

A Message from the President and the Chair

Each year, the Toronto Community Foundation monitors the health of our City and shares the results through *Toronto's Vital Signs*. This annual check-up looks at important indicators of our City's quality of life, using information gathered from current statistics and special studies. Vital Signs shows us the trends that are emerging in Toronto and some of the new realities of how we live, work and play.

This year's Vital Signs reminds us that we should be proud of Toronto. International surveys continue to list our City as among the world's best places to live. This year *The Economist* ranked Toronto as the world's 5th most liveable city.

Over the years, Toronto has been characterized in some interesting ways. There was "Toronto the good", then there was "Toronto the clean" (famously referred to as "New York run by the Swiss"). We have often heard that phrase "world-class city". And the world has agreed. However, this year's Vital Signs should prompt us all to ask, "What do we call ourselves now?"

In the past year, we have been encouraged to see improvement in several areas important to life in the City: greater use of public transit, safer streets, cleaner beaches, improvement in recycling and the environment, and improvement in the health of City residents.

But *Vital Signs* also tells us that we have serious challenges ahead and that we have been resting on our laurels. In many ways, our great City has stalled. Over the past few years, we have frequently heard references to 'the lost decade'. We are faced with aging infrastructure, growing debt, and a seemingly permanent state of fiscal crisis – we're nearly breaking and nearly broke.

Financial constraints have stalled our City's progress and severely limited its vision. The City continues to run up debt, and the last of our reserve funds are vanishing as we try to hold on to what we have today. Long-term planning has fallen by the wayside as we become fixated on our short-term problems. As a result, "price" not "value" dominates the public discourse. The problem is, a healthy, vibrant and sustainable City cannot be purchased at a discount.

Although we continue to enjoy a privileged status as Canada's financial center, with a high concentration of head offices and high income jobs, the gap between rich and poor is greater than it has ever been. What was once a City of opportunity is now shutting out too many people, creating cracks in the foundation of the future of our City. We have become a City which offers a declining quality of life for many of its residents and, not surprisingly, we are seeing a declining share of Canada's immigrants.

The strength of Toronto's work force depends on a new infusion of labour, ideas and energy. We know the future of Toronto rests on youth and immigrants yet we are not sufficiently investing in the opportunities and infrastructure needed to ensure that the next generation can thrive, not just survive, in the City.

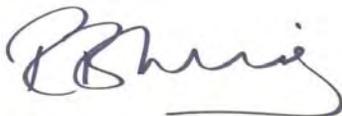
For young people and new immigrants, Toronto is often a difficult place to live. Today, housing is unaffordable for too many young families. New condo towers are being developed with an eye to singles and couples but not to people with children. We see fewer children entering kindergarten. We have minimal employment growth which impedes our ability to retain newcomers. Many who would once have stayed and found opportunity here now leave the City for the suburbs, or leave the Province all together. Toronto is also aging, with a higher proportion of seniors and a lower proportion of children than the surrounding region. It's been said that you can't afford to have children in Toronto. We believe that we can't afford not to!

Vital Signs confirms that our City does have an enviable quality of life, provided you are financially stable and own a home and a car. But we would all be wise to remember that our quality of life depends on ensuring that others - the next generation - are willing and able to remain here and sustain the City in years to come.

We now live in a knowledge based economy where creativity and innovation are the keys to personal and community success. We must find ways to develop and showcase the abilities and imagination of our City's greatest asset – its people. If we do not create new opportunities for them, we will not be able to count on their contribution and our City will surely bear the consequences.

The Toronto Community Foundation works with its many partners to create 'City Building' initiatives that contribute to the long-term health of our City. We subscribe to an old Greek proverb: a society grows great when people plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.

In Toronto, we have been cutting our trees for more than a decade; we urgently need to start replanting.



Rahul K. Bhardwaj
President and CEO



Martin Connell
Chair, Board of Directors

Notes:

1. "Toronto" or the "City" refers to the City of Toronto, the former Regional Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto which consisted of the former cities of Toronto, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York and the Borough of East York.
2. The "Region" refers to the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area, a group of municipalities considered by Statistics Canada "to have a high degree of integration with the City of Toronto." Almost half the population of the Region resides in the City of Toronto.

The Region is an area slightly smaller than the Greater Toronto Area and is comprised of the City of Toronto plus 23 other municipalities: Ajax, Aurora, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Brampton, Caledon, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Georgina Island, Halton Hills, King Township, Markham, Milton, Mississauga, Mono Township, Newmarket, Tecumseth, Oakville, Orangeville, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Uxbridge, Whitchurch-Stouffville and Vaughan.

3. The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) refers to the entire area covered by the regions of Halton, Peel, York, Toronto and Durham. This area is slightly larger than the Region.
4. Where primary sources have adjusted statistics for a previous period, corresponding updates have been made to Vital Signs' historical and trend data.

