City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area Population Projection 2021 to 2041

Contents

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Overview

This projection looks 20 years into the future, based on growth rates similar to what the city of Saskatoon (Saskatoon) and the Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) have experienced over the 2016 to 2021 period. The average annual growth achieved in that period was 1.9% for Saskatoon and 2.1% for the Saskatoon CMA, based on annual estimates from Statistics Canada. This growth was the result of consistent net positive migration to the Saskatoon and Saskatoon CMA over that period.

Net positive international migration is the driving force behind population growth and the age distribution of the population. In Saskatoon and the Saskatoon CMA, migrants tend to be in working age and adult age groups. Migration characterized by this demographic not only adds directly to population in the year of migration, but also adds to future population growth through family formation and childbearing. During the 2016 to 2021 period, the Saskatoon CMA population grew by almost 40,169. Net migration accounted for 71% of growth. Although the annual natural increase (live births minus deaths) has remained steady around 1,000, starting at the onset of the COVID pandemic, the natural increase dropped to an annual average of 776, with deaths increasing and births decreasing.

The Low, Medium, and High Growth Scenarios in this projection use 1.3%, 1.8% and 2.2% annual growth rates, respectively, for the Saskatoon population, and 1.9%, 2.4% and 2.9% annual growth rates, respectively, for the population of municipalities surrounding Saskatoon, which make up the rest of the Saskatoon CMA. The projection scenarios assume net positive migration during the projection period, but at different rates. Net migration accounts for between 69% and 74% of the population growth in this projection. All three scenarios characterize Saskatoon over the next 20 years as a young population with continued demand for family housing, jobs and educational services. This projects a population of between 362,085 and 436,188 for Saskatoon, and 421,744 and 508,771 for the Saskatoon CMA by 2041.

Saskatoon Projections

Population growth, characterized by working age adult migration and natural increase, slows population aging. The Low Growth Scenario shows the population aging moderately over the projection period, with the median age increasing from 37.3 to 38.4. In the Low Growth Scenario, the labour force replacement ratio (ages 0 to 15 compared to ages 50 to 64) decreases from its current 112 to 91. At the end of the projection period, 91 people will be entering the typical working age cohorts for every 100 people aging out of those cohorts. The dependency ratio (children and seniors compared to the adult population) for the Low Growth Scenario decreases from 69 to 67, which means there are 67 children and seniors in the population for every 100 adults aged 20 to 64.

The median age of the population increases in the Medium Growth Scenario from 36.9 to 37.6 and in the High Growth Scenario to 37 by 2041. Similarly, the dependency ratio decreases from the current 69 to 65 in the Medium Growth Scenario and 63 in the High Growth Scenario. The labour force replacement ratios decrease from the current 108 to 94 and 97 in the Medium and High Growth Scenarios, respectively.

Population growth of between 81,976 and 156,079 will lead to a demand for between 34,000 and 65,000 dwelling units and the equivalent of 3 to 6 neighbourhoods. This growth will have a concordant demand for infrastructure, educational and health services.

Taken together, the 0 to 4, 5 to 14 and 15 to 19 age groups, which impact primary and secondary education, decrease slightly as a proportion of the population from 24.2% in 2021 to between 23% – 24% 23.7%. The 0 to19 age groups are projected to grow across all scenarios from 67,663 in 2021, to between 85,933 and 101,233 by 2041.

As much as the population growth detailed in this projection will keep Saskatoon young, there will be significant changes in the aging population as well. Further, survival rates have risen such that more people survive to the later ages in life. By 2036, all of the baby boom cohorts will be seniors. The 65 and over population is projected to grow across all scenarios from about 41,131 in 2021 to 58,715 in 2041. The population proportion of the 65 plus age groups increases from its current 14.7% to between 15.5% and 16.2%, depending on the growth rate of the total population in 2041.

The population of oldest adults, those 80 and older, will also grow. By 2036, the leading cohorts of the baby boom will be 80 or older. The combination of larger cohorts and increased survival rates will result in a large increase in the size of the oldest population. In 1931, 10% of Canadians lived to be 85; by 2001, 30% of men and 50% of women reached that age[1]. This trend has been accelerating in recent years, with life expectancy in this age group seeing average annual increases of 7.8% for women and 9.8% for men in Canada between 2000 and 2013 (Légaré). This trend is predicted to continue in the future (Légaré).

In Saskatoon, the proportion of the population 80 and older is projected to increase from 4% in 2015, to between 4.1% and 4.5% by 2035. In absolute terms, the 80 and older population is projected to increase, from its current 11,274, to between 18,750 and 26,875 in 20 years. The projected increase in this older population will have significant implications for the community, as this larger population of older adults increases demand for health, personal care and collective living housing environments.

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[1] Légaré,Jacques, Canada's Oldest Old: <u>A Population Group which is Fast Growing, Poorly Apprehended and at Risk from Lack of Appropriate Services</u> (Population Change and Lifecourse Strategic Knowledge Cluster Discussion Paper Series/ Un Réseau stratégique de connaissances Changements de population et parcours de vie Document de travail. Volume 3, Issue 1, article 9. February 2015)

Saskatoon CMA Projections

This projection uses an arithmetic projection of the total population of the Saskatoon CMA municipalities which surround Saskatoon and adds the total to the population projected for Saskatoon. This methodology yields projected total populations for the Saskatoon CMA and for the surrounding municipalities.

The projected total Saskatoon CMA population ranges from 421,744 to 508,771 in 2041. The surrounding municipalities' populations will grow by between 20,000 and 34,000 people. The total population of the surrounding municipalities is projected to grow from 44,295 in 2021, to between 59,659 and 72,583 by 2041. This level of population growth is the equivalent of adding two or three communities the size of Warman or Martensville.

INTRODUCTION

Population projections are regularly undertaken by the City of Saskatoon's (City) Planning and Development Department. Projections assist City Council and Administration in developing a policy framework, long-range plans, and in forecasting future municipal servicing needs and land consumption. Population projections are also useful to community agencies planning for future service provision.

