Study to Update the Estimate of the Economic Impact of International Students in Canada 2024

Final Report

Presented to

Global Affairs Canada

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Executive summary

Existing literature, as well as the previous studies on the economic impacts of international education conducted by Roslyn Kunin and Associates (RKA) for Global Affairs Canada, clearly indicates that there is a significant positive value associated with international students studying in Canada. The current study updates previous studies with more recent data and assesses the economic impact that international students studying in Canada in 2024 had on the Canadian economy.

We estimate that, in 2024 international students in Canada spent around $47.5 billion on tuition, accommodation and discretionary items. The economic impacts presented in this report focus on the combined direct and indirect impacts associated with such spending.

The results of the study are highlighted below:

- After accounting for Canadian scholarships and bursaries, the total annual expenditures of international students, including their visiting families and friends, contributed $47.5 billion to economic activities in Canada in 2024. This translates into almost $39.0 billion contribution to Canada's GDP in 2024, or 1.4% of Canada's GDP.
- Ontario, with the largest number of students, made the largest contribution to GDP with $20.2 billion (51.7% of 39.0 billion), followed by British Columbia, with 18.9% and Quebec, with 13.4%.
- An important metric in economic impact analysis is the number of jobs supported. International students' overall annual spending in 2024 translates to 407,262 jobs (the equivalent of 281,040 FTEs) supported in the Canadian economy in 2024.
- International students' annual spending directly and indirectly contributed $9.4 billion in government tax revenue in 2024.
- Because international students' expenditures represent revenue for goods and services from overseas, they are Canadian exports of education services.
- In 2024, the value of international education services, as measured by total spending by international students in Canada ($47.5 billion) amounted to 20.1% of Canada's total service exports to the world,[1] and equaled 6.1% of Canada's total merchandise exports.
- The top 10 source countries accounted for $32.8 billion in international student spending in 2024, which is equivalent to 64.4% of the value of the total service exports to these countries, or 72.3% of Canada's total merchandise exports to these same countries.
- In 2024, long-term international students accounted for 97.9% of the total spending by international students. They contributed $38.2 billion to Canada's GDP and supported almost 400,000 jobs.

Key results of the study are summarized in the following tables.

[1] Statistics Canada reports that the export value of Canada's education-related personal travel services was $32.07 billion in 2023. The analysis in this report builds on that number by exploring and adding other areas of export revenues, such as including K-12 students and Languages Canada's short-term students.

Summary table I: Number of international students and total annual spending in Canada, by province and territory, 2024

	All Students	Total Annual Spending (millions)
Newfoundland and Labrador	6,595	$227.4
Prince Edward Island	4,850	$180.7
Nova Scotia	24,743	$1,094.2
New Brunswick	15,962	$594.9
Quebec	138,932	$5,984.9
Ontario	492,628	$24,848.6
Manitoba	27,444	$1,001.4
Saskatchewan	17,813	$713.2
Alberta	69,072	$3,140.9
British Columbia	214,795	$9,677.71
Yukon	255	$8.8
Northwest Territories	65	$1.3
Nunavut	20	$0.4
Canada	1,013,174	$47,474.6

Summary table II: Combined direct and indirect economic impact of all international students in Canada, by province and territory, 2024 ($million except jobs)

	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour income	Employment (Jobs)
Newfoundland and Labrador	$291.2	$176.3	$91.2	1,703
Prince Edward Island	$225.7	$124.0	$71.5	1,512
Nova Scotia	$1,388.8	$864.6	$513.9	10,331
New Brunswick	$826.6	$458.3	$259.6	5,204
Quebec	$9,223.5	$5,222.8	$3,154.4	59,388
Ontario	$32,271.2	$20,150.8	$11,468.2	199,053
Manitoba	$1,454.7	$849.4	$472.6	8,515
Saskatchewan	$1,091.9	$629.3	$333.3	5,847
Alberta	$5,368.4	$3,118.5	$1,675.9	29,128
British Columbia	$11,531.3	$7,360.4	$4,315.6	86,470
Yukon	$11.1	$6.8	$3.9	59
Northwest Territories	$11.4	$5.6	$2.8	31
Nunavut	$5.2	$2.8	$1.3	19
Canada	$63,700.9	$38,969.9	$22,364.3	407,262

Summary table III: Comparison of total annual spending by international students with Canada's service and merchandise exports

	Value	International Student Spending as % of Exports
Total spending by international students	$47.5 billion	
Canada's exports in services	$236.2 billion	20.1%
Canada's exports in merchandise	$780.8 billion	6.1%

1. Introduction

International education, owing to its impact on Canada's ability to develop and retain the necessary knowledge and skills, plays an important role in the globalization of its economy allowing it to thrive in a fast-changing and competitive environment.

Global Affairs Canada commissioned Roslyn Kunin and Associates (RKA) to conduct this study to determine the value of the impact that international students' spending in Canada has on the Canadian economy. This study is an update to the 2022 impact assessment and uses the same estimation approach, although some minor adjustments of assumptions have been made.

As in the previous study, the analytical approach used in this study included the estimation of total spending by international students (including tuition and fees, books, accommodation, transportation and discretional spending), and the estimation of the economic impact on the Canadian economy in 2024 in terms of exports,[2] GDP, employment and government revenue. The study also provides the economic impact by province and territory and by level of studies, as well as the impact by the top 10 source countries.

This study covers long-term students at schools, colleges and universities, as well as short-term students. For the number of long-term international students (those pursuing education and training for periods longer than six months and requiring study permits), we relied on Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) data. For short-term students (less than six months' duration), we relied on Languages Canada's data. In order to calculate student expenditures, we relied on data from various sources, including Statistics Canada's annual Tuition and Living Accommodation Costs survey. To fill in the gaps in data, we made several assumptions, including those with respect to scholarships and bursaries provided by government (federal, provincial and territorial), as well as expenditures by friends and family members visiting the international students, therefore adjustments were made to the original sets of data. These adjustments are detailed in Appendix 1.

To capture the overall impact of total spending by international students on the Canadian economy, we used Statistics Canada's interprovincial expenditure impact model. In this study, we not only quantified the direct economic impact associated with international student spending but have also taken a total impact approach to quantify indirect and induced impacts. These include quantifying the activities of businesses providing goods and services to entities where direct expenditures occur (thus including direct and indirect impacts). In addition, as a result of increased local household income, there may be further increases in overall expenditures. This was

[2] Given that spending by international students represents Canada's exports in educational services, in this report we have used the phrases "spending by international students" and "international education services" interchangeably. It should be noted that the inclusions in "international education services" are quite different from Statistics Canada's definition, based on the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010* (published by United Nations). Statistics Canada's definition of education services, in the context of balance of payment, is as follows:

> *"Education services comprise of services relating to all levels of education whether delivered through correspondence, via TC, satellite, or the internet, or by teachers, among others, who supply services directly in host economies. Excluded are the services provided to non-residents who are present in the territory of the service supplier (as this is included in the travel category)."*

Therefore, the comparable value in Statistics Canada's balance of payment data is that associated with education-related personal travel.

considered a spun-off (or induced) impact. Total impact includes all three: the direct, indirect and induced impacts of an initial spending. The total impact can be considered the upper band of economic impacts, whereas the sum of direct and indirect impacts provides a relatively conservative level of impacts on the economy. In this updated study, we focused on the direct and indirect economic impact on the Canadian economy 2024.[3] Direct impacts, along with total impacts, are shown in Appendix 2.

In the main body of the report, we present our estimates of the number of international students in Canada by province and territory and by long-term and short-term study status. Then we present our estimates of their annual total spending, and resulting combined direct and indirect economic contribution to the Canadian economy, and the importance of international education services to Canada's trade with the rest of the world. We also provide historical comparisons of the value and impacts of international education to highlight its growing contribution to Canada's economy. In addition, the study includes a comparison of economic impacts by the top 10 source countries.

New in this study is the assessment of economic impacts of francophone students studying in Canada outside of Quebec province.

We provide an explanation of the differences between our estimates and those released by Statistics Canada in Appendix 3.

[3] Economic impact studies evaluate the impacts of increased economic activities due to an increase in spending from programs or individuals on a regional economy and they measure the impacts in terms of macro-economic variables, such as gross domestic product (GDP) and employment. Such an analysis is useful for government decision making when evaluating and comparing impacts from different programs and projects. It should also be noted that, in spite of its usefulness, an economic impact analysis is not a cost-benefit analysis and does not take into account the opportunity cost associated with program expenditures. The evaluation of costs associated with providing education to international students is beyond the scope of this study.

2. Data sources and methodology

RKA's methodology for the study on the economic impact of international education in Canada included extensive secondary research involving reviewing literature, collecting existing statistical data and information, as well as consulting with representatives from the provincial and territorial education sectors, and representatives from organizations promoting and researching trends in international education in Canada and/or the provinces.

In this section, we describe the different sources of data that are available, the ones we used for the project and any limitation with the data sets. We also point out how the data sources and methodology differ between our estimates and those adopted by Statistics Canada in its estimate of Canada's trade in education-related personal travel.

Data sources

Enrolment

One of the main purposes of this study was to determine the overall economic impacts of total spending by international students, which required the understanding of the number of international students in each province and territory, and in different levels of study: public or private, in the K-12 system, at the college level, as well as undergraduate and graduate students in the university system. It was also necessary to determine the number of international students studying in language training programs.

We did not find one complete set of data that fit our definition of international students or reported data on all students.

Statistics Canada collects data on enrollment of international students in the publicly funded postsecondary system, but it does not track enrollment of international students in private postsecondary institutions. Some provinces track the number of "fee-paying" international students in the elementary and secondary school system, but not all do.

For this report, we have used the number of study permit holders, as reported by the federal agency Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), as a proxy to represent the number of international students. We also used data from organizations such as Languages Canada to estimate the number of short-term international students studying in Canada.

In the rest of the report, we defined international students as those from the two sets of data available to us, with adjustments. Long-term students refer to the individuals who are represented by the IRCC data, while short-term students are those pursuing language training programs of less than six-months in institutions with Languages Canada membership.

Detailed adjustments to the IRCC data and the data from Languages Canada are presented in Appendix 1.

Student expenditures

For students in each level of study, we estimated expenditures in the following categories:

- Tuition and fees

- Additional compulsory fees
- Books and other study tools/materials
- Living expenses
- Transportation costs
- Discretionary expenditures

In order to calculate the net economic benefits of international students in the host country, we took into account any financial assistance that international students receive from Canadian governments, as well as from universities or other institutions.

Again, the detailed description of adjustments can be found in Appendix 1.

Additional visiting family and friends' "tourist" activities

Existing literature on international education points to another area of university activity, which is the important role that institutions can play in attracting visitors to the host country.[4]

In this study, we estimated the number of international students' family and friends visiting Canada based on assumptions used in a 2013 Australian ACPET study on the economic benefits that international students brought to the country.

Analytical framework

To capture the overall impact on the Canadian economy of total spending by international students, the expenditures of international students and their visiting family and friends were applied to Statistics Canada's interprovincial impact simulation model.[5] The model provides estimates of the overall impact on output, gross domestic product (GDP) and employment in each province/territory's economy.

A short description of the input-output model is provided below.

An input-output structure of the economy

When a person spends money on a product (goods and/or services), that amount creates a direct demand for the production of that product. The economic impact, however, does not end there. The increased production of this product leads to increased production of all the intermediate goods and services that are used to make this product, and the increased production of intermediate goods and services will in turn generate more demand for other goods and services that are needed to produce these intermediate products. As demand rises, workers are able to earn a higher wage, and they sometimes decide to spend a portion of their extra earnings on more goods and services.

As such, an initial demand for a product creates a chain effect down the production process.

An economic impact analysis is designed to study such interlinkage between industries in order to evaluate how a change in an initial demand for goods or services contributes to changes in other industries' levels of production and the overall economic activity level within a region.

[4] Some studies include not only leisure visitors, such as the family and friends of international students visiting the host country, but also international conference business and international academic business visitors.

[5] Statistics Canada catalogue product 15F0009X – Input-Output Model Simulations (Interprovincial Model).

The input-output model is based on the input-output structure of the Canadian economy,[6] which is essentially a set of tables describing the flows of goods and services among the various sectors of the economy. Such a model is useful in determining how much additional production is generated by a change in the demand for one or more products or by a change in an industry's output.

Beyond direct expenditures, input-output models can be used to analyze additional benefits to the economy. This includes businesses providing goods and services to entities where direct expenditures occur. In addition, as a result of increased local household income, there may be further increases in overall expenditures. The latter is considered a spun-off (or induced) impact, which is sometimes shown in economic impact studies.

Currently, Statistics Canada uses the 2021 interprovincial input-output model to estimate economic impact, and the results are used for comparative analysis purposes. It should be noted that employment impact estimates from this model are based on the 2021 total compensation per job.[7] As such, it was necessary to deflate the net student expenditures incurred in 2024 to 2021 dollars to get a more accurate estimate of the employment impact.

[6] Statistics Canada catalogue product 15F0042X – Provincial Input-Output Tables.

[7] Data is derived from Statistics Canada Table 36-10-0480-01 Labour productivity and related measures by business sector industry and by non-commercial activity consistent with the industry accounts.

3. Assessing the economic impact of international students in Canada

The economic impact assessment of international education involved first collecting data and information on the number of international students by level of study, and on the type of student expenditures incurred. These values were adjusted when necessary to arrive at the amount of overall spending by international students on educational fees and living expenditure. These spending values were then applied to Statistics Canada's expenditure model to generate estimates of the impact that international students' total spending had on Canada's gross output, GDP, employment and tax revenues. In this section, we present the resulting estimates and analysis.

