

2006 Census Fast Facts

Educational Attainment of British Columbians

Introduction

One of the Government's five great goals is to make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.¹ Educational attainment plays an important role in determining labour force participation, employment, and types of jobs obtained. The 2006 Census contains a wealth of information on the educational attainment of British Columbians. Highlights from the 2006 Census are presented here.

Changes to the Census in 2006

Census questions relating to education attainment changed substantially between 2001 and 2006, principally to reflect developments in Canada's education system.

As a result of the changes, the 2006 Census provides more information on levels of educational attainment and fields of study. However, changes to the questionnaire have meant that comparisons with data from previous censuses are limited.²

¹ For more information, please visit:
<http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2008/stplan/default.html#1>

² For more information on the changes to the education questions in the 2006 Census, please visit:
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/reference/infocensus/education.cfm>

Educational Attainment: Census Highlights

In 2006, only 12 percent of British Columbians (aged 25-64) had less than a high school education, the lowest proportion of all the provinces and territories. Six out of ten adults in B.C. had completed some form of post-secondary education, and almost one-quarter (24 percent) had a bachelor's degree or higher. These proportions were similar to the national averages.

Only 12 percent of British Columbians (aged 25-64) had not completed high school in 2006

Highest Level of Education, Population aged 25-64	BC	Canada
Less than high school	12%	15%
High school certificate or equivalent	26%	24%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	12%	12%
Non-university certificate or diploma	20%	20%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	6%	5%
University bachelor's degree or higher	24%	23%
Total	100%	100%

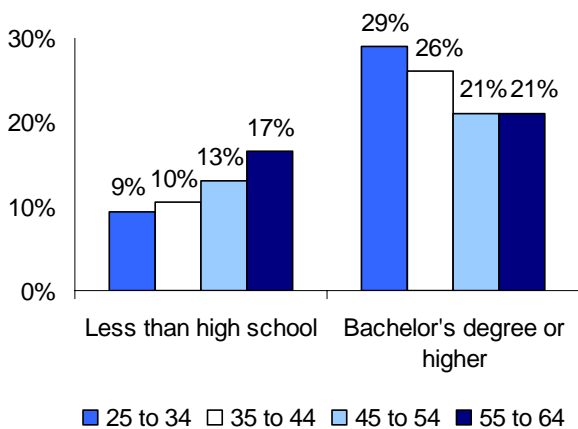
Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada

Educational Attainment by Age Group

Younger adults (aged 25-34) are more educated than their older counterparts—29 percent of young adults had a university bachelor’s degree or higher compared with only 21 percent of their 45 to 64 year-old counterparts. Furthermore, of those who had not completed high school, just over 60 percent were 45 years or older.

Education attainment by Age Group

Younger generations have higher levels of education than their older counterparts



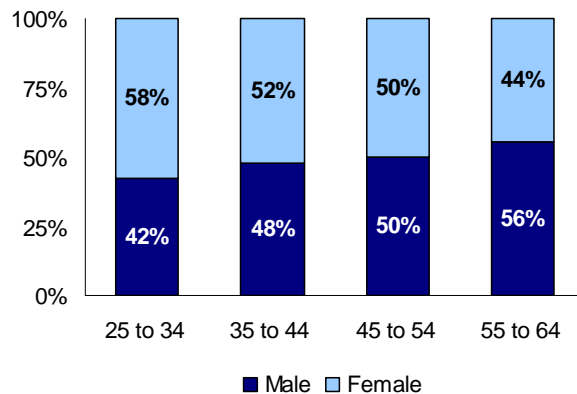
Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada

Census data suggests that fewer younger adults may be entering the trades—only 9 percent of the young adult population (aged 25-34) received a trades certificate, compared with 14 percent of the older population (aged 55-64).

Educational Attainment by Gender

Young women are leading the way in university attainment. In the past, the majority of university graduates with a bachelor’s degree or higher were men, but in the youngest generation (aged 25-34), the majority of university graduates are women.

