



HAMILTON'S **VitalSigns**[®]

2011

About Vital Signs

Vital Signs is a report issued by community foundations in many cities across Canada. Introduced by the Toronto Community Foundation in 2001 as a straightforward, plain-speaking measure of how the city was doing, the Vital Signs program has grown to include local reports from across Canada.

About Hamilton Community Foundation

Hamilton Community Foundation's mission is to strengthen Hamilton's quality of life as an inclusive and sustainable community through philanthropy. We help people make the difference they want to make by:

- Working with donors to build funds that meet their philanthropic and financial objectives.
- Granting to the widest possible range of charitable organizations and initiatives.
- Fostering community leadership by bringing people, knowledge and resources together around the community's needs and opportunities.

Since it was founded in 1954, Hamilton Community Foundation has made grants to our community totalling more than \$65 million, including approximately \$4.0 million last year.

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Methodology

Vital Signs presents research gathered by many local and national organizations deeply involved in each of the issue areas. The indicators presented in Hamilton's 2010-2012 reports were prioritized by the Vital Signs Advisory Committee and Community Foundations of Canada.

Vital Signs Advisory Committee

Indicator selection and presentation for the 2010-2012 reports was overseen by the **Vital Signs Advisory Committee**. Many members of this committee are also members of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction's Evaluation and Learning Working Group, which has spent several years developing a comprehensive set of indicators to measure Hamilton's progress on a wide range of socio-economic issues, the core of which are covered in this report. In order to cover all the Vital Signs issue areas and provide a broader quality of life picture, the group was supplemented with additional experts from the environment, economy, and arts and culture sectors to form the Vital Signs Advisory committee.

Indicator Selection

Progress on the indicators selected and prioritized by the Committee was examined in three ways:

- the indicator's change over time
- its comparison to provincial and national averages
- the disparity present within the indicator – e.g. between different neighbourhoods or between different groups of Hamiltonians.

Research

Information in the reports was gathered in co-operation with research experts from a variety of organizations, both local and national. Data sources and contributors are outlined in the Acknowledgements section. The information and key findings were reviewed by Advisory Committee members and other external experts. It is important to note this report is based on secondary data, that is, data that already exists. This includes the most recent Canadian Census data, as well as the results of local researchers and organizations. Consequently, Vital Signs should not be viewed as a formal academic research report. The reader should consider it to be a snapshot of the city at a point in time using common and accessible measurement data.

Statistical Notes

Every effort was made to use information pertaining to the city of Hamilton where possible. In the case of some Statistics Canada information, data was only available for the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) which includes Burlington and Grimsby. This is indicated in the report where applicable.

Definitions

- **Before Tax Low Income Measure (LIM):** This report uses the before tax Low Income Measure, which looks at the number of people who are earning below 50% of the median income for households in Hamilton. For a family of four, the before tax LIM is \$42,256, for a single person, it is \$21,128. While Statistics Canada does not have an official “poverty line”, the Low Income Measure and the before tax Low Income Cut-Off (see below) are commonly used thresholds to describe low income in Canada.
- **Before-Tax Low Income Cut-Off (LICO):** An income threshold below which a family will likely devote a larger share of its income on the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than the average family.
- **Census Metropolitan Area (CMA):** An area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. The Hamilton CMA consists of Hamilton, Burlington, and Grimsby.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** emitted gases in the atmosphere that reduce the loss of heat into space and therefore contribute to increasing global temperatures through the greenhouse effect.
- **Ground-level ozone:** component of smog; severe lung irritant; generated when combustion emissions such as nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react in the presence of sunlight, via a complex set of chemical reactions.
- **Living Wage:** The wage level required for a person or family employed full-time and year-round, to meet a basic standard of living that allows for good health, education, and entertainment opportunities, and full participation in modern life.
- **Neighbourhoods:** This report uses Forward Sortation Areas (FSA's) to capture neighbourhood statistics. Forward Sortation Areas divide Hamilton into 22 different areas, based on the first three letters of the postal code. They usually have a population between 6,000 and 30,000 people. Forward Sortation Areas are larger in population and land size than *census tracts* which are also commonly used in neighbourhood data, but FSA's have the added advantage of having current information available every year, while census tract information is only available every five years. For a map of Hamilton FSA's, [click here](#).
- **Recent Immigrant:** Immigrants who have arrived in Canada within the last five years. The 2006 census defines recent immigrants as those immigrants who arrived between 2001 and 2006.

Arts and Culture

Hamiltonians attend popular music concerts and cultural festivals at higher than average rates. Our library use and number of heritage properties continue to grow, and grants to Hamilton artists from national and provincial arts councils have increased by almost 50% over the past decade. The number of artists is increasing faster than the overall labour force.

Cultural Event Attendance

In 2010, 44% of people age 15 and over reported seeing at least one popular music concert in the Hamilton CMA within the last year – higher than the 39% average in other Vital Signs communities. People in Hamilton CMA also had higher than average rates for attending a cultural festival within the last year (44% compared to 41%). With respect to theatre attendance, Hamilton was at the Vital Signs average (45%), and slightly below average in attending a symphonic or classical music concert (14% compared to 18%).[1]

Two major festivals in Hamilton have increased their attendance over the last several years: the Festival of Friends now attracts an estimated 250,000 people every year and is the largest free annual music festival in Ontario.[2] The James St. North Supercrawl drew an estimated 50,000 people at this year's crawl – an increase from last year's 20,000, and 3,000 in its first year in pouring rain.[3]

Library Use

Library use continued to grow in 2010. There were some 6.3 million items checked out, up 4% since the previous year, and up 35% since 2007. The number of monthly digital downloads hit 5,000 for the first time in July, and has grown 83% since last year, driven primarily by the demand for e-Books. This number is projected to reach 10,000 by January 2012.[4]

Grants to the Arts

Two of the major granting bodies for the arts sector are the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council. Over the last decade, grants to Hamilton artists from the Canada Council have increased by 44% to \$950,575, up from \$657,000 in 2001-2002.[5] Grants from the Ontario Arts Council to Hamilton have increased by 55% to almost \$1.2 million last year from \$775,000 in 2003-4.[6] These increases are similar to those in other cities. Hamilton receives between 2% and 3% of the total funding for Ontario from both granting organizations.

Ontario Arts Council

OAC Funding 2003/04 and 2010/2011 to Selected Ontario Cities/Regional Municipalities

City	2003/04				2010/11			
	Dollars Requested	% of Ontario Total	Grant Dollars	% of Ontario Total	Dollars Requested	% of Ontario Total	Grant Dollars	% of Ontario Total
Hamilton	\$1,313,406	2%	\$774,448	3%	\$2,358,520	2%	\$1,197,325	2%
London	\$1,080,613	2%	\$703,504	2%	\$1,667,385	2%	\$986,400	2%
Ottawa	\$4,260,654	8%	\$2,133,666	7%	\$7,658,229	8%	\$4,398,724	8%
Waterloo R.M.	\$1,062,182	2%	\$727,376	2%	\$1,787,638	2%	\$1,029,169	2%
Windsor	\$553,139	1%	\$400,017	1%	\$883,621	1%	\$618,305	1%
Ontario Total	\$54,505,614	100%	\$29,318,003	100%	\$98,784,046	100%	\$52,282,576	100%

City	2003/04				2010/11			
	Number of Applications	% of Ontario Total	Number of Grants	% of Ontario Total	Number of Applications	% of Ontario Total	Number of Grants	% of Ontario Total
Hamilton	97	2%	53	2%	161	2%	71	2%
London	76	2%	50	2%	111	2%	63	2%
Ottawa	365	9%	195	9%	504	7%	282	8%
Waterloo R.M.	87	2%	54	2%	133	2%	71	2%
Windsor	32	1%	21	1%	73	1%	49	1%
Ontario Total	4,089	100%	2,268	100%	7,085	100%	3,567	100%

Notes:

Waterloo Regional Municipality includes Cambridge, Kitchener, North Dumfries, Waterloo, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich.

Hamilton includes the dissolved towns of Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Glanbrook and Stoney Creek.

Ottawa includes the dissolved cities and towns of Cumberland, Gloucester, Goulbourn, Kanata, Nepean, Osgoode, Ottawa, Rideau, Rockcliffe Park, Vanier and West Carleton.

Canada Council for the Arts Funding by Ontario Municipality 2000-2001 & 2009-2010

City	Total Grants (\$)		% of all Ont. Grants,		2006 population	% of Ontario pop	% of artists in Ontario 2006
	2000-2001	2009-2010	2000-2001	2009-2010			
Hamilton	657,380	950,575	1.9%	2.0%	504,559	4.1%	3.0%
Kitchener	508,270	661,000	1.4%	1.4%	204,668	1.7%	2.3%
London	855,776	728,900	2.5%	1.5%	352,395	3.0%	2.3%
Ottawa	2,224,143	3,339,585	6.5%	7.0%	812,129	6.7%	8.0%
Windsor	459,800	530,273	1.6%	1.1%	216,473	1.8%	1.2%
Ontario total	34,034,105	47,778,321					

Source: Canada Council for the Arts: Funding to artists and arts organizations in Ontario, 2000-01 and 2009-10. Statistics Canada, Community Profiles 2006. Author's calculations

Arts and Culture Employment

As of 2006, Hamilton had 7,290 workers in cultural industries and occupations, which is 2.6% of the labour force. The provincial average was 3.4%, and the national average was 3.3%. There were 1,680 artists in Hamilton in 2006, making up 0.6% of the labour force, similar to the national average of 0.8%. The number of artists has increased 22% in the last 15 years, growing faster than the overall labour force.^[7]

“Artists” include nine occupations:^[8]

- actors and comedians,
- artisans and craftpersons,
- authors and writers,
- conductors, composers, and arrangers,
- dancers,
- musicians and singers,
- other performers,
- painters, sculptors, and other visual artists, and
- producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations.

“Cultural workers” include creative, production, technical and management occupations in the areas of broadcasting, film and video, sound recording, performing arts, publishing, printing, libraries, archives, heritage, architecture and design.^[9]

For a map of where the arts are located within the City of Hamilton, visit the Centre for Community Study's [map](#), or visit their website: www.communitystudy.ca.

To read more about what's happening in the arts and arts policy across Canada, go to [Hill Strategies Research](#).

Heritage Properties

The number of individual heritage properties rose by 12% over the last decade to 241 properties. There was also an increase in the number of properties within Heritage Districts in Hamilton to 358 in 2010 compared to 343 in 2000.^[10] No new heritage districts were added over this time, so the increase in properties is due to property severances and new construction within the district. For more information on specific heritage properties in Hamilton and cities across Ontario, visit the [Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture](#).

^[1] Statistics Canada. General Social Survey on Time Use, 1998, 2005, and 2010. Data supplied by Community Foundations of Canada.

^[2] City of Hamilton, Emergency and Community Services, [Update to Council January 2011](#).

^[3] Hamilton Spectator, [Supercrawl estimates as high as 50,000](#), September 12, 2012. [Supercrawl is getting super big](#), September 2, 2011.

^[4] Personal communication, 2011. Hamilton Public Library.

^[5] Canada Council for the Arts, 2000-1 & 2009-10.

[Funding to artists and arts organizations in Ontario](#).

^[6] Personal communication, Ontario Arts Council.

^[7] City of Hamilton, Culture Division.

^[8] Hill Strategies Research, July 2010.

Counting artists and cultural workers based on the 2006 census. Unpublished.

^[9] Hill Strategies Research, July 2010.

Counting artists and cultural workers based on the 2006 census. Unpublished.

^[10] Personal communication. City of Hamilton, Heritage and Urban Design,
Planning and Economic Development Department.

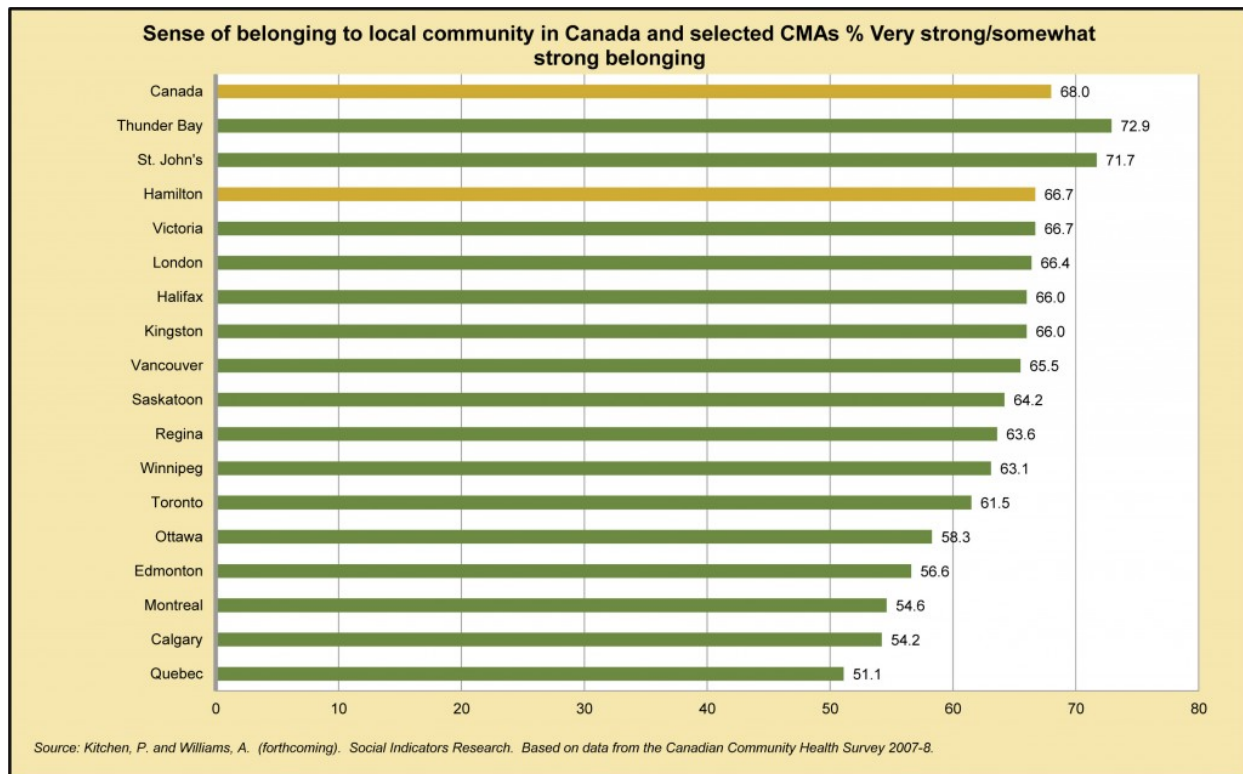
Belonging and Leadership

Hamiltonians' sense of belonging and life satisfaction rates are increasing. Voter turnout is improving but remains below average. The number of women elected to political office is below Ontario's average, and visible minorities are greatly under-represented. Hamilton's volunteer rate is higher than both provincial and national averages, as is the rate of charitable giving. Life satisfaction ratings show over 90% of Hamiltonians are satisfied with their lives.

