

Canadian postsecondary enrolments and graduates, 2011/2012

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Wednesday, November 27, 2013

Almost 2 million students were enrolled in Canadian postsecondary institutions during the academic year 2011/2012, a 1.9% increase from the previous year.

Canadian students made up 90.7% of the total enrolment of 1,996,200, while international students accounted for 9.3%. The proportion of international students increased one percentage point from a year earlier.

Enrolments rose in most provinces and all territories. In Newfoundland and Labrador and Manitoba, the number of students enrolled was lower, while in New Brunswick, it remained at the same level.

More than half (56.1%) of students attending a Canadian postsecondary institution in 2011/2012 were enrolled in programs at the bachelor level or above.

Women accounted for 56.0% of the national enrolment total compared with 43.1% for men. This ratio has remained constant over the past decade.

Enrolment increased in all fields of study except education, which decreased slightly. In 2011/2012, three fields of study accounted for nearly one-half of total enrolment: the humanities (18.3%); business, management and public administration (17.6%); and social and behavioural sciences and law (13.0%). These have been the top three fields of study for over a decade.

Graduates

In 2011, about 461,520 students received a certificate, diploma or degree from a postsecondary institution, up 3.4% from the previous year.

Over half of postsecondary graduates (51.7%) had successfully completed a program at the bachelor level or above.

Female graduates represented 58.2% of the total, continuing a long trend in which female graduates have outnumbered their male counterparts.

In 2011, three fields of study accounted for about half of those receiving qualifications: business, management and public administration (21.8%); social and behavioural sciences and law (14.5%); and health, parks, recreation and fitness (14.0%).

Female graduates outnumbered 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 2011/2012 and graduate data for 2011 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 students at postsecondary institutions during the academic year of 2011/2012. They are based on students enrolled in the postsecondary institutions at the time of the fall snapshot date, that is, a single date chosen by the institution which 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 shorter programs. It should also be noted that enrolments are based on program counts and not 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

	2010/2011	2011/2012	2010/2011 to 2011/2012
	number		% change
Total	1,958,238	1,996,200	1.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	28,494	28,188	-1.1
Prince Edward Island	7,914	8,067	1.9
Nova Scotia	54,642	55,062	0.8
New Brunswick	31,635	31,635	0.0
Quebec	502,236	512,070	2.0
Ontario	762,390	783,198	2.7
Manitoba	62,022	60,978	-1.7
Saskatchewan	52,392	53,379	1.9
Alberta	188,607	189,258	0.3
British Columbia	266,730	269,898	1.2
Territories ¹	1,182	4,470	278.2

1. For 2011/2012, a college in Yukon reported to the Postsecondary Student Information System for the first time, resulting in a large increase in enrolment counts.

Table 2
Postsecondary enrolments by field of study

	2010/2011	2011/2012	2010/2011 to 2011/2012
	number		% change
Total	1,958,238	1,996,200	1.9
Personal improvement and leisure	25,074	25,245	0.7
Education	102,780	101,517	-1.2
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	84,186	84,951	0.9
Humanities	358,959	365,070	1.7
Social and behavioural sciences, and law	249,921	260,175	4.1
Business, management and public administration	343,575	350,415	2.0
Physical and life sciences, and technologies	98,997	101,709	2.7
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	58,071	60,177	3.6
Architecture, engineering and related technologies	184,632	190,398	3.1
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	27,342	28,332	3.6
Health, parks, recreation and fitness	223,662	230,124	2.9
Personal, protective and transportation services	40,764	41,379	1.5
Other	160,272	156,708	-2.2

Table 3
Postsecondary graduates by province of study

	2010	2011	2010 to 2011
	number		% change
Total	446,382	461,517	3.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	6,306	6,636	5.2
Prince Edward Island	1,731	2,022	16.8
Nova Scotia	14,547	14,286	-1.8
New Brunswick	7,356	7,680	4.4
Quebec	126,864	127,641	0.6
Ontario	176,265	184,860	4.9
Manitoba	10,248	11,643	13.6
Saskatchewan	8,748	9,375	7.2
Alberta	37,083	38,034	2.6
British Columbia	56,961	59,124	3.8
Territories	267	216	-19.1

Table 4
Postsecondary graduates by field of study

	2010	2011	2010 to 2011
	number		% change
Total	446,382	461,517	3.4
Personal improvement and leisure	2,769	2,436	-12.0
Education	32,748	32,829	0.2
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	19,797	20,097	1.5
Humanities	55,839	57,144	2.3
Social and behavioural sciences, and law	65,445	66,915	2.2
Business, management and public administration	99,078	100,383	1.3
Physical and life sciences, and technologies	19,776	20,085	1.6
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	13,596	13,869	2.0
Architecture, engineering and related technologies	50,259	52,434	4.3
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	7,338	8,202	11.8
Health, parks, recreation and fitness	61,098	64,662	5.8
Personal, protective and transportation services	14,451	15,708	8.7
Other	4,185	6,756	61.4

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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