University Attainment by Age and Gender
Young women are leading the way in university attainment



Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada

Field of Study by Gender

The Census uses the Classification of Instruction Programs (CIP) to classify programs into 12 major fields of study. Adult males with post-secondary education were most likely to have studied architecture, engineering, and related technologies, while adult females were more likely to have studied business, management, and public administration or health, parks, recreation, and fitness. The following table shows the top 5 fields of study for men and women age 25-64. The top five major fields of study account for 75 percent of men who had a post-secondary education in 2006 and 79 percent of women.

Business, management, & public administration is a popular field of study among both sexes

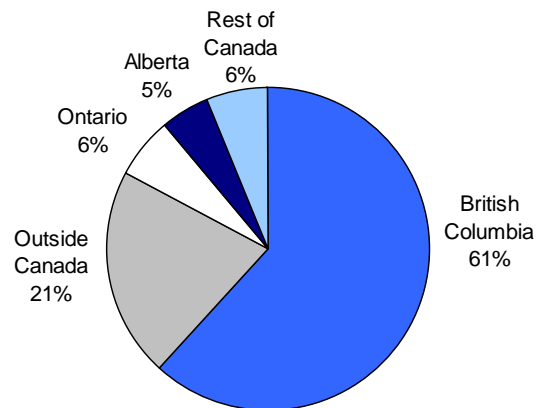
Top 5 Major Fields of Study, Population Aged 25-64	
Males	
Architecture, engineering, & related technologies	40%
Business, management & public administration	16%
Social, behavioural sciences & law	8%
Personal, protective & transportation services	6%
Health, parks, recreation & fitness	6%
Females	
Business, management & public administration	26%
Health, parks, recreation & fitness	22%
Social, behavioural sciences & law	13%
Education	11%
Humanities	7%

Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada

Location of Study

For the first time, the 2006 Census captured information on location of study (based on highest level of education obtained). The data show that approximately one-fifth (21 percent) of B.C.'s population with a post-secondary credential (age 15-64) was educated outside of Canada. In Ontario, this figure is similar (20 percent), but for Canada as a whole, the proportion educated outside of the country is only 15 percent. Seventeen percent of B.C.'s post-secondary credential holders were educated in other provinces, particularly Ontario and Alberta.

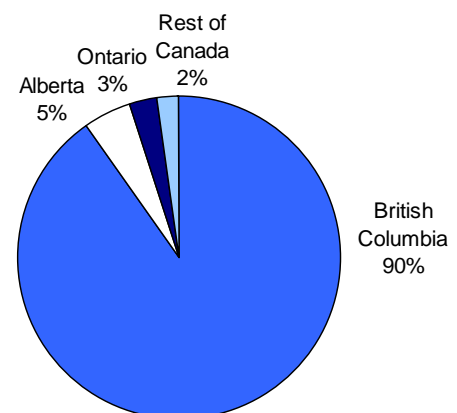
A large proportion of BC's population (aged 15-64) was educated outside of Canada



Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada

Although the Census cannot capture information on how many B.C. graduates emigrated to other countries, the Census can provide information on inter-provincial migration. In 2006, (excluding international emigration), 90 percent of post-secondary graduates (age 15-64) educated in B.C. remained in B.C. Of those who were educated in B.C. and moved to another province, most were living in Alberta or Ontario in 2006.

Excluding those who left Canada, most BC graduates (aged 15-64) were still in BC in 2006



Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada

Table 1: Educational Attainment by Age, Male Population

	25 to 64		25 to 34		35 to 44	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total	1,109,955	100%	240,980	100%	300,895	100%
No certificate, diploma or degree	148,335	13%	26,615	11%	36,680	12%
Certificate, diploma or degree	961,615	87%	214,360	89%	264,215	88%
High school certificate or equivalent	274,070	25%	69,805	29%	72,915	24%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	176,845	16%	28,345	12%	45,465	15%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	186,405	17%	41,670	17%	52,605	17%
University certificate, diploma or degree	324,280	29%	74,535	31%	93,220	31%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	57,445	5%	13,305	6%	15,610	5%
University certificate or degree	266,840	24%	61,230	25%	77,610	26%
Bachelor's degree	162,480	15%	44,665	19%	47,845	16%
University certificate or diploma above bachelor level	23,370	2%	4,440	2%	6,360	2%
Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry	9,845	1%	1,365	1%	2,580	1%
Master's degree	57,495	5%	9,240	4%	17,035	6%
Earned doctorate	13,640	1%	1,520	1%	3,785	1%
			45 to 54		55 to 64	
			Count	%	Count	%
Total			320,335	100%	247,745	100%
No certificate, diploma or degree			45,990	14%	39,050	16%
Certificate, diploma or degree			274,345	86%	208,695	84%
High school certificate or equivalent			77,480	24%	53,870	22%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma			57,350	18%	45,685	18%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma			54,090	17%	38,040	15%
University certificate, diploma or degree			85,425	27%	71,100	29%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level			16,010	5%	12,520	5%
University certificate or degree			69,420	22%	58,580	24%
Bachelor's degree			39,050	12%	30,920	12%
University certificate or diploma above bachelor level			6,890	2%	5,680	2%
Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry			3,175	1%	2,725	1%
Master's degree			16,155	5%	15,065	6%
Earned doctorate			4,150	1%	4,185	2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-560-XCB2006007.ivt

Prepared by: BC Stats, June 2008

Table 3: Major Field of Study (Post-Secondary) by Age, Male Population

	25 to 64		25 to 34		35 to 44	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total	687,535	100%	144,555	100%	191,295	100%
Education	26,325	4%	3,820	3%	5,865	3%
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	26,790	4%	8,355	6%	7,620	4%
Humanities	31,365	5%	7,835	5%	8,325	4%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	55,495	8%	13,570	9%	16,255	8%
Business, management and public administration	109,370	16%	23,330	16%	31,015	16%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	28,360	4%	7,060	5%	7,405	4%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	34,540	5%	12,710	9%	11,320	6%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	272,150	40%	45,820	32%	74,240	39%
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	24,395	4%	4,940	3%	7,085	4%
Health, parks, recreation and fitness	38,545	6%	8,375	6%	10,780	6%
Personal, protective and transportation services	40,115	6%	8,720	6%	11,370	6%
Other fields of study	65	0%	25	0%	0	0%

	45 to 54		55 to 64	
	Count	%	Count	%
Total	196,865	100%	154,820	100%
Education	6,790	3%	9,850	6%
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	6,285	3%	4,530	3%
Humanities	7,880	4%	7,325	5%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	13,790	7%	11,880	8%
Business, management and public administration	30,255	15%	24,770	16%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	7,455	4%	6,440	4%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	6,820	3%	3,690	2%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	87,355	44%	64,735	42%
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	7,550	4%	4,820	3%
Health, parks, recreation and fitness	11,175	6%	8,215	5%
Personal, protective and transportation services	11,480	6%	8,545	6%
Other fields of study	20	0%	20	0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-560-XCB2006005.ivt

Prepared by: BC Stats, June 2008

Table 4: Major Field of Study (Post-Secondary) by Age, Female Population

	25 to 64		25 to 34		35 to 44	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total	723,450	100%	176,130	100%	211,975	100%
Education	79,625	11%	14,640	8%	18,835	9%
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	33,130	5%	10,015	6%	9,985	5%
Humanities	48,120	7%	14,360	8%	13,645	6%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	92,400	13%	28,620	16%	28,475	13%
Business, management and public administration	187,340	26%	41,125	23%	57,895	27%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	21,435	3%	7,855	4%	6,185	3%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	22,930	3%	6,035	3%	7,120	3%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	25,205	3%	6,045	3%	9,415	4%
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	12,740	2%	3,705	2%	3,855	2%
Health, parks, recreation and fitness	162,395	22%	33,600	19%	44,820	21%
Personal, protective and transportation services	38,035	5%	10,070	6%	11,730	6%
Other fields of study	100	0%	55	0%	0	0%

	45 to 54		55 to 64	
	Count	%	Count	%
Total	196,885	100%	138,460	100%
Education	22,150	11%	24,000	17%
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	8,560	4%	4,570	3%
Humanities	11,350	6%	8,765	6%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	22,650	12%	12,655	9%
Business, management and public administration	53,255	27%	35,065	25%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	4,620	2%	2,775	2%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	6,185	3%	3,590	3%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	6,980	4%	2,765	2%
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	3,755	2%	1,425	1%
Health, parks, recreation and fitness	48,285	25%	35,690	26%
Personal, protective and transportation services	9,085	5%	7,150	5%
Other fields of study	25	0%	20	0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-560-XCB2006005.ivt

