



Municipality of the County of Inverness

Department of Municipal Affair

**Department of Municipal Affairs** and Housing

Municipal Profile and Financial Condition Indicators Results

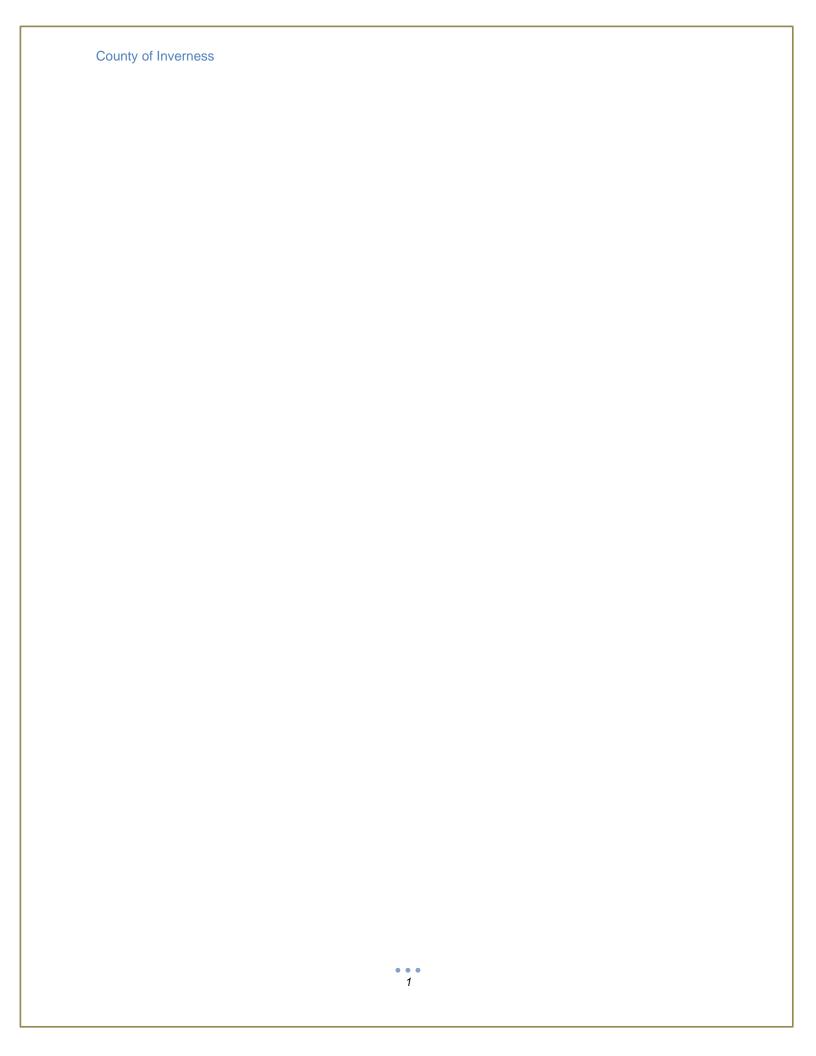


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# Introduction

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing compiles municipal indicators on behalf of the Nova Scotia Government and Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia (AMANS) that focus on three areas:

- financial matters;
- · administration of the municipality; and
- characteristics of the community.

This report creates a snapshot from those financial and demographic statistics to help community members and decision makers better understand:

- the municipality in which they live;
- · the municipality's key characteristics; and
- the municipality's financial risks.

The snapshot makes it easy to:

- compare the Three-Year Change in Tax Base indicator to understand the municipality's revenue growth in comparison to cost of living; and
- use the change in population to indicate whether a community's population is growing or declining and its potential impact on municipal revenues and expenses.

# **Chapter 1 - Highlights**

# **Municipal Highlights**

# **About the Municipality**

Name: County of Inverness

County: Inverness County

Approximate size: 3,815 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of dwellings: 8,479



Figure 1- Location of Municipality

# **Population Highlights**

Population 2016: 13,190

Population 5-year trend: -4.3%

County 5-year trend: -4.3%

Demographic trend: Aging

Up to 19 Yrs. 18%

20 to 59 Yrs. 45%

Over 60 Yrs. 37%

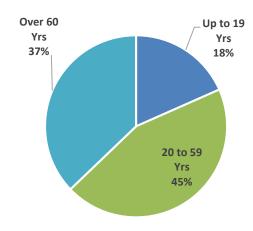


Figure 2 - Age Breakdown

# **Financial Highlights**

#### Revenue

Total consolidated revenue: \$29.1 million

Revenue generated from own revenue<sup>1</sup>: 92%

Total operating revenue: \$11.9 million

Largest operating revenue: 83%

Property taxes and payments in lieu of Taxes

**Expenses** 

Total consolidated expenses: \$28.2 million Total operating fund expenses: \$11.5 million

Largest operating fund expense: 26%

General government services

## **Annual Surplus**

Annual consolidated surplus(deficit): \$1.0 million Consolidated accumulated surplus (deficit): \$30.5 million Annual operating surplus (deficit): \$433 K

#### **Debt**

Total consolidated long-term debt: \$35.1 million \$1.4 million Total general fund long-term debt:

Operating fund bank indebtedness: \$0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Consolidated revenue excluding government transfers

# **Financial Condition Indicators Highlights**

Overall Assessment Green (low risk)

The overall Financial Conditions Index assessment for the County of Inverness is green (low risk). This means that, although the Municipality has a few challenges, it is considered low risk for fiscal instability.

