



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Toronto Social Development Dashboard, October 2016

Date:	October 5, 2016
To:	Community Development & Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	AFS #22236

SUMMARY

This report presents the October 2016 edition of the Toronto Social Development Dashboard (SDD). The Dashboard provides a graphical summary of the most relevant and recently updated socio-economic indicators available to help inform Community Development and Recreation Committee and Council'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), and other dashboards like the Toronto Economic Dashboard and Toronto's Dashboard.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council 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

and City Council. 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 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.

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Toronto Social Development Dashboard (SDD) is intended to provide periodic snapshots of social wellbeing in the city of Toronto. The tool reports population indicators for the monitoring of broad social conditions only. It is not intended as a performance measurement tool.

The October 2016 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 period available against the same period in the previous year. For five indicators, the data is available only annually, and for one indicator, only every five years.

Staff in the Social Development, Finance & Administration division, with the assistance of staff in the Affordable Housing Office, Children's Services, City Manager's Office, 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 and Taxfiler T1 Family File data products. Data is also provided by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

COMMENTS

Current Trends in Social Wellbeing

Unemployment

The most recent edition of the SDD shows a decrease in the unemployment rate, though this was accompanied by a decrease in the percentage of Torontonians age 15+ participating in the labour force. The combination of these two trends meant that the employment rate for Toronto rose in Q2 of 2016, after 3 straight quarters of decline.

The youth unemployment rate (for ages 15-24) is measured differently in the dashboard, meaning that data is reported on an annual basis. The most recent year available in the dashboard, 2015, witnessed a drop in youth unemployment rates. This mirrored the trend in the unemployment rate for everyone age 15 and older.

It is worth noting that the two segments of the youth population have very different experiences of the labour market. Youth aged 15 to 19 typically have much higher unemployment rates than 20 to 24 year olds, though both groups experience unemployment rates higher than the population as a whole. As seen in the previous edition of the dashboard, the proportion of employment identified as part time by the Toronto Employment Survey continued to rise in 2015.

Settlement

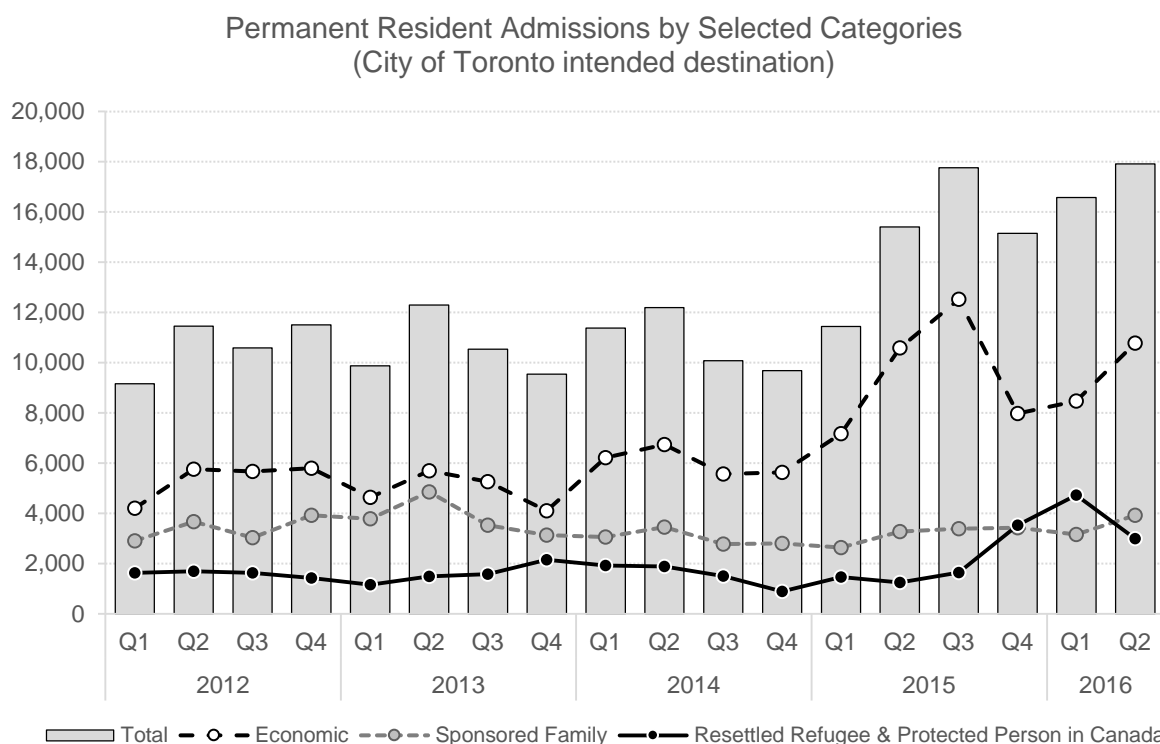
Immigration indicators in the dashboard are current as of Q2 of 2016. Temporary resident permit holders in Toronto rose by 35% in Q2 2016 over the Q2 figure for 2015. This increase was driven by a rise in student permit holders. International Mobility Program Participant totals remained at roughly the same level as a year ago.

As for permanent resident admissions, the total figure over the last several quarters is lower than might be expected, given the arrival of Syrian refugees to communities across Canada, including the City of Toronto.

Figure 1 below explains this trend over the last several years. The figure charts permanent resident admissions whose intended destination is the City of Toronto by quarter since 2012. Admissions are presented by immigration category using a structure approved by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada's Data Governance Team. The total number of admissions is shown by the columns, and the three main categories are tracked by the line charts.

The chart shows that the increase in resettled refugees and protected persons beginning in Q4 of 2015 and peaking in Q1 of 2016 also coincided with a decrease in economic category admissions.

Figure 1



Source: Created by City of Toronto using Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada Q22016 data

Low Income

Into 2014, the dashboard displayed a decreasing rate of low income, this despite lower labour force participation and higher unemployment rates that year. While many social indicators suggested improvement in 2015, so far in 2016, the picture remains mixed. There has been an increase in service needs in at least some sectors, with increased food bank usage, and the growth of the number of children on the wait list for a child care subsidy. On the other hand, rent bank loans have been at lower levels so far in 2016.

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 continue to delay inclusion of more recent social assistance data. Updating of this data remains on hold until these issues are resolved.
- Seasonal adjustments to Labour Force Survey data result in slight variations to historical data. 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.

- Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada has advised a different approach to calculating Temporary Resident counts. Temporary foreign workers, who were included in the Temporary Resident indicator in previous versions of the dashboard, are no longer included. The means by which the location of these permit holders is determined is different from that of student permit holders and international mobility program participants, and so should not be combined in the count of temporary residents. This indicator has been renamed to address this change in the calculations.

Continuing Development of the Social Development Dashboard

The current focus of development work on the SDD is harmonization with other dashboards produced by the City. Staff in SDFA are continuing to work with colleagues in the City Manager's Office and Web Revitalization, along with other SDD contributing divisions, to harmonize data collection and management of indicators. This harmonization strategy is being pursued in tandem with efforts to refine the indicators included in the SDD.

CONTACT

Heath Priston
Planning Analyst; Staff Lead, Social Development Dashboard
Social Development, Finance & Administration
416-392-6125
hpristo@toronto.ca

Harvey Low
Manager, Research & Information Management
Social Development, Finance & Administration
416-392-8660
hlow@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Chris Brillinger
Executive Director
Social Development, Finance & Administration

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: City of Toronto Social Development Dashboard (October 2016)