

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.

Rising Prices and The Impact on the Most Financially Vulnerable: A Profile of Those in the Bottom Family Income Quintile by Sharanjit Uppal, Statistics Canada, February 2022.

This study uses data from multiple sources, such as the Canadian Income Survey and the Survey of Financial Security. It sheds light on the financial security of Canadians in the lowest family income quintile, providing detailed information on income levels, debt and assets levels, and some of the economic challenges faced by this group in the context of rising costs of living.

- [By] June 2022, the annual rate of inflation was up to 8.1% - the largest yearly change in 40 years. By December 2022, the inflation rate cooled down to 6.3%. This was largely due to a decrease in the price of gasoline. The annual increase in the price of groceries rose to 11.0%
- Feeling worried about the impacts of inflation on food, housing and other expenses was greatest among the lowest income Canadians, where more than 6 in 10 (63%) in the bottom household income quintile were very concerned.
- In 2022, 19% of Canadians in the bottom income quintile reported that they had to often borrow money from friends or relatives or take on additional debt to meet day-to-day expenses. This compares to 2% of those in the top quintile
- Lone parents, divorced people and First Nations living off-reserve are most likely to be in the lowest family income quintile

Link to the study: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2023001/article/00002-eng.pdf>

Residential Real Estate Investors and Investment Properties in 2020 by Joanie Fontaine and Joshua Gordon, Statistics Canada, February 2022.

In this release, the CHSP follows a different approach by identifying properties owned by investors among the entire stock of residential properties in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia for the reference year 2020. The findings provide a snapshot of the situation in these provinces before the COVID-19 pandemic and can therefore be used as a point of comparison to determine the effects of the public health crisis when examining subsequent years.

- The proportion of investors among owners varied from 20.2% in Ontario to 31.5% in Nova Scotia
- Among houses and condominium apartments, just under one in five properties was used as an investment in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia combined
- Ontario topped the list with the highest rate of condominium apartments used as an investment, at 41.9%
- Investor-occupants are more common in British Columbia, where they made up 9.6% of owners

Link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/46-28-0001/2023001/article/00001-eng.pdf?st=bl3kHFwH>

“Fighting to Keep Your Home in a Community” Understanding Evictions through Service Provider and Community Leader Perspectives in North York Communities by Wellesley Institute, February 2023.

Building on previous work, qualitative research interviews were conducted to explore how local service providers and community leaders understand the causes, impacts, and Black experiences of evictions in neighbourhoods disproportionately impacted by residential eviction filings. Building effective public policy to improve housing stability for equity-seeking populations requires building on expert local understandings of issues, challenges, and solutions.

- In an average year, over 20,000 Torontonians renter households face formal eviction filings
- [N]early 10 per cent of rental apartments were behind on rent in the City of Toronto in 2020 and 2021, upwards of 25,000 households
- Interviewees identified three main causes of evictions: tenant economic vulnerability, landlord incentives to evict, and discrimination against populations including Black renters
- Five renter populations were identified by interviewees as being disproportionately at risk of and impacted by evictions: low-income renters, Black and racialized people, people with mental health challenges, families with children, and new immigrants
- Intersectional disparities were identified as even greater, including for low-income Black renters, and women single-parent households

Link to the report:

<https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Fighting-to-Keep-Your-Home-Feb-2023.pdf>

Canada Leads The G7 For The Most Educated Workforce by Statistics Canada, November 2022.

A highly educated workforce is essential to maintaining our standard of living as a country, as well as meeting current and future labour market needs. Canada has a larger share of the population with a college or university credential than any other country in the G7. The share with a bachelor's degree or higher continues to rise with an influx of highly educated immigrants and a growing number of young adults completing degrees. However, we may be leaving talent on the table with the educational qualifications of some foreign-educated workers being underused.

- Over 6.4 million people, or approximately one-third of the working-age population, reported having a bachelor's degree or higher in 2021, up 4.3 percentage points from 2016
- [N]early one in four working-age people (24.6%) had a college certificate or diploma or similar credential in 2021, more than in any other G7 country
- The increase was larger among Canadian-born young women (+3.3 percentage points, reaching 39.7%) than Canadian-born young men (+2.2 percentage points, reaching 25.7%)
- From 2016 to 2021, the working-age population saw an increase of nearly one-fifth (+19.1%) in the number of people with a bachelor's degree or higher, including even larger rises in degree holders in the fields of health care (+24.1%) and computer and information science (+46.3%)
- In contrast, the number of working-age apprenticeship certificate holders has stagnated or fallen in three major trades fields—construction trades (+0.6%), mechanic and repair technologies (-7.8%) and precision production (-10.0%)—as fewer young workers replace the baby boomers who are retiring. Job vacancies in some industries related to these trades, such as construction and fabricated metal product manufacturing, reached record highs in 2022

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/221130/dq221130a-eng.htm>

Handbook on Measuring Quality of Employment - A Statistical Framework by the Expert Group on Measuring Quality of Employment, United Nations, 2015.

To assist statistical offices in meeting user demands, the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians established the Expert Group on Measuring Quality of Employment to develop a set of internationally agreed upon guidelines for compiling quality of employment statistics. This document introduces the statistical framework for measuring quality of employment, specifies the objectives and structure of the framework and introduces a list of recommended indicators for measuring quality of employment.

- The statistical framework provides a coherent structure for measuring quality of employment. It approaches quality of employment as a multidimensional concept, identifying seven dimensions and twelve sub-dimensions and introducing a number of statistical indicators for measuring each
- The ILO indicators for the measurement of decent work are grouped under eleven substantive elements, which cover the four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda: employment creation, guaranteeing rights at work, extending social protection and promoting social dialogue
- [Q]uality of employment needs to be measured not only for all employed persons, but also for relevant sub-groups, such as men and women, young and old workers or natives and migrants

Link to the handbook: https://unece.org/DAM/stats/publications/2015/ECE_CES_40.pdf

Long-Term Symptoms In Canadian Adults Who Tested Positive For COVID-19 Or Suspected An Infection by Statistics Canada, October 2022.

COVID-19 has had a varied impact on those who have contracted it. While most infected people have had mild symptoms, others have had more severe cases, some even requiring hospitalization, and others ultimately dying from the disease. Among those who have recovered from their initial infections, lingering symptoms such as tiredness, fatigue, brain fog and cough/shortness of breath have been reported months beyond the original infection.

- About 1.4 million Canadian adults indicated they had symptoms at least three months after a positive COVID-19 test or suspected infection
- Overall, 5.2% declared having no symptoms while 16.7% rated their symptoms as severe, which was defined as having a significant impact on their daily life.
- Just over one-third (34.2%) rated the symptoms of their COVID-19 infection as mild (i.e., not having a direct impact on their daily life) and 43.9% rated their symptoms as moderate (i.e., having some impact)
- A higher percentage of women (18.0%) reported prolonged symptoms compared with men (11.6%)

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/221017/dq221017b-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/>