



Community and Health Services Department
Office of the Commissioner

Memorandum

TO: Members of Committee of the Whole

FROM: Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: February 2, 2017

RE: **Human Services Planning Board of York Region
2016 to 2018 Action Plan**

At Committee of the Whole on January 19, 2017, a presentation was made to accompany a report on the [Human Services Planning Board 2016 to 2018 Action Plan](#). Committee Members asked a number of questions that required additional information that was not at hand at the meeting. The following are answers to those questions:

1. How does the unemployment rate consider an aging population and the people who no longer have interest in employment? Does the unemployment rate include people who are no longer looking for work?

The source for the annual unemployment rate is Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*. The unemployment rate shows the number of unemployed residents, 15 years of age and over, as a percentage of the labour force. This includes residents:

- On temporary layoff and available for work
- Without work and looking for work within the past four weeks
- Starting a new job within four weeks, but remain available for work

The requirement that individuals have searched for work within the past four weeks excludes residents, including aging residents, who are no longer searching for a job.

In 2014, the Region prepared a report [A Profile of Baby Boomers and Seniors in York Region](#) which provides more insight into the employment trends for our aging population. The report shows the labour force participation rate was higher for York Region baby boomers (79.3 per cent) and seniors (15.7 per cent) as compared to Ontario (boomers: 75.2 per cent; seniors 13.6 per cent) and Canada (boomers 75 per

cent; seniors 13.5 per cent). Table 1 below summarizes the labour force participation rate, employment rate, and unemployment rates for baby boomers and seniors in York Region.

Table 1
Labour Force Status of Baby Boomers and Seniors in York Region, 2011

	Baby Boomers (45 to 64)	Seniors (65 and over)
In the Labour Force	236,210	17,990
Labour Force Participation Rate	79.3%	15.7%
Employment Rate	75.5%	14.8%
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	5.3%

Notes:

1. The labour force participation rate is the number of employed and unemployed as a percentage of the population for that age group.
2. The employment rate is the number of employed persons as a percentage of that age group.
3. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labour force (employed and unemployed).

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

2. Many residents work more than one job. How does the employment rate account for one person working in more than one job? How does the labour force participation rate account for people working multiple jobs?

The employment rate and labour force participation rate do not factor in the number of jobs a person may be working. Therefore, the same individual is only counted once whether they hold one or multiple jobs.

Please see the notes section in Table 1 for definitions of these rates.

3. What impact does the cost of technology have on preventing people from accessing employment?

The ability of residents to obtain the skills to use various forms of technology as well as the means to access technology can be a requirement of certain types of employment. Free access to computers and the internet is offered to residents in some public buildings, including some York Region buildings and public libraries.

4. How do jobs that do not provide any benefits impact the health and well-being of individuals and families?

The impact of precarious employment on the health and well-being of individuals and their families was researched in a 2016 report entitled [The Precarity Penalty – Executive Summary for York Region](#). This report was prepared by the Poverty and Employment Precarity in Southern Ontario research group. Findings included:

- Workers in precarious employment are almost twice as likely to report poorer mental health than those in secure employment
- Workers in precarious employment are almost 55 per cent more likely to report they are often depressed as a result of work than those in secure employment
- Lower income is associated with poorer general health and with poorer mental health

For more information on the [Human Services Planning Board 2016 to 2018 Action Plan](#) or the responses to these questions, please contact Lisa Gonsalves, Director, Strategies and Partnerships at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72090.

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