

TRENDS IN MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION

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UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT - 2014-2015

In 2014-15, **68,427** students were enrolled in Maritime universities, down 1.8% overall since the previous year. After two years of declines, total enrolment in the region has returned to 2009-10 levels. While the statistics vary in each of the three provinces, important underlying trends are common to all: the composition of the student body is evolving considerably, driven primarily by an increase in out-of-region and international students which have been offsetting declining numbers of Maritime residents. University participation among Maritimers has been steadily declining over the past decade^A, reaching 22.0% by 2014-15 (which is below the 1992-93 level of 22.5%). Across the Maritimes, these changes are accompanied by shifts in academic program preferences away from the humanities.

- Prince Edward Island**, unique among the three provinces, posted a one-year increase in total enrolment of 1.4% to 4,272 students (+7.0% over 10 years). Like its neighbours in the region, it also saw a decrease in local students (-5.5% since last year, -13.0% over 10 years), but recruitment from outside the province was more than sufficient to offset the local student decline: the number of students from other Maritime provinces increased 10.8% and other Canadians went up 20.2%. International enrolment increased 18.5% since last year. Like the other two provinces, academic program preferences have been shifting. Enrolment in *Humanities* programs dropped 12.9%, while *Education* enrolment increased 22.3%. Prince Edward Island is about to enter a prolonged period of population decline among 18-24 year olds which will likely impact the number of Islanders enrolling in university.
- New Brunswick** universities saw a 5.2% one-year drop in total enrolment to 20,118 students (-18.1% over 10 years). The province is well into a demographic decline as its 18-24 year-old population decreased 7.6% between 2004 and 2014^B, and is projected to decrease by another 16% by 2025^C. Home province university participation rates declined by 2.8 percentage points over 10 years. These two trends together led to a sizeable enrolment drop among New Brunswick residents (-5.9% since last year, -23.5% over 10 years). For the first time, enrolment declines were observed across the student body: there were 1.8% fewer students from elsewhere in Canada and 5% fewer international students than a year ago, after years of international enrolment growth. Both undergraduate (-4.8%) and graduate (-8.5%) enrolment levels decreased. The fields of study impacted the most by these downward trends were *Humanities* (-13.4%), *Education* (-10.1%), and *Business* (-8.0%).
- Nova Scotia** experienced a one-year total enrolment decrease of 0.4% to 44,037 students (-0.7% over 10 years), largely driven by the 3.1% decrease in the number of Nova Scotia residents (-18.5% over 10 years). The number of Canadian students from outside Nova Scotia saw zero or near-zero growth. While international enrolment increased 7.0%, it was not enough to offset the slide in local student enrolment. Undergraduate (-0.3%) and graduate (-0.9%) enrolments decreased largely in *Humanities* (-8.9%), *Education* (-7.4%) and *Agriculture* (-9.8%) programs. Looking to the near future, demographic projections show that Nova Scotia's population of 18-24 year olds is expected to decrease 18% by 2025^C, this will likely mean a continuing decline in the number of Nova Scotians in the province's universities.

Trends in enrolment and university participation by province of study and student origin:



Prince Edward Island

Change over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total enrolment	▲ 1.4%	▲ 0.9%	▲ 7.0%
PEI Residents	▼ -5.5%	▼ -13.1%	▼ -13.0%
Other Maritimers	▲ 10.8%	▲ 19.1%	▲ 33.2%
Other Canadians	▲ 20.2%	▲ 39.1%	▲ 50.6%
International	▲ 18.5%	▲ 66.4%	▲ 198.1%
Home Province Participation Rate*	▼ -0.9 pts	▼ -2.8 pts	▼ -2.4 pts

