

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.

Chronic Low Income among Immigrants in Canada and its Communities by Garnett Picot and Yuqian Lu, Statistics Canada, September 2017.

This paper examines the rate of chronic low income among immigrants aged 25 or older in Canada during the 2000s. Chronic low income is defined as having a family income under a low-income cut-off for five consecutive years or more. A regionally adjusted low-income measure is used for the analysis. Among immigrants who were in low income in any given year, about one-half were in chronic low income.

- Immigrants in chronic low-income increased from 15.8% in 2000 to 16.3% in 2004, but then declined to 12.3% by 2012
- Among the comparison group, which is comprised primarily of persons born in Canada, the share in chronic low-income declined from 6.1% in 2000 to 3.7% in 2012
- About one-half of all immigrants who were below the low-income cut-off in 2012 had been so for five years or more, compared to 43% among persons born in Canada
- Immigrants over the age of 65 had the highest rates of chronic low income in 2012, at around 30%

For link to the study:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2017397-eng.pdf>

Measuring the Impact of Federal Personal Income Tax Changes on Middle Income Canadian Families by Charles Lammam, Milagros Palacios, and Hugh MacIntyre, Fraser Institute, September 2017.

During the 2015 federal election campaign, the Liberals pledged to cut income taxes on Canada's middle class. Since coming into office, the government has repeatedly claimed that it has delivered on this commitment. While the federal government did reduce the second lowest federal personal income tax rate, it also simultaneously introduced several other broader changes to the federal personal income tax system.

- They introduced a new, higher top income tax rate and eliminated several tax credits, which had the effect of increasing taxes on Canadian families who previously claimed those credits
- It has resulted in 60 percent of the 3.88 million families with children covered in this paper (representing 13.9 million individuals), paying more in taxes
- The group of families the federal government claims to want to help—81 percent are paying more in taxes as a result of the federal income tax changes
- For the subset of middle income families consisting of couples with children, an even greater share (89 percent) pays higher income taxes

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/measuring-the-impact-of-federal-personal-income-tax-changes-on-middle-income-canadian-families.pdf>

Decent Work in the Green Economy by Jordann Thirgood, Scott Mcfatridge, Mercedes Marcano, Jamie Van Ymeren, Mowat Centre and Smart Prosperity Institute, October 2017.

As Ontario and other provinces move toward a greener economy, policymakers should consider the implications of these changes on employment opportunities, and particularly opportunities for decent work. This report identifies where workers might be vulnerable to disruption, and considers where policy intervention may be beneficial.

- For many economic sectors, the transition to a green economy means opportunity and for other sectors, the transition is potentially disruptive
- In Ontario, the transition to a low-polluting, resource-efficient economy is occurring at the same time as other disruptions which means changes are not distributed evenly across society
- [Ontario] is home to 289 cleantech companies – just over a third of all Canadian cleantech firms

For link to the report:

https://mowatcentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/publications/156_decent_work_in_the_green_economy.pdf

The Best and Worst Places to be a Woman in Canada 2017: The Gender Gap in Canada's 25 Biggest Cities by Kate McInturff, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, October 2017.

This annual study provides a snapshot of the gaps in men and women's access to economic security, personal security, education, health, and positions of leadership in Canada's largest 25 metropolitan areas. It measures these gaps in a given community in order to capture inequalities that can be attributed, at least in part, to discrimination based on gender; it also serves as a reminder that, with the right choices and policies, these gaps can be closed.

- Windsor finds itself again at the bottom of this list, the women of that city have much to be hopeful about
- Edmonton continues to struggle with one of the largest wage gaps in the country
- Cities in Québec tend to outperform the rest of Canada, particularly in the economic sphere
- Every city struggles with stubbornly high rates of sexual and domestic violence

Link to the study:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2017/10/Best%20and%20Worst%20Places%20to%20Be%20a%20Woman%202017.pdf>

Economic Freedom of the World 2017 Annual Report by James Gwartney, Robert Lawson, and Joshua Hall, Fraser Institute, September 2017.

This report is the world's premier measurement of economic freedom, ranking countries based on five areas: size of government, legal structure and security of property rights, access to sound money, freedom to trade internationally, and regulation of credit, labour and business. This year's report compares 159 countries and territories. In this year's ranking, which is based on 2015 data, Hong Kong is again number one, Canada dropped to 11th from the 5th spot last year and is tied with the United States.

- Hong Kong and Singapore, once again, occupy the top two positions. The other nations in the top 10 are New Zealand, Switzerland, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Mauritius, Georgia, Australia, and Estonia
- Nations in the top quartile of economic freedom had an average per-capita GDP of \$42,463 in 2015, compared to \$6,036 for bottom quartile nations
- In the top quartile, the average income of the poorest 10% was \$11,998, compared to \$1,124 in the bottom quartile in 2015
- Life expectancy is 80.7 years in the top quartile compared to 64.4 years in the bottom quartile (

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/economic-freedom-of-the-world-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