

Introduction

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For the past seven years, BMA Management Consulting Inc. has annually completed a municipal comparative study on behalf of participating Ontario municipalities. In 2007, the study included approximately 80 Ontario municipalities, representing in excess of 80% of the population.

The analysis was completed using the most recent information available as provided by the participating municipalities including:

- 2006 current value assessment*
- 2007 tax policies*
- 2007 levy by-laws*
- 2007 development charges*
- 2007 water/sewer rates*
- 2006 FIRs (as available)*
- 2006 MPMP Reports*
- 2007 User Fees*
- Economic development programs*

The study includes:

- Municipalities ranging in size from 5,800 to 2.5 million*
- Two tier and single tier municipalities*
- Municipalities from all geographical areas of Ontario*

*To facilitate the analysis, given the significant volume of information included in the report, the information is also accessible through BMA's **online password protected database**. This provides the participating municipalities with the ability to select only those municipalities that are of interest and to focus on specific areas of interest. The database also provides the ability to analyze trends, with data available from 2003—2007. The database can be accessed from the BMA website:*

www.bmaconsult.com

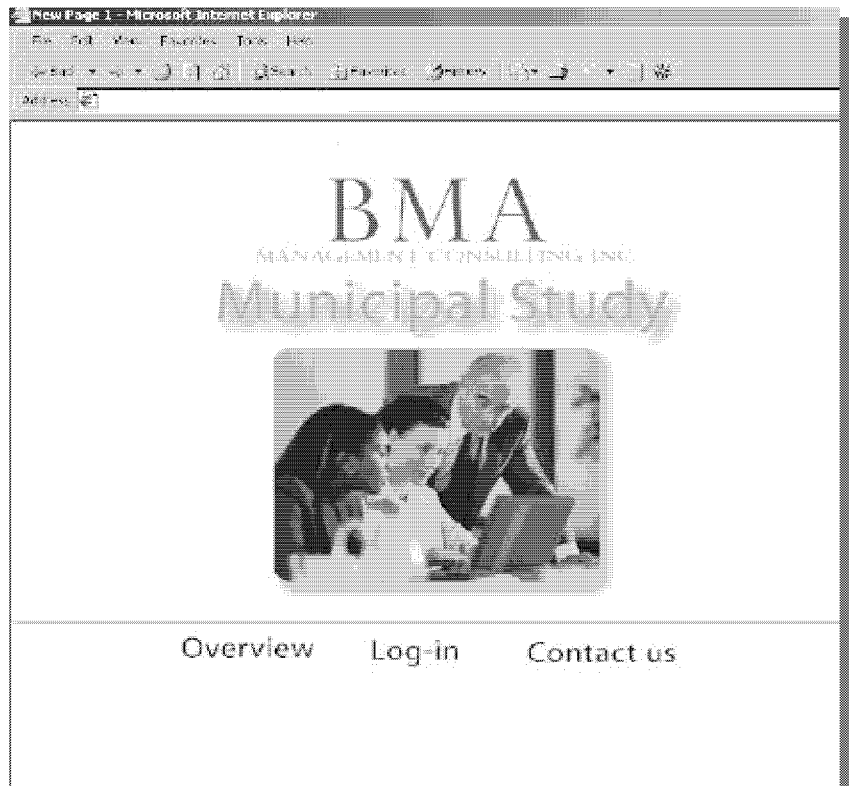
This information can be downloaded from the website into Excel to allow municipalities the ability to track their progress over time, to focus their analysis on specific comparators which can be incorporated into reports and presentations.

For more information please feel free to contact:

*BMA Management Consulting Inc.
139 Markland St., Hamilton, L8P 2K3
Phone (905) 528-3206
Fax (905) 528-3210
bma@on.aibn.com*

Contacts: Jim Bruzzese or Catherine Minshull

Municipal Study Database



Screenshot of the 'Municipal Profile - Population' section of the BMA Municipal Study website. The page shows a navigation menu on the left and a main content area with a table of population data for various municipalities from 1991 to 2003.

