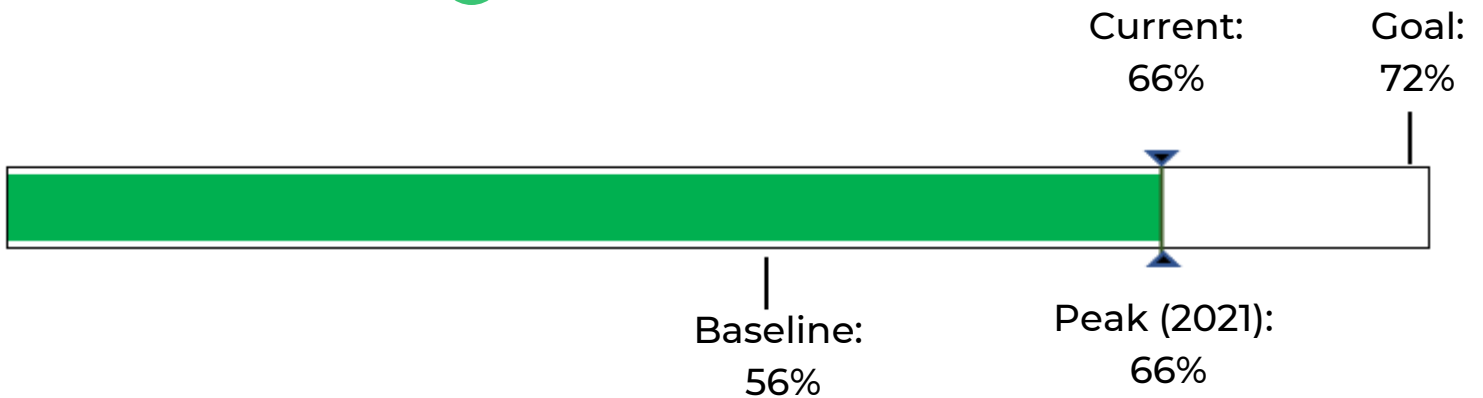




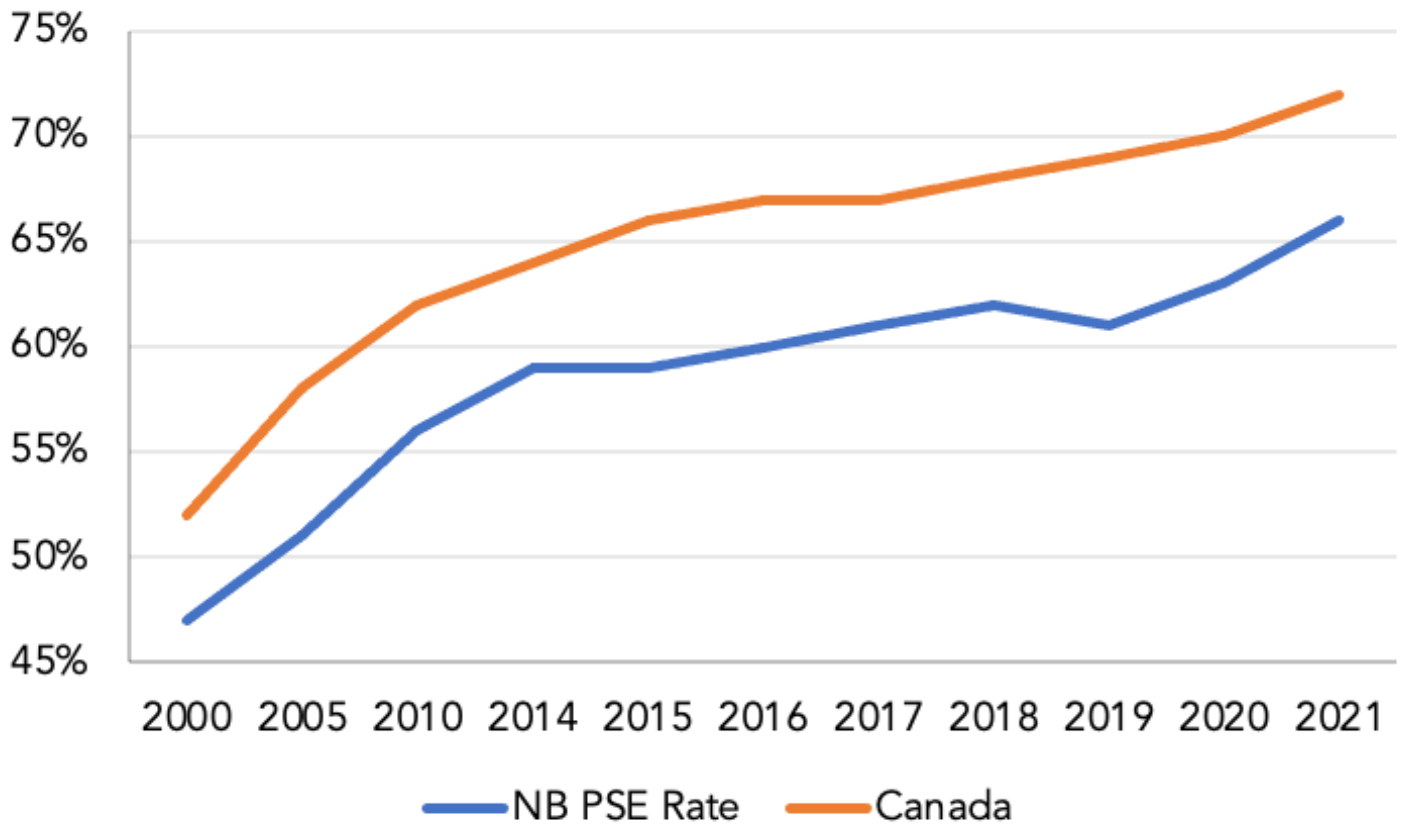
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

