

Demographics in Windsor-Essex



Population Profile

Regional and Municipal Population

According to the 2021 Census of Population, the population of the Windsor-Essex census division was estimated to be 422,860. Overall, the population of the region increased by 6.0% since 2016, and by almost 9.0% since 2011. Much of the population growth experienced can be attributed to population increases in five municipalities (i.e., Windsor, Lakeshore, LaSalle, Leamington, and Amherstburg). Combined, these five regions have accounted for almost 94% of the overall growth in population over the past decade in Windsor-Essex¹ (see Table 1).

Table 1. Windsor-Essex Distribution of Population by Census Subdivisions, 2021 vs. 2016

Municipality	2011 Population	2016 Population	2021 Population	% Change Over 2016	% Change Over 2011
Windsor	210,891	217,188	229,660	5.7%	8.9%
Lakeshore	34,546	36,611	40,410	10.4%	17.0%
LaSalle	28,643	30,180	32,721	8.4%	14.2%
Leamington	28,403	27,595	29,680	7.6%	4.5%
Amherstburg	21,556	21,936	23,524	7.2%	9.1%
Tecumseh	23,610	23,229	23,300	0.3%	-1.3%
Kingsville	21,362	21,552	22,119	2.6%	3.5%
Essex	19,600	20,427	21,216	3.9%	8.2%
Peele	171	235	230	-2.1%	34.5%
Total Windsor-Essex	388,782	398,953	422,860	6.0%	8.8%

Note: Municipalities included are Census subdivisions, as defined by Statistics Canada, and when combined aggregate to the Essex County Census Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 and 2016 Census of Populations

As shown below in Tables 2 and 3, in 2021, Windsor-Essex had a comparatively younger population, with 29.0% of the region's population under the age of 25, and 12.6% in the '15 to 24 years' age group. Over the last ten years, however, the region has experienced an overall decline in the share of its 'under 25' population. Additionally, it appears that the region's growth in population since 2011 can be disproportionality attributed to increases in the number of people 65 years and over, which has grown by 38% since 2011 (see Table 3).

¹ Windsor-Essex data was obtained from the 2021 Census of Population and represents data as from the Essex, County Census Division. Source: Statistics Canada. 2022. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released April 27, 2022. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed May 25, 2022).

Table 2. Windsor-Essex Census Division, Distribution of Population by Age Group, 2021

Age groups	Population	Population %	Canada Avg.	Ontario Avg.
0 to 14 years	68,810	16.3%	16.3%	15.8%
15 to 24 years	53,405	12.6%	11.4%	11.9%
25 to 64 years	219,020	51.8%	53.3%	53.7%
65 years and over	81,620	19.3%	19.0%	18.5%
Total	422,860	100%	100%	100%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population.

Table 3. Windsor-Essex Census Division, Distribution of Population by Age Group, 2011 to 2021

Age groups	2011		2016		2021		Variance over 2011	
	Population	(%)	Population	(%)	Population	(%)	(#)	(%)
0 to 14 years	68,485	17.6%	66,770	16.7%	68,810	16.3%	325	0.5%
15 to 24 years	52,115	13.4%	52,300	13.1%	53,405	12.6%	1,290	2.5%
25 to 64 years	209,040	53.8%	209,435	52.5%	219,020	51.8%	9,980	4.8%
65 years and over	59,140	15.2%	70,440	17.7%	81,620	19.3%	22,480	38.0%
Total	388,780	100.0%	398,945	100.0%	422,855	100.0%	34,075	8.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021, 2016, and 2011 Census of Populations

Immigration

Over the past decade, Windsor has attracted more than 2,100 immigrants per year on average. Table 4 shows the Ontario census divisions with the highest annual immigration rates, adjusted for population size. As shown, Windsor-Essex regularly ranks among the top regions in Ontario for immigration and has a new immigration rate comparable to Middlesex, Hamilton, and Wellington.

Table 4. Immigration rate per 10,000 Population, Top 10 Ontario Census Divisions

Ontario Census Divisions	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Peel	157	173	155	147	205	169	220	230	199	151
Toronto	156	151	148	131	161	128	178	178	164	140
Waterloo	54	54	50	42	69	53	73	75	76	74
York	95	120	109	86	99	79	97	101	86	73
Ontario CD average	78	75	65	87	70	93	96	86	73	78
Ottawa	71	67	62	50	77	62	79	89	77	72
Halton	63	75	67	60	83	63	93	93	85	66
Middlesex	50	42	48	36	68	48	55	60	56	61
Hamilton	52	50	47	39	60	45	54	59	52	50
Essex	42	48	46	36	68	45	59	61	61	45
Wellington	30	32	35	32	37	34	42	44	46	34

Source: Statistics Canada, Tables 17-10-0140-01 and 17-10-0139-01

In 2016, the most recent year for which detailed census data on regional immigration trends exist, approximately, 22.2% of Windsor-Essex’s population self-identified as an Immigrant, which ranked 9th in Ontario, out of 49 census divisions.

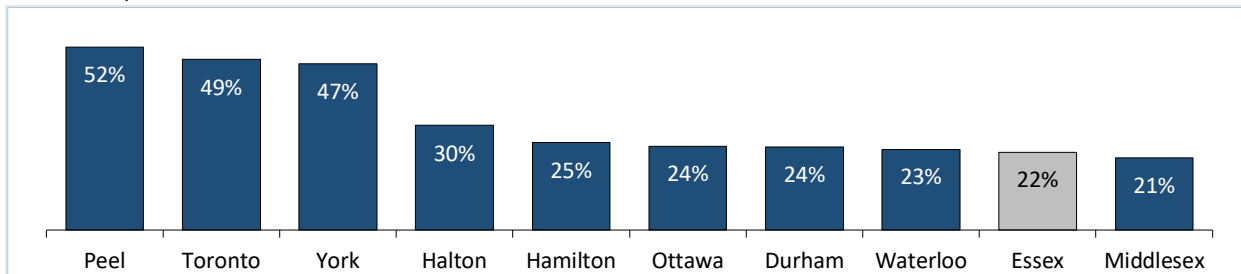


Figure 1. Top 10 Ontario Census Divisions by % of Immigrant Population

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Populations

Furthermore, 12.6% of Windsor-Essex’s immigrant population came to the region between 2011 and 2016. Compared to the rest of Ontario, Windsor-Essex ranked 6th behind Toronto (14.8%), Ottawa (13.9%), Peel (13.3%), Middlesex (12.9%), and Halton (12.8%).

Windsor-Essex also has a greater proportion of refugees compared to the rest of Ontario. As shown in Table 5, 31% of the region’s immigrant population who immigrated between 1980 and 2016 self-identified as refugees. This ranked second in Ontario behind Middlesex.

Table 5. Top 10 Ontario Census Divisions, Refugees as a share of total Immigrant Population

Row Labels	Total Immigrant Population (Landed Between 1980 and 2016)	Refugees	%
Middlesex	60,290	19,830	33%
Essex	58,080	17,980	31%
Hamilton	81,230	24,535	30%
Sudbury	285	85	30%
Waterloo	84,995	23,930	28%
Ottawa	165,780	39,525	24%
Niagara	34,705	7,810	23%
Thunder Bay	4,205	885	21%
Wellington	23,910	4,555	19%
Elgin	5,450	1,020	19%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Populations

The landscape of immigration in the Windsor-Essex region is changing. While the United States (8%), Italy (8%), and Iraq (7%) are the top three countries of birth for the area’s total immigrant population, the most recent comparable census data shows Iraq (19%), Syria (10%) and the United States (9%) as the top places of birth for the recent immigrant population².

² 'Recent immigrant' refers to an immigrant who obtained landed immigrant or permanent resident status between January 1, 2011 and May 10, 2016.

Table 6. Windsor-Essex, Total Immigrant population, Top Places of Birth

Country	Windsor-Essex	Ontario
United States	8%	3%
Italy	8%	4%
Iraq	7%	1%
United Kingdom	6%	7%
Lebanon	5%	1%
Other Asia	5%	4%
India	5%	9%
Other Europe	5%	3%
China	5%	8%
Mexico	5%	1%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Table 7. Windsor-Essex, Recent Immigrant population, Top Places of Birth

Country	Windsor-Essex	Ontario
Iraq	19%	3%
Syria	10%	3%
United States	9%	3%
Africa	9%	8%
India	7%	15%
China	7%	12%
Other Asia	5%	3%
Other Europe	4%	4%
Philippines	4%	11%
Mexico	4%	1%

Visible Minority Population³

In the 2016 Census of Population, which represents the most recent year for which data at the census division exists, almost 18% of the region’s population self-identified as a visible minority, which was the 9th highest rate in Ontario, comparable to Waterloo, Hamilton, and Middlesex.

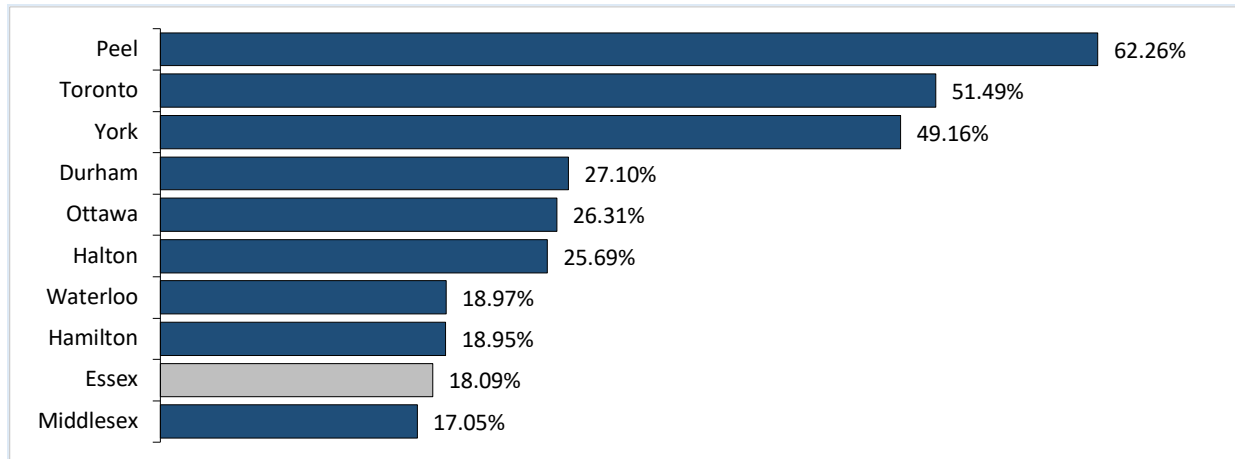


Figure 2. Top 10 Ontario Census Divisions, Visible Minority Population as a share of total Population

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

In regards to the self-identification status of the region’s visible minority groups, the largest self-identified groups were Arab (26%), Black (19%), and South Asian (17%). Compared to the Ontario average, a higher proportion of individuals in Windsor-Essex self-identified as Arab and Black.

³ Throughout this document, the terms used are drawn from the survey itself.

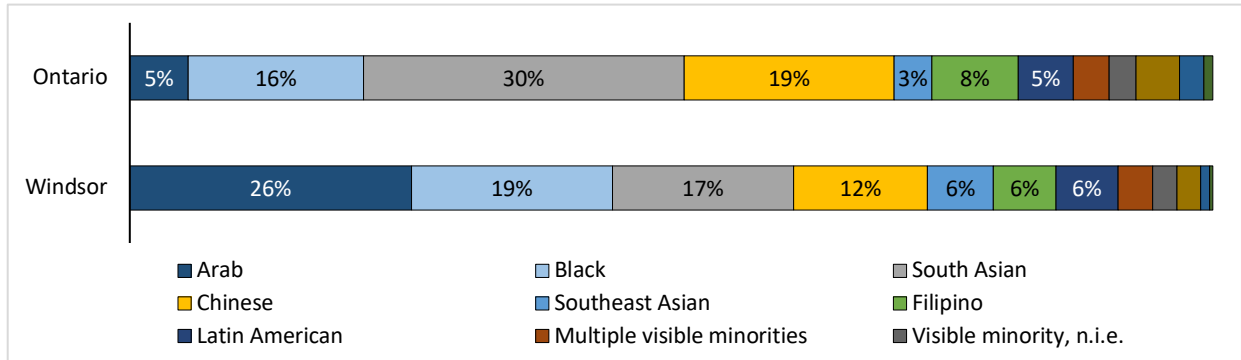


Figure 3. Visible Minority Population – Essex Census Division vs. Ontario
 Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Slightly more individuals in the Windsor-Essex region self-identify as Indigenous (4.4%) compared to the provincial average (3.9%), but the region ranked 31st out of 49 Ontario census divisions in overall proportion of self-identified Indigenous people⁴. Windsor-Essex ranks 8th in Ontario (20%) for the highest share of non-official languages as mother tongue⁵.

Educational Attainment for the Population aged 25 to 64 years

According to the 2016 Census, the most recent year for which detailed data exists, 59% of the region’s working age population (i.e., 25 to 64 years) had a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree and 41% had a secondary school diploma or equivalency certificate (30%) or no certificate, diploma nor degree (11%). Compared to the Ontario mean, Windsor-Essex had a lower proportion of its working aged population with a postsecondary credential and higher proportion that had either a high school diploma, or equivalent, or no qualification.

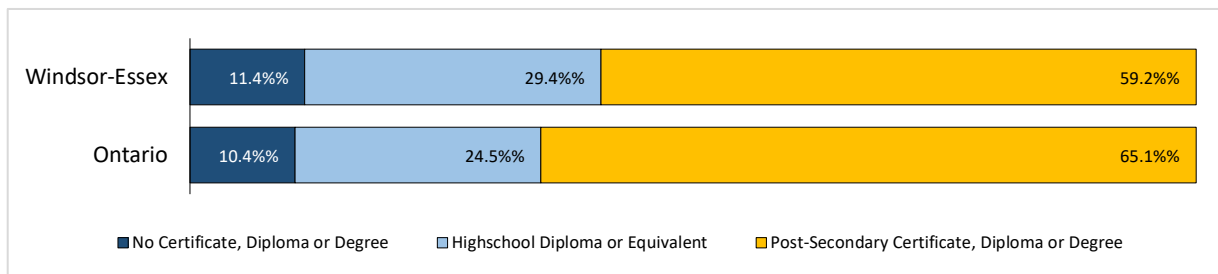


Figure 4. Highest Level of Educational Attainment (25-64 years old), Essex Census Division vs. Ontario
 Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

⁴ Statistics Canada. 2017. Essex, CTY [Census division], Ontario and Ontario [Province] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed May 27, 2022).

