

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.

Labour Force Survey, March 2022 by Statistics Canada, April 2022.

March Labour Force Survey (LFS) data reflect labour market conditions during the week of March 13 to 19. Since the February reference week, provinces have continued to ease public health restrictions. Most notably, all capacity limits and proof-of-vaccination requirements were lifted in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and Quebec prior to the March reference week.

- Employment rose by 73,000 (+0.4%) in March, driven by an increase of 93,000 (+0.6%) in full-time work
- The unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 5.3%, the lowest rate on record since comparable data became available in 1976
- Average hourly wages increased 3.4% on a year-over-year basis
- The proportion of workers who report that they usually work exclusively from home continued to decline in March, down 1.8 percentage points to 20.7%
- The number of employees working in jobs typically requiring a bachelor's degree or above has increased by 22.7% (+704,000) since March 2019, compared with a decline of 2.9% (-180,000) for those that usually require a high school diploma or no specific level of education

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220408/dq220408a-eng.htm>

Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure: Seniors' Care After COVID-19 by CD Howe Institute, December 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted long-existing and well-known challenges in the seniors' care sector. This Commentary summarizes the impacts of COVID-19 on Canadian seniors, ongoing challenges in seniors' care and promising investment and policy avenues for future improvement and modernization.

- Prior to the pandemic, Canada had long waitlists for long-term care (LTC) homes and had fewer homecare providers than the international average
- As of October 2021, almost one of every 20 people over the age of 80 had been infected with COVID-19 and about 1 percent died
- This shortage of homecare and lack of availability of LTC beds has resulted in patients occupying beds in acute-care settings instead. These settings are less equipped to meet seniors' various care and quality-of-life needs and are more expensive than more appropriate settings
- Achieving these changes, however, will require significant investments [...] to nearly quadruple to 4.2 percent of GDP by 2041 from 1.26 percent in 2018

Link to the briefing: https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/Commentary_614_1.pdf

Portrait of the Social, Political and Economic Participation of Racialized Groups by Statistics Canada, May 2022.

In response to Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy, Statistics Canada's Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics is releasing an initial set of 13 data tables on social inclusion. Nearly 100 indicators can now be used to examine various socioeconomic facets of racialized groups. The concept of racialized population is measured with the 'visible minority' variable in this release. This article provides an overview of social inclusion of racialized populations under the two themes: civic engagement and political participation, and representation in decision-making positions.

- The findings show that while the rates of civic participation of racialized Canadians are generally similar to the rest of the population, their representation in management positions is considerably lower, and their voter turnout and political engagement are somewhat lower compared with other Canadians
- Among the racialized groups, Arab (12 per 1,000) and Chinese Canadians (10 per 1,000) were the most likely to hold senior management positions in 2016 compared with South Asian (8 per 1,000) Latin American (5 per 1,000) and Black Canadians (4 per 1,000)
- Overall, South Asian, Arab and Latin American Canadians were most actively involved in democratic life, since political participation among these racialized groups was above 65% for all three electoral processes and for political engagement
- South Asian Canadians (18%) participated in humanitarian or charitable organisations more than Black (14%) and Filipino (10%) Canadians, who were usually more likely to participate in community groups, organizations or associations

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220517/dq220517c-eng.htm>

The Sensitivity Of Food Bank Visits To Social Assistance, Housing And Labour Market Conditions by the School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, March 2022.

In this study we use monthly data describing the number of visits to the Daily Bread Food Bank in Toronto over the period January 2014 to March 2020, a period over which visits increased by 53 per cent. We examine the relationship between this increase in food bank visits and trends in rents, social assistance incomes, minimum wages, and rates of employment in Toronto.

- The study shows that the number of visits to food banks increase with increases in rent, fall with increases in the minimum wage, and increase with reductions in the disability benefits available to people requiring social assistance
- The most significant influence is disability benefits. The steady erosion of the real value of disability benefits in Ontario and growth in disability caseloads is correlated with a sizable increase in the number of visits to the Daily Bread Food Bank
- The estimated coefficient on RENT indicates that a one per cent increase in the real value of a one-bedroom rental unit priced in the first quartile of market rents is associated with a six per cent increase in food bank visits

Link to the paper: <https://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Foodbank.Kneebone.Wilkins.pdf>

Charitable donors, 2020 by Statistics Canada, April 2022.

The COVID-19 pandemic does not appear to have had a significant impact on donations reported by tax filers. Donations in 2020 do not show significant changes when compared with those observed over the previous few years. Rather, the changes appear to be the continuation of longer-term trends.

- Total donation amounts reported by tax filers increased to close to \$10.6 billion (+2.7%) in 2020
- The median donation amount was \$340, which represents a 9.7% increase from 2019
- Most donations are made by older donors, even though the youngest age group is contributing more often than before
- In 2020, the total amount of donations for those aged 0 to 24 increased by 19.1%. The total number of donors aged 0 to 24 rose 22.8%, and they represented 4.0% of all the donors in Canada

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/220412/dq220412d-eng.pdf?st=pBhHBvQc>

Toronto Supportive Housing Growth Plan: Funding Analysis by Scott Leon, Greg Suttor and Alissa Klingbaum, Wellesley Institute, March 2022.

The Funding Analysis report is a technical report designed to inform the development of the Toronto Supportive Housing Growth Plan (SHGP) — a collaborative, sector-led initiative that unites supportive housing providers and stakeholders across sectors to increase the supply of supportive housing in Toronto. This analysis examines existing government funding structures and programs that foster supportive housing growth, and highlights opportunities to make current funding programs more efficient and unlock greater supportive housing growth in Toronto.

- This report examines funding for supportive housing in three ways: 1) Profiling current funding streams; 2) Reviewing funding patterns that currently support existing supportive housing in Toronto; and 3) Sharing insights from subject-matter experts
- Eighteen programs for funding supportive housing are covered in a one to two page tables using consistent information categories/subheadings
- An analysis of Toronto's existing supportive housing assets offers insights into how funding programs are being used in practice. The data presented here was collected through the Toronto Supportive Housing Asset Inventory survey of Toronto supportive housing operators.

Link to the report: <https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Funding-Analysis.pdf>

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/>