

# Toronto's Vital Signs 2006<sup>®</sup>

The City's Annual Check-up  
Expanded version with data links

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## Notes:

1. Unless otherwise indicated, all monetary statistics have been adjusted for inflation.
2. “Toronto” or “the city” refer to the geographic area of the city of Toronto. “The Toronto region” refers to the Greater Toronto Area or the Toronto census metropolitan area.
3. Where primary sources have adjusted statistics for a previous period, corresponding updates have been made to *Vital Signs*’ historical and trend data.

# A Message from the President and Chair

This is our fifth edition of *Toronto's Vital Signs*<sup>®</sup>. Over the past five years of reporting on trends in Toronto's quality of life, we've documented a slow decline in the health of the city. This report, like previous reports, points to how Toronto has benefited from some unique advantages – a highly educated workforce, a diverse and creative population, low crime and a competitive business environment. They also show, however, how some of these strengths are being eroded through inadequate support for child and youth development, lack of opportunity for those recently arrived in Toronto and growing economic inequality.

Toronto continues to be a prosperous city, but its aggregate prosperity has enabled us to become complacent about addressing serious underlying conditions that could undermine our future. For example, Toronto is proud of the education level of its workforce which surpasses the rest of the region, the province and the country.<sup>1</sup> But it should be recognized that much of this distinction comes from the higher educational achievements of Toronto's new residents, while our own education system struggles to provide an effective learning environment for young people. Over 40% of immigrants arriving in the 1990s had at least one university degree compared to the Canadian average which is 22%.<sup>2</sup>

Toronto is Canada's destination of choice for immigrants. Between 2001 and 2005, the Toronto region attracted an average of 107,000 international immigrants each year. The city of Toronto welcomed two-thirds.<sup>3</sup> Fully one in five Toronto residents arrived in this country during the 1990s.<sup>4</sup> We depend on immigration. Were it not for immigration, Toronto would in fact suffer a drop in workforce population.<sup>5</sup> Our ability to attract such skilled newcomers is an accomplishment, but too often we fail to maximize on the talents they bring.

Toronto is the most likely destination to be chosen by business class immigrants – investors, entrepreneurs and self-employed persons. Almost one-quarter of applicants to Canada (23%)<sup>6</sup> choose Toronto for its employment possibilities, but our ability to retain and fully utilize the opportunity such newcomers bring is less developed. In our highly mobile population, immigration to Canada, and to Toronto, cannot be considered permanent. Studies show that 35% of young working age male immigrants leave within 20 years of arrival to Canada - about 6 out of 10 of those who leave do so within the first year of arrival. And those who are most likely to leave are business class immigrants, skilled workers, those who are bilingual and those with university degrees.<sup>7</sup> In other words, exactly those individuals Toronto should be trying hardest to retain.

The city is struggling to hold on to jobs and business in the face of increasing competition from the rest of the Toronto region. Job growth in the region as a whole has exceeded job growth in the city over the past decade.<sup>8</sup> The city has 1,000 fewer business establishments and 23,600 fewer jobs now than it did five years ago.<sup>9</sup>

It's time to face facts: Toronto's population has changed, the environment in which Toronto must compete for people and investment has changed and the city has to work hard to remain a vibrant place of opportunity where futures and prosperity are built.

“Torontonians have a real passion for the future of their city and region. And their biggest frustration? Our collective inability to act on good ideas and get on with making things happen”, wrote the City’s former Chief Planner, Paul Bedford in the Toronto Star.<sup>10</sup> Perhaps it’s too little shared vision. Perhaps it’s fear of change. We criticize bold new plans for the city as too costly. We criticize support for excellence as inequitable. We resist change, despite dramatically changing conditions. We encourage innovation, but reject new ideas that don’t fit existing practices. Our public school population has been shrinking since the 70s, yet we fight against school closures. Although we know that intensification will enable more efficient services and more vibrant neighborhoods, higher density development almost always faces resistance. We recognize the dangers in idle youth, but don’t hire young workers. Hanging on to the way we’ve always done things has prevented us from providing for the future. It’s like driving on the Don Valley Parkway - with one foot on the brake all the time.

Preparing *Toronto’s Vital Signs* gives us a regular reminder of how elements of life in Toronto are inter-connected, how support for our arts helps attract a creative workforce, how youth participation in sport helps create safer communities, how use of public transit promotes community health. But, every year we see again that this inter-connectedness is not recognized in our institutional systems, which still operate along narrowly defined silos.

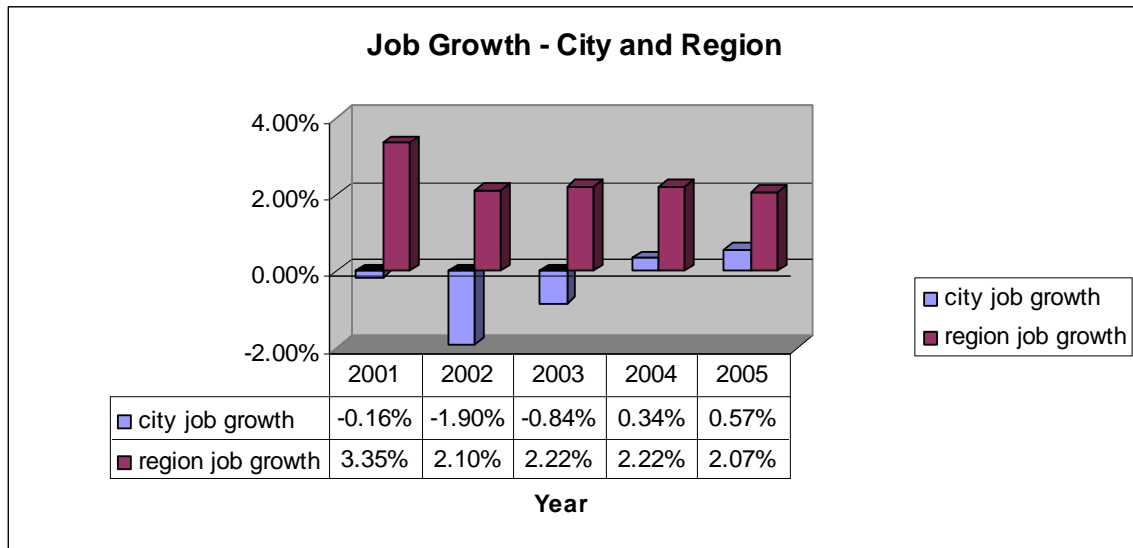
Toronto isn’t what it used to be, nor is it what it could be. To realize our enormous potential we must recognize our inter-connectedness. To sustain our city’s ability to demonstrate leadership in the region we must be willing to think big and act boldly. The architectural transformation of our cultural institutions is an inspiring example of what we can achieve when we dare to aim higher. Yes, the leadership is needed at City Hall, but it is also needed from every one of us who cares about the city. Those who are older helping youth to succeed; those more settled opening doors for newcomers to get established. All of us thinking about the city as our shared home, being conscious of the impact our actions have on others and finding ways to collectively make our city great.

# Community Context

With a population of approximately 2,607,600<sup>11</sup>, the city of Toronto is Canada's largest city and the fifth largest city in North America<sup>12</sup>. Distinguished by the diversity of its population and its prominence in North America as a centre of creativity and industry, Toronto's competitiveness with other world cities<sup>13</sup> is critical to Canada's economic prosperity.

At the heart of what has been named the "Top City Region of the Future"<sup>14</sup>, however, the city of Toronto is exhibiting signs of diminishing significance in the larger region. There are signs that point to a weakening of the core economic foundations of the city.

- In 2005, the city experienced a second year of slight increase (0.6%) in employment after three years of decline. In 2005, there were approximately 1,262,700 jobs within the City of Toronto – up from a recent low of 1,251,300 in 2003, but still not reaching the 1,286,300 jobs the City had in 2001.<sup>15</sup>

