

## **GOAL 10: Post-Secondary Education and Training**

*By 2028, New Brunswick's working-age population will have a post-secondary education attainment rate equal to or greater than the national average.*

**Status: PROGRESSING**

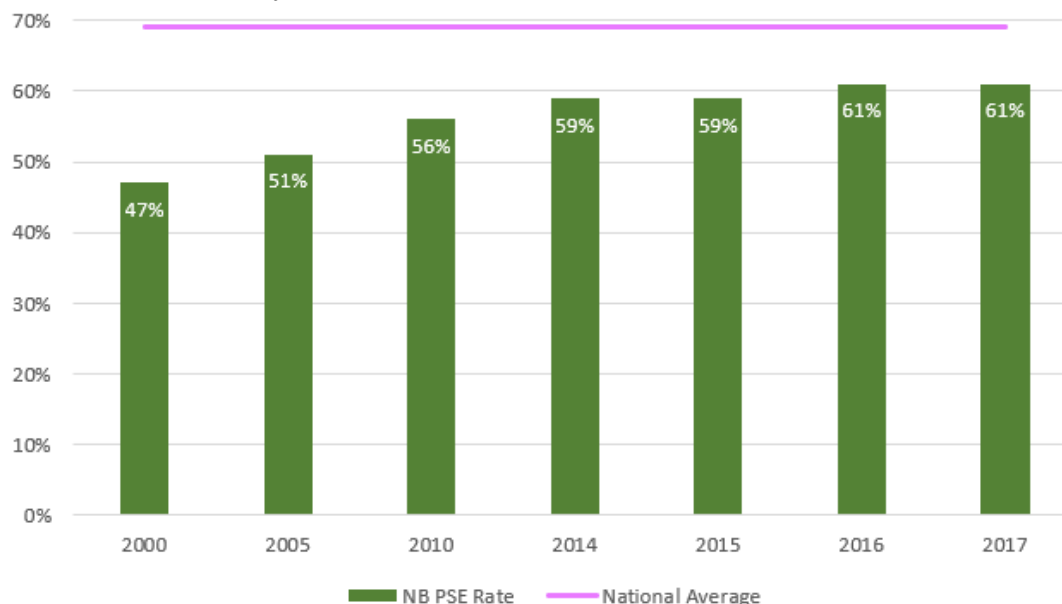
## Current Situation

New Brunswick should aim to stimulate the provincial economy by promoting the completion of post-secondary education (PSE) among its working-age population. Higher PSE attainment rates have the potential to translate to economic growth, and they may be necessary to avoid economic decline. OneNS set a goal of increasing the proportion of Nova Scotia's working-age population that completed post-secondary education by 10 percentage points. It is recommended that New Brunswick adopt a similar goal; however, rather than striving for a 10-percentage point increase, the province should aim to achieve a PSE attainment rate equal to or greater than the Canadian average.

The PSE attainment rate among New Brunswick's working-age population (ages 25-64) steadily increased from 2000 to 2016, growing by 14 percentage points, from 47% to 61%. As of 2017 however, there has been no growth in the PSE attainment rate of the working age population, and New Brunswick's rates remain below the national average (69%) for the 2000-2017 study period.

