

Canadian postsecondary enrolments and graduates, 2012/2013

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Tuesday, November 25, 2014

Enrolments

Over 2 million students were enrolled in Canadian postsecondary institutions during the 2012/2013 academic year, up 1.1% from the previous year.

Enrolments were up in six provinces in 2012/2013, ranging from 1.0% in Saskatchewan to 1.8% in Ontario. Enrolments were down in the three Maritime provinces, British Columbia and the territories.

International student enrolments increased 6.9% in 2012/2013 to 199,836.

About 6 in 10 students attending a Canadian postsecondary institution in 2012/2013 were enrolled in programs at the bachelor level or above.

Women accounted for 56.3% of total enrolments compared with 43.7% for men. These proportions have remained stable over the past decade.

Enrolments were still highly concentrated in the same three fields of study: business, management and public administration (18.2%); humanities (15.8%); and social and behavioural sciences and law (13.5%).

Graduates

In 2012, 478,737 students received a certificate, diploma or degree from a postsecondary institution, up 3.0% from the previous year.

Over half of postsecondary graduates (51.5%) had successfully completed a program at the bachelor level or above.

Female graduates represented 58% of the total number of graduates in 2012, continuing a long trend in which female graduates have outnumbered their male counterparts.

About half of the 2012 graduates received their qualification from the same three fields of study as in 2011. Business, management and public administration accounted for the highest proportion of graduates with 21.9% of the total; followed by social and behavioural sciences and law (14.6%); and health and related fields (14.5%).

Female graduates continued to outnumber men in every field of study except mathematics, computer and information sciences; architecture, engineering and related technologies; personal, protective and transportation services; and agriculture, natural resources and conservation.

Note to readers

Canadian postsecondary institution enrolment data for 2012/2013 and graduate data for 2012 are obtained using information from the Postsecondary Student Information System. Enrolment and graduate counts for certain institutions are preliminary or based on estimates.

Levels of enrolment presented are not meant to represent a complete enumeration of all students at postsecondary institutions during the academic year of 2012/2013. Rather, they are based on students enrolled in postsecondary institutions at the time of the fall snapshot date, that is, a single date chosen by the institution that falls between September 30 and December 1. Therefore, students who are not enrolled during this time period are excluded. This has a greater impact on colleges as they have a continuous intake of students and offer shorter programs. It should also be noted that enrolments are based on program counts and not on student counts. If a student is enrolled in more than one program as of the snapshot date, then all of his/her programs are included in the count. The count also excludes students enrolled in apprenticeship programs.



Data are subject to revision.

Table 1
Postsecondary enrolments by province of study

	2011/2012	2012/2013	2011/2012 to 2012/2013
	number		% change
Canada	2,000,823	2,023,191	1.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	28,188	28,500	1.1
Prince Edward Island	8,067	6,984	-13.4
Nova Scotia	55,062	55,014	-0.1
New Brunswick	32,811	31,098	-5.2
Quebec	512,070	520,737	1.7
Ontario	783,129	797,013	1.8
Manitoba	60,687	61,431	1.2
Saskatchewan	53,379	53,919	1.0
Alberta	189,258	191,700	1.3
British Columbia	273,126	273,105	-0.0
Territories	5,049	3,681	-27.1

Source(s): CANSIM table [477-0044](#).

Table 2
Postsecondary enrolments by field of study

	2011/2012	2012/2013	2011/2012 to 2012/2013
	number		% change
Total	2,000,823	2,023,191	1.1
Personal improvement and leisure	26,361	24,882	-5.6
Education	98,388	96,096	-2.3
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	83,271	82,920	-0.4
Humanities	334,725	319,902	-4.4
Social and behavioural sciences, and law	262,542	272,904	3.9
Business, management and public administration	359,877	367,479	2.1
Physical and life sciences, and technologies	123,177	127,983	3.9
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	55,176	58,230	5.5
Architecture, engineering and related technologies	190,002	198,501	4.5
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	28,626	29,535	3.2
Health and related fields	229,419	237,642	3.6
Personal, protective and transportation services	41,832	42,417	1.4
Other	167,433	164,700	-1.6

Source(s): CANSIM table [477-0044](#).

Table 3
Postsecondary graduates by province of study

	2011	2012	2011 to 2012
	number		% change
Canada	464,733	478,737	3.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	6,636	6,480	-2.4
Prince Edward Island	2,022	2,262	11.9
Nova Scotia	14,286	14,805	3.6
New Brunswick	8,691	8,451	-2.8
Quebec	127,641	127,077	-0.4
Ontario	184,944	193,176	4.5
Manitoba	11,304	12,147	7.5
Saskatchewan	9,669	9,033	-6.6
Alberta	38,034	41,337	8.7
British Columbia	61,308	63,621	3.8
Territories	207	348	68.1

Source(s): CANSIM table [477-0045](#).

Table 4
Postsecondary graduates by field of study

	2011	2012	2011 to 2012
	number		% change
Total	464,733	478,737	3.0
Personal improvement and leisure	2,469	2,475	0.2
Education	32,940	33,063	0.4
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	20,088	20,352	1.3
Humanities	55,467	54,756	-1.3
Social and behavioural sciences, and law	67,335	69,735	3.6
Business, management and public administration	102,072	104,667	2.5
Physical and life sciences, and technologies	21,081	21,735	3.1
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	12,765	13,092	2.6
Architecture, engineering and related technologies	52,584	54,591	3.8
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	8,271	8,946	8.2
Health and related fields	65,166	69,489	6.6
Personal, protective and transportation services	17,328	18,201	5.0
Other	7,164	7,638	6.6

Source(s): CANSIM table [477-0045](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [477-0019](#), [477-0020](#), [477-0029 to 477-0036](#), [477-0044](#) and [477-0045](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5017](#).

A [data table](#) is available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

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