

TRENDS IN MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION

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UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT - 2015-2016

In 2015-16, **66,850** students were enrolled in Maritime universities, down 2.3% since the previous year. Enrolment declines were observed both at undergraduate and graduate levels (-2.3% and -2.1% since 2014-15, respectively). Shifts in the student body which began to emerge in recent years continue: the greatest enrolment declines were observed among Maritime residents, decreasing 3.8% since 2014-15 and 19.9% over the last 10 years. These declines in local students have been partially offset by increasing numbers of students coming to study in the region from outside the Maritimes. In 2015-16, international enrolment increased by 1.4% over the previous year. However, enrolment of non-Maritime Canadians decreased by 0.4%.

Shifts in the population aged 18-24 and in participation rates largely explain the decrease in local students: over the last year, university participation among Maritime residents decreased 0.1 percentage points, but over the last decade, it has decreased by 3.2 percentage points from 25.0% to 21.8%. The population of 18-24 year olds shrank 2.2% over the previous year, and by 5.2% over the last decade. One of the greatest impacts of declining enrolments was in humanities programs, which saw declines of 8.1% over the previous year and 41.6% over the last ten years. Conversely, enrolment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs has increased 0.8% over one year, and 17.0% over ten years.

Overall enrolment trends varied by province:

- **New Brunswick** continued the downward trend in total enrolment, recording a decrease of 3.6% since 2014-15, to 19,394 students. Enrolment of provincial residents decreased 4.4%, students from other Maritime provinces decreased 0.7%, and the number of Canadian students from outside the Maritimes increased 1.1% since last year. International enrolment in the province peaked in 2013-14 at 2793 students, followed by two years of declines: international enrolment decreased by 5.0% in 2014-15, and by 5.5% in 2015-16.
- **Nova Scotia** saw an enrolment decrease over the last year of 1.7% to 43,268 students. There were 3.0% fewer Nova Scotia residents enrolled, and 5.6% fewer students from other Maritime provinces. The number of non-Maritime Canadians also decreased 1.1%. International enrolment increased 2.6%, less than the previous year's increase of 7.0% and the double-digit increases seen in 2009-2012.
- **Prince Edward Island** experienced an enrolment decrease of 2.0% over the last year, down to 4,188 students. Enrolment of PEI residents decreased 8.0% since the previous year. Enrolment of non-Maritime Canadians grew by 10.0% and international enrolment by 15.6%.

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New Brunswick

Change over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total enrolment	▼ -3.6%	▼ -12.9%	▼ -20.8%
NB Residents	▼ -4.4%	▼ -19.4%	▼ -27.3%
Other Maritimers	▼ -0.7%	▼ -10.2%	▼ -22.3%
Other Canadians	▲ 1.1%	▼ -1.4%	▼ -8.3%
International	▼ -5.5%	▲ 21.8%	▲ 21.2%
Home Province Participation Rate	▼ -0.2 pts	▼ -2.3 pts	▼ -3.6 pts

Nova Scotia

Change over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total enrolment	▼ -1.7%	▲ 0.9%	▼ -1.0%
NS Residents	▼ -3.0%	▼ -10.0%	▼ -17.2%
Other Maritimers	▼ -5.6%	▼ -6.3%	▼ -10.7%
Other Canadians	▼ -1.1%	▲ 2.9%	▲ 7.5%
International	▲ 2.6%	▲ 51.9%	▲ 86.1%
Home Province Participation Rate	▲ 0.1 pts	▼ -0.8 pts	▼ -2.6 pts

Prince Edward Island

Change over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total enrolment	▼ -2.0%	▼ -5.1%	▲ 7.7%
PEI Residents	▼ -8.0%	▼ -21.5%	▼ -17.2%
Other Maritimers	▼ -0.7%	▲ 19.3%	▲ 39.6%
Other Canadians	▲ 10.0%	▲ 28.1%	▲ 61.8%
International	▲ 15.6%	▲ 60.8%	▲ 223.1%
Home Province Participation Rate	▼ -0.9 pts	▼ -3.4 pts	▼ -3.2 pts

