



DRAFT COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS:

Recent Immigrants Living in York Region





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Town of Newmarket



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Town of Aurora



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Town of Markham

A Message from Regional Council

York Region is pleased to present *Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region*. This report provides information about the socio-economic status of recent immigrants in York Region.

The high quality of life we enjoy in York Region, and the region's proximity to Toronto, with its diverse population and services, have served to make York Region an attractive place for newcomers to Canada. At an increasing rate, new Canadians are choosing York Region as their home.

As this report shows, recent immigrants in York Region bring with them many attributes - they are generally well educated and highly skilled. Immigrants come to York Region from many different parts of the world, adding greatly to the cultural and social richness of our communities.

York Region is committed to assisting immigrants in maximizing their potential and integrating into the region's communities. This commitment is embedded in *Vision 2026*, the Region's strategic plan. One of the goals of the plan is to foster "quality communities for a diverse population". The strategic plan identifies the need to respond to our diversity with innovative service delivery options, and respond to the needs of vulnerable residents. York Region has been involved in a number of initiatives to help immigrants integrate into our communities. This report is a tool that can be used to respond to needs and enhance initiatives.

It is also hoped that the information in this report will put York Region (i.e. government and the broader community) in a better position to advocate for equitable funding. We also anticipate that this work will assist municipalities, agencies and organizations in understanding the attributes, challenges and needs of recent immigrants so that they can be provided with the right balance of services and programs necessary to support their integration into York Region and their ability to more quickly enhance their contributions to our economy, community and quality of life.



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Town of Richmond Hill



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Town of Markham

MESSAGE FROM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

York Region's Community Reference Group for the Community Social Data Strategy is pleased to release our first, in what we hope to be a series of, Community Snapshot reports.

This report provides a socio-economic profile of York Region's fastest growing demographic - recent immigrants. It is hoped that this report will be used as a regional tool to assist public, broader public, and community service providers in understanding the recent immigrant population, and consider their needs when designing and providing services.

A report of this scope and depth has been needed by the community, who recognize the need to have a greater understanding of recent immigrants living in York Region – the fastest growing segment of our population. York Region's Community Services and Housing Department is to be commended for its foresight in preparing a report of this nature.

The report will also act as a benchmark, so we can monitor how well we are helping recent immigrants integrate into York Region's communities as time goes by. This knowledge will enhance our ability to prevent problems, preserve or enhance the Region's quality of life, identify emerging trends, and secure adequate funding.

To date, York Region has faced significant under-funding of immigrant settlement services that has not kept pace with new immigration patterns. Information in this report may assist Regional government, organizations and community agencies in future discussions regarding funding of services for recent immigrants and to make the case for York Region to receive its fair share of funding.



Rahul Bhardwaj, Co-Chair
York Region's Community Reference Group



Tom Taylor, Co-Chair
York Region's Community Reference Group

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region was prepared under the guidance of Joann Simmons, Commissioner Community Services, Housing and Health Services, York Region and the Community Reference Group.

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York Region District School Board, represented by Ken Thurston and Robert Dunn

York South Simcoe Training and Adjustment Board, represented by Tina Stevens Forani and Al Wilson

We gratefully acknowledge the support from our Technical Reference Group in the preparation of this report. Technical Reference Group members are:

York Catholic District School Board

York Region District School Board

York Regional Police

United Way of York Region

We would like to express our special thanks to Anna Malenkov, Geomatics, Regional Municipality of York for the training and support provided in the development of the maps. Our thanks also go to Lina Bigioni, Director, Government Relations, for her assistance and support.

The report was designed and developed by staff of the Policy and Program Support Services Division of the Community Services and Housing Department.

What if **YORK REGION** were a village of just **100 people?**

Community Snapshot

York Region is clearly a diverse, thriving and growing community.

This insert is intended to illustrate what York Region would look like if it were a village of 100 people.

The following report *Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region* is a "snapshot" of a part of our village - the newest Canadians, who as the fastest growing segment of our population will greatly influence the look and feel of our communities.





In 2001, at the point in time when the last Census was taken

What if at that time York Region were a village of just

Citizenship

92 villagers, regardless of country of birth would be Canadian Citizens, 8 would not.

Immigration

About 40 villagers would be immigrants, 60 would be Canadian born.

Ethnic Origin

- 22 villagers would be of Chinese or East/Southeast Asian descent
- 20 would be of Italian descent
- 12 would identify as being of Canadian descent
- 10 villagers's ethnic origin would stem from the British Isles
- 10 would be of South or West Asian descent
- 7 would be Jewish
- 7 would be of Western or South Western European descent
- 4 would be of Eastern European descent
- 1 would be of Caribbean descent

The rest would be of a wide variety of other ethnic origins.

Languages Spoken at Home

- 83 villagers would speak English
- 8 would speak Cantonese or Chinese
- 2 would speak Italian

Other languages spoken at home would include: Russian, Persian, Punjabi, Tamil and Korean.

The Top Ten Non-official Languages

Cantonese, Chinese, Italian, Russian, Persian, Punjabi, Tamil, Korean, Mandarin and Urdu.

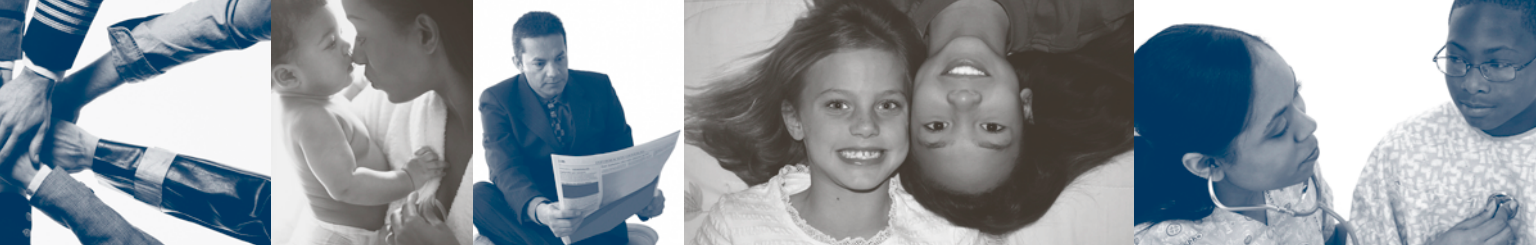
Age

- 35 villagers would be children or youth between the ages of 0 and 24
- 47 would be 25 to 54 years of age
- 18 would be 55 or over

Religion

- 60 of the villagers would be Christians
- 17 of the villagers would have no religion
- 8 would be Jewish
- 4 would be Muslim
- 3 would be Hindu
- 8 would belong to a variety of other religions





en there were just over 725,000 people in York Region.

100 people? What would our community look like?

Employment, Transportation and Place of Work

- 56 villagers would be in the labour force
- Of the 56 villagers in the labour force
 - 53 would be employed
 - 3 would be unemployed
- Of the 53 villagers that are employed:
 - 42 villagers would drive to work
 - 8 villagers would be passengers, take transit or use another method to get to work
 - 32 would work outside of their area of residence
 - 12 would work in their area of residence
 - 3 would work at home
 - 5 would have no fixed work address
 - 1 would work outside of Canada

Top Labour Force Occupations

Business, Finance, Administration;
Sales and Service; Management; Trades,
Transport and Equipment Operators

Spending on Housing

The amount spent on housing makes many economically vulnerable:

- 21% of families who are homeowners would spend 30 to 50% or more of their income on shelter
- 35% of families who are renters would spend 30 to 50% or more of their income on shelter

Education

71 villagers would be old enough to have completed postsecondary education.

Of these:

- 47 would have a university degree or some post-secondary education
- 9 would have graduated from high school
- 9 would have attended but not graduated high school
- 6 would have less than a Grade 9 education



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Organizations wishing to use any portion of Community Snapshots are requested to use the following citation when referencing this document:

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This Community Snapshots report is based on a series of Statistics Canada custom tabulations of Census 2001 data obtained through the Community Social Data Strategy (CSDS).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Community Snapshots:

Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This Community Snapshots report is based on a series of Statistics Canada custom tabulations of Census 2001 data obtained through the Community Social Data Strategy (CSDS)¹.

This report provides a socio-economic profile of York Region's recent immigrants using a number of variables that help show how well recent immigrants are integrating into the communities in York Region. For the purpose of this report, integration means the process of moving into a new community, finding work and housing, knowing how to get around, accessing various services such as schools and health services, and establishing social networks and supports that help foster an attachment and connection to community. These are all situations which more established residents may take for granted, but which can pose barriers to integration for newcomers to York Region unfamiliar with their new community.

It should be noted that this report does not look at the status of "established" immigrants - those who generally have been here for 10 to 15 years or more, except for occasional comparison purposes.

In addition to the overall socio-economic profile of recent immigrants in York Region, the Appendices of this report provide profiles of the five municipalities in York Region where the majority (98%) of recent immigrants live (i.e. Aurora, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Vaughan). A series of maps is also included that show the spatial distribution of recent immigrants. Interactive maps showing *ethnic origin*, *knowledge of official languages* and *home language* have been prepared and are available online. These maps are interactive and can be accessed through the York Region Community Social Data Web site at www.york.ca.



¹The scope of the data includes:

- 2001 Census special tabulations not available in the general release providing information on the socio-economic situation of York Region residents in different geographic areas. Information is available on a wide variety of population characteristics, such as breakdowns by age and gender; employment, immigration or disability status; source and levels of income; family types and household composition; annual earnings; and many others.
- Urban Poverty - contains data for the population living under Low Income Cut-Off (LICO), including individual characteristics such as skill level, education level, sources of income, housing etc.
- Small Area and Administrative Data (SAAD) income tax filer data updated annually.
- Canadian Community Health Survey: provides detailed health care information for 136 regions across Canada.
- Labour Force Survey: tracks labour market trends.
- Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, which contains reports on crime and traffic enforcement for different cities, townships, districts and rural municipalities.
- Financial Performance Indicators for Canadian Business, which measures the profitability, solvency and operating efficiency of business by industry.
- Survey of Household Spending, which contains data on household characteristics and expenditures, and characteristics on dwelling and household equipment.

Community Snapshots:

Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

Purpose

The report is intended to:

- Provide background information for advocacy initiatives - especially with regard to the need for equitable, adequate funding.
- Help agencies, organizations and municipalities that provide services and programs to recent immigrants understand the needs of this population so that programs and services can be designed accordingly and resources used to the best advantage.
- Inform agencies, organizations, municipalities and the general public about the changing nature of York Region's population to improve cultural awareness and sensitivity;
- Provide a baseline for monitoring the progress of recent immigrants over time as new data becomes available.
- Help employers understand the skills, education levels, fields of expertise and needs of the recent immigrant labour pool in York Region and their potential to contribute to the Region's economy.

Why this Report Matters

This Community Snapshots report is important from a number of perspectives:

- The recent immigrant population is growing at a much faster rate than the *non-immigrant population*. Between 1991 and 2001, the number of recent immigrants increased by 132%, while the *non-immigrant population* increased by 31%.
- Without the right supports and services, recent immigrants cannot quickly and effectively maximize their skills and education. Early and efficient integration of recent immigrants is important to municipalities that have large numbers of recent immigrants. A mismatch between needs and available services can have a significant impact on communities; indirectly, on economic development and quality of life, and potentially directly, in terms of community social assistance costs and public health costs. An important first step is knowing the characteristics of who needs the services, and where they are. This report attempts to do this.
- There is an opportunity to use the information in this report to participate in upcoming federal/provincial/municipal discussions regarding immigrant issues and increased funding for municipalities. Again, a comprehensive understanding of recent immigrants in York Region will be important in advocating for York Region's fair share and strategic service planning.

Executive Summary

Key Findings

The key findings for York Region are listed below:

Key Demographic Findings

The fact that York Region's immigrant population is growing at a much faster rate than the *non-immigrant population*, coupled with the fact that recent immigrants tend to be of prime working age and child bearing age, will influence the look and climate of York Region's economy and communities. Key demographic findings include:

- Since 1981, there has been a shift in the place of origin of York Region's immigrant population from Europe to Asia.
- About two thirds of recent immigrants are of working age and in a position to contribute to the economy (i.e. generally considered to be 25 to 54 years of age). Many are also of child bearing age.
- Compared to the *non-immigrant population*, recent immigrants are more likely to be married or to have been married.
- Recent immigrants are quick to assume *citizenship*. Three out of five recent immigrants are Canadian citizens.
- Most recent immigrants are *visible minorities*, with Chinese being the most commonly represented visible minority group.
- Recent immigrants in York Region are almost twice as likely to be living with relatives, as part of an extended family, than the total population.

Key Education and Education Related to Income Findings

- Amongst the five GTA municipalities, York Region had the second highest percentage of *recent immigrants* with post secondary education.
- York Region's recent immigrant population generally attends school at a higher rate than the total population.
- York Region's recent immigrants generally have a higher level of education than *non-immigrants*.
- However, regardless of education levels, recent immigrants earn less than *non-immigrants* with the same level of education.
- The income of recent immigrants with less than a high school graduation certificate is 21% less than *non-immigrants* with the same level of education, and is 40% less for those with a university certificate, diploma or degree.
- In comparison with the total population, recent immigrants in York Region are less represented in the fields of education, recreation and counselling services; humanities and related fields; commerce management and business administration; social sciences and related fields; and, technologies and trades, than the total population.

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

- In comparison with the total population, recent immigrants in York Region are more represented in the fields of engineering; health professions and related technologies; mathematics, computer and physical sciences; and, agricultural, biological, nutritional, and food sciences.

Key Employment and Income Findings

- The *employment income* for recent immigrants is about two thirds of the *employment income* for *non-immigrants*.
- In York Region, the average median total income for recent immigrants is \$14,449 compared to \$30,212 for the *non-immigrant population*, despite their generally higher levels of education.
- Recent immigrants in York Region have the second lowest average median total income amongst GTA municipalities; second only to Toronto.
- York Region's recent immigrant population is almost three times as likely as *non-immigrants* to be within the *low income cut-off*.

With the right supports, immigrants across Canada do as well or better than the general population. In York Region, specifically:

- The *employment income* of immigrants living in York Region who have been in Canada for over 15 years is 25% greater than the *employment income* for *non-immigrants*.
- Immigrants living in York Region who have been in Canada for over 15 years have a lower incidence of low-income than the total population.

York Region has benefited and continues to benefit from the contribution of immigrants. The increased pace of immigration and the fact that many immigrants come straight to York Region, rather than first settling in transitional areas (e.g. Toronto) with well-developed settlement supports, has changed the success levels of recent immigrants, and points to a need for support systems if the region is going to continue to benefit from the economic and societal contributions of this group.

Executive Summary

Key Language Findings

- York Region has the highest percentage of recent immigrants that have no *knowledge of* either *official language* in relation to other GTA municipalities. Over 10,000 (11%) of recent immigrants in York Region have no *knowledge of* either *official language*.
- Almost 3,300 recent immigrant children in York Region who are 19 years of age and under, have no *knowledge of* either *official language*.
- Cantonese is the single most common non-official language spoken at home and at work by recent immigrants in York Region.

Key Religion Findings

Knowledge of the religious affiliation of recent immigrants in York Region provides a sense of the make up, service needs and backgrounds of this population. For example, recreation services such as swimming could be used very differently by Muslims than by those of other religious affiliations (e.g. no mixed gender swimming pools). The religious make up of recent immigrants is quite different from that of the total population:

- The most common religious affiliations for recent immigrants are “No Religion”, followed by Roman Catholic and Muslim.
- The most common religious affiliation for York Region’s total population is Roman Catholic, followed by “No Religion”, Jewish and United Church.

Key Housing Findings

- Housing costs are comparatively higher in York Region. Amongst the five GTA municipalities, York Region has the highest percentage of total tenant households spending 50% or more of household income on gross rent.
- Amongst the five GTA municipalities, York Region has the second highest percentage of owner’s households with a mortgage spending 50% and over of household income on major payments (e.g. mortgage payment and cost of electricity, heat, and municipal services), next to Halton Region (32%).
- Recent immigrants, probably due to lower income levels, are more likely to spend a greater proportion of their household income on all types of housing.
- Recent immigrants, like the general population, tend to be homeowners. In York Region, 87% of recent immigrant households (1991-2001) are homeowners and 12% are renters. In comparison, 90% of the total population households are homeowners and 10% are renters.

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

Key Public Transit Finding

The use of public transit by recent immigrants has implications for route planning and target marketing to ensure that the population is adequately served.

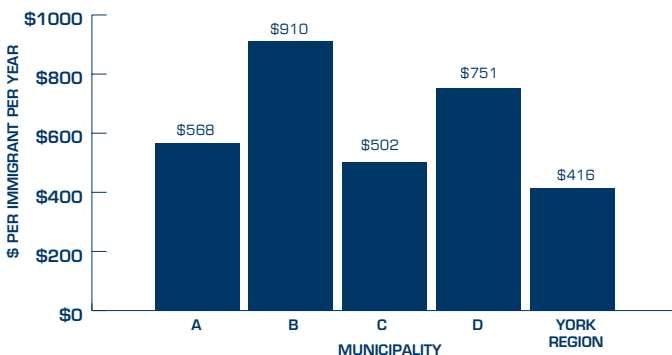
In York Region, one of the most common modes of transportation to work for recent immigrants is public transit. This is almost double the rate of use than the total population.

Key Mobility Finding

Recent immigrants change addresses at almost twice the rate of the total population (i.e. they are more “mobile” than the total population). Mobility rates are an indicator of how well established, or integrated, a population has become. A relatively frequent change in address can be an indication of the need to find more affordable accommodation, the need to live closer to work or schools, the need to be closer to amenities and services, etc. Generally, it can be considered an indicator of socio-economic stability.

Funding

CHART 1 2001/2002 Federal/Provincial Funding of Immigrant Services in GTA (2001)



Source: Statistics Canada information provided by Catholic Community Services for York Region

York Region has not received adequate funding to reflect the new immigration patterns. Federal and provincial funding for immigrant services in York Region has declined from \$416.72 per capita in 2001/2002 to \$179.26 in 2004/2005. As of 2001/2002, York Region received the lowest level of funding amongst the five GTA municipalities. Chart 1 shows York Region's funding as it relates to GTA comparators.

Executive Summary

Service and Funding Implications

The data in this report indicates that, on average, given time and the right supports, immigrants meet and exceed average income levels of the general population. It is important that we provide the necessary integration and settlement supports to help immigrants overcome the barriers they face, integrate into society, and maximize use of their assets.

Conclusions

This Community Snapshots report provides a socio-economic profile of recent immigrants living in York Region. Immigration currently accounts for an estimated 70% of Canada's net labour force growth. By 2011, it is estimated that it will account for 100% of net labour force growth². More immigrants are coming to York Region directly from their countries of origin and the recent immigrant population is growing faster than the *non-immigrant population*.

The report shows that York Region's immigrants, although highly educated and skilled, are economically vulnerable during the first several years after their arrival. It is important that funding from the provincial and federal governments reflects this reality, and that the region, at the community and governmental levels, advocate for a fair share of funding, especially in light of the new federal and provincial funding that will become available.

It is also important that services in York Region reflect the needs of the changing population. York Region's organizations are willing and eager to understand how our communities are changing, and to make necessary changes. In fact, there have been a number of initiatives directed towards responding to the changing demographics. A lack of comprehensive information has, however, been a significant impediment to focussed service delivery and planning as well as advocacy for funding.

It is hoped that this profile will provide the type of general information that will help set the stage to allow for better advocacy for funding, and more focussed balanced service delivery and planning to occur more easily. This will support York Region in continuing to reap the economic and societal benefits of immigration, as it has in the past.



² Statistics Canada/MacMaster University Meds projection, 2004

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

Recommendations

The goal of this socio-economic profile of recent immigrants is to lay out an objective picture of this significant and growing part of York Region's population. It is recommended that:

1. The Community Snapshots report be shared to inform realistic balanced service delivery planning and design, as well as broad-based community funding advocacy for York Region's fair share of settlement funding.
2. The Community Snapshots report be used as a baseline for monitoring programs and planning as new data becomes available.
3. Agencies and municipalities advocate for, and work collaboratively to ensure that an emphasis is placed on integration efforts, particularly in the early years after immigration.
4. The Regional Municipality of York take a leadership role in actively participating in the pending Association of Municipalities of Ontario Canada - Ontario Immigration and Labour Market Partnership agreement discussions to ensure York Region's funding and service interests are represented.



