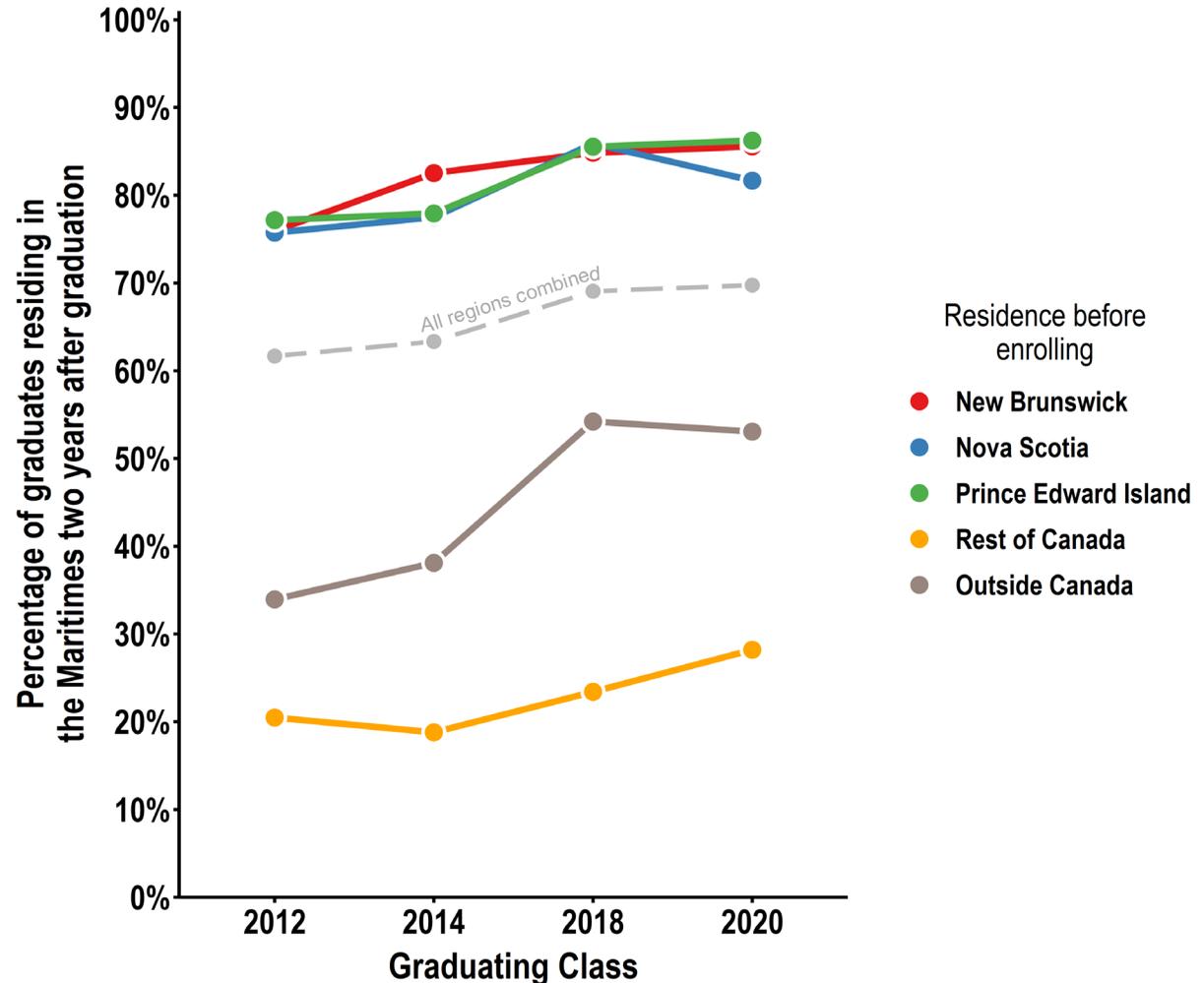


# MOBILITY AND ACTIVITY OF RECENT UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

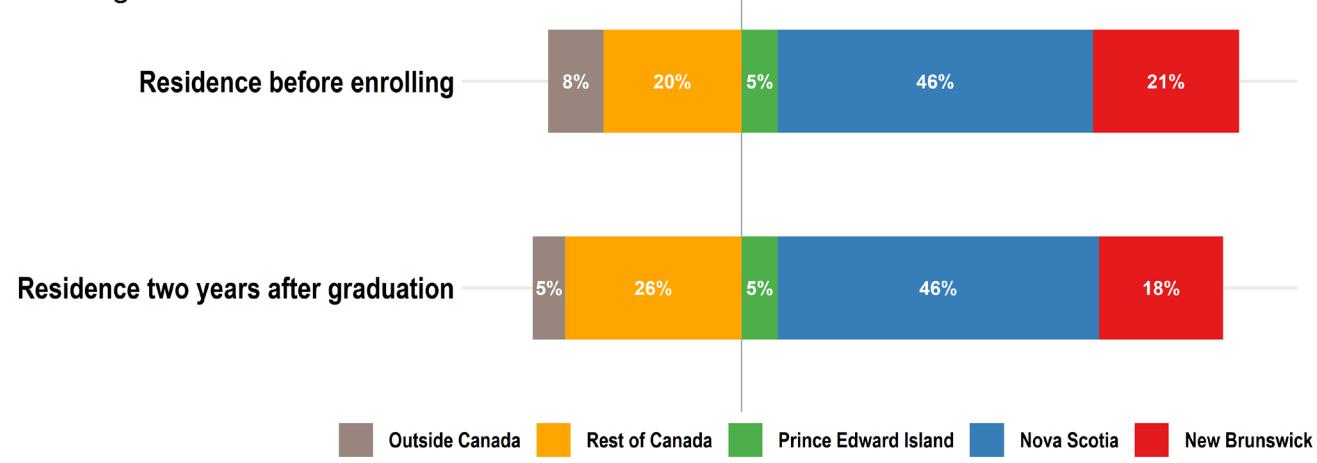
Exploring graduate retention and migration in the Maritimes, two years after graduation

APRIL 2023

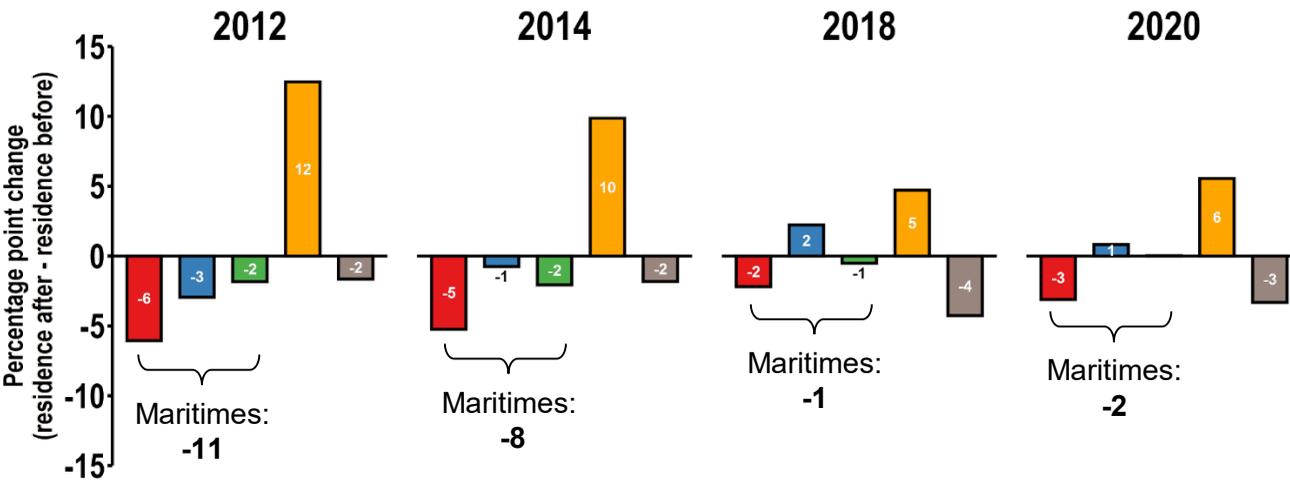
**70%** of the Class of 2020 Maritime university bachelor's graduates were living in the region two years after graduation. **Retention in the region is influenced by a graduate's residence before enrolling:** graduates from the **Maritime provinces** have been consistently the **most likely to remain in the Maritimes** two years after graduation.



