

NATIONAL 40 MILLION AND COUNTING

– CANADA HITS A NEW POPULATION MILESTONE



On June 16, our country hit a major landmark. **Statistics Canada** says that was when the nation's population reached 40 million.

“This is an exciting milestone for Canada,” said Chief Statistician Anil Arora. “It is a strong signal that Canada remains a dynamic and welcoming country.”

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The 40-million figure tells a big tale, too.

Canada's population is expanding faster than it has in decades. The nation's annual growth rate is 2.7 percent. That's the highest it's been since 1957. As a result, Canada is the fastest-growing G7 country. If the nation keeps growing at this

CANADA'S "POPULATION CLOCK"

How could Statistics Canada be so certain that the population hit 40 million on June 16? Did someone welcome the newest immigrant personally, or see the baby born who ushered in this landmark?

Not exactly. The number is just a highly educated guess. The federal government uses a “population clock” – a **statistical model** that estimates the current population. This model is based on birth, death, and immigration trends. The model also gauges the number of residents in every province and territory. As of mid-August, the population was estimated to be 40,253,321 (an increase of over 253,000 since June 16).

rate, the population could hit 50 million in just 20 years.

WE HELP OTHERS . . .

How to explain this massive population surge? It comes down to one word: **immigration**. In 2022 alone, Canada grew by over one million people. About 96 percent of this increase was due to people moving to Canada

from other nations. That's more than twice the 430,000 **permanent residents** the federal government was expecting.

The numbers increased because Canada took in more **refugees** than planned. Many came from war-torn nations like Ukraine, Syria, and Afghanistan. Others came from Turkey and Syria

DEFINITIONS

G7 (THE GROUP OF SEVEN NATIONS): an organization of the world's seven most advanced economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.

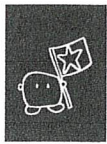
IMMIGRATION: the process of coming to live permanently in a different country from the one you were born in

PERMANENT RESIDENT: someone who has immigrated to Canada but who hasn't yet become a full citizen

REFUGEE: a person forced to leave their country because there is a war or for political, religious, or social reasons

STATISTICAL MODEL: a mathematical process that attempts to describe and predict the population by taking samples of it

STATISTICS CANADA: a federal government agency that produces statistics to help better understand Canada and its population, resources, economy, society, and culture



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after a huge earthquake last February destroyed homes in these nations.

Yet this **influx** of immigrants is just part of an ongoing trend. Some 40 percent of Canadian residents are already immigrants or children of immigrants. And in 20 years, immigrants will make up the majority of Canada's population.

...AND THEY HELP US

Canadians have **humanitarian** reasons for accepting large numbers of immigrants. But we're also being practical.

Canada's current population is aging. In 1980, about six people were working for every retired person. By 2030, the ratio will be three to one. Meanwhile, the nation's birth rate has dropped substantially.

That means we risk not being able to replace the people leaving our **labour force**. With fewer workers, critical public services might suffer. Why? To fund schools, hospitals, and other **infrastructure**, the government relies heavily on the **income tax** that employed people pay.

As well, skilled newcomers fill our acute **labour shortages** in many fields, such as health care.

Canada is hoping immigration will help offset these problems. Many immigrants are young, so they'll pay into the public system for years to help support services. They're ambitious, too. The businesses they start and the purchases they make contribute to our **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**. Plus, they're often willing to relocate to small communities that benefit from their expertise.

THE DOWNSIDE

Yet some observers have concerns about Canada's growing population. They point to housing as a major issue. Homes now sell for over \$700,000 on average across the country. That's too costly for many people already living here. And there isn't enough housing for everybody at any price.

Another worry? At present, one in five Canadians doesn't have a family doctor. This shortage of medical care could worsen as the population ages and grows. What if the healthcare system stretches to the breaking point?

That could put people at risk. Roads could see more cars, too, adding to pollution. Schools could become overcrowded. Public transit could struggle to handle more passengers.

"If we want to do more immigration, fine, but let's have a suite of policies... that increase infrastructure investment for transit, housing, health care, [and] schools," said one expert.

