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2006 CENSUS DATA

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the following:

- 1. The presentation by Paul Bottomley, Manager, Growth Management, Economy and Information Research, Long Range and Strategic Planning, be received; and**
- 2. The recommendations contained in the following report dated September 24, 2007, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services, be adopted:**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Census information in this report be utilized in reviewing the Region's population and employment forecast.
2. The Regional Clerk distribute this staff report to the planning departments of area municipalities for their information.

2. PURPOSE

This is one of a series of reports that will bring forward and analyze the Census data released by Statistics Canada.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Census Highlights 2001 - 2006

- York Region's population is estimated to be 929,300 as of May 16, 2006, when adjusted for the Census undercount (note staff estimate the population to be 965,000 as of June 30, 2007).
- York Region recorded the largest population and household growth in the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton (GTA-H) increasing by 22.4% and 23.5% respectively. York Region households are growing at a faster rate than population.
- Vaughan experienced the highest rate of population growth, increasing by 31.2%, followed by Markham at 25.4%, and Richmond Hill at 23.2%.
- The total average persons per unit (PPU) decreased slightly from 3.25 to 3.22.
- The number of households (occupied dwelling units) in York Region increased by 52,500 between 2001 and 2006.

- The average PPU for single detached dwellings showed a decrease during the 2001 to 2006 period, while the average PPU's for semis, rows and apartments all recorded increases.
- The 65+ age group grew by 38.7%, faster than all other age groups in York Region.
- One-person and other household types (i.e. multiple-family, lone-parent family) are the fastest growing households in York Region, increasing by 32.9% and 33.2% respectively.
- Married-coupled families represented 82.7% of all families in York Region in 2006, down from 83.9% in 2001.

3.2 Phased Releases of Census Data

The Statistics Canada 2006 Census was conducted in May 2006. The Census database is a collection of social and economic data. The first release of Census data occurred on March 13, 2007 and included information on population and dwelling units for Census divisions and subdivisions across Canada. The second release of Census data occurred on July 17, 2007 and included information on age and gender. The information includes coverage for York Region and its nine area municipalities.

This initial release of Census data is only the first of a series of releases that will occur over the next seven months. Outlined below, by release date and number, are the remaining products to be made available from the 2006 Census.

Release no. 4: Tuesday December 4, 2007

- Language, immigration, citizenship, mobility and migration

Release no. 5: Tuesday January 15, 2008

- Aboriginal peoples

Release no. 6: Tuesday March 4, 2008

- Labour market activity, industry, occupation, education, language of work, place of work, mode of transportation

Release no. 7: Wednesday April 2, 2008

- Ethnic origin, visible minorities

Release no. 8: Thursday May 1, 2008

- Income, earnings, shelter costs

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Region's Planning and Development Services Department will be receiving all major Census data releases. Census data is of great value to the Region and other public and

private agencies as it provides information on the characteristics of the Region's population and its economy. Regional government can use this base information to plan for the provision of services such as roads, sewers, health care and day care facilities. Census data also provides critical information to the Region's long term population and employment forecasts that play a vital role in planning for infrastructure projects, housing needs, land requirements and various health and social programs.

Staff intend to analyze and report back on major Census products. In particular, census information by small geographic area such as census tract or dissemination area will enable the Region to identify:

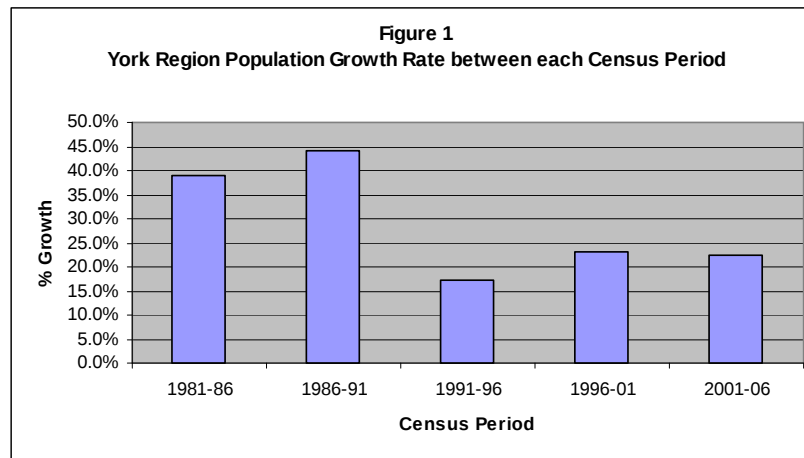
- Trends in population distribution
- Population changes in existing communities
- Distribution of the Region's housing stock by structure type and tenure
- Changes in family structure
- Concentrations of ethnic groups
- Income distribution by family type
- Commuting patterns to and from work
- Characteristics of the Region's labour force
- The strengths and weaknesses of the Region's economy by industry sector
- Self-employment trends

The Region's Geographic Information System (GIS) will play a vital role in the Planning and Development Services Department's analysis of Census data. Information will be illustrated through various combinations including maps, graphs, charts and tables.

4.1 Census Population of York Region

The 2006 Census reported that York Region's population totalled 892,712, an increase of 163,458 or 22.4% from the 2001 figure of 729,254.

York Region's population growth rate of 22.4% for the 2001 to 2006 five year period compares to 23.1% for the 1996 to 2001 period, 17.3% for the 1991 to 1996 period, 44% for the 1986 to 1991 period and 39.1% for the 1981 to 1986 period (see Figure 1).



Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department
based on Statistics Canada, Census 1981 to 2006.

Throughout York Region, the City of Vaughan experienced the highest rate of growth from 2001-2006 increasing by 31.2%, followed by Markham at 25.4%, and Richmond Hill at 23.2%. Table 1 compares the 2001 Census population to the 2006 Census population for each of the Region's nine area municipalities.

Table 1
York Region Population 2001 and 2006

Municipality	2001*	2006*	Percentage Change
Aurora	40,167	47,629	18.6%
East Gwillimbury	20,555	21,069	2.5%
Georgina	39,536	42,699	8.0%
King	18,533	19,487	5.1%
Markham	208,615	261,573	25.4%
Newmarket	65,788	74,295	12.9%
Richmond Hill	132,030	162,704	23.2%
Vaughan	182,022	238,866	31.2%
Whitchurch Stouffville	22,008	24,390	10.8%
York Region Total	729,254	892,712	22.4%

Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department
based on Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

Note: * These figures do not include the Census undercount.

4.2 Census Undercoverage

Statistics Canada initial Census release traditionally undercounts the total population; that is a portion of the population is missed. Some people are not counted since they may not receive a Census questionnaire (i.e. a household living in a separate apartment in a

house), or they may not have been included in the questionnaire that was completed (i.e. a boarder or lodger). Some people may also be missed if they have no usual residence and did not spend Census night in any dwelling. A small number of people are counted more than once (i.e. a student living away from home).

To determine how many individuals were missed or counted more than once on Census day, Statistics Canada conducts post-censal coverage studies of a representative sample of individuals. The results of these studies and the estimates of the undercount are published separately and are not included with the initial publication of Census data. In the past Statistics Canada takes up to 2 years before releasing the estimate for the Census undercount.

The 2001 undercount for York Region was estimated at 4.1 percent. Assuming a factor of 4.1 percent as an undercount estimate to the 2006 Census data increases the Region's total population from 892,712 to 929,314. Once adjusted for the undercount, the population figure of 929,314 lines up very closely with the York Region Planning Department monthly population estimate of 930,100 for May 31, 2006. The Census population also lines up closely with the Planning Department's Accelerated Forecast that called for a population of 933,450 by May 2006. The forecast was only 4,000 above actual, during a 5 year growth period of 163,500 people.