## Section One: Post-Secondary Attainment Rates

**Figure 1: Post-Secondary Education Attainment Rate (NB)**



### Interpreting the Data

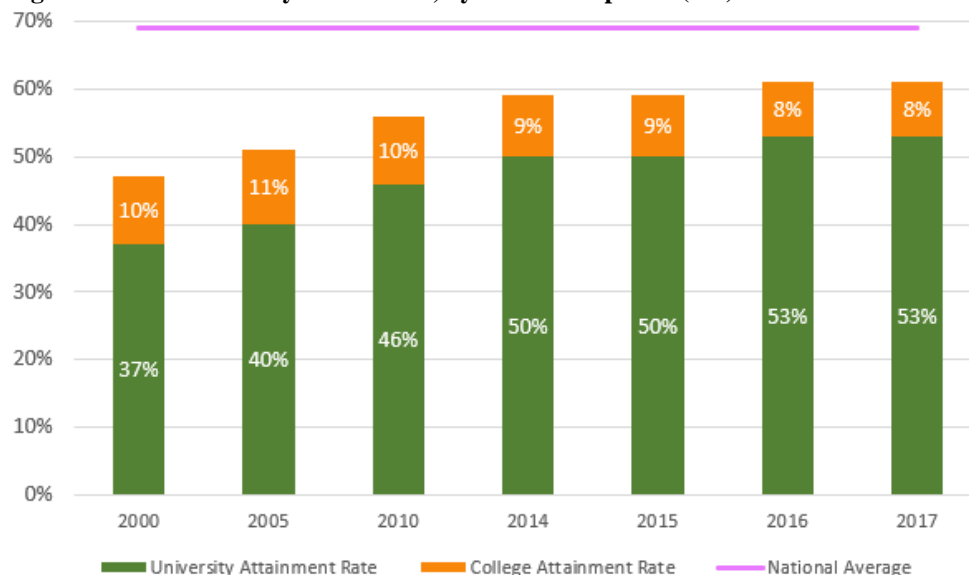
As of 2017, New Brunswick's labour force had the highest levels of PSE completion the province had ever seen, and if it maintains the upward trend that has been ongoing since 2000, it should reach the 69% national average of the 17-year study period by 2028. However, it is important to note that while New Brunswick's PSE attainment rate grew by 14 percentage points from 2000 to 2017, the national rate grew by 16 percentage points (from 52% in 2000 to 68% in 2017). If the national average continues to increase, New Brunswick may need to pursue PSE attainment rates greater than 69% if it is to remain competitive in the future labour market. However, future trends are difficult to predict, and New Brunswick is presently on track to achieve the current suggested goal.

### Data Deep Dive

Data: Figure 1	NB PSE Rate	Baseline	Goal
2000	47%	56%	69%
2005	51%	56%	69%
2010	56%	56%	69%
2014	59%	56%	69%
2015	59%	56%	69%
2016	61%	56%	69%
2017	61%	56%	69%

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

**Figure 2: Post-Secondary Attainment, by Level Completed (NB)**



## Interpreting the Data National Average

The educated portion of New Brunswick's labour force can be divided into two categories: those who have completed college and those who have completed university. Overall, university completion levels in New Brunswick have continued to rise since 2000; however, college completion in the province has been declining since 2005.

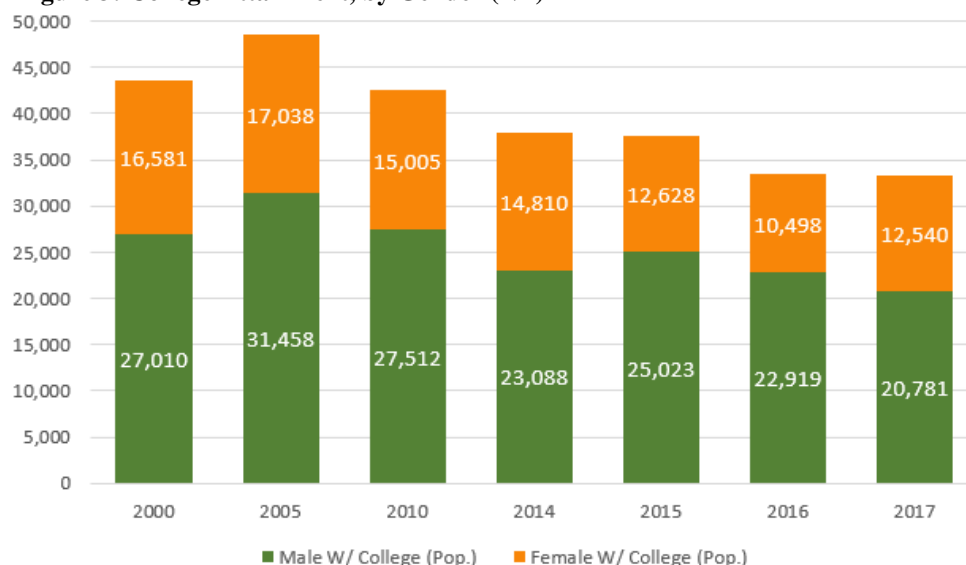
## Data Deep Dive

Data: Figure 2	University Attainment Rate	College Attainment Rate	Total PSE Attainment Rate	Baseline	Goal
2000	37%	10%	47%	56%	69%
2005	40%	11%	51%	56%	69%
2010	46%	10%	56%	56%	69%
2014	50%	9%	59%	56%	69%
2015	50%	9%	59%	56%	69%
2016	53%	8%	61%	56%	69%
2017	53%	8%	61%	56%	69%

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

## Section Two: Attainment by Gender for College and University

**Figure 3: College Attainment, by Gender (NB)**



### Interpreting the Data

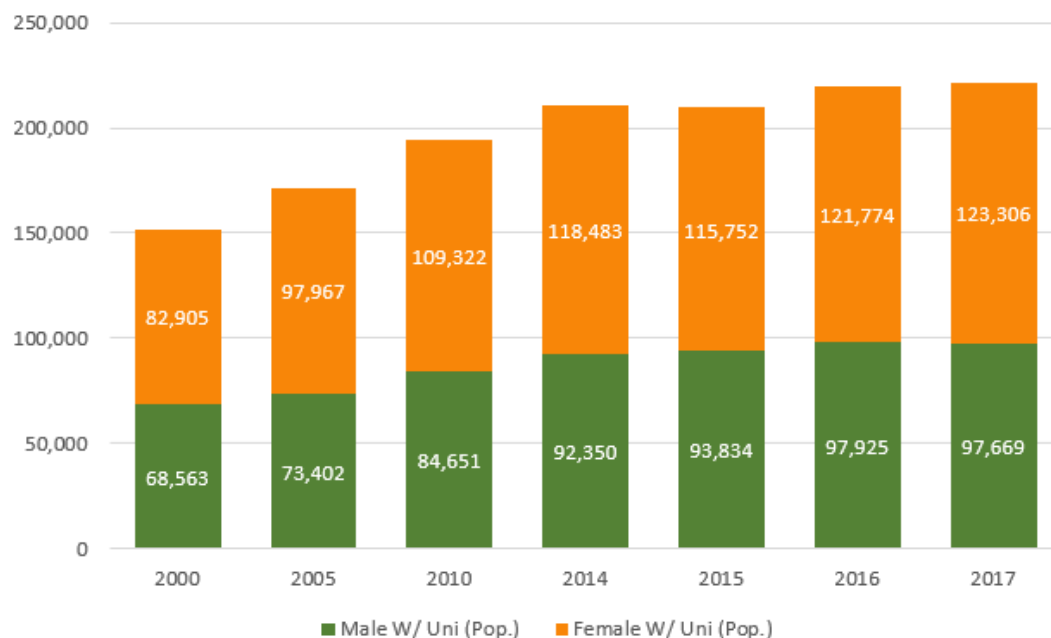
A closer look at the demographics of college graduates in New Brunswick shows that the declining college completion rate has been accompanied by a decline in (already-low) female representation at the college level. From 2000 to 2017, female college attainment rates have fallen 6 percentage points, from 38% (2000) to 32% (2016), whereas male college attainment rates have increased from 62% to 68%.

### Data Deep Dive

Data: Figure 3	Male W/ College (Pop.)	Female W/ College (Pop.)	Total W/ College (Pop.)	College Grads - Male	College Grads - Female
2000	27,010	16,581	43,591	62%	38%
2005	31,458	17,038	48,496	65%	35%
2010	27,512	15,005	42,516	65%	35%
2014	23,088	14,810	37,898	61%	39%
2015	25,023	12,628	37,650	66%	34%
2016	22,919	10,498	33,416	69%	31%
2017	20,781	12,540	33,320	62%	38%

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

**Figure 4: University Attainment, by Gender (NB)**



## Interpreting the Data

Meanwhile, New Brunswick has seen a large increase in university attainment rates, which counteracts the decline in college completion. While the annual number of working-age New Brunswickers with a college education decreased by 10,271 from 2000 to 2017, the number of those with a university degree increased by 69,507. A demographic breakdown of university graduates in New Brunswick shows that the completion rate was rising at a steady pace for both genders until 2016. The most recent data from 2017 suggests that the total number of university degree holders may be stagnating within the province, and the number of men holding university degrees decreased slightly from last year. In contrast to the college attainment rate, women comprise over half of the university attainment rate in New Brunswick and have done so consistently since 2000.

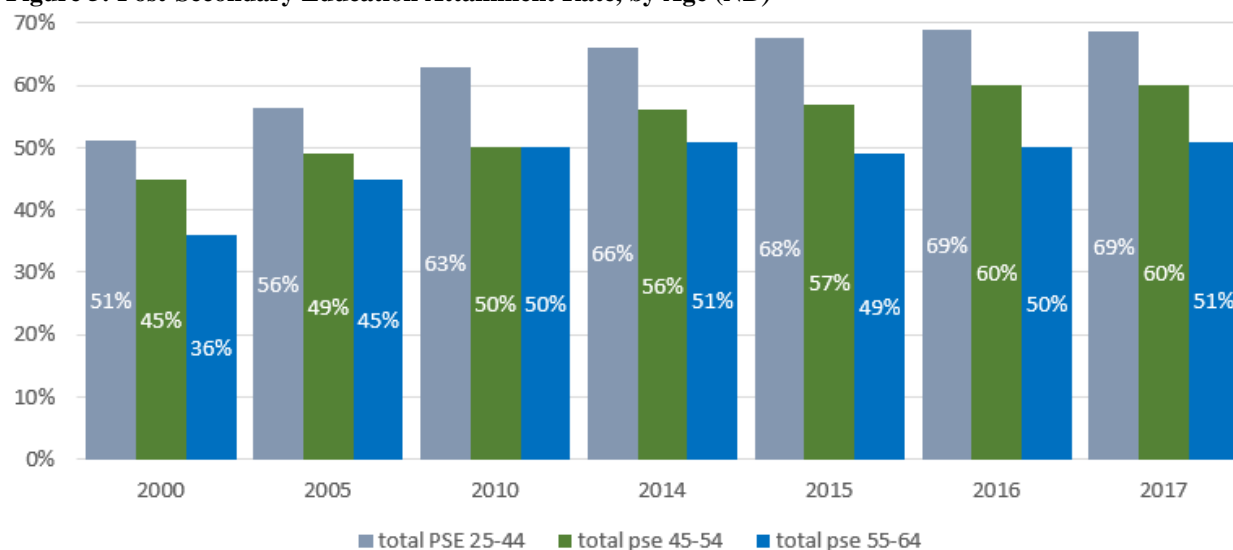
## Data Deep Dive

Data: Figure 4	Male W/ Uni (Pop.)	Female W/ Uni (Pop.)	Total W/ Uni (Pop.)	Male W/ Uni (%)	Female W/ Uni (%)
2000	68,544	82,820	151,364	45%	55%
2005	73,411	97,993	171,404	43%	57%
2010	84,670	109,419	194,089	44%	56%
2014	91,078	117,415	208,493	44%	56%
2015	92,264	114,560	206,823	45%	55%
2016	96,196	120,550	216,746	44%	56%

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

## Section Three: Post-Secondary Education Attainment by Age

**Figure 5: Post-Secondary Education Attainment Rate, by Age (NB)**



### Interpreting the Data

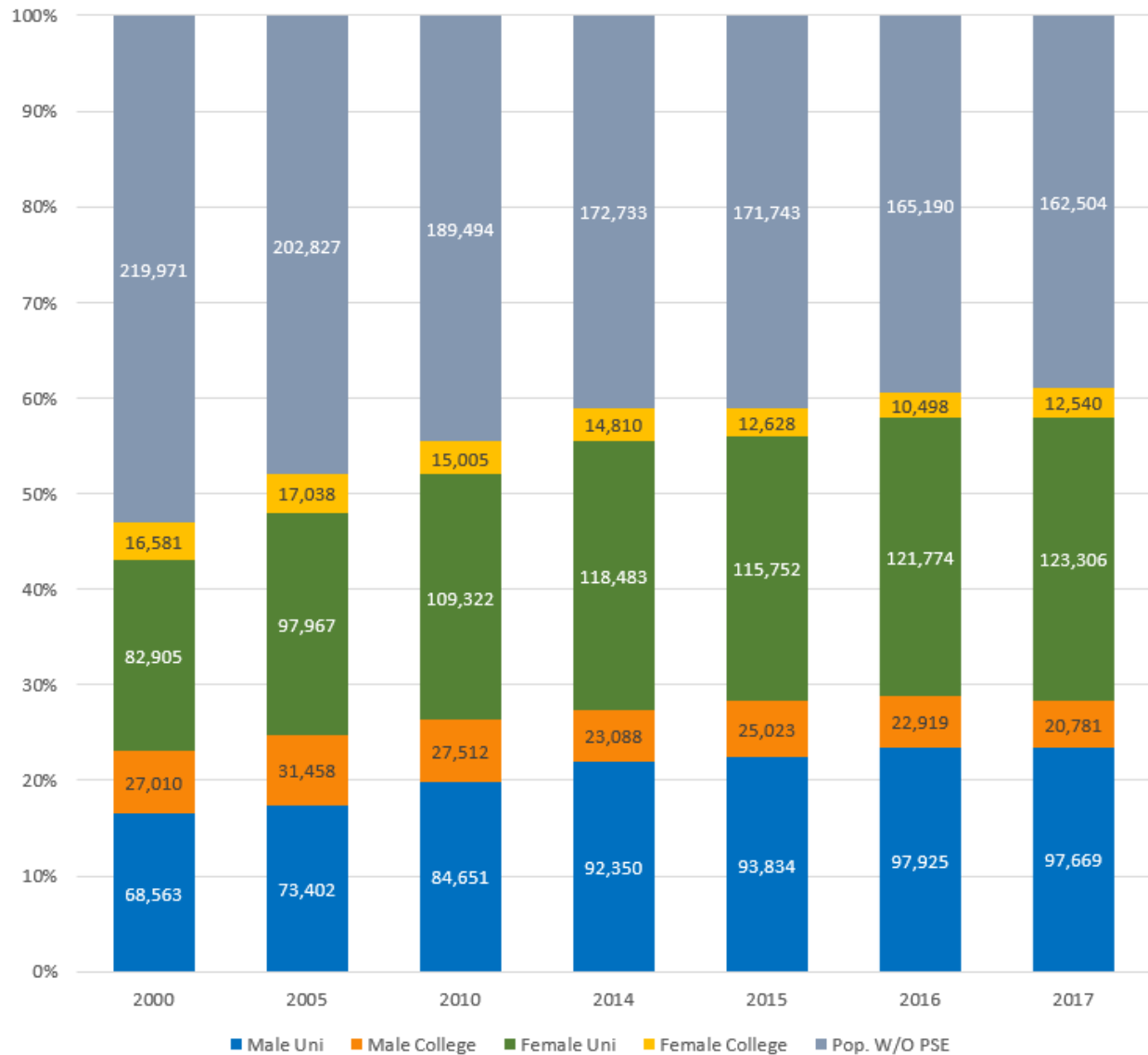
PSE attainment rates in New Brunswick can also be divided into categories organized by age (in this case, ages 25-44, 45-54, and 55-64). This subdivision shows that PSE attainment levels are typically highest among the youngest age group and lowest among the oldest, which suggests that the PSE attainment rate in New Brunswick will continue to increase as the older population of workers ages into retirement and is replaced by younger generations with higher levels of education. However, the province should not rely on this age-based trend to boost its PSE attainment rates to the national level, as the latter is also likely to continue rising as the Canadian population ages.

### Data Deep Dive

Data: Figure 5	NB ages 25-44	NB ages 45-54	NB ages 55-64
<b>2000</b>	51%	45%	36%
<b>2005</b>	56%	49%	45%
<b>2010</b>	63%	50%	50%
<b>2014</b>	66%	56%	51%
<b>2015</b>	68%	57%	49%
<b>2016</b>	69%	60%	50%
<b>2017</b>	69%	60%	51%

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

**Figure 6: Labour Force Educational Attainment Breakdown (NB)**



### Interpreting the Data

From 2000 to 2016, the size of New Brunswick’s labour force increased by roughly 2%, whereas the PSE attainment rate of its labour force increased by approximately 14%. This could indicate that the province’s residents are becoming more educated, or that there is a net inflow of educated workers moving into the province.



## Data Deep Dive

Data: Figure 6	Male Uni	Male College	Female Uni	Female College	Pop. W/O PSE	Total Pop.
2000	68,563	27,010	82,905	16,581	219,971	415,030
2005	73,402	31,458	97,967	17,038	202,827	422,692
2010	84,651	27,512	109,322	15,005	189,494	425,983
2014	92,350	23,088	118,483	14,810	172,733	421,464
2015	93,834	25,023	115,752	12,628	171,743	418,980
2016	97,925	22,919	121,774	10,498	165,190	418,305
2017	97,669	20,781	123,306	12,540	162,504	416,800

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

### Changes to the indicator, baseline, or target:

- Following *OneNS*, this goal considers the working-age population to be those aged 25-64, rather than 15-64. This indicator was changed because those aged 15-24 are most likely to still be in school. It seemed reasonable to exclude this group, as the outcome of their PSE attainment was yet to be determined.
- The baseline is an arbitrary number based on the average PSE rates of New Brunswick from 2000 to 2016. The goal is based on the average PSE rate of Canada (excluding the Atlantic provinces) over the same time period.
- Along with the increased baseline, the proposed target was increased by 10 percentage points.

### Sources:

- Statistics Canada
  - CANSIM Table 477-0135: Educational attainment of the population aged 25 to 64, by age group and sex, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Canada, provinces and territories, occasional (percent) (1,2,3,4,5,6)
  - CANSIM Table 051-0001: Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual (persons unless otherwise noted) (1,2,6,7)