



Demographic Challenges in Atlantic Canada

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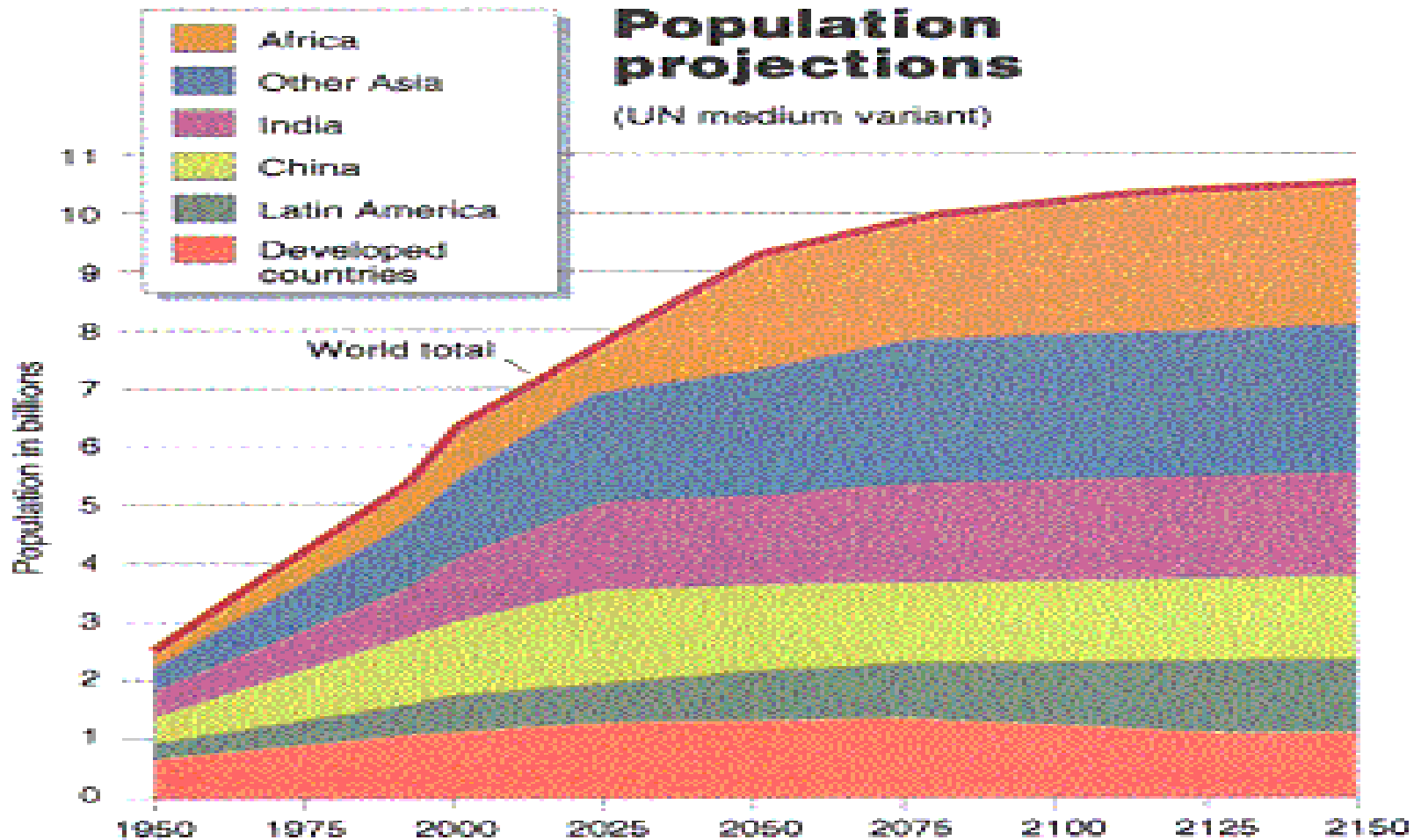
28-29 September 2004

