

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.

Toronto's Vital Signs Report 2017/18 by Toronto Foundation, February 2018.

According to this report Toronto is one of the best places to live in the world. Our population is growing, our skyline is rising, our economy is booming and the vibrancy, diversity and richness of our cultural communities continue to expand. The population of the City of Toronto has increased to 2,731,571 people, according to the 2016 census, which is up 4.5 per cent over 2011. The economy of the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), or the Toronto region, is now roughly the size of Quebec's.

- Health, income, housing and learning, Toronto's mortality rate is 16 per cent higher for low-income residents than it is for the wealthy
- One-third of the city's families with children are led by lone parents, 47 per cent of residents are immigrants and 51 per cent belong to a visible minority group
- One per cent of the population makes more than \$250,000 a year while thirty-five per cent make less than \$20,000
- For the first time in history, there are more seniors in Toronto than children

For link to the report:

<https://torontofoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/TF-VS-web-FINAL-4MB.pdf>

No Temporary Solution: Ontario's Shifting College and University Workforce by Erika Shaker, Robin Shaban, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, February 2018.

Public and political attention is increasingly focused on growing socioeconomic inequality, in particular the decline of secure, full-time work and rise of more precarious forms of employment. The trend is more evident in some sectors, like retail, than others, but few sectors — whether in the private or public spheres — appear to be completely immune. This report explores the extent to which conditions for workers in Canada's post-secondary institutions are shifting as well.

- Universities and colleges are more than just places of learning. They are also places of work, employing 377,000 people nationwide in 2016 (140,000 of them in Ontario) across a range of occupations
- For Ontario colleges, close to 50% of revenue comes from government grants while over 35% comes from fees
- In Ontario, approximately 34% of university funding came from public sources in 2016; about 35% came from students through tuition fees

For link to the report:

https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2018/02/No%20Temporary%20Solution_CCPA%20report.pdf

What Would It Take? Youth across Canada Speak Out on Youth Homelessness Prevention by Kaitlin Schwan, Stephen Gaetz, David French, Melanie Redman, Jesse Thistle, and Erin Dej, The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, A Way Home Canada, 2018.

While preventing homelessness is generally regarded as a good thing, we often have little clarity about what it actually means. Youth explained that they became homeless as a result of many intersecting factors, such as poverty, family conflict, difficulty transitioning from care, limited availability of services, and landlord discrimination.

Some of the challenges faced by youth:

- Low social assistance rates that forced youth and their families to choose between paying rent, eating, clothing themselves, accessing education, and using public transportation
- Complex bureaucratic barriers and high acuity requirements to obtain social assistance, public housing, youth housing, and rent subsidies
- Experiences of discrimination and stigmatization when applying to access housing, income supports, and employment
- Limited employment opportunities, with available work often poorly-paid and precarious

For link to the report:

http://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COH-AWH_What_Would_it_Take.pdf

The Exit and Survival Patterns of Immigrant Entrepreneurs: The Case of Private Incorporated Companies by Yuri Ostrovsky and Garnett Picot, Statistics Canada, January 2018.

This paper employs the Canadian Employer–Employee Dynamics Database (CEEDD) to address two questions. First, do duration and exit patterns of firm ownership differ between immigrant and Canadian-born entrepreneurs? Second, what immigrant characteristics are associated with lower exit rates and longer ownership spells? The paper focuses on new spells of ownership of private incorporated companies that started between 2003 and 2009.

- Among all immigrants, 11.5% ended ownership after one year in business while the rate fell to 3.9% after seven years
- 80% of all immigrant business owners were still owners two years after the beginning of the ownership spell and 56% were still owners after seven years
- Although the exit rates were somewhat lower among Canadian-born than immigrant business owners during the first three years of ownership, they were very similar thereafter

For link to the paper:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2018401-eng.pdf>

Non-resident Ownership of Residential Properties in Toronto and Vancouver: Initial Information from the Canadian Housing Statistics Program by Guy Gellatly and René Morissette Analytical Studies Branch, Statistics Canada, December 2017.

The first release of cross-sectional data from the Canadian Housing Statistics Program (CHSP) is intended to provide a richer understanding of the economic weight of non-resident-owned assets in different segments of the Toronto and Vancouver housing markets. These initial data allow for estimates of the scope of non-resident ownership in both cities as of mid-2017, following periods of significant housing price inflation during which legislative measures were introduced to address the potential inflationary impact of foreign-buyer activity.

- Non-residents owned 3.4% of all residential properties in Toronto and the assessed value of these properties accounted for 3.0% of total residential property value
- In Vancouver, non-residents owned 4.8% of residential properties, valued at 5.1% of total residential property value
- Non-residents owned 7.2% of condominium apartments in Toronto and 7.9% of these units in Vancouver
- By comparison, 2.1% of single-detached houses in Toronto, and 3.2% of single-detached houses in Vancouver, were owned by non-residents

For link to the paper:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-626-x/11-626-x2017078-eng.pdf>

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Social Policy, Analysis and Research Information Resources:

Wellbeing Toronto: www.toronto.ca/wellbeing

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