

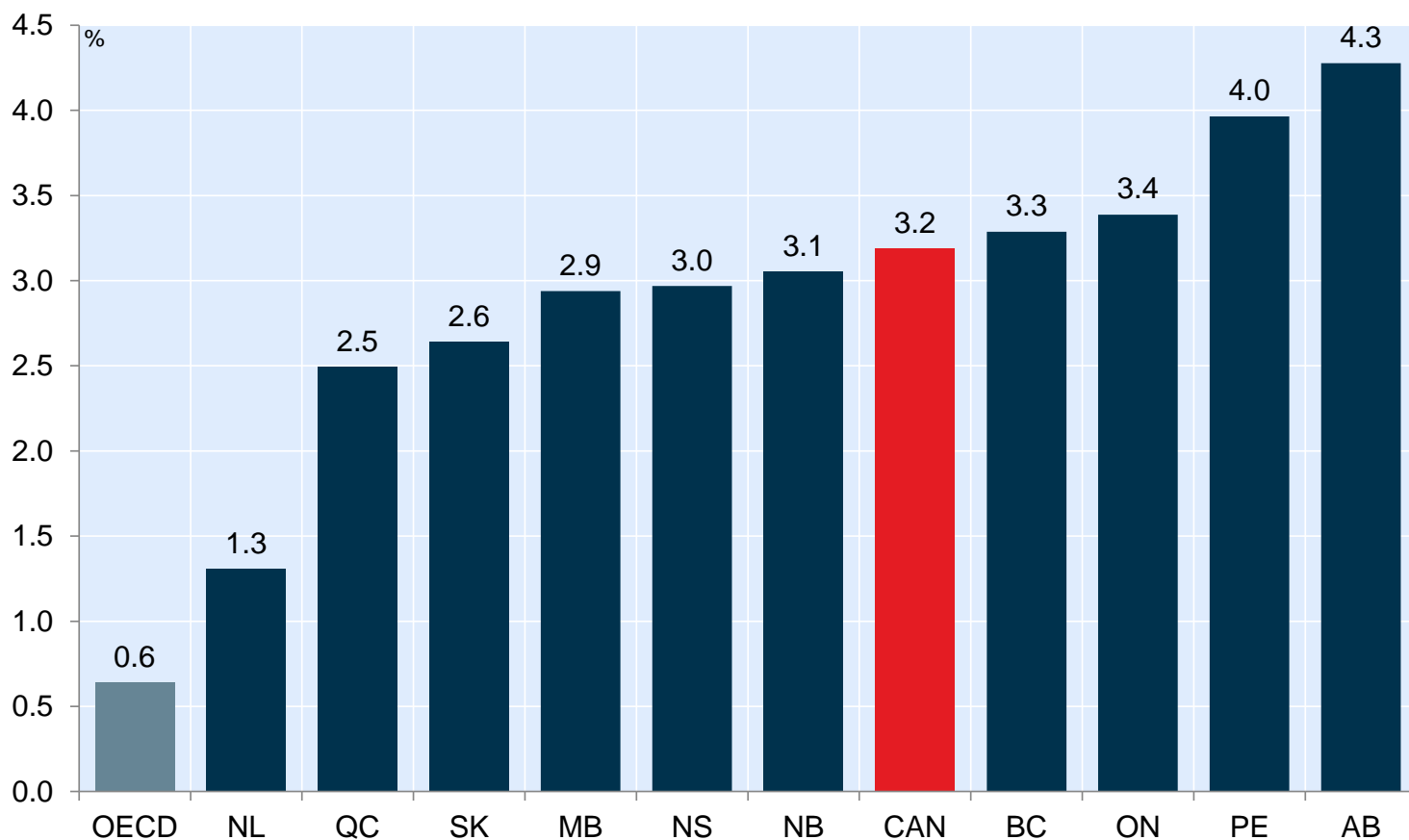
Canada Watch

By Stéfane Marion and Alexandra Ducharme

Immigration is becoming a sensitive issue in Canada as the impact of rapid population growth is being felt in many sectors of the economy, particularly housing and public services. While it is true that an aging population in most OECD economies is a threat to future potential GDP growth, the question is how much we want to bring immigration policy forward to address this threat. As today's Hot Chart shows, Canada's population growth in 2023 will be 3.2%, five times higher than the OECD average. What's more, all ten provinces grew at least twice as fast as the OECD, ranging from 1.3% in Newfoundland to 4.3% in Alberta. We do not deny that immigration improves Canada's supply of workers and taxpayers, and that it strengthens our economic prospects in the long run. However, our country's current population growth appears to be extreme in relation to the absorptive capacity of the economy and the fact that our workforce is not aging faster than the OECD average.

Canada: All provinces grow at least twice as fast as OECD

Population change (2023Q3 vs 2022Q3)



NBF Economics and Strategy (data via Statistics Canada, [OECD](#))

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