



Canada Social Report

Federal Policy Monitor

August 2015



CANADA SOCIAL REPORT



The [Caledon Institute of Social Policy](#) regularly scans for the release of federal government policies and programs that impact areas of interest, including income security, disabilities, health, housing, poverty reduction, recreation, seniors and youth.

Monitors can be searched on the Canada Social Report website by date and category.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Statistics Canada reports that, according to an analysis of linked census and mortality data, during the 1991-2006 period, First Nations adults had more than twice the risk of dying from avoidable causes compared with non-Aboriginal adults.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150819/dq150819-eng.pdf>

DEMOGRAPHICS

Statistics Canada is launching a new series of data tables – the real-time Canadian Socio-Economic Information Management System (CANSIM) tables – for 20 economic and social data time series to add more depth and context to some of its key datasets.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150831/dq150831-eng.pdf>

EMPLOYMENT

Statistics Canada reported that employment was little changed in July (+6,600 or 0.0 percent) and the unemployment rate remained at 6.8 percent for the sixth consecutive month. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment increased by 161,000 or 0.9 percent, the result of more full-time work. Over the same period, the total number of hours worked rose 1.2 percent.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150807/dq150807-eng.pdf>

In early 2015, there were almost 400,000 job vacancies in Canada and the job vacancy rate was 2.6 percent in the first quarter as indicated by the new Job Vacancy and Wage Survey. Western Canada had higher job vacancy rates than did Central and Eastern Canada. Yukon (3.9 percent), Alberta (3.5 percent), and BC (3.3 percent) had the highest job vacancy rates, while New Brunswick and PEI (both at 1.7 percent) had the lowest rates for the first quarter. The job vacancy rate refers to the share of jobs that are unfilled out of all available payroll jobs. It represents the number of job vacancies expressed as a percentage of labour demand – i.e., the sum of all occupied and vacant jobs.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150813/dq150813-eng.pdf>

Statistics Canada reported that there were 531,700 people receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in June, up 5,200 or 1.0 percent from May. Compared with 12 months earlier, the number of beneficiaries increased by 20,300 (+4.0 percent). In Alberta, the number of beneficiaries rose for the eighth consecutive month, up 7.7 percent in June. Increases were also posted in Saskatchewan (+4.9 percent) and Manitoba (+3.6 percent). By contrast, there were fewer beneficiaries in Prince Edward Island (-2.5 percent), with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick both also showing a small decrease in the number of beneficiaries.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150820/dq150820-eng.pdf>

Statistics Canada reported that average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees were \$955 in June, up 0.8 percent from the previous month. Compared with 12 months earlier, weekly earnings increased by 1.9 percent.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150827/dq150827-eng.pdf>



HEALTH

A Statistics Canada study on the prevalence of obesity among Canadian and American children concluded that, in the late 1970s, the obesity rates in Canada and the United States was the same – at about 5 percent. However, the most recent statistics indicate that, overall, obesity among children and adolescents ages 3 to 19 was significantly lower in Canada (13.0 percent) than in the US (17.5 percent). Monitoring trends in childhood obesity is important as obese children and adolescents are at risk of becoming obese adults and can experience serious health consequences such as psychosocial stress, elevated blood pressure and cholesterol, and abnormal glucose tolerance.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150826/dq150826-eng.pdf>

HOUSING

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation released updated results from its House Price Analysis and Assessment framework, which is designed to detect the presence of problematic conditions in Canadian housing markets.

<http://www.schl.ca/en/corp/nero/nere/2015/2015-08-13-1130.cfm>