4.3 Household Growth in York Region

The 2006 Census reported 275,673 total households (occupied private dwelling units) for York Region, an increase of 52,488 units (23.5%) from 2001. This is slightly lower than the 25.7% rate of increase from the previous census period (1996 to 2001), but is a greater rate of increase than population growth at 22.4%. Therefore, households are growing at a slightly faster rate than population as a whole. This can be attributed to various demographic factors such as smaller household sizes and increases in empty nesters.

The housing mix in York Region has shifted from 80% single detached units in 1991 to 68% in 2006. The housing stock has continued to diversify with multiples comprising and increasing proportion of newly constructed units in recent years. In terms of the absolute growth in the number of occupied households, Vaughan and Markham led all municipalities with 16,576 and 16,527 new households respectively, followed by Richmond Hill (9,653) and Newmarket (3,778). Table 2 contains the absolute growth and percentage increase for all municipalities in York Region.

Table 2
York Region Occupied Dwelling Units 2001 and 2006

Municipality	2001	2006	Absolute Growth	Percentage Growth
Aurora	12,994	15,656	2,662	20.5%
East Gwillimbury	6,511	6,887	376	5.8%
Georgina	13,882	15,392	1,510	10.9%
King	6,051	6,398	347	5.7%
Markham	60,664	77,191	16,527	27.2%
Newmarket	21,309	25,087	3,778	17.7%
Richmond Hill	41,347	51,000	9,653	23.3%
Vaughan	52,960	69,536	16,576	31.3%
Whitchurch Stouffville	7,467	8,526	1,059	14.2%
York Region Total	223,185	275,673	52,488	23.5%

Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department
based on Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

4.4 York Region Population in the GTA-H context

The Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton (GTA-H) population increased by 488,367 or 8.8% from 2001 to 2006 reaching 6.06 million. York Region's proportional share of the total GTA-H population rose to 14.7% in 2006 from 13.1% in 2001 and 11.6% in 1996.

As shown in Table 3 the Region recorded the largest population percentage growth throughout the GTA-H increasing by 22.4% followed by Peel Region at 17.2%, Halton Region at 17.1% and Durham Region at 10.7%. The City of Toronto recorded the smallest growth at 0.9%. The 905 Regions and the City of Hamilton now have 58.7% of the GTA-H population, representing a 3.2% increase in share from 2001.

Table 3
Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton Population 2001 and 2006

Municipality	2001	2006	Percentage Change
York Region	729,000	893,000	22.4%
Peel Region	989,000	1,159,000	17.2%
Halton Region	375,000	439,000	17.1%
Durham Region	507,000	561,000	10.7%
City of Hamilton	490,000	505,000	2.9%
City of Toronto	2,481,000	2,503,000	0.9%
GTA-H	5,571,000	6,060,000	8.8%

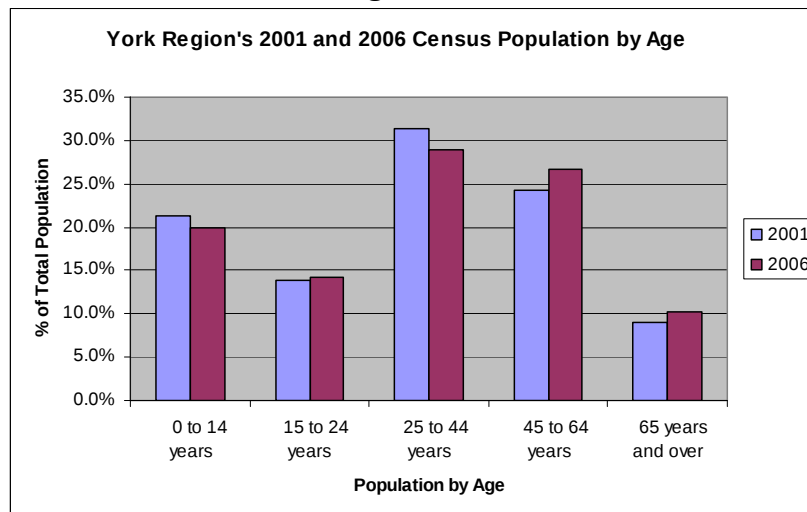
Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department
based on Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

4.5 Census Population by Age and Gender

The July 17, 2006 Census release reported on age and gender characteristics for Census divisions and subdivisions across Canada.

