



Office of the Chief Planner  
Corporate Services Department

## MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Chair Emmerson and Members of Regional Council

From: Paul Freeman  
Chief Planner

Date: May 12, 2022

Re: 2021 Census Bulletin - May Update

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The York Region Census Data Working Group is pleased to share the first of two memos focused on the findings from the 2021 Census. Following the 2021 Census taken on May 11, 2021, Statistics Canada released population and household numbers on February 9, 2022, and demographic profile data on April 27, 2022. This memorandum and Attachment 1 provide statistics on York Region's growing population, where they live, age, sex, gender and type of dwelling.

### **A nation-wide Census is conducted every five years; the results of the 2021 Census are being released in stages from February to November 2022**

Statistics Canada's nation-wide Census collects information on the demographic and social characteristics of the population.

Census data is of great value to the Region and its local municipalities providing detailed information on the characteristics of the Region's population and economy. Census data informs everything from where and how government services are provided to the location of new schools, growth management, and health services. Census figures also provide base line data for allocating municipal funding and federal/municipal transfer funds. The information collected is used by Regional and local municipal services including planning, economic development, environmental services, transportation, finance, and community and health services.

As Statistics Canada releases Census data throughout 2022, York Region bulletins are being developed within three days of each release and will be summarized in a Council report in Q1 2023. The bulletins are being prepared by a Regional working group including data teams from Corporate Services, Community and Health Services, Public Works, and Finance Departments. The first two bulletins in Attachment 1 contain information from the first two Census releases.

**Table 1**  
**2021 Census Release Dates**

Release Date	Release Topic
February 9, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada's growing population and where they are living</li> </ul>
April 27, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada's shifting demographic profile</li> </ul>
July 13, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portrait of Canada's families and households</li> <li>• Canadian military experience</li> <li>• Income profile of Canadians</li> </ul>
August 17, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linguistic diversity and use of English and French in Canada</li> </ul>
September 21, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada</li> <li>• Canada's housing portrait</li> </ul>
October 26, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portrait of citizenship and immigration in Canada</li> <li>• Ethnocultural and religious composition of the population</li> <li>• Mobility and migration</li> </ul>
November 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education in Canada</li> <li>• Changing dynamics of the Canadian labour force and how people get to work</li> <li>• Instruction in the official minority language</li> </ul>

## **Population size and growth rate are key statistics used to plan Regional services and infrastructure**

Highlights of York Region's population data include:

- York Region has grown by 63,455 people or 5.7% since 2016 to a population of 1,173,103 in 2021
- Town of East Gwillimbury was the fastest growing municipality in all of Canada with a growth rate of 44.4% since 2016. In 2021 East Gwillimbury had a population of 34,637
- City of Vaughan had the largest population growth of 16,870 people, followed by East Gwillimbury and Markham
- York Region added 33,956 new occupied dwellings between 2016 and 2021, second to Toronto in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). East Gwillimbury had the highest dwelling unit growth rate at 41.7%
- York Region was the fourth fastest growing region in the GTHA. York Region was also the seventh-largest Census Division in Canada and the third largest in Ontario

## **Demographic data outlines how communities have changed in age, sex at birth, gender, and the type of dwellings people live in**

Highlights of York Region's demographic profile from 2016 to 2021 include:

- For the first time, the number of York Region residents aged 65+ was greater than the number of children younger than 15
- 70–74 year-old residents were the fastest growing age group, growing by 43% or 15,915 people
- The number of preschool (0-4 years) children declined by 9% or 5,140 children
- 14.2% of York Region residents were close to retirement age (55-64 years) in 2021, compared to just 4.4% in 2001
- The labour force replacement ratio in 2021 was 0.9:1 meaning fewer people entering the labour force (aged 15-24) compared to those leaving the labour force (aged 55-64)
- Starting in 2021, gender was included in the Census questionnaire. Gender refers to an individual's personal and social identity as a man, woman, or non-binary person (a person who is not exclusively a man or woman). In York Region, the proportion of men to women was 95 men+ per 100 women+ (the + indicates non-binary persons included in the category)

- Apartment unit dwellings were the fastest growing structure type, increasing by 25% or 12,025 units
- The most common dwelling type in York Region was the single-detached house, representing 62%, or 242,535, of the total occupied private dwellings
- 32% of households were living in more compact housing types, such as apartments (15%), row houses (13%) or duplexes (4%)
- Richmond Hill and Markham had the highest proportion of apartments at 21% and 18% respectively, while Aurora had the highest proportion of row houses (17%)

**The next Census release will occur on July 13, 2022, and will focus on families, households and marital status, and the income profile of Canadians**

Staff will continue to conduct further analysis of this important data to inform program and service planning and delivery across the corporation. York Region's Census bulletins are posted on the Region's website [york.ca](http://york.ca).



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Paul Freeman, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Planner



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Bruce Macgregor  
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment (1)  
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