

University Degree Held by 16% of New Brunswick’s Working Age Population

The education questions on the census questionnaire underwent substantial change in 2006. Only limited data comparisons can be made between 2001 and 2006.

‘Highest certificate, diploma or degree’ refers to the highest certificate, diploma or degree completed based on a hierarchy which is generally related to the amount of time spent ‘in-class’. For postsecondary completers, a university education is considered to be a higher level of schooling than a college education, while a college education is considered to be a higher level of education than in the trades. Although some trades requirements may take as long or longer to complete than a given college or university program, the majority of time is spent in on-the-job paid training and less time is spent in the classroom.

- Just over one-half (53%) of New Brunswick’s working age population (those aged 25 to 64 years) had completed some form of postsecondary education in 2006, the smallest proportion of all provinces.
- About 16% of 25 to 64 year olds had a university degree as their highest level of educational attainment, 21% had a college diploma, and 12% had a trades certificate. Roughly one-quarter (26%) had a high school diploma, while 21% had less than a high school education.
- Young New Brunswick adults attained a higher level of education than their older counterparts. About 22% of young adults aged 25 to 34 years had a university degree in 2006, well above the 13% of adults 55 to 64 years old that had one.
- On the other hand, only one in 10 (11%) young New Brunswick adults aged 25 to 34 had not completed high school in 2006, the lowest proportion in Atlantic Canada. This was significantly lower than the rate among older generations. Among those 55 to 64 years of age, one-third (33%) had not completed high school.

