

User Guide

Personal Support Worker Microsimulation Prototype

An updated version of the user guide will be posted momentarily.



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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Tool

Health Workforce Canada's (HWC) Personal Support Worker Microsimulation Modelling Tool is designed to support evidence-informed workforce planning by forecasting the possible supply of Personal Support Workers (PSWs) across Canada up to the year 2048. This interactive, web-based tool allows users to explore various supply and demand scenarios by adjusting key parameters such as population projection scenarios and the rates of PSW employment in three broad health care delivery settings across Canadian jurisdictions. The primary objective of the tool is to provide planners, policymakers, and stakeholders with a flexible resource for testing the implications of different workforce strategies and demographic changes on the availability of PSWs.

1.2 Overview of the PSW Workforce in Canada

PSWs are essential health providers in Canada's health system, delivering frontline support in long-term care homes, hospitals, home, and other care settings. With an estimated workforce of over 300,000 individuals (Kralj, et al., 2024), PSWs represent a significant portion of the health care sector. The demand for PSWs is projected to rise steadily in response to Canada's rapidly aging population, particularly among those aged 75 years and older.

Despite their importance, PSWs are an unregulated profession and operate under different names across jurisdictions, can integrate into the workforce using a range of educational qualifications, and are represented by inconsistent occupational classification codes in administrative databases, making workforce planning more complex. This tool helps address these challenges by introducing a transparent methodology that supports standardization and open-source code for a scalable approach to PSW modelling.

1.3 Key Features of the Tool

Interactive Parameter Adjustments: Users can select from ten population projection scenarios and adjust PSW per 100 persons rates by province/territory, and care setting.

Real-Time Simulations: This tool dynamically updates projections based on user-selected parameter settings, offering immediate insights into workforce trends.

Data-Driven Forecasting: Built using a microsimulation methodology (see *Section 3. Understanding the Microsimulation Model* for more details), the tool integrates Labour Force Survey data and Statistics Canada projections to generate robust estimates.

Export Capabilities: Users can download outputs such as customized charts, data tables, and model code for further analysis and documentation.



Publicly Accessible: Hosted on [HealthWorkforce.ca](https://healthworkforce.ca), this tool promotes transparency and accessibility for both experts and non-experts.

1.4 Scope and Limitations

This version of the model focuses specifically on forecasting the number of PSWs needed based on population trends among Canadians aged 75 and older. It includes data disaggregated by province, territory, and care setting (home care, hospitals, long-term care). While the tool enables population growth scenario testing, it does not currently incorporate variables such as wage trends, job vacancies, or disease prevalence—though these are being considered for future iterations. Additionally, outputs are based on existing PSW-to-population ratios and do not yet account for changes in health service delivery models or broader social determinants of workforce needs.

2. Getting Started

The PSW Microsimulation Modelling Tool is publicly accessible at [HealthWorkforce.ca](https://healthworkforce.ca) (or its French counterpart, [Effectifdelasante.ca](https://effectifdelasante.ca)). No login or special software is required: users only need an internet connection and a modern web browser (e.g., Chrome, Firefox, Safari) to access the tool.

To launch the tool:

1. Visit [HealthWorkforce.ca](https://healthworkforce.ca).
2. Navigate to the **Tools** or **Scenario Testing** section.
3. Click on the link titled **PSW Workforce Simulation Tool**.

Upon launch, users are directed to an interactive dashboard where they can begin exploring scenarios.

2.1 Using the Tool

The user interface is designed to be intuitive and accessible for both technical and non-technical users. It consists of three main sections: **Parameters**, **Outputs**, and **Visualizations**.

2.1.1 Parameter Section Layout

This section allows users to adjust the three key variables that influence the simulation. The image below shows the tool's customizable elements.

The screenshot shows the 'Parameter Section Layout' interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Unique Scenario' (selected) and 'Comparison Scenario'. Below the tabs, there is a 'Population Projection Scenario' dropdown menu set to 'Medium-growth 4'. To the right of this menu is a 'Reset to Defaults' button. Below these elements is a table with five columns: 'Province/Territory', 'Home Care', 'Residential Care', 'Hospital', and 'PSW Count (in Development)'. Each row represents a province or territory: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador. Each row contains three sliders for 'Home Care', 'Residential Care', and 'Hospital' settings, with numerical values displayed next to them. The 'PSW Count' is shown in a text box. Numbered callouts point to specific elements: 1 points to the 'Comparison Scenario' tab, 2 points to the 'Reset to Defaults' button, 3 points to the 'PSW Count' text box for British Columbia, 4 points to the 'Unique Scenario' tab, and 5 points to the 'Home Care' slider for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Province/Territory	Home Care	Residential Care	Hospital	PSW Count (in Development)
Alberta	3.4	6.7	3.0	38500
British Columbia	2.5	4.2	3.1	48300
Manitoba	4.5	7.3	6.9	20000
New Brunswick	4.7	6.7	2.8	11800
Newfoundland and Labrador	13.4	2.9	3.3	10800