INTRODUCTION



Introduction

PREAMBLE

Immigrants generally contribute more than half of York Region's growth and the recent immigrant population in York Region is increasing at a faster rate than the *non-immigrant population*. Between 1991 and 2001, the number of *non-immigrants* increased by 31%, but the number of recent immigrants increased by 132%.

This report provides a socio-economic profile of York Region's recent immigrants using a number of variables that help show how well recent immigrants are integrating into the communities of York Region. For the purpose of this report, integration means the process of moving into a new community, finding work and housing, knowing how to get around and accessing various services such as schools and health services, and establishing social networks and supports that help foster an attachment and connection to community. These are all situations that more established residents may take for granted, but that can pose barriers to integration for newcomers to York Region unfamiliar with their new community.

The intent of this profile is to serve as a tool for regional government, area municipalities, human service organizations, community agencies and associations, and businesses to:

- Provide background information for advocacy initiatives - especially with regard to the need for equitable, adequate funding.
- Help agencies, organizations and municipalities that provide services and programs to recent immigrants understand the needs of this population so programs and services can be designed accordingly and resources used to the best advantage.
- Inform agencies, organizations, municipalities and the general public about the changing nature of York Region's population to improve cultural awareness and sensitivity.
- Provide a baseline for monitoring the progress of recent immigrants over time as new data becomes available.
- Help employers understand the skills, education levels, fields of expertise and needs of the recent immigrant labour pool in York Region and their potential to contribute to the Region's economy.



Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

Why this Report Matters

The *Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration (2005)* states that “Immigration has contributed to Canada’s growth as a nation and will play a key role in building the Canada of tomorrow, addressing future labour market and demographic needs, and supporting the country’s international role and geopolitical presence. Looking to the future, more successful and well-integrated newcomers in all parts of Canada are key to nation building and to our economic prosperity.”

The successful social and economic integration of recent immigrants is important for York Region for two key reasons. First, newcomers are quickly becoming a larger part of York Region’s workforce and will continue to do so as the population ages over the next twenty years. This growth must happen to meet the demands for more workers by business and other employers. Recent immigrants bring the skills, knowledge and experience needed to support York Region’s goal of creating an innovative and adaptive economy. However, many recent immigrants face initial

challenges in finding work commensurate with their skills, enhancing their occupation-specific language skills, securing affordable housing, and finding the appropriate supports and services to improve their employment and earnings - all of which can hamper York Region’s ability to benefit from their contributions and opportunities. Understanding their basic economic and social characteristics provides one way of identifying some of the specific labour market barriers faced by recent immigrants in York Region and what can be potentially done by business, local and regional governments, and other community partners to address these barriers.



Second, integration means becoming full participants in the social fabric of York Region. As residents, recent immigrants are a part of York Region’s growing diversity and community life, but may face challenges in using and learning about the various services, programs, and other community assets that longer-term residents know of and use with ease. A better understanding of their socio-economic characteristics is necessary so that these services and programs can be responsive, help recent immigrants quickly integrate into their communities, and provide equal opportunity for recent immigrants to enjoy and contribute to the high quality of life in York Region. It is hoped that this report will be used as a tool by service providers to help them understand the immigrant population, and consider their needs when designing and providing services.

The Role of Regional Government

Settlement and integration are the responsibilities of the provincial and federal governments. Regional government, like the broader regional community, can play an important role in the settlement and integration of recent immigrants. As a provider of many transit, health, community, and social services, Regional staff have direct contact with many residents, of which an increasing proportion are immigrants, at crucial points in their lives, such as the birth of a child, during emergencies, or when looking for child care to support employment. For example, in cases of social assistance, employment services, affordable housing, and other community supports, the Region also provides services that can contribute directly in helping people facing short-term economic difficulties meet their basic needs and work towards self-sufficiency. For recent immigrants who may lack access to other supports, the better these service providers are aware of their population make-up and needs, the better these services can help provide a key safety net in the process of integration, and bridge clients to more appropriate supports.

Understanding the social and economic characteristics of York Region's recent immigrants can help inform service issues and trends, particularly in planning ahead for where supports and resources may be required, and how they can be delivered more effectively, to help recent immigrants settle and adapt more quickly to their communities and jobs.



Municipal Interest in Immigrant and Settlement Service Planning

The timing of this report also allows for funding and a strategic, broader leadership role for regional government. The responsibility for providing settlement, language training and labour market programs are a federal and provincial responsibility. Recent agreements, however, between senior levels of governments recognise the important role that municipalities play in the successful settlement and integration of recent immigrants. The agreements also recognize the need for municipal involvement in the discussion of how to support integration locally, including seeking municipal input on the planning of a more seamless and coordinated delivery of federal and provincial services.

As these discussions evolve, it will be critical that facts about the growth and needs of York Region's recent immigrants are heard and understood, particularly in identifying where additional federal and provincial resources can be invested to support settlement, language, and labour market services for immigrants in York Region. To date, York Region has faced a significant and growing under-funding in immigrant settlement services that has not kept pace with new immigration patterns. The recent Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement, which will invest close to \$1 billion federal dollars over the next five years in Ontario for immigrant settlement services, provides a potential opportunity for York Region to address funding issues, and ensure that recent immigrants have access to the right supports to successfully integrate more quickly.

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

Regional government involvement in these discussions is important in two ways:

- Immigrant settlement services are the first step and access point for recent immigrants to successfully integrate into York Region. Accordingly, the Region has an interest in participating in discussions regarding immigrant settlement services, since it is Regional taxes that pay, at least in part, for the provision of social services that may be necessary to assist recent immigrants who are having difficulty integrating due to funding gaps in federal and provincial immigrant settlement services within York Region.
- Regional government has, through various collaborative initiatives, supported more integrated services planning in York Region to support community needs and trends. Municipal involvement in immigrant integration builds on the Regional role in supporting the case for adequate funding of human services through a solid understanding of who the recent immigrants in York Region are, their economic and employment situations, how far they are in integrating into York Region, and the service issues that they may face as barriers to integration.



Immigrants are the biggest contributors to the region's growth, and will affect the future of the region in several ways. Although the local and regional municipalities do not have a direct role in providing settlement services, they, along with various agencies and organizations in York Region, have a vested interest in seeing that adequate investments are made in services and programs so that recent immigrants can successfully make the transition from arrival to fully contributing to York Region's community, economy and overall quality of life.

Introduction

Report Contents

This report is organized into the following sections:

- Introduction
- Background - origin and context of report
- Methodology - data used, scope of analysis
- Snapshot of Recent Immigrants - York Region - information, charts and maps pertaining to:
 - > demographics
 - > employment
 - > income
 - > education
 - > language
 - > religion
 - > housing
 - > public transit
 - > mobility
- Implications and Next Steps
- Conclusions
- Appendices:
 - > Urban Area Municipal Snapshots - similar information as Snapshot section of report, for the municipalities in York Region that have sizeable recent immigrant populations i.e. Aurora, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, and Vaughan
 - > York Region initiatives
 - > Glossary of Terms - Statistics Canada definitions of terms used



Community Snapshots:

Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

BACKGROUND

Community Social Data Strategy

York Region is a participant in the Canadian Council on Social Development's Community Social Data Strategy (CSDS). The CSDS provides a gateway for municipalities and community-based organizations to access data from Statistics Canada to identify and better understand the social and economic trends within their individual communities.

To date, 15 communities across Canada have formed consortiums to participate in the Social Data Strategy. These communities are Calgary, Edmonton, Halton Region, Hamilton, London, Montreal, Ottawa, Peel Region, Peterborough, Red Deer, Simcoe County, Toronto, Vancouver, Waterloo Region, and York Region. York Region established a Consortium comprised of representatives from:

- The Regional Municipality of York
- United Way of York Region
- York Catholic District School Board
- York Region District School Board
- York Regional Police

To obtain broader community input, the participation of the following agencies was sought:

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Catholic Community Services - Immigrant Services
- Human Services Planning Coalition
- Markham Chamber of Commerce
- York/South Simcoe Training and Adjustment Board

The Consortium, together with the agencies listed above, formed the Community Reference Group. The Community Reference Group works to roll-out the Data Strategy in York Region.

Data provided through this strategy will increase the region's community agencies', organizations' (such as school boards, police), employers', area municipalities' and Regional departments' socio-economic knowledge of communities and residents in the region. This knowledge can support service and program design that is more responsive to York Region's changing demographics and promote a better understanding of York Region's social and economic profile.

This report is the first analytical product produced using this data. Other analytical products will be produced and will be made available online at www.york.ca.

METHODOLOGY

This Community Snapshots report is primarily based on a series of Statistics Canada custom tabulations of Census 2001 data obtained through the CSDS³. The report focuses on socio-economic characteristics of York Region's recent immigrants, such as age, gender, family type, work activity, education, and source of income.

Statistics Canada defines immigrants as “People who are or who have ever been landed immigrants. Landed immigrants are people who have been permitted by immigration authorities to live in Canada permanently; some will have lived in Canada for a number of years, while others have arrived recently”.

Where possible, the report identifies emerging trends based on data from different periods of immigration. This is “point-in-time” data, not trend data, so some degree of caution should be used in identifying trends. This is not data based on a longitudinal study following the same group of immigrants over a period of time.

The report also compares socio-economic characteristics of recent immigrants with *non-immigrants* and the total population, where data for those target groups is available.

Numbers may vary slightly between charts and worksheets due to random rounding (the process by which figures are rounded up or down to protect individuals from being identified within a population). All figures are rounded to a multiple of five or in some cases 10. Percentages, which are calculated on rounded figures, do not necessarily add up to 100%.

Terms used in this report are based on the 2001 Census Dictionary prepared by Statistics Canada. For easy reference, definitions are provided in Appendix 3 - Glossary of Terms, for terms that are italicized.



³The scope of the data includes:

- 2001 Census special tabulations not available in the general release providing information on the socio-economic situation of York Region residents in different geographic areas. Information is available on a wide variety of population characteristics, such as breakdowns by age and gender; employment, immigration or disability status; source and levels of income; family types and household composition; annual earnings; and many others.
- Urban Poverty - contains data for the population living under Low Income Cut-Off (LICO), including individual characteristics such as skill level, education level, sources of income, housing etc.
- Small Area and Administrative Data (SAAD) income tax filer data updated annually
- Canadian Community Health Survey: provides detailed health care information for 136 regions across Canada.
- Labour Force Survey: tracks labour market trends.
- Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, which contains reports on crime and traffic enforcement for different cities, townships, districts and rural municipalities.
- Financial Performance Indicators for Canadian Business, which measures the profitability, solvency and operating efficiency of business by industry.
- Survey of Household Spending, which contains data on household characteristics and expenditures, and characteristics on dwelling and household equipment.

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

This report is a benchmark and the first in a series of Community Snapshots reports. It is hoped that these reports will be tools to increase the understanding of the socio-economic make-up of diverse communities in York Region, and this knowledge will enhance the region's ability to prevent problems, and preserve or enhance the region's quality of life, and scan future trends.

Definition of Recent Immigrants

For the purpose of this report, recent immigrants are generally considered to be those who immigrated to Canada during the five-year time period of 1996 to 2001. Not all data is based on the 1996 to 2001 period. In some cases, due to the way the data was collected, recent immigrants are considered to be persons who immigrated to Canada between the 10-year time period of 1991 to 2001. However, unless otherwise specified in this report, data presented regarding recent immigrants refers to immigrants arriving in Canada between 1996 and 2001.



SNAPSHOT OF RECENT IMMIGRANTS - YORK REGION

Introduction

York Region covers 1,776 square kilometres from Lake Simcoe in the north to Steeles Avenue in the south. It borders Simcoe County and Peel Region in the west, Toronto in the south and Durham Region in the east. The region is comprised of nine area municipalities - Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville. In 2001, at the point in time the Census data was collected, York Region's population was 725,665. As of February 28, 2006, York Region's population was estimated to be 923,074.⁴

York Region has become the fastest growing Census Division in Canada. Between July 2001 and July 2005, York Region's population grew by just over 19%.⁵ Based on projections, York Region's population is expected to reach 1.4 million by 2026.⁶

Between 1991 and 2001, 69% of Canada's population growth resulted from immigration to Canada.⁷ Like the rest of Canada, a large part of York Region's growth is being driven by immigrants. During this time period, recent immigrants accounted for 42% of the population growth in York Region, or approximately 95,000 additional residents.

The *Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants in Canada*⁸ (LSIC) prepared by Statistics Canada provides some information regarding the reasons why immigrants settle where they do. The largest proportion of immigrants (41%) decide to settle in a particular location because of the presence of a spouse, partner or family member. Some other factors include the presence of friends (18%), job prospects (14%), education prospects (5%) and housing (4%).

The relatively high quality of life experienced in York Region could be a contributing factor to the popularity of the area for recent immigrants settling in Canada. Recent studies by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities show that York Region compares favourably with other Canadian municipalities in terms of education, employment, health, crime and income.⁹



⁴ York Region Planning and Development Services Department based on Statistics Canada data and CMHC Housing Completion data.

⁵ Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department based on Statistics Canada data and CMHC Housing Coetion data.

⁶ Population by 5 Year Age Groups & Sex - York Region - Reference Compact Scenario, Hemson Consulting Ltd.

⁷ Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-613-MIE - No. 009, p. 13 - percentage is based on population that excludes the undercount

⁸ Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants in Canada, Statistics Canada, 2003

⁹ Quality of Life Reporting System Theme Reports 1, 2, and 3, Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

Many more new Canadians are expected to move to the GTA. The Ontario Ministry of Finance projects that Ontario will attract 125,000 immigrants annually over the next 20 years, with the majority settling in the GTA¹⁰.

Generally, this is all good news for York Region. Currently, immigration accounts for 70% of the net labour force growth and it is estimated that it will account for 100% of Canada's labour force growth by 2011¹¹. With supports and planning, York Region stands to continue to grow and benefit from this.

General Demographics

Demographics include size of population, growth rate, gender, age, *place of birth*, *ethnic origin*, *marital status*, *household size*, *visible minority* status and *citizenship*. The demographics of the recent immigrant population have direct implications for strategic planning, funding, and service provision. For example, understanding the demographics of the population can give us important information about the number, culture, and living arrangements of recent immigrants; all of which are important considerations in planning and providing services.

Population

- The recent immigrant population in York Region is increasing at a faster rate than the *non-immigrant population*. Between 1991 and 2001, the number of recent immigrants increased by 132% and the number of *non-immigrants* increased by 31%. Recent immigrants accounted for 42% of the region's population growth during this time period.

¹⁰ 2001 Census Analysis Series, The Changing Profile of Canada's Labour Force, Statistics Canada, 2003

¹¹ Toward 2025: Assessing Ontario's Long-Term Outlook, Ontario Ministry of Finance, 2005

Snapshot of Recent Immigrants - York Region

Spatial Distribution

Map 1 shows the spatial distribution of recent immigrants in York Region. This report has similar maps showing in more detail the spatial distribution of recent immigrants living in the five more urban municipalities, where most immigrants have settled (i.e. Aurora, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Vaughan) - see Appendix 1.

The maps show that most recent immigrants have settled in the southern, more urban municipalities. Markham has received the greatest percentage of immigrants arriving between 1996 and 2001 at about 48%. Richmond Hill received the second highest percentage at about 28%, followed by Vaughan at about 18%. This settlement pattern may be reflective of the availability and proximity to services, employment areas, proximity to Toronto and concentrations of immigrants.

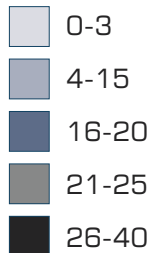
Additional maps are available showing *knowledge of official languages, language spoken at home and ethnic origin*. The maps are accessible on York Region's Community Social Data (YRCSD) Web site, which can be accessed through the York Region web site at www.york.ca.

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

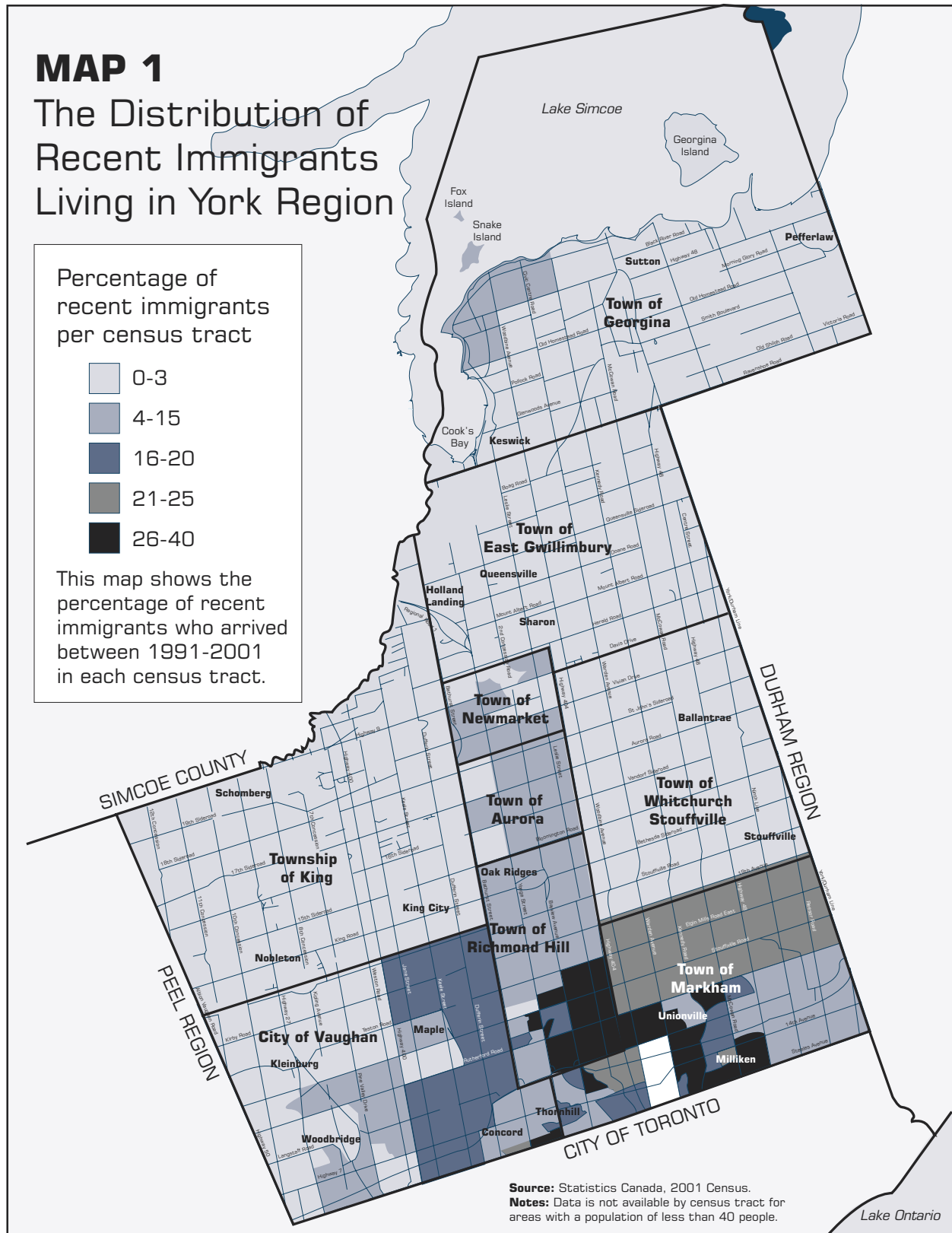
MAP 1

The Distribution of Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

Percentage of
recent immigrants
per census tract



This map shows the
percentage of recent
immigrants who arrived
between 1991-2001
in each census tract.



