



Inaugural Edition: Labour Day, 2021

The Care Economy Data Room

The Care Economy* accounted for [12.6% of GDP](#), and [21.3% of all jobs](#) in June 2021, up from 12.3% of GDP and 20.4% of all jobs in February 2020, before the pandemic hit. What's the plan to ensure we have high quality care when we need it? How can we make every one of these essential jobs a good job? Here are 10 issues that will shape the future of the Care Economy which our elected representatives need to address.

1. Over the past year unfilled job vacancies have shot up in Canada by 53% in hospitals, and 49% in nursing and residential care facilities. By the second quarter of 2021, almost [100,000 healthcare sector jobs went unfilled](#) (in a workforce of over 2.5 million people).
2. Healthcare professionals have a comparatively older demographic profile. In 2020, [over a third \(34.5%\)](#) of registered nurses were aged 50 or older [and 39% of doctors](#) are 55 or older. Many are suffering burnout due to the pandemic. [43% of nurses surveyed in Ontario are considering quitting](#).
3. Between 1997 and 2020, [the number of hospital beds dropped from 4.4 per 1,000 population to 2.2 in Canada](#). Finland has 3.6, France 5.9 and Germany 8.
4. In 2020, [only about half](#) of Canada's [2.3 million preschoolers](#) (aged 0-5) received care from someone other than their parents. (This share was 75% in Quebec.)
5. About [26% of all preschoolers](#) spend time in an unlicensed, unregulated paid care setting.
6. Of the \$7 billion in public funding spent in 2020 on regulated child care, [43% went to for-profit providers across Canada](#). While they barely exist in some places (0-5% of paid childcare in Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Manitoba), [for-profit facilities provide most of the paid childcare](#) in Quebec (53%) Yukon (54%), Nova Scotia (56%) New Brunswick (67%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (70%).
7. [For-profit long-term care facilities](#) account for only 29% of long-term care Canada-wide. But 57% of providers are for-profit in Ontario, 44% in Nova Scotia, and 37% in B.C.
8. From registered nurses to personal care workers, [only 40% of staff have full-time work](#) in the long-term sector of care in Ontario. More than one in 10 are casual/on-call employees. Turnover is much higher for part-timers and casuals, the majority of workers.
9. [Health care workers account for almost 20% of all COVID-19 infections](#) in Canada, a rate that is double the global health care worker infection rate (10%).
10. Impact of Unpaid Care: More [women \(64%\) were responsible for homeschooling](#) children due to school closures during the pandemic than men (19%). [More women \(274,100\) than men \(163,320\)](#) have received the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit. The job market was smaller in July 2021 than in February 2020; but [while 93,000 fewer men had jobs, 153,000 fewer women had any paid work](#).

* Measured as a combination of employees in the health and social assistance plus education industries.

For more information and resources see: www.TheCareEconomy.ca