

Section 2: Demographics

Population Trends

The City of Hamilton is comprised of six communities - Ancaster, Stoney Creek, Dundas, Flamborough, Glanbrook, and Hamilton. With a population of 519,949 in 2011, the City of Hamilton is ranked 5th largest in the province of Ontario and 10th in the nation. Since 2006, Hamilton has seen a 3.1% population growth which is below Ontario's provincial population growth of 5.7%. (Statistics Canada, 2012)

Hamilton's population age profile, based on 2001, 2006 and 2011 census data from Statistics Canada, illustrates the age distribution of the city's population.

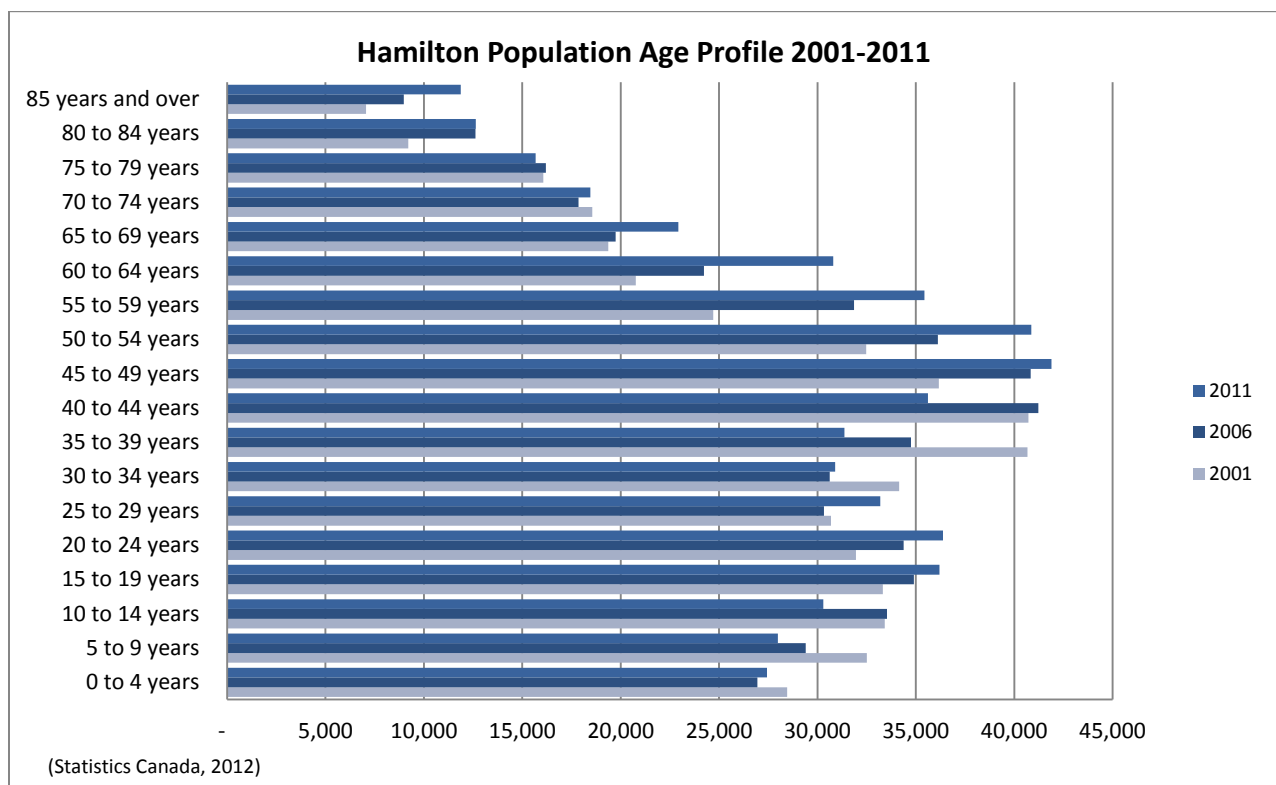


Figure 8: Hamilton Population Age Profile Chart - 2001-2011

Figure 6 above illustrates the change in population, by age, since 2001. Since 2001, Hamilton's total population has increased from 490,270 to 519,950 which is an increase of 6.1%. The largest increase in population in Hamilton from 2001 to 2011 occurred between the ages of 45 to 65. This twenty year age cohort is the baby boom generation which was responsible for much of Hamilton's school infrastructure growth from the 1950's to the 1970's and is now contributing to Hamilton's and Ontario's overall aging population. As the baby boom generation entered into adulthood and typical child bearing years, the school age population remained steady throughout the 1980s and 1990s. With the baby boomers in the age ranges of 40 to 60 in the early 2000's a new smaller group of adults moved into their typical child bearing years and has resulted in a decrease of school age children.

Along with this increase in an aging population, there is a parallel decrease in the number of school age children. Currently, these effects are being felt in Hamilton and Ontario. In Hamilton, from 2001 to 2011 the population of children between the ages of 5 and 19 has dropped 4.8% in Hamilton. (Statistics Canada, 2012) Although Hamilton's overall population continues to grow the population of school age children is decreasing but will begin to level off and is projected to rise in the distant future as the following section will illustrate.

Population Projections

According to the Ontario Ministry of Finance Population Projections update 2011, Hamilton's population will continue to increase over the next 25 years. Ontario's population is projected to increase by 4.4 million to 17.7 million which is a 32.7 per cent increase. Hamilton's population is projected to increase by 25 percent from 519,950 to 651,000 by 2036. (Ministry of Finance, 2012)

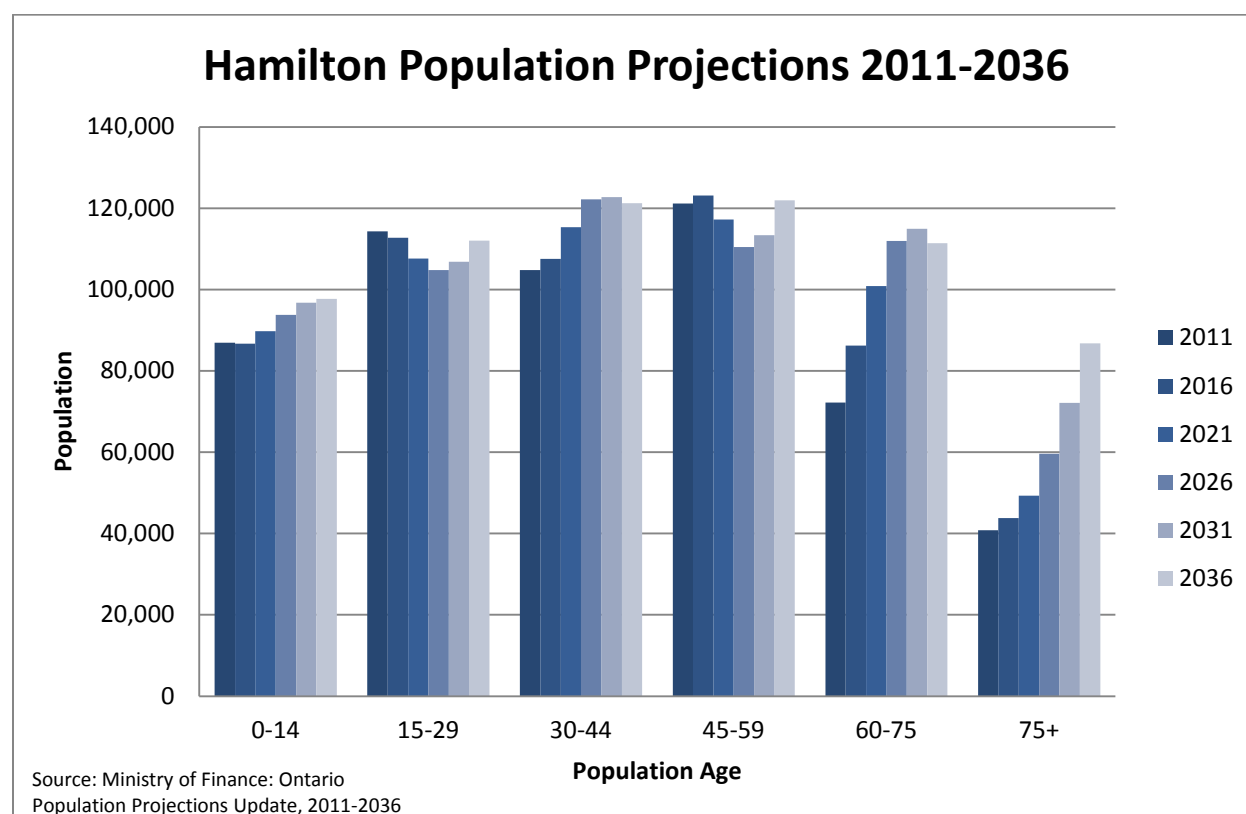


Figure 9: Hamilton Population Projections Chart - 2011-2036

Figure 7 above illustrates the projected change in Hamilton's population over the next 25 years. The most noticeable change occurs in the age ranges 60-75 and 75 plus. The rapid increase of elderly people is due to the aging baby boom generation. Another change to note is the variation in the 0-14 cohort. From 2011 to 2016 the amount children ages 0-14 remains relatively stable at just over 86,000 but from 2026 through 2036 the amount increases to just over 97,000. This is due to children of the baby boomers reaching their child bearing years. It is expected with this change in the age profile there will be an increase in school age children in Hamilton starting in approximately 2026 and continuing the next ten years. (Ministry of Finance, 2012)

Immigration

Immigration has also played a significant role in the change in Hamilton's population and this is projected to continue in the future. Immigration data for Hamilton is based upon the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), which not only includes Hamilton's city limits but Burlington and Grimsby which are outside of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's jurisdiction. This information is meant to give an overview of how immigration affects the region.

From 2002 to 2011 Hamilton's CMA has averaged approximately 3,800 new landings a year. A new landing is an official arrival of a new permanent resident to Canada. Ontario averaged approximately 119,000 new permanent immigrants from over the same 10 year period. According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada data Hamilton over the past 10 years has averaged 3.2 per cent of newly landed permanent immigrants ranking third in Ontario CMAs behind Ottawa-Gatineau of 5.38 per cent and Toronto's CMA 79.56 percent. (Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2011) Although Hamilton's percentage seems low it is higher than most in Ontario. Figure 8 shows the number of permanent immigrants in Hamilton's CMA over the last 10 years.

