



Service Canada Greater Toronto Region Labour Market Bulletin

~ An Analysis of the Greater Toronto Region Labour Market ~ April - June, 2006 ~

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IN THIS ISSUE

OVERVIEW.....	1
Highlights	1
LABOUR MARKET NEWS	2
Accommodation and Food Services	2
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2
Business, Building and Other Support Services	3
Construction	3
Education Services	4
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing.....	4
Health Care and Social Services	5
Information and Cultural Industries.....	5
Manufacturing	6
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	7
Public Administration	9
Trade, Wholesale and Retail	9
Transportation and Warehousing	10
Utilities	10
WORK TRENDS	10
Workplace News	10
Youth and Older Workers	10

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(aussi disponible en français)

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Note: In preparing this bulletin, Service Canada has taken care to provide clients with labour market information from reliable sources that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since the bulletin was published. Readers are encouraged to refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this bulletin does not necessarily reflect official policies of Service Canada.

An overview of the *Greater Toronto Region (GTR) Statistics Canada Economic Region 530* - It consists of the City of Toronto plus the surrounding regions of Durham, York, Peel and Halton (excluding Burlington). This area includes the municipalities of Ajax, Pickering, Whitby, Oshawa, Clarington, Uxbridge, Scugog, Brock, Georgina, East Gwillimbury, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Newmarket, Aurora, King, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Markham, Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville.

OVERVIEW

Employment normally rises in the 2nd quarter of the year, and in the Greater Toronto Region (GTR), employment rose by 2.7% in the April to June period. The number of new jobs slightly exceeded growth in the labour force. This reduced the number of unemployed people by almost 4,000 compared to the 1st quarter. The unemployment rate in the GTR decreased to 6.3% from 6.6% in the January to March quarter.

Since the 2nd quarter of 2005, employment in the GTR increased by 47,000 (+ 1.6%) to 2,966,000. Over the same period the population aged 15 and over increased by 101,000 but the labour force (those working or looking for work) increased by only 14,000. This is due to a drop of just over one percentage point in the labour force participation rate from 70.1% in the 2nd quarter of 2005 to 68.9% in the 2nd quarter of 2006. Given a working age population approaching 4.6-million in the GTR, a drop of this magnitude makes a large difference in the available labour force. The number of unemployed people in the Region declined by 33,000 over the past year, improving the unemployment rate to 6.3%, from 7.4% in the 2nd quarter of 2005. Over the past year, employment rose in the services-producing sector of the economy while employment fell in the goods-producing sector.

Highlights

- Natural gas power plant under construction in Brampton
- Two office towers announced for downtown Toronto
- 24 bridging programs available for the internationally trained



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of Canada

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du Canada

Canada

Labour Market News

Highlights of industry activities that have an impact on the local labour market are derived from several sources including local newspapers, news releases and various other publications.

The Conference Board of Canada expects economic growth in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) to improve slightly in 2006 with stronger growth ahead in 2007 according to its Spring Metropolitan Outlook Report. The Conference Board of Canada's April report extends a positive economic outlook to the Oshawa CMA. The Oshawa economy remains strong as the population continues to grow. The report, which takes into account the uncertainties surrounding General Motors, forecasts a stable economic future for Oshawa. The service industry has provided the highest rates of economic growth in recent years. (*durhamregion.com: Apr. 13/06*)

Head offices

Statistics Canada reports that Toronto retains its position of being Canada's leading centre for head offices. From 1999 to 2005 the number of positions in head office employment in Toronto grew from 49,649 to 59,163. Domestic companies bought by foreign firms tended to maintain their level of head office employment. Although Calgary's share of head offices rose from 7% to 11% during this period, Toronto's share rose from 31% to 34%. (*Statistics Canada, The Daily: July 13/06*) www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/060713/d060713.pdf

Accommodation and Food Services

About half of Canadians plan to take a summer vacation this year and half of those plan to travel within Canada, according to a Scotiabank study. According to Scotiabank, job gains in Canada have bolstered household income, helping to support travel spending. (*Scotiabank, news release: June 28/06*) www.scotiabank.com search for *media centre*, click on *news releases* and then on *all press releases*

Statistics Canada's *Business Conditions Survey* for the travel accommodation industries reported that about one third of hoteliers in Canada are experiencing a shortage of unskilled labour. (*Statistics Canada, The Daily: May 16/06*) www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/060516/d060516.pdf

Accommodation

Construction of the Clarington **Holiday Inn Express and Suites** in Bowmanville will begin in the fall of 2006. The

hotel will open in autumn 2007. (*Durham Region News: June 28/06*)

Food Services

- **Boston Pizza** opened two new stores: one in Orangeville and one in Vaughan. www.bostonpizza.com
- **Made in Japan**, a quick-service restaurant chain, plans to open nine new locations in Toronto, Brampton, York Region and Oakville. www.teriyakiexperience.com
- **Lick's Homeburgers and Ice Cream** restaurants will open six to ten "express units" in downtown Toronto by the end of the year. The restaurants will be located along Yonge, King, Queen and Bloor Streets. www.lickshomeburgers.com

(*Ontario Restaurant News: May, June; National Post: May 19; Orangeville Citizen/Free Press and Economist: Apr. 6/06*)

Training

George Brown College enrolment in *Hospitality and Tourism* programs doubled during the last five years. **Humber College** reports that since 2002 enrolment increased by 12% in culinary programs. (*Ontario Restaurant News: May 2006*) www.georgebrown.ca/globalnav/programs.aspx <http://hospitality.humber.ca>

The Association of Canadian Community Colleges provides links to training in the tourism industry. (*Globe & Mail: June 6/06*) www.accc.ca

Job Search Websites

Three new websites for those seeking jobs in the hospitality, restaurant or retail industries are:

- www.hcareers.ca
- www.jobloft.com
- www.eluta.ca

(*Toronto Star: June 12/06*)

Arts, Entertainment and Recreation

Performing Arts

The Lord of the Rings theatrical production will close in September. Approximately 200 people work with the Toronto production which was originally expected to run a year. (*CBC.ca: June 28; Globe & Mail, National Post: June 29; Toronto Sun: June 28, 29/06*)



The *Rose Theatre* in Brampton will open in September at Queen and Main Streets. (*Toronto Star*: Apr. 13/06)
www.city.brampton.on.ca/pac/home.tml

Toronto's new ballet and opera house, the **Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts**, opened in June at Queen Street and University Avenue. (*Globe & Mail*: Apr. 29, June 13, 22; *National Post*: June 12/06)
www.fourseasonscentre.ca

Amusement Parks

Cedar Fair LP will buy Canada's Wonderland in York Region. (*National Post*: May 23/06)

Sports

The **Hershey Centre** in Mississauga will build an addition to its sports and entertainment facility. It will open in the fall of 2007. (*Toronto Star*: Apr. 11/06)

Arts Complex

Harbourfront Centre, an arts and education complex on Toronto's waterfront, will receive \$25-million over five years from the federal government to help promote Canadian culture and to attract tourists. (*Globe & Mail*, *National Post*, *Toronto Star*: May 24/06)
www.harbourfrontcentre.com

Business, Building and Other Support Services

Call Centres

Millennium Teleservices of Canada opened its third Canadian call centre in Oshawa. This will create 150 full-time, permanent jobs. Employment opportunities include telephone sales representatives, call-centre management personnel and administrative support personnel. (*Durham Business Times*: May 2006)

Construction

Housing Starts

Housing starts in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) for the first six months of 2006 were 6% lower than in the first six months of 2005. The decline was due to fewer single and semi-detached starts, while the number of apartment and row house starts actually increased by 4%. The Oshawa CMA saw a 14% increase in housing starts for January to June 2006 over the same period in 2005. The increase was entirely due to higher apartment and row house

starts. Greater affordability in Durham Region also contributed to the increase. (*CMHC news release*: July 11/06, *Monthly Housing Statistics*, July 2006)
<http://cmhc-schl.ca>

New Home Sales

New home sales in the GTA are down by 5% compared with the first half of 2005. High-rise condominium sales increased by 2% compared to the first half of last year, while low-rise sales have fallen by 10%. (*Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association*: July 19/06)
<http://gthba.ca>

Non-residential

Investment in non-residential building construction in the Toronto CMA declined by over 4% in the second quarter of 2006 compared to the previous quarter. Investment fell in all three components: commercial, industrial and institutional. In the Oshawa CMA, non-residential building construction decreased by over 13% in the second quarter of 2006. (*Statistics Canada*, *The Daily*: July 11/06)
www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/060711/d060711.pdf

Projects

The provincial government announced a five-year highway improvement plan. The following projects fall under this plan:

- high occupancy lanes on the QEW from Oakville to Burlington
- extension of Hwy. 410 to Hwy. 10 in Brampton
- extension of Hwy. 404 from Green Lane to Ravenshoe Road

(*Ministry of Transportation*, news release: June 1/06)

The provincial government plans to improve energy efficiency standards in homes. The new building regulations will be fully implemented by 2012. Most skilled trades people will need to re-train to work with the new building codes and regulations. (*Toronto Star*: June 30/06)

Cadillac Fairview Corporation and **FRAM Building Group** will redevelop the *Don Mills Centre* into a mixed-use residential neighbourhood and shopping centre. A town square, retail space accessed from streets rather than an enclosed mall and residential and office areas are planned. The new centre is projected to be completed in August 2008. A Dominion store and Post Office will remain open. (*Cadillac Fairview*, news release: June 9; *National Post*: Apr. 14/06)

Developers, **Westbank Projects Corporation** and **Peterson Investment Group Inc.**, plan to build a 65-storey tower at Adelaide and University. The hotel and residential



condominium will be managed by Hong Kong-based **Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts**. (*National Post: May 10; Canadian Architect: June 27/06*)

Construction of a **Loblaw's** warehouse will begin in August. It will be located at Bayly Street and Audley Road in the town of Ajax. The warehouse will be open 24-hours per day and have 850 people on staff. It is expected to begin operation in September 2007. (*durhamregion.com: May 18/06*)

The **Remington Group** and the **Town of Markham** announced the development of a downtown core along Hwy. 7 from Hwy. 404 to Warden Avenue. It will start with condominiums and townhouses, to be followed by more residential, retail and office development. The whole project will take 20 years to complete. (*Toronto Star: Apr. 1/06*)

Education Services

The provincial government is increasing funding to Ontario schools. The funds will be used to:

- add 1,200 primary teachers
- add 980 specialist teachers for elementary music, physical education and the arts
- add 300 secondary school teachers to help at-risk students stay in school
- increase funding for computer software, books and other resources in school libraries

(*Ministry of Education, news release: June 12, 16/06*)

Special education programs will increase training for special education teachers and teaching assistants of autistic students. Increased funding will reduce wait times to access programs. (*Toronto Star: June 9/06*)

Adult Education

The **Canadian Policy Research Network** released a report, *Too Many Left Behind: Canada's Adult Education and Training System*, on adult education. It found that 42% of adult Canadians have some type of literacy skill level below workplace requirements. People with low levels of education tend to work in low-wage jobs and are not able to participate in continuing education or upgrading. (*Globe & Mail: June 9/06*)

Internationally Trained

Internationally trained teachers can find information through *Teach in Ontario*. Counselling is available in Toronto.
www.teachinontario.ca
www.skillsforchange.org

Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing

Banking

Many major financial institutions are involved in internship and mentorship programs to recruit workers who reflect the diversity of the community. (*National Post: Apr. 12, May 9/06*)

www.triec.ca
www.thementoringpartnership.com
www.hireimmigrants.ca
www.careerbridge.ca

HSBC Bank Canada intends to expand from 32 to 52 retail branches in the Toronto region in the next 18 months to two years. Most new branches will be in suburban areas. (*National Post, Toronto Star: May 3; Globe & Mail: May 6/06*)

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) plans to expand by 50 branches in the Greater Toronto Area over the next three years. Ten of these branches should open within six months. (*Globe & Mail, National Post, Toronto Star: Apr. 26/06*)

Canada Pension Plan

The Toronto-based **Canada Pension Plan Investment Board** is expanding its staff rapidly. Many new employees will be investment managers or analysts. (*Globe & Mail, National Post: May 18, May 26; National Post: July 12/06*)
www.cppib.ca

Securities Industry

Canadian securities industry employment was 7% higher in the January to March 2006 quarter compared to the same quarter last year. The stock market and merger and acquisition activity were strong in the first quarter, contributing to record industry profits. (*Toronto Star: June 16/06*)
www.iiac.ca

Residential Real Estate

In the April to June second quarter, there were 26,500 sales of existing homes in the Toronto region. In the first six months of 2006 sales were about 2% higher than in the first half of 2005. The average price in June was \$358,000, up 4% from a year earlier. (*National Post: July 8; Toronto Star: May 4, June 6, July 8/06*)
www.torontorealestateboard.com

The Durham Region Real Estate Board reported 5,141 sales in the first six months of 2006, up almost 5% from the same period a year earlier. The average price in June was \$265,800, up 4% from last June. (*Durham Region Real Estate Board,*