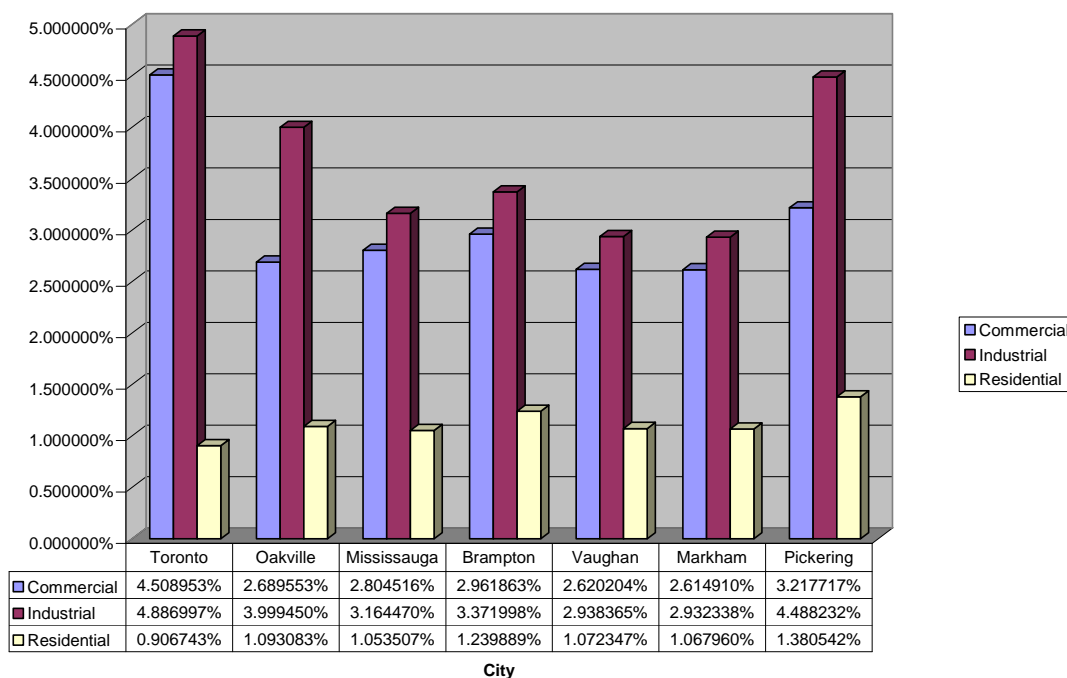


Source: City of Toronto, Economic Development<sup>16</sup>

- The City's net long-term debt grew from 1.68 billion in 2004 to \$1.97 billion in 2005, almost double its level in 1998. Debt charges now represent the second largest component of the property tax bill (behind police services).<sup>17</sup>
- On a comparative basis, the City's savings for a rainy day are very low in comparison with other Ontario cities. The City's overall reserves on a per capita basis (\$537) are just over half of the Ontario average and just over a quarter of the average of the rest of the Toronto region.<sup>18</sup>
- Lower business costs distinguish the Toronto region in comparison with other economic regions in North America, Europe and Japan.<sup>19</sup> However, the city of Toronto's commercial and industrial tax

rates are significantly higher than surrounding municipalities in the region while its residential tax rate is lower.<sup>20</sup>

**Commercial, Industrial and Residential Tax Rates 2005**



Source: City of Toronto, Economic Development<sup>21</sup>

- The value of new investment from outside of the Toronto region facilitated by the City dropped by 55% in 2005 (\$19.4 million) from 2004 (\$43.0 million).<sup>22</sup>

| <b>External Investment Activity 2001-2005 Comparisons</b> |             |             |             |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2001</b> | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> |
| <b>Contacts</b>   |             |             |             |             |             |
| Web Hits  | 12009       | 17145       | 22900       | 25028       | 23285       |
| Conference Contacts                                       | 281         | 706         | 602         | 1259        | 1100        |
| Inbound mission delegates                                 | 164         | 170         | 124         | 202         | 300         |
| Outbound mission delegates                                |             |             |             | 315         | 276         |
| Leads (information sent)                                  | 97          | 105         | 107         | 102         | 116         |
| Prospects   | 84          | 92          | 82          | 83          | 81          |
| <b>New investment</b>                                     |             |             |             |             |             |
| Number of Companies                                       | 13          | 13          | 4           | 6           | 10          |
| Number of Employees                                       | 1,305       | 893         | 70          | 685         | 280         |
| Building Space (sq.ft.)                                   | 566,111     | 305,300     | 20,000      | 154,000     | 82,000      |
| Municipal taxes (\$)                                      | \$1,528,000 | \$670,944   | \$108,340   | \$1.87 mil  | \$588,214   |
| GDP Impact (\$)   | \$89.8 mil  | \$62.8 mil  | \$4.9 mil   | \$43.0 mil  | \$19.4 mil  |

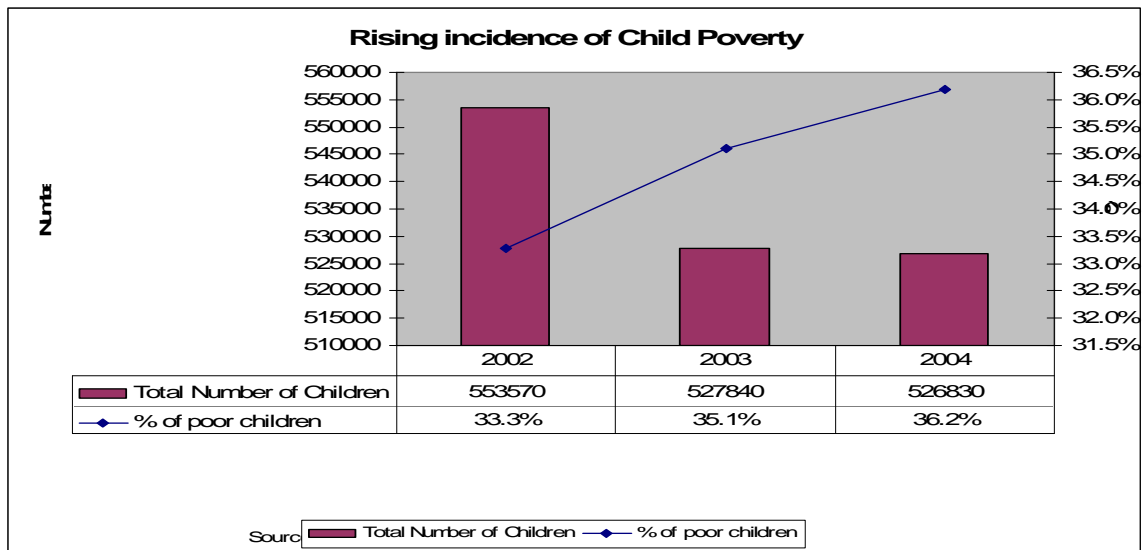
Source: City of Toronto, Business Investment Activity Summary Report, 2005<sup>23</sup>

- In an annual ranking of quality of life examining political, social, economic, environmental and other factors that places Zurich in the top spot, Toronto placed 15<sup>th</sup> in 2006, an improvement over its 16<sup>th</sup> place ranking in 2005. In comparison, Vancouver is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and Ottawa, 18<sup>th</sup>.<sup>24</sup>
- Patents are one of the most direct ways of measuring innovation. In 2005, Toronto placed 17 in world cities patent activity.<sup>25</sup>
- In a comparison of business costs, Toronto was found to be at least 6.5% less expensive than the average U.S city.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2005, an estimated 18.9 million visitors came to the Toronto region – an increase of 1.7% over 2004 - only 1% short of the region's 2000 level. While visits to Toronto from the U.S. declined 5.9%, overseas visits increased 9.6%, resulting in an overall increase of international visitors of 3.8%.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2005 the convention business continued a 3 year decline since Toronto was hit by SARS in 2003. A total of seven major conventions took place in Toronto, down from 8 in 2004, 11 in 2003 and 17 in 2002.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2004, residential assessments accounted for 70.87% of the City of Toronto's total 2004 property assessments, but residential taxes generated only 36.06% of the City's total property tax revenues. Commercial properties classified CT, ST and DT accounted for 16.72% of the total property assessment base and provided 42.81% of the total tax base.<sup>29</sup>

# Gap Between Rich and Poor

While Toronto's population represents about one half of the Toronto region's total (estimated at 5,304,100 in 2005), it includes 68% of persons below the poverty line and 75% of households receiving social assistance in the region. <sup>30</sup>

- In 2004, 190,610 children (36.1% of Toronto's children) lived in low-income families: 5,320 more children than in 2003. The proportion of Toronto's children living in poverty has grown over the past three years, despite the fact that the number of children in the city has decreased. The city is home to 43% of children in the Toronto region, but 62% of poor children in the region. <sup>31</sup>



Source: Statistics Canada/ Special Tabulations

- Between 2003 and 2004, the median income for families in Toronto's 12 poorest neighbourhoods rose by 5.7% (from \$29,962.45 to \$30,991.67). Families in Toronto's 12 wealthiest neighbourhoods experienced a rise of 5% (from \$151,406.257 to \$155,391.67). <sup>32</sup>

In Toronto, North America's third largest food centre (after Chicago and Los Angeles), food banks have become a permanent fixture. <sup>33</sup>

- Over the past ten years food bank use has increased by 78.6% in the Toronto region. In 1995, 500,556 people found help at a neighbourhood food bank. By 2006, that number has grown to 894,017. Of those, 731,737 are using food banks in the city of Toronto. <sup>34</sup>
- Food banks are no longer considered a last resort by the majority of their users. Across the Toronto region, over 64% of food bank users report depending upon food bank contributions as a regular part of their monthly budget. <sup>35</sup>
- Eight Toronto neighbourhoods have rates of poverty exceeding 40% of families. <sup>36</sup>

- In downtown Toronto, about 30% of clients using food banks have children. In Toronto's suburbs (North York, Etobicoke and Scarborough) about 50% of clients have children. In the rest of the region, however (905 area), the majority of food bank users are families with children (64%).<sup>37</sup>

