



# City of Waterloo Census Bulletin | 2021

A summary of the City of Waterloo and its people by their demographic, social and economic characteristics according to the 2021 Census of Population.

# Release 1: Population and dwelling counts

## Population rank

Provincial population rank: 24  
National population rank: 47  
out of 4,831 municipalities.

## Population growth

In 2021, the population of the City of Waterloo was 121,436, which represents a growth of 15.7% from 2016. This compares to the provincial average of 5.8% and the national average of 5.2%.

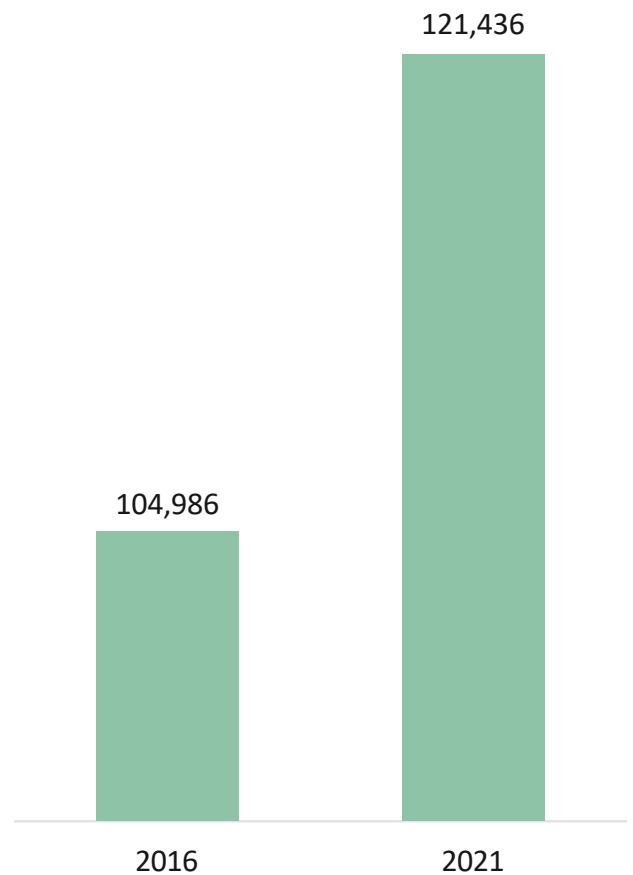
## Private occupied dwellings

In 2021, there were 47,040 private occupied dwellings in Waterloo, which represents an increase of 16.5% from 2016.

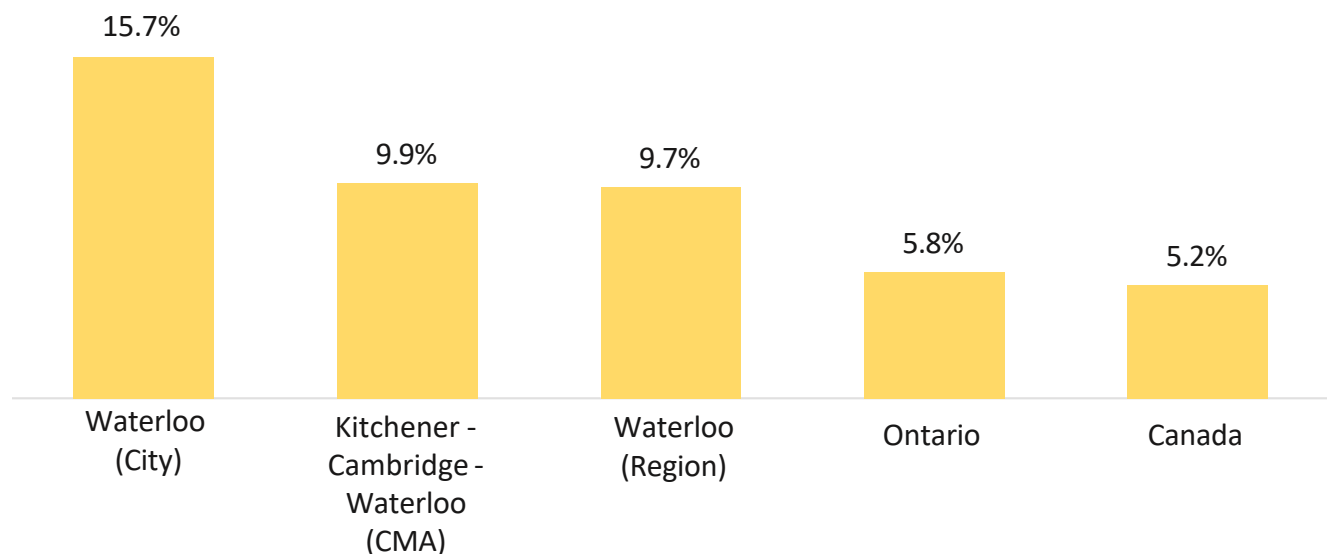
## Population density

The land area of Waterloo is 64 square kilometres and the population density was 1,895.8 people per square kilometre.

## Population, City of Waterloo, 2021 and 2016 censuses

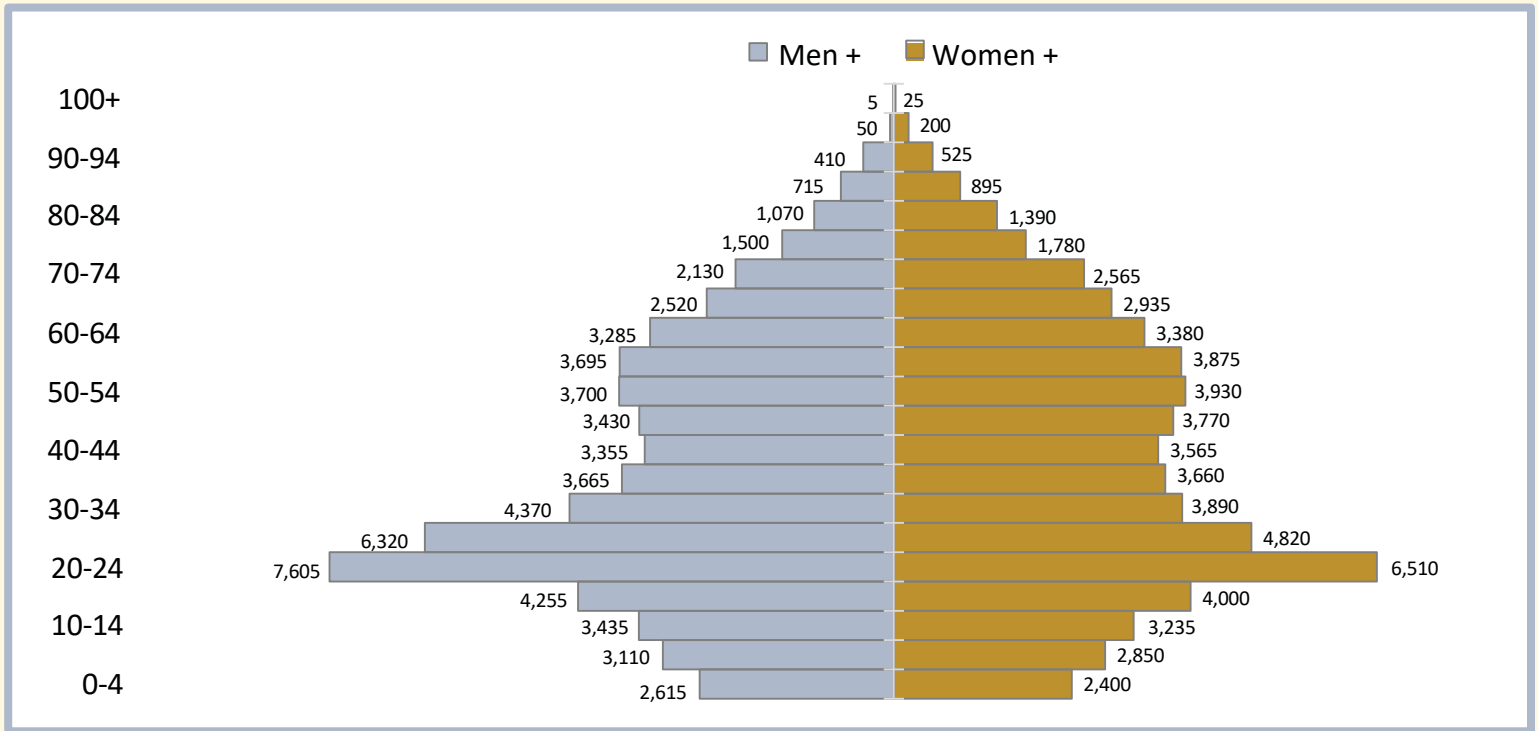


## Population change for Waterloo and higher level geographies, 2016 to 2021



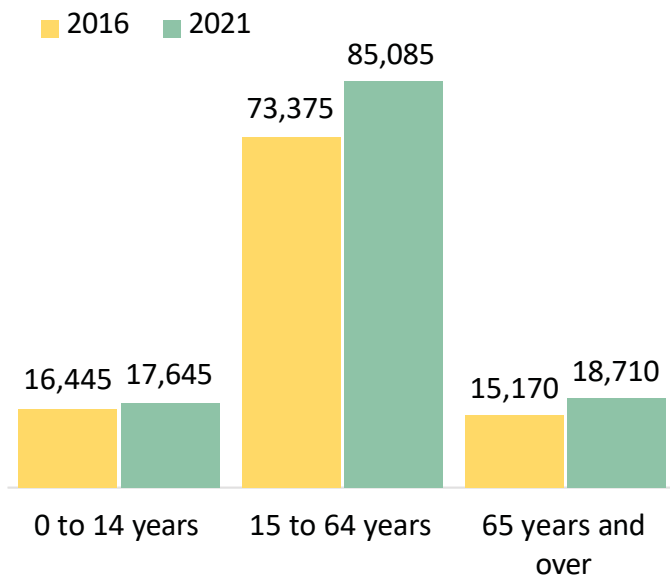
# Release 2: Age, sex at birth and gender and type of dwelling

