

population of Québec (P_0), broken down into various categories (by sex, age group, mother tongue, level of study and region of origin). Since both the data for the 1991 and 1996 census in Canada and the demographic forecasts of the ISQ now cover nonpermanent residents,¹ there is no longer any need to calculate and forecast the part of the enrollment made up of students from other countries.

The forecast of student enrollment for a given university-level institution (i) is based on the university attendance rate for that institution (by sex, age group, mother tongue, level of study and region of origin) and a population projection (P). For a given forecast year "t", the following formula is obtained:

$$\text{Student enrollment: } E_{it} = T_{i0} \times P_t$$

The first step in the forecast presented in this report is, as in previous forecasts, based on the fixed attendance rates for each university. The second step involves adjusting the forecast made using fixed rates for each university to reflect the provisional statement of student enrollment for Fall 2000 issued by the Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ) at the end of September 2000. This operation affects the way the attendance rate for each university-level institution changes over time.

Population breakdown by mother tongue

In the last published set of forecasts, we pointed out that the regional forecasts of the ISQ do not include information on the mother tongue of the future Québec population. This statement still holds true today. However, we used the 1996 census data, which does provide information on the mother tongue. In addition, for the period covered by our forecasts, we retained the proportion of allophones and anglophones observed in 1996, eliminating the need for demo-linguistic analysis. [Appendix 1](#) shows the percentage breakdown of the population by mother tongue, by sex and by administrative region. The method proposed by Michel Paillé² was used to allocate multiple declarations.

The Statistics Canada data from the 1996 census show that in the 17 administrative regions of Québec, francophones represented between 49% (Nord-du-Québec) and 99% (Bas-Saint-Laurent) of the total population, anglophones between 0.6% (Bas-Saint-Laurent) and almost 19% (Montréal), and allophones between 0.2% (Bas-Saint-Laurent) and over 46% (Nord-du-Québec).

The tables in [Appendix 1](#) summarize the information used to prepare this report, namely the statistics on the mother tongue of the population of each administrative region, by five-year age groups and by sex.

Adjustments to the demographic data from the 1996 census

In general, the raw data from a census underestimates certain figures, to varying degrees. As mentioned above, the Québec population forecasts established by the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) for each administrative region are based on 1996 Canadian census data. However, the ISQ used the revised data from the 1996 census to take into account the underestimates in the census.

1. "Individuals holding a study permit, work permit or ministerial permit, or who claim refugee status." (Source: letter from Mr. Guy Oddo of Statistics Canada to Mr. Pierre Ducharme of the Ministère de l'Éducation, September 1992).
2. Michel Paillé. *Nouvelles tendances démolinguistiques dans l'île de Montréal 1981-1996*, Québec: Conseil de la langue française, 1989, p. 152 (Collection Notes et documents, no 1).

Future enrollment trends

As mentioned earlier, for each university, we first established a forecast based on fixed attendance rates. Next, we adjusted the forecast for student enrollment in each university as follows: using the data from the Fall 2000 provisional statement of student enrollment made by the CREPUQ in late September 2000, we estimated FTE student enrollment in 2000-2001. Then, we compared the results of the estimates with the forecasts based on fixed university attendance rates for 2000-2001. For that year, we assumed that the estimates made using the provisional data from the CREPUQ would be accurate; in view of the observations made in recent years, our hypothesis seems valid, since enrollment in the Fall semester is an important factor in estimated FTE student enrollment for the whole of the university year. These estimates therefore constitute the forecast made for 2000-2001.

For subsequent years, we revised the forecast for each university to reflect the difference between the forecast for 2000-2001 based on a fixed attendance rate, and the forecast for the same year based on the provisional data from the CREPUQ concerning student enrollment in the Fall of 2000. This operation ensured that the university attendance rate for each university was consistent with the estimate for 2000-2001. Next, we adjusted the university attendance rates for the whole of Québec using data on college enrollments and extrinsic data, such as the economic forecasts of the chief economists of the Bank of Montreal, the Mouvement Desjardins and the National Bank (Fall 2000 and January 2001).

