

Understanding Canada's Population Growth

According to Statistics Canada, on an average day between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012...

- 1042 babies were born in Canada and 689 people died. This caused Canada's population to increase by 353.
- 710 people moved to Canada as immigrants and 140 moved out of Canada as emigrants. This caused Canada's population to increase by 570.
- As a result, there were 923 (353 + 570) more people living in Canada at the end of the day than there were 24 hours earlier.

To determine how our population is changing, we determine our **population growth rate**.

Population Growth Rate: measurement that combines both natural increase and net migration to calculate the overall growth of a country's population. It is expressed as a percentage.

A country's population growth rate has an enormous impact on the lives of the people. If a country's population is growing very fast, there may be serious problems providing enough housing, education, healthcare, and jobs for everyone. On the other hand, if a country has a declining population, there may be a shortage of workers or customers to meet the needs of the country's businesses.

Use Rates, Not Numbers

To determine how a country's population is changing naturally, with births and deaths, we determine the natural increase rate.

Birth Rate: the number of births in a population per year, per 1,000 people

Death Rate: the number of deaths in a population per year, per 1,000 people

Natural Increase Rate: the birth rate minus the death rate.

What About Immigration?

Immigration Rate: the number of people moving into a country per year, per 1,000 people

Emigration Rate: the number of people moving from a country per year, per 1,000 people

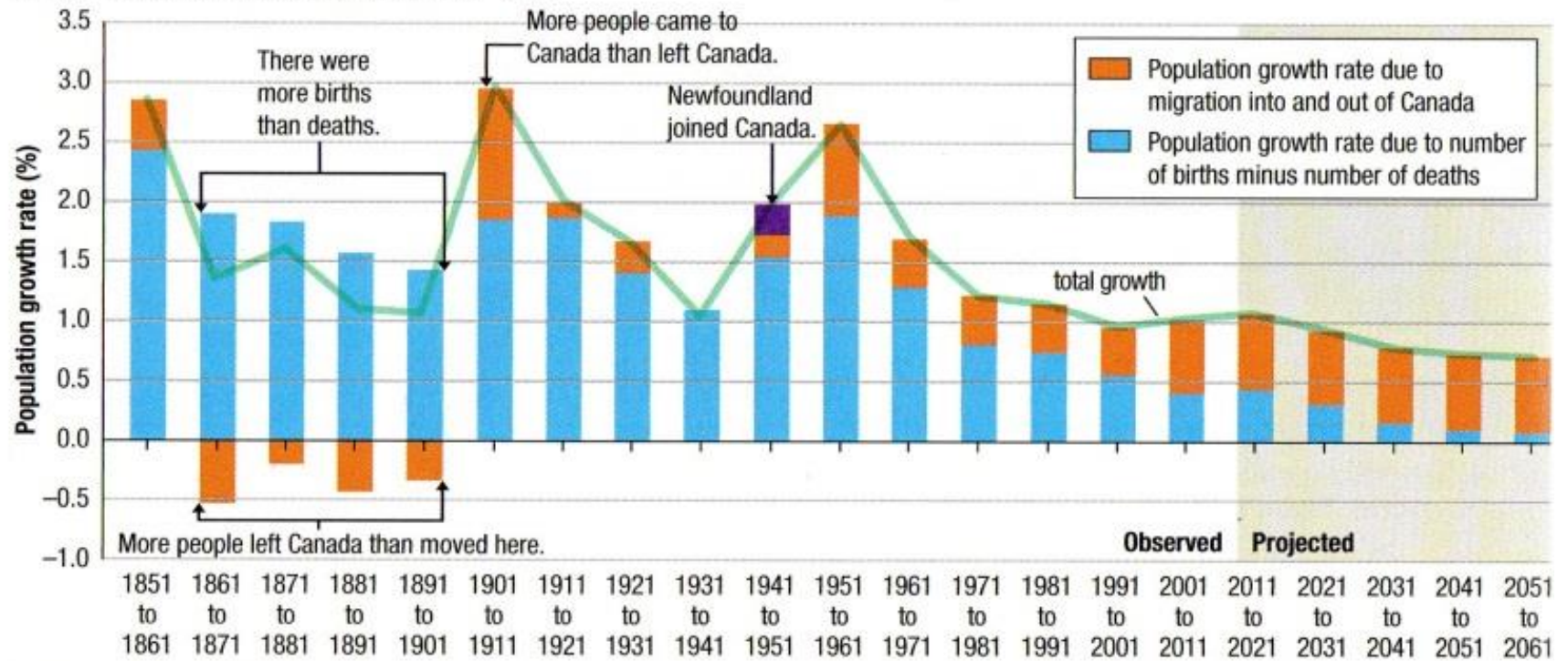
If we combine the immigration and emigration rates, we get the **net migration rate**

Population Growth Rate

$$\text{Population Growth Rate} = \text{Natural Increase Rate} + \text{Net Migration}$$

Example:

Canada's Population Growth Rate, 1851–2061



The Importance of Population Growth Rate

In point form, answer the following questions based on what we have just discussed.

1. What would contribute to country having a low/high birth rate?

Low: _____

High: _____

2. What would contribute to a country having a low/high death rate?

Low: _____

High: _____

3. What would contribute to a country having a low/high immigration rate?

Low: _____

High: _____

4. What would contribute to a country having a low/high emigration rate?

Low: _____

High: _____
