

# JUST THE FACTS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

## Diversity of Residents Living in York Region: Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities

### Introduction

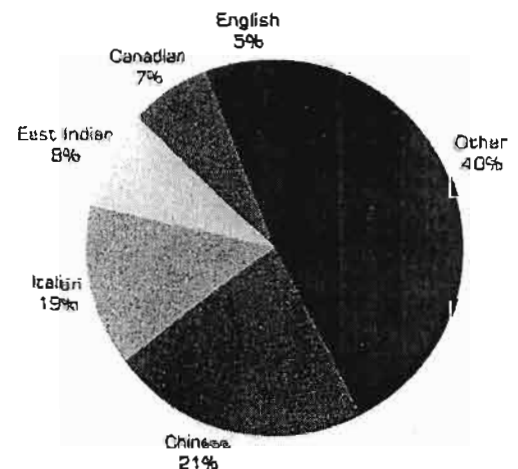
In 1901, there were 25 distinct ethnic groups in Canada. According to Statistics Canada's 2006 Census, there are now approximately 226. In York Region alone which is rich with multicultural diversity, there were more than 200 distinct ethnic groups identified in the 2006 Census.

Also as of 2006, almost two out of five York Region residents were visible minorities. Three out of 10 visible minorities in York Region are Canadian-born and seven are immigrants. The ethnic diversity and changing face of York Region has made our communities rich in cultures that span the globe.

### Ethnic Origins in 2006<sup>1</sup>

- 616,150 York Region residents identified themselves as having one ethnic origin. The top five ethnic groups were Chinese, Italian, East Indian, Canadian and English.
- In 2006, there were 204 ethnic groups across York Region. The extent of ethnic diversity varied in each of the nine local municipalities. For example, East Gwillimbury, King and Whitchurch-Stouffville each had 83 different ethnic groups. In Markham, there were 174 and Vaughan had 171.
- Canadian descent was identified as the most common ethnic group in Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville.
- People of Chinese descent were the most common ethnic group in Markham and Richmond Hill. Italian was the most common in King and Vaughan.

Chart 1  
Top Five Ethnic Origins, Single Response



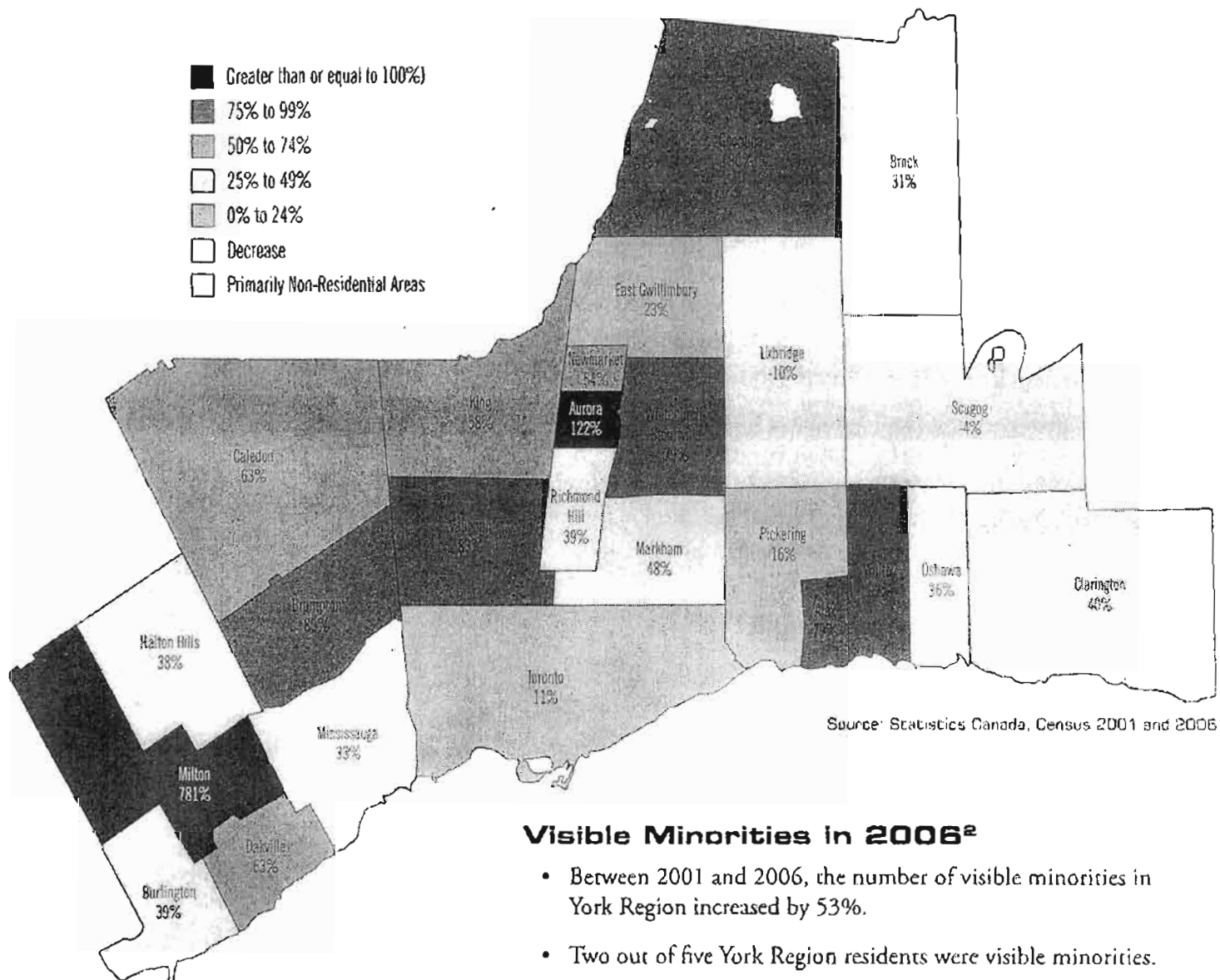
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

<sup>1</sup>Ethnic Origin refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the respondent's ancestors. Over time, changes have been made to the wording, instructions and format of the ethnic origins question used in the Census survey which limits the ability to do historical comparisons of this variable

## Map 1

### Change in Visible Minority Population, 2001 - 2006

This map shows the percentage of growth between 2001 and 2006 of the visible minority population in the Greater Toronto Area.



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

### Visible Minorities in 2006<sup>a</sup>

- Between 2001 and 2006, the number of visible minorities in York Region increased by 53%.
- Two out of five York Region residents were visible minorities.
- As of 2006, there were 329,955 visible minorities living in York Region, representing 7% of all visible minorities in Canada. This was the third largest number of visible minorities in the GTA. In proportion to the total population of York Region, 37% of York Region residents were visible minorities in 2006. This was the fourth largest proportion in Canada after Peel (50%), Toronto (47%) and Vancouver (42%).

### Did You Know?

Three out of 10 visible minorities in York Region were born in Canada.

<sup>a</sup>Visible Minorities are defined by the *Employment Equity Act* as 'persons, other than Aboriginal persons, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.'



## Top Five Visible Minorities in 2006

The top five visible minorities in York Region were:

- Chinese (138,575)
  - South Asian e.g. Indian (80,595)
  - West Asian e.g. Iranian (20,860)
  - Black (20,770)
  - Filipino (17,150)
- People who identified themselves as Chinese represented 16% of all residents living in York Region. This was the highest proportion of people who identified themselves as Chinese in Ontario. York Region had the third highest proportion (9%) of people who identified themselves as South Asians in Ontario after Peel and Toronto.

The visible minority groups identified above may have been the top five in 2006 but they may change one day. As demonstrated in Table 1, the fastest growing visible minority groups between 2001 and 2006 were:

- West Asian - e.g., Iranian, Afghan (grew by 144%)
- Southeast Asian - e.g., Burmese, Cambodian and Indonesian (grew by 95%)
- Korean (grew by 84%)
- Latin American (grew by 81%)
- South Asian (grew by 70%)

## Municipal Trends

- In 2006, outside of the three southern municipalities, (Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Markham) the number of visible minorities certainly grew (see Map 1), but remained to be 5% or less of the population in the municipalities of Georgina, King and East Gwillimbury.
- People who identified themselves as Chinese were the largest visible minority group in Aurora, Markham, Richmond Hill and Whitchurch-Stouffville. People who identified themselves as South Asian were the largest visible minority group in Vaughan and King. People who identified themselves as Black were the largest visible minority group in Georgina and East Gwillimbury.
- 65% of Markham's population was made up of visible minorities. This is the highest proportion of visible minorities in Canada.
- In 2006, there were 89,300 people who identified themselves as Chinese living in Markham, making it the third largest Chinese community in Canada after Vancouver and Toronto.

Table 1

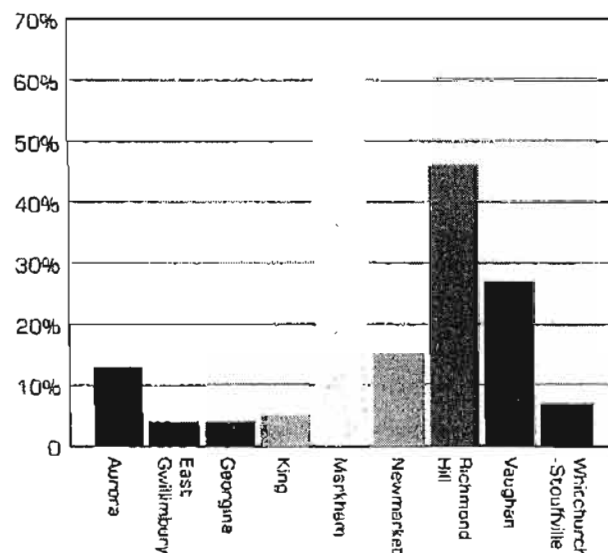
Total Visible Minority Population

|                                   | 2001    | 2006    | Growth Rate |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Total Visible Minority Population | 216,130 | 329,955 | 53%         |
| Arab                              | 4,935   | 7,400   | 50%         |
| Black                             | 16,150  | 20,770  | 29%         |
| Chinese                           | 100,710 | 138,575 | 38%         |
| Filipino                          | 10,370  | 17,150  | 65%         |
| Japanese                          | 1,905   | 2,360   | 24%         |
| Korean                            | 5,900   | 10,860  | 84%         |
| Latin American                    | 4,720   | 8,560   | 81%         |
| Multiple visible minorities       | 4,450   | 9,015   | 103%        |
| South Asian                       | 47,345  | 80,595  | 70%         |
| Southeast Asian                   | 5,175   | 10,110  | 95%         |
| Other visible minority            | 5,910   | 3,700   | -37%        |
| West Asian                        | 8,550   | 20,860  | 144%        |

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

Chart 2

Percentage of Visible Minorities by Municipality



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006



## What Does This Mean?

The face of York Region continues to change rapidly. Like the other major centres in Canada, York Region is an ethno-cultural mosaic representing a wide range of cultures, beliefs and traditions.

Statistics Canada anticipates that the number of visible minorities will continue to grow at a faster rate than non-visible minorities. Nearly 40% of York Region's working age residents are visible minorities. Clearly it is increasingly important for employers to develop programs and policies that promote diversity in the workplace to not only attract employees but, also to stay globally competitive.

As York Region continues to grow and diversify it is important to create a community for new and long term residents that promotes tolerance and embraces one another's uniqueness. The goal of this fact sheet is to provide a general overview to residents, employers, and service providers on how the ethnic make-up of our communities are changing. The information gathered here points to the need to actively create an even more inclusive society where people are open to new ideas, are accepting of people's differences and are able to have an opportunity to prosper. York Region enjoys a rich, multi-cultural diversity that is an asset to everyone and a key ingredient to maintaining York Region's high quality of life.

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Produced by The Regional Municipality of York Community and Health Services Department with the support of the York Region Social Data Strategy Consortium and Community Reference Group

York Region's Community Social Data Strategy Consortium



York Region's Community Reference Group

Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Catholic Community Services of York Region, Central Local Health Integration Network, Human Services Planning Coalition, Regional Municipality of York, Town of Markham Planning & Urban Design Department, Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, United Way of York Region, Vaughan Chamber of Commerce, York Catholic District School Board, York Region District School Board, York Regional Police, York South Simcoe Training and Adjustment Board

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# JUST THE FACTS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

## Diversity of Residents Living in York Region: Employment and Income

### Introduction

The Regional Municipality of York is an affluent community with a growing and diversified labour force. It has the fifth highest median family income in Canada and the second highest in Ontario based on the 2006 Census. Between 2001 and 2006, York Region's labour force grew by 22% – the highest of all Census Divisions<sup>1</sup> in Ontario.

