

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.

A Simplified Approach to Measuring National Gender Inequality by David C. Geary and Gijsbert Stoet, PLOS One, January 2019.

The constructs "gender equality" and "gender inequality" are frequently used in both academic research, in the media, and by policy makers. Therefore, it is important that researchers and policy makers have reliable measures of these constructs. We discuss some of the challenges with existing measures and introduce a conceptual approach and an associated measure that helps to resolve or at least mitigate some of these issues.

- Our Basic Index of Gender Inequality (BIGI) is the ratio of women to men on three core dimensions of life; 1) Educational opportunities in childhood; 2) Healthy life expectancy (the number of years one can expect to live in good health); and, 3) Overall life satisfaction
- There are several difficulties with the way the GGGI is composed. For one, there is no defensible rationale for truncating scores on an 'equality' measure when they disadvantage boys or men
- In 91 (68%) of the 131 countries, men were on average more disadvantaged than women, and in the other 43 (32%) countries, women were more disadvantaged than men

For link to the paper:

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0205349>

Canadian Housing Statistics Program, 2018 by Statistics Canada, March 2019.

The residency participation classification assigns non-resident participation when at least one non-resident owner is on the property title. The residency participation classification provides an upper bound in measuring the number of residential properties with owners residing outside of Canada.

- New data also show that residential properties owned solely by non-residents of Canada are more likely to have only one owner on the property title.
- [S]tatistics Canada is now introducing a residency participation classification. The residency participation classification assigns non-resident participation when at least one non-resident owner is on the property title.
- Properties owned by non-residents are more likely to have only one owner on the title
- Over 1 in 5 properties in Metro Vancouver Subdivision A and more than 1 in 10 in Richmond are subject to non-resident participation

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/190312/dq190312a-eng.pdf?st=0F9Ik21K>

The Wealth of First Nations by Tom Flanagan, Fraser Institute 2019.

This book contains many detailed findings about laws, programs, policies, and strategies, which all cohere around one major conclusion: whatever the wrongs and calamities of the past, the future prosperity of First Nations will depend mainly upon their own initiatives, their own efforts, their own choices.

- The main tool used here for measuring the progress made by First Nations in attaining a higher standard of living is the Community Well-Being Index (CWB), a measure of standard of living and quality of life for all Canadian communities, including First Nations
- Control of land can lead to real-estate leasing, to hosting hospitality and recreational industries, and in some cases to development of natural resources
- Under the Trudeau government, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) spending has risen more rapidly than total spending, increasing from 3.0% of total spending in 2016/17 to 3.9% in 2017/18 and perhaps 3.6% in 2018/19 if we take into account the transfer from the Department of Health
- [T]he Trudeau government is on track to keep its promise of spending a lot more on Indigenous peoples, even if the exact increase is not entirely clear

For link to the paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/wealth-of-first-nations-2019.pdf>

Investing in Refugee Talent: Lessons Learned in Labour Market Integration by Hire Immigrants, Maytree Foundation et al., March 2019.

One of the biggest challenges facing refugee labour market integration, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, is dealing with current labour shortages which show no signs of abatement in a context of rapid increasing demographic change.

- Successful labour market integration of refugees requires effective action in a coordinated overall process
- Labour market integration of refugees is most effective when the bureaucratic procedures limiting access to work are minimized, such as mechanisms that allow refugees to work soon after they arrive in their host country
- Cross sectoral partnerships with local authorities and immigrant serving NGOs play a vital role in helping employers interpret and contextualize skills and qualifications that refugees hold
- Cities will witness better results if they adopt a customized approach whilst accompanying refugees in their process of integrating into the labour market

For link to the paper:

http://www.hireimmigrants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/investing-in-refugee-talent_hire-immigrants.pdf

IRCC Data Brief: Year-End 2018 by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, February 2019.

The ODP Data Brief contains descriptive statistical trends based on IRCC data tabulations for the most recent months of data to be posted on the Open Data Portal. This report examines 2018 data, and compares the trends observed to comparable time periods in the previous and current year.

- 321,121 permanent residents were admitted into Canada in 2018
- The number of study permits coming into effect rose dramatically in 2018 as compared to previous years: an increase of 15% from 2017, up 35% from 2016, and 60% more than the number of permits in 2015
- 2017 saw a record number of asylum claimants: 50,389, more than double the number in 2016
- 54% of students with study permits coming into effect in 2018 were Indian or Chinese citizens

For link to the paper:

http://www.cic.gc.ca/opendata-donneesouvertes/data/IRCC_Data_Brief_2018_12_E.pdf

Living Alone in Canada by Jackie Tang, Nora Galbraith & Johnny Truong, Statistics Canada, March 2019.

This study uses the Census of Population and the 2017 General Social Survey on Family to examine the characteristics of the population living alone in Canada. The demographic, socioeconomic and housing characteristics of persons who live alone are examined, as well as their conjugal history, family relationships, and well-being indicators.

- The number of persons living alone in Canada has more than doubled over the last 35 years, from 1.7 million in 1981 to 4.0 million in 2016.
- Solo dwellers represented 14% of the population aged 15 and over living in private households in 2016, up from 9% in 1981
- Between 1981 and 2016, the share of the population aged 25 to 64 that lived alone increased for both women and men, but growth was faster among men
- Shelter costs were particularly expensive for young adults who lived alone in 2016: close to one-half (48%) of solo dwellers aged 20 to 34 had shelter costs that were considered unaffordable

For link to paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/75-006-x/2019001/article/00003-eng.pdf?st=Zrn4LkEf>

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/>