

# Jobs, population, house costs all up: report

BY SEAN PEARCE  
spearse@yrmg.com

There may be lots of jobs and new residents in York Region, but it will cost you a lot to buy a house here. These were among the findings in the region's 2012 economic and development review.

At the end of last year, the region boasted about 533,000 jobs and there were almost 800 private sector companies with 100 or more workers, the report stated.

The region also saw a decline in its unemployment rate from 6.9 per cent at the close of 2011 to 6.1 per cent last December.

About 12,000 jobs were created in York between 2011 and 2012 and 15,000 were added from 2010 to 2011.

All things considered, the region is faring quite well economically, growth management manager Paul Bottomley said, especially considering municipalities such as Brampton and Mississauga have seen a decline in employment figures.

Growth is fairly steady and the United States economy is showing positive signs, he said.

Looking past the job numbers, the region's population grew by 23,000 last year, bringing its estimated population to more than 1.1 million.

During the past five years, York Region's population has grown by an average of 25,000 per year. As such, the region now accounts for 17.2 per cent of the GTA's population and ranks as the sixth-largest municipality in Canada.

About 8,200 new residents ended up in Markham. Vaughan and Richmond Hill ranked

second and third at 6,600 and 3,500 new residents, respectively.

Real estate values were also up in York Region, with the average resale price for a single-detached dwelling jumping from \$643,088 in 2011 to \$702,035 in 2012. Overall resale prices rose by 11.2 per cent in the first half of 2012, but declined by 2.6 per cent in the latter months, for a net gain of 9.1 per cent.

Building permit activity for new residential units was up nearly 30 per cent in 2012, although housing completions dipped by 6.6 per cent. Last year's total construction activity was valued at about \$3.47 billion, an increase of \$292.4 million over 2011, fuelled primarily by strong numbers out of the residential and commercial sectors.

## YORK BREAKDOWN

- ▶ Aurora: 56,000 — up by 300
- ▶ East Gwillimbury: 24,600 — up by 500
- ▶ Georgina: 47,200 — up by 400
- ▶ King: 22,400 — up by 700
- ▶ Markham: 323,800 — up by 8,200
- ▶ Newmarket: 86,300 — up by 1,300
- ▶ Richmond Hill: 195,100 — up by 3,500
- ▶ Vaughan: 311,200 — up by 6,600
- ▶ **Whitchurch-Stouffville: 41,900 — up by 1,500**
- ▶ York Region: 1.1 million — up by 23,000

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