

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators

Sustainability

2017-18



Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators: Sustainability

Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions and the Ministry of Advanced Education continue to work together to further develop the Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project. The Project is currently finalizing a pilot phase that includes the province's three largest institutions – Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the University of Regina, the University of Saskatchewan, and their federated and affiliated colleges.¹ In the next phase of the project, additional post-secondary institutions will be included and new indicators will continue to be developed in partnership with the institutions.

Data in this report is limited to education delivered to students enrolled in credentialed programming (i.e. degree, diploma or certificate programs) through the pilot institutions unless otherwise indicated. This third report focuses on the financial sustainability of credentialed post-secondary education by examining the revenue streams and expenditure levels of Saskatchewan's institutions. All data is presented at the sector-level and is limited to operating revenue and operating expenditures.²

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Institutions: Revenue

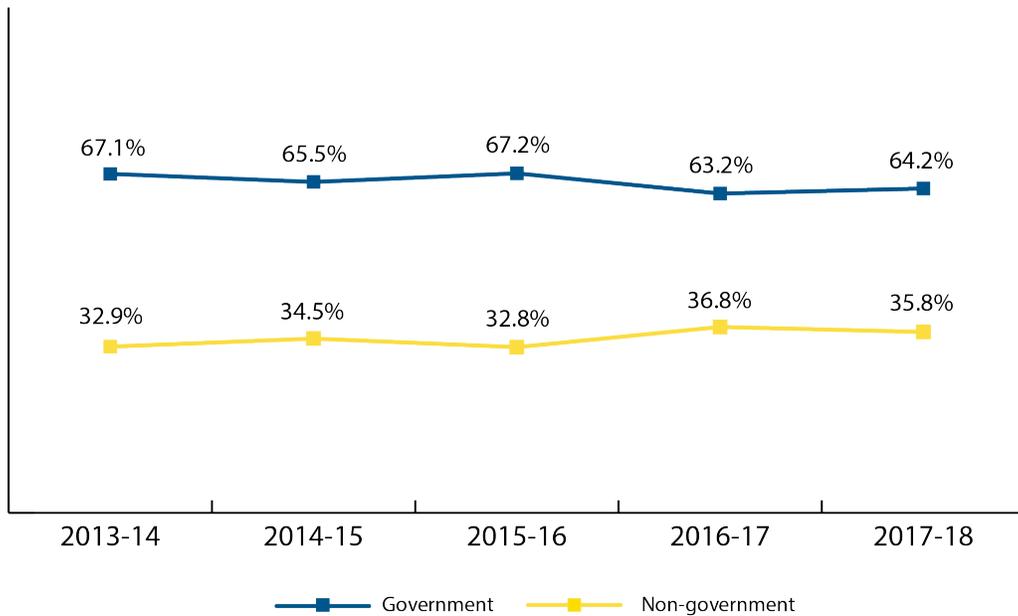
Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions draw revenue from a wide variety of sources including government as well as non-government sources including student tuition and fees, donations, investments, and sales of products and services. In 2017-18, total operating revenue exceeded \$1B at Saskatchewan's institutions.

Approximately two-thirds of this money comes from government sources while the remainder is derived from non-government revenue sources. Between 2013-14 and 2017-18 government funding decreased as a percentage of total operating revenue by nearly three percentage points while revenue from non-government sources correspondingly increased by the same amount.

1 Data in this report is drawn from financial information submitted by Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the University of Regina, the University of Saskatchewan, Luther College, Campion College, First Nations University of Canada, St. Thomas More College, and St. Peter's College for the years 2013-14 to 2017-18.

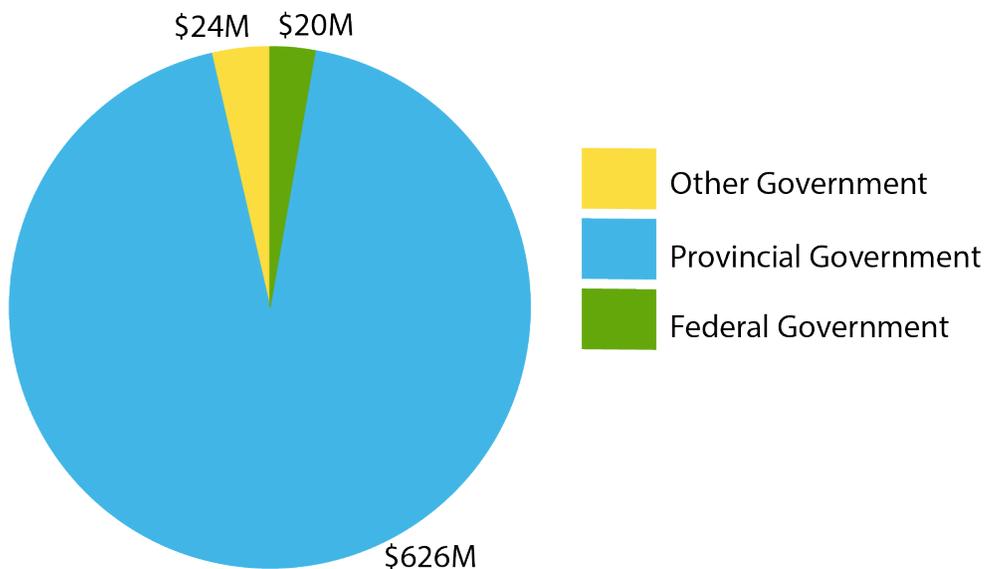
2 General operating is an unrestricted fund that accounts for the institution's primary operating activities of instruction and research, and which excludes monies designated for sponsored research and capital purposes.