APEC Economic Summit

Moncton, NB



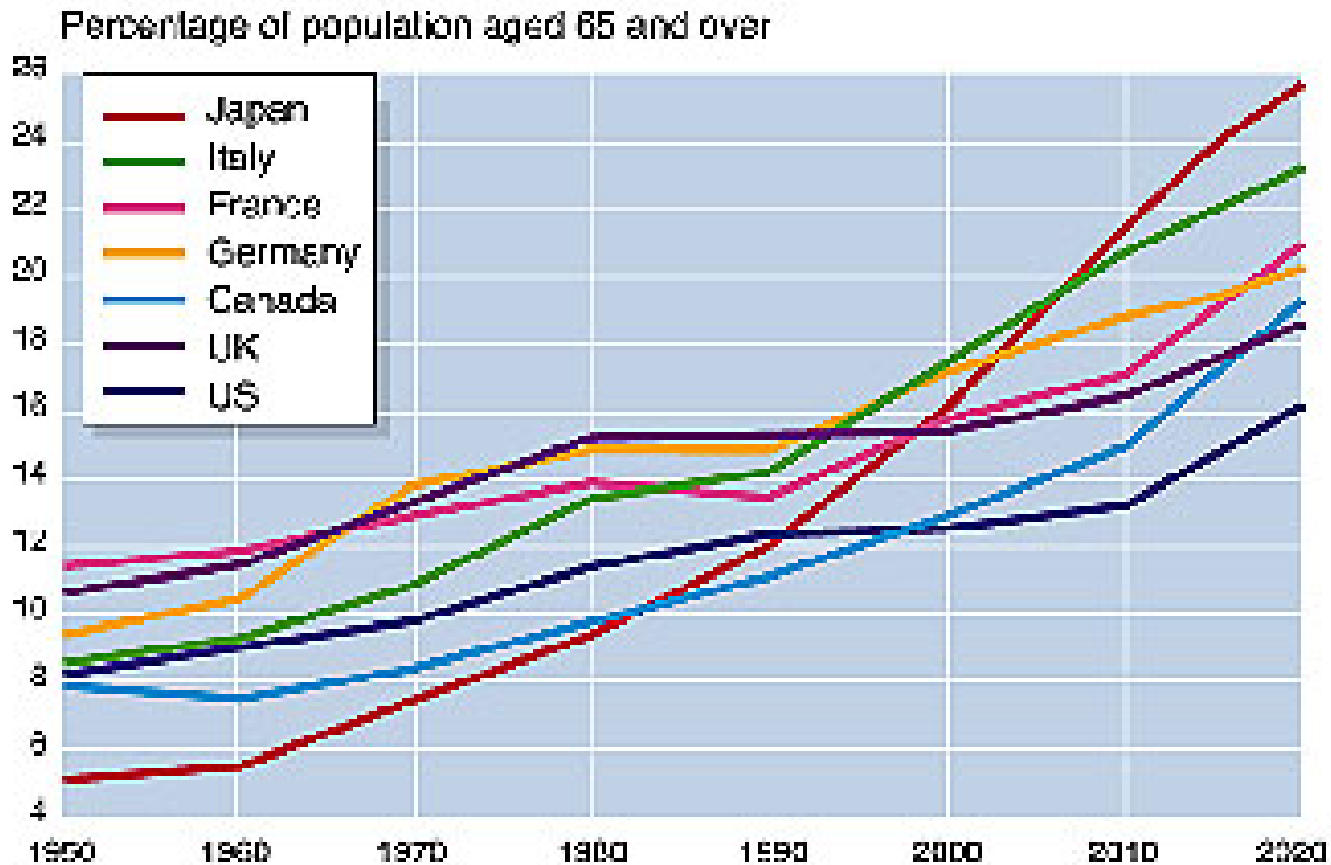
Population Projections





Ageing Populations

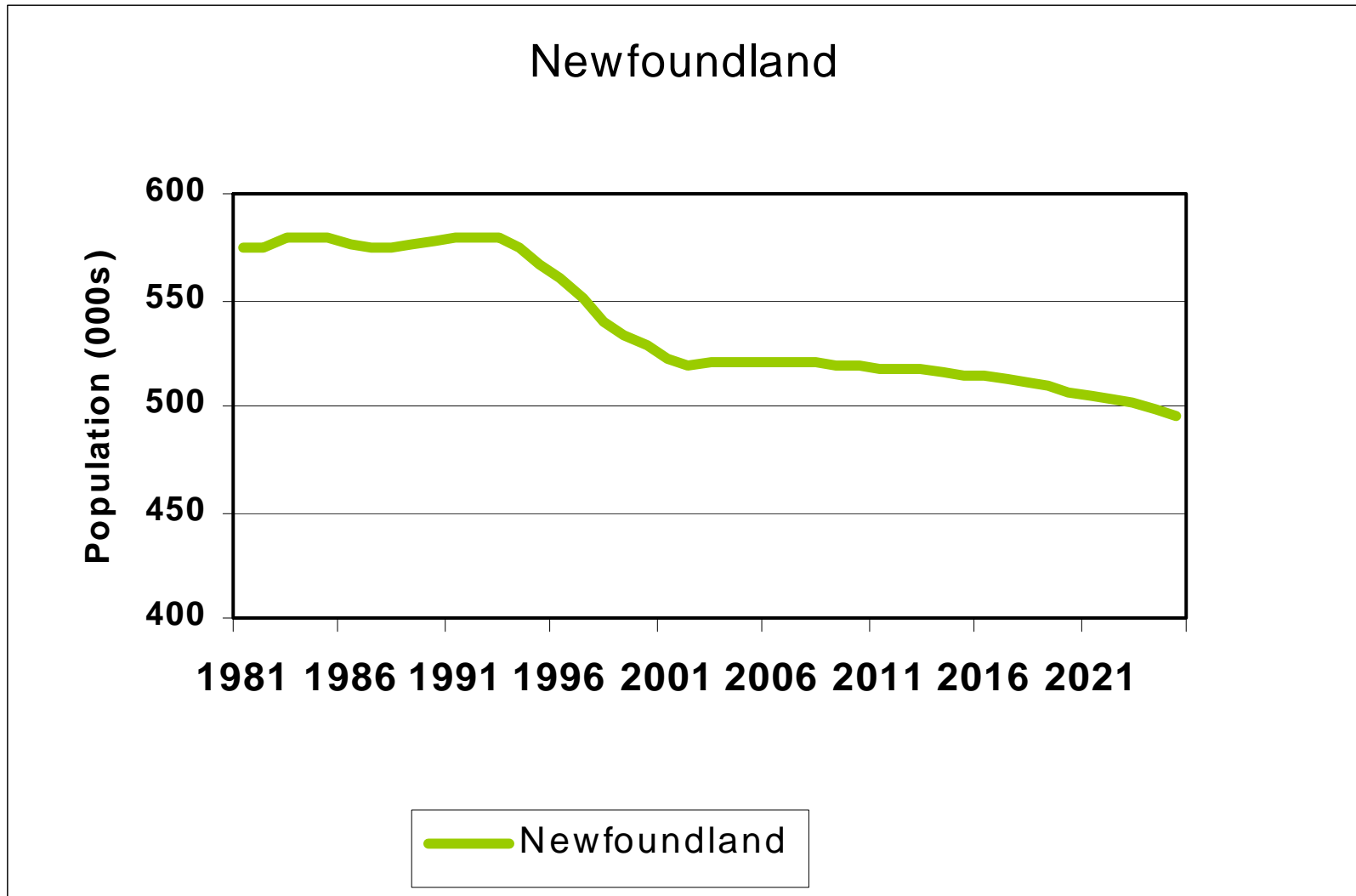