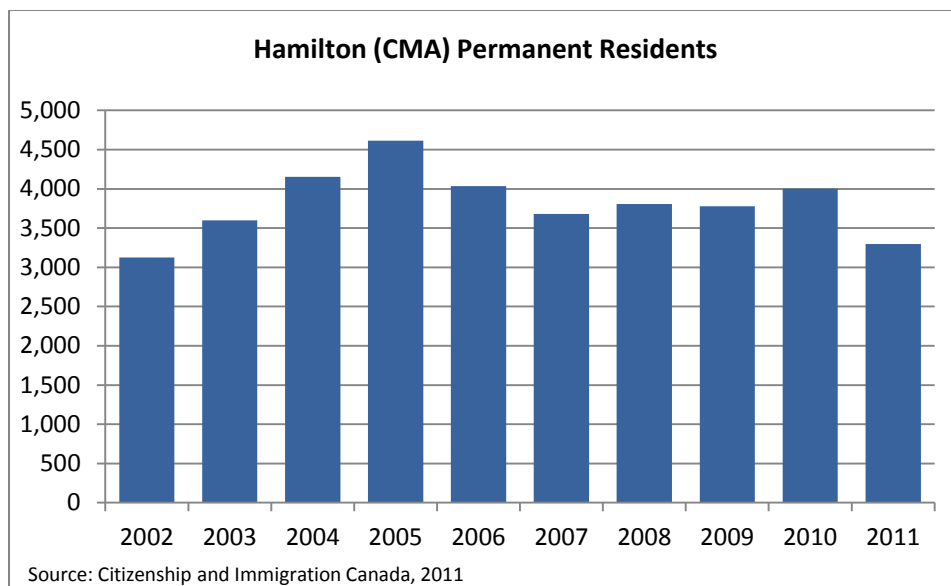


Figure 10: Hamilton (CMA) Permanent Residents per Year Chart

Hamilton's CMA saw an increase in new permanent residents from 2002 to 2005 but the number has stabilized over the past 5 years to between 3,500 and 4,000. From the 1970s to 1990s, Hamilton was a destination of choice for new permanent residents, but over the last 10 years immigration has declined. That being said, approximately 40 per cent of Hamilton's total new permanent resident population settled prior to 1971. (Wayland, 2010) Although Hamilton's CMA does have a healthy influx of newcomers each year it has been generally decreasing since the 1970s. Due to the amount of new permanent in Hamilton, certain areas within the city have become more transient.

Live Birth Data

In Hamilton, the number of live births since 1996 has fluctuated from a high in 1996 of 5,855 to a low 5,050 in 2007. From 1996 to 2000 the live birth rate declined steadily and then stabilized until 2007. There has been a slight increase since 2008 but it has not reached the high of 1996. With a slight increase in child