NAIN
Nunainguk
Community Profile

2025


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NUNATSIAVUT
Ilinnianikmik amma kenaujaliugutaugunnatunik Pivalliatiksinikmik
Education and Economic Development

1,204
Total Population

Contents

Introduction.....1
Location.....1
Local Business/Industry.....2
Local Opportunities and Attractions.....3
Governance and Public Services.....3
Community Information.....4
Remoteness.....5
Population Overview.....6
Education.....7
Employment, Income, and Labour Force.....8



CONTACT INFORMATION

Inuit Community Government
709-922-1857

Nunatsiavut Government (Nain Office)
709-922-2942

Introduction

Originally known by its Inuktitut name, "Nunainguk," the community of Nain is among the oldest permanent Inuit settlements having been established in 1771 by the Moravian Missionaries.

Nain is rich in natural heritage resources with offshore islands, large deep bays and several major rivers. The town has a rich combination of Inuit and Settler traditions and a very strong cultural heritage that is intertwined with the land and sea.

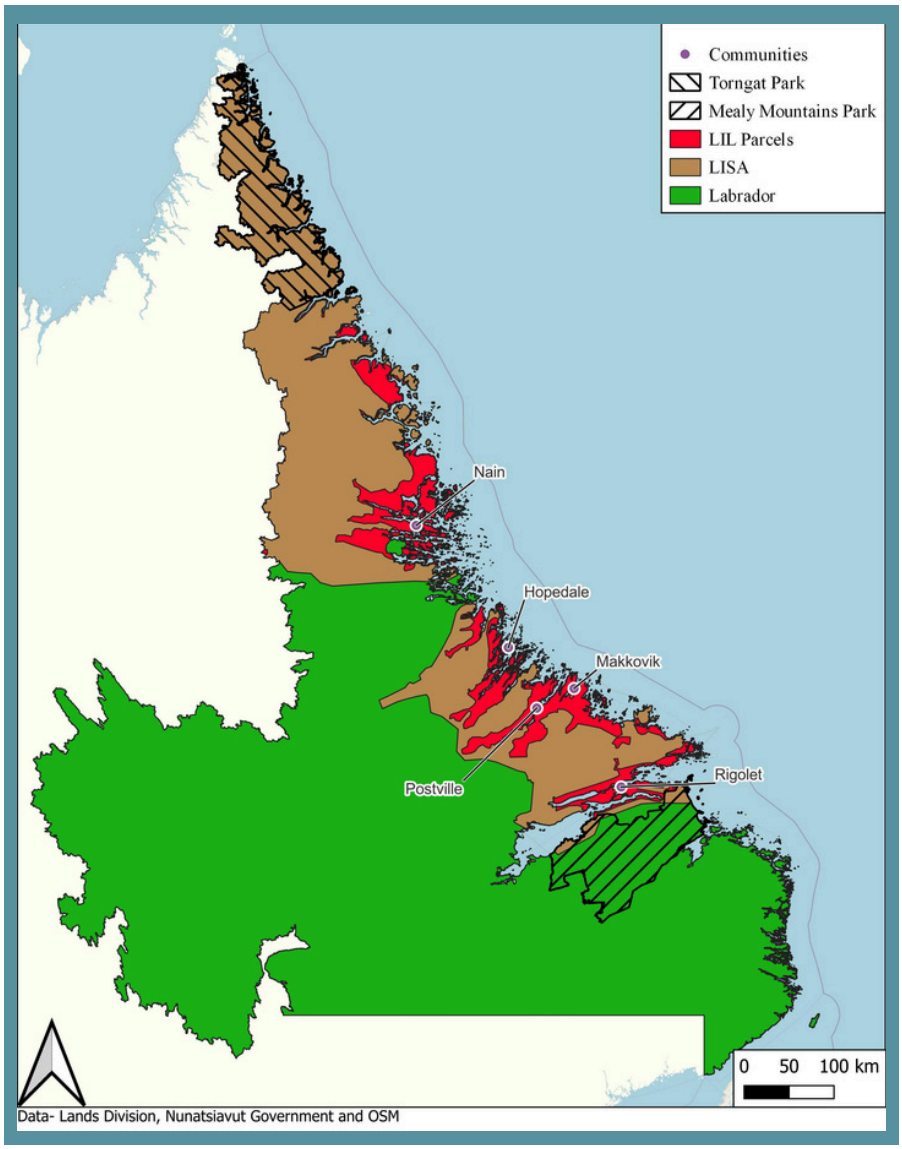
Nain is the administrative capital of Nunatsiavut and is the largest and most northern Nunatsiavut community.