It is also clear that not all residents are fully benefiting from York Region's wealth, with a growing number of residents living in low income households<sup>2</sup>. This number grew from 72,565 residents in 2001 to 112,501 residents in 2006.

Analysis in this fact sheet is based on the 2006 Census survey. Since that time there have been significant economic changes both locally and globally such as the collapse of the U.S. housing market, shifting gas prices and the downturn in the manufacturing sector.

Our economy will continue to evolve as these external influences and market conditions change over time. It is expected that the full impact of these changes on residents will take place over the next year or so as the economy readjusts.

<sup>1</sup>A Census Division is a group of neighbouring municipalities joined together for the purposes of regional planning and managing common services (such as police or ambulance services). There are 85 Census Divisions in Canada.

<sup>2</sup> Calculated using Before Tax Low Income Cut-offs. These reflect the income levels at which families or persons not in living in families spend 20% more than the average of their before tax income on food, shelter, and clothing. The low income cut-off for a family of four living in a community with a population between 100,000 and 499,999, such as Markham, Richmond Hill, or Vaughan is about \$33,250. For an individual living by themselves it is \$17,895.

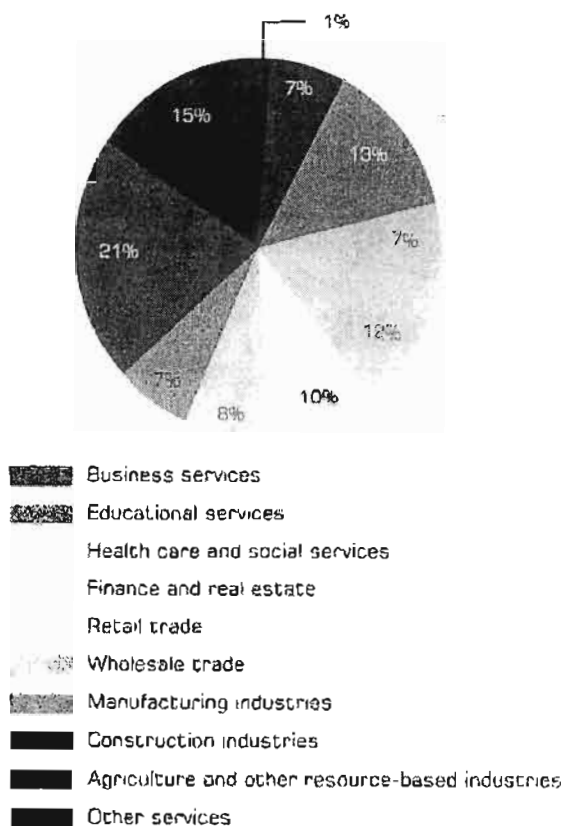


## Employment Trends in 2006

- As of 2006, York Region's labour force was 500,060, making it the third-largest labour force in Ontario.
- Of those residents who worked, 78% worked full-time and 22% part-time.
- As shown in Chart 1, top industries in which York Region residents worked were:
  - Business Services (21%)
  - Manufacturing Industries (13%)
  - Retail Trade (12%)
- Other services, which includes a variety of industries (e.g. Entertainment, Arts and Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services, and Public Administration), represented 15% of the industries in which people worked.
- Between 2001 and 2006, all industries in which residents work experienced an increase in the number they employed.
- In 2006:
  - 50% of York Region's employed labour force worked within the Region
  - 40% worked outside York Region
  - 10% either worked outside of Canada or had no fixed work address
- In 2006, York Region's unemployment rate was 5.4%. At the time, this was the second lowest unemployment rate in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) next to Halton at 4.7%. In 2006, the unemployment rate was 6.4% in Ontario and 6.6% in Canada.
- Since 2006, the economy has shifted. However, York Region usually experiences an unemployment rate that is about 1% - 2% lower than the GTA.
- Chart 2 shows that between 2001 and 2006, unemployment rates increased in all nine local municipalities in York Region. Markham and Newmarket had the highest increases.

Chart 1

Industries in Which York Region Residents Work, Census 2006

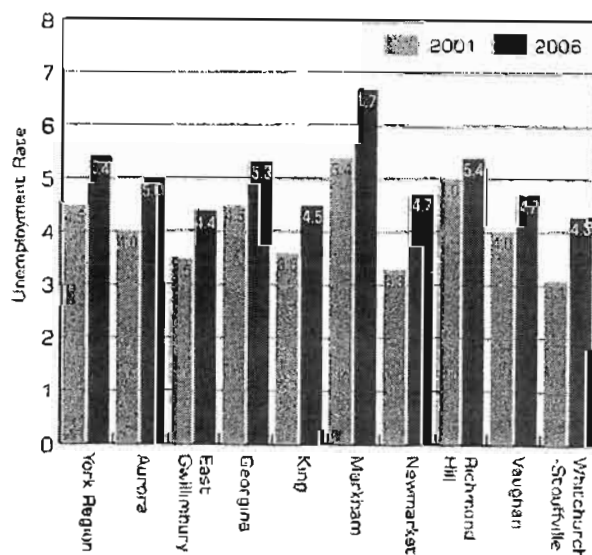


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Note: Percentages are calculated on rounded figures; therefore do not necessarily add up to 100%

Chart 2

Unemployment Rates for York Region Municipalities, Census 2001 and 2006

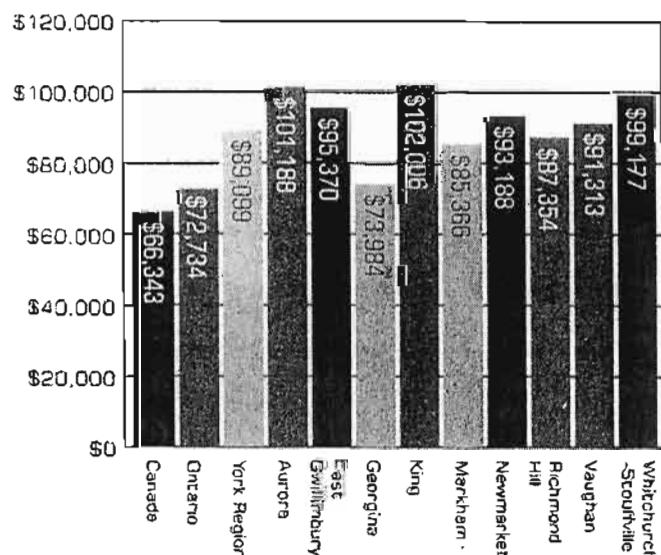


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

## Family Income Trends<sup>4</sup> in 2006

- A family can have several different sources of income. These sources may include how much a family makes from work or earnings, investment income (i.e., retirement pensions) or government transfers such as Employment Insurance. Income, rather than earnings alone, provides a good sense of the resources available to a family.
- In 2006, there were 238,640 families living in York Region. The median earnings for a family was \$82,912 which is slightly lower than the median family income of \$89,099. A high proportion of family income is from employment earnings.
- Since 2001, York Region's median income for a family dropped by 3% or \$2,433 between 2001 and 2006. This was the third-highest proportionate decrease in Ontario. Only five other Census Divisions in Ontario experienced decreases (Peel, Toronto, Essex, Dufferin, and Chatham-Kent).
- As shown in Chart 3, King (\$102,006) and Aurora (\$101,188) had the highest median family income.
- In fact, King had the second-highest median family income of all Census Subdivisions<sup>5</sup> in Ontario. As well, King, Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville were within the top 25 municipalities in Canada for highest median family income as reported in the 2006 Census.

**Chart 3**  
**Median Income for Economic Families, Canada, Ontario and York Region Municipalities, 2006**



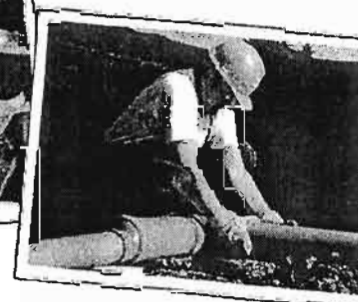
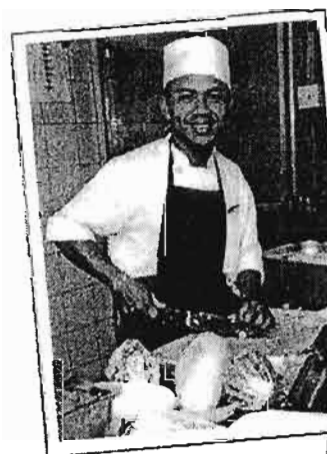
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

## Household Income Trends in 2006

- Households are different from families as they can be either a group of people living together or an individual living by themselves. There are 275,680 households in York Region.
- In 2006, the median income for these households was \$81,928. York Region had the second-highest median household income in the GTA after Halton which was \$83,496.
- The municipality with the highest median household income was King at \$91,762, followed by Aurora at \$89,177. The municipality with the lowest median household income was Georgina at \$65,645.
- The median household income for couples with children was \$98,899. In comparison, the median household income for people living alone was \$35,387.
- The number of households with an income over \$100,000 increased by 45% between 2001 and 2006, so that by 2006 there were 106,295 households in York Region in this income group. This represents nearly 40% of all households.

### Did You Know?

Unlike median family income which decreased between 2001 and 2006, the median household income in York Region increased by \$6,209.



<sup>4</sup>For the purposes of this fact sheet, family refers to economic families or 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.

<sup>5</sup>Census Subdivisions is the general term for municipalities.

## Low Income Trends in York Region

- York Region has seen an increase in high income households. At the same time, the low income population in York Region is increasing. In 2006, about 13% or 112,501 residents lived in low income households – 55% more than in 2001.
- In 2006, York Region's low income rate was the third-highest in the GTA after Toronto (25%) and Peel (15%). The low income rate in 2006 was 15% for both Ontario and Canada.
- Particular groups tend to be at a higher risk for living in low income households. These groups include people with disabilities, female lone-parents, recent immigrants, Aboriginals and people living alone.
- As of 2006, about 25% of female lone-parent families and 34% of people not living in families (such as someone living alone or two people unrelated living together) lived in low income households. In comparison, the low income rate for couple families was significantly lower at 10%. These proportions increased slightly since the 2001 Census.
- Table 1 shows that about 16% of Markham's and Richmond Hill's residents lived in low income households compared to about 4% in East Gwillimbury and 5% in King.

**Table 1**  
**Number of Low Income Residents, York Region Municipalities, 2006**

| Municipality           | Number of Low Income Residents | Low Income Rate (Before Tax) |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aurora                 | 3,843                          | 8%                           |
| East Gwillimbury       | 907                            | 4%                           |
| Georgina               | 5,150                          | 12%                          |
| King                   | 1,045                          | 5%                           |
| Markham                | 41,928                         | 16%                          |
| Newmarket              | 7,180                          | 10%                          |
| Richmond Hill          | 25,526                         | 16%                          |
| Vaughan                | 25,209                         | 11%                          |
| Whitchurch-Stouffville | 1,347                          | 6%                           |

