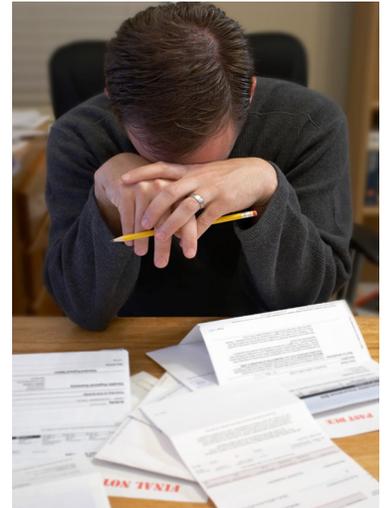


## Non-Mortgage Consumer Debt

As reported by TransUnion<sup>1</sup>, the average Canadian consumer's total debt (excluding mortgage) continues to rise and has surpassed \$26,000 in 2012.<sup>2</sup> The major non-mortgage consumer debt includes: credit cards, lines of credit, installment loans and automobile loans. The federal government is concerned that changes to the current economic and low interest rate environment could create economic hardship for individuals and families with significant debt loads.

The data on non-mortgage consumer debt are made available by Canada Post's 6-character postal codes. They record the number of individuals with consumer debt, the average and median of the debt and the associated risk and bankruptcy scores. Although average debt is often used to provide an "aggregate" debt value for a population or an area, it is sensitive to extreme high and low debt values.



In Halton Region, the average non-mortgage consumer debt for the first quarter of 2012 was about \$37,600. However, it is important to note the range of the high and low debt values. About 99% of the lowest consumer debts were \$1,000 or less. On the other hand, about 14% of the highest debts were over \$500,000.

About 65% of the total population carried non-mortgage consumer debt in 2012. Oakville has the highest average non-mortgage consumer debt, about 19% higher than the Halton average. Milton has the lowest average debt at \$32,200. Halton Hills has the lowest percentage of the population with non-mortgage consumer debt.

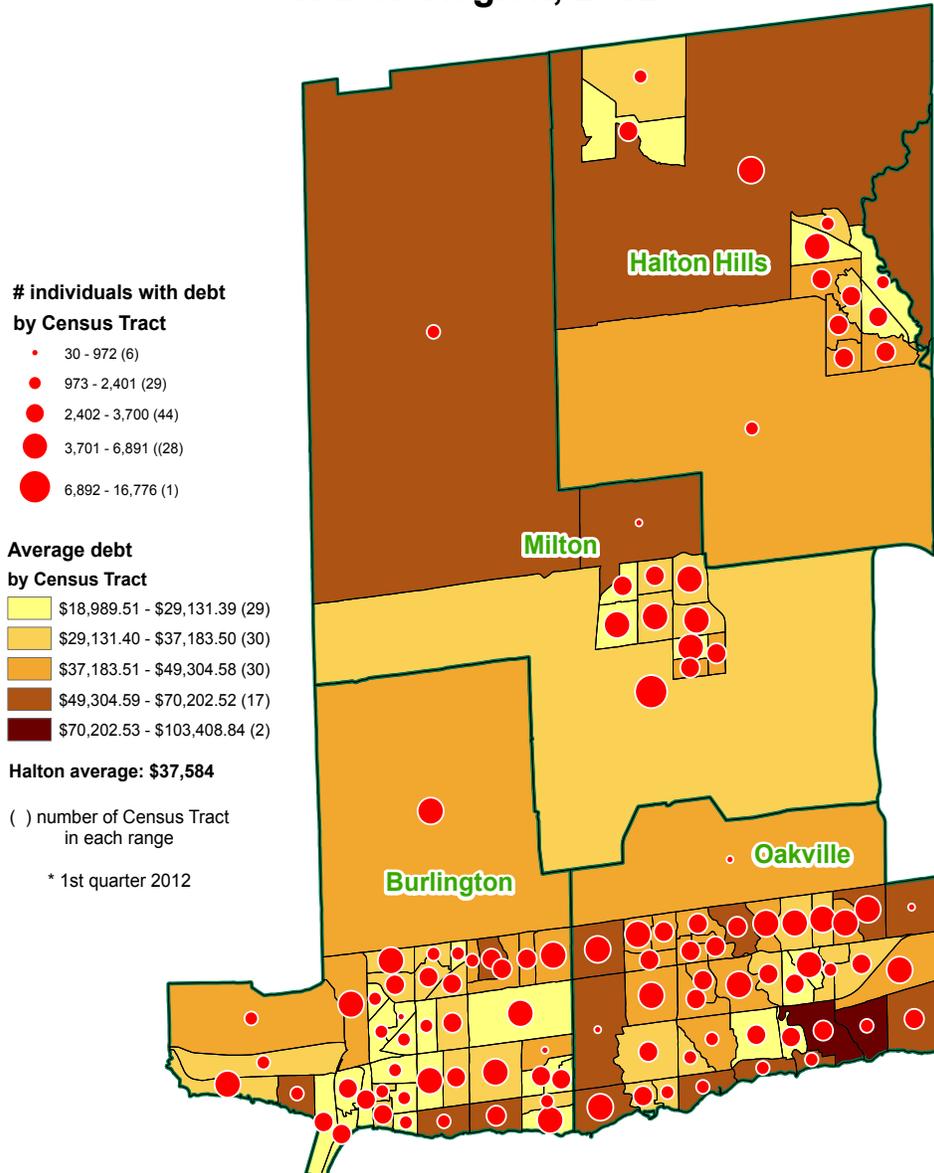
	% total population (2011) with non-mortgage consumer debt (1st Quarter, 2012)	Average non-mortgage consumer debt (1st Quarter, 2012)
Oakville	65%	\$44,600
Burlington	68%	\$33,500
Milton	64%	\$32,200
Halton Hills	60%	\$36,100
Halton Region	65%	\$37,600

Source: TransUnion, Statistics Canada  
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<sup>1</sup> A major credit reporting agency  
<sup>2</sup> TransUnion: Personal Debt Levels Shifting Back to Growth Mode, August, 23, 2012

The following map displays the number of individuals with non-mortgage consumer debt and the average debt 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. Due to data availability, it is not possible to calculate the median debt value by Census Tract. The median value would minimize the distortion from extremely high or low debt values. Burlington has the highest number of Census Tracts (shaded yellow) with the lowest average debt among the local municipalities. In contrast, Oakville has two Census Tracts (shaded dark brown) with the highest average debt.

## Average Non-mortgage Debt Halton Region, 2012\*



Source: TransUnion Credit Report, 2012, Statistics Canada  
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