Inuktitut name

Nunainguk

Translation

the place where they first landed



Location

Total Land Area

93.5 km²

Coordinates

56°32'33.4"N
61°41'27.6"W

Climate

Nain has a subarctic climate characterized by cool summers and cold winters, largely due to its proximity to the Labrador Sea.

Throughout the year, the temperature ranges from around -21°C to 15°C with winter bringing significant snowfall.

Local Business/Industry

Nain is home to a growing business community with retail operators, accommodations, contractors, specialized service providers. This list provides an overview of the business/industry environment and may not be reflective of all business activities in the area.

For more information, view the Nunatsiavut Business Directory online: nunatsiavut.com/business-directory/

Retail/Food

Frank's General Store – Frank's carry a wide selection of goods including fresh produce, dry goods, home furnishings, appliances, apparel, hardware and commercial supplies.

Quickstop – Quickstop is a convenience store carrying food and general merchandise.

Northern Store – Northern Stores carry food and general merchandise.

Accomodations

Atsanik Hotel – The Atsanik is a fully serviced 26 room hotel with dining and lounge.

Jab Enterprises – Offering accommodation/rental units in the community of Nain.

Contractors

D & J Construction Ltd. – D & J Construction Ltd. owns heavy equipment for various construction and transportation services, including rentals for trucks and ski-doos.

SSHR Company – SSHR Company offers plumbing, plastering/painting, sheet metal, carpentry, construction services.

Northern Peaks Ltd. – Northern Peaks provides general construction: construction, maintenance, and small engine maintenance.

Specialized Services

Echo Studio – A creative Inuit Art business that sells original art-based products such as mugs, t-shirts, magnets, original paintings, postcards, books, etc. Services include publishing consulting.

Fox Enterprise – Boat charter services including fishing trips and customized tours.

Inukshuk First Aid Inc – Red Cross training services, including standard and emergency first aid

Mitsuvik – An Inuit woman owned business that sells atigik, pualok, kamet and other homemade traditional clothing. Mitsuvik also sells craft material for local seamstresses and offers workshops.

Sapilittailigit – Works to improve mental health services for Nunatsiavut and reduce stigma. Offers training and events, client liaison, and retail merchandise.

Sikuliatsiuk Operations Ltd. – Environmental Monitoring services, including but not limited to sea ice and marine shipping routes.

SmartIce Sea Ice Monitoring (Northern Production Centre) – A social enterprise offering climate change adaptation tools that integrate Indigenous knowledge with monitoring.

Torngat Fish Producers Co-op Society Ltd. – Fish producers for both retail and wholesale.

JakoMinnie Boat Charters - Offers boat chartering and culture experiences.

Nain CARE Inc. - Is a funding and volunteer-based non-profit organization that aims to support Nainimiut who are experiencing poverty, tragedy and hardships through our programs and services.

Local Opportunities and Attractions

National Parks

Torngat National Park

A 9,700 km² wilderness area, located 200 kms north of the community of Nain. The Park is an area that includes mountains, polar bears, small glaciers, and caribou and is where the Inuit hunt, fish, and travel. The park also includes the Torngat Base camp and research Station.

The Torngat Mountains National Park office is located in Nain

Mealy Mountain National Park

The largest National Park in eastern Canada, the Mealy Mountain Park is a 10,700 km² park area with a landscape of mountain tundra, marine coasts, boreal forests, islands and rivers that have been traditional hunting, trapping and fishing areas for Indigenous people of Labrador.

Community Attractions

- Illusuak Cultural Centre
- Illusuak Cafe
- Moravian Church
- Mount Sophie

Nain has many skilled artisans who provide a variety of crafts that are exclusive to the region.

Developing Cruise Ship Market

Nunatsiavut communities welcomed 1,741 cruise ship passengers during the 2022-2024 seasons.

In 2022, approximately 4% of NL residents travelling within the province visited Labrador. Residents tended to stay longer in Labrador (11 nights) than in other parts of the province (overall average of 3.4 nights). Labrador was the primary destination of approximately 7% non-residents visiting NL.

