

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.

Income and Mobility of Immigrants, 2016 by Statistics Canada, December 2018.

The profile of immigrants to Canada can vary between admission years. Immigrants can face challenges when they arrive in Canada, such as acquiring the ability to speak at least one of the official languages or getting their foreign credentials recognized.

- The immigrants admitted to Canada in 2015 earned the highest entry wages of any cohort admitted since 1981
- For immigrants admitted to Canada in 2015, one-third had pre-admission experience, compared with 20% for those admitted a decade earlier in 2005
- From 2015 to 2017, 50,920 Syrian refugees were admitted to Canada, 43% of those who had filed taxes in 2016 reported wages

For link to this report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/181210/dq181210a-eng.pdf>

YOUTHFULCITIES 2018 Canadian Index, 2018.

Cities around the world are competing to become more liveable, smart, innovative and desirable. Simply put, cities are competing to become more youthful - more connected, dynamic, curious, open, inventive and playful. While we know how much Canada depends on its cities as economic and social engines, Canadian cities are falling behind. The current Index is comprised of 121 indicators. The Index is hard data to start the conversation towards a more youthful urban future.

- In 2015, Toronto was the only Canadian city to make the Top 10 of the YouthfulCities Global Index, coming in 6th place. Montreal and Vancouver just barely made the top 20 and were behind most other North American cities, including Mexico City.
- In 2016 YouthfulCities Survey, 71% of North American youth said they would leave their current city in the next several years
- Youth around the world believe that youthful cities have stronger economies, better job opportunities, more entrepreneurship, happier populations and more public events

For link to the Index:

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/3a3a66_3a1aa47c92ed4d2eb2b2ed7eb0e78b66.pdf

Survey of Household Spending, 2017, Statistics Canada, December 2018.

This survey provides detailed spending information as well as selected information on dwelling characteristics and household equipment. In 2017, the average Canadian household spent \$63,723 on goods and services, up 2.5% from 2016. Spending varied across provinces, and was highest in Alberta (\$72,957) and British Columbia (\$71,001), in part due to higher expenditures on shelter in these provinces.

- Shelter remained the largest budget item for households in 2017, at 29.2% of their total consumption of goods and services
- In 2017, two out of every three Canadian households owned their home, and more than half of homeowners had a mortgage
- Canadian households paid \$12,707 for transportation in 2017, up 6.7% from 2016
- In 2017, the 20% of Canadian households with the lowest incomes spent an average of \$33,764 on goods and services, compared with \$105,493 for those in the top 20% of household incomes

For link to the survey:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/181212/dq181212a-eng.pdf>

Wild Numbers: Getting Better Fiscal Accountability in Canada's Municipalities by William B.P. Robson and Farah Omran, C.D. Howe Institute, December 2018.

Canada's municipalities are routinely missing the spending targets in their budgets by large amounts, undermining the ability of voters to hold them accountable. This study compares the annual spending projections of Canada's 31 most populous municipalities over the past nine years to their end-of-year financial results. They find that in almost all these municipalities, the numbers – which are typically confusing – are badly off the mark.

- Canada's major municipalities missed their budget targets, under- or over-shooting, by a startling 9 percent annually
- Municipalities typically prepare their budgets on a different basis of accounting than they use in their end-of-year financial statements
- They expense capital projects over time in their financial statements, as other governments and most private entities do, yet budget them on a cash basis – which exaggerates the ups and downs of outlays

For link to the report:

https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/attachments/research_papers/mixed/Commentary_52_7_1.pdf

Generosity in Canada and the United States: The 2018 Generosity Index by Milagros Palacios and Jake Fuss, Fraser Institute, December 2018.

This report finds that the amount of money Canadians donate to registered charities—as a share of their income—has plummeted 32.2 per cent since 2006, and Canadians remain far less generous than Americans. According to the index, Utah remains the most generous of all 64 jurisdictions in North America, and Manitoba is again the most generous Canadian province or territory, but still only ranks 42nd out of 64. Of the bottom-15 least generous jurisdictions in North America, 12 are Canadian.

- The general trend in recent years is that a declining percentage of Canadian tax filers are donating to charity and they are donating less as a percentage of income
- Nationwide, a lower percentage of tax filers donated to charity in Canada (20.4%) than in the United States (24.8%). Similarly, Canadians (at 0.53%) gave a lower percentage of their aggregate income to charity than did Americans (at 1.46%)
- US jurisdictions top the overall Generosity Index rankings. Utah places first (scoring 8.8 out of 10.0), followed by Maryland (7.5) and Georgia (6.9)

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/generosity-in-canada-and-the-united-states-2018.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/>