

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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**In The Midst Of High Job Vacancies And Historically Low Unemployment, Canada Faces Record Retirements From An Aging Labour Force: Number Of Seniors Aged 65 And Older Grows Six Times Faster Than Children 0-14**  
by Statistics Canada, April 12, 2022.

Today, Statistics Canada is releasing a second series of results from the 2021 Census which features the age structure of the Canadian population and the types of dwelling in which Canadians live. The working-age population, persons aged 15 to 64 who produce the bulk of goods and services in the Canadian economy, has reached a turning point. Never before has the number of people nearing retirement been so high. This release also presents results for other population age groups and an analysis of the types of dwellings in which Canadians live.

- From 2016 to 2021, the number of persons aged 65 and older rose 18.3% to 7.0 million. This is the second largest increase in 75 years, after the increase observed from 2011 to 2016 (+20.0%)
- The number of persons aged 85 and older has doubled since 2001, reaching 861,000 in 2021
- From 2016 to 2021, the number of children under the age of 15 grew at a pace six times slower than the number of people aged 65 and older, to total 6.0 million
- The number of apartments located in high-rise apartment buildings increased more than twice as fast (+14.7%) as the total number of private dwellings (+6.4%) from 2016 to 2021

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220427/dq220427a-eng.htm?HPA=1>

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**City of Toronto Census Backgrounder – Age, Sex at Birth, Gender, Type of Dwellings** by City of Toronto, April 12, 2022.

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).

- Since 2016, there are more people age 65 or older in Toronto than there are people under the age of 15
- The share of the population age 65 or older has increased from 15.6% in 2016 to 17.1% in 2021. At the same time, the share of children age 0-14 decreased, from 14.6% in 2016 to 13.8% in 2021
- [T]here were 59,460 people in Canada aged 15 and older living in a private household who were transgender (0.19%) and 41,355 who were non-binary (0.14%). Together, they represented 1 in 300 people, or 0.33% of the population aged 15 and older.
- High-rise apartments (apartments in buildings with five or more storeys) increased by 49,350 dwellings (10.0%);

Link to the backgrounder: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/9654-City-Planning-2021-Census-Backgrounder-Age-Sex-Gender-DwellingType.pdf>

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**Canada Is The First Country To Provide Census Data On Transgender And Non-Binary People** by Statistics Canada, April 12, 2022.

Prior to the 2021 Census, some individuals indicated that they were not able to see themselves in the two responses of male or female on the existing sex question in the census. Following extensive consultation and countrywide engagement with the Canadian population, the census evolved as it has for more than a century—to reflect societal changes, adding new content on gender in 2021. Beginning in 2021, the precision of "at birth" was added to the sex question on the census questionnaire, and a new question on gender was included.

- Of the nearly 30.5 million people in Canada aged 15 and older living in a private household in May 2021, 100,815 were transgender (59,460) or non-binary (41,355), accounting for 0.33% of the population in this age group
- Just under 1 in 100 young adults aged 20 to 24 were non-binary or transgender (0.85%)
- Just over half of non-binary people aged 15 and older (52.7%) lived in one of Canada's six largest urban centres: Toronto (15.3%), Montréal (11.0%), Vancouver (10.8%), Ottawa–Gatineau (5.6%), Edmonton (5.4%) and Calgary (4.5%)

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220427/dq220427b-eng.htm?HPA=1>

Reference guides:

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/ref/98-20-0001/982000012021001-eng.cfm>

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**Income, Social Support, and Well-being in the GTA** by James Iveniuk, Wellesley Institute, March 2022.

Socioeconomic status operates as a flexible resource, helping individuals acquire and produce good health. Income is one part of how socioeconomic status may impact health. And one of the ways income may affect health is through its links with social support and social networks. The data for this study were collected through a partnership formed by the YMCA GTA and Wellesley Institute. They were collected between November 9 and December 21, 2017, by Forum Research.

- Tangible social support mediated the association between income and health, and income and stress, to a greater degree than other forms of support
- Conversely, belonging was the strongest mediator of the association between income and life satisfaction, and income and mental health
- Appraisal support was also more strongly associated with life satisfaction for African/Caribbean/Black respondents, compared to European respondents; tangible support was less strongly associated with life satisfaction for African/Caribbean/Black respondents, compared to European respondents
- The lack of any pattern in these interactions, as well as their being few in number, suggests that the consequences of social support for well-being are largely consistent across social groups

Link to the survey report: <https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Income-social-support-and-well-being-in-the-GTA.pdf>

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**A Primer on Inflation** by Steven Globerman, Fraser Institute, April 2022.

Somewhat over 40 percent of Canada's current population was born after 1988. Therefore, a substantial proportion of Canadians did not personally experience the prolonged episode of global inflation running from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s. Indeed, the media has basically ignored inflation over the past 30 years, decades that, until recently, have been marked by low and relatively stable inflation. The sharp increase in the rate of inflation over the past year has brought this public policy issue back to the public's attention.

- Given that the increase in the CPI in December 2021 was 4.8 percent compared to the CPI in December 2020, followed by a January 2022 reading of 5.1 percent annualized, the recent rate of inflation is clearly beyond the upper limit of the Bank of Canada's acceptable range
- [A]n individual receiving a fixed pension of \$10,000 per year can expect to accumulate an inflation-adjusted sum of \$100,00 after 10 years with zero inflation. The total received shrinks to \$85,302 with three percent per year inflation. In other words, the pensioner loses about \$15,000 of purchasing power over 10 years due to inflation
- To the extent that some segments of society have their nominal incomes directly or indirectly tied to the rate of inflation while other segments do not, inflation will contribute to a redistribution of income

Link to the primer: <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/primer-on-inflation.pdf>

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**A Portrait of Canadians Who Have Been Homeless** by Sharanjit Uppal, Statistics Canada, March 2022.

Using data from the 2018 Canadian Housing Survey, this study first examines the characteristics of Canadians who, while they are now responsible for housing decisions within their household, had previously experienced unsheltered or hidden homelessness. The second objective is to examine the situations of those who experienced homelessness in the past, in terms of current housing characteristics and differences in economic and health status.

- About 3% of persons who are responsible for housing decisions within their household in Canada reported experiencing unsheltered homelessness at some point in their lives
- About 15% of those who are responsible for housing decisions within their household had experienced hidden homelessness
- Among people who make housing decisions for their household, First Nations people living off-reserve (12%), Métis (6%), and Inuit (10%) were more likely to have experienced unsheltered homelessness than the non-Indigenous population
- Homelessness was also more common among women who were sexual minorities (8%)

Link to the paper: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2022001/article/00002-eng.htm>

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/>