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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2022-INFO-77
Date: September 16, 2022

Subject:

2021 Census of Population – Age, Gender, and Dwelling Type (Release 2), File: D01-03

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 This report presents an overview of Statistics Canada's second release of the 2021 Census of Population data, highlighting changes in Durham Region's characteristics of age, sex at birth and gender, and type of dwellings. Attachment 1 summarizes key statistics in Durham Region, the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), Ontario, and Canada.

2. Background

- 2.1 On April 27, 2022, Statistics Canada released the second dataset in a series of 2021 Census of Population statistics for municipalities across Canada. This release focused on age, sex at birth and gender, and type of dwelling. The Census is conducted in Canada every five years.
- 2.2 The population for Durham reported in the first release of the Census data was 696,992 (the effective date being May 11, 2021), an increase of 7.92% since 2016.

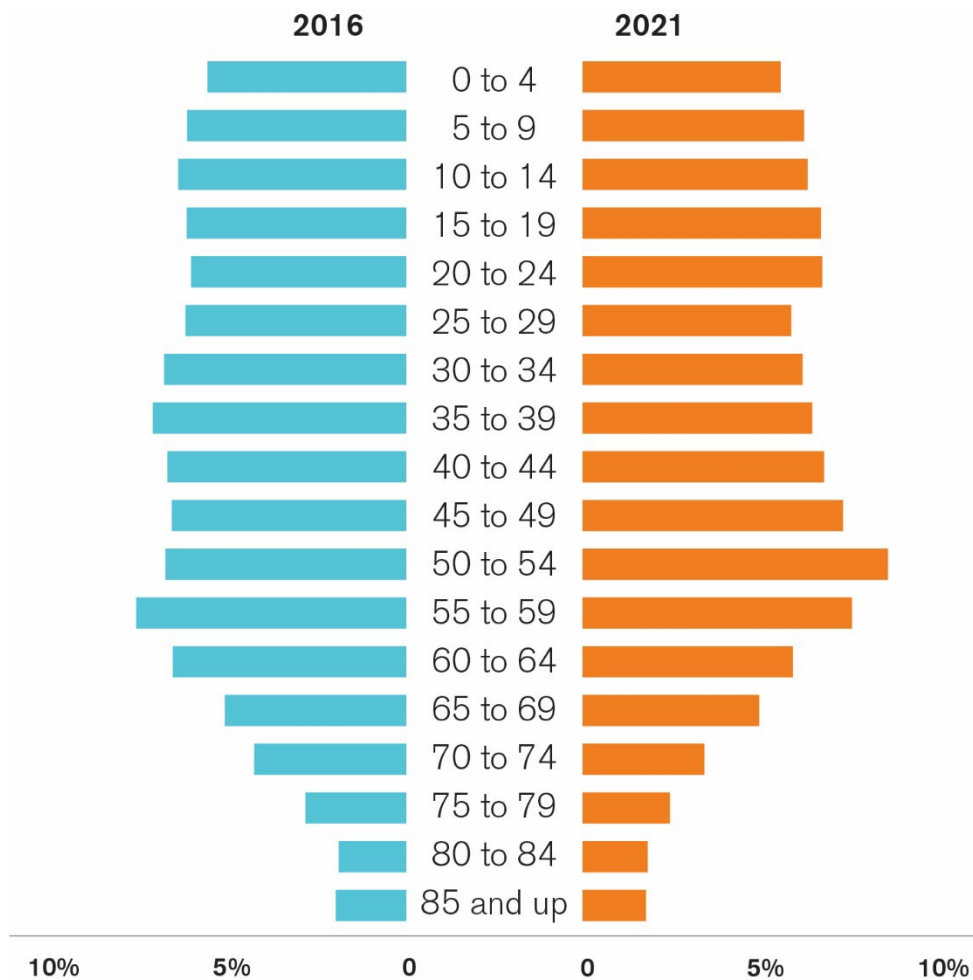
3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 [2022-INFO-31](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Population and Dwelling Counts (Release 1)