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

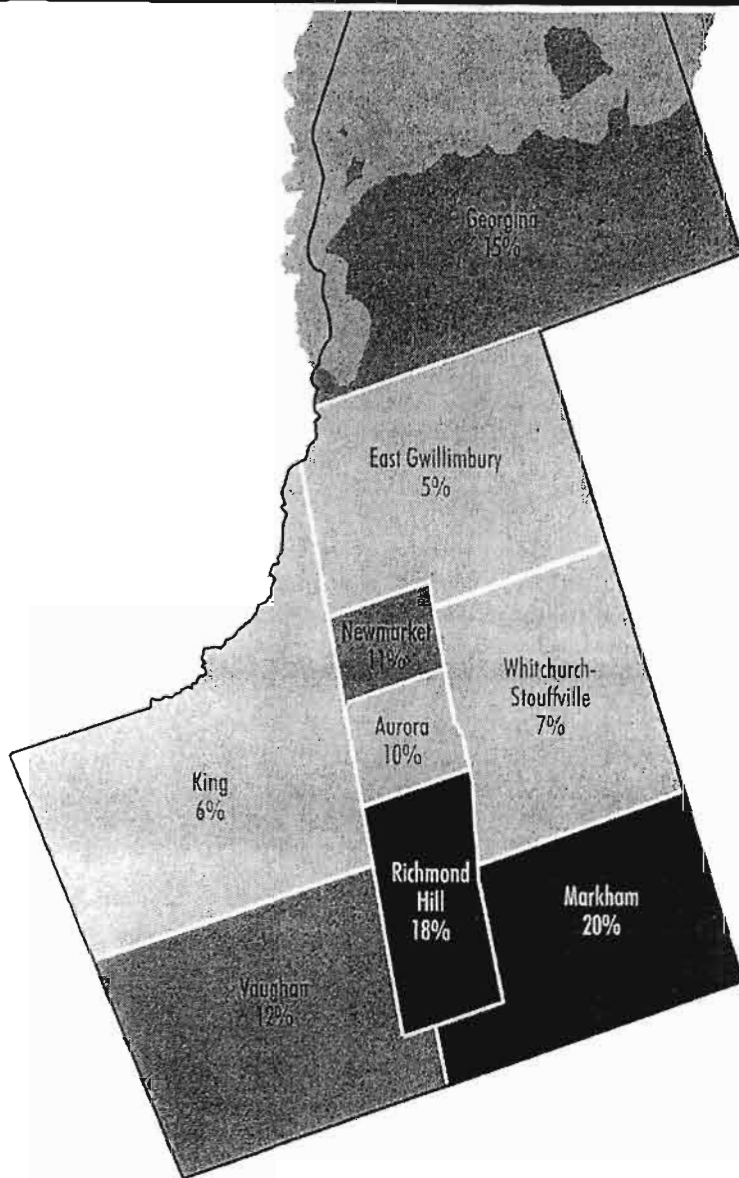
## Children Living in Low Income Households

- In 2006, almost 15% or 32,500 of York Region's children under the age of 18 lived in low income households. This is the third-highest proportion of children living in low income households after Toronto (32%) and Peel (19%).
- In comparison, the proportion of children living in low income households was approximately 18% for both Ontario and Canada, or close to one in five.
- The proportion of children living in low income households in each of the nine local municipalities is indicated on Map 1. The highest proportion was in Markham (20%) and Richmond Hill (18%). However, Vaughan had the highest increase in number of children living in low income households, up 97% between 2001 and 2006 (see Table 2).
- With the exception of East Gwillimbury, the number of children living in low income households increased in all local municipalities at a faster rate than the change in the overall child population between 2001 and 2006.

### Did You Know?

In 2006, 82% of low income residents lived in Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan.





**Table 2**  
**Percentage Change of Children in Low Income Households between 2001 and 2006, York Region Municipalities**

| Location               | Total Number of Children under 18 |                   |                      | Children under 18 in Low Income Households |        |                      |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
|                        | 2001                              | 2006 <sup>1</sup> | % Change (2001-2006) | 2001                                       | 2006   | % Change (2001-2006) |
| York Region            | 188,495                           | 219,440           | 16%                  | 20,075                                     | 32,477 | 62%                  |
| Vaughan                | 48,525                            | 62,405            | 29%                  | 3,805                                      | 7,489  | 97%                  |
| Markham                | 49,290                            | 59,365            | 20%                  | 7,085                                      | 12,110 | 71%                  |
| Richmond Hill          | 33,025                            | 39,005            | 18%                  | 4,380                                      | 7,089  | 62%                  |
| Whitchurch-Stouffville | 5,895                             | 5,520             | -3%                  | 265                                        | 403    | 52%                  |
| Aurora                 | 12,060                            | 13,130            | 9%                   | 805                                        | 1,247  | 55%                  |
| Newmarket              | 18,815                            | 19,340            | 3%                   | 1,740                                      | 2,069  | 19%                  |
| King                   | 4,640                             | 4,640             | 0%                   | 280                                        | 289    | 4%                   |
| East Gwillimbury       | 5,395                             | 5,100             | -6%                  | 370                                        | 240    | -35%                 |
| Georgina               | 11,065                            | 10,775            | -3%                  | 1,515                                      | 1,585  | 21%                  |

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001-2006

**Table 3**

**Household Income, Low Income Rate, Median Monthly Payments for Owners and Tenants and Housing Affordability, York Region Municipalities, Census 2006**

| Municipality           | Household Income (Both Tenant and Homeowners) | Low Income Rate | Tenants                       |                                            | Owners                         |                                                     |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|                        |                                               |                 | Median Monthly Rental Payment | Proportion of Tenant Spending 30%+ on rent | Median Monthly Owner's Payment | Proportion of Owner Spending 30%+ on Major Payments |
| York Region            | \$81,928                                      | 13%             | \$957                         | 48%                                        | \$1,463                        | 27%                                                 |
| Aurora                 | \$89,177                                      | 8%              | \$951                         | 37%                                        | \$1,559                        | 22%                                                 |
| East Gwillimbury       | \$87,913                                      | 4%              | \$819                         | 39%                                        | \$1,326                        | 17%                                                 |
| Georgina               | \$65,645                                      | 12%             | \$836                         | 48%                                        | \$1,292                        | 26%                                                 |
| King                   | \$91,762                                      | 5%              | \$951                         | 31%                                        | \$1,158                        | 19%                                                 |
| Markham                | \$79,924                                      | 16%             | \$995                         | 52%                                        | \$1,453                        | 30%                                                 |
| Newmarket              | \$81,640                                      | 10%             | \$900                         | 48%                                        | \$1,491                        | 22%                                                 |
| Richmond Hill          | \$78,976                                      | 16%             | \$1,001                       | 49%                                        | \$1,580                        | 31%                                                 |
| Vaughan                | \$86,616                                      | 11%             | \$1,100                       | 47%                                        | \$1,479                        | 28%                                                 |
| Whitchurch-Stouffville | \$86,364                                      | 6%              | \$924                         | 49%                                        | \$1,175                        | 22%                                                 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006





## Housing Affordability Trends in 2006

- Spending more than 30%<sup>6</sup> of one's household income can make it difficult to pay for necessities such as food, clothing, education and transportation. Unlike other necessities, housing is a set expenditure. When funds run short during the month, a family can reduce the amount they spend on things such as food and clothing but not on the cost for housing. Failure to make rent or mortgage payments may result in eviction.
- The ability of York Region residents to afford housing is an increasing issue. In 2006, the proportion of all York Region households that spent 30% or more on housing was 30% compared to 25% in 2001.
- As shown in Table 3, tenants tended to be more vulnerable than homeowners. In 2006, 27% of homeowners compared to 48% of tenants spent more than 30% of their income on shelter costs.
- In fact, close to 50% or more of tenants in Georgina, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville may have struggled with housing affordability.
- Factors that can contribute to housing affordability include high housing prices, lack of affordable rental housing or low household income.

### Did You Know?

At 48%, the proportion of York Region tenants who spent more than 30% on shelter costs was the highest in the GTA.

<sup>6</sup>One measure of affordability used by Statistics Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is the percentage of income that households spend on shelter costs (including rent, mortgage, taxes, repairs, utilities etc.) Most commonly, the affordability threshold is defined as spending 30% or more of household income on housing costs.





## What Does This Mean?

In general, York Region employment trends have remained comparatively positive in the midst of economic uncertainty. The rising number of low income residents and shifting unemployment rates means that many families and individuals are having difficulty providing for one of their most fundamental needs – the need for shelter.

All levels of government need to develop economic strategies and invest in both community and human services so residents can:

- find and keep employment
- train for better jobs
- overcome longer-term barriers to opportunities to participate both socially and economically in society
- manage economic hardship caused by unemployment or changing labour markets.

York Region has a relatively strong and diverse economy which, to some extent, provides a buffer from the uncertainties of the Canadian and American economies. In the 35-year span between 1971 and 2006, York Region's employment growth on average, has increased at a higher rate than its population growth.

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# JUST THE FACTS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

## FAMILIES Living in York Region

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 and 2006

### INTRODUCTION

York Region is a place where people come to raise families and benefit from the Region's high quality of life. According to the Statistics Canada 2006 Census, about 252,400 families live in York Region. The Region has the highest proportion of married couples with children (67%) out of all the Census divisions in Canada. While York Region families tend to be relatively young and affluent, not all residents share in the benefits of the growth occurring in the Region. All of the 2006 Census information is not available at this time. However, the 2001 Census data on families gives many clues about what we can expect from the 2006 Census data and sets the context for future information when the full scope of the 2006 data is released.

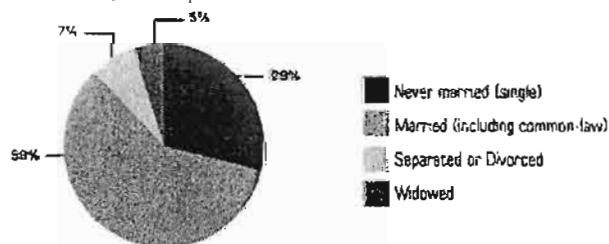
### HOUSEHOLDS

- In 2001, 27% of York Region families had no children. In 2001 and 2006, families with children had two children on average.
- Married couples in York Region are more likely than common-law or single parent families to have more than one child.
- In 2001, there were 22,275 single parent families in York Region (11% of all families). This increased to 30,565 in 2006 (12% of all families).
- While the number of married couples grew in 2006, the number of common-law couples in York Region did not. It remained at 5%.
- 12% of households were one-person households in 2001. This grew to 13% in 2006.

### MARITAL STATUS

The following chart shows the marital status of working age people (15 years and older) in York Region in 2006. 71% of them reported being or having been married - exactly the same percentage reported in the 2001 Census.

Marital Status in York Region, 15 Years of Age or Older, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulations, Census 2006

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**DID YOU KNOW?** In 2001, 34% of children/youth living at home in York Region were 18 years of age and over. This increased to 37% in 2006.

Number and percentage of children at home by age group, York Region, 2006

|                                                      | York Region | %    |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Total number of children at home                     | 342,700     | 100% |
| 0-4 years                                            | 52,915      | 15%  |
| 5-14 years                                           | 123,860     | 36%  |
| 15-17 years                                          | 40,220      | 12%  |
| 18-24 years                                          | 77,275      | 23%  |
| 25 years and over                                    | 48,425      | 14%  |
| Average number of children at home per census family | 1.4         |      |

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding  
Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulation, Census 2006

Number and percentage of families with children by family structure in York Region, 2001 and 2006

| Number of Children at Home | Married couples % |      | Common-law couples % |      | Total couple families % |      | Total single parent families % |      | Total couple & single parent families % |      |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------|----------------------|------|-------------------------|------|--------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------|------|
|                            | 2001              | 2006 | 2001                 | 2006 | 2001                    | 2006 | 2001                           | 2006 | 2001                                    | 2006 |
| 1                          | 31%               | 33%  | 46%                  | 48%  | 32%                     | 34%  | 55%                            | 56%  | 35%                                     | 37%  |
| 2                          | 48%               | 48%  | 39%                  | 38%  | 48%                     | 47%  | 33%                            | 33%  | 45%                                     | 45%  |
| 3+                         | 21%               | 19%  | 15%                  | 15%  | 21%                     | 19%  | 12%                            | 11%  | 19%                                     | 18%  |

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 and 2006 Census, Custom Tabulations

## INCOME IN YORK REGION

Income and housing data are crucial to understanding the make up and needs of families. The Census 2006

data has not been released but 2001 data below provides useful insights into income and housing trends:

- York Region's families are generally affluent. The median family income in York Region was \$75,678 in 2001 compared to the Ontario median of \$61,024.
- There was a wide range of median family incomes across the municipalities in York Region, ranging from \$60,494 to \$88,459 in 2001.
- The median family income for male lone-parent families was \$52,989.
- The average family income for female lone-parent families was \$41,869.
- 9% of families in York Region lived on low incomes.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The median family income was \$75,678; which was the second highest in the GTA.