⁵ Statistics Canada. 2017. Essex, CTY [Census division], Ontario and Ontario [Province] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed May 27, 2022).

Of the population with a postsecondary credential, almost 41% had a university certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above, almost 45% had a college certificate and diploma, and approximately 12% had an apprenticeship or trades certificate. As shown below, compared to the Ontario average, Windsor-Essex had a lower proportion of its population with a university credential.

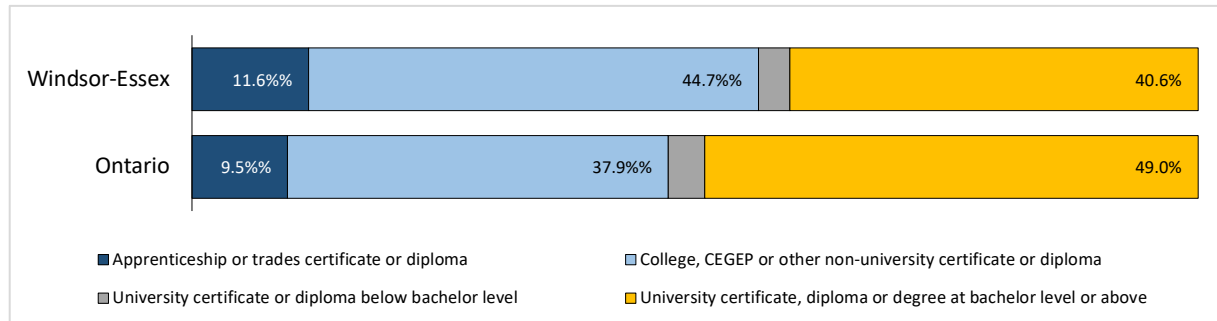


Figure 5. Highest Level of Educational Attainment (25-64 years old), Essex Census Division vs. Ontario

Across the municipalities in Windsor-Essex there is significant differences in the highest level of education among the working age population. As shown in Table 8, in 2016, there were only two regions where more people had a university degree, or above, compared to a college diploma (i.e., Windsor and LaSalle). LaSalle was the only area where more people had a university degree, or above, compared to any other qualification. In fact, in seven out of nine regions that make up the Windsor-Essex census division, more people had a secondary school diploma, as their highest level of education, then a university degree.

Table 8. Windsor-Essex Census Subdivisions, Highest Level of Education Attained, 2016

Census Subdivision	25 to 64 Population	No Qualification	Secondary school diploma or equivalency certificate	Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	College, certificate or diploma	University below bachelor level	University bachelor level or above
Windsor	113,390	11.7%	30.4%	6.0%	24.6%	2.0%	25.2%
Lakeshore	19,480	7.7%	28.3%	8.3%	29.2%	1.8%	24.7%
LaSalle	15,935	4.8%	23.6%	7.1%	27.7%	2.4%	34.5%
Leamington	13,025	30.4%	29.0%	6.7%	22.1%	1.2%	10.6%
Amherstburg	11,565	6.7%	31.5%	8.9%	31.1%	1.7%	20.0%
Tecumseh	12,230	5.1%	24.6%	7.2%	30.9%	2.5%	29.7%
Kingsville	10,435	15.5%	27.0%	9.1%	30.4%	1.1%	16.9%
Essex	10,420	9.9%	35.6%	7.9%	30.6%	1.1%	15.1%
Pelee	70	14.3%	57.1%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%	14.3%
Windsor-Essex	206,550	11.4%	29.4%	6.8%	26.5%	1.9%	24.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Income

According to the 2016 Census of Population, the most recent year for which comparable data exists, 16.5% of the region’s population qualified as low-income⁶. Compared to the rest of Ontario, Windsor-Essex had the 8th highest proportion of low-income status (see Figure 6).