4. Age

- 4.1 Children under the age of 15 comprised 18% of Durham's population in 2021, compared to 16.3% across Canada and 15.8% in Ontario. In the GTHA, Halton (18.6%) had a larger proportion of children under the age of 15 than Durham, while Peel (16.6%), York (16.3%), Hamilton (16%) and Toronto (13.8%) had a lower proportion of children than Durham. Among Durham's area municipalities, Clarington had the highest percentage of children (19.3%), followed by Whitby (19.1%), Ajax (18.8%), and Oshawa (17.6%), while Scugog had the lowest share (14%). Figure 1 shows changes in the Regions population by age between 2016 and 2021.
- 4.2 The proportion of Durham residents aged 15 to 29 was 18.3% in 2021, which was slightly lower than Ontario (18.8%) and higher compared to Canada (17.9%). In the GTHA, Peel (21.8%), Toronto (20.2%), Hamilton (19.1%), and York (18.5%) had a larger percentage share of youth than Durham. The percentage of young persons among Durham's area municipalities ranged from 19.5% in Ajax, to 14.7% in Brock.
- 4.3 Adults aged 30 to 64 accounted for 47.8% of Durham's population in 2021. This is higher than the national and provincial levels (both 46.8%) and is generally consistent with the GTHA average (48%). Within the GTHA, Toronto (49%) and York (48.2%) had a higher percentage. In Durham, Ajax had the highest percentage of adults aged 30 to 64 (48.6%), while Scugog had the lowest with 46.2%.
- 4.4 Durham had a lower proportion of residents aged 65 and older (15.9%) compared to Canada (19%) and Ontario (18.5%). In the GTHA, only Peel (14.7%) had a lower proportion of adults aged 65 and older than Durham. Hamilton had the highest percentage of older adults (18.3%). The proportion of adults aged 65 and older within Durham ranged from 24.1% in Scugog to 13.1% in Ajax.
- 4.5 The proportion of children aged 0-14 in Durham remained relatively the same compared to the GTHA, Ontario, and Canada, all of which experienced significant decreases in this age group. Notably, the only category to show an increase was the proportion of residents aged 65 years and older.

Figure 1 | Population pyramid for Durham Region in 2021, by age



5. Sex at Birth and Gender

- 5.1 In April 2018, Statistics Canada published new standards on sex and birth and gender to help clarify the concepts and classifications. The 2021 Census makes the distinction between the two concepts for the first time.
- 5.2 Sex at birth refers to the sex assigned at birth based on a person’s reproductive system and other physical characteristics. It may also be understood as the sex recorded at a person’s birth (for example, what was recorded in their birth certificate).

- 5.3 Gender refers to an individual's current personal and social identity as a man, woman, or non-binary person (a person who is not exclusively a man or a woman). It may be different from sex assigned at birth, and may differ from what is indicated on legal documents. Given that the non-binary population is small, Statistics Canada has aggregated the data within a two-category gender variable (male and female) to protect the confidentiality of responses.
- 5.4 In 2021, the population in Durham identified as 48.8% male (340,460) and 51.2% female (356,535). Durham's male and female population share was relatively consistent with the national (49.3% male and 50.7% female) and provincial (49% male and 51% female) shares.
- 5.5 Within the GTHA, the ratio of males to females ranged from 48.3% males and 51.7% females in Toronto to 49.5% males and 50.5% females in Peel. Notably, the majority of the population in the GTHA identified as female.
- 5.6 Consistent with the results at the national, provincial, and GTHA trends, the majority of the population in each of Durham's area municipalities was female, ranging from 50.5% in Scugog to 51.5% in Pickering.

6. Dwelling Type

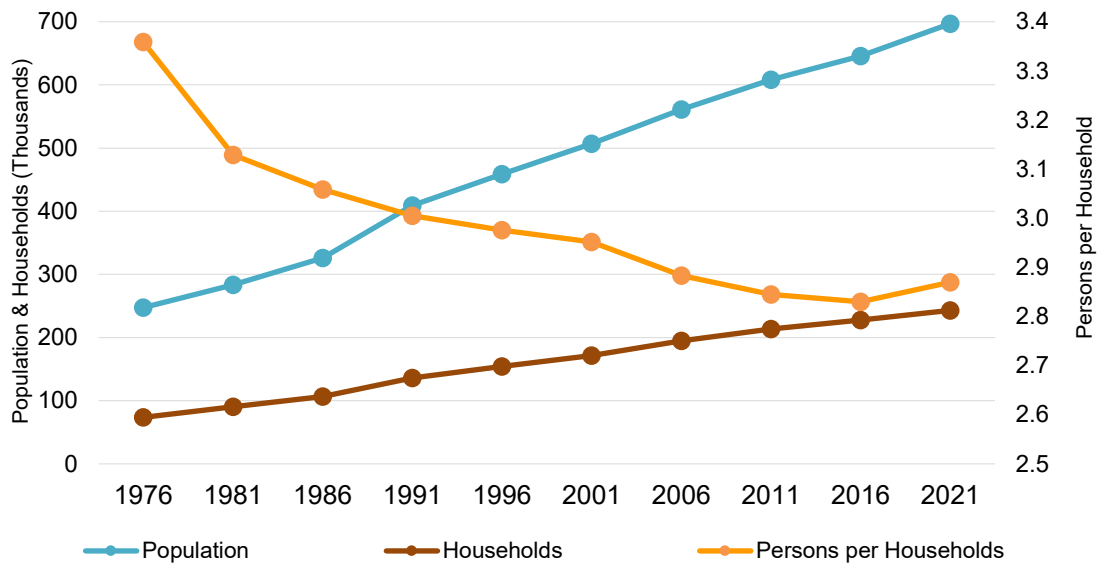
- 6.1 The majority of households¹ in Durham lived in low-density² forms of housing in 2021. In Durham, a total of 160,785 households lived in single-detached houses (66.2%) and 12,915 lived in semi-detached homes (5.3%). Medium-density row homes³ accounted for 27,300 dwellings (11.2%), while 41,675 households were in apartments⁴ (17.1%). The household shares were similar to 2016 when 67% lived in single-detached homes, 5.5% in semi-detached, 10.7% in row homes and 16.8% in apartments. The general trend indicates a slight shift away from low-density housing (single- and semi-detached) towards medium and higher-density forms (row houses and apartments). Oshawa has the highest cumulative share of medium and high density housing (36.3%) followed by Pickering (32.8%), while Scugog has the lowest (8.6%).

¹ A household refers to a person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada or abroad. The dwelling in which the household lives may be either a collective dwelling or a private dwelling.

² Low-density forms of housing refer to single- or semi-detached homes.

³ Row homes refer to three or more dwellings joined side by side (or occasionally side to back), such as a townhouse or garden home, but not having any other dwellings either above or below. (Type of Dwelling Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2021)

⁴ Includes apartments in a flat or duplex where dwellings are located above or below the other, and in multistorey buildings.



7. Growth Trends

- 7.1 The 2021 Census data suggests that the average number of persons per household in Durham increased for the first time since 1976 from 2.83 persons in 2016 to 2.87 persons in 2021. This is a shift away from the national trend of persons per household declining over time, as illustrated in Figure 2. The average household size in Durham was higher than in the GTHA (2.72), Ontario (2.59), and Canada (2.47).
- 7.2 Further analysis into Durham's demographic and age characteristics suggests a correlation between the increase in persons per household, and number of children aged 0-14. Possible contributing factors could include an increased birth rate, immigration, and/or a significant number of young families moving into Durham, possibly from neighbouring urban regions such as Toronto, York, and Peel, which experienced decreased growth rates, as identified in Report [2022-INFO-31 – Population and Dwelling Counts \(Release 1\)](#). Several factors could contribute to this shift, including a lack of vacant and/or developable land in surrounding areas of the GTHA or shifts in the housing market that deem Durham to be comparatively affordable than other GTHA municipalities. Durham's proximity to Toronto and growth in medium and higher density housing make it relatively more attractive for young families.

7.3 The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impacts on population and demographic growth trends across the globe. The pandemic has also influenced growth patterns in the GTHA. While local factors could have an impact on growth rates, it is possible that the pandemic also played a key role. Future data releases of the 2021 Census and beyond will provide further insight into these shifts, the longevity of their impacts, and whether they represent long-term trends.

8. Relationship to Strategic Plan

8.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- a. Goal 5.3 – Demonstrate commitment to continuous quality improvement and communicating results

9. Conclusion

9.1 The Census is an essential source of data on the demographic characteristics over time. The Planning and Economic Development Department will report on the following data in the coming months:

- Families, households, and marital status; and income (released July 13); and
- Language (released August 17).

