

Toronto STAFF REPORT

April 12, 2006

To: Planning and Transportation Committee

From: Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division

Subject: “Profile Toronto: Employment Survey – 2005”

Purpose:

To update the Planning and Transportation Committee on the results of the 2005 Toronto Employment Survey.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Planning and Transportation Committee receive this report for information.

Background:

Since 1983, City Planning staff have monitored employment across the City by conducting an annual survey of business establishments. The survey is a unique information resource for both the public and private sectors. It provides City Departments with background data for economic and transportation studies and is a foundation for the forecasting of employment growth and assessing the City’s future service needs. Survey results are shared with a wide audience, making this dataset rich and valuable collection of information.

Highlights:

The following are highlights from the 2005 Survey, more fully enumerated in the bulletin “Profile Toronto: 2005 Employment Survey” attached.

- Toronto’s total employment in 2005 was 1,262,700 up 0.9% since 2003.
- In 2005, the total number of business establishments was 71,500
- Part-time employment grew by 6,300 jobs between 2004 and 2005.

- 39% of all businesses in the City have been operating at their present location for five years or less.
- The average longevity of establishments is rising, now at 12.8 years.
- The largest share of jobs is found in the Office sector (45%), followed by the Institutional (16%), Manufacturing (13%), Retail (12%), Service (11%) and Other (3%) sectors, reflecting the remarkable diversity of the Toronto economy.
- Toronto's Downtown and the Centres make up 37% of all jobs in the City. The Official Plan Employment Districts make up 30% of the City's employment.
- The Employment Districts are highly attractive locations for new establishments (1,245 business establishments located in these Districts for the first time in 2005).
- The Downtown and Centres have maintained their share of citywide employment over the past 5 years, so as the City grows, it's main employment concentrations are keeping pace. The long-run stability of these shares demonstrates the strength and resilience of the City's urban structure during a period of regional suburban expansion.
- While total employment has risen by 9.4% since 1996, the number of establishments continues to decline, thus the average size of firms continues to rise.

Conclusions:

As one instrument to monitor Toronto's economic health, the annual Employment Survey is a useful tool for understanding the key findings and trends pertaining to employment by sector, the longevity of establishments, and growth patterns in the Centres, Downtown and Employment Districts. Current analysis indicates that employment in the City has increased for the second year. In 2005, employment was approximately 1,262,700 employees, up from 1,255,600 in 2004. Overall, Toronto's economy remains strong and is growing at a steady pace. Employment rose 0.6% over the past year and is now up 0.9% from the recent low of 2003.

The bulletin is posted on the City's website at www.toronto.ca/demographics/surveys.htm and hard copies are available from Research staff in each of City Planning's District offices.

Contact:

Barbara Leonhardt, Director, Policy & Research

Tel: 416-392-8148

Fax: 416-392-3821

E-mail: bleonha@toronto.ca

Ted Tyndorf

Chief Planner and Executive Director

City Planning Division

List of Attachments:

"Profile Toronto: Employment Survey 2005"

[p:/2006/Upd/pln/pt06876.pln]