

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

2026 Spending Plan Review

2026



FAO

Financial Accountability
Office of Ontario

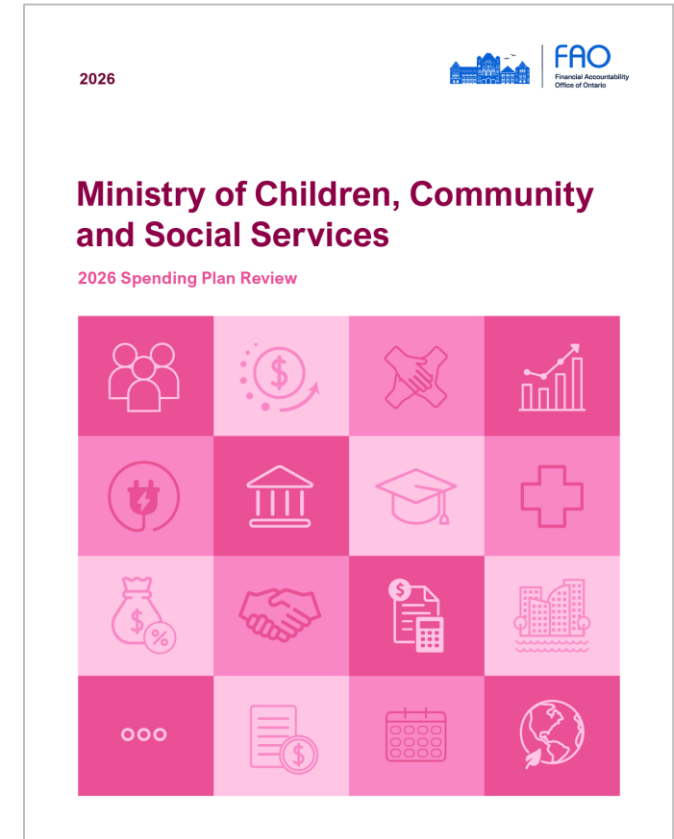
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

2026 Spending Plan Review

Overview

- This report reviews the Government of Ontario's (the Province's) ministry spending plan as outlined in the 2026 Ontario Budget.
- This analysis was undertaken in response to requests from Members of Provincial Parliament and is part of a series that reviews the spending plans for five ministries:
 - Health and Long-Term Care, which form the health sector;
 - Education;
 - Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES); and
 - Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS).
- For additional information on the five ministries' 2026-27 spending plans, see the FAO's *2026-27 Expenditure Estimates Dashboard*, which compares planned spending against actual spending over the previous five years to the standard account level of detail.



Spending Plan Overview

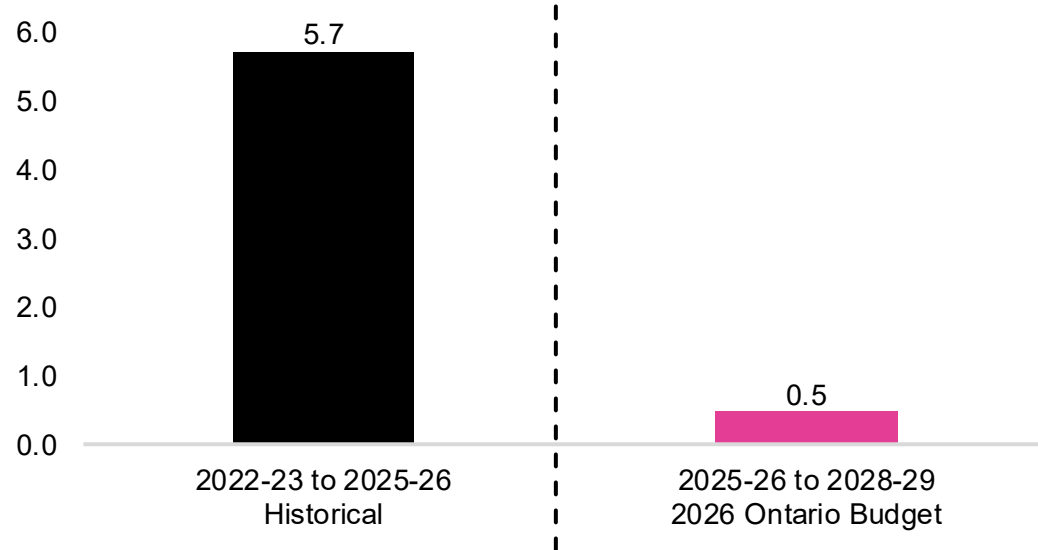


MCCSS Spending Plan Overview

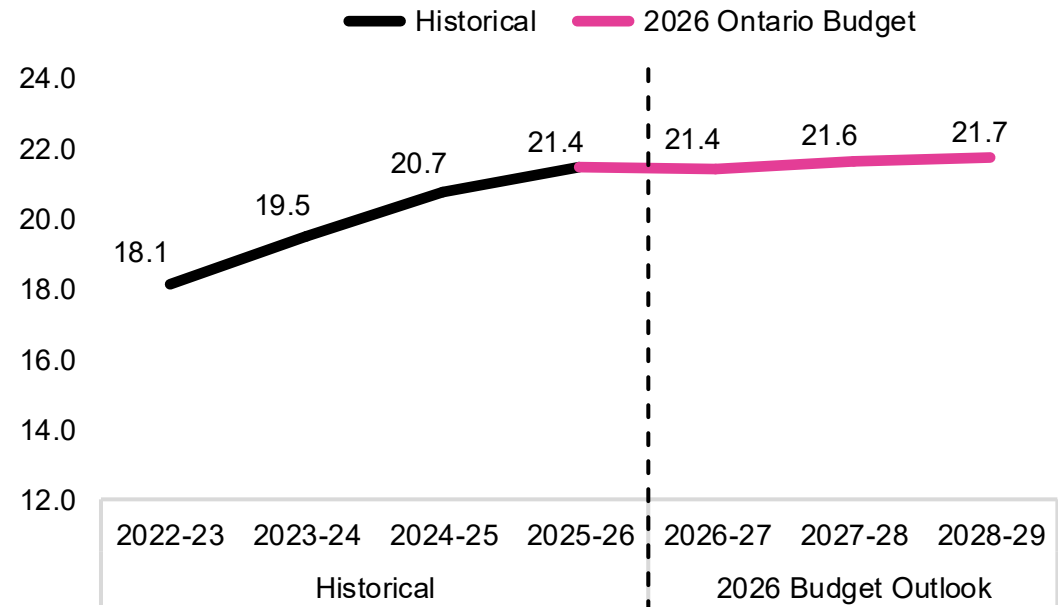
- In the 2026 Ontario Budget, the Province projects that MCCSS spending will grow at an average annual rate of 0.5%, from \$21.4 billion in 2025-26 to \$21.7 billion in 2028-29.

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services spending plan in the 2026 Ontario Budget

Average Annual Spending Growth (Per Cent)



Annual Spending (\$ Billions)



Note: Historical values are not restated for program transfers or reclassifications, if any. 2025-26 value is an FAO estimate of unaudited spending and may contain differences from the final audited spending reported in the 2025-26 Public Accounts of Ontario.

Source: Ontario Public Accounts, the 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis.

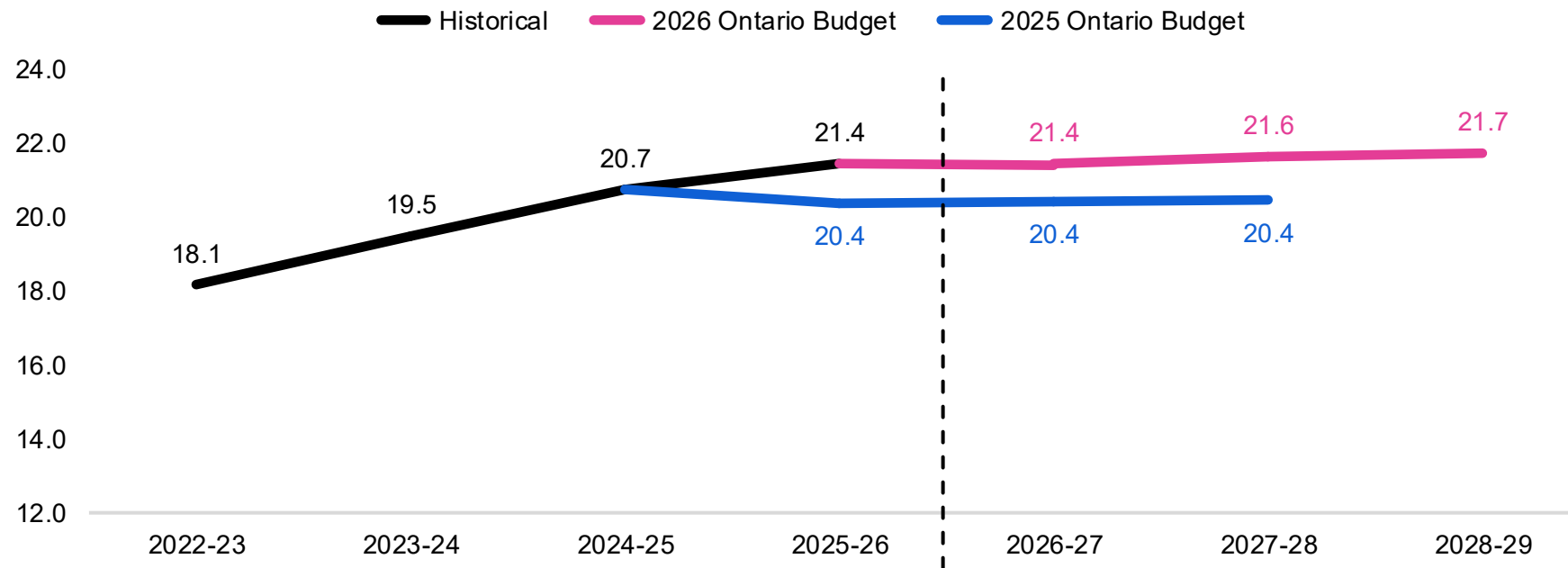


MCCSS Spending Plan Compared to the 2025 Budget

- Compared to the MCCSS spending plan in the 2025 Ontario Budget, the ministry's spending plan in the 2026 Ontario Budget has increased by a total of \$3.3 billion from 2025-26 to 2027-28.

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services spending plan in the 2025 and 2026 Ontario Budgets

Spending (\$ Billions)



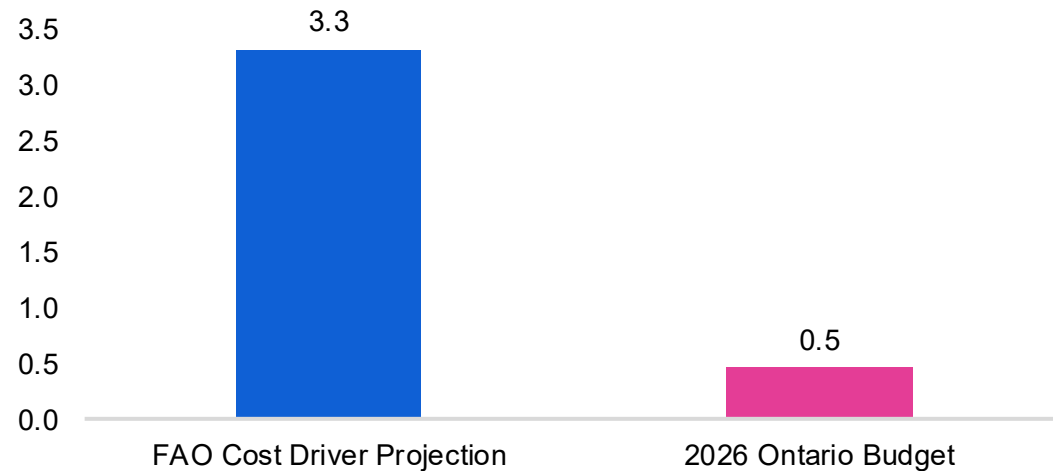
Note: Historical values are not restated for program transfers or reclassifications, if any. 2025-26 historical value is an FAO estimate of unaudited spending and may contain differences from the final audited spending reported in the 2025-26 Public Accounts of Ontario.
Source: Ontario Public Accounts, 2025 Ontario Budget, 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis.