Community Context:

While the region grows, City of Toronto stalls

The Region is home to 42% of Ontario's population and contributes 47%¹ of its gross domestic product. The City of Toronto is Canada's largest city and its leading city internationally.

- In 2007, the City was ranked by Foreign Direct Investment magazine as the best North American city for quality of life and placed second behind Chicago as North America's "Major City of the Future."²
- The Economist's 2007 ranking names Toronto as the 5th most liveable city in the world.³
- This year, Toronto became the only Canadian city included in the Clinton Climate Initiative, a partnership of 16 of the world's largest cities to lead global emission reduction. Other cities included are Bangkok, Berlin, Chicago, Houston, Johannesburg, Karachi, London, Melbourne, Mexico City, Mumbai, New York, Rome, Sao Paulo, Seoul and Tokyo⁴
- In a comparison of successful information and communication technology cities, Toronto was assessed as a world leader, particularly in the field in digital media⁵
- In 2006, Toronto ranked 17th in world cities' patent activity.⁶

Population and Jobs:

- In 2006, the population of the Region was 5,113,149⁷ a 9.2% increase over its 2001 level of 4,682,897⁸. The population of the City in 2006 was 2,503,281⁹, having grown by only 0.9% since 2001, far lower than the 3-5% growth rate forecast for the period.¹⁰
- From 2000-2006 the number of jobs in the rest of the Region grew by 27.8% while the number of jobs in the City declined by 1.6%.¹¹
- Over the past ten years (1996-2006) natural increase in the City's population (births minus deaths) has fallen by 49% while it has risen by 14% in the rest of the Region.¹²
- 2006 census figures indicate that 331 of the City's 531 neighbourhoods (census tracts) experienced decreases in residents, while 197 experienced increases and 3 remained unchanged.¹³
- Over the past five years, the median age of the City's population has increased from 36.9 in 2001 to 38.4 in 2006.¹⁴
- Close to half (49.4%) of the City's population in 2001 (1,214,625 persons) was born outside of Canada. In comparison, 43.7% of the region's population, 26.8% of the province's population and 18.4% of the country's total population consisted of immigrants.¹⁵

The City's financial position weakened in 2006 as municipal government continued to contend with a structural deficit estimated at \$1.1 billion¹⁶ per year. The City has relied on unsustainable income sources – reserve funds and debt – to balance the budget.

- Toronto's reserve funds, at \$537 per capita (in 2005) were already about half the Ontario average and about a quarter of the average in the rest of the Region. The 2007 budget anticipates a further draw of \$278 million from limited reserve funds.¹⁷
- Since 1998, the year of amalgamation, the City's debt levels have doubled and now represent the second largest component of the property tax bill behind police services.¹⁸
- The City depends on property taxes for over 43% of revenues while in comparison, property taxes comprised only 16% of the revenues of the 35 largest cities in the U.S.¹⁹
- The City's responsibility for social service costs is significant in comparison to other Canadian municipalities. An analysis of 2004 municipal finances found Toronto's per capita spending on health, family and social services to be eight times more than Calgary and 16 times more than Vancouver.²⁰
- Out of every \$100 in property taxes in 2006, the City spent \$24.06 on police and \$10.47 for debt charges (an expense forecast to rise to \$12.23 out of every \$100 in 2007). In contrast, it spent \$.01 out of every \$100 on efforts to make the City more 'clean and beautiful'.²¹

Gap between rich and poor

The gap grows greater...more children are in need

With a growing poverty rate of 24.7% in 2005 (up from 22.9% in 2000), the gap between rich families and poor families in the Region is widening: ²²

- In Toronto the overall poverty rate at 24.7% in 2005, based on the Low Income Measure (LIM), an indicator of relative poverty was up 7.8% from 2000. Toronto's poverty rate is 17% higher than the provincial average and 13.8% higher than the national average. ²³
- The City is home to the lowest income and some of the highest income neighbourhoods in the entire region. Most neighbourhoods in the City have a wide mix of income levels, underscoring one of Toronto's continued strengths: the diversity of its neighbourhoods. ²⁴
- In 2005, families in the top 10% income bracket had incomes 10.7 times that of families in the bottom 10%. Double the gap 25 years ago. ²⁵
- The income of families in the lowest 10% income bracket averaged \$23,500 in 2000, down 4% since 1980. The combined incomes of all families in the lowest 10% income bracket in 2000 accounted for only 1.6% of total family income in the Region – the lowest share among Canada's census metropolitan areas. ²⁶
- The income of families in the highest 10% income bracket averaged \$152,500 in 2000, up 23% since 1980 and accounting for 30.6% of total family income in the Region – the highest share in Canadian cities. ²⁷
- The rate of child poverty in the Region (23%) has increased 56.5% over the past 25 years (1980-2005) while the rate of elderly poverty (15.9%) has declined 56.1%. Between 2000 and 2005, the rate of poverty among children grew 13.3% and fell 18% among seniors. ²⁸

