

LMI SOURCES

Community Accounts

WHAT IS IT?

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Department of Finance (through its Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency, or NLSA) has developed an innovative information system which offers users a large amount of data at the community, regional, and provincial level. This data can be customized in a number of ways and can be downloaded in formats that allow for further customization and analysis. Types of data include those for: demographics; health; income, consumption and leisure; education, literacy, skills and training; employment and working conditions; production; and others.

REASONS TO USE (STRENGTHS)

- **Many indicators relevant to the labour market** – You can use a large number of the indicators available on Community Accounts to explore labour market trends and implications, among them; data on labour market status, demographics, income, migration and immigration, education and training, as well as many others.
- **Large variety of included data sources** – Community Accounts pulls together data from a large number of sources, including: Census, Taxfiler data, and many other sources from Statistics Canada. Access to several different sources of data gives you more options for examining and understanding a labour market situation.
- **Access to the highest level of local geography** – One of the main strengths of Community Accounts is that it provides data and indicators at a level of local geography that is not usually available from many other sources. Some data is even available down the community level. In addition, Community Accounts creates some additional levels of geography that are not available through any other source (for example, Rural Secretariat Regions). The more levels of geography available, the better able you are to determine labour market trends and impacts at a level of geography of interest to you.
- **Good coverage of some indicators for traditionally underrepresented groups** – Data for groups such as immigrants and Indigenous Peoples are also available from Community Accounts.

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- **Access to a variety of LMI products and formats** – Community Accounts not only provides customizable data in tabular form, it also presents data in a variety of other formats, including indicator charts, written profiles, as well as a data mapping suite for geographical references.

AREAS OF CAUTION (WEAKNESSES)

- **Timeliness** – Different indicators on the Community Accounts website are updated at different times, meaning there is no regular schedule by which various indicators are updated. This is particularly true for indicators that are specially created by the NLSA itself for inclusion on Community Accounts (such as those Rural Secretariat Regions). Consequently, even when a raw data set you are looking for is available through other sources (such as Statistics Canada), it may not be immediately available on Community Accounts in a form, or at the level of geography, that you would find beneficial.
- **Inconsistent availability of different indicators for different geographies** – While a large amount of data is available on Community Accounts, this tends to become more limited as you move into smaller or less commonly used geographies. Therefore, in many cases, to get the full range of indicators you are interested in, you may only be able to find acceptable quality at the broader geographic levels.

RELATED LINKS

- **Community Accounts (main page)** - <https://nl.communityaccounts.ca/Default.asp>
- **Community Accounts (training)** - <https://nl.communityaccounts.ca/tutorials.asp>