STATUS:  PROGRESSING AND ON TRACK



New Brunswick will close the gap between its own post-secondary education attainment rate and the national average rate.

Figure 1: Comparing PSE* Attainment Rates (College and University ages 25-64) in New Brunswick and Canada



(See full data in Appendix A)

*PSE = Post Secondary Education

HIGHLIGHTS

- The PSE attainment rates in both Nova Scotia and Canada have always been higher than the attainment rate in New Brunswick.
- The number of people graduating from colleges has been decreasing in New Brunswick and Canada, however, there have been more university graduates both provincially and federally.
- The number of females graduating from colleges has declined over time, but the number of female university graduates has increased.
- The younger the population (for adults) the higher the attainment rate in general.

OVERVIEW

Importance

Post-secondary education (PSE) and training outlines the rate at which New Brunswickers are attending and graduating from institutions to receive higher education. New Brunswick's PSE attainment rate represents the percentage of the population with post-secondary education. The province has the third-lowest PSE attainment of all the provinces, only surpassing Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Being closer to or reaching the national average would put New Brunswick in much better standing compared to other provinces. As well, higher PSE attainment rates have the potential to translate to economic growth, and they may be necessary to avoid economic decline.

Problem

The PSE attainment rate for New Brunswick has been increasing since 2010, from 56% up to 66% in 2021. However, it is not increasing in a way that translates to economic growth.