Others are looking at the impact Canada's growth spurt is having on our present high level of **inflation**. Immigrants' need for consumer goods has pushed up demand, causing a shortage of these items. When demand exceeds supply, prices stay high.

REASONS TO CELEBRATE

So, there's a lot to navigate as our population grows. Yet many people believe it's worth pausing to mark this milestone.

"We are from far and wide, but united we are 40 million strong. There is no challenge we cannot overcome together," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said. "So let's celebrate each other, and let's celebrate as we continue to build this great country." ★

DEFINITIONS

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP): the total value of all the goods and services produced by a country in one year

HUMANITARIAN: connected with helping people who are suffering and improving the conditions that they are living in

INCOME TAX: the amount of tax that you pay to the government according to how much you earn

INFLATION: a fall in the value of money and a general increase in prices; the rate at which this happens

INFLUX: a lot of people, money, or things arriving somewhere

INFRASTRUCTURE: the systems that keep a country running smoothly: buildings, transport, water, and power

LABOUR FORCE: all the people who work in a country

LABOUR SHORTAGE: when there are more jobs than workers



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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is Canada's **population clock**?

2. Explain how this 'model' works.

3. What milestone did Canada's population reach in mid-June?

4. Describe the recent rate of population growth in Canada.

5. What is an **immigrant**? Explain.

6. How many people moved to Canada last year?

7. What is a **refugee**? Explain.

8. Canada welcomed a large number of refugees in 2022. Which countries did many come from?

9. Explain why Canada's labour force is shrinking.

10. List two reasons why the government is concerned about a decrease in the labour force.



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QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

1. The article states that Canada grew by more than one million new immigrants in 2022, which makes it the fastest-growing member among G7 nations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States). What reasons can you suggest to explain why the population is growing more quickly in Canada than in other G7 countries?

2. The article quotes Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: *“We are from far and wide, but united we are 40 million strong – and there is no challenge we cannot overcome together. So let’s celebrate each other, and let’s celebrate as we continue to build this great country.”* Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons to support your response.

3. Statistics Canada is a federal government agency that produces statistics about Canada’s population, resources, economy, society, and culture. As you see it, why might it be important to track this type of data? Support your answer with examples.



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QUESTIONS FOR ONLINE EXPLORATION

Note: The links below are listed at www.lesplan.com/links for easy access.

1. Visit Statistics Canada and learn more about Canada's 40-million population milestone and our country's growth over time:

https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/subjects-start/population_and_demography/40-million

Make note of 2 interesting facts that stood out to you in this summary.

2. Watch this video about the growth of Canada's population since it became a country in 1867:

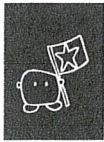
<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/sc/video/canada-by-million>

List 3 of the key moments that contributed to large growth spurts in Canada's population.

3. Check out Statistics Canada's real-time model population clock:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/71-607-x/71-607-x2018005-eng.htm>

What did you notice? List two questions that you have about the data presented.



