

Arts and Culture



Hamilton's art and cultural industry workforce is growing faster than its overall labour force. Library use is also growing rapidly, and exceeding provincial averages in many categories.

Arts and Culture Employment

As of 2006, Hamilton's 7,290 cultural industry workers accounted for 2.6% of its labour force, slightly less than provincial and national averages. Hamilton's 1,680 artists account for 0.6% of the labour force, and is similar to the national average of 0.8%. The number of artists has increased 22% in the last 15 years, growing faster than the overall labour force.

Library Use

Library use is growing rapidly in Hamilton. The 6 million items checked out in 2009 represent a 28% increase from 4.7 million in 2007. Circulation per capita is slightly higher than average at 11.6 items per person, and 56% of Hamiltonians owned a library card

in 2009, compared to the 43% provincial average. Over the past three years, total library uses per capita have been 3 to 13% higher than the average for large municipal libraries in Ontario.

Cultural Organizations and Festivals

A recently-completed baseline inventory of Hamilton's cultural resources identified 2,254 cultural assets including 870 creative cultural industries (e.g. publishing, art dealers, libraries), 180 community cultural organizations, 260 spaces and facilities, 824 cultural heritage properties, 28 natural heritage properties, and 92 festivals and events.

Belonging and Leadership



Hamiltonians are more likely than average to give to charity and two-thirds feel connected to the community, but voter turnout is low, especially in some neighbourhoods.

Charitable Donations

In Hamilton in 2008, 26.7% of tax filers made charitable donations. This was higher than provincial (25.7%) and federal averages (24.1%). These results are lower than in 1997 when 30.5% of Hamilton tax filers made donations. The median charitable donation has increased to \$290 from \$210 over the same period.

Sense of Community Belonging

In 2007-8, 65.1% Hamiltonians 12 and over reported having a strong or positive sense of community belonging, similar to the provincial average and an increase over 2001 when Hamilton's percentage was 59.0%. Almost one-third of Hamiltonians report not having even a "somewhat strong" sense of community belonging.

Voter Turnout

In the 2003 and 2006 municipal elections, only 37% and 38% respectively, of eligible Hamiltonians voted, three percentage points lower than the provincial average. Turnout increased to meet the average for the last two provincial elections when 57% and 54% of eligible Hamiltonians voted. Hamilton's federal election turnout has been slightly higher: 58% in 2004, 63% in 2006, and 56% in 2008 – but all were two to three percentage points below national average. Voter turnout varies dramatically by neighbourhood: for instance several polling stations in the 2008 federal election reported turnout below 25%, while others were above 75%.

Economy and Work



Hamilton's unemployment rate is lower than the Ontario average, but proportionally fewer people are in the labour force. The local economy has had shifts toward smaller employers and knowledge-based institutions.

Employment and Unemployment Rates

The June 2010 unemployment rate for the Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area (includes Burlington and Grimsby) was 7.7%, compared to the 8.3% provincial average and similar to the 7.9% national average. In 16 of the last 18 months, the Hamilton "CMA" has had unemployment rates below the provincial average. In June 2010 the participation rate (the percentage of people who are either employed or looking for work) was 65.8%, some two percentage points lower than the provincial and national rates, meaning that Hamilton has a larger proportion of people who are out of the labour force entirely.

Living Wage

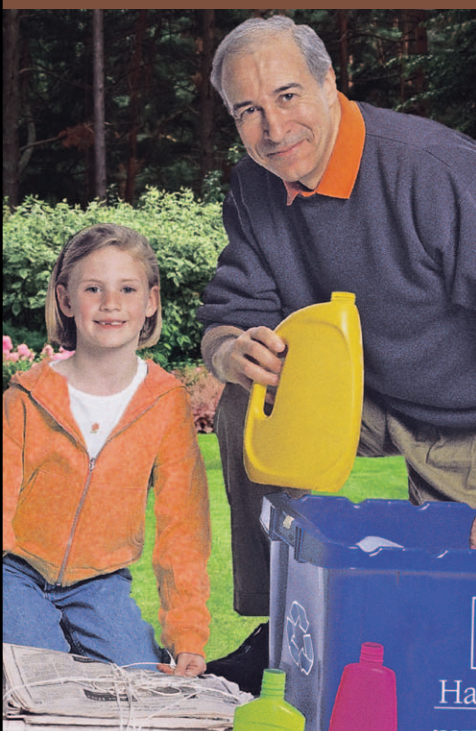
The Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction estimates that a living wage for full-time, full-year work equates to a \$27,000 annual