• **The Monthly Budget (2005) – What's Left for Everything Else?**

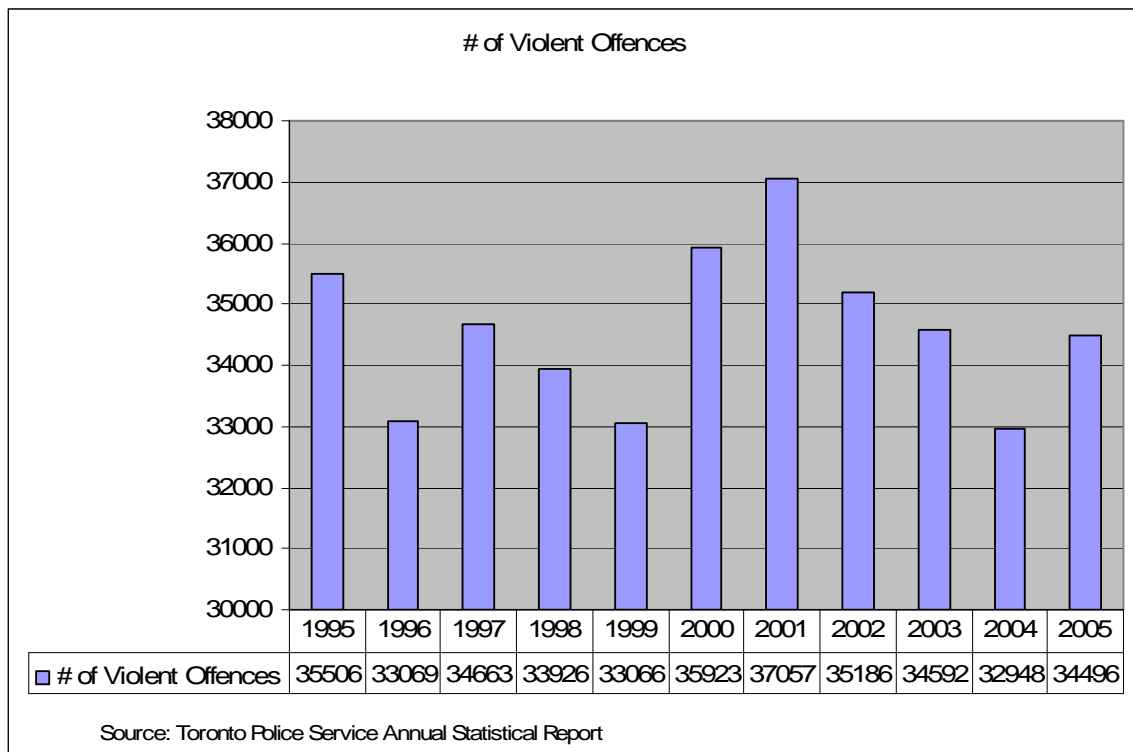
Family of four with two parents and two children under the age of 13 on social assistance:

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Basic Needs and Shelter Allowance            | \$ 1215.00 <sup>38</sup>   |
| Less: Average Rent for Two-Bedroom Apartment | – \$ 1052.00 <sup>39</sup> |
| Cost of Nutritious Food                      | – \$ 539.60 <sup>40</sup>  |
|  | – \$ <b>376.60</b>         |

# Safety

A spike in homicides last year (particularly involving guns) shook Toronto residents' sense of safety, but in other aspects, safety improved.

- Violent crime in Toronto increased 4.7% in 2005 after three years of decline. To put this in perspective, six out of the preceding ten years had higher numbers of offences. <sup>41</sup>



- In 2005, there were 79 homicides in Toronto, a 23.4% increase over the city's 64 homicides in 2004. The 2005 murder rate in Toronto spiked to 30 murders per million people, from 24 per million the previous year. It was the highest murder rate in 10 years. By comparison, Montreal's murder rate in 2005 was 18 murders per million (Montreal's lowest number of murders in 35 years). Chicago's murder rate in 2005 was 156 per million people. <sup>42</sup>

- Incidence of assault in Toronto rose 3.7% (from 24,423 to 25,337) and sexual assault increased 8.4% (from 2,512 to 2,723). <sup>43</sup>

- In 2005, there was a 19% decrease in the total number of reported hate crimes in the city (132 hate crimes as compared to 163 in 2004). This represents the lowest number of reported hate crimes annually, since the Toronto Police began to collect statistics in 1993. <sup>44</sup>

- Property crime in Toronto fell 3.3% in 2005. <sup>45</sup>

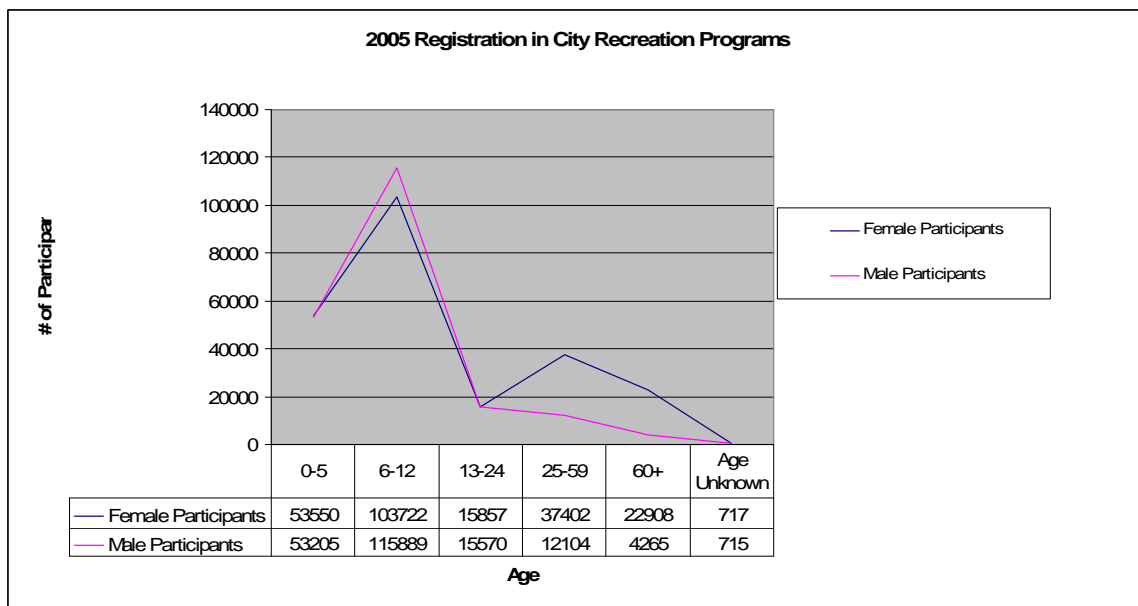
- Break and enters to houses decreased 45.2% in 2005 from the previous year while break and enters to apartments increased 40.4%. <sup>46</sup>

- The number of individuals killed in traffic collisions fell 10% from 66 in 2004 to 59 in 2005. The number of people injured in traffic collisions also decreased almost 10% from 18,409 in 2004 to 16,637 in 2005.<sup>47</sup>

# Health and Wellness

Toronto adults (especially men) are not participating in recreation programs, but are keeping their weight at a healthy level.

- In 2005 there were a total of 439,604 registrations for City parks and recreation programs, up 1.3% from the 2004 total of 434,038. 74.8% of all registrants were 12 years old or younger.<sup>48</sup>
  - Only 7.2% of all registrants (31,689) were in the 13-24 year age range<sup>49</sup>
  - 18% of registrants in 2005 (79,036) were adults 25 years or older. Consistent with 2004, women represented over three-quarters (78.1%) of these.<sup>50</sup>



Source: City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry & Recreation

- In 2005, 10.1% of Toronto residents aged 18 and older (excluding pregnant women) identified themselves as obese (having a body mass index of 30.0 or higher). Toronto's rate of obesity is significantly lower than the Ontario average (15.1%) and Canadian average (15.5%) for 2005.<sup>51</sup>
- In 2005, 14% of Torontonians, compared to 12.6% of other Ontarians, reported symptoms of distress and impaired functioning that put them at risk for mental health disorders. This level of risk, consistently higher in Toronto than in the rest of Ontario, has been fairly stable since 2001, but is higher than in 2000 (12.2%).<sup>52</sup>
- Rates of drug use are lower in Toronto than elsewhere in the province. In 2005, Toronto high school students were found to be the students in the province least likely to smoke or drink and were using illicit drugs of all kinds (except heroin) at rates below the provincial average.<sup>53</sup>
- Smoking has continued to decline (from 24% of those 18 years and older in 2001 to 17% in 2005).<sup>54</sup>

- In 2004, the number of Family Medicine/General Practice physicians in Toronto increased slightly to 2,847 (from 2,839 in 2003). There is now approximately one family doctor for every 916 Toronto residents, compared to one for every 1,308 residents in the rest of Ontario. In 1998, there was one family doctor for every 868 Toronto residents, and one for every 1,244 residents in the rest of Ontario.<sup>55</sup>

- The city's rate of low birth-weight, the proportion of newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams at birth provides an indication of the health of both mothers and their babies. The three-year average rate (in 2001) of low birth-weight in Toronto, at 6.6% of live-births continued to be higher than the Ontario average of 5.7% and the Canadian average of 5.6%. Between 1996 and 1998 (combined) the singleton LBW 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 LBW rate in the lowest income areas in Toronto was 37% greater than the rate in the highest income areas.<sup>56</sup>

