

Our Halton 2018

Newcomers

December 2018



© 2018 Community Development Halton, all rights reserved.

Copies of this document may be reproduced non-commercially for the purpose of community awareness or community development with appropriate recognition to Community Development Halton (CDH). In all other cases, permission must be sought from CDH.

Electronic copies of this report are available from:

Community Development Halton
3350 South Service Road
Burlington, ON L7N 3M6
Phone: (905) 632-1975; 1-855-395-8807
Email: office@cdhalton.ca
Web: www.cdhalton.ca



Research Team

Richard Lau, Research Associate
Ted Hildebrandt, Director of Social Planning
Joey Edwardh, Executive Director

Community Development Halton would like to acknowledge the ongoing financial support of the Regional Municipality of Halton.



Contents

Introduction	1
Newcomer Population.....	2
Place of Birth.....	4
Settling in Halton.....	6
Age Structure	8
Marital Status.....	9
Mother Tongue.....	10
Home Languages	11
Educational Attainment.....	12
Labour Market Participation	13
Occupation.....	14
Visible Minority Newcomers	16
Income.....	18
Low Income	19
Implications.....	20

List of Figures

Figure 1. Newcomer Population, Halton Region, 1996-2016	2
Figure 2. Newcomers by Admission Class, Halton Region, 2016	3
Figure 3. Percentage Distribution of Newcomers by Region of Birth, Halton Region.....	4
Figure 4. Percentage Distribution of Newcomers by Country of Birth, Halton Region, 2016.	5
Figure 5. Percentage Distribution of Newcomer by Municipality, Halton Region, 2016	6
Figure 6. Newcomers by Top Five Country of Birth, Halton Region,2016.....	7
Figure 7. Newcomer Age Pyramid, Halton Region, 2016	8
Figure 8. Proportion of Newcomer by Marital Status, Halton Region, 2016	9
Figure 9. Proportion of Newcomer by Top Ten Mother Tongue, Halton Region,2016.....	10
Figure 10. Proportion of Newcomer by Home Language, Halton Region, 2016.....	11
Figure 11. Proportion of Newcomers (25-64 years) by Educational Attainment, Halton Region, 2016	12
Figure 12. Proportion of Labour Force by Occupation, Halton Region, 2016	15

Figure 13. Percentage Distribution of Visible Minority Population, Halton Region, 2016....	17
Figure 14. Percentage Distribution of Newcomer by Total Income, Halton Region, 2015 ...	18
Figure 15. Low Income Rates for Newcomers and Overall Population by Age, Halton Region, 2015	19

List of Tables

Table 1. Proportion of Population by Labour Force Status, Halton Region, 2016.....	13
Table 2. Newcomer's Participation Rate, Employment Rate and Unemployment Rate by Municipality, Halton Region, 2016	14
Table 3. National Occupational Classification, 2016	14
Table 4. Newcomer Population in Low Income by Municipality, Halton Region, 2015	20

Introduction

Community Development Halton (CDH), introduces the “Our Halton 2018” series to increase the awareness of the changing socio-demographic characteristics of residents of Halton Region. The series focuses on population groups such as seniors, women, children and youth, visible minority, recent immigrants and the challenges and issues they are facing. The implications are developed in cooperation with community members with insights and lived experience in Halton communities.

The main data source is the 2016 Census of Population. The Census which is conducted every five years provides the most reliable and detailed socio-demographic data on the Canadian population. However, the quality and reliability of this valuable data source was disrupted in 2011 when the federal government cancelled the 2011 long form census.

In 2010, the federal government replaced the mandatory long form census with a voluntary National Household Survey (NHS). Due to the change in data collection methodology from a mandatory census to a voluntary survey, the non-response rate of the NHS is significantly higher than those of the previous long form census. In addition to an overall lower response rate, certain population groups are less likely to respond to the survey such as high and low income individuals, Aboriginals, newcomers and visible minority groups.

Given the high non-response rate and the associated non-response bias, Statistics Canada warns users to employ caution when using the NHS data and, particularly in comparison with previous censuses. In effect, it has created a ten-year data gap between 2006 and 2016. The 2016 Census not only provides, once again, quality and reliable demographic data on the population, but also remedies the data deficiency situation since 2006.

This report draws on the census datasets which are available from Statistics Canada’s website and the census data tables obtained by the Community Data Program¹ (CDP). CDH is a member organization of the CDP’s Halton Region Consortium. In addition, this report uses only the publicly released census datasets that are available at geographic level of the Census Division (e.g. Halton Region) or Census Subdivision (e.g. City of Burlington).

Our Halton 2018: Newcomers focuses on the socio-economic characteristics of Halton’s newcomers who were immigrants arriving in Canada between 2011 and 2016. It highlights some of the characteristics such as age profile, place of birth, languages spoken, marital status, visible minority, labour market participation, and educational attainment.

¹ <https://communitydata.ca/>

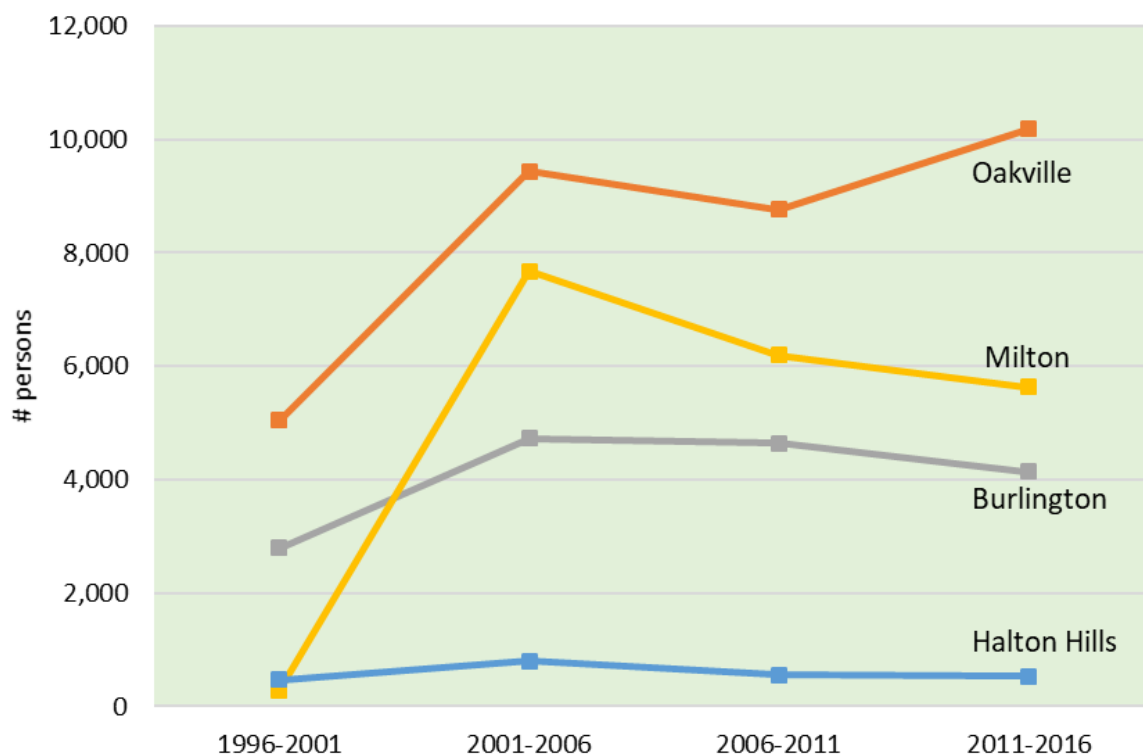
Newcomer Population

According to Statistics Canada, recent immigrants or newcomers are immigrants who arrived in Canada five years prior to a census. For example, 2016 newcomers include all immigrants who migrated to Canada between 2011 and 2016.

Between 2011 and 2016, Canada received over 1.2 million immigrants from countries around the world. The newcomers represented 3.5% of the country's population in 2016.

In the same period, Halton welcomed 20,500 newcomers. This represents a slight increase of 1.6% over the previous five-year period (2006-2011). Halton's growth is solely driven by a 16% increase gained by Oakville. All the other three municipalities experienced a decrease in the number of newcomers. Almost half (49.7%) of the newcomers to Halton settled in Oakville, followed by Milton at 27.5%, Burlington at 20.2% and Halton Hills at 2.8%. Figure 1 shows the changes in newcomer population among the municipalities over four consecutive five-year periods.

Figure 1. Newcomer Population, Halton Region, 1996-2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2001-2016 Censuses

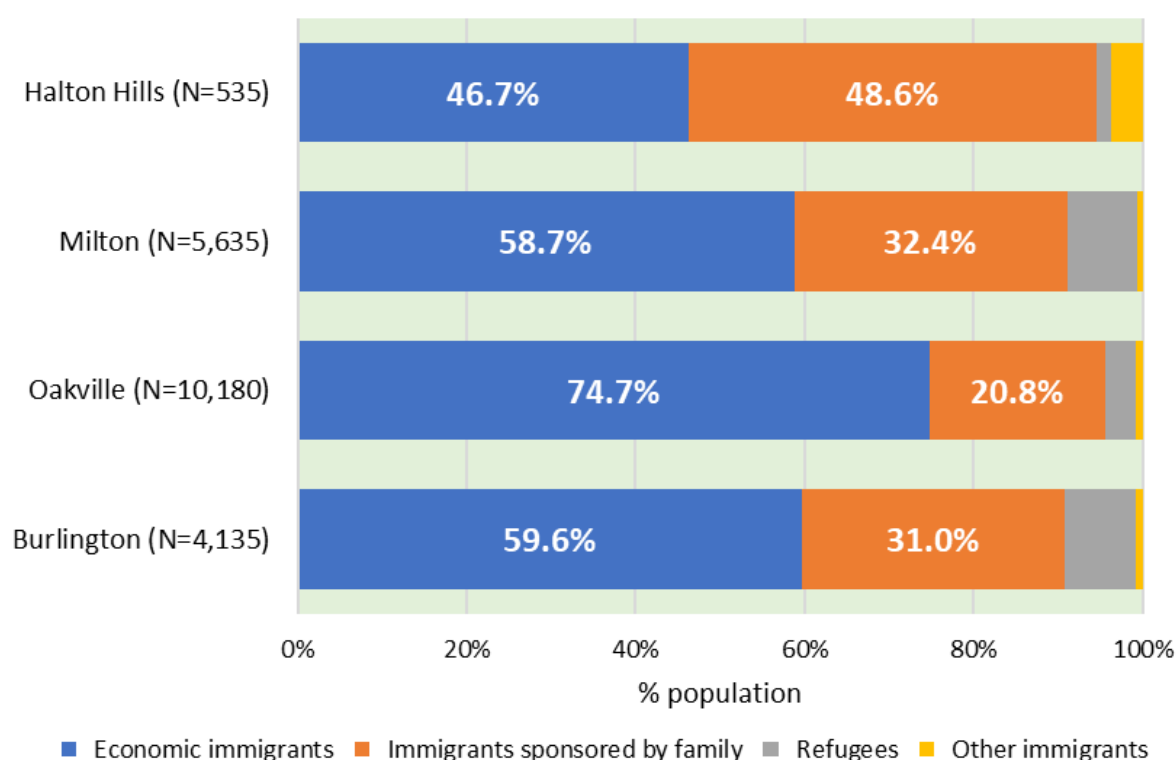
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) categorizes immigrants into three main classes: economic immigrants, family class, and refugees. Each year, IRCC also sets out a plan for the number of immigrants it intends to welcome within each of the three main categories.

Economic immigrants account for two-thirds (66%) of the newcomers in Halton. Economic immigrants are selected for their skills and ability to contribute to Canada's economy. The economic immigrant category includes skilled workers, business immigrants, provincial or territorial nominees, live-in caregivers, and Canadian Experience Class. As shown in Figure 2, Oakville has the highest percentage at 74.7% of economic immigrants, Milton at 58.7%, Burlington at 59.6%, and Halton Hills at 46.7%.

The family class immigrants include spouses and partners; parents and grandparents, and others.

Between 2011 and 2016, Canada admitted over 140,000 individuals as refugees, which represents about 11.5% of newcomers. Halton's percentage of refugees is about 6% (1,200 individuals) of newcomers.

Figure 2. Newcomers by Admission Class, Halton Region, 2016

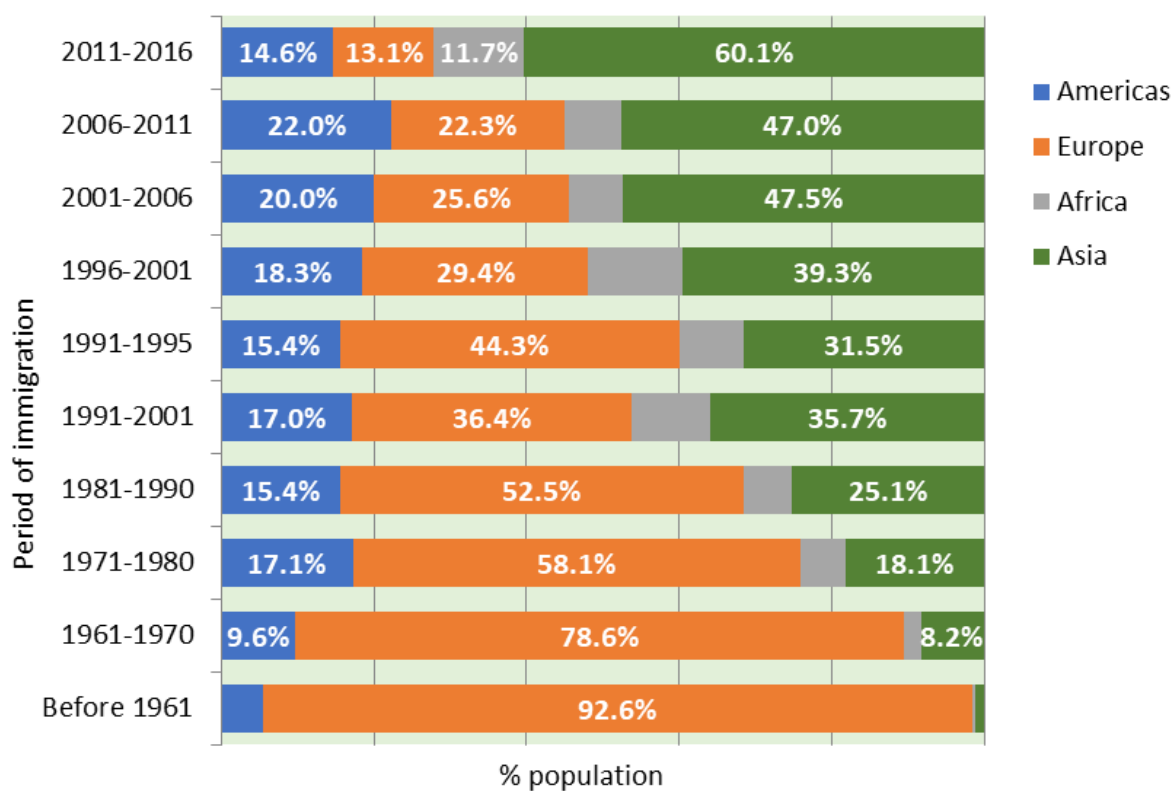


Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Place of Birth

Between 1961 and 1970, the majority (78.6%) of immigrants to Halton came from European countries. Since then, their place of birth has shifted to non-European countries especially countries in Asia. Figure 3 portrays the changes over the last 50 years. Over 60% of the newcomers who arrived between 2011 and 2016 came from Asia, 15% from the Americas and 13.1% from Europe. Over one in ten came from African countries.

