



PINCHER CREEK NO. 9

Economic Report

Table of Contents

Employment Rate	4
Business Establishments	5
Employment by Sector	6
Establishments by Sector	7
Establishments by Size	8
Household After-Tax Income	9
Individual After-Tax Income	10
Individual Employment Income	11
Labour Force Participation Rate	12
Labour Force Status	13
Work Activity	14
Employed Residents by Occupation	15

Executive Summary

Pincher Creek No. 9 presents a mixed economic picture shaped by a weakening labour market over time and a business base that remains small and highly concentrated. Labour force participation and the employment rate both declined steadily across the last decade, leaving a smaller share of working-age residents engaged in work or job search in 2021 than in earlier censuses. Employment still accounted for the largest labour force status group, but the share of residents outside the labour force was substantial, and recent work activity was split fairly evenly between full-year full-time work, part-year or part-time work, and those who did not work. That pattern points to a community where employment remains central, but labour market attachment has become less consistent.

The local economy is anchored in a narrow set of sectors and very small business operations. Agriculture remained the largest employer and the largest source of establishments in 2025, even after notable declines over five years, while construction and manufacturing also held visible roles in the job base. Recent sector movement was uneven rather than broad-based: manufacturing and construction employment rose, agriculture employment fell, and several smaller service-related categories remained limited or volatile. The broader business count rebounded in 2024 and 2025 after a sharp earlier drop, but it still sat well below previous levels. The structure of that business base reinforces how dependent the area is on small-scale activity, with establishments without employees dominating by a wide margin and only a very limited number of medium-sized firms.

Income patterns add to this picture of a community with breadth but uneven distribution. Household after-tax income was spread across a wide range, with many households in middle and upper-middle brackets and the largest single group in the highest bracket. Individual after-tax income, however, was concentrated more heavily in lower and middle bands, and individual employment income was especially weighted toward the lower end, with the largest group reporting under \$5,000. Alongside the occupational profile, which was led by natural resources, agriculture, trades, and transport work, these patterns suggest a local economy rooted in primary and practical occupations, with resilience in some areas but a narrower and less robust employment base than earlier in the period.

Employment Rate

Pincher Creek No. 9's employment rate was 61.6% in 2021, down 5.8% over five years. It fell from 68.1% in 2011 to 65.4% in 2016, then to 61.6% in 2021.

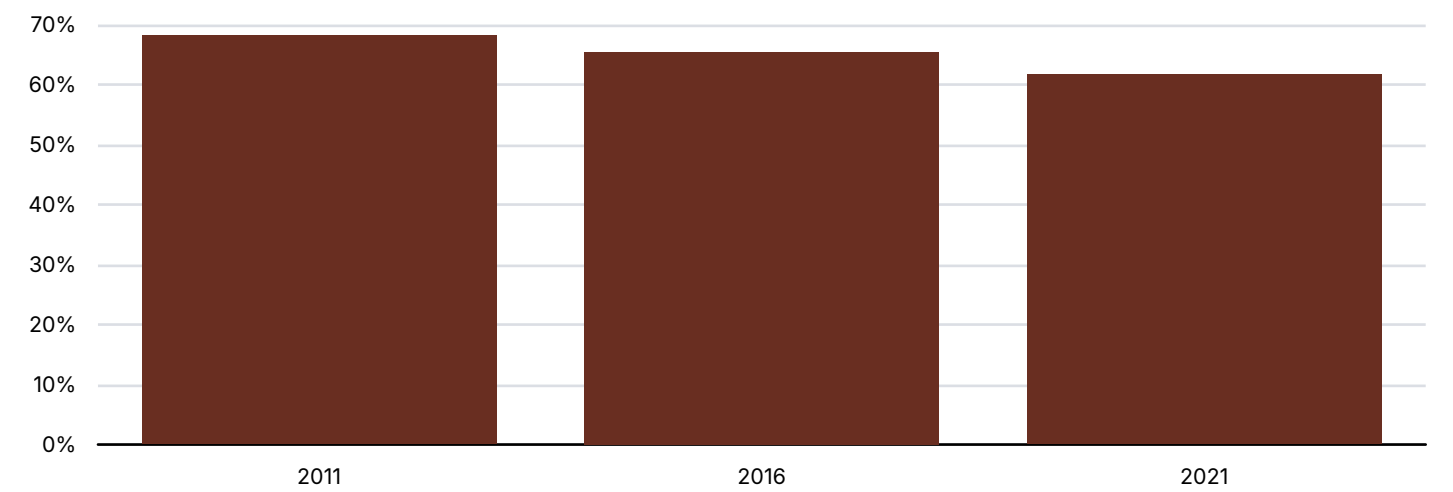
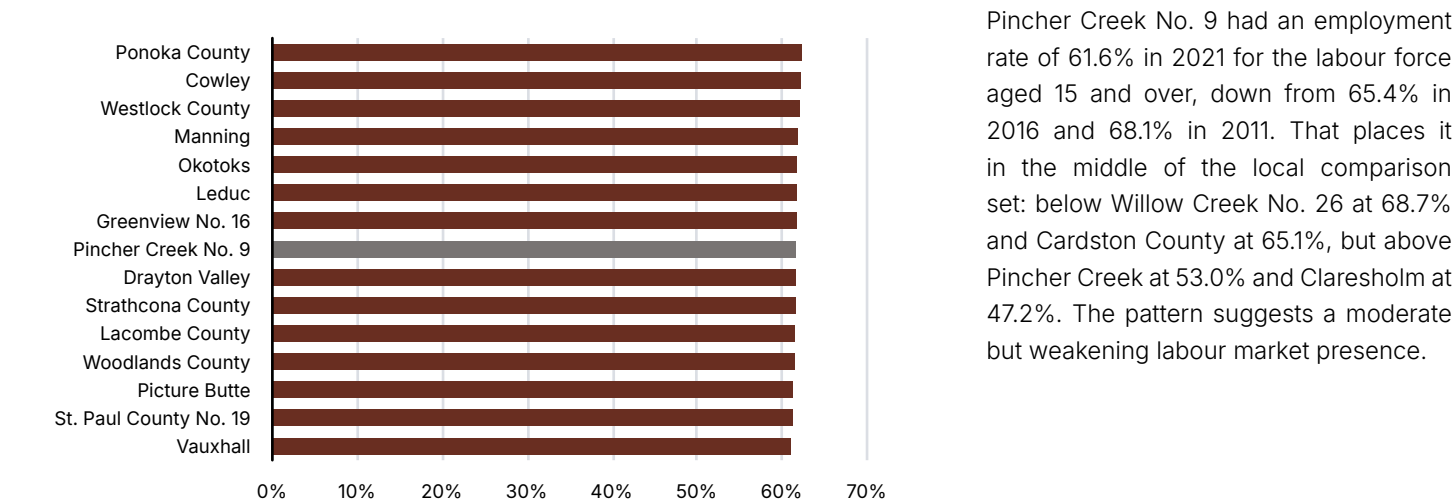


Figure 1.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed. It helps indicate overall labour market health and how fully local talent is being used. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2011-2021)¹

Pincher Creek No. 9's employment rate has moved lower over the last decade, pointing to a weaker share of the working-age population in employment. The rate was 68.1% in 2011, slipped to 65.4% in 2016, and fell again to 61.6% in 2021. The 5-year change was -4.0% between 2011 and 2016 and -5.8% between 2016 and 2021. That pattern shows a steady decline rather than a one-time dip. By 2021, the employment rate was 6.5 percentage points below its 2011 level, suggesting a gradual reduction in labour force participation or employment within the working-age population, based on the data provided.



Pincher Creek No. 9 had an employment rate of 61.6% in 2021 for the labour force aged 15 and over, down from 65.4% in 2016 and 68.1% in 2011. That places it in the middle of the local comparison set: below Willow Creek No. 26 at 68.7% and Cardston County at 65.1%, but above Pincher Creek at 53.0% and Claresholm at 47.2%. The pattern suggests a moderate but weakening labour market presence.

Figure 1.2: Comparison of Employment Rate with other locations (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2021)¹

Business Establishments

Pincher Creek No. 9 had 204 business establishments in 2025, up 12.1% from 2024. That remains 32.5% below 2020 levels, after falling to 159 in 2023 before rebounding.

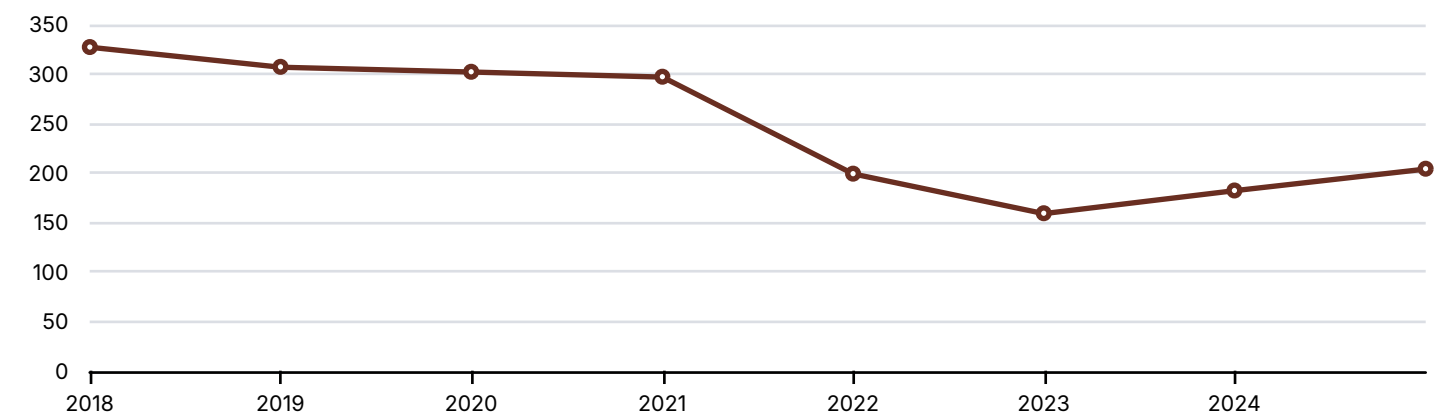


Figure 2.1: Shows the total number of active business establishments in the area, including those without employees. It helps indicate the scale and diversity of the local business base. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2018-2025)²

Pincher Creek No. 9 had 204 active business establishments in 2025, showing a partial rebound after a sharp drop earlier in the period. The count fell from 327 in 2018 to 297 in 2021, then dropped to 199 in 2022 and 159 in 2023. It rose to 182 in 2024 and 204 in 2025. That leaves the latest level well below the 2018 starting point. The 5-year change was -32.5% in 2025, while the most recent year showed 12.1% growth. The pattern is one of decline followed by two years of recovery, though not a return to earlier levels.

Pincher Creek No. 9 had 204 active business establishments in 2025, after a low of 159 in 2023 and 182 in 2024. The count was 327 in 2018, so the area remains below its earlier level despite the recent rebound. Compared with nearby places, the district's business base is smaller than Pincher Creek's 978 and Cardston County's 411, but larger than Waterton's 36 and Piikani 147's 19. Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register.

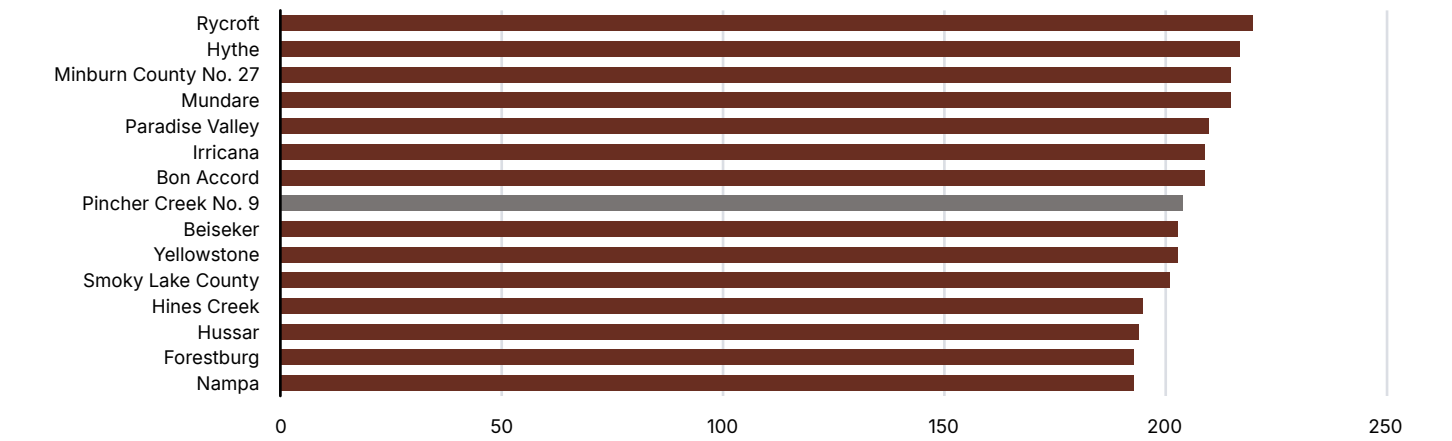


Figure 2.2: Comparison of Business Establishments with other locations (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2025)²

Employment by Sector

Agriculture remained the largest employer in Pincher Creek No. 9 in 2025 with 50 people, despite a 28.6% one-year and 51.9% five-year decline. Manufacturing rose to 24, and educational services reached 6.

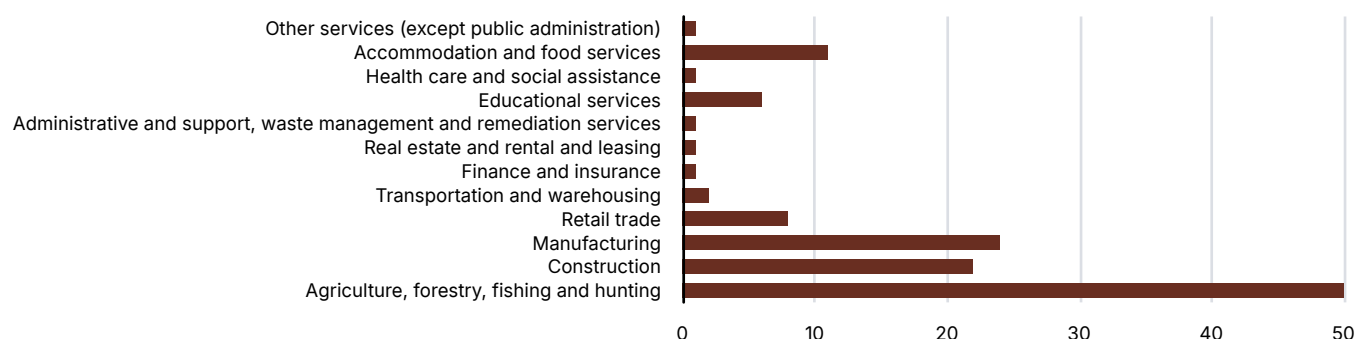


Figure 3.1: Shows how employment is distributed across industry sectors. It helps indicate which sectors account for the largest share of local jobs. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2025)³

In 2025, employment in Pincher Creek No. 9 was spread across a small set of sectors, with agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting the largest employer at 50 people. Construction followed with 22, while manufacturing accounted for 24 and accommodation and food services for 11. Retail trade employed 8 people, and educational services had 6. Recent movement was mixed. Manufacturing rose 71.4% over one year, while agriculture fell 28.6%. Educational services increased sharply from a low base, but transportation and warehousing remained very small at 2 people and declined 50%.

In 2025, employment in Pincher Creek No. 9 was concentrated in a few sectors, with agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting leading at 50 people in the population of employees aged 15 years and over. Construction followed with 22, manufacturing with 24, and accommodation and food services with 11. The mix shows a local job base still anchored in primary activities, while several service sectors remain small. Year-over-year changes were uneven. Agriculture fell 28.6%, while manufacturing rose 71.4% and construction increased 37.5%. Educational services jumped from a very small base, up 500%. Source: Statistics Canada, Employment by Industry, Annual, Table 14-10-0202-01.

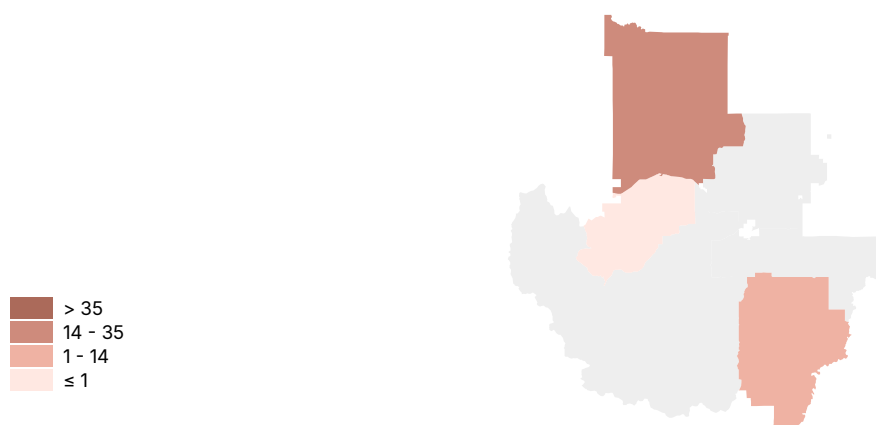


Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (Pincher Creek No. 9)³

Establishments by Sector

Pincher Creek No. 9’s establishment mix in 2025 was led by agriculture with 91 businesses, followed by real estate and rental and leasing at 20 and construction at 20. Agriculture was down 43.1% from 2020.

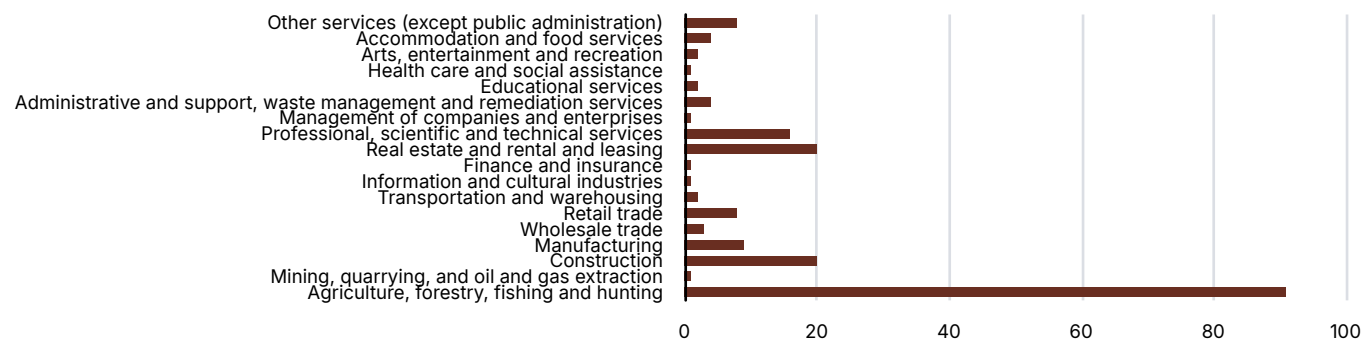


Figure 4.1: Shows how business establishments are distributed across sectors. It helps indicate the sector mix of the local business base. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2025)²

Pincher Creek No. 9’s business base is concentrated in a few sectors, led by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting with 91 establishments in 2025. Real estate and rental and leasing and construction each had 20, while professional, scientific and technical services had 16 and manufacturing 9. Recent trends are mixed. Real estate and rental and leasing rose 122.2% over one year, construction increased 11.1%, and agriculture grew 8.3%. By contrast, transportation and warehousing fell 50.0%, finance and insurance also declined 50.0%, and other services slipped 11.1%, pointing to uneven sector momentum.

In Pincher Creek No. 9, the business base is concentrated in a few sectors, with agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting the largest at 91 establishments in 2025. Real estate and rental and leasing also stands out at 20, matching construction at 20, while professional, scientific and technical services totals 16. Recent change is mixed. Real estate and rental and leasing rose 122.2% in one year, and professional services grew 33.3%. Agriculture increased 8.3%, but it remained well below its five-year level, down 43.1%. Smaller sectors were more volatile, including transportation and warehousing and finance, both down 50% in one year.

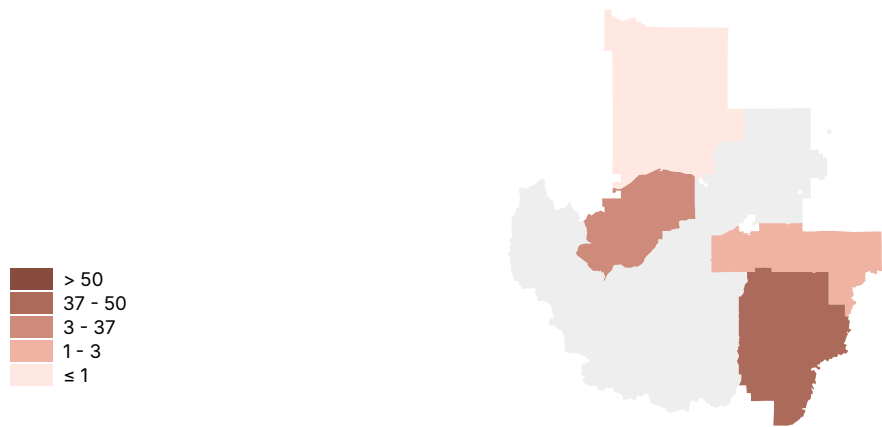


Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (Pincher Creek No. 9)²

Establishments by Size

Pincher Creek No. 9 had 174 establishments without employees in 2025, the largest group. That was 16.8% above 2024, but 31.8% below 2018, while 20 to 49 employee firms doubled to 2.

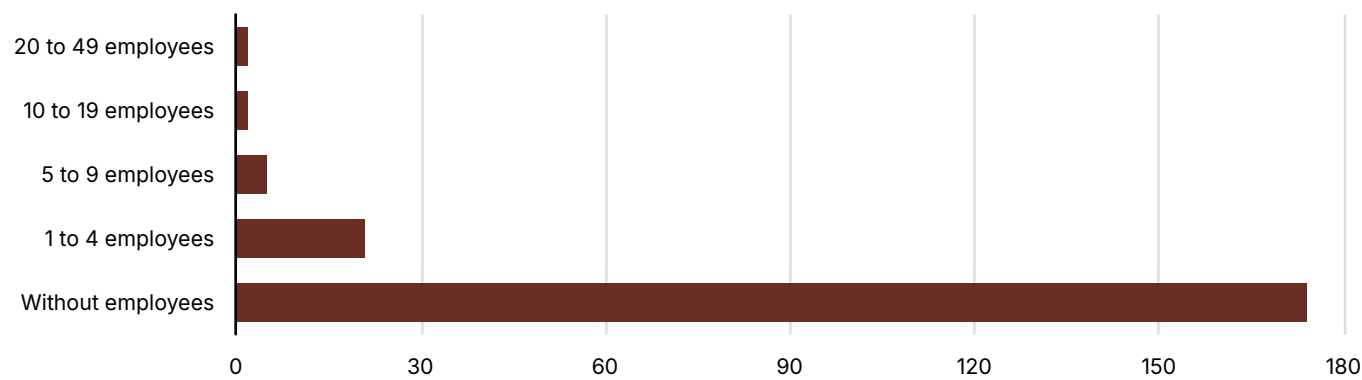


Figure 5.1: Shows how businesses are distributed by number of employees. It helps indicate whether the local economy is dominated by very small, small, or larger firms. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2025)²

Pincher Creek No. 9’s business base in 2025 is concentrated in very small establishments. Firms without employees numbered 174, far above every other size class, while 1 to 4 employees accounted for 21 businesses and 5 to 9 employees for 5. Larger classes were rare. The no-employee category rose 16.8% over one year but remained 31.8% below five years earlier.

In 2025, Pincher Creek No. 9’s business base was dominated by establishments without employees. There were 174 such businesses, far more than any staffed size class. The next largest group was 1 to 4 employees, at 21 businesses, followed by 5 to 9 employees at 5. Larger firms were rare. The area had 2 establishments with 10 to 19 employees and 2 with 20 to 49 employees. That mix suggests a local economy built mainly on very small operations, with only a limited presence of medium-sized employers.

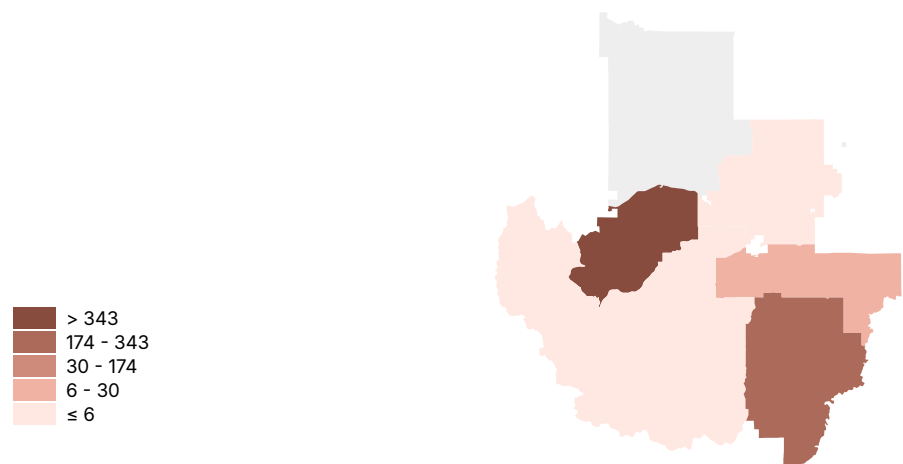


Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Business Establishment Size - Without employees (Pincher Creek No. 9)²

Household After-Tax Income

Pincher Creek No. 9’s highest income group remained \$150,000 and over with 140 households in 2021, up 7.7% since 2016. The under \$5,000 group rose to 25 households, a 66.7% increase.

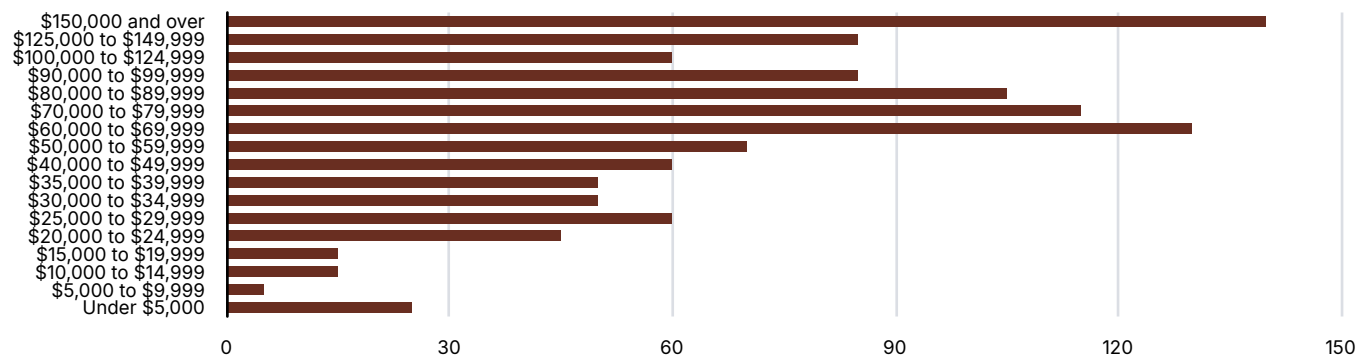


Figure 6.1: Shows household income after taxes across income groups. It helps indicate the resources households have available for day-to-day living after taxes are paid. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2021)¹

In 2021, household after-tax income in Pincher Creek No. 9 was spread across a wide range of income groups, with the largest counts in the middle and upper-middle brackets. The biggest group was \$150,000 and over, at 140 households, followed by \$60,000 to \$69,999 at 130 and \$70,000 to \$79,999 at 115. Recent changes were mixed. Several brackets grew over five years, including under \$5,000, up 66.7%, \$50,000 to \$59,999, up 55.6%, and \$125,000 to \$149,999, up 21.4%. Others declined, such as \$5,000 to \$9,999, down 66.7%, and \$15,000 to \$19,999, down 57.1%.

In 2021, Pincher Creek No. 9 had a household after-tax income profile centered in the middle and upper-middle ranges, with 130 households in the \$60,000 to \$69,999 band, 115 in \$70,000 to \$79,999, and 140 at \$150,000 and over. Lower-income counts were smaller, including 25 under \$5,000. The mix suggests a broad spread, with several mid- and higher-income groups carrying the largest household counts.

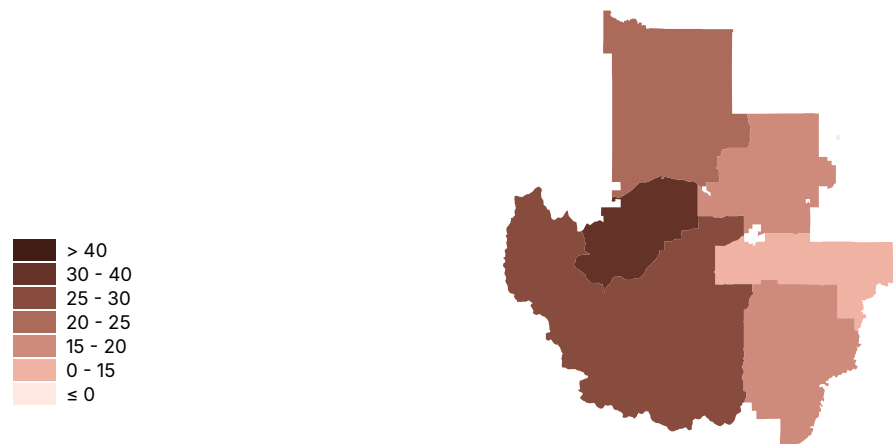


Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Income Group Household - \$150,000 and over (Pincher Creek No. 9)¹

Individual After-Tax Income

Pincher Creek No. 9’s largest income group was \$20,000 to \$29,999, with 830 people. Counts were also high at \$30,000 to \$39,999, 720, and \$10,000 to \$19,999, 640, before declining above \$40,000.

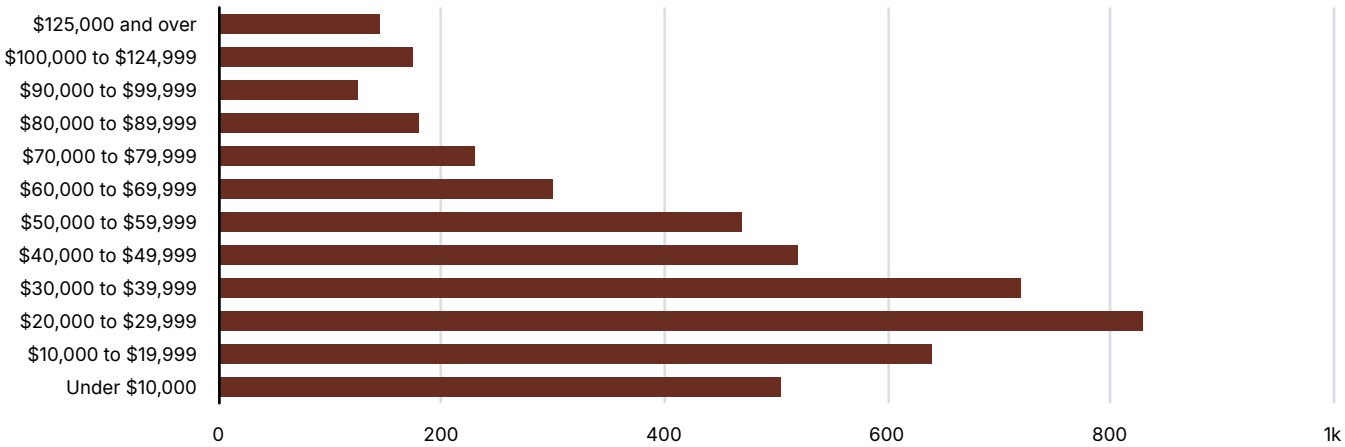
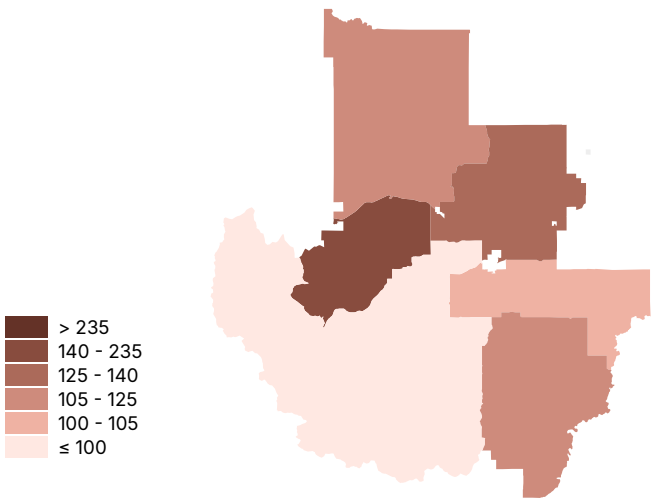


Figure 7.1: Shows individual after-tax income across income groups. It helps indicate the level of disposable income people have after taxes are paid. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2021)¹

In 2021, the after-tax income profile for people aged 15 and over in private households in Pincher Creek No. 9 was concentrated in the middle and lower income bands. The largest group was those with \$20,000 to \$29,999, at 830 people, followed by \$10,000 to \$19,999 at 640 and under \$10,000 at 505. Counts then generally fell as income rose. There were 720 people in the \$30,000 to \$39,999 band, 520 in \$40,000 to \$49,999, and 470 in \$50,000 to \$59,999. Higher-income groups were smaller, with 175 people at \$100,000 to \$124,999 and 145 at \$125,000 and over. The pattern suggests a distribution weighted toward incomes below \$60,000.



In 2021, individual after-tax income in Pincher Creek No. 9 was concentrated in the middle of the distribution for people aged 15 and over in private households. The largest group was \$20,000 to \$29,999, with 830 people, followed by \$30,000 to \$39,999 at 720 and \$10,000 to \$19,999 at 640. Counts were lower at higher income levels, with 145 people at \$125,000 and over. This pattern suggests a broad middle-income profile, with fewer residents at the top end than in the lower and middle brackets. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Income Group Individual - \$20,000 to \$29,999 (Pincher Creek No. 9)¹

Individual Employment Income

Pincher Creek No. 9’s largest income group was under \$5,000, with 865 people. The next largest were \$10,000 to \$19,999 at 450 and \$20,000 to \$29,999 at 345, showing many residents in lower income bands.

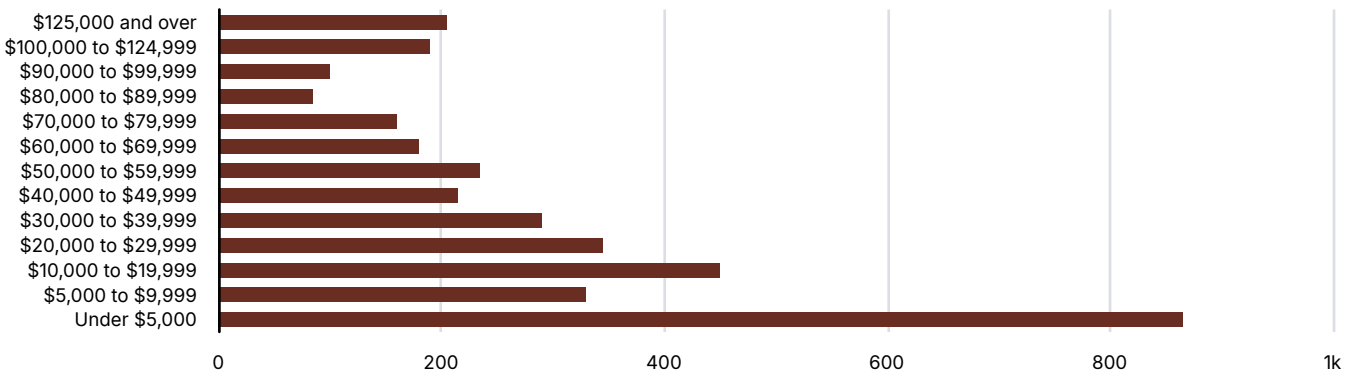


Figure 8.1: Shows individual employment income across income groups. It helps indicate how earnings from work are distributed among residents. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2021)¹

In 2021, individual employment income in Pincher Creek No. 9 was concentrated in the lower ranges, with the largest group reporting under \$5,000. Smaller counts appeared in each higher bracket, but the distribution remained broad across the full income spectrum. The under \$5,000 group included 865 people, compared with 450 in the \$10,000 to \$19,999 range and 205 at \$125,000 and over. This pattern shows a workforce with many residents reporting limited employment income, while a smaller number reached higher earnings levels.

In 2021, individual employment income in Pincher Creek No. 9 was concentrated at the lower end of the scale for residents aged 15 and over in private households. The largest group was under \$5,000, with 865 people, while 450 were in the \$10,000 to \$19,999 range. Several income bands also remained sizeable, including 345 people at \$20,000 to \$29,999 and 205 at \$125,000 and over. Across the named dissemination areas, the pattern varied, but low-income counts were common throughout.

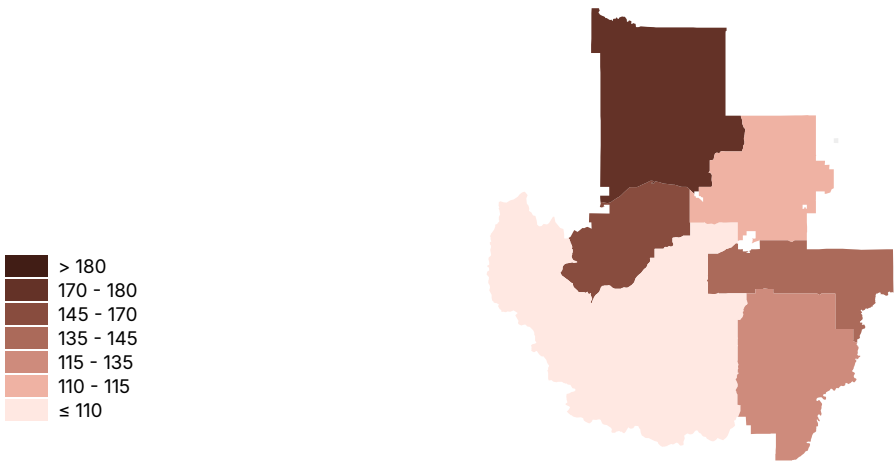


Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Income Group Individual - Under \$5,000 (Pincher Creek No. 9)¹

Labour Force Participation Rate

Pincher Creek No. 9's labour force participation rate was 65.8% in 2021, down from 69.9% in 2016 and 73.6% in 2011. The five-year decline was 5.9%, after a 5.0% drop earlier.

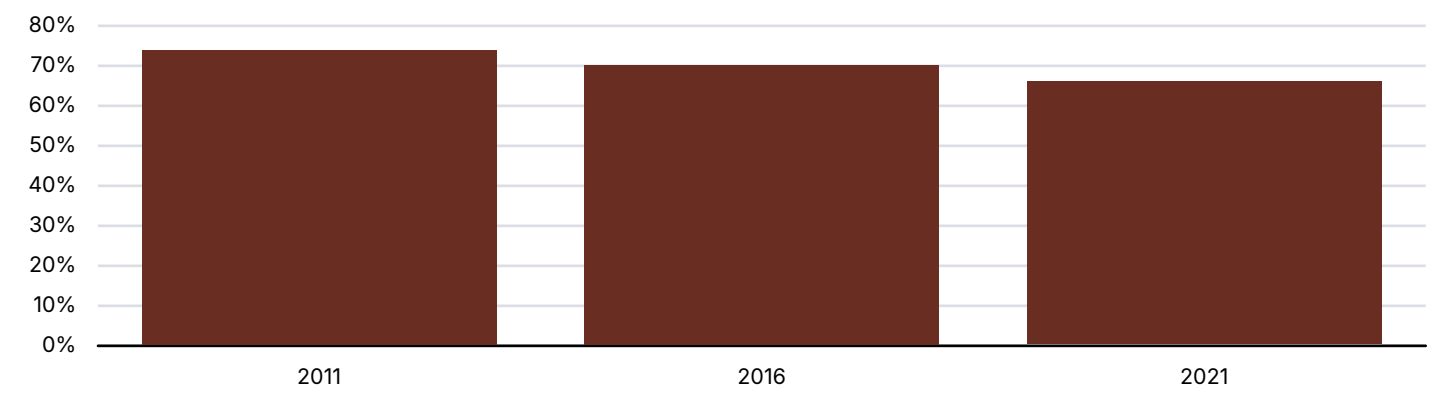


Figure 9.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed or actively looking for work. It helps indicate the level of labour market engagement. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2011-2021)¹

Pincher Creek No. 9's labour force participation rate declined steadily over the past decade, pointing to lower labour market engagement in 2021 than in earlier censuses. It stood at 73.6% in 2011, slipped to 69.9% in 2016, and fell again to 65.8% in 2021. The 5-year change was -5.0% in 2016 and -5.9% in 2021. The pattern is consistent rather than abrupt, with each census showing a further step down. For a working-age population measure, that trajectory suggests a gradual weakening in participation, without any sign of a short-term rebound.

Pincher Creek No. 9 had a labour force participation rate of 65.8% in 2021, down from 69.9% in 2016 and 73.6% in 2011. The pattern points to a steady decline over the decade in the share of the total population engaged in work or job search. Even with that decline, Pincher Creek No. 9 remained above several nearby places in 2021, including Pincher Creek at 57.2%, Claresholm at 52.6%, and Cardston County at 68.1%. At the same time, it sat below Cowley at 73.0% and Willow Creek No. 26 at 71.0%.