salary. In 2008 in the Hamilton CMA, 17% of full-time, full-year workers earned less than \$25,000 per year. Women were more likely to earn less than a living wage: 22% of female full-time full-year workers earned less than \$25,000 compared with 14% of males. The overall provincial average was 19%.

Number and Type of Employers

From 2003 to 2009, the city of Hamilton had a net gain of 553 employers. Most of these gains were found in the "Small Business" category, and there was a decrease of registered "Medium to Large" businesses over the past five years. In the broader CMA over the same time period, the employment sectors with the most job growth were health care, social services and transportation/warehousing. Jobs in the manufacturing sector declined by 13.7% between 2001 and 2006.

Environment



Water consumption and waste management have improved substantially. Reductions in local air pollutants have been offset by increases in ground level ozone and greenhouse gas emissions.

Water Consumption

Between 1993 and 2009, industrial, commercial and residential water consumption dropped by more than 50% to 453 cubic metres from 1,042 per metered account, exceeding the City's 521 cubic metre target. Residential use accounts for most consumption and decreased almost 40% from 2001 to 2006. Universal water metering, rate increases, and greater recognition that water is a valuable commodity all played a part.

Waste Production and Diversion

Hamiltonians cut waste produced by 4% from 2000 to 2009. They increased the waste they composted to 24% from 2%, and the waste they recycled to 22% from 14%. As a result, waste diverted from our landfills rose to 47% in 2009 from 17% in 2000, meeting the provincial average. The City's diversion target is 65%.

Air Quality and Pollution

Local air pollutants (including particulate matter) have decreased by almost 40% over the past decade, but have been offset by higher ground level ozone, or "smog", and greenhouse gas emissions. In Hamilton, "hourly exceeds of 50 parts per billion" of ozone increased by 45% to 500 in 2008 from 345 in 1993. In most areas across southern Ontario, this has increased by between 10 and 30%. Greenhouse gas emissions, the release of carbon dioxide, methane, and other gases, increased to 13.1 million metric tonnes in 2008 from 12.7 million in 2006. The largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions are steel and heavy industry (76%), commercial (9%), transportation (8%) and residential (6%).

Gap between Rich and Poor



Hamilton's poverty rates are well above provincial and national averages. There are extreme differences between the city's neighbourhoods in incomes and poverty rates.

Overall Poverty Rate

Based on Statistics Canada's Before-tax Low Income Cutoff, Hamilton's overall poverty rate declined from 19.8% in 2001 to 18.1% in 2006 (the most recent figures available), but remained well above the provincial and national averages (14.7% and 15.3%, respectively). Hamilton's Social Planning and Research Council found certain groups more than twice as likely to experience poverty: recent immigrants (those who arrived between 2001 and 2006), single people, Aboriginals, and female lone parents. Poverty among seniors improved between 2001 and 2006, dropping to 16.6% from 24.4%.

Child Poverty Rate

Nearly one in four Hamilton children under 18 lived below the poverty line (23.6%) in 2006, a small increase since 2001 (23.4%),

and a rate higher than the provincial and national averages (18.0% and 17.7%). As The Hamilton Spectator's Code Red series reported, child poverty is concentrated: some neighbourhoods had rates of over 55%, while there were seven neighbourhoods with no child poverty.

Income Gap Between Neighbourhoods

Families in Hamilton's five highest income neighbourhoods had median incomes 3.3 times higher than those in the five lowest income neighbourhoods in 2006. The average of the family median incomes for the five highest income census tracts was \$110,796; for the lowest income five it was \$33,345, a difference of \$77,345. Across Hamilton, neighbourhood poverty rates varied from less than 3% to over 40%.