## HOUSING IN YORK REGION IN 2001

- The average resale value for a single family detached unit was \$456,616 in 2006.
- 4% of households lived in housing requiring major repairs in 2006.
- The percentage of homes requiring major repairs ranged from 2% to 10% among municipalities in York Region. This range decreased in 2006 from 2% to 8%.
- 1 in every 4 households spent over 30% of their total income on housing.
- 1 in every 10 households spent over 50% of their total income on housing.
- The proportion of renter households spending 30% or more of their household income on shelter costs increased between 1990 and 2000 from 32% to 41%.\*

### DID YOU KNOW?

Among major urban municipalities in Canada, in 2001 York Region had the highest percentage (16.2%) of renter households on social housing wait lists.\*

\* Source: Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Quality of Life Reporting System Annexes (2004)

Number and percentage of families by income grouping for York Region

|                                        | #       | %    |
|----------------------------------------|---------|------|
| Family income in 2000 for all families | 204,530 | 100% |
| Under \$10,000                         | 6,460   | 3%   |
| \$ 10,000 - \$19,999                   | 6,685   | 3%   |
| \$ 20,000 - \$29,999                   | 13,555  | 7%   |
| \$ 30,000 - \$39,999                   | 14,800  | 7%   |
| \$ 40,000 - \$49,999                   | 15,870  | 8%   |
| \$ 50,000 - \$59,999                   | 16,820  | 8%   |
| \$ 60,000 - \$69,999                   | 17,690  | 9%   |
| \$ 70,000 - \$79,999                   | 17,005  | 8%   |
| \$ 80,000 - \$89,999                   | 15,785  | 8%   |
| \$ 90,000 - \$99,999                   | 13,965  | 7%   |
| \$100,000 and over                     | 65,900  | 32%  |

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census, Custom Tabulations

## WHAT this means:

York Region has long been a place of choice for families to raise their children in a safe and caring community. Although a majority of families in York Region enjoy a relatively high standard of living, a significant proportion of families struggle to obtain basic necessities. We are beginning to see the effects of this growing income gap on York Region's families and children. Between 2001 and 2007, the number of residents who use food banks grew by 53%. Almost half of the residents served by the York Region Food Network Group are children. Recent provincial initiatives such as income tested child care subsidies, the Ontario Child Benefit and the Housing Allowance Program are intended to help alleviate the financial pressures facing families that struggle to meet their needs. Along with strengthened service planning at a local level and supports, these steps can help provide more equal opportunities for York Region families to succeed in employment, education, and to enjoy a better quality of life.

These fact sheets are produced by the Community and Health Services Department, based on Statistics Canada Census data and definitions provided through the Community Social Data Strategy (CSDS). This is an initiative from the Canadian Council on Social Development in partnership with Statistics Canada. In 2005, York Region partnered with key community organizations to form a Consortium to lead the CSDS project.

### York Region's Community Social Data Strategy Consortium



### York Region's Community Reference Group

Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Catholic Community Services of York Region, Human Services Planning Coalition, Regional Municipality of York, Town of Markham Planning & Urban Design Department, United Way of York Region, Vaughan Chamber of Commerce, York Catholic District School Board, York Region District School Board, York Regional Police, York South Simcoe Training and Adjustment Board

# JUST THE FACTS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

## Housing and Shelter Costs in York Region

### Introduction

Between 2001 and 2006, The Regional Municipality of York was the fastest-growing Census Division<sup>1</sup> in Ontario and the third-fastest in Canada. Between 2001 and 2006, York Region's population increased by 22% or by 163,458 people. This was a period also marked by a strong economy, growth in all age groups, changing household makeup, and an increase in the number of low income residents. All of these factors have an impact on the types, forms, sizes and price ranges of housing required by residents at various stages of their lives. At this point in time, it is unclear what impact the current economic downturn may have upon the supply of, and the demand for, affordable housing in York Region.

### Did You Know?

York Region's population is estimated to be over 1,011,000 as of December 31, 2008 and is expected to grow to over 1.5 million by the year 2031.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Group of neighbouring municipalities, such as York Region, joined together for the purpose of planning and managing common services (such as police or ambulance service).

<sup>2</sup>York Region Planning and Development Services, 2009.

## Households in York Region

- In 2006, there were 275,680 households in York Region. This represents a 24% increase or 52,495 more households, between 2001 and 2006.

Of the 275,680 households:

- 80% were one-family households<sup>3</sup>. This was the highest proportion in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).
- 14% were non-family households<sup>4</sup>. This was the lowest proportion in the GTA.
- 5% were multiple family households<sup>5</sup>, which was the 2nd highest proportion in the GTA after Peel (6%).
- As shown in Table 1, among the nine local municipalities in York Region in 2006:
  - Vaughan had the highest proportion of one-family households (84%).
  - Markham had the highest proportion of multiple family households (8%).
  - Georgina had the highest proportion of non-family households (22%).

## Household Income

- In 2006, the median household income in York Region was \$81,928. This was the second highest in the GTA after Halton (\$83,496), and higher than both Ontario (\$60,455) and Canada (\$53,634).
- Among the nine local municipalities, King (\$91,762), Aurora (\$89,177) and East Gwillimbury (\$87,913) had the highest median household incomes in 2006.

### Did You Know?

In 2006, 5% of York Region households consisted of more than one family living together. This was higher than the proportions for Ontario (2%) and Canada (2%).

**Table 1**  
Household Types, York Region and Local Municipalities, 2006

| Municipality           | Private Households |      | One-family Households |     | Multiple-family Households |    | Non-family Households |     |
|------------------------|--------------------|------|-----------------------|-----|----------------------------|----|-----------------------|-----|
|                        | Total Number       | %    | Total Number          | %   | Total Number               | %  | Total Number          | %   |
| York                   | 275,680            | 100% | 221,760               | 80% | 14,735                     | 5% | 39,190                | 14% |
| Aurora                 | 15,655             | 100% | 12,640                | 81% | 300                        | 2% | 2,715                 | 17% |
| East Gwillimbury       | 6,885              | 100% | 5,700                 | 83% | 240                        | 3% | 945                   | 14% |
| Georgina               | 15,265             | 100% | 11,550                | 76% | 420                        | 3% | 3,295                 | 22% |
| King                   | 6,400              | 100% | 5,290                 | 83% | 130                        | 2% | 975                   | 15% |
| Markham                | 77,195             | 100% | 61,585                | 80% | 6,085                      | 8% | 9,525                 | 12% |
| Newmarket              | 25,085             | 100% | 19,305                | 77% | 715                        | 3% | 5,065                 | 20% |
| Richmond Hill          | 51,000             | 100% | 40,350                | 79% | 2,735                      | 5% | 7,870                 | 15% |
| Vaughan                | 69,535             | 100% | 58,475                | 84% | 3,905                      | 6% | 7,155                 | 10% |
| Whitchurch-Stouffville | 8,590              | 100% | 6,780                 | 79% | 195                        | 2% | 1,595                 | 19% |

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Note: Percentages are calculated on rounded figures; therefore, do not necessarily add up to 100%



<sup>3</sup>Consists of a single family living in a household (e.g. married couple with children).

<sup>4</sup>Consists of a person living alone, or two or more people who share a dwelling but do not constitute a family.

<sup>5</sup>Consists of two or more families occupying the same dwelling.

# York Region's Housing Supply

## Housing Stock

- In 2006, single detached homes made up a smaller proportion of the total dwellings in York Region at 68%, compared to 75% in 2001. Still, this was the highest proportion in the GTA, tied with Durham (68%).
- The remaining housing stock was comprised of semi-detached units (6%), row house units (10%), and apartment units (16%).
- There is great variation in the levels of diversity of housing stock between the nine local municipalities in York Region. In King, 94% of the housing stock was comprised of single detached dwellings – this was the highest among all nine local municipalities. In comparison, single detached dwellings made up only 59% of the housing stock in Newmarket (the lowest among all nine local municipalities).
- 4% of the housing stock in York Region was in need of major repairs<sup>6</sup>, compared to 7% in Ontario and 8% in Canada.
- Among the nine local municipalities in York Region, Georgina (8%) had the highest proportion of housing in need of major repairs. Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan had the lowest (all with 3%).

## Owning a Home in York Region

- In 2006, 88% of the total dwellings in York Region were owned - up slightly from 86% in 2001. This was the highest proportion of owned dwellings in the GTA. In comparison, 71% of the total dwellings in Ontario and 68% in Canada were owned.
- Vaughan (93%), East Gwillimbury (89%) and Markham (89%) had the highest proportion of owned dwellings in York Region.
- 58% of single detached houses in York Region were owned with mortgages.
- The median mortgage payment in York Region was \$1,463 - the second-highest median mortgage payment in the GTA after Peel Region (\$1,510).
- Among the nine area municipalities in York Region, Richmond Hill had the highest monthly mortgage payment at \$1,580, followed by Aurora at \$1,559.

## Renting in York Region

- The rental market is still getting tighter in York Region and low income households may have fewer options for housing.
- In 2006, 12% of the total dwellings in York Region were rented – this is down slightly from 14% in 2001. This was the lowest proportion in the GTA. In comparison, 29% of the total dwellings in Ontario and 31% in Canada were rented.
- Newmarket (18%) and Whitchurch-Stouffville (15%) had the highest proportion of rented dwellings in York Region. Vaughan (7%) had the lowest.
- In York Region, the median monthly payment for a rental dwelling was \$957 – this was the third-highest in the GTA after Peel (\$974) and Halton (\$970). In comparison, the median monthly payment for Ontario was \$801 and \$671 for Canada.
- Between 2001 and 2006, construction was completed on only 91 rental housing units in York Region.<sup>8</sup>

### Did You Know?

In 2008, the average rental unit vacancy rate in York Region was 1.5% and the average market rent was \$1,008.00.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Major repairs refer to the repair of defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings, etc.

<sup>7</sup>Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Rental Market Report, Fall 2008

<sup>8</sup>Trends & Issues in Affordable Housing & Homelessness, 2008, Federation of Canadian Municipalities



## Housing Affordability is an Issue for a Number of Residents

- In 2008, the average resale price of a detached dwelling in York Region was \$508,892, a semi-detached dwelling was \$345,789, a row house dwelling was \$331,097 and a condominium/apartment dwelling was \$257,115.<sup>9</sup>
- Affordability continues to be an issue for York Region residents. One measure of affordability used by Statistics Canada and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is the percentage of income that households spend on shelter (including rent, mortgage, taxes, repairs, etc.) Most commonly, the affordability threshold is defined as spending 30% or more of household income on housing costs. Spending more than this can make it difficult to pay for necessities such as food, clothing, education and transportation.

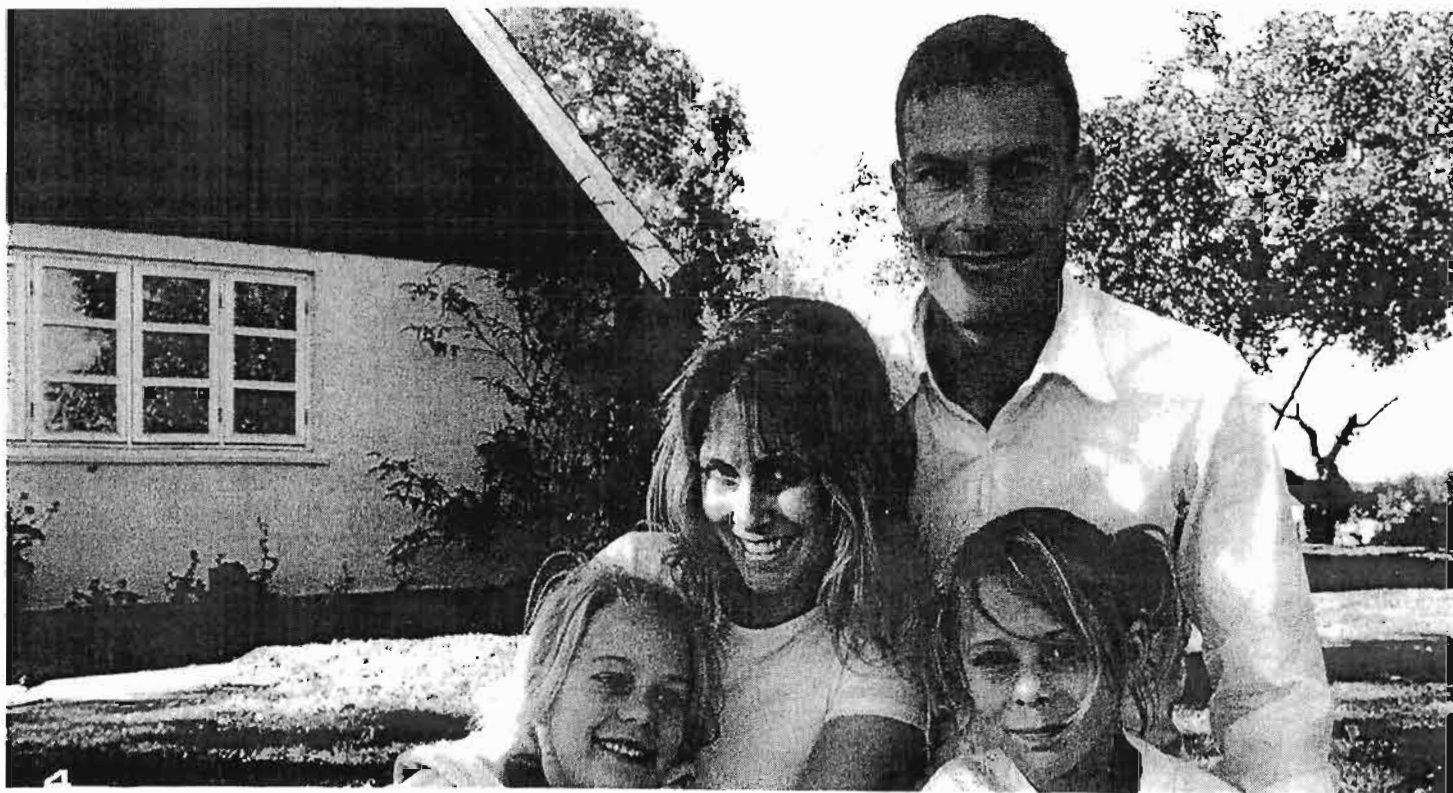
## Owners Spending 30% or More on Housing Costs

