

TORONTO'S
VitalSigns[®]

2016 Report



A business card for Sandra Jackson. On the left is a cartoon illustration of a woman with short red hair and a wide smile. To the right, the name "Sandra Jackson" is written in a black cursive font. Below the name, the contact information "cell 416-579-7862" and "SJ@SandraJackson.biz" is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font.



**TORONTO
FOUNDATION**

October 4, 2016

About this Report

About the Toronto Foundation

Established in 1981, Toronto Foundation is one of 191 Community Foundations in Canada. We pool philanthropic dollars and facilitate charitable donations for maximum community impact. Our individual, family and organizational funds number more than 500 and we administer more than \$400 million in assets. Through the Vital Toronto Fund, we engage in city building, mobilizing people and resources to increase the quality of life in Toronto.

About the Report

The Foundation partners with many researchers to produce the Toronto's Vital Signs® Report. The Report is compiled from current statistics and studies, identifying progress we should be proud of and challenges that need to be addressed. It is a consolidated snapshot of the trends and issues affecting the quality of life in our city and each of the interconnected issue areas is critical to the wellbeing of Toronto and its residents. Citations at the end of each issue area section, and live web links throughout, will take you directly to the sources used in this year's Report.

The Report aims to inspire civic engagement and provide focus for public debate in our communities and around the world. It is used by residents, businesses, community organizations, universities and colleges, and government departments. In addition, the Report is a model now being used by cities around the world.

Your Guide for Discussion and Action

As you read through this Report, consider the Vital Questions posed throughout. We have lots to be proud of, but there are also things we need to think about in order to shift some troubling trends.

Ask yourself:

- What issues do I care about?
- What data surprises me?
- How can I get involved to make a difference?

About the Community Knowledge Centre

At www.ckc.torontofoundation.ca you will find an online showcase of more than 260 organizations working on solutions to the issues identified in this Report. Through video and prose, it presents stories of innovations taking place in our city and provides you with an opportunity to get involved.

At the end of each issue area section in this Report, you will find the names of groups that are addressing the trends and data reported through their innovative community-based programs. Live web links connect you to their profiles on the Community Knowledge Centre.

About Community Foundations

Community Foundations are independent public foundations that strengthen their communities by partnering with donors to build permanent endowments and other funds, which support community projects, and by providing leadership on issues of broad community concern.

Vital Signs is a national program led by community foundations and coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada that leverages local knowledge to measure the vitality of our communities and supports action towards improving our quality of life. Started by the Toronto Foundation in 2001, today more than 80 communities around the world use Vital Signs to mobilize the power of community knowledge for greater local impact.

VitalSigns®

Community foundations taking the pulse of
Canadian communities.



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA
all for community.

Welcome to the 15th Toronto's Vital Signs Report

Ten issue areas and hundreds of data points over 15 years. That's what Toronto Foundation has tracked since the 2001 launch of Toronto's Vital Signs.

Vital Signs – our report on the quality of life in Toronto – has been a welcome and necessary addition to this city and is read by a million people each year. The report also spurred a global movement: Vital Signs has been replicated in more than 80 communities worldwide.

What have we learned in 15 years of producing Vital Signs?

First, that your view of Toronto depends on who you are and where you live. For instance, if you live in one of Toronto's low-income neighbourhoods, you may be in a "food swamp" where unhealthy food choices abound. And if Toronto wants to be truly healthy, it must also be equitable.

The other thing we've learned is that good people with innovative ideas are required to shape this city's future. Happily, this is something Toronto has in spades, as we've discovered over many years of working on solutions to the issues identified in Toronto's Vital Signs.

This year's Vital Signs Report features where (in the 10 issue areas we track each year) Toronto is doing well, including on the environment, in education, and civic engagement. You'll also see areas where improvement is needed, from hunger and child poverty, to housing and mental health. Plus, you'll discover where Toronto stands on the global stage, its demographic make-up, and economic position.

We encourage you to check out the Toronto Star special section which shares highlights of Toronto's Vital Signs 2016, along with articles written by *Toronto Star* writers who have produced a series of fascinating stories about what people are doing across this city to make Toronto a success and improve quality of life for all. It also features interviews with three experts who take a look at this year's data and share their insights about what it says about Toronto's future. You can find this special section at torontosvitalsigns.ca.

The Full Report is overflowing with information and insights that we believe you will find useful for your family and where you live and work. We know this first hand. We bring together diverse partners to help us build the Vital Signs Report. And the report then becomes a call to action for city builders – including philanthropists – convened by the Toronto Foundation to tackle complex challenges and identify solutions.

This fifteenth report is an important milestone. But let us assure you that we are not just looking back – our focus is squarely on the future. Toronto is firmly rooted in a global community of leading cities. Let's strengthen what's going well and work together to build an even healthier – and more equitable – Toronto.



John Barford
Chair, Board of Directors



Sharon Avery
President & CEO

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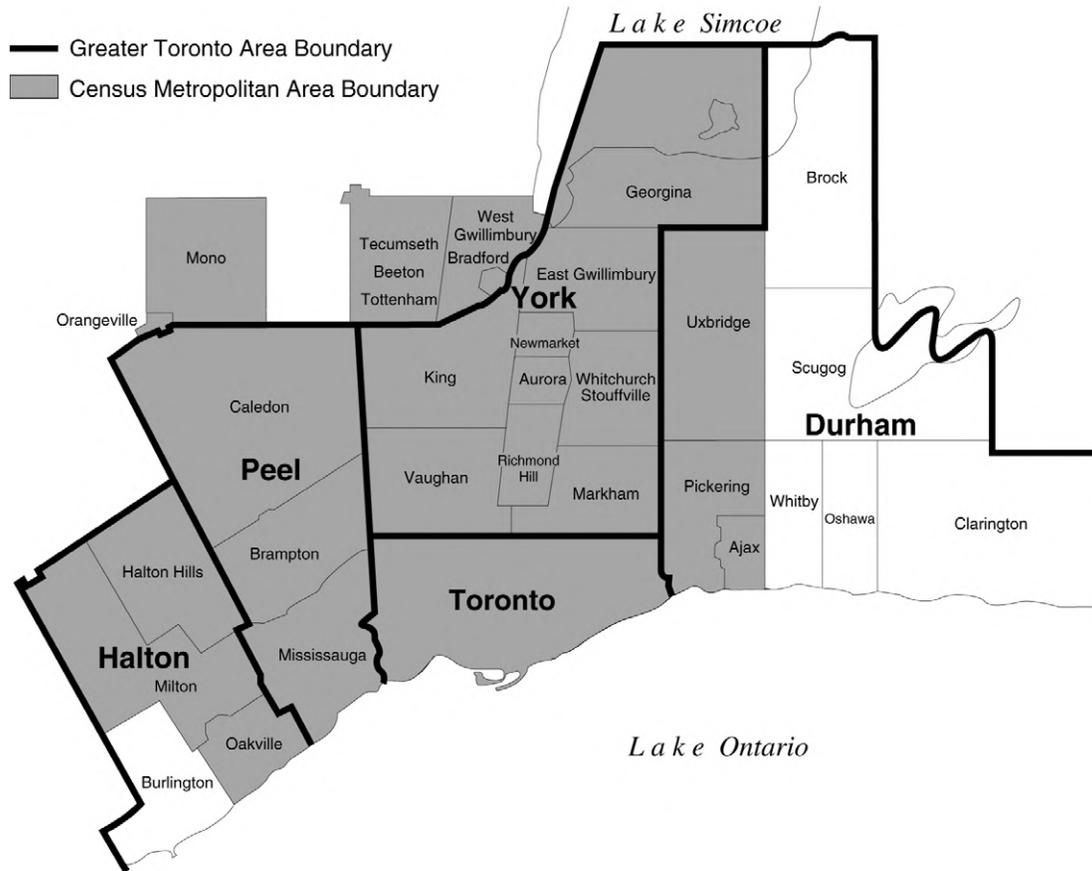
Understanding this Report

1. The following definitions are used frequently throughout the Report (also see the [Glossary](#) for a complete list of definitions).
 - “Toronto” or “the city” refers to the formal boundaries of the city of Toronto, consisting of the former municipalities of Toronto, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York and the Borough of East York. “The City of Toronto” or “City” refers to the municipal government. The “Province” refers to the provincial government.
 - The “Toronto Region” or “Region” refers to the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the largest metropolitan area in Canada, stretching from Ajax and Pickering on the east, to Milton on the west and Tecumseth and Georgina on the north.

The Toronto Region is an area slightly smaller than the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) 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.

- The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) refers to the entire area covered by the Region of Halton, Region of Peel, Region of York, Region of Durham and city of Toronto. The area is slightly larger than the Toronto CMA.

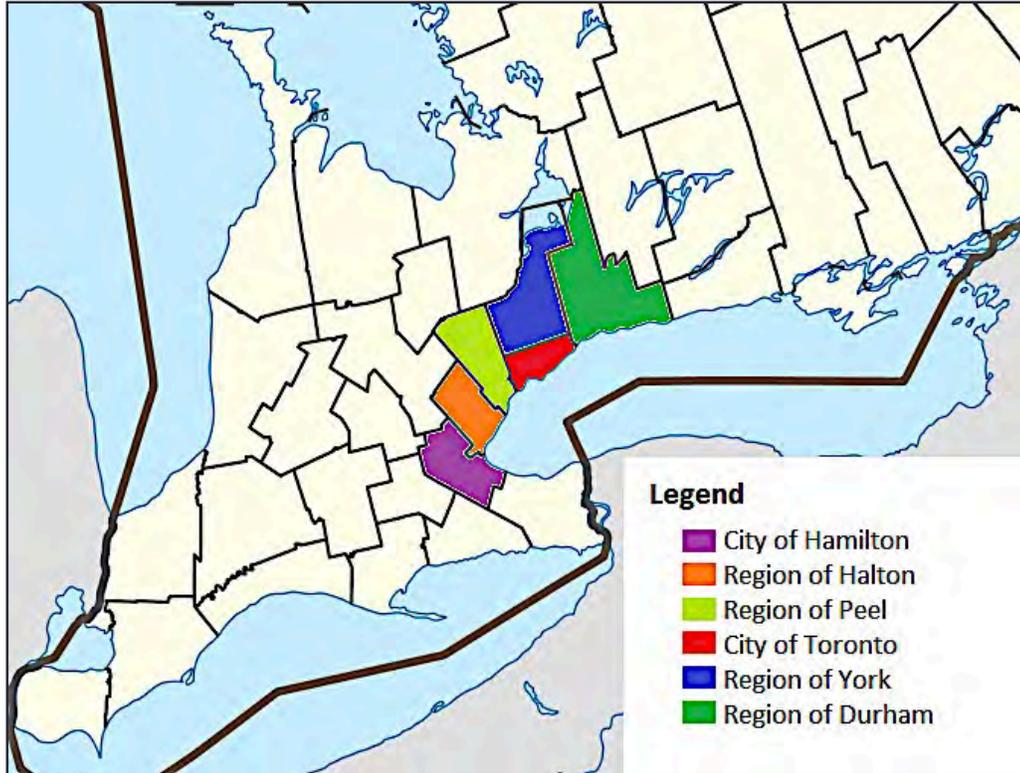
Census Metropolitan Area (Toronto Region) and the Greater Toronto Area



Source: City of Toronto, Toronto Economic Development and Culture. Prepared by Toronto Urban Planning and Development Services, Presentation Graphics, 1997

- The Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) refers to the GTA region and the City of Hamilton. It is increasingly becoming a dominant unit of planning in Southern Ontario, particularly with regard to transit.

The Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA)



Food bank

2. The Report is divided into 13 chapters organized by issue area for ease of reference. However, each issue area is intimately connected to all the others. Readers will discover many examples, such as socio-economic indicators in the Health section illustrating the connection between poverty and health inequities, and employment and income data in the chapter on Leadership, Civic Engagement and Belonging pointing to linkages between the security of one's employment, their income, and their likelihood to vote.
3. Throughout the Report, there are a number of Vital Questions raised. These questions are intended to stimulate your own questions, and act as a catalyst for reflection, conversation, and action.
4. Links to organizations directly cited are included in text. Citations are listed at the end of each indicator (which may contain several bulleted points).
5. This Report occasionally uses data from the Statistics Canada 2011 Census National Household Survey (NHS), the most recent census for which data is currently available. The NHS excludes a portion of the 2006 (and earlier) census population, and data were collected in a voluntary survey, making the results vulnerable to non-response bias. As a result, NHS data cannot be compared reliably with those from earlier Census releases. Comparisons with previous census periods should be considered with caution.

6. We have included a précis at the start of each issue area. They list some of the key indicators we look to over a longer period of time to help us understand where Toronto is making progress and where there has been decline, along with summary comments that speak to why the data is important, and what some of the key trends and new findings are. More detail and other trends are outlined in the text that follows, along with indicators from relevant recent research and occasional reports.
7. To ensure clarity and accuracy of the data being presented, we have opted to use the same terminology used in the research and studies referenced. As a result, there may be instances throughout the Report where inconsistent terminology is used to describe concepts that are the same or that overlap (e.g. “visible minority” versus “racialized,” “LGBTQ*” versus “LGBTTIQ,” or “Aboriginal” versus “Indigenous”).
8. Ideas and Innovations that may point the way forward for Toronto are identified with the following icon:



9. Data, or ideas and innovations that come from outside Canada are included to help provide international context for interpreting Toronto’s experience. Throughout the Report, data or ideas and innovations that speak to an international context are identified with the following icon:



10. The Toronto’s Vital Signs Report includes data and studies that speak to anticipated projections based on past trends and future implications. These narratives help consider future actions and interventions. Those that incorporate future projections are signified by the following icon:



Toronto's Demographics

Why is this important?

The size and makeup of the city's population has major implications for city planners, school boards, businesses, health care institutions, and community organizations—in fact, for everybody.

What are the trends?

The Toronto Region's population base is one of the fastest growing in Canada; growth between 2001 and 2014 equaled 87% of the total population of Calgary in 2015. More than half of the global population (54%) now lives in cities, and by 2050 it is expected to grow to 66%. Toronto has more than twice the proportion of recent immigrants (8.4%) as Canada (3.5%). Toronto's population continues to age. Seniors represent 15% of the city's residents, and it has been projected that the GTA will have absorbed more than half the provincial increase in the over-75 population between 2011 and 2016.

What's new?

Although immigration has been one of the city's main sources of growth, its share as a source of population growth declined by almost a fifth from 2011 to 2013. However, 40% of Toronto's youth moved who here within the last five years did so for better opportunities. As in other major North American cities, transit infrastructure in Toronto is being overwhelmed by the numbers of people who are increasingly choosing to live and work downtown. Meanwhile, the return of the long-form census is good news for city leaders, increasing their ability to plan.

How is Toronto's population growing?

The GTA (2015 population estimate: 6,625,695¹) accounted for 72% of total Ontario population growth between 2006 and 2011²:

- A projection based on the 2011 National Household Survey estimates that the Region will grow an average 1.6% (or 108,766 persons) annually between 2014 and 2019, bringing the population to almost 7.1 million.³

The Toronto Region's population base is one of the fastest growing in Canada:

- In 2015, 44.4% of Ontarians lived in the Toronto Region, which had a population of 6,129,934 (up 2.7% from 5,966,417 in 2013). Between 2000 and 2015, the Region's population increased by 28.65% (from 4,764,739), with an average annual increase of 1.6%.⁴
- It is estimated that between 2001 (when the population was 4,882,782) and 2015 the Region added 1,247,152 people, or 87% of the population of Calgary in 2015 (1,439,756).⁵
- Almost half (46.4%) of the Region's population in 2014 lived within the city of Toronto.⁶
- Almost one in five Canadians (18.1% of the total population) lived in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in 2011.⁷

Canada's Top 10 CMAs Ranked by Population and Projected Population Growth, 2014–2019:⁸

2019 RANK	CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA	2014	2019	AVERAGE ANNUAL CHANGE 2014–2019	AVERAGE ANNUAL % CHANGE 2014–2019
1	Toronto, ON	6,552,370	7,096,202	108,766	1.6
2	Montréal, QC	4,186,281	4,473,317	57,407	1.3
3	Vancouver, BC	2,483,571	2,707,138	44,713	1.7
4	Calgary, AB	1,499,616	1,670,946	34,266	2.2
5	Edmonton, AB	1,355,671	1,487,085	26,283	1.8
6	Ottawa-Gatineau, ON-QC	1,279,928	1,399,934	24,001	1.8
7	Quebec City, QC	796,452	853,495	11,409	1.4
8	Winnipeg, MB	708,765	742,707	6,788	0.9
9	Hamilton, ON	554,172	599,560	9,078	1.6
10	Kitchener-Waterloo, ON	543,980	592,889	9,782	1.7

The City of Toronto's population grew by 4.5% between 2006 and 2011 (from 2,503,281 to 2,615,060):

- The growth represents a 5.4% increase (from 2,481,494) since 2001. 20.3% of Ontario's 12,851,821 people lived in Toronto in 2011.⁹
- In 2015, Toronto's population had reached 2,826,497, up 0.78% from 2,804,607 in 2014. Growth was slightly higher between 2014 and 2013 (+0.99%) and between 2013 and 2012 (+1.31%).¹⁰



- These urbanization trends reflect similar shifts occurring the world over—more than half (54%) of the global population now lives in urban areas, and the proportion of the world’s population living in urban areas is expected to increase to 66% by 2050.¹¹

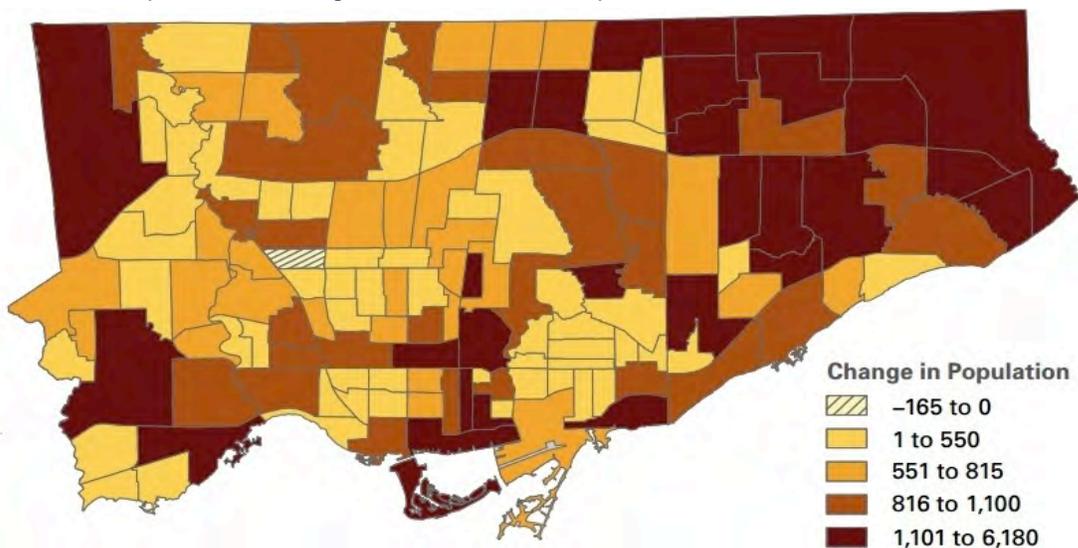


Toronto’s median age is 39.2 years, but figures from 2011 (the most recent census we have data for) illustrate an ongoing demographic shift that will see the proportion of seniors in Toronto grow from one in seven Canadians in 2011 to about one in four by 2036¹²:

- In 2011 the median age of Toronto’s population was 39.2 years, slightly younger than Ontario’s (40.4 years) and Canada’s (40.6 years). Toronto’s median age has increased by 2.3 years since 2001, from 36.9.
 - Of the total population in Toronto, 15% were under 14, 71.1% were between 15 and 64, and 14.4% were 65 and over. Comparatively, 19.6% of Ontario’s population is under 14, 68.4% are between 15 and 64, and 14.6% are 65 and older.¹³
- Toronto’s fastest growing population segment in 2011 was 85 and older.¹⁴
- The GTA was projected to absorb more than half the provincial increase in the over-75 group between 2011 and 2016 (more than 60,000 people).¹⁵
- Long-term care homes are dealing with residents who are older, more frail, and have more complex care needs (as of 2010, only seniors with high or very high care needs are eligible for long-term care).¹⁶
- According to estimates since the 2011 census, seniors (65+) made up 15.04% of the Toronto population in 2015, up from 14.77% in 2014, 14.50% in 2013, 14.21% in 2012, and 13.98 in 2011.¹⁷
 - Seniors made up 13.9% of the population of the Region in 2015 (compared to 16% in Ontario, and 16.1% in Canada), an increase of 2.2% from 2014. Between 2001 and 2015 the proportion of seniors in the Region’s population increased by 27.1%.¹⁸
 - The number of adults 55 years and older has increased in all but one of Toronto’s neighbourhoods over a 10-year period.¹⁹



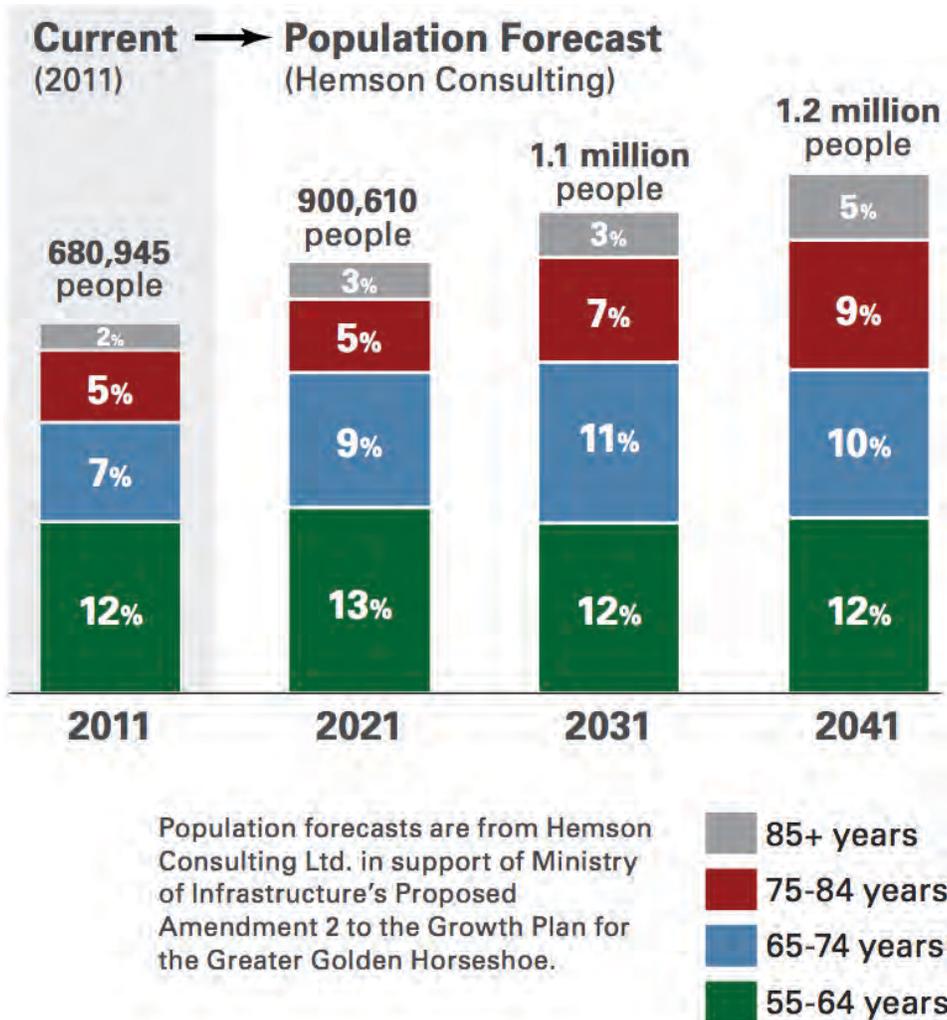
Population Change in Older Adult Population 55+, Toronto, 2001-2011:²⁰



Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2001 and 2011. Map prepared by City of Toronto Social Development Finance and Administration.

- 2011 Census data indicate that over one in five Torontonians (22%) 55 years and older live alone. The percentage doubles for Toronto’s oldest citizens—44% of those 85 and older live alone.
- Multiple estimates forecast significant growth in Toronto’s older adult population.²¹

Forecasted Percentage of Older Adults in Toronto’s Total Population:²²



Source: Statistics Canada 2011 Census. Prepared by Hemson Consulting, 2012.

- The share of the city’s population who are youth aged 15-24 has remained relatively stable over the last decade. Youth accounted for 13.09% of the population in 2006, and 12.79% in 2015.²³
 - The share of children (under 15) has declined slightly over the past decade, from 16.0% of the city’s population in 2006 to 14.25% in 2015. In comparison, children represented 15.9% of Ontario’s population, and 16.04% of Canada’s.²⁴

More than half of the Region’s young adults live with their parents:

- In 2011 56.3% of young adults (aged 20-29) lived in their parental home—33.1% higher than the national rate of 42.3%, and 5.7 percentage points higher than the provincial average of 50.6%.
- Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of young adults living with their parents had increased by 2.3 percentage points.²⁵

Toronto’s proportion of single-parent families is decreasing, but remains much higher than the proportion across the province and the country:

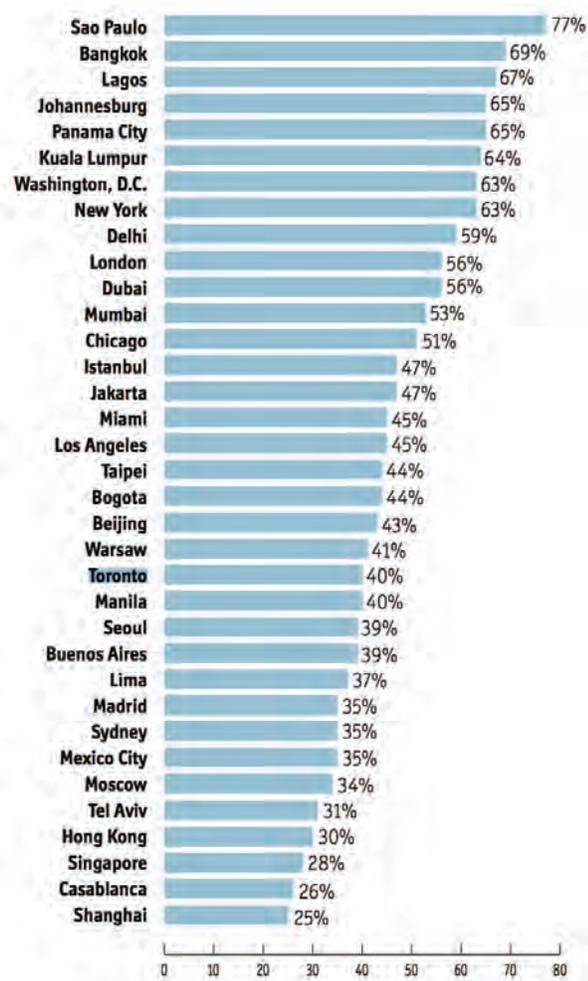
- In 2011 single parents headed one of every five families (146,990 families or 21.3%), a decrease of 6.2 percentage points from 2001 (from 130,870 or 27.5% of families). Comparatively, in 2011 16.3% of Canadian families and 16.7% of Ontario’s were single-parent families.²⁶

40% of Toronto’s youth moved here within the last five years, and they did so for better opportunities:

According to a global youth [survey](#) by The Economist’s Intelligence Unit, 40% of Toronto respondents (150 youth between 18 and 25) reported moving to their city within the last five years for school, work, or a better life.

- Toronto ranked 22nd of the 35 cities surveyed (see chart).²⁸

Percentage of Respondents Moving for School, Work, or a Better Life, Last Five Years:²⁷



Are immigrants still choosing Toronto to live, work, and play?

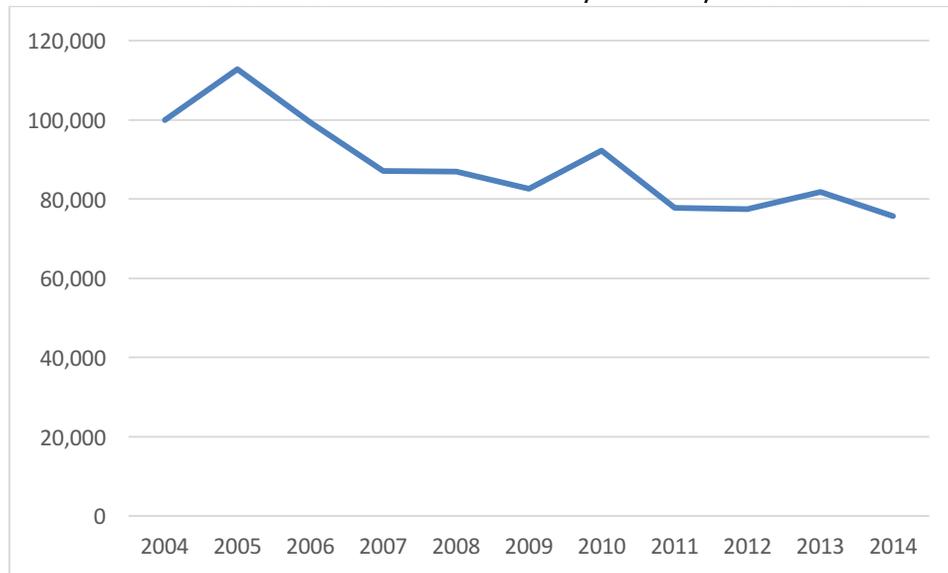
Almost a third of Torontonians arrived in the city between 1991 and 2011:

- 30.7% of the city's 2011 population—790,895 (including non-permanent residents) of a total population of 2,576,025—arrived in the two decades before the 2011 NHS.²⁹
- 216,525 immigrants moved to Toronto between 2006 and 2011. In 2011 immigrants in the city numbered 1,252,215—48.6% of the population. 1,258,870 Canadian-born residents made up 48.9%.³⁰

Toronto is home to many of the country's new permanent residents, although over the past decade, fewer are deciding to call Toronto home:

- In 2014, 29.1% of new (permanent) Canadian residents from all over the world settled in Toronto.³¹
- In the Region, in 2015 there was a total of 82,108 new permanent residents, up from 75,644 in 2014, representing an 8.5% increase.³²
- In 2011, 51% of Toronto residents were born outside of Canada, and one in 12 had arrived in the country in the previous five years. One-third of the total population of immigrants in Toronto had arrived in Canada within the previous 10 years. Toronto had more than twice the proportion of recent immigrants as Canada (8.4% compared to 3.5% nationally). The city of Toronto became home to 216,520 new residents between 2006 and 2011.
 - 14% of Toronto residents didn't yet hold Canadian citizenship (compared to 6% for all of Canada).³³

Number of New Permanent Residents, Toronto, 2004–2014:³⁴



Half of Toronto's population comprises visible minority residents:

- In 2011, the population classified as a visible minority in Toronto was 1,264,395—49.1% of the total population. In contrast, only 19.1% of Canada's and 25.9% of Ontario's populations were visible minorities.

- Toronto's visible minority population increased by 6.7 percentage points between 2011 and 2001 (from 42.4% of the total population).³⁵

Three thriving "ethnoburbs" (ethnic suburbs) are emerging in the Toronto Region:

- Many of the immigrants coming to the Toronto Region in the last decades have settled directly in the suburbs, drawn by more affordable housing and open spaces, and jobs in suburban business and industrial parks. They have created distinct ethnic suburbs (complete multi-ethnic communities of residences, businesses, and cultural institutions, with a high concentration of one ethnic group).
 - The study identified three distinct ethnoburbs in the Region: one that includes Brampton, most of Mississauga, north Etobicoke, and western North York and is predominantly South Asian; a second that includes most of Markham, Scarborough, eastern North York, and part of Richmond Hill, with a predominantly Chinese population; and a third emerging in Pickering and Ajax, with a high South Asian population.
 - In Toronto's ethnoburbs, local residents own, or have a stake in, a large percentage of local businesses and have developed a full range of cultural institutions.
 - By July 2011 there were 53 Chinese supermarkets (43 in the ethnoburbs) and 66 Chinese shopping centres (57 in the ethnoburbs) to serve 500,000 Chinese ethnic residents in the Toronto Region.
 - The first South Asian shopping centre opened in Scarborough in 2008 and three new centres will add 540,000 sq. ft. of commercial space in Brampton and Scarborough.³⁶

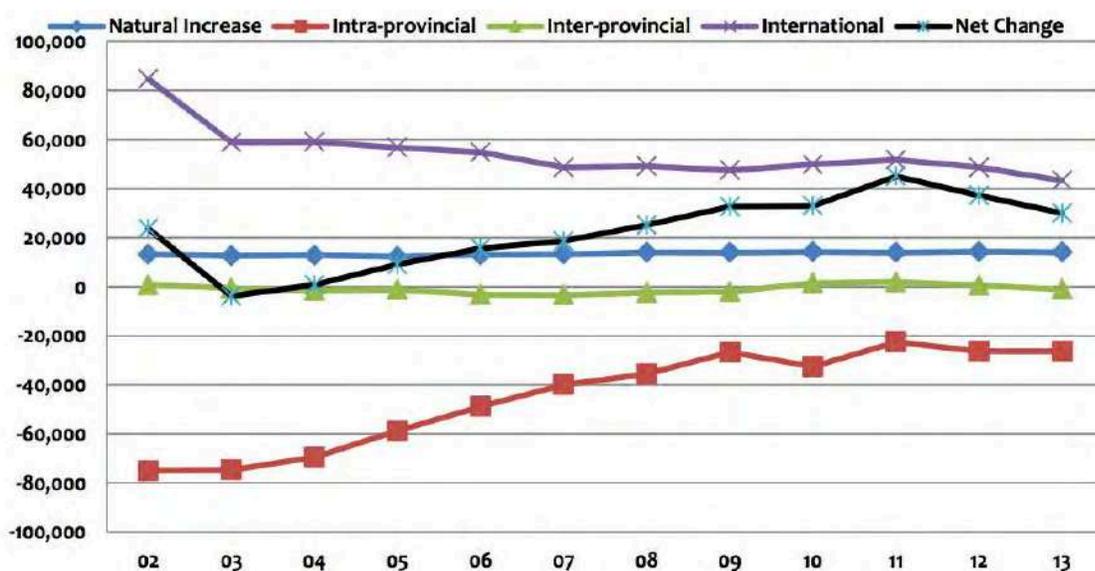
Distribution of South Asian Temples and Chinese Shopping Centres, Toronto Region, 2011
(shaded areas are "ethnoburbs"):³⁷



Nonetheless, immigration has declined as a source of Toronto's population growth over recent years:

- The age structure of the population, natural increase (the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths in a year), and migratory movement in and out of the city are the main determinants of Toronto's population growth.
- In the last decade the rate of natural increase has remained relatively flat, but net migration has been more variable, mostly due to swings in interprovincial migration and international immigration.
- Immigration as a share of Toronto's population has been high and one of the main sources of its growth. Its share as a source of population growth declined, however, by 19% from 2011 to 2013.³⁸

Components of Toronto's Population Change, 2002-2013:³⁹



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Tables 051-0063 and 051-0064

- From July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015, the population of the Region grew by 76,528 people, due to:
 - a net gain of 66,697 people from international migration,
 - a net loss of 2,729 people to interprovincial migration,
 - a net loss of 22,751 people to intraprovincial migration, and
 - a natural increase of 35,311 people.⁴⁰

Toronto residents identified more than 230 countries of birth on the 2011 National Household Survey; just over half (51%) claimed English as a mother tongue:

- 1% of Torontonians listed French as their mother tongue and 45% listed non-official languages as their mother tongues. 3% reported multiple mother tongues.
- The number of residents with no knowledge of either English or French was unchanged from 2006, at 5% of the population. 28% spoke neither English nor French at home.
- Of the top 15 languages regularly spoken at home, Mandarin was the fastest growing in Toronto in 2011, spoken by more than 50,000 residents (2.1% of the total population – an increase of 32% since 2006).
 - One of the fastest growing groups, residents who speak Bengali at home (17,820 in 2011), increased by 22% in five years. Farsi speakers have increased by 11% over the period, and Tagalog speakers by 10%.⁴¹

How can the city keep up with the demands on infrastructure and services?

The population in Toronto's downtown core grew dramatically in the five years before the 2011 census (the latest census data available):

- The population growth rate in downtown Toronto more than tripled between 2006 and 2011 compared with the three previous census periods, as the children of baby

boomers—the echo boomers—sought access to jobs, transit, and downtown attractions over housing size and space (and a long commute) in the suburbs. The downtown core also outpaced growth in the suburbs for the first time since the early '70s. Suburban population growth dropped from 18.6% to 13.7% over five years, as downtown growth went from 4.6% to 16.2% over the same period.

- o In 2011 nearly half (47%) of the [downtown population](#) was between 20 and 39 years old (compared to 25.8% across the GTA suburbs of York, Peel, Halton, and Durham). The median age in the city core has dropped to the mid-30s.⁴²

In major cities across North America, millennials are contributing to urban renewal but are overwhelming transit infrastructure with their desire to work and live downtown:

- A [report](#) from global commercial real-estate firm Cushman & Wakefield examines the consequences to public transit and gridlock of rapid population growth in 10 major North American urban centres (Atlanta, Washington D.C., Miami, Mexico City, Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and Toronto).
- Over 46,000 high-rise condominium units were under construction at the time of the report's release in fall 2014. Companies are following the workers; 4.5 million ft² of office space was built between 2009 and 2011, and 5.1 million ft² were estimated to go up between 2014 and 2017.⁴³



The return of the long-form census questionnaire is good news for cities across Canada:

- Municipalities were greatly affected by the cancellation of the mandatory long-form census questionnaire and move to a short-form census and voluntary National Household Survey (NHS).
- The [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) reported that the loss of information was hindering local governments' abilities to effectively understand, monitor, and plan for the changing needs of communities.
- Toronto's manager of social research said the change also increased planning costs:
 - o Staff resources and money had to be spent to source and purchase supplementary sources of data.
 - o Extra staff hours went into checking whether data from disparate sources were comparable over time like data from the long-form censuses were.
- Toronto's most vulnerable residents will pay the biggest price, as the loss of the richer census data made it difficult to determine which communities were most in need of services and long-term investment.⁴⁴
- The response rate across Canada for the 2015 census was 97.8%, the best ever in its history, which began in 1666 in New France.⁴⁵



The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has released the first standardised set of indicators for cities. [ISO 37120](#) will allow cities to measure indicators such as energy, environment, finance, recreation, telecommunications and innovation, and more against other global cities:

- The standardized measurements will allow for learning across cities and more innovation in city decision-making and global benchmarking.⁴⁶



The Toronto-based [World Council on City Data](#) (WCCD) hosts a network of innovative cities committed to improving city services and quality of life with globally standardized city data and provides a consistent and comprehensive platform for standardized urban metrics:

- Comparable city data is critical for building more sustainable, resilient, smart, prosperous, and inclusive cities. As a global leader on standardized metrics, the WCCD is operationalising ISO 37120 Sustainable Development of Communities: Indicators for City Services and Quality of Life, the first international standard for sustainable and resilient cities.
- The WCCD has also developed the first ISO 37120 certification system and the Global Cities Registry™. In May 2015 the WCCD Open City Data Portal was launched. This innovative and highly visual [tool](#) allows for comparative analytics across the WCCD cities, while fostering global learning and the creation of data-driven solutions for cities.

Toronto on the World Stage

Numerous studies appear each year, ranking global metropolitan regions on measures such as prosperity, economic strength, competitiveness, and liveability. Although researchers sometimes question the methodologies used to compare cities in such studies, the following studies outlined in this section illustrate what the world has been saying about Toronto over the past year.

Toronto is one of the safest cities in the world, and the world's most liveable city:

- 
- Our city ranks eighth out of 20 across the globe on The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)'s [Safe Cities Index 2015](#), which assesses urban security in the digital age.
 - Toronto, along with New York which placed 10th, are the only North American cities to make the top 10. Montréal was the only other Canadian city on the list at 14th. San Francisco placed 12th, Chicago 16th, Los Angeles 17th, and Washington DC 19th.
 - The safest cities are in Asia: Tokyo, Singapore, and Osaka in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively.
 - Cities were ranked based on their levels of digital security, health security, infrastructure safety, and personal safety.
 - Toronto ranks 11th in digital security, 21st in health security, 8th in infrastructure safety, and seventh in personal safety.⁴⁷
 - The 2015 Safe Cities Index included an “index of indexes” compiled from six rankings by The Economist—Safe Cities, Liveability, Cost of Living, Business Environment, Democracy, and Global Food Security—to determine the most liveable cities in the world. Toronto came out on top of 50 global cities.
 - Montréal and Stockholm followed Toronto in 2nd and 3rd respectively.⁴⁸

Toronto has the second-highest ranking among North American cities in a quality of living index companies use to help determine compensation for their employees working abroad:

- 
- The Quality of Living [ranking](#) by global business consultant Mercer evaluated 440 global cities and ranked 230 by looking at factors including political stability, crime statistics, public and medical services, consumer goods, and leisure.
 - Among North American cities, Vancouver is the highest-ranking Canadian city at fifth, Toronto is second at 15th, and Ottawa is third at 17th. All outrank US cities including Boston (34th) and New York (44th).
 - Toronto, Calgary, Montréal, Ottawa, and Vancouver tie for 16th in the ranking of Personal Safety. No US cities even made the top 50.⁴⁹

According to MoneySense magazine, Toronto is only the 43rd best place to live in Canada:

- The [Canada's Best Places to Live 2016](#) ranking from MoneySense magazine nudged Toronto down from 35th place in 2015 and 32nd place in 2014.
- The magazine's rankings are based on a combination of factors such as tax, crime, and unemployment rates; household incomes; housing prices; healthcare access; healthy population growth; ease of walking, biking and using transit; weather; and strong arts and sports communities.
- Ottawa was ranked #1 as the best place to live in the country, followed by the GTA's Burlington and Oakville, at #2 and #3 respectively.⁵⁰



Toronto was ranked fourth in the world in liveability in 2016, unchanged from 2015:

- Ahead of Toronto, Vancouver was placed third, while Calgary was ranked just behind Toronto in fifth. Melbourne, Australia was ranked first.
- Cities are assigned a score out of 100, based on their measurement against 30 factors that correspond to five categories: security, health care, education, infrastructure, and culture and the environment. Vancouver scored 97.3, Toronto 97.2, and Calgary 96.6.⁵¹

Toronto is 10th in a global ranking of financial centres' competitiveness:

- The Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) ranks a financial centre by taking into account five areas of competitiveness—business environment, financial sector development, infrastructure, human capital, and reputational and general factors—that encompass 102 factors including crime and GDP per employed person.⁵²
- In the March 2016 edition of the index, Toronto ranked 10th in the world, down from eighth in September 2015 (the GFCI is updated each March and September).⁵³
- Toronto ranked fifth in North America and first in Canada, followed by Montréal in second and Vancouver in third.⁵⁴



The Toronto Region dropped to fifth place (from third in 2014) among the dozen North American cities included in a ranking of 24 global metropolitan areas on the 2015 Toronto Region Board of Trade [Scorecard on Prosperity](#):

- The scorecard assesses the strengths of the Region through the lenses of economy and labour attractiveness (socio-economic and environmental factors) against other global cities.
- Calgary beat out Toronto again this year, placing third (down from second last year). Paris placed first again, Stockholm second, and Oslo fourth.
- While Toronto scores high overall, its economy has traditionally been an underperformer.
 - Toronto fell two spots to 14th on the overall economy ranking with a "C" grade. Nonetheless, the Region is crucial to the economy of Ontario as well as to that of Canada. Toronto is home to half of Ontario's labour force and businesses, and industry here accounts for nearly 50% of the province's GDP and 20% of Canada's. By comparison, New York produces about 9% of the US' GDP.
 - Many North American cities populate this ranking's top 10, with San Francisco in first with an A grade, Boston second (A), Seattle third (A), Dallas fourth (B), Calgary seventh (B), and New York in tenth (B).
- In labour attractiveness, Toronto ranks third and was given a B grade. Paris and London take first and second respectively.
 - Toronto earned an 'A' in six of the 15 indicators, including measures of immigrant population, teachers per 1,000 school-aged children, and air quality.
 - Transportation continues to be Toronto's area for improvement, showing a rare combination of both a low percentage of people who commute by means other than automobile (29%, ranking us 14th) and a long commuting time (66 minutes, good for 15th place).⁵⁵

KPMG's annual index of business costs across a dozen industries has ranked the Toronto Region the fourth most competitive place in Canada to do business in 2016:

- In Canada, Montréal ranked highest at third. Vancouver placed behind Toronto in fifth place.⁵⁶



Toronto is the sixth best city in the world for female entrepreneurs:

- The Dell [Women Entrepreneur Cities Index](#) (WE Cities) ranked 25 global cities in 2016 for their ability to attract and foster the growth of women-owned firms. New York placed first, while Toronto placed a respectable sixth.
- The rating is based on 70 indicators (44 of which have a gender component) in five categories: capitol, technology, talent, culture, and markets.⁵⁷



Toronto has been selected to join the 100 Resilient Cities Network:

- In May 2016, Toronto was selected to be one of [100 Resilient Cities](#) (100RC), one of 37 cities chosen from over 325 applications.⁵⁸
- The Foundation has identified that disruptions are becoming more and more prevalent for cities in the 21st century as a result of the collision of globalization, urbanization, and climate change. Disruptions can range from a cyber attack, a natural disaster, or economic or social upheaval to other acute stresses, such as poverty, endemic crime and violence, or failing infrastructure, that weaken a city over time. The 100RC initiative, launched in 2013 by The Rockefeller Foundation, provides funding for member cities to hire a Chief Resilience Officer to oversee efforts to become more resilient to physical, social, and economic shocks and stresses.
- Member cities also receive expert support to develop a robust resilience strategy, access to partners offering technologies and services to implement it (e.g., Microsoft, Swiss Re, and the Nature Conservancy), and a network of global cities sharing knowledge.⁵⁹



Toronto is the most diverse city in the world and one of the 10 most multicultural according to three different international rankings:

- BBC Radio has declared Toronto, the [world's most diverse city](#).⁶⁰
- Toronto is the highest-ranked city when it comes to diversity in the 2015 YouthfulCities Global Index.
 - Diversity was determined by languages to vote in, diversity of food, openness to LGBTQ* persons and immigrants, diversity of religion, and its ranking in a Global Gender Gap Index.⁶¹
- Arts and travel website The Culture Trip, meanwhile, has included Toronto on a list of the 10 [most multicultural cities](#) in the world.⁶²



Toronto ranks first for youth opportunities:

- The Citi Foundation has placed Toronto first on its 2015 [Youth Economic Strategy Index](#).
- The index ranks 35 global cities for their policies and conditions for youth (aged 13-25) over four major categories: government support and institutional framework for youth, employment and entrepreneurship, education and training, and human and social capital.⁶³



Toronto is the 13th best student city in the world, according to the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) annual ranking of the world's [Best Student Cities](#):

- The study ranks the best urban destinations for international students based on five key categories: university rankings, affordability, desirability, student mix, and employer activity.
- Toronto, Boston, and Vancouver tied for 13th place in the 2016 ranking. Montréal was the highest-ranking Canadian city, ranked seventh in the world.

- In terms of desirability, Toronto ranks second behind Sydney and ahead of Vienna in third place. But on affordability, Toronto ranks 48th, behind Montréal (28th), Quebec City (35th), Ottawa (36th), and Vancouver (42nd).
- On employer activity (based on a QS employer survey), Toronto ranks 30th in the world and second in Canada behind Montréal (27th) and ahead of Vancouver (31st).⁶⁴



Of 52 places to go in 2016, Toronto is seventh, according to the New York Times:

- In January 2016 the Times' annual [Places to Go list](#) placed Toronto seventh.
- The list is developed with input from contributing writers (many based overseas) and aims to highlight a variety of regions and interests, taking into consideration any new or exciting events taking place.⁶⁵

Toronto is home to six of the top 10 restaurants in Canada:

- An expert panel of judges (including food critics, chefs, restaurateurs, and "elite diners") has named six Toronto restaurants among the country's 10 best in 2016, according to [Canada's 100 Best Restaurants](#) magazine (launched in 2015).⁶⁶



Toronto is also home to one of the "coolest streets" in North America:

- Cushman & Wakefield's first Cool Streets of North America Report surveyed Canadian and US real estate professionals (commercial real estate brokers, property managers, appraisers, consultants, research and marketing professionals, and executives).
- Respondents were asked to rate neighbourhoods in terms of their liveability and retail flavour, residential rents, and rank on a "Hip-o-meter" (which rated cities from "edgy/cool" to "gone mainstream"). Rankings also factored in demographics (from Statistics Canada and the US Census Bureau) and retail rents.
- The neighbourhood surrounding the Queen Street West corridor between Bathurst and Gladstone was named one of North America's coolest streets.
 - According to the report, this area has an average household income of \$92,354, a millennial population of 75.9%, and independent boutiques, a restaurant and bar scene, boutique hotels, and Canada's largest concentration of independent art galleries.
 - Vancouver's Mount Pleasant and Main Street neighbourhood also made the list, with an average household income of \$85,689 and a millennial population of 31.3%.⁶⁷



Economic Health

Why is this important?

Toronto's Vital Signs Report tracks a number of important indicators of Toronto's economic strength or weakness. Beyond large aggregated statistics like growth in GDP (which may mask underlying problems such as environmental degradation and income inequality), factors such as construction activity, tourism, and bankruptcy rates are important indicators that point to levels of investment, confidence, and economic stress.

What are the trends?

Toronto's construction activity, considered a key indicator of economic vitality, was down in 2014, although major building construction remains a strong area for Toronto. The Region continues to attract visitors; the number of visitors to the city has increased six years in a row. The City urgently needs more revenue to meet major capital demands for transit and other aging infrastructure.

What's new?

After years of discussion over its revenue shortfall to pay for services, the City is considering new revenue tools including a hotel tax. Toronto's diversity has made it a hotspot for luxury retailers; almost 40% of the world's leading retailers have locations here. The City is grappling with the effects of app-based "sharing" technologies on markets: for instance, in May 2016, Council adopted a vehicle-for-hire bylaw allowing companies such as Uber (usage of which almost doubled in a year) to operate with regulations. Meanwhile, social procurement by Toronto's anchor institutions could offer a model strategy for more equitable and inclusive economic development.

How well is the City balancing its revenues and service expenditures?

Toronto needs more revenue and new revenue sources if it to build new or even maintain its existing infrastructure:

- Toronto's own tax revenues come from four sources: property taxes, the land transfer tax, the billboard tax, and a now permanent gas tax.⁶⁸
- A 2014 [report](#) by the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, on the state of the City's finances and recent fiscal trends predicts that the funding shortfall to even maintain the city's existing assets will grow to nearly \$2.5B by 2020.⁶⁹
- The 2006 City of Toronto Act gives the City the ability to add its own taxes to various goods and services, such as a vehicle-registration tax (the City lost about \$60m a year in income when this was repealed in 2010), an entertainment tax (Chicago, for example, has a 9% entertainment tax), road tolls (a toll on the Don Valley Parkway could generate up to \$120m a year according to [one study](#)), or taxes on parking, tobacco, or alcohol.⁷⁰
 - Other international cities have far more revenue sources. New York City has 24 different taxes including a property tax, land transfer tax, sales tax, income tax, and vehicle tax. It generates a third of its revenue from income and sales tax alone.⁷¹
- Income from property taxes funds about 34% of the City's operating budget.⁷² But residential property taxes are low—Torontonians (on average) pay lower property taxes than residents of many other Ontario municipalities.⁷³
- Toronto's property tax revenues have grown more slowly than inflation since 2000 and the tax burden per household has fallen over this time.⁷⁴
- The remainder of the operating budget comes from user fees and payments from other levels of government.⁷⁵
- The City has three rate-based, user-funded revenue programs that are based on usage (Toronto Water), size of container (Solid Waste Management Services), and user fees (Toronto Parking Authority).
 - In 2015 the City spent \$208.6m to collect and treat 415 billion litres of wastewater. The average Toronto household paid \$2.45/day for waste and storm water management services and drinking water—amongst the lowest rates in the GTHA, according to the City.⁷⁶
 - In 2014 Solid Waste Management served about one million residential homes and businesses (461,000 single-unit homes, 416,500 multi-unit homes, and 14,500 small not-for-profits, charities, and commercial business),⁷⁷ managing about 1 million tonnes of waste (525,000 tonnes of garbage, 138,000 tonnes green bin organics, and 216,000 recycling).⁷⁸ It also provided services to 1,000 special events, collected from 8,500 street bins and 10,000 park bins, and assured the care of 160 closed landfill sites.⁷⁹
 - In 2015 the Toronto Parking Authority managed 19,000 on-street spaces, 22,000 off-street spaces including 24 parking garages, 12,000 spaces for the TTC and 1,200 for the Toronto Community Housing Corporation, and 80 bike share stations with 1,000 bikes.⁸⁰
- Toronto's municipal land transfer tax rate is 0.5 per cent on homes valued from \$0 to \$55,000; 1.0 per cent on homes valued from \$55,000 to \$400,000; and 2.0 per cent on homes in excess of \$400,000.⁸¹



- A 2016 [report](#) released by the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto posits that while large cities like Toronto need new revenue sources, they can be expensive and politically difficult to implement. As a result, the report recommends that cities should piggyback new taxes onto provincial taxes for efficiency, with the province collecting the revenue and remitting it to cities. To promote accountability, however, there should be a clear link between revenue decisions and expenditures, and local governments should set their own tax rates.⁸²

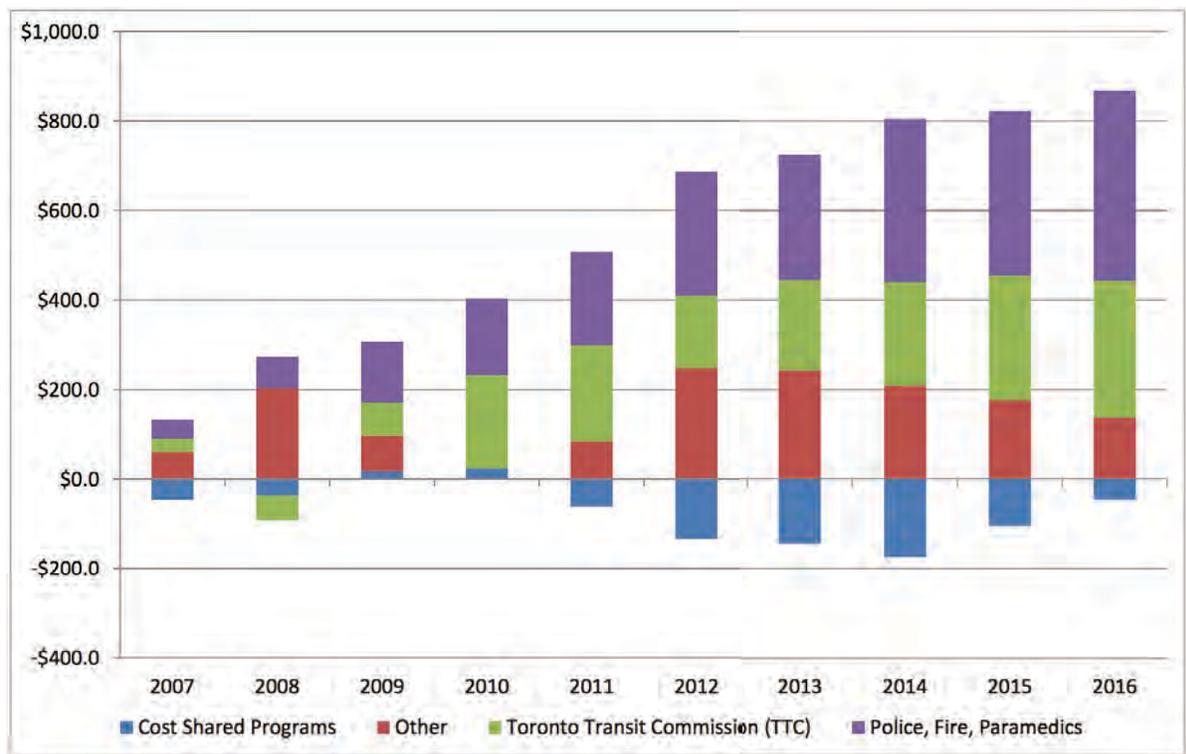
The Metcalf Foundation released a new [report](#) which calls for “full-cost pricing” of municipal services and infrastructure as a way for cities to raise revenue and address environment concerns.

- Full-cost pricing is the price of a good or service plus the price of its delivery, the price of building and keeping up infrastructure, and the environmental cost (cost of pollution and of maintaining ecological systems). Such pricing can lead to healthier and more efficient cities, the report argues.
- Using water as an example, the report authors say that residential users should be paying a price that, at a minimum, includes the costs of the operating and maintenance of the water delivery system. Full-cost pricing would also include future costs to repair, maintain, and replace the infrastructure in addition to the environmental impact of drawing the water from various sources (e.g., lakes, rivers, or aquifers).⁸³

92.3% of the growth in net expenditures over the last 10 years is due to Emergency Services and the TTC⁸⁴:

- Transit accounts for a significant piece of the annual operating pie, and ambitious plans for essential new developments will require billions more in capital funding.⁸⁵
- In 2016, 53% of the portion of the City budget that comes from property taxes goes to the TTC and to police, fire, and paramedics. 25% of all property tax revenues that Toronto receives goes to the Police Service and Board alone.⁸⁶

Cumulative Budgetary Growth, City of Toronto, 2007-2016:⁸⁷



After years of discussion over a revenue shortfall, the City is considering new revenue tools to pay for services like transit and housing:

- On June 7, 2016, Council voted to open the door to new revenue tools to meet the City's budget challenges (while rejecting proposals to sell Toronto Hydro and the Toronto Parking Authority).
 - According to City Manager Peter Wallace, deferring expenses is not sustainable with an estimated \$29b worth of unfunded capital projects over 15 years. The City currently relies on the municipal land transfer tax, utility rate increases, TTC fare hikes, and user fees to balance the budget.⁸⁸
- Among the revenue tools on the table is a hotel tax. Currently, there is no tax on any type of lodgings in the city—the City of Toronto Act forbids it (although HST of 13% applies to hotels, as it does to other goods and services).
 - The City tried to implement a hotel tax after amalgamation, but the Province did not grant approval.⁸⁹
- Toronto hotels already voluntarily participate in a destination marketing program that saves the City millions of dollars.⁹⁰
 - After the SARS crisis in 2003, hotel associations and local tourism promotion agencies began collecting a voluntary Destination Marketing Fee (DMF), i.e., a contribution from room revenues towards a collective fund to market the City and Region internationally. Hotels can choose to pass their contributions (typically up to 3% of room revenue) onto customers.
 - The Greater Toronto Hotel Association (active for over 90 years, representing 170 hotels, about 36,000 guest rooms, and 32,000 employees in the GTA) collected

these monies and transferred them to Tourism Toronto (which covers Toronto, Mississauga, and Brampton). Eventually the DMF replaced the City's annual contribution to Tourism Toronto.⁹¹

- The hotel tax being discussed by Mayor John Tory and the Premier would instead increase revenue for the City and would require approval from the Province to revise the 2006 City of Toronto Act.⁹²
 - The new tax may be applied to motels, hostels, condominiums, apartment houses, lodging houses, boarding houses, clubs, bed and breakfast facilities, or other similar types of transient accommodations, and would affect the current funding model for Tourism Toronto—the DMF and an annual grant from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (\$9.9m in 2014/2015).⁹³
 - The proposed hotel tax is expected to generate about \$10m a year.⁹⁴
- According to the Greater Toronto Hotel Association, hotels already pay \$2,500 to \$11,000 per room annually in property taxes—\$145m in 2015—and the Destination Marketing Program brought Tourism Toronto another \$19m in 2015. A further tax, the association says, could make hotels so expensive that they could lose bids for major music, sports, and business events.
- The Association also questioned whether a hotel tax would apply to those who rent out their homes through the popular Airbnb app, as they pay only residential tax on their homes.⁹⁵
 - A briefing note on the destination marketing program requested by the Budget Committee concludes that implementing and enforcing compliance with a tax on online, private rentals would be difficult and costly.
- The Budget Committee briefing note proposes two models for a hotel tax:
 - implement a hotel tax on top of the existing DMF to generate new revenue—a model that already exists in Vancouver, Calgary, and Edmonton; or
 - replace the DMF and split the tax between the City and the hotel industry—e.g., a 5% tax with 3% for the City and 2% for the industry—to ensure continued funding of a robust marketing program.⁹⁶
- The City also retained KPMG to assess potential revenue options for the City. The consulting firm's revenue option suggestions included road pricing (e.g., tolls and congestion or cordon charges) and taxes on alcoholic beverages, tobacco, entertainment and amusements, motor vehicle owner registration, and parking. All are permitted under the City of Toronto Act.
 - KPMG also reviewed revenue options that the City does not currently have the legislative authority to implement, including the hotel tax, a development levy, and a municipal sales tax.⁹⁷
- City Council has requested that the City Manager (in consultation with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture) include an assessment of the economic impact of any potential new taxes in any further analysis of revenue options. It has also requested that information about the potential revenue opportunity of a surcharge on car rentals be included in a report on the City's long-term financial direction (expected in Fall 2016).⁹⁸

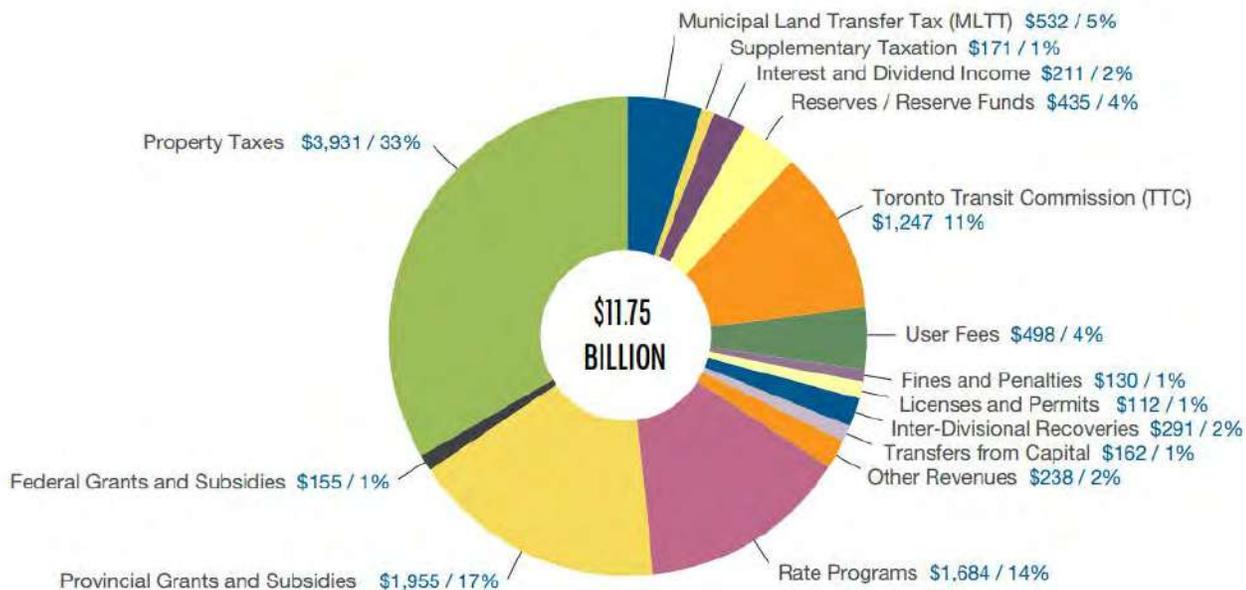
The City's tax- and rate-supported operating budget for 2016 is \$11.75b, a 2% increase over 2015's \$11.5b.⁹⁹

- Overall, the total 2016 budget tax increase after assessment growth is 0.88% (below the rate of inflation). Residential properties will see a 1.3% increase but, in keeping with

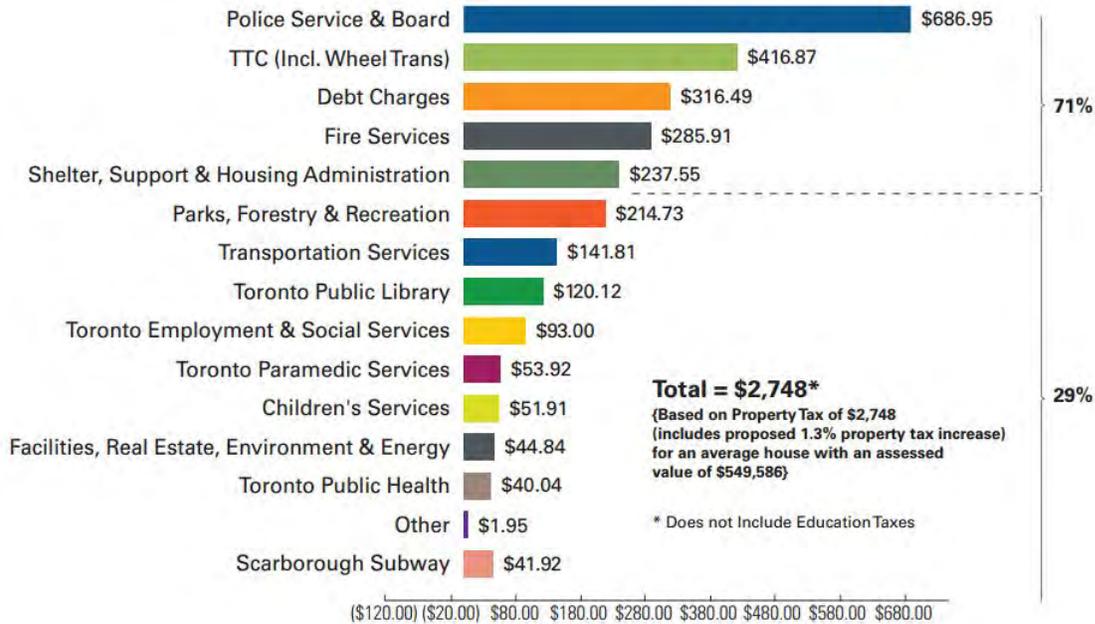
Council’s strategy to enhance the city’s business climate by reducing business taxes, non-residential properties will see an increase of only 0.43%.