Sense of Community Belonging

In 2009-10, 67.0% of Hamiltonians reported having a "strong" or "somewhat strong" sense of community belonging, similar to provincial and national averages, and up slightly from 65.1% in 2007-2008, and 59.0% in 2001.

As the chart below shows, residents of the Hamilton CMA had sense of belonging higher than most of the other CMAs listed. Only residents of Thunder Bay, Ontario (73%) and St. John's, Newfoundland (72%) reported higher levels of sense of belonging than Hamilton.



McMaster University's Dr. Peter Kitchen and Dr. Alison Williams forthcoming research shows that sense of belonging varies by gender, age, neighbourhood, income and physical and mental health.[1] In particular:

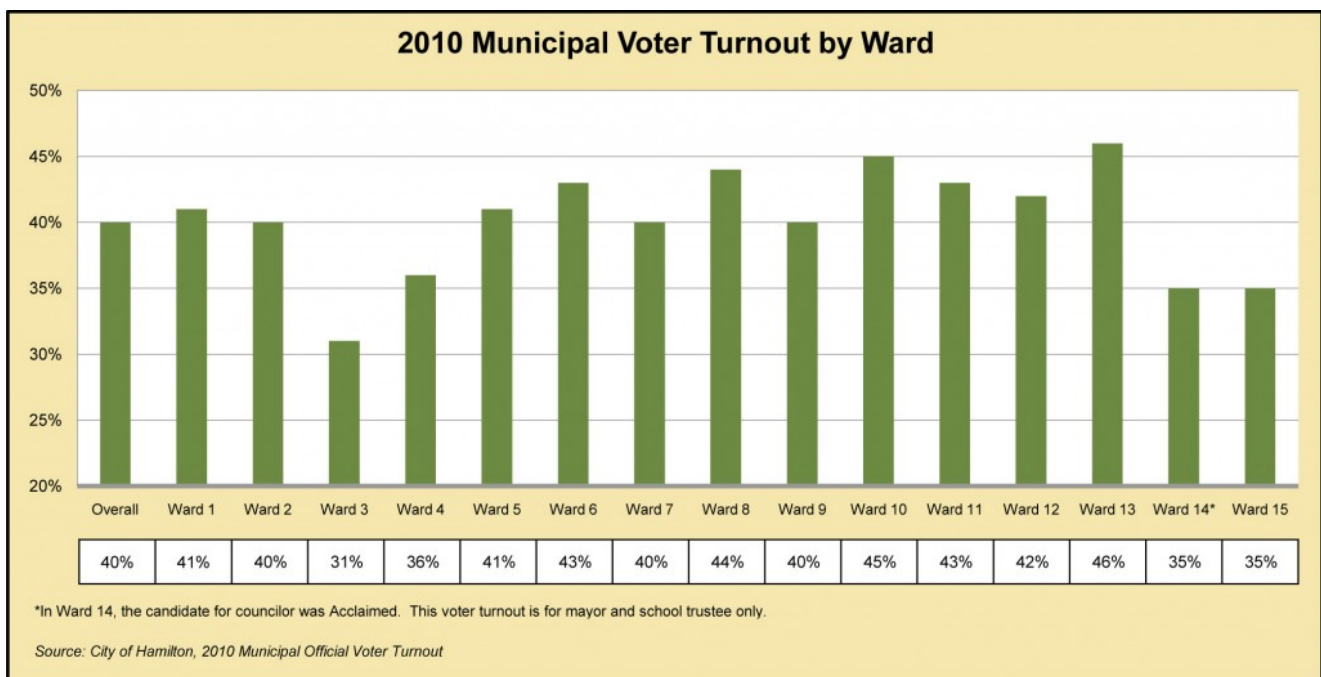
- Women have a higher sense of belonging than men.
- Older Hamiltonians have a higher sense of belonging than do younger Hamiltonians.

- Residents of the more rural areas have a higher sense of belonging than those in urban areas – particularly the lower city.
- People with higher incomes are more likely to report a higher sense of belonging than are people with low incomes (71% compared to 60%).
- People with good or excellent physical health have a higher sense of belonging than those with poor physical health (70% compared to 60%).
- People with good or excellent mental health have a higher sense of belonging than do those with poor mental health (68% compared to 43%).

There is a wide variety of connection to neighbourhoods across Hamilton. The City of Hamilton's Early Years Research team recently surveyed 1,000 parents across Hamilton and asked them to rate neighbourhood cohesion on a scale from 0-6 (with 6 being the most cohesive). Most neighbourhoods fell between 3.7 and 4.2, but some averaged as low as 2.1 and several as high as 4.7.[2]

Voter Turnout

Some 40% of eligible Hamiltonians voted in last year's municipal election, up from the previous two in which 37% and 38% of eligible voters went to the polls. Turnout varied by ward – Dundas was highest at 46%, while in Ward 3, fewer than one-third voted (31%).[3] The following table shows turnout for the 2010 election by ward.



In the 2011 Federal election, 58% of Hamiltonians voted, up slightly from 56% in 2008, but below the provincial (62%) and national (61%) averages. Turnout varied by polling station: several saw fewer than 22% of eligible voters, while others saw over 70%. [4] To see detailed poll-by-poll results for the 2011 federal election, [click here](#), and follow the links to poll-by-poll results.

Diversity in Elected Politicians

Three women were elected in Hamilton's 2010 municipal election (20% of total seats), an increase of one from the previous term, and below the 28% provincial average.[5] Federally and provincially, women hold three of Hamilton's ten ridings, including the only female leader of a Canadian political party. Visible minorities are greatly under-represented across Ontario, occupying only 7.6% of all municipal council seats. The most recent visible minority politician elected provincially or federally in Hamilton was Lincoln Alexander in 1980.

The following chart shows that across Ontario's largest 23 municipalities, including Hamilton, women, foreign-born, and visible minorities are under-represented among candidates and those successfully elected to office.[6]

Municipal Elections in Ontario's Largest 23 Cities, 2010 (%)			
	Candidates	Elected Councillors	Population
Women	19.6	27.9	50.6
Foreign-born	25.0	19.3	36.9
Visible minorities	18.0	7.6	32.4

Source: Welcoming Communities Initiative, February 2011 E-bulletin

Life Satisfaction

In 2009-10, 92% of Hamiltonians reported being "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their lives. This percentage is slightly higher than the 89% average reported in 2005-6 and 2007-8. It is similar to the provincial and national averages of 92%.[7]

Charitable Donations

In 2009, 25% of tax filers in the Hamilton CMA reported charitable donations, down from 27% in 2008. Hamilton's average remained above provincial (24%), and national averages (23%). The average donation increased from \$290 in 2008 to \$300 in 2009.[8]

Volunteer Rate

The volunteer rate for the Hamilton CMA was higher than Ontario and Canadian averages. In 2007, 52% of people in the Hamilton CMA reported volunteering, compared to 47% for Ontario and 46% for Canada. In 2004, the rate for Hamilton was 56%, compared to 50% for Ontario and 45% for Canada.[9]

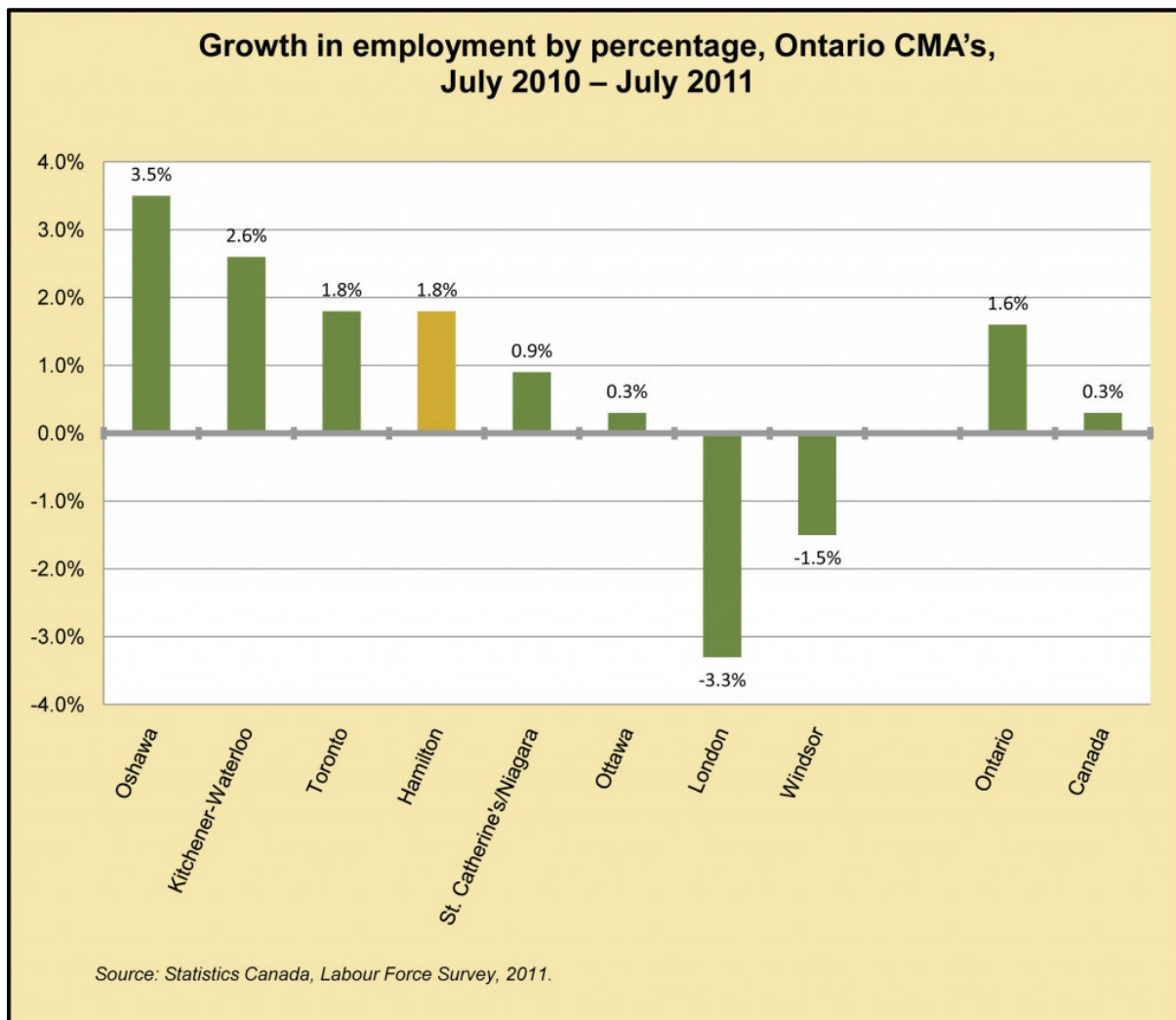
- [1] Kitchen, P. and Williams, A. (forthcoming). Social Indicators Research.
- [2] City of Hamilton, Community Services, Early Years Research Team.
- [3] City of Hamilton. Official 2010 Municipal Election Results.
- [4] Elections Canada, 2011 Federal Election Results.
- [5] Welcoming Communities Initiative, Bulletin Feb 2011.
- [6] Welcoming Communities Initiative, Bulletin Feb 2011.
- [7] Statistics Canada, Health Profiles, 2011.
- [8] Statistics Canada. Cansim Table 111-0001. CA data obtained by special request.
Data supplied by Community Foundations of Canada.
- [9] Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), Cansim Table 105-0501.

Economy

Hamilton had a strong economic year in 2010 as measured by employment, building permits, and office vacancy rates across the city. Real estate sales have held steady over the last three years, and average house prices are rising. For the first half of 2011, employment has remained strong, and the number of consumer and business bankruptcies are at their lowest point in over four years, while building permits have slowed by 30% after last year's record results.

Employment

The number of people who were employed in the Hamilton CMA in July 2011 increased by over 6,600 (1.8%) to 378,000 from July 2010. This was a higher percentage increase than in many Ontario cities, including London, Ottawa, and Windsor. Hamilton was tied with Toronto, and higher than the provincial and national average. It was behind only Kitchener-Waterloo and Oshawa.^[1] Over the past three years, the number of jobs in the goods-producing sector (primarily manufacturing and construction) has increased 5.5%, while the service sector (e.g. trade, transport, health care) grew by 3.9%.^[2]



Building Permits

In 2010, Hamilton had a record year with \$1.1 billion in permits issued. This was an increase from \$692 million in 2009 and \$818 million in 2008. For the first half of 2011, permit activity was \$338 million, due to a 30% decrease for both residential and non-residential construction.^[3] For updated information on Hamilton building permits, visit Hamilton's [Community Wellness Indicators](#).

Real Estate Sales

Last year 6,764 units were sold in Hamilton. This was similar to 2009's total of 6,887, and 2008's total of 6,769 units. These totals are below pre-recession levels: the average number of units sold from 2003 to 2007 was 7,610 per year. The average house price climbed 12% over the last year, and 88% over the last ten years.^[4]

Source of Municipal Tax Revenue

In the City of Hamilton, the non-residential sector's share of the municipal property tax load remained at 23% in 2010 – the same as 2009 and down from 39% in 1994. Revenue for the City of Hamilton comes principally from residential property taxes, non-residential taxes, user fees and transfers from other levels of government. The balance between residential and non-residential property taxes can be used to measure the strength of the commercial and industrial sectors (or non-residential).^[5]

Office Vacancy Rates

The office vacancy rates for buildings over 5,000 square feet in Hamilton dropped to 13.2% in 2010 from 20% in 2008. This measure includes all public and private buildings over 5000 ft sq.^[6] The vacancy rates for non-public office buildings (primarily Class A and B space) in 2010 was 20% – down from the peak vacancies in 2004 of 28%.^[7]

Consumer and Business Bankruptcies

The number of consumer and business bankruptcies in the Hamilton CMA has fallen to the lowest levels in over four years. In the first quarter of 2011, there were 372 consumer and 12 business bankruptcies. These are down from peak levels in the third quarter of 2009, when there were 758 consumer and 41 business bankruptcies.^[8] For updated information on consumer and business bankruptcies, visit: Hamilton's [Community Wellness Indicators](#).

