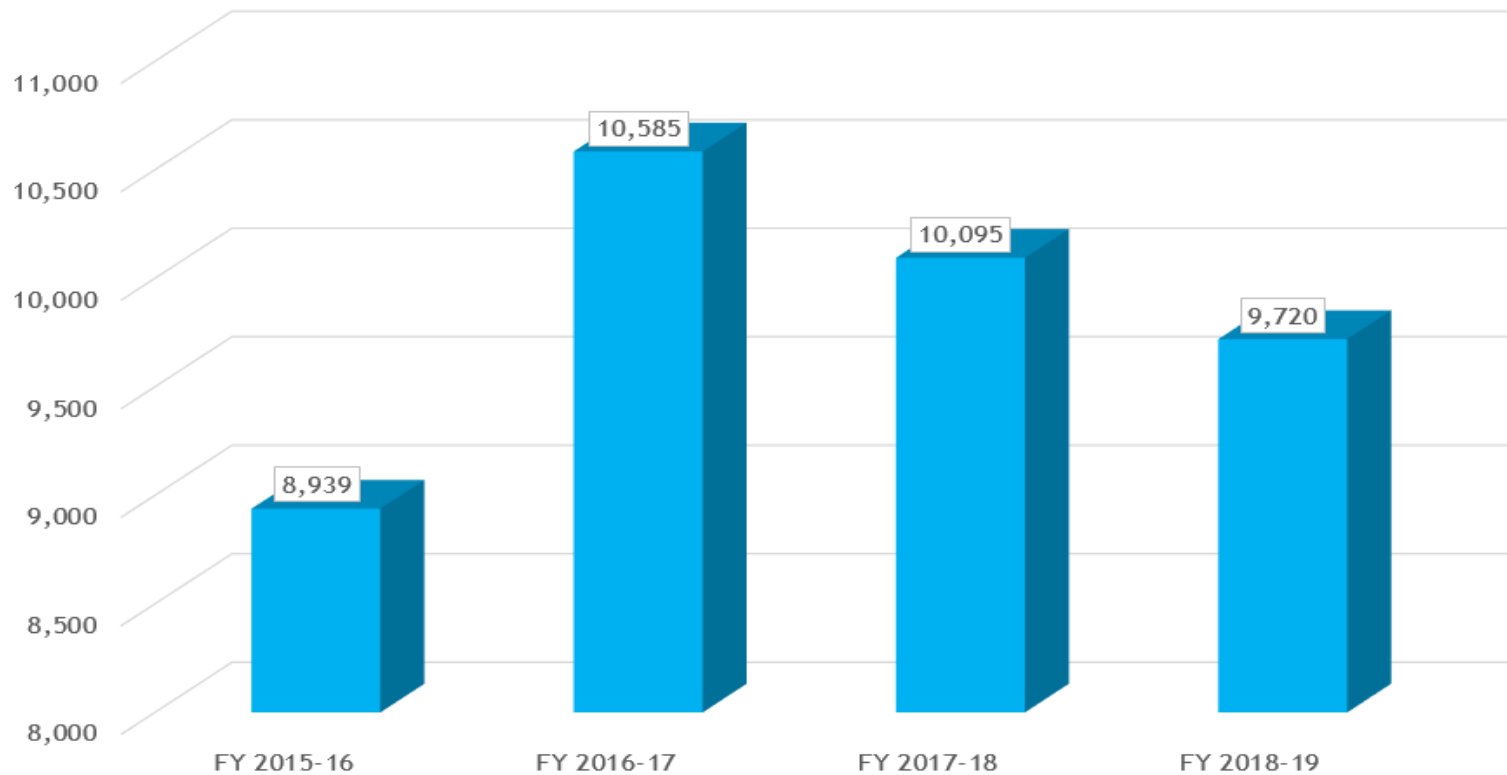


Number of Authentications and Apostilles Issued (FY 2015-16 – FY 2018-19)⁴⁶

The Secretary of State’s Office is the state agency which authenticates documents to be sent to another country. In order for the Secretary of State’s Office to authenticate a document, it must be signed by a public official whose signature is on file with the Secretary of State, which includes notaries public. Some examples of documents that are brought in for authentications are vital records, school transcripts, international adoption papers, etc. Certifications of documents being sent to a country that is a member of the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents are called Apostilles. Certifications of documents being sent to a country that is not a member of the Hague Convention are called Authentications, and require additional certification from the U.S. State Department.

Number of Authentications and Apostilles Issued



⁴⁶ S.C. House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “Agency Presentation – Notaries, boards and commissions, authentications, and apostilles (December 5, 2019),” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” under “Secretary of State, Office of the,” and under “Meetings,” <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/AgencyWebpages/SecretaryofState/SoS%20Presentation%20-%20Notaries,%20Boards%20and%20Commissions.pdf> (accessed January 21, 2020), slide 21-24 and 26. Hereinafter “Notaries Presentation.”