

# Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security

2026 Spending Plan Review

2026

## Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security

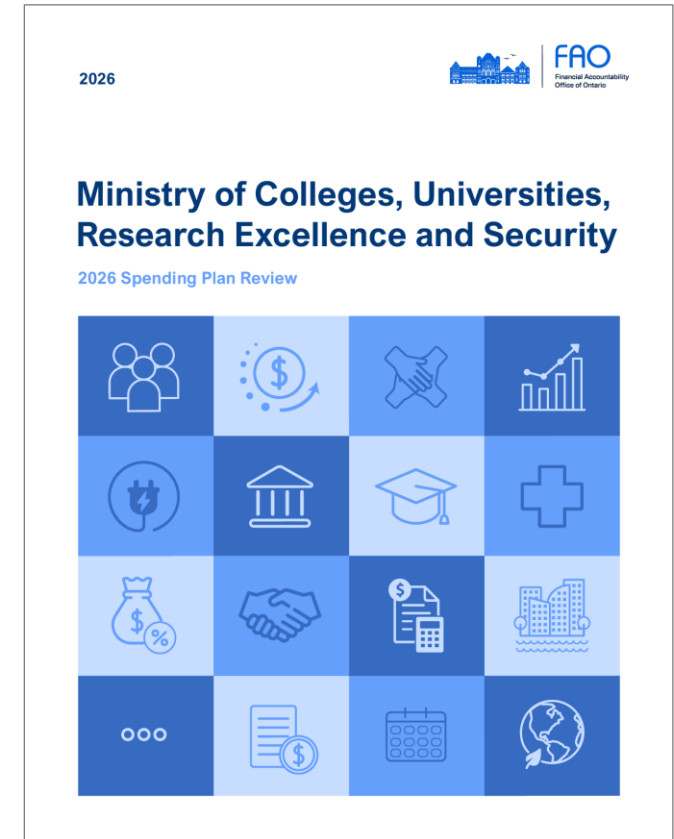
2026 Spending Plan Review



Presentation

# 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 a request 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

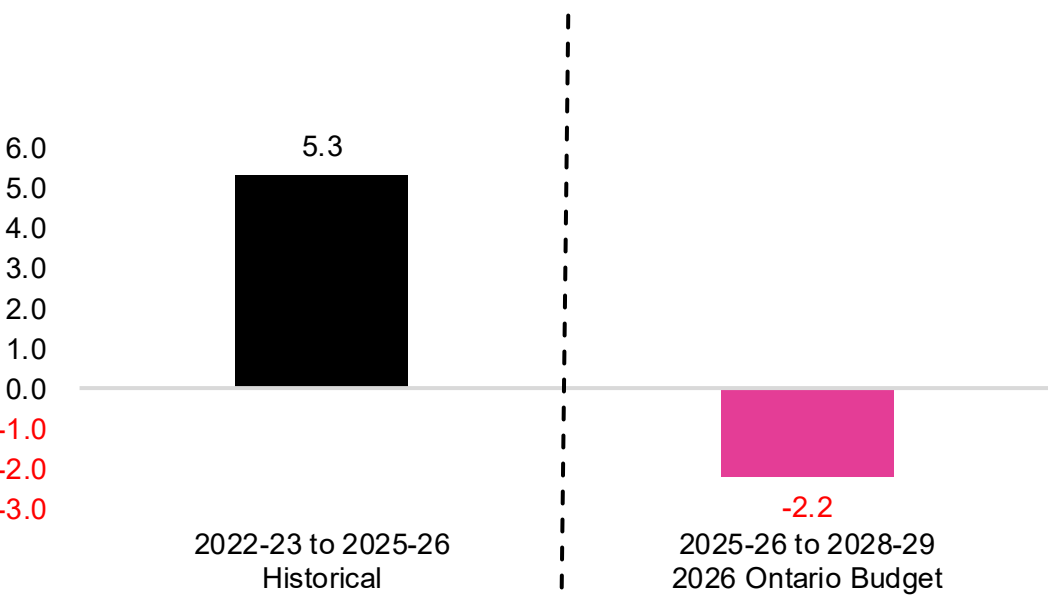


# MCURES Spending Plan Overview

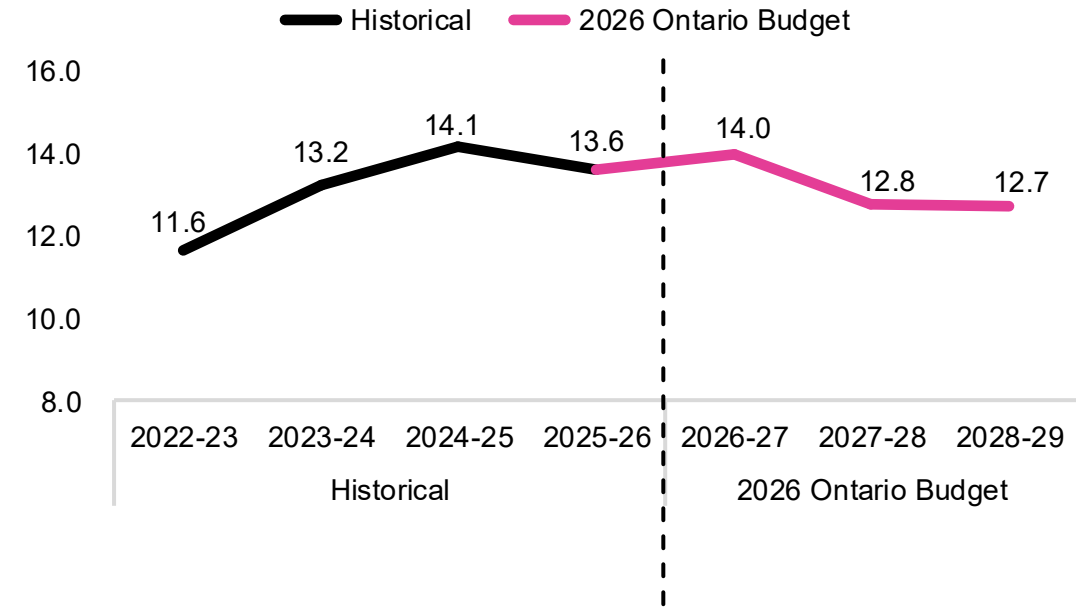
- In the 2026 Ontario Budget, the Province projects that MCURES spending will decline at an average annual rate of 2.2%, from \$13.6 billion in 2025-26 to \$12.7 billion in 2028-29.

## Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security spending plan in the 2026 Ontario Budget

Average Annual Spending Growth (Per Cent)



Annual Spending (\$ Billions)



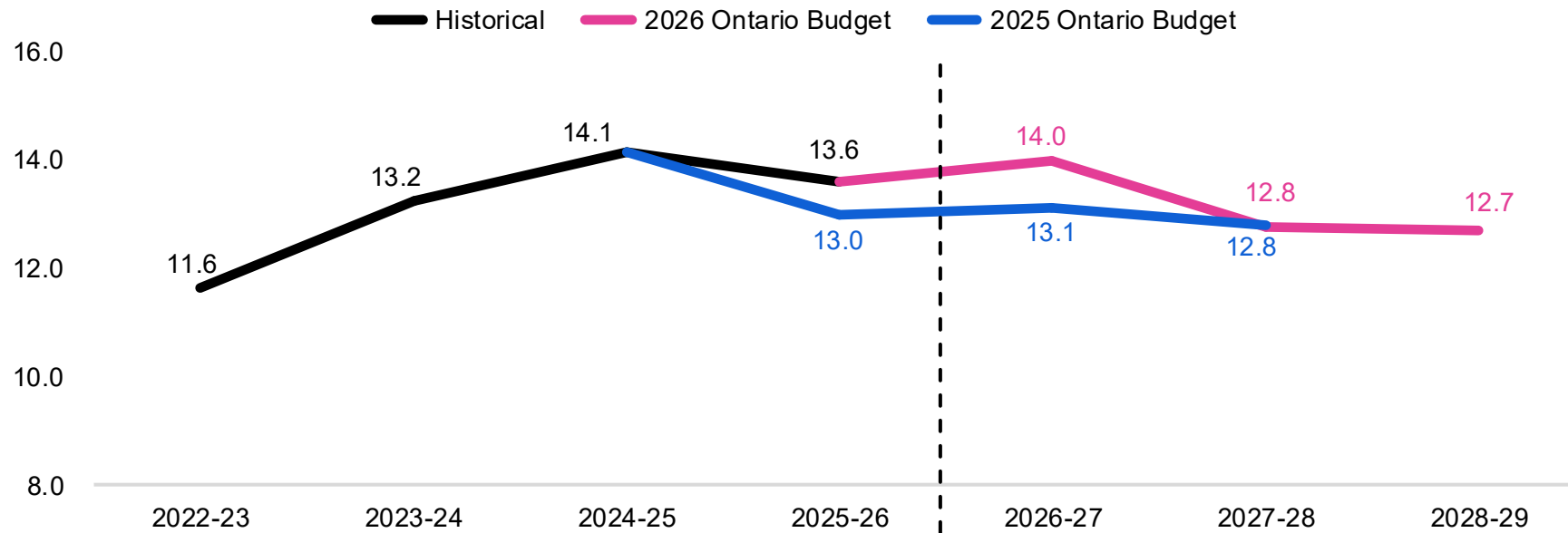
Note: Historical values are not restated for program transfers or reclassifications, if any. 2025-26 value is an FAO estimate of unaudited spending and may contain differences from the final audited spending reported in the 2025-26 Public Accounts of Ontario.  
Source: Ontario Public Accounts, the 2026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

# MCURES Spending Plan Compared to the 2025 Budget

- Compared to the MCURES spending plan in the 2025 Ontario Budget, the ministry's spending plan in the 2026 Ontario Budget has increased by a total of \$1.4 billion from 2025-26 to 2027-28.

## The Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security 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.

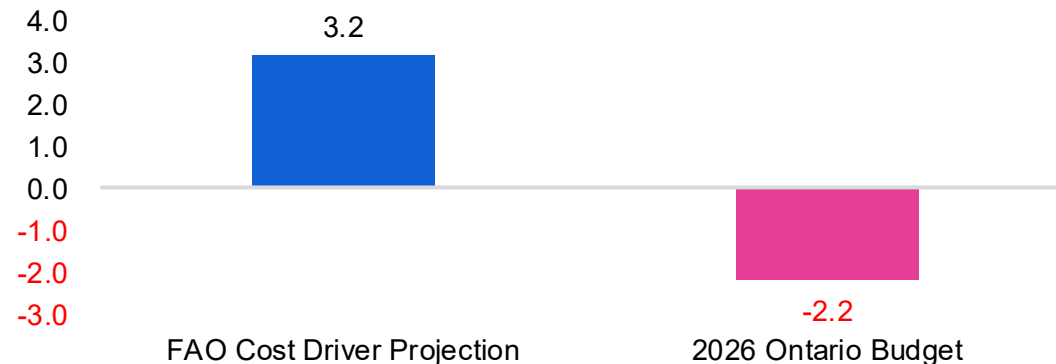


# MCURES Spending Plan Compared to Cost Drivers

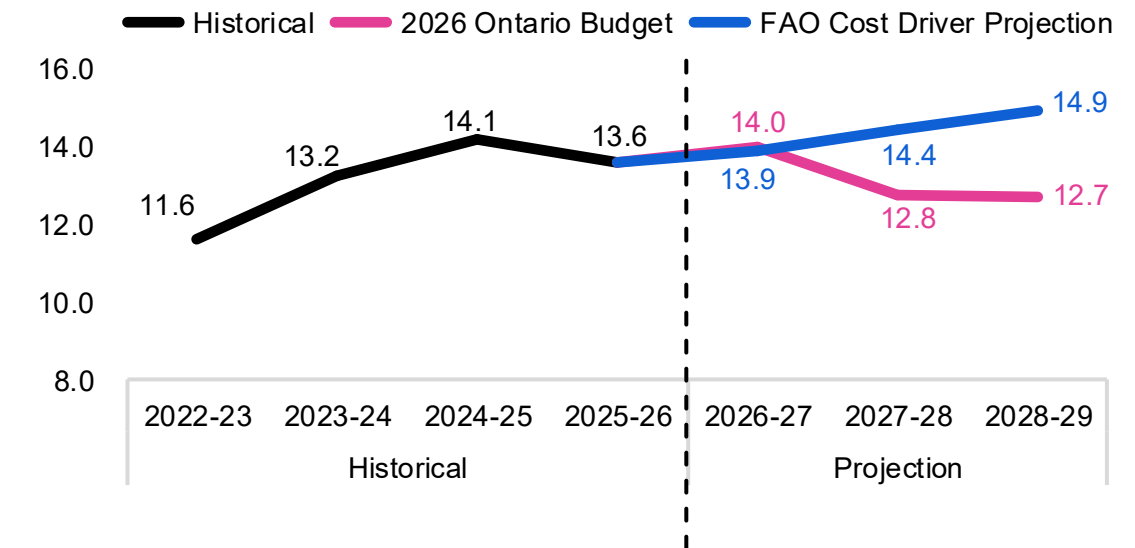
- The FAO estimates that MCURES spending would need to grow by an average annual rate of 3.2% over the next three years to maintain 2025-26 ministry service levels.
- Compared to the FAO's cost driver projection, this results in excess funding of \$0.1 billion in 2026-27 and funding shortfalls of \$1.7 billion in 2027-28 and \$2.2 billion in 2028-29.

**Comparing Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security 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.



