Year after year, Halton attracts billions of dollars in business investment and development, which has resulted in meaningful jobs for residents and steady economic growth. Halton is among the fastest-growing communities in Ontario, and results from the 2018 Economic Review show that our regional economy continues to thrive.

In 2018, Halton saw both national and international business investment:

- Global logistics leader DSV Canada broke ground on their new head office and logistics complex in Milton’s Derry Green Business Park. At 1.1 million square feet, it will be the largest DSV complex worldwide and will employ more than 800 people.
- Ford Motor Company invested in new technologies, including plans to assemble the new Ford Edge ST at the Oakville Assembly complex.
- Oak West Corporate Centre and Great Lakes Business Park announced plans for new flex office buildings in Oakville.
- Futura announced plans for a new industrial facility in Halton Hills, that will be the future home of CanWel Building Materials.
- QuadReal Property Group is investing in a new distribution warehouse in Halton Hills.
- Crawmet (Crawford Metals) announced plans to expand its industrial facility in Burlington.

Halton’s unemployment rate – at 5.3 per cent – remains below both the provincial and national averages of 5.6 per cent and 5.9 per cent, respectively. This is not surprising as new and innovative companies continue to take advantage of Halton’s highly skilled labour force. With 75 per cent of residents holding a post-secondary degree or diploma, Halton is home to one of the most educated populations in Canada. Centrally located within an hour’s commute of 20 university and college campuses, Halton businesses continue to benefit from skilled talent and a well-developed research and innovation network.

I encourage you to read this report and learn more about investing in Halton. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me by calling 311 or emailing gary.carr@halton.ca. You can also find me on Twitter @garycarrhalton, LinkedIn or Facebook.

Sincerely,
Gary Carr
Halton Regional Chair
Halton at a glance

Prime location
Located on the western edge of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Halton is the fastest growing region within the GTA. Halton Region includes the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton and the Town of Oakville.

Halton’s prime location offers access to a well-developed transportation system and close proximity to U.S. border crossings and four international airports.

Halton region
548,435 Population¹
969 km² Land area
526 km² Green space
15,070 acres Employment lands
39.3 Average age¹
$851,129 Average house price²
229,130 Total jobs³
13,296 Number of employers³
$139,315 Average household income³

¹ Statistics Canada Census 2016
² Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB)
³ Halton Region Employment Survey, preliminary estimate
Halton’s economic highlights

Labour market

Halton’s strong labour market and highly educated workforce offer employers a competitive edge. Halton residents are among the most educated in Canada, with 75 per cent of adults having a post-secondary education. Halton’s skilled labour force is in high demand with the rate of residents participating in the labour force higher than most regions across Canada. In 2018, Halton averaged a 67.4 per cent participation rate while the rate of unemployment averaged 5.3 per cent. With the strength of its labour market, Halton has seen a significant reduction (18 per cent) in the number of residents receiving employment insurance since 2014.


Building and development

Halton continues to see strong investment interest and development activity. Total building permit construction value in the region topped the $1 billion mark, with nearly $1.8 billion of development initiated during the year. While not reaching the record-breaking values witnessed in 2017, Halton’s construction value still translated into 3.8 million square feet of non-residential total floor area (TFA) built over the past year, far exceeding projections. Contributing to high TFA values were major developments including DSV Canada in Milton and QuadReal and Kraft Heinz in Halton Hills. Similarly, the residential sector performed well in 2018, with construction values topping $1.2 billion and significant residential development occurring in both Oakville and Milton.

Source: Statistics Canada Building Permit Survey and Halton Region

Business and jobs

Halton is home to a thriving business community in a diverse range of industry sectors, with clusters in advanced manufacturing, finance, food and beverage, life sciences, professional services, retail and technology. There were nearly 13,300* employers across Halton in 2018, employing more than 229,000* workers. Halton businesses are performing well, with 35 per cent of businesses surveyed reporting higher profits over the past year and 31 per cent hiring additional staff. These are just some of the many reasons that Halton is the ideal location for businesses to call home.

* preliminary estimate

Source: Halton Region Employment Survey and Business Conditions Survey
### Halton Economic Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Indicator</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>1-year change</th>
<th>5-year change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population$^1$</td>
<td>530,924</td>
<td>569,787</td>
<td>583,363</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population density (per sq km)$^2$</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross domestic product$^3$</td>
<td>$24.2B</td>
<td>$26.8B</td>
<td>$27.6B</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate$^4$</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>1.3pp</td>
<td>0.9pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation rate$^4$</td>
<td>73.6%</td>
<td>70.3%</td>
<td>67.4%</td>
<td>-2.9pp</td>
<td>-6.2pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment rate$^4$</td>
<td>70.3%</td>
<td>67.5%</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
<td>-3.8pp</td>
<td>-6.6pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EI beneficiaries$^5$</td>
<td>4,111</td>
<td>3,658</td>
<td>3,359</td>
<td>-8.2%</td>
<td>-18.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario Works caseload$^6$</td>
<td>1,851</td>
<td>2,031</td>
<td>2,095</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs$^7$</td>
<td>218,257</td>
<td>231,576</td>
<td>229,130</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers$^7$</td>
<td>13,193</td>
<td>13,413</td>
<td>13,296</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business bankruptcy$^8$</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-32.3%</td>
<td>-44.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total construction$^9$</td>
<td>$1.5B</td>
<td>$3.05B</td>
<td>$1.8B</td>
<td>-41.9%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICI* construction$^9$</td>
<td>$550M</td>
<td>$810M</td>
<td>$531M</td>
<td>-34.4%</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential construction$^9$</td>
<td>$979M</td>
<td>$2.2B</td>
<td>$1.2B</td>
<td>-44.6%</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-residential total floor area (ft$^2$)$^{10}$</td>
<td>2.7M</td>
<td>2.4M</td>
<td>3.8M</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial total floor area (ft$^2$)$^{10}$</td>
<td>914,571</td>
<td>937,082</td>
<td>2.2M</td>
<td>132.6%</td>
<td>138.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office total floor area (ft$^2$)$^{10}$</td>
<td>603,278</td>
<td>315,319</td>
<td>419,445</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
<td>-30.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail total floor area (ft$^2$)$^{10}$</td>
<td>548,089</td>
<td>349,019</td>
<td>391,276</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>-28.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial vacancy$^{11}$</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>0.5pp</td>
<td>3.2pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office vacancy$^{12}$</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>-1.2pp</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing sales$^{13}$</td>
<td>7,807</td>
<td>8,994</td>
<td>7,835</td>
<td>-12.9%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average house price$^{13}$</td>
<td>$620,467</td>
<td>$893,301</td>
<td>$851,129</td>
<td>-4.7%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average days on market$^{13}$</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Sources**
1. Halton Region Best Planning Estimates
2. Based on 969 km$^2$ land area
3. Conference Board of Canada
5. Statistics Canada, Employment Insurance Statistics
6. Employment Halton (monthly average)
7. Halton Region Employment Survey
8. Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada
9. Statistics Canada, Building Permits Survey
10. Halton Region, Non-Residential Development Charges database
11. CBRE, Rates in Burlington, Milton and Oakville
12. CBRE, Rates in Burlington and Oakville
13. TREB, Market Watch

* Industrial/Commercial/Institutional

---

80% of Halton businesses we surveyed expect economic conditions in 2019 will remain stable or improve.
Industrial and commercial development and real estate activity

Development across Halton continues to be robust, spurred on by a wealth of greenfield development opportunities, business investment and expansions, comparatively lower real estate costs, and available industrial and office space. Total construction activity in the region topped the $1 billion mark for the 18th consecutive year and added more than 3.8 million square feet of additional non-residential floor space.

**Total construction**

$1.8B Halton's total building permit construction value in 2018

$10.3B Total building permit construction value in Halton over past 5 years

**Non-residential total floor area**

3.8M sq. ft. Halton's non-residential total floor area approved for construction in 2018

16.8M sq. ft. Halton's non-residential total floor area built over past 5 years

Five year trends in total construction value in Halton (billions)

Five year trends in total non-residential floor area built in Halton (millions sq. ft.)
Spotlight – DSV Canada

Halton’s largest development that was initiated in 2018 was DSV Canada’s relocation to Milton’s Derry Green Business Park. The largest distribution facility in their network, the 1.1 million square foot complex will feature both their Canadian headquarters and a multi-client warehouse. The facility is expected to open in Fall 2019 with more than 800 employees.

“As a global supplier of complete transport and logistics, DSV is proud to be a part of Milton’s thriving business community and looks forward to growing with our clients and colleagues.”

DSV Canada

Notable developments

- DSV Global Transport and Logistics – new distribution facility and Canadian headquarters, Milton ($n/a)
- QuadReal – new speculative distribution warehouse, Halton Hills ($36.4M)
- Kraft Heinz – industrial facility expansion, Halton Hills ($29M)
- Futura (CanWel Building Materials) – new industrial facility, Halton Hills ($15.6M)
- Hampton Inn & Suites – new hotel, Burlington ($15M)
- Oak West Corporate Centre – new flex office building, Oakville ($14.1M)
- ELM Corporate Centre – commercial office expansion, Milton ($13M)
- Modatek Systems (Magna) – office addition, Milton ($12.8M)
- Great Lakes Business Park – new flex office building, Oakville ($11.5M)
- Crawmet (Crawford Metals) – industrial facility expansion, Burlington ($10M)
Industrial and commercial development and real estate activity

Industrial development

Total industrial floor area built across Halton rose considerably in 2018 to reach 2.2 million square feet. Half of the total floor space constructed was attributed to the 1.1 million square foot DSV facility breaking ground late in the year. At the same time, industrial construction value topped $72 million in 2018 – trending downward from the previous year. Building permit construction values for DSV were not accounted for in 2018 totals and are forthcoming.

Commercial development

There was more than 419,000 square feet of office space built in 2018 and more than 391,000 square feet of retail, for a combined total of nearly 811,000 square feet of commercial space built. Commercial office and retail construction value topped $368 million, surpassing the five-year average of $356 million.

Industrial real estate market


6.2% Halton industrial vacancy in 2018
Higher than GTA: 1.0%

2M sq. ft. Halton industrial floor area absorbed in 2018

Office real estate market

$17.60/sq. ft. Burlington and Oakville office average net rent in 2018. Lower than GTA: $18.43 sq.ft.

17.4% Burlington and Oakville office vacancy in 2018
Higher than GTA: 7.9%

434,355 sq. ft. Burlington and Oakville office floor area absorbed in 2018
Residential development

Halton continues to be the fastest growing region in the Greater Toronto Area. This population growth has precipitated tremendous residential development and has helped the Halton housing market remain among the strongest in Ontario. Over the past five years, the total value of residential building permit construction reached close to $6.9 billion, there were nearly 20,000 new housing starts, and existing home sales topped 43,000. The housing boom has resulted in a 35 per cent increase in Halton’s property tax base between 2014 and 2017 to reach nearly $123 billion in residential assessment.

Housing market

Source: CMHC Starts and Completions Survey
Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Financial Information Returns

Source: TREB Market Watch
Residential development and housing market

Notable developments

• The Preserve (Mattamy/Remington) – new subdivision, Oakville ($145.5M)
• Hawthorne South Village (Mattamy) – new subdivision, Milton ($100M)
• Arbor Peaks (Great Gulf) – new subdivision, Milton ($64.3M)
• Art on Main (Fernbrook) – new condominium, Milton ($55M) (pictured)
• Mattamy Church Condominium – new condominium, Milton ($50M)
• Saxony Developments – new condominium, Burlington ($32.2M)
• Neighbourhoods of Oak Park – new mixed-use condominium, Oakville ($26M)
• Alton Village West (Sundial Homes) – new subdivision, Burlington ($22M)
• Dempsey (First Milton) – new subdivision, Milton ($15.6M)
• Oakvillage (Minto) – new subdivision, Oakville ($14.9M)
Halton within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area

The desirability of the overall Toronto region for business investment gives Halton Region a competitive advantage and provides great potential for Halton’s future growth and development.

Development comparison

The total value of building permit construction across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) totalled $21.7 billion in 2018. At 8 per cent, Halton’s share of total development remains relatively modest. However, the overall construction per capita illustrates the significant amount of development occurring within Halton Region on a comparative basis.

Spotlight – Toronto Global

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an important element in the growth of Halton’s and the broader region’s overall economies. Halton Region is a member of Toronto Global, which is an arm’s length organization representing Greater Toronto Area (GTA) municipalities in lead generation and lead servicing activities to assist in bringing international investment to the GTA. Through Toronto Global, the unique value proposition of the GTA is marketed across key markets around the world, raising awareness and interest in bringing new investment to the GTA and Halton.

Greater Toronto Area

- 6.4M people
- 4.7M labour force
- 800,000+ businesses
- $332B economy
- 19% of Canada’s GDP
Halton within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area

Competitive costs
Within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), Halton Region maintains among the lowest property tax rates for commercial and industrial property owners, as well as competitive development charges for industrial and office developers.

### Industrial property tax rates* across select GTHA municipalities in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Tax Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshawa</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitby</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halton Hills</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakville</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brampton</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caledon</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississauga</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newmarket</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaughan</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Hill</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markham</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BMA Municipal Study 2018  
*Municipal and education

### Commercial property tax rates* across select GTHA municipalities in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Tax Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshawa</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitby</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halton Hills</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakville</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brampton</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caledon</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississauga</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newmarket</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaughan</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Hill</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markham</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BMA Municipal Study 2018  
*Municipal and education

### Industrial development charge rates across select GTHA municipalities in 2018 ($/sq. ft.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Charge Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Markham</td>
<td>$33.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Hill</td>
<td>$28.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newmarket</td>
<td>$28.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaughan</td>
<td>$28.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington*</td>
<td>$17.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakville*</td>
<td>$20.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton*</td>
<td>$13.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halton Hills**</td>
<td>$12.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brampton</td>
<td>$19.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississauga</td>
<td>$22.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshawa</td>
<td>$9.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caledon</td>
<td>$18.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitby</td>
<td>$16.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickering</td>
<td>$12.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>$13.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BMA Municipal Study 2018 & Regional Municipality of Halton  
*Built boundary rates as of April 1, 2018. Applies to non-retail (industrial & office)  
**Built boundary rates as of April 1, 2018. Lower tier applies to industrial only  
Note: Halton has separate rates for greenfield areas

### Commercial development charge rates across select GTHA municipalities in 2018 ($/sq. ft.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Charge Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Markham</td>
<td>$67.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Hill</td>
<td>$61.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newmarket</td>
<td>$58.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaughan</td>
<td>$58.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington*</td>
<td>$43.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakville*</td>
<td>$42.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton*</td>
<td>$39.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halton Hills**</td>
<td>$37.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brampton</td>
<td>$31.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississauga</td>
<td>$30.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshawa</td>
<td>$27.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caledon</td>
<td>$24.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitby</td>
<td>$23.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickering</td>
<td>$21.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>$21.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BMA Municipal Study 2018 & Regional Municipality of Halton  
*Built boundary rates as of April 1, 2018. Applies to commercial retail  
**Built boundary rates as of April 1, 2018. Lower tier applies to non-residential development, except for industrial  
Note: Halton has separate rates for greenfield areas
Halton’s business community and key sectors

Key industry sectors

Advanced manufacturing

Halton is strategically located within Canada’s advanced manufacturing supercluster and is home to global operators including Ford, Magna, Collins Aerospace and Laurel Steel.

Finance

Halton’s financial industry draws on Toronto’s financial hub – the second largest in North America. Halton has a substantial labour pool of financial services talent for financial services firms such as Canadian Tire Financial Services, Manulife, Travellers, and LBC Capital to draw on and succeed.

Food & beverage

This sector is among Halton’s largest and includes employers such as Gordon Food Service, Sofina Foods, Saputo, and Voortman’s. Halton’s food & beverage sector provides a wealth of growth opportunities from agri-food, food processing to distribution and retail.

Life sciences

Halton has an active life sciences cluster including Boehringer Ingelheim, Wellspring, and Iovate. Halton life sciences companies capitalize on the synergies that exist within the Toronto Region cluster and draw on a large pool of talent and research support.

Professional services

Halton’s professional sector includes sizeable employers such as Siemens, PWC, Hatch and AMEC. Halton’s professional services industry draws on a highly skilled, readily available labour force.

Technology

Halton’s tech sector is a major driver of business and job growth and innovation in the region, with employers such as L3 Wescam, CPI, Evertz, and Javelin Technologies.
Halton’s diverse industrial base sustains a strong regional economy. In 2018, Halton’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated to reach more than $27 billion. The F.I.R.E. sector (finance, insurance and real estate) was the largest GDP contributor, followed by Halton’s manufacturing sector. The Conference Board of Canada estimates that Halton’s GDP has risen 3.4 per cent annually over the past five years and is expected to reach $31.4 billion by 2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>GDP in 2018 (Billions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F.I.R.E.</td>
<td>$6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>$4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale</td>
<td>$3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>$1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>$1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>$1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>$1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation/Warehousing</td>
<td>$1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Conference Board of Canada

Business highlights

13,296* Number of Halton employers in 2018

229,130* Number of jobs in Halton in 2018

69%* of Halton businesses had 1-10 employees in 2018

49%** of Halton businesses anticipate profit increases over the next 12 months

41%** of Halton businesses plan on hiring over the next 12 months

60%** of Halton businesses are making productivity investments over next 12 months

* Preliminary estimate

** Based on a sample of businesses

Source: Halton Region
Halton’s business community and key sectors

Top employers (private sector)

Ford Motor Company of Canada (Oakville Assembly Complex) – headquarters and automotive assembly, Oakville (3,700+ employees) (pictured)

Gordon Food Service – food and beverage distribution, Milton (1,000+ employees)

Sofina Foods – food processing, Burlington (950+ employees)

Karmax Heavy Stamping (division of Magna) – automotive parts manufacturing, Milton (900+ employees)

Siemens Canada – headquarters and engineering technology, Oakville (750+ employees)

Evertz Microsystems – headquarters and electronics manufacturing, Burlington (750+ employees)

Collins Aerospace – aerospace parts manufacturing, Oakville (700+ employees)

Mold Masters – injection mold systems technology, Halton Hills (700+ employees)

Aviva Canada – insurance services, Oakville (700+ employees)

AMEC – engineering and project management services, Oakville (650+ employees)
2018 Halton news and events

Canada’s Top Employers for Young People
Ford Motor Company of Canada, Siemens Canada, Sodexo Canada, and Rockwell all make the list of employers recognized as having the best workplaces and programs for young people.

Halton Region earns top credit rating for 30th consecutive year
Moody’s Investor’s Service upholds Halton Region’s AAA credit rating—the agency’s highest—for the 30th consecutive year.

Laker Energy Products to receive $144 million contract from Bruce Power
Laker Energy Products will provide industrial parts for Bruce Power’s MCR project. The $144 million contract is expected to generate a number of spinoff jobs in Oakville.

Burloak Technologies to open state-of-the-art additive manufacturing centre
The new state-of-the-art 40,000 square foot facility in Oakville is expected to create 65 new jobs.

Alfacon Solutions announces plans to relocate to Milton
Alfacon says the move will facilitate ongoing growth by providing ready access to a large pool of engineering, project management and manufacturing talent.

TechPlace welcomes MyAbilities Technologies as new LaunchPad Company
MyAbilities is the sixth company to join TechPlace since its opening in Burlington in June 2017, joining other high-tech companies like 3Terra, servicePath, and Unifai Solutions.

Ontario’s largest lavender farm announces major expansion of its Milton farm
Terre Bleu attracts visitors from across the province and was awarded the ‘Canada 150 Garden Experience’ designation in 2017. The expansion will create an additional 25-50 new jobs.

"We Are The Story" video launch kicks off Milton’s new Economic Development campaign
Milton Economic Development officially launches “We Are The Story” campaign with the release of a made-in-Milton video that showcases the community through the eyes, words and experiences of the people who live and work in Milton.

January
Ford unveils new Edge ST to be assembled in Oakville
Ford plans to export the vehicle that features an array of smart technology to more than 100 countries.

Halton Hills launches new Economic Development website
Investhaltonhills.com features events, business news, investment FAQs, and multilingual capabilities to encourage interest from international companies.

Halton Region unveils Global Business Centre (GBC) to support businesses looking to scale up, export and go global
The GBC acts as a first point-of-contact for local businesses looking to navigate their export journey. GBC consultants provide export readiness assessments, market research and networking opportunities to succeed in today’s global marketplace.

Farm Boy announces new Oakville location
The 23,250 sq. ft. store will create 150 new jobs and offer local shoppers a fresh food experience.

February
March
April
May
June
The Halton Region Small Business Centre introduces grant recipients from Cohort #3 of Starter Company Plus
The Starter Company Plus entrepreneurship program provides a combination of online and offline training, mentoring and advice for eligible individuals 18 years of age or older, who are looking to start or grow a small business. The program also provides the opportunity to compete for a micro-grant of $4,500.

Halton police cut ribbon at new state-of-the-art headquarters
The new four-storey, 235,000 square-foot building features a separate and dedicated training room and classroom, state-of-the-art forensic labs, special bays for the examination of vehicles involved in fatal collisions, a gym and an evidence/seized property warehouse.

Halton Region hosts annual Real Estate Forum - Where Inspiration Drives Innovation
Industrial and commercial realtors, developers and business owners from the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) gather to learn about the driving forces of education, innovation and technology, and on increased investments in the commercial and industrial real estate markets in Halton.

Next Generation Manufacturing Supercluster kicks into high gear
Federal government announces agreement to invest up to $230 million, matched by the private sector, in the Ontario-based Next Generation Manufacturing Supercluster (NGen).

Halton Region named among the Greater Toronto Area’s Top Employers
Mediacorp’s profile of Halton Region as a top employer highlights career opportunities offered through the internship and summer employment programs for youth, maternity and parental leave benefits, a comprehensive wellness program and onsite amenities.

Summer Company 2018 Kick-off
The Halton Region Small Business Centre hosts a kick-off event to celebrate and introduce new 2018 Summer Company program participants. Several participants share details about their unique businesses and what they hope to accomplish over the summer.

The taste of Chudleigh’s Milton-based farm now available in grocery stores
Chudleigh’s announces the arrival of their baked goods in the freezer aisle of grocery stores and other specialty retailers across Ontario.

Nuvo Network opens new 10,000 sq.ft. coworking space
The new space will have private office suites, dedicated desks, hot desks and a multitude of meeting spaces.

Oakville Economic Development launches Opportunities and Investments Virtual Tour
The Virtual Tour combines text, authoritative mapping and multimedia in a manner that allows stakeholders to easily navigate and visually identify some of the town’s key success stories and major development activity.

Canadian Business crowns Prodigy Game as country’s fastest-growing software company
With 180 employees and growing rapidly, the company forecasts adding another 200 employees between its Toronto office and its Burlington headquarters over the next year.

FedDev Ontario invests over $2.1 million in GVA Lighting
FedDev Ontario invests $2.1 million allowing GVA Lighting to secure an additional $6.4 million private funding to allow GVA to create nearly 50 more jobs in Oakville and grow export markets.

Toronto Premium Outlets unveils exceptional luxury lineup in Halton Hills
The 144,000 sq. ft. expansion adds 40+ new stores including several first-to-Canada luxury outlet stores.

DSV Canada breaks ground on new 1.1 million square foot facility in Milton
The head office and state-of-the-art logistics complex will be the largest facility of its kind in the DSV network worldwide and is expected to open in Fall 2019 with more than 800 employees.

The new Courtyard Marriott hotel in Burlington is completed
The six-story hotel offers 1,800 square feet of meeting space to accommodate functions of up to 120 people. The hotel is connected to the Burlington Convention Centre through a heated and covered walkway.

Siemens Canada secures major order with VIA Rail Canada for new fleet of passenger trains
The contract is to design and build 32 new bi-directional trains to serve more than 4.5 million passengers annually on VIA’s busiest route, the Québec City – Windsor corridor.
Preparing for the next phase of growth

Regional Official Plan Review

The Halton Region Official Plan (ROP) guides growth, development, and community investment across Halton. The last Review occurred through the Sustainable Halton process concluding with the adoption of ROP Amendment No. 38 (ROPA 38) in 2009. The five-year Review which will prepare Halton Region for the next phase of growth got underway in 2014, with a Directions Report which was endorsed by Regional Council in 2016. The Region is currently undertaking Phase 2 of the Review which includes background research and technical analysis in the policy areas of integrated growth management, the rural agricultural system, the natural heritage system and climate change. Phase 3 will involve a Final Growth Concept and Review Policy Directions report to be presented to Council. The Review is expected to be completed in 2020.

Several external factors have influenced the timing of Phase 1 and Phase 2 work, including Ontario Municipal Board appeals and changes to the Provincial land use planning framework, a Provincial review of the Growth Plan (2017), and more recent amendments proposed to the Growth Plan such as the introduction of Provincial Significant Employment Zones. Regional staff continue to monitor any changes and move forward the Review to conform with the Provincial planning framework.

Infrastructure investment

Halton is committed to delivering high-quality infrastructure that supports a strong economy. This commitment to our growing community helps attract new business, support business expansion, and keeps Halton a premier location to work. The Region has a 10-year capital investment of $4.2 billion (2018-2027) and provides an annual operating contribution of $14.3 million. 2018 infrastructure highlights include:

- Road lane kilometres increased to 1,118 in 2018 (from 878 in 2007)
- Major roads projects include widening of Trafalgar Road, Dundas Street, Britannia Road, Steeles Avenue, Regional Road 25, Tremaine Road and extending of William Halton Parkway
- Mobility Management Strategy underway to examine major transit station areas and transit priority corridors
- Wyecroft Road Extension and Bridge Project was approved in 2018 as part of the Provincial Move Ontario Quick Wins Fund.
Employment lands

Halton’s inventory of serviced employment lands ensures Halton continues to be investment-ready. 2018 employment land highlights include:

**Derry Green Corporate Business Park (Milton)** – Several industrial development subdivisions are currently approved. The Town of Milton was reviewing a zoning by-law amendment to allow the development of a new 1.0 million square foot warehouse building for Orlando Corporation on the west side of Fifth Line, and has approved the Menkes development of a 1.1 million square foot logistics centre for DSV Canada on the east side of Fifth Line (pictured).

**Premier Gateway Employment Area (Halton Hills)** – In April 2018, Regional Council adopted ROPA No. 47, “An Amendment to Address a Shortfall of Employment Lands in the Town of Halton Hills’ Premier Gateway Employment Area”. This incorporated 75 hectares of replacement lands into the Urban Area to account for the shortfall of available employment lands in the Premier Gateway which were affected by highway corridor protection policies and ensure there is sufficient employment areas planned and developed in the pre-2021 phase. Two appeals were filed against ROPA No. 47. In June 2018, the Town of Halton Hills adopted OPA No. 30, OPA No. 31A and OPA No. 31B in order to designate the additional lands for employment, add the 75 hectares to the Town’s urban area, and establish a Secondary Plan for the southern portion of Premier Gateway Phase 1B. In January 2019, the Ministry of Transportation announced they would be moving forward with an Environmental Assessment for the GTA West Transportation Corridor to provide better linkages from Guelph through Halton, and Peel to York Region.

**Winston Business Park West (Oakville)** – The Region’s servicing to the Winston Park West employment area was completed in 2015 and the Town of Oakville approved a Draft Plan of Subdivision and zoning amendment for Winston Park West in 2016 to permit the development of a wide range of employment and business commercial uses. There continues to be industrial and commercial development interest.

Preparing for the next phase of growth
Halton is one of the best places to live and do business in Canada

Halton’s fast growing, educated workforce and strong economy provide abundant opportunities for businesses and residents alike to grow and to flourish.

Talent pipeline

Halton businesses will continue to benefit from access to talent. Sheridan College and McMaster University’s DeGroote School of Business both have campuses in Halton, and 20 post-secondary institutions are within commuting distance.

Prime location

With proximity and access to 400 series highways, rapid transit, Pearson International Airport, U.S. border crossings, and downtown Toronto, Halton has locational advantages, plus prime real estate and greenfield development opportunities to make it a desirable location for investment.

Most educated labour force

75% Halton residents with post-secondary education
23% Halton residents with STEM diploma/degree (science, technology, engineering, math)

Halton Population Forecast (thousands)

#1 Best Places to Live in Canada 2018
(Oakville) Milton #6, Halton Hills #10, Burlington #31

#1 Lowest Crime Severity Index in Canada 2018
Halton has had the lowest crime severity index for municipalities over 100,000 since 2009

#1 Best Places for New Canadians 2018
(Oakville) Milton #6, Halton Hills #18, Burlington #25

#5 Fastest Growing Cities in Canada (Milton)

#5 Canada’s Best Places for Families 2018
(Oakville) Milton #11, Burlington #26
Our services

**Invest Halton**

**Insight and investment services**
- Investment and site selection assistance
- Coordination of site visits and tours
- Business expansion and relocation assistance
- Liaison between government agencies, industry organizations and local businesses
- Statistics on Halton’s economy and demographics
- Industry and workforce analysis

**Halton Small Business Centre**

**Entrepreneurship services**
- Free one-on-one business consulting and coaching
- Information about government programs and funding opportunities
- Seminars, mentoring and grant programs
- Youth entrepreneur programs
- Resources, templates, publications and business directories
- Assistance with business and name registration

**Halton Global Business Centre**

**Export services**
- Free one-on-one export counseling and market entry support
- Workshops, seminars and entrepreneurship programs
- Information and referrals to government programs
- Networking opportunities
- Tools and resources