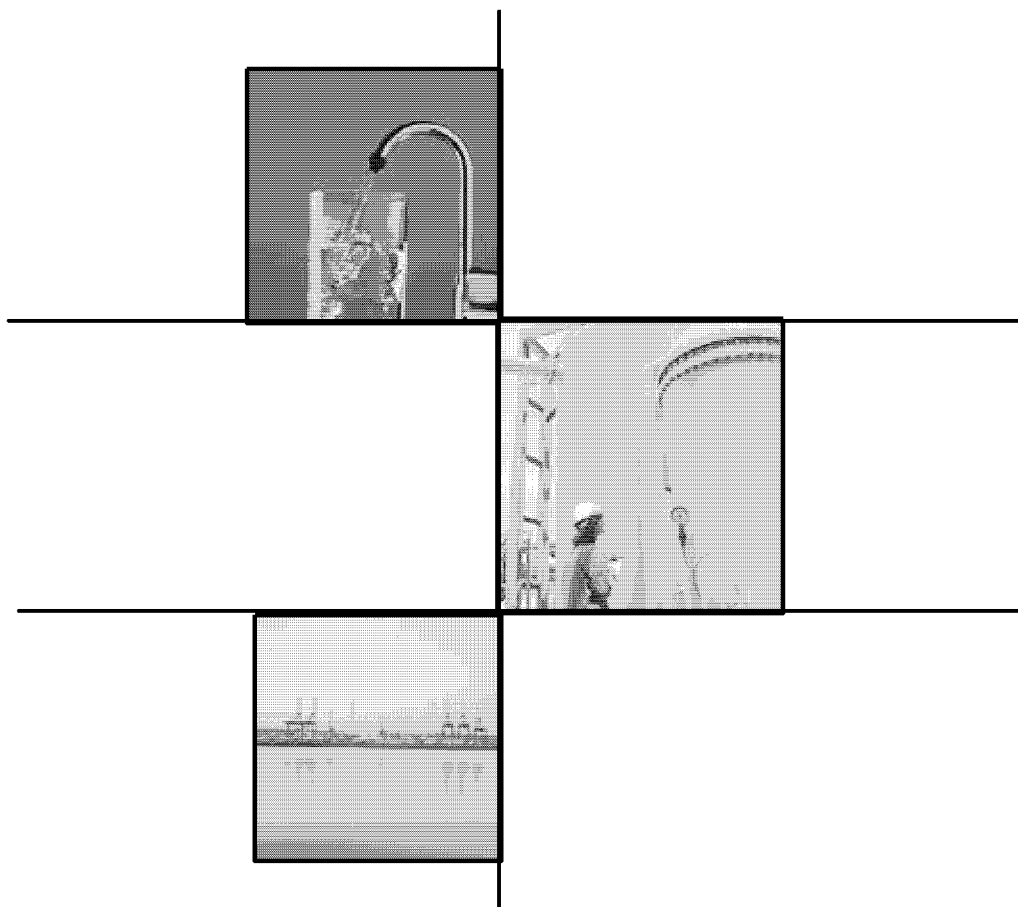


Comparison of Water/Sewer Costs



Comparison of Water & Sewer User Costs

The establishment of water and sewer rates is a municipal responsibility and the absence of standard procedures across Ontario has resulted in the evolution of a great variety of rate structure formats. It

is important that rates be based on sound policies and principles and that they are defensible by staff and Council. There are recognized processes to be followed in undertaking water/sewer rate studies, published by various industry leaders including the American and Canadian Waterworks Association (AWWA and CWWA). Municipalities however, are limited in their options based on the availability of information to calculate class rate structures.

There will be additional requirements for certain types of user fees that will be addressed through separate legislation/regulations. It is anticipated that additional regulations will require a higher level of disclosure and public meetings prior to establishing rates. Bill 175 (Sustainable Water and Sewer Systems Act—SWSSA) addresses requirements for Water/Sewer. SWSSA 2002 focuses on full cost recovery. Full costing includes costs of:

- ◆ Source protection
- ◆ Operating costs
- ◆ Financing costs
- ◆ Renewal, replacement and improvement costs
- ◆ Extraction, treatment and distribution costs
- ◆ Other costs as prescribed

The SWSSA requires a cost recovery plan and requires an auditor's opinion. Additionally, it may involve prescribed capping and ministerial exemptions to capping.

BMA Management Consulting Inc. has undertaken water and sewer rate studies on behalf of municipalities. During these studies, our findings are consistent with that of the CWWA which states that despite industry trends in rate making, there is and always will be a lot of variation in rate setting practices given that there is no single rate setting approach or rate structure. Municipalities have different objectives in setting rates including but not limited to:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Conservation | • Financial Sufficiency |
| • Revenue Stability | • Rate Stability |
| • Fairness | • Ease of Implementation |
| • Economic Development | • Ease of Understanding |

According to CWWA, no single rate structure or rate setting approach will suit every situation. The current trend is towards the constant unit charge rate structure with a constant unit volumetric charge and fixed charges based on meter size.

The process typically followed by municipalities in setting water and sewer rates is to:

- Identify Evaluation Criteria/Objectives
- Identify Revenue Requirements For Each Service
- Allocate Costs—Capital, Operating & Maintenance
- Calculate Unit Costs—Allocate fixed and volumetric costs
- Design The Rate Structure—Inclining, Declining, Uniform, # of blocks, etc.
- Assess The Effectiveness In Meeting The Objectives
- Assess The Impact On Various Classes And Types Of Users

Fixed Costs/Customer Related - Customer costs vary with the number of customers (active services) or the addition of customers served by a water system. These costs are typically a portion or all of the fixed expenses. Customer costs are related directly to the customer's water service connection and to billing the customers. They include:

- ♦ meter supply and repair
- ♦ billing and collection
- ♦ meter reading
- ♦ service connection and supply
- ♦ overhead/general administration
- ♦ capital related to meter replacement

In addition, it can be argued that the cost of debt service, reserve requirements, capital improvements and depreciation could also be included in the fixed monthly cost.

Municipalities must determine whether to charge separately a fixed cost to its customers and the types of costs that are to be recovered from a monthly charge. These decisions are made as well based on the overall objectives of the municipality. For example, a high allocation to the fixed charge is generally not practical since it results in a volumetric charge that is too low relative to the fixed charge. This is not recommended if water efficiency is an important objective in rate setting. While a high allocation of capital costs to volume will promote water efficiency, there is increased revenue risk brought about by the increased reliance on the volumetric charge to recover fixed costs.

Of the municipalities included in the survey, 57 of the 78 municipalities (73%) charge a monthly fixed charge to their customers to recover customer related costs. The extent to which these fees cover the above noted costs varies across the survey.

A comparison was made of water/sewer costs in each municipality. In order to put into perspective the impact of water/sewer costs on the overall burden to a property owner, typical consumptions were estimated for property types that followed predictable patterns. With the assistance of a municipal water/sewer service provider, an analysis of consumptions for residential, commercial and industrial properties was undertaken.

Comparison of Residential Water/Sewer Monthly Fixed Costs (sorted alphabetically)

Metre size (mm) Metre size (inches)	Water 15 5/8	Sewer 15 5/8
Ajax	\$ 9.42	\$ 3.65
Amherstburg	\$ 12.25	\$ 18.00
Aurora	N/A	N/A
Barrie	\$ 5.64	\$ 5.78
Belleville	\$ 15.89	\$ 6.67
Bracebridge	\$ 13.64	\$ 3.28
Bradford West Gwillimbury	\$ 13.34	\$ 11.34
Brampton	N/A	N/A
Brantford	\$ 8.35	N/A
Brockville	\$ 10.50	\$ 13.76
Burlington	\$ 8.89	\$ 9.52
Caledon	N/A	N/A
Cambridge	\$ 5.25	\$ 3.11
Central Elgin	\$ 13.50	\$ 15.51
Chatham-Kent	\$ 10.00	\$ 13.00
Clarington	\$ 9.42	\$ 3.65
Cobourg	\$ 10.45	\$ 11.41
Cornwall	N/A	N/A
East Gwillimbury	N/A	N/A
Fort Erie	\$ 18.18	\$ 31.77
Georgina	N/A	N/A
Gravenhurst	\$ 13.64	\$ 3.28
Grimsby	N/A	N/A
Guelph	\$ 3.90	\$ 6.30
Halton Hills	\$ 8.89	\$ 9.52
Hamilton	\$ 6.55	\$ 6.55
Huntsville	\$ 13.64	\$ 3.28
Kawartha Lakes	\$ 14.30	\$ 14.73
King	\$ 9.19	\$ 10.20
Kingston	\$ 8.55	\$ 30.43
Kitchener	N/A	N/A
Leamington	\$ 13.50	\$ 24.84
Lincoln	\$ 4.24	N/A
London	\$ 0.47	N/A
Markham	N/A	N/A
Middlesex Centre	N/A	N/A
Milton	\$ 8.89	\$ 9.52
Mississauga	N/A	N/A
Newmarket	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00
Niagara Falls	\$ 20.07	\$ 18.58

Metre size (mm) Metre size (inches)	Water 15 5/8	Sewer 15 5/8
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$ 8.98	\$ 20.97
Norfolk	\$ 14.97	\$ 10.15
North Bay	\$ 3.51	N/A
North Dumfries	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
Oakville	\$ 8.89	\$ 9.52
Orangeville	\$ 5.31	\$ 5.31
Oshawa	\$ 9.42	\$ 3.65
Ottawa	N/A	N/A
Owen Sound	\$ 18.26	\$ 17.35
Parry Sound *	\$ 31.58	\$ 36.44
Pelham	\$ 8.25	\$ 6.17
Peterborough	\$ 17.28	N/A
Pickering	\$ 9.42	\$ 3.65
Port Colborne	\$ 17.53	\$ 19.66
Richmond Hill	N/A	N/A
Sarnia	\$ 9.75	\$ 8.78
Sault Ste. Marie	\$ 11.94	N/A
St. Catharines	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
St. Thomas	\$ 14.50	N/A
Stratford	N/A	N/A
Sudbury	\$ 12.80	\$ 14.59
Thorold	N/A	N/A
Thunder Bay	\$ 4.10	\$ 2.87
Tillsonburg	\$ 14.70	\$ 14.70
Timmins	\$ 2.50	N/A
Toronto	N/A	N/A
Vaughan	N/A	N/A
Wainfleet	N/A	N/A
Wasaga Beach	N/A	N/A
Waterloo	\$ 2.42	N/A
Welland	\$ 4.48	\$ 3.92
Wellesley	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
West Lincoln	N/A	N/A
Whitby	\$ 9.42	\$ 3.65
Whitchurch-Stouffville	N/A	N/A
Wilmot	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.38
Windsor	\$ 24.42	\$ 25.26
Woodstock	N/A	N/A
Woolwich	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00
Average	\$ 10.42	\$ 11.12

* Includes some of the volumetric through a minimum charge

**Comparison of Residential Water/Sewer Fixed Costs as a
Percentage of Total Annual Water/Sewer Costs (sorted alphabetically)**

Municipality	Fixed Annual 5/8	Fixed as % of Total
Ajax	\$ 157	26%
Amherstburg	\$ 363	43%
Aurora		
Barrie	\$ 137	25%
Belleville	\$ 271	33%
Bracebridge	\$ 203	19%
Bradford West Gwillimbury	\$ 296	36%
Brampton		
Brantford	\$ 100	16%
Brockville	\$ 291	51%
Burlington	\$ 221	33%
Caledon		
Cambridge	\$ 100	15%
Central Elgin	\$ 348	29%
Chatham-Kent	\$ 276	42%
Clarington	\$ 157	26%
Cobourg	\$ 262	47%
Cornwall		
East Gwillimbury		
Fort Erie	\$ 599	53%
Georgina		
Gravenhurst	\$ 203	19%
Grimsby		
Guelph	\$ 122	20%
Halton Hills	\$ 221	33%
Hamilton	\$ 157	26%
Huntsville	\$ 203	19%
Kawartha Lakes	\$ 348	30%
King	\$ 233	30%
Kingston	\$ 468	59%
Kitchener		
Leamington	\$ 460	67%
Lincoln	\$ 51	5%
London	\$ 6	1%
Markham		
Middlesex Centre		
Milton	\$ 221	33%
Mississauga		
Newmarket	\$ 144	21%
Niagara Falls	\$ 464	51%