Safety

While gun-related deaths continue to make the headlines, most forms of crime show decline

- At 2,471 incidents per 100,000 persons in 2006, the **property crime** rate in the Region was down 56% from 1991 and at one of the lowest level recorded over the 1991-2006 period. The Region's rate was 69% of the national average and 88% of the provincial average.²⁹
- At 738 incidents per 100,000 persons in 2006, the **violent crime** rate in the Region was 22% below the national average (951 per 100,000). The Region's violent crime rate decreased by 32% between 1991 and 2005.³⁰
- At 211 offences per 100,000 population, the **traffic crime** rate in the Region in 2006 was 43% lower than the national average (368 offences per 100,000) and has dropped 66% since 1996.³¹

In the City, violent crime decreased slightly (-0.7%) in 2006, while property crime increased (3.6%)³²

- In 2006, there were 69 homicides in Toronto, 11 fewer than in 2005. The 2006 murder rate in Toronto was 2.5 murders per 100,000 persons. Chicago, a city of comparable size to Toronto, had a murder rate in 2006 of 16.3 per 100,000.³³
- Incidence of assault in Toronto fell 1.2% in 2006 and sexual assault fell 8.5%.³⁴
- 162 hate/bias crimes were reported in the City in 2006 (up from 132 in 2005). An average of 211 occurrences per year has been reported over the past 14 years.³⁵
- House break and enter offences reported in 2006 increased 34.5% over 2005 while apartment break and enters decreased 15.7%.³⁶
- With uniform strength of 5,376 officers, Toronto was served by 206 police officers per 100,000 residents in 2006. In comparison, Peel region has 145 officers per 100,000 and York region, 127 per 100,000. Toronto's crime rate (7,310 criminal code incidents not including traffic) is more than double the rate in Peel (3,293) and York (3,259).³⁷
- The overall number of traffic collisions decreased by 2.4% for the second consecutive year. In spite of this traffic fatalities increased from 54 to 57 and personal injury accidents increased from 11,128 to 11,994 or 7.8% in 2006.³⁸
- In a 2004 survey of Canadian cities, Toronto residents reported feeling generally safe. 38% surveyed perceived an increase in neighbourhood safety over the past 5 years, higher than the percentage across Ontario (31%) and across Canada (30%) who felt safety had improved. 5% reported perceiving a decrease in neighbourhood safety. 93% were

generally satisfied with their personal safety (compared with 94% across Ontario and Canada) while 7% reported feeling dissatisfied (5% across Ontario and Canada).³⁹

- Since 1999, calls responded to by Toronto's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for life-threatening situations has increased 18% from 63,385 calls in 1999 to 75,071 calls in 2006. Toronto's established standard for response time is 9 minutes, 84% of the time, benchmarked in 1996. By 2006, EMS' response time had fallen to 9 minutes, 68% of the time. Longer waits at hospitals and gridlock are reported to be the two main reasons.⁴⁰

Health and Wellness

We're taking action on wellness and health

- In 2005 the City had 280 active physicians (family practitioners and specialists) per 100,000 population. This was double the rate found in the Region as a whole (141) but less than the proportion of medical expertise found in some other major cities (Montreal: 324, Vancouver: 424).⁴¹
- Although the total number of active physicians in Toronto increased in 2005 from 2004, the number of Family Medicine/General Practice physicians in Toronto declined from 2,847 in 2004 to 2,742 in 2005.⁴²
- Low birth-weight (less than 2,500 grams at birth) provides an indication of the health of both mothers and their babies. At 6.6%, the proportion of low birth-weight babies in total births in the Region in 2006 has not changed in 10 years (6.7% in 1997).⁴³ The Region's rate of low birth-weight in 2006 was slightly higher than the Ontario average (6.4%) and the national average (6.1%).⁴⁴
- Within the City, the risks of low-birth weight are still more prevalent in some areas than others, but the situation is improving. Research by Toronto Public Health indicates that between 1996 and 1998 (combined) the singleton low birth-weight rate in the lowest income areas in Toronto was 64% higher than the rate in the highest income areas. Between 1999 and 2001 (combined), the singleton low birth-weight rate in the lowest income areas in Toronto was 37% greater than the rate in the highest income areas.⁴⁵
- At 10.1% of the population (ages 18+), the obesity rate in the City in 2005 was lower than the national (15.5%) and provincial average (15.1%).⁴⁶
- The proportion of the Region's population (ages 12+) who were smokers in 2005 was 17.8%, down from 20.3% in 2003. The Region's rate was lower than the Ontario average (20.7%) and the national average (21.7%).⁴⁷
- In 2006, 73.6% of Toronto adults (ages 18+) reported moderate or high levels of physical activity. This is higher than three years ago (70.9% in 2003).⁴⁸
- At 81.1 years in 2001, life expectancy in the Region was higher than the provincial average (79.7) and the national average (79.5).⁴⁹
- In 2006 there were a total of 453,637 registrations for City parks and recreation programs, up 3.4% from 438,924 registrations in 2005 and 4.6% higher than in 2004 (433,671). In addition there were 2,933,499 attendees at drop-in programs.⁵⁰

- In 2006, 13% of Torontonians reported symptoms of distress and impaired functioning that put them at risk for mental health disorders. This level of risk has been fairly stable since 2000, varying between 12% and 16%.⁵¹
- Heat alerts and extreme heat alerts are called by the City of Toronto when an oppressive air mass is forecast, and the likelihood of deaths may increase due to high temperatures and other factors. In 2006, the City declared 17 alerts, down from 26 in 2005, but the second highest tally since the alert system was established in 2001. 2006 also marked the first time that heat alerts were declared as early in the year as May.⁵²

Learning:

An educated labour force, but many students lack support

The City has both a more highly educated labour force, and a less educated general adult population than the Region as a whole:

- In the City in 2006, 63.3% of the labour force (ages 15+) had completed a post-secondary education. The City's rate was greater than the Regional average (61.1%) and the national average (57%).⁵³
- In Toronto 52% of the general population (15 years and over) in 2006 had completed a postsecondary education (university degree, post-secondary certificate or diploma), up from 36% in 1990 and slightly higher than the national and provincial averages.⁵⁴
- 19% of the City's adults (ages 20-64) however, had not completed high school in 2001. Higher than the Regional average (18%), but lower than the national average (21%).⁵⁵
- Total enrolment in Toronto's colleges – Centennial, George Brown, Humber and Seneca was 58,591 in 2005/06. Total enrolment in Toronto's universities – University of Toronto, York University, the Ontario College of Art and Design, and Ryerson University was 140,262 in 2005/06.⁵⁶

The number of students in the City's public schools is continuing to decline.⁵⁷

- Enrolment in Toronto's school boards continues to decline. In the Toronto District School Board, enrolment has dropped 29% (114,742 fewer students) since 1970.⁵⁸
- Between 2000/01 and 2004/5 enrolment in Toronto's public schools has dropped 6.6% (from 398,280 to 371,862 students).⁵⁹
- In the past five academic years (2000/01 to 2004/05) the number of students in Toronto's private schools has increased 7.2% from 31,999 to 34,312.⁶⁰
- The number of newcomer students in the Toronto District School Board in 2005/06 (9,967) was 41% lower than the number in 2001 (17,000).⁶¹
- As a result of declining enrolment, the number of small schools (having fewer than 300 students in an elementary school or fewer than 1,000 in a secondary school) has been growing. In 2004/5, 186 TDSB elementary schools (39% of schools) were small, an increase of 11% from 2000. 61% of the TDSB's secondary schools (63 schools) had less than 1,000 students, a rise in small schools of 26% since 2000. 12% of elementary schools have enrolment that is less than 60% of capacity. 16 secondary schools are at less than 60% capacity.⁶²

Improvements are being made in some areas of student support but not in others.

- While 92% of elementary schools in Toronto had students for whom English is a second language (ESL) in 2006/07, 44% had no ESL teacher. A year earlier, 57% of schools did not have the ESL teacher they needed. The number of elementary schools with ESL students, but no ESL teacher, has tripled over the past five years (from 18% in 1999/2000.)⁶³
- In 2005/06 over 50% of elementary and secondary school students in the Toronto District School Board had a mother tongue other than English. However, 90% of students succeed in completing their Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, a requirement for graduation by Grade 12.⁶⁴
- The number of children on the waiting list for a child care subsidy in Toronto increased from 8,209 in 2006 to 10,300 by mid-2007. The increase reflects both a change in eligibility criteria in 2007 and the level of need among the City's low-income families. Current subsidy funding provides support for 23,834 children (0 to 9 years).⁶⁵
- In 2006/07 an estimated 4,700 students were on the waiting list for special education services, down from 6,000 students waiting for assistance in 2004/05 and 7,700 students in 1999/00.⁶⁶
- In 2006/07, 24% of elementary schools in Toronto reported fundraising to pay for classroom supplies. This is down slightly from 27% in 2004/05 and significantly less than the 33% of schools who had to fundraise for supplies in 1999/00. In Toronto, 12% of elementary schools fundraised \$20,000 or more.⁶⁷
- In 2006/07, 51% of elementary school classes (junior kindergarten to Grade 3) had 20 students or less in them. This is up significantly from the 28% of classes at this size in 2005/06. While the Toronto District School Board maintains that smaller class size has little influence (8%) on improving student achievement, the Ministry of Education currently caps the size of primary classes at less than 25 students and has plans to lower class size even further to 20 students or less.⁶⁸
- In the last year, school suspensions fell 39% from 25,437 suspensions of 15,563 kids in 2004/5 to 17,591 suspensions of 11,393 kids in 2005/06. The number of students suspended has declined from 16,577 students suspended in 2002-3 to 11,393 in 2005/6. Total suspensions by the Board have dropped over the past four years from 26,411 in 2002-3 to 17,591 in 2005/6.⁶⁹
- A 2003 assessment of over 23,000 Canadians aged 16 and over tested literacy in either English or French based on prose, document, numeracy and problem-solving. The average score across the four categories in the Region was 264 out of 500 – lower than the Ontario average of 266 and the national average of 268. The Region's score lagged scores in Canada's other large cities, including Vancouver, Montreal and Ottawa.⁷⁰