Maritimes

Change over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total enrolment	▼ -2.3%	▼ -3.9%	▼ -7.3%
NB Residents	▼ -4.5%	▼ -16.8%	▼ -24.4%
NS Residents	▼ -2.7%	▼ -9.8%	▼ -17.2%
PEI Residents	▼ -7.5%	▼ -18.6%	▼ -17.0%
Other Canadians	▼ -0.4%	▲ 2.8%	▲ 5.7%
International	▲ 1.4%	▲ 44.2%	▲ 70.0%
Maritime Participation Rate	▼ -0.1 pts	▼ -1.6 pts	▼ -3.2 pts

Note: Percent change over one, five and 10 years = change since 2014-15, 2010-11 and 2005-06, respectively

ENROLMENT BY REGISTRATION STATUS		UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT			
		Enrolment	Change over		
		2015-2016	1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	Total	17 202	-4.0%	-12.7%	-23.2%
	Full-time	15 123	-2.5%	-9.1%	-18.9%
	Part-time	2 079	-13.8%	-32.2%	-44.6%
Nova Scotia	Total	36 290	-1.4%	1.0%	-3.1%
	Full-time	32 027	-1.0%	2.8%	-0.3%
	Part-time	4 263	-4.9%	-10.7%	-20.1%
Prince Edward Island	Total	3 734	-3.1%	-8.4%	1.3%
	Full-time	3 222	-1.7%	-5.7%	0.0%
	Part-time	512	-10.8%	-22.5%	10.6%
Maritimes	Total	57 226	-2.3%	-4.1%	-9.9%
	Full-time	50 372	-1.5%	-1.6%	-6.7%
	Part-time	6 854	-8.2%	-19.3%	-28.2%

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS (DECEMBER 1 ST)	FTE 2015-2016	Change over		
		1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	17 174.08	-2.5%	-9.9%	-17.9%
Nova Scotia	37 867.50	-1.2%	2.5%	1.3%
Prince Edward Island	3 743.80	-0.4%	-1.5%	8.2%
Maritimes	58 785.38	-1.5%	-1.7%	-4.8%

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

ENROLMENT BY GENDER ¹		Enrolment 2015-2016	Change over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	Female	10 986	-3.7%	-15.8%	-24.4%
	Male	8 379	-3.4%	-8.6%	-16.0%
Nova Scotia	Female	24 975	-1.7%	-0.4%	-3.4%
	Male	18 274	-1.7%	2.6%	2.6%
Prince Edward Island	Female	2 597	-2.7%	-6.5%	2.7%
	Male	1 591	-0.8%	-2.8%	17.0%
Maritimes	Female	38 558	-2.4%	-5.7%	-10.2%
	Male	28 244	-2.2%	-1.3%	-3.1%

¹ 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

GRADUATE ENROLMENT			
Enrolment	Change over		
2015-2016	1 year	5 years	10 years
2 192	-0.4%	-14.2%	4.6%
1 374	0.8%	-10.6%	-4.1%
818	-2.3%	-19.7%	23.4%
6 978	-3.3%	0.1%	11.8%
4 314	-0.4%	6.4%	25.8%
2 664	-7.6%	-8.7%	-5.3%
454	8.1%	34.7%	124.8%
436	13.0%	68.3%	200.7%
18	-47.1%	-76.9%	-68.4%
9 624	-2.1%	-2.5%	12.7%
6 124	0.7%	4.7%	22.3%
3 500	-6.8%	-12.8%	-0.9%

TOTAL ENROLMENT			
Enrolment	Change over		
2015-2016	1 year	5 years	10 years
19 394	-3.6%	-12.9%	-20.8%
16 497	-2.2%	-9.2%	-17.9%
2 897	-10.8%	-29.1%	-34.4%
43 268	-1.7%	0.9%	-1.0%
36 341	-0.9%	3.2%	2.2%
6 927	-6.0%	-9.9%	-15.0%
4 188	-2.0%	-5.1%	7.7%
3 658	-0.2%	-0.5%	8.6%
530	-12.8%	-28.3%	1.9%
66 850	-2.3%	-3.9%	-7.3%
56 496	-1.2%	-1.0%	-4.2%
10 354	-7.8%	-17.3%	-20.9%

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 ENROLMENT BY AGE GROUP ²		Enrolment 2015-2016	Change over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	19 or younger	5 188	-2.3%	-13.6%	-16.6%
	20-24 years old	9 578	-3.9%	-8.3%	-18.6%
	25 or older	4 627	-4.3%	-20.0%	-28.5%
Nova Scotia	19 or younger	10 109	-3.2%	2.1%	3.0%
	20-24 years old	21 007	-0.8%	2.8%	0.4%
	25 or older	12 128	-2.1%	-3.0%	-5.8%
Prince Edward Island	19 or younger	1 005	-5.7%	-8.5%	-3.4%
	20-24 years old	1 982	-0.4%	-6.8%	7.0%
	25 or older	1 196	-1.5%	0.5%	20.3%
Maritimes	19 or younger	16 302	-3.1%	-4.1%	-4.5%
	20-24 years old	32 567	-1.7%	-1.3%	-5.7%
	25 or older	17 951	-2.7%	-7.8%	-11.7%

² Students with age "not reported" are excluded

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

How to read the tables

Enrolment statistics are reported at the provincial and Maritime level for the 2015-16 fall term. The percent change over one, five and 10 years (change since 2014-15, 2010-11 and 2005-06, 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.

ENROLMENT BY STUDENT ORIGIN	UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT					GRADUATE ENROLMENT					TOTAL ENROLMENT				
	Enrolment 2015-2016	Change over				Enrolment 2015-2016	Change over				Enrolment 2015-2016	Change over			
		1 year	5 years	10 years			1 year	5 years	10 years			1 year	5 years	10 years	
New Brunswick	17 202	▼ -4.0%	▼ -12.7%	▼ -23.2%		2 192	▼ -0.4%	▼ -14.2%	▲ 4.6%		19 394	▼ -3.6%	▼ -12.9%	▼ -20.8%	
Home Province Residents ³	11 506	▼ -4.6%	▼ -18.9%	▼ -28.7%		1 230	▼ -2.3%	▼ -23.3%	▼ -10.5%		12 736	▼ -4.4%	▼ -19.4%	▼ -27.3%	
Other Maritimers	1 822	▼ -0.6%	▼ -10.1%	▼ -23.3%		130	▼ -1.5%	▼ -11.6%	▼ -3.7%		1 952	▼ -0.7%	▼ -10.2%	▼ -22.3%	
Other Canadians	1 875	▼ -0.2%	▼ -2.5%	▼ -13.1%		326	▲ 9.0%	▲ 5.8%	▲ 33.6%		2 201	▲ 1.1%	▼ -1.4%	▼ -8.3%	
International ⁴	1 999	▼ -6.7%	▲ 28.2%	▲ 16.0%		506	▼ -0.8%	▲ 1.6%	▲ 47.5%		2 505	▼ -5.5%	▲ 21.8%	▲ 21.2%	
Nova Scotia	36 290	▼ -1.4%	▲ 1.0%	▼ -3.1%		6 978	▼ -3.3%	▲ 0.1%	▲ 11.8%		43 268	▼ -1.7%	▲ 0.9%	▼ -1.0%	
Home Province Residents	18 232	▼ -2.6%	▼ -10.2%	▼ -19.7%		2 985	▼ -5.5%	▼ -8.8%	▲ 3.0%		21 217	▼ -3.0%	▼ -10.0%	▼ -17.2%	
Other Maritimers	2 579	▼ -5.4%	▼ -5.8%	▼ -14.7%		536	▼ -6.8%	▼ -8.4%	▲ 15.0%		3 115	▼ -5.6%	▼ -6.3%	▼ -10.7%	
Other Canadians	9 156	▼ -1.6%	▲ 4.6%	▲ 8.7%		2 087	▲ 1.1%	▼ -4.0%	▲ 2.6%		11 243	▼ -1.1%	▲ 2.9%	▲ 7.5%	
International	6 323	▲ 4.0%	▲ 53.2%	▲ 92.1%		1 370	▼ -3.2%	▲ 45.7%	▲ 62.5%		7 693	▲ 2.6%	▲ 51.9%	▲ 86.1%	
Prince Edward Island	3 734	▼ -3.1%	▼ -8.4%	▲ 1.3%		454	▲ 8.1%	▲ 34.7%	▲ 124.8%		4 188	▼ -2.0%	▼ -5.1%	▲ 7.7%	
Home Province Residents	2 253	▼ -8.5%	▼ -24.4%	▼ -22.2%		239	▼ -2.8%	▲ 21.9%	▲ 109.6%		2 492	▼ -8.0%	▼ -21.5%	▼ -17.2%	
Other Maritimers	507	▼ -0.4%	▲ 19.3%	▲ 35.6%		43	▼ -4.4%	▲ 19.4%	▲ 115.0%		550	▼ -0.7%	▲ 19.3%	▲ 39.6%	
Other Canadians	337	▲ 9.1%	▲ 31.1%	▲ 56.7%		82	▲ 13.9%	▲ 17.1%	▲ 86.4%		419	▲ 10.0%	▲ 28.1%	▲ 61.8%	
International	637	▲ 11.4%	▲ 52.8%	▲ 216.9%		90	▲ 57.9%	▲ 157.1%	▲ 275.0%		727	▲ 15.6%	▲ 60.8%	▲ 223.1%	
Maritimes	57 226	▼ -2.3%	▼ -4.1%	▼ -9.9%		9 624	▼ -2.1%	▼ -2.5%	▲ 12.7%		66 850	▼ -2.3%	▼ -3.9%	▼ -7.3%	
New Brunswick ⁵	13 700	▼ -4.8%	▼ -16.6%	▼ -26.4%		1 654	▼ -2.2%	▼ -18.6%	▼ -1.8%		15 354	▼ -4.5%	▼ -16.8%	▼ -24.4%	
Nova Scotia	19 890	▼ -2.3%	▼ -9.9%	▼ -19.6%		3 103	▼ -5.4%	▼ -8.8%	▲ 3.3%		22 993	▼ -2.7%	▼ -9.8%	▼ -17.2%	
Prince Edward Island	3 309	▼ -7.4%	▼ -20.5%	▼ -20.4%		406	▼ -8.8%	▲ 0.2%	▲ 27.7%		3 715	▼ -7.5%	▼ -18.6%	▼ -17.0%	
Other Canadians	11 368	▼ -1.1%	▲ 4.0%	▲ 5.3%		2 495	▲ 2.4%	▼ -2.3%	▲ 7.4%		13 863	▼ -0.4%	▲ 2.8%	▲ 5.7%	
International	8 959	▲ 1.9%	▲ 46.8%	▲ 71.8%		1 966	▼ -0.8%	▲ 33.5%	▲ 62.5%		10 925	▲ 1.4%	▲ 44.2%	▲ 70.0%	

