



REPORT

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Keith Hamilton, Senior Planner, Policy

DATE: December 22, 2022

REPORT NO.: PD-2023-0001

SUBJECT: 2021 Census Information

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PD-2023-0001 dated December 22, 2022, regarding 2021 Census Information be received for information.

KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The 2021 Census population for Halton Hills is 62,951, up 2.9 per cent from 2016.
- The age structure for Halton Hills is still generally that of an aging population, however the 2021 Census saw higher proportions of those aged 5 to 19 years.
- Over 73 per cent of Halton Hills households reported living in a single detached dwelling in 2021.
- For the 2021 Census, Halton Hills reported the highest employment rate among the Halton Region area municipalities and lowest unemployment rate.
- The retail trade industry employed the highest number of workers in 2021, followed closely by manufacturing.
- Among the Halton Hills population reporting some form of educational attainment in 2021, nearly two thirds reported having college or university level training.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The Census of Population is a mandatory questionnaire that is distributed to every household in Canada every five years, creating a statistical portrait of the country on the day of the Census. The Census is conducted by Statistics Canada and is Canada's primary source of data for sociodemographic change. This data is used by all levels of government to help plan for public services in education, healthcare, housing, transportation, and infrastructure, among others.

On February 9, 2022, Statistics Canada began releasing data from the 2021 Census online. The 2021 Census data was released in six stages, with the last release on multiple topics coming on November 30, 2022. The releases included data by geography on many topics, including, but not limited to:

- Population and age;
- Housing;
- Labour force and commuting; and,
- Education.

Planning Staff have prepared this report for Council summarizing key highlights from the above noted topics. Region of Halton staff have also created a series of ‘Census Highlight’ bulletins which can be found on their [website](#).

Population and Age Structure

The 2021 census population for Halton Hills is 62,951, up 2.9 per cent from 61,161 in 2016. Much of the growth in Halton Hills from 2016 to 2021 occurred in Georgetown. The rural area saw some increase, while Acton saw a decrease in population, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Halton Hills Population, 2016-2021

Area	2016	2021	% Change
Acton	9,462	9,377	-0.9%
Georgetown	42,326	44,058	4.1%
Rural Area	9,373	9,516	1.5%
Total	61,161	62,951	2.9%

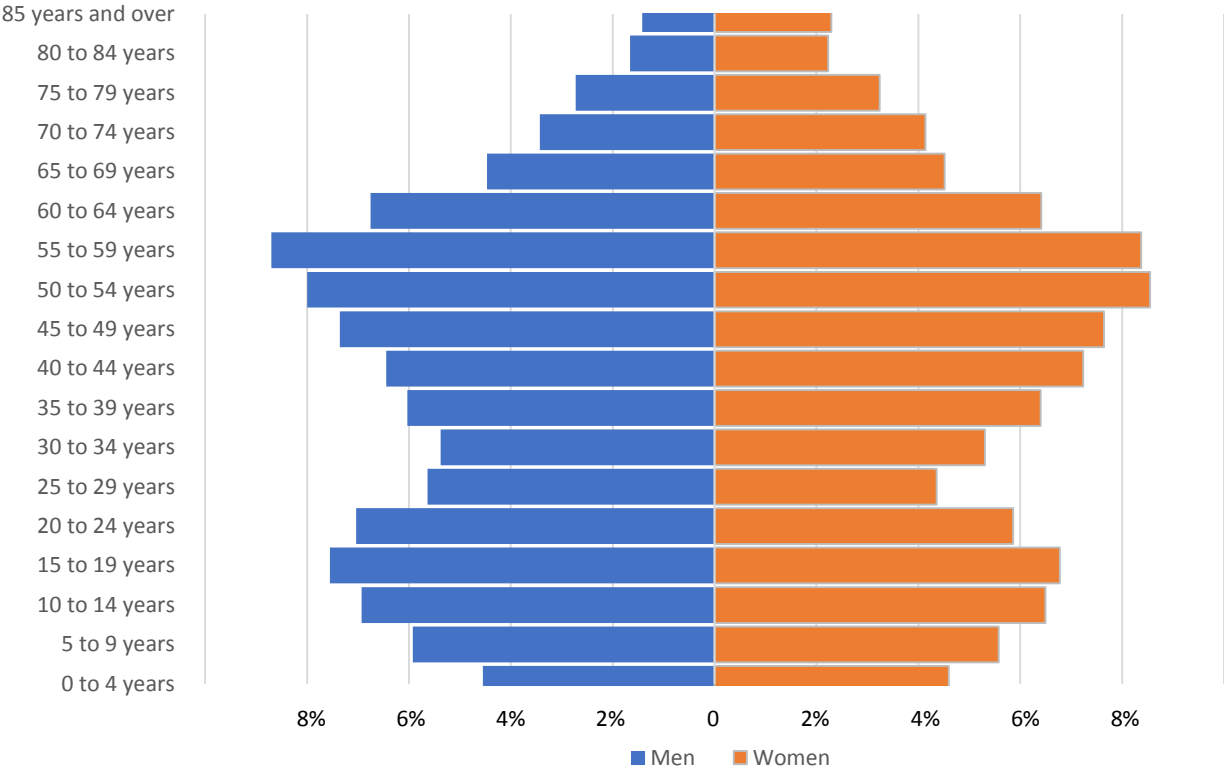
The median age of the population in Halton Hills increased slightly to 42 years in 2021, as shown in Table 2. Similar to 2016, the Town’s median age is slightly higher than the Region’s. Halton Hills median age was also very close to the provincial (41.3) and national figures (41.2). Within Halton, Burlington (44.4) again reported the highest median age, while Milton’s (36) falls well below the other area municipalities.

Table 2: Median Age of Population

Place	2016 Census Median Age	2021 Census Median Age
Halton Hills	41.3	42
Milton	35.3	36
Burlington	43.3	44.4
Oakville	41.7	41.6
Halton Region	40.5	40.8
Ontario	41.3	41.6
Canada	41.2	41.6

The population pyramid for Halton Hills is generally indicative of an aging population, as shown in Figure 1. The most populous age groups, by proportion, fall between 45 and 59 years of age, which is similar to what was reported in 2016. Age groups between 5 and 19 years of age have grown proportionally compared to 2016, where these groups were all under 4 per cent. The increase in proportion of those in age groups under 19 may suggest the Town is seeing an increase in families moving into the area. Similar to what was reported in 2016, the pyramid sees a dip from the ages of 25 to 35 on both sides.

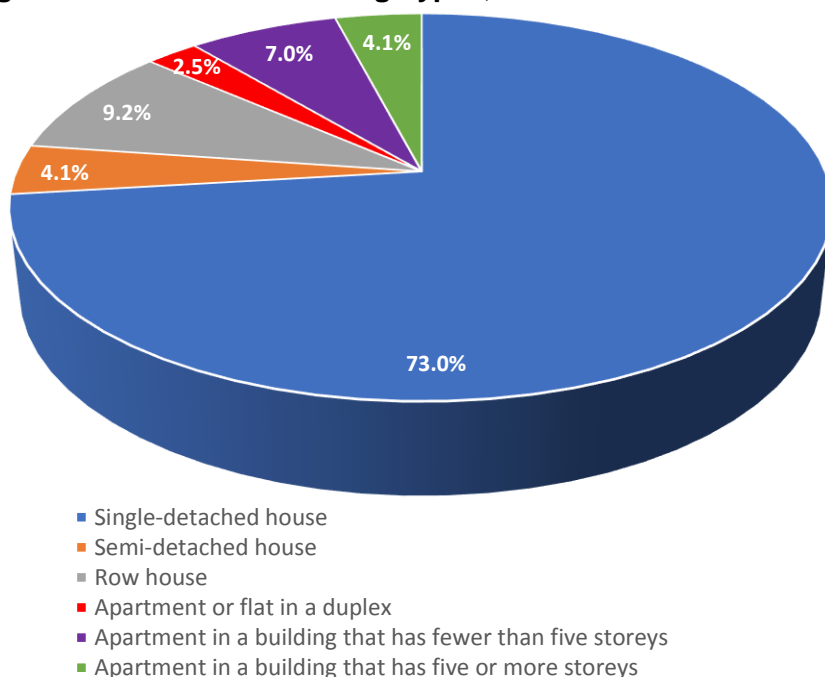
Figure 1: Halton Hills Age Structure, 2021



Household and Dwelling Characteristics

Halton Hills households reside predominantly in single detached dwellings. Nearly three quarters of households are in single detached homes, as shown in Figure 2. The next most common dwelling type is the row house (or townhome) at just over 9 per cent. Households in apartments are broken into three classifications, as shown in the figure. However, if combined, over 13 per cent of Halton Hills households reside in apartments.