- In a 2007 composite assessment of life-long learning, the City scored an overall rating of 79.8 compared to a national score of 76.2. Analysing different aspects of learning as student achievement, employment training, community participation and access to educational opportunities and facilities, Toronto was determined to achieve better than the Canadian average, particularly in the area of formal education, demonstrating a lower high school drop-out rate and higher university attainment than the rest of the country.⁷¹
- In 2006 physical visits to Toronto public libraries increased by 0.4% from 17.1 to 17.2 million visits. Virtual visits (use of Toronto Public Library's online resources) also increased slightly from 21.3 million to 21.4 million. While circulation dropped slightly from 30.6 million to 30.4 million items, attendance in library programs for children, teens and adults increased a combined 12% from 470,755 participants in 2005 to 528,055 in 2006. It is estimated that 73% of Torontonians used the public library in 2006.⁷²

Housing:

Home ownership up, rental environment tightened

Home Ownership:

- The rate of home ownership in the Region increased over the past 30 years from 55.4% in 1971 to 63.2% in 2001.⁷³
- Sales of existing homes in 2006 hit the second highest level on record. At 84,842, sales dropped only 1% from the record set in 2005.⁷⁴
- In 2006, the average price of homes sold in the Region rose to \$351,941, an increase of 4.8% from the previous year and continuing a climb of 78% over the past ten years.⁷⁵
- In 2005 the average house price in the Region equalled 5.4 times the pre-tax median income of a family, up from 4.4 times in 2000. In the City, the 2005 rate was 6.1 times.⁷⁶
- With 21.5% of home owners in the Region spending more than 30% of income on housing, homeowners' costs were higher than the Ontario average (17.3%) and national average (16%) in 2000.⁷⁷

Renting:

- The apartment vacancy rate in the Region declined from 3.7% last year to 3.2% in 2006, continuing a downward trend from the peak of 4.3% in 2004. The vacancy rate in the City was slightly higher at 3.3%, ranging from 2.4% in the old city of Toronto to 3.8% in Etobicoke and Scarborough.⁷⁸
- Average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the Region increased from \$1,052 in 2005 (flat since 2004) to \$1,067 in 2006.⁷⁹
- In the Region, average rent as a proportion of median family income was 21.2% in 2005, the lowest rate in over 10 years.⁸⁰
- With 42.2% of renters in the Region spending over 30% of income on rent, Toronto's rate equalled the Ontario average in 2000, but surpassed the national average of 39.6%.⁸¹

Shelter and Housing Support:

- The total waiting list for subsidized housing increased by 0.8% in 2006 from 66,556 applicants in 2005 to 67,083 in 2006. The active waiting list, defined as those immediately eligible to be offered housing, increased by 1.1% from 48,063 in 2005 to 48,601 in 2006. The number of applicants with no dependents increased the most, rising 4.7% from 25,121 in 2005 to 26,303 in 2006. The number of seniors on the waiting list also increased by 3.8% from 15,508 to 16,104 while the number of households with dependents decreased 3.4% from 25,550 to 24,673.⁸²

- The number of children who had to use an emergency shelter in the City in 2005 was 3,522, continuing a four-year decline from the 6,727 children in need of shelters in 2001. 2005's total is the lowest in ten years.⁸³
- In 2006 the Homeless Memorial recorded 59 homeless deaths, down from the 66 deaths recorded in 2005.⁸⁴

Getting Started:

Finding work is difficult for new immigrants and the young

Getting hired half as often and making half as much has been the experience of recent immigrants in the Region:

- In the Region, the unemployment rate of recent immigrants (those who entered the country in the 1996-2000 period) was 11.3% in 2001, 2.2 times the unemployment rate of non-immigrants (5.1%).⁸⁵ While across the country, recent immigrants in 2001 experienced higher rates of unemployment than their non-immigrant neighbours, the Region's rate of disparity was higher than the provincial average (2 times) and the national average (1.7 times). While in some cities, recent immigrants fared worse, notably in Montreal, where the unemployment rate of recent immigrants at 20.9% was more than triple the non-immigrant rate of 6.2%, elsewhere, recent immigrants found greater opportunity. In Sudbury for example, recent immigrants had an unemployment rate (8.7%) less than the local non-immigrant rate (9.3%)⁸⁶
- The average individual income of recent immigrants in the Region in 2001 was \$20,438, just under half (49.7%) the income of non-immigrants. The average earnings of Toronto's recent immigrants relative to non-immigrants were lower than the Ontario average (61.2% of non-immigrants' income) and the national average (65.7%).⁸⁷