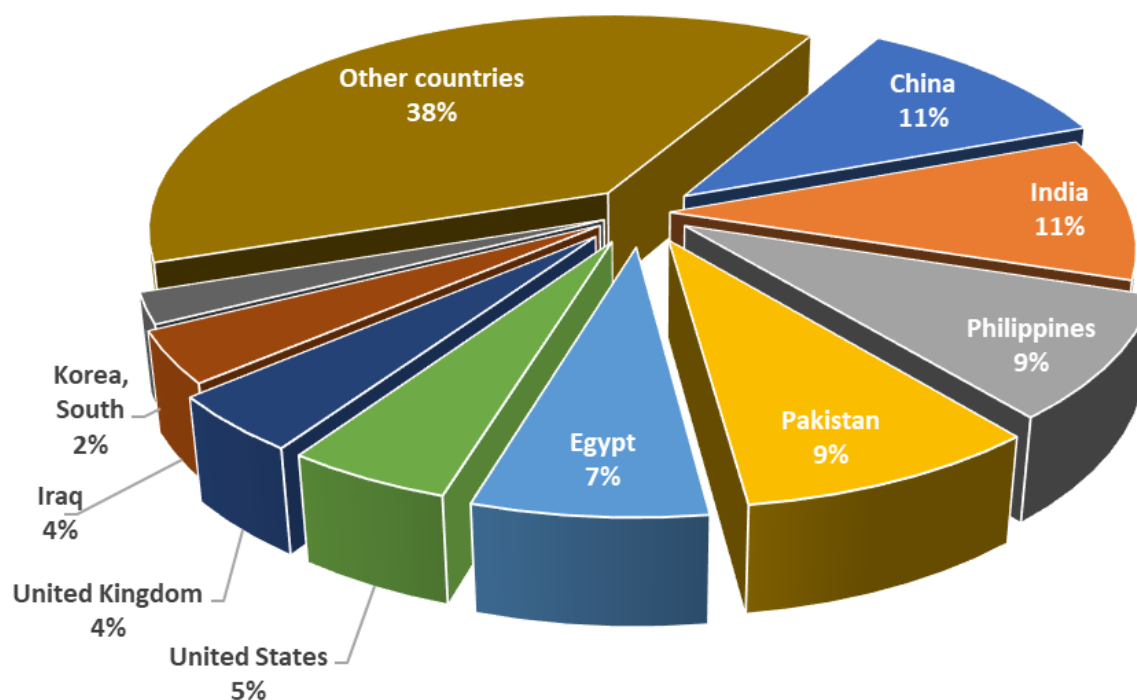
Figure 3. Percentage Distribution of Newcomers by Region of Birth, Halton Region



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 1996-2016 Censuses

About 46% or 9,500 newcomers came from five countries, four in Asia (China, India, Philippines and Pakistan) and one in Africa (Egypt) as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Percentage Distribution of Newcomers by Country of Birth, Halton Region, 2016



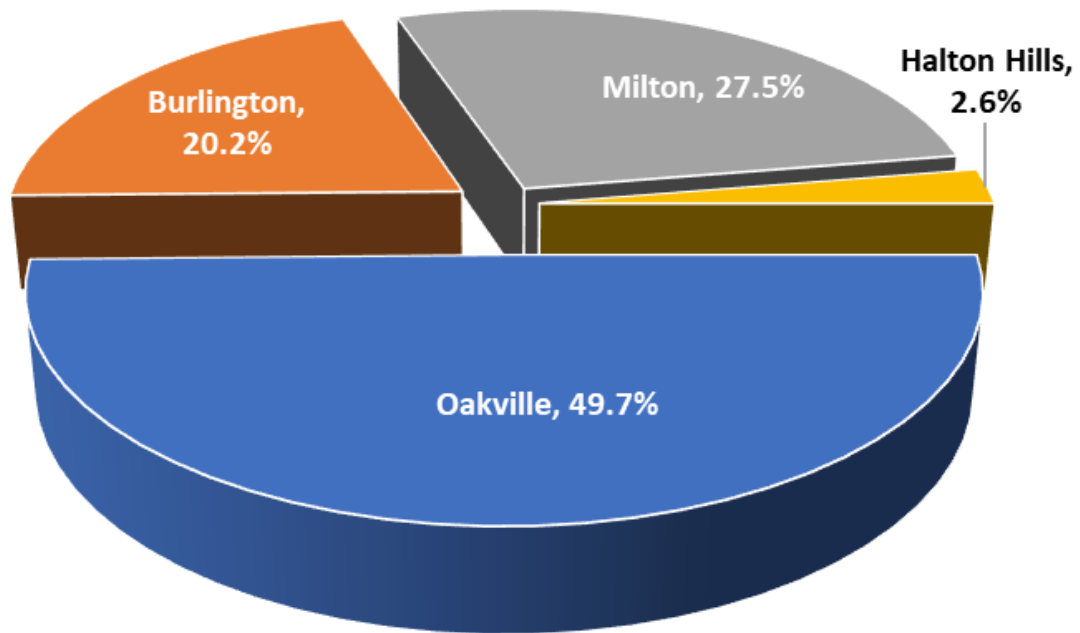
Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Settling in Halton

Where do newcomers settle when they arrive in Halton?

Newcomers do choose to settle in specific communities in Halton. For example, almost half (49.7%) of newcomers settled in Oakville and over one quarter (27.5%) in Milton (Figure 5).

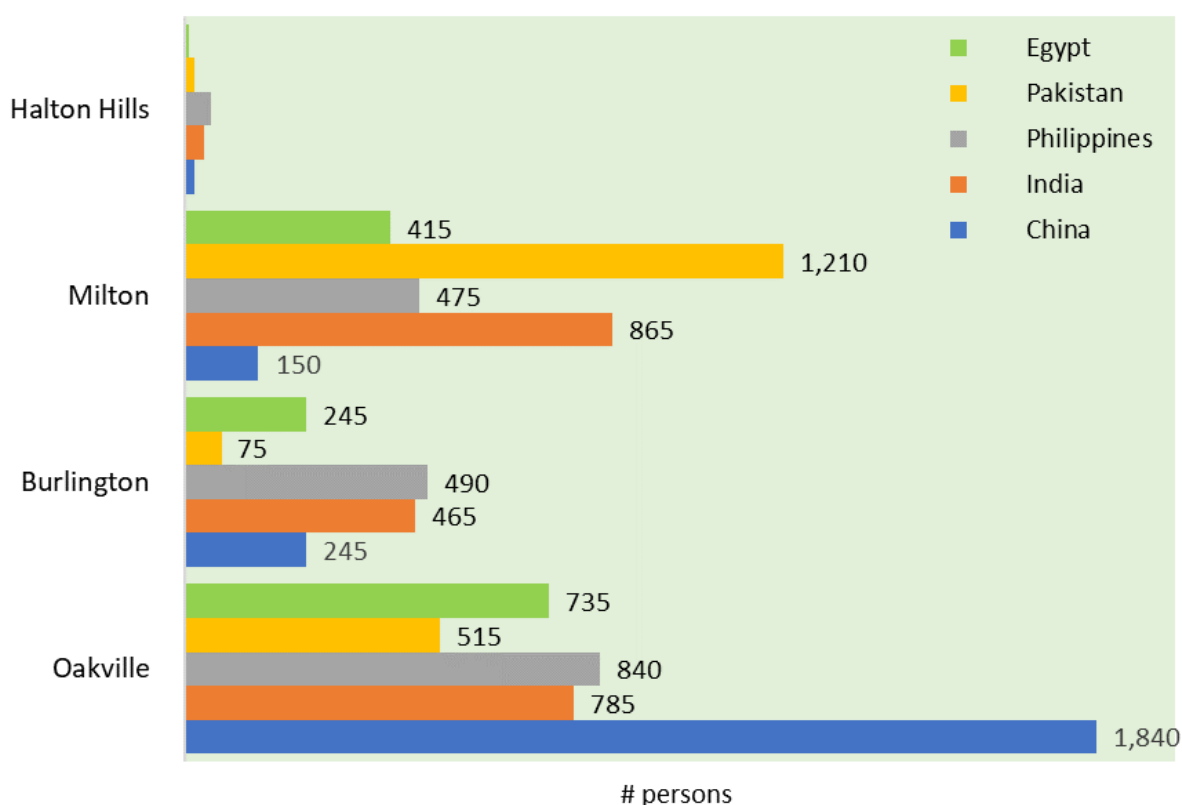
Figure 5. Percentage Distribution of Newcomer by Municipality, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2001-2016 Censuses

