

# POWER OF MANY

GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY  
KITCHENER-WATERLOO



# Get to Know Your Community: KITCHENER-WATERLOO

*Please note that the information in this document is based on the 2016 census, and Statistics Canada's definition of the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo census metropolitan area.*

## Highlights

### All people of Kitchener-Waterloo deserve good jobs and decent working conditions.

- 12.2% of people in Kitchener-Waterloo are living below the poverty line.
- 24.9% of Kitchener-Waterloo households have \$40,000 or less after taxes.
- 22% and 27% of people in Kitchener and in Waterloo, respectively, have public and social sector jobs.

### All people of Kitchener-Waterloo deserve a bright future.

- 34.9% of young adults (aged 20 to 34) in Kitchener-Waterloo are living with at least one parent.

### All people of Kitchener-Waterloo deserve equal pay for equal work.

- Women in Kitchener-Waterloo earn nearly 68 cents for every dollar that men earn.

### All people of Kitchener-Waterloo deserve access to workplace benefits, such as vision, dental, and prescription drug coverage.

- 10.0% of Kitchener-Waterloo workers are self-employed.

### All people of Kitchener-Waterloo deserve to retire with dignity.

- 14.5% of the Kitchener-Waterloo population is 65+ years old.
- 69.4% of Kitchener-Waterloo households are saving.

### All people of Kitchener-Waterloo deserve affordable housing.

- 32.1% of people in Kitchener-Waterloo rent.
- 23.5% of people in Kitchener-Waterloo are not living in, and not able to access, acceptable housing.

### All people of Kitchener-Waterloo deserve better transit and infrastructure.

- 22.8 minutes is the average commute for workers in Kitchener-Waterloo.

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## Demographics

### What does Kitchener-Waterloo look like?

- In 2016, the population of Kitchener-Waterloo was **523,894**.
  - Children (0 to 14 years old): **17.6%**
  - Working age (15 to 64 years old): **67.9%**
  - Seniors (65+ years old): **14.5%**
- In 2016, among the working age population in Kitchener-Waterloo, women represented **50.2%** and men represented **49.8%**.
- In 2016, **19.3%** of the Kitchener-Waterloo population belonged to a visible minority group.

Representation $\geq 1.5\%$	Number	% of the total population
Total population in private households	516,085	100
Visible minority population	99,735	19.3
South Asian	26,635	5.2
Chinese	15,940	3.1
Black	15,110	2.9
Latin American	9,095	1.8
Southeast Asian	8,170	1.6
Other <sup>1</sup>	24,770	4.7
Not a visible minority	416,350	80.7

- In 2016, **8,885** people in Kitchener-Waterloo identified as Indigenous, making up **1.7%** of the population.

<sup>1</sup> "Other" includes individuals that identify as Arab, West Asian, Filipino, Korean, Japanese, other visible minorities, and multiple visible minorities.

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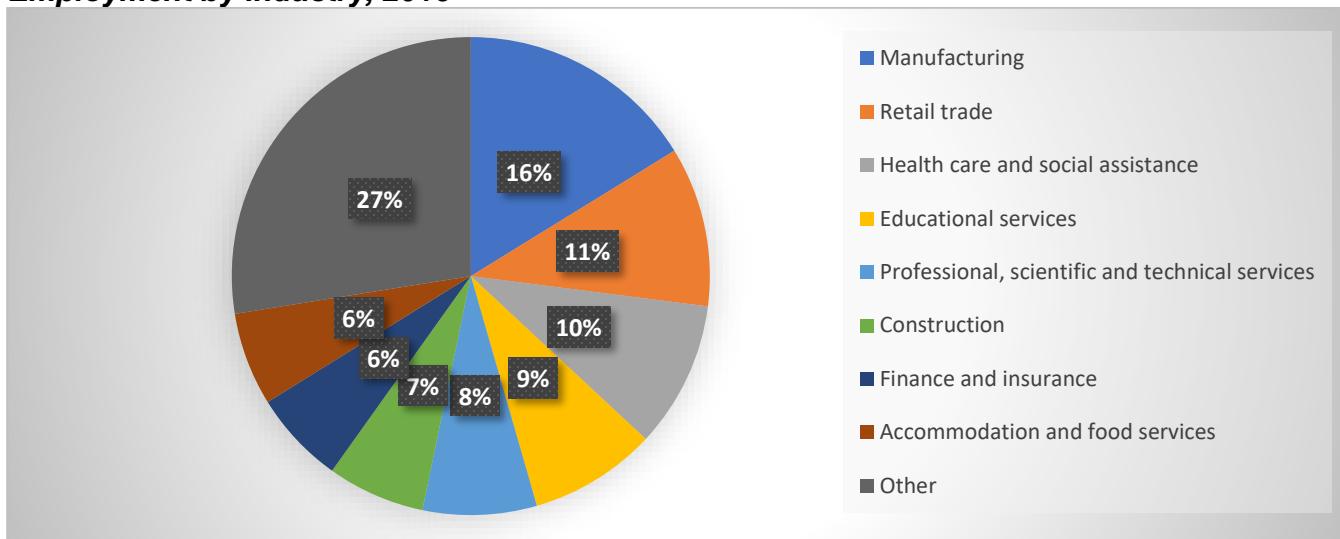
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## Labour Force

### Where do most people in Kitchener-Waterloo work?

- In 2016, **over one-third** of Kitchener-Waterloo workers were employed in the manufacturing, retail, and health care sectors.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2017, 22% and 27% of people in Kitchener and in Waterloo, respectively, had public and social sector jobs.

### **Employment by industry, 2016**



### How much money do workers in Kitchener-Waterloo earn?

- In 2015, the average annual earnings for Kitchener-Waterloo men was **\$54,848** compared to **\$37,081** for women. The gender wage gap in Kitchener-Waterloo is **32.4%**.

### What does the workforce look like in Kitchener-Waterloo?

- In 2016, **10.0%** of Kitchener-Waterloo workers were self-employed.

<sup>2</sup> "Other" includes wholesale trade; administrative and support; waste management and remediation services; other services (except public administration); public administration; transportation and warehousing; information and cultural industries; real estate and rental and leasing; arts, entertainment, and recreation; agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; utilities; management of companies and enterprises; and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.

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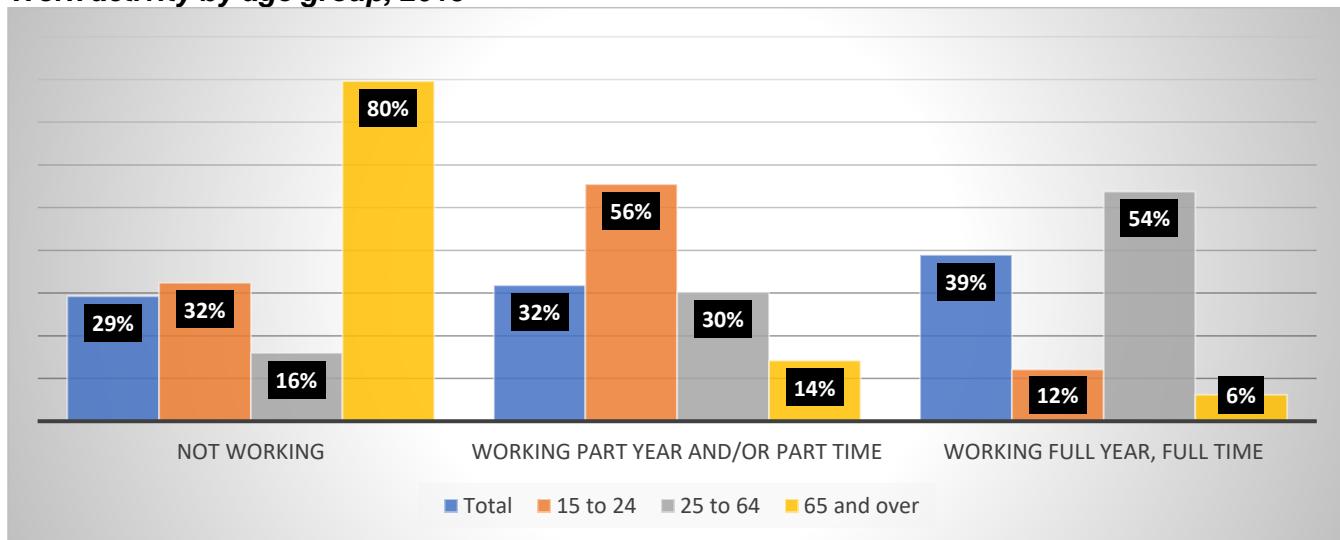
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- In 2016, **25,860** or **9.5%** of Kitchener-Waterloo workers had no fixed workplace address.
- In 2016, **34.9%** of young adults aged 20 to 34 were living with at least one parent.
- In 2016, **18,555** people in Kitchener-Waterloo were actively looking for work, but could not find a job. The youth unemployment rate was **15.0%**.

