

Full/Part Time Earners in Low Income Families

As discussed in Community Lens #50, on average low income families in Halton have fewer income earners than the those families not in low income. In addition to the number of income earners, the number of full time or part time workers can also have a bearing on the earning power of those families.

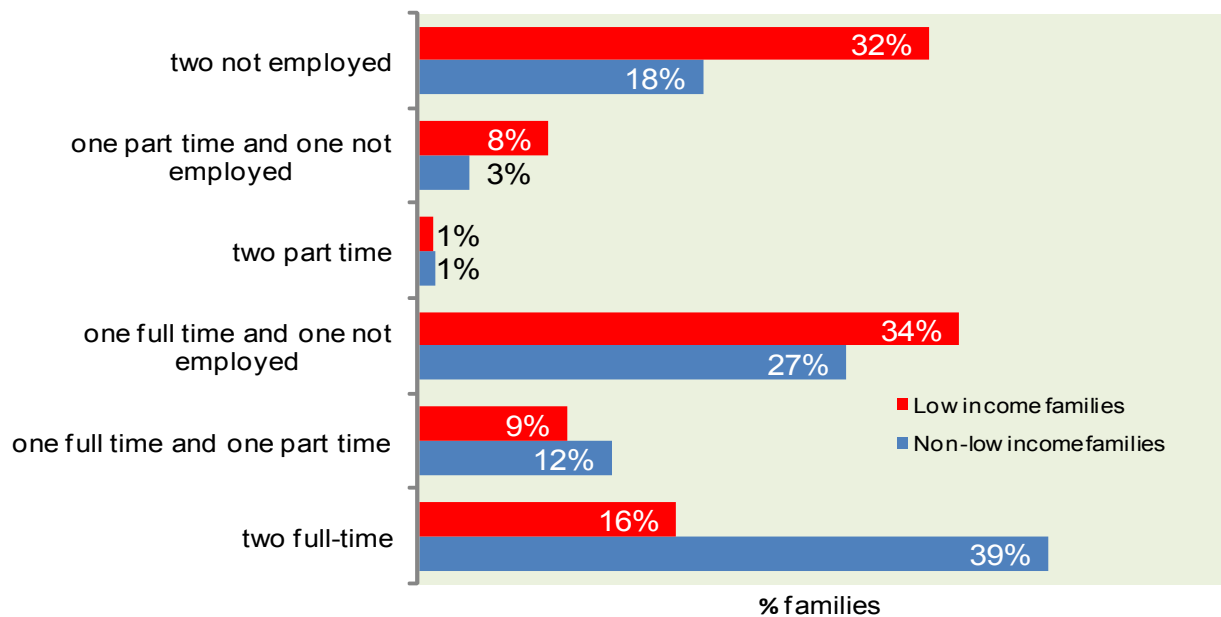


With everything being equal, one can assume that families with full time workers fare better financially than those families with only part time or unemployed workers.

The data on labour force status (working full/part time or not employed) of the spouse/head of families provide further information on the financial well-being of families.

In 2005, about one in six (16%) low income families had two full time workers (spouse/head) who worked more than 30 hours per week. This proportion is less than half of the non-low income families. About one-third (34%) of the low income families had one full time worker. Almost the same proportion (32%) of the low income families with both spouse/head not being employed. About 8% of the low income families were headed by a part time worker.

**Proportion of Families by Labour Force Status of Spouse/Head
Halton Region, 2005**



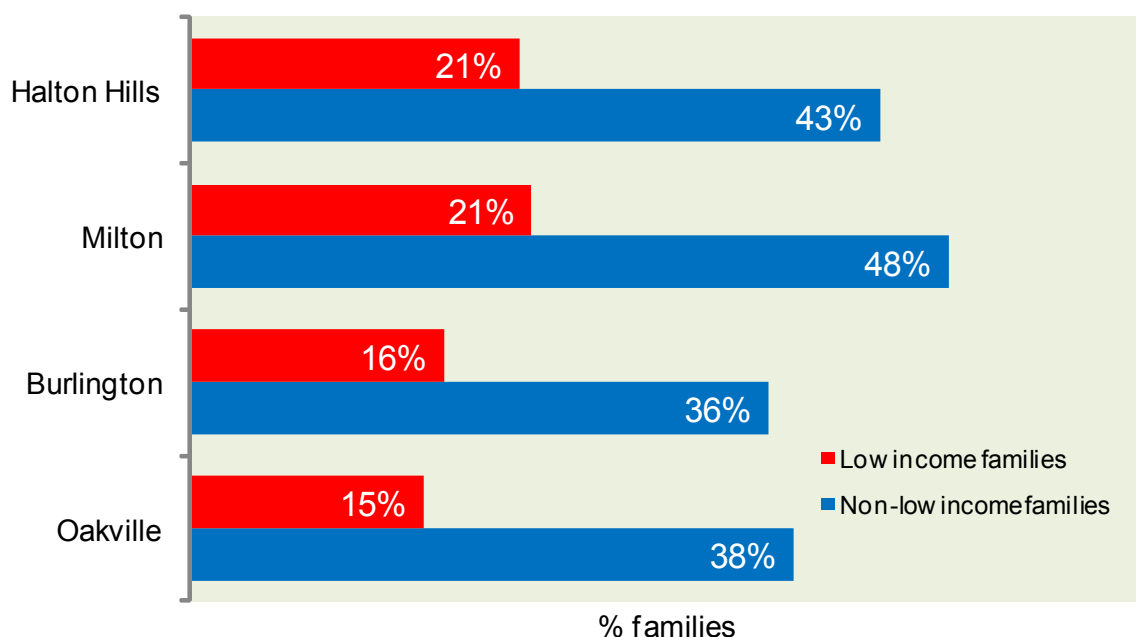
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

The low proportion of low income families (16%) with two full-time spouse/head in comparison with non-low income families (39%) can be attributed to the number of lone parent families. Less than 5% of the non-low income families were lone parent families with children under 18 years. In contrast, over one-quarter (26%) of low income families were headed by single parent with children under 18 years.

Both Halton Hills and Milton had higher proportions of families with two full time spouse/head regardless their income status (low or non-low income) than the two southern municipalities (Burlington and Oakville). Nearly half (48%) of the non-low income families in Milton had two spouse/head working full time. This percentage is three times greater than that found in Oakville (15%).

The number of low income lone parent families with children under 18 in Burlington and Oakville represented over 85% of Halton's total.

Proportion of Families with Two Full Time Spouse/head by Municipality, Halton Region, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census