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GRAPHING

1. Complete the table below to show:

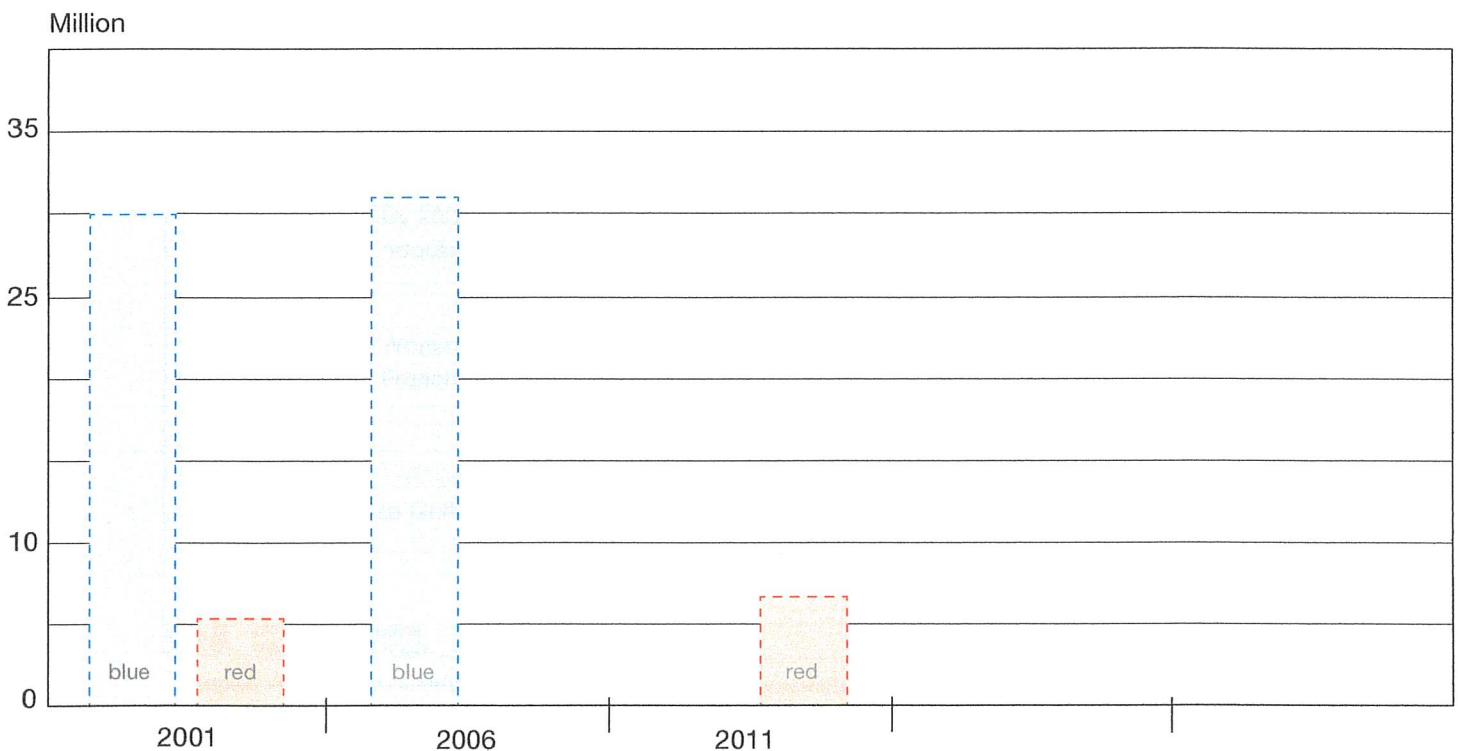
- the total population of Canada during the last five census years;
- the total number of immigrants in Canada during the last five census years;
- the percentage of immigrants compared to the total population.

The following source will help: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_immigration_statistics

Census	2001	Census	2006	Census	2011	Census	2016	Census	2021
Population	30,007,094	Population		Population	33,476,688	Population		Population	36,991,981
Immigrants	5,448,480	Immigrants	6,186,950	Immigrants		Immigrants		Immigrants	
%	18.2%	%	19.6%	%	20.2%	%		%	

- Plot a bar graph to show the total number of immigrants in each of the past five census counts. Shade each of these five columns blue.
- Plot a column to show the total number of immigrants beside each of the blue columns. Shade each new column red.
- Label your graph with a title.
- Examine your graph. What observations can you make and what conclusions can you draw? Explain.