The ageing developed world



Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects

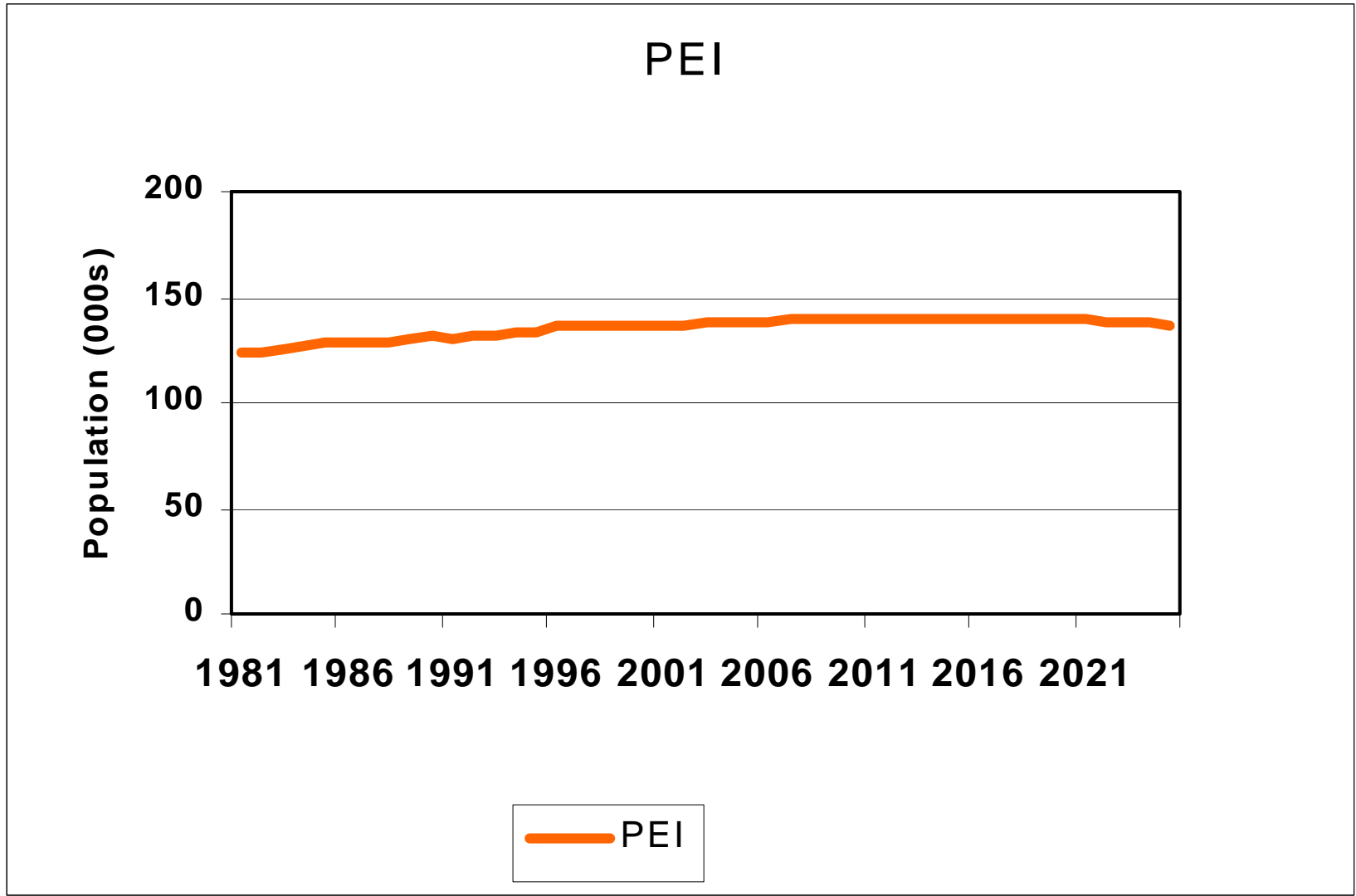


Newfoundland



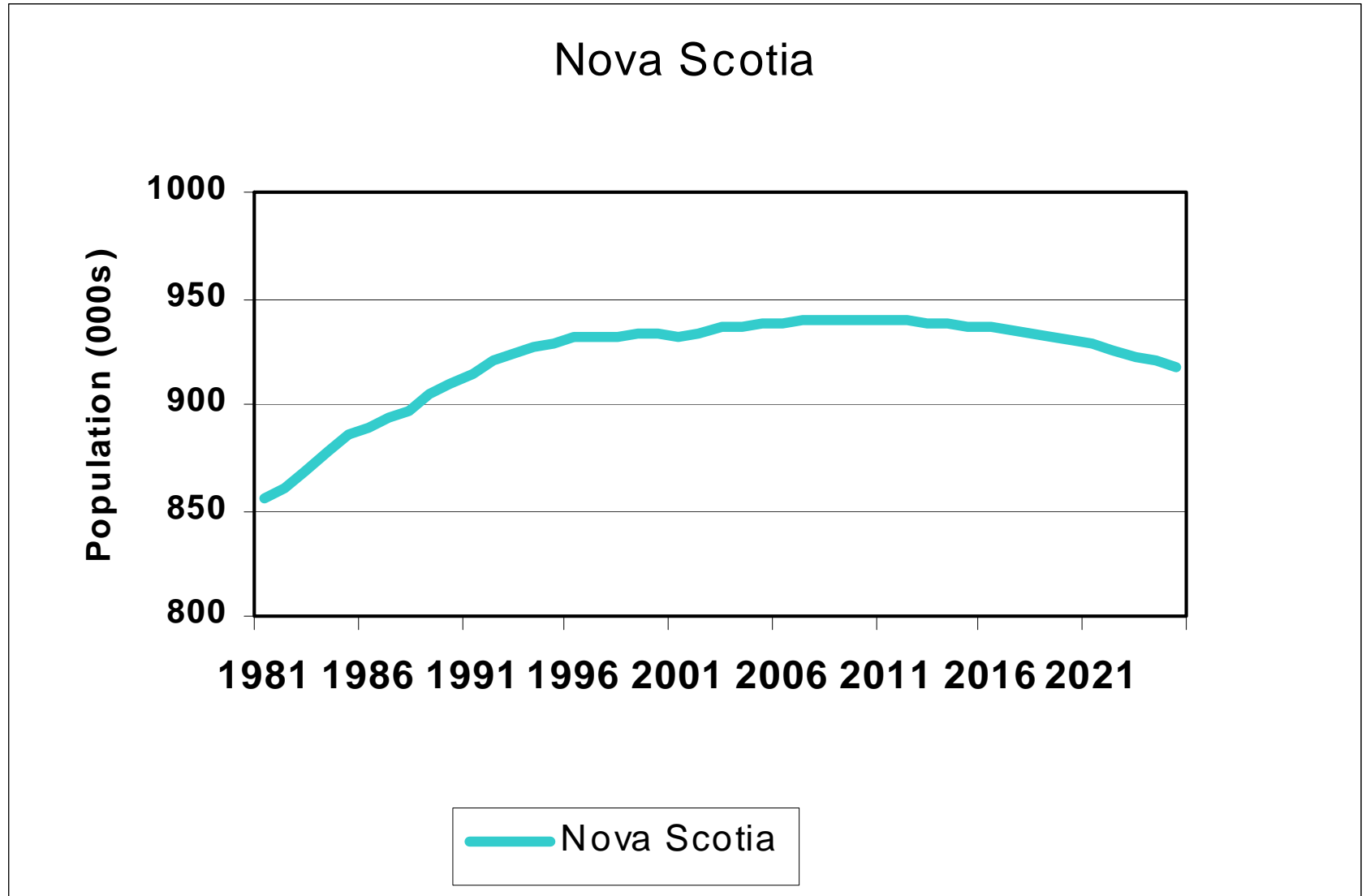