With regard to enrollment in regular full-time courses at the college level, it is expected that the number of students in pre-university programs will drop by almost 7% between Fall 2000 and Fall 2005. After this period, the number of students should grow and, by 2010, return to the level of the late 1990s.

The chief economist of the Bank of Montreal predicts that the slowdown in the U.S. economy will affect the Canadian economy in 2001, but announces a drop in unemployment in Québec beginning in 2002. The chief economist of the Mouvement Desjardins believes that the unemployment rate in Québec could fall below 8% in 2001, despite the downturn in the US economy that could slow Canadian economic growth. The chief economist of the National Bank foresees a slow increase in the gross domestic product (GDP) of Québec and Canada in 2001 and 2002, and a drop in the unemployment rate to as low as 7.7% in 2002.

In light of the above forecasts and of various other considerations, such as the signing of "performance contracts" between the universities and the MEQ, an improvement in employment prospects for university graduates, and recent changes in university attendance, we forecast a moderate increase in the attendance rates from 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 (see [Appendix 2](#), columns E and F). We expect that, beginning in 2003-2004, university attendance will remain at the same level as in 2002-2003. It should be noted that the university attendance rate in Québec peaked during the 1993-1994 university year.

We will now turn to the hypothesis concerning the trend in the attendance rate presented in [Appendix 2](#). It goes without saying that we could have made other hypotheses concerning changes in the attendance rate, such as a more marked increase. However, the forecast of the number of students enrolled in regular college-level courses over the next 10 years tends to support our choice. The new, stricter entrance requirements at the college level caused a drop in new enrollments beginning in the 1997-1998 school year, and Québec's universities will eventually be affected by the same change. Had we retained a more "pessimistic" hypothesis, we would have obtained a forecast of around 152 000 students for 2014-2015.

In line with the comments made in the preceding paragraphs, we should add that the general trend in student enrollment will, in coming years, generally match demographic trends in the university-age population.

Postdoctoral placement students

Beginning in 1996-1997, the FTE student enrollment taken into consideration in our forecasts includes students completing postdoctoral placements. We identified 667 of these students for 1996-1997, 871 for 1997-1998, 768 for 1998-1999 and 760 for 1999-2000. However, since these students represent 0.5% of all students funded by the MEQ, we selected a fixed number for each university and each year of the forecast. For the university system as a whole, we added 794 FTE students for each of the 15 years in the forecast.

For most universities, the addition of students completing postdoctoral placements, calculated in FTE students, hardly changed the total student enrollment. It should also be noted that some universities, like the branches of the Université du Québec, had already begun to count these students in their enrollment prior to 1996-1997.

Results The period from 2001-2002 to 2014-2015

As shown in [Table 2](#), "Forecasts of full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment for the period 2000-2001 to 2014-2015," we predict that the number of FTE students enrolled in Québec universities in 2014-2015 will be slightly below the number for 1999-2000. We estimate that there will be 158 034 students at the end of the period, compared to the total of 158 642 recorded during the most recent observation year. We therefore expect a 0.4% drop in enrollment, in other words 608 FTE students. However, compared to the results for 1992-1993 (168 271), the drop is 6.1%, a loss of 10 237 FTE students.

The 1994-1995 school year marks an important shift in student enrollment trends; this was the year university attendance rates in Québec not only stopped rising, but actually dropped clearly. Total enrollment in the Québec university system in FTE students dropped by 2.8% between 1993-1994 and 1994-1995, and by 2.3% between 1994-1995 and 1995-1996. Since the deterioration in university attendance rates ended in 1998-1999, and since the rates actually improved in both 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (according to the preliminary data from the CREPUQ for Fall 2000), we have made a slight adjustment to the attendance rate, raising it in the estimate for 2000-2001. After reaching a low point for the period under consideration in 2008-2009, total university enrollment should once again begin to increase towards the end of the forecast period, due to the expected change in the age structure of the Québec population.