births a slight increase in elementary students may be realized. Live birth data allows for analysis of trends and assist in the development of projections. (Statistics Canada, 2006)

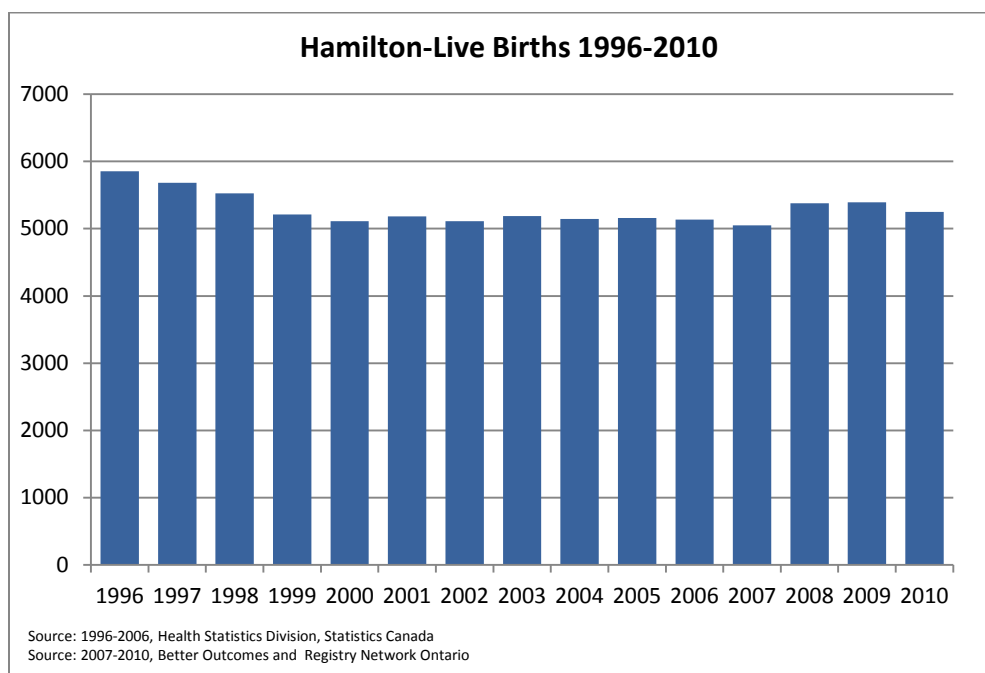


Figure 11: Hamilton Live Birth Chart - 1996-2010

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in Ontario has decreased over the past twenty years. (Ministry of Finance, 2012) In 2002, Ontario reached its lowest TFR of 1.48 children per woman. The latest available data from 2010 shows a slight increase to 1.53, but this is very low in comparison to the baby boom era when the fertility rate was as high as 3.8 children per woman. (Ministry of Finance, 2012) The replacement rate of population is 2.1 children per woman, meaning that Ontario is dependent on immigration and migration for population growth as long as the fertility rate stays below 2.1. In 2008, Hamilton's CMA had a total fertility rate of 1.59 children per woman. (Statistics Canada, 2010) With Hamilton's TFR at 1.59 in 2008, immigration and migration are significant factors in Hamilton's population growth.