We start in section 3.1 with a description of the total number of international students, followed by the estimated spending by these students on education as well as daily living. Then in section 3.2 we report the combined direct and indirect economic impact of the annual expenditure on Canada's economy through a number of macroeconomic variables such as the Gross Domestic Product, employment, and labour income. We also present the contribution of economic activity brought by the spending of international students to government tax revenue.

3.1. Overall spending

In this subsection, we combine the estimated number of international students in Canada by level of study in each province and territory with estimates on educational and living costs to arrive at an estimation of total expenditures by international students while they study in Canada. All student numbers and expenditure values capture the impact in 2024.

Table 1 shows the total number of international students studying in Canada, with provincial and territorial distribution. The student numbers have also been broken down to show students that are considered "long-term" and those who are considered "short-term."[8]

[8] Detailed data pertaining to international students by level of study in each province and territory can be found in appendix 4.

Table 1: Total number of international students in Canada, by province and territory, 2024

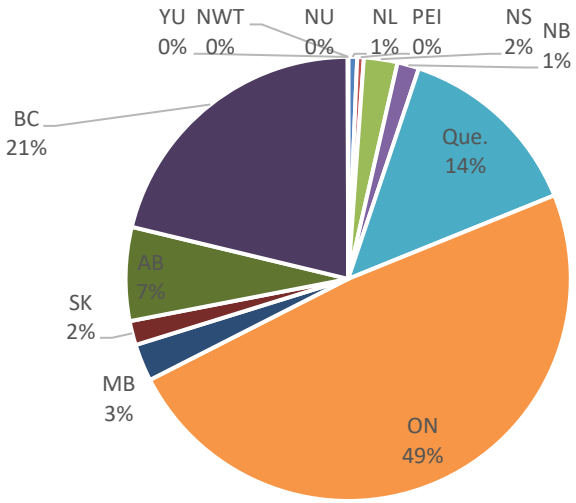
	Long-Term Students	Short-Term Students	All Students
Newfoundland and Labrador	6,595	0	6,595
Prince Edward Island	4,795	55	4,850
Nova Scotia	23,010	1,733	24,743
New Brunswick	14,810	1,152	15,962
Quebec	126,125	12,807	138,932
Ontario	463,495	29,133	492,628
Manitoba	26,415	1,029	27,444
Saskatchewan	17,340	473	17,813
Alberta	63,825	5,247	69,072
British Columbia	195,484	19,311	214,795
Yukon	255	0	255
Northwest Territories	65	0	65
Nunavut	20	0	20
Canada[9]	942,234	70,940	1,013,174

Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and Languages Canada, with adjustments by RKA

As can be seen in Figure 1, which shows the distribution of the total number of international students in Canada by province and territory, Ontario has the largest share of the international student population (48.6% in 2024). The province with the second-largest share of international students is British Columbia, which accounted for 21.2% of the total in 2024, though its share decreased in comparison to previous years. When compared with British Columbia's population share in Canada, its share in the international student service market is still much higher. Quebec has the third largest market share in international education services, accounting for 13.7% of the number of students in 2024. All other provinces and territories also hosted increasing numbers of international students: Alberta had 6.8% of all international students in 2024; Nova Scotia had 2.4% of all students; Manitoba had 2.7% of students; Saskatchewan had 1.8% of students; New Brunswick had 1.6% of all students; Newfoundland and Labrador had 0.7% of all students; and Prince Edward Island had 0.5% of all students. The three territories also took in a very small number of international students.

[9] It should be noted that the total number of "long-term students" reported here does not correspond with the figure reported on IRCC's website on the number of international students with a valid permit on December 31, 2024, as we have made a number of adjustments to arrive at these values. The number of "short-term" students has been derived based on data from Languages Canada's 2024 Annual Report.

Figure 1: Distribution of the total number of international students in Canada, by province/territory, 2024



Source: Data from IRCC and Languages Canada, with adjustments by RKA

Over the past two decades, the number of study permit holders in Canada increased more than sevenfold, with every province and territory recording positive gains. Although Ontario attracted the greatest number of international students, it is worth noting that Prince Edward Island recorded the highest percentage increase in the number of study permit holders – from 2000 to 2024, the percentage increase has been over 2,000% (20 times). Table 2 shows the number of study permit holders in 2000 and in 2024, with the third column showing the average rate of increase per year for study permit holders in each province and territory.

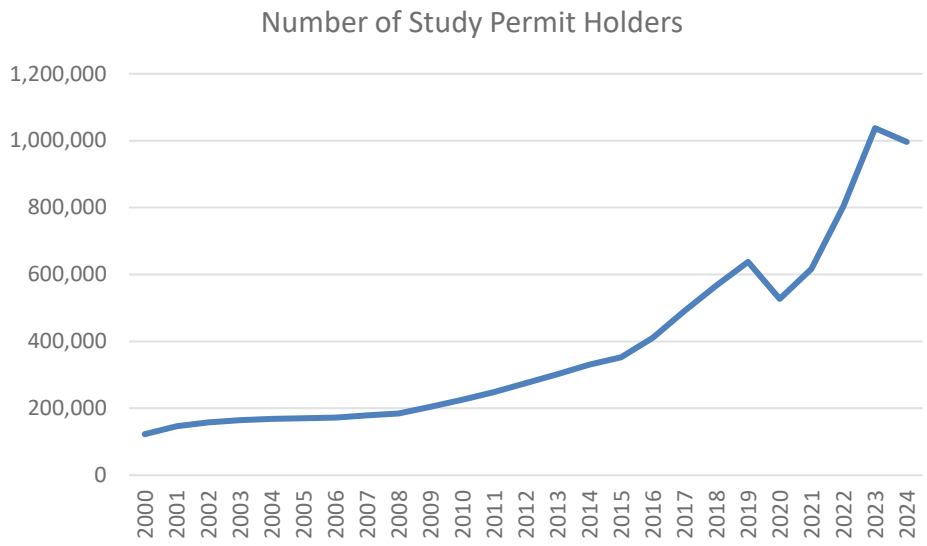
Table 2: Number of Study Permit Holders in Canada, by province and territory, 2000 and 2024

	Study Permit Holders in 2000	Study Permit Holders in 2024	Average % Increase Per Year
Newfoundland and Labrador	690	6,950	10.1%
Prince Edward Island	235	4,945	13.5%
Nova Scotia	3,075	24,410	9.0%
New Brunswick	1,825	15,545	9.3%
Quebec	22,770	128,010	7.5%
Ontario	46,120	482,100	10.3%
Manitoba	2,830	27,635	10.0%
Saskatchewan	2,690	18,520	8.4%
Alberta	9,430	71,545	8.8%
British Columbia	32,885	203,995	7.9%
Yukon	45	325	8.6%
Northwest Territories	25	85	5.2%
Nunavut	0	20	
Canada	122,620	996,375	9.1%

Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Figure 2 shows the number of study permit holders in Canada over the past two decades. These "long-term" students continue to grow steadily, after a dip in 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic related travel restrictions. In fact, the increase in the number of "long term" students between 2021 and 2022 was the most substantial, from approximately 616,365 to 803,580, an increase of 30.4%. The following year, 2023, also recorded the second largest annual increase in the number of "long-term" students (29.1%).

Figure 2: Total number of study permit holders in Canada, 2000 to 2024



Source: IRCC

Data for short-term students has been obtained from Languages Canada. It should be noted that the drastic decline in the number of students when compared with student numbers prior to 2019 reflects the severe negative impact due to the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore does not reflect the strength of the sector.

Table 3 shows the annual spending incurred by these international students, including the additional tourism activities associated with visiting family and friends. The data sources and adjustments to raw data to derive estimates of international student expenditures are detailed in Appendix 1.

Table 3: Total annual expenditures of international students in Canada, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions)[10] [11]

	Long-Term Students	Additional Tourism Spending of Visiting Families	Short-Term Students	Additional Tourism Spending of Visiting Families	All Students (incl. visiting family spending)
Newfoundland and Labrador	$225.0	$2.4	$0	$0.0	$227.4
Prince Edward Island	$177.6	$1.5	$1.6	$0.0	$180.7
Nova Scotia	$1,064.1	$8.2	$21.7	$0.3	$1,094.2
New Brunswick	$574.1	$5.5	$15.2	$0.2	$594.9
Quebec	$5,828.2	$40.8	$114.0	$1.9	$5,984.9
Ontario	$24,223.2	$164.3	$456.8	$4.4	$24,848.6
Manitoba	$984.6	$9.4	$7.2	$0.2	$1,001.4
Saskatchewan	$698.9	$6.3	$8.0	$0.0	$713.2
Alberta	$3,052.9	$23.1	$64.1	$0.8	$3,140.9
British Columbia	$9,329.9	$69.4	$275.6	$2.9	$9,677.7
Yukon	$8.7	$0.1	$0	$0	$8.8
Northwest Territories	$1.3	$0.0	$0	$0	$1.3
Nunavut	$0.4	$0.0	$0	$0	$0.4
Canada	$46,168.8	$331.0	$838.2	$10.6	$47,474.6

Source: Detailed data sources, as reported in Appendix 1, with adjustments by RKA

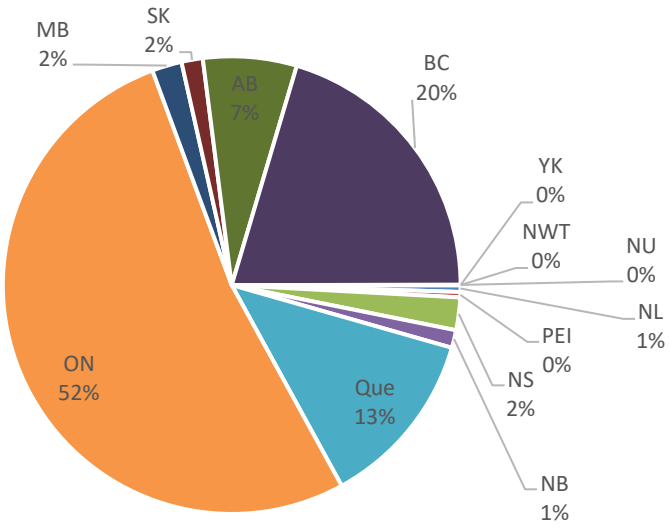
In total, almost $47.5 billion was put into the Canadian economy in 2024 by international student expenditures across the country.

[10] It should be noted that there are no short-term international students reported in private Languages Canada membership schools in Newfoundland and Labrador, or the three territories.

[11] Estimates of spending by international student in the Territories, as in the Provinces, are based on the number of study permit holders as provided by IRCC. However, it is not clear if these study permit holders were in fact all studying in post-secondary institutes in the Territories. For example, IRCC data for 2022 showed that there were 155 study permit holders in the Territories (135 in Yukon, 15 in N.W.T., and 5 in Nunavut). However, data from Statistics Canada's Table 37-10-0018-01 (Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender) showed that, in 2022/23 academic year, registration of international students in publicly funded post-secondary institutes in the Territories totaled only 18. Therefore, these estimates may be overvalued, and readers should be cautious in interpreting trends and impacts. IRCC also rounds its study permit holder data to the nearest 5. For these reasons, even though IRCC data indicates that there were 5 study permit holders in Nunavut in post-secondary level of education and training, we have not included any in the calculation of their annual spending.

Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of the total amount of international student expenditures in 2024 by province and territory. In line with Figure 1, Ontario accounts for the largest share of total student expenditures of all provinces and territories in Canada, followed by British Columbia. The data in this figure also indicates that Ontario accounts for an even higher expenditure share than its student share (52.3% in 2024), which reflects the tuition and fees of students studying in university programs.[12]

Figure 3: Distribution of total international student expenditures in Canada, by province and territory, 2024



Source: Various data sources detailed in Appendix 1, with adjustments by RKA

Long-term students accounted for 97.9% of total annual spending, while short-term students accounted for the other 2.1%.

[12] For a comparison of tuition and fees for university undergraduate and graduate programs in different provinces across Canada, see tables in Appendix 4.

Table 4: Average per-student expenditures – cost of education and cost of living for long-term international students

	2024
K-12	$33,300
College	$45,500
University	$57,300
Other studies	$34,700
All levels of study	$49,000

Source: RKA, based on various adjustments detailed in Appendix 1

Table 4 above shows our estimates of the per-student cost of education and living while they stay in Canada. For long-term students, the average per -student expenditure (including tuition, other fees, books, accommodations and meals, transportation, and discretionary spending, but excluding spending from visiting family and friends) per year was estimated to be $49,000 in 2024.

Short-term students incurred an average of almost $1,100 per week in total expenditure.

3.2. Economic impact

As we pointed out in the methodology section, when a person spends money on a product (goods and/or services), that amount creates a direct requirement for the production of that product. The economic impact, however, does not end there. The increased production of the product leads to increased production of all the intermediate goods and services that are used to make that product, which in turn generates more demand for other goods and services that are used to produce these intermediate products. As demand rises, workers are able to earn a higher wage, and they sometimes decide to spend a portion of their extra earnings on more goods and services. As such, the initial demand for a product creates a chain effect in the production process. This is referred to as the combined direct and indirect impact. Three types of impacts are usually estimated, and they are described briefly below.