Municipal Profile - Population

Year: All Municipalities: > 100,000

View in Excel

Municipality	1991 Population	1996 Population	% Change ('91 - '96)	2001 Population	% Change ('96 - '01)	% Change ('01 - '03)	2003 Population	C
Barrie	62,726	79,191	26.2%	103,710	31.0%	65.3%	118,950	1
Brampton	234,445	268,251	14.4%	325,428	21.3%	38.8%	375,066	1
Burlington	129,575	136,976	5.7%	150,836	10.1%	16.4%	165,965	1
Cambridge	92,772	101,429	9.3%	110,372	8.8%	19.0%	118,668	
Chatham-Kent	109,943	109,650	-0.2%	107,541	-1.8%	-2.1%	109,714	
Guelph	66,444	95,821	14.3%	108,170	10.6%	20.8%	113,457	
Hamilton	451,665	467,799	3.6%	490,268	4.8%	8.5%	516,776	
Kingston	107,335	112,805	4.4%	114,195	1.4%	5.9%	120,848	

***Why Participate
in a Study?***

The study identifies both key quantifiable indicators and selective environmental factors that should be considered as part of a comprehensive evaluation of a local municipality's financial condition. Use of the study over a number of years provides trends to allow decision makers to monitor selected indicators over time. Trend analysis helps to provide interpretative context. Additional context can come from comparing a municipality's own experience with the experience of other municipalities. While the study includes 79 municipalities, it is recommended that the users take advantage of the online database to focus on similar municipalities.

Many of the analytic techniques included in the report, mirror approaches used by credit rating agencies and also used by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The information contained in this report can help local municipalities analyze and interpret financial, economic and demographic trends. Trend analysis is critical to truly understand and evaluate a municipality's financial condition and to provide early warning signals of potential or emerging financial problems.

It is anticipated that the consolidation of the financial and economic indicators contained in the Municipal Study will achieve the following goals and objectives:

- To help municipal decision-makers in assessing market conditions;
- To understand the unique characteristics of each municipality;
- To understand the relationship between various controllable and uncontrollable factors in addressing a municipality's competitive opportunities and challenges;
- To develop a database of material that can be updated in future years to assess progress and establish targets;
- To create awareness of the trends and the potential need to modify policies;
- To assist in aligning municipal decisions in property taxation with other economic development programs and initiatives;
- To assist municipalities in developing a long term strategy for property taxation to achieve municipal competitive objectives in targeted property classes;
- To create a baseline source of information that will assist municipalities in addressing specific areas of concern and gain a better understanding of how other municipalities have addressed similar concerns;
- To understand the impact of reassessment and growth; and
- To identify areas that may require further review (e.g. service levels, user fees, service delivery)

Municipalities Represented in the Study

Ajax	Huntsville	Pickering
Amherstburg	Kawartha Lakes	Port Colborne
Aurora	King	Richmond Hill
Barrie	Kingston	Sarnia
Belleville	Kitchener	Sault Ste. Marie
Bracebridge	Leamington	St. Catharines
Bradford West Gwillimbury	Lincoln	St. Thomas
Brampton	London	Stratford
Brantford	Markham	Sudbury
Brockville	Middlesex Centre	Thorold
Burlington	Milton	Thunder Bay
Caledon	Mississauga	Tillsonburg
Cambridge	Newmarket	Timmins
Central Elgin	Niagara falls	Toronto
Chatham-Kent	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Vaughan
Clarington	Norfolk	Wainfleet
Cobourg	North Bay	Wasaga Beach
Cornwall	North Dumfries	Waterloo
East Gwillimbury	Oakville	Welland
Fort Erie	Orangeville	Wellesley
Georgina	Oshawa	West Lincoln
Gravenhurst	Ottawa	Whitby
Grimsby	Owen Sound	Whitchurch-Stouffville
Guelph	Parry Sound	Wilmot
Halton Hills	Pelham	Windsor
Hamilton	Peterborough	Woodstock
		Woolwich