

# Further postsecondary education and labour market outcomes, March 2014

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In March 2014, nearly one in four people aged 15 and over with a university degree reported having gone back to school and completed another certificate, diploma or university degree of equal or lower level.

There were 6.5 million people with a university degree in March 2014 and their employment rate was 74.5%. In this release, labour market indicators for those with a university degree are presented by major field of study and then compared with those who completed further postsecondary studies and those who did not.

The employment rate was higher among the 1.5 million university-educated people who completed further postsecondary studies (77.0%) compared with the 5.0 million university-educated who did not (73.7%).

People with a university degree in humanities (31%) or in physical and life sciences and technologies (30%) were the most likely to complete another postsecondary program of an equal or lower level, while those with degrees in mathematics, computer and information sciences or in personal, protective and transportation services were the least likely to complete further studies (18% each).

The three most common major fields of study for people who completed additional postsecondary education were business, management and public administration (27%); education (18%); and health and related fields (13%).

Nearly two out of five people with a university degree who completed another program chose the same field of study as their highest degree. This was particularly prevalent among those who studied business, management and public administration; health and related fields; education; and architecture, engineering and related technologies.

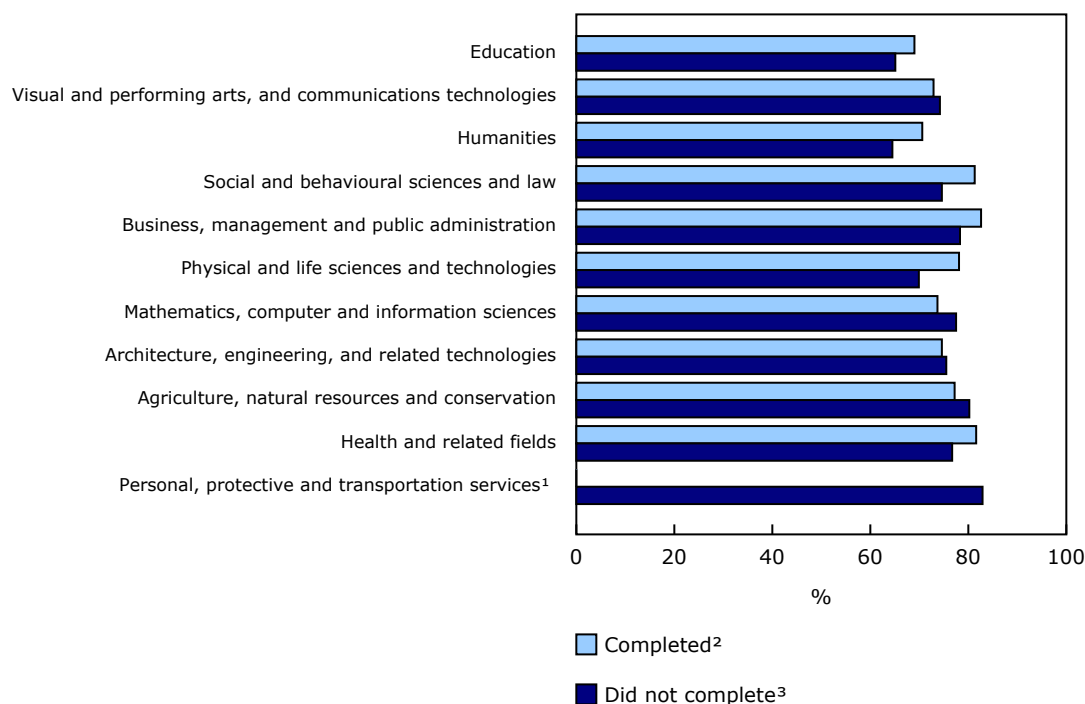
## Labour market indicators

By field of study, the largest difference in the employment rate for university degree-holders who completed further studies compared with those who did not was 8.2 percentage points for those who first studied physical and life sciences and technologies (78.1% versus 69.9%). The second-largest difference was 6.7 percentage points for people who had a university degree in social and behavioural sciences and law and who completed further studies (81.3%) compared with those who did not (74.6%).



