

WHERE HAMILTON WORKS

With the regionalization of the Greater Golden Horseshoe growing, this *UrbanInsights* bulletin looks at the flow of workers in and out of Hamilton, Ontario to get a sense of the changing regional picture of employment flows. All statistics are from the Statistics Canada 2006 Census unless otherwise stated.

Commuting From Hamilton

Overall of the 206,740 total, 70% of Hamilton's labour force live and work in the City of Hamilton (Table 1). For the 30% of the local labour force that commutes out of Hamilton each day, Burlington is the most popular destination representing about 12% of workers overall. Oakville, Toronto, and Mississauga are the next major destinations representing 10% of workers collectively. Table 1 shows the top 20 commuting destinations from Hamilton.

Table 1: Top 20 Commuting Destinations From Hamilton, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada

| DESTINATION (from Hamilton CSD) | Total | Percentage of Total |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Hamilton | 145,480 | 70.4% |
| Burlington | 24,270 | 11.7% |
| Oakville | 7,090 | 3.4% |
| Toronto | 6,925 | 3.3% |
| Mississauga | 6,810 | 3.3% |
| Brantford | 1,925 | 0.9% |
| Milton | 1,860 | 0.9% |
| Cambridge | 1,850 | 0.9% |
| Guelph | 1,105 | 0.5% |
| Haldimand County | 1,070 | 0.5% |
| Brampton | 1,055 | 0.5% |
| Grimsby | 960 | 0.5% |
| St. Catharines | 860 | 0.4% |
| Lincoln | 565 | 0.3% |
| Kitchener | 450 | 0.2% |
| Brant | 430 | 0.2% |
| Waterloo | 350 | 0.2% |
| Niagara Falls | 335 | 0.2% |
| Vaughan | 315 | 0.2% |
| Puslinch | 300 | 0.1% |
| Total (all cities) | 206,740 | 100% |

Commuting to Hamilton

About 37,000 people commute into Hamilton each day. Of that total, 30% (11,000) come from communities east along the lakeshore, including Toronto, Mississauga, Oakville, and Burlington. Burlington is the largest single source of commuters into Hamilton representing 22% of in-commuters. Table 2 show the commuter flows to Hamilton.

