

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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## **A New Regulatory Framework for Multi-tenant Houses** by City of Toronto, June 2021.

The City of Toronto's quality of life, economic competitiveness, social cohesion, and its balance and diversity depend on current and future residents being able to access and maintain adequate, affordable and appropriate housing. This is critical now more than ever as the City is experiencing an affordable housing crisis that has been exacerbated due to the impacts of COVID-19. This report proposes the creation of a comprehensive city-wide regulatory framework for multi-tenant houses, one of the most affordable forms of housing, to respond to calls for deeply affordable and safe housing in all parts of the city.

- [T]he average market rent for a bachelor apartment in Toronto in 2019 was \$1,148. While rents for multi-tenant homes vary across the city, they are generally between \$400 to \$700 for a room
- This report recommends zoning by-law amendments for a harmonized approach to multi-tenant houses. The zoning amendments would establish city-wide permissions for multi-tenant houses, as well as introduce new, harmonized definitions for "multi-tenant house" and "dwelling room" that are consistent with the proposed licensing by-law
- This report outlines a four-pillared approach to a multi-tenant house compliance enforcement strategy. The strategy seeks to address the challenges of compliance among operators, neighbourhood nuisance issues, and the promotion of health and safety standards for tenants

Link to the report: <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ph/bgrd/backgroundfile-168253.pdf>

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## **Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in the Provinces and Territories** by Statistics Canada, June 2021.

While accommodation and food services, retail trade, and transportation services declined in all areas of the country, province-specific factors, including construction activities related to resource projects, played a key role in explaining how severely output contracted during 2020.

- Lower manufacturing activity in Ontario and Quebec accounted for nearly one quarter of the declines in economic output, while increases in financial activity helped mitigate losses in both provinces
- Reductions in engineering construction linked to resource projects exacerbated declines in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Lower oil and gas extraction in Alberta and Saskatchewan also contributed to sizable declines in economic activity
- In the Maritime Provinces, increases in real estate activity and financial services helped mitigate steep declines in tourism-related sectors
- Increases in engineering construction linked to major resource projects in British Columbia helped offset lower manufacturing output. Notable increases in real estate activity also helped to mitigate declines in high-contact sectors

Link to the presentation: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-631-x/11-631-x2021002-eng.pdf>

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**Transition From Homelessness Project – London Site Report** by Social Justice in Mental Health Research Lab, Western University, July 2021.

This report describes a participatory project aimed at identifying the strengths and challenges of the system of support currently offered to individuals as they leave homelessness in London, Ontario. We collected this information to inform recommendations for refining existing supports and developing new supports that will enable individuals to move beyond surviving after leaving homelessness and thrive in their community after.

- Individuals leaving homelessness, service providers and leaders emphasize the need for belonging following homelessness as a key component of thriving
- Supports need to be individualized and honour autonomy. These supports can be broad, and may include the provision of furniture, household goods, supports for daily living, skill building around tenancy, opportunities for meaningful activity, and social connections with neighbours and community
- We need to increase existing supply of permanent supportive housing in London. Options for both congregate (situated in the same building) and scattered site (spread throughout the community) models of permanent supportive housing based on personal choice should be available to reflect a person-centred philosophy

Link to the report: [https://bc79be03-948b-49fb-a866-463bc7f2cc25.filesusr.com/ugd/8e770e\\_b213a3fcaed34fd580a5450b85ce1d8e.pdf?index=true](https://bc79be03-948b-49fb-a866-463bc7f2cc25.filesusr.com/ugd/8e770e_b213a3fcaed34fd580a5450b85ce1d8e.pdf?index=true)

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**US 2020 Census Statistics Highlight Local Population Changes and Nation's Racial and Ethnic Diversity** by US Census Bureau, August 2021.

The U.S. Census Bureau today released additional 2020 Census results showing an increase in the population of U.S. metro areas compared to a decade ago. In addition, these once-a-decade results showed the nation's diversity in how people identify their race and ethnicity.

- The population of U.S. metro areas grew by 9% from 2010 to 2020, resulting in 86% of the population living in U.S. metro areas in 2020, compared to 85% in 2010
- [T]he adult (age 18 and older) population group grew 10.1% to 258.3 million people over the decade
- The White population remained the largest race or ethnicity group in the United States, with 204.3 million people identifying as White alone. Overall, 235.4 million people reported White alone or in combination with another group. However, the White alone population decreased by 8.6% since 2010
- The Two or More Races population (also referred to as the Multiracial population) has changed considerably since 2010. The Multiracial population was measured at 9 million people in 2010 and is now 33.8 million people in 2020, a 276% increase
- The Some Other Race alone or in combination group (49.9 million) increased 129%, surpassing the Black or African American population (46.9 million) as the second-largest race alone or in combination group

Link to the article:

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/population-changes-nations-diversity.html>

Data visualizations:

<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/racial-and-ethnic-diversity-in-the-united-states-2010-and-2020-census.html>

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**Examining the Labour-productivity Gap Between Women-owned and Men-owned Enterprises: The Influence of Prior Industry Experience** by Douwre Grekou and Jenny Watt, Statistics Canada, August 2021.

This paper uses newly developed data on the gender of business owners to investigate differences in labour productivity between men-owned, women-owned and equally owned enterprises. A regression model with propensity score weighting was implemented to provide an estimate of the impact of the owner's prior industry experience on labour productivity.

- First, there are some significant differences between the principal owners of men-owned, women-owned and equally owned enterprises, with principal owners of men-owned enterprises being the most likely to have prior industry experience
- Second, even when industry and other enterprise characteristics are controlled for, women-owned and equally owned enterprises have significantly lower labour productivity than men-owned enterprises, and the difference is larger for women-owned enterprises than it is for equally owned enterprises
- Third, prior industry experience of the enterprise owner increases relative labour productivity, and this effect is much larger in women-owned enterprises. As a result, the labour-productivity gap between women- and men-owned enterprises is significantly smaller among enterprises where the owners have prior industry experience

Link to the paper: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2021007-eng.pdf>

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**Are The Gaps In Labour Market Outcomes Between Immigrants And Their Canadian-Born Counterparts Starting To Close?** by Eden Crossman, Feng Hou and Garnett Picot, Statistics Canada, April 2021.

Earlier studies have well documented the expanding earnings gap between new immigrant workers and their Canadian-born counterparts during the 1980s and 1990s. However, significant policy changes in immigration selection and settlement have been introduced since the early 2000s, and the employment rate and entry earnings among new immigrants have been improving in recent years. This paper compares the employment rate and the weekly earnings of immigrant and Canadian-born workers throughout the 2000s and 2010s.

- Over the 2000-to-2019 period, the employment rate for new and recent immigrant men grew faster than for Canadian-born men, and the relative employment position of new immigrant women also improved slightly
- The earnings gap between immigrant workers and Canadian-born workers with similar sociodemographic characteristics widened between 2000 and 2015, with both years posting similar national unemployment rates
- In the late 2010s, there was some improvement in the earnings gaps for immigrant men and women relative to their Canadian-born counterparts

Link to the paper: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/36-28-0001/2021004/article/00004-eng.pdf>

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