Households characteristics

According to the 2011 Census, there were 191,595 households in Waterloo Region, 8 per cent more than the 178,000 households five years earlier. A household refers to one or more people living in a private dwelling. This is different from ‘census families in private households’, which only refers to married couples, common-law couples, or lone parent families, as described in Census Bulletin #4, Families and Marriage.

One and two person households continue to be the fastest growing household size in the Region. As shown in Table 1, two person households had the highest absolute increase at 5,330 households, followed by one person households with 4,840. Additionally, one person households had the highest percentage increase at 12 per cent, which is 1 per cent higher than the Ontario change.

Table 1: Per cent change in census families in Private Households, 2006-2011

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One Person</td>
<td>31,655</td>
<td>35,565</td>
<td>40,445</td>
<td>45,285</td>
<td>4,840</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Persons</td>
<td>46,380</td>
<td>51,420</td>
<td>57,830</td>
<td>63,160</td>
<td>5,330</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Persons</td>
<td>25,825</td>
<td>27,400</td>
<td>30,520</td>
<td>32,565</td>
<td>2,045</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four and Five</td>
<td>38,705</td>
<td>41,410</td>
<td>43,765</td>
<td>44,525</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six or More</td>
<td>5,040</td>
<td>5,325</td>
<td>5,440</td>
<td>6,060</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>147,605</td>
<td>161,120</td>
<td>178,000</td>
<td>191,595</td>
<td>13,595</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


For more information on Census statistics please refer to Statistics Canada’s website: www.statcan.gc.ca/census
There have been increases in all household sizes across the Region except in North Dumfries, where four or more person households decreased by 3 per cent over 2006. As shown in Figure 1, the one person households increased the most in the cities, followed by increases in two, three, and four or more person households. The townships showed greater variation in the pattern of growth of household sizes, with two person households often showing the largest increases.

In 2011, there were 499,615 people living in 191,595 private households in Waterloo Region. Figure 3 shows the number of each household type and corresponding calculated populations. Although two person households were the predominant household size, a similar number of individuals lived in four person households. The least number of people live in six or more person households and one person households (8 and 9 per cent respectively).

Across the municipalities in the Region, the cities had larger numbers of one person households compared to the townships, as shown in Figure 4. The townships had more two person households and more four and five person households than the cities. Wellesley had the largest percentage of six or more person households.

Figure 1: Change in household characteristics, 2006-2011

Figure 2: Change in household characteristics in Waterloo Region, 1996-2011

Figure 3: Population living in each household size, 2011

Figure 4: Distribution of household characteristics per Municipality, 2011
The average number of people living in private households has continued to decrease, falling from 2.64 in 2006 to 2.61 in 2011. However, Waterloo Region remains slightly above the provincial average (2.59). Across the municipalities, the average number of people per household varied between 2.5 and 3.4, as shown in Figure 5. As mentioned in Census Bulletin #1, these figures represent persons per unit (PPU) as calculated using population in private households, rather than total population.

**Figure 5: Total number of households and average number of people per household, Waterloo Region 2011**

In 2011, Statistics Canada indicated that there were 191,595 occupied private dwellings in the Region, an increase of 13,470 dwellings over 2006. The 2011 breakdown of dwelling type is shown in Figure 6. Single family dwellings represent 57 per cent of dwellings in the Region, while semi-detached account for 6 per cent, row houses represent 10 per cent, apartments and duplexes represent 25 per cent, and other dwelling types account for less than 1 per cent.

**Figure 6: Occupied dwelling types, 2011**

The per cent growth in occupied dwellings of 7.6 per cent from 2006 to 2011 was lower than what had been recorded over the previous two Census periods. Table 2 shows that there were increases in all occupied dwelling types from 2006 to 2011. While single detached dwellings made up the largest dwelling group, the type of dwellings being constructed in the Region continues to evolve. Over the past five years, the largest percentage increase was in row houses (13 per cent). Singles have increased by 8 per cent which is higher than the provincial increase (7.3 per cent).

**Table 2: Occupied dwelling types, 1996-2011**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>80,810</td>
<td>91,435</td>
<td>101,440</td>
<td>109,400</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi</td>
<td>10,115</td>
<td>11,175</td>
<td>11,940</td>
<td>12,910</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row House</td>
<td>13,335</td>
<td>15,215</td>
<td>17,860</td>
<td>20,240</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartments and Other</td>
<td>43,340</td>
<td>43,305</td>
<td>46,755</td>
<td>49,045</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>147,600</strong></td>
<td><strong>161,130</strong></td>
<td><strong>177,995</strong></td>
<td><strong>191,595</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.2</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>7.6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Private Households – “Refers to a person or a group of persons (other than foreign residents) who occupy a private dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada. Households are classified into three groups: private households, collective households and households outside Canada.”

Occupied Private Dwellings – “Refers to a private dwelling in which a person or a group of persons is permanently residing. Also included are private dwellings whose usual residents are temporarily absent on Census Day.”

Single-detached house – “A single dwelling not attached to any other dwelling or structure (except its own garage or shed). A single-detached house has open space on all sides, and has no dwellings either above it or below it.”

Semi-detached house – “One of two dwellings attached side by side (or back to front) to each other, but not to any other dwelling or structure (except its own garage or shed). A semi-detached dwelling has no dwellings either above it or below it, and the two units together have open space on all sides.”

Row house – “One of three or more dwellings joined side by side (or occasionally side to back), such as a town house or garden home, but not having any other dwellings either above or below.”

Apartment or flat in a duplex – “One of two dwellings, located one above the other, may or may not be attached to other dwellings or buildings.”

Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys – “A dwelling unit in a high-rise apartment building which has five or more storeys.”

Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys – “A dwelling unit attached to other dwelling units, or other non-residential space in a building that has fewer than five storeys.”

Movable dwelling – “A single dwelling, other than a mobile home, used as a place of residence, but capable of being moved on short notice, such as a tent, recreational vehicle, travel trailer or houseboat.”

Source: Statistics Canada Census Dictionary, 2011

How to Source:

Census bulletins can be accessed online at: www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/doingbusiness/census.asp

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