Cause

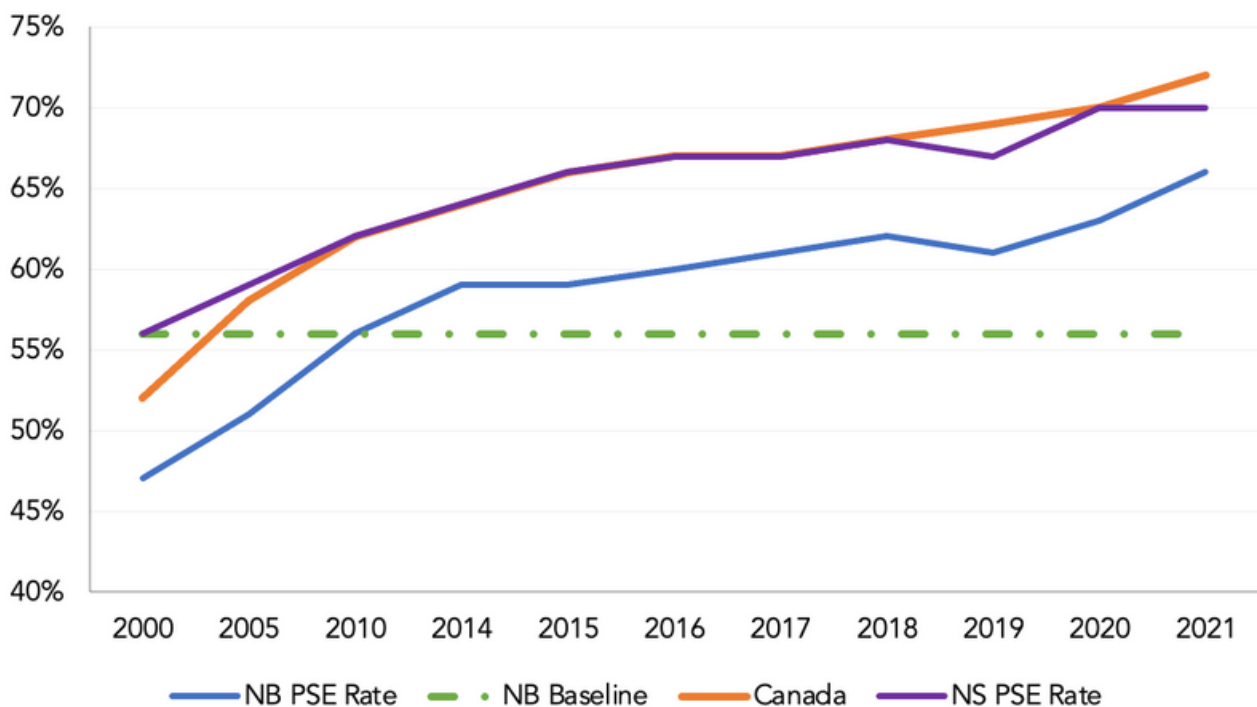
This increase is not due to an actual increase in post-secondary attendees. It is due to a decrease in the total population of New Brunswick since 2010 (a 2.5% decrease in the total population aged 25-64 and a 9% decrease in the population aged 18-24).

IN THE NUMBERS

PSE Attainment Rate

As shown in Figure 2, the PSE attainment rate in New Brunswick steadily increased from 2000 to 2010, at which point it started to stabilize. During that decade, the total population of New Brunswick was increasing, which suggests that people who were coming to New Brunswick were already highly educated. From 2010 onwards, there is still an increase, but it is more gradual. This is due to the decreasing population size in New Brunswick during that period, especially amongst younger people. It can also be noticed that the PSE attainment rates for both the province of Nova Scotia and Canada were always higher than that of New Brunswick. However, there was a higher growth in PSE attainment rate of New Brunswick than that of Canada in the year of 2021 which could indicate some progress.

