

The Daily

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University enrolment, 2007/2008

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Releases

University enrolment

2007/2008

Just over 1,066,000 students were enrolled in Canadian universities during the academic year 2007/2008, up 0.6% from the previous academic year. This is a much slower rate of growth than the annual average increase of 2.9% since 1998/1999.

Of these 1,066,000 students, 613,600, or 57.5%, were women and 452,600, or 42.4%, were men. The proportion of women, slightly lower than the past years, was similar to 2002/2003.

The number of male students increased 1.3% in 2007/2008, faster than the rate of growth among women (+0.1%).

Undergraduate and graduate enrolment

Total undergraduate enrolment amounted to 812,700, down 0.1% from the previous academic year. Women accounted for 58.1% of undergraduate students.

Among men, undergraduate enrolment increased 0.7%. Among women, it declined by an equivalent 0.7%, the first decrease recorded for women in undergraduate enrolment since 1997/1998.

At the graduate level, enrolments increased by 5.0% nationally. In Ontario, it increased by 11.6%, accounting for most of the national growth.

About 101,000 students were enrolled in a master's program in 2007/2008, up 5.4% from the previous academic year. Women accounted for 55.2% of enrolment at the master's level.

At the doctorate level, enrolment rose 5.4% to 40,400 in 2007/2008.

Men outnumbered women in doctorate programs. In 2007/2008, men accounted for about 54% of doctorate registrations, a proportion that has remained the same since 2000/2001.

Full-time and part-time enrolments

Full-time university enrolment rose 0.8% to 796,400 in 2007/2008.

Note to readers

University enrolment data for 2007/2008 are obtained using information from the Postsecondary Student Information System, formerly the Enhanced Student Information System, and the University Student Information System.

Enrolment counts for certain universities are preliminary or based on estimates.

Data for the University of Regina are missing since 2005/2006 but this has no significant impact on the trend analysis at the national level presented here.

Data are subject to revision.

The number of full-time registrations declined in the Atlantic provinces, while the largest gains occurred in Manitoba (+5.3%) and British Columbia (+2.7%).

Part-time university enrolment increased 0.1% to 269,900. Four provinces recorded gains: New Brunswick (+5.5%), Prince Edward Island (+5.3%), Ontario (+2.8%) and Quebec (+0.4%).

Fields of study

The top three fields of study by number of registrants accounted for one-half of total enrolment in 2007/2008. These fields were social and behavioral sciences, and law; business, management and public administration; and the humanities. These fields of study have been in the top three since 1992/1993.

The largest category, social and behavioral sciences, and law, represented 17.8% of total enrolment, or 189,800 students.

The largest increase (+3.5%) occurred in the health, parks, recreation and fitness field.

Enrolment fell in six fields: personal improvement and leisure; humanities; mathematics, computer and information sciences; personal, protective and transportation services; other; and visual and performing arts, and communications technologies, the latter of which was the first decline since 1996/1997.

The decline in the mathematics, computer and information sciences field continued a long-term trend. Enrolment was down 4.6% to 32,400, matching levels in 1994/1995. This field accounted for 3.0% of total enrolment in 2007/2008, the lowest proportion since prior to 1992/1993.

Available on CANSIM: table 477-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5017.

Data tables are available from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-4441; educationstats@statcan.gc.ca), Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division.

University enrolment by registration status, program level and gender

	2002/2003 ^r	2006/2007 ^{r,1}	2007/2008 ¹	2002/2003 to 2007/2008	2006/2007 to 2007/2008
	number			% change	
Total ^{2,3}	936,393	1,059,912	1,066,353	13.9	0.6
Male	398,073	446,943	452,589	13.7	1.3
Female	538,257	612,717	613,566	14.0	0.1
Full-time ^{2,3}	677,478	790,308	796,440	17.6	0.8
Male	294,918	341,820	346,581	17.5	1.4
Female	382,527	448,332	449,757	17.6	0.3
Part-time ^{2,3}	258,915	269,607	269,910	4.2	0.1
Male	103,152	105,120	106,005	2.8	0.8
Female	155,730	164,388	163,809	5.2	-0.4
Undergraduate level ²	719,127	813,480	812,691	13.0	-0.1
Full-time ²	563,628	654,231	653,403	15.9	-0.1
Male	238,326	275,454	277,683	16.5	0.8
Female	325,281	378,705	375,660	15.5	-0.8
Part-time ²	155,499	159,249	159,288	2.4	0.0
Male	60,825	62,403	62,634	3.0	0.4
Female	94,662	96,816	96,624	2.1	-0.2
Graduate level ²	134,955	157,830	165,789	22.8	5.0
Full-time ²	92,568	115,017	121,866	31.7	6.0
Male	47,316	57,117	59,478	25.7	4.1
Female	45,252	57,828	62,355	37.8	7.8
Part-time ²	42,387	42,813	43,923	3.6	2.6
Male	19,251	17,769	18,249	-5.2	2.7
Female	23,136	25,032	25,662	10.9	2.5