## Waterloo - Population by five-year age groups and gender, 2021

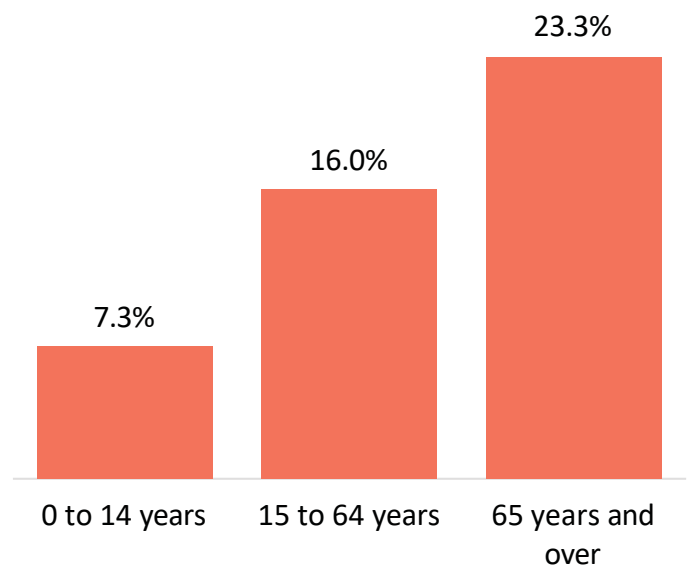


Given that the non-binary population is a small population, data aggregation is necessary in order to protect the confidentiality of responses provided by the Canadian population. Most 2021 Census information is disseminated using a gender binary variable. In these cases, people in the 'non-binary persons' category are distributed among the other two gender categories and are denoted by the + symbol.

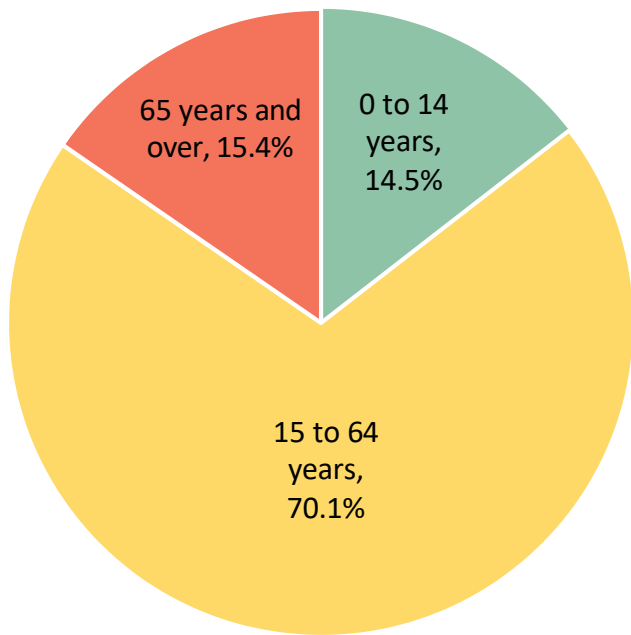
## Waterloo - Age distribution 2016 to 2021



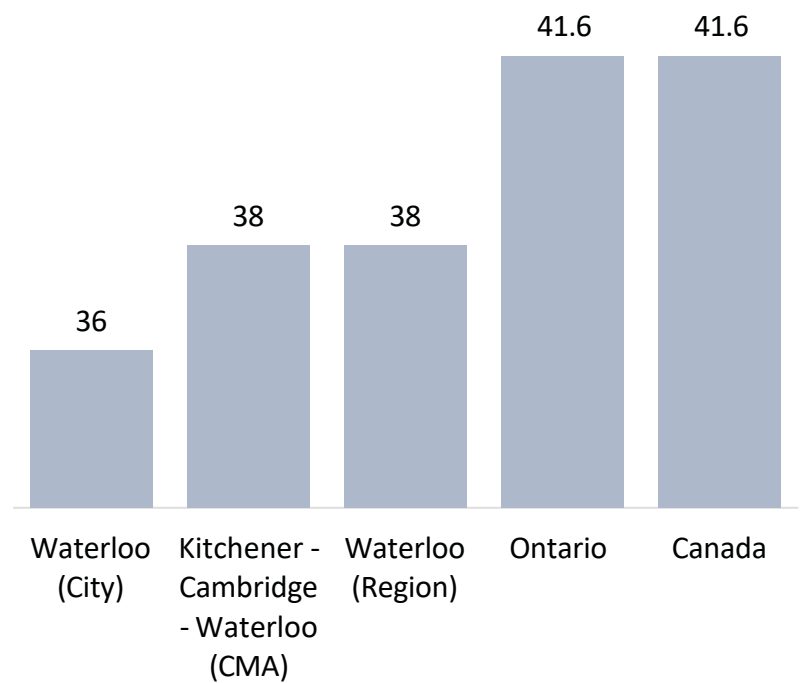
## Waterloo - Population change by broad age groups, 2016 to 2021



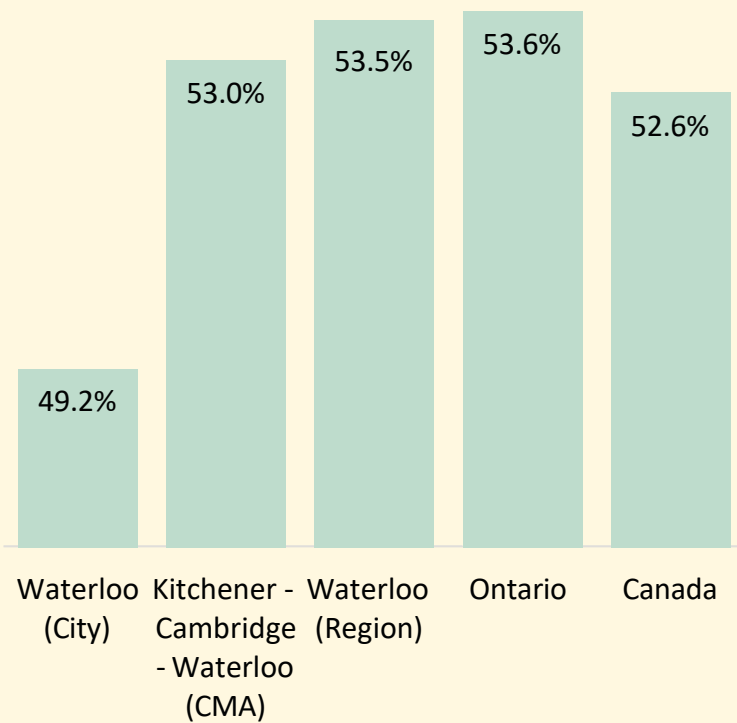
**Waterloo - Age distribution by broad age group, 2021**



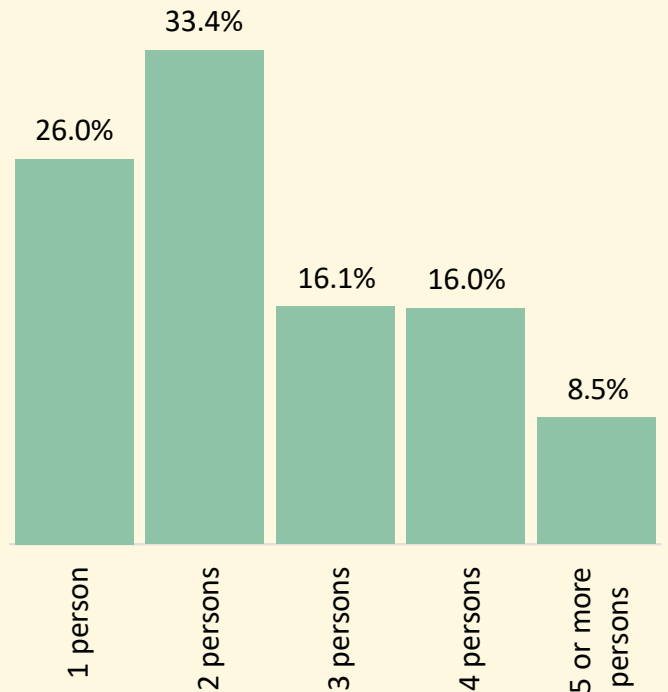
**Median age for Waterloo and higher level geographies, 2021**



**Proportion of single-detached houses, Waterloo and higher level geographies, 2021**

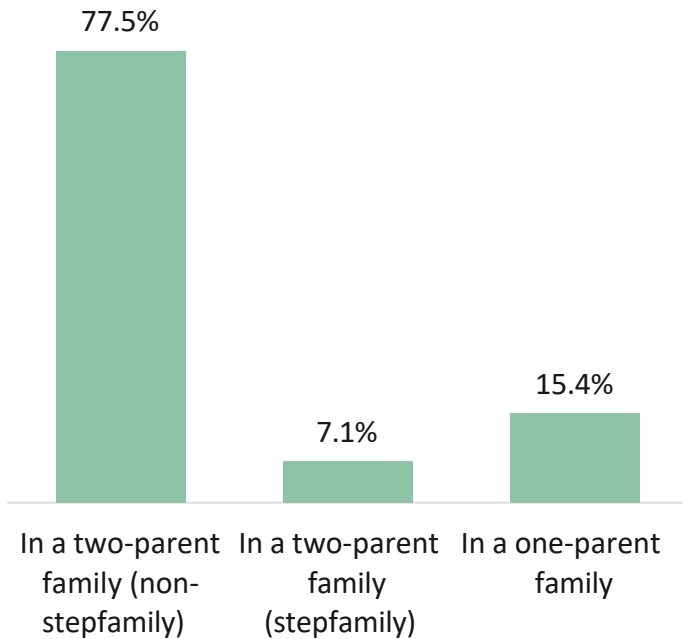


**Waterloo – Private households by household size, 2021**



# Release 3: Families, households, and marital status

## Distribution of children aged 0 to 14 in census families by family structure, Waterloo, 2021



## Percent of adults living alone

In 2021, 12.2% of adults aged 15 and over living in private households were living alone, compared to 11.4% in 2016.

