

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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**Census in Brief: The Contribution of Pandemic Relief Benefits to the Incomes of Canadians in 2020** by Statistics Canada, August 2022.

In this article, the [COVID-19 pandemic] benefits Canadians received in 2020 are examined in more detail. The share of Canadians receiving benefits and median amounts received are examined by gender, age group, income levels and by detailed geography, as are the contributions of these benefits to the total income of Canadians.

- Nearly three-quarters (74.8%) of women received income from one or more pandemic relief programs, while 61.6% of men did so
- Canadians aged 65 and older (92.1%) and aged 20 to 24 (88.1%) were the most likely to receive benefits from pandemic relief program
- The median amount of benefits received among recipients in the bottom income decile was \$2,480. It was \$1,090 for those in the fifth decile and \$604 for those in the top decile of the income distribution
- The median after-tax income for women recipients was \$32,000 in 2020, and the income they received from pandemic relief programs accounted for 14.4% of this amount. For men recipients, the proportion was 11.3%

Link to the paper:

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/98-200-x/2021005/98-200-x2021005-eng.pdf>

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**Portrait of Youth in Canada: Chapter 6: Political Participation, Civic Engagement and Caregiving Among Youth in Canada** by Paula Arriagada, Farhana Khanam and Yujiro Sano, Statistics Canada, July 2022.

This report uses Statistics Canada survey data to describe the civic engagement activities and political participation of young people in Canada, defined as those aged 15 to 30.

- Data from the 2020 GSS show that 59% of youth aged 15 to 30 participated in any group, organization or association in the previous 12 months
- [Y]oung women were more likely than young men to participate in cultural, educational or hobby organizations (36% compared to 32%) and humanitarian or charitable organizations or service clubs (20% compared 13%);
- [M]en were significantly more likely than women to be involved in sports or recreational organizations (61% versus 45%)
- The rate of formal volunteering was 46% among youth aged 15 to 30

Link to the report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/42-28-0001/2021001/article/00006-eng.htm>

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**2021 Census: Families, Households, Marital Status and Income** by Statistics Canada and City of Toronto, July 2022.

The 2021 Census Day was May 11, 2021. On July 13, 2022, Statistics Canada released its third set of data from this Census, on families, households, marital status and income. This backgrounder compiles Census 2021 data into a short summary of major demographic trends in Toronto and the GTHA, alongside tables, charts and maps.

- Toronto is home to 484,435 married couples, 96,155 common-law couples, and 152,635 one-parent families. From 2016 to 2021, the number of married and one-parent families remained stable, while the number of common-law couples increased by 13.1%
- Toronto households consist of 60.3% family households and 39.7% non-family households
- Median total household income in Toronto was \$84,000, an increase of about \$18,000 since 2016
- Median economic family income in Toronto was \$106,000, an increase of about \$23,000 since 2016
- There were 363,955 persons, or 13.2% of the population in Toronto with an income below Statistics Canada's Low Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT).
- This is 179,435 less persons in low income, based on the LIM-AT measure, than in 2016

Link to the backgrounder:

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/9877-City-Planning-2021-Census-Backgrounder-Families-Hhlds-Marital-Status-Income.pdf>

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**Research to Insights: Immigration as a Source of Labour Supply** by Statistics Canada, June 2022.

The Research to Insights series of presentations features a broad range of findings on selected topics of research. Each presentation will draw from and integrate evidence from many different studies that use innovative and high-quality data and methods to better understand relevant and complex policy issues. Based on applied research of valuable data, the series is intended to provide decision makers, and Canadians more broadly, a comprehensive and horizontal view of the current social, economic and health issues we face in a changing world.

- The national unemployment rate fell to a record low 5.2% in April. Among core-aged workers, the rate was 4.3%. Job vacancies in late 2021 were 80% above pre-pandemic levels
- Immigration has been the driving force behind Canada's labour supply for many years. During the 2010s, over four-fifths of the growth in Canada's labour force came from immigration
- After the interruption caused by the pandemic in 2020, 405,800 immigrants were admitted in 2021, the highest level in history
- immigrant workers accounted for 84% of the growth in the total labour force, 55% of the growth in high- and medium-skilled jobs and offset decline in low skilled jobs among Canadian-born workers
- In 2021, the share of new and recent immigrant workers reached 13% in the accommodation and food services sector, 11% in the professional services sector, and 10% in the manufacturing and transportation sector.

Link to the presentation: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-631-x/11-631-x2022003-eng.pdf>

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**Ending Homelessness - A Proposal for a Collaborative Provincial-Municipal Co-Design and Implementation of a Blueprint to End Homelessness in Ontario** by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, December 2021.

While much has been done by all orders of government to mitigate the worst impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in homeless people, more is needed to address the issue once and for all and to ultimately end homelessness. There is an opportunity to seize on the inter-governmental collaboration and public attention to the issue that now exists. The proposal is designed to build on this momentum and to develop a comprehensive approach with all governments and partners engaged, including homeless people themselves.

- By 2025, there will be an estimated 159,800 'high housing need' households in Ontario that are at an elevated risk of losing their housing and experiencing homelessness
- A community has ended chronic homelessness when the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness is zero, or if not zero, then either 3 [persons] or 0.1% of the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness, whichever is greater
- Chronic homelessness has historically comprised anywhere from 5%-20% of many community's homelessness population

Links to the proposals:

[https://www.amo.on.ca/sites/default/files/assets/DOCUMENTS/Reports/2021/AMO's\\_Proposal\\_to\\_End\\_Homelessness\\_in\\_Ontario\\_20211208\\_RPT.pdf](https://www.amo.on.ca/sites/default/files/assets/DOCUMENTS/Reports/2021/AMO's_Proposal_to_End_Homelessness_in_Ontario_20211208_RPT.pdf)

<https://bfzcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/Functional-Zero-QA.pdf>

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**Distributions of Household Economic Accounts for Wealth of Canadian Households, First Quarter of 2022** by Statistics Canada, August 2022.

This release of the distributions of household economic accounts (DHEA) shows that households in the lowest two wealth quintiles and those aged younger than 45 years increased their average net worth at a faster pace than wealthier and older households up to the first quarter of 2022. Net worth for wealthier and older households remained relatively stable, because increases in their real estate values were offset by reductions in the value of their financial assets.

- Households in the two lowest wealth quintiles (the bottom 40% in terms of wealth), who held an average of \$73,661 in assets less liabilities in the first quarter of 2022, increased their net worth by \$1,786 (+2.5%), while those in the highest wealth quintile (the top 20% in terms of wealth), who held an average of \$3,352,083 in assets less liabilities, increased their wealth by \$27,304 (+0.8%)
- Debt-to-income ratios for younger age groups surpass the ratios at beginning of the pandemic
- The share of financial assets to total assets as of the first quarter of 2022 ranged from 55.7% for those aged 65 years and older to 33.3% for those aged younger than 35 years

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220803/dq220803b-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/>