

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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## **Canada's Total Fertility Rate Hits a Record Low**, Statistics Canada, September 2020.

In 2019, the total fertility rate (TFR), or the number of children that a woman would have over the course of her reproductive life, declined to 1.47 births per woman from 3.94 in 1959.

- Canada's TFR has been below the replacement rate of 2.1 births per women since 1971, meaning that the number of babies being born is not enough for the current population to replace itself
- Over the last six decades, the average age of first-time mothers increased from 23.2 years in 1959 to 29.4 years in 2019
- In Canada, older first-time mothers [40 years or older] were more than twice as likely to have twins, triplets or more, than their younger counterparts

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/200929/dq200929e-eng.pdf?st=WjP3oEfr>

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## **When Training Works: Promising Workforce Development Practices** by Danielle Olsen and John MacLaughlin, Metcalf Foundation September 2020.

Due to the current state of Ontario's economy and the possible long-term consequences for those most severely impacted, it is critical that we achieve better results from our funded employment and training measures than we have in the past.

- Olsen and MacLaughlin profile four remarkable organizations that have demonstrated success by designing and delivering training with creativity and flexibility
- The organizations behind Building Up, NPower Canada, Elevate Plus Manufacturing, and ACCES Employment — are drawing attention for their innovative and highly effective programs
- In 2015, NPower Canada worked with 87 low-income youth at a single location in Toronto. In 2019, close to 600 youth enrolled in its GTA and Calgary programs. In 2020, they anticipate serving 1,010 youth
- The majority of Building Up's training participants are low-income. Approximately 35 – 45% have had previous involvement in the criminal justice system, which in many industries can create barriers to employment

Link to the release:

<https://metcalffoundation.com/site/uploads/2020/09/When-Training-Works.pdf>

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**Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) Indicator March and April 2020** by Sylvie Brunet, Statistics Canada, September 2020.

This fact sheet explores the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the NEET (not in employment, education or training) indicator for young Canadians aged 15 to 29 during the first two months of the pandemic.

- In March and April 2020, NEET rates for young Canadians increased to unprecedented levels. These increases were comparable between men and women and they were similar among the provinces
- Among Canadians aged 15 to 19, the increase in NEET rates in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, when most of the school closures took place, was primarily the result of youth who reported that they were not attending school
- Among Canadians aged 20 to 24 and 25 to 29, the increase in NEET rates in the first two months of the pandemic was mostly because of a decrease in employment
- During the early months of the pandemic, certain groups typically at higher risk for being NEET (young women with children, immigrant youth and off-reserve Indigenous youth) did not experience greater increases in their NEET rates than the overall population

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/81-599-x/81-599-x2020001-eng.pdf?st=uG1Q3R5S>

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**Canada's Aging Population and Long-Term Projections for Federal Finances** by Jake Fuss and Steven Globermann, Fraser Institute, September 2020.

Canada's fiscal challenges extend far beyond just the short-term impact of COVID-19. An aging population will continue to place upward pressure on federal finances and a new structural imbalance between revenues and spending means deficits and debt are likely to continue growing for decades to come.

- A lower population growth rate coupled with increasing life expectancy means that the share of the population over 65 is projected to increase to 25.6 percent by 2068
- Declining population growth combined with an aging population also means that Canada will likely face a declining labour force participation rate, a slower growing labour force, and slower tax revenue growth
- Spending on elderly transfer benefits is expected to peak about 3.2 percent of GDP by 2031, an increase of almost 0.5 percent-age from the expected spending level in 2021
- [T]he federal debt-to-GDP ratio might reach 69.6 percent by 2050, which would be the highest ratio recorded since 1948. If interest rates equal or surpass GDP growth, this ratio could exceed 100 percent of GDP between 2034 and 2039

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/canadas-aging-population-and-long-term-projections-for-federal-finances.pdf>

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**Income and Poverty in the United States: 2019** by Jessica Semega, Melissa Koller etc., United States Census Bureau, September 2020.

This report presents data on income and poverty in the United States based on information collected in the 2020 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC) conducted by the Census Bureau.

- Real median household income increased 6.8 percent to \$68,703 between 2018 and 2019
- The official poverty rate in 2019 was 10.5 percent, down 1.3 percentage points from 11.8 percent in 2018. This is the fifth consecutive annual decline in poverty
- The number of people in poverty in 2019 was 34.0 million, approximately 4.2 million fewer than in 2018
- The 2019 real median incomes of White, Black, Asian, and Hispanic households all increased from their 2018 medians

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.pdf>

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**US: The Past Decade's Foreign-Born Population Gains Will Be the Smallest Since the 1970s** by William H. Frey, Brookings Institution, 2020.

Newly released Census Bureau statistics reveal that from 2010 to 2020, the nation's foreign-born population will experience the smallest growth for any decade since the 1970s.

- For two years straight, the U.S. saw an uncommonly small increase in its foreign-born population. In each year (2017-2018 and 2018-2019), it grew by barely more than 200,000—well below annual gains earlier in the decade, which ranged between 400,000 and 1 million
- [T]he foreign-born population has gained just 4.9 million people during the 2010 to 2019 period. This is well below the 5.6 million, 11.3 million, and 8.8 million gained during the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, respectively
- The 2019 noncitizen foreign-born population of 21.7 million comprises nearly half of the 44.9 million foreign-born population. (It is estimated that 10.5 million noncitizen foreign-born are undocumented.)

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-past-decades-foreign-born-population-gains-will-be-the-smallest-since-the-1970s/>

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/>