- o The total municipal tax increase for residential properties is 2.69%, which includes 0.6% to fund the new subway extension in Scarborough. The average house assessed at \$549,586 will pay \$2,748 in 2016 (\$72.26 more than in 2015).
- o The total tax increase for non-residential properties including rental apartments is -0.17%.¹⁰⁰
- The budget maintained all current programs and services and provided funding for new and enhanced services, including:
 - o \$8m towards poverty reduction, including expanding the student nutrition and Homemakers and Nurses Services programs, enhancing cold-weather drop-in services, and more funding for childcare subsidies;
 - o \$5.5m to support the Mayor’s task force on Toronto Community Housing by funding door security systems, evening and weekend cleaning, a cost-relief program for rent-geared-to-income residents with electric heating, and new social programs;
 - o early Sunday morning subway service and improved streetcar reliability;
 - o more inspectors to prevent traffic disruptions by construction work;
 - o two more superintendents, 57 more paramedics, and 17 more Fire Services staff; and
 - o \$5m for the phase-in of \$25 per-capita arts and culture funding.¹⁰¹

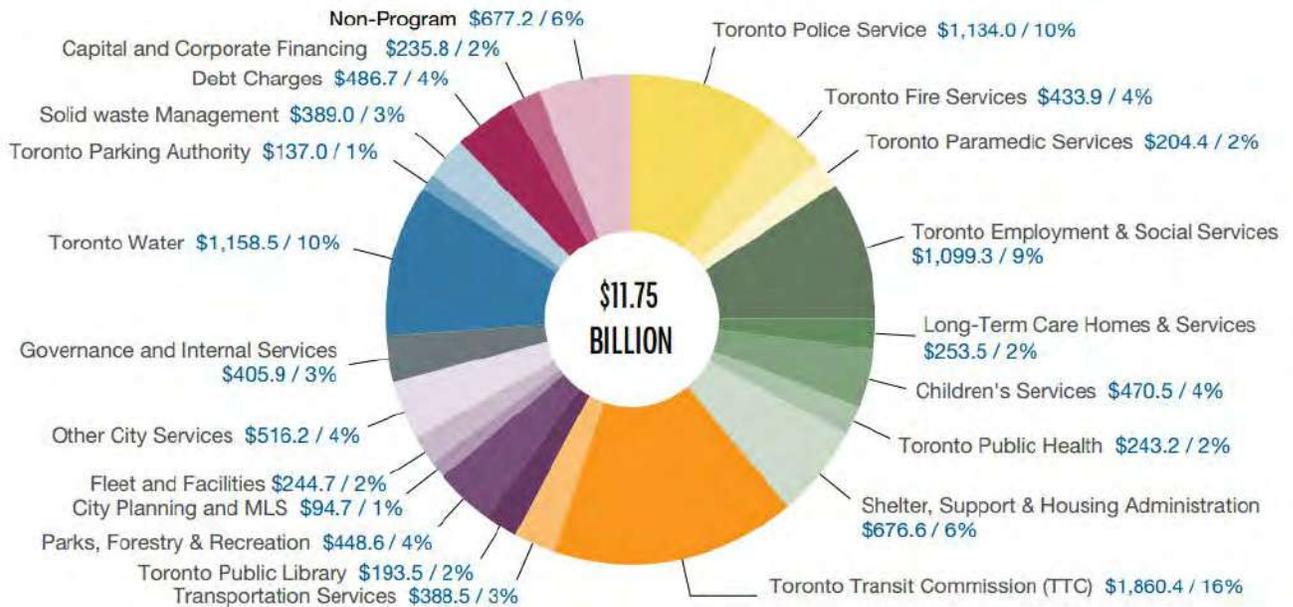
City of Toronto 2016 Total Operating Revenues of \$11.75b:¹⁰²



City of Toronto Property Tax Revenue Spending, 2016:¹⁰³



City of Toronto 2016 Total Operating Expenditures of \$11.75b:¹⁰⁴



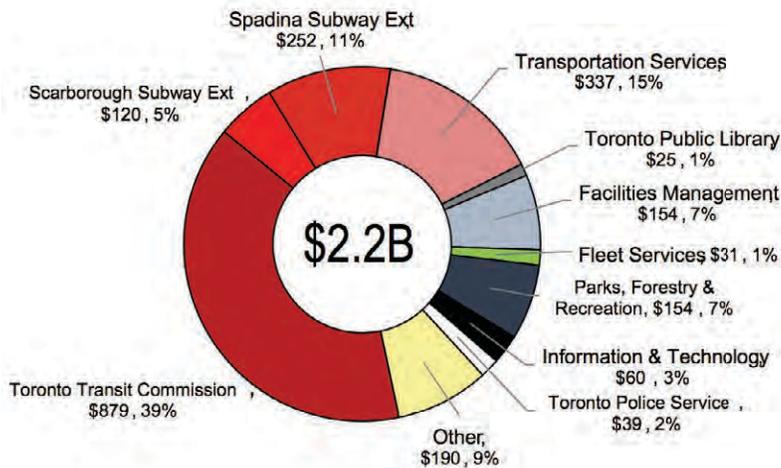
Almost three-quarters of the City's capital budget will be spent on transit and transportation:

- The tax-supported capital budget for 2016 is \$2.2b, 10% more than 2015's \$2.0b.
- 70% (\$1.588b) will go to fund transit and transportation projects, including \$252m for the Spadina Subway extension and \$120m for the Scarborough Subway extension.¹⁰⁵

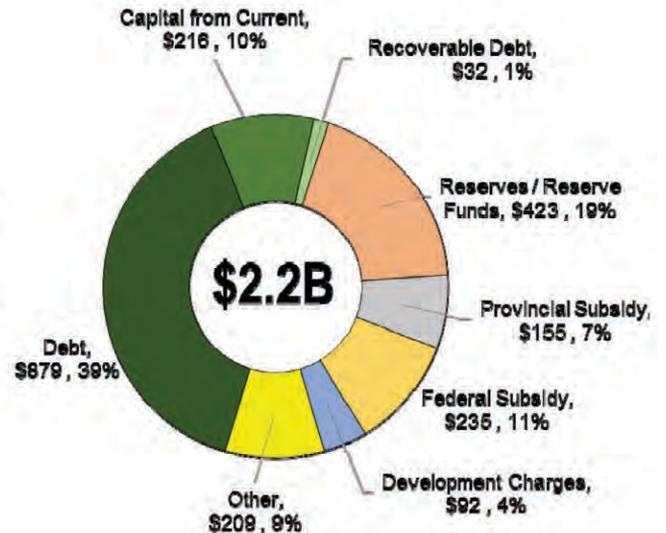
City of Toronto 2016 Tax-Supported Capital Budget:¹⁰⁶

\$ Million

Where the Money Goes
70% TTC/Transportation



Where the Money Comes From

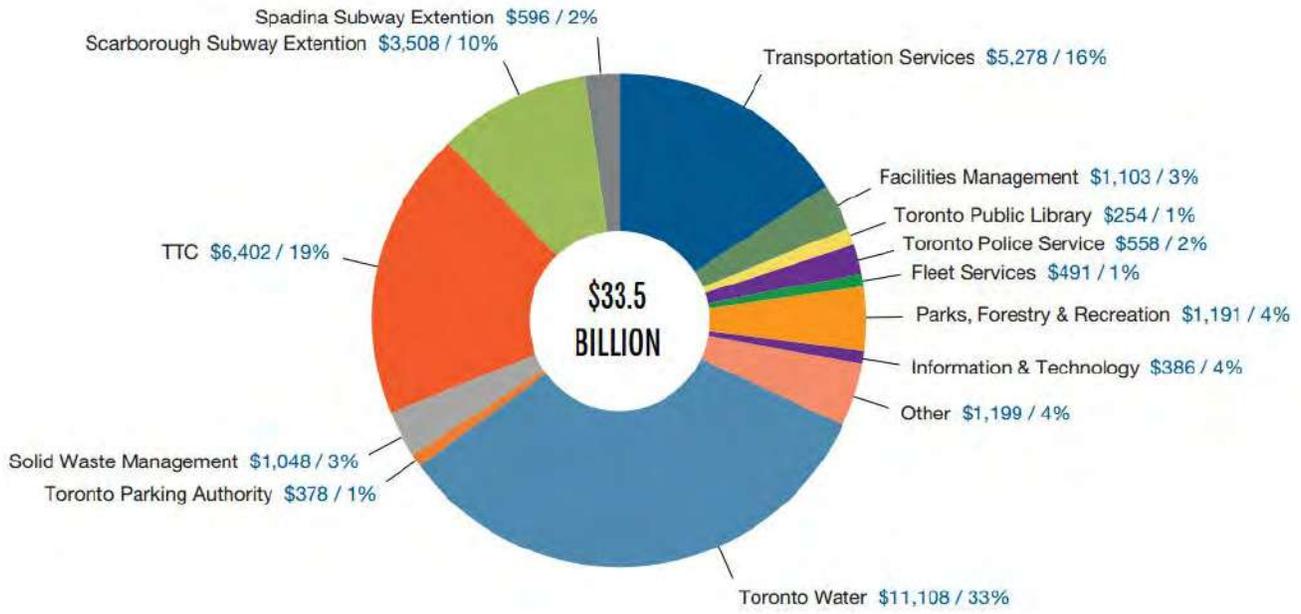


The 10-year capital budget and plan increased by 5.7% over last year:

- The 10-year (2016-2025) tax- and rate-supported capital budget has increased from \$31.7b in 2015 to \$33.5b.
 - \$15.8b in new capital investments will go towards transportation and transit. The budget plan will continue to fund the Toronto-York Spadina subway extension (\$596m) and the subway extension in Scarborough (\$3.5b).
 - The tax-supported portion of the 10-year capital budget only (21.0b), 63% will be spent on maintaining and investing in the City's state of good repair (SOGR) for aging infrastructure and 33% to service improvements and growth-related projects.¹⁰⁷
- Major investments over the next 10 years include:
 - \$1.19b in funding for Parks Forestry & Recreation will go to SOGR and service improvements such as new ferry boats for the Toronto Islands, a new pool at Wellesley Community Centre, and replacing the Don Mills Civitan Arena;¹⁰⁸
 - \$118.13m for growth-related projects as a part of the waterfront revitalization including completion of the Fort York Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge, and creating new linear park spaces for neighbourhoods in the downtown core and Waterfront;¹⁰⁹
 - \$57.24m for fire services including funding for the construction of three new fire stations and purchasing specialized trucks and equipment;¹¹⁰
 - SOGR funding for Toronto Transportation Services including
 - \$613.817m for major road rehabilitation
 - \$2.293b for the F. G. Gardiner expressway,
 - \$414.485m for city bridges and \$151.589m for sidewalks; and¹¹¹

- o \$42.91m for Child Services to fund SOGR in Toronto Early Learning Child Care Centres and new projects including eight new childcare centres with 457 spaces.¹¹²

City of Toronto 10-Year (2016-2025) Total Capital Expenditures of \$33.5b:¹¹³



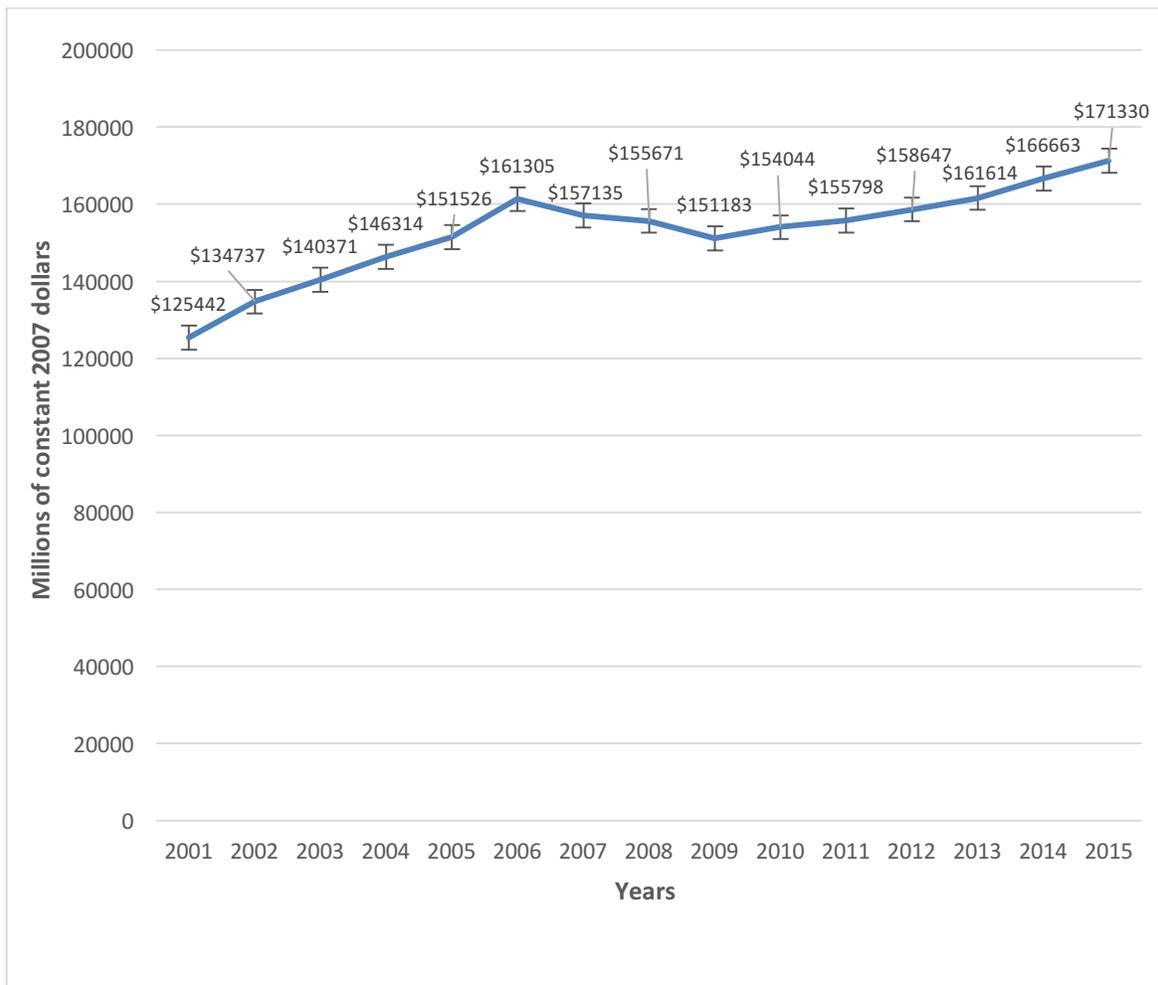
How is Toronto performing on indicators of economic vitality?

Toronto’s economic growth and productivity is modest but growing:

- The provincial economy as a whole grew by 2.1% in 2015.¹¹⁴
- Growth of real GDP for the Region in 2015 was 2.6%.¹¹⁵
- It is expected that the Toronto Region’s GDP will grow by 3.3% in 2016 and 3.2% in 2017.¹¹⁶
- Toronto’s productivity (measured by GDP per worker) grew by 2.2% in 2014 (better than the 0.4% in 2013), from \$114,208 to \$116,673.¹¹⁷
- According to the City, the downtown core accounts for only 3% of the land space in Toronto, but for 50% of GDP and 33% of employment.¹¹⁸
- In millions of constant 2007 dollars, GDP in the city of Toronto in 2014 was estimated to be \$166,663 million (3.1% higher than the \$161,614 million in 2013).¹¹⁹ Toronto’s 2014 estimate was 10.2% of the national total (\$1,634,178 million), and 27.8 % of the provincial total (\$600,575 million).¹²⁰
- In 2015, Toronto’s GDP was estimated to be \$171,330 million.¹²¹



Estimated GDP (Millions of Constant 2007 Dollars), 2001-2015, City of Toronto:¹²²



Business bankruptcies in the Region increased in 2015, but consumer bankruptcies continued their decline:

- 2015 saw 401 business bankruptcies in the Toronto Region, an increase of 9% from 368 in the previous year¹²³, but a 64.3% decrease from 1,122 in 2008.¹²⁴
 - The rate of business bankruptcies in 2014 was 0.7 per 1,000 businesses, down 0.3 points from 2013 levels (1 per 1,000 businesses) and 1.7 points from 2009 (2.4 per 1,000). The Region's rate was lower than the provincial and national averages (0.8/1,000 and 1.2/1,000, respectively).¹²⁵
- There were 5,532 consumer bankruptcies in 2015, about a third as many as in 2009 (15,423)¹²⁶ and less than half as many as in 2008 (12,208),¹²⁷ and down 8.3% from 2014 (6,032).¹²⁸
 - The rate of consumer bankruptcies in 2014 was 1.3 per 1,000 people (18 years and older), down 0.1 points from 2013 (1.4 per 1,000) and 2.2 points from 2009 (3.5 per 1,000). The Region's rate was lower than both the national (2.3/1000) and the provincial (1.8/1,000) averages.¹²⁹

Toronto is being recognized as a major entertainment centre and tourist hot spot as the number of visitors to the city has increased six years in a row:

- Tourism Toronto reports that in 2015, 14.03 million visitors stayed at least one night in Toronto, and another 26 million made same-day trips. Visitors spent \$7.2b, a 9% increase from \$6.6b in 2014.
- The organization cites a low dollar, lower fuel prices (and thus more disposable income), and a new Air Canada program that allows US travelers a free stopover in Toronto en route to Europe or Asia as factors in the increase.
 - US travelers (mostly from border states) comprise the majority of our international visitors. 2.48 million came in 2015, two-thirds of them flying here and a third driving.
- Last summer's Pan Am Games also drew tourists, and major sporting events throughout 2016 were expected to as well: the NBA All-Star Game, the return of the Grey Cup after a 12-year hiatus, the World Cup of Hockey, and the world junior hockey tournament.¹³⁰

Toronto is a hotspot for luxury retailers:

- According to CBRE, the world's largest real estate investment manager, the diversity of Toronto's population is attracting luxury retailers, with 26 new brands opening in 2015 and retail sales increasing 3.2% in 2015. Sales are expected to increase 4.5% in 2016.
- As of 2016 Toronto has 36.9% of 334 leading international retailers present, a slight increase from 36.2% in 2015.
 - Although Vancouver's diversity also attracts international brands, it ranks behind Toronto with 31.1% of retailers present.¹³¹

How is Toronto faring in terms of a key indicator of economic vitality—construction activity?

Construction overall was down in 2014, although major building construction remains a strong area for Toronto:

- Housing starts in the Region increased in 2015, rising 46.2% to 42,287 (from 28,929 in 2014, itself a 13.8% drop from 33,547 in 2013).¹³²
- The value of building permits issued in Toronto in 2014 decreased from the previous year by 11.6% to \$6.98B (down from 7.90B in 2013, but up from \$6.5B in 2012).
 - \$4.3B in residential building permits was issued in 2014, down from \$4.5B in 2013 (but up from \$3.1B in 2012).
- The value of commercial permits was down \$6.4M (\$1.96B in 2014 versus \$2.6B in 2013).¹³³
- As of April 2016, 128 high- and mid-rise buildings were under construction in the city, slightly fewer than the 133 reported at the same time the previous year.¹³⁴
- According to skyscraperpage.com, Toronto has the most high- and mid-rise buildings under construction of any city in North America. And although Toronto has slightly fewer 50+ story buildings under construction than New York City does, we have significantly more buildings under 50 stories and are second only (according to another data source, Emporis) to New York for major buildings under construction.¹³⁵

The Toronto Region gained an additional 2.1M square feet of office space between Q4 2013 and Q4 2014:

- By Q4 2014, the Region boasted 173,788,753 ft² of office space, a 1.23% increase over the same period the previous year (up from 171,651,359 ft²).¹³⁶
 - 4.5 million ft² of office space was built between 2009 and 2011, and 5.1 million ft² were estimated to go up between 2014 and 2017.¹³⁷

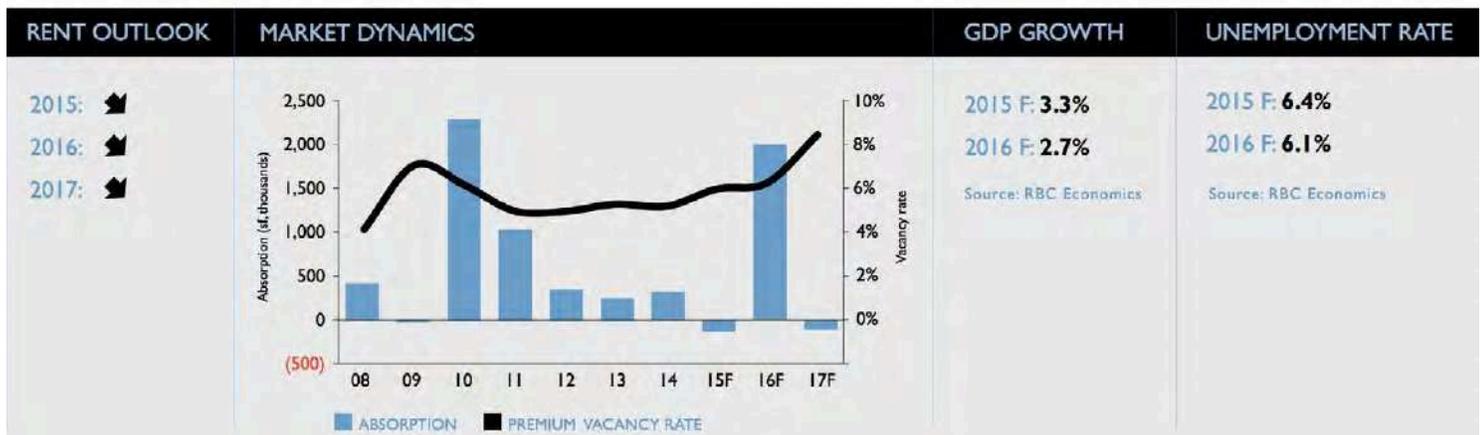
Toronto has “come into its own as a global business centre,” with a downtown “class A” office market currently in one of the longest development cycles in its history:



- Global commercial real-estate firm Cushman & Wakefield reports that this cycle will see class A office inventory increase by 25.9% (9.9M ft²) between 2009 and 2017.
- Although the new supply means premium office space vacancy will rise (it is expected to reach 9.6% downtown by 2017), the report predicts that this market’s solidity and explosive growth will sustain its success.¹³⁸



Toronto’s Downtown Class A Market Dynamics with Projection Forecast, 2008-2017:¹³⁹

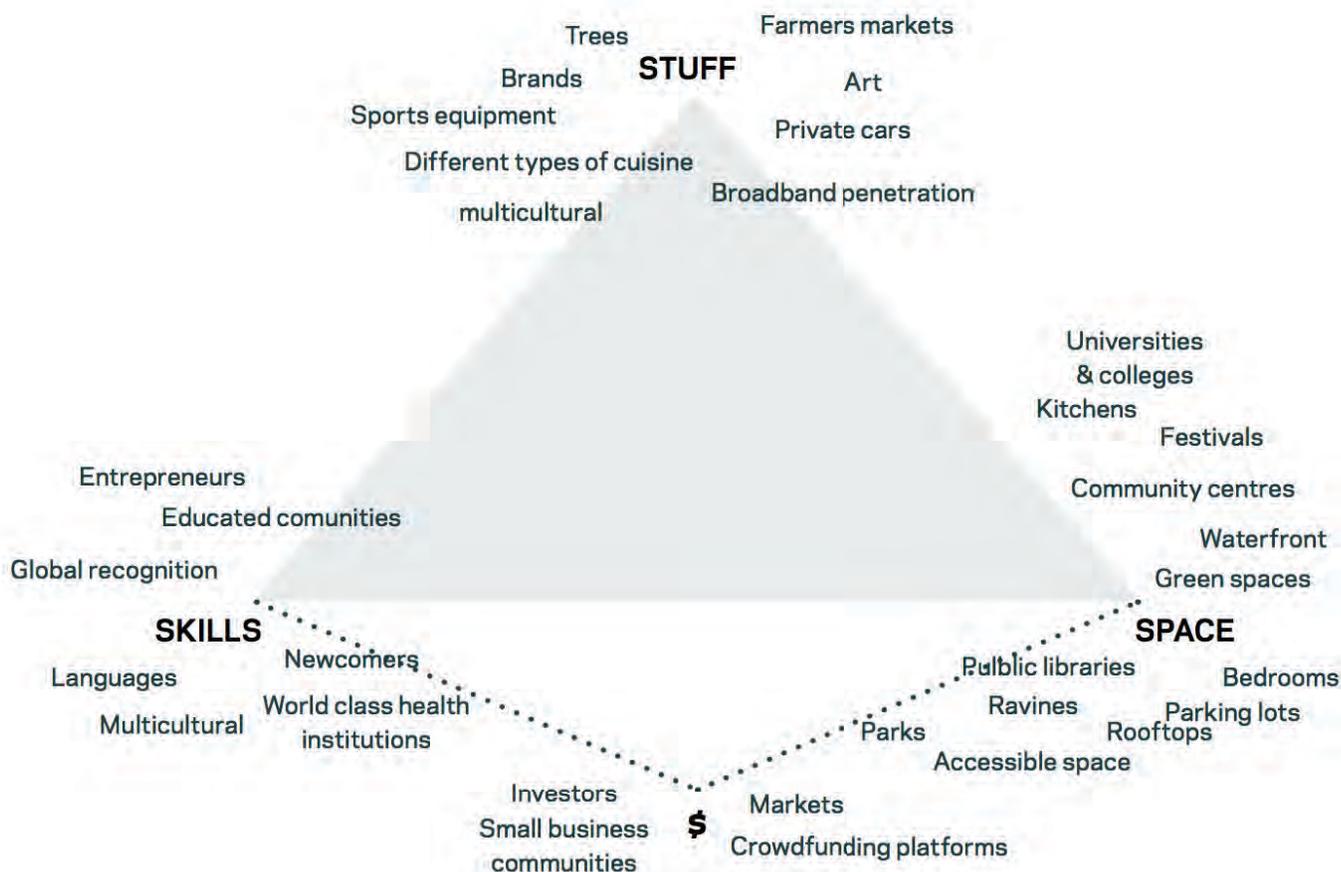


Can the “sharing economy” have a positive impact on Toronto’s society?

With the “sharing economy” affecting markets, MaRS Solutions Lab, the Province, and the City have proposed an action plan towards becoming a “sharing city”:

- The sharing economy is a market model based on peer-to-peer lending, sharing, borrowing, or bartering of goods and services. Increasingly, app based technologies that permit individuals to offer for-profit services through the use of their private assets (cars, homes) are being referred to as part of the sharing economy, although this association is controversial.
- The disruption of current markets with technologies like the online accommodation marketplace Airbnb and the transportation app Uber is requiring governments to consider changing regulations that pertain to affected markets.
- In Toronto, the Sharing Economy Public Design project—a collaboration between the municipal and provincial governments and MaRS Solutions Lab—conducted interviews and consultations to better understand how Toronto can build a sharing economy that benefits the city. Methods included learning from other cities, and mapping Toronto’s assets.¹⁴⁰

Toronto's Assets Map, 2016:¹⁴¹



Assets Map: Workshop activity of mapping the assets in the City of Toronto.

- Toronto was Airbnb's second most popular Canadian city in 2014.¹⁴² The project's recommendations for Airbnb (whose 11,000 Ontario home sharers hosted 375,000 visitors in the last year) included implementing a 180-day maximum rental and clarifying hosts' tax obligations.
- Toronto's 10,000 taxi drivers compete with an estimated 15,000 Uber drivers. Recommendations from the project included improved training programs and driver vetting (with vehicle inspections and driver screening), ensuring insurance coverage, and a change in pricing models.¹⁴³

Uber use almost doubled in a year, and while satisfaction with the service is high, most Torontonians agree with regulation of it:

- An April 2016 Forum Research [telephone survey](#) of a random sample of 858 Toronto voters found that 32% had used the app—almost double the 18% who had used it a year previously, when the market research firm first started tracking Uber use.
 - Younger people are more likely to use Uber—over half (53%) of respondents aged 18-34 had.

- Satisfaction with Uber had dropped in April 2016 since a December 2015 poll, but remained high. 68% reported being “very satisfied” with the service (compared to 86% in December).
 - Satisfaction with taxis was more split, with 18% “very satisfied,” 32% “somewhat satisfied,” and 22% “not very satisfied.”
- The majority of respondents (53%) approved of potential new regulations that place more restrictions on Uber and its drivers. Support was stronger among older adults (60% of those 65+ approved versus 45% of those 18-34).
- More respondents favoured Uber drivers over cab drivers in the dispute between the two (42% versus 31%, respectively). The side chosen, however, varied greatly by age, with younger respondents more likely to favour Uber drivers (60% support from 18-34 year olds versus a low of 20% support from those 65+).¹⁴⁴

On May 3, 2016, Toronto City Council adopted a new vehicle-for-hire bylaw to take effect July 15, 2016. The bylaw regulates private companies (e.g., Uber), taxi services, and limousines. A new category of licensing, for the Private Transportation Company (PTC), allows companies such as Uber to operate in the City of Toronto with regulations:

- According to the new by-law:
 - Taxi cab brokerages will be able to provide discounts to passengers as long as the rates are posted and are shown on the meter. However, cabs that are hailed on the street at a stand must charge the rate regulated by the city.
 - Taxi drivers no longer have to complete the city training (including refresher training) or be certified in First Aid or CPR training to receive their licensing. Instead of the Taxicab Driver license, taxi drivers will receive the Vehicle-For-Hire license upon renewal.
 - All vehicles will be required to have snow tires or all-weather tires from December 1 to April 1.
 - The licensing fee for taxi cab drivers will be \$130 and \$130 for renewal.
 - A PTC license will be required for app-based private vehicle drivers, which will cost annually \$15 per driver and \$0.30 trip, which the PTC will be responsible for.
 - The one-time application fee for the PTC license will be \$20,000.
 - The minimum rate set by the city will be \$3.25. Any other charges will not be regulated. PTC drivers and taxi cab drivers will be able to set rates above the city rate under the condition that the amount is clearly communicated and approved by the passenger before the trip and a detail receipt is provided.
 - PTC vehicles will require Automobile Liability Insurance coverage of at least \$2m before they can receive their PTC licence. The PTC must have commercial general liability insurance coverage of \$5m.
 - 12% of taxi cabs are accessible. PTCs with more than 500 vehicles are required to provide accessible service at the same rate and similar time frame as non-accessible vehicles.
 - Passengers will only be able to book PTC vehicles via the app.¹⁴⁵



The Bunz Trading Zone is giving Torontonians an alternative to cash:

- Toronto-based start-up Bunz Trading Zone launched an app in 2016 for online trading—no cash is exchanged—only objects and services.
- As of May 2016, 26,000 people were using the app, 89,000 items had been posted, and 18,000 trades completed.
- The app designates “zones,” public locations such as coffee shops (usually close to the subway) where users can meet offline to make their trades.¹⁴⁶

How could anchor institutions build the economies of their communities?

Toronto’s anchor institutions could offer a model strategy for more equitable and inclusive economic development—social procurement:

- A [research paper](#) from the Mowat Centre think tank at the University of Toronto and the Atkinson Foundation looks at anchor institutions’ potential for building community wealth in the province. 17 people from 13 organizations across Canada, the US, and the UK were interviewed.
- Anchor institutions are defined as “large public or nonprofit institutions rooted in a specific place, such as hospitals, universities or municipal governments.” Their size means they may provide the most employment opportunities or be the single biggest purchaser of goods and services in their community.
- Three Toronto area case studies illustrate the potential economic impact of social procurement and hiring by anchor institutions—that is, how their resources could be used to benefit communities, particularly those with economic or other historical disadvantages.
 - Ryerson’s food services have implemented a policy whereby 25% of food delivered in the first year of a new contract (and 2% more each subsequent year) must be locally and sustainably sourced.
 - The City of Toronto, through its Social Procurement Framework, is aiming to add more small, minority-owned, and social enterprises to its vendors list.
 - Through a redevelopment project, the Scarborough campus of the University of Toronto is planning to become the intellectual, cultural, and employment hub of the region.¹⁴⁷



Cleveland has enacted an “anchor mission” to harness the city’s biggest institutions to stimulate the local economy.

- The Cleveland Foundation is a leading neutral convenor in the city, and as part of this strategy has made efforts to convince anchor institutions to buy and hire locally, as well as to impact invest locally.¹⁴⁸

To learn more about innovative community-based organizations and programs working to address issues relating to economic health, check out: <http://ckc.torontofoundation.ca/>.

Health and Wellness

Why is this important?

Good physical and mental health are vitally linked to, and affected by, virtually all the issues raised in the Toronto's Vital Signs Report. Adequate income, stable and appropriate housing, a safe and walkable neighbourhood, strong social networks, and a high level of education all enhance the health of Torontonians. The absence of some or all of those factors contributes to the likelihood of a city resident experiencing, for example, diabetes, depression, or obesity.

What are the trends?

The percentage of Toronto residents reporting good health remains relatively stable, but it isn't improving (four in 10 don't report good health¹⁴⁹). Diabetes rates continue to be a major concern, and 15.6% of adult Torontonians now report being obese. The level of youth obesity is troubling (and likely even worse than the data show, because the figures are self-reported and therefore generally under-reported). And while most Torontonians are satisfied with life and believe their mental health is good, numbers are decreasing over time, and almost a quarter of the population experiences high levels of stress.

What's new?

Torontonians' health compares favourably or are on par with the rest of Ontario, except when it comes to physical activity, diabetes prevalence, and low birth weight infants. Almost one in five babies born in the city in 2015 was outside the healthy birth weight range. Drug overdose has become a significant public health issue—accidental deaths have increased by 82% in less than a decade. Inequities continue to affect health: youth accessing addiction services do not feel safe disclosing if they are queer or trans, residents who are low-income or who need cultural-specific services wait longer for long-term care, and parts of the city are “food deserts” lacking healthy food access. There is, however, a new City action plan to improve outcomes for women experiencing intimate partner violence.

How healthy are Torontonians?

Data from Toronto Public Health's 2015 [annual report](#) shows that Torontonians' health indicators compare favourably or are on par with the rest of Ontarians, except for rates for physical activity, diabetes prevalence, and low birth weight infants:

- 49.5% of Torontonians were physically active during their leisure time in 2013-14, compared to 52.3% of other Ontarians, and 11.2% of were diabetic in 2013 versus 9.9% of other Ontarians. Toronto's low birth weight rate in 2014 was 5.6%, higher than the 4.8% for the rest of Ontario.
- The report notes that indicators vary across the city, as health is associated with social determinants of health including income, race, immigration status, and sexual orientation.¹⁵⁰

Comparison of Selected Health Status Indicators, Toronto versus Health Units in Ontario:¹⁵¹

Indicator	Ontario Range			
	Health Unit with Least Favourable Result	Ontario without Toronto	Toronto	Health Unit with Most Favourable Result
Life Expectancy Female 2010	80.1	83.7	85.4	86.1
Life Expectancy Male 2010	75.5	79.5	80.7	82.8
Teen Pregnancy Rate* 2013	52.5	19.6	18.7	8.6
Low Birth Weight** 2014	6.3%	4.8%	5.6%	3.3%
Large for Gestational Age** 2013	16.8%	10.9%	7.5%	7.4%
Smokers*** 2013/14	33.5%	19.6%	16.4%	13.6%
Exceeds Low Risk Drinking Guidelines*** 2013/14	38.2%	28.0%	23.8%	19.3%
Physically Active During Leisure*** 2013/14	42.1%	52.3%	49.5%	59.4%
Overweight or Obese*** 2013/14	67.3%	56.7%	49.2%	46.9%
Colorectal Cancer Incidence**** 2012	74.9	52.3	44.2	40.9
Lung Cancer Incidence**** 2012	97.8	58.5	45.2	41.1
Breast Cancer Incidence**** 2012	144.9	112.7	109.1	87.8
Diabetes Prevalence 2013	12.4%	9.9%	11.2%	8.4%

*Per 1,000 females 15 to 19 years **Babies ***Adults ****Per 100,000 people, age-standardized
Indicator definitions, data sources and related notes are available at: toronto.ca/health/statistics

Source: City of Toronto

Torontonians are less likely to be obese than our provincial and national counterparts, but obesity rates are increasing. Our youth are more likely to be overweight or obese, and the long-term trend is troubling—over a quarter are now overweight or obese:

- The adult (18+) obesity rate increased 32.2% between 2003 and 2014, from 11.8% to 15.6%, but remains lower than the national (20.2%) and provincial (20.4%) averages. (Adult obesity refers to a self-reported body mass index of 30.0 or higher).¹⁵²
- Youth (aged 12 to 17) are also getting fatter. Since data started to be collected in 2005, the rate of youth obesity in Toronto has increased from 19.5% to 27.0% in 2014, higher than the national (23.1%) and provincial (23.3%) averages. (Note that data are unavailable for 2011 as Statistics Canada considered it too unreliable to be published).¹⁵³
- Nonetheless, 66.8% of youth (12 to 19) reported good or excellent physical health in 2014, down from 68.9% in 2003, and below the national and provincial averages of 69.4% and 69.9% respectively.¹⁵⁴

Diabetes rates increased over 40% between 2003 and 2014:

- 7.0% of Toronto's population 12 and over reported in 2014 that they had been diagnosed with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, up from 4.9% in 2003 and higher than the national average of 6.7% (but lower than the provincial average of 7.4%).
 - The diabetes rate includes females 15 and over who reported being diagnosed with gestational diabetes.¹⁵⁵



A diabetes prevention program is building community capacity while teaching healthy behaviours:

- Toronto Public Health's Diabetes Prevention Peer Leadership Program funds agencies to recruit peer leads to implement diabetes prevention programs. In 2014, 19 agencies trained 220 leaders, and 9,935 community members participated in their prevention programs.
- Peer leaders have reported that participating in the program improved their own families' wellness and often led to educational or job opportunities.¹⁵⁶

Compared to our provincial and national counterparts, Torontonians are less likely to drink heavily (although our heavy drinking is increasing). However, we smoke more, are less active, and (except for seniors) are less likely to eat enough fruits and vegetables:

- 14.0% of the population 12 and over were heavy drinkers in 2014, an 18.6% increase since 2003 (when 11.4% of the population were heavy drinkers), but lower than the national (17.9%) and provincial (16.2%) averages.
 - Heavy drinking is defined as having consumed five or more drinks on one occasion at least once a month in the last year for men, four or more for women.¹⁵⁷
- 15.6% of the population 12 and over were smokers in 2014, 14.4% higher than the national average (18.1%) and 14.5% higher than the provincial average (17.4%). The rate of smokers has dropped from 19.9% in 2003. The lowest rate recorded between 2003 and 2014 was 13.9% in 2009.¹⁵⁸
- 46.1% of the population 12 and over spent some leisure time being active or moderately active in 2014, up slightly from 45.3% in 2003 but lower than the high of 52.6% recorded in 2013. Toronto ranks below both the national (53.7%) and provincial (52.7%) averages.¹⁵⁹
- 61.7% of the population 12 and over consumed less than the recommended daily intake of fruits and vegetables in 2014, up from 56.3% in 2003 and higher than both the provincial (56.3%) and national (57.1%) averages.¹⁶⁰

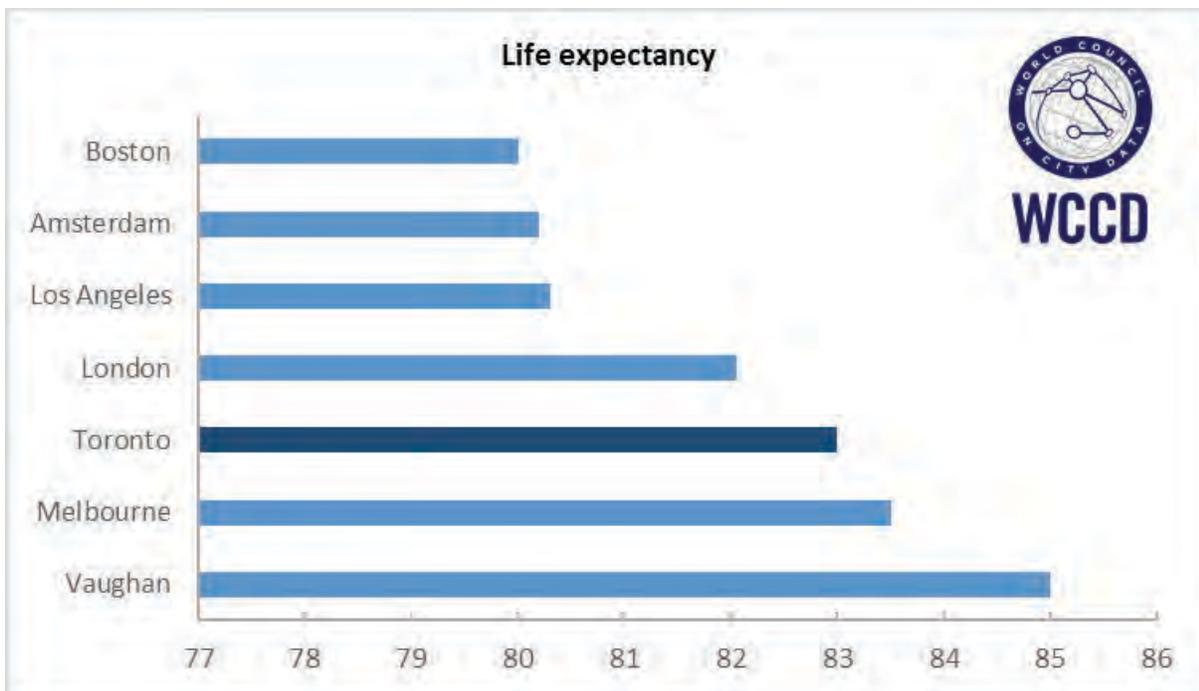
- Seniors are faring slightly better. 52.0% of them are not eating enough produce, lower than the provincial and national averages (61.9% and 60.5% respectively), and the percentage has decreased 6.3% since 2003.¹⁶¹



Life expectancy for Torontonians is relatively high, when compared to other global cities:

- Average life expectancy for Torontonians stands at 83 years (as reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) or WCCD in 2015), slightly lower than the 83.5 in Melbourne.
- People in Vaughan, however, have an average additional three years of life over Torontonians (their life expectancy sits at 85 years).
- Toronto's life expectancy age is only slightly higher than those of London (82.05), Los Angeles (80.3, Amsterdam (80.2), and Boston (80).¹⁶²

Life Expectancy in Years, as Reported to WCCD in 2015.¹⁶³



In the Toronto Central LHIN (Local Health Integration Network) unit (which serves approximately 1.2 million Torontonians¹⁶⁴), for every 100,000 residents there is more than double the number of physicians than there are nationally and provincially:

- The total number of physicians per 100,000 residents was 496 per 100,000 residents in 2014, up 17.5% from 422 in 2002. Comparatively, there were only 224 physicians per 100,000 nationally, and 214 provincially.¹⁶⁵
- The number of family physicians per 100,000 residents increased by 27.8% between 2002 and 2014, reaching 184 (up from 144). Comparatively, there were only 114 family physicians per 100,000 nationally, and 118 provincially.¹⁶⁶
- There were 312 specialists per 100,000 residents in 2014 (an increase of 12.2% from 278 in 2002). In Ontario as a whole there were 107 specialists per 100,000 and in Canada, 110.¹⁶⁷

- Nonetheless, 10.8% of the population 12 and over was without a regular medical doctor in 2014, which was lower than the 12.2% rate in 2005, above the 2014 provincial rate of 7.5%, and below the 2014 national rate of 14.9%.¹⁶⁸

Most Torontonians are satisfied with life and believe their mental health is good. But numbers are decreasing over time, and almost a quarter of the population experiences high levels of stress:

- Almost nine in 10 Torontonians aged 12 and over (88.7%) self-reported in 2014 that they are satisfied or very satisfied with life.¹⁶⁹ This is lower than the national (92.2%) and provincial (91.2%) averages, and not much higher than a decade ago (it was 87.8% in 2003).¹⁷⁰
- Seven in 10 (70.5%) said in 2014 they are in very good or excellent mental health.
 - Over time, however, Torontonians' self-rated mental health has decreased, by 1.2 percentage points between 2003 and 2014. It was at its highest in 2008 at 77.5% and lowest in 2013 at 67.4%.
 - Nonetheless, only 7.3% report fair or poor mental health.¹⁷¹
- The mental health of Toronto's youth (12-19) has also declined. 70.9% perceived their mental health as being very good or excellent in 2014, a decrease of 6.4 percentage points since 2003 and lower than the national (73.9%) and provincial (72.3%) averages.¹⁷²
- 22.8% of the population (15 years and over) reported in 2014 that most days in their life were quite a bit or extremely stressful, down from 27.4% in 2005 but above the rates provincially (22.3%) and nationally (23%).¹⁷³

A study of suicide deaths in the city has found that nine out of 10 had some type of health care contact in the year prior:

- The [study](#) analyzed 2,835 suicide deaths in the city from 1998 to 2011 to determine the relationship between mental health care contact and suicide.
- 91.7% of those who died had health care contact within a year of their death, 66.4% had mental health care contact, and 25.3% had only non-mental health care contact (i.e., any contact with health care professionals that was not related to mental health).
 - Of those who had mental health care contact, 54% had an outpatient primary care visit, 39.8% had an outpatient psychiatric visit, 31.1% had contact with a mental health emergency department, and 21% had a mental health hospitalization.¹⁷⁴

The City has a new action plan to improve outcomes for women experiencing intimate partner violence:

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) is pervasive. The [Department of Justice](#) has estimated its cost nationally (in healthcare and other related costs) at \$7.4B annually.¹⁷⁵
- In December 2015, City Council [adopted](#) Toronto Public Health's [recommendations](#) for action to deal with IPV.¹⁷⁶
- The action plan outlines 10 goals for prevention, early identification, and response to IPV.¹⁷⁷

TPH Action Plan on Intimate Partner Violence Against Women:¹⁷⁸

Prevention of IPV

Goal 1: Expand parenting education and support

Goal 2: Expand education on healthy relationships from middle childhood to adolescence

Goal 3: Address social and cultural norms that perpetuate IPV

Early Identification of IPV

Goal 4: Increase staff capacity to identify and respond to clients affected by IPV

Goal 5: Ensure equitable access to TPH programs and services

Goal 6: Increase TPH capacity to address IPV in the workplace

Goal 7: Increase the public's capacity to identify and respond to women affected by IPV

Response to IPV

Goal 8: Increase access to resources and services that protect, support, and empower women

Goal 9: Foster coordination and collaboration

Goal 10: Improve surveillance and research on IPV

- With respect to Goal 4, City staff cited research showing that healthcare settings provide a great avenue for screening women for IPV, substantially increasing identification.¹⁷⁹ But earlier in 2015, the Centre for Research on Inner City Health (CRICH) at St. Michael's Hospital released a [study](#) that found screening practices varied widely between Toronto hospitals and departments.
 - The study found a number of barriers to IPV screening, including lack of knowledge of IPV or training on how to screen for it, lack of time or prioritization compared to other aspects of patient treatment, and a fear of harming patients further (by not being tactful) or violating their privacy.
 - Respondents named institutional support, IPV training, and personal motivation as things that enabled IPV screening in their work.
 - The researchers concluded that policy makers should make IPV screening a public health priority to improve health outcomes for women and to lessen the burden on the healthcare system through earlier identification and intervention.
 - Universal screening, in which healthcare providers routinely ask women about their experiences with IPV, has proven more effective at uncovering it than case-finding, in which healthcare workers ask women only if they see signs of abuse.¹⁸⁰

What new public health challenges have emerged?

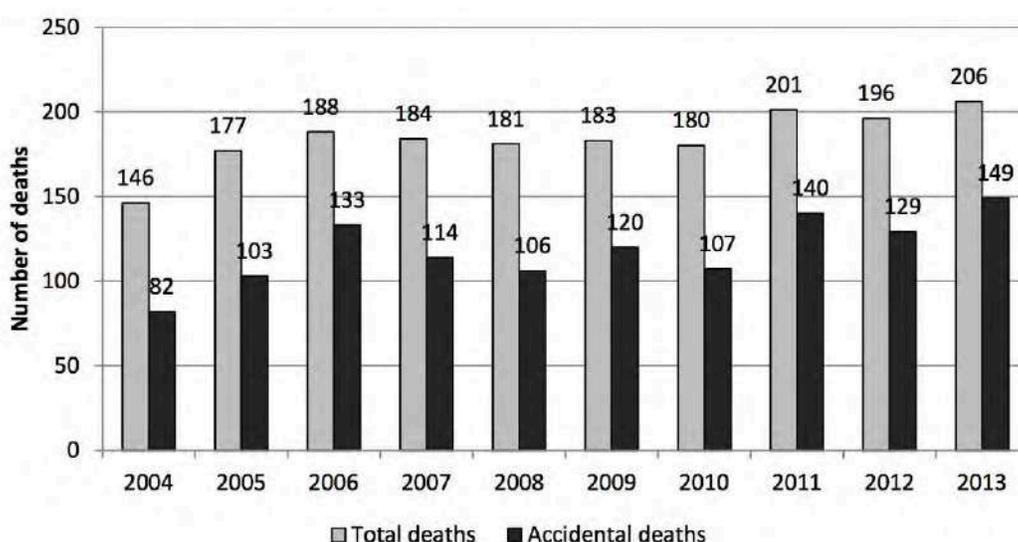
Accidental drug-induced deaths in Toronto increased by 82% in less than a decade, making drug overdose a significant public health issue:

- Toronto Public Health analyzed data from annual reports of the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario. Its [findings](#) show that deaths due to drug overdose increased dramatically (by 41%) in Toronto between 2004 and 2013 (the latest year for which data is

available)—from 146 to 206. Deaths from opioids in particular have raised concern (between 2009 and 2013 alone, fentanyl deaths increased 76% in Ontario).

- Deaths indirectly caused by drug use (such as accidents or disease as a result of substance use) were excluded—only overdoses (drug-induced deaths in which the person died directly from drug toxicity) were counted. Overdose deaths can be classed as accidental, intentional, or undetermined.
- In every year analyzed, the majority of overdose deaths were accidental, and over time accidental overdose has increased as a percentage of total overdose deaths, reaching 72% in 2013. Accidental drug-induced deaths increased by 82% between 2004 and 2013, while both the suicide and undetermined categories of overdoses declined.¹⁸¹

Drug-Induced Deaths, Toronto, 2004-2013:¹⁸²



Data Source: Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, compiled by Toronto Public Health.

- Males were more likely than females to die of overdose: 65% of all deaths by overdose were males, as were 71% of accidental overdoses.
- 64% of overdose deaths were among people between 40 and 64 years old.
- Data comparing substance use within the previous year shows higher rates of use among both adults and youth who are homeless or otherwise “street-involved” or incarcerated.
 - Of Toronto students in grades 7-12 surveyed, 29% consumed alcohol in the past year, and 13% used cannabis. Of street-involved youth surveyed, the rates were 99% and 96% respectively.
 - 75% of “street-entrenched adults” reported using cocaine (crack).¹⁸³

Substance Use in the Past Year Among Various Groups, Toronto, 2002-2013: ¹⁸⁴

Substances used in the past year	Students Grades 7-12 ¹¹	Adults 18+ ¹²	Street-entrenched adults ¹³	Street-involved youth ¹⁴	Ontario prisoners (male) ¹⁵
Alcohol	29%	72%	91%	99%	n/a
Cannabis	13%	15%	92%	96%	n/a
Prescription opioids (non-medical use)	11%	3%	23%-43%	15%-18%	35%
Cocaine (powder)	n/a	1.5%	61%	45%	38%
Cocaine (crack)	n/a	n/a	75%	23%	29%
Ecstasy/MDMA	n/a	n/a	28%	72%	n/a
Crystal methamphetamine	n/a	n/a	30%	54%	6%
Heroin	n/a	n/a	25%	10%	7.4%

Notes: n/a = not asked or no data available. Prison data was collected from a single, male-only correctional facility. Substance use also occurs among women prisoners, but no data sources were available.

- The report recommends actions including development by the Province of a comprehensive overdose prevention strategy (informed by the 2015 [Prescription for Life report](#) by the Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinators Network of Ontario).¹⁸⁵



After many public meetings, a recommendation from the medical officer of health Dr. David McKeown and the Toronto Drug Strategy implementation panel¹⁸⁶, the City of Toronto approved three safe injection sites on July 14, 2016.

- Both Mayor John Tory and Chief of Police Mark Saunders have supported the sites as a key to saving lives and preventing overdoses.¹⁸⁷

How are inequities impacting health and wellbeing?

Many Toronto youth who identify as queer and trans do not feel safe disclosing this identity when accessing addiction services:

- In an early 2015 [study](#) (conducted by Breakaway Addiction Services and funded by the Toronto Central LHIN) of LGBTTTQQITSA-identified youth and substance use, 58.5% of 183 “queer/trans” respondents who had accessed formal support services for substance use reported that they did not feel safe disclosing their queer/trans identity when doing so. 65.1% of those who accessed formal support services indicated that provider and/or client orientation towards their queer/trans identity negatively impacted their experiences.
- 25.7% of 343 respondents who had not accessed support services were uncertain if staff would understand them as a queer/trans person, and 50.1% reported that not knowing what was available was a barrier to access.
- Of 281 youth reporting previous experiences of service access, 65.5% had used individual counselling, 21.4% group counselling, 20.6% a 12-step program, and 37.4% harm reduction.¹⁸⁸

A third of “street-involved youth” surveyed in a one study have attempted suicide:

- In Fall 2015 193 street-involved youth from various organizations—Eva’s Satellite, Eva’s Place, Turning Point, Covenant House, Justice for Children and Youth, and Yonge Street Mission-Evergreen—were surveyed.
- One in three respondents (36%) reported that they had attempted suicide, and that they were often bullied in school.¹⁸⁹

Low-income Torontonians and those needing cultural-specific services wait longer for long-term care:

- A 2016 Wellesley Institute [report](#) examined wait lists for long-term care (LTC) homes managed by the Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) — which manages 36 homes in the Toronto Central LHIN (TCLHIN)—and other CCACs serving GTA populations.
 - Wait time data gathered for the 90th percentile, or they reflect the experience of nine out of 10 residents, was as follows:
 - Those who can afford private accommodations get care faster.
 - Monthly rates, set by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, are \$1,774.81 for basic accommodation with two to four beds in a room and \$2,535.23 for private accommodation. Low-income applicants opt for basic accommodation because of the lower cost and because government subsidies are available only for basic rooms.
 - Wait times are 86 days (28%) longer for basic accommodations (397 days versus 311 for private).
 - Those who want services specific to ethnic groups (for example, ethnic programming and food, and staff who speak their first language) wait longer for care.
 - Eight long-term care homes in the TCLHIN and at least 10 around the GTA provide “ethno-specific” services. Residents waited about 18 months for basic accommodations, about six months longer than at “mainstream” homes. The wait time for private accommodations was shorter at 15.5 months.¹⁹⁰
 - There appears to be a greater demand for cultural-specific services than is currently available. Chinese-specific LTC homes in Scarborough, Richmond Hill, Markham, and Mississauga have wait lists for basic accommodations as long as eight years.¹⁹¹

Wait Times for Ethno-Specific LTC Homes, GTA, 2016:¹⁹²

CCAC	Name of LTCH	Serving	Wait time for basic bed (days)	Wait time for private bed (days)
Central East	Mon Sheong LTC Centre Scarborough	Chinese	3,152	2,961
Central East	Hellenic Home for the Aged Scarborough	Greek	2,769	313
Central East	Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care Scarborough	Chinese	2,696	1,885
Central	Mon Sheong Richmond Hill LTC Centre	Chinese	2,604	1,343
Central East	Yee Hong Centre Scarborough Finch Centre	Chinese	2,555	1,599
Central	Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care Markham	Chinese	2,503	1,155
Mississauga-Halton	Yee Hong Centre Mississauga	Chinese	2,033	896
Toronto Central	Baycrest Centre	Jewish	908	553
Central	Ukrainian Canadian Care Centre	Ukrainian	759	1,144
Toronto Central	Rose of Sharon	Korean	759	477
Toronto Central	Mon Sheong Home for the Aged	Chinese	742	500
Toronto Central	Copernicus Lodge	Polish	624	333
Mississauga-Halton	Dom Lipa Nursing Home	Slovenian	579	600
Mississauga-Halton	Labdara Lithuanian Nursing Home	Lithuanian	504	842
Toronto Central	Hellenic Home for the Aged	Greek	500	468
Toronto Central	Suomi-Koti	Finnish	355	341
Toronto Central	Ivan Franko Nursing Home	Ukrainian	279	585
Toronto Central	Maynard Nursing Home	Portuguese	134	463

*The number of days waited is calculated in the 90th percentile, meaning that they reflect the overall experience of nine out of ten people. Some people may wait longer or shorter depending on the circumstances and the number of available beds. Source: Toronto Central, Central, Mississauga-Halton, and Central East CCAC LTC waitlists, based on data available on the local CCAC websites as of 12 January 2016.

Toronto Public Health says parts of the city are “food deserts” with an under-abundance of healthy food sources:

- A 2015 Toronto Public Health [report](#) mapped healthy food access across the city using the modified food retail environment index (MFREI), which represents a ratio of healthier to less-healthy food retail locations within a one-km walk of each city block. (Less-healthy outlets are typically convenience stores or fast food restaurants.)
- Across Toronto the ratio of less healthy to healthier food outlets is four to one.

- In the lowest-income areas (the bottom 20%), there are 15 less-healthy outlets for every healthier one.
- Mapping low MRFEI scores with low income shows several areas where lower-income households may spend their limited resources at unhealthier, but more accessible, food outlets.
- A lower-income area with relatively few supermarkets nearby is a “food desert.” Toronto Public Health’s analysis found that almost 31,000 households in Toronto’s lowest-income areas are more than a one-km walk from a supermarket. Over 9,000 of those households are more than a one-km walk from any food outlet.¹⁹³

A “food swamp” on the other hand, is a place where there is an overabundance of unhealthy food options, which like food deserts, is also a problem facing many communities in Toronto:

- According to a 2015 Toronto Public Health study, most of Toronto’s food swamps are in the inner suburbs.
- Food swamps are seen in communities with both high and lower incomes. However, the trend becomes especially problematic if residents do not have access to healthy food options, and cannot travel easily to reach them due to economic barriers.¹⁹⁴



Food by Ward project from the Toronto Food Policy Council has extensively researched and mapped food assets by ward across the entire city:

- The objective is to assist City officials in their planning and to empowering community leaders in their advocacy.
- The resource pays particular attention to unequal distribution of food assets as well as barriers that residents may encounter when beginning food security programs.
- To goal is to have a holistic look at the city’s food system.¹⁹⁵

Example of Ward 2, Etobicoke North at a glance, 2016¹⁹⁶:

WARD AT A GLANCE

2

WARD 2 / CITY WIDE / AVERAGE

0 / 34 / <1	25 / 1,653 / 38	0 / 23 / <1
GOOD FOOD & MOBILE FOOD MARKETS	HEALTHIER FOOD RETAIL	COMMUNITY FOOD AGENCIES
9	4 / 196 / 4	2 / 116 / 3
CITY-WIDE FOOD BOX PROGRAMS	EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	COMMUNITY KITCHENS
0 / 38 / <1	5,289 / 160,257 / 3,642	5 / 247 / 6
FARMERS' MARKETS	STUDENTS SERVED/DAY IN 30 STUDENT NUTRITION PROGRAMS IN 16 LOCATIONS	SCHOOL & COMMUNITY GARDENS
0 / 5 / <1		1 / 51 / 1
FOOD CO-OPS		FOOD FESTIVALS

There are many resources available to help strengthen food assets in Toronto. Please see our [resources list on page 15](#).

FOOD BY WARD 2016

WARD 2: ETOBICOKE NORTH

TORONTO FOOD POLICY COUNCIL



In one Toronto neighbourhood, residents and an urban agriculture initiative have taken action to turn a food desert into an oasis, implementing a solution that could be replicated in other communities:

- Since June, a market housed in a retrofitted shipping container has been offering residents of the Moss Park community fresh produce, saving them a 15-minute walk to the closest grocery store.
- The Moss Park Market will operate three days a week, year round, on the grounds of a Toronto Community Housing apartment complex, allowing local vendor Wali Barak to sell a diversity of culturally appropriate foods at lower costs despite Toronto's high rents.
- TCHC residents are collaborating on the two-year pilot project with [Building Roots](#), a social venture addressing food security and food literacy.¹⁹⁷



A "store on wheels" is increasing access to fresh, affordable, and culturally appropriate produce to places where there are less healthy food options within close proximity:

- The [Mobile Good Food Market](#) is a collaboration between Toronto Public Health and FoodShare. In 2015 it travelled to 18 locations in low-income communities across the city.

- The mobile market is housed in a retrofitted WheelTrans bus donated by the Toronto Transit Commission. In March 2015, City Council approved funding for a second vehicle.¹⁹⁸



The **Bowery Project** uses milk crates to create mobile farms in vacant lots and community spaces to help grow healthy, accessible food:

- A proportion of the vegetables grown are donated to community groups in the area and the rest is sold to local restaurants to fund more mobile farms.¹⁹⁹



FoodShare has partnered with Toronto Public Health and the TTC to launch “**Grab Some Good**”, pop-up food markets with fresh produce and healthy snacks:

- Downsview, Kipling and Victoria Park subway stations are the first stations for the project roll-out.
- In its pilot phase in 2016, FoodShare hopes to open more across the subway system.²⁰⁰



Photo credit: FoodShare Toronto.

Almost one in five babies born in Toronto in 2015 was outside the healthy range for birth weight, putting them at risk of poverty later in life:

- Babies born at weights below or above normal (for their gestational age) may face risk factors that increase their likelihood of experiencing poverty during their lifetimes.

- The percentage of babies born at a healthy weight in Ontario has remained steady over the past five years, but data are revealing regional differences.
- While 81.8% of babies born in Toronto in 2015 were a healthy weight—higher than the 80.5% province wide—10.1% were small (compared to 9.4% province wide) and 8.1% were large (versus 10.1% for Ontario).²⁰¹

Percentage of Small and Large Birth Weights By Region, Ontario, 2015:²⁰²

Region*	Small for Gestational Age (%)	Large for Gestational Age (%)
Erie St. Clair	8.4	11.2
Central	10.4	7.5
Central East	10.2	9.8
Central West	12.6	7.1
Champlain	7.5	11.4
Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant	8.4	12.4
Mississauga/Halton	10.8	7.8
North East	8.2	12.5
North Simcoe Muskoka	8.6	11.4
North West	6.2	16.8
South East	9.7	13.1
South West	8.1	11.9
Toronto Central	10.1	8.1
Waterloo Wellington	8.2	11.4
Ontario	9.4	10.1

Source: BORN Ontario, Fiscal Year 2009-14. Note: *Region is based on Local Health Integration Network of residence.

- Babies born to low-income families are more likely to be outside the normal range.
- Extensive evidence has shown a clear link between income and health. Socio-economic circumstances account for 50% of a person's health.²⁰³

What Shapes Canadians' Health, 2015:²⁰⁴



Source: The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology.



To keep our city healthy in 2015, one area of focus for Toronto Public Health was preventing and controlling the spread of communicable disease:

- According to its [annual report](#), in 2015 Toronto Public Health (TPH):
 - investigated 140 suspected cases of communicable diseases, contacted 1,548 people potentially exposed to 10 confirmed cases, and vaccinated 132 people during an Ontario-wide measles outbreak, and monitored 300 returning travellers during the Ebola outbreak;
 - assessed the immunization records of 225,000 children in the 2014/15 school year and sent 113,981 letters to those whose shots were not up to date;
 - administered 29,139 HPV vaccine doses (three are required for full protection) to girls from Grade 8 and up at 1,242 clinics in 414 schools and at 43 community clinics; and
 - established the Communicable Disease Surveillance Unit to monitor public health threats throughout the Pan Am Games. While it detected no significant threats, the unit produced 121 reports and updates during the Games.
 - In addition, TPH inspected over 30 Game venues, eight swimming pools, and over 100 food premises serving 850,00 meals.²⁰⁵
- 35.7% of the population aged 12 and over were immunized against influenza in 2014, up from 33.6% in 2003. The rate is close to the provincial average (35.4%) but slightly higher than the national average (32.5%). Toronto's influenza immunization rates were at their highest at 42.6% in 2005.²⁰⁶

To learn more about innovative community-based organizations and programs working to address issues relating to health and wellness, check out: <http://ckc.torontofoundation.ca/>.

Safety

Why is this important?

The city can prosper only if its residents feel safe in their neighbourhoods, engage with one another, and trust their institutions. The majority of Torontonians do feel safe (almost 80% feel at least somewhat comfortable walking in their community at night).²⁰⁷ However, tracking indicators like perceptions of safety, as well as violent and non-violent crime, allows us to both test the basis of that confidence, and also to better understand the places and situations where vulnerable residents don't experience safety.

What are the trends?

Many indicators of safety confirm a continuing long-term downward trend, such as the city's youth crime rate, and the rate of police-reported crime. Others show little change over time (hate/bias crimes in Toronto, for example, have averaged approximately 143 a year over the past 10 years). The number of homicides in the city, which rose in 2012 and 2013 after a four-year decline, has remained stable since. Others indicators are beginning to shift in negative directions.

What's new?

The Muslim community is experiencing more hate/bias crimes. Toronto police have investigated 359 sex trafficking cases since 2013, and sexual offences are being reported more often. Stabbing homicides have increased by 157% since 2012, reaching a four-year high. Drug-impaired driving charges are way up, and cannabis dispensaries are proliferating. One in three Torontonians believe police officers are "above the law," and four in five believe they are treated differently in the justice system. Half think there is systemic racism in Toronto, and just over half support the Black Lives Matter movement. A pedestrian is hit by a vehicle every four hours in Toronto, and motor vehicle collisions and bad driving are putting schoolchildren in danger.

How safe is Toronto?

For the ninth straight year, the Toronto Region had the lowest rate of police-reported crime in 2015 among the 33 Canadian Census Metropolitan Areas:

- The crime rate in the Region was 2,892 per 100,000 population, lower than the national crime rate of 5,198 per 100,000 and much lower, comparatively, than Ottawa (3,329), Montréal (3,572), Calgary (5,279), and Vancouver (7,407).²⁰⁸ The Region's crime rate declined by 34% between 2005 and 2015.²⁰⁹
- The overall crime rate in Toronto dropped by 0.7% in 2015 from 2014 (versus a 0.3% decrease in Ontario and a 1.9% increase in Canada), to 3,788 per 100,000 population, lower than the national (5,888/100,000) and provincial (3,991) crime rates. The city's crime rate declined by 53.2% between 1998 and 2015, more than across Ontario (48.6% decrease) and Canada (34.0% decrease).²¹⁰
 - On the Overall Crime Severity Index, the city increased 1.3% from 2014 to 56.4 per 100,000 population in 2015, higher than the Ontario's 50.6 but well below Canada's 69.7 (both the province and the country also saw increases over 2014, of 1.8% and 4.5% respectively). The city, province, and country have all seen significant decreases on the Index between 1998 and 2015, with rates decreasing by 51.4% in Toronto, 49.8% in Ontario, and 41.3% in Canada.²¹¹

The rate of violent crime across the Toronto Region increased in 2015 from 2014:

- The Region saw 735 violent crimes per 100,000 population in 2015 (up 3% from 2014). Comparatively, Ottawa had 616 violent crimes per 100,000, Calgary 779, Montréal 889, and Vancouver 1,043. Among the 33 metropolitan regions in Canada, only six (Sherbrooke, Ottawa, Hamilton, St. Catharine's–Niagara, Guelph, and Barrie) had a lower violent crime rate.²¹² The Region's rate is lower than the national (1,062) and provincial (786) rates.²¹³
- On the Violent Crime Severity Index (measuring the seriousness of crimes by the sentences handed down by the courts), the Region falls below the Canadian average in 2015 of 74.5 per 100,000 persons at 64.6. Comparatively, Ottawa had a score of 53.7, Calgary 72.1, Montréal 76.1, and Vancouver 85.0.²¹⁴
- The homicide rate (per 100,000 population) in the Region was also lower than it was nationally at 1.35 per 100,000 (versus 1.68 nationally).²¹⁵

In the city of Toronto in 2015, the number of homicides remained largely unchanged from the past two years. In 2014 and 2013 there were 57 homicides, and in 2015, there were 56. Reported sexual assaults also decreased, but the rate of violent crime and stabbing homicides increased, and sex trafficking may be on the rise province wide:

- In 2015, the violent crime rate in Toronto was 1,020 per 100,000 population, an increase of 4.0% from 2014. The Ontario rate was 786/100,000 (no change over 2014), and the national was 1,062/100,000 (a 2.2% increase). Between 1998 and 2015, the rate decreased 25.8% in Toronto, 35.7% in Ontario, and 21.0% in Canada.²¹⁶
- Stabbing homicide numbers, meanwhile, have increased 157% since 2012, reaching 18 in 2015—a four-year high (there were 15 stabbing homicides in 2014, 14 in 2013, and 7 in 2012).²¹⁷
- In 2015, Toronto's reported sexual assault rate decreased by 4.1% over 2014 (versus increases of 0.7% in Ontario and 2.7% in Canada), but at 62.9 per 100,000 population it

was higher than the provincial (55.3/100,000), and national (59.6) averages. The decrease in reported sexual assaults between 1998 and 2015 is much lower in Toronto at 7.2% than it is across the province (30.3%) and the country (29.7%).²¹⁸

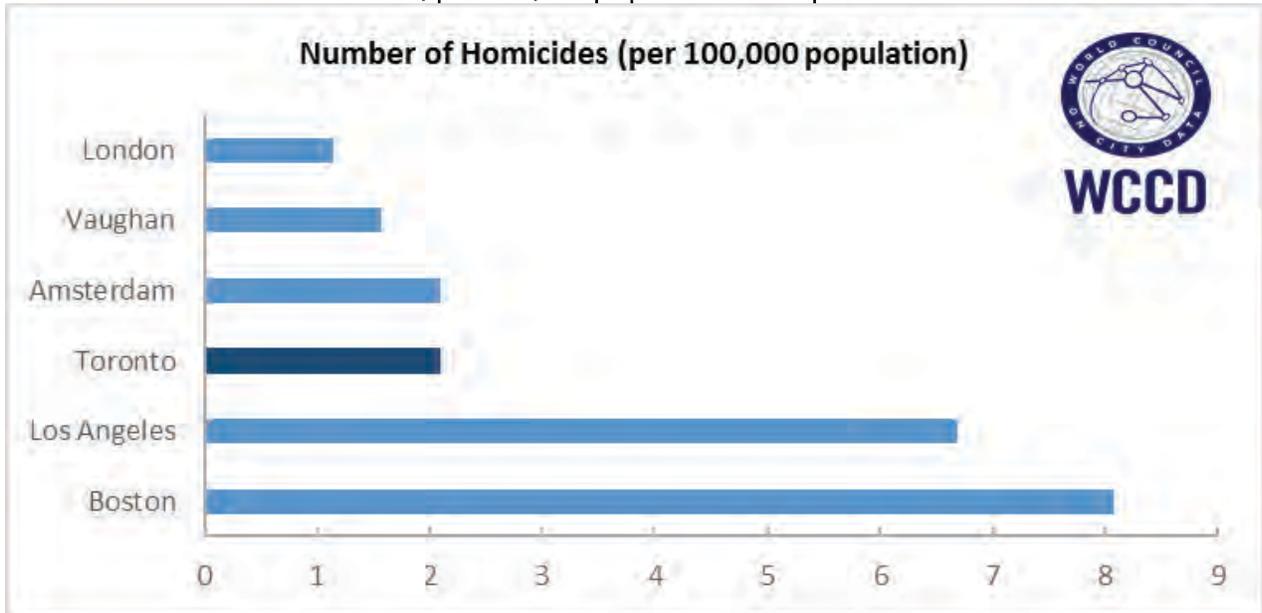
- A Toronto Star [investigation](#) has found that sex trafficking (forcing young girls and women to work as prostitutes) is one of the fastest growing crimes in the province. The newspaper reports that Toronto police have investigated 359 cases of sex trafficking since 2013.²¹⁹



Toronto's homicide rate, when compared to some US cities, continues to be low, however, it is higher than the rates in London and Vaughan, ON:

- As reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) (WCCD) in 2015, Toronto had a homicide rate of 2.1 per 100,000 population. Almost on par with the rate in Amsterdam (2.09), but three times lower than the rate in Los Angeles (6.69), and four times lower than the rate in Boston.
- Toronto's rate, however, is a third higher than the rate in Vaughan (1.57), and almost double the rate in London (1.14).²²⁰

Number of Homicides, per 100,000 population as Reported to WCCD in 2015.²²¹



A new program from the Ontario Government via the Ministry of the Attorney General offer four hours of free legal advice to survivors of sexual assault:

- The program is being piloted in the City of Toronto, the City of Ottawa, and the District of Thunder Bay.
- The service is confidential and for anyone over the age of 16 if the assault occurred in Ontario.
- The government is also partnering with the [Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic](#) to refer clients for further legal advice and representation.²²²

The Region's youth crime rate continues to decrease:

- In 2015, the youth crime rate (total charged per 100,000 youths) in the Region was 1,334 per 100,000, down 3.8% from 2014 (when it was 1,386/100,000), and 37.6% lower than the national average (2,137) and 20.2% lower than the provincial average (1,671).
- The youth crime rate decreased 52% between 2006 and 2015 (from 2,795 per 100,000).²²³

The city's youth crime rate has decreased significantly over the past several years:

- In 2015, the youth crime rate (total charged per 100,000 youths) in Toronto was 1,638.2, down 2.6% from 2014 when it was 1,681.3, and lower than the national (2,136.8/100,000) and the provincial (1,670.6) averages.
- The youth crime rate has decreased significantly in the city—by 51.1%—between 2004 (1638.2) and 2015, in keeping with decreases across Ontario (from 1670.6 to 3351.3 representing a decrease of 50.2%) and Canada (from 2136.8 to 3457.3 representing a decrease of 38.2%) during the same period.²²⁴

Alcohol-related driving charges have dropped, but drug-impaired driving charges are way up:

- According to Toronto Police, as of May 2016 25 drivers had been charged with impairment due to drugs, a 150% increase over 10 charges by May of 2015.
- Meanwhile, drivers charged with impairment due to alcohol dropped 7%, with 431 charged as of May 2016 compared to 464 by May of the previous year.²²⁵

Although cannabis has not been decriminalized in Canada, dispensaries have been proliferating in Toronto:

- Between March and May of 2016, the percentage of Torontonians reporting cannabis dispensaries in their neighbourhood doubled, knowledge of dispensaries' illegality increased, and support for their existence dropped.
 - A Forum Research [telephone survey](#) of 804 randomly sampled Toronto voters on May 16 found that, compared to a previous poll on March 23 (of 904 voters),
 - respondents were more likely to report one or more dispensaries in their neighbourhood (23% versus 11% in March), more likely to report that dispensaries were not legal (32% versus 18%), and less likely to say dispensaries should be allowed to operate (48% versus 57%).
 - 42% didn't know whether dispensaries were illegal or not.²²⁶

Dispensary in the neighbourhood – Trend

%	May 17th, 2016	March 23rd, 2016
Sample	804	908
Yes	23	11
No	35	38
Don't know	42	51

Are dispensaries legal businesses – Trend

%	May 17th, 2016	March 23rd, 2016
Sample	804	908
Yes	26	27
No	32	18
Don't know	42	55

Should they be allowed to operate in Toronto – Trend

%	May 17th, 2016	March 23rd, 2016
Sample	804	908
Yes	48	57
No	36	30
Don't know	17	13

- Responses differed by demographics.
 - The presence of dispensaries in the neighbourhood was more likely to be reported by residents of the former city of Toronto (41%), younger respondents (29%), the wealthiest (\$100-250k, 31%), and those with children (27%).
 - Males (53%), younger respondents (55%), and the wealthiest (\$100-250k, 64%) were more likely to approve of dispensaries being allowed to operate.
 - 53% agreed with the mayor's statement that the rate of dispensary growth in Toronto is "alarming." Seniors (65+, 63%), females (57% versus 49% males), and mothers with children under 18 (61%) were more likely to agree.
- 76% agreed with the mayor's call for regulation and licensing of dispensaries to keep them away from schools and community centres, and support was strong across all age

cohorts, from 67% of 18-34 year olds to 81% of seniors. Strongest agreement came from mothers (85%) and those who live in a neighbourhood with dispensaries (69%).²²⁸

- A Globe and Mail [report](#) called Toronto the new “cannabis capital,” home as of May 2016 to more than 114 cannabis dispensaries (according to a second-year Osgood Hall law student and dispensary operator who compiled numbers from websites and social media).
 - Although Vancouver had shut down 22 of 100 dispensaries and ordered another 46 to shut down, according to the Prosecution Service of Canada only three Toronto shops had been closed in the previous two years.²²⁹
- On May 26, 2016, Toronto police conducted a raid on 43 different shops and arrested 90, resulting in 186 charges and the seizure of approximately 270 kg of cannabis.²³⁰

Torontonians who ride bikes would do best to avoid locking them up on Toronto’s downtown arterial streets—Yonge, Bloor, Bay, College, and Queen:

- Between January 2010 and June 2015, 18,245 bike thefts were reported to Toronto police. [Analysis](#) of these thefts by the Toronto Star shows 367 occurrences on Yonge Street, 296 on Bay, 240 on Bloor Street West, 230 on College, and 214 on Queen Street West.
- The two most popular target areas for bike thieves are in 52 Division. Police patrol zone 524 (the Financial District) saw 1,494 bike thefts/10,000 residents and 874 occurrences over the five-and-a-half year period. Patrol zone 521 (around Chinatown and the Discovery District) had 945 thefts/10,000 residents and 1,058 occurrences.²³¹

Is there a disconnect between Toronto’s police and the communities they serve?