MCCSS Spending Plan Compared to Cost Drivers

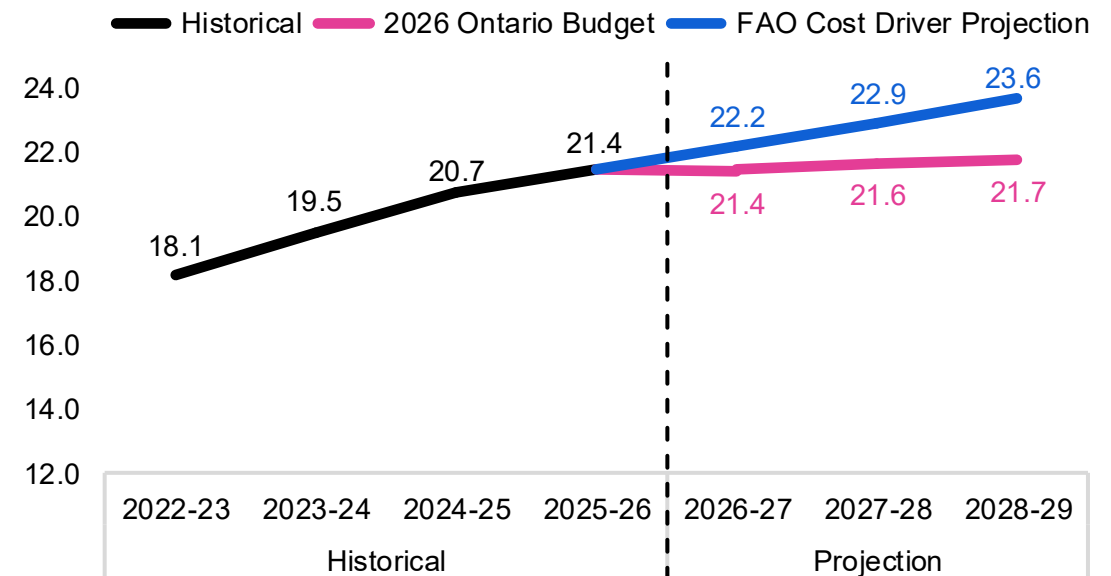
- The FAO estimates that MCCSS spending would need to grow by an average annual rate of 3.3% over the next three years to maintain 2025-26 ministry service levels.
- Compared to the FAO's cost driver projection, this results in a funding shortfall of \$0.7 billion in 2026-27, \$1.3 billion in 2027-28 and \$1.9 billion in 2028-29.

Comparing Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services spending growth, FAO cost driver projection vs. 2026 Ontario Budget, 2025-26 to 2028-29

Average Annual Spending Growth (Per Cent)



Annual Spending (\$ Billions)



Note: Historical values are not restated for program transfers or reclassifications, if any. 2025-26 value is an FAO estimate of unaudited spending and may contain differences from the final audited spending reported in the 2025-26 Public Accounts of Ontario.

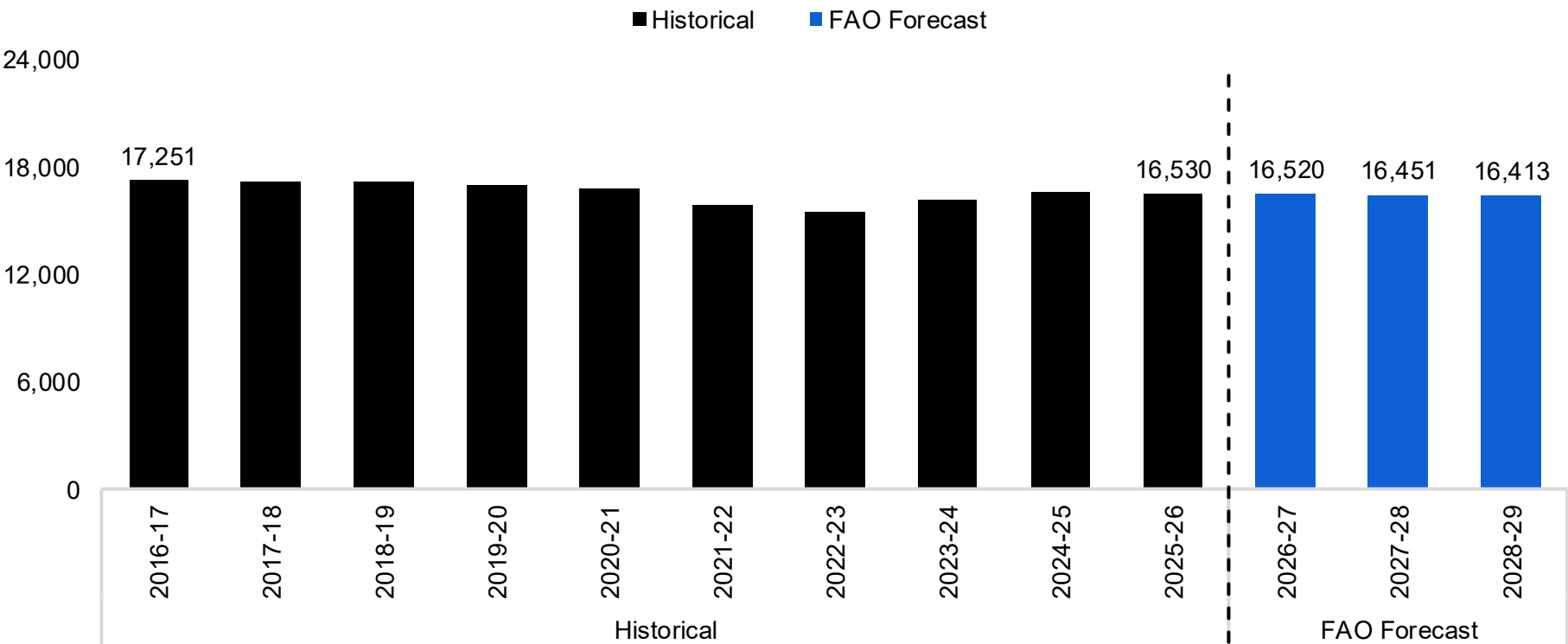
Source: Ontario Public Accounts, 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis.