Municipality	Fixed Annual 5/8	Fixed as % of Total
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$ 359	41%
Norfolk	\$ 301	28%
North Bay	\$ 42	8%
North Dumfries	\$ 72	11%
Oakville	\$ 221	33%
Orangeville	\$ 127	18%
Oshawa	\$ 157	26%
Ottawa		
Owen Sound	\$ 427	55%
Parry Sound	\$ 816	99%
Pelham	\$ 173	24%
Peterborough	\$ 207	33%
Pickering	\$ 157	26%
Port Colborne	\$ 446	47%
Richmond Hill		
Sarnia	\$ 222	31%
Sault Ste. Marie	\$ 143	32%
St. Catharines	\$ 240	30%
St. Thomas	\$ 174	22%
Stratford		
Sudbury	\$ 329	37%
Thorold		
Thunder Bay	\$ 84	15%
Tillsonburg	\$ 353	50%
Timmins	\$ 30	6%
Toronto		
Vaughan		
Wainfleet		
Wasaga Beach		
Waterloo	\$ 29	5%
Welland	\$ 101	11%
Wellesley	\$ 72	11%
West Lincoln		
Whitby	\$ 157	26%
Whitchurch-Stouffville		
Wilmot	\$ 101	14%
Windsor	\$ 596	72%
Woodstock		
Woolwich	\$ 312	31%
Average	\$ 237	31%
Median	\$ 207	29%
Min	\$ -	0%
Max	\$ 816	99%

Comparison of Water/Sewer Costs (sorted alphabetically)

Municipality - Water & Sewer Costs	Residential	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial
Volume Meter Size	300 m3 5/8"	360 m3 5/8"	10,000 m3 2"	30,000 m3 3"	100,000 m3 4"	500,000 m3 6"	1,000,000 m3 6"
Ajax	\$ 604	\$ 693	\$ 14,145	\$ 40,825	\$ 125,465	\$ 578,633	\$ 1,141,128
Amherstburg	\$ 840	\$ 935	\$ 16,807	\$ 48,940	\$ 161,268	\$ 801,048	\$ 1,594,090
Aurora	\$ 514	\$ 617	\$ 17,126	\$ 51,378	\$ 171,260	\$ 856,300	\$ 1,712,600
Barrie	\$ 554	\$ 669	\$ 18,023	\$ 53,736	\$ 177,632	\$ 883,928	\$ 1,765,678
Belleville	\$ 816	\$ 916	\$ 27,514	\$ 80,930	\$ 242,189	\$ 1,049,766	\$ 2,056,633
Bracebridge	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,220	\$ 29,071	\$ 87,411	\$ 285,881	\$ 1,415,681	\$ 2,827,931
Bradford West Gwillimbury	\$ 813	\$ 923	\$ 25,696	\$ 73,696	\$ 241,696	\$ 1,201,696	\$ 2,401,686
Brampton	\$ 319	\$ 383	\$ 10,649	\$ 31,946	\$ 106,486	\$ 532,428	\$ 1,064,856
Brantford	\$ 619	\$ 723	\$ 17,423	\$ 52,131	\$ 173,267	\$ 865,363	\$ 1,730,363
Brockville	\$ 572	\$ 656	\$ 12,374	\$ 30,325	\$ 84,495	\$ 383,403	\$ 743,760
Burlington	\$ 675	\$ 772	\$ 18,541	\$ 50,806	\$ 159,956	\$ 777,166	\$ 1,533,610
Caledon	\$ 319	\$ 383	\$ 10,649	\$ 31,946	\$ 106,486	\$ 532,428	\$ 1,064,856
Cambridge	\$ 667	\$ 780	\$ 19,055	\$ 56,994	\$ 189,414	\$ 945,008	\$ 1,889,855
Central Elgin	\$ 1,215	\$ 1,389	\$ 29,248	\$ 87,048	\$ 289,348	\$ 1,445,348	\$ 2,890,348
Chatham-Kent	\$ 660	\$ 737	\$ 13,706	\$ 35,594	\$ 75,202	\$ 300,132	\$ 580,130
Clarington	\$ 604	\$ 693	\$ 14,145	\$ 40,825	\$ 125,465	\$ 578,633	\$ 1,141,128
Cobourg	\$ 563	\$ 636	\$ 14,015	\$ 39,439	\$ 125,985	\$ 616,260	\$ 1,226,255
Cornwall	\$ 527	\$ 527	\$ 7,439	\$ 22,316	\$ 74,385	\$ 371,925	\$ 743,850
East Gwillimbury	\$ 651	\$ 781	\$ 28,885	\$ 86,655	\$ 291,055	\$ 1,459,055	\$ 2,919,047
Fort Erie	\$ 1,132	\$ 1,239	\$ 19,498	\$ 59,873	\$ 185,992	\$ 900,587	\$ 1,788,587
Georgina	\$ 540	\$ 649	\$ 18,014	\$ 54,043	\$ 180,144	\$ 900,718	\$ 1,801,436
Gravenhurst	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,220	\$ 29,071	\$ 87,411	\$ 285,881	\$ 1,415,681	\$ 2,827,931
Guelph	\$ 602	\$ 698	\$ 17,127	\$ 50,322	\$ 164,093	\$ 807,672	\$ 1,607,675
Halton Hills	\$ 675	\$ 772	\$ 18,541	\$ 50,806	\$ 159,956	\$ 777,166	\$ 1,533,610
Hamilton	\$ 595	\$ 705	\$ 19,029	\$ 56,354	\$ 184,708	\$ 916,983	\$ 1,829,975
Huntsville	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,220	\$ 29,071	\$ 87,411	\$ 285,881	\$ 1,415,681	\$ 2,827,931
Kawartha Lakes	\$ 1,149	\$ 1,310	\$ 27,710	\$ 83,931	\$ 271,875	\$ 1,342,313	\$ 2,677,313
King	\$ 767	\$ 913	\$ 24,304	\$ 72,834	\$ 242,689	\$ 1,213,289	\$ 2,426,539
Kingston	\$ 799	\$ 873	\$ 12,073	\$ 33,330	\$ 103,727	\$ 498,821	\$ 985,320
Kitchener	\$ 712	\$ 855	\$ 23,747	\$ 71,241	\$ 237,470	\$ 1,187,350	\$ 2,374,700
Leamington	\$ 684	\$ 788	\$ 17,554	\$ 52,338	\$ 174,082	\$ 869,762	\$ 1,739,357
Lincoln	\$ 977	\$ 1,162	\$ 31,150	\$ 93,017	\$ 309,235	\$ 1,544,035	\$ 3,087,535
London	\$ 726	\$ 872	\$ 15,089	\$ 35,526	\$ 114,827	\$ 567,436	\$ 1,054,649
Markham	\$ 475	\$ 570	\$ 15,838	\$ 47,514	\$ 158,380	\$ 791,900	\$ 1,583,800
Middlesex Centre	\$ 1,016	\$ 1,219	\$ 32,800	\$ 98,400	\$ 328,000	\$ 1,640,000	\$ 3,280,000
Milton	\$ 675	\$ 772	\$ 18,541	\$ 50,806	\$ 159,956	\$ 777,166	\$ 1,533,610
Mississauga	\$ 319	\$ 383	\$ 10,649	\$ 31,946	\$ 106,486	\$ 532,428	\$ 1,064,856
Newmarket	\$ 677	\$ 784	\$ 17,924	\$ 53,484	\$ 177,944	\$ 889,144	\$ 1,778,144
Niagara Falls	\$ 901	\$ 988	\$ 17,351	\$ 49,269	\$ 155,883	\$ 747,879	\$ 1,476,279