- Direct impact measures the increase in industrial output and the increase in an industry's labour force resulting from the inflow of international students and their spending on a yearly basis. Examples of direct impact include tuition and fees paid to educational institutions, purchase of study material, rent, food, recreation, and others.
- Indirect impact measures the change in industrial output and employment demand in sectors that supply goods and services to sectors of the economy that are directly impacted. For example, universities and colleges need to pay for a variety of suppliers providing computers, telecommunication services and other services; food and other grocery sold in a supermarket come from farmers and food manufacturers who must in turn purchase more raw or intermediate material from their suppliers.
- Induced impact measures the changes in output and employment demand over all sectors of the economy as a result of an income increase in households impacted both directly and indirectly. In the sense of spending of international students, this impact is

derived from increased spending by, for example, teaching staff from universities and colleges who teach classes for international students, or even the employee working in a drink manufacturer who supply to a local grocery store, that have benefited from an inflow of international students to the area.

Although we present all three types of economic impact values associated with international students spending in this updated report, **it should be noted that the report focuses on the combined direct and indirect impacts as representing a complete picture of economic impacts.** It is generally acknowledged that direct impacts alone are incomplete, and the total impact may sometimes overestimate the impacts of initial spending.

When we compare the value of total spending by international students with other sectors in the economy, GDP, employment and export values are the key variables of interest. Other variables that may be of interest to readers include output, labour income and tax revenues. The results are presented for the aggregate of all international students, as well as long-term and short-term students separately. In this study, we also present the results for a subset of the long-term students, the francophone students studying outside the province of Quebec.

To produce these impact values, we used Statistics Canada's economic impacts simulation model to estimate international students' contribution to each province's GDP and employment.[13] Also reported are the values of output and labour income.[14]

The following sections present the combined direct and indirect impacts, first for the aggregate of all students, followed by the analysis for long-term students, then short-term students. There is also a section for a subset of the long-term students – francophone students studying outside of the province of Quebec. Direct economic impacts and total economic impacts (combining direct, indirect and induced impacts) are shown in Appendix 2.

[13] It should be noted that Statistics Canada's impact estimation model has two types of job impact and multipliers: one for the total number of jobs and another that transforms the former into a full-time-equivalent (FTE) number of jobs. The estimate of the total number of jobs covers two main categories: employee jobs and self-employed jobs (including persons working in a family business without pay). The total number of jobs includes full-time, part-time and temporary jobs. It does not take into account the number of hours worked per employee. FTE jobs include both the employee and self-employed jobs, but the FTE transformation only applies to employee jobs. The transformation is based on the overall average full-time hours worked in the business and government sectors.

The impact of labour income includes three components: wages and salaries, supplementary labour income, and labour income of the unincorporated sector. This variable captures the return to labour in the make-up of GDP.

[14] Total industrial output refers to the value of outputs produced, whether the products are used as an intermediate product (think of a log cut down from a tree for the purpose of building a house, for example) or used as a final product (think of a beam in a completed house). If we calculate gross domestic product the same way we calculate the value of outputs, the cost of the log will be counted many times, as it moves from raw product to its eventual use as a beam, and it is wrong. The value of total industrial output therefore includes both the value of intermediate inputs and primary inputs, the latter being the labour and the capital needed in production. It is the sum of the latter, which is also referred to as the value added, that equals gross domestic product at the national or provincial level.

3.2.1 Combined direct and indirect impacts

3.2.1.1. Aggregate for all students

Table 5 below presents the results of the combined direct and indirect economic impacts associated with all students in Canada, by province and territory, in 2024.

To understand the relationship between international student spending and the different impact values, we note that student expenditure is a big component that contributes to the direct impact to the Canadian economy. However, it does not equal to the value of direct output impact, or the value of direct GDP impact. The sum of $47.5 billion (annual international student spending) represents the gross demand for commodities and services in the domestic market. To meet this demand, the industries impacted will need to increase their production. Some of the $47.5 billion goes to pay for inputs (intermediate inputs). Some commodities these students spend money on are imports (both as an intermediate input and as a final product). As such, these amounts have to be netted out. What the simulation model shows is that Canadian industries collectively needed to produce $43.6 billion (direct output impact, in Table 20 in Appendix 2) worth of goods and services to meet the $47.5 billion student expenditure. Direct GDP impact was $28.5 billion (Table 20, Appendix 2).

Table 5: Direct and indirect economic impacts of all international students, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions except jobs)

	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour Income	Jobs
Newfoundland and Labrador	$291.2	$176.3	$91.2	1,703
Prince Edward Island	$225.7	$124.0	$71.5	1,512
Nova Scotia	$1,388.8	$864.6	$513.9	10,331
New Brunswick	$826.6	$458.3	$259.6	5,204
Quebec	$9,223.5	$5,222.8	$3,154.4	59,388
Ontario	$32,271.2	$20,150.8	$11,468.2	199,053
Manitoba	$1,454.7	$849.4	$472.6	8,515
Saskatchewan	$1,091.9	$629.3	$333.3	5,847
Alberta	$5,368.4	$3,118.5	$1,675.9	29,128
British Columbia	$11,531.3	$7,360.4	$4,315.6	86,470
Yukon	$11.1	$6.8	$3.9	59
Northwest Territories	$11.4	$5.6	$2.8	31
Nunavut	$5.2	$2.8	$1.3	19
Canada	$63,700.9	$38,969.9	$22,364.3	407,262

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

In 2024, the combined direct and indirect GDP contribution of all student expenditures amounted to $39.0 billion in Canada, when we take into account not only the sectors directly impacted by international student spending, but also the many other industries in the supply chain of those directly impacted. In terms of employment, 407,260 jobs (the equivalent of 281,040 FTE) were supported. This impact to Canada's GDP is equivalent to 1.4% of Canada's GDP.[15]

3.2.1.2. Long-term students

Table 6 presents the corresponding direct and indirect impacts of international students who stay in Canada for at least six months on the province or territory's output, GDP, employment and labour income.

[15] Canada's GDP at basic prices can be calculated with Statistics Canada's table 36-10-0103-1 Gross domestic product, income-based, quarterly (x 1,000,000), with the unadjusted numbers by subtracting taxes less subsidies on products and imports from the gross domestic product at market prices.

However, **we should not compare such impact (direct and indirect GDP impact from annual total spending of international students) with another sector's value of GDP at basic prices**. Firstly, sectors, or industries, are establishments grouped by the similarity of production processes. For example, colleges and universities are engaged in post-secondary education and teaching. In our report, "international education services" is measured by the total annual student spending not only on education, but also on living expenses. That means "international education services" as we define it, is served by many sectors. In addition, no Canadian industry report its GDP value accounting for both its direct and indirect contributions to the economy.

Table 6: Direct and indirect economic impacts of international students studying for longer than six months, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions except jobs)

	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour Income	Jobs
Newfoundland and Labrador	$289.2	$175.2	$90.7	1,695
Prince Edward Island	$222.9	$122.6	$70.7	1,496
Nova Scotia	$1,362.5	$849.2	$505.4	10,157
New Brunswick	$807.1	$447.8	$254.0	5,090
Quebec	$9,036.5	$5,120.9	$3,095.2	58,303
Ontario	$31,654.8	$19,788.2	$11,276.5	195,759
Manitoba	$1,434.8	$839.8	$467.7	8,424
Saskatchewan	$1,074.2	$620.3	$329.2	5,773
Alberta	$5,251.7	$3,054.2	$1,644.4	28,590
British Columbia	$11,212.5	$7,163.6	$4,212.4	84,470
Yukon	$10.9	$6.7	$3.9	58
Northwest Territories	$11.1	$5.4	$2.7	30
Nunavut	$5.1	$2.8	$1.3	19
Canada	$62,373.4	$38,196.6	$21,953.9	399,865

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

The values show that the total GDP contribution of students who stayed for at least six months during the year amounted to almost $38.2 billion in 2024 in Canada. In terms of job supported, international education services supported 399,870 jobs (the equivalent of 275,820 FTE) in Canada.

3.2.1.3. Languages Canada short-term students

When we take into account the spending of short-term language students who are studying in Languages Canada's private member schools, these international students directly and indirectly contributed an additional $772.9 million to GDP and supported 7,390 jobs (the equivalent of 5,200 FTE) in 2024. This is represented in Table 7.

Table 7: Direct and indirect economic impacts of short-term international language students, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions except jobs)

	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour Income	Jobs
Newfoundland and Labrador	$2.0	$1.1	$0.6	8
Prince Edward Island	$2.8	$1.4	$0.8	16
Nova Scotia	$26.3	$15.5	$8.6	173
New Brunswick	$19.5	$10.5	$5.6	114
Quebec	$187.0	$101.9	$59.2	1,085
Ontario	$616.0	$362.4	$191.6	3,291
Manitoba	$19.8	$9.7	$5.0	91
Saskatchewan	$17.7	$9.0	$4.1	75
Alberta	$116.7	$64.3	$31.5	538
British Columbia	$318.6	$196.8	$103.1	2,000
Yukon	$0.2	$0.1	$0.1	1
Northwest Territories	$0.3	$0.1	$0.1	1
Nunavut	$0.1	$0.1	$0.0	0
Canada	$1,327.0	$772.9	$410.1	7,392

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

It should be noted that, even though there were no direct annual student expenditures in Newfoundland and Labrador, there were impact values in output, GDP, labour income and employment because of the effect of interprovincial trade. The same reasoning goes with the impact values shown in the three territories, Yukon, N.W.T., and Nunavut.

3.2.1.4. Francophone students studying outside of Quebec

In this study to update the estimated economic impact of international students, the report will also include a component on economic impact of francophone international students to communities outside of Quebec, i.e., students studying in institutions that offer programs in French language outside of Quebec. This component would be based on a compilation of more recent data on number of international students (using Study Permits as proxies) and their expenditures in Canada.

Data provided by IRCC indicated that there were 18,965 Study Permit holders designated to study in French language programs in communities outside of Quebec province as of December 31st, 2024. These were considered "long-term" students. However, no details on study level is available due to the small size of this cohort in many communities. The data is grouped into sub-totals in each province and territory, and expenditure (including cost of education and cost of living) has been calculated based on average per-student amount in a particular province or territory. It is

noted that out of the 18,965 Study Permit holders, some 4,500 did not specify a province or territory as a destination to pursue their study, and as such have not been included in our calculation.

Similar to our treatment of all long-term students, we have made an allowance for extra spending incurred when family and friends visit Canada while the students are staying in Canada.

In all, these Francophone students brought in $703.3 million worth of economic activity to Canada. This translates into a combined direct and indirect GDP contribution of $572.9 million to the Canadian economy, $324.7 million of labour income earned, and 5,800 jobs supported. This is shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Direct and indirect economic impacts of Francophone international students, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions except jobs)

	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour Income	Jobs
Newfoundland and Labrador	$3.5	$2.2	$1.1	19
Prince Edward Island	$5.0	$2.8	$1.6	33
Nova Scotia	$34.1	$21.4	$12.9	256
New Brunswick	$111.9	$65.7	$36.1	772
Quebec	$45.3	$21.1	$12.6	189
Ontario	$608.7	$382.3	$217.3	3,794
Manitoba	$19.4	$11.1	$6.1	110
Saskatchewan	$10.1	$5.3	$2.6	45
Alberta	$49.3	$27.4	$14.4	236
British Columbia	$53.8	$33.1	$19.8	378
Yukon	$0.3	$0.2	$0.1	2
Northwest Territories	$0.4	$0.2	$0.1	1
Nunavut	$0.1	$0.0	$0.0	0
Canada	$941.8	$572.9	$324.7	5,836

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

3.2.1.5. Government tax revenue

In this subsection, we further demonstrate the importance of total spending by international students in terms of its contribution to government revenue. In general, government revenues come from personal income taxes, indirect taxes less subsidies, corporate income taxes and natural resource royalties. In this study, we were able to estimate personal income taxes and indirect taxes.

Indirect taxes incurred in the process of producing outputs and services include both indirect taxes on production (such as property taxes) and indirect taxes on products (such as federal and provincial sales taxes).[16]

Government revenue can be derived by Statistics Canada's expenditure model to calculate the amount of indirect taxes incurred in the process of producing an industry's outputs and services. It should be noted that Statistics Canada's model estimates tax revenue impacts for the combined direct and indirect impacts, and total (direct, indirect and induced impacts) scenarios only.

In addition to indirect taxes, another type of tax revenue generated is income taxes associated with labour income.[17] Statistics Canada's expenditure model did not automatically estimate personal income taxes. Instead, we derived the values by applying the average personal income tax rates in each province and territory to labour income, which is generated in Statistics Canada's expenditure model.

The following four tables show our estimates of the tax revenue impacts, first for all international student spending in a year, and then for annual spending by long-term students and short-term students, respectively. Table 12 shows the tax revenue impact by francophone students studying outside the province of Quebec.

[16] The types of taxes can be the following: federal taxes on products (federal trading profits on lottery and race tracks, federal gasoline tax, federal excise tax, federal excise duties, federal environment tax, federal air transportation tax, federal sales tax (GST/HST)) and federal taxes on production; provincial taxes on products (provincial wine and liquor gallonage tax, provincial trading profits on liquor and lottery, provincial gasoline tax, provincial amusement tax, provincial environment tax, provincial sales tax, provincial harmonized sales tax (HST)) and provincial taxes on production; municipal taxes on products (local amusement tax, or local retail sales tax) and municipal taxes on production; as well as Indigenous government taxes on products.

[17] Personal income tax values have been derived by applying the average personal income tax rates in each province and territory to labour income. Average personal tax rates have been derived based on data available from Statistics Canada's Table 36-10-0224-01 - Household sector, current accounts, provincial and territorial, annual.