# Learning

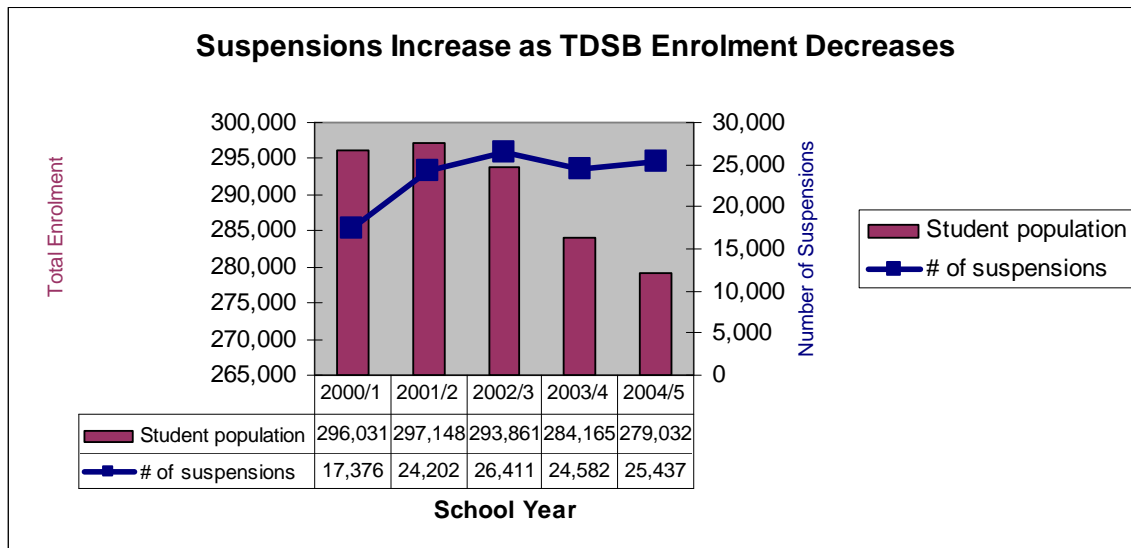
While Toronto continues to benefit from a well-educated workforce and a steady supply of students seeking higher education, educational opportunities for children and youth are being missed.

- In 2005, 62.1% of the city’s workforce had completed post-secondary education. This continues an upward trend since 1990 and remains higher than the Toronto region as a whole (60.7% in 2005), Ontario (57.6%), and Canada (56.9%).<sup>57</sup> Enrollment in Toronto’s post-secondary institutions has grown steadily over the past five years. Since 2001/02, full-time enrolment in Toronto’s colleges – Centennial, George Brown, Humber and Seneca –has increased by 8% from total enrolment of 55808 students in 2001/02 to 60,222 students in 2004/05. Full and part time enrolment in Toronto’s universities – the Ontario College of Art and Design, Ryerson, University of Toronto and York – has increased 20.8% over the past five years from total enrolment of 124,430 students in 2001/02 to 150,351 students in 2004/05.<sup>58</sup>

- The number of children waiting to access subsidized child care in Toronto almost doubled from 4,162 in 2004 to 8,209 children in 2006. Given current funding levels, it is estimated that 72% of the City’s low-income children (aged 0-9 years) do not have access to subsidized child care, restricting their parents’ ability to work or attend school.<sup>59</sup>

- In 2005 physical visits to Toronto public libraries increased by 0.8% from 16.9 to 17.0 million visits, while virtual visits increased by 6.3% from 20 to 21 million. Toronto Public Library's circulation last year (30.6 million items in over 40 languages) continued to be the highest in North America.<sup>60</sup>

- Despite a student population that continues to decline in the Toronto District School Board, the number of students suspended by the Board increased again in 2004/05 from 15,254 students in 2003/04 to 15,563 students in 2004/05. 2,305 suspensions were applied to children eight years of age and younger: over 600 suspensions of children six years of age and younger.<sup>61</sup>



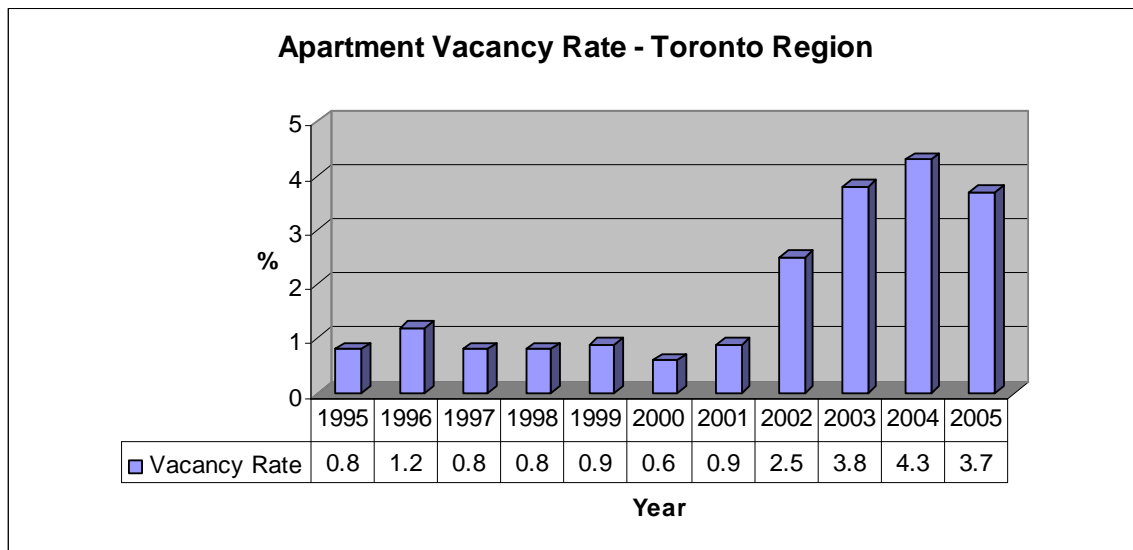
Source: Toronto District School Board

- The cost of first-year tuition in Toronto averaged across the University of Toronto, York University and Ryerson University rose to \$4,779 in 2005 from \$4,184 in 2004<sup>62</sup>, despite a freeze on tuition fees imposed by the province for the 2004/05 and 2005/06 academic years. In comparison, tuition was \$2,929 ten years ago (a 34% increase after adjusting for inflation).<sup>63</sup>
- In 2005/06, 27% of elementary schools fundraised to pay for classroom supplies, consistent with the previous year, but lower than the 33% of schools that fundraised for supplies in 1999/2000.<sup>64</sup>
- In 2005/06, there was, on average, one guidance counselor for every 350 students in Toronto secondary schools, an improvement from the 379 to 1 ratio in 2004/05. 27% of elementary schools reported having regular access to youth workers (this is up from 23% last year but lower than the 32% rate across the province). 39% of Toronto's secondary schools reported having regular access to a youth worker, up from 29%<sup>65</sup> last year, but also lower than the provincial rate of 44%.<sup>66</sup>
- Toronto secondary schools had better access to psychologists and social workers than schools across the province (34% of Toronto secondary schools reported regular access to psychologists compared to 28% province-wide. 76% of Toronto secondary schools reported regular access to social workers, compared to 58% of schools across the province.)<sup>67</sup>
- In the 2005/06 school year, 65% of Toronto's junior elementary classes (junior kindergarten to grade 3) were within the current provincial standard for class size (25 students or less) – an improvement from the 61% of classes in 2004/05. In comparison, 71% of classes met the provincial standard in 2005/06 in the rest of the province.<sup>68</sup>

# Housing

Increased home ownership has driven house prices and apartment vacancy rates up.

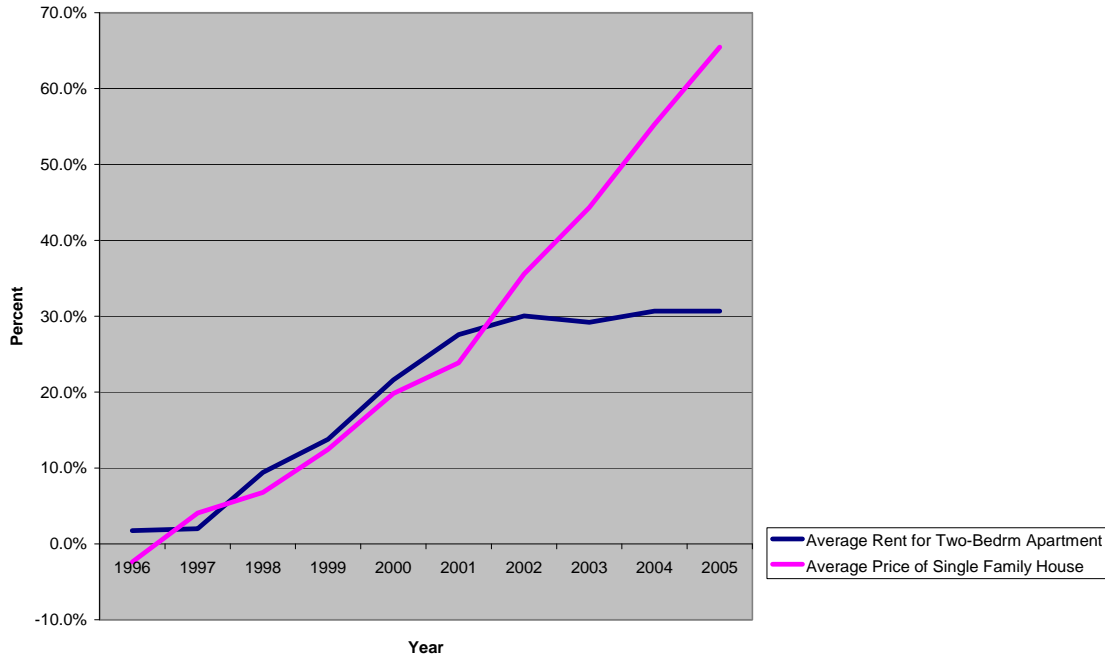
- The Toronto region rental vacancy rate remained high at 3.7% in 2005, <sup>69</sup> down from the 2004 vacancy rate of 4.3%, but the fourth highest level since 1970 (the city's vacancy rates averaged below 2.5% for the preceding 30 years). <sup>70</sup> Vacancy rates in the city of Toronto ranged from 3% in the old city of Toronto to 5% in the East York area. <sup>71</sup>



Source: CMHC (2005) Rental Market Report - Toronto CMA <sup>72</sup>

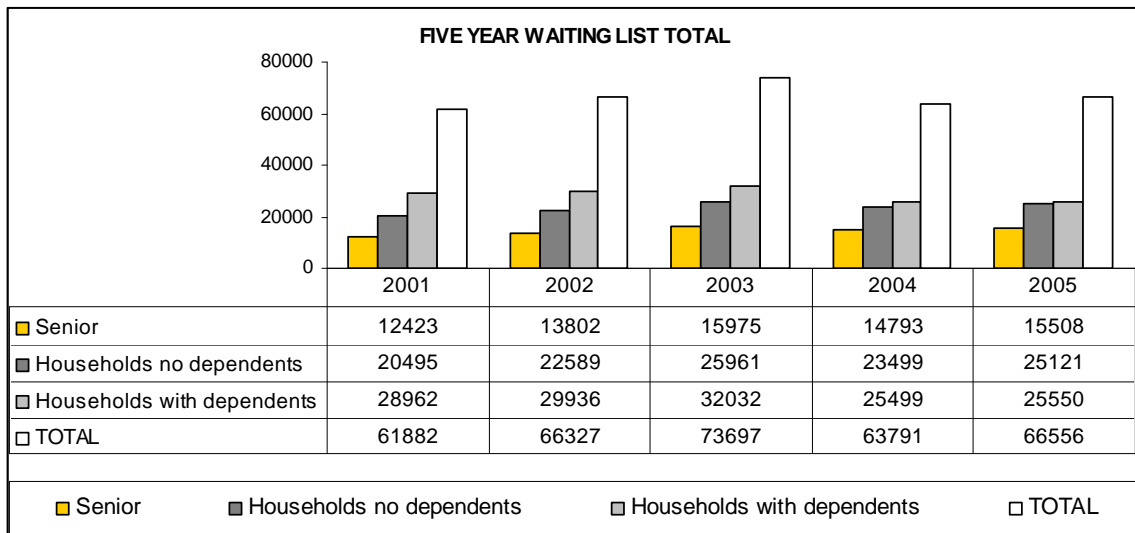
- Average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the Toronto region stayed flat at \$1,052 in 2005. The average sale price of a single family home increased another 6.6% this past year, continuing a climb of 65.5% since 1995. <sup>73</sup>

**Change in Average Rent and Average Home Price over 10 years**



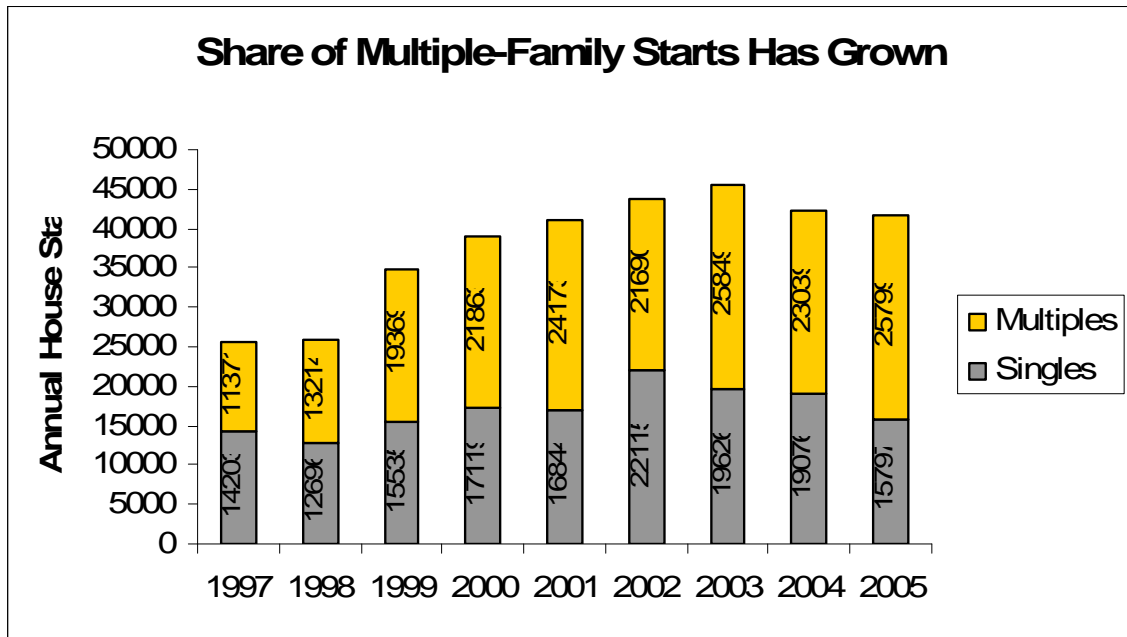
Sources: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Toronto Real Estate Board

- On April 19, 2006, the City of Toronto conducted a Street Needs Assessment to help form a picture of homelessness in the City of Toronto. The assessment estimated that there were 5,052 individuals who were homeless in Toronto on that day, comprised of 3,649 (72%) in shelters, 818 (16%) living on the street, 275 (5%) in health care or treatment facilities, 171 (3%) in shelters for victims of woman abuse, and 139 (3%) in correctional facilities.<sup>74</sup>
- The total waiting list for subsidized housing increased 4.3% in 2005 from 63,791 applications in 2004 to 66,556 in 2005. The active waiting list, defined as those immediately eligible to be offered housing, decreased 2.5% from 49,329 in 2004 to 48,063.<sup>75</sup>



Source: Housing Connections

- In 2005, 66 deaths of homeless people were recorded in Toronto, an increase of 14 over 2004. <sup>77</sup>



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation<sup>78</sup>

# Getting Around

Gridlock has become a daily reality in Toronto and is becoming a competitive disadvantage for the city.<sup>79</sup>

- Delays in the movement of goods due to increased traffic congestion in and around Toronto are estimated to cost businesses and consumers an additional \$1.8 billion dollars per year. The cost of wasted fuel alone has been estimated at \$92-102 million per year in the Toronto region.<sup>80</sup>
- TTC business day ridership increased 3.3% to 1,397,000 in 2005 from 1,350,000 in 2004. A total of 431,220,000 passenger trips were logged in 2005, up 3.1% from 418,099,000 total passenger trips in 2004. Passenger trips using Wheel Trans door-to-door service for people with physical disabilities increased 4.8% from 1,707,528 trips in 2004 to 1,790,724 in 2005.<sup>81</sup>
- In 2005, 23 of the TTC's 69 subway and rapid transit stations had elevators to aid accessibility (up from 20 in 2004). The number of accessible bus routes – those using lift or ramp-equipped buses and low-floor buses - has increased by 80.4% to 83 accessible routes, up from 46 in 2004.<sup>82</sup>
- In 2005, approximately 94,000 more people commuted into the city to their jobs each morning than the number who commuted out. This number has been dropping steadily since 2000 when the net commute into the city was estimated at about 228,000.<sup>83</sup>
- In 2005, 66% of workers in Toronto took 60 minutes or longer to make the round trip commute from home to work.<sup>84</sup>

**Average travel time for making the round trip between home and workplace is increasing**

|                        | 1992 | 1998 | 2005 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|
| <b>Toronto</b>         | 68   | 76   | 79   |
| <b>Montreal</b>        | 62   | 65   | 76   |
| <b>Vancouver</b>       | 70   | 68   | 67   |
| <b>Ottawa-Gatineau</b> | 57   | 62   | 65   |
| <b>Calgary</b>         | 52   | 64   | 66   |
| <b>Edmonton</b>        | 50   | 58   | 62   |
| <b>Autre-RMR/AR</b>    | 44   | 50   | 53   |
| <b>Non RMR/Rural</b>   | 44   | 50   | 54   |