Figure A: Parameter settings

- **Population Projection Scenario:** Choose from 10 population projection scenarios developed by Statistics Canada (e.g., slow growth, medium growth, high growth, slow aging, fast aging). Medium-growth 4 is the currently recommended baseline scenario. A detailed description of each scenario is available in *Section 2.2.2.2 Total Workforce Adjustments*.
- **PSW Rate per 100 Canadians 75 years and older:** Adjust rates within each care setting (hospital, home care, long-term care) of the provinces and territories. This modification will automatically update the total PSW count for the associated province or territory. The default rates are based on the annualized counts and the care setting distribution estimates of PSWs released by Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey for 2024.
- **Total PSW Count:** Users can also modify the default 2024 total count of PSWs in a province or territory. Modifying this parameter will automatically and proportionally increase or decrease the PSW rates (using the default setting) for the associated province or territory and care setting. Total PSW counts for each

province reflect the annualized estimates released by Statistics Canada's for the Labour Force Survey for 2024.

To return all user-modifiable parameter inputs to their original values, simply click the **“Reset to Defaults”** button.

2.1.2 Outputs

Once the parameters have been set, click the **“Run Simulation”** button to generate the updated projections. The principal outputs include a customizable chart and its underlying data points. The following chart will be populated (see *Figure B: Output of plot in Unique Scenario Mode with two provinces selected*) following a unique scenario simulation run.

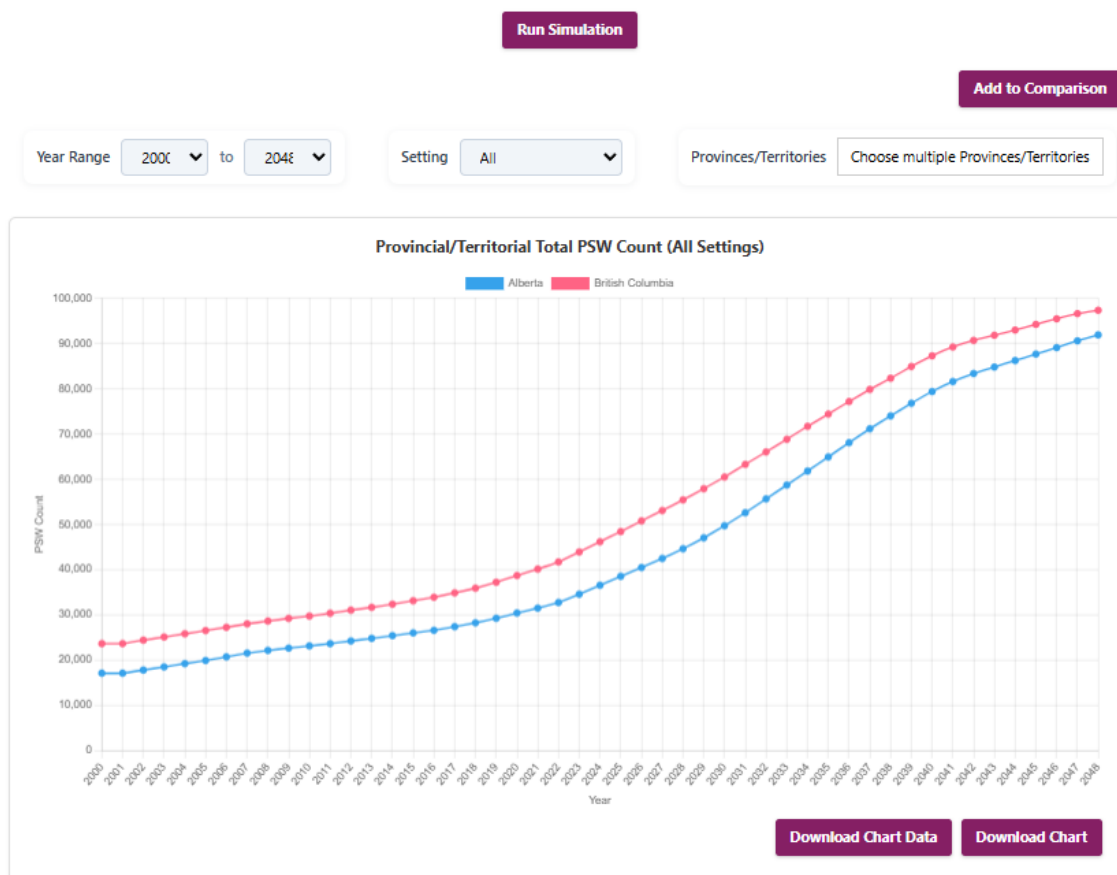



Figure B: Output of plot in Unique Scenario Mode with two provinces selected



Users may adjust the chart results by specifying a range of report years, Canadian jurisdictions of interest, or health care settings (see **Error! Reference source not found.**). Charts include a combination of estimates based on historical PSW counts (2024 and earlier) and projected PSW counts (Y-axis) by year. Upcoming revisions to the model will include shading over and above the estimated count to report the 95% confidence intervals for each of the reported years of data.