Sources: Newfoundland and Labrador Resident Travel Survey, December 2022; Survey of Non-resident Visitors to Newfoundland and Labrador (Peak Season May to October 2022), November 2022

Governance and Public Services

Governance

Municipal
Inuit Community Government

Regional
Nunatsiavut Government

Provincial
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Provincial Electoral District
Torngat Mountains

Federal Electoral District
Labrador

Public Services

Health Services
Nain Community Clinic

Fire Services
Nain Volunteer Fire Department

Police Services
Nain RCMP Detachment

Postal Services
Canada Post

Government Services
Nunatsiavut Government Office
Provincial Government Office

Radio Station
OKâlaKatiget Society

Community Centre
Jeremias Sillitt Community Centre

Community Information

Children and Youth Programming

Nain's Family Resource Centre (located at the Pigattuk Centre) provides programs for families with children aged 0-6 to support social, cultural, educational, and nutritional development.

The Nain Language Nest Centre offers an Inuktitut immersion program for infants.

Regulated child care is available for ages 2-5 at the Pigutsavik Centre. A variety of afterschool programming is also available for children and youth.

Annual Taxes

Water & Sewer Tax – $200.00
Poll Tax – $90.00

For more information on the business tax tax, garbage collection fees, rental equipment and other community information, please contact the Nain Inuit Community Government.

Remoteness

Nain is a remote community. There is currently no road access to Nain so residents travel by air or marine transport to commute to neighboring communities or travel outside the region. Remoteness impacts many aspects of the community including food security, energy infrastructure, and telecommunications.

Energy Infrastructure

Most households rely on wood and oil for heat.

Solar panels are now among the available energy options.

Nain relies on a NL Hydro Fossil-Diesel plant for electricity generation. Fuel is transported by ship.

- Capacity: 3,945 kW
- Demand: 9,280 MWh/year

Internet Services

High-speed internet is available through two service providers.

Bell Aliant

Download speed: 1.5 mbps
Upload speed: 0.54 mbps

Starlink

Download speed: 133+ mbps
Upload speed: 133+ mbps

Food Security

According to a 2014 Household Survey, 79.4% of households in Nain were found to be food insecure—experiencing worry about or difficulty in accessing food on a regular basis.

61.1% of households in Nunatsiavut were found to be food insecure.

Source: Nunatsiavut Government

Remoteness (continued)

Transportation

Air Travel

Scheduled air services are available year-round through Air Borealis (operating out of Happy Valley-Goose Bay)

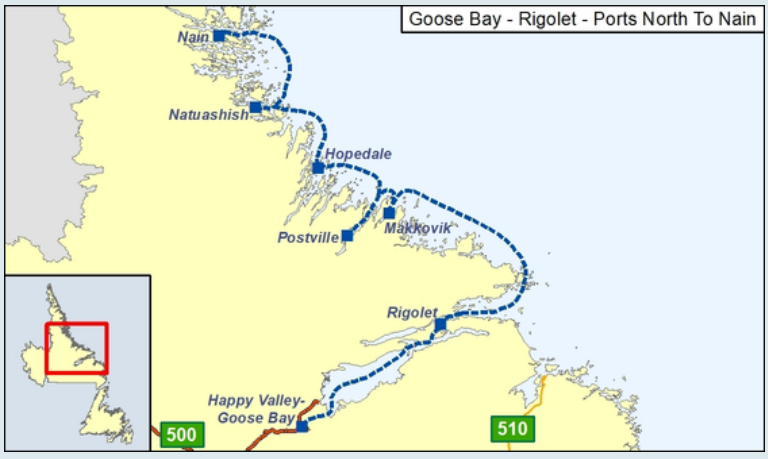
Infrastructure: 605m gravel airstrip

Destination	**Air Travel Time**	**Rate** (As of Sept 2025)
Hopedale	50 minutes*	$246.18
Makkovik	105 minutes*	$307.76
Postville	80 minutes*	$301.07
Rigolet	145 minutes*	$422.89
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	80 minutes	$598.67

*Includes stop(s)

Ferry Travel

Labrador Marine – MV Kamutik W provides seasonal transportation between communities.



Crossing Times

Goose Bay to Rigolet (167 km): 6.5 hours
Rigolet to Makkovik (274 km): 11.5 hours
Makkovik to Postville (69 km): 3 hours
Postville to Hopedale (132 km): 5 hours
Hopedale to Natuashish (102 km): 4.5 hours
Natuashish to Nain (133 km): 5.5 hours

Passenger Rates (one way)

Destination	**Rate** (As of Sept 2025)
Hopedale	$25.50
Makkovik	$36.00
Postville	$40.50
Rigolet	$73.50
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	$99.00

Adult rates are shown above. Senior, student, and child rates are available. Cabins and vehicles are extra. Visit labradormarine.com for more detail.