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2005

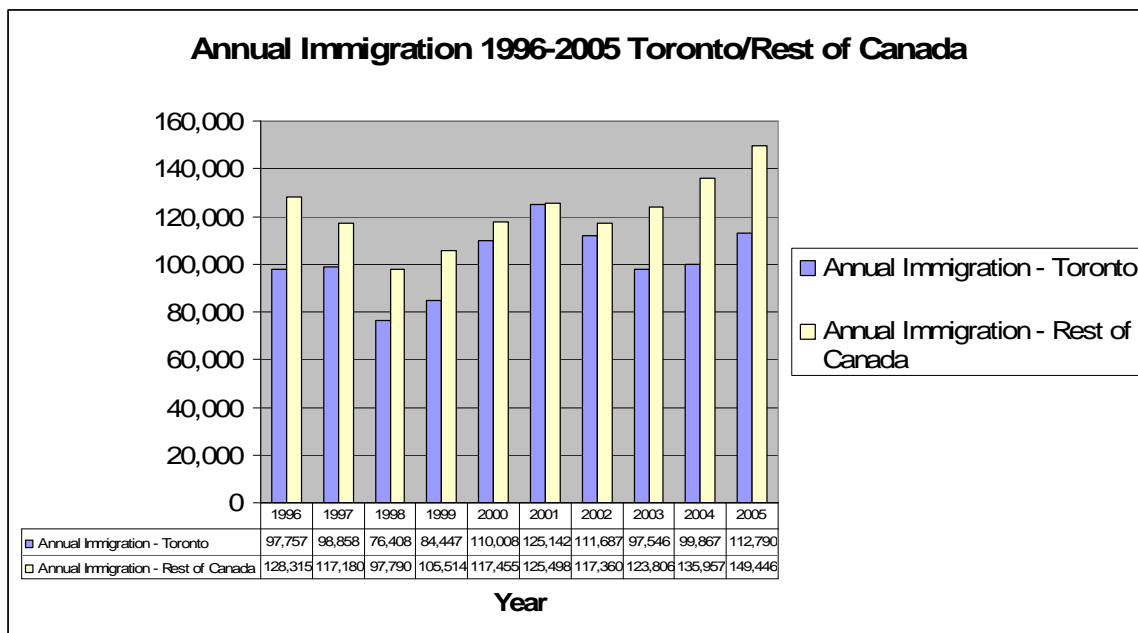
- In 2005, commuters within the Toronto area were found to have the longest commute of any Canadians – an average of 79 minutes for a round trip, or roughly 340 hours in a work year (the equivalent of 8 ½ work weeks (based on a 40 hour work week).<sup>85</sup>
- Only 0.8% of Toronto commuters are reported to cycle to work compared to 1.9% of commuters in Ottawa who travel by bike.<sup>86</sup>

- Trips made by bike or on foot as a proportion of total trips made increases with proximity to Toronto's downtown core. While walk/bike trip share makes up approximately 27% of total trips made in the core area, they fall to 5% of trips in Toronto's outer suburbs.<sup>87</sup>
- Toronto's bikeway network now consists of 321 kilometers of bike lanes, shared roadways, park roads and off-road paths. In 2005 the city added 1,500 new post-and-ring bike stands, bringing the total to over 16,000.<sup>88</sup>

# Getting Started in Toronto

The Toronto region continues to be the destination of choice for immigrants, but in the city, support for integration continues at inadequate levels.

- While about half of the region’s population lives in Toronto, 66% of the region’s recent immigrants live in the city.<sup>89</sup>
- Overall, 47% of immigrants to Canada in 2001 targeted the Toronto region as their intended place of residence and 34% of those aged 15 years and older settled in the Toronto region – more than triple the number that settled in the next two most popular destinations, Vancouver or Montreal.<sup>90</sup>



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada<sup>91</sup>

- From a recent low in 2003, the number of immigrants settling in the Toronto region has started to pick up again. In 2005, the number of new immigrants in Toronto increased by 12.9% over 2004.<sup>92</sup>
- Over the past ten years, annual immigration to Toronto has represented 82.1% of immigration to Ontario as a whole.<sup>93</sup>
- The number of students (JK-Grade 12) who are new arrivals to Canada has been declining since 2001. (“New arrivals” refers to students residing in Canada for one year or less, who were born in a non-English speaking country).<sup>94</sup>
- While 89% of elementary schools in Toronto have students for whom English is a second language, only 43% of elementary schools have an ESL teacher. The number of elementary schools with ESL students, but no ESL teacher, has tripled over the past five years (from 18% in 1999/2000).<sup>95</sup>

- The number of foreign students coming to Toronto increased in 2005 from 10,528 in 2004 to 11,030 in 2005. <sup>96</sup>
- While the number of students (JK-Grade 12) in the Toronto District School Board who are new arrivals to Canada has declined 23% from 2001 to 2004, in 2004/05, almost 50% of students had a mother tongue other than English. <sup>97</sup>
- Between 2001 and 2005, the Toronto region attracted an average of 107,000 international immigrants each year. The city of Toronto welcomed two-thirds (69,000). <sup>98</sup>
- One in five Toronto residents arrived in Canada during the 1990s. <sup>99</sup>

# Arts and Culture

The arts and creative industries are major drivers of Toronto's economy, but the artists are struggling to make a living wage.

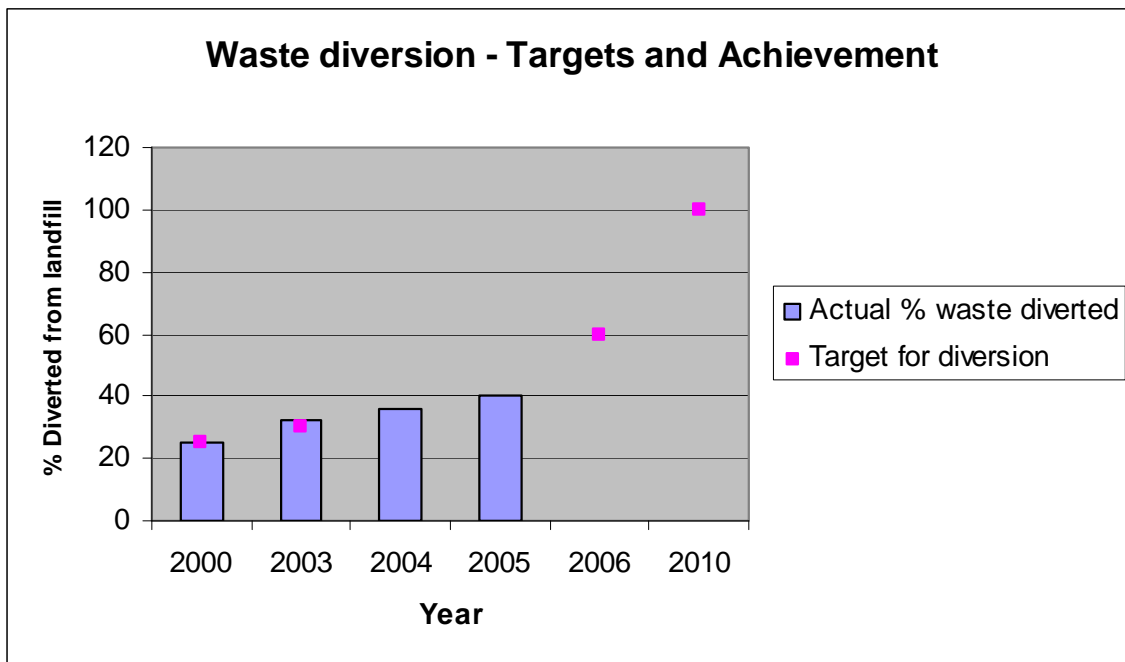
- During ArtsWeek 2005 (September 23 to October 2, 2005) the city was the venue for 330 different visual, performing arts, literary, crafts, community arts events and festivals. This represents a 43% jump in activity over the 230 events that took place during ArtsWeek 2004.<sup>100</sup>
- In 2005 attendance at cultural events funded by the City of Toronto rose by more than 900,000 over 2004 to an estimated 11,580,000 people. This includes 19,554 events at over 230 cultural organizations.<sup>101</sup>
- In the week of June 22, 2006, Toronto had 981 listings for music, theatre, dance, comedy, movies and gallery showings – compared 213 in Vancouver and 761 in Montreal in the same week. Chicago had 993 in the same week.<sup>102</sup>
- In a ranking of Canadian cities based on 2001 data, Toronto was ranked fifth 'most artistic' among large Canadian cities (50,000 residents or more) with respect to artists as a portion of its total labour force (1.6%). Toronto trails first placed Vancouver (2.4%), Victoria (2.0%), Montreal (1.9%) and North Vancouver (1.8%) and was just ahead of sixth placed Verdun and St. John's at 1.3%. In 1991, based on 1991 municipal boundaries, Toronto, with a 2.5% concentration of artists led the country.<sup>103</sup>
- With a growth of 35% over the period 1991-2001, growth in Toronto's artistic labour force was approximately 13 times the growth of the city's labour force in general. Toronto artists represent 40% of all Ontario artists, while the overall Toronto labour force represents 21% of the total Ontario labour force.<sup>104</sup>
- In 2001 the City of Toronto led the country in terms of its absolute number of resident artists (21,000), with about twice as many artists as second-placed Montreal (10,100), and almost three times as many as third-placed Vancouver (7,300).<sup>105</sup>
- Toronto artists had the highest average earnings in 2001 (\$34,100) among artists in large Canadian cities, but still earned about 11% less than the average of other Toronto workers.<sup>106</sup>
- Dancers in the city were the lowest paid artist group with average annual earnings of only \$18,542 (2001). Artisans and craftspeople were only marginally ahead with average earnings of \$20,084 and other performers (excluding dancers, musicians and singers) earned an average of \$20,262. To put that in perspective, the low income (after-tax) cut-off level for a single person in 2001 was \$15,559.<sup>107</sup>
- The film and television industry provides approximately 25,000 jobs in Toronto, making it one of the city's largest employers. In 2005, film and television production companies spent \$898.25 million filming on-location in Toronto, a 5% decrease in total production spending compared to the \$949.1 million reported in 2004 and continuing a decrease of over 5% annually over the past 5 years.<sup>108</sup>
- The value of film and television production spending in Toronto by US companies increased 7% from \$398.4 million in spending in 2004 to \$425.2 in 2005. The value of feature film production spending rose 21% from \$294.457 million in 2004 to \$355.522 million in 2005.<sup>109</sup>

- Over a five-year period, however, there has been a general decline in the value of productions (film and television) filmed on-location in Toronto:
  - 3% decrease in major production spending
  - 4% decrease in U.S. production spending,
  - 1% decrease in Canadian production spending,
  - 6% increase in feature film production spending,
  - 18% decrease in overall made-for-television movie production spending,
  - 17% decrease in commercial production spending,
  - 8% decrease in music video production spending.<sup>110</sup>

# Environment

2005 saw a record number of smog days and no significant progress in waste reduction or water consumption.

