



NEWS RELEASE

Canada's aging population could lower per person income (broadly measured) by \$11,200 over the next 20 years

August 03, 2023
For immediate release

VANCOUVER—Under fast-aging population projections, Canada's aging population could lower per person GDP, a broad measure of income, by \$11,200 by 2043, finds a new study by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“Overall, the seniors’ portion of the population in Canada has steadily increased over the past few decades and that number is widely expected to continue to rise, which has serious implications for Canadians and the economy,” said Jake Fuss, director of fiscal studies at the Fraser Institute.

Canadians aged 65 years and older accounted for 18.8 per cent of the population in 2022. By 2043, the population share of seniors is projected to reach between 21.1 per cent and 25.5 per cent based on data from Statistics Canada; the difference relates to how fast the seniors population is expected to grow under different scenarios.

The Effect of Population Aging on Economic Growth in Canada finds that an increase in share of the population aged 65 years or older results in a reduction in the growth rate of per person GDP (a broad measure of income). Specifically, the study finds that a ten per cent increase in the share of the population aged 65 years and older is associated with a reduction in the per-person GDP (inflation-adjusted) growth rate of 0.23 percentage points.

Over time, this small difference in per person GDP growth rates can have large effects. Depending on how high the senior population reaches as a share of the total population, Canada's per person GDP will be between \$4,300 and \$11,200 less than it otherwise would be, meaning Canadians will be poorer than they would have been with a stable seniors’ population.

“As the population continues to age, it will only compound Canada's ongoing economic and fiscal challenges,” said Fuss.

“Canadian policymakers need to embrace a wide range of policies aimed at improving economic growth to offset the adverse economic and budgetary effects of population aging.”

(30)

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jake Fuss, Director of Fiscal Studies
Fraser Institute

Bev Dahlby, Senior Fellow
Fraser Institute

Ergete Ferede, Senior Fellow
Fraser Institute

To arrange media interviews or for more information, please contact:
Drue MacPherson, 604-688-0221 ext. 721, drue.macpherson@fraserinstitute.org



The Fraser Institute is an independent Canadian public policy research and educational organization with offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal and ties to a global network of think-tanks in 87 countries. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for Canadians, their families and future generations by studying, measuring and broadly communicating the effects of government policies, entrepreneurship and choice on their well-being. To protect the Institute's independence, it does not accept grants from governments or contracts for research. Visit www.fraserinstitute.org