^r revised

1. Enrolment figures do not include the University of Regina.

2. Includes sex unknown.

3. Includes the other program level categories.

Note: Enrolment figures may not add up due to rounding to a multiple of 3.

University enrolment by field of study and gender

	2002/2003 ^r	2006/2007 ^{r,1}	2007/2008 ¹	2002/2003 to 2007/2008	2006/2007 to 2007/2008
	number			% change	
Total²	936,393	1,059,912	1,066,353	13.9	0.6
Male	398,073	446,943	452,589	13.7	1.3
Female	538,257	612,717	613,566	14.0	0.1
Personal improvement and leisure ²	69	234	168	143.5	-28.2
Male	18	99	90	400.0	-9.1
Female	42	132	75	78.6	-43.2
Education ²	71,925	74,526	74,634	3.8	0.1
Male	17,595	17,799	17,931	1.9	0.7
Female	54,321	56,694	56,679	4.3	0.0
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies ²	32,463	37,707	37,671	16.0	-0.1
Male	11,037	12,921	12,927	17.1	0.0
Female	21,426	24,783	24,741	15.5	-0.2
Humanities ²	146,352	168,342	166,551	13.8	-1.1
Male	55,686	64,782	64,713	16.2	-0.1
Female	90,651	103,530	101,802	12.3	-1.7
Social and behavioural sciences, and law ²	149,793	187,950	189,831	26.7	1.0
Male	52,329	65,385	66,366	26.8	1.5
Female	97,461	122,556	123,462	26.7	0.7
Business, management and public administration ²	152,298	174,858	176,883	16.1	1.2
Male	68,532	82,869	84,168	22.8	1.6
Female	83,763	91,947	92,688	10.7	0.8
Physical and life sciences, and technologies ²	79,980	93,789	94,677	18.4	0.9
Male	35,460	42,201	43,227	21.9	2.4
Female	44,517	51,582	51,438	15.5	-0.3
Mathematics, computer and information sciences ²	45,765	34,011	32,442	-29.1	-4.6
Male	33,060	24,729	23,640	-28.5	-4.4
Female	12,702	9,279	8,799	-30.7	-5.2
Architecture, engineering and related technologies ²	81,096	86,238	88,164	8.7	2.2
Male	62,388	67,953	69,633	11.6	2.5
Female	18,702	18,270	18,525	-0.9	1.4
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation ²	14,592	15,630	15,975	9.5	2.2
Male	6,720	6,861	6,987	4.0	1.8
Female	7,869	8,769	8,985	14.2	2.5
Health, parks, recreation and fitness ²	85,329	108,657	112,425	31.8	3.5
Male	25,083	30,708	32,292	28.7	5.2
Female	60,243	77,904	80,109	33.0	2.8
Personal, protective and transportation services ²	1,317	2,244	2,214	68.1	-1.3
Male	882	1,287	1,296	46.9	0.7
Female	432	954	918	112.5	-3.8
Other ²	75,417	75,732	74,724	-0.9	-1.3
Male	29,277	29,349	29,319	0.1	-0.1
Female	46,122	46,320	45,348	-1.7	-2.1

^r revised

1. Enrolment figures do not include the University of Regina.

2. Includes sex unknown.

Note: Enrolment figures may not add up due to rounding to a multiple of 3.