Snapshot of Recent Immigrants - York Region

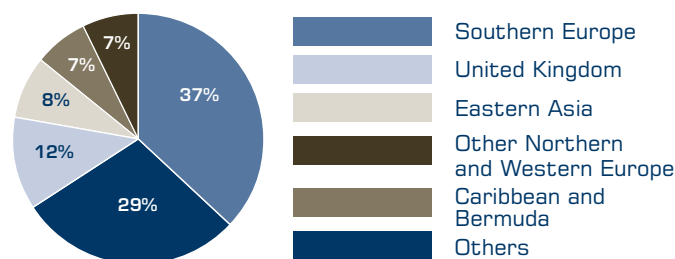
Place of Birth

Knowing which countries recent immigrants originate from is important in determining what services may be required, and the most effective way in delivering those services. Place of birth can be an indicator of cultural sensitivities, and possible language and social barriers that should be taken into consideration in planning and providing services.

In York Region:

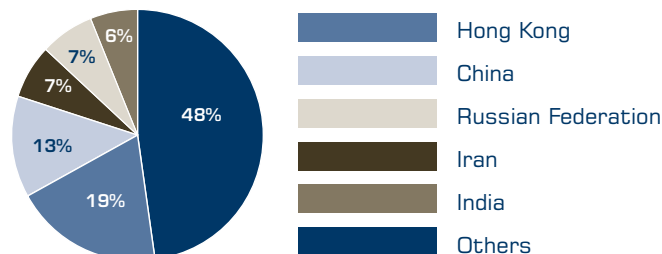
- Between 1981 and 2001, the places of birth for recent immigrants changed significantly. Prior to 1981, the top five places of birth were Southern Europe (37%), United Kingdom (12%), Eastern Asia (8%), Other Northern and Western Europe (7%), and Caribbean and Bermuda (7%) as shown in Chart 2.
- The top five countries of birth for recent immigrants (1996-2001) in York Region were Hong Kong (19%), China (13%), Russian Federation (7%), Iran (7%) and India (6%) as shown in Chart 3.
- It should be noted that, the place of birth of York Region's immigrant population is quite different from other GTA municipalities. Amongst GTA municipalities, York Region has the highest percentage of immigrants from Hong Kong, Russian Federation and Iran.
- In the remainder of the GTA, the highest numbers of recent immigrants were born in China, followed by India, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

CHART 2: Top Five Places of Birth for Immigrants Who Arrived Prior to 1981, York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 3: Top Five Places of Birth for Recent Immigrants, York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

Ethnic Origin

Ethnic origin is defined by Statistics Canada as the ethnic or cultural group(s) to which the ancestors of those being surveyed belong. *Ethnic origin* can be a useful indicator of the *religion*, cultural characteristics, sense of identity, values, customs, language, and family life of recent immigrants, all of which can have implications for the planning and provision of services.

- The top *ethnic origins* of recent immigrants (1991-2001) living in York Region are Chinese (59%), East Indian (10%), Russian (8%), Canadian (4%), Filipino (4%) and English (3%).
- Recent immigrants (1991-2001) of Chinese and Russian ethnic origin comprised larger proportions of the recent immigrant population in York Region than in any of the other GTA municipalities.

Gender

Knowledge of the number of males and females is important in the planning of services and programs that are gender-specific, in terms of the number of people who may want access.

- The ratio of recent immigrant males to females living in York Region has remained relatively stable; changing slightly from 49:51 for those who immigrated prior to 1991 to 47:53 for those immigrating between 1991 and 2001, amongst population age 15 years and over.

Age

Age composition of the recent immigrant population provides information that indicates the numbers of pre-school children, school age children, youth, the working age population, and the number of seniors. These numbers can be useful in assessing potential need for programs and services targeted towards those segments of the population. Age also indicates the number of potential voters, people in the work force and women who are of child bearing age.

- The age distribution of recent immigrants in York Region has remained relatively unchanged between the 1991 to 1995 and 1996 to 2001 time periods.
- The age distribution of recent immigrants is similar to the age distribution of *non-immigrants*, with the majority (66%) being in the 25 to 54 age group, meaning that most recent immigrants are generally of what is considered to be working age.
- The main differences in age distribution between recent immigrants and *non-immigrants* are:
 - > a higher proportion (66%) of recent immigrants in the 25 to 54 age group than *non-immigrants* (60%)
 - > a lower proportion (20%) of recent immigrants in the 15 to 24 age group than *non-immigrants* (25%)
- At the time of immigration, 32% of recent immigrants (1991-2001), or 30,065 people were 19 years of age or younger.
- Most female immigrants are of child bearing age.

Snapshot of Recent Immigrants - York Region

Marital Status

Marital status (of people 15 years of age and over) has implications for economic security, presence of family supports, and health status, all of which can determine how easily immigrants are able to integrate into society.

- In York Region, proportionately more recent immigrants are married (70%) than *non-immigrants* (56%).
- Proportionately more recent immigrants report having ever married (77%) than *non-immigrants* (65%).
- The percentages of *non-immigrants* and recent immigrants who are separated, divorced, or widowed are similar, being between 1% and 4%.

Household Size

Household size can be reflective of cultural differences, or economic vulnerability, that encourages recent immigrants to live with family members, as part of an extended family. This can present challenges to service providers in the sense that there may be an “unseen” component of the population who may not be visible to service providers, or aware of available services.

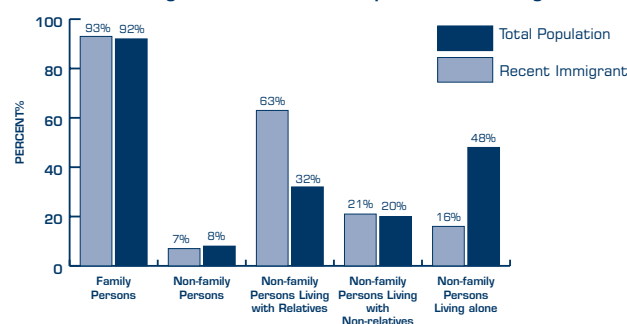
- As shown in Chart 4, recent immigrants in York Region, who are non-family persons, are almost twice as likely to be living with relatives, as part of an extended family, than the total population.

Citizenship

The number of recent immigrants who have become Canadian citizens has implications in terms of the number of recent immigrants who are entitled to be election candidates, be educated in either official language, apply for a Canadian passport, vote in elections, and enter and leave Canada freely.

- 60% of recent immigrants (1991-2001) in York Region are Canadian citizens.

CHART 4: Number and Type of Persons in Households for Total Population and Recent Immigrant (1991-2001) Population, York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

Visible Minorities

Visible minority numbers and groupings can be indicators of cultural differences, and can speak to a need to support community harmony through initiatives like cultural sensitivity training for students, employers, and agencies.

- As of 2001, *visible minorities* represented 71% of the recent immigrant population living in York Region - 13% of the *non-immigrant population* are *visible minorities*.

KEY DEMOGRAPHIC FINDINGS:

- **York Region's immigrant population is growing at a much faster rate than the non-immigrant population.**
- **Since 1981, there has been a shift in the place of origin of York Region's immigrant population from Europe to Asia.**
- **About two thirds of recent immigrants are of working age and in a position to contribute to the economy (i.e. generally considered to be 25 to 54 years of age). This is similar to the age distribution of non-immigrants.**
- **Compared to the non-immigrant population, recent immigrants are more likely to be married or to have been married.**
- **Three out of five recent immigrants are Canadian citizens.**
- **Most recent immigrants are visible minorities, with Chinese being the most commonly represented visible minority group.**
- **Recent immigrants in York Region are almost twice as likely to be living with relatives, as part of an extended family, than the total population.**

- Between 1981 and 2001, Chinese has remained the top visible minority group amongst recent immigrants and has increased from 34% to 52% of the total visible minority population. During that period, those from South Asia¹² have remained the second most common visible minority group. Together, these two groups comprise 71% of recent immigrant visible minority groups.
- Prior to 1981, Black was the third most common visible minority group amongst immigrants, representing 13% of visible minority immigrants and according to the latest census information (2001) is the sixth most common visible minority group; representing 3% of recent immigrants amongst the top five.

¹² South Asian origin can include Bangladeshi, Bengali, East Indian, Goan, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Pakistani, Punjabi, Nepali, Sinhalese, Sri Lankan, Tamil.

Snapshot of Recent Immigrants - York Region

Education

The data analyzed for this report related to education provides information on level of school attendance, level of post-secondary education, income earned in relation to level of education, and the fields of study that post-secondary education is related to. This information can be used as an indicator of the level of knowledge, training and skills that recent immigrants bring with them, and whether the potential of recent immigrants is being realized. Potential use of this information is to determine where more effort is required in matching the skills, training, and knowledge of recent immigrants with suitable employment.

Note: Data used in the Education section of this report is for the age group 15 years and over, unless otherwise specified.

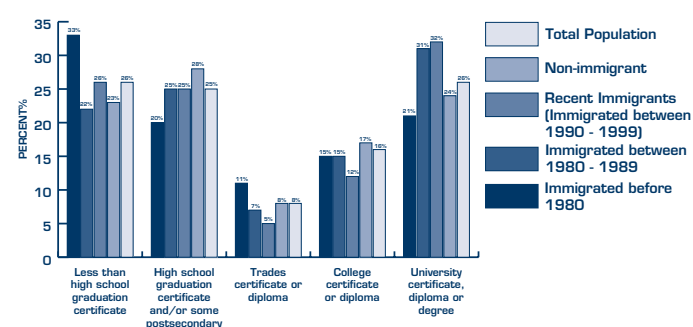
School Attendance

- In York Region a higher percentage (80%) of recent immigrants (1991-2001) attend school either full-time or part-time than the total population (72%).

Post-Secondary Education

- A greater percentage (32%) of recent immigrants (1990-1999) in York Region have a university certificate, diploma or degree than non-immigrants (24%) as shown in Chart 5.
- York Region has the second highest percentage (32%) of recent immigrants (1991-2001) with a university certificate, diploma or degree next to Halton Region (33%).¹³

CHART 5: Highest Level of Schooling for Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Period of Immigration, York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

¹³ York Region data is for 1990 to 1999 time period and other GTA municipalities is for 1991 to 2001 time period.

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

KEY EDUCATION AND EDUCATION RELATED TO INCOME FINDINGS:

- **York Region's recent immigrant population generally attends school at a higher rate than the total population. York Region's recent immigrants generally have a higher level of education than non-immigrants.**
- **The income of recent immigrants (1995-1999) with less than a high school graduation certificate is 21% less than non-immigrants with the same level of education, and is 40% less for those with a university certificate, diploma or degree.**
- **Recent immigrants (1995-1999) generally earn less than non-immigrants who have the same level of education.**
- **In comparison with the total population, recent immigrants in York Region are more represented in the fields of engineering; mathematics, computer and physical sciences; and, agricultural, biological, nutritional, and food sciences than the total population.**
- **In comparison with the total population, recent immigrants in York Region are less represented in the fields of education, recreation and counselling services; humanities and related fields; social sciences and related fields; and technologies and trades than the total population.**

Income in Relation to Education

- In York Region, recent immigrants (1995-1999) generally earn less than non-immigrants with the same level of education. For example, a recent immigrant with a university certificate, diploma or degree earns an average of \$38,366 compared to \$63,821 for non-immigrants. Recent immigrants with less than a high school graduation certificate also earn less (\$17,288) than non-immigrants (\$21,924).
- The income of recent immigrants (1995-1999) with less than a high school graduation certificate is 21% less than non-immigrants with the same level of education, and is 40% less for those with a university certificate, diploma or degree.
- Immigrants who arrived before 1980 have higher incomes than non-immigrants with the same level of education. The vast majority of these immigrants would have settled elsewhere and benefited from their settlement supports before coming to York Region.
- For immigrants who arrived before 1980, the greatest disparity in income in relation to level of education between the non-immigrant population and immigrants is amongst those having less than a high school graduation certificate. These immigrants earn 77% more than non-immigrants.

Fields of Study

- In York Region, recent immigrants (1991-2001) with postsecondary qualifications are more represented in the fields of engineering; mathematics, computer and physical sciences; and, agricultural, biological, nutritional, and food sciences than the total population.
- Recent immigrants (1991-2001) with postsecondary qualifications are less represented in the fields of education, recreation and counselling services; humanities and related fields; social sciences and related fields; and technologies and trades than the total population.

Snapshot of Recent Immigrants - York Region

Employment

Information relating to employment, such as unemployment, *work activity*, public transit use, commuting and occupations, provides an indication of economic security, and is an indicator of how well immigrants are integrating into society. From this information we can determine if recent immigrants are more likely to be unemployed than *non-immigrants*; if the *unemployment rate* changes the longer that immigrants have been in the country; what is the nature of *work activity* amongst recent immigrants (i.e. part-time, full-time); and are recent immigrants more likely to be employed in traditionally low-paying jobs. Potential uses of this information include assessing the need for, and types of, settlement services, job training, and *labour force* integration programs.

Note: Data used in the Employment section of this report is for the age group 15 years and over, unless otherwise specified.

Unemployment

Persons considered to be unemployed include those who were unemployed and looking for work, about to start a new job, or on temporary layoff and expecting to return to work.

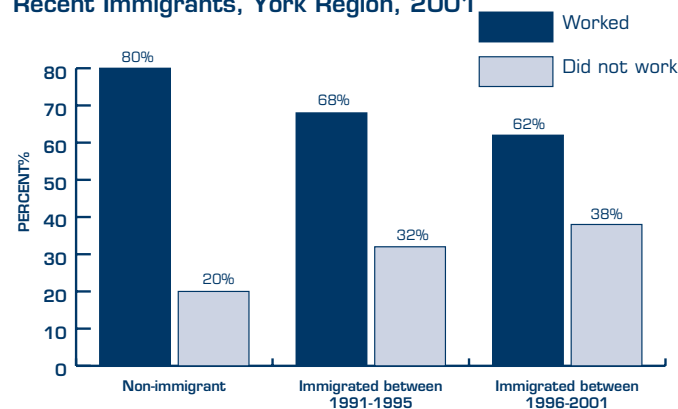
- In York Region, the *unemployment rate* for recent immigrants aged 25 to 54 years who entered the country between 1996 and 2001 is 21%, compared to 2% for the *non-immigrant population*.
- The *unemployment rate* declines for immigrants aged 25 to 54 as more time passes between periods that immigrants entered the country. Immigrants who arrived prior to 1981 have an *unemployment rate* of 4% - only two percentage points higher than the rate for the *non-immigrant population*. Immigrants aged 25 to 54 who entered the country between 1991 and 1995 have an *unemployment rate* (6%) that begins to approximate the *unemployment rate* of the *non-immigrant population*.

Work Activity

Work Activity is an indication of whether a person who is in the labour force worked for pay or in self-employment, and the number of hours worked.

- In York Region, 38% of recent immigrants reported not having worked in 2000, compared to 20% of non-immigrants as shown in Chart 6.
- Recent immigrants living in York Region who worked in 2000 worked mostly full-time and mostly part-time at almost the same ratio as non-immigrants (i.e. 76:24).

CHART 6: Work Activity (15 years and over) for Recent Immigrants, York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

Occupations

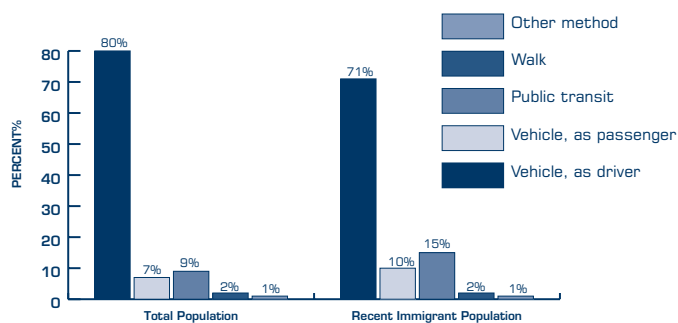
- In York Region, recent immigrants are more commonly in occupations related to natural sciences, (10 percentage points more) and in occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities (seven percentage points more), than are *non-immigrants*.
- Recent immigrants (1991-2001) are less likely than *non-immigrants* to be in occupations related to management; business, finance and administration; social science, education, government service and religion; trades, transport and equipment operators; and occupations unique to primary industry.
- In comparing the top five occupations for recent immigrants and *non-immigrants*, it is notable that professional occupations in natural sciences and managers in retail trade, food and accommodation services are amongst the top five occupations for immigrants, but not for *non-immigrants*. Conversely, the occupations of specialist managers and teachers and professors are amongst the top five occupations for *non-immigrants*, but not for immigrants.

Public Transit

The use of public transit by recent immigrants has implications for route planning and target marketing to ensure that the population is adequately served. A comparison between language spoken at home across the region in relation to public transit routes, and ridership numbers could be useful in determining the need for transit information in other languages.

- In York Region, one of the most common modes of transportation to work for recent immigrants (1991-2001) is public transit. This is almost double the rate of use than the total population.

CHART 7: Mode of Transportation to Work for Total Population and Recent Immigrant Population (1991-2001), York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

Commuting

- In York Region, 71% of the recent immigrant (1991-2001) employed labour force drive a vehicle to work and 10% are passengers in a vehicle driven to work. This compares with 80% and 7% respectively, for the total population as shown in Chart 7.
- 9% of employed recent immigrants (1991-2001) work at home.

Snapshot of Recent Immigrants - York Region

- 73% of recent immigrants (1991-2001) work in a different area municipality (not necessarily in York Region) than the one they live in, and 27% work in the area municipality of residence.

Income

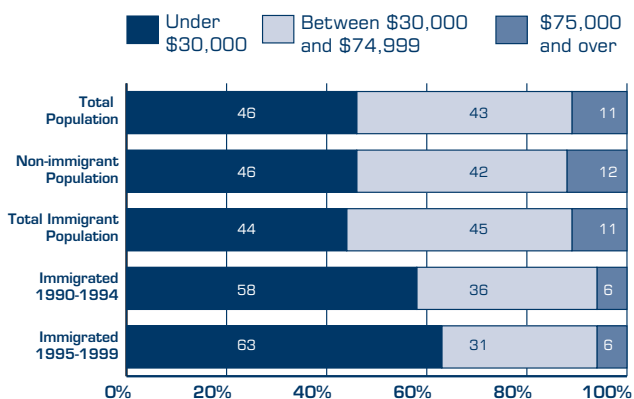
Income can be an important indicator of how well-integrated immigrants into Canadian society have become, and can also indicate a need for services, supports and social assistance in general. Income often also determines health. The information in this section of the report relates to level of income, incidence of low income, and source of income. These measures have implications for the extent of programs and services that may be needed to help immigrants integrate. Income also impacts the freedom of choice that immigrants may have in terms of where they settle, housing choices, how they get around, and education options for themselves and their children.

Note: Data used in the Income section of this report is for the age group 15 years and over, unless otherwise specified.

Income Level

- York Region ranks third (\$19,975) amongst GTA municipalities in terms of recent immigrant's median *employment income*.
- In York Region, the average median total income for recent immigrants is \$14,449 compared to \$30,212 for the *non-immigrant population*, despite their generally higher levels of education.
- Recent immigrants in York Region have the second lowest average median total income amongst GTA municipalities; second only to Toronto (\$14,006).
- The median *employment income* for immigrants living in York Region, however, exceeds that of *non-immigrants* by about 23% when the period of immigration is prior to 1986.
- 63% of recent immigrants (1995-1999) have incomes less than \$30,000 compared to 46% of the *non-immigrant population*, as shown in Chart 8.
- 31% of recent immigrants (1995-1999) have incomes between \$30,000 and \$74,999 compared to 42% of *non-immigrants*.