## Census families

Among census families in 2021, 73.2% were married couples, 12.7% were common-law couples and 14.2% were one-parent families.

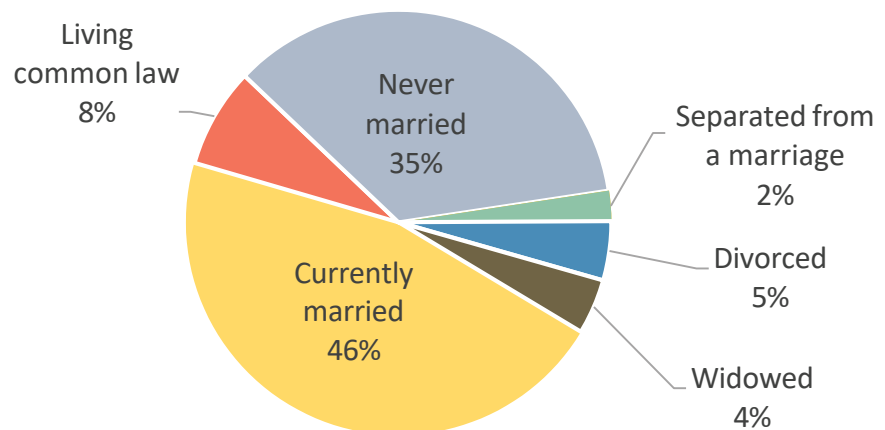
## Young adults living with parent(s)

In 2021, the proportion of young adults aged 20 to 34 that were living with at least one parent was 26.6%, compared to 31.7% in 2016.

Distribution of households by household type, City of Waterloo, 2021

One-census-family households without additional persons: Couple family without children	24%
One-census-family households without additional persons: Couple family with children	28%
One-census-family households without additional persons: One-parent family	8%
Multigenerational households	2%
Multiple-census-family households	0%
One-census-family households with additional persons	3%
Non-census-family households of two or more persons	9%
One-person households	26%

## Distribution of marital status, total population aged 15 and older, Waterloo, 2021



# Release 3: Income

## Median income

In 2020, the median after-tax income of households in Waterloo was \$82,000, an increase of 5.1% from \$78,000 in 2015.

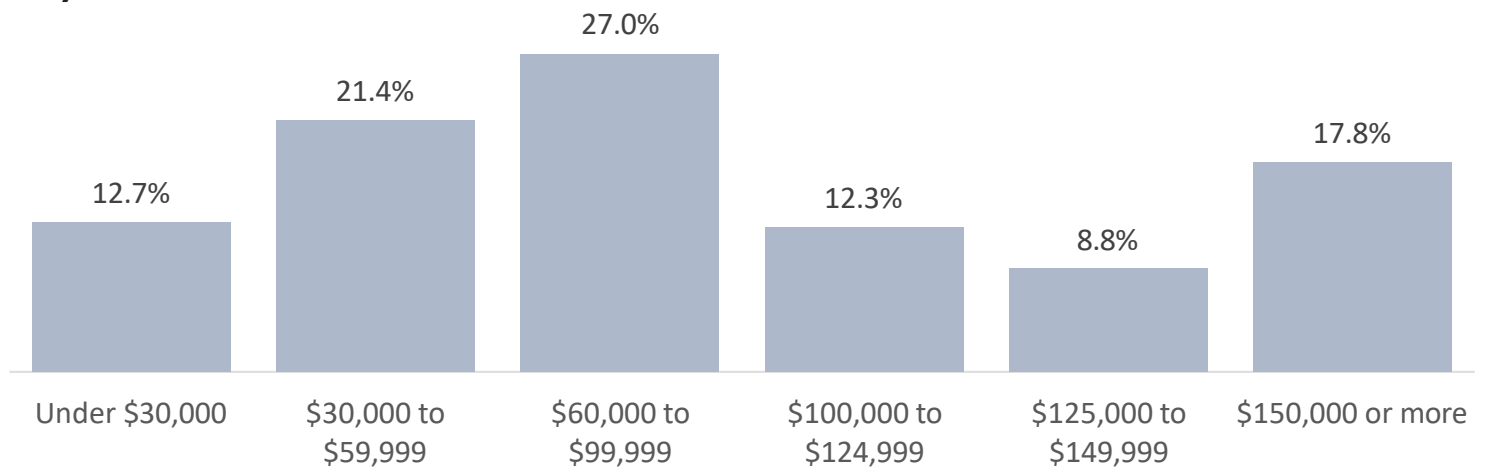
## Employment income

In 2020, 1,135 fewer people than in 2019 had no employment income.

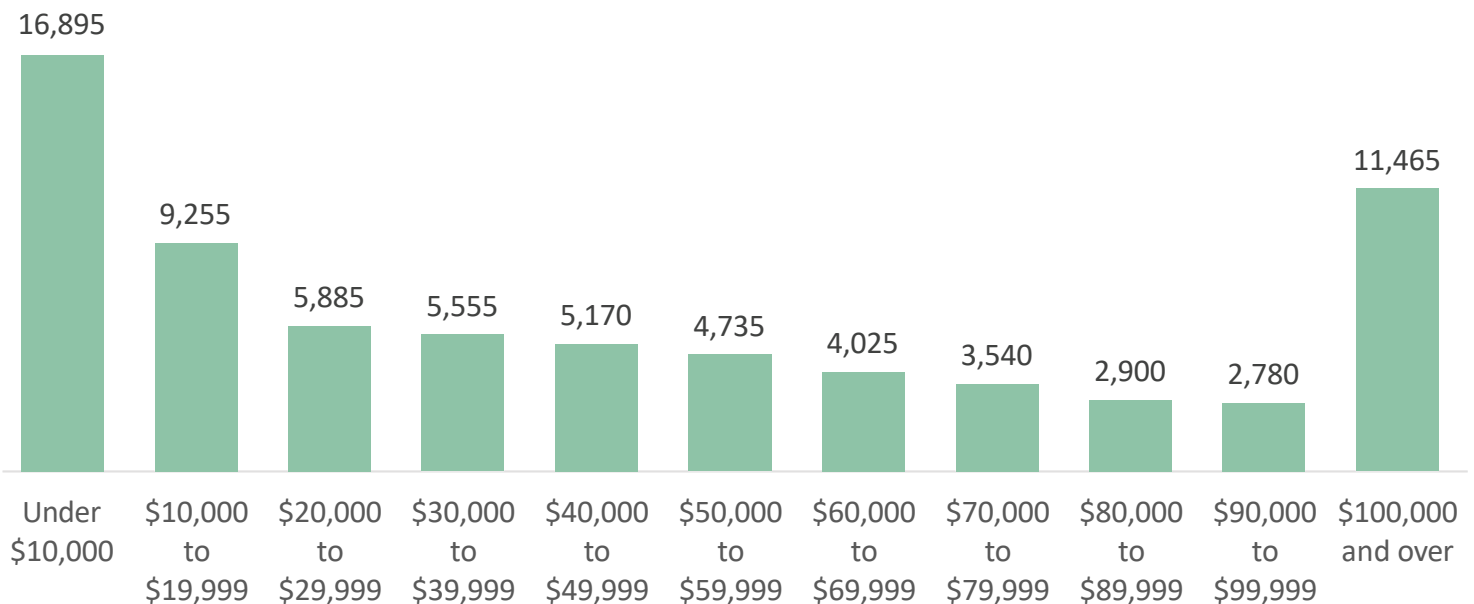
## COVID income support

In 2020, the percentage of persons 15 years and older in Waterloo with income from any COVID-19 government income support and benefits was 61.7%.