For the **Class of 2020**, the distribution of graduates' residences two years after graduation was similar to the distribution of graduates' residences before they enrolled in their degree:



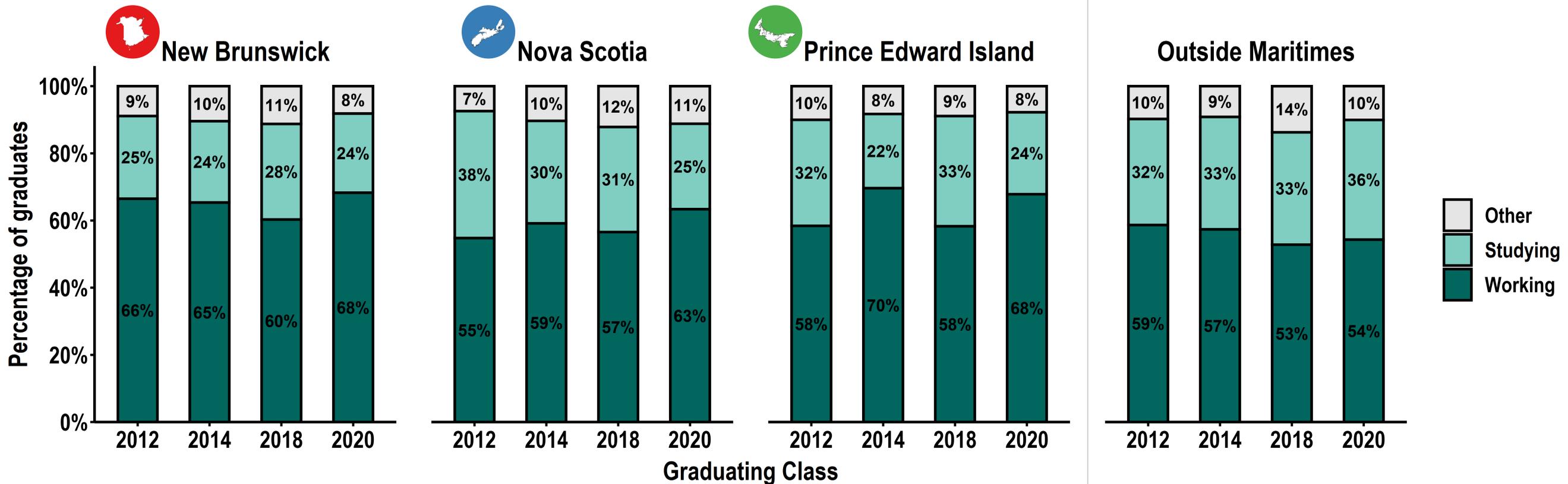
The *changes* in distribution of residence (after – before) have differed across graduating classes. Most notably, the reduction observed for the Maritime provinces with the Classes of 2012 and 2014 was much smaller for the Classes of 2018 and 2020:



# MOST GRADUATES ARE WORKING TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION

The activity of graduates has been fairly consistent across graduating classes, regardless of where graduates were living two years after graduation: the majority of graduates were working, between a quarter and a third of graduates were still enrolled in a program they pursued after their degree, and 7 to 14% of graduates were doing something other than working or studying.

