

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.

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**Welfare in Canada 2017** by Anne Tweddle and Hannah, Maytree, November 2018.

Welfare in Canada is a series that presents the welfare incomes of four example households living on social assistance in a given year. Welfare in Canada was established by the Caledon Institute of Social Policy to maintain data previously published by the National Council of Welfare. In 2018, Maytree assumed responsibility for updating the series.

- In 2017, the highest welfare income of a single person considered employable was in Newfoundland and Labrador at almost \$11,400, but in all other provinces, welfare incomes clustered at a lower level of around \$7,000 to \$9,500
- Ontario had the highest welfare income for individuals on a standard disability assistance program at almost \$14,700, with all other provinces falling between \$9,800 and \$13,100
- The maximum welfare income for a single parent with one child ranged from just under \$18,200 in Nova Scotia to \$23,364 in Newfoundland and Labrador

For link to the report:

[https://maytree.com/wp-content/uploads/Welfare\\_in\\_Canada\\_2017.pdf](https://maytree.com/wp-content/uploads/Welfare_in_Canada_2017.pdf)

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**Planning the Next Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH)** by Pamela Blais, Metropole Consultants and The Neptis Foundation, November 30, 2018.

The economic landscape of the GGH is in the midst of a dramatic shift. A more balanced pattern of urban and suburban employment growth has given way to the hyper-concentration of knowledge-based activities in and around downtown Toronto. This pattern is reinforced by the loss or slower growth of the economic activities that have historically been dispersed throughout the region.

- In the GGH, Finance grew by 47,000 jobs between 2006 and 2016, HOBS (High Order Business Services) by 25,000, Soft Tech by 19,000, and Arts and Design by 10,000 jobs
- There was little to no core job growth in the Urban Growth Centres (UGCs), Major Transit Station Areas (MTSAs), and other Strategic Growth Areas designated in the Growth Plan
- Significant areas of core employment loss across the region, including southern Oshawa, the inner suburbs of the City of Toronto, southerly employment areas of the 905, south of the QEW, in Hamilton city centre, and in Kitchener and Cambridge
- Employment [declined] in certain Archetypes: including the loss of 130,000 Other Manufacturing jobs, 22,000 Hard Tech jobs, 18,000 Other Wholesaling jobs, and 3,000 Back Office jobs

For link to the report:

[http://www.neptis.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_the\\_next\\_ggh/neptis\\_planningthenextggh\\_report\\_dec4\\_2018.pdf](http://www.neptis.org/sites/default/files/planning_the_next_ggh/neptis_planningthenextggh_report_dec4_2018.pdf)

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**Economic Immigrants in Gateway Cities: Factors Involved in Their Initial Location and Onward Migration Decisions** by Marc Frenette, Statistics Canada, December 2018.

Immigrants tend to reside disproportionately in larger Canadian cities, which may challenge their absorptive capacity. This study uses the linked Longitudinal Immigration Database and T1 Family File to examine the initial location and onward migration decisions of immigrants who are economic principal applicants (EPAs) and who have landed since the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act was passed. The main objective of the study is to identify the factors associated with initially residing and remaining in Canada's three largest gateway cities: Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver (referred to as MTV).

- An increasing proportion of economic principal applicants (EPAs) have entered as provincial nominees or in the Canadian Experience Class (a new category introduced in 2009) in recent years
- The proportion intending to work in natural and applied sciences and related occupations declined considerably (from 40.5% to 24.1% over the period)
- At least two-thirds of EPAs held a university degree at landing (regardless of the cohort)

For link to the study:

[https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/access\\_acces/alternative\\_alternatif.action?l=eng&loc=/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2018411-eng.pdf](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/access_acces/alternative_alternatif.action?l=eng&loc=/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2018411-eng.pdf)

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**Risk and Reward in Public Sector Pension Plans: A Taxpayer's Perspective** by Malcolm Hamilton and Philip Cross, Fraser Institute, December 2018.

The most striking feature of Canada's retirement system is arguably the large and growing gap between pensions in the public and private sectors. Eighty percent of public sector workers participate in defined benefit (DB) pension plans. Only ten percent of private sector workers can make the same claim. With the collapse of interest rates in the early 2000s, DB plans became prohibitively expensive in the private sector, yet they flourished in the public sector.

- [W]e attribute the success of Canada's public sector DB plans to large public subsidies made possible by practices that are neither admirable nor virtuous: bad accounting, poor governance, imprudent risk taking, and inadequate financial disclosure
- Rather than charge employees the added cost, private sector employers closed their DB plans and replaced them with savings plans
- By our estimate, [shifting risk to taxpayers] provides an unacknowledged \$22 billion annual subsidy to Canada's public sector DB plans and, ultimately, to the members of these plans

For link to the report:

[https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/risk-and-reward-in-public-sector-pension-plans\\_0.pdf](https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/risk-and-reward-in-public-sector-pension-plans_0.pdf)

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**Labour Market Experiences of First Nations People Living off Reserve: Key findings from the 2017 Aboriginal Peoples Survey**, Statistics Canada, November 2018.

Labour market experiences are important to economic well-being, not only of individuals but also of families and communities. The Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) provides comprehensive information about the labour market experiences of First Nations people living off reserve. In addition to labour market information (the number employed, unemployed and not in the labour force), the APS digs deeper, asking questions such as: Why do some people choose self-employment? How many working part time would prefer to be working full time?

- Employment rates varied with age, with 64% of core working age adults, 40% of youth and 34% of older adults being employed
- A majority (82%) of employed First Nations people living off reserve aged 15 years and older had a permanent job
- Of the 18% that did not work a permanent job, 8% worked a temporary, term or contract job, 5% worked a seasonal job, 4% worked a casual job, and 1% worked a job that was in some other way non-permanent

For link to the report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/181126/dq181126a-eng.pdf>

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**The Human Freedom Index 2018** by Ian Vasquez and Tamja Porcnik, the Cato Institute, the Fraser Institute, and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, December 2018.

The Human Freedom Index (HFI) presents a broad measure of human freedom, understood as the absence of coercive constraint. The HFI is the most comprehensive freedom index created so far for a globally meaningful set of countries. The HFI covers 162 countries for 2016, the most recent year for which sufficient data are available, and it includes three countries—Belarus, Iraq, and Sudan—that were added this year.

- Since 2008, the level of global freedom has also decreased slightly (-0.06), with 56 countries in the index increasing their ratings and 81 decreasing
- The top 10 places were New Zealand, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, the Netherlands & Denmark (tied for 6<sup>th</sup>), Ireland & United Kingdom (tied for 8<sup>th</sup>), and Finland, Norway, and Taiwan (tied for 10<sup>th</sup>)
- Women-specific freedoms, as measured by seven indicators in the index, are strongest in North America, Western Europe, and Eastern Europe and are least protected in the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia

- The most unfree countries included China (135), Pakistan (140), Zimbabwe (143), Saudi Arabia (146), Iran (153), Egypt (156), Iraq (159), Venezuela (161), and Syria (162)

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/human-freedom-index-2018.pdf>

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Previous issues of the SPAR Monitor can be viewed online at: <http://bit.ly/2iltgRQ>

Social Policy, Analysis and Research Information Resources:

Wellbeing Toronto: [www.toronto.ca/wellbeing](http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing)

City of Toronto Data, Research & Maps: <https://web.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/>