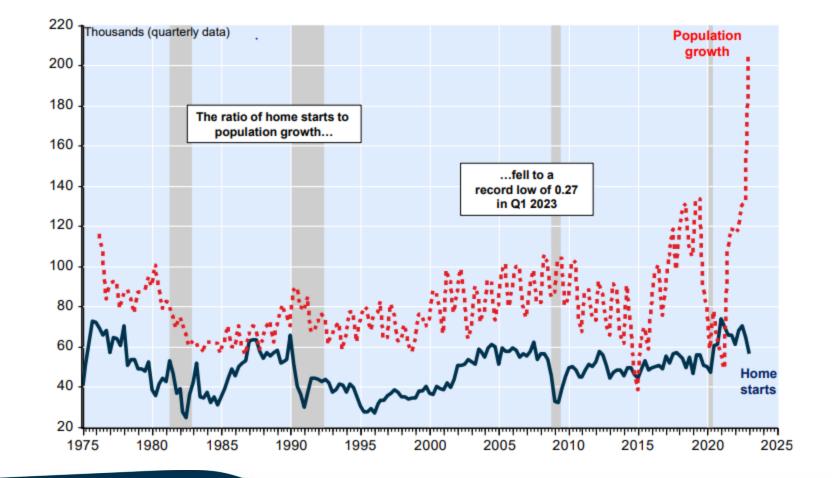
Do we have the labour capacity to build, fill and run these new schools, hospitals and homes?

Statistics Canada

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## Canada: Homebuilders aren't keeping up with Population Growth

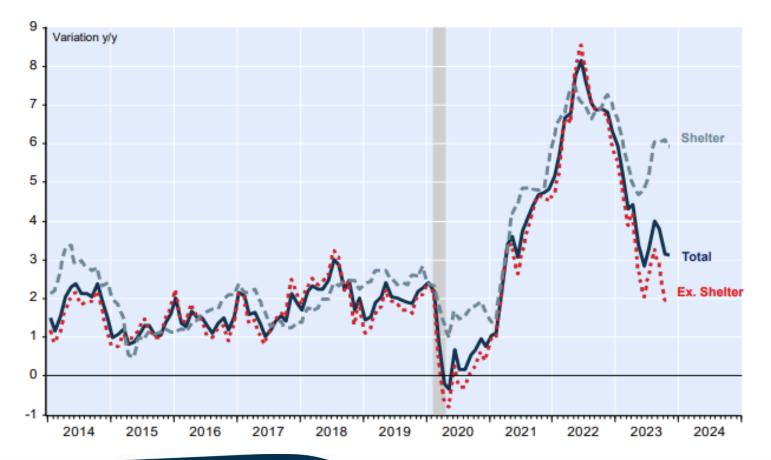
Quarterly change in population aged 15+ vs. quarterly residential home sales



NBF Econmics and Strategy (data via Statcan and FRED)



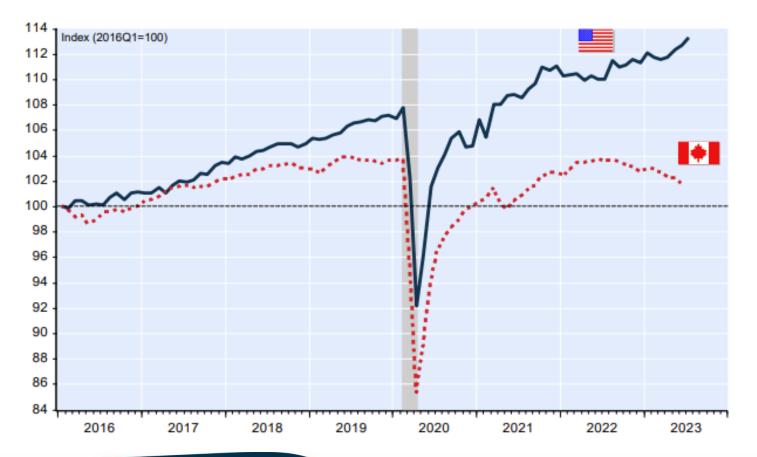
### Canada: Shelter costs keep inflation above 3% CPI inflation: Total, housing and ex-housing



