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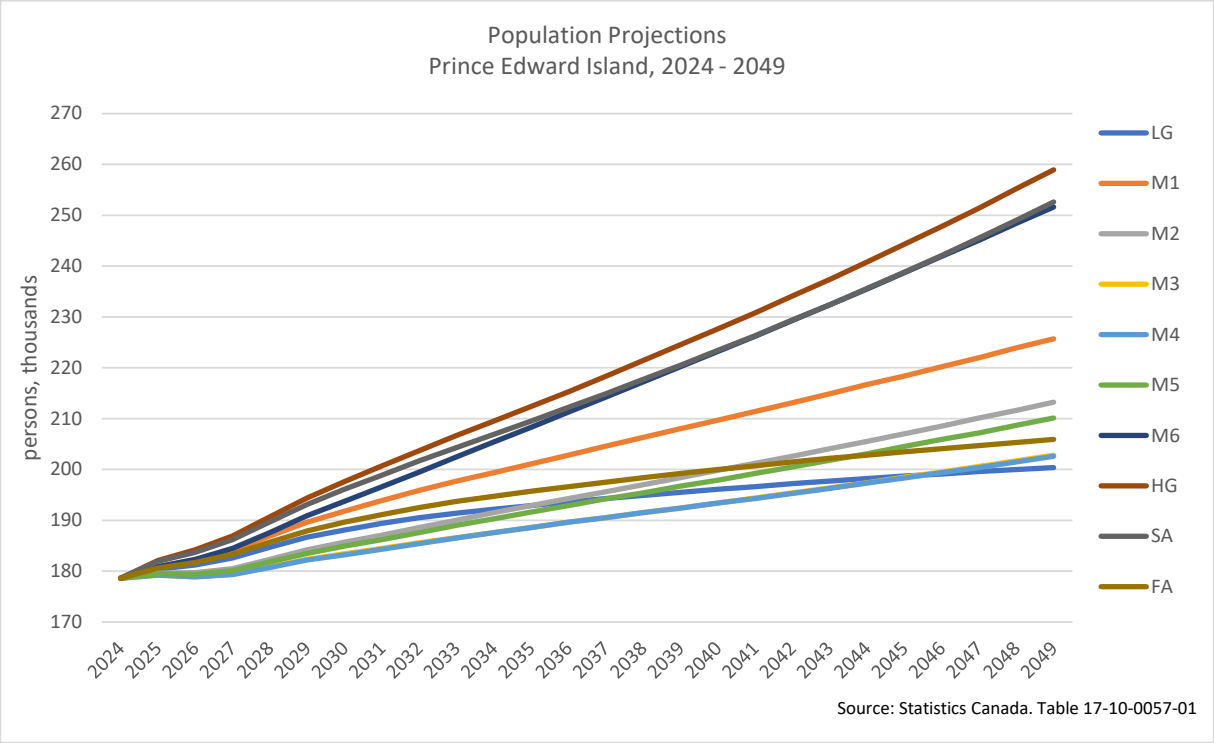
Prince Edward Island
Population Projections 2024 – 2049

On January 21, 2025 Statistics Canada released population projections for Canada, the provinces and the territories from 2024 to 2049. The projections consist of several scenarios based on different assumptions (see note to readers) and take into account the most recent trends in Canada's demography, such as the Immigration Plan released by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada in November 2024.

Prince Edward Island, Total Population

PEI's total population is projected to grow between 12.2 percent (low growth scenario) and 45.0 percent (high growth scenario) from 2024 to 2049. This would result in total population of between 200,400 and 258,900 in 2049. PEI's population is projected to reach the 200,000 milestone as early as 2031 and as late as 2048.

The medium growth scenario M1 can be considered the average hypothesis. This was developed using inter-provincial trends based on recent trends (2021/22 to 2023/24) and transitioning linearly in 10 years to the average of the period 1991/1992 to 2023/2024. The M1 scenario projects the PEI population to reach 200,000 in 2035 and to reach 225,700 in 2049, or 26.4 percent growth from 2024.



Canada and Provinces Comparison

By comparison, Canada's population is projected to grow between 5.7 percent (low growth) and 35.7 percent (high growth) over this period. In 7 of the 10 scenarios, Prince Edward Island is projected to have higher growth than the national average. In 6 scenarios, PEI is projected to have the highest or second highest population growth in the country over this 25-year period.

