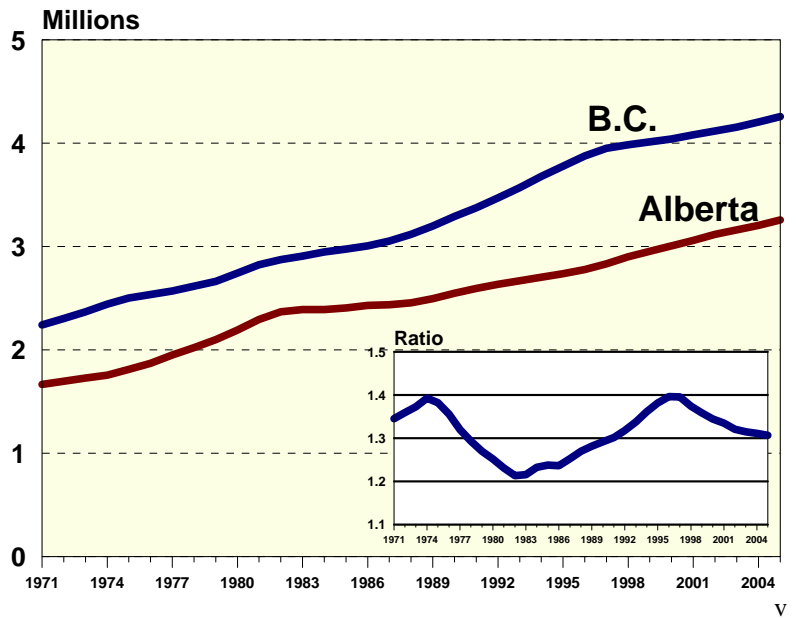

Feature Article: British Columbia and Alberta Components of Growth
Population Section, BC Stats

Patterns and components of population growth in British Columbia and Alberta have differed considerably since the early 1970's. British Columbia has once again become a destination for migrants from the other provinces and territories, but Alberta has become the main draw for interprovincial migration to a degree that it hasn't experienced since the late 1980s. The following is a short graphical look at B.C.'s and Alberta's population growth since 1972.

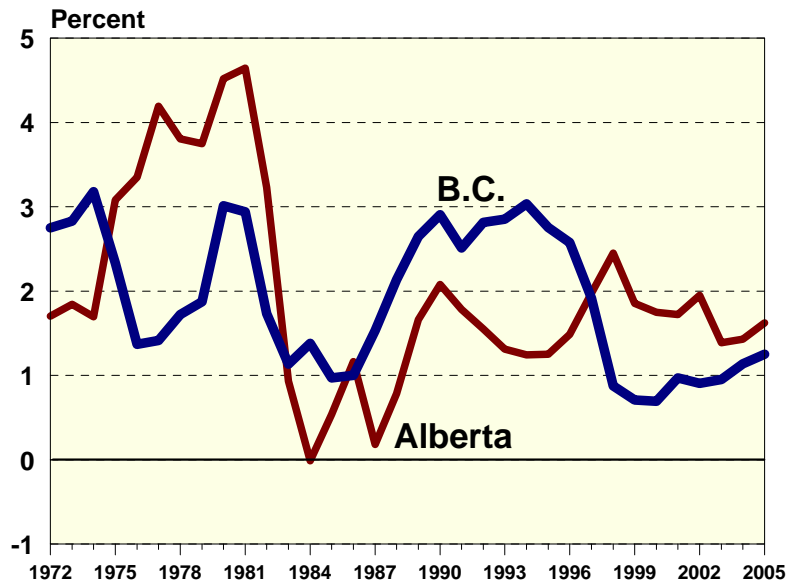
Population is increasing

Since 1971 both B.C. and Alberta have consistently added population to their regions. However, as can be seen from the graph inset, due to the differing growth patterns, the relative size of B.C.'s to Alberta's population has varied.