**Chart 1**

**Employment rate of people with a university degree, by major field of study of highest education credential and further postsecondary education, March 2014**



1. The data quality indicator for the 'Completed' series is F — too unreliable to be published.

2. Completed another program.

3. Did not complete another program.

Source(s): Labour Force Survey (3701).

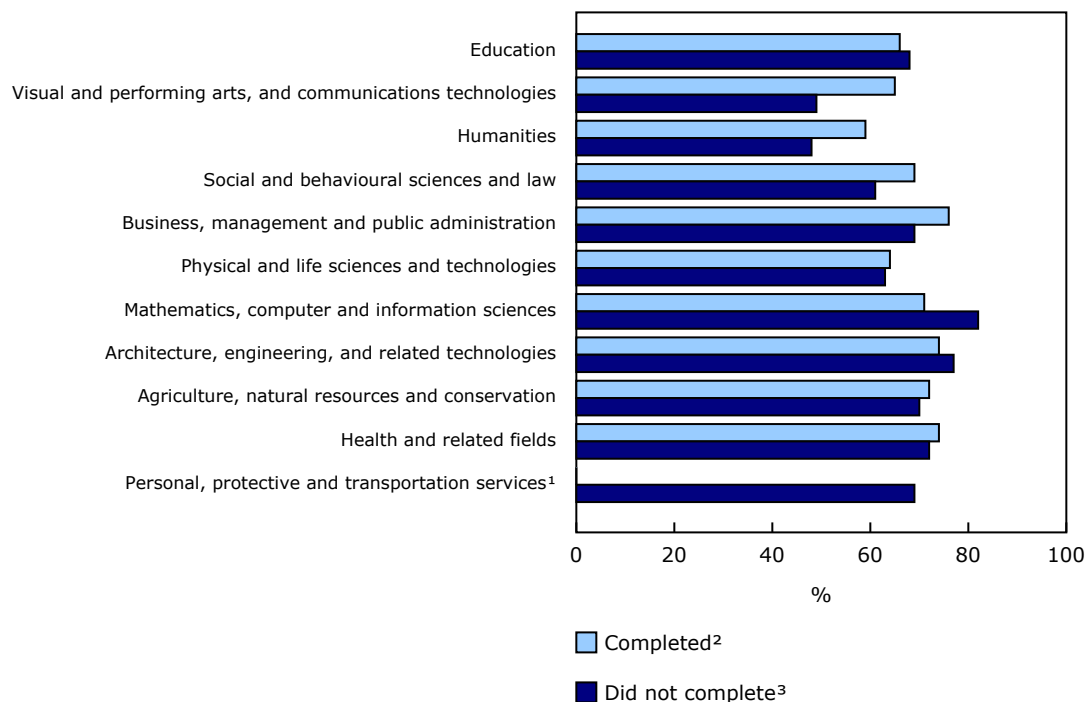
In terms of wages, 70% of employees with university degrees who completed another postsecondary program earned \$800 or more per week, compared with 67% for those who did not.

The largest difference in weekly wages was found for employees whose highest degree was in visual and performing arts and communications technologies, with 65% of those who completed another program earning \$800 or more per week, compared with 49% for those who did not. This difference is partly explained by occupational differences: people who completed further studies were more likely to be teachers and less likely to be in sales and service or art, culture, recreation and sport occupations.

For employees whose highest degree was in mathematics, computer and information sciences, the opposite effect was noted, as the proportion who earned \$800 or more per week was actually lower among people who completed another program (71%) than among those who did not (82%). This difference is partly explained by occupational differences: people with a math or computer science degree who completed further studies were less likely to be in occupations in natural and applied sciences, and more likely to be in sales and service as well as in art, culture, recreation and sport occupations.

**Chart 2**

**Percentage of employees with a university degree who earned \$800 or more per week, by major field of study of highest education credential and further postsecondary education, March 2014**



1. The data quality indicator for the 'Completed' series is F — too unreliable to be published.

2. Completed another program.

3. Did not complete another program.

Source(s): Labour Force Survey (3701).

