

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.

Homeownership, Income, and Residential Property Values by Jumana Al-Tawil, Statistics Canada, December 2019.

This article analyzes the income characteristics of residential property owners in British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia in 2018. It provides new information on owners who claimed the home buyers' amount tax credit in 2017 to offer insights on the income of first-time home buyers and their properties. This article also explores the relationship between owner income and property values, and investigates income distributions of owners in selected areas.

- First-time home buyers who claimed the HBA accounted for around 1% of single-property owners
- Owners earned twice as much income as those who did not own a residential property, and were more likely to be employed in higher wage industry sectors
- Properties owned by the lowest income earners were more likely to be co-owned with non-residents of Canada, and these properties had higher value-to-income ratios than properties owned solely by residents

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/191205/dq191205c-eng.pdf?st=WYGlöpfe>

Canada and USA Fertility Rates, 1920-2018 by Ron Kneebone, The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, August 2019.

Fertility rates have varied a great deal over time in both Canada and the US reflecting changes in economic conditions and evolving social norms.

- In Canada the fertility rate has remained well-below the replacement rate since the 1970s
- Peaking in 1960, the fertility rate in both countries plummeted for the next 15 years before leveling off by the mid-1970s in the US and the mid-1980s in Canada
- The large swings in fertility rates between 1920 and 1960 are suggestive of the impacts of economic conditions on the decision to have children

For link to the paper:

<https://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Social-Policy-Trends-Birth-Rates-August-2019.pdf>

The Impact of the Manufacturing Decline on Local Labour Markets in Canada by Rene Morissette, Statistics Canada, January 2020.

From the early 2000s to the mid-2010s, the number of employees in manufacturing fell by roughly half a million in Canada. During that period, the percentage of Canadian men aged 21 to 55 employed mainly full time for at least 48 weeks in a given year fell by 5 percentage points, from 63.6% in 2000 to 58.6% in 2015. This study investigates whether the two trends are connected, i.e., whether the decline in manufacturing employment caused a decline in employment rates and wages among men.

- From 2001 to 2016, the number of Canadian employees working in manufacturing fell by roughly half a million, dropping from 1.98 million in 2001 to 1.48 million in 2016
- [A] 5 percentage point decline in the share of the population employed in manufacturing in a given census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration led to a 4.5 percentage point decline in full-year, full-time employment rates among men and at least a 6.9% decline in their real weekly wages
- [T]he results indicate that relatively few groups of women appear to have been adversely affected by the decline in manufacturing employment

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2020003-eng.pdf>

Canada's Colour Coded Income Inequality by Sheila Block, Grace-Edward Galabuzi, and Ricardo Tranjan, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, December 2019.

This paper uses 2016 census data to paint a portrait of income inequality between racialized and non-racialized Canadians. It also looks at the labour market discrimination faced by racialized workers in 2006 and 2016.

- Racialized women had the highest unemployment rate at 9.6%, followed by racialized men at 8.8%, non-racialized men at 8.2%, and non-racialized women at 6.4%
- The racialized gap in capital gains is clear: 8.3% of the racialized population over the age of 15 reported capital gains, compared to 11.9% of the non-racialized population
- From 2006 to 2016, there was little change to the patterns of employment and earnings inequality along racial and gender lines in Canada
- The average investment income for the non-racialized population (\$11,428) is 47% higher than the average for the racialized population (\$7,774)

For link to the paper:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2019/12/Canada%27s%20Colour%20Coded%20Income%20Inequality.pdf>

Who Benefits? Gaps in Medication Coverage for Ontario Workers by Rebecca, Cheff, Malaika Hill, and James Iveniuk, Wellesley Institute, November 2019.

This report uses data from Statistics Canada's Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). The CCHS is an annual, cross-sectional survey that provides a snapshot of the health of the Canadian population. Each year 65,000 people across Canada are surveyed.

- 1.5 million workers do not have medication coverage in Ontario
- Almost one-third of part-time workers (30.2 per cent) reported that they do not have medication coverage, compared to one-fifth of full-time workers (21.0 per cent)
- Close to half of immigrant part-time workers do not have coverage (44.7 per cent) compared to a quarter of non-immigrant part-time workers (25.4 per cent)

For link to the paper:

https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Coverage-Gaps-for-Ontario-Workers_EMBARGO_27.11.19.pdf

Defining Disposable Income in the Market Basket Measure by Samir Djidel, Burton Gustajtis, et al., Statistics Canada, December 2019.

This paper discusses the concept of disposable income used in the Market Basket Measure (MBM). Disposable income is a measure of the means available to a Canadian family to meet its basic needs and achieve a modest standard of living. The disposable income of families surveyed in the Canadian Income Survey (CIS) is compared to the cost of the MBM basket for the size of the family and the region, and families with disposable incomes below that cost are deemed to be living in poverty.

- This discussion paper provides an update on the work that Statistics Canada has undertaken to update the MBM applied in the provinces, focusing specifically on the elements of the methodology associated with the determination of disposable income
- In 2018, Statistics Canada launched a comprehensive review of the MBM, which will be completed in 2020
- Analysis of the data have shown that younger homeowners tend to have higher average mortgage balances than older homeowners due to the fact that they are in an earlier phase of the repayment of their loan

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2019014-eng.pdf>

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