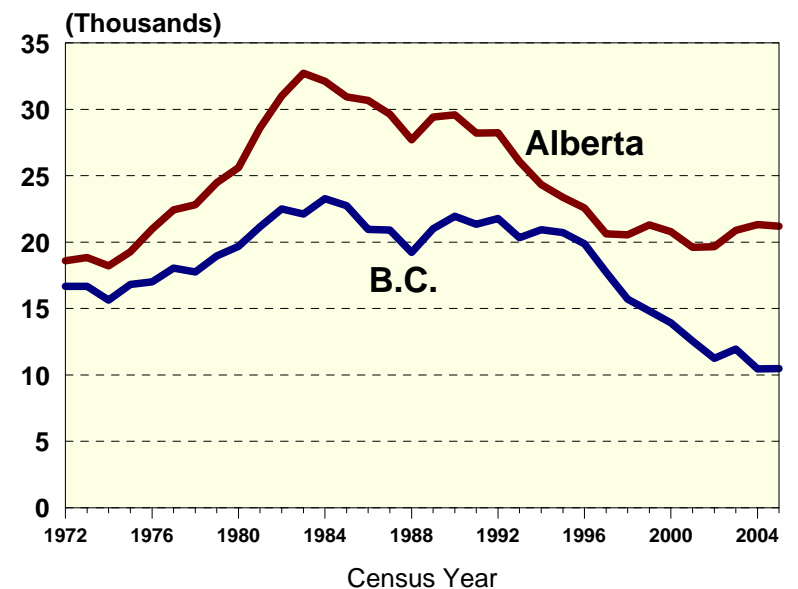
The rate of growth has been variable

Looking at the percentage growth rates, it can be seen that the growth rate for B.C. has been slightly less volatile than Alberta's. As well, the largest growth 'spurts' for the provinces have come at different periods. (Rates shown are from July 1 to July 1)



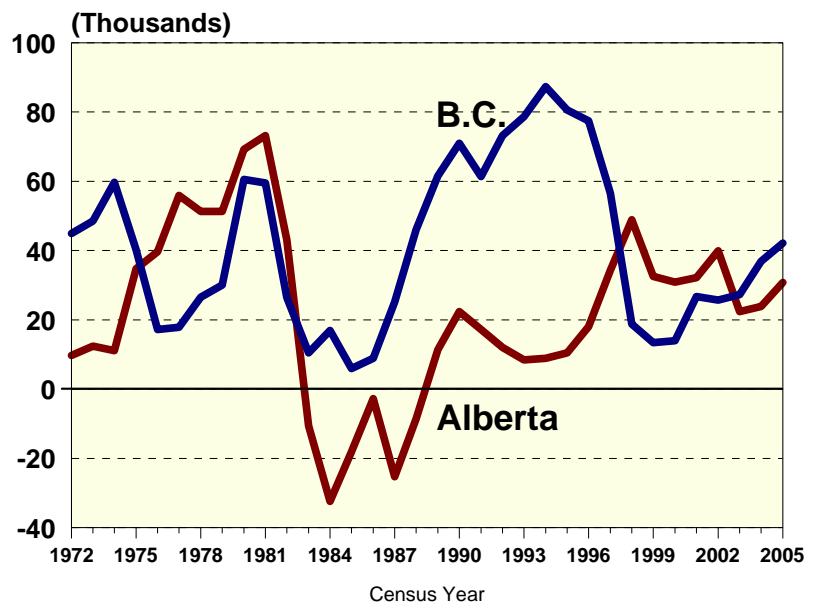
Natural Increase greater in Alberta

The difference in Natural Increase, or the number of births less the number of deaths, is a consequence of different levels of mortality, fertility rates, and the age structure. Higher fertility rates and/or more women in child bearing ages will result in different numbers of births, and an older age structure (higher average age) means greater numbers of deaths. These factors, in combination, give the two provinces different natural increase patterns.



