Municipal Report



6

Municipality of the County of Antigonish Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Municipal Profile and Financial Condition Indicators Results

Table of Contents Introduction	1
Chapter 1 - Highlights	
Municipal Highlights	
About the Municipality	
Population Highlights	
Financial Highlights	
Expenses Annual Surplus	
Annual Sulpius Debt	
Financial Condition Indicators Highlights	
Chapter 2 - Municipal Profile	
Municipal Composition	
Population Trends	
Economic Indicators	
Chapter 3 - Financial Information	
General Overview:	
Financial Reporting Compliance:	
Revenue:	
Property Assessment Information	
Expenses:	
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	
Debt	
Chapter 4 - Financial Condition Indicators:	
House Model	
The Model:	
Antigonish's Overall Assessment	
Antigonish's House Model	
The Base FCI Indicators	
Reliance on a Single Business or Institution	
Three-Year Change in Tax Base	
Residential Tax Effort	
FCI Indicators – Structure (Management) Indicators	
Debt Service	
Outstanding Operating Debt	
Operating Reserve	
Uncollected Taxes Undepreciated Assets	
5-Year Budget Accuracy	
FCI- Key Performance Indicators – Reliance on Government Transfers	
Number of Deficits in the Last 5 Years	
2	

Liquidity	
Combined Reserves	
Appendix I – Additional Resources	



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 Antigonish
County:	Antigonish County

Approximate size: 1,450 km²

Number of dwellings: 7,596





Population Highlights

Population 2016:	14,585
Population 5-year trend:	-0.7%
County 5-year trend:	-1.7%
Demographic trend:	۸
Demographic trend.	Aging
Up to 19 Yrs.	Aging
0 1	00

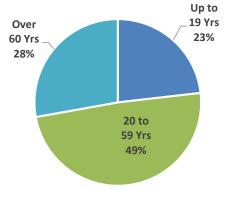


Figure 2 - Age Breakdown

• 5

Financial Highlights

Revenue

Total consolidated revenue:	\$13.3 million
Revenue generated from own revenue1:	94%
Total operating revenue:	\$11.4 million
Largest operating revenue:	78% Property taxes and payments in lieu of Taxes

Expenses

Total consolidated expenses:	\$11.4 million
Total operating fund expenses:	\$10.0 million
Largest operating fund expense:	30%
	Protective services: police and fire

Annual Surplus

Annual consolidated surplus(deficit):	\$2.0 million
Consolidated accumulated surplus (deficit):	\$34.3 million
Annual operating surplus (deficit):	\$0

Debt

Total consolidated long-term debt:	\$3.2 million
Total general fund long-term debt:	\$2.4 million
Operating fund bank indebtedness:	\$0

¹ Consolidated revenue excluding government transfers

Financial Condition Indicators Highlights

Overall Assessment Green (low risk)

The overall Financial Conditions Index assessment for the County of Antigonish 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, Antigonish's FCIs are comprised of:

Low risk (green):	12 indicators
Moderate risk (yellow):	1 indicator
High risk <mark>(red):</mark>	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.



••• 7

Two-Year Comparison of Financial Condition Indicators

BASE	2019	2018	+/-	2019 Rural Avg.
3-year Change in Tax Base*	12.7%	0 10.1%	2.6%	6.9%
Reliance on a Single Business or Institution	• 0.7%	2.6%	-1.9%	3.3%
Residential Tax Effort	1.8%	1.7%	0.0%	2.1%
STRUCTURE				
Uncollected Taxes	5.4%	4.6%	0.8%	8.2%
5 Year Budget Accuracy	03/5	4/5	-1	3.6/5
Operating Reserves	31.2%	30.7%	0.5%	48.7%
Debt Service	2.5%	2.7%	-0.1%	4.3%
Outstanding Operating Debt	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%
Undepreciated Assets	57.4%	6 59.0%	-1.6%	60.1%
ROOF				
Deficits in the Last 5 Years	0/5	1/5	-1	0.3/5
Liquidity	1.8	2.4	-0.6	3.6
Reliance on Government Transfers	0.9%	0.7%	0.1%	3.4%
Combined Reserve	129.7%	124.1%	5.7%	79.6%

