Ontario-Educated Nurses at a Glance: 2026

College of Nurses of Ontario
Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers de l'Ontario

Ontario-educated nurses are registrants who have graduated from a nursing program in Ontario.

Ontario-Educated Nurses Supply Snapshot

153,321 Ontario-educated nurse renewals in 2026

2.2% increase in Ontario-educated renewals in 2026 compared to 2025

Ontario-educated registrants make up **77.8% of the nursing supply**

In 2025, **8,291 new registrants were Ontario-educated**, a 4.7% increase from 2024

62.6% of new registrants were Ontario-educated in 2025

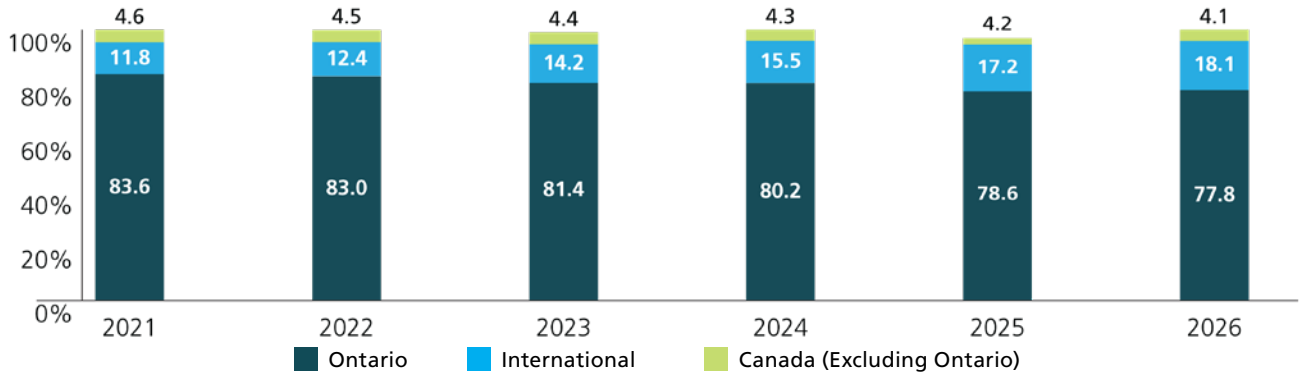
Ontario-Educated Nurse Renewals Continue to Increase

Table 1. Overall Ontario-educated nurse renewals in the General and Extended Classes

Nurse Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
RN	90,138	91,082	91,717	92,744	93,704	94,861
RPN	47,532	48,697	49,348	50,443	51,889	53,671
NP	3,228	3,464	3,674	3,918	4,146	4,443
Dual RN/RPN	354	334	305	265	258	346
Total	**141,252**	**143,577**	**145,044**	**147,370**	**149,997**	**153,321**
Year-over-year Change %	**1.6%**	1.6%	1.0%	1.6%	1.8%	2.2%

Ontario-Educated Nurses Make up the Majority of the Nursing Supply

Figure 1. Proportion of overall nurse renewals by location of education



Ontario-Educated Nurses: 2026 Highlights

Summary

Ontario-educated nurses continue to form most of the nursing supply and remain the largest source of new nurses entering the profession. In 2026, more than 153,000 Ontario-educated nurses renewed their registration, representing 77.8% of the nursing supply. Although the Ontario-educated share of the supply has gradually declined as the number of internationally educated nurses (IENs) has grown, Ontario-educated graduates continue to account for most new registrants and demonstrate consistently strong first-time renewal rates and employment outcomes. These findings highlight Ontario's nursing education programs in sustaining the province's health care workforce. More details can be found in the highlights below and in the *Nursing Statistics Report 2026*.

Ontario-Educated Nurses Remain the Largest Source of the Nursing Supply

Ontario-educated nurses continue to account for most of the nursing supply. In 2026, there were 153,321 Ontario-educated nurses who renewed their registration, representing a 2.2% increase from 2025. Ontario-educated nurses remain the dominant source of nursing supply, representing 77.8% of the total nursing supply. Although the number of Ontario-educated renewals continues to increase each year, growth in IEN renewals has outpaced growth among Ontario-educated nurses. As a result, Ontario-educated nurses made up 83.6% of the total nursing supply in 2021 and 77.8% in 2026, a decline of almost six percentage points over the past six years.