It should be noted that changes in student enrollment vary from one university to another. For almost half of the universities (seven), the enrollment forecast for 2014-2015 is below the current enrollment, with some decreases more marked than others. For instance, the drop for Université du Québec à Chicoutimi is -17.7%; for Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, -11.4%; for Université du Québec à Rimouski, -11.3%; for Université Laval, -9.5%; for Télé-université, -5.1%; and for Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières and Université de Sherbrooke, -5% respectively.

At the other end of the spectrum, several universities should see a stabilization or even an increase in their enrollment for 2014-2015. If we exclude the École de technologie supérieure which is still undergoing a relatively major period of growth, Université du Québec à Hull will see an increase of 9.4%, and Concordia University, McGill University and the École des Hautes Études Commerciales de Montréal will see increases of 4% each. For the three English-language universities, the forecast increase in enrollment remains valid only if we assume that the increased tuition fees charged to non-Québec students will not affect enrollment.

Nevertheless, in general our forecast points to an 11.3% decrease in student enrollment compared to the forecast for the period 1992-1993 to 2006-2007 $([174\ 495 - 154\ 740] \div 174\ 495 \times 100)$.

Table 1
Comparison between
current and previous
forecasts

Forecast	1991	1993	1997	2001	2003	2006
1992-2006	164 405	170 649	147 945	178 695	178 295	174 495
1995-2009	164 405	167 886	158 608	164 348	164 158	160 775
1997-2011	164 405	167 886	154 996	153 585	153 046	149 349
1998-2012	164 405	167 886	155 012	154 086	153 545	149 870
1999-2013	164 405	167 886	155 012	158 320	157 049	152 006
2000-2014	164 405	167 886	155 012	160 904	159 834	154 740

This 11.3% decrease clearly demonstrates the slowdown in the growth of university attendance rates after 1992-1993 and, specifically, the drop observed from 1994-1995. In the forecast covering the period 1992-1993 to 2006-2007, university enrollment was expected to increase steadily until 1994-1995, and then more slowly until 2004-2005.

[Graph 1](#), "Evolution of student enrollment, the 18-29 age group in the population and university attendance rates in Québec, from 1977-1978 to 2014-2015," compares the evolution of student enrollment from 1977-1978 to 2014-2015, that of the 18-29 age group in the population, and that of the university attendance rate over the same period. We can see that, despite a substantial drop (17.7%) in the population aged 18 to 29 between 1983-1984 and 1992-1993, student enrollment rose rapidly (26.5%) over the same period. Also, after 1992-1993, changes in the population, student enrollment and the university attendance rate are closely linked. For the part of the forecast covering the years after 2004-2005, the gap between the student enrollment curve and the 18-29 age group curve, most visible between 2007-2008 and 2009-2010, can be explained by the age structure of the population, which is generally unfavourable for the universities over the period concerned. Even with fixed rates of university attendance, when the age groups less likely to attend university become numerically more significant within the general population, enrollment drops.