• • • 8



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

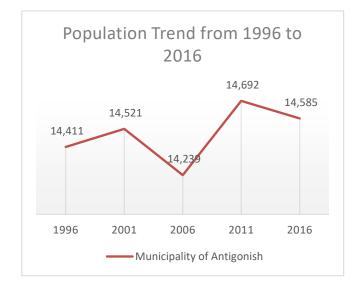
Name:	County of Antigonish
County:	Antigonish County
Government:	10 elected councillors (including the Warden)
Geographic area:	1,450 km ²
Number of dwellings:	7,596

Population Trends

Population:	14,585
-------------	--------

Provincial population: 1.6%

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



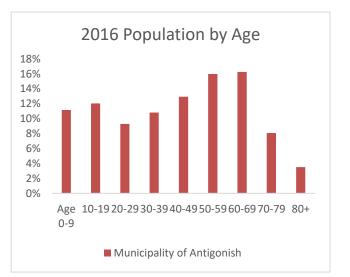


Figure 3-- Population from 1996–2016. Source: Statistics Canada

Figure 4- Population by Age, Source: Statistics Canada

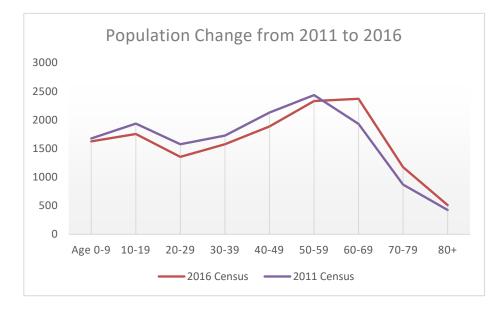
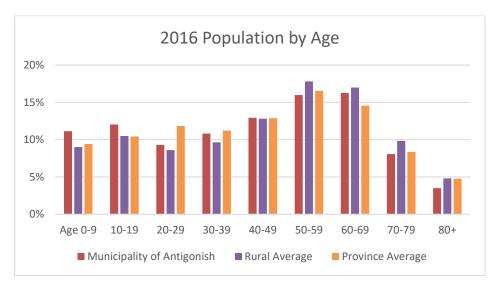


Figure 5- Population Age Change from 2011 to 2016. Source: Statistics Canada



According to the 2016 Census, similar to most rurals in Nova Scotia, the majority of Antigonish'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	\$70,572	\$57,577	\$12,995	\$57, 294
Employment Rate	56.7%	62.6%	-5.9%	50.1%
Education Beyond High School	61.1%	59.5%	1.6%	49.4%

Source: 2011 and 2016 Statistics Canada

Median household income:	Antigonish's median household income is higher than the Provincial rural average, and has increased since 2011.
Employment rate:	In a healthy economy, the employment rate is between 97% and 95%. The County of Antigonish's employment rate is above the Provincial rural average, although it has decreased.
Education level:	Antigonish'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

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.²

Financial Reporting Compliance:

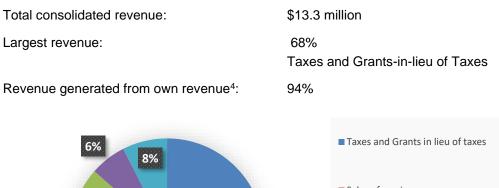
Audited financial statements and financial information return submitted:	yes
Submission of financial information:	After deadline ³
Financial statements include:	
Remuneration and Expenses for Elected Officials and CAO/Clerk Note:	yes
Unqualified Opinion:	yes
Quarterly Expenditure report posted online:	yes
Summary Expenditure Report submitted:	yes
Statement of Estimates and assessment information submitted:	yes

² 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.

³ Annually, municipalities are required to submit their financial information by Sept 30th.

