

LMI SOURCES

Population Projections

WHAT IS IT?

Population projections for Newfoundland and Labrador are updated regularly by the Department of Finance. The latest projections made available were produced in October 2023 and cover the time period from 1986 to 2043 (with forecasted data occurring from 2024 to 2043). You can download these projections under one of three scenarios (low, medium and high) and for a number of different groupings including: age groups, economic zones, regional health authorities, the St. John's CMA, and Rural Secretariat Regions. The files can also be downloaded either as a PDF (if you are only looking for a quick visual summary) or as an Excel document (if you wish to examine population changes and trends in more detail).

REASONS TO USE (STRENGTHS)

- **Useful indicator of future labour supply** – Because population is directly tied to the number of potential people available for future labour supply in the province (an important factor in preparing for the future successful labour market), you can use this data source to determine where challenges might occur before they happen. In fact, regularly reviewing population projections such as those here, in conjunction with educational attainment data, is one of the better ways to gauge how effectively the province's labour supply will be in meeting demands down the road.
- **Detailed categories for some indicators** – The main two categories captured as part of population projections are those related to age groups and various levels of geography. Because these categories have many subgroups associated with them (for example, age is presented in five-year age groups, while data for economic zones is available in 20 smaller geographic areas), these projections do a good job of capturing smaller, more useful levels of indicators rather than just broad groupings.
- **Projections available under different scenarios** – The Department of Finance's population projections fall under three different scenarios - low, medium and high - which are based on variations in the fertility rate, level of mortality, and migration level (see link on **Assumptions** below). While the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador LMI analysis

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generally uses the medium scenario, you are free to use whichever scenario best matches your current research needs.

- **Provides some supplemental commentary/reports** – In addition to making projection data available in both PDF and Excel format, each update to the projections also provides an overview of the general provincial projections (including charts) as well as a section containing projection-related reports in a number of specialized areas (e.g., specific local geographies, issues and implications of demographic change, etc.)

AREAS OF CAUTION (WEAKNESSES)

- **Timeliness** – While the Department of Finance’s projections are regularly updated there may be occasions where the projections have not been updated recently and may not account for the latest factors which could affect population levels. Always look at the date of release and time frame covered for any projection data.

RELATED LINKS

- **Population Projections (main page)** - <https://www.gov.nl.ca/fin/economics/pop-default/>
- **Information on Population Projection data** - <https://www.gov.nl.ca/fin/economics/pop-about/>
- **Download page for Projections** - <https://www.gov.nl.ca/fin/economics/pop-projections/>
- **Demographic overview of Population Projections** - <https://www.gov.nl.ca/fin/economics/pop-overview/>
- **Demographic reports for Population Projections** - <https://www.gov.nl.ca/fin/economics/mnarchives/#demographicreports>
- **Definitions for Population Projections** - <https://www.gov.nl.ca/fin/economics/pop-definitions/>
- **Assumptions Used for Population Projections** - <https://www.gov.nl.ca/fin/economics/pop-assumptions/>