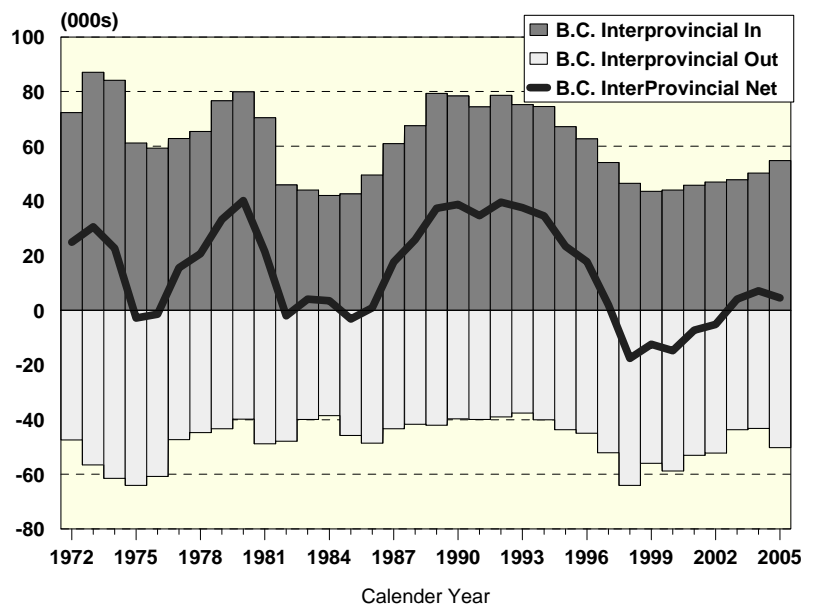
Net Migration can be volatile

Except for the early 1980's, B.C. and Alberta's total net migration (interprovincial plus international) have 'danced to different drummers'. The sum total of migration to these provinces appears to move in different directions which is likely due to different economic stimuli.



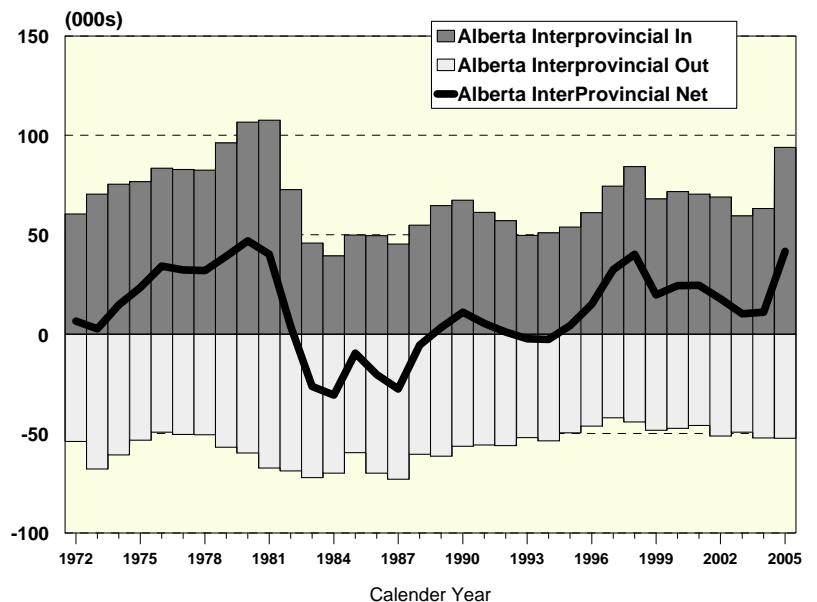
Interprovincial In and Out for B.C.

The separate movements to and from B.C. from other provinces and territories has been relatively stability since the early 70's. Generally, in periods of healthy economic growth, in-migration will rise and out-migration will decline. However, the resultant net migration appears more volatile and may be a better general indicator of the relative economic conditions among the provinces and territories.



