

Estimates or Forecasts? Population FAQs

Why are there different population numbers for Peel?

The Peel Data Centre maintains **two sets** of population numbers that inform different uses.

1. [Population Forecasts](#)
 - Forecasted population estimates from 2011 **up to 2031**
 - Align to Table 3 of the [Peel Region Official Plan ROPA 24](#), which is in conformity with the Province's Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and reflects a 2031 population of 1,640,000
 - Council adopted and provincially approved
2. [Population Estimates](#)
 - Quarterly population estimates leading up to the **current year**
 - Estimated using Census year population and persons per unit (PPU) as a base, along with CMHC housing absorptions, and demolitions

What population figures should be used when and why?

- Some reports and studies need to reflect numbers that align to Council approved values and therefore should use the annual population forecast values
- Population estimates should be used when a more recent reflection of current year population is needed, but with an understanding that numbers have **no official status and are estimates** based on combined methodology

How accurate is the data and when is it updated?

Forecasts

- Accuracy of forecasts based on Province's Growth Plan cannot be determined. It is a forecast exercise for planning purposes and is revisited by the province every 5 years.
- [Amendment 2 \(2013\) to the Province's Growth Plan](#) updates the existing population and employment forecasts and extends the growth planning horizon to 2041.
- Amendment 2 includes both the existing 2031 forecasts and updated forecasts for 2031, along with forecasts for 2041. As a result, new numbers have been forecast at the Regional level in Peel. However, these have **not yet been incorporated into the Peel Region Official Plan or officially approved by Council, and have not yet been officially allocated at the area municipal level.**

Estimates

- The estimates are monitored on a quarterly basis using CMHC housing absorptions, building permit demolitions, and Census year population and PPU base.
- Definition differences between CMHC and the Census leads to some degree of discrepancy at each census period. Census years become the new benchmark for subsequent monitoring.

How do Peel's population forecasts differ from other sources?

- The Provincial Ministry of Finance also has a set of [population projections](#) that are not consistent with Places to Grow. Ministry of Finance projections are significantly higher than Places to Grow, due to a markedly different methodology that does not take land constraints into consideration.