Regional Statistics: June 2006)
www.durhamrealestate.org

Commercial Real Estate

Brookfield Properties Corp. announced the construction of a 50-storey office tower in downtown Toronto. The *Bay Adelaide Centre West* is the first part of a three-phase project. **KPMG LLP** will be the anchor tenant, occupying 250,000 of the building's 1.1-million square feet when it is ready in 2009. (*National Post, Toronto Star: July 20/06*)

Menkes Union Tower Ltd. will develop a 30-storey office tower at York Street and Bremner Boulevard. Telecommunications firm **Telus Corp.** will be the lead tenant, occupying 60% of the building. Construction will start this fall. (*Globe & Mail, National Post, Toronto Star: July 11/06*)
about.telus.com/careers/index.html

Health Care and Social Services

Nurses

The provincial government will guarantee full-time employment to all Ontario nursing graduates beginning in 2007. The 4,000 students expected to graduate will be offered full-time positions in hospitals, home care, long-term care, public health and primary care. (*Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, news release: May 8/06*)
www.health.gov.on.ca

The provincial government announced an initiative, *Grow Your Own Nurse Practitioner*. It will allow health care agencies to assist registered nurses while they train to become nurse practitioners. The number of education seats for nurse practitioners will expand to 150 this September. (*Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, news release: May 8; Toronto Star: May 6/06*)
www.health.gov.on.ca

Personal Support Workers

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced that salaries for personal support workers (PSW) will rise to \$12.50 per hour from \$9.65. They will also be paid for travel time and mileage. (*Toronto Star: May 2/06*)
www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ministry_reports/caplanresp06/caplanresp06.pdf

Health Careers

The provincial government announced a human resources strategy called *HealthForceOntario*. Under this initiative four

new professional roles have been created: *Physician Assistant, Nurse Endoscopist, Surgical First Assistant and Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist*. The physician assistant job will allow internationally trained doctors to gain Canadian experience. The government has more than doubled the number of international medical graduate training and assessment positions. (*Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, news release: May 3; Government of Ontario, news release: June 12/06*)
www.health.gov.on.ca/english/media/news_releases/archives/nr_06/may/nr_050306.html

Information about careers in mental health can be found on a new website. Job postings, information on student placement opportunities, training and links to resources can be found. (*Toronto Sun: Apr. 12/06*)
www.workinginmentalhealth.ca

Sonographers (ultrasound technologists) find employment in Diagnostic Imaging Departments, clinics, teaching and sales roles, veterinary practices and health research. This job often requires shiftwork and on-call availability.
www.osdms.org Ontario Society for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
www.michener.ca Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences

Information and Cultural Industries

Film and Television Production

CBC Television laid off close to 100 people at its Toronto production centre. The work of set designers, builders, costume makers, makeup artists, and hairstylists will be contracted out. Savings will be used to fund programming. (*Globe & Mail: Apr. 21; Toronto Star: Apr. 22/06*)

TVOntario will convert its production facilities to digital technology by fall 2007, supported by provincial government funding over two years. The French network **TFO** will become a separate organization. **TVOKids** will add 13 hours to its weekly programming. (*TVO Media Release: June 29; Globe & Mail: June 30/06*)
www.tvo.org/TVO/WebObjects/TVO.woa

Movie Theatres

Empire Theatre will open a seven screen movie theatre in Bolton by the end of the year. When the theatre opens it will employ 40 people. (*Caledon Enterprise: June 24/06*)

Repertory cinema houses in Toronto, the *Revue*, the *Paradise*



and the *Kingsway*, closed due to changing market conditions. Attendance is down by 8% at most theatres because of competition from home theatres, video on demand and the quick release of movies in DVD format. **Theatre D Digital Corporation** purchased the *Royal* theatre on College Street and will use the site for a postproduction studio in the daytime and run movies in the evening. Two new digital theatres will open in Milton and at Dundas Square in Toronto. (*Toronto Star*: May 18, June 24; *National Post*: June 10, *Globe & Mail*: July 28/06)
www.theatred.ca

Publishing

CanWest Media Works Income Fund laid off 50 people when it stopped publishing its free commuter youth newspaper, *Dose*, due to competition and a lack of advertising. *Dose* will continue to exist online. (*National Post*: May 18/06)

Torstar Corp. stopped publishing *Weekly Scoop*, after eight months. The magazine could not compete against similar celebrity magazines. Torstar also plans to contract out call centre work done by 18 full-time and 45 part-time people. (*National Post*, *Globe & Mail*: June 13/06)

