Halton Region’s unemployment rate has trended lower than the broader GTHA, provincial and national rates over the past decade, often considered to be within a state of full employment.

Halton Region experienced a substantial increase in the unemployment rate due to COVID-19 and the economic shutdown, climbing from 5.0% in Q1 2020 to 13.9% in Q2 2020.

The Halton labour market experienced a moderate recovery in Q3 2020, with the unemployment rate dropping 380 basis points to 10.1%.

Halton’s labour force unemployment rate in Q3 2020
Lower than Hamilton: 11.0%
Toronto: 14.1%
Ontario: 12.0%
Canada: 11.3%
Definitions

Labour Force – Civilian non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who were employed or unemployed actively seeking employment.

Participation Rate – Total labour force, either employed or seeking employment, expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years.

Unemployment Rate – number of unemployed individuals that were without work but had looked for work in the past four weeks and were available for work, as expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

The Labour Force Survey estimates are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for smaller geographic areas, including Census Divisions such as Halton Region, will have more variability. Approximately 15,000 households are sampled across Ontario each month, excluding persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the province, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the institutionalized population, and households in extremely remote areas with very low population density.

Halton Region’s participation rate has mostly exceeded the broader GTHA, provincial and national rates over the past decade, again confirming Halton’s robust labour market.

There was a sharp decline in Halton’s participation rate in Q2 2020, dropping 450 basis points to 62.8%. In part, the decrease may be due to some workers leaving the labour market in favour of funding relief programs like CERB or some segments leaving the workforce due to family obligations.

Since the reopening in June, however, the participation rate in Halton has normalized somewhat and stood at 65.7% in Q3 2020.

Halton’s labour force participation rate in Q3 2020

65.7% Halton’s labour force participation rate in Q3 2020

Higher than Hamilton: 63.3%
Toronto: 66.2%
Ontario: 64.2%
Canada: 64.9%

* The Labour Force Survey estimates are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for smaller geographic areas, including Census Divisions such as Halton Region, will have more variability. Approximately 15,000 households are sampled across Ontario each month, excluding persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the province, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the institutionalized population, and households in extremely remote areas with very low population density.

*Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation. 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonal movements caused by annual events such as climate, holidays, vacation periods, cycles related to crops, and production and retail sales associated with Christmas and Easter.