Half of Torontonians think there is systemic racism in Toronto, and just over half support the “Black Lives Matter” movement:

- Black Lives Matter Toronto describes itself as “a coalition of Black Torontonians resisting anti-Black racism, state-sponsored violence, police brutality.”²³²
- An April 2016 Forum Research [telephone survey](#) of a random sample of 858 Toronto voters found a majority (55%) of respondents “somewhat” or “very strongly” supported Black Lives Matter. 29% supported it “very strongly.”
- Some demographics were more likely to support the movement. Support was higher among:
 - females than males (59% versus 50%);
 - 18-34 year olds than seniors (62% versus 47%); and
 - residents of the former city of Toronto and East York than other GTA regions (64% versus 48-54%).

Percentage Support for Black Lives Matter By Age, Gender, and Region:²³³

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	858	184	135	168	182	189	461	397
Support very strongly	29	40	34	22	22	18	26	32
Support somewhat	25	22	22	29	32	29	24	27
Do not support very much	17	15	11	17	23	23	18	16
Do not support at all	13	13	14	14	11	13	18	9
Don't know	15	11	19	17	12	17	14	16

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	858	351	164	191	152
Support very strongly	29	37	31	23	23
Support somewhat	25	27	20	25	31
Do not support very much	17	14	18	19	17
Do not support at all	13	11	13	16	15
Don't know	15	11	18	18	14

- Very strong support was higher among university graduates (32%) and those in mid-income brackets (\$40-60k; 37%).
- 50% of respondents, when asked whether they agreed or disagreed that there is systemic racism in Toronto, agreed. 29% disagreed. Agreement was higher among:
 - females than males (55% versus 45%);
 - those under 45 than those aged 45+ (56-58% versus 40-44%); and
 - residents of the former city of Toronto and East York than other GTA regions (54% versus 47-49%).

Percentage Agreement With Existence of Systemic Racism By Age, Gender, and Region:²³⁴

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	858	184	135	168	182	189	461	397
Agree	50	56	58	44	40	43	45	55
Disagree	29	28	25	31	36	31	36	24
Don't know	20	16	17	25	24	26	19	22

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	858	351	164	191	152
Agree	50	54	47	49	49
Disagree	29	28	29	33	28
Don't know	20	18	24	18	24

- Those at the lowest income levels (58%) and those with post-graduate education (53%) were also more likely to agree with the existence of systemic racism.²³⁵

One in three Torontonians believe officers are “above the law,” and four out of five believe officers are treated differently in the justice system, yet 46% would say that “hard-working” best describe the Toronto Police Service:

- Conducting a poll with 517 adult panelists from the Angus Reid Forum in 2016, CBC News found that, when asked to choose one or more from a list of words that may or may not describe the Toronto Police Service, 46% chose “hardworking.” Another 42% chose “courageous.” But 30% chose “above the law,” and another 24% chose “corrupt.”

Reponses to “Which words best describe the Toronto Police Service?”, 2016:²³⁶



Source: CBC News

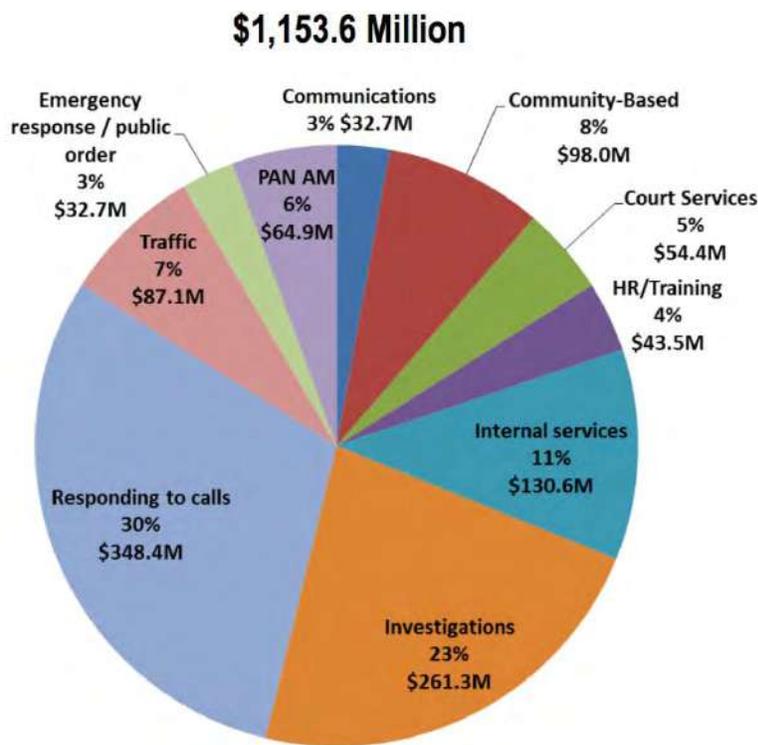
- The majority of respondents (57%) said that they “completely or slightly trust” police, but one in four (25%) said they “slightly or completely distrust” them.

- 44% said they “strongly or somewhat disagree with the statement that police are held accountable for their actions on the job.”
- Almost eight in 10 (79%) said they “strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement that police officers are treated different than ordinary citizens in the justice system.”
- More than half (54%) of respondents said their view of Toronto police is “somewhat or much worse” after the high-profile incidents. 37% said their view hadn’t changed. 8% said their view had improved.
- Over half (56%) “somewhat or strongly disagreed with the statement that Toronto police can be trusted to deal with someone who is in a state of mental health crisis” and 53% said they “somewhat or strongly disagree with the statement that police do everything they can to de-escalate encounters with people who are mentally ill.”²³⁷

A focus on police interactions with individuals experiencing mental illness was amongst service deliverables outlined by the Toronto Police Service for 2015, and efforts are underway to modernize the organization:

- A June 2015 service level review outlined a set of deliverables for the year including:
 - addressing community safety and focusing on interaction with individuals living with mental illness;
 - maintaining an average deployment of 5,260 officers (202 below the approved 5,462);
 - providing security to 263 provincial courthouses; and
 - planning for the arrival of athletes and officials for the Pan Am Games (6%, or \$64.9m, of the TPS budget for 2015 went towards the Games).

Toronto Police Service Budget, 2015:²³⁸



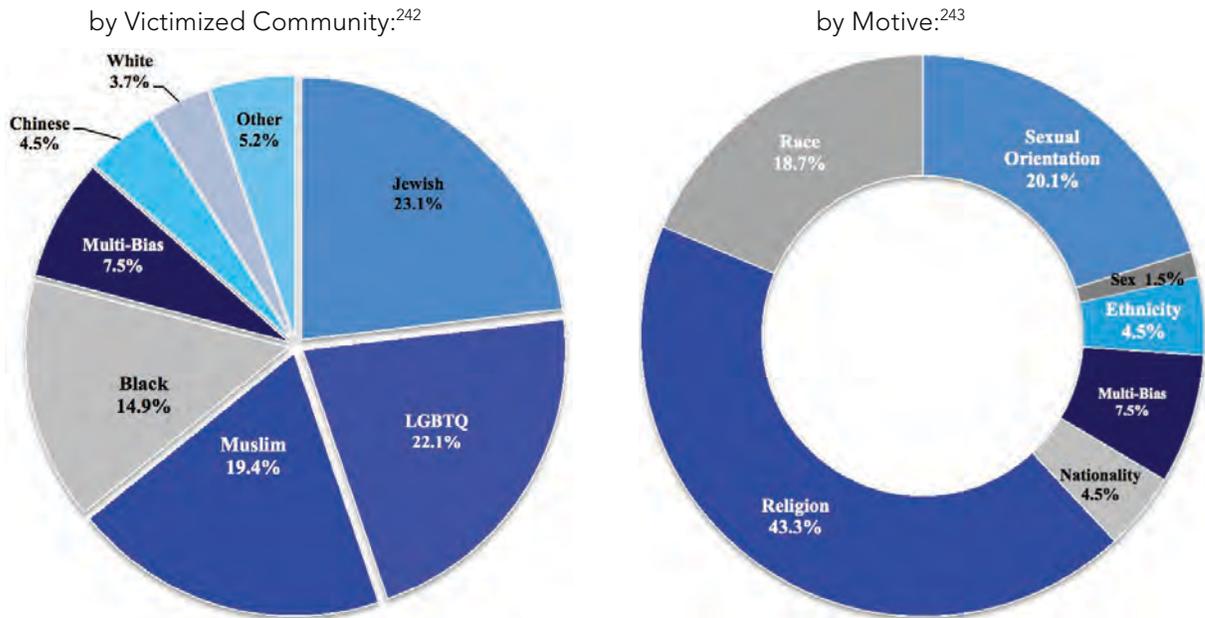
- Reported challenges to services included:
 - an aging population (which can impact crime and victimization patterns and services demanded);
 - the increased cost of policing;
 - balancing improvement with decreasing police resources;
 - Toronto's diversity (requiring officer awareness of different cultures and sensitivities);
 - crime trend changes (e.g., cyber crime such as identity theft and phishing); and
 - a civilian hiring freeze.
- Strategies being used to address both challenges and opportunities included:
 - using social media to increase public awareness of and provide education on issues such as road safety and cyber crimes; and
 - developing and delivering, with involvement from community partners, training on mental health resources to officers who may interact with individuals living with mental illness.²³⁹
- In February 2016, a Transformational Task Force began working on a plan to modernize the TPS. A June 2016 [report](#) includes 24 interim recommendations focused around three goals: "be where the public needs the service the most," "embrace partnerships to create safe communities," and "focus on the complex needs of a large city."
 - Major change in the service delivery model is focused on five areas: how the TPS relates to the public (with a focus on safe communities and neighbourhoods), service delivery (with a shift from primary to priority response to reduce the time officers spend on non-emergency calls), improving access to services (by better aligning the Division map with services provided by the City and community organizations), sustainability and affordability (finding areas for reductions and savings), and culture change (through training).
 - A final report is expected at the end of 2016.²⁴⁰

How safe are members of vulnerable populations in the Toronto Region?

Hate/bias crimes increased for Toronto's Muslim community in 2015:

- Hate/bias crimes are down after an increase in 2014. 134 hate per bias crimes were reported to Toronto Police Services' Hate Crime Unit in 2015, down 8.2% (from 146) over the previous year, and lower than the average of 143 a year over the past 10 years (2006-2015).
- From 2006 to 2014, the most frequently targeted communities were the Jewish, Black, and LGBTQ* communities. In 2015, the Jewish community was most victimized, the LGBTQ* community was second, and Muslims third.
 - Hate/bias crimes against Muslims increased, especially in November 2015. Police have speculated the incidents may have been motivated by the ISIL terror attacks in Paris and Syrian refugee resettlement.
- Most (43%) of the hate/bias crimes in 2015 were motivated by religion, followed by sexual orientation (20%) and race (19%).
 - A third (34%) of the religion-motivated crimes targeted the Muslim community.

Proportion of Reported Hate/Bias Crimes Based on Toronto Police Service Statistics, 2015:²⁴¹



Note: Victim groups with five or more occurrences are represented.

Note: Based on the total number of hate/bias crimes reported in 2015. (There were 0 age, disability, similar factor, and language occurrences.)

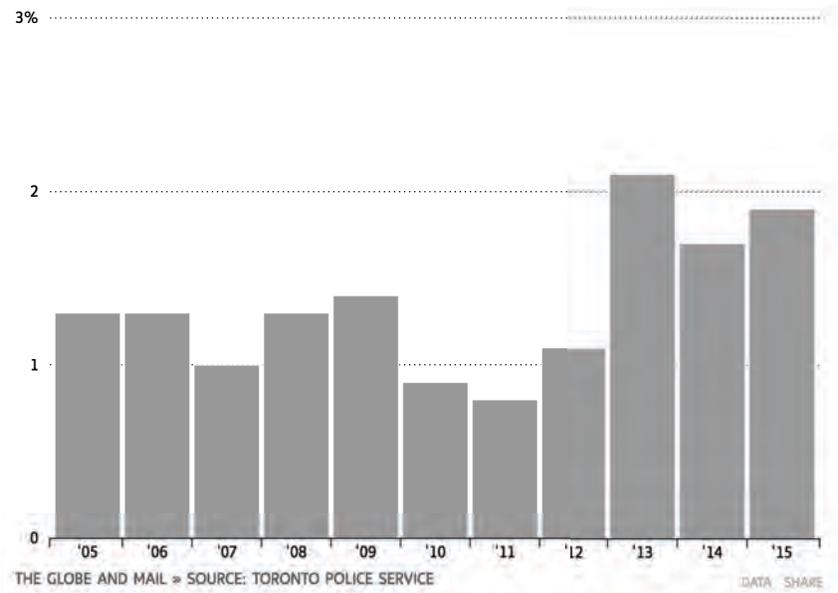
- The three most reported criminal offences motivated by hate/bias in 2015 were mischief to property (targeting the Jewish community most frequently), assault (targeting the LGBTQ* community most), and criminal harassment (targeting Muslims most).²⁴⁴
 - In a national Environics Institute [survey](#) (between November 2015 and January 2016) involving telephone interviews with 600 self-identified Muslims in Canada, 33% reported experiencing discrimination. 25% had experienced issues crossing the border.²⁴⁵
- Once again in 2015 there were no reported hate crimes motivated by age, language, disability, or “similar factors” (in similar factors occurrences, hate focuses on members of a group—e.g., a particular ancestry, citizenship, or profession—who have significant points in common and share a trait often integral to their dignity). Stigma may cause under-reporting, however.²⁴⁶

A pedestrian is hit by a vehicle every four hours in Toronto, and half of those killed as a result are seniors:

- A Globe and Mail [analysis](#) of Toronto Police data shows that pedestrian fatalities have increased by 15% over the past five years compared to the previous five years. From 2011 to 2016 vehicles have killed 163 pedestrians—“more people than can fit in a streetcar.” By mid-2016, a pedestrian had died, on average, every 10 days.
- Although the number of accidents involving pedestrians has decreased, the proportion resulting in a pedestrian death has increased. Over the past eight years one of every 88

collisions resulted in a death, while over the past three years one of every 52 collisions did.

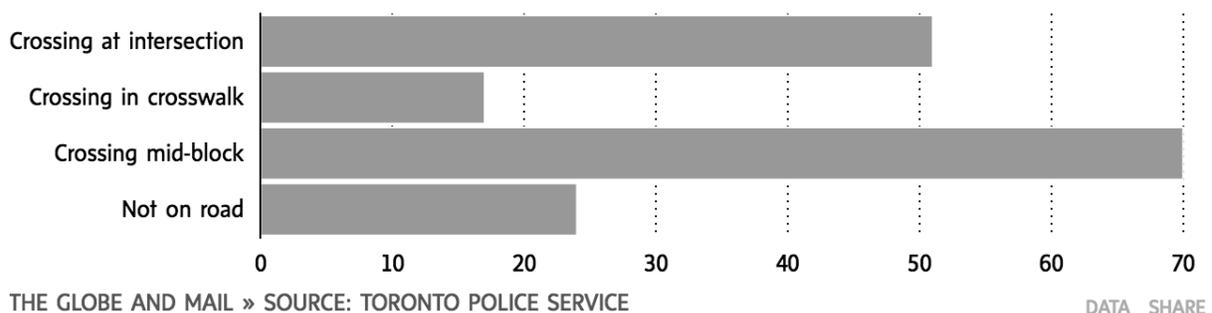
Percentage of Pedestrian Collisions in Toronto Resulting in Fatality, 2005-2015:²⁴⁷



- Most often, victims are over 65, hit by a larger vehicle while crossing an arterial road, without a traffic signal or crosswalk, in the suburbs.
 - When struck by a vehicle at 30-50km/hr, seniors are three to four times more likely to die than those who are younger. Seniors make up 50% of Toronto’s pedestrian fatalities. As the population ages—seniors are expected to comprise 24% of the city’s population by 2041—the trend may only get worse.
 - Over 33% of pedestrian deaths occur on or close to four-lane roads, another 45% are near five- to eight-lane roads.
 - Although cars are responsible for the majority of pedestrian fatalities, 37% are caused by a minivan, pickup truck, van, or SUV, which are heavier and sit higher and tend to hit the torso rather than the legs.
 - 51 of the 163 incidents occurred while the victim was crossing at an intersection. 43% of victims were killed crossing an intersection with no signals or crosswalks.



Victim Action at Time of Collision, By Number of Incidents, 2011-2016, Toronto:



- Other cities have made changes in an effort to reduce, and even eliminate, pedestrian fatalities.
 - Vancouver has seen fewer than 20 pedestrian fatalities since 2007, a feat attributed to an increased focus on pedestrians as the most vulnerable users of the road. The city’s 2012 pedestrian safety plan prioritized improvements including better traffic signals and longer road-crossing times.
 - Launched after a number of fatalities in 2013, New York’s 63-point Vision Zero program aims to eliminate pedestrian fatalities within a decade with measures including a drop in the default speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 25. 140 speed cameras were installed close to schools, resulting in over a million traffic violations.²⁴⁸

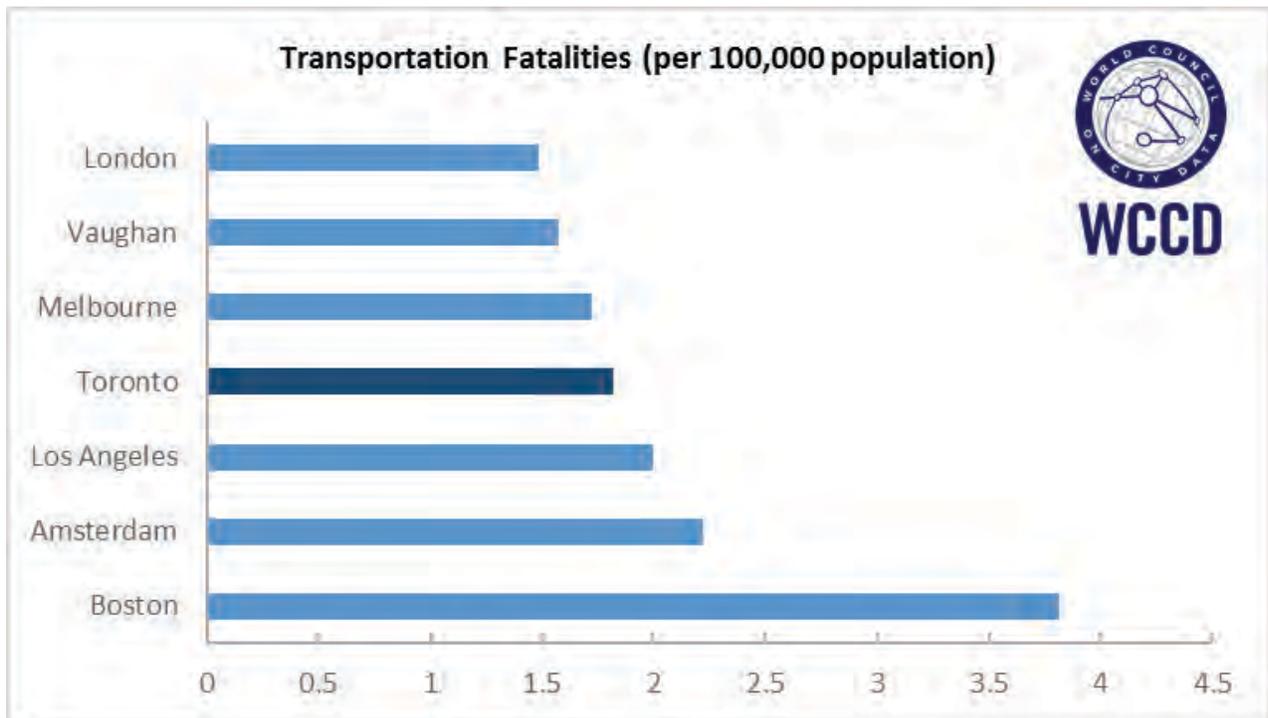


Toronto sits in the middle of the pack of global cities, when it comes to transportation fatalities:

- Toronto rate of transportation-related fatalities sits at 1.82 per 100,000 population (as reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) or WCCD in 2015). That’s about 20% higher than London’s rate at 1.49, and slightly above the rates for Vaughan (1.57), and Melbourne (1.72).
- Boston’s transportation fatalities rate at 3.81 per 100,000 is more than double Toronto’s rate.²⁴⁹



Transportation Fatalities, per 100,000 population, as Reported to WCCD in 2015.²⁵⁰





The City has implemented a pilot project that puts police officers in high-traffic intersections:

- In June 2016 the City began a four-month, \$250,000 pilot project deploying police officers to direct traffic in busy intersections including those on Bay Street from Bloor to Front, Front and Simcoe, Front and University, University and Adelaide, Yonge and Sheppard, and Lake Shore Boulevard and Parklawn Road.
- Although the pilot is meant to help ease congestion, the City's evaluation will look not only at traffic flow, but also at illegal turns by vehicles and compliance with traffic rules by pedestrians and cyclists.²⁵¹

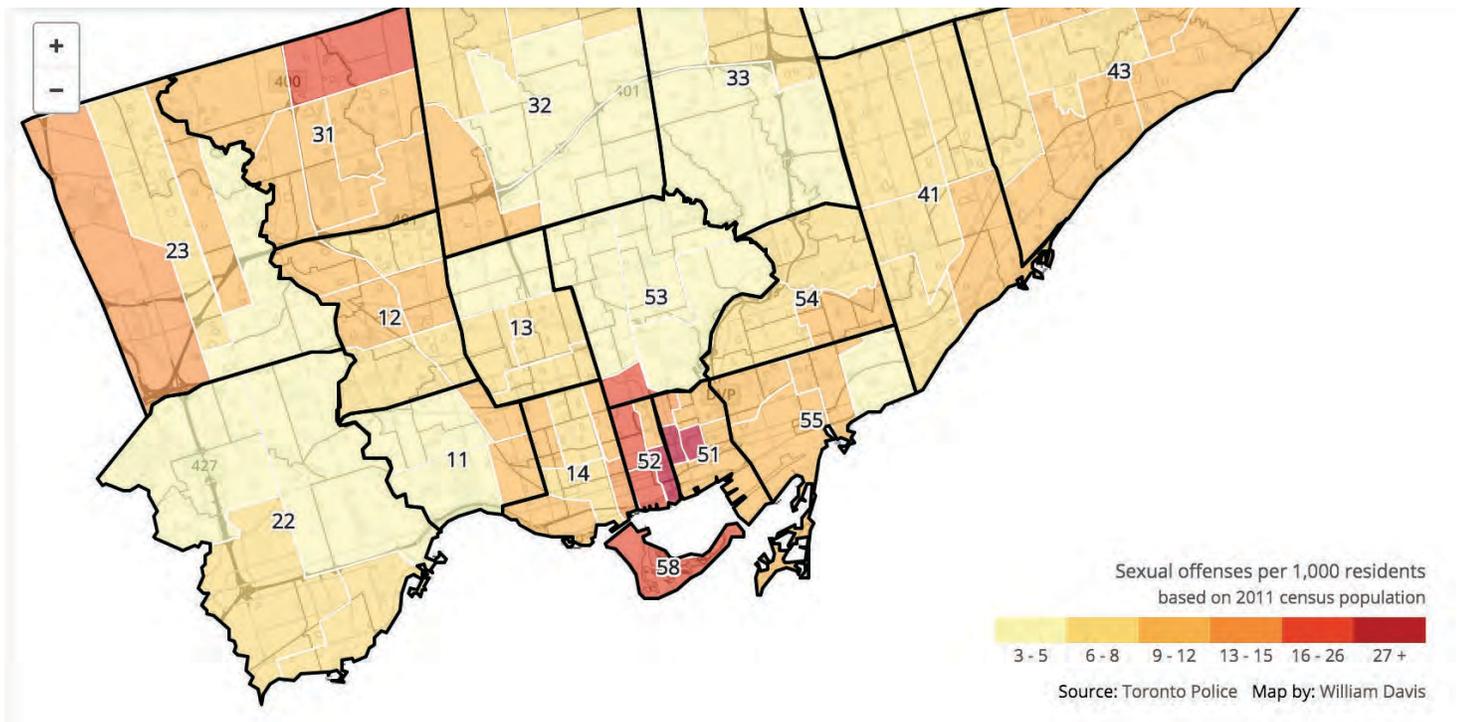
Researchers have counted over 400 incidents over 12 years of motor vehicle collisions involving children and observed driver behaviours that put children in danger near Toronto elementary schools:

- A 2016 study published in the Traffic Injury Prevention journal combined 12 years (2000-2011) of Toronto pedestrian/motor vehicle collision data with a one-day 2011 observation of driving behaviours at 118 JK–Grade 6 schools in the Toronto District School Board.
- The collision data showed that over the 12-year period, 411 child pedestrian/motor vehicle collisions occurred within 200m of these schools, 45 of which occurred during “school travel times” (8-9am, 11:30am-1pm, and 3-4:15pm).
- The observational data showed three most frequent dangerous behaviours: dropping children on the opposite side of the street (observed at 70% of schools), cars stopping and blocking the vision of other drivers and pedestrians (at 62% of schools), and double-parking (at 46%).
 - Two or more of these behaviours were observed at 88% of the schools. None were observed at only 9%.²⁵²
- The Toronto Catholic District School Board, meanwhile, is creating a pilot project to designate safe drop-off areas away from schools and encouraging children to walk to school in groups.²⁵³

Sex crimes are being reported more often:

- An [analysis](#) by The Toronto Star of police data and Statistics Canada census data from January 2004 to June 2014 shows that although overall crime rates in Toronto decreased by 34% during the period, sexual offences increased by 29%. More than 21,000 sexual offences were reported.
 - Sexual offences comprise more than rape (e.g., pushing a victim against a wall and fondling them is a sexual offence). The majority of these crimes are never reported.
 - Advocacy groups attribute the increase in reporting to community outreach and education. Criminologist Rosemary Gartner also attributes reduced stigma of victims and more public awareness of, and openness to talking about, sexual violence.
 - Since 2007, the number of sexual offences reported annually has increased 44%, from 1,313 to 1,890 (this data obtained with a freedom of information request).
 - The highest incidences of sexual offences per 1,000 residents are in 51 and 52 divisions, located in central Toronto.²⁵⁴

Reported Sexual Offences, By Police Division and Patrol Zone, Toronto, 2004-June 2015:²⁵⁵



Toronto Transit Commission is partnering with the Toronto Police Services and METRAC to create an app for reporting harassment and assault on public transit.

- The app automatically disables flash and the click sound so users can take photos discretely and attach them to the report.²⁵⁶



To learn more about innovative community-based organizations and programs working to address issues relating to safety, check out: <http://ckc.torontofoundation.ca/>.

Work

Why is this important?

Toronto does a great job educating and creating skilled residents, and attracting talented, eager (and needed) workers from around the globe. But lack of decent employment prospects for many, especially young workers and recent immigrants, exacts a high toll. For the city, this means lost opportunities to benefit from this talent and commitment, and individuals and families experience a myriad of economic, health, and social costs while trying to make ends meet.

What are the trends?

The city's unemployment rate has returned to its pre-recession level.²⁵⁷ The average monthly number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries continued its downward trend, but does not reflect those who have given up actively looking for work or who are ineligible due to the narrowing of EI criteria. While it is no longer the case that unemployment rates are higher among landed immigrants than among the Canadian-born population, unemployment remains a more likely prospect for recent immigrants. Toronto's youth, particularly those in Canada less than five years, continue to face troubling long-term trends.

What's new?

Although earnings have kept pace with inflation, and average hours worked per week have remained similar, the way earnings and employment are distributed in Toronto's labour market across age, gender, and educational attainment is very different today than before the 2008 recession. In an inspection blitz, almost a quarter of workplaces employing young interns were violating the Employment Standards Act. Meanwhile, mental health issues among the GTHA labour force may cost \$17b in lost productivity over the next 10 years.

Where is job growth happening in Toronto?

Toronto's overall employment in 2015 was up by 2.7% from 2014 (versus 1.5% growth in 2014 over 2013), with 37,870 jobs added:

- Toronto's total employment in 2015 was 1,422,280 jobs compared to 1,384,390 in 2014.²⁵⁸
- Of those 1,422,280 jobs, 1,077,930 were full-time and 344,350 were part-time.
 - Full-time employment increased by 1.4% from 2014. This is the ninth consecutive year full-time employment has exceeded one million jobs.
 - Part-time employment increased 7.3% (23,490 jobs) from 2014,²⁵⁹ a result of the hiring of support staff for the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games.²⁶⁰
- The median hourly wage in Toronto in February 2016 for all professions was \$22.50.²⁶¹
- Across the Region, median hourly earnings were greater in 2015 (in current dollars, \$22.05) than they were in 2014, when it was \$21.33, and 2013, when they were \$20.67. Median hourly earnings in 2015 were above both the national (\$22.00) and provincial (\$22.00) rates.
 - Since 2000, the median hourly wage has increased by 27.4%, lower than the provincial (28.2%) and the national (31.8%) rates.²⁶²
 - The median number of hours worked (during a reference week for all jobs) in the Region in 2015 was 37.5 hours, equal to the provincial median and just above the national median (37 hours). From 2000 to 2015, the number of median hours worked decreased by 6.7%, equal to the change provincially but higher than the 2.7% decrease nationally.²⁶³

11% fewer businesses opened in Toronto in 2015 than in 2014:

- 4,460 new businesses were established in the city in 2015, providing possible places of employment, but the number was lower than the 5,030 opened in 2014.²⁶⁴
- 60.6% of these new establishments located in the Downtown, the city's several dense economic Centres, and the 22 Employment Areas.²⁶⁵

Toronto saw shifts in its labour force between 2001 and 2011:

- The agriculture and other resource-based industries, the smallest sector of the labour force, increased from 0.7% of the total in 2001 to 0.9% in 2011.
- The finance and real estate sector decreased from 10.1% in 2006 to 9.9% in 2011.
- The labour force in the health and education sectors increased from 14.05% to 17.2%.
- Manufacturing and construction industries decreased from 18.8% in 2001 to 12.9% in 2011, and wholesale and retail trades also decreased from 14.8% to 14.2%.
- Business services, the largest sector of the labour force, remained relatively constant between 2006 and 2011 at 25.2% and 25.5% respectively. All other services represented 16.5% in 2006 and 18.39% in 2011.
 - The breakdown of the labour force was similar in Ontario in general, with major differences in the business sector (19.6% in Ontario versus 25.5% in Toronto) and in the manufacturing and construction sector (16.5% in Ontario versus 12.9% in Toronto).²⁶⁶

The vast majority of the Region's labour force worked in the services producing sector in 2015, most of them in the trade sector:

- In 2015, 17.5% of the Region's labour force worked in the goods producing sector (slightly below the 20.2% across Ontario and 21.6% across Canada) while 82.5% worked in the services producing sector (slightly higher than 79.8% in Ontario and 78.4% in Canada).
 - Within the Regions' goods producing sector, the largest amount of people worked in manufacturing (10.1%), while in the services producing sector, most were employed in the trade sector (15.2%).²⁶⁷

The office sector remains the largest in Toronto, accounting for almost one of every two jobs:

- The City of Toronto's annual [Employment Survey](#) reports on whether employment in six sectors flourished.
- 48.8% of jobs were in the office sector, 16.3% in the institutional sector, 12.4% in service, 10.2% in retail, 8.7 in manufacturing, and 3.5% in "other."²⁶⁸
 - The "other" sector was the fastest growing in 2015, adding 2,550 jobs (an increase of 5.3%).
 - The office sector was next with 4.7% growth, followed by the service (+3.6%) and retail (+0.6%) sectors.
 - Other sectors shrank: manufacturing lost 0.5% of its jobs, and the institutional sector followed with a loss of 0.9% of jobs.²⁶⁹

41.3% of all jobs in the City (587,490 jobs) in 2015 were in the Downtown and Centres:

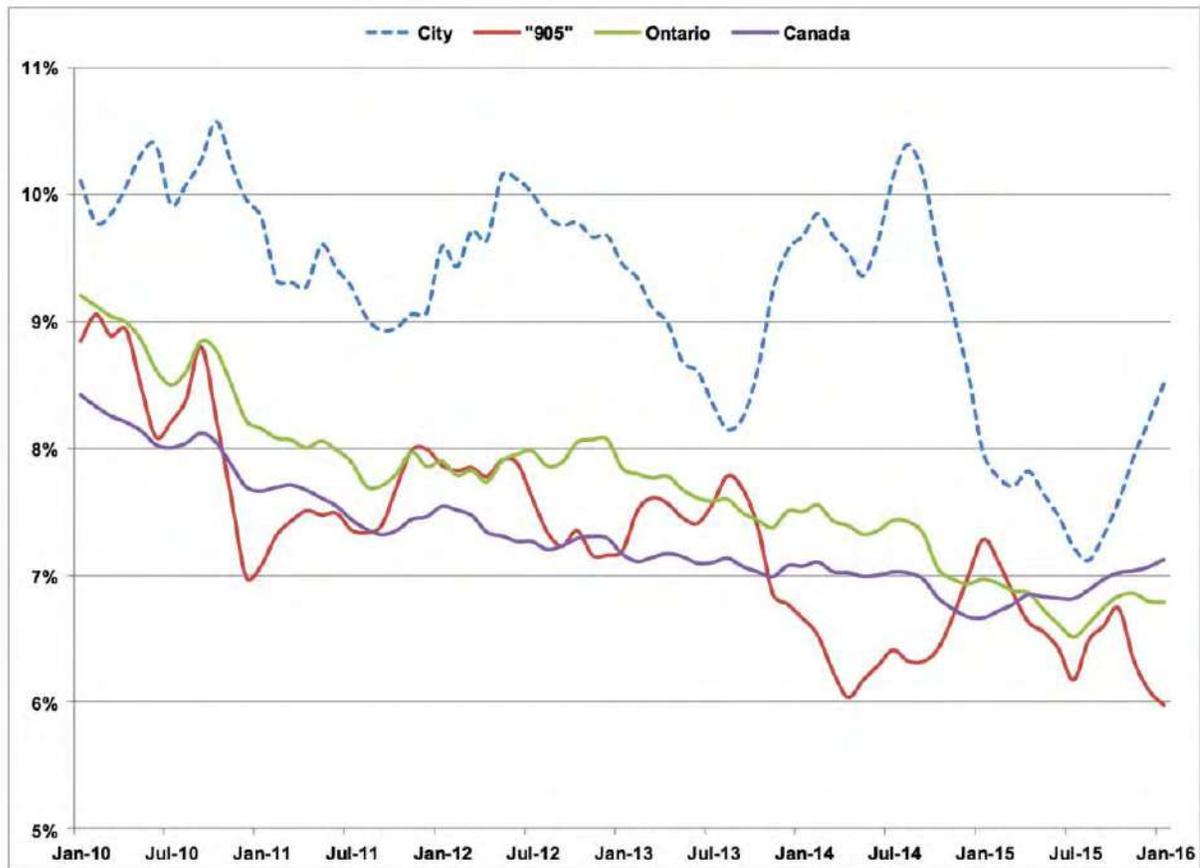
- Employment in the Yonge-Eglinton Centre continues to decline. Of the city's Centres, Yonge-Eglinton was the only one to see a decline (8.5%) in employment in 2015.²⁷⁰ Employment also declined in Yonge-Eglinton (by 3.8%) between 2013 and 2014.²⁷¹
- There were about 10,000 new jobs in 2015 in offices in the King and Bay area financial core (excluding bank branches and office uses in retail concourses). This represents an 11.8% increase (to 93,660 jobs) from 2005.²⁷²

Who is working in Toronto and who isn't?

The unemployment rate in the city of Toronto dropped in 2015:

- Toronto's unemployment rate (based on the Labour Force Survey) was 7.7% in 2015, down from 9.5% in 2014 and 8.9% in 2013.
- The change increased the employment rate in 2015 to 59.7% (up from 58.6% in 2014).²⁷³
- Toronto's unemployment has historically tracked higher (for the most part) than for the rest of Ontario and the rest of Canada.²⁷⁴

City of Toronto Unemployment Rate: January 2010-January 2016:²⁷⁵



Source : Statistics Canada – Labour Force Survey – Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data – (January/2016)
 *City of Toronto Series is Seasonally Adjusted by City of Toronto

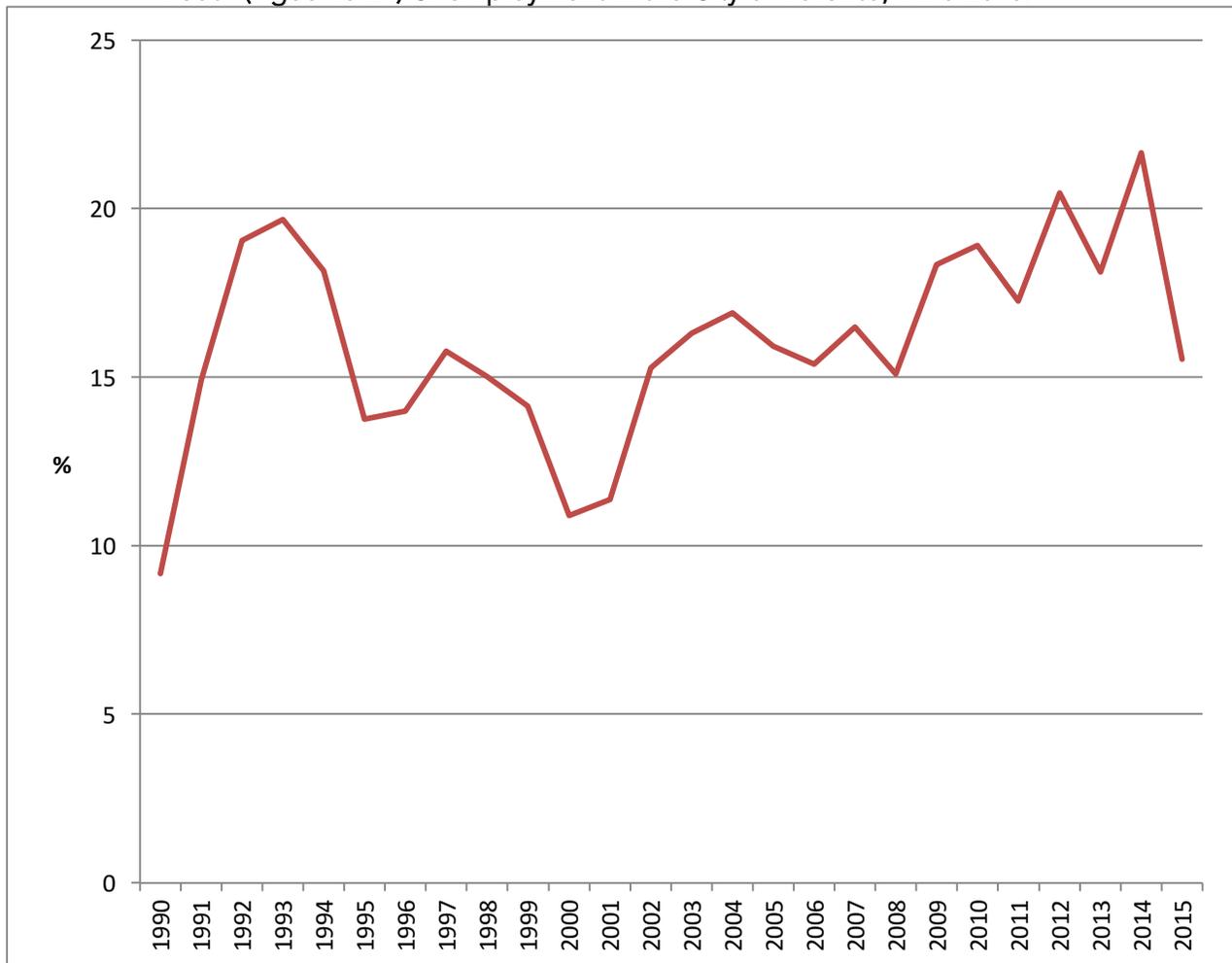
- The average monthly number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries continued its downward trend, with 23,389 in 2015, versus 24,600 in 2014, 26,469 in 2013, and 26,998 in 2012.²⁷⁶ It should be noted, however, that the declining number of EI beneficiaries does not reflect the number of people who have given up actively looking for work, or those who are now ineligible due to the narrowing of EI qualifications.

How are some demographics disconnected from employment opportunities?

When it comes to employment, Toronto's youth have faced troubling long-term trends with youth unemployment hovering between 15-20% for more than a decade:

- After dropping to 18.12% in 2013, the Toronto youth unemployment rate in 2014 climbed again, reaching a staggering 21.65%.²⁷⁷ However, in 2015 the rate dropped to 15.54%.²⁷⁸

Youth (Aged 15-24) Unemployment in the City of Toronto, 1990-2015:²⁷⁹



Many youth are not employed, nor in education or training, and the roots of this trend are complex:

- About 10% of youth ages 15-24 in the GTHA, or as many as 83,000 people, were Not in Education, Employment or Training (or NEET, a Statistics Canada category) in 2011.
 - Many groups are over-represented in this category, including racialized and newcomer youth, aboriginal youth, youth living in poverty or in conflict with the law, youth in and leaving care, LGBTQ* youth, and youth with disabilities and special needs.
 - Through extensive consultations with youth on the subject, [CivicAction](#) produced a 2014 [report](#) that identified common barriers facing this group of youth as well as opportunities to help close the gap between youth who are NEET and those who aren't. Four common barriers identified as facing NEET youth were:
 - systemic barriers that lead to weakened social networks, such as few mentors or role models;
 - lack of opportunities to gain meaningful work-related experience;
 - lack of accessible and affordable transportation; and
 - racism and structural discrimination.²⁸⁰

- As of 2009, Canada had the second-lowest total NEET percentage (13.3%) of 15- to 29-year-olds among selected OECD countries. Germany had the lowest at 11.6%, France and the UK tied with 15.6%, the US had 16.9% and Italy 21.2%.²⁸¹

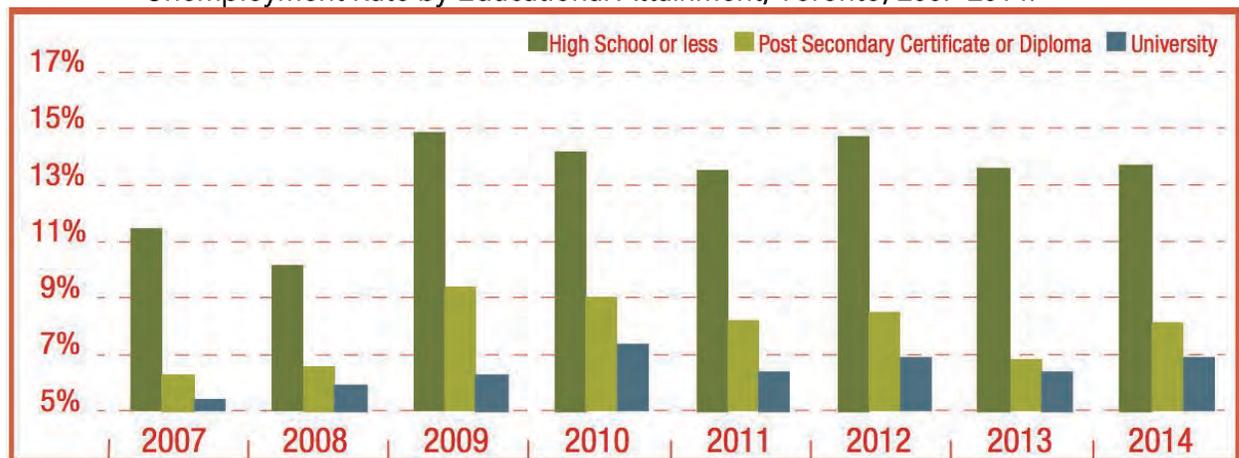
Unemployment in the Toronto Region remains a more likely prospect for recent immigrants than for Canadian-born workers:

- As of June 2016, 50.8% of workers in the Toronto Region (some 1,772,600 people) were landed immigrants, while 46.5% (1,621,700 people) were Canadian-born.²⁸²
- The unemployment rate (for workers aged 15 and over) for all immigrants in the Region was 6.8% in 2015, vs 7.2% for those born in Canada.²⁸³
- Recent immigrants were more likely to be unemployed than established immigrants:
 - In 2015, recent immigrants (those entering the country within the previous five years) faced a 10.9% unemployment rate, while those in Canada 10 years or more fared better at 5.9%.²⁸⁴
- In the city of Toronto, the unemployment rate for those 15 and over born in Canada was 9.0% in 2014 (up from 7.9% in 2013), while for recent immigrants (entered Canada within the last five years) it was 16.2% (up from 15.6% in 2013 and 14.9% in 2012). Immigrants who had been in the country longer, between five and 10 years, fared slightly better, with a 12.9% unemployment rate (up from 11.1% in 2013 and 9.7% in 2012).
 - Recent immigrant youth (15-24 years old) have also faced higher unemployment rates (24.1% in 2014, down from 28.1% in 2013) than Canadian-born youth (21.5%, up from 16.4% in 2013).²⁸⁵ However, in 2015, those rates dropped to an astonishing 12.6%.²⁸⁶

The way earnings and employment are distributed in Toronto's labour market across age, gender, and educational attainment is very different today than before the 2008 recession:

- A [report](#) from the Toronto Workforce Innovation Group tracks Toronto's labour market data from 2007 to 2014 from the Labour Force Survey. The group finds that although earnings have kept pace with inflation, and average hours worked per week have remained similar, some things are different in today's labour market.
- Those without post-secondary education have the highest rates of unemployment.

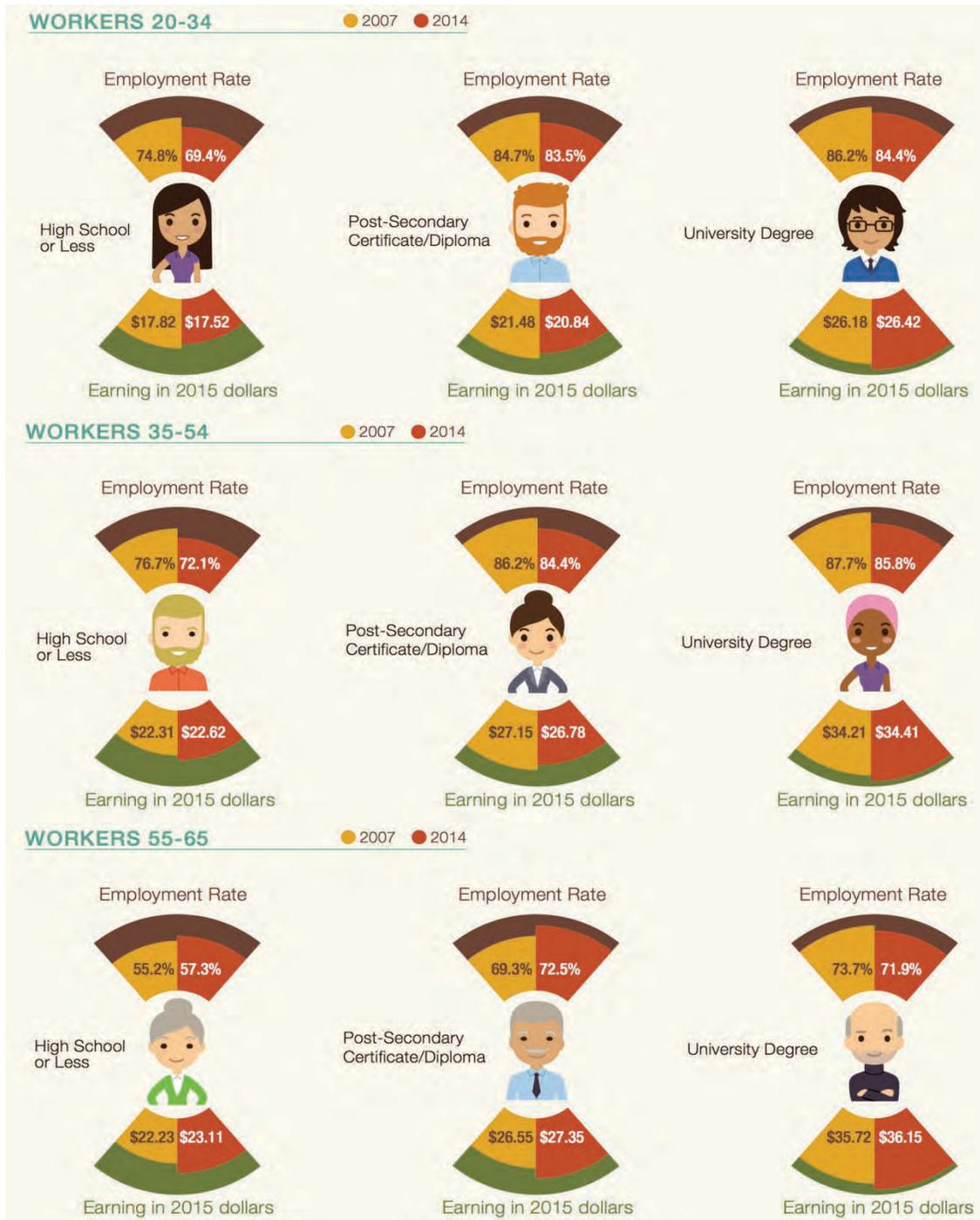
Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment, Toronto, 2007-2014:²⁸⁷



Source: Labour Force Survey 2015, City of Toronto Data 2007-2014 Yearly Average Unemployment Rate

- Across age and gender, those without post-secondary education have the poorest labour market outcomes:
 - Labour force participation rates for those under 55 without post-secondary education have declined significantly, from an average of 75.8% to 70.8%.
 - In particular, young women without post-secondary education have poor labour market outcomes. They are earning less (real wages have declined by almost \$1/hour), and their unemployment rates have increased while their labour force participation rates have declined.
 - These trends speak to the value of a university education. University-educated workers are earning more, and their employment rates remained relatively steady in the 95 months studied. A degree also earns more than experience: a young university grad earns much more per hour than an older worker without a degree (\$26.42 versus \$23.11).
 - Workers aged 55+ are less likely to be unemployed, but if they lose their job they struggle to regain one.²⁸⁸

Employment Rate and Earnings by Educational Attainment and Age, Toronto, 2007-2014.²⁸⁹



How are vulnerable workers faring with increasingly precarious work?

Ontario's minimum wage increased last year, but it's still not enough to lift the working poor out of poverty:

- Ontario's general minimum wage (which applies to most employees) increased in October 2015 (only the second increase in five years) to \$11.25 per hour. At the time it was the second highest in Canada, behind the Northwest Territories' \$12.50.²⁹⁰
- But according to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), Ontario's minimum wage is still 61% percent lower than that needed for working families to get by in Toronto.
 - The report [estimated](#) that the living wage required in 2013 by each of two working parents (working 37.5 hours per week) with two young children was \$18.52/hour.
 - A living wage of \$18.52 an hour would make a huge difference particularly in the lives of families who work in the retail and service sectors, where lower-waged workers are concentrated.²⁹¹
 - Full-time work at the minimum wage puts a worker 20% below Ontario's low-income measure.²⁹²

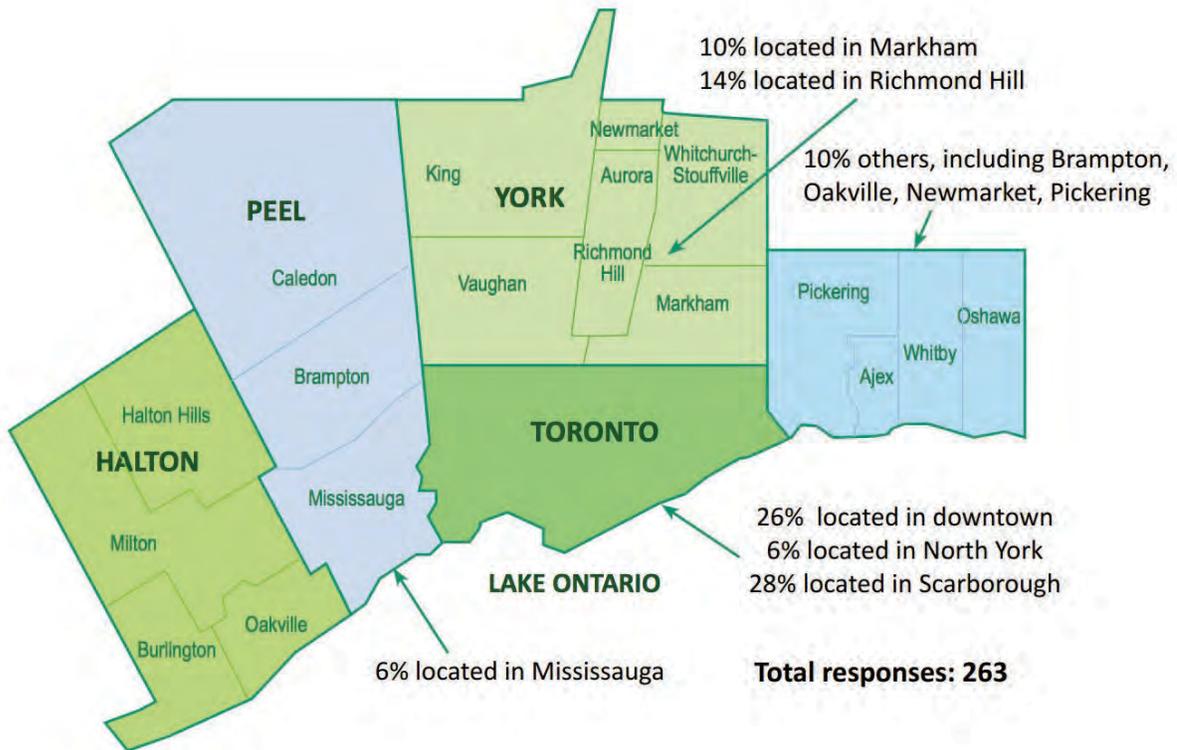


The Atkinson Foundation has partnered with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives to launch the [Ontario Living Wage Network](#). Their website is full of living wage resources about the growing wave of living wage initiatives — now 24 communities across Ontario.²⁹³

Chinese restaurant workers are being denied basic rights, and older workers, those without legal resident status, and those with poorer English are the most exploited:

- In the last three years, the Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic (MTCSALC) has received complaints related to employment standards from over 600 workers, many in the restaurant industry.
 - Their experiences are not new, the clinic says. Three decades ago, a 1988 report on workers of Chinese descent in Chinatown's restaurants showed that employment standards were not being met.
- Between January 2013 and March 2016, MTCSALC interviewed 184 restaurant workers (not all worked at "Chinese restaurants," i.e., those serving Chinese food).
 - Half (49%) worked at two or more restaurants. 29% worked at two, 13% worked at three, and 7% worked at more than three. As workers completed a survey for each restaurant they worked at, 263 responses resulted, and workers may be included multiple times in the percentages reported.
 - Most of the restaurants were located in Scarborough (28%) and Toronto (26%).

Location of Respondents' Workplaces:



- The study found “widespread and persistent” violations of both the Employment Standards Act (ESA) and the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA).
- 59% of the workers reported working more than 40 hours a week: 27% reported working 40-50 hours, 28% reported 51-60 hours, and 4% over 60 hours.
- Almost 90% of those who worked more than 44 hours a week did not receive the overtime pay to which they were entitled. 61% of workers did not receive public holiday pay, and 57% did not receive vacation pay. 43% did not receive even the minimum wage.
- One in five (20%) were owed wages by an employer.
- 29% indicated witnessing workplace injury or health and safety issues at work. 58% of the workplace injuries were not reported to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.
- According to MTCSALC’s report, participant’s qualitative responses showed that older workers and workers without legal resident status are the most vulnerable. Some workers said they could not leave an abusive job because, without English language skills, they would be unable to find another.
- The report authors acknowledge that, as interviews were conducted with clients from MTSALC and other organizations that serve Chinese communities, the study may have an oversampling of workers with workplace concerns.²⁹⁴

A 2015 Ministry of Labour inspection “blitz” of workplaces across the province found almost a quarter of those employing young interns were violating the Employment Standards Act:

- From September through December 2015, employment standards officers inspected 123 workplaces, focusing on the GTA. The blitz was meant to educate employers in

sectors often employing young workers (who are increasingly precariously employed) and promote compliance with the Employment Standards Act (ESA).

- Of the 123 employers inspected, 27 had no internship program, 19 had no interns at the time of inspection and 77 had interns.
- Of the 77 with interns:
 - 41 had internship programs in which interns were exempt from the ESA (e.g., co-op students)
 - 18 had paid interns and were in compliance with the ESA; and
 - 18 (23%) were not complying with the ESA. Amongst those, 59 compliance orders, tickets (with a fine of \$295 and a “victim fine surcharge”), or orders to pay wages (totalling \$140,630) were issued. The most common violations were related to vacation pay, public holiday pay, minimum wage, recordkeeping, and wage statements.
- In total, throughout the internships blitz officers issued 45 compliance orders, six tickets, and eight orders to pay wages.²⁹⁵
- Meanwhile, the Canadian Intern Association has made recommendations to the Ministry of Labour regarding unpaid student internships, which it believes place interns at a disadvantage. For example, interns may not enforce their rights if filing a complaint may jeopardize receiving a reference from the employer.
 - The association’s recommendations include banning overnight work for interns and expanding investigations to enforce ESA compliance.²⁹⁶



[The Urban Worker Project](#) is a collective of Torontonians representing precarious workers in labour conversation. Independent contractors, interns, part-time employees, self-employed entrepreneurs, and freelancing creative workers who don’t have access to pensions, benefits, unions and don’t have the stability to put unpaid time into organizing. The Urban Worker Project aims to launch public campaigns and policy recommendations to advocate for the legal rights of precarious workers.²⁹⁷

Mental health issues among the GTHA labour force may cost \$17b in lost productivity over the next 10 years and result in 583 suicides in 2016:

- An October 2015 [survey](#) on mental health in the workplace conducted on behalf of CivicAction found that an estimated one in two members of the GTHA labour force (1.5 million workers) have experienced a mental health issue.²⁹⁸
- 1,023 employees, 100 employers, and 100 physicians across Canada participated in the survey. Based on survey results, CivicAction reports that:
 - an estimated 680,000 of the 3.2 million workers in the GTHA currently have a mental health issue, and 995,000 had mental health issues previously;²⁹⁹
 - 27% of employees reported stress, and one in four of those reporting high stress said they had taken a mental health absence within the past two years (as did one in 10 who reported low stress);
 - 71% of employees are concerned about the stigma associated with mental illness at work (one in five employees believe becoming mentally ill is within a person’s control), 65% reported self-stigma, and 53% worried about stigma from their own physicians; and
 - mental health issues among GTHA workers will result in lost productivity worth \$17b over the next 10 years and 583 suicides in 2016 (a projection based on previous rates).



- Reasons for mental health problems can include:
 - income inequality;
 - job insecurity;
 - racial discrimination;
 - family care demands; and
 - housing conditions and unaffordability.³⁰⁰

To learn more about innovative community-based organizations and programs addressing issues relating to work, check out: <http://ckc.torontofoundation.ca/>.

Gap Between Rich and Poor

Why is this important?

Rising income inequality (rising twice as fast in Toronto than in the rest of the country)³⁰¹ affects everyone. As median incomes and income mobility stagnate, poor health outcomes among those with low incomes lead to lost productivity and higher health care costs, and income polarization creates a widening achievement gap in city schools. The widening gap between rich and poor has an impact on the health of the economy.

What are the trends?

The median family income of low-income families (\$15,340 before taxes in 2014³⁰²) doesn't come close to supporting a household. The rising cost of nutritious food is out of reach of these households—2015 saw another increase in the monthly cost of a nutritious food basket for a family of four. Hunger continues its shift from the downtown to the inner suburbs, where visits to food banks have increased 48% since 2008. With one in four children living in poverty, Toronto is the child poverty capital of Canada.

What's new?

A project mapping child poverty across Canada by Federal riding shows that five of the 15 ridings with the highest child poverty rates are in Toronto. Our rate of Indigenous child poverty is lower than other cities, but largely due to the makeup of our Indigenous population.

How big is the gap in Toronto between the richest and the rest?

Toronto's grade on equality of income distribution from the Board of Trade remained unchanged in 2014, after a year when it had improved:

- With a score again of 0.40 on the Gini coefficient, the Toronto Region retained its 11th place ranking out of 24 global metropolitan centres on the Toronto Region Board of Trade's 2015 [Scorecard on Prosperity](#), unchanged from Scorecard 2014 (when it had moved up from 14th place).
 - The Gini coefficient uses a spectrum to measure income distribution (it does not consider real levels of poverty or prosperity in society). 0 represents perfect equality, and 1 represents perfect inequality (or one person has all the income, and the rest of the population has nothing).
- The ranking keeps Toronto ahead of Calgary and Vancouver, and behind Halifax.
 - Montréal (0.39), Toronto, and Vancouver (0.42) all received "B" grades, and Calgary (0.43) a "C," while Halifax was the only city outside Europe to earn an "A."
- The top five cities, and six of the top seven, are European, while US cities continue to dominate the other end of the rankings, occupying seven of the bottom eight places this year.³⁰³



Toronto Region's Top 1% versus other Canadian Cities and Canada, 2012:³⁰⁴

Area	Number in top 1%	Income share	Median income	% from wages/salaries
Toronto Region	67,850	17.5%	\$326,800	65.4%
Vancouver	20,670	13.0%	\$312,500	57.4%
Calgary	32,230	25.5%	\$319,700	75.1%
Regina	1,815	8.3%	\$312,800	59.3%
Montréal	27,310	9.6%	\$312,100	54.3%
Halifax	2,400	7.0%	\$300,100	58.1%
Canada	264,030	10.3%	\$306,400	62.6%

- Meanwhile, the Region's top 10% shared 43.5% of total declared income in 2013. Their average incomes grew by 2.1% between 2012 and 2013.³⁰⁵



Residents in Toronto's Parkdale neighbourhood are measuring and monitoring quality of life in the community themselves with an eye to developing a long-term neighbourhood plan:

- The [Parkdale People's Economy project](#) attempts to rethink "the economy" and take a different and unique approach to local economic development that goes beyond traditional economic indicators like GDP and is instead based on the principles of shared ownership, democratic management, and ethics of care.
- The project utilizes a participatory planning process and resident engagement for visioning and shaping the future of Parkdale that the community wants to create together.



Are we making any progress in reducing poverty in Toronto?

