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## STATISTICS CANADA RELEASES 2001 CENSUS MOBILITY DATA<sup>1</sup>

The fourth round of data from the 2001 Census of Population was released on December 10, 2002, profiling migration and mobility patterns.

Only three provinces – Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Alberta – had positive net inter-provincial migration between 1996 and 2001. The remainder, including the three territories, lost more people than they gained.

According to Statistics Canada's *The Daily* of December 10, 2002, about 11,710,300 Canadians aged five and over changed residence between 1996 and 2001. The overall rate at which Canada's population moved during this five-year period declined to its lowest level in more than two decades. Movers represented 41.9 per cent of the total population aged five and over in 2001, down from 43.3 per cent in 1996 and down sharply from 46.7 per cent in 1991.

Alberta's gains from inter-provincial migration stand out. Alberta had a net gain of 119,400 between 1996 and 2001, representing 4.7 per cent of its population. This was far above the 3,600 gained between 1991 and 1996. In contrast, Ontario's net gain of 51,900 between 1996 and 2001 represented only 0.5 per cent of its population, while Prince Edward Island's net gain of 135 accounted for 0.1 per cent of its population.

The Island's net gain of 135 persons was less than one-tenth of the net gain of 1,500 during the previous five-year period. A total of 7,800 people left the Island, while 7,900 arrived from other provinces and territories. Prince Edward Island had a net loss of 700 people to Alberta, but a net gain of 600 from Newfoundland and Labrador. Most of the largest migration flows between Prince Edward Island and the rest of Canada were to and from non-metropolitan areas. However, 900 people moved to P.E.I. from the census metropolitan area of Toronto and 1,200 people left the Island to move to Halifax.

Prince Edward Island lost more young adults than it gained. About 3,300, or 43 per cent, of the 7,800 people who moved out were aged 15 to 29. Only about 2,200 people in this age group moved in. About 1,700 people aged 45 to 64 moved to Prince Edward Island. These individuals may have been native Islanders returning home after living elsewhere.

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<sup>1</sup> The mobility data have been obtained from Statistics Canada's 2001 Census website:  
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/analytic/companion/mob/provs.cfm>