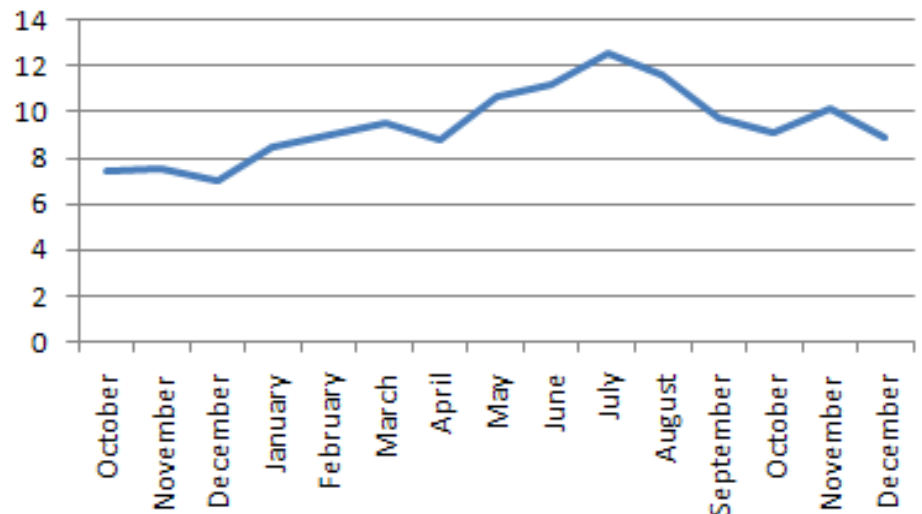


Recovery? Not for Toronto families.

Toronto was hit hard by the 2008-2009 recession. Unemployment increased as thousands of Torontonians lost their job but Employment Insurance coverage was very low. Ontario Works caseloads skyrocketed as many of the unemployed had nowhere else to turn. Those who kept their jobs saw average wages decline throughout the course of the recession, although they needed to stretch their lower incomes farther as average rent increased 2.1%. As a result of the growing economic insecurity, food bank use and bankruptcies rose significantly in Toronto.

While we need to wait until 2011 for most published measures of poverty to show the recession's impact, these key economic indicators already reveal the trends of increased poverty and economic

Unemployment Rate Toronto, October 2008-December 2009



insecurity for Toronto's families. In 2007, the poverty rate for the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) was 11.2%. The child poverty rate was 13.7%. Based on our trend analysis, the recession has increased Toronto's poverty and child poverty rates even further.

Unemployment and Employment Insurance

- Unemployment rose in the City of Toronto from 7.5% in October 2008 to 8.9% in December 2009.
- The number of EI recipients in Toronto increased 77.6% between October 2008 and October 2009, to 82,410.
- Toronto had one of the lowest rates of EI coverage in the country. In August 2009, only 31.9% of the unemployed received benefits: less than 1 in 3 unemployed workers.



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For more information: *Bearing the Brunt: How the 2008-2009 Recession Created Poverty for Canadian Families* available at www.cpj.ca/bearingthebrunt.

Ontario Works

- Because EI coverage was so low, the number of OW cases skyrocketed.
- Between October 2008 and December 2009, the number of cases jumped 19% to 91,544.
- 2009 was the highest OW caseload Toronto has seen since 1996.

Housing

- Average rent in Toronto rose 2.1% between October 2008 and October 2009, compared to core inflation of 0.4% over the same period.
- Food bank users in Toronto spend 76% of their income on shelter and utilities.
- Rental affordability in Toronto increased very slightly, but median rent for a two-bedroom apartment is still well over 30% of the median income earner's income.
- Toronto is one of the least affordable cities in Canada for rental housing.



Employment and income

- The City of Toronto lost 15,680 jobs over the course of the recession. Over 13,500 lost jobs were full-time positions.
- Toronto CMA lost 22,510 jobs, including 21,330 full-time jobs.
- Workers were taking home less money during the recession as both average wages and median wages declined in the City of Toronto.

Effects of the recession

- The recession has led to an increase in bankruptcy and food bank use.
- Between the end of September 2008 and the end of September 2009, the number of bankruptcies in Toronto rose 34.5%.
- The number of food bank users increased 9%.
- Between April 2008 and March 2009, 1,030,568 people in the Greater Toronto Area needed to use a food bank.
- In the first 3 months of 2009, food bank visits were up 17% compared to the same time the previous year.