Population growth for Atlantic Canada is projected to be between 0.0 percent (low growth) and 24.1 percent high growth). Projected population change for Newfoundland and Labrador ranges from a decline of 16.1 percent to growth of 1.1 percent, with nine of the 10 scenarios projecting a decline. Nova Scotia ranges from 3.2 percent growth to 29.1 percent, and New Brunswick from 3.7 percent to 28.6 percent. Table 1 shows projected growth for the provinces and territories for each scenario.

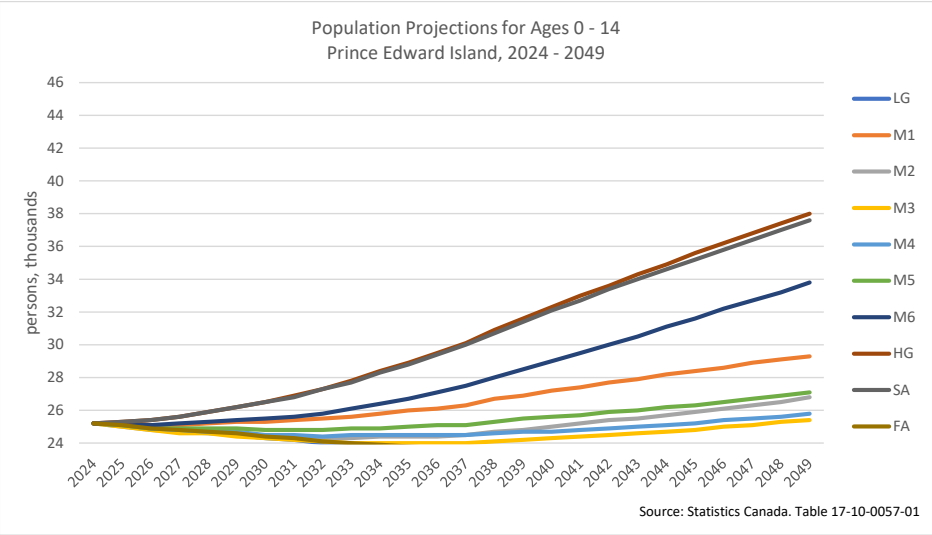
Table 1

	Projected Population Growth (Percent), 2024 - 2049 by Projection Scenario									
	LG	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	HG	SA	FA
Canada	5.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.6	18.7	35.7	32.1	8.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	-16.1	-8.3	-13.4	-10.5	-2.7	-6.0	-1.0	1.1	-3.6	-11.7
Prince Edward Island	**12.2**	**26.4**	**19.4**	**13.5**	**13.4**	**17.6**	**40.9**	**45.0**	**41.4**	**15.3**
Nova Scotia	3.2	14.3	6.7	3.7	6.6	9.8	29.1	28.7	25.4	6.2
New Brunswick	3.7	14.5	8.6	6.6	6.3	6.8	28.6	28.6	25.6	6.3
Atlantic	0.0	10.5	4.1	2.4	5.0	6.1	23.6	24.1	20.6	3.2
Quebec	-3.0	7.0	6.7	7.1	6.8	5.9	7.4	19.8	16.7	-0.2
Ontario	5.7	19.8	21.1	18.3	20.8	22.6	16.5	38.7	35.0	8.8
Manitoba	3.3	17.4	18.5	16.9	19.6	18.6	15.7	35.8	31.1	7.3
Saskatchewan	6.3	20.7	23.1	27.3	31.4	23.1	17.4	38.9	33.8	10.8
Alberta	24.9	38.5	42.6	45.5	35.9	25.1	46.2	56.1	52.8	27.8
British Columbia	6.7	20.9	16.8	21.7	20.3	26.8	18.1	39.9	36.2	9.9
Yukon	7.7	18.4	7.3	22.7	37.3	43.9	30.0	32.1	28.9	10.5
Northwest Territories	-8.9	1.6	-4.5	-6.9	6.3	11.4	-4.3	14.8	11.2	-5.8
Nunavut	10.4	21.6	20.4	18.7	31.6	26.5	22.8	33.7	29.6	14.3

