

ISSUE 01

YOUTH IN CANADA: A PROFILE



How young is Canada?



At just a little above the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) average for 15 to 29 year olds which is 18.8% of total population, Canada is amongst the younger OECD countries.

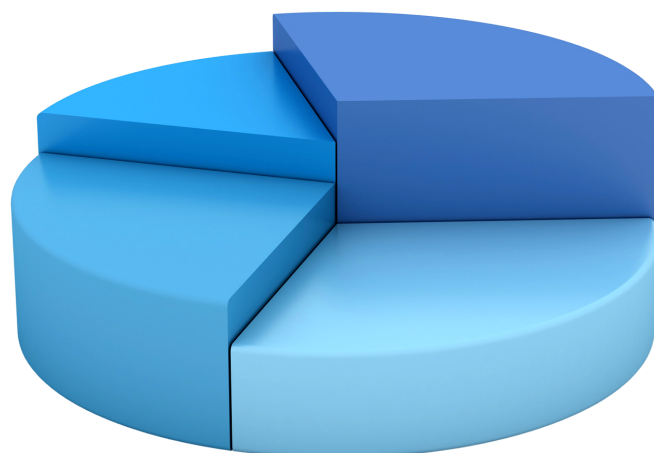
Youth, 15-29 year olds as a percentage of total population. Canada and other OECD countries in 2018.

Rank	Country	Percentage share of 15 to 29 year olds
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1.	Colombia	26
2.	Mexico	26
3.	Turkey	24
4.	Chile	23
5.	Iceland	22
6.	Israel	22
7.	New Zealand	22
8.	Australia	20
9.	Norway	20
10.	United States	20
11.	Canada	19
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32.	Latvia	16
33.	Portugal	16
34.	Italy	15
35.	Japan	15
36.	Slovenia	15
37.	Spain	15

The data presented here are the most recent that are publicly available.

Many represent long –run trends that do not change much over time, like population shares.



Source: OECD databases

How did Canada fare with educating and employing youth compared to other OECD countries before the pandemic?

Canada's performance with respect to youth education compared to other OECD countries.

Rank	Country	% of 15-29 Olds in Post-Secondary Education (All Types)	
1.	Luxembourg	57	
2.	Netherlands	56	
3.	Denmark	55	
4.	Finland	55	
5.	Greece	55	
6.	Germany	54	
7.	Sweden	53	
8.	Slovenia	53	
9.	Spain	51	
10.	Ireland	50	
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26.	United States	44	
27.	Canada	43	
28.	Slovak Republic	43	
29.	Poland	42	
30.	Hungary	42	
31.	Turkey	41	
32.	Mexico	38	
33.	New Zealand	37	
34.	United Kingdom	36	
35.	Colombia	33	

Canada has a lower-than-average share of her 15-29 year olds in post-secondary education compared to other OECD countries. The average rate is 47%; Canada has a share that is 4 percentage points lower than average. Moreover, Canada lies at the 27th position out of 35 OECD countries. 2019 Figures. These Post-Secondary Education (PSE) categories include the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) groups:

- a) Upper Secondary Education (Advanced Placement Education Bridge for College/University Education)
- b) Non-Tertiary Education (Programs for direct labour market access)
- c) Tertiary Education

Source: OECD databases

Canada's performance with respect to Youth Employment Compared to other OECD countries

Rank	Country	% of Employed 15-29 Year Olds
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1.	Iceland	77
2.	Netherlands	72
3.	Switzerland	70
4.	Australia	68
5.	United Kingdom	66
6.	New Zealand	66
7.	Canada	63
8.	Austria	62
9.	Norway	60

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29.	France	44
30.	Belgium	44
31.	Chile	43
32.	Turkey	42
33.	Spain	37
34.	Italy	31
35.	Greece	30

With respect to youth employment, Canada is amongst the better off countries, ranking 7th out of 35.

The average for OECD countries is 53%-Canada lies 10 points higher than average amongst the 35 OECD countries

2019 Figures

Source: OECD databases

What type of post-secondary education are Canadian youth in?

College vs. University?