Total labour force status	Total	15 to 24	25 to 64	65 and over
Total population aged 15 years and over	423,860	71,380	282,330	70,150
In the labour force	290,425	45,085	234,545	10,795
Employed	271,875	38,335	223,100	10,435
Unemployed	18,555	6,750	11,445	355
Not in the labour force	133,435	26,290	47,790	59,355
Participation rate (%)	68.5	63.2	83.1	15.4
Employment rate (%)	64.1	53.7	79.0	14.9
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	15.0	4.9	3.3

- In 2015, young workers in Kitchener-Waterloo were disproportionately represented in part year and/or part-time work, representing **56%** of their work activity.

### Work activity by age group, 2015



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## What is the commute like in Kitchener-Waterloo?

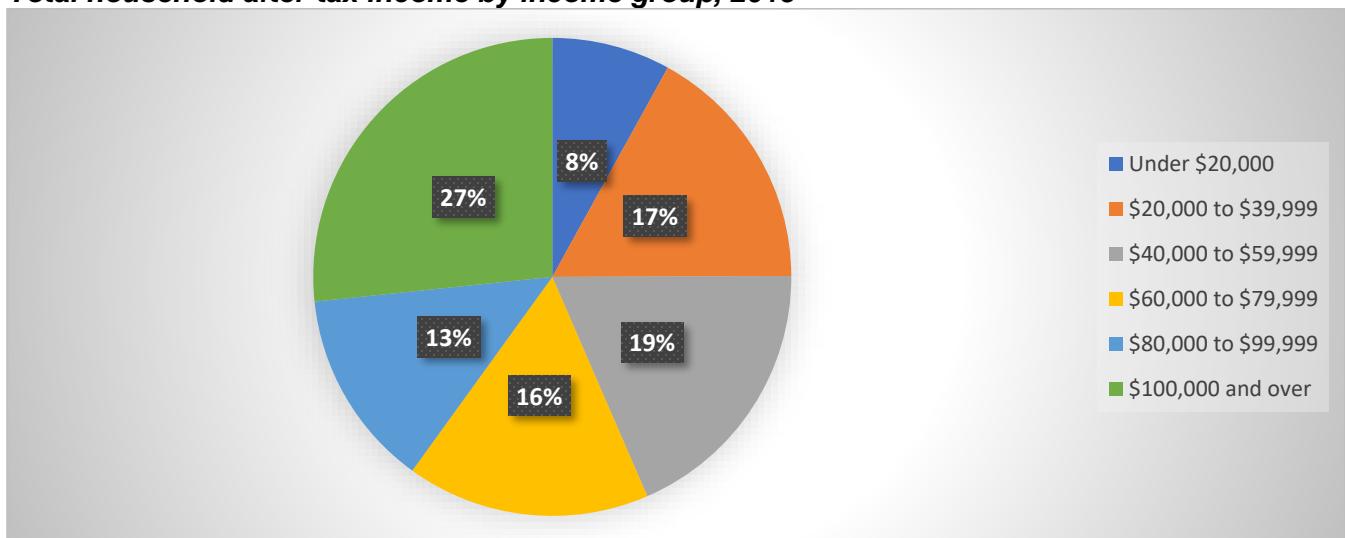
- In 2016, the average commute for workers in Kitchener-Waterloo was **22.8** minutes. In Ontario, it was 28.8 minutes.
- **81.0%** of the Kitchener-Waterloo workforce primarily drove to work.

## Income

### How much income do Kitchener-Waterloo households have?

- In 2015, the median total income of households in Kitchener-Waterloo was **\$77,229**, a change of **1.4%** from \$76,137 in 2005<sup>3</sup>.
- In 2015, **24.9%** of Kitchener-Waterloo households had \$40,000 or less in disposable income.

**Total household after-tax income by income group, 2015**



<sup>3</sup> Dollar amounts have been inflated where necessary to 2015 constant dollars using the consumer price index.