^[1] Statistics Canada, [Labour Force Survey](#).

^[2] Personal communication. Business Development Analyst. City of Hamilton, Planning and Economic Development. Based on special calculations from Statistics Canada.

^[3] City of Hamilton, [Community Wellness Indicators](#).

^[4] Realtor's Association of Hamilton-Burlington.

^[5] Personal communication. City of Hamilton, Finance Department.

^[6] City of Hamilton, Urban Renewal, Economic Development.

^[7] Blanchard, David H, and Apostel, Evan. 2010. Downtown Office Survey, Hamilton, Ontario. Blair, Blanchard, Stapleton Ltd.

^[8] City of Hamilton, [Community Wellness Indicators](#).

Environment

Hamilton's water consumption and waste diversion continued to improve in 2010. The number of poor air quality days is also improving: there was a total of two over the last two years, compared with an annual average of 16 from 2002 to 2007. Greenhouse gas emissions fell slightly, while progress stalled on the number of days public beaches were open.

Water Consumption

Water consumption continued to decline in 2010, falling to 426 cubic metres from 437 cubic metres per account in 2009.^[1] This continues the reduction of over 50% since the early 1990s as reported in *Hamilton's Vital Signs* last year. Residences are the heaviest users of water and have mirrored the overall water consumption decline, dropping almost 40% from 2001 to 2006.^[2] Universal water metering, rate increases, and greater recognition that water is a valuable commodity all played a part.

Waste Diversion

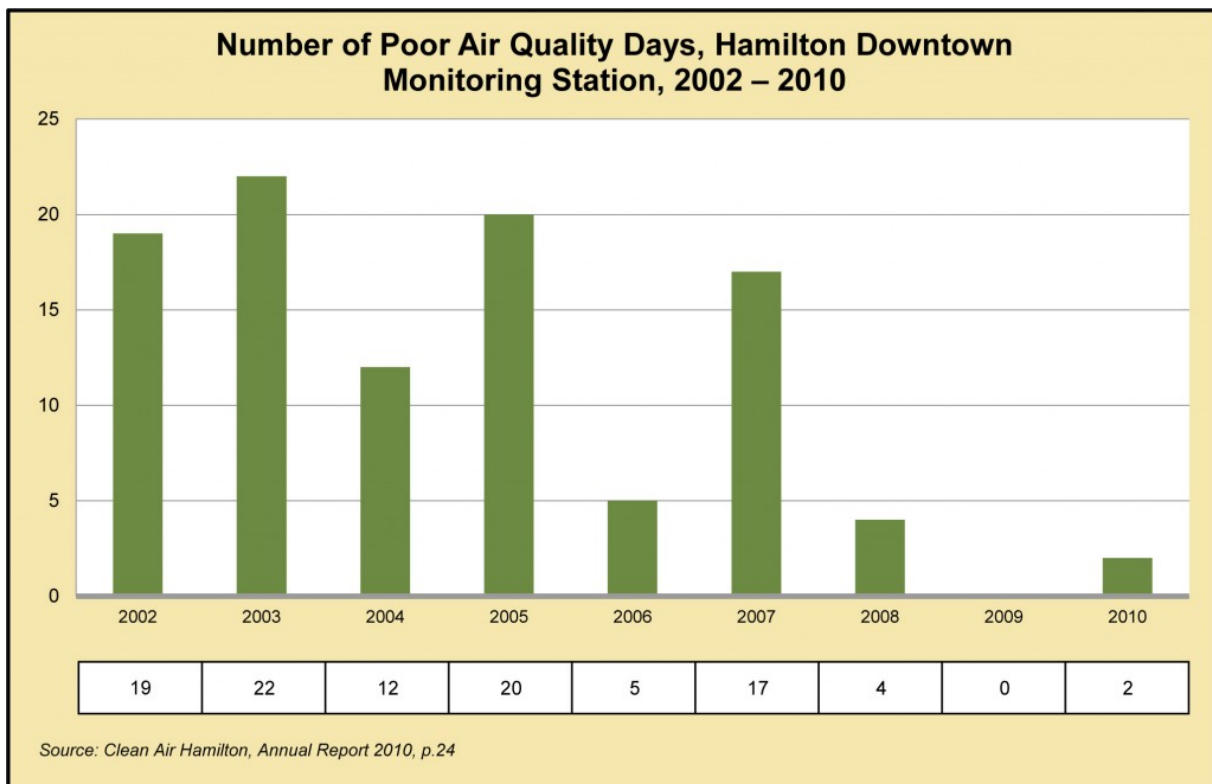
In 2010, Hamiltonians diverted more waste from landfills. The amount diverted rose to 49% last year, similar to the provincial average and up from 47% in 2009 and from 17% in 2000. The amount of waste composted dropped slightly to 23% from 24% in 2009, while the amount recycled remained at 22% compared to a year earlier. The City of Hamilton's overall diversion target is 65%.^[3]

Waste Diversion Rate, City of Hamilton, 2001, 2005-2010							
	2001	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Diversion Rate	17%	30%	40%	42%	44%	47%	49%

Source: City of Hamilton, Public Works, 2010 Annual Report

Poor Air Quality Days

The Ministry of the Environment defines a poor air quality day as one when the Air Quality Index, which measures local pollutants and ground level ozone, remains above 51 for more than one hour. There were two poor air quality days in Hamilton last year, and none in 2009. These low levels represent an improvement from 2002 – 2007 when the city averaged 16 poor air quality days annually.^[4] Much of the progress is due to the idling of coal plants in the US and Canada, and the economic slowdown in manufacturing.



Air Pollution Trends

Local air pollutants, including particulate matter, have decreased by almost 40% over the last decade due to improvements in technology and changes in practice by industry. In its **2010 Annual Report**, Clean Air Hamilton noted reductions at its downtown measuring site of:

- over 40% in Total Suspended Particulate (TSP) levels
- 9% in Inhalable Particulate Matter (PM10)
- 34% in Respirable Particulate Matter (PM2.5)
- 41% in Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)
- 50% in Sulphur Dioxide (SO2)
- 99% in Total Reduced Sulphur odours
- 69% in Benzene
- 55% in PAH (Benzo[a]pyrene)

Ground level ozone, or “smog”, has increased by between 10% and 30% across much of southern Ontario over the last decade, and is primarily due to manufacturing processes in the mid-western United States.^[5]

Some neighbourhoods particularly in northeast Hamilton are not regularly captured in the Air Quality Index data. In these neighbourhoods, Hamilton Air Monitoring Network information shows similar long-term declines in most pollutants as noted above, but also a three-year rise in PAH (Benzo[a]pyrene), and Benzene. Both of these pollutants pose health risks and are by-products of the coking process in the steel industry. Benzene is also present in gasoline, and is present in low levels in all areas where gasoline is pumped. Until three years

ago, levels of Benzene and Benzo[a]pyrene had fallen steadily since the late 1990s because of technical improvements to the coking process.^[6]

Clean Air Hamilton's 2011 Annual Report is expected to include additional information about air quality and pollution in ten of Hamilton's neighbourhoods.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions, the release of carbon dioxide, methane and other gases, decreased to 11.9 million tonnes in 2008 from 12.7 million tonnes in 2006. The industrial sector reduced its emissions by 11% over the timeframe. These reductions were offset by increases in residential emissions (11%), commercial emissions (14%), and transportation emissions (3%). The largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Hamilton are steel and heavy industry (72%), commercial (11%), transportation (8%), and residential (7%). Clean Air Hamilton has set a municipal target of 11.4 million tonnes by 2012.^[7]

Percentage of Days the Hamilton Beaches are Open

The Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan has set a target of 80% for public beaches to be open for swimming. The three Lake Ontario beaches (Beach Boulevard, Van Wagner's, and Confederation Park) have consistently exceeded this target, averaging between 82% and 91%. Pier 4 showed dramatic improvement when bird exclusion measures were adopted in 2005, rising from 14% days open in 2004 to 88% in 2009. In 2010, this fell to 71% days open. Bayfront Park continued to perform poorly; it was open for swimming only 15% of days in 2010.^[8]

Greenspace and Land Use

In 2009, Hamilton had 404 hectares of parkland per 100,000 residents – well below the provincial average of 595 hectares per 100,000 people. The total land area of the city dedicated to parkland was 1.9%, just over half of which was maintained parkland (1.1%), and the balance natural parkland (0.9%). As reported by the Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative, Hamilton's 1.9% was below its provincial comparator cities, whose parkland averaged 5.1% of total land area.^[9]

In terms of natural spaces, Hamilton currently has 23,000 hectares of environmentally significant areas (ESAs) that are targeted to be protected through private land stewardships or agreements with conservation areas. From 1993 to 2006, the number of protected hectares increased to 6,826 from 738.^[10]

When agricultural land is re-zoned through Official Plan Amendments, it represents a permanent loss in the community's ability to produce food locally and sustainably. Vision 2020 reports that from 1993 to 2006, 1,130 hectares of agricultural land were re-zoned. The number of hectares being converted has slowed since the Greenbelt Protection legislation was enacted in 2006-7.^[11]

Brownfields

"Brownfields" are broadly defined as abandoned, idled or underused industrial or commercial properties in built-up urban areas where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination, building deterioration/obsolescence, and/or inadequate infrastructure.^[12]

The City of Hamilton's official inventory of brownfield properties identifies 91 total properties, covering 377 total acres scattered across Hamilton. Properties under this inventory were defined vary narrowly, and were only included in the list if they were abandoned or vacant.^[13] Estimates that include underutilized and contaminated "sites of interest" suggest the total may be as high as 1,386 properties totaling over 7,000 acres.^[14]

The City of Hamilton was the first municipality in Canada to adopt a comprehensive program to promote brownfield redevelopment in 2001.^[15] The City of Hamilton's Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Community Improvement Plan is a comprehensive set of programs designed to encourage and promote brownfield redevelopment. The City is a leader among Ontario cities in terms of re-developing brownfields: from 2001 to 2007, Hamilton received 19 total applications to the ERASE program compared to a provincial average of 4. Over the same time frame, Hamilton had 13 sites remediated and 12 sites re-developed, compared with provincial averages of 4 and 3.^[16]

^[1] City of Hamilton, Public Works. Special Request.

^[2] Environment Canada. [Water use data 1999, 2001, 2004 and 2006](#).

^[3] City of Hamilton, Public Works. [2010 Annual Report – Solid Waste Management Master Plan](#).

^[4] Clean Air Hamilton. [Air Quality Progress Report 2010](#).

^[5] Clean Air Hamilton. [Air Quality Progress Report 2010](#).

^[6] Hamilton Air Monitoring Network. [2010 Annual Air Quality Report](#).

^[7] Clean Air Hamilton. [Air Quality Progress Report 2010](#).

^[8] City of Hamilton, Public Health. Special Request.

^[9] Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative 2009. [Partnering for Service Excellence](#).

^[10] Hamilton Conservation Authority. Hamilton Harbour: How much habitat is enough. Discussion paper, March 2006.

^[11] [Vision 2020 Sustainability Indicators 2008](#).

^[12] City of Hamilton 2007. Planning and Economic Development Department, [Report to Council](#).

^[13] City of Hamilton, 2008. Planning and Economic Development Department. [Focusing Efforts on Employment Lands](#), February 27, 2008.

^[14] Transcription of [Planning and Development Department meeting](#) June 23, 2008. See Globe and Mail Update, Marron, K. November 25, 2008. Brown vs Green equals blue landowner. Available [here](#). Also, Hamilton Community News, September 30, 2010, [City needs to turn to brownfields from greenfields to survive](#).

^[15] Canada Mortgage and Housing, 2004. [Brownfield Redevelopment and Housing, Case Studies](#).

^[16] City of Hamilton, 2008. Planning and Economic Development Department. [Focusing Efforts on Employment Lands](#), February 27, 2008.

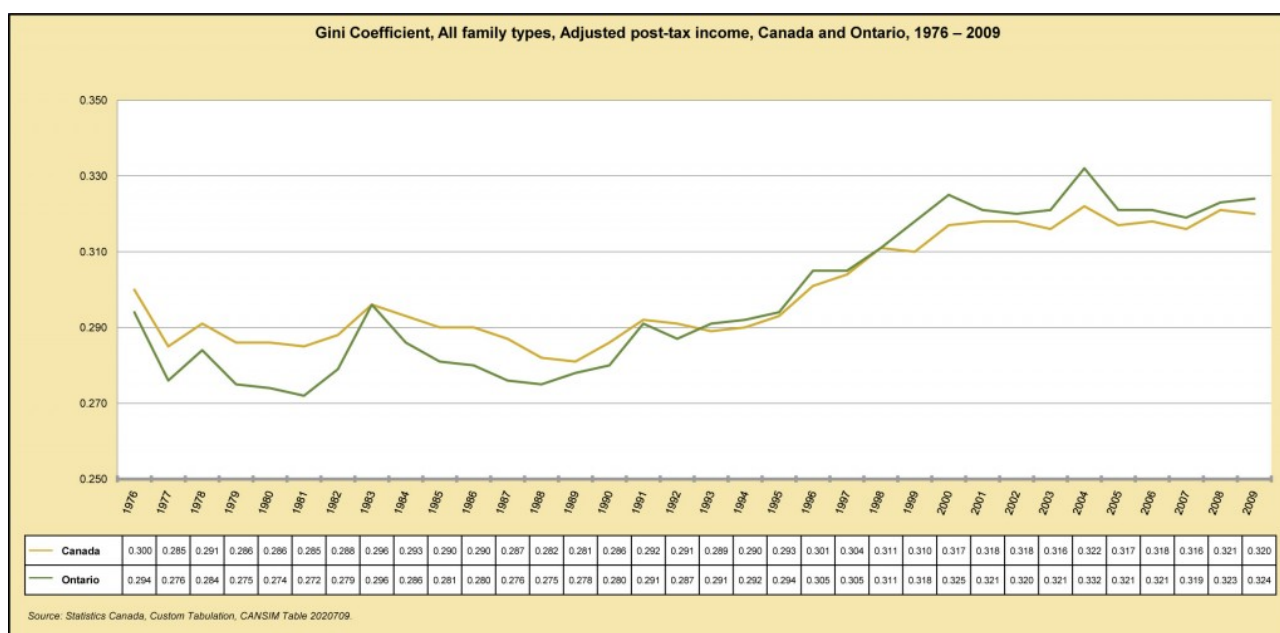
Gap Between Rich and Poor

Over the last decade, income disparity among Hamiltonians is virtually unchanged, but this follows growth in disparity during the late 1990s. Child poverty rates are over 50% in several neighbourhoods. Overall poverty rates did not improve from 2002 to 2008, and remain highly variable by neighbourhood. The city's social assistance caseloads are at a 10-year high, while emergency food bank use continues to be above pre-recession levels.