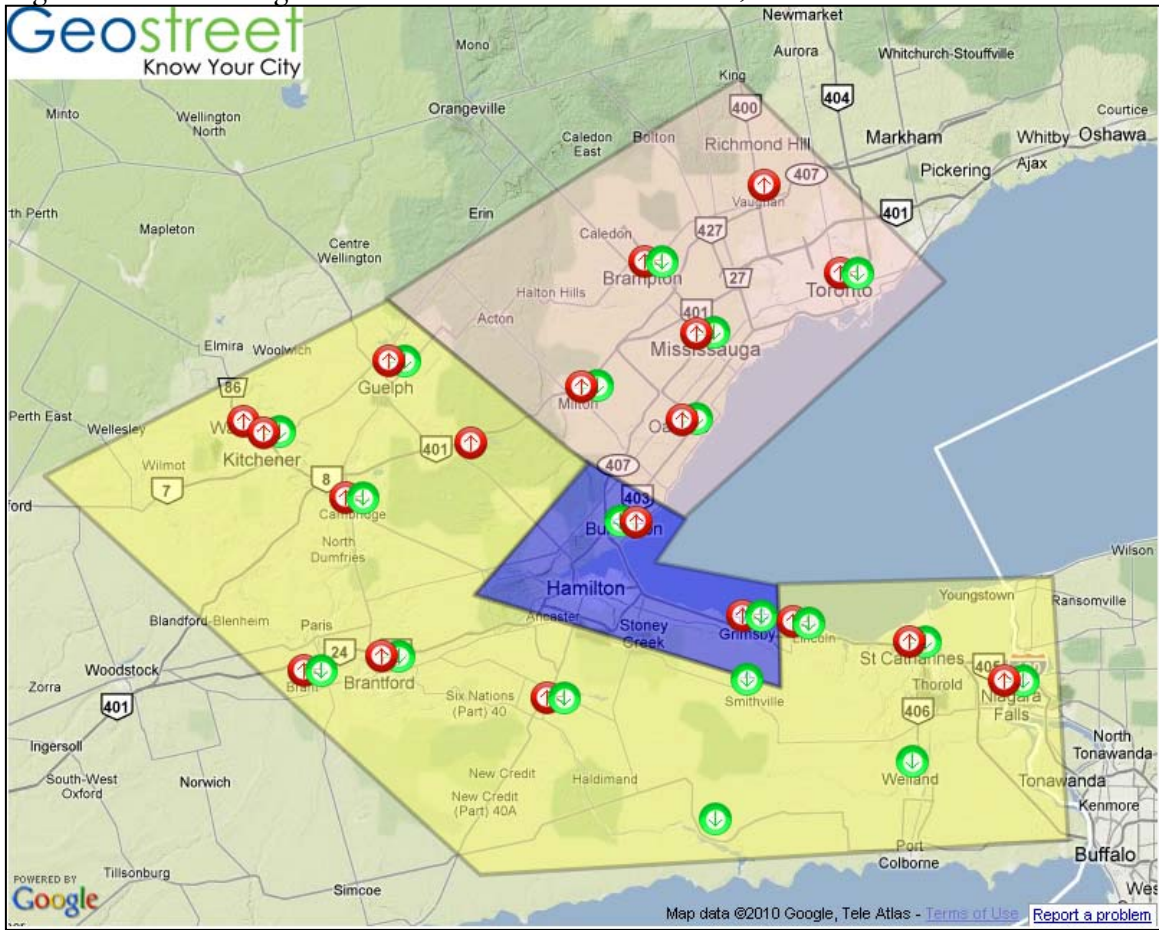
Table 2: Top 20 Commuting Origins to Hamilton, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada

| ORIGIN (to Hamilton CSD) | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Hamilton | 145,480 |
| Burlington | 8,000 |
| Haldimand County | 5,845 |
| Grimsby | 3,660 |
| Brantford | 2,495 |
| St. Catharines | 1,935 |
| Oakville | 1,595 |
| West Lincoln | 1,595 |
| Lincoln | 1,575 |
| Mississauga | 1,485 |
| Toronto | 1,220 |
| Brant | 1,125 |
| Cambridge | 670 |
| Welland | 550 |
| Norfolk County | 545 |
| Guelph | 525 |
| Niagara Falls | 520 |
| Milton | 395 |
| Brampton | 375 |
| Kitchener | 340 |
| Total (all Cities) | 182,795 |

Regional Geographic Perspective

From a regional geographic perspective, the majority of commuters to Hamilton (55%) come from the Western Greater Golden Horseshoe (WGGH) with the next largest source being from within the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA, includes Burlington and Grimsby) - 31%. A much smaller percentage (14%) come from the Greater Toronto Area GTA (see Figure 1 and Table 3). Conversely, commuters from Hamilton are about evenly split between those that travel within the CMA and those that travel to the GTA. The balance of commuters travel to the WGGH (see Table 4).

Figure 1: Commuting Destinations to and from Hamilton, 2006 Census



Source: Geostreet.ca/wherehamiltonworks.htm

Table 3: Commuters to Hamilton by geographic region

| Geographic Region | Commuters | Percentage of Total* |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| CMA | 11660 | 31% |
| GTA | 5070 | 14% |
| WGGH | 20585 | 55% |
| Total* | 37315 | 100% |