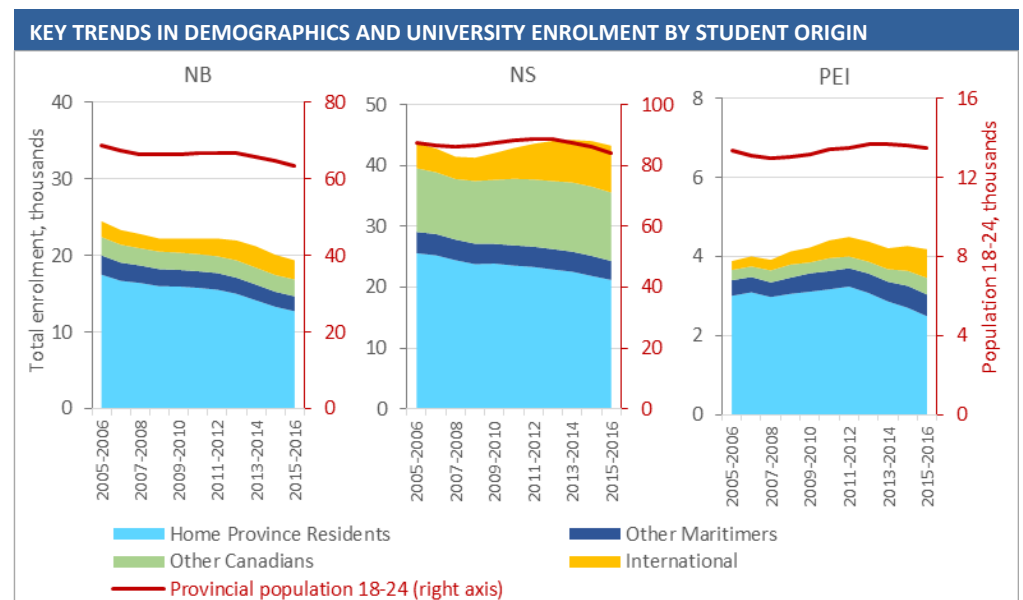
³ Students enrolled within their permanent province of residence declared at admission; ⁴ Excludes students enrolled in offshore programs; ⁵ Provincial residents enrolled at all Maritime universities

[Table 5: Enrolment of International Students by Province, Institution, Reg. Status, and % of Total Enrolment](#)

[Table 7: Total Enrolment by Province, Immigration Status, Province of Origin, and Level of Study](#)

UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATION		2015-2016	Change over			
			1 year	5 years	10 years	
Home Province Participation	NB	16.7%	▼ -0.2 pts	▼ -2.3 pts	▼ -3.6 pts	
Number of students enrolled full-time in a university in their province of residence, divided by the provincial population aged 18-24 ⁶ .	NS	20.6%	▲ 0.1 pts	▼ -0.8 pts	▼ -2.6 pts	
	PEI	15.8%	▼ -0.9 pts	▼ -3.4 pts	▼ -3.2 pts	
Maritime Participation		21.8%	▼ -0.1 pts	▼ -1.6 pts	▼ -3.2 pts	
Number of Maritimers enrolled full-time in a university in the Maritimes, divided by the Maritime population aged 18-24.						

⁶ Provincial population data: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 051-0001. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual. Statistics Canada updates population estimates from time to time, therefore previously published participation rate calculations may change.



ENROLMENT BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY ⁷	Enrolment 2015-2016	Change over		
		1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	369	▲ 16.8%	▲ 22.2%	▲ 7.9%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	2 121	▼ -1.1%	▲ 12.3%	▲ 7.0%
Business, management and public administration	3 018	▼ -4.8%	▼ -8.6%	▼ -21.9%
Education	1 211	▼ -2.9%	▼ -39.8%	▼ -52.2%
Health and related fields	2 557	▼ -7.1%	▼ -15.5%	▼ -5.6%
Humanities ⁸	3 144	▼ -4.7%	▼ -32.8%	▼ -43.6%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	750	▲ 1.1%	▲ 56.9%	▲ 22.0%
Physical and life sciences and technologies ⁹	2 006	▼ -0.8%	▼ -4.0%	▼ -1.1%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	2 385	▼ -1.6%	▲ 10.2%	▲ 8.9%
Visual and performing arts	314	▼ -1.9%	▼ -10.5%	▼ -6.0%
Other / Not applicable ¹⁰	1 519	▼ -9.8%	▼ -22.6%	▼ -34.9%

Nova Scotia				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1 188	▼ -4.0%	▼ -3.7%	▲ 18.9%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	3 461	▲ 4.0%	▲ 28.7%	▲ 63.3%
Business, management and public administration	9 116	▼ -1.8%	▲ 12.3%	▲ 22.9%
Education	2 198	▲ 0.6%	▼ -23.4%	▼ -23.1%
Health and related fields	7 043	▲ 2.2%	▲ 11.9%	▲ 23.8%
Humanities	5 205	▼ -9.6%	▼ -31.4%	▼ -40.0%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	1 397	▲ 7.0%	▲ 46.9%	▲ 12.7%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	5 321	▼ -3.6%	▲ 7.0%	▲ 4.5%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	5 413	▼ -0.8%	▲ 6.9%	▼ -15.1%
Visual and performing arts	962	▼ -9.7%	▼ -25.9%	▼ -28.2%
Other / Not applicable	1 964	▼ -2.3%	▲ 8.2%	▲ 3.6%

Prince Edward Island				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	33	▲ 50.0%	N/A	
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	143	▲ 30.0%	▲ 52.1%	▲ 41.6%
Business, management and public administration	751	▲ 3.3%	▼ -7.7%	▲ 7.7%
Education	349	▲ 1.2%	▼ -18.6%	▲ 28.8%
Health and related fields	864	▲ 5.8%	▲ 21.5%	▲ 35.8%
Humanities	532	▼ -12.5%	▼ -41.2%	▼ -44.8%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	139	▲ 6.9%	▲ 31.1%	▲ 139.7%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	747	▼ -3.1%	▲ 3.8%	▲ 9.7%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	405	▼ -13.5%	▼ -2.9%	▲ 2.8%
Visual and performing arts	33	▼ -17.5%	▼ -17.5%	▲ 13.8%
Other / Not applicable	192	▼ -17.9%	▲ 6.7%	▲ 236.8%

⁷ 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.

⁸ Includes General Arts. ⁹ Includes General Sciences.

¹⁰ "Not applicable" - courses or other educational activities that are not within a program.

ENROLMENT BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	Enrolment 2015-2016	Change over			
		1 year	5 years	10 years	
Maritimes					
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1 590	▲ 1.0%	▲ 3.5%	▲ 18.6%	
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	5 725	▲ 2.6%	▲ 22.6%	▲ 36.2%	
Business, management and public administration	12 885	▼ -2.2%	▲ 5.3%	▲ 7.6%	
Education	3 758	▼ -0.5%	▼ -29.2%	▼ -33.6%	
Health and related fields	10 464	▲ 0.0%	▲ 4.3%	▲ 15.9%	
Humanities	8 881	▼ -8.1%	▼ -32.6%	▼ -41.6%	
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	2 286	▲ 5.0%	▲ 48.9%	▲ 19.5%	
Physical and life sciences and technologies	8 074	▼ -2.8%	▲ 3.7%	▲ 3.5%	
Social and behavioural sciences and law	8 203	▼ -1.8%	▲ 7.3%	▼ -8.5%	
Visual and performing arts	1 309	▼ -8.1%	▼ -22.5%	▼ -23.1%	
Other / Not applicable	3 675	▼ -6.4%	▼ -7.2%	▼ -14.2%	

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

TOTAL ENROLMENT BY PROGRAM ORIENTATION AND STUDENT ORIGIN

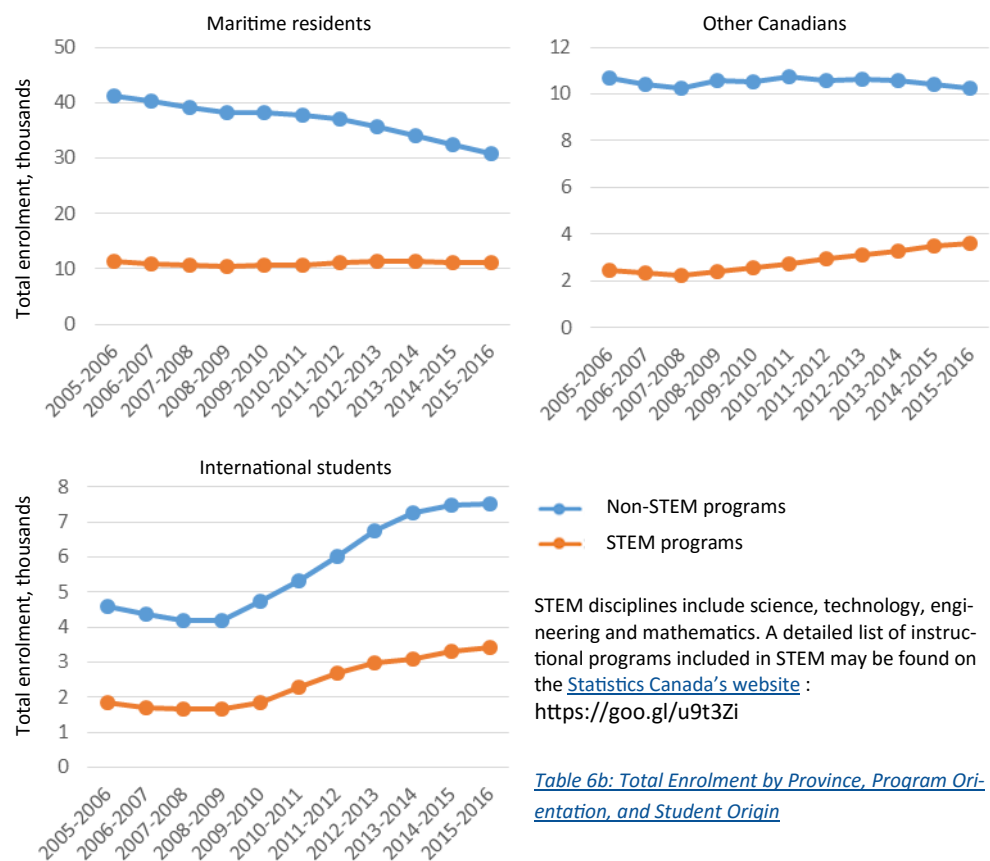


Table 6b: Total Enrolment by Province, Program Orientation, and Student Origin