- In 2005, residential water consumption was estimated at 252 litres per person per day - up 3% from the 244 litres consumed per person in 2004 and virtually unchanged from the estimated 251 litres per person in 2003. <sup>111</sup>
- In its 2005 Litter Audit, the City reported a 4% reduction in litter compared to 2004 and a 20% reduction from 2002 baseline levels. Plastic packaging and paper waste, like napkins and printed material, were the two most common categories of large litter. Chewing gum and cigarette waste were the two most common categories of small litter. <sup>112</sup>
- The amount of waste produced by each resident decreased again in 2005 to approximately 206 kg (down 7% from the 223 kg in 2004, and down almost 17% from 2003). But while Toronto managed 40% waste diversion in 2005 (up from 32% in 2003), it still has a way to go to meet the 2006 target of 60%. <sup>113</sup>

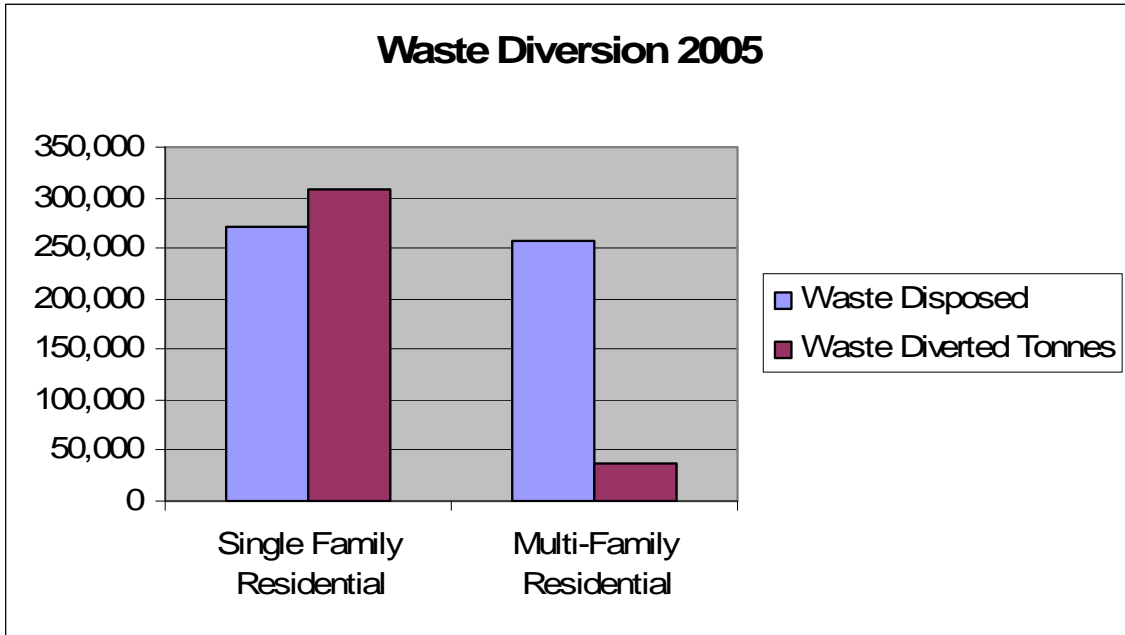


Source: City of Toronto, Solid Waste Management Services

- Toronto's beaches were safe for swimming 56% of the time in 2005, about the same as in 2004 (55% of the time). By comparison, Toronto's beaches in 2002 were open for swimming 71% of the time. While Toronto's four Blue Flag-designated beaches (Woodbine, Cherry, Ward's Island and Hanlan's Point) were only closed due to high bacteria levels an average of 12% of the time, Toronto's four most polluted beaches (Bluffer's, Rouge, Sunnyside and Marie Curtis) were closed 76% of the time. <sup>114</sup>

- In 2005, Toronto experienced a total of 48 smog alert days – the highest number since the Ontario Ministry of the Environment started issuing smog advisories in 1993 and more than double the second highest year (2001), which had 20 smog alert days).<sup>115</sup>

- By 2005, single-family homes in the city had achieved a waste diversion rate of 53%, up from 48% in 2004 and leading the city average of 40%. Waste diversion in multi-family dwellings on the other hand lagged behind with 2005 diversion of only 13%, up only slightly from 12% in 2004. 50 percent of Toronto’s housing stock consists of multi-family dwellings.<sup>116</sup>

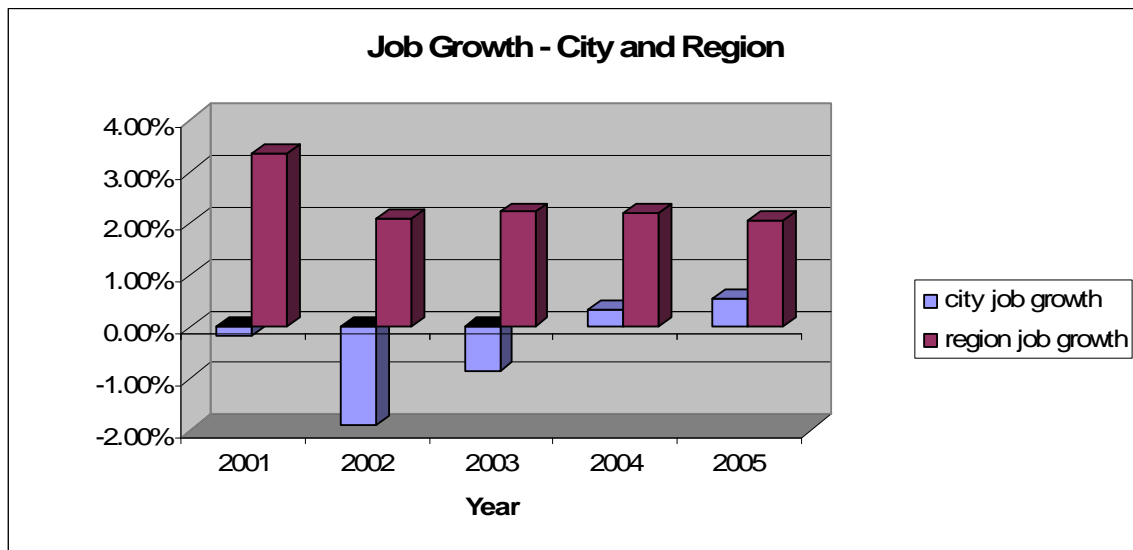


Source: Solid Waste Management Services, City of Toronto<sup>117</sup>

# Work

More are working, but the nature of the work is changing in Toronto.

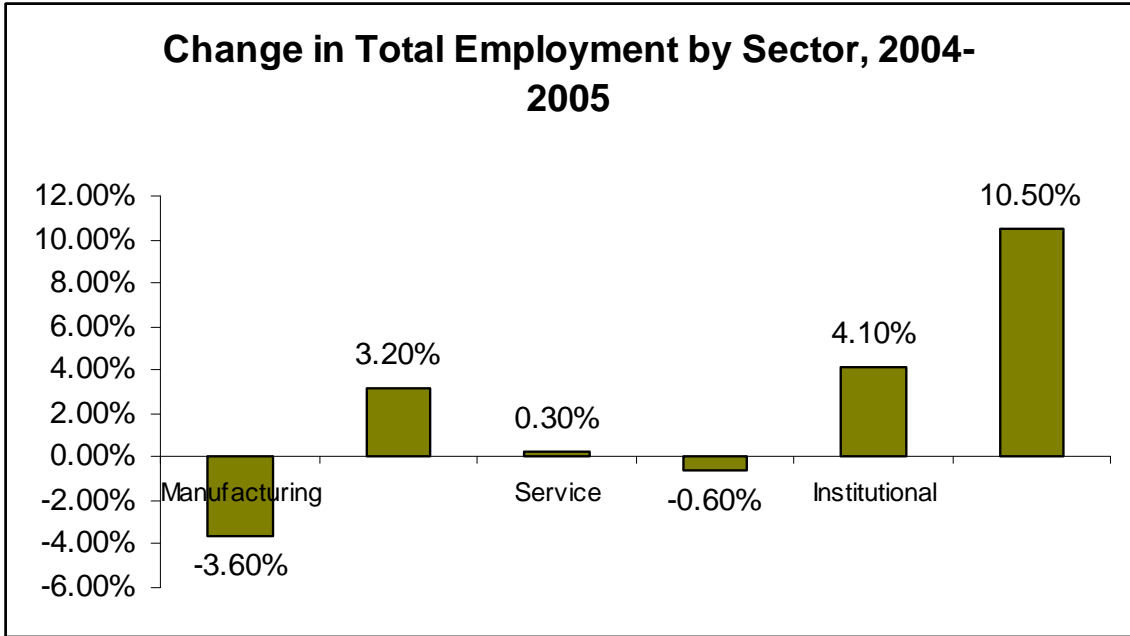
- Employment in the City increased in 2005 for the second year in a row rising by 0.9% from the recent low of 2003. In 2005, approximately 1,262,700 people were employed in 71,500 establishments. That's 7,100 more employees in 100 fewer establishments than in 2004. <sup>118</sup>
- Toronto's unemployment rate was 8% in 2005, down from 8.4% in 2004. The Toronto region as a whole, which has maintained an unemployment rate lower than the city over the past ten years, had an unemployment rate of 7% in 2005, down from 7.5% in 2004. <sup>119</sup>