Revenue:

\$13.3 M 2019 Consolidated Revenue



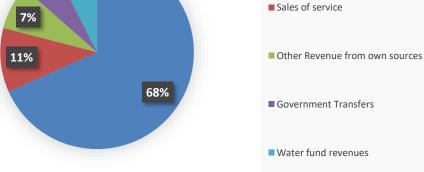


Figure 7- Consolidated Revenue Source: 2019 Financial Information Return (FIR)

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

	Consolidated Revenue
Taxes and Grants-in-lieu of taxes:	\$9.1 million
Services provided to other governments:	n/a
Sales of services:	1.4 million
Other revenue from own sources:	1.0 million
Government Transfers:	0.8 million
Net Income from government business enterprises:	n/a
Water Fund revenues:	1.0 million

⁴ Consolidated revenue excluding government transfers

••• 14

\$11.4M 2019 General Operating Revenue

Total operating revenue:	\$11.4 million	
Largest revenue:	78% Property taxes and	payments in lieu of taxes
Uncollected Taxes:	5.4%	
Reliance on Government transfers	0.9%	
6.9% 0.3% 12.5% 1.6%	77.9%	Net Property Taxes and payments in lieu of taxes Grants in lieu of taxes Sales of service Other revenue from own sources Unconditional transfers Conditional transfers

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 6 categories.

Net property taxes and payments in lieu of taxes:	8.9 million
Grants-in-lieu of taxes:	0.2 million
Services provided to other governments:	n/a
Sales of services:	1.4 million
Other revenue from own sources:	0.8 million
Unconditional transfers from other governments:	36.5 thousand
Conditional transfers from other governments:	85.3 thousand

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 assessment⁵:

Highest reliance on a single business or institution: Residential Tax Effort: 12.7%

growth keeps pace with the cost of living

0.7% not dependent (low risk)1.8% 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.

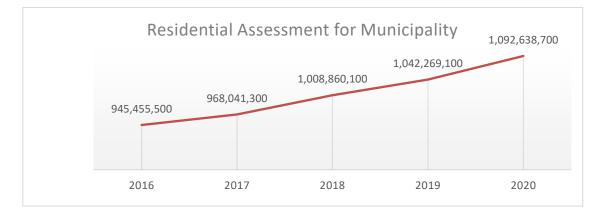


Figure 9- Residential assessment value over the last five years. Source: 2015-2019 Statement of Estimates Assessment

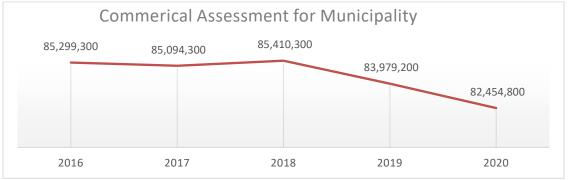


Figure 10- Commercial assessment value over the last five years. Source: 2015-2019 Statement of Estimates Assessment

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



Expenses:

\$11.4M 2019 Consolidated Expenses

Total consolidated expenses: \$11.4million 24% Largest expense: General government services General Government services 10% Protective Services 24% Transportation services 12% 3% Environmental Health Services 1% Public Health Services 23% Environmental development 23% Services Recreation and Cultural services Water expenses 4%

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 \$2.7 million
Protective services:	2.6 million
Transportations:	0.5 million
Environmental health services:	2.6 million
Public Health services:	0.1 million
Environmental development services:	0.4 million
Recreation and Cultural:	1.3 million
Extraordinary or special items:	n/a
Water expenses:	1.1 million

\$10.0 M 2019 General Expenses

Total operating fund expenses:\$10.0 millionLargest operating fund expense:30%Protective services: police and fireOperating reserves as percentage of expenses:31.2% (low risk)

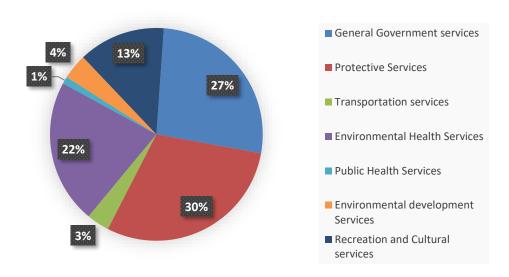


Figure 12- Operating General Fund Expenses. Source: 2019 Financial Information Return

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

General Government services:	2.7 million
Protective services:	3.0 million
Transportation services:	0.3 million
Environmental Health services:	2.2 million
Public Health services:	0.1 million
Environmental Development services:	0.4 million
Recreation and Cultural services:	1.3 million

• 18

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

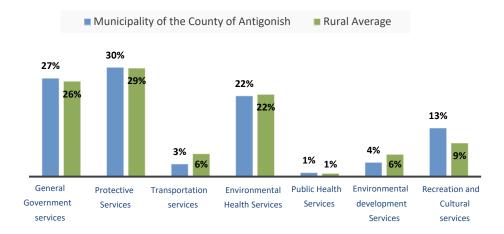
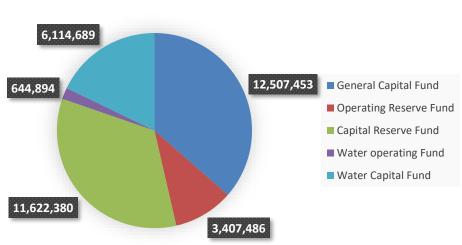


Figure 13 – Comparison of General Fund Expenses to Provincial Rural Average. Source: 2019 Financial Information Return

Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)

Annual Surplus: Revenue - expenses Note: This amount is added to the accumulated surplus (deficit).

Total annual consolidated surplus(deficit):	\$2.0 million
Total consolidated accumulated surplus (deficit):	\$34.3 million
Total annual operating surplus (deficit):	\$0
Number of operating deficits in the last 5 years:	0



Municipality of the County of Antigonish

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

Debt

Total consolidated long-term debt:	\$3.2 million
Total general operating fund long-term debt:	\$2.4 million
Debt Service Ratio:	2.5%
Operating fund bank indebtedness:	0 million
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)⁶ 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:

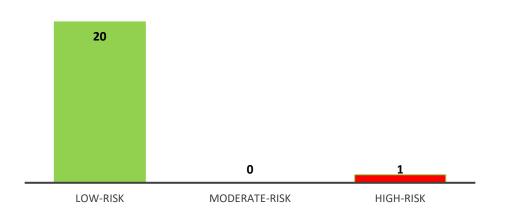
The Department calculates an overall assessment for fiscal instability:

- 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.

Antigonish's Overall Assessment

Overall Assessment for:	Antigonish
Financial Condition:	Low risk The overall Financial Conditions Index assessment for the County of Antigonish 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



Antigonish's House Model

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

Low risk: 12 indicators

Moderate risk: 1 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: 0.7%
	The largest single commercial or institutional account is only 0.9% 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:	<u>Taxable assessment value of the largest business or institution</u> = 0.7% Uniform Assessment
Risk Thresholds:	Low: Less than 10% Moderate: 10% to 15% High: Greater than 15%
	high risk moderate risk low risk

Antigonish's tachometer is at 0.7%.

Three-Year Change in Tax Base

2019 Results:	Low risk: 12.7% 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.
Calculation:	<u>Current Uniform Assessment-Uniform Assessment 3 Years Prior</u> = 12.7% growth Uniform Assessment 3 Years Prior
Risk Thresholds:	Low: Equal or above CPI % Change Moderate: Below CPI % Change, but not negative growth High: Negative growth
Three	e year change in tax base in comparison to three-year change in CPI for the last 6 years

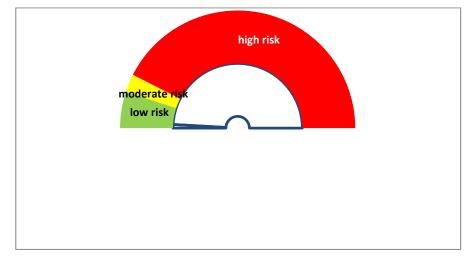
 2014
 2015
 2016
 2017
 2018
 2019

 Municipality of the County of Antigonish
 CPI

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: 1.8% 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:	<u>Total residential tax revenue per dwelling unit</u> = 1.8% Median Household Income
Risk Thresholds:	Low risk: less than 4% Moderate risk: 4–6% High risk: greater than 6%



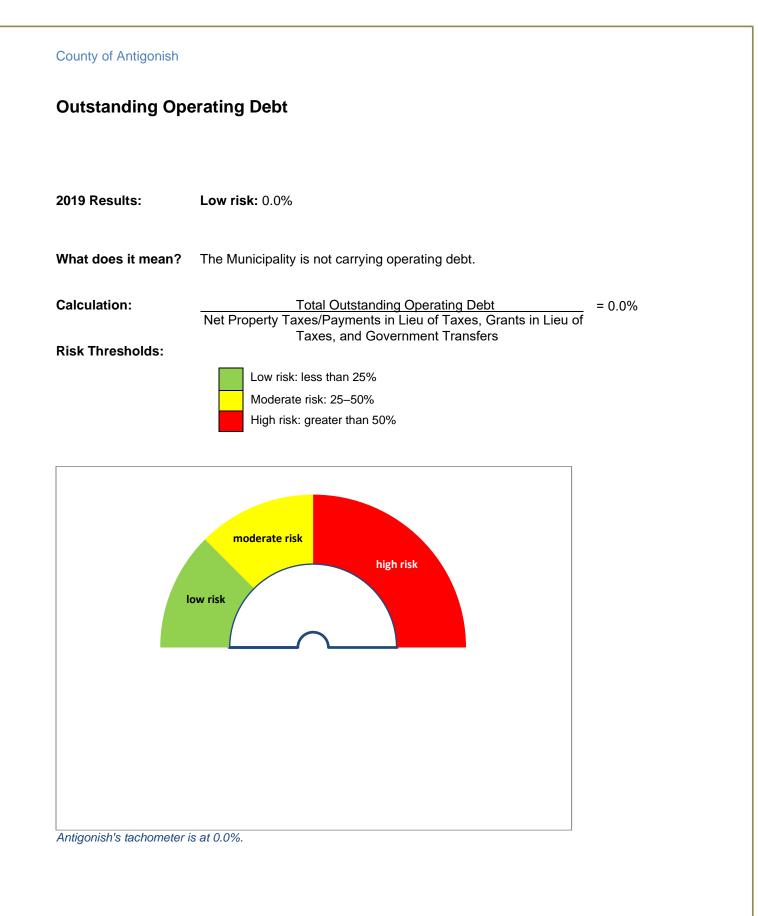
Antigonish's tachometer is at 1.8%.

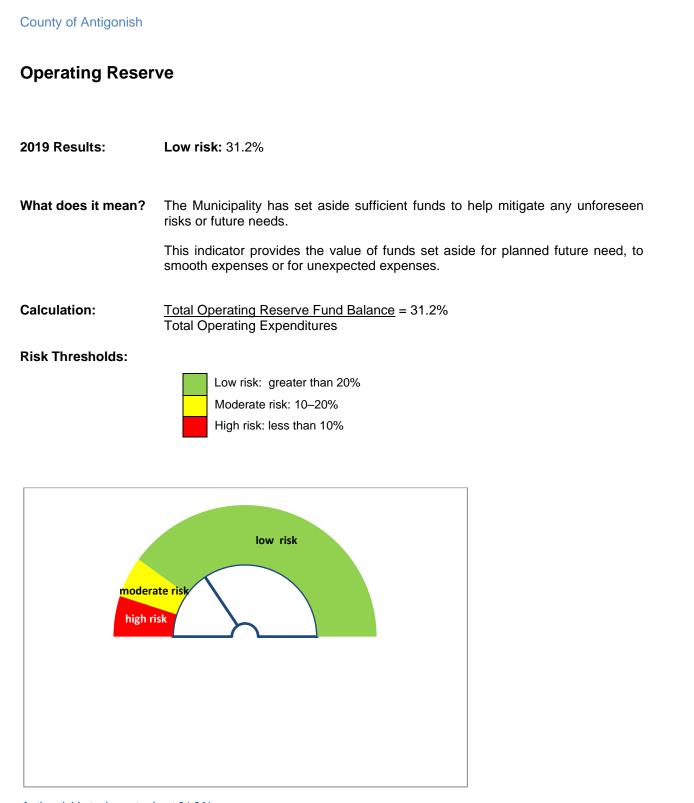
FCI Indicators – Structure (Management) Indicators

Debt Service

2019 Results:	Low risk: 2.5%
What does it mean?	2.5% 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 = 2.5% Total Own Source Operating Revenue
Risk Thresholds:	Low risk: less than 10% Moderate risk: 10–15% High risk: greater than 15%
high risk moderate risk low risk	

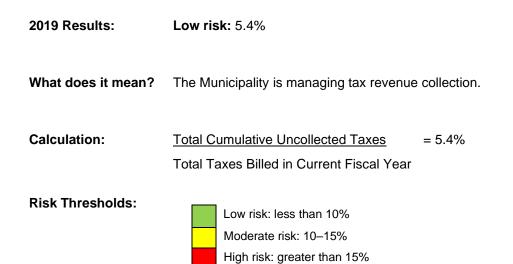
Antigonish's tachometer is at 2.5%.

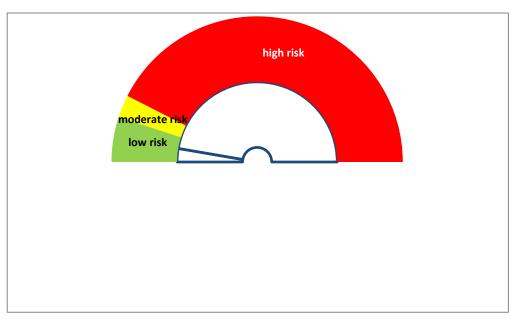




Antigonish's tachometer is at 31.2%.

Uncollected Taxes





Antigonish's tachometer is at 5.4%.

County of Antigonish	
Undepreciated Assets	
2019 Results:	Low risk: 57.4%
What does it mean?	This indicator estimates that the Municipality's capital assets have 57.4% 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:	<u>Total Net Book Value of Capital Assets</u> = 57.4% Gross Costs of Capital Assets
Risk Thresholds:	
	Low risk: greater than 50%
	Moderate risk: 35–50%
	High risk: less than 35%
	high risk low risk

Antigonish's tachometer is at 57.4%.

5-Year Budget Accuracy

2019 Results:	Moderate risk: 3 of the last 5 years, actual expenditures were within +/- 5% of budget.
What does it mean?	The Municipality did not consistently maintain expenditure spending within budget limits.
	In 2015, actual expenses were 7.8% less than the budget.
	In 2019, actual expenses were 6.0% more than the budget.
Calculation:	<u>Total budget expenditures - Total actual expenditures</u> = -6.0% Total budget expenditures

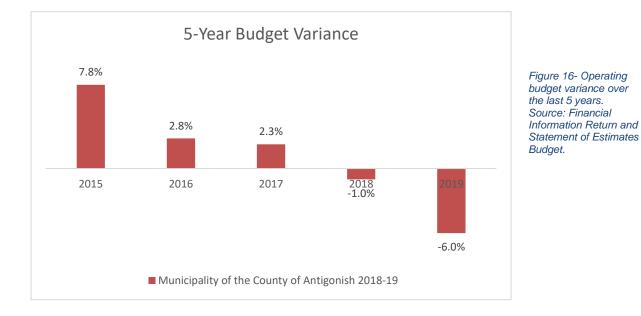
Risk Thresholds:



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

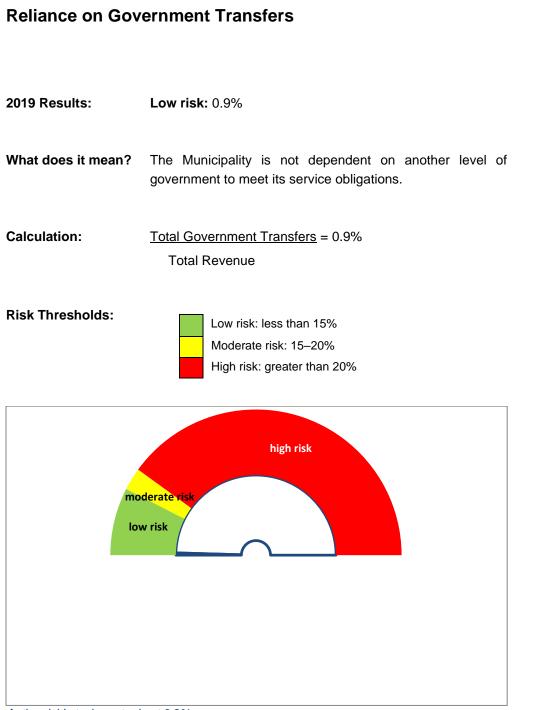
Moderate: 4 out of 5 years, expenditures were within +/- 5%

