

To: Mayor and Members of Council

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Cc: Anita Cassidy, Executive Director, Burlington Economic Development
Mark Simeoni, Director of Community Planning
Sue Connor, Acting Executive Director of Community Planning, Regulation and Mobility
Tim Commisso, City Manager

Date: February 25, 2022

Re: 2021 Census Release: Population and Dwelling Counts

This memo presents the 2021 Census population and dwelling counts for the City of Burlington. The memo was jointly prepared by Burlington Economic Development and Community Planning to present the latest data in one comprehensive document while providing some analysis relevant to the interests of each department.

Background

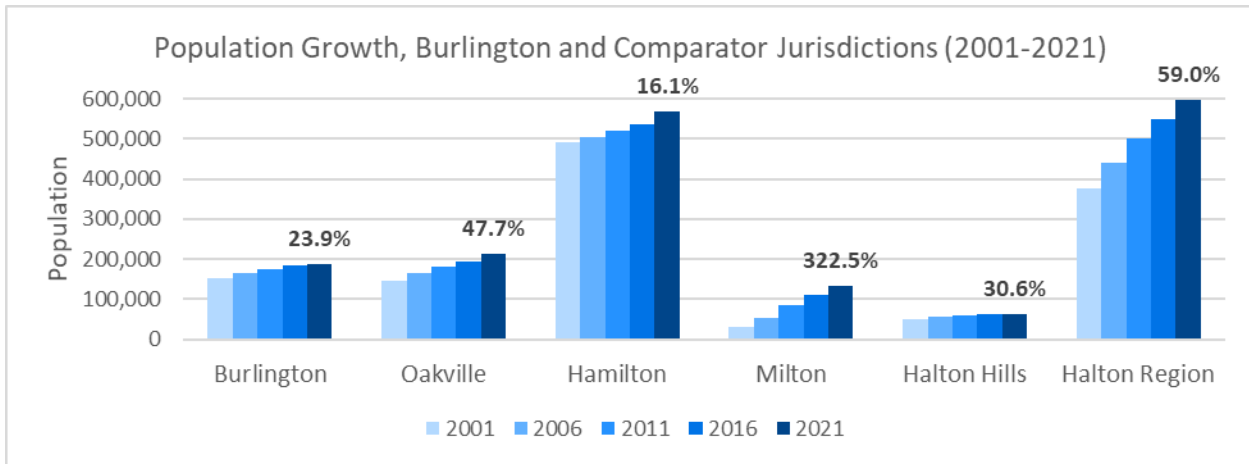
On February 9, 2022, Statistics Canada released the 2021 Census data for population and dwelling counts. This was the first release of the 2021 Census data with six future data releases from now until November 30, 2022. The Census of Canada commenced in May 2021, during a global pandemic, with Statistics Canada reporting an overall response rate of 98.3% for Ontario.

2021 Census Population

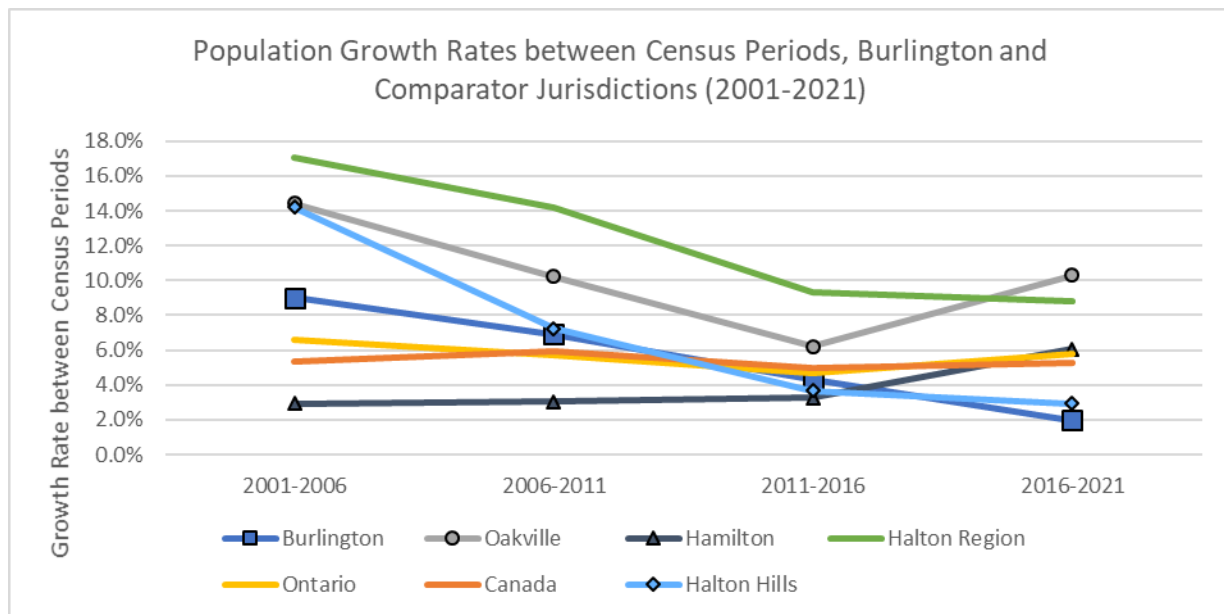
Burlington's 2021 population is 186,948 an increase of 3,634 (2.0%) since 2016. This growth rate places Burlington below comparator municipalities in Halton (Oakville - 10.3%, Milton - 20.7%, and Halton Hills - 2.9%) as well as Halton Region (8.8%). Continuing a pattern first seen in 2016, Burlington's growth rate was significantly slower than both the provincial (5.8%) and national rates (5.2%).

