

February 2025

NEW BRUNSWICK

Post-Secondary Enrolments and Credentials Granted



An analysis of enrolment trends, student demographics, and credentials granted in New Brunswick's post-secondary education system (universities, colleges, and apprenticeship programs).

Data Sources:

- Statistics Canada – Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS)
- Statistics Canada – Education and Labour Market Longitudinal Platform (ELMLP)
- Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission Home (MPHEC)
- Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) – Surveys of Preliminary Enrolments
- New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training (NB-IRDT) – Graduate Retention in New Brunswick: 2021 Graduate Cohort Update

New Brunswick Post-Secondary Enrolments and Credentials Granted

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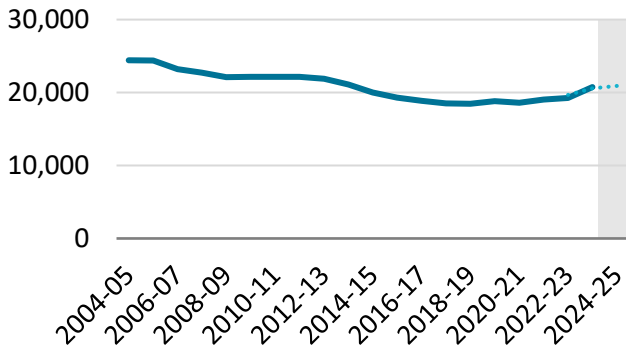
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Public Universities

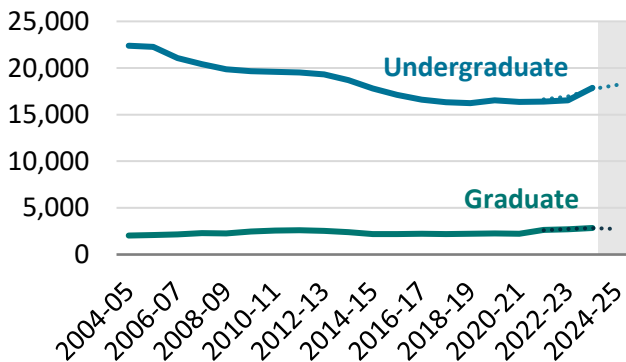
Overview¹

After nearly two decades of steady declines, enrolment levels in New Brunswick public universities have now increased in four consecutive years, driven primarily by strong growth in international student enrolment. This period of growth may be short lived however, due to the federal government announcing a number of measures to reduce the international student population in the country over the coming years.

Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Universities (MPHEC²)

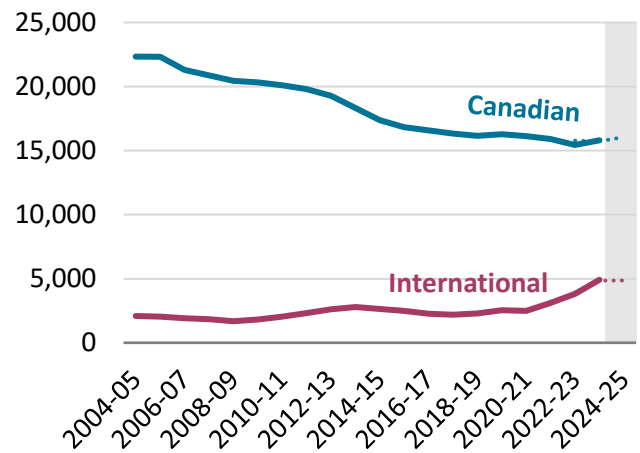


Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Universities by Program Level (MPHEC²)

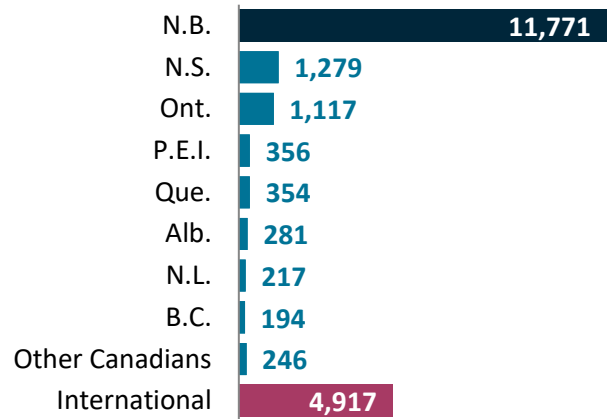


While the full impact of these changes has yet to be felt, enrolment growth in New Brunswick public universities has already seen a significant drop-off. After growing by 7.6% in 2023-24, preliminary estimates from the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) suggest that enrolment in New Brunswick public universities grew by 1.6% in 2024-25, with this growth being driven entirely by increased domestic student enrolment.

Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Universities by Previous Residence (MPHEC²)



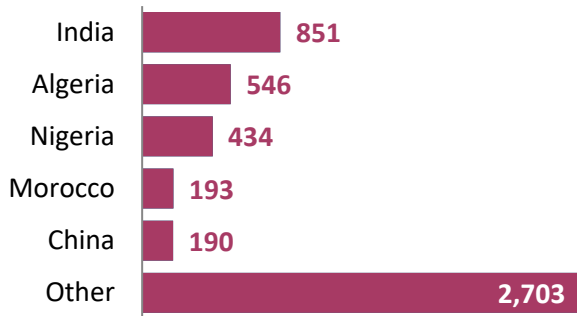
Previous Residence of Students Enrolled in New Brunswick Public Universities – 2023-24 (MPHEC)



¹ Source(s): Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) and Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU)

² Dotted lines represent preliminary estimates from the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU)

Country of Citizenship of International Students Enrolled in New Brunswick Public Universities – 2023-24 (MPHEC)



Despite the recent upward trend, university enrolment levels in New Brunswick remain among the lowest in the country, even when population size is taken into account (university students per 100k population as of Fall 2022: 2,267 in New Brunswick compared to 3,441 nationally). While this is in part a reflection of the province’s relatively older population, it is also a reflection of the low proportion of NB youth who enroll in the province’s universities and the universities attracting relatively few students from other provinces.