Prince Edward Island by Age Groups

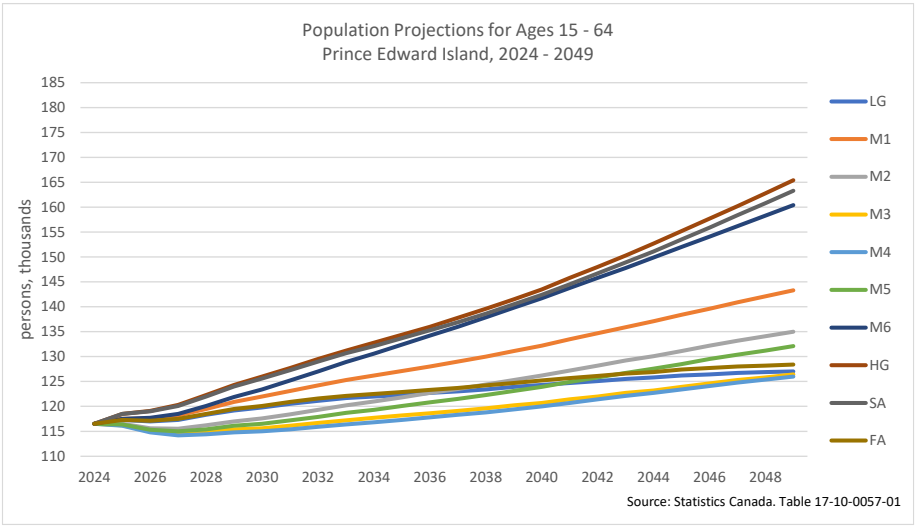
Children Aged 0 – 14

The low growth scenario shows PEI's population aged 0 to 14 declining by 9.1 percent from 2024 to 2049, while the high growth scenario projects growth of 50.8 percent for this age cohort. The M1 scenario projects 16.3 percent growth, or 4,100 children, from 2024 to 2049.



Working Age Population 15 – 64

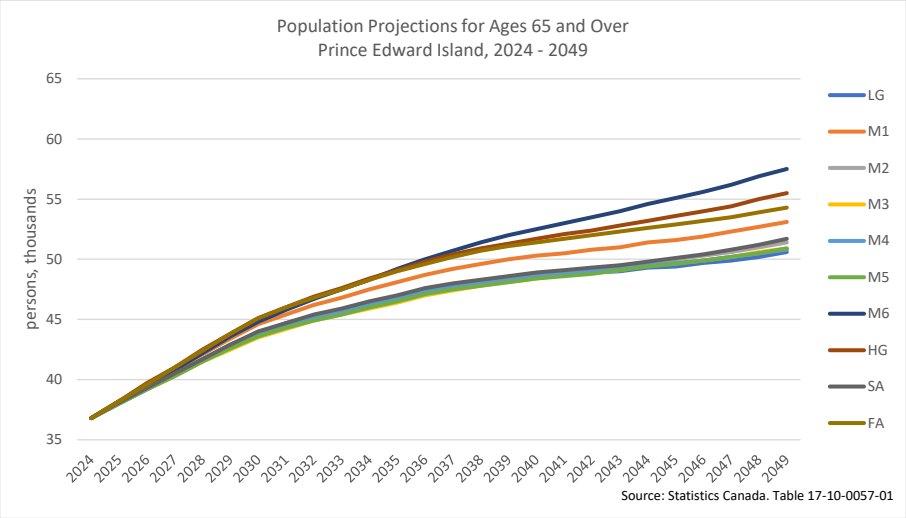
PEI's population aged 15 to 64 is projected to rise between 8.2 percent (M4) and 42.0 percent (high growth) by 2049. This represents an increase of between 9,500 to 48,900 people in this age group. The M1 scenario projects growth of 23.0 percent, or 26,800 people.



Seniors 65 and Over

PEI's senior population aged 65 and over is projected to rise between 37.5 percent (low growth) and 56.3 percent (M6) by 2049. This represents an increase of between 13,800 to 20,700 people in this age group. The M1 scenario projects this age group to increase by 44.3 percent, or 16,300 people, by 2049.