Historically, population projections were primarily concerned with the current and future populations contained within the municipal boundary. Over the last ten years, the Saskatoon CMA has begun to grow at a slightly faster rate than Saskatoon itself. The growth in the region has led to the Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth, a planning collaborative which includes the cities of Saskatoon, Martensville and Warman, the Town of Osler and the Rural Municipality of Corman Park. Since the growth of the Saskatoon CMA affects planning issues for all of these communities, the Saskatoon CMA has been included in the population projection.

METHODOLOGY

Projection Model

The population projection for Saskatoon was calculated using the Halley Population Analysis Program (Halley Model), which uses the Cohort Survival Projection Method. Cohort survival projections "model" the primary demographic processes of a population to project future total population and estimate population by age cohorts. The Halley Model factors three key demographic variables (mortality, fertility and migration) and projects the population over a 20-year period.[2]

Cohort survival population projections are a demographic simulation. The size and age distribution of a population changes in response to births, deaths and migration. The rate of births and deaths for any given age and gender are relatively stable. The rate of births and deaths as well as the age of migrants can be more dynamic and variable. A cohort survival population projection calculates expected births, deaths and migration for each age, in each year of the projection period, to arrive at four key demographic indicators: the future age-sex distribution, the median age, the labour force replacement ratio and the dependency ratio.
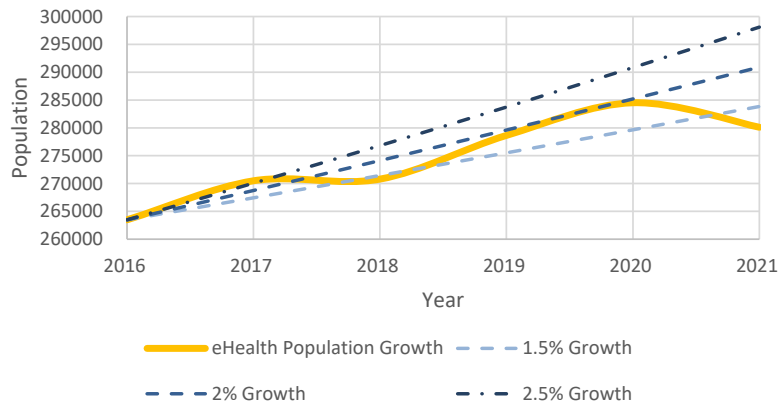
Projections for the Saskatoon CMA population outside Saskatoon were completed using arithmetic projections at rates consistent with current trends. The smaller populations and mixed municipality types in the area outside Saskatoon do not lend themselves to the application of a cohort survival approach. Therefore, the population was projected based on three different growth rates for each scenario and added to the population projected for Saskatoon.

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[2] Levine, Ned, Halley: A Population Analysis Program Using Lotus 1-2-3 (Los Angeles: Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of California, 1983).

Historical Accuracy

The most recent population projection, released in 2015, used three growth rate scenarios: 1.5%, 2.0% and 2.5%. The graph below shows the 2015 projections and the eHealth Saskatchewan Covered Population. Growth experienced since 2012 was consistent with the projection. Although the Halley Model creates a population projection for 20 years, it is ideal to review the projection to adjust the model based on the latest trends in data.

Saskatoon Covered Population 2016 to 2021

Source: eHealth Saskatchewan Covered Population

Data Sources

The population statistics used for the projections are from the Vital Statistics Division of eHealth Saskatchewan and for the Statistics Canada Census. The Halley Model requires birth and death data, as well as population in five-year age cohorts. Although better consistency is achieved using data from one source, a combination was required as eHealth Saskatchewan has changed their age cohort data for vital statistics in the 80+ range.

The Halley Model uses a base period to capture trends in the key demographic variables and then uses those trends to model the future population. In this projection, the base period is the 2013 to 2021 eHealth Saskatchewan Covered Population data for Saskatoon. This is a nine-year period beginning and ending in a "card" year for the Saskatchewan Health Services Card data. As the Saskatchewan Health Services Card is renewed on a three-year cycle, every third year is considered the most accurate, as it accounts for people who have moved out of province in the intervening years.

Context for Projection Assumptions

Saskatoon's population growth is based on natural increase and net migration. Natural increase (live births minus deaths) can be affected by changes in birth and survival rates. Survival rates, especially for the oldest cohorts, have increased substantially in Canada since World War II (Légaré).

Over the past six years, survival rates in Saskatoon have decreased 2.7% annually, and birth rates have decreased 1.1% annually. Much of this decrease can largely be attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic which saw the largest declines in 2020 and 2021.

As the following graph demonstrates, the overall growth rate for the Saskatoon CMA is strongly and positively associated to net migration. Net migration is the dynamic component of growth. Net migration for Saskatoon can be divided into three components: net international (from and to locations outside of Canada), net interprovincial (from and to locations in other Canadian provinces) and net intraprovincial (from and to Saskatchewan municipalities).

Typically, international migration has been a low, positive value; however, since 2005, net international migration has steadily increased. While net international migration has fallen from its highest recent level of 2011 to 2013, it remains the largest component of migration.

Interprovincial migration is typically variable, depending on the economic strength of the Saskatchewan and Saskatoon economies compared to the economies of other provinces. Recent years have seen a noticeable shift in net negative interprovincial migration (individuals leaving the province) and have been steadily increasing, from -1,945 in 2016, to -3,479 in 2021.

Historically, intraprovincial migration has been net positive and, when combined with natural increase, resulted in steady, though relatively low, population growth.

Saskatoon CMA Net Migration and Growth Rate
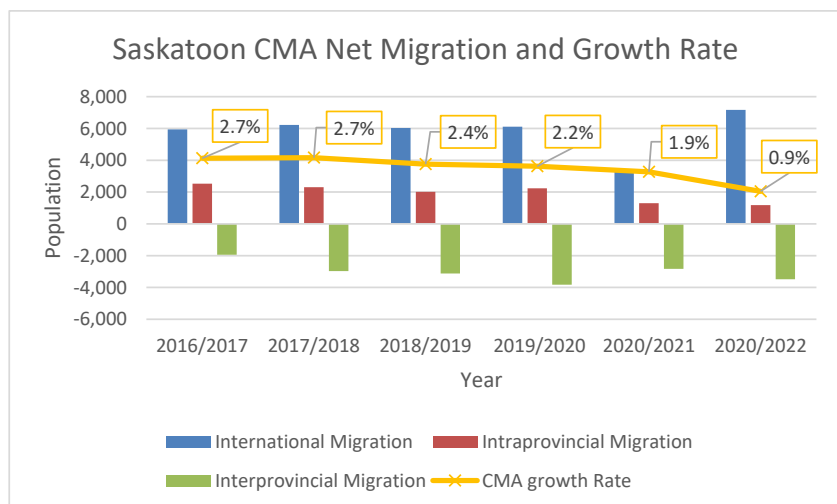
Projection Assumptions and Adjustments

Adjustments in the Halley Model were based on assumptions from historic eHealth Saskatchewan population data, as well as Statistics Canada components of growth data for the Saskatoon CMA. Migration data is not available for Saskatoon; therefore, migration assumptions were based on data for the entire Saskatoon CMA.