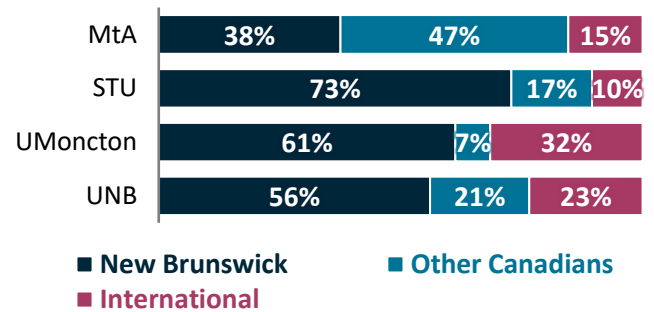
Enrolment by Institution³

Although overall university enrolment has seen significant growth in recent years, this growth has not been evenly distributed across institutions. Preliminary estimates suggest that, over the past two years, enrolment at the Université de Moncton (UMoncton) has increased by 8.9%, compared to 6.3% for the University of New Brunswick (UNB), 4.4% for Mount Allison University (MtA) and 0.2% for St. Thomas University (STU).

Estimated Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Universities by Institution (AAU)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
MtA	2,379	2,412	2,475	2,519
STU	1,871	1,733	1,747	1,737
UMoncton	5,168	5,498	5,805	5,987
UNB	9,820	10,035	10,556	10,663

Previous Residence of Students Enrolled in New Brunswick Public Universities by Institution – 2023-24 (MPHEC)

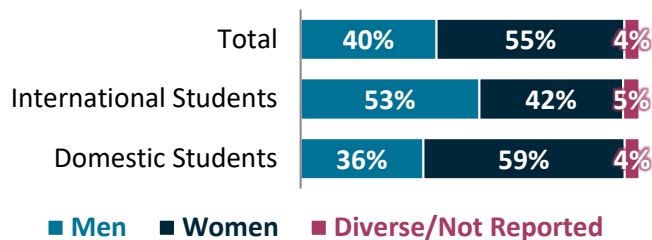


³ Source(s): Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) and Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU)

Enrolment by Age and Gender⁴

As of the 2023-24 academic year, 55% of students enrolled in New Brunswick universities were women, while 40% were men, and 4% either did not report their gender or reported being gender diverse. This split is significantly different between international and domestic students.

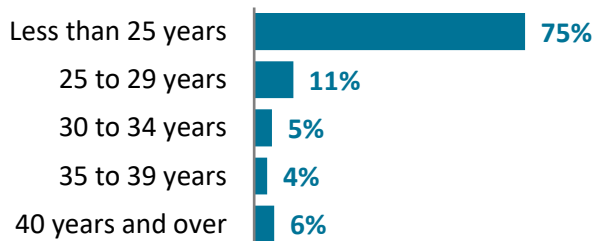
Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Universities by Gender – 2023-24 (MPHEC)



In terms of how old students are, over the past several years, the age distribution of students enrolled in New Brunswick universities has been:

- Relatively consistent over time
- Similar to that of most other provinces

Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Universities by Age Group – 2023-24 (MPHEC)



Enrolment by Field of Study⁵

Compared to the rest of Canada, on a relative basis, New Brunswick has a noticeably larger proportion of university students enrolled in programs in education, health, and the arts and humanities. In contrast, universities in the province have noticeably fewer students enrolled in programs in business, the social sciences, and STEM-related fields of study.

Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Universities by Field of Study – 2023-24 (MPHEC)

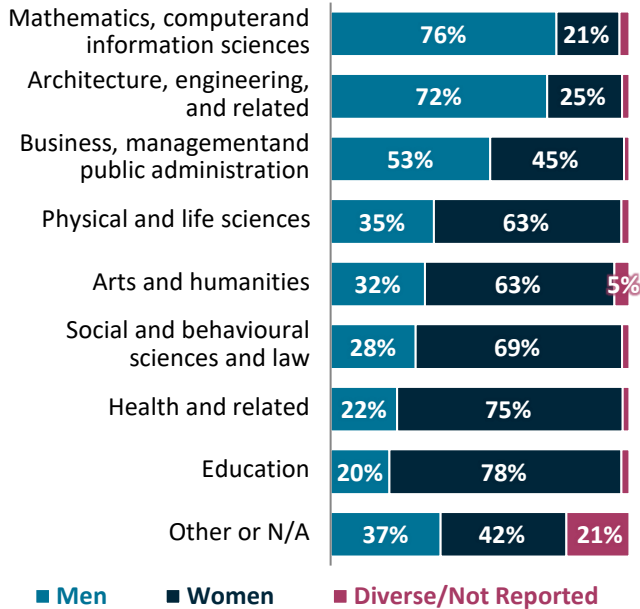
Field of Study	2023-24 Total	5-Year Change
Business, management and public administration	3,573	+25.5%
Arts and humanities	3,006	-10.5%
Health and related	2,927	+21.5%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	2,522	+3.9%
Architecture, engineering, and related	1,963	+5.0%
Physical and life sciences	1,801	-4.4%
Education	1,698	+41.4%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	1,350	+72.9%
Other or N/A	1,892	+12.2%
Total	20,732	+12.3%

Within the province, there are significant differences in terms of the types of university programs that men and women tend to enroll in. While men noticeably outnumber women in programs related to engineering, mathematics, and computer science, women significantly outnumber men in programs related to health care, education, and social and behavioural sciences.

