

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.

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**Economic Well-Being Across Generations of Young Canadians: Are Millennials Better or Worse Off?** By Andrew Heisz and Elizabeth Richards, Income Statistics Division and Analytical Studies Branch, Statistics Canada, April 2019.

This article in the Economic Insights series examines economic well-being of millennials by comparing their household balance sheets to those of previous generations of young Canadians.

- This study uses data from the Canadian Income Survey and the Survey of Financial Security to extend the inter-generational comparison, providing additional insights on net worth, debt and mortgage debt for millennials, while informing on different financial outcomes by education, homeownership or CMA
- Millennials had the highest debt to after-tax ratio among generations measured at any point in their life course, reaching 216%—over 1.7 times more than young Gen-Xers and 2.7 times more than young boomers
- Millennials are now the most educated generation, as about 70% of those between 30 and 34, years old had a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree, compared to about 55% of Gen-Xers at the same age

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/11-626-x/11-626-x2019006-eng.pdf?st=b85HzywS>

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**Healthy Immigrant Effect by Immigrant Category in Canada**, by Chaohui Lu and Edward Ng, Statistics Canada, April 2019.

This study is a first look at the healthy immigrant effect under the 2002 Immigration and Refugee Protection Act by immigration category. Results corroborate the existing literature on the presence of the HIE (Healthy Immigrant Effect) among immigrants: the HIE was found to be much weaker among refugees.

- Results show that the health advantage observed among those aged 20 to 65 has persisted among most recent immigrants, by category, who entered Canada under the new Act
- For both sexes, the HIE was observed in the selected health measures (with the exception of low SRH (self-rated health) ) for immigrants, especially recent arrivals under the IRPA (*Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, 2002*)
- The age-adjusted odds ratios show that, for both sexes, members of the family class were significantly less likely to report adverse health conditions except for SRH (self-rated health)

- The strength of this study is that the richness of the health data in the CCHS is now enhanced by linking to the IMDB (Longitudinal Immigration Database)

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/82-003-x/2019004/article/00001-eng.pdf?st=Yshtfsuu>

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### **Household Actual Final Consumption, by Statistics Canada, March 2019.**

Statistics Canada is releasing new measures of household actual final consumption. These new measures supplement traditional estimates of household consumption expenditure by including "social transfers in kind"—the value of services and some specific goods that are financed by governments and non-profit institutions and that are consumed by households.

- The measures facilitate cross-national comparisons, as social transfers in kind consumed by households are financed to varying degrees across countries
- Social transfers in kind—the value of services provided by governments and non-profit institutions to households—increased steadily from \$224 billion in 2008 to \$315 billion in 2018 (nominal terms)
- Social transfers in kind from governments are primarily composed of health and education services, which account for 90% of the government transfers in kind

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/190320/dq190320b-eng.pdf?st=wZFNyMDC>

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### **Albertans Make Disproportionate Contributions to National Programs: The Canada Pension Plan as a Case Study, by Jason Clemens, Joel Emes, and Niels Veldhuis, Fraser Institute, April 2019.**

Alberta disproportionately contributes to a host of national and federal programs. This bulletin examines the province's contributions to the Canada Pension Plan.

- This bulletin examines the contributions Alberta's workers make to the CPP (Canada Pension Plan) in order to illustrate the disproportionate reliance that national programs such as the CPP have on Alberta as a participating province
- In 2017, Alberta workers represented 16.5 percent of the total contributions to the CPP while Alberta retirees consumed 10.6 percent of CPP expenditures
- Interprovincial migration is partly responsible for Alberta's disproportionate share of the country's working age population

For link to the paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/albertans-make-disproportionate-contribution-to-cpp.pdf>

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**Why People Prefer Unequal Societies**, by Christina Starmans, Mark Sheskin and Paul Bloom, *Nature Human Behaviour*, April 2017.

There is immense concern about economic inequality, both among the scholarly community and in the general public, and many insist that equality is an important social goal. However, when people are asked about the ideal distribution of wealth in their country, they actually prefer unequal societies.

- Globally, the top 1% of the population owns 50% of the wealth, and the bottom 70% owns only 3% of the wealth
- The concern that people express about inequality is also found in controlled laboratory studies, which find that a desire for equal distributions of goods emerges early in human development and is apparent in many different cultures
- Under one analysis, a desire for fairness—such as fair distribution of food to the members of a group—can be seen as a prosocial motivation, evolved to constrain our natural selfishness
- [As] inequality increases, self-reported happiness diminishes, especially among the bottom 40% of income earners

For link to the paper:

<http://marksheskin.com/papers/UnequalSocieties.pdf>

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**In Most Occupations, Workers With or Without Disabilities Earn About the Same**, by Jennifer Cheeseman Day and Danielle Taylor, *United States Census Bureau March*, 2019.

The most common occupation for people with a disability is janitors and building cleaners, where about 300,000 workers with disabilities find employment. They make up 11 percent of workers in this occupation.

- As a group, full-time, year-round workers with a disability earn 87 cents for every dollar earned by those with no disability. However, among people working similar jobs and schedules, the median earnings for workers with a disability are either very close to, or not different from, earnings for workers with no disability
- Workers with a disability make up just 6 percent of working adults, but this figure rises with age
- People with a hearing disability are more likely to work than people with other disability types

For link to the paper:

[https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/03/do-people-with-disabilities-earn-equal-pay.html?utm\\_campaign=20190320msacos1ccstors&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/03/do-people-with-disabilities-earn-equal-pay.html?utm_campaign=20190320msacos1ccstors&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

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