

Canada

Indicators of Well-Being in Québec

Canada is one of the more equal countries in the world income distribution—more unequal than some European and OECD countries at a similar level of per capita income, but more equal than the United States and than many developing countries (Canada; comparison). Inequality has not increased in recent years, at a national level. However, some of what is presented in the national income distribution may obscure province-level dynamics—and may overshadow measurements of the general welfare that cannot be captured by looking only at income.

A new project of World Inequality Lab Fellow François Delorme (Université de Sherbrooke) and a dozen civil society organizations, the Indicators of Well-Being in Quebec go 'beyond GDP' to study the social and environmental well-being of Canadians in general and Quebecois in particular.

More than 50 indicators of well-being are now online: indicateurs.quebec.

The new data illustrates uneven progress:

- *Economic and social gains are notable over the period of study, especially in per capita income growth, improved job quality and a decrease in poverty. Overall, Quebec exceeded even the progress of Ontario and Canada.*
- *Environmental indicators are more concerning. Among 15 environmental indicators analyzed, only 4 showed improvement. Biodiversity, air quality and water quality have deteriorated; public transport has not succeeded; and Quebec has strayed well off-course from government targets to reduce carbon emissions. Moreover, A lack of data on several important (social and) environmental issues continues to undermine the decision-making of public officials.*
- *While several measures of income inequality have improved in Quebec over the past several decades, strong concerns remain on inter alia housing affordability, mental health resources, and access to cultural activities.*

The G15+ civil society organizations who collected and analyzed this data, now call upon policymakers not only to make use of these indicators, but to entrust them to the official public statistical authorities—to ensure their further development, transparency, visibility, and frequent update.

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