As shown in the House model below, Inverness's FCIs are comprised of:

Low risk (green): 13 indicators

Moderate risk (yellow): 0 indicator

High risk (red): 0 indicator

Details on the individual FCI assessments and the Municipality's specific challenges are provided below.

For more in-depth information, refer to Chapter 4.



# **Two-Year Comparison of Financial Condition Indicators**

BASE	2019	2018	+/-	2019 Rural Avg.
3-year Change in Tax Base*	7.4%	5.1%	2.2%	6.9%
Reliance on a Single Business or Institution	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	0.2%	3.3%
Residential Tax Effort	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	0.0%	2.1%
STRUCTURE				
Uncollected Taxes	<b>8.7%</b>	9.9%	-1.1%	8.2%
5 Year Budget Accuracy	<b>5/5</b>	<b>5/5</b>	0	3.6/5
Operating Reserves	82.7%	87.7%	-5.0%	48.7%
Debt Service	<b>1</b> .9%	3.7%	-1.8%	4.3%
Outstanding Operating Debt	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%
Undepreciated Assets	55.8%	<b>59.7%</b>	-3.9%	60.1%
ROOF				
Deficits in the Last 5 Years	0/5	0/5	0	0.3/5
Liquidity	5.2	4.2	1.0	3.6
Reliance on Government Transfers	6.5%	4.6%	2.0%	3.4%
Combined Reserve	<b>104.9%</b>	113.5%	-8.6%	79.6%



# **Chapter 2 - Municipal Profile**

Municipalities are diverse and operate within unique demographic and economic characteristics. These characteristics have a significant impact on municipal performance and subsequent strategies required to ensure a sustainable environment. This chapter outlines the unique demographic and economic characteristics of the Municipality, specifically its composition, population trends, demographics, median household income levels, employment rates, and educational attainment. The municipal profile trends could have impacts on the current and potential future tax base for a municipality.

# **Municipal Composition**

Name: County of Inverness

County: Inverness County

Government: 6 elected councillors (including the Warden)

Geographic area: 3,815 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of dwellings: 8,479

# **Population Trends**

Population: 13,190

Provincial population: 1.5%

20-year trend: Declining [supported by Figure 3 below)

Age trend: Majority between 40-69 years of age [supported by Figure 4 below)

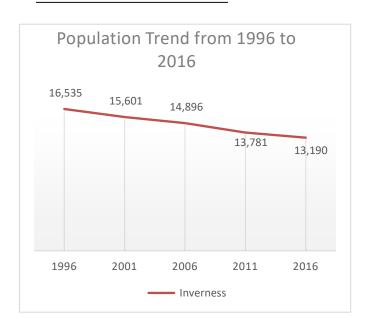


Figure 3-- Population from 1996–2016. Source: Statistics Canada

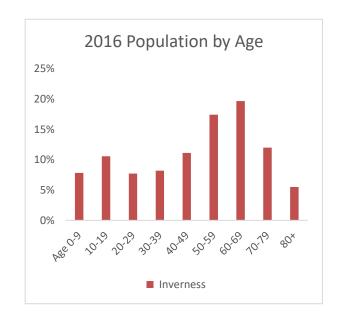


Figure 4- Population by Age, Source: Statistics Canada

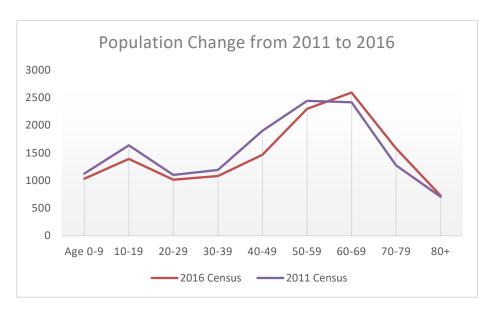


Figure 5- Population Age Change from 2011 to 2016. Source: Statistics Canada

According to the 2016 Census, similar to most rurals in Nova Scotia, the majority of Inverness's citizens are between the ages of 40 and 69.

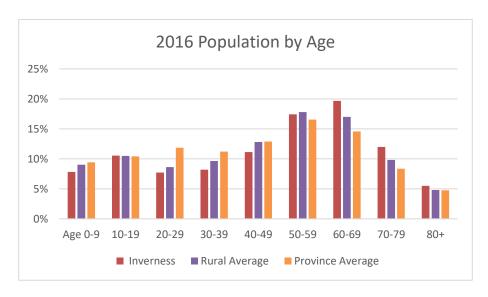


Figure 6 - Comparison of Population by Age for 2011 and 2016. Source: Statistics Canada

#### **Economic Indicators**

Along with population trends, employment rates and median household income are important economic indicators. Education levels can also play a crucial role in economic and social progress and can help improve income distribution. These factors provide an indication of the wellbeing of the economy and labour force.

	2016 Census	2011 Census	+/-	Rural Average
Median Household Income	\$60,467	\$53,194	\$7,273	\$57, 294
Employment Rate	46.8%	48.8%	-2.0%	50.1%
Education Beyond High School	56.7%	51.3%	5.4%	49.4%

Source: 2011 and 2016 Statistics Canada

Median household income: Inverness's median household income is higher than the

Provincial rural average and it has increased since 2011.

In a healthy economy, the employment rate is between Employment rate:

97% and 95%. The Inverness's employment rate is

below the Provincial rural average, and has decreased.

Education level: Inverness's education level is higher than the Provincial rural average

and has increased since 2011.

# **Chapter 3 - Financial Information**

#### **General Overview:**

Audited financial statements are presented on a consolidated basis. These consolidated financial statements present all municipal entities as one single reporting entity:

- · all the individual funds managed by the Municipality
- organizations or enterprises that the Municipality owns or controls, such as:
  - Water Utility
  - Eastern District Planning Commission (23%)
  - Inverness Municipal Housing Corporation

The Municipality's non-consolidated financial statements present only the individual funds managed by the Municipality, such as the General Operating Fund, General Capital Fund, Water Operating Fund, Water Capital Fund, Non-operating Reserve Fund, and the Operating Reserve Fund. Non-consolidated financial statements are reconciled but not audited.<sup>2</sup>

## **Financial Reporting Compliance:**

Audited financial statements and financial information return submitted:

Submission of financial information:

Financial statements include:

Remuneration and Expenses for Elected Officials and CAO/Clerk Note: yes

Unqualified Opinion:

Quarterly Expenditure report posted online:

Summary Expenditure Report submitted:

yes

Statement of Estimates and assessment information submitted:

yes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Please be advised that, although the Department reconciles, at a high level, a municipality's non-consolidated financial statements to the consolidated financial statements, the non-consolidated financial statements are usually not audited nor presented in full accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Annually, municipalities are required to submit their financial information by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### Revenue:

# \$29.1 M

## 2019 Consolidated Revenue

Total consolidated revenue: \$29.1 million

Largest revenue: 52%

Sale of Services

Revenue generated from own revenue<sup>4</sup>: 92%

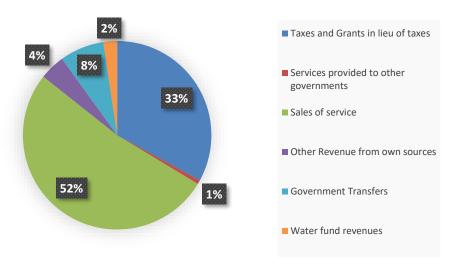


Figure 7- Consolidated Revenue Source: 2019 Financial Information Return (FIR)

The graph above and table below show the Municipality's revenue divided into six categories on a consolidated basis.

#### Consolidated Revenue

Taxes and Grants-in-lieu of taxes:

Services provided to other governments:

0.2 million

Sales of services:

15.2 million

Other revenue from own sources:

1.3 million

Government Transfers:

2.2 million

Net Income from government business enterprises:

n/a

Water Fund revenues:

0.7 million

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Consolidated revenue excluding government transfers

# \$11.9 M

## 2019 General Operating Revenue

Total operating revenue: \$11.9 million

Largest revenue: 83%

Property taxes and payments in lieu of taxes

Uncollected Taxes: 8.7%

Reliance on Government transfers 6.5%

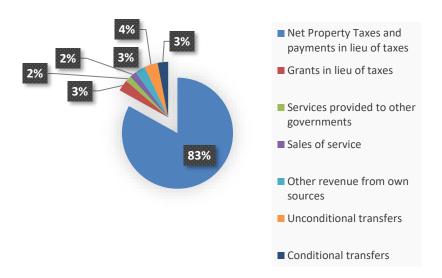


Figure 8 – General Operating Revenue Source: 2019 Financial Information Return (FIR)

The graph above and table below show the Municipality's operating fund revenue divided into 7 categories.

Net property taxes and payments in lieu of taxes:

9.9 million

Grants-in-lieu of taxes:

0.4 million

Services provided to other governments:

0.2 million

Sales of services:

0.4 million

Other revenue from own sources:

0.4 million

Unconditional transfers from other governments:

0.5 million

Conditional transfers from other governments:

0.4 million

## **Property Assessment Information**

Since property taxes are a primary source of revenue for most municipalities, special emphasis has been placed on reviewing assessment trends.

Three-year change in uniform assessment:<sup>5</sup> 7.4%

growth keeps pace with the cost of living

Highest reliance on a single business or institution:
Residential Tax Effort:

1.4% not dependent (low risk)1.7% has some flexibility

(low risk)

The line graphs below show the five-year trend for the residential and commercial portion of the municipality's uniform assessment.

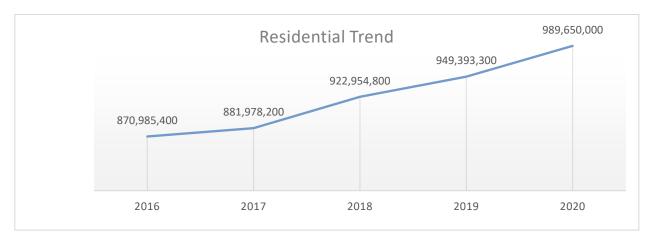


Figure 9- Residential assessment value over the last five years. Source: 2015-2019 Statement of Estimates Assessment

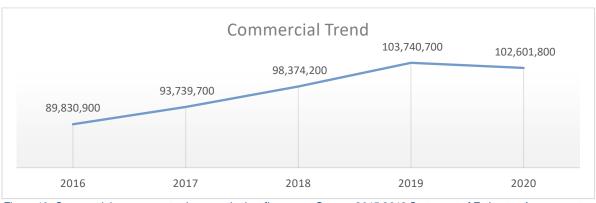


Figure 10- Commercial assessment value over the last five years. Source: 2015-2019 Statement of Estimates Assessment

<sup>5</sup> Uniform assessment is the value of a municipality's taxable property assessment plus the capitalized value of payments made in lieu of taxes.

# **Expenses:**

# \$28.2 M

## 2019 Consolidated Expenses

Total consolidated expenses: \$28.2 million

Largest expense: 53%

Public health services

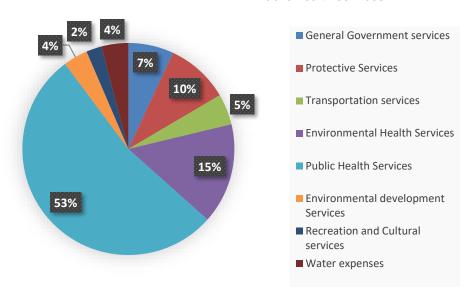


Figure 11- Consolidated Expenses Source: 2019 Financial Information Return

The graph above and table below show the Municipality's consolidated expenses divided into eight functions.

General government:	Consolidated Expenses \$2.0 million
Protective services:	2.7 million
Transportations:	1.3 million
Environmental health services:	4.3 million
Public health services:	15.0 million
Environmental development services:	1.0 million
Recreation and Cultural:	0.7 million
Extraordinary or special items:	n/a
Water expenses:	1.2 million

# \$11.5 M

## 2019 General Expenses

Total operating fund expenses: \$11.5 million

Largest operating fund expense: 26%

General government services

Operating reserves as percentage of expenses: 82.7% (low risk)

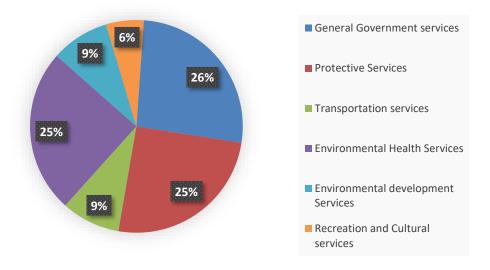


Figure 12- Operating General Fund Expenses. Source: 2019 Financial Information Return

#### As shown in the pie chart above, expenses for Inverness are comprised of:

General Government services:

2.9 million

Transportation services:

1.0 million

Environmental Health services:

2.9 million

Environmental Health services:

2.9 million

Public Health services:

1.0 million

Recreation and Cultural services:

0.7 million

The graph below shows the expenses by function for the municipal operations or General Operating Fund expenses compared to the provincial rural average.

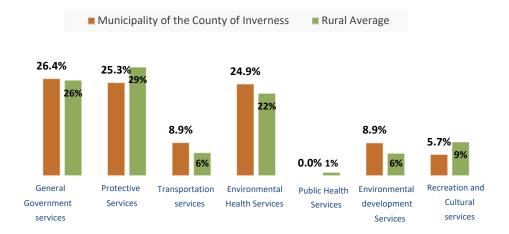


Figure 13 - Comparison of General Fund Expenses to Provincial Rural Average. Source: 2019 Financial Information Return

## **Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)**

Annual Surplus: Revenue - expenses

Note: This amount is added to the accumulated surplus (deficit).

Total annual consolidated surplus(deficit): \$1.0 million

Total consolidated accumulated surplus (deficit): \$30.5 million

Total annual operating surplus (deficit): \$432.6 K

Number of operating deficits in the last 5 years: 0

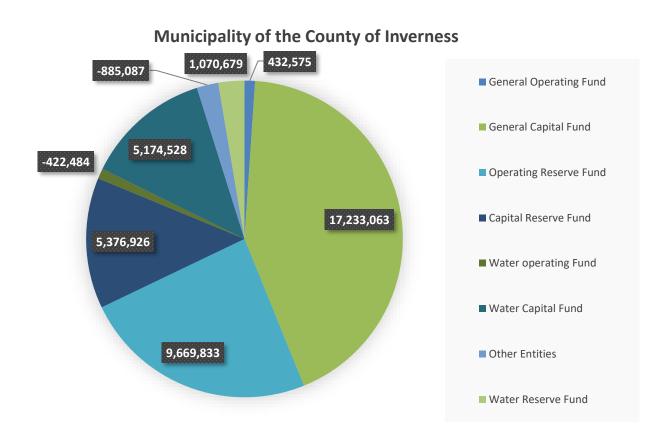


Figure 14- Consolidated Accumulated Surplus by Fund. Source: 2019 Financial Information Return

<sup>6</sup> The total of the individual funds submitted by the Municipality does not agree to the audited Financial Statements. The variance is \$7.2 million. The Department is working with the municipality to resolve the variance.