9.2 Statistics Canada has noted the following release schedule for additional data this year:

- September 21 – Indigenous peoples and Housing;
- October 26 – Immigration, place of birth, and citizenship; ethnocultural and religious diversity; and mobility and migration;
- November 30 – Education, labour, language of work, commuting, and instruction in the minority official language.

9.3 Following the completion of the seven major releases, there will be further releases (dates to be determined) that will highlight additional themes and key findings in the data, data tables, updates to data products, and further analyses.

- 9.4 The 2021 Census information will be used as input to various Regional projects, including the update to the Regional Official Plan through the Municipal Comprehensive Review (Envision Durham), infrastructure master planning, annual infrastructure capital budgets and forecasts, the annual Business Plan and Budgeting process, Development Charges Studies, and the Durham Region Profile.
- 9.5 A copy of this report will be forwarded to the area municipalities and be made available on the Region's website.

10. Attachments

Attachment #1: Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population, Second Release
(Age, Gender, and Dwelling Type)

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Attachment 1

Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population, Second Release (Age, Gender, and Dwelling Type)

Table 1
Age Groups by Municipality in Durham

Age Group	Ajax	Brock	Clarington	Oshawa	Pickering	Scugog	Uxbridge	Whitby
0 to 14	23,805	2,130	19,620	30,805	16,405	3,050	3,270	26,425
	18.8%	16.9%	19.3%	17.6%	16.5%	14.1%	15.2%	19.1%
15 to 29	24,725	1,855	17,345	32,945	18,620	3,395	3,630	24,940
	19.5%	14.8%	17.1%	18.8%	18.8%	15.6%	16.8%	18.0%
30 to 64	61,555	5,810	48,795	82,305	47,730	10,030	10,050	66,685
	48.6%	46.2%	48.1%	46.9%	48.1%	46.2%	46.6%	48.1%
65 & older	16,585	2,770	15,670	29,325	16,435	5,240	4,615	20,440
	13.1%	22.0%	15.4%	16.7%	16.6%	24.1%	21.4%	14.8%

Table 2
Age Groups in the GTHA

Age Group	Durham	Halton	Peel	Toronto	York	Hamilton
0 to 14 years	125,505	111,035	240,135	384,295	191,215	91,240
	18.0%	18.6%	16.5%	13.8%	16.3%	16.0%
15 to 29	127,440	105,280	317,015	564,415	217,570	108,725
	18.3%	17.6%	21.8%	20.2%	18.5%	19.1%
30 to 64	332,980	284,840	681,250	1,368,665	565,365	265,090
	47.8%	47.7%	46.9%	49.0%	48.2%	46.6%
65 & older	111,080	95,485	212,630	476,985	199,185	104,290
	15.9%	16.0%	14.7%	17.1%	17.0%	18.3%

Table 3
Dwelling Type by Municipality in Durham

Dwelling Type	Ajax	Brock	Clarington	Oshawa	Pickering	Scugog	Uxbridge	Whitby
Single-detached	25,560	4,145	27,945	37,000	19,915	7,405	6,520	32,295
	64.7%	86.6%	77.7%	55.5%	59.6%	89.3%	81.4%	69.5%
Semi-detached	2,265	75	1,075	5,330	2,510	155	125	1,385
	5.7%	1.6%	3.0%	8.0%	7.5%	1.9%	1.6%	3.0%
Row house	6,020	115	3,125	6,445	4,980	85	390	6,135
	15.2%	2.4%	8.7%	9.7%	14.9%	1.0%	4.9%	13.2%
Apartment	5,630	435	3,725	17,715	5,990	630	955	6,605
	14.3%	9.1%	10.4%	26.6%	17.9%	7.6%	11.9%	14.2%

Table 4
Dwelling Type in the GTHA

Dwelling Type	Durham	Halton	Peel	Toronto	York	Hamilton
Single-detached	160,785	118,585	205,800	270,490	242,140	125,130
	66.2%	56.8%	45.7%	23.3%	61.9%	56.2%
Semi-detached	12,915	11,060	53,255	71,955	23,185	6,770
	5.3%	5.3%	11.8%	6.2%	5.9%	3.0%
Row house	27,300	37,335	59,330	62,915	49,475	27,455
	11.2%	17.9%	13.2%	5.4%	12.7%	12.3%
Apartment	41,675	41,390	131,930	752,680	75,735	62,890
	17.1%	19.8%	29.3%	64.8%	19.4%	28.2%