Social assistance caseloads in the city of Toronto continue to drop, but they have still not reached pre-recession levels:

- The average monthly social assistance caseload for January to October 2014 was 92,771. As of October 2014 the social assistance caseload totalled 90,202 cases, 5.6% less than a year earlier, and well below budgeted levels.
 - Although the trend is positive, the total caseload remains much higher than before the recession. Cases numbered 76,867 in December 2008.³⁰⁶

Family incomes in the Region increased by about a third between 2000 and 2013:

- Between 2000 and 2013, average census family incomes increased 32.4%, from \$78,210 to \$103,531 (in current dollars). Average incomes in the Region were 1.5% higher (representing \$1,514 more) in 2013 than in 2012, and higher than the Canadian (\$97,833) and provincial (\$99,024) averages.³⁰⁷
- Median incomes increased 31.7% between 2000 and 2013, from \$55,300 to \$72,830. The 2013 median was 2.3% (or \$1,620) more than in 2012, but lower than both the Canadian (\$76,550) and provincial (\$76,510) medians.³⁰⁸

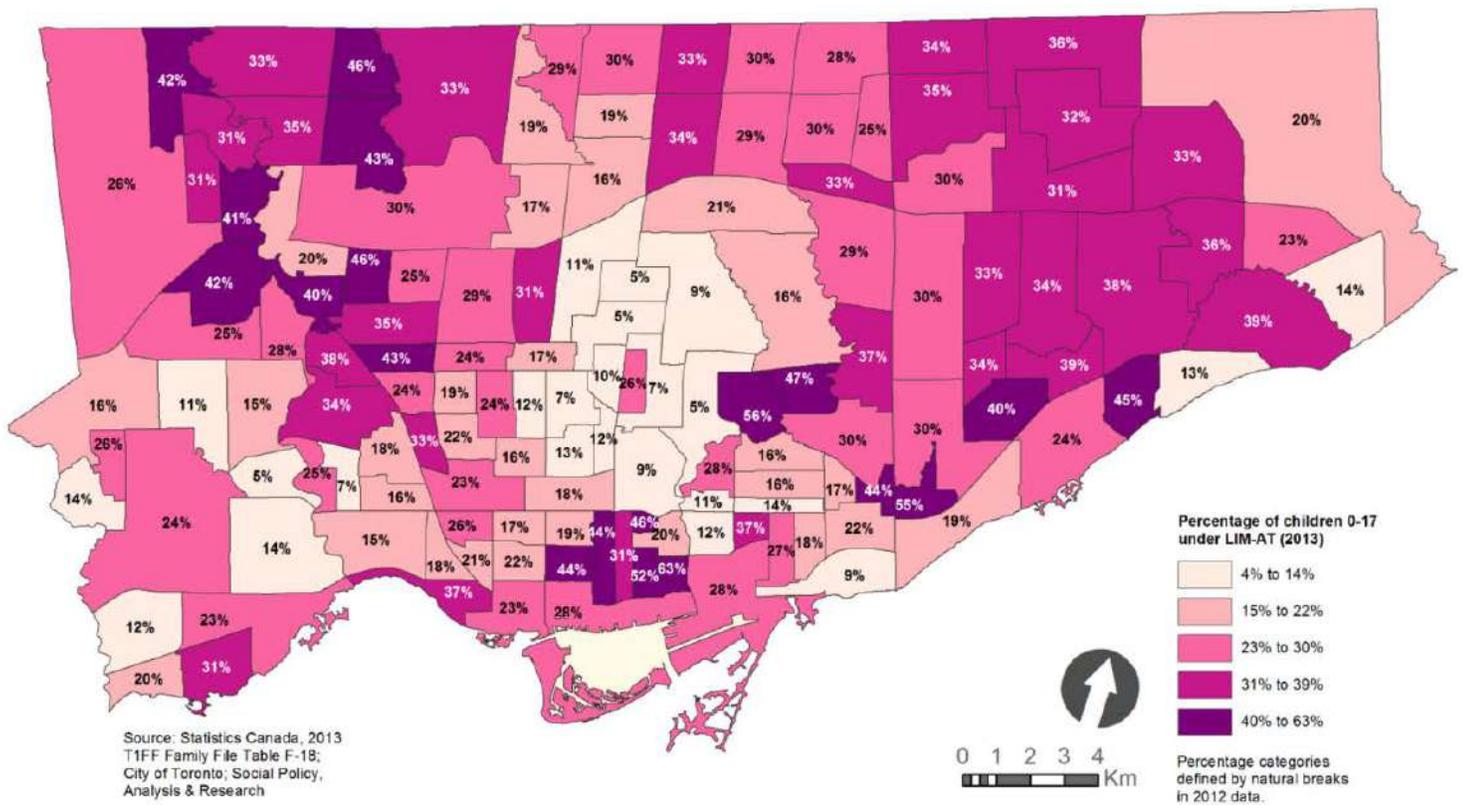
Seniors in the Toronto Region continue to face growing levels of poverty:

- The percentage of the Region's seniors living in poverty increased from 10.1% in 2010 to 12.1% in 2014.³⁰⁹

Toronto continues to be the child poverty capital of Canada—one in four children lives in poverty:

- A 2015 [update](#) from the Alliance for a Poverty-Free Toronto, Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Colour of Poverty–Colour of Change, Family Service Toronto, and Social Planning Toronto shows that Toronto's child and family poverty rate dropped in 2013 back to 2007 levels.
 - Poverty is defined here as living below the After Tax Low-Income Measure (LIM-AT) in 2013.
 - Children 0-17 are the most at risk of poverty. Toronto's child poverty rate has consistently been between 27% and 32% between 2013 and 1997.
- The news is little cause for celebration. At 28.6%, Toronto's 2013 child poverty rate was still the highest among large Canadian cities of 500,000 or more residents. Vast gaps in child poverty exist between neighbourhoods in this "divided city."³¹⁰

Percentage of Children (0-17) Living Under the LIM-AT by Neighbourhood, Toronto, 2013:³¹¹

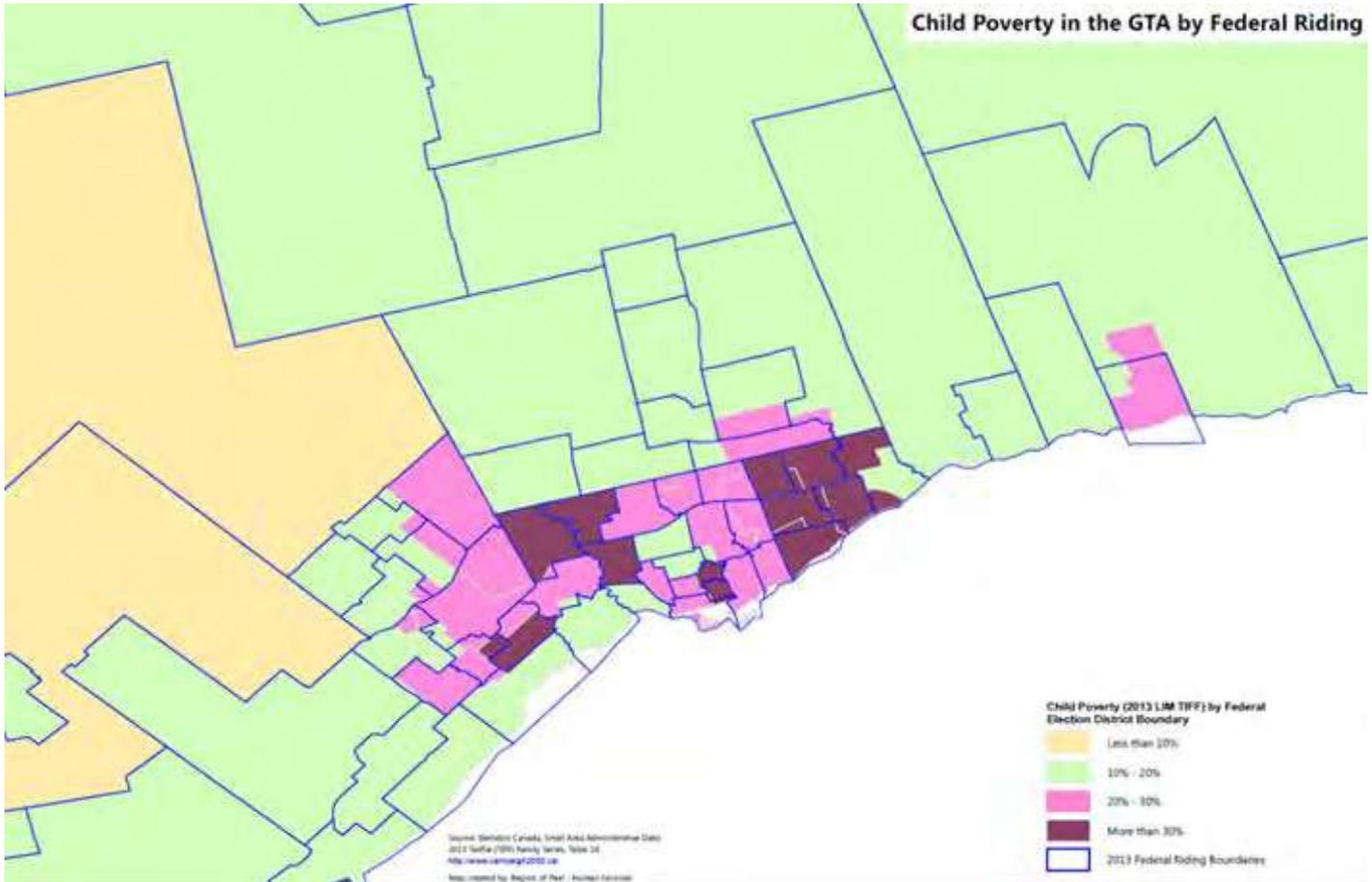


- A previous report from this working group called Toronto’s child and family poverty a “hidden epidemic.” The number of children living in low-income families increased by over 10,000 between 2010 and 2012 alone, reaching 145,890 or 29% of Toronto’s children, the highest rate in the GTHA. But poverty varied significantly by where in the city children lived, and by their race and ethnicity.³¹²

A project mapping child poverty by federal riding shows that, of the 15 ridings across Canada with the highest child poverty rates, five are here in Toronto:³¹³

- Campaign 2000 (a non-partisan, cross-Canada coalition of 120+ organizations committed to ending child and family poverty) mapped child poverty in the Federal ridings across the country using Statistics Canada’s 2013 taxfiler data for families with children 17 and under and incomes below the LIM-AT.
 - Maps were originally created using the 2013 federal riding boundaries, but the new 2015 boundaries have now been superimposed onto them.³¹⁴
- Five Toronto ridings (and seven in Ontario) are amongst the 15 in Canada with the highest levels of child poverty, and 30 GTA ridings have child poverty rates about the national average of 19%.³¹⁵
 - Eight Toronto ridings have child poverty rates around 30%, and some have even higher rates. The Toronto Centre riding has a child poverty rate of 37.8%, indicating that child poverty exists even in neighbourhoods of some wealth.³¹⁶
 - Poverty rates between 35 to 40% are concentrated in Toronto’s downtown, northwest, and southeast ridings.³¹⁷

Low-Income Families by Federal Riding, GTA, 2013:³¹⁸



Source: Statistics Canada, Small Area Administrative Data: 2013 Taxfile (TIFF) Family Series, Table 18. May created by Region of Peel Human Service. Note: Map is based on the new 2015 ridings.

- 147 ridings across the country have child poverty rates above the national average. The Churchill, Manitoba, riding has the worst: almost two-thirds of its children (65%) live in poverty.
- Data from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) show that ridings with high poverty rates tend to have more visible minorities and immigrants (the authors caution interpretation, however, as NHS participation was voluntary). In ridings with the highest poverty rates,
 - 33% of residents are immigrants (versus only 9.1% in ridings in the lowest poverty range);
 - 36.7% are visible minorities (versus 9.2% in the lowest range); and
 - 9.2% are people of Aboriginal identity (versus 1.2% in the lowest range)—40% of Canada's Indigenous children live in poverty.
- NHS data also show that people in ridings with higher child poverty experience lower rates of labour force participation and markedly higher unemployment.
 - In 2011, the labour force participation rate for people age 15 and over in ridings in the highest poverty range was 62.1%, and the unemployment rate was 10.3% (versus 68.6% and 5.7% in the lowest poverty range).³¹⁹

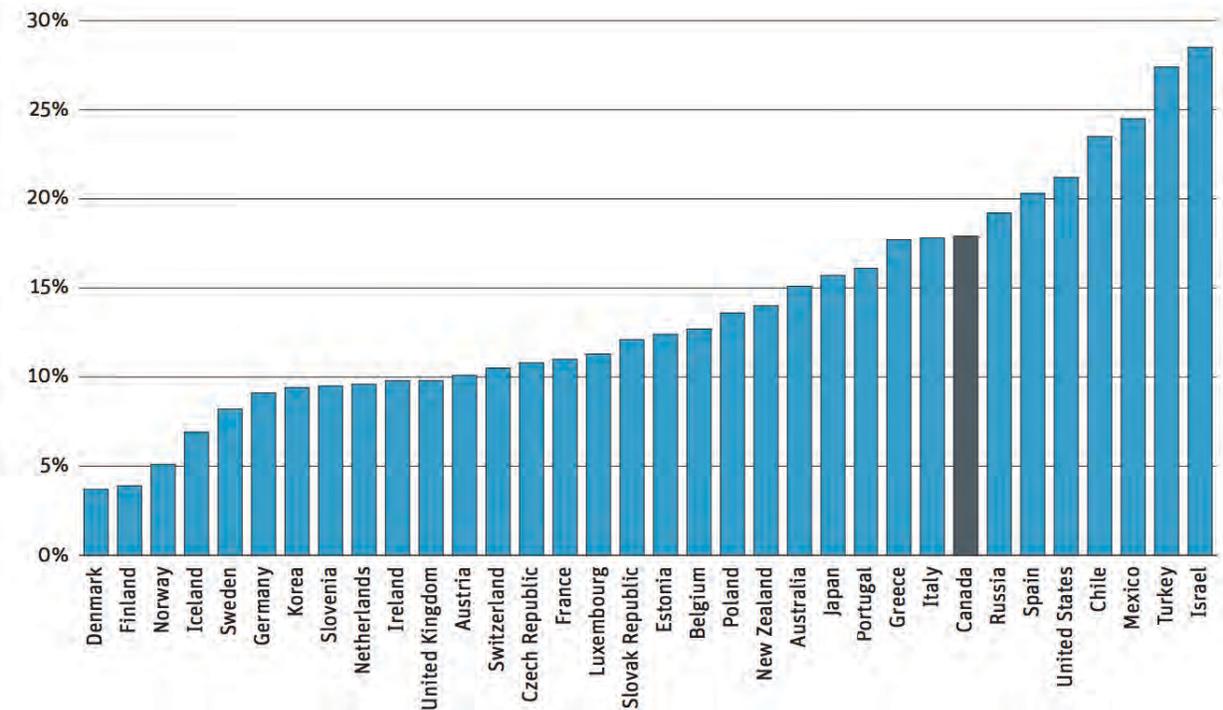
- A quarter century after a 1989, all-party resolution to end child poverty, Campaign 2000 is making recommendations including:
 - an improved child benefit for low-income families to a minimum of \$5,600 per child, funded through taxation;
 - a job program to handle the increase in precarious work, involuntary part-time work, and working poverty;
 - a national housing strategy to reflect the needs of First Nations and local communities; and
 - plans to reduce poverty in Indigenous populations.³²⁰

Toronto’s rate of Indigenous child poverty is lower than other cities:

- A 2016 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) [study](#) examines Indigenous child poverty in Canada. The study used the LIM-AT (low income measure - after tax) and is the first to apply this measure to reserves and territories. CCPA defines those living below the LIM-AT as “living in poverty,” whereas Statistics Canada defines them as “low income.”
- According to data from the 2011 NHS, Canada had the eighth highest rate of child poverty of 34 OECD countries with comparable data. Canada’s child poverty rate was 18%, higher than the OECD average of 14%.



International Child Poverty Rates, 2010/2011.³²¹



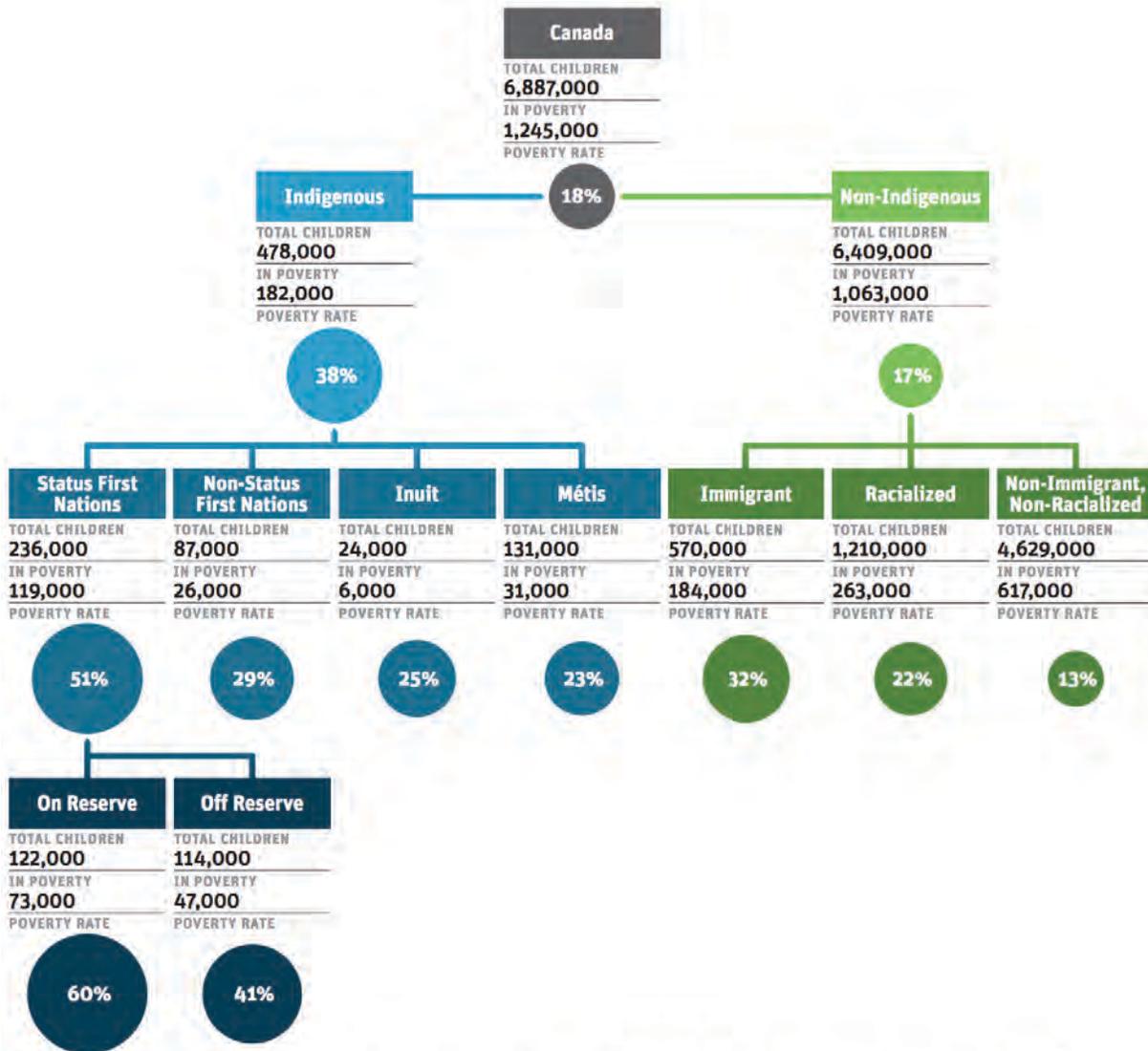
Source OECD.stat 2010 and National Household Survey 2011 custom tabulation, data from 2011 in the case of Switzerland, New Zealand & Chile, data from 2009 for Japan. Canadian data using 2011 NHS instead of the OECD source of the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

- A breakdown of child poverty rates by identity shows that non-racialized, non-immigrant children had the lowest poverty rates at 13%, while Indigenous children accounted for most child poverty in Canada. While 17% of non-Indigenous children lived in poverty,

38% of Indigenous children did. The highest poverty rates were seen among children who were:

- Status First Nations (51% overall, 60% on reserve, and 41% off reserve);
- immigrants (32%);
- non-status First Nations (29%);
- Inuit (25%);
- Metis (23%); and
- racialized (22%).

Breakdown of Canada's Child Poverty Rates by Identity:³²²

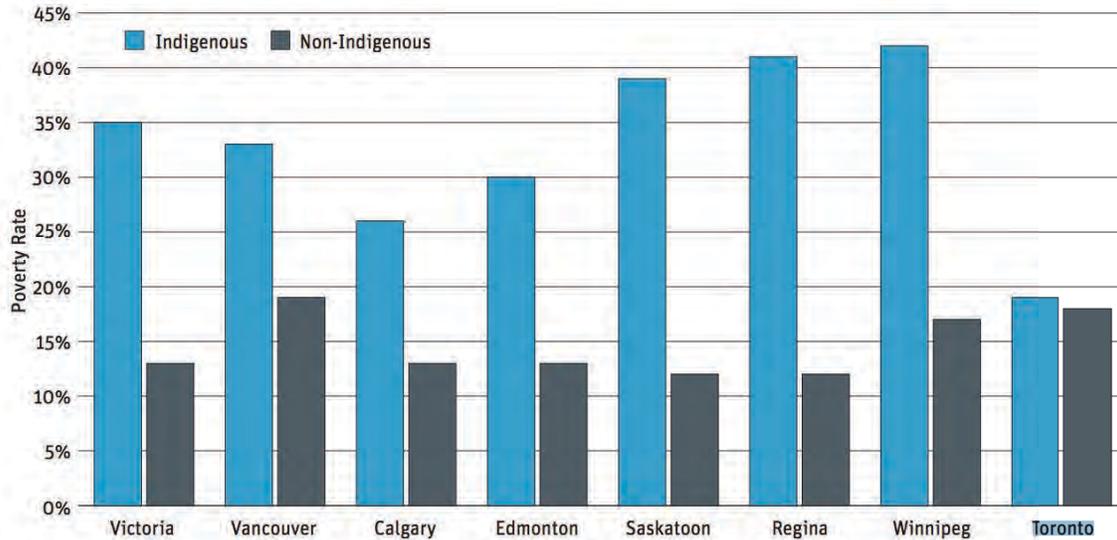


Source: National Household Survey 2011 custom tabulation. Totals may not add due to rounding. "Non-Status FN" category includes the categories of: "non-status First Nations", "Aboriginal Identity not elsewhere specified" and "Multiple Aboriginal Identity". The "Immigrant" category includes Immigrants and non-permanent residents.

- Toronto had by far the lowest poverty rate for Indigenous children (19%) among Canadian cities and was the only city with almost equal poverty rates among Indigenous and non-Indigenous children (19% and 18% respectively).

- The authors note, that Toronto’s non-Indigenous child poverty rate was still the second highest in Canada (next to Vancouver’s) and its Indigenous population largely comprises non-status First Nations and Metis, both of whom tend to have lower rates of child poverty.³²³

Canada’s Child Poverty Rates by City, 2011:³²⁴



Source: National Household Survey 2011 custom tabulation. Includes both on and off reserve populations.

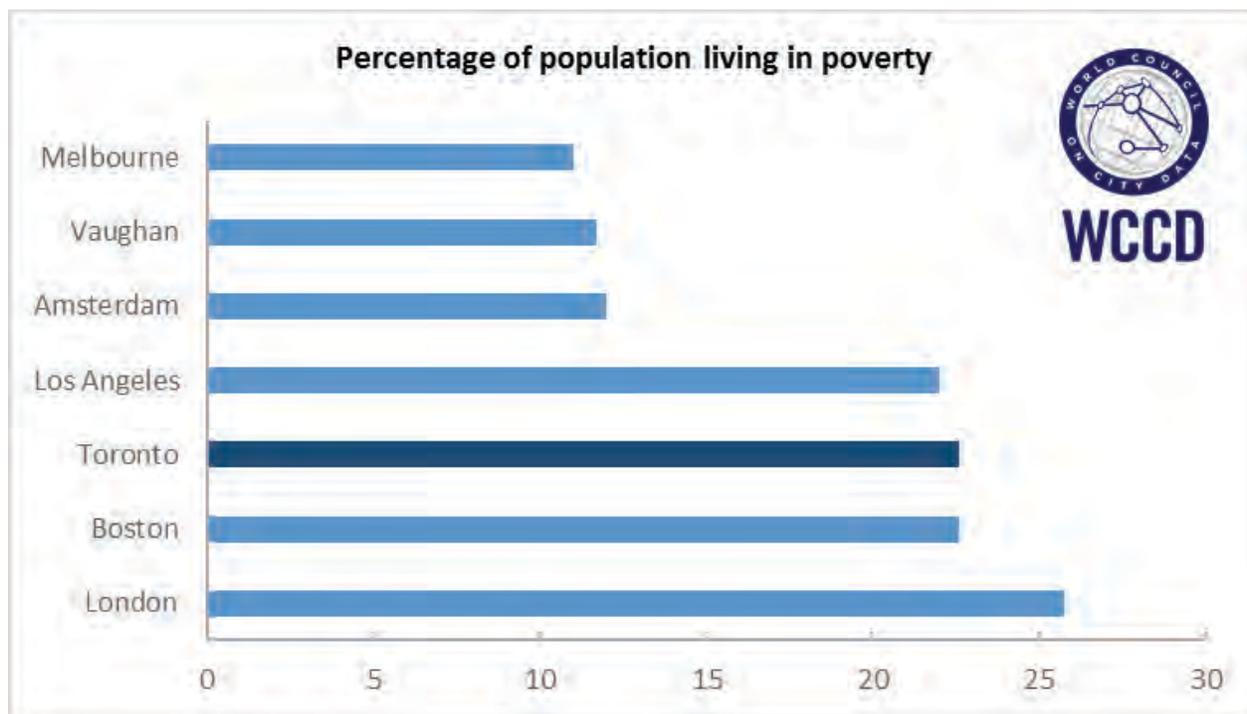
- According to Statistics Canada, Toronto’s Indigenous population is approximately 20,000 (per the 2011 Census). But a recent study by St. Michael’s Hospital estimates the population may be two or three times larger—from 34,000 to 69,000.³²⁵

Toronto’s poverty levels are high, and only surpassed by London’s, when compared to a cohort of comparable global cities:



- Toronto’s poverty rate is 22.6% of the population (as reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) or WCCD in 2015).
- That rate is on par with Boston’s (22.6%) and Los Angeles’ (22%), more than double Melbourne’s (11.0%), and close to double the rate of Vaughan (11.7%) and Amsterdam (12%).
- London’s poverty rate fares worse than Toronto’s at 25.8% of the population.³²⁶

Percentage of Population Living in Poverty as Reported to WCCD in 2015:³²⁷



What does food insecurity look like in Toronto?

Food insecurity affects one in 10 households in the Toronto Region, creating daily hardship and the lifelong risk of diminished physical and mental health:

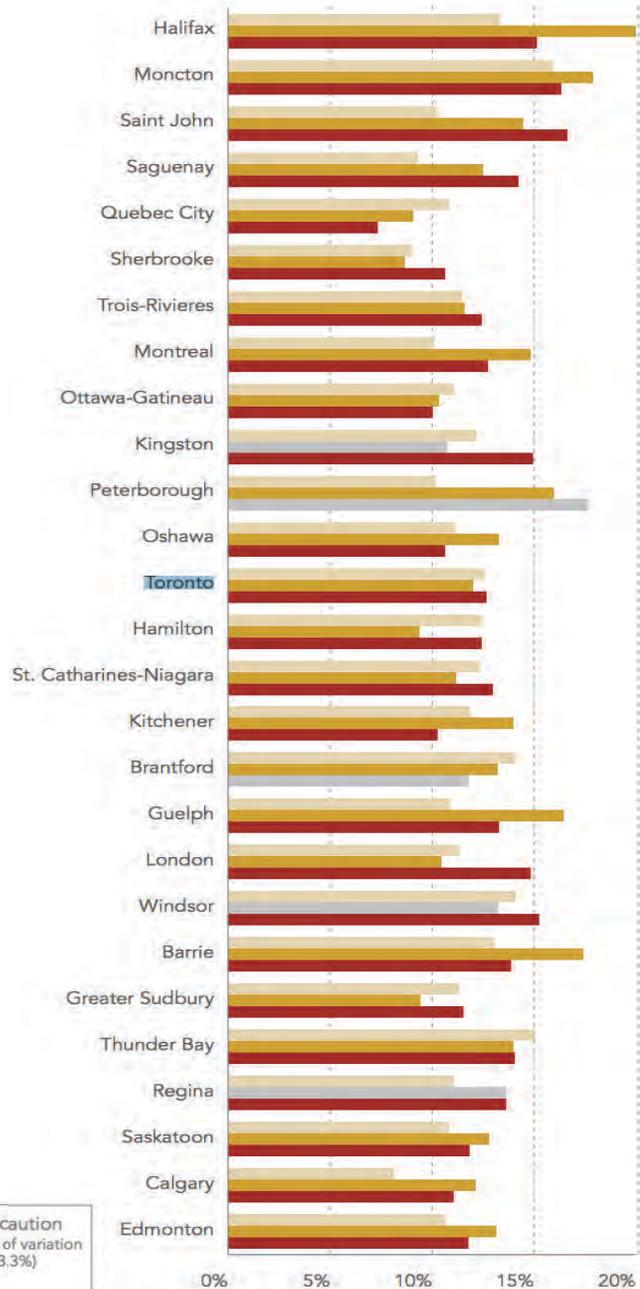
- Using 2013 and 2014 data from the Canadian Community Health Survey, a 2016 [report](#) from University of Toronto researchers on household food insecurity in Canada shows that food insecurity is a growing problem in most parts of the country.
- In 2014, 12% of the Canadian population was identified as food insecure—3.2 million people, including nearly 1 million (one in six) children.
- Not surprisingly, food insecurity is strongly linked to household income levels. 61% of households whose primary income source was assistance were food insecure, as were 35.6% of those relying on Employment Insurance or Worker’s Compensation. But 62.2% of households reliant on wages or salaries from employment were also food insecure.
- Other groups that experienced food insecurity in 2014 were:
 - 29.2% of households living below the LIM;
 - 29.4% of Black households;
 - 25.7% of Aboriginal households; and
 - 24.5% of renter households.
- One in five food insecure households in Canada are severely food insecure. Severe food insecurity means:
 - that the food bought for the household runs out and there is no money to buy more;
 - feeling hungry, cutting the size of meals, and/or losing weight, because there isn’t enough food;

- o depending on a narrow range of low-cost food items to feed children; and
- o not feeding children enough.
- One in 10 households in the Toronto Region is food insecure, and this trend has remained constant for several years: 12.50% of households were food insecure in 2007-2008, 11.96% in 2011-2012, and 12.6% in 2013-2014.³²⁸

Prevalence of Household Food Insecurity by CMA, 2007-08, 2011-12, and 2013-14.³²⁹

The monthly cost of a Nutritious Food Basket in 2015 for a family of four in Toronto reached \$847.16, a 33.7% increase since 2009:³³⁰

- Food insecurity puts families and individuals at higher risk for many poor health outcomes including reported poorer physical and mental health and a range of chronic diseases.
- Boards of Health in Ontario are required to monitor food affordability annually, and calculate the average cost to feed a nutritious diet to households of varying ages and sizes. The [Nutritious Food Basket](#) reflects the lowest prices for 67 basic food items. Processed, prepared, and snack foods are excluded, as are household items such as laundry detergent and soap. The actual grocery bill for most households would likely be higher than the estimate, due to costs not reflected in the Nutritious Food Basket:
 - o the cost of transporting, storing, and cooking food;
 - o the cost of convenience foods to households that lack the time or skills to plan and prepare meals from scratch;
 - and
 - o the added



Data Source: Weighted estimates from CCHS 07-08, CCHS 11-12 and CCHS 13-14 combined data files.

expense for single-person households (it is cheaper to buy food in larger quantities).³³¹

- o The cost of the Nutritious Food Basket has increased steadily in recent years: it was \$633.78 in 2009, \$715.28 in 2010, \$748.40 in 2011, \$762.04 in 2012, \$792.82 in 2013, and \$835.91 in 2014.³³²
- o Although the cost of the 2015 Nutritious Food Basket was only 1.3% higher than in 2014 (compared to a 5.4% increase from 2013 to 2014), low-income families are being pushed even further into the red because a higher and higher proportion of income is swallowed up by rent. The table below shows the situations facing Toronto households forced to choose between shelter and healthy food, and funding all of their other daily needs.³³³

Monthly Cost of Nutritious Food Basket Scenarios, City of Toronto, May 2015:³³⁴

	Family of Four, Ontario Works	Family of Four, Minimum Wage Earner (Full-time/ Full-year)	Single Parent Household with 2 Children, Ontario Works	One Person Household, Ontario Works	One Person Household, ODSP
Income	\$2,196.00	2,882.00	1988.00	740.00	1,193.00
Average rent (may or may not include hydro)	(3 Bdr.) \$1,484.00	(3 Bdr.) 1,484.00	(2 Bdr.) 1,264.00	(Bachelor) 899.00	(1 Bdr.) 1,071.00
Nutritious food	\$847.16	847.16	639.76	285.52	285.52
Total food and rent	\$2,331.16	\$2,331.16	1,903.76	1,184.52	1,356.52
Funds remaining	(\$135.16)	550.84	84.24	(444.52)	(163.52)
% income required for rent	68% (62% in 2014)	51% (49%)	64% (59%)	121% (113%)	90% (88%)

- Adding in the cost per month of one transit pass paints an even harsher picture for low-income Torontonians:

Nutritious Food Basket Scenarios and Metropass Affordability, May 2015:³³⁵

	Family of Four, Ontario Works	Family of Four, Minimum Wage Earner (Full-time/ Full-year)	Single Parent Household with 2 Children, Ontario Works	One Person Household, Ontario Works	One Person Household, ODSP
Total food and rent	\$2,331.16	2,331.16	1,903.76	1,184.52	1,356.52
Cost of TTC Metropass ³³⁶	\$141.50	141.50	141.50	141.50	141.50
Funds remaining	(\$276.66)	409.34	(57.26)	(586.02)	(305.02)

Average incomes of food bank users are falling, and hunger in Toronto continues its shift from downtown to the inner suburbs:

- The Daily Bread Food Bank's 2016 [Who's Hungry report](#) shows 905,970 visits to Toronto food banks between April 2015 and March 2016 (up 2.5% from 883,900 between April 2013 and March 2014).³³⁷
- There were likely many more in need who stayed away due to stigma and other factors. A 2009 study estimated that less than a quarter of food insecure households in Toronto make use of a food bank.³³⁸
- Of those who accessed food bank services:
 - 39% of adult food bank users go hungry once a week, and 44% have not eaten for an entire day due to lack of money.
 - 17% of child food bank users go hungry at least once a week.
- Torontonians use food banks because they don't have an income that allows them to pay for rent and have enough left over for groceries. Some are receiving social assistance until they can find work and others are working but still not earning enough or getting enough hours to make ends meet.
 - The average monthly income of food bank users is \$750³³⁹, down from \$763 for the same period in 2014-2015³⁴⁰, and they spend 71% of their income on rent and utilities (65% pay market rent).
 - For 65% of users, their primary source of income is Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program.
- Visits to food banks in Toronto's inner suburbs have increased nearly 48% since the 2008 recession, as growing costs in the core have pushed low-income individuals and families to Scarborough, North York, and Etobicoke, where housing is more affordable.³⁴¹

Toronto and other cities saw an increase in food bank in early 2016 use as Syrian refugee families and other newcomers arrived in Canadian communities:

- While some Toronto food banks started seeing Syrian newcomers in December 2015 and January 2016, several food banks [reported](#) a 20% increase (11,000 more visits) in visits in February and March of 2016.³⁴² Although Daily Bread does not record the immigration status of food bank users, much of the increased demand early this year was attributed anecdotally by those working in food banks across the city to visits by Syrian refugees struggling to pay their bills as they moved into private rental units.³⁴³
- The last time such a surge in usage was seen was in August-September 2010, when Toronto was recovering from the 2008 recession.
- The Community Share Food Bank near Don Mills Road and Lawrence Avenue East reported experiencing a 30% increase in demand during that same period.³⁴⁴

The City of [Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020](#) (TSNS 2020) supports communities across Toronto to strengthen the social, economic and physical conditions and deliver local impact for city-wide change:

- The goal is to have programs and investments tailored to the needs of each community.
- Tactics include partnering with residents, businesses and agencies to invest in people, services, programs and facilities in specific neighbourhoods.
- The TSNS 2020 includes an investment of \$12 million in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas' infrastructure over the next four years, leading up to the year 2020.³⁴⁵

The [TO Prosperity](#), Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy was unanimously approved by City Council on November 3, 2015. Since then, the City has begun a number of new initiatives:

- On May 4, 2016, the City unanimously approved a Social Procurement Program, which will use of the city's purchasing to create positive social, economic and workforce development outcomes.
- The City has been working on a [Transit Fare Equity](#) strategy to create a fare geared-to-income. [Calgary recently announced](#) their geared-to-income fare: those making \$12,000 a year or less can get a monthly pass for \$5.15.
- The City of Toronto is building a Lived Experience Advisory group. The City is inviting residents into the planning and decision making process. The online survey and conversation guide can be found [here](#).³⁴⁶
- City of Toronto will increase access to dental care for low-income adults and seniors through Poverty Reduction Strategy. Ontario Works clients seeking emergency dental services will be able to access 18 additional Toronto Public Health dental clinics, an increase from the five provincially funded Toronto Public Health clinics offering this service in 2015.³⁴⁷

To learn more about innovative community-based organizations and programs working to address issues relating to the gap between rich and poor, check out: <http://ckc.torontofoundation.ca/>.

Housing

Why is this important?

Safe and affordable housing is key to the health and wellbeing of Toronto residents. Households must spend 30% or less of their income on housing for it to be considered affordable. Expenditure of 50% or more greatly increases the risk of homelessness.³⁴⁸

What are the trends?

The City is not living up to its commitment to build 1,000 new units of affordable housing annually between 2010 and 2020.³⁴⁹ After progress in 2011-12, fewer than 700 new units (rental and affordable ownership) were opened in 2013 and 2014, and in 2015 only 103 were opened. There are now close to 85,000 Toronto households on the wait list for social housing, and the number of members of families who used shelters every night was still above 1,000 in 2015 as it was 2014. Meanwhile, Toronto housing purchase prices grow increasingly out of reach for more and more people.

What's new?

With old buildings deteriorating, funding dwindling, and demand for affordable housing increasing, the housing stock of Toronto's largest social housing landlord, developer, and asset manager, TCHC, is in dire need of revitalization. Single-family detached homes are driving a GTA boom in price and volume of luxury home sales; even outside the luxury market single-family detached homes are becoming "dangerously unaffordable." As a result of these high housing prices, some GTA residents, especially young adults, are considering leaving.

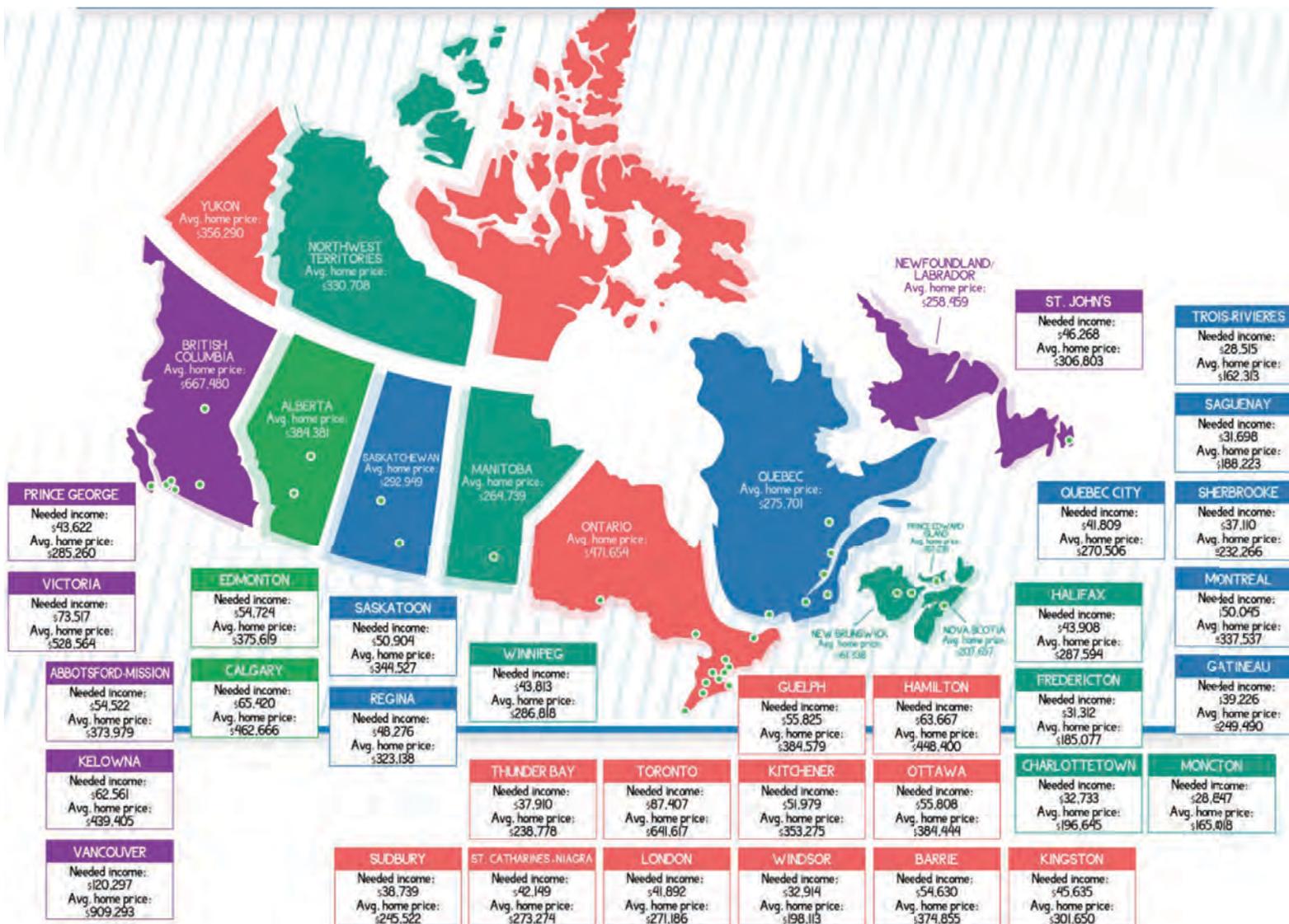
How is Toronto faring with measures of housing availability and affordability?

Toronto is the second most expensive of 33 communities across Canada in which to buy a home:

- Toronto-based website [RentSeeker](#), which specializes in services for the apartment industry, reports on the kind of income a person needed to afford an average-priced home across Canada in 2015.
- An annual income of \$87,407 was needed to afford the average home in Toronto, which cost \$641,617.
- Vancouver topped Toronto's prices. It took an annual household income of \$120,297 to afford the average home there, with a price tag of \$909,293.
- Least expensive was Trois-Rivieres, where the cost of the average home was \$162,313, requiring an annual household income of \$28,515.
- British Columbia unsurprisingly had the highest average home price at \$667,480, followed by Ontario at \$471,654.

New Brunswick had the least expensive homes (average price \$161,388).³⁵⁰

Salary Needed to Buy a Home in Cities Across Canada:³⁵¹



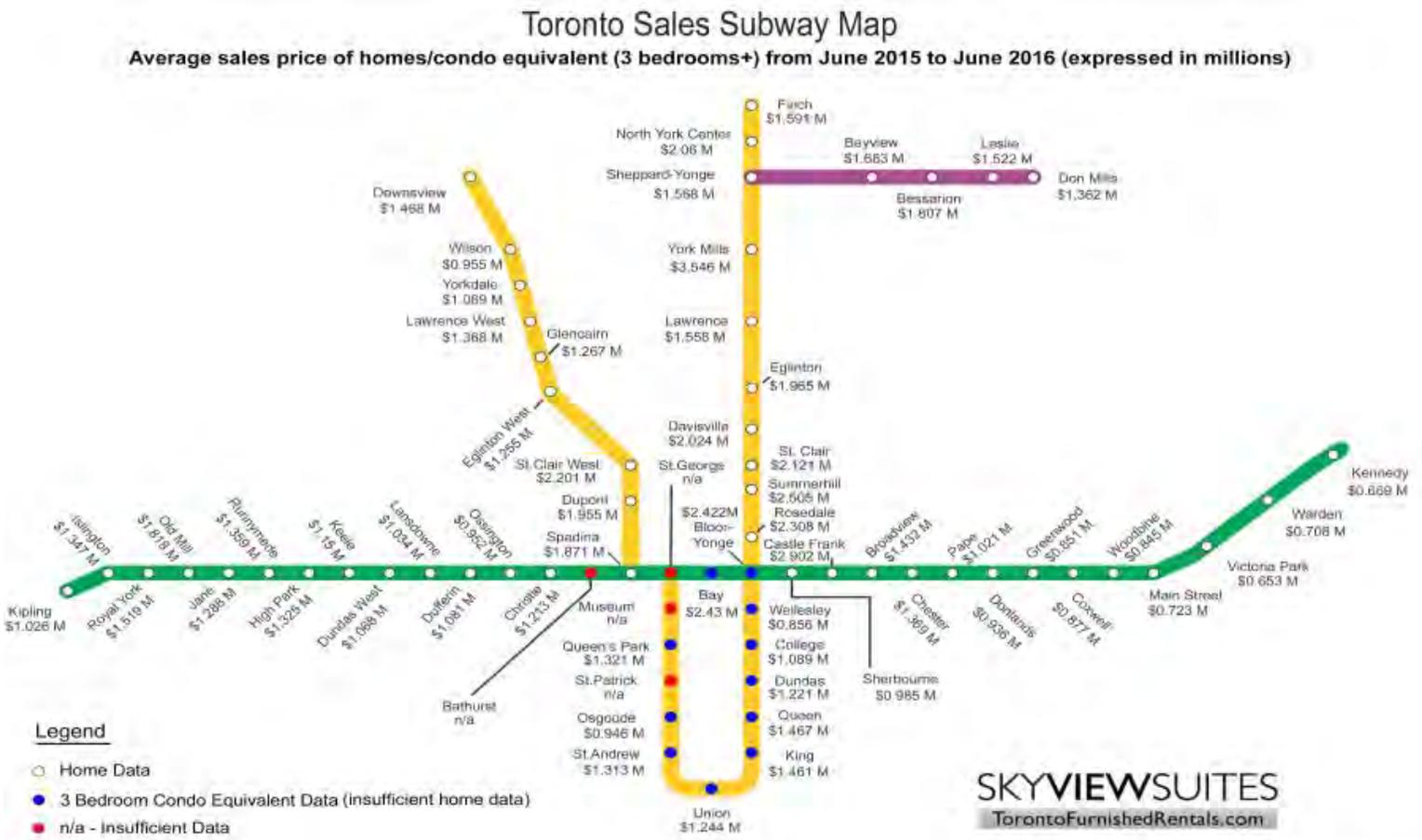
Records for properties sold, average sale prices, and days on market are being smashed monthly:

- According to Toronto-based real estate brokerage Chestnut Park, the GTA market is smashing records at a “breath-taking” rate.³⁵²
- The Toronto Real Estate Board reports year-over-year decreases of 9.9% in new listings and 26.9% in active listings from April 2015 to April 2016, but a 7.4% increase in sales.
 - Sales decreased, however, in the 416 area code (for detached, semi-detached, and townhouses) due to low supply.³⁵³
- In April 2016 12,085 properties were reported sold, a new record and a 7.4% increase over the 11,254 properties in April 2015.
- The average price for all properties sold was \$739,082, a new monthly record and an increase from \$636,094 in April 2015.
- The highest year-over-year price increase was for detached homes. The average cost of a detached home is now \$1,257,958, 18.9% higher than in April 2015.³⁵⁴

- All detached homes sold in April 2016 went for 107% of their asking price, and semi-detached, 110%—new record highs.
- Properties are also selling in record time, remaining on market for an average 25 days in April 2016 versus 35 days the year previous.³⁵⁵

Sky View Suites, a property management company, designed a 2016 map of the average cost to buy 3-bedroom homes across the city, by subway station:

- York Mills station is located below the most expensive real estate, at an average \$3.5 million for a 3-bedroom house, and Victoria Park the least expensive at \$653,000.³⁵⁶



Sky View Suites Group

Home sales in Toronto continue to increase as the average price remains over half a million dollars:

- In December 2015, the average price for a home in Toronto was \$626,942, up 9.1% from \$574,539 in 2014 (itself an increase of 6.0% from December 2013).³⁵⁷
- Total sales numbered 37,510, compared to 35,054 in 2014, 33,143 in 2013, and 33,414 in 2012.³⁵⁸

The city of Toronto far outstripped the other GTA regions in condo sales:

- 69% of condo sales in the GTA in the first quarter of 2016 were in Toronto.
 - Peel accounted for another 14% of sales and York 11% (the remaining 6% were in Durham, Halton and other).
- Toronto's condo sales increased by 21.2% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period a year before, with 5,974 units sold (versus 4,930 the year previous).
- The average price was also up (8.1%), reaching \$393,589 in Q1 2015 compared to \$364,087 in Q1 2014.³⁵⁹

People whose residences are outside of Canada might be pushing up Toronto's condominium prices:

- The Fall 2015 Condominium Apartment Vacancy [Survey](#) by the Canadian Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC) examined ownership by foreign residents.
 - CMHC defines a foreign resident as "a person whose primary residence is outside of Canada" and includes Canadians whose primary residence is outside Canada.
 - CMHC cautions that the survey results are not a measure of the percentage of sales of condominiums to foreign residents. Only foreign ownership was measured, not foreign investment (the flow of foreign capital into and out of the housing market). The survey asked property managers to report the number of units owned by foreign buyers in 2014 and 2015.
- CMHC concluded that the percentage of ownership of condominiums by foreign residents is low across the 16 CMAs surveyed. Foreign ownership ranges from 0% in Regina to 3.5% in Vancouver. 3.3% of Toronto's condos are foreign owned.
- Within the Toronto CMA, Toronto Centre has the highest rate of foreign buyers at 5.8%, an increase from the 4.3% reported in 2014.³⁶⁰
- In the Toronto CMA, a statistically significant increase in shares of foreign ownership in condominiums between Fall 2014 and Fall 2015 can be seen—up 3.3% in 2015 from 2.4% (a 37.5% rate of increase). In the city of Toronto, that rate of growth was even more pronounced, moving from 2.7% to 3.8%, representing a 40.7% rate of increase.
 - Similarly, shares of foreign ownership increased in six CMAs across Canada in that same period.³⁶¹

Percentage of Condominium Apartments Owned by Foreign Residents in 16 CMAs, 2014 and 2015:³⁶²

		% of Condominium Apartments Owned by Foreign Residents		
Centre	Condo Subarea	2014	2015	
Victoria	CMA	1.1 a	1.0 a	-
Vancouver	Burrard Peninsula	5.8 d	**	-
	Vancouver Westside	1.5 b	**	-
	Vancouver Eastside	0.8 a	1.0 a	-
	Subtotal - Vancouver City	3.4 d	5.4 d	-
	Suburban Vancouver	2.3 c	3.4 d	-
	Remainder of CMA	0.6 a	0.9 a	-
	Vancouver CMA	2.3 b	3.5 c	↑
Kelowna	CMA	-	0.2 a	-
Edmonton	CMA	0.1 a	0.5 a	↑
Calgary	CMA	0.2 a	1.1 a	↑
Saskatoon	CMA	0.3 a	0.5 a	-
Regina	CMA	0.1 a	0.0 a	↓
Winnipeg	CMA	0.1 b	2.7 c	↑
London	CMA	-	2.2 c	-
Kitchener	CMA	-	0.2 a	-
Hamilton	CMA	-	**	-
Toronto	Centre	4.3 c	5.8 b	↑
	West	1.1 a	1.5 a	-
	East	1.2 a	1.1 a	-
	North	1.5 a	2.6 c	-
	Subtotal - Toronto City	2.7 a	3.8 b	↑
	Remainder of GTA	1.1 a	1.6 a	↑
	Toronto GTA	2.3 a	3.2 b	↑
	Toronto CMA	2.4 a	3.3 b	↑
Ottawa	CMA	0.7 a	1.0 a	↑
Gatineau	CMA	-	0.3 a	-
Montréal	Downtown and Nuns' Island	6.9 c	4.9 c	-
	Péricentre	1.2 a	1.4 a	-
	West of Island of Montréal	1.3 a	0.9 a	-
	East of Island of Montréal	0.8 a	0.4 a	↓
	Subtotal - Montréal Island	2.3 a	1.7 a	↓
	Remainder of CMA	0.4 a	0.7 a	-
Montréal CMA	1.5 a	1.3 a	-	
Québec	CMA	0.6 a	0.6 a	-

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:

a - Excellent, b- Very good, c - Good, d - Fair (Use with Caution)

** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.

↑ indicates the year-over-year change is a statistically significant increase, ↓ indicates the change is a statistically significant decrease, while – indicates that the change is not statistically significant

- Building on this report, CMHC then examined foreign ownership by building completion date, and found that foreign ownership of newer condominiums is a greater trend for Toronto than Vancouver.
- In Toronto rates of foreign ownership across all building ages have increased from 2014 to 2015. The most pronounced increase over the year was in the newest buildings,

completed in 2010 or later, in which foreign ownership increased from 5.5% to 7.4% in the Toronto CMA, from 6.6% to 8.7% in Toronto City, and from 8.9% to 10.1% in Toronto Centre.

- Foreign ownership is higher for more recent buildings. Rates of foreign ownership in the Toronto CMA increased from 3.0% for condos completed from 2000-2009 to 7.4% for those completed in 2010 or later. Similar increases from 2000-2009 to 2010+ are seen in Toronto City (3.2% to 8.7%) and Toronto Centre (4.3 to 10.1%).
- Note that the reliability of estimates ranges from “c” (good) to “d” (fair, use with caution), especially for rates of ownership of newer units, 2010+).³⁶³

Share of Foreign Ownership by Year of Completion, Toronto, 2014-2015:³⁶⁴

Area	Year of Construction	Condominium Units		Share Owned by Foreign Residents (%) +			
		2014	2015	2014		2015	
Toronto CMA	Before 1990	100,032	100,358	0.9	a	1.2	a
	1990-1999	40,032	40,510	1.1	a	1.4	a
	2000-2009	103,945	104,216	2.7	b	3.0	b
	2010+	63,301	91,750	5.5	c	7.4	c
	Overall	309,364	338,843	2.4	a	3.3	b
Toronto City	Before 1990	71,406	71,735	1.0	a	1.5	a
	1990-1999	28,544	28,737	1.3	a	1.7	a
	2000-2009	80,372	80,400	3.0	b	3.2	c
	2010+	47,538	69,919	6.6	c	8.7	c
	Overall	229,890	252,776	2.7	a	3.8	b
Toronto Centre	Before 1990	24,088	23,929	1.9	c	3.0	c
	1990-1999	8,908	9,090	2.1	b	2.3	b
	2000-2009	45,181	45,203	3.5	c	4.3	c
	2010+	31,547	46,388	8.9	c	10.1	d
	Overall	110,871	125,277	4.3	c	5.8	b

High home ownership prices may be driving Torontonians to the rental condominium market, increasing construction starts but also demand and rents:

- According to Urbanation Inc., a Toronto condominium market researcher, in the first three months of 2016, the number of applications for new rental developments increased by 40%.
- But condominium rent prices increased simultaneously. In the first quarter of 2016 rents increased 6.8% over Q1 2015, from \$2.37/sq. ft. to \$2.53.
- 417 of 6,163 units (7%) were rented out for more than the asking price, a 59% increase from Q1 2015. And almost twice as many units (276) rented for more than \$3,000 than in 2015.³⁶⁵

Renting in Toronto is unaffordable for many households and the trends indicate the problem is getting worse over time:

- The average monthly rent (across all apartment sizes) in Toronto was \$1,206 in October 2015, an increase of 3.43% over October 2013.

- Halton Region continues to have the highest average rental rates in the Toronto Region, at \$1,245 in October 2015 (an increase of 4.71%). Rents are lowest in Durham Region at an average of \$1,021 (an increase of 2.10%).³⁶⁶
 - The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the Region in 2014 took up 42.7% of the average wages of a full-time employed youth (aged 15-24), an increase of 9.2% (from 39.1%) since 2009.³⁶⁷
 - The average market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Toronto in October 2015 was \$1,301 (up from \$1,264 in 2014 and \$1,225 in 2013).³⁶⁸
- To be considered affordable, housing must not exceed 30% of gross household income (a threshold defined by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation).³⁶⁹
- 1.3% more purpose-built rental housing was completed by mid-2015 than a year earlier.
 - 1,118 purpose-built rental units were completed in the GTA in the 12 months prior to June 30, 2015 (the cut-off for a CMHC survey), 1.3% above the 1,104 units recorded in the same period a year earlier.³⁷⁰

Sky View Suites, a property management company, designed a 2016 map of the average monthly rental costs for 1 and 2-bedroom units across the city, by subway station:

- Bay subway station is located below the most expensive rentals, averaging between \$2,100 for a 1-bedroom to \$3,000 for a 2-bedroom unit, and Woodbine, Main Street and Victoria Park tie for the least expensive, where renters can find a 1-bedroom for a low average of \$900, and a 2-bedroom for under \$1,400.³⁷¹

Average Toronto monthly rents, by subway station proximity, 2016³⁷²



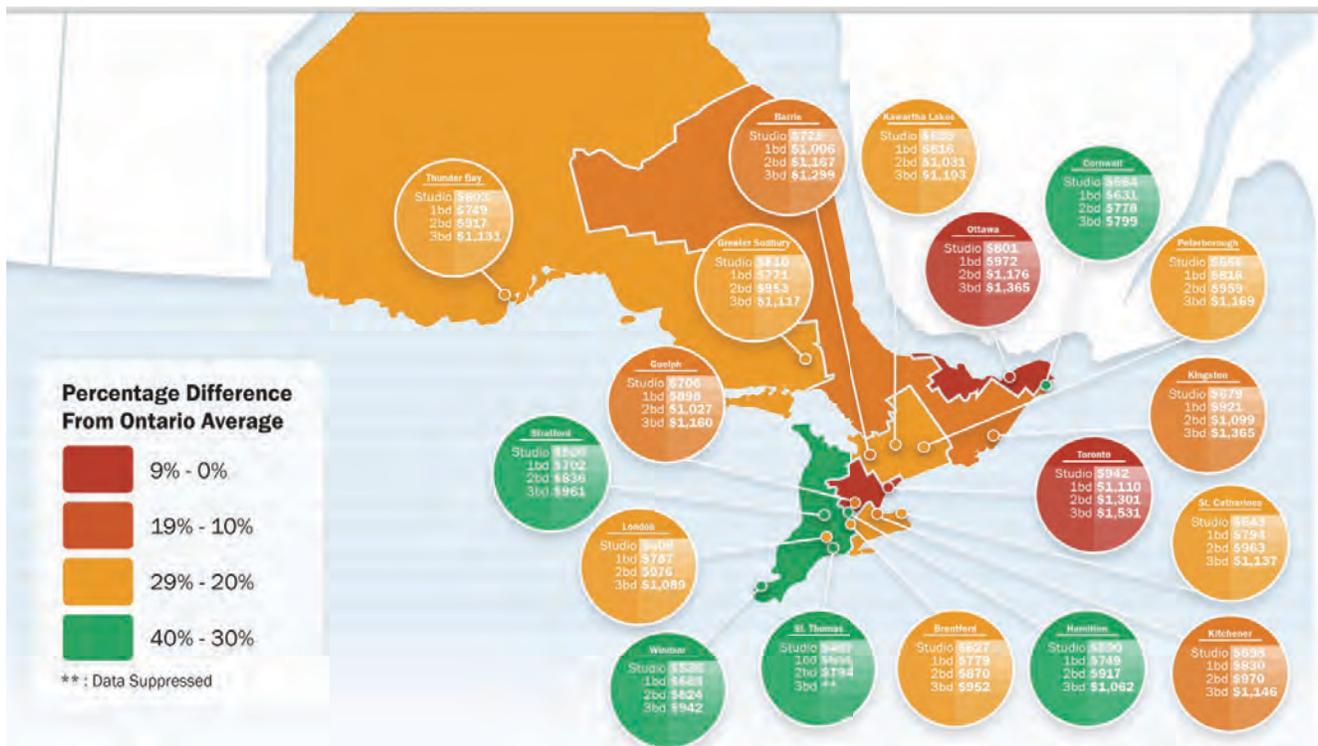
The Toronto Region is among the most expensive places to rent in Canada, and the most expensive in Ontario:

- [RentSeeker](#) used data from CMHC and the Province to produce its annual rental market research showing the average costs of renting in major Canadian cities.
- Markham has the most expensive bachelor apartments at an average of \$1,057/month. Toronto and Vancouver tie for second at \$937, while Oakville averages \$930.
- A one-bedroom apartment averages \$1,157 in Oakville, \$1,148 in Richmond Hill/Vaughan/King, \$1,126 in Burlington, \$1,122 in Calgary, and \$1,103 in Toronto.
- Vancouver has the priciest two-bedrooms at an average \$1,368, followed by Oakville at \$1,357, Richmond Hill/Vaughan/King at \$1,343, Calgary at \$1,332, Richmond at \$1,296, and Toronto in sixth at \$1,288.
- Vancouver and Richmond have the most expensive three-bedroom markets with averages of \$1,615 and \$1,596 respectively, followed by Richmond Hill/Vaughan/King at \$1,538 and Toronto in fourth at \$1,510.³⁷³
- Research on the average costs of renting shows Toronto has the most expensive apartment/condo rentals in Ontario. Studios in the city averaged \$902, one-bedrooms \$1,110, two-bedrooms \$1,301, and three-bedrooms \$1,531. Ottawa is Ontario's second most-expensive market with studios averaging \$801, one-bedrooms \$972, two-bedrooms \$1,176, and three-bedrooms \$1,365.³⁷⁴

Average Rent Prices for One-Bedroom Apartments, Canadian Cities, Fall 2015:³⁷⁵



Average Rent Prices Across Ontario, March 2016:³⁷⁶



The vacancy rate for rental units in the Toronto Region in 2015 was only 1.8%:

- The Region's rate is lower than both the provincial (2.5%) and national (3.1%) rates, and has worsened since 2014, when it was 1.9%.³⁷⁷
- Vacancy rates that fall consistently below 3% are generally linked to increases in rental rates.³⁷⁸

The rise of online app based home rental tools like Airbnb are undoubtedly contributing to low vacancy rates, and also diverting tourism dollars from hotels:

- Research conducted by Fairbnb, a coalition of homeowners, tenants, tourism businesses and labour organizations, commissioned research on the growth and impact of Airbnb in Toronto over the past few years. They found that:
 - In the City of Toronto, between June 2014 and July 2016, Airbnb listings have grown from approximate 2,500 to over 10,000.
 - While the Airbnb app offers owners the ability to share many types of accommodation, ranging from a shared room to an entire home, 85% of Airbnb's revenues are generated from entire home listings and represent almost 70% of all overnight stays. Hosts who provide multiple listings are responsible for 40% of listings.³⁷⁹

Can the average family still get a foot in the door of the housing market?

The cost of single-family detached homes is approaching “dangerously unaffordable” levels:

- According to an [RBC Housing Affordability Report](#), housing remains affordable overall in Canada. The cost of condos is rising but they are still affordable.
- But in two cities—Toronto and Vancouver—the costs of single-family detached homes are becoming dangerously unaffordable and are expected to continue rising due to high demand and low supply. It takes almost three-quarters (71.4%) of the average Toronto household’s income to afford a single family detached home.
 - In comparison, Calgary and St. John have maintained stable affordability, and affordability is expected to improve in the coming year due to low oil prices.³⁸⁰
- Federal changes requiring a 10% down payment (up from 5%) on mortgages over \$500,000 have made little difference on the market.³⁸¹

Single-family detached homes are driving a GTA boom in both price and volume of luxury home sales:

- According to a Sotheby’s International Realty Canada [report](#) examining the 2015 high-end (“luxury”) residential real estate market (\$1 million-plus homes), sales of luxury real estate in the GTA saw a record year-over-year increase of 48% in 2015 (exceeding the 38% increase in 2014 over 2013), with sales of 11,112 condos, attached, and single-family detached homes.
- The increasing costs of single-family detached homes, as well as shifts in consumer preferences, Sotheby’s says, saw GTA sales of semi-detached luxury homes (townhouses, semis, and duplexes) increase 54%. 659 such units were sold in 2015, up from 428 in 2014—and 60% of them were sold over their list price.
- Toronto’s luxury neighbourhoods include the Annex, Forest Hill, Bridle Path, and Rosedale-More Park.³⁸²
- In a Spring market forecast for 2016, Sotheby’s predicted the GTA would lead the Canadian market for luxury real estate.³⁸³

Toronto is the second-hottest real estate market in the world for the ultra-rich:

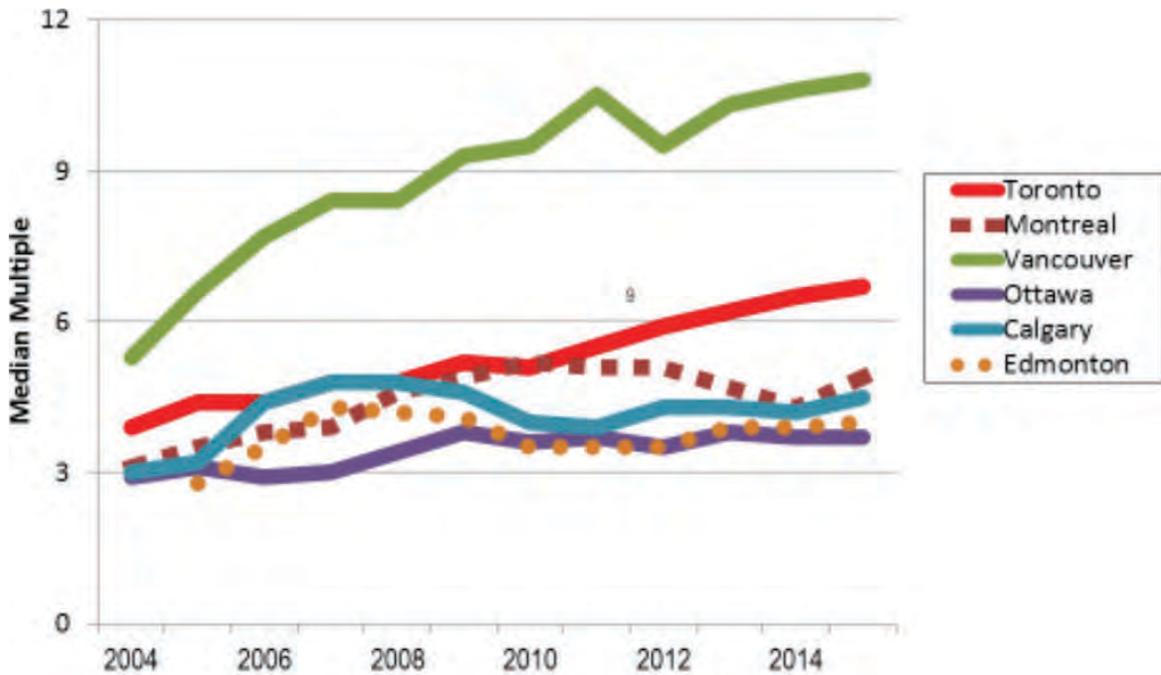
- In its annual [Luxury Defined](#) report, Christie’s International Real Estate (owned by auction house Christie’s) analyses trends shaping the luxury residential real estate market globally. Based on data from affiliates in 100 cities, it ranks the top 10 markets for market “health” and “luxuriousness.” Toronto was ranked the second “hottest” million-dollar-plus market amongst global cities.³⁸⁴

While the wealthiest enjoy luxury homes, many cannot afford to buy at all:

- In its 12th annual International Housing Affordability Survey, [Demographia](#) measures the affordability of 367 metropolitan markets in nine countries by measuring the “median multiple,” a measure of median house prices to median household incomes. A median multiple of 3.0 or less is considered affordable.
- Toronto’s median multiple in 2015 was 6.7—its worst yet and a 70% increase over the 12 years of the Demographia report (Toronto’s house prices have risen 70% compared to household incomes). This median multiple is considered “severely unaffordable.”
 - The median for the entire Canadian market is 3.9 (considered moderately unaffordable).

- The median across Canada’s “major markets” (cities with a population over one million) is 4.2, or “seriously unaffordable.”
- A graph comparing major markets shows that, like Toronto, Vancouver is also severely unaffordable by Demographia’s measure—its median multiple is 10.8.³⁸⁵

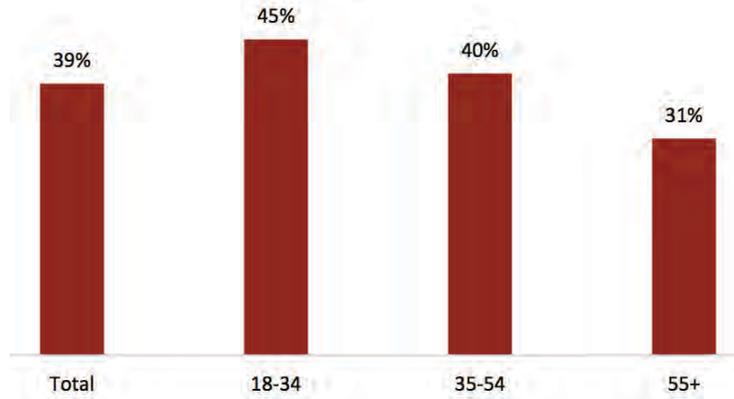
Middle-Income Housing Affordability, Canada’s Major Markets, 2004-2015:



High housing prices are causing some GTA residents, especially millennials, to consider leaving:

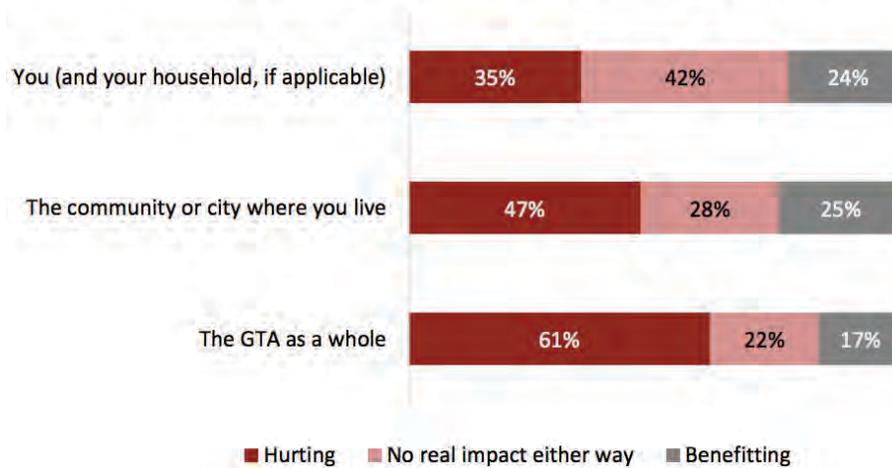
- A July 2015 Angus Reid Institute online [survey](#) of a random sample of 813 GTA adults found most (84%) are worried the next generation will be unable to own a home, and 39% are seriously considering leaving the GTA because of high housing costs.
 - 18-34 year olds are more likely than other age groups to say they are thinking of leaving:

I'm seriously thinking of leaving the GTA because of the cost of owning a home here

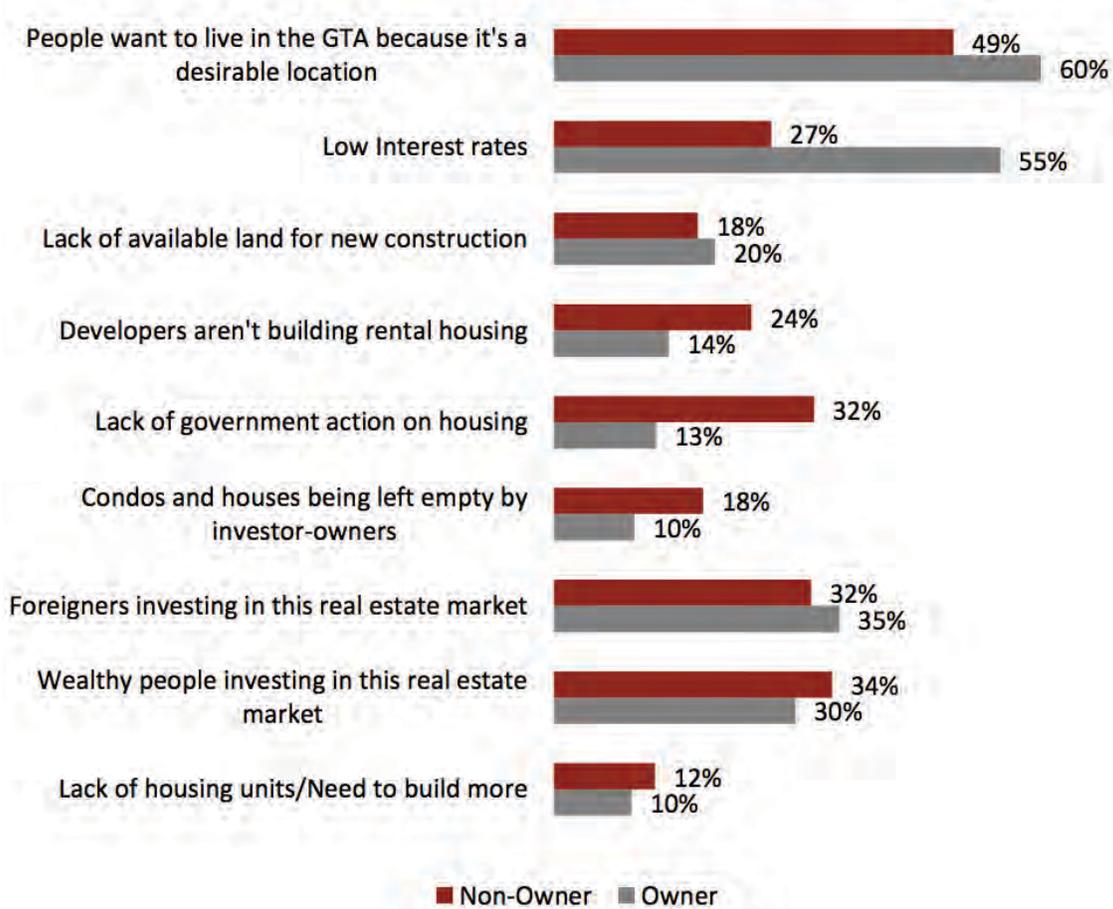


- 42% of non-owners say they want to own but can't afford to buy.
- 90% of respondents agreed that having a mortgage on a \$1m home would be "terrifying."
- 61% of respondents feel that high housing prices are hurting the GTA, and 47% say prices are hurting their own community or city. A third (35%) say high prices hurt them and their household; this response was more likely to come from non-homeowners than from owners (57% versus 35% respectively).

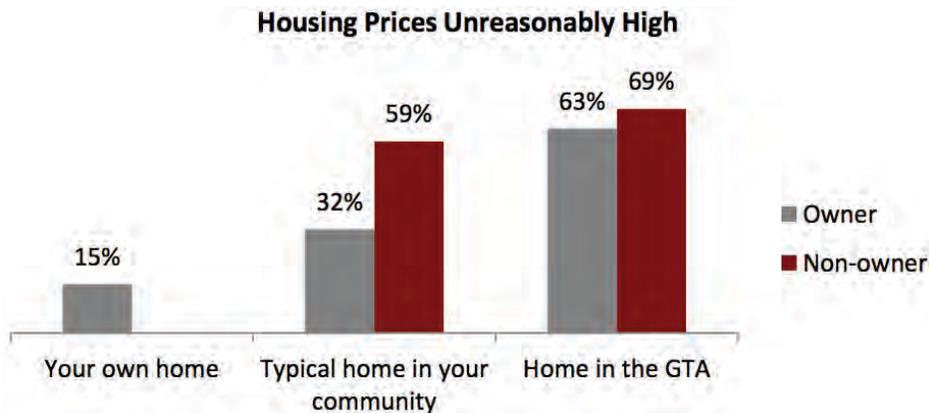
Benefitting or hurting from high housing prices?



Which of the following factors do you think are the main causes of high housing prices in the region?



- Similarly, non-owners are more likely than owners to think that housing prices are unreasonably high:



- Owners and non-owners also have differing opinions on factors attributing to high home prices.

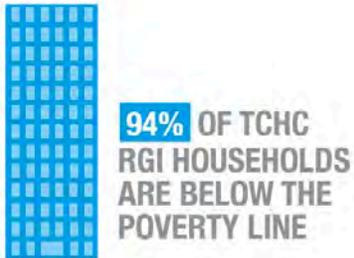
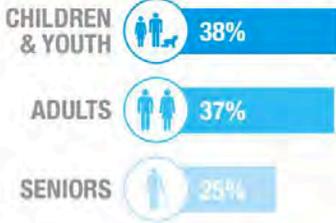
- When asked whether government should prioritize the interests of first-time buyers or current homeowners, 60% chose first-time buyers, although support varied by location. 66% of those who live and work in the city expressed such support versus 54% of those who live and work outside the city. Non-owners were more likely to express this support than owners.³⁸⁶

How can we fix Toronto's affordable social housing crisis?

With old buildings deteriorating as funding dwindles and the demand for affordable housing only gets greater, Toronto's largest social housing landlord, developer, and asset manager is in dire need of revitalization:

- Toronto Community Housing (TCHC) is the second-largest residential landlord in North America (the New York City Housing Authority is the first). TCHC holds 58,000 units (most in Downtown and East York) in 2,200 buildings. 4% of Toronto's citizens live in TCHC housing.

RESIDENTS ARE...

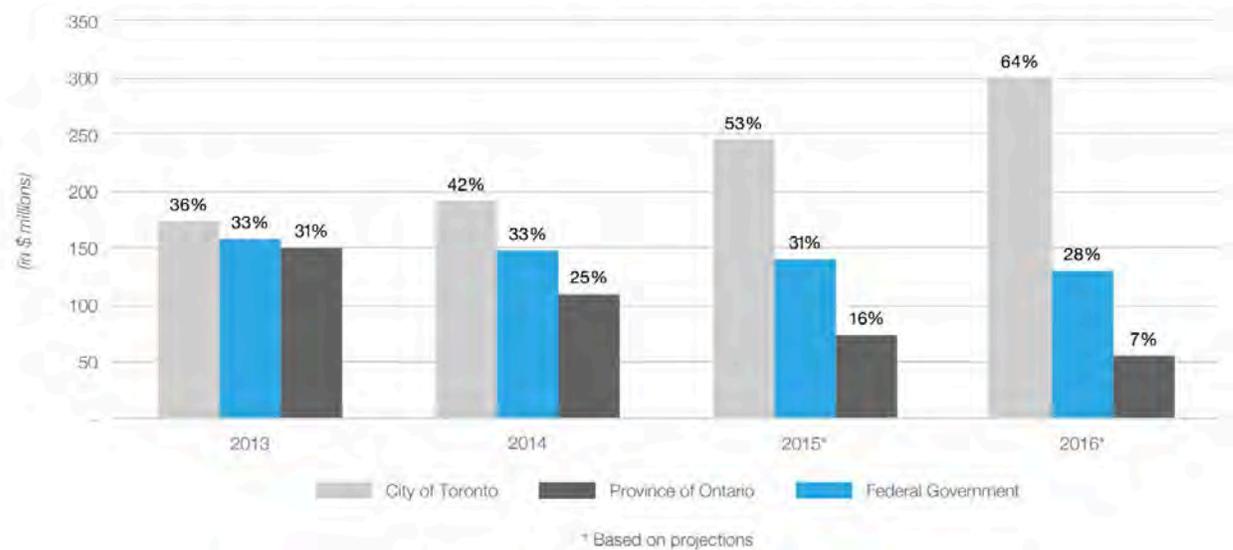


- Of the over 110,000 people who live in TCHC homes, 38% are children and 25% are seniors (70% of whom live alone). 94% of households live below the poverty line (30% of households are either Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program recipients). 29% of rent-geared-to-income (RGI) households have a member with a disability.³⁸⁷
- Most TCHC buildings are at least 45 years old, and the organization estimated in 2013 that capital repairs needed over the following 10 years would require \$2.6b.
- As of January 2015, approximately 350 TCHC units had become unusable because they had been deemed unsafe to live in. Without funding for the capital repair plan, an estimated 7,500 more units will become uninhabitable over the next eight years, and 4,000 will reach critical condition.³⁸⁸

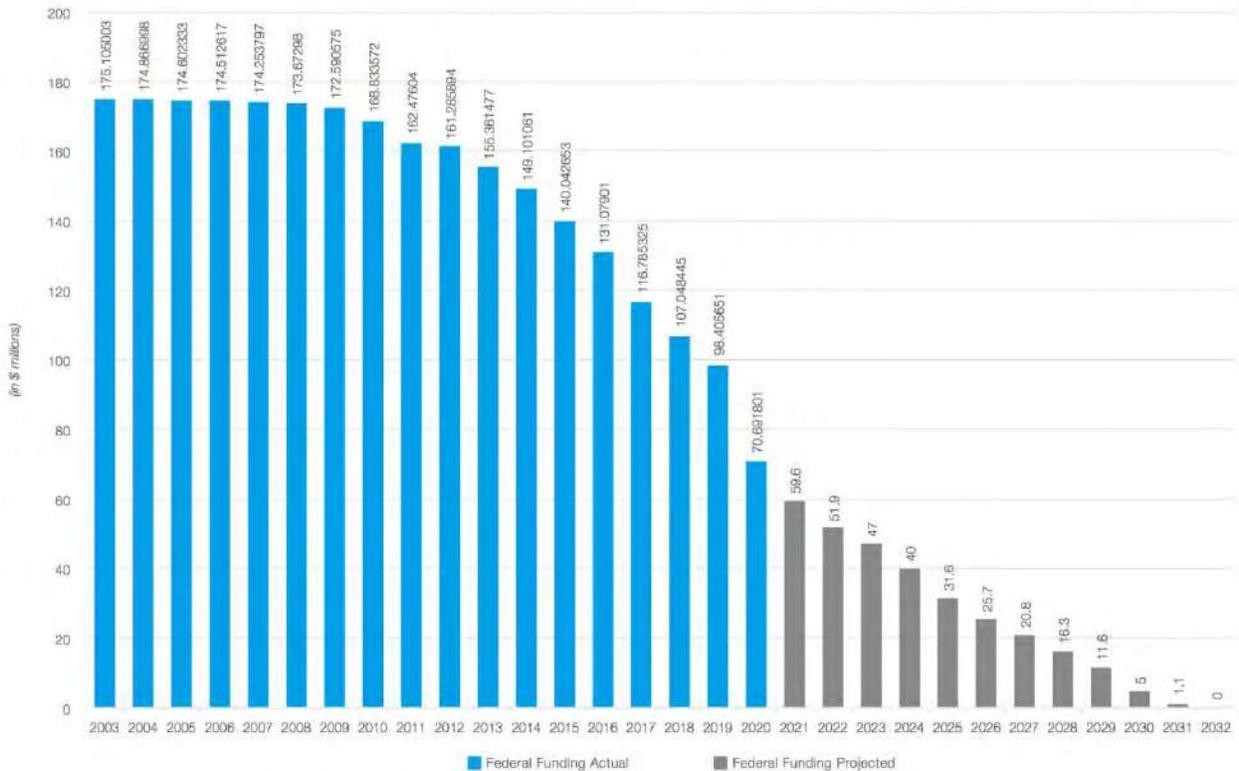


- The Province's proportion of assistance to Toronto's social housing decreased from 31% to 7% between 2013 and 2016, with the City taking up the difference.³⁸⁹

Government Contributions to Toronto's Social Housing, 2013-2016:³⁹⁰



Actual and Projected Annual Federal Funding of Toronto's Social Housing, 2008-2032:³⁹¹



Meanwhile, the Federal contribution is projected to reach \$0 in 2032:

- In January 2015, six volunteers were tasked by Mayor John Tory with making recommendations to strengthen and support the delivery of social housing. The taskforce, led by former Toronto mayor and Senator Art Eggleton, was to focus on operations and delivery, partnerships and innovation, capital revitalization and new development, and governance.
 - Over the year, the task force heard from over 1,000 tenants and citizens; almost 100 stakeholder groups; municipal, provincial, and federal officials; and housing experts from Canada, the US, the UK, and Australia.
- In its [final report](#), the task force suggests that the TCHC crisis is a result of changes in relevant policies by the provincial and federal governments. The Province's changes to policies stipulating who has priority access have led to increased housing of "vulnerable" individuals. 24,000 TCHC households have at least one member with a mental illness, and 9,000 tenants have a "serious and persistent mental illness."
- The task force concluded that the financial unsustainability of the TCHC can be linked to financial, social, and operating and governance issues.
 - Residents are happy but dissatisfied with TCHC homes and the services provided to them (see the task force's [interim report](#)).
 - The TCHC does not have the resources to provide services for tenants living with mental health issues. Instead, it relies on community partnerships that depend on time-limited funding, resulting in some residents having little to no support.
 - TCHC's current annual budget of \$658m comes from subsidies and rent. Rent revenue from low-income tenants lags behind inflation, while utility and operating costs exceed it. Subsidies are not enough to cover increasing costs.
 - Tenants pay a fixed fee for utilities (hydro, water, and waste) that currently represent 15% of actual costs. Costs in 2014 were \$125.5m, and they are expected to increase 5-14% in coming years. With most buildings built between 1964 and 1984 and as early as the 1940s, the task force recommends updates and repairs to not only reflect updates to building codes and increase energy efficiency, but in some cases keep buildings liveable.
 - Over the past five years, high turnover amongst senior management (including four CEOs) and unexpected events requiring prioritization of resources away from tenant services have led City councillors, tenants, and others to question TCHC's operation and governance.
- The report makes 29 recommendations that require the involvement of all levels of government and are focused on five key tenets:
 - Transition to a new community-based, not-for-profit housing corporation: Currently TCHC serves three main functions: social housing landlord, developer, and asset manager. The task force believes TCHC needs more expertise in two of the three, the landlord and asset management functions. It recommends separating development and operations functions and provides two models to move TCHC towards becoming a not-for-profit housing corporation, "manage now, own incrementally" or "reform first, then transfer."
 - Creation of mixed-income communities: Under the Housing Services Act, the City has the responsibility to fund and direct rent geared to income (RGI) subsidies to 73,346 households. 52,600 of those are overseen by TCHC. The rest are overseen by 240 smaller providers of mostly mixed-income housing with a 60/40 split of subsidized versus moderate-income tenants. In comparison, 90% of



TCHC households are subsidized. The task force recommends a 70/30 split to increase revenue.

- o Improvement of existing buildings and increased supply of affordable housing: In addition to the needed capital repairs to prevent another 11,500 units reaching critical or uninhabitable condition by 2023, more units are needed. Only 3% of households on Toronto's wait list for social housing are housed each year. Of the 170,000 households Toronto is projected to add over the next 10 years, 15% (25,000 households) will need affordable housing.
- o Decentralization of operations and strengthening of partnerships: The task force suggests that TCHC, as a social housing landlord, should provide housing services and building conditions equal to or better than any private landlord. They suggest decentralizing TCHC's 1,600 employees, putting more staff on-site to interact with tenants, receive tenant input, and provide repairs and information. Additionally, with a large number of tenants, including seniors, living with mental health issues, there is a demand for support services. The ideal staff-to-tenant ratio for supportive housing is one staff for every 30 tenants—at TCHC one staff member is responsible for 2,350 units. The task force recommends finding those in need of support and partnering with relevant agencies to provide these services.
- o Reform of the Province's RGI system: The task force recommends the increased use of "portable housing allowances," which are tied to the household rather than the unit or landlord, as RGI subsidies are. Portable housing allowances would provide greater flexibility for tenants who may have to relocate and help TCHC transition to mixed-income housing.³⁹²



York Region is using a tiered rent program in its Richmond Hill Community Hub to make rents affordable for a variety of income levels:

- Income bands (or ranges) ensure that each household pays no more than 35% of its gross income on rent, based on income (verified annually) and household size.
- As a result, tenants pay rents ranging from 35% to 80% of the market rents for the area.³⁹³

Where are there bright spots in the housing landscape?



The Province is trying to introduce legislation that would give cities the power to implement inclusionary zoning - legislation that would allow municipalities to mandate developers to set aside a certain percentage of their units for accessible housing or low to moderate income households:

- As a part of the Province's long-term Affordable Housing Strategy, Bill 204 would allow municipalities to require private developers to include affordable housing units.
- The Bill has gone through first reading in the legislature.³⁹⁴ If it passes, Toronto must still decide whether to use the new power.
- The City and a group of community organizations have been pushing for this for over a decade.
- Chief City Planner, Jennifer Keesmaat has been quoted saying it could have added 12,000 new affordable homes since 2011.
- Chicago, Illinois and Burlington, Vermont have instituted Inclusionary Zoning, but Ontario's plan is much more ambitious.

- The Ontario legislation will be read for a second time in fall 2016.³⁹⁵

The City is considering a landlord licensing system for apartment buildings:

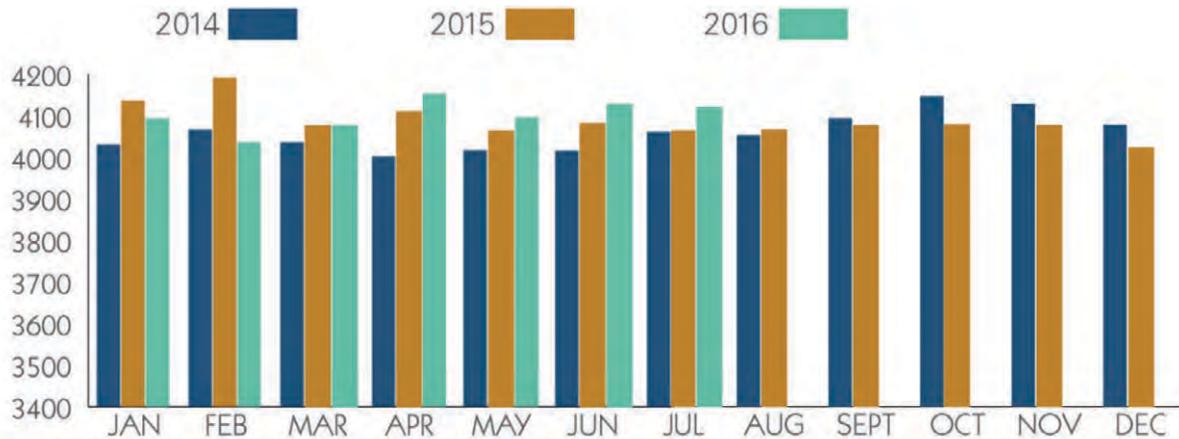
- The plan for a multi-residential rental property license, supported by some Toronto activists and tenants associations, would affect about 3,300 apartment buildings (10 units or more, three or more stories high).
 - Condos and co-ops would be excluded.
- The licensing system would include annual inspections (of common areas) and require plans for maintenance, cleaning, and pest control at a cost of approximately \$3.5m (about \$12-15/unit annually).³⁹⁶
 - Landlords would have to provide their plans to the City upon applying for the license to ensure that they align with best practices.³⁹⁷
- The Greater Toronto Apartment Association, which represents the rental housing industry, wants the City to instead use the existing Multi-Residential Apartment Buildings (MRAB) Audit and Enforcement Program.
 - Since launching in 2008, the MRAB program has issued 4,446 orders against problem buildings, and a staff report says that at the end of 2015 only 490 were outstanding.³⁹⁸
- In June, Council voted to ask the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to conduct public consultations on the framework and report back in the Fall with the results, as well as budget information, a draft by-law, and plans for how it would be implemented.³⁹⁹

What about the people without housing options?

The number of single people accessing emergency shelters remained relatively stable in 2015 and family use decreased slightly (by 1.9%), but shelter use in general has been rising in recent years:

- An average of 3,069 single people occupied emergency shelter beds in Toronto every night in 2015, representing a small increase from 3,038 in 2014. But in general, their shelter use has been increasing (2,835 singles used Toronto's shelters in 2011, 2,917 in 2012, and 2,975 in 2013).
- An average of 1,003 members of families used shelters every night in 2015, slightly down from 1,022 the previous year (but up from 882 in 2011, 928 in 2012, and 947 in 2013).⁴⁰⁰
- Of course, shelter numbers underrepresent homelessness because they do not account for those who do not to access the shelter system (e.g., those who "couch surf," "sleep rough," etc.).

**Average Nightly Occupancy by Month,
Toronto Permanent Emergency Shelters, 2014-2016.⁴⁰¹**



Year	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	4031	4067	4037	4002	4017	4016	4061	4053	4094	4147	4129	4078
2015	4137	4191	4077	4104	4074	4095	4071	4076	4087	4090	4079	4024
2016	4095	4036	4077	4160	4097	4119	4109					

Figures show average nightly occupancy by month in all City of Toronto permanent emergency shelter programs. As of April 12, 2013, flex beds were made part of the permanent system. Figures as of May 2013 are reflective of this addition. Statistics are from the Shelter Information Management System which was in use throughout the system by Jan 2011. These numbers do not include Out of the Cold programs. Note that as of March 2014, all stats adjusted to include use of part-time beds available weekends only.

Meanwhile, the numbers of shelters and shelter beds has dropped, although beds for women and youth have increased slightly:

- The number of emergency homeless shelters in Toronto dropped by 9% between 2009 and 2014, when there were 41 shelters (the same number as in the year previous). The decrease is similar to that across the province (7%) and much better than the decrease nationally (22%).⁴⁰²
 - The number of shelter beds were reduced by 4.7% over the same time period (versus decreases of 2.4% provincially and 7.9% nationally), although they remained the same between 2013 and 2014, at 3,217 beds.⁴⁰³
- The number of beds for women declined from 551 in 2011 to 498 in 2012. But in 2013-2014, there were 572 women’s beds, in 10 women’s shelters.
- The number of beds for youth in 2013-2014 was 416 in 10 youth shelters, up from 394 in 9 shelters in 2010.⁴⁰⁴

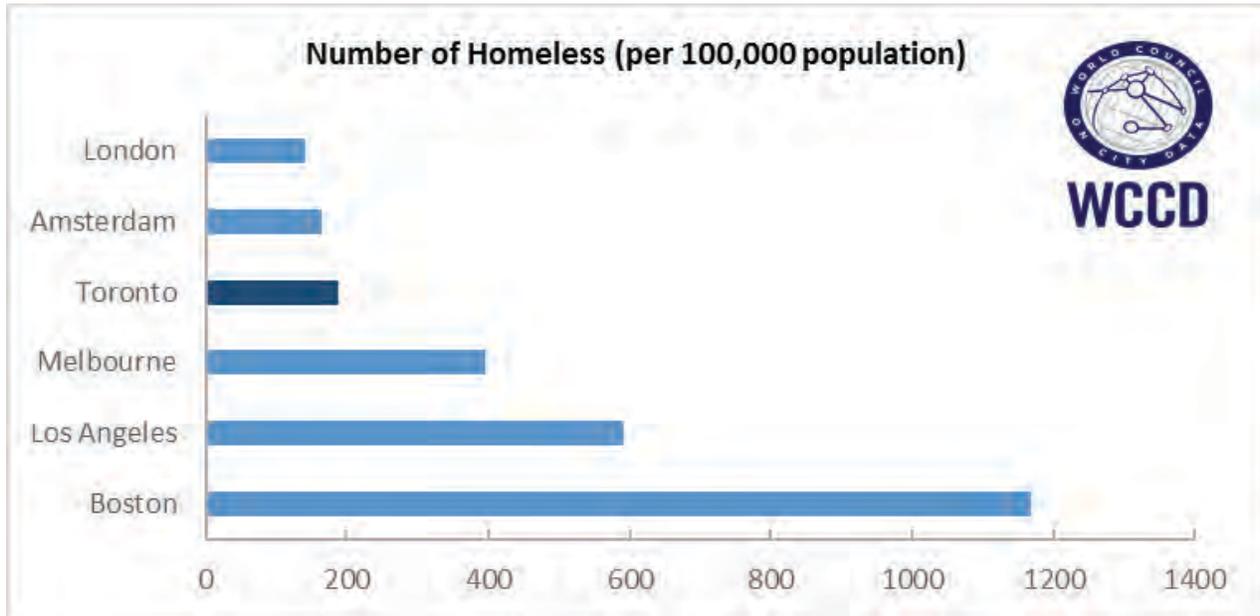
While Torontonians continue to be concerned about homelessness, compared to other global cities, the city fares relatively well in terms of the size of its homeless population:



- Toronto has 187 homeless people per 100,000 population (as reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) or WCCD in 2015).
- Toronto’s rate is about 30% higher than London’s (140), and 14% higher than Amsterdam’s (164).

- However, Melbourne’s rate (395) is more than double Toronto’s, Los Angeles’ rate (592) is more than 3 times Toronto’s rate, and Boston’s rate is a staggering 6 times more than Toronto’s rate.⁴⁰⁵

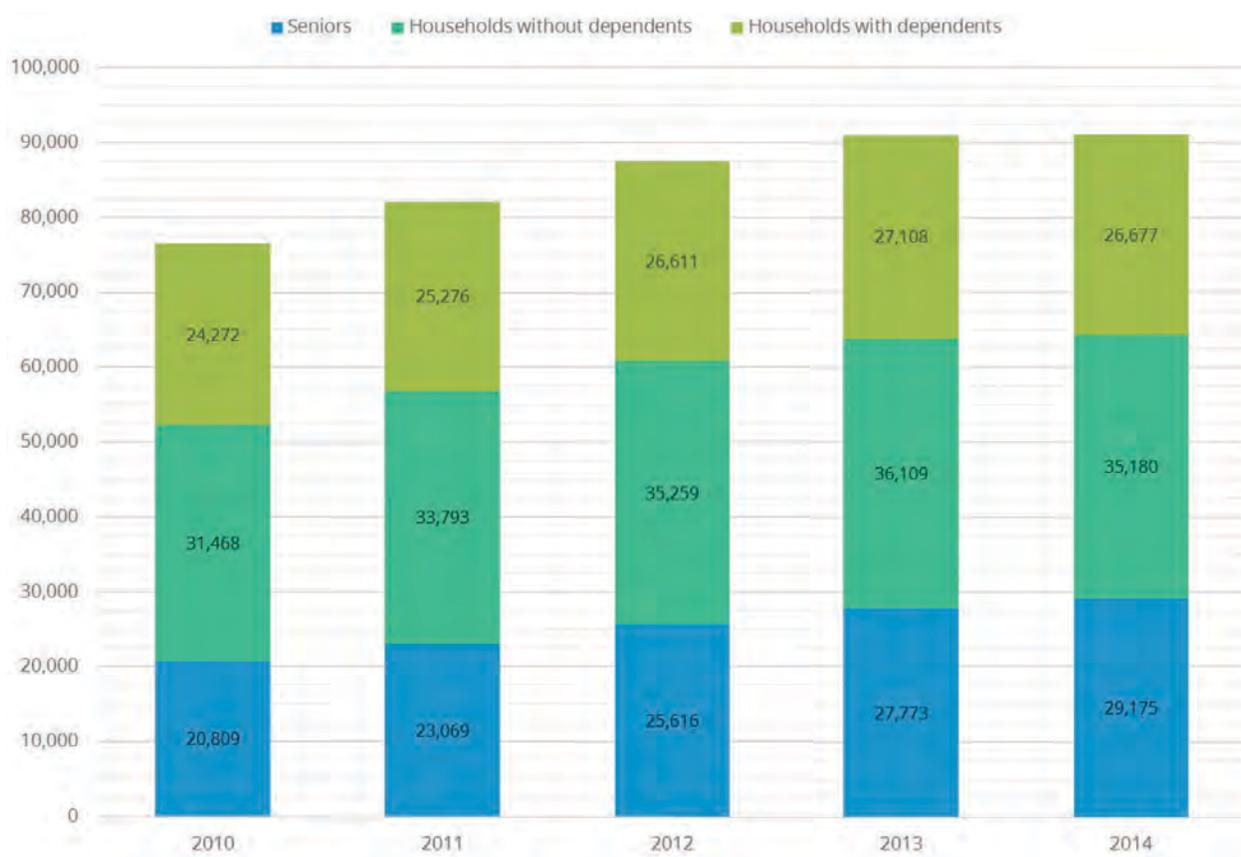
Number of Homeless People, per 100,000 population,
as Reported to WCCD in 2015:⁴⁰⁶



The “active” wait list for affordable housing grew by 8.4% in 2015 (compared to 1.5% in 2014). Almost 85,000 Toronto households are waiting:

- As of Q4 2015, 84,856 families and individuals were on the active waiting list (eligible and waiting to move into affordable housing) for social housing in the city, 6,608 more than in 2014.⁴⁰⁷
- 2,565 applicants were housed in 2015, 553 fewer than in 2014—a decrease of almost 18% and the lowest total in the past five years.⁴⁰⁸
The waitlist is for “rent geared to income” (RGI) units, for which renters pay 30% of their household income. (Ontario Works and ODSP recipients are charged a flat amount). Not all social housing units are RGI.⁴⁰⁹
- Seniors have accounted for the largest and most steady year-over-year increases as a proportion of the waitlist between 2010 and 2014.⁴¹⁰

Who is on Toronto's Social Housing Waitlist, 2010-2014:⁴¹¹



The number of affordable housing units (both rental and affordable ownership) made available was significantly less in 2015 than in 2014:

- After a slight drop in 2014 in the number of units of affordable rental housing opened (from 260 in 2013 to 252), only 48 units opened in 2015—a whopping 81% fewer.
- While the City improved on units built for affordable ownership in 2014, completing 98 compared to only 54 in 2013, in 2015 the number dropped back to 55 (a 44% decrease).⁴¹²

A new \$250 monthly allowance will help 550 families waiting for affordable housing:

- Select Toronto families on the waiting list for an affordable housing list will be getting some financial relief — the first new housing allowance granted since 2012.
- The allowance will go to 500 families with three or more dependent children under 18, and have been on the list longest (Households must have an application dated December 31, 2005 or earlier).
- A further 50 housing allowances are for those with a Central Wait List application dated December 31, 2008 or earlier that have qualified for a wheelchair accessible unit.⁴¹³

The City of Toronto operates Fudger House, a Long-Term Care Home for LGBT Seniors:

- Home to 250 residents in a high-density, multicultural area in downtown Toronto.
- After being slated to close, community members fought to save it so the City of Toronto secured its funding until 2029.



- For many LGBTQ* Seniors, receiving specialized care in a safe space is incredibly important, especially given unique health concerns like hormones and mental health concerns after a lifetime of discrimination.⁴¹⁴

To learn more about innovative community-based organizations and programs working to address issues relating to housing, check out: <http://ckc.torontofoundation.ca/>.

Getting Around

Why is this important?

The ability to move people and goods efficiently is vital to the economic health of the city and its environs. The congestion on regional arteries may be costing the GTHA more than \$6b annually in lost productivity. Focusing on building good, affordable transit and active transportation networks is also good for our health and for our environment, promotes equity and accessibility, and ensures that all have the ability to get from A to B.

What are the trends?

The number of commuters who take transit, walk, or bike to work continues to increase. Still, the Toronto Region remains rare among the world's top cities in having both long commute times and a low percentage of commuters who use something other than a car to get around. Although congestion levels improved slightly in 2015, the average Torontonian spends more time getting to work than the average commuter in any other municipality in the country except Vancouver.

What's new?

Most Torontonians support safer cycling; a third already ride. Research shows that a complete street approach that more equitably supports all road users may be better for business. The City is developing Complete Streets Guidelines and a 10-year cycling network plan. The percentages of schoolchildren using active transportation to get to and from school decreased significantly over 25 years, and children in newer neighbourhoods are less likely to walk to school unsupervised. A study has found great variability in transit access and equity across the GTHA. Revenue from the UP Express is not expected to meet operating costs, and taxpayers might subsidize the difference.

What do Torontonians want their streets to look like?

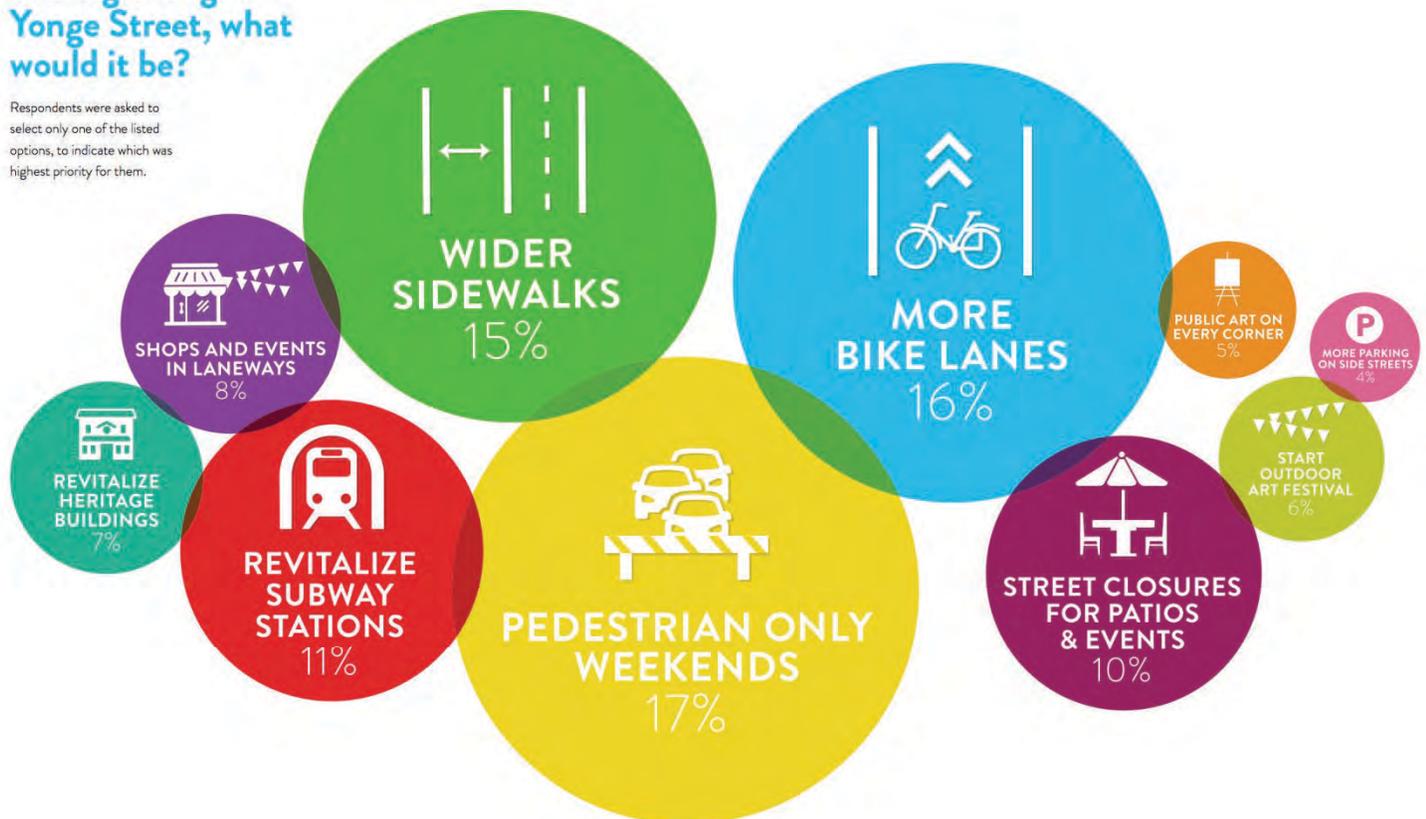
People want “human-scale, walkable neighbourhoods” with fewer cars for Downtown Yonge:

- “Yonge Love,” a consultation project conducted by the Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area in 2014, used a variety of approaches including social media, community “pop-up activities,” and an online, interactive survey that saw 1,693 participants.
- Participants chose from a list of possible changes to Yonge Street and their highest priority was pedestrian-only weekends (selected by 17%). 16% wanted to see more bike lanes, and 15%, wider sidewalks.
- When asked to select from “sentiment keywords,” (and allowed to choose as many as they wanted), most participants wanted to see the area be more walkable (70%), clean (69%), pedestrian friendly (67%), and safe (64%):

Participant Responses Regarding Highest Priority Change to Yonge Street, 2014:⁴¹⁵

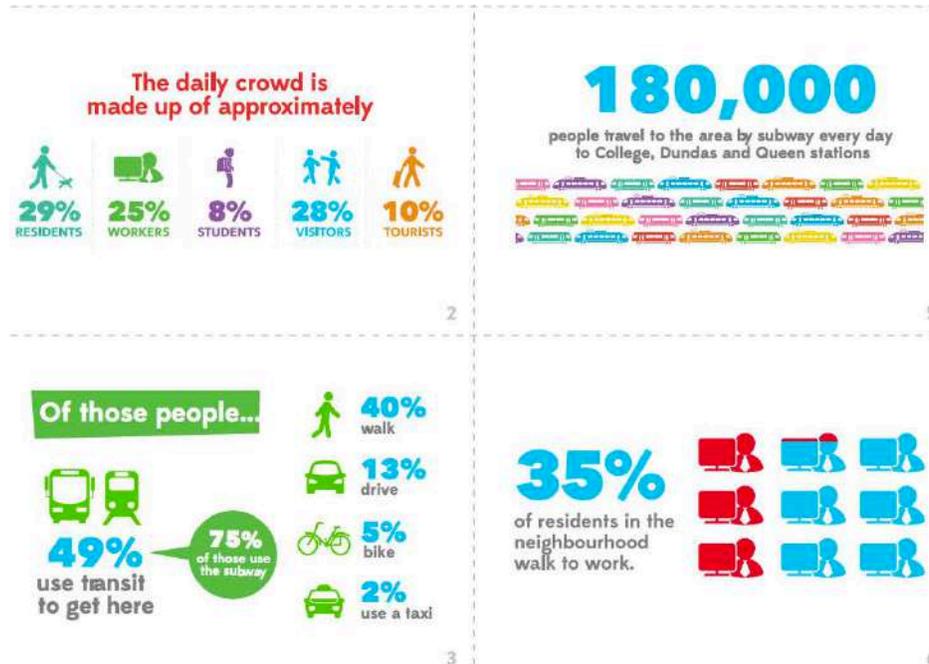
If you could choose one big change on Yonge Street, what would it be?

Respondents were asked to select only one of the listed options, to indicate which was highest priority for them.



- Respondents were a mix of residents, students, visitors, and workers (Downtown Yonge’s “daily crowd”), and mostly said they arrive by transit (49%). Only 13% drive. 40% arrive on foot, and 35% of area residents walk to work.⁴¹⁶

Downtown Yonge Street at a Glance, 2014:⁴¹⁷



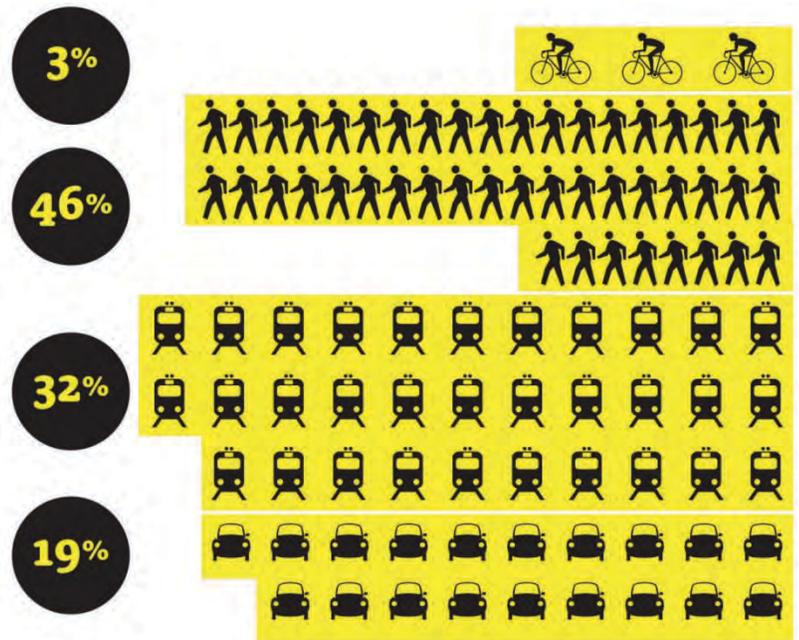
Danforth Avenue merchants may favour leaving the street as is, but visitors bike lanes, wider sidewalks, and less on-street parking:

- A March 2014 [survey](#) by Ryerson Planning and Consulting (Ryerson University’s Urban and Regional Planning studio group) for the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation gathered perceptions from 62 merchants and 152 visitors regarding street use allocation on Danforth Avenue (from Carlaw to Playtor Boulevard).
- A comparison of merchants’ perceptions of how their customers get to the Danforth and visitors’ reported means of arrival showed that merchants overestimated how many of their customers drove:
 - On average, merchants believed that most (39%) of their customers arrive by walking, 35% drive, 17% take public transit, and 9% cycle.
 - In fact, most of the surveyed visitors did walk to the Danforth (46%), but far more took public transit than drove: 32% versus 19%. When asked if their mode share would be different in summer, more visitors said they would cycle in summer (17%), while a similar number (45%) would walk, 24% would take transit, and only 13% would drive.⁴¹⁸

How Visitors arrived on Danforth Avenue, 2014:⁴¹⁹

The City has released a “sneak peek” at its developing Complete Streets Guidelines:

- A complete streets approach to street design is used successfully in many Canadian and American cities. It considers the social, economic, and environmental elements of street use. Safety—for all street users—is a particular priority, but function and aesthetics are important considerations too.
- The City is currently developing its own [Complete Streets Guidelines](#). The guidelines are meant to shift how councillors and engineers make decisions when it comes time to resurfacing roads: instead of rebuilding them in the same old way, different pedestrian and cycling infrastructure could be added to plans.
- Streets make up a quarter (26%) of Toronto’s land area, an area equal to the size of North York. The rest comprises 61% parcels and 13% parkland.⁴²⁰
 - Changes would be most dramatic in Toronto’s suburbs, where there is little existing complete street infrastructure.⁴²¹



Infographic: Spacing Magazine



The Clean Air Partnership–Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) is developing a complete streets catalogue:

- The tool is meant to help municipalities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe use existing examples of complete streets to better plan for transportation infrastructure that promotes active transportation and public transport use.⁴²²

In June 2016, City Council approved most component of a proposed 10-year cycling network plan that builds on the current network by connecting, improving, and extending it (although implementation of individual projects in the plan are subject to future City Council approval):

- The Cycling Network Plan will serve as a comprehensive roadmap and work plan, outlining the City's planned investments in cycling infrastructure over 2016-2025.⁴²³
- Toronto’s Transportation Services General Manager proposed a 10-year (2016-2025) plan for a cycling network (click [here](#) for map) to include about 525km of new cycling infrastructure.
 - Proposed infrastructure included:
 - along fast, busy streets, 280 centreline km of bicycle lanes or cycle tracks and 55 centreline km of sidewalk-level boulevard trails;
 - along quiet streets, 190 centreline km of cycling routes; and
 - along eight arterial roadways (Yonge, Bloor, the Danforth, Jane, Kingston Road, Kipling, Midland, and Lakeshore Boulevard West), a possible 100

centreline km of bike lanes, trails, and tracks (17 segments along these corridors will be studied to determine opportunities for city-wide connections).

- o The cost to implement the plan was estimated at \$153.5m over the 10-year period, about \$56.5m over the 2016 capital budget and 2017-2025 capital plan for Transportation Services.
- o Transportation Services has devised five funding scenarios for the plan, with staff recommending \$16m annually, which would allow completion of 85% of the project. All scenarios include \$1m annually to fund expansion of bike parking.⁴²⁴



Funding Scenarios (Years 1-5), 10-Year Cycling Network Plan, City of Toronto:⁴²⁵

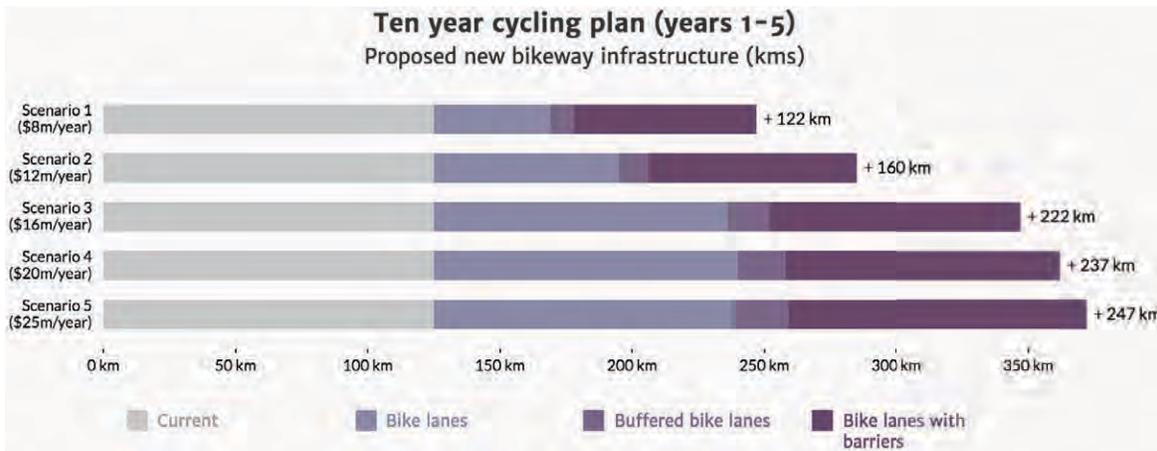


Chart by William Davis (Toronto Star) from City of Toronto data.

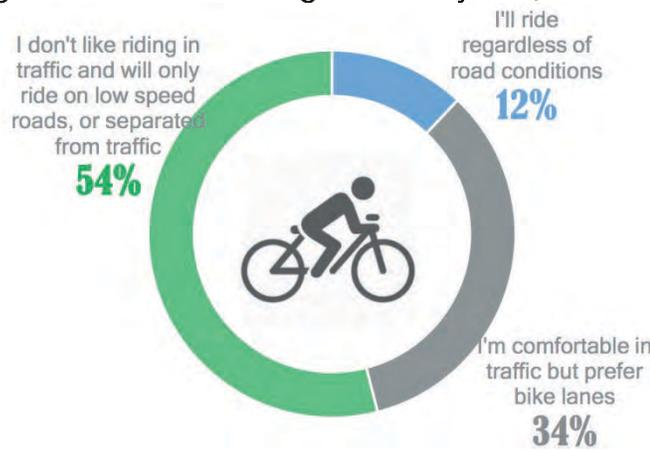
Note: "Does not include plans for additional multi-use trails or quiet streets."

- Council voted in June to adopt the 10-year plan with amendments and capital funding of \$16m per year.
- Council requested an extension of the Yonge street study from Finch to Steeles, but excluded, at least for now, other proposed major corridor studies except those currently underway: Yonge between Finch and Sheppard, Yonge between Bloor and Front, and Bloor-Dupont between Keele and Sherbourne.
- The City requested that staff provide recommendations for a study of Danforth Avenue and, for Dundas Street East, update cycling counts and consider ways to improve its bicycle lanes.⁴²⁶
- The approved "scaled back" version of the plan includes the creation of new cycling connections to TTC stations and changes that will extend and connect existing bicycle lanes including:
 - o bike lanes on Palmerston Avenue, Sumach Street, Portland Street, and Dovercourt Road to connect existing bike lanes;
 - o extension of current bike lanes on Dufferin and Bathurst into Vaughn;
 - o connection of Parkdale to the waterfront by a cycling route over the Gardiner Expressway at Dowling Avenue; and
 - o a direct route from an East York tower neighbourhood to the Don Valley Trail via a bike lane or cycle track on Thorncliffe Park Drive.⁴²⁷

A poll shows almost nine in 10 Torontonians support safer cycling in the city:

- An April/May 2016 [poll](#) via the Angus Reid Forum by research firm MARU/VCR&C measured interest in a “safer cycling network.” The research, commissioned by Evergreen, Cycle Toronto, the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT), and the Metcalf Foundation, found that 86% of Torontonians are “strongly or mostly in favor of the idea.”
 - Among those, 90% were cyclists, and 81% non-cyclists.
 - Support was highest among Toronto and Scarborough respondents at 88%. Support was lowest in Etobicoke, but still a healthy 79%.
- 68% “strongly agree/agree the City of Toronto needs to create better bike infrastructure urgently.”
 - 76% of those were cyclists, and 60% non-cyclists.
- 84% “strongly agree/agree cyclists need better protection from motor vehicle traffic in Toronto.”
- While 12% of cyclists reported feeling comfortable riding under any conditions and a third (34%) are comfortable in traffic (although they prefer bike lanes), over half (54%) will ride only if they are separated from traffic, or on low-speed roads:

Riding Comfort Levels Among Toronto Cyclists, 2016:⁴²⁸



A third of Torontonians are already riding in the city, and a majority want more City investment in infrastructure:

- In a May 2015 random sample telephone [poll](#) of 822 Toronto voters by Forum Research, 32% of respondents said they bicycle in the city.
 - Residents of Toronto and East York region were most likely to report riding, while those of Etobicoke or York were least likely (47% and 23% respectively).
- 44% of those who cycle reported commuting to work or school by bicycle in good weather. Respondents aged 18-34 were most likely to report doing so (60%), although 40% of seniors reported the same.
- 18% of those who bike in the city reported biking every day during good weather, 27% reported several days a week, 31% once or twice a week, and 25% less than once a week.

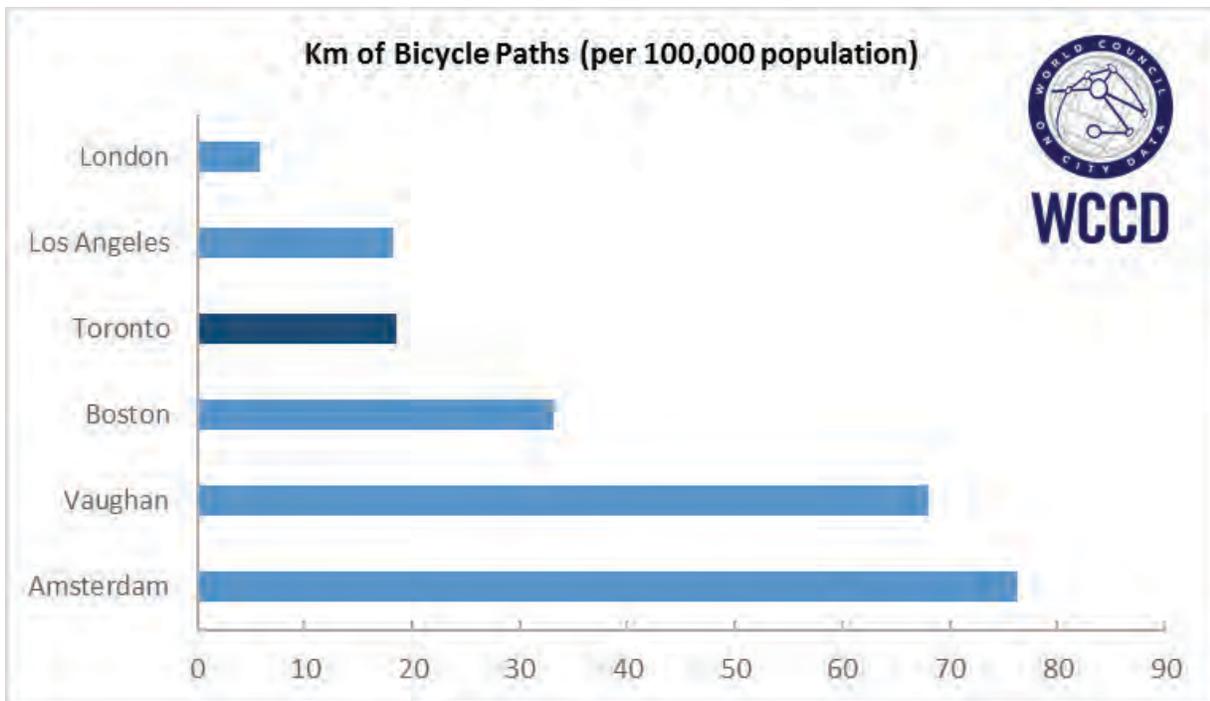
- 50% of all respondents disagreed with bicyclists being licensed. 40% agreed they should be licensed, with senior respondents being most likely to agree at 61%. Agreement from other age cohorts ranged from 30-44%.
- 61% of all respondents agreed that “the city should invest in more bicycle infrastructure downtown, including separated lanes on major streets.” The youngest adults (18-34) and those living in Toronto and East York were most likely to agree (at 73% and 72% respectively).⁴²⁹



While cycling is gaining traction in Toronto, the current km of bicycle paths per 100,000 population across the city pales in comparison to other global cities:

- As reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) (WCCD) in 2015, Toronto had 18.52 km of bicycle paths per 100,000 population. This is almost on par with Los Angeles at 18.21 km, but significantly below Boston (33.12 km) and Vaughan, ON (68.04 km). Amsterdam’s 76.31 km of bike lanes per 100,000 population is a whopping four times greater.
- London, while considered a city that has reduced reliance on cars for getting around downtown, only has 5.86 km of bike paths per 100,000 population. That is more than three times less than Toronto.⁴³⁰

Bicycle Paths, in km, per 100,000 population as Reported to WCCD in 2015:⁴³¹



A cycling advocacy group says at least one Toronto street moves nearly as many bikes as cars during rush hour and the City should invest in cycling to get Toronto moving:

- For the past few years, Cycle Toronto has counted cars and bikes on College Street in late September. The organization says it has repeatedly found that the College Street bike lanes, “like bicycle lanes across the city, are a more efficient way to move people.”

- According to Cycle Toronto, only 19% of the road is reserved for bikes. Yet on September 20, 2015, when it counted westbound traffic from 5pm-6pm, bikes made up 46% of traffic and cars 54% (they counted 571 bikes and 666 cars).⁴³²
 - In September 2013, Cycle Toronto counted (on two study days) approximately equal numbers of cars and bikes using College during the afternoon rush hour—a 74% increase in cycling on the street in just three years.⁴³³

The economic impacts for local businesses of a Bloor Street bike lanes pilot project which began in August 2016 are being studied:

- Separated bike lanes have been installed on Bloor Street West between Shaw Street and Avenue Road.
- TCAT is leading the pre-post study (between 2015 and 2017) with support from a research team at the University of Toronto and funding from the Metcalf Foundation, the Bloor Annex BIA, and the Korea Town BIA.
- The study will supplement the City's feasibility study to identify design and impacts, as economic impact is outside its scope.⁴³⁴

Parkdale shoppers reach their destination mostly by walking and biking, and they spend more money:

- A 2016 survey by Cycle Toronto's Ward 14 Advocacy Group of about 700 shoppers in Parkdale found that only 4% arrived by car.
- The vast majority, 72%, arrived on foot (53%) or by bike (19%). 58% of walkers and bikers spent more than \$100/month in Parkdale, versus 37% of drivers.⁴³⁵



A "sneckdown" is an abbreviation of snowy neckdown, where snow extends a curb that shows where traffic does not run:

- Mapping sneckdowns can provide the City with an idea of where they can shorten pedestrian crossing distances, add bicycle infrastructure or be repurposed with infrastructure like bump outs to calm traffic.
- The areas can also be repurposed into gardens.
- Torontonians can take photos of sneckdowns and send them to to.sneckdown.ca



This image of multiple sneckdowns is taken by Matt Worona at Bloor St. W. and Alberfoyle Cres./Gardenvale Rd. in Etobicoke. Curbs have been highlighted with yellow to show how far past the snow extends.⁴³⁶

How congested is Toronto and what can be done?

The Region remains rare among the world's top cities in having both long commute times and a low percentage of commuters who use something other than a car to get from A to B:

- Transportation continues to be one of the key weaknesses in Toronto's labour attractiveness, the [Toronto Region Board of Trade](#) argues. Our low percentage of commuters who take some form of transit other than the car to work again earned the Region a 14th place ranking and a "C" grade on the Board's 2015 [Scorecard on Prosperity](#).
 - Only 29.0% of Toronto's employed labour force uses some form of transit other than the car to get to work. Most of the other ranked North American cities do not fare any better—only New York (in 11th with 40.6%) and Montréal (in 13th with 29.3%) bettered Toronto. Vancouver is just behind Toronto (in 15th place with 27.8%).
 - Hong Kong placed first, where 88.5% use a mode other than the automobile to get to work.
- The Scorecard also placed Toronto 15th (unchanged from 2014) out of 22 global metropolitan cities for average round-trip commute time.
 - It found that Toronto has the longest round-trip commute time (66 minutes, earning a B grade) of any North American city in the rankings except New York



(in 18th place with 69.8 minutes). Chicago is 12th with 61.9 minutes and received an A grade.

- Calgary took the top spot, with a shorter commute of 52 minutes.⁴³⁷
- Increasingly longer commute times have a negative effect on health and intensify the “time crunch” that one in five Ontarians feels caught in, with less time for family, leisure, and community.⁴³⁸

Toronto is home to some of North America’s worst congestion and longest commutes, although congestion levels improved slightly in 2015:

- The annual [traffic index](#) from TomTom, a Dutch company that specializes in navigation and mapping products, measures travel times across the day and for peak versus non-peak periods.
- Toronto’s congestion level (percent increase in travel time compared to a free flow or uncongested situation) is 28%, a 3% decrease from 2014. Congestion affects travel time more on non-highways (where it increases travel time by 30%) than on highways (where it decreases to 25%)
- The most congested day in 2015 was February 21, a Saturday.
- Toronto’s most congested times of the week are Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings. Thursday evening congestion is 65%:

Toronto’s Congestion During 8-9am and 5-6pm Rush Hours, 2015.⁴³⁹



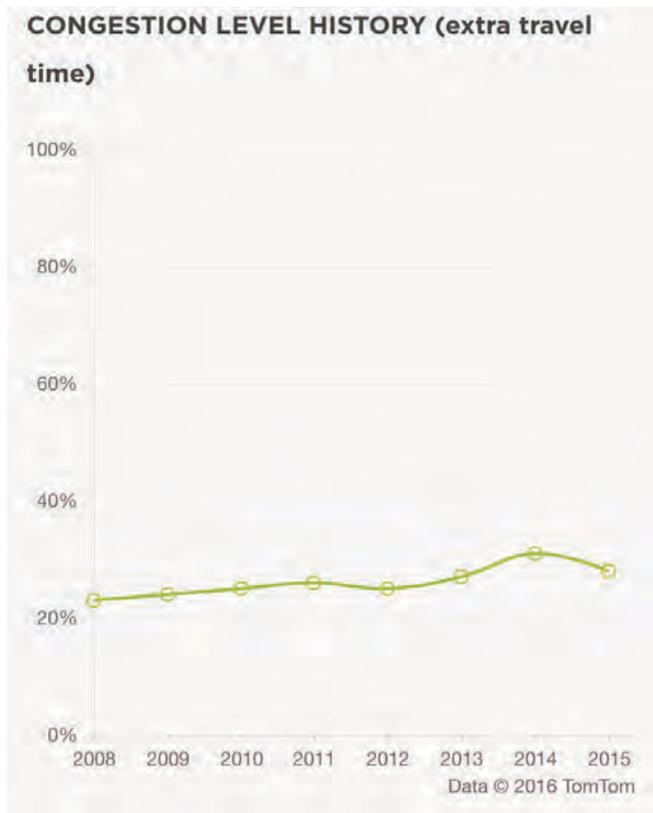
- TomTom’s data since 2008 show that despite the slight improvement in congestion in 2015, the overall trend of traffic congestion for Toronto has been steadily worsening:

Toronto's Congestion Level History, 2008-2015:⁴⁴⁰

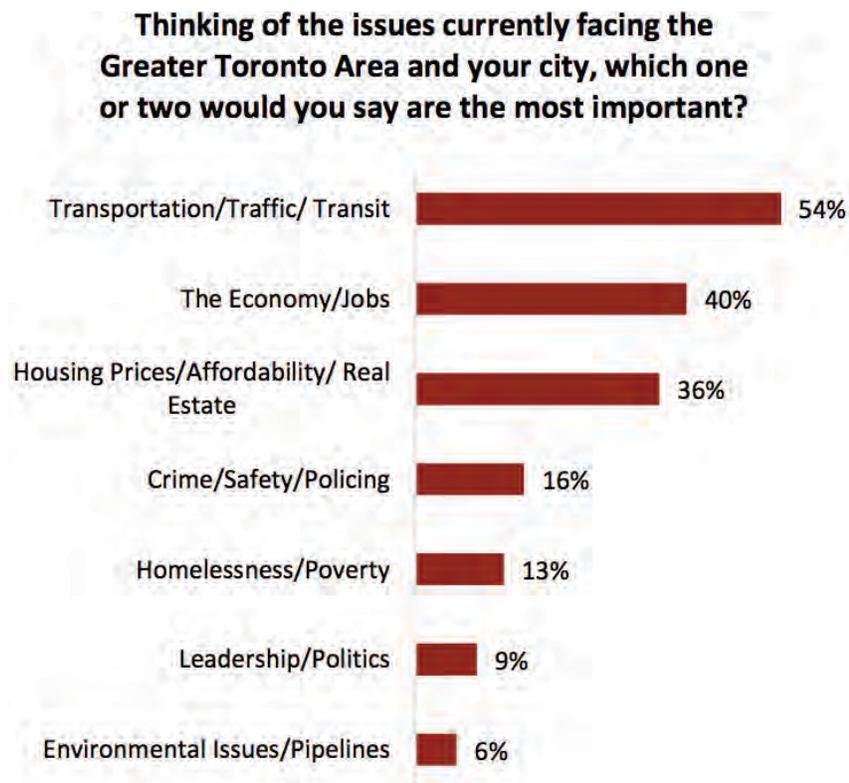
- Toronto is the 64th most congested city in the world (of 174 cities with populations greater than 800,000), and remains the second most congested city in Canada.
 - Vancouver is first in Canada with a congestion level of 34% (down 1% from 2014), making it the 36th most congested city in the world.
 - Montréal is third in Canada with a congestion level of 26% (down 1%) and 81st in the rankings. Ottawa is not far behind, with a congestion level also of 26% and ranking 86th.

Transportation within the GTA region is a "painful" experience for most:

- Transit was the top concern for 54% of residents in a July 2015 Angus Reid Institute online [survey](#) of a random sample of 813 GTA adults.
 - Rounding out the top three issues for respondents were the economy (40%) and housing prices (36%).

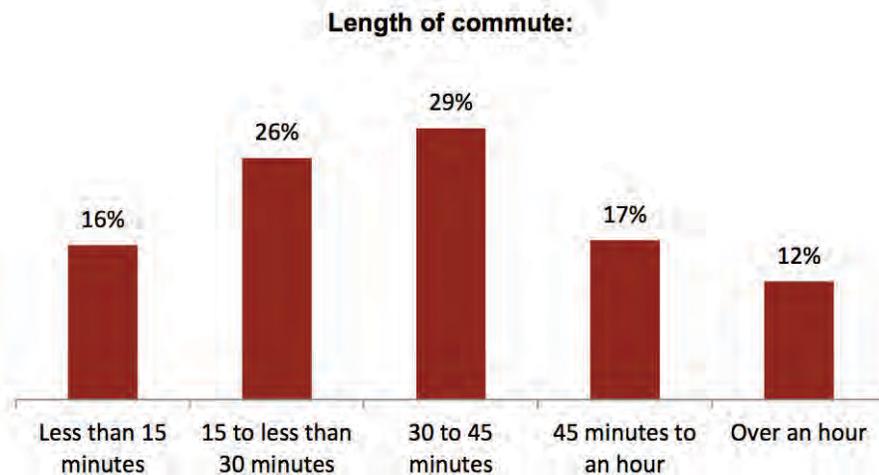


Most Important Issues facing GTA according to Torontonians, 2015⁴⁴¹



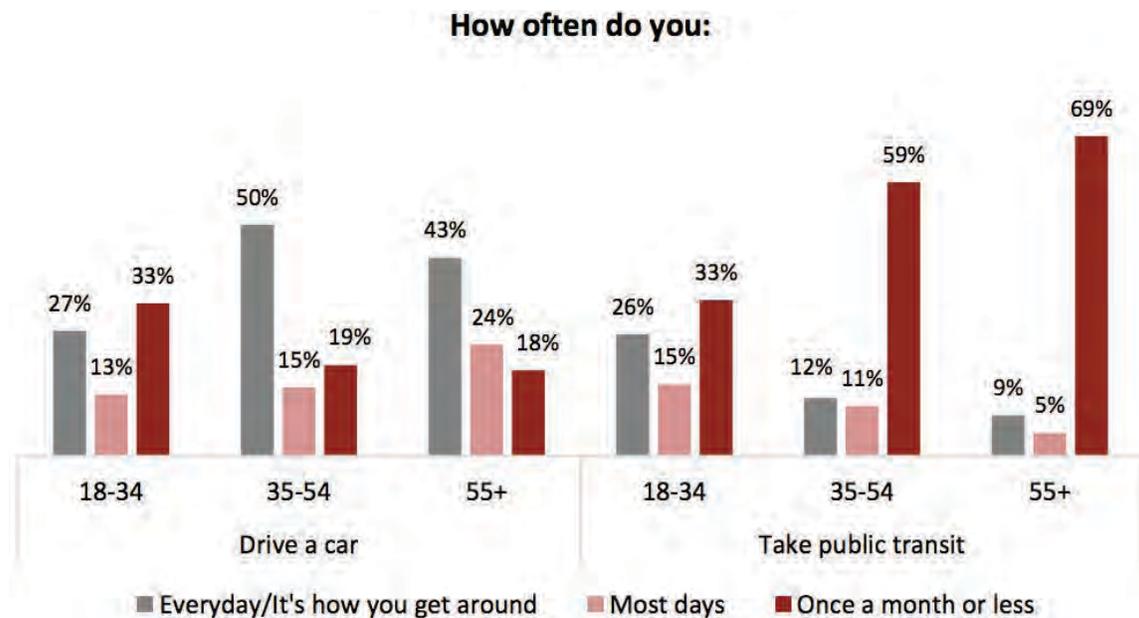
- Of those who commute, most (29%) travel 30-45 minutes to school or work. 12% have a commute of more than an hour a day.

Length of Commute for Torontonians, 2015⁴⁴²



- Younger people are more likely to take public transit and less likely to drive. 27% of respondents aged 18-34 drive every day compared to 50% of those 35-54 and 43% of those 55+.

Frequency of Travel Mode by Torontonians, 2015⁴⁴³



- Income plays a role in the type of transportation used. Two-thirds (about 67%) of those earning more than \$50,000 rely on driving, compared to a third (about 33%) of those earning less.
- While some people find their everyday transportation experience and transportation within their city or community "painful" (22% and 26% respectively), when it comes to

transportation within the entire GTA region more respondents (46%) rate the experience “painful” than “easy” (21%).

- Commuters are more likely to find transportation painful: 31% of those who live in Toronto but work outside the city and 28% who live outside Toronto but work within it ranked their experience as painful, compared to 22% of those who live and work outside Toronto and 17% of those who live and work in Toronto.
- Proximity to the subway makes a difference too. 54% of those who live on the subway line find their commute easy compared to 39% of those who do not.⁴⁴⁴

Intensification would allow for easier transportation and less car use:

- A Pembina Institute [report](#) discussing the benefits of intensification (building on already developed land) for the GTA concludes that compact, walkable, transit-friendly neighbourhoods create demand for transit service so residents do not need to rely on cars.
- The authors use Downtown Markham as one example of good density planning. It has planned retail space of 2.2 million sq. ft., 3.7 million sq. ft. of office space, 8,000 residential units, a retail centre, retail spaces on ground floors of high-rise and mid-rise buildings, and transit service from both Viva buses and GO trains.⁴⁴⁵

Two Toronto streets are among the 10 worst roads in Ontario:

- Bayview Avenue and Dufferin Street in Toronto are the eighth and ninth worst roads in Ontario according to the 2016 version of CAA’s [Worst Roads](#) list, which highlights the need for infrastructure investment across Ontario.
- Both streets have appeared on this top 10 list at least six times. Dufferin was named Ontario’s worst road in 2014, but dropped to third in 2015 and ninth this year.
- The five worst roads in the Toronto Region are Bayview, Dufferin, Lawrence Avenue E., Markham Road, and Scarlett Road.
- County Road 49 in Prince Edward County was named the worst road in Ontario.⁴⁴⁶

How are Torontonians doing on the active transportation front?