Income Disparity

The disparity of incomes in Hamilton has changed very little in the last decade. In 2009, the poorest 20% of Hamiltonians had 5% of total income, as it was in 2001. The richest 20% had 41% of the total income in 2009, similar to 2001. National trends are similar, with the richest 20% of Canadians having 44% of the total income in 2009. Overall, the richest 20% have about eight times the income of the poorest 20%.[1]

Another measure of income disparity is the Gini co-efficient. The Gini co-efficient is a number between 0 and 1, with 0 being perfect income equality (everyone has the same amount of income), and 1 being perfect income inequality (one person has all the money). As the Gini value increases, income disparity increases. The following chart displays the historical trends for all households in Canada and Ontario from 1976 – 2009 (Hamilton data is not available). These trends show relatively steady income inequality from 1976 to the early 1990's, growth in inequality from the mid 1990's to the early 2000's, but then relatively steady inequality from the early 2000's to 2009.[2]

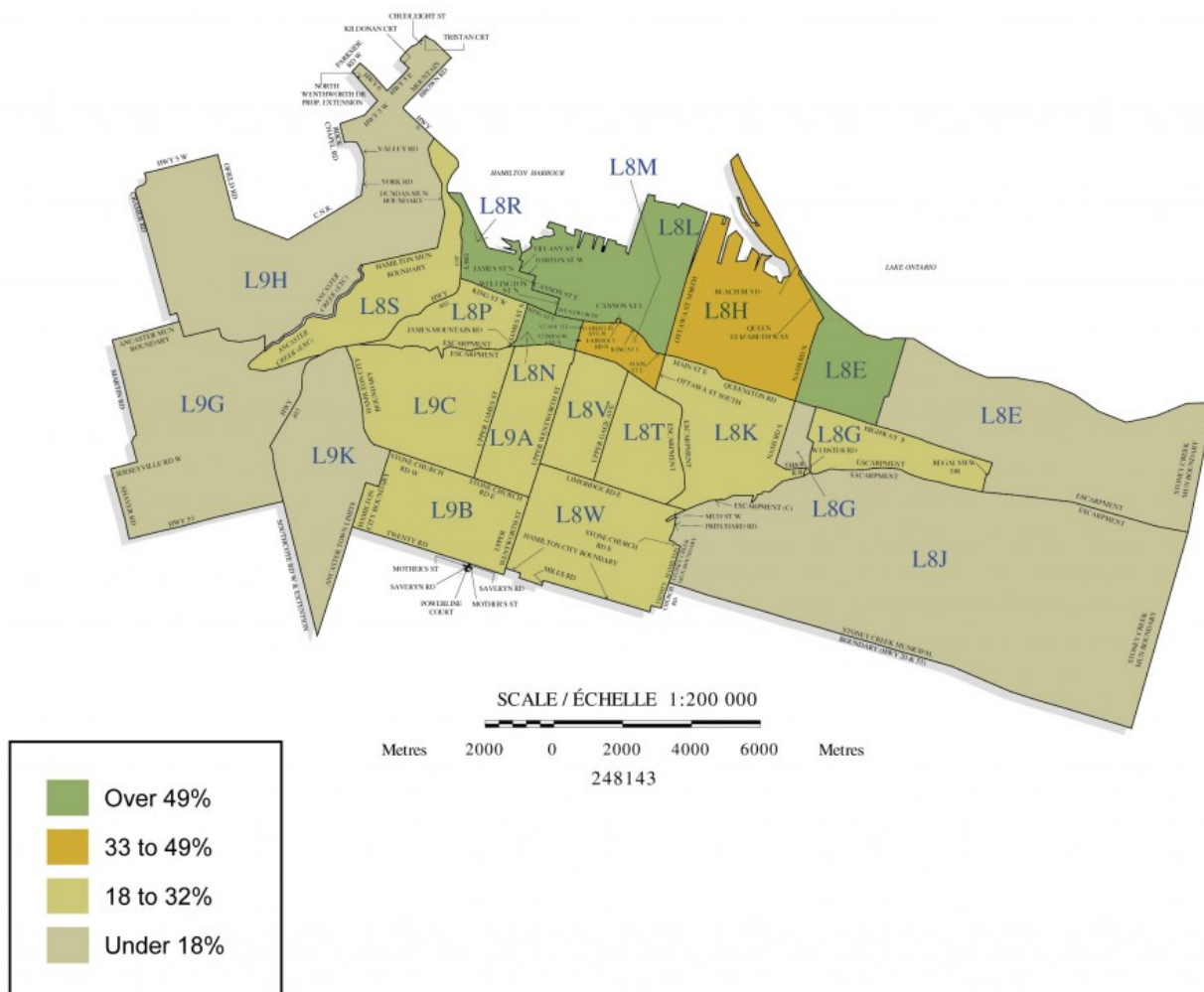


Children Living in Poverty

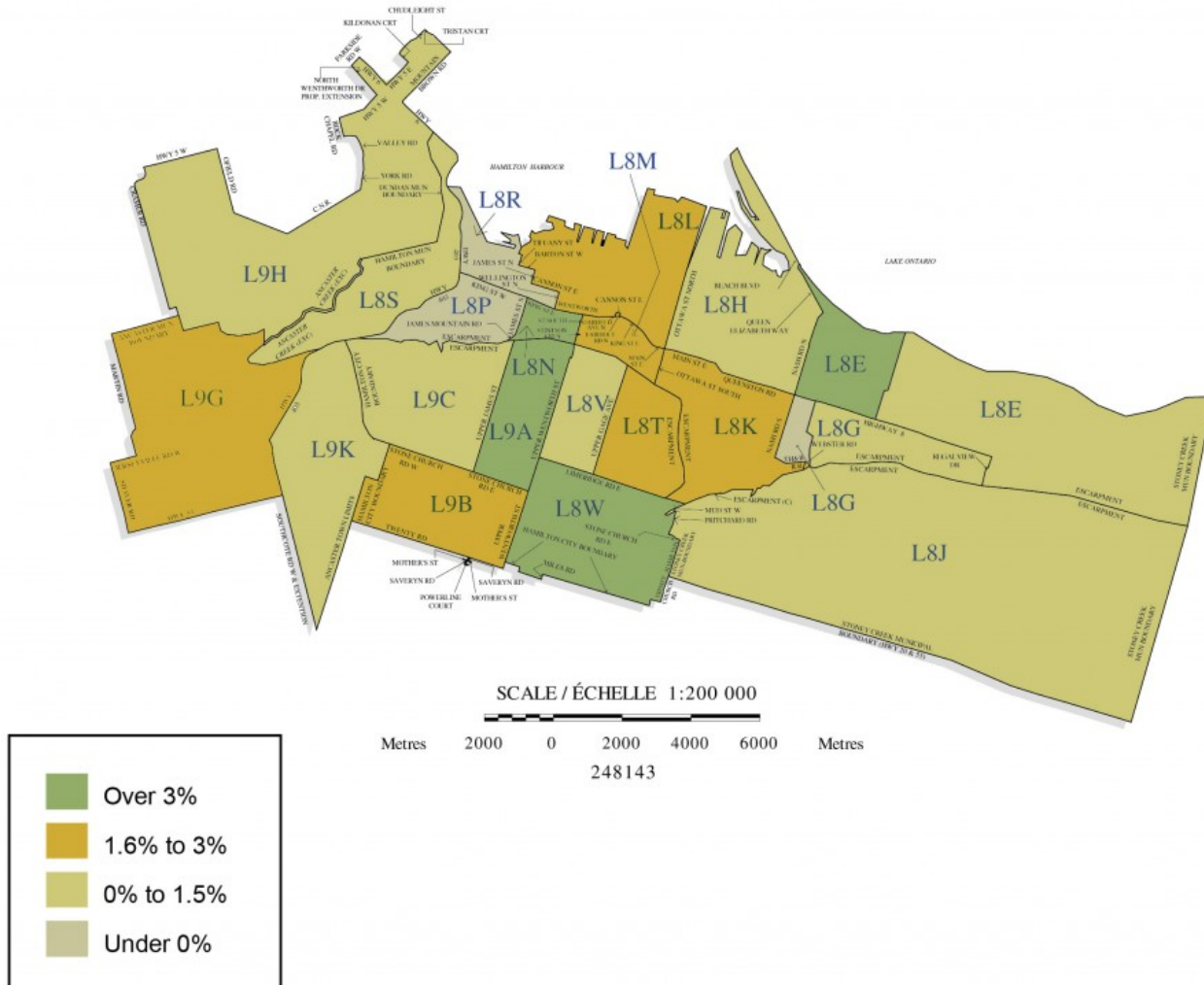
One measure of poverty is the before tax Low Income Measure, which looks at the number of people who are earning below 50% of the median income for households in Hamilton. For a family of four, the before tax LIM is \$42,256, for a single person, it is \$21,128.

In Hamilton in 2009, 26% of children lived in families that were below the Low Income Measure, just up from 25% in 2006, and above the 2009 provincial rate of 24%. Only one neighbourhood in Hamilton had a rate below 10%, while three neighbourhoods had rates of over 50%. Three out of the 22 neighbourhoods showed some improvement between 2006 and 2009: postal code areas L8G, L8P, and L8R.[3]Recent immigrants, lone parent families, and Aboriginal people are more than twice as likely to experience poverty.[4]

Percentage children falling below Low Income Measure by FSA, 2009



Change in percentage children falling below the Low Income Measure by FSA, 2006-2009



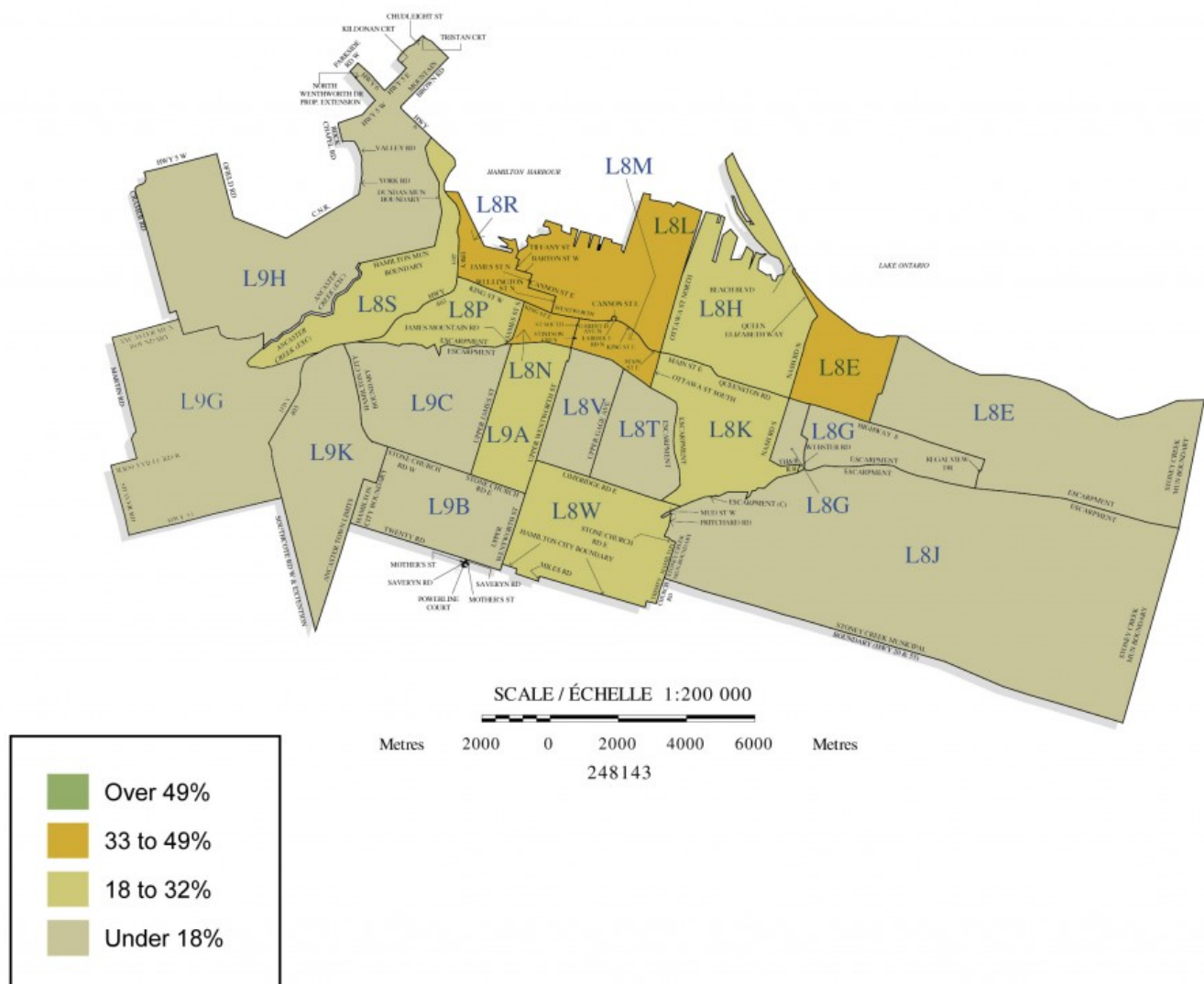
Ontario Works Caseload

The number of people on Ontario Works (Ontario's social assistance program) has climbed by over 40% the last three years. In June 2011 there were 14,110 cases, the highest number since 2000. These cases represent over 30,000 people, 38% of whom are children. The total number of cases has risen from just under 10,000 in early 2008.[5] The prevailing explanation for this increase is that many laid-off workers have exhausted their Employment Insurance benefits and have turned to Ontario Works for emergency support (see the Globe and Mail article: "Ontario seeks Ottawa's help as welfare cases spike").