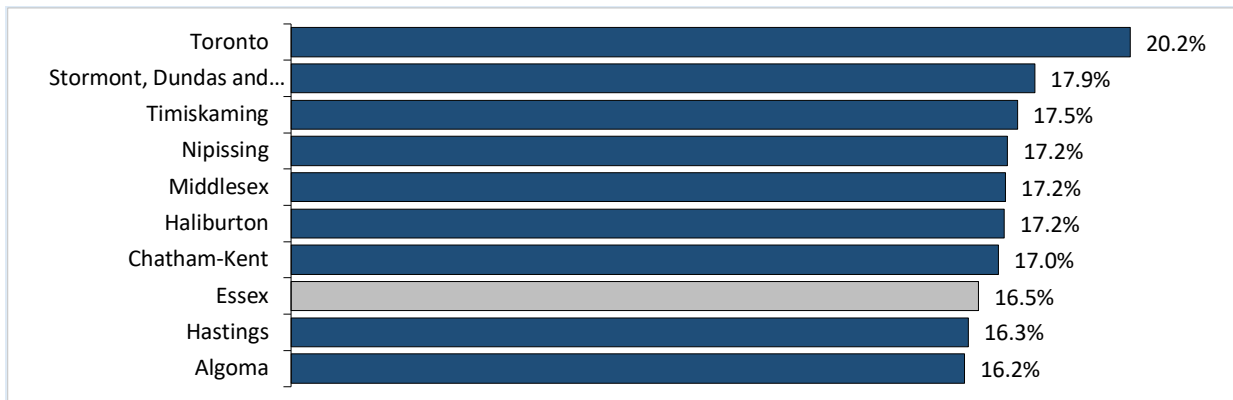


Figure 6. Top 10 Ontario Census Divisions, Low-Income as a Share of Total Population

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

In 2016, 26% of the region’s population between 0 to 5 years of age qualified as low-income, and almost 23% of the 0 to 17 years population was identified as low-income (see Table 9). In both age groups, Windsor-Essex had the 4th highest rate of low-income status among Ontario’s 49 census divisions. Compared to the Ontario average, the region’s proportion of low-income population was higher than the provincial average in three of the four age groups assessed.

Table 9. Low-Income Status by Age Group, Windsor-Essex Census Division vs. Ontario

	0 to 5 years (%)	0 to 17 years (%)	18 to 64 years (%)	65 years and over (%)
Windsor-Essex Low-Income (%)	26.0%	22.6%	15.9%	11.4%
Ontario avg. Low-Income (%)	19.8%	18.4%	13.7%	12.0%
Rank in Ontario	4	4	8	23

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Poverty in the region appears to more concentrated in specific areas. The Windsor and Leamington census subdivisions had comparatively higher low-income rates in all age groups assessed. For example, in 2016, almost 37% of children aged 0 to 5 in Windsor qualified as low-income. In comparison, with the exception of Leamington, no other municipality had a poverty rate exceeding 13.7%, and the associated poverty rates for LaSalle, Lakeshore, and Tecumseh were 6.9%, 7.0%, and 8.0%, respectively.

⁶ Based on the Low-income measure, after tax (LIM-AT)

Table 10. Low-Income Status by Age Group, Windsor-Essex Census Subdivisions

Census Subdivision	0 to 5 years (%)	0 to 17 years (%)	18 to 64 years (%)	65 years and over (%)
Windsor	36.90%	33.10%	22.40%	14.60%
Lakeshore	7.00%	7.20%	5.70%	5.80%
LaSalle	6.90%	7.10%	5.00%	5.60%
Leamington	28.80%	22.50%	14.30%	13.00%
Amherstburg	12.40%	10.60%	7.60%	7.40%
Tecumseh	8.01%	7.80%	5.30%	5.00%
Kingsville	13.70%	11.20%	8.90%	8.00%
Essex	12.10%	11.10%	9.00%	9.10%
Pelee	x	x	x	x

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Note: x = data suppressed by Statistics Canada due to low sample.

After adjusting for population size and including only census subdivisions with populations of more than 100,000, Windsor was found to have the highest poverty rate in Ontario in both the 0 to 5 age group and the 0 to 17 age group (see Table 11).

Table 11. Top 10 Census Subdivisions in Ontario with the Highest Child Poverty Rates

Census Subdivision	Population	0 to 17 years (%)	0 to 5 years (%)
Windsor	217,188	33.1%	36.9%
Toronto	2,731,571	26.3%	26.3%
London	383,822	24.9%	26.9%
St. Catharines	133,113	23.9%	26.7%
Chatham-Kent	101,647	22.3%	27.4%
Thunder Bay	107,909	21.5%	26.0%
Mississauga	721,599	21.2%	22.6%
Oshawa	159,458	20.8%	22.5%
Kitchener	233,222	18.5%	20.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Labour

In 2016, the most recent year for which comparable census division data exists on the distribution labour force by industry, manufacturing was the region's largest economic sector, employing 20.2% of Windsor-Essex's 15 years and over population. As shown in Figure 7, Windsor-Essex ranked 2nd in Ontario in overall proportion of total labour force population in the manufacturing sector.