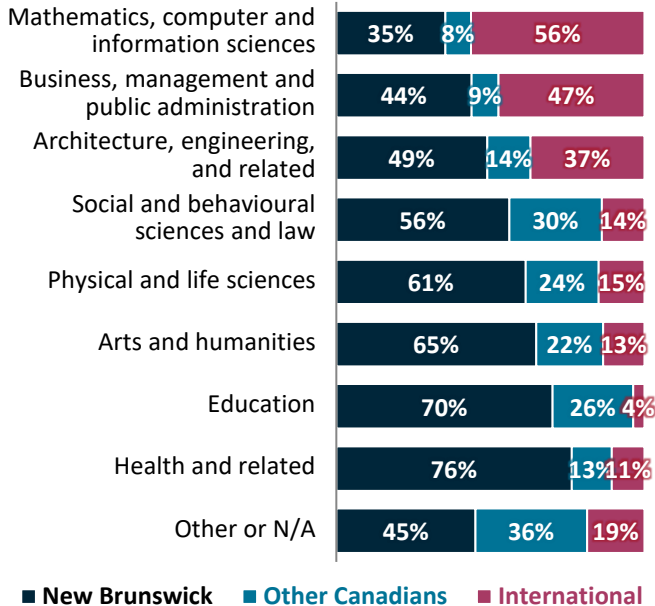
⁴ Source(s): Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) and Statistics Canada's Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS).

⁵ Source(s): Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) and Statistics Canada's Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS).

Gender of Students Enrolled in New Brunswick Public Universities by Field of Study – 2023-24 (MPHEC)



Previous Residence of Students Enrolled in New Brunswick Public Universities by Field of Study – 2023-24 (MPHEC)



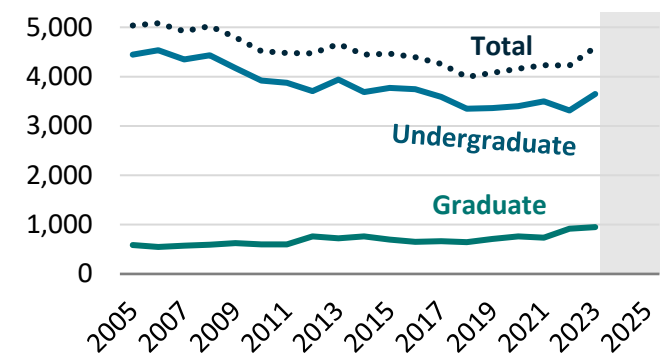
Credentials Granted⁶

In 2023, 4,597 credentials were granted by New Brunswick public universities. In general, long-term trends in credentials granted have been similar to those seen for enrolment levels; however, given that it generally takes students several years to complete their programs, it typically takes at least a few years for any shifts in enrolment levels to have an impact on the number of credentials being granted.

Credentials Granted by New Brunswick Public Universities – 2023 (MPHEC)

	Total
Undergraduate	3,648
Certificate/Diploma	398
Degree	3,250
Graduate	949
Certificate/Diploma	27
Degree	922
Total	4,597

Credentials Granted by New Brunswick Public Universities (MPHEC)



Credentials Granted by New Brunswick Public Universities by Institution – 2023 (MPHEC)

	MtA	STU	UMoncton	UNB
Undergraduate	432	422	984	1,810
Graduate	2	17	152	778
Total	434	439	1,136	2,588

⁶ Source(s): Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC).

Graduate Retention⁷

According to research from the New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data, and Training (NB-IRDT), among individuals who graduate from a public university in New Brunswick, approximately:

- 69% remain in the province one year after graduation (based on 2021 graduates)
- 59% remain in the province three years after graduation (based on 2019 graduates)

Retention of Graduates from NB Public Universities by Graduation Year (NB-IRDT)

	1-Year Retention	3-Year Retention
2012	65.0%	51.5%
2013	63.9%	53.2%
2014	62.7%	53.5%
2015	64.9%	55.6%
2016	64.5%	55.4%
2017	67.1%	58.0%
2018	67.0%	58.0%
2019	67.9%	58.6%
2020	69.8%	--
2021	68.5%	--

These rates were much higher among graduates who were living in New Brunswick prior to enrolling, with 84% being retained three years after graduation (based on 2019 graduates). In contrast, only 18% of graduates from other parts of Canada and 24% of graduates from outside the country remained in the province three years after graduation.

Retention of Graduates from NB Public Universities by Previous Residence (NB-IRDT)

	From NB	From Other Province	From Other Country
1-Year Retention			
2012	86.1%	16.0%	34.0%
2013	84.8%	14.5%	33.1%
2014	86.8%	15.1%	25.4%
2015	87.7%	16.7%	33.3%
2016	89.1%	16.7%	32.6%
2017	90.9%	17.7%	42.5%
2018	91.2%	20.1%	47.5%
2019	91.5%	18.4%	51.8%
2020	93.3%	19.1%	51.5%
2021	90.7%	18.8%	53.9%
3-Year Retention			
2012	70.3%	10.6%	13.4%
2013	73.4%	11.3%	18.7%
2014	76.1%	13.4%	18.5%
2015	77.8%	14.4%	14.4%
2016	80.1%	12.8%	12.7%
2017	83.5%	13.3%	17.4%
2018	84.3%	15.3%	16.3%
2019	84.4%	17.5%	20.9%
2020	--	--	--
2021	--	--	--

For more information on the New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data, and Training (NB-IRDT) and their research, visit the [“Research Partnership with NB-IRDT” page on NBjobs.ca](#).