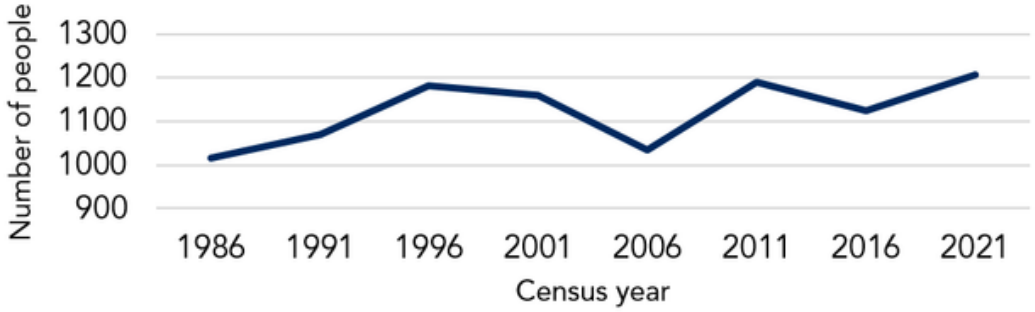
Population Overview

Source: Statistics Canada (unless otherwise noted)
Adjustments made by RAnLab according to amendments published by Statistics Canada.

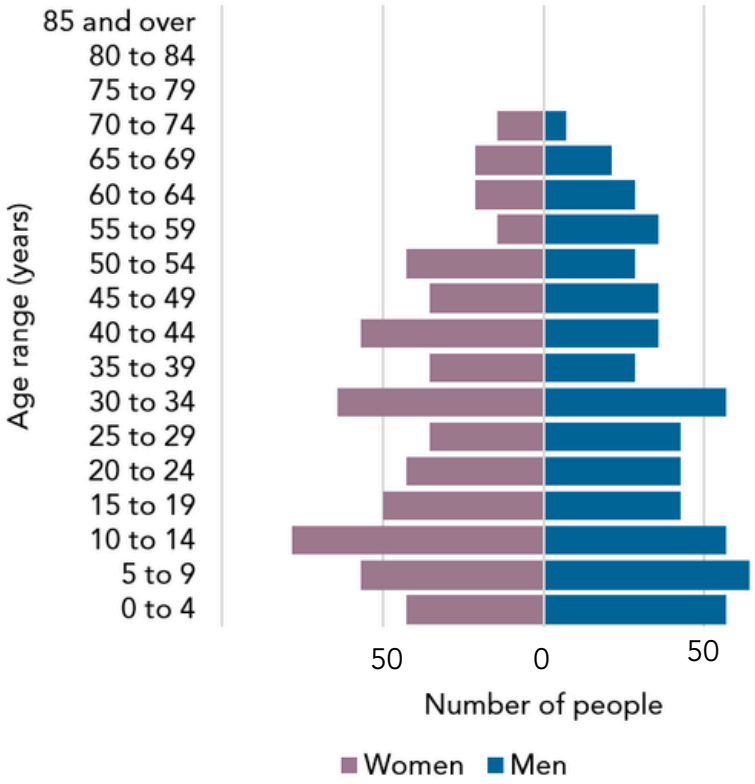
1,204
Total Population

380
Total Private Dwellings

Population of Nain (1986-2021)
Source: Newfoundland & Labrador Statistics Agency

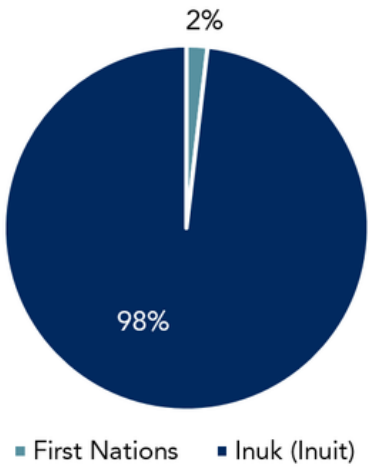


Population Structure (2021)



Indigenous Identity (2021)

96% of Nain's population identifies as Indigenous.