University enrolment by province and registration status

	2002/2003 ^r	2006/2007 ^{r,1}	2007/2008 ¹	2002/2003 to 2007/2008	2006/2007 to 2007/2008
	number			% change	
Canada	936,393	1,059,912	1,066,353	13.9	0.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	16,908	17,811	17,301	2.3	-2.9
Prince Edward Island	3,561	3,999	3,837	7.8	-4.1
Nova Scotia	41,892	42,456	41,448	-1.1	-2.4
New Brunswick	24,654	23,757	23,682	-3.9	-0.3
Quebec	250,809	266,712	268,011	6.9	0.5
Ontario	362,739	441,363	446,313	23.0	1.1
Manitoba	35,172	40,119	40,302	14.6	0.5
Saskatchewan	34,254	20,604	20,607	-39.8	... ²
Alberta	83,448	94,131	94,659	13.4	0.6
British Columbia	82,959	108,960	110,190	32.8	1.1
Full-time students	677,478	790,308	796,440	17.6	0.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	13,953	14,547	14,112	1.1	-3.0
Prince Edward Island	2,952	3,372	3,177	7.6	-5.8
Nova Scotia	33,903	34,656	33,702	-0.6	-2.8
New Brunswick	19,887	19,617	19,317	-2.9	-1.5
Quebec	153,330	169,872	170,760	11.4	0.5
Ontario	277,443	357,468	360,036	29.8	0.7
Manitoba	25,233	29,271	30,813	22.1	5.3
Saskatchewan	25,923	15,729	15,735	-39.3	... ²
Alberta	62,889	67,542	68,433	8.8	1.3
British Columbia	61,965	78,231	80,349	29.7	2.7
Part-time students	258,915	269,607	269,910	4.2	0.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,952	3,264	3,186	7.9	-2.4
Prince Edward Island	609	627	660	8.4	5.3
Nova Scotia	7,992	7,803	7,743	-3.1	-0.8
New Brunswick	4,767	4,137	4,365	-8.4	5.5
Quebec	97,479	96,840	97,254	-0.2	0.4
Ontario	85,293	83,892	86,277	1.2	2.8
Manitoba	9,939	10,848	9,486	-4.6	-12.6
Saskatchewan	8,331	4,872	4,869	-41.6	... ²
Alberta	20,559	26,592	26,229	27.6	-1.4
British Columbia	20,997	30,729	29,838	42.1	-2.9

^r revised

... not applicable

1. Enrolment figures do not include the University of Regina.

2. Percentage change is not provided due to the absence of data for the University of Regina in 2006/2007 and 2007/2008.

Note: Enrolment figures may not add up due to rounding to a multiple of 3.



University degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded

2007

About 241,600 students received a degree, diploma or certificate qualification from a Canadian university in 2007, a 6.9% increase from 2006. Over 80% of the increase occurred in Ontario.

Nearly 61% of qualifications, or 146,700, were awarded to women, continuing a long-term trend in which female graduates outnumber their male counterparts and their proportion continues to increase.

At the undergraduate level, some 195,200 students received a degree, a certificate or a diploma in 2007, up 7.6% from 2006. The vast majority (90%) of the increase occurred in Ontario.

About 34,800 students received a master's level qualification in 2007, up 2.1% from 2006. Of these, 16,000 were men, unchanged from 2006, and 18,800 were women, a 3.9% increase.

Universities granted 4,800 doctorate degrees in 2007, the highest number recorded. Women accounted for 44.5% of these doctorates in 2007, up from 35.9% a decade earlier.

The number of degrees, diplomas and certificates rose in all fields of study in 2007, except two: mathematics, computer and information sciences (-9.2%) and personal improvement and leisure (-6.7%).

The five fields of study with the largest numbers of qualifications awarded accounted for nearly

three-quarters of all graduates. These are: social and behavioural sciences, and law; business, management and public administration; education; health, parks, recreation and fitness; and humanities. Among these, the largest increase in graduates occurred in social and behavioural sciences, and law (+10.9%); health, parks, recreation and fitness (+10.0%); and humanities (+7.6%).

Note: Graduate counts for certain universities are preliminary or based on estimates. Data for the University of Regina are missing since 2005 but this has no significant impact on the trend analysis at the national level presented here. For Quebec institutions, micro programs and attestations are not included. Data are subject to revision.

Available on CANSIM: table 477-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5017.

Data tables are also available from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

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University qualifications awarded by program level and gender

	2002 ^r	2006 ^{r,1}	2007 ¹	2002 to 2007	2006 to 2007
	number			% change	
Total^{2,3}	186,462	225,939	241,551	29.5	6.9
Male	75,225	89,682	94,830	26.1	5.7
Female	111,222	136,212	146,682	31.9	7.7
Undergraduate level²	152,301	181,416	195,210	28.2	7.6
Male	58,671	68,607	73,452	25.2	7.1
Female	93,615	112,776	121,728	30.0	7.9
Bachelor's, first professional and applied degree ²	134,019	161,031	175,395	30.9	8.9
Male	52,245	61,581	66,669	27.6	8.3
Female	81,771	99,426	108,696	32.9	9.3
Other undergraduate qualifications awarded ²	18,282	20,382	19,815	8.4	-2.8
Male	6,426	7,026	6,783	5.6	-3.5
Female	11,844	13,347	13,032	10.0	-2.4
Graduate level²	33,105	42,708	44,577	34.7	4.4
Male	16,062	20,286	20,694	28.8	2.0
Female	17,043	22,413	23,880	40.1	6.5
Master's degree ²	26,307	34,080	34,791	32.2	2.1
Male	12,474	16,032	16,035	28.5	0.0
Female	13,830	18,042	18,750	35.6	3.9
Earned doctorate ²	3,729	4,449	4,827	29.4	8.5
Male	2,124	2,520	2,676	26.0	6.2
Female	1,605	1,932	2,151	34.0	11.3
Other graduate qualifications awarded ²	3,069	4,179	4,962	61.7	18.7
Male	1,461	1,737	1,983	35.7	14.2
Female	1,605	2,442	2,982	85.8	22.1

^r revised

1. Qualification figures do not include the University of Regina.

2. Total includes sex unknown.

3. Includes the other program level categories.

Note: Qualification figures may not add up because of rounding to a multiple of 3.

University qualifications awarded by field of study and gender

	2002 ^r	2006 ^{r,1}	2007 ¹	2002 to 2007	2006 to 2007
	number			% change	
Total²	186,462	225,939	241,551	29.5	6.9
Male	75,225	89,682	94,830	26.1	5.7
Female	111,222	136,212	146,682	31.9	7.7
Personal improvement and leisure education ²	...	45	42	...	-6.7
Male	...	24	15	...	-37.5
Female	...	24	27	...	12.5
Education ²	23,661	26,820	27,420	15.9	2.2
Male	5,781	6,438	6,468	11.9	0.5
Female	17,868	20,361	20,943	17.2	2.9
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies ²	6,324	8,190	8,727	38.0	6.6
Male	2,175	2,595	2,850	31.0	9.8
Female	4,149	5,592	5,877	41.6	5.1
Humanities ²	20,913	25,302	27,222	30.2	7.6
Male	7,173	8,829	9,606	33.9	8.8
Female	13,743	16,470	17,613	28.2	6.9
Social and behavioural sciences, and law ²	37,008	45,543	50,529	36.5	10.9
Male	12,675	15,207	16,395	29.3	7.8
Female	24,333	30,333	34,134	40.3	12.5
Business, management and public administration ²	37,578	45,771	48,705	29.6	6.4
Male	16,755	20,922	22,926	36.8	9.6
Female	20,823	24,846	25,767	23.7	3.7
Physical and life sciences, and technologies ²	14,088	16,935	18,726	32.9	10.6
Male	5,988	7,035	7,641	27.6	8.6
Female	8,100	9,900	11,085	36.9	12.0
Mathematics, computer and information sciences ²	9,978	9,414	8,547	-14.3	-9.2
Male	6,867	6,588	5,988	-12.8	-9.1
Female	3,111	2,826	2,553	-17.9	-9.7
Architecture, engineering and related technologies ²	14,754	18,528	19,434	31.7	4.9
Male	11,148	14,286	14,799	32.8	3.6
Female	3,609	4,242	4,632	28.3	9.2
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation ²	3,660	3,594	3,864	5.6	7.5
Male	1,731	1,557	1,629	-5.9	4.6
Female	1,926	2,037	2,238	16.2	9.9
Health, parks, recreation and fitness ²	17,322	23,850	26,226	51.4	10.0
Male	4,470	5,475	5,772	29.1	5.4
Female	12,852	18,375	20,451	59.1	11.3
Personal, protective and transportation services ²	270	474	480	77.8	1.3
Male	219	282	255	16.4	-9.6
Female	54	192	228	322.2	18.8
Other ²	900	1,473	1,629	81.0	10.6
Male	240	447	489	103.8	9.4
Female	657	1,020	1,140	73.5	11.8

^r revised

... not applicable

1. Qualification figures do not include the University of Regina.

2. Total includes sex unknown.

Note: Qualification figures may not add up because of rounding to a multiple of 3.



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