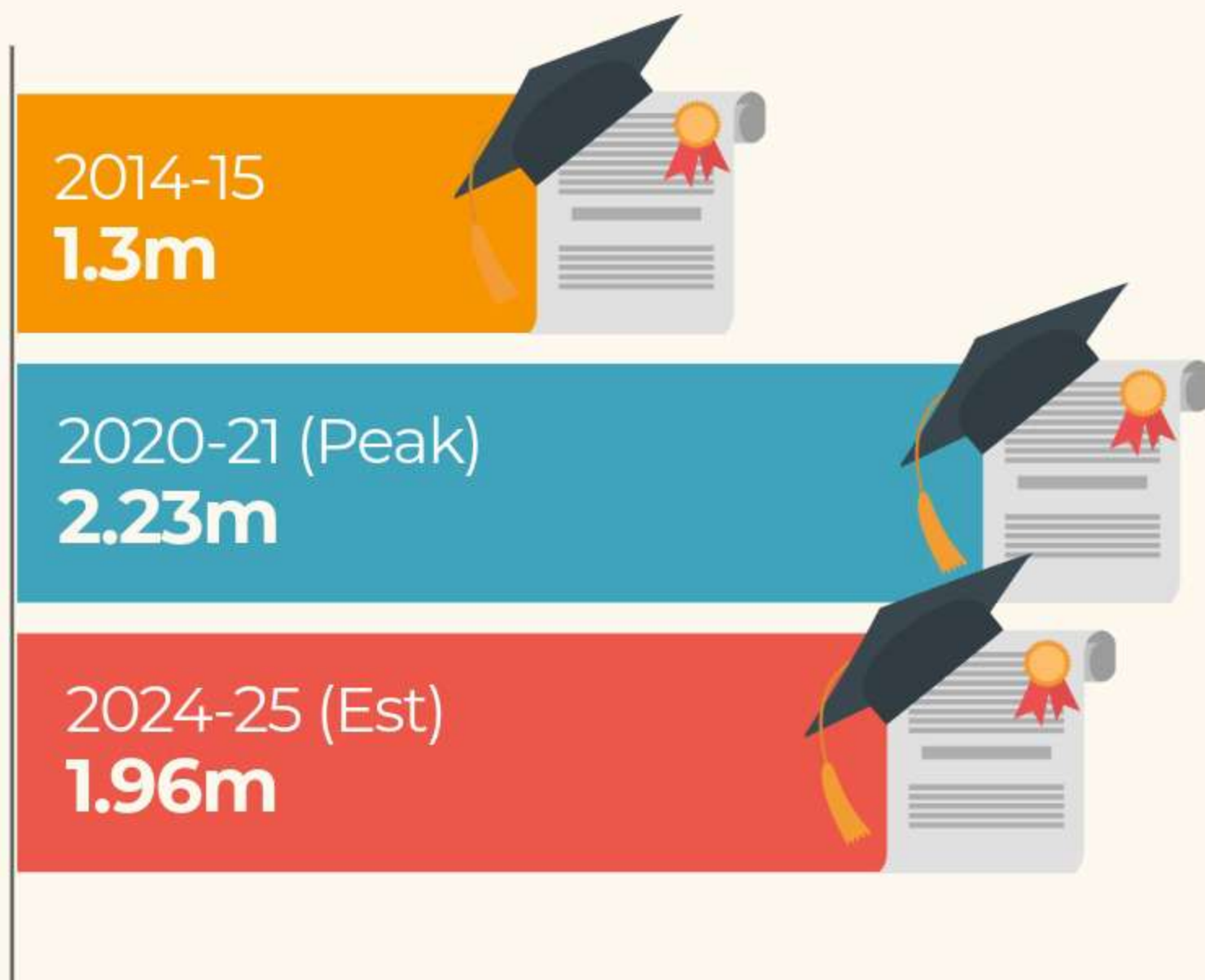


Higher Education & Human Capital

262,000 University Students Lost Since Peak; Enrolment Falls 11.8% in Three Years

University Enrollment in Pakistan - (Millions)



Source: Gallup & Gilani Pakistan
(www.gallup-international.com;
www.gallup.com.pk www.gilanifoundation.com)



(Also emailed*/faxed separately)



PRESS RELEASE

Big Data Analysis Higher Education & Human Capital

262,000 University Students Lost Since Peak; Enrolment Falls 11.8% in Three Years

(Islamabad), 22nd June, 2026

Pakistan's university enrolment has entered a period of decline after a decade of rapid expansion.