Time magazine closed its Toronto bureau and laid off two writers and two employees in advertising production. Five sales staff will remain. (*Globe & Mail*: Apr. 11; *Toronto Star*: Apr: 12/06)

Sun Media Corp. laid off 30 people in the editorial department of the *Toronto Sun* and will eliminate most librarian jobs when it centralizes its library system. The layoffs are part of 120 jobs cut across the national chain. The number of Toronto Sun readers dropped 17% last year. The company plans to add 50 workers at its online business *Canoe.ca*. (*National Post*, *Globe & Mail*: June 21/06)

BMV the biggest used bookstores in Toronto will open a third location in September at Bloor and Spadina. (*Toronto Star*: June 11/06)

Software

Gartner Inc. expects the market for enterprise content management software (ECM) to grow 19% per year until 2008. Companies use ECM software to create, store and retrieve corporate information. **Symphony Technology Group** and **Open Text Corp.** are rival bidders for **Hummingbird Ltd.**, a Toronto-based maker of ECM software. A merger of Open Text and Hummingbird would create the world's largest seller of ECM. Competitors include

Filenet Corp., IBM and EMC. (*Canadian Business Online*, July 6; *National Post*: July 7/06)

SAS Canada, a branch of the world's largest privately owned software company, opened a new head office on King Street East in Toronto to house 200 employees. (*National Post*: Apr. 15/06)
www.sas.com/canada

Telecommunications

Rogers Communications takeover of **Nortel Networks** head office on Dixie Road in Mississauga will be complete by mid-2007 when 4,000 IT and call centre employees will be consolidated. (*Brampton Guardian*: June 9/06)

Toronto Hydro selected **Siemens Canada** of Mississauga to supply and support a municipal WiFi zone in downtown Toronto. The WiFi network will support Toronto Hydro's smart meter program and offer wireless broadband service to customers. The company will also offer mobile phone service using VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). (*Siemens Canada*, news release: May 8; *Toronto Star*: June 26/06)
www.siemens.ca

Bell Canada will convert **RBC's** 1,300 branches to internet phones. Bell has been contracted to convert RBC's 8,400 Toronto head office phone lines to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). They will also convert **Toronto-Dominion Bank's** contact centre system. (*Toronto Star*: June 28; *Bell Canada Enterprises*, news release: Apr. 27/06)

Manufacturing

Automotive

Honda Motor Company Ltd. will build a \$154-million engine plant near Alliston. The engine plant will begin operations by 2008 and will employ 340 people at full production. (*Globe & Mail*: May 17/06)

Linamar Corp. announced that it will spend \$1.1-billion and create 3,000 new jobs at up to six new auto parts plants and at a major research centre in the Guelph area during the next five years. Linamar will start hiring almost immediately for the expansion. The company employs about 6,000 people in its head office and factories in the Guelph area and over 10,000 worldwide. The provincial government will contribute \$44.5-million to the project as part of the *Ontario Automotive Investment Strategy*. (*Toronto Star*: May 13; *Globe & Mail*: May 12/06)
www.linamar.com



Autoparts maker **Tower Automotive Inc.** will eliminate 178 jobs by closing a Toronto aluminum foundry and mill to cut costs. The site will be shut down at the end of August. (*Bloomberg.com: June 27/06*)

Aerospace

Employment at **Bombardier Aerospace** in Downsview rose over the past year due to an increase in demand for the fuel efficient turbo-prop planes produced at the facility. (*Toronto Star: June 24, 27; National Post: May 30/06*)

Closings/Downsizings

Canac Kitchens announced that it will close its current plant in Thornhill and relocate to a more modern facility in the GTA. The workforce of about 1,000 people will gradually shift business over an eight-month period. (*National Post: June 21/06*)

Transcontinental Inc. will move its commercial printing operation from west-end Toronto to its Etobicoke direct marketing location. About 23 jobs will be lost. (*Transcontinental Inc., news release: May 16/06*)

The **Mueller Canada** fire hydrant and water valve production plant in Milton will close at the end of July resulting in the loss of 158 jobs. The company was purchased by **Walter Industries**. Production will move to plants in the United States. (*Toronto Sun: Apr. 21/06*)

Constellation Brands Inc. acquired Mississauga-based vintner **Vincor International**. The reorganization will lead to a 10% reduction in Vincor's total workforce of 2,358. Nearly 80% of Vincor's employees are in Canada but only 14 jobs will be eliminated here. (*Globe & Mail: July 12/06*)
www.cbrands.com
www.vincorinternational.com

Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. will close its Rexdale corrugated container plant by the end of September. The paperboard and paper-based packaging company is trying to cut costs by closing smaller plants. Business from the Rexdale plant will be taken over by a nearby Smurfit-MBI facility. About 140 workers will be affected. (*CP Wire, July 13; Globe & Mail: July 14/06*)

Professional, Scientific and Technical Services

Research and Development

Holburn Biomedical Corporation completed construction of a 40,000 square foot building containing two laboratory wings and an administrative facility in Clarington. Holburn expects

to employ a staff of 85. By 2010, the company plans to expand to three facilities and employ 250 people. The company specializes in research into gastrointestinal disorders, respiratory diseases, diagnostic pathology and biotechnology products. (*durhamregion.com: May 30/06*)
www.holburn.com

Training

Seneca College is offering three new bachelor degrees. *Applied Business - International Accounting and Finance; Applied Business - Human Resources Strategy and Technology; and Applied Technology - Informatics and Security.*
www.senecac.on.ca

Lawyers

Legal specialties in demand tend to follow areas of economic growth. Current growth areas are: mergers and acquisitions, energy, biotechnology, construction of infrastructure, technology and intellectual property, and private investment. Globalization has also led to the growth of international law as a specialty. (*National Post: May 3/06*)

Accountants

More than 10% of Canadian manufacturing, transportation, finance and construction companies expect to hire full-time accounting and finance people in the third quarter of 2006, according to the **Robert Half International Financial Hiring Index**. (*Robert Half International Financial, news release: June 20/06*)
www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/June2006/20/c5049.html or search on *Robert Half* then choose *Robert Half Finance & Accounting*

Forensic accounting is a growing occupation. Businesses are hiring forensic accounting firms to ensure they comply with regulations such as the U.S. Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Forensic accountants investigate fraud and determine damages. **Chartered Accountants of Canada** offers an *Investigative and Forensic Accounting* designation while the **Rotman School of Business** at the **University of Toronto** has a diploma in the field. (*Globe & Mail: Apr. 19/06*)
www.cica.ca
www.rotman.utoronto.ca

The provincial government approved legislation which allows Certified Management Accountants (CMAs) and Certified General Accountants (CGAs) to practice public accounting. Previously only Chartered Accountants (CAs) could practice



public accounting in Ontario. The expected retirement of one-quarter of Canada's CAs within the next eight to ten years has added to the demand. (*National Post: June 22/06*)

Engineering

The federal government's \$16.4-billion budget allocation to infrastructure, such as roads, public transit, border security and utilities, should increase the demand for engineers. Engineers are currently in demand in Northern Canada and Alberta as a result of the oil sands boom. Canada is the fourth largest exporter of engineering services because of global demand for its engineering expertise. **Brown Associates Limited** is one company that is having difficulty finding graduate environmental engineers. (*Globe & Mail: June 2/06*)
www.brownassociates.ca

Information and Communications Technology

IBM will double the number of staff to 150 at its Markham Security Operations Centre over the next three years. The centre helps companies set up and monitor security systems.
www.ibm.com/ca

IDC Canada expects spending on IT security to grow 14.2% per year from now until 2010. Government privacy regulations and security concerns are driving growth in this industry. (*Toronto Star: May 12/05*)
idc.ca/media/pressReleases/pressReleaseJun6_2_2006.html

Software Human Resource Council's 2005 Update Report on Information Technology Occupations found 600,000 workers in these occupations in Canada at the end of 2005. Almost 50,000 IT workers were laid off in the first half of 2005 but employment rebounded. Forty-four percent of all IT workers worked in the Professional, Scientific and Technical sector. More than half of all analysts and programmers worked in that sector. (*SHRC, new release: May 2006*)
www.shrc.ca/lmi/reports/LFS2006_layout.html

Robert Half Technology's IT Hiring Index and Skills Report found that 15% of Chief Information Officers surveyed expected to hire IT staff in the third quarter of 2006 because of business growth. Only 3% expect to cut staff. The skills in most demand were Microsoft Windows Administration (Server 2002/2003), Database management, and network administration. (*Robert Half Technology, news release: June 20/06*)
www.newswire.ca search on *Robert Half* then choose *Robert Half Technology*