Figure 1: Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions - total operating income by source



Among government sources, the provincial government is the largest contributor to operating revenue at 94%³. While government funding as a percentage of total operating income has decreased in recent years, between 2007-08 and 2017-18, operating funding transfers from the provincial government to Saskatchewan institutions increased by nearly \$180M, or 42%⁴.

Figure 2: Government sources of operating revenue, 2017-18

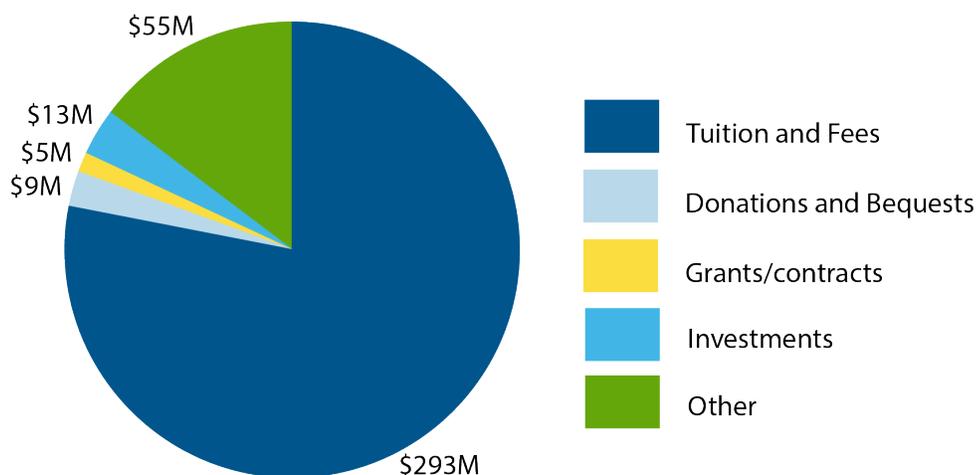


³ The “Other Governments” category includes municipal governments, other provincial governments in Canada, and foreign governments.

⁴ Government of Saskatchewan, Public Accounts.

Among non-government sources, tuition and student fees constitute the largest source of operating revenue at 78%⁵.

Figure 3: Non-government sources of operating revenue, 2017-18



Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Institutions: Expenditures

Total operating expenditures by Saskatchewan’s post-secondary institutions grew from \$983M in 2013-14 to \$1.1B in 2017-18. While this represents a 12% increase in expenditures, over the same period the number of students at Saskatchewan’s institutions increased by 8%⁶ and inflation increased by over 6%⁷.

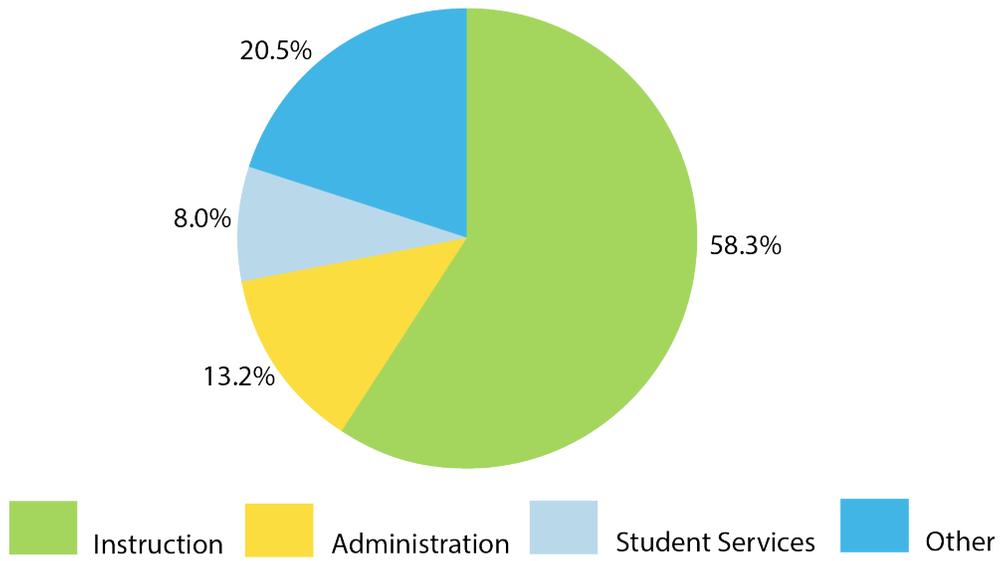
These costs may be further divided into expenditures on instruction and non-sponsored research, general administration, student services, and other costs. Other costs include expenditures on libraries, computing and communications, physical plants, and external relations. In 2017-18, nearly 60% of total operating expenditures were on costs related to instruction and non-sponsored research.

