

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.

---

**Report on the Second Comprehensive Review of the Market Basket Measure** by Samir Djidel, Burten Gustajtis and Andrew Heisz, et al., Statistics Canada, February 2020.

The purpose of this paper is to foster engagement with users, to explain what has been done as part of the review and to provide users with preliminary estimates of the impacts of the proposed changes to the MBM. This gives users the opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback and make suggestions for future work.

- The MBM establishes poverty thresholds based on the cost of a basket of food, clothing, shelter, transportation and other necessities
- According to the MBM, a family is in low income if its disposable income is less than the Market Basket Measure threshold for a family of its size in its region. This discussion paper describes some of the considerations for updating the disposable income concept for the new MBM
- At the Canada level, the 2008-base poverty rate was 8.7% in 2018, while the 2018-base poverty rate would be 11.0% in the same year, an increase of 2.3 percentage points

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2020002-eng.pdf>

---

**The Changing Wealth of Nations 2018: Building a Sustainable Future** by Glenn-Marie Lange, Quentin Wodon and Kevin Carey, World Bank Group, 2018.

The goal of this book is to broaden the measures economists, policy makers, the private sector, and civil society use to assess economic progress. Without a forward-looking indicator, it is difficult to conclude that we can accurately measure economic progress.

- Global wealth grew significantly between 1995 and 2014 and middle-income countries are catching up to high-income countries in terms of their wealth, mainly because of rapid growth in Asia
- In low-and middle-income countries, the value of renewable assets – agricultural land, forests, and protected areas – more than doubled from 1995 to 2014
- In 1995, 52 countries in our data set were classified as low income; 28 of these countries are now middle income.

For link to the paper:

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/29001/9781464810466.pdf>

---

**Skill Utilization and Earnings of STEM-Education Immigrants in Canada: Differences by Degree Level and Field of Study** by Garnett Picot and Feng Hou, Statistics Canada, December 2019.

This paper examines the skills utilization and earnings of employed immigrants with a university degree in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Unlike earlier papers, which dealt with immigrant STEM graduates as a whole, this paper disaggregates the results by field of study and degree level (bachelor's, master's, and doctoral).

- By field of study, immigrant engineering graduates, particularly at the bachelor's level, had relatively weaker skill utilization rates and earnings outcomes
- In 2016, over half (54%) of the university-educated STEM graduates in Canada were immigrants. This share varied by field of study and degree level
- STEM immigrants educated in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom or France had outcomes similar to the Canadian-born
- Both immigrants and the Canadian-born who had bachelor's degree in science, also a large segment of the STEM population, had very low STEM employment rates (22% and 25% respectively)

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2019023-eng.pdf>

---

**Moving Around to Get Ahead: Why Canadians' Reluctance to Change Jobs Could Be Suppressing Wage Growth** by Philip Cross, Macdonald-Laurier Institute, December 2019.

The analysis in this paper draws on a special tabulation from Statistics Canada's Longitudinal Worker File (LWF) between 2000 and 2015 that compares the wages of people who changed jobs with those who stated in the same job. This is a problem that policy-makers need to grapple with. The growing reluctance to change jobs is one factor reducing the efficiency of the labour market in matching workers with the jobs most suited to them. More Canadians need to realize that they must move around to get ahead.

- This study finds that, in Canada, median wage increases for job leavers averaged 15.4 percent in the post-recession period from 2010 to 2015. For Job stayers it was a mere 2.9 percent
- The share of workers changing jobs declined after the 2008-2009 recession. Among adults 25-64 years old, over 4.2 percent in 2010 in the wake of recession and then remained below 4.0 percent, averaging 3.7 percent for the whole period 2010 to 2015
- It should be noted that wage increases for job changers are highly skewed with a few highly skilled people seeing very large gains. Not everyone who leaves one job for another will get the same benefit

For link to the paper:

[https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/files/pdf/MLI\\_MovingAroundWages\\_FWeb.pdf](https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/files/pdf/MLI_MovingAroundWages_FWeb.pdf)

---

**The Long-Term Economic Outcomes of Refugee Private Sponsorship** by Lisa Kaida, Feng Hou, and Max Stick, Statistics Canada, January 2020.

Based on the Longitudinal Immigration Database, this study found that privately sponsored refugees (PSRs) and government-assisted refugees (GARs) differed in some key socio-demographic characteristics. Over the 1980-to-2009 period, more PSRs came from Eastern Europe than GARs, whereas more GARs came from South and Central America and the Caribbean than PSRs.

- PSRs are more likely to be employed and to earn more than GARs both over the short term (less than 5 years) and over the longer term (15 years) when their demographic, socioeconomic and contextual characteristics are taken into account
- The results showed that male refugees with a lower of education benefited more from private sponsorship than those with bachelor's degrees or above
- [R]efugees with poor official language skills benefited from private sponsorship as much as those with good official language skills

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2019021-eng.pdf>

---

**Community Benefits of Supportive Housing** by BC Housing Research Centre, 2019.

This resource answers questions about Supportive Housing in your neighbourhood.

- 10/13 Property values immediately surrounding supportive housing sites kept pace or surpassed municipal trends
- A study in New York City of 7,500 supportive housing units from 1974 to 2005 found no evidence of a negative impact on property values close to supportive housing
- On average, a person in supportive housing with addictions and/or mental illness used \$37,000 per year in health care and/or corrections services
- 82% of survey respondents across seven modular supportive housing sites reported experiencing positive interactions with neighbours in the surrounding community since they moved in

For link to the infographic:

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Community-Benefits-Supportive-Housing.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](http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing)

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