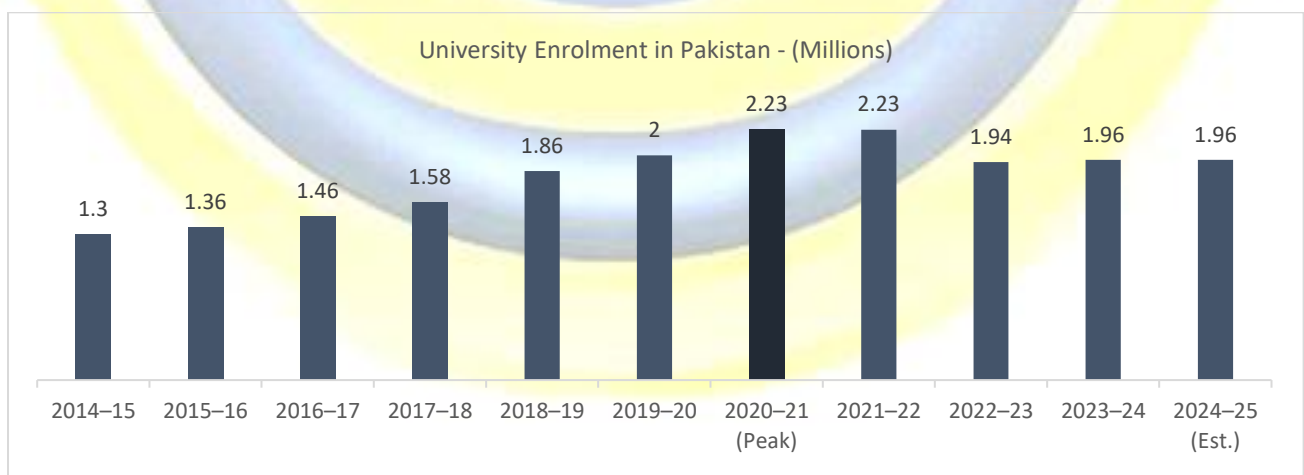
According to data from the Pakistan Economic Survey 2025, total university enrolment peaked at 2.23 million students in 2020–21. By 2024–25 (estimated), enrolment had fallen to 1.96 million, representing a loss of approximately 262,000 students and a decline of 11.8% from the peak.

The decline follows a prolonged growth phase. University enrolment increased steadily from 1.30 million in 2014–15 to 2.23 million by 2020–21, driven by expansion in higher education capacity, new campuses, and increased access to university education. Over this period, enrolment grew by more than 900,000 students.

The trend has since reversed. After reaching its peak, enrolment fell to 1.94 million in 2022–23, before recovering only marginally to an estimated 1.96 million in 2024–25. Despite this stabilization, enrolment remains substantially below its peak level.

The decline coincides with a period marked by economic uncertainty, high inflation, rising education costs, currency depreciation, and increased outward migration. While Pakistan spent much of the last decade expanding access to higher education, the emerging challenge may no longer be capacity alone, but sustaining student participation and ensuring attractive opportunities for graduates.

The data suggest that the policy debate is shifting from how many university seats exist to how effectively higher education connects students with economic opportunity.



Source: Gallup & Gilani Pakistan
(www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk; www.gilanifoundation.com)

This analysis was conducted and released by Gallup & Gilani Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. It draws on higher education enrolment data published in the Pakistan Economic Survey 2025 (Chapter 10: Education), covering university enrolment trends from 2014–15 to 2024–25 (estimated).



Opinion Poll from Gallup Pakistan
The Pakistani Affiliate of Gallup
International



GILANI RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

Monday, 22nd June 2026

(2 Pages, English version Only)

Gilani Research Foundation is a not-for-profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policymakers, and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe.

Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently, Dr. Gilani, who holds a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

If you have any further questions regarding this poll, please feel free to contact us.

*Best Regards,
Gallup Pakistan*

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Daily Gilani Poll
2025



of Gallup Pakistan
(1980-2025)