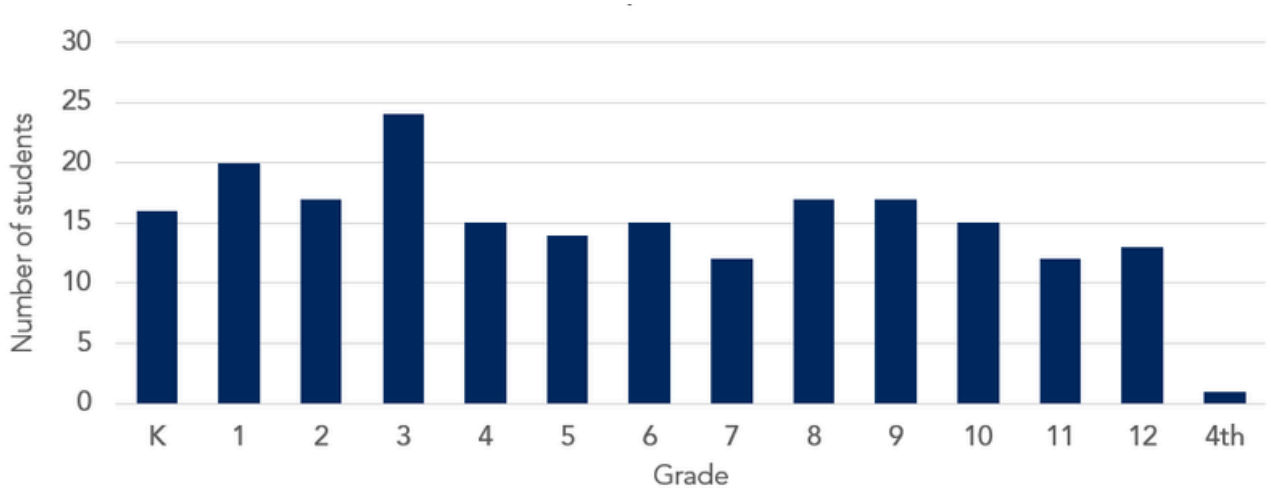


Education

Community School Enrollment (2024-2025)

Source: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

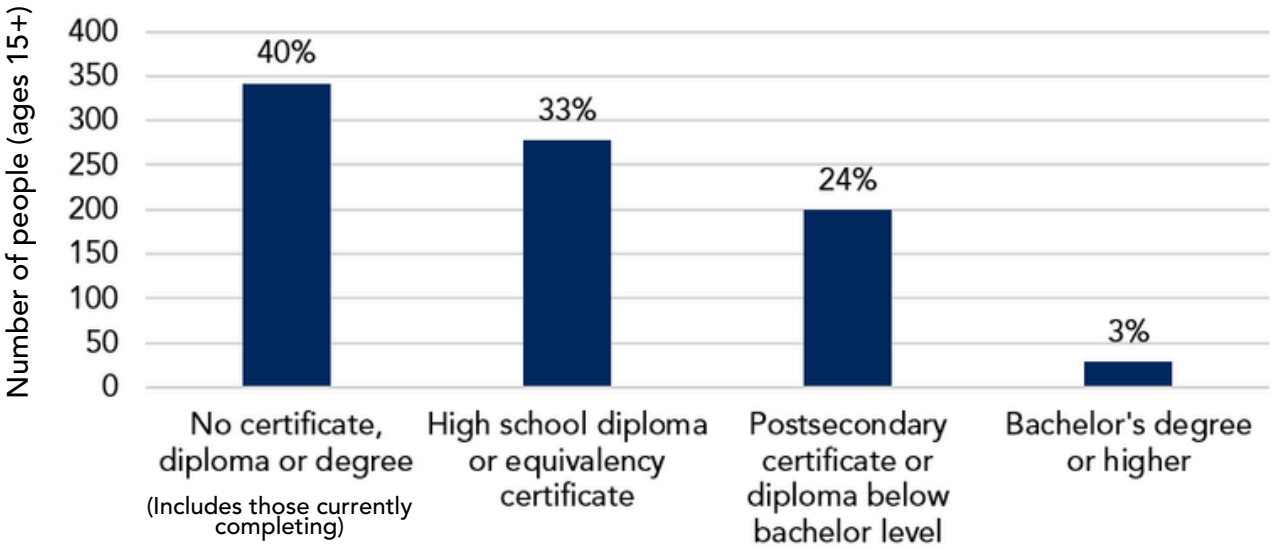
Jens Haven Memorial School is a K-12 Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) school located in Nain. Total enrollment is 208 students.



Highest Level of Education, Ages 15+ (2021)

Source: Statistics Canada

Adjustments made by RAnLab according to amendments published by Statistics Canada.



Employment, Income, and Labour Force

Source: Statistics Canada
Adjustments made by RAnLab according to amendments published by Statistics Canada.

Work Activity (2021)

In 2021, 67% of Nain's employed population were full-time, year-round. 33% of the employed population were part-time and/or part year (for example, seasonal employment).

