

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.

Towards Recovery and Building a Renewed Toronto, Report for Action, EX 17.1 by City of Toronto, October 2020.

This report is being brought to Council amidst an evolving pandemic. The report provides an update on the work undertaken by the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild (TORR), information on the response to COVID-19 by the City including coordination with our federal and provincial partners, and a roadmap towards recovery and rebuild.

- The City estimates the year-end financial impact will be \$1.885 billion. Due to City-led mitigation strategies totalling \$542.8 million, and much needed federal and provincial support through the initial phase of the Safe Restart Agreement of \$668.6 million, the year-end gap is currently estimated at \$673.2 million
- The COVID-19 Financial Update report provided at Council's September 30 meeting provides the most up-to-date financial analysis
- Intergovernmental transfers for budgeted operating expenses have decreased from \$1,100 per capita in 2010 to \$830 per capital in 2020, when adjusted for inflation

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-157345.pdf>

Job Creation and Housing Starts in Canada's Largest Metropolitan Areas by Joseg Filipowicz and Steve Lafleur, Fraser Institute, 2020.

In this study, we start by comparing the evolution of net job growth across 33 Canadian metropolitan areas between 2001 and 2019. Unsurprisingly, Canada's three largest metropolitan areas (Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver) led the country in absolute job-growth numbers over this period.

- [H]ome prices in Toronto and Vancouver approximately doubled between 2010 and 2019, far outpacing Ottawa and Montreal, where they grew half as fast
- Since 2001—the earliest year of comparable labour-force data—the total number of employed people in Canada has grown by 27.6%, or 4.1 million people
- The regions Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) showing the fastest job growth between 2001 and 2019 include Saskatoon (57.9%), Edmonton (55.9%), and Calgary (54.6%)
- Since 2010, and in particular since 2015, in Toronto and Vancouver not only job growth but also appreciation of home prices and rental vacancy rates have been decoupled from those in Canada's four other largest metropolitan areas

Link to the release:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/job-creation-and-housing-starts-in-cdas-largest-metro-areas.pdf>

Canadian Data Science Network Launches by Statistics Canada, October 2020.

Today, Statistics Canada is launching the Data Science Network for the Federal Public Service (powered by StatCan stewardship). The Network provides a dynamic space for data science enthusiasts to collaborate, share information, learn about the latest tools, and more!

- The Network will facilitate data science capacity building and the sharing of data science methods across the Government of Canada, which will allow the public service as a whole to benefit from automation and new data sources
- Canadians will also benefit as the products and services they use are improved through efficient, cutting-edge technologies

Link to the website:

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/data-science>

Intergeneration Income Mobility: The lasting effects of growing up in a lower-income family by Statistics Canada, 2020.

New data from the Longitudinal and International Study of Adults on a cohort of Canadians born between 1963 and 1979 reveal differences in their life course depending on whether they grew up in a lower or higher income family.

- 14% Canadians who had lower family income when they were children were less likely to have parent with a university degree
- 3.4% Canadians who had higher family income when they were children were less likely to have a non-official language as a mother tongue
- 25.3% Canadians who had lower family income when they were children were less likely to have a university degree
- 75.3% Canadians who had higher family income when they were children were more likely to be married or cohabitating as adults

Link to the infographic:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2020053-eng.pdf?st=LIBAHH0r>

Immigration and Firm Productivity: Evidence from the Canadian Employer-Employee Dynamics Database by Wulong Gu, Feng Hou, and Garnett Picot, Statistics Canada, September 2020.

This study examines the empirical connection between immigration and firm-level productivity in Canada. It also examines the empirical connection between immigration and worker wages and business profits as the productivity effect of immigration will likely translate into changes in wages and/or changes in business profits.

- The positive effect of immigration on productivity is consistent with the proposition that immigrants are complementary to native-born workers in skills and firms increase job/task specialization to take advantage of comparative advantages of immigrants and native born workers
- This study uses the Canadian Employer-Employee Dynamics Database (CEEDD) that is linked to the Longitudinal Immigration Data file (IMDB). The CEEDD file tracks firms over time and matches firms with their employees. It is derived from linking T2 corporate income tax file with T1 personal income tax file and T4 statement of remuneration paid file
- Over a ten-year period, the share of immigrant employment increased by 0.58 percentage points in an average firm. The largest increase was for immigrants with official language skills and with university education. The smallest change was for the STEM immigrants

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2020014-eng.pdf>

Local Leviathans: The Rise of Municipal Government Spending in Canada, 1990–2018 by Livio Di Matteo, Fraser Institute, 2020.

This study argues that Canada's municipalities have increased their spending and employment at a rapid clip over the last two decades while at the same time they claim to be fiscally challenged. Yet, they typically also run surpluses on their operating budgets while continuing to raise tax levies. What is driving the recent growth in spending? Is it demand for municipal services or the availability of revenue from rising property prices?

- Between 2000 and 2018, total local government expense in Canada rose from \$85.148 billion to \$178.714 billion, while provincial government spending rose from \$221B to \$492B
- Between 1991 and 2018, total real local government revenues in Canada grew from \$107 billion to \$186 billion—an increase of 74% while real per-capita total revenues have grown from \$3,831 in 1991 to \$5,024 in 2018—an increase of 31%
- Ontario in 2018 had the largest percentage of municipal revenue to GDP at 6% while the lowest was in Prince Edward Island at 2.4%. Meanwhile, the share of expenditure to GDP was again largest in Ontario (5.4%) and smallest in Prince Edward Island (1.9%)

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/local-leviathans-rise-of-municipal-government-spending-in-canada.pdf>

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

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