

Status of the

Métis Economy Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

June 2025

The Status of the Métis Economy Report, commissioned by the Métis National Council (MNC) and prepared by Big River Analytics (BRA), provides the most comprehensive economic profile of the Métis Nation to date. Drawing on census data, the report assesses the size, structure, and performance of the Métis economy. With a GDP of \$21 billion in 2015 – greater than the combined economies of Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut – the Métis nation is a key contributor to Canada’s economy.

Métis businesses generated over \$25.4 billion in total revenue in 2020 and are growing faster than the national average. Métis citizens show high labour force participation and growing levels of educational attainment, especially in trades and college programs.

However, persistent gaps remain in wealth disparity, income, education, and housing that disproportionately impact Métis citizens. Métis businesses have a 1.5% lower labour productivity and are 22.2% less likely to survive long-term than comparable non-Indigenous businesses. Métis businesses only receive a small fraction of Indigenous federal funding, despite Métis entrepreneurs representing over 50% of self-employed Indigenous people. Increasing the funding of Métis Capital Corporations is critical for increasing the productivity of the Métis and Canadian economies.

Métis businesses also face unique barriers to procurement including capacity to respond to opportunities, financial means to bid, visibility of purchasers, access to capital and formal training and education. These constraints not only limit individual business success but also constrain the overall growth of the Métis economy. In education, youth hold fewer post-secondary credentials and are more likely to work in precarious jobs compared to the non-Indigenous population. Additionally, Métis families carry more debt, own fewer assets, and report lower levels of homeownership - especially those under the age of 35.

The report also demonstrates that Métis Citizens have stronger economic outcomes than self-identified Métis or those belonging to other organizations. For example, in 2021, employment rates for self-identified Métis and Métis in other organizations decreased, while the rate for Métis Citizens remained at 61.0%, highlighting the effectiveness of Métis Governments providing effective programming and services.

The Status of the Métis Economy Report offers more than just numbers – it provides a clear and evidence-based roadmap for action. The report shows that the Métis Nation is a key contributor to the Canadian economy, but also that systemic underinvestment continues to limit what is possible for Métis citizens, businesses, women and youth. The MNC aims to leverage the findings from the Report to strengthen its advocacy for the economic well-being and long-term prosperity of the Métis Nation grounded in data-driven analysis and evidence-based research.





KEY FINDINGS

Size of the Economy:

- The Métis economy produced \$21.0 billion in GDP in 2015, a figure that surpasses the combined economies of Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, and Nunavut in 2015.

Industry:

- Construction is the largest industry for the Métis economy nationally and in each of the five provinces within the Métis Homeland, representing 28.4% of Métis business revenue in 2020.
- While the Métis economy is large, Métis GDP per capita in 2015 was \$37,500, only 67.2% of the overall 2015 Canadian GDP per capita (\$55,792).

Women:

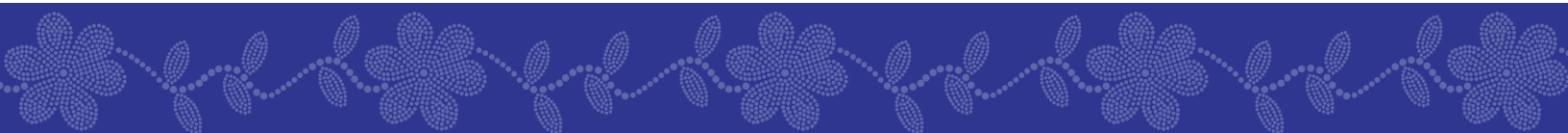
- Today, Métis women uphold their entrepreneurial spirit and play a vital role in Canada's economy. According to the Status of the Métis Economy Report, 21.8% of Métis businesses were owned by Métis women, compared to 19.8% of women-owned businesses among non-Indigenous enterprises from 2005 to 2018.

Businesses and Entrepreneurship:

- Métis businesses generated \$25.4 billion in total revenue in 2020, including \$8.6 billion contributed by businesses owned by Métis Citizens.
- Métis businesses have 1.5% lower labour productivity, 5.9% lower average revenue, and are 22.2% less likely to survive than comparable non-Indigenous businesses. Access to capital and education are key to improving productivity and supporting Métis businesses.

Métis Governments:

- Métis Governments play a key role in enabling business success and labour market outcomes. Métis citizens had an unemployment rate of 11.4% in 2021, compared to 13.7% for self-identified Métis without citizenship. Métis citizens also show higher educational attainment in college/apprenticeship programs as compared to their peers without Métis citizenship.
- Homeownership with a mortgage was higher among Métis citizens (52.9%) than among self-identified Métis (49.3%).
- These outcomes suggest that programs and services delivered by Métis governments are effective at increasing labour force participation, financial stability, and long-term economic inclusion of the Métis economy.





RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on their research, Big River Analytics has made five recommendations to support the growth of the Métis economy in Canada. These steps aim to improve Métis economic conditions, grow the capacity of Métis Governments to serve their Citizens, and contribute to a more inclusive and productive Canadian economy.

Recommendation 1: Increase Funding to Métis Capital Corporations

We recommend the Government of Canada increase funding to Métis Capital Corporations to \$97 million over five years to meet growing demand, close productivity gaps, and equitably support Métis entrepreneurs.

Recommendation 2: Collaborate with Métis Governments and Métis Capital Corporations to Deliver Business Supports and Indigenous Procurement

We recommend the Government of Canada provide \$34.4 million over ten years to support Métis Governments in delivering business supports, maintaining Métis business directories, and coordinating procurement—ensuring Métis entrepreneurs can access the tools they need to grow and thrive.

Recommendation 3: Continue to Support Métis Education and Training Programs

We recommend the Government of Canada provide continued federal investment in Métis-delivered education and training programs, as these programs yield strong returns, boost incomes, and are essential to closing educational gaps and growing the Métis and Canadian economies.

Recommendation 4: Support Métis Homeownership

We recommend the Government of Canada fund Métis Government-delivered homeownership programs to close the Métis wealth gap—focusing on first-time buyers without intergenerational wealth and supporting long-term economic growth through increased asset ownership.

Recommendation 5: Involve MNC and Métis Governments to Improve the Quality of and Access to Métis Data

We recommend that Statistics Canada directly involve Métis Governments in data collection efforts and granted timely access to disaggregated Métis data, so they can design effective, data-driven programs that reflect the distinct and evolving needs of Métis Citizens.