Burlington's population growth accounts for 7.5% of the Region of Halton's population growth since 2016. This is higher than Halton Hills, which grew by 1,760 people (3.7% share of growth), but lower than Oakville, which grew by 19,927 (41.3% share of growth) and Milton which experienced the greatest population growth in the region, with an increase of 22,851 (47.4% share of growth). Burlington's population accounts for 31.3% of Halton Region's 2021 population, the second highest after Oakville.

The following tables compare population growth and growth rates for Burlington and comparator jurisdictions over the last 20 years (2001-2021). More detailed data can be found in Appendix A.



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2021, 2016, and 2011 Census, and 2006 Community Profiles Census



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2021, 2016, and 2011 Census, and 2006 Community Profiles Census

Included in Appendix B is a map prepared by Statistics Canada illustrating the percentage change in population (2016-2021) by Census Tract in the City of Burlington which is part of the Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). Population changes within some Census Tracts may be a result of new developments or larger household sizes.

2021 Census Dwelling Counts

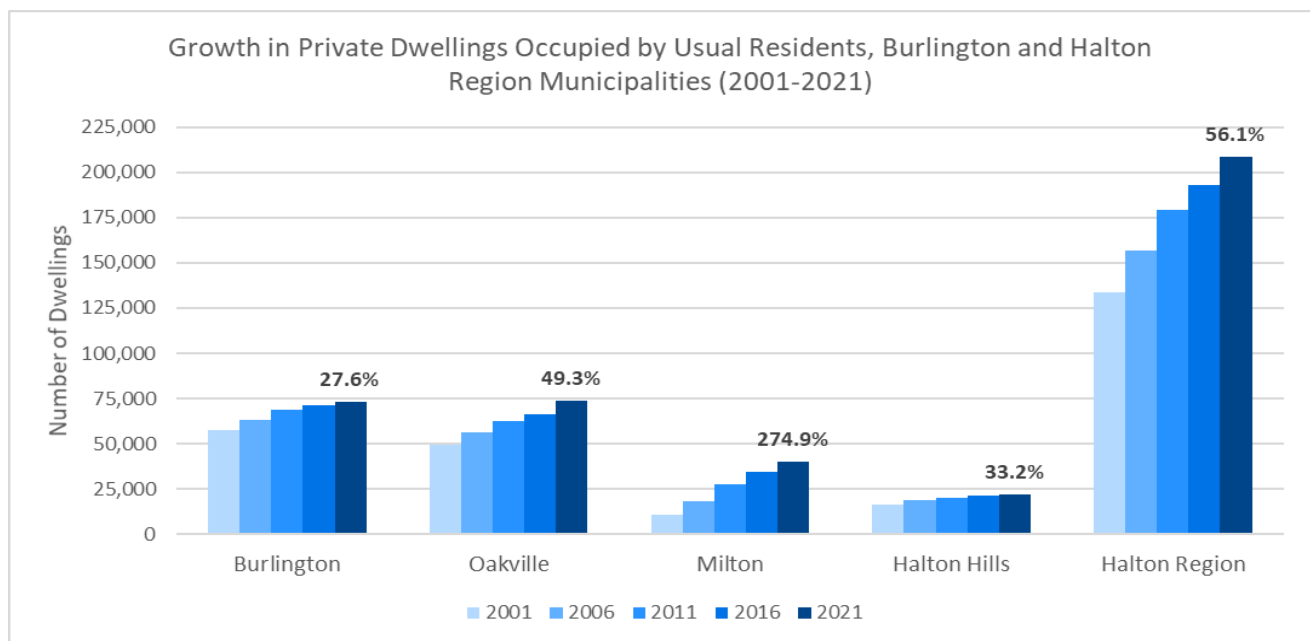
The Census identified 74,891 private dwellings in the City of Burlington in 2021, of which 73,180 (97.7%) are occupied by usual residents¹. Between 2016-2021 the number of private dwellings occupied by usual residents increased by 1,807 (2.5%) which follows a similar trend to the City’s population growth rate. Since 2001, the City has seen occupied private dwellings grow at a higher rate than its population, with the exception of the 2011-2016 census period which saw the population growth rate slightly higher.

