



TOWN OF
HALTON HILLS
Working Together Working for You!

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Erin Kaiser, Manager of Economic Development and Innovation

DATE: August 31, 2023

MEMO NO.: BEC-2023-005

SUBJECT: 2022 Halton Region Employment Survey Summary

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide Council with a summary of the 2022 Employment Survey Results prepared by Halton Region (Appendix 1).

BACKGROUND:

Halton Region conducts an annual Employment Survey to gather data on businesses and employment within the Region. This survey serves several important purposes, including:

- monitoring the region's economic health and trends in economic development (e.g. local economic activity and land use patterns);
- monitoring and implementing land use targets; and
- supporting water, wastewater and transportation master plans.

The survey is voluntary and the results are based on the input provided by the respondents. The collected and analyzed data is made available to the public through the Employment Survey Results report. Individual business information is kept confidential and remains unidentifiable in the published report.

The local municipalities receive the regional survey data and use it, along with data from other external sources, to assist in monitoring economic trends, updating and tracking business statistics, and updating contact information.

In 2022, the Employment Survey was conducted from May 9 to September 30. A team of nine surveyors visited brick and mortar businesses in Halton (those with a physical presence and public signage) to gather data. Through the site visits, the surveyors verified business activities, including closures and new openings.

The Region noted that, given the ongoing pandemic, the 2022 survey employed various methods and data collection was adjusted as needed to adhere to public health measures in place at the time of the survey. Businesses could participate through face-to-face interviews, telephone interviews, or electronic survey completion via email or an online form.

The Region noted that the Employment Survey's results might differ from other surveys conducted by Statistics Canada or the Chambers of Commerce due to variations in methodology, survey timing, question wording, and the types of businesses surveyed.

Summary of Survey Results

The 2022 Employment Survey Results (Appendix 1) identified a total of 13,820 businesses. A total of 7,741 businesses participated in the survey, representing 56% of businesses.

Key Region-wide highlights include:

- 13,820 business reported (13,600 in 2021);
- 555 business closures reported (894 in 2021);
- Retail trade was the top sector by business count;
- Number of businesses increased by 1.6% between 2021 and 2022;
- Number of jobs increased by about 2.3% between 2021 and 2022 to 240,200 jobs;
- Manufacturing was the top sector by job count;
- More than 23% of employers indicated that they had staff working from home;
- Businesses operating since 2021 (or longer) added 17,900 jobs between 2021 and 2022;
- Employment Areas in Halton hosted more than 40% of total businesses and 49% of total jobs; and
- 23% of the businesses in Employment Areas partake in goods producing activity and employ 35.5% of Employment Areas jobs.

Key Town of Halton Hills-specific highlights include:

- Halton Hills is home to 10.2% of Halton's total businesses identified in 2022;
- Employment numbers continue to increase by an average of 0.7% over a five-year trend. In 2022, there were 21,600 jobs.
- From 2020, there has been a 3.5% increase in employment rising from 20,800 jobs in 2020 to 21,600 jobs in 2022.

- The number of businesses has declined slightly with a total of 1,416 businesses reported in 2022 - compared to 1,444 in 2021. Town staff will be analyzing the survey data in more detail.

As noted earlier, while considering the results, it is important to note that the Halton Employment Survey is based on data collected through a voluntary survey and only reflects a 56% participation rate in 2022. The remaining 44% of businesses either were not available to participate or declined to do so.

CONCLUSION:

Town staff continue to monitor the Employment Survey, supplemented by other economic data sources (including Statistics Canada), to ensure that Halton Hills businesses have access to responsive and effective services and resources, continue to thrive and grow, and so that Halton Hills is showcased as a prime investment destination.

As outlined in past Business Concierge reports, Halton Hills is positioned for significant economic investment and job growth as major investments are realized in the Premier Gateway Employment Area, and as Regional infrastructure and servicing is provided. Typically, investment attraction from the time of the initial investment lead to advancing through the site selection and development process, to construction and opening is a multi-year process.

Reviewed and approved by,

Damian Szybalski, Commissioner of Business, Environment & Culture

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer