

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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**Annual Demographic Estimates: Subprovincial Areas, July 1, 2020** by the Centre for Demography, Statistics Canada, January 2021.

Population growth in Canada's large urban regions slowed in 2019/2020, while other regions remained relatively stable. Immigrants and non-permanent residents continued to drive population growth, although it was significantly lower due to travel restrictions implemented to curb the spread of COVID-19. While this particularly affected large urban areas, other impacts on subprovincial population are not clear-cut as these estimates only capture the first few months of the pandemic.

- On July 1, 2020, 27,306,305 people, or more than 7 in 10 Canadians (71.8%), were living in one of the 35 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in Canada. Of those people, half (13,657,092) lived in one of the Toronto, Montréal or Vancouver CMAs
- Only three CMAs are estimated to have seen a growth rate at or above 2.0% in the last year, compared to nine for the previous year. Oshawa saw the fastest growth (+2.1%), followed by Halifax and Kitchener – Cambridge – Waterloo (+2.0% each)
- International migration to Canada saw a decrease of over 20% in 2019/2020 compared to the previous year, yet remained the main source of growth for three-quarter of CMAs.

Link to the update:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-214-x/91-214-x2021001-eng.pdf>

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**Unemployment and the Use Of Food Banks** by Ron Kneebone, The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, 2020.

The figure shows the relationship between the number of people who are unemployed and the number of client visits to food banks in Toronto.

- [I]n May 2020 there were just over 550,000 unemployed people in Toronto and just over 85,000 client visits to food banks
- Between February and July 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic was largely responsible for an increase in unemployment in Toronto of 363,000 people and an increase in client visits to food banks of 48%
- The location of observations for May to September 2020 shows that the normal relationship between food bank use and unemployment consistently underpredicts the impact of the COVID-19 induced increase in unemployment on the number of food bank client visits

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Social-Trends-Food-Bank.pdf>

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**Education Spending in Public Schools in Canada, 2021 Edition** by Tegan Hill, Nathaniel Li, and Joel Emes, Fraser Institute, 2021.

This study examines changes in education spending on public schools in Canada from 2013/14 to 2017/18. It is clear from the data that from 2013/14 to 2017/18 Canada has increased education spending in public schools beyond what was required to account for enrolment and price changes—contrary to the general perception that education spending in public schools has been cut. Our results also indicate that compensation remains the largest and costliest aspect of education spending, and has contributed the largest portion to the growth in total education spending in Canada

- While Quebec and Ontario have the highest spending in dollar terms, Nova Scotia saw the largest percentage increase in nominal spending at 19.0%. British Columbia followed with the second highest increase in spending at 17.1%.
- Every other province, except Newfoundland & Labrador, experienced a notable increase in education spending (more than 10%) from 2013/14 to 2017/18
- In total, Canada experienced an increase in per-student spending of 10.6%. This is lower than the initially reported increase of 13.0% in aggregate spending because total enrolment increased slightly, by 2.2%
- Nationally, between 2013/14 to 2017/18, total education spending exceeded the amount required to account for changes in enrolment and inflation by \$2.8 billion

Link to the full report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/education-spending-in-public-schools-in-canada-2021.pdf>

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**Policing in Canada: Major study reveals four mindsets driving current opinions and future policy preferences** by Angus Reid Institute, 2020.

Canadians have watched protests south of the border calling for an end to police violence against Black and other Americans of colour, and participated in protests in this country calling for greater accountability and acknowledgement of what they say is systemic racism in Canadian policing as well. Now, a comprehensive review of perspectives on policing in this country, from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute, finds a country at once critical and supportive of the police in their communities.

- Those aged 18-24, on average, feel less secure when they see a police officer (38%) than more secure (32%), whereas this tendency is reversed in all older age groups. Similarly, more than one-in-three 18-24-year-olds (37%) view police in their own community unfavourably, compared to just one-in-ten (11%) among those 65 and up
- Two-thirds of Canadians have had at least one direct interaction with an officer over the past five years. For most, this was a comfortable experience. Negative experiences vary by age, gender, and ethnicity
- The divergence appears to be in part generational. While Canadians 45 years of age and older are relatively uncritical about the police serving their community, favourability among 18 to 34-year-olds is considerably lower

Link to the full report:

<http://angusreid.org/policing-perspectives-canada-rcmp/>

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**Labour Market Experience, Gender Diversity and the Success of Women-owned Enterprises** by Douwre Grekou, Statistics Canada, June 2020.

This paper addresses three main questions: (1) What are the differences in socio-economic characteristics between women and men prior to the creation of their business? (2) What is the relationship between these characteristics, especially prior labour market experience, and the performances of their firms? (3) Are there major gender differences in the correlation of prior labour market experience and the success of their firms?

- In the data, majority men-owned enterprises with entrants performed better than their majority women-owned and equally-owned counterparts.
- Men accounted for about 62% of the total number of entrants while women accounted for about 38%. The trends for men and women were the same over this period.
- [M]en entrants were more likely than their women counterparts to be the owner of an unincorporated business in the year preceding entry, more likely to have experience in the same industry as the business owned over the five years preceding entry, and more likely to have worked in the same firms as their business partners

Link to the information pamphlet:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2020010-eng.pdf>

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**City Budget Matters 101: Municipal Revenues** by Social Planning Toronto, 2020.

Each year, the City of Toronto approves a City Budget, which is a financial plan for how our local government earns and spends money. The budget defines how much money goes toward local services such as public transit, childcare, employment and social services, social housing, garbage collection, public health, arts and cultural services, long-term care and senior housing, and more.

- Property tax accounts for 38.2% of the City's budget
- The City of Toronto projects a \$1.8 billion budget shortfall for 2021.
- The Budget process kicks off on January 14, 2021, and concludes with the final City Council vote on February 18

Link to the report:

<https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/socialplanningtoronto/pages/2420/attachments/original/1607550755/municipal-revenues-FINAL.pdf?1607550755>

Previous issues of the SPAR Monitor can be viewed online at: <https://bit.ly/3h42Zob>

Wellbeing Toronto: [www.toronto.ca/wellbeing](http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing)

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