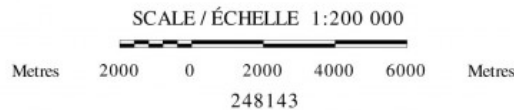
Low Income Measure by Neighbourhood

In 2009, 19% of Hamiltonians were below the Low Income Measure,[6] slightly higher than the rate of 18% in 2006, and similar to the 2009 provincial rate of 19%. The percentage varied widely by neighbourhood: from 6% in one neighbourhood to over 40% in two. Between 2006 and 2009, the percentage of people below the LIM increased in all Hamilton neighbourhoods.

Percentage of all people below the Low Income Measure by FSA, 2009



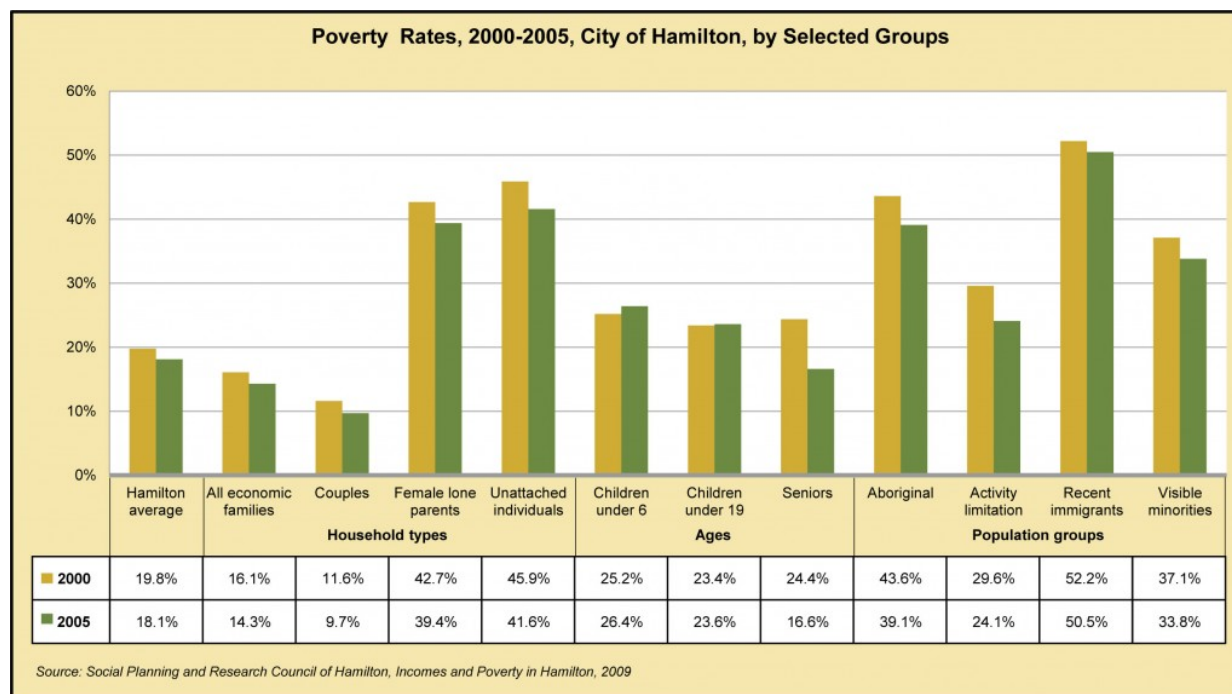
Map of the City of Hamilton showing ward boundaries and names. The map is color-coded: L8M, L8L, L8H, L8E, L8G, L8J, L8V, L8T, L8W, L8N, L8P, L8R, L9H, L9G, L9K, L9C, L9B, L9S, and L9A are in shades of yellow and orange. Other areas are in light green. The map includes numerous street names, ward names, and geographical features like Lake Ontario and the Hamilton Harbour. A scale bar at the bottom indicates 1:200,000.



The total number of people who used a foodbank in March 2013 was 17,069, down slightly from March 2012 when the total was 17,924. These totals are down slightly from the peak recession numbers of over 19,600 in March 2009, but still higher than pre-recession levels of 15,500 in early 2008.[7]

Poverty Rates by Group

Recent immigrants (50.5%), single people (41.6%), Aboriginal people (39.1%), and female lone parents (39.4%) were more than twice as likely to experience poverty as measured by Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-Off. Seniors had the most improved rate from 2001 to 2006, dropping from 24.4% to 16.6% over that time.[8]



[1] Custom Data Request. Statistics Canada. Small Area Administrative Data, Family Database.

[2] Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulation. CANSIM table 202-079.

[3] Custom Data Request. Statistics Canada Small Area Administrative Data, Family Database. Data provided by the Social Planning and Research Council.

[4] Social Planning and Research Council 2009.

[5] City of Hamilton. Community Wellness Indicators.

[6] As stated in the section above, for a family of four, the 2009 before tax LIM is \$42,256, for a single person, it is \$21,128.

[7] Greater Hamilton Foodshare 2013. Hunger Count 2013.

[8] Social Planning and Research Council 2009. *Incomes and Poverty in Hamilton*.

Getting Around

Most Hamilton residents work in Hamilton or Burlington, but a higher percentage of CMA residents commute more than 30 km than in many other Ontario cities. The percentage using public transit for work is growing, as are the number of GO Transit riders, and the kilometres of bike lanes and recreational trails.

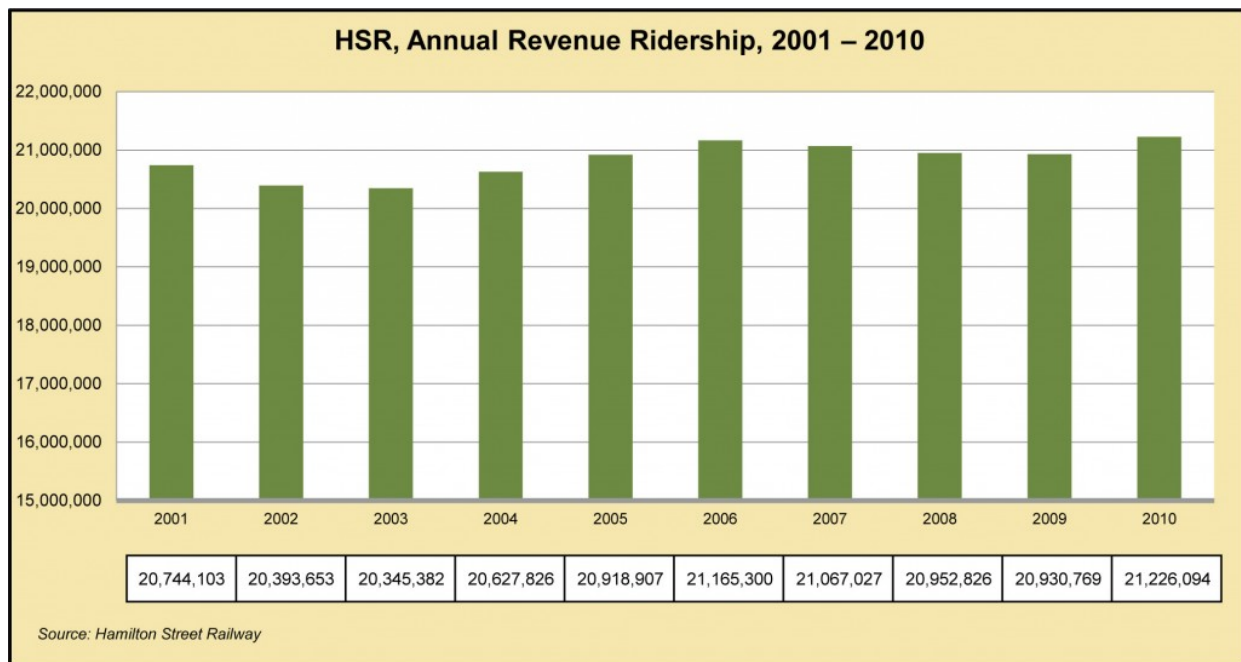
Average Commuting Distance

Some 70% of city of Hamilton residents worked in Hamilton in 2006 (the most recent information available). Another 12% commuted to Burlington.[1] Average commuting distance for people in the larger Hamilton CMA was 8.3 kilometres, similar to provincial and national averages, and virtually unchanged from 2001. Approximately 16% of Hamilton CMA commuters travel over 30 km to work, higher than the Ontario average and cities like London, Windsor, Toronto and Ottawa.[2]

Public Transit Use for Work

The proportion of working-age adults using public transit for work in Hamilton increased to 9.3% in 2006 from 8.4% in 2001; higher than Kitchener-Waterloo, London, and Windsor, but lower than Oakville, Ottawa, and Toronto.

As the following chart shows, HSR use is unchanged over the last decade, and averages just over 20,000,000 paid fares annually.[3]



Overall trends in GO Transit use from the Hamilton downtown station are up 32% from 2004, with significant variation from year to year. GO Transit use from Aldershot increased 166% over that same time frame – which included the addition of all day train service.[4]

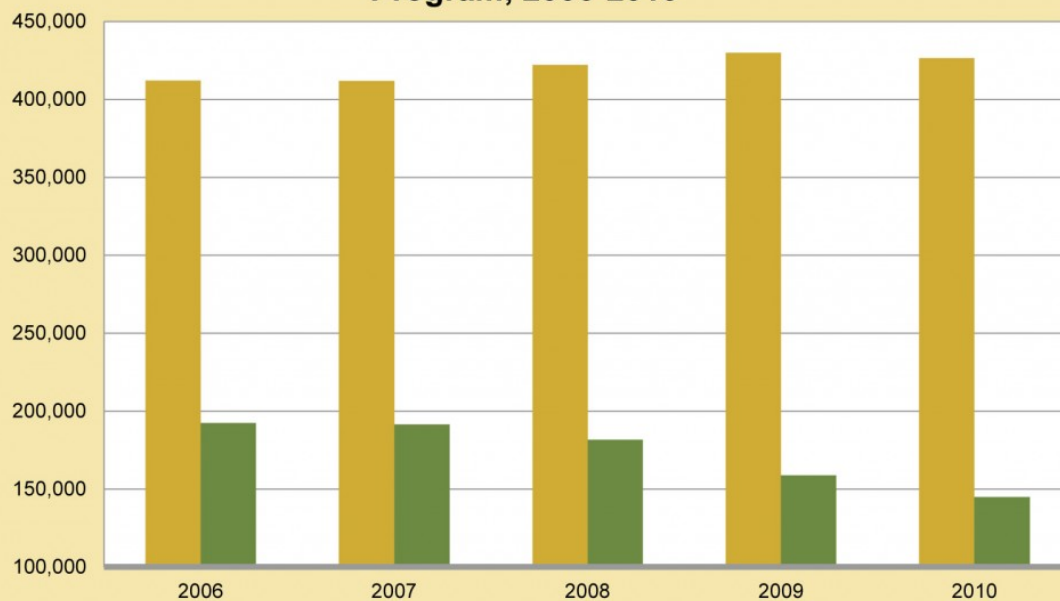
GO Transit. One day snapshot. Total boardings and de-boardings in one day, May of each year.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Hamilton	830	870	1310	1245	930	833	909	1100
Aldershot	990	730	790	874	1455	1784	2100	1949

Source: GO Transit, special request.

DARTS Transit (Disabled and Aged Regional Transportation Service) is available to persons with disabilities in Hamilton who are unable to access regular transit service and who require the assistance of a personal mobility device (wheelchair, scooter, walker). The City's Accessible Transit Services also offers subsidized taxi fares for people who have difficulty using HSR. The following chart shows that the number of annual riders of DARTS has increased by 3%, while the number of taxi scrips provided annually has dropped by 25%:[5]

Accessible Transit Services: DARTS and Taxi Scrip Program, 2006-2010



Darts	411,950	411,775	422,208	429,818	426,444
Taxi Scrip	192,389	191,610	181,796	158,825	145,028

Source: City of Hamilton, Accessible Transit Services.

Hiking and Biking Trails

In 2010, Hamilton had 135 km of major hiking and biking trails, up from 132 km in 2007. This included the 2010 addition of two trail bridges spanning the LINC and the QEW expressways. The Bruce Trail provides approximately another 100 km of hiking trails through the city.[6] Urban streets with bicycle lanes or paved shoulders are up 45% from 100 km three years ago.[7] In 2009, the City of Hamilton approved a new multi-year Cycling Master Plan intended to quadruple designated bike lanes to 566 km.

[1] For a complete list and analysis: Centre for Community Study 2009.

Urban Insights Bulletin: Where Hamilton Works.

[2] Statistics Canada, Table 10. Proportion of the median commuting distance and commuting distance of workers, census metropolitan areas, 2001 and 2006.

[3] City of Hamilton, Transit Services, Special Request.

[4] GO Transit, Statistics Division, Special Request.

[5] City of Hamilton, Accessible Transit Services, Special Request.

[6] City of Hamilton, Traffic Engineering Department, Public Works. Special Request.

[7] City of Hamilton, Putting the Pieces Together, Together!

