

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.

Low Income Entry and Exit Rates in Canada, 2019 by Statistics Canada, January 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit low-income earners harder than other Canadians. To help assess the economic impacts of the pandemic on Canadians, it is important to examine trends in the prevalence and dynamics of low income in Canada in the years leading up to the pandemic. This release highlights how different groups of tax filers transitioned into and out of low income in 2019 and earlier, based on data from the Longitudinal Administrative Databank (LAD).

- Approximately 1 in 25 Canadian tax filers (3.9%) fell into low income in 2019, similar to the low levels seen in the preceding years
- Conversely, almost one-third (29.5%) of tax filers who had been in low income rose out of it in 2019, up 1.4 percentage points from a year earlier
- This increase in the exit rate shortened the median stay in low income from 2.5 years to 2.3 years for Canadian tax filers as a whole
- The increasing exit rate, combined with a stable entry rate hovering around its historical low, helped drive Canada's low-income and poverty rates down every year from 2014 to 2019
- [W]hile the low-income rate for the Canadian population was 12.1% in 2019, it was higher for Canadians aged 65 and older (15.2%) and much higher for people living in lone-parent families (29.1%) and people not living in families (28.9%)

Link to the briefing: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220118/dq220118b-eng.htm>

Annual Demographic Estimates: Subprovincial Areas, July 1, 2021 by the Centre for Demography, Statistics Canada, January 2022.

Population growth in Canada's urban regions large and small slowed for a second consecutive year in 2020/2021. New permanent immigrants to Canada accounted for the majority of population growth seen in 2020/2021, while net losses of non-permanent residents contributed in significantly reducing the growth. These estimates, the first to give us a look at a subprovincial level for an entire year of the COVID-19 pandemic, tell of an accelerating trend in migration from large urban centres, leaving their continued growth largely supported by international migration.

- The majority of CMAs (32 of 35) saw their population growth rate reduced compared to the preceding year, with Thunder Bay (Ont.) (-1.1%), Windsor (Ont.) (-0.9%), Montréal (Qué.) (-0.6%) and Peterborough (Ont.) (-0.1%) recording population decreases
- Net international migration to Canada was down more than half compared to 2018/2019
- A record number of people have opted to relocate outside the biggest CMAs. Toronto (Ont.) (-64,121) and Montréal (Qué.) (-39,904) both saw the largest net losses

Link to the study: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-214-x/91-214-x2022001-eng.pdf>

Canada's Invisible Food Network by Lori Nikkel, Veronica Summerhill et al., Second Harvest and Value Chain Management International, September 2021.

Following our 2019 report, *The Avoidable Crisis of Food Waste*, Second Harvest commissioned new research to look further into the problem of food insecurity in Canada. “Food insecurity” means a lack of regular access to enough safe, nutritious food to meet your dietary needs. This new report, *Canada’s Invisible Food Network*, focuses on charitable food redistribution: the number of players involved in getting food into the hands of Canadians; how much food is being given away; the gap in resources; and the impact of COVID-19 on the disjointed food support system.

- We have 4x times more food charities than grocery stores in Canada
- There are more than 61,000 community organizations in Canada providing food in their communities
- Almost 20% of Canadians, equivalent to the population of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta combined, get food from charitable organizations
- During the first year of the pandemic, the total amount of food provided to people through local community food organizations increased by 61 percent, to just under 10 billion pounds
- This was driven by the fact that the number of people using these services increased by an astounding 72 percent

Link to the abridged report: https://secondharvest.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SecondHarvest_Roadmap_AbridgedResearchReport_EN.pdf

Link to the full technical report: https://secondharvest.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SecondHarvest_TechnicalReport_EN.pdf

Housing Experiences in Canada, 2018 by Statistics Canada, November 2021.

This article highlights findings from *Housing Experiences in Canada*, a series of fact sheets that explain how different groups of people living in Canada experience housing. The fact sheets draw information from the 2018 Canadian Housing Survey and focus on the housing experiences of seniors (aged 65 years and older), young adults (aged 18 to 25 years), people who have experienced homelessness, recent immigrants, veterans, LGBTQ2+ people, and Black, Chinese and South Asian people.

- According to the 2018 Canadian Housing Survey, nearly three-quarters (73%) of the population lived in a dwelling that was owned by a member of the household
- Seniors (78%), South Asian people (74%) and veterans (73%) lived in owner households at similar rates as the population as a whole, while Chinese people (85%) were more likely to live in owned dwellings
- This was, however, not the case for the Black population (48%) and recent immigrants (44%), where less than half of these population groups lived in owner households and were more likely to rent
- In 2018, 9% of people living in Canada were in core housing need. However, there was a gap between those living in owned dwellings (5%) and those living in rented dwellings (19%)
- The prevalence of unaffordable housing was not equally experienced by owners and renters. People living in renter households (26%) were over 10 percentage points more likely to spend 30% or more of their income on shelter costs than people living in owner households (15%)

Link to the briefing note: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/211122/dq211122b-eng.htm>

Toronto Is Turning Into A Retirement Village As The Senior Population Explodes Higher by Better Dwelling, September 2021.

Toronto's sky-high real estate prices might have turned into a hurdle for the city's growth. Statistics Canada (Stat Can) released its 2021 population estimates for Toronto this week. For the year ending July 1, most of the city's growth was seniors. Last year was a bit of an anomaly, that's true. It's not a new trend, though. Seniors have managed to capture a greater share of the population for two decades. Annual growth for those over the age of 65 in Toronto really begins to soar after 2011.

- Toronto CMA's population growth slowed, but still advanced from the previous year. The population reached 6,572,524 people in 2021, up 0.2% (15,924 people)
- The number of people over 65 years old reached 1,033,636 in 2021, up 3.3% (32,834 people) from the previous year. Seniors grew at a ratio of 10 to 1 compared to the working-age population
- Despite the unusual year, seniors outpacing the general population growth goes back decades. People aged 65 and older represented 15.7% of Toronto's population in 2021. Rewind 20 years, and you'll see that seniors were just 11.0% of people in Toronto
- Toronto's working aged population only grew by 3,175 people

Link to the article: <https://betterdwelling.com/toronto-is-turning-into-a-retirement-village-as-the-senior-population-explodes-higher/>

Widening Inequities: Long-term Housing Affordability in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area 1991-2016 by Scott Leon and James Iveniuk, Wellesley Institute, December 2021.

This paper examines long-term population-level housing affordability challenges and trends in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) from 1991 to 2016. This project's goal is to analyze how housing affordability has changed for the general population and for different socio-demographic groups over this 25-year study period. Affordability is measured using shelter cost to income ratio (STIRs) data from the 1991 to 2016 censuses and the 2011 National Household Survey for the Toronto CMA.

- This analysis finds that housing affordability has declined broadly, and that progress was not made in reducing preventable disparities between sociodemographic groups in the Toronto CMA from 1991-2016
- The per cent of Toronto region households with unaffordable housing costs has increased from 23 per cent of households to 29 per cent of households
- The rate of unaffordable or severely unaffordable housing has persistently been roughly ten per cent higher for South Asian, Black, and Chinese households³ compared to non-racialized households
- Only 37 per cent of households led by people under the age of 25 had affordable housing costs in 2016, down from 59 per cent in 1991

Link to the report: <https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Widening-inequities-Longterm-housing-affordability.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/>