

CENSUS 2016 CENTRAL OKANAGAN HIGHLIGHTS

Unless otherwise noted (see COEDC commentary boxes), all headings, comments, tables and data have been directly sourced from [Statistics Canada, Census Profile, 2016 Census](#).

Education in Canada



Photo courtesy of UBC Okanagan

More than half of Canadian aged 25 to 64 have university or college qualifications

In 2016, more than half (54.0%) of Canadians aged 25 to 64 had either college or university qualifications, up from 48.3% in 2006. Canada continues to rank first among the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries in the proportion of college and university graduates.

Canada's college system is strong

Canada has the highest proportion of college and university graduates in the OECD due to its large college sector, not seen in most other OECD countries. In 2016, 22.4% of the Canadian population aged 25 to 64 had a college diploma as the highest educational qualification, compared with an estimated 8% among OECD countries overall.

First Nations people, Métis and Inuit all made gains in postsecondary education at every level. In 2016, 10.9% of Aboriginal people overall aged 25 to 64 had a bachelor's degree or higher, up from 7.7% in 2006. The proportion of Aboriginal people with a college diploma rose from 18.7% in 2006 to 23.0% in 2016.

Significantly more young men in the skilled trades since 2006

The percentage of young men aged 25 to 34 with an apprenticeship certificate in the skilled trades as their highest level of education increased from 4.9% in 2006 to 7.8% in 2016.

The median annual earnings for men with an apprenticeship certificate in 2015 were 7% more than men with a college diploma, 31% more than men with a high school diploma, and 11% less than men with a bachelor's degree.

More young women are obtaining a bachelor's degree or higher

Whereas the greatest gains in postsecondary education for men were in apprenticeship training, women are increasingly equipping themselves through university credentials.

More than 4 in 10 (40.7%) young women aged 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2016, up from just under one-third in 2006. This continues a trend begun in the early 1990s when the proportion of young women with a bachelor's degree or higher surpassed that of young men.

Canadians are equipping themselves for the jobs of today

Among Canadians aged 25 to 64 with postsecondary qualifications, 81.4% were graduates in fields important for building a strong social infrastructure, such as education, communications, justice, health and others. Contributing to the advancement of Canada's science and technology competitiveness, 18.6% of working-age Canadians with postsecondary qualifications graduated from science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

With an aging Canadian population and growing demand for knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the labour market, postsecondary education is critical to a prosperous future for Canada. Whether they have a degree in medicine or nursing, the majority of young graduates in health fields at all levels of education are women and they are finding work that matches their studies. Young graduates in engineering or computer and information sciences are also very likely to work in occupations closely related to their studies.

Women are the majority in health fields and very likely to find work that matches their studies

With an aging population, health care skills are increasingly important for the labour market. In 2016, most graduates in health fields at all levels of education were women and they were finding work that matched their studies. For example, women accounted for 92.7% of young nursing graduates aged 25 to 34 at the bachelor's level and 64.4% of young graduates with medical degrees.

About 95% of young nursing graduates worked in health occupations. Further, the earnings of young nursing graduates were as high as young engineering graduates. This reflects the strong demand for the skills of nursing graduates in an aging society.

Over half of recent immigrants have a bachelor's degree or higher

Immigrants contribute to Canada's economy by bringing their skills and high levels of educational attainment. Canada's immigration system highly values education. In recent years, new programs have made it easier for international students who have completed their postsecondary education in Canada to immigrate into the country. As of the 2016 Census, 4 in 10 immigrants aged 25 to 64 had a bachelor's degree or higher. In comparison, just under one-quarter of the Canadian-born population aged 25 to 64 had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Highest certificate, diploma or degree for the population aged 25-64 (%)

	No certificate, diploma or degree	High school diploma or equivalent	Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	College certificate or diploma	University Degree at Bachelor's or above
Kelowna CMA (Central Okanagan)	8.4	28.6	63	11.6	26.9	21.2
BC	9.6	26.5	63.9	9.1	20.9	30
Canada	11.5	23.7	64.8	10.8	22.4	28.5

COEDC Commentary

- While the proportion of Kelowna CMA (Central Okanagan) residents with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree is slightly lower than the provincial and national averages, the Kelowna CMA has a higher proportion of apprenticeship/trades or college certificate or diploma holders.

Location of Study for population aged 25 to 64

	Kelowna CMA (Central Okanagan) (%)	BC (%)	Canada (%)
Within BC	56.4	58.4	72.8
Different province or territory within Canada	30.9	17.9	10.1
Outside of Canada	12.7	23.7	17.1

COEDC Commentary

- Residents of Central Okanagan (56.4%) are more likely to have studied outside of their current province of residence than the Canadian average (72.8%). This is partly due to educated migrants from other parts of Canada relocating to the region.

Top fields of study for the population aged 25-64 as a percent of total postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree holders

	Kelowna CMA (Central Okanagan) (%)	BC (%)	Canada (%)
Business, management and public administration	21.1	20.7	22
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies*	21.3	19.2	20.6
Health and related fields	18.9	15.1	14.3

**includes construction trades*

COEDC Commentary

- The proportion of the working age population with post-secondary education in the health care field is significantly higher than the provincial and national averages at 18.9% versus 15.1% provincially and 14.3% nationally. Health Care continues to contribute to strong job demand in the Kelowna CMA.
- Architecture, engineering and related technologies is the highest proportion of postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree holders in the Kelowna CMA with 21.3%, higher than both the provincial and national average. This category includes construction trades, precision production and mechanic/repair technicians, all of which are seeing strong demand with growth in the construction/development and aviation/aerospace sectors in the region.

Useful Census Links – Education

[The Daily: Education in Canada](#)

[Focus on Geography Series, 2016 Census – Kelowna CMA](#)

[Data Tables, 2016 Census - Education](#)

[Data Tables–Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree \(15\), Major Field of Study - Classification of Instructional Programs \(CIP\) 2016 \(82\), Age \(9\) and Sex \(3\) for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census](#)