- In 2006, 27% of the 242,945 owned residences in York Region spent 30% or more of their household income on housing costs. This was the third-highest proportion in the GTA after Peel (29%) and Toronto (28%).
- The proportion of homeowners in York Region (27%) who spent 30% or more of their household income on housing costs was higher than both Ontario (21%) and Canada (18%).
- Homeowners in Richmond Hill (31%) and Markham (30%) had the highest proportion of households spending 30% or more of their household income on housing costs. East Gwillimbury had the lowest proportion (17%).
- As shown in Map 1, it was not uncommon in York Region in 2006 for homeowners to spend 30% or more of their income on shelter; particularly, in the more urban areas of the Region – Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan.
- Map 1 also highlights areas in Vaughan and Markham where over 40% of homeowners spent 30% or more of their income on shelter.

### Did You Know?

In 2006, one-person households (48%) and lone-parent households (46%) were more likely to spend 30% or more of household income on housing costs. Couples without children (23%) were least likely to spend 30% or more of household income on housing costs.

<sup>9</sup>Economic and Development Review 2008, York Region Planning and Development Services Department



# Map 1 2006 York Region Owner Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Shelter by Census Tract\*

## LEGEND

Percentage of households spending more than 30% of income on housing costs, such as mortgage, electricity, municipal services

- Less than 10%
- 10% - 19.9%
- 20% - 29.9%
- 30% - 39.9%
- 40% - 49.9%

Data Not Available

Dissemination Area Boundary

Municipal Boundary

Regional Boundary

**York Region** **Geomatics**

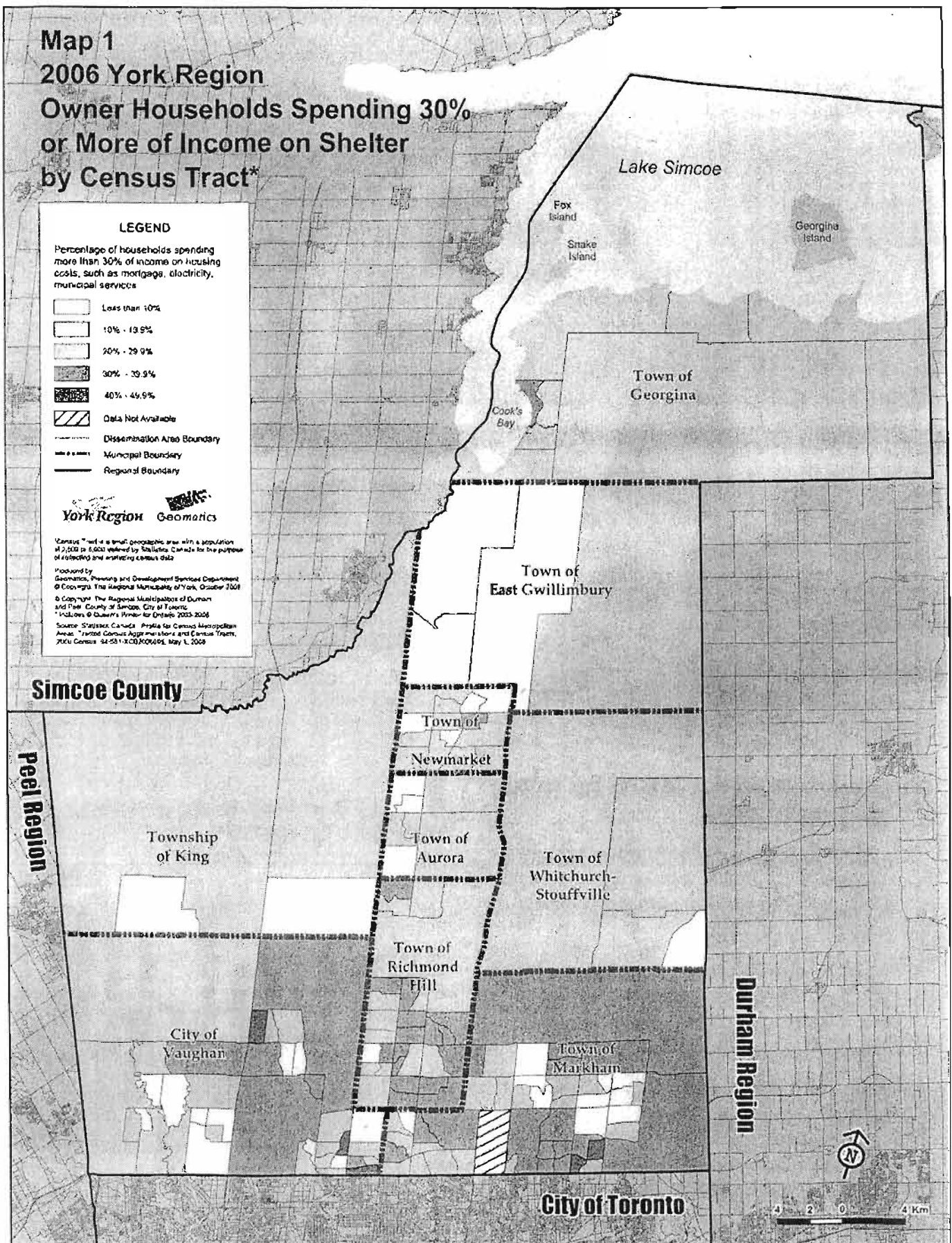
\*Census Tract is a small geographic area with a population of 2,500 to 6,000 selected by Statistics Canada for the purpose of collecting and analyzing census data

Produced by Geomatics, Planning and Development Services Department © Copyright The Regional Municipality of York, October 2009

© Copyright The Regional Municipality of Durham and Peel County of Simcoe, City of Toronto

\*Includes © Queen's Printer for Ontario 2003-2008

Source: Statistics Canada, Profile for Census Metropolitan Area: "Greater Toronto Area" and Census Tract, 2006 Census, 92-551-X-0000000, May 1, 2008



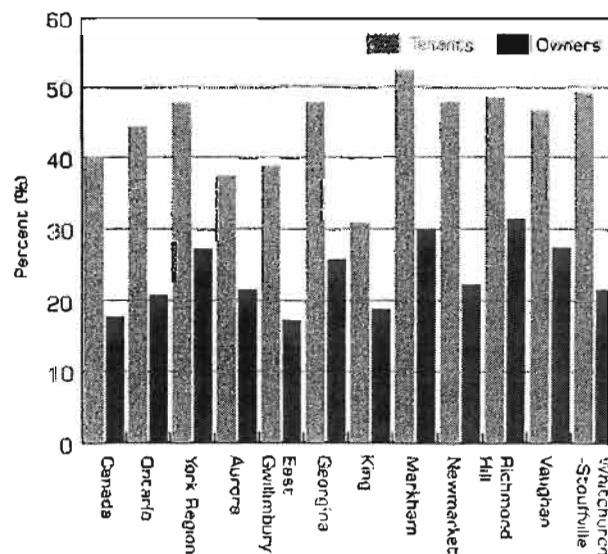


## Tenants spending 30% or more on housing costs

- In 2006, 48% of the 32,255 tenant-occupied residences spent 30% or more of their household income on housing costs. This was the highest proportion in the GTA.
- The proportion of tenants in York Region (48%) who spent 30% or more of their household income on housing costs was higher than both Ontario (44%) and Canada (40%).
- Tenants in Markham (52%), Richmond Hill (49%) and Whitchurch-Stouffville (49%) had the highest proportion of households spending 30% or more of their household income on housing costs. King (31%) had the lowest proportion.

Chart 1

Percentage of Tenants/Owners Spending 30% or More on Housing Costs, Canada, Ontario, York Region and Local Municipalities, 2006

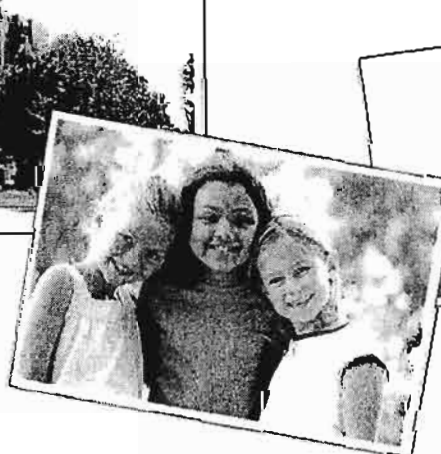
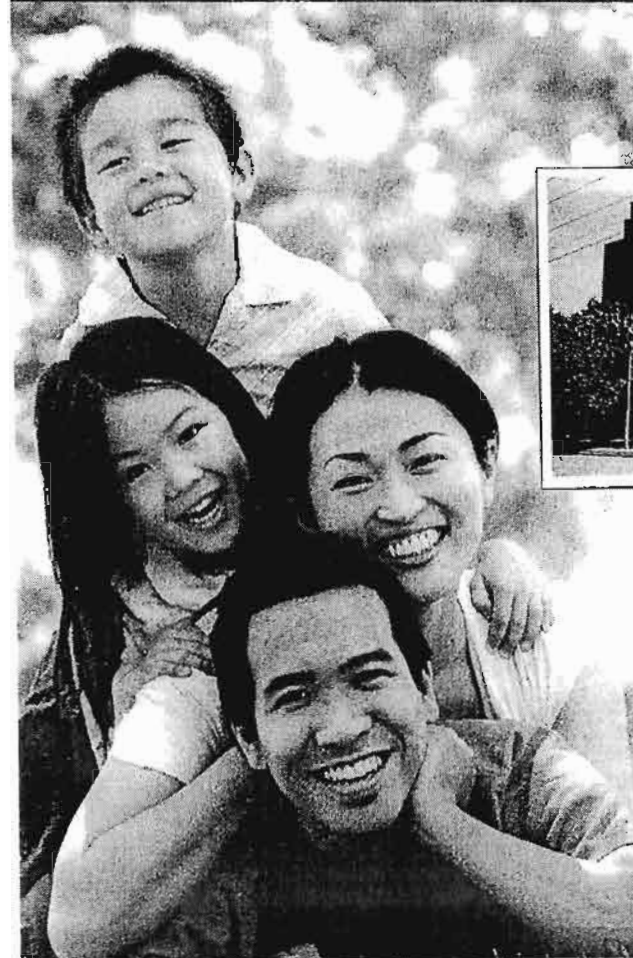


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006



## Other types of housing options used by York Region residents

- In 2006, there were 91,920 seniors (65+ years) living in York Region, representing 10% of the total York Region population. 12% of seniors live on low incomes<sup>10</sup>.
- In 2007, there were 3,636 long-term care beds in York Region, and 283 people were on the waiting list for a bed.
- Between 2001 and 2006, the percentage of low income residents increased by 55% and the demand for affordable housing options continued to rise. Most of the less expensive housing in York Region is subsidized or "rent-geared-to-income".
- In 2008, there were 6,028 social housing units operated and/or administered by the Region and over 5,838 households were on the waiting list for a unit. From January to December 2008, the waiting list increased by 5% (301 households).
- Families and individuals in York Region who become homeless may be able to go to emergency shelters for temporary housing. The number of beds is limited. In 2008, York Region had 75 permanent Emergency Shelter beds.
- In 2008, York Region had 51 emergency beds for women who are victims of violence.



