



# Seniors Population Data in York Region

## Data fact sheets will act as a resource guide for Task Force members

- This fact sheet is intended to provide broad York Region population data. It is intended to act as a resource for Task Force members, so they have access to key data during Task Force meetings and throughout the process.

## York Region continues to grow and population growth is expected across all age ranges

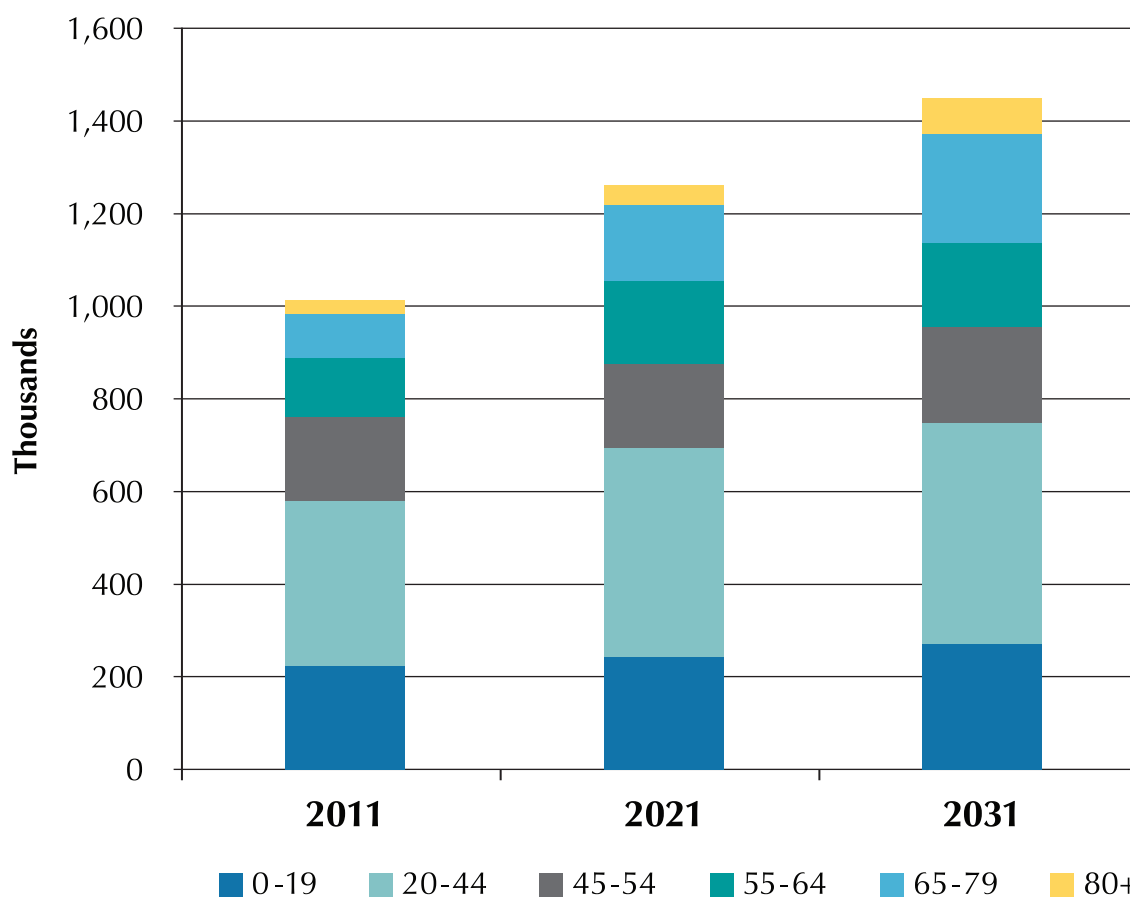
- York Region is set to experience tremendous growth in its seniors population. From 2011 to 2031, the senior population in York Region will be growing at a much faster pace than any other age group. In fact, the proportion of seniors in York Region will almost double by 2031; from 12 per cent of the region’s population in 2011 to 21 per cent by 2031 – meaning every 1 in 5 people will be 65 years or older by 2031.
- Based on the York Region Long Range Planning forecast, all age groups will grow between 2011 and 2031, bringing the total population to approximately 1.5 million people (Table 1).

**Table 1: York Region Long-Range Planning Projections**

	2011	2031
<b>Children and Youth (0-19)</b>	276,226	323,155
<b>Adults (20-64)</b>	664,265	865,602
<b>Seniors (65+)</b>	124,734	311,257

- Among seniors, those that are 85 and older are forecasted to grow from close to 14,000 people in 2011 to over 30,000 in 2031.
- Graph 1 shows how York Region’s population is projected to grow between 2011 and 2031. It illustrates that although seniors are growing at the fastest pace, there is forecasted growth across all age groups. For example, the children and youth group in York Region (those 0-19 years for the purpose of this document) is also forecasted to grow and make an even larger proportion of the population in 2031 at about 24 per cent.

**Graph 1: Age Group Growth**



Data Source: York Region Long Range Planning Branch, Corporate Services Department

Note: Based on the forecast approved by Council: 2016 to 2031 (based on approved York Region Official Plan – Population Forecast Model)

## Baby boomers are driving growth in the senior population

- Those born between 1946 and 1965 are referred to as baby boomers. For planning purposes, we have grouped baby boomers into two cohorts based on year of birth:
  - » Baby Boomers Wave 1 – born between 1946 and 1955
  - » Baby Boomers Wave 2 – born between 1956 and 1965

Note: The term “Baby Boom” is a conceptual notion, which refers to the noticeable increase in the birth rate during a specific period in time. For the purposes of the Senior Strategy, the Baby Boom years in Canada are 1946-1965 inclusive.

- Table 2 demonstrates how the baby boomers are moving into older age groups over the next 26 years; revealing that by 2031 all baby boomers will fall into the seniors cohort (Note: Colours in the table correspond to the chart on the previous page).
- Once the baby boomers reach the final years of their lives, it is expected that growth of the senior population will slow down.

**Table 2: Baby Boomer Cohorts As They Age**

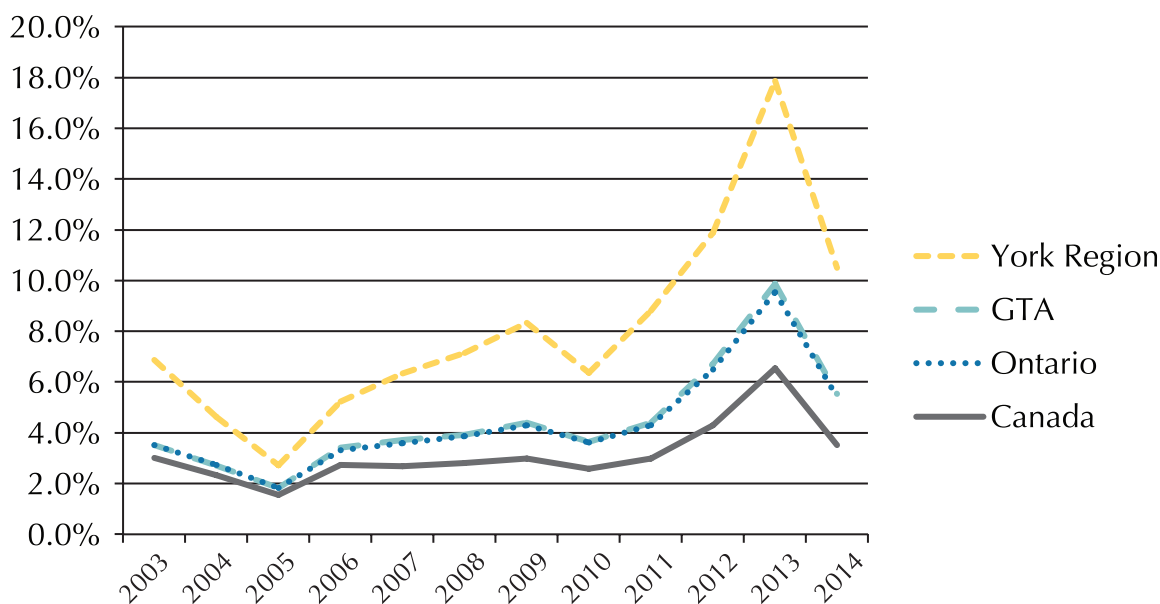
	Birth Year	Age			
		2011	2021	2031	2041
Boomers W1	1946	65	75	85	95
	1955	56	66	76	86
Boomers W2	1956	55	65	75	85
	1965	46	56	66	76
Colour Codes					
		45-54	55-64	65-79	80+

- In addition to the large baby boomer cohort driving growth of the seniors' population in York Region, people are also living longer than in the past.
- In 1921 middle-aged Canadians could expect to live to age 75 on average, whereas today the average life expectancy in Canada is 81.1 years and in York Region the average is 84.1 years – meaning that a 65 year old senior will live for approximately 20 more years. This is an important consideration for planning purposes.

### Immigration to York Region is also contributing to growth in the senior population

- York Region receives a higher percentage of new permanent resident seniors in comparison to the GTA, Ontario and Canada (Chart 2).
- Seniors are the fastest-growing age group among permanent residents settling in York Region.
- More than 220,000 new permanent residents arrive in Canada annually; between 9,000 and 13,000 of these new permanent residents intend to settle in York Region (on average 4 per cent).
- The share of seniors 65 years and older increased from 5 per cent of York Region's new permanent resident population in 2003 to 11 per cent in 2014. Across the GTA, new permanent residents 65 years and older increased from 4 per cent of the new permanent resident population in 2003 to 6 per cent in 2014.
- As reflected in the overall population, most new permanent residents live in Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan.

**Graph 2: Seniors 65+ As A Percentage Of All New Permanent Residents 2003 - 2014**



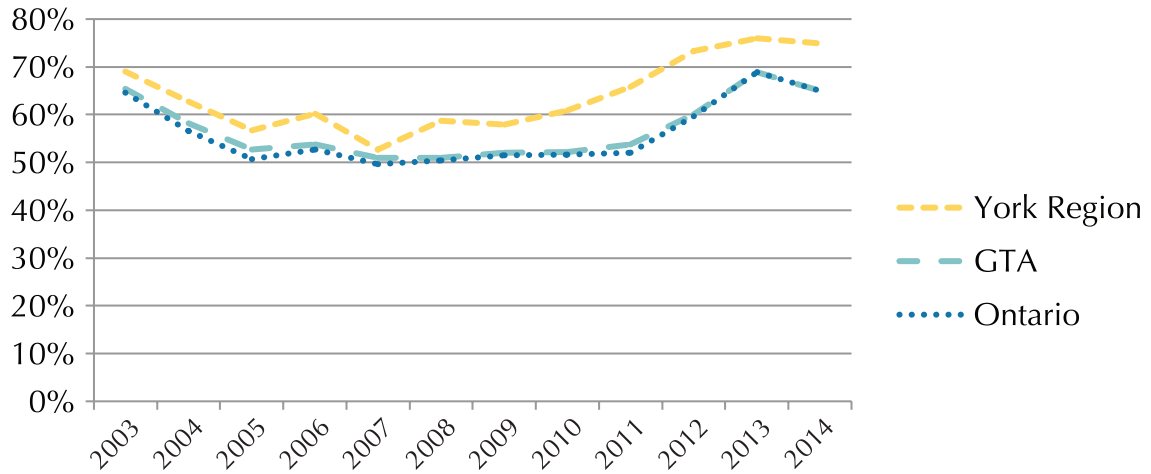
Source: Citizenship & Immigration Canada, RDM as of September 2015.

## Most new permanent resident seniors arriving in York Region have no ability in English or French

- Of the 6,235 seniors who arrived in York Region between 2010 and 2014, 72 per cent had no ability in either English or French at the time of landing. During this time period, Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill received 92 per cent of all new permanent residents 65 years and older with no ability to speak any official language (Chart 3).
- Senior immigrants to York Region have lower language skills than senior immigrants in the GTA and Ontario.
- More than half of working-age new permanent residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher, whereas the most common education category for new permanent residents 65 and older is “high school or less”.
- Most new permanent resident seniors arrive in the “family class”. Between 2003 and 2012, 82 per cent of all seniors immigrating to Canada and 88 per cent of seniors immigrating to York Region arrived in the family class.

*Note: family class is used to describe an immigration category that includes any family members sponsored to come to Canada by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident living in Canada who is 18 years of age or older.*

**Graph 3: Proportion Of Senior (65+) New Permanent Residents With No Official Language Ability At The Time Of Landing, 2003 - 2014**



Source: Citizenship & Immigration Canada, RDM as of September 2015.