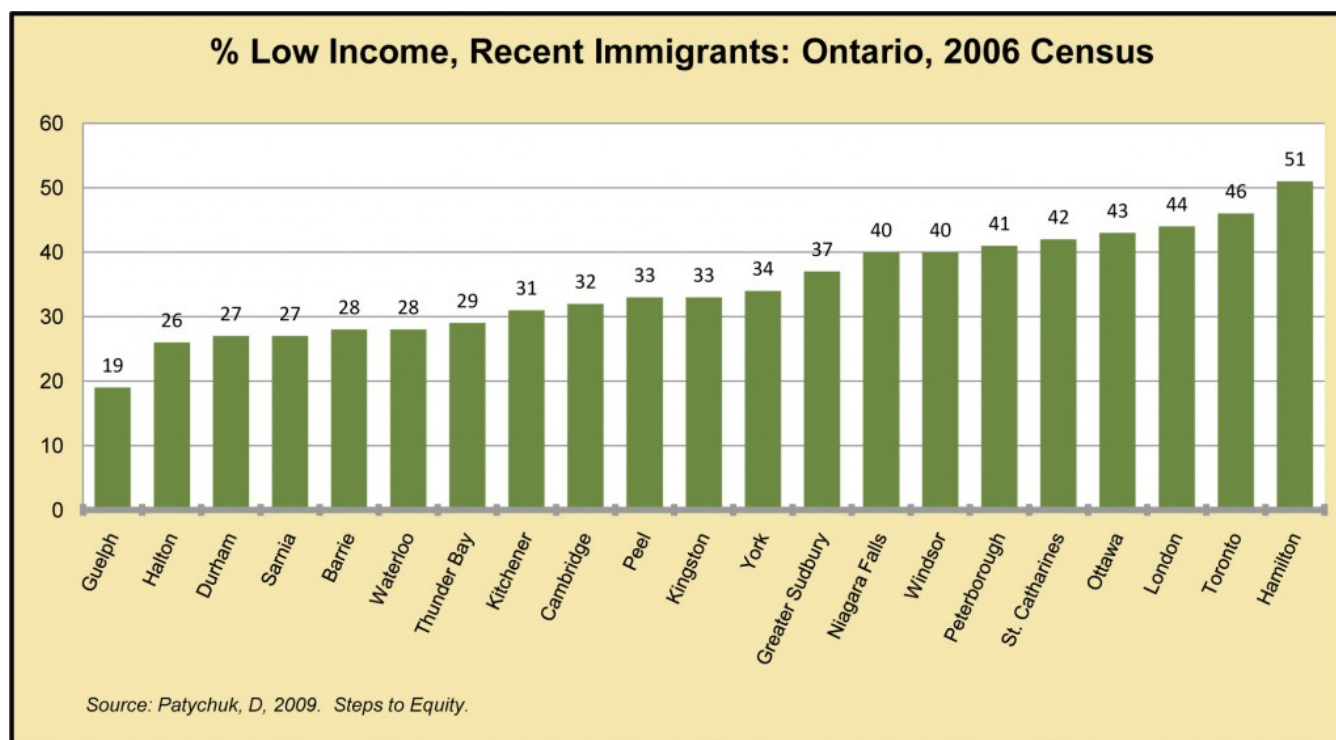
Cycling Committee Presentation to City Council.

Getting Started

Hamilton's recent immigrants have double the unemployment and poverty rates of non-immigrants, despite having more education. Youth unemployment is below the Ontario average and improved since last year, but remains twice the overall rate. The number of people who are moving to Hamilton is increasing as is the number of new business start-ups.

New Permanent Residents

In 2010, 4,003 permanent residents came to Hamilton. Although this represents an increase from last year's 3,778, the overall trend is down from 2005 when 4,613 arrived. Hamilton received a lower proportion of economic class immigrants (40% of all immigrants) than provincial (51%) and national (61%) averages.^[1] Thirty-eight percent of newcomers arriving in Hamilton of working age have at least one university degree, more than twice the rate for Canadian-born residents, but also have unemployment rates double that of non-immigrants.^[2] As the chart below illustrates, recent immigrants in Hamilton have a poverty rate of over 50% – higher than any other Ontario city.



Youth Unemployment

The seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate for youth in the Hamilton CMA during the first half of 2011 was 13.4%. This rate is lower than the provincial average (16.1%) and national average (14.4%). The average for the first half of 2011 is below the 2010 average of 14.6%.^[3] The unemployment rate for Hamilton CMA youth is still more than double that of the general population.

New Business Startups

According to Hamilton's Small Business Enterprise Centre, 580 small businesses were started in 2009. Based on the first quarter of 2011, some 800 will be launched this year.^[4] There were 12 business bankruptcies reported in the first quarter of 2011 for the Hamilton CMA – the lowest quarterly total since 2006.^[5] The number of business bankruptcies is down 37% from the same time last year. For current information on bankruptcies, visit the City of Hamilton's [Community Wellness Indicators](#).

Migration Rates

More people are getting started in Hamilton. In 2008 and 2009, Hamilton experienced a net gain of 1,811 people – an average of just over 900 people annually. This was higher than the average gain of 770 annually from 2002-2007. People migrating to Hamilton tend to be younger: 92% were under the age of 45, and only 2% were over 65 years old.^[6]

Number of Students in School with Neither Official Language as Their First Language

There are a number of students in Hamilton schools with neither official language as their first language. The Hamilton-Wentworth Public School Board reports that, of the 46,359 students enrolled this year, 5,184 (or 11%) do not identify English or French as their first language.^[7]

^[1] Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures 2009: Immigration Overview – Permanent and Temporary Residents. Data provided by Wayland Consulting.

^[2] Hamilton Community Foundation 2008. Diversity Scan.

^[3] Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. Special request. Data provided by Community Foundations of Canada.

^[4] City of Hamilton, Planning and Economic Development Department, Special Request.

^[5] City of Hamilton, [Community Wellness Indicators](#).

^[6] Hamilton Training Advisory Board, Special Request.

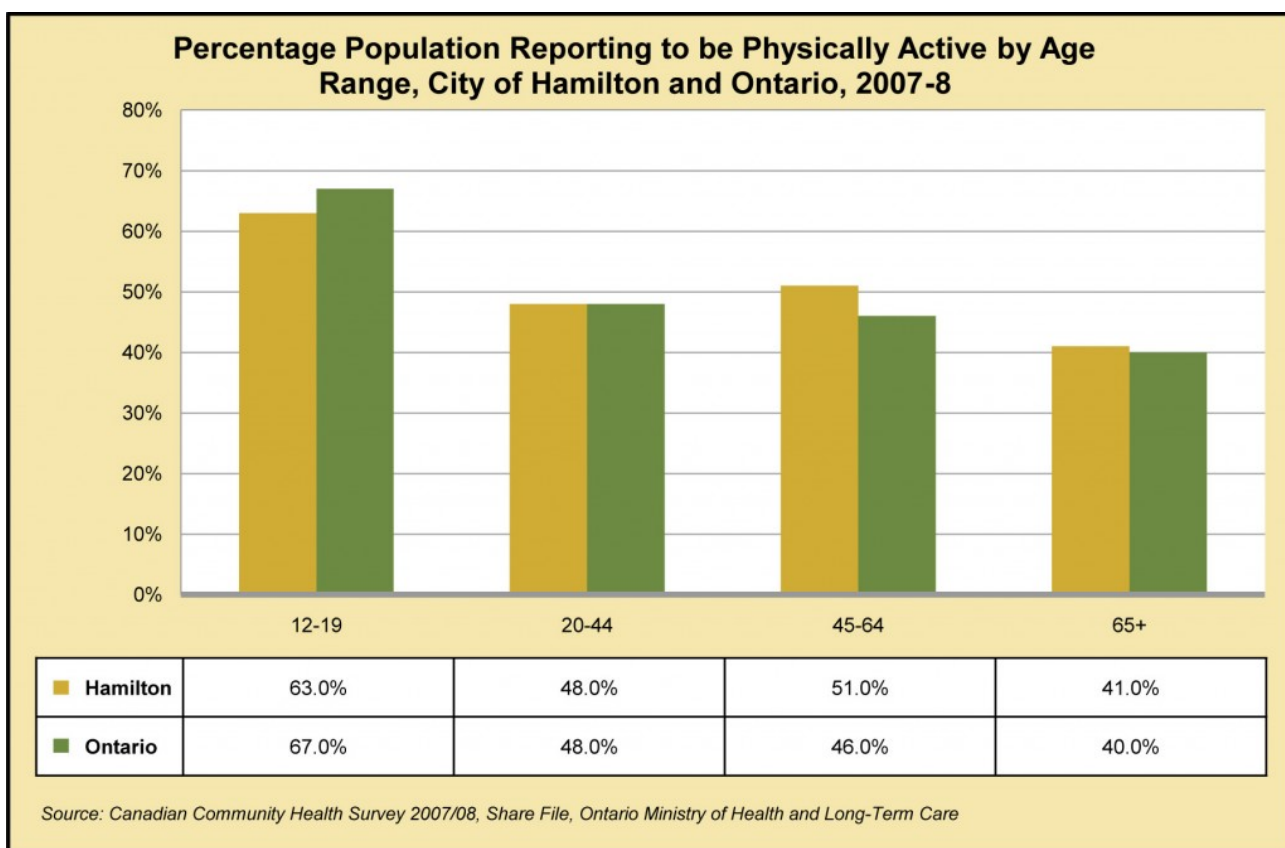
^[7] Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, Special Request.

Health and Well-Being

Hamilton is similar to Ontario in physical activity, chronic disease rates, and life expectancy, but we're above the provincial average in obesity and the rate of teen pregnancy. Obesity and teen pregnancy, have increased since 2001. Life expectancy, babies born with low birthweight, and teen pregnancy show rates of variation between neighbourhoods.

Physical Activity

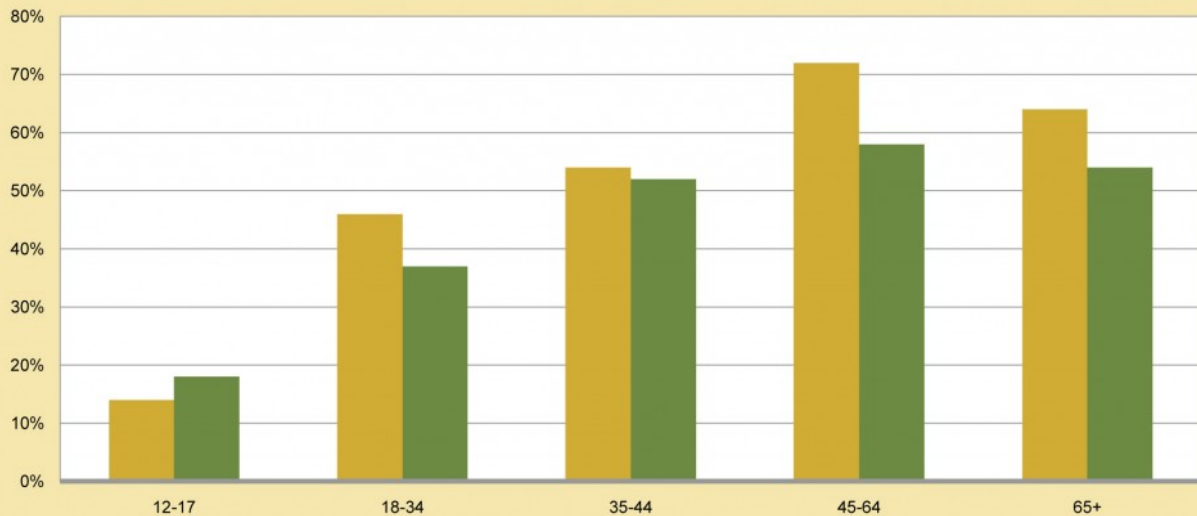
In 2009-10, just over half of Hamiltonians reported being active (enough to improve cardiovascular health), or somewhat active (enough to have some health benefit) – similar to provincial and national averages. In 2007-8, the percentage of Hamilton women (45%) reporting they are physically active was lower than for men (55%, and younger people are more active than older people.^[1] This is similar to Ontario residents overall. The following chart shows the percentage of population, aged 12 and over, who reported being physically active:



Obesity

In 2009-10, the percentage of Hamiltonians who are overweight or obese is 60% – higher than the provincial and national average of 52%. The rate is higher for Hamilton men (69%) than for Hamilton women (51%), but both are higher than provincial averages for their gender.^[2] The following chart looks at overweight and obesity by age range for 2007-8. It shows that 45-64 year olds have the highest rates of obesity, while 12-17 year olds have the lowest.

Percentage of population, 12 years +, who are overweight or obese by age range, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2007/08.



Source: Canadian Community Health Survey 2007/08, Share File, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Chronic Disease Rates

Chronic diseases are the leading cause of poor quality of life, illness, disability and death. In 2007-8, Hamiltonians reported rates of diabetes (5.5%), heart disease (5.7%), and cancer (2.5%) similar to the provincial averages. However, between 2001 and 2008, the rate of people reporting diabetes increased significantly for Ontario, but not for Hamiltonians.^[3] For more information on how Hamiltonians fare, see the City of Hamilton's [Social and Health Issues Report](#).

Low Birthweight

Low birthweight describes babies born weighing between 500 grams and 2,500 grams (5 lbs, 8 oz), which puts them at risk for health and other special needs. Hamilton's 6.4% low birthweight rate in 2009 was similar to the 6.5% provincial rate. The overall low birthweight rate has been relatively stable over the past decade.^[4] However, as last year's Vital Signs reported, the rate between neighbourhoods ranged from 4.8% to 9.0% between 2004 and 2008.

Teen Pregnancy Rates

In 2008, 4.7% of all Hamilton pregnancies were among teens aged 15 to 19. This was higher than the Ontario average of 3.6%^[5] for this age group.

Additionally, teen pregnancy varies by geographic location – between 2006 and 2009, the rate ranged from a low of 1.1% in some areas of the city to 11.9% in other areas.^[6]

Life Expectancy at Birth

The life expectancy at birth for Hamiltonians in 2005 was 80.8 years – similar to the provincial and national average of 80.7 years. Life expectancy has increased since 1997 when it was 78.3 years. Similar to national trends, women live longer than men: 83 years compared to 78.5 years.^[7] The Hamilton Spectator series Code Red found a 21-year difference between the poorest and richest neighbourhoods in Hamilton. For more about Code Red, visit the Spectator's website: www.thespec.com/topic/codered.

Self-rated General and Mental Health

In 2009-10, just under 62% of Hamiltonians, aged 12 years or over, reported that their general health was very good or excellent, similar to the provincial average.^[8] Additionally, 75% of Hamiltonians rated their mental health very good or excellent, similar to provincial and national averages. For more detailed information on how Hamilton compared with other cities, visit the [Health Profiles](#) page from Statistics Canada.

^[1] Statistics Canada, June 2011. [Health Profile](#).

^[2] Statistics Canada, June 2011. [Health Profile](#).

^[3] Canadian Community Health Survey 2007/08, Share File, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Prepared by the Applied Research and Evaluation Team, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton, August 2011.

^[4] Inpatient discharge main table records, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, IntelliHEALTH ONTARIO, August 2011. Prepared by the Applied Research and Evaluation Team, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton.

^[5] Prepared by the Applied Research and Evaluation Team, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton, August 2011.

^[6] Prepared by the Applied Research and Evaluation Team, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton, August 2011.

^[7] Statistics Canada, June 2011. [Health Profile](#).

^[8] Statistics Canada, June 2011. [Health Profile](#).

Housing

Hamilton's average house prices continued a decade-long climb, jumping 12% in 2010, while the city's rental housing is among the most affordable in the province with a level of vacancies above the healthy range. After improving in 2006-07, the number of people without housing and staying in emergency shelters has levelled out, while the number of people in utility arrears and waiting for social housing has climbed over the last three years.

Shelter is a basic human right and accommodation for all needs to be available and affordable.