¹ Statistics Canada defines private dwellings occupied by usual residents as a private dwelling in which a person or group of persons is permanently residing. Private dwellings occupied by usual residents are also referred to as occupied private dwellings.

Burlington’s growth rate of 2.5% falls below comparator municipalities in Halton (Oakville - 11%, Milton – 16.9%, and Halton Hills – 3.5%) as well as Halton Region (8.1%). Burlington’s growth rate was also significantly slower than the provincial rate (6.2%).

Burlington’s growth of occupied private dwellings accounts for 11.5% of the Region of Halton’s growth since 2016. This is higher than Halton Hills, which grew by 747 occupied private dwellings (4.8% share of growth), but lower than Milton, which grew by 5,781 occupied private dwellings (37% share of growth) and Oakville which experienced the greatest growth in the region, with an increase of 7,289 occupied private dwellings (46.7% share of growth). The number of private dwellings occupied by usual residents in Burlington accounts for 35.1% of occupied private dwellings in Halton Region in 2021, the second highest after Oakville.

The following table compares the growth of private dwellings occupied by usual residents for Burlington and Halton Region municipalities over the last 20 years (2001-2021). More detailed data can be found in Appendix A.



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2021, 2016, and 2011 Census, and 2006 Community Profiles Census

Halton Region Best Planning Estimates and Official Plan Review

Best Planning Estimates (June 2011)

Halton Region’s Best Planning Estimates (BPEs) are working numbers showing when and where development is likely to take place in the Region. The BPEs forecast population, occupied dwelling units and employment forecasts for each local municipality, by 5-year intervals to 2031. When comparing Burlington’s 2021 Census population and occupied dwelling units with the Region’s BPE forecasts, Burlington’s 2021 Census population already exceeds both its 2021 BPE population forecast (178,847) as well as its 2031 BPE population forecast (186,169). However, for occupied dwelling units, the Region’s 2021 BPE forecast (74,880) is slightly higher than the number of private dwellings occupied by usual residents in Burlington identified in the 2021 Census. Halton Region will be updating its Best Planning Estimates as part of its Official Plan Review exercise.

Halton Region Official Plan Review

Halton Region is currently undertaking an Official Plan Review and an integral component of the review is the Integrated Growth Management Strategy to address where and how Halton will plan to grow to 2051, in accordance with the provincial Growth Plan. In January 2022, Halton Region released staff's draft recommendation for a Preferred Growth Concept and the associated Land Needs Assessment. Through that work, a 2021 total population estimate for the City of Burlington was identified, which includes a census net undercoverage, as well as a 2021 household estimate.

In order to compare the newly released 2021 Census population for Burlington with the City's 2021 total population estimate developed as part of the Region's preferred growth concept work, the net undercoverage rate from the 2016 Census was applied to estimate a total population from the 2021 Census. The census net undercoverage rate accounts for residents who were not recorded or counted in the census and are published by Statistics Canada approximately 28 months following each census. The following chart compares the total population estimates.

	2021 Census Population	2016 Net Census Undercoverage*	2021 Estimated Total Population	Halton Region Preferred Growth Concept 2021 Estimated Total Population
Burlington	186,948	2.69%	192,122	193,500

*The 2016 Census Net Undercoverage rate was used as an interim rate as the 2021 Census Net Undercoverage rate is not yet available.

The following chart compares the number of private dwellings occupied by usual residents in Burlington identified in the 2021 Census with the 2021 household estimate identified through the Region's preferred growth concept work.