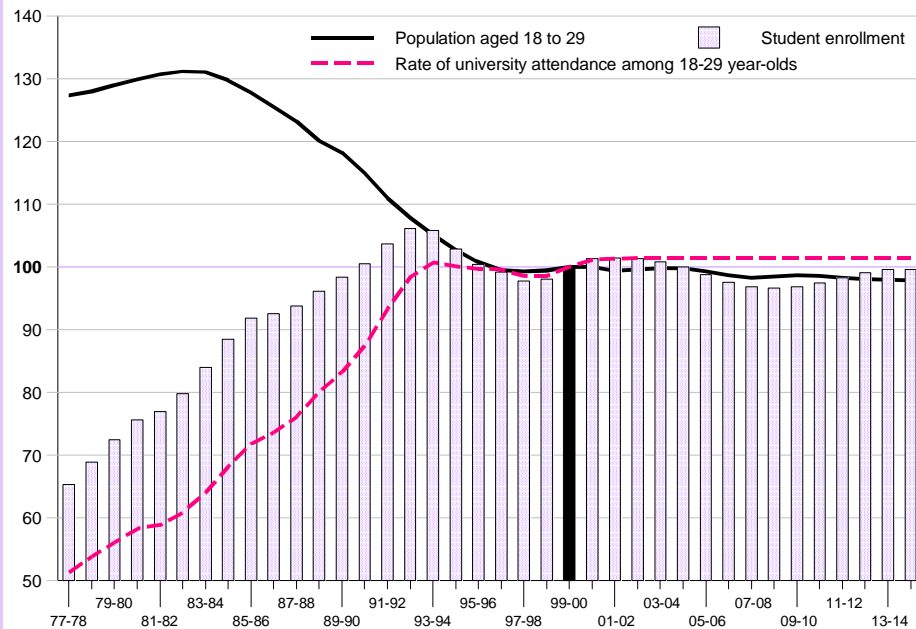
Table 2 Forecasts of full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment for the period 2000-2001 to 2014-2015

University	Observations			Forecast														Variation	
	1997- 1998	1998- 1999	1999- 2000	2000- 2001	2001- 2002	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2004- 2005	2005- 2006	2006- 2007	2007- 2008	2008- 2009	2009- 2010	2010- 2011	2011- 2012	2012- 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2014/ 1999
Laval	25 409	25 759	25 750	25 652	25 698	25 609	25 347	24 993	24 508	24 014	23 617	23 391	23 265	23 266	23 337	23 425	23 445	23 308	-9.48%
McGill	21 910	20 923	20 757	21 119	21 040	20 966	20 894	20 779	20 590	20 433	20 422	20 567	20 777	21 004	21 220	21 432	21 613	21 693	4.51%
Bishop's	2 037	2 063	2 175	2 167	2 163	2 157	2 150	2 137	2 115	2 095	2 094	2 115	2 139	2 165	2 187	2 206	2 222	2 228	2.44%
Montréal	23 359	23 351	24 520	25 081	25 124	25 095	25 012	24 857	24 603	24 354	24 229	24 243	24 367	24 593	24 856	25 125	25 332	25 377	3.50%
Polytechnique	3 548	3 808	4 005	4 028	4 012	4 004	3 986	3 958	3 912	3 871	3 854	3 869	3 901	3 946	3 994	4 043	4 081	4 091	2.15%
HEC	5 636	6 046	6 329	6 679	6 683	6 681	6 650	6 605	6 533	6 464	6 425	6 420	6 443	6 496	6 564	6 634	6 690	6 705	5.94%
Concordia	16 775	17 165	17 809	18 211	18 218	18 143	18 077	17 976	17 815	17 670	17 612	17 650	17 764	17 949	18 166	18 396	18 590	18 675	4.86%
Sherbrooke	12 118	11 817	11 887	11 829	11 853	11 861	11 784	11 670	11 486	11 301	11 164	11 097	11 086	11 138	11 215	11 292	11 337	11 299	-4.95%
UQ																			
UQAM	22 045	22 310	22 933	22 914	23 016	23 010	22 941	22 819	22 611	22 403	22 266	22 211	22 263	22 439	22 673	22 930	23 134	23 191	1.13%
UQTR	6 947	6 520	6 525	6 600	6 651	6 662	6 621	6 549	6 436	6 321	6 224	6 161	6 132	6 141	6 175	6 211	6 228	6 201	-4.97%
UQAC	3 885	3 930	4 020	3 952	3 974	3 961	3 917	3 855	3 772	3 677	3 592	3 526	3 469	3 433	3 405	3 386	3 356	3 308	-17.71%
UQAR	2 424	2 497	2 543	2 656	2 656	2 643	2 612	2 574	2 518	2 461	2 410	2 373	2 347	2 332	2 318	2 306	2 288	2 255	-11.33%
UQAH	2 763	2 742	2 707	2 763	2 780	2 790	2 800	2 806	2 803	2 799	2 797	2 804	2 826	2 859	2 894	2 933	2 958	2 962	9.42%
UQAT	1 018	1 149	1 178	1 141	1 138	1 136	1 128	1 118	1 107	1 094	1 080	1 068	1 062	1 060	1 056	1 056	1 055	1 044	-11.38%
INRS	323	299	312	329	330	330	329	329	328	325	323	322	321	322	322	323	323	323	3.53%
ENAP	420	429	430	469	469	470	468	466	464	460	456	452	448	445	443	441	439	438	1.86%
ETS	2 141	2 247	2 344	2 637	2 683	2 727	2 717	2 699	2 669	2 636	2 604	2 582	2 571	2 579	2 598	2 622	2 640	2 641	12.67%
TELUQ	2 254	2 350	2 418	2 418	2 416	2 412	2 401	2 390	2 377	2 362	2 346	2 330	2 317	2 309	2 304	2 303	2 301	2 295	-5.09%
Total	155 012	155 405	158 642	160 645	160 904	160 657	159 834	158 580	156 647	154 740	153 515	153 181	153 498	154 475	155 727	157 064	158 032	158 034	-0.38%

