



Bearing the Brunt: Ontario Fact Sheet

Poverty

- Poverty rate 2007: 8.8%
- Child poverty rate 2007: 9.4%
- Fourth highest poverty and child poverty rate in the country in 2007

Unemployment

- Ontario lost 205,900 jobs between October 2008 and October 2009 – over half the total number of jobs lost in Canada; proportionally this was 3.1% of Ontario's economy
- Unemployment increased from 6.7% in October 2008 to 9.3% in October 2009

Employment Insurance

- Less than half of unemployed workers qualified for EI during the recession
- The Beneficiaries to Unemployed rate increased from 32.3% in October 2008 to 41.4% in October 2009
- Ontario had the lowest EI coverage in the country

Ontario Works

- Ontario had the 2nd highest increase in social assistance cases during the recession
- The Ontario Works caseload grew 23.1% between October 2008 and December 2009, to 240,579
- In January 2010, the OW caseload grew even higher, reaching 246,748 cases

Cost of living

- Food prices increased 4.7% in 2009 compared to core inflation of 0.4%
- The price of vegetables increased more than 10.4%
- Average rent for a two-bedroom apartment increased 2% between October 2008 and October 2009
- Toronto had the third highest rent in the country for a two-bedroom apartment in 2009 (\$1,096), behind Vancouver and Calgary
- 4 Ontario cities witnessed a decline in rental affordability in 2009: Hamilton, Oshawa, Ottawa, and Thunder Bay
- 5 Ontario cities have a rental affordability rate of 100 or less: Oshawa, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Windsor

Bankruptcy

- The number of bankruptcies in Ontario increased by 37.4% between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2009

Food bank use

- Food bank use increased 19% in 2009
- 374,230 people used a food bank in March 2009
- 38% of food banks did not have enough food to meet the demands of their clients
- 38% of food bank users in Ontario are children
- 13% of food bank clients report employment income
- 5% of clients are EI recipients