

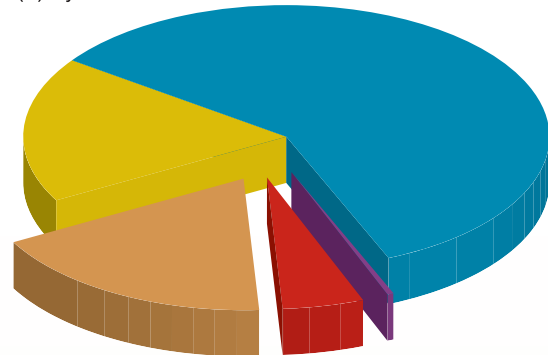
Chapter 3: The Province's Student Population

In 2009/10, 69,665 students were enrolled in the province's public schools. This represents a decrease of 1.4% from the 70,631 students enrolled in 2008/09. As shown in Figure 3.1, the majority of students were located in the Eastern school district and in urban regions of the province. When broken down by grade level, similar percentages of students were enrolled at the primary, elementary, intermediate and high school levels (see Figure 3.1c).



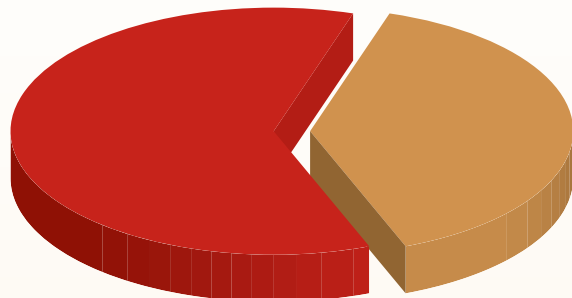
Figure 3.1: Student Enrolment (2009/10)

(a) By district



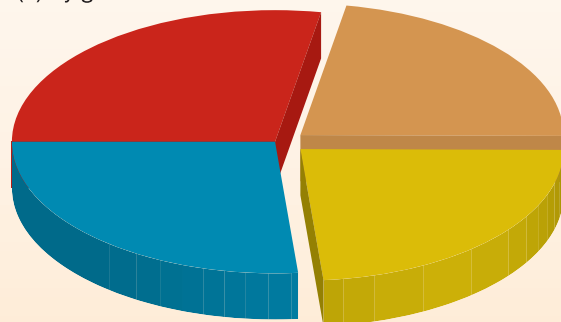
| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Labrador | 5.0% |
| Western | 17.9% |
| Nova Central | 17.9% |
| Eastern | 58.8% |
| CSF | 0.4% |

(b) Urban/rural enrolment



| | |
|-------|-------|
| Urban | 60.8% |
| Rural | 39.2% |

(c) By grade level



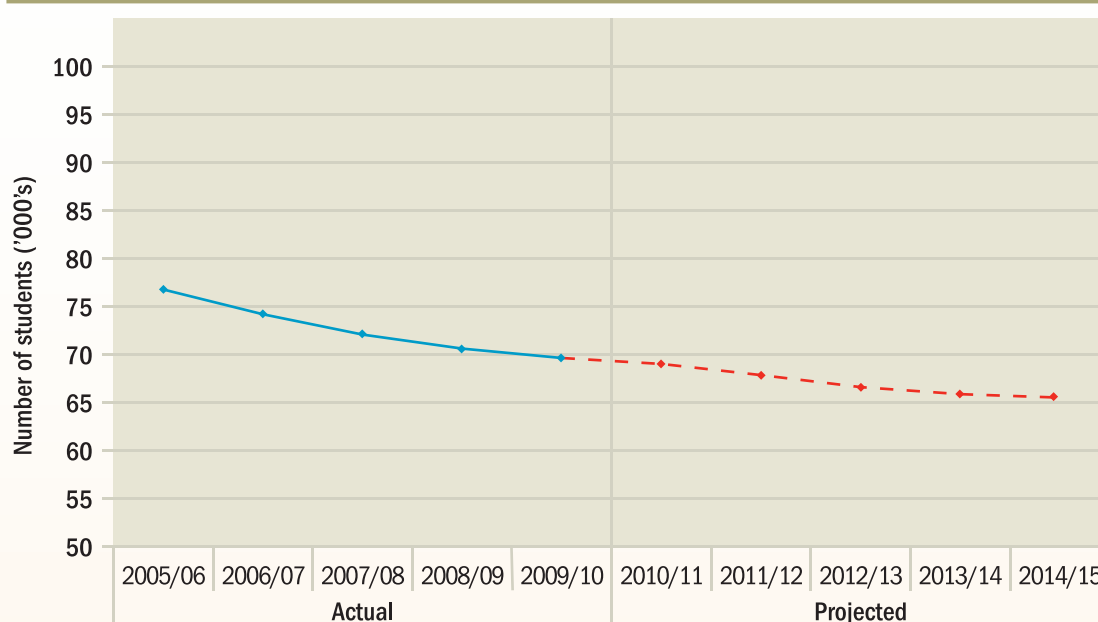
| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Primary (K - 3) | 27.8% |
| Elementary (4 - 6) | 22.3% |
| Intermediate (7 - 9) | 23.5% |
| High School (Level I - IV) | 26.3% |

