

# SPAR Monitor

The Social Policy Analysis & Research Bi-Weekly Bulletin

Monitoring Toronto's  
Social Change Since 2009

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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.

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## **COVID-19 and Social Support for Seniors** by Statistics Canada, April 30, 2020.

[S]ocial support systems continue to play an important role during this time. In particular, seniors living in private households may depend on family, friends or neighbours to deliver groceries, medication and other essential items to their homes.

- In 2016, over 9 in 10 of Canadians aged 65 or older resided in private households (93.2%), while the remaining 6.8% resided in nursing homes or other seniors' residences
- more than 8 in 10 seniors (82.4%) reported that they had a high level of social support
- Immigrant seniors were 7 percentage points less likely than their Canadian-born counterparts to report a high level of social support.

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00007-eng.pdf?st=3FJE29hb>

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## **COVID-19 Special Edition of the Business & Community Newsletter** by Statistics Canada, April 2020.

This special edition of the *Business and Community Newsletter* aims to assist Canadian business and community leaders to better understand the effects of the pandemic through relevant and timely data. Given the fluidity of the evolving situation, this edition contains critical and time-sensitive information that can assist in evidence-based decision-making. Among the tools available are:

- Link to the [Canadian Economic Dashboard](#)
- Link to the [Interactive Case Map and Data Summary](#) for COVID-19 across Canada
- Link to the [Interactive Labour Force Survey](#) dashboard

Link to the full article:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-632-x/11-632-x2020002-eng.htm>



Prepared by Social Policy Analysis & Research (spar@toronto.ca). The views expressed in these studies are those of the author(s) and opinions on the content of these studies should be communicated directly to the author(s) themselves. This list is in no way exhaustive of all social research relevant to Toronto. The City of Toronto is not responsible for the content of hyperlinks.

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**Safe Cities Profile Series: Key Indicators by Census Metropolitan Area** by Shana Conroy et al., Statistics Canada, May 15, 2020.

The Safe Cities profile series provides the most recent data on community safety and crime, and other social characteristics, for Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs). Key indicators include community safety and sense of belonging, self-reported experiences of victimization, and police-reported crime.

- In 2014, more than one-third (36%) of Toronto residents aged 15 and older were very satisfied with their personal safety from crime, significantly lower than Ontario residents (40%) and Canadians living in the provinces overall (38%)
- About one in five (22%) Toronto residents thought social disorder was a big or moderate problem in their neighbourhood
- The vast majority (90%) of Toronto residents reported having confidence in police in 2014

Link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00001-eng.pdf>

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**Labour Market Update – Toronto** by Toronto Workforce Innovation Group, May 2020.

The latest Labour Force Survey (LFS) numbers are staggering but not as bad as economists have predicted. Employment losses related to COVID 19 and government-imposed business closures designed to slow it, cost Toronto Region over half a million jobs..

- In April, the unemployment rate in Toronto (11.1%) increased by 5.6 percentage points compared to the unemployment rate before the pandemic (5.5%)
- Hospitality saw an employment decline of over 30%, while educational services declined by 13% and retail by 11%
- Of Canada's three largest metropolitan areas, Montréal recorded the largest decline in employment at 18.0%; followed by Vancouver at 17.4%; and Toronto at 15.2%
- A closer examination of job posting data indicates that there was a significant decline in businesses looking for employees in finance and professional services

Link to the paper:

[https://www.workforceinnovation.ca/labourmarket?mc\\_cid=f512368a00&mc\\_eid=93c1093016](https://www.workforceinnovation.ca/labourmarket?mc_cid=f512368a00&mc_eid=93c1093016)



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**The Health and Behavioural Impacts of COVID-19 on Youth** by Rubab Arim et al., Statistics Canada, May 15 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly affected the daily lives of all Canadians. However, relatively little is known about how the health, behaviour, and social activities of Canadian youth are affected and how they are coping with the situation. Canada's youth represent about one quarter of the country's population and will continue to be a large and important group within the Canadian population (

- 87% of youth aged 15 to 30 years are very or extremely concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on the health of vulnerable people
- In contrast, about 21% of youth are very or extremely concerned about their own health.
- About 9 in 10 youth communicate with their friends and family, just over two thirds exercise indoors, and 62% exercise outdoors

Link to the full article:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00020-eng.pdf?st=zSEW70vv>

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**Impact of COVID-19 on Small Businesses in Canada** by Statistics Canada, May 11 2020.

The Canadian economy changed dramatically in March 2020 as a result of COVID-19 and the situation has had a profound impact on the ability of businesses in Canada to operate. In order to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on businesses, employers and employees, communities and our economy, Statistics Canada and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce collaborated to launch the Canadian Survey on Business Conditions.

- 32.0% of businesses with 500 or more employees reported declines in revenue of 20% or more
- [N]early 60% of those with 1 to 4 employees and nearly 56% of those with 5 to 19 employees reported declines in revenue 20% or more
- 47% of small businesses with 5 to 19 employees that laid off at least one employee, laid off 80% or more of their staff

Link to the full article:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00018-eng.htm>

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/>



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