The York Region 2001 to 2006 change in the proportional share of these age groups is shown in Figure 2. The proportional shares show an increase in the older age groups (45+) while the 0 -14 age group showed a decline from 21.4% to 19.9% and the 25-44 age group declined from 31.3% to 29.0%.

Figure 2



Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department
based on Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

Similar to the rest of Canada, York Region's population is aging with an increase in its population over the age of 65. York Region's median age has also been increasing, from 35 in 1996, to 36.0 in 2001 to 37.5 in 2006. Although approximately 1 in 7 residents in

Canada are above the age of 65, York Region is a younger community where 1 in 10 are above the age of 65.

Table 4 illustrates how the older age groups are growing at a faster rate than the younger age categories. For example, the 65+ age group is growing at an annual rate of 7.7%, while children under the age of 15 are growing at 2.9%.

Table 4
York Region Population by Age – 2001 and 2006

Age	2001	2006	Annual Percentage Change	Percentage Change 2001 – 2006	
Under 15 years	155,715	177,905	2.9%	14.3%	
15 – 24	101,660	126,475	4.9%	24.4%	
25 – 44	228,210	258,840	2.7%	13.4%	
45 – 64	177,375	237,565	6.8%	33.9%	
65 +	66,295	91,920	7.7%	38.7%	
Total Population	729,255	892,705	4.5%	22.4%	

Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department
based on Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006.

When compared with Canada, Ontario and the GTA (see Table 5 below) York Region had the highest growth rate among all age groups.

Table 5
Percentage Change by Select Age Group
Between Census Periods of 2001 and 2006

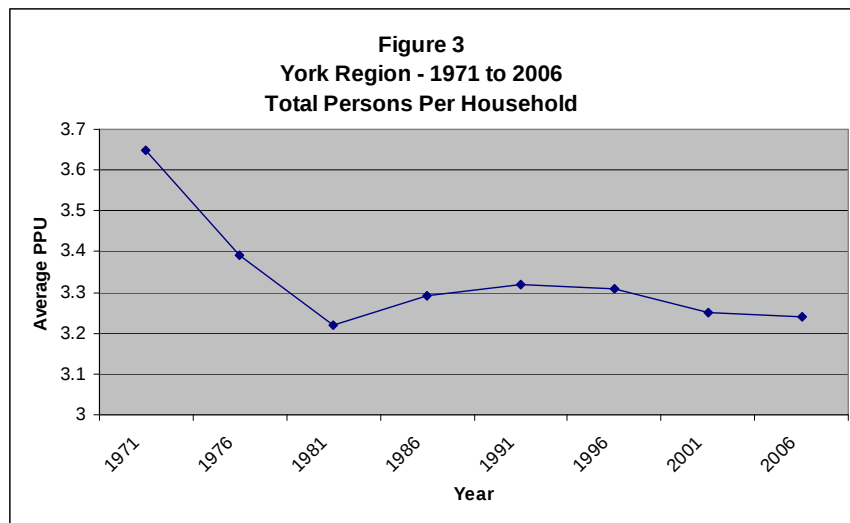
	0 to 14	15 to 64	65 +	Total	
Canada	-2.5	6.4	11.5	5.4	
Ontario	-1.0	7.7	12.0	6.6	
York	14.3	22.8	38.6	22.4	
Halton	14.1	17.0	22.5	17.1	
Peel	12.8	16.9	32.6	17.2	
Durham	-0.4	13.0	21.1	10.7	
Toronto	-5.6	1.8	4.6	0.9	

Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department
based on Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

4.6 Household Characteristics

Households with children at home are the largest category in York Region at 45.8% (126,130) but experienced the slowest rate of growth since 2001 at 18.4% (19,585). During this same period the number of households of all other types grew faster. Households without children increased by 23.2% (13,365), one person households increased by 32.9% (8,620) and other household types (i.e. multiple-family, lone-parent family) increased by 33.2% (10,920).