Spending Plan Analysis



Ontario Disability Support Program – Allowance

Average annual Ontario Disability Support Program allowance, inflation-adjusted, 2016-17 to 2028-29
2026-27 Constant Dollars



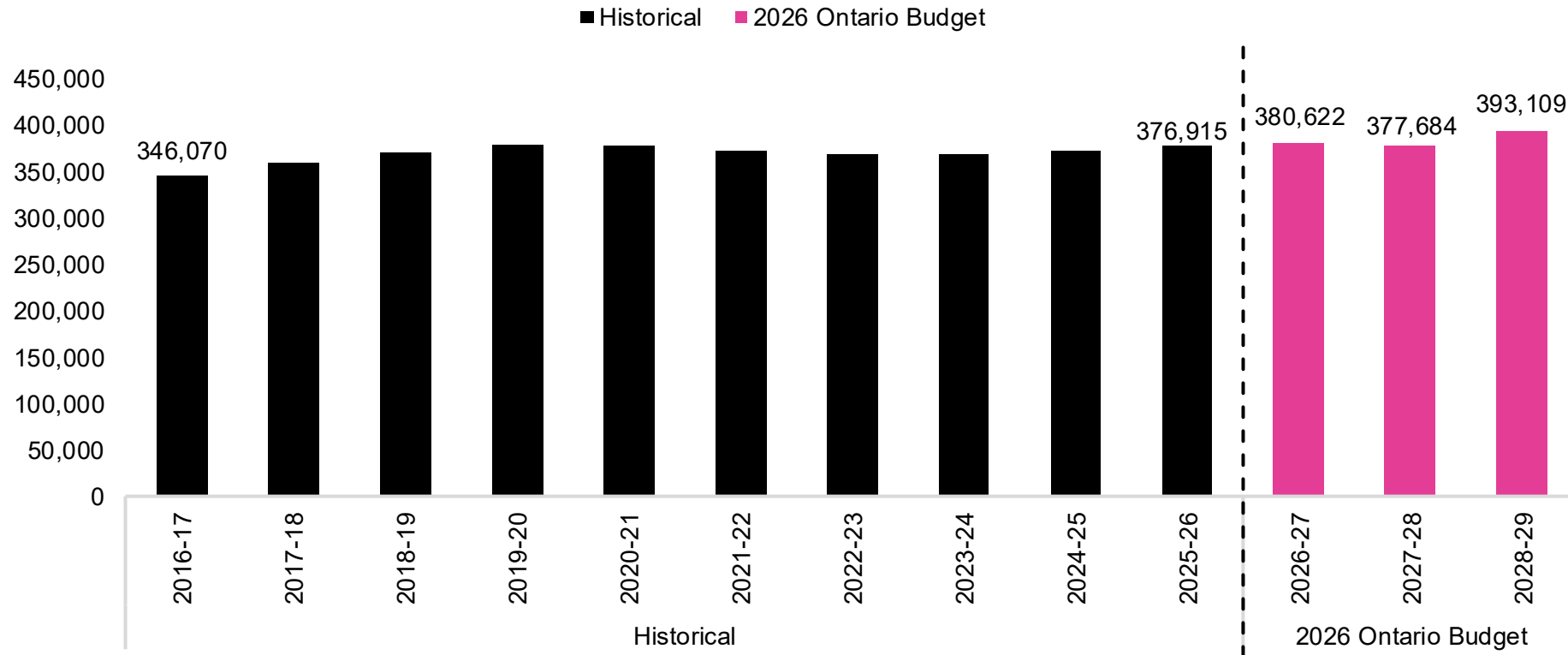
Note: The average annual ODSP allowance per case excludes payments for Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities.
Source: Ontario Public Accounts, 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis.



Ontario Disability Support Program – Cases

ODSP historical cases and funded ODSP case capacity in the 2026 Ontario Budget

Number of Cases



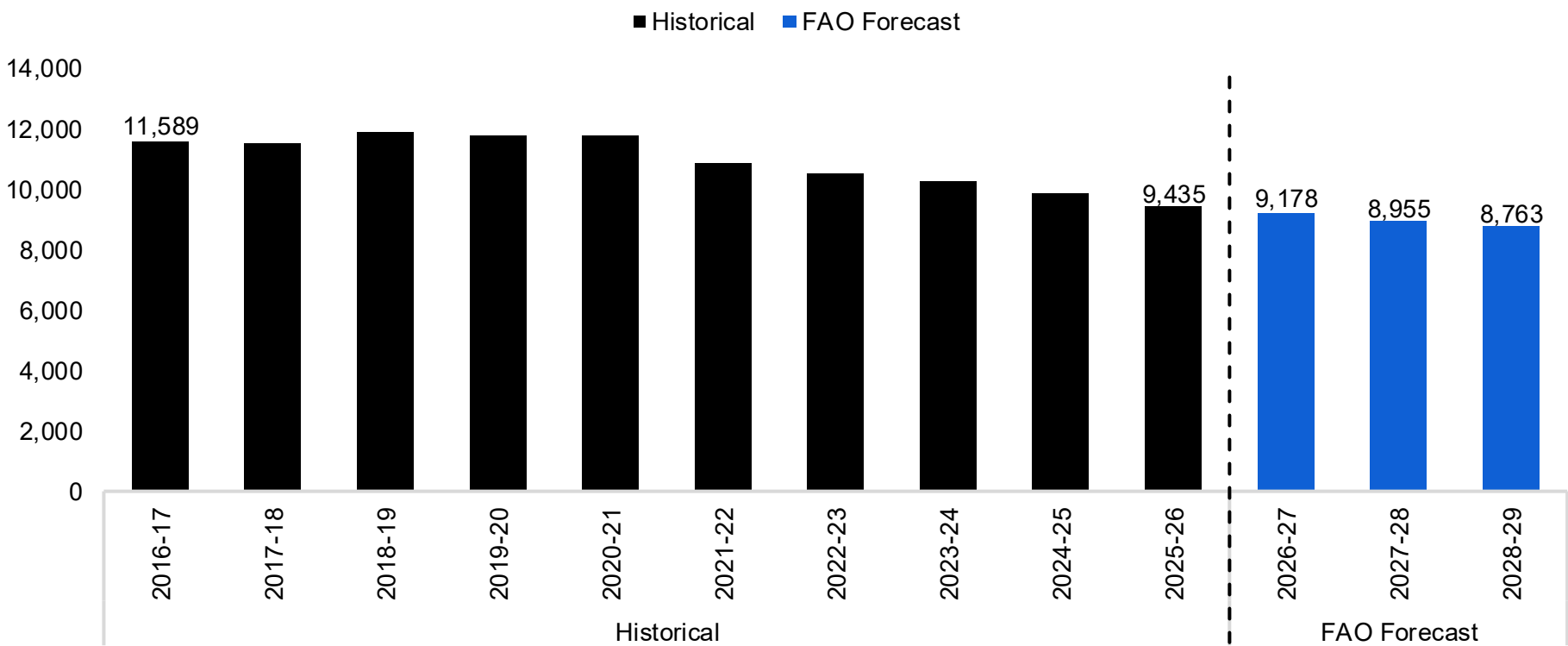
Note: One case refers to a single individual or family unit on ODSP. Excludes Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities cases.

Source: Government of Ontario Open Data: Social Assistance and Caseload Statistics, 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis of information provided by the Province.



Ontario Works – Allowance

Average annual Ontario Works allowance, inflation-adjusted, 2016-17 to 2028-29
2026-27 Constant Dollars



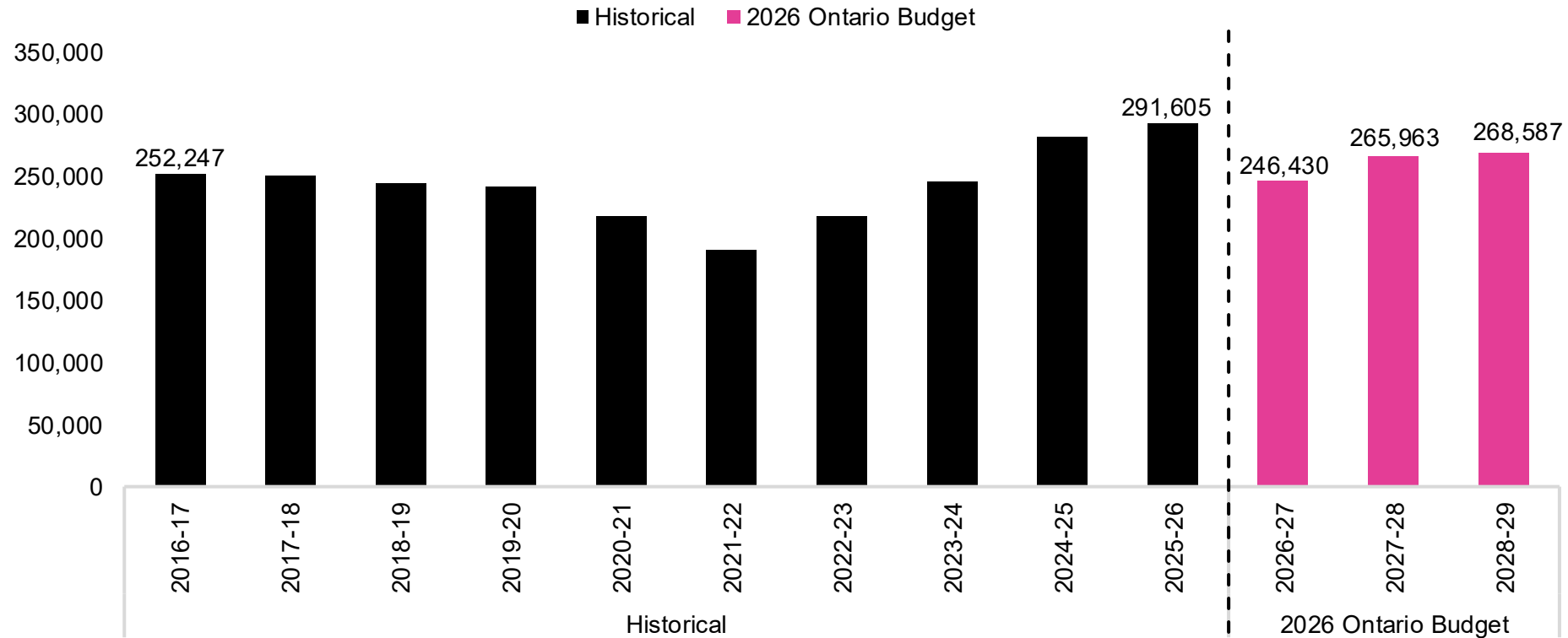
Note: The average annual OW allowance per case excludes payments for Temporary Care Assistance.
Source: Ontario Public Accounts, 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis.



Ontario Works – Cases

Historical OW cases and funded OW case capacity in the 2026 Ontario Budget

Number of Cases



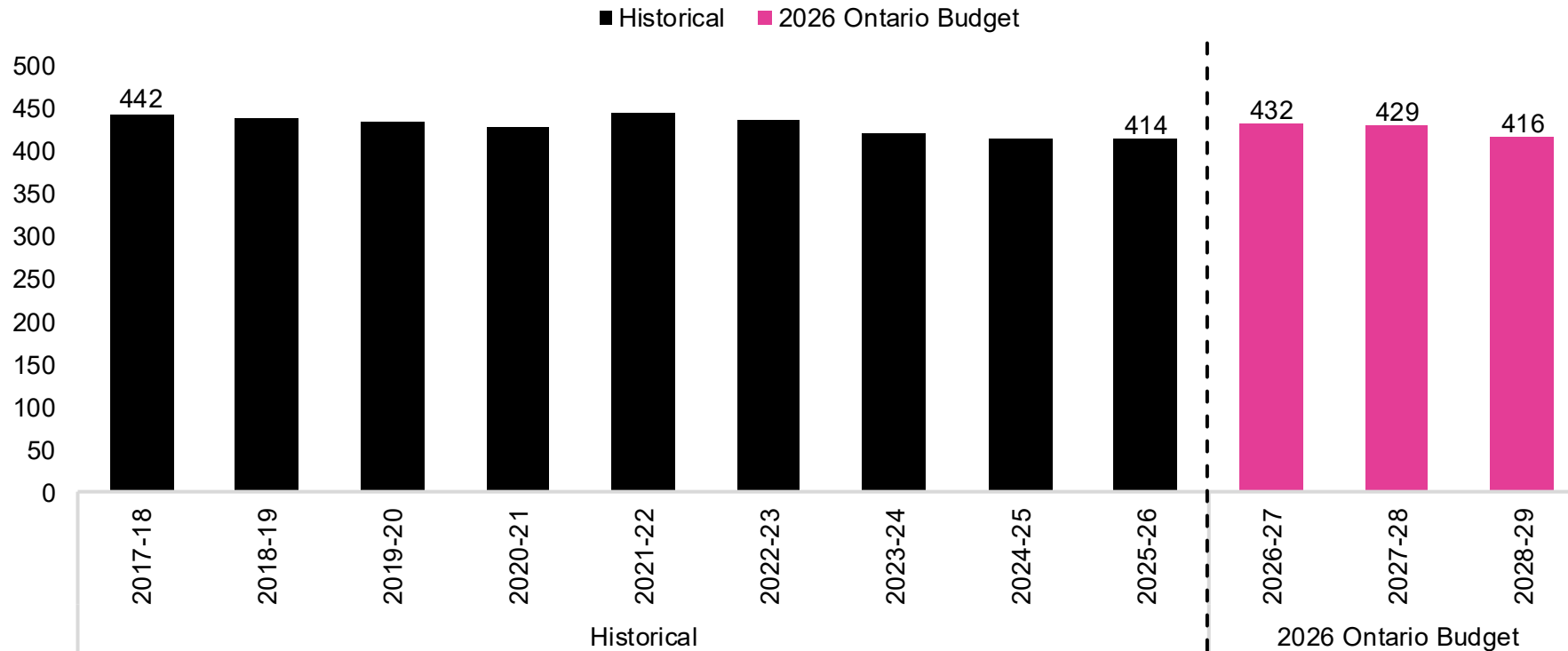
Note: One case refers to a single individual or family unit on OW. Excludes Temporary Care Assistance cases.

Source: Government of Ontario Open Data: Social Assistance and Caseload Statistics, 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis of information provided by the Province.

Other MCCSS Adult Programs Spending

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services per-adult spending on other adult programs, inflation-adjusted, 2017-18 to 2028-29

2026-27 Constant Dollars



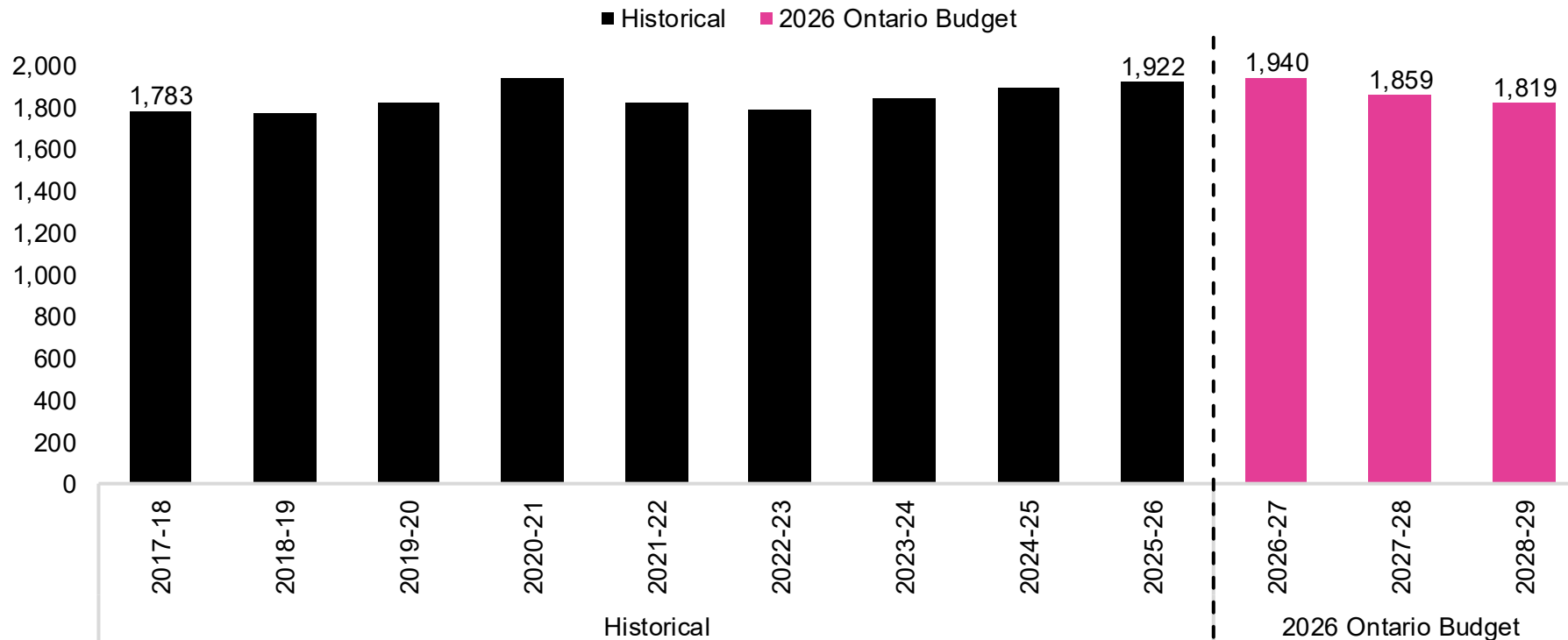
Note: Other adult programs include the Developmental Services Supportive Living Program, the Supportive Services Program, the Ontario Drug Benefit Program and Supports to Victims of Violence.