## Residence two years after graduation



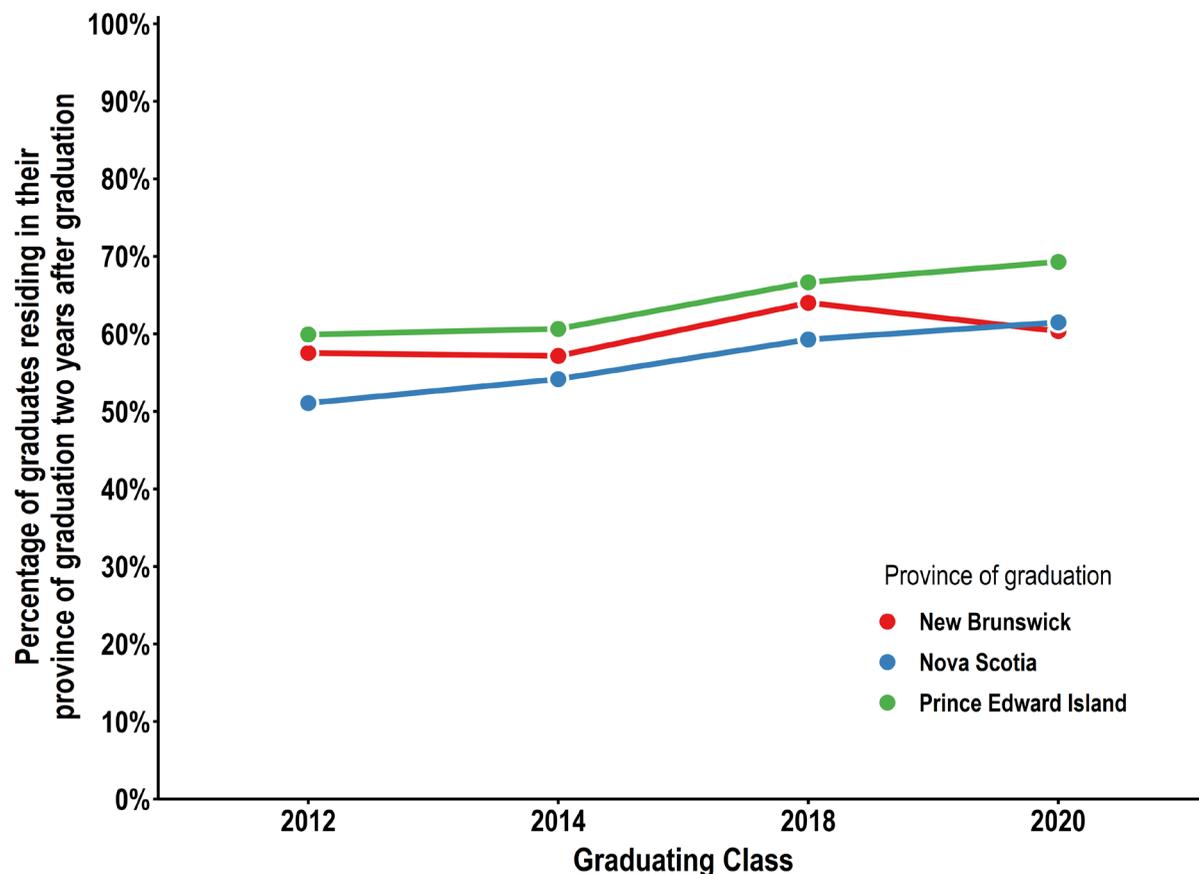
**Working:** graduates who reported working full- or part-time; excludes graduate who were studying.

**Studying:** graduates who reported pursuing further education after their degree and were still enrolled in the pursued program; includes those who were working at the same time.

**Other:** graduates who reported doing something other studying or working (e.g., looking for work, temporary layoff, maternity/paternity leave, caring for children/family member, travelling).

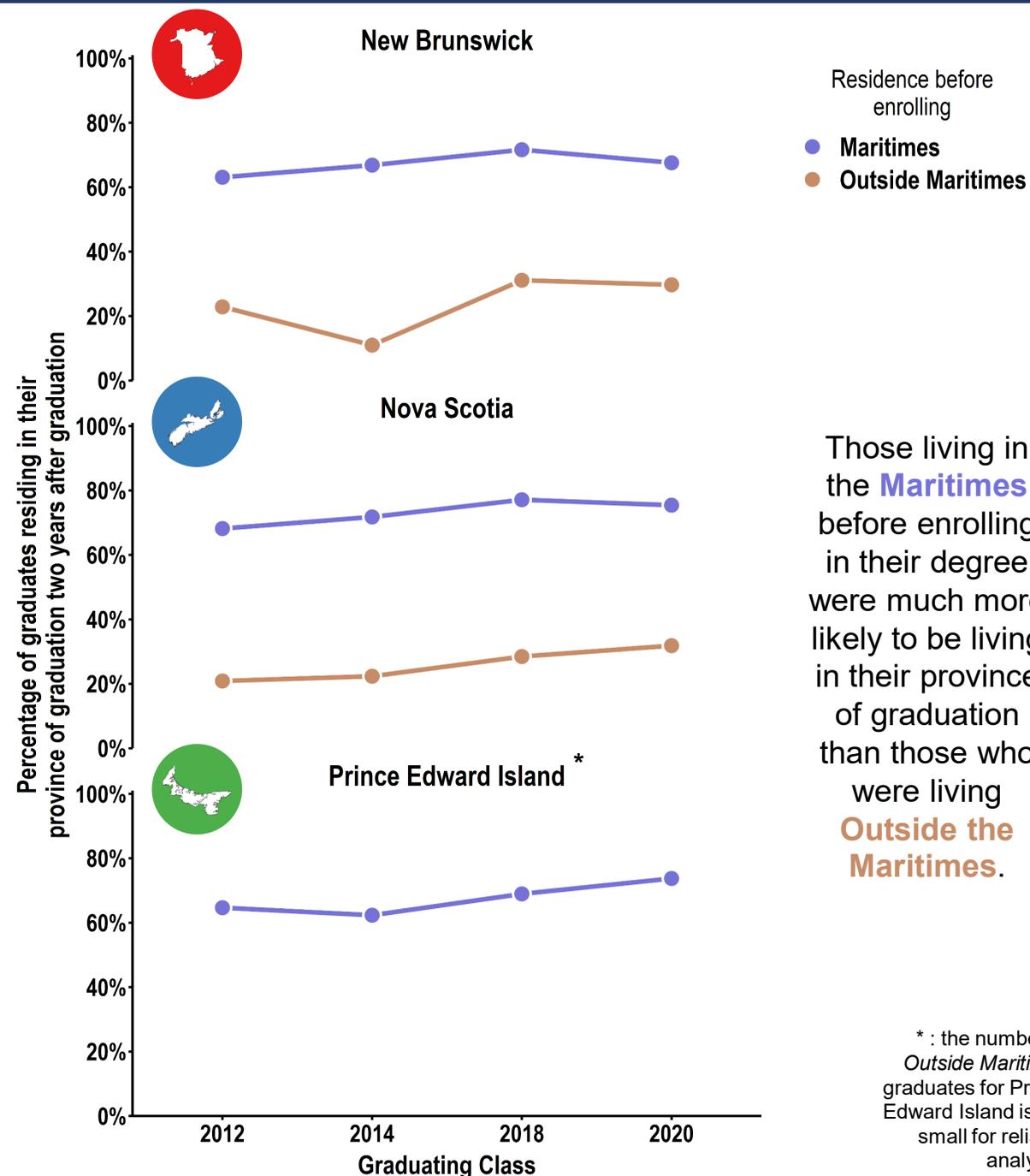
# MOST GRADUATES ARE RESIDING IN THEIR PROVINCE OF GRADUATION TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION

## Retention of all graduates in their Province of Graduation:



Retention of graduates in their province of graduation had been trending upward across recent graduating classes for each of the Maritime provinces, however the retention of Class of 2020 graduates of New Brunswick universities in New Brunswick declined to a level closer to what was seen with the Classes of 2012 and 2014. For the **Class of 2020**, two years after graduation, **60%** of New Brunswick university graduates were living in New Brunswick, **61%** of Nova Scotia university graduates were living in Nova Scotia, and **69%** of Prince Edward Island university graduates were living in Prince Edward Island.

Generally, retention has been highest in Prince Edward Island and lowest in Nova Scotia. This difference is likely driven by the differences across the provinces in distribution of graduates' residence before enrolling.