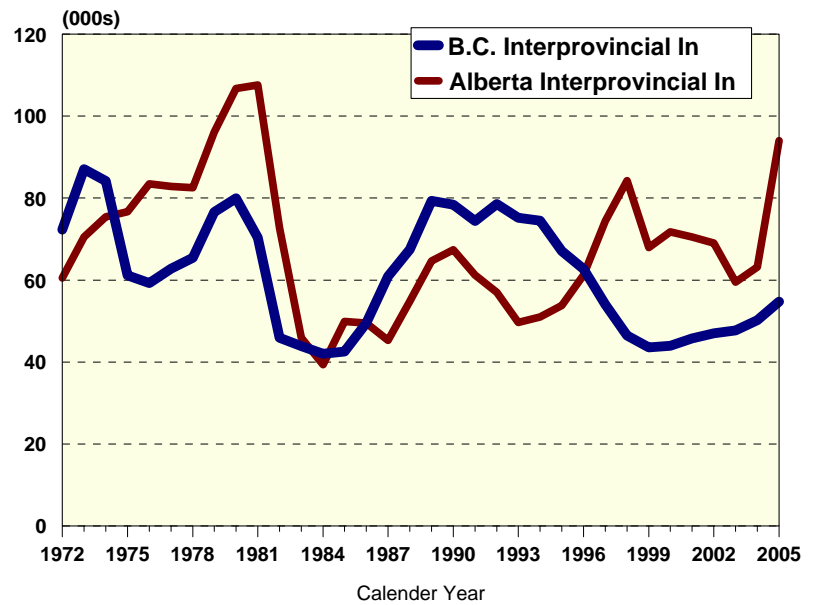
Interprovincial In and Out for Alberta

Since the early 1980's the in and out interprovincial migration for Alberta has been relatively stable. However, although the 94,000 in-migration in 2005 hasn't reached the 1981 peak of 108,000, it is greater than any other period since 1982. .



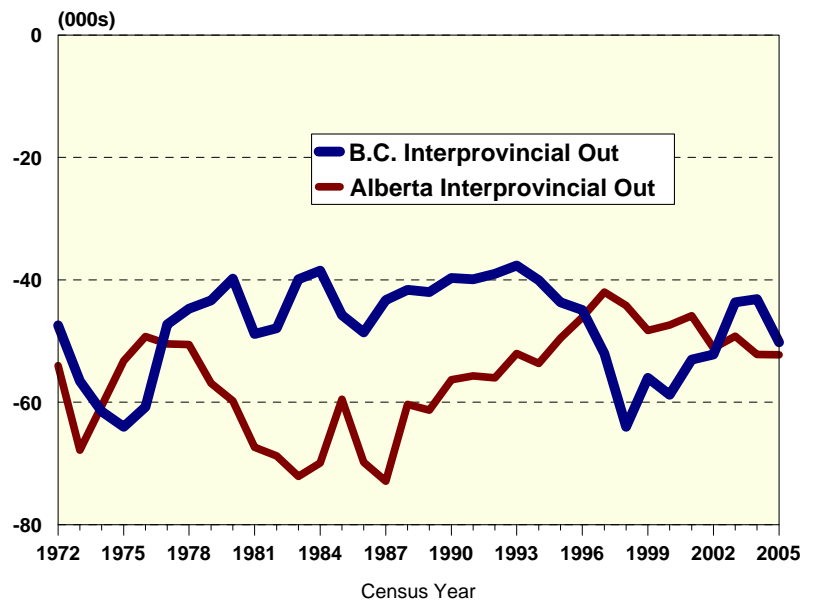
B.C. and Alberta Interprovincial In Migration

B.C. and Alberta appear to switch back and forth in their interprovincial in-migration 'dominance'. When Alberta's demand for labour stalls and in-migration slows, B.C.'s in-migration levels increase.