Source: Ontario Public Accounts, 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis.

Other MCCSS Children/Youth Programs Spending

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services per-child/youth spending on child/youth programs, inflation-adjusted, 2017-18 to 2028-29

2026-27 Constant Dollars



Note: Child and youth targeted programs include Child Protective Services, the Ontario Child Benefit, the Autism Program, Youth Justice Services and Children's Treatment and Rehabilitation Services.

Source: Ontario Public Accounts, 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis.

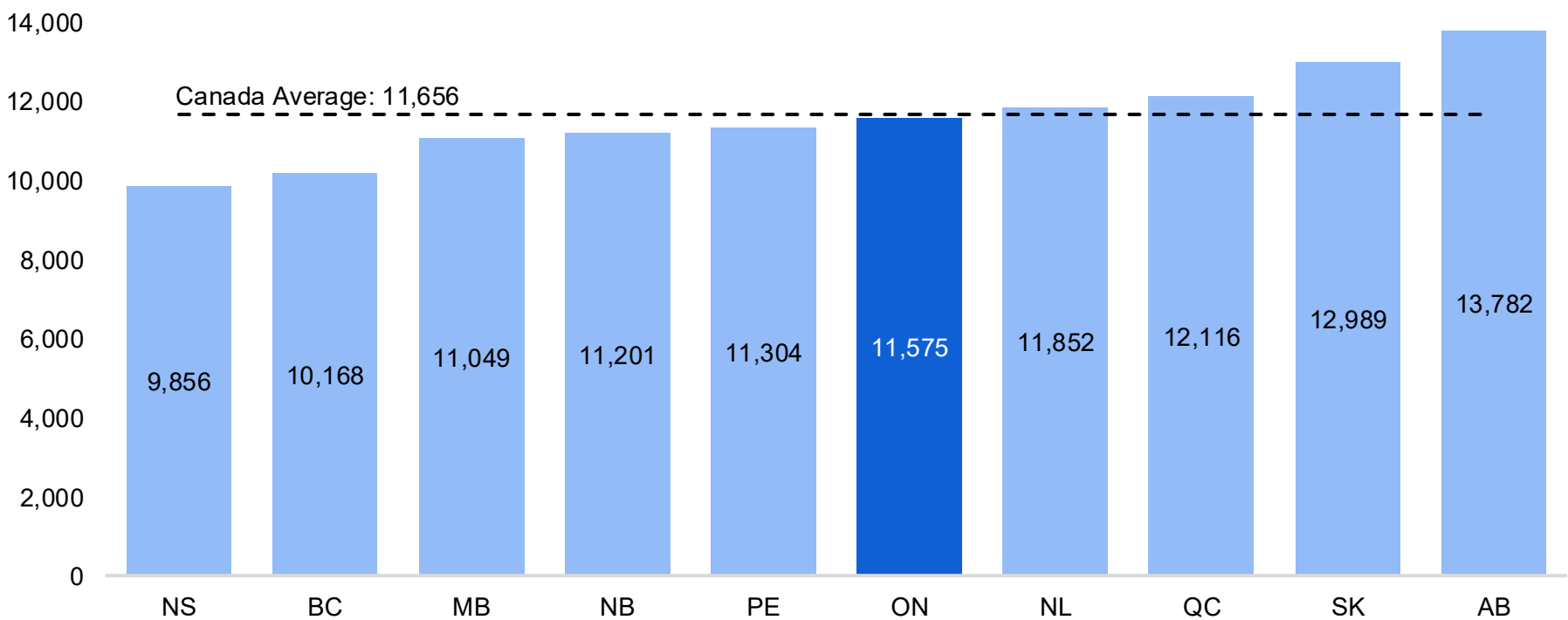
Interprovincial Comparison



Social Assistance Payments

Average annual social assistance payments per recipient by province, adjusted for provincial price differences, 2024

Dollars per Person, Adjusted for Provincial Price Differences



Note: Social assistance payments are adjusted for provincial differences in prices, using purchasing power parity indices, to provide a comparison of the purchasing power of social assistance payments (i.e., the amount of shelter, food, clothing and other goods/services that each province's social assistance benefits could purchase). Canada average excludes territories.

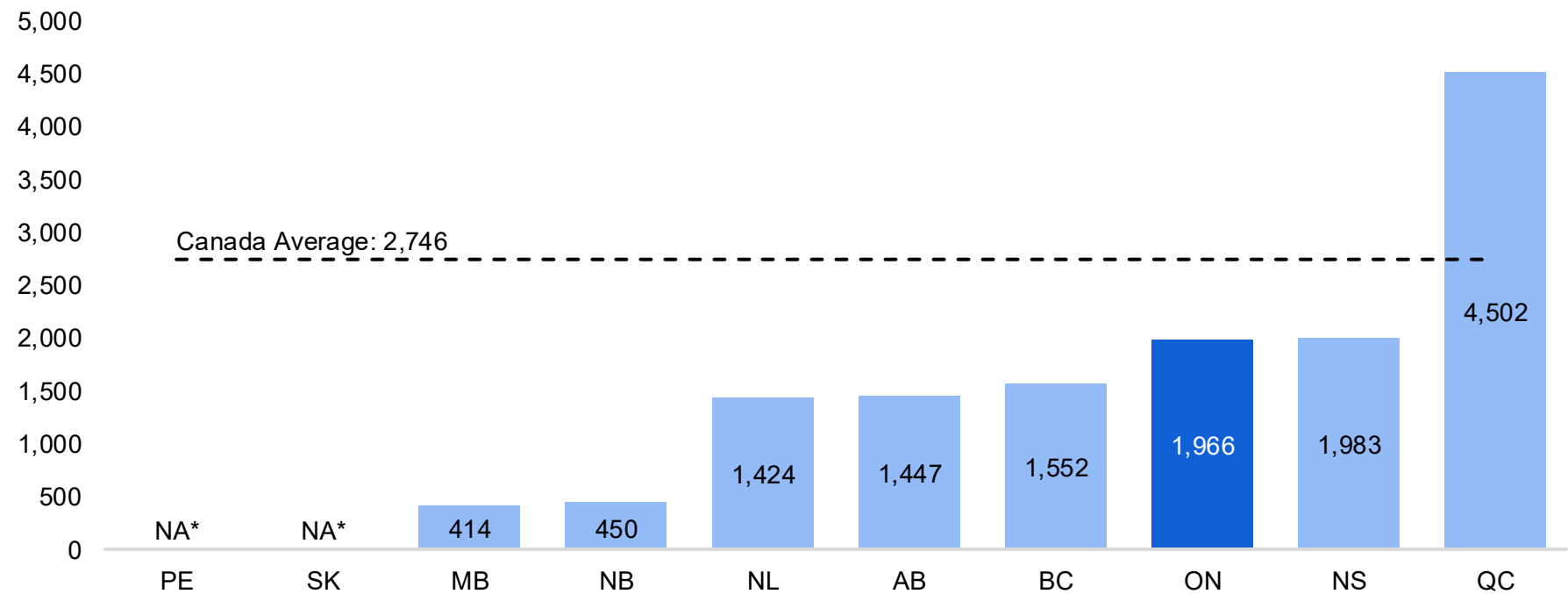
Source: Statistics Canada Canadian Income Survey (2024), Purchasing Power Parities for Consumption and Household Income Across the Canadian Provinces and Territories, and FAO.