Three variables can be adjusted within the Halley Model to reflect assumptions on how population may change in the future:

1. Future migration can be adjusted by age and gender and for the overall level of migration. The Halley Model automatically captures the trends in levels, as well as age- and gender-specific migration in the base period. These projections maintained the age- and gender-pattern of migration and adjusted the level of migration lower for the Low Growth Scenario and higher for the High Growth Scenario.

2. Adjustments can be made to age- and gender-specific survival rates. The Halley Model automatically captures the trends in age- and gender-specific survival rates in the base period. Survival rates were not adjusted in this projection.

3. Birth rates can be adjusted through the child-woman ratio (CWR) and age-specific birth rates. The Halley Model automatically captures the trend in the CWR and in birth rates in the base period. Neither the CWR nor age-specific birth rates were adjusted in this projection.

Key Demographic Indicators

Cohort survival population projections model the age and sex distribution of future populations. In addition to a total population, the projections show how many males and females of each age cohort will be in that population. The age and sex distribution are strongly linked to social and economic characteristics of a community. Young populations require education services, and older populations require health care and housing services. Therefore, modeling the age and sex distribution can suggest future social and economic infrastructure requirements. The age and sex distribution allows other demographic indicators of future social and economic characteristics of the community to be calculated, such as the median age, dependency ratio and labour force replacement ratio.

The **dependency ratio** expresses the number of dependants for every 100 people in the labour force. The dependency ratio is calculated by dividing the dependent population (population 19 years old and under, and 65 years old and over) by the labour force population (population between the ages of 20 and 64), and then multiplying by 100. Larger numbers mean more people are "dependent" on the earnings of the labour force.

The **labour force replacement ratio** is calculated to forecast the ability of the population to replace the labour force population nearing retirement. The labour force replacement ratio is calculated by taking the total population less than 15 years old and dividing it by the total population between the ages of 50 and 64 years old, then multiplying by 100. This ratio expresses the number of people who will be entering the labour force for every 100 people who are retiring. A resulting number of 100 indicates there are precisely enough youth to replace those workers expected to retire within the next 15 years. A ratio below 100 indicates a shortfall of incoming labour, whereas a ratio above 100 indicates a surplus.

The **median age** of a population is the age at which half the population is younger, and half the population is older. It is typically used to characterize the overall age of a population. Saskatoon's median age was calculated as 36.7 in 2021. The median age of all Canadians was estimated to be 41.7 in 2022, and the Canadian median age was estimated at 41.2 in 2016.

SASKATOON POPULATION PROJECTION

The average annual growth rate for Saskatoon between 2013 and 2022 was 1.9% (eHealth Saskatchewan Covered Population). The population for Saskatoon was projected for the next 20 years using three different growth scenarios; the growth rates used are 1.3%, 1.8%, and 2.3%. Note that these are "compounding" rates, where the population adds that percentage of growth to the population each year of the projection. Depending on demographic and economic conditions experienced over the next 20 years, the projection indicates Saskatoon's population will range from a low of 362,084 to a high of 436,188 by 2041. This would result in a population increase between 81,975 and 156,079 for Saskatoon.
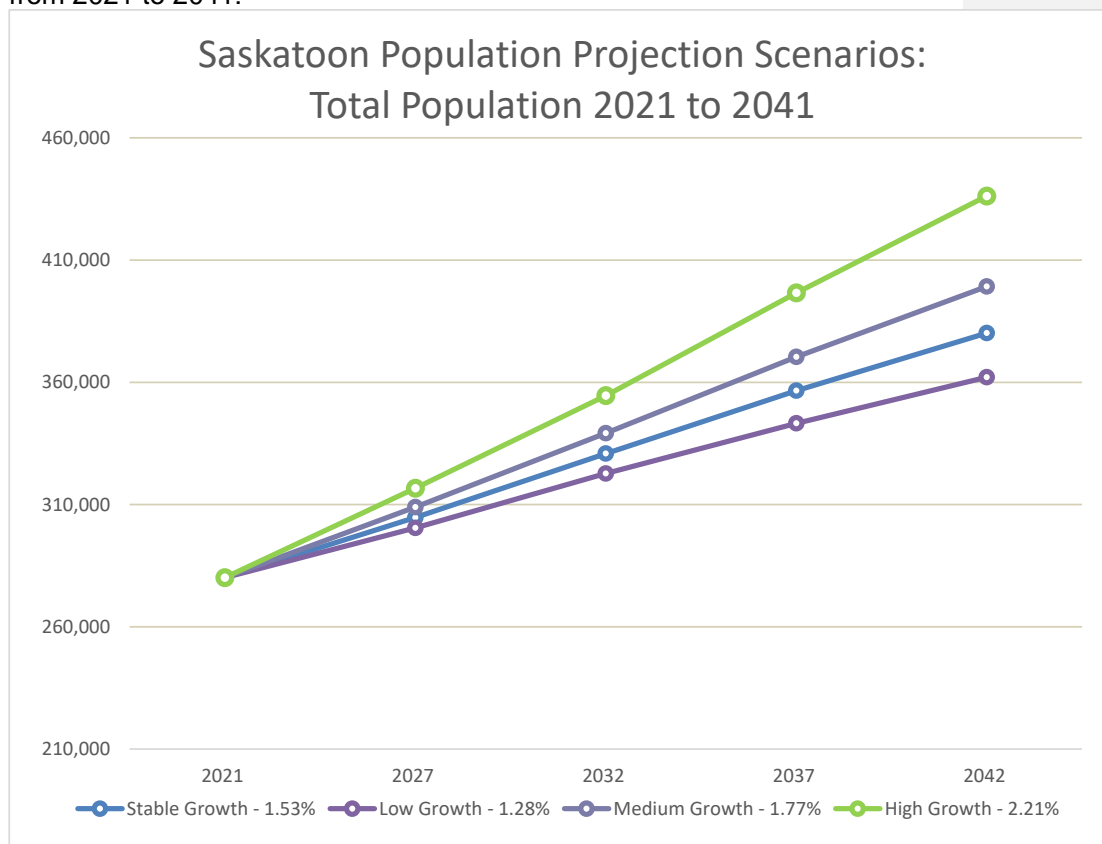
Migration drives all three scenarios with the Low Growth Scenario, assuming net migration, similar to the slower growth years of the 2006 to 2015 period. The Medium Growth Scenario assumes net migration, similar to what was experienced in the base period, with years of higher, lower and average migration. The High Growth Scenario assumes high rates of net migration across international, interprovincial and intraprovincial sources, much like what was experienced in the 2011 to 2013 period.
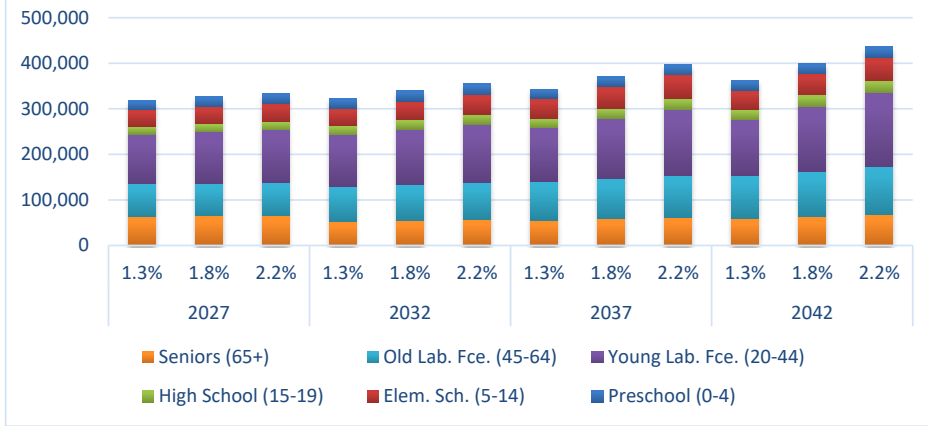
Population Projection Highlights