Surveys done by **IT World Canada** in the spring found that more than half of all IT professionals are looking for a new job. Almost 65% of IT workers under the age of 25 were interested in new work. Almost 45% of respondents thought that other companies paid more. Job satisfaction was highest in the banking sector which also had the highest total compensation of \$98,000 including bonuses. More than 25% of companies surveyed were looking for application developers – especially companies in the wholesale and retail sector; 16% were looking for project managers – especially banks and governments; 12% of companies across all sectors were looking for networking personnel and 11% of companies were looking for windows administrators. The hardest positions to fill were project managers and web services identified by 34% of respondents; application developers (26%) and networking personnel (26%). (*Canadian HR Reporter: June 5/06*)
www.itjobuniverse.ca click on *Careers and the Job Market* and scan *June 9/06* articles

There is a shortage of Flash developers interested in the growing field of on-line advertising. (*Globe & Mail: May 3/06*)

The **City of Toronto** and **ICT Toronto** released an *Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Cluster Development Strategy for the Toronto Region*. The report calls for a coordinated effort to make Toronto one of the world's five most innovative and productive locations for ICT research, education and business investment by 2011. The ICT sector in the Toronto Region includes 148,000 workers at 3,300 firms. Employment can be found in the following subsectors:

- Telecommunications – 64,000
- Software and systems development – 48,000
- Electronic Component Manufacturers – 28,000
- Other Services – 8,000

In addition about 40,000 ICT specialists work in user sectors such as Finance and Insurance, and Healthcare. (*Toronto Star: Apr. 19; Globe & Mail: Apr. 20/06*)
www.toronto.ca/business/pdf/ict_toronto_final_report.pdf

International Data Corp (IDC) predicts a steady 5% to 6% yearly global growth in spending on information technology to 2009 compared to 14% at the top of the tech boom in 1999-2000. IDC Canada expects spending on IT to grow 8% this year and to almost double by 2010. (*Globe & Mail: Apr. 6; Toronto Star: May 12; Business Edge News Magazine: June 8/06*)

Training

The **Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS)** will



expand its *Information System Professional (ISP)* certification program to people who have IT experience but do not have a degree in IT. This recognizes that not all IT workers started in computer science. (*Globe & Mail: June 29; Canadian Information Processing Society, news release: May 28/06*)
www.cipstoronto.ca

Public Administration

Federal

The federal government will be investing \$161-million to hire an additional 1,000 **RCMP** officers and federal prosecutors across Canada by 2010. Priorities concentrate on drugs, corruption and border security. (*Toronto Star: May 3/06*)
www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca

The **Canadian Forces** are recruiting doctors, nurses, pharmacists, medical and dental technicians and medical students to serve at home and overseas. (*Toronto Star: June 23/06*) www.recruiting.forces.gc.ca

Provincial

The provincial government will add another 37 probation and parole officers in the community. The number of seasonal jobs this year was reduced, eliminating 226 from a total of 1,189 student positions. (*Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services: May 8; Toronto Star: June 3/06*)

Trade, Wholesale and Retail

Wholesale sales in Ontario rose 1.3% in May from April 2006 due to strong sales in automotive products, building materials and personal and household goods. May 2006 sales were 8.6% higher than those in May 2005. (*Statistics Canada, The Daily: July 20/06*)
www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/060720/d060720.pdf

Statistics Canada's Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey found that consumers spent 6.5% more on goods and services in retail stores in the first quarter of 2006 compared to the same quarter of 2005. Rising fuel prices meant that consumers spent a higher proportion of their retail dollars on automotive fuels, oils, and additives. Strong housing markets continue to result in increased sales of hardware, lawn and garden products, furniture, home furnishings and electronics. (*Statistics Canada, The Daily: July 14/06*)
www.statcan.ca

New motor vehicle sales in Canada decreased 1.0% in May to

135,618, after declining 0.7% in April. Although sales of both cars and trucks were down in May, most of the decline was due to weakening truck sales. Ontario sales were down 2.1% in May. (*Statistics Canada, The Daily: July 17/06*)
www.statcan.ca

Openings and Expansions

Home Depot will open a store on Garden Street in Whitby. It is the fourth Home Depot in the Durham Region and will create about 160 jobs. (*durhamregion.com: Apr. 18/06*)
www.homedepot.com

Loblaw Cos. Ltd. is expanding into home fashions to compete with Wal-Mart. The grocery retailer will use the space vacated by three of **Ralph Lauren's Caban** stores which were on Loblaw's properties in downtown Toronto. (*Globe & Mail: June 20/06*)
www.loblaw.ca

Longo Bros. Fruit Markets Inc. will open a mini-store in the food court in BCE Place at Yonge and Richmond Street. A 50,000 square foot store will open next year between Burlington and Oakville. In 2008 a store will open in *The Residences of Maple Leaf Square* in downtown Toronto. (*Toronto Star: Apr. 15/06*)
www.longos.com