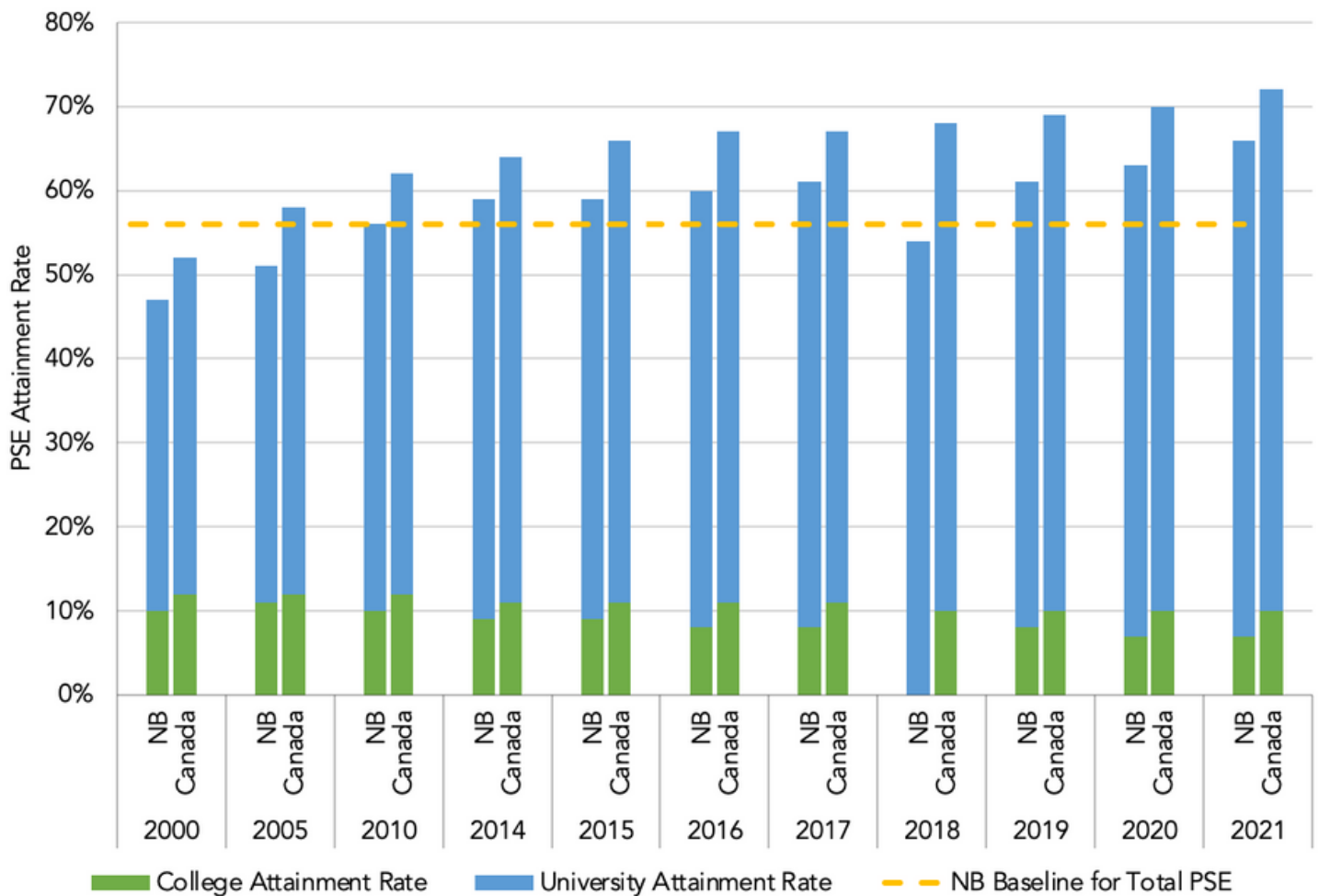
Figure 2: PSE Attainment Rates (College and University ages 25-64) in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Canada



(See full data in Appendix A)

Figure 3 shows the spread of PSE graduates from university or college since 2000, compared to a baseline. The baseline used in the figure is a number based on the average PSE rates of New Brunswick from 2000 to 2016. The number of people graduating from college has been decreasing, while the number of people graduating from university has been increasing, with a net increase overall. This trend exists at both the provincial and federal level as shown in figure 3.

Figure 3: Comparing University/College PSE Attainment Rates



(See full data in Appendix B)