1. Saskatoon is projected to reach a population of 308,972 over the next 5 years and 339,200 over the next 10 years in the Medium Growth Scenario, based on an annual growth rate of 1.8%.

2. Net migration is forecast to account for between 41% and 46% (33,977 and 72,221 persons) of the population increase projected in the next 20 years, depending on the growth rate.

3. Saskatoon's average household size is 2.4 people (Statistics Canada, 2021) and new neighbourhoods are typically designed to house 10,000 people. The Medium Growth Scenario will require the equivalent of six neighbourhoods and 25,000 dwelling units by 2031.

4. Combined, the 0 to 4, 5 to 14, and 15 to 19 cohorts represent the children coming into, or already in, the primary and secondary school systems. The Medium Growth Scenario projects this population to increase by 16,460 (28%) by 2031 and 26,098 (41%) by 2041.

5. Across all growth scenarios, there will be significant increase in the number of people over age 65. The Medium Growth Scenario shows the seniors population increasing by 14,089 (34%) by 2036 and by 21,884 (53.2%) by 2041. The total senior's population will reach approximately 63,015 in the Medium Growth Scenario by 2041. The Medium Growth Scenario projects the senior population to make up 15.8% of the total population by 2041.

6. Across all growth scenarios, the aging of the baby boom generation will result in a large increase in the number of people over age 80. The Medium Growth Scenario projects the population of oldest seniors to increase from 11,274 to 22,564 in 2041.

7. The estimated median age is projected to increase from 36.7 in 2021 to between 37 and 38.4 in 2041. The Medium Growth Scenario projects a median age of 37.6 in 2041.

9. The labour force replacement ratio is expected to remain above replacement until 2041 when it dips between 91 – 97 amongst the growth scenarios. This could lead to a shortage of workers as the population ages.

The following graphs and tables illustrate the projected growth scenarios from 2021 to 2041:

Saskatoon Population Projection Scenarios: Total Population 2021 to 2041

Saskatoon Population Projection By Age Group

500,000
400,000
300,000
200,000
100,000
0

| 1.3% | 1.8% | 2.2% | 1.3% | 1.8% | 2.2% | 1.3% | 1.8% | 2.2% | 1.3% | 1.8% | 2.2% |
| 2027 | | | 2032 | | | 2037 | | | 2042 | | |

Seniors (65+)   Old Lab. Fce. (45-64)   Young Lab. Fce. (20-44)
High School (15-19)   Elem. Sch. (5-14)   Preschool (0-4)

Saskatoon Population Projection Scenarios by Age ⬚ Formatted Table

Age Groups (Years)	2026			2031			2036			2041		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Preschool (0 to 4)	19,648	20,958	22,182	21,000	22,400	23,708	19,648	20,958	22,182	21,000	22,400	23,708
Elementary School (5 to 14)	36,873	38,112	39,256	38,489	40,639	42,644	43,941	47,969	51,816	42,686	46,453	50,042
High School (15 to 19)	17,580	17,967	18,320	20,186	21,084	21,920	21,191	22,916	24,544	22,247	24,908	27,483
Young Labour Force (20 to 44)	108,817	112,808	116,380	112,755	121,143	128,946	117,353	131,069	144,304	122,528	142,153	161,830
Old Labour Force (45 to 64)	70,924	71,612	72,244	77,144	78,714	80,175	85,382	88,679	91,761	94,909	100,258	105,329
Seniors (65+)	46,583	47,515	48,316	53,131	55,220	57,166	55,703	58,792	61,968	58,715	63,015	67,796
Total	**300,425**	**308,972**	**316,698**	**322,705**	**339,200**	**354,559**	**343,218**	**370,383**	**396,575**	**362,085**	**399,187**	**436,188**
Median Age	37.3	36.9	36.6	38.1	37.5	37.0	38.0	37.3	36.7	38.4	37.6	37.0
Dependency Ratio	67	68	68	70	70	70	69	69	68	67	65	63
Labour Replacement Ratio	112	116	120	113	118	123	105	110	115	91	94	97

Low Growth Scenario

The Low Growth Scenario uses an annual growth rate of 1.3%. This scenario represents growth like that experienced in Saskatoon in 2007, 2008 and 2015. Growth in these years was characterized by lower rates of net migration and net negative interprovincial migration.