*Excluding Hamilton

Table 4: Commuters from Hamilton by geographic region

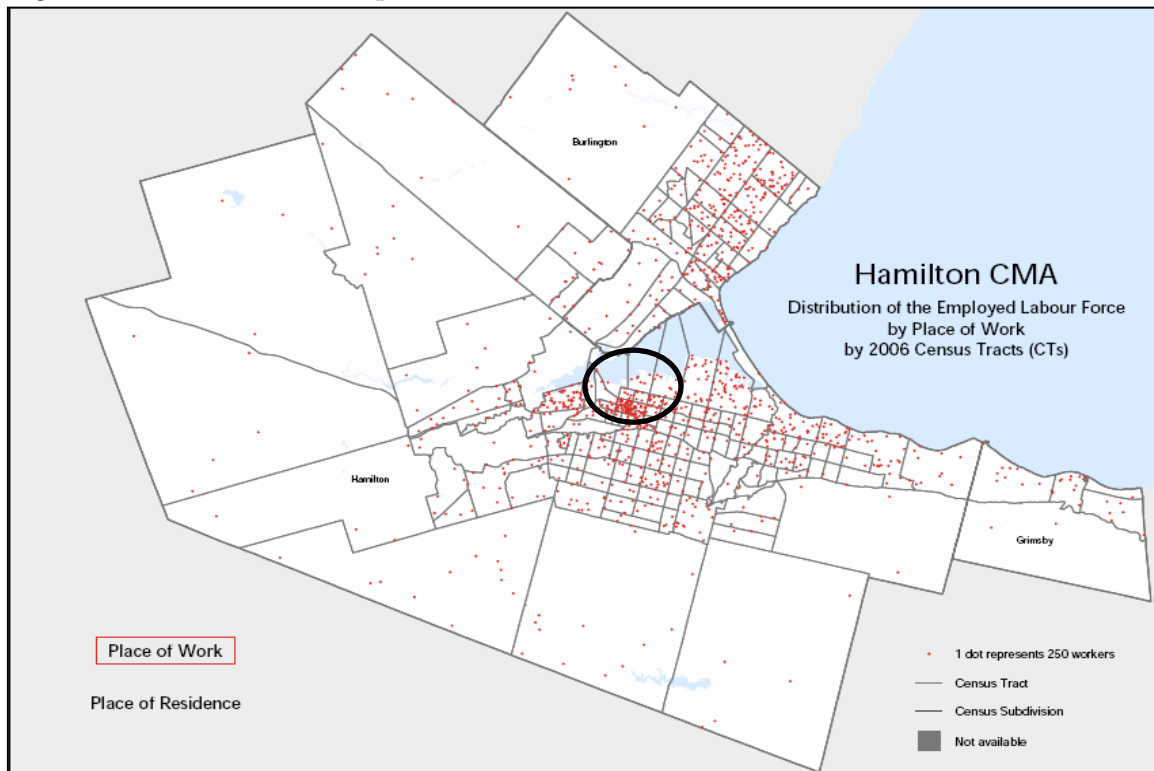
| Geographic Region | Commuters | Percentage of Total* |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| CMA | 25230 | 41% |
| GTA | 24045 | 39% |
| WGGH | 11985 | 20% |
| Total* | 61260 | 100% |

*Excluding Hamilton

Commuting Within Hamilton

For the 70% of Hamilton's labour force living and working in the city, downtown is the single largest employment cluster in the municipality (see Figure 1). 68% (or 198,010 workers) commute between 0-15km and half of that number commutes 0-5km.

Figure 1: Distribution of Employed Labour Force by Place of Work



Source: Statistics Canada

Conclusions

Despite growing regionalization, Hamilton maintains a significant level of autonomy as a labour market and downtown Hamilton remains the single most significant destination for the local labour force. In terms of commuter flows, people commuting from Hamilton tend to travel East to the GTA, whereas people commuting to Hamilton come from a wider area including significant flows from communities to the West.

The Centre for Community Study (CCS) is a Hamilton-based, non-profit urban research group specializing in local public-policy issues providing research and services to government, foundations, and the private sector. The CCS has expertise in a variety of areas including: Urban trends and analysis; Community renewal strategies; Media analysis; Policy design; Organizational and strategic planning. For more information go to www.communitystudy.ca