2019 Percentage of Canadian youth in...

	Under 20 years	20-24 years	24-29 years
Elementary / High School	59	1	0
College	12	12	4
Apprenticeship Programs	0.3	1.3	1.3
University	13	29	7
Total: Youth in Education	84	42	11

Source: Post-Secondary Student Information System, Statistics Canada

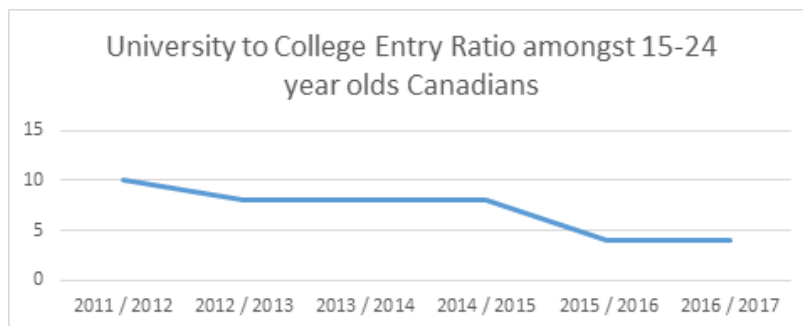
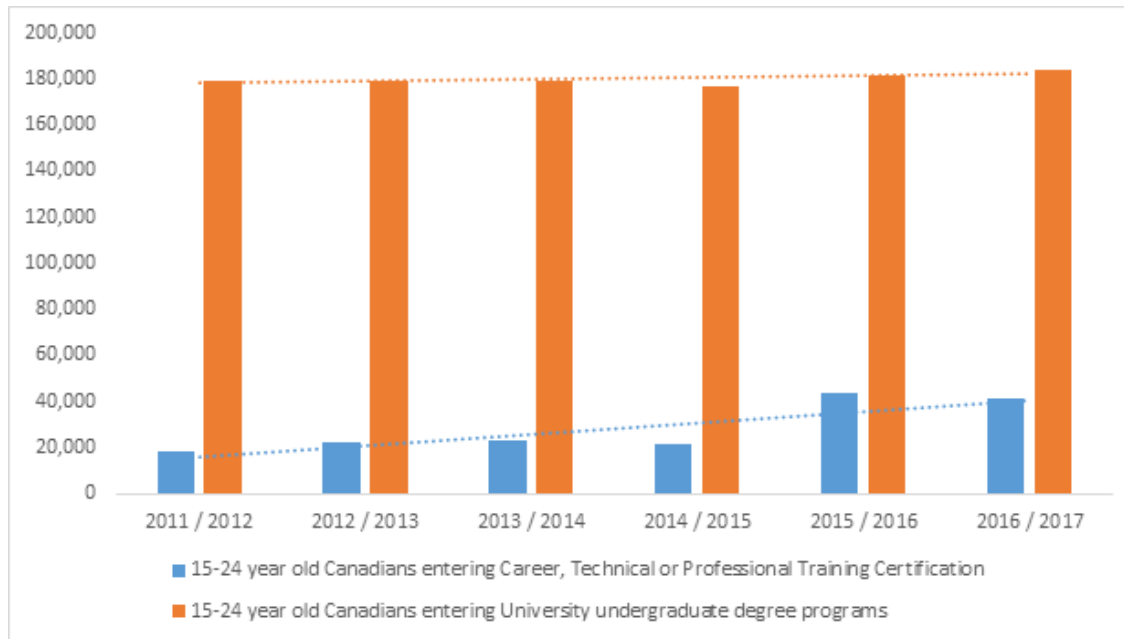
The 84% includes 15-19-year-olds who are in higher secondary education (high school).

The core PSE acquisition age for Canadian youth is between ages 20 to 24. We also see that university degree programs are preferred over college. Although apprenticeships remain remarkably low they appear to be more prevalent with highest youth age bracket: 25-29 year olds.

The 84% share for 15-19 year olds indicate that there is not only the completion of higher secondary education by the age of 19, but that there is attrition as well. High school drop-out rates go from 2.1% between 15 and 16 year olds (grade 10 to 11) to 18% between 16 to 17 year olds (grades 11 to 12). These are the youth who do not complete high school or higher secondary education.

How has demand for post-secondary education changed amongst Canadian youth?