CHART 8: Income Groups for Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Immigrant Status, York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

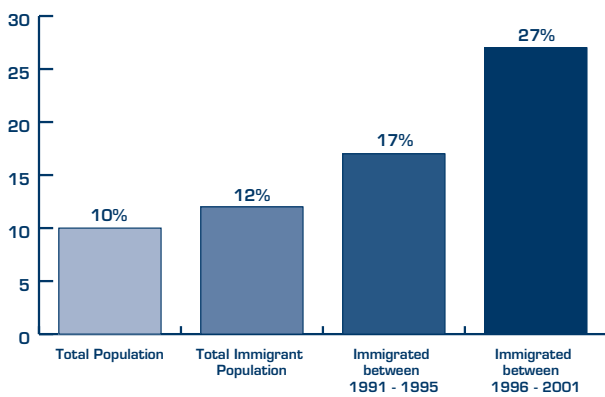
Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

- 6% of recent immigrants (1995-1999) have incomes \$75,000 and over compared to 12% of *non-immigrants*.

Low Income

This section of the report uses Statistics Canada's before tax *Low Income Cut-Off (LICO)* as a measure of low income in York Region. *LICO* is a methodology that identifies those who are substantially worse-off than average in terms of the amount of income spent on basic necessities.

CHART 9: Percent of Population (15 years of age and over) Under LICO by Immigrant Status, York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

- In York Region, 27% of recent immigrants, or 7,860 persons, are within the *low income cut-off* compared to 10% of total population (55,130 persons), as shown in Chart 9.
- Recent immigrants living in York Region have the second highest level of low income (27%) amongst GTA municipalities, next to Toronto (37%).
- 62% of recent immigrants in York Region who are unattached individuals aged 15 and over, or 785 persons, are within the *low income cut-off* compared to 31% (11,500 persons) of the total population.
- 67% of unattached elderly recent immigrants, or 60 persons, are within the *low income cut-off* compared to 40% (4,570 persons) of the total unattached elderly population.
- Immigrants who arrived 10 to 15 years ago have the same percentage of low income earners as the total population (i.e. 10%).
- Immigrants who arrived over 15 years ago have a lower rate of low income (8%) than the total population.

Snapshot of Recent Immigrants - York Region

Source of Income

- In York Region, the average total government transfer payment (i.e. Old Age Security pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada or Quebec Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Canada Child Tax Benefits) is \$2,588 for recent immigrants and \$3,739 for non-immigrants (i.e. about 31% lower).
- Dependence on government transfer payments as a source of income decreases as the period of immigration becomes more recent, from an average total government transfer payment of \$6,392 for immigrants arriving before 1986 to \$2,588 for immigrants arriving between 1996 and 2001.
- 7% of recent immigrants (1991-2001) report government transfer payments as a source of income.

Language

In this section of the report, the degree of *knowledge of official languages*, and language most commonly spoken at home and at work by recent immigrants is outlined. Knowledge of one of Canada's official languages; especially English in Ontario, is an important factor in academic achievement, and in finding employment and integrating into society, in general. Knowing the languages spoken by recent immigrants can help determine what translation services are needed to promote and provide services. It is also key for connecting with new Canadians so they can be made part of the community, rather than running the risk of creating a subculture. Understanding the level of *knowledge of official languages* and the languages commonly spoken at home and at work in different parts of the region can have implications for the provision and design of English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Literacy Development (ELD) courses.

KEY EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME FINDINGS:

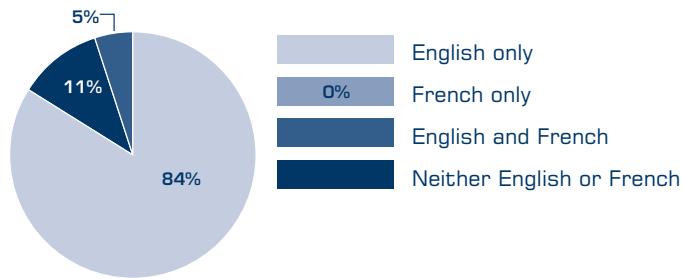
- **York Region ranks third (\$19,975) amongst GTA municipalities in terms of median employment income.**
- **In York Region, the average median total income for recent immigrants is \$14,449 compared to \$30,212 for the non-immigrant population, despite their generally higher levels of education.**
- **Recent immigrants in York Region have the second lowest average median total income amongst GTA municipalities; second only to Toronto (\$14,006).**
- **York Region's recent immigrant population is almost three times as likely as non-immigrants to be within the low income cut-off.**
- **In York Region, the average total government transfer payment (e.g. Old Age Security pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada or Quebec Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Canada Child Tax Benefits) is \$2,588 for recent immigrants and \$3,739 for non-immigrants (i.e. about 31% lower).**

However,

- **Immigrants living in York Region who have been in Canada for over 15 years have a lower incidence of low-income than the total population.**
- **The median employment income for immigrants living in York Region exceeds that of non-immigrants by 23% when the period of immigration is prior to 1986.**

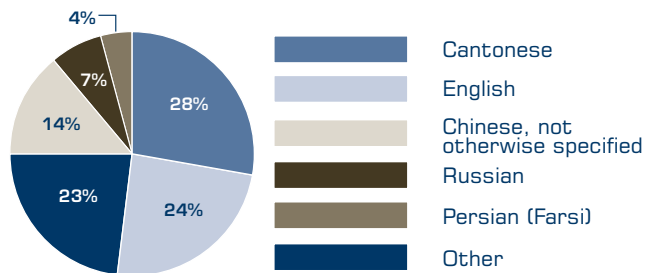
Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

CHART 10: Knowledge of Official Languages for Recent Immigrants (1991-2001), York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 11: Top Five Home Languages (single response) for Recent Immigrants (1991-2001), York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

KEY LANGUAGE FINDINGS:

- **84% of recent immigrants in York Region report English as their most commonly spoken language.**
- **Over 10,000 (11%) of recent immigrants in York Region have no knowledge of either official language.**
- **There are approximately 3,300 recent immigrant children, 19 years and under, in York Region who have no knowledge of either official language.**
- **Cantonese is the single most common non-official language spoken at home and at work by recent immigrants in York Region.**

Official Languages

- York Region has the highest percentage of recent immigrants that have no *knowledge of either official language* in relation to other GTA municipalities.
- In York Region, 11% (10,325 persons) of recent immigrants (1991-2001) have no *knowledge of either official language* as shown in Chart 10.
- 84% of recent immigrants in York Region (1991-2001) report English as their most commonly spoken official language. 5% of recent immigrants in York Region speak both English and French. 0.1% of recent immigrants in York Region only speak French.
- Approximately 3,300 of recent immigrant children aged 19 years and under in York Region have no *knowledge of either official language*.

Language Spoken at Home

- In York Region, Cantonese (28%), followed by English (24%) and Chinese (14%), are the most common languages (by single response) spoken at home by recent immigrants (1991-2001) as shown in Chart 11.

Language Spoken at Work

- In York Region, English is the main language used at work by 89% of recent immigrants (1991-2001). Cantonese (5%) and Chinese (4%) are the next most common languages used in the work place.

Snapshot of Recent Immigrants - York Region

Religion

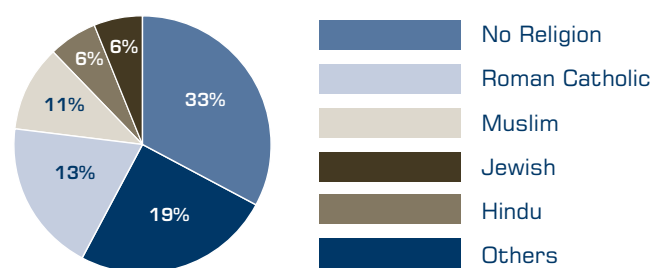
Knowledge of *religion* gives us another sense of the make-up, service needs and backgrounds of the region's recent immigrant population. For example, recreation services, such as swimming, could be used very differently by Muslims than by those of other religious affiliations (e.g. no mixed gender swimming pools).

The religious make-up of recent immigrants is quite different from that of the total population.

- Amongst recent immigrants (1991-2001) in York Region the most common religious affiliations are "No Religion" (33%), followed by Roman Catholic (19%) and Muslim (11%), as shown in Chart 12.
- Amongst the total population the most common religious affiliations are Roman Catholic (35%), followed by "No Religion" (17%) and Jewish and United Church (both at 8%).
- The data analyzed for this report shows that the most common religious affiliation reported by recent immigrants (1991-2001) is "No Religion", representing 33% of the recent immigrant population. In comparison, only 17% of the total population report "No Religion" as their religious affiliation.

This has several implications. A key issue is that traditionally in York Region, the faith sector has played an important role in helping immigrants integrate into their communities. With such a large proportion of recent immigrants reporting no religious affiliation, and the fact that this segment is likely to grow, their settlement services may have to be provided by agencies or organizations that are not faith-based. The faith sector may have to examine how and where its services are provided.

CHART 12: Top Five Religions for Recent Immigrants (1991 - 2001), York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

KEY RELIGION FINDINGS:

- **The religious make-up of recent immigrants in York Region is quite different than the make-up of the total population.**
- **The most common religious affiliations for recent immigrants are "No Religion", representing 33% of the population, followed by Roman Catholic and Muslim. In comparison, only 17% of the total population report "No Religion" as their religious affiliation.**
- **The most common religious affiliation for York Region's total population is Roman Catholic, followed by "No Religion", Jewish and United Church.**

Community Snapshots:

Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

Housing

This section of the report compares home ownership/tenancy levels, proportion of income spent on housing, and condition of housing between recent immigrants and the total population.

Proportion of income spent on housing, particularly given the relatively low income earned by recent immigrants, can be an indicator of economic vulnerability and the need for more affordable housing options.

KEY HOUSING FINDINGS:

- **Recent immigrants, probably due to lower income levels, are more likely to spend a greater proportion of their household income on all types of housing.**
- **In York Region, 87% of recent immigrant households (1991-2001) are homeowners and 12% are renters. In comparison, 90% of the total population households are homeowners and 10% are renters.**
- **Amongst the five GTA municipalities, York Region has the highest percentage of total tenant recent immigrant households spending 50% or more of household income on gross rent.**
- **Amongst the five GTA municipalities, York Region has the second highest percentage of recent immigrant owner's households with a mortgage spending 50% and over of household income on major payments (mortgage payment and cost of electricity, heat, and municipal services, for example), next to Halton Region (32%).**

- In York Region, 87% of recent immigrant households¹⁴ (1991-2001) are homeowners and 12% are renters. In comparison, 90% of the total population households are homeowners and 10% are renters.
- Amongst the five GTA municipalities, York Region has the highest percentage of total tenant households spending 50% or more of household income on gross rent.
- In York Region, 33% of recent immigrant households who are tenants spend 50% or more of their household income on gross rent, compared to 16% of *total economic family* households who are tenants.
- Amongst the five GTA municipalities, York Region has the 2nd highest percentage (28%) of owner's households with a mortgage spending 50% and over of household income on major payments (mortgage payment and cost of electricity, heat, and municipal services, for example), next to Halton Region (32%)
- 28% of recent immigrants in households in York Region, who are homeowners with a mortgage, spend 50% or more of their household¹⁴ income on major payments, compared to 8% of the total number of households in York Region.

¹⁴The term "households", as used in the "Housing" section of this report, refers to "economic family households". Economic family households are defined by Statistics Canada as a "group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption."

Snapshot of Recent Immigrants - York Region

- There is definite pride of ownership. In York Region, there is no difference between the condition of dwellings occupied by recent immigrants and those occupied by the total number of households in York Region - 96% of dwellings occupied require minor or no repairs and 4% require major repairs.

Mobility

Looking at the mobility of the recent immigrant population is an indicator of how well established or integrated the population has become. A relatively frequent change in address can be an indication of the need to find more affordable accommodation, live closer to work and schools, the need to be closer to amenities and services, etc. Generally, it can be considered an indicator of socio-economic stability.

KEY MOBILITY FINDING:

Recent immigrants are much more mobile than the total population.

- In York Region, a greater percentage of recent immigrants (1991-2001) than the total population lived at a different address on Census Day than the one at which they resided one year earlier (i.e. 24% compared to 13%).

IMPLICATIONS

Overview - What Does This All Mean?

Recent immigrants in York Region bring many assets with them. As noted in this report, they are generally highly skilled, well-educated, from various ethnic backgrounds, and of working age. A report prepared by the York, South Simcoe Training & Adjustment Board¹⁵ entitled *2004/2005 Trends, Opportunities & Priorities Report*, dated September 2004, states that a growing reliance on immigration as a source of skills and workforce growth is becoming an increasingly important factor shaping the labour market in the York, South Simcoe area.

Census data indicates that generally, given time and the right supports, immigrants meet and exceed average income levels of the general population. York Region has in the past benefited from immigration, but data shows the pace and pattern of York Region's immigration has changed, and this requires a new and strategic response. It is important that we provide the necessary integration and settlement supports to help immigrants overcome the barriers they face, integrate into society and maximize use of their assets.



The alternative to integration is the possible development of an immigrant subculture or underclass. The lack of social and economic integration can lead to family conflicts; isolation and negative social subcultures; loss of self-esteem; lost wages, productivity, and output; and neighbourhood distress in communities that offer few alternatives or resources for people to meet their social and economic needs. Also, given that more recent immigrants are now visible minorities, there is the risk of the racialization of poverty¹⁶, and the development of tension between the “haves” and the “have-nots” along racial lines.

As with so many other potential socio-economic issues, York Region is in an excellent position to prevent these problems and continue to benefit from immigration.

This report is focused on providing information on York Region's recent immigrant population. It can be used not only for funding advocacy and broad-based strategic planning, but also as a tool by agencies and organizations that provide services and programs to residents so they can understand this segment of the population better and provide the right supports to help recent immigrants integrate as quickly as possible.

Aside from the specific service implications that this report may suggest, there are a few broader implications or overlying themes that emerge in the areas of economic development, vulnerability and immigrant integration.

¹⁵ The York, South Simcoe Training & Adjustment Board (YSSTAB) is one of twenty-one independent, non-government, and not-for-profit corporations in Ontario called Local Boards. Their role is to work at the local level in developing solutions to labour market needs and issues that have been identified by the community. YSSTAB includes the municipalities of Aurora, Bradford-West Gwillimbury, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

¹⁶ Immigrant Settlement and Social Inclusion in Canada, Ratna Omidvar and Ted Richmond, January 2003.

Community Snapshots:

Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

Role of Recent Immigrants in Economic Development

A report entitled *2004 Employers Opinion Survey*, prepared by the Planning and Development Services Department of York Region, states that the region will face increasing competition to attract and retain a skilled labour force due to emerging demographic trends and other challenges. In the face of an aging labour force and increased global competition “York Region must position itself to respond to the challenge of attracting and retaining employees”. The report states that to remain competitive, there is a need to concentrate on attracting and retaining employees, particularly new Canadians.

The report, based on a survey of York Region employers, identifies a number of challenges to attracting and retaining employees:

- Lack of affordable housing
- Limited transit system
- Traffic congestion



In addition to the challenges noted above in attracting employees in general, the report noted that the organizational infrastructures needed to attract and retain immigrant employees needs to be better developed in York Region. Other issues identified were language skills, skills assessment and licensing, and the need for coordination.

Employers should be concerned. Across Canada, immigrants account for an estimated 70% of net labour force growth. By 2011, it is anticipated that they will account for 100% of net labour force growth.¹⁷

The Community Snapshots report confirms the level of knowledge, skills and training that recent immigrants bring to York Region. It has been noted earlier in the report that recent immigrants in York Region are twice as likely to move within a year as the total population. With recent immigrants providing a growing segment of this region's labour force, it is important for proper integration to occur so that immigrant employees can be attracted and retained.

¹⁷ 2001 Census Analysis Series, The Changing Profile of Canada's Labour Force, Statistics Canada, 2003.

Economic Vulnerability and Occupational Gaps

The reports shows that while York Region immigrants who arrived earlier in Canada have attained levels of income that approximate those of *non-immigrants*, recent immigrants can face economic difficulties during their first years of settlement. The average median *employment income* for recent immigrants (1996-2001) is \$19,975, which is about 36% lower than the average median *employment income* for *non-immigrants*. Recent immigrants are almost three times as likely to fall under the *Low Income Cut-Off* as the total population. Moreover, recent immigrants are typically more reliant on employment rather than investment, government transfers, or other income than *non-immigrants*, leaving them with fewer resources available to deal with periods of unemployment or loss of earnings. This suggests that agencies providing social assistance, related employment services and basic community support may be the only programs accessible to recent immigrants in the short-term, and so, need to target and design services that are responsive to helping recent immigrants find employment and link to more appropriate supports to maximize their labour market potential.

Recent immigrants with postsecondary qualifications are less represented in fields of study pertaining to educational, recreational and counselling services; social sciences and related fields; and, technologies and trades than the total population. Recent immigrants are less than half as likely to be in occupations related to social services, education, government services and religion than are *non-immigrants*. Of particular note is the teaching profession which is occupied by recent immigrants at a level which is 22% lower than *non-immigrants*. These professions are essential in helping immigrants integrate into Canadian society. A disproportionate representation of immigrants in these fields may be some cause for concern in terms of integration.



Recent immigrants generally have a higher level of education than *non-immigrants*. It is important that the education and skills that immigrants bring to Canada not be wasted. Much has been written lately about the need to recognize foreign education and training. The Royal Bank of Canada has estimated that if foreign-born workers were used as successfully in the work force as Canadian-born workers, personal incomes would be about \$13 billion higher each year. This would have far reaching impacts on housing, spending, savings, investment, the economy, and quality of life. The key, the Royal Bank argues, is having all levels of government, including municipalities and communities, focus on better integration and settlement supports and the removal of workplace barriers, to give immigrants, who generally arrive with high levels of education, an opportunity to contribute fully.¹⁸

York Region's data shows a disproportionate number of recent immigrants, despite their higher level of education, in occupations which are generally low paying, such as managers in retail trade, food and accommodation services; clerical occupations; assisting occupations in support of health

¹⁸ "The Diversity Advantage: A Case for Canada's 21st Century Economy", RBC Financial Group, 2005.

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

services; and occupations unique to agriculture. These occupations are important to society, but efforts are necessary to ensure that recent immigrants can find occupations commensurate with their training and education. This will ensure that immigrants can reach their full potential, and contribute fully to maintaining the region's economy and quality of life.

As shown in this report, recent immigrants who are homeowners are three times as likely to spend 50% and over of their household income on major housing payments. Recent immigrants who are tenants are more than twice as likely to spend 50% or more of their household income on gross rent. As noted previously in this report, a disproportionate number of recent immigrants are in occupations that are traditionally at the lower end of the pay scale. The lack of affordable housing in York Region, combined with the relatively low income of recent immigrants, makes them vulnerable to financial crises.



In 2004, York Region released a report entitled *Housing and our Economy: Remaining Competitive*. This report's data noted the lack of affordable housing and the importance of increasing the Region's supply of affordable housing to support its resident labour force and employers. This would support the region's goal of remaining economically competitive and maintaining a high quality of life. In addition to affordable home ownership, the report noted the importance of creating "more affordable rental housing to attract and retain key employees including those at the moderate and lower end of the pay scale".

Integration of Recent Immigrants - Issues and Funding Opportunities

Given the growth in immigration and the potential of immigrants, it makes sense to support the integration of immigrants so they can begin contributing sooner, and more effectively, to the economy and society, in general.

The provision of settlement services is currently a federal and provincial government responsibility. Municipalities do not directly fund these services. However, municipalities provide many services that help facilitate the settlement process for recent immigrants, such as short-term financial assistance and children's health programs, as well as providing information, referral, and access to other community services. Early integration of immigrants through adequately and federally funded settlement, language, and labour market programs can help ensure that the health and social services that municipalities fund are not unduly challenged.

Implications

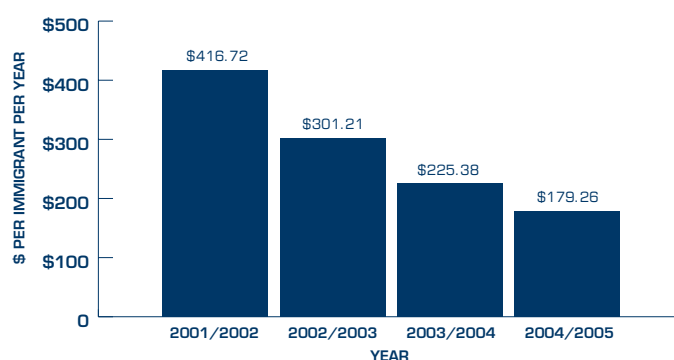
Traditionally, federal funding for settlement services has been directed to areas where immigrants first arrived. In the past, many new immigrants would arrive first in Toronto and subsequently move to York Region once they were more established. In recent years this pattern has changed and an increasing number of immigrants are coming directly to York Region. At the same time that immigration patterns began to change, federal funding levels decreased. As such, York Region has not received adequate funding to reflect the new immigration patterns. Federal and provincial funding for immigrant services in York Region has not kept pace with recent growth, resulting in a decline in per capita funding from \$416.72 per capita in 2001/2002 to \$179.26 in 2004/2005 as shown in Chart 13. As of 2001/2002, York Region received the lowest level of funding amongst the five GTA municipalities, as summarized in Chart 1.

On November 21, 2005, the provincial and federal governments signed the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement. This agreement, which the current federal government supports, increases federal funding in Ontario from about \$800 per immigrant to about \$3,400 per immigrant. This joint federal and provincial strategy is intended to help organizations providing settlement services assist newcomers in locating and accessing services (i.e. orientation, information, referrals, assessment and job search assistance). Language training is to be improved to include occupation-specific

training. The agreement also provides a mechanism for federal, provincial and municipal levels of governments to collaborate on immigration and settlement service objectives, including issues of immigrant attraction and retention, and settlement and integration.

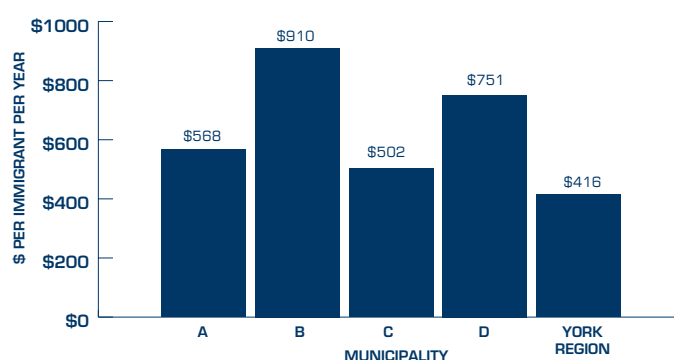
Information contained in this Community Snapshots report can assist in the future discussions between federal, provincial and municipal levels of government regarding immigration and integration policies and programs. It can be used by municipal government and other stakeholders in York Region to demonstrate the reality of the size and diversity of our recent immigrant population, and potentially help York Region get its fair share of funding. This report will also serve as a benchmark to monitor the socio-economic health of immigrants over time as new census data becomes available over the next few years.

CHART 13: Federal/Provincial Funding of Immigrant Services in York Region (2001- 2004)



Source: Statistics Canada information provided by Catholic Community Services for York Region

CHART 1 2001/2002 Federal/Provincial Funding of Immigrant Services in GTA (2001)



Source: Statistics Canada information provided by Catholic Community Services for York Region

Community Snapshots:

Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

On November 23, 2005, the provincial and federal government signed the Canada-Ontario Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) and a Canada-Ontario Labour Market Partnership Agreement (LMPA). The agreements are intended to ensure that Ontario workers have access to effective employment programs and services and that Ontario employers have the skilled workers required to sustain and enhance economic growth and prosperity for Ontarians. In particular, the LMPA identifies a number of action areas that have direct implications for the integration of recent immigrants:

- Expansion and enhancement of apprenticeship
- Labour market integration of recent immigrants
- Workplace skills development

The LMPA contains a clause that provides for consultation with key stakeholders, including municipalities, in the operation of this agreement. Information in this report may be useful if the Region, area municipalities and/or service providers are called upon to provide input.



Overall, both the federal and provincial governments have recently taken steps to address long-standing issues in the planning and delivery of immigrant settlement, language, and labour market programs for recent immigrants, including enhanced funding and mechanisms for involving municipalities in the discussion of immigrant integration within their communities. It will be important for regional government to have the best understanding possible of the experience and needs of York Region's recent immigrants to help identify gaps in services and opportunities for further investments or initiatives that promote integration as these discussions evolve.

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

CONCLUSIONS

This report provides a socio-economic profile of recent immigrants living in York Region, primarily using Statistics Canada data obtained through the Canadian Council on Social Development's CSDS. Information in this report provides an indicator of how well recent immigrants in York Region are integrating into society. It is hoped that this information will assist York Region organizations, governments and agencies to better understand and respond to the changing nature and needs of the population.

The provision of settlement services is a federal government responsibility. Municipalities do not directly fund these services, but are involved in the settlement process by ensuring that immigrants share access to community services, in addition to settlement services. If immigrants are experiencing difficulties in the integration process, there can be direct cost implications to the Region and other service providers because of the increased demand for services. Furthermore, difficulty in integrating creates barriers for recent immigrants in terms of maximizing their social and economic potential.



Recent agreements between the provincial and federal governments regarding immigration issues, and pending future discussions involving stakeholders, including municipalities, to implement the agreements, provide a timely environment for the release of this socio-economic profile of recent immigrants.

Traditionally, federal funding for settlement services has been directed to areas where immigrants first arrived. In the past, new immigrants would arrive first in Toronto and subsequently move to York Region once they were more established. In recent years, this pattern has changed and an increasing number of immigrants are coming directly to York Region. At the same time that immigration patterns began to change, federal funding levels decreased. The complexity of York Region's needs has not been recognized by the provincial and federal governments. As such, York Region has not received adequate funding to reflect the new immigration patterns. Federal and provincial funding for immigrant services in York Region has declined from \$416.72 per capita in 2001/2002 to \$179.26 in 2004/2005. As of 2001/2002, York Region received the lowest level of funding amongst the five GTA municipalities.

Clearly, York Region needs to respond strategically to these issues to maintain its quality of life and harness the potential of immigrants now and in the future, as it has in the past.

Next Steps

NEXT STEPS

The socio-economic profile of recent immigrants attempts to lay out an objective picture of a significant and growing part of York Region's population. It will take the efforts of a broad range of stakeholders to respond effectively. It is recommended that:

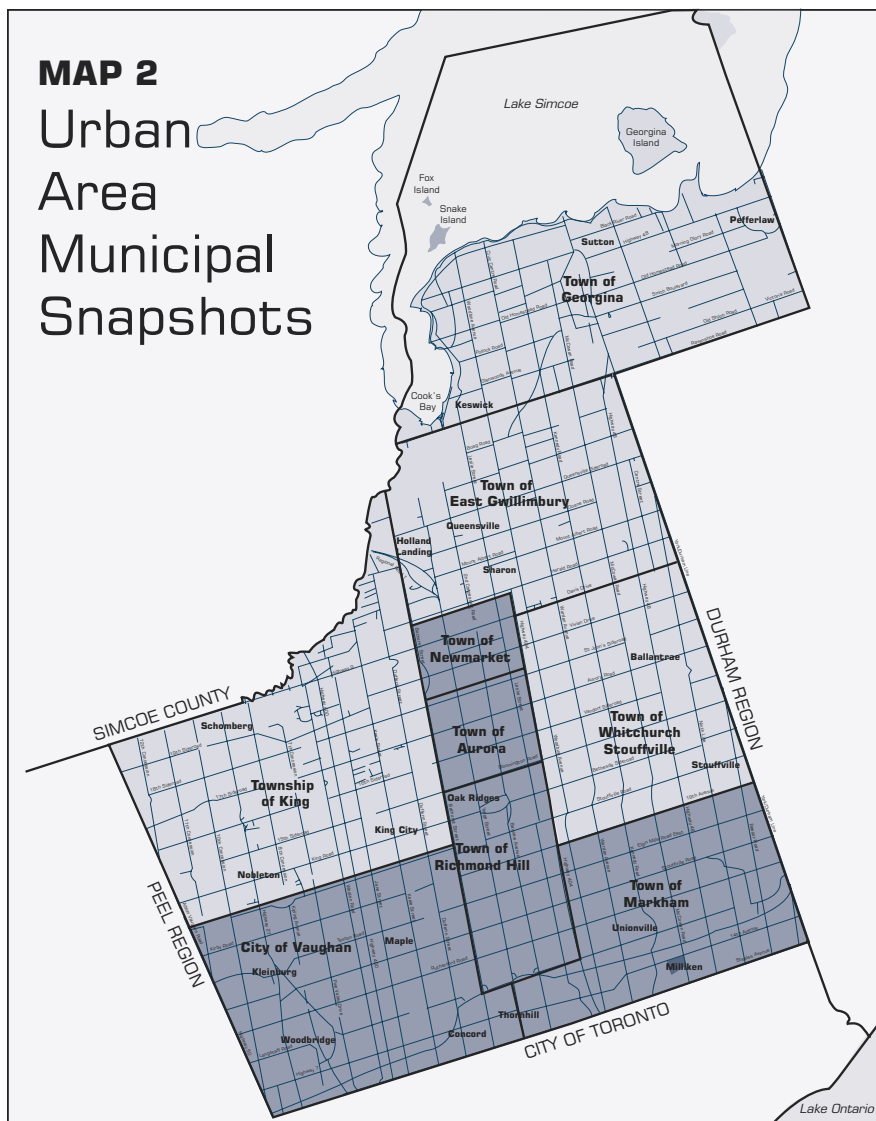
1. The Community Snapshots report be shared to inform realistic and balanced service delivery planning and design, as well as broad-based community funding advocacy for York Region's fair share of settlement funding.
2. The Community Snapshots report be used as a baseline for monitoring programs and planning as new data becomes available.
3. Agencies and municipalities advocate for, and work collaboratively to ensure that an emphasis is placed on integration efforts, particularly in the early years after immigration.
4. The Regional Municipality of York take a leadership role in actively participating in the pending Association of Municipalities of Ontario Canada - Ontario Immigration and Labour Market Partnership agreement discussions to ensure York Region's funding and service interests are represented.

APPENDIX 1

URBAN AREA MUNICIPAL SNAPSHOTS - YORK REGION

This section of the report provides snapshots of the recent immigrant population in those York Region municipalities that have experienced high rates of immigration in recent years. These municipalities, Aurora, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Vaughan are generally the more urban of the nine municipalities in the region. Together, these five urban municipalities account for over 98% of recent immigrants (1991 to 2001) in York Region.

Maps showing the spatial distribution of recent immigrants in the five urban municipalities are also included in this Appendix. Other maps are available online at the York Region Community Social Data Web site, showing *knowledge of official languages*, *home language* and *ethnic origin*. These maps are interactive and provide information for each census tract in the five municipalities. To view these maps, visit the York Region Community Social Data Web site at www.york.ca.



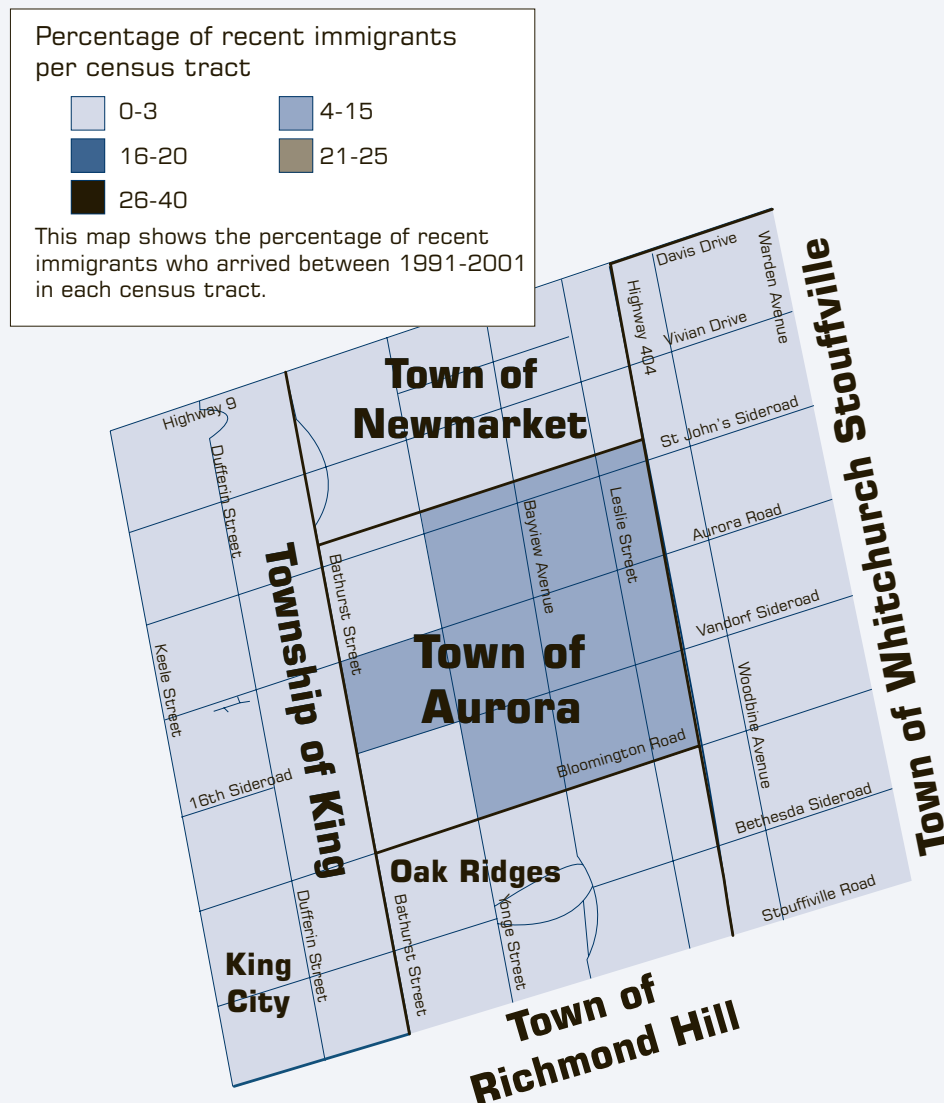
APPENDIX 1

Town of Aurora

Demographics

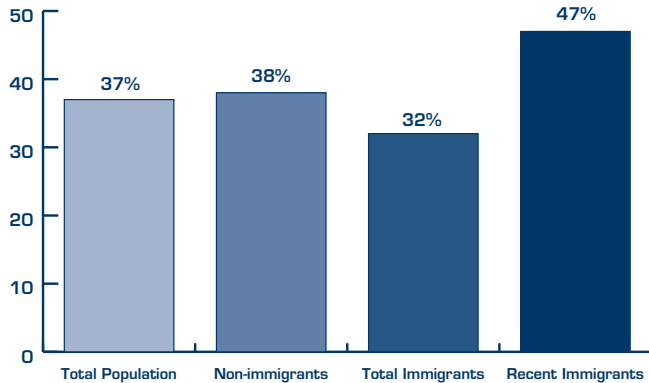
- The Town of Aurora accounts for 2% of York Region's recent immigrant population.
- 1,600 immigrants moved to Aurora between 1991 and 2001. The spatial distribution of recent immigrants in Aurora is shown on Map 3.

MAP 3 The Distribution of Recent Immigrants Living in Aurora



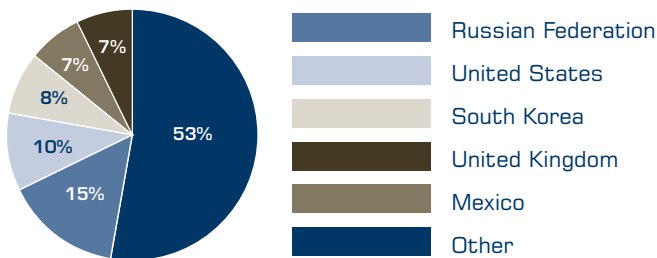
APPENDIX 1

CHART 14: Percentage Change in Population Between 1991 and 2001 by Immigration Status, Aurora, 2001



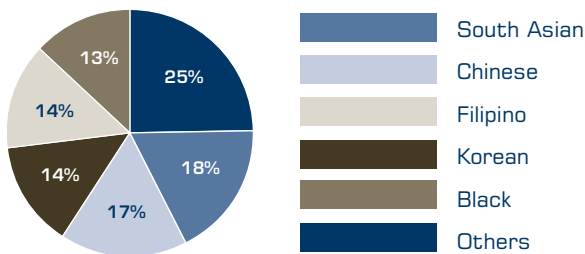
Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 15: Top Five Places of Birth for Recent Immigrants, Aurora, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 16: Top Five Visible Minority Groups for Recent Immigrants (1991-2001), Aurora, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

- The number of recent immigrants increased by 47% between the 1981 to 1991 and 1991 to 2001 time periods, as shown in Chart 14.
- The top five places of birth for recent immigrants in Aurora are Russian Federation (15%), United States (10%), and South Korea (8%) as shown in Chart 15.
- Russian is the top *ethnic origin* of recent immigrants (1991-2001) at 16%, followed by English (13%), and German (9%).
- The *age at immigration* for recent immigrants is similar to the age distribution for recent immigrants in York Region as a whole.
- The *marital status* profile is similar to the overall York Region profile.
- Aurora's recent immigrants (1991-2001) are the least likely to have Canadian *citizenship* (48%) amongst the five urban municipalities in York Region.
- *Visible minorities* represent 39% of the total recent immigrant population (1991-2001).
- The most common *visible minorities* are *South Asian* (18%), Chinese (17%), Filipino (14%) and Korean (14%), as shown in Chart 16.

APPENDIX 1

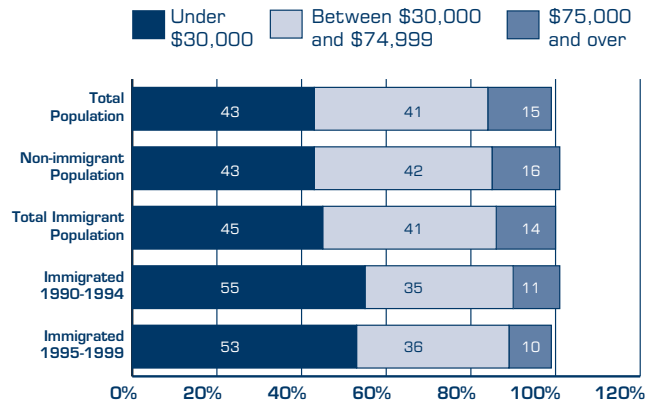
Income

- Recent immigrants (1995-1999) living in Aurora have a larger percentage (53%) of their population in the under \$30,000 income level than the *non-immigrant population* (43%), as shown in Chart 17.
- 20% of recent immigrants fall within the *low income cut-off* compared to 6% of the total population as shown in Chart 18. This represents the third highest level of low income for recent immigrants amongst the five municipalities in York Region with a sizeable recent immigrant population.

Education

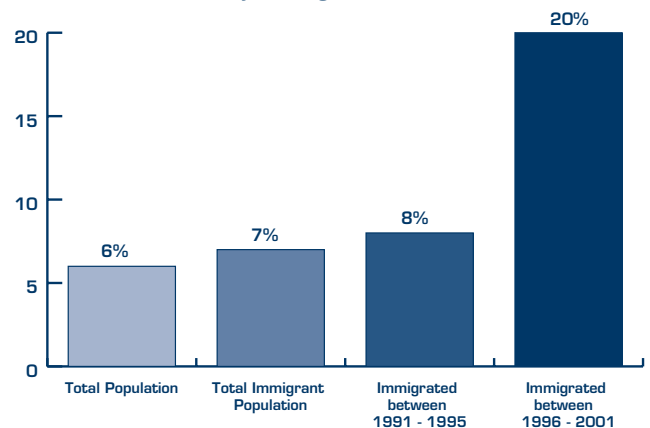
- The percentage of Aurora's recent immigrants (1991 - 2001) aged 15 to 24 not attending school is 30%, which is the same percentage amongst the total population.
- A greater percentage of recent immigrants (1990-1999) in Aurora have a university certificate, diploma or degree than in any of the other four municipalities included in the area municipality snapshots of this report. In Aurora, 39% of recent immigrants have a university certificate, diploma or degree, compared to 28% of *non-immigrants*, as shown in Chart 19. This is reflective of the overall trend for York Region where recent immigrants generally have higher levels of university education than the *non-immigrant population*.
- The major fields of study amongst recent immigrants (1991-2001) with post secondary qualifications are commerce, management and business administration (19%), engineering (16%) and technologies and trades (13%).