The number of commuters who walk or bike continues to increase:

- According to the 2011 census, 47.1% of Torontonians were choosing transit, walking or biking instead of driving to get to work, an increase from 44.2% in the 2006 census.⁴⁴⁷
- A Share the Road survey conducted in 2014 found that 5.7% of Torontonians ride their bikes daily.⁴⁴⁸ And Toronto Cycling Think and Do Tank has noted dramatic growth in bike ridership since 2009.
 - In 2009, the City’s Transportation Department released its [Cycling Study](#), which showed that 29% of Torontonians were utilitarian cyclists.
 - Analysis of 2011 [National Household Survey](#) data found “astonishing” levels of cycling mode share in some census tracts—nearly 20% in Seaton Village and Dufferin Grove. Other west-end neighbourhoods were not far behind. The data accounted only for trips to work and school.
 - In 2013, the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation and Share the Road released [survey](#) results showing that 7% of Torontonians cycled daily.⁴⁴⁹
- Nonetheless, a September 2014 Smart Commute [survey](#) of 1,000 GTHA commuters found that of participants (chosen for having travelled or teleworked at least three times



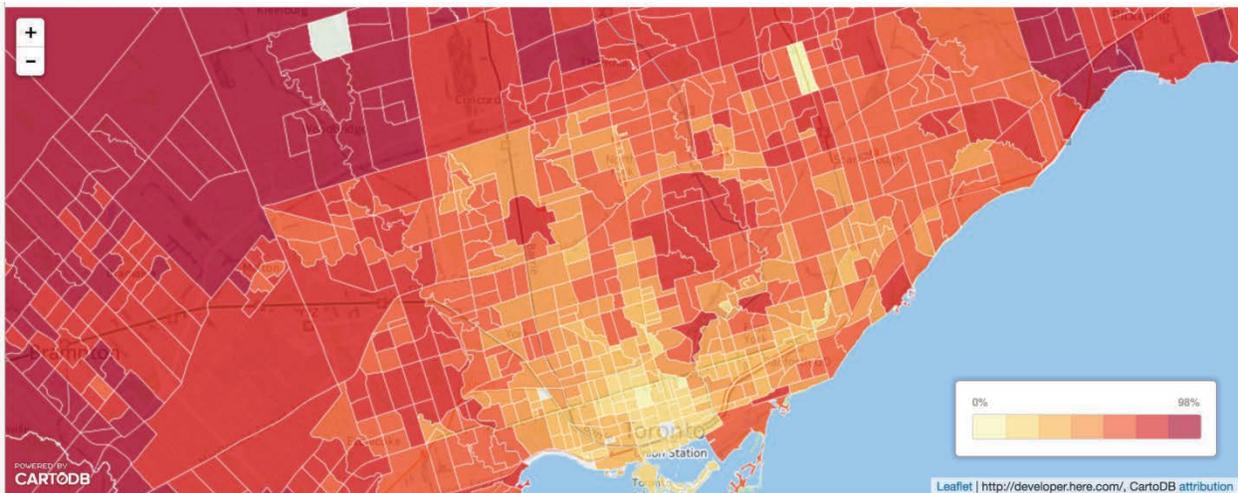
a week for work, school, or volunteering in the last 12 months), only 4% walked and 2% biked.

- o While 30% reported using public transit, the majority of respondents (55%) drove alone. Only 7% carpooled.⁴⁵⁰

GTA commuters are highly dependent on cars:

- Using commuting data from the 2011 NHS (i.e., employed residents over 15 years of age who reported their main mode of transportation between home and work), data visualization website The10and3 mapped how GTA residents get to work.
- Outside Toronto, almost 90% of commuters drive to work. Within Toronto, over half of residents in some areas drive despite having greater transit options. Even in the downtown core, 20% drive to work.⁴⁵¹

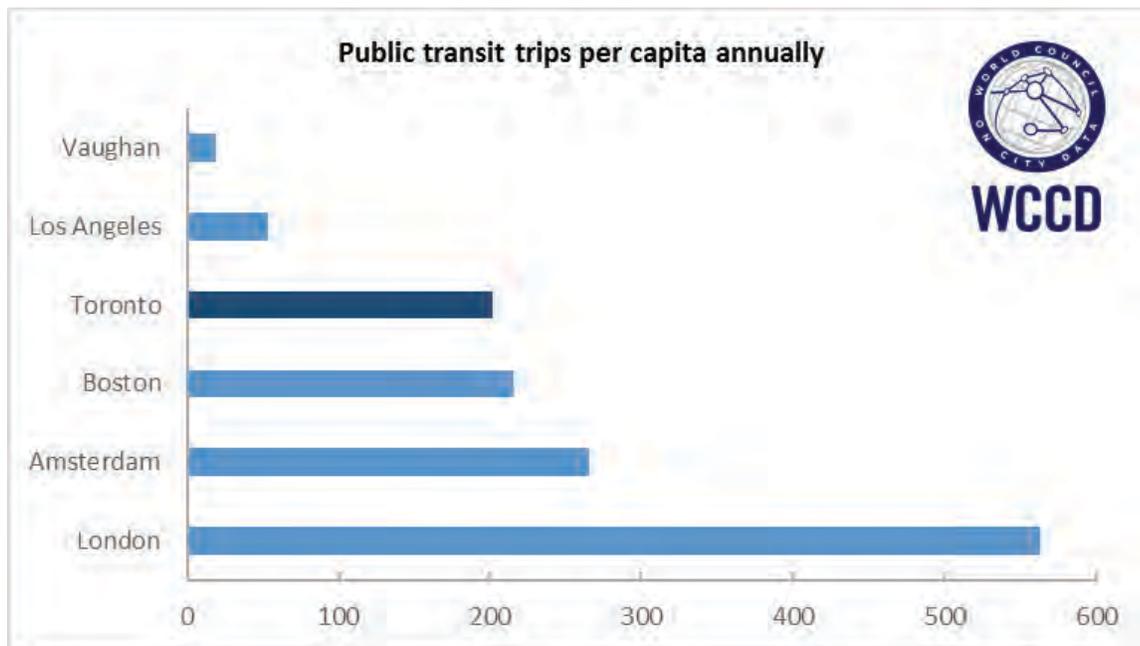
Percentage of GTA Commuters who Drive, By Census Tract, 2011:⁴⁵²



The number of public transit trips per capita in the city of Toronto is less than half that of London, and lower than other global cities:

- As reported to the [World Council on City Data \(WCCD\)](#) in 2015, Torontonians take almost eleven times more public transit trips per capita than people who live in Vaughan – 201.9 vs. 18.7, and four times more public transit trips per capita than people who live in LA – 201.9 vs. 53.1.
- However, Toronto's public transit usage pales in comparison to several other international cities: 214.9 trips per capita were reported in Boston, 265.0 in Amsterdam, and an impressive 563.0 in London.⁴⁵³

Public Transit Trips, per capita, annually as Reported to WCCD in 2015:⁴⁵⁴



Toronto was named the second-most walkable city in Canada in [Walk Score's](#) national rankings in 2015:

- Walk Score rates the walkability of various cities (selective sections of cities, not cities as a whole). Among 22 Canadian cities, Toronto finished behind Vancouver again in 2015.
- Toronto received a score of 71.4 out of a possible 100, while Vancouver scored 78 and Montréal 70.4, making all of these cities “very walkable.”
- Of 141 cities across the US, Canada, and Australia with populations of 200,000+, Toronto ranked 13th (New York was first).
- Of Toronto’s neighbourhoods, the Bay Street Corridor, the Church-Yonge Corridor, and Kensington-Chinatown were singled out as tops in walkability.⁴⁵⁵



Bike Share Toronto is expanding its network:

- In July 2015 the Province committed \$4.9m to expanding the Bike Share program in Toronto.⁴⁵⁶
- In June 2016 the Toronto Parking Authority and Metrolinx began adding 120 new Bike Share stations housing 1,000 bikes—doubling the number of bikes available.
- Stations will be placed in the downtown core, near transit stations, and in densely populated areas across the city.⁴⁵⁷



Urban enthusiasts #SitTO advocate for more seating in public spaces:

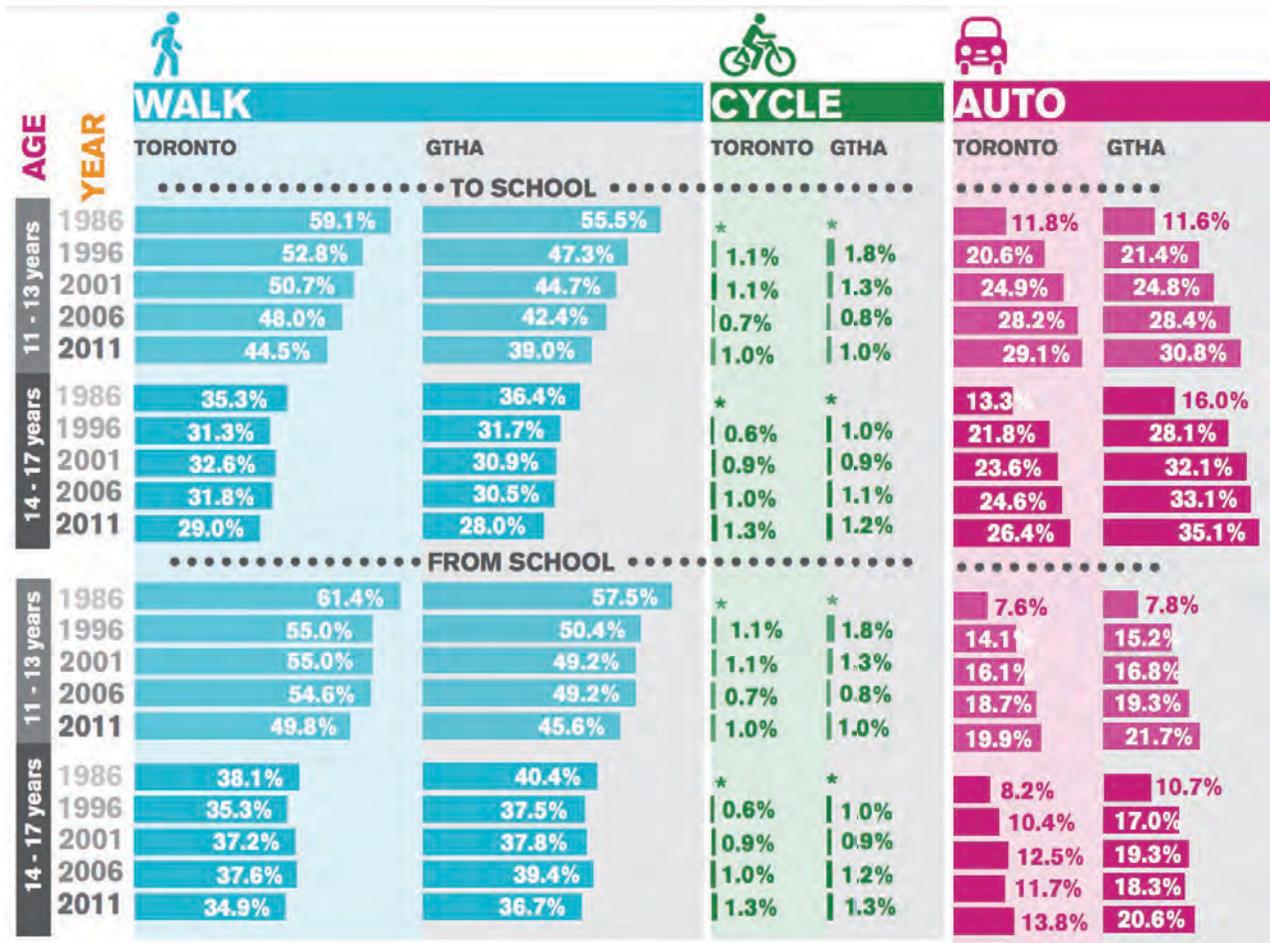
- On June 4, 2016, #SitTO placed 20 chairs around the city to highlight the need for more public seating in our city’s shared spaces.
 - According to the Toronto Star, Toronto has 1,700 public benches, and 100 to 200 more are added each year.

- #SitTO's action was part of the 100in1Day event, which showcases city improvement ideas and innovations.⁴⁵⁸

The percentages of elementary and secondary schoolchildren using active transportation to get to and from school decreased significantly over 25 years:

- A Metrolinx [report](#) exploring patterns of travel to and from school in Toronto between 1986 and 2011 shows an increase in car trips, while walking decreased among both elementary (11-13 year olds) and secondary (14-17 year olds) students.
 - In 2011, 29.1% of Toronto's 11-13 year olds and 26.4% of 14-17 year olds got to school by auto, compared to only 11.8% and 13.3%, respectively, in 1986.
 - Getting home from school shows the same trend. In 2011 19.9% of 11-13 year olds and 13.8% of 14-17 year olds travelled from school by auto compared to only 7.6% and 8.2%, respectively, in 1986.
- Toronto's percentages for auto mode share are smaller than for the GTHA as a whole.⁴⁵⁹

School Trips by Mode, Toronto and GTHA, 1986-2011.⁴⁶⁰



Children in newer neighbourhoods are among those less likely to walk to school unsupervised, impeding their acquisition of important types of knowledge:

- Children who are allowed to travel independently have greater opportunity to develop skills such as wayfinding and spatial and social problem solving. A two-phase, Metrolinx-sponsored research project examined how the social and built environments affect school travel and the independent mobility of schoolchildren in the [GTHA](#) and the [city of Toronto](#).
- Phase one used data collected from a May 2011 telephone survey on school travel to focus on social and environmental factors that predict walking. The final sample of 559 GTHA respondents lived within 2km of their school and had valid postal codes that could be used to determine the environment in which they lived. This phase found that 56% of all GTHA student respondents walked to school, while 31% were driven.
 - Children who were female, who lived more than 1km from school, who came from higher-income families (\$95-125K), or who lived in newer neighbourhoods (post-1960) were more likely to be driven to school.
 - Of those who walked, three-quarters (75%) were accompanied by an adult. Only 23% walked independently. Children who lived in pre-1960 neighbourhoods were more likely to walk independently, as were those who were older (for each year in age, a child was 2.7 times more likely to walk independently).
 - Rates for walking were slightly higher among respondents living in the city of Toronto, where 43% walked and 33% were driven.
 - In Toronto, being driven was more likely for children who lived in neighbourhoods with a lower street tree density, missing sidewalks, or a higher density of intersections to cross. Surprisingly, being driven was also more likely for children with greater access to transit.⁴⁶¹
- Phase two took a closer at the city of Toronto, using data from 17 city schools from the Built Environment and Active Transportation (BEAT) research project conducted by the University of Toronto from Spring 2010 to Spring 2011. Almost eight out of every ten children (77.5%) walked to school, while only two in 10 (22.5%) were driven.
 - More vehicles in the household, longer walking distance, more intersections to cross, and lack of sidewalk coverage all decreased the likelihood of walking. Having stay-at-home parents increased the likelihood of walking.
 - Of those who walked, most (65.7%) walked independently. 34.3% were accompanied by an adult.
 - Longer walking distance, parents with a flexible work schedule, and more traffic around the school all increased the likelihood of children being escorted.
 - More children walked home from than to school (708 and 651 respectively). Higher family incomes, longer distances, and more intersections to cross all decreased the likelihood of walking home. More traffic and having stay-at-home parents increased the likelihood of walking escorted, while older children and boys were more likely to walk independently. Again, children in areas constructed post-1960 were less likely to walk home.
 - Parents' concerns about strangers decreased the likelihood of walking either to or from school.⁴⁶²

Where are we making transit an easier and more attractive option and what can we do better?

Station and service improvements are making Toronto's transit more safe, fast, convenient, and accessible:

- The TTC is continuing its work to not only increase the aesthetics but also the accessibility of a number of subway stations throughout the system. For example, in December 2015 construction began on Coxwell Station that will see the addition of elevators at platform level and accessible gates at entry, increased signage, and installation of CCTV cameras.⁴⁶³
 - The TTC has also made efforts towards its goal of a barrier-free system. In 2015 the last high-floor bus (with a wheelchair lift) was retired—as of February 2016 all 1,875 buses in use are low floor and ramp equipped.⁴⁶⁴ And as of the end of 2015, 14 new low-floor, accessible streetcars were in service.⁴⁶⁵
- According to an [article](#) in Torontoist, however, slow progress on accessibility makes riding the TTC a continued struggle for Torontonians living with disabilities.
 - Each station accessibility project typically takes five years (two for design and three for construction). Currently, only half of all subway stations (34 of 69) are accessible (i.e., they have accessible entrances, fare-gates, and elevators).
 - TTC has indicated that it is on track to meet its 2025 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) deadline and that St. Clair West and Ossington stations are 2016 priorities, while Woodbine and Coxwell are 2017 priorities.
 - An individual needing an elevator who wants to go to the Wellesley or College areas, for example, would have to go to Dundas or Bloor stations, or arrange other transportation such as Wheel-Trans.⁴⁶⁶
- Six more express bus routes were launched in March 2016:
 - 24E Victoria Park Express (Victoria Park Station to Steeles Avenue);
 - 185 Don Mills Rocket (Pape Station to Steeles);
 - 186 Wilson Rocket (York Mills Station to Humber College);
 - 188 Kipling South Rocket (Kipling Station to Lake Shore Boulevard);
 - 199B Finch Rocket (York University to Scarborough Centre Station via Finch Station); and
 - 199C Finch Rocket (Finch Station to Morningside Heights).⁴⁶⁷
- The transition from tokens, tickets, and passes to PRESTO smart cards continued. Between September 2015 and year's end, the TTC installed PRESTO card readers on all streetcars.⁴⁶⁸ In May 2016, it began installation on buses,⁴⁶⁹ and as of May 30, 178 buses were PRESTO enabled.⁴⁷⁰
- Proof of payment and all-door boarding was implemented on all 11 streetcar routes in December 2015.
- In June 2015 the first subway stations became cellular-capable (St George, Bay, Bloor-Yonge, and those along Line 1 (Yonge-University) for WIND Mobile customers.
- The TTC's efforts appear to have paid off. In October 2015, customer service satisfaction reached an all-time high of 81%.⁴⁷¹
- In May 2016, the Federal government announced that the TTC would receive \$840m in funding from the \$3.4b in transit money in the federal budget.
 - The City will decide how the money will be spent. According to Mayor John Tory, the funds will be used for new buses and trains, signal upgrades, and projects related to the 2025 accessibility deadline.⁴⁷²



- The cost of transit per passenger trip in 2013 (the most recent year for which data are available) was \$3.35 (\$0.61 amortization, \$2.74 operating cost).⁴⁷³



The TTC has launched a program to better integrate cycling with public transit:

- In September 2015 a first self-service bike repair station was launched outside Davisville subway station.⁴⁷⁴
- 10 stations (Davisville, Bathurst, Downsview, Dupont, Finch, Kipling, Keele, Kennedy, Pape, and Spadina) were chosen for the program, which provides cyclists with tools needed for small repairs, such as wrenches, screwdrivers, and air pumps.⁴⁷⁵

Rising transit fares are a very visible cost of transit improvements:

- On January 1, 2016, the cost of tickets, tokens, and PRESTO card fares rose by 10 cents (to \$2.90 for adults), cash fares increased 25 cents (to \$3.25 for adults), and prices for weekly passes rose by \$1.50 (to \$42.25). The cost of a monthly Metropass, however, remained stable at \$141.50 (after an increase of nearly \$8 in March 2015).⁴⁷⁶

Despite higher fares, the TTC reached an all-time ridership record in 2015, although ridership growth has slowed to an alarming rate:

- Annual ridership for Wheel-Trans was 3,487,526 in 2015, up 13% from 3,077,181 in 2014. TTC vehicles of all modes covered over 231 million km.⁴⁷⁷
- On 22 days in 2015 ridership reached more than 1.8 million (down from 33 days in 2014). Highest single-day ridership day in 2015 was 1.863 million on November 27.⁴⁷⁸
- Ridership increased by 0.5% over 2014, to a record 537.6 million rides. However, growth was smaller between 2015 and 2014, than between 2014 and 2013, which was a 1.8% increase (from 525,194,000 trips to 534,815,500). Growth was even larger between 2012 to 2013, which was 2.2% (from 514,007,000 to 525,194,000).⁴⁷⁹
- In early 2016, the TTC began to undertake a review of its budgets and projections for 2016, as total 2015 ridership numbers and early 2016 projections came in lower than expected. In July 2016, the TTC estimated that the projected 2016 year-end passenger revenue shortfall would be \$25 million. It found that at the end of February 2016, ridership was 1.6% (1.4 million) below the 2015 comparable period and 4.6% (4 million) below budget.
- Based on these results, and on an analysis of various factors that may influence ridership for the remainder of the year, it was estimated that 2016 year-end actual ridership could be in the range of 540 to 545 million. This would represent a growth of only 2 million rides (+0.4%) over the 2015 year-end actual (which included 4 million free Pan Am/Parapan Am Games rides) and a variance of up to 13 million rides (-2.4%) from the 2016 budget of 553 million.
- As of June 18, 2016 ridership for the year to date was close to 2015, but 2.9% (7.4 million) below budget.
- As a result of these revised projections, multiple actions have been taken by the TTC and the City, and more are being considered and developed to try to mitigate current negative ridership trends.⁴⁸⁰

Although UP Express ridership has increased substantially since fares were lowered, revenue is not expected to meet operating costs, and taxpayers might subsidize the difference.⁴⁸¹

- The Union-Pearson Express (UPX) launched in June 2015, departing every 15 minutes with a 25-minute travel time and \$27.90 fare for a one-way trip.⁴⁸²

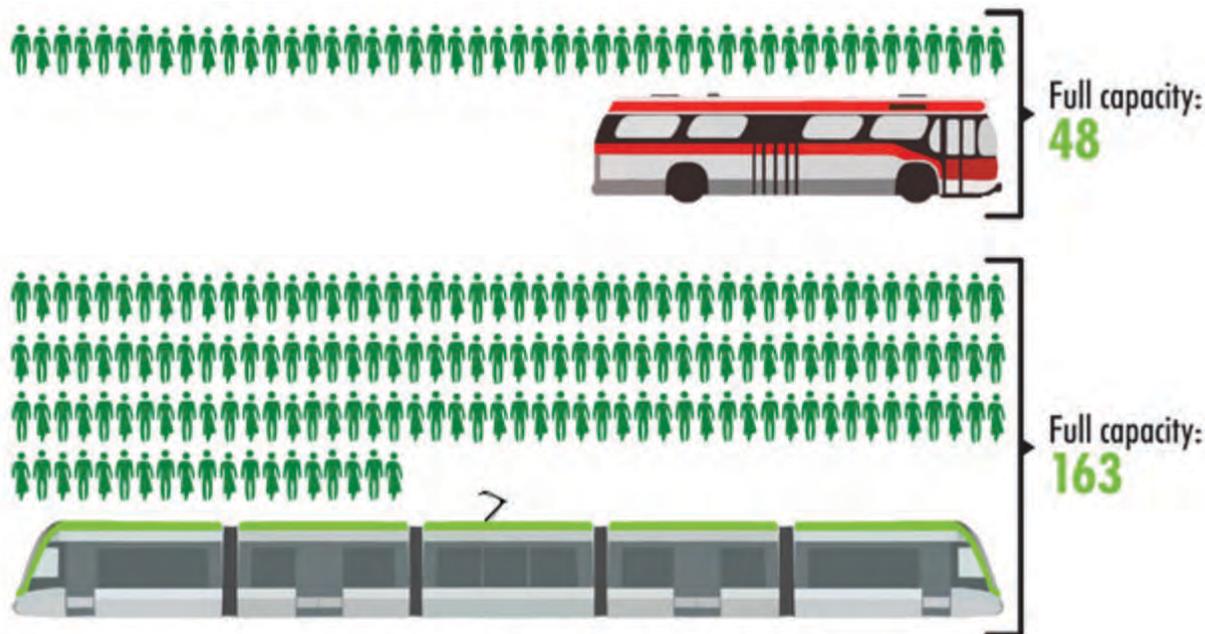
- \$456m was spent to build the rails linking Toronto Pearson International Airport with Union station.
- The airport train was expected to replace 870,000 car trips in 2015 with revenues of \$40m.
- 1.5 million riders were projected for 2015.
- Actual ridership between June and December 2015 was only 507,054.⁴⁸³
 - In September 2015, ridership was reported to have decreased to 10% of capacity, or 2,500 passengers a day.⁴⁸⁴
- With only about 2,20 daily passengers by March 2016, fares were reduced from \$27.50 to \$12 one way. For PRESTO card holders, fares dropped from \$19 to \$9.⁴⁸⁵
 - In a random sample telephone poll of 530 Toronto voters a few days after the decrease, 51% said the new cost was about right, an improvement from 25% in an August 2015 poll and only 14% in a February 2016 poll.
 - 51% said they were somewhat or very likely to use the UPX compared to 39% and 36% respectively in the August 2015 and February 2016 polls.⁴⁸⁶
- Since the fare reductions, ridership has more than doubled, to more than 5,000 passengers a day. But the lower fares are expected to bring revenues well below operating costs, expected to range from \$69-74m from 2016 to 2019.
- Studies for Metrolinx suggest that both the revenue gap and a per-ride subsidy to close it will be significant.⁴⁸⁷

The biggest expansion of urban rapid transit in the GTHA in more than half a century is underway, but it will be completed a year later than promised:

- With a price tag of \$5.3b, the Eglinton Crosstown LRT is one of the largest infrastructure projects in the province, and the largest public transit project under construction in the country.⁴⁸⁸
 - 2,500 workers are expected to work on the project, 90% of them from the GTA.⁴⁸⁹
- The Crosstown will run 19km across Eglinton Avenue between Weston Road and Kennedy Station, with the TTC operating 15 stops underground between Black Creek Drive and Brentcliffe Road and 10 street-level stops from there to Kennedy Station.⁴⁹⁰
 - The line will connect to 54 bus routes, three TTC interchange subway stations, and GO transit.⁴⁹¹
- In September 2015, Metrolinx announced that the Crosstown will be delayed an extra year—it is now expected to be running in 2021.⁴⁹²
 - Projected usage by 2031 is 5,500 passengers per hour during rush hours, with 162,000 daily boardings, and 50 million riders annually.⁴⁹³ The capacity of one LRT car is 163 passengers, 3.4 times that of a bus.



Capacity of LRT Car versus Bus:⁴⁹⁴



Note: Graphic shows one vehicle. Up to three vehicles can be connected into trains to carry up to 490 people.

Graphic: Metrolinx

- The Crosstown LRT is expected to lower Ontario's transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions per person by 29%.⁴⁹⁵

User satisfaction with GO Transit, Ontario's inter-regional transit system, is high:

- 2015 saw 69.5 million riders on GO trains and buses, and 79% of riders reported (in a customer satisfaction survey) that they would recommend GO Transit to others. 70% said they were satisfied with GO's communication.
- Capacity was increased by over 35,000 daily (30,000 on 19 new train trips and six extended trips and 5,300 on 96 new weekday bus trips).
- 1,200 parking spaces were added in the GTHA (at King City, Oshawa, Stouffville, Aldershot, Weston, Bronte, and Newmarket), including a 300-space parking lot at Erin Mills Transitway Station.
- In June 2015 free Wi-Fi was piloted on GO buses.
- In October 2015 riders were able to take advantage of the first of 127 new GO rail cars with improved seating, i.e., more space and better ergonomics.
- The PRESTO electronic fare payment system continues to expand, with 56 self-serve reload machines added in PRESTO-enabled TTC subway stations, the GO Transit York Concourse, and UP Express stations. As of March 2016, there were 1.95 million PRESTO cards in use, a 550,000 increase from March 2015, and throughout 2015 there were 15.7 million taps per month of PRESTO cards.⁴⁹⁶

A York University study has found great variability in transit access and equity across the GTHA:

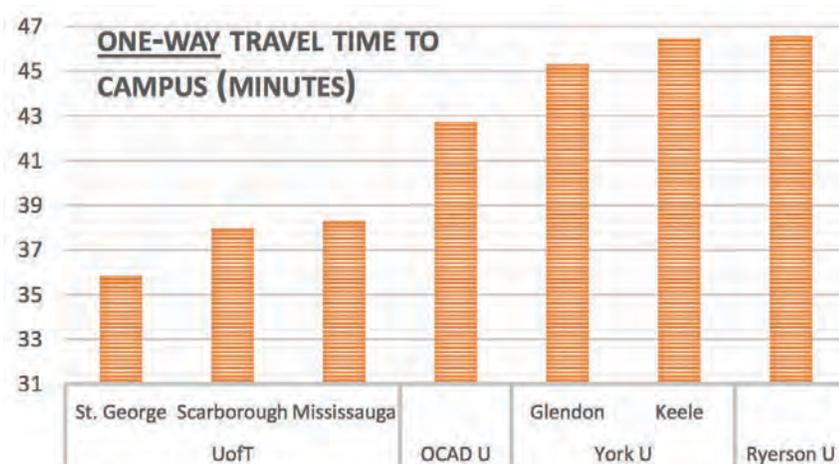
- The City Institute at York University (CITY) [examined](#) 10 GTHA transit systems and found a wide range of pricing and fare methods.

- Transfers are accepted in some areas, but not others.
- Some systems (GO and York Region) use distance-based fares, while others (Toronto) are fixed.
- Some (five of the 10 transit systems in Hamilton, Mississauga, and the Regions of Halton and York) offer discounts for low-income residents, while others do not.
- The authors make recommendations that all transit systems in the GTHA should adopt for more equitable transit access:
 - discounted fares for low-income persons;
 - time-based transfers; and
 - the addition of GO Transit to the GTA Weekly Pass. Currently, the \$61 pass provides unlimited travel on the local transit systems of Peel Region (MiWay and Brampton Transit), York Region (YRT/Viva), and Toronto (the TTC), but excludes GO Transit.⁴⁹⁷
- Meanwhile, Metrolinx is examining the pros and cons (e.g., benefit to transit users versus lost revenue) of fare integration across the GTHA, noting the obvious disadvantages to two fares being required for travel between the TTC and local 905 transit and between the TTC and GO Transit. Recommendations are planned for Fall 2016.⁴⁹⁸

A third of Toronto university students spend two or more hours a day getting to and from school:

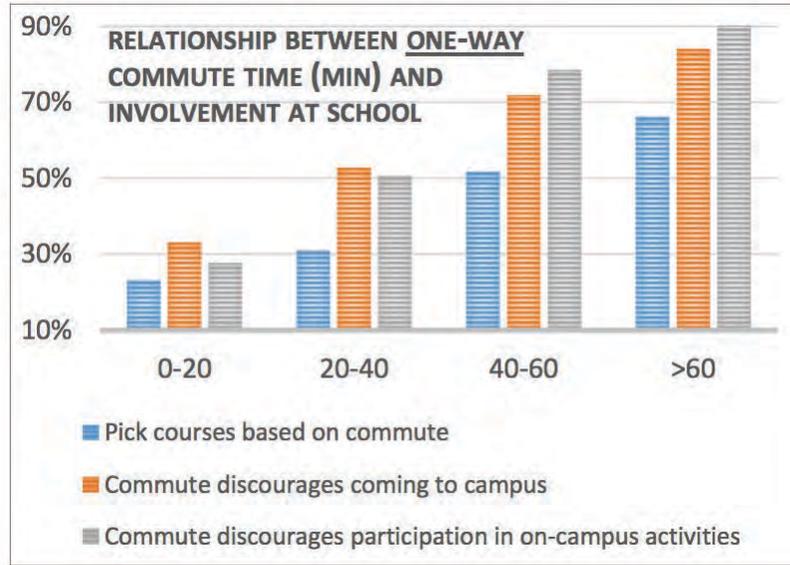
- The GTA’s four universities—OCADU, Ryerson, York, and the University of Toronto—joined forces for StudentMoveTO, a data collection effort examining where students live, where they travel during the day, and the factors that affect their schedules. Its 2016 [overview](#) of early findings focuses on a student travel survey in which 15,226 students kept single-day travel diaries.
- A third (36.8%) of the over 36,000 trips students recorded were to school.
 - 33% of students spent at least two hours a day travelling to and from campus.
 - Students at Ryerson and York’s Glendon and Keele campuses have the longest travel times, over 45 minutes for a one-way trip:

One-Way Travel Time to Campus in Minutes, GTA, 2015:



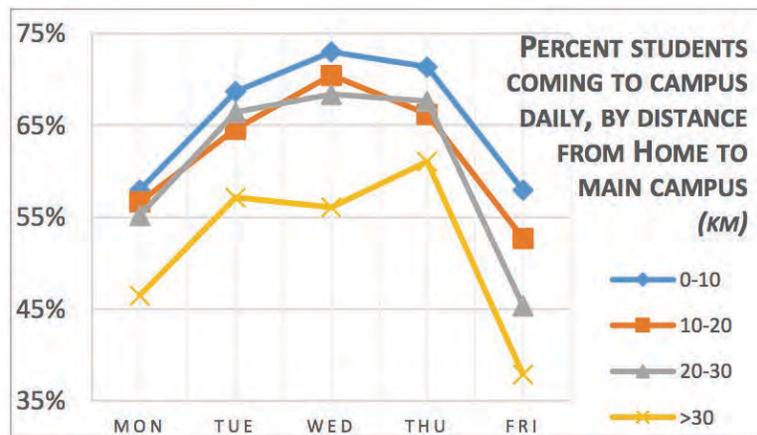
- Long commute times prevent students from engaging fully in campus life. Of those with a one-way commute of 60 minutes or more, 90% reported that it discouraged participation in on-campus activities.

Relationship Between Commute Times and University Involvement, GTA, 2015:



- A quarter (25%) of students lived 20km or more from school. On any given day, students who live further from school are less likely to travel to campus at all:

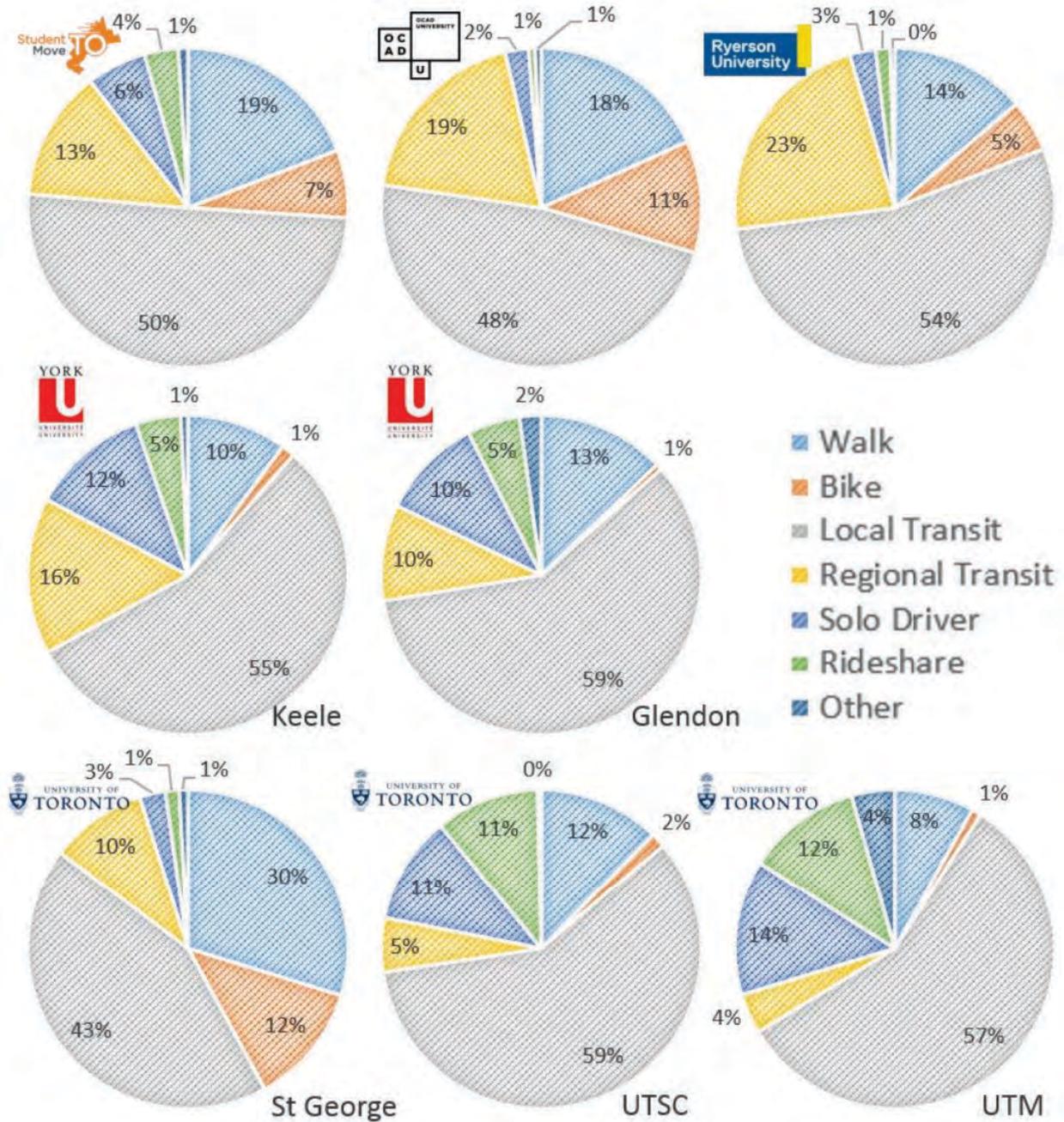
Percent Students Coming to Campus Daily, by Distance from Home, GTA, 2015:



- While cost was the most important factor in choosing housing (for 24.1% of students), for students who have a say in the decision, being able to get to school using active transportation (i.e., by walking or cycling) was the next most important factor. One in five students (19%) walk to campus and 7% bike.

- Transportation by local transit is the most-used method for students at all universities at 50%. 13% use regional transit, 6% are solo drivers, and 4% use ride share.

Mode Share for Travel to Campus, GTA, 2015:



- Factors that would motivate students to change their method of transportation to school included a change in housing location (for 59% of students), transit improvements (26%), lower transit costs (21%), and higher transit costs (20%). 9% reported that they would be motivated by improved bike lanes.⁴⁹⁹
- Meanwhile, York University's new Markham Centre campus promises to be "transit-friendly," served by 15 transit routes including GO Train and GO Bus, York Region Transit (YRT)/Viva, and the TTC.⁵⁰⁰

To learn more about innovative community-based organizations and programs working to address issues relating to getting around, check out: <http://ckc.torontofoundation.ca/>.

Environment

Why is this important?

To handle the effects of changes to our climate (increasing and severe weather events, etc.), its natural and built environments must be in good shape. Features such as an abundant tree canopy that help improve air quality and other health indicators are key to the city's resilience. Parks and green spaces enhance health and quality of life for all residents.

What are the trends?

The percentage of residential waste diverted has remained somewhat steady for the past few years, and the City has still not met its 70% diversion goal. But the amount created has been dropping. The City will need residents' help to restore the damage to our tree canopy caused by the December 2013 ice storm and meet its ambitious growth goal.

What's new?

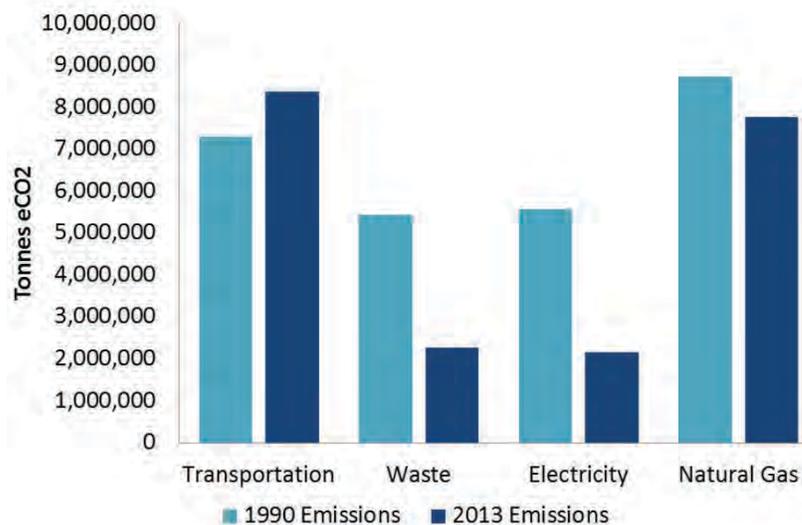
Most Torontonians are not prepared for an environmental emergency. The Board of Health has adopted a strategy to address the impacts of climate change on our health. Canada's largest and busiest airport has cut its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by almost half, but our largest provider of social housing is one of Toronto's major emitters, and "big changes" are needed for Toronto to meet its emissions targets. A tree study has shown that nature matters to physical and mental health, but maintaining and improving green space is challenging. Toronto is Canada's first "Bee City." Toronto may be experiencing an increase in rat population due to changing weather patterns.

How is Toronto faring with measures of environmental progress?

“Big changes” will be needed if Toronto is to meet its greenhouse gas targets:

- Toronto’s greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals are a 6% reduction (compared to the 1990 baseline) by 2012, 30% by 2020, and 80% by 2050.⁵⁰¹
- A [GHG Inventory](#) released by the City in December 2015 (using 2013 data) shows that GHG emissions in the city in 2013 had declined 18% (to 20,589,001 tonnes from 25,082,534) since 2004 (2004 data was used when an inventory was last published in 2007). They have declined 24% since 1990.⁵⁰²
- Transportation (not including boat, rail, or airplane) is the greatest source of our greenhouse gas emissions at 41% (versus 11% from waste in city-operated landfills and 48% from industry, residential, and commercial sources).⁵⁰³ Transportation emissions have risen since 1990 (by 15%). (Note, however, that transportation data has not been updated since the 2007 inventory).⁵⁰⁴

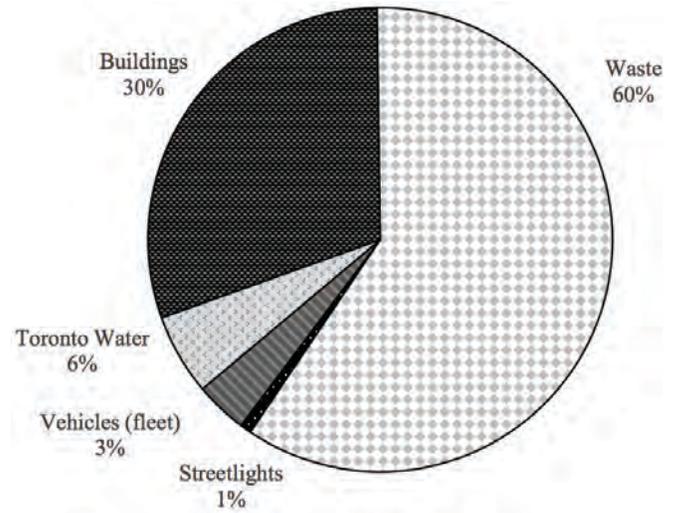
GHG Emissions in Toronto, 1990 versus 2013:



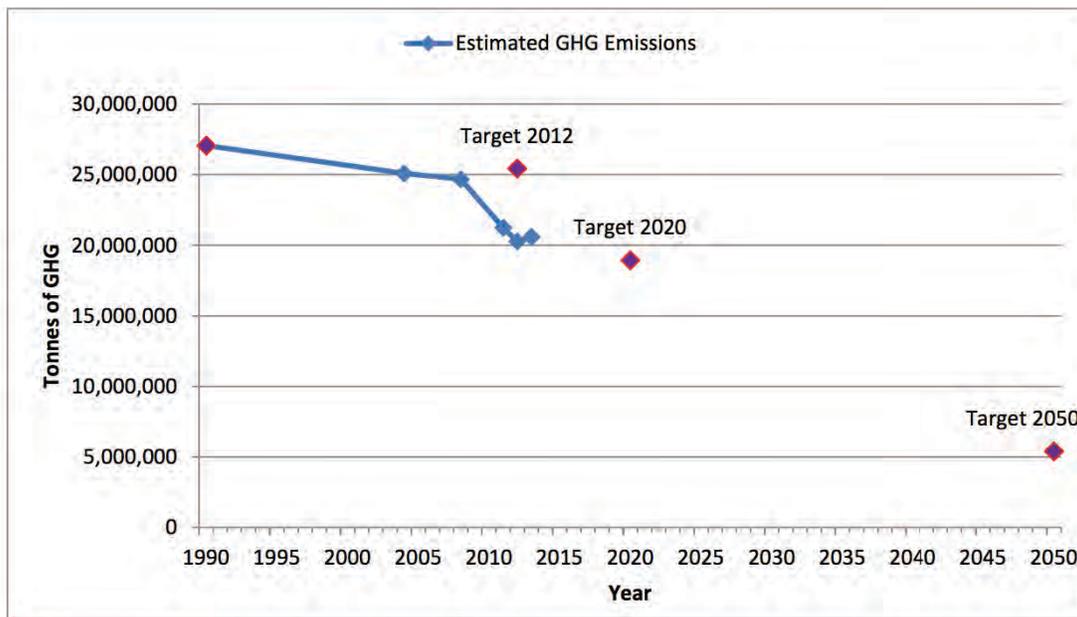
- The City has made strides in its own production of GHG emissions. Emissions from electricity consumed in City buildings decreased 25% between 2004 and 2013, and 46% from 1990. Emissions from waste were also reduced to 750,946 tonnes eCO₂ in 2013 (down from 1,009,545 in 2004 and 1,815,751 in 1990). Landfills remain the major source of City emissions at 60%.

Sources of City of Toronto GHG Emissions, 2013:

- There were large declines in Toronto’s emissions from 1990 to 2013, especially from 2008 to 2011. But after the completion of the phase-out of coal-fired electricity generation, the rate of decline slowed significantly (2011-2013).
- The inventory concludes that although Toronto has made progress despite increased population and economic activity, big changes at the community level will be required to reach the 80% by 2050 reduction goal.⁵⁰⁵



Council-Approved (2007) Emissions Targets versus Progress, Toronto, 2013:

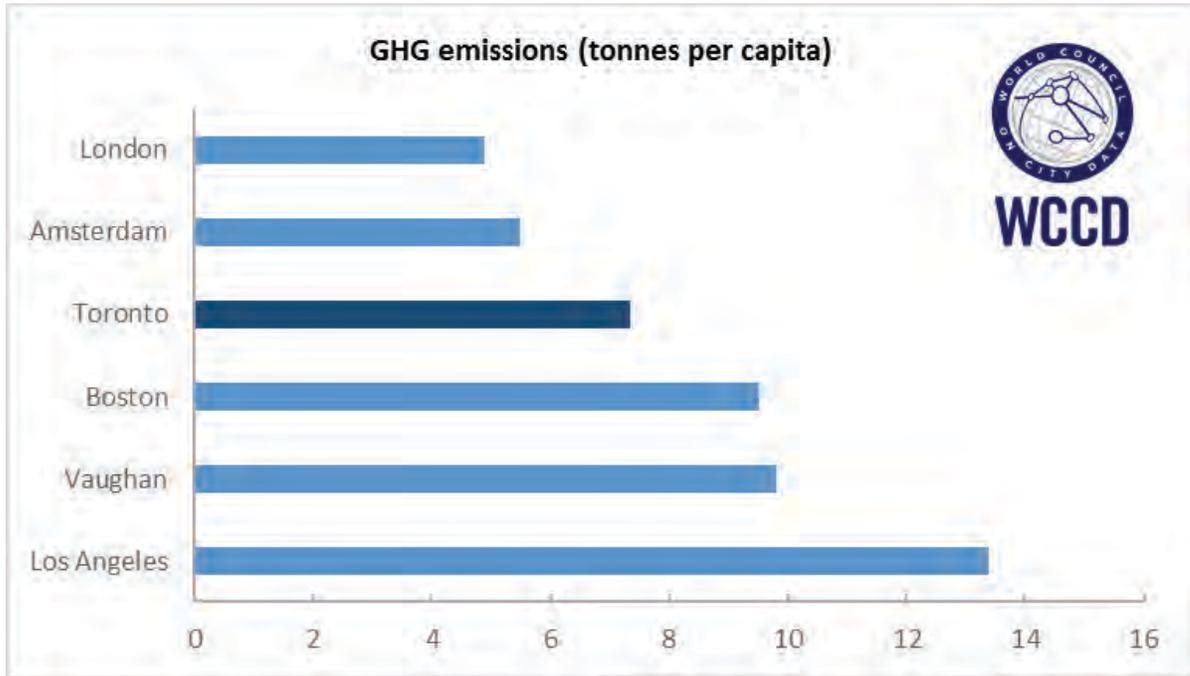


Toronto’s rate of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is higher than comparable European global cities, but is lower than Boston and Los Angeles, as well as Vaughan, ON:



- With a rate of 7.33 tonnes per capita of GHG emissions, Toronto sits in the middle of a group of comparable global cities (as reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) or WCCD in 2015).
- Toronto’s rate is almost double London’s rate (4.89 tonnes per capita), and about a third higher than Amsterdam’s rate (at 5.49).
- However, Toronto’s GHG emissions per capita rate is just over half the rate of Los Angeles (13.39), and considerably lower than that of Vaughan (9.80) and Boston (9.51).⁵⁰⁶

Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Tonnes per Capita, as Reported to WCCD in 2015:⁵⁰⁷



The number of LEED-certified buildings in Toronto continues to increase:

- In 2012 there were 59 buildings that received certification; the number more than doubled to 123 in 2013 and more than tripled to 186 in 2014. The 2014 number represents 7.11 buildings per 100,000 people, above the provincial average of 5.34.⁵⁰⁸



ZooShare, a non-profit renewable energy cooperative is building North America's first biogas plant adjacent to the Toronto Zoo:

- The plant will create methane gas to generate power.
- Along with animal feces from the Zoo, ZooShare will receive grocery store waste.
- The plant will generate energy to power 250 homes, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10,000 tons of CO₂ annually.
- ZooShare is offering 5-year bonds and memberships in their co-op.⁵⁰⁹

While there is still room for improvement, Toronto can be proud of its record on waste management:

- After increases over three years in the amount of residential waste generated (from 799,812 tonnes in 2011 to 815,450 in 2012 and 823,743 in 2013), the last two years have seen small decreases: 2.4% from 2013 to 2014 (down to 804,369 tonnes) and 3.6% from 2014 to 2015 (to 775,260 tonnes).
- The percentage of waste diverted in 2015 (52%) was slightly lower than the previous year (53%).⁵¹⁰ The City has still not met its 2010 goal of 70% diversion (an original goal of 100% by 2010, set in 2000, was revised in 2007).⁵¹¹

- Nonetheless, Torontonians diverted 127,952 tonnes of waste from landfills in 2015 through the Blue Bin program and another 105,756 tonnes by using their Green Bins for organic waste.⁵¹²
- City revenue from recycling increased for the second year in a row, growing 4.6% to \$23.7m in 2015 (after increasing 15.5% to \$22.7m in 2014).⁵¹³



On June 1, 2015, [Toronto's recycling program](#) began accepting soft, stretchy plastics like sandwich bags in Blue Bins:

- This expansion is expected to increase the amount of materials recycled and diverted from landfill by approximately 3,500 additional tonnes, while bringing in enough revenues from the sale of the collected material to result in annual net savings of \$8,527 per year.⁵¹⁴

Compared to Vancouver, however, Toronto falls behind when it comes to recycling, and our residential high-rises in particular are falling short:

- Toronto's residential diversion rate was 53% in 2014. Vancouver, comparatively, recycles 61% of its waste.
- According to the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA), only 26% of the waste produced by high-rises is recycled.
 - The organization estimates that the average high-rise dumpster or Toronto garbage bag mostly comprises items that could be recycled or composted, or hazardous waste and e-waste that should be safely disposed of.
- Without action to increase recycling and composting, TEA says Toronto's Green Lane landfill outside of London will be filled by 2029.⁵¹⁵

Improved air quality has translated into some meaningful public health gains:

- Premature deaths and hospitalizations as a result of air pollution have dropped by 23% and 41% respectively since 2004.⁵¹⁶
- But the number of Torontonians (12 years and older) suffering from asthma rose in 2014 to 6.8%. It was 5.3% in 2013, down from 5.8% in 2012 and 6.9% in 2010.⁵¹⁷

Water use by Torontonians increased last year after a period of declining use:

- Declining water consumption in 2012-2013 led Council to approve, during the 2014 rate-supported budget process, an 8% water rate increase in 2015-2017 to address a \$1B shortfall in capital funding due to reduced water revenue.⁵¹⁸
- As of July 20, 2015, a daily average of 1,488.01 millions of litres had been consumed in Toronto,⁵¹⁹ up from the daily average of 1,133 millions of litres a day as of September 5, 2014.⁵²⁰

Where is Toronto making its greatest strides in the area of environmental sustainability?

The City is working on a tree planting strategy to reach its ambitious tree canopy growth goal:

- To meet its canopy goal—increasing coverage from 28% to 40% within 30 to 40 years—the City needs to add thousands of new trees a year and working cross-departmentally to develop a planting strategy.⁵²¹

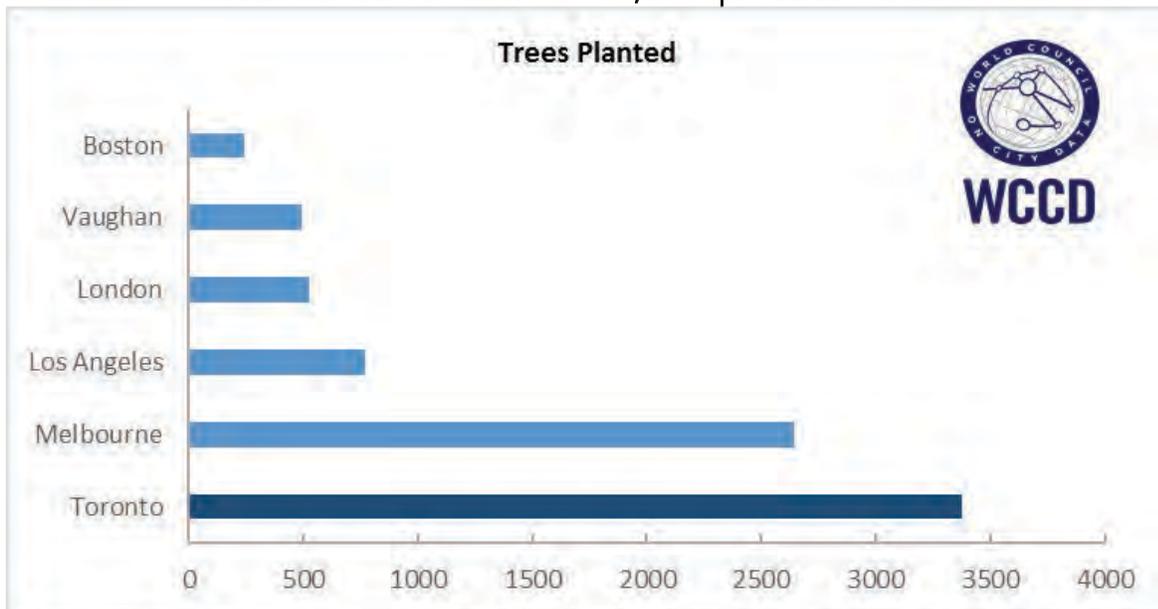
- The City's plan will rely not only on natural regeneration and planting on public property, but on private residents planting and stewarding trees on their properties. Of Toronto's roughly 10 million trees (of at least 116 species), 6% are City-owned street trees, and 34% are in parks. The rest (60%) are on private property.
- While the City is upping its urban forestry budget to \$100m by 2022, a balance will need to be found between canopy expansion and booming urban development.⁵²²

Compared to other global cities, Toronto planted a significantly larger number of trees in 2015:



- A total of 3,373 trees were planted in Toronto (as reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) or WCCD in 2015). Only Melbourne came close with 2,640 trees planted.
- Toronto's number is more than four times Los Angeles' at 772 trees planted in 2015, six times more than London's at 527, and almost seven times more than Vaughan's, at 495.⁵²³

Total Numbers of Trees Planted, as Reported to WCCD in 2015:⁵²⁴



The City is developing a ravine strategy:

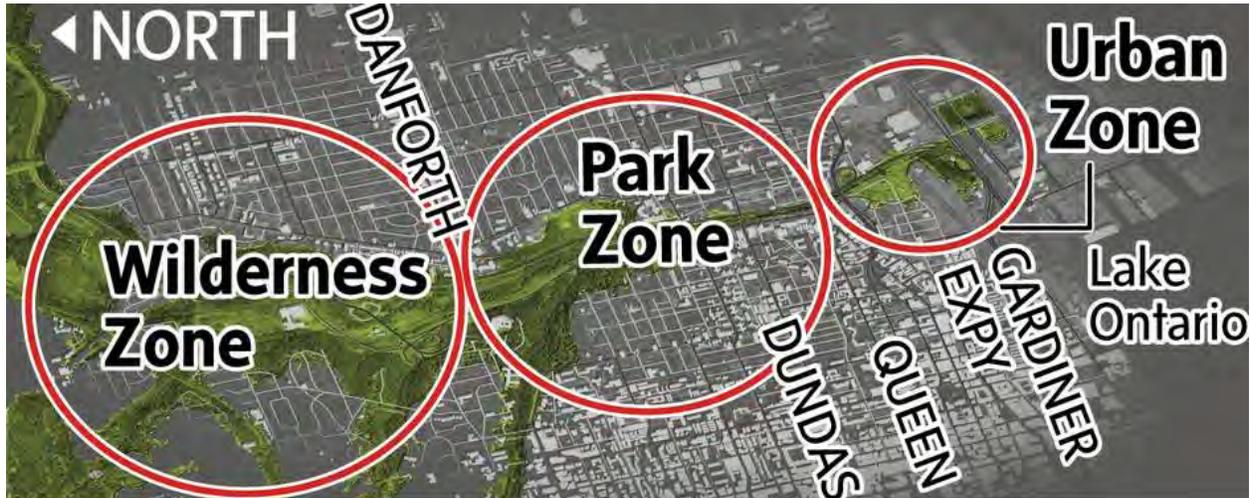
- Parks, Forestry and Recreation, City Planning, and Toronto Water are consulting with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the public, and other stakeholders to create a comprehensive plan to manage use, enhancements, and protection of Toronto's ravines.⁵²⁵
- Ravines are home to most of Toronto's remarkable biodiversity. The city has over 404 bird species, 110 butterfly species, 92 fish species, 38 mammal species, 364 bee species, 200 spider species, and 24 reptile and amphibian species.
- Ravines make up a significant proportion of the city's area (17%, or 11,000 of 63,200 hectares). This land is 60% publicly and 40% privately owned and includes rivers, watercourses, parks and trails, roads, railways, golf courses, and hospitals.⁵²⁶

Toronto's Ravine System:



Through a multi-stakeholder partnership, [Evergreen](#), along with City officials and philanthropists have been working on a plan to transform the [Lower Don Greenway](#):

- The upper Don is well used but the lower Don has been a site of garbage dumping and neglect.
- The new plan involves strategies for three areas of this 5km trail situated within the ravine corridor: an Urban Zone, a Park Zone and a Wilderness zone.
- Features will include: new paths, bike lanes along Bayview Ave., better signage and stairs from the overhead bridges, and a re-naturalization of the industrialized Urban Zone.⁵²⁷



TRISH McALASTER / THE GLOBE AND MAIL }
SOURCE: GOOGLE, EVERGREEN.CA

Canada's largest and busiest airport has lowered its greenhouse gas emissions by almost half:

- The Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), which manages, operates, and maintains Toronto Pearson International Airport, drafted its [Greenhouses Gases Policy](#) in 2009, with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below its 2006 baseline by 2020.⁵²⁹
- Between 2010 and 2014 alone, total direct and indirect emissions at Toronto Pearson dropped 43%—from 113,134 to 64,471 tonnes CO₂ emissions:⁵³⁰

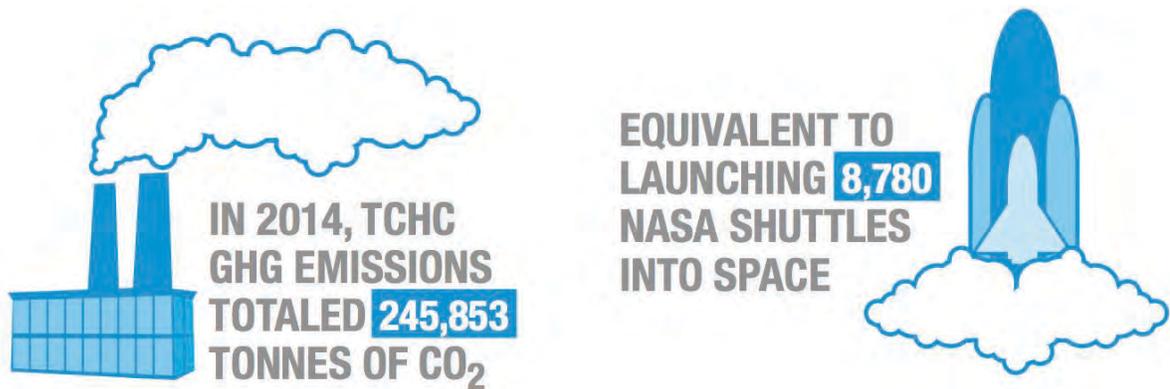
GTAA Environmental Performance, 2010-2014:⁵³¹

GTAA Performance	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Direct energy consumption					
Natural gas consumption (GJ)	1,404,993	1,232,384	1,305,484	970,417	900,479
Unleaded fuel consumption (litres) ¹	581,205	536,604	566,197	510,501	485,544
Diesel fuel consumption (litres) ¹	711,583	1,118,385	704,722	1,087,262	1,682,979
Indirect energy consumption					
Total electricity consumption (MWh)	281,344	277,926	277,544	278,943	280,470
					1,009,692 GJ
Total energy consumption – non-renewable (MJ)²					
Electricity consumption					1,009,692,000
Heating consumption					900,479
Gasoline fuel consumption					16,703
Diesel fuel consumption					62,439
Cooling consumption					0
Subtotal					1,010,671,621
Electricity sold					245,934,000
Heating sold					33,216,713
Cooling sold					0
Total energy consumption					732,520,908
Energy saved due to conservation and efficiency improvements (GJ) ³	97,045	105,938	12,655	24,339	3,050
Total direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions (CO ₂ e tonnes) ⁴	113,134	76,579	74,008	60,022	64,471
Emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODS)					
Total ODS released (CFC-11 equivalent in tonnes) ⁵	0.0087	0.9567	0.3570	0.0120	0.3530

- The GTAA has undertaken vast environmental initiatives including:
 - investment of over \$120m in redirecting contaminated water to waste treatment since taking over Pearson from Transport Canada in 1996;
 - partnership in Project Green (planting 800 trees and shrubs along Etobicoke creek in May 2015, for example);
 - replacement of older lighting with LED, installation of energy-efficient variable-speed drives to reduce energy consumed by baggage systems, and use of several electric cars by employees⁵³²; and
 - participation in the Mississauga Smart Commute program, which encourages more sustainable commuting options (it was estimated in 2012 that the program saved 6,000 round trips, which would have produced 87,075 kilograms of CO₂e).⁵³³
- In October 2015, Toronto Pearson became the 10th airport in North America accredited by Airports Council International's four-level Airport Carbon Accreditation program recognizing reduced carbon footprints. Pearson was accredited at a Level 2 reduction.⁵³⁴
- According to the Director of Aviation Infrastructure, Energy and Environment, GTAA's next step is natural gas reduction.⁵³⁵

Meanwhile, Canada’s largest provider of social housing is one of Toronto’s major residential energy consumers and greenhouse gas emitters:

- In 2014, GHG emissions from Toronto Community Housing’s buildings across the city totalled 245,853 tonnes of CO₂, enough to launch 8,780 NASA space shuttles.
- Funding for repairs and deep retrofits could reduce emissions by 30-60%.⁵³⁶



Lake Ontario’s beaches are cleaner, water quality reporting is more consistent, and two of Toronto’s beaches are among the most popular beaches on the Lake:

- Lake Ontario Waterkeeper’s 2015 [Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Beach Report](#) ranks Toronto’s Woodbine beach and Marie Curtis Park East beach as the second and third most popular beaches of 345 in the Lake Ontario watershed.
 - Popularity was based on number of views in 2015 of beaches in the organization’s [Swim Guide](#).⁵³⁷
 - Eight of Toronto’s 11 beaches have been awarded the [Blue Flag](#) certification. Toronto was the first Canadian city to receive the designation (12 years ago).⁵³⁸
- Lake Ontario Waterkeeper also reports that Lake Ontario beaches showed improvements in 2015 in both water quality and in water quality reporting.
 - Beach water met water quality standards 73% of the time. In 2014 they met standards only 60% of the time. However, the number of days that beaches failed to meet water quality standards also went up in 2015.
 - In 2014 no data on water quality were reported for 29% of days. In 2015 “no data days” dropped to 14%.⁵³⁹
- Meanwhile, in June 2016, the federal government listed plastic microbeads, commonly used in toothpastes and soaps, as a toxic substance under the Environmental Protection Act, enabling the government to control their use or outlaw them altogether. Plastic microbeads have been shown to have adverse effects in aquatic organisms and on biological diversity and in the ecosystem.⁵⁴⁰ The government has indicated that they want to ban microbeads and expects to have draft regulations ready in Fall 2016.⁵⁴¹



Toronto is Canada's first "Bee City":

- Toronto was acknowledged in April 2016 by Bee City Canada for its commitment to the protection and conservation of bees through education and programming.
 - Bee City Canada (a group of concerned citizens including researchers, educators, beekeepers, farmers, ecologists, community leaders, and others) invites "every city, town, community, school, and business" to become a "Bee City" designee.
- With over 300 species, Toronto is home to one of the most diverse pollinator populations in Canada.
- To celebrate its affiliation with Bee City Canada, and to celebrate National Pollinator Week (June 20-26, 2016) the City unveiled a new 213 square metre mural featuring a bee at work at Bloor Street West and Howland Avenue.⁵⁴²



Artist: Nick Sweetman. Source: [CNW Group/Burt's Bees Canada](#)

 The [David Suzuki Foundation's Got Milkweed campaign](#) encourages Canadians to plant Milkweed to help bring back the Monarch Butterfly population. David Suzuki Foundation provides seeds and plants for sale and has an awareness campaign to increase the native plant's density in Monarch corridors. Mexican authorities estimate that the population that survived the annual diasporic journey was "three and a half times greater" than the previous year. Although numbers are increasing, the Monarch Butterfly population is about "80 per cent lower than 20 years ago"⁵⁴³

How is Toronto experiencing extreme weather and environmental changes?

The past year saw the city hit with more extreme weather, putting vulnerable residents at risk:

- There were 12 extreme cold weather alerts between November 15, 2015, and April 15, 2016—far fewer than the record-breaking 39 over the winter of 2014-15 (59% of which fell in February, triggering additional services for the homeless) and the 36 of 2013-14. In 2012-13 there were only nine cold weather alerts.⁵⁴⁴
 - Extreme cold weather alerts are issued by the Medical Officer of Health when Environment Canada forecasts temperatures of -15 °C or colder, or when, at warmer temperatures, certain factors increase the impact of cold weather on health (e.g., wind chill, precipitation, low daytime temperatures, or several days and nights of cold weather in a row).⁵⁴⁵
- There were eight heat warnings and four extended heat warnings in 2015, and as of August 31, 2016, there were 12 heat warnings and six extended heat warnings this year. In 2014, there was only one heat alert was necessary in the summer of 2014 (compared to seven the previous year).
 - Toronto Public Health monitors the Heat Health Alert System every day from May 15 to September 30 each year, to alert those people most at risk of heat-related illness that hot weather conditions presently exist and to take appropriate precautions.⁵⁴⁶

The winter of 2015-16 broke some warm weather records:

- An all-time record-high temperature for the month of February—15.5 C—was set at Pearson Airport on February 3, 2016, beating the previous record of 14.9 C set February 23, 1984.
 - On the same day in 2015, the temperature was -16 C in the morning with a daytime high of -5.6 C.
 - The warmest February 3 previously on record was in 1991, when a high of 9.3 C was reached.⁵⁴⁷
- Meanwhile, Toronto experienced its hottest Christmas Eve in 2015 since 1840 (the year temperatures started being tracked downtown).
 - A record 15.4 C was recorded on December 24, 2015, breaking the previous high set in 1964 by three degrees.
 - The average December 24 temperature in Toronto is -1 C.⁵⁴⁸

How can we address the effects of extreme weather and environmental changes?