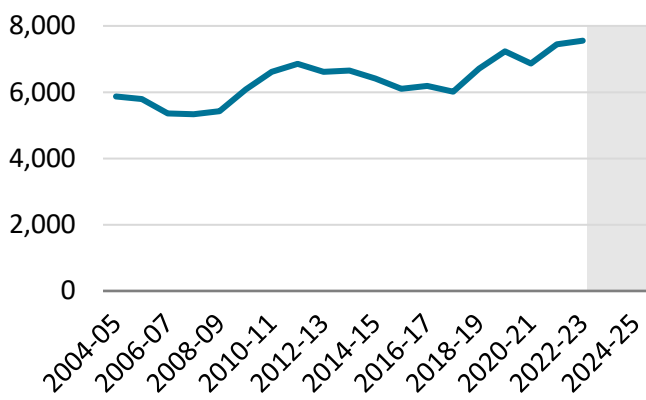
⁷ Source(s): Beykzadeh, A., Gorman-Asal, M., McDonald, T., & Miah, P. (2024). Graduate retention in New Brunswick: 2021 graduate cohort update. New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training.

Public Colleges⁸

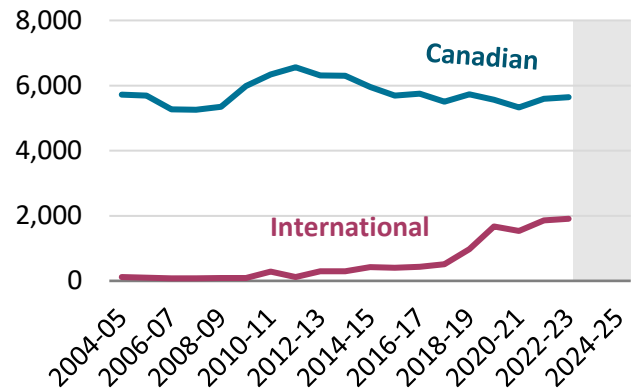
Overview⁹

Following a steep decline throughout most of the 2010s, enrolment in publicly funded colleges in New Brunswick has seen significant growth over the past several years. Estimates from Statistics Canada’s Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS) suggest that, between 2017-18 and 2022-23, enrolment in New Brunswick public colleges increased by 25.6%. These increases have been driven primarily by increased international student enrolment. While more recent estimates have yet to be released, a number of indicators suggest that enrolment levels likely saw further increases in 2023-24, but may have declined in 2024-25 (due to the measures being taken by the federal government to reduce the international student population).

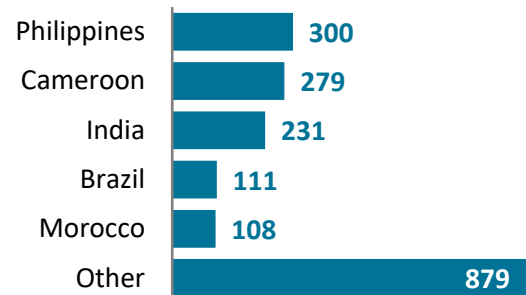
Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Colleges (PSIS)



Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Colleges by Status of Student in Canada (PSIS)



Country of Citizenship of International Students Enrolled in New Brunswick Public Colleges – 2022-23 (PSIS)



Similar to university enrolment levels, despite the recent upward trend, college enrolment levels in New Brunswick remain among the lowest in the country, even when population size is taken into account (college students per 100k population as of Fall 2022: 924 in New Brunswick compared to 1,839 nationally).

⁸ Students enrolled in basic education and skills program, or who were enrolled in courses that were not within a program, are excluded from all statistics presented in this section.

⁹ Source(s): Statistics Canada’s Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS).

Enrolment by Institution¹⁰

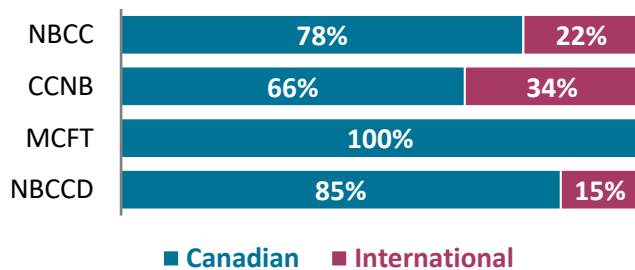
Despite New Brunswick having four public colleges, the vast majority of enrolment is accounted for by just two institutions: the New Brunswick Community College (NBCC), and le Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB). In 2022-23, these two institutions accounted for 95% of enrolment in public colleges in the province, with the Maritime College of Forest Technology (MCFT) and the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design (NBCCD) combining for the remaining 5%.

Estimated Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Colleges by Institution (PSIS)

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
NBCC	4,818	4,917	N/A	N/A
CCNB	2,235	2,274	N/A	N/A
MCFT	156	123	N/A	N/A
NBCCD	249	237	N/A	N/A

While enrolment estimates for 2022-23 and 2023-24 are not yet available, given that NBCC and CCNB account for the vast majority of international college students, it is likely the majority of any enrolment growth that may have occurred in this time would have occurred in these two institutions.

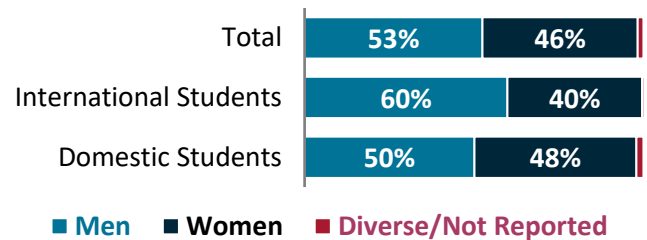
Previous Residence of Students Enrolled in New Brunswick Public Colleges by Institution – 2022-23 (PSIS)



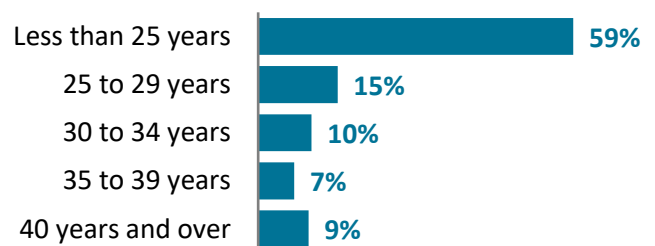
Enrolment by Age and Gender¹¹

In contrast to universities, the majority of individuals enrolled in public colleges in New Brunswick were men. As of the 2022-23 academic year, 46% of students enrolled in New Brunswick colleges were women, while 53% were men, and 2% either did not report their gender or reported being gender diverse. Furthermore, while the majority of individuals enrolled in colleges tended to be relatively young (less than 25 years of age), it was much more common for individuals to enroll in college at an older age compared to university (both within New Brunswick and across Canada).

Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Colleges by Gender – 2022-23 (PSIS)



Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Colleges by Age Group – 2022-23 (PSIS)



¹⁰ Source(s): Statistics Canada's Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS).

¹¹ Source(s): Statistics Canada's Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS).

Enrolment by Field of Study¹²

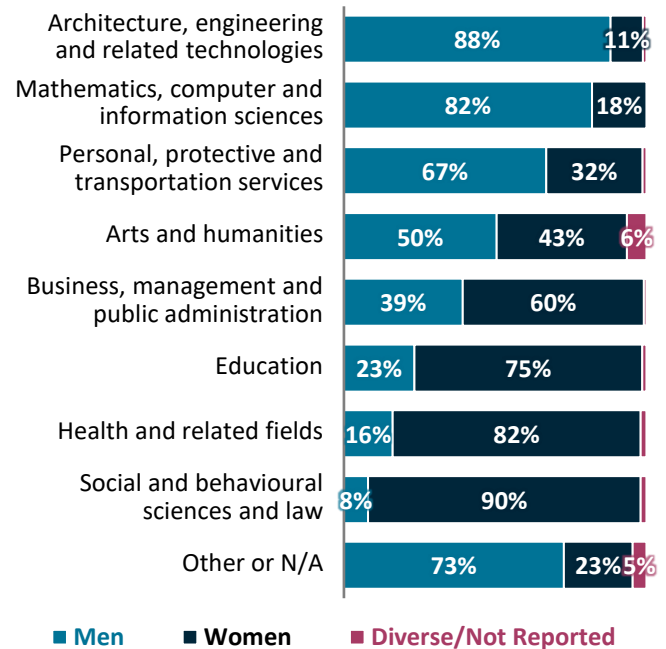
Compared to the rest of Canada, on a relative basis, New Brunswick has a noticeably greater proportion of college students enrolled in programs related to architecture and engineering and a noticeably smaller proportion in programs related to arts and humanities or physical and life sciences.

Enrolment in New Brunswick Public Colleges by Field of Study – 2022-23 (PSIS)

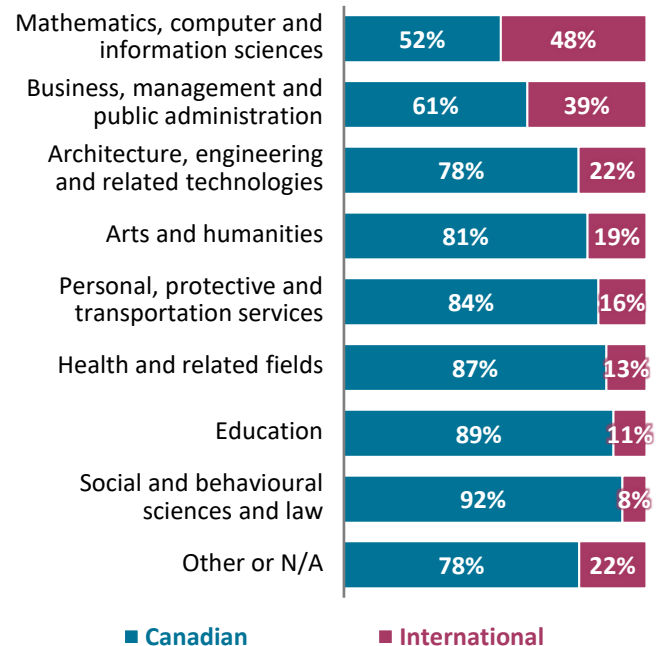
	2022-23 Total	5-Year Change
Education	219	+108.6%
Arts and humanities	615	+28.9%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	492	-5.2%
Business, management and public administration	1,902	+28.1%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	573	-1.5%
Architecture, engineering and related	1,875	+4.9%
Health and related	1,131	+5.3%
Personal, protective and transportation services	492	+24.2%
Other or N/A	255	-9.6%
Total	7,554	+12.6%

Within the province, there are significant differences in terms of the types of programs that men and women tend to enroll in. While men noticeably outnumber women in programs related to engineering, mathematics, and computer science, women significantly outnumber men in programs related to health care, education, and social and behavioural sciences. This is similar to what is seen at the university level.

Gender of Students Enrolled in New Brunswick Public Colleges by Field of Study – 2022-23 (PSIS)



Status of Student in Canada of Students Enrolled in New Brunswick Public Colleges by Field of Study – 2022-23 (PSIS)

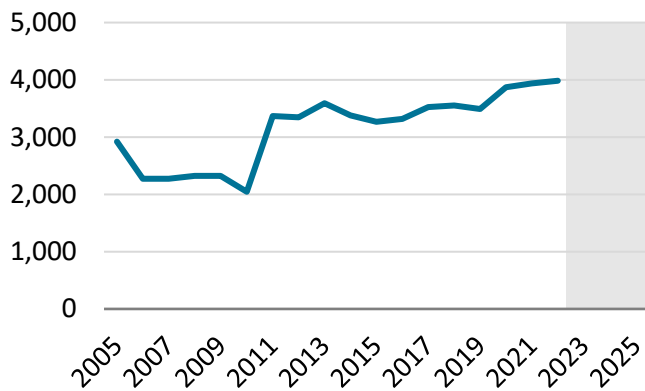


¹² Source(s): Statistics Canada's Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS).

Credentials Granted¹³

In 2022, 3,984 credentials were granted by New Brunswick public colleges. In general, long-term trends in the number of credentials granted by New Brunswick public colleges have been similar to those seen for enrolment levels; however, given that it generally takes students one or more years to complete their programs, it typically takes a few years for the full impact of any shifts in enrolment levels to be seen.

Credentials Granted by New Brunswick Public Colleges (PSIS)



Credentials Granted by New Brunswick Public Colleges – 2022 (PSIS)

	Total
NB Community College	2,457
Collège Communautaire du N.-B.	1,290
Maritime College of Forest Technology	81
NB College of Craft and Design	156

Graduate Retention¹⁴

According to research from the New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data, and Training (NB-IRDT), among individuals who graduate from a public college in New Brunswick, approximately:

- 87% remain in the province one year after graduation (based on 2021 graduates)
- 82% remain in the province three years after graduation (based on 2019 graduates)

Retention of Graduates from NB Public Colleges by Graduation Year (NB-IRDT)

	1-Year Retention	3-Year Retention
2014	88.1%	81.4%
2015	87.8%	81.8%
2016	88.8%	83.1%
2017	90.0%	84.5%
2018	90.0%	83.5%
2019	91.1%	82.0%
2020	88.3%	--
2021	86.6%	--

These rates were much higher among graduates who were living in New Brunswick prior to enrolling, with 92% being retained three years after graduation (based on 2019 graduates). In contrast, only 6% of graduates from other parts of Canada and 32% of graduates from outside the country remained in the province three years after graduation.

¹³ Source(s): Statistics Canada's Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS).

¹⁴ Source(s): Beykzadeh, A., Gorman-Asal, M., McDonald, T., & Miah, P. (2024). Graduate retention in New Brunswick: 2021 graduate cohort update. New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training.

Retention of Graduates from NB Public Universities by Previous Residence (NB-IRDT)

	From NB	From Other Province	From Other Country
1-Year Retention			
2014	91.0%	15.4%	63.6%
2015	91.2%	7.7%	42.6%
2016	93.0%	13.3%	62.5%
2017	94.3%	10.5%	66.7%
2018	94.9%	19.1%	65.2%
2019	95.4%	12.5%	72.5%
2020	95.6%	5.9%	74.4%
2021	94.3%	6.3%	74.8%
3-Year Retention			
2014	85.6%	7.7%	33.3%
2015	86.1%	7.7%	39.4%
2016	88.8%	13.3%	29.2%
2017	90.5%	5.3%	37.0%
2018	90.9%	14.3%	36.2%
2019	92.2%	6.3%	31.9%
2020	--	--	--
2021	--	--	--

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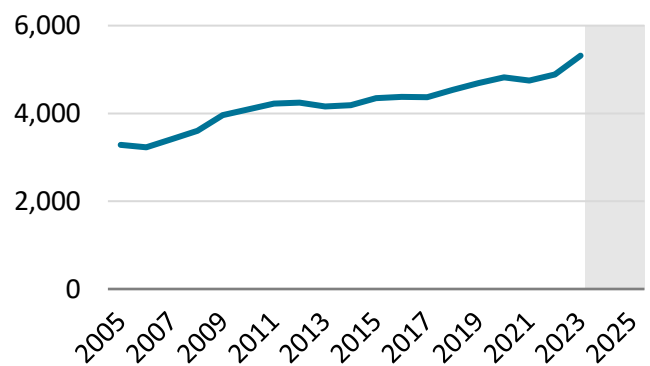
Apprenticeship

Overview¹⁵

Apprenticeship is a form of post-secondary training where individuals can earn a wage while completing their education. Apprenticeship training leads to certification as a journey person in a skilled trades occupation. In New Brunswick, apprenticeship training is available for 45 occupations.

After declining significantly throughout the 1990s, the number of registered apprentices in New Brunswick has been increasing steadily. As of January 1, 2023, there were 5,316 individuals registered in apprenticeship programs in the province. This represented an 8.7% year-over-year increase, and a 27.8% increase since 2013. While comparable estimates for 2024 and 2025 have yet to be released, data from the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour’s Skilled Trades NB Branch show that registration levels have continued to increase.

Registered Apprentices as of January 1st of Each Year – New Brunswick (RAIS)



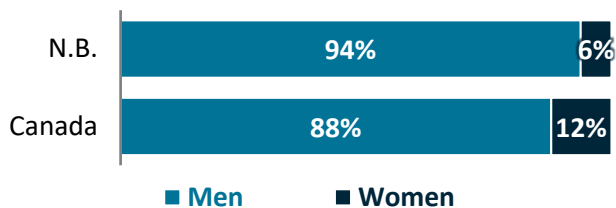
¹⁵ Source(s): Statistics Canada’s Registered Apprenticeship Information System (RAIS).

Despite the upward trend, as of January 2023, apprenticeship registration levels in New Brunswick remained among the lowest in the country, even when population size is taken into account (registered apprentices per 100k population as of January 2023: 648 in New Brunswick compared to 898 nationally).

Registered Apprentices by Age and Gender¹⁶

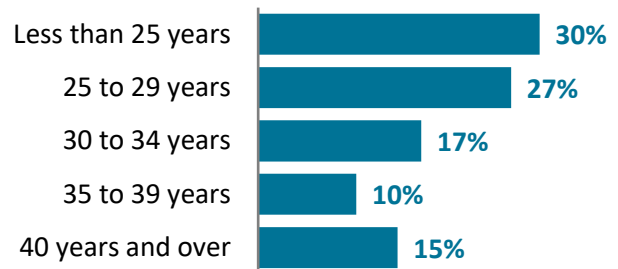
In contrast to universities and colleges, apprenticeship programs are heavily male-dominated. In 2023, men accounted for 93.7% of apprenticeship registrations in the province. At a national level, this percentage was 87.7%. The gap between this percentage in New Brunswick and at a national level was in part driven by the fact that many female-dominated trades, such as hairstyling, esthetics and early childhood education, are not apprenticeable in New Brunswick.

Registered Apprentices by Gender – 2023 (RAIS)

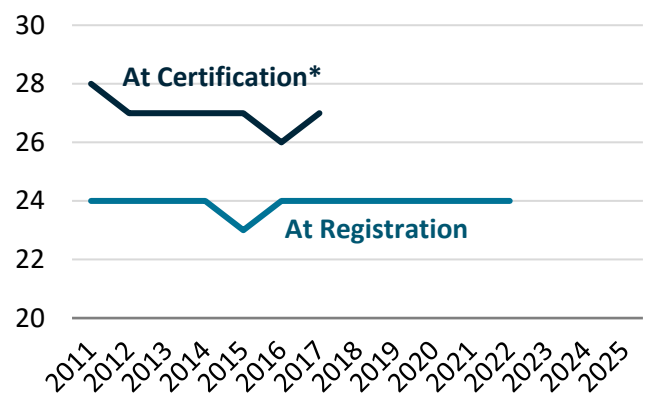


Compared to both university and college students, registered apprentices are, as a whole, relatively older. In general, the median age among apprentices at time of registration has consistently hovered near 24 years old, while the median age at time of certification has hovered near 27 years old in recent years.

Registered Apprentices by Age Group – New Brunswick – 2023 (RAIS)



Median Age (in Years) of Registered Apprentices by Registration Year – New Brunswick (RAIS)



*Among individuals who completed their programs within 1.5 times the typical program duration

¹⁶ Source(s): Statistics Canada's Registered Apprenticeship Information System (RAIS).

Registered Apprentices by Major Trade Group¹⁷

While overall, New Brunswick had relatively few registered apprentices, the province had among the most millwright and automotive service apprentices relative to population size across Canada.

Registered Apprentices by Major Trade Group – New Brunswick – 2023 (RAIS)

	2023 Total	5-Year Change
Electricians	1,113	+6.3%
Automotive service	909	+11.0%
Carpenters	594	+16.5%
Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters	552	+13.6%
Millwrights	405	+33.7%
Welders	270	+3.4%
Refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics	249	+29.7%
Heavy equipment and crane operators	180	+46.3%
Heavy duty equipment mechanics	147	+44.1%
Food service	111	+5.7%
Other	786	+33.0%
Total	5,316	+17.1%

Across most major trade groups in the province, women accounted for no more than 5% of registered apprentices. Some of the most notable exceptions to this trend included: food service (38%), welders (12%), and carpenters (11%).

Gender of Registered Apprentices by Major Trade Group – New Brunswick – 2023 (RAIS)

	Men	Women
Electricians	95%	5%
Automotive service	96%	4%
Carpenters	89%	11%
Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters	95%	5%
Millwrights	97%	3%
Welders	88%	12%
Refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics	99%	1%
Heavy equipment and crane operators	97%	5%
Heavy duty equipment mechanics	96%	4%
Food service	62%	38%
Other	94%	6%

¹⁷ Source(s): Statistics Canada's Registered Apprenticeship Information System (RAIS).