	2021 Census Private Dwellings Occupied by Usual Residents	Halton Region Preferred Growth Concept 2021 Estimated Households
Burlington	73,180	74,125

In both cases, the 2021 estimates identified through the Region's preferred growth concept work (Jan 2022) are slightly higher than the 2021 Census numbers for Burlington. Consideration will be given to the new census data as part of the Region's preferred growth concept work.

Next Steps

Staff will use the 2021 Census population and dwelling count data as well as other data sources to support any growth-related studies and initiatives that would benefit from this data. Staff will also continue to update Council on future 2021 Census releases, as appropriate, in accordance with the following Statistics Canada release schedule:

- **April 27, 2022:** Age, Sex at birth and gender, Type of Dwelling
- **July 13, 2022:** Families, households, and marital status, Canadian military experience, Income
- **August 17, 2022:** Language
- **September 21, 2022:** Indigenous peoples, Housing

- **October 26, 2022:** Immigration, place of birth and citizenship, Ethnocultural and religious diversity, Mobility and migration
- **November 30, 2022:** Education, Labour, Langue of work, Commuting, Instruction in the official minority language

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

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Attachments:

Appendix A: Census Population and Occupied Private Dwelling Unit Tables (2001-2021)

Appendix B: Hamilton CMA: Population Change from 2016 to 2021 by Census Tract.

Appendix A

Census Population Data (2001-2021)

Jurisdiction	Population Count					2001-2006		2006-2011		2011-2016		2016-2021		2001-2021	
	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ
Burlington	150,836	164,415	175,779	183,314	186,948	13,579	9.0%	11,364	6.9%	7,535	4.29%	3,634	2.0%	36,112	23.9%
Oakville	144,738	165,613	182,520	193,832	213,759	20,875	14.4%	16,907	10.2%	11,312	6.20%	19,927	10.3%	69,021	47.7%
Hamilton	490,268	504,559	519,949	536,917	569,353	14,291	2.9%	15,390	3.1%	16,968	3.26%	32,436	6.0%	79,085	16.1%
Milton	31,471	53,939	84,362	110,128	132,979	22,468	71.4%	30,423	56.4%	25,766	30.54%	22,851	20.7%	101,508	322.5%
Halton Hills	48,184	55,020	59,005	61,161	62,951	6,836	14.2%	3,985	7.2%	2,156	3.65%	1,790	2.9%	14,767	30.6%
Halton Region	375,229	439,256	501,674	548,435	596,637	64,027	17.1%	62,418	14.2%	46,761	9.32%	48,202	8.8%	221,408	59.0%
Ontario	11,410,046	12,160,282	12,851,821	13,448,494	14,223,942	750,236	6.6%	691,539	5.7%	596,673	4.64%	775,448	5.8%	2,813,896	24.7%
Canada	30,007,094	31,612,897	33,476,688	35,151,728	36,991,981	1,605,803	5.4%	1,863,791	5.9%	1,675,040	5.00%	1,840,253	5.2%	6,984,887	23.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2021 Census, 2016 Census, 2011 Census, and 2006 Community Profiles Census

Census Occupied Private Dwelling Unit Data (2001-2021)

Jurisdiction	Count of Private Dwellings Occupied with Usual Residents					2001-2006		2006-2011		2011-2016		2016-2021		2001-2021	
	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ	Absolute Δ	% Δ
Burlington	57,340	63,260	68,779	71,373	73,180	5,920	10.3%	5,519	8.7%	2,594	3.8%	1,807	2.5%	15,840	27.6%
Oakville	49,260	56,580	62,412	66,269	73,558	7,320	14.9%	5,832	10.3%	3,857	6.2%	7,289	11.0%	24,298	49.3%
Milton	10,680	18,465	27,561	34,257	40,038	7,785	72.9%	9,096	49.3%	6,696	24.3%	5,781	16.9%	29,358	274.9%
Halton Hills	16,385	18,785	20,261	21,078	21,825	2,400	14.6%	1,476	7.9%	817	4.0%	747	3.5%	5,440	33.2%
Halton Region	133,665	156,947	179,013	192,977	208,601	23,282	17.4%	22,066	14.1%	13,964	7.8%	15,624	8.1%	74,936	56.1%
Ontario	4,219,415	4,555,025	4,887,508	5,169,174	5,491,201	335,610	8.0%	332,483	7.3%	281,666	5.8%	322,027	6.2%	1,271,786	30.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2021 Census, 2016 Census, 2011 Census, and 2006 Community Profiles Census

Appendix B