Lowe's Canada will open six to ten big box stores in the GTA in 2007. The home improvement retailer expects about 1,700 jobs will be created. (*National Post; Lowe's Canada, news release: Apr. 6/06*)
www.lowes.com

Construction started on a **Rona Home & Garden Centre** in Scarborough. The big-box store will be located on Midland Avenue and is expected to create 165 local jobs. It will open in spring 2007. (*CNW Group Newswire: July 12/06*)
www.rona.ca

Shoppers Drug Mart Corp. opened a new store at Queens Quay. The retailer plans to enlarge three-quarters of its stores over the next eight years. (*National Post: May 5; Toronto Star: May 17/06*)
www.shoppersdrugmart.ca

Wal-Mart Canada Corp. will open three supercentres in Stouffville, Ancaster and London by fall 2006. Another supercentre store will open later in 2007 in Scarborough. The stores will be about a third larger than Wal-Mart's regular stores. (*Globe & Mail, National Post, Toronto Star: June 6/06*)
www.walmartcanada.ca



Closings and Layoffs

Danier Leather Inc. laid off 23 of 136 staff at its Toronto head office. It also closed its online shopping business. Two underperforming power centre locations will be closed in late 2007 when their leases expire. The retailer will monitor store performance and may close other stores. There are 24 Danier Leather stores in the GTA. (*Globe & Mail, Toronto Sun: May 31/06*)

Transportation and Warehousing

Porter Airlines, a subsidiary of **Porter Aviation Holdings Inc.** plans to begin service at the Toronto City Centre Airport in early fall 2006. The airline will operate ten new Bombardier aircraft. The airline will create more than 200 new jobs when it begins flying. (*Toronto Star: June 28; Porter Airlines, news release: June 27/06*)
www.flyporter.com

Canpar Transport opened a new distribution centre in south Etobicoke. The new 170,000 square foot facility will replace the existing distribution site in downtown Toronto. Toronto represents the majority of Canpar's deliveries and pickups. (*National Post: June 29/06*)

Utilities

Construction began in Brampton on a natural gas power plant to be completed in 2008. (*Brampton Guardian: Apr. 15/06*)
www.hydroonebrampton.com

Bruce Power has joined with the **Power Workers Union, Ontario Power Generation** and **Hydro One** to promote employment opportunities for skilled trades technicians, mechanical engineers, electricians, nuclear engineers and nuclear operators. (*Toronto Star: June 8/06*)
www.brucepower.com
www.pwu.ca/index.php
www.opg.com
www.hydroone.com

Work Trends

Workplace News

Newcomers

The provincial government will invest in training programs to assist internationally trained trades people and professionals find jobs in their fields over the next three years. Links to 24

bridging programs can be found on the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration website. (*Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, press release: May 18/06*)
www.citizenship.gov.on.ca Click on *Immigrants and the Internationally Trained*

The *Colleges Integrating Immigrants to Employment* project will receive \$5-million in funding from the provincial government to improve access to training and work. The project will make recommendations to help 6,300 newcomers a year identify what training they need more quickly. Five pilot projects have started.

Sheridan College will offer a new program in January 2007 called *Canadian Journalism for Internationally Trained Writers*.
www.internationaljournalism.sheridaninstitute.ca

Youth and Older Workers

Community Care Durham-Uxbridge offers a home maintenance program which employs youth ages 13 to 17. Participants will gain experience as they perform light work for seniors, such as window washing, garden work, and snow shovelling. For more information about the program call 905 852-7445. (*durhamregion.com: May 29/06*)
www.communitycaredurham.on.ca

As of June 2006, foreign students studying in Ontario universities and colleges can apply for off-campus work permits. Eligible students can work up to 20 hours per week during regular classes and full-time hours during school breaks. To apply, students may contact their school or visit the following website for more information. (*Government of Ontario, news release: Apr. 27/06*)
www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work-opps.html

CareerEdge, a not-for-profit recruitment organization, offers three programs for recent graduates.

- **CareerEdge** - recent university graduates can register online without cost and apply for intern jobs
- **Career Bridge** - matches interns with mentors from a company where they get paid and gain practical work experience in their field of study
- **Ability Edge** - college and university graduates, who have visible or detectable disabilities, can apply online for job opportunities in their area of expertise

(*Toronto Star: May 24/06*)

www.careerbridge.ca
www.careeredge.ca
www.abilityedge.ca



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