CHART 17: Income Groups for Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Immigrant Status, Aurora, 2001



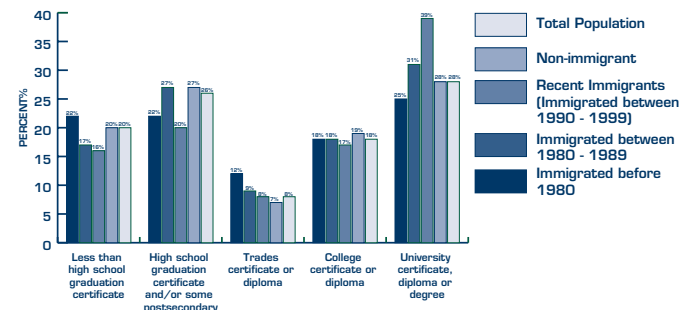
Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 18: Percent of Population (15 years of age and over) Under LICO by Immigrant Status, Aurora, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

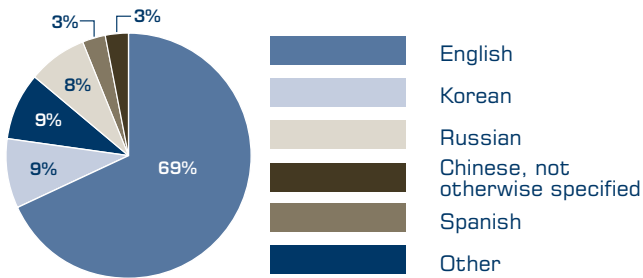
CHART 19: Highest Level of Schooling for Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Period of Immigration, Aurora, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

APPENDIX 1

CHART 20: Top Five Home Languages (single response) for Recent Immigrants (1991-2001), Aurora, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

Language

- 2% of Aurora's recent immigrant population (1991-2001) have no *knowledge of* either *official language*.
- The most common languages spoken at home are English (69%), Korean (9%), and Russian (8%) as shown in Chart xx.
- English is the main language used at work by 86% of recent immigrants (1991-2001).

Religion

- The most common religious affiliations for recent immigrants in Aurora are Roman Catholic (35%), "No Religion" (18%) and Anglican (8%). This is different than the breakdown for recent immigrants in York Region in general, which is most commonly "No Religion" followed by Roman Catholic and Muslim. This is similar, however, to the religious affiliation profile for the total population of York Region.

Mobility

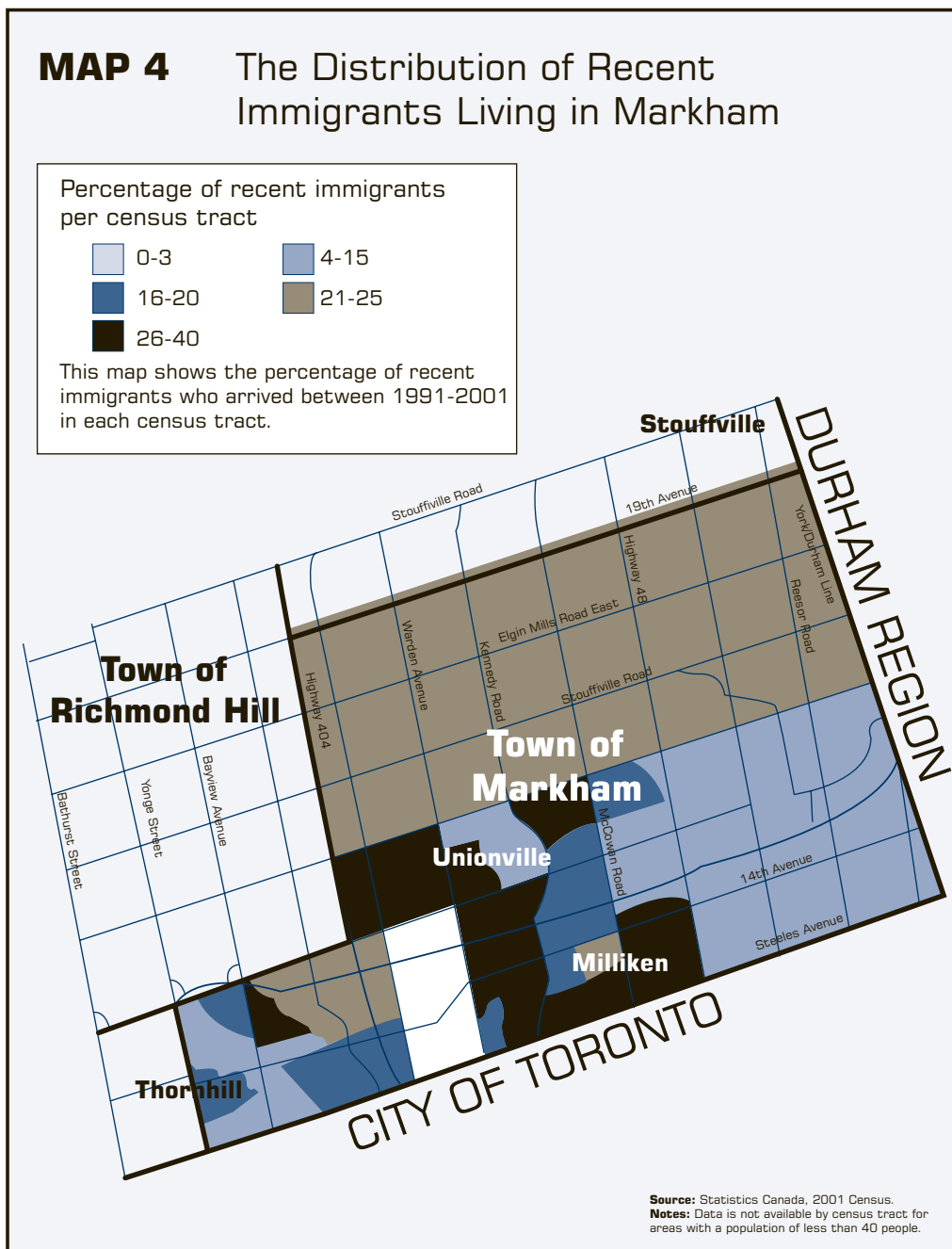
- A greater percentage of recent immigrants (1991-2001) are *movers* (17%) than the total population (10%).

APPENDIX 1

Town of Markham

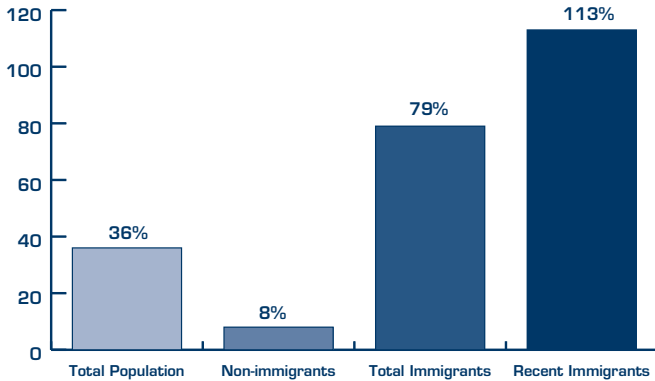
Demographics

- The Town of Markham accounts for 49% of York Region's recent immigrant population.
- More recent immigrants moved to Markham (46,070) between 1991 and 2001 than any municipality in York Region. The spatial distribution of recent immigrants in Markham is shown on Map 4.



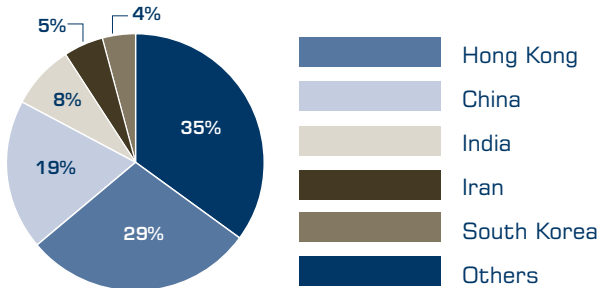
APPENDIX 1

CHART 21: Percentage Change in Population Between 1991 and 2001 by Immigrant Status, Markham, 2001



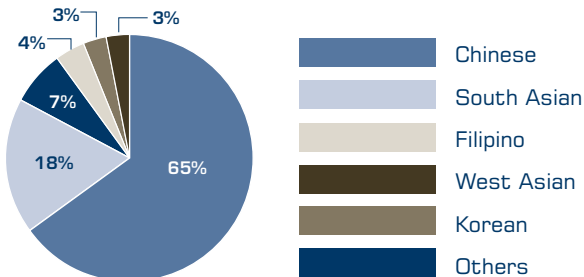
Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 22: Top Five Places of Birth for Recent Immigrants, Markham, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 23: Top Five Visible Minority Groups for Recent Immigrants (1991-2001), Markham, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

- The number of recent immigrants living in Markham has increased by 113% between 1991 and 2001, as shown in Chart 21.
- The top five places of birth for recent immigrants in Markham are Hong Kong (29%), China (19%) and India (8%) as shown in Chart 22.
- In Markham, Chinese is the top *ethnic origin* of recent immigrants (1991-2001) at 74%, followed by East Indian (11%) and Filipino (4%).
- The *age at immigration* for recent immigrants is similar to the age distribution for recent immigrants in York Region as a whole.
- The *marital status* profile is similar to the overall York Region profile.
- Markham has the highest percentage (63%) of recent immigrants (1991-2001) who are Canadian citizens amongst those municipalities having a sizeable recent immigrant population.
- The most common *visible minorities* are Chinese (65%), *South Asian* (18%) and Filipino (4%), as shown in Chart 23.

APPENDIX 1

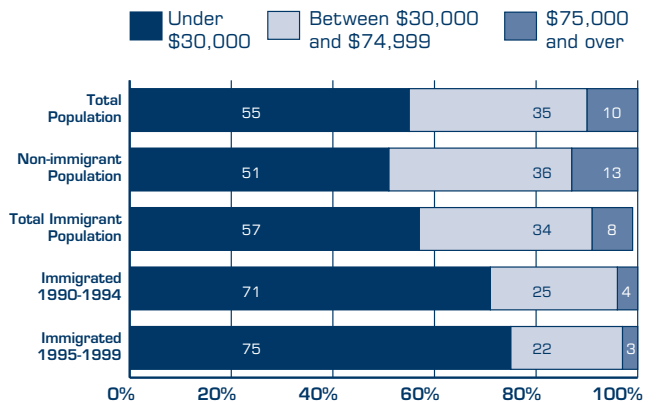
Income

- Recent immigrants (1995-1999) living in Markham have a larger percentage (75%) of their population in the under \$30,000 income level than the *non-immigrant population* (51%), as shown in Chart 24.
- 31% of recent immigrants are within the *low income cut-off* compared to 12% of total population, as shown in Chart 25. This represents the highest level of low income of recent immigrants amongst municipalities in York Region with a sizeable immigrant population.

Education

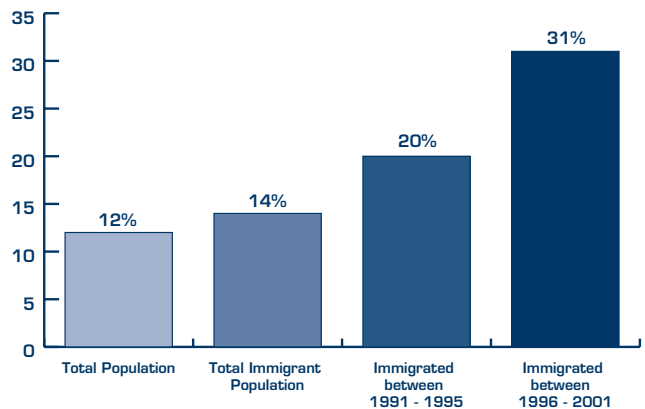
- The percentage of Markham's recent immigrants (1991 - 2001) aged 15 to 24 not attending school is 18%, compared to 22% for the total population.
- Recent immigrants (1990-1999) in Markham have a comparable level of schooling to *non-immigrants*. 28% of recent immigrants have a university certificate, diploma or degree, as compared to 29% of *non-immigrants*, as shown in Chart 26. This is different than the overall trend for York Region of recent immigrants generally having higher levels of university education than the *non-immigrant population*.
- The major fields of study amongst recent immigrants (1991-2001) with post secondary qualifications are commerce, management and business administration (30%), engineering (13%) and mathematics, computer and physical sciences (12%).

CHART 24: Income Groups for Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Immigrant Status, Markham, 2001



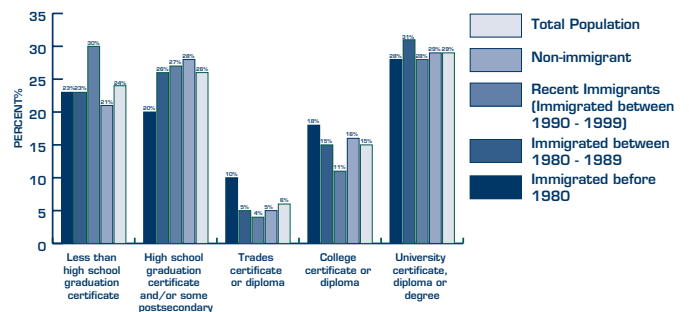
Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 25: Percent of Population (15 years of age and over) Under LICO by Immigrant Status, Markham, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

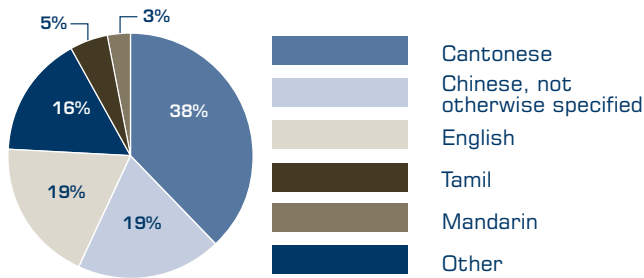
CHART 26: Highest Level of Schooling for Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Period of Immigration, Markham, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

APPENDIX 1

CHART 27: Top Five Home Languages (single response) for Recent Immigrants (1991-2001), Markham, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

Language

- 13% of Markham's recent immigrant population (1991-2001) have no *knowledge of* either *official language*. This is the highest percentage amongst all York Region municipalities.
- The most common languages spoken at home are Cantonese (38%), Chinese (19%), English (19%), Tamil (5%), and Mandarin (3%), as shown in Chart 27.
- English is the main language used at work by 59% of recent immigrants (1991-2001).

Religion

- The most common religious affiliations of recent immigrants in Markham are "No Religion" (40%), Roman Catholic (18%), Muslim (8%) and Hindu (8%). This is similar to the breakdown for recent immigrants in York Region in general. This is a different profile, however, than the religious affiliation profile for the total population for York Region, which has a higher proportion of Roman Catholic and Jewish and a lower proportion of "No Religion", Muslim and Hindu.

Mobility

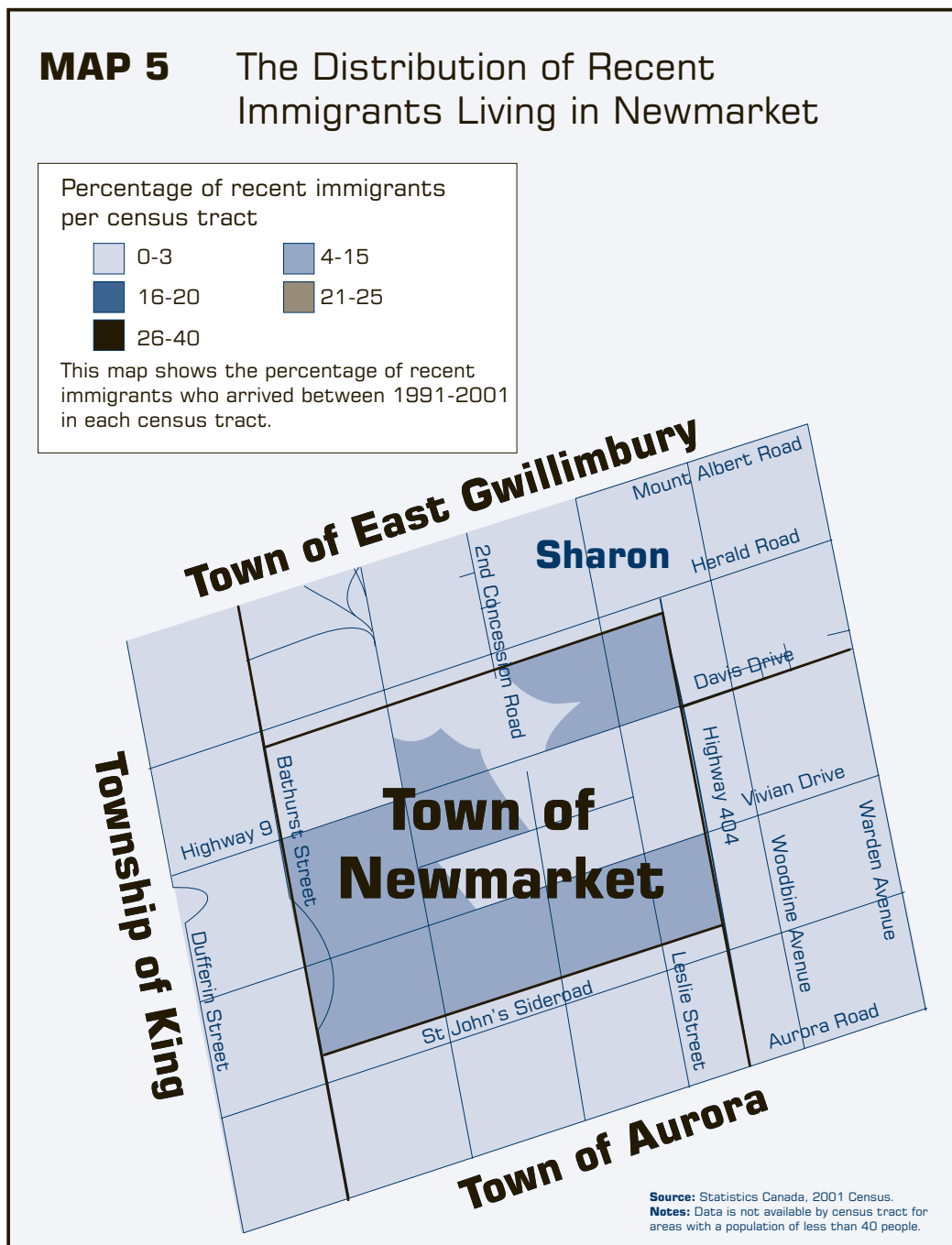
- A greater percentage of recent immigrants in Markham (1991-2001) are *movers* (22%) than the total population (13%).

APPENDIX 1

Town of Newmarket

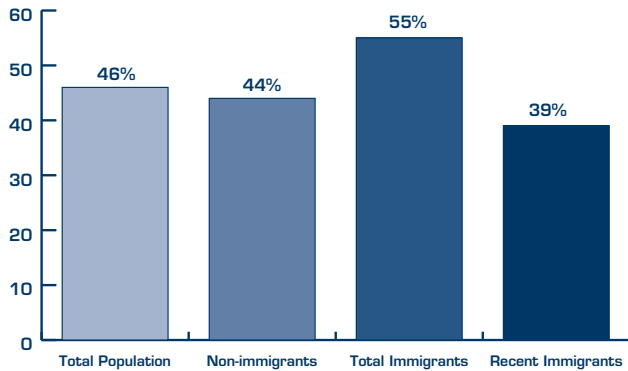
Demographics

- The Town of Newmarket accounts for 2% of York Region's recent immigrant population.
- Between 1991 and 2001, 2,280 immigrants moved to Newmarket. The spatial distribution of recent immigrants in Newmarket is shown on Map 5.