Certificates Granted¹⁸

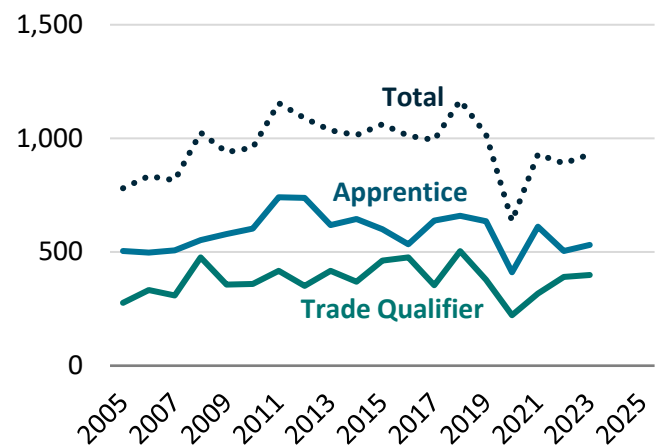
In 2023, a total of 531 apprentices became certified as journeypersons in New Brunswick. However, in addition to these 531 individuals, 399 individuals became certified journeypersons as trade qualifiers. Trade qualifiers are persons who have worked in a specific trade for a number of years, without necessarily having ever been an apprentice, and have chosen to write the required skills assessment examination in their trade.

Certificates Granted to Registered Apprentices and Trade Qualifiers – New Brunswick – 2023 (RAIS)

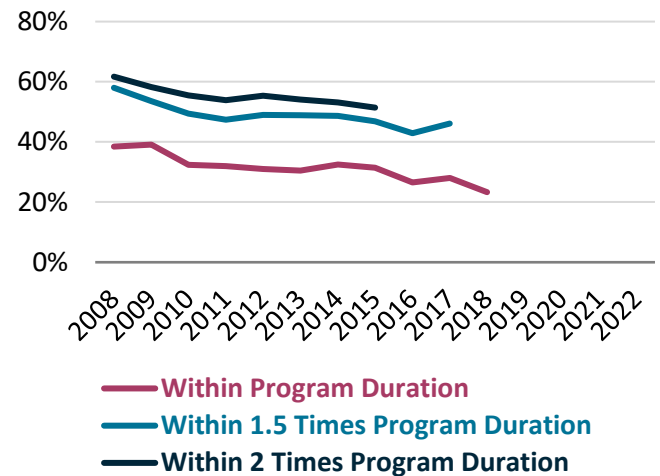
	Red Seal Trades ¹⁹	Non-Red Seal Trades	Total
Apprentices	513	18	531
Trade Qualifiers	324	75	399
Total	837	96	930

Growth in the number of certificates granted has not kept pace with growth in registration levels. This is in part a reflection of increased discontinuation rates combined with individuals taking longer to complete their programs. However, despite certification rates in the province seeing a slight decline in recent years, New Brunswick's rates remain among the highest in the country.

Certificates Granted to Registered Apprentices and Trade Qualifiers – New Brunswick (RAIS)



Certification Rates of Registered Apprentices by Registration Year – New Brunswick (RAIS)



¹⁸ Source(s): Statistics Canada's Registered Apprenticeship Information System (RAIS).

¹⁹ Red Seal trades have standardized training and skill assessment requirements across the provinces and territories. In provinces and territories that conduct the standardized examination, the successful candidate will have a Red Seal attached to their provincial or territorial certificate. Non-Red Seal trades do not have standardization practices across the provinces and territories.

Certification Rates of Registered Apprentices (RAIS)

	Within Program Duration (2018 Cohort)	Within x1.5 Program Duration (2017 Cohort)	Within x2 Program Duration (2015 Cohort)
N.L.	5.3%	21.2%	28.4%
P.E.I.	17.0%	39.5%	36.0%
N.S.	19.8%	34.3%	41.0%
N.B.	23.3%	46.1%	51.4%
Que.	25.4%	37.1%	44.3%
Ont.	24.8%	35.0%	40.6%
Man.	14.4%	35.2%	40.7%
Sask.	16.8%	45.9%	47.3%
Alta.	10.7%	30.0%	36.3%
B.C.	16.2%	32.4%	35.4%
Terr.	11.6%	31.9%	34.0%
Canada	20.3%	34.4%	39.6%

For more information on Apprentice programs offered in New Brunswick, visit [the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour's website](#).

Retention of Newly Certified Journeypersons²⁰

According to data from Statistics Canada's Education and Labour Market Longitudinal Platform (ELMLP), among newly certified journeypersons in New Brunswick, approximately:

- 83% work in the province one year after certification (based on 2020 certifications)
- 74% work in the province three year after certification (based on 2018 certifications)

These rates were much higher among individuals who were certified after completing apprenticeship training compared to trade qualifiers.

Retention of Newly Certified Journeypersons in New Brunswick by Year of Certification (ELMLP)

	Total	Completed Apprenticeship	Trade Qualifiers
1-Year Retention			
2012	64.9%	66.9%	60.6%
2013	64.8%	70.9%	55.7%
2014	69.1%	74.4%	60.0%
2015	77.4%	85.0%	67.4%
2016	78.5%	91.0%	64.8%
2017	82.5%	89.3%	70.6%
2018	72.8%	89.3%	50.5%
2019	83.3%	91.6%	68.7%
2020	83.1%	88.3%	73.2%
2021	--	--	--
3-Year Retention			
2012	69.9%	72.3%	64.6%
2013	68.6%	76.9%	55.8%
2014	74.2%	82.5%	60.0%
2015	79.9%	88.5%	68.6%
2016	78.8%	89.9%	66.7%
2017	84.8%	92.4%	71.2%
2018	73.6%	90.1%	50.6%
2019	--	--	--
2020	--	--	--
2021	--	--	--

²⁰ Source(s): Statistics Canada's Education and Labour Market Longitudinal Platform (ELMLP),