- Notes :
1. Student enrollment data excludes medical residents, but includes postdoctoral placement students.
 2. To establish the university attendance rates, we used fixed rates based on the situation observed in 1999-2000; we then adjusted the forecast for each university for 2000-2001 to take into account the provisional observations available for Fall 2000 (preliminary data from the CREPUQ). Between 2000-2001 and 2002-2003, the university attendance rates increase slightly; after 2002-2003, they remain fixed..
 3. The data from the Institut national de la recherche scientifique include data from the Institut Armand-Frappier.

Source : Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec, Direction des statistiques et des études quantitatives, March 13, 2001.

Graphique 1
Evolution of student enrollment, the population aged 18 to 29 and university attendance rates in Québec, 1977-1978 to 2014-2015



The 2030 horizon

There is nothing particularly alarming about our forecast of student enrollment for the period 2000-2001 to 2014-2015 except, of course, for the three university-level institutions for which we forecast a drop of over 10% in student enrollment by 2014-2015. However, the situation changes dramatically when we extend the forecast period. The next table leaves no room for doubt concerning the major decrease in student enrollment to be expected in the 2020s. In 1999-2000, FTE student enrollment was observed to be 158 642. In 2020-2021, the forecast number is 143 251, a drop of 15 391 FTE students (9.7%), and there is no improvement in the years following. The forecast enrollment of 132 198 FTE students in 2030-2031 represents a decrease of 16.7% compared to 1999-2000. A comparison with the student enrollment in 1992-1993 (168 271) reveals a long-term downward trend over a period of almost 40 years. The decrease is 21.4%, a drop of over 36 000 FTE students.

Table 3
Outlook for 2030

Forecast year	Forecast using fixed rates (1999-2000)	Forecast using adjusted rates
2014-2015	155 713	158 034
2016-2017	152 244	154 513
2018-2019	146 837	149 026
2020-2021	141 147	143 251
2022-2023	136 215	138 245
2024-2025	133 816	135 811
2026-2027	132 113	134 082
2028-2029	130 995	132 948
2030-2031	130 256	132 198

Conclusion

The forecasts set out in this report differ slightly from those issued for the period 1999-2000 to 2013-2014, mainly because we once again expect a significant increase in student enrollment, hinted at by the provisional statement released by the CREPUQ in September 2000. The university attendance rate had already begun to decline clearly in 1994-1995 and 1995-1996, and the downward trend continued in 1996-1997 and 1997-1998. Given that the school year 1998-1999 seems to have marked the end of the trend, and that 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 point to an increase in university attendance rates that we have projected to 2002-2003, this forecast is more positive than its predecessor. Since the change in the age structure of Québec's population should be favourable for the universities over the next four years, student enrollment should stabilize at around 160 000 FTE students during that period. Then, after reaching a low point in 2008-2009, it should begin to rise in the early 2010s, given that the age structure of the population will once again favour the universities, provided that university attendance rates do not begin a new downward trend.

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Previously published Education Statistics Bulletins:

- Lespérance, André. *Level of Graduation Upon Leaving the Education System*, **No. 1, November 1997.**
- Demers, Marius. *Statutory Salaries and Teaching Time of Teachers in Public Elementary and Lower Secondary Schools: A Comparison of Québec and OECD Countries*, **No. 2, November 1997.**
- Demers, Marius. *Educational Expenditure Relative to the GDP: A Comparison of Québec and OECD Countries*, **No. 3, June 1998.**
- Maheu, Robert. *Graduation from Secondary School, College and University in 1995: A Comparison of Québec and OECD Countries*, **No. 4, June 1998.**
- Beauchesne, Luc. *Secondary Schools and College Graduates: A Sociodemographic Analysis*, **No. 5, June 1998.**
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- Demers, Marius. *The Return on Investment in Education*, **No. 8, November 1998.**
- Ouellette, Raymond. *Projections of Teaching Staff in Québec School Boards: 1996-97 to 2008-09*, **No. 9, February 1999.**
- St-Germain, Claude. *The Linguistic Situation in the Education Sector, 1997-98*, **No. 10, March 1999.**
- St-Germain, Claude. *Education Level of the Adult Populations of the Principal Cultural Communities of Québec in 1996*, **No. 11, May 1999.**
- DUFORT, Jean-Pierre. *Secondary School Vocational Education*, **No. 12, september 1999.**
- St-Germain, Claude. *The Linguistic Situation in the Education Sector, 1997-98*, **No. 13, March 1999.**
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- Demers, Marius. *Statutory Salaries of Teachers in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in 1997-1998: A Comparison of Québec and OECD Countries*, **No. 19, September 2000.**
- Demers, Marius. *Educational Spending Relative to the GDP in 1997: A Comparison of Québec and the OECD Countries*, **No. 20, September 2000.**
- Foucault, Diane. *Graduation Rates in Québec and the OECD Countries*, **No. 21, January 2001.**

Appendix 1

Table 4 1996 distribution of the female population of Québec aged 15 to 59, by administrative region and mother tongue (percentage)	Region	French	English	Other	Total
	Abitibi-Témiscamingue	94.4	3.9	1.7	100.0
	Bas-Saint-Laurent	99.3	0.6	0.1	100.0
	Centre-du-Québec	97.6	1.3	1.1	100.0
	Chaudière-Appalaches	98.8	0.9	0.3	100.0
	Côte-Nord	87.3	5.4	7.3	100.0
	Estrie	89.3	8.9	1.8	100.0
	Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine	89.8	9.3	0.9	100.0
	Lanaudière	96.4	2.1	1.5	100.0
	Laurentides	91.4	6.5	2.1	100.0
	Laval	76.6	6.7	16.7	100.0
	Mauricie	97.6	1.3	1.1	100.0
	Montérégie	86.6	9.0	4.4	100.0
	Montréal	54.4	18.8	26.8	100.0
	Nord-du-Québec	48.3	3.2	48.5	100.0
	Outaouais	80.4	15.6	4.0	100.0
	Capitale-Nationale	96.3	2.0	1.7	100.0
	Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	98.9	0.7	0.4	100.0
	Ensemble du Québec	81.7	8.8	9.5	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, based on the 1996 census

Table 5 1996 distribution of the male population of Québec aged 15 to 59, by administrative region and mother tongue (percentage)	Region	French	English	Other	Total
	Abitibi-Témiscamingue	94.4	3.9	1.7	100.0
	Bas-Saint-Laurent	99.2	0.6	0.2	100.0
	Centre-du-Québec	97.4	1.3	1.3	100.0
	Chaudière-Appalaches	98.8	0.9	0.3	100.0
	Côte-Nord	87.5	5.4	7.1	100.0
	Estrie	89.4	8.6	2.0	100.0
	Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine	89.2	9.8	1.0	100.0
	Lanaudière	96.0	2.1	1.9	100.0
	Laurentides	90.9	6.6	2.5	100.0
	Laval	74.8	7.0	18.2	100.0
	Mauricie	97.4	1.3	1.3	100.0
	Montérégie	86.3	8.9	4.8	100.0
	Montréal	52.0	18.9	29.1	100.0
	Nord-du-Québec	49.6	4.1	46.3	100.0
	Outaouais	79.4	16.0	4.6	100.0
	Capitale-Nationale	96.1	2.0	1.9	100.0
	Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	98.8	0.8	0.4	100.0
	Ensemble du Québec	81.3	8.7	10.0	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, based on the 1996 census

Appendix 2

Table 6 Forecasts of full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment for the period 2000-2001 to 2014-2015: comparison of the forecast using fixed rates and the forecast using adjusted rates, taking into account the preliminary observations of student enrollment in the Fall of 2000

University year	First forecast: fixed rates (based on 1999-2000 observation)	Second forecast: adjusted to reflect the preliminary observations of the CREPUQ for the Fall of 2000	Relation between the first and second forecasts	Adjustment factor based on a hypothetical change in university attendance rates		Third forecast: adjusted to reflect a hypothetical change in university attendance rates
				According to 1999-2000 observation	According to estimated enrollment in 2000-2001	
A	B	C	D = C/B X 100	E	F	G = C X F/100
1999-2000	158 642	158 642	100.0	100.0	-	-
2000-2001	158 867	160 645	101.1	101.1	100.0	160 645
2001-2002	158 883	160 660	101.1	101.3	100.2	160 904
2002-2003	158 369	160 140	101.1	101.4	100.3	160 657
2003-2004	157 557	159 320	101.1	101.4	100.3	159 834
2004-2005	156 321	158 071	101.1	101.4	100.3	158 580
2005-2006	154 414	156 143	101.1	101.4	100.3	156 647
2006-2007	152 536	154 245	101.1	101.4	100.3	154 740
2007-2008	151 324	153 026	101.1	101.4	100.3	153 515
2008-2009	150 983	152 692	101.1	101.4	100.3	153 181
2009-2010	151 282	153 007	101.1	101.4	100.3	153 498
2010-2011	152 236	153 984	101.1	101.4	100.3	154 475
2011-2012	153 461	155 233	101.1	101.4	100.3	155 727
2012-2013	154 768	156 565	101.1	101.4	100.3	157 064
2013-2014	155 714	157 531	101.1	101.4	100.3	158 032
2014-2015	155 713	157 536	101.1	101.4	100.3	158 034

Note: The data in column G summarize a series of calculations made for each university-level institution; the rounding-off of fractions creates discrepancies.

Appendix 3

Note concerning relative changes in full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment, the population aged 18 to 29, and university attendance rates

Student enrollment was established by comparing the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students for each year observed and forecast with the number of FTE students for the year 1999-2000; we then multiplied the result of each operation by 100. The last observation year, 1999-2000, represents the base number 100.

To establish the evolution of the population, we considered the entire population of Québec aged 18 to 29. We compared the population for each year observed and forecast with the estimated population for the year 1999; we multiplied the result of each operation by 100. 1999 represents the base number, 100, for the evolution of the population.

With regard to the university attendance rate, we compared the FTE student enrollment for each observation year with the population of Québec aged 18 to 29. This gave an annual measurement of university attendance. Next, we established a rate by comparing the annual measurement for 1977-1978 to 1998-1999 with the measurement for 1999-2000; we then multiplied the result of each operation by 100. 1999-2000 represents the base number, 100, for university attendance. For the forecast period, 2000-2001 to 2014-2015, we used the university attendance values given in the table in [Appendix 2](#), column E.