blue Total Population red Immigrants





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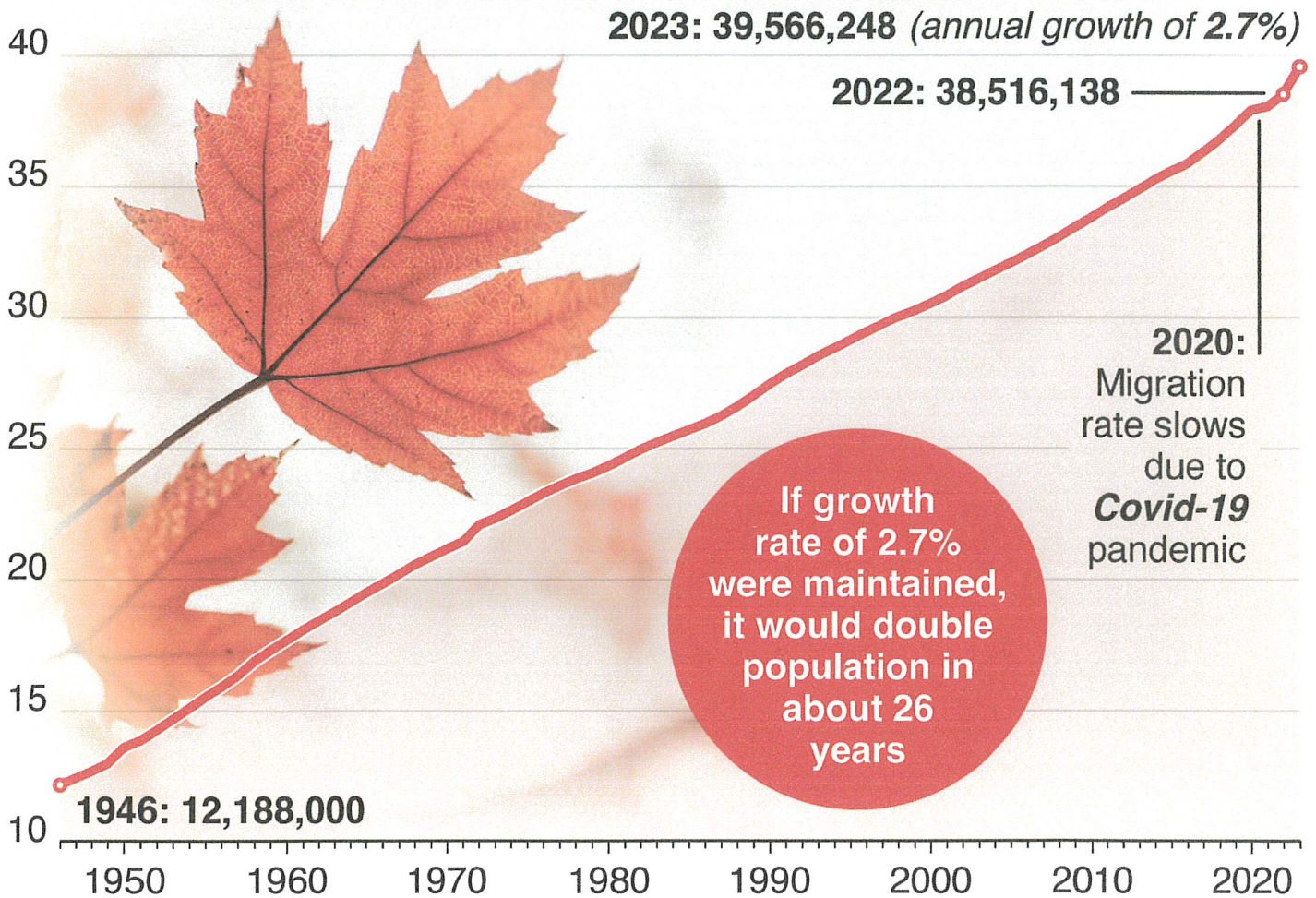
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INFOGRAPHIC

Canada population surges by a million

The population of Canada increased by more than one million people in 2022, mostly due to efforts to recruit migrants to the country

POST-WAR POPULATION GROWTH (millions, Q1 1946-2023)

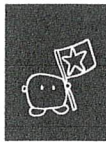


Sources: Reuters, BBC, Statistics Canada

Picture: Cole Keister (Unsplash)

© GRAPHIC NEWS

March 23, 2023 - The population of Canada increased by more than one million people in 2022, mostly due to efforts to recruit migrants to the country.

