

MoneySense Best Places to Live Methodology 2017 versus 2018

MoneySense ranks each city in 10 categories, Wealth and economy, affordability, population growth, taxes, commute, crime, weather, access to health care, and amenities and culture. Each category is weighted, with more important categories being worth more points. The ranking system in 2018 had a number of changes, the biggest change being in the health and demographics categories. A summary of the changes for 2018 is included below.

Wealth & Economy

- Stronger weight placed on unemployment rate and one-year unemployment rate change
- Burlington's unemployment rate is based on the Hamilton CMA, other Halton municipalities are based on the Toronto CMA

Affordability

- Increased emphasis placed on rental housing affordability and rent increases

Demographics

- Comparing the MoneySense population change data from 2017 to 2018, Burlington went from a 8.6% growth rate to a 6.5% growth rate. This large difference is due to a change in the source of the data. Previously, MoneySense was using Burlington's 2006 and 2011 data to make growth predictions through Environics. The distinction between demographics data from Census Canada and Environics is significant. For example, the 2016 population Census Canada data showed Burlington's population at 183,314, while the Environics prediction used by MoneySense showed a population of 199,858.

Health

- Population employed in health care was no longer included in the methodology which accounted for 4 points in 2017.
- The ranking now includes median wait times for various medical procedures

	2017	2018	Weight
Wealth & Economy			20
Regional Unemployment Rate	5.50%	5.90% ↑	10-7 ↓
One year change in unemployment rate	Not applicable	Not specified	0-5 ↑
Average household income	\$93,893	\$121,990 ↑	5-4 ↓
Average Household Net Worth	\$862,227	\$1,054,536 ↑	5-4 ↓
Affordability			17-20 ↑
Average household discretionary income	\$57,730	\$62,773 ↑	5-4 ↓
Average value of primary real estate	\$710,453	\$870,475 ↑	5-4 ↓
Home price to income ratio	6.17	7.14 ↑	5-4 ↓
Rent affordability ratio	13.50%	Not specified	2-4 ↑
Rent price growth	Not applicable	Not specified	0-4 ↑
Demographics			8-6 ↓
5-year population change	8.60%	6.50% ↓	8-6 ↓
Population	199,858	197,683 ↓	0
Taxes			7
Sales tax	13%	13%	1
Average Property Tax	2%	2.50% ↑	1
Average property tax dollar amount	\$3,579.91	\$3,749 ↑	1-2 ↑

Provincial income tax	\$8,310.00	Not specified	3
Average property tax as a percentage of average income	3.10%	Not applicable	1-0 ↓
Commute			11-10 ↓
Travel to work by walking	2.10%	2.00% ↓	3
Travel to work by bicycle	0.40%	0.40%	3
Travel to work by public transit	5.50%	5.30% ↓	5-4 ↓
Crime			7
5-year change in crime rate	-36%	Not specified	1
Crime rate per 100,000	2088	2,133 ↑	2-1 ↓
Crime severity index	22.9	25 ↑	2
5-year change in crime severity index	Not applicable	Not specified	0-2 ↑
Violent crime severity index	19.8	22 ↑	2-1 ↓
Weather			10
Total annual rainfall (mm)	763	Not applicable	4-N/A
Days with precipitation greater than or equal to 0.2mm	136	136	5-1 ↓
Days with rainfall greater than or equal to 0.2mm	114	158 ↑	1
Days with daily min temperature greater than 0C	239	239	0-1 ↑
Days with daily max temperature greater than 20C	125	125	1
Health			10-11 ↑
Employed in health care	3.60%	N/A	4-0 ↓
Offices of doctors of medicine per 1000	0.99	Not specified	5-1 ↓
Doctors per 1000	2.6	Not specified	1
Specialists per 100,000	Not applicable	Not specified	0-1 ↑
Hospitals nearby	Not applicable	Not specified	0-2 ↑
Procedure wait times in the region	Not applicable	Not specified	0-3 ↑
Provincial wait times	Not applicable	Not specified	0-3 ↑
Amenities			6-4 ↓
Hospital nearby	Not specified	Not applicable	2-0 ↓
College within reasonable driving distance	Not specified	Not specified	1-0.5 ↓
University within reasonable driving distance	Not specified	Not specified	1
Movie theater within reasonable driving distance	Not specified	Not specified	0.5

Airport within reasonable driving distance	Not specified	Not specified	1.5
Number of restaurants and bars nearby	Not applicable	Not specified	0-0.5 ↓
Contains an institution inside the Central Metropolitan Area	Not specified	Not applicable	1-0 ↑
Culture and Community			5
Employed in arts and recreation	2%	2.20% ↑	2.5
Community	103.3	103 ↓	2.5