Newcomers from different countries also have preference in their settlement decisions. As shown in Figure 6, over 80% or 1,840 newcomers from China chose to reside in Oakville. Over 66% or 1,210 newcomers from Pakistan call Milton home. About 36% or 785 newcomers and 40% or 865 newcomers from India settled in Oakville and Milton respectively. About 45% or 840 newcomers from the Philippines reside in Oakville.

Figure 6. Newcomers by Top Five Country of Birth, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Age Structure

The newcomers are younger. Their median age is 34.6 compared to 40.5 for the total population in Halton. As shown in Figure 7, over one in five (21.9%) newcomers are less than 15 years of age. For the general population, the percentage is slightly smaller at 19.5%. On the other hand, 14.9% of the total population are 65 years and over compared to 8.3% for the newcomers.

As a population, the number of female newcomers is slightly higher than the number of male newcomers by about 13%. However, there are age groups where the difference between the number of male and female newcomers are significant. For example, in the 25-29 age group, female newcomers outnumber their male counterparts by a ratio of 2 to 1.

Figure 7. Newcomer Age Pyramid, Halton Region, 2016

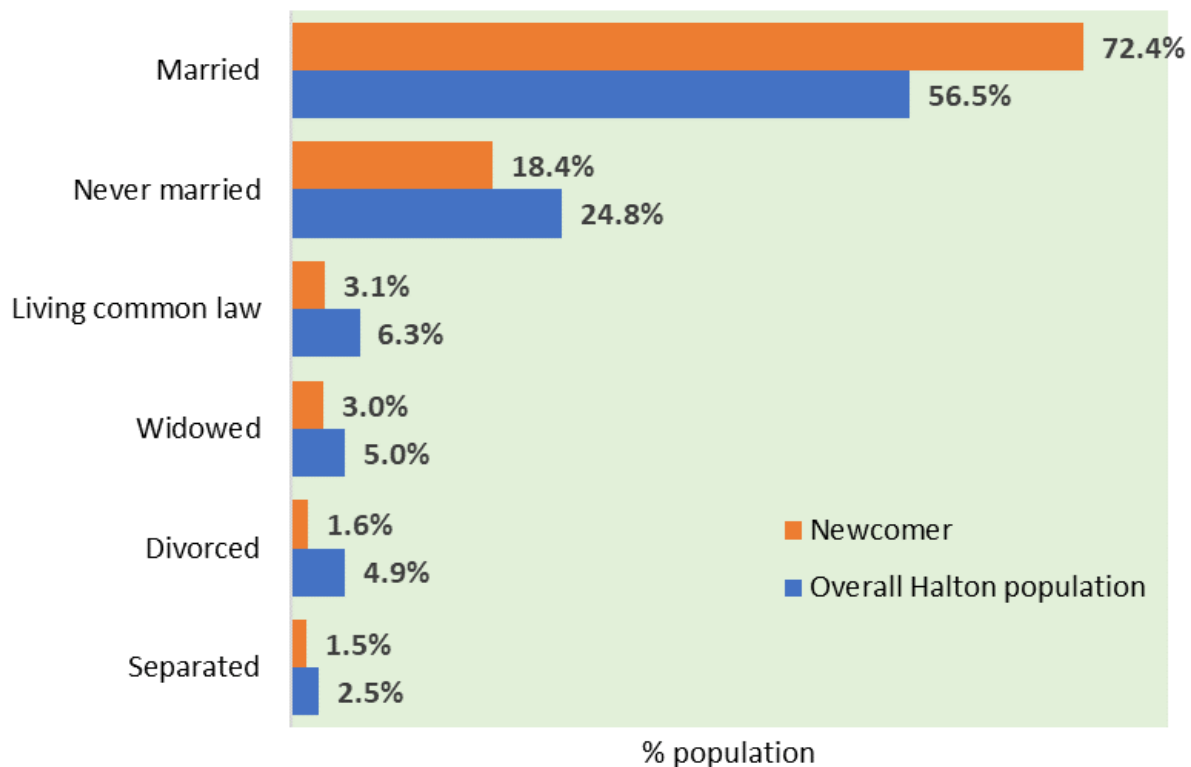


Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Marital Status

As shown in Figure 8, majority (72.4%) of newcomers aged 15 years and over are married as compared to 56.5% for the overall Halton population. The proportion of single newcomers is lower than the total population. Newcomers are also under-represented in the other marital status categories (widowed, divorced and separated).

Figure 8. Proportion of Newcomer by Marital Status, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Mother Tongue

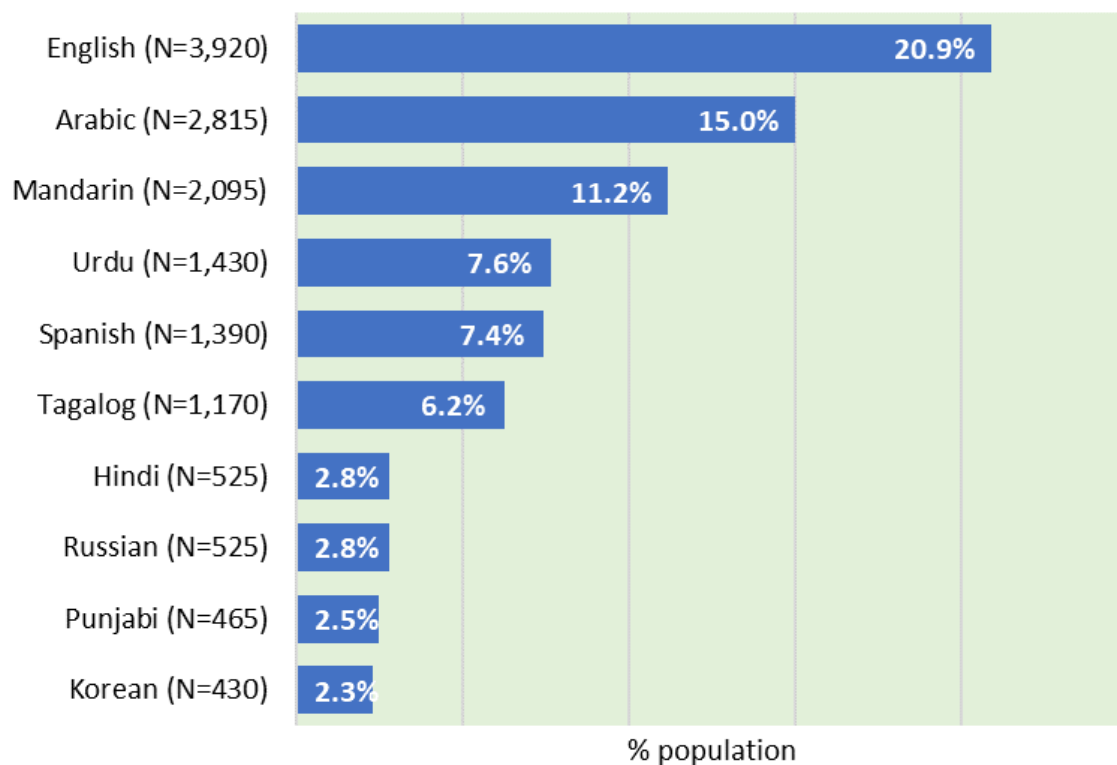
As more immigrants are coming from more non-English/French speaking countries, more foreign languages are spoken. They spoke a non-official mother tongue (i.e., neither English or French) which is the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood.

As shown in Figure 9, almost 80% of newcomers speak a non-official mother tongue. The top five non-official mother tongues are Arabic, Mandarin, Urdu, Spanish and Tagalog.

Arabic, which is spoken by citizens from many countries in the Middle East, Africa and West Central Asia is the most popular non-official mother tongue.

Mandarin is the second most spoken non-official language and is most popular in Oakville.

Figure 9. Proportion of Newcomer by Top Ten Mother Tongue, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

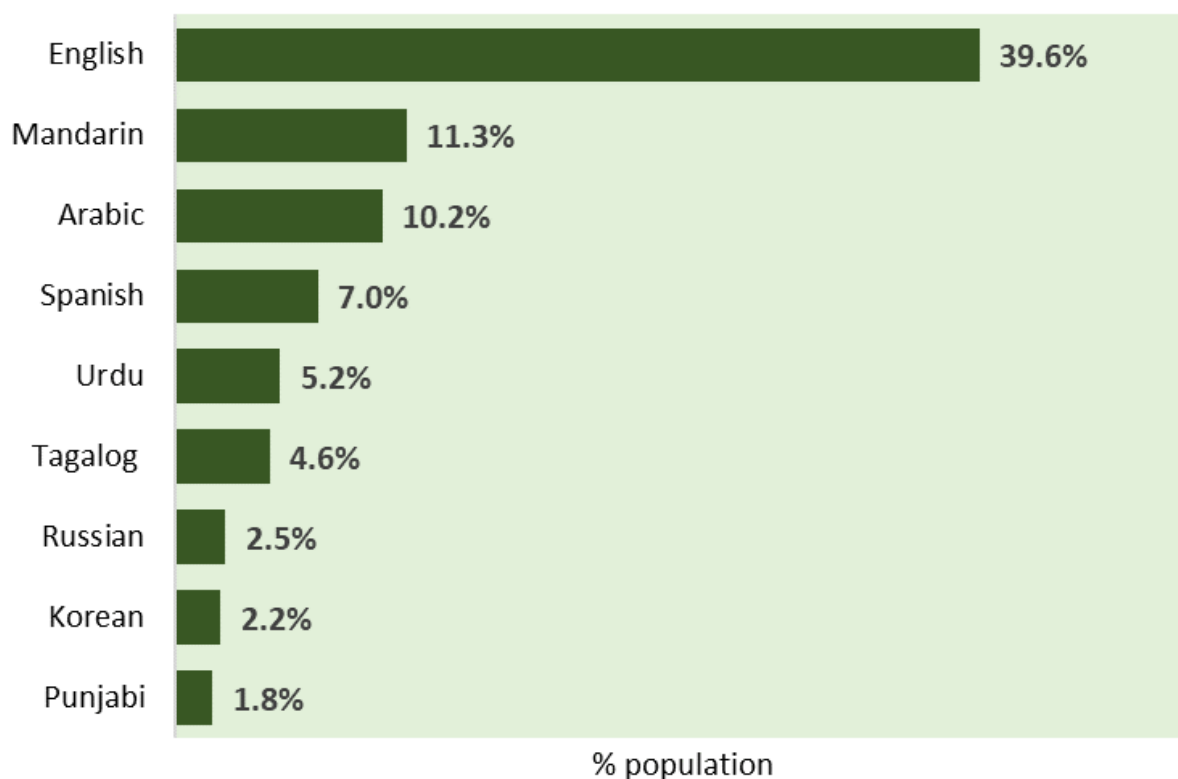
Home Languages

Home language refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home. In 2016, while 32% of newcomers spoke English at home, about 47% or 9,700 newcomers spoke a home language other than English or French. About one in five (19.2%) newcomers spoke both English and a non-official language at home.

Research has established the importance of home language in newcomer families. Their children's knowledge of their home language will help them to learn English or French. Knowing and using a home language will develop a child's security and pride in identity and an understanding of their roots and heritage.

In 2016, the most spoken home language by newcomers is English at almost 40% (Figure 10). About 10% of newcomers spoke either Mandarin or Arabic.

