

Report shows employment growth across York Region

By David Pietrangelo

A new report shows York Region has shown exponential employment growth from 2012 to 2013.

The York Region Employment and Industry Growth 2013 report was presented to Regional Council last week.

Some of the main goals of the survey were to help build forecasts of employment growth, inform infrastructure requirements, and help identify economic trends in emerging sectors.

The survey takes data collected between May and August of 2013 to help provide useful information for the present and future of York Region.

The report was able to show numerous positive growths during the time the survey was conducted. Employment growth from 2012 to 2013 outpaced national and provincial labour force growth, posting a gain of 4.3 per cent or 22,800 jobs. This is in comparison to the Stats Canada Labour Force Survey that showed national growth to be at 1.3 per cent and provincial growth at 1.9 per cent.

Year over year, York Region employment growth in all four major industry groups outpaced comparable growth for Canada and Ontario. These groups include manufacturing, retail, business services and institutional.

The institutional industry recorded the highest growth with a massive jump of 7.1 per cent, or 5,027 jobs in 2013.

The Region's total employment numbers also showed significant positive signs. There were an estimated 547,480 jobs in mid-year 2013, resulting in an estimated increase of 22,800 jobs from 2012.

Regional Councillors agreed that the positive numbers show that the Region is very close to its goal of a 2:1 ratio of population to jobs. All four major industries showed excellent growth and the survey helped demonstrate the importance of certain businesses as well.

Out of all the businesses in York Region, 84 per cent of them are small firms with less than 20 employees. That is the largest share of the Region's businesses, confirming the belief that these smaller groups of workers are very important to the growth of the Region.

Business and job growth are fundamental to economic vitality and the numbers show that the economy continues to diversify, as all sectors grew with substantial numbers year over year.

Paul Bottomley, Manager of Growth Management for the Region says that future reports will provide further detail and insights into key sectors and labour force activity, especially in the farming sector.

The 2014 survey will attempt to apply farms and their employees to the study and will continue later this year between May and August. The report summarizes by stating that, "moving forward, the Region will continue to implement sound growth management and economic strategies to attract and keep high quality, good paying jobs across a broad range of sectors."

For more information and a copy of the report visit the Council and Committee section of the York Region website or contact the offices at (905)-895-1231.