Since 1971, the total average household size in York Region has tended to decline with periods of small increases from 1981 to 1991. As depicted in Figure 3 below, the PPU decreased from 3.65 to 3.22 between 1971 and 1981, and then increased to 3.32 by 1991. From 1991 to 2006, the PPU has declined from 3.32 to 3.22.



Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department
based on Statistics Canada, Census 1971 to 2006.

The 2006 Census data show that total average household sizes declined slightly since 2001. During the 2001 and 2006 period, the total household average size and the single detached household PPU decreased, while semi, row and apartment PPU's increased (see Table 6).

Table 6
York Region Persons Per Unit
by Unit Type 2001 and 2006

	<u>Singles</u>	<u>Semis</u>	<u>Rows</u>	<u>Apts</u>	<u>Total</u>
2001	3.50	3.11	2.89	2.02	3.25
2006	3.47	3.22	2.91	2.32	3.22

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

4.7 Family Characteristics

Married-coupled families represented 82.7% of all families in York Region in 2006, down from 83.9% in 2001 (see Table 7 below) and 12.1% (30,565) of all families were lone-parent families, up from 10.9% in 2001. The lone parent family type was the fastest growing between 2001 and 2006, with an increase of 8,290 (37.2%).

Table 7
York Region Families by Type

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>
Married Couples	83.9%	82.7%
Common Law Couples	5.3%	5.2%
Lone-Parent Families	10.9%	12.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Census data is used to calculate funding levels for various services throughout the Region, such as social services and various transfer payments. Census population figures are also used to calculate the “Federal Gas Tax Sharing” program. If the 2006 Census values were used in the allocation of the federal gas tax, the Region's share would increase by approximately \$3.3 million, due to the increase in population in York compared to the balance of the Province. This is a result of York Region’s population increasing from 6.4% of the Province to 7.3%. It should be noted that all nine local municipalities would see an increase in their gas tax revenues.

The purchase of Census data from Statistics Canada has been provided for in the approved budget.

The York Region Departments of Planning and Development Services, Community Services and Housing and Public Health are coordinating the sharing of Census data and data purchases within the Region.

A consortium of GTA-H Regions and Cities has been formed to coordinate a Census purchase to acquire 2006 Census custom data tabulations. A collective purchase of key cross tabulations will cost less than individual purchases and will provide very detailed data in a number of key theme areas.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Regional staff have worked closely with staff of the area municipalities to ensure that the population estimates of the Region are as accurate as possible. Census data is of great value to the Region and other public and private agencies as it provides information on the Region's population and on its economy.

7. CONCLUSION

The Statistics Canada Census reported that York Region's population had reached 892,712 by May 2006. This Census undercount total is in line with our own mid year population estimate, and represents a 22.4% increase over the 2001 Census population of 729,254.

Once adjusted for the undercount (approximately 4.1%) York Region's population is estimated to be 930,300 as of May 2006.

Households increased by 52,488 (23.5%) over the same five year period. Households have been increasing at a faster rate than population during the same time period.

The 65+ age group grew by 38.7%, faster than all other age groups in York Region.

Staff will report back on major releases of Census data over the next 12 to 18 months. The population and employment data can then be used as input to review the Region's long term forecasts.

For more information on this report, please contact Mark Kitzelmann, Planner, Long Range and Strategic Planning Branch, at 905-830-4444 ext 1543 or mark.kitzelmann@york.ca.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.