

This bulletin is a quick inventory of recent social research information. Its purpose is to promptly disseminate the most current external and internal research relevant to social policy.

Families, Households and Marital Status: Key Results from the 2016 Census by Statistics Canada, August 2017.

Today, more people in Canada are living alone, as part of a couple without children or in common-law unions than in the past. The evolving living arrangements and families of Canadians can have consequences on the housing market, on caregiving and care receiving and on intergenerational relationships.

For Toronto specifically:

- The number of families and households continues to grow, but the City's proportion in the Greater Toronto Area continues to decline slightly
- Common law couples are the family type that has grown the fastest since the last Census. The percentage of couples with children continues to drop
- More people are living on their own. One-person households continue to increase, and now form nearly one-third of all households in the City of Toronto
- The proportion of Torontonians aged 15 and over who are married or living with common law partner remained stable from 2011 at 51% of the population
- Toronto continues to be a mosaic of languages. In 2016, 44% of Toronto residents had a mother tongue other than English or French

For link to Statistics Canada Census Briefings:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/170802/dq170802a-eng.pdf>

For link to the Statistics Canada; City of Toronto, August 2017':

<http://bit.ly/2ffC3pM>

Demographic Change in Toronto's Neighbourhoods: Meeting Community Needs across the Life Span by Yeshewamebrat Desta and Beth Wilson, Social Planning Toronto, June 2017.

According to this report Toronto's baby boomers are aging and will soon overwhelm our already backlogged city infrastructure and services like long-term care spaces and recreational programming are not prepared for this historic shift.

- According to the 2016 Census, 2,731,571 people live in Toronto, an increase of 4.5% since the 2011 Census

- The highest growth was observed for the 65-69 year-old age group at 27.4% followed by residents aged 85 and over at 20.1%
- The middle age groups in their 40s declined by 7.5% for 40-44 year-olds and 8% for 45-49 year-olds
- Neighbourhoods with the highest rates of population growth among preschool age children are concentrated in the downtown core

For link to the report:

<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/socialplanningtoronto/pages/696/attachments/original/1498575451/DemographicChangeCensusReport-v1.2-web.pdf?1498575451>

Ontario's One Cylinder Economy: Housing in Toronto and Weak Business Investment by Philip Cross, Fraser Institute, July 2017.

Economic growth in Ontario has lagged Canada since 2003, reducing the province to 'have-not' status within Confederation. The paper finds that the high cost of doing business in Ontario is the main drag on growth. These costs include everything from high electricity rates, the rising cost of labour and high income taxes to the indirect cost of a heavy regulatory burden

- Manufacturing has become a larger share of Quebec's economy than of Ontario's, partly a reflection of how manufacturing has shrunk from 21.7% of Ontario's economy in 2002 to 12.1% in 2015.
- Energy-intensive manufacturing has fared much better in Quebec than in Ontario in recent years, helped by Quebec's much lower electricity prices.
- Weak growth in manufacturing has left Ontario increasingly dependent on housing, which has contributed over 29% of its income growth in the past year

For link to the paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/ontarios-one-cylinder-economy-housing-in-toronto-and-weak-business-investment.pdf>

Land Value Capture and Social Benefits: Toronto and São Paulo Compared by Abigail Friendly, Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance (IMFG), July 2017.

This paper compares the history and use of Toronto's Section 37 with a similar tool in São Paulo, Brazil, known as the OODC (Outoga Onerosa do Direito de Construir). The paper looks at the effectiveness, benefits, challenges, and politics of these tools, as well as who benefits from them.

- In Toronto, benefits must be located close to the development and thus there is a concentration of benefits downtown
- In São Paulo, the benefits are used across the city by depositing the money into a fund to be used in the city's periphery where there is the most poverty
- In Toronto, citywide pooling is unlikely to work in the same way as in São Paulo, despite the fact that development charges are already used on a uniform basis across the municipality

For link to the paper:

http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/431/imfgpaper_no33_land_value_capture_abigail_friendly_july_12_2017.pdf

A Renewed Voice for Social Canada by Michael Mendelson, Caledon Institute of Social Policy, July 2017.

For the first time in more than a decade, Canada's federal government has explicitly adopted reducing poverty and inequality as a goal. A substantial increase in child benefits, increased pensions for low-income seniors, improvements to the Canada Pension Plan, the promise of a national housing strategy, a series of child care agreements with the provinces and territories, and many other measures are among its early initiatives, demonstrating Ottawa's determination to make progress towards realizing this goal.

- Ottawa is responsible for about 80 percent of the benefits paid through Canada's income security system
- The Government of Canada's development of an official poverty reduction strategy will go a long way towards a more coherent approach to reducing poverty and inequality
- The federal government should voice for 'social Canada' to help accomplish this objective on a continuing basis by convening civil society, promoting innovation in social policy and monitoring outcomes

For link to the paper:

<http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/1116ENG.pdf>

Previous issues of the SPAR Monitor can be viewed online at: <http://bit.ly/1ez7uDB>

Social Policy, Analysis and Research Information Resources:

Wellbeing Toronto: www.toronto.ca/wellbeing

Demographics & other resources: www.toronto.ca/demographics