Prepared by: BC Stats, June 2008

Table 5: Location of Study by Age, Total Population with Post-Secondary Certificate, Diploma, or Degree

	15 to 64		15 to 24		25 to 34	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total	1,526,040	100%	115,050	100%	320,685	100%
Inside Canada	1,201,280	79%	105,465	92%	267,515	83%
British Columbia	937,505	61%	94,790	82%	222,895	70%
Alberta	75,315	5%	3,605	3%	12,550	4%
Manitoba & Saskatchewan	44,055	3%	1,010	1%	5,250	2%
Ontario	99,020	6%	4,020	3%	17,920	6%
Quebec	23,480	2%	1,295	1%	4,605	1%
Atlantic Provinces	20,950	1%	720	1%	4,190	1%
Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, & Nunavut	930	0%	10	0%	100	0%
Outside Canada	324,775	21%	9,590	8%	53,175	17%
United States of America	48,725	3%	1,815	2%	7,865	2%
United Kingdom	36,895	2%	880	1%	4,390	1%
India	25,665	2%	1,300	1%	7,625	2%
Philippines	34,030	2%	830	1%	5,625	2%
China, People's Republic of	35,245	2%	840	1%	6,295	2%
Other	144,175	9%	3,910	3%	21,375	7%

	35 to 44		45 to 54		55 to 64	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total	403,265	100%	393,755	100%	293,285	100%
Inside Canada	304,925	76%	305,335	78%	218,040	74%
British Columbia	237,995	59%	231,145	59%	150,680	51%
Alberta	18,435	5%	22,200	6%	18,525	6%
Manitoba & Saskatchewan	10,450	3%	12,735	3%	14,610	5%
Ontario	25,490	6%	27,500	7%	24,090	8%
Quebec	6,235	2%	5,950	2%	5,395	2%
Atlantic Provinces	6,085	2%	5,470	1%	4,485	2%
Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, & Nunavut	235	0%	335	0%	250	0%
Outside Canada	98,345	24%	88,420	22%	75,245	26%
United States of America	12,245	3%	12,270	3%	14,530	5%
United Kingdom	7,210	2%	9,245	2%	15,170	5%
India	7,225	2%	5,345	1%	4,170	1%
Philippines	11,510	3%	10,440	3%	5,625	2%
China, People's Republic of	18,725	5%	7,035	2%	2,350	1%
Other	41,420	10%	44,080	11%	33,390	11%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-560-XCB2006017.ivt

Prepared by: BC Stats, June 2008

Table 6: Current Residence of BC-Educated Post-Secondary Graduates by Age (Excludes Emigration)

	15 to 64		15 to 24		25 to 34	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total (Excludes Emigrants)	1,038,675	100%	100,790	100%	249,335	100%
British Columbia	937,505	90%	94,790	94%	222,895	89%
Alberta	49,415	5%	3,240	3%	13,295	5%
Manitoba & Saskatchewan	9,210	1%	445	0%	1,965	1%
Ontario	29,895	3%	1,560	2%	8,210	3%
Quebec	4,085	0%	260	0%	1,175	0%
Atlantic Provinces	5,010	0%	230	0%	1,050	0%
Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, & Nunavut	3,525	0%	245	0%	735	0%

	35 to 44		45 to 54		55 to 64	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total (Excludes Emigrants)	266,425	100%	256,525	100%	165,600	100%
British Columbia	237,995	89%	231,145	90%	150,680	91%
Alberta	13,955	5%	12,340	5%	6,585	4%
Manitoba & Saskatchewan	2,700	1%	2,325	1%	1,775	1%
Ontario	8,365	3%	7,195	3%	4,565	3%
Quebec	1,015	0%	1,060	0%	575	0%
Atlantic Provinces	1,500	1%	1,385	1%	845	1%
Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, & Nunavut	900	0%	1,065	0%	580	0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-560-XCB2006017.ivt

Prepared by: BC Stats, June 2008