

Population

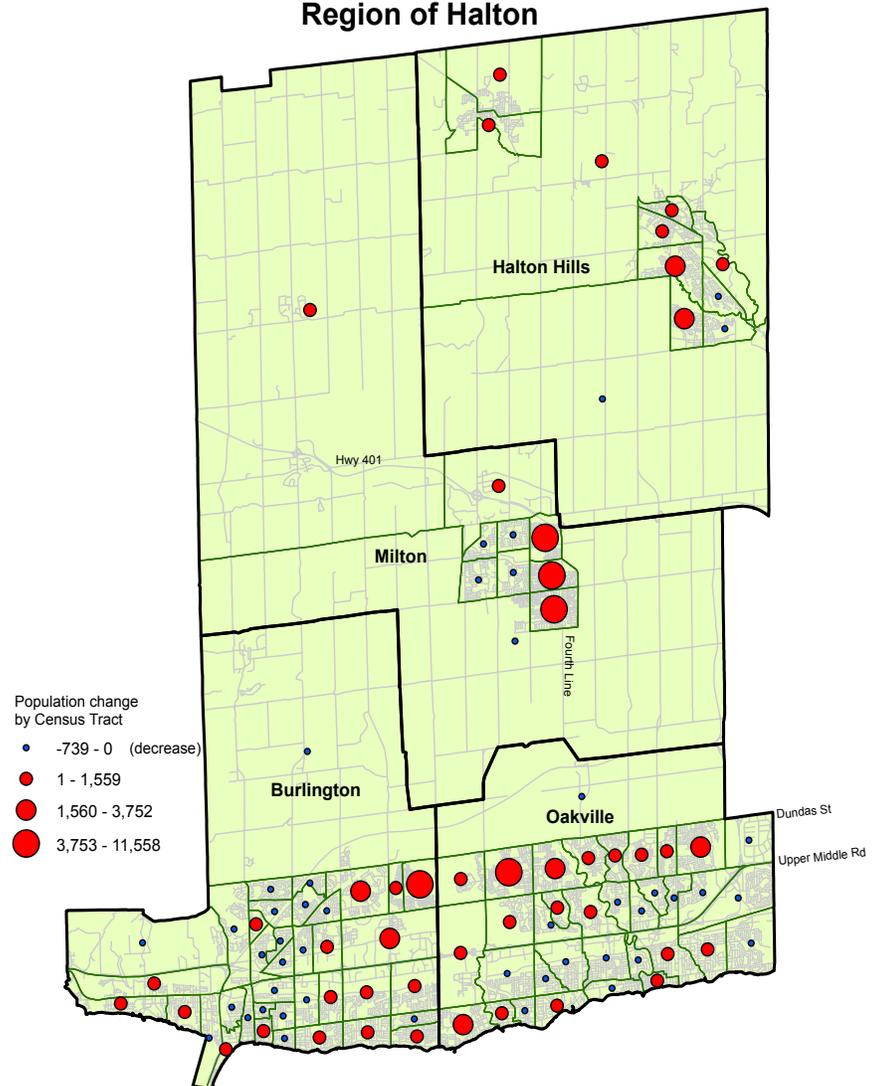
Between 2001 and 2006, the population of Halton has grown from 375,300 to 439,300. The addition of 64,000 people represents a 17% increase over a period of 5 years. The regional growth rate is more than double the provincial average of 6.6% for the same period.

The four municipalities within the region also have experienced rapid population growth since 2001. The Town of Milton has grown 71.4 %; in fact, it is the fastest-growing community in Canada. It accounted for 35% of the region's net population increase. The growth rates for the other three municipalities are: the Town of Halton Hills (+14.7%), the Town of Oakville (+14.4%) and the City of Burlington (+9%).

This map shows where the population changes occur within each municipality by census tract. A census tract as established by Statistics Canada is a relatively permanent geographic area with a population range of 2,500 to 8,000 and has the greatest possible social and economic homogeneity. Although many areas (with red circles) experience significant growth, there are also areas (with blue circles) with population decline. Many of these areas are located in the more established parts of Burlington and Oakville.

