

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.

One In Four Canadians Are Unable To Cover An Unexpected Expense Of \$500 by Statistics Canada, February 2023.

In fall 2022, over one-third (35%) of Canadians reported that it was difficult for their household to meet its financial needs in the previous 12 months. When asked whether their household had the resources to cover an unexpected expense of \$500, 26% said that they would be unable to do so, with a slightly larger percentage of women (29%) reporting this difficulty than men (24%). These results come from the most recent cycle of the Canadian Social Survey on Quality of Life and Cost of Living, collected from October 21 to December 4, 2022, conducted in response to rising economic inflation.

- Almost half (46%) of people aged 35 to 44 years found it difficult to meet their financial needs in the previous 12 months, the highest proportion of any other age group
- Among Black Canadians, 74% reported being very concerned over the cost of housing, as did 65% of South Asians
- In 2022, Canada saw the largest increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since 1982 (+10.9%), with an increase of 6.8% since 2021
- Canadians aged 25 to 34 years reported the highest level of optimism regarding an improvement in their financial situation in one year, with 37% reporting a belief that it will improve

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/230213/dq230213b-eng.htm>

Black Business Owners in Canada by Bassirou Gueye, Statistics Canada, February 2023.

This article examines the socioeconomic characteristics of Black business owners in Canada and compares them with the characteristics of their White Canadian and other racialized counterparts. It also explores the characteristics of businesses based on the racial profile of owners.

- There were an estimated 66,880 Black business owners in 2018, the vast majority of whom were men (70.4% versus 29.6% for women)
- Black-owned businesses—defined as businesses in which individuals who identify as Black hold more than half of the shares—account for 2.9% of unincorporated businesses and 1.6% of incorporated businesses
- On average, Black business owners and those of other racialized groups are about six years younger than their White counterparts
- Black business owners generally reside in Ontario (50.6%) or Quebec (23.3%)

Link to the paper: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2023001-eng.pdf>

Social Inclusion Indicators and Reference Guide for Canada's Ethnocultural Groups by Statistics Canada, March 2023.

This document presents a list of the social inclusion indicators for ethnocultural groups in Canada that are available on the homepage of the Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics Hub. The information provided for each indicator includes a short description of the corresponding derivation, available data sources and reference years, and accessible levels of geography and disaggregation. Each indicator has various corresponding products (data tables, visualization tools and analytical documents). The social inclusion indicators in this document are linked to Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy.

- This series of data visualization tools introduces a framework to group and visualize data on social inclusion for ethnocultural groups and immigrants in Canada [...] organized under 11 themes
- Indicators includes civic engagement and political participation, perceived health, social connections, sense of belonging, confidence in institutions, satisfaction with neighbourhood and more
- Over 120 indicators can be used to examine various socioeconomic facets of visible minorities which are being referred to as "racialized population" in analytical and communication products at Statistics Canada

Link to the data visualizations: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/71-607-x/soc-eng.htm>

Link to the guide: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-657-x/89-657-x2023001-eng.pdf>

A Look at Canada's Economy and Society Three Years After the Start of the COVID-19 Pandemic by Statistics Canada, March 2023.

March 11, 2023, marks three years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 is still evolving and circulating widely across Canada and many other countries. Life in Canada, as in other countries, has changed in many ways since the start of the pandemic—some changes were direct impacts of the pandemic, while others were trends that were accelerated by it. Over the past year, Canadian households and businesses have faced a range of challenges. This presentation is the last in a series that has documented the impacts of the pandemic on the lives of Canadians.

- To date, 97 million vaccination doses have been administered, but the over 51,000 Canadians who have died from COVID-19
- The number of active businesses fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels in late 2021
- Total employment in January 2023 was about 800,000 above its pre-COVID-19 baseline. All the net gains since the onset of the pandemic have been in full-time work
- One in five working-age Canadians is set to retire in the coming years. The gap between those about to leave the labour market (55- to 64-year-olds) and those entering the labour market (15- to 24-year-olds) is at record levels
- Since early 2020, over 1.2 million permanent and temporary immigrants have come to Canada, accounting for nearly 90% of total population growth

Link to the presentation: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-631-x/11-631-x2023004-eng.pdf>

Toronto Housing Data Hub by City of Toronto, March 2023.

The City of Toronto has launched a unified Housing Data Hub that aims to bring together information and data related to housing in the city of Toronto while tracking the City's progress on advancing the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan, aimed at improving the overall health and socio-economic outcomes of Toronto residents.

- There are 85,536 Active Social Housing Units in the Housing Stock as of Q3 2022
- There are 7,729 Active Affordable Rental Units in the Housing Stock as of Q3 2022
- 101.2% of Affordable Rental Units have been demolished and replaced between January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2022
- There are 19,756 approved affordable rental units since 2017

Link to the data hub: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/toronto-housing-data-hub/>

The Antipoverty Effects of the Expanded Child Tax Credit Across States: Where Were the Historic Reductions Felt? by Sophie Collyer, Bradley Hardy, and Christopher Wimer, Brookings Institute, March 2023.

Child poverty is a persistent national issue with lifetime and intergenerational consequences, but the distribution of its incidence and its impacts vary. One dimension that deserves attention is the variation in child poverty by state and the effectiveness of and potential for federal policy to confront the problem. In this essay, the authors investigate how the CTC affected child poverty in states by two characteristics: state-level cost of living (high-cost versus low-cost states) and state-level poverty (high versus low pre-tax/transfer poverty rates).

- They find that while the CTC caused substantial reductions in poverty in each kind of state, poverty reductions were the highest in low-cost, high poverty states, i.e., those states with relatively lower cost of living and with a higher poverty baseline
- Adults with young children between 0 and 5 years old received refundable credits of \$3,600 per child, while those with children between 6 and 17 years old received credits of \$3,000 per child
- The Census's Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) showed that children from all racial and ethnic minority groups experienced relatively large reductions in poverty rates, but that SPM poverty rates fell most dramatically for Black and Hispanic children
- Black child poverty rates fell by 17 percentage points between 2009 and 2021, while SPM child poverty rates fell from 30% to 8% among Hispanic children over the same period

Link to the study: https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/20230301_ES_THP CTCbyState.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/>