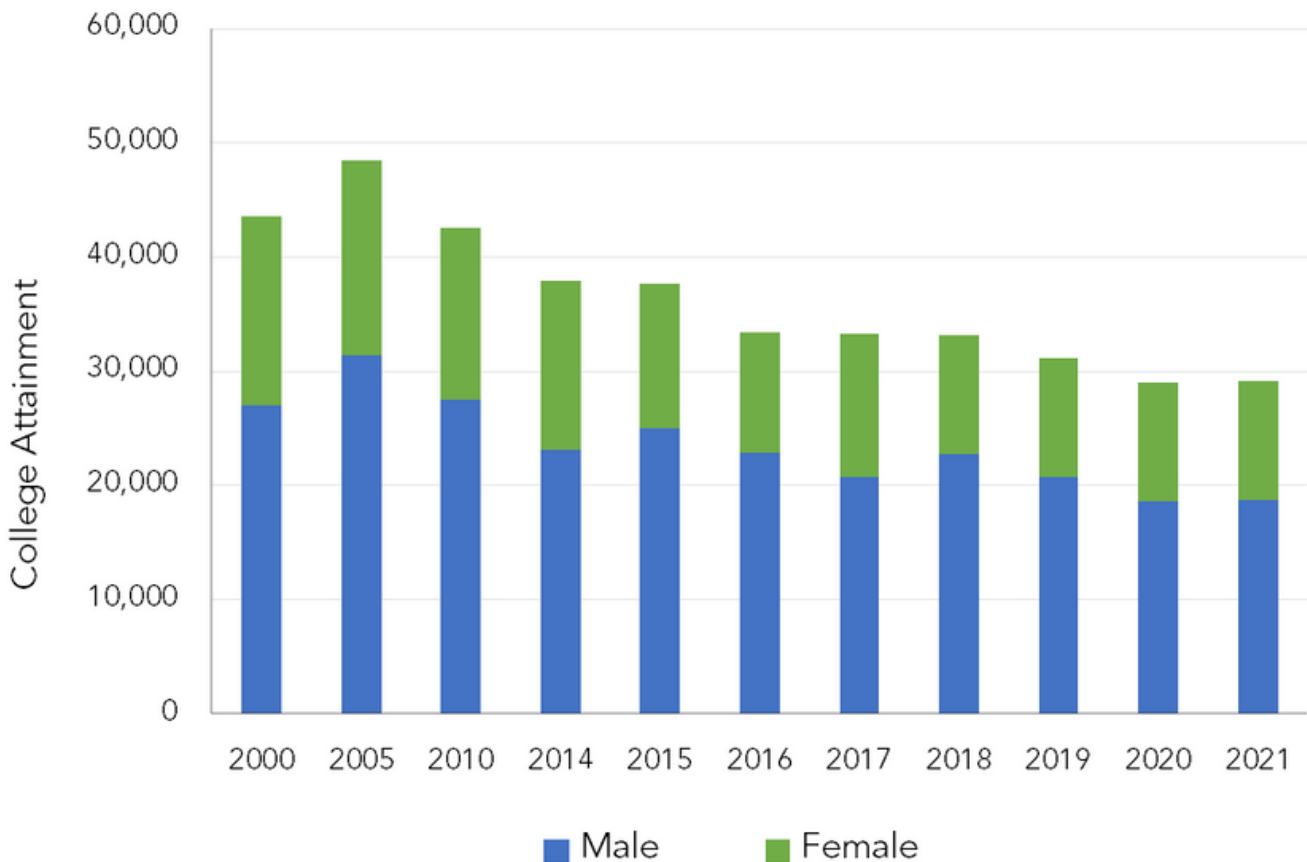
A CLOSER LOOK

PSE Attainment Rate by Gender

As can be seen in Figure 4, while the PSE attainment rate has been increasing, the college-level attainment rate has actually been decreasing overall. Specifically, the number of females with a college diploma has declined. This number has dropped from a high of 17,038 in 2005 to 10,372 in 2021.

A contributing factor to this could be the types of labour demand in New Brunswick. Many jobs in the construction or manufacturing industries require college level applicants. However, these industries have historically been, and continue to be, dominated by men.