Participation Rate

59% In 2021, 59% of Nain's population (aged 15+) participated in the labour force.

Women: 60% **Men: 57%**

The participation rate for the province in 2021 was 56%.

Unemployment Rate

10% In 2021, 10% of Nain's labour force was unemployed.

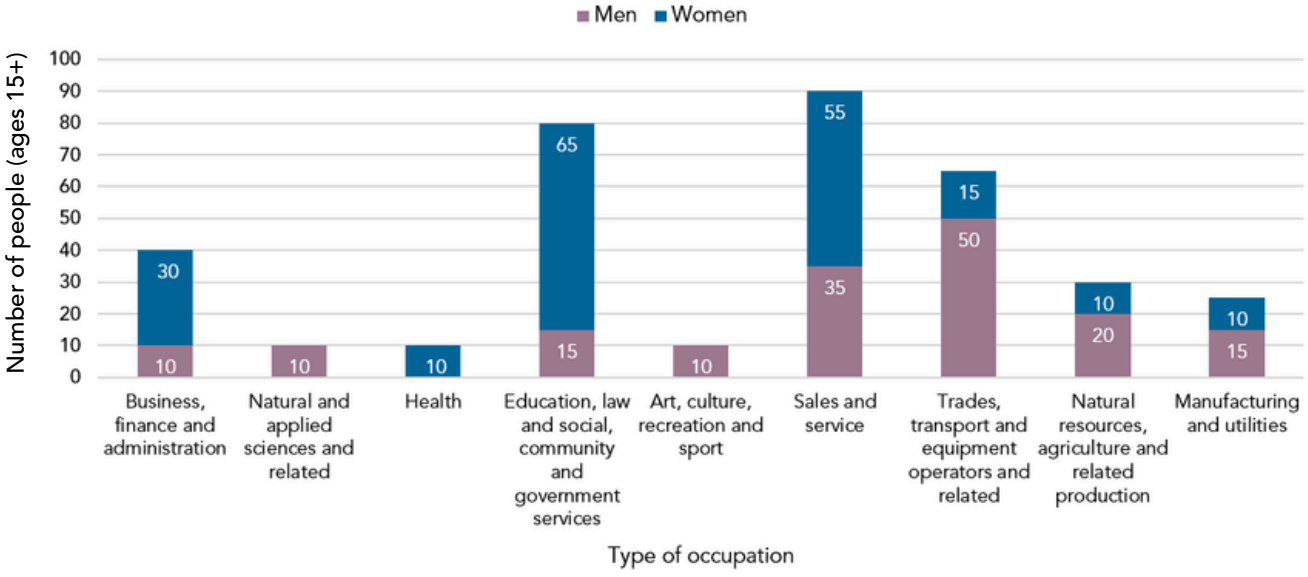
Women: 8% **Men: 12%**

The unemployment rate for the province in 2021 was 15%.

Participating in the labour force means a person is employed or looking for work. The unemployment rate indicates the proportion of individuals participating in the labour force that are currently unemployed and looking for work (often collecting Employment Insurance).

Occupations (2021)

All occupations of those living in Nain (aged 15+) have been categorized using the National Occupational Classification system.



Employment, Income, and Labour Force (continued)

Source: Statistics Canada

Median Income (2019)

In 2019, the median income in Nain was $29,200. Approximately half of the population received less and half of the population received more than this amount.

	Total	Men	Women
Nain	$29,200	$32,400	$29,200
Newfoundland and Labrador	$35,200	$42,400	$29,600

Employment Insurance (2019)

125 individuals (aged 15+) in Nain collected employment insurance benefits in 2019. Approximately 54% of recipients were men and 46% were women.

Note: The most recent data available for median income and employment insurance are from Statistic Canada's 2021 Census of Population for the year 2019.





This Nain Community Profile has been created to bring together important information and data on various aspects of the region for use in regional and community planning, business development, community promotion, and local decision making.

This project is a partnership with Nunatsiavut's Department of Education and Economic Development and Memorial University's Regional Analytics Lab (RAnLab). Information contained within this profile has been collected from the most current data sources and will be updated as needed. If you have any questions or concerns about the data presented in this profile, please contact Heather Sheppard, business development officer, at Nunatsiavut's Economic Development Division: heather.sheppard@nunatsiavut.com

NUNATSIAVUT

Ilinnianikmik amma kenaujaliugutaugunnatunik Pivalliatiksinikmik

Education and Economic Development

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