

# **York Region 2011 National Household Survey Summary**

---

Immigration, Citizenship, Place of Birth, Ethnicity,  
Visible Minorities and Religion



**Community and Health Services**  
Strategic Service Integration and Policy

[www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

 [facebook.com/YorkRegion](https://facebook.com/YorkRegion)

 [@YorkRegionGovt](https://twitter.com/YorkRegionGovt)

York Region 2011 National Household Survey Summary:  
Immigration, Citizenship, Place of Birth, Ethnicity, Visible Minorities and Religion

Statistics Canada released its first set of data from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) on May 8th, 2013. This summary presents statistics for York Region and its nine local municipalities.

**Citizenship and Immigration:**

- York Region was home to an estimated 463,125 immigrants in 2011, comprising 45% of the total regional population.
- In 2011, York Region had the third highest immigrant population in the GTA, after Peel Region (50%) and Toronto (49%).
- The majority of York Region's immigrant population lived in Markham (38%), Vaughan (29%) and Richmond Hill (22%).
- Immigrants accounted for 58% of the population of Markham. This was the highest proportion of immigrant population among all local municipalities in York Region, followed by Richmond Hill (55%) and Vaughan (46%).
- 59% of all immigrants living in York Region were born in Asia and 27% in Europe
- In 2011, almost 8% of York Region residents were not Canadian citizens.
- Across municipalities, Markham had the highest proportion of residents who were not Canadian citizens, at 11%. In comparison, only 2% of those living in Georgina and 3% of those living in King had not obtained Canadian citizenship.

**Recent Immigrants:**

- Of the total of 463,125 immigrants living in York Region, 47,725 arrived in Canada between 2006 and 2011. These recent immigrants made up 10% of the total immigrant population and 5% of the total population in York Region.
- Of those immigrants who arrived in Canada in the last five years, the largest share (28% or about 13,295 individuals) came from China, followed by Iran (9% or 4,475), India (6% or 2,985) and Philippines (6% or 2,970).
- Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill traditionally receive the largest share of newcomers in York Region. Between 2006 and 2011, more than 90% of York Region's recent immigrants settled in these three local municipalities.
- Among these three, Markham stands out as home to the largest newcomer population in York Region. More than 18,000 recent immigrants settled in Markham between 2006 and 2011, accounting for nearly 39% of the total recent immigrant population in York Region.

**Community and Health Services**

Strategic Service Integration and Policy



[www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

 [facebook.com/YorkRegion](https://facebook.com/YorkRegion)

 [@YorkRegionGovt](https://twitter.com/YorkRegionGovt)

*Top three countries of origin of recent immigrants for each municipality, NHS 2011*

Rank Order	Vaughan	Markham	Richmond Hill	Whitchurch-Stouffville	Aurora	Newmarket	King	East Gwillimbury	Georgina
1	Philippines 9%	China 48%	China 26%	China 18%	China 17%	Philippines 14%	United States 6%	China 19%	Russian Federation 32%
2	Russian Federation 9%	India 9%	Iran 21%	Sri Lanka 11%	Iran 8%	Russian Federation 8%	N/A	Israel 15%	United Kingdom 12%
3	Israel 7%	Sri Lanka 8%	South Korea 7%	India 8%	Romania 6%	United Kingdom 7%	N/A	United Kingdom 9%	Philippines 8%

Note: N/A- Data suppressed for quality or confidentiality

Note: China includes Special Administrative Regions such as Hong Kong and Macau

### Visible Minorities

- In 2011, 442,840 residents within York Region identified themselves as a member of a visible minority group, representing 43% of the total regional population.
- Similar to the settlement patterns of immigrants, visible minorities tend to settle in York Region's southern communities.
- The NHS indicates that Markham is Canada's most diverse community with the highest proportion of visible minorities.
- In 2011, Markham's visible minority community (217,095 individuals) represented 72% of its total population and 49% of the total visible minority population in York Region.
- Visible minorities in Richmond Hill and Vaughan accounted for 22% and 20% of the entire visible minority population in York Region respectively.
- According to the NHS the largest visible minority group in York Region were Chinese (including those from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan), numbering 181,035 people.
- The second and third largest visible minority groups were South Asian (including those from India, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka) and West Asian (including those from Iran, Iraq, Syria etc), at 107,955 and 30,450 respectively.