Table 12. Total labour force population aged 15 years and over by Industry - North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), Windsor-Essex Census Division vs. Ontario

North American Industry Classification System	Windsor-Essex	Ontario Avg.	Variance
31-33 Manufacturing	20.2%	9.8%	10.4%
62 Health care and social assistance	12.4%	10.8%	1.5%
44-45 Retail trade	10.7%	11.2%	-0.6%
72 Accommodation and food services	7.5%	6.9%	0.7%
61 Educational services	7.3%	7.6%	-0.3%
23 Construction	5.7%	6.8%	-1.1%
54 Professional, scientific and technical services	4.9%	8.1%	-3.3%
48-49 Transportation and warehousing	4.5%	4.7%	-0.3%
56 Administrative and support, waste management	4.4%	4.9%	-0.4%
81 Other services (except public administration)	4.1%	4.3%	-0.2%
91 Public administration	3.8%	6.0%	-2.2%
52 Finance and insurance	3.1%	5.5%	-2.3%
41 Wholesale trade	2.8%	3.9%	-1.0%
11 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	2.8%	1.5%	1.3%
71 Arts, entertainment and recreation	2.6%	2.1%	0.5%
53 Real estate and rental and leasing	1.3%	2.1%	-0.8%
51 Information and cultural industries	1.1%	2.5%	-1.5%
22 Utilities	0.5%	0.7%	-0.2%
21 Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0.2%	0.5%	-0.2%
55 Management of companies and enterprises	0.1%	0.2%	-0.1%

Compared to the rest of Ontario, Windsor-Essex had the second highest proportion of its labour force population (defined by Statistics Canada as 15 years and older) in manufacturing behind Oxford, and higher than other traditional industrial census divisions like Hamilton.

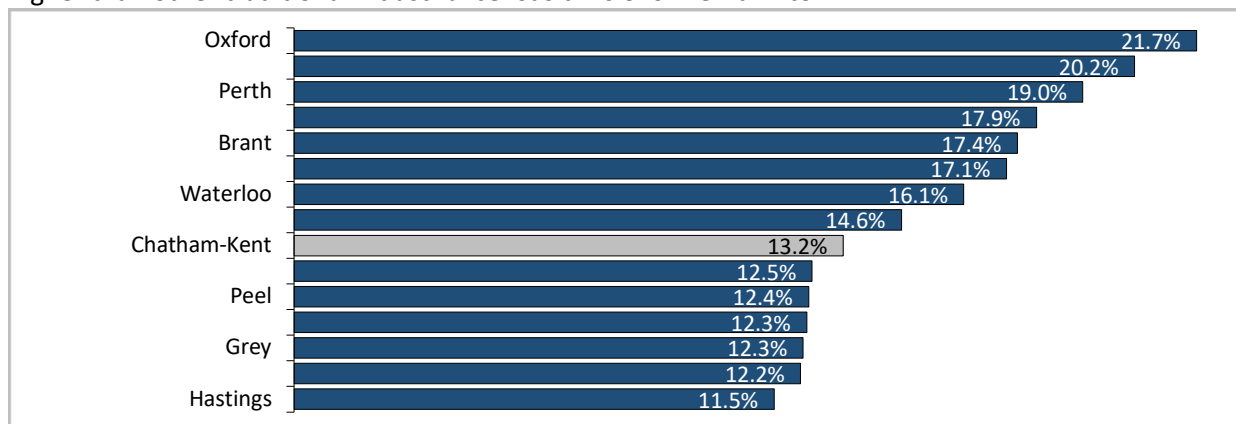


Figure 7. Top 15 Ontario Census Divisions, % of Labour Force Population in Manufacturing

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Mother Tongue

According to Statistics Canada, there is no established definition of Francophone. For historical reasons, it has generally used the criterion of mother tongue, that is, the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood at the time of the census.

In 2016, the most recent year for which detailed comparable census data exists, 74.7% of residents in the Windsor-Essex census indicated that English was their mother tongue, and 2.8% identified French as their mother tongue, and 22.5% identified as having a mother tongue that is a non-official language. Compared to Ontario, Windsor-Essex has a higher proportion of English-speaking residents, and lower proportions of residents whose mother tongue is either French or a non-official language (see Table 13).

Table 13. Mother Tongue, Windsor-Essex Census Division vs. Ontario

Census Division	English	French	Non-official Languages
Windsor-Essex	74.7%	2.8%	22.5%
Ontario avg.	68.8%	3.8%	27.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Across the municipalities in Windsor-Essex there is significant differences in the first language learned at home. As shown below, in 2016, Windsor and Leamington were the only two census subdivisions in the region where less than 80% of the population spoke English as their mother tongue, and more than 17% had a mother tongue that was a non-official language. With respect to French, Lakeshore, had the highest percentage of French mother, with 6.5%.

Table 14. Mother Tongue, Windsor-Essex Census Subdivisions

Census Subdivision	English	French	Non-official Languages
Essex	91.0%	2.4%	6.6%
Amherstburg	90.2%	2.7%	7.0%
Lakeshore	83.1%	6.5%	10.4%
Peelee	83.0%	2.1%	17.0%
Kingsville	82.1%	1.4%	16.6%
LaSalle	80.5%	2.8%	16.7%
Tecumseh	80.1%	3.8%	16.2%
Windsor	69.4%	2.4%	28.2%
Leamington	63.2%	1.3%	35.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

After adjusting for population size and including only census subdivisions with populations of more than 20,000, Leamington was found to have the 7th highest percentage of its population whose mother tongue was a non-official language, and Windsor ranked 14th. With respect to French as a mother tongue, Lakeshore was the only census subdivision from the region ranked in the top 15 (i.e., 9th).

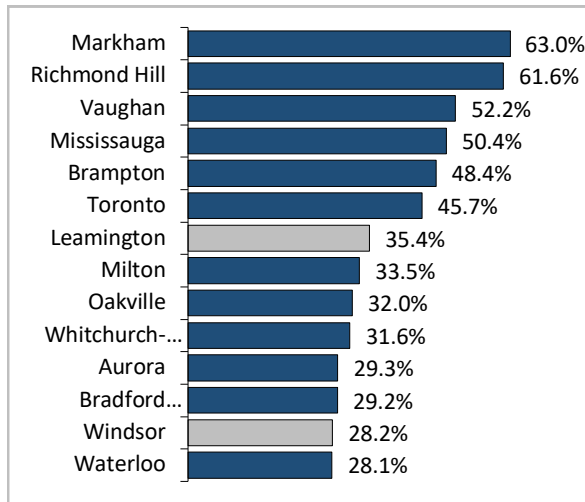


Figure 8. Top 15 Census Subdivisions, Non-official Language Mother-Tongue

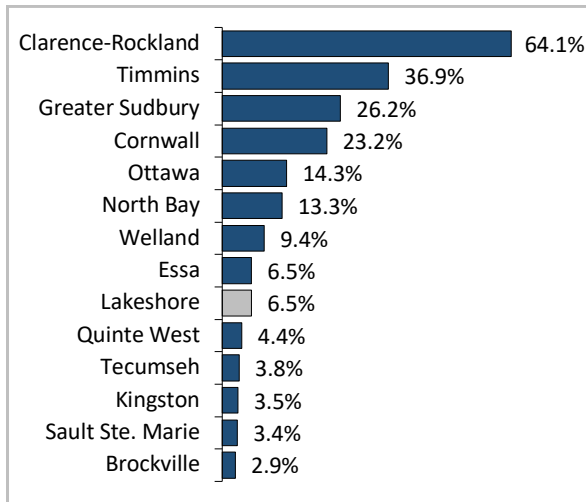


Figure 9. Top 15 Census Subdivisions, French Mother-Tongue

Projected Population Growth

The Ministry of Finance produces an updated set of population projections every year for Ontario and each of its 49 census divisions. The most recent projection uses Statistics Canada data for 2020 and Ontario Ministry of Finance projections beginning in the Spring of 2021.

Overall, continued growth in the Windsor-Essex census division is expected with a total population increase of 27% projected by 2046, to about 550,000. However, despite an above-average immigration rate bringing young immigrants to the region, Windsor-Essex is still facing a demographic challenge. As shown in Figure 10, the region will likely get older⁷. According to the projection, the overall proportion of the working age population (i.e., 25 to 64 years) is expected to continue to fall from about 51% in 2021 to 46.8% in 2046. Additionally, the share of the population 65 years and older is expected to continue to increase from 19% to almost 24%.

⁷ Ministry of Finance. 2021. Population Projections for Ontario's 49 Census Divisions by Age and Sex, 2020-2046. Population Projections. Toronto. Released June 23, 2021. <https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/population-projections/resource/03abe0d5-0995-4ce2-ad9d-e904d50106a5> (accessed May 27, 2022).