Figure 2. Proportion of renewals by location of education

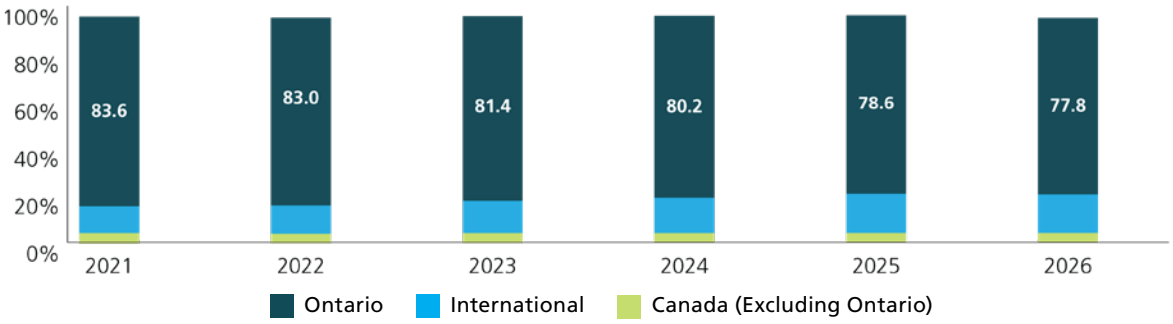
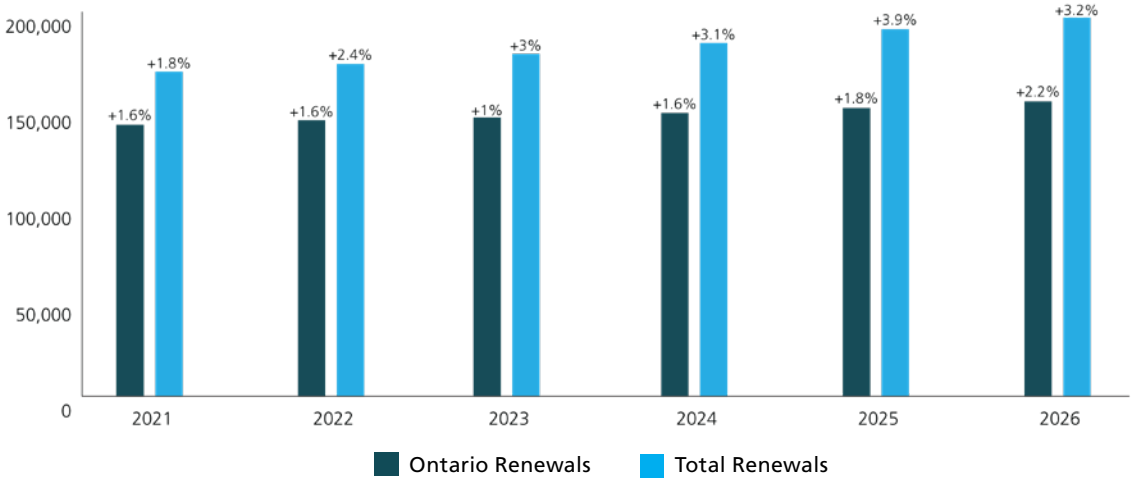


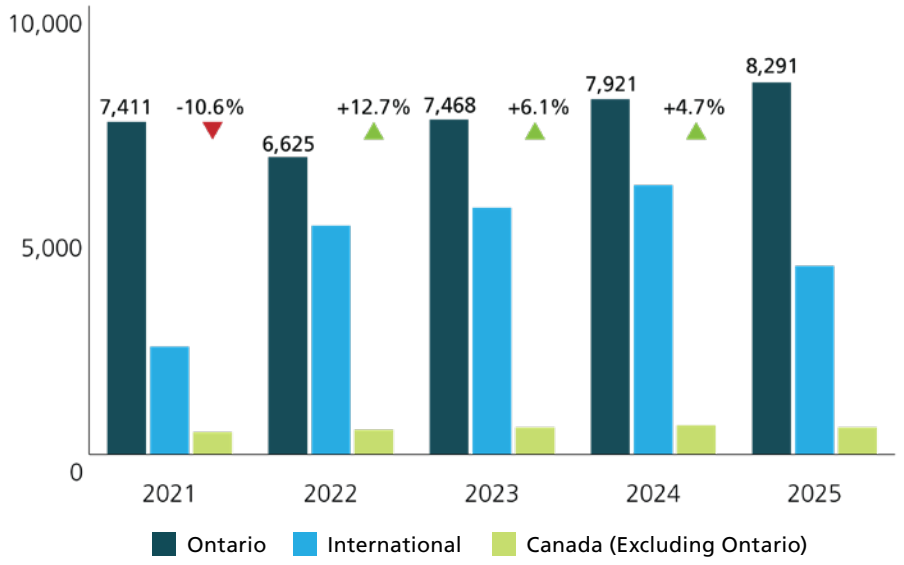
Figure 3. Growth in Ontario-educated nurse renewals and total nurse renewals



Most New Registrants are Educated in Ontario

In 2025, there were 8,291 Ontario-educated new registrants (a 4.7% increase year-over-year), representing 62.6% of new registrants. This is an increase from 54.4% of all new registrants in 2024, as gains in the supply are less heavily influenced by new internationally educated nurses. Growth in the proportion of new Ontario registrants is being driven by new RPNs in 2025 (an 11.3% increase year-over-year).