Fewer are choosing to make a start in the Region than in previous years, especially in the City:

- The number of immigrants settling in the Region dropped 12% from 112,784 in 2005 to 99,263 in 2006. This decline is consistent with the Ontario average (10% drop), but represents a greater decline than the national average (4% drop). In the past six years the proportion of permanent residents in the Region has fallen by 10% (from 49.9% in 2001 to 39.4% in 2006)⁸⁸
- The Region has gained in population every year in the past ten years thanks to strong gains from international migration offset by smaller intra-provincial losses. In 2006, the Region gained 68,442 people.⁸⁹
- The City however, has experienced much higher losses through intra-provincial migration that, from 2003 to 2005, more than offset gains from international immigration. In 2006, the City gained 5,920 people. In 2005 it experienced a net loss of 19,088 people.⁹⁰

For young people, the start into work life is still harder in Toronto:

- In 2006, the youth unemployment rate in the City was 15.3%, down from 15.8% in 2005 and 17% in 2004.⁹¹

- In the Region, the youth unemployment rate in 2006 was 13.6%. While this has shown improvement over last year (15.3%), it is higher than the Ontario rate of 13.1% and the national average of 11.6%.⁹²

Getting Around:

We're using public transit more, but commute time is Canada's longest

The City is the focus of the Regional commute and that commute is getting longer:

- An estimated total of 2.56 million motorized trips are made daily in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area just during the morning rush hour period. The private automobile is the dominant travel mode with 1.97 million or 83% of the total trips made using this mode. Just as one indication, an estimated 400,000 vehicles travel Hwy. 401 through Toronto each day, making it one of the busiest highways in North America.⁹³
- Public transit (GO and municipal transit) accommodates 425,000 trips or 17% of a.m. peak period travel. Walk and cycle modes comprise approximately 9% of a.m. peak period trips. Inter-regional travel within the GTA-Hamilton is dominated by travel originating in and destined to Toronto. Intra-regional travel, where both trip origin and trip destination are within the same region, comprise over 75% of the trips. Trips between Toronto and the four GTA regions comprise 18% and trips between the remaining regions comprise 4%. The transit mode split for trips within the regions is approximately 4%, which compares to 30% of travel within Toronto.⁹⁴
- In 2006, about 117,000 more people commuted into the City to their jobs than the number of residents who commuted out. This is down from 119,000 in 2005 and has declined steadily over the past decade.⁹⁵
- In 2005, 66% of workers in the Region took 60 minutes or longer to commute to and from work. Workers in the Region had the longest commute of any Canadians – an average of 79 minutes for a round trip.⁹⁶ That's the equivalent of about 8 ½ work weeks (342 hours) a year spent just getting to work and home again.

Transit is a big part of getting around in the City:

- In 2001, 22.4% of workers in the City used public transportation to get to work – more than double the national rate for public transit use.⁹⁷
- Ridership on TTC has grown 5.8% over the past five years from a total of 420 million trips in 2001 to 444.5 million trips in 2006.⁹⁸ Ridership on GO Transit has grown 11.4% over the same period from a total of 43.3 million trips in 2001 to 48.3 million trips in 2006.⁹⁹
- TTC business day ridership in 2006 was up 2.6% to 1,433,000 from 1,397,000 in 2005. Trips using Wheel Trans service for people with physical disabilities also increased 5.9% from 1,790,724 in 2005 to 1,896,752 in 2006.¹⁰⁰

- In 2006, the number of subway and rapid transit stations with elevators to aid accessibility increased to 25 out of 69, up from 23 in 2005 and 20 in 2004. The number of accessible bus routes – those using lift or ramp-equipped buses and low-floor buses - increased to 91 in 2006, up from 83 in 2005 and almost double the number (46) in 2004. ¹⁰¹
- In 2006, GO transit carried about 195,000 passengers on a typical weekday - 165,000 on trains. An estimated 96% of GO train rides start or end at Union Station. ¹⁰²

Arts and Culture:

Creative work force growing, but many cities offer better support for the arts

- In the Region in 2006, 82,700 persons were employed in cultural industries, up 25% over the past 20 years (66,200 people in 1987).¹⁰³
- At about 3% of total employment across all industries, employment in cultural industries as a proportion of total employment was 51% higher in the Region than the national average and 34% higher than the provincial average.¹⁰⁴
- From 2000 to 2006, the City's role as the centre for arts in the Region grew stronger. Employment in arts and entertainment in the City grew 39.2% while it fell 22.9% in the surrounding 905 area.¹⁰⁵

The City's attraction as a film location has declined:

- The value of film and television production on location in Toronto declined 21.6% from \$898.3 million in 2005 to \$704.1 million in 2006 and down 38% since 2001.¹⁰⁶
- Major production spending, at \$594.4 million in 2006 fell 23% from 2005 (\$773.1 million) and has fallen 36% from its level in 2001 (\$928 million).¹⁰⁷
- U.S. foreign production spending has suffered an annual decline of 12% over the past five years (2001-2006). In 2006, U.S. foreign production spending at \$310.7 million was down 27% from its 2005 level of \$425.2 million.¹⁰⁸
- Domestic production also slowed in 2006. At \$268.7 million in 2006, domestic production spending was down 22.6% from the previous year (\$347.6 million) and has dropped an average of 5% annually since 2001.¹⁰⁹
- In contrast, foreign production (not including U.S.) experienced a sharp increase in 2006 hitting its highest level in 5 years at \$14.9 million as a result of one production. Over the preceding five years, other foreign production has averaged \$2.1 million.¹¹⁰

City government and Toronto residents spend less on arts and culture than other cities:

- In 2005 the average household expenditure on arts and culture in the Region was \$1,059. This was more than the Canadian average of \$900 per household, but compares to \$1,244 in Ottawa, \$1,257 in Calgary and \$1,065 in Vancouver.¹¹¹

- Dedicated municipal government operating and project funding for the local arts and festival sector in the City in 2005 equalled \$5.77 per capita, compared to an average of \$6.23 per capita across Canada's major cities¹¹²
- At \$13.00 per capita, including all capital and grant funding for arts and culture, Toronto government's total investment in culture in 2003 compared unfavourably to Chicago (\$16.00), Vancouver (\$19.00), Montreal (\$32.00), New York (\$54.00) and San Francisco (\$80.00).¹¹³

Environment:

Signs of progress in Toronto but challenges remain

Our per capita greenhouse gas emissions compare favourably to other Canadians:

- In 2004, the City, with 7.9% of Canada's population and CO₂ emissions totalling 24.5 megatonnes was responsible for about 4.1% of Canada's total CO₂ emissions.¹¹⁴
- Transportation has been estimated to account for 35% of the City's total greenhouse gas emissions (equalling 2.63 tonnes per capita in the Toronto region) and 62.5% of NOx emissions.¹¹⁵
- The Region's per capita emissions for transportation (2.6 tonnes in 2001) was less than half the national average (5.8 tonnes per capita) and 47% lower than the provincial average (5 tonnes per capita)¹¹⁶ (A typical mid-sized car driven 20,000 km per year produces about 5 tonnes of CO₂).¹¹⁷
- Toronto's per capita carbon emissions is about half the Canadian average and two-thirds the Ontario average when comparing emissions for energy and waste:¹¹⁸
 - 9.6 tonnes of eCO₂ per capita (2004) for Toronto
 - 13.8 tonnes of eCO₂ per capita for Ontario (2004)
 - 18.5 tonnes of eCO₂ per capital for Canada (2002)¹¹⁹

We are wasting less water and keeping the City cleaner:

- The City's 2006 Litter Audit identified a 25% improvement over 2005 – a 40% reduction in litter since 2002, the first year an audit was undertaken. On average across the 298 sites checked, there were 21 pieces of small litter and 15 pieces of large litter at each site, down significantly from last year, when the audit found 40 pieces of small litter and 20 pieces of large litter per site. Plastic packaging and gum deposits were identified as the worst litter problems.¹²⁰
- In 2006, residential water consumption in the City was estimated at 248 litres per person per day, down 11 litres per person per day from 2005.¹²¹
- In a 2004 comparison, Toronto residents used 35% less water than the Canadian average.¹²²
- Toronto's beaches were safe for swimming on average 71.6% of the time in 2006 – a significant improvement from only being safe 57.8% of the time in 2005 and 56.4% in 2004. The only beach that was considered safe for swimming the entire summer of 2006 was Hanlan's Point.¹²³
- Two more beaches - Centre Island Beach and Gibraltar Point Beach achieved Blue Flag designation in 2006, joining Woodbine, Cherry

- (Clarke), Ward's Island and Hanlan's Point. While these beaches were closed due to high bacteria levels an average of only 10% of the time in 2006, Toronto's four most polluted beaches (Rouge, Sunnyside, Marie Curtis and Bluffer's) were closed on average 55% of the time. Again, this is an improvement over 2005 when these same beaches were closed 76% of the time. ¹²⁴
- In 2006, the number of smog advisory days dropped dramatically from 48 in 2005 to 11. 2006's total was the lowest annual total since 2000, but was already exceeded by mid-2007. ¹²⁵
 - This year, the City stated its goal to achieve 34% tree canopy (coverage) by 2020. Toronto's tree canopy is presently estimated at 17%, down from 22% in 1992. ¹²⁶

Toronto is diverting more waste than in previous years but falling far short of targets.

