

Canada's population edges up in 4Q

by UPI

OTTAWA -- Canada's population grew by 63,400 people, predominantly in western provinces, in the fourth quarter of 2008, Statistics Canada reported Thursday from Ottawa.

The growth rate was 0.19 percent and marked the fastest fourth-quarter growth rate since 1992, the federal agency said.

"The four provinces west of Ontario all posted growth rates higher than the national level," the report said. "At 0.60 percent, the pace of Alberta's population growth is more than triple the national rate."

Alberta's international migration reached 9,000 people, "a level never before seen for a fourth quarter," StatsCan said.

The agency said Quebec experienced a 3.9 percent increase in births compared with the fourth quarter of 2007.

As of Jan. 1, 2009, Canada's population was an estimated 33,504,700, the report said.

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