

Region of Waterloo
Planning, Development, and Legislative Services
Community Planning

To: Planning and Works Committee
Meeting Date: March 7, 2023
Report Title: Year-End 2022 Population and Household Estimates for Waterloo Region

1. Recommendation

For Information.

2. Purpose / Issue:

This report provides estimates of Waterloo Region's population and household growth and how recent growth compares to long-term trends. The total year-end population and household estimates are used to plan for growth, support infrastructure and service programs, develop municipal benchmarks and performance indicators, calculate service costs per resident, assess housing need and track population-related trends.

3. Strategic Plan:

Tracking and reporting population and household growth contributes to Strategic Focus Area 1: Thriving Economy. However, many of the objectives and actions contained throughout all five Focus Areas in the Corporate Strategic Plan rely on estimates of population and households. This report is one of three on the March 7th agenda, which relates to population and household growth.

4. Report Highlights:

The population and household figures contained in this report represent year-end estimates and include additional population which that are not counted by the Census such as post-secondary students.

The total population of Waterloo Region is estimated at 647,540 as of year-end 2022, including university and college students who would normally be residing in the Region while they study at our local institutions. This is an increase of 14,660 people (2.3 per cent) from year-end 2021.

The number of households is estimated at 232,540 which is an increase of 5,120 new households occupied since 2021, a growth rate of 2.25 per cent.

Student populations rebounded following the shift to online learning in 2020. Student enrollment and the corresponding number of students living in the region has rebounded to now higher levels than pre-pandemic. At year-end 2022, the total number of post-secondary students who called Waterloo Region home was 35,820 with the majority of those students residing in the City of Waterloo.

Year-end 2022 Population and Household Estimates for Waterloo Region

| | Region of Waterloo** | Cambridge | Kitchener | North Dumfries | Waterloo | Wellesley | Wilmot | Woolwich |
|---|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------|-----------|--------|----------|
| Total Population Year-end 2022* | 647,540 | 144,810 | 277,910 | 11,520 | 151,440 | 11,560 | 21,990 | 28,310 |
| Population in Regular Households | 626,730 | 142,080 | 273,030 | 11,360 | 139,530 | 11,500 | 21,610 | 27,620 |
| Population in Collective Dwellings*** | 20,810 | 2,720 | 4,880 | 160 | 11,910 | 60 | 380 | 700 |
| Total Population Year-end 2021* | 632,880 | 142,510 | 270,840 | 10,930 | 147,520 | 11,490 | 21,880 | 27,710 |
| Additional Population | 14,660 | 2,300 | 7,070 | 590 | 3,920 | 70 | 110 | 600 |
| Population Change 2021-2022 (%) | 2.32% | 1.6% | 2.6% | 5.4% | 2.7% | 0.6% | 0.5% | 2.2% |
| Households Year-end 2022* | 232,540 | 52,480 | 104,310 | 3,910 | 50,820 | 3,410 | 7,950 | 9,660 |
| Households Year-end 2021* | 227,420 | 51,460 | 101,100 | 3,720 | 50,380 | 3,390 | 7,920 | 9,450 |
| Additional Households | 5,120 | 1,020 | 3,210 | 190 | 440 | 20 | 30 | 210 |
| Household Change 2021-2022 (%) | 2.25% | 2.0% | 3.2% | 5.1% | 0.9% | 0.6% | 0.4% | 2.2% |
| Persons per Unit+ | 2.70 | 2.71 | 2.62 | 2.91 | 2.75 | 3.37 | 2.72 | 2.86 |
| Temporary Student Population (included above) | 35,820 | 700 | 4,130 | 10 | 31,340 | (30) | (180) | (150) |
| Students Arriving | 44,120 | 2,620 | 8,070 | 170 | 32,990 | 50 | 80 | 130 |
| Living in Student Residences | 10,430 | - | 530 | - | 9,900 | - | - | - |
| Living in Other Accommodations | 33,680 | 2,620 | 7,540 | 170 | 23,090 | 50 | 80 | 130 |
| Students Leaving++ | (8,300) | (1,920) | (3,940) | (160) | (1,650) | (90) | (260) | (290) |

* Based on available data from the 2021 Census, includes adjustments for recent residential development, students and other foreign/temporary residents, net Census undercount, and vacancy rates. Due various corrections and adjustments, direct comparison to previous years estimates are not valid.

** Municipal totals may not add due to independent rounding.

*** Collective dwellings include student residences, nursing homes, group homes, hospitals, larger lodging houses, etc.

+ 'Persons per Unit' (PPU) calculation is based on the 'Population in Regular Households', not on 'Total Population'.

++ These are students who leave home to attend school. They represent the reverse flow of the temporary students arriving in the Region from elsewhere.

5. Background:

Waterloo Region has experienced significant population and housing growth since 2020. Growth has been driven by strong enrollment increases at the Regions three post-secondary institutions, specifically growth in international students as well as strong migration into the Region. It is anticipated that the rate of population increase will remain at these levels at least until 2025, consistent with Federal immigration targets.

6. Area Municipality Communication and Public/Stakeholder Engagement:

This report has been circulated to all Area Municipalities.

7. Financial Implications:

Document Number: 4332574

Nil.

8. Conclusion / Next Steps:

Staff will continue to monitor population and household growth.

9. Attachments:

Appendix A: 2022 Population and Households Estimates for Waterloo Region

Prepared By: Ryan Pogrzeba, Supervisor, Policy, Data, and Research

Reviewed by: Brenna MacKinnon, Manager, Development Planning

Danielle De Fields, Director, Community Planning

Approved by: Rod Regier, Commissioner, Planning, Development, and Legislative Services