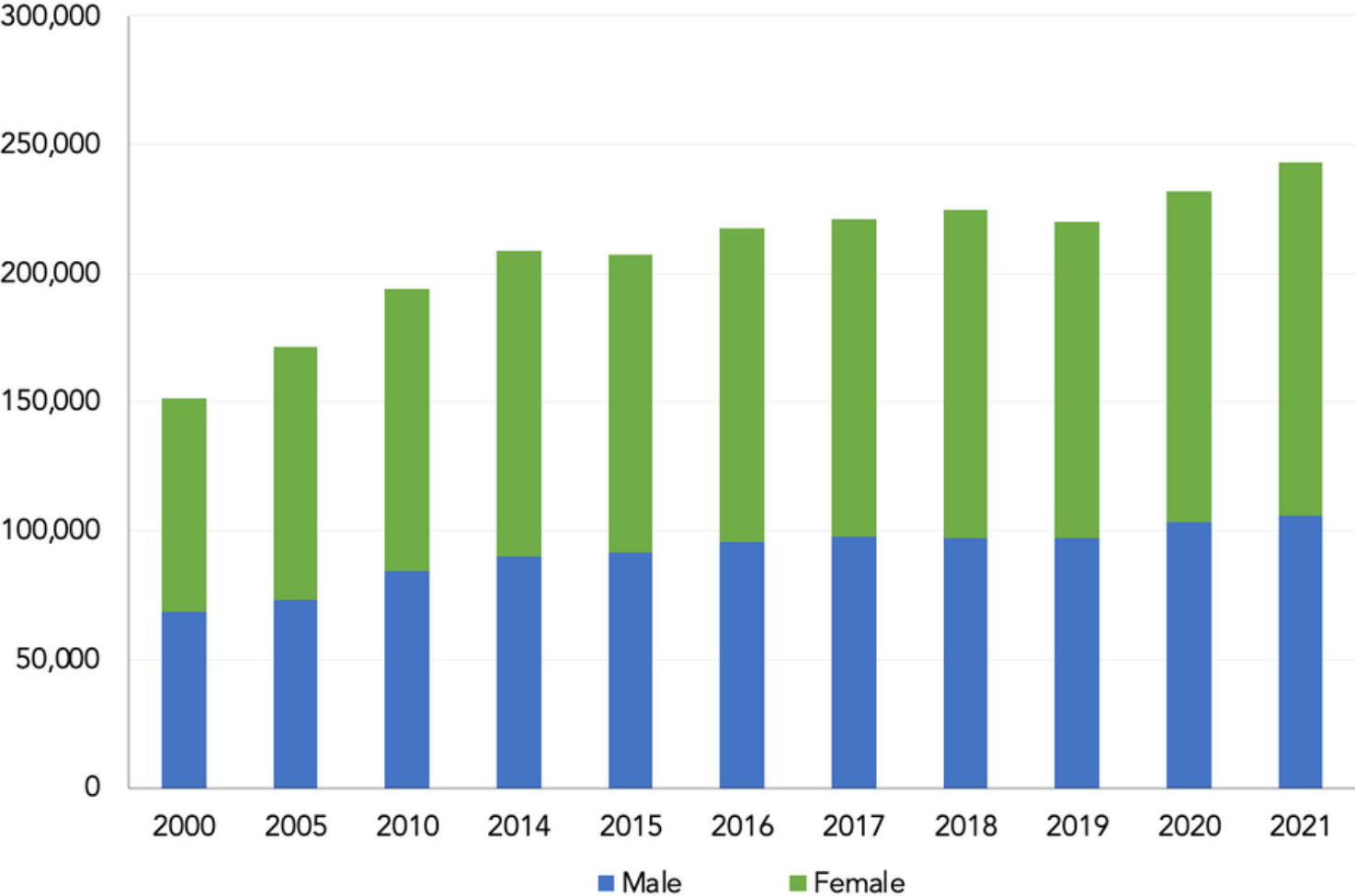
Figure 4: College Attainment By Gender



(See full data in Appendix C)

Meanwhile, as can be seen in Figure 5, the exact opposite is true for university attainment rates in New Brunswick. The university attainment rate has been steadily increasing, and although it has somewhat stagnated in the past few years, there is still an overall upwards trend. The number of female university graduates has been increasing while the number of males attending university has been neither markedly increasing nor decreasing. In recent years, there has been a push to encourage females to attend university, though females currently outnumber males in almost every program.