(Source: Table 3.1)

Enrolment trends (2005/06-2009/10)

Figure 3.2 presents the actual number of students enrolled in the province's schools between 2005/06 and 2009/10, as well as projected enrolment over the next five years. Enrolment has continually declined between 2005/06 and 2009/10 and this trend is projected to continue until 2014. However since 2005/06, the actual change in enrolment from year to year has gotten smaller. For example, between 2005/06 and 2006/07, enrolment shrank by 3.2% (representing 2,459 fewer students in 2006/07). In the two most recent years, enrolment declined by only 1.4% (from 70,631 in 2008/09 to 69,665 in 2009/10). This trend is expected to continue.

Figure 3.2: Provincial Enrolment Trends (2005/06-2014/15)



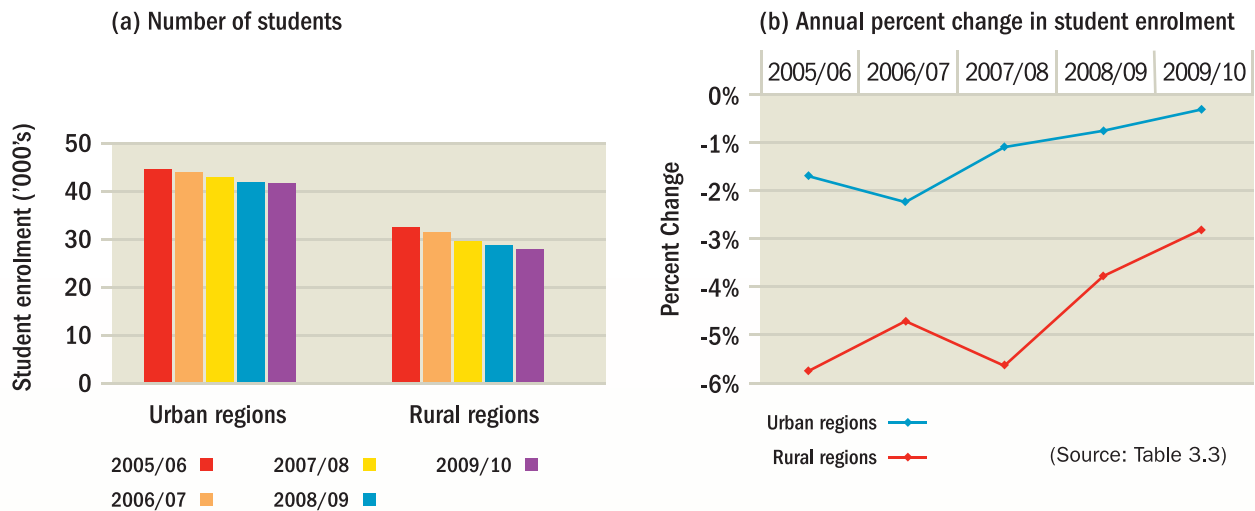
(Source: Table 3.2)

Urban/rural enrolment trends

The province's rural regions experienced the greatest decline in student enrolment. Between 2005/06 and 2009/10, the number of students enrolled in rural schools declined by 15.9% compared to a 4.4% decline in enrolment in urban schools (see Figure 3.3a).

Figure 3.3b reports the change in enrolment from year to year between 2005/06 and 2009/10). In urban regions, enrolment is levelling off with the percent change approaching zero. In 2009/10, there were 0.4% fewer students than the previous year attending urban schools. In rural regions, enrolment declined by 2.9% during this time.