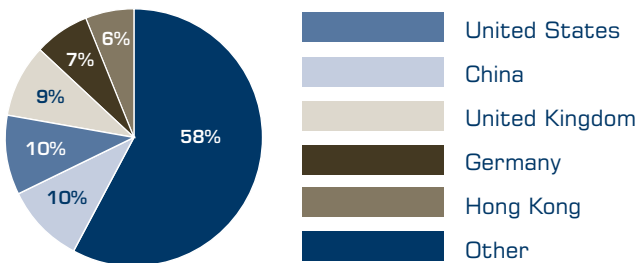
APPENDIX 1

CHART 28: Percentage Change in Population Between 1991 and 2001 by Immigrant Status, Newmarket, 2001



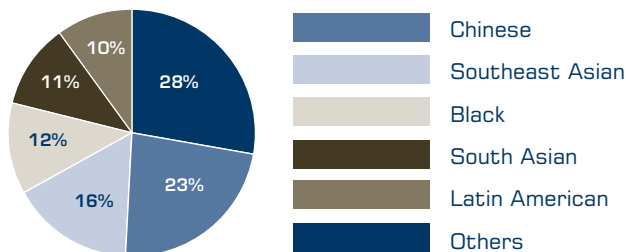
Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 29: Top Five Places of Birth for Recent Immigrants, Newmarket, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 30: Top Five Visible Minority Groups for Recent Immigrants (1991-2001), Newmarket, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

- The number of recent immigrants living in Newmarket has increased by 39% between 1991 and 2001, as shown in Chart 28.
- The top places of birth for recent immigrants are United States (10%), China (9.5%), United Kingdom (9%) and Germany (7%) as shown in Chart 29.
- In Newmarket, Chinese is the top *ethnic origin* of recent immigrants (1991-2001) at 25%, followed by English (10%) and German (10%).
- The *age at immigration* for recent immigrants is similar to the age distribution for recent immigrants in York Region as a whole.
- The most common *visible minorities* are Chinese (23%), Southeast Asian (16%), Black (12%), *South Asian* (11%) and Latin American (10%), as shown in Chart 30.
- *Marital status* profile is similar to York Region profile.

APPENDIX 1

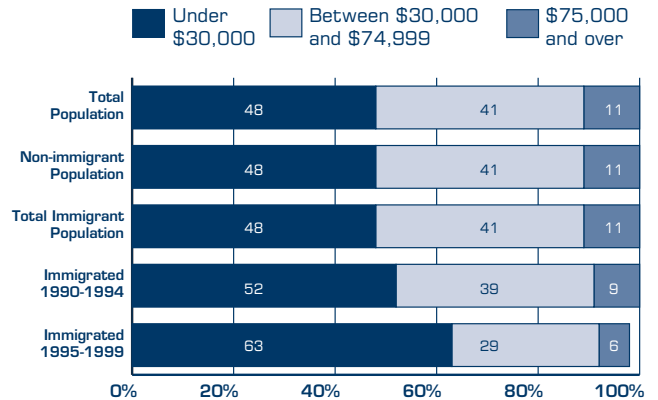
Income

- Recent immigrants (1995-1999) living in Newmarket have a larger percentage (63%) of their population in the under \$30,000 income level than the *non-immigrant population* (48%), as shown in Chart 31.
- 19% of recent immigrants are within the *low income cut-off* compared to 8% of the total population, as shown in Chart 32. This represents the fourth highest level of low income of recent immigrants amongst municipalities in York Region with a sizeable immigrant population.

Education

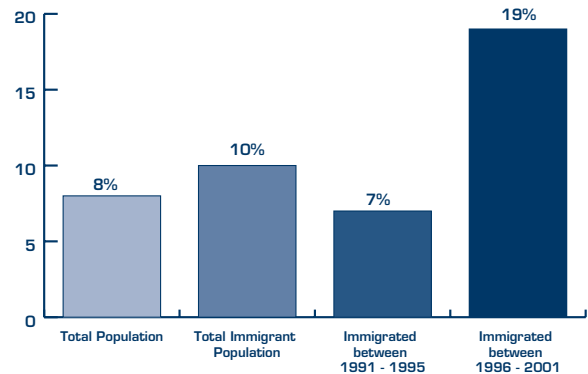
- In Newmarket, the percentage of recent (1991 - 2001) immigrants aged 15 to 24 not attending school is 33%, compared to 36% for the total population. This is the highest percentage of recent immigrants not attending school for all municipalities in York Region with a sizeable recent immigrant population.
- A smaller percentage of recent immigrants in Newmarket (1990-1999) have a university certificate, diploma or degree than in any of the other four municipalities included in the area municipality snapshots of this report. In Newmarket, 25% of recent immigrants have a university certificate, diploma or degree, compared to 20% of *non-immigrants*, as shown in Chart 33. However, this is still reflective of the overall trend for York Region, where recent immigrants generally have higher levels of university education than the *non-immigrant population*.

CHART 31: Income Groups for Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Immigrant Status, Newmarket, 2001



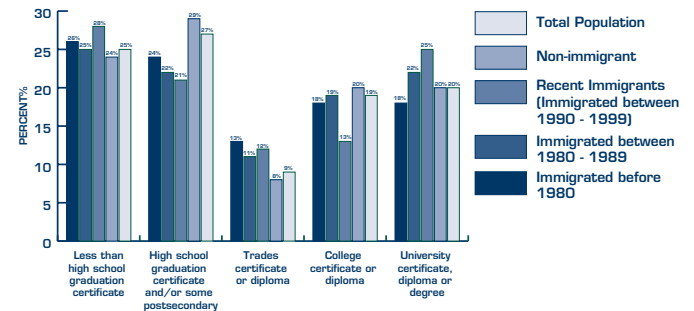
Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 32: Percent of Population (15 years of age and over) Under LICO by Immigrant Status, Newmarket, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 33: Highest Level of Schooling for Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Period of Immigration, Newmarket, 2001

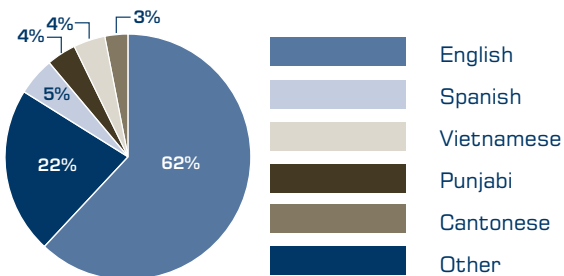


Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

APPENDIX 1

- The major fields of study amongst recent immigrants (1991-2001) with post secondary qualifications are commerce, management and business administration (22%), engineering (16%), technologies and trades (16%), and health professions and related technologies (13%).

CHART 34: Top Five Home Languages (single response) for Recent Immigrants (1991-2001), Newmarket, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

Language

- In Newmarket, the most common languages spoken by recent immigrants at home are English (62%), Spanish (5%), Punjabi (4%) and Vietnamese (4%) as shown in Chart xx.
- 4% of the recent immigrant population (1991-2001) have no *knowledge* of either *official language*.
- English is the main language used at work by 84% of recent immigrants (1991-2001).

Religion

- In Newmarket, the most common religious affiliations of recent immigrants are Roman Catholic (27%), “No Religion” (15%), Buddhist (8%) and Muslim (8%). This is different than the breakdown for recent immigrants in York Region in general, which is most commonly “No Religion”, followed by Roman Catholic and Muslim. This is also different than the religious affiliation profile for the total population of York Region, which has a higher percentage of Roman Catholic, “No Religion”, Jewish and a lower percentage of Buddhist and Muslim.

Mobility

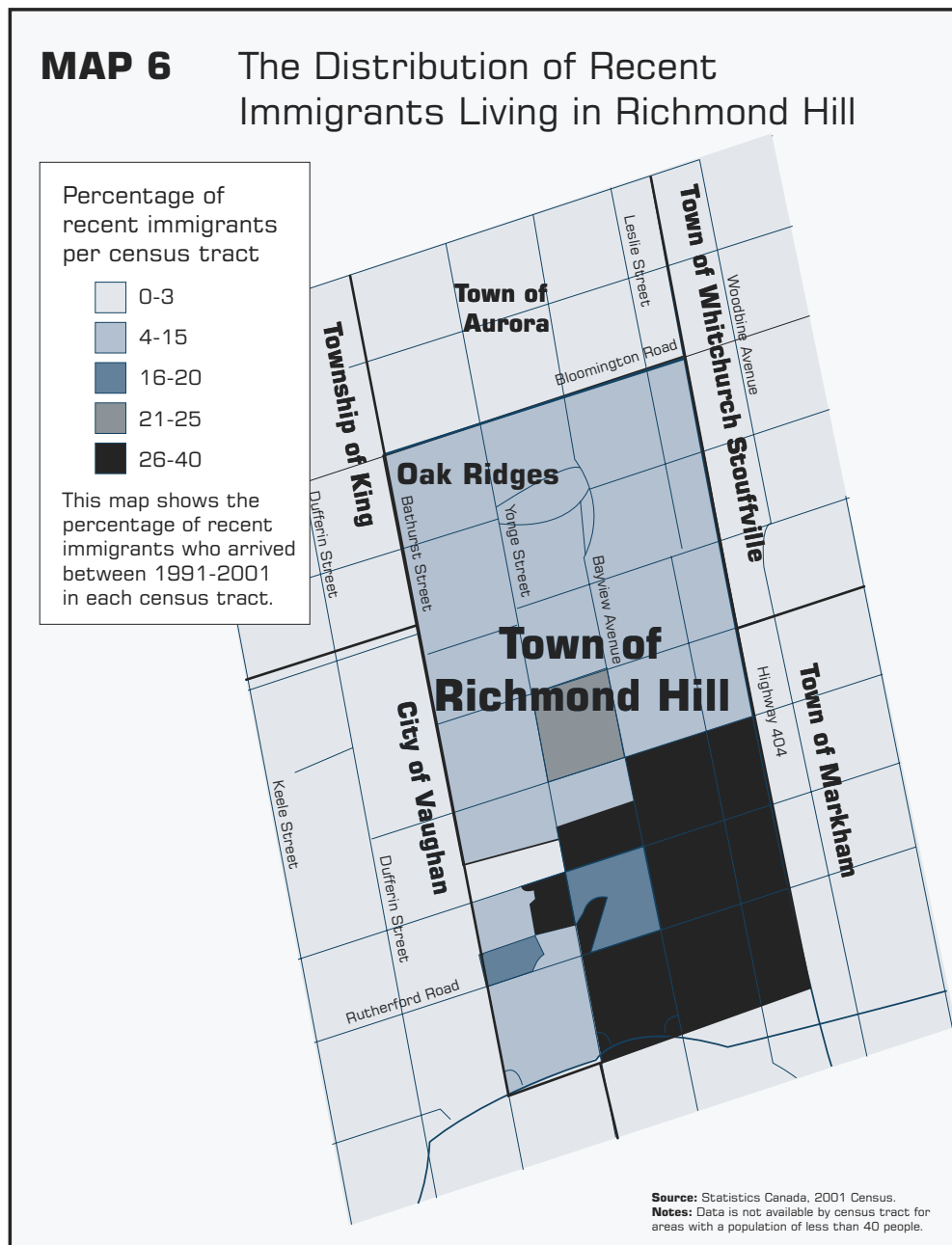
- A greater percentage of recent immigrants (1991-2001) are *movers* (25%) than the total population (11%).

APPENDIX 1

Town of Richmond Hill

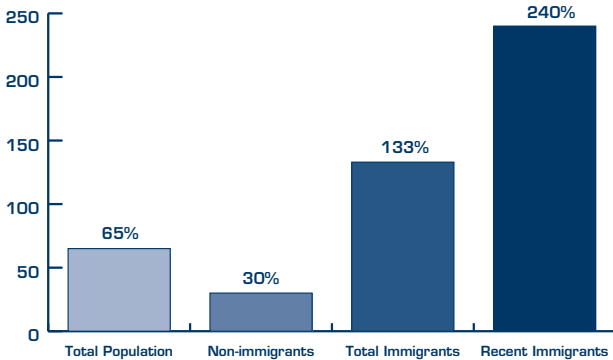
Demographics

- The Town of Richmond Hill accounts for 28% of York Region's recent immigrant population.
- Richmond Hill experienced the second highest immigrant population increase between 1991 and 2001 (26,325). The spatial distribution of recent immigrants in Richmond Hill is shown on Map 6.



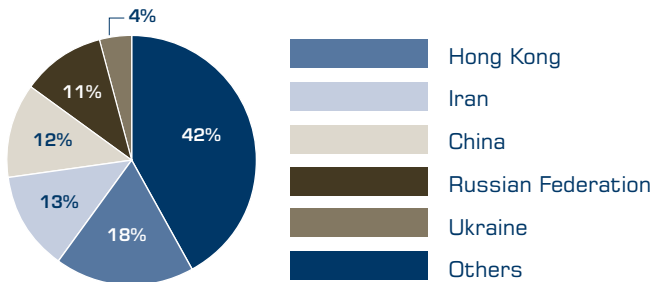
APPENDIX 1

CHART 35: Percentage Change in Population Between 1991 and 2001 by Immigrant Status, Richmond Hill, 2001



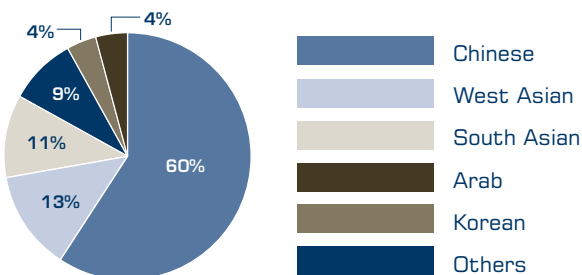
Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 36: Top Five Places of Birth for Recent Immigrants, Richmond Hill, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 37: Top Five Visible Minority Groups for Recent Immigrants (1991-2001), Richmond Hill, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

- The number of recent immigrants living in Richmond Hill has increased by 240% between 1991 and 2001, as shown in Chart 35. This represents the largest percentage increase amongst municipalities in York Region with a sizeable immigrant population.
- The top five places of birth for recent immigrants are Hong Kong (18%), Iran (13%), China (12%), Russian Federation (11%) and Ukraine (4%), as shown in Chart 36.
- In Richmond Hill, Chinese is the top *ethnic origin* of recent immigrants (1991-2001) at 59%, followed by Russian (14%) and East Indian (7%).
- The *age at immigration* for recent immigrants is similar to the age distribution for recent immigrants in York Region as a whole.
- *Marital status* profile is similar to York Region profile.
- 58% of recent immigrants are Canadian citizens.
- The most common visible minorities are Chinese (60%), *West Asian* (13%), *South Asian* (11%), Arab (4%) and Korean (4%), as shown in Chart 37.

APPENDIX 1

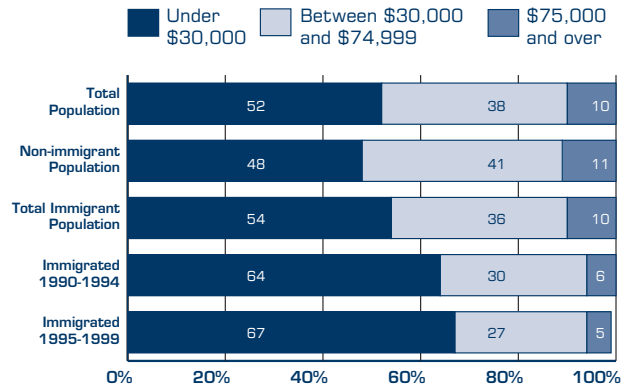
Income

- Recent immigrants (1995-1999) have a larger percentage (67%) of their population in the under \$30,000 income level than the *non-immigrant population* (48%), as shown in Chart 38.
- 28% of recent immigrants are within the *low income cut-off* compared to 12% of total population as shown in Chart 39. This is the second highest low income rate amongst municipalities in York Region with a sizeable immigrant population.

Education

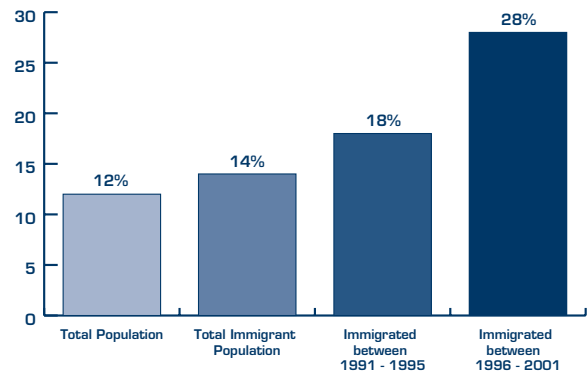
- In Richmond Hill, the percentage of recent immigrants (1991-2001) aged 15 to 24 not attending school is 17%, compared to 24% for the total population.
- In Richmond Hill, 37% of recent immigrants (1990-1999) have a university certificate, diploma or degree, compared to 29% of *non-immigrants*, as shown in Chart 40. This is reflective of the overall trend for York Region where recent immigrants generally have higher levels of university education than the *non-immigrant population*.
- The major fields of study amongst recent immigrants (1991-2001) with post secondary qualifications are commerce, management and business administration (25%), engineering (18%) and mathematics, computer and physical sciences (12%).

CHART 38: Income Groups for Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Immigrant Status, Richmond Hill, 2001



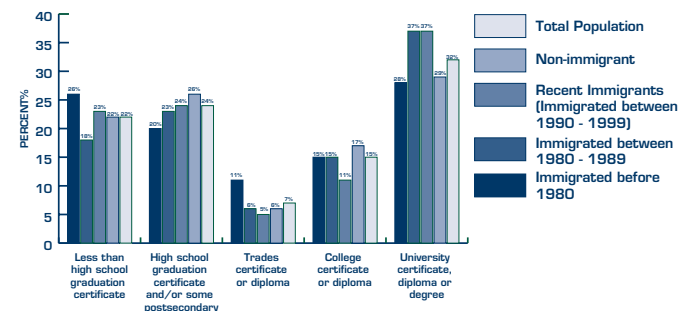
Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 39: Percent of Population (15 years of age and over) Under LICO by Immigrant Status, Richmond Hill, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

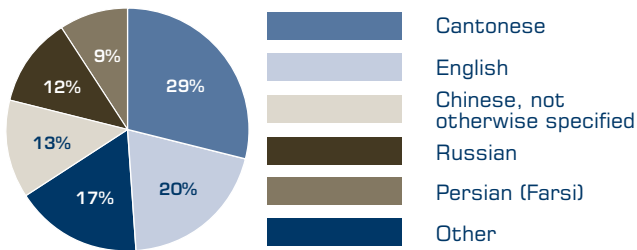
CHART 40: Highest Level of Schooling for Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Period of Immigration, Richmond Hill, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

APPENDIX 1

CHART 41: Top Five Home Languages (single response) for Recent Immigrants (1991-2001), Richmond Hill, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

Language

- In Richmond Hill, 10% of the recent immigrant population (1991-2001) have no *knowledge of either official language*. This is the second highest percentage amongst York Region municipalities.
- The most common languages spoken at home are Cantonese (29%), English (20%), and Chinese (13%) as shown in Chart XX.
- English is the main language used at work by 65% of recent immigrants (1991-2001).

Religion

- In Richmond Hill, the most common religious affiliations of recent immigrants are “No Religion” (34%), Muslim (16%) and Roman Catholic (14%). This is different than the breakdown for recent immigrants in York Region in general which is most commonly “No Religion”, followed by Roman Catholic and Muslim. This is also different than the religious affiliation profile for the total population of York Region, which has a higher percentage of Roman Catholic and Jewish and a lower percentage of “No Religion” and Muslim.

Mobility

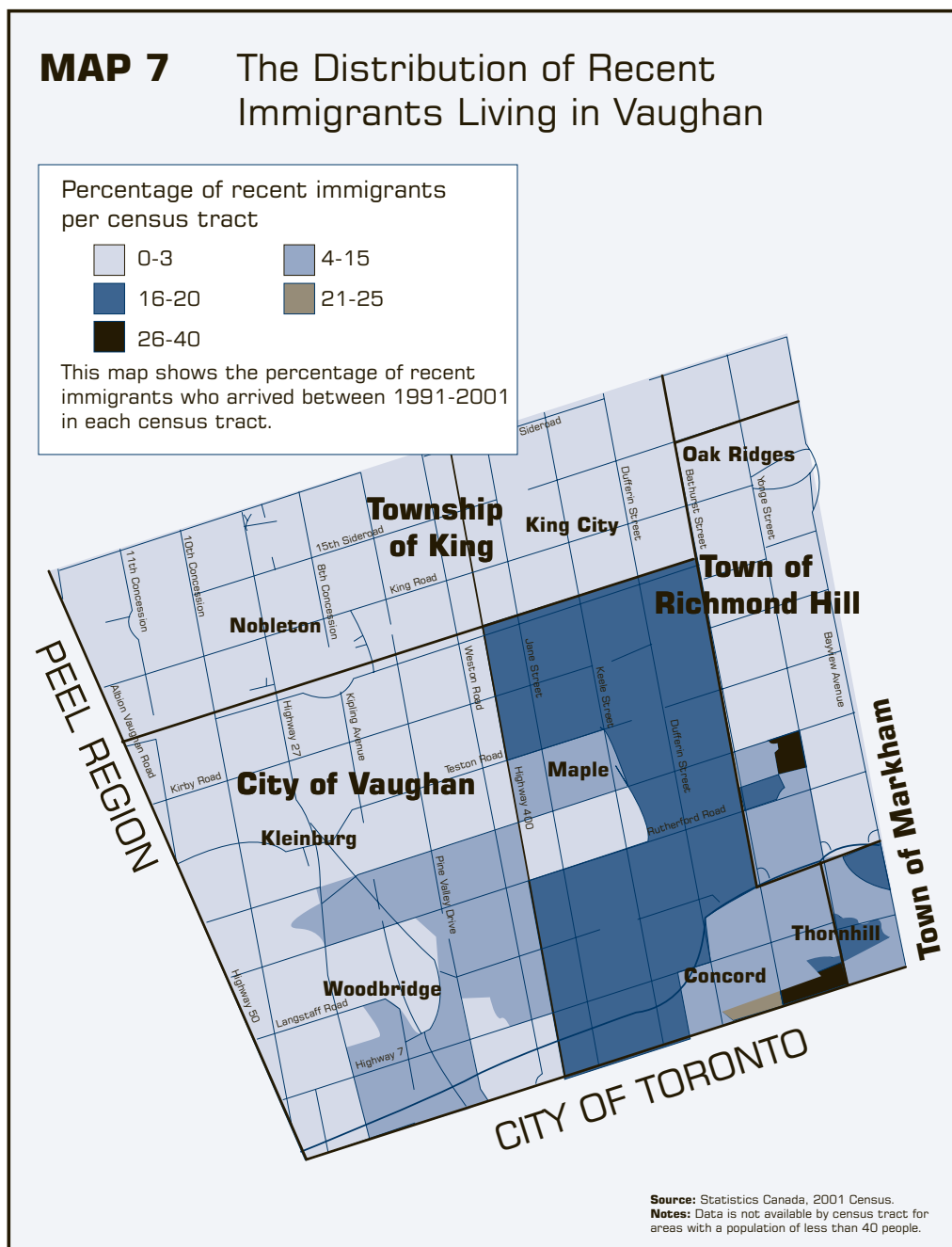
- A greater percentage of recent immigrants (1991-2001) are *movers* (22%) than the total population (14%).

APPENDIX 1

City of Vaughan

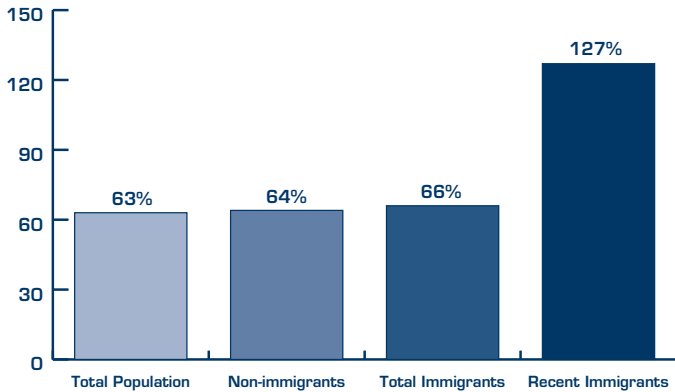
Demographics

- The City of Vaughan accounts for 18% of York Region's recent immigrant population.
- In Vaughan, the immigrant population increased by 16,885 between 1991 and 2001. This is the third highest increase of all municipalities with a sizeable immigrant population. The spatial distribution of recent immigrants in Vaughan is shown on Map 7.



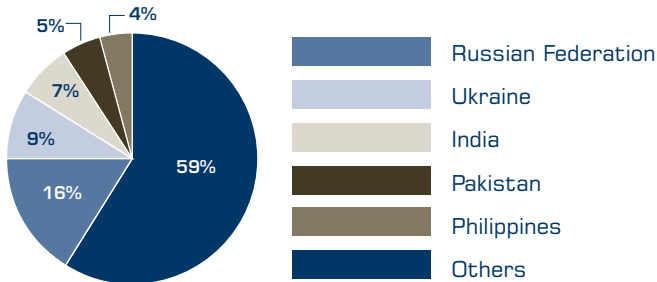
APPENDIX 1

CHART 42: Percentage Change in Population Between 1991 and 2001 by Immigrant Status, Vaughan, 2001



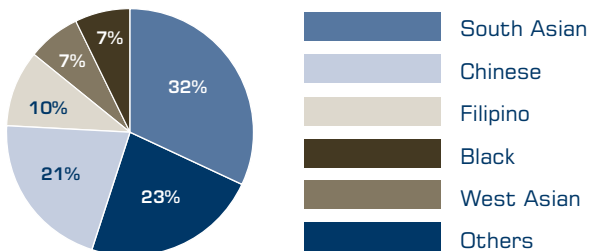
Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 43: Top Five Places of Birth for Recent Immigrants, Vaughan, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 44: Top Five Visible Minority Groups for Recent Immigrants (1991-2001), Vaughan, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

- The number of recent immigrants has increased by 127% between 1991 and 2001, as shown in Chart 42. This represents the second largest percentage increase amongst municipalities in York Region that have a sizeable immigrant population.
- The top places of birth for recent immigrants are Russian Federation (16%), Ukraine (9%) and India (7%) as shown in Chart 43.
- In Vaughan, Russian is the top *ethnic origin* of recent immigrants (1991-2001) at 23%, followed by Chinese (19%) and East Indian (17%).
- The *age at immigration* for recent immigrants is similar to the age distribution for recent immigrants in York Region as a whole.
- *Marital status* profile is similar to York Region profile.
- 56% of recent immigrants are Canadian citizens.
- The most common *visible minority group* amongst recent immigrants is *South Asian* (32%), Chinese (21%) and Filipino (10%), as shown in Chart 44.

APPENDIX 1

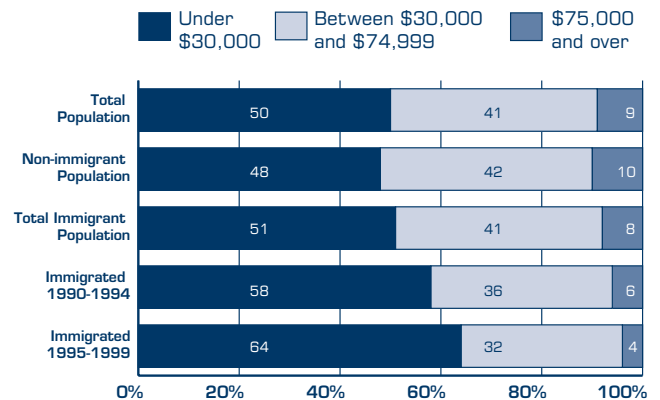
Income

- Recent immigrants (1995-1999) living in Vaughan have a larger percentage (64%) of their population in the under \$30,000 income level than the *non-immigrant population* (48%), as shown in Chart 45.
- In Vaughan, 16% of recent immigrants are low income compared to 8% of total population, as shown in Chart 46. This is the lowest low income rate amongst municipalities in York Region with a sizeable immigrant population.

Education

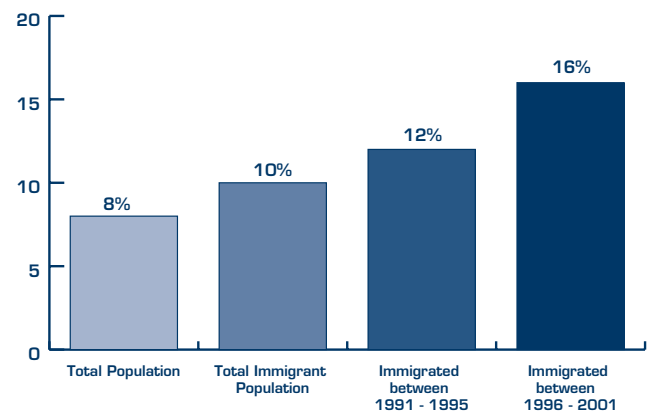
- In Vaughan, the percentage of recent immigrants (1990-1999) aged 15 to 24 not attending school is 26%, compared to 30% for the total population.
- In Vaughan, 36% of recent immigrants (1990-1999) have a university certificate, diploma or degree, compared to 27% of *non-immigrants*, as shown in Chart 47. This is reflective of the overall trend for York Region where recent immigrants generally have higher levels of university education than the *non-immigrant population*.
- The major fields of study amongst recent immigrants (1991-2001) with post secondary qualifications are commerce, management and business administration (19%), engineering (16%), and technologies and trades (13%).

CHART 45: Income Groups for Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Immigrant Status, Vaughan, 2001



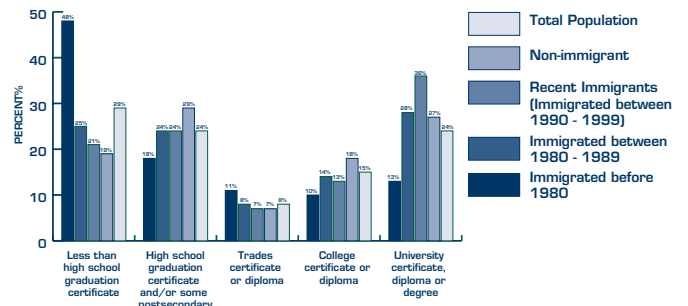
Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

CHART 46: Percent of Population (15 years of age and over) Under LICO by Immigrant Status, Vaughan, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

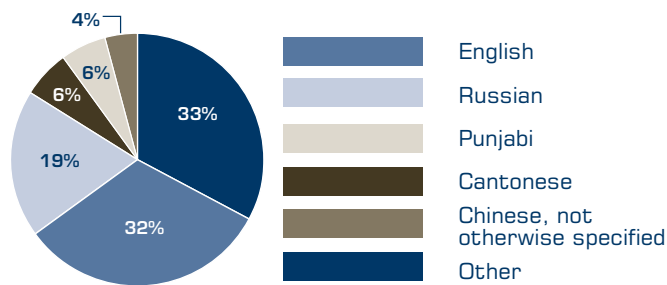
CHART 47: Highest Level of Schooling for Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Period of Immigration, Vaughan, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region

CHART 48: Top Five Home Languages (single response) for Recent Immigrants (1991-2001), Vaughan, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2001

Language

- In Vaughan, 8% of the recent immigrant population (1991-2001) have no *knowledge* of either *official language*. This is the third highest percentage amongst York Region municipalities.
- The most common languages spoken at home are English (32%), Russian (19%), Punjabi (6%), Cantonese (6%) and Chinese (4%), as shown in Chart 48.
- English is the main language used at work by 79% of recent immigrants (1991-2001).

Religion

- In Vaughan, the most common religious affiliations of recent immigrants are Roman Catholic (21%), Jewish (21%) and “No Religion” (15%). This is different than the breakdown for recent immigrants in York Region in general which is most commonly “No Religion”, followed by Roman Catholic and Muslim. This is slightly different than the religious affiliation profile for the total population of York Region, with a higher proportion of Jewish and lower proportions of Roman Catholic and “No Religion”.

Mobility

- A greater percentage of recent immigrants (1991-2001) are *movers* (34%) than the total population (16%). This is the highest rate of mobility for recent immigrants amongst the area municipalities in York Region.

APPENDIX 2

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS - AREA MUNICIPAL SNAPSHOTS

Distribution

The majority of recent immigrants (98%) live in the five more urban municipalities in York Region (Aurora, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Vaughan). Of the five municipalities, Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan host the majority of recent immigrants. Although the data does not explain why this pattern exists, it is most likely a reflection of proximity to services, public transit accessibility, range of housing choice, proximity to employment, and proximity to Toronto.

Place of Birth

In terms of place of birth, the Russian Federation is the most common place of birth for recent immigrants in Aurora and Vaughan. Hong Kong is the most common place of birth for recent immigrants in Markham and Richmond Hill. For recent immigrants in Newmarket, the United States and China are the most common places of birth.

Some places of birth of recent immigrants which do not represent sizeable proportions for all five urban municipalities but are sizeable in at least one of the municipalities include:

- A sizeable proportion of recent immigrants born in Mexico living in Aurora
- Sizeable proportions of recent immigrants born in Iran living in Markham
- Sizeable proportions of recent immigrants born in Germany living in Newmarket
- A sizeable proportion of recent immigrants born in Ukraine living in Richmond Hill
- Sizeable proportions of recent immigrants born in Pakistan and Philippines living in Vaughan.

Age

In all five municipalities, most recent immigrants (67% to 69%) were over 20 years of age at the time of immigration. In other words, the majority of recent immigrants are of prime working age, child bearing age and legal voting age.

Knowledge of Official Languages

Knowledge of official languages varies amongst the five more urban municipalities in York Region. The municipality with the lowest proportion of recent immigrants having no knowledge of either French or English is Aurora (2%). Markham has the highest percentage (13%) of recent immigrants with no *knowledge of either official language*.

APPENDIX 2

Visible Minorities

Chinese and *South Asian* or *West Asian* are the most common *visible minorities* in the five more urban municipalities in York Region.

Income

Across the five more urban municipalities, there are consistently higher percentages of recent immigrants that fall within the low income category, compared to the total population of the municipality. Generally, recent immigrants are two to three times as likely to be within the low income category compared to the total population.

APPENDIX 3

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

This report builds upon York Region's long range strategic plan, Vision 2026, and one of the goals of Vision 2026 is "Quality Communities for a Diverse Population". Action areas identified to achieve this goal include:

- Celebrating our diversity
- Recognizing our multicultural population
- Responding to our diversity with innovative service delivery options
- Being responsive to the needs of vulnerable residents

Another goal of the Region's strategic plan is "Engaged Communities and a Responsive Region". One of the action areas identified under this goal is delivering services to our multilingual population.

This report is also reflective of York Region's identity as a "Character Community"-a community in which elected officials, community leaders in the education, business, law enforcement, faith and media sectors, and residents-at-large recognize and promote the importance of good character. The report has been produced in the spirit of a number of the character attributes chosen by the community as being important - specifically inclusiveness, fairness, compassion and respect.

In January 2005, the Human Services Planning Coalition sponsored an Inclusivity Summit. Human service agencies, ethno-cultural groups, faith leaders, and other interested stakeholders were invited and exchanged information about how their organizations can provide services that are more accessible and inclusive to all ethno-cultural communities they serve. The outcome of the Summit was the preparation of an Inclusivity Action Plan, which is guided by a Steering Committee and comprised of the following proposed actions:

- Establish a York Region Welcome/Resource Centre(s) or a Welcome/Resource function
- Increase ESL/ELD programs
- Region-wide education campaign
- Learning opportunities for children
- Volunteer and leadership development
- Organizational development

The common thread between the initiatives described above, as well as other smaller initiatives, is recognition of the need to understand our diversifying population so that recent immigrants can be provided with the supports to give them more opportunity to fully integrate into this region and fully contribute to this region's economy and society.

APPENDIX 4

GLOSSARY OF TERMS ¹⁹

Age at Immigration	Refers to the age at which the respondent first obtained landed immigrant status. A landed immigrant is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.
Citizenship	Refers to the legal citizenship status of the respondent. Persons who are citizens of more than one country were instructed to provide the name of the other country(ies).
Condition of Dwelling	Refers to whether, in the judgement of the respondent, the dwelling requires any repairs (excluding desirable remodelling or additions).
Economic Family	Refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption.
Employment Income	Total wages and salaries and net income from self-employment. (Refers to total income received by persons 15 years of age and over during calendar year 2000 as wages and salaries, net income from a non-farm unincorporated business and/or professional practice, and/or net farm self-employment income).
Ethnic Origin:	Refers to the ethnic or cultural group(s) to which the respondent's ancestors belong.
Government Transfer Payments	Refers to total income from all transfer payments received from federal, provincial or municipal governments during calendar year 2000. This variable is the sum of the amounts reported in: • The Old Age Security pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement

¹⁹ Definitions are extracted from Statistics Canada's 2001 Census Dictionary

APPENDIX 4

	• Benefits from Canada or Quebec Pension Plan • Benefits from Employment Insurance • Canada Child Tax benefits • Other income from government sources
Home Language	Refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home by the individual at the time of the census.
Household Size	Number of persons occupying a private dwelling.
Knowledge of Non-official Languages	Refers to languages, other than English or French, in which the respondent can conduct a conversation.
Knowledge of Official Languages	Refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in English only, in French only, in both English and French, or in neither of the official languages of Canada.
Labour Force (in Reference Week)	Refers to persons who were either employed or unemployed during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 15, 2001). Labour force = Employed + Unemployed
Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs)	Income levels at which families or unattached individuals spend 20% more than average on food, shelter and clothing.
Marital Status	A person's de facto conjugal status. Marital status data are derived from the responses to Question 4 (Marital Status) and Question 5 (Common-law) in the census questionnaires. For example, a person who, in Question 4, reported being "widowed" and in Question 5 reported living with another person as a couple, but not being married to that person, will be counted as married.

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Movers	Movers are persons who, on Census Day, were living at a different address than the one at which they resided one year earlier.
Non-immigrants/ Non-immigrant Population	Refers to people who are Canadian citizens by birth. Although most were born in Canada, a small number of them were born outside Canada to Canadian parents.
Occupation	Kind of work done by persons aged 15 and over. Occupation is based on the type of job the person holds and the description of his or her duties. The 2001 data on occupation are classified according to the 2001 National Occupational Classification for Statistics (NOC-S 2001). For comparisons with data from the 1991 and 1996 Censuses, the variable Occupation (Historical) should be used.
Religion	Refers to specific religious denominations, groups or bodies, as well as to sects, cults, or other religiously defined communities or systems of belief.
School Attendance	Refers to either full-time or part-time (day or evening) attendance at school, college or university during the nine-month period between September 2000 and May 15, 2001. Attendance is counted only for courses which could be used as credits towards a certificate, diploma or degree.
South Asian	Refers to ethnic group comprised of Bangladeshi, Bengali, East Indian, Goan, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Pakistani, Punjabi, Nepali, Sinhalese, Sri Lankan, Tamil, and South Asian (not otherwise identified).

APPENDIX 4

Unemployment Rate (in Reference Week)	Refers to the unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 15, 2001). The unemployment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the unemployed in that group, expressed as a percentage of the labour force in that group, in the week prior to enumeration.
Visible Minorities	Under the Employment Equity Act, members of visible minorities are persons, other than Aboriginal persons, who are not white in race or colour. (Refers to the visible minority group to which the respondent belongs. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour”).
West Asian	Refers to ethnic groups comprised of Afghan, Armenian, Assyrian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Iranian, Israeli, Kurd, Pashtun, Tartar, Turk, and West Asian (not otherwise identified).
Work Activity	Refers to the number of weeks in which a person worked for pay or in self-employment in 2000 at all jobs held, even if only for a few hours, and whether these weeks were mostly full time (30 hours or more per week) or mostly part time (1 to 29 hours per week).

Note: Additional definitions can be found in the 2001 Census Dictionary at the Statistics Canada Web site: <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Reference/dict/atoz.htm>

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Community Social Data Strategy (CSDS) Consortium.



York Region's CSDS Consortium

