

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 division¹ in Ontario and the third fastest in Canada. Between 2001 and 2006, York Region's population increased by 22%, or by 163,458 people. Immigrants² 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 growth³. 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.

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

²For 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.

³2001 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*	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

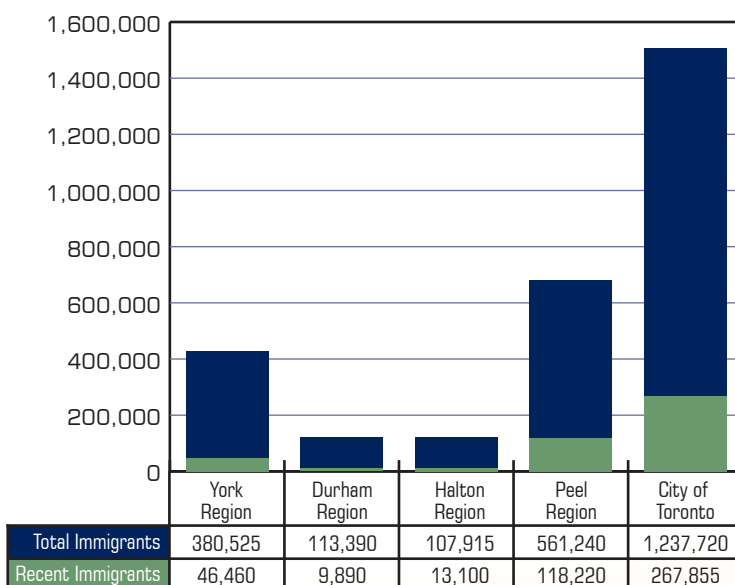
*Based on population dwelling counts, July 17, 2007

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 Canada⁴ (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
York Region	283,790	380,530	96,740	34%
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

⁴In this document, "in Canada" refers specifically to all census divisions in Canada.

Map 1

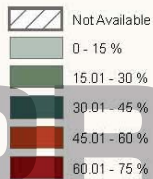
2006 York Region Immigrant Population by Census Tract⁵

LEGEND

Immigrants:

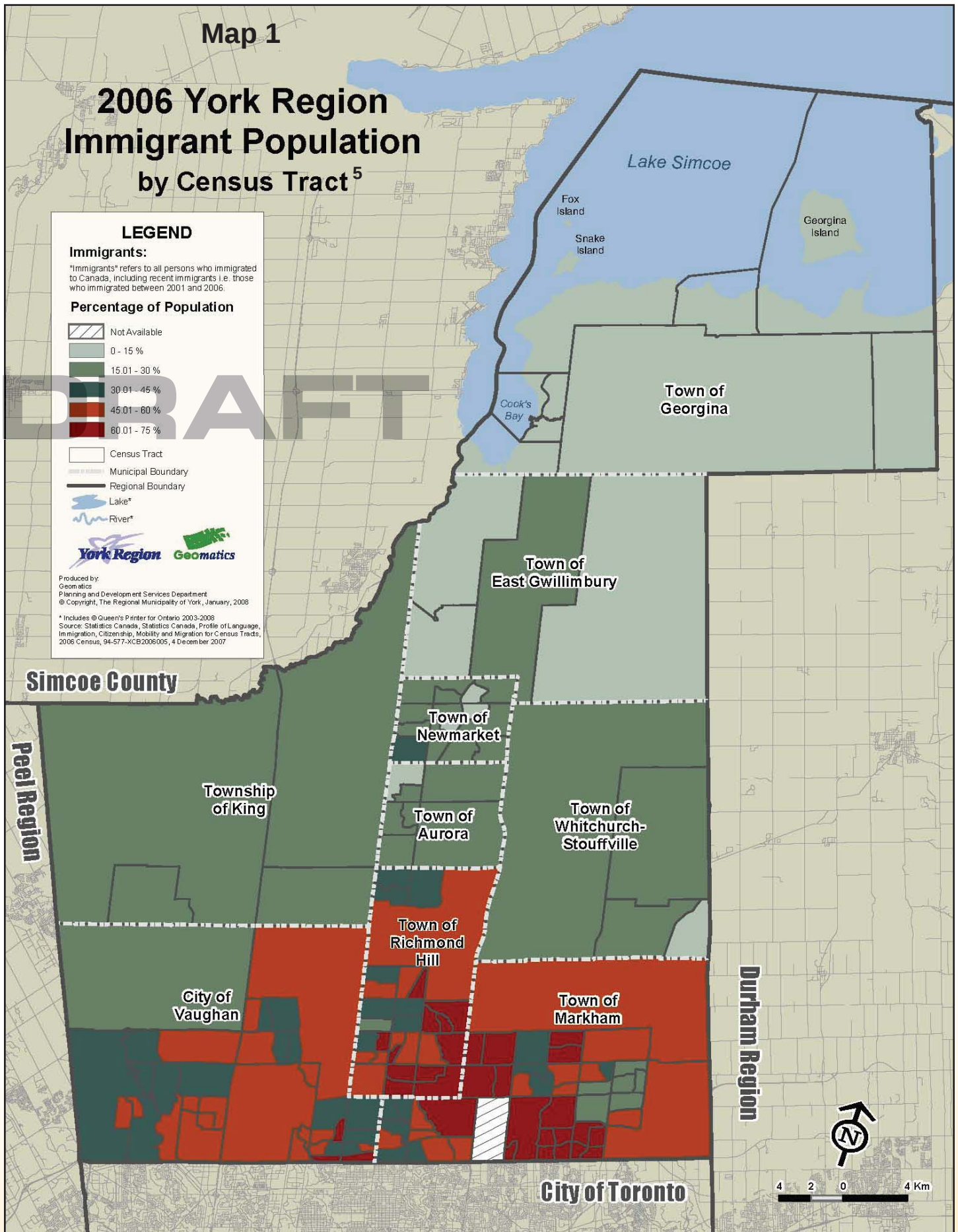
"Immigrants" refers to all persons who immigrated to Canada, including recent immigrants i.e. those who immigrated between 2001 and 2006.