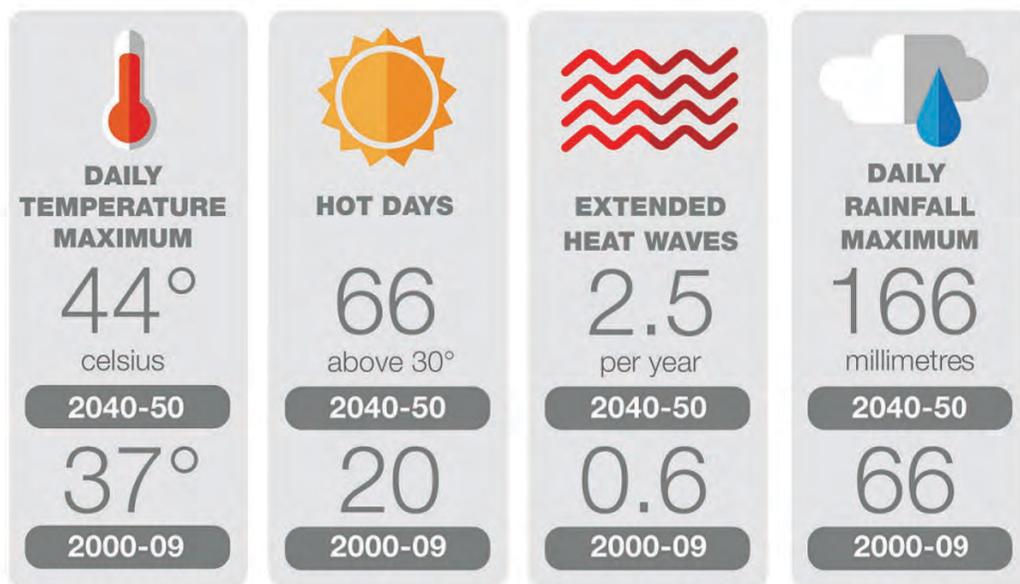
The majority of Torontonians are not prepared for an emergency such as a power outage:

- A 2016 [survey](#) Toronto Hydro conducted for Emergency Preparedness Week, which took place in May 2016, found that 60% of respondents do not have an emergency kit on hand. 35% did not even know they needed one.
- In response Hydro has offered three emergency “hacks” for emergencies, creating videos showing how to create a lamp with a flashlight and jar, open a can of food without a can opener, and make a solar oven from a cereal box and aluminum foil.
- Hydro still recommends a fully stocked kit that includes enough water and non-perishable food items for 72 hours, as well as a battery or crank-powered radio and a flashlight.⁵⁴⁹

Meanwhile, the City has launched an extreme weather web portal to encourage residents to prepare:

- In June 2016 the City opened a new [web portal](#) to teach residents about extreme weather (including extreme heat, flooding/rain, cold, and wind) and inform them how to reduce risks, increase resilience, weatherproof homes, and access related programs and services.
- In recent years, extreme weather has damaged infrastructure, caused flooding, damaged the tree canopy, and put Torontonians' health at risk. A July 2013 rainfall caused extensive damage, costing the City \$65m and resulting in \$850m in insurance claims in the GTA. The winter ice storm later the same year left 300,000 Toronto Hydro customers without power and cost the City and the utility over \$100m.⁵⁵⁰
- Extreme weather conditions are projected to increase dramatically over the next forty years, to daily temperature maximums of 44 degrees, more days annually above 30 degrees, more heat waves, and more daily rain fall maximums.⁵⁵¹

Projected Change in Toronto's Weather, 2000-09 versus in 2040-50⁵⁵²:



Source: [Toronto's Future Weather and Climate Driver Study, 2011](#).

Toronto's Board of Health has adopted a strategy to address the impacts on our health from a changing climate:

- In June 2015, Toronto Public Health published a [report](#) outlining climate change concerns and health impacts.
 - According to the report, for example, climate change affects water quality and availability. Recommended actions include continuous monitoring and disclosure of beach water quality and examining the potential impact of climate change on water-borne diseases.⁵⁵³

- The climate change and health strategy, which includes recommendations to increase understanding and reduce, monitor, and prevent health impacts, was adopted by the Board of Health.⁵⁵⁴

GTA Homeowners are being advised how to deal with a “tremendous” increase in the rat population:

- A pest control company reports that it has seen a 30% increase in calls for rats over 2015, and says warmer weather and milder winters are contributing factors.
- The company suggests inspecting homes for gaps, leaving 12-18 inches of space between homes and vegetation, and removing debris from around homes.⁵⁵⁵

How do Toronto’s green spaces contribute to residents’ wellbeing?

Living in areas with more trees on the street is associated with decreased cardio-metabolic conditions and better perceived health:

- A 2015 [study](#) involving researchers from Toronto’s Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, The David Suzuki Foundation, and the University of Toronto examined the relationship between street trees (based on the Street Tree General Data and Forest and Land Cover datasets) and perceptions of health and wellbeing (based on data from the Ontario Health Study) in terms of cardio-metabolic conditions (hyper-tension, high blood glucose, obesity, stroke, diabetes, heart disease, and high cholesterol).
- The authors did not include urban grass or bushes, and distinguished street trees from those in parks or backyards, as street trees are considered more accessible.
- Controlling for other variables such as age, income, and education, an increase of about 10 street trees per city block was associated with an increase in perceived health equal to being seven years younger or having annual household income increase by \$10,000 (and living in an area with a median income \$10,000 higher).
- An average increase of approximately 11 trees per block was associated with a decrease in cardio metabolic conditions equal to being 1.4 years younger or earning \$20,000 more a year (and living in an area with a median income that is \$20,000 higher).⁵⁵⁶



Our urban forest is particularly vulnerable to pests, as over half of it (54%) comprises just four species (ash, maple, cedar, and buckthorn)⁵⁵⁷:

- According to Parks, Forestry and Recreation, over the next five years the emerald ash borer is expected to destroy 860,000 ash trees—8.4% of all trees in Toronto.⁵⁵⁸
- In 2015, Toronto Public Health had found four locations harbouring the blacklegged ticks that are associated with Lyme disease, and it expects populations to grow with climate change.⁵⁵⁹

A 2016 [report](#) from the Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition, a collaboration between 17 municipal and regional partners with the goal of preserving urban forests in the GTA, calls these challenges—urban development, invasive species, storms, and climate change—a “growing crisis.”

- The report places a value on benefits of the GTA’s urban forest: its improvement of air quality and energy savings (by providing cooling and shade) are worth \$36.5m and \$20m annually respectively, and the value of the carbon it currently stores is \$70m.

- The coalition has issued a call to action to protect and maintain Southern Ontario's urban forests, with four priorities: funding from all levels of government, coordinated action on a provincial scale, support for municipalities in managing their urban forests, and research and knowledge sharing.⁵⁶⁰

To learn more about innovative community-based organizations and programs working to address issues relating to the environment, check out: <http://ckc.torontofoundation.ca/>.

Learning

Why is this important?

An educated labour force is more critical than ever as the labour market shifts to a focus on knowledge work. But learning is affected by many factors (including poverty, mental and physical health, safety and the presence of necessary supports). Schools with librarians and daycares, arts programs, and robust physical education give children lifelong advantages.

What are the trends?

Both the availability and affordability of childcare in Toronto are challenges. Fewer of the Region's public elementary schools are employing music teachers and full-time teacher librarians, and special education students are not always receiving the supports they need. Five-year graduation rates in the Toronto District School Board have increased steadily over the past 10 years. Toronto is home to one of the world's best and most reputable high education institutions.

What's new?

Of 27 Canadian cities examined, Toronto has the most expensive childcare costs. Principals are reporting a need for more mental health professionals in their schools. The Toronto District School Board lost hundreds of students over the Province's new sex ed curriculum. Nonetheless, the number of Toronto students graduating reached an all-time high in 2015. Although Toronto's schools offer little in the way of Indigenous education, Torontonians are far more likely to learn about Aboriginal peoples through education than they were several years ago. The Economist has ranked the MBA programs at York and Ryerson among the top 100 in the world, and York is expanding to Markham.

How are Toronto's public schools faring?

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) presented a balanced 2016–17 operating budget in May 2016:

- TDSB has an annual operating budget of approximately \$3.1B.
- The budget is divided into the following categories: instruction (78.9%), school operations (14.9%), administration (2.8%), transportation (1.9%) and other operating costs (1.5%). Staff salaries and benefits represent approximately 83% of total expenses.
- The approved budget plan also includes \$5.8 million of savings to be found in year. Staff will continue to review operational expenditures to look for efficiencies.⁵⁶¹

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has made \$16.4m in cuts to balance its budget:

- 118 fewer staff members are expected in Toronto's Catholic schools in fall 2016, including 56 education assistants, six vice-principals, 10 student supervisors, 21 reading specialists and five child/youth workers whose positions were eliminated.⁵⁶²

Fewer of the Toronto Region's public elementary schools employed music teachers and full-time teacher librarians in 2015-16:

- People for Education conducts an annual school survey of Ontario's publicly funded elementary and secondary schools. In the 2015-16 school year, 1,154 of 4,900 schools responded (including 247 Toronto Catholic, public, and French schools).
- 56% of elementary schools reported having a music teacher in 2015-16 (down from 66% in 2014-15 and 58% in 2013-14); 35% had a full-time music teacher (down from 43% in 2014-15 and 37% in 2013-14).
 - 76% of Toronto elementary schools report having an itinerant music teacher.
- 24% of schools with grades 7 and 8 had a visual arts teacher and only 17% had a drama teacher.
- 92% of Toronto elementary schools have a health and physical education teacher. 62% of those schools employ these teachers full-time (down from 63% the previous year).⁵⁶³
- The percentage of Toronto elementary schools with full-time teacher-librarians decreased to 15% in the 2015-16 school year from 17% in 2014-15. Rates are far below those seen pre-recession (24% in 2008-09).
- Funding cuts have resulted in cuts to teacher-librarian positions. The Toronto Catholic District School Board, for example, cut teacher-librarian positions in elementary schools to manage a \$42.55m budget deficit.
- At the same time there has been an increase in librarian technicians, who perform a support role. 64% of elementary schools with a teacher-librarian also have a librarian technician.
- Exposure to arts education for young people can build capacity for imaginative and critical thinking and open-mindedness, important skills for living productive lives as adults.
 - 76% of Toronto elementary schools report having an itinerant music teacher.
 - 24% of schools with grades 7 and 8 have a visual arts teacher and only 17% have a drama teacher.⁵⁶⁴

Special education students are not always receiving the supports they need:

- Every participating elementary and secondary school in People for Education’s 2015-16 school [survey](#) reported that some students receive some form of special education assistance.
 - 15% of Toronto’s elementary students receive special education services and supports.
 - Special education needs vary widely, from students who need only minor accommodations such as use of a laptop or additional time to take tests to those who need significant help to communicate or participate in school life.⁵⁶⁵
- Toronto schools are more likely to have special education teachers than schools in the rest of the province, but changes to funding for special education have meant reductions for some Toronto boards.⁵⁶⁶ 19% of elementary schools in Toronto report that not all special education students are receiving their recommended supports.
- On average, six elementary students and six secondary school students per school are waiting to be assessed for special education supports, but 30% of elementary schools and 27% of secondary schools report that there is a restriction on the number of students they can place on wait lists for assessment.
- 93% of elementary schools and 97% of secondary schools have assistants who support special education classes by helping students with lessons, personal hygiene, and behavioural modification.
 - 20% of elementary and 44% of secondary schools in Toronto report that the majority of their educational assistants have an additional post-secondary qualification in special education. But comments from the survey suggest a need for more teacher training in special needs to foster an inclusive environment in the classroom.⁵⁶⁷

Principals are reporting a need for more mental health professionals:

- Boards often employ specialist staff—psychologists, social workers, or child and youth workers—to help students overcome mental health challenges.
- Although the majority of Toronto schools participating in People for Education’s 2015-16 school survey reported having a regularly scheduled social worker (85% of elementary and 94% of secondary schools), far fewer reported having a regularly scheduled child and youth worker (21% of elementary and 60% of secondary schools).
- Half of schools reported having a regularly scheduled psychologist (51% of elementary and 54% of secondary schools).
- According to People for Education’s report, many principals feel they are underserved and that there is a need for more mental health professionals in their schools.⁵⁶⁸
- Guidance counsellors also play a big role in students’ mental health, but they do not exist in most Ontario elementary schools.
 - All participating secondary schools in Toronto reported having a guidance counsellor, and 98% reported having a full-time guidance counsellor.
 - Toronto schools ranked seven activities based on the amount of time a guidance counsellor spends on them. Supporting academic achievement (47%) and supporting mental health (22%) were the two activities reported to consume the most time for guidance counsellors, who on average are responsible for 370 students.⁵⁶⁹
 - People for Education found that only 17% of elementary schools across the province have at least a part-time guidance counsellor.⁵⁷⁰

- o Toronto’s grade 7-8 schools are far more likely to report having a guidance counsellor than those elsewhere in Ontario (85% versus 25% respectively).⁵⁷¹

Declining enrollment in TDSB schools continued in 2015. There were approximately 242,000 students in 2015-16, compared to 246,000 the previous year.⁵⁷²

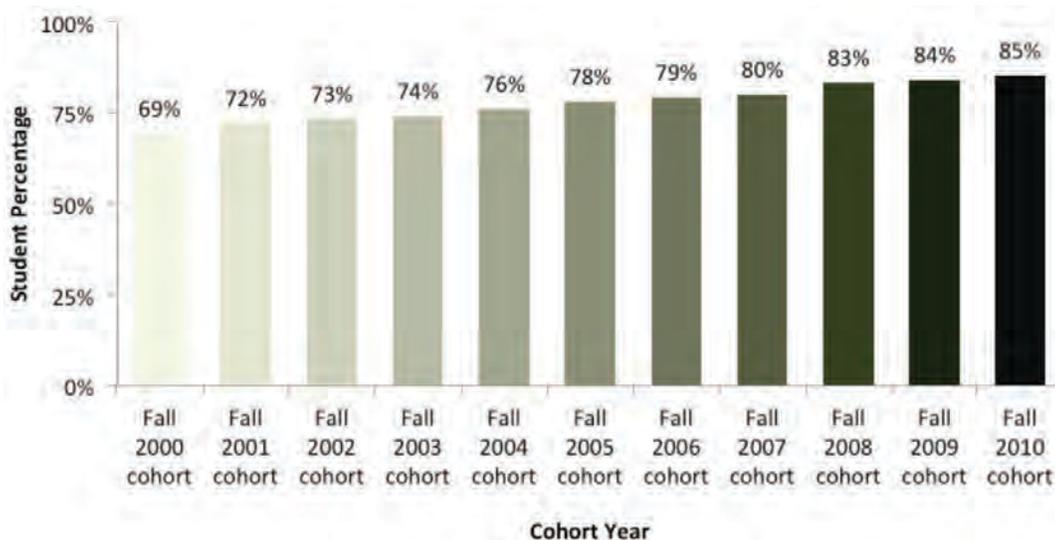


- While elementary enrollment declined by 465 students between the 2011-12 and 2015-16 school years, TDSB is projecting moderate growth of approximately 1,000 students over the next 10 years thanks to birth and migration rate changes.
- Secondary school enrollment declined by 11,703 students between 2011-12 and 2015-16, consistent with the decline in elementary enrollment over the past decade. The decline is projected to continue for another five years (until 2021), and then enrollment is expected to increase.⁵⁷³
- According to TDSB chair Robin Pilkey, the Board lost 2,500 students in Fall 2015 because some parents pulled their children out of school over Ontario’s new sex education curriculum. The Board was expecting 3,500 fewer students in Fall 2016 (including the 2,500 lost last year).⁵⁷⁴
- In June 2016, the TDSB officially announced their decision to close three high schools: Eastern Commerce Collegiate Institute, Nelson A. Boylen Collegiate Institute and Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute.⁵⁷⁵

The number of TDSB students graduating reached an all-time high in 2015:

- The [Toronto District School Board’s](#) five-year graduation rate was 85% for the 2010-2015 cohort (1% higher than among the 2009-2014 cohort).
 - o Of a total of 16,390 students in the 2010-2015 cohort as of October 31, 2015, 13,923 (85%) had graduated, 817 (5%) were still enrolled, and 1,650 (10%) had dropped out.
- The cohort graduation rates have increased steadily over the past 10 years. Graduation rates have increased by 16 percentage points (from 69% of students) since the TDSB began tracking them in 2000.

TDSB Five-Year Graduation Rates, 2000-2005 to 2010-2015 Cohorts⁵⁷⁶



- The province's five-year graduation rate has also slightly increased in the last several years. In 2015 85.5% of students graduated in five years, up from 68% a decade earlier.⁵⁷⁷
- It should be noted that school boards and the Ministry of Education use different methods to calculate graduation rates. According to the Ministry, the TDSB's published rates should be lower, while the Board disputes the accuracy of the Ministry's method.⁵⁷⁸

How do socio-economic and cultural inequities affect access to learning?

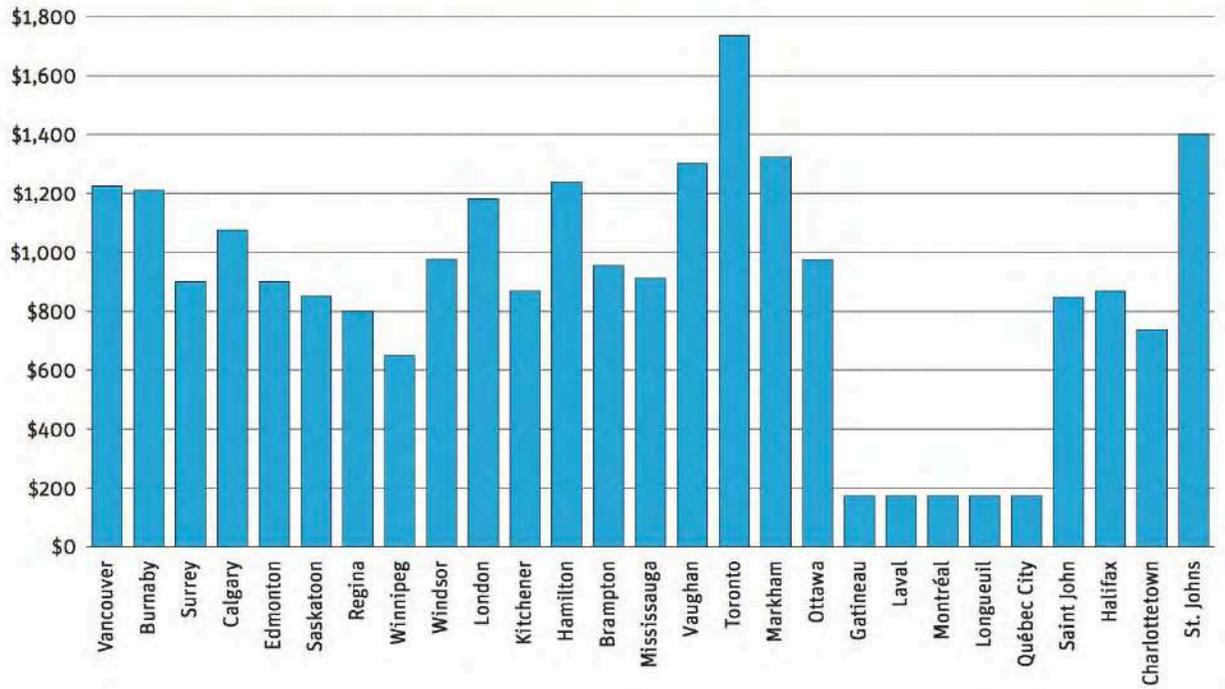
While the numbers of licensed childcare spaces are increasing, and the number of children waiting for space is declining, there are still not enough availability of supports to meet the needs of families:

- The number of licensed spaces located in childcare centres and in private homes managed by home child care agencies reported by the City in May 2014 was approximately 60,924.⁵⁷⁹ In June 2015 the estimated number was 64,740,⁵⁸⁰ and in June 2016 it was 69,270.⁵⁸¹
- The number of children on the waiting list for a childcare subsidy has been declining over the last few years. In May 2014, there were 16,873 children on the list,⁵⁸² in June 2015, there were 17,838 on the list, and in June 2016,⁵⁸³ there were 13,959 on the list.⁵⁸⁴

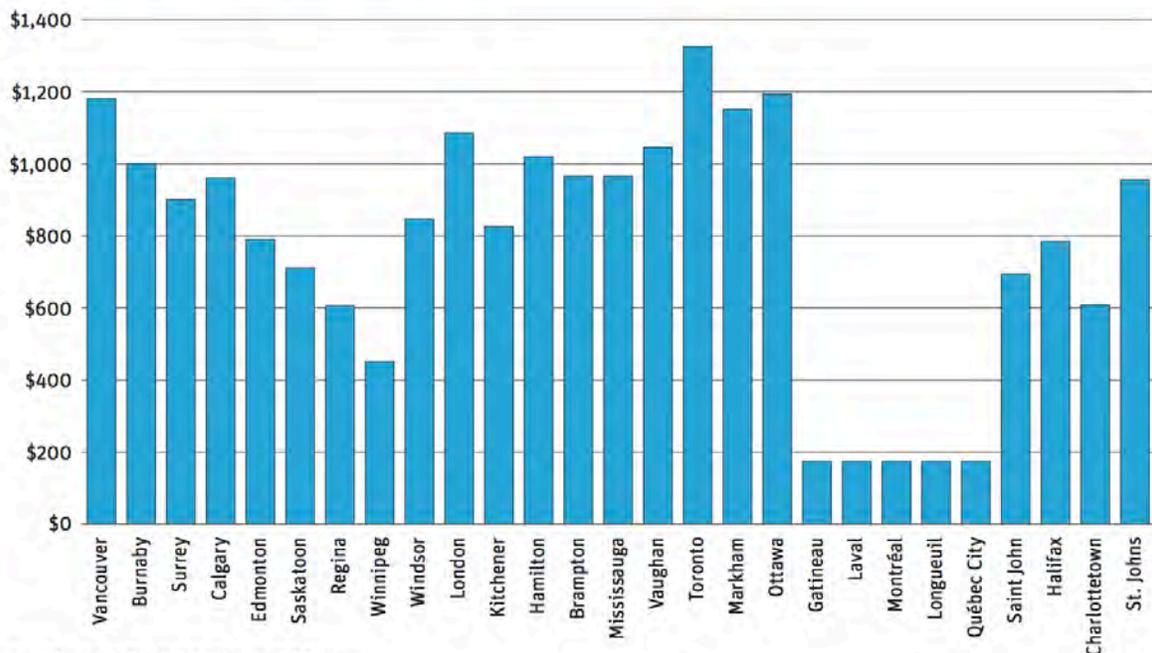
Of 27 Canadian cities examined, Toronto has the most expensive childcare costs—requiring almost half of a family's income:

- A 2015 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) [report](#) shows that childcare fees would eat up 48% of the median income for Toronto families with young children (\$58,500).
- The median full-day childcare fee in Toronto is \$1,033/month for preschoolers (3-5 years of age), \$1,325/month for toddlers (1.5-3 years), and \$1,736/month for infants (under 18 months). Compared to figures from [research](#) conducted a year earlier, fees have increased 5% from 2014.
- Although Toronto's fees are higher in all three age categories than in 27 other Canadian cities, the magnitude of the difference is greatest for infants.
 - St. John's has the second-highest infant fees at \$1,400/month (\$336 less).
 - Ottawa has the second-highest toddler rate at \$1,194/month (\$131 less).
 - Markham has the second-highest preschooler fees at \$1,000/month (\$33 less).
- Fees were lowest in cities in Quebec, where government caps fees and provides subsidies.
- The report suggests adding close to a million childcare spaces and increasing government subsidies (both of which would require Federal coordination).⁵⁸⁵

Median Infant Fees (Monthly), Selected Canadian Cities, 2015:



Median Toddler Fees (Monthly), Selected Canadian Cities, 2015:



Median Preschooler Fees (Monthly), Selected Canadian Cities, 2015⁵⁸⁶:



Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

All students in Canada would benefit from a deeper understanding of the history of the many nations that have influenced and comprise this country and a better understanding of Indigenous cultures, perspectives, and experiences. Yet Toronto's schools offer little in the way of Indigenous education, especially at the elementary school level:

- People for Education's annual school survey shows that just 27% of Toronto's secondary schools and 2% of elementary schools offer programs in Native Studies.
- 30% of secondary schools and 11% of elementary schools have a designated staff member (other than the principal and vice-principal) who coordinates Indigenous education in their school.
- 21% of secondary schools and 11% of elementary schools offer relevant professional development opportunities for staff.
- 24% of secondary schools and 4% of elementary schools hold Indigenous cultural ceremonies.
- 9% of secondary schools offer post-secondary outreach to Indigenous students.
- Nonetheless, Toronto residents are far more likely to learn about Aboriginal peoples through education than they were several years ago.
 - An Environics [survey](#) released in 2016 has found that, compared to 2009, Canada's non-Aboriginal urban residents are more likely to learn about Aboriginal peoples through school and education (the change in Toronto is an increase of 11 percentage points) and far less likely to rely on the media to learn about Aboriginal peoples (Toronto's drop was 19 percentage points, Vancouver's 20 points, and Calgary's 15). Torontonians are also optimistic (76%

said they are very or somewhat optimistic) for a reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada.⁵⁸⁷

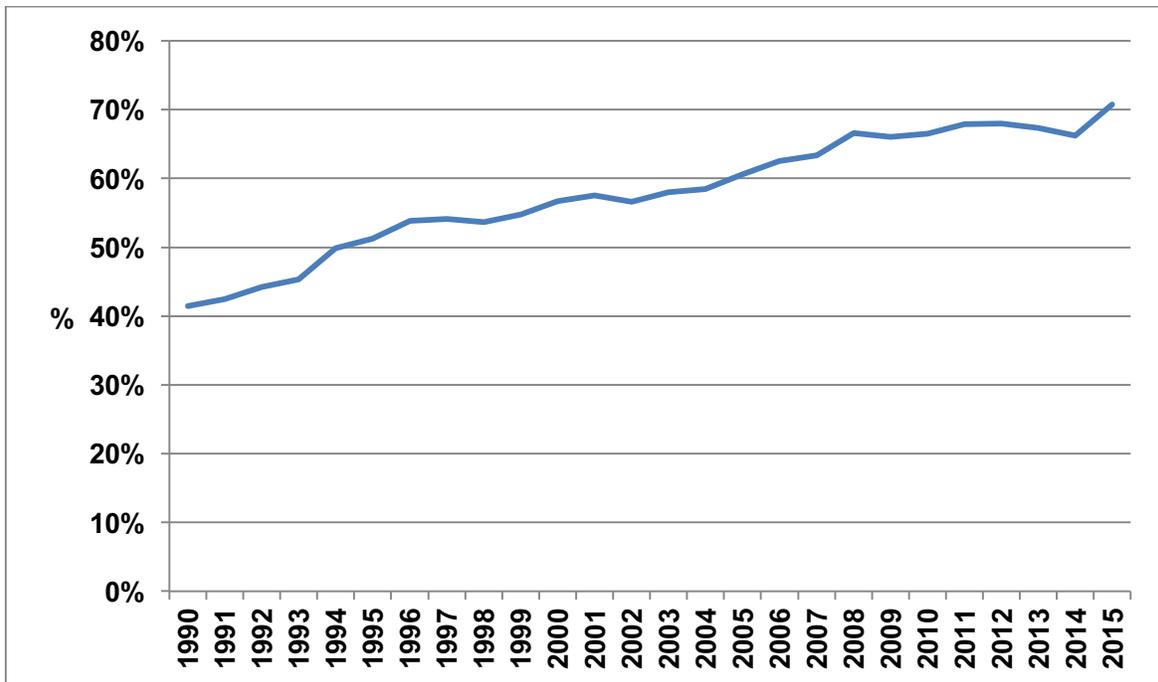
The Toronto District School Board has approved a plan for a K-12 First Nations school:

- The curriculum will tell the story of Toronto’s Indigenous population and history. It will enhance the Canadian history component and close the opportunity gap for Indigenous students.
- The announcement of this new school follows the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada report which recommended educational reform.⁵⁸⁸
- There already is a [First Nations School](#) in Toronto, serving students in grades K – 8. It’s been around since the early 1970’s, and has been a part of the TDSB since 1977.

Torontonians are increasingly completing post-secondary education:

- Almost 60% of the Region’s population over the age of 15 has completed post-secondary education.
- In 2015, 58.8% of the population in the Toronto Region aged 15 and older had a post-secondary degree, diploma or certificate, up from 55% in 2010 and greater than both the provincial (55.6%) and national (55.4%) averages.⁵⁸⁹
- In the city of Toronto in 2015, 70.75% of the labour force had a post-secondary diploma or degree. In 1990, that figure was just 41.4%.⁵⁹⁰

**Percent of Labour Force with Post-Secondary Education,
City of Toronto, 1990 to 2015⁵⁹¹**



- Total funded full-time enrollments for the Region’s colleges (Centennial, George Brown, Humber, Seneca, and Sheridan) in 2014-15 were 93,183.8.⁵⁹²

- In 2015, 155,020 full-time students and 30,140 part-time undergraduate and graduate students were enrolled in the Region's universities (OCADU, Ryerson, University of Toronto and York).⁵⁹³
 - In 2014-15, the average cost of university undergraduate tuition in the Toronto Region was \$6,766.13 for Canadian students and \$20,857.63 for international students.⁵⁹⁴

Are Toronto's post-secondary institutions preparing students for the future?

Toronto is home to one of the world's best and most reputable universities:



- The University of Toronto (U of T) is the 19th best university in the world and the best in Canada according to [Times Higher Education's World University Rankings](#) 2015-2016.
 - Rankings are based on a number of performance indicators, including faculty-to-student ratios, international mix, resources, and research excellence.
 - The University of British Columbia ranked second in Canada and 34th in the world. McGill ranked 38th in the world.
- The London-based higher education magazine also conducted a [World Reputation Rankings](#) survey in which U of T ranked first in Canada and 23rd in the world.
 - The invitation-only survey, conducted between January and March 2016, received 10,323 responses from experienced and published scholars from 133 countries. They were asked to rank a maximum of 15 of the best universities in various categories including research and teaching.⁵⁹⁵

U of T grads are the 10th most employable in the world:



- The [Global Employability University Ranking](#), a survey conducted by French human resources group Emerging Associates and a German research group called Trendence, has rated U of T grads the 10th most employable in the world in 2015, up from 13th in 2014.
- McGill was the second-highest ranked Canadian university, in 21st place,⁵⁹⁶ (up from 28th in 2014).
- The online survey was conducted between April and August 2015. Respondents were approximately 2,200 recruiters and 2,400 managing directors of international companies or subsidiaries from 21 countries recognized as major players in higher education (students from these countries comprise more than 80% of students worldwide and the countries have at least one internationally recognized university).
 - Rankings were based on respondents' votes for which institutions, from a list of local and global universities, produced the most employable graduates.⁵⁹⁷
 -

The Economist has ranked the MBA programs at York and Ryerson among the top 100 in the world:

- The MBA programs at York University's Schulich School of Business and at Ryerson's Ted Rogers School of Management ranked 46th and 92nd respectively on The Economist's [list](#) of the world's 100 best full-time MBA programs. They are two of the six schools in Canada that made the list.⁵⁹⁸
 - Rankings were based on school and student/alumni ratings of four criteria: open to new opportunities (e.g., student assessment of career services), personal

development/educational experience (e.g., student diversity), salary increase after graduating, and potential for networking.

- The top 100 schools were chosen from 118 that provided sufficient information to be considered for ranking after 135 leading global business schools were invited to take part in the survey.⁵⁹⁹

York University is expanding to Markham to help the city's growing population better access education:

- The Province has announced Markham Centre as the location for a New York University campus. The location will provide easy access to transit, major employers, research centres and the new Markham Pan Am Centre.
 - To bring the state-of-the-art campus to the York Region locale, the university is partnering with the City of Markham (which is donating the land), the Regional Municipality of York (which has committed \$25m), and Seneca College (with which several programs will be offered in collaboration). York University's share of funding for the project is \$45m.⁶⁰⁰

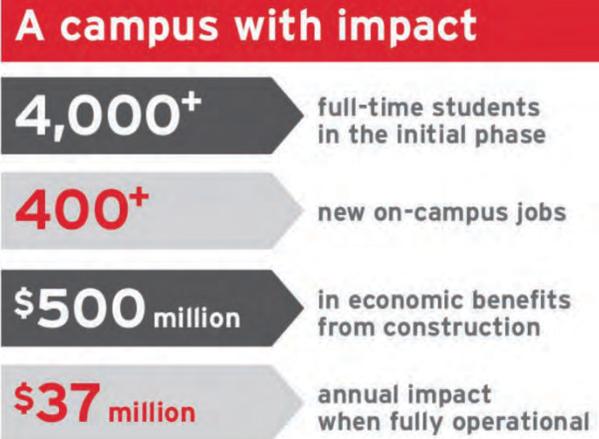
Rendering of York University–Markham Centre.⁶⁰¹



- 4,000 students are expected in the campus' initial phase. Some projections estimate 5,000 students enrolled within the first five years and 10,000 students within 20 years.
 - York Region's population is expected to grow to 1.5 million by 2031.⁶⁰²

- The campus will offer degree programs in eight fields of study: arts, media, performance and design, business, education, environmental studies, information technology and software, liberal arts, life sciences, and continuing education. It is expected to create 400 new on-campus jobs, \$500m in economic benefits from construction alone, and \$37m annually when the campus is fully functional.⁶⁰³

Projected York University–Markham Centre Impacts:⁶⁰⁴

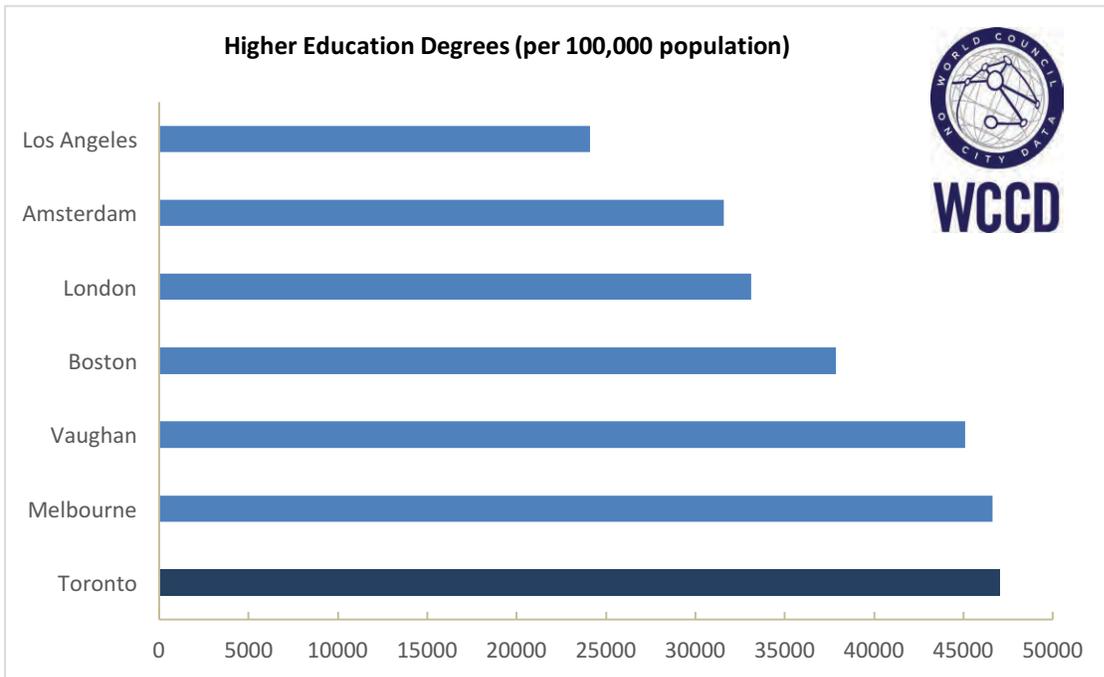


Compared to other global cities, Toronto’s population is highly educated:



- With a rate of 47,014 per 100,000 population (as reported to the [World Council on City Data](#) or WCCD in 2015), Torontonians possess more higher education degrees per 100,000 population than residents of Melbourne, which held the number one spot ahead of Toronto in 2014, but slipped to second in 2015 (46,631), Vaughan, ON (45,093), Boston (37,863), London (33,136), Amsterdam (31,600), and Los Angeles (24,100).
- Toronto’s higher education degrees rate in 2015 is up 2.5% from the 45,875 per 100,000 population reported in 2014.⁶⁰⁵

Number of Higher Education Degrees per 100,000 Population,
as Reported to WCCD in 2015:⁶⁰⁶



Given a choice, 8% more of Toronto’s youth would rather learn online than on location in a physical school:

- According to a global youth [survey](#) by The Economist’s Intelligence Unit, youth around the world have a rising interest in online learning.
- The percentage difference between Toronto youth (150 between 18 and 25 participated) who are currently learning online and those who would prefer to is 8%.



OCADU houses the “new MBA” – the Strategic Foresight and Innovation Master of Design:

- With an aim to creating leaders who are strategists, and who see the world from a human perspective and re-think what is possible, and who will be the innovators of the future to make the world a better place.
- Students develop design-thinking skills that include analysis, synthesis and strategic and creative thinking, which are critical for professionals in the public, private and voluntary sectors.⁶⁰⁷



The City Institute at York University is an interdisciplinary institute that facilitates critical and collaborative research:

- This innovative institute celebrated in 2016 ten years of bringing together over 60 of the university’s urban scholars and scores of graduate students from fields as diverse as planning, geography, environmental studies, anthropology, sociology, political science, education, law, transportation and the humanities.
- The research centre facilitates the development of new knowledge and innovative approaches to understanding and addressing the complexity of the current urban context.⁶⁰⁸



George Brown College's YouTube Space offers video creators free access to the tech tools they need:

- Opened in April 2016, the 3,500 sq. ft. location is the ninth [YouTube space](#) in the world (other locations include New York, London, and Los Angeles) and the first in Canada.
- The spaces provide free, high-tech resources to create web content, including microphones, lights, and cameras.⁶⁰⁹

To learn more about innovative community-based organizations and programs working to address issues relating to learning, check out: <http://ckc.torontofoundation.ca/>.

Arts and Culture

Why is this important?

A thriving arts and cultural community is a sign of a city's ability to innovate, to solve problems, to attract visitors, and to entice talented new residents from around the world. Toronto's lively arts environment helps to welcome and integrate newcomers, celebrate our heritage, and imagine a better city. It is also a key sector that contributes substantially to our local, provincial, and national economies.

What are the trends?

The City's 2015 budget upheld Council's commitment to reaching \$25 per capita arts funding by 2017. But even at that amount, Toronto's spending on arts and culture will remain outshone by many other Canadian cities. Although professional employment in arts and culture in Toronto declined slightly in 2014, it remained higher than in 2012. Film, television, and other screen-based media production spending exceeded \$1b for the fifth year in a row in 2015. The Toronto Public Library remains among the world's largest and busiest public library systems.

What's new?

Most Torontonians want to engage with art in public spaces, and new initiatives are promising to bring more art to local parks. The City has appointed its inaugural Photo Laureate, and the Royal Ontario Museum will become the first major museum in Canada to digitize its collection for online viewing. An audit by the Province's Auditor General found that the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games went over budget by \$342m, but also generated more revenue than anticipated. Torontonians are split on whether the City should bid on Expo 2025.

How do Torontonians and the City contribute to, and benefit from, the city's exciting cultural environment?

The City's 2016 budget saw Council uphold its commitment to reaching \$25 per capita arts funding by 2017:

- The City's 2016 operating budget allocated \$58.6m to make possible arts and cultural services.⁶¹⁰
 - The City planned to add 14 new works to its public art collection and to commission eight new public artworks in 2016.⁶¹¹
- The 2016 budget included \$5m to support the Arts and Culture \$25 per capita funding phase-in.⁶¹²
 - In 2015 net expenditures for the City's total cultural spending including capital expenditures, was \$24.07 per capita.⁶¹³
- The Toronto Arts Council (TAC) had requested an additional \$3m in grants funding for 2016 to build on its [priorities](#) of growth and sustainability, community connections, and innovation and partnerships, but the budget did not include this increase and 2.75m is pending approval.⁶¹⁴
- The City disbursed a total of \$27.8m in grant allocations in 2015 through the TAC, major cultural and local arts service organizations, and other organizations such as the Royal Winter Fair, the Design Exchange, and community museums.⁶¹⁵

Attendance at cultural events reflects Toronto's deep engagement in arts, culture, and heritage and brings significant economic benefit to the city:

- Over 19 million people attended City-funded or City-programmed cultural events in 2015.
- More than half a million people visit the 21 City-operated museums, historic sites, cultural centres and art galleries every year.⁶¹⁶
- According to the Toronto Arts Foundation's analysis of the 2013 audited financial statements of CADAC (Canadian Arts Data/Données sur les arts au Canada), every dollar the City spends on the not-for-profit arts sector generates \$8.25 in revenue and \$11.77 from other sectors and level of governments.⁶¹⁷

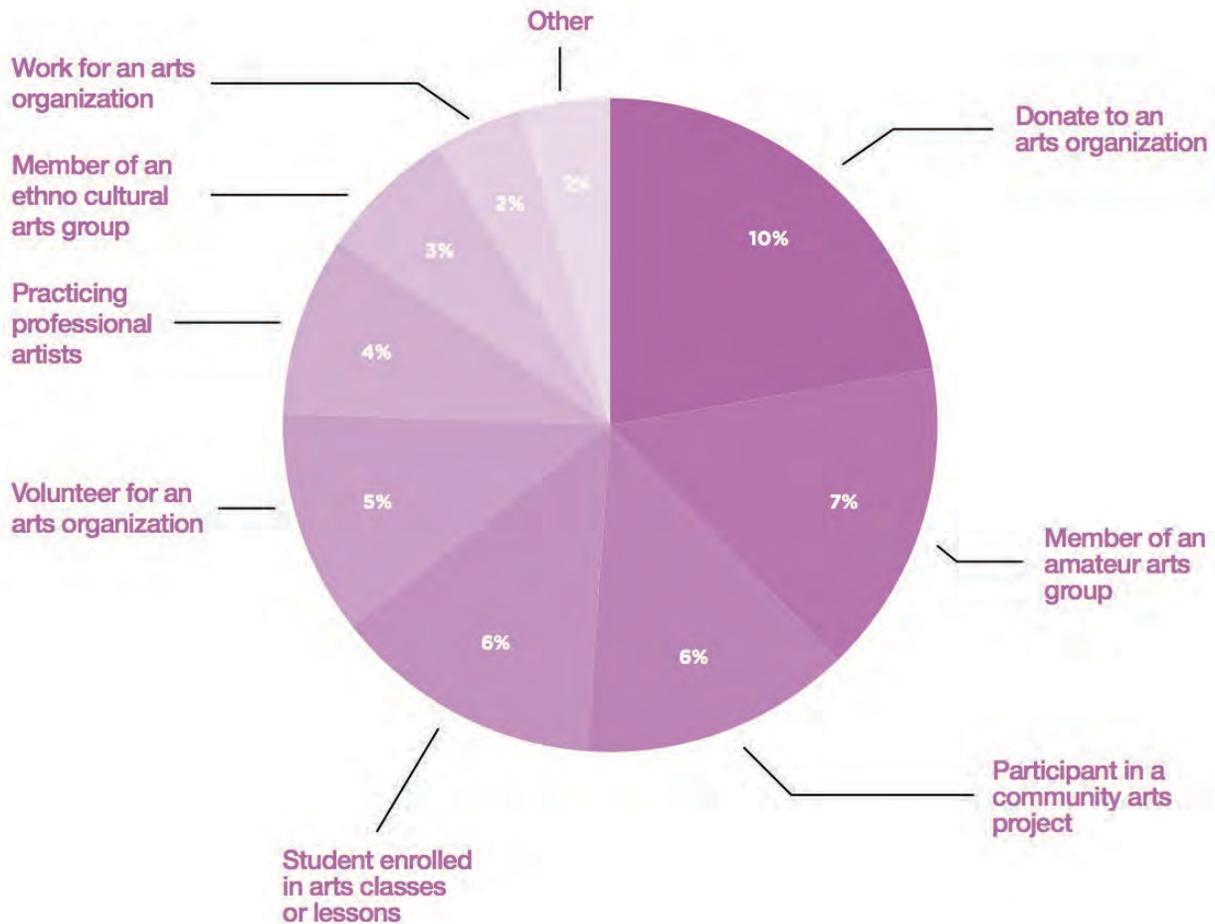
Torontonians see the arts as having a positive influence in the neighbourhoods they live in, their individual lives, and the city they call home:

- [Toronto Art Stats: Public Opinion 2016](#) compiles the results of an online survey of 500 Toronto residents conducted in January 2016 by Leger for the Toronto Arts Foundation.
- 69% of Torontonians appreciate the contribution that local artists make to the city. 57% agree that support for the arts should be a priority for local businesses, and 54% agree that funding the arts should be a priority for local government.
- 71% of Torontonians attend arts-related programs or events or visit cultural locations on a regular basis.
 - Concerts (58%), museums (55%), and film showings (54%) are the top three events attended on a regular basis. Dance (19%) and readings (7%) are the least popular.⁶¹⁸
 - 2009 American [research](#) found that people who attended art galleries or live performances, or read literature, were more likely to vote, volunteer, and take part in community events, and that 58% of adults who visited an art museum or

gallery volunteered in their communities, compared to only 24% of those who did not.⁶¹⁹

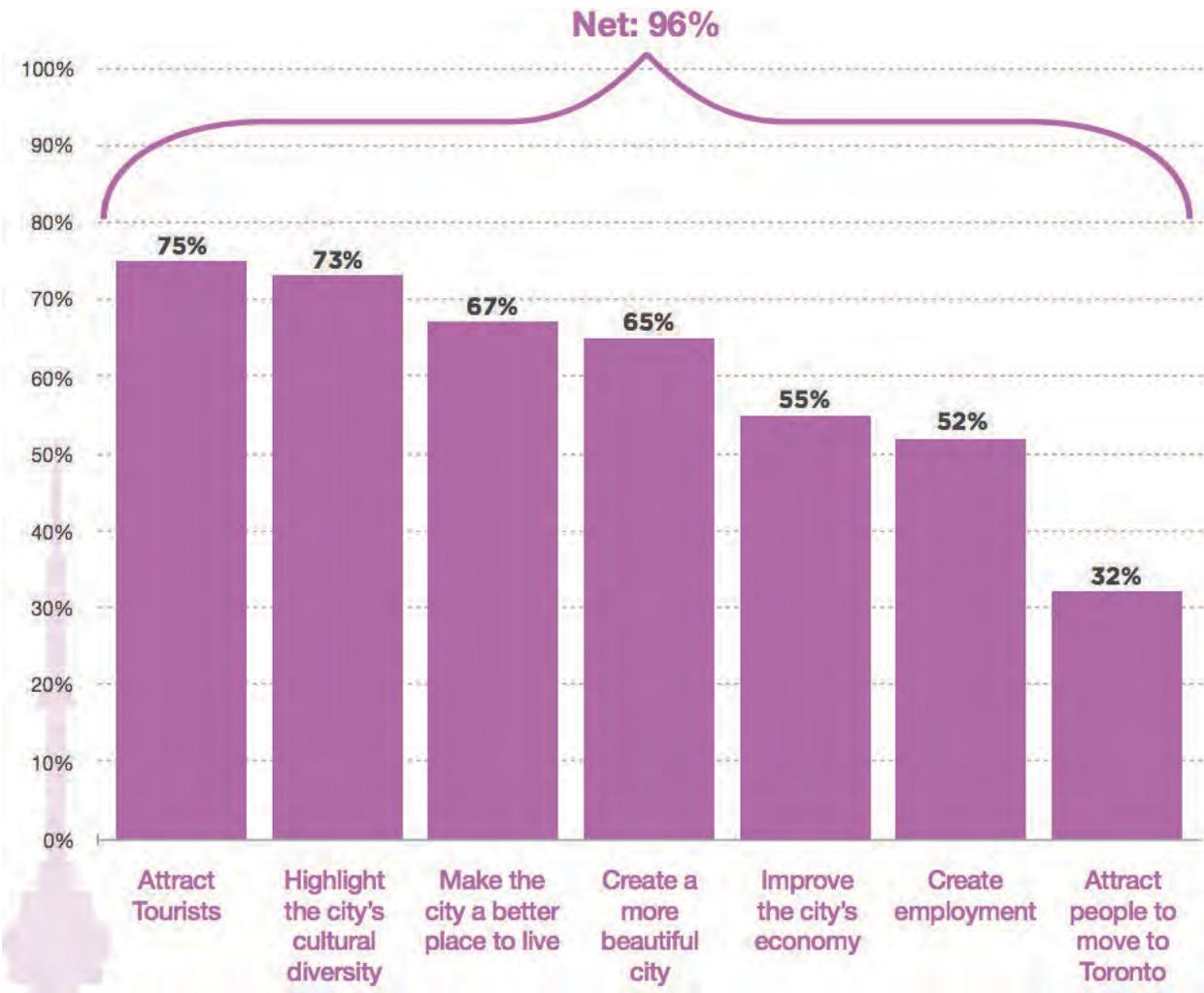
- Over a quarter (29%) of Torontonians go beyond attendance with their engagement in the arts. The most popular contribution is donating to an arts organization (10%), followed by being a member of an amateur arts group (7%), and being a student in arts classes or lessons or participating in a community arts project (both 6%).

Engagement Beyond Attendance in the Arts, 2016:



- 44% reported they would like to get more involved in the arts.
- The overwhelming majority of Torontonians (96%) see at least one benefit that the arts provide to the city, such as
 - attracting tourists (75%);
 - making the city a better place to live (67%);
 - creating employment (52%); and
 - attracting people to move here (32%).
 - There was an 8% decrease compared to 2015, however, in the percentage who think that arts improve the city's economy.

Benefits of the Arts to Toronto, 2016:



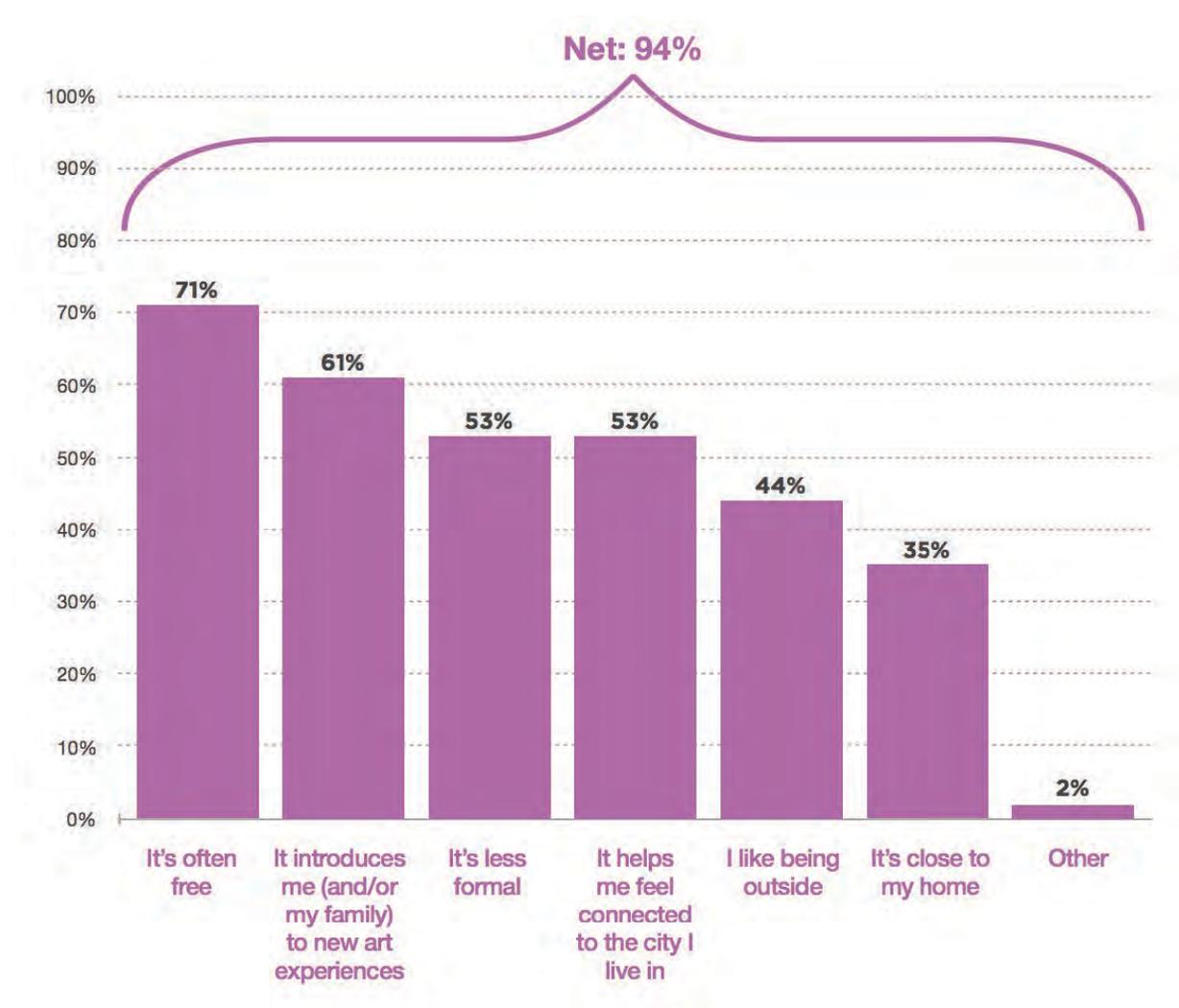
- 87% see at least one benefit of the arts to their neighbourhood, and the percentage of respondents who think the arts create a stronger sense of community increased by 10% over 2015 to 60%.
- 91% of Torontonians see at least one benefit that the arts provide to themselves. 59%, for example, report that the arts expose them to new ideas, and 46% say they make them feel proud of their city.
- 71% agree that the arts reflect the diversity of the city's population, 64% agree that they can make one feel included, and 57% agree that they deal with important issues.
- The vast majority of respondents (81%) view opportunities to participate in arts for children and youth as important.
- Young Torontonians are more likely to see the arts as making a greater contribution in their lives. 72% of 18-24 year olds want to get more involved in the arts (versus 40% of those 25 and older), and 71% of 18-24 year olds take a strong interest in arts and cultural traditions of their heritage (versus 45% of those 25+).

- Despite high levels of support, interest, and engagement, 88% of respondents face at least one barrier to attending arts programming. Cost makes it difficult for 55% of those people to attend arts events, visit arts locations, or participate in arts activities.
 - 70% of households with an income of \$100k or higher buy tickets to arts events compared to 49% of households making less.
 - 30% were aware of the free museum passes available through the Toronto Public Library but had not used them. Households with children under 18 were more likely to have used these passes (27% versus 11% without children).
 - The second most cited barrier to arts attendance is not knowing what is going on, which increased to 37% from just 15% in 2015. Other barriers include being too busy, 34%; distance from home, 31%; and inaccessibility of venues, 5%.⁶²⁰

The vast majority of Torontonians want to engage with art in public spaces:

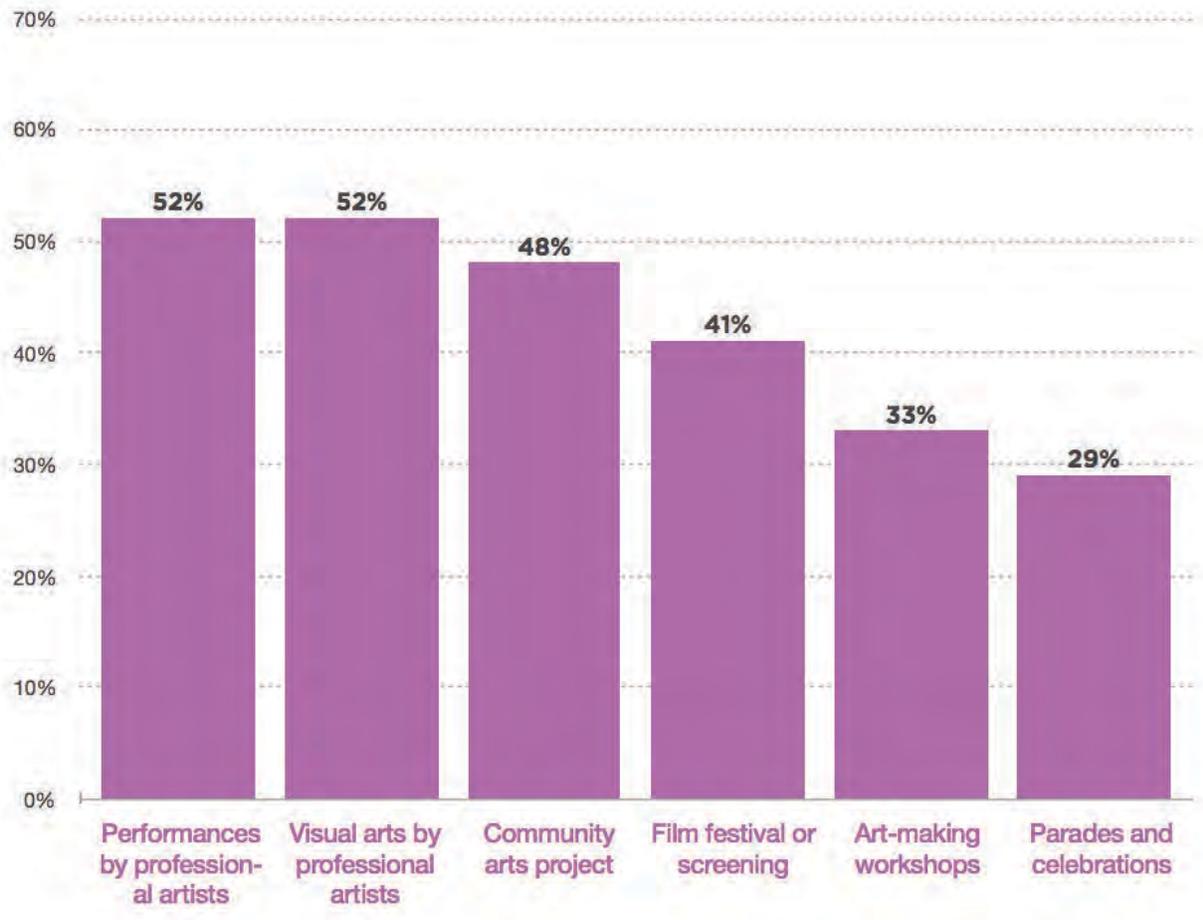
- 94% of respondents in the [Toronto Art Stats](#) survey saw benefits of art in public spaces. The most commonly cited benefits were that it is often free to enjoy art in public spaces (71%) and that art in public spaces introduces residents to new art experiences (61%).

Benefits of the Arts in Public Spaces, 2016⁶²¹:



- 84% of respondents had encountered art in a public space in the past year, 55% of them in parks and green spaces and 59% at street festivals.
- Torontonians would like to experience all kinds of arts in their local parks, with half (52%) saying they would like to see performances by professional artists and visual arts by professional artists.⁶²²

Support for Different Types of Art in Public Parks, 2016⁶²³



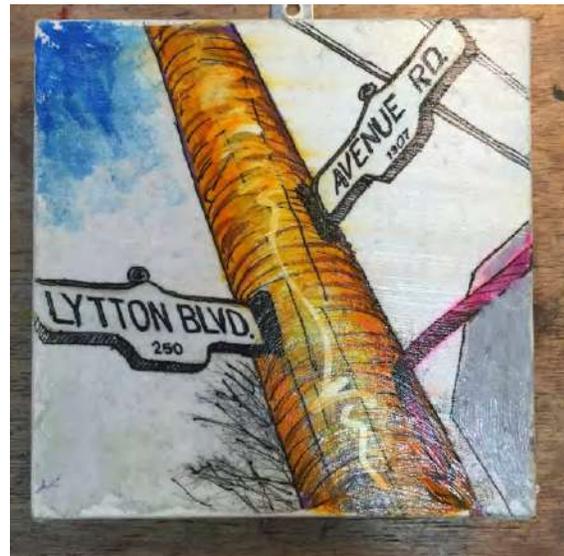
In winter 2016, Toronto’s eastern waterfront was transformed with art installations at lifeguard stations, “Winter Stations”:

- Out of 300 submissions, seven winners were chosen from OCADU, Ryerson University, Laurentian University and also independent artists.⁶²⁴



[The 416 Project](#), created by Jorge Molina, involves the mounting of 416 original works of arts across 35 Toronto neighbourhoods, with the purpose of bringing more art into the public realm:

- The public is invited to take home the art but are requested to tell the artist using email or social media.
- The paintings can be found as far north as Willowdale, as far west as Islington Village and as far east as Scarborough Village.⁶²⁵





The Pan Am Path is a new Toronto asset infrastructure asset that combines the power of art and sport to create a living path across Toronto. It was conceived by Friends of the Pan Am Path (Friends), who formed in 2013 with the idea to connect Toronto's extensive trail system and support local communities along the route with arts and culture programming and take advantage of the upcoming Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games as a catalyst.

In 2013, Toronto City Council approved the Pan Am Path and the creation of a continuous 80-kilometre trail:

- The Path connects the region from Brampton to Pickering, connecting 20 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) and 16 Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs).
- Toronto Foundation has pledged \$1 million dollars over 10 years to activate the path as a significant city-building asset.
- The City of Toronto is investing over \$30 million (estimated) to complete the Pan Am Path within the trails strategy.
- The Path and Art Relay have been called “a cornerstone of the Pan Am Games Legacy” by Toronto Mayor John Tory.
- The 2015 Pan Am Path Art Relay, involving 14 weeks of animation on the Path and engagement with more than 100 local partners – uniting the region with arts, culture and active-living opportunities. The Art Relay included:
 - 97 live performances,
 - 57 permanent and semi-permanent art pieces,
 - 38 eco or arts workshops and
 - 44 active-living activities.
 - The largest event, at Rouge Beach, had 1,200 participants.
- In 2016, the Path is being animated by P4K Pathfinding, a collaboration between Playing for Keeps, Friends of the Pan Am Path, the Toronto Foundation, Jane's Walk, Cycle TO and First Story Toronto.
 - Programming includes a series of seven talks, walks, games and rides on the Path.
 - Activities aim to connect young and established leaders in exploring Toronto's trails and ravines.⁶²⁶

What steps have been taken to make art and culture more accessible?

In May 2016 Mayor Tory launched a program that would bring free summer performances, community-engaged arts, and installations to parks across the city, especially in underserved areas:

- [Arts in the Parks](#) is a collaboration between the City (Arts & Culture Services and Parks, Forestry and Recreation departments), Park People, the Toronto Arts Foundation, and the Toronto Arts Council (TAC). TAC's [Animating Toronto Parks](#) pilot program will fund artists and organizations bringing arts programming to any of the 23 parks outside the downtown core.⁶²⁷
- Tory also announced a new, free Arts and Music in Parks permit that promises to make it easier for grassroots organizations, artists, and musicians to present small-scale, free, one-day art and music events in our parks.⁶²⁸
 - Events must offer no alcohol, food, rides, or games and keep noise below 85 decibels.

- The permit was inspired by the red tape encountered in 2015 by the acoustic Great Heart Festival in Trinity Bellwoods park. Last year, organizers had to crowdfund for a \$1,580 permit, \$650 insurance, a \$100 noise exemption, and taxes.
- As of May 30, the City had approved 16 permits for the summer, with more expected.⁶²⁹

Toronto has appointed its inaugural Photo Laureate:

- In 2016 renowned photographer Geoffrey James was appointed Photo Laureate, for a three-year term.⁶³⁰
- The City’s Arts and Cultural Services section established the terms and conditions for the appointment and convened an advisory panel to select the candidate.
- Arts and Cultural Services also oversaw the appointment in 2015 of Anne Michaels as the City’s fifth Poet Laureate for a three-year term. The outgoing fourth Poet Laureate, George Elliott Clarke, was named the Parliamentary Poet Laureate of Canada.⁶³¹

Toronto’s Royal Ontario Museum will become the first major museum in Canada to digitize its collection for online viewing:

- The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) intends to create a digital museum online to increase access to the six million precious objects in its possession.
 - By comparison, the Art Gallery of Ontario’s entire collection comprises around 90,000 objects.
- Even after the recent 100,000 sq. ft. “Crystal” renovation and expansion, the ROM has only 0.5% of its holdings (35,000 items) on display at one given time.
- The ROM’s digital ambitions were inspired by other museums. More than 50 museums in North America alone have at least part of their collections available online.
- Plans are to have 1.5 million objects available online by 2021.⁶³²

19th-Century Ivory Fan, Sample From the ROM’s Collection.⁶³³



Photograph: Brian Boyle. Source: ROM



Spurred by philanthropists Judy and Wil Matthews, the [Project: Under Gardiner](#), in partnership with The City of Toronto and Waterfront Toronto will revitalize a 1.75 kilometre stretch of space under the Gardiner from Strachan Avenue to Spadina Avenue:

- The trail will feature farmer’s markets, gardens, gathering spots and exhibition spaces.
- The corridor will connect seven neighbourhoods and

- existing parks and will make multiple cultural destinations more accessible.
- After a [public brainstorming and a vote](#), the name chosen for the path is “The Bentway”, in reference to the bents that are visible under the Gardiner (bents are the structures of columns and beams that support the raised highway from underneath).⁶³⁴



A series of murals have been painted by local artist celebrities at the mouth of the Don River as a part of the “A Love Letter to the Great Lakes” project.

- This multi-stakeholder public art project involving Toronto Foundation, Friends of the Pan Am Path, Waterfront Toronto and StreetART Toronto has its roots in an international project titled Sea Walls: Murals for Oceans created by the PangeaSeed Foundation. Toronto’s version is the first fresh-water addition to the international project.
- The aim is to celebrate the Great Lakes through art designed to beautify neighbourhoods, galvanize community support and stimulate a broader public awareness of the critical issues facing the Great Lakes -- a source of 95% of North America’s surface freshwater.⁶³⁵





Were the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games a boon or a bust for Toronto?

Despite initial sluggish tickets sales, Pan Am organizers declared the Games an unqualified success:

- The [Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games](#) were hosted by Toronto and neighbouring municipalities in July and August 2015.

- 1.1 million or 80% of the 1.4 million tickets available were sold. Over 1 million (85%) of tickets to Pan Am Games events sold, and 89,000 (49%) of Parapan Am Games tickets.
 - 908,000 tickets were sold to the public and 21,000 to athletes’ families;
 - 113,000 were provided as part of sponsorship packages;
 - 60,000 were sold as part of the Friends of the Games program, in which donors purchased ticket packages to donate to children in underserved GTA communities; and
 - 22,000 were sold to others such as individual sponsors buying tickets to donate to children’s organizations and community groups.⁶³⁶
- Mid-way through the Games (July 14-15), a quarter of Torontonians (27%) said they had attended or would attend an event, and almost half (46%) said they were following along on television.
 - Seniors were more likely to follow the Games on television than younger residents—57% of those 65+ versus 34% of 18-34 year olds said they were watching on television.⁶³⁷
- About two million people took part in some live Pan Am event.⁶³⁸
- 350,000 people attended live events in Nathan Phillips Square that were part of Panamania, a festival of cultural activities held over 23 days and featuring 130 artists.
- The 3D Toronto sign in Nathan Phillips Square generated 100 million social media impressions.⁶³⁹
- The Luminous Veil, a Pan Am legacy project created by artist Derek Revington spans the Prince Edward Viaduct and is one of the most ambitious light-based public artworks in the world. Its launch in summer 2015 attracted 10,000 revelers.⁶⁴⁰
- 18,000 people volunteered for the Pan Am Games, and 5,000 for the Parapan Am Games (some volunteered at both).
- About 10,000 athletes, coaches, and officials from 41 countries participated in the Games.⁶⁴¹ In terms of athletes competing, the Games were the largest multi-sport event in Canadian history.⁶⁴²
- Research comparing the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games in Toronto to those in other cities and to other major sporting events shows that Toronto’s Games had the most sports, even more than at the London Summer Olympics in 2012.⁶⁴³

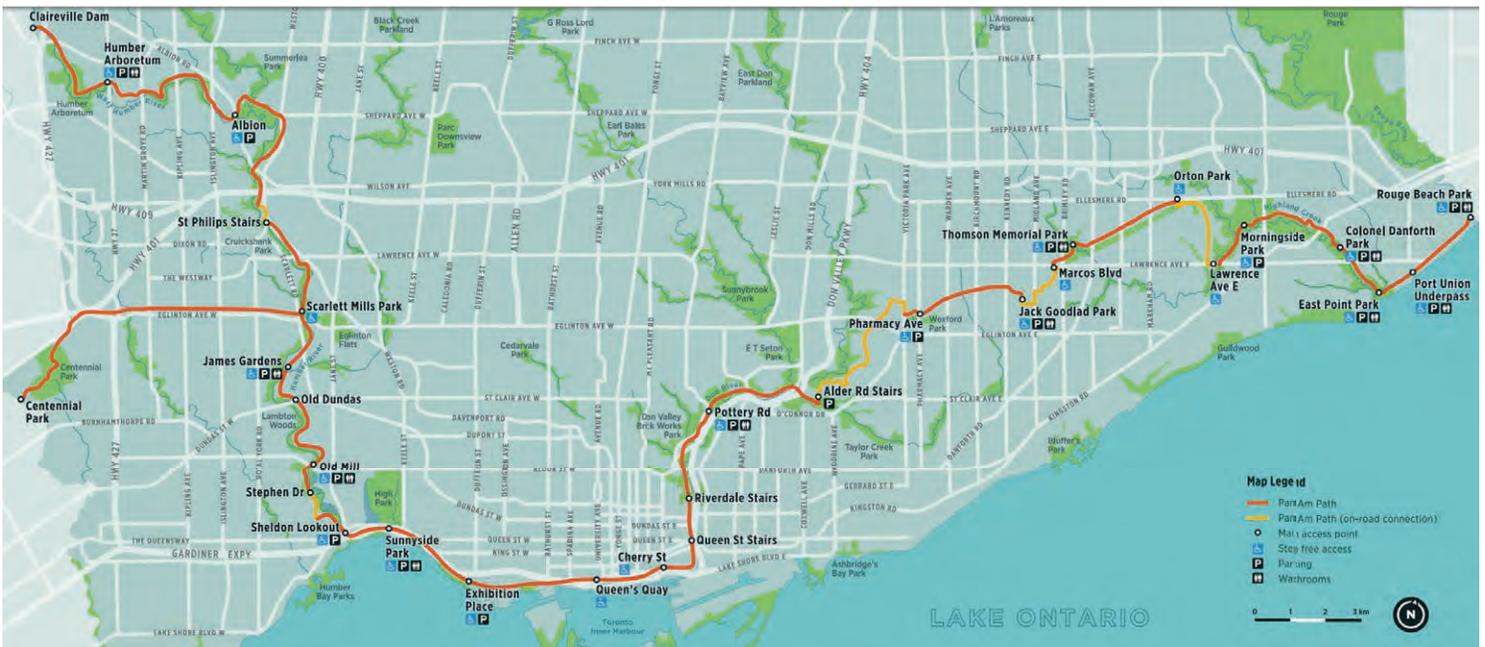
Comparison of Pan Am/Parapan Am Games with Selected Major International Sporting Events:⁶⁴⁴

	Pan Am/Parapan Am Games			Olympics/Paralympics		Commonwealth Games
	Rio de Janeiro 2007	Guadalajara 2011	Toronto 2015	Vancouver Winter Games 2010	London Summer Games 2012	Glasgow 2014
Competition venues	16	32	31	9	30	13
Volunteers	20,000	10,700	18,000 (Pan Am) 5,000 (Parapan Am)	25,000	70,000	17,000
Sports	44	49	51	20	46	17
Athletes	6,748	7,900	7,666	3,072	15,100	4,818

- Overall, Canada earned 385 medals during both Pan Am and Parapan Am Games events.⁶⁴⁵

- o Canada placed second in the Parapan Am medal count with a total of 217 (78 gold, 69 silver, and 60 bronze), behind the US, which earned 265 medals.⁶⁴⁶
- o More than 5,500 Pan Am athletes competed in 36 sports.⁶⁴⁷
- o The Parapan Am Games component of the event were the largest ever in its history, with 1,608 athletes from 28 countries competing in 15 Para sports, all of which were Paralympic qualifiers for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.⁶⁴⁸
- Local municipalities and universities invested in new facilities such as the [Back Campus Fields](#) on the University of Toronto's St. George campus. 44% of funding for new facilities came from these financial stakeholders (with the other 56% coming from the Federal government).
- Improvements to the city's parks and trails for the Games created greater usability and wayfinding for users.⁶⁴⁹
- Some of Toronto's trails and underused green spaces are now linked up to create the [Pan Am Path](#), a multi-use path that connected neighbourhoods across the city and created an active-living legacy of the Games for walkers, runners, and bikers.
 - o Made up of over 80km of continuous trail across the city, the Path connected the city's residents, local organizations, artists, and businesses to create vibrant public spaces.⁶⁵⁰
 - o From May to August 2015, the Path came alive with an Art Relay festival of installations and events. Each week, the festival travelled across Toronto to celebrate the city's diversity, nature, and arts.⁶⁵¹
 - o The City expects that once the Path is fully complete it will be used by thousands of residents every year. It has the potential to become a high profile tourist attraction in its own right.⁶⁵²
 - o Pan Am Path arts programming and cross-city community building led to activations and local festivals on the Path, the engagement of organizations from across city, permanent and semi-permanent art installations, performances (dance, music, etc.), and two new permanent exhibition/art/gallery spaces.⁶⁵³

Pan Am Path Route Map, 2015:



- The Games also brought in some unexpected revenue. Patrols of the high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes during the Pan Am Games led to thousands of tickets being issued for misuse.
 - From June 29 to July 26, Toronto Police and Ontario Provincial Police handed out 1,735 tickets for improper use of HOV lanes and 2,000 tickets for other traffic-related charges—133 tickets a day.⁶⁵⁴
- Although the Games were anticipated to cause traffic disruptions, almost two-thirds (62%) of respondents in a Forum Research telephone poll midway through the Games said their daily lives had not been disrupted.
 - 38% reported that the Games did cause disruptions. An estimated 8% of Torontonians indicated that the disruptions were serious.
 - Those most likely to report disruptions were the youngest respondents (57% of 18-34 year olds versus 34% of 35-44 year olds). Of those reporting that the Games were disruptive, residents of Etobicoke or York were most likely to report very serious disruptions (33% versus less than 20% in other areas of Toronto, but the sample size was small at 66).
 - 57% disagreed with maintaining the HOV lanes after the games, while about 30% agreed.⁶⁵⁵
- The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) helped keep the city moving during the Games by implementing frequent service to all Game venues from early July to mid-August, and beginning Sunday subway service two hours earlier (at 6 a.m.) on July 19 and 26.
 - The TTC also enlisted more than 1,600 employees as customer ambassadors to help spectators reach Game venues.⁶⁵⁶
- GO Transit added 378 train and 188 bus trips during the Games, resulting in a record 7,270 train trips in July 2015 and 25% more riders along the Lakeshore West and Lakeshore East lines.⁶⁵⁷



In collaboration with the Toronto Organizing Committee for the TO 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games, the Toronto Foundation recruited 15 donors for a program called [Friends of the Games](#).