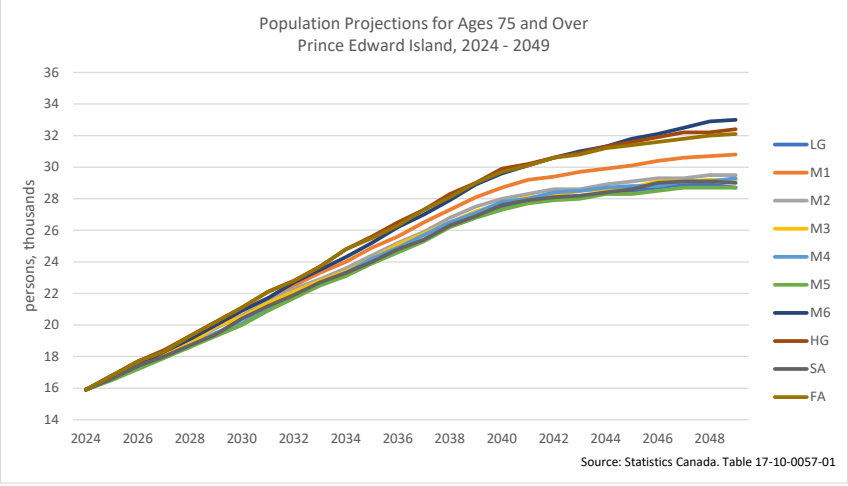
In the shorter term, looking to 2030, there is little difference in the 10 scenarios with growth ranging from 20.1 percent to 25.0 percent, or an increase of between 7,400 to 9,200 people.



Seniors 75 and Over

PEI's senior population aged 75 and over is projected to rise between 80.5 percent (low growth) and 107.5 percent (M6) by 2049. This represents an increase of between 12,800 to 17,100 people in this age group. The M1 scenario projects this age group to increase by 93.7 percent, or 14,900 people, by 2049.

In the shorter term, looking to 2030, there is little difference in the 10 scenarios with growth ranging from 31.4 percent (M5) to 39.0 percent (both high growth and fast aging scenarios), or an increase of between 5,000 to 6,200 people.



Note to readers:

This release presents new population projections by age and gender for Canada, the provinces and the territories. It is important to note that these population projections are not forecasts and as such, should not be interpreted as predictions of what the future holds. While forecasts tell what will most likely occur in the future, projections represent an attempt to establish plausible long-term scenarios based on various assumptions of fertility, mortality and migration. These assumptions are usually developed on the basis of past trends and expert opinion.

The purpose of having multiple projection scenarios is to reflect the uncertainty associated with the future. The projection scenarios are constructed by combining a number of assumptions regarding the future evolution of each of the components of population growth. The six medium-growth scenarios (M1 through M6) are designed to illustrate a medium level of increase, essentially reflecting a continuation of current trends in the short term and an evolution considered plausible in the long term. Each of these scenarios is paired with a separate interprovincial migration assumption, to reflect the volatility of this component. All 6 medium growth scenarios are based on the same assumptions for fertility, mortality, and international migration. The M6 hypothesis reflects the trends observed during the very recent period 2021/2022 to 2023/2024.

The low-growth (LG) and high-growth (HG) scenarios bring together assumptions that are consistent with either lower or higher population growth than in the medium-growth scenarios at the Canada level. For example, assumptions that entail high fertility, low mortality, high immigration, low emigration and high numbers of non-permanent residents are the foundation of the high-growth scenario.

The fast-aging (FA) and slow-aging (SA) scenarios bring together assumptions that are consistent with either faster or slower population aging than in the medium-growth scenarios. For example, assumptions that entail high fertility, high mortality, high immigration, low emigration and high numbers of non-permanent residents are the foundation of the slow-aging scenario.

For a more detailed explanation of each scenario and the methodology used, please refer to the Statistics Canada report "Population Projections for Canada (2024 to 2074), Provinces and Territories (2024 to 2049): Technical Report on Methodology and Assumptions".

Detailed data tables for each of the projection scenarios, as well as the national analysis report, are available on the Statistics Canada website. Also available is the interactive data visualization tool, Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: Interactive Dashboard.

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Source:
Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0057-01, Projected population, by projection scenario, age and gender, as of July 1 (x 1,000)
Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0058-01, Components of projected population growth, by projection scenario (x 1,000)