Annual Entry into Post-Secondary Educational Institutions
by 15-29-year-old Canadians



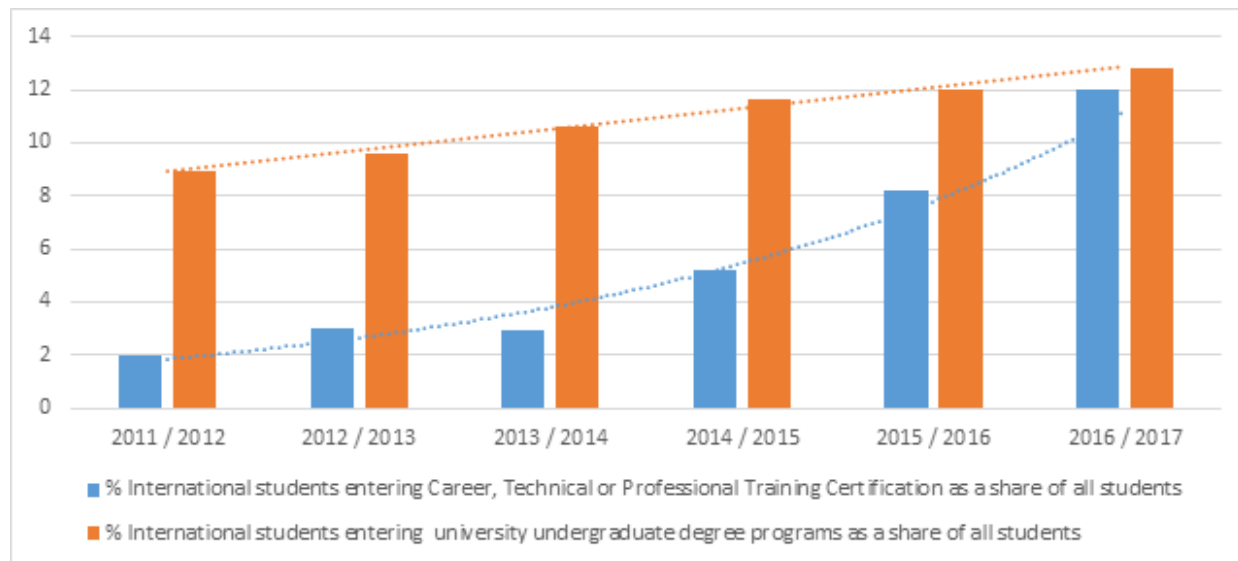
Source:
Post-Secondary Student
Information System,
Statistics Canada

Entry into university undergraduate programs holds steady, while entry into colleges and training institute programs have been trending upwards. Every year, around 180,000 15-24 year olds enter university degree programs.

In 2011-12 University entry was 10 times that of entry into Career/Technical or Professional Training Certification programs. By 2016-17, entry into undergraduate degree programs fell to 4 times the entry into colleges and training institutes.



International Students Entering into Post-Secondary Institutions in Canada



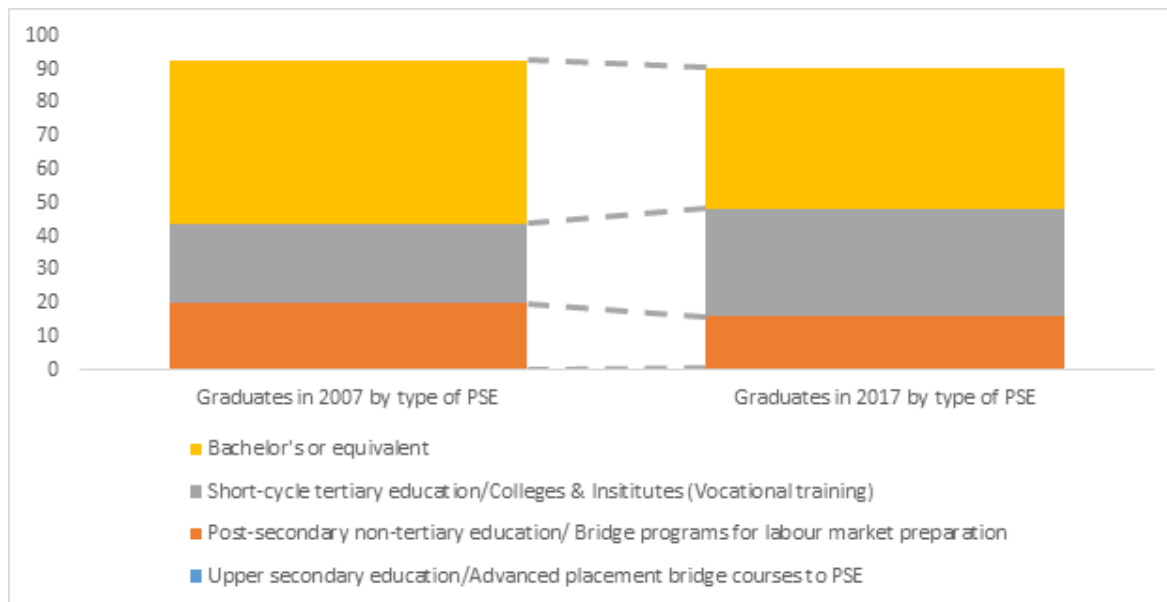
Source: Post-Secondary Student Information System, Statistics Canada

The presence of International students in career colleges and institutes has significantly increased over 2011 to 2017 relative to university enrollments.

Canada's colleges and institutes are increasingly seen as an education destination for overseas youth.

How many Canadian youth finish post-secondary education?

Changes to Educational Attainment of 15 to 29 year olds in Canada by type of Post-Secondary Education Categories in percentage shares



Source: Post-Secondary Student Information System, Statistics Canada

The graduation rates of 15-29 year olds in Canada have increased since 2007 in short-cycle tertiary education geared towards vocational training, while university graduation rates fell since 2007. Notably, bridge programs that prepared youth specifically for labour market entry appear to be subsumed into college & vocational training programs since 2007.



What are the most popular areas of study for Canadian youth?

Contrasting Graduation by Field of Study in Short-Cycle PSE's and Universities for 20 to 24 year olds.

	Short-cycle tertiary education % graduates		Bachelors or equivalent % graduates	
	2007	2017	2007	2017
PERSONAL IMPROVEMENT AND LEISURE	0	0	0	0
EDUCATION	2	1	10	7
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES	7	5	4	4
HUMANITIES	5	6	12	7
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES AND LAW	13	10	23	22
BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	30	29	18	22
PHYSICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES	1	2	10	10
MATHEMATICS, COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES	3	4	3	4
ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES	15	18	8	10
AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION	2	2	1	2
HEALTH AND RELATED FIELDS	14	15	10	12
PERSONAL, PROTECTIVE AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	7	6	0	1
OTHER	0	0	0	1
UNCLASSIFIED	0	3	0	0

Source: Post-Secondary Student Information System, Statistics Canada

Business, management and public administration programs are the most popular in both short-cycle (college & institution provided diplomas) and university undergraduate programs in 2017. There appears to have been a move away from social and behavioural sciences and humanities in terms of fields of attainment and a move towards business, management and public administration fields between 2007 and 2017.

What are the largest employing industries for youth?

The largest Youth Employing industries (15-29 years) in 2019 in terms of percentage of industry employment and over time.

Rank 2019	NAICS 2 – Dlgit Industries	2000	2010	2019
1	Accommodation and Food Services	42	49	53
2	Retail Trade	31	36	37
3	Information, Culture and Recreation	23	25	26
4	Construction	12	21	19
5	Business, Building and other Support services	19	19	17
6	Health Care and Social Assistance	8	11	13
7	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	9	9	12
8	Educational Services	8	9	12
9	Other Services (except Public Administration)	16	15	12
10	Agriculture	16	11	10
11	Transportation and Warehousing	8	6	10
12	Finance and Insurance	8	10	9
13	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	14	11	9
14	Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas	10	10	8
15	Wholesale Trade	11	9	8
16	Public Administration	7	7	7
17	Utilities	3	5	6
18	Manufacturing	12	6	6

Source: Labour Force Survey, Seasonally adjusted, Statistics Canada

Except for the fifth largest youth employer in Business, building and other support services, the largest youth employing industries in 2019 were the largest employers over the past 20 years. Significantly, a majority of the accommodation and food services employees are youth! The decline in manufacturing employment is notable.