Figure 10. Proportion of Newcomer by Home Language, Halton Region, 2016

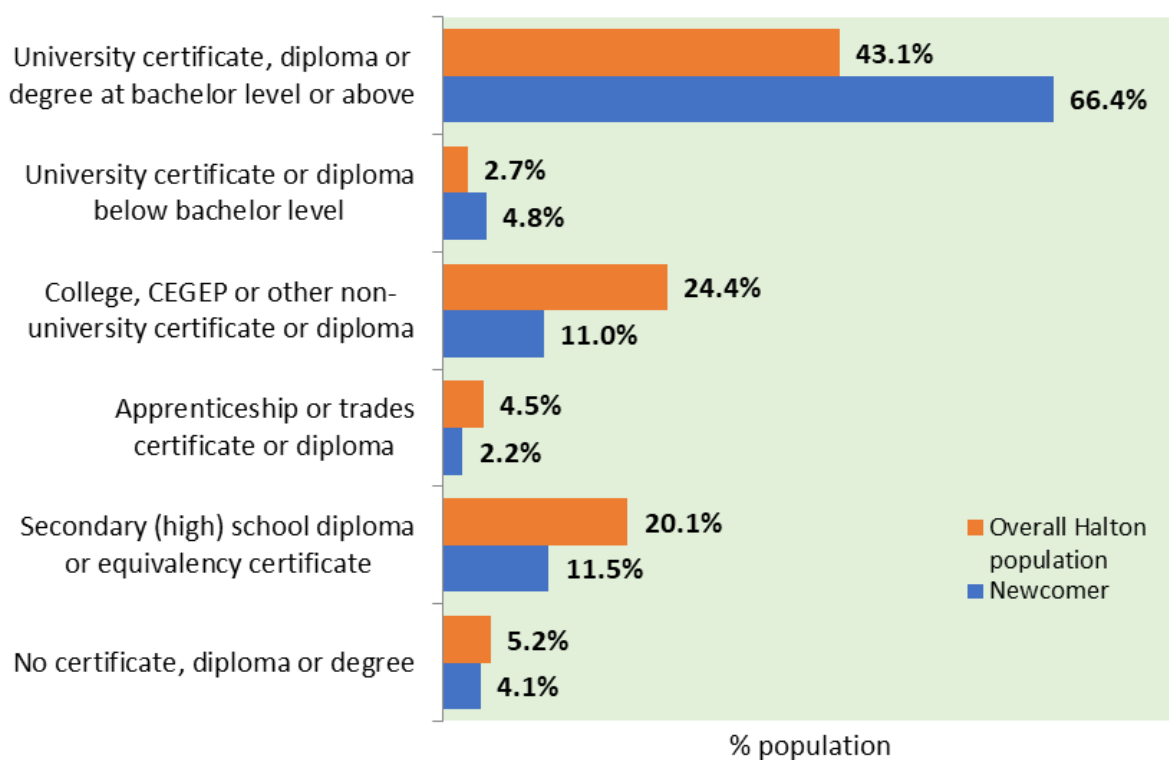


Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Educational Attainment

On average, newcomers in Halton (25 to 64 years of age) are better educated than the overall population. Figure 11 shows two-thirds (66.4%) or 8,000 newcomers have a university certificate, diploma or degree at the bachelor level or above compared to 43.1% for the general population. While one in five (20.1%) Halton residents received a secondary (high) school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment, less than 12% of newcomers had the same educational qualification.

Figure 11. Proportion of Newcomers (25-64 years) by Educational Attainment, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Labour Market Participation

Despite higher educational attainment, newcomers face significant barriers in entering the Canadian labour market. Some of the challenges include difficulty in obtaining Canadian working experiences and/or recognition of their international educational and professional credentials. They are not well-connected with professional networks and do not have sufficient information on employment opportunities and requirements in Canada².

In 2016, the unemployment rate (11%) for Halton's newcomers was almost double that of the overall population (Table 1). Newcomer women fare worse. Their unemployment rate was 15% compared to 8% for newcomer men. Newcomers also have a lower participation rate (labour force/population over 15 years of age) and employment rate (employed labour force/population over 15 years of age).

Table 1. Proportion of Population by Labour Force Status, Halton Region, 2016

	Newcomer	Overall Population
Total - Population aged 15 years and over	15,995	433,845
In the labour force	10,175	302,950
Employed	9,045	284,770
Unemployed	1,130	18,180
Not in the labour force	5,820	130,895
Participation rate ³	64%	69.80%
Employment rate ⁴	57%	65.50%
Unemployment rate ⁵	11%	6%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

There are some variations in participation rate, unemployment rate and employment rate among newcomers in the local municipalities. Newcomers in Halton Hills, which account for

² Toronto Region Immigration Employment Council, *Immigrant Employment-Facts and Figures*, <https://triec.ca/about-us/focus-on-immigrant-employment/>

³ Participation rate refers to the labour force in the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2016, expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. The participation rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the total labour force in that group, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that group.

⁴ Employment rate refers to the number of persons employed in the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2016, expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 years and over. The employment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the number of employed persons in that group, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that group.

⁵ Unemployment rate refers to the unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2016. The unemployment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the unemployed in that group, expressed as a percentage of the labour force in that group.

less than 3% of the regional total, have the highest participation rate and the lowest unemployment rate (Table 2).

Table 2. Newcomer's Participation Rate, Employment Rate and Unemployment Rate by Municipality, Halton Region, 2016

	Burlington	Oakville	Milton	Halton Hills
Participation rate	69%	62%	62%	73%
Employment rate	63%	54%	55%	65%
Unemployment rate	9%	12%	11%	9%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Occupation

Table 3 below lists occupations according to the National Occupational Classification, which describes occupation categories and explains the category through examples. The top five major occupation categories for newcomers are: sales and service; business, finance and administrative; natural and applied sciences; management; and education, law and social community services. They account for 79% of the newcomer labour force. There are three occupations with a higher proportion of newcomers than the overall population (Figure 12), they are: sales and services (25.1% vs 22.2%), natural and applied sciences (13.6% vs 8.8%) and manufacturing and utilities (5.3% vs 3.4%).

The most common occupational category held by newcomers and the general population is sales and services. Some of the typical jobs in this category include retail salespersons, clerks, cashiers, chefs and cooks, and food service counter attendants. Most of the sales and service jobs are part-time. One in four (25.1%) newcomers work in this occupation.

One in seven (13.6%) newcomers work in the natural and applied sciences and related occupations. These jobs include professionals, technicians, and technologists in areas such as engineering, life sciences, computer and information systems.

Over 5% of newcomers work in the manufacturing and utilities occupations which include machine operators in manufacturing, assemblers in manufacturing, labourers in processing, manufacturing, and utilities.

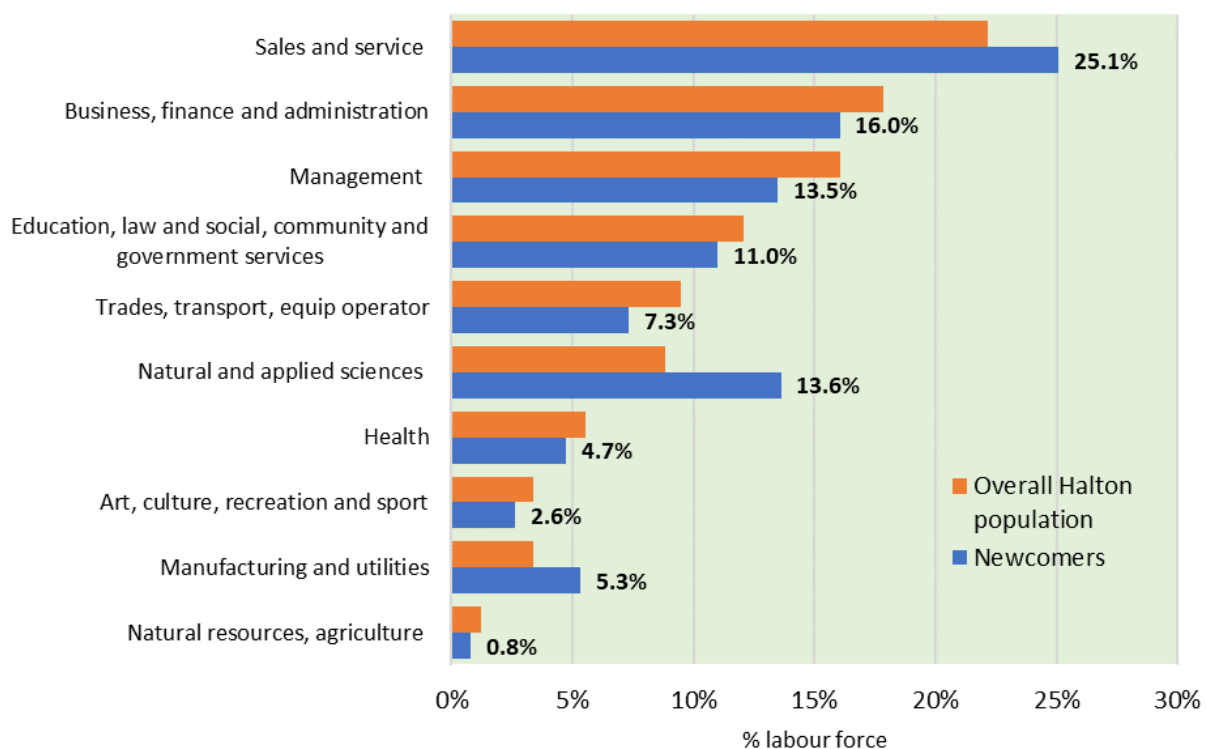
Table 3. National Occupational Classification, 2016

Occupational Category	Selected examples
Management	legislators, senior and middle management
Business; finance and administration	accountants, human resource professionals, general office workers