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**

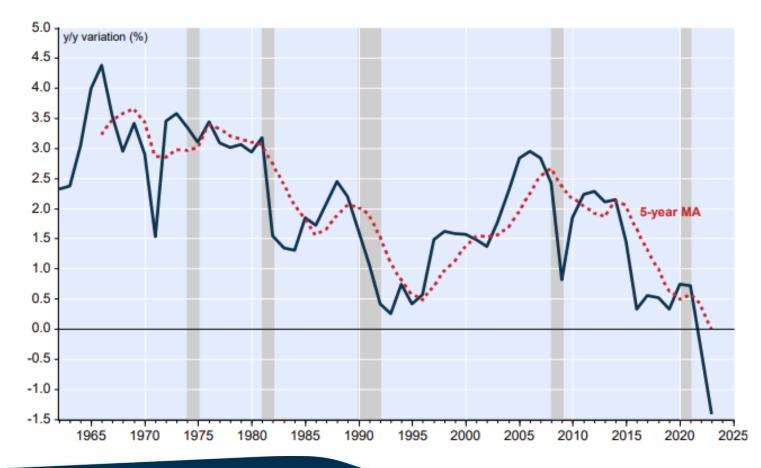


NBF Economics and Strategy (data from Conference Board of Canada)



### Canada: Caught in a population trap

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

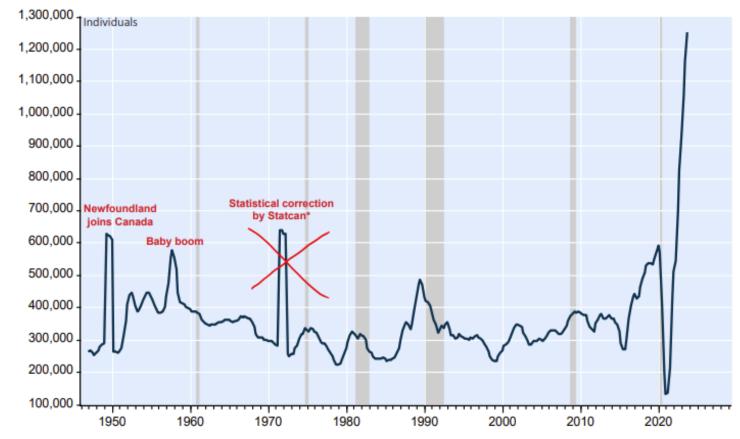


Source: NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada 34-10-0163-01, 36-10-0096-01, 17-10-0009-01)



### Canada: Unprecedented Surge Annual growth in total population

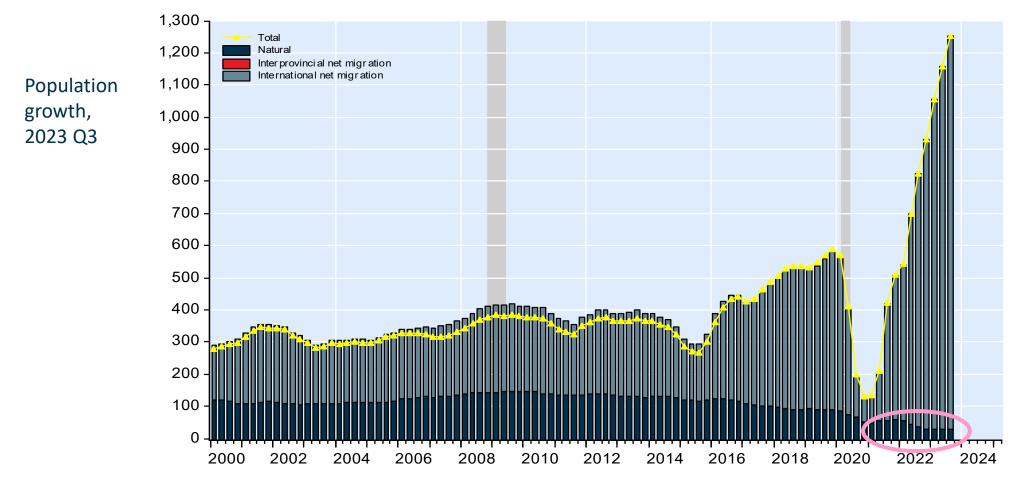
\* 1972 is a statistical correction from a rebenchmarking by Statistics Canada



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



### Canada: Population growth decomposition

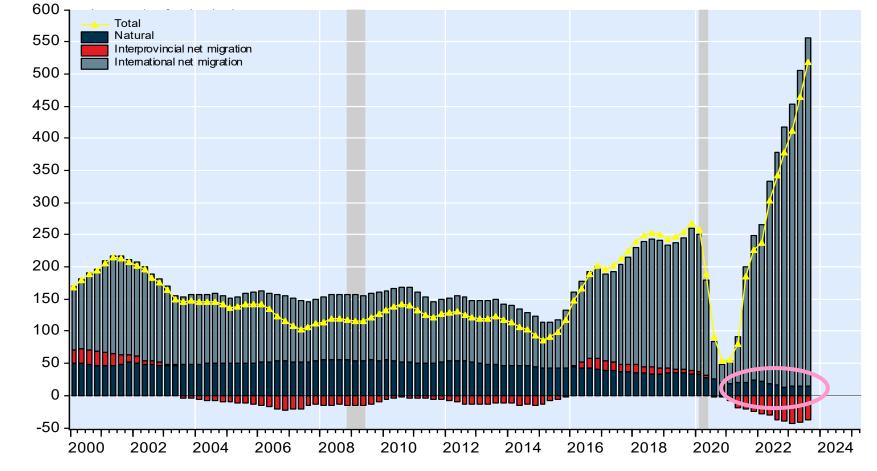


NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada)



### Ontario: Population growth decomposition

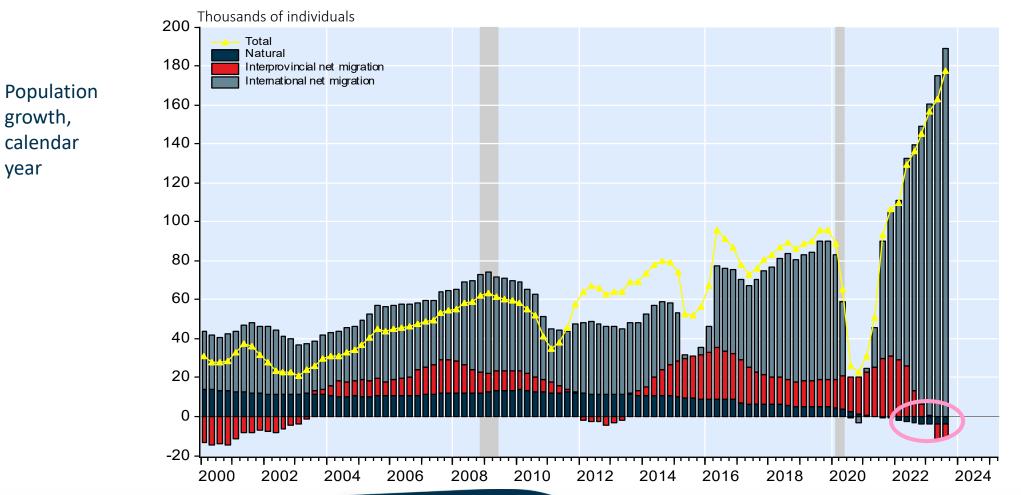
Population growth, calendar year



NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada)