Figure 5: University Attainment By Gender

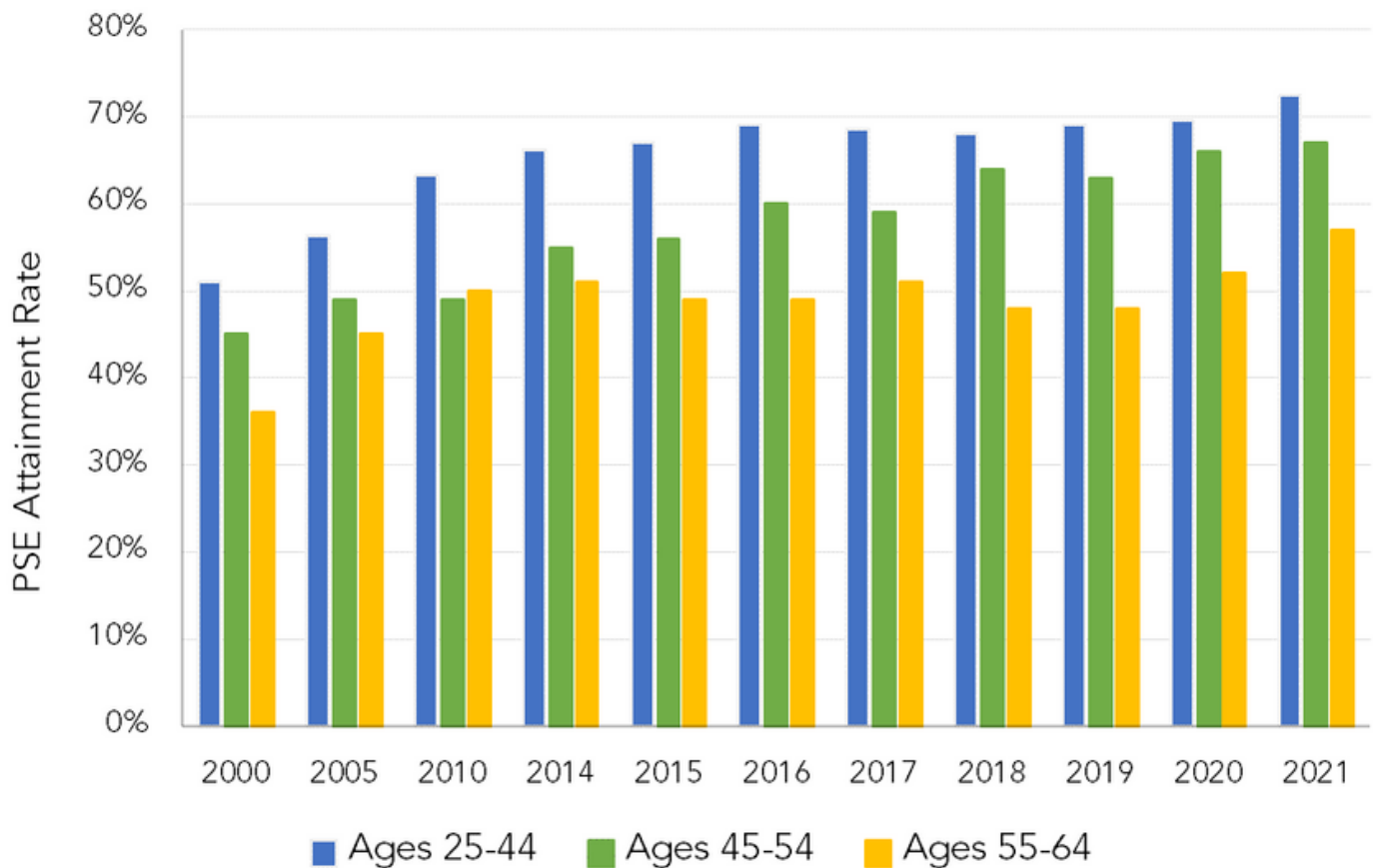


(See full data in Appendix D)

PSE Attainment Rate by Age

Figure 5 shows how the PSE attainment rates for different age groups have been increasing over time. The older population (aged 55-64) has the lowest attainment rate, while the youngest age group (aged 25-44) has the highest attainment rate. This indicates that the younger generation is obtaining more formal education than their parents' and grandparents' generations.

