



Community Development Halton Data Watch: 2023 Living Wage

Poverty often stems from inadequate income. Because of low wages, individuals with employment income still struggle to meet their basic needs and are forced to live in poverty. In many jurisdictions, the government sets the minimum wage to ensure that there is a baseline for wages with the goal of protecting workers from exploitation. In Ontario, the minimum wage is the lowest wage rate an employer can pay an employee.

Most employees are eligible for minimum wage, whether they are full-time, part-time, or casual employees, or are paid an hourly rate, commission, piece rate, flat rate, or salary. The minimum wage at the time of this report (October 2023) is \$16.55.



A living wage is the hourly rate that ensures that a person working full time, full year, earns enough to participate in the normal life of their community. The Ontario Living Wage Network¹ works with communities in Ontario to calculate their respective living wages. Annual family expenses include food, shelter, clothing, transportation, adult education, medical expenses, communications, childcare expenses, and others. The 2023 living wage rates for Ontario were released by the Ontario Living Wage Network, on November 6, 2023. Halton falls into the GTA calculations. The rate is up 8.2% over the 2022 calculations to \$25.05. Figure 1 provides a breakdown of costs associated with the calculations for the 2023 Living Wage for Halton.

Figure 1
Living Wage Breakdown, Halton, 2023
Source: Ontario Living Wage Network

¹ Ontario Living Wage Network (OLWN) is a network of employers, employees, non-profits, researchers, and proponents of decent work standards for all Ontario workers. <https://www.ontariolivingwage.ca/>

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Figure 2, from Community Development Halton's *Our Halton* report on *Income Inequality and Poverty*² shows the rise in both the Ontario minimum wage and living wage between 2010 and 2023.

In 2022 Halton's living wage rate was \$23.15. That meant for an individual working 35 hours per week full year in 2022, the annual wage gap between minimum and living wage was about \$14,000. With an increase of 8.2% in Halton's 2023 living wage rate that annual wage gap is now just under \$15,500 a year.

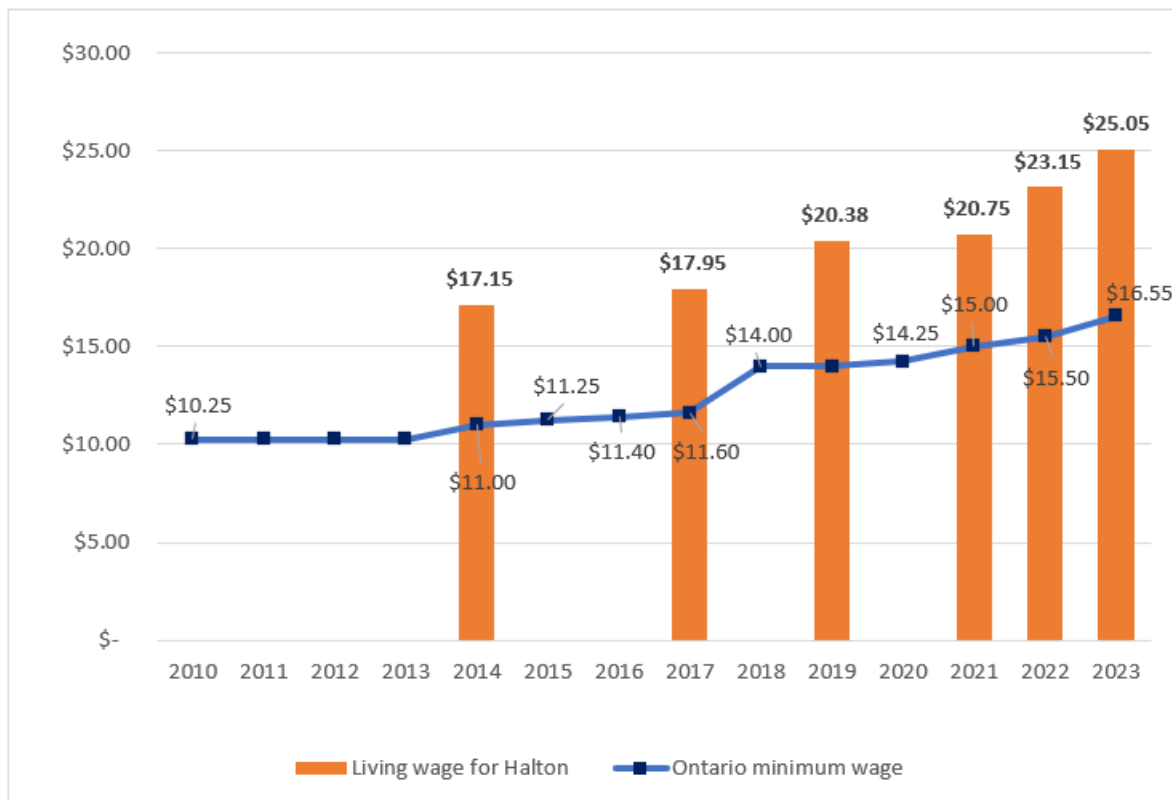


Figure 2 Ontario Minimum Wage and Living Wage for Halton Region, 2010-2023

Data Source: Ontario Government, Ontario Living Wage Network, Calculating Ontario Living Wages, November 2023

For more information about the how the living wage is calculated please visit ontariolivingwage.ca/documentation

² [Our Halton 2023: Income Inequality & Poverty | Community Development Halton \(cdhalton.ca\)](https://cdhalton.ca/our-halton-2023-income-inequality-poverty)