Figure 2: Halton Hills Dwelling Types, 2021



Households in single detached homes are more frequent in Halton Hills compared to Halton Region as a whole. The Region, by comparison, has much greater proportions of row houses and apartments in high rises, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Dwelling Type Comparison by Proportion

Dwelling Type	Halton Hills	Halton Region
Single-detached house	73.0%	56.8%
Semi-detached house	4.1%	5.3%
Row house	9.2%	17.9%
Apartment or flat in a duplex	2.5%	1.2%
Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	7.0%	6.7%
Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	4.1%	11.9%
Other	0.1%	0.1%

The average household size in Halton Hills in 2021 was 2.9, identical to what was reported in 2016. Two person households were the most common while five plus person households were the least frequent in 2021, matching trends reported in 2016.

The Halton Hills Labour Force

For the 2021 Census, Halton Hills reported an employed labour force of 32,630. This translates into an employment rate of 63.2 per cent, down from the 2016 Census (69.4), but higher than the regional rate of 59.5 per cent. Halton Hills also had a higher participation rate than Halton Region, Ontario, and Canada, as shown in Table 4.

Similar to regional, provincial and national trends, Halton Hills posted a higher unemployment rate in 2021 (9.7 per cent), compared to 2016 (5.2 per cent). It should be noted that the labour force statistics for the 2021 Census, would have been gathered at the height of the global COVID-19 pandemic. More recently in 2022, the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey posted unemployment rates of 5.3 per cent in Ontario, and 6.3 per cent in Halton Region, signaling a return to pre-pandemic rates.

Among the area municipalities, Halton Hills had the highest employment rate compared to Burlington (58.1 per cent); Milton (63 per cent); and Oakville (57.6 per cent). The Town also reported the only unemployment rate under 10 per cent. Only Milton had a higher participation rate in 2021 at 71.1 per cent. The Halton Hills participation rate can be seen as a positive sign, suggesting many were choosing to stay in the labour force during the pandemic.

Table 4: Labour Force Statistics by Area – 2021 Census

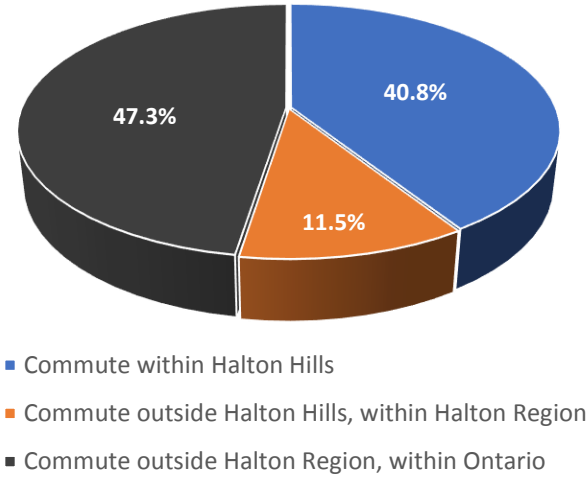
Labour Force	Halton Hills	Halton Region	Ontario	Canada
Population aged 15 years and over	51,620	478,780	11,782,820	30,335,915
Participation rate	70	66.9	62.8	63.7
Employment rate	63.2	59.5	55.1	57.1
Unemployment rate	9.7	11.1	12.2	10.3

Journey to Work

Just under half the Halton Hills labour force who reported a commute in 2021, were doing so to a location outside Halton Region. This is less than the 55 per cent reported in 2016. The proportion of the commuting within Halton Hills rose to 40.8 per cent (see Figure 3), from 32 per cent in 2021. This suggests more Halton Hills residents are finding work locally. Among the area municipalities, Halton Hills is most comparable to Milton, where 48 per cent were commuting outside Halton Region, while 38 per cent commuted locally. Burlington (50.5 per cent) and Oakville (47 per cent) had higher rates of workers commuting locally, suggesting greater access to more established local employment lands.

Another notable workforce trend in Halton Hills was the rise in people working from home. In 2016, 2,600 people in Halton Hills reported working from home, making up 7.7 per cent of the employed local labour force. In 2021 this number rose to 9,625 people, representing 29.5 per cent of the local labour force. As suggested earlier, labour force numbers for the 2021 Census were gathered at the height of the global COVID-19 pandemic, likely influencing this trend.

Figure 3: Halton Hills Employed Labour Force Commuting Locations, 2021 Census



Employment by Industry

Halton Hills reported a diverse labour force by industry in 2021, as shown in Table 5. Retail Trade had the highest share of workers (4,280), followed closely by Manufacturing (4,175). Construction (3,175) and Education services (3,060) also reported high numbers. These industries, along with Professional, scientific and technical services (2,915) represented the five highest industries by employment in the local labour force in 2021.

