

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.

Immigration and Diversity: Population Projections for Canada and its Regions, 2011 to 2036 by Jean-Dominique Morency, Éric Caron Malenfant and Samuel MacIsaac, Statistics Canada, January 2017.

Canada's population has long included a large proportion of immigrants. Since Canadian Confederation in 1867, the proportion of immigrants has never fallen below 13% (Statistics Canada 2010). This proportion has been continually rising over the past 30 years, to 20.7% in 2011. The main objective of these projections is to assess the sensitivity of ethno cultural diversity trends over the next 25 years to certain key aspects of immigration, such as the number of new immigrants, their geographic distribution and their origin.

Some of the highlights:

- Based on the projection scenarios used, immigrants would represent between 24.5% and 30.0% of Canada's population in 2036, compared with 20.7% in 2011. These would be the highest proportions since 1871
- In 2036, between 55.7% and 57.9% of Canada's immigrant population could have been born in Asia, up from 44.8% estimated in 2011, while between 15.4% and 17.8% could have been born in Europe, down from 31.6% in 2011
- The proportion of the second-generation population, i.e., non-immigrants with at least one parent born abroad, within the total Canadian population would also increase. In 2036, nearly one in five people would be of second generation, compared with 17.5% in 2011
- Together, immigrants and second-generation individuals could represent nearly one person in two (between 44.2% and 49.7%) in 2036, up from 2011 (38.2%)

For link to the report:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/91-551-x/91-551-x2017001-eng.pdf>

Interrelations between Public Policies, Migration and Development by a team from the OECD Development Centre, February 2017.

The international community is increasingly acknowledging that migrants can make a positive contribution to development, both in countries of origin and destination. The question that must now be answered is "what policies will allow this potential to be realised and minimise any negative impact?"

- Emigration can relieve underemployment, provide an incentive for skills upgrading and increase women's economic and social autonomy in the countries of origin
- Remittances can help build financial and human capital in origin countries. Given a supportive policy environment they can remove credit constraints and allow households to invest in businesses and other productive activities

- Return migration is a largely underexploited resource. With the right policies in place, return migrants can invest financial capital in business start-ups and self-employment and have the potential to transfer the skills and knowledge acquired abroad
- Immigrants have much to contribute – their labour and skills, as well as investing and paying taxes in their host country

For link to the report:

<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/deliver/4116181e.pdf?itemId=/content/book/9789264265615-en&mimeType=application/pdf>

A Better Way Forward: Ontario’s 3-Year Anti-Racism Strategic Plan by Government of Ontario, March 2017.

This report is the province’s commitment to change the way we do things and break down barriers to advance racial equity. This means reviewing government policies, programs and services to find ways for everyone to have better opportunities and outcomes. It’s about making sure government is here to serve and support everyone.

- Systemic racism occurs when an institution or set of institutions working together creates or maintains racial inequity
- Anti-racism involves consistently assessing structures, policies and programs, and through monitoring outcomes, ensuring they are fair and equitable for everyone
- The Anti-Racism Strategic Plan targets systemic racism by building an anti-racism approach into the way government develops policies, makes decisions, evaluates programs, and monitors outcomes

For link to the report:

https://files.ontario.ca/ar-2001_ard_report_tagged_final-s.pdf

No Place to Grow Old: How Canadian Suburbs Can Become Age-Friendly by Glenn Miller, the Canadian Urban Institute for the IRPP, March 2017.

A recent Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation study noted that today’s seniors prefer to “age in place” until their health or economic circumstances force them to relocate to retirement homes or long-term care facilities. Postponing such decisions may be an option for some, but as the number of elderly seniors continues to grow, the question arises of whether Canada’s built environment — the neighbourhoods and transportation networks that define the shape and functions of our cities — can be successfully adapted to meet the needs of an aging population.

- With Canada’s population aging rapidly, municipalities must refocus community planning efforts to deal with the impact of decades-old car dependent suburban sprawl that leaves less mobile seniors isolated
- Although most of Ontario’s largest cities have declared their intention to become “age-friendly,” none have yet taken the basic step of amending their land-use plans to reflect that commitment

- Amending provincial planning policies to make age-friendly planning a municipal priority would complement other provincial policies favouring compact, walkable development and promoting aging at home

For link to the report:

<http://irpp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/insight-no14.pdf>

Comparing Government and Private Sector Compensation in Alberta by Charles Lammam, Milagros Palacios, and Feixue Ren, Fraser Institute, March 2017.

After several years of operating deficits and taking on new debt, Alberta has seen its financial position erode markedly. While some believe the boom-bust of provincial finances is inherent to an energy-producing jurisdiction, this is not rooted in fact. The real issue is Alberta's undisciplined government spending. As the provincial government tries to constrain spending, an important area of spending to scrutinize is the compensation of government employees, which consumes around half of the government's annual program spending.

- In Alberta in 2015 about 0.4 million Alberta workers, representing 17.8 percent of total employment, were employed in the public sector. There were 1.5 million workers employed in the private sector in 2015, representing 65.9 percent of total employment (Statistics Canada, 2016a)
- In 2015, Alberta's government sector workers earned a wage premium of 7.9 percent, on average. When unionization is accounted for, the wage premium declines to 5.4 percent. The wage premium varies within particular industries and occupations
- There is insufficient data to calculate or make a definitive statement about the differences in non-wage benefits between the public and private sectors in Alberta

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/comparing-government-and-private-sector-compensation-in-alberta-2017.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