### Distribution of households by household after-tax income, City of Waterloo, 2020

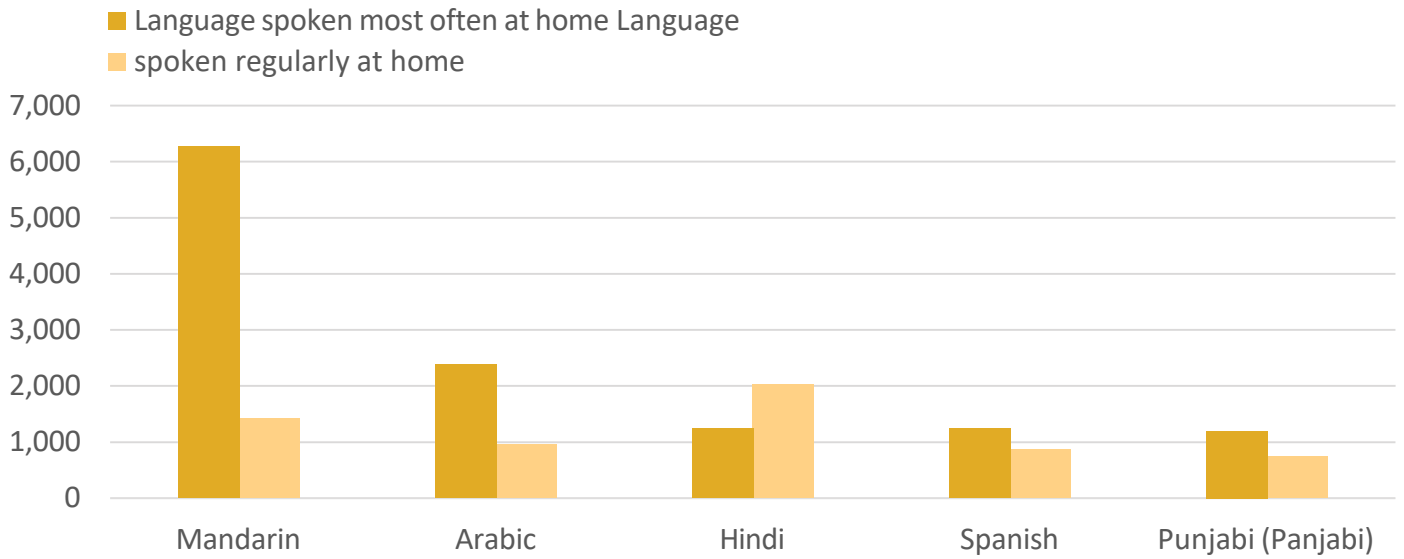


### Distribution of employment income, City of Waterloo, 2020

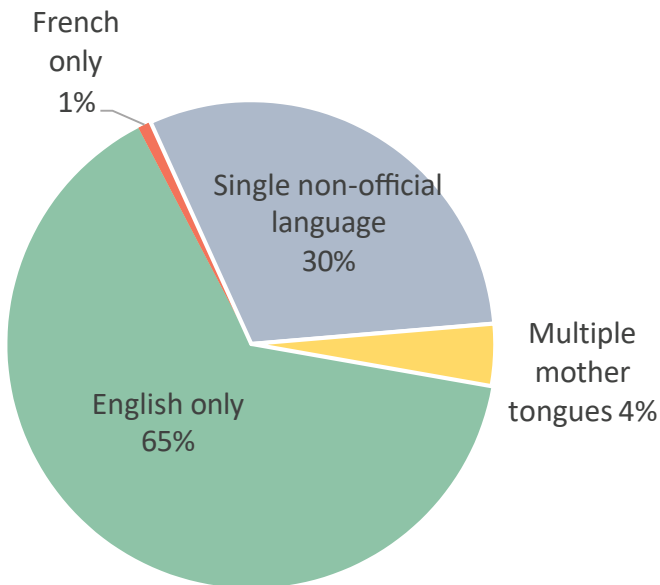


# Release 4: Language

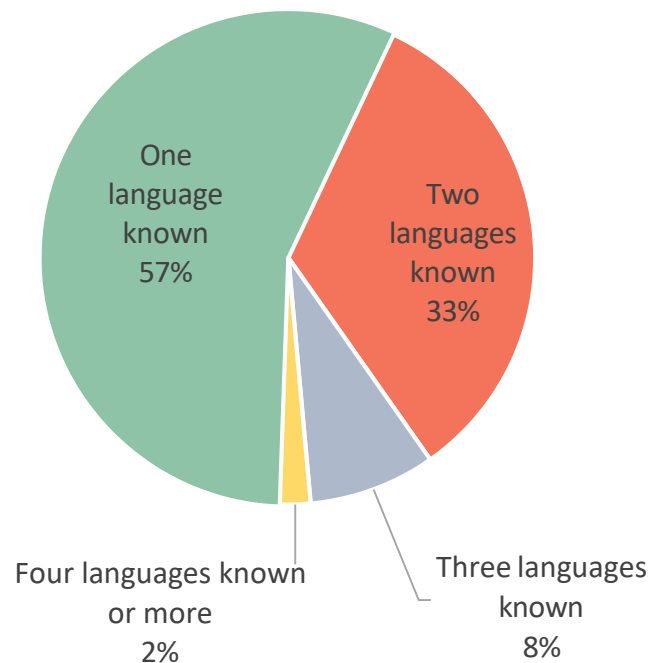
## Top Five non-official languages spoken at home by largest number of people, Waterloo, 2021



## English, French and non-official mother tongue, Waterloo, 2016 to 2021

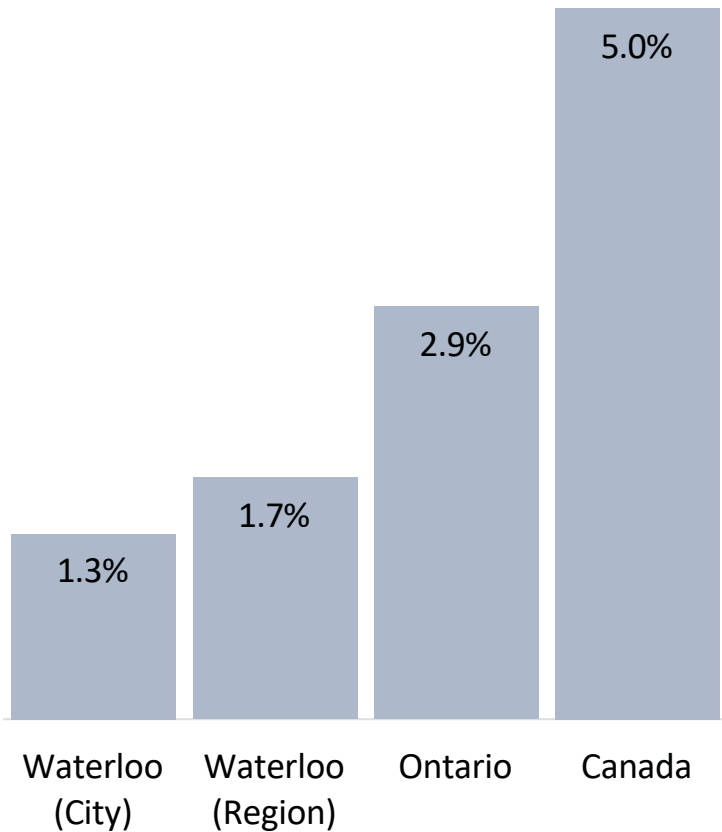


## Number of languages known, Waterloo, 2021

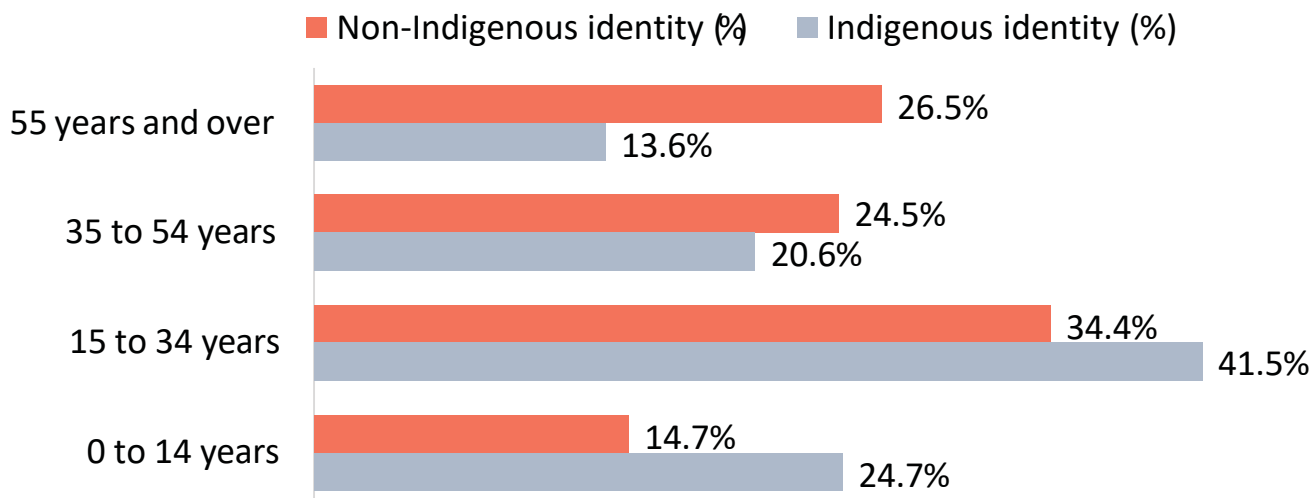


# Release 5a: Indigenous Peoples

## Indigenous population as a proportion of the total population, Waterloo, 2021



## Age distribution by Indigenous identity, Waterloo, 2021



## Indigenous population

In 2021, there were 1,580 Indigenous people in Waterloo, making up 1.3% of the population.

