

4 Students

Ontario's public colleges provide up-to-date education and training to an estimated 500,000 individuals each year. Students and learners from all demographic and socioeconomic backgrounds are welcomed into a system that works to meet the needs of every individual.

This section provides a comprehensive profile of college applicants, students, apprentices, and graduates. The available data are presented for many variables including age, income, first language and educational background. Information is also included on the outcomes of college graduates including employment status, earnings and the pursuit of further education.

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1.0 Highlights

The following are details of Ontario college applicants, students, apprentices and graduates:

- Each year, approximately 500,000 students and clients are served by Ontario's Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAATs). Of these, approximately 200,000 are full-time students and almost 300,000 are continuing education (or part-time students)
- In 2007-08, total funded full-time equivalent (FTE) postsecondary enrolment in the colleges was 185,929 (including funded full-time, part-time and tuition short programs)
- Colleges deliver approximately 85 per cent of the apprenticeship "in-school" training
- There were 60,406 postsecondary graduates of Ontario colleges in 2006-07

Applicants

- The average age of applicants was 23 years; the average age of non-direct applicants (i.e., applicants not directly from secondary school) was 25.2 and of direct applicants was 19.7
- Seventeen per cent of surveyed college applicants in 2008 were not born in Canada; 26 per cent of these individuals came to Canada from 2001 to 2004, while 20 per cent have arrived since 2005
- Thirty-six per cent of college applicants were 'first-generation students' (neither parent had a postsecondary education credential)

Students

- More than one-third of college students have previous postsecondary education, 19 per cent of whom previously attained a college or university credential (10 per cent college, nine per cent university)
- The first language for 79 per cent of college students was English; five per cent was French, and 16 per cent was other

- Twelve per cent of Ontario college students indicated use of "Special Needs/Disability Services" and half of these reported high usage

- Female continuing education students outnumber male continuing education students: 66 per cent are female; 34 per cent are male

Graduates

- More than two-thirds of graduates were 25 years of age or under; 16 per cent were over 30 years of age
- More than 90 per cent of graduates in the labour force were working six months after graduation
- Twenty-seven per cent of 2006-07 graduates had resumed full- or part-time studies within six months of graduation
- Nine per cent of graduates enrolled in university and 16 per cent enrolled in college. Of those returning to a college, 82 per cent returned to their college of graduation
- The latest Statistics Canada data show that 87 per cent of the Ontario population between 25 and 44 years with a diploma or certificate were employed versus 86 per cent of bachelor's degree graduates.

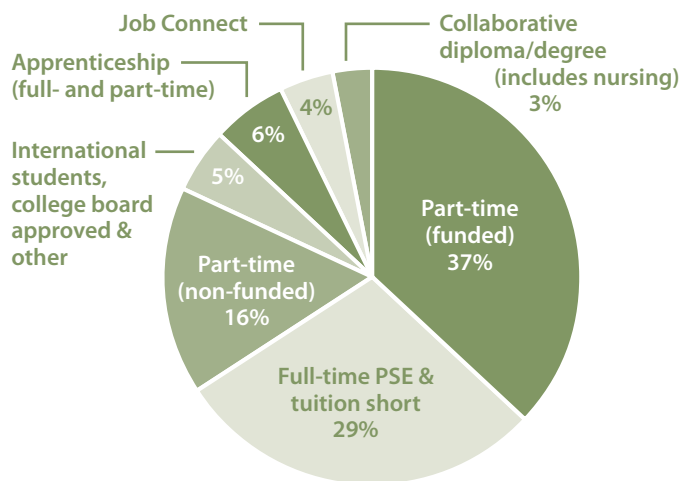
2.0 Learners and learner profiles

Learners at Ontario colleges comprise a diverse population. In addition to traditional postsecondary education, colleges offer many other types of programs and courses. Examples include apprenticeship training, continuing education courses, collaborative programs with universities, and literacy and basic skills programs. In total, it is estimated that colleges serve 500,000 individuals annually, including approximately 200,000 full-time students and 300,000 part-time students and clients (Figure 1).

The following sections include profiles of the applicants, students (including apprentices and continuing education students) and graduates of Ontario's Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAATs). A primary data source for this information was Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges

and Universities (MTCU). Data on college applicants were obtained through application materials from the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) and responses to survey questions were obtained from the annual Applicant Survey (Academica Group Inc.). Student demographic and opinion data were largely obtained from OCAS enrolment reports and from the 2007-08 Student Satisfaction Survey (MTCU), an in-class survey of all funded students beyond first semester. The Graduate Satisfaction Survey (MTCU) provided data for college graduates six months after graduation, and the various Continuing Education Surveys (CCI Research Inc.) also provided relevant information. Where applicable, comparison data on the general population of Ontario or Canada from Statistics Canada were included.

Figure 1
Distribution of learners/clients served by Ontario's colleges



Sources: MTCU; OCAS; JobConnect; Continuing Education Surveys.

2.1 Numbers of Ontario college applicants, students and graduates

College applicants

There were 164,604 distinct applicants for the 2007-08 academic year, which includes new intakes for the fall, winter and spring semesters. This represents an increase of more than five per cent over the previous year. The latest available data are for the fall 2008 semester, for which there were 150,250 distinct applicants – a further increase of four per cent over fall 2007.

The majority of college applicants continue to come from outside secondary school, with only about 40 per cent

applying directly from high school. This proportion has remained relatively stable over recent years (Table 1). As expected, Ontario's double-cohort students account for the higher levels of applicants surrounding the 2003-04 academic year.

Table 1
Per cent of CAAT applicants* direct from secondary school versus non direct by year

Year	Direct		Non-direct		Total
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	
2002-03	64,761	40.4%	95,681	59.6%	160,442
2003-04	68,762	41.2%	98,082	58.8%	166,844
2004-05	61,389	38.6%	97,663	61.4%	159,052
2005-06	60,289	38.9%	94,596	61.1%	154,885
2006-07	60,225	38.6%	95,743	61.4%	155,968
2007-08	64,952	39.5%	99,652	60.5%	164,604

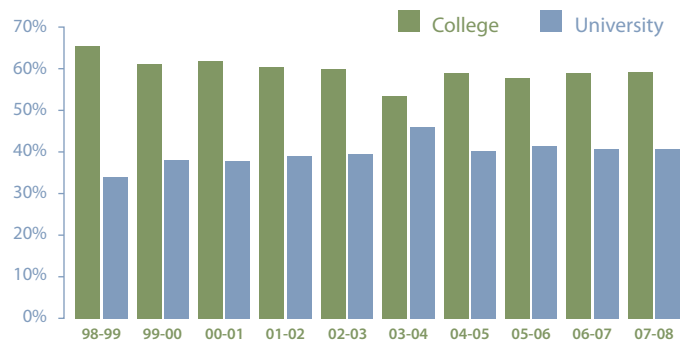
*Distinct applicants for fall/winter/spring
Direct = applicants applying directly from high school (for OCAS applicant data, this category includes school board-run adult day schools)
Non-direct = applicants not applying directly from high school
Source: OCAS. Note that due to improvements in the OCAS data warehouse, historical applicant data may differ from those reported in previous Scans.

College students

New entrants

Almost 60 per cent of new entrants to postsecondary education (PSE) in Ontario enrol at a college (Figure 2). Although this percentage has varied over the last 10 years (particularly in the year of the double cohort), colleges consistently enrol a majority of the new entrants to PSE in Ontario.

Figure 2
Estimated per cent of PSE entrants by sector for Ontario



College data include MTCU head counts for fall and summer entrants, new apprenticeship starts, and OCAS winter new registrants (excluding post-diploma); College data for 2007-08 were estimated using the per cent change from fall 2006 to 2007 as indicated by OCAS data. University data include MTCU head counts for fall entrants.

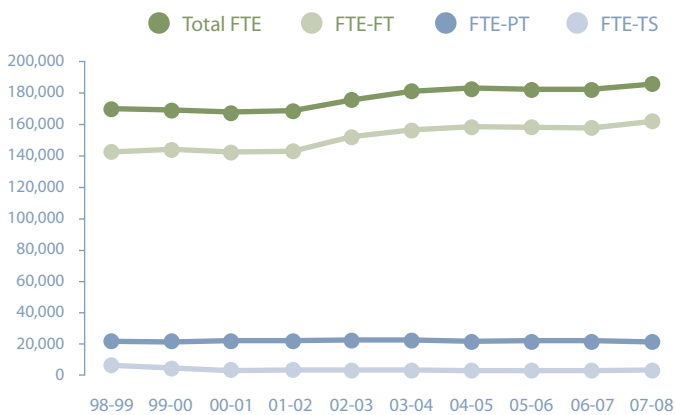
Sources: MTCU; OCAS.

Postsecondary funded enrolment

From 1998 to 2007, postsecondary funded college enrolment, measured as full-time equivalent (FTE), increased by 10 per cent. This includes funded enrolment for full-time, part-time and tuition-short programs (Figure 3; Appendix 1). In 2007-08, total funded FTE enrolment was 185,929. Of course, it should be noted that these funded students do not comprise the total college population.

Figure 3

Funded college enrolment as FTE* from 1998-99 to 2007-08



* FTE = full-time equivalent; FT = full time; PT = part time; TS = tuition short (typically, these programs are less than 52 weeks in duration)

Source: MTCU.

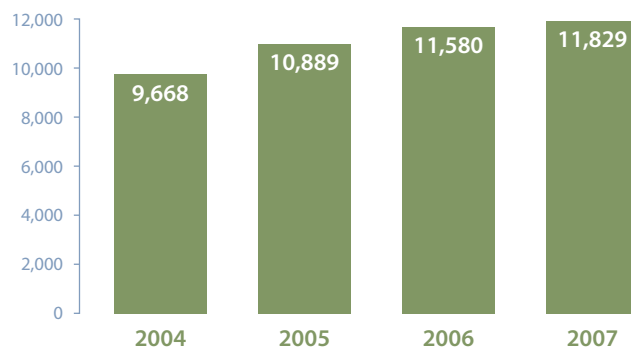
Collaborative nursing students

Collaborative nursing programs are offered through college-university partnerships; although individual models vary, nursing students typically complete courses at both the college and university campuses. Students in these nursing programs are counted separately from the postsecondary funded FTEs and enrolment numbers are reported either through the college or the university.

In 2007-08, there were 11,829 students enrolled in collaborative nursing programs in Ontario, including students reported by both the college and university partners (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Ontario college-university collaborative nursing programs: total fall enrolment* by year



* Includes full- and part-time students reported either through the colleges or the universities

Source: MTCU.

International students

International student enrolment continues to show year-by-year increases, with at least 8,025 international students enrolled in fall 2008. This represents a 15 per cent increase over the previous year (Table 2).

Similar to previous years, the majority of international students were enrolled in business programs (55 per cent), followed by applied arts (21 per cent), technology (20 per cent) and health programs (four per cent). As expected, the distribution of these students was not even across the province. Seventy-one per cent of international students were enrolled in colleges in the central region of Ontario, 18 per cent in western, nine per cent in eastern, and two per cent in colleges in the northern region.

College graduates

There were 60,406 graduates of Ontario colleges in 2006-07. At each college, a majority of graduates completed their programs in the winter semester (Table 3).

Over the last 10 years, the number of college graduates has tended to increase year over year and in line with that trend,

Table 2

International student full-time enrolment by year

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
International full-time	2,088	2,777	3,707	4,685	5,855	6,193	6,172	6,722	6,958	8,025

Source: OCAS enrolment cube, November enrolment count. Note that not all international student enrolments are reported to OCAS.

this year has shown a two per cent increase over last year (Figure 5).

Table 3

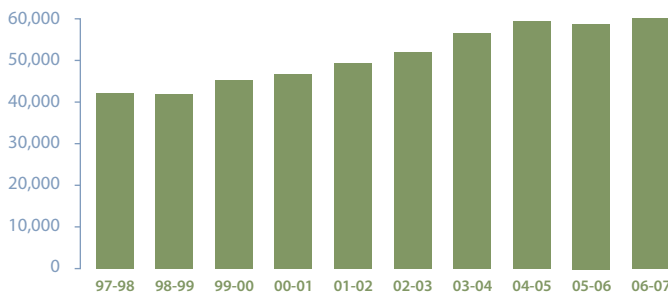
Number of graduates by college and semester of graduation, 2006-07

College	Summer 2006	Fall 2006	Winter 2007	Total
Algonquin College	836	344	3,371	4,551
Collège Boréal	126	75	351	552
Cambrian College	340	60	1,307	1,707
Canadore College	221	24	896	1,141
Centennial College	346	518	2,164	3,028
Conestoga College	284	335	1,365	1,984
Confederation College	136	50	964	1,150
Durham College	333	17	1,656	2,006
Fanshawe College	999	532	3,081	4,612
Fleming College	358	279	1,605	2,242
George Brown College	1,201	638	3,388	5,227
Georgian College	1,002	232	1,050	2,284
Humber College	937	638	3,850	5,425
La Cité collégiale	256	50	934	1,240
Lambton College	161	41	673	875
Loyalist College	63	57	1,088	1,208
Mohawk College	681	382	2,051	3,114
Niagara College	423	134	1,896	2,453
Northern College	104	30	392	526
Sault College	245	32	428	705
Seneca College	1,308	952	3,069	5,329
Sheridan College	878	584	3,505	4,967
St. Clair College	542	21	1,678	2,241
St. Lawrence College	525	65	1,249	1,839
Total	12,305	6,090	42,011	60,406

Source: MTCU. Note that these totals exclude the graduates of collaborative nursing programs.

Figure 5

Ontario college graduates 1997-98 to 2006-07



Source: MTCU.

2.2 Learner demographics

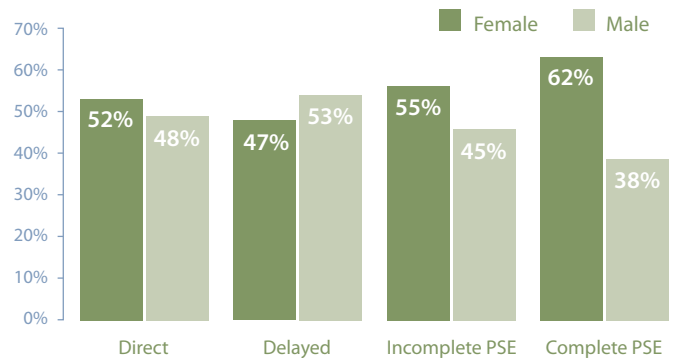
Gender

The most recent college proportions for gender show that females outnumber males in Ontario's colleges. The margin of difference was larger for applicants (54 per cent female versus 46 per cent male) and graduates (57 per cent female versus 43 per cent male) than for students (53 per cent female versus 47 per cent male). In comparison, the most recent data reported for Ontario universities show that 58 per cent of undergraduate students were female and 42 per cent were male.

For college students, the gender differential varies according to the age and educational backgrounds of the students. For example, the proportion of females is only slightly higher than males for students coming directly from secondary school (Figure 6), but shows a greater differential for non-direct entrants. This is a broad category that includes several sub-types: individuals with previous PSE experience – either incomplete (some college or university experience) or complete (attainment of a diploma or degree) – as well as delayed entrants (no prior PSE experience, but did not enter directly from secondary school). It is for this latter group only that the number of males outnumbered that of females (53 per cent to 47 per cent).

Figure 6

Gender distribution of college students by entrant type



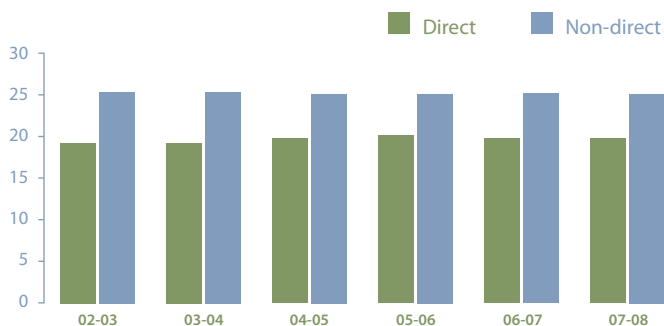
Sources: 2007-08 Student Satisfaction Survey; Colleges Ontario Non-Direct Entrant Report.

Age

The average age of applicants has held steady over time at approximately 23 years; last year, the average age of non-direct applicants was 25.2 and that of applicants direct from secondary school was 19.7 (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Average age of applicants (direct versus non-direct)



Data include all applicants with known age between 17 and 75 years as of Dec. 31 in the application cycle.

Source: OCAS.

College applicants span a wide age range and this age distribution pattern has remained fairly consistent over recent years (Table 4). As in previous years, although the majority of 2007-08 applicants were younger than 25 years (71 per cent in 2007-08), approximately 20 per cent were over age 30.

Table 4

Age distribution* of CAAT applicants

Age	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Less than 21	43.3%	43.9%	41.3%	40.9%	41.3%	41.6%
21 - 25	27.1%	26.5%	28.3%	29.4%	28.8%	28.9%
26 - 30	9.6%	9.5%	9.7%	10.1%	10.0%	9.9%
31 - 35	6.7%	6.9%	6.9%	6.4%	6.2%	6.0%
36 - 40	5.7%	5.5%	5.8%	5.2%	5.3%	5.1%
over 40	7.6%	7.7%	8.0%	8.0%	8.4%	8.5%

*Percentages calculated for all applicants with known age between 17 and 75 years as of Dec. 31st in the application cycle.

Source: OCAS. Note that due to improvements in the OCAS data warehouse, historical applicant data may differ from those reported in previous Scans.

As for the ages of students, 44 per cent of students in 2007-08 were under 21 years of age, and 10 per cent were over age 30 (Figure 8).

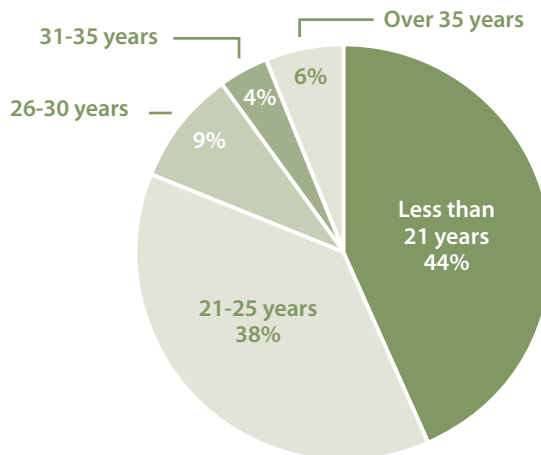
Looking at graduates, the age distribution pattern of graduates is shifted several years older than that of students. For the 2006-07 graduating class, the average age was 25.5 years; 70 per cent of these graduates were 25 years or younger, and 16 per cent were over age 30 (Figure 9).

Total household income of Ontario college applicants

College students represent the full range of socioeconomic

Figure 8

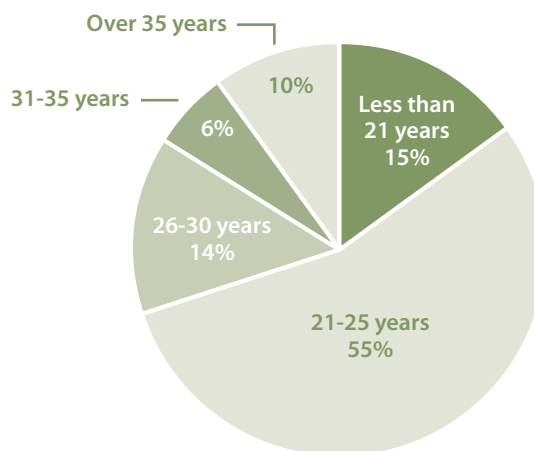
Age distribution of college students



Source: 2007-08 Student Satisfaction Survey.

Figure 9

Age distribution of college graduates



Source: 2006-07 Graduate Satisfaction Survey. Age was calculated using birth year and graduation year.

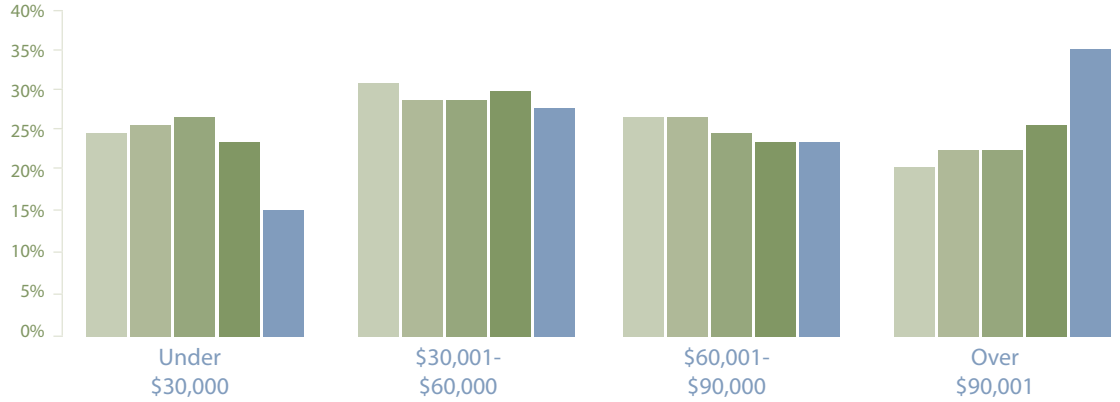
backgrounds, but a significant percentage of those who apply to college come from lower income families. For example, 23 per cent of surveyed applicants in 2008 reported a household income of less than \$30,000 and 52 per cent had incomes below \$60,000. This per cent distribution has been relatively consistent over recent years (Figure 10).

2.3 Parental education

Parental education is considered to be a key indicator of socioeconomic status. The term “first-generation students” has been developed to indicate those individuals whose parents have not attained a PSE credential. Statistics Canada

Figure 10

Per cent of Ontario college applicants by household income quartile



	Under \$30,000	\$30,001-\$60,000	\$60,001-\$90,000	Over \$90,001
2004 college applicants	24%	30%	26%	20%
2005 college applicants	25%	28%	26%	22%
2006 college applicants	26%	28%	24%	22%
2008 college applicants	23%	29%	23%	25%
Ontario population*	15%	27%	23%	34%

*Statistics Canada, Census 2006 (topic-based tabulation = Ontario, total income, census family).