Outputs refresh automatically when new parameters are applied.

2.1.3 Key Components and Visualizations

The main display area provides several types of dynamic visualizations:

- **Unique scenario line charts** for time-series projections
- **Comparative line charts** including baseline and alternative health workforce scenarios
- **Downloadable (only) tables** summarizing annual values across jurisdictions and care settings

Users can switch between the **unique scenario mode** and the **scenario comparison mode** (#4 in **Figure A: Parameter settings**). The latter includes a summary of the selected parameter differences between scenarios.

2.2 Scenario Building and Customization

The PSW Microsimulation Tool enables users to build and test alternative workforce futures by modifying a range of input parameters, i.e., PSW rate by province/territory, total PSW count, and population projection scenarios. This section outlines how to create and compare different scenarios to explore potential impacts on PSW supply and demand across provinces, territories, and care settings.

2.2.2 Adjusting Parameters

Users can fine-tune the simulation by modifying several categories of parameters:

2.2.2.1 Health Employment Sector

Users can specify how PSWs are distributed across **three care settings**:

- **Hospitals**
- **Home Care**
- **Long-Term Care (LTC)**

Each setting can be adjusted independently by province or territory. This is useful for modelling shifts in service delivery (e.g., increased investment in home care).



The following North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes were used to identify PSWs in each care setting from historical LFS data:

Home Care: 6216, 6241

Hospital Care: 622

Long-Term Care: 623

2.2.2.2 Total Workforce Adjustments

Two workforce supply parameters can be adjusted:

PSW per 100 people 75 years and older: This reflects the context specific number of PSWs relative to the senior population and is based on 2024 estimates obtained as custom tabulations from Statistics Canada. Modifying the rate can be used to test the impacts of reducing or augmenting the number of PSWs relative to the population in a specific care setting. When these rates are adjusted by a user, the value in the total PSW count column will be automatically increased or decreased using the jurisdiction's population of persons 75 years and older.


Total PSW counts: Users can modify the default PSW total count for any of the jurisdictions available in the total workforce column. When this is done, an algorithm will determine the difference between the existing and revised PSW counts and update the PSW rates in each care setting based on the relative distribution of PSWs across care settings to reflect the proportions in base year 2024.

One workforce demand parameter, population projection scenario (10 in total), can be adjusted:

The tool includes ten projection scenarios to account for uncertainty about the future. These [projection scenarios were developed by Statistics Canada](#) and combine different assumptions about population growth and demographic trends to show a range of possible outcomes. These include:

Medium growth (6 scenarios): These scenarios illustrate a medium level of population growth, reflecting a continuation of current trends in the short term and plausible trajectories in the long term. Each scenario assumes different levels of interprovincial migration to capture the volatility of this component.

Low-growth and high-growth (2 scenarios): These scenarios assume either lower or higher population growth compared to the medium-growth scenarios at the national level. The high-growth scenario, for example,



assumes high fertility, low mortality, high immigration, low emigration and high numbers of non-permanent residents.

Fast-aging and slow-aging (2 scenarios): These scenarios include assumptions associated with faster or slower population aging compared to the medium-growth scenarios. The slow-aging scenario, for example, assumes high fertility, high mortality, high immigration and high numbers of non-permanent residents.

Selecting a scenario updates the projected size of the 75 years and older population for each jurisdiction, impacting workforce demand.

2.3 Unique Scenario

In *Unique Scenario Mode*, users define one set of assumptions and view projections for a single scenario. To begin, a user may select one of ten population projection scenarios and may set the PSW rate per province/territory and/or care setting (or keep the default settings). Once the parameters are set, the model can be run to simulate outputs showing anticipated PSW counts for each jurisdiction and care setting by year (See *Figure B: Output of plot in Unique Scenario Mode with two provinces selected*).

This mode is ideal for:

- Testing a policy or investment assumption (e.g., increasing the number of PSWs entering the workforce)
- Understanding baseline trends based on default inputs
- Estimating the possible impacts of changes in population growth and aging on the PSW workforce needs of the future.

2.4 Comparing Scenarios

In *Comparison Scenario Mode*, users can compare up to four scenarios simultaneously, a baseline scenario and three others. Each scenario may have distinct sets of assumptions, allowing users to visualize the differences between them. Users may also toggle on-or-off their chosen scenarios to view certain comparisons.

To use Comparison Mode (See *Figure C: Using Comparison Mode*.):

1. Select your *Population Projection Scenario*. If desired, set the PSW rates per province/territory and/or care setting, and the PSW count per province/territory (or keep default settings).
2. Click '**Run Simulation**'.
3. Your plot will appear below the parameter settings table. To add to comparison, click 'Add to Comparison'. The plot has been added if the '**Add Comparison**' button turns from yellow to

Added to Comparison : Baseline



grey and the text updates to **'Added to Comparison: Baseline'**.