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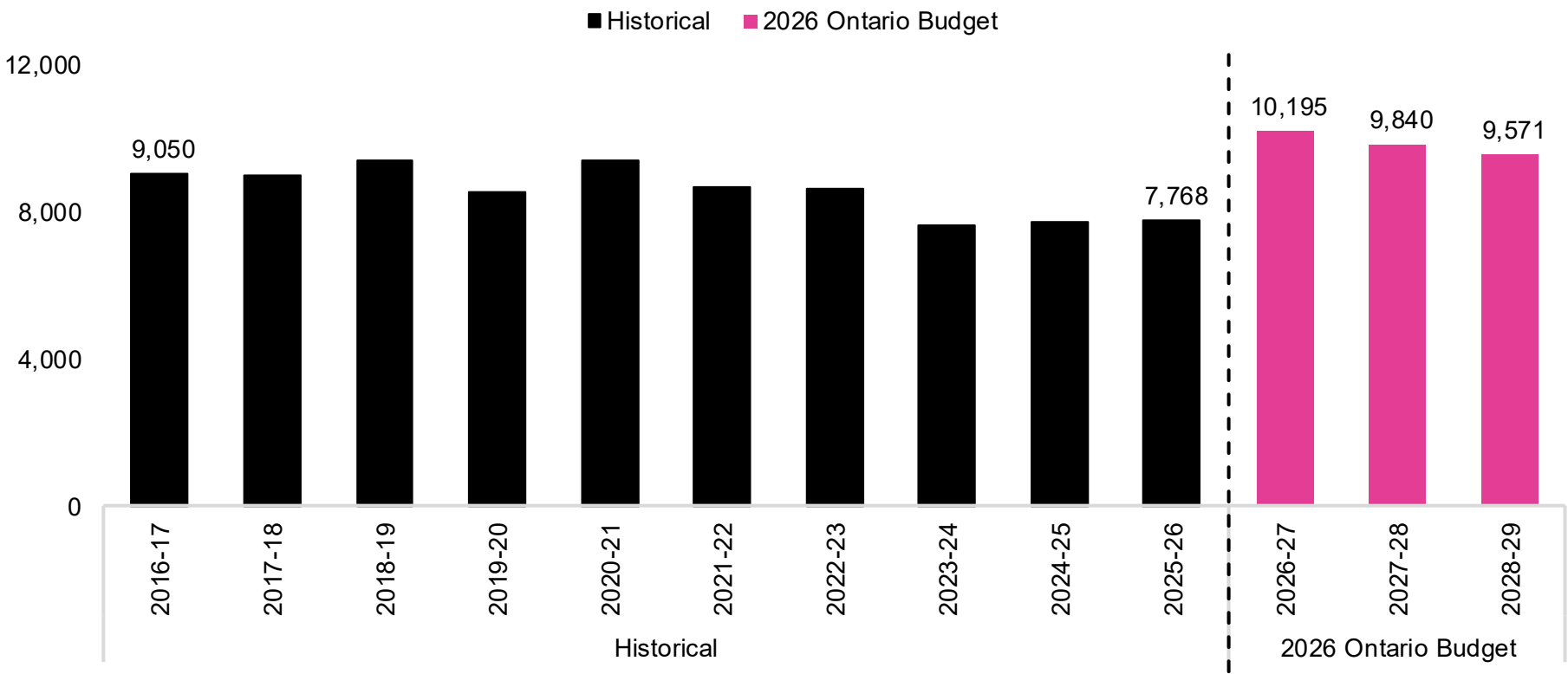


# Spending Plan Analysis



# Provincial Operating Funding to Public Colleges

Provincial operating funding to public colleges per FTE domestic student, inflation-adjusted, 2016-17 to 2028-29  
2026-27 Constant Dollars

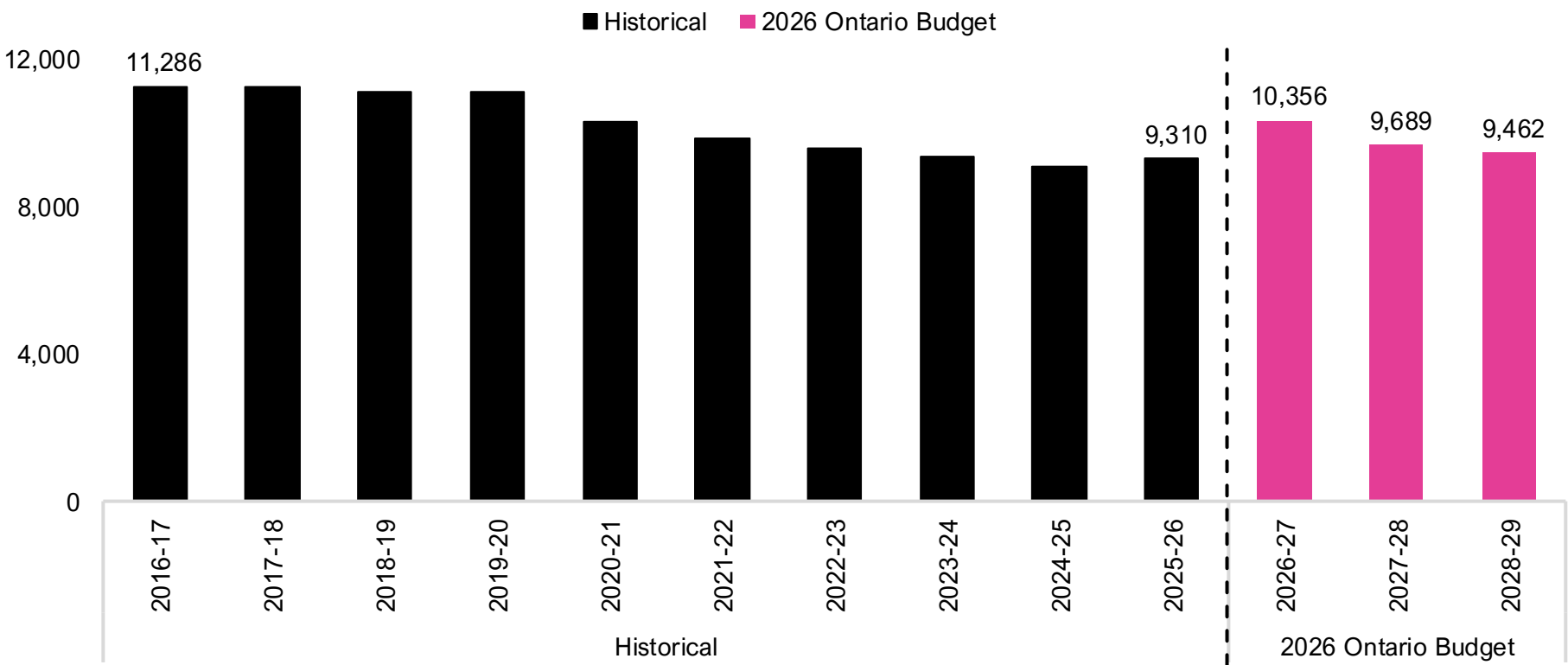


Source: Ontario Public Accounts, 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis of information provided by the Province.



# Provincial Operating Funding to Universities

Provincial operating funding to public universities per FTE domestic student, inflation-adjusted, 2016-17 to 2028-29  
2026-27 Constant Dollars

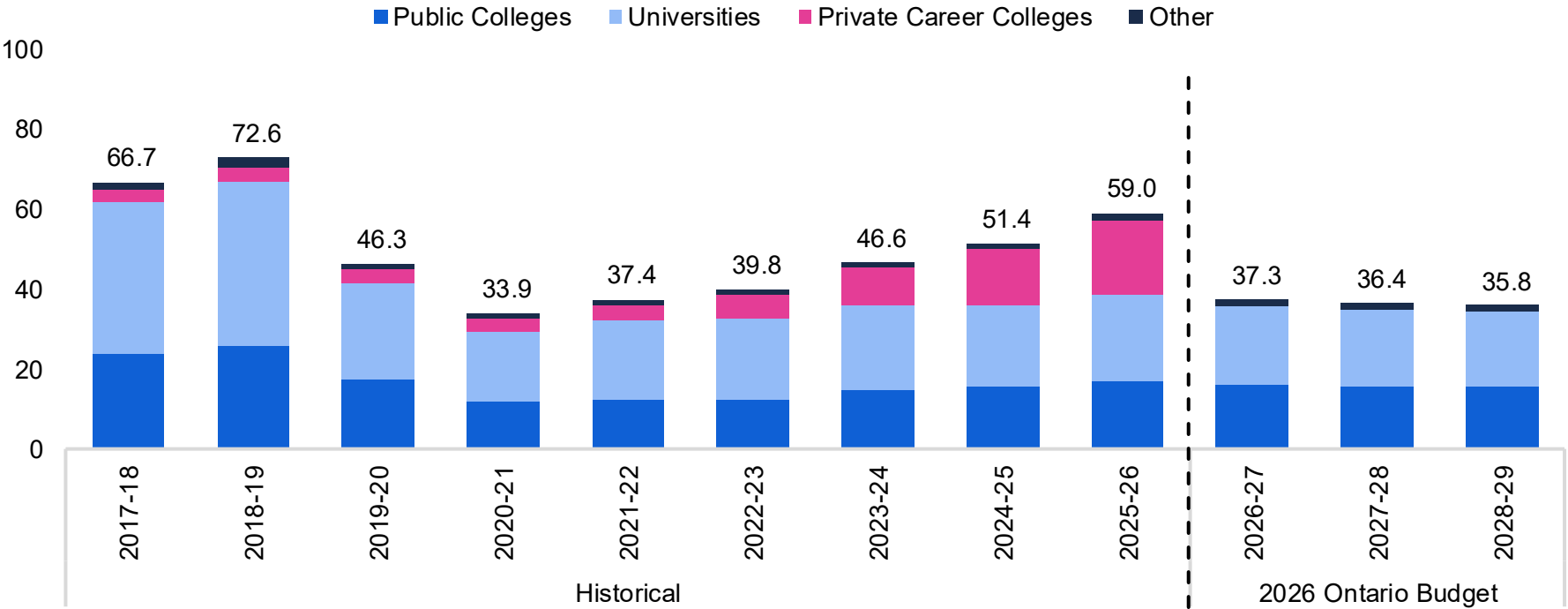


Source: Ontario Public Accounts, 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis of information provided by the Province.



# Ontario Student Grant Recipients as a Share of Ontario-resident Students

Share of Ontario-resident postsecondary students who receive the Ontario Student Grant, 2017-18 to 2028-29 academic years  
Per Cent

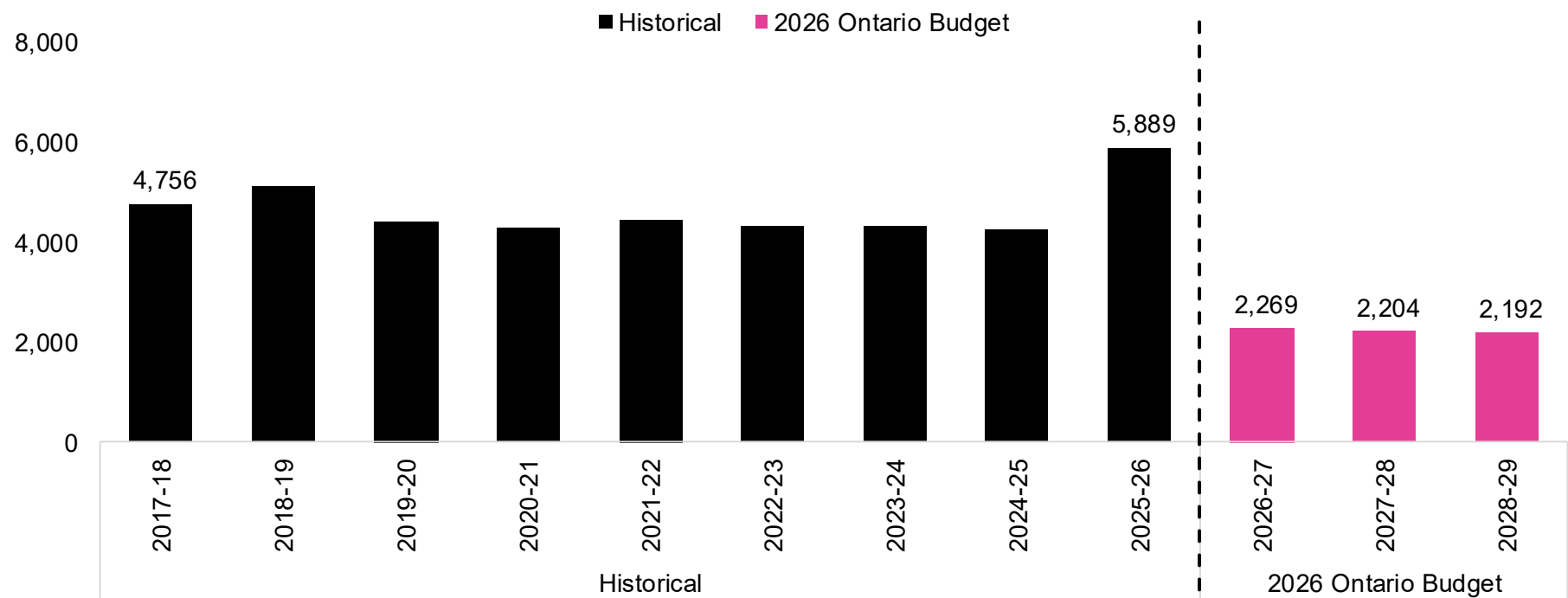


Note: Other includes Ontario-resident students attending a postsecondary institution outside of Ontario.  
Source: 2026 Ontario Budget, and FAO analysis of information provided by the Province and custom tabulation from Statistics Canada’s Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS).

# Average Ontario Student Grant Per Recipient Enrolled Full-time in Public Colleges

Average Ontario Student Grant per recipient enrolled full-time in Ontario’s public colleges, inflation-adjusted, 2017-18 to 2028-29 academic years

2026-27 Constant Dollars

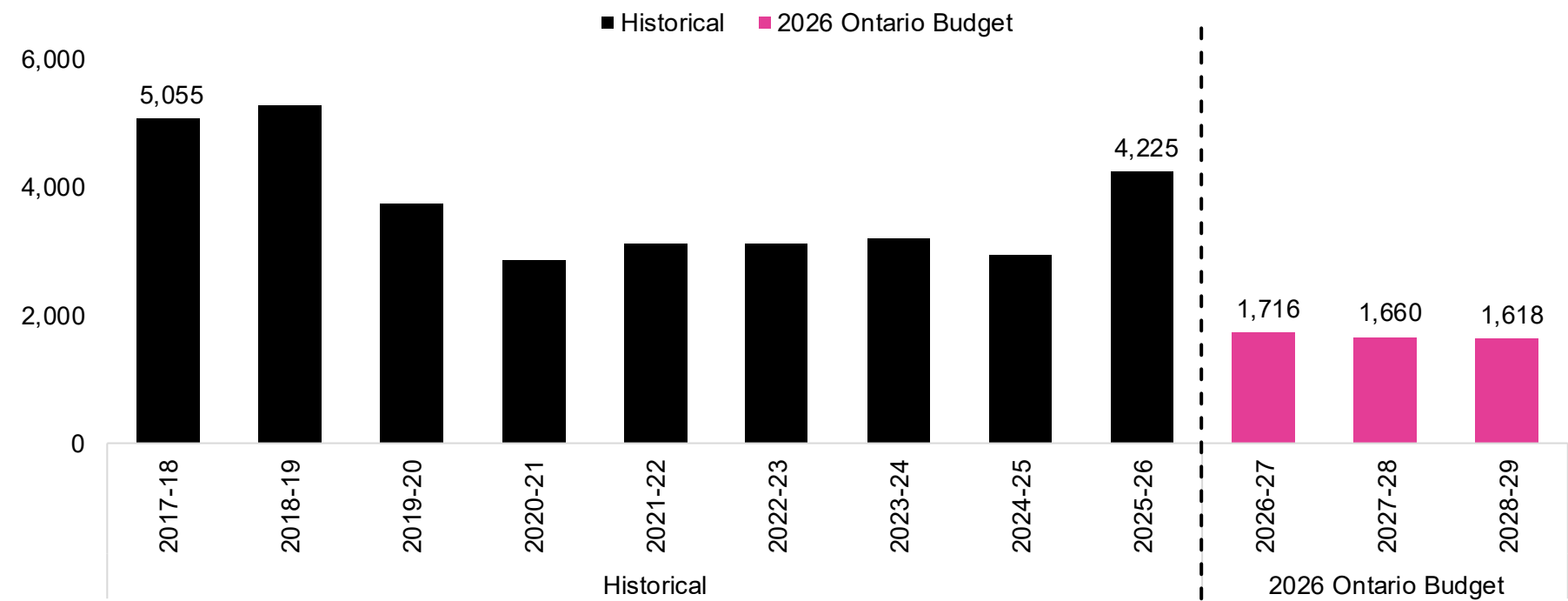


Note: Historical data is based on information provided by MCURES. 2025-26 value is based on preliminary information as of September 9, 2026 and is subject to change once academic year-end data is finalized.  
Source: 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis of information provided by the Province.

# Average Ontario Student Grant Per Recipient Enrolled Full-time in Universities

Average Ontario Student Grant per recipient enrolled full-time in Ontario’s public universities, inflation-adjusted, 2017-18 to 2028-29 academic years

2026-27 Constant Dollars

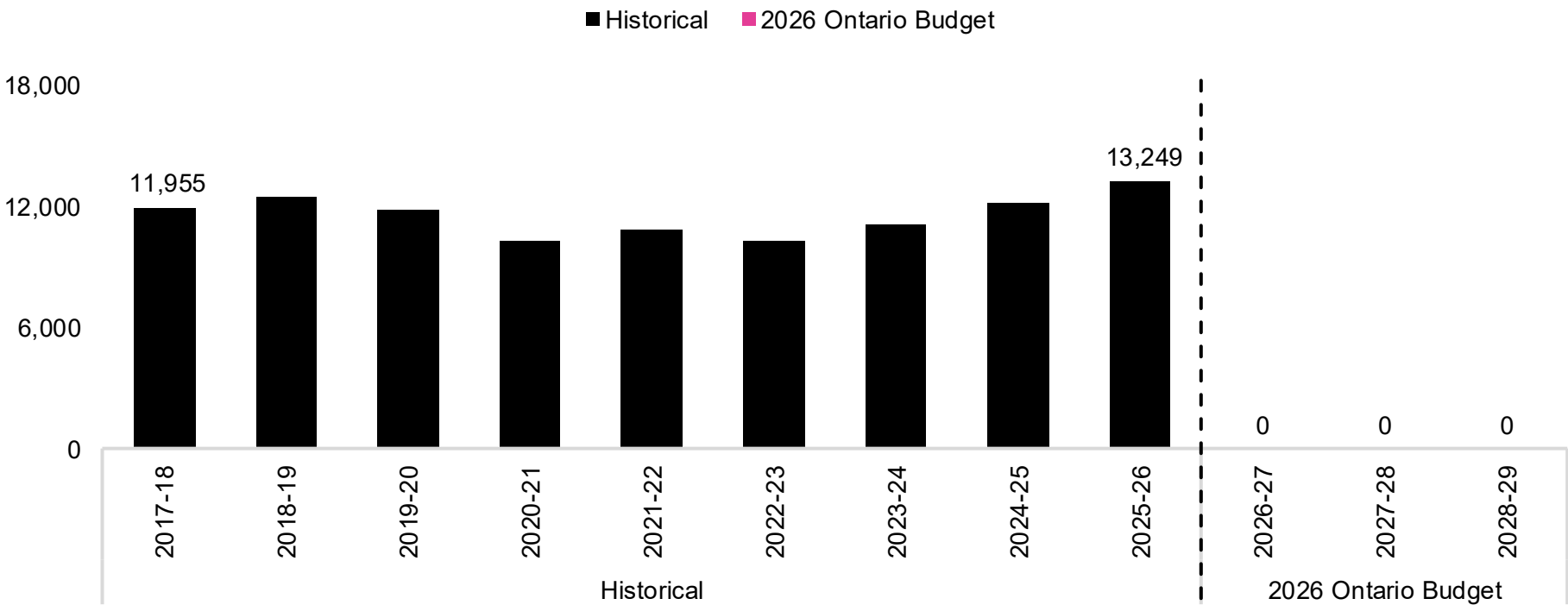


Note: Historical data is based on information provided by MCURES. 2025-26 value is based on preliminary information as of September 9, 2026 and is subject to change once academic year-end data is finalized.  
Source: 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis of information provided by the Province.

# Average Ontario Student Grant Per Recipient Enrolled Full-time in Private Career Colleges

Average Ontario Student Grant per recipient enrolled full-time in Ontario’s private career colleges, inflation-adjusted, 2017-18 to 2028-29 academic years

2026-27 Constant Dollars



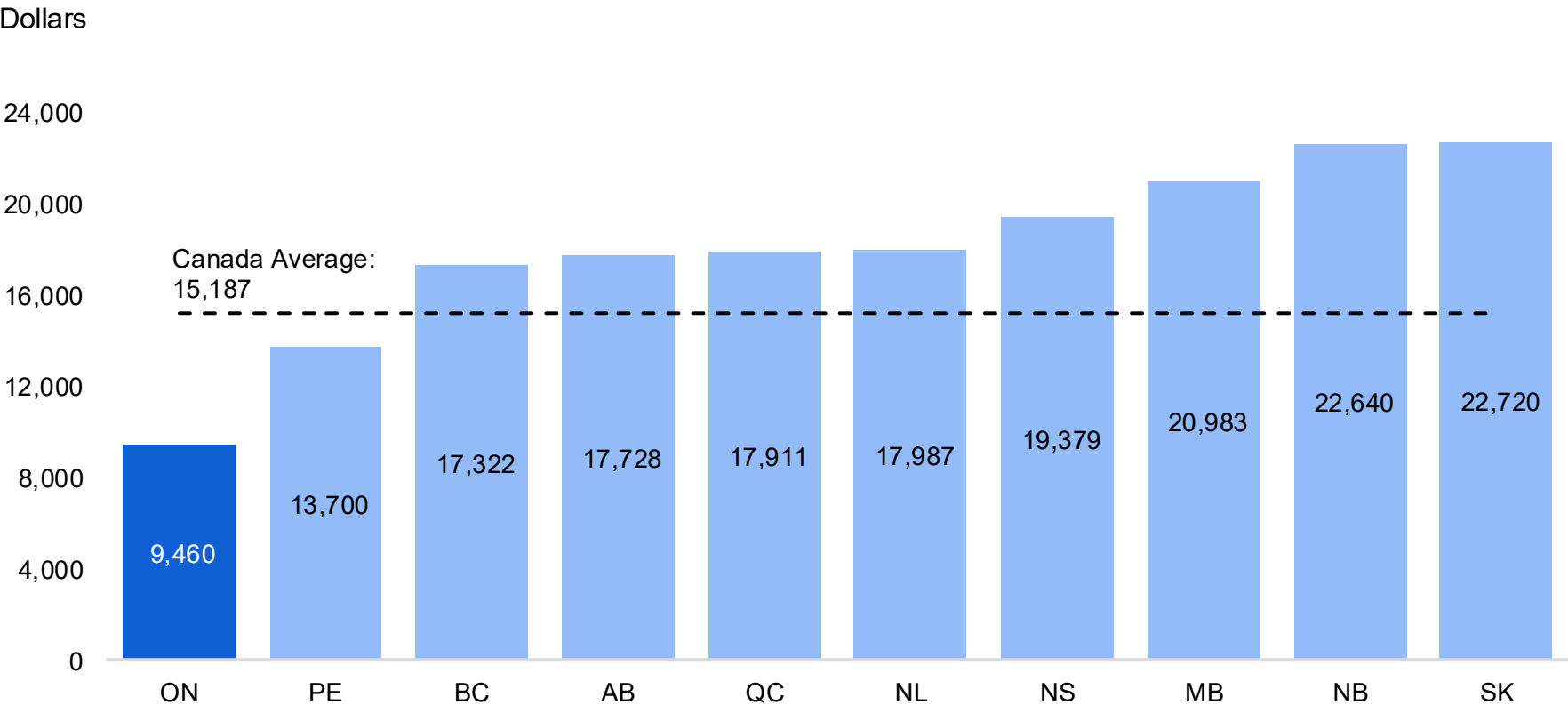
Note: Historical data is based on information provided by MCURES. 2025-26 value is based on preliminary information as of September 9, 2026 and is subject to change once academic year-end is finalized.  
Source: 2026 Ontario Budget and FAO analysis of information provided by the Province.

# Interprovincial Comparison



# Provincial Funding to Colleges

Provincial funding to public colleges per FTE domestic college student, by province, 2023-24

