

Driving Ontario's Prosperity through University Research and Innovation

Building a Stronger Ontario through University Research

In Ontario's rapidly changing economy, innovation is critical. Ontario's universities play a key role in producing the ground-breaking research that fuels innovation, attracts global investment and helps Ontario become a global leader in fast-growing sectors.



Ontario university research is at the forefront of:

- Developing highly skilled talent through research internships and work-integrated learning opportunities, training the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.
- Conducting ground-breaking research that is driving growth in high-demand fields, such as life sciences, electric vehicles, critical minerals, advanced manufacturing and more.
- Generating and protecting intellectual property (IP), strengthening economic competitiveness and ensuring the benefits of publicly funded research stay in Ontario.
- Commercializing innovative ideas to create products, services, start-ups and jobs across Ontario.

720+
companies

were created in life sciences from 2017-22 across 10 universities, including more than 290+ research-based companies and more than 300+ student originated companies.

\$30B+

cumulative amount university research has boosted provincial productivity by since 1971, according to the [Conference Board of Canada](#).

\$3.6M+

amount universities spent in sponsored research in 2022-23.

A Commitment to Safeguarding Research

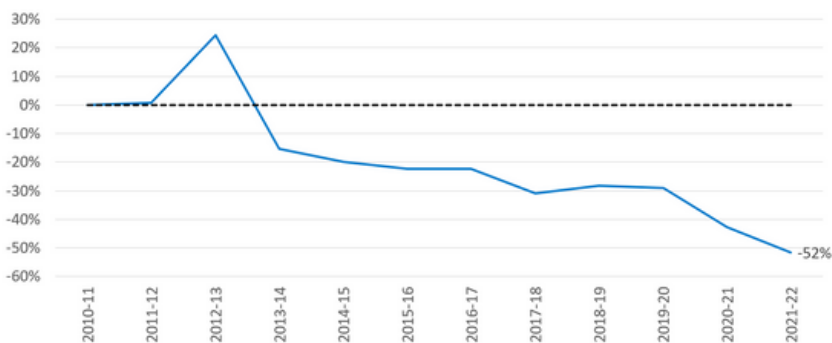
In today's rapidly shifting geopolitical environment, institutions must prioritize both research security and openness and collaboration. Ontario's universities have developed [A Shared Commitment by Universities to Protect Ontario's Research](#), guiding institutions to implement reasonable and risk-based measures to safeguard research investments – ensuring it continues to deliver tangible benefits within Ontario.



Greater Investment to Keep Ontario Competitive

Over the last decade, there has been a steady decline in provincial research funding in Ontario.

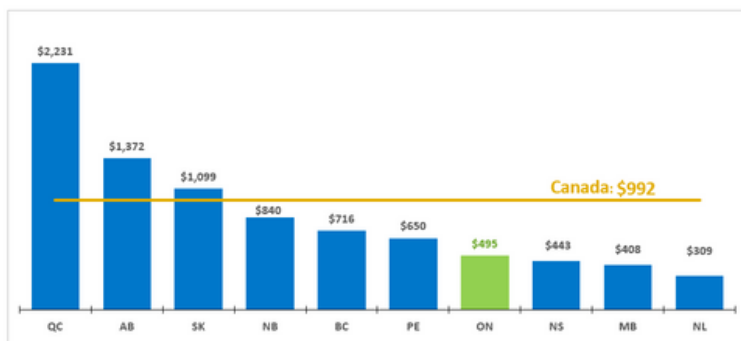
Change in Ontario Research Funding (Inflation Adjusted)



Notes: Includes funding for universities and affiliated hospitals.
Sources: Council of Ontario Finance Officers (COFO), Statistics Canada, Table 18-10-0005-01.

Ontario invests less in research (8% of total research funding received) than its counterparts in Alberta (21%) and Quebec (22%). For example, in 2020-21, Ontario contributed \$495 of research funding per student, almost half of the national average (\$992 per student FTE).

Provincial Research Funding Per Student FTE (2020-21): Jurisdiction Comparison



Source: Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO).
Source: 2020-21 Enrolment Tables Statistics Canada (Table: 37-10-0011-01)

In 2020-21, the province of Quebec contributed **\$547M** in provincial research funding to institutions, compared to **\$254M** in Ontario.

Why a Dynamic University Research and Innovation Ecosystem is Important

Ontario's future economic growth depends on continuing to invest in a properly funded university system.

Without proper investment in university research, researchers, entrepreneurs, local and global industries and students will be drawn to other jurisdictions.

Ensuring Ontario has a dynamic university research and innovation ecosystem will help keep Ontario competitive, both with jurisdictions across Canada and globally.



Declining Investments in Research Means...

- Reduced IP development and commercialization capacity
- Lack of employment opportunities and a slowing talent pipeline
- Brain drain of highly skilled workforce to other jurisdictions
- Loss of business investment to other jurisdictions