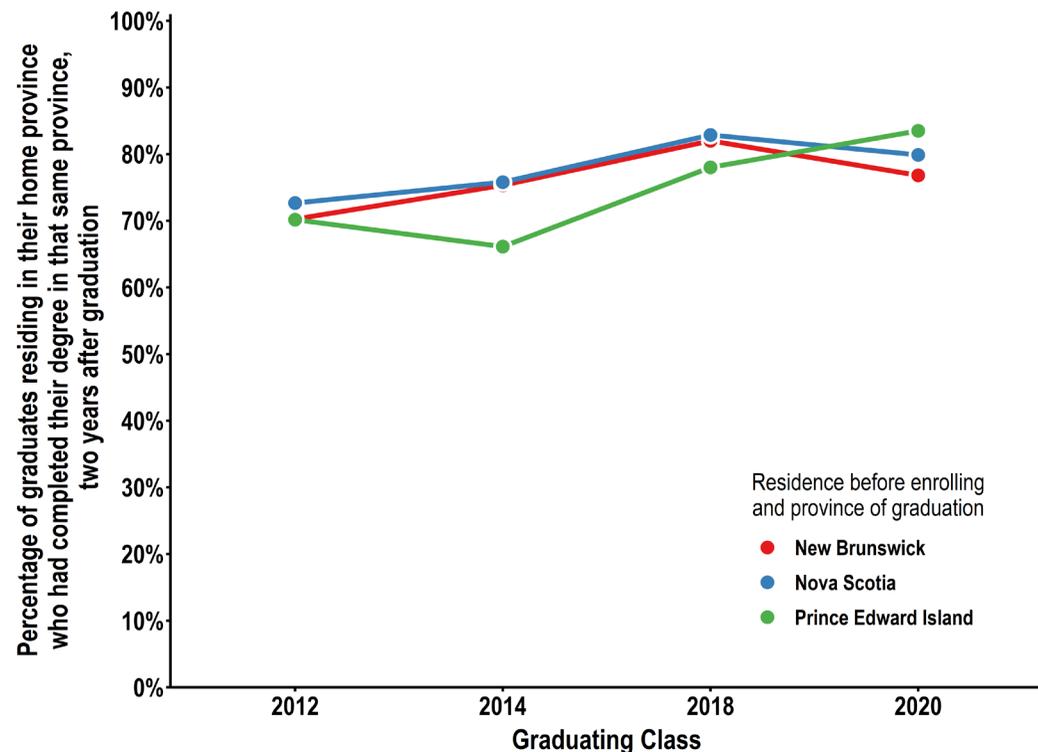


Those living in the **Maritimes** before enrolling in their degree were much more likely to be living in their province of graduation than those who were living **Outside the Maritimes**.

\* : the number of *Outside Maritimes* graduates for Prince Edward Island is too small for reliable analysis.

# MOST GRADUATES WHO STUDY IN THEIR HOME PROVINCE RESIDE THERE TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION

Retention of all graduates in **their province of residence before enrolling** (home province) who **completed their degree in that same province**:



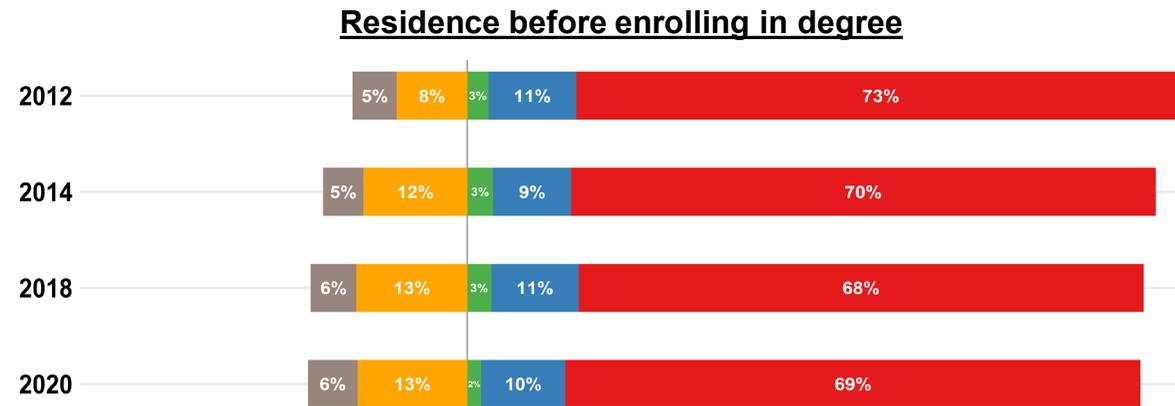
Retention of graduates in the province that was their province of residence before enrolling and where they completed their degree had been trending upward across recent graduating classes, however declined for the Class of 2020 in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

For the **Class of 2020**, **77%** of those living in New Brunswick before enrolling in their degree at a New Brunswick university were living in New Brunswick two years after graduation, **80%** of those living in Nova Scotia before enrolling in their degree at a Nova Scotia university were living in Nova Scotia two years after graduation, and **84%** of those living in Prince Edward Island before enrolling in their degree at a Prince Edward Island university were living in Prince Edward Island two years after graduation.