The Halton Hills labour force accounted for 11.3 per cent of the Halton Region total in 2021. Table 5 highlights industries which make up a higher than average proportion of the Halton Region total. Although only a small proportion of the Halton Hills labour force reported working in Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (1 per cent), they accounted for one quarter of the Halton Region total for this industry. Similarly, local workers in Construction and Manufacturing accounted for a larger share of the Region total, compared to the local proportion as whole (11.3 per cent).

Table 5: Halton Hills Employment by Industry, 2021 Census

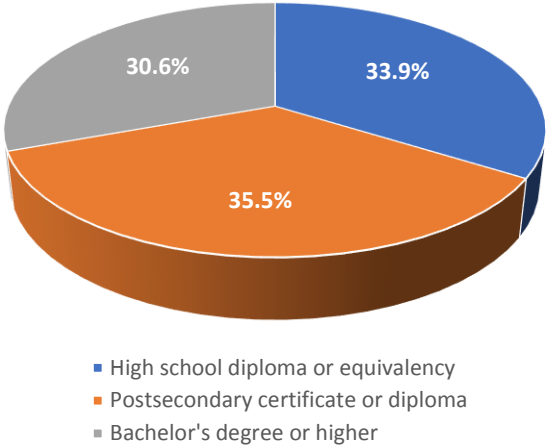
Industry	Halton Hills	Percentage of Halton Region Total
All industry categories	35,340	11.3%
11 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	405	25.0%
21 Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	65	6.6%
22 Utilities	225	10.2%
23 Construction	3,175	16.8%
31-33 Manufacturing	4,175	15.8%
41 Wholesale trade	2,275	13.2%
44-45 Retail trade	4,280	12.0%
48-49 Transportation and warehousing	2,185	14.3%
51 Information and cultural industries	625	7.6%
52 Finance and insurance	1,670	6.5%
53 Real estate and rental and leasing	705	9.0%
54 Professional, scientific and technical services	2,915	7.4%
55 Management of companies and enterprises	155	6.8%
56 Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	1,575	13.7%
61 Educational services	3,060	12.4%
62 Health care and social assistance	2,785	9.0%
71 Arts, entertainment and recreation	645	12.2%
72 Accommodation and food services	1,435	10.3%
81 Other services (except public administration)	1,260	12.1%
91 Public administration	1,725	13.5%
Industries with a high representation of workers compared to Halton Hills proportion of Region employment		

Educational Attainment

Among the Halton Hills population reporting some form of educational attainment in 2021, there was a relatively even split between the three broad categories, as shown in Figure 4. Over 65 per cent reported having some form of post-secondary education, generally through apprenticeship, college, or university training.

Among those reporting a 'Postsecondary certificate or diploma' the vast majority (75 per cent) reported a college diploma, while another 19 per cent reported apprenticeship certification. Among those reporting a 'Bachelor's degree or higher' the majority (74 per cent) reported a Bachelor's degree, while another 16 per cent reported a Master's degree.

Figure 4: Halton Hills Educational Attainment, 2021 Census



Halton Hills residents most frequently reported having education in Business, followed closely by Architecture, engineering, and related trades, as shown in Table 6. After that, there was much diversity in educational attainment reported among the fields listed in Table 6. Compared to 2016, Halton Hills saw a rise in those reporting education in Health and related fields, and Social sciences.

Table 6: Fields of Study for Halton Hills Residents, 2021 Census

Field of Study	Halton Hills	Percentage of Population with Post-Secondary Training
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	690	2.5%
Architecture, engineering, and related trades	6100	22.0%
Business, management and public administration	6645	23.9%
Education	1970	7.1%
Health and related fields	3105	11.2%
Humanities	1525	5.5%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	990	3.6%
Personal, protective and transportation services	1775	6.4%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	890	3.2%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	3270	11.8%
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	820	3.0%

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report aligns to the Town’s Strategic plan recognizing the value to provide responsive, effective municipal government and strong leadership in the effective and efficient delivery of municipal services.

By reviewing and reporting on information from the 2021 Census, Town staff is keeping informed on local and regional statistical trends. Doing so will help us stay informed as we shape current and future policies that impact Halton Hills residents.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public Engagement was not needed as this report is administrative in nature.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

No internal consultation was undertaken for the preparation of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report is administrative in nature and does not have any financial implications.

Reviewed and approved by,

Bronwyn Parker, Director of Planning Policy

John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning & Development

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer