

Growing Number of Low Income Families

Between 2006 and 2013, the number of low income families in Halton has grown twice as fast as the number of families (35.7% versus 17%). The 2008-2009 global recession triggered a jump in the proportion of low income families. Four years after the recession, statistics show that many low income families are still trapped in poverty while other families are forced into a similar dire financial situation.

With the release of the taxfiler data for 2013, this Community Lens continues the tracking of low income families¹ in Halton Region. The After-Tax Low Income Measure (LIM-AT) is used to measure low income. The LIM is half (50%) of the median adjusted economic family income, where “adjusted” indicates that family needs are taken into account. For example, in 2013, a family of four (two children less than 16 years of age) with after-tax income of less than \$34,742 is considered living in low income. A low income single mother/father family with two children (less than 16 years of age) has an after-tax income of less than \$29,531.

2013 After-Tax Low Income Measure (LIM-AT)			
Number of Adults*	Number of children less than 16 years of age		
	0	1	2
1	\$17,371	\$24,319	\$29,531
2	\$24,319	\$29,531	\$34,742
3	\$31,268	\$36,479	\$41,690
4	\$38,216	\$43,428	\$48,639

*includes parents/spouses, children 16 years of age and over and the first child in lone-parent families, regardless of age
Source: Statistics Canada, Annual Estimates for Census Families and Individuals (T1 Family File), October, 2015

In 2013, there were over 11,700 low income families generating a regional poverty rate of 7.9%. About one in 12 families is living in low income. After a slight dip in 2010, the low income rate climbs back up to 7.4% in 2011 and continues its rise since.

Change in Low Income Families (2006-2013)						
	# families				Prevalence of low income	
	2006	2013	difference	% change	2006	2013
Burlington	2,990	3,320	+330	+11%	6.4%	6.4%
Oakville	3,730	4,830	+1,100	+29.4%	7.8%	9.1%
Milton	1,000	2,660	+1,660	+166%	6.4%	9.8%
Acton/Georgetown	940	940	0	0%	5.9%	5.7%
Halton Region	8,660	11,750	+3,090	+35.7%	6.9%	7.9%

Note: the data in this table do not cover areas outside the Urban Forward Sortation Area (FSA)
Source: Statistics Canada, Small Area and Administrative Data Division, 2006 & 2013, Annual Estimates for Census Families and Individuals, 13C0016

¹ Community Lens #81, 82 and 99 track low income families in Halton using Statistics Canada's taxfiler data

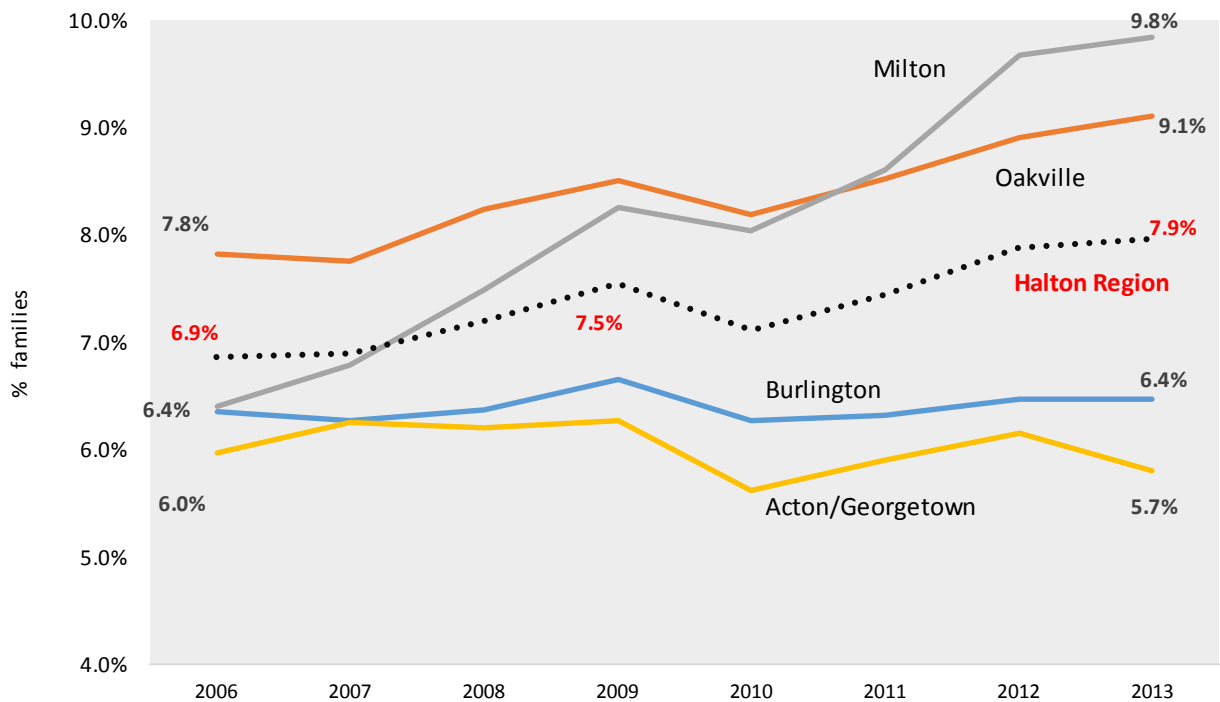
There are significant variations in the growth, percentage distribution and proportion of low income families among the local municipalities.

The Town of Oakville continues to have the highest number and proportion of low income families. In 2013, there were over 4,800 low income families in Oakville representing over 40% of the regional total compared to 43% in 2006. The proportion of low income families increases from 7.8% to 9.1%.

Although the number of low income families in the Town of Milton is less than those in the City of Burlington and the Town of Oakville, it has the highest rate of increase (+166%). Within a period of seven years, the number of low income families has more than doubled. Its share of Halton's low income families rose from 11% to almost 23%. Milton accounts for over half (54%) of the increase of low income families in Halton between 2006 and 2013. The proportion of low income families increased from 6.4% in 2006 to 9.8% in 2013. Almost one in ten families lives in low income.

The number of low income families in the City of Burlington rose by 11% and maintained its rate at 6.4%. Georgetown and Acton also showed minor change in low income families. In fact, its low income rate dropped from 5.9% to 5.7%.

Proportion of Low Income Families by Municipality Halton Region, 2006-2013



Source: Statistics Canada, Income Statistics Division, 2006-2013, Annual Estimates for Census Families and Individuals, 89C0022

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