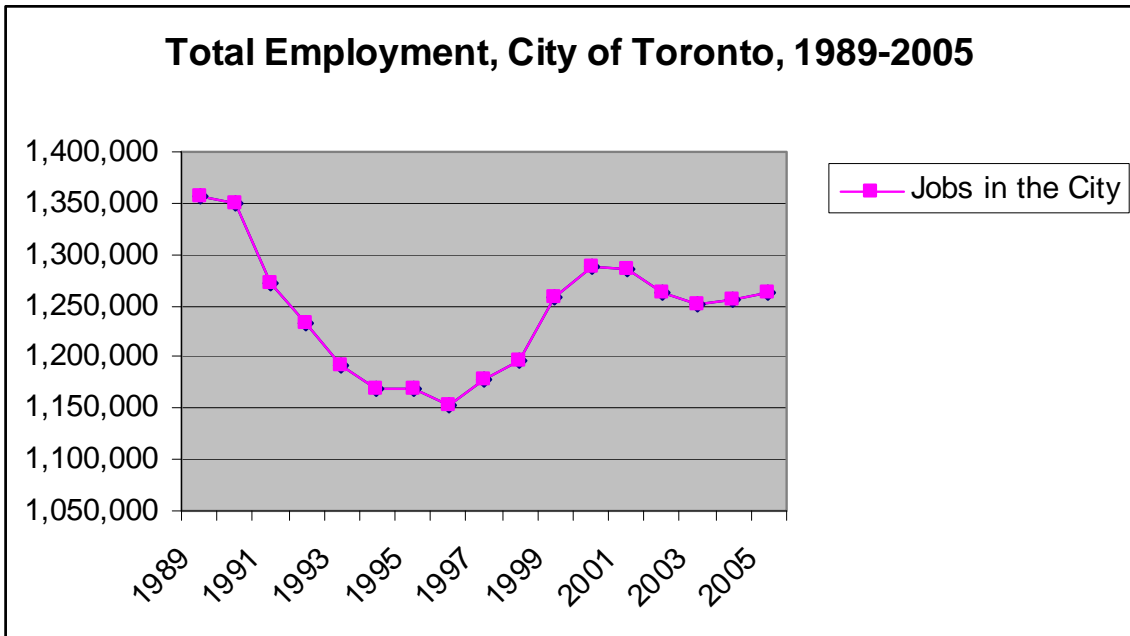
Source: City of Toronto, Economic Development <sup>120</sup>

- Unemployment among youth in Toronto (aged 15-24) was 15.8% in 2005, improved slightly from 17% in 2004. Among young women, the unemployment rate was 12.2% compared to 19.2% among young men in the same age group. <sup>121</sup>
- The majority of establishments in the City of Toronto (55%) employed four people or fewer in 2005. The total number of business establishments in the city has decreased by 1,000 over the past five years. Since 2001, the city has lost 400 manufacturing establishments with smaller drops in the office and retail sectors. Over that period, however, establishments have increased in the city's institutional, service and "other" sector, which includes entertainment, community and recreation facilities. <sup>122</sup>
- In 2005, there was an increase of 7,700 jobs in the institutional sector while there was a loss of 6,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector. The largest share of jobs continues to be found in the office sector, with 573,900 or 45.5% of jobs in 2005. <sup>123</sup>

| Toronto Jobs by Sector |     |                      |     |
|------------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Office sector          | 45% | Manufacturing sector | 13% |
| Institutional sector   | 16% | Service sector       | 11% |
| Other sector           | 3%  |                      |     |



- For a fifth straight year, the number of foreign workers (temporary residents) Toronto received declined (from 12,814 in 2004 to 12,529 in 2005).<sup>124</sup>
- Of the 1,262,700 jobs in the city in 2005, 989,100 or 78.3% were full-time and 273,600 or 21.7% were part-time in 2005. Full-time employment grew this past year by 800 jobs, while part-time employment grew by 6,300 jobs. The proportions of full-time and part-time employment have remained relatively constant over the past decade. As a percentage of total employment, full-time jobs have declined slightly from 79.9% in 1995 to 78.3% in 2005 while part-time jobs increased correspondingly from 20.1% in 1995 to 21.7% in 2005.<sup>125</sup>



Source: Employment Survey, City of Toronto<sup>126</sup>

- In 2005, there were approximately 473,400 jobs in Toronto's Downtown and Centres (Etobicoke Centre, North York Centre, Scarborough Centre and Yonge-Eglinton) – about 38% of all jobs. The proportion of jobs concentrated in these five areas has remained fairly consistent over the past five years, though 14,300 jobs in these areas have been lost since 2001.<sup>127</sup>

# Belonging and Leadership

Torontonians think the feeling of belonging to a community is important and they're creating it.

- In a 2002 survey conducted in 44 countries, Canada was the only place in the world where a majority of the population (77%) regarded the influence of immigrants as a positive. <sup>128</sup>
- This year, a survey of 3,700 residents in the Toronto region reconfirmed this spirit of building community across differences. A majority of respondents found the opportunity to interact with people different from themselves to be more appealing than interacting with people like themselves. And they ranked "people together to make a better world for the less fortunate" the kind of community they wanted to be an important part of their lives. <sup>129</sup>
- On June 10, 2003, the City of Toronto opened the door to same-sex marriage by beginning to issue licenses to same-sex couples. In 2005, 901 marriage licenses (5.7% of all marriage licenses issued last year) were issued to same-sex couples. To the end of 2005, a total of 3,249 same-sex marriage licenses have been issued in Toronto. <sup>130</sup>
- In 2005 the community raised \$96.3 million for the United Way of Greater Toronto, \$6.1 million more than the \$90.2 million contributed in 2004. Ten years ago, by comparison, the annual campaign raised \$52.1 million. <sup>131</sup>
- In 2004, 460,650 Toronto tax filers donated a total of \$984.5 million to charities (up from the 435,570 Toronto tax filers who donated a total of \$958.6 million to charities in 2003). Consistent with 2003, a higher percentage of tax filers in Toronto made donations in 2004 (26%) compared with those in Vancouver (24%) and Montreal (19%). Torontonians' median donation was the highest as well: \$370, compared to \$310 median donation in Vancouver and \$150 in Montreal. <sup>132</sup>
- Between 2001 and 2005, the Toronto CMA attracted an average of 107,000 international immigrants each year, The City of Toronto welcomed two thirds (69,000). <sup>133</sup>
- Fully one in five Toronto residents arrived in this country during the 1990s <sup>134</sup>
- One in four children between 5 and 16 in the City of Toronto are new immigrants having arrived between 1991 and 2001 <sup>135</sup>

While the City of Toronto had 48.7 per cent of the Toronto region's population in 2001, we were home to:

- 57.8% of all immigrants in the region (1,214,625)
- 64.4% of all new immigrants that arrived in the region during the 1990s (516,635)
- 60.4% of all residents in the region who identified as belonging to a visible minority (1,051,125) <sup>136</sup>
- In Toronto, the top ten ethnic groups make up less than 45% of the population. <sup>137</sup>
- With ethnic origins in over 200 different countries around the world, Toronto's population is linguistically rich. In the Toronto region, 40.8% of residents in 2001 identified languages other than English and French as having been learned first and still understood. <sup>138</sup>

# Vital Signs: Community Foundations Taking the Pulse of Canadian Communities

In 2006, *Toronto's Vital Signs* is being replicated for the first time by other community foundations across the country. Corresponding with the release of Toronto's fifth edition are the first issues of local *Vital Signs* reports in Victoria, Vancouver and Ottawa with more community foundations preparing to launch similar reports in the coming year.

*Vital Signs* is being coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada. For a gateway to all the Vital Signs reports across Canada, see: [www.vitalsignscanada.ca](http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca)

## **Common Indicators Across Canada**

One of the goals of the national Vital Signs project is to create a common framework for measuring quality of life in communities that will provide us with a picture of important trends and issues at the local level, across the country.

# Have We Done a Good Job on Toronto's Vital Signs 2006?

Click on this link to provide us with your feedback on Toronto's Vital Signs.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=104932522044>

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