

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.

Homelessness Partnering Strategy by Dr. Patrick Hunter, Employment and Social Development Canada, 2016.

Between January 1 and April 30, 2016, the Government of Canada provided support to 32 communities across Canada that participated in a coordinated count of homeless populations in their respective areas. These communities used the Point-in-Time (PiT) Count method in order to better understand the nature and scope of local homelessness.

- Across the 32 participating communities, a total of 5,954 people were identified as experiencing homelessness in the core populations
- 1,417 people (24%) were enumerated in unsheltered locations, 2,832 people (47%) were enumerated in shelters and 1,705 people (29%) were enumerated in transitional facilities
- 245 people were enumerated who were experiencing homelessness and did not know where they would spend the night
- In 17 communities, 478 people enumerated had no fixed address and were sleeping in health and corrections facilities

For link to the report:

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/canada/employment-social-development/programs/communities/homelessness/reports/highlights/PiT-Doc.pdf>

Measuring Student Enrolment In Canada – 2017: Where Our Students Are Educated by Angela MacLeod and Sazid Hassan, Fraser Institute, 2017.

This study measures the degree to which Canadians in each province choose between the three principal ways of educating their children: public schools, independent schools, and home schooling. The study covers the period from 2000–01 to 2014–15. It is important to understand the enrolment numbers within the context of a declining school age population, which obviously has an impact on school enrolment.

- Every province except Alberta (growth of 11.6 percent) recorded a decline in their school-aged population over this period
- In 2014-15, New Brunswick had the highest level of enrolment in public schools at 98.5 percent of total enrolment
- British Columbia had the lowest enrolment level in public schools at 86.8 percent
- At 24.8 percent, Newfoundland & Labrador recorded the largest decline over the period

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/where-our-students-are-educated-measuring-student-enrolment-in-canada-2017.pdf>

Minimum Wage Increases, Wages, and Low-Wage Employment: Evidence from Seattle by Jardim et al., National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper, June 2017.

This paper evaluates the wage, employment, and hours effects of the first and second phase-in of the Seattle Minimum Wage Ordinance, which raised the minimum wage from \$9.47 to \$11 per hour in 2015 and to \$13 per hour in 2016. Employment losses associated with Seattle's mandated wage increases are in fact large enough to have resulted in net reductions in payroll expenses – and total employee earnings – in the low-wage job market. Using a variety of methods to analyze employment in all sectors paying below a specified real hourly rate, we conclude that:

- The second wage increase to \$13 reduced hours worked in low-wage jobs by around 9 percent, while hourly wages in such jobs increased by around 3 percent
- Total payroll fell for such jobs, implying that the minimum wage ordinance lowered low-wage employees' earnings by an average of \$125 per month in 2016
- We estimate an effect of zero when analyzing employment in the restaurant industry at all wage levels, comparable to many prior studies.

For link to the report:

<https://evans.uw.edu/sites/default/files/NBER%20Working%20Paper.pdf>

Housing Market Insight – July 2017 by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

This report presents data on ownership of apartment buildings in the purpose-built rental market. The information presented is based on a new set of questions added to CMHC's 2016 Rental Market Survey. The motivation for these new questions was to address one of the data gaps in the housing market identified by consultations conducted in 2014 and 2015.

- Roughly 90 per cent of purpose-built rental apartment units in Canada are owned by individual investors and private corporations
- Private corporations that do not offer company stock to the general public on stock market exchanges, account for 39.7% of the market
- The share of foreign ownership of purpose-built rental apartments is small. Nationally, it stands at 2.4 per cent

For link to the report:

<https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/catalog/productDetail.cfm?cat=193&itm=1>

Why Core Housing Need is a Poor Metric to Measure Outcomes of Canada's National Housing Strategy
by Steve Pomeroy, Caledon Institute, July 2017.

Core housing need is a concept developed by CMHC in the mid-1980s. It established three types of housing problem related to: adequacy (physical condition of dwelling), suitability (too many people for size of unit and number of bedrooms) and affordability (paying more than 30 percent of gross income). It also uses an income threshold based on income required to afford a median rent unit of appropriate size for that household in the local market without exceeding 30 percent of income. Core need was initially designed as a way to allocate federal budgets between provinces/territories on the basis of housing need. It subsequently became adopted as a threshold for eligibility for assistance and as an aggregate measure of housing need.

- In total, almost one million renter households remain in core need in 2011
- Core housing need (for both owners and renters) peaked in 1996 at 1.57 million (15.6 percent of all households)
- It is also notable that core need declined the most during a period of federal inactivity (1994-2002) with the absence of any federal housing programs for new supply

For link to the report:

http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/1114ENG.pdf?utm_source=Announcement&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Announcement1349

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