Figure 6: PSE Attainment Rates by Age



(See full data in Appendix E)

SUMMARY

- The PSE attainment rate for New Brunswick has been increasing significantly since 2000, but for various reasons, it has seen very minimal growth in more recent years.
- The attainment rate in New Brunswick in recent years has had more growth than the attainment rate in Canada indicating progress towards the goal.
- One of the main reasons that the attainment rate in New Brunswick is growing at a better rate is the decrease in the overall population of the province.
- Having higher post-secondary education rates has the potential to create economic growth; therefore, New Brunswick would benefit from increasing its attainment rates through experiential learning opportunities and better alignment between program offerings and the job market.

APPENDIX A

Comparing Post-Secondary Education Attainment Rates

Year	NB PSE Rate	NB Baseline	Canada	NS Baseline	NS Goal	NS PSE Rate
2000	47%	56%	52%	65%	75%	56%
2005	51%	56%	58%	65%	75%	59%
2010	56%	56%	62%	65%	75%	62%
2014	59%	56%	64%	65%	75%	64%
2015	59%	56%	66%	65%	75%	66%
2016	60%	56%	67%	65%	75%	67%
2017	61%	56%	67%	65%	75%	67%
2018	62%	56%	68%	65%	75%	68%
2019	61%	56%	69%	65%	75%	67%
2020	63%	56%	70%	65%	75%	70%
2021	66%	56%	72%	65%	75%	70%

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0005-01 and CANSIM Table 37-10-0130-01

APPENDIX B

Comparing University/College PSE Attainment Rates

Year	University Attainment Rate (NB)	College Attainment Rate (NB)	NB Baseline for Total PSE	University Attainment Rate (Canada)	College Attainment Rate (Canada)
2000	37%	10%	56%	40%	12%
2005	40%	11%	56%	46%	12%
2010	46%	10%	56%	50%	12%
2014	50%	9%	56%	53%	11%
2015	50%	9%	56%	55%	11%
2016	52%	8%	56%	56%	11%
2017	53%	8%	56%	56%	11%
2018	54%	8%	56%	58%	10%
2019	53%	8%	56%	59%	10%
2020	56%	7%	56%	60%	10%
2021	59%	7%	56%	62%	10%

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0005-01 and CANSIM Table 37-10-0130-01

APPENDIX C

College Attainment by Gender

Year	Male	Female
2000	27,010	16,581
2005	31,458	17,038
2010	27,512	15,005
2014	23,088	14,810
2015	25,023	12,628
2016	22,919	10,498
2017	20,787	12,538
2018	22,809	10,411
2019	20,740	10,406
2020	18,611	10,357
2021	18,719	10,372

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0005-01 and CANSIMTable 37-10-0130-01

APPENDIX D

University Attainment By Gender

Year	Male	Female
2000	68,563	82,905
2005	73,402	97,967
2010	84,651	109,322
2014	90,251	118,483
2015	91,749	115,752
2016	95,841	121,774
2017	97,700	123,294
2018	97,456	127,015
2019	97,476	122,794
2020	103,392	128,429
2021	106,072	136,907

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0005-01 and CANSIM Table 37-10-0130-01

APPENDIX E

PSE Attainment Rates by Age

Year	Total PSE Ages 25-44	Total PSE Ages 45-54	Total PSE Ages 55-64
2000	51%	45%	36%
2005	56%	49%	45%
2010	63%	49%	50%
2014	66%	55%	51%
2015	67%	56%	49%
2016	69%	60%	49%
2017	69%	59%	51%
2018	68%	64%	48%
2019	69%	63%	48%
2020	70%	66%	52%
2021	73%	67%	57%

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 17-10-0005-01 and CANSIM Table 37-10-0130-01