The majority of the growth in the Town of Milton is concentrated in three census tracts located south of Highway 401 and west of the James Snow Parkway/Fourth Line. The high growth areas for both the Town of Oakville and the City of Burlington lie between a band of census tracts between Dundas Street and Upper Middle Road where most of the new development has taken place.

**Population Change (2001-2006)
Region of Halton**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, DMTI Spatial

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Age & Gender

The age of the total population has also increased. The median age which divides the population into



two groups of equal size has been rising in Halton. It reached 38.4 years in 2006. The Town of Milton has the lowest median age at 34.4 years and the City of Burlington has the highest median age at 40.3 years.

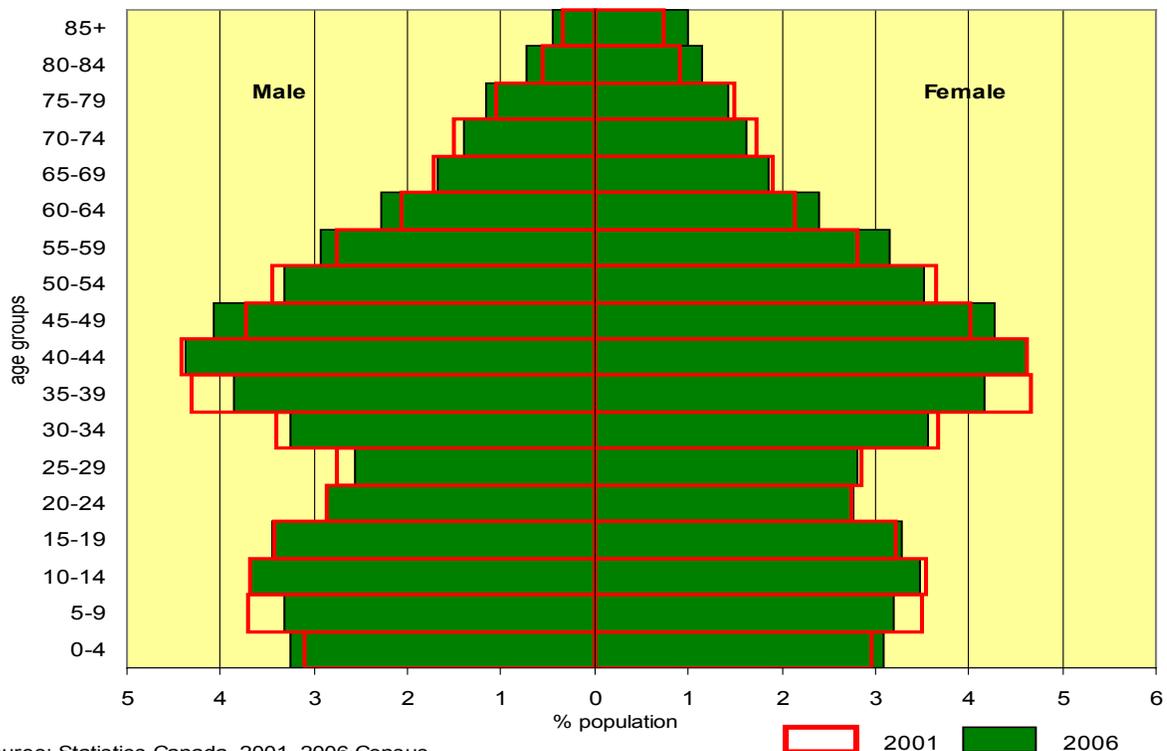
There are about 10,000 more seniors in Halton representing a growth rate of over 22%. Their proportion relative to the total population reached 13% in 2006. The proportion of the under 15 population remains at 20% during the same time period.

The population pyramid in the figure below reveals different growth rates among the various age groups and between male and female. The narrowing of the base of the pyramid points to the continuous shrinking of the young population. The middle part of the pyramid which is made up of the "baby boomer bulge" (35-60 years old) continues its upward move.

This dominant group represents more than one-third (38%) of the population. The higher proportion of the female population starts to emerge at around the age of 55 years. At age 85 and over, there are two female seniors for every one male senior.

The age and gender mix of Halton's growing population will have a significant impact on goods and services within the community and its already strained social infrastructure.

Population Pyramid (2001,2006), Region of Halton



Source: Statistics Canada, 2001, 2006 Census