

## Estimates or Forecasts? Population FAQs

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### 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.