Note: Aurora, London and St. Thomas also have storm sewer collected on rates (excluded from above table)

Comparison of Water/Sewer Costs (sorted alphabetically)

Municipality - Water & Sewer Costs	Residential	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial
Volume Meter Size	300 m3 5/8"	360 m3 5/8"	10,000 m3 2"	30,000 m3 3"	100,000 m3 4"	500,000 m3 6"	1,000,000 m3 6"
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$ 878	\$ 982	\$ 17,648	\$ 52,226	\$ 173,249	\$ 864,809	\$ 1,729,259
Norfolk	\$ 1,081	\$ 1,237	\$ 20,875	\$ 57,799	\$ 188,236	\$ 924,033	\$ 1,839,025
North Bay	\$ 509	\$ 601	\$ 12,942	\$ 35,240	\$ 113,281	\$ 559,230	\$ 1,116,666
North Dumfries	\$ 672	\$ 792	\$ 20,170	\$ 60,339	\$ 200,564	\$ 1,001,355	\$ 2,001,355
Oakville	\$ 675	\$ 772	\$ 18,541	\$ 50,806	\$ 159,956	\$ 777,166	\$ 1,533,610
Orangeville	\$ 724	\$ 844	\$ 20,282	\$ 60,146	\$ 199,637	\$ 1,003,065	\$ 1,990,637
Oshawa	\$ 604	\$ 693	\$ 14,145	\$ 40,825	\$ 125,465	\$ 578,633	\$ 1,141,128
Ottawa	\$ 695	\$ 766	\$ 21,266	\$ 63,798	\$ 212,660	\$ 1,063,300	\$ 2,126,600
Owen Sound	\$ 773	\$ 843	\$ 14,613	\$ 41,881	\$ 134,744	\$ 658,109	\$ 1,310,378
Parry Sound	\$ 825	\$ 844	\$ 39,612	\$ 118,748	\$ 294,939	\$ 1,390,714	\$ 2,802,934
Pelham	\$ 712	\$ 820	\$ 18,153	\$ 54,113	\$ 179,973	\$ 899,173	\$ 1,798,173
Peterborough	\$ 627	\$ 711	\$ 13,079	\$ 35,860	\$ 101,617	\$ 410,053	\$ 790,050
Pickering	\$ 604	\$ 693	\$ 14,145	\$ 40,825	\$ 125,465	\$ 578,633	\$ 1,141,128
Port Colborne	\$ 952	\$ 1,053	\$ 18,154	\$ 55,489	\$ 174,848	\$ 852,372	\$ 1,695,372
Richmond Hill	\$ 511	\$ 613	\$ 17,033	\$ 51,099	\$ 170,330	\$ 851,650	\$ 1,703,300
Sarnia	\$ 711	\$ 809	\$ 18,339	\$ 52,831	\$ 169,173	\$ 828,001	\$ 1,643,291
Sault Ste. Marie	\$ 446	\$ 545	\$ 13,911	\$ 38,892	\$ 125,963	\$ 622,867	\$ 1,243,862
St. Catharines	\$ 789	\$ 899	\$ 18,828	\$ 55,992	\$ 184,920	\$ 918,822	\$ 1,833,822
St. Thomas *	\$ 783	\$ 905	\$ 12,550	\$ 53,158	\$ 175,127	\$ 865,782	\$ 1,726,332
Stratford	\$ 594	\$ 691	\$ 16,506	\$ 48,893	\$ 161,842	\$ 806,720	\$ 1,612,054
Sudbury	\$ 894	\$ 1,007	\$ 20,178	\$ 59,195	\$ 192,499	\$ 1,602,749	\$ 1,891,950
Thorold	\$ 706	\$ 801	\$ 15,445	\$ 46,885	\$ 156,925	\$ 785,725	\$ 1,571,725
Thunder Bay	\$ 560	\$ 610	\$ 8,436	\$ 25,260	\$ 84,141	\$ 420,605	\$ 841,185
Tillsonburg	\$ 704	\$ 787	\$ 16,041	\$ 46,538	\$ 149,723	\$ 734,403	\$ 1,459,397
Timmins	\$ 498	\$ 591	\$ 15,623	\$ 46,811	\$ 155,966	\$ 779,710	\$ 1,559,390
Toronto	\$ 475	\$ 573	\$ 16,311	\$ 48,827	\$ 162,033	\$ 788,173	\$ 1,555,167
Vaughan	\$ 518	\$ 621	\$ 17,250	\$ 51,750	\$ 172,500	\$ 862,500	\$ 1,725,000
Wainfleet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wasaga Beach	\$ 402	\$ 402	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Waterloo	\$ 638	\$ 760	\$ 20,434	\$ 61,311	\$ 203,411	\$ 1,015,699	\$ 2,030,699
Welland	\$ 940	\$ 1,108	\$ 28,265	\$ 85,028	\$ 281,141	\$ 1,400,767	\$ 2,799,417
Wellesley	\$ 672	\$ 792	\$ 20,170	\$ 60,339	\$ 200,564	\$ 1,001,355	\$ 2,001,355
West Lincoln	\$ 553	\$ 633	\$ 13,486	\$ 40,153	\$ 133,486	\$ 666,819	\$ 1,333,486
Whitby	\$ 604	\$ 693	\$ 14,145	\$ 40,825	\$ 125,465	\$ 578,633	\$ 1,141,128
Whitchurch-Stouffville	\$ 502	\$ 602	\$ 16,728	\$ 50,184	\$ 167,280	\$ 836,400	\$ 1,672,800
Wilmot	\$ 740	\$ 868	\$ 21,416	\$ 64,046	\$ 213,351	\$ 1,065,951	\$ 2,131,601
Windsor	\$ 832	\$ 879	\$ 12,005	\$ 31,015	\$ 91,704	\$ 416,515	\$ 808,865
Woodstock	\$ 422	\$ 497	\$ 12,660	\$ 37,894	\$ 128,276	\$ 580,029	\$ 1,147,927
Woolwich	\$ 1,002	\$ 1,140	\$ 24,512	\$ 72,780	\$ 233,780	\$ 1,153,780	\$ 2,303,780
Average	\$ 700	\$ 804	\$ 18,598	\$ 54,745	\$ 176,558	\$ 874,665	\$ 1,724,486
Median	\$ 675	\$ 780	\$ 17,601	\$ 51,564	\$ 170,795	\$ 852,011	\$ 1,699,336
Min	\$ 319	\$ 383	\$ 7,439	\$ 22,316	\$ 74,385	\$ 300,132	\$ 580,130
Max	\$ 1,215	\$ 1,389	\$ 39,612	\$ 118,748	\$ 328,000	\$ 1,640,000	\$ 3,280,000

Note: Aurora, London and St. Thomas also have storm sewer collected on rates (excluded from above table)

Comparison of Water/Sewer Costs—Residential (sorted lowest to highest)

Municipality - Water & Sewer Costs	Residential	Residential	Municipality - Water & Sewer Costs	Residential	Residential
Meter Size	300 m3 5/8"	300 m3 Ranking	Meter Size	300 m3 5/8"	300 m3 Ranking
Brampton	\$ 319	low	Newmarket	\$ 677	mid
Caledon	\$ 319	low	Leamington	\$ 684	mid
Mississauga	\$ 319	low	Ottawa	\$ 695	mid
Wasaga Beach	\$ 402	low	Tillsonburg	\$ 704	mid
Woodstock	\$ 422	low	Thorold	\$ 706	mid
Sault Ste. Marie	\$ 446	low	Sarnia	\$ 711	mid
Markham	\$ 475	low	Kitchener	\$ 712	mid
Toronto	\$ 475	low	Pelham	\$ 712	mid
Timmins	\$ 498	low	Orangeville	\$ 724	mid
Whitchurch-Stouffville	\$ 502	low	London	\$ 726	mid
North Bay	\$ 509	low	Wilmot	\$ 740	mid
Richmond Hill	\$ 511	low	King	\$ 767	mid
Aurora	\$ 514	low	Owen Sound	\$ 773	mid
Vaughan	\$ 518	low	St. Thomas *	\$ 783	high
Cornwall	\$ 527	low	St. Catharines	\$ 789	high
Georgina	\$ 540	low	Kingston	\$ 799	high
West Lincoln	\$ 553	low	Bradford West Gwillimbury	\$ 813	high
Barrie	\$ 554	low	Belleville	\$ 816	high
Thunder Bay	\$ 560	low	Parry Sound	\$ 825	high
Cobourg	\$ 563	low	Windsor	\$ 832	high
Brockville	\$ 572	low	Amherstburg	\$ 840	high
Stratford	\$ 594	low	Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$ 878	high
Hamilton	\$ 595	low	Sudbury	\$ 894	high
Guelph	\$ 602	low	Niagara Falls	\$ 901	high
Ajax	\$ 604	low	Welland	\$ 940	high
Clarington	\$ 604	low	Port Colborne	\$ 952	high
Oshawa	\$ 604	low	Lincoln	\$ 977	high
Pickering	\$ 604	low	Woolwich	\$ 1,002	high
Whitby	\$ 604	low	Middlesex Centre	\$ 1,016	high
Brantford	\$ 619	mid	Bracebridge	\$ 1,050	high
Peterborough	\$ 627	mid	Gravenhurst	\$ 1,050	high
Waterloo	\$ 638	mid	Huntsville	\$ 1,050	high
East Gwillimbury	\$ 651	mid	Norfolk	\$ 1,081	high
Chatham-Kent	\$ 660	mid	Fort Erie	\$ 1,132	high
Cambridge	\$ 667	mid	Kawartha Lakes	\$ 1,149	high
North Dumfries	\$ 672	mid	Central Elgin	\$ 1,215	high
Wellesley	\$ 672	mid	Wainfleet	N/A	N/A
Burlington	\$ 675	mid			
Halton Hills	\$ 675	mid	Average	\$ 700	
Milton	\$ 675	mid	Median	\$ 675	
Oakville	\$ 675	mid	Min	\$ 319	
			Max	\$ 1,215	

Comparison of Water/Sewer Costs—Commercial (sorted lowest to highest)

Municipality - Water & Sewer Costs	Commercial	Commercial
Meter Size	10,000 m3 2"	10,000 m3 Ranking
Cornwall	\$ 7,439	low
Thunder Bay	\$ 8,436	low
Brampton	\$ 10,649	low
Caledon	\$ 10,649	low
Mississauga	\$ 10,649	low
Windsor	\$ 12,005	low
Kingston	\$ 12,073	low
Brockville	\$ 12,374	low
St. Thomas *	\$ 12,550	low
Woodstock	\$ 12,660	low
North Bay	\$ 12,942	low
Peterborough	\$ 13,079	low
West Lincoln	\$ 13,486	low
Chatham-Kent	\$ 13,706	low
Sault Ste. Marie	\$ 13,911	low
Cobourg	\$ 14,015	low
Ajax	\$ 14,145	low
Clarington	\$ 14,145	low
Oshawa	\$ 14,145	low
Pickering	\$ 14,145	low
Whitby	\$ 14,145	low
Owen Sound	\$ 14,613	low
London	\$ 15,089	low
Thorold	\$ 15,445	low
Timmins	\$ 15,623	low
Markham	\$ 15,838	low
Tillsonburg	\$ 16,041	mid
Toronto	\$ 16,311	mid
Stratford	\$ 16,506	mid
Whitchurch-Stouffville	\$ 16,728	mid
Amherstburg	\$ 16,807	mid
Richmond Hill	\$ 17,033	mid
Aurora	\$ 17,126	mid
Guelph	\$ 17,127	mid
Vaughan	\$ 17,250	mid
Niagara Falls	\$ 17,351	mid
Brantford	\$ 17,423	mid
Leamington	\$ 17,554	mid
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$ 17,648	mid

Municipality - Water & Sewer Costs	Commercial	Commercial
Meter Size	10,000 m3 2"	10,000 m3 Ranking
Newmarket	\$ 17,924	mid
Georgina	\$ 18,014	mid
Barrie	\$ 18,023	mid
Pelham	\$ 18,153	mid
Port Colborne	\$ 18,154	mid
Sarnia	\$ 18,339	mid
Burlington	\$ 18,541	mid
Halton Hills	\$ 18,541	mid
Milton	\$ 18,541	mid
Oakville	\$ 18,541	mid
St. Catharines	\$ 18,828	mid
Hamilton	\$ 19,029	mid
Cambridge	\$ 19,055	high
Fort Erie	\$ 19,498	high
North Dumfries	\$ 20,170	high
Wellesley	\$ 20,170	high
Sudbury	\$ 20,178	high
Orangeville	\$ 20,282	high
Waterloo	\$ 20,434	high
Norfolk	\$ 20,875	high
Ottawa	\$ 21,266	high
Wilmot	\$ 21,416	high
Kitchener	\$ 23,747	high
King	\$ 24,304	high
Woolwich	\$ 24,512	high
Bradford West Gwillimb	\$ 25,696	high
Belleville	\$ 27,514	high
Kawartha Lakes	\$ 27,710	high
Welland	\$ 28,265	high
East Gwillimbury	\$ 28,885	high
Bracebridge	\$ 29,071	high
Gravenhurst	\$ 29,071	high
Huntsville	\$ 29,071	high
Central Elgin	\$ 29,248	high
Lincoln	\$ 31,150	high
Middlesex Centre	\$ 32,800	high
Parry Sound	\$ 39,612	high
Wasaga Beach	N/A	
Wainfleet	N/A	
Average	\$ 18,598	
Median	\$ 17,601	
Min	\$ 7,439	
Max	\$ 39,612	

Comparison of Water/Sewer Costs—Industrial (sorted lowest to highest)

Municipality - Water & Sewer Costs	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial
Meter Size	30,000 m3 3"	30,000 m3 Ranking	100,000 m3 4"	100,000 m3 Ranking	500,000 m3 6"	500,000 m3 Ranking	1,000,000 m3 6"	1,000,000 m3 Ranking
Chatham-Kent	\$ 35,594	low	\$ 75,202	low	\$ 300,132	low	\$ 580,130	low
Brockville	\$ 30,325	low	\$ 84,495	low	\$ 383,403	low	\$ 743,760	low
Cornwall	\$ 22,316	low	\$ 74,385	low	\$ 371,925	low	\$ 743,850	low
Peterborough	\$ 35,860	low	\$ 101,617	low	\$ 410,053	low	\$ 790,050	low
Windsor	\$ 31,015	low	\$ 91,704	low	\$ 416,515	low	\$ 808,865	low
Thunder Bay	\$ 25,260	low	\$ 84,141	low	\$ 420,605	low	\$ 841,185	low
Kingston	\$ 33,330	low	\$ 103,727	low	\$ 498,821	low	\$ 985,320	low
London	\$ 35,526	low	\$ 114,827	low	\$ 567,436	low	\$ 1,054,649	low
Brampton	\$ 31,946	low	\$ 106,486	low	\$ 532,428	low	\$ 1,064,856	low
Caledon	\$ 31,946	low	\$ 106,486	low	\$ 532,428	low	\$ 1,064,856	low
Mississauga	\$ 31,946	low	\$ 106,486	low	\$ 532,428	low	\$ 1,064,856	low
North Bay	\$ 35,240	low	\$ 113,281	low	\$ 559,230	low	\$ 1,116,666	low
Ajax	\$ 40,825	low	\$ 125,465	low	\$ 578,633	low	\$ 1,141,128	low
Clarington	\$ 40,825	low	\$ 125,465	low	\$ 578,633	low	\$ 1,141,128	low
Oshawa	\$ 40,825	low	\$ 125,465	low	\$ 578,633	low	\$ 1,141,128	low
Pickering	\$ 40,825	low	\$ 125,465	low	\$ 578,633	low	\$ 1,141,128	low
Whitby	\$ 40,825	low	\$ 125,465	low	\$ 578,633	low	\$ 1,141,128	low
Woodstock	\$ 37,894	low	\$ 128,276	low	\$ 580,029	low	\$ 1,147,927	low
Cobourg	\$ 39,439	low	\$ 125,985	low	\$ 616,260	low	\$ 1,226,255	low
Sault Ste. Marie	\$ 38,892	low	\$ 125,963	low	\$ 622,867	low	\$ 1,243,862	low
Owen Sound	\$ 41,881	low	\$ 134,744	low	\$ 658,109	low	\$ 1,310,378	low
West Lincoln	\$ 40,153	low	\$ 133,486	low	\$ 666,819	low	\$ 1,333,486	low
Tillsonburg	\$ 46,538	low	\$ 149,723	low	\$ 734,403	low	\$ 1,459,397	low
Niagara Falls	\$ 49,269	mid	\$ 155,883	low	\$ 747,879	low	\$ 1,476,279	low
Burlington	\$ 50,806	mid	\$ 159,956	mid	\$ 777,166	low	\$ 1,533,610	low
Halton Hills	\$ 50,806	mid	\$ 159,956	mid	\$ 777,166	low	\$ 1,533,610	low
Milton	\$ 50,806	mid	\$ 159,956	mid	\$ 777,166	low	\$ 1,533,610	low
Oakville	\$ 50,806	mid	\$ 159,956	mid	\$ 777,166	low	\$ 1,533,610	low
Toronto	\$ 48,827	mid	\$ 162,033	mid	\$ 788,173	mid	\$ 1,555,167	mid
Timmins	\$ 46,811	low	\$ 155,966	low	\$ 779,710	mid	\$ 1,559,390	mid
Thorold	\$ 46,885	low	\$ 156,925	low	\$ 785,725	mid	\$ 1,571,725	mid
Markham	\$ 47,514	low	\$ 158,380	mid	\$ 791,900	mid	\$ 1,583,800	mid
Amherstburg	\$ 48,940	mid	\$ 161,268	mid	\$ 801,048	mid	\$ 1,594,090	mid
Guelph	\$ 50,322	mid	\$ 164,093	mid	\$ 807,672	mid	\$ 1,607,675	mid
Stratford	\$ 48,893	mid	\$ 161,842	mid	\$ 806,720	mid	\$ 1,612,054	mid
Sarnia	\$ 52,831	mid	\$ 169,173	mid	\$ 828,001	mid	\$ 1,643,291	mid
Whitchurch-Stouffville	\$ 50,184	mid	\$ 167,280	mid	\$ 836,400	mid	\$ 1,672,800	mid
Port Colborne	\$ 55,489	mid	\$ 174,848	mid	\$ 852,372	mid	\$ 1,695,372	mid
Richmond Hill	\$ 51,099	mid	\$ 170,330	mid	\$ 851,650	mid	\$ 1,703,300	mid
Aurora	\$ 51,378	mid	\$ 171,260	mid	\$ 856,300	mid	\$ 1,712,600	mid
Vaughan	\$ 51,750	mid	\$ 172,500	mid	\$ 862,500	mid	\$ 1,725,000	mid
St. Thomas *	\$ 53,158	mid	\$ 175,127	mid	\$ 865,782	mid	\$ 1,726,332	mid