Source: Applicant Surveys, Academica Group Inc. (note that approximately one-fifth of respondents did not know their household incomes). Household income data are not available in a directly comparable format for 2007.

data have shown that children of parents with no PSE are twice as likely to attend college than to attend university:

- In 2008, 36 per cent of Ontario college applicants were first-generation students
- The 2007 data for Ontario college applicants showed that, relative to a comparative age group in Ontario (general population aged 45 to 64), parents of those who applied to college were slightly more likely to have completed high school. In contrast, parents of applicants were less likely to have attained a PSE credential (i.e., 43 per cent of mothers and 44 per cent of fathers versus 60 per cent of men and 53 per cent of women aged 45 to 64 years).

2.4 Work and education status at the time of application

Applicants to college have a diverse background; more than half of surveyed applicants did not come directly from high school, but have come from the labour force, college or university, or have been balancing work and education (Figure 11):

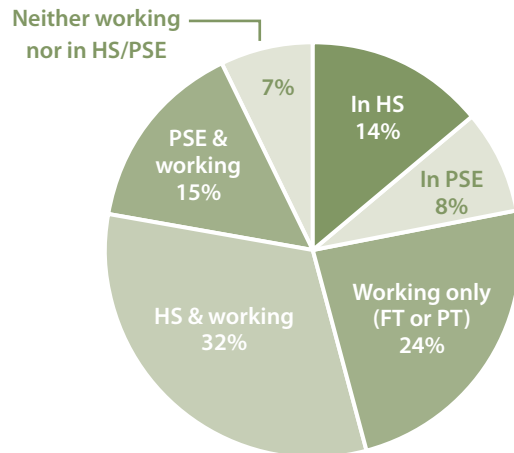
- Seventy-one per cent of all applicants were working at the

time of the college applicant survey (March - May 2008); 25 per cent full time, 46 per cent part time

- Sixty-nine per cent had been in high school or PSE in the previous 12 months; 23 per cent attended college or university.

Figure 11

Current activity* of college applicants



* Applicants for the fall 2008 semester; surveyed March - May 2008. Note that an additional seven per cent of applicants indicated that they had attended continuing education course(s) in the last year.

Source: 2008 UCAS, Academica Group Inc.

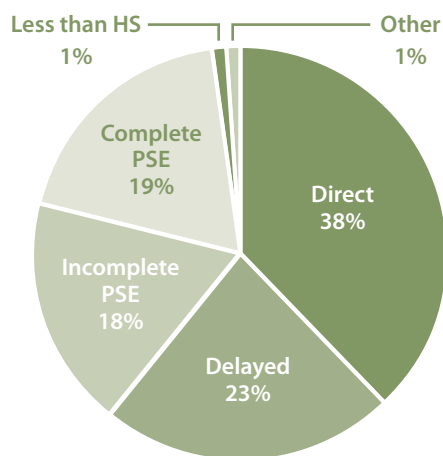
2.5 Level of education

Multiple pathways through the postsecondary education system are evident. Data collected from college applicants, students and graduates demonstrate that more than one-third of learners have previous PSE experience before they go to college, which may include a combination of some college or university credits, a complete diploma, or a complete degree:

- In 2008, 35 per cent of applicants had previous postsecondary experience
- Similarly, 37 per cent of 2007-08 students had previous postsecondary education (Figure 12), 19 per cent of whom previously completed a college or university credential (10 per cent college, nine per cent university). Only 38 per cent of college students came directly from high school and an additional 23 per cent were delayed entrants (i.e. no prior PSE experience, but did not come directly from high school).

Figure 12

Pathways to college



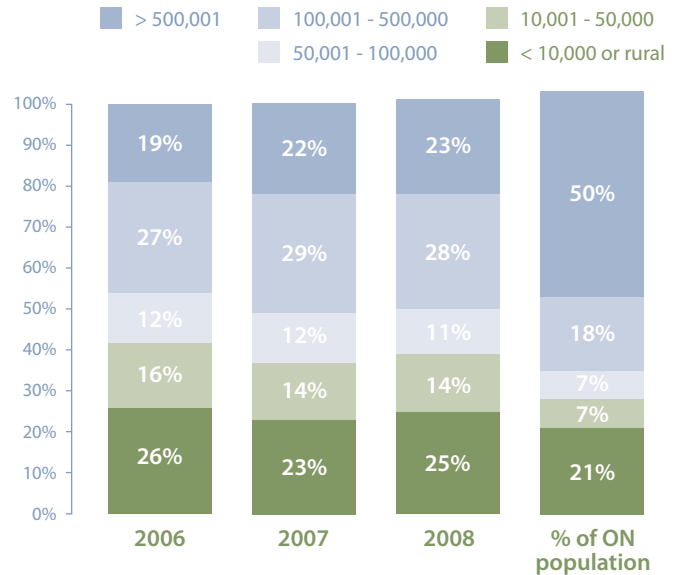
Sources: 2007-08 Student Satisfaction Survey; Colleges Ontario Non-Direct Entrant Report.

2.6 Population of applicant communities

Applicants to Ontario's colleges traditionally come from smaller communities than the Ontario population as a whole. In 2008, 39 per cent of applicants came from communities of fewer than 50,000 people. For comparison, only 28 per cent of the Ontario population lives in communities of this size, based on the latest available census data (Figure 13).

Figure 13

Approximate population of applicant community



Source: Applicant Surveys, Academica Group Inc.

2.7 First language

In 2007-08, 79 per cent of both applicants and students reported English as their first language, while five per cent reported French, and 16 per cent chose "other":

- In the Metro Toronto colleges, 29 per cent of students had a first language that was neither French nor English
- In Ontario's two francophone colleges, 88 per cent of students declared French as their first language.

2.8 Immigrant status

Similar to previous years, a substantial portion of applicants were immigrants to Canada. In 2008, 17 per cent of surveyed college applicants were not born in Canada. For context, the 2006 census showed that 19 per cent of 15- to 24-year-old Ontarians were not born in Canada (31 per cent for the population aged 25 to 44).

Many of these applicants were recent immigrants to Canada; 26 per cent came to Canada from 2001 to 2004, and a further 20 per cent have come to Canada since 2005.

Immigrant applicants were more likely than Canadian-born applicants to have a university degree (18 per cent versus 10 per cent), to report a household income under \$30,000

(40 per cent versus 22 per cent for non-immigrants), and to be older (20 per cent were over 30 years of age versus six per cent of non-immigrants).

The reasons for applying to college were somewhat different between immigrants and non-immigrants. When asked their main reason for applying to college, immigrants were more likely to cite career advancement (17 per cent versus 12 per cent) and preparing for university (14 per cent versus eight per cent) and less likely to cite preparing for employment (30 per cent versus 43 per cent) as compared to non-immigrants.

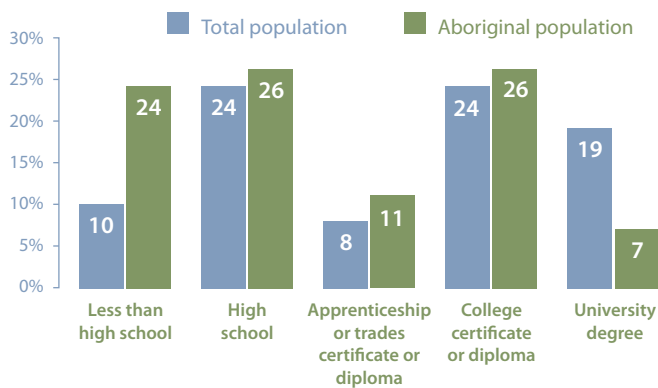
2.9 Aboriginal status

Educational attainment rates differ between aboriginal and non-aboriginal individuals, both at the provincial and national levels. For example, aboriginal individuals are less likely to complete high school and much less likely to complete university than the non-aboriginal population. In contrast, rates of college attendance and attainment are similar or higher for those of aboriginal identity than for non-aboriginal individuals.

The 2006 census provides the most recent data on educational attainment of Aboriginal Peoples. In Ontario, 24 per cent of the aboriginal population aged 25 to 44 had not completed high school, compared to the population average of 10 per cent (Figure 14). The aboriginal population was more likely than the general population to have completed a trade or college certificate, and much less likely to have completed a university degree.

Figure 14

Educational attainment of the total Ontario population and the aboriginal population

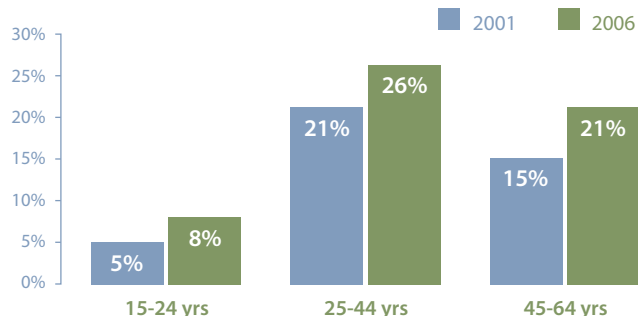


Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada.

Census data also show that from 2001 to 2006, there has been a significant increase in college attainment within the Ontario aboriginal population (Figure 15).

Figure 15

Per cent of the aboriginal population of Ontario with a college certificate or diploma

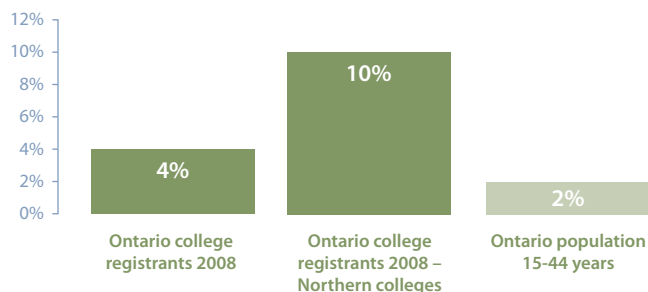


Source: Census 2001; 2006, Statistics Canada.

According to the latest available data, a higher proportion of college registrants self-identify as aboriginal persons as compared to the Ontario population (Figure 16). The 2006 census showed that two per cent of the Ontario population aged 15 to 44 self-identified as an aboriginal individual. The proportion of aboriginal registrants was significantly higher for colleges in northern Ontario.

Figure 16

Proportion of registrants of aboriginal identity



Sources: 2008 Applicant Survey matched to OCAS registrants; Census 2006, Statistics Canada.

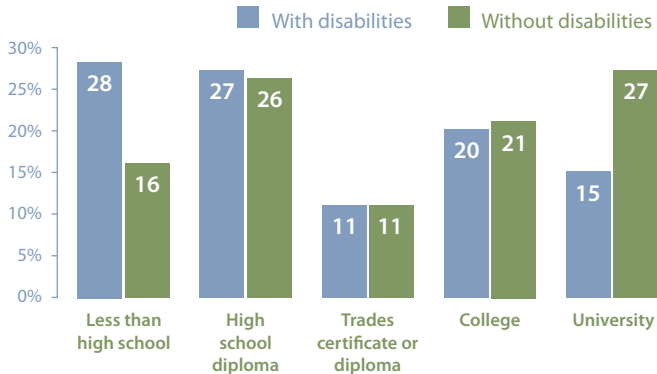
On a national basis, the most recent surveys show that nine per cent of Canadian college students self-identified as aboriginal, compared with just three per cent of surveyed undergraduate university students (Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium, 2008; Canadian College Student Survey 2006).

2.10 Disabilities

The most recent data from Statistics Canada on educational attainment of Ontarians with disabilities show that these individuals are much less likely to complete high school, and also much less likely to attain a university credential than individuals without disabilities (Figure 17). In contrast, individuals with disabilities are as likely as those without disabilities to attain a trade or college credential.

Figure 17

Educational attainment of the Ontario population with and without disabilities, age 25 - 54 years



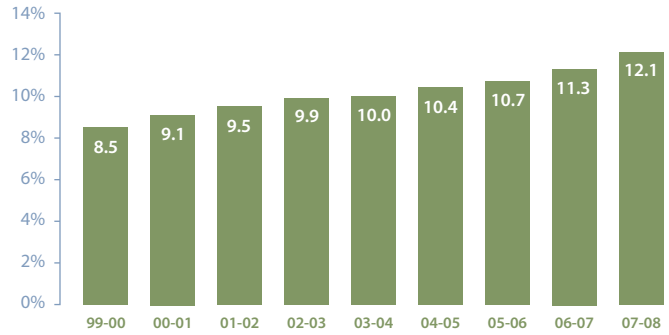
Source: Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2001, Statistics Canada.

The following data on college applicants and students with disabilities were derived primarily from self-report measures, and thus these data represent those individuals who chose to either identify themselves as disabled or to report use of disability services:

- In 2008, seven per cent of surveyed applicants indicated they had a disability. About half reported a disability of a learning nature (50 per cent), 16 per cent psychiatric, 13 per cent mobility, 11 per cent medical, and 10 per cent sensory
- In 2007-08, 12 per cent of Ontario college students indicated use of "Special Needs/Disability Services" - half of whom self-reported high usage. The number of students reporting use of these services at their colleges has increased by more than 40 per cent over the last eight years (Figure 18)
- In terms of demographics, students reporting the use of these services were more likely to be older (24 per cent of those students over age 35 years), male (53 per cent) and reporting a first language other than English or French (22 per cent)

Figure 18

Per cent of college students self-reporting the use of special needs/disability services by year

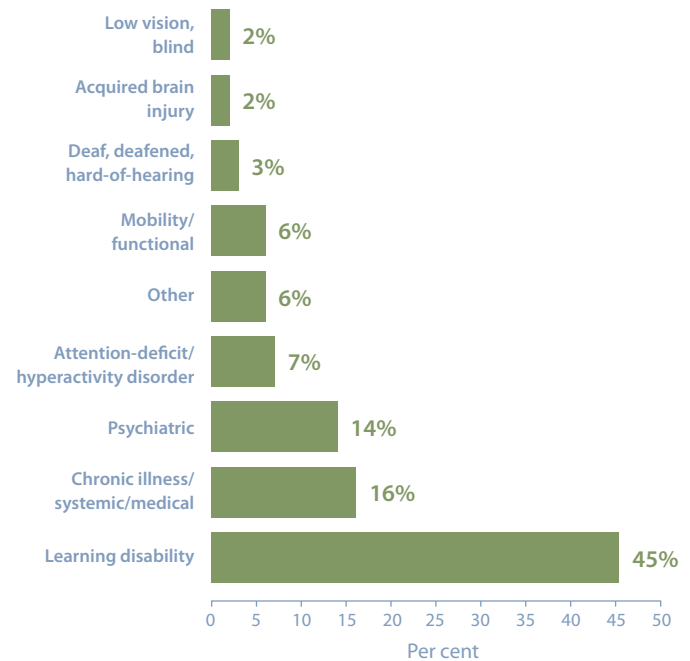


Source: Student Satisfaction Surveys (MTCU).

- A complementary data source for information on college students with disabilities is the year-end reports submitted by college disability offices to MTCU. In agreement with student self-report data, these reports indicate that 12 per cent of college students reported to their disability office during the 2007-08 year. The types of disabilities have been recorded by major category and are shown in Figure 19

Figure 19

Students with disabilities: Per cent distribution by disability type*



*Percentages represent the most recent five-year averages.

Source: College Disability Offices Year-End Reports (MTCU).

- For comparison to national data, the most recent surveys showed that eight per cent of Canadian university students

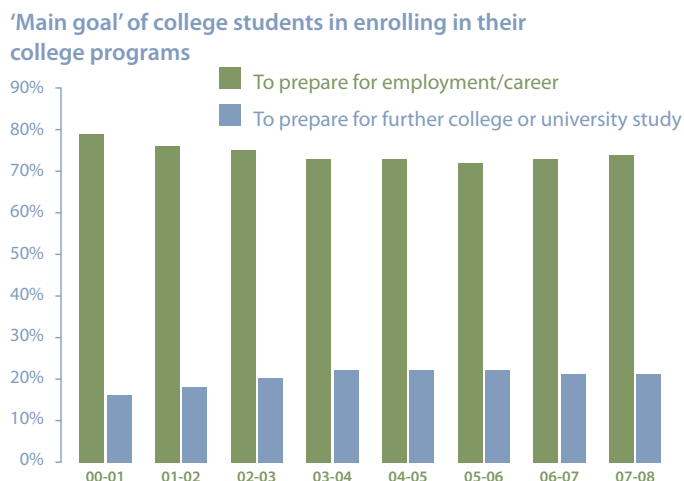
and 10 per cent of college students have a disability. For first-year students only, nine per cent of those in Canadian colleges and five per cent of those in Canadian universities reported a disability (Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium, 2007; 2008; Canadian College Student Survey 2006; Pan-Canadian Study of First-Year College Students 2007).

2.11 Main goals

Although there are many reasons for applying to and enrolling in college, career-related reasons tend to be the most common, followed by preparation for further education:

- In 2008, 64 per cent of applicants cited career preparation, career advancement or career change as their single main reason for applying to college. Personal development and preparation for further education were also commonly cited reasons for applying
- Almost one-third of applicants reported that their “ultimate academic credential” was a degree; 18 per cent of applicants intended to pursue a university bachelor’s degree and an additional 12 per cent intended to pursue a professional or graduate degree
- College students show similar responses; in 2007-08, 73 per cent of students cited employment or career preparation as their main goal for enrolling in their college programs, while 21 per cent cited preparation for further study (Figure 20). These proportions have remained relatively steady over the last few years.

Figure 20



Source: Student Satisfaction Surveys, MTCU.

3.0 Apprentices in Ontario

Apprenticeship is an industry-based learning system that combines job experience, technical training and theory. Ontario colleges work in partnership with employers to deliver the in-school portion of apprenticeship training. In 2007-08, Ontario’s colleges delivered 85 per cent of the in-school training, while the remainder was provided by other training organizations. The province also funds the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), which enables high school students who are in Grades 11 or 12 and are at least 16 years old to work towards a career in a skilled trade.

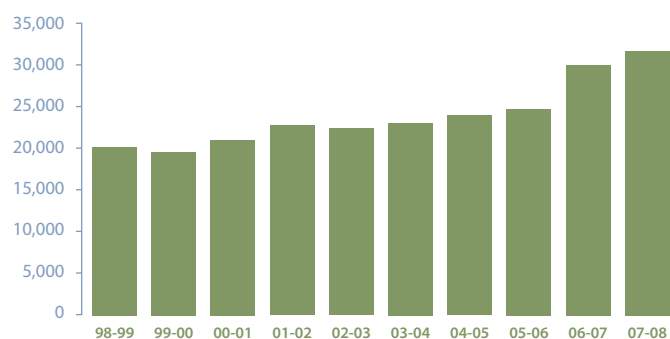
3.1 New and planned apprenticeship starts

In 2007-08, there were 37,315 new apprenticeship starts (including OYAP) in Ontario (see Appendix 2). There were also 40,901 planned new starts for 2008-09, including 35,179 for the colleges:

- New CAAT apprenticeship starts have shown strong recent growth. As shown in Figure 21, the numbers of annual new starts had been relatively stable, but have increased significantly in the last several years. For example, in 2005-06, there were 24,908 new starts, compared with 31,867 in 2007-08; this represents a 28 per cent increase

Figure 21

New CAAT apprenticeship starts, 1998-99 to 2007-08



Source: MTCU.

- In 2007-08, OYAP apprentices accounted for seven per cent of the total new starts in the colleges. This represents a 43 per cent increase in the number of OYAP apprentices from the previous year. Over the last five years, the number of

OYAP new starts associated with the colleges has increased significantly from 653 in 2003-04 to 2,082 in 2007-08

- In 2007-08, the CAATs were allocated 85 per cent of total seat purchases. The colleges' proportion of total provincial apprenticeship seats has increased recently, but is still well below the 95 per cent level seen in the mid-1990s. Most of the apprenticeship training offered by non-college organizations is in the construction and service sectors.

3.2 New starts by sector and region

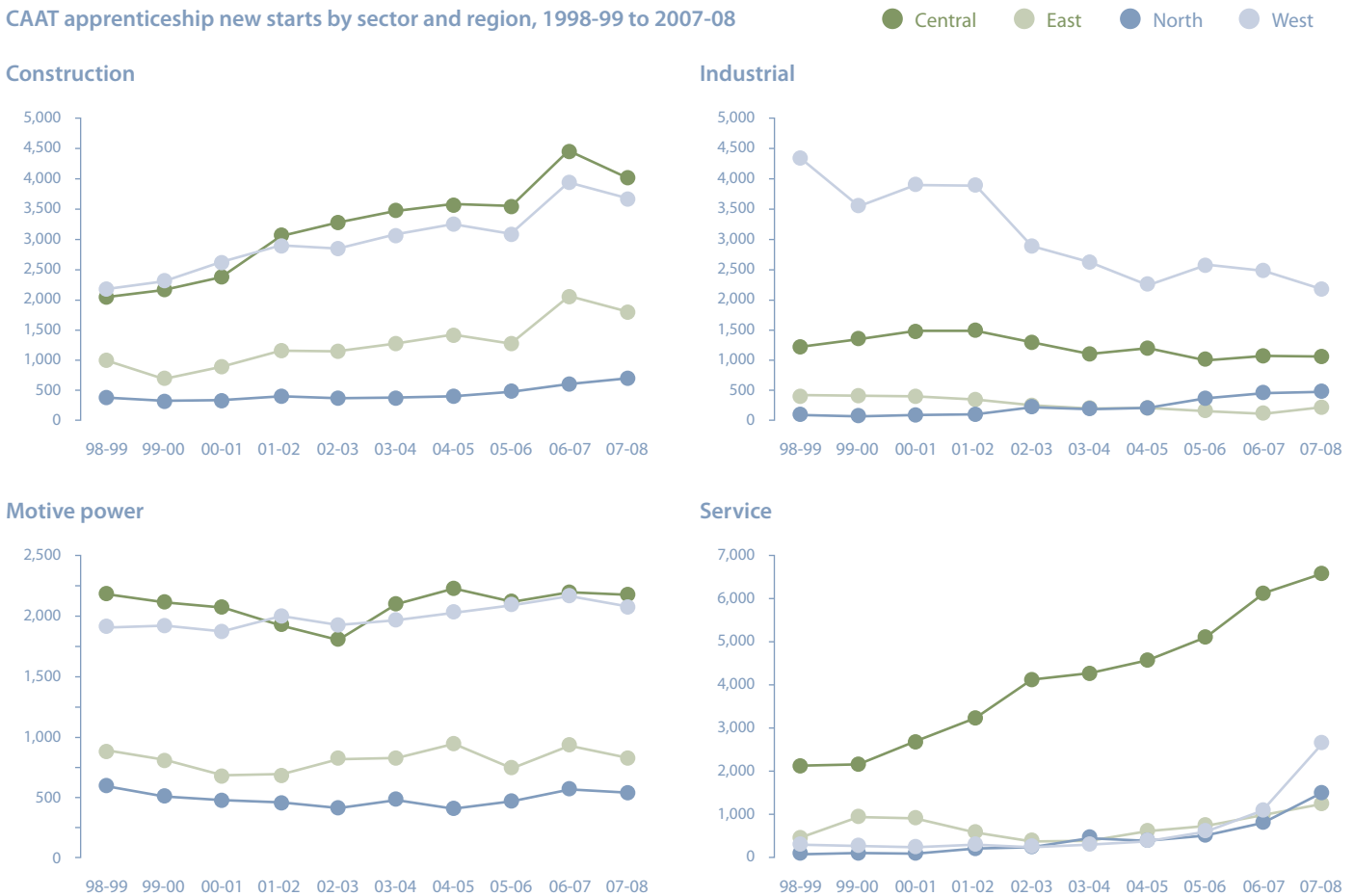
Overall, in 2007-08, 38 per cent of new apprentices in Ontario colleges were enrolled in the service sector, followed by the construction sector (32 per cent), motive power (18 per cent) and industrial (13 per cent). This year marks the first year in which new starts in the service sector outnumber all other sectors (Appendix 2).

Reflecting local economies, the distribution of new apprenticeship starts and the pattern of change across employment sectors differs by provincial region. As illustrated in Figure 22, the service sector has shown the greatest growth in central Ontario, while the construction sector has increased primarily in the central and western regions of the province. A steep decline in new starts in the industrial sector has been experienced within western Ontario. Although the regions differ in the number of annual motive power new starts, the trends have been relatively stable for this sector across all regions.

An increase of approximately 3,300 college apprenticeship seats was planned for the 2008-09 year. Reflecting provincial population densities, the distribution of total planned apprenticeship seats also differed significantly across the geographical regions of Ontario (Figure 23).

Figure 22

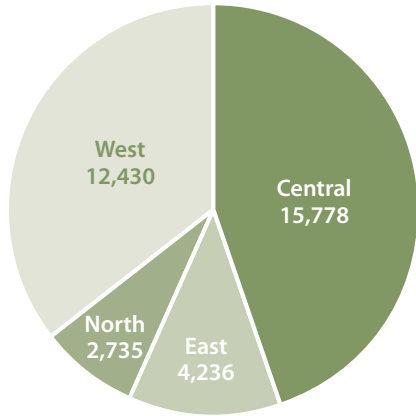
CAAT apprenticeship new starts by sector and region, 1998-99 to 2007-08



Source: MTCU.

Figure 23

New CAAT apprenticeship planned starts by region, 2008-09



Source: MTCU.

3.3 Demographics

Comprehensive demographic data regarding new starts in Ontario are not available. Statistics Canada however, provides some information by province on individuals who have registered as apprentices. For example, the 2007 National Apprenticeship Survey targeted registered apprentices who had engaged in certain types of apprenticeship activity between 2000 and 2004. From this survey, it may be estimated that from three to five per cent of registered apprentices in Ontario self-identified as aboriginal, and six to seven per cent of registered apprentices were immigrants to Canada.

More detailed information is available on the gender distri-

bution of registered apprentices across the different trades, from the Registered Apprenticeship Information System (RAIS; Statistics Canada). As shown in Figure 24, females are significantly under-represented in most of the trades and comprise approximately 17 per cent of total registered apprentices in Ontario.

4.0 Graduate Outcomes

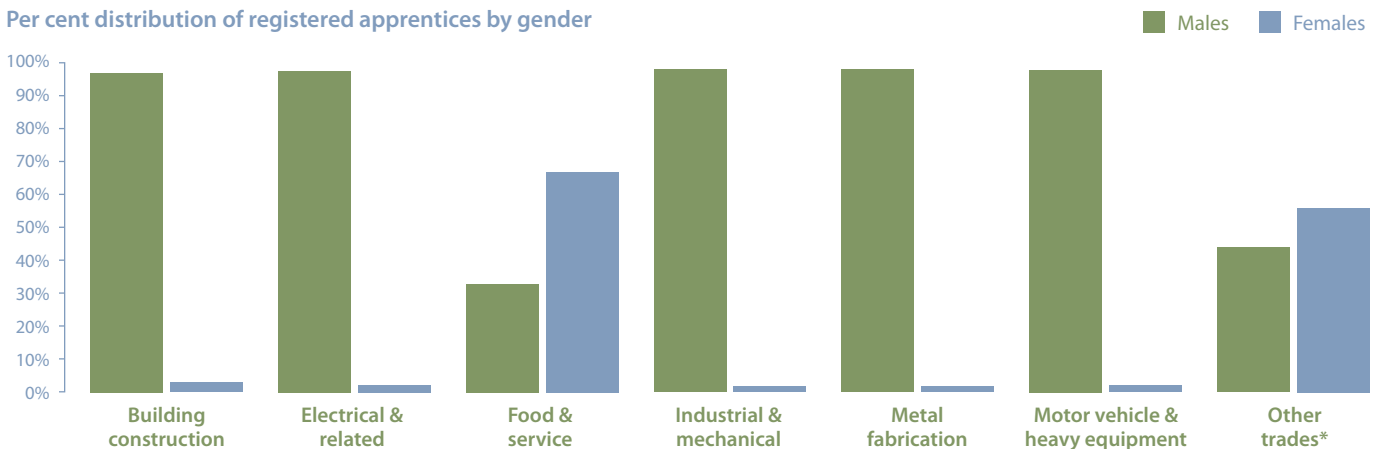
Much of the information on Ontario college graduates is obtained from the Graduate Satisfaction Survey, conducted six months after graduation (MTCU). The response rate is extremely high (approximately 75 per cent) and graduates provide detailed information as to the programs from which they graduated as well as their current employment and educational activities.

4.1 Ontario college graduates by credential

For 2006-07, two-year programs produced the most graduates (51 per cent), followed by three-year programs (22 per cent), one-year certificate programs (18 per cent) and post-graduate programs (nine per cent). Approximately one per cent of the 2006-07 graduates were from four-year college degree programs. The first Ontario college baccalaureate degree programs were launched in 2002 and the number of such programs has increased with each subsequent year; 2006-07 graduates include the first cohort of college degree graduates.

Figure 24

Per cent distribution of registered apprentices by gender



*Statistics Canada notes that the "Other trades" category includes many of the apprenticeship trades and occupations that have been introduced since the 1990s. Examples provided include child and youth worker, early childhood educator, pork production technician, and those related to motion picture and theatre.

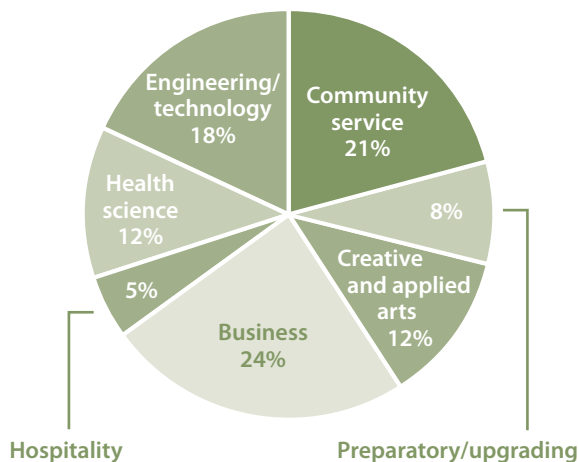
Source: Statistics Canada 2006, Table 477-0051.

4.2 Ontario college graduates by sector

Figure 25 shows the proportion of 2006-07 graduates by type of program. Graduates of business-related programs made up the largest share of graduates, followed by community service-related, and engineering/technology programs (see Appendix 3 for further details).

Figure 25

College graduates by employment sector, 2006-07



Sources: 2008 Employment Profile, MTCU; Colleges Ontario.

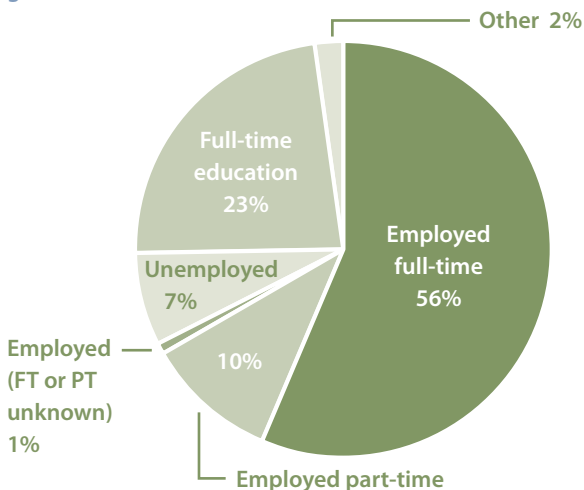
Note that this chart does not include any graduates of collaborative nursing programs. Presumably, this exclusion results in an understatement of the proportion of graduates employed in the health sector.

4.3 Activity six months after graduation

For the 2006-07 graduates, 67 per cent were working either full or part time and 23 per cent had returned to school full time within six months of graduation (Figure 26).

Figure 26

Current activity of 2006-07 graduates (six months after graduation)



Source: 2008 Employment Profile, MTCU.

4.4 Employment of 2006-07 Ontario college graduates (six months after graduation)

Six months after graduation, the overall employment rate for the 2006-07 graduates who had entered the labour force was slightly more than 90 per cent (see Appendix 4).

The highest employment rate was in the health sector (94 per cent) and the lowest rate was in the business sector (89 per cent).

Seventy-three per cent of employed graduates were employed in fields they felt were either fully or partially related to their programs of study. This rate was highest for graduates in the health programs (86 per cent) and lowest for graduates of applied arts programs (67 per cent).

Overall, females were more likely to be employed than males (91.4 per cent employment for females versus 88.9 per cent for males). The technology sector was an exception, in that employment rates were almost the same (89.6 per cent employment for males versus 89.3 for females).

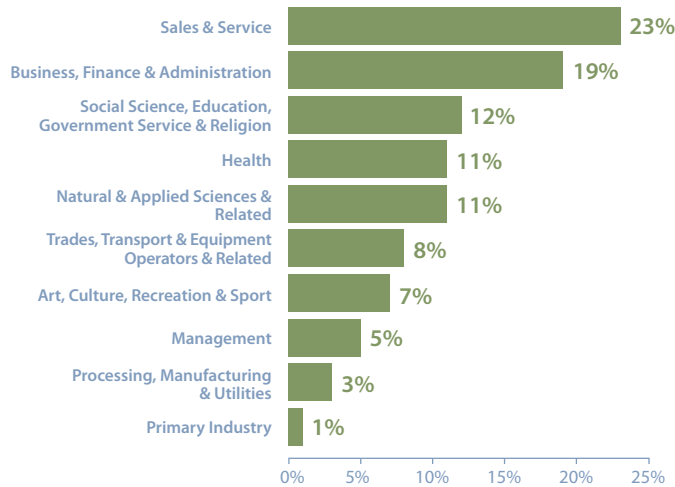
Graduate employment by occupation and industry

Jobs held by current college graduates were categorized by the standardized occupation and industry classifications used by Statistics Canada, based on the information obtained from graduates six months after graduation. These data demonstrate that college graduates are working across all occupation and industry categories:

- According to the categories for the National Occupational Classification for Statistics (NOC-S) system, 2006-07 college graduates were most likely to be employed in sales and service-related and business, finance and administration-related occupations, followed by science and health-related occupations (Figure 27)
- According to the categories for the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) system, 2006-07 college graduates were most likely to be employed in industries involving health care and social assistance, retail trade, science and technology, followed by manufacturing (Figure 28).

Figure 27

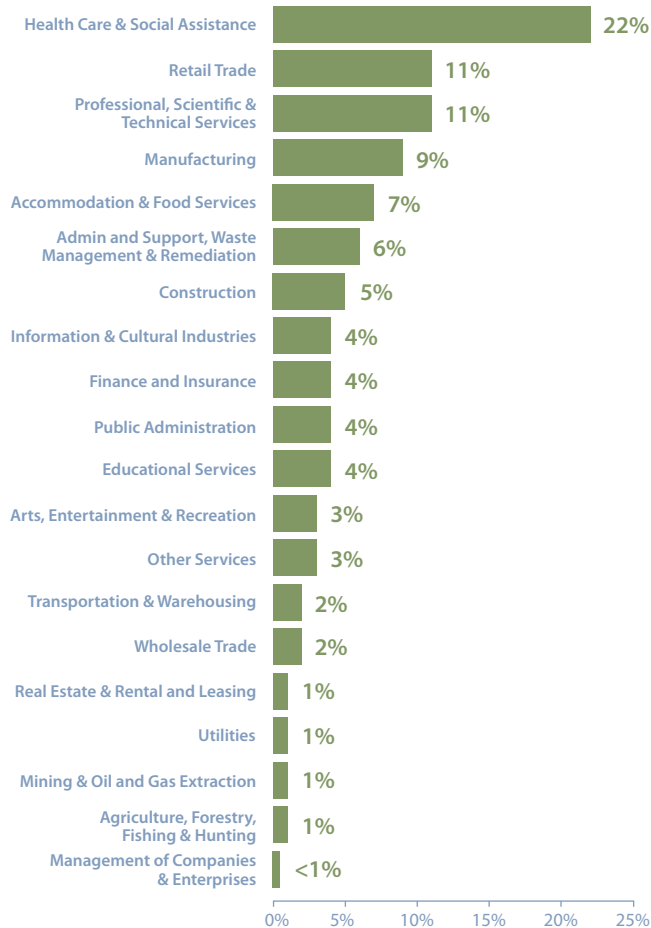
Per cent of 2006-07 graduates employed by major occupation categories



Source: 2006-07 Graduate Satisfaction Survey. Occupational groupings based on National Occupational Classification for Statistics (NOC-S).

Figure 28

Per cent of 2006-07 graduates employed by major industry categories



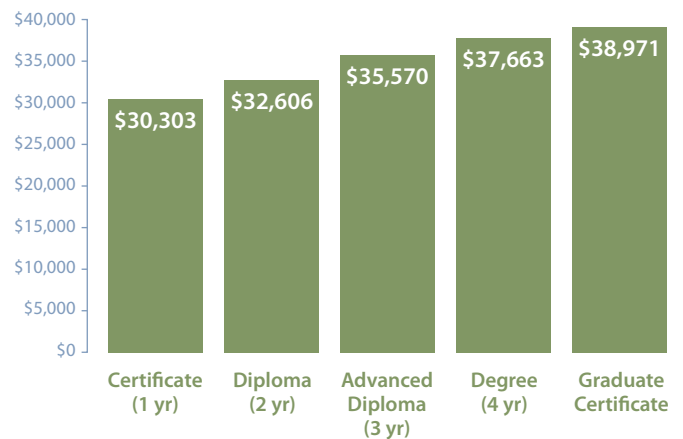
Source: 2006-07 Graduate Satisfaction Survey. Industry groupings based on North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

4.5 Earnings of 2006-07 Ontario college graduates (six months after graduation)

Salaries were related to program duration and type of program. Graduates of one-year graduate certificate programs (specialist programs requiring a previous diploma or degree) earned the highest salaries on average (\$38,971), followed by degree programs, three-year advanced diploma programs, two-year basic diplomas, and then one-year certificate programs, demonstrating a greater return on investment with a longer duration of study (Figure 29).

Figure 29

Average annual salaries of 2006-07 graduates, by credential



Source: 2008 Employment Profile, MTCU. Salaries are for those working full time in jobs related to their fields of study, six months after graduation. Salaries >\$100,000 excluded.

The highest average and median annual earnings were for males employed in the health sector (\$45,842 and \$46,464).

The lowest average and median annual earnings were for females in applied arts (\$30,151 and \$29,200).

Across all employment sectors, females earned only 91 per cent of what males earned (averages for those employed in full-time jobs fully or partially related to areas of study).

National employment and earnings data

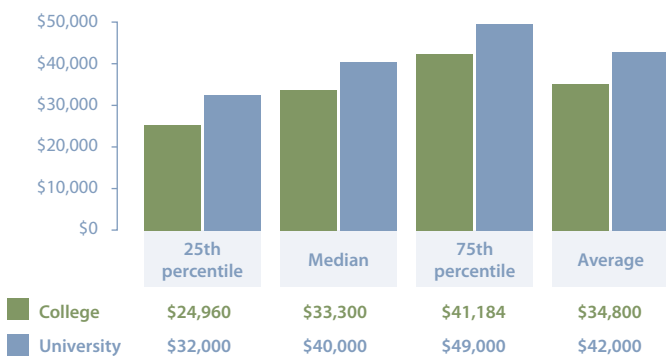
Ontario college surveys do not address graduate outcomes beyond six months after graduation. However, Statistics Canada has several data sets that address employment and earnings of postsecondary graduates. For example, data are available through an ongoing longitudinal study of PSE graduates from the class of 2000. From this data set, the two-year outcomes for employment and earnings of

Canadian and Ontario college and university graduates have been calculated:

- Ninety-three per cent of Ontario college graduates who had entered the labour force were employed two years after graduation, similar to the university (bachelor's degree) graduates' rate of 94 per cent
- The median salary of an Ontario college graduate, two years after graduation, was \$33,300 (\$34,800 average), compared with the national average of \$31,200. Ontario university graduates earned a median salary of \$40,000, slightly above the national average of \$39,000 (Figure 30).

Figure 30

Estimated gross annual salaries of Ontario college and university (bachelor's) graduates two years after graduation



Source: National Graduates Survey, Class of 2000, Statistics Canada.

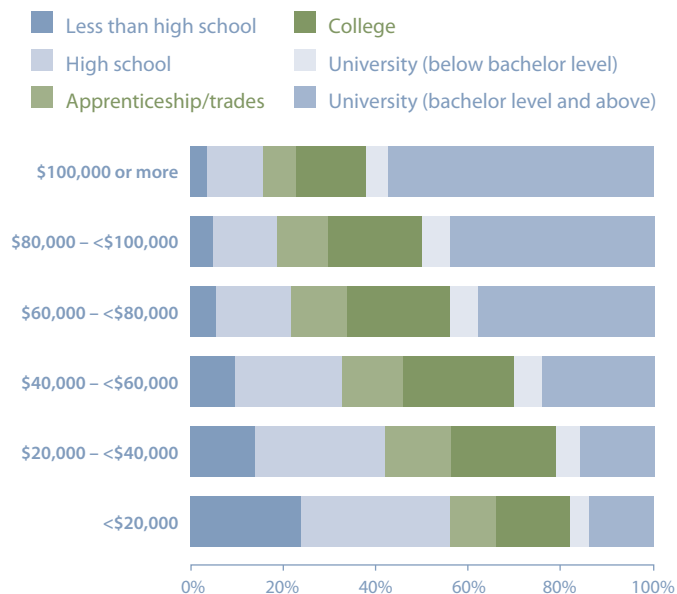
A recent study by Statistics Canada, based on national census data, presented the income distribution of adult earners by educational attainment. As shown in Figure 31, individuals without PSE credentials are overrepresented within the lower income groups. Individuals with college/trade credentials are represented across all income groups, but have particularly large shares of the middle-income groups.

Finally, employment rates by educational attainment can be calculated for various age cohorts from the annual Labour Force Survey. Data for the most recent year show that 87 per cent of the Ontario population between 25 and 44 years with a diploma or certificate were employed versus 86 per cent of bachelor's degree graduates. The unemployment rate for the youngest cohort (between 15 and 24 years) was 7.7 per cent for diplomas and certificates versus 9.5 per cent for bachelor's degrees. Unemployment rates were lower for

individuals between 25 and 44 years, particularly for bachelor's degree graduates (5.2 per cent for diplomas and certificates versus 4.1 per cent for bachelor's degrees).

Figure 31

Per cent distribution of earners by educational attainment



Source: Statistics Canada 2008 (Catalogue no. 81-582-XIE; Census 2006).

4.6 Further education of 2006-07 Ontario college graduates (six months after graduation)

For the 2006-07 graduates, 27 per cent had resumed full- or part-time studies within six months of graduation.

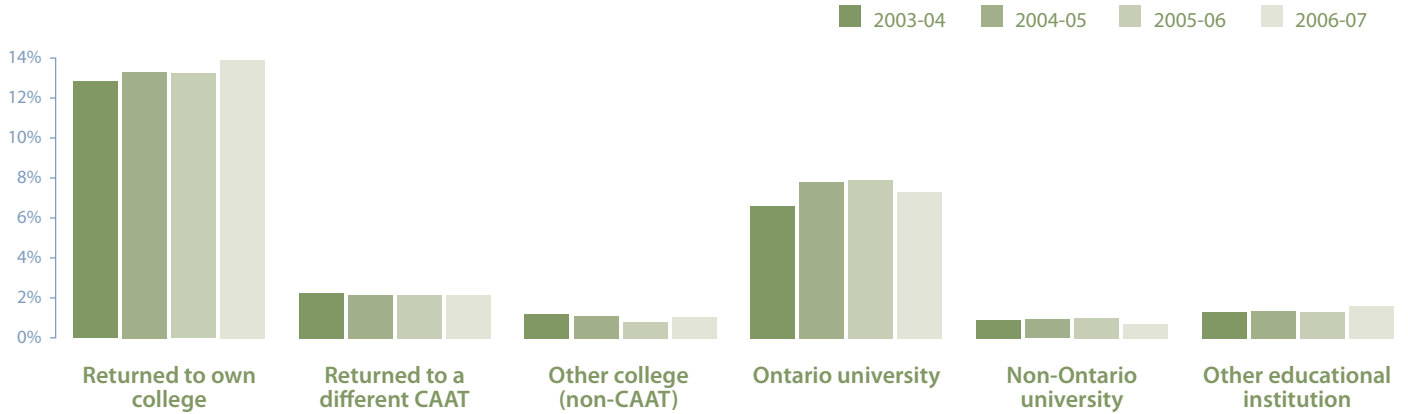
Educational destinations of college graduates have been consistent over the last several years. The majority of graduates who pursued further education either returned to their own colleges, or enrolled at an Ontario university (Figure 32).

The largest proportion of graduates pursuing full-time further education were graduates from the applied arts sector (31 per cent) and the smallest proportion were from the health sector (11 per cent).

Of those graduates who continued their education following graduation, the majority returned to a college. Seventeen per cent of all 2006-07 graduates returned to a college within six months; of those returning to a college, 82 per cent returned to their college of graduation, 12 per cent to a different CAAT college, and six per cent to a non-CAAT college.

Figure 32

Further education of Ontario college graduates by year



Source: Graduate Satisfaction Surveys, MTCU.

Graduates in preparatory health sciences, general arts and sciences and art fundamentals were most likely to further their education at a college.

Graduates in general arts and sciences, preparatory health sciences, early childhood education, and programs in business administration were most likely to further their education at university.

The proportion of college graduates furthering their education at university has increased considerably in recent years, to almost nine per cent for 2006-07 graduates (Figure 33). Additional information on student mobility in Ontario and other jurisdictions is available in the 2009 Colleges Ontario student mobility report.

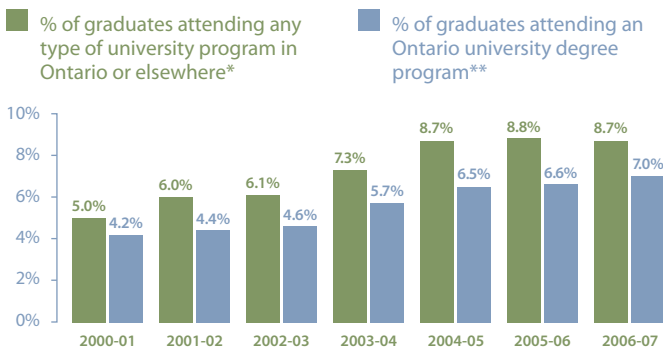
5.0 Postsecondary attainment

5.1 Ontario

The latest data show that, in 2007, Ontario had the country's second-highest PSE attainment rate (67 per cent of the population aged 25 to 44). Ontario has the country's highest proportion of degree holders (22 per cent with a bachelor's degree, 31 per cent including all university degrees) but only ties for seventh in its proportion of diploma or certificate holders (36 per cent). The high proportion of degree holders in Ontario may be in part attributable to the high numbers of skilled immigrants with degrees (Figure 34).

Figure 33

College graduates attending university by year



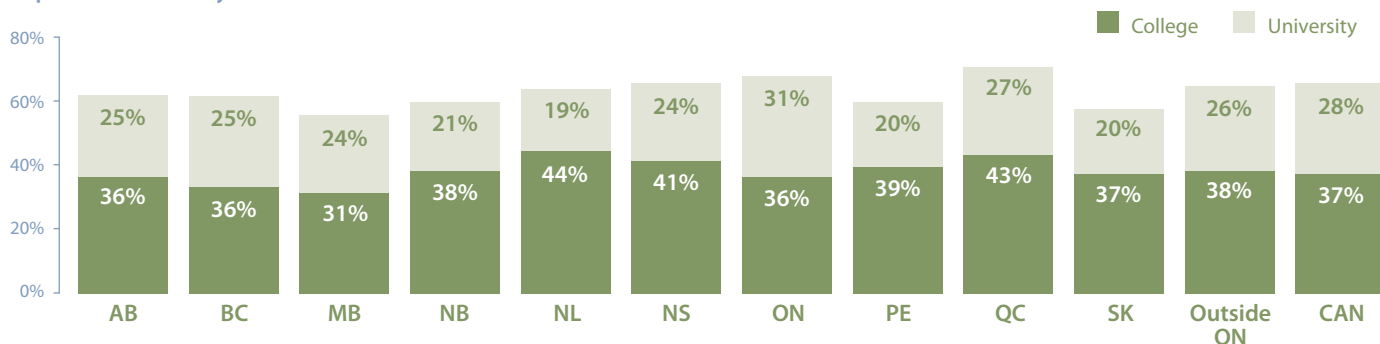
*Data include those graduates who went on to register for collaborative degree programs, either through the college or university. Survey questions were recently changed to distinguish collaborative degrees.

**5.5% were attending an Ontario university degree program and 1.5% were attending an Ontario collaborative degree program.

Sources: Graduate Satisfaction Surveys; Colleges Ontario Student Mobility Report.

Figure 34

Population 25 to 44 years old with PSE credential*



*Respondents categorized by their highest level of education. Categories are defined as follows:

College = completed a certificate (including a trades certificate) or diploma from an educational institution beyond the secondary level. This included certificates from vocational schools, apprenticeship training, community college, CEGEP and schools of nursing. Also includes certificates below bachelor's degree obtained from a university.

University = attained at least a university bachelor's degree or higher.

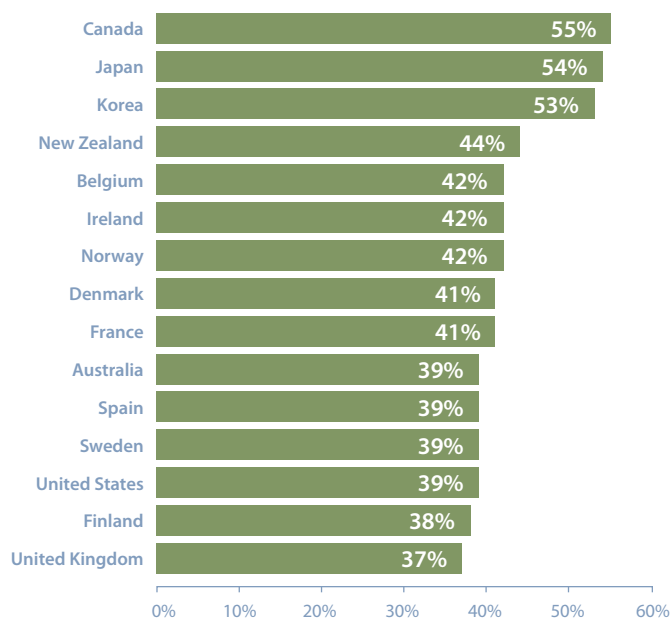
Source: Labour Force Survey, Table 282-0004, Statistics Canada.

5.2 Canada

According to the latest OECD data, Canada has the highest PSE attainment rate of OECD countries (55 per cent for the population 25 to 34 years; excluding trades). Together, Canada, Japan and Korea are substantially ahead of other countries in the proportion of their 25- to 34-year-old populations who are postsecondary graduates (Figure 35).

Figure 35

Top 15 OECD countries according to postsecondary educational attainment



Source: OECD, Table A1.3a, Population that has attained tertiary education, Education at a Glance, 2008.

6.0 Lifelong learners

6.1 Continuing education (CE)

Data are not collected systematically on the number of individual students taking continuing education (CE) courses in Ontario's colleges. The colleges, however (through the Heads of Continuing Education), do perform a regular survey of CE departments that provides the number of annual registrations, and the colleges report CE activity to MTCU (CE activity that is funded by the provincial operating grant). These data allow a conversion to numbers of students. Using this conversion, there were approximately 290,000 CE students in Ontario's colleges in 2006-07.

Important characteristics and trends regarding CE students in Ontario's colleges are obtained from the CAAT Continuing Education Survey. Starting in 1996, this survey has been conducted on behalf of the colleges every few years (CCI Research Inc.). The most recent survey was administered in fall 2008, to students currently registered in CE courses. Individual students could complete the survey in multiple CE courses; however, all data presented below are for unique respondents only.

Demographics

Female CE students outnumbered male CE students at 66 per cent to 34 per cent. This ratio has been quite steady over time (for example, 64 per cent female in 1996):

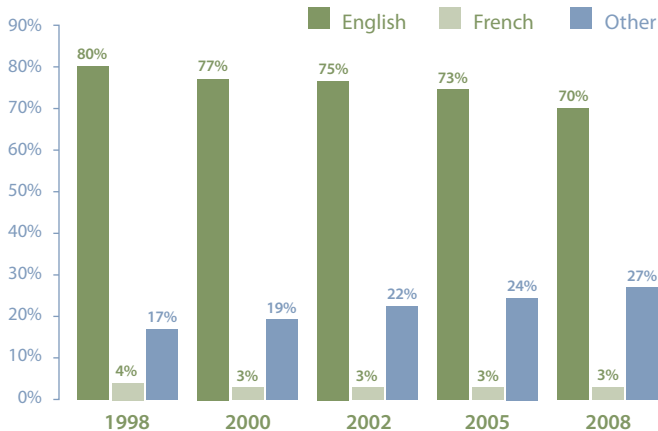
- Fifty-nine per cent of CE students were from 25 to 44 years of age, with 27 per cent age 45 years or older.

First language

As shown in Figure 36, the proportion of students whose first language was neither English nor French has increased significantly over time to 27 per cent in 2008.

Figure 36

Percentages of CE students by first language



Source: Provincial highlights: CAAT Continuing Education Survey, fall 2008 – Unique Student Perspective (CCI Research Inc.).

Immigration and previous education

In 2008, 71 per cent of CE students had a previous post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree. In particular, the proportion of CE students who were university degree holders has shown the largest increase over time, rising to 35 per cent for 2008.

Nineteen per cent of CE students had immigrated to Canada within the last 10 years. In a separate question, 28 per cent of students reported some PSE experience or training in a country other than Canada. The 2008 survey shows that

across those two response categories, 28 per cent of CE students were recent immigrants with previous PSE.

Main goal

Sixty-four per cent of students indicated they were taking CE courses for career-related reasons (Figure 37). Personal development and fulfilment, or pursuing a hobby or interest, comprised fewer than one-third of the responses.

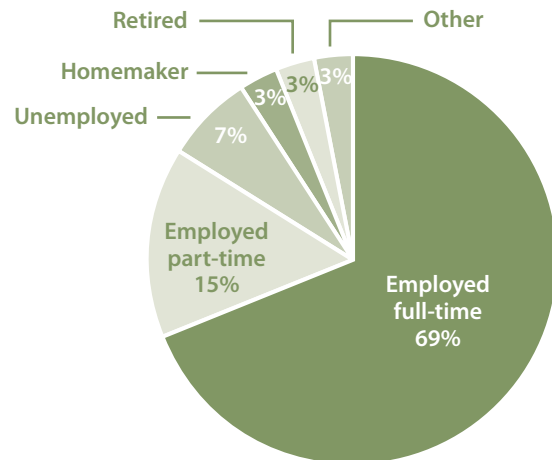
Employment status

The vast majority of CE students were working, 69 per cent full time and 15 per cent part time (Figure 38).

Of those respondents who were unemployed, approximately half reported that the main reason for taking the course was to aid in their job search, or prepare for a change of career.

Figure 38

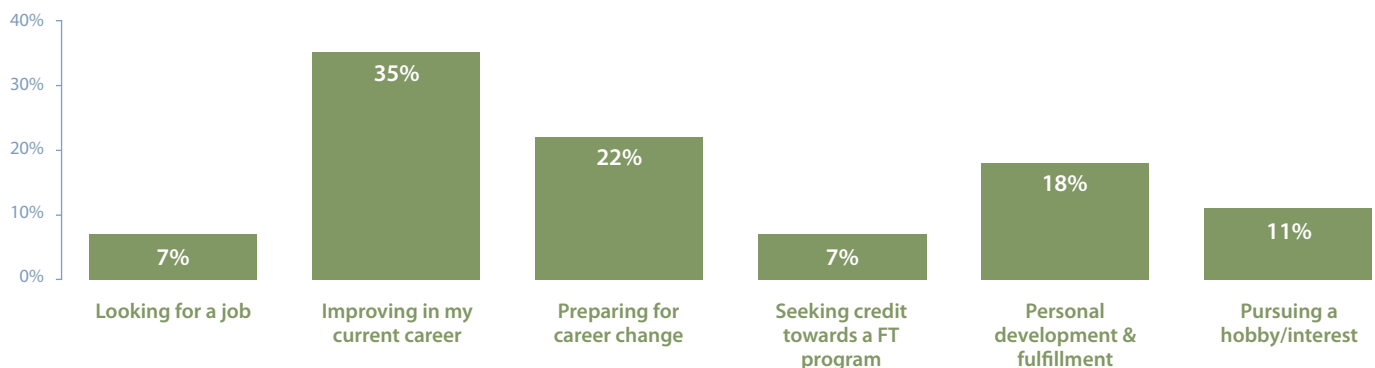
Employment status of 2008 CE students



Source: CCI Research Inc.

Figure 37

Main reason for taking a continuing education course



Source: CCI Research Inc.

Appendix 1

Full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolment at the 24 colleges

Institution	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Total FTE	%of total	Total FTE	%of total	Total FTE	%of total
Algonquin	14,786	8.1	14,857	8.2	14,888	8.0
Boreal	1,445	0.8	1,487	0.8	1,519	0.8
Cambrian	4,022	2.2	3,800	2.1	3,894	2.1
Canadore	2,924	1.6	2,823	1.5	2,688	1.4
Centennial	9,957	5.4	9,436	5.2	9,410	5.1
Conestoga	6,722	3.7	6,948	3.8	7,588	4.1
Confederation	3,201	1.7	3,099	1.7	2,926	1.6
Durham	6,948	3.8	7,007	3.8	7,313	3.9
Fanshawe	12,642	6.9	12,409	6.8	12,650	6.8
Fleming	6,078	3.3	5,871	3.2	5,934	3.2
George Brown	15,679	8.6	16,213	8.9	16,964	9.1
Georgian	6,941	3.8	7,280	4.0	7,549	4.1
Humber	16,195	8.8	16,412	9.0	16,671	9.0
La Cité collégiale	3,388	1.9	3,351	1.8	3,461	1.9
Lambton	2,287	1.2	2,194	1.2	2,329	1.3
Loyalist	3,317	1.8	3,169	1.7	3,307	1.8
Mohawk	10,633	5.8	10,546	5.8	10,716	5.8
Niagara	6,817	3.7	6,627	3.6	6,807	3.7
Northern	1,343	0.7	1,242	0.7	1,164	0.6
St. Clair	7,142	3.9	6,931	3.8	7,153	3.8
St. Lawrence	5,348	2.9	5,319	2.9	5,487	3.0
Sault	2,085	1.1	1,939	1.1	1,965	1.1
Seneca	19,191	10.5	19,225	10.5	19,139	10.3
Sheridan	13,932	7.6	14,053	7.7	14,409	7.7

Source: MTCU.

Apprentice training by sector – actual and planned enrolment (including OYAP*)

Program – Sector Name	Total Actual Enrolment (including OYAP)					Planned Total	Actual Enrolment (OYAP only)					Planned Enrolment (OYAP)
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Total Construction Sector – CAAT	8,165	8,600	8,337	11,041	10,159	9,077	49	40	154	248	263	83
Total Construction Sector – Private	2,533	2,726	3,174	3,085	3,581	4,672	78	31	119	106	145	207
Grand Total – Construction Sector	10,698	11,326	11,511	14,126	13,740	13,749	127	71	273	354	408	290
Total Industrial Sector – CAAT	4,179	3,934	4,145	4,200	4,011	3,561	61	107	124	155	153	87
Total Industrial Sector – Private	10	53	88	124	413	535	0	0	0	3	7	5
Grand Total – Industrial Sector	4,189	3,987	4,233	4,324	4,424	4,096	61	107	124	158	160	92
Total Motive Power Sector – CAAT	5,387	5,615	5,428	5,888	5,614	5,502	159	219	231	257	266	146
Total Motive Power Sector – Private	112	104	109	70	112	199	0	0	0	0	5	2
Grand Total – Motive Power Sector	5,499	5,719	5,537	5,958	5,726	5,701	159	219	231	257	271	148
Total Service Sector – CAAT	5,382	5,975	6,998	9,073	12,083	17,039	384	325	497	798	1,400	1,098
Total Service Sector – Private	442	489	986	2,772	1,342	316	0	0	0	6	3	3
Grand Total – Service Sector	5,824	6,464	7,984	11,845	13,425	17,355	384	325	497	804	1,403	1,101
Total – All Sectors – CAAT	23,113	24,124	24,908	30,202	31,867	35,179	653	691	1,006	1,458	2,082	1,414
Total – All Sectors – Private	3,097	3,372	4,357	6,051	5,448	5,722	78	31	119	115	160	217
Total – All Sectors	26,210	27,496	29,265	36,253	37,315	40,901	731	722	1,125	1,573	2,242	1,631

*OYAP = Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program; CAAT = Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology; Private includes Kemptville College

Source: MTCU.

Graduates by occupation cluster, 2006-07

Applied Arts	Total Graduates	% of Graduates	% Change 2005-06
Advertising and Design	1835	3.0	-3.3
Art	818	1.4	4.5
Child/Youth Worker	900	1.5	3.3
Community Planning	23	0.0	27.8
Crafts	115	0.2	-13.5
Developmental Services Worker	591	1.0	-6.2
Education	3432	5.7	14.0
Fashion	688	1.1	-3.6
Graphic Arts/Printing	26	0.0	-38.1
Horticulture	221	0.4	-11.2
Law and Security	3694	6.1	-7.0
Library	89	0.1	-14.4
Media	3308	5.5	14.3
Native Community Worker	35	0.1	9.4
Performing Arts	476	0.8	5.3
Preparatory/Upgrading	4718	7.8	10.7
Recreation/Fitness	1102	1.8	14.8
Social Services	2526	4.2	-5.3
Business	Total Graduates	% of Graduates	% Change 2005-06
Accounting/Finance	2667	4.4	-2.5
Aviation Management	55	0.1	103.7
Business Computer	1118	1.9	-21.4
Business Legal	1047	1.7	15.4
Business Management	3272	5.4	14.2
Culinary Arts	1142	1.9	18.3
Government/Real Estate	22	0.0	-33.3
Hospitality Management	1212	2.0	18.6
Human Resources/Industrial Relations	1271	2.1	2.2
Marketing/Retail Sales	2071	3.4	-5.2
Materials Management	203	0.3	-6.0
Office Administration	1049	1.7	-5.2
Office Administration – Health	519	0.9	-4.1
Office Administration – Legal	191	0.3	-11.2
Small Business	182	0.3	19.0
Travel/Tourism	894	1.5	1.9

Health Sciences	Total Graduates	% of Graduates	% Change 2005-06
Animal Care	427	0.7	8.7
Health – Miscellaneous	1009	1.7	13.5
Health Technology	2210	3.7	13.6
Nursing Related	3633	6.0	-10.6
Technology	Total Graduates	% of Graduates	% Change 2005-06
Architectural	584	1.0	1.2
Automotive	778	1.3	-4.1
Aviation – Flight	80	0.1	14.3
Aviation – Maintenance	198	0.3	-25.8
Chemical/Biological	677	1.1	14.7
Civil	1108	1.8	1.4
Drafting	79	0.1	54.9
Electronics	2569	4.3	-7.1
Furniture/Wood Products	291	0.5	21.3
Geology/Mining	63	0.1	-13.7
Industrial	48	0.1	4.3
Instrumentation	157	0.3	6.1
Machining	456	0.8	3.2
Marine	52	0.1	36.8
Mechanical	2160	3.6	4.7
Power	169	0.3	14.2
Resources	810	1.3	-4.0
Technology Miscellaneous	650	1.1	-3.6
Welding	146	0.2	35.2
Total	60,406	100	+2.3

Source: Employment Profiles, MTCU.

Current status of 2006-07 graduates (six months after graduation)

Graduate status	Applied Arts			Business			Health			Technology			Total		
	Female	Male	Total ¹	Female	Male	Total ¹	Female	Male	Total ¹	Female	Male	Total ¹	Female	Male	Total ¹
Total Graduates	16,437	8,522	25,137	9,995	6,798	16,915	6,190	1,049	7,279	1,605	9,406	11,075	34,227	25,775	60,406
Total in the survey	11,505	6,081	17,701	6,913	4,775	11,762	4,596	747	5,372	1,161	7,040	8,251	24,175	18,643	43,086
Response rate	70.0%	71.4%	70.4%	69.2%	70.2%	69.5%	74.2%	71.2%	73.8%	72.3%	74.8%	74.5%	70.6%	72.3%	71.3%
Total in labour force	7,695	4,067	11,854	5,460	3,711	9,234	3,969	662	4,657	910	5,565	6,514	18,034	14,005	32,259
Employment Rate	91.5%	88.7%	90.6%	89.6%	87.7%	88.8%	94.1%	92.0%	93.8%	89.3%	89.6%	89.6%	91.4%	88.9%	90.3%
Full-time	5,362	2,985	8,415	4,236	2,915	7,204	2,717	497	3,233	737	4,684	5,458	13,052	11,081	24,310
Part-time	1,501	537	2,054	565	286	853	932	106	1,043	62	231	293	3,060	1,160	4,243
Unknown	179	87	266	91	54	146	87	6	93	14	69	83	371	216	588
Unemployed	653	458	1,119	568	456	1,031	233	53	288	97	581	680	1,551	1,548	3,118
Unemployment rate	8.5%	11.3%	9.4%	10.4%	12.3%	11.2%	5.9%	8.0%	6.2%	10.7%	10.4%	10.4%	8.6%	11.1%	9.7%
Not in the labour force	3,810	2,014	5,847	1,453	1,064	2,528	627	85	715	251	1,475	1,737	6,141	4,638	10,827
Full-time education	3,485	1,931	5,438	1,203	975	2,188	519	70	591	223	1,368	1,602	5,430	4,344	9,819
Other ²	305	75	381	231	82	314	104	14	119	27	95	122	667	266	936
Unknown	20	8	28	19	7	26	4	1	5	1	12	13	44	28	72
Self-employed full-time	171	199	374	63	162	225	45	9	54	4	133	138	283	503	791
Self-employed rate	3.2%	6.7%	4.4%	1.5%	5.6%	3.1%	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%	0.5%	2.8%	2.5%	2.2%	4.5%	3.3%

¹ All totals include records with unspecified gender information.

² 'Other' graduates' status includes travel, health, and family responsibilities.

Source: 2008 Employment Profile, MTCU.

