

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.

We apologize for the delay in recent issues as City of Toronto staff have been redeployed to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

How Are Canadians Coping With the COVID-19 Situation? by Statistics Canada, April 8, 2020.

Between March 29 and April 3, Statistics Canada collected timely information via a new web panel online survey, the Canadians Perspectives Survey Series. This infographic presents the first findings of the survey.

- 84% of Canadians aged 15+ are very or extremely anxious about overloading the health care system
- 37% have cancelled travel and 28% are working from home
- 75% are spending more time on the internet

For link to the full infographic:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2020029-eng.htm>

Travel-Related Exposure to COVID-19 by Statistics Canada, April 8, 2020.

Since the onset of COVID-19, health authorities have been monitoring the transmission of the virus via travel and community exposures. In Canada, as in other countries, the first cases of COVID-19 were attributed to travel-related exposure. After the government of Canada advised Canadians on March 13, 2020 to avoid all non-essential travel, new cases are increasingly being attributed to community transmission.

- In Canada, as of April 7, about 26% of COVID-19 cases to date have been related to travel exposure
- Approximately 9% of travel-related cases have been hospitalized (among those whose hospitalization status is known), and about 62% of these cases are among males
- Detailed preliminary data tables on confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Canada can be found [here](#)

For link to the full article:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-28-0001/2018001/article/00018-eng.htm>

Canadian Consumers Prepare for COVID-19 by Statistics Canada, April 8, 2020.

The features of the Canadian consumer environment are shifting rapidly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, shaped by a variety of interconnected and evolving factors. Restrictions on the activities of citizens and businesses and increased pressure on adapting supply chains are influencing the what, where, when and how of Canadian consumption, on an ongoing basis.

- Grocery sales had increased 38% compared to their average sales in 2019
- Hand sanitizer, and mask and glove sales provided an early indication of shifting consumer behaviour, increasing 477% and 122% respectively as early as the last week of January, and registering 639% and 377% increases respectively in the week ending March 14th compared to the 2019 average
- [R]etailers' revenues for rice increased more than 239% compared to the 2019 average

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/62f0014m/62f0014m2020004-eng.pdf?st=tkE8lfDe>

Race Inequality in the Workforce: Exploring Connections Between Work, Ethnicity and Mental Health
by Georgina Bowyer and Morag Henderson, Carnegie UK Trust.

This report is a joint initiative by Carnegie UK Trust, Operation Black Vote and UCL Centre of Longitudinal Studies. Together we recognise the changes taking place in the world of work, the growing "gig economy" and the drive amongst policy organisations and campaigners to push forward changes which would be better protect people's wellbeing in circumstances where it may be compromised.

- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) young adults continue to be at a greater risk of being unemployed than White young adults: BAME young adults are 58% more likely to be unemployed
- Some ethnic minority groups report more mental ill health than the White group, whilst other ethnic groups report less
- Those who have zero hours contract are 6 percentage points more likely to report mental ill health than those without a zero-hours contract, 30% difference
- Looking at the data through a different lens, we find that the proportion of those on permanent contracts is over 80% for all ethnic groups, illustrating that despite the significant recent changes in the labour market, this currently remains the most common contract type, even for young workers

For link to the paper:

https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie_uk_trust/2020/03/27160925/Race-Inequality-in-the-Workforce-Final.pdf

Ten Things To Know About CMHC's Insured Mortgage Purchase Program by Nick Falvo et al., Progressive Economics Forum, April 6, 2020.

In March 2020, the Trudeau government launched a new version of the Insured Mortgage Purchase Program (IMPP). According to CMHC's website: "Under this program, the government will purchase up to \$50 billion of insured mortgage pools through CMHC."

- The Government of Canada is giving CMHC money to buy existing mortgages (all of which are insured by CMHC, and are therefore safe for the government to buy). When banks sell these mortgages to CMHC, banks get cash in return, which they can use to then make new loans
- CMHC effectively becomes a bulk purchaser of insured loans, bundled as mortgage-backed securities. CMHC has offered to buy back as many as financial institutions want to sell to them, up to the \$50 billion threshold
- A buy-back on this scale has only taken place once before. As is noted elsewhere: "Between fall 2008 and the end of 2010, CMHC purchased \$69 billion of mortgages"

For link to the full article:

<http://www.progressive-economics.ca/2020/04/06/ten-things-to-know-about-cmhcs-insured-mortgage-purchase-program/>

Research and Development Personnel, 2017 by Statistics Canada, March 2020.

The number of research and development (R&D) personnel in Canada was virtually unchanged in 2017, at 235,350 full-time equivalents (FTEs), a marginal decline of 100 FTEs compared with the previous year. Underlying these results, however, was a larger decline in the business enterprise sector, which was offset by growth in the higher education, federal government and private non-profit sectors..

- R&D personnel in the federal government sector grew 6.8% to 12,610 FTEs in 2017
- The business enterprise sector's share of Canada's R&D personnel (which encompasses all five performing sectors) edged down from 62.4% in 2016 to 61.4% in 2017
- In 2017, the largest growth in R&D personnel came from higher education, which grew by 1,140 FTEs to 74,350 FTEs

For link to the briefing:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/200303/dq200303a-eng.pdf?st=zc77oHQg>

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/>