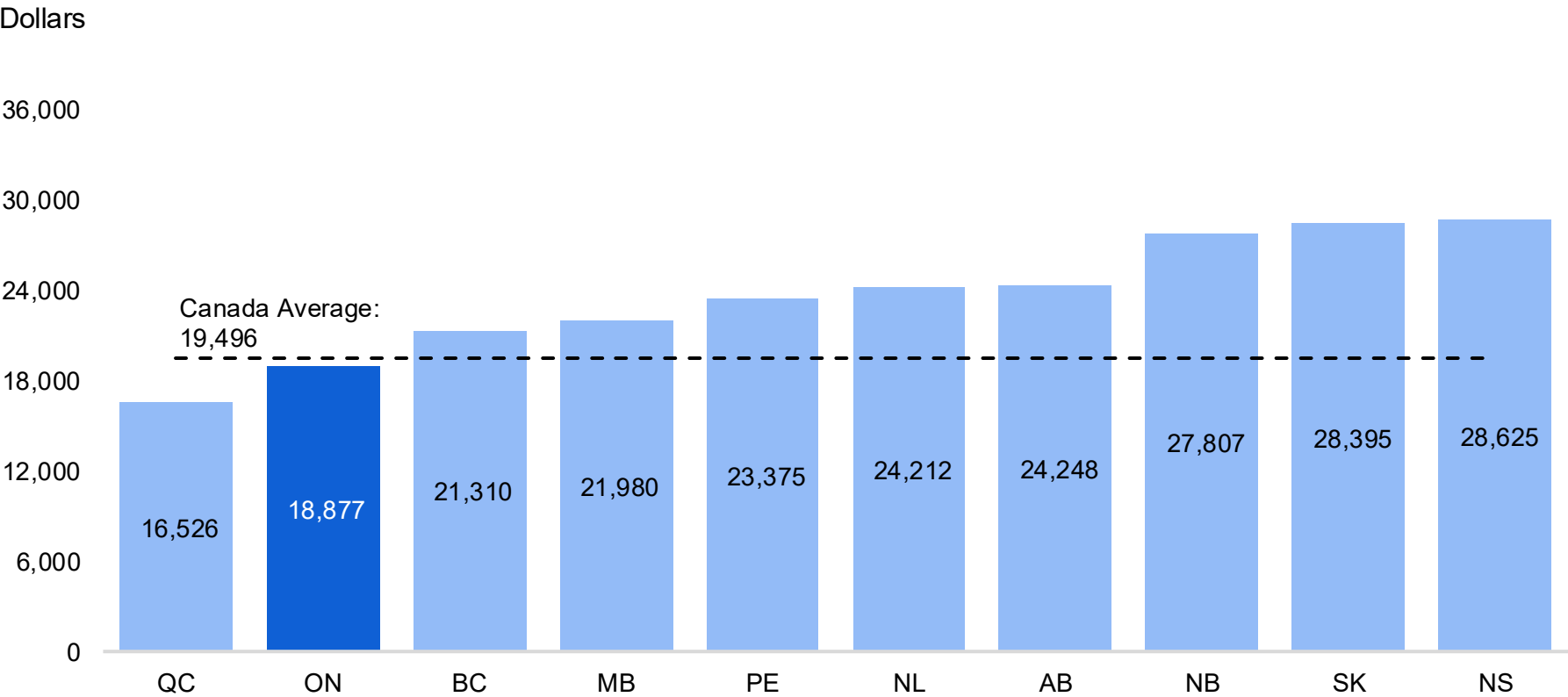


Note: The FAO estimates full-time equivalent enrolment as full-time enrolment, plus part-time enrolment divided by 2.0. Canada average does not include territories. Quebec college funding includes direct subsidies to lower “in province” domestic student tuition fees.  
Source: Statistics Canada, “Revenues of colleges by type of revenues and funds”, Table: 37-10-0028-01 and “Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender”, Table: 37-10-0018-01.



# Colleges Spending

Public colleges spending per FTE student, by province, 2023-24

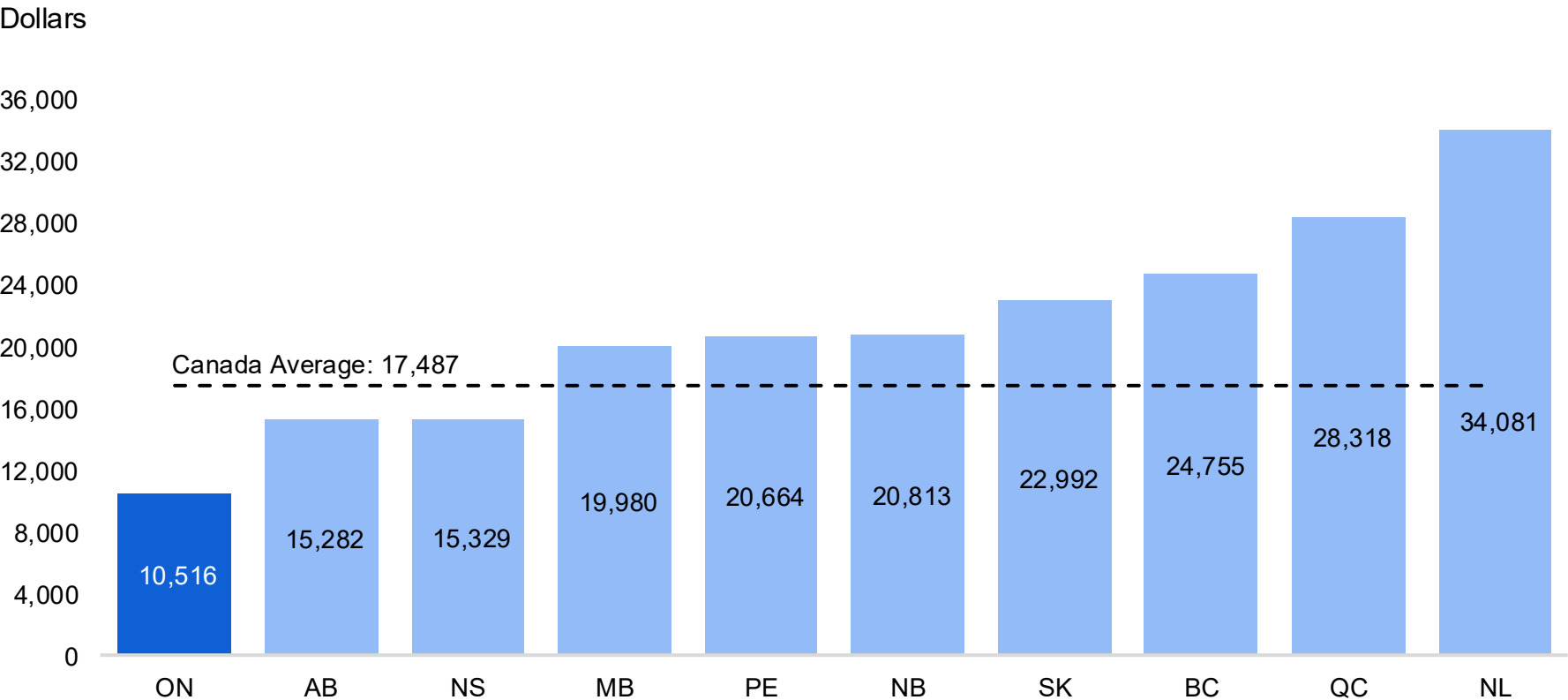


Note: The FAO estimates full-time equivalent college enrolment as full-time enrolment, plus part-time enrolment divided by 2.0. Canada average does not include territories.  
Source: Statistics Canada, "Canadian Classification of Functions of Government (CCOFOG) by consolidated government component",  
Table: 10-10-0005-01 and "Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender",  
Table: 37-10-0018-01.



# Provincial Funding to Universities

Provincial funding to universities per FTE domestic university student, by province, 2023-24



