2011 National Household Survey

This FACTS bulletin presents demographic data for Durham Region compiled from all three releases of 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey (NHS) data. The first release of NHS data profiled citizenship, immigration, visible minorities, ethnic origin, aboriginal identity and religion. The second release focused on labour force, mobility and education. The third data release was concerned with income, housing, and shelter costs. This bulletin provides a profile of the Region, in the context of the GTA, summarizing key statistics.

It is important to note that due to recent changes made by the federal government, participation in this survey (2011) was voluntary as opposed to the 2006 Long Form Census which was mandatory. There is a risk of inaccuracies in the NHS data due to non-response bias. For NHS estimates, the "global non-response rate" (GNR) is used as an indicator of data quality. The NHS (2011) GNR for Durham Region data is high at 28.4 percent. As such, the NHS data provides a useful tool for general geographical comparisons but care should be taken when used for historical comparisons.

2011 Highlights

- The average income per person in Durham was $44,443
- The average household income in Durham was $64,041
- In Durham, 61.8% of residents were in the top half of Canadian income distribution
- The average value of dwellings in Durham was $335,936
- A total of 75% of Durham households spent less than 30 percent of total income on shelter costs
- The unemployment rate in Durham was 8.6%
- The labour force participation rate was 69.2%
- The average commute time for Durham residents was 30.1 minutes
- 53.1% of Durham residents held a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree
- 29.8% of Durham residents had a high school diploma or equivalent
- In 2011, 96.9% of Durham residents held Canadian citizenship
- Durham had the lowest percentage of immigrants in the GTA
- Visible minorities comprised 20.7% of Durham’s population
- 1.5% of Durham’s population reported identity with at least one Aboriginal group
In 2010, the average income for Durham residents was $44,443, up 10.5% from $40,202 in 2005. By comparison, in 2010 the average income was $42,264 in Ontario and $44,638 in the GTA.

The median income in Durham was $34,996 (up 9.3% from $32,005), while the median income was $30,526 in Ontario and $30,223 in the GTA.

The average family income of all economic families in Durham was $106,590 in 2010. This represents an increase of 7.3% since 2005 ($95,873).

Durham's average family income of all economic families ($106,590) ranks third in the GTA, followed by the City of Toronto ($105,526) and Peel Region ($101,313). The Regions of Halton ($135,049) and York ($118,841) earned the highest average family incomes.

In Durham, couples-with-children earned the highest average economic family total income ($127,413). Couple-only families had an average income of $92,461 and lone-parent families earned $64,017.

Employment sources accounted for 78.6% of Durham's total income; government transfer payments represented 10.6%; and, other income accounted for the remaining 10.8%.

61.8% of Durham residents were in the top half of Canadian income distribution in 2010. By comparison, 53.5% of Ontarians and 54.5% of GTA residents were in the top half of the Canadian income distribution.
In 2011, the average value of dwellings in Durham was $335,936, up 15.1% from $291,844 in 2006. The average value of dwellings in Durham was lower than Ontario ($367,428), and the GTA ($481,823).

Average shelter costs for homeowners increased 7.4% from $1,343 in 2006 to $1,443 in 2011. Shelter costs for renters increased 9.3% from $874 in 2006 to $955 in 2011.

In Durham, 75% of households spent less than 30% of their total income on shelter in 2011 compared to 82.2% in 2006.

In Durham, 82.7% of households were owners in 2011. By comparison, 82.1% of households were owners in 2006. Durham had a higher percentage of homeowners than Ontario (71.6%) and the GTA (69.2%) in 2011.
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Labour Force

Durham’s unemployment rate increased from 6.3% in 2006 to 8.6% in 2011. The provincial and GTA unemployment rates also increased from 6.4% to 8.3% and 6.7% to 8.6% respectively.

In Durham, the labour force participation rate fell to 69.2% in 2011, from 71% in 2006. During the same period, the participation rate also fell in Ontario from 67.1% to 65.5% and in the GTA from 68.3% to 67%.

The GTA labour force was comprised of approximately 3.3 million workers in 2011. Durham’s share of the GTA labour force was 10.2% or approximately 338,000 workers. This was similar to Durham’s share in 2006 (10.3%).

The most common occupation in Durham was ‘sales and service’ (22.8%), followed by ‘business, finance and administration’ (18.0%), and ‘trades, transport and equipment operators’ (13.8%).

The percentage of women in Durham’s labour force increased from 48% in 2006 to 49.1% in 2011. This reflects a consistent trend over several previous census periods.

