

FINANCIAL INDICATOR REVIEW

(Based on 2023 Financial Information Return)

Essex T

Date Prepared:	16-Jan-25	2023 Households:	8,390	Median Household Income:	71,936
MSO Office:	Western	2023 Population:	21,216	Taxable Residential Assessment as a	
Prepared By:	Spencer Fitzpatrick	2024 MFIC Index:	4.2	% of Total Taxable Assessment:	82.5%
Tier:	LT			Own Purpose Taxation:	19,299,701

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

Indicator	Ranges	Actuals	South - LT - Counties - Rural		Level of Risk	
			Median	Average		
Total Taxes Receivable less Allowance for Uncollectibles as a % of Total Taxes Levied	Low: < 10% Mod: 10% to 15% High: > 15%	2019	3.5%	7.4%	8.4%	LOW
		2020	4.0%	7.2%	8.5%	LOW
		2021	4.3%	6.5%	7.4%	LOW
		2022	2.3%	7.1%	7.6%	LOW
		2023	2.9%	7.4%	7.9%	LOW
Net Financial Assets or Net Debt as % of Own Source Revenues	Low: > -50% Mod: -50% to -100% High: < -100%	2019	123.9%	45.7%	49.3%	LOW
		2020	142.9%	54.9%	56.8%	LOW
		2021	153.3%	54.0%	59.8%	LOW
		2022	156.7%	49.1%	53.6%	LOW
		2023	144.2%	32.1%	37.0%	LOW
Total Reserves and Discretionary Reserve Funds as a % of Municipal Expenses	Low: > 20% Mod: 10% to 20% High: < 10%	2019	171.0%	73.3%	78.1%	LOW
		2020	180.5%	82.4%	86.7%	LOW
		2021	183.9%	86.6%	89.9%	LOW
		2022	179.2%	81.7%	87.1%	LOW
		2023	176.9%	68.1%	84.7%	LOW
Cash Ratio (Total Cash and Cash Equivalents as a % of Current Liabilities)	Low: > 50% Mod: 50% to 25% High: < 25%	2019	1084.1%	410.8%	535.3%	LOW
		2020	1015.6%	456.2%	529.2%	LOW
		2021	867.7%	497.5%	581.7%	LOW
		2022	880.6%	392.6%	497.2%	LOW
		2023	657.0%	428.6%	537.5%	LOW

FLEXIBILITY INDICATORS

Debt Servicing Cost as a % of Total Revenues (Less Donated TCAs)	Low: < 5% Mod: 5% to 10% High: >10%	2019	7.1%	2.6%	3.1%	MODERATE
		2020	6.4%	2.3%	3.1%	MODERATE
		2021	6.8%	2.5%	2.9%	MODERATE
		2022	6.3%	2.4%	2.8%	MODERATE
		2023	6.3%	2.7%	3.3%	MODERATE
Closing Amortization Balance as a % of Total Cost of Capital Assets (Asset Consumption Ratio)	Low: < 50% Mod: 50% to 75% High: > 75%	2019	36.9%	44.6%	46.5%	LOW
		2020	38.2%	45.2%	46.9%	LOW
		2021	39.4%	45.9%	47.4%	LOW
		2022	40.2%	45.4%	47.5%	LOW
		2023	40.8%	45.4%	47.4%	LOW
Annual Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of Own Source Revenues	Low: > -1% Mod: -1% to -30% High: < -30%	2019	23.1%	18.7%	23.1%	LOW
		2020	29.0%	16.6%	17.1%	LOW
		2021	23.5%	16.8%	16.5%	LOW
		2022	32.9%	17.0%	17.2%	LOW
		2023	26.7%	15.4%	15.7%	LOW

 The data and information contained in this document is for informational purposes only. It is not an opinion about a municipality and is not intended to be used on its own - it should be used in conjunction with other financial information and resources available. It may be used, for example, to support a variety of strategic and policy discussions.

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NOTES

Financial Information Returns ("FIRs") are a standard set of year-end reports submitted by municipalities to the Province which capture certain financial information. On an annual basis, Ministry staff prepare certain financial indicators for each municipality, based on the information contained in the FIRs. It is important to remember that these financial indicators provide a snapshot at a particular moment in time and should not be considered in isolation, but supported with other relevant information sources. In keeping with our Financial Information Return review process and follow-up, Ministry staff may routinely contact and discuss this information with municipal officials.

Supplementary Indicators of Sustainability and Flexibility

The following is a summary, adapted from the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 4.