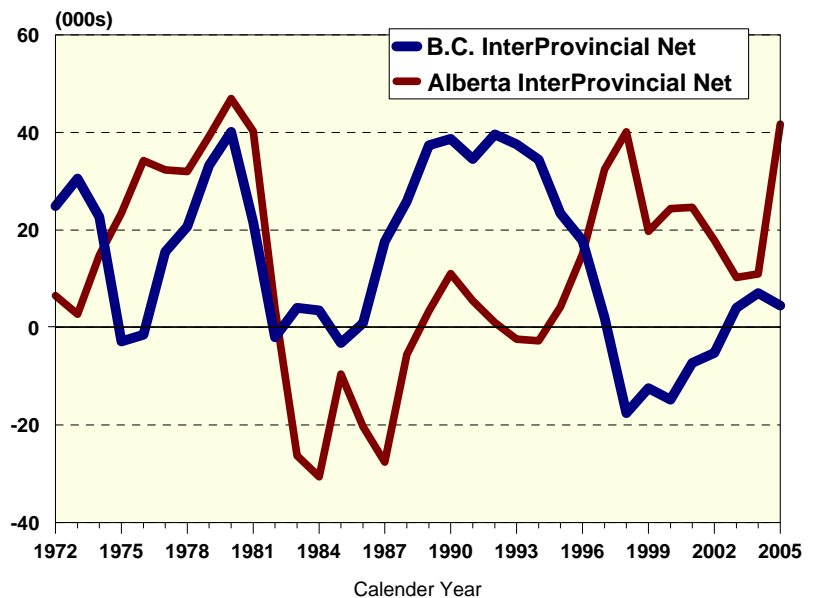
Interprovincial Out-Migration is more stable

In comparison to interprovincial in-migration, out-migration runs in a more narrow range. Through most of the last 35 years Alberta, with a smaller population, has shown greater interprovincial out-migration.



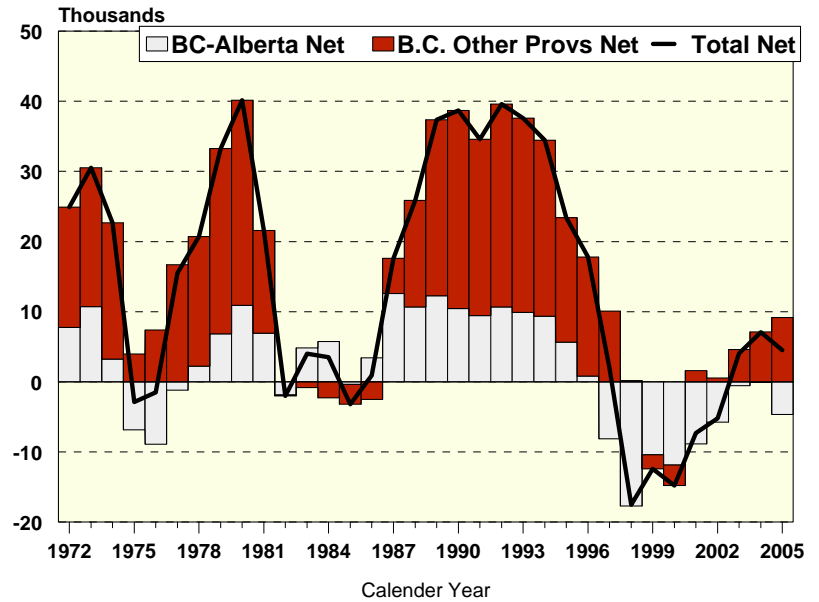
B.C. and Alberta Interprovincial Net Migration (Calendar year)

This calendar year data shows the more recent spike in interprovincial in-migration to Alberta, and can be interpreted more clearly relative to the directional graphs above.



