

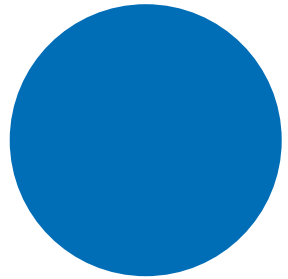
# Time-use data to go beyond GDP and reshape the way prosperity is measured: the Canadian experience

United Nations Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics

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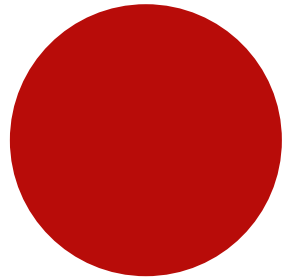
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

# Time use data and the care economy



**\$516–860  
billion**

the estimated  
economic value of  
unpaid household  
work in 2019



**25–30%**

of Canada's GDP:  
the estimated  
value of unpaid  
household work in  
2019

- Time use can measure **unpaid** labour: caregiving and housework.
- A large portion of unpaid care is provided by family members and is invisible.

# Defining unpaid care work



## Direct care

- Narrowest
- Adult care, child care (primary activity)
- Easily defined, but... underestimate?



## Direct + indirect

- Common definition (e.g., ILO 2018)
- Direct care + housework
- More inclusive, but... housework vs. care?



## Direct + indirect + supervisory

- Broadest (e.g., Folbre 2018, 2021)
- Includes 'supervision'
- Most inclusive, but... hard to measure/too broad?

# How can Time Use statistics provide insights about the care economy?

## Strengths

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Accurate estimates, less recall & social desirability bias

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Rich details on care activities and care context

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Data on both children and adults

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Internationally and historically comparable

## Challenges

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Cannot reliably identify care dependence of adults

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Underestimates irregular and non-household care

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Challenges in measuring indirect and supervisory care

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Care for adults likely underestimated in particular

# Time use: Undercounting (and undervaluing) care?

- Comparing the diary to survey question:
  - **Last week**, how many hours did you spend... looking after [children/seniors in/outside household] without pay?
- Many more “carers” through survey question – especially for non-household!
- What are we missing when we value unpaid care work with only the diary?
  - Irregular care – timeframe matters
  - Indirect and supervisory care – range of care activities matters

Table: N of respondents reporting any care in diary vs. survey question

	Diary participation	Survey question
Children (<15)	2,722	5,579
<i>Household</i>	<i>2,467</i>	<i>3,158</i>
<i>Non-household</i>	<i>323</i>	<i>3,123</i>
Seniors (65+)	419	3,274
<i>Household</i>	<i>239</i>	<i>491</i>
<i>Non-household</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>2,867</i>

# Statistics Canada's care economy project

- **Consulted** widely with stakeholders within and external to Statistics Canada
- Published a **conceptual framework** on defining and scoping the care economy in Canada
- **Resources** for care economy data and analysis on StatCan's Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion Statistics hub
- **Research** on sandwich caregiving with new survey data from the Canadian Social Survey



# In Canada, the Care Economy proposed definition is being refined

The care economy is that sector of the broader economy comprising the provision of paid and unpaid care work that supports the physical, psychological and emotional needs of care-dependent persons\*.

\*Care-dependent persons are comprised of children under 15 and adults over 15 with long term conditions or disabilities





# CARE ECONOMY

That sector of the broader economy comprising paid and unpaid care work for care-dependent groups.



# CARE WORK

The activities, responsibilities, and relationships involved in meeting the physical, psychological, and emotional needs of care-dependent groups.

## Care-dependent groups include:

- Adults: Over 15 years old with long-term conditions or disabilities
- Children: Under 15 years old



## PAID

Care with remuneration, performed in the social care (e.g., for older adults, for persons with disabilities) and child care sectors of the labour market.



## UNPAID

Care without remuneration, performed because of a personal relationship or through a voluntary organization.





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