- A government (including a municipality) may choose to report supplementary information on financial condition, to expand on and help explain the government's financial statements.
- Supplementary assessment of a government's financial condition needs to consider the elements of sustainability and flexibility.
- Sustainability in this context may be seen as the degree to which a municipality can maintain its existing financial obligations both in respect of its service commitments to the public and financial commitments to creditors, employees and others without inappropriately increasing the debt or tax burden relative to the economy within which it operates.
- Sustainability is an important element to include in an assessment of financial condition because it may help to describe a government's ability to manage its financial and service commitments and debt burden. It may also help to describe the impact that the level of debt could have on service provision.
- Flexibility is the degree to which a government can change its debt or tax level on the economy within which it operates to meet its existing financial obligations both in respect of its service commitments to the public and financial commitments to creditors, employees and others.
- Flexibility provides insights into how a government manages its finances. Increasing taxation or user fees may reduce a municipality's flexibility to respond when adverse circumstances develop if the municipality approaches the limit that citizens and businesses are willing to bear.
A municipality may temporarily use current borrowing, subject to the requirements set out in the Municipal Act to meet expenses and certain other amounts required in the year, until taxes are collected and other revenues are received. Municipal current borrowing cannot be carried over the long term or converted to long term borrowing except in very limited circumstances.
- For each element of financial condition, the report on indicators of financial condition should include municipality-specific indicators and municipality-related indicators. It may be useful to also include economy-wide information when discussing financial condition.

Additional Notes on what Financial Indicators may indicate:

Total Taxes Receivable less Allowance for Uncollectibles as a % of Total Taxes Levied - Shows how much of the taxes billed are not collected.

Net Financial Assets or Net Debt as % of Own Source Revenues - Indicates how much property tax and user fee revenue is servicing debt.

Reserves and Reserve Funds as a % of Municipal Expenses - Indicates how much money is set aside for future needs and contingencies.

Cash Ratio (Total Cash and Cash Equivalents as a % of Current Liabilities) - Indicates how much cash and liquid investments could be available to cover current obligations.

Debt Servicing Cost as a % of Total Revenues (Less Donated TCAs) - Indicates how much of each dollar raised in revenue is spent on paying down existing debt.

Closing Amortization Balance as a % of Total Cost of Capital Assets (Asset Consumption Ratio) - Indicates how much of the assets' life expectancy has been consumed.

Annual Surplus / (Deficit) (Less Donated TCAs) as a % of Own Source Revenues - Indicates the municipality's ability to cover its operational costs and have funds available for other purposes (e.g. reserves, debt repayment, etc.)

The Northern and Rural Municipal Fiscal Circumstances Index (MFCI) is used by the Ministry of Finance to calculate the "Northern and Rural Fiscal Circumstances Grant" aimed at northern as well as single and lower-tier rural municipalities. The index measures a municipality's fiscal circumstances. The MFCI is determined by six indicators: Weighted Assessment per Household, Median Household Income, Average Annual Change in Assessment (New Construction), Employment Rate, Ratio of Working Age to Dependent Population, and Per Cent of Population Above Low-Income Threshold. A lower MFCI corresponds to relatively positive fiscal circumstances, whereas a higher MFCI corresponds to more challenging fiscal circumstances. (Note: the MFCI index is only available for northern and rural municipalities)

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CALCULATIONS

Total Taxes Rec. less Allowance for Uncollectibles as % of Total Taxes Levied	$SLC\ 70\ 0699\ 01 / (SLC\ 26\ 9199\ 03 - SLC\ 72\ 2899\ 09)$
Net Financial Assets or Net Debt as % of Own Source Revenues	$SLC\ 70\ 9945\ 01 / (SLC\ 10\ 9910\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 0699\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 0899\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1098\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1099\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1811\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1812\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1813\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1814\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1830\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1831\ 01 - SLC\ 12\ 1850\ 04)$
Total Reserves and Reserve Funds as a % of Municipal Expenses	$(SLC\ 60\ 2099\ 02 + SLC\ 60\ 2099\ 03) / (SLC\ 40\ 9910\ 11 - SLC\ 12\ 9910\ 03 - SLC\ 12\ 9910\ 07)$
Cash Ratio (Total Cash and Cash Equivalents as a % of Current Liabilities)	$SLC\ 70\ 0299\ 01 / (SLC\ 70\ 2099\ 01 + SLC\ 70\ 2299\ 01)$
Debt Servicing Cost as a % of Total Revenues (Less Donated TCAs)	$(SLC\ 74\ 3099\ 01 + SLC\ 74\ 3099\ 02) / (SLC\ 10\ 9910\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1831\ 01)$
Closing Amortization Balance as a % or Total Cost of Capital Assets (Asset Consumption Ratio)	$SLC\ 51\ 9910\ 10 / SLC\ 51\ 9910\ 06$
Annual Surplus / (Deficit) (Less Donated TCAs) as a % of Own Source Revenues	$(SLC\ 10\ 2099\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1831\ 01) / (SLC\ 10\ 9910\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 0699\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 0899\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1098\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1099\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1811\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1812\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1813\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1814\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1830\ 01 - SLC\ 10\ 1831\ 01 - SLC\ 12\ 1850\ 04)$