4. To add any further comparisons, repeat Steps 1-3. You may compare up to 4 scenarios including the baseline scenario.
5. To view your comparisons plot, click 'Comparison Scenario'.
6. You may toggle on-or-off any of the comparison plots to view a subset of the plots. Additionally, you may filter the year range, setting, or provinces/territories.

Key comparison outputs include:

- Line plots for each scenario over time (PSW supply and 75 years and older population)
- Care setting comparisons across provinces and territories

This mode is ideal for analyzing:

- The impact of different policy interventions
- Workforce differences across jurisdictions
- Sensitivity to demographic uncertainty

Users can export comparative results for reports or presentations.

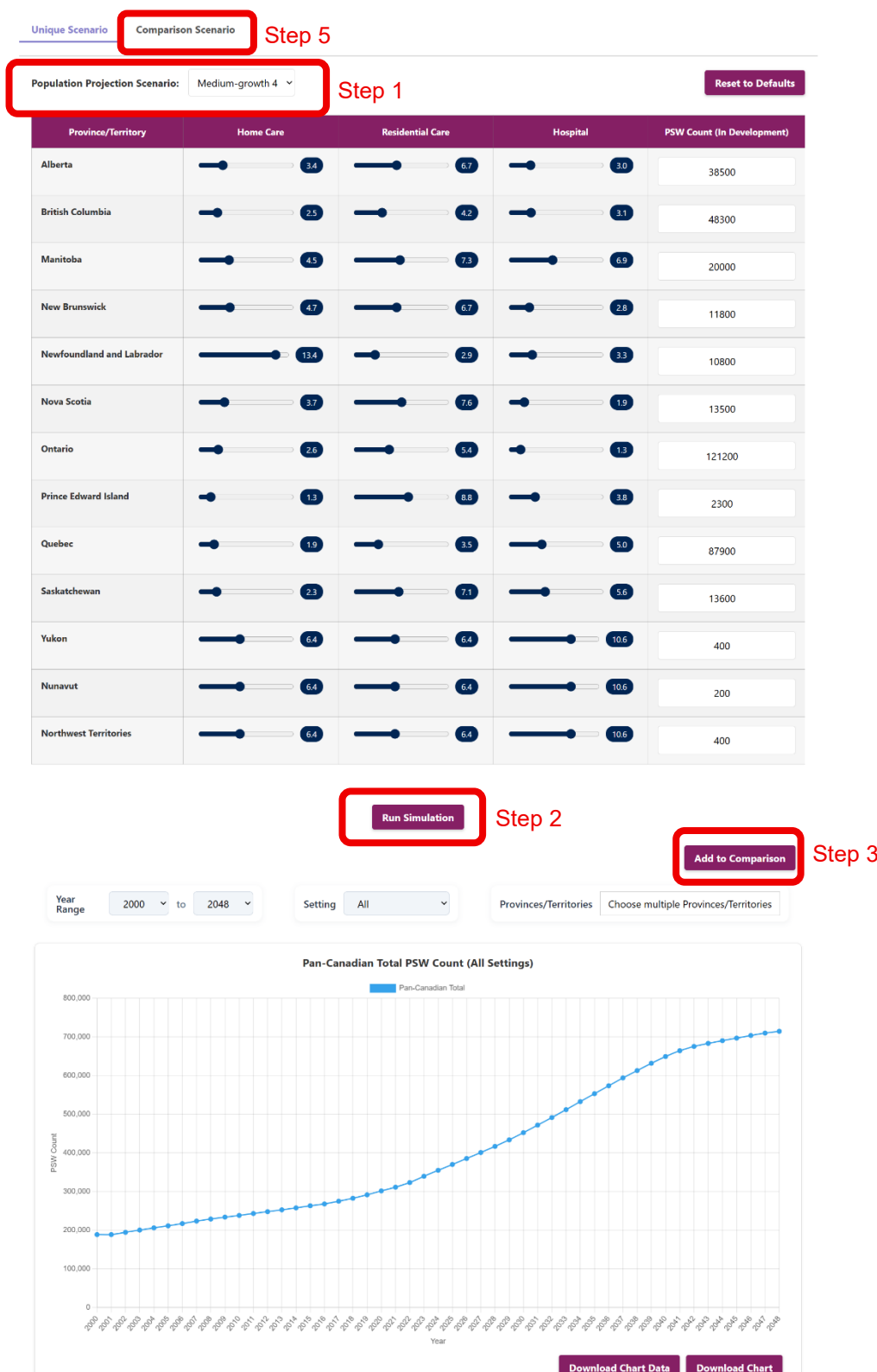


Figure C: Using Comparison Mode.