PEI



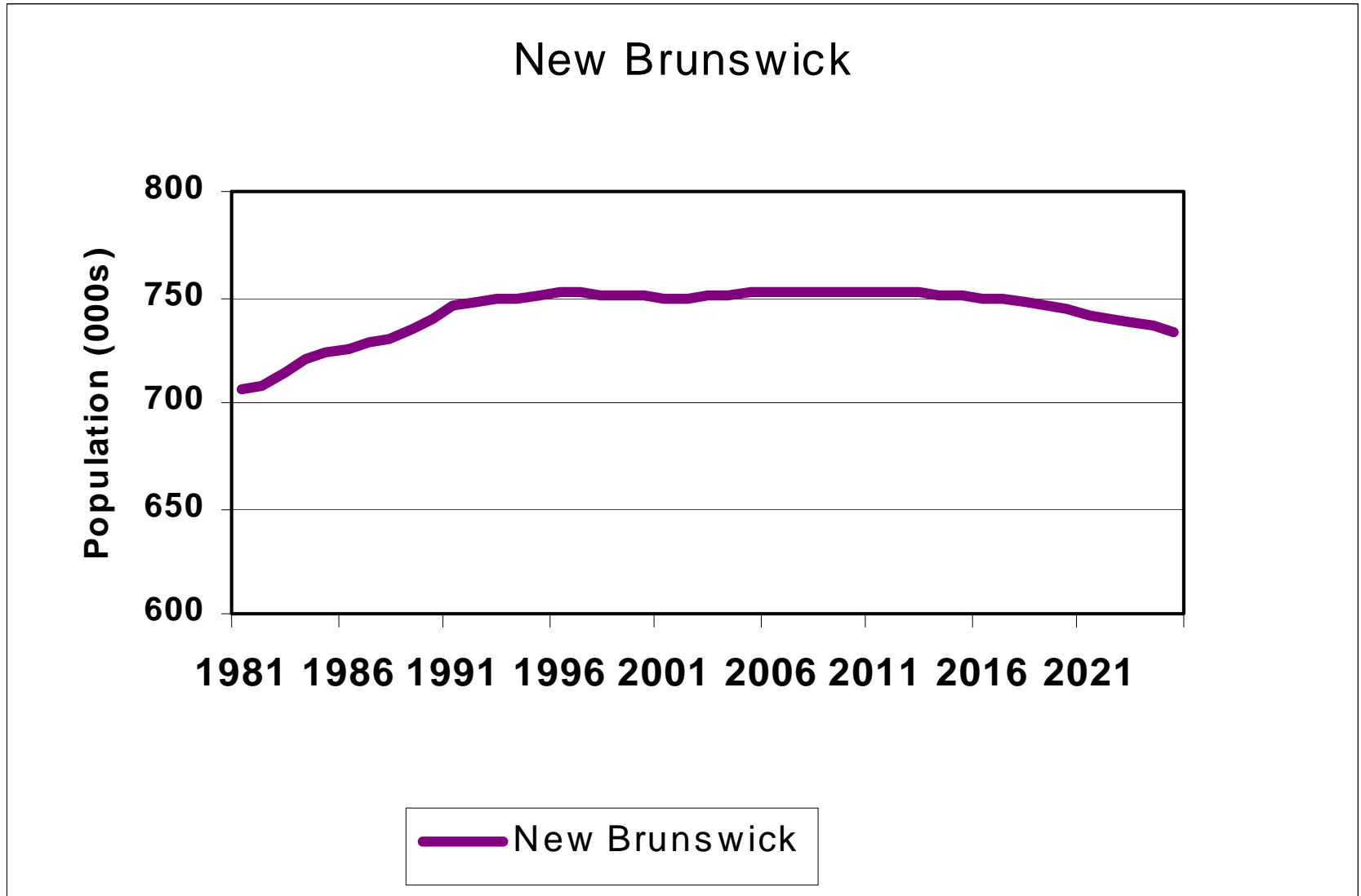


Nova Scotia



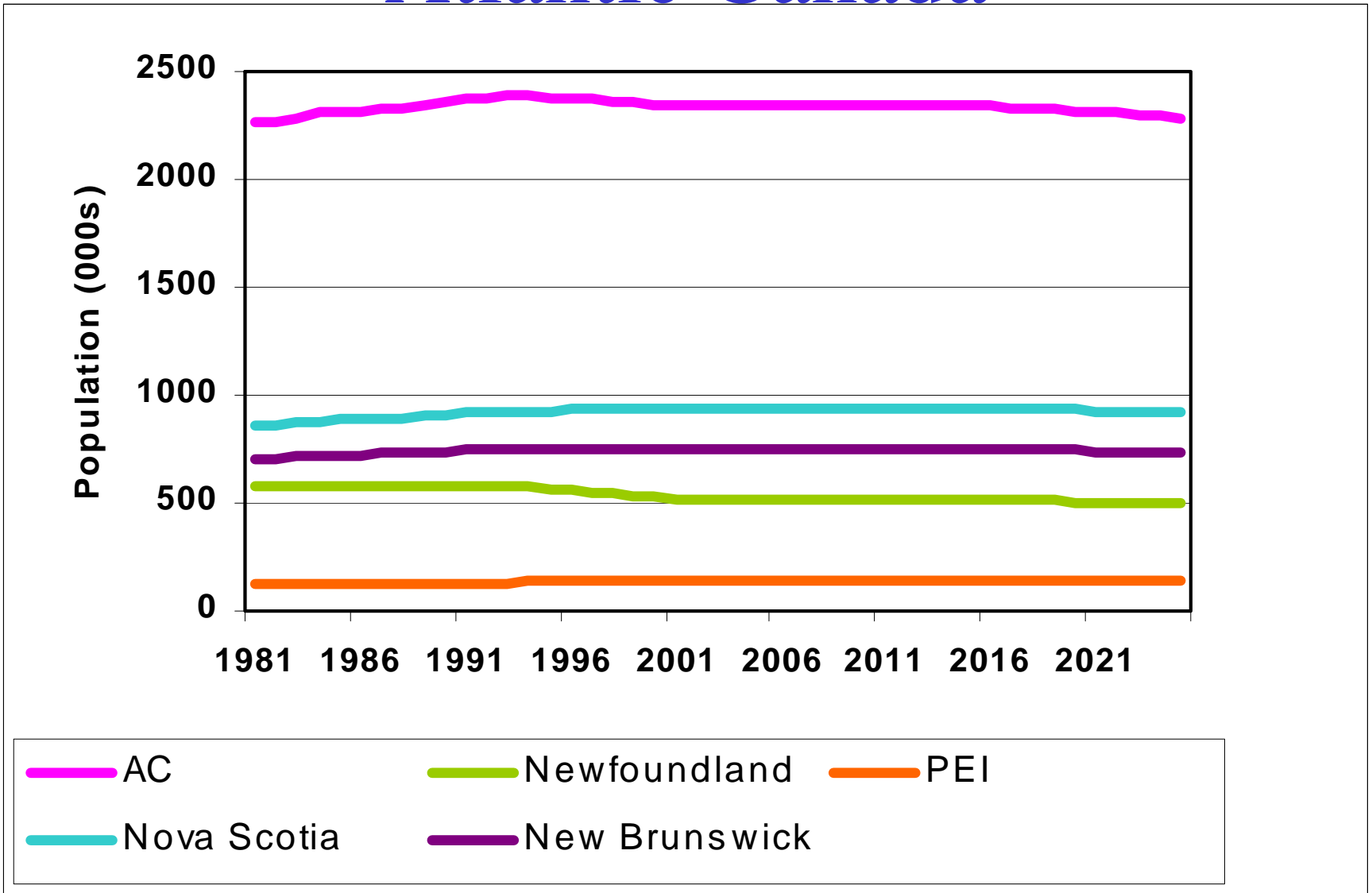


New Brunswick



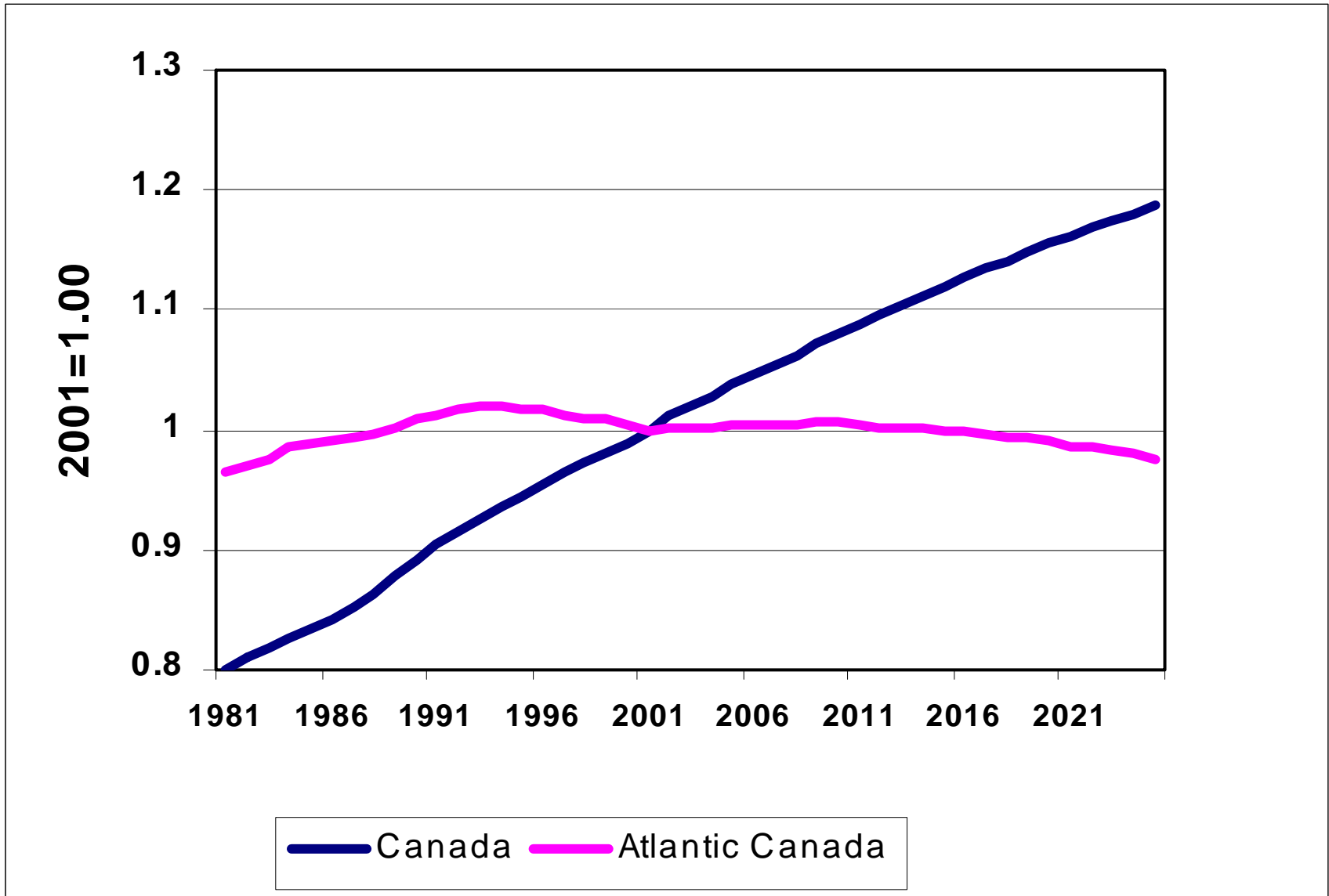


