

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.

Just the Facts: Asylum Claimants, by Statistics Canada, May 2019.

Asylum claimants are individuals who request refugee protection upon or after arrival in Canada. Asylum claims can be received at a port of entry, at a Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) inland office or an Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) inland office.

- The number of asylum claimants has fluctuated over the years with previous observed peaks in 2008 (about 37,000) and 2001 (about 44,000). The number of asylum claimants more than tripled since 2015, increasing from about 16,000 in 2015 to over 50,000 in 2017
- The number of claimants has increased since the beginning of 2017, from 2,629 in January 2017 to 5,118 in December 2018
- Over the last two years, asylum claimants intercepted between ports of entry by the RCMP represented about 40% of the total number of asylum claimants

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-28-0001/2018001/article/00013-eng.htm>

Facilitating the Future of Work through a Modernized EI System, by Sunil Johal and Erich Hartmann, Public Policy Forum, The Mowat Centre, April 2019.

This paper, will focus mainly on EI regular benefits—whose target population is unemployed individuals with a valid reason for job separation and who are searching for suitable employment—and the labour market training programs that share key linkages with the EI program.

- In 2016-17, an average of 566,000 beneficiaries received EI regular benefits each month [and] received, on average, \$449 in weekly regular benefits for a duration of 20.5 weeks
- Between 1976 and 2016 the number of Canadians engaged in part-time work grew from 12.5% to 19.6%, while between 1997 and 2016 temporary workers grew from 8.6% to 13.5% of the labour market
- In 2016-17, the share of regular benefits exceeded the share of the unemployed population in all but Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia
- A single, national approach would address the unfairness of the current system and would not unduly penalize claimants for living in regions with lower unemployment

For link to the paper:

Results from the 2016 Census: Commuting Within Canada's Largest Cities, by Katherine Savage, Statistics Canada, May 2019.

Using data from the 1996 and 2016 Census of Population, this study examines the geographic location of jobs, people's commute and how they have changed over time. The commuting patterns for Canada's eight largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs)—Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa–Gatineau, Edmonton, Québec and Winnipeg—are compared.

- Over the past two decades, the number of car commuters in the city core declined in the eight largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs).
- All eight CMAs have experienced changes in commuting patterns. The proportion of commuters doing the traditional commute (from a suburb to the city core) increased, as did the proportion of suburban commuters (within a suburb, or from one suburb to another suburb) and reverse commuters (from the city core to a suburb)
- In 2016, Toronto had the highest proportion of workers with jobs 25 km or more from the city centre at 26%, increasing 6 percentage points since 1996
- In Toronto, nearly 1 in 5 workers travelled at least 25 km to work. In 2016, Toronto had the greatest median distance at 10.5 km, followed by Ottawa–Gatineau at 9.2 km

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/75-006-x/2019001/article/00008-eng.pdf?st=psQxvdzP>

Analyzing 211 Rural Unmet Service Needs, by 211 Ontario and Rural Ontario Institute, November 2018.

In early 2018, the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI), in collaboration with 211 Ontario, received financial assistance from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Research and Analysis grant program to analyze data records of 211 caller needs originating in rural Ontario jurisdictions and those needs logged as “unmet needs”.

- The primary goal of the research project was to develop a standardized, extensible approach to analysis of the currently-available 211 call centre data that will offer insights and analysis related to the planning and delivery of programs and services in Ontario, with a focus on the rural context
- A suite of web-based mapping tools were used to visually communicate geospatial patterns and trends in the 211 data and support deeper analysis, data linkages, and visual exploration
- More than two-thirds of all needs records in the dataset are attributed to callers who reported their gender as female (69%), followed by slightly less than one-third of records associated with callers who reported being male (29%)

For link to the paper:

<http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/uploads/userfiles/files/ROI-211%20-%20Analyzing%20211%20Rural%20Unmet%20Service%20Needs.pdf>

Earnings Inequality and the Gender Pay Gap in Canada: The Role of Women's Under-Representation Among Top Earners, by Aneta Bonikowska, Marie Drolet, and Nicole M. Fortin, Statistics Canada, March 2019.

This paper explores how increases in top earnings and the representation of women among top earners affect the overall gender earnings gap in Canada.

- This study is based on 1978-to-2015 data from the Longitudinal Worker File (LWF)
- The share of women in top earnings groups increased considerably over the period from 1978 to 2015. However, women remained significantly under-represented in each group by the end of the period
- The study shows that the under-representation of women in top earnings groups accounts for a substantial and growing share (more than half) of the gender earnings gap

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/11-626-x/11-626-x2019002-eng.pdf?st=BwJnLeFp>

Harming Charity: The Potential Effects of High Personal Income Tax Rates on Charitable Giving, by Sean Speer, Macdonald-Laurier Institute, June 2019.

This paper looks at some of the academic scholarship that attempts to answer whether the income effect or the price effect is the more influential in determining levels of philanthropic giving.

- More than 5.4 million Canadians donate to charities each year. However, the number of donors has been falling each year since 2010 when we started to see higher tax rates for “super donors”
- Those earning \$150,000 or more represent only 9 percent of all charitable donors but have consistently provided about 40 percent of the total value of charitable donations across the country
- Estimates from these Canadian studies find that a 1 percent increase in income produces an increase in charitable giving ranging from between 0.283 and 1.20 percent, with a median around 0.68 percent

For link to the paper:

http://macdonaldlaurier.ca/files/pdf/MLI_HarmingCharity_f_web.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/>