Occupational Category	Selected examples
Natural and applied science and related occupations	engineers, physical and life professionals, architects, computer and information systems professionals
Health	physicians, nursing professionals, dentists, pharmacists
Education; law and social; community and government services	teaching professionals, police, firefighters, lawyers, community and government service workers, armed forces
Art; culture; recreation and sport	artists, performers, librarians, journalists, coaches, athletes
Sales and service	cashiers, salespersons, cooks, cleaners, real estate and insurance salespersons
Trades; transport and equipment operators	contractor, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, machine operators, motor vehicle and transit drivers
Natural resources; agriculture and related occupations	farm workers, mine workers, forestry workers, landscape and ground maintenance labourers
Manufacturing and utilities	vehicle and mechanical assemblers, labourers in processing, manufacturing and utilities

Source: Statistics Canada, National Occupational Classification (NOC) 2016

Figure 12. Proportion of Labour Force by Occupation, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Visible Minority⁶ Newcomers

Statistics Canada's definition of visible minorities includes residents who identify with many racialized groups but does not include Indigenous residents. The term 'racialized' is now becoming more common, which includes both visible minorities and Indigenous peoples. The Ontario Human Rights Commission, in their factsheet on racial discrimination, explains that because 'race' has its roots in social, not biological, characteristics and includes much more than skin colour, their preferred term is "racialized group or person":

"The Commission has explained 'race' as socially constructed differences among people based on characteristics such as accent or manner of speech, name, clothing, diet, beliefs and practices, leisure preferences, places of origin and so forth. The process of social construction of race is called racialization: the process by which societies construct races as real, different and unequal in ways that matter to economic, political and social life. Recognizing that race is a social construct, the Commission describes people as 'racialized person' or 'racialized group' instead of the more outdated and inaccurate terms 'racial minority', 'visible minority', 'person of colour' or 'non-White'."

This document uses visible minority, not racialized group, because the charts are based on Census data that was collected using the visible minority term and because this data does not include Indigenous residents.

The visible minority population makes up about 25% of the total population in Halton. It is important to note that over one-third (35.9%) of the visible minority population in Halton was born in Canada.

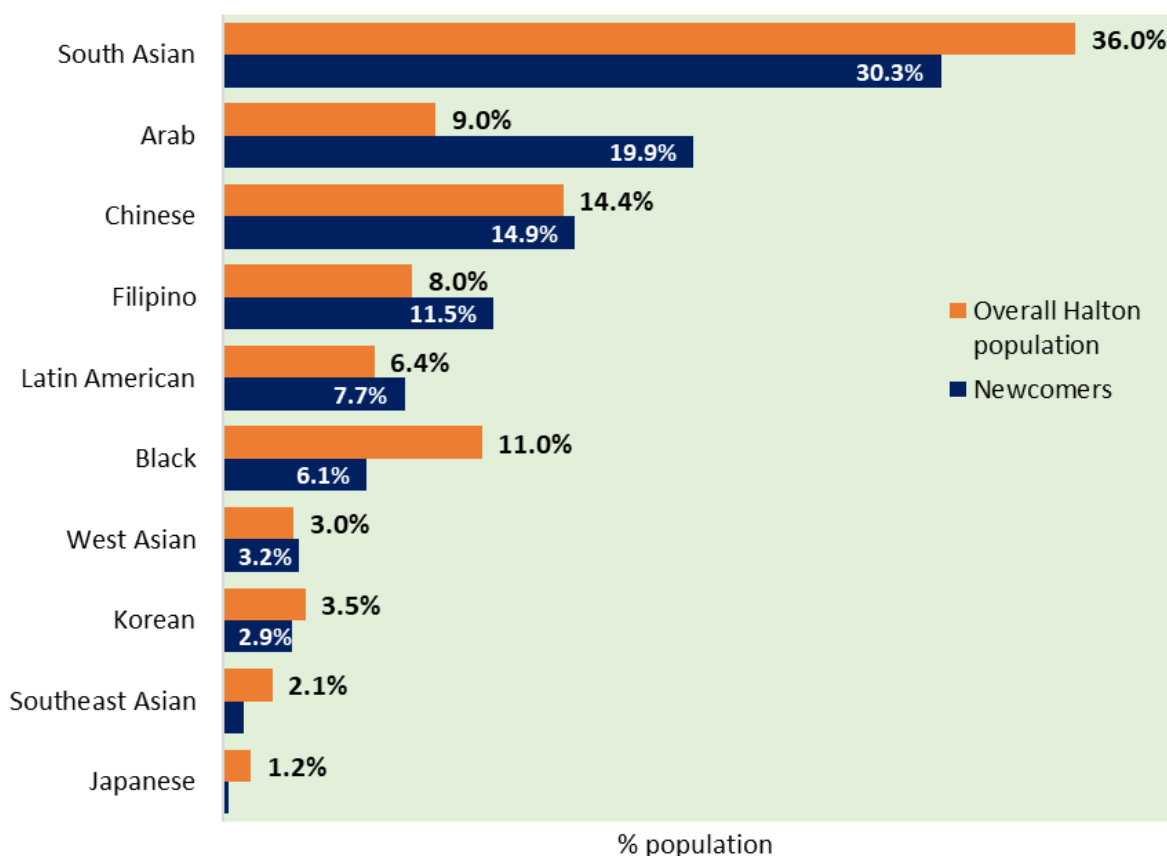
In terms of percentage distribution among the various visible minority groups, there are some differences between newcomers and the overall population. Figure 13 shows the dominance of South Asians as a visible minority group in both the overall and newcomer populations. They account for about one-third of the visible minority population. The South Asian newcomers came from a number of countries including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

Arabs represent the second largest group of visible minority newcomers from countries such as Egypt, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Lebanon.

⁶ 'Visible minority' refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the Employment Equity Act and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour". The visible minority population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese.

There are five visible minority groups (South Asians⁷, Black, Korean, Southeast Asians⁸ and Japanese) that are under-represented. Their percentage distribution is lower than those in the overall population.

Figure 13. Percentage Distribution of Visible Minority Population, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

⁷ South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)

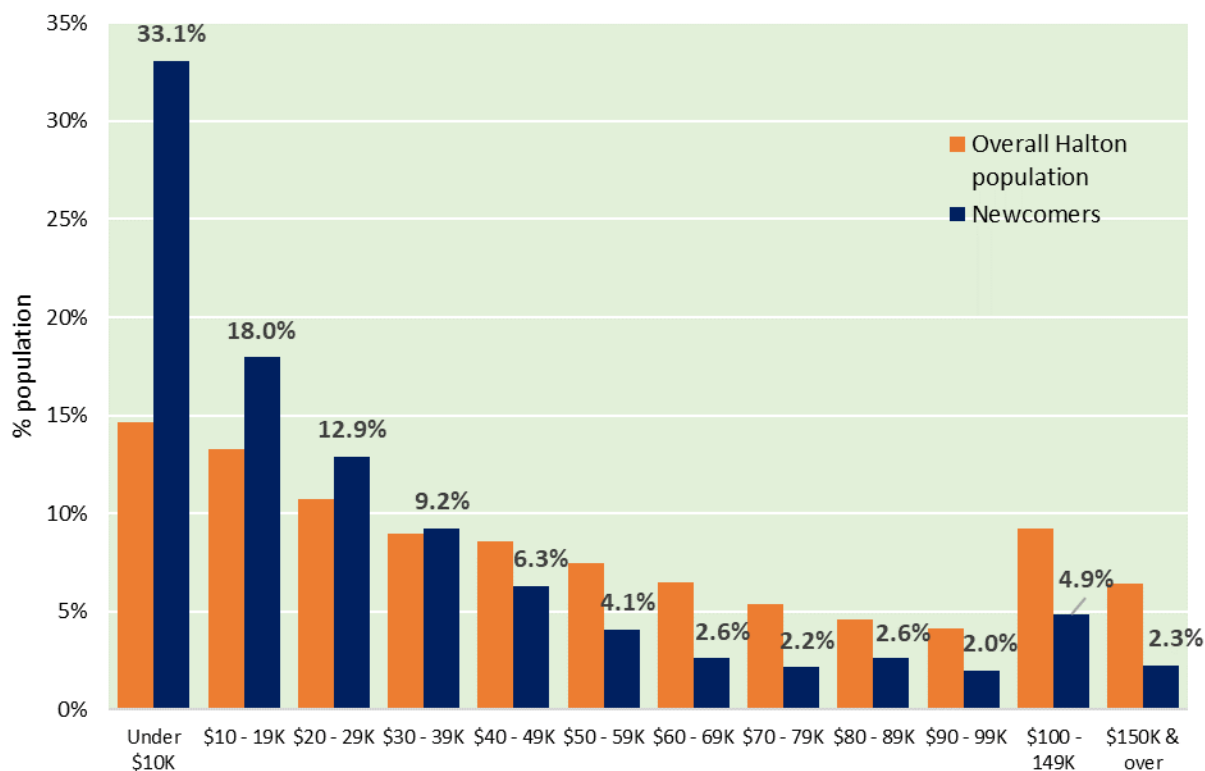
⁸ Southeast Asian (e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, etc.)

