



Canada Social Report

Federal Policy Monitor

September 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

According to a new set of Statistics Canada projections, the population that reported an Aboriginal identity would grow faster than the non-Aboriginal population from 2011-36. The Aboriginal population was estimated at 1,502,000 in 2011. In all scenarios considered, it would reach between 1,965,000 and 2,633,000 people by 2036. This level would represent an average annual growth of between 1.1 percent and 2.3 percent, higher than the 0.9 percent for the population as a whole. As a result, Aboriginal people would account for between 4.6 percent and 6.1 percent of the Canadian population in 2036, compared with 4.4 percent in 2011. Two main factors explain the projected higher growth of the Aboriginal population in the coming years: higher fertility and changes in self-reported identification during the life course.
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150917/dq150917b-eng.htm>

DEMOGRAPHICS

Statistics Canada reported that, on July 1, 2015, Canada's estimated population was 35,851,800, up 308,100 or 0.9 percent over last year (2014-15). While this was the lowest population increase since 1998-99, it was the largest increase among the G7 countries over the most recent comparable annual period. For the first time, the number of persons ages 65 years and older exceeded the number of children ages 0 to 14.
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150929/dq150929b-eng.htm>

EDUCATION

Canadian full-time students in undergraduate programs paid 3.2 percent more, on average, in tuition fees for the 2015-16 academic year than they did the previous year. The increase is slightly lower than the 3.3 percent rise observed in 2014-15.
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150909/dq150909-eng.pdf>

EMPLOYMENT

Statistics Canada reported that in July, 10,500 more people received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits compared with June, up 2.0 percent to 545,200. On a year-over-year basis, the number of EI beneficiaries increased by 36,100 or 7.1 percent. Most of the increase in July was in British Columbia and Ontario, where the number of beneficiaries rose 3.9 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively. Smaller increases were recorded in Alberta (+1.8 percent), Quebec (+1.4 percent) and Saskatchewan (+1.2 percent). By contrast, the number of beneficiaries decreased by 2.5 percent in Manitoba and 1.5 percent in Newfoundland and Labrador, whereas the remaining provinces saw little change.
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150917/dq150917a-eng.htm>

Statistics Canada used linked data from the 2006 Census, the 2011 National Household Survey and tax data to conclude that there was no substantial deterioration in the earnings and employment patterns of young post-secondary graduates between 2005 and 2012 – a period that included the economic recession of 2008 and 2009. A new study



found that this outcome held even when graduates from specific fields of study were examined. Throughout the period, young male and female post-secondary graduates in most fields of study received higher earnings and were more likely to be employed full-year, full-time than their counterparts with a high school education.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150917/dq150917d-eng.htm>

HEALTH

Statistics Canada released Childhood cancer incidence and mortality in Canada. Among the study's conclusions: Between 1992 and 2010, the age-standardized rate of death from childhood cancer decreased by an average of 2.0 percent per year, while the age-standardized incidence rate increased by an average of 0.4 percent annually. This trend was strongest for leukemia where the age-standardized mortality rate decreased by an average of 3.5 percent per year, while the corresponding incidence rate for this cancer increased by an average of 0.6 percent annually.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150922/dq150922a-eng.htm>

INCOME SECURITY

The market value of Canadian employer-sponsored pension funds totalled \$1.6 trillion at the end of the first quarter, up 6.9 percent from the fourth quarter of 2014. More than 6.2 million Canadian workers are members of employer-sponsored pension plans. Of this group, 5.2 million (83.3 percent) workers belong to pension plans with assets managed by trustee funds. The remaining members have assets managed by insurance company contracts.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150909/dq150909-eng.pdf>

The maximum basic Old Age Security (OAS) pension benefit paid to people 65 years of age and older will increase by \$5.08 from \$564.87 to \$569.95 per month from October 1 to December 31, 2015. Payments under the Guaranteed Income Supplement, the Allowance and the Allowance for the Survivor will also increase by the same 0.9 percent for this quarter.

OAS benefit amounts are reviewed quarterly (in January, April, July and October) and revised as required to reflect increases in the cost of living, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) set by Statistics Canada. The Old Age Security Act guarantees that OAS benefits can never be reduced, even when there is a decrease in the CPI.

[Link](#)

Statistics Canada reported that average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees were \$957 in July, little changed from \$954 the previous month. Compared with 12 months earlier, weekly earnings grew by 1.6 percent. The increase in weekly earnings compared with July 2014 reflected a number of factors, including wage growth, changes in the composition of employment by industry, occupation and level of job experience, as well as average hours worked per week. Non-farm payroll

employees worked an average of 33.0 hours per week in July, unchanged from both the previous month and from the same month a year earlier.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150924/dq150924a-eng.htm>