

2018 Labour Day Reality Check

Workforce with pension plans

Government employees are only 22% of the workforce, but account for 52% of registered pension plan members and 71% of members in defined benefit plans.

Workers with a registered pension plan			Workers with a defined-benefit plan		
	Government	Private		Government	Private
1997	87%	29%	1997	83%	23%
2007	84%	26%	2007	78%	17%
2017	88%	23%	2017	80%	10%

Source: Statistics Canada [Pensions Plans in Canada as of January 1, for 2017](#)

Federal pension liabilities

According to [Public Accounts 2016-17](#), unfunded federal governments pension liabilities are \$166 billion. This represents the amount that the federal government owes in future pensions for which it currently has no investments to pay out from. It includes liabilities for pensions earned before April 2000, and also includes liabilities from pension plans for Members of Parliament, federal judges and some crown corporations.

This unfunded liability for federal pensions is \$4,491 per Canadians. However, [according to the C.D. Howe Institute](#), the federal unfunded pension liability is \$246 billion. Using that number it would be \$6,634 per Canadian.

In 2017, total interest expenses on the unfunded pension liabilities was \$6.9 billion