



## Low-income Households, Census 2016

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Historically, the territories have not been included in research and statistics relating to low-income measures. Today, Statistics Canada has released an exploratory study entitled “Low-income statistics for the population living on reserve and in the North using the 2016 Census.”

The results of this study show that in Yukon, based on the 2016 Census, 10.4% of households were considered to be low-income in 2015. Nationally, 14.4% of Canadian households were low-income in 2015. Alberta had the lowest proportion of low-income households (9.7%) while Nunavut had the highest (22.1%).

### Percentage of low-income households, Canada, provinces and territories,

	2015 %
<b>Canada</b>	<b>14.4</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	15.3
Prince Edward Island	16.8
Nova Scotia	17.5
New Brunswick	17.3
Quebec	14.5
Ontario	14.4
Manitoba	17.5
Saskatchewan	15.1
Alberta	9.7
British Columbia	15.7
<b>Yukon</b>	<b>10.4</b>
Northwest Territories	11.7
Nunavut	22.1

#### Notes:

The low-income measure (LIM) methodology requires only information on household income and household size and can therefore be applied to reserves and the territories using income data from the census. Although the LIM is a computationally straightforward measure, it does not take into consideration regional variations in prices, as well as other dimensions of poverty (e.g., food insecurity). It also does not take into account the importance of economic activities based on sharing and consumption from own production (e.g., hunting and farming) within Indigenous communities. For more information on the methodology used and its limitations, see *Interpreting low-income statistics for the on-reserve and Territorial populations using Census and National Household Survey data*.

Results in the study are presented for all provinces and territories, for the on-reserve and off-reserve population, as well as for Inuit Nunangat and its four Inuit regions. Inuit Nunangat is the homeland of Inuit in Canada and includes four Inuit regions: Nunatsiavut (northern coastal Labrador), Nunavik (Northern Quebec), the territory of Nunavut, and the Inuvialuit region (in the Northwest Territories).

#### Canada's Official Poverty Line

Following the Government of Canada's release of *Opportunity for All: Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy* in August 2018 and the passing of Bill C-97, the Market Basket Measure (MBM) was set as Canada's first Official Poverty Line, which relies on the pricing of a basket of goods and services. However, this has not yet been estimated and released for the territories.

Statistics Canada is working to establish the MBM for the territories by defining and pricing baskets of goods and services that reflect the unique costs of living in Canada's northern and remote communities. For more information, see [Proposals for a Northern Market Basket Measure and its disposable income](#).