Low Growth Population Breakdown

	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Preschool (0-4)	16,984	19,648	21,000	19,648	21,000
Elementary School (5-14)	35,368	36,873	38,489	43,941	42,686
High School (15-19)	15,311	17,580	20,186	21,191	22,247
Young Labour Force (20-44)	105,604	108,817	112,755	117,353	122,528
Older Labour Force (45-64)	65,711	70,924	77,144	85,382	94,909
Seniors (65+)	41,131	46,583	53,131	55,703	58,715
Total	**280,109**	**300,425**	**322,705**	**343,218**	**362,085**
Median Age	36.7	37.3	38.1	38.0	38.4
Dependency Ratio	227	67	70	69	67
Labour Replacement Ratio	108	112	113	105	91

Low Growth Percentage Breakdown

	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Preschool (0-4)	6.1%	6.5%	6.5%	5.7%	5.8%
Elementary School (5-14)	12.6%	12.3%	11.9%	12.8%	11.8%
High School (15-19)	5.5%	5.9%	6.3%	6.2%	6.1%
Young Labour Force (20-44)	37.7%	36.2%	34.9%	34.2%	33.8%
Older Labour Force (45-64)	23.5%	23.6%	23.9%	24.9%	26.2%
Seniors (65+)	14.7%	15.5%	16.5%	16.2%	16.2%

This scenario projects the population to reach 362,085 by 2041. This is a total population growth of 81,976 or 29.3%. When the total projected population growth is averaged over the 20-year projection period, the average annual growth for the Low Growth Scenario is 1.5% or 4,098 people.
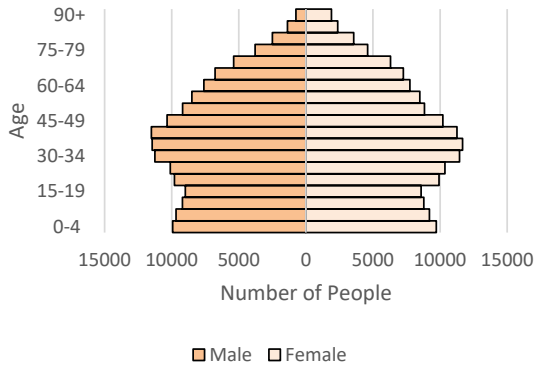
Summary of Low Growth Scenario:

1. From 2021 to 2041, the proportion of the population in the older labour force (45 – 64) will see the largest increase by age group from 23.5% to 26.2%.

2. Seniors, those over 65, are projected to increase from 14.7% to 16.2%, which is the second largest increase by an age grouping.

3. The proportion of the population aged 20 to 44 years, the young labour force, is projected to decrease from 37.7% to 33.8% by 2041. The young labour force increases in total size by 19.3% to reach 122,528.

4. The 0 to 19 cohorts decrease as a population proportion from 24.2% to 23.7%, and the population of these cohorts increases by 22,554 to reach 85,933.

5. The median age is projected to increase from 36.7 to 38.4 by 2041.

6. By 2041, the dependency ratio is projected to decrease from 69 to 67, so for every 100 people in the work force, 67 are dependent on the earnings of the labour force.

7. The labour force replacement ratio is projected to decrease from 108 to 91. This means that by 2041, 91 people will be entering the workforce for every 100 exiting it.
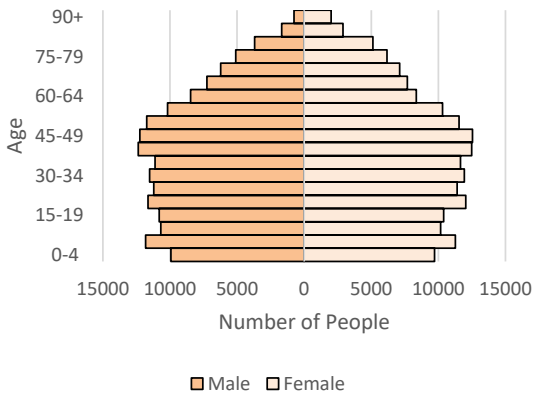
Low Growth Scenario Population Pyramids 2026 to 2041
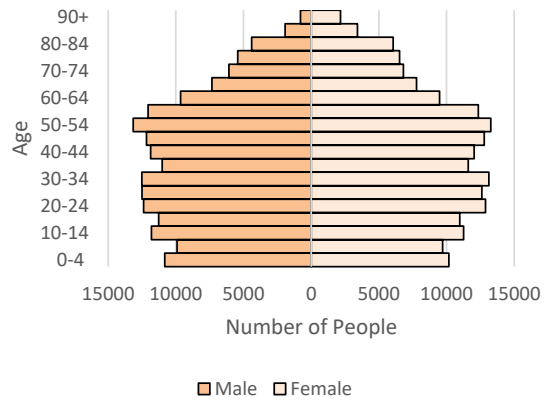

Low Growth Scenario - 2026

Low Growth Scenario - 2031
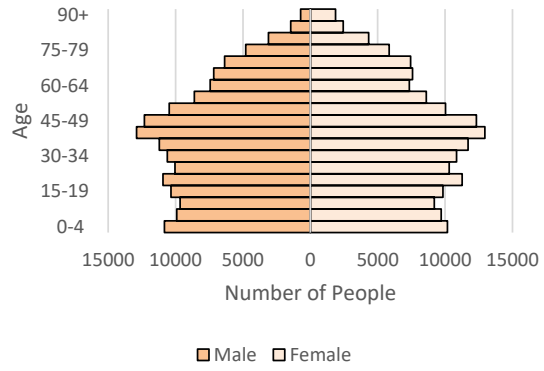
Low Growth Scenario - 2036

Low Growth Scenario - 2041

Medium Growth Scenario

The Medium Growth Scenario uses an annual growth rate of 1.8%. This growth scenario is very much like what Saskatoon experienced over the previous nine years. The Medium Growth Scenario is characterized by years of higher and lower growth, over the 20-year projection period. Migration in this scenario will be the primary driver of population growth.

