

WORKING THE NUMBERS

The latest findings on York Region's workforce:

- ▶ 485,000 — the number of jobs in York Region;
- ▶ 3,600 — the number of manufacturing jobs lost in the region from 2006 to 2007;
- ▶ \$8.7-million — the value of commercial construction in the region last year;
- ▶ 73% — of number of service-sector jobs in York, compared to 27 per cent goods-producing jobs, such as manufacturing and construction;
- ▶ 85% — the total amount of local businesses with less than 20 employees;
- ▶ 58 — the number of York Region businesses with 500 or more employees, and;
- ▶ 13% — the amount auto parts manufacturing accounts for total manufacturing in York Region.

Employment shift monitored

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that continues to show a lot of growth," Mr. Waller said. "We don't have all our eggs in one basket."

Scores of commuters have been heading to work in Toronto for years, feeding a push by York politicians to build a so-called knowledge-based economy with more of the well-paying jobs needed to keep workers closer to home, preventing GTA congestion.

"You've got to have a good mix of jobs," Mr. Waller said.

Meanwhile, retail experienced some of the fastest job growth in the region since 1998, along with business services and health care and social assistance jobs.

Manufacturing jobs accounted for

21 per cent of York's workforce last year, compared to 24 per cent in 1998.

The sector had been enjoying a growth spurt since 1998, when more than 75,000 employees in the region worked in manufacturing.

There were more than 90,000 manufacturing jobs here by 2006, before the air was let out on the auto sector.

In 2007, 87,800 of York's jobs were manufacturing.

Auto parts jobs represent the largest proportion of manufacturing jobs in York Region.

The usual suspects are being blamed for the manufacturing downturn; a strong Canadian dollar, increasing energy, raw material costs and stiff foreign competition.

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