



Region of Waterloo

Census

BULLETIN | 2016

Summary

1. Population, age and sex



In 2016, the Census population was **535,154**.¹

The five-year **growth rate** was **5.5%**, which is higher than Ontario and Canada.

- The average age was 39 years, lower than Ontario and Canada at 41 years. Contrary to national trends, in Waterloo Region there were more children and youth than seniors.
- Seven in ten people were working age (15 to 65 years), while one in seven was over 65 years of age.

2. Agriculture

In 2016, there were

1,374

farms headquartered in Waterloo Region covering

214,975 acres of land.



- Almost three quarters of agricultural land was used for crops, with the rest primarily used for pasture.
- Of all farms, livestock made up approximately 70 per cent.

3. Households, families and marital status

- Couples with children made up one in three households.
- The number of people who had never been married grew more than any other marital status.

The number of **lone-parent families** is **growing faster** than the rate of **couples with children**.



4. Language

- English was the mother tongue of three in four residents. However, almost 130,000 residents had a mother tongue other than English – an increase of ten per cent in the last five years.
- There were over 120 mother tongue languages. After English, they were primarily German, Portuguese and Mandarin.

1 in 8 residents spoke a language **other than English** regularly at home with **Mandarin replacing German** as the most common.

你好 **Guten tag**



5. Income

The **total median household income** in **Waterloo Region** was

\$77,530

Up **1.6 per cent** from 2005

higher than that of **Ontario (\$74,287)** and **Canada (\$70,336)**.



- One in eight residents (12 per cent) was living in low-income. This represents just over 64,000 people.
- The income gap between men and women decreased by over \$5,000 in ten years.

¹ The Region's estimate of total population for year-end 2016 was 583,500. This includes the Census population, plus an estimate of the Census undercount (those who were missed from the Census), full-time post secondary students and population growth from May to year-end.

6. Dwellings and households

- The homeownership rate was 68 per cent, down 2.9 per cent from 2011. For young adults there was an eight per cent drop between 2006 and 2016.
- The fastest growing household sizes are one-person (a quarter of all households) and two-person (a third of all households).
- Almost a quarter (23 per cent) of households were spending over 30 per cent of their income on housing.

Between 2011 and 2016, there were almost **6,000** new apartment units in **Waterloo Region** and just over **4,000** additional **single-detached houses**.



7. Ethnic origins, visible minorities and aboriginal peoples

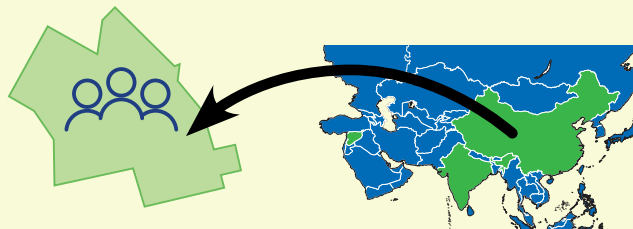
- Over 220 different ethnic origins were reported, with almost half of people recording more than one.
- Of the people who identified as Aboriginal Peoples, over 60 per cent were First Nations.

1 in 5 people in Waterloo Region self-identified as a visible minority, an increase of **60%** since 2006.



8. Mobility, migration and immigration

Over **14,000** arrived in Canada and **settled in Waterloo Region** between **2011 and 2016**.



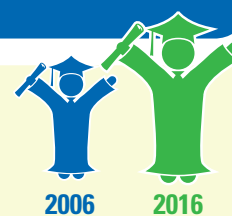
The most common origin countries were **India, China and Syria**.

- Approximately four in ten residents moved homes in the last five years. That's almost 200,000 people.
- Almost one in four residents were immigrants who were born outside of Canada.

9. Employment and education

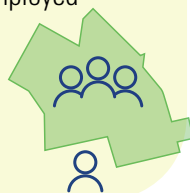
- The top two employment sectors were manufacturing (16 per cent) and retail trade (11 per cent).
- The two fastest growing sectors were 'health care and social assistance' and 'professional, scientific and technical services'.

Between 2006 and 2016, the number of people with a university degree increased by **22,245 people** or **37%**.



10. Place of work and commuting to work

3/4 of **Waterloo Region's** employed residents **worked within the region**.



- Over 38,000 people commuted into the region for work and slightly more (almost 39,000) residents commuted out.
- Nine in ten workers commuted by car, truck or van.
- The average commute time for residents was 22.8 minutes each way.

For more interesting facts on each of these topics, please refer to the Census Bulletins, at <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/regional-government/census.aspx>



Region of Waterloo

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT
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