Homeowner Affordability

In 2010, Hamilton's average house price increased 12% to \$273,653 from \$244,230 one year earlier. Hamilton's house prices have risen 88% over the last decade; in 2000, the home was \$145,192.^[1] Hamilton remains more affordable than both provincial and national averages: Hamiltonians spend 3.5 times their annual income on a house, while provincial and national averages are over four times the annual income.^[2]

Real Estate Sales, City of Hamilton, 2000 – 2010

Year	Units	Volume	Average Price
2000	6126	\$889,446,918	\$145,192
2001	6741	\$1,028,564,087	\$152,583
2002	7465	\$1,213,831,628	\$162,603
2003	7566	\$1,321,490,789	\$174,662
2004	7631	\$1,449,359,289	\$189,930
2005	7714	\$1,596,459,943	\$206,956
2006	7403	\$1,596,229,510	\$215,619
2007	7736	\$1,775,061,238	\$229,455
2008	6769	\$1,600,468,504	\$236,441
2009	6887	\$1,682,008,863	\$244,230
2010	6764	\$1,850,987,049	\$273,653

Source: Realtor's Association of Hamilton-Burlington. Data provided by the Social Planning and Research Council

Renter Affordability

Last year, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Hamilton rose to \$783 from \$767 in 2009. Provincially, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$980. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Affordability Index shows that Hamilton continues to be one of the most affordable cities in Ontario to rent an apartment.^[3]

The vacancy rate for Hamilton continues to be above the healthy range of 2 to 3%. In the fall 2010, the vacancy rate for the Hamilton CMA was 3.7%, down from 4.0% one year earlier. The vacancy rate is projected to fall to 3.5% this year. The vacancy rates for the former city of Hamilton is higher at 4.5%.^[4]

Emergency Shelter Usage

There were 3,680 people using emergency shelters in 2010, similar to the previous two years. The number of people who stayed in emergency shelters for more than 200 days of the year was 42; in 2009, it was 39. The occupancy rates for men's shelters climbed from 70% to 85% due to the closure of one of the emergency shelters. The occupancy for women's shelters for 2008-9 was close to 98%.^[5]

Housing Starts

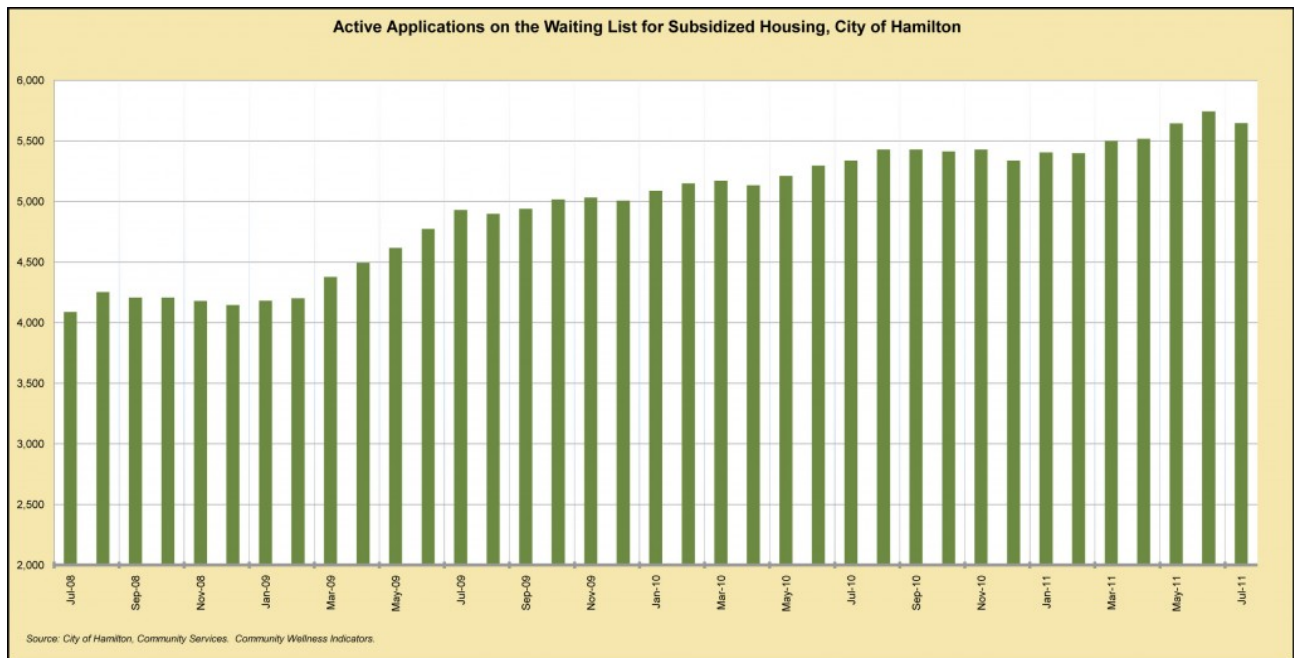
2010 was Hamilton's strongest post-recession year with 2,282 units started. This was more than double the 1,053 units started in 2009. Year-to-date housing starts are down sharply for 2011: January to April 2011 starts are 400, compared with 866 for the corresponding period last year.^[6] For updated information on housing starts, visit [Hamilton's Community Wellness Indicators](#).

Utility Arrears

The number of accounts more than 90 days in arrears with Horizon Utilities has increased 47% in the last three years. In 2011, 2,577 accounts are behind compared with 1,748 in 2008. This number has increased more than 10% each year since 2008.^[7]

Social Housing Waiting List

The number of people on the waiting list for social housing is at its highest point since 2002. In June 2011 there were 5,743 households on the list – an increase of 11% from 2010. The lowest number in the last decade occurred in 2007 when 3,663 people were waiting.^[8] The average wait varies by area of the city and type of housing requested. For single family homes and one-bedroom apartments, the wait can be over five years. For bachelor units downtown, the wait can be much shorter.



Population Density

Hamilton has a density of 451.6 people per square kilometre. Population density varies greatly by area of the city: in 2001, the former city of Hamilton had a density of 2,692 people per square kilometre, while Flamborough had a density of 77 people. Several neighbourhoods in Hamilton: Riverdale, Durand, Corktown, and Landsdale have population densities over 7,000 per sq. km.^[9]

^[1] Realtor's Association of Hamilton Burlington.

Data provided by the Social Planning and Research Council.

^[2] Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation based on data from CREA Average residential prices Average residential price found through [CMHC](#), [Canadian Housing Observer](#). Median household income data obtained from Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 202-0202. Based on tax data.

Source for CPI: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 326-0002 , series v737344.

Data for CAs: Median Census family income through Statistics Canada special request. Average residential prices for CAs obtained from CREA through a special request. Provided by Community Foundations of Canada.

^[3] Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. [Rental Market Report 2010. Hamilton and Brantford](#).

^[4] Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

[Rental Market Report 2010. Hamilton and Brantford](#).

^[5] City of Hamilton, Community Services.

[On Any Given Night, Homelessness in Hamilton, 2010](#).

^[6] City of Hamilton, [Community Wellness Indicators](#).

^[7] Personal communication, Horizon Utilities Corporation.

^[8] City of Hamilton, [Community Wellness Indicators](#).

^[9] Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton 2011.

[Hamilton's Social Landscape](#), p.6.

Learning

Hamilton's high-school completion and post-secondary education rates are improving, but continue to be below provincial averages. School readiness is slightly below provincial average and standardized test performance varies widely by school. Measures of life-long learning show Hamilton to be better than provincial and national average.

Completed Post-Secondary Education

In 2010, in the Hamilton CMA, 51.1% of people aged 15 or over had completed post-secondary education compared with 52.7% provincially and 51.8% nationally. The percentage is increasing though – in 2000 the percentage was 43.4%.[1] Hamilton is above the Ontario average in the completion of apprenticeship or trades certificates, and Mohawk College is the largest trainer of apprentices in Ontario.[2]

See the Hamilton Spectator's Code Red report for a map of post-secondary completion by neighbourhood.

High School Non-Completion Rates

In 2010 in the Hamilton CMA, 19.9% of people aged 15+ had not completed high school, slightly above the provincial average of 18.7%. Hamilton's non-completion rates are showing improvement over time though – in 2000, 27.0% of people did not have a high school diploma.[3] This rate varies widely across the city: as last year's Vital Signs reported, the proportion of 20-24 year olds who do not have a diploma and are not in school varies from 0% in 23 census tracts to over 65% in four census tracts.[4]

Standardized Student Test Scores

Students in Hamilton are tested in Grade 3, Grade 6, and Grade 9 by the "EQAO" which measures student performance against provincial standards. The HWCDSB consistently achieves higher than provincial averages in reading and writing. Though improving, the HWDSB is usually just under the provincial average. In 2010-11, both school boards came in slightly below the provincial standard in for Grade 3 and 6 math, and Grade 9 applied math.[5] (The HWCDSB exceeded the provincial standard for grade 9 academic math). In most areas measured, girls outperform boys and there is a wide variation by school. In both boards there are schools that exceed the provincial average, and schools that are below. To view results by board or by individual school: visit www.eqao.com.

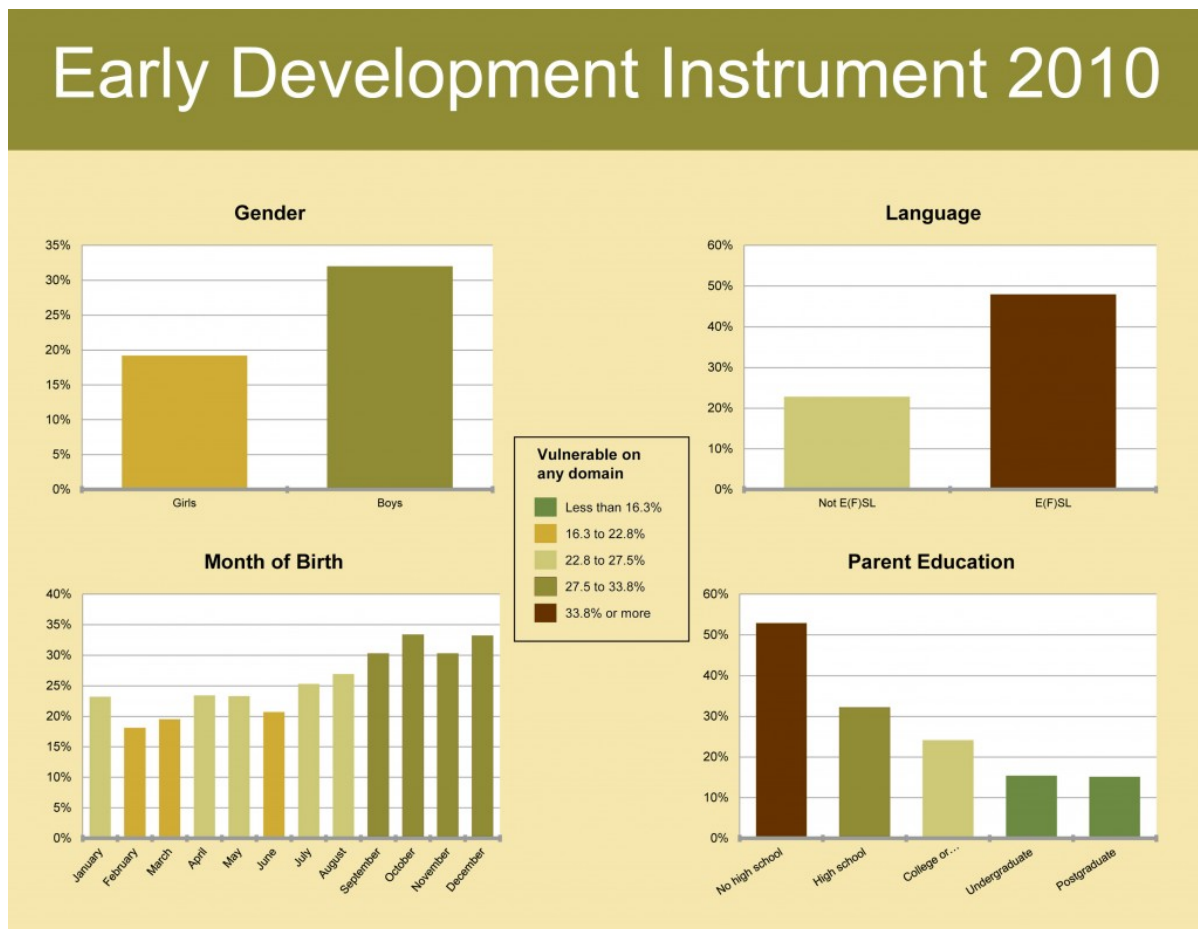
Early Development Instrument

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) assesses readiness for school among senior kindergarten students across five areas:

- Physical health and well-being
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive development
- Communication skills and general knowledge.

