

Communication Update

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
Committee Date: May 20, 2026
Subject/Report No.: 2026 Employment Inventory Survey Launch
Ward(s) Affected: City Wide
Submitted By: Ray Kessler
Acting Director of Economic Development
Planning and Economic Development Department

Signature:



The purpose of this Communication Update is to advise Council.

Summary

This Communication Update provides Council with an update to advise that the City of Hamilton's Planning and Economic Development Department, led by the Information Systems & Cartography Planning group, has officially launched the 2026 Employment Inventory Survey.

Background

The Employment Inventory Survey is an annual city-wide initiative that collects information about business activity and employment across Hamilton. The staff project team, comprised of representatives from multiple divisions within the Planning and Economic Development Department, will direct the work of a team of student surveyors throughout the summer to refresh and build upon the City's employment survey data.

From May through August, a team of student surveyors will be dispatched throughout the city with the goal of connecting with every professional, commercial and industrial business in Hamilton. The team will conduct in person interviews to complete a brief two-minute questionnaire that collects responses using mobile GIS mapping technology. The project also includes a webform on the City of Hamilton website, allowing businesses to submit information directly if preferred or if otherwise unable to complete the survey in person with a student surveyor.

Details

The survey captures business details such as location and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), employment estimates, as well as economic development feedback. This industry snapshot will provide essential information to support both immediate and long-term planning and development, while helping to monitor the scale, characteristics, and geographic distribution of employment and land use in Hamilton. The granularity of this data collection of approximately 16,000 businesses will enable trend analysis to be conducted across various geographies. This summer's collection is particularly valuable as it coincides with the 2026 Census and will enable evaluation and analysis of data using both sources from the same time period.

The project team will work toward a public release of key findings, while ensuring all confidentiality obligations are upheld. Sensitive data on job counts and business conditions collected through survey channels will be consolidated and treated as confidential. Public facing insights derived from the data will only reflect company names, locations, data aggregations, and other readily available data that exists within the public domain.

This project and its dataset recognize that Hamilton's businesses have a key voice in informing the City's plans for future facilities and development while also offering essential insight into the types of initiatives that could best serve local businesses and their employees. The inventory also aims to be inclusive of all organizations, capturing organizations operating within the not-for-profit and charity sector as key resources and partners in strengthening our city.

Next Steps

In the coming weeks, the Planning and Economic Development Department will be promoting the Employment Inventory Survey through a social media campaign, as well as the Economic Development Division's Newsletter. This campaign will introduce this initiative and the students who will be doing this work. Project staff can provide social sharing packages to the Mayor and members of Council interested in promoting the survey through personal social media channels.

If you have any questions respecting this communication, please contact Krysha Dukacz, Coordinator, Information Systems & Cartography Planning by email at Krysha.Dukacz@hamilton.ca or by phone at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4203.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

N/A