Provincial Child Benefit Payments

Average annual provincial child benefit payments per recipient family by province, adjusted for provincial price differences, 2024

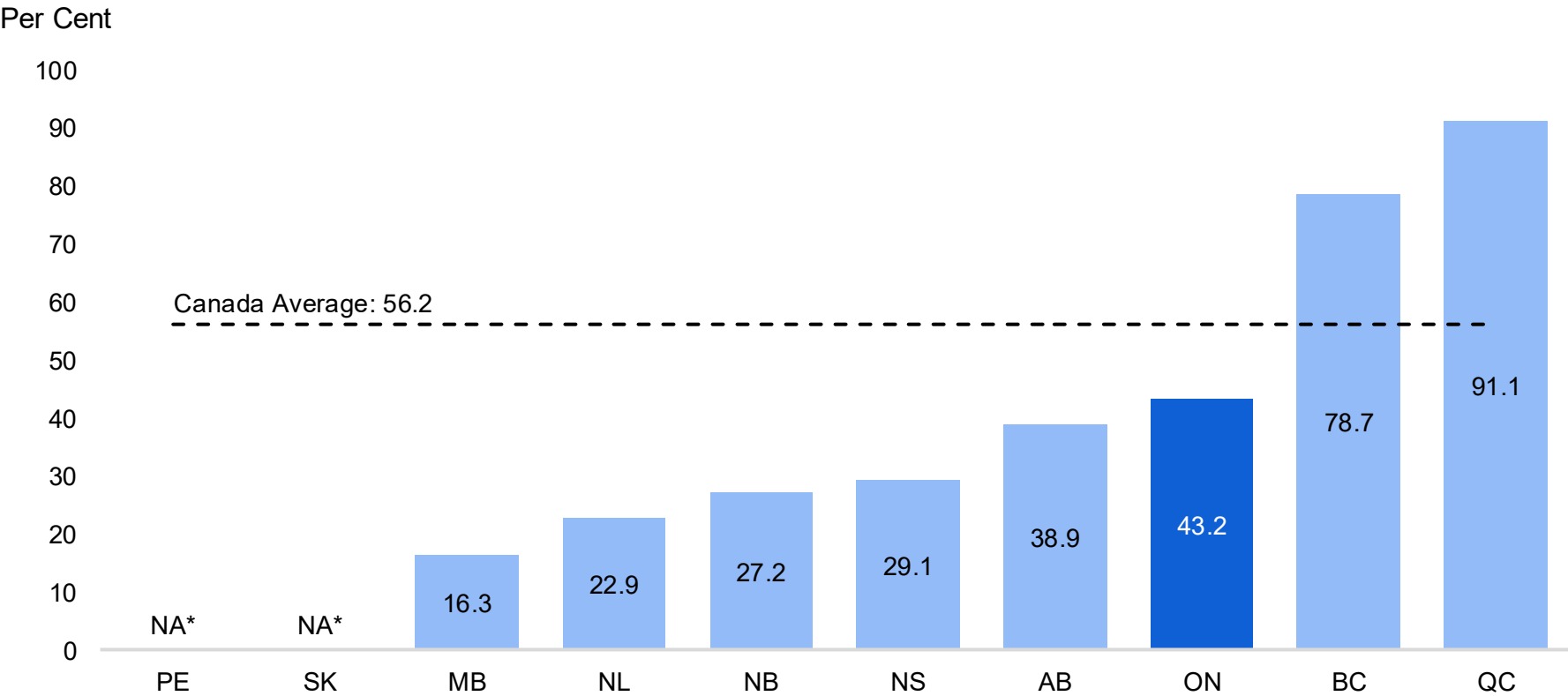
Dollars per Family, Adjusted for Provincial Price Differences



* Comparative data not available.
Note: A recipient family represents a parent or caregiver aged 15 and over who reported receiving child benefit payments in Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey. One family may have multiple children who qualify for child benefit payments. Child benefit payments are adjusted for provincial differences in prices, using purchasing power parity indices, to provide a comparison of the purchasing power of child benefit payments (i.e., the amount of shelter, food, clothing and other goods/services that each province's child benefit payments could purchase). Canada average excludes PEI, Saskatchewan and all territories.
Source: Statistics Canada Canadian Income Survey (2024), Purchasing Power Parities for Consumption and Household Income Across the Canadian Provinces and Territories and FAO.

Provincial Child Benefit Recipient Share

Share of families with children under the age of 18 that received provincial child benefit payments by province, 2024



* Comparative data not available.
Note: Canada average excludes PEI, Saskatchewan and all territories.
Source: Statistics Canada Canadian Income Survey (2024), Table 39-10-0041-01: Census families with children by age of children and children by age groups and FAO.

Thank you!



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