New Brunswick

Change over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total enrolment	▼ -5.2%	▼ -9.5%	▼ -18.1%
NB Residents	▼ -5.9%	▼ -16.6%	▼ -23.5%
Other Maritimers	▼ -4.5%	▼ -9.5%	▼ -21.5%
Other Canadians	▼ -1.8%	▼ -3.6%	▼ -13.7%
International	▼ -5.0%	▲ 45.2%	▲ 26.0%
Home Province Participation Rate*	▼ -0.7 pts	▼ -2.2 pts	▼ -2.8 pts

Nova Scotia

Change over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total enrolment	▼ -0.4%	▲ 4.7%	▼ -0.7%
NS Residents	▼ -3.1%	▼ -8.5%	▼ -18.5%
Other Maritimers	▲ 0.0%	▲ 1.7%	▼ -5.2%
Other Canadians	▲ 0.1%	▲ 8.1%	▲ 13.3%
International	▲ 7.0%	▲ 70.4%	▲ 88.3%
Home Province Participation Rate*	▼ -0.4 pts	▼ -1.0 pts	▼ -3.6 pts

Maritimes

Change over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total enrolment	▼ -1.8%	▼ -0.1%	▼ -6.1%
NB Residents	▼ -4.5%	▼ -13.5%	▼ -20.4%
NS Residents	▼ -3.0%	▼ -8.4%	▼ -18.5%
PEI Residents	▼ -5.3%	▼ -10.5%	▼ -12.9%
Other Canadians	▲ 0.3%	▲ 6.8%	▲ 8.7%
International	▲ 4.3%	▲ 63.2%	▲ 71.2%
Maritime Participation Rate**	▼ -0.4 pts	▼ -1.5 pts	▼ -3.3 pts

* Home Province Participation Rate: Number of students enrolled full-time in a university in their province of residence, divided by the provincial population aged 18-24.

** Maritime Participation Rate: Number of Maritimers enrolled full-time in a university in the Maritimes, divided by the Maritime population aged 18-24.

ENROLMENT BY STUDENT ORIGIN	UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT				GRADUATE ENROLMENT				TOTAL ENROLMENT			
	Enrolment 2014-2015	Change over			Enrolment 2014-2015	Change over			Enrolment 2014-2015	Change over		
		1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	17 918	▼ -4.8%	▼ -9.3%	▼ -20.4%	2 200	▼ -8.5%	▼ -10.7%	▲ 8.1%	20 118	▼ -5.2%	▼ -9.5%	▼ -18.1%
Home Province Residents ¹	12 064	▼ -5.8%	▼ -16.1%	▼ -25.0%	1 259	▼ -6.2%	▼ -21.2%	▼ -6.0%	13 323	▼ -5.9%	▼ -16.6%	▼ -23.5%
Other Maritimers	1 833	▼ -4.8%	▼ -9.3%	▼ -22.7%	132	0.0%	▼ -11.4%	0.0%	1 965	▼ -4.5%	▼ -9.5%	▼ -21.5%
Other Canadians	1 879	▼ -1.6%	▼ -3.9%	▼ -17.1%	299	▼ -3.2%	▼ -1.6%	▲ 15.4%	2 178	▼ -1.8%	▼ -3.6%	▼ -13.7%
International ²	2 142	▼ -1.3%	▲ 51.6%	▲ 19.0%	510	▼ -18.0%	▲ 23.5%	▲ 67.2%	2 652	▼ -5.0%	▲ 45.2%	▲ 26.0%
Nova Scotia	36 822	▼ -0.3%	▲ 4.6%	▼ -3.3%	7 215	▼ -0.9%	▲ 5.1%	▲ 15.0%	44 037	▼ -0.4%	▲ 4.7%	▼ -0.7%
Home Province Residents	18 716	▼ -3.0%	▼ -8.7%	▼ -21.3%	3 159	▼ -3.4%	▼ -7.0%	▲ 2.9%	21 875	▼ -3.1%	▼ -8.5%	▼ -18.5%
Other Maritimers	2 725	▲ 1.2%	▲ 2.3%	▼ -11.3%	575	▼ -5.3%	▼ -0.9%	▲ 40.9%	3 300	▲ 0.0%	▲ 1.7%	▼ -5.2%
Other Canadians	9 301	▲ 0.3%	▲ 10.0%	▲ 15.4%	2 065	▼ -0.8%	▲ 0.4%	▲ 4.8%	11 366	▲ 0.1%	▲ 8.1%	▲ 13.3%
International	6 080	▲ 7.0%	▲ 70.3%	▲ 92.8%	1 416	▲ 6.9%	▲ 71.2%	▲ 71.2%	7 496	▲ 7.0%	▲ 70.4%	▲ 88.3%
Prince Edward Island	3 852	▼ -0.7%	▼ -2.1%	▲ 0.8%	420	▲ 25.4%	▲ 40.5%	▲ 145.6%	4 272	▲ 1.4%	▲ 0.9%	▲ 7.0%
Home Province Residents	2 462	▼ -7.2%	▼ -15.7%	▼ -18.0%	246	▲ 15.5%	▲ 26.8%	▲ 121.6%	2 708	▼ -5.5%	▼ -13.1%	▼ -13.0%
Other Maritimers	509	▲ 9.5%	▲ 18.1%	▲ 26.9%	45	▲ 28.6%	▲ 32.4%	▲ 200.0%	554	▲ 10.8%	▲ 19.1%	▲ 33.2%
Other Canadians	309	▲ 12.8%	▲ 36.1%	▲ 36.1%	72	▲ 67.4%	▲ 53.2%	▲ 176.9%	381	▲ 20.2%	▲ 39.1%	▲ 50.6%
International	572	▲ 17.5%	▲ 61.6%	▲ 197.9%	57	▲ 29.5%	▲ 137.5%	▲ 200.0%	629	▲ 18.5%	▲ 66.4%	▲ 198.1%
Maritimes	58 592	▼ -1.8%	▼ -0.5%	▼ -9.0%	9 835	▼ -1.9%	▲ 2.2%	▲ 15.9%	68 427	▼ -1.8%	▼ -0.1%	▼ -6.1%
New Brunswick Residents ³	14 384	▼ -4.4%	▼ -13.1%	▼ -22.5%	1 692	▼ -5.3%	▼ -16.3%	▲ 4.3%	16 076	▼ -4.5%	▼ -13.5%	▼ -20.4%
Nova Scotia Residents	20 353	▼ -2.9%	▼ -8.6%	▼ -21.2%	3 279	▼ -3.3%	▼ -7.0%	▲ 3.5%	23 632	▼ -3.0%	▼ -8.4%	▼ -18.5%
Prince Edward Island Residents	3 572	▼ -6.5%	▼ -12.5%	▼ -17.4%	445	▲ 6.0%	▲ 9.3%	▲ 55.1%	4 017	▼ -5.3%	▼ -10.5%	▼ -12.9%
Other Canadians	11 489	▲ 0.3%	▲ 8.0%	▲ 8.8%	2 436	▲ 0.1%	▲ 1.2%	▲ 8.0%	13 925	▲ 0.3%	▲ 6.8%	▲ 8.7%
International	8 794	▲ 5.4%	▲ 64.7%	▲ 70.9%	1 983	▼ -0.4%	▲ 56.9%	▲ 72.3%	10 777	▲ 4.3%	▲ 63.2%	▲ 71.2%

¹ Students enrolled within their permanent province of residence declared at admission; ² Excludes students enrolled in offshore programs; ³ Provincial residents enrolled at all Maritime universities

ENROLMENT AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

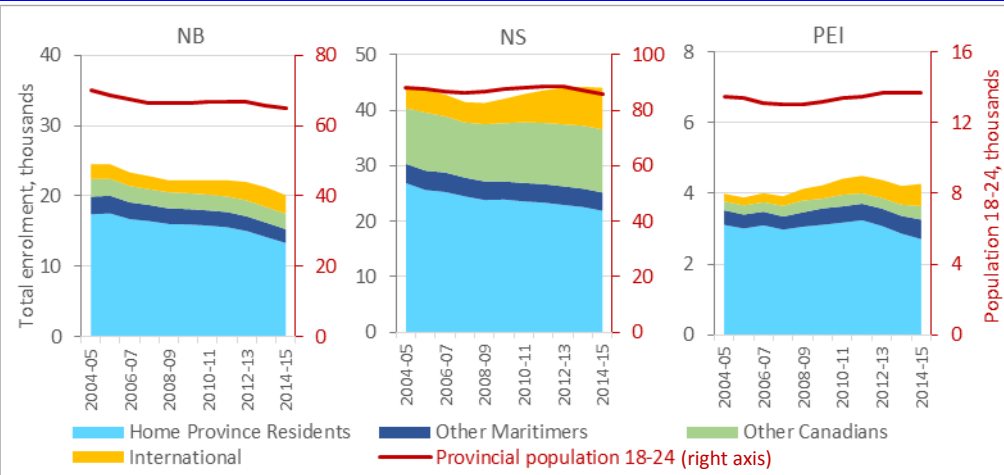


Table 5: Enrolment of International Students by Province, Institution, Registration, Status, and % of Total.

Table 5b: Enrolment of International Students by Province and Country of Citizenship.

Table 7: Total Enrolment by Province, Immigration Status, Province of Origin, and Level of Study.

UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATION		2004-05	2009-10	2013-14	2014-15
Home Province Participation	NB	19.7%	19.0%	17.5%	16.9%
Number of students enrolled full-time in a university in their province of residence, divided by the provincial population aged 18-24.	NS	24.1%	21.5%	20.9%	20.6%
	PEI	19.1%	19.5%	17.6%	16.7%
Maritime Participation		25.3%	23.5%	22.4%	22.0%
Number of Maritimers enrolled full-time in a university in the Maritimes, divided by the Maritime population aged 18-24.					

Statistical tables for university participation rates in the Maritimes are available for download at:

<http://www.mphec.ca/research/maritimeuniversitystatistics/participation.aspx>

ENROLMENT BY REGISTRATION STATUS		UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT			
		Enrolment 2014-2015	Change over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	Total	17 918	-4.8%	-9.3%	-20.4%
	Full-time	15 507	-4.7%	-6.4%	-17.3%
	Part-time	2 411	-5.3%	-24.5%	-35.9%
Nova Scotia	Total	36 822	-0.3%	4.6%	-3.3%
	Full-time	32 337	-0.4%	6.8%	-0.9%
	Part-time	4 485	0.0%	-9.0%	-17.4%
Prince Edward Island	Total	3 852	-0.7%	-2.1%	0.8%
	Full-time	3 278	-2.6%	-1.3%	-0.9%
	Part-time	574	11.5%	-6.2%	11.9%
Maritimes	Total	58 592	-1.8%	-0.5%	-9.0%
	Full-time	51 122	-1.9%	1.9%	-6.5%
	Part-time	7 470	-1.0%	-14.5%	-23.0%

ENROLMENT BY REGISTRATION STATUS		GRADUATE ENROLMENT			
		Enrolment 2014-2015	Change over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	Total	2 200	-8.5%	-10.7%	8.1%
	Full-time	1 363	-3.3%	-7.7%	-1.9%
	Part-time	837	-16.0%	-15.2%	29.4%
Nova Scotia	Total	7 215	-0.9%	5.1%	15.0%
	Full-time	4 332	0.0%	13.7%	26.3%
	Part-time	2 883	-2.2%	-5.6%	1.3%
Prince Edward Island	Total	420	25.4%	40.5%	145.6%
	Full-time	386	20.6%	73.9%	421.6%
	Part-time	34	126.7%	-55.8%	-64.9%
Maritimes	Total	9 835	-1.9%	2.2%	15.9%
	Full-time	6 081	0.3%	10.4%	24.3%
	Part-time	3 754	-5.2%	-8.8%	4.6%

