

Pincher Creek No. 9 Balances a Deep Agricultural Base with a Growing Hospitality Niche

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Snapshot

Pincher Creek No. 9's employment profile is led by a highly specialized agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector, with a location quotient of 17.0, underscoring its central economic role. At the same time, accommodation and food services has emerged as a modest but strengthening niche, outperforming Alberta's five-year trajectory and pointing to a gradually broader local industry mix.

Talking Points

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting is the defining anchor sector, posting a location quotient of 17.0 in 2025, an exceptionally high level of specialization.
- That agricultural concentration remains dominant despite easing, down 29.6% over one year and 4.2% over five years.
- Accommodation and food services recorded a location quotient of 1.1, indicating a modest but meaningful concentration tied to travel and local services.
- Compared with Alberta, where accommodation and food services stood at 1.0 and declined 0.4% over five years, Pincher Creek No. 9 showed stronger long-term momentum with a 76.1% five-year increase.

Full Story

In Pincher Creek No. 9, the anchor-sector story is defined by a very strong rural base and a smaller but still specialized visitor economy. The clearest standout is agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, which carries a location quotient of 17.0 in 2025, an unusually high level of specialization that marks it as a core part of the local employment profile. Accommodation and food services also sits above parity, with a location quotient of 1.1, suggesting a modest but real concentration in a sector often tied to travel and local services.

The contrast between those two sectors is sharp. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting remains deeply specialized, but its concentration has eased, falling 29.6% over one year and 4.2% over five years. By comparison, accommodation and food services slipped 2.3% in the latest year, yet over five years its concentration rose 76.1%. Taken together, that points to an economy where the traditional anchor remains dominant, even as a service-oriented niche has strengthened over the longer term.

The available provincial benchmark reinforces that second point. In Alberta, accommodation and food services posted a location quotient of 1.0 in 2025, with a 2.5% one-year decline and a 0.4% five-year decline. Pincher Creek No. 9, at 1.1, sits slightly above the provincial level in specialization and has a far stronger five-year trajectory. That does not make accommodation and food services the area's leading anchor, but it does suggest that this sector has become more locally important over time than it has across Alberta as a whole.

What emerges is a picture of an economy with one overwhelmingly established base and one smaller sector gaining ground. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting still appears to be the defining anchor sector by specialization alone. At the same time, the long-term rise in accommodation and food services hints at a broader employment mix than the headline agricultural strength might suggest. The dataset does not provide a provincial comparator here for agriculture, so the scale of that advantage cannot be precisely benchmarked against Alberta in this snapshot. Even so, the local pattern is clear: Pincher Creek No. 9 is still anchored by land-based industry, with hospitality becoming a more meaningful part of the economic structure.

Data Sources

- Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Employment Location Quotient by Industry Estimates of Census Areas