Atlantic Canada





Canada – Atlantic Canada





Components of Population Growth

- Births
- Deaths
- International immigration
- Net migration from other provinces



Immigration

- Movements to Larger Cities
- Jobs are important
- Ethnic clusters important
- Atlantic Canada has not attracted international immigrants in many years

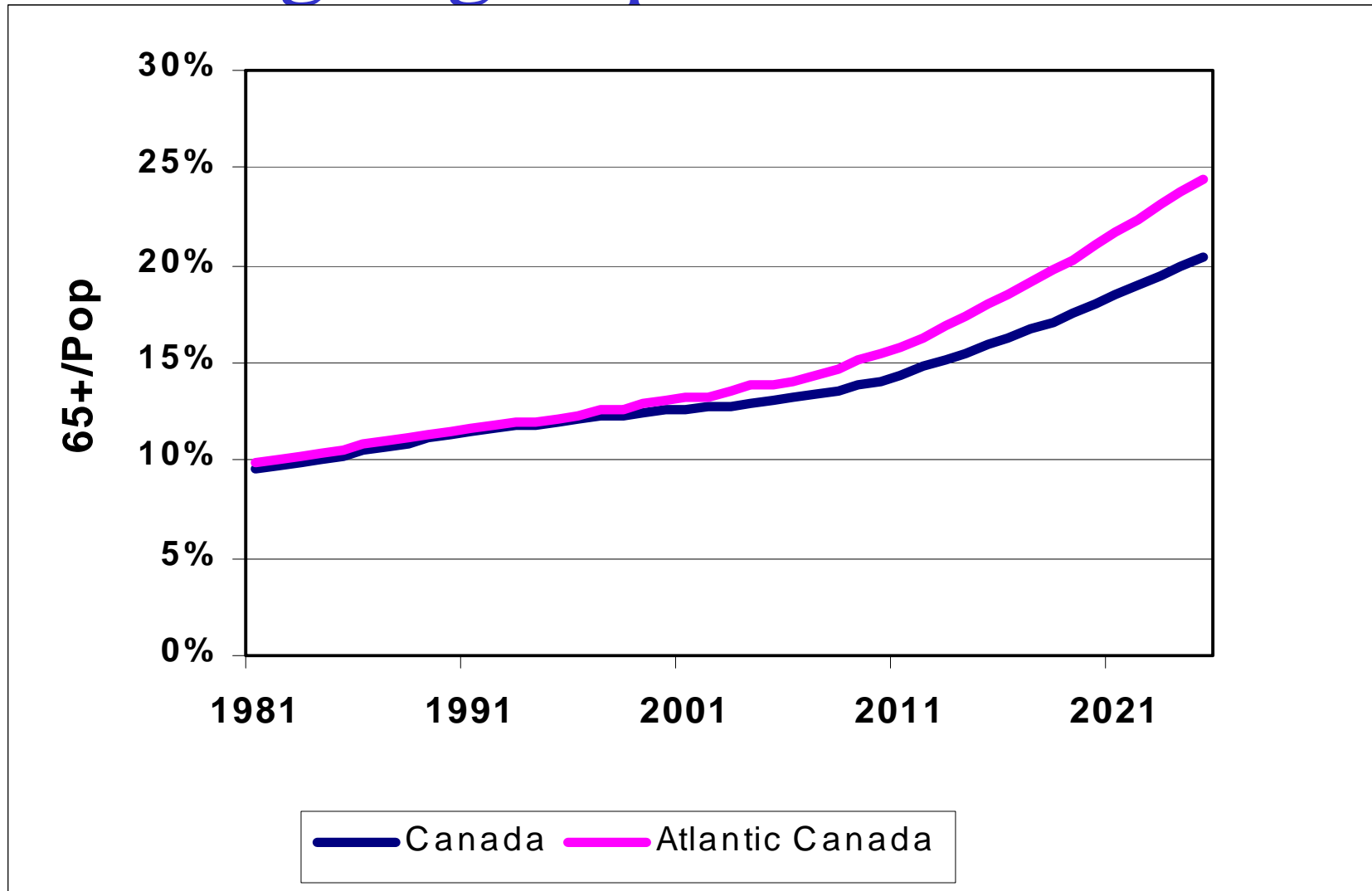


Nature of Networks

- Relatively few members in a network
- Heterogeneous members are better for business and ideas
- Importance of accommodating diversity

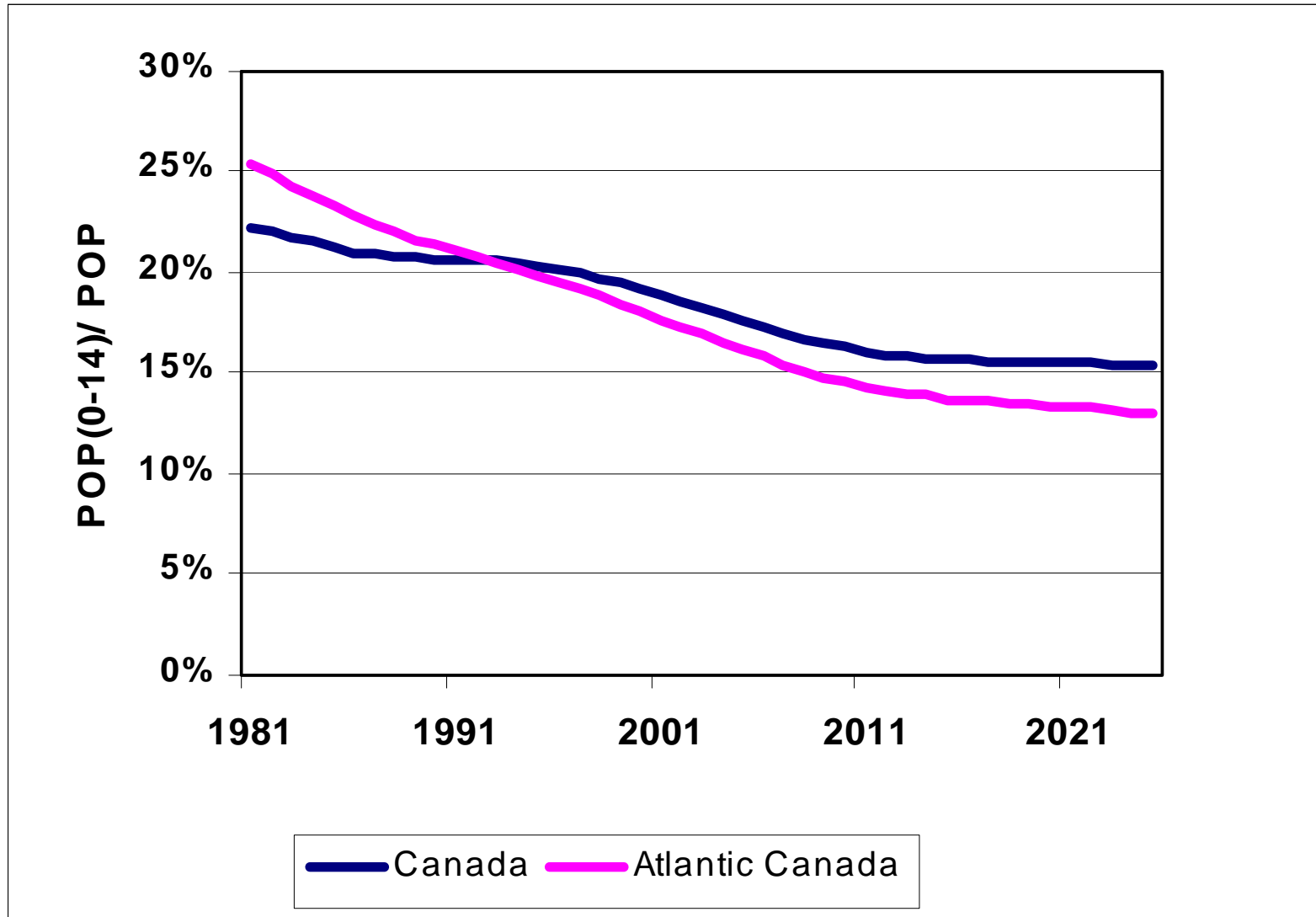


Ageing Population





Fewer Children



Summary of Demographic Prospects

- Slower growth or absolute declines
- Fewer children and youth
- Slowing followed by declines in core (age 25-64)
- More seniors
- More rapid declines in the rural population



Implications for Governments

- Less growth in infrastructure
 - Roads
 - Water and sewage treatment
 - Schools
- Increased demand for residential care and other continuing care facilities
- Changes in approaches to rural education and other service delivery



Policy Choices

- Ignore it
- Plan for shifts
- Attract more migrants
 - More jobs
 - Improved lifestyle for retirement
 - Improved lifestyle for raising children



Practical Steps

- Keep more of current population
 - Jobs
 - Quality of living
- Return of past migrants
- International immigration
 - Communities must want them
 - Focus on building critical mass of an ethnic group to be sustainable



Operations of Government

- Convert existing infrastructure to new uses
 - Schools to retirement homes
- Incorporate realistic population forecasts into planning
- Consolidate rural towns?



Business Ups & Downs

- Lower demand for new homes, school teachers, baby supplies
- Higher demand for residential care facilities, home care workers, and “body workers”



Business Strategies

- Driven by population growth?
 - Think about more sales per customer
 - Export markets
- Labour market shortages?
 - Consider using other age-sex groups
 - Attract workers from the rest-of-Canada
 - Immigrants