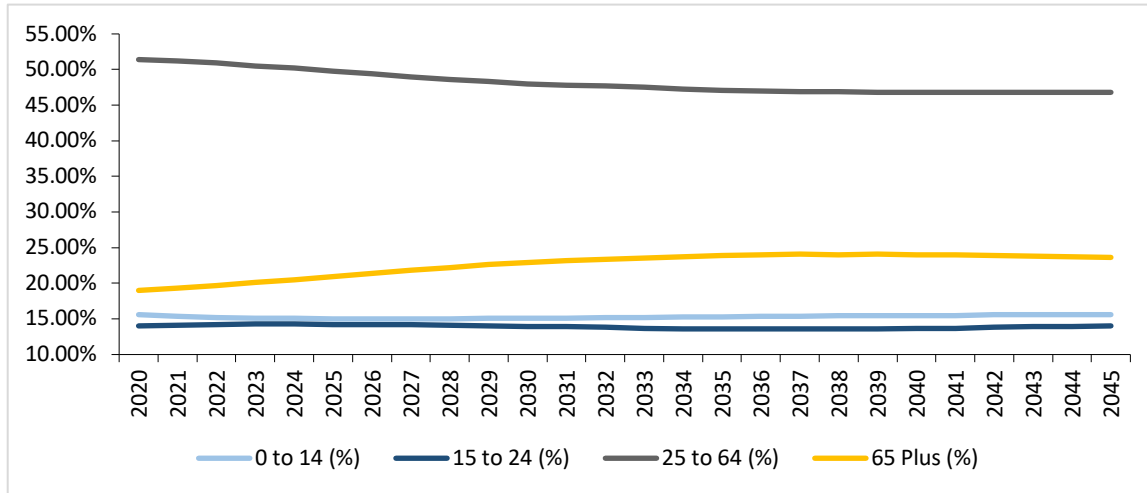


Figure 10. Windsor-Essex Census Division, Population Projection

Source: Ontario Ministry of Finance

Housing and Shelter Costs

According to the 2016 Census of Populations, which represents the most recent year for which comparable census data is available, household income allocated to shelter costs was lower in the Windsor-Essex census division compared to the rest of Ontario (see Table 15).

Table 15. Percentage of Households that spent 30% or more of income on shelter costs

	Households*	Households spending 30% or more of its income on shelter costs (%)
Windsor-Essex Census Division	114,735	12.7%
Census Subdivisions		
Windsor	58,225	14.5%
Lakeshore	11,675	10.9%
LaSalle	9,960	9.4%
Tecumseh	7,705	8.0%
Amherstburg	7,190	11.7%
Leamington	6,710	13.3%
Essex	6,660	11.8%
Kingsville	6,545	10.1%
Pelee	70	x
Ontario Avg.		19.8%

Note*: Households refers to owner households in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings.

Note: x = data suppressed by Statistics Canada due to low sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Over the last five years, house prices for a single-family home in Windsor-Essex have increased by 262%, exceeding the national average (165%)⁸.

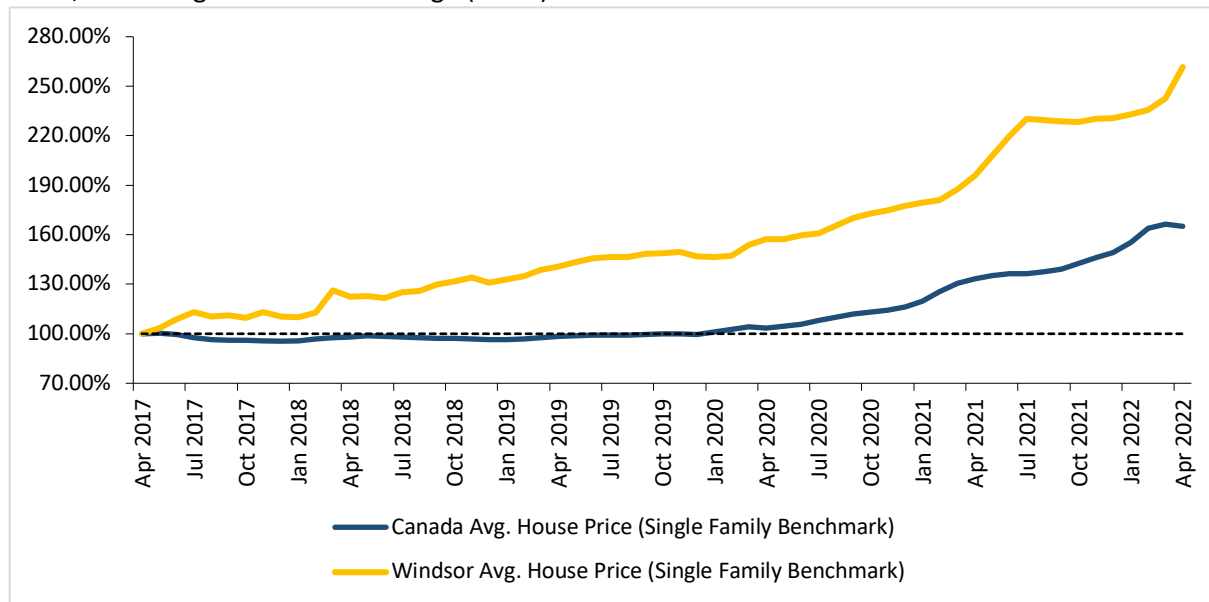


Figure 11. Average House Prices (Single family Benchmark), April 2013 to April 2022

Source: Canadian Real Estate Association

Thinking Questions

1. What do these demographic patterns and trends suggest about how we can best serve our communities?
2. What are some ways the University of Windsor can strengthen its connection to people in the broader Windsor-Essex community?
3. What implications do the changes in the housing market have on the University?

⁸ Canadian Real Estate Association. 2022. Home Price Index Data. Ottawa. Released April 2022. <https://creastats.crea.ca/en-CA> (accessed May 27, 2022).