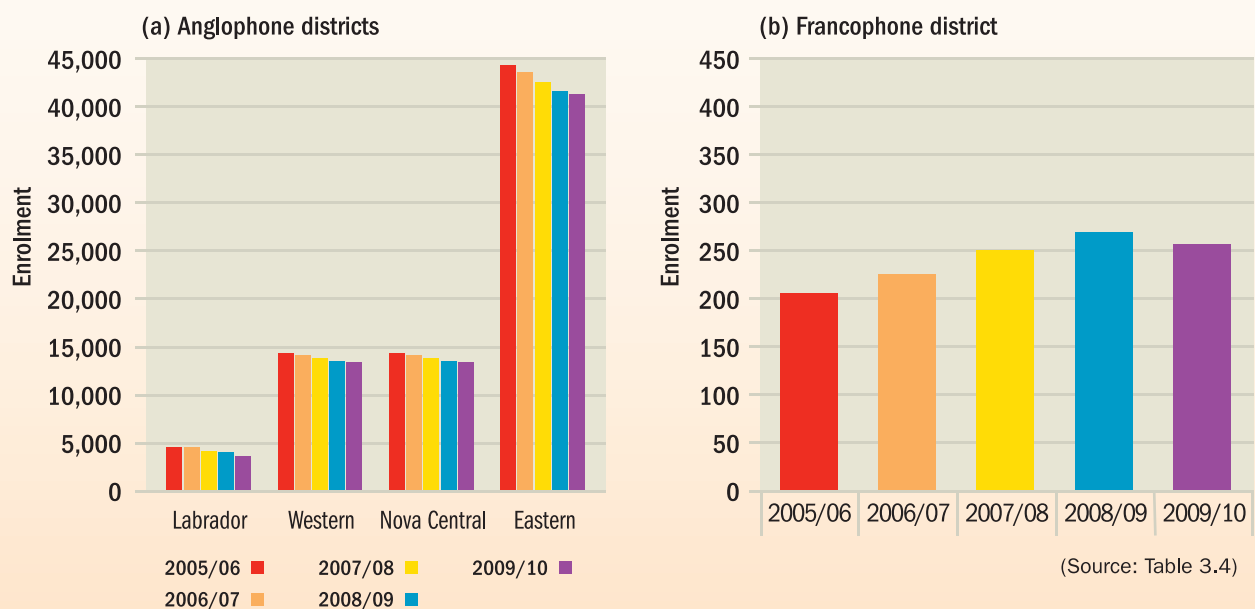
Figure 3.3: Enrolment trends in urban and rural regions (2005/06-2009/10)



District enrolment trends

Four of the province's five school districts experienced a decline in enrolment. The Labrador district experienced the largest change with the number of students declining from 4,319 in 2005/06 to 3,477 in 2009/10. This represents a 19.5% reduction in student enrolment. The province's Francophone district was the only district where overall student enrolment grew with the number of students increasing by 26.1% between 2005/06 and 2009/10 (see Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4: District enrolment trends (2005/06-2009/10)

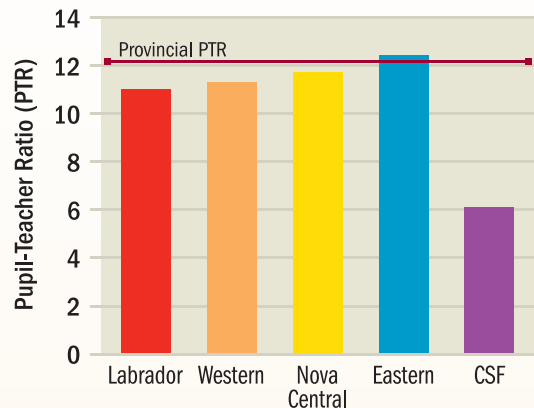




The Pupil Teacher Ratio

The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is a measure of human resources to the system. It is calculated by dividing the total enrolment of all full-time equivalent (FTE) public school students¹ by all FTE school-based educators², including principals, assistant principals and learning resource teachers. PTR is not meant to reflect an average or ideal class size.

Figure 3.5: Provincial and district PTR (2009/10)



(Source: Table 3.5)

In 2009/10, the provincial PTR was 12.1. In other words, there was one teacher for every 12.1 students. This is down from 12.3 in the previous school year. Within the districts, the lowest PTR is found in the CSF while the highest was in the Eastern school district. The Eastern school district was the only one where the PTR was greater than the provincial PTR (12.7 and 12.1 respectively). The PTR's found in the other three districts ranged between 11.1 and 11.6 (see Figure 3.5).

¹ This represents the total number of students enrolled full-time in the province's schools. Kindergarten students who attend school 50% of the school day are counted as one half.

² This refers to the head count of full-time teachers, that is, those employed as 100% of an allocated unit, plus part-time teachers according to the percent of an allocated unit. Teachers who are employed less than full-time are counted in accordance with the percentage employed. In other words, a teacher who is employed in a 75% position is counted as 0.75 of a full-time equivalent teacher.

Trends in the PTR (2005/06-2009/10)

Over the past five years, the PTR gradually declined at both the provincial and district level. The only exception occurred in the CSF where the PTR increased from 2005/06 to 2006/07. This was followed by a continuing decline over the next four years (see Figure 3.6). The Labrador and Eastern school districts experienced the greatest declines between 2005/06 and 2009/10. In Labrador, the PTR was reduced by 12.6% (from 12.7 in 2005/06 to 11.1 in 2009/10) and in the Eastern school district, the PTR fell by 11.8% (from 14.4 to 12.7).

Figure 3.6: Trends in the PTR (2005/06-2009/10)