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### How many Kitchener-Waterloo households are saving for the long-term?

- In 2015, **69.4%** of households in Kitchener-Waterloo contributed to Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs), Registered Pension Plans (RPPs), or Tax-free Savings Accounts (TFSAs). In Ontario, 67.2% of households contributed to an account.

Registered savings accounts	Median contribution amount (\$)	Contributing (%)	Not contributing (%)
RRSPs, RPPs or TFSAs	8,067	69.4	30.6
RRSPs	3,999	39.6	60.4
RPPs	3,562	29.5	70.5
TFSAs	5,500	44.2	55.8

### What does poverty look like in Kitchener-Waterloo?

- In 2015, **62,755** people in Kitchener-Waterloo or **12.2%** lived in low income<sup>4</sup> while in 2005, it was 9.8%.
- In 2015, the low-income rate for persons under 18 years of age was **15.3%** compared to **11.5%** for persons aged 18 to 64 and **10.4%** for persons 65 and over.

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<sup>4</sup> Low-income status is determined based on low-income measure, after-tax (LIM-AT). For a one-person household, the LIM-AT was \$22,460 in 2015. For larger households, this amount was adjusted upward by multiplying it by the square root of household size. Persons in a private household with after-tax income below this threshold were considered low income.

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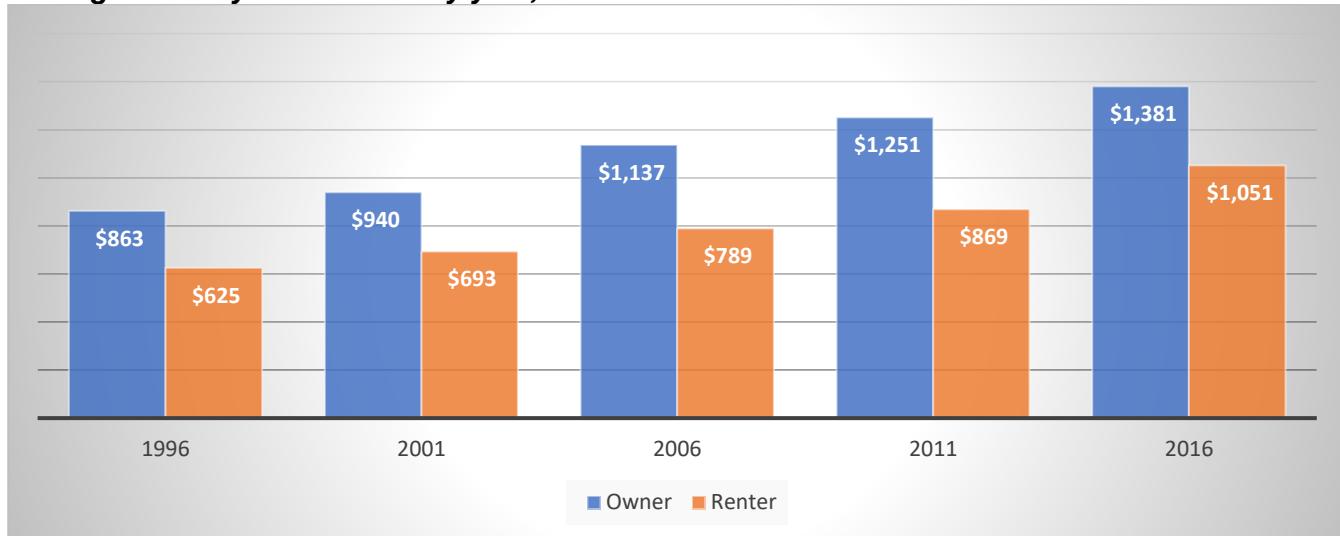
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### Housing

What does housing affordability look like in Kitchener-Waterloo?

- In 2016, there were **200,500** households in Kitchener-Waterloo; **67.9%** owned their dwelling.
- In 2016, **23.5%** of Kitchener-Waterloo households spent 30% or more of their total income on shelter costs.
- Over a twenty-year period, average shelter costs in Kitchener-Waterloo rose **60.0%** and **68.2%** for owners and renters, respectively.

**Average monthly shelter cost by year, 1996 – 2016**



Source: Statistics Canada. 2017. Focus on Geography Series, 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-404-X2016001. Ottawa, Ontario. Data products, 2016 Census.