Age Groups	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Preschool (0 to 4)	16,984	20,958	22,400	20,958	22,400
Elementary School (5 to 14)	35,368	38,112	40,639	47,969	46,453
High School (15 to 19)	15,311	17,967	21,084	22,916	24,908
Young Labour Force (20 to 44)	105,604	112,808	121,143	131,069	142,153
Old Labour Force (45 to 64)	65,711	71,612	78,714	88.679	100,258
Seniors (65+)	41,131	47,515	55,220	58,792	63,015
Total	280,109	308,972	339,200	370,383	399,187

	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Preschool (0 to 4)	6.1%	6.8%	6.6%	5.7%	5.6%
Elementary School (5 to 14)	12.6%	12.3%	12.0%	13.0%	11.6%
High School (15 to 19)	5.5%	5.8%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%
Young Labour Force (20 to 44)	37.7%	36.5%	35.7%	35.4%	35.6%
Older Labour Force (45 to 64)	23.5%	22.0%	23.2%	23.9%	25.1%
Seniors (65+)	14.7%	15.4%	16.3%	15.9%	15.8%

|					
Median Age	36.7	36.9	37.5	37.3	37.6
Dependency Ratio	69	68	70	69	65
Labour Replacement Ratio	108	116	118	110	94

The Medium Growth Scenario projects the population to reach 399,187 by 2041. This is a total population growth of 119,078 or 42.5%. When the total projected population growth is averaged over the 20-year projection period, the average annual growth for the Medium Growth Scenario is 2.1% or 5,954 people.

Summary of Medium Growth Scenario:

1. From 2021 to 2041, the proportion of the population between 45 to 64 years of age is projected to increase from 23.5% to 25.1%, which is the largest increase by an age group.

2. From 2021 to 2041, the proportion of the population over 65 years of age is projected to increase from 14.7% to 15.8%, which is the second largest increase by an age group.

3.   The population over 65 years of age is expected increase by 21,884 or 53.2% to reach 63,015 by 2041. The 80 and older population is expected to increase by about 6,280 or 50.3% to reach 18,750.

4.   The proportion of the population aged 20 to 44 years, the young labour force, is projected to decrease from 37.7% to 35.6% by 2041. The young labour force increases in total size by 36,549 or 34.6% to reach 142,153.

5.   The older labour force, aged 45 to 64, remains at approximately 25% of the total population, but increases in size by 34,547 or 52.6% to 100,258.

6.   The 0 to 19 cohorts decrease as a population proportion from 24.2% to 23.5%. These cohorts increase by 26,098 or 38.9% to reach 93,761 by 2041.

7.   The median age is projected to increase from 36.7 to 37.6 by 2041.

8.   By 2041, the dependency ratio is projected to decrease from 69 to 65, which means for every 100 people in the work force, 65 people are dependent on the earnings of the labour force.

9.   The labour force replacement ratio is projected to decrease from 108 to 94 by 2041. From 2021 to 2041, it is projected that there will be more people leaving the work force than entering the work force, with 94 people entering the work force in 2041 for every 100 people leaving.

Medium Growth Scenario (1.8%) Population Pyramids 2026 to 2041

Medium Growth Scenario - 2026

Medium Growth Scenario - 2031

Medium Growth Scenario - 2036

Medium Growth Scenario - 2041
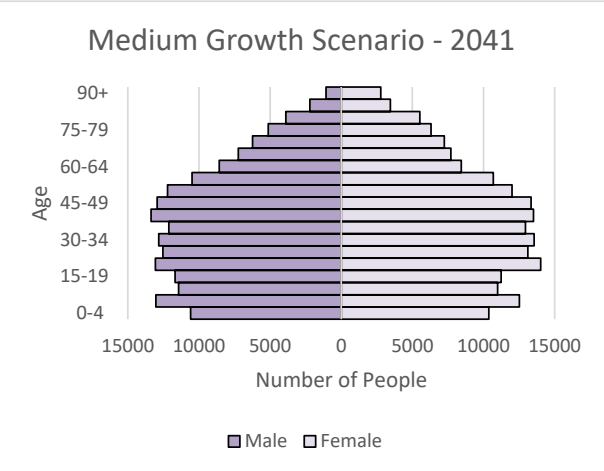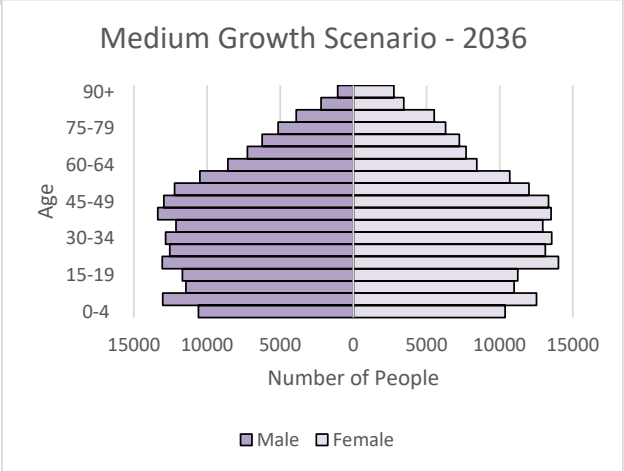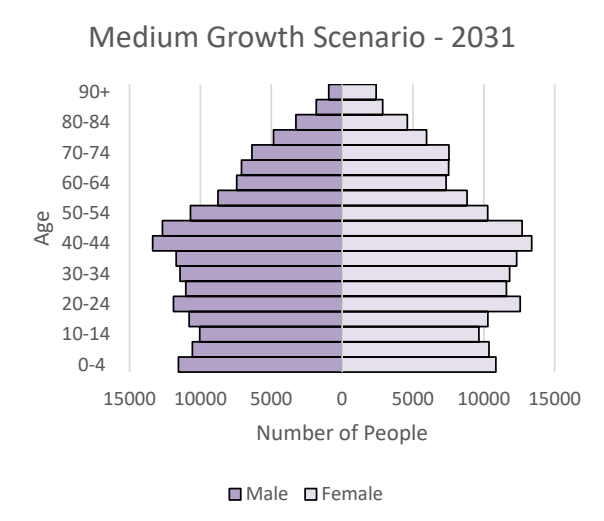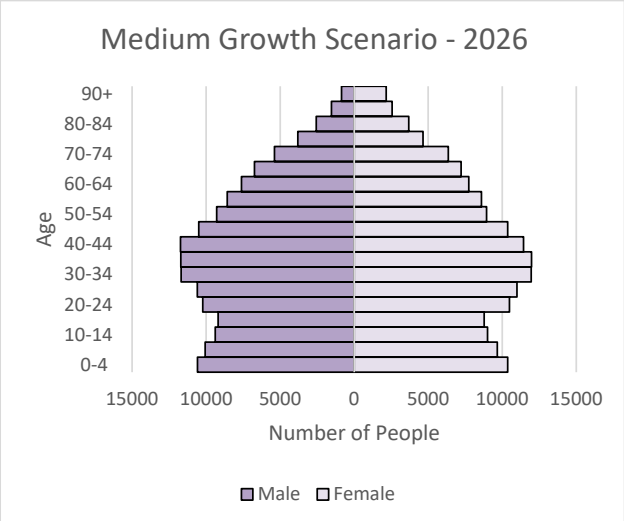
High Growth Scenario

