

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.

2021 Census: Population and Dwelling Counts by the City of Toronto, February 11, 2021.

The City of Toronto releases Census Backgrounders to coincide with each Census release by Statistics Canada. The backgrounders provide a review of the data, focussing on how it relates to the City of Toronto and the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). On February 9, 2022, Statistics Canada released its first set of data from this Census, on population and dwelling counts, and the City has prepared a backgrounder with this data with key facts and trends highlighted.

- The 2021 population of Toronto is 2,794,356, or 7.6% of Canada's total population of 36,991,981
- Toronto's population grew by 62,785 residents between 2016 and 2021, an increase of 2.3%. This is less than the number of people added between 2011 and 2016 of 116,511 or 4.5%
- The city of Toronto accounts for 38.4% of the GTHA's population
- [In the City of Toronto] the largest absolute population increases were seen in the neighbourhoods of Waterfront Communities-The Island (+19,375 persons), Mount Pleasant West (+9,729) and Church-Yonge Corridor (+9,326)
- Occupied private dwellings in the city of Toronto increased by 47,963 between 2016 and 2021. This represents 4.3% growth since 2016, about double the population growth rate for the same period

Link to the census backgrounder: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/toronto-economy-labour-force-demographics/>

Canada tops G7 growth despite COVID by the Statistics Canada, February 9, 2022.

Today [Feb 9, 2022], Statistics Canada is releasing the first results from the 2021 Census, including the number of Canadians counted, population growth across the country, and how the pandemic has affected the demographic makeup of the nation. One thing that has not changed from five years ago is that Canada remains the fastest growing country in the G7. Most of that growth is attributable to more people arriving here from around the world to start a new life. Approximately 1.8 million more people were calling Canada home in 2021 compared with five years earlier, with four in five of these having immigrated to Canada since 2016.

- Canada is home to almost 37 million people, 1.8 million (+5.2%) more than in 2016. Most of the increase occurred prior to the pandemic, with Canada's population rising by a record high of 583,000 people (+1.6%) in 2019
- The census counted just over 6.6 million Canadians (6,601,982) living in a rural area in May 2021, up 0.4% compared with five years earlier, but well below the pace of growth in urban areas (+6.3%)
- Canada's population growth from 2016 to 2021 was largely attributable to immigration, accounting for nearly four-fifths of the population gain over this period

Link to the census release: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220209/dq220209a-eng.htm>

Canada's Large Urban Centres Continue to Grow and Spread by Statistics Canada, February 9, 2022.

Using new 2021 Census data, today we look at how Canada's 41 large urban centres have evolved since 2016 and since the onset of the pandemic. For the first time, we focus on population changes within different areas located inside Canada's CMAs and see that population growth within our cities has not been uniform across their territory.

- In 2021, nearly three in four Canadians (73.7%) lived in one of Canada's large urban centres, up from 73.2% five years earlier
- From 2016 to 2021, the downtown populations of the large urban centres grew faster (+10.9%) than the urban centres as a whole (+6.1%). The populations of downtowns also grew at over twice the pace compared with the previous census cycle (+4.6%)
- The populations of Canada's two largest downtowns—Toronto (+16.1%) and Vancouver (+7.4%)—also outpaced the growth rates of their CMAs (+4.6% in Toronto and +7.3% in Vancouver)
- The COVID-19 pandemic ended the rapid population growth that occurred in Canada's downtowns from 2016 to 2019
- The most populated downtowns were Toronto (275,931 people), Vancouver (121,932 people), Montréal (109,509 people), Ottawa (67,169 people) and Edmonton (55,387 people)

Link to the media releases: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220209/dq220209b-eng.htm>

Historical municipality ranking: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/dv-vd/ribbon-ruban/index-eng.cfm>

Consumer Price Index, December 2021 by Statistics Canada, January 2022.

Canadians continued to feel the impact of rising prices for groceries in December, as unfavourable weather conditions during the growing season and supply chain disruptions put upward pressure on prices. Supply chain disruptions also led to higher prices for durable goods, including passenger vehicles and household appliances, while higher construction costs and the increased frequency and severity of weather events contributed to rising home and mortgage insurance costs.

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 4.8% on a year-over-year basis in December, up from a 4.7% gain in November
- Headline CPI grew at a faster pace compared with November, due in part to higher prices for food (+5.2%), passenger vehicles (+7.2%) and homeowners' home and mortgage insurance (+9.3%)
- Gasoline prices rose to a lesser extent in December (+33.3%) than in November (+43.6%), contributing to the slowdown in goods prices
- Consumers who purchased household appliances, like refrigerators and freezers (+13.9%) and laundry and dishwashing appliances (+10.4%), paid 8.9% more in December 2021 compared with December 2020. This was the largest yearly gain since June 1982

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220119/dq220119a-eng.htm>

Report of the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force by the Province of Ontario, February 2021.

This report sets out recommendations that would set a bold goal and clear direction for the province, increase density, remove exclusionary rules that prevent housing growth, prevent abuse of the appeals process, and make sure municipalities are treated as partners in this process by incentivizing success.

- [T]he average price for a house across Ontario was \$923,000 at the end of 2021. Ten years ago, the average price was \$329,000. Over that period, average house prices have climbed 180% while average incomes have grown roughly 38%
- Recommendations 1 and 2 urge Ontario to set a bold goal of adding 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years and update planning guidance to make this a priority
- Recommendations 3 through 11 address how Ontario can quickly create more housing supply by allowing more housing in more locations “as of right” (without the need for municipal approval) and make better use of transportation investments
- Recommendation 12 would set uniform provincial standards for urban design, including building shadows and setbacks
- Recommendations 49 and 50 call for Ontario government to create a large “Ontario Housing Delivery Fund” and encourage the federal government to match funding

Link to the report: <https://files.ontario.ca/mmah-housing-affordability-task-force-report-en-2022-02-07-v2.pdf>

Distributions of Household Economic Accounts for Income, Consumption and Saving of Canadian Households by Statistics Canada, January 2021.

Household disposable income increased more for lower income households than higher income households in the third quarter. As a result, the gap between the top two and bottom two income quintiles' share of total disposable income declined to its lowest level ever recorded since the beginning of this data series in 1999.

- [D]isposable income for the lowest income households rose 17.5%, while income for the highest income households rose 3.9%
- The bottom two income quintiles had higher growth in their wages, rising 8.4% and 9.8% respectively in the third quarter. Meanwhile, over the same time period, wages rose 1.0% for the top income quintile
- In the third quarter of 2021, self-employment income rose 90.1% for households in the lowest income quintile, while it increased 10.5% for those in the highest income quintile
- Except for those in the highest quintile, households in every quintile saw an improvement in their average net saving in the third quarter of 2021 compared with the previous quarter

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220128/dq220128a-eng.htm>

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

Wellbeing Toronto: www.toronto.ca/wellbeing

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