<sup>10</sup>Low income households are calculated using Before Tax Low Income Cut-Offs. These reflect the income levels at which families or persons not living in families spent 20% more than the average of their before tax income on food shelter and clothing. The low income cut-off for a family of four living in a community with a population between 100,000 and 499,999, such as Markham, Richmond Hill or Vaughan is about \$33,250. For individuals by themselves it is \$17,895.



## What Does This Mean?

Traditionally, York Region has mainly been made up of younger families with children living in single-detached dwellings. Demographic trends such as an aging population, more single persons living alone, an increasing proportion of low income households, lone parents, people with disabilities and growing ethno-cultural diversity mean that a more diverse range of housing choices are required.

York Region ranks as one of the most costly places in Canada to own a home or rent an apartment. Housing affordability is influenced by many global, national and local factors (e.g. construction costs, population growth and interest rates) which are largely beyond the influence of regional government. The Region is leading the way but cannot build affordable housing on its own. The absence of national and provincial comprehensive housing strategies and meaningful, stable funding remain a major issue.

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Produced by The Regional Municipality of York Community and Health Services Department with the support of the York Region Social Data Strategy Consortium and Community Reference Group

### York Region's Community Social Data Strategy Consortium



### York Region's Community Reference Group

Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Catholic Community Services of York Region, Central Local Health Integration Network, Human Services Planning Coalition, The Regional Municipality of York, Town of Markham Planning & Urban Design Department, Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, United Way of York Region, Vaughan Chamber of Commerce, York Catholic District School Board, York Region District School Board, York Regional Police, York South Simcoe Training and Adjustment Board

To view this document as well as other socio-economic information about York Region's residents, please visit York Region's Community Social Data website:

**[www.york.ca/yrcsd](http://www.york.ca/yrcsd)**

# JUST THE FACTS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

Diversity of Residents Living in York Region: Immigration and Mobility

## Introduction

The Regional Municipality of York is the fastest growing census division<sup>1</sup> in Ontario and the third fastest in Canada. Between 2001 and 2006, York Region's population increased by 22%, or by 163,458 people. Immigrants<sup>2</sup> accounted for almost 60% of this growth, or 96,735 people. While most residents who were not born in Canada have been here for many years, nearly half of the growing immigrant population are recent immigrants; those who arrived in Canada between 2001 and 2006.

Immigrants are important to the economic and cultural future of York Region. They are also critical to the region's ability to compete globally, grow economically and continue to be a vibrant community. The immigrants who choose to live in York Region are generally highly-skilled and well-educated. Some have lived in Canada for many years, while others are newcomers. Many have business connections around the world.

Given that by 2011, it is estimated that immigration will account for 100% of Canada's net labour force growth<sup>3</sup>. Helping new immigrants adjust quickly to their new home to become more productive sooner and integrate into society will be increasingly important.

York Region's demographics are also affected by migration to and from other municipalities and other provinces.

<sup>1</sup>Group of neighbouring municipalities, such as York Region, joined together for the purposes of planning and managing common services (such as police or ambulance service).

<sup>2</sup>For the purpose of this Fact Sheet "Immigrants" refers to all persons who were born outside of Canada, including recent immigrants i.e. those who immigrated to Canada between 2001 and 2006.

<sup>3</sup>2001 Census Analysis Series, "The Changing Profile of Canada's Labour Force", Statistics Canada, 2003.



## Immigration Trends in 2006

- York Region is home to more than 380,500 immigrants. This represented 43% of the population in 2006; an increase from 40% in 2001.
- In 2001, there were 43,405 recent immigrants (those who immigrated between 1996 and 2001) in York Region, compared to 46,460 recent immigrants in 2006 – a 7% increase.
- In 2006, recent immigrants represented 12% of the total immigrant population in York Region.
- Between 2001 and 2006, one out of every 25 immigrants arriving in Canada came to York Region.
- In 2006, York Region also had the third-highest number of total immigrants and recent immigrants in Ontario, after Toronto and Peel. York Region had the sixth-highest number of recent immigrants in Canada.

Table 1

Growth Rate for Total, Non-Immigrant and Immigrant Populations, Ontario and GTA

| Geography       | Total Population Growth Rate <sup>a</sup> | Non-Immigrant Population Growth Rate | Total Immigrant Population Growth Rate |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Ontario         | 7%                                        | 4%                                   | 12%                                    |
| York Region     | 22%                                       | 14%                                  | 34%                                    |
| Durham Region   | 11%                                       | 9%                                   | 20%                                    |
| Halton Region   | 17%                                       | 13%                                  | 30%                                    |
| Peel Region     | 17%                                       | 5%                                   | 32%                                    |
| City of Toronto | 1%                                        | -1%                                  | 2%                                     |

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

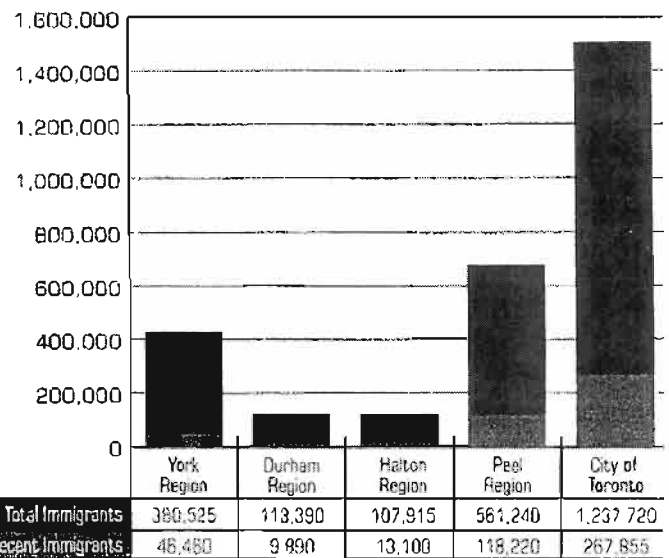
<sup>a</sup>Based on population dwelling counts, July 17, 2007

### Did You Know?

Immigrants are most commonly of working age (i.e. between the ages of 25 and 44) when they immigrate to Canada.

Chart 1

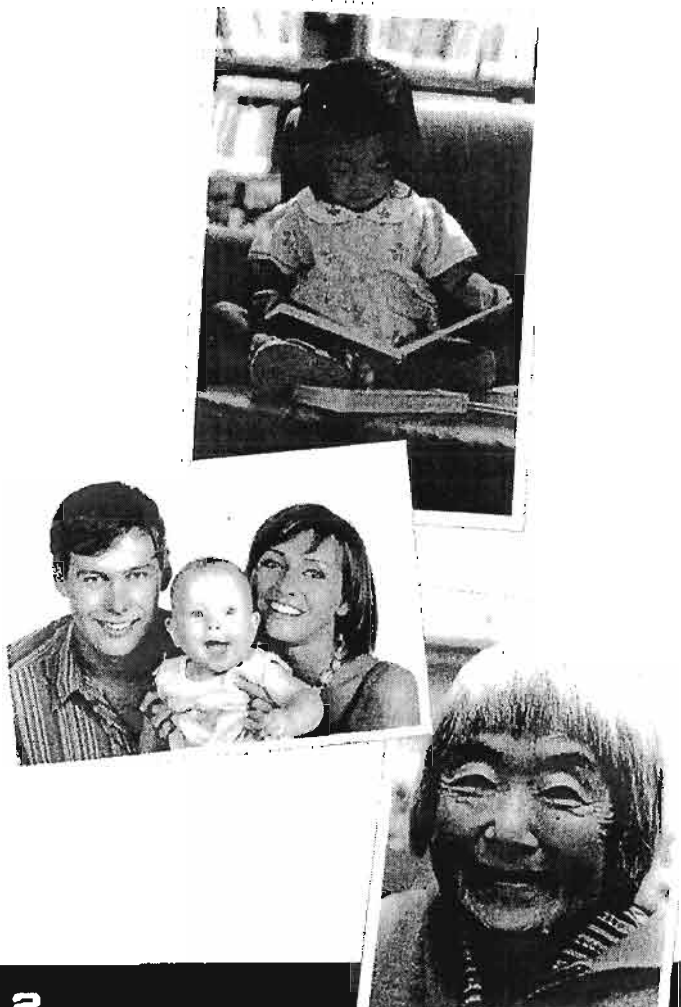
Recent Immigrants and Total Immigrants, GTA, Census 2006

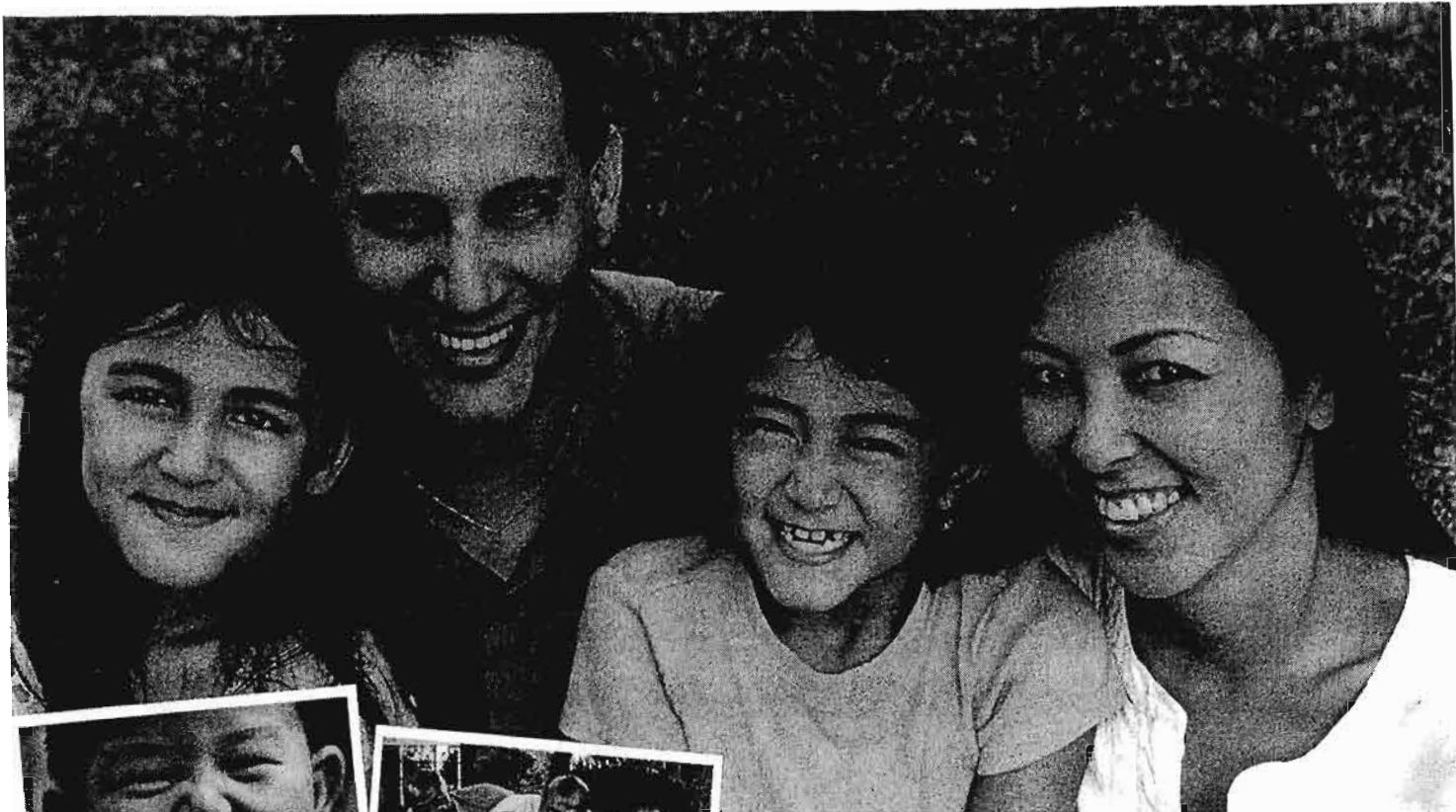


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

### Did You Know?

92% of York Region residents are Canadian citizens, regardless of their country of birth.