In Durham, 11.8% of the employed labour force worked in the ‘retail trade’ industry, followed by ‘health care and social assistance’ (10.3%) and ‘manufacturing’ (9.2%).

Within the GTA, most people were employed in ‘retail trade’ (10.8%), followed by ‘professional, scientific and technical services’ (10.0%) and ‘health care and social assistance’ (9.0%). The most common industry in Ontario was also ‘retail trade’ (11.2%).
Within Durham’s labour force, 8.4% of workers were self-employed in 2011. This represents a decrease in self-employment from 9.4% in 2006.

A total of 6.2% of Durham residents worked from home in 2011. This compares with 6.6% in the GTA and 6.7% in Ontario.

In 2011, 79.5% of Durham’s labour force drove to work, a slight increase from 77.9% in 2006. By contrast, the second most popular mode of travel was public transit (10%), followed by passenger (6.1%) and walk (3.1%).

The average commute time for Durham residents in 2011 was 30.1 minutes.

In 2011, 53.1% of Durham residents 15 years and over held a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree (up from 49.7% in 2006). The balance of residents (29.8%) had only a high school diploma or equivalent and 17.1% did not have a certificate, diploma or degree.

In Durham, 24.2% of residents held a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma; 17.5% had a university certificate, diploma or degree at the bachelor level or above; and 6.5% had an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma.
Citizenship

In 2011, 96.9% of Durham residents held Canadian citizenship, compared to 93.1% in Ontario and 89.2% in the GTA. Within the GTA, Durham had the highest percentage of population with Canadian citizenship.

Immigration

In 2011, immigrants (including non-permanent residents), comprised 21.3% of Durham’s population (127,940 people), which represents a slight increase to the proportion of immigrant population reported in 2006 (20.7%) and 2001 (19.1%). Durham had the lowest percentage of immigrants in the GTA.

Visible Minorities

In 2011, visible minorities comprised 20.7% of Durham’s population, which represents a steady increase since 2006 (16.8%) and 2001 (12.4%). Respondents who reported being Black (7%), South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.) (5.7%), Filipino (2%), and Chinese (1.5%), comprise the largest share of Durham’s total population.

Aboriginal Identity

In 2011, 1.5% of the population in Durham reported identity with at least one Aboriginal group. This represents a slight increase over 2006, when 1.2% of residents identified with one or more Aboriginal groups. Within the GTA, Durham had the highest percentage of population identifying with at least one Aboriginal group.

Religion

In 2011, the percentage of persons affiliated with a religion in Durham was 74.7%. The majority affiliated with a religion reported being of Christian faith (68.2%), followed by Muslim (3.1%) and Hindu (2.1%).

By comparison, visible minorities represent a higher percentage of the respective populations in Ontario (25.9%) and the GTA (44.3%) than in Durham (20.7%).

Ethnic Origin

In 2011, the majority of Durham’s population reported having ethnic origins of European (70.6%) and North American (32.3%) descent. Other notable ethnic origin groups in the Region included Asian (12.8%) and Caribbean (6.6%).

The overall percentage share of population reporting European and North American ethnic origins was significantly less in the entire GTA at 53% and 16.5% respectively. The most notable difference is in the share of Asian ethnic origins between the GTA (35.4%) and Durham (12.8%).

Visible Minorities in Durham, 2011
Global Non-response Rate — The global non-response rate (GNR) is used as an indicator of data quality. This indicator combines complete non-response (household) and partial non-response (question) into a single rate. A smaller GNR indicates a lower risk of non-response bias and as a result, lower risk of inaccuracy.

Income — Incomes as reported for the 2011 NHS refer to income received during the calendar year 2010, by persons 15 year of age and over.

Economic Family — Refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption.

Labour Force — The total number of persons, 15 years of age and over, who were either employed or seeking employment during the week prior to Census Day (May 10, 2011).

Participation Rate — Labour force expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over.

Unemployment Rate — Unemployed labour force expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.

Shelter Cost — The reference period for shelter cost data is 2011.

Ethnic Origin — The ethnic or cultural origins of the respondent's ancestors. A person may report more than one ethnic origin in the census.

Visible Minority — The Employment Equity Act defines minorities as 'persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.'

NHS Release Dates
- May 8, 2013 — Immigration, citizenship, place of birth, ethnic origin, visible minorities, religion, Aboriginal Peoples;
- June 26, 2013 — Labour, education, place of work, commuting to work, mobility and migration, language of work; and
- September 11, 2013 — Income, earnings, housing, and shelter costs.

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