



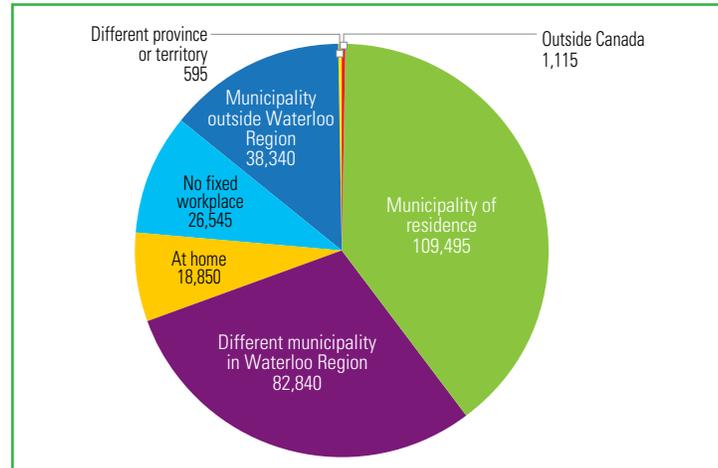
Census BULLETIN | 2016

Place of work and commuting to work

Place of work

Of Waterloo Region's 277,790 employed residents, three quarters worked within the region (Figure 1). This figure includes individuals who work at home and those with a regular workplace. The remaining quarter either worked outside the region or had no fixed workplace, that is they did not travel to the same location at the start of each shift. Between 2006 and 2016, the proportion of Waterloo Region residents who remained in the region for work declined from 80 per cent to 75 per cent. In 2016, approximately 40 per cent of commuters worked in the same municipality

Figure 1: Place of work for Waterloo Region residents, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division

Between 2006 and 2016, the number of workers without a fixed workplace grew **27%** or by **5,685** individuals

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

as where they lived, a decrease from 2006 when just over 44 per cent worked and lived in the same municipality (Table 1). People living in the three cities were most likely to stay within their own municipality for work. This trend was particularly true of Cambridge. In contrast, those that lived in the townships, particularly North Dumfries, were most likely to commute outside their municipality (Figure 2).

Between 2006 and 2016, the number of workers without a fixed workplace grew by 27.3 per cent or by 5,685 people. In Waterloo Region, just under a third of those working in the trades or in transport-related occupations had no fixed workplace. Over this period, the largest change was in the number of people who travelled outside the region for work. In 2016, there were over 38,000 people who commuted to destinations outside the region, which was 8,000 more than in 2006.

Table 1: Workplace location for Waterloo Region residents, 2006 and 2016

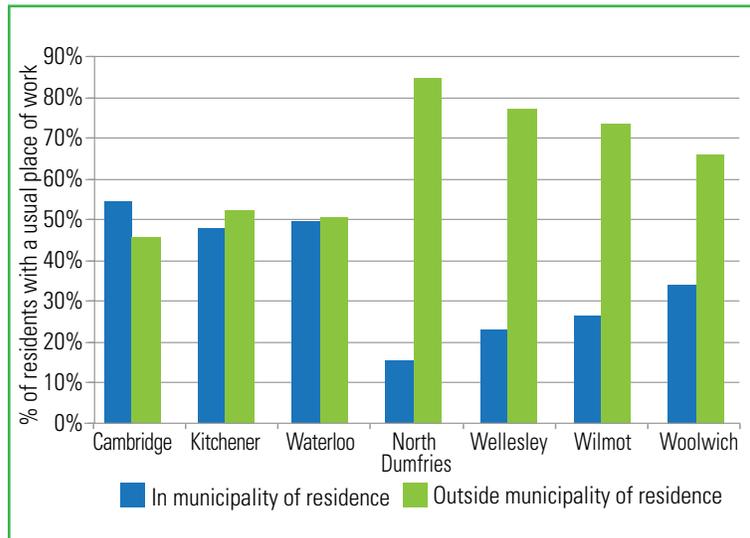
Workplace Location	2006	2016	2006-2016	
			Absolute change	Per cent change
In same municipality	114,020	109,495	-4,525	-4.0%
In different municipality in Waterloo Region	75,370	82,840	7,470	9.9%
Outside Waterloo Region (in Ontario)	30,625	38,340	7,715	25.2%
Outside Ontario (in Canada)	305	595	290	95.1%
Outside Canada	905	1,115	210	23.2%
At home	15,875	18,850	2,975	18.7%
No fixed workplace	20,860	26,545	5,685	27.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 to 2016 by Census Division



In 2016, there were **249,310** people whose jobs were located in Waterloo Region, whether or not this was where they lived. In addition, **26,545 residents had no fixed workplace**. If these individuals were all assumed to work somewhere within the region, there would be **275,855 jobs based in Waterloo Region**, including people who worked at home.

Figure 2: Commuting destinations for Waterloo Region residents with a usual place of work, 2016

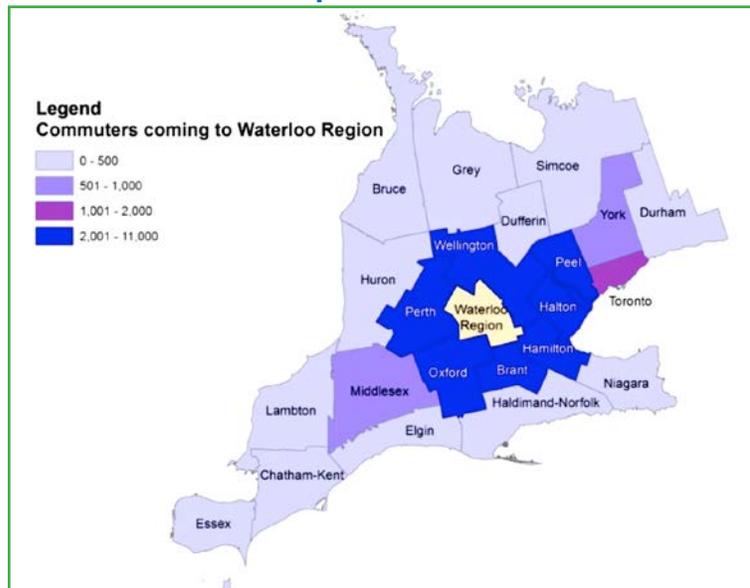


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 and 2016 by Census Subdivision

Commuting to work

Ten year trends show that Waterloo Region has shifted from a net inbound to a net outbound commuting flow. In 2006, the outbound to inbound commuting ratio was 49:51 in favour of inbound commuting; by 2016, this ratio had shifted to 51:49 in favour of outbound commuting. In other words, Waterloo Region now has a roughly balanced flow of commuters, with a small net outflow. In 2016, 38,125 people commuted into the region for work and 38,940 Waterloo Region residents commuted outside the region. Despite Waterloo Region's net outbound commuting flow, a relatively small proportion (17 per cent) of the population commuted outside the region for work compared to other areas in Southwestern Ontario. In areas closer to Toronto such as Halton and York, 51 per cent and 47 per cent of the population respectively regularly commuted to other areas for work.

Figure 3: Commuters to Waterloo Region from southern Ontario municipalities, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division

Most commuters to Waterloo Region came from the immediate surrounding areas, such as Wellington County (including Guelph) and Brant (including Brantford) as seen in Figure 3. Specifically, Guelph (6,295), Hamilton (3,245) and Brant (2,425) were the top three origins for commuters as shown in Table 2. In the opposite direction, 38,940 residents commuted to workplaces outside the region. The majority of these commuters were travelling to Guelph (12,685), Mississauga, located in Peel Region (3,925), and Toronto (3,075).

In 2016, Waterloo Region had a roughly balanced flow of **inbound** and **outbound commuters**. For the first time, there was a small flow in the outbound direction.

Table 2: Top 20 destinations and origins for commuters, 2016

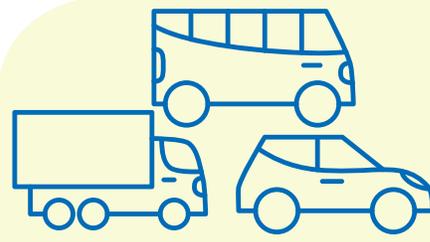
Commuters leaving Waterloo Region		Commuters coming to Waterloo Region	
Guelph	12,685	Guelph	6,295
Mississauga	3,925	Hamilton	3,245
Toronto	3,075	Brant	2,425
Hamilton	2,115	Brantford	2,320
Milton	1,605	Woodstock	1,545
Puslinch	1,435	Centre Wellington	1,535
Brantford	1,415	Toronto	1,535
Stratford	1,155	Blandford-Blenheim	1,455
Brampton	1,145	Mississauga	1,415
Woodstock	785	Mapleton	1,240
Burlington	740	Perth East	1,130
Brant	730	Milton	995
Centre Wellington	715	Stratford	945
Oakville	660	London	730
London	640	Brampton	685
Vaughan	385	North Perth	670
Perth East	355	Puslinch	630
Mapleton	355	East Zorra-Tavistock	615
Halton Hills	335	Burlington	615
North Perth	255	Oakville	550

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division



Guelph, Hamilton and Brant were the most common **origins** for commuters coming into Waterloo Region for work.

For Waterloo Region residents commuting outside the region, **Guelph, Mississauga, and Toronto** were the most common **destinations**.



Almost **9 OUT OF 10** commuters **travelled to work by car, truck or van.**

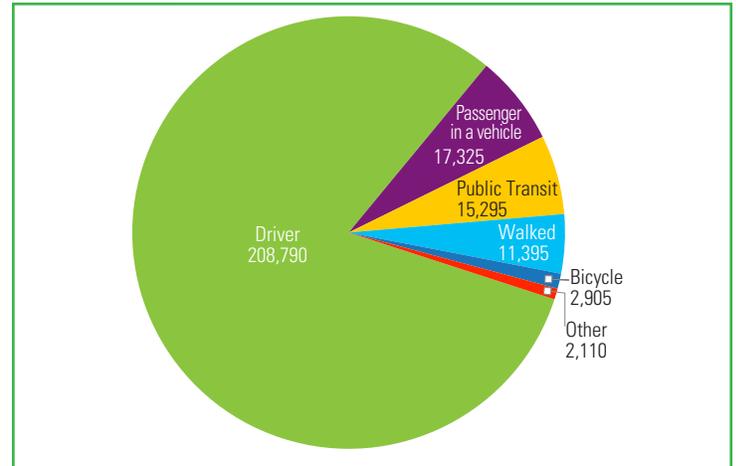
Mode of transportation to work

In 2016, the most common way for people to get to and from work was by car, truck or van. Almost nine out of ten workers commuted this way (Figure 4). Between 2006 and 2016, there was an increase of 19,295 people who drove to work (Table 3). Over this same time span, 5,090 fewer people commuted as passengers in private vehicles.

Public transit increased at a faster rate than any other mode of transport for commuters between 2006 and 2016. Over those 10 years, there were 4,330 more people using public transportation, an almost 40 per cent increase. Overall, more people used public transit to travel to work than the number who walked or cycled. This trend marks a shift from 2006 when the reverse was true. In 2016, almost six per cent of commuters (or 15,295 individuals) used public transport to get to work. The majority of these commuters lived in Kitchener, Cambridge, and Waterloo where transit services are concentrated.

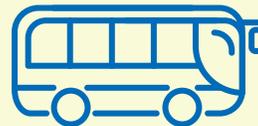
Between 2006 and 2016, the number of Waterloo Region commuters who walked or cycled to work decreased. Compared to 2006, there were 1,775 fewer people using active transport to get to work in 2016, affecting both cyclists and walkers. This drop may in part be attributed to growing numbers of people going to workplaces outside the municipalities where they live, making active transport an unpractical option for some commuters. While 6.7 per cent of commuters used active

Figure 4: Mode of transportation to work for Waterloo Region residents, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division

transport in 2006, only 5.5 per cent walked or cycled to work in 2016. The 2016 proportion was similar to the 6.5 and 6.9 per cent of Ontarian and Canadian commuters who used active transport to get to work.



Between 2006 and 2016, the **number of commuters using public transit increased by almost 40%**

Table 3: Mode of transportation to work for Waterloo Region residents with a usual place of work or with no fixed workplace address, 2006 and 2016

Mode of Transportation	2006		2016		2006-2016	
	Number	Per cent of total	Number	Per cent of total	Absolute change	Per cent change
Car, truck or van	211,910	88.0%	226,115	87.7%	14,205	6.7%
Driver	189,495	78.7%	208,790	81.0%	19,295	10.2%
Passengers	22,415	9.3%	17,325	6.7%	-5,090	-22.7%
Sustainable transportation	27,035	11.2%	29,590	11.5%	2,555	9.5%
Public transit	10,965	4.6%	15,295	5.9%	4,330	39.5%
Active transport	16,070	6.7%	14,295	5.5%	-1,775	-11.0%
Walked	12,230	5.1%	11,395	4.4%	-835	-6.8%
Bicycle	3,840	1.6%	2,905	1.1%	-935	-24.3%
Other	1,915	0.8%	2,110	0.8%	195	10.2%

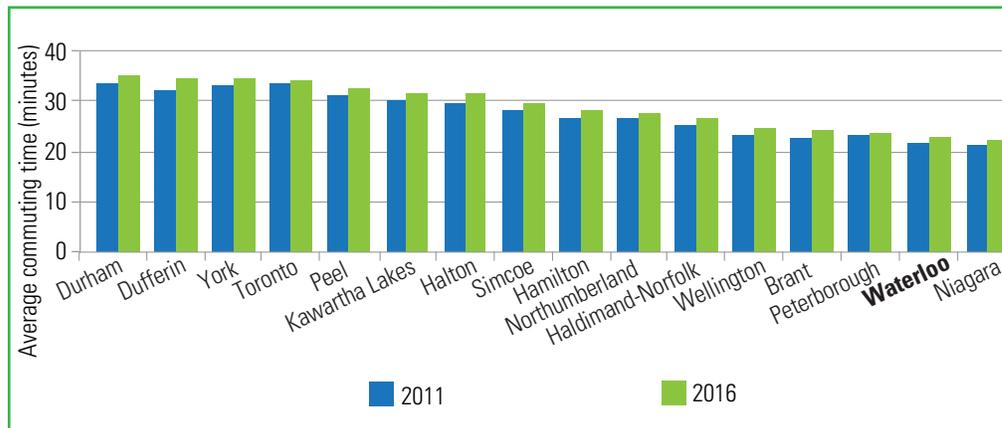
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 and 2016 by Census Subdivision

Commuting times and distances

Overall, Waterloo Region residents reported shorter commute times compared to other areas in the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH). The average commute time for Waterloo Region residents was 22.8 minutes each way, and was the second shortest in the GGH (Figure 5). Between 2011 and 2016, average commuting times increased throughout the GGH, including by just over one minute in Waterloo Region.

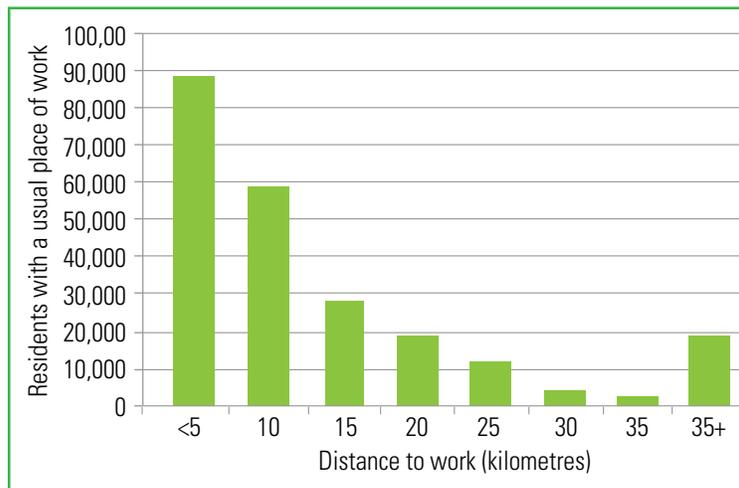
The majority of Waterloo Region commuters lived less than 10 kilometres away from their workplaces in 2016. Overall, almost 40 per cent of commuters travelled less than five kilometres each way, while a quarter travelled between five and 10 kilometres to get to work (Figure 6). Only 8.3 per cent of commuters travelled more than 35 kilometres, including those who commuted outside the province.

Figure 5: Average commute times for individuals in the Greater Golden Horseshoe with a usual place of work, 2011 and 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 and 2016 by Census Division

Figure 6: Distance from home to work for Waterloo Region residents with a usual place of work, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division

In the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Waterloo Region commuters had the second shortest commute time at 22.8 minutes. In the GGH, average commute times ranged from just over 22 minutes in Niagara to 35 minutes in Durham.

Census facts

- The term Census in this document refers to the Census of Canada conducted by Statistics Canada every five years. The most recent Census was conducted on May 10, 2016.
- Place of work and commuting to work data is from the long-form Census and is based on data from a sample of one in four households. Commuting flow information is based on data at the census division level and does not include commuting flows of less than 20 people into and out of Waterloo Region.
- The Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) includes the three cities and the townships of North Dumfries, Wilmot, and Woolwich. Wilmot Township was added to the Kitchener-Cambridge Waterloo CMA in 2016.
- For the 2011 Census cycle, the voluntary National Household Survey (NHS) replaced the long-form Census. The method used in the voluntary 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) differed from that used in the 2016 long-form Census and in previous long-form Censuses. For comparability, 2016 long-form Census data is shown relative to 2006 long-form Census data, except when comparable 2006 data is unavailable.

For further information please contact:



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