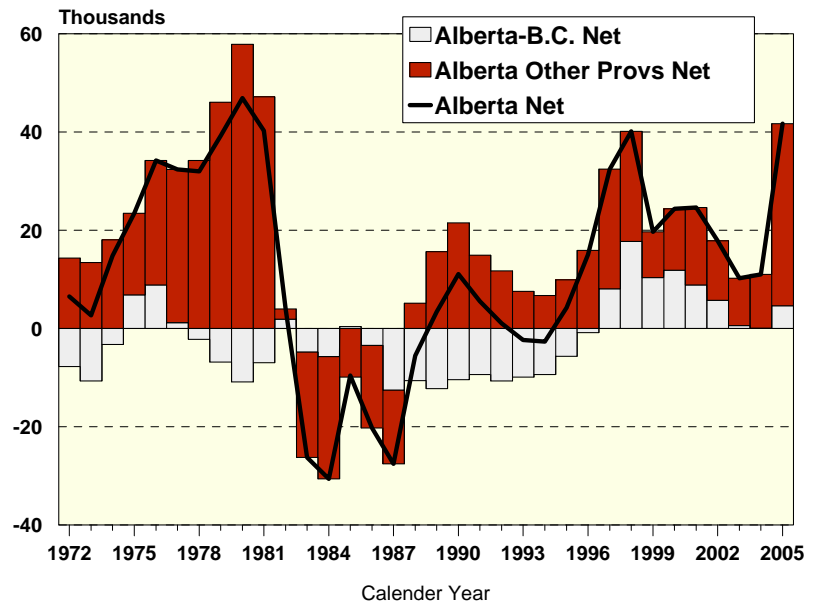
Breakout of B.C.-Alberta interprovincial net migration

Separating out the interprovincial net migration between B.C., Alberta and the rest of the country, it can be seen that Alberta has been the major recipient of B.C.'s out-migration in the recent period of slow population growth in B.C. The outflow from 1997 to 2002 was only partially due to the flow of population from B.C. to other parts of the country, and even though interprovincial net migration for B.C. currently is positive, Alberta continues to receive B.C. movers.



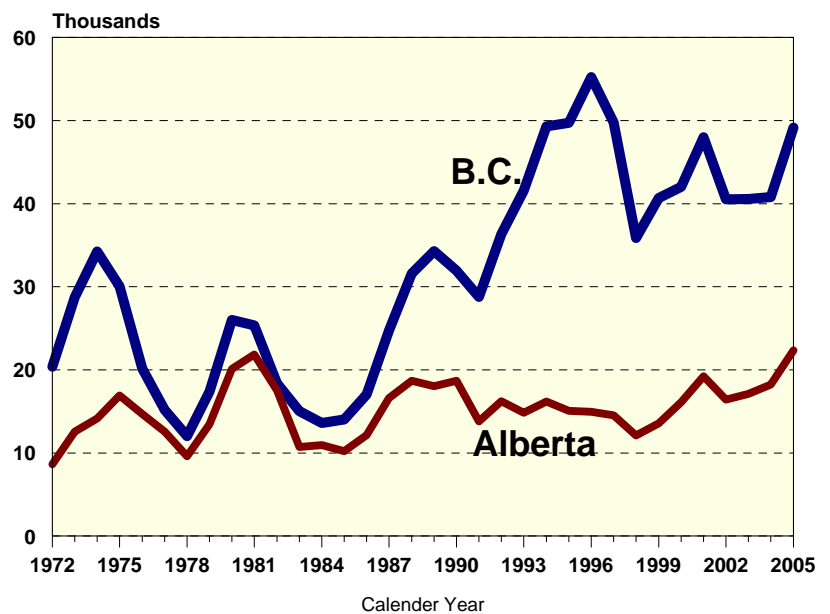
Breakout of Alberta-B.C. interprovincial net migration

Even though B.C. has been a source of net migrants to Alberta since 1997, the current large movement of Canadians to Alberta has not been driven by B.C. alone. The majority of Canadian movers into Alberta have been from other parts of the country, not just B.C.