The High Growth Scenario uses an annual growth rate of 2.2%. This scenario represents growth much like Saskatoon experienced in the peak migration years of 2010 to 2013.

Age Groups	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Preschool (0 to 4)	16,984	22,182	23,078	22,182	23,708
Elementary School (5 to 14)	35,368	39,256	42,644	51,816	50,042
High School (15 to 19)	15,311	18,320	21,920	24,544	27,483
Young Labour Force (20 to 44)	105,604	116,380	128,946	144,304	161,830
Old Labour Force (45 to 64)	65,711	72,244	80,175	91,761	105,329
Seniors (65+)	41,131	48,316	57,166	61,968	67,796
Total	**280,109**	**316,698**	**354,559**	**396,575**	**436,188**
Preschool (0 to 4)	6.1%	7.0%	6.7%	5.6%	5.4%
Elementary School (5 to 14)	12.6%	12.4%	12.0%	13.1%	11.5%
High School (15 to 19)	5.5%	5.8%	6.2%	6.2%	6.3%
Young Labour Force (20 to 44)	37.7%	36.7%	36.4%	36.4%	37.1%
Old Labour Force (45 to 64)	23.5%	22.8%	22.6%	23.1%	24.1%
Seniors (65+)	14.7%	15.3%	16.1%	15.6%	15.5%
Median Age	36.7	36.6	37.0	36.7	37.0
Dependency Ratio	69	68	70	68	63
Labour Replacement Ratio	108	120	123	115	97

This scenario projects the population to reach 436,188 by 2041. This is a total population growth of 156,079 or 55.7%. When the total projected population growth is averaged over the 20-year projection period, the average annual growth for the High Growth Scenario is 2.8% or 7,804 people.
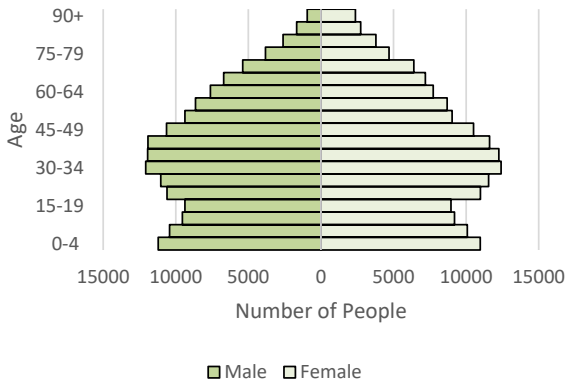
Summary of High Growth Scenario:

1. From 2021 to 2041, the proportion of the population over 65 years of age is projected to increase marginally from 14.7% to 15.5%.

2. The population 65 years of age and over is expected to increase by 26,665 or 64.8% to reach 67,796 in 2041. The population of the oldest seniors, 80 years and older, will increase by 8,651 or 84.2% to reach 18,923.

3. The proportion of the population aged 20 to 44 years, the young labour force, is projected to decrease from 37.7 to 37.1% by 2041. The young labour force increases in total size by 56,226 or 53.2% to reach 161,830.

4.   The proportion of the population aged 45 to 64 years, the older labour force, is projected to increase marginally from 23.5% to 24.1% by 2041. The size of the older labour force will increase 39,618 or 60.2% to reach 105,329 by 2041.

5.   The 0 to 19 cohorts decrease as a population proportion from 24.2% to 23.2%. Taken together, the 0 to 19 cohort population increases by 33,600 or 49.7% to 101,233.

6.   The median age is projected to increase from 36.7 to 37.0 by 2041.

7.   By 2041, the dependency ratio is projected to decrease from 69 to 63, which means for every 100 people in the work force, 63 people are dependent on the earnings of the labour force.

8.   The labour force replacement ratio is projected to decrease from 108 to 97 by 2041.

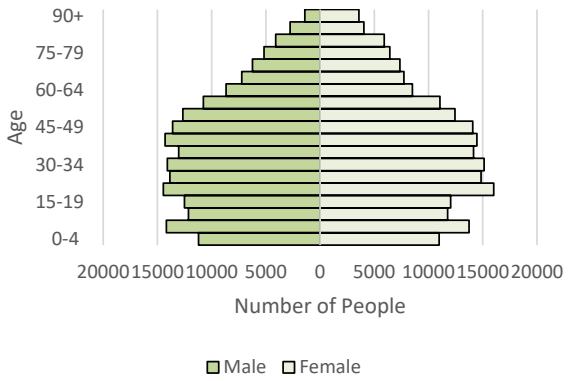**High Growth Scenario Population Pyramids 2026 to 2041**
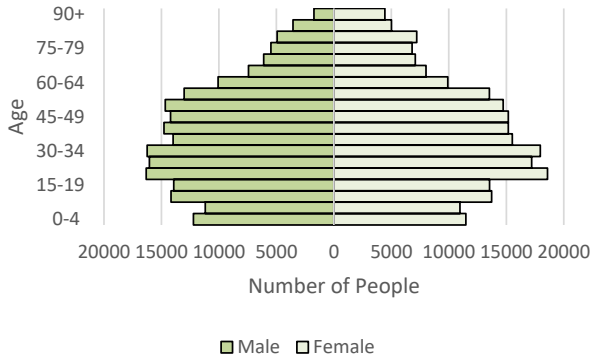
High Growth Scenario - 2026

