Small Business, Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Vaughan is an Entrepreneurial and Small Business Hub

Vaughan has a strong, innovative and sustainable economy. Small businesses and entrepreneurs remain the key to Vaughan’s success. The city of Vaughan is one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada and a world-class place to start or grow a business.

Small business remains the backbone of our globally competitive economy, representing over 80 per cent of all businesses in Vaughan.

~ Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C. Mayor

Opportunities for Small Businesses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>2017 Jobs</th>
<th>2018 Jobs</th>
<th>Change in Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>8,844</td>
<td>8,971</td>
<td>127 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare and social assistance</td>
<td>2,572</td>
<td>2,683</td>
<td>111 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, scientific and technical services</td>
<td>5,974</td>
<td>6,070</td>
<td>96 (2%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation and warehousing</td>
<td>3,355</td>
<td>3,437</td>
<td>82 (2%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Real estate, rental and leasing</td>
<td>2,257</td>
<td>2,321</td>
<td>64 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail trade</td>
<td>2,441</td>
<td>2,491</td>
<td>50 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and food services</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>1,168</td>
<td>42 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment and recreation</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>19 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services (except public administration)</td>
<td>2,160</td>
<td>2,176</td>
<td>16 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational services</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>9 (1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 1. EMSI Analyst, 2018
**Vaughan is an Innovation Catalyst**

**A Robust Innovation System**

Vaughan is at the heart of York Region’s innovation economy, linking the future Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital and Vaughan Metropolitan Centre to:

- some of Canada’s top universities.
- Toronto's top research hospitals.
- incubators and innovation hubs.

ventureLAB is a leading technology hub located in York Region that supports growth ventures in sectors like:

- Digital media and ICT
- Digital Health and Devices
- Fintech
- Advanced Manufacturing

**Activate!Vaughan**

Introducing new market-driven entrepreneurship program that connects startups and industry leaders. Activate!Vaughan is focused on helping entrepreneurs capitalize on emerging business opportunities, validate new ideas and grow their ventures.

All participating ventures will receive:

- training, mentorship and the opportunity to win provincial grant funding.
- connections to key industry leaders, market experts and business support services.

**Innovation Corridor: Vaughan to Union Station** *(TRAVEL TIME: 42 minutes)*

- Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital
- Smart Hospital
- VMC - Downtown Vaughan
- Niagara University
- York University
- Third-largest university in Canada
- Downsview Aerospace Hub
- University of Toronto
- Largest university in Canada
- MaRS Discovery District:
  - Research park and innovation hub comprised of 7 million square feet of facilities, including hospitals, research institutes, business incubators and venture capital organizations
  - J Labs @ Toronto
  - Deep Genomics
  - MaRS Discovery District
- University Health Network
  - Representing 8 hospital sites
- Ryerson University - DMZ
  - #1 university-based business incubator in the world *(UBI Global)*
- OCAD University
- Financial Services Centre of Canada
  - TSX: Third-largest stock exchange in North America
  - World’s largest exchange for mining, oil and gas, and cleantech companies
Small Business Enterprise Centre Services

With a strong entrepreneurial base, talented workforce and low cost of doing business, Vaughan is a great place to start or grow a business. Vaughan offers many resources to help small businesses start and succeed.

The Vaughan Business Enterprise Centre (VBEC), within the City of Vaughan’s department of Economic and Cultural Development, is an important support system for entrepreneurs and small business owners. The City’s Small Business and Entrepreneurship team can help support your business with:

- **business advisory services**
  including consultation
- **business registration**
- **entrepreneurship programs, training**
  and mentorship
- **seminars, workshops and events**

Vaughan Starter Company Plus Program

Receive tailored training, mentorship and the opportunity to apply for a provincial grant of up to $5,000 to help your business grow.

Connect to the Business Community

The City of Vaughan’s diverse network of businesses and entrepreneurs connects you with strategic partners, investors and industry leaders. In addition to regular networking events, Vaughan has launched a new online platform – Vaughan Business Café – which is a business community matchmaking and mentorship tool.

**Vaughan Business Café**

- Join the online community and get matched with business experts.
- Find a mentor or strategic partner.
- Engage and share ideas to help your business grow.

Visit vaughan.ca/BusinessCafe.

Since 2010, VBEC has supported the startup and growth of **more than 3,400 businesses** through its advisory services and entrepreneurship programming.

Community Partners

Vaughan has many community partners to help nurture an idea from beginning to end. Some of our partners include:

- Employment Ontario
- FedDev Ontario Small Business Services
- Futurpreneur Canada
- Italian Chamber of Commerce of Ontario (ICCO)
- Kleinburg Business Improvement Area (KBIA)
- Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan Chinese Business Association
- National Research Council of Canada
- Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE)
- York Region
- Seneca Helix
- Startup York
- TechConnex
- Vaughan Chamber of Commerce
- Vaughan Public Libraries
- ventureLAB
- York Angels
- York Mastermind
- York University

**City of Vaughan**

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