



ALBERTA
SOUTHWEST

HILL SPRING

Quality of Life Report

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Executive Summary

Hill Spring presents a small, tightly concentrated community profile in 2021, with many of its social and housing patterns clustered in a narrow set of categories rather than spread across a wide mix. The population in private households remained largely non-immigrant, the median age was relatively high at 54.8 years, and the village's religious profile was dominated by Christianity, with only a smaller group reporting no religion. Language and ancestry show a similar pattern. English remained the overwhelmingly dominant mother tongue, with German the only other language recorded above zero, while reported ethnic origins were led by English and German, alongside smaller Scottish, American, Irish, and Russian counts. Across these measures, Hill Spring appears more defined by continuity and concentration than by broad internal diversity.

That same concentration carries through family life, education, and housing. Couple-based households were the clear centre of the village's household structure, especially couples without children, while one-parent families, common-law families, and other household arrangements were present only in small numbers or not recorded at all. Recent change within this structure was modest, though households without children became more prominent and one-person households declined. Educational attainment suggests a community with a solid base of completed schooling and practical postsecondary credentials. High school completion was much more common than having no credential, and non-university certificates, trades credentials, and bachelor's degrees made up the largest postsecondary groups. Housing was similarly narrow in profile: ownership strongly outweighed renting, owner households remained the dominant tenure, and average monthly shelter costs for owners edged down to \$700.

Some of the report's few visible shifts were gradual rather than transformative. Population density rose modestly over the past decade, suggesting steady but restrained growth in settlement intensity. At the same time, the population's midpoint age eased from its 2016 peak but remained older than it was in 2011, reinforcing the picture of a mature community rather than a rapidly changing one. Immigration added a smaller, stable share of residents, with arrivals concentrated in working-age adulthood. The broad impression is of Hill Spring as an older, owner-oriented, English-speaking village with a stable social structure, limited recorded diversity across several measures, and only modest change over recent census periods.

Religion

Christian residents numbered 120 in Hill Spring in 2021, the largest faith group. No religion and secular perspectives counted 30 people, while other listed religions each recorded zero residents.

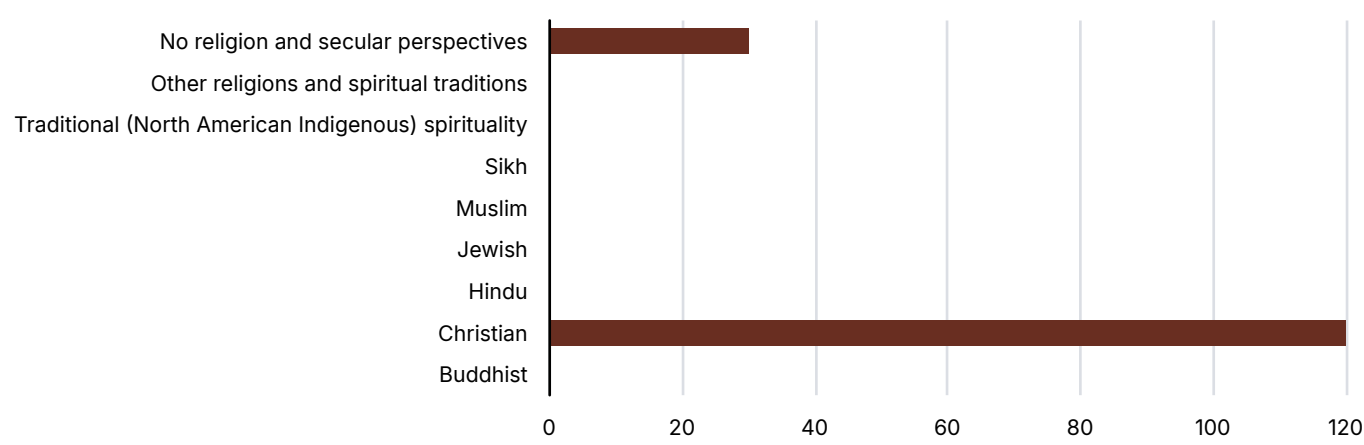


Figure 1.1: Shows residents' religious affiliation. It helps indicate the spiritual and faith-based diversity of the community. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In Hill Spring, the 2021 religion profile shows a very concentrated pattern. Christian affiliation accounted for 120 people, while 30 people reported no religion and secular perspectives. All other listed groups were recorded at zero, including Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality, and other religions and spiritual traditions. The mix leaves little internal diversity in the recorded affiliation categories. The presence of a smaller non-religious group alongside a much larger Christian population suggests a community profile that is strongly weighted toward one tradition, with limited representation from other faiths in the census counts.



In 2021, Hill Spring's religious profile was highly concentrated in Christianity, with 120 people identifying as Christian in the population living in private households. The only other reported affiliation with a count above zero was no religion and secular perspectives, at 30 people. All other listed traditions, including Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Traditional Indigenous spirituality, and other religions, were recorded at zero. That leaves Hill Spring with a narrow faith profile and a modest non-religious minority.

Figure 1.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Religion - Christian (Hill Spring)¹

Family Type

Hill Spring’s family mix was led by married couples without children at 25 people in 2021, down 16.7% from 2016. Married couples with children held at 15, while common-law couples without children and one-parent families each numbered 5.

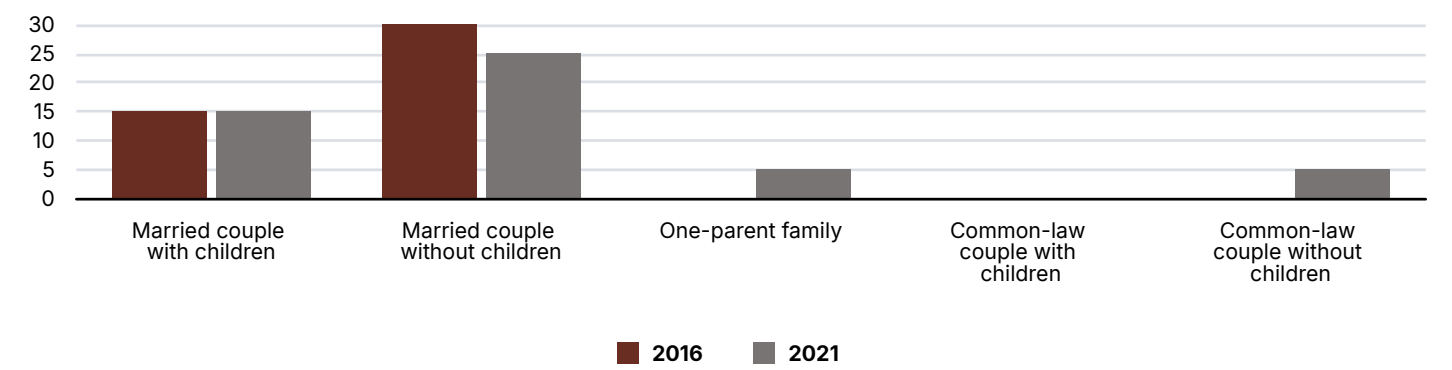


Figure 2.1: Shows the mix of family types, such as couple families and lone-parent families. It helps indicate the structure of family life in the community. (Hill Spring, 2016-2021)¹

In Hill Spring, census families in private households in 2021 were mostly couple families, with the mix leaning toward married couples. The family profile also shows limited recent change in some categories. Married couples without children accounted for 25 people, down 16.7% over five years. Married couples with children numbered 15, while common-law couples without children and one-parent families each had 5 people. Common-law couples with children were not recorded. That pattern suggests a small family base with most families concentrated in married-couple households. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile, 2021

In Hill Spring, the family picture in 2021 was dominated by couple families. Married couples without children were the largest group at 25 people, followed by married couples with children at 15. Smaller categories included common-law couples without children and one-parent families, at 5 each, while common-law couples with children were not reported. The main change over five years was among married couples without children, which fell 16.7%. The other family types were stable or too small to show change. This suggests a family structure centered on couple households, with limited diversity in family type.

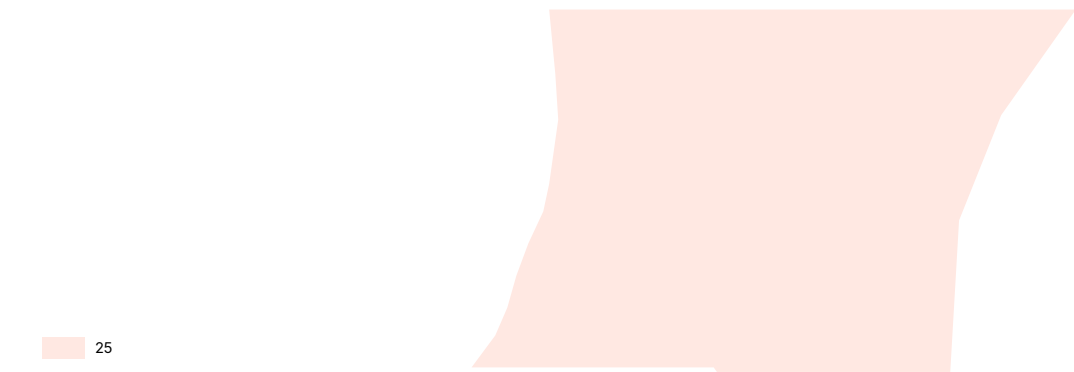


Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Type - Married couple without children (Hill Spring)¹

Ethnic Origin

English is the largest ethnic origin group in Hill Spring at 60 people, while German changed the most over five years, rising 233.3% to 50. Irish reached 25, and Scottish and American each 30.

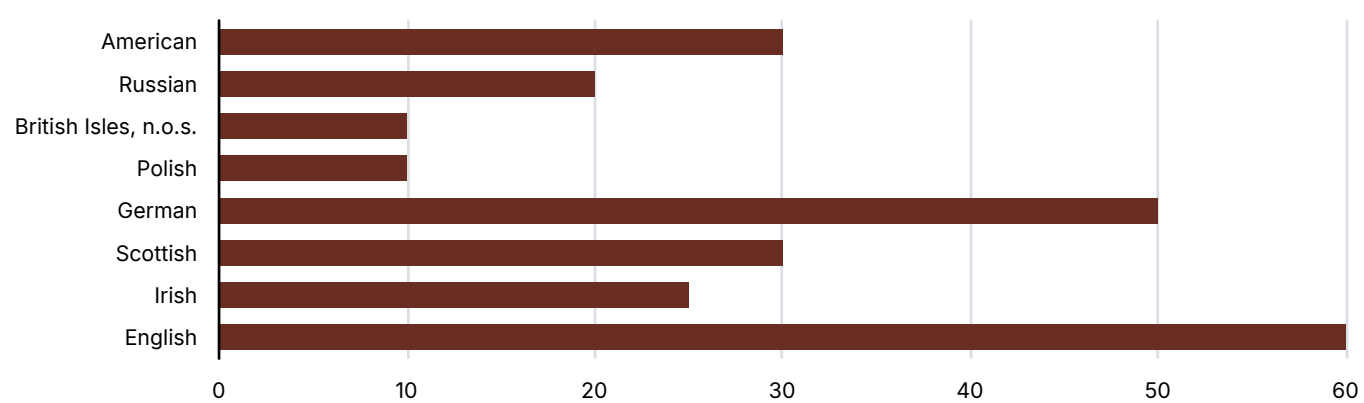


Figure 3.1: Shows the ethnic or cultural origins reported by residents. It helps indicate ancestry patterns and the community's cultural makeup. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

Hill Spring's reported ethnic origin profile in 2021 is led by English, at 60 people, followed by German at 50 and Scottish and American at 30 each. Irish stands at 25 people, while Russian is 20. Smaller counts are shown for Polish and British Isles, n.o.s., at 10 each. The clearest time trend is growth in several origins over five years, especially German, up 233.3%, and Irish, up 150%, while English was unchanged and Scottish rose 20%.

Hill Spring's ethnic origin profile in 2021 is led by English ancestry, reported by 60 people, followed by German at 50 and Scottish at 30. American and Irish origins were each reported by 30 people, while Russian accounted for 20 and Polish and British Isles, n.o.s. for 10 each. The pattern suggests a small set of origins makes up most reported ancestry, with some notable recent growth in Irish and German origins over five years, while English remained unchanged.

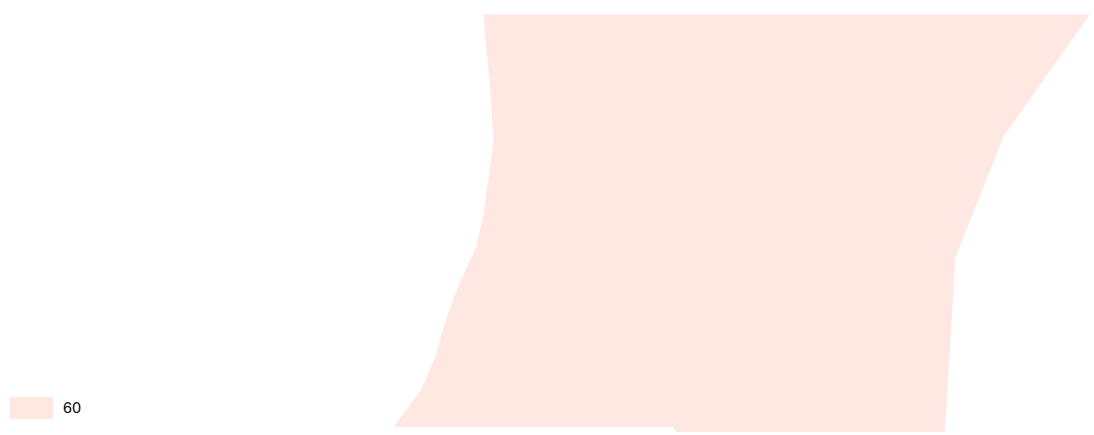


Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Ethnic Origin - English (Hill Spring)¹

Mother Tongue

English remained Hill Spring’s largest mother tongue in 2021 at 150 people, down 3.2% over five years. German rose to 10 people, doubling from five years earlier, while other listed languages were at zero.

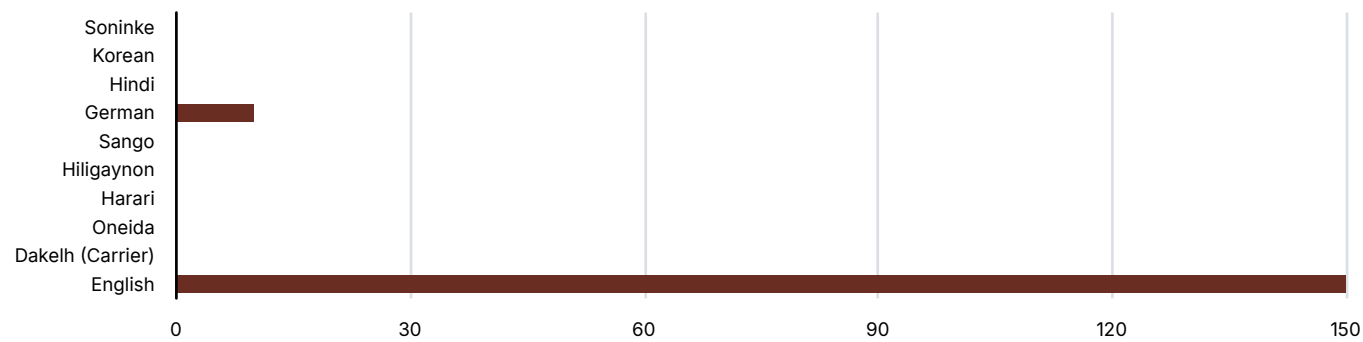


Figure 4.1: Shows the first language learned and still understood by residents. It helps indicate the linguistic roots of the population. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In Hill Spring, mother tongue data for 2021 shows a strong concentration in English, with 150 people reporting it as their first language and still understood. German is the only other language shown with a non-zero count, at 10 people. Several other listed languages, including Dakelh, Oneida, Harari, Hiligaynon, Sango, Hindi, Korean and Soninke, were recorded at zero. The five-year change points to a modest shift: English was down 3.2%, while German doubled, rising 100% from a small base. Even with that growth, English remained dominant, and the profile stayed limited to a small number of mother tongues.

Hill Spring’s mother tongue profile in 2021 is narrowly concentrated in English, with a smaller German-speaking presence. Within the total population excluding institutional residents, English is the dominant first language still understood. English is recorded for 150 people, while German appears for 10. Several other listed languages, including Dakelh, Oneida, Harari, Hiligaynon, Sango, Hindi, Korean, and Soninke, are at 0. The pattern is stable at the top, though German shows a 100% five-year increase from a small base. English declined by 3.2% over the same period. This suggests a largely English-speaking community with limited linguistic diversity in the available data.

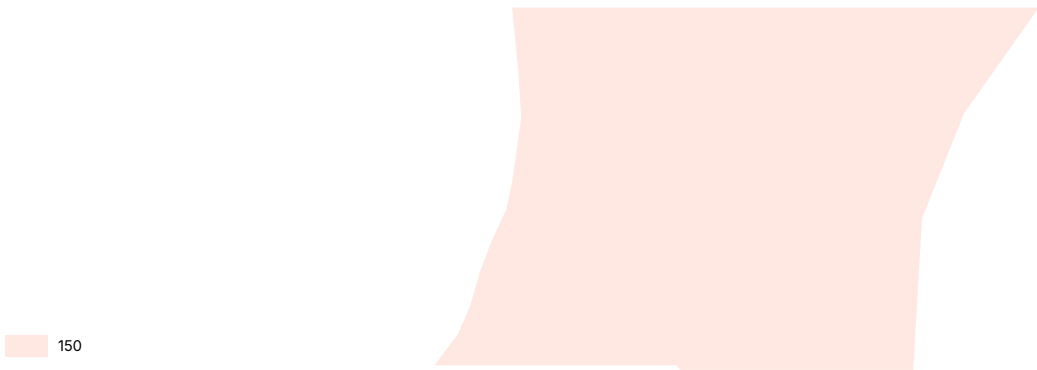


Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Language - English (Hill Spring)¹

Population Density

Hill Spring’s population density was 174.8 people per square kilometre in 2021, up 3.68% over five years. It rose from 168.6 in 2016 and 167.2 in 2011, showing gradual growth.

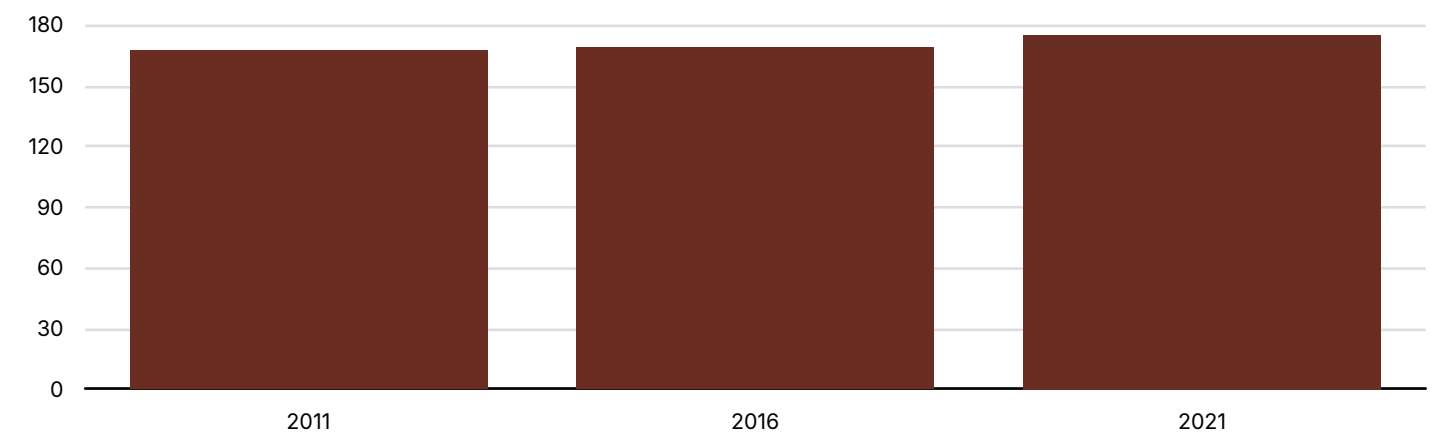


Figure 5.1: Shows how many people live per unit of land area. It helps indicate how compact or spread out the population is. (Hill Spring, 2011-2021)¹

Hill Spring's population density has edged upward across the last three census points, suggesting a gradual tightening of settlement patterns. In 2011, the census subdivision recorded 167.2 people per square kilometre, rising to 168.6 in 2016 and 174.8 in 2021. The pace was modest at first, with a 0.8% increase from 2011 to 2016, then stronger over the next five years at 3.7%. The 2021 figure remains the highest of the three, marking a clear but restrained upward trend.

Hill Spring's population density was 174.8 people per km2 in 2021, up from 168.6 in 2016 and 167.2 in 2011. That places it in the middle of the local range: above Fort Macleod at 146.2 and Cowley at 159.2, but below more compact places such as Pincher Creek at 367.1, Claresholm at 362.1, and Cardston at 434.1. The pattern suggests a relatively stable, moderately dense settlement compared with its regional neighbors.

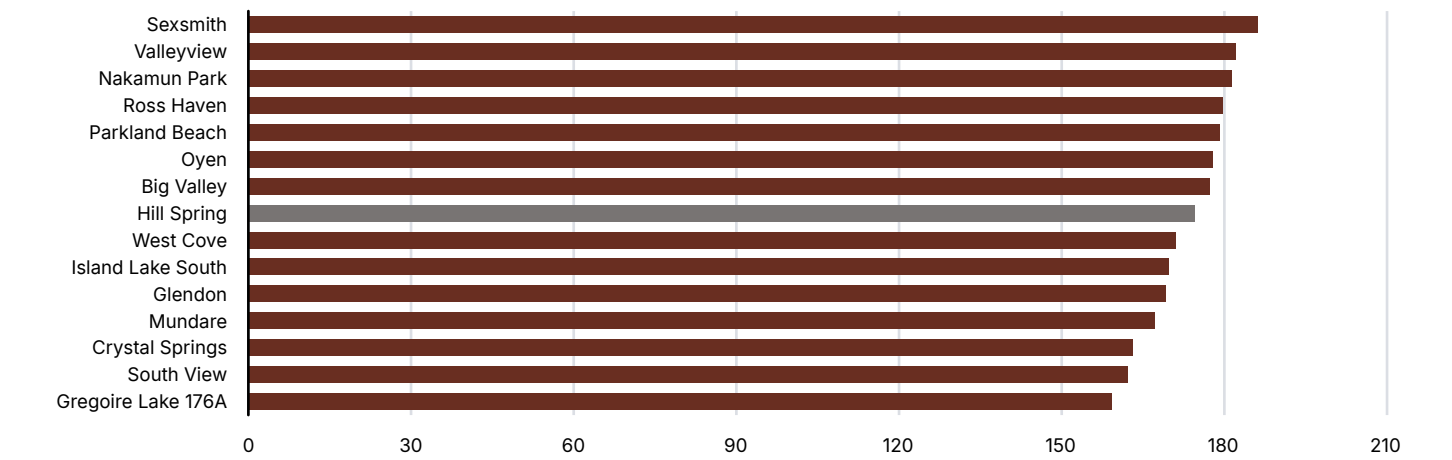


Figure 5.2: Comparison of Population Density with other locations (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

Highest Education Level

In Hill Spring, college, CEGEP or other non-university certificates or diplomas were the largest group in 2021 at 40 people, while bachelor’s degrees rose to 25, up 150% from 2016.

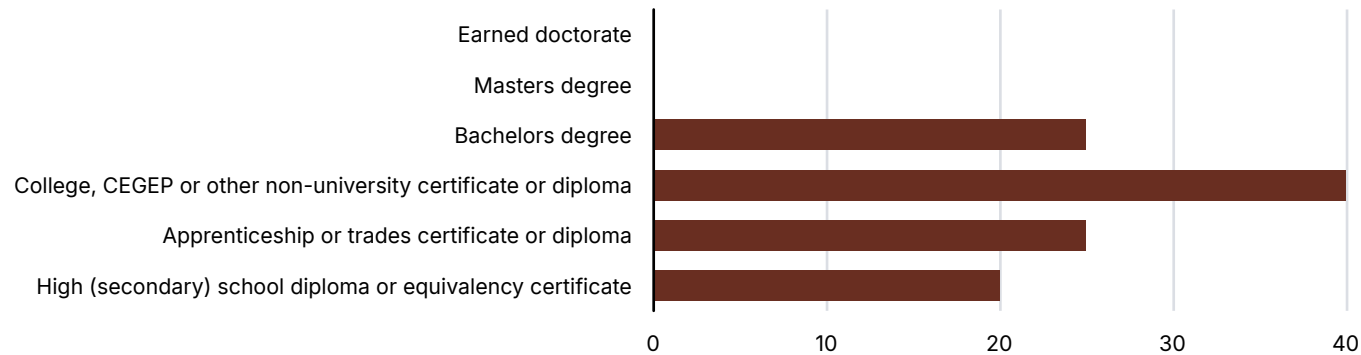


Figure 6.1: Shows the highest level of education completed by residents. It helps indicate the overall educational profile of the population. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In Hill Spring, the educational profile in 2021 was concentrated in non-university credentials. The largest group was residents with a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma, at 40 people, while 25 people each held an apprenticeship or trades certificate or a bachelor’s degree. The high school diploma group numbered 20, and no residents were recorded with a master’s degree or earned doctorate. The 5-year changes point to growth in several credential levels: college credentials doubled, and bachelor’s degrees rose by 150%. High school completion also increased by 33.3%.

In Hill Spring, the education profile for residents aged 15 and over is centered on postsecondary credentials rather than graduate degrees. The largest group has a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma, at 40 people, while 25 people each hold an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma and a bachelor’s degree. High school completion accounts for 20 people, and there are no residents recorded with a master’s degree or earned doctorate. The pattern points to a modestly skilled local profile with concentration in non-university and undergraduate education.

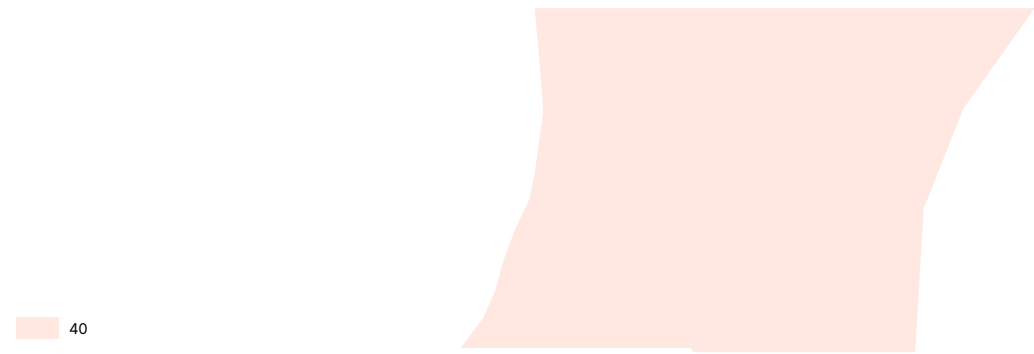


Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma (Hill Spring)¹

Household Type

In Hill Spring, couple-family households without children were the largest group in 2021 at 30%, up from 25% in 2016. One-person households fell to 20%, while two-or-more-person non-census-family households dropped to 0%.

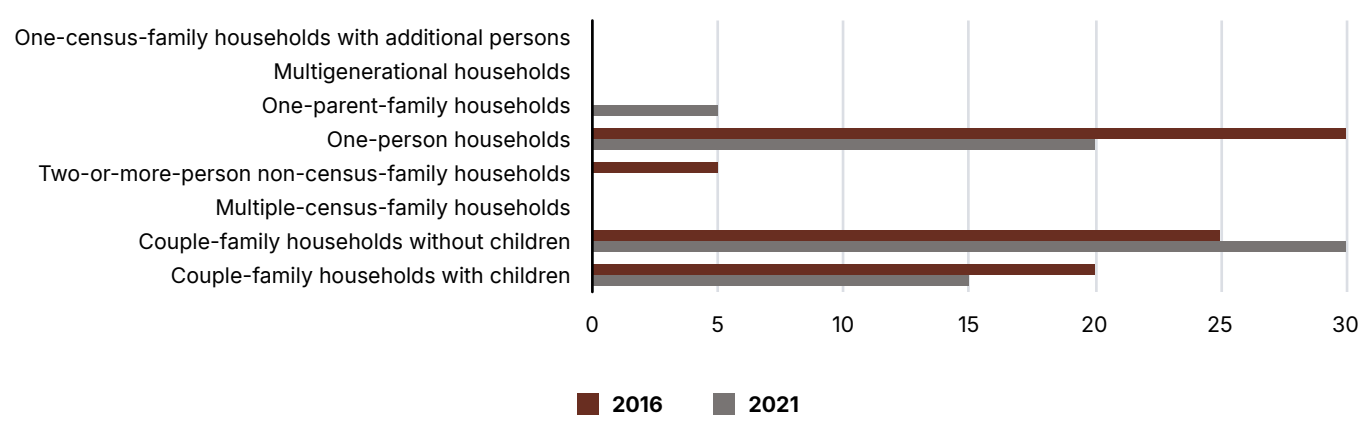


Figure 7.1: Shows the mix of household types, including one-person, family, and non-family households. It helps indicate how residents are organized across living arrangements. (Hill Spring, 2016-2021)¹

In 2021, Hill Spring’s household mix was led by couple-family households without children, with 30 households, followed by one-person households at 20 and couple-family households with children at 15. One-parent-family households accounted for 5 households, while multigenerational households, multiple-census-family households, one-census-family households with additional persons, and two-or-more-person non-census-family households were each recorded at zero. The five-year changes point to some shifting structure. Couple-family households without children rose by 20%, while couple-family households with children fell by 25%. One-person households declined by 33.3%, and two-or-more-person non-census-family households fell by 100%. This pattern suggests a household profile centered on couple families, with limited presence of other living arrangements. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.



Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Type - Couple-family households without children (Hill Spring)¹

In 2021, Hill Spring’s private households were concentrated in a small set of living arrangements, with couple-family households without children leading at 30 households, followed by one-person households at 20 and couple-family households with children at 15. One-parent-family households numbered 5, while multigenerational, multiple-census-family, one-census-family with additional persons, and two-or-more-person non-census-family households were all at 0. Over five years, couple-family households without children rose 20%, while one-person households fell 33.3%.

Average Shelter Costs

In Hill Spring, average monthly shelter costs for owners were \$700 in 2021, down 4.4% from \$732 in 2016. Renter and government-provided dwelling costs were both recorded at \$0.

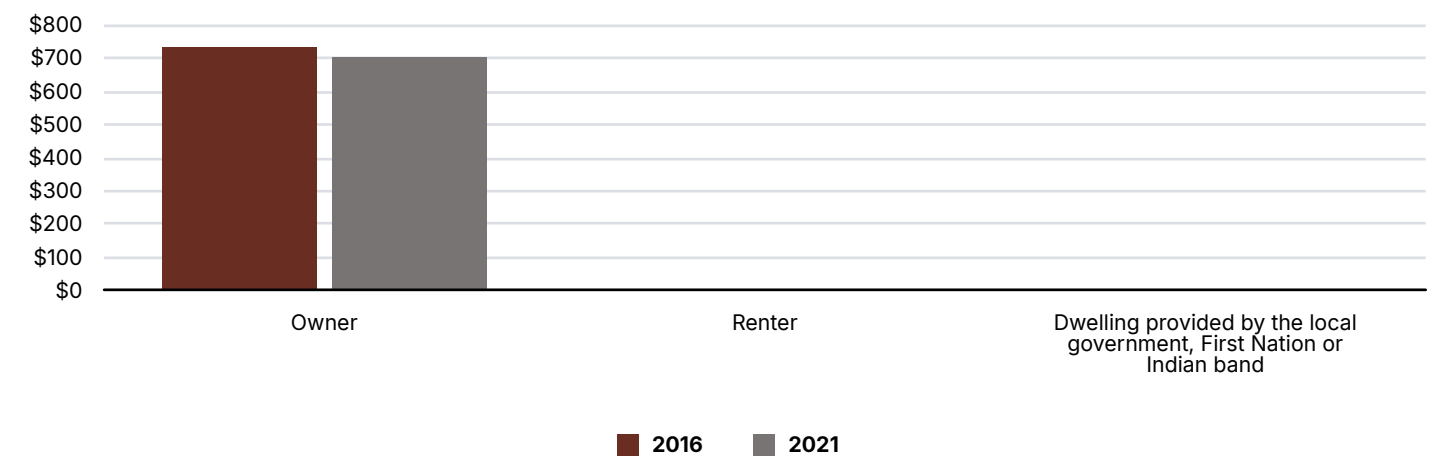
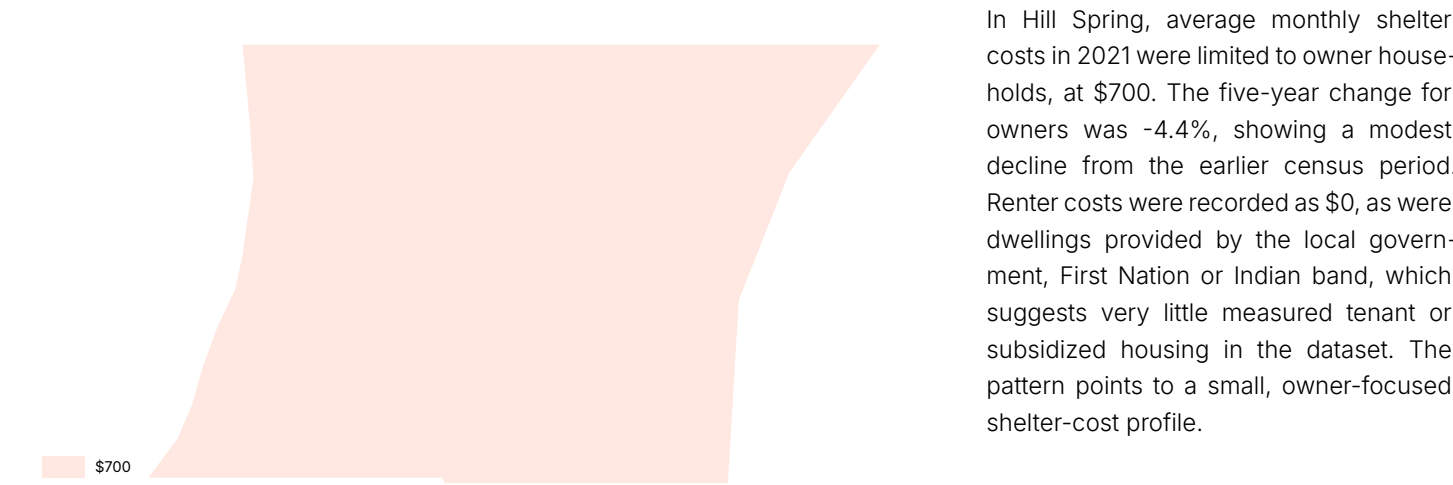


Figure 8.1: Shows the average monthly shelter costs paid by households. It helps indicate typical housing expenses faced by owners and renters. (Hill Spring, 2016-2021)¹

In Hill Spring, average monthly shelter costs in 2021 were recorded at \$700 for owner households. That figure was down 4.4% over five years, pointing to a modest decline in owner housing costs. The other tenure categories shown were recorded at \$0 for renters and for dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band. With the available data, owner costs are the only non-zero shelter cost reported. The pattern is straightforward: shelter costs appear concentrated in owner households, while the other categories do not show a measurable monthly amount in this dataset. Taken together, the figures suggest a small downward shift in owner costs, but little else can be concluded from the limited tenure detail provided.



In Hill Spring, average monthly shelter costs in 2021 were limited to owner households, at \$700. The five-year change for owners was -4.4%, showing a modest decline from the earlier census period. Renter costs were recorded as \$0, as were dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band, which suggests very little measured tenant or subsidized housing in the dataset. The pattern points to a small, owner-focused shelter-cost profile.

Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Housing Tenure - Owner (Hill Spring)¹

Housing Tenure

In Hill Spring, owner households remained the largest tenure group at 55 in 2021, down 15.38% from 2016. Renter households were unchanged at 10, while dwellings provided by government or First Nation remained at 0.

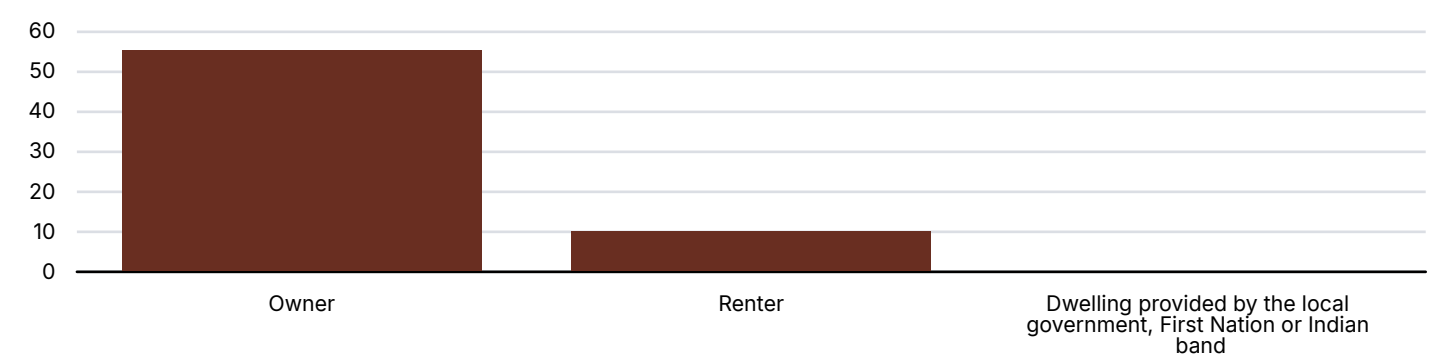


Figure 9.1: Shows whether households own or rent their homes. It helps indicate the balance between ownership and rental housing in the community. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In 2021, housing tenure in Hill Spring was dominated by ownership, with 55 owner households compared with 10 renter households. A further 0 households lived in dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band. The ownership count also fell over five years, down 15.4%. Renting was unchanged over the same period. This points to a small housing market with a strong owner-occupied base and very limited rental or provided housing. The recent decline in ownership is the main change visible in the data.

In Hill Spring, housing tenure in private households is strongly tilted toward ownership. In 2021, 55 households were owner-occupied, compared with 10 renter households, while no households were recorded as living in dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band. The ownership count was down 15.4% over five years, while renter households were unchanged. The same pattern appears in the descendant dissemination area, where 55 owner households and 10 renter households were also recorded, with owner households down 8.3% over five years. The data point to a small, owner-heavy housing profile with limited rental presence.

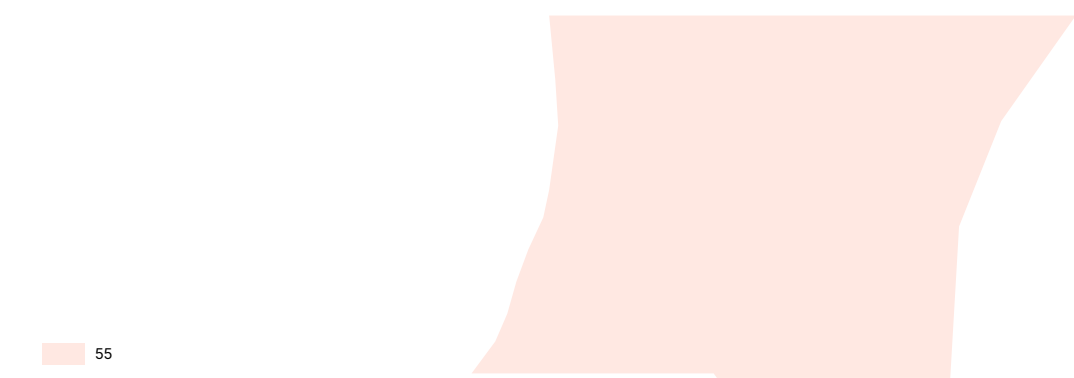


Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Housing Tenure - Owner (Hill Spring)¹

Household Total Income Groups

Hill Spring’s household income distribution shows no households in any income group in 2021, and the largest group was \$30,000 to \$34,999 with 0 households. The same pattern held in 2016.

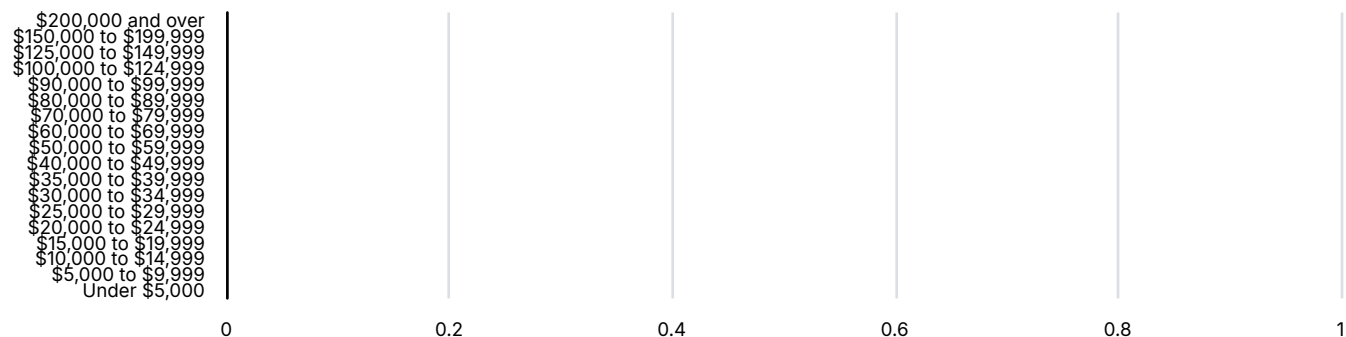


Figure 10.1: Shows households across total income groups. It helps indicate how household incomes are distributed from lower- to higher-income ranges. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In 2021, Hill Spring’s distribution of private households across total income groups shows no recorded households in any bracket. Every listed range, from under \$5,000 to \$200,000 and over, is at zero households. That leaves no visible income structure to compare within the village’s household totals. The pattern is flat across the full range, with no lower- or higher-income group standing out. With