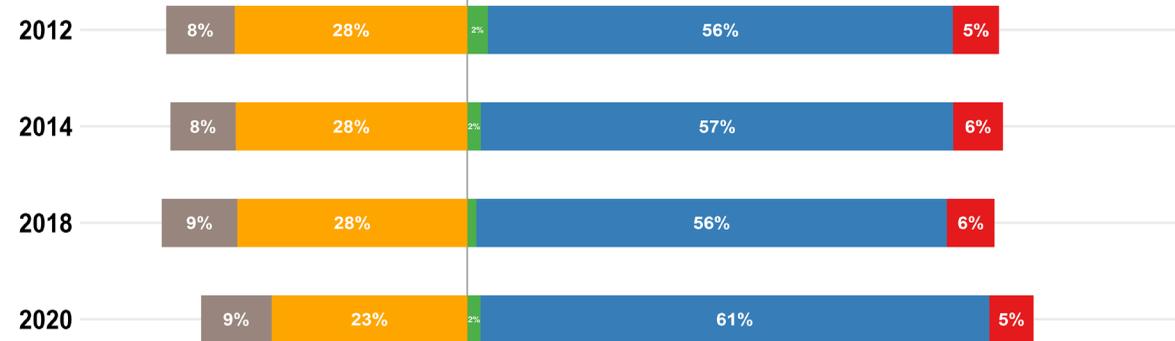
## Province of Graduation



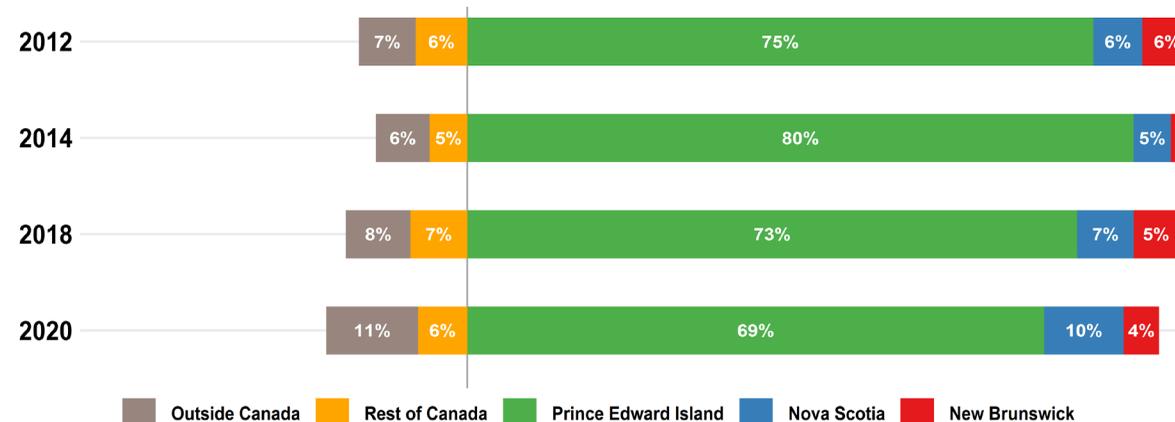
New Brunswick



Nova Scotia

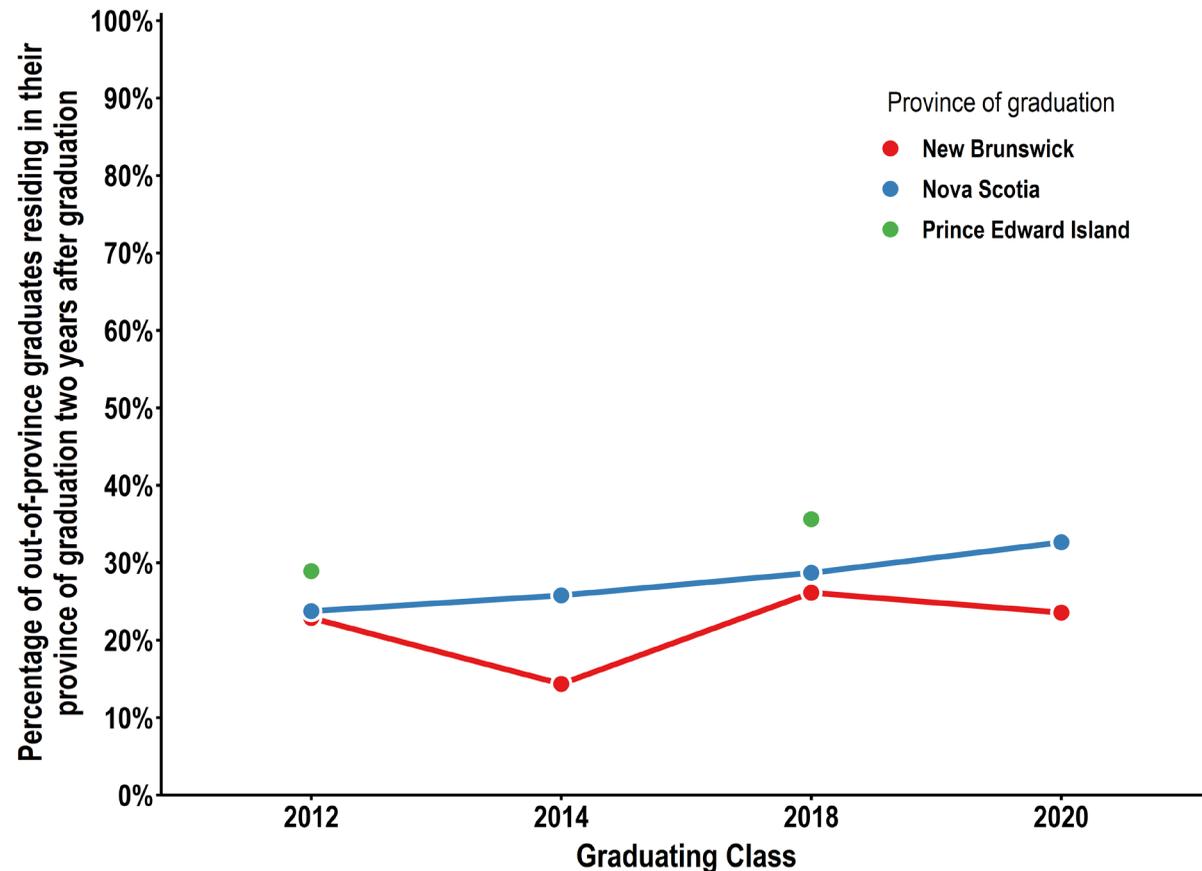


Prince Edward Island



# MOST OUT-OF-PROVINCE GRADUATES ARE NOT RESIDING IN THEIR PROVINCE OF GRADUATION TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION

For the **Class of 2020**, **24%** of those living outside of New Brunswick before enrolling in their degree at a New Brunswick university were living in New Brunswick two years after graduation, **33%** of those living outside of Nova Scotia before enrolling in their degree at a Nova Scotia university were living in Nova Scotia two years after graduation. The sample of 2020 Prince Edward Island university graduates who were living outside of Prince Edward Island before enrolling in their degree was too small for reliable analysis.



The number of out-of-province graduates for Prince Edward Island is small and therefore the results should be interpreted with caution. The samples for the Classes of 2014 and 2020 were too small for reliable analysis.

## What you need to know about the data in this report.

The data for the analyses presented here were obtained from MPHEC Graduate Outcomes (GO) Survey of the Classes of 2012, 2014, 2018 and 2020. All four classes were surveyed between September and December, two years after graduation. Detailed information about the GO Survey, including survey instruments, is available on our website:

<https://www.mphec.ca/research/graduatefollowupsurveys.aspx>

The data presented here are for all first-degree holders, that is those who enrolled in their degree without a prior post-secondary credential, who provided the location where they were living for the 12 months before enrolling in their degree (i.e., residence before enrolling) *and* their location at the time of the survey (i.e., residence two years after graduation).

### Samples:

- Class of 2012: n = 2,179
- Class of 2014: n = 2,033
- Class of 2018: n = 2,372
- Class of 2020: n = 1,954

All statistics have been generated from weighted data; data are weighted by university of graduation and gender.

The COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted the retention and migration rates for graduates of the Classes of 2018 and 2020.

Some student groups are more difficult to contact than others, for example, international students. Across the four surveys reported here extra effort was made to increase our sample of these graduates. Despite the effort they remain under-represented relative to the total bachelor's graduate population.

Percentages may not sum to 100 percent or align with other values due to rounding.