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



FCI- Key Performance Indicators -

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



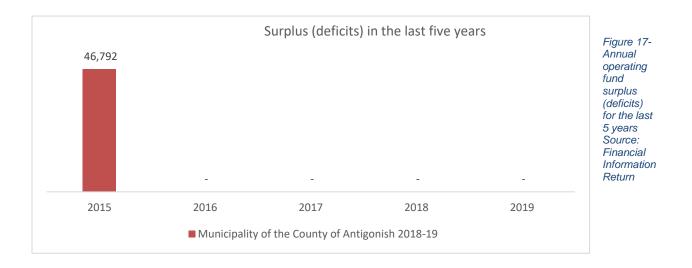
Antigonish's tachometer is at 0.9%.

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 .

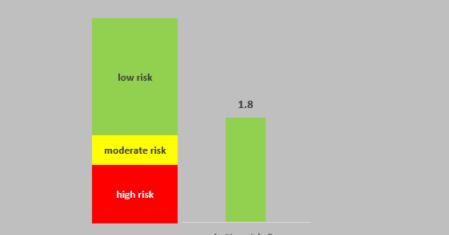
Risk Thresholds:

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)

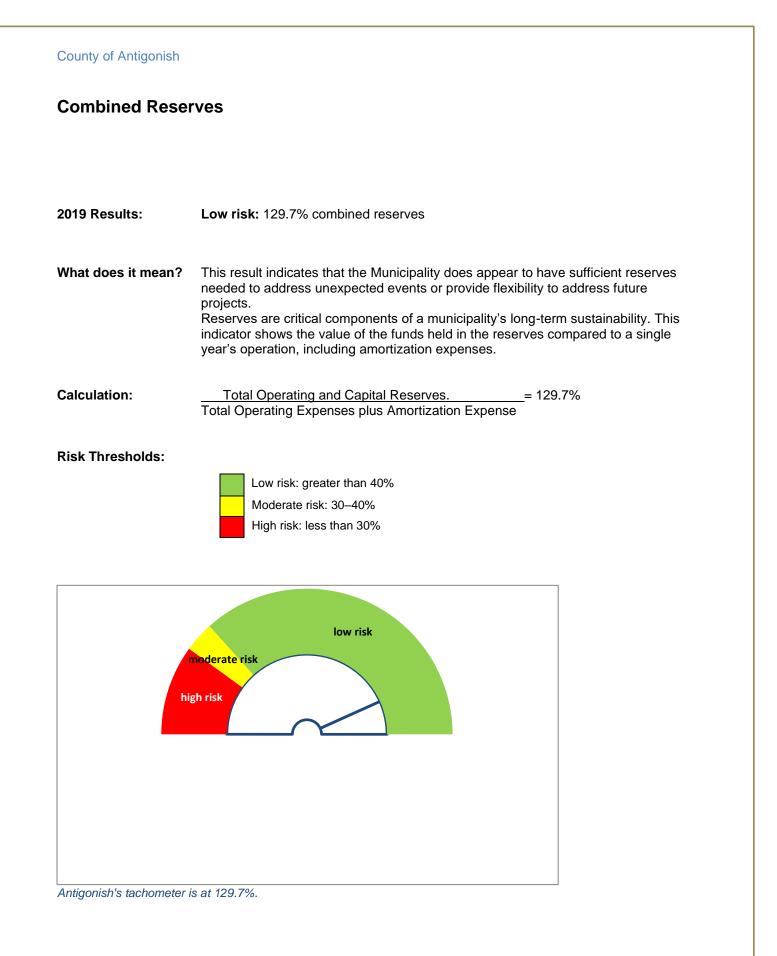


Liquidity

2019 Results:	Low risk: 1.8
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> = 1.8 Total Current Liabilities
Risk Thresholds:	Low risk: greater than 1.5 Moderate risk: 1 to 1.5 High risk: less than 1
Lic	quidity Chart



Antigonish Co



• 38

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, machine-readable 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

Antigonishcounty.ca

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

- O audited Financial Statements
- O 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:

Katharine Cox-Brown Director, Municipal Finance and Operating Grants Katharine.Cox-Brown@novascotia.ca 902.424.4643