## Indigenous identity

The majority of the Indigenous population reported a single Indigenous identity—either First Nations, Métis or Inuit (Inuit). Of the Indigenous population in Waterloo:

- 52.2% (825) were First Nations people,
- 37.3% (585) were Métis, and
- 1.6% (20) were Inuit.

## Younger population

The Indigenous population in Waterloo is younger than the non-Indigenous population.

## Average age

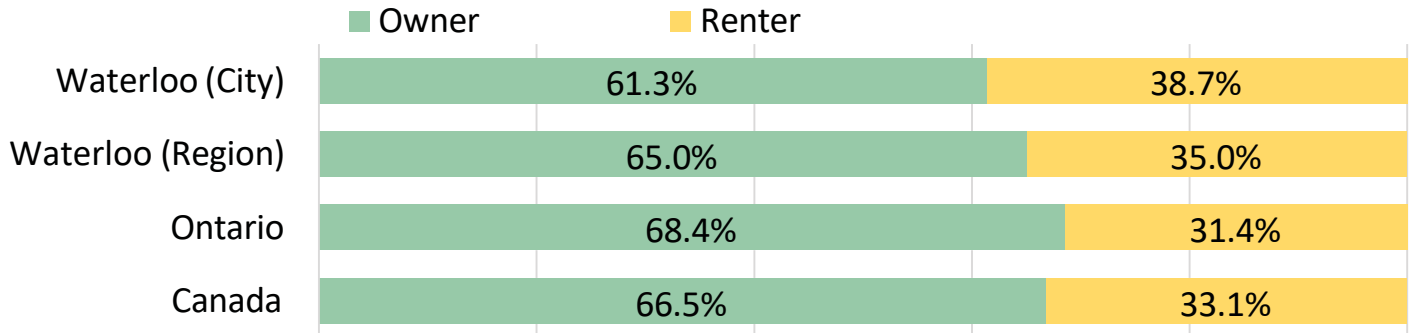
The average age of the Indigenous population in Waterloo was 30.4 years, compared with 38.7 years for the non-Indigenous population.





# Release 5b: Housing

## Housing tenure for all households, 2021

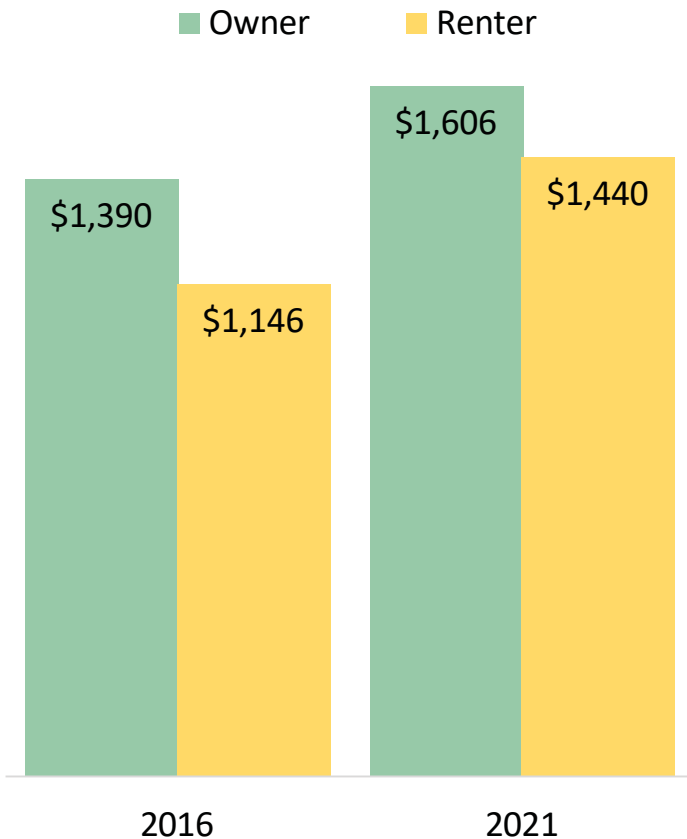


## Homeownership

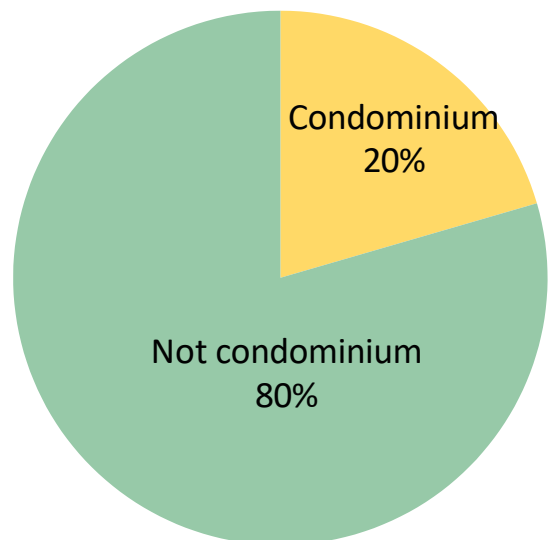
In 2021, there were 47,040 households in Waterloo resulting in a homeownership rate of 61.3%.

This rate changed by -7.5 percentage points from 2016.

## Average monthly shelter cost, Waterloo, 2021



## Occupied private dwellings by condominium status, Waterloo, 2021



## Housing indicators, City of Waterloo

	2016	2021
Households that spent 30% or more of income on shelter costs	24.5%	24.1%
Households in unsuitable housing	3.9%	5.5%
Households in inadequate housing	4.0%	3.7%
Households in core housing need	9.1%	8.0%



**Housing affordability:** Refers to whether the occupants of the dwelling paid 30% or more of household total income towards shelter costs.



**Housing suitability:** Refers to whether the dwelling has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of private households according to the National Occupancy Standard.

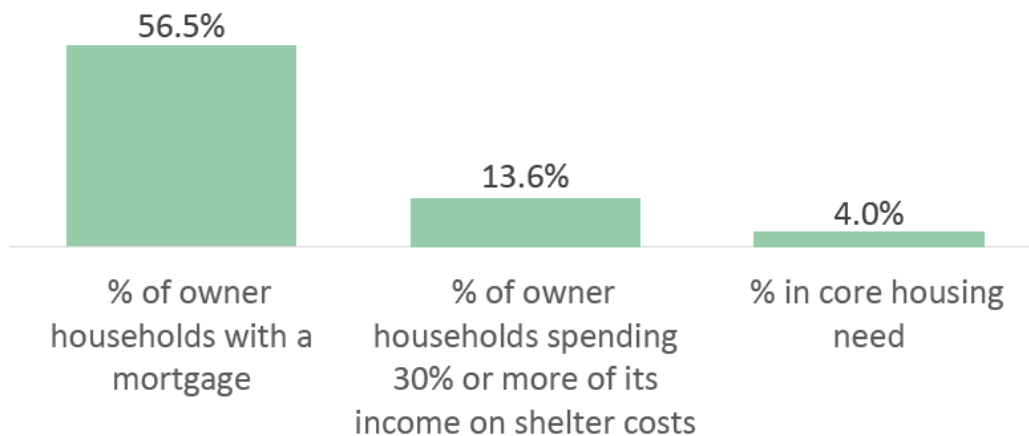


**Housing adequacy:** Refers to housing where the dwelling does not require major repairs.



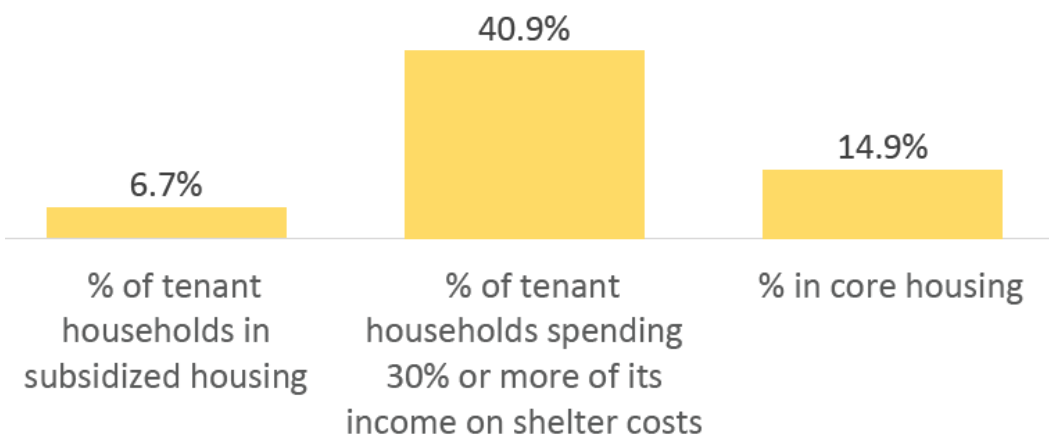
**Core housing need:** Refers to whether a private household's housing falls below at least one of the indicator thresholds for housing adequacy, affordability or suitability, and would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (attains all three housing indicator thresholds).

### Owner households in private dwellings, Waterloo, 2021



Median monthly shelter costs for **owned** dwellings:  
**\$ 1,390**

### Tenant households in private dwellings, Waterloo, 2021



Median monthly shelter costs for **rented** dwellings:  
**\$ 1,400**



# Release 6: Immigration, place of birth, & citizenship

## Ethno-cultural & religious diversity

### Mobility & migration

#### Immigration

Recent immigrants made up 20.3% (6,610) of the immigrant population.

#### Place of birth

According to the 2021 Census, 75,605 (63.9%) were Canadian-born, 32,530 (27.5%) of the City of Waterloo's population, were foreign-born, and 10,250 (8.7%) were non-permanent residents.

The top three places of birth among immigrants living in Waterloo in 2021 were:



**China**



**India**



**United Kingdom**

#### Religion

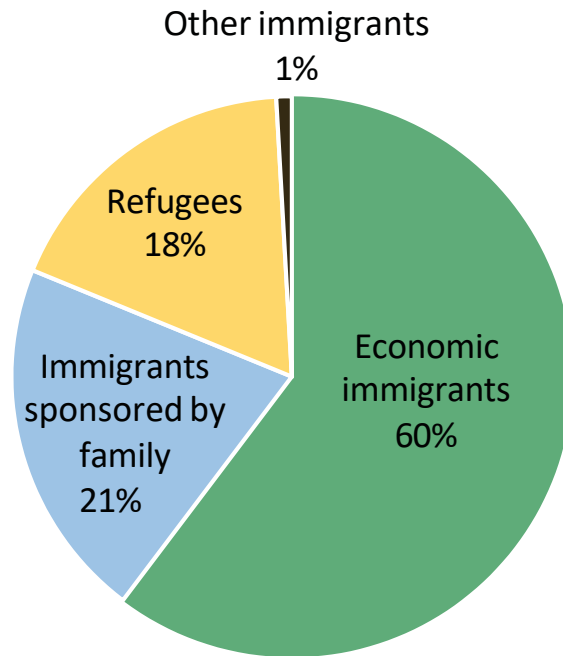
In 2021, the most prevalent religious group was Catholic, representing 17.9% of the total population. The second group was Other Christians, representing 12.4%. 37.7% of the City's population declared no religion and secular perspectives.

**Top places of birth of immigrants, Waterloo, 2021**

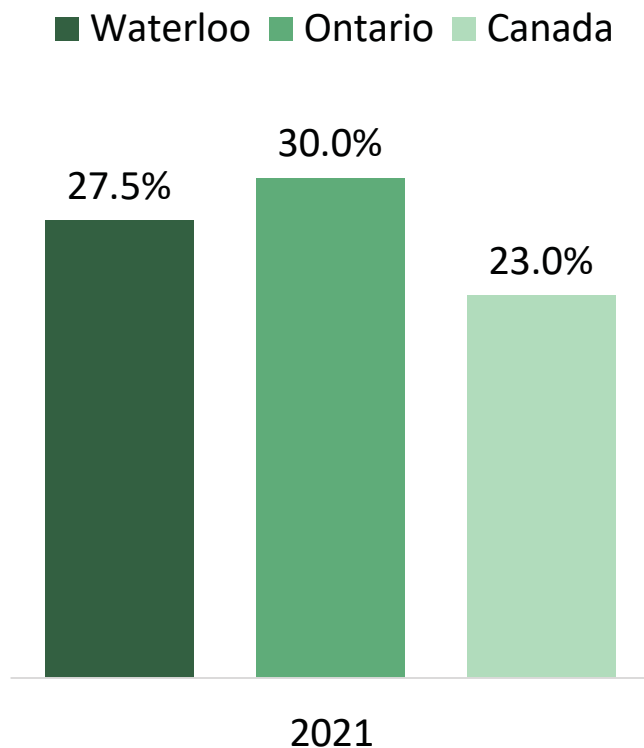
Total immigrant population	%	Recent immigrants (2016 to 2021)	%
China	13.7	India	19.1
India	10.6	China	13.5
United Kingdom	5.9	Syria	8.2
Pakistan	4.1	Pakistan	4.3
United States of America	4.0	Philippines	4.2
Iran	3.3	Turkey	3.3
Germany	2.8	United States of America	3.3
Korea, South	2.7	Iran	3.3
Syria	2.4	Nigeria	3.0
Poland, Romania	2.3	Brazil	2.5



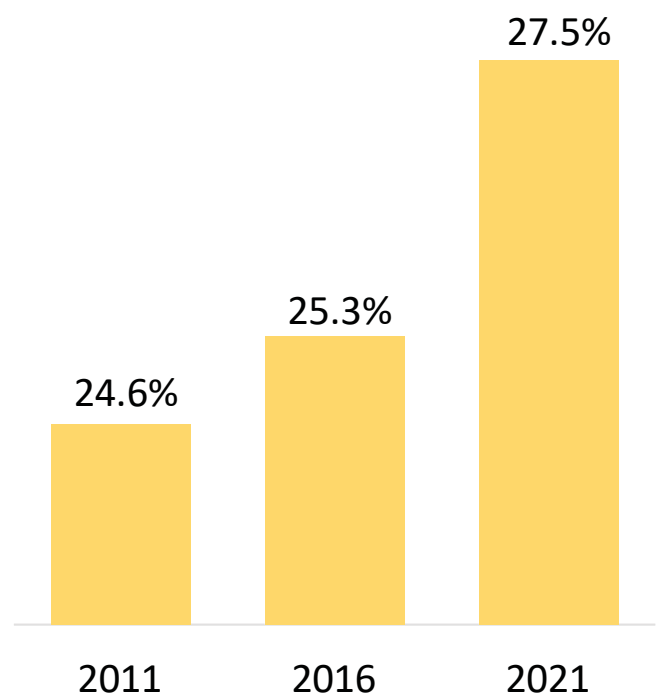
## Admission category and applicant type for the immigrant population admitted between 1980 and 2021, Waterloo



Proportion of the immigrant population in Waterloo compared to Ontario, & Canada, 2021

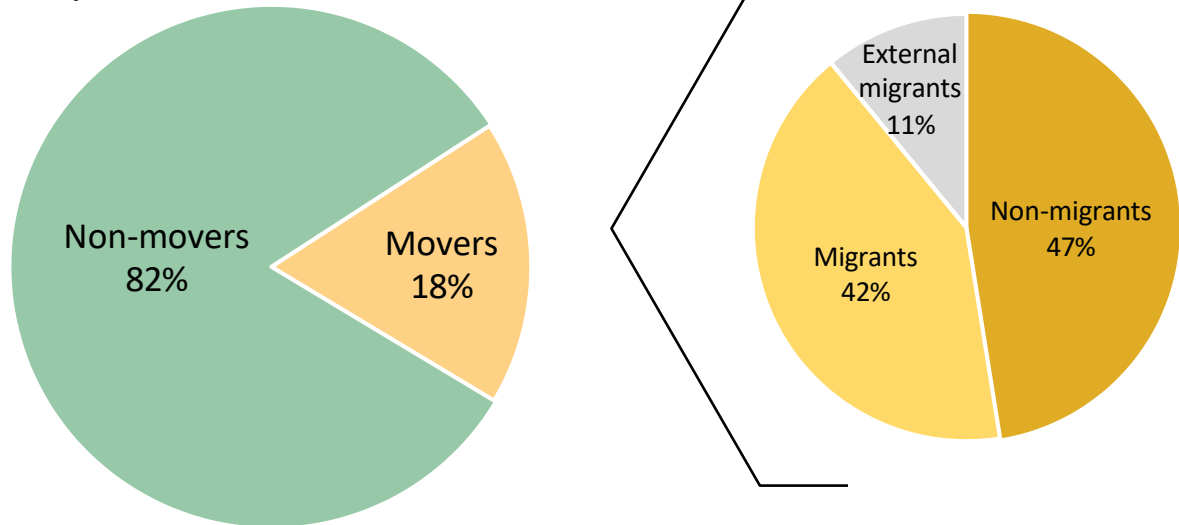


Proportion of the immigrant population in Waterloo, 2011 to 2021

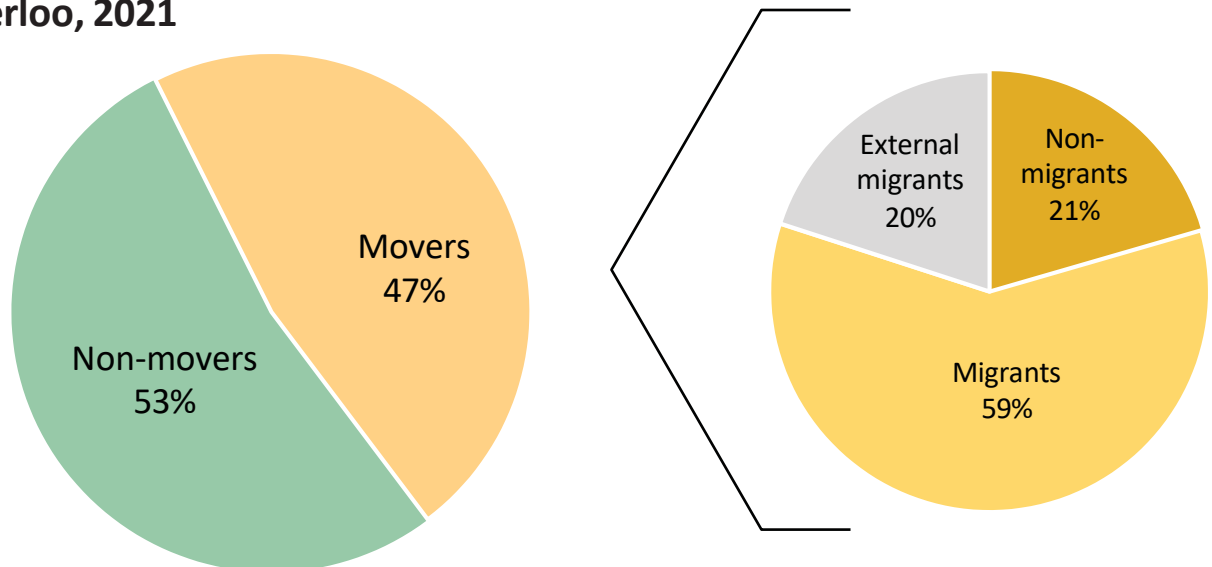


The 5 most frequently reported ethnic or cultural origins, Waterloo, 2021			
Ethnic or cultural origin	Number of responses	%	Rank
German	21,145	17.9	1
English	20,130	17.0	2
Scottish	17,330	14.6	3
Irish	16,895	14.3	4
Canadian	12,045	10.2	5

### Mobility status 1 year ago, Waterloo, 2021



### Mobility status 5 year ago, Waterloo, 2021

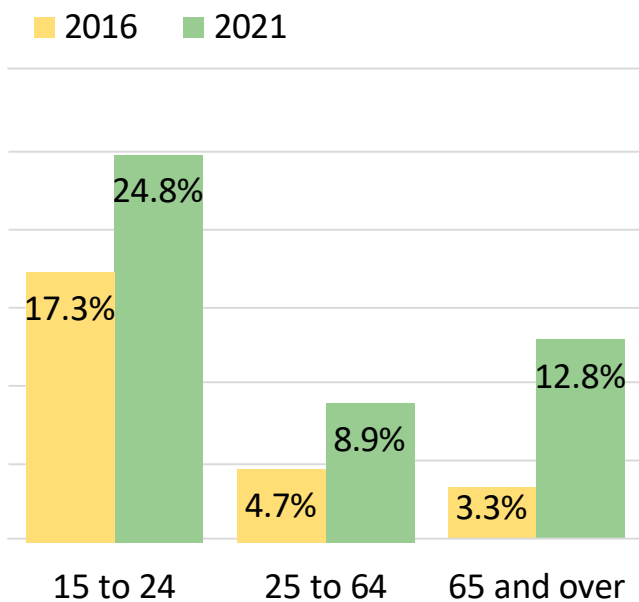


Persons who have not moved are referred to as non-movers while persons who have moved from one residence to another are referred to as movers. Movers include non-migrants and migrants. Non-migrants are persons who moved but remained in the City. Migrants include internal migrants, who moved from a different city/area within Canada and external migrants which include persons who moved from outside Canada.

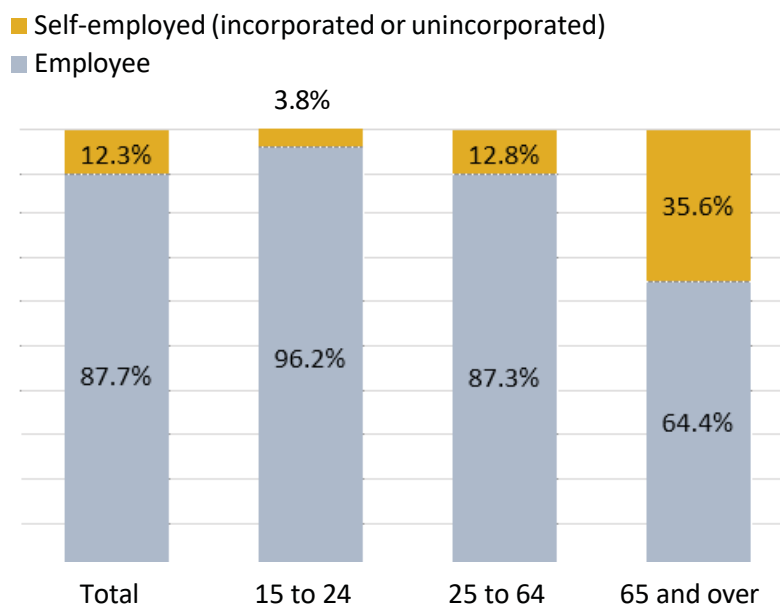


# Release 7: Labour and commuting

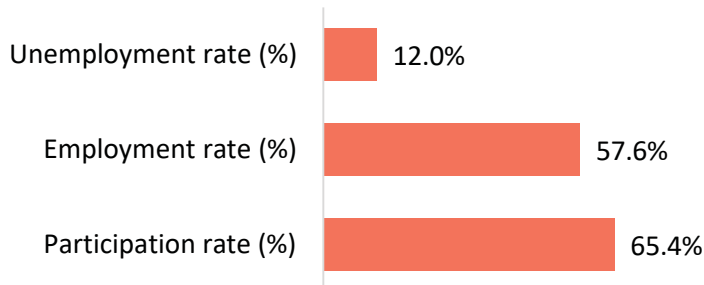
## Unemployment rates by broad age groups, Waterloo, 2021 and 2016



## Employed labour force by class of worker and broad age groups, Waterloo, 2021



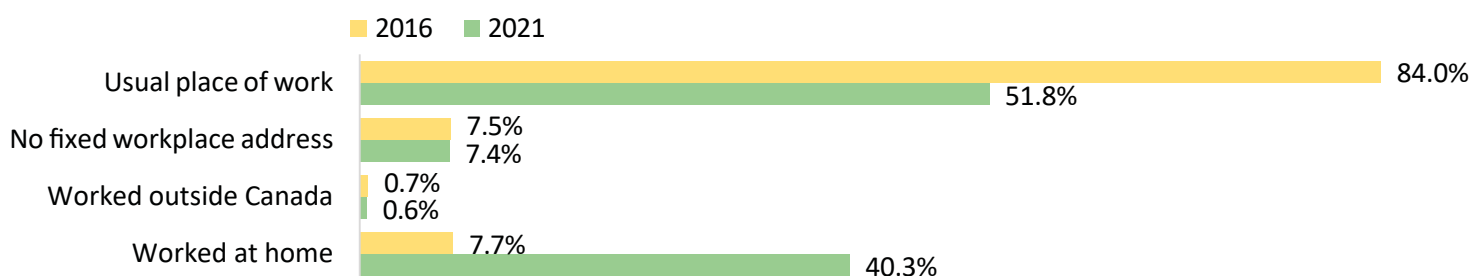
## Total population aged 15 years and over by labour force status, Waterloo, 2021



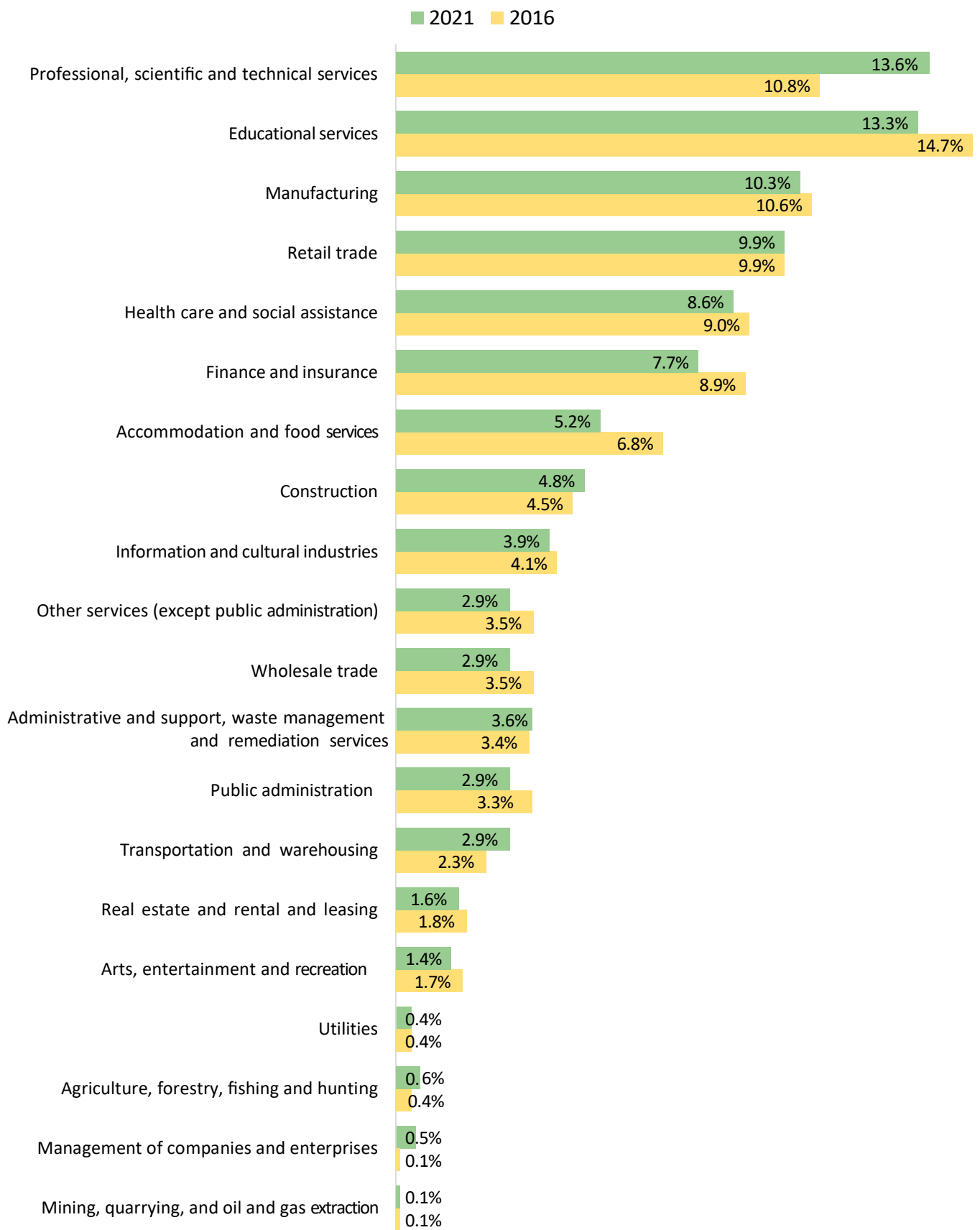
## Employed labour force by main mode of commuting, Waterloo, 2016 to 2021

Main mode of commuting	2016 (%)	2021 (%)
Car, truck or van – as a driver	76.5%	76.4%
Car, truck or van – as a passenger	6.6%	7.5%
Sustainable transportation	16.0%	13.4%
Public transit	7.6%	6.5%
Active transportation	8.4%	6.9%
Other method	1.0%	2.7%

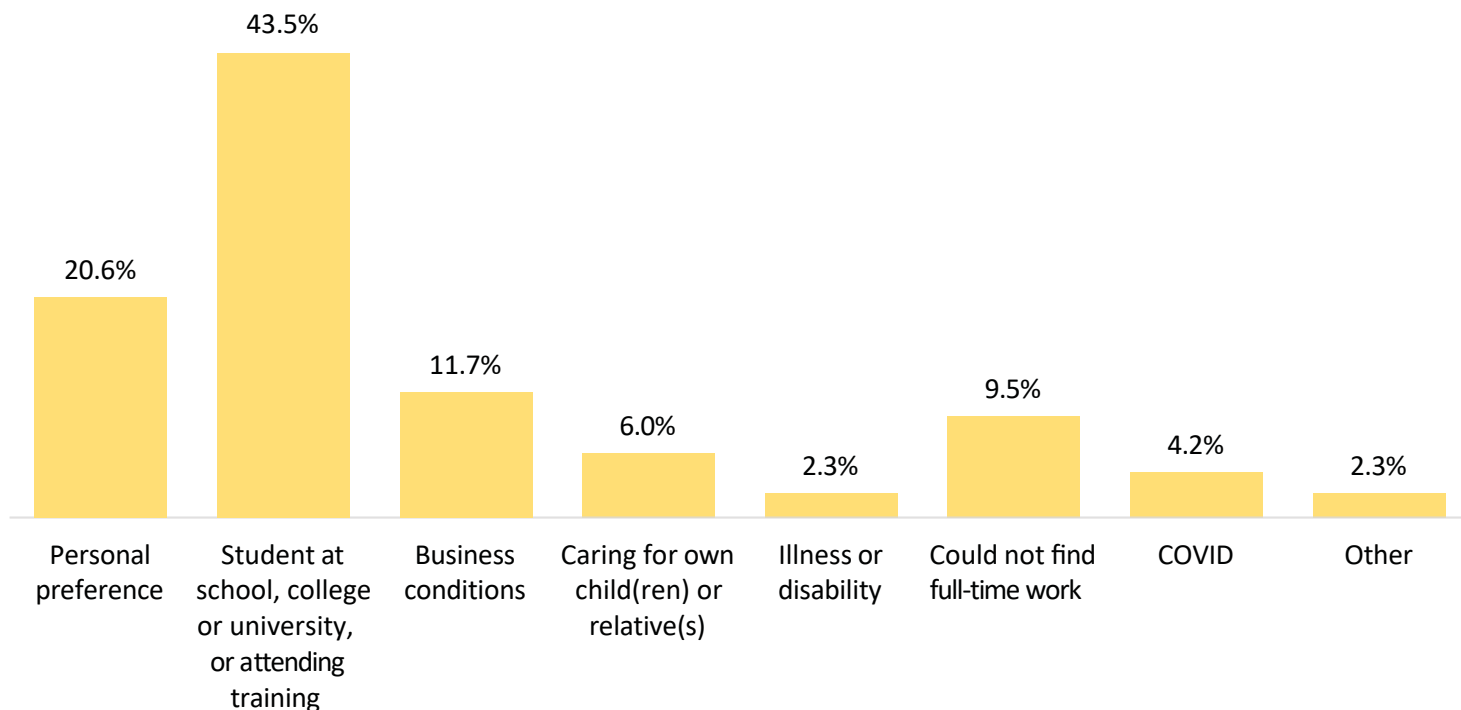
## Total population aged 15 years and over by labour force status, Waterloo, 2021



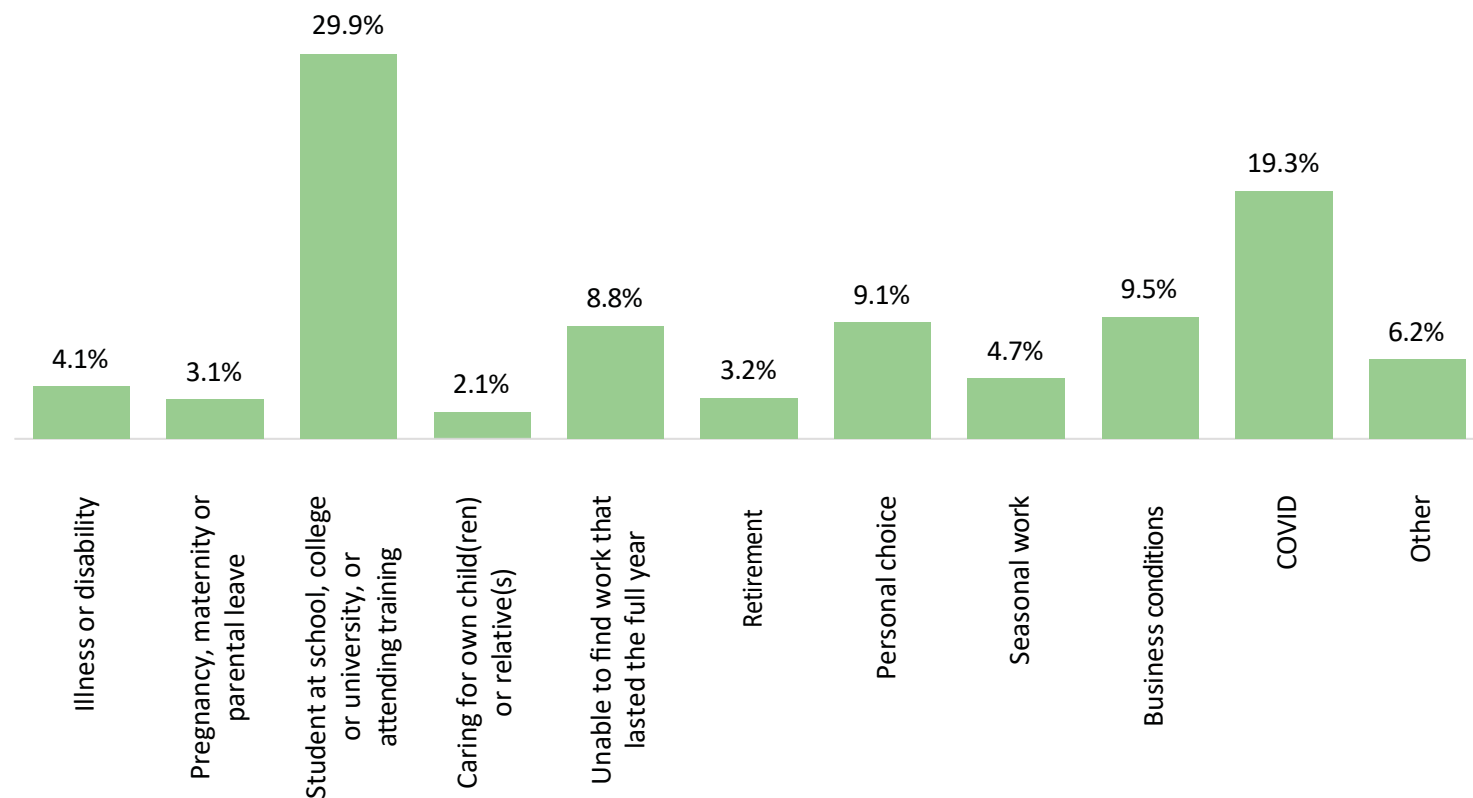
## Distribution of the employed labour force aged 15 years and over by industry sectors, Waterloo, 2016 and 2021



## Main reasons people mostly worked part time, Waterloo, 2020



## Main reasons people did not work the full year, Waterloo, 2020





# Release 7: Education

## Bachelor's degree

54.5% of people aged 25 to 64 in Waterloo had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 36.8% in Ontario and 32.9% in Canada.

## Location of study

26.1% of people in Waterloo had a location of study outside Canada, out of those aged 25 to 64 with a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree. This compares to 23.8% in Ontario and 20.1% in Canada overall. The most common location of study outside Canada for Waterloo was India.

## Post-secondary

Among youth aged 18 to 24 in Waterloo, 68.5% were attending postsecondary school, compared to 51.5% in Ontario and 50.2% in Canada overall.

## Distribution of the population aged 25 to 64 by highest certificate, diploma or degree, City of Waterloo, 2021

