

From 1981 to 1991, the Greater Moncton metropolitan area achieved an average population growth rate of 2.28% per annum, with the population being recorded as 106,503 in the 1991 census. By the year 2001, the population is expected to grow to 123,300.

Moncton has long had a mixed economy, with transportation, manufacturing and service firms all playing significant roles in the local economy. The most significant manufacturing sectors today include food processing, metal products, wood products, electrical and electronic products and transportation equipment. In the last few years there has been a rapid growth in telecommunications centres in Moncton, with Federal Express, Camco, Purolator, CP Express, CP Hotels & Resorts, UPS and Royal Bank of Canada all establishing major call centres in Moncton. As a result of these new arrivals, Moncton is rapidly becoming a call centre capital of North America. The largest private sector employers in Moncton today include Hub Meat Packers, Irving Tissue, Apex Industries, Telemonitoring Manufacturing, Eastern Bakeries and Greystone Energy Systems.

Moncton Airport is served by three regional airlines, providing frequent flights to Halifax, Montreal, Toronto and Boston. A significant advantage of the Moncton Airport is its virtually fog-free location, meaning that it suffers fewer weather-related air-traffic diversions than any other airport in Atlantic Canada. The closest water port facilities are located 146 miles to the south-east in Halifax-Dartmouth. Seasonal port facilities are also available through a number of New Brunswick ports located on the Gulf of St Lawrence.

Railway services are provided by CN Rail, which has its regional headquarters located in Moncton. CN Rail also operates a 380 acre marshalling yard in Moncton as its Atlantic region hub. The marshalling yard has full intermodal facilities to expedite the transport of goods to nearby ports. With a total workforce of 2,000, CN Rail is Moncton's largest single employer. Moncton is located on the Trans-Canada Highway and is at the road hub of Atlantic Canada. The Trans-Canada Highway provides access to all major centres in Canada as well as connection to American Interstate Highway 95 for access to Boston and New York. A number of regional and national trucking firms are based in Moncton.

Examples of recent business investment decisions in Moncton include the following:

- Purolator Courier recently announced a doubling of employment at its new Moncton "supercentre", a national telephone communications centre. The addition of 200 new jobs increases Purolator's total Moncton workforce to 400. In a similar move, United Parcel Service opened a new national call centre in Moncton in October 1994. The centre already employs 132 people and is expected to grow to 150 employees.