

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.

Housing Research Report: The Economics of New Purpose-Built Rental Housing Development in Selected Canadian Markets (2016) by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2016.

The study examined both private market rental unit development and non-profit buildings across the various market areas, the 10-year cash-on-cash returns for the basic, medium and high-end private market projects under the “with land cost” and “without land cost” scenarios.

- The rental apartment vacancy rate in Toronto has been declining slightly since 2011, and stood at 1.3% in October 2016, slightly below the long term average rate of 1.7%
- Development costs including land range from a low of about \$174,000 for an average basic project unit in Montreal to a high of about \$404,000 for an average high-end unit in Vancouver
- Even with land costs assumed at zero, most markets and project types still exhibit a negative 10-year return.

For link to the paper:

ftp://ftp.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/chic-ccdhd/Research_Reports-Rapports_de_recherche/2017/RR_Economics_of_New_Purpose_Sep18.pdf

Developmental Milestones: Child Care Fees in Canada's Big Cities 2018 by David Macdonald and Martha Friendly, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, February 2019.

[E]ach year, we conduct approximately 10,000 phone calls with child care centres, regulated family child care homes and child care agencies in 28 big cities to find out how much it costs parents to enrol their infant, toddler or preschooler in full-time, full-day child care. This information allows us to determine a median child care fee in each category for each of the 28 cities surveyed.

- The highest median infant fees are found in Toronto, ON (\$1,685 a month) and nearby Mississauga (\$1,591 a month) and Hamilton (\$1,497 a month)
- [C]hild care fees to go up faster than the rate of inflation. In 2018 this was the case in 17 of the 28 cities surveyed
- Mississauga is third most expensive city for toddler care at \$1,269 a month, while fees of between \$1,100 and \$1,200 a month are a common price range in Ontario and BC, particularly for Toronto's and Vancouver's bedroom communities

For the link to the paper:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2019/02/Developmental%20milestones.pdf>

Superdiversity: Today's Migration has Made Cities More Diverse than Ever – in Multiple Ways by Steven Vertovec, Daniel Hierbert, Alan Gamlen and Paul Spoonley.

Across the globe, most international migrants end up in cities. Urban populations today show fluctuating combinations of nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, age, gender, legal status, class and human capital. Such changing combinations of traits lead to conditions of 'super-diversity' – a concept highlighting the fact that current diversity patterns significantly supersede earlier ones.

- Nearly 40 percent of metropolitan Auckland's residents, as recorded in the 2013 census, were born outside New Zealand, and the corresponding figures for Sydney and Vancouver in 2016 were, respectively, 43 and 41 percent
- In Vancouver, in 2016, about 3 percent of the population identified themselves as Aboriginal, 49 percent as members of Visible Minority groups, with the remaining 48 percent as having European ancestry
- The Superdiversity maps are an attempt to do something quite different, to enable you to imagine the city as a set of spaces of intersecting diversity, where people encounter others who are different from themselves. They invite you to see how people experience complexity in their daily lives

For the link to the interactive visualizations: <http://www.superdiv.mmg.mpg.de>

Income in Ontario: Growth, Distribution and Mobility by Financial Accountability Office of Ontario, 2019.

[T]his report presents new data on the evolution of income mobility in Ontario. To what extent do Ontarians switch places on the income ladder? Are inequalities in income becoming more permanent over time?

- In 2016, the tax and transfer system in Ontario reduced income inequality by almost 30%.
- [B]etween 2000 and 2016, the after-tax income of the median Ontario family grew only modestly
- Ontario's median income is still higher than the average for all other provinces. However, during this period, Ontario recorded the slowest growth in median family income among all provinces by a wide margin
- Notably, lower-income Ontario families experienced slower income growth than higher-income families

For the link to the paper:

<https://www.fao-on.org/web/default/files/publications/Income%20Jan%202019/Income-report.FAO.pdf>

Methodological Changes to the Market Basket Measure in 2019 by Statistics Canada, February 2019.

This note describes methodological changes made to the Market Basket Measure (MBM) of low income in calendar year 2019. These revisions mainly affect MBM estimates for 2008 and 2009, but they also affect the overall interpretation of the trends in the MBM over the 2000s.

- The threshold for the food component of the MBM is determined using the National Nutritious Food Basket (NNFB), produced by Health Canada
- Since 2006, growth in the shelter costs has been due to pure price movements in shelter costs, while for the 2001-2006 period, growth in shelter costs were due to a combination of price increases, and changes in the rental stock associated with shifts in quality or the appearance of new units
- By 2016, low income in Canada was at a similar level as nine years earlier. [...] With the new methodological approach, it is clear that MBM rates declined over the period

For the link to paper: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2019005-eng.pdf>

Labour Market Outcomes Among Refugees to Canada by Garnett Picot, Yan Zhang, and Feng Hou, Statistics Canada, March 2019.

This paper focuses on the labour market outcomes of refugees from 13 countries (or groups) with large inflows to Canada over the 1980-to-2009 period. These groups include refugees from Afghanistan, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the former Yugoslavia (as one group), Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Poland, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos (the three countries as one group).

- Canada welcomed over 830,000 refugees from the 1980s to 2000s
- Male refugees from 7 of the 13 countries had employment rates over 75% five years after entry. However, those from Iran and Somalia had very low employment rates
- Ten years after entering Canada, the refugee groups with the highest earnings (i.e., from the former Yugoslavia, Poland and Colombia) earned roughly double what those with the lowest earnings did (i.e., from Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and China)

For the link to paper: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2019007-eng.pdf>

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/>