

Home Support Workers in Halton

According to the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)¹, an estimated 881,800 Canadian households (6.4%) received formal home care services during 2015/2016. Home care services allow people of all ages to receive care at home rather than in a hospital or long-term care facility.

The National Occupational Classification (NOC)² defines home support workers as individuals who provide personal care and companionship for seniors, persons with disabilities and persons recovering from an illness or operation. Care is provided within the client's residence, in which the home support workers may also reside. They are employed by home care and support agencies, private households, or they may be self-employed. This occupational classification also includes housekeepers.

The 2016 Census counted about 650 Halton residents employed in the home support occupation. Some of these workers worked outside Halton. At the same, there were home support workers from other municipalities who came to and worked in Halton.

The resident home support workers were predominantly women (91.5%) compared to 48.4% for all Halton workers. A slightly lower percentage (10%) of home support workers were self-employed. Compared to all workers, the support workers were older, with one in ten aged 65 and over. This is more than double the percentage (4.4%) for all workers. Over half (51.5%) of home support workers were immigrants and one in five (20.7%) came to Canada between 2006 and 2016.

In Halton	Home Support Workers	All Workers
% female	91.5%	48.4%
% self-employed	10.0%	12.5%
% between age 15-24	5.4%	12.7%
% between age 25-64	83.7	82.8%
% age 65 and over	10.8	4.4%
% immigrants	51.5	31.3%
% immigrants (2006-2016)	20.7	7.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

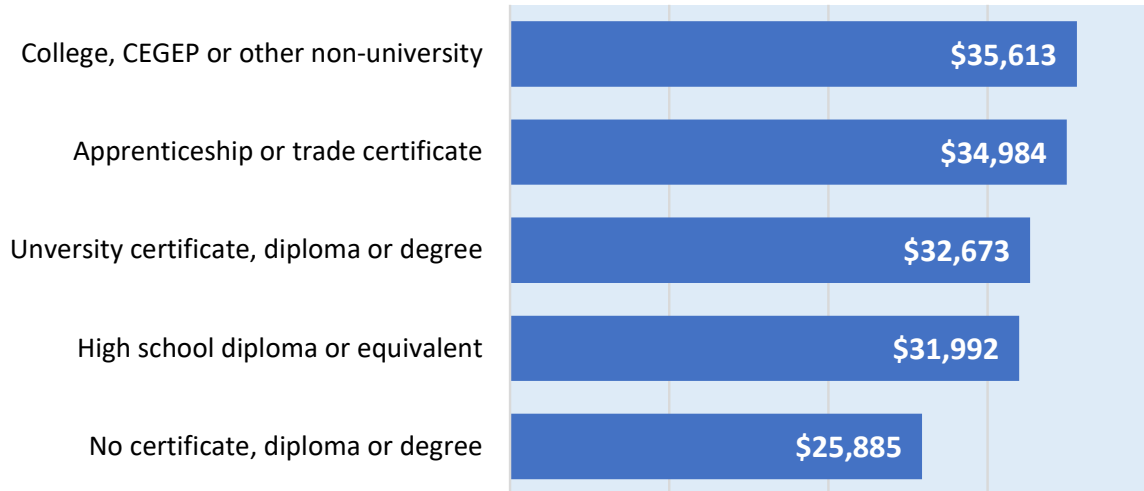
The 2015 median employment income for a full-time, full year worker was \$55,121 in Ontario, which means half of the workers made over that amount while the other half made less than that amount. The median employment income for home support occupation was \$33,625. They earned about 61 cents for every dollar earned by an average worker. In Halton, the median employment income for home support workers is \$32,594, which represents less than half of the average worker (\$68,481).

¹ The cross-sectional CCHS collects information related to health status, health care utilization and health determinants for the Canadian population 12 years or age or older

² The National Occupational Classification (NOC) is a nationally recognized and standardized system that assigns a four-digit code and job description to every occupation in the Canadian labour market

The employment income varies with levels of education. Home support workers with a college or non-university education earned about 6% more than the average. Those who no high school education earned the least.

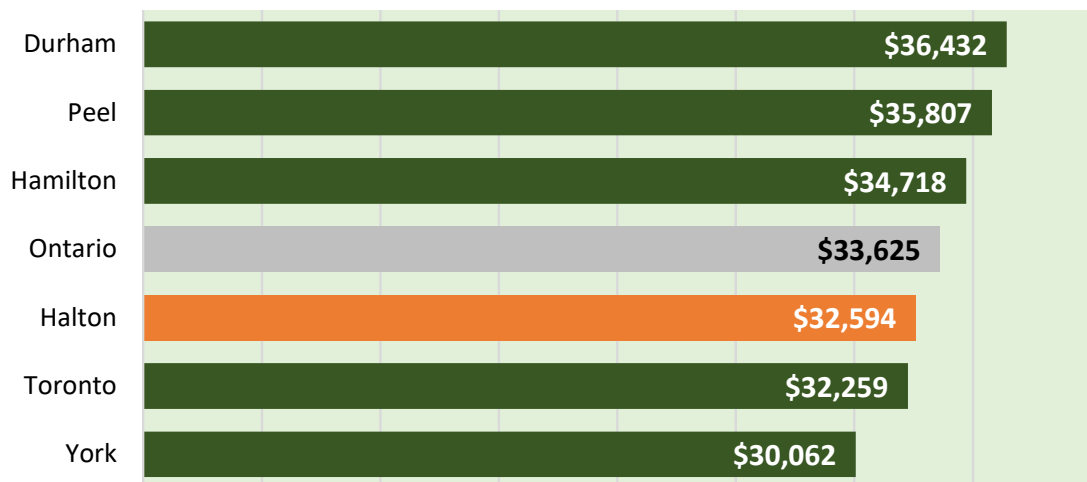
Median Employment Income by Educational Attainment, Home Support Workers, Ontario, 2015



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

The employment income for home support workers also has a geographic variation. Within the GTHA (Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area)³, Halton’s resident home support workers earned about 10% less than those residing in Peel and 7% less than those in Hamilton, respectively.

Median Employment Income, Home Support Workers, GTHA, 2015



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

³ Includes Toronto, Durham, York, Peel, Halton and Hamilton



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