

# Groundwater Nitrate in Prince Edward Island

The graph below shows the trend in annual average groundwater nitrate concentration in P.E.I. The graph was created from private well water samples from 1997 to 2016.

Nitrate in groundwater is highly variable in the province. Individual drinking water wells may have a concentration much lower or higher than the average shown in the image. Differences can be due to the depth of the well, length of the well casing and the distance to sources. The only way to know the nitrate concentration in an individual well is to test the water from that well.

Nitrate is found naturally at low levels in groundwater generally below 1 mg-N/L. Higher concentrations on P.E.I. can result from human activities. The dominant source of added nitrate is from row crops such as potatoes, but septic systems, livestock and manure are also contributors.

## Average Groundwater Nitrate P.E.I.