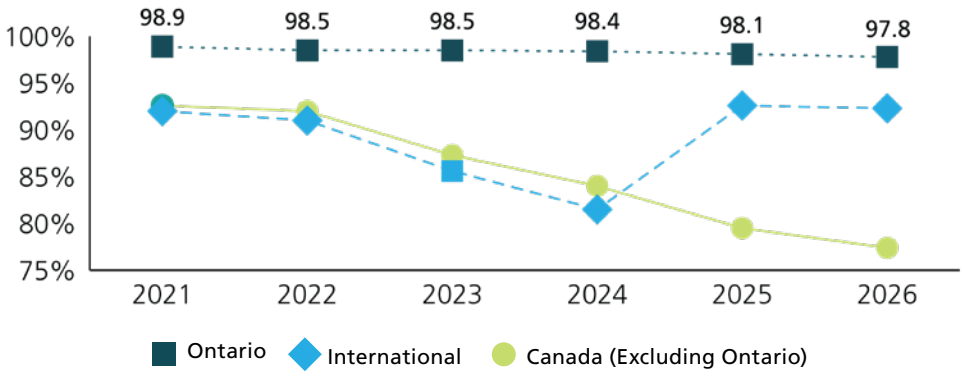
Figure 4. New registrants by location of education



Ontario-Educated Nurses Continue to Demonstrate Strong Renewal Rates

Ontario-educated nurses consistently demonstrate the highest first-time renewal rates. In 2026, Ontario-educated nurses had a first-time renewal rate of 97.8% and rates have remained steady, around 98% since 2021. High first-time renewal rates suggest that first-year retention is stable, and that once Ontario graduates enter the nursing profession, they are likely to remain registered in the subsequent year.

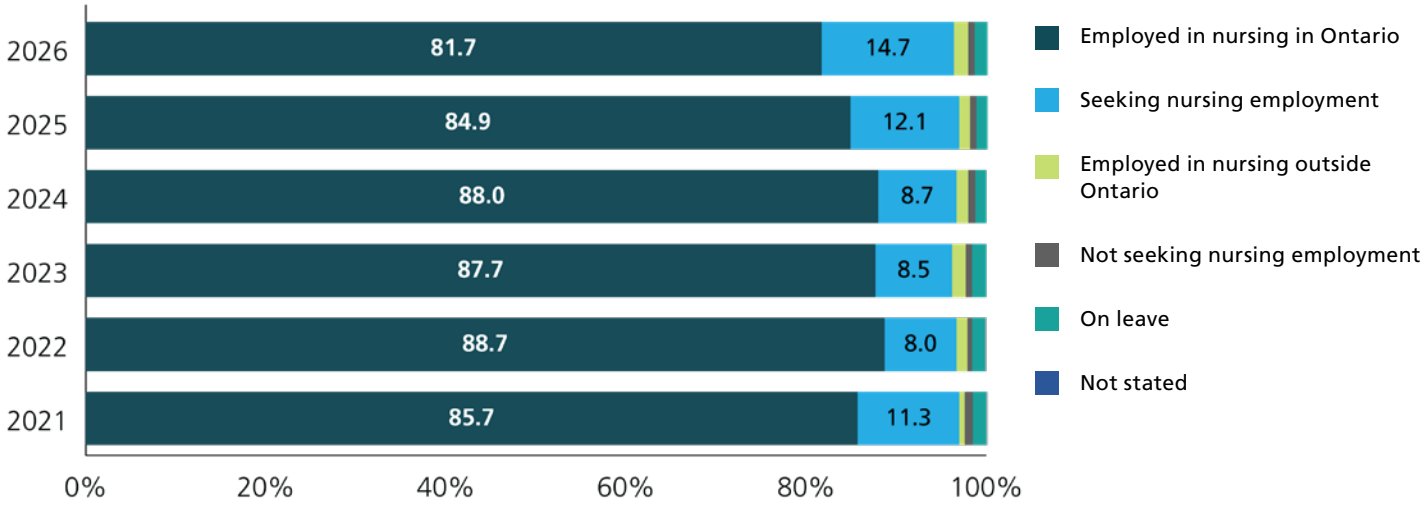
Figure 5. First-time renewal rates by location of education



Early Career Employment Has Become More Challenging

Among Ontario-educated nurses at first-time renewal in 2026, 81.7% were employed in nursing in Ontario, with 14.7% seeking nursing employment and 1.6% reported working outside Ontario. These are more favourable outcomes at first-time renewal compared to IENs. Even though Ontario-educated nurses continue to have stronger employment outcomes compared to IENs, some trends point to weakening employment opportunities for new nurses. In 2026, while 81.7% of Ontario-educated nurses at first-time renewal were employed in nursing in Ontario, this is a decrease from 84.9% in 2025 and 88% in 2024. This pattern exists for all new nurses, as employment in Ontario at first-time renewal declined from 81.3% in 2021 to 73.3% in 2026. While Ontario-educated nurses are trending more favourably compared to the overall first-time renewal population, transition to employment appears to be taking longer than it did a couple years ago.

Figure 6. Proportion of Ontario-educated nurses by employment status at first-time renewal



Ontario-educated nurses remain the largest source of the province's nursing workforce and supply, contributing the majority of practicing nurses and new registrants to the profession. While the composition of the workforce continues to evolve with increasing contributions from IENs, Ontario graduates continue to demonstrate strong first-year renewal rates and favourable early career employment outcomes.

Explore more nursing statistics:

Nursing Statistics Report 2026
Nursing Statistics Report 2026: Appendix A
Nursing Statistics Report 2026: Appendix B
Nursing Statistics Report 2026: Appendix C