- These donors came together to thank the communities supporting the Games by purchasing tickets to Games events to be made available to youth through charitable organizations that work primarily in underserved communities throughout the province. Collectively, these donors contributed \$1.5 million to purchase tickets so that 60,000 youth could attend the Games.
- To disperse the tickets and get 60,000 youth to the events, Friends of the Games involved 167 charitable organizations from 28 different communities across the province.

An audit by the Province’s Auditor General found that the Games went over budget—by \$342m, or 15.6% more than budgeted in the original Games bid, but also generated 32% more revenue than initially anticipated:

- In March 2016, the Province and TO2015 (the organizing committee) estimated the Games’ cost to be \$2.404b, in line with its 2009 bid budget. The Auditor General estimated the adjusted total cost at \$2.529b (higher than the 2009 bid budget but within an October 2014 projection).
 - The budget for the Games was revised several times after the original 2009 bid, when costs were estimated at \$2.429b (\$1.429m in total expenses plus \$1b for the Athletes’ Village). By October 2014 the Province and TO2015 projected a budget of \$2.576b (\$1.867m in expenses and \$709m for the Village).
- On September 30, 2015, the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario was asked to conduct an audit of the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. A June 2016 [special report](#) from the Auditor details estimated costs and revenues.
- The Auditor acknowledges that the Games gave Toronto much to be proud of: no major hitches, a legacy of infrastructure for use by athletes and the general public, a cultural legacy of artworks and commissioned sculptures, and the country’s highest-ever Pan Am/Parapan Am Games medal count. Furthermore, the development of the Athletes’ Village has reduced the timeline for the revitalization of the West Don Lands by five to 10 years.
- The report estimates the total cost of the Games to be \$2.529b—\$342m or 15.6% more than the 2009 budget bid of \$2.187b. The Province paid the majority of this, \$304m, bringing the Province’s total contribution to the Games (not including the Athletes’ Village) to \$804m, 61% more than the \$500m it had committed to in the bid budget.
 - According to the Auditor, the original 2009 budget was actually \$2.187b (\$2.429b minus \$242m for remediation and flood protection covered by separate government funding as a part of the West Don Lands revitalization; this would be paid even if the Games bid was unsuccessful).
 - Various expenses contributed to the extra costs, including \$38m for transportation (e.g., creating high occupancy vehicle lanes) and \$15m for promotion.
- Over \$700m was spent building and renovating sports and athletic facilities that are now accessible by communities, including 10 new internationally certified sports venues such as the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre (jointly owned by the City and the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus) and the Milton Velodrome. But there are ongoing issues and deficiencies in some of the venues.



- For example, as of April 2016, \$815,000 is being withheld in the construction of the Toronto Tracks project due to deficiencies and non-compliance issues.
- Revenue for the Games was \$194m, 32% higher than projected in the bid budget and 13% higher than the October 2014 budget.
 - The unaudited revenue from ticket sales was \$39.3m, \$1.1m more than the \$38.2 projected in the bid. But actual revenue after service charges paid to ticket vendors (\$2.3m) was \$37m, \$1.2m less than projected.
 - The licensing of Games merchandise generated \$2.1m in revenue (unaudited), lower than the 3.6m projected in the bid. According to the report, the shortfall is due to lack of familiarity with the Games in the province and slow pickup from retailers.
 - Revenue from sales of broadcasting rights also came under bid predictions of \$2.6m with actual revenues of \$300,000.
- Unaudited actual values indicate that revenue funded 11% of the budget, more than the 10% projected in the 2009 bid and 9% in the revised October 2014 budget. Sponsorship helped make up for lower-than-expected revenue from other sources.
 - Sponsorship was 29% higher than projected—\$131.612m (unaudited actual) versus \$102.18m (2009 bid projected)—mostly attributed to sponsor in-kind contributions valued at \$58.025m that helped relieve costs of items not in the budget but which would be paid for by TO2015 if not covered by a sponsor (such as additional advertisement).
- The Auditor also found that the majority of HOV lanes did not have a major impact on reducing travel time—on average, a 6.1 minute decrease during the Pan Am Games and a 3.5 minute decrease during the Parapan Am Games. Greater impacts were seen Northbound on the Don Valley Parkway (DVP) and both ways on the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) (from 20 to 38 minutes during the Pan Am Games and eight to 27 minutes during the Parapan Am Games).
 - Temporary HOV lanes on key highways had little impact on the general public. The Ministry of Transportation measured travel time in general vehicle lanes during peak afternoon commuting times and found few major changes in travel times except on the QEW and DVP, which had up to 14-minute delays.
- Student volunteers received incentives in the form of Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) benefits, either higher funding without a necessary monetary contribution or extended repayment periods (to one year from six months). 2,500 students received one of these benefits, but the Auditor found that these incentives were provided to volunteers who may not have worked the required time—many students worked less than 50% of their shifts.
- Despite the Games coming in \$342m over budget, TO2015 paid its 53 senior employees full completion bonuses worth \$5.3m, “based on the Games coming in on time and on budget.”⁶⁵⁸

Torontonians are evenly split, meanwhile, on whether the City should bid on another large-scale international event:

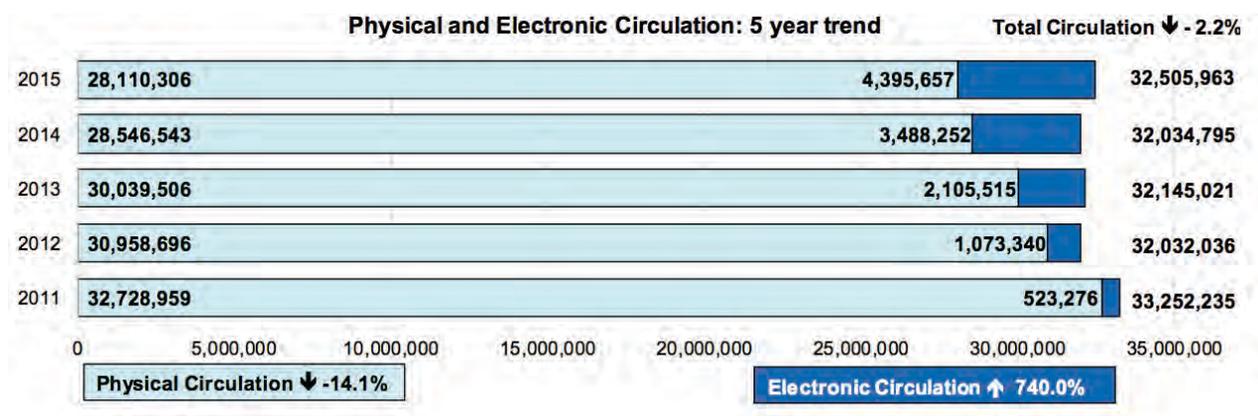
- A June 2016 Forum Research [survey](#) of 882 voters in Toronto found 42% in support of Toronto making a bid to host Expo 2025, and 43% opposing.
- Support was highest among respondents aged 35-44 (at 54%) and those with a lower income (50%).⁶⁵⁹

How does our world-class library system serve the city?

The Toronto Public Library (TPL) continues to be among the world's largest and busiest public library systems offering services in complex, diverse, urban environments:

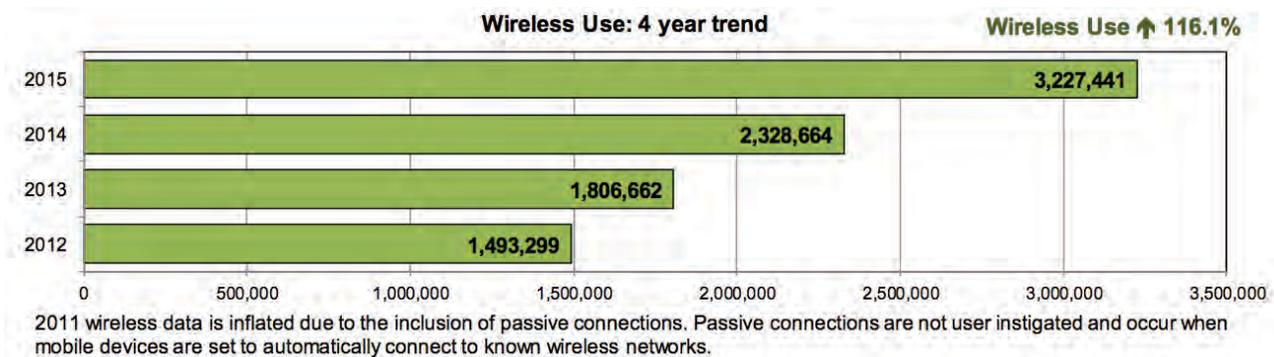
- 2015 was another landmark year for the TPL.
 - It opened its 100th branch, in the Scarborough Civic Centre.
 - Driven by increases in e-circulation, wireless usage, and virtual visits, total uses (including visits, circulation, in-library use, reference requests, program attendance, virtual visits, workstation user sessions, wireless sessions, and licensed database searches) surpassed 102 million, up 1.7% from 2014 and 12.6% from 2005.
 - Total circulation increased by 1.5% in 2015 (but has decreased 2.2% over the past five years).
- Although total visits were down again in 2015, by 1.0% (18,153,058 compared to 18,335,910 in 2014), they still grew by 6.0% over the past decade.
 - While browsing and borrowing books continue to be key drivers of library activity, Torontonians also visit branches to use computers and access wireless internet, to study and to work, to network and to attend programs and community events.
- As more and more content is offered online, physical circulation and in-library use of materials is rapidly falling.
 - Since 2011, physical circulation has fallen 14.1%, but electronic circulation has increased by a staggering 740%.
 - The decline in physical circulation is attributed to a drop in the use of multilingual materials as more of it becomes available online and immigrants move to the 905.
 - In-library use of materials fell 11.1% in 2015 (from 6,631,255 in 2015 to 5,892,962), while electronic circulation rose 26.0% (to 4,395,657, up from 3,488,252 in 2014).

5-Year Trends in Physical and Electronic Circulation, 2011-2015:



- Other notable increases in library usage in 2015 included:
 - 36.8% increase in wireless sessions (to 3,227,441), reinforcing the library's vital role in bridging the digital divide. Wireless use has increased by 116.1% over the past four years.

Four-Year Trend in Wireless Use, 2012-2015:



- 9.7% increase in program offerings (to 37,080 programs) and an 8.9% increase in program attendance (to 925,417 attendees).
 - The number of programs offered has increased by 16.6% over the past five years and attendance by 6.9%. Over the past 10 years, programs offerings have increased by a whopping 53.7% and attendance by 44.7%.
- 9.6% increase in registration in the TD Summer Reading Club.
- 4.3% increase in virtual visits (reaching 31,248,327, up from 29,966,097 the previous year), reflecting the importance of online access to information, services, and collection.
 - Total virtual visits—visits to TPL’s main site and specialized sites (e.g., [Kids Space](#)), e-content sites (including e-books and e-magazines), licensed databases, and the library’s online social media channels—have increased 33.5% over the last five years.
- In 2014 (the latest year for which comparative data is available) TPL ranked first in library use (circulation and visits per capita), number of branches, and square footage per capita across all libraries in North America serving populations of two million or more.
- In Canada, TPL ranked first in 2014 in overall visits and circulation, second in visits per capita, sixth in circulation per capita, and second in square footage per capita amongst libraries serving over 500,000.⁶⁶⁰
 - Although lower than in 2013, circulation per capita in the TPL system in 2014 was above the national average (11.03) and median across monitored Canadian libraries (11.03) at 11.41 (versus 11.6 in 2013).⁶⁶¹
 - Library visits per capita in 2014 measured 6.53, above the national average (6.03) and median (6.06).⁶⁶²
- Of the eight municipal libraries voluntarily participating in the 2014 [Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative](#), TPL placed first in library use per capita, and ranked sixth in operating cost per use (\$1.98, down from \$2.04 in 2013).⁶⁶³

The Toronto Public Library has made the internet more accessible by offering portable hot spots for loan:

- Six branches in underserved neighbourhoods have the service.
- The loans are free just as with books and can be “signed out” for up to six months.
- 11 per cent of Canadians responding to a CRTC survey have no home internet service.
- ACORN Canada has been advocating for the CRTC to mandate \$10 per month high-speed options.⁶⁶⁴

How does arts and culture contribute to the city's economic health?

Arts and culture provide employment and professional development, marketing, and advocacy opportunities for creatives:

- Although professional employment in arts and culture in Toronto declined 4.9% in 2014 to 32,970 people (down from 34,660 in 2013), it remains 2% higher than in 2012.
- When the self-employed are included, the number of professionals in arts and culture almost doubles, to 65,170 in 2014 (down from 65,670 in 2013 but also higher than 2012's 61,780).⁶⁶⁵

The value of the conservation work that goes into sustaining Toronto's historical properties almost doubled in 2015:

- In 2015 2,157 heritage permit applications were processed, compared to 2,082 in 2014, a 3.6% increase.
- The value of conservation work (through development and incentives) increased by 94.2%, from \$9,065,511 in 2014 to \$17,605,220 in 2015.
- 188 properties requested heritage evaluation in 2015 and 39 new properties were added to the Heritage Register, compared to 26 properties requesting evaluation in 2014 and 25 new properties added.⁶⁶⁶
- The Ontario Heritage Act allows municipalities to pass bylaws to designate properties with cultural heritage value as "heritage properties." The designation indicates that a property has heritage value, allows for conservation and protection of it, encourages stewardship, and promotes knowledge of the property.
 - Properties can be identified by the municipality, a property owner, an individual, or a community group and must go through an evaluation to be designated a heritage property. Properties that can be designated include buildings and structures, groups of buildings, cemeteries, landscapes, ruins, and archaeological sites.⁶⁶⁷
- Toronto's Heritage Preservation Services department compiles a list of properties showcasing our cultural heritage in the Heritage Register. The Register, started in 1973, includes landmark buildings, heritage districts, and private homes. "Listed" properties are those that City Council has recommended for evaluation, and "designated" properties are those that have been designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act or are located within a Heritage Conservation District designated under Part V.⁶⁶⁸
- Heritage permits are required when property owners want to make any changes (excluding general maintenance) to the outer appearance of a house in a Heritage Conservation District or a heritage property that can be viewed from the street. This may include replacing a window or door, installing new siding or skylights, or altering current brickwork.⁶⁶⁹



The City has been awarded for its sustained commitment to heritage conservation:

- The City received the 2016 Prince of Wales Prize. Named after Prince Charles, the prize is awarded annually to a municipal government in recognition of its efforts (e.g., regulation, policies, and funding) towards stewardship of historical places.⁶⁷⁰

On-location filming in Toronto exceeded \$1b for the fifth straight year:

Toronto's screen-based industry (film, television, commercials, and animation) continued its success in 2015, with domestic and international production companies investing a record \$1.55b in on-location filming in the city.

- Film and television productions continued to dominate, accounting for \$1.06b of the total investment. \$1.47m was invested in music videos, \$145m in animation, and \$345m in commercials.
- Shooting days totaled 6,680.⁶⁷¹

The 23rd annual Hot Docs festival drew record audience numbers:

- 2016 audiences for Toronto's documentary festival grew to 211,000 at 462 public screenings of 232 films (of 2,735 submitted) on 15 screens over 11 days, with 310 guest filmmakers and subjects in attendance.
 - The Docs for School program offered free in-theatre and in-school screenings to 92,500 students.⁶⁷²
- An economic impact study of the 2015 Hot Docs festival and related events on Ontario's GDP shows that it contributed \$33.3m, an 11% increase from the first festival impact study in 2013. The study reported:
 - \$6.4m in attendee expenditure (12.3% of public attendees were visiting Toronto);
 - \$6.6m in industry delegate expenditure;
 - \$16.1m in Canadian business deals;
 - 469 jobs created (a 13.6% increase from the 2013 impact study); and
 - \$14.4m in tax revenue (10.8% increase from 2013).⁶⁷³

The 10th edition of Toronto's Nuit Blanche festival had major impacts and achievements:

- The reputation of Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, North America's largest free contemporary art festival, continues to grow, as does its coverage of the city's neighbourhoods.⁶⁷⁴
 - Since 2006, Scotiabank Nuit Blanche has included more than 1,300 art installations from almost 4,600 artists and had an economic impact of over \$268m.⁶⁷⁵
- The 2015 edition had an economic impact of \$41.5m and over one million attendees, including 205,000 from out of town.
- The festival featured 110 art projects by nearly 400 artists⁶⁷⁶ and received media coverage from as far away as Mexico, Brazil, Italy, the UK, Korea, and Japan.⁶⁷⁷
- For the third year, Extended Projects allowed residents and visitors the opportunity to participate for 10 days after the main event. This year hundreds of thousands took advantage, taking in works such as Your Eye Inside Out, and Ekow Nimako's Silent Knight.⁶⁷⁸

With 2016 marking Luminato Festival's 10 year anniversary, the festival this year at the Hearn Generating Station was the best yet [according to BlogTO](#), and saw:

- the highest earned income in Luminato's history (\$1.3m), 35% higher than the average over the 9 previous years, as well as its biggest single cash donation ever received;
- 40% of its 2016 corporate partners invest in Luminato for the first time;
- Attendance from out of town visitors up across all origins over 2015 (rest of Canada, i.e. outside Ontario, up by 53%; US attendance up by 28%, and overseas attendance up by 413%);
- Its estimated economic impact (GDP) up 44% over 2015 (at \$102.6m), and;

- Its total tax contribution generated up by 257% from 2015 (to \$42.3m, total taxes).⁶⁷⁹

To learn more about innovative community-based organizations and programs working to address issues relating to arts and culture, check out: <http://ckc.torontofoundation.ca/>.

Leadership, Civic Engagement and Belonging

Why is this important?

Vibrant cities are those where residents are engaged and feel that they belong, where civic institutions reflect the diversity of the population, and where strong social connections unite people to one another (research consistently links a sense of belonging with good physical and mental health). Tracking such indicators helps us to see how well we are doing at building an inclusive city, and where some residents may be left on the margins.

What are the trends?

Youth aged 12-19 and Torontonians overall continue to feel a strong sense of belonging to their community, but only half of young adults feel the same. The number of people who make charitable donations in the Region has been slowly declining for a number of years, but the median donation has increased.

What's new?

The City's Planning Division has convened a citizen panel to ensure that major initiatives are "aligned with the values and priorities" of Torontonians. In 2015, Torontonians contributed to the highest voter turnout in a Federal election since 1993 (67.2% of eligible Toronto voters cast a ballot), and they also are now responding to an international refugee crisis by welcoming thousands of Syrian to our city's communities. But systemic racism continues to create barriers for racialized communities in the city. Black children are over-represented in the child protection system and stay longer in care.

Are Torontonians satisfied in life, and do they feel connected?

Almost seven in 10 Torontonians and eight in 10 youth feel a strong sense of belonging to their local community—but only half of young adults feel the same:

- The percentage of city youth (12–19 years old) who report a very strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging on the Statistics Canada [Canadian Community Health Survey](#) rose to 80.5% in 2014 (after an 8% dip from 85.5% to 78.7% between 2012 and 2013).
- 68.9% of Torontonians aged 12 and over reported feeling a very strong or somewhat strong sense of belonging, a big improvement from 55.9% in 2003 and higher than the national (66.4%), and provincial (68.2%) averages.
- Only 56.6% of young adults age 20 to 34, on the other hand, feel a sense of belonging.
- Research shows a high correlation of sense of community belonging with physical and mental health.⁶⁸⁰

A global survey of urban millennials shows that Toronto’s millennials do not seem satisfied with the city—the majority report that they will likely leave in the next decade:

- Between August 2015 and January 2016, YouthfulCities conducted the Global Urban Millennials Survey of approximately 15,000 millennials (whom they define as being aged 15-34) from 34 cities around the world.⁶⁸¹
- Of Toronto’s millennials, 63% report that in the next 10 years they will likely leave their city⁶⁸² (compared to 84% of Montréal’s millennials⁶⁸³ and 58% of millennials worldwide).⁶⁸⁴
- YouthfulCities reports that when millennials were asked to rate the performance of their city on several attributes, Toronto scored poorly on affordability, employment, transit and environment, but performed well in terms of diversity, access to financial services, and music and film.⁶⁸⁵
- Only a third (33%) of our millennials think Toronto is a youthful city, in contrast to 89% of millennials in London⁶⁸⁶ and 41% of those in Montréal.⁶⁸⁷
 - The benefits of a youthful city, Toronto millennials believe, are a happier population (73% believe this), more jobs (53%), a better economy (41%), and greater attractiveness to employers (60%) and entrepreneurs (64%).
- A dismal 5% of Toronto’s millennials report feeling that their local government listens to them⁶⁸⁸ (versus 17% globally⁶⁸⁹). 69% say they want to participate in meetings about the city’s future⁶⁹⁰ (versus 38% of millennials in Montréal⁶⁹¹ and 55% worldwide⁶⁹²).

How civically engaged are Torontonians?

The City’s Planning Division has convened a citizen panel to ensure that major planning initiatives are “aligned with the values and priorities” of Torontonians:

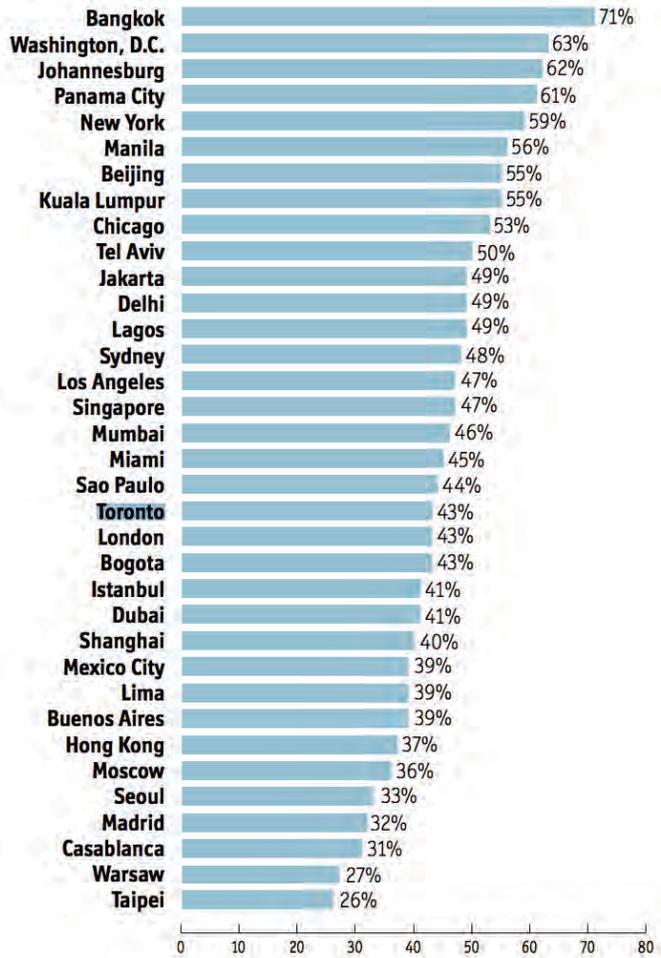
- Over two years, 28 residents representative of our diverse city will work together on a Planning Review Panel meant to help the City guide growth and change.
 - Over 500 residents applied for a volunteer position on the panel after being among 12,000 randomly invited to participate. The members were selected by “civic lottery”—a “made in Toronto” process that ensured proportionate representation of genders, ages, tenants versus owners, location within the city, and minorities (including at least one Aboriginal panelist).

- With a goal of “informed public input” on planning projects and decisions, panelists were introduced in fall 2015 to a wide range of Toronto’s trends and known issues and features, from its demographics to housing, the economy, transportation, and green space and the natural environment.⁶⁹³
- In April 2015 the panel met at Metro Hall to consider the City’s new Complete Streets Guidelines and the “TOcore: Planning Downtown” project.
- In May the panel considered the Parks, Forestry & Recreation Facilities Master Plan and the Growing Up: Planning for Children in New Vertical Communities study being undertaken by City Planning to meet the needs of households with children in multi-unit housing built in high-density communities.⁶⁹⁴
- The panel adjourned for the summer and was scheduled to begin meeting again in September 2016. Panelists will meet an additional 12 times over their two-year tenure.⁶⁹⁵

43% of Toronto’s youth report being civically engaged:

- According to a global youth [survey](#) by The Economist’s Intelligence Unit, 43% of Toronto respondents (150 youth between 18 and 25) participated in programs or activities that helped their city, community, or country within the last two years.
- Toronto ranked 20th of the 35 cities surveyed.⁶⁹⁶

Percentage of Respondents Participating in Civic Engagement Activities, Last Two Years:

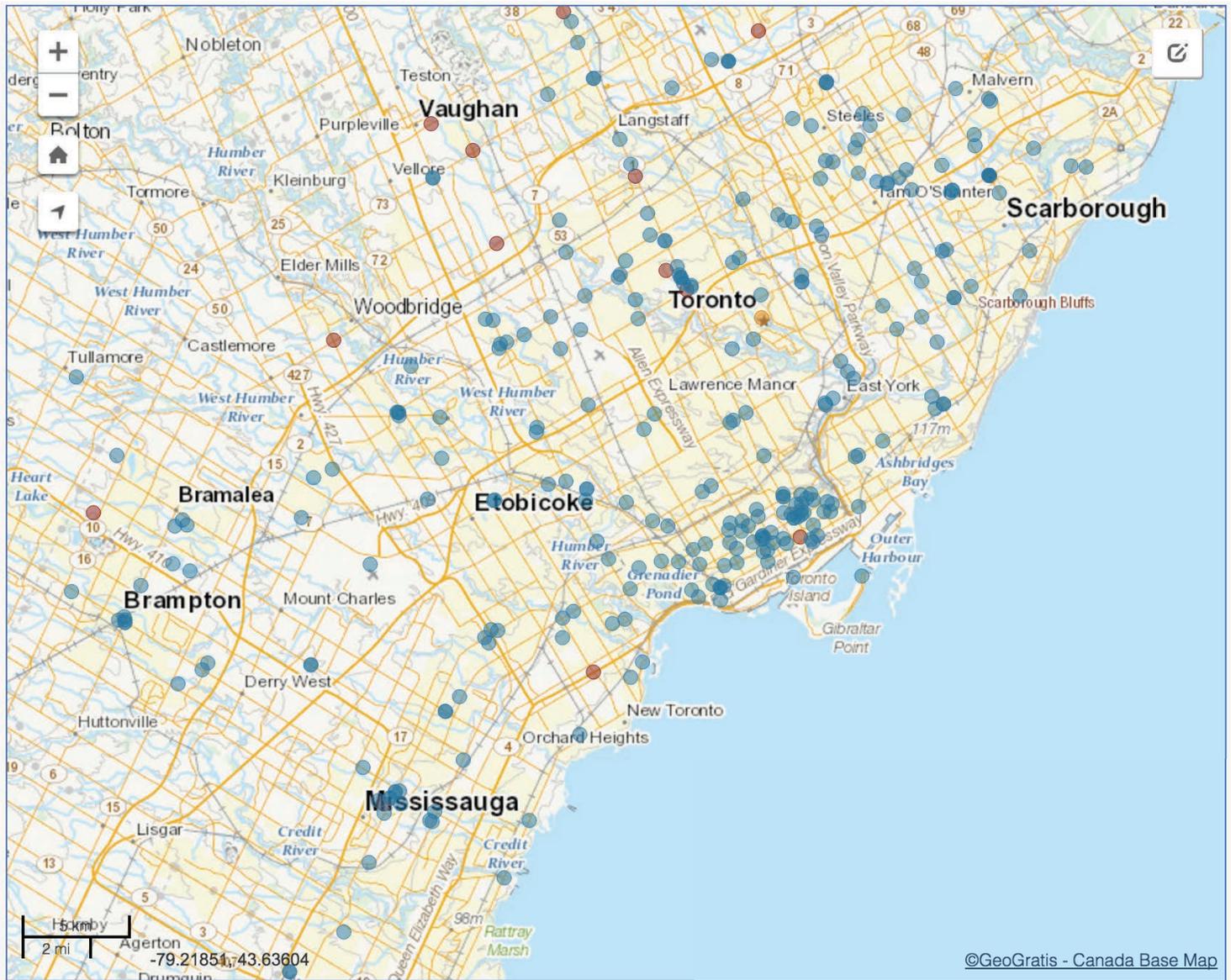


Toronto has welcomed close to 4,000 Syrian refugees in response to a historic outpouring of concern, support and initiative by Canadians over the war in Syria and the international refugee crisis:

- On February 29, 2016, the Government of Canada reached its commitment to bring to the country 25,000 of the nearly four million Syrians displaced by a civil war and regional instability.⁶⁹⁷
- As of August 24, 2016, 29,970 Syrian refugees had arrived in Canada since November 2015. Of those,
 - 16,182 were [government assisted refugees](#) (GARs), referred to Canada by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR);
 - 2,896 were [blended visa office-referred refugees](#) (BVORs), refugees identified by UNHCR, with six-month financial support from the Federal government and six-month private sponsorship; and
 - 10,892 [privately sponsored refugees](#) (PSRs), sponsored through the Private Sponsorship of Refugee Program, with Canadians committing to volunteer their time and donate the funds to settle the refugees and support them for one year.⁶⁹⁸
- The number of Syrian refugees admitted to Toronto since August 24, 2016, included:

- 1,879 GARs;
- 322 BVORs; and
- 1,643 PSRs, with a further 1504 in the system awaiting paperwork to be able to come to Canada.
- While numbers are concentrated downtown, destination communities and service provider organizations across Toronto stepped up to respond to the international refugee crisis.⁶⁹⁹

Map of Destination Communities and Service Provider Organizations, Toronto:⁷⁰⁰



Source: [Government of Canada](#). Note: blue dots represent service provider organizations.

- Toronto Public Health, in collaboration with the Toronto Newcomer Office, provided Syrian refugees with post-arrival support and health information (e.g., advice about pregnancy, smoking cessation, immunization, and dental care).⁷⁰¹



[Lifeline Syria](#) is a citizen led advocacy and resource group formed to recruit, train and support private sponsor groups as Toronto welcomes more than 1,000 Syrian refugees as permanent immigrants in the GTA. In its first year of operations, Lifeline Syria almost met its two-year goals:

- they registered over 400 Private Sponsor Groups
- they submitted cases for over 900 Syrian refugees (of which 100 arrived by July 2016).⁷⁰²



“[Newcomer Kitchen](#)” is helping Syrian refugee women build community and economic opportunity:

- When local chef Len Senater heard that many government-sponsored Syrian refugees were being housed in hotels for weeks, he offered up his kitchen at [The Depanneur](#) once a week so mothers could cook home-cooked, traditional meals for their families.⁷⁰³
- The project has since expanded into a social enterprise. The women now prepare extra food and sell meals to the public. Every Thursday, 10 to 12 participants earn about \$15 an hour.
- Senater hopes the success of Newcomer Kitchen will provide a “playbook” for others to welcome migrant women into any kitchen in any city.⁷⁰⁴



Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) in partnership with Manulife and CN have created the [Welcome Fund for Syrian Refugees](#) (Welcome Fund), and now with additional support from GM it totals \$5.55 million.⁷⁰⁵ The Welcome Fund will provide support for Government-assisted Refugees (GARs) to address urgent settlement needs in communities across the country:

- Toronto Foundation received \$750,000 from the Welcome Fund to address the affordability gap in securing housing for GARs arriving in Toronto and surrounding municipalities. A new cross-sectoral partnership led by the Foundation has come together to test new approaches to address the overall housing affordability gap, which is particularly acute in Toronto.
- Toronto Foundation with the City of Toronto, COSTI Immigrant Services and a consortium of landlord and property management groups are working to identify reduced-rent units to meet the immediate housing needs of government-assisted Syrian families.
- Landlords are being asked to make in-kind contributions to reduce rental costs, and the Welcome Fund will match those donations 2:1.
- Grant funds are being disbursed to the City of Toronto, who will provide funds to landlords that house eligible GARs, working closely with [COSTI Immigrant Services](#) and [Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services](#) who is leading the government’s efforts to settle GARs in the Region.

Is a tide of voter apathy turning in Toronto?

Although some previous Federal elections had seen dismal voter turnout rates, the most recent election saw the highest voter turnout since 1993, and Torontonians turned out in greater numbers:

- Voter turnout in the 2011 federal election was a near-record low of 61.1%. Turnout from Toronto’s voters, at 60.4%, was even lower than the national average and the provincial average of 61.5%.⁷⁰⁶

- In the 2015 election, however, 68.3% of eligible Canadian voters cast a ballot, an increase of 11.8% over 2011's 61.1% turnout⁷⁰⁷, and the highest turnout since 69.9% in 1993.⁷⁰⁸ Among those were 67.2% of Toronto voters, an increase of 12.6% since 2004.⁷⁰⁹
- The election saw historic youth voter turnout across the country. 57.1 per cent of young voters 18-24 turned out to vote, compared to just 38.8 per cent in 2011. This is the biggest increase in turnout among this age group since it began making demographic turnout estimates in 2004.⁷¹⁰

Toronto's municipal voter turnout has been slowly improving over the past several years, with the 2014 municipal election attracting a record turnout:

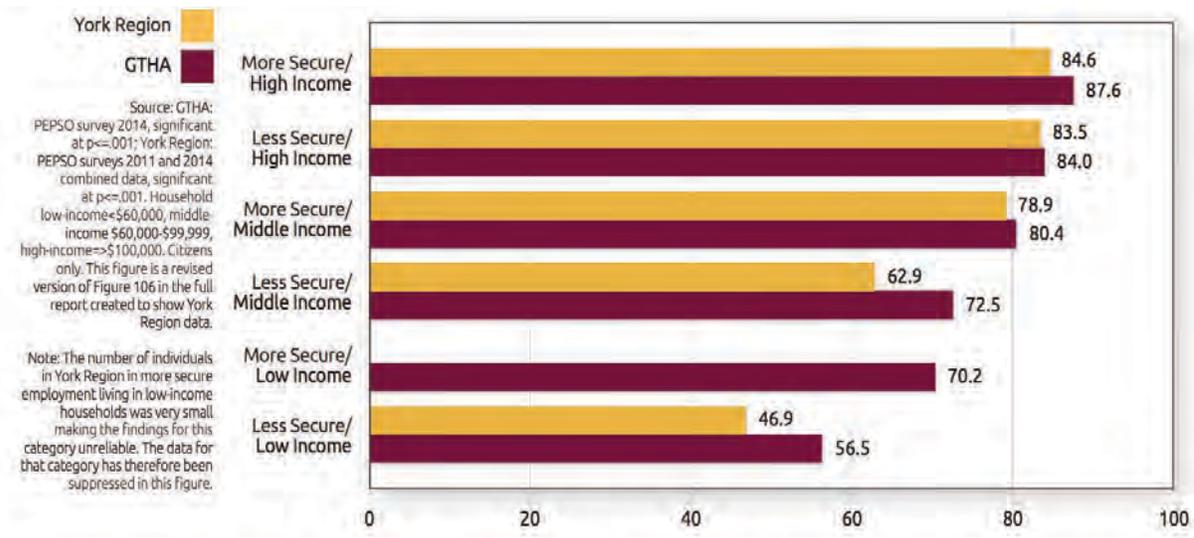
- 54.7% of eligible voters (991,754 of 1,813,915) cast a ballot in the 2014 municipal election—a record since amalgamation.
- This marks a big improvement (51.9%) over the approximately 36% who voted in the 2000 election. In 2003, voter turnout was 38.3%, in 2006 39.3%, and in 2010, it jumped to 50.55% of eligible voters.⁷¹¹

What are some barriers to civic engagement and belonging?

Workers in York Region are less likely to vote than those in the GTHA, especially if they are precariously employed:

- Research of GTHA workers has found that rising precarious, or insecure, employment affects health and mental health. But it also affects civic engagement and belonging.
- The Poverty and Employment Precarity in Southern Ontario (PEPSO) research group surveyed and interviewed workers aged 25-65 in 2014 and 2015 and has documented relationships between employment security and income and voting patterns (amongst other measures of civic engagement).⁷¹²
- Almost 90% of GTHA workers who are citizens, have more secure employment, and live in high-income households (\$100,000 or more) report that they always vote. When employment is less secure and the household is low income (under \$60,000), just over half say they always vote.
- York Region workers across all levels of employment security and household income are less likely to vote than workers in the GTHA. The difference is especially pronounced when work in less secure and the household is middle- (\$60,000-99,999) or low-income (under \$60,000).

Percentage Reporting Always Votes by Employment Security and Household Income, York Region 2011/2014 and GTHA 2014:⁷¹³



- The researchers note “no obvious explanation” for lower participation in York Region, as the age and immigration profile of its sample was similar to the GTHA’s.
 - Both Canadian- and foreign-born racialized workers are less likely to always vote than Canadian-born white workers (over 40% and 35% less likely, respectively).⁷¹⁴

Figures released by the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto confirm that black children are over-represented in the child protection system, and they stay longer in care:

- A 2015 Children’s Aid Society (CAS) study that breaks down its records (March 2008 to April 2009) by racial background reveals that the percentage of black-led families subject to protection referrals is disproportionately higher than the size of the black community in Toronto (in the 2011 NHS): 21% versus 8.5%.
- Similarly, using data from 126 families with a child entering care in 2008-09, the percentage of stays in care that are greater than 18 months is higher for black-led families than for white- or Asian-led families.⁷¹⁵
- The study confirms numbers revealed in December 2014 by the Toronto Star, whose [investigation](#) of CAS data showed that while only 8.2% of Toronto’s population under the age of 18 is black, black children and youth comprise 41% of kids in the care of CAS.
 - By contrast, more than half of the city’s population under the age of 18 is white but only 37% of the children in care are white.⁷¹⁶
- Sources of protection referrals are similar for black-led versus other families, with police and school/education being the most common sources for all.⁷¹⁷
- Figures obtained by The Star also indicated that over-representation of black children in care is province-wide, and that First Nations children are also over-represented provincially.
 - Of children in care for at least one year, in 2014 23% were First Nations, although First Nations comprise only 2.5% of Ontario’s population under 18.⁷¹⁸
 - Citing “systemic and persistent discrimination,” the chief commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission has urged the collection and publication of

raced-based data to help determine the extent of black and aboriginal children being disproportionately taken from their families.⁷¹⁹

The City has committed to improving online registration for its recreation programs, a process that has proven frustrating and has disadvantaged low-income families:

- The tradition of waking early to try to register online for City-run recreational programs may soon come to an end. At a March 2016 press conference, Mayor John Tory acknowledged that he had “heard over and over again how incredibly frustrating it is, how people literally arrange their entire schedule for days to be sitting by a computer, sometimes having multiple people in the same house on different computers or going elsewhere to use computers, to keep hitting refresh.”⁷²⁰
- Residents can also register by phone and in person, but 80% of recreational programming registration is done online. Almost half (45%) of all online registrations processed occur between 7-8am on registration days. As many as 130,000 people register in that first hour.
 - 30% of programs are full after the first hour.⁷²¹
- Those who have access to faster internet and to computers have an advantage over low-income families, leaving the latter unable to register for programs that were originally created for them, according to Councillor Pam McConnell.⁷²²
- Improvements have been made in recent years. Since 2009 2,000 online registration sessions have been added, and increased system capacity has seen the time needed to process 20,000 registrations drop from three hours to 30 minutes in 2014. And, as of March 2016 the system can handle up to 5,600 system users at a time, a 55% increase from 2013.⁷²³
- Nonetheless, the technology underlying the current registration system is outdated, and Tory discussed plans to replace it completely to reduce client frustration and improve efficiency. Features he hoped to implement include:
 - automatic direction to the next available programming timeslot if the first is full;
 - ability to search for programming by geographic location;
 - automated wait lists (currently, staff manually handle wait lists);
 - mobile friendliness on all platforms; and
 - an improved interface, including maps and the Fun Guide.⁷²⁴

Each year, the City offers about one million hours of recreational programming, with over 600,000 registrations in 80,000 programs and courses offered in 135 community recreation centres, 40 indoor arenas, 56 outdoor pools, and 65 indoor pools. Programs range from soccer, swimming and summer camps to skating lessons, and programs target community members from newcomers to seniors.⁷²⁵

- In 2015, more than 158,000 unique clients (individuals registering for multiple programs are counted only once), including about 15,000 unique youth clients, registered for programs; and
- 35,892 unique clients used the Welcome Policy, which offers financial assistance to low-income families to improve access to recreational programs and facilities. Although this represents a 12.3% decrease from 40,933 in 2014, Parks, Forestry and Recreation says the decline may be due to the designation in Fall 2014 of 15 more community centres where programs are free.⁷²⁶

In 2013, Toronto's municipal spending on recreation and culture totaled \$905,987,000, an expenditure of \$798 per household and a 2.6% increase per household over 2012.

- o Comparatively, Regina spent \$776 per household (\$65,937,000 total), and Calgary \$655 (\$303,618,000).⁷²⁷

How strong is Toronto's charitable sector?

The percentage of Torontonians claiming a charitable donation on their income tax return decreased again in 2014, but the median donation increased again:

- 21.2% of Toronto Region taxfilers declared a donation, a decrease of 1.9% from 2013 (when 21.6% donated) and 17.5% from 1997 (when 25.7% donated). The Region's proportion was lower than both the national (21.4 %) and provincial (22.4%) averages.⁷²⁸
 - o The percentage of charitable givers in the Region has remained relatively stable since 2009, although between 2010 and 2014 the rate declined marginally year over year.⁷²⁹
- While donors were fewer, the median charitable donation increased by 2.7%, from \$370 to \$380, \$100 more than the national average and \$30 more than the provincial average. The Region's median charitable donation has increased by 90.0% since 1997, when it was \$200.⁷³⁰

The percentage of Region residents who volunteer has declined:

- In 2013, the volunteer rate in the Region was 43.7%, down from 47.6% in 2007.
- The 2013 volunteer rate was slightly higher than the national average of 43.6%.⁷³¹

To learn more about innovative community-based organizations and programs working to address issues relating to leadership, civic engagement and belonging, check out:

<http://ckc.torontofoundation.ca/>.



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Glossary

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA): The AODA is the Province’s legislation, enacted in 2005, with a goal of making Ontario accessible by 2025. To ensure that Ontario’s 1.8 million people with disabilities can participate fully in their communities, it set mandatory, province-wide accessibility standards in five areas of daily life: [customer service](#), [employment](#), [information and communications](#), [transportation](#), and [design of public spaces](#).

Affordable housing: Affordable housing is defined as housing costs that do not exceed 30% of household income, in contrast to other definitions based on the housing market—for example, affordable housing defined as rental housing that is 80% or less than gross market rents.

Anchor institutions: Anchor institutions are defined as “large public or non-profit institutions rooted in a specific place, such as hospitals, universities or municipal governments.” Their size means they may provide the most employment opportunities or be the single biggest purchaser of goods and services in their community.⁷³²

Average: The average equals the sum of all the values, divided by the number of values being studied. For example, in a population of 10 people, if one person earns \$1 million and nine earn \$30,000, the average income would be \$127,000, whereas the [median](#) income in the sample would be \$30,000.

Also see: [median](#).

Business establishment: An establishment refers to any business or firm location. Some businesses, such as a restaurant chain, may have a number of establishments at different locations.

Capital budget: The City of Toronto’s [capital budget](#) sets aside future funding for the construction and repair of transit, roads, bridges, public buildings (such as libraries, community centres and fire stations), water and sewer facilities, parks and other major infrastructure projects. The City of Toronto updates and presents a new 10-year Capital Budget and Plan each year as part of the annual budget process. The capital budget is primarily funded by property taxes. Other funds come from reserves, development charges, other levels of government and by borrowing funds or taking on debt.

Also see: [operating budget](#).

Cannabis dispensary: A storefront where cannabis (marijuana) products and paraphernalia are sold.

Census family: A census family is defined as a married couple and the children, if any, of either or both spouses; a couple living common law and the children, if any, of either or both partners; or, a lone parent of any marital status with at least one child living in the same dwelling as that child or those children. All members of a particular census family live in the same dwelling. A couple may be of opposite or same sex. Children may be children by birth, marriage or adoption regardless of their age or marital status as long as they live in the dwelling and do not have their own spouse or child living in the dwelling. Grandchildren living with their

grandparent(s) but with no parents present also constitute a census family ([Statistics Canada](#) definition).

Also see: [Economic family](#).

Census metropolitan area (CMA): Statistics Canada defines a CMA as an area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, 50,000 or more of whom live in the core. The Toronto CMA (also known as the “Toronto Region” or “Region”) is the largest metropolitan area in Canada, stretching from Ajax and Pickering in the east, to Milton in the west and Tecumseth and Georgina in the north. Almost half the population of the Toronto Region resides in the city of Toronto.

Census tract: [Census tracts](#) are small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population between 2,500 and 8,000 persons. They are located in census metropolitan areas and in other population areas that had a core population of 50,000 or more in the previous census.

Child poverty: Children are defined as living in poverty when they are a part of low-income families. The definition of “low income” varies by the measure being used, and there is currently no consensus among anti-poverty advocates, researchers, decision-makers or media as to the best measure.

For a discussion of poverty measures, see Richard Shillington and John Stapleton (2010), [Cutting Through the Fog: Why is it So Hard to Make Sense of Poverty Measures?](#)

Also see: [Low-Income Measure](#), [Low Income Cut Off](#), and [Gini coefficient](#).

Crime Severity Index: The police-reported Crime Severity Index (CSI) was introduced in the spring of 2009 to enable Canadians to track changes in the severity of police-reported crime from year to year. Each type of offence is assigned a weight derived from actual sentences handed down by courts in all provinces and territories. Weights are calculated using the five most recent years of available sentencing data. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights; less serious offenses lower weights. As a result, when all crimes are included, more serious offenses have a greater impact on changes in the Index.

Diversity: For the purposes of this Report, diversity within a group is measured in terms of race and ethnicity, rather than a broader range of diverse characteristics.

Downtown core: For the purposes of this Report, Toronto’s downtown core refers to the area bounded on the north by Bloor Street, on the west by Spadina Avenue, on the east by Jarvis Street, and on the south by Queen’s Quay.

Established immigrant: Established immigrants refer to those who have resided in Canada 10 years or more.

Also see: [Recent immigrant](#).

Food desert: A lower-income area with relatively few supermarkets nearby.⁷³³

Food insecurity: The UN uses a definition for food security existing when “all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet dietary needs for a productive and healthy life.”⁷³⁴ Food insecurity has been monitored in Canada since 2004. On the basis of an 18-question survey of the experience of household members, households are judged to be:

- Marginally food insecure: Worry about running out of food and/or limit food selection because of lack of money for food;
- Moderately food insecure: Compromise in quality and/or quantity of food because of lack of money for food; or
- Severely food insecure: Miss meals, reduce food intake and, at the extreme, go day(s) without food.

Food system: Food systems are chains of commercial and non-commercial actors—from suppliers to consumers, regulators to advocates for system change—who collectively determine how we grow, process, distribute, acquire and dispose of food ([Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs](#) definition).

Gini coefficient: Named after the Italian statistician Corrado Gini, the Gini coefficient is a simple, relative measure of income inequality. It calculates the extent to which income distribution varies from a perfectly equal distribution. A Gini coefficient of 0 represents complete equality (all people have the same income), and a coefficient of 1 represents complete inequality (one person has all the income, and the rest of the population has nothing). Its focus is on relative income distribution, rather than real levels of poverty and prosperity in society.

For a discussion of poverty measures, see Richard Shillington and John Stapleton (2010), [Cutting Through the Fog: Why is it So Hard to Make Sense of Poverty Measures?](#)

Also see: [Low-Income Measure](#) and [Low Income Cut Off](#).

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): GDP is a measure of a jurisdiction’s annual official economic output. The most direct way of determining GDP is to add up the value of production in all categories of economic enterprise. To bring the Canadian System of National Economic Accounts into line with international standards, the valuation of production is now calculated according to basic prices. GDP at basic prices (as opposed to GDP at factor costs or at market prices) includes indirect taxes (for example property taxes, capital taxes and payroll taxes) but excludes taxes and subsidies attached to the factors of production (for example sales taxes, fuel taxes, duties and taxes on imports, excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol products and subsidies paid on agricultural commodities, transportation services and energy).⁷³⁵ It should be noted, however, that GDP is seen by some as a deeply flawed measure, as it excludes the value of work that is not performed for money, nor does it consider the costs associated with the economic output, such as future economic costs or environmental costs.⁷³⁶

Hidden homelessness: The [Canadian Observatory on Homelessness](#) (formerly the Canadian Homelessness Research Network) defines the “hidden homeless,” often referred to as “couch surfers,” as those left with little choice other than to temporarily stay (whether in their current hometown or a new community) with friends, family, or even strangers. They do so because they do not immediately have the means to secure their own permanent housing; typically, they are

not paying rent. The hidden homeless differ from those who choose to stay with others while waiting for pre-arranged accommodation. People accessing short-term, temporary rental accommodations (in motels, hostels, rooming houses, etc.) that do not offer the possibility of permanency are also often considered among the hidden homeless population.⁷³⁷

Homelessness: The [Canadian Definition of Homelessness](#), by the [Canadian Observatory on Homelessness](#) (formerly the Canadian Homelessness Research Network), describes a range of housing and shelter circumstances, with people without any shelter at one end, and those insecurely housed at the other. Homelessness encompasses a range of physical living situations, organized here in a typology that includes:

- Unsheltered, or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation;
- Emergency Sheltered, including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence;
- Provisionally Accommodated, referring to those whose accommodation is temporary or lacks security of tenure; and
- At Risk of Homelessness, referring to people who are not homeless, but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards. It should be noted that for many people homelessness is not a static state but rather a fluid experience, where one's shelter circumstances change. Although many included in the category will not end up in shelters, their housing situation is defined as such because it is insecure or unstable.⁷³⁸

Inclusionary zoning: Inclusionary zoning refers to municipal planning regulations that require a given share of new construction to be affordable by people with low to moderate incomes.

Intimate partner violence (IPV): IPV is the systematic use of tactics—such as intimidation, isolation, and threats, as well as emotional, financial, physical, and sexual abuse—to induce fear and/or dependency in order to gain power and control over another's thoughts, beliefs, and conduct ([Registered Nurses Association of Ontario definition](#)).

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED): LEED is a set of rating systems regulated by national bodies like the [Canada Green Building Council](#) and the [World Green Building Council](#) for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of green buildings, homes and neighbourhoods. Green buildings can have advanced air ventilation systems, utilize for more natural daylight, produce less waste, conserve energy, and/or decrease water consumption. Criteria for certification continue to evolve as emerging green building technologies advance.

LGBTQ*: LGBTQ* is an acronym that stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer or Questioning and is used to designate a marginalized community of people who self-identify within a spectrum of gender identity and sexual orientations.

Low Income Cut Off (LICO): The LICO is defined as the income levels at which 70% or more of a family's before tax income is spent on food, shelter and clothing. It takes into account the total family income, the number of people supported by that income, and the population size of the municipality where they live. For example:

	Census Metropolitan Area (500,000 inhabitants or more)
Family Unit Size	2013 After Tax Low income Cut-off (1992 base) ⁷³⁹
1 person	\$ 19,774
2 persons	\$ 24,066
3 persons	\$ 29,968
4 persons	\$ 37,387

The LICO is commonly critiqued for not reflecting regional differences, and because it has not been updated to reflect changes in spending patterns since 1992. The LICO can be calculated both before and after taxes.

For a discussion of poverty measures, see Richard Shillington and John Stapleton (2010), [Cutting Through the Fog: Why is it So Hard to Make Sense of Poverty Measures?](#)

Also see: [Low-Income Measure](#) and [Gini coefficient](#).

Low-Income Measure (LIM): The LIM is used for international comparisons and is increasingly being adopted by the anti-poverty movement in Canada. It is a relative measure of low income. LIM is a fixed percentage (50%) of median family income adjusted based on a consideration of family needs. The family size adjustment reflects the precept that family needs increase with family size. For the LIM, each additional adult, first child (regardless of age) in a lone-parent family, or child over 15 years of age is assumed to increase the family's needs by 40% of the needs of the first adult. Each child less than 16 years of age (other than the first child in a lone-parent family) is assumed to increase the family's needs by 30% of the first adult. A family is considered to be low income when their income is below the Low-Income Measure (LIM) for their family type and size. The LIM has been criticized for defining poverty in relative rather than absolute terms, as it incorporates contemporary living standards and is adjusted in some way to maintain this relationship, rather than being indexed to prices only. The LIM can be calculated both before and after taxes.

For a discussion of poverty measures, see Richard Shillington and John Stapleton (2010), [Cutting Through the Fog: Why is it So Hard to Make Sense of Poverty Measures?](#)

Also see: [Low Income Cut Off](#) and [Gini coefficient](#).

Median: The median equals the mid-point in distribution of a number of values being studied, where one half is above and the other half below. For example, in a population of 10 people, if one person earns \$1 million and nine earn \$30,000, the median income in the sample would be \$30,000, whereas the average income would be \$127,000.

Also see: [Average](#).

Mode share: Mode share is an indicator that measures the share of various modes of transportation, most often walking, bicycling, public transit, and driving. Municipalities are increasingly encouraging healthier and more sustainable active transportation (walking and cycling) and public transit modes as a shift away from motorized transport.

Office sector: Employment activity in the city of Toronto is categorized by sector. The broadest breakdown is into six sectors: manufacturing, retail, office, service, institutions (education, health, religious and other institutions) and other. The office sector includes:

- mining, manufacturing, transportation, utilities, construction and resource production (office workers);
- finance, insurance and real estate;
- business and technical services;
- communications and media;
- trade and personal services;
- health service offices;
- government; and
- associations.

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP): ODSP is a provincial program of income and employment support to those in Ontario with a physical or mental disability of long duration (more than one year). Income support is available to those in financial need who also face substantial restrictions that prevent them from working, taking care of themselves, or participating in community life.

Ontario Works: Ontario Works is the name of the Provincial social assistance program that provides eligible Ontario residents with financial assistance to help cover the costs of basic needs (e.g., food and housing costs), and employment assistance to assist in preparing for and finding employment.

Operating budget: The City of Toronto's [operating budget](#) covers day-to-day spending on services such as recreational programs, parks maintenance, beaches, city roads, garbage collection, delivery of safe drinking water, and police and other emergency services. Some of the funds for the operating budget come from property tax. The remainder comes from Provincial transfers and user fees.

Also see: [Capital budget](#).

Permanent resident: Permanent residents are those in Canada who are not Canadian citizens but who have been granted permission to live and work in Canada without any time limit on their stay. A permanent resident must live in Canada for two years out of every five, or risk losing that status.

Police Reported Crime Rate (PRCR): The PRCR is a rate per 100,000 population measuring changes in the volume of reported crime, and counts each criminal incident equally. As a result, the rate is dominated by high-volume, less-serious offenses.

Also see: [Violent Crime Severity Index](#).

Precarious employment (or employment precarity): Precarious employment is employment that is uncertain, insecure and lacks the benefits associated with conventional full-time, permanent work. Those in precarious employment are more likely to receive no benefits, face irregular hours and shifts, be paid minimum wage (sometimes in cash), have to pay for their own training, and face limited career prospects.

Priority neighbourhoods: In 2005, the City's Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force recommended the designation of 22 areas of Toronto (commonly reported as 13, as some adjacent communities are grouped and counted as one) that faced particular economic and social challenges for particular attention and investment. Some of these challenges included low income, high levels of unemployment, and high numbers of recent immigrants. These 13 Priority Neighbourhoods (sometimes referred to as Priority Areas) were:

- [Jamestown](#)
- [Jane-Finch](#)
- [Malvern](#)
- [Kingston-Galloway](#)
- [Lawrence Heights](#)
- [Steeles-L'Amoreaux](#)
- [Eglinton East-Kennedy Park](#)
- [Crescent Town](#)
- [Weston-Mt. Dennis](#)
- [Dorset Park](#)
- [Scarborough Village](#)
- [Flemingdon Park-Victoria Village](#)
- [Westminster-Branson](#)

In April 2014 Toronto City Council approved a recommendation by Social Development, Finance and Administration staff to increase the number of priority neighbourhoods from 13 to 31. A name change occurred as well, with these neighbourhoods now being called Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (or NIAs). Of the original 22 neighbourhoods, eight no longer qualify as neighbourhoods requiring targeted investment: Westminster-Branson, Malvern, Dorset Park, L'Amoreaux, Yorkdale-Glen Park, Steeles, Englemount-Lawrence and Humber Heights-Westmount.

The 31 NIAs are:

Beechborough-Greenbrook
Birchmount-Eglinton East (BEE) (previously "lonview")
Black Creek
Downsview-Roding-CFB
Eglinton East
Elms-Old Rexdale
Flemingdon Park
Glenfield-Jane Heights
Humber Summit
Humbermede
Keelestdale-Eglinton West
Kennedy Park
Kingston Road/Galloway Road/Orton Park Road (previously "West Hill")
Kingsview Village-The Westway
Mornelle Court (previously "Morningside")
Mount Dennis
Mount Olive-Silverstone-Jamestown
Oakridge

Regent Park
Rockcliffe-Smythe
Rustic
Scarborough Village
South Parkdale
Taylor-Massey (previously “Crescent Town”)
Thistletown-Beaumont Heights
Thornccliffe Park
Victoria Village
Weston
Weston-Pellam Park
Woburn
York University Heights

For more information, including description of the 15 indicators of neighbourhood inequity used to choose the NIAs, see the City’s [Neighbourhood equity index: Methodological documentation](#).

Professional Employment in Arts and Culture: Using the National Occupational Codes defined by Statistics Canada, professional occupations in art and culture include:

- librarians, archivists, conservators, and curators;
- writing, translating and related communications professionals; and
- creative and performing artists.

Racialized: Racialized is a term that is increasingly used in place of “visible minority” or “racial minority.” It affirms that “race” is a social construct imposed upon people and used to discriminate against those people on the basis of generalizations and stereotypes that are perceived to be associated with particular physical and cultural characteristics.

Also see: [Visible minority](#).

Recent immigrant: Recent immigrants refer to those who arrived in Canada in the five years prior to a particular census. The most recent immigrants are those who arrived in Canada between January 1, 2006, and Census Day, May 16, 2011.

Also see: [Established immigrant](#).

Refugee claimant: A refugee “claimant” (the term used in Canadian law) is a person who has fled their country in fear for their life and is asking for protection in another country—unlike an immigrant, who chooses to move to another country. We don’t know whether a claimant is a “refugee” or not until their case has been decided ([Canadian Council for Refugees](#) definition). Refugee claimants have temporary resident status but have no access to federal programs or provincial programs such as Ontario Works and OHIP.

Resilience: Resilience is the ability of a system, entity, community, or person to withstand shocks while still maintaining its essential functions and to recover quickly and effectively ([Rockefeller Foundation](#) definition).

Self-reported data: Self-reported data is information reported by study participants themselves rather than measured independently. Self-reported data is subject to bias, as respondents may over- or under-report. Activity levels, for example, tend to be over-estimated, while obesity tends to be under-reported.

Sharing economy: A market model based on the trade of goods and services involving online transactions, sometimes using social media. Its disruption of current markets with technologies like the online accommodation marketplace Airbnb and the transportation app Uber is requiring governments to consider regulating both the sharing economy and affected markets. Originally growing out of the open-source community to refer to peer-to-peer based sharing of access to goods and services, the term is now sometimes used in a broader sense to describe any sales transactions that are done via online market places, even ones that are business to consumer (B2C), rather than peer-to-peer. For this reason, the term sharing economy has been criticised as misleading, some arguing that services that enable peer-to-peer exchange can be primarily profit-driven.

Social capital: Social capital refers to networks of social relationships between individuals and groups with shared values and assets that benefit those individuals, groups and communities, and the larger society. Examples of social capital include networks of social support, membership in voluntary organizations and associations, civic participation, and levels of trust and sense of belonging to the community. By investing in and leveraging social networks, social capital can be developed to help communities build and create together.

Social housing: Sometimes called subsidized housing, social housing is housing that receives some form of government or not-for-profit subsidy. Forms of social housing include some housing co-ops (with rent geared to income for low-income residents, or housing geared to specific low-income groups such as seniors or artists), public housing (where the government directly manages the property), and rent supplements (paid to landlords). Tenants must generally meet eligibility requirements for social housing.

Unemployed: The [unemployment rate](#) expresses the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force (the [labour force](#) is the population aged 15 and over who were either employed or unemployed; it does not include those who were not working nor anticipating a return to work within four weeks, nor does it include those not available nor looking for work). [Unemployed persons](#) are defined as those who are available for work but without it, and either on temporary layoff, had looked for work in the past four weeks, or had a job to start within the next four weeks (from [Employment and Social Development Canada](#), using Statistics Canada definitions from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey).

Violent Crime Severity Index: In addition to the overall police-reported Crime Severity Index, the Violent Crime Severity Index measures only violent crime. It is also available for crimes committed by youth.

Also see: [Crime Severity Index](#).

Visible minority: Visible minority refers to whether or not a person, under criteria established by the Employment Equity Act, is non-Caucasian or non-white. Under the Act, an Aboriginal person is not considered to be a visible minority. The term is controversial and deemed by many to be problematic for a number of reasons. It is vague and subject to confusion. In some

instances it is used to refer to ethnicity or nationality, which may include both white and non-white people; in others to sub-regions of entire continents (East Asia, for example), which comprise multiple ethnic and racial groups.⁷⁴⁰

Throughout this Report, the term is used when original source material uses the term.

Also see: [Racialized](#).

Working poor: For the purposes of this Report, a member of the working poor is an independent adult between the ages of 18 and 64, and not a student, with earnings of at least \$3,000 per year, but an income below the median Low-Income Measure (LIM) ([Metcalf Foundation](#) definition).

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Canadian Index of Wellbeing
CBC News
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CERIS – The Ontario Metropolis Centre
Children's Aid Society of Toronto
Christie's International Real Estate
City of Markham
City of Toronto:
 Affordable Housing Office
 Children's Services
 City Clerk's Office
 City Manager's Office
 Community Development and Recreation Committee
 Corporate Finance
 Cultural Services
 Economic Development and Culture
 Election Services
 Film and Television Office
 Finance & Administration Communications
 Medical Officer of Health
 Office of the Mayor
 Parks and Environment Committee
 Parks, Forestry and Recreation
 Pedestrian and Cycling
 Planning Division
 Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
 Social Development, Finance and Administration
 Solid Waste Management Services
 Strategic and Corporate Policy
 Toronto Food Policy Council
 Toronto Public Health
 Toronto Transit Commission
 Toronto Water
 Traffic Safety Unit
 Transportation Services
 Urban Forestry Services
 Waterfront Toronto
 Wellbeing Toronto
CityNews
CivicAction
Clean Air Partnership
Colleges Ontario

Community Foundations of Canada
Covenant House
CP24
CTV News
CultureTrip
Cushman & Wakefield
Cycle Toronto
Daily Bread Food Bank
Daily Xtra
David Suzuki Foundation
Dell
Demographia
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GO Transit
Government of Canada:
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 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Ministry of Transportation
Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition
Heritage Toronto
Homeless Hub
Hot Docs
Housing Connections
Huffington Post
International Institute for Sustainable Development (National Research Partner)
International Standards Organization
Ipsos Reid
Jewish Family and Child
KPMG
Lake Ontario Waterkeeper

Lifeline Syria
Linked In
Luminato Festival
MaRS Discovery District
Metcalf Foundation
Metro News
Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic
Metrolinx
Money Sense
Mowat Centre
National Post
OCAD University
Office of the Auditor General of Ontario
Ontario Living Wage Network
Ontario Long Term Care Association
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Parkdale-Liberty Villager
Pembina Institute
People for Education
Poverty and Employment Precarity in Southern Ontario (PEPSO)
PROOF
RBC
Rentseeker.ca
Rockefeller Foundation
Ryerson University
Social Planning Toronto
Sotheby's International Realty Canada
Spacing Magazine
St. Michael's Hospital:
 Centre for Research on Inner City Health
StudentMoveTO
TD Economics
The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness
The Economist:
 Intelligence Unit
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The Guardian
The Homeless Hub
Times Higher Education
TomTom International
Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games
Toronto Arts Council
Toronto Arts Foundation
Toronto Catholic District School Board
Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT)
Toronto Community Housing Corporation
Toronto District School Board
Toronto Environmental Alliance

Toronto Food Policy Council
Toronto Hydro Corporation
Toronto Pearson
Toronto Police Service
Toronto Public Library
Toronto Real Estate Board
Toronto Region Board of Trade
Toronto Star
Toronto Sun
Toronto Workforce Innovation Group
Torontoist
Tourism Toronto
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Endnotes

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Note: This Report occasionally uses data from the Statistics Canada 2011 National Household Survey (NHS). The NHS excludes a portion of the 2006 (and earlier) census population and data were collected in a voluntary survey, making the results vulnerable to non-response bias. As a result, NHS data cannot be compared reliably with those from earlier Census releases. Comparisons with previous census periods should be considered with caution.

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- ⁷³² Nevena Dragicevic. (2015). Mowat Centre and Atkinson Foundation. Last accessed February 22, 2016 from [The Prosperous Province: Strategies for Building Community Wealth](#)
- ⁷³³ City of Toronto, Toronto Public Health. (June 2015). Toronto Food Strategy: 2015 Update. Last accessed February 22, 2016 from <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-80219.pdf>.
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- ⁷³⁹ Government of Canada, Statistics Canada. (2014). Low income after tax cut-off 2013. Special request.
- ⁷⁴⁰ For an expanded discussion of this term, see Myer Siemiatycki, The Diversity Gap, pp. 2-3, last accessed June 12, 2015, from <http://diversecitytoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/Final-Report.pdf>.