### Community and Health Services

Strategic Service Integration and Policy



[www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

 [facebook.com/YorkRegion](https://facebook.com/YorkRegion)

 [@YorkRegionGovt](https://twitter.com/YorkRegionGovt)

**Top three visible minority groups by total visible minority population for each local municipality, NHS 2011**

Rank Order	York	Vaughan	Markham	Richmond Hill	Whitchurch - Stouffville	Aurora	Newmarket	King	East Gwillimbury	Georgina
1	Chinese 41%	South Asian 31%	Chinese 53%	Chinese 45%	Chinese 33%	Chinese 29%	South Asian 19%	Chinese 22%	Chinese 21%	Black 20%
2	South Asian 24%	Chinese 15%	South Asian 26%	West Asian 16%	South Asian 33%	South Asian 14%	Chinese 17%	Latin America 20%	Black 19%	South Asian 15%
3	West Asian 7%	Filipino 10%	Black 4%	South Asian 15%	Black 9%	Black 12%	Southeast Asian 17%	South Asian 16%	Filipino 16%	Filipino 12%

**Ethnic Origin**

- York Region is ethno-culturally diverse, with more than 200 distinct ethnic origins reported in the 2011 NHS.
- The top five ethnic origins for each municipality as reported by residents in 2011 were:

**Top five ethnic origins for each local municipality, NHS 2011**

Top 5 Ethnic Origins									
York Region		Markham		Vaughan		Richmond Hill		Newmarket	
Chinese	191,335	Chinese	118,875	Italian	94,970	Chinese	45,230	English	24,100
Italian	159,950	East Indian	33,560	Jewish	33,745	Italian	21,570	Canadian	20,370
Canadian	129,870	Canadian	24,150	Canadian	22,300	Iranian	17,405	Scottish	16,340
English	128,950	English	23,065	Russian	19,385	Canadian	16,175	Irish	15,110
Scottish	85,205	Scottish	15,960	East Indian	18,715	English	15,525	Italian	7,880
Aurora		Whitchurch-Stouffville		Georgina		East Gwillimbury		King	
English	14,955	English	9,065	English	16,500	English	8,560	Italian	6,340
Canadian	12,190	Canadian	7,830	Canadian	15,410	Canadian	7,050	English	5,095
Irish	10,500	Scottish	6,825	Scottish	10,435	Irish	5,030	Canadian	4,375
Scottish	10,285	Irish	5,705	Irish	9,765	Scottish	4,865	Scottish	3,265
Italian	6,795	Italian	4,680	French	5,070	German	2,645	Irish	3,160



## Religion

- Of the total population in York Region, 77% (or 789,805 residents) reported having a religious affiliation.
- According to the 2011 NHS, the largest religion in York Region was Christianity. Of the total population living in York Region, 55% reported that they were affiliated with a Christian religion
- Roman Catholic was the largest Christian religious group in 2011. More than 318,000 residents identified themselves as Roman Catholic, representing 31% of the total population in York Region.
- The second and third largest religious groups were Jewish and Muslim, reported by approximately 64,000 and 62,000 residents, respectively. Each of these religious groups represented 6% of the total population in York Region.
- In 2011, people who identified themselves as Hindu made up 5% of the total population in York Region.



## Data Quality of the 2011 National Household Survey

The first release from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) provided a much needed update to the changing ethno-cultural landscape of York Region.

The 2011 NHS was conducted on the same day as the mandatory 2011 Census of Population and contained content similar to that of the 2006 Census long form questionnaire.

However, it should be noted that participation in the NHS was voluntary. The NHS was the largest voluntary household survey ever conducted by Statistics Canada. The change in sampling methodology from mandatory to voluntary may affect the comparability of the data over time. For example, the NHS may under-estimate the number of people that historically were less likely to respond to surveys (e.g. youth, immigrants, low income residents).

As we understand the situation at this time, Statistics Canada is currently conducting an evaluation of the quality of the NHS data, which involves comparisons with data from previous censuses, the Longitudinal Immigration Database and other administrative files. Therefore, no historical comparisons of the 2011 NHS and the 2006 Census long form questionnaire have been made. Statistics Canada has advised caution until the official technical documentation has been released.

We also note that data for lower levels of geography (e.g. Census Tracts, Dissemination Areas) have not yet been released. We anticipate that Statistics Canada may release Census Tract data at a later date after the quality testing has been finalised, but these data may have missing values, depending on the whether there is adequate coverage from NHS responses.