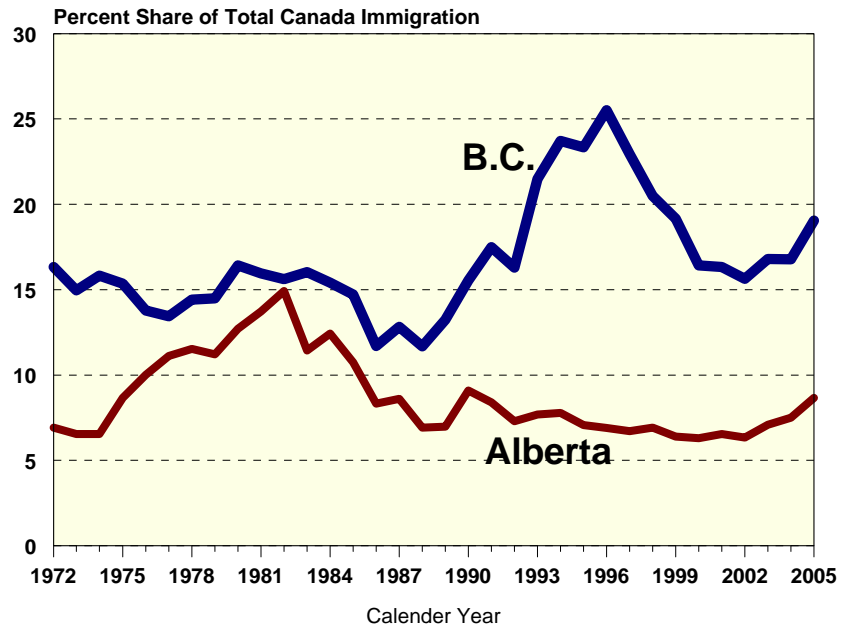
Immigration to B.C. and Alberta

Immigration has been a more significant factor in population growth for B.C. than for Alberta. Even though immigration peaked during the lead-up to the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997, B.C. has continued to receive a large number of immigrants. (Immigrants here is the sum of landed immigrants plus non-permanent residents.)



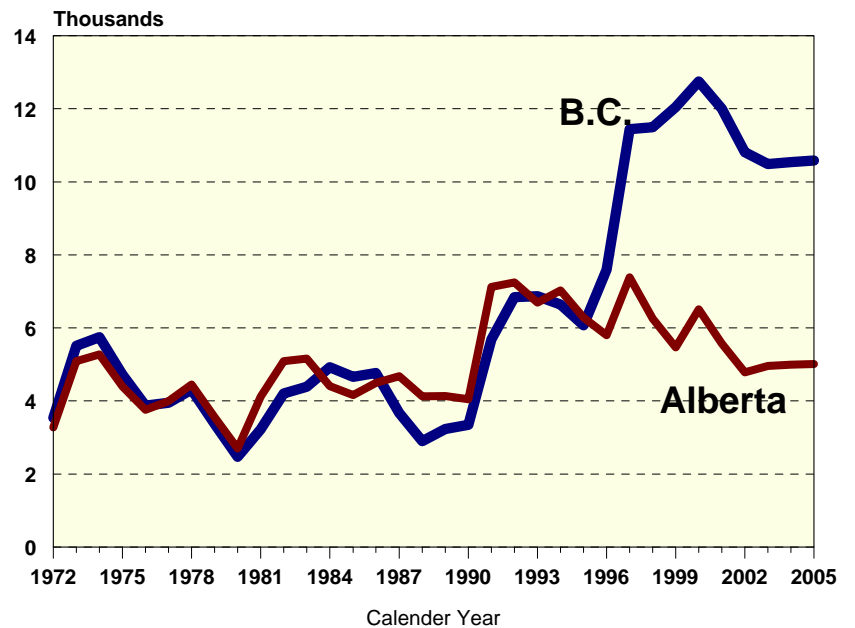
Share of Immigration to Canada

B.C. receives a much larger share of total immigrants to Canada than its share of the national total population (19.1% vs 13.2%), where Alberta receives less (8.7% vs 10.1%).



Emigrants from B.C. and Alberta

Correspondingly, B.C. has a larger number of emigrants leaving the province for other countries than Alberta. This higher emigration corresponds to the period of high immigration to B.C. (Emigrants are the sum of emigrants plus returning emigrants, minus temporary abroad.)



Share of Emigration from Canada

As with B.C.'s share of immigrants being higher than its share of the national total population, B.C. also has a higher proportion of emigrants. Alberta's share of emigrants is currently higher than its share of total national population (10.9% vs 10.1%), but has been on the decline since the early 1990's.