Income

Newcomers can face many challenges when they arrive in Canada, such as assessment of foreign credentials, employment opportunities, language needs, education, and cultural differences. How well they overcome these challenges will impact on their economic well-being including financial security, ability to meet basic needs, and personal fulfilment.

On average, the incomes of newcomers are lower than the overall population. The median total income for newcomers aged 15 and over was \$19,487 in 2015. This is less than half (45%) of the total income for the overall population. As shown in Figure 14, one in three (33.1%) newcomers earned less than \$10,000 compared to 14.6% for the overall population. While 6.4% of the overall population made over \$150,000, approximately 2.3% of newcomers made the same amount.

Figure 14. Percentage Distribution of Newcomer by Total Income, Halton Region, 2015



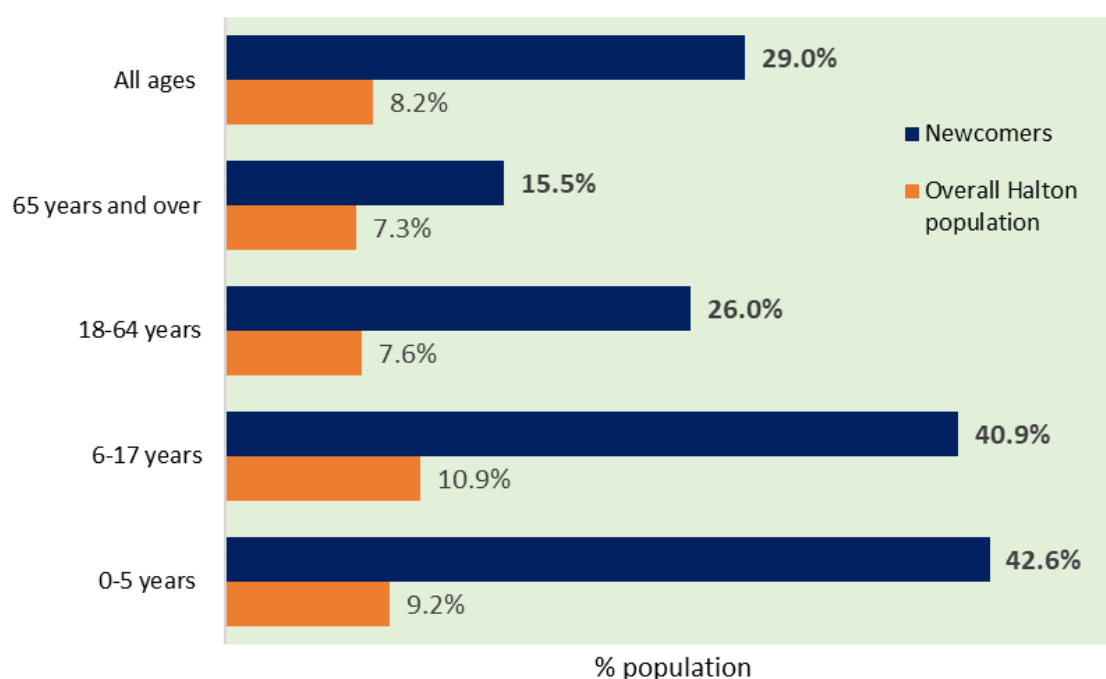
Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

However, studies^{9,10} have shown newcomers' incomes increase the longer they live in Canada. For example, the median wages of immigrants admitted to Canada in 2005 were estimated at \$17,600 in 2006, one year after landing. For the same cohort, they increased to \$25,000 five years after landing, and \$32,000 a decade later.

Low Income

Not only are newcomers often low wage earners, many are living in low income. Low income is defined by using the Low Income Measure – After Tax (LIM-AT)¹¹. The low income rates for newcomers are higher than the overall population in all age groups (Figure 15). The low income rate for children under 17 years of age exceeds 40%, over 2,200 newcomer children in Halton live in poor families.

Figure 15. Low Income Rates for Newcomers and Overall Population by Age, Halton Region, 2015



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

⁹ Statistics Canada, *Income and Mobility of Immigrants*, 2016.

¹⁰ Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Annual Income of Immigrants Relative to the Canadian National Average, 1981-2011*, January 2014.

¹¹ The Low-income measure, after tax, refers to a fixed percentage (50%) of median adjusted after-tax income of private households. The household after-tax income is adjusted by an equivalence scale to take economies of scale into account. This adjustment for different household sizes reflects the fact that a household's needs increase, but at a decreasing rate, as the number of members increases.

There were almost 6,000 newcomers living in low income in Halton. The low income rate is 29% compared to 8.2% for the overall population (Table 4), that means over 1 in 4 newcomers live in low income. Again, their low income rates vary among the four Halton municipalities.

Table 4. Newcomer Population in Low Income by Municipality, Halton Region, 2015

	Newcomer Population	Newcomer Population in Low Income	Newcomers Low Income Rate
Oakville	10,185	3,610	35.4%
Burlington	4,130	975	23.6%
Milton	5,635	1,300	23.1%
Halton Hills	535	65	12.1%
Halton Region	20,485	5,950	29.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Implications

- The number of immigrants destined to Halton is most likely to increase given the past trends and future projections. This will continue to fuel the high population growth in Halton, more residents, more taxpayers, more consumers, more homeowners, more renters, and more workers.
- Most immigrants will continue to come from non-European countries with non-English/French mother tongues, different cultures and backgrounds. There will be a growing demand for immigrant settlement services.
- Newcomers are moving to new or newly developed subdivisions. Social service providers are challenged to add service points to meet new demands with often limited resources.
- Many of the challenges faced by newcomers in the labour market require actions from many parties. Stakeholders such as government, employers, regulatory bodies, immigrants, educators, community agencies must work together for solutions.
- There are other organizations and nonprofit agencies providing non-government funded newcomer settlement services – how to maximize their efforts and reduce service duplication?
- Most newcomer families will have school age children. Schools need to accommodate different types of student/family needs in addition to increased school enrollment.
- Current trends suggest newcomers will be more educated and highly skilled, resulting in a potential professional and highly skilled labour force available in Halton.