# Debt

Total consolidated long-term debt:	\$35.1 million
Total general operating fund long-term debt:	\$1.4 million
Debt Service Ratio:	1.9%
Operating fund bank indebtedness:	\$0
Outstanding operating debt as percentage of:	0.0%
Net Property Taxes/Payments in Lieu of Taxes, Grants in Lieu of Taxes, and Government Transfers	

# **Chapter 4 - Financial Condition Indicators: House Model**

The Financial Condition Indicators (FCIs)<sup>6</sup> condense multiple sources of information into a single visual g "House Model" graph. The House Model gives a quick visual of a municipality's strengths and possible areas where a municipality may want to focus its attention.

## The Model:

The Model consists of 13 indicators organized into base, structure and roof, focusing on:

- roof: 4 key performance indicators;
- structure: 6 financial indicators that concern management and debt; and
- base: 3 indicators relating to internal and external factors that could impact the municipality's revenue stream.

#### Risk thresholds:

Each indicator is assessed against a risk threshold:

- low risk (green);
- moderate risk (yellow); and
- high risk (red).

#### **Overall assessment:**

The Department calculates an overall assessment for fiscal instability:

- low risk (green): 10–13 FCIs meets low risk threshold;
- Moderate risk (yellow): 8–9 FCIs meets low risk threshold; and
- High risk (red): 7 or less FCIs meets low risk threshold.

## **Inverness's Overall Assessment**

Overall Assessment for: Inverness

Financial Condition: Low risk

The overall Financial Conditions Index assessment for the County of Inverness is green

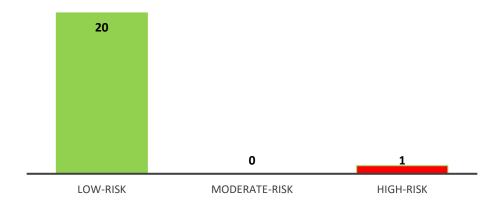
(low risk).

This means that, although the Municipality has a few challenges, it is considered low risk for fiscal

instability.

**Comparison:** Most of rurals municipalities are at low risk (see chart below).

# **Rural's Overall Results 2018-2019**



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## **Inverness's House Model**

As shown in the House model below, Inverness's FCIs are comprised of:

Low risk: 13 indicators

Moderate risk: 0 indicator

**High risk:** 0 indicator

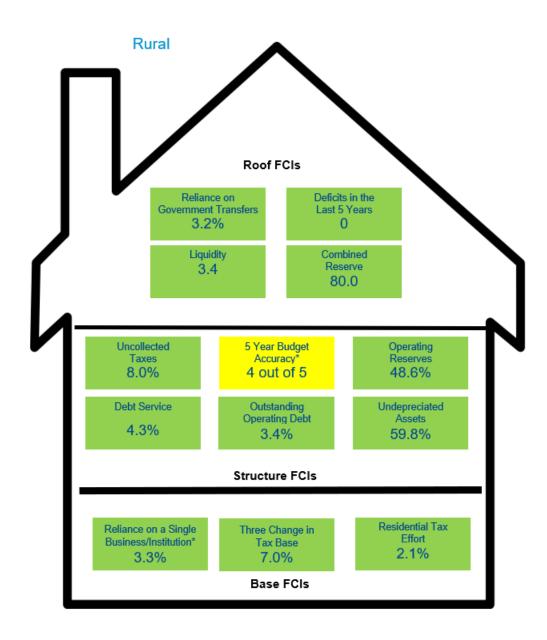
The House Model below provides details on the individual FCI assessments and the Municipality's specific challenges.



Please note FCIs are based on non-consolidated data.

# **Rurals's Average House Model**

The model below shows that, in general Nova Scotia's rurals are experiencing a few challenges.



On average, the Rurals' challenges are concerning budget accuracy

## The Base FCI Indicators

## Reliance on a Single Business or Institution

2019 Results: Low risk: 1.4%

The largest single commercial or institutional account is only

1.4% of the Municipality's total Uniform Assessment.

What does it mean? The Municipality is showing no vulnerability in this area.

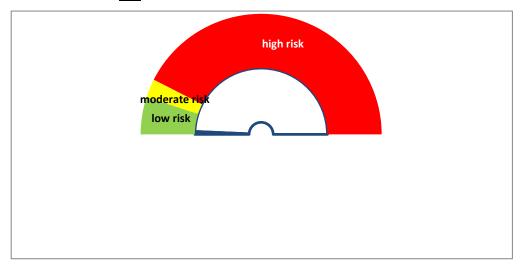
The Municipality's tax base is not dependent on one single

business or institution.

Calculation: Taxable assessment value of the largest business or institution = 1.4%

**Uniform Assessment** 





Inverness's tachometer is at 1.4%.

## **Three-Year Change in Tax Base**

2019 Results: Low risk: 7.4% growth

What does it mean? Growth is above the CPI % change of 5.2%.

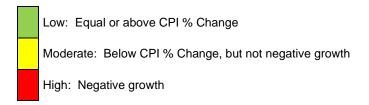
The municipality's tax base is strong to cover the cost of municipal services and

programs.

Current Uniform Assessment-Uniform Assessment 3 Years Prior = 7.4% growth

Uniform Assessment 3 Years Prior

#### **Risk Thresholds:**



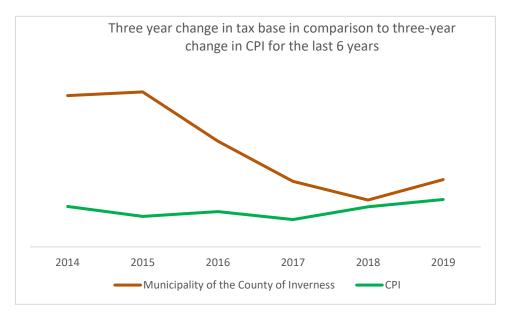


Figure 15- Three-year change in tax base as a comparison to CPI for the last six years, Source: Statement of Estimates Assessment and Statistics Canada.

#### **Residential Tax Effort**

**2019 Results:** Low risk: 1.7% of median household income is required to pay

the average tax bill.

What does it mean? The Municipality has some flexibility to increase the taxes, if

required.

This indicator helps council assess the affordability of municipal

taxes in relation to the current service levels.

**Calculation:** Total residential tax revenue per dwelling unit = 1.7%

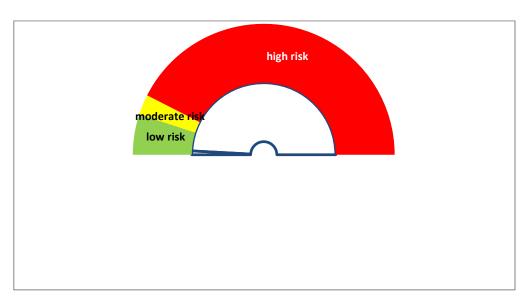
Median Household Income

**Risk Thresholds:** 

Low risk: less than 4%

Moderate risk: 4–6%

High risk: greater than 6%



Inverness's tachometer is at 1.7%.

# FCI Indicators - Structure (Management) Indicators

#### **Debt Service**

**2019 Results:** Low risk: 1.9%

What does it mean? 1.9% of owned source revenue is spent on principal and

interest payments.

With adequate cash flow, the Municipality has the potential for flexibility to increase borrowing levels to help finance

future capital expenditures.

**Calculation:** Principal and Interest Paid on Long-term Debt = 1.9%

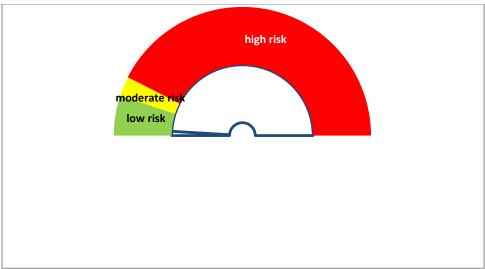
Total Own Source Operating Revenue

**Risk Thresholds:** 

Low risk: less than 10%

Moderate risk: 10–15%

High risk: greater than 15%



Inverness's tachometer is at 1.9%.

# **Outstanding Operating Debt**

2019 Results: Low risk: 0.0%

What does it mean? The Municipality is not carrying operating debt.

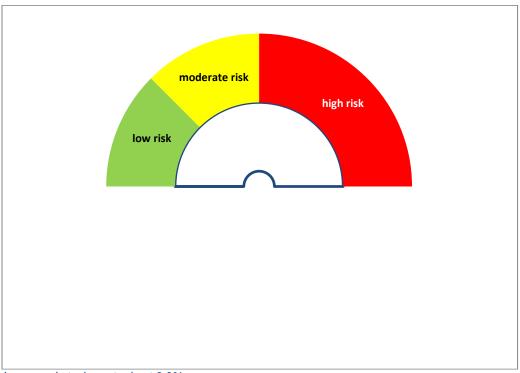
Total Outstanding Operating Debt = 0.0%

Net Property Taxes/Payments in Lieu of Taxes, Grants in Lieu of Calculation:

Taxes, and Government Transfers

**Risk Thresholds:** 

Low risk: less than 25% Moderate risk: 25-50% High risk: greater than 50%



Inverness's tachometer is at 0.0%.

# **Operating Reserve**

**2019 Results:** Low risk: 82.7%

What does it mean? The Municipality has set aside sufficient funds to help mitigate any unforeseen

risks or future needs.

This indicator provides the value of funds set aside for planned future need, to

smooth expenses or for unexpected expenses.

**Calculation:** <u>Total Operating Reserve Fund Balance</u> = 82.7%

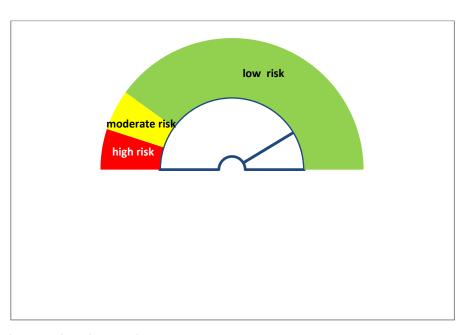
**Total Operating Expenditures** 

**Risk Thresholds:** 

Low risk: greater than 20%

Moderate risk: 10–20%

High risk: less than 10%



Inverness's tachometer is at 82.7%.

## **Uncollected Taxes**

**2019 Results:** Low risk: 8.7 %

What does it mean? The Municipality is managing tax revenue collection.

**Calculation:** <u>Total Cumulative Uncollected Taxes</u> = 8.7%

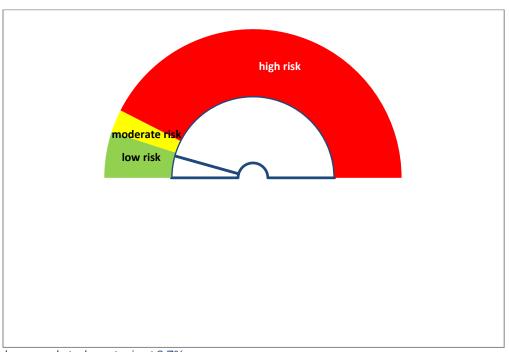
Total Taxes Billed in Current Fiscal Year

**Risk Thresholds:** 

Low risk: less than 10%

Moderate risk: 10–15%

High risk: greater than 15%



Inverness's tachometer is at 8.7%.

# **Undepreciated Assets**

**2019 Results:** Low risk: 55.8%

What does it mean? This indicator estimates that the Municipality's capital assets have 55.8% of

useful life remaining.

Municipalities across Canada are facing sufficient infrastructure challenges. This indicates that the Municipality is experiencing less of an infrastructure challenge

than other municipalities.

Calculation: Total Net Book Value of Capital Assets = 55.8%

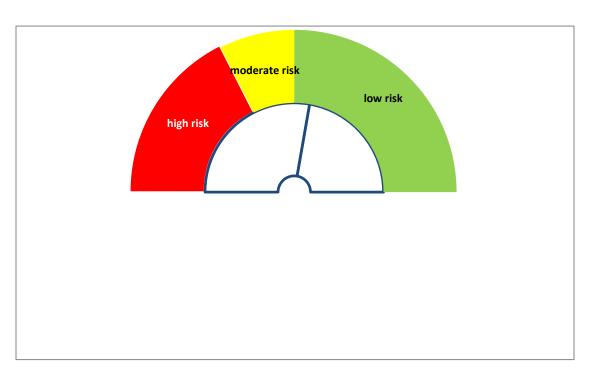
**Gross Costs of Capital Assets** 

**Risk Thresholds:** 

Low risk: greater than 50%

Moderate risk: 35–50%

High risk: less than 35%



Inverness's tachometer is at 55.8%.

## **5-Year Budget Accuracy**

**2019 Results:** Low risk: 5 of the last 5 years,

actual expenditures were within +/- 5% of budget.

What does it mean? The Municipality did consistently maintain expenditure spending

within budget limits.

In 2017, actual expenses were 1.4% more than the budget.

In 2018, actual expenses were 0.4% more than the budget.

**Calculation:** Total budget expenditures - Total actual expenditures = -2.5%

Total budget expenditures

#### **Risk Thresholds:**

Low: 5 out of 5 years, expenditures were within +/- 5% or expenditure and revenue variances were within +/- 5% of each other

Moderate: 4 out of 5 years, expenditures were within +/- 5%

High: Less than 4 out of 5 years, expenditures were within +/- 5%

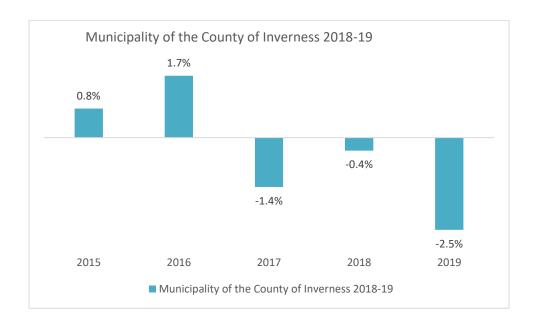


Figure 16- Operating budget variance over the last 5 years. Source: Financial Information Return and Statement of Estimates Budget.

# FCI- Key Performance Indicators -

the ability to meet current and future needs in a balanced and independent manner

## **Reliance on Government Transfers**

**2019 Results:** Low risk: 6.5%

What does it mean? The Municipality is not dependent on another level of

government to meet its service obligations.

**Calculation:** Total Government Transfers = 6.5%

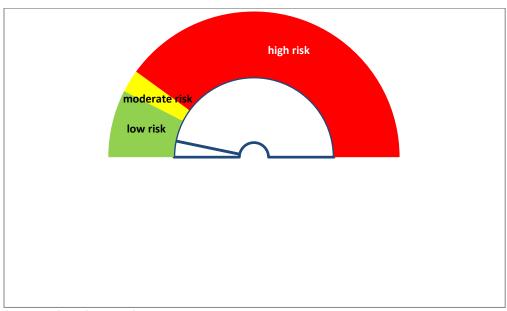
**Total Revenue** 

**Risk Thresholds:** 

Low risk: less than 15%

Moderate risk: 15–20%

High risk: greater than 20%



Inverness's tachometer is at 6.5%.

## **Number of Deficits in the Last 5 Years**

2019 Results: Low risk: 0 operating deficits in the last five years

What does it mean? Deficits are important indications of financial health. The

result indicates that the municipality is able to meet its needs in a balanced manner and maintain a balanced budget.

Calculation: The number of non-consolidated operating deficits in the last

five years = 0.

#### **Risk Thresholds:**

Low risk: 0 in the last 5 years

Moderate 1 or more in the last 5 years

High risk: 1 or more in the last 2 years with one material deficit (0.5% of operating expenses)

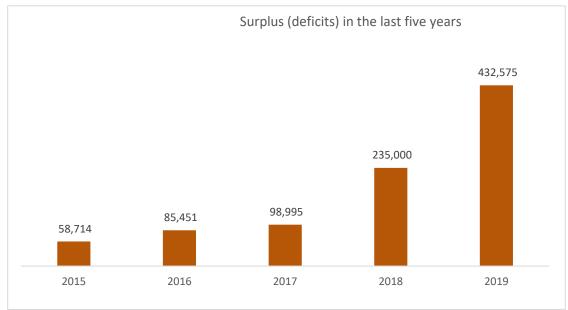


Figure 17-Annual

operating fund surplus (deficits) for the last 5 years Source: Financial Information Return

# Liquidity

**2019 Results:** Low risk: 5.2

What does it mean? Liquidity is key to financial performance. The result indicates

that the Municipality does not have a cash flow problem and

is able to meet its service obligations.

**Calculation:** <u>Total Current Financial Assets</u> = 5.2

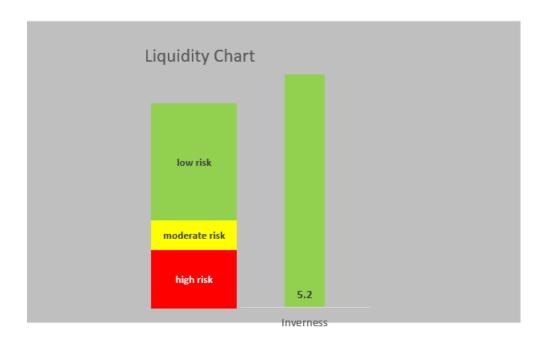
**Total Current Liabilities** 

Risk Thresholds:

Low risk: greater than 1.5

Moderate risk: 1 to 1.5

High risk: less than 1



## **Combined Reserves**

**2019 Results:** Low risk: 104.9% combined reserves

What does it mean?

This result indicates that the Municipality does appear to have sufficient reserves needed to address unexpected events or provide flexibility to address future

projects.

Reserves are critical components of a municipality's long-term sustainability. This indicator shows the value of the funds held in the reserves compared to a single

year's operation, including amortization expenses.

**Calculation:** Total Operating and Capital Reserves. = 104.9%

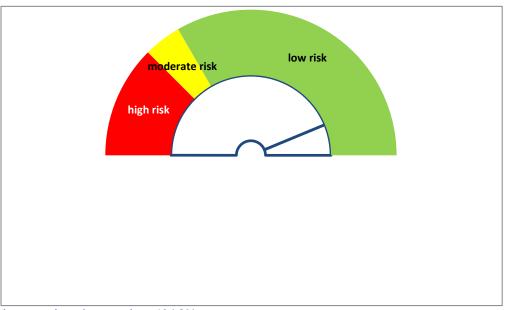
Total Operating Expenses plus Amortization Expense

#### **Risk Thresholds:**

Low risk: greater than 40%

Moderate risk: 30–40%

High risk: less than 30%



Inverness's tachometer is at 104.9%.

# Appendix I - Additional Resources

Nova Scotia Government's Open Data Portal (data.novascotia.ca)

This portal provides access to various government data in a free, accessible, machinereadable format.

Financial datasets currently published through the Nova Scotia Government's Open Data Portal:

- 911 Municipal Grants
- Consolidated Revenues and Expenses by Municipality
- Municipal Affairs Funding Programs
- Emergency Services Provider Fund
- Farm Land Grant
- Financial Condition Indicators by Municipality
- Municipal Contributions to Roads
- Municipal Financial Capacity Grant (formally equalization program)
- Municipal Operating Fund- Summary of Revenue and Expenses by Municipality
- Municipal Operating Expenses by Function -10 Year Summary
- Municipal Operating Revenue by Source -10 Year Summary
- Municipal Property Tax Rates
- Nova Scotia Power Grant-in-Lieu
- Uniform Assessment

#### Municipal website

Invernesscounty.ca

A municipality's website can be a helpful resource to access various financial information. Currently, most municipal websites provide:

- O audited Financial Statements
- approved Operating Budget
- O quarterly municipal Expense Report
- O quarterly municipal Hospitality Expense Report

## **Contact Municipal Affairs and Housing**

For more information, for support in action plan development, or to obtain a guide on action plan development:

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