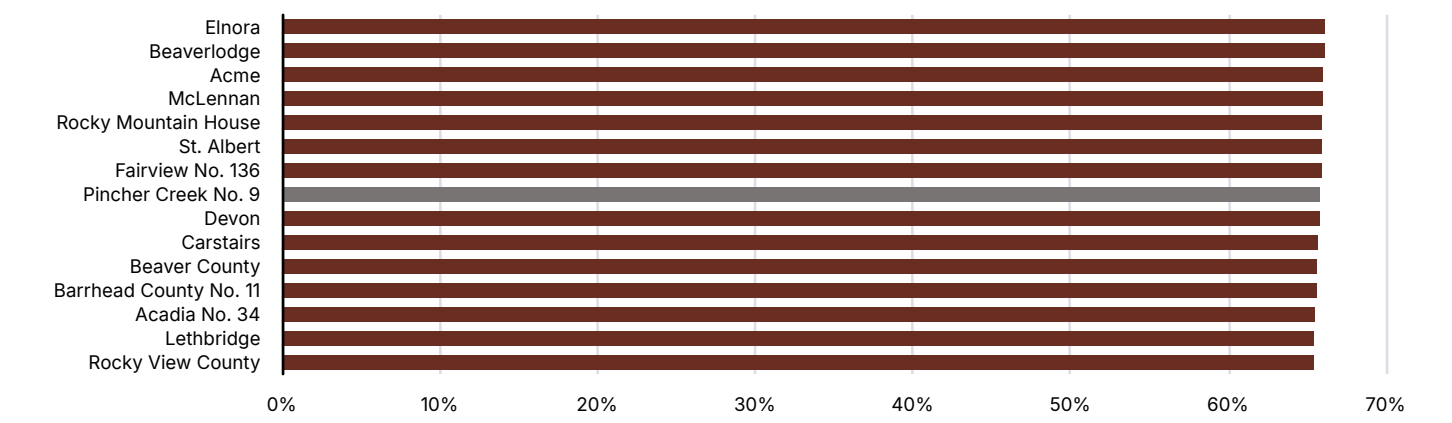


Figure 9.2: Comparison of Labour Force Participation Rate with other locations (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2021)¹

Labour Force Status

Employed residents remained the largest group in Pincher Creek No. 9 at 1,540 in 2021, up from 1,455 in 2016. The not in the labour force group rose to 860, while unemployed reached 110.

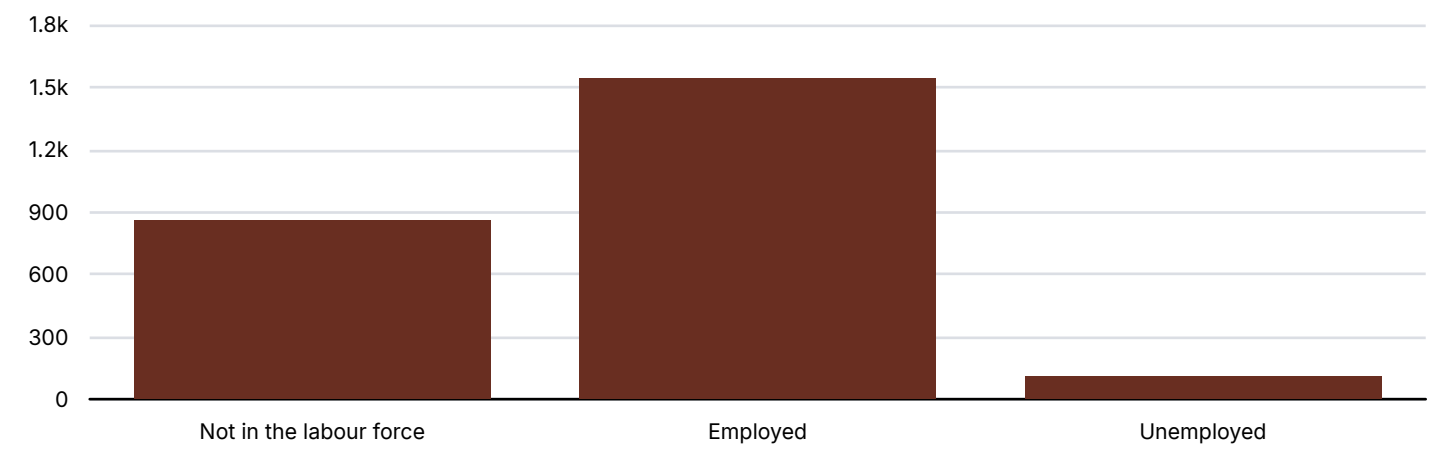
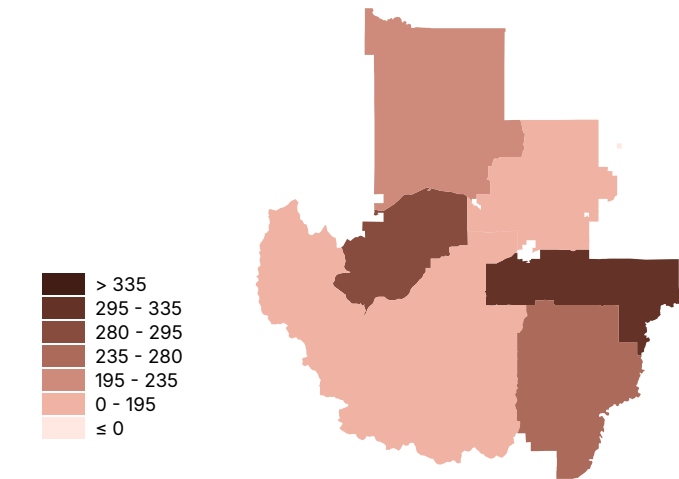


Figure 10.1: Shows whether residents are employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force. It helps indicate how people are participating in the labour market. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2021)¹

In 2021, labour force status in Pincher Creek No. 9 shows a clear split between residents who were employed and those not in the labour force, with a smaller unemployed group. The figures describe the population aged 15 years and over. There were 1,540 employed residents, 860 not in the labour force, and 110 unemployed. Together, these total 2,510 people in the measured population. Employment was the largest category by a wide margin, while unemployment was the smallest. The not-in-the-labour-force group was substantial, but still well below the employed count. Taken together, the pattern suggests a community where most adults were participating in employment, alongside a meaningful share outside the labour force and a relatively small unemployed population.



In 2021, Pincher Creek No. 9 had a labour force profile that was centered on employment among residents aged 15 and over. Employed people numbered 1,540, while 860 were not in the labour force and 110 were unemployed. That split means about 61.4% were employed, 34.3% were outside the labour force, and 4.4% were unemployed. Employment was the clear majority status, and unemployment was a small share of the population.

Figure 10.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Labour Force Status - Employed (Pincher Creek No. 9)¹

Work Activity

In Pincher Creek No. 9, the largest work-activity group in 2021 was those who worked part year and/or part time, at 875 people, while the did not work group rose 51.4% to 810 people over five years.

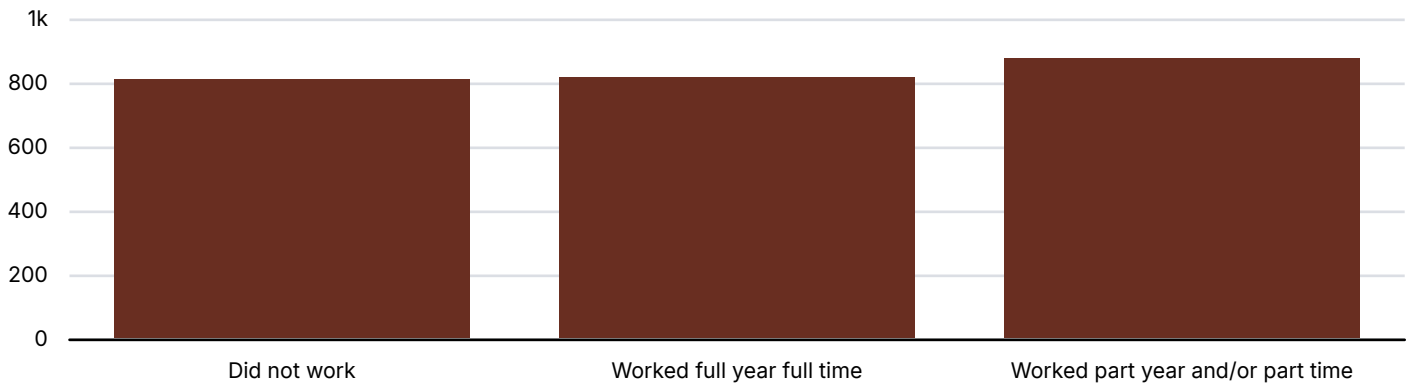


Figure 11.1: Shows the amount of work activity people had during the reference period. It helps indicate attachment to work over the year, not just at a single point in time. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2021)¹

In Pincher Creek No. 9, work activity in 2021 was mixed across the population aged 15 years and over. The largest group worked part year and/or part time, at 875 people, followed closely by 815 people who worked full year full time. Another 810 people did not work. The 5-year change shows different directions: did not work rose by 51.4%, full-year full-time work increased 12.4%, and part-year or part-time work fell 9.3%. The pattern suggests shifting work participation rather than a single clear trend.

In 2021, work activity in Pincher Creek No. 9 was split fairly evenly across the adult population aged 15 and over. A total of 815 people worked full year full time, 875 worked part year and/or part time, and 810 did not work. Over five years, full-year full-time work rose 12.4%, while part-year and part-time work fell 9.3% and non-work increased 51.4%. The pattern suggests mixed attachment to work.

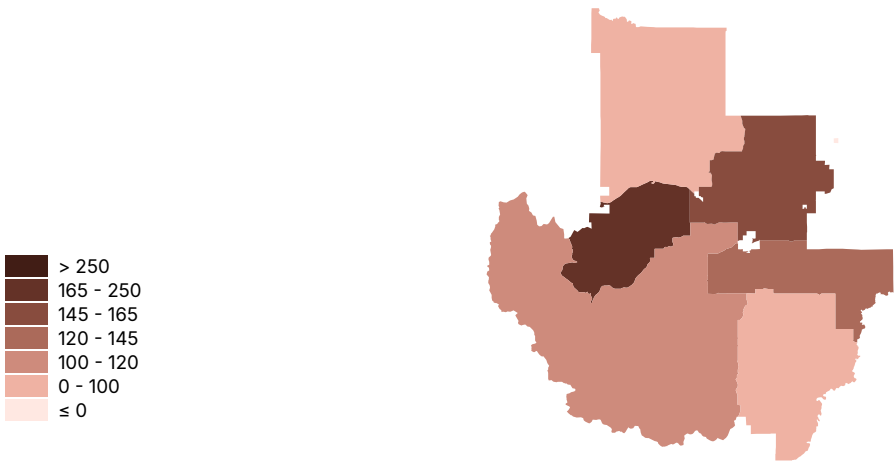


Figure 11.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Work Activity - Worked part year and/or part time (Pincher Creek No. 9)¹

Employed Residents by Occupation

Pincher Creek No. 9's employed residents were led by natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations in 2021 at 420 people, up 95.35% over five years, while legislative and senior management fell to 20, down 95.35%.

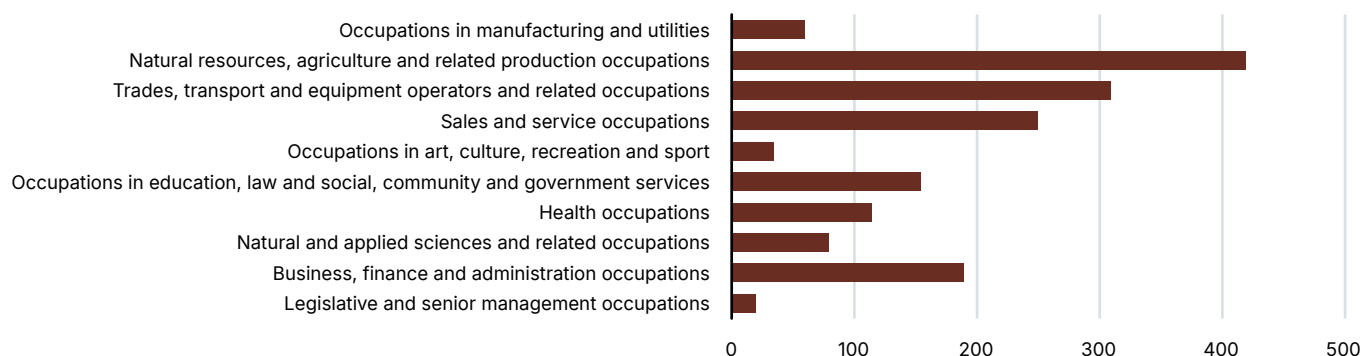


Figure 12.1: Shows the occupations held by employed residents. It helps indicate the community's skill mix and the kinds of work people do. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2021)¹

In 2021, employed residents of Pincher Creek No. 9 were concentrated in a few occupations, led by natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations at 420 people, up 95.3% over five years. Trades, transport and equipment operators followed at 310, while sales and service accounted for 250 and business, finance and administration for 190. By contrast, legislative and senior management occupations were the smallest group at 20 and fell 95.3%. The pattern shows strong growth in resource- and trade-related work alongside declines in some smaller professional groups.

In Pincher Creek No. 9, the employment mix in 2021 was led by natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations, with 420 people. Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations followed at 310, while sales and service occupations accounted for 250 and business, finance and administration for 190. The pattern points to a workforce shaped more by resource-linked and technical work than by managerial roles.

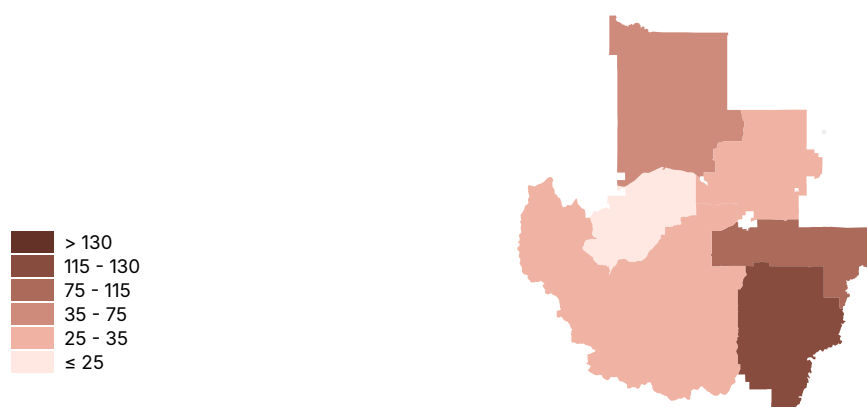


Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Occupation - Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations (Pincher Creek No. 9)¹

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.
2. Statistics Canada, Business Register. Published in Jun 1, 2025.
3. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Employment by Industry Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.

Legal Notice and Disclaimer

This publication was created using the **Localintel Platform** and may include proprietary data, templates, and visualization elements licensed through it. This publication is provided for general informational purposes only. Localintel does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy, or suitability of this information for any particular purpose. No reuse, redistribution, or extraction of source data except as expressly permitted. Use of this publication is subject to applicable terms of use and restrictions available at localintel.com/terms.