### British Columbia: Population growth decomposition

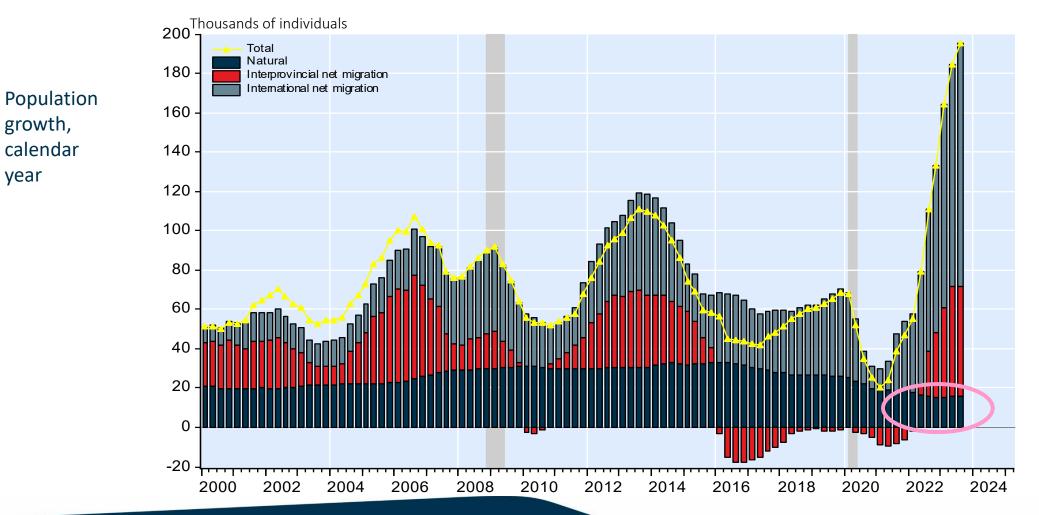


NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada)

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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)

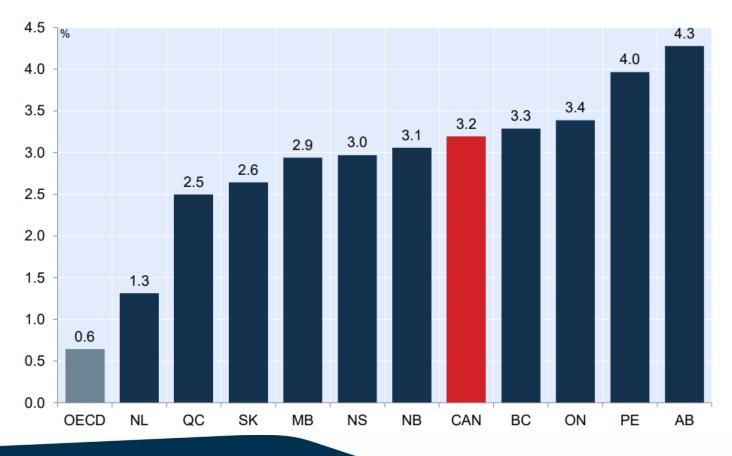


"Build the highway...and they will come."

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)

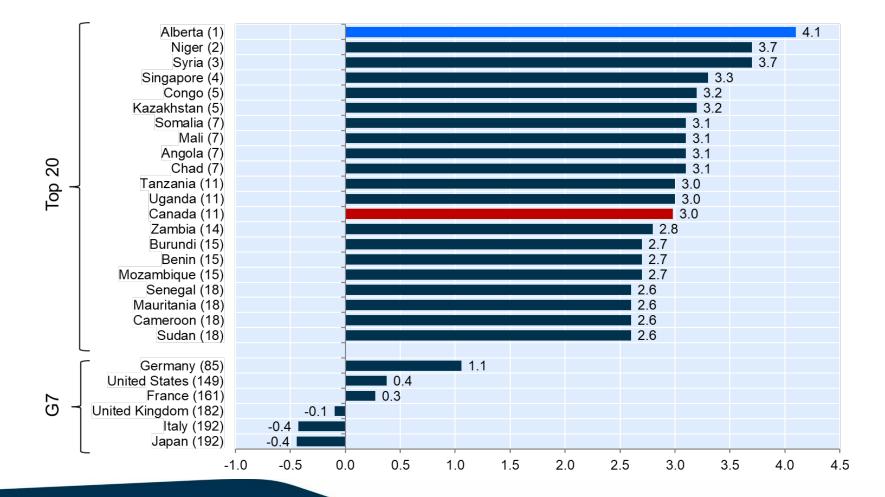


Source:NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada, OECD)



### 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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