

SREDA INSIGHTS

► What's Driving Saskatoon's Population Growth?

CONTEXT

Despite the recent economic slowdown in the provincial economy, Saskatchewan's population has continued to climb higher. But what's actually been driving that population growth may come as a surprise to some.

LATEST FIGURES

Since the beginning of 2014, Saskatchewan's population has grown by approximately 3,500 individuals/quarter, or 14,000 people per year. This rate of growth is down from ~4,500/quarter observed from 2009 - 2013, but much higher than between 1970 and 2006 when provincial population growth averaged close to zero.

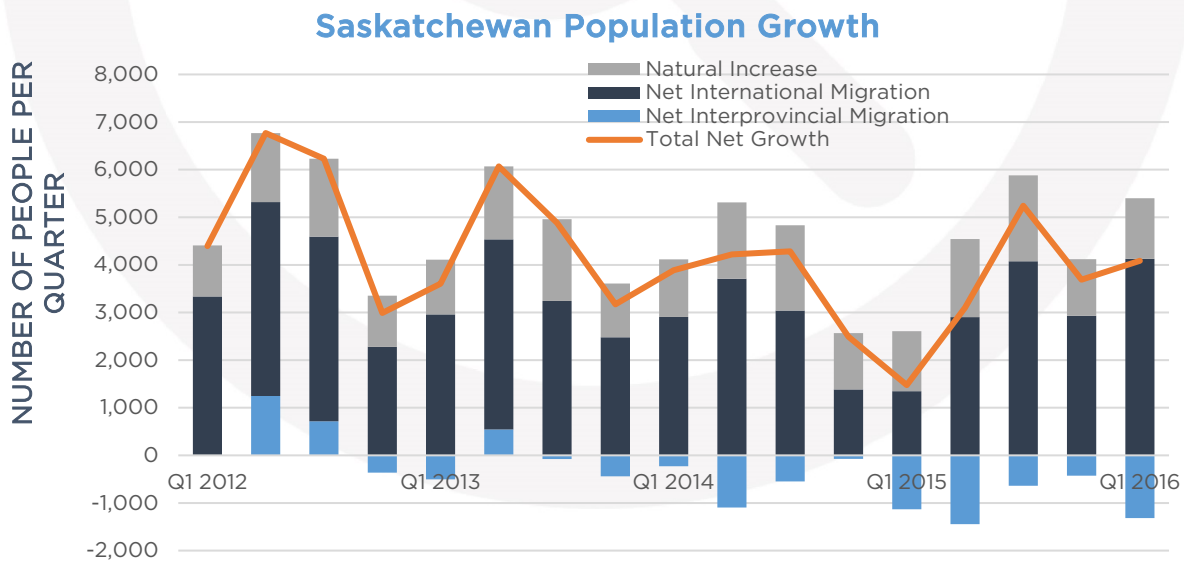
City level data on population growth isn't available on a quarterly basis. However, considering Saskatoon has a third of the Saskatchewan population, provincial level data provides a good approximation for the trend in the Saskatoon Region.

DATA

Statistics Canada breaks population growth into three buckets: natural increase (births minus deaths), international immigration and interprovincial immigration. In Saskatchewan, by far the largest contributor to population growth currently is international immigration, adding ~3,000/quarter since the beginning of 2013. Natural increase has added ~1,500 people/quarter while Saskatchewan has lost nearly 1,000/quarter to interprovincial migration (see graph).

KEY POINTS

An important take-away from this data is that without the continued influx of international migrants to the Saskatoon Region, population growth would be minimal. As a result there's no disputing that the city is and will likely continue to become more diverse in terms of our citizens' ethnicity.



Source: Statistics Canada

SREDA Insights provides commentary and analysis on key economic issues influencing Saskatoon Region businesses and industry. By providing timely, digestible and relevant economic analysis, SREDA helps local businesses adapt to changing market conditions. SREDA provides SREDA Insights to its members in conjunction with other ongoing initiatives through its Economic Forecasting & Analysis division.