**Differences by sex**

The proportion of women who completed another postsecondary program after obtaining their university degree was slightly higher than for men (25% versus 22%).

For women who completed another program, the two most common fields for these further studies were business, management and public administration as well as education (24% each). For men with a university degree, business, management and public administration (31%) was the most common field for further studies, followed distantly by architecture, engineering and related technologies (15%).

The unemployment rate of men who completed another program was lower than that of men who did not (3.7% versus 4.9%). For women, the unemployment rate of those who completed another program was slightly higher than that of women who did not (4.6% versus 4.0%).

For both men and women with university degrees, completing another program was generally associated with higher employment rates, as well as higher weekly wages.

For example, among women who had humanities degrees and then completed further studies, the employment rate and weekly wages were higher than among women with the same degree who did not complete further studies. Among women who had a university degree in this field, 72.9% of those who completed further studies were

employed, and 59% of employees had average weekly wages of \$800 or more. This compares with an employment rate of 60.1% for women who had a university degree in humanities and did not complete further studies, with 41% of them earning \$800 or more.

Among men who had a degree in health and related fields, those who completed further studies had a higher employment rate and higher weekly wages compared with men who had a similar degree but did not complete further studies. The employment rate for those who completed further studies was 84.6%, compared with 72.5% for those who did not. For weekly wages, 80% of men with a health-related degree who completed further studies earned \$800 or more per week, compared with 65% of men with a similar degree who did not.

## Differences by immigrant status

Among university-degree holders, there was no difference in the proportion who completed further studies between recent immigrants (that is, those who landed within the previous 10 years), established immigrants (that is, those who landed 11 or more years earlier) and the Canadian born, at about 24% for the three groups.

The employment rate for immigrants with university degrees who completed another program was 5.4 percentage points higher compared with immigrants who did not (73.4% versus 68.0%). It was 8.8 percentage points higher among recent immigrants who completed another program compared with those who did not, and 3.6 percentage points higher among established immigrants who completed further studies compared with those who did not.

There was a much smaller difference (1.8 percentage points) in the employment rate of Canadian-born with a university degree who completed further studies compared with those who did not (79.1% versus 77.3%).

### Note to readers

*Data for this release were derived from four questions that were added to the March 2014 Labour Force Survey (LFS), to inform future content discussions for social surveys. These were questions on the field of study of a respondent's highest education, and the completion of any further education after the attainment of their highest level of education.*

*These questions were: 1) What was the major field of study of the highest certificate, diploma or degree that you completed? 2) Have you completed any other certificate, diploma or degree since you completed your studies in (reported major field of study)? 3) What is the most recent certificate, diploma or degree you have completed? and 4) What was the major field of study of that (recent certificate, diploma or degree)? The respondent's highest level of educational attainment is collected as part of the LFS.*

*In this article, major field of study is defined using the primary groupings of the [Classification of Instructional Programs \(CIP\)](#).*

*The unemployment and employment rates presented in this article have not been seasonally adjusted. Therefore, they differ from those derived from the seasonally adjusted data released in the regular LFS publications and thus reflect the employment situation in March 2014.*

*Despite differences in target population and collection methods between the National Household Survey and the LFS, the overall distribution of the major field of study variable is similar at the primary groupings level of the 2011 CIP. However, there are variations between the two surveys for some field of study and education level combinations that are largely due to differences in coding methods.*

*For this article, statistical tests were run to measure both the overall quality of the estimates, and whether the differences between groups were statistically significant.*

*For the sake of brevity, certain category names are shortened for ease of use in the text and graphics. The terms 'further studies' and 'other program' refer to any other postsecondary certificate, diploma or university degree earned since the completion of the highest reported university degree. The completed program must be at least three months in length. The term 'university degree' includes 'bachelor's degree,' 'university certificate or diploma above bachelor level,' 'degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry,' 'master's degree' and 'earned doctorate.'*

*Additional information on education and the labour force can be found in the analytical documents "[Education in Canada: Attainment, Field of Study and Location of Study](#)" and "[Portrait of Canada's Labour Force](#)," which present results from the 2011 National Household Survey.*

**Table 1**  
**Percentage of people with a university degree who completed another program, by sex and major field of study of highest education credential, March 2014**

	Total	Men	Women
	%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>
Education	23	22	24
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	21	22	21
Humanities	31	29	33
Social and behavioural sciences and law	26	26	25
Business, management and public administration	22	22	23
Physical and life sciences and technologies	30	28	32
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	18	16	22
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	19	19	19
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	22	19	25
Health and related fields	22	21	22
Personal, protective and transportation services	18	15	30

**Note(s):** Primary groupings of the Classification of Instructional Programs (2011).

**Source(s):** Labour Force Survey (3701).

**Table 2**  
**Among people with a university degree who completed another program, percentage who did it in the same field of study as their highest education credential, by sex and major field of study of highest education credential, March 2014**

	Total	Men	Women
	%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>
Education	46	33	50
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	27	29	25
Humanities	16	14	16
Social and behavioural sciences and law	22	17	26
Business, management and public administration	60	64	56
Physical and life sciences and technologies	12	10	13
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	27	30	23
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	41	44	31
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	21	25	16
Health and related fields	55	60	53
Personal, protective and transportation services	F	F	F

F too unreliable to be published

**Note(s):** Primary groupings of the Classification of Instructional Programs (2011).

**Source(s):** Labour Force Survey (3701).

**Table 3**  
**Percentage of employees with a university degree who earned \$800 or more per week, by sex, major field of study of highest credential and further postsecondary education, March 2014**

	Total		Men		Women	
	Completed another program	Did not complete another program	Completed another program	Did not complete another program	Completed another program	Did not complete another program
	%					
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>62</b>
Education	66	68	74	74	63	66
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	65	49	68	49	62	48
Humanities	59	48	59	55	59	41
Social and behavioural sciences and law	69	61	73	68	65	57
Business, management and public administration	76	69	81	75	71	63
Physical and life sciences and technologies	64	63	79	66	51	61
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	71	82	82	85	57	76
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	74	77	78	80	61	66
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	72	70	69	79	73	60
Health and related fields	74	72	80	65	71	74
Personal, protective and transportation services	F	69	F	82	F	F

F too unreliable to be published

**Note(s):** Primary groupings of the Classification of Instructional Programs (2011).

**Source(s):** Labour Force Survey (3701).

**Table 4**  
**Labour market outcomes of people with a university degree, by further postsecondary education and immigrant status, five most common major fields of study of highest education credential, March 2014**

	Participation rate		Employment rate	
	Completed another program	Did not complete another program	Completed another program	Did not complete another program
	%			
<b>Education</b>				
Total population	70.8	67.2	69.0	65.1
Total immigrant population	73.1	53.1	69.6	51.4
Canadian citizens by birth	69.6	71.1	68.4	69.1
<b>Social and behavioural sciences and law</b>				
Total population	85.5	78.5	81.3	74.6
Total immigrant population	84.1	68.9	76.3	63.6
Canadian citizens by birth	85.7	82.3	83.0	78.9
<b>Business, management and public administration</b>				
Total population	86.3	81.6	82.6	78.3
Total immigrant population	85.6	79.4	80.5	73.8
Canadian citizens by birth	86.5	83.4	83.5	81.5
<b>Architecture, engineering, and related technologies</b>				
Total population	77.8	78.3	74.6	75.5
Total immigrant population	76.6	75.9	71.7	72.5
Canadian citizens by birth	78.7	81.9	78.5	79.4
<b>Health and related fields</b>				
Total population	83.9	79.8	81.6	76.7
Total immigrant population	85.0	75.4	79.3	71.0
Canadian citizens by birth	83.3	82.6	82.7	80.9

**Note(s):** Primary groupings of the Classification of Instructional Programs (2011).

**Source(s):** Labour Force Survey (3701).

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.**

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