5 The “Other” category of non-government revenue includes sales of services and products and miscellaneous income.

6 Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project, Annual Headcount data.

7 Bank of Canada, Inflation Calculator. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/related/inflation-calculator/>

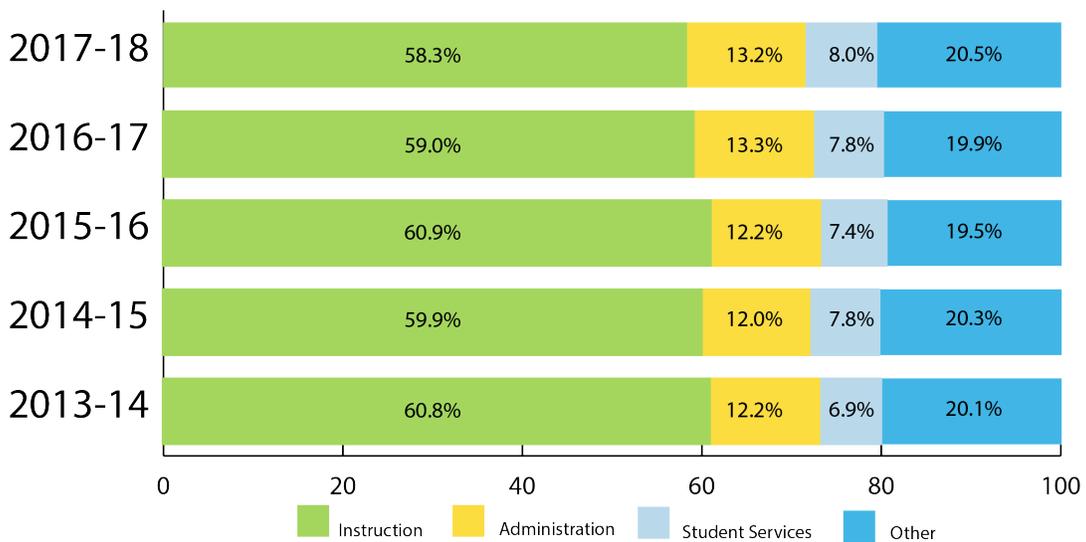
Figure 4: Total operating expenditures by category, 2017-18



While instruction and non-sponsored research represent the largest costs for Saskatchewan’s post-secondary institutions, spending in this category has declined as a percentage of total operating expenditures from 60.8% to 58.3% since 2013-14. Spending on instruction and non-sponsored research has increased over this period but at a slower pace than spending on administration and student services costs, leading to its decline as a percentage of total operating expenditures.

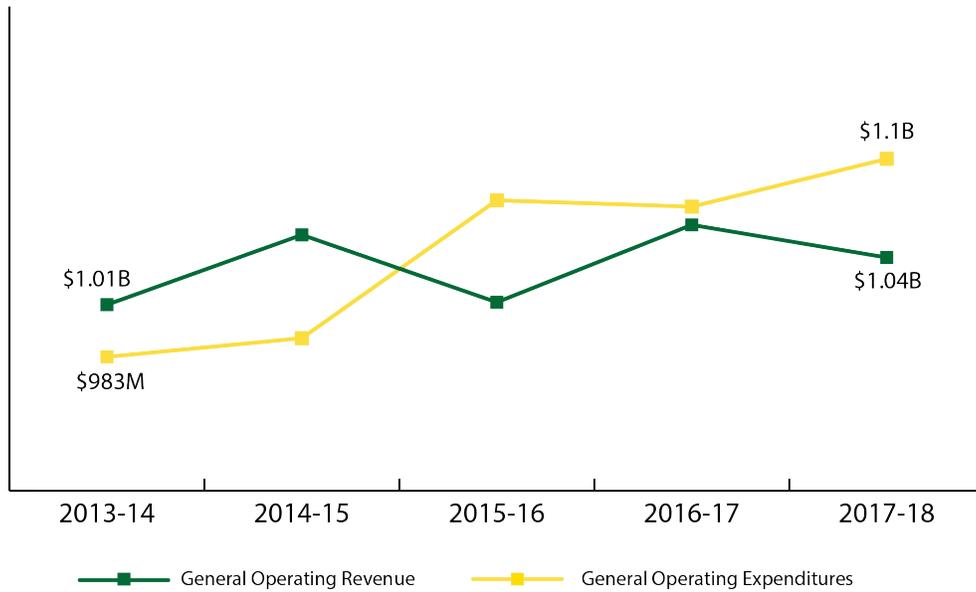
Over the same time period, general administration and student services costs have increased slightly as a percentage of total operating expenditures, while other costs have remained constant.

Figure 5: Total operating expenditures by category



Operating expenditures increased at a faster pace than operating revenues between 2013-14 and 2017-18, and since 2015-16, costs have exceeded income in Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector. In 2013-14, expenditures consumed 97% of operating revenue, while in 2017-18 that revenue only covers 95% of operating expenditures.

Figure 6: Total operating revenue and expenditures, 2013-14 to 2017-18



The next project report will focus on enrolments and credentials.

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