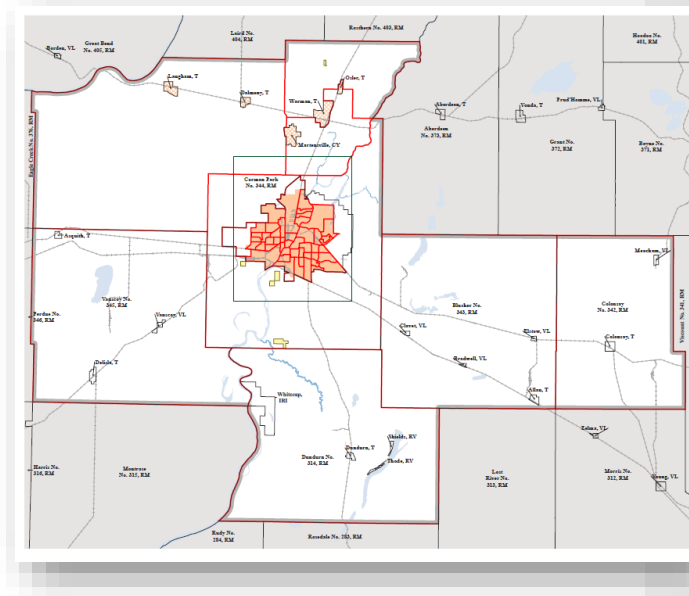### High Growth Scenario - 2031
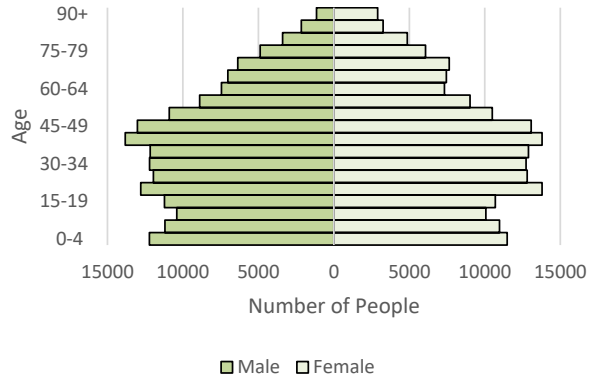
High Growth Scenario - 2036

High Growth Scenario - 2041

SASKATOON CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA POPULATION PROJECTION

Source: Statistics Canada, Saskatoon CMA map

Overview

The Saskatoon CMA consists of Saskatoon and the surrounding municipalities, as depicted in the above map. In 2021, the Saskatchewan eHealth data showed the population of the surrounding municipalities to be 44,295. Together with Saskatoon's 2021 population of 280,109, the Saskatoon CMA population was 324,404 and Saskatoon's population was 86.3% of the total.

The diversity of the surrounding municipalities makes applying a cohort survival approach to population projection difficult. Net migration in small populations can cause demographic trends to fluctuate significantly and lead to unreliable results. Based on recent growth trends for the surrounding communities, an arithmetic projection was conducted at 1.5%, 2.0% and 2.5% for the surrounding municipalities to project their total population. These results were then added to Saskatoon's projected population to arrive at Low, Medium, and High Growth Scenarios for the Saskatoon CMA. These growth scenarios result in average annual growth rates over the projection period of 1.6%, 2.1%, and 2.6% for the Saskatoon CMA and 1.9%, 2.4% and 2.9% for the surrounding municipalities.

Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area Population Projection Highlights

1.   In the Low Growth Scenario, the Saskatoon CMA projected population is 421,744 in 20 years, based on a projected population of 362,085 for Saskatoon and 59,659 for the surrounding municipalities.

2.   The Low Growth Scenario suggests a total population of 59,659 for the surrounding municipalities; an increase of 11,941 people. This is equivalent to adding nearly one community the size of Martensville or Warman in 20 years.

3.   In the Medium Growth Scenario, the Saskatoon CMA projected population is 465,007 in 20 years, based on a projected population of 362,085 for Saskatoon and 59,659 for the surrounding municipalities. This is an average annual growth rate of 2.6% for the Saskatoon CMA and 3.2% for the surrounding municipalities.

4.   The Medium Growth Scenario suggests a total population for the surrounding municipalities of 65,820; an increase of almost 21,525 people.

5.   In the High Growth Scenario, the Saskatoon CMA projected population is 508,771 in 20 years, based on a projected population of 436,188 for Saskatoon and 72,583 for the surrounding municipalities. This is an average annual growth rate of 2.4% for the Saskatoon CMA and 2.5% for the surrounding municipalities.

6.   The High Growth Scenario suggests a total population for the surrounding municipalities of 72,583; an increase 28,558. This is equivalent to adding over two communities the size of Martensville or Warman in 20 years.

The following graphs and table outline the population projections for the Saskatoon CMA based on the above growth rate scenarios and include the breakout for Saskatoon and surrounding municipalities (SM).

Saskatoon CMA Projection by Component				
Place/Year	2026	2031	2036	2041
Low Growth Scenario - 1.4%				
Saskatoon	300,245	322,705	343,218	362,085
Saskatoon SM	47,718	51,406	55,379	59,659
Saskatoon CMA	347,963	374,111	398,597	421,744
Medium Growth Scenario - 1.9%				
Saskatoon	308,972	339,200	370,383	399,187
Saskatoon SM	48,905	53,995	59,615	65,820
Saskatoon CMA	357,877	393,195	429,998	465,007
High Growth Scenario - 2.4%				
Saskatoon	316,968	354,559	396,575	436,188
Saskatoon SM	50,116	56,701	64,152	72,583
Saskatoon CMA	367,084	411,260	460,727	508,771

Saskatoon CMA: Population Projection for Saskatoon and the Surrounding Municipalities

Saskatoon CMA Population Projection 2021 - 2041