Comparison of Water/Sewer Costs—Industrial (sorted lowest to highest)

Municipality - Water & Sewer Costs	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	Industrial	2006 population
Meter Size	30,000 m3 3"	30,000 m3 Ranking	100,000 m3 4"	100,000 m3 Ranking	500,000 m3 6"	500,000 m3 Ranking	1,000,000 m3 6"	1,000,000 m3 Ranking	
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$ 52,226	mid	\$ 173,249	mid	\$ 864,809	mid	\$ 1,729,259	mid	14,587
Brantford	\$ 52,131	mid	\$ 173,267	mid	\$ 865,363	mid	\$ 1,730,363	mid	90,192
Leamington	\$ 52,338	mid	\$ 174,082	mid	\$ 869,762	mid	\$ 1,739,357	mid	28,833
Barrie	\$ 53,736	mid	\$ 177,632	mid	\$ 883,928	mid	\$ 1,765,678	mid	128,430
Newmarket	\$ 53,484	mid	\$ 177,944	mid	\$ 889,144	mid	\$ 1,778,144	mid	74,295
Fort Erie	\$ 59,873	high	\$ 185,992	mid	\$ 900,587	mid	\$ 1,788,587	mid	29,925
Pelham	\$ 54,113	mid	\$ 179,973	mid	\$ 899,173	mid	\$ 1,798,173	mid	16,155
Georgina	\$ 54,043	mid	\$ 180,144	mid	\$ 900,718	mid	\$ 1,801,436	mid	42,346
Hamilton	\$ 56,354	mid	\$ 184,708	mid	\$ 916,983	mid	\$ 1,829,975	mid	504,559
St. Catharines	\$ 55,992	mid	\$ 184,920	mid	\$ 918,822	mid	\$ 1,833,822	mid	131,989
Norfolk	\$ 57,799	high	\$ 188,236	high	\$ 924,033	high	\$ 1,839,025	high	62,563
Cambridge	\$ 56,994	mid	\$ 189,414	high	\$ 945,008	high	\$ 1,889,855	high	120,371
Sudbury	\$ 59,195	high	\$ 192,499	high	\$ 1,602,749	high	\$ 1,891,950	high	157,857
Orangeville	\$ 60,146	high	\$ 199,637	high	\$ 1,003,065	high	\$ 1,990,637	high	26,925
North Dumfries	\$ 60,339	high	\$ 200,564	high	\$ 1,001,355	high	\$ 2,001,355	high	9,063
Wellesley	\$ 60,339	high	\$ 200,564	high	\$ 1,001,355	high	\$ 2,001,355	high	9,789
Waterloo	\$ 61,311	high	\$ 203,411	high	\$ 1,015,699	high	\$ 2,030,699	high	97,475
Belleville	\$ 80,930	high	\$ 242,189	high	\$ 1,049,766	high	\$ 2,056,633	high	48,821
Ottawa	\$ 63,798	high	\$ 212,660	high	\$ 1,063,300	high	\$ 2,126,600	high	812,129
Wilmot	\$ 64,046	high	\$ 213,351	high	\$ 1,065,951	high	\$ 2,131,601	high	17,097
Woolwich	\$ 72,780	high	\$ 233,780	high	\$ 1,153,780	high	\$ 2,303,780	high	19,658
Kitchener	\$ 71,241	high	\$ 237,470	high	\$ 1,187,350	high	\$ 2,374,700	high	204,668
Bradford West Gwillimbury	\$ 73,696	high	\$ 241,696	high	\$ 1,201,696	high	\$ 2,401,686	high	24,039
King	\$ 72,834	high	\$ 242,689	high	\$ 1,213,289	high	\$ 2,426,539	high	19,487
Kawartha Lakes	\$ 83,931	high	\$ 271,875	high	\$ 1,342,313	high	\$ 2,677,313	high	74,561
Welland	\$ 85,028	high	\$ 281,141	high	\$ 1,400,767	high	\$ 2,799,417	high	50,331
Parry Sound	\$ 118,748	high	\$ 294,939	high	\$ 1,390,714	high	\$ 2,802,934	high	5,818
Bracebridge	\$ 87,411	high	\$ 285,881	high	\$ 1,415,681	high	\$ 2,827,931	high	15,652
Gravenhurst	\$ 87,411	high	\$ 285,881	high	\$ 1,415,681	high	\$ 2,827,931	high	11,046
Huntsville	\$ 87,411	high	\$ 285,881	high	\$ 1,415,681	high	\$ 2,827,931	high	18,280
Central Elgin	\$ 87,048	high	\$ 289,348	high	\$ 1,445,348	high	\$ 2,890,348	high	12,723
East Gwillimbury	\$ 86,655	high	\$ 291,055	high	\$ 1,459,055	high	\$ 2,919,047	high	21,069
Lincoln	\$ 93,017	high	\$ 309,235	high	\$ 1,544,035	high	\$ 3,087,535	high	21,722
Middlesex Centre	\$ 98,400	high	\$ 328,000	high	\$ 1,640,000	high	\$ 3,280,000	high	15,589
Wasaga Beach	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		15,029
Wainfleet	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		6,601
Average	\$ 54,745		\$ 176,558		\$ 874,665		\$ 1,724,486		
Median	\$ 51,564		\$ 170,795		\$ 852,011		\$ 1,699,336		
Min	\$ 22,316		\$ 74,385		\$ 300,132		\$ 580,130		
Max	\$ 118,748		\$ 328,000		\$ 1,640,000		\$ 3,280,000		

