



# Post-Secondary Education Choices and Labour Market Outcomes of High School Graduates in the Atlantic Provinces

## Newfoundland and Labrador

April 2024

### Introduction

This summary presents key findings from a study conducted by NB-IRDT on graduate outcomes in the Atlantic provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia.

- 1) The **post-secondary education choices** of high school graduates.
- 2) The **mobility and retention** of high school and post-secondary graduates.
- 3) The **labour market outcomes** (employment and income) of high school and post-secondary graduates.

This summary presents results for the province of **Newfoundland and Labrador** from 2015 until 2020.

*Findings for New Brunswick and for Nova Scotia are presented separately in province-specific summary reports.*

### Highlights

**Two-thirds** of NL high school graduates pursue college or university somewhere in Canada.

The majority of these graduates choose to stay and study in NL:

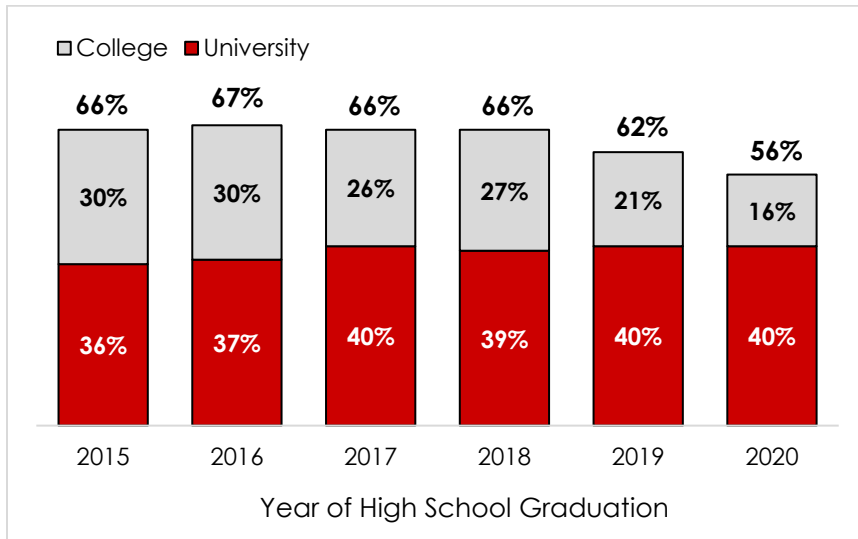
Local University	Local College
92%	96%

1 year after graduating from high school, college or university, the majority (**81-87%**) of NL graduates are still living in the province.

Of the graduates who are employed after graduating, many (**79-94%**) have jobs in NL.

## Post-Secondary Education Choices of NL High School Graduates

### Transitions to Higher Education



The graph on the left shows that around **two-thirds (~64%)** of NL high school graduates choose to pursue either a public university or public college somewhere in Canada.

College transitions appear lower in 2019 and 2020 due to limited data on these cohorts.\*

\*Note: Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS) data are only available until April 2021. Since this study looks at transitions to higher education up to 2 years after high school graduation, it is possible students from these cohorts have yet to enroll.

### When and where do Newfoundlanders go for college and university?

#### NL Graduates Pursuing University

**92%** go to a university in NL.

4% go to another Atlantic province.

4% go elsewhere in Canada.

**96%** enroll within 6 months of high school graduation

4% enroll 6 months – 2 years after high school graduation.

#### NL Graduates Pursuing College

**96%** go to a college in NL.

4% go elsewhere in Canada (The Atlantic region is included due to small sample sizes).

**74%** enroll within 6 months of high school graduation.

26% enroll 6 months – 2 years after high school graduation.

These statistics suggest that the majority of students who choose to pursue further education prefer to stay and study in their home province of NL – with many deciding to do so immediately following high school graduation.

## Retention of High School and Post-Secondary Graduates

### How many graduates stay in Newfoundland and Labrador?

The table to the right shows the retention rates of NL graduates who attended high school and/or post-secondary education in their home province of NL.

The highest retention rate 1 year after graduating is among high school graduates – with **87%** choosing to stay in the province.

2015 – 2019 graduating cohorts, combined			
	High school graduates*	College graduates	University graduates
<b>1 year after graduating</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>3 years after graduating</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>80%</b>

\* High school graduates who are not pursuing further education.

That being said, all three groups see a slight decline in retention rates 1 to 3 years after graduating. While 3-year retention is still fairly high, it is worth noting that more graduates appear to be leaving the province over time.

## Labour Market Outcomes of Graduates in NL

### How many employed graduates are working in Newfoundland and Labrador?

2015 – 2019 graduating cohorts, combined			
	High school graduates*	College graduates	University graduates
<b>1 year after graduating</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>3 years after graduating</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>81%</b>

\* High school graduates who are not pursuing further education

Here, we see that the majority of NL high school and college graduates who have a job are working in their home province.

While university graduates have a relatively lower rate of local employment, they see an increase in NL employment 3 years after graduating.

## Income

After graduating, NL university graduates earn the highest median income, followed by college graduates and then by high school graduates – with each seeing income growth over time.

	High school	College	University
<b>1 year after graduating</b>	<b>\$13,500</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>	<b>\$39,000</b>
<b>3 years after graduating</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$36,000</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>

2021 Constant Dollars

## **Key Takeaways**

Overall, findings suggest that NL graduates exhibit ties to their home province.

Those who pursue higher education often choose to do so within NL – and those who study in NL tend to stay and work in NL after they graduate, contributing to the local economy as members of the local labour force.

### **How to cite this product:**

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