Percentage of Population



Produced by:
Geomatics
Planning and Development Services Department
© Copyright, The Regional Municipality of York, January, 2008

* Includes @ Queen's Printer for Ontario 2003-2008
Source: Statistics Canada, Statistics Canada, Profile of Language, Immigration, Citizenship, Mobility and Migration for Census Tracts, 2006 Census, 94-577-XCB2006005, 4 December 2007



⁵A "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.

Map 2

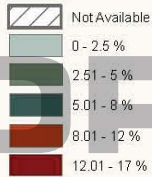
2006 York Region Recent Immigrants by Census Tract⁶

LEGEND

Recent Immigrants:

Immigrants who have landed in Canada between 2001 and 2006.

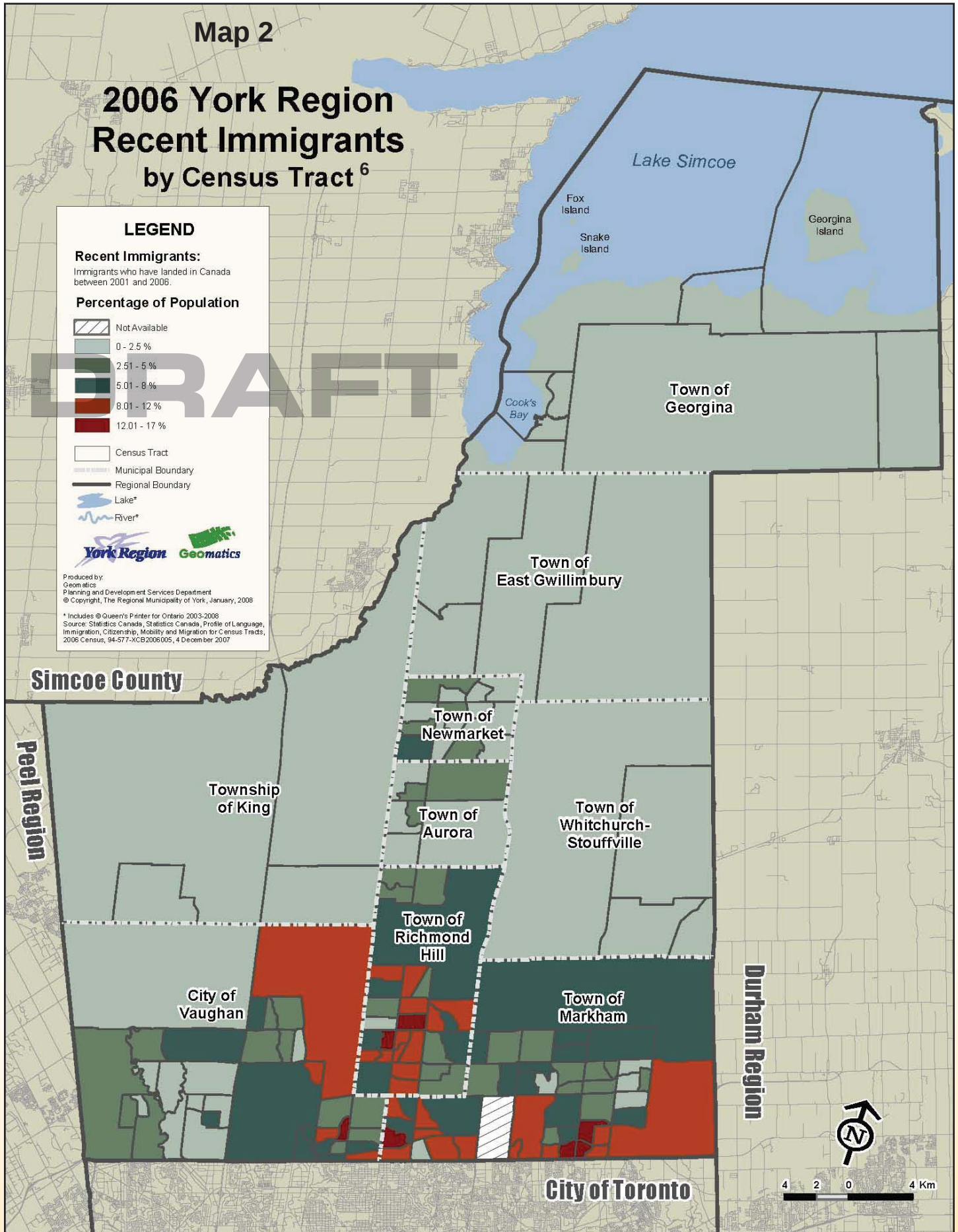
Percentage of Population



York Region Geomatics

Produced by:
Geomatics
Planning and Development Services Department
© Copyright, The Regional Municipality of York, January, 2008

* Includes @ Queen's Printer for Ontario 2003-2008
Source: Statistics Canada, Statistics Canada, Profile of Language, Immigration, Citizenship, Mobility and Migration for Census Tracts, 2006 Census, 94-577-XCB2006005, 4 December 2007



⁶A "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.

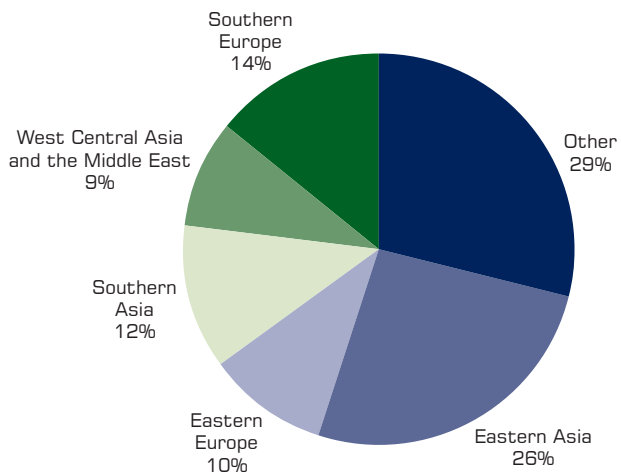


Places of Birth in 2006

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

Chart 2

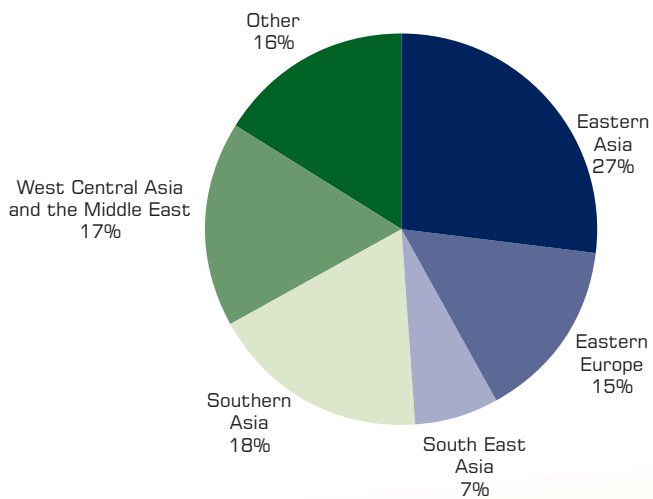
Top Five Places of Birth, Total Immigrants, 2006



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.

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/yrscsd