Trends and Observations - Water/Sewer Costs

- There are a number of factors that cause a municipality's ranking to vary across the property types, including minimum/service charge, meter size differential charges and rate structure
- Uniform rates are the most common water/sewer structure—with approximately 56% of the municipalities surveyed using this method
- Declining rate structures are the second most common type of rate structure—this method used by approximately 23% of the municipalities surveyed
- Approximately 1% have an inclining rate structure
- 2 of the municipalities in the survey (Cornwall and Wasaga Beach) have a flat rate residential structure.
- The City of London and the City of Kingston have an inclining residential rate structure and a declining structure for commercial and industrial users.
- The Region of Halton and the City of Toronto have a rate structure in which the rates increase initially and then beyond a certain point, decline. The City of Toronto has a 7 block rate structure, with 5 block rates in the Region of Halton
- Some municipalities charged a minimum fee and others had a service charge structure based on the size of the metre. In some cases, such as the Regions of York and Niagara, the upper tier municipality sells water/sewer to the local tier, who then retails these services to property owners. As a result, there are different rates across each of the local municipalities in these regions.

Water/Sewer Costs Type of Rate Structure

Municipality	Fixed Water	Water Rate Structure - Residential	Water Rate Structure - Non-Res.
Ajax (Durham)	Y	D	D
Amherstburg (Essex)	Y	U	U
Aurora (York)	N	U	U
Barrie (Simcoe)	Y	I	I
Belleville (Hastings)	Y	D	D
Bracebridge (Muskoka)	Y	U	U
Bradford West Gwillimbury (Simcoe)	Y	I	D
Brampton (Peel)	N	U	U
Brantford (Brant)	Y	U	U
Brockville (Leeds and Grenville)	Y	D	D
Burlington (Halton)	Y	I,D	I,D
Caledon (Peel)	N	U	U
Cambridge (Waterloo)	Y	U	U
Central Elgin (Elgin)	Y	U	U
Chatham-Kent	Y	D	D
Clarington (Durham)	Y	D	D
Cobourg (Northumberland)	Y	I	I
Cornwall (Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry)	N	F	U
East Gwillimbury (York)	N	I	I
Fort Erie (Niagara)	Y	U	U
Georgina (York)	N	U	U
Gravenhurst (Muskoka)	Y	U	U
Grimsby (Niagara)	N	D	D
Guelph (Wellington)	Y	U	U
Halton Hills (Halton)	Y	I,D	I,D
Hamilton	Y	U	U
Huntsville (Muskoka)	Y	U	U
Kawartha Lakes	Y	U	U
King (York Region)	Y	I	I
Kingston (Frontenac)	Y	I	D
Kitchener (Waterloo Region)	N	U	U
Leamington (Essex)	Y	U	U
Lincoln (Niagara Region)	Y	U	U
London	Y	I	D
Markham (York Region)	N	U	U
Middlesex Centre (Middlesex)	N	U	U
Milton (Halton Region)	Y	I,D	I,D
Mississauga (Peel Region)	N	U	U
Newmarket (York Region)	Y	U	U
Niagara Falls (Niagara R)	Y	U	U

Municipality	Fixed Water	Water Rate Structure - Residential	Water Rate Structure - Non-Res.
Niagara-on-the-Lake (Niagara R)	Y	U	U
Norfolk	Y	D	D
North Bay	Y	D	D
North Dumfries (Waterloo)	Y	U	U
Oakville (Halton Region)	Y	I,D	I,D
Orangeville (Dufferin)	Y	U	U
Oshawa (Durham)	Y	D	D
Ottawa	N	U	U
Owen Sound (Grey)	Y	I	I
Parry Sound (Parry Sound)	Y	D	D
Pelham (Niagara Region)	Y	U	U
Peterborough	Y	D	D
Pickering (Durham Region)	Y	D	D
Port Colborne (Niagara Region)	Y	U	U
Richmond Hill (York Region)	N	U	U
Sarnia	Y	U	U
Sault Ste. Marie	Y	I	I,D
St. Catharines (Niagara Region)	Y	U	U
St. Thomas	Y	U	U
Stratford (Perth Region)	Y	D	D
Sudbury	Y	U	U
Thorold (Niagara Region)	N	D	D
Thunder Bay	Y	D	D
Tillsonburg (Oxford)	Y	U	U
Timmins (Cochrane District)	Y	U	U
Toronto	N	I,D	I,D
Vaughan (York Region)	N	U	U
Wainfleet (Niagara Region)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wasaga Beach (Simcoe)	N	F	F
Waterloo (Waterloo Region)	Y	U	U
Wendell (Niagara Region)	Y	U	U
Wellesley (Waterloo)	Y	U	U
West Lincoln (Niagara Region)	N	D	D
Whitby (Durham Region)	Y	D	D
Whitchurch (York Region)	N	U	U
Wilmot (Waterloo)	Y	U	U
Windsor	Y	Summer Levy	Summer
Woodstock (Oxford)	Y	D	D
Woolwich (Waterloo)	Y	U	U

Legend

U= Uniform
 I = Inclining
 D = Declining
 F = Flat
 I,D = Inclining, then Declining