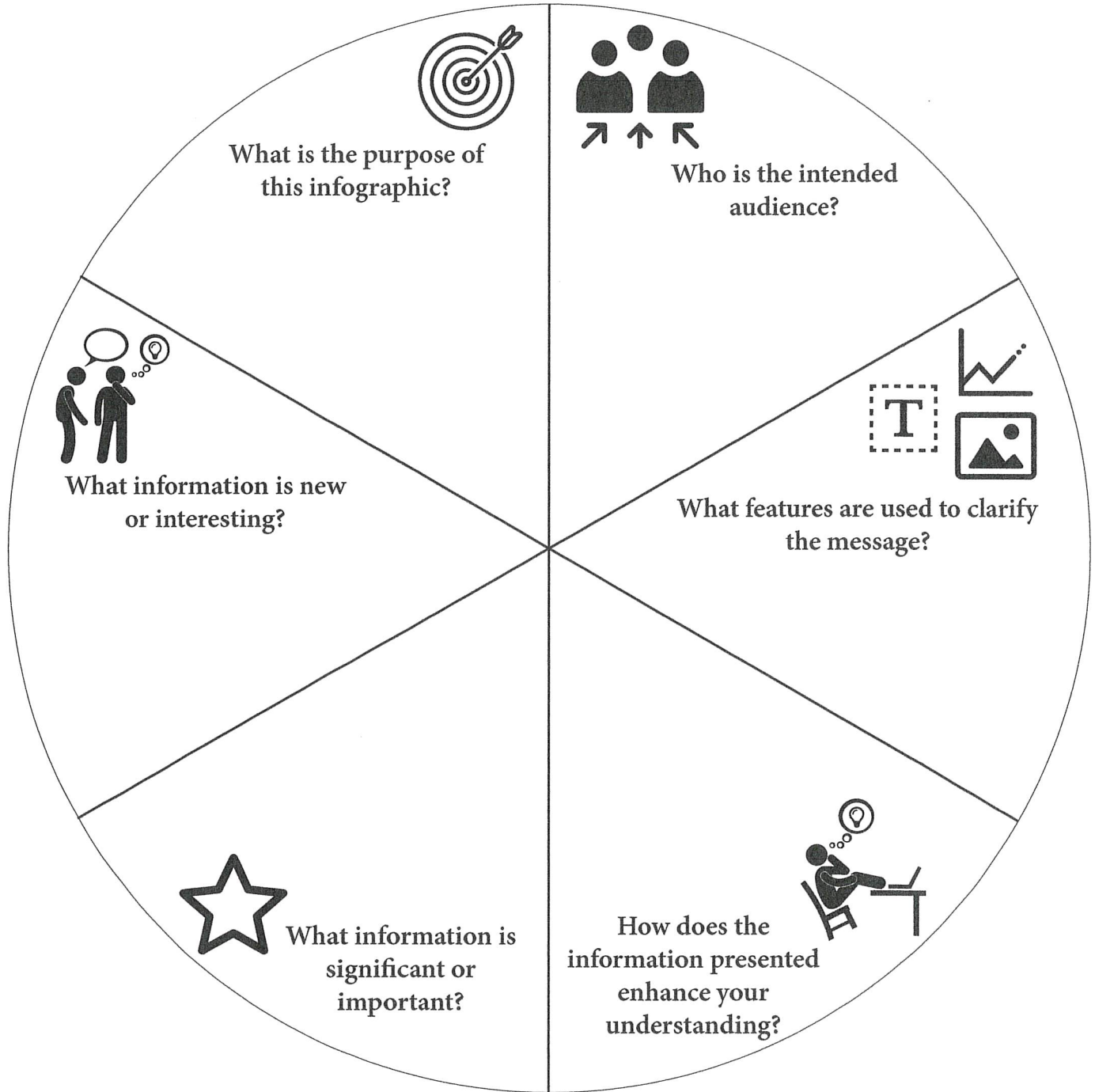


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ANALYZING AN INFOGRAPHIC



What questions do you still have about the topic presented?