## Local Municipal Trends in 2006

- In 2006, Markham had the largest population of people in York Region who were not born in Canada<sup>4</sup> (147,400), followed by Vaughan (106,960) and Richmond Hill (83,335).
- With 56.5% of Markham's population not born in Canada, Markham had the second-highest proportion of immigrants in Canada. Richmond, B.C. had the highest proportion at (57.4%).
- In York Region, Aurora had the greatest percentage increase between 2001 and 2006 in foreign-born residents (46% or 3,330 people), followed by Vaughan (41% or 30,940 people). King experienced a decrease of 1%, or 40 people.
- Vaughan had the greatest increase in the number of recent immigrants in York Region - an increase of 3,165 between 2001 and 2006. During the same time period, the number of recent immigrants decreased in East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Markham, Richmond Hill and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

## Did You Know?

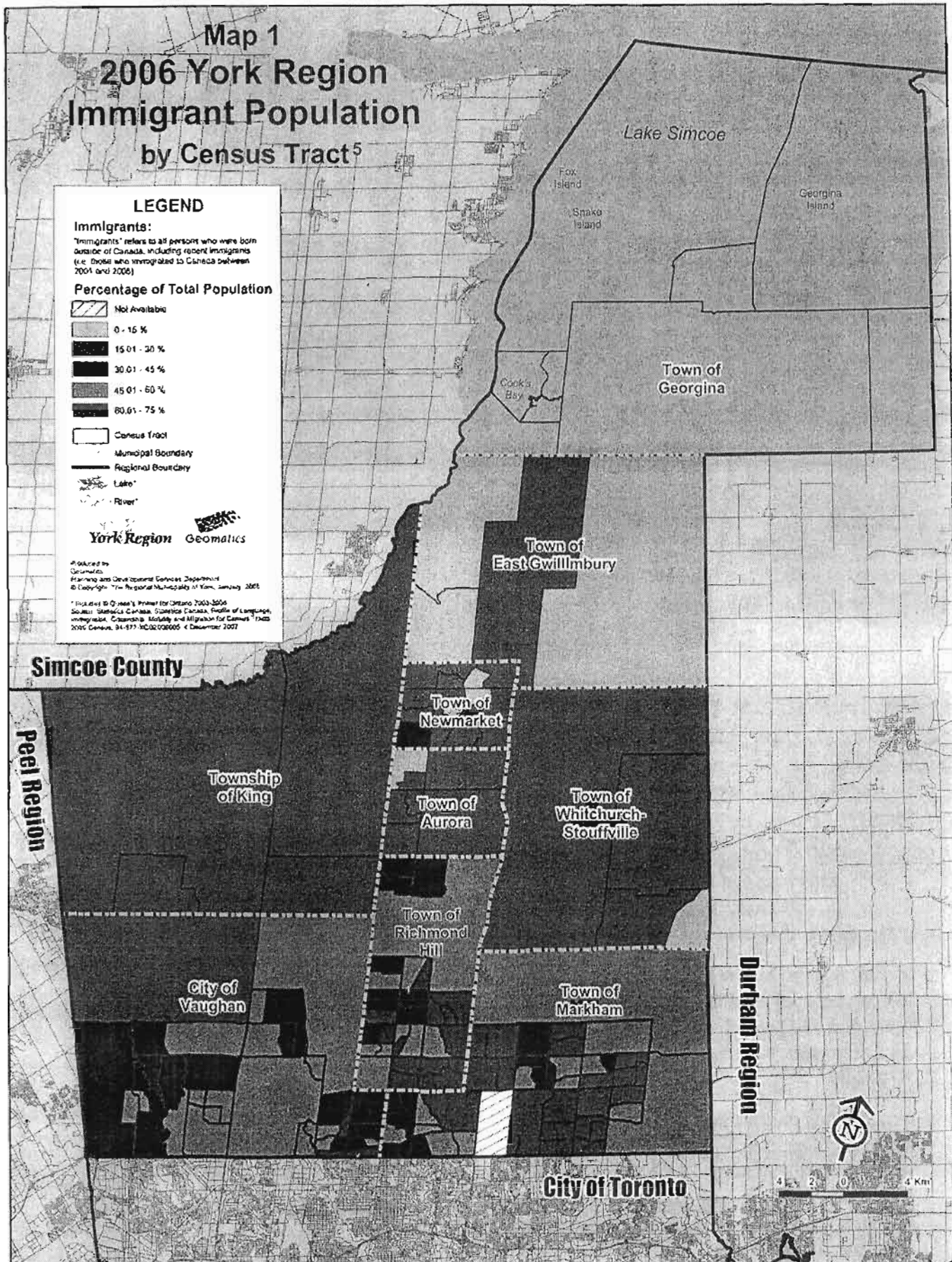
- Over 50% of residents living in Markham and Richmond Hill were not born in Canada.

**Table 2**  
Total Immigrants Growth Rate Between 2001 and 2006,  
York Region and Municipalities

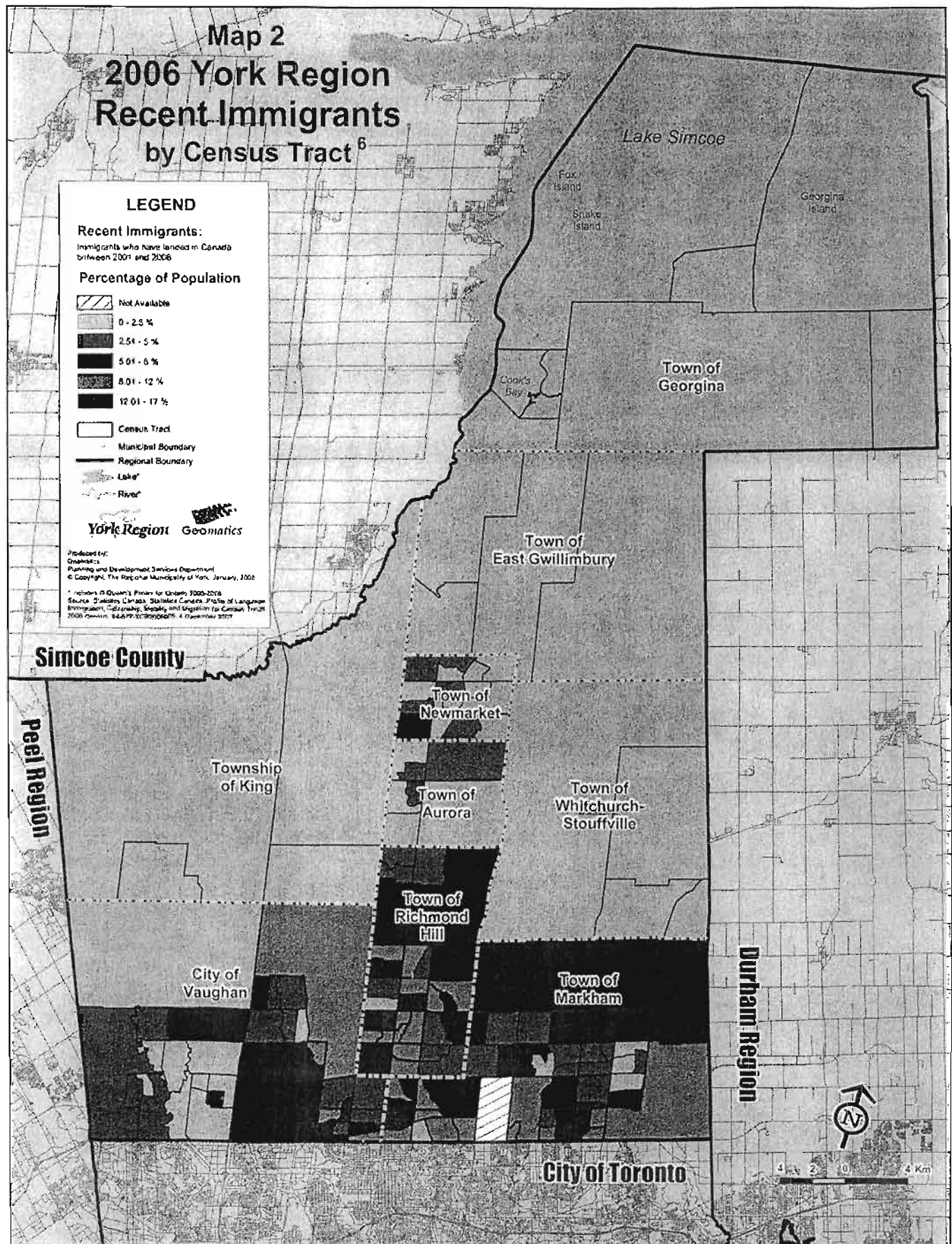
| Geography              | 2001           | 2006           | Difference    | Growth Rate |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>York Region</b>     | <b>283,790</b> | <b>380,530</b> | <b>96,740</b> | <b>34%</b>  |
| Aurora                 | 7,195          | 10,525         | 3,330         | 46%         |
| East Gwillimbury       | 2,790          | 2,920          | 130           | 5%          |
| Georgina               | 4,435          | 4,960          | 525           | 12%         |
| King                   | 3,955          | 3,915          | -40           | -1%         |
| Markham                | 109,930        | 147,400        | 37,470        | 34%         |
| Newmarket              | 12,200         | 16,120         | 3,920         | 32%         |
| Richmond Hill          | 63,615         | 83,335         | 19,720        | 31%         |
| Vaughan                | 76,020         | 106,960        | 30,940        | 41%         |
| Whitchurch-Stouffville | 3,655          | 4,395          | 740           | 20%         |

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

<sup>4</sup>In this document, "In Canada" refers specifically to all census divisions in Canada.



<sup>5</sup>A "census tract" is a small geographic area with a population of 2,500 to 8,000 defined by Statistics Canada for the purpose of collecting and analyzing census data.



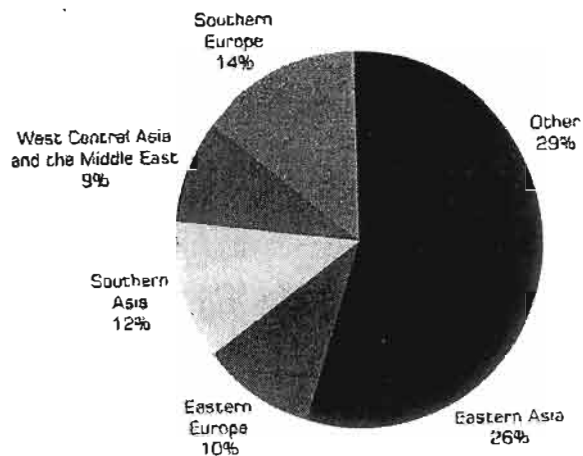
<sup>6</sup>A "census tract" is a small geographic area with a population of 2,500 to 8,000 defined by Statistics Canada for the purpose of collecting and analyzing census data.

## Places of Birth in 2006

- The most common birthplace of foreign-born York Region residents was Eastern Asia (mainly China and Hong Kong).

Chart 2

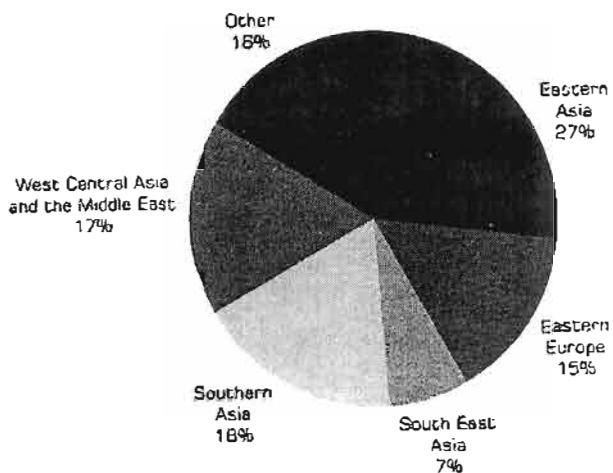
Top Five Places of Birth, Total Immigrants, 2006



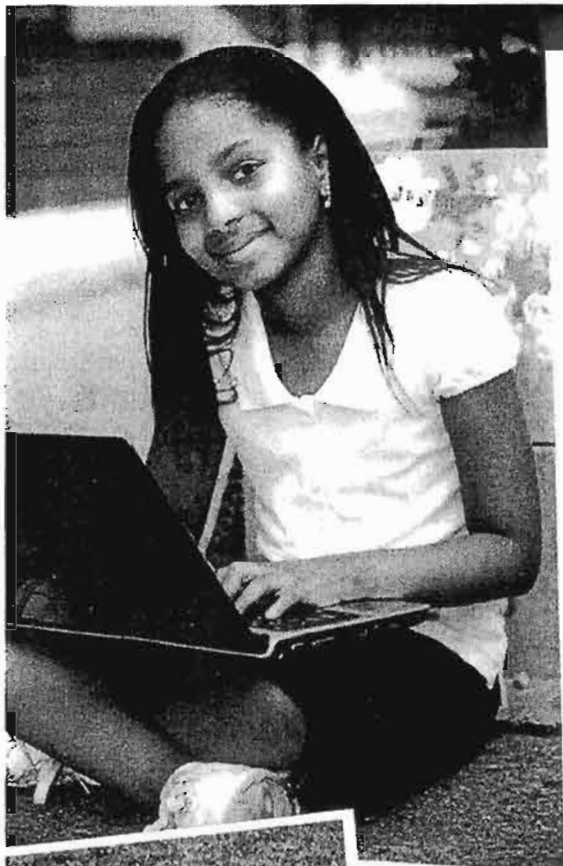
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Chart 3