- The amount of garbage produced by each resident decreased again in 2006 to about 203.5 kg, down from 206 kg in 2005 and 223 kg in 2004. ¹²⁷
- In 2006, the City produced a total of 509,403 tonnes of waste and diverted another 375,621 tonnes through blue, grey and green bins, yard waste pick ups, environment days, hazardous waste and appliance pick-ups. Altogether, the City achieved a waste diversion rate of 42% - slightly better than the 40% waste diversion achieved in 2005 (up from 32% in 2003), but far below the 2006 target of 60%. ¹²⁸
- Single family dwellings further improved their waste diversion from 53% in 2005 to 58% in 2006, but multi-residential units continued to divert only 13% of garbage from landfill. ¹²⁹

Work:

Financial sector, head offices are key; goods give way to services in local economy

In the City, a lower percentage work and a higher percentage of those who want to, can't find jobs:

- The employment rate measures the percentage of working-aged people (ages 15+) who have jobs. The employment rate in the City in 2006 was 60.9%, compared to the Canadian average of 63%. ¹³⁰
- In 2006 the unemployment rate in the City was 7.5%, improved from 8% in 2005, but higher than the Regional average (6.6%) and the national and Ontario level (both 6.3%). ¹³¹

Employment growth is slowing...especially in the City:

- With employment growth of 1.4% in the Region and 1% in the City in 2006, the Toronto area experienced annual growth below the national rate of 1.9%. ¹³²
- The total number of jobs in the City has dropped over the past six years by approximately 23,700 jobs to 1,445,400 in 2006. Over the same period, total jobs in the rest of the Region have increased 27.8%. ¹³³
- After a sharp decline in 2003, the number of foreign workers (temporary residents) Toronto receives has begun to trend upwards. In 2006 the number of foreign workers increased 10% (from 13,506 in 2005 to 14,843 in 2006). ¹³⁴

The City is shifting from producing goods to providing services:

- Employment in the goods-producing sector, which includes all manufacturing and construction accounted for 30% of jobs in the rest of the Region but only 15.8% of the jobs in the City in 2006. The number of goods-producing jobs rose in the rest of the Region from 2000-2006 by 21.5% from 357,300 jobs to 434,000 jobs in 2006. In the City, jobs in goods producing dropped a corresponding 24% during the same period from 301,400 to 229,200 in 2006. ¹³⁵
- In the City, jobs in service sectors (trade, transportation, financial services, real estate, commercial services, arts and entertainment, health care and education) comprised 84.1% of total employment in 2006, up from 79.5% in 2000. ¹³⁶

Toronto leads the country in head office and financial services concentration:

- In 2005, more than one-third of Canada's top 100 head offices were located in the Region and eight of Canada's 30 largest corporations were financial institutions based in Toronto. ¹³⁷
- Head office employment in Toronto in 2005 totalled 59,163 jobs: 34% of Canada's total and more than the head office employment of Montreal and Calgary combined. Between 1999 and 2005, head office employment in Toronto grew by 19.2%. ¹³⁸
- An important aspect of Toronto's employment profile is its concentration of financial services – a sector that directly employs more than 205,000. Toronto is the third-largest financial centre in North America and five of Toronto's largest private sector employers in 2006 were banks. ¹³⁹

Belonging and Leadership

Strong support in giving, but voter turnout and diversity in leadership lag

Residents of Toronto and the Region give their time and money.

- In 2004, 46.2% of people in Toronto reported being involved in unpaid volunteer activities as part of a group or organization. Volunteerism in Toronto was a little lower than the Ontario average of 50.4%, but higher than the national average of 45.3%. ¹⁴⁰
- In 2005, 72.3% of households in the Region reported giving to charity, compared to the national average of 68.1%. ¹⁴¹
- In 2006 the community raised \$106.8 million through the United Way of Greater Toronto, over \$10 million more than the \$90.2 million contributed two years earlier. The United Way annual campaign has doubled over the past ten years and is now the second largest United Way campaign in North America after Seattle, Washington. ¹⁴²
- In the Region 12.9% of households reported spending on social clubs and other organizations in 2003. This was lower than the provincial average of 18.8% and the national level of 18.9% of reporting households. ¹⁴³

Voter turn-out lags behind Ontario average.

- Voter turnout for the 2006 federal election in the Region was 64.5%. This is higher than the 59.2% turnout in 2004, but lower than the Ontario average of 66.6% turnout for the 2006 federal election. ¹⁴⁴
- Voter turnout in the City's municipal election was only 39.2% - slightly improved from 38.3% in 2003, ¹⁴⁵ but lower than the Ontario average of 41.3% turnout for the 2006 municipal elections. ¹⁴⁶

Toronto's motto, "Diversity Our Strength", is not reflected in municipal leadership.

- Following 2006 municipal elections, Toronto City Council is now less reflective of Toronto's diverse population than before and includes fewer women. The number of councillors who are visible minorities dropped from 5 of 45 members to 4 in 2006. ¹⁴⁷ Women on council dropped from 14 of 45 to 10. ¹⁴⁸

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