Table 9: Tax revenue impact (direct and indirect) from spending by all international students, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions)

	Indirect Taxes	Personal Income Taxes	Total Tax Revenue
Newfoundland and Labrador	$25.4	$18.9	$44.3
Prince Edward Island	$20.0	$13.4	$33.4
Nova Scotia	$113.4	$102.8	$216.1
New Brunswick	$70.1	$46.5	$116.7
Quebec	$821.8	$642.3	$1,464.0
Ontario	$2,630.1	$2,329.1	$4,959.2
Manitoba	$113.7	$86.9	$200.6
Saskatchewan	$61.1	$56.7	$117.8
Alberta	$272.3	$317.7	$590.0
British Columbia	$853.7	$780.2	$1,633.9
Yukon	$0.5	$0.5	$1.1
Northwest Territories	$0.2	$0.5	$0.7
Nunavut	$0.1	$0.2	$0.3
Canada	$4,982.5	$4,395.5	$9,378.0

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

Table 10: Tax revenue impact (direct and indirect) from spending by international students studying longer than six months, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions)

	Indirect Taxes	Personal Income Taxes	Total Tax Revenue
Newfoundland and Labrador	$25.4	$18.7	$44.1
Prince Edward Island	$19.8	$13.2	$33.0
Nova Scotia	$110.6	$101.0	$211.6
New Brunswick	$68.2	$45.5	$113.7
Quebec	$804.2	$630.2	$1,434.4
Ontario	$2,569.5	$2,290.2	$4,859.7
Manitoba	$112.4	$86.0	$198.4
Saskatchewan	$60.0	$56.0	$116.0
Alberta	$265.4	$311.8	$577.2
British Columbia	$823.8	$761.5	$1,585.3
Yukon	$0.5	$0.5	$1.0
Northwest Territories	$0.2	$0.4	$0.7
Nunavut	$0.1	$0.2	$0.3
Canada	$4,860.1	$4,315.3	$9,175.4

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

Table 11: Tax revenue impact (direct and indirect) from spending by short-term international language students, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions)

	Indirect Taxes	Personal Income Taxes	Total Tax Revenue
Newfoundland and Labrador	$0.0	$0.1	$0.2
Prince Edward Island	$0.2	$0.1	$0.4
Nova Scotia	$2.8	$1.7	$4.5
New Brunswick	$2.0	$1.0	$3.0
Quebec	$17.6	$12.1	$29.6
Ontario	$60.5	$38.9	$99.4
Manitoba	$1.3	$0.9	$2.2
Saskatchewan	$1.0	$0.7	$1.7
Alberta	$6.9	$6.0	$12.9
British Columbia	$29.9	$18.6	$48.6
Yukon	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Northwest Territories	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Nunavut	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Canada	$122.4	$80.2	$202.5

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure produced by RKA

The total tax revenue generated by indirect taxes and personal income taxes associated with international student spending in 2024 was estimated to be $9.4 billion, when direct and indirect impacts were combined.

Specific to the component of Francophone international students studying in communities outside of Quebec province, we have estimated that their annual spending contributed to $139.1 million worth of government revenue.

Table 12: Tax revenue impact (direct and indirect) from spending by Francophone international students, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions)

	Indirect Taxes	Personal Income Taxes	Total Tax Revenue
Newfoundland and Labrador	$0.2	$0.2	$0.4
Prince Edward Island	$0.4	$0.3	$0.7
Nova Scotia	$2.5	$2.6	$5.1
New Brunswick	$12.4	$6.5	$18.9
Quebec	$1.3	$2.6	$3.9
Ontario	$50.6	$44.1	$94.8
Manitoba	$1.5	$1.1	$2.6
Saskatchewan	$0.5	$0.4	$0.9
Alberta	$2.0	$2.7	$4.8
British Columbia	$3.4	$3.6	$7.0
Yukon	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Northwest Territories	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Nunavut	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Canada	$75.0	$64.2	$139.1

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

4. International students and Canada's export

Because international student expenditures represent revenue from goods and services sold to residents from overseas, this representation of international student spending is an export of international education services from Canada.

In this section, we compare the value of international education services, as measured by total spending in Canada, with the total export of services and merchandise from Canada. We also provide a comparison of the total value of international student spending by the top 10 source countries with the value of Canada's exports to these countries.

In Canada's official account of the balance of payment, spending by international students is captured under "education-related personal travel", which is part of Canada's total export in services. We believe that Statistics Canada's estimate of education-related personal travel may be underestimating the true value of total spending by international students and therefore present an alternate way of evaluating such spending in this report. For a detailed description of how to reconcile these two sets of estimates, please refer to Appendix 3.

4.1. Spending by international students and Canada's trade

We estimate that the total value of international student spending in Canada was almost $47.5 billion in 2024. When compared with Canada's total export of services in 2024, which includes spending by international students and was worth $236.2 billion,[18] international student expenditures were equal to 20.1% of the total value of Canada's service exports. Although not specifically calculated in this report, total spending by international students between 2023 and 2024 would have grown, in spite of the fact that the total number of study permit holders in 2024 reduced by almost 4.0%, due to continuing increase in cost of education and cost of living.[19] By contrast, Canada's total export of services in 2023 grew 13.3% from the year before.

Canada is known for its exports from resource sectors like oil, natural gas, forestry and mining. Few people realize that international student spending also makes a substantial contribution.

In 2024, the total amount of international student spending ($47.5 billion) surpassed the value of Canada's exports in many product categories, for example, wood and wood products ($18.5 billion), fertilizers ($9.1 billion), or electrical or electronic machinery and equipment ($23.9 billion). Total international student spending in 2024 was equivalent to about 6.1% of the total value of Canada's merchandise exports ($780.8 billion). The impact of total spending of international students on trade is shown in tables 13 and 14.

[18] Statistics Canada. Table 36-10-0007-01 International transactions in services, by selected countries, annual (x 1,000,000). Data for 2024 not available at the time this report is prepared. We have assumed Canada's total export of service would have grown by the same percentage increase between 2022 and 2023.

[19] Based on the percentage increase in the number of study permit holders in Canada (as of December 31 of 2023 and 2024. See section 3.1 of this report).

Table 13: Comparison of international education services, as measured by total spending by international students, with other top merchandise exports from Canada, 2024[20]

	Exports of Goods ($billions)
27 - Mineral fuels, mineral oils, bituminous substances and mineral waxes	$199.5
87 - Motor vehicles, o/t railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	$79.4
84 - Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances	$56.2
Total Spending by International Students	***$47.5***
71 - Natural/cultured pearls, precious stones & metals, coin etc.	$46.9
85 - Electrical machinery equip parts thereof; sound recorder etc.	$23.9
39 - Plastics and Articles Thereof	$22.0
44 - Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	$18.5
76 - Aluminum and Articles Thereof	$17.5
26 - Ores, slag and ash	$16.0
30 - Pharmaceutical products	$15.5
Total merchandise exports	$780.8

Source: RKA and Trade Data Online

Table 14: Comparison of international education services, as measured by total spending by international students, and Canada's service and merchandise exports, 2024

	Value	International Student Spending as % of Exports
Total annual spending – all international students	$47.5 billion	
Canada's exports in services *	$236.2 billion	20.1%
Canada's exports in merchandise	$780.8 billion	6.1%

** Value in 2024 not available at the time of report. Estimated using 2023 value and the percentage change between 2022 and 2023.*

Source: RKA, Statistics Canada Table 36-10-0007-01 and Trade Data Online

[20] Data for merchandise export from Canada is from the Government of Canada's Trade Data Online webpage (https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/trade-data-online/en). To generate the trade report, we select data by product by top 25 product chapters (based on Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) HS2 codes), under the "total export" category.

4.2. The trade impact of international students from top 10 source countries

In the international student market, the top 10 source countries account for almost three quarters of the overall number of students.[21] India, China, and Nigeria are the top three source countries for long-term students. Japan and Brazil are the top two source countries for short-term students.

In terms of source countries, the number of students from India alone accounted for almost 40% of the total number of long-term students. Students from the top three source countries (India, China, and Nigeria) accounted for a little over half of all long-term students.

Japan and Brazil are the two top markets for students studying in short-term language training programs in Canada. Students from the top 10 source markets accounted for over 70% of all such students. Detailed information on source countries can be found in appendix 4.

Table 15 shows the estimated annual spending of international students from top 10 source countries, using the number of "long-term" international students as a proxy for the purposes of calculation. We did not include short-term students in the calculation of total spending due to data limitation. In order to create a spending profile for students from each of the top 10 source countries, we applied the same methodology as the one to calculate the total spending profile for all long-term students, using data from IRCC by province and territory and by level of study for each country, and making adjustments where necessary.

Table 15: Estimated annual spending by international students from the top 10 source countries (as measured by long-term students), 2024

	Total Annual Spending	Percentage of Total
India	$19,047,378,150	41.3%
China, People's Republic of	$4,662,031,071	10.1%
Nigeria	$2,167,082,842	4.7%
Philippines	$1,327,107,064	2.9%
France	$1,023,532,379	2.2%
Iran	$1,139,459,562	2.5%
Nepal	$1,123,201,141	2.4%
Vietnam	$799,635,752	1.7%
Algeria	$787,065,581	1.7%
Bangladesh	$766,775,319	1.7%
Total of top 10 countries	$32,843,268,862	71.1%
All countries	$46,168,776,905	100.0%

Source: RKA using IRCC study permit holder data and applying adjustment

[21] The top 10 source countries are ranked based on the number of long-term international students in Canada. These can be found in table 35 in appendix 4.

In Table 16, we show the amount of annual spending of international students from the top 10 source countries, compared with the value of Canada's export of services and export of merchandise to the same countries.

Table 16: Comparison of annual spending by international students from the top 10 source countries and Canada's service and merchandise exports, 2024

	Value	International Student Spending as % of Exports
Total annual spending – international students from top 10 source countries	$32.8 billion	
Canada's exports in services to the same countries[22]	$51.0 billion	64.4%
Canada's exports in merchandise to the same countries	$45.4 billion	72.3%

Source: RKA, Statistics Canada Table 36-10-0007-01 (International transaction in services, by select countries, annual) and Table 12-10-0171-01 (Canadian international merchandise trade by country and by product section, customs-based, annual (x 1,000))

[22] It is noted that not all service export trade data is available for the ten countries from Statistics Canada's Table 36-10-0007-01 (International transaction in services, by select countries, annual). For example, there is no specific data for service export to Algeria. Instead the data we used is for "Maghreb Countries", including Algeria, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Western Sahara. Similarly, there is no specific data for service export to Nepal. Instead, the data we used is for "Other Central and East Asia".

5. Trends in international student enrolment and economic impacts in Canada

Roslyn Kunin and Associates (RKA) has so far helped to prepare estimates of international student spending and the associated economic impacts in seven editions – 2008, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2022 and 2024 – in six separate studies, dated 2009, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2023 and 2025. While the studies prepared in 2016 and 2017, as well as in 2023, essentially follow the same methodological approach as the earlier reports prepared in 2009 and 2012, there are differences in the data sources, assumptions and the model specification, in addition to the use of more recent data for impact estimates in 2014 through 2022. Nevertheless, readers will be able to gain knowledge of the magnitude of the impacts.

In this section, we show comparable values, where applicable, and highlight the trends of international student enrolment and the growing economic impacts of these students on Canada's economy.

5.1. Comparison of the number of International Students

Table 17 below shows how the number of international students has changed from 2008 to 2024.[23]

Table 17: Comparing the number of international students in Canada, 2008, 2010, 2014-2016, 2022 and 2024

	Long-Term Students	Short-Term Students	All Students
2008	178,227	101,943	280,170
2010	218,245	110,157	328,402
2014	330,706	107,451	438,157
2015	345,793	112,036	457,828
2016	408,176	115,796	523,971
2022	769,515	74,929	844,444
2024	942,234	70,940	1,013,174

Between 2008 and 2016, the number of international students studying in Canada increased by 87.0%, or at an average annual rate of 8.1%. The increase is mainly attributed to the number of long-term students, those who study for longer than six months in a given year. Enrolment in this category of students more than doubled between 2008 and 2016, growing at 10.9% per year.

Between 2015 and 2016, the number of international students grew an impressive 14.4%, most of which was the results of an increase in long-term students from India studying at the college level.

[23] It is noted that these numbers are drawn from the current and previous studies conducted by RKA. The underlying number of study permit holders has been adjusted by IRCC over the previous years. While the general trend is valid, the exact magnitude of change should be interpreted with caution.

The year 2022 saw the rise in the number of long-term students in Canada, after a dip in 2020 and 2021 due to travel restrictions brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Study permit holders from India alone increased by 47% from the year prior, to 319,130 in 2022. There was a further increase in long-term students in 2023, reaching the highest level of 1,037,165 (unadjusted study permit holders by IRCC). With immigration policy changes announced in February 2024, long-term students in 2024 were lower than 2023, yet still higher than in 2022. Between 2022 and 2024, total number of international students in Canada (including both long-term and short-term) increased by 20%.

The number of short-term students in 2024 has been derived from Languages Canada's 2024 Annual Report and other data provided by Languages Canada. It should be noted that the drastic decline in the number of students when compared with student numbers prior to 2019 reflects the severe negative impact due to the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore does not reflect the strength of the sector.

From the table above, it is shown that the total number of international students in Canada has increased by 61.2% from 2016 to 2022, at an impressive growth rate of 8.3% per year. From 2022 to 2024, the number of international students further increased 20.0%, at an average annual rate of 9.5%.

However, it should be noted that the number of international students is expected to decline starting in 2025, due to changes in immigration policy announced in February 2024. As a result, the impacts shown in 2024 are projected to decrease significantly from 2025 onward. According to IRCC – Study permit holders by country of citizenship and year in which permit(s) became effective, if we compare Q1s, there is a 21% decrease in Q1 2025, compared to Q1 2024. By comparison, the decrease in 2020 (pandemic year) was 26%.

5.2. Comparison of overall spending

Table 18 below depicts the values of total annual spending by international students from 2014 to 2024.

Table 18: Comparing overall spending of international students in Canada, 2014-2016, 2022 and 2024

	All Students
2014	$11.4 billion
2015	$12.8 billion
2016	$15.5 billion
2022	$37.3 billion
2024	$47.5 billion

Between 2016 and 2022, total annual international student spending more than doubled, from $15.5 billion in 2016 to more than $37.3 billion in 2022. This represents a 15.7% increase per year. Between 2014 and 2022, total spending of international students increased at a rate of 16.0% per year. The rate of increase in overall student spending is substantially faster than the rate of increase

in the number of international students, reflecting the rise in cost of education, as well as the rise in cost of living in recent years.

Between 2022 and 2024, total annual spending of international students increased 27.3%, which represents an average annual growth rate of 12.8%.

5.3. Comparison of combined direct and indirect impacts

Finally, we present the values of combined economic impacts of the total annual spending of international students on the Canadian economy.

Table 19: Comparing combined direct and indirect economic impacts of international students in Canada, 2014-2016, 2022 and 2024

	2014	2015	2016	2022	2024	Percentage change 2022-2024	Percentage change 2014-2024
GDP	$9.3 billion	$10.5 billion	$12.8 billion	$30.9 billion	$39.0 billion	26%	+318%
Jobs	122,680	140,010	168,860	361,233	407,262	13%	+232%
Tax Revenue	$2.1 billion	$2.3 billion	$2.8 billion	$7.4 billion	$9.4 billion	27%	+348%

As noted in the table, the combined direct and indirect GDP impact of international student spending increased by 26% between 2022 and 2024, 318% (or more than quadrupled) between 2014 and 2024. International student spending directly and indirectly supported 407,260 jobs in Canada in 2024, an increase of 13% over 2022. Government tax revenue derived from international student spending rose from $2.1 billion in 2014 to $7.4 billion in 2022, and further to $9.4 billion in 2024, an increase of 348%, that is, more than quadrupled. That means, directly and indirectly, tax revenue increased at a rate of 16.2% per year between 2014 and 2024.

6. Conclusions

This report provides an estimate of economic impacts in Canada in 2024 and serves as an update to the previous valuations prepared for Global Affairs Canada for the years 2008, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2022. The report is mainly based on IRCC data on international students studying in Canada for longer than six months and Languages Canada data for short-term students. Several other secondary sources have been used to collect information to estimate the quantitative impact of international students on Canada's economy.

In addition to capturing the economic impacts of spending on tuition, fees and basic living expenses, we also capture additional tourism related activities associated with visiting family and friends. The analysis also accounts for scholarships and bursaries provided by Canadian governments (federal and provincial), universities and other Canadian institutions in estimating net expenditures by international students in Canada.

Our analysis clearly indicates that the contributions that international students make to Canada's economy are continuing to grow. In line with an increasing number of international students, overall spending increased by 27.3% between 2022 and 2024, from $37.3 billion to $47.5 billion, faster than the increase in the number of students (20%) during the same period.

We estimate that in 2024, international students in Canada spent over $47.5 billion on tuition, accommodations and discretionary spending, which represents a $39.0 billion contributions to Canada's GDP in 2024, an impressive increase over the $30.9 billion contribution in 2022.

The amount of overall annual spending by international students also generated $9.4 billion in tax revenues and supported 407,260 jobs in the Canadian economy in 2024, significantly up from the $7.4 billion in tax revenue and 361,200 jobs in 2022.

In 2024, Canada's international education services ($47.5 billion, as measured by the total spending of international students studying and living in Canada) amounted to 20.1% of Canada's total service exports to the world, and was equivalent to 6.1% of Canada's total merchandise exports.[24]

In 2024, long-term students accounted for 97.9% of the total amount of spending by international students. They contributed $38.2 billion to Canada's GDP and supported 400,000 jobs. Ontario accounts for the largest share of contributions to GDP (51.8%) and jobs (49.0%). Short-term students contributed $772.9 million to Canada's GDP and supported 7,400 jobs.

A subset of the long-term students, francophone students studying in communities outside of Quebec, contributed $572.9 million to Canada's GDP and supported 5,800 jobs.

[24] It should be noted that Statistics Canada reports that the export value of Canada's education-related travel services (i.e., the value of total spending of international students) was $32.070 billion in 2023. The analysis in this report built on this number by exploring and adding other areas of export revenues, such as K-12 students and Languages Canada's short-term students.

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Appendix 1: Detailed explanation of data sources and adjustments

Number of international students

One of the main purposes of this study was to determine the overall economic impacts of total spending by international students, which required the understanding of the number of international students in each province and territory, and in different levels of study: public or private, in the K-12 system, at the college level, as well as undergraduate and graduate students in the university system. It was also necessary to determine the number of international students studying in language training programs.

We did not find one complete set of data that fits our definition of international students or reported data on all students. In its Postsecondary Information System (PSIS), Statistics Canada collects data on international student enrolment at the college and university levels (including a breakdown of undergraduate and graduate levels) by field of study or by program level. However, the colleges and universities that are covered in the Statistics Canada survey are essentially all in the public domain and therefore the data does not yield information on international students in the private post-secondary system.

In terms of the number of international students in the K-12 system, no data is readily available from Statistics Canada for each of the provinces and territories, or from each provincial or territorial ministry of education.

When no consistent data was available for international students, the alternative was to use the data on foreign students available from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). As international students need to obtain a study permit before arriving in Canada to pursue education and training for a period longer than six months, IRCC's data told us how many study permits holders were in each of the provinces and territories at a given time.

IRCC defines international students as follows:

> Temporary residents who are in Canada on a study permit in the observed calendar year. International students have been issued a document that allows them to study in Canada and does not imply that they may or may not also be a permit holder of another type at the same time. Under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, a study permit is not needed for any program of study that is six months or less.
>
> A **Study permit** is a permit authorizing foreign nationals to enter and study in Canada on a temporary basis. The study permit identifies the level of study and the length of time the individual may study in Canada. Students do not need a study permit for courses shorter than six months.

There are three broad levels of study for international students.

a. Secondary or less: secondary school and elementary school
b. Post-Secondary: which is further divided into college and university programs
c. Other studies.

The IRCC data therefore allows us to use the number of study permit holders as a proxy for the number of international students at a given time in a year. It also allows for a distinction to be made between broad levels of study.

One limitation of using the IRCC data set to represent the number of international students is that the actual number of permit holders registered at a Canadian institution may be smaller than the number of permits issued due to the fact that some permit holders may not be able to, or have chosen not to, enrol in an education program (after they are in Canada).[25]

Another limitation of this data set was that since the term "foreign student" is defined by citizenship, it also includes permit holders who are the children or spouses of attending students, but these children are not considered fee-paying international students for the purposes of our analysis.[26]

From the IRCC data set, one of the adjustments we have made includes removing a portion of student permit holders in the "secondary or less" category, who are assumed to be children to parents who are enrolled in a post-secondary education program. The adjustment is based on industry information, as reported in the 2015 ICG report for CAPS-I.

These students have been further allocated to studying in public or independent K-12 school systems based on industry intelligence.

The allocation of student permit holders in the post-secondary system to finer categories of trade, college, under-graduate, master's, PhD and other type of programs is based on IRCC information and data in Statistics Canada's data series (Table 37-10-0018-01 Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender).

Further allocation of registration status in full-time and part-time study for each type of students has been based on Statistics Canada's data (same Table 37-10-0018-01).

Finally, another important source of international students that is not covered in the IRCC data is the number of students who study in Canada for periods of less than six months, as they do not require a study permit to enter the country. We approached organizations whose members provide short-term vocational training to the public. It should be noted, however, that only Languages Canada collects comprehensive data that is useful for our purposes.

Languages Canada is Canada's premier language organization representing its two official languages, English and French. Membership is limited to schools that meet the association's rigorous standards and are committed to upholding them. Currently, there are over 210 member programs across the country, including at universities, colleges and private institutions. The association is not-for-profit, and sector driven. Quality assurance is a critical element of Languages Canada, and all member schools are required to be accredited under one internationally recognized and comprehensive scheme.

Languages Canada administers an annual survey with its member schools to collect data on such topics as the source of students, immigration status, the length of study, the students' average

[25] In this regard, we note a recently released study by Statistics Canada (Choi & Hou 2023) found that "about one-quarter of postsecondary study permit holders in 2019 had not enrolled in publicly funded postsecondary programs, with over half of them likely engaging in other study or work activities". That means, about three-quarters of postsecondary study permit holders in 2019 were in fact enrolled in publicly funded postsecondary programs, and another 12.5% of the study permit holders in 2019 could have enrolled in a private postsecondary institution.

[26] It should be noted that there are still some "non-fee-paying" students who have not fully been adjusted for due to lack of data. For example, no adjustments have been made for cases in which Quebec has made an agreement with respect to international students with French citizenship (in Quebec, an international student can even pay domestic fees if he/she is studying French language, literature, culture, etc. at the degree level), or for exchange students in all provinces (they do not pay international fees, as they pay tuition to their own institutions back home).

weekly spending and other variables. On Languages Canada's advice, we sought data related to international students studying in its private membership schools only, as the number of those studying in its public membership schools would have been represented in IRCC's dataset. [27]

We made further adjustments to calculate the average number of student-weeks for students studying for up to six months in each province and territory.

Student expenditures

Tuition and fees

For tuition and other fees at the K-12 level, we relied on information published in the Canadian Association of Public Schools – International (CAPS-I) website (https://caps-i.ca/) and Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS) website (https://www.cais.ca/). Note that these are based on tuition and fees in a school year (10 months). Tuition and fees in private schools can be substantially higher. In this regard, we also used information available from the CAIS webpages to calculate the average annual tuition and fees for international students in private schools.

Detailed information on tuition and fees for full-time university-level international students in each province is available in Statistics Canada's annual Tuition and Living Accommodation Costs (TLAC) survey. Note that the TLAC does not provide any data for the territories.

When deriving student tuition and fees for the other levels of study other than "secondary or less" (i.e., post-secondary, which is further divided into trade/college and university; and other), we made the following assumptions:

- University – We applied separate undergraduate and graduate tuition values from the TLAC to full-time undergraduate students and students in master's/PhD programs.[28]

  Part-time students were assumed to take a 50% course load for the purposes of calculation.

  In addition to tuition, we have included "additional fees," which represent the compulsory fees the universities impose on both domestic and international students, such as facility fees, society fees, health and dental fees (for international students only), student pass fees in some cases, and others. We also made an allowance of $1,200 per academic year for books/tools/materials.

[27] Note that IRCC collects data on short-term students from some countries (SX-1 Visa holders). However, these numbers are small and not captured in this study.

[28] Detailed data on tuition for full-time undergraduate and graduate students can be found in tables 37 and 38, in appendix 4. It should be noted that setting tuition and fees in public post-secondary institutions is generally a provincial/territorial responsibility. As such, the level of tuition shown in these data tables does not necessarily reflect the true cost of educational programs in these provinces and territories.

It should also be noted that, in the release of TLAC data, since 2010-2011, regular and executive MBA (master of business administration) programs have been excluded from the national and provincial weighted averages due to their high costs and their effect on the overall tuition fee average. Dental, medical and veterinary residency programs offered in teaching hospitals and similar locations that may lead to advanced professional certification have also been excluded.

Tuition and fees are for an academic year (i.e., eight months) in the TLAC data, and we have assumed that 100% of students study eight months of the year.

- College – For full-time tuition, we applied a factor of 75% to the average university undergraduate tuition in each province. The 75% is an approximation based on web research conducted for select college programs in each province to see how they compare to the full-time tuition for an undergraduate program. The exception to this 75% ratio is with tuition of college students in Ontario – for this province, weighted average tuition for full-time undergraduate was $47,280 for the 2024 calendar year. We have searched College Ontario's website to look for information pertaining to tuition and fees for international students, and found that most fees were lower than $20,000 in an academic year. Consequently, for Ontario, the ratio applied was 45%.

  For part-time students, we assumed a 50% course load.

  We also assumed that international students in "college" level of study pay on average the same percentage (75%) of "additional fees" as university-level international students. We also made the same allowance for books/equipment requirement ($1,200) in a year.

  For international college students in the territories, tuition and fees information was derived from colleges' websites.

- Other – since we did not have any detailed information on the nature of their study, we assumed the following: that these students may pay tuition and fees equivalent to the average paid by K-12 and college students. Students in this category were also assumed to incur living expenses equivalent to those in part-time college studies.

For short-term international students, estimates of tuition and fees on a weekly basis were derived from information in Languages Canada's 2024 annual report.

Living expenses

- Secondary or less – we relied on information published in the Canadian Association of Public Schools – International (CAPS-I) website (https://caps-i.ca/) and Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS) website (https://www.cais.ca/). A student in the public school system pays an average homestay cost of $1,150 per month (in 2024) for a 10-month period. Essentially, we assumed that students return to their home countries for summer vacation. For those in the private, independent school system, we assumed that three quarters of these students pay an average homestay cost of $1,150 per month, and one quarter of these students board with the school they attend.

- University – for full-time students, we use Statistics Canada's annual Tuition and Living Accommodation Costs (TLAC) survey data (to calculate the average costs of on-campus room and meal expenses for an eight-month period for students in the undergraduate, master's and PhD programs).[29] Then, values were scaled up to full-year (12 months) values. That is, we assumed that international students in the university category stay in the country for 12 months, even though they may only take courses for two semesters.

[29] Statistics Canada, TLAC, Table 7. Living Accommodation Costs at Residences.

For part-time students, we assumed a monthly homestay cost of $1500 in 2022 for 12 months in a year.

We also made allowances for transportation costs for students staying in different provinces and territories. We applied data from Statistics Canada's Survey of Household Spending (SHS), which details household spending on public transportation, by province and territory, in 2023.[30] The values we used refer to the average expenditure per household on public transportation (households that did or did not use public transit). Values in 2024 dollars were adjusted for inflation between 2023 and 2024.

- For students in non-university study (college as well as those in the "other" category), we assumed that they spend the equivalent of what university students have to pay during an academic year (average room, meal and transportation costs).

  The average costs for meals and accommodation at colleges in the territories were derived in the same way as they were in the provinces. Estimates of transportation costs were calculated as the average for provincial transportation costs.

In addition to basic living costs, as presented above, we made an allowance of $3,750 per student per year ($1,000 for K-12 students) for discretionary expenses (such as eating out, recreational activities and entertaining), in 2024.

For each province and territory, for each level of study, the formula to calculate gross expenditures was as follows:

Estimated number of students in that level of study multiplied by *the sum of (average tuition and additional fees, books, average room and meal costs, average transportation costs, average discretionary spending) per year = gross expenditures in one year for international students in the level of study*

Scholarships and awards

In this study, in order to calculate the *net* economic benefits that international students brought to the host country, we took into account any financial assistance that international students received from Canadian federal or provincial governments, and from institutions.

We conducted extensive web research on the financial statements of universities and colleges across all provinces in order to find such information, but to little avail. We estimated that the support universities and colleges provide to international students is probably no more than 1% of the student tuition collected.[31]

[30] Statistics Canada, Table 11-10-0223-01 Household spending by household income quintile, Canada, regions and provinces.

[31] We reviewed the consolidated financial statements of a number of universities and colleges across the provinces. While all financial statements report student tuition and fees received on the revenue side, and amounts paid for scholarships, awards and bursaries on the expense side, very few financial statements actually include information pertaining to international students.

Given that there are no published data pertaining to the amount of scholarships, awards, and bursaries provided to international students, we derive the 1% estimate based on information in Statistics Canada Table 37-10-0027-01 and 37-10-0029-01 (Expenditures of universities, colleges by type of expenditures and funds (in current Canadian dollars) (x

We were also informed that the federal government annually grants $20 million to support international students.[32] As such, we used a factor equivalent to 1% of international student tuition and fees, plus $20 million to represent the deduction. This reduction factor of 1% was applied to students in the trade/college, undergraduate, master's and PhD programs only.

Additional tourism benefits from visiting friends and family members

One additional benefit of international education is increased tourism activities, due to family and friends visiting the host country while students remain in the country.

Unfortunately, this area is still a challenge with respect to data availability. We do not have a good handle on the number of family and friends who visit international students during their stay in Canada. For the purposes of this estimation, we applied a similar methodology to the one used in an Australian study to derive the estimated number of international students' family and friends who participate in tourism activities.

The methodology in the Australian Council for Private Education and Training's (ACPET's) 2013 study was based on research conducted by Tourism Research Australia. The study shows that for every 10 formal visiting students (defined as those whose main purpose for visiting Australia is education), an additional five family members or friends visit the country. For every 10 informal visiting students (defined as those whose main purpose for visiting Australia was not education but still studied a course while on their trip), there are an additional 2 visitors.

In our current study, we assumed that for every 10 long-term international students, five family members and/or friends visited Canada during the year, and that for every 10 short-term international students, two family members and/or friends visited Canada during the year.

The average expenditure of these visiting family or friends has been derived from Destination Canada's reports on U.S. and international arrivals and expenditure by type.[33,34]

1,000)). For universities, expenditure that is distributed to "scholarship, bursaries and prizes" for all students accounts for 7% of the total expenditure, while the percentage in colleges is 1%. We note that as postsecondary institutions charge international student the full cost of education, that amount of tuition and fees paid by international students would be equivalent to the total expenditure to fund that student. Given it is not clear what percentage of universities and colleges actually provide scholarships, bursaries and awards to international students, we have opted to use the lower end of the ratio to represent this amount.

[32] The most recent information was from a Global Affairs Canada source when the study was updated in 2025. Global Affairs Canada further clarifies that such support mostly goes to support international students in short-term programs.

[33] Destination Canada, Total International Arrivals to Canada. https://www.destinationcanada.com/en/research#tourismincanada

[34] Destination Canada, Tourism Spend in Canada. https://www.destinationcanada.com/en/tourism-spend. Data derived from this source was for 2019. For the purposes of this report, we have increased the expenditure by 10%.

Appendix 2: Economic impacts

A. Direct economic impacts[35]

This section presents the results of direct economic impacts associated with all students in Canada, by province and territory. First, we present the results for 2024 for all students, then long-term and short-term students separately, followed by francophone students studying outside of the Province of Quebec.[36]

Table 20: Direct economic impact of all international students, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions except jobs)

	Annual Expenditures	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour Income	Jobs
Newfoundland and Labrador	$227.4	$200.9	$126.2	$61.4	1,264
Prince Edward Island	$180.7	$163.9	$93.2	$53.1	1,121
Nova Scotia	$1,094.2	$1,038.9	$683.6	$396.4	8,000
New Brunswick	$594.9	$545.1	$327.0	$182.3	3,721
Quebec	$5,984.9	$5,878.2	$3,566.9	$2,139.7	42,941
Ontario	$24,848.6	$22,705.1	$15,023.5	$8,289.7	150,509
Manitoba	$1,001.4	$919.6	$595.0	$337.9	6,108
Saskatchewan	$713.2	$629.7	$412.3	$244.1	4,249
Alberta	$3,140.9	$3,057.5	$2,006.3	$1,142.2	21,470
British Columbia	$9,677.71	$8,477.8	$5,645.0	$3,296.6	69,550
Yukon	$8.8	$6.9	$4.4	$2.3	39
Northwest Territories	$1.3	$3.4	$1.7	$1.0	13
Nunavut	$0.4	$2.2	$1.2	$0.5	9
Canada	$47,474.6	$43,629.3	$28,486.5	$16,147.3	308,993

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

[35] Please refer to section 3 of this report for definitions of the various types of impacts.

[36] It should be noted that no tax revenue impacts have been estimated in the direct impact estimation, as Statistics Canada's model does not estimate indirect tax revenue associated with spending.

Table 21: Direct economic impact of international students studying for longer than six months, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions except jobs)

	Annual Expenditures	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour Income	Jobs
Newfoundland and Labrador	$227.4	$200.0	$125.7	$61.2	1,260
Prince Edward Island	$179.1	$162.1	$92.2	$52.6	1,111
Nova Scotia	$1,072.3	$1,019.9	$671.9	$390.2	7,873
New Brunswick	$579.5	$532.3	$319.5	$178.5	3,641
Quebec	$5,869.0	$5,763.9	$3,500.2	$2,102.1	42,203
Ontario	$24,387.5	$22,296.7	$14,770.7	$8,165.7	148,240
Manitoba	$994.0	$910.1	$589.9	$335.3	6,059
Saskatchewan	$705.2	$621.6	$407.5	$241.6	4,204
Alberta	$3,076.0	$2,994.9	$1,967.3	$1,122.8	21,104
British Columbia	$9,399.2	$8,248.5	$5,498.0	$3,223.3	68,045
Yukon	$8.8	$6.8	$4.4	$2.3	38
Northwest Territories	$1.3	$3.3	$1.7	$1.0	12
Nunavut	$0.4	$2.2	$1.2	$0.5	9
Canada	$46,499.8	$42,762.2	$27,950.4	$15,877.0	303,799

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

Table 22: Direct economic impact of short-term international language students, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions except jobs)

	Annual Expenditures	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour Income	Jobs
Newfoundland and Labrador	$0.0	$0.9	$0.5	$0.2	3
Prince Edward Island	$1.6	$1.8	$1.0	$0.5	10
Nova Scotia	$21.9	$19.0	$11.7	$6.2	127
New Brunswick	$15.4	$12.8	$7.4	$3.8	80
Quebec	$115.9	$114.2	$66.6	$37.6	738
Ontario	$461.2	$408.2	$252.6	$123.9	2,267
Manitoba	$7.4	$9.5	$5.1	$2.7	49
Saskatchewan	$8.0	$8.1	$4.8	$2.4	45
Alberta	$64.9	$62.5	$38.9	$19.4	365
British Columbia	$278.5	$229.3	$147.0	$73.2	1,504
Yukon	$0.0	$0.1	$0.1	$0.0	0
Northwest Territories	$0.0	$0.1	$0.1	$0.0	0
Nunavut	$0.0	$0.1	$0.0	$0.0	0
Canada	$974.9	$866.7	$535.7	$270.1	5,189

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

Table 23: Direct economic impact of Francophone students studying outside of the Province of Quebec, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions except jobs)

	Annual Expenditures	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour Income	Jobs
Newfoundland and Labrador	$1.6	$2.1	$1.4	$0.7	13
Prince Edward Island	$3.2	$3.5	$2.0	$1.2	23
Nova Scotia	$23.5	$25.5	$17.0	$10.0	198
New Brunswick	$117.6	$84.8	$51.8	$27.8	610
Quebec	$0.0	$17.4	$8.5	$5.0	69
Ontario	$484.5	$434.9	$288.6	$159.2	2,903
Manitoba	$12.4	$11.8	$7.5	$4.3	77
Saskatchewan	$4.3	$4.4	$2.8	$1.6	28
Alberta	$20.2	$23.7	$15.3	$8.7	157
British Columbia	$35.4	$35.8	$23.4	$13.9	282
Yukon	$0.3	$0.2	$0.1	$0.1	1
Northwest Territories	$0.3	$0.2	$0.1	$0.1	1
Nunavut	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	0
Canada	$703.3	$644.4	$418.7	$232.4	4,363

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

B. Total (direct, indirect and induced) economic impacts

This section presents the values of the total direct, indirect and induced impact that international students bring to the provincial/territorial economy and the aggregate to Canada. The impact values apply to all international students. As expected, all indicators, including GDP contribution and the jobs supported, were significantly higher than those for the direct or combined direct and indirect impacts. First, we present the results for 2024 for all students, then long-term and short-term students. We also present results for Francophone students studying outside of the province of Quebec.

Table 24: Total economic impact (direct, indirect and induced) of all international students, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions except jobs)

	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour Income	Jobs
Newfoundland and Labrador	$353.1	$214.5	$108.0	2,009
Prince Edward Island	$270.7	$150.5	$82.1	1,756
Nova Scotia	$1,710.9	$1,063.2	$598.6	12,147
New Brunswick	$1,031.9	$569.2	$309.2	6,257
Quebec	$11,691.0	$6,577.9	$3,837.1	71,457
Ontario	$40,620.0	$25,012.2	$13,769.4	237,412
Manitoba	$1,859.7	$1,077.8	$567.9	10,426
Saskatchewan	$1,390.1	$796.4	$394.9	7,101
Alberta	$6,954.3	$3,999.8	$2,041.6	35,247
British Columbia	$14,587.5	$9,301.4	$5,116.9	101,228
Yukon	$14.6	$9.0	$5.1	75
Northwest Territories	$16.1	$8.2	$3.9	44
Nunavut	$7.4	$4.1	$1.8	28
Canada	$80,507.3	$48,784.4	$26,836.5	485,187

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

Table 25: Total economic impact (direct, indirect and induced) of international students studying for longer than six months, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions except jobs)

	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour Income	Jobs
Newfoundland and Labrador	$350.5	$213.0	$107.3	1,998
Prince Edward Island	$267.4	$148.7	$81.2	1,737
Nova Scotia	$1,679.2	$1,044.4	$588.7	11,943
New Brunswick	$1,008.4	$556.5	$302.6	6,121
Quebec	$11,458.5	$6,450.9	$3,765.3	70,149
Ontario	$39,860.6	$24,566.6	$13,538.2	233,464
Manitoba	$1,834.3	$1,065.2	$561.6	10,310
Saskatchewan	$1,367.9	$784.9	$389.9	7,008
Alberta	$6,807.7	$3,918.9	$2,003.3	34,594
British Columbia	$14,197.6	$9,059.2	$4,995.2	98,884
Yukon	$14.4	$8.9	$5.0	74
Northwest Territories	$15.7	$8.0	$3.8	43
Nunavut	$7.2	$4.0	$1.8	27
Canada	$78,869.3	$47,829.3	$26,343.6	476,353

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

Table 26: Total economic impact (direct, indirect and induced) of short-term international language students, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions except jobs)

	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour Income	Jobs
Newfoundland and Labrador	$2.6	$1.5	$0.7	11
Prince Edward Island	$3.4	$1.7	$0.9	19
Nova Scotia	$31.7	$18.8	$10.0	204
New Brunswick	$23.5	$12.7	$6.6	136
Quebec	$232.4	$126.9	$71.8	1,307
Ontario	$759.0	$445.4	$231.0	3,946
Manitoba	$25.4	$12.6	$6.3	116
Saskatchewan	$22.1	$11.4	$5.0	92
Alberta	$146.5	$80.9	$38.4	653
British Columbia	$389.7	$242.2	$121.7	2,343
Yukon	$0.2	$0.1	$0.1	1
Northwest Territories	$0.4	$0.2	$0.1	1
Nunavut	$0.2	$0.1	$0.0	1
Canada	$1,637.2	$954.6	$492.5	8,829

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

Table 27: Total economic impact (direct, indirect and induced) of francophone students studying outside of the province of Quebec, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions except jobs)

	Output	GDP at basic prices	Labour Income	Jobs
Newfoundland and Labrador	$4.5	$2.8	$1.4	24
Prince Edward Island	$6.1	$3.5	$1.9	39
Nova Scotia	$42.0	$26.4	$15.0	302
New Brunswick	$130.6	$77.0	$40.8	877
Quebec	$66.9	$32.0	$18.4	284
Ontario	$758.7	$470.4	$258.5	4,489
Manitoba	$25.0	$14.2	$7.4	136
Saskatchewan	$13.3	$7.0	$3.2	58
Alberta	$66.1	$36.6	$18.2	299
British Columbia	$71.5	$43.9	$24.6	464
Yukon	$0.3	$0.2	$0.1	2
Northwest Territories	$0.5	$0.3	$0.1	2
Nunavut	$0.1	$0.1	$0.0	0
Canada	$1,185.6	$714.2	$389.7	6,974

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

Table 28: Total tax revenue impact (direct, indirect and induced) from the spending of all international students, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions)

	Indirect Taxes	Personal Income Taxes	Total Tax Revenue
Newfoundland and Labrador	$35.6	$22.3	$57.9
Prince Edward Island	$27.0	$15.3	$42.4
Nova Scotia	$167.6	$119.7	$287.2
New Brunswick	$100.3	$55.4	$155.7
Quebec	$1,151.3	$781.3	$1,932.5
Ontario	$3,754.5	$2,796.5	$6,551.0
Manitoba	$162.0	$104.4	$266.4
Saskatchewan	$94.6	$67.2	$161.8
Alberta	$395.7	$387.1	$782.8
British Columbia	$1,222.2	$925.0	$2,147.2
Yukon	$0.8	$0.7	$1.5
Northwest Territories	$0.5	$0.6	$1.1
Nunavut	$0.2	$0.3	$0.4
Canada	$7,112.3	$5,275.7	$12,388.0

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

Table 29: Total tax revenue impact (direct, indirect and induced) from the spending of international students studying for longer than six months, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions)

	Indirect Taxes	Personal Income Taxes	Total Tax Revenue
Newfoundland and Labrador	$35.4	$22.2	$57.6
Prince Edward Island	$26.7	$15.2	$41.9
Nova Scotia	$163.8	$117.7	$281.5
New Brunswick	$97.7	$54.2	$151.9
Quebec	$1,127.6	$766.7	$1,894.2
Ontario	$3,675.0	$2,749.5	$6,424.5
Manitoba	$160.1	$103.2	$263.4
Saskatchewan	$93.1	$66.3	$159.4
Alberta	$386.5	$379.8	$766.3
British Columbia	$1,183.5	$903.0	$2,086.5
Yukon	$0.8	$0.7	$1.4
Northwest Territories	$0.5	$0.6	$1.1
Nunavut	$0.2	$0.3	$0.4
Canada	$6,951.0	$5,179.3	$12,130.3

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

Table 30: Total tax revenue impact (direct, indirect and induced) from the spending of short-term international language students, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions)

	Indirect Taxes	Personal Income Taxes	Total Tax Revenue
Newfoundland and Labrador	$0.1	$0.1	$0.3
Prince Edward Island	$0.3	$0.2	$0.5
Nova Scotia	$3.7	$2.0	$5.7
New Brunswick	$2.6	$1.2	$3.8
Quebec	$23.7	$14.6	$38.3
Ontario	$79.5	$46.9	$126.4
Manitoba	$1.9	$1.2	$3.0
Saskatchewan	$1.5	$0.8	$2.3
Alberta	$9.2	$7.3	$16.5
British Columbia	$38.7	$22.0	$60.7
Yukon	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Northwest Territories	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Nunavut	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Canada	$161.2	$96.3	$257.5

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

Table 31: Total tax revenue impact (direct, indirect and induced) from the spending of francophone st6udents studying outside of the province of Quebec, by province and territory, 2024 ($millions)

	Indirect Taxes	Personal Income Taxes	Total Tax Revenue
Newfoundland and Labrador	$0.4	$0.3	$0.6
Prince Edward Island	$0.5	$0.4	$0.9
Nova Scotia	$3.9	$3.0	$6.9
New Brunswick	$16.2	$7.3	$23.5
Quebec	$3.2	$3.7	$6.9
Ontario	$71.5	$52.5	$124.0
Manitoba	$2.1	$1.4	$3.5
Saskatchewan	$0.8	$0.5	$1.3
Alberta	$3.2	$3.5	$6.7
British Columbia	$5.3	$4.4	$9.7
Yukon	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Northwest Territories	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Nunavut	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Canada	$107.1	$77.0	$184.1

Source: Customized Statistics Canada expenditure model, based on expenditure profile produced by RKA

Appendix 3: Reconciliation of the study estimates with valuation by Statistics Canada

In this appendix, we compare our estimates of the value of international student spending in a given year with Statistics Canada's valuation. Statistics Canada reported that Canada's receipt of foreign exchange dollars from international student was valued at $32.07 billion in 2023.[37] In our study, we estimated that total annual spending by international students and their visiting families and friends was valued at almost $47.5 billion in 2024. In this appendix, we show how our estimates can be reconciled with Statistics Canada's valuation.

In Statistics Canada's valuation, "international transactions in services are a major component of the Current account of the Balance of payments. Services are grouped under four major categories: travel, transportation, commercial services and government services." Spending by international students includes education-related travel, which is defined as follows:[38] [39]

> *In theory, education-related travel should include all expenditures in another country by students. But for practical reasons, Canadian statistics include only outlays of post-secondary students; that is, only outlays on full-time university and college programs, which generally extend over more than one year, are included. Recorded outlays include all expenditures by post-secondary students studying abroad – that is, expenditures for tuition fees and course materials, together with accommodation and general living expenses. Except as incidentally covered in other personal travel, spending for primary and secondary schooling remains to be estimated in Canadian statistics. Certain further expenditures on institutional education (such as for personal interest courses) also remain in other personal travel because of data limitations.*

Therefore, it is important to note that the Statistics Canada's valuation we compared with is limited to the cost of education and living expenses for full-time post-secondary international students. In our report, our valuation included the expenditures of students who were in K-12 schools and in other programs, including students in programs shorter than six months. Our valuation also included expenditures incurred by visiting family and friends.

The most recent data of Statistics Canada's on the number of postsecondary international student was for 2022/2023 academic year. The valuation of the export of education-related personal travel services would have been based on the number of international students in post-secondary systems, about 421,008.[40] In all, Statistics Canada's assessed value of the students' expenditure on tuition, food, accommodations and transportation for an academic year of eight months was $22.327 billion. Cost of education plus cost of living expense would have been estimated to be approximately $53,000 per student.

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[37] Statistics Canada Table 36-10-0004-01 International transactions in services, travel by category and geographical area, annual (x 1,000,000).

[38] Statistics Canada: Canada's International Trade in Services – Data quality, concepts and methodology. Catalogue no. 67-203.

[39] Statistics Canada has reviewed its methodology for estimating student spending and implemented the changes since 2019. Statistics Canada also revised the estimates to the early 2000s.

[40] International students in Canada from Statistics Canada table 37-10-0018-01 Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender (data released November 22, 2023).

In RKA's calculation, to estimate the number of post-secondary students in Canada in 2022 who were in college programs and in universities, we relied on values from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's estimate of study permit holders as of December 31 of that year. Of the total 807,260 study permit holders, 651,235 were study permit holders pursuing post-secondary training in Canada. We derived per-student expenditures (net of Canadian scholarships and bursaries) as follows:

- Those in college programs: $42,807 per year in 2022, assuming 8 months of study and 12 months of living expenses.
- Those in university programs: $53,805 per year in 2022, assuming 8 months of study and 12 months of living expenses.

Therefore, total expenditures for post-secondary students in 2022 was valued at $32.3 billion in the RKA study. It can be seen that, on a per student level of expenditure, the value in the RKA study is not quite different from Statistics Canada's valuation, and hence the difference in valuation can be mainly attributed to the number of international students involved. Evidently, other than the difference in timing of when Statistics Canada's enrolment data was collected and the IRCC data (December 31st) attributing to different numbers of students, our study does take into account the number of postsecondary students studying in non-public education and training institutions.

At the time of this report, we cannot compare our estimates of the value of total international students' annual expenditure in 2024 with similar valuation by Statistics Canada as its data is not available yet. As shown in the paragraphs above, had the number of postsecondary international students in the RKA study and in Statistics Canada's valuation been close to be the same, the valuation of the value of total expenditure would not be far off.

In our study, additional to post-secondary students in trades/college programs and universities, we included students in the K-12 system (with expenditures on tuition and homestay for 10 months), and other students whose level of study was not clear but who were included in IRCC's data. Total expenditures for these long-term students (meaning IRCC requires them to hold a valid study permit while they stay in Canada to study longer than six months in a calendar year) was $5.5 billion in 2024.

The last segment of international student population is short-term students, who do not require a study permit to pursue training generally shorter than six months long. These students include those who are pursuing language training or other short-term vocational training. For practical reasons, we have obtained data only from Languages Canada and therefore have valued expenditures from this source. For these 70,940 students, the total number of student weeks was estimated to be 865,586 and total expenditures to be $964.3 million.

In addition to student expenditures related to tuition, fees and living expenses, we estimated spending by visiting family members and friends. The value of spending attributed to visiting family members and friends was estimated to be $341.6 million.

Combining the spending of long-term and short-term students, as well as their visiting family members and friends, yields a total expenditure value of $47.5 billion in our estimate.

Appendix 4: Data tables for 2024

Table 32: Number of study permit holders on December 31 by study level and intended province or territory of destination, 2024

	Secondary of Less	Post-Secondary	Other Studies	Not Stated	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,230	5,600	115	0	6,950
Prince Edward Island	965	3,300	675		4,945
Nova Scotia	4,340	19,080	985	10	24,410
New Brunswick	3,315	12,030	195	5	15,545
Quebec	14,880	95,970	17,135	25	1,280
Ontario	60,135	397,765	24,105	95	482,100
Manitoba	5,440	20,930	1,255	10	27,635
Saskatchewan	3,765	14,205	545	5	18,520
Alberta	17,010	52,490	2,015	25	71,545
British Columbia	34,675	159,320	9,945	60	203,995
Northwest Territories	1,230	30	0	0	85
Nunavut	965	5	0	0	20
Yukon	4,340	185	10	0	325
Not Stated	3,505	7,765	1,000	15	12,290
Canada	149,460	788,675	57,980	250	996,375

Source: IRCC, January 31, 2025

Table 33: Estimated number of long-term international students by level of study, and province and territory, 2024

	Secondary or Less	College	University – Bachelor's Degree	University – Master's Degree	University – Doctorate	Other Studies	All Levels of Study
Newfoundland and Labrador	880	398	3,111	1,604	488	115	6,595
Prince Edward Island	820	948	1,986	327	39	675	4,795
Nova Scotia	2,935	1,987	13,440	3,144	510	985	23,010
New Brunswick	2,580	4,514	5,412	1,753	351	195	14,810
Quebec	12,995	20,192	34,843	27,399	13,536	17,135	126,125
Ontario	41,530	233,992	119,987	31,664	12,122	24,105	463,495
Manitoba	4,220	5,059	13,051	1,902	918	1,255	26,415
Saskatchewan	2,585	3,749	7,026	2,260	1,169	545	17,340
Alberta	9,295	21,674	18,290	7,868	4,658	2,015	63,825
British Columbia	26,150	53,581	85,109	13,919	6,711	9,945	195,484
Yukon	60	62	123	0	0	10	255
Northwest Territories	35	10	20	0	0	0	65
Nunavut	15	2	3	0	0	0	20
Canada	104,100	346,166	302,402	91,840	40,502	56,980	942,234

Source: IRCC, with adjustments by RKA

Table 34: Number of short-term international students and student weeks, by province and territory, 2024

	Number of Students	Number of Student Weeks
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0
Prince Edward Island	55	1,454
Nova Scotia	1,733	19,440
New Brunswick	1,152	13,669
Quebec	12,807	102,335
Ontario	29,133	410,084
Manitoba	1,029	6,507
Saskatchewan	473	7,145
Alberta	5,247	57,561
British Columbia	19,311	247,391
Yukon	0	0
Northwest Territories	0	0
Nunavut	0	0
Canada	70,940	865,586

Source: Languages Canada, with adjustments by RKA

Table 35: Number of long-term international students in Canada (as measured by number of study permit holders), by top 10 source countries, 2024

	Number of Students	Percentage of Total
India	392,810	39%
China, People's Republic of	99,650	10%
Nigeria	45,110	5%
Philippines	43,785	4%
France	25,080	3%
Iran	23,185	2%
Nepal	22,045	2%
Vietnam	17,790	2%
Algeria	16,630	2%
Bangladesh	15,185	2%
Total of top 10 countries	701,270	70%
All countries	996,375	100%

Source: IRCC

Table 36: Number of short-term international students in Canada, by top 10 source markets, 2024[41]

	Number of Students	Percentage of Total
Japan	13,783	15%
Brazil	10,685	11%
Mexico	9,026	10%
South Korea	8,446	9%
China	7,002	7%
Canada	5,505	6%
Columbia	5,033	5%
Taiwan	3,381	4%
India	3,106	3%
France	2,153	2%
Total of top 10 markets	66,658	72%
All markets	94,928	100%

Source: Languages Canada

[41] Source: 2024 Annual Report on Language Education in Canada. In Languages Canada's annual report, Canada is listed as one of the top 10 source markets. For the purposes of this report, the number of students from Canada has been excluded. It should also be noted that the total number of students in this table is not the number we use in estimating economic impact as we exclude students from Canada, and only include students who were physically in Canada attending classes in person.