ENROLMENT BY REGISTRATION STATUS		TOTAL ENROLMENT			
		Enrolment 2014-2015	Change over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	Total	20 118	-5.2%	-9.5%	-18.1%
	Full-time	16 870	-4.6%	-6.5%	-16.2%
	Part-time	3 248	-8.3%	-22.3%	-26.4%
Nova Scotia	Total	44 037	-0.4%	4.7%	-0.7%
	Full-time	36 669	-0.3%	7.6%	1.6%
	Part-time	7 368	-0.9%	-7.7%	-10.9%
Prince Edward Island	Total	4 272	1.4%	0.9%	7.0%
	Full-time	3 664	-0.5%	3.4%	8.3%
	Part-time	608	14.7%	-11.8%	-0.3%
Maritimes	Total	68 427	-1.8%	-0.1%	-6.1%
	Full-time	57 203	-1.6%	2.8%	-4.0%
	Part-time	11 224	-2.4%	-12.7%	-15.6%

Table 1: Total Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Registration Status

Table 2: Total Undergraduate Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Registration Status

Table 3: Total Graduate Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Registration Status

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS (DECEMBER 1 ST)		FTE 2014-2015	Change over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick		17 616.87	-4.8%	-6.9%	-16.0%
Nova Scotia		38 317.09	-0.4%	6.8%	1.0%
Prince Edward Island		3 758.14	-0.3%	2.6%	7.5%
Maritimes		59 692.10	-1.7%	2.1%	-4.3%

Table 4: Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) as of December 1st, by Province, Institution, and Registration Status

ENROLMENT BY GENDER ⁴		Enrolment 2014-2015	Change over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	Female	11 407	-5.5%	-13.5%	-21.3%
	Male	8 672	-4.7%	-3.7%	-13.8%
Nova Scotia	Female	25 418	-0.1%	2.8%	-3.0%
	Male	18 596	-0.9%	7.6%	2.6%
Prince Edward Island	Female	2 668	1.4%	0.7%	4.7%
	Male	1 604	1.3%	1.4%	11.1%
Maritimes	Female	39 493	-1.6%	-2.6%	-8.7%
	Male	28 872	-1.9%	3.6%	-2.6%

⁴ Students with gender "not reported" are excluded

Table 8: Total Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Gender

Table 9: Total Enrolment by Province, Field of Study, and Gender

FULL-TIME ENROLMENT BY AGE GROUP ⁵		Enrolment 2014-2015	Change over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	19 or younger	5 142	-8.3%	-13.7%	-15.9%
	20-24 years old	8 983	-2.2%	-0.3%	-14.8%
	25 or older	2 741	-5.1%	-10.8%	-20.2%
Nova Scotia	19 or younger	10 184	2.6%	7.4%	0.5%
	20-24 years old	19 002	-2.5%	7.3%	1.4%
	25 or older	7 468	1.5%	8.9%	4.1%
Prince Edward Island	19 or younger	1 052	0.2%	-7.0%	-4.2%
	20-24 years old	1 737	-4.2%	0.1%	1.5%
	25 or older	867	6.4%	28.1%	51.6%
Maritimes	19 or younger	16 378	-1.2%	-1.2%	-5.6%
	20-24 years old	29 722	-2.5%	4.4%	-4.1%
	25 or older	11 076	0.1%	4.4%	-0.9%

⁵ Students with age "not reported" are excluded

Table 10: Full-time Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Age Group

ENROLMENT BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY ⁶	Enrolment 2014-2015	Change over		
		1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	316	-0.3%	2.3%	-7.6%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	2 144	0.8%	16.3%	7.8%
Business, management and public administration	3 169	-8.0%	-4.3%	-22.5%
Education	1 247	-10.1%	-43.1%	-49.2%
Health and related fields	2 751	-4.2%	-8.7%	3.6%
Humanities ⁷	3 299	-13.4%	-27.7%	-37.8%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	742	7.7%	63.8%	-5.4%
Physical and life sciences and technologies ⁸	2 022	-6.3%	2.5%	-0.5%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	2 424	5.7%	9.9%	1.8%
Visual and performing arts	320	-7.0%	-8.3%	-10.1%
Other / Not applicable	1 684	-5.6%	-16.2%	-22.2%
Nova Scotia				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1 237	-9.8%	6.3%	26.7%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	3 328	6.1%	34.6%	53.2%
Business, management and public administration	9 282	1.0%	19.0%	24.8%
Education	2 184	-7.4%	-29.9%	-17.4%
Health and related fields	6 893	2.4%	12.5%	20.9%
Humanities	5 757	-8.9%	-21.6%	-36.3%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	1 306	6.7%	43.5%	-15.2%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	5 517	-0.2%	15.0%	5.4%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	5 458	0.6%	6.3%	-13.3%
Visual and performing arts	1 065	-1.2%	-15.2%	-17.1%
Other / Not applicable	2 010	7.3%	3.2%	-0.4%
Prince Edward Island				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	22	15.8%	N/A	N/A
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	110	15.8%	31.0%	10.0%
Business, management and public administration	727	-1.9%	-5.0%	-6.2%
Education	345	22.3%	2.7%	31.2%
Health and related fields	817	3.0%	21.0%	33.3%
Humanities	608	-12.9%	-33.8%	-39.0%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	130	13.0%	41.3%	78.1%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	771	0.8%	5.8%	3.8%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	468	4.5%	34.9%	29.3%
Visual and performing arts	40	-4.8%	2.6%	81.8%
Other / Not applicable	234	8.3%	-4.9%	431.8%

⁶ - Major field of study categories are based on the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Canada 2011 primary groupings. For more information on CIP 2011 Primary groupings please visit Statistics Canada's website.

⁷ - Includes General Arts; ⁸ - Includes General Sciences - N/A Not applicable

ENROLMENT BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	Enrolment 2014-2015	Change over		
		1 year	5 years	10 years
Maritimes				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1 575	-7.7%	6.9%	19.5%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	5 582	4.2%	26.9%	31.0%
Business, management and public administration	13 178	-1.5%	11.0%	7.1%
Education	3 776	-6.2%	-33.1%	-29.6%
Health and related fields	10 461	0.6%	6.6%	16.6%
Humanities	9 664	-10.7%	-24.6%	-37.0%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	2 178	7.4%	49.7%	-9.2%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	8 310	-1.6%	10.8%	3.8%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	8 350	2.2%	8.6%	-7.6%
Visual and performing arts	1 425	-2.7%	-13.3%	-14.3%
Other / Not applicable	3 928	1.4%	-6.5%	-7.1%

Table 6: Total Enrolment by Province, Major Field of Study, and Level of Study

Notes

^A The Commission monitors participation rates in Maritime universities. Statistical tables are available for download at: <http://www.mphec.ca/research/maritimeuniversitystatistics/participation.aspx>

^B Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 051-0001. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual.

^C Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 052-0005. Projected population, by projection scenario, age and sex, as of July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual (persons). Projection scenario M1: medium growth.

How to read the tables

Enrolment statistics are reported at the provincial and Maritime level for the 2014-15 fall term. The percent change over one, five and 10 years (change since 2013-14, 2009-10 and 2004-05, respectively) is provided to illustrate major trends. Below each summary table is the title of a corresponding table on the MPHEC website with a breakdown by university and other variables available at:

<http://www.mphec.ca/research/maritimeuniversitystatistics/enrolment.aspx>

University enrolment is calculated from data in the MPHEC postsecondary student information system (PSIS), which contains detailed information on demographics, programs and courses for all students enrolled in 15 publicly-funded Maritime universities.

For further information, please contact:

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