



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Toronto Social Development Dashboard, June 2015

<b>Date:</b>	June 10, 2015
<b>To:</b>	Community Development & Recreation Committee
<b>From:</b>	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	AFS # 20868

### SUMMARY

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This report presents the June 2015 edition of the Toronto Social Development Dashboard (SDD). The Dashboard provides a graphical summary of the most relevant and recent socio-economic indicators available to help inform Community Development and Recreation Committee's decision-making on a range of social development issues.

The SDD reports available indicators that reflect the most current characteristics on social wellbeing. The SDD provides high-level, citywide metrics, which complement current place-based social data reporting systems such as the City's Wellbeing Toronto ([www.toronto.ca/wellbeing](http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing)), and other dashboards like the Toronto Economic Dashboard being used at Economic Development Committee.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that:

1. The Community Development and Recreation Committee receive this report for information.

### Financial Impact

The adoption of the recommendations contained in this report has no financial impact.

## Equity Impact

The Social Development Dashboard (SDD) reports on a variety of socio-economic indicators to help inform decision-making by the Community Development and Recreation Committee. It is important for decision-makers to recognize that different populations may experience the trends reported in the SDD in differing ways and to different degrees. The impact of socio-economic trends on individuals and communities from various equity-seeking groups in Toronto is an important consideration in the ongoing evolution of the SDD. As staff develop and refine the Social Development Dashboard, they will examine indicators to assess the potential for reporting disaggregated data where appropriate. Staff will continue to collect, maintain and disseminate data for equity seeking groups through other existing reporting tools such as Wellbeing Toronto, Census Reports, and the Neighbourhood profiles.

## DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of May 5, 2015, City Council directed that the raw data from the Toronto Social Development Dashboard be made available to the general public in the Open Data section of the City's website in a suitable format.

See: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.CD3.1>

At its meeting of August 14, 2014, the Community Development and Recreation Committee directed the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to: continue to develop the Toronto Social Development Dashboard as an evolving evidence-based support tool, reporting on a quarterly basis to help inform Committee's decision-making process on social development issues. The Committee requested additional indicators in the Social Development Dashboard, including income inequality and social inclusion.

See: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.CD31.13>

At its meeting of September 18, 2013, the Community Development and Recreation Committee, while considering item [CD23.10: Service Level Review](#), during the discussion requested the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to review and report on human services metrics and develop a "Social Development Dashboard."

## ISSUE BACKGROUND

In order to inform evidence-based decision-making, members of the Community Development and Recreation Committee expressed interest in a dashboard tool which could provide access to key social indicators on a regular basis. The Toronto Social Development Dashboard (SDD) was developed to respond to this need. It is an "at a glance" look at key indicators in the human services sector. The SDD provides an overall picture of the human services context in Toronto. It is intended to provide periodic snapshots of social wellbeing in the city of Toronto. The tool reports indicators for broad social condition monitoring only, and as such is not a tool for performance measurement.

The June, 2015 edition of the SDD features 21 indicators across six categories: Labour Force Participation, Immigration, Socioeconomic Vulnerability, Social Assistance, Housing, and Child Care. The Dashboard, found in Appendix 1, compares data in 15 of the 21 indicators for the most recent quarter available against the same quarter in the previous year. For five indicators, the data is available only annually, and for one indicator, only every five years.

Social Development, Finance & Administration, with the assistance of the Affordable Housing Office, Children's Services, City Planning, Economic Development and Culture, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, Toronto Employment and Social Services, and the Daily Bread Food Bank, assembled the data in this edition of the SDD. The data is also drawn from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Numerous other divisions and agencies have and continue to be consulted on the development of indicators for future, more advanced versions of the dashboard.

## COMMENTS

### Two New Indicators in the SDD

New indicators will continue to be added as relevant, required and available. The current edition of the SDD adds two new indicators, both in the Labour Force Participation category of indicators.

The first new indicator, **Youth Unemployment Rate**, reports on the Unemployment Rate, but disaggregated to two youth age cohorts, Age 15-19 and Age 20-24. Youth unemployment remains a serious concern in Toronto<sup>1</sup>, and this indicator allows for tracking of this specific issue.

The youth unemployment data in the Labour Force Survey cannot be reported in the same quarterly fashion as for the entire population. When staff in Economic Development and Culture performed the seasonal adjustment calculations required to report effectively in a quarterly cycle, they observed great volatility in the seasonally adjusted series. This is due to the small sample size for the age groups of 15-19 and 20-24 in the Labour Force Survey.

Instead, the dashboard will present youth unemployment as an annually calculated 12 month moving average. Because this data should not be directly compared to the seasonally adjusted quarterly data of the other labour force indicators in the SDD, the youth unemployment indicator also includes the comparable 12 month moving average for the unemployment rate for all Torontonians age 15 and older in the labour force.

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<sup>1</sup> Many of these concerns have been noted in the recent report to Council: [Work-Based Learning Works: An Action Plan for Youth Employment in Toronto](#).

The 15-19 and 20-24 age cohorts show significantly different patterns, with the unemployment rate for 15-19 year olds being typically much higher than that for 20-24 year olds, but also representing a smaller number as fewer 15-19 year olds are actively participating in the labour force. For this reason, the separate rates for 15-19 year olds and 20-24 year olds are reported alongside the cumulative rate for 15-24 year olds.

The data clearly demonstrates that youth continued to experience greater levels of unemployment throughout the end of 2014. The unemployment rate for 15 to 24 year olds of 21.6% rose 3.5% over 2013's level of 18.1%. The 2014 rate for 15-24 year olds is also more than double the rate of 9.5% for the entire adult labour force.

The second indicator, **Part-Time Employment Ratio**, reports data from City Planning division's annual Toronto Employment Survey (TES). This indicator shows the proportion of jobs which offer part-time hours (less than 30 hours per week) to provide one broad measure of the relative precariousness of employment opportunities in Toronto. It is important to note that the TES is an establishment-based survey, and typically does not include persons who work at home and most people with no usual place of work.

Since the Toronto Employment Survey began in 1983, the proportion of jobs which offer part-time hours (less than 30 hours a week) has grown steadily. The proportion of total jobs identified as part-time was 10.1% in 1983, rising to 20.1% in 1995. This trend is most pronounced in the Retail sector, where total employment has not recovered to the levels of the late 1980s despite strong sectoral growth, indicative of both a "jobless recovery" and more precarious employment. The 2014 level of 23.2% reflects a much more gradual rise since the mid-1990s. The proportion of part-time jobs to total jobs rose only 0.04% from 2014 to 2013.

## **Current Trends in Social Wellbeing**

The overall trends in social wellbeing identified in the June 2015 edition of the Social Development Dashboard are broadly consistent with the results identified in the previous edition of the SDD.

The most recent edition of the SDD shows increases in the employment rate and participation rate, and a decrease in the unemployment rate. It also shows recent stability in the balance of full-time to part-time jobs. However, the positive trends are not shared equally among all Torontonians. Youth unemployment remains much higher than the overall rate for the city.

Similarly, while there are continuing positive trends in Toronto residents' social vulnerability, such as lower use of Food Banks and the Rent Bank, there are also some indicators showing increased vulnerability, including increased use of emergency shelter and a larger number of children on the wait list for a child care fee subsidy.

## **Changes in Historic Data for Existing Indicators**

A number of indicators have had revisions to the way their data is collected, and/or will experience changes in previously reported values:

- Challenges with the provincial Social Assistance Management System software have delayed inclusion of more recent social assistance data. Updating of this data is on hold until these issues are resolved.
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada has redesigned its Temporary Resident facts and figures, on which the Temporary Resident Entries indicator is based. This was done to address changes in the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and to improve overall reporting. For this reason, the data reported in previous versions of the SDD are not comparable to the data in current and future editions of the dashboard.
- Seasonal adjustments to Labour Force Survey data result in slight variations to historical data. Raw values from each edition of the SDD will not match precisely to previous editions. The data reported in previous versions of the SDD are not comparable to the data in current and future editions of the dashboard.

## **Disaggregated Data and Equity-seeking Groups**

The indicators used in the six categories of the SDD are based on averages and may mask underlying trends in sub population groups, or smaller geographic areas. As staff develop and refine the Social Development Dashboard, they will examine indicators to assess the potential for reporting further disaggregated data where appropriate to better guide service and policy responses to be more effective in addressing the needs of equity-seeking groups. The addition of the Youth Unemployment Rate in this dashboard is one such example.

## **Continuing Development of the Social Development Dashboard**

Staff continue to work to identify potential new or revised indicators, build data sharing partnerships between City Divisions and to other levels of government, and investigate to best identify their appropriate use in the SDD. Following on Committee's direction, staff are developing, for example, an indicator of Income Inequality that will use annual Statistics Canada Taxfiler data as a useful way to report in a significant aspect of income inequality on a regular basis. Staff also continue to investigate an indicator of social cohesion suitable for use in a quarterly dashboard, and are pursuing access to appropriate data for a variety of other indicators. Staff will continue to develop the SDD with the goal of complementing other City data tools, such as Wellbeing Toronto and other dashboards, including the Toronto Economic Dashboard and the Management Information Dashboard.

As directed by Council, staff have begun the process of creating a page on the City's Open Data website so that the raw data from the dashboard can be made publically available. The next release of the SDD, will be at the September 17th CDRC.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix 1: City of Toronto Social Development Dashboard (June 2015)