Table 37: Comparison of weighted average undergraduate tuition fees for Canadian and international full-time students, 2022 (average of 2023-24 academic year and 2024-25 academic year)

	Canadian Students	International Students
Newfoundland and Labrador	$3,660	$17,868
Prince Edward Island	$7,544	$19,606
Nova Scotia	$9,657	$26,809
New Brunswick	$9,086	$18,191
Quebec	$3,542	$33,289
Ontario	$8,393	$47,282
Manitoba	$5,462	$19,400
Saskatchewan	$9,425	$29,815
Alberta	$7,648	$32,467
British Columbia	$6,542	$36,327
Yukon		
Northwest Territories		
Nunavut		
Canada	$7,252	$39,183

Source: Statistics Canada, Table 37-10-0045-01 Canadian and international tuition fees by level of study (current dollars)

Table 38: Comparison of weighted average graduate tuition fees for Canadian and international full-time students, 2024 (average of 2023-24 academic year and 2024-25 academic year)

	Canadian Students	International Students
Newfoundland and Labrador	$3,435	$4,833
Prince Edward Island	$5,894	$11,801
Nova Scotia	$10,592	$22,957
New Brunswick	$7,909	$16,750
Quebec	$3,815	$21,960
Ontario	$9,571	$27,432
Manitoba	$5,855	$12,907
Saskatchewan	$5,331	$9,520
Alberta	$6,549	$15,745
British Columbia	$10,903	$24,663
Yukon		
Northwest Territories		
Nunavut		
Canada	$7,602	$22,674

Source: Statistics Canada, Table 37-10-0045-01 Canadian and international tuition fees by level of study (current dollars)

Table 39: Estimated expenditures of long-term international students in the K-12 system, by province and territory, 2024

	Tuition and Fees	Accommodation and Food	Transportation	Discretionary	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	$10,379,248	$11,000,000	$0	$880,000	$22,259,248
Prince Edward Island	$8,692,000	$10,578,000	$0	$820,000	$20,090,000
Nova Scotia	$48,102,009	$33,562,303	$0	$2,935,000	$84,599,312
New Brunswick	$47,956,782	$30,732,289	$0	$2,580,000	$81,269,071
Quebec	$235,992,579	$149,771,274	$0	$12,995,000	$398,758,852
Ontario	$799,784,343	$630,335,900	$0	$41,530,000	$1,471,650,243
Manitoba	$68,318,002	$47,092,782	$0	$4,220,000	$119,630,784
Saskatchewan	$34,525,260	$30,650,406	$0	$2,585,000	$67,760,666
Alberta	$145,801,503	$130,009,165	$0	$9,295,000	$285,105,668
British Columbia	$545,472,266	$344,314,383	$0	$26,150,000	$915,936,650
Yukon	$827,600	$688,518	$0	$60,000	$1,576,118
Northwest Territories	$482,767	$401,635	$0	$35,000	$919,402
Nunavut	$206,900	$172,129	$0	$15,000	$394,029
Canada	$1,946,541,258	$1,419,308,785	$0	$104,100,000	$3,469,950,043

Source: Various data sources detailed in Appendix 1, with adjustments by RKA

Table 40: Estimated expenditures of long-term international students in college programs, [42] by province and territory, 2024

	Tuition and Fees	Accommodation and Food	Transportation	Discretionary	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	$5,737,998	$6,642,354	$249,820	$1,945,947	$14,576,120
Prince Edward Island	$14,787,989	$16,536,424	$537,894	$4,530,195	$36,392,501
Nova Scotia	$42,899,237	$37,140,556	$1,182,703	$9,782,501	$91,004,997
New Brunswick	$66,603,881	$79,458,427	$2,087,740	$21,855,344	$170,005,392
Quebec	$155,864,386	$433,316,284	$13,289,871	$97,671,811	$700,142,351
Ontario	$5,267,839,245	$4,405,387,128	$194,737,281	$1,136,973,576	$11,004,937,230
Manitoba	$79,159,947	$79,309,567	$2,172,731	$24,102,003	$184,744,249
Saskatchewan	$88,107,972	$52,047,620	$3,263,114	$18,541,111	$161,959,817
Alberta	$562,416,290	$401,561,065	$17,412,648	$106,910,225	$1,088,300,228
British Columbia	$1,116,507,960	$888,142,152	$61,369,366	$238,584,753	$2,304,604,231
Yukon	$830,270	$1,108,896	$43,121	$308,333	$2,290,620
Northwest Territories	$165,540	$179,821	$6,993	$50,000	$402,353
Nunavut	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Canada	$7,400,920,714	$6,400,830,294	$296,353,281	$1,661,255,800	$15,759,360,090

Source: Various data sources detailed in Appendix 1, with adjustments by RKA

[42] Estimates of spending by international student in the Territories, as in the Provinces, are based on the number of study permit holders as provided by IRCC. However, it is not clear if these study permit holders were in fact all studying in post-secondary institutes in the Territories. For example, IRCC data for 2022 showed that there were 155 study permit holders in the Territories (135 in Yukon, 15 in N.W.T., and 5 in Nunavut). However, data from Statistics Canada's Table 37-10-0018-01 (Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender) showed that, in 2022/23 academic year, registration of international students in publicly funded post-secondary institutes in the Territories totaled only 18. Therefore, these estimates may be overvalued, and readers should be cautious in interpreting trends and impacts. IRCC also rounds its study permit holder data to the nearest 5. For these reasons, even though IRCC data indicates that there were 5 study permit holders in Nunavut in post-secondary level of education and training, we have not included any in the calculation of their annual spending.

Table 41: Estimated expenditures of long-term international students in university programs, by province and territory, 2024

	Tuition and Fees	Accommodation and Food	Transportation	Discretionary	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	$70,312,108	$86,413,856	$3,268,660	$25,218,185	$185,212,809
Prince Edward Island	$46,170,329	$41,573,655	$1,334,955	$11,459,243	$100,538,182
Nova Scotia	$451,979,817	$309,861,733	$10,176,385	$80,747,738	$852,765,672
New Brunswick	$143,384,146	$133,332,213	$3,475,774	$36,809,586	$317,001,720
Quebec	$2,114,633,144	$1,610,172,309	$49,874,704	$362,667,942	$4,137,348,099
Ontario	$6,899,711,231	$3,058,485,695	$136,298,663	$787,397,039	$10,881,892,627
Manitoba	$308,497,408	$249,690,305	$6,816,914	$76,123,398	$641,128,024
Saskatchewan	$249,157,890	$144,318,307	$9,100,208	$50,719,202	$453,295,607
Alberta	$851,846,850	$573,159,564	$24,757,818	$152,809,263	$1,602,573,495
British Columbia	$3,390,004,395	$1,765,400,827	$121,109,389	$476,051,164	$5,752,565,774
Yukon	$1,660,539	$2,217,791	$86,243	$616,667	$4,581,240
Northwest Territories	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Nunavut	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Canada	$14,527,357,857	$7,974,626,256	$366,299,712	$2,060,619,426	$24,928,903,251

Source: Various data sources detailed in Appendix 1, with adjustments by RKA

Table 42: Estimated expenditures of long-term international students in other studies, by province and territory, 2024

	Tuition and Fees	Accommodation and Food	Transportation	Discretionary	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	$658,404	$1,945,988	$72,255	$287,500	$2,964,146
Prince Edward Island	$6,331,579	$12,143,831	$383,083	$1,687,500	$20,545,992
Nova Scotia	$14,019,893	$18,626,667	$586,410	$2,462,500	$35,695,471
New Brunswick	$1,696,627	$3,508,641	$90,182	$487,500	$5,782,950
Quebec	$158,615,813	$379,219,761	$11,277,743	$42,837,500	$591,950,817
Ontario	$320,434,371	$463,917,179	$20,061,145	$60,262,500	$864,675,195
Manitoba	$15,277,415	$20,179,142	$539,035	$3,137,500	$39,133,093
Saskatchewan	$6,455,091	$7,590,962	$474,341	$1,362,500	$15,882,894
Alberta	$32,541,695	$37,706,744	$1,618,851	$5,037,500	$76,904,789
British Columbia	$142,406,718	$178,092,055	$11,390,605	$24,862,500	$356,751,878
Yukon	$64,483	$179,821	$6,993	$25,000	$276,297
Northwest Territories	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Nunavut	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Canada	$698,502,089	$1,123,110,791	$46,500,642	$142,450,000	$2,010,563,522

Source: Various data sources detailed in Appendix 1, with adjustments by RKA

Table 43: Estimated expenditures of long-term international students in all levels of study, by province and territory, 2024

	Tuition and Fees	Accommodation and Food	Transportation	Discretionary	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	$87,087,758	$106,002,198	$3,590,735	$28,331,632	$225,012,323
Prince Edward Island	$75,981,896	$80,831,910	$2,255,932	$18,496,938	$177,566,675
Nova Scotia	$557,000,955	$399,191,260	$11,945,497	$95,927,739	$1,064,065,451
New Brunswick	$259,641,436	$247,031,571	$5,653,696	$61,732,429	$574,059,133
Quebec	$2,665,105,921	$2,572,479,627	$74,442,318	$516,172,253	$5,828,200,118
Ontario	$13,287,769,191	$8,558,125,901	$351,097,089	$2,026,163,115	$24,223,155,296
Manitoba	$471,252,773	$396,271,797	$9,528,679	$107,582,901	$984,636,150
Saskatchewan	$378,246,213	$234,607,295	$12,837,663	$73,207,814	$698,898,984
Alberta	$1,592,606,338	$1,142,436,538	$43,789,317	$274,051,989	$3,052,884,181
British Columbia	$5,194,391,339	$3,175,949,417	$193,869,360	$765,648,417	$9,329,858,534
Yukon	$3,382,892	$4,195,026	$136,357	$1,010,000	$8,724,275
Northwest Territories	$648,306	$581,456	$6,993	$85,000	$1,321,755
Nunavut	$206,900	$172,129	$0	$15,000	$394,029
Canada	$24,573,321,919	$16,917,876,125	$709,153,635	$3,968,425,227	$46,168,776,905

Source: Various data sources detailed in Appendix 1, with adjustments by RKA

Table 44: Estimated additional tourism activities of visiting family members and friends associated with long-term international students, by province and territory, 2024

	Total Spending
Newfoundland and Labrador	$2,423,520
Prince Edward Island	$1,540,880
Nova Scotia	$8,233,610
New Brunswick	$5,464,140
Quebec	$40,752,910
Ontario	$164,296,330
Manitoba	$9,406,100
Saskatchewan	$6,279,460
Alberta	$23,107,590
British Columbia	$69,365,780
Yukon	$91,630
Northwest Territories	$24,310
Nunavut	$7,480
Canada	$330,993,740

Source: RKA, based on ACPET study

Table 45: Estimated expenditures of short-term international students by type of expenditure, by province and territory, 2024

	Tuition, Fees and Books/Material	Homestay	Transportation	Utilities	Discretionary	Total Annual Expenditures
Newfoundland and Labrador	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Prince Edward Island	$495,835	$753,204	$87,244	$84,336	$199,207	$1,619,826
Nova Scotia	$6,628,893	$10,069,696	$1,166,374	$1,127,495	$2,663,221	$21,655,678
New Brunswick	$4,661,055	$7,080,429	$820,127	$792,789	$1,872,623	$15,227,024
Quebec	$34,896,114	$53,009,347	$6,140,079	$5,935,409	$14,019,846	$114,000,795
Ontario	$139,838,809	$212,423,762	$24,605,069	$23,784,900	$56,181,574	$456,834,115
Manitoba	$2,218,838	$3,370,552	$390,411	$377,398	$891,439	$7,248,639
Saskatchewan	$2,436,489	$3,701,176	$428,708	$414,417	$978,882	$7,959,672
Alberta	$19,628,431	$29,816,796	$3,453,683	$3,338,560	$7,885,909	$64,123,380
British Columbia	$84,360,264	$128,148,437	$14,843,448	$14,348,667	$33,892,540	$275,593,357
Yukon	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Northwest Territories	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Nunavut	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Canada	$295,164,729	$448,373,400	$51,935,143	$50,203,971	$118,585,243	$964,262,486

Source: Languages Canada, with adjustments by RKA

Table 46: Estimated additional tourism activities of visiting family members and friends associated with short-term international students, by province and territory, 2024

	Total Spending
Newfoundland and Labrador	$0
Prince Edward Island	$8,228
Nova Scotia	$259,257
New Brunswick	$172,339
Quebec	$1,915,927
Ontario	$4,358,297
Manitoba	$153,938
Saskatchewan	$70,761
Alberta	$784,951
British Columbia	$2,888,926
Yukon	$0
Northwest Territories	$0
Nunavut	$0
Canada	$10,612,624

Source: RKA, based on ACPET study