Top Five Places of Birth, Recent Immigrants, 2006

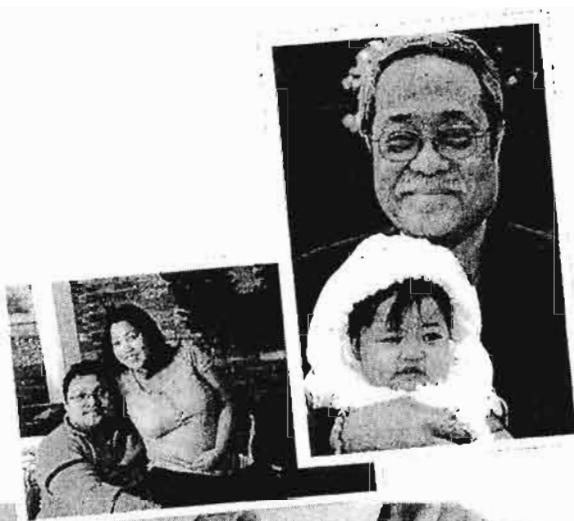


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006



## Visible Minorities

- The number of visible minorities in York Region has increased by 53% since 2001. In 2006, there were 329,955 visible minorities, both Canadian and foreign-born, living in York Region. They make up 37% of our total population.
- Of the 380,525 foreign-born residents living in York Region, 71% were visible minorities. Of the 46,460 recent immigrants (those who immigrated between 2001 and 2006), 72% were visible minorities.
- In 2006, the top five visible minorities in York Region were people who identified themselves as Chinese (138,575), South Asian (80,595), West Asian (20,860), Black (20,770) and Filipino (17,150).



## Mobility

- Mobility is a term used to describe whether a person's usual residence has changed during a given period of time. Among other things, the mobility statistics show us how York Region is changing as a result of people moving here from elsewhere in Ontario, from other provinces/territories in Canada, or from other countries.
- Between 2001 and 2006, 42% or 346,935 of York Region residents moved. Of this group:
  - 142,090 moved from within the same city or town
  - 162,745 moved from another city or town in Canada
  - 42,100 moved here from another country
- According to Census 2006, there were 9,095 people in York Region who lived in another country one year before the census. These people could be immigrants or could be Canadian citizens who were living abroad. This is an 8% increase over what was reported in the 2001 Census.
- In the GTA, York Region had the second-highest percentage (58%) of residents who remained at the same address between 2001 and 2006. Only Durham experienced a higher percentage (60%) of residents remaining at the same address.





## What Does This Mean?

Between 2001 and 2006, York Region was the fastest-growing municipality among the five GTA municipalities (i.e. Durham, Halton, Peel, Toronto and York). York Region attracted more Canadian-born and immigrant residents than any other municipality in the GTA. At the same time, York Region's population is diversifying. This growth and diversity is largely driven by immigration and population movement from other parts of Ontario and Canada. The nine local municipalities in the region and even different areas within each municipality are seeing different types of growth. What this means is that a "one size fits all" approach cannot be used for program/service planning and delivery. Different municipalities will have different needs, as will the various populations in the region.

All changes have implications for municipal governments, community agencies, schools, businesses, police, hospitals and others. To help new residents integrate effectively, and ensure longer-term residents get the supports they need in different phases of their lives, we need to continuously adapt to ensure that programs and services are accessible, culturally sensitive, and responsive. This will allow everyone to have the opportunity to contribute to our economy and communities.

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Produced by The Regional Municipality of York Community and Health Services Department with the support of the York Region Social Data Strategy Consortium and Community Reference Group

### York Region's Community Social Data Strategy Consortium

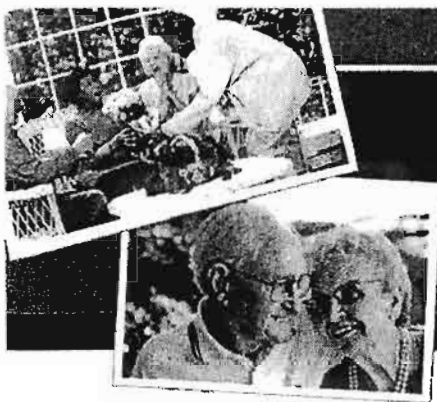


### York Region's Community Reference Group

Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Catholic Community Services of York Region, Central Local Health Integration Network, Human Services Planning Coalition, Regional Municipality of York, Town of Markham Planning & Urban Design Department, Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, United Way of York Region, Vaughan Chamber of Commerce, York Catholic District School Board, York Region District School Board, York Regional Police, York South Simcoe Training and Adjustment Board

To view this document as well as other socio-economic information about York Region's residents, please visit: York Region's Community Social Data website:

**[www.york.ca/yrcsd](http://www.york.ca/yrcsd)**



# JUST THE FACTS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

## SENIORS Living in York Region

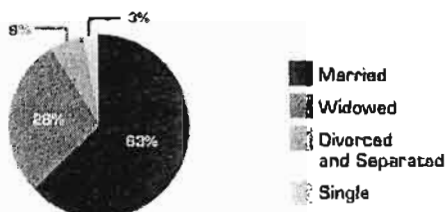
Source: Statistics Canada 2001 and 2006

### INTRODUCTION

According to the Statistics Canada 2006 Census, there are 91,920 seniors (those aged 65 and older) living in York Region. Seniors represent 10% of the Region's population, which is a lower percentage than Ontario and Canada (about 14% each). Among urban municipalities, York Region has one of the fastest growing seniors populations. It is expected that by 2031 the number of seniors living in York Region will increase to 303,517, or 20% of the population. The anticipated increase is largely due to the high proportion of baby-boomers in York Region. All of Statistics Canada's 2006 Census information is currently not available. However, the 2001 Census indicates what to expect when the complete 2006 information becomes available.

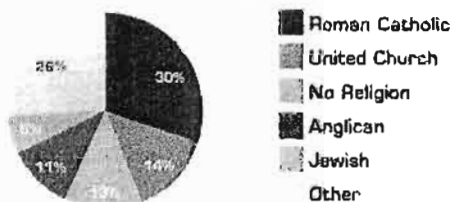
### DEMOGRAPHICS

Senior's Population by Marital Status, York Region, 2006



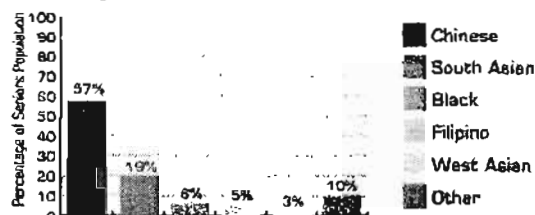
Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulation, Census 2006

Top 5 Religions for Senior's Population, York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulation, Census 2001

Top 5 Groups of all Visible Minority Seniors in York Region, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulation, Census 2001

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The average total income for female seniors is 39% less than male seniors.

- In York Region in 2001, 55% of seniors were female and 45% were male. The 2006 Census shows that these percentages have not changed.
- In 2001, 63% of seniors were aged 65 to 74. This decreased to 58% by 2006.
- In 2001, 37% of seniors were aged 75 years and over. This increased to 42% by 2006.
- In 2001, 69% of seniors lived with their spouse and/or children. This increased to 71% by 2006.
- Of those who did not live with their spouse and/or children in 2001, 53% lived alone, 43% lived with relatives, and 4% lived with non-relatives. The 2006 Census showed little change.
- Seniors were less likely to move to a different address in the past year than the total population. In 2001, 8% of seniors reported living at a different address on Census Day than they did one year earlier. This compared to 13% of the total population.

### LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY

- In 2001, 18% of male seniors and 7% of female seniors worked or were looking for work.
- The unemployment rate for seniors was 3% for males and 6% for females.

### UNPAID WORK

- In 2001, 23% of seniors spent time doing unpaid child care, compared to 43% of the total population.
- 83% of seniors spent time doing unpaid housework, compared to 89% of the total population.
- 15% of seniors spent time doing unpaid care for seniors, compared to 19% of the total population.

**DID YOU KNOW?** In 2006, the majority of seniors (73%) lived in Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan.

## INCOME

- In 2001, the median total income for seniors in York Region was \$22,725 for males and \$15,119 for females.
- 13% of seniors lived on low incomes.
- The low income rate among seniors aged 65 to 74 years was 12% and 16% for seniors aged 75 years and over.

## SOURCE OF INCOME

- In York Region, government supports (e.g. Canada Pension Plan) and other sources of income accounted for 71% of the income of seniors aged 65 to 74 years and 94% of the income of seniors aged 75 years and over.

## PLACE OF BIRTH

- In 2001, 38% of seniors in York Region were born in Canada.
- In 2001, 62% of seniors in York Region were immigrants.
- 79% of seniors born in Canada were born in Ontario.
- The chart on the right shows that most seniors who lived in York Region in 2001 and were not born in Canada, arrived from Italy, China, the United Kingdom, India and Germany. Trends indicate that this is changing. In 2001, the top places of birth for seniors who most recently immigrated to York Region (between 1996 and 2001) were:
  - People's Republic of China (33%)
  - India (8%)
  - Russian Federation (7%)
  - Iran (6%)
  - Hong Kong (5%)

**DID YOU KNOW?** 16% of seniors aged 75 years and over live on low incomes.

## LANGUAGE

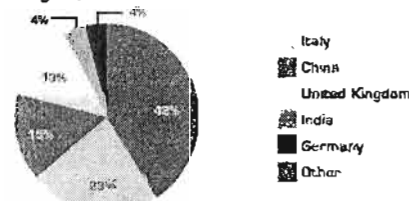
- In 2001, 17% of seniors in York Region had no knowledge of English or French.
- 33% of seniors reported speaking non-official languages at home. Italian (30%) was the most common non-official language spoken by seniors at home in York Region, followed by Cantonese (21%), Chinese (17%) and Russian and Punjabi (3% each).
- Of those who did not speak English or French at home, the most common spoken languages, by municipality were Italian in Aurora (54%), Korean in East Gwillimbury (38%), Italian in Georgina (25%), Italian in King (81%), Cantonese in Markham (36%), Italian in Newmarket (18%), Cantonese in Richmond Hill (28%) and Italian in Vaughan (65%).

Percentage (%) of York Region Seniors by Language Spoken Most Often at Home, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Custom tabulation, Census 2001

Top 5 Places of Birth for Senior Immigrant Population, York Region, 2001



Data used in the chart is based on the response to the Census question about place of birth. Source: Statistics Canada, Custom tabulation, Census 2001

## WHAT this means:

Like the rest of Canada, the Region has a large, ageing population, but there is also a large and growing population of children. In absolute terms, from 2001 to 2006, the growth in residents between the ages of 0 and 14 (22,190) was much higher than the growth experienced in the rest of Ontario (44,135) in this age group. The 2006 Census data is still being released, but the 2001 Census indicates what to expect. It is clear that our rapidly growing seniors population will have wide ranging implications for our communities, the labour force, and the types of services and programs needed. Many seniors remain active after they leave the labour force. According to Statistics Canada's *Portrait of Seniors in Canada* (February 2007), just over half of seniors aged 65 to 74 belong to at least one group or organization and 39% volunteered in 2004. Many seniors provide informal assistance to families, friends and other seniors by providing child care, housekeeping or running errands. The growing seniors population is a great community resource that can increase the quality of life for all residents through volunteerism, investing time in their community and sharing their knowledge gained over the years. Appropriate services and supports are needed, such as affordable housing, public transit and accessible health care. This will ensure that seniors can enjoy a high quality of life and continue to contribute to their communities.

These fact sheets are produced by the Community and Health Services Department, based on Statistics Canada Census data and definitions provided through the Community Social Data Strategy (CSDS). This is an initiative from the Canadian Council on Social Development in partnership with Statistics Canada. In 2005, York Region partnered with key community organizations to form a Consortium to lead the CSDS project.

### York Region's Community Social Data Strategy Consortium

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