Hamilton results for 2010 showed 26.2% of children vulnerable in at least one of the five areas – similar to the national average but slightly worse than the 25.0% provincial average. These results vary by neighbourhood: in some lower city neighbourhoods, over 50% of children are vulnerable in at least one category. In other neighbourhoods with the lowest rates of vulnerable children, approximately 10% are vulnerable in one or more categories.[6]

The following chart shows additional factors that contribute to children’s vulnerability: the two strongest contributors are if a child has English as a second language, and if his or her parents did not complete high school. Additional findings are that boys are more vulnerable than girls, and children born September through December (and thus are younger than their classmates) are more vulnerable than those born at other times during the year.[7]



Canadian Composite Learning Index

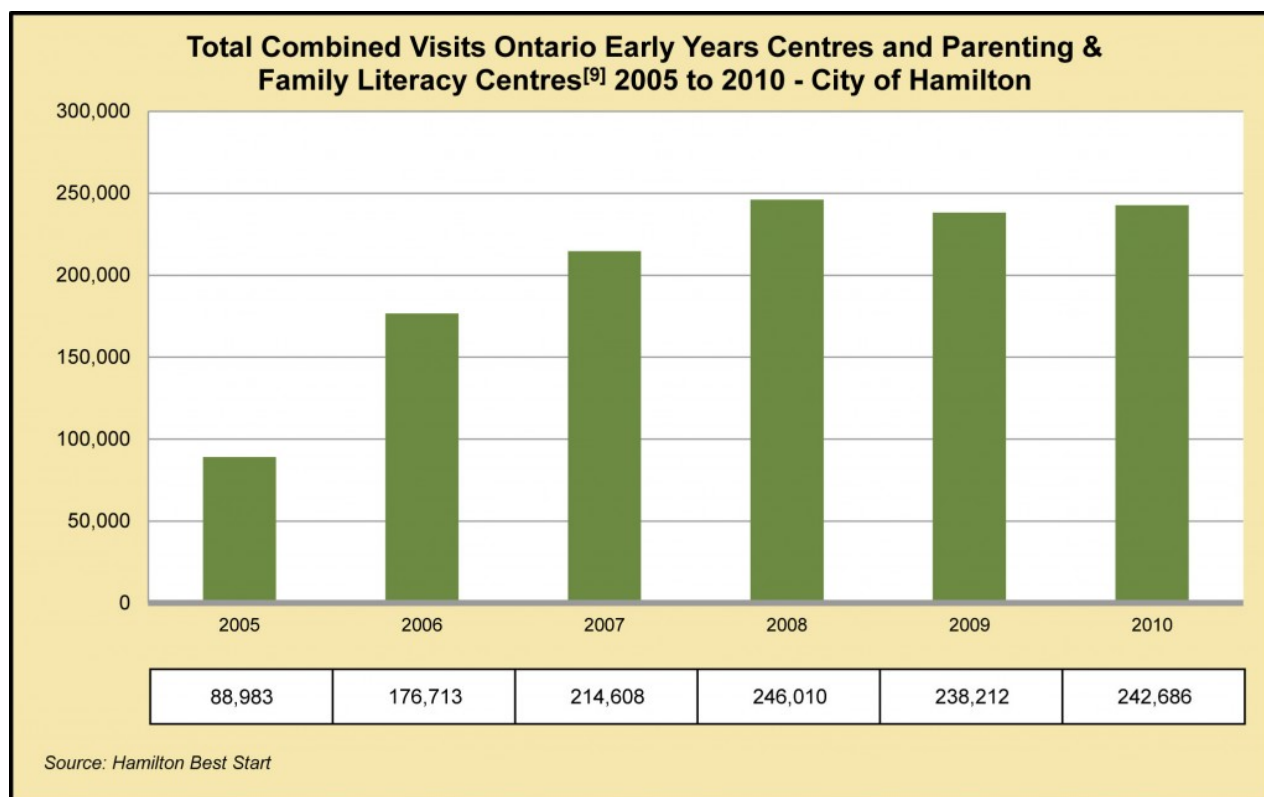
The Canadian Composite Learning Index is based on a combination of statistical indicators that reflect the many ways Canadians learn, whether in school, in the home, at work or within the community. It is one of the only measures of lifelong learning available in Canada and is produced annually by the Canadian Council for Learning. The Index is available for over 4,500 towns and cities across Canada.

In 2010, the Composite Learning Index for Hamilton was 81: higher than the provincial (79) and national averages (75), and an improvement over last year’s score of 77. Over the last five years, Hamilton’s score has been between 77 and 81.[8]

For more information and details on the Composite Learning Index, visit the Canadian Council for Learning’s site.

Attendance at Ontario Early Years Centres and Parent and Family Literacy Centres

In 2010, there were over 242,000 visits to Ontario Early Years Centres and Parenting and Family Literacy Centres. Over the last six years (as the chart below illustrates), annual visits increased by 176% from 2005 to 2008 and have since leveled off and remained stable.



[1] Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey by special request, program A050924. Data provided by the Community Foundations of Canada.

[2] Mohawk College, Dean, Faculty of Skilled Trades and Apprentices. Personal Communication.

[3] Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey by special request, program A050705. Data provided by the Community Foundations of Canada.

[4] Hamilton Community Foundation 2010. Hamilton's Vital Signs.

[5] Education Quality and Accountability Office 2011. Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board & Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.

[6] City of Hamilton, Social Development and Early Childhood Division. Special Request.

[7] City of Hamilton, Social Development and Early Childhood Division. Special Request.

[8] City of Hamilton. Early Years Research Team and the Best Start Network. Special Request.

[9] Parenting and Family Literacy Centres located within schools of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.

NB1 Hamilton Ontario Early Years Centres included: Hamilton West, Hamilton East, Hamilton Mountain, Stoney Creek, Ancaster/Dundas/Flamborough, Niwasa.

NB2 Visits – includes all daily attendance of individuals, which may include multiple visits by the same person to one site, or different sites across different times.

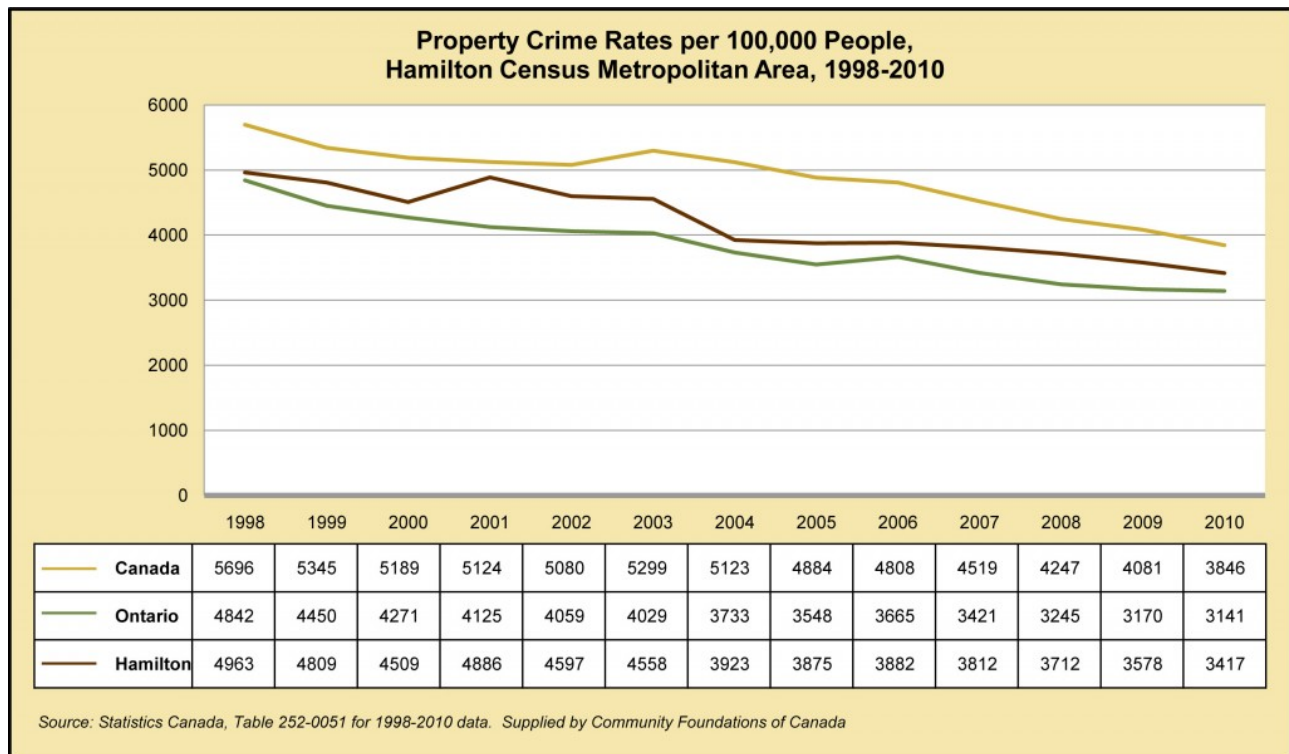
NB3 Parenting and Family Literacy Centres data are limited to school years: 2007-2008 (2007), 2008-2009 (2008), 2009-2010 (2009), and 2010-2011 (2010).

Safety

Hamilton's property crime rates continued a decade-long decline while violent crime rates showed a slight increase after a long decline. The number of domestic violence occurrences reported to police has increased, as has the number of police reported hate crimes. Child welfare cases have dropped slightly, while road and pedestrian safety stayed the same.

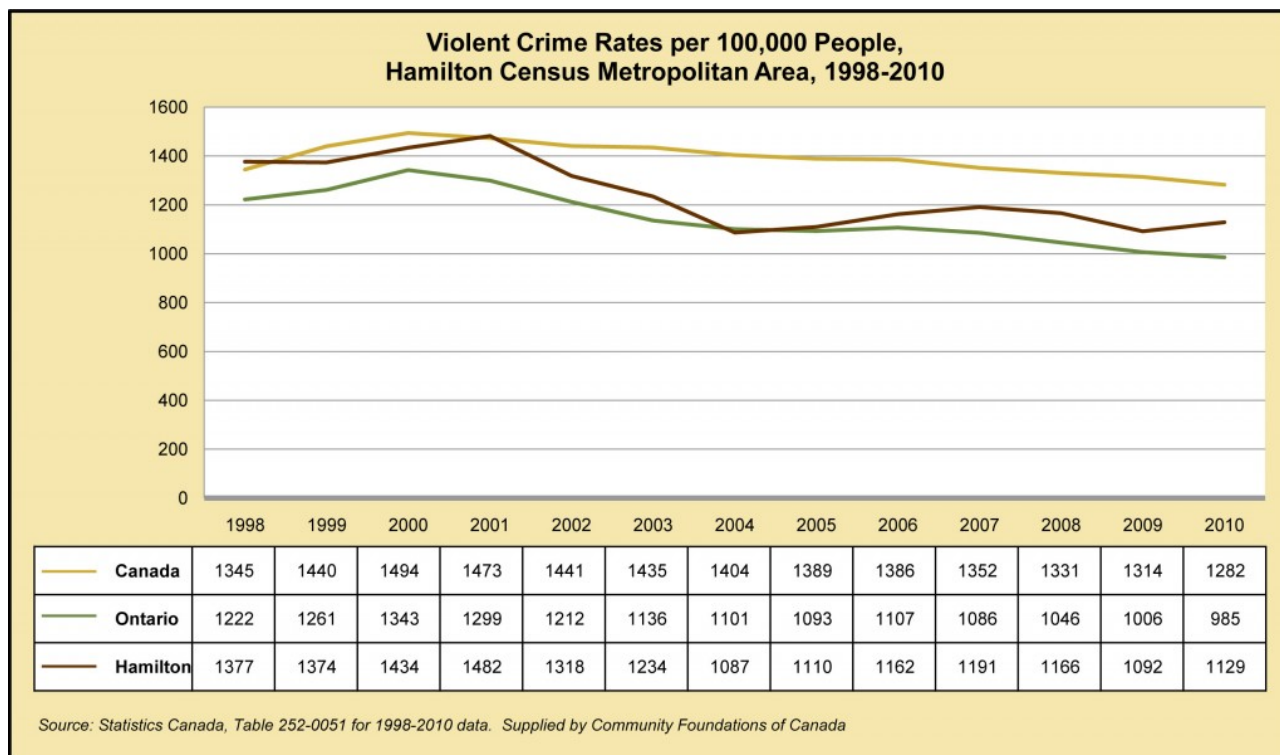
Property Crime Rate

Last year, property crimes rates fell by 5.0% in the Hamilton CMA to 3,417 per 100,000 people. The provincial decline was 6.4%; national decline was 7.4%. Since 1998, Hamilton's property crime rate has declined 31.1%. The rate is lower than the national average, but higher than the provincial average.^[1]



Violent Crime Rate

Violent crime rates increased by 3.3% from last year to 1,129 violent crimes per 100,000 people in the Hamilton CMA. Provincial and national violent crime rates decreased over this time by over 2.0%. In spite of Hamilton's 2010 increase, the violent crime rate has decreased by 18% since 1998. Similar to the property crime rate, Hamilton's violent crime rate is lower than the national average, but higher than Ontario's average.^[2]



Police Reported Domestic Violence

The number of domestic violence occurrences reported to police increased by more than 70% in 2010 to 3,798 from 2,189 in 2007. The number of charges laid increased by 24% to 973 from 782 for the same years.^[3]

Police Reported Hate Crimes

In 2010, there were 34 police-reported hate/biased motivated crimes in Hamilton, an increase of 48% from 2009 when there were 23, and similar to the levels of 2007 and 2008, when 31 and 33 hate crimes were reported.^[4]

National statistics indicate that 54% of all hate crimes are based on race or ethnicity – crimes against African-Canadians are most common. Hate crimes based on religion account for 29%; anti-Semitic crimes are by far the most common. Hate crimes on the basis of sexual orientation have doubled in the last several years, and account for 13% of hate crimes. Hate crimes typically involve males, particularly as accused persons. In 2009, 92% of those accused and 73% of victims of hate crimes were male.^[5]

Child Welfare Caseloads

For both the Hamilton Children's Aid Society and the Hamilton Catholic Children's Aid Society, the number of children in care has decreased over the last four years. For the Children's Aid Society in 2010-11, 634 children and youth in care were served, down from 677 four years ago. For the Catholic Children's Aid Society in 2010-11, 466 children and youth in care received services, down from 512 four years ago. For both agencies, the number of families receiving services rose by approximately 2% over this same time: in 2010-2011, the CAS served 1,232 families and the CCAS served 719 families.^[6]

Road and Pedestrian Safety

In 2009, there were 3,335 motor vehicle collisions in Hamilton, similar to the total in both 2007 and 2008. There were 2,345 people injured in these collisions in 2009, compared to 2,347 and 2,457 in 2008 and 2007 respectively. The number of fatalities was 16 in 2009, up from 14 in 2008, but down from 2007 when there were 27.^[7]

The number of collisions causing injury to pedestrians has dropped steadily over the past 20 years to 207 in 2009 from 403 in 1989. The number of pedestrians fatally injured was 2 in 2009 – the lowest in 20 years.

The number of collisions involving cyclists dropped to 119 in 2009 after remaining steady over the past 20 years, at an annual average of 155 collisions resulting in injuries. In 2009 there were 2 cyclist fatalities. Since 1989, there have been a total of 32 cyclist fatalities.^[8]

^[1] Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Cansim Table 252-0051. Data provided by the Community Foundations of Canada.

^[2] Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Cansim Table 252-0051. Data provided by the Community Foundations of Canada.

^[3] Special request: Hamilton Police Services.

^[4] Hamilton Police Services.

^[5] 2010 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report.

^[5] Statistics Canada, 2009. Police reported hate crime in Canada.

^[6] Children's Aid Society, Annual Reports 2007-2011.

And Catholic Children's Aid Society, Annual Reports 2007-2011.

^[7] City of Hamilton, Public Works Department.

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^[8] City of Hamilton, Public Works Department.

2009 Traffic Safety Update – Volume 1.

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