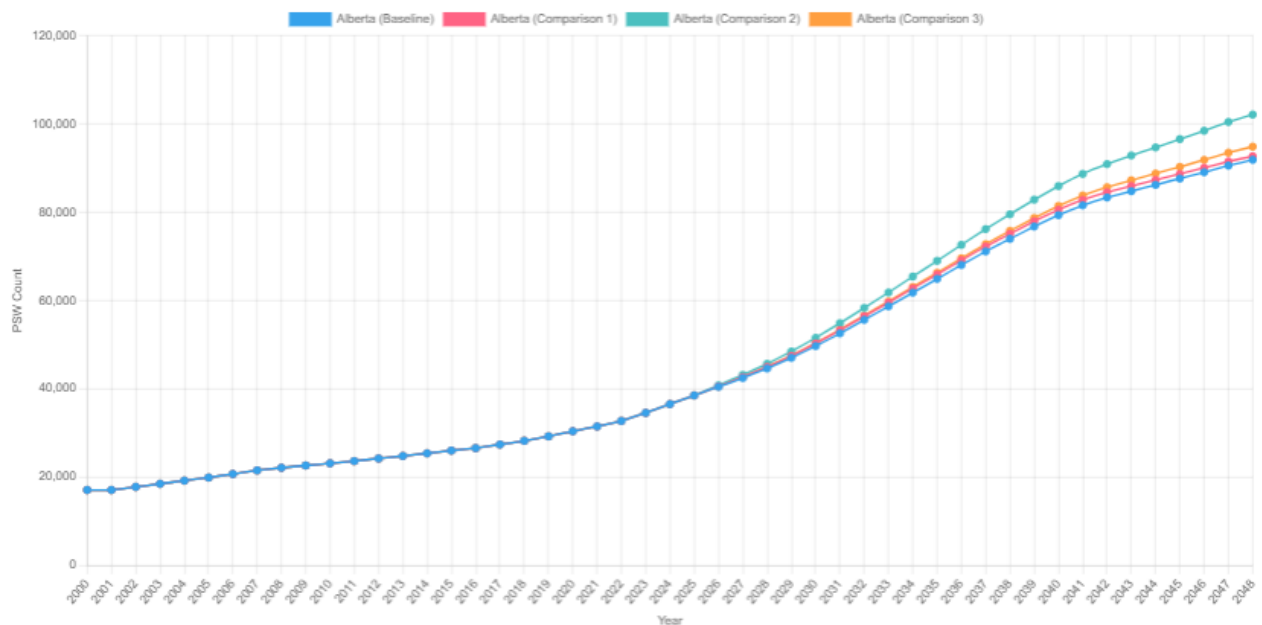
Parameter	Baseline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comparison 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comparison 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comparison 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Population Projection Scenario	Medium-growth 4	Low-growth	High-growth	Slow-aging

Year Range 2000 to 2046

Setting All

Provinces/Territories Alberta

Provincial/Territorial Total PSW Count (All Settings)



Download Chart Data

Download Chart + Comparison Table

Figure D: Output in Comparison Mode with four scenario comparisons with one province selected.



2.5 Results and Outputs

The PSW Microsimulation Tool provides a range of output formats to help users interpret the results of their scenario testing. Model outputs are designed to support evidence-based decision-making and can be exported for further analysis or reporting.

- **Understanding the numbers:** The outputs show a plot illustrating the estimated PSW workforce requirements up to 2048. This represents the number of PSWs that would be needed to maintain current service levels (existing ratios of PSWs per 100 persons aged 75 years or older in each care setting and jurisdiction based on 2024 estimates) given the projected population growth scenario selected.
- **Comparing scenarios:** When viewing multiple population projection scenarios, the differences illustrate how varying assumptions about the distribution of the population by age, fertility rates, mortality rates, and immigration affect PSW demand. Higher population growth scenarios and an increasing proportion of older adults would translate into greater demand for PSW care.
- **Planning perspective:** Use the projections as relative measures rather than precise estimates. Repeating a simulation using the same parameters could produce minor differences in estimates due to the algorithm's reliance on probabilistic (random and stochastic) processes. Our modelling outputs aim to indicate trends and may help identify potential workforce gaps, but actual needs may vary based on policy changes or shifts in service delivery over time.

2.5.1 Chart Adjustments

The results are primarily presented as interactive charts, which automatically update based on user-defined parameters. Chart functionalities differ in the unique scenario option versus the comparison scenario plot option. Users can:

- **Set range of years:** View PSW projections for preferred range of years.
- **Select specific care settings:** View PSW projections for hospitals, home care, residential care (LTC) or all care settings.
- **Filter by province/territory:** Focus on a single jurisdiction, compare multiple between provinces and territories, and select a pan-Canadian view.
- *(Future model version)* View confidence intervals around estimated counts (i.e., mean value of 10 microsimulations).

Charts include:

- Single line plot to visualize time-series between 2000 and 2048 (range is adjustable)
- Scenario comparison plots showing differences in outcomes across the above time-series

Charts are responsive and update instantly as parameter values change.



3. Understanding the Microsimulation Model

3.1 What is Microsimulation?

Microsimulation is a computational modelling technique that simulates the behavior and outcomes of individual entities—known as agents—over time within a system to understand broader population-level patterns and their policy implications. In workforce planning, this means modelling how individuals (e.g., workers, patients) of different ages, backgrounds, career paths, and life circumstances interact with demographic and policy environments over time. Unlike traditional aggregate models that treat populations as homogenous groups, microsimulation captures heterogeneity in the population—differences in individual characteristics, behaviours, and responses to policy changes—allowing for more detailed and dynamic projections.

In this tool, microsimulation is used to estimate the annual supply of PSWs in Canada from 2000 to 2048, using the projected size of the population aged 75 years and older as a proxy for demand.

3.2 Overview of the Agent-based Modelling Approach

This tool is based on an agent-based modelling (ABM) approach implemented using [AnyLogic](#), a powerful simulation platform. Agent-based microsimulation modelling uses real-world aggregated data to create a simulation of individual agents—such as health workers—and how they behave and interact with each other. In this model, PSWs are simulated as individuals based on province/territory of residence, and the care setting in which they work. Using this microsimulation approach allows the model to use aggregated data to create a synthetic population of individuals evolving across time to better estimate the impact of policy decisions, as well as emergent effects of the individuals' interactions within a system.

Key advantages of this approach:

- No need for individual-level data, avoiding privacy issues.
- Flexible and scalable, easily adapted to unregulated professions like PSWs where there is a reliance on general assumptions and limited availability of high-quality data sources.
- Real-time interactivity, allowing users to change assumptions, immediately simulate, and view the results.
- The model simulates year-by-year transitions for both the population and the PSW workforce under varying assumptions.



3.3 Model Structure

The PSW model operates in two key streams—**supply** and **demand**—with a linking mechanism to calculate alignment between them.

3.3.1 Supply: Labour Force Survey Statistics

Supply projections are based on data from the Statistic's Canada [Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#), including:

- Historical PSW employment trends
- Distribution of PSWs across provinces, territories, and care settings

Users can adjust these PSW-to-population ratios or amend the total number of PSWs in each province and territory for the baseline year (2024). Future versions of the model may also integrate PSW vacancy data, average wages, and employment tenure.

Counts of PSWs for 2024 (the model's base year), by province/territory and by care setting (or industry), were estimated from Statistics Canada's annualized LFS using the following case selection criteria:

Canadians whose primary job is included in the National Occupation Codes (NOC) 44101 and 33102 and whose work setting is included in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes beginning with 6216, 6241, 622 and 623. The inclusion of NOC 33109 was considered but excluded after expert consultation.

A few limitations of this approach should be noted. First, while it is possible to know if LFS respondents have more than one job, NOC and NAICS classification is not available beyond an individual's stated primary occupation. This means that respondents who work as PSWs but not as their primary occupation would be excluded from our PSW counts. Our PSW estimates are therefore likely to underestimate the true number of PSWs working in Canada. Another limitation of survey-based methods of data collection, including the LFS, is that estimates for smaller provinces and territories may not always be releasable due to confidentiality or data quality concerns. This is the case for territorial counts of PSWs in each of the care settings, which explains why we pooled and assigned uniform PSW-to-population ratios across all territories.

The table below summarizes the estimated count of PSWs in each province and territory and the ratios that were derived using Statistics Canada's population projection for the 2024 calendar year.

Province/Territory	Home Care Ratio	Residential Care Ratio	Hospital Ratio	Total PSW Count in 2024
	Number of PSWs per 100 Canadians age 75 years and older in 2024			
Newfoundland and Labrador	13.4	2.9	3.3	10,800
Nova Scotia	3.7	7.6	1.9	13,500
Prince Edward Island	1.3	8.8	3.8	2,300
New Brunswick	4.7	6.7	2.8	11,800
Quebec	1.9	3.5	5.0	87,900
Ontario	2.6	5.4	1.3	121,200
Manitoba	4.5	7.3	6.9	20,000
Saskatchewan	2.3	7.1	5.6	13,600
Alberta	3.4	6.7	3.0	38,500
British Columbia	2.5	4.2	3.1	48,300
Yukon*	6.4	6.4	10.6	400
Northwest Territories*	6.4	6.4	10.6	400
Nunavut*	6.4	6.4	10.6	200

*Territorial PSW-to-population ratios reflect aggregated territorial PSW estimates because care setting level values on the number of PSWs in the three territories could not be released due to confidentiality and data quality concerns. As such, the PSW-to-population ratios for each territory were set to be the same as the ratios for all three territories combined. The total PSW count for each territory based on the LFS that was available and releasable.

3.3.2 Demand: Historical and Projected Population Data

Demand is approximated by calculating a base ratio of PSWs-to-Canadians. This ratio is derived by dividing the number of PSWs in 2024 (the latest available historical estimates) in each population stratum by the number of Canadians 75 years and older—a population segment with high need for PSW support. This base ratio is then applied to projections beyond 2024 according to the user-selected population projection scenario (e.g., low-, medium-, high-growth; slow/fast aging).

Key features:

- Choice of ten population projection scenarios from Statistics Canada.
- Disaggregated by province/territory, sex, and age group.
- Annual updates from 2000 to 2048.

3.3.3 Supply and Demand Interaction

The model calculates and plots the number of PSWs needed to maintain a PSW-to-Population ratio (i.e., PSWs per 100 Canadians 75 years and older) across each Canadian province and territory. The default ratio, based on Statistics Canada data from 2024, can be replaced by user-defined ratios.

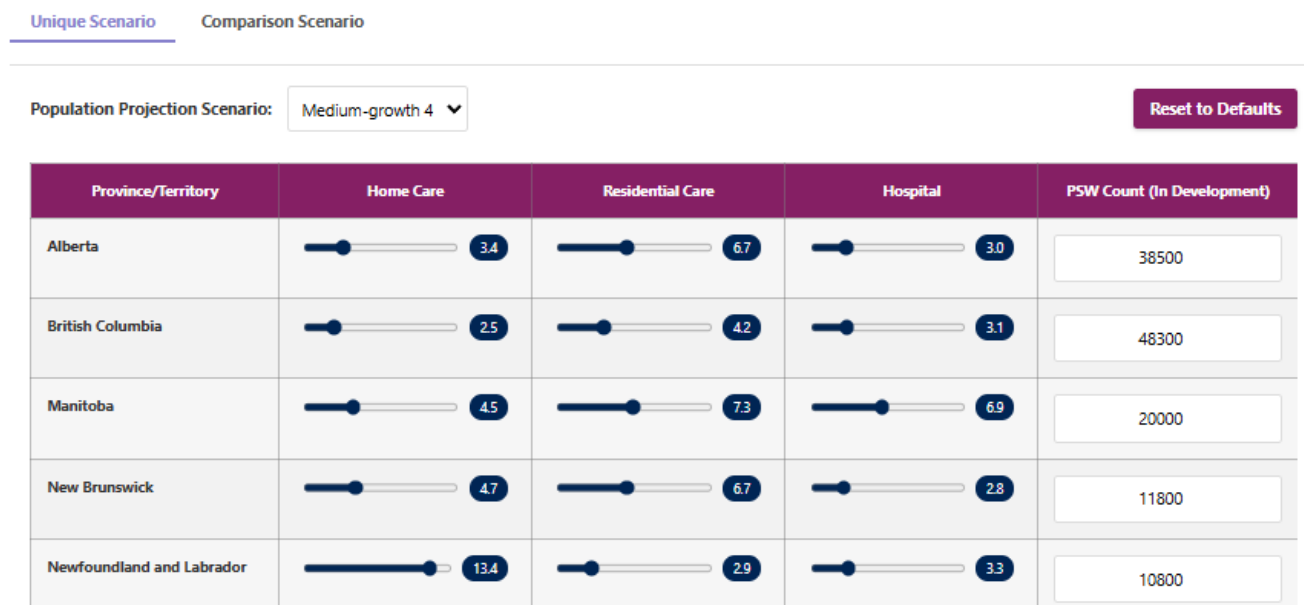


Figure E: Parameter Settings



3.4 Limitations and Uncertainties in the Model

While robust, the model includes several limitations:

- **Demand is a proxy:** Using the 75 years and older population does not fully capture health system complexity or service utilization patterns. In reality, PSWs provide services to individuals across all age groups, and population projections that account for different growth rates among various age categories would yield more refined estimates of future demand.
- **Geographic precision varies:** Estimates for certain provinces and territories may be prone to a lower degree of precision and higher variability due to limited sample sizes in the underlying LFS data.
- **Care delivery assumptions:** While the model incorporates different population growth scenarios (see below for more details), the model does not allow the user to adjust care setting ratios at different points in time (i.e., assign a different PSW to Population ratio in 2026 and after 2030). This assumes that the relative proportion of PSWs across care settings will not vary over time, which may not account for changes in workplace preferences, policy, or care approaches.
- **PSW Case Selection:** There are differing opinions on which combination of NOC and NAICS yields the most accurate PSWs estimates (lowest proportion of false negatives and false positives). We selected a combination of 2 NOC (44101, 33102) and 4 NAICS (6216, 6241, 622, 623) to identify individuals whose primary occupation is a PSW per the LFS.
- **Static assumptions:** Relevant variables like urban-rural differences, job vacancies, wage effects, or the impacts of evolving scopes of practice of professions adjacent to PSWs (e.g., Licensed Practical Nurses) are not yet incorporated in the model.

The limitations described above create uncertainty in the model's outputs that vary by geography and context. Estimates for provinces and territories with smaller populations carry greater uncertainty due to limited sample sizes. Additionally, the lack of accepted 'gold standards' for measuring PSW supply means there is inherent uncertainty about whether the model captures the true scope of the workforce. Users are encouraged to interpret the resulting estimates for **scenario exploration** rather than definitive forecasts, with an understanding that these constraints introduce uncertainty ranges into the projections.



4. Exporting Results and Visuals

Users can export their custom model simulation scenario results in various formats:

Downloadable Charts: Export line plots as PNG, JPG, or SVG files for inclusion in reports or presentations.


Data Tables: Export annual values for selected variables in CSV and JSON.

The JSON file contains the raw output from the Anylogic Cloud simulation run. This information can be parsed for verification purposes as needed. However, all data in the JSON file are available in the CSV files from the download package.

The following columns and data are included in the CSV file downloads:

- **Province:** The province abbreviation for the output
- **Category:** The output dataset with four options
 - “all count DS” – Combined care settings
 - “HC count DS” – Home care only
 - “HS count DS” – Hospital care only
 - “RC count DS” – Residential care only
- **Year:** Year of the modelled estimates.
- **Type:** An Anylogic descriptor of the output statistics type for the Monte Carlo simulation
- **Count:** The number of iterations (simulations) ran for each parameter set
- **Min:** The minimum value generated in the set of iterations
- **Max:** The maximum value generated in the set of iterations
- **Mean:** The mean value generated for the set of iterations
- **Variance*:** The variance of the iteration set
- **StdDev*:** The standard deviation of the iteration set
- **LowerBound:** The lower bound of the 95% confidence interval around the mean
- **UpperBound:** The upper bound of the 95% confidence interval around the mean
- **Scenario:** The identifier for the comparison scenario that generated the output. ***This Scenario output column is only included in the data download tables for the “Comparison Scenario”.***

* Currently, the *StdDev* and *Variance* columns are only reporting values of 0 because this version of the PSW microsimulation model does not account for the variance associated with the LFS PSW estimates. Future updates will introduce probability distributions based on the latest LFS data, at which point the variance and standard deviation will be populated.



Province	Category	Year	Type	Count	Min	Max	Mean	Variance	StdDev	LowerBound	UpperBound	Scenario
ON	all count DS	2000	DISCRETE	10	63155	63155	63155	0	0	63155	63155	Baseline
ON	all count DS	2001	DISCRETE	10	63155	63155	63155	0	0	63155	63155	Baseline
ON	all count DS	2002	DISCRETE	10	65451	65451	65451	0	0	65451	65451	Baseline
ON	all count DS	2003	DISCRETE	10	67919	67919	67919	0	0	67919	67919	Baseline
ON	all count DS	2004	DISCRETE	10	70334	70334	70334	0	0	70334	70334	Baseline
ON	all count DS	2005	DISCRETE	10	72547	72547	72547	0	0	72547	72547	Baseline
ON	all count DS	2006	DISCRETE	10	74876	74876	74876	0	0	74876	74876	Baseline
ON	all count DS	2007	DISCRETE	10	77450	77450	77450	0	0	77450	77450	Baseline
ON	all count DS	2008	DISCRETE	10	79378	79378	79378	0	0	79378	79378	Baseline

Figure F: Example output of the CSV file download generated using the Comparison Scenario view

Scenario Summaries: Capture the full set of parameters used during scenario simulations for documentation and reproducibility.

The export functionality supports easy sharing of results with colleagues, stakeholders, and advisory groups.

4.1 Accessing Raw Data and Model Files

For users interested in further analysis, improving upon the HWC model, or integrating with other modelling efforts, all underlying resources of the PSW model are open-access and available for download. This includes:

Raw Model Data: Including baseline PSW-to-population ratios, historical labour force data, historical and projected population projection variants.

Model Code and Documentation: AnyLogic code and accompanying documentation are available for download for those looking to replicate or modify the model. *Note:* AnyLogic model files can be opened in a text editor but are more easily viewed and edited using AnyLogic Software. AnyLogic files are coded in **Java**. A free trial version of the AnyLogic software is available [here](#).

These resources are intended to promote transparency, encourage feedback, and support continued development by other researchers or planning bodies.



5. Sensitivity Analysis and Validation

The model underwent a series of internal and external validation procedures.

Internal validation steps included:

- Conducting a code review to check the model source code for errors.
- Checking input parameters in the model against the intended inputs provided.
- Checking the model and website to ensure output data aligns with the model generated values and is presented correctly.

External validation steps included:

- Comparing historical PSW estimates from the LFS against annual Alberta PSW counts from the HWC Provider Profile dashboard.
 - Comparing historical PSW estimates from the LFS against payroll data from the Government of Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, report years 2022 to 2024. *Note:* The payroll data referenced is not currently publicly available.
 - Comparing PSW output data against existing publications, including two reports by Kralj, Sweetman and AGE-WELL National Innovation Hub Advancing Policies and Practices in Technology and Aging (APPTA). See the 7. Key References and Further Reading section below.


6. Troubleshooting and Support

Questions, comments, and suggestions pertaining to the PSW model and the source datasets can be sent to: [Modelling Team Support](#)

7. Key References and Further Reading

National Occupational Standard for Personal Care Providers: A guide for Canadian employers, educators, and job seekers to make informed decisions about hiring, skills training, and career choices. (2022). https://nos-nnp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/CICan_NationalOccupationalStandard_PersonalCareProviders-2.pdf

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