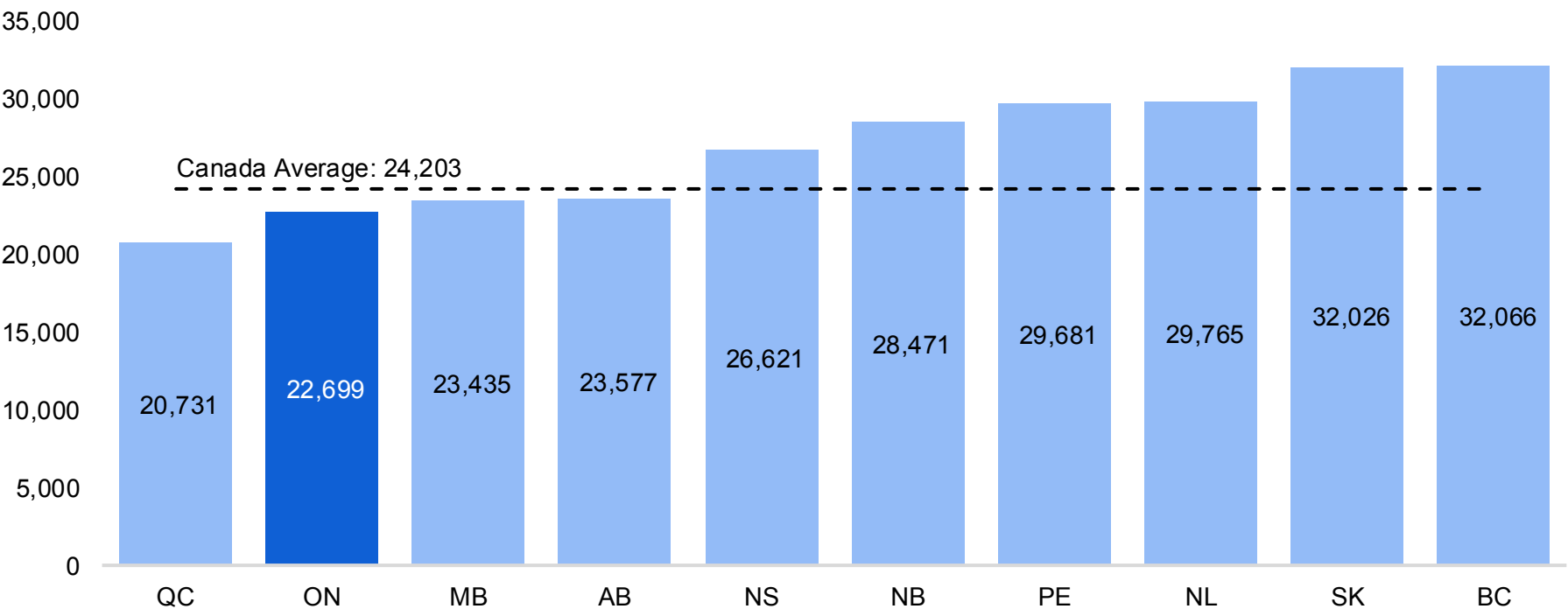
Note: The FAO estimates full-time equivalent enrolment as full-time enrolment, plus part-time enrolment divided by 3.8. Canada average does not include territories. Quebec and Nova Scotia university funding includes direct subsidies to lower “in province” domestic student tuition fees.  
Source: Statistics Canada, “Revenues of universities by type of revenues and funds”, Table: 37-10-0026-01 and “Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender”, Table: 37-10-0018-01.



# Universities Spending

Universities spending per FTE student, by province, 2023-24

Dollars

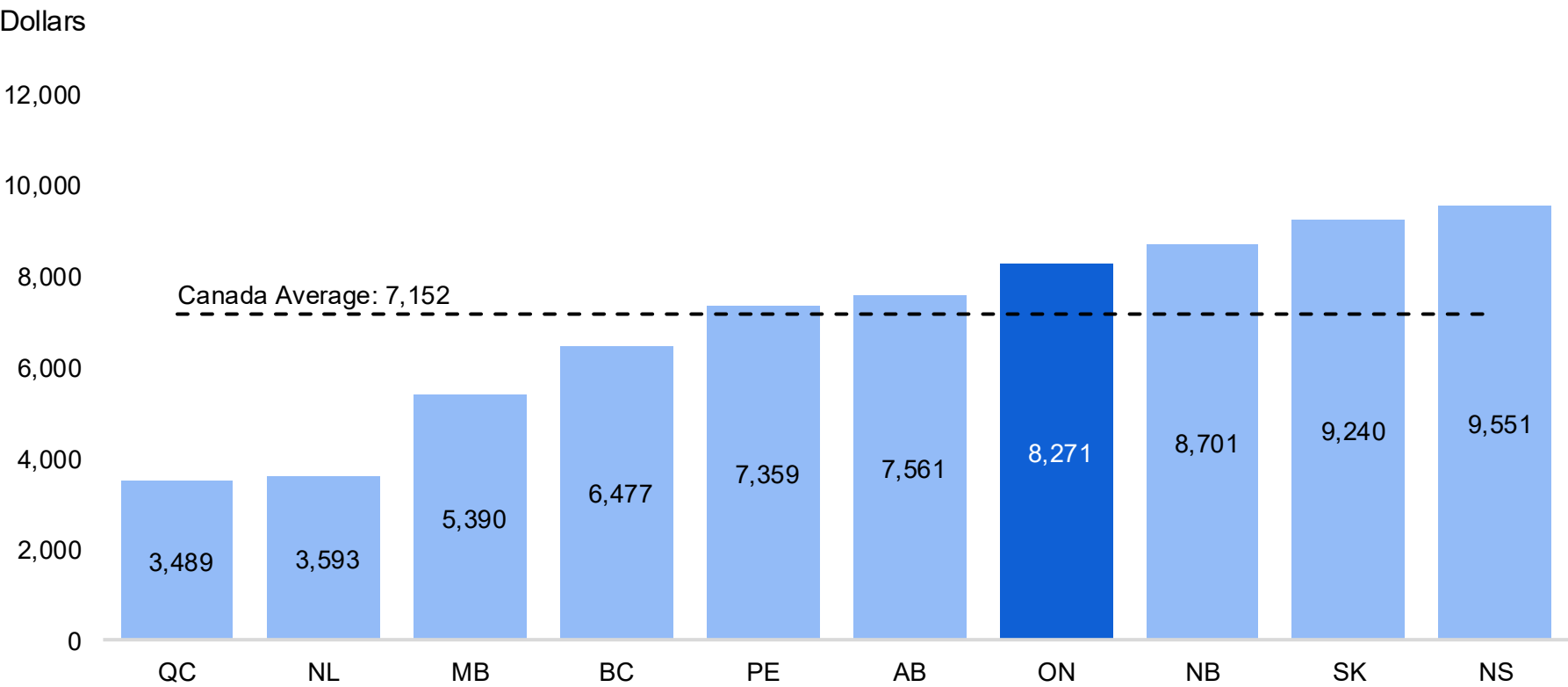


Note: The FAO estimates full-time equivalent enrolment as full-time enrolment, plus part-time enrolment divided by 3.8. Canada average does not include territories.  
Source: Statistics Canada, "Canadian Classification of Functions of Government (CCOFOG) by consolidated government component", Table: 10-10-0005-01 and "Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender", Table: 37-10-0018-01.



# Domestic Tuition Fees

Average tuition fees for undergraduate full-time domestic students in public postsecondary education programs, by province, 2023-24



Note: Canada average excludes all territories except Yukon. Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador average tuition accounts for different fees paid by "in province" and "out of province" Canadian students. Quebec average excludes tuition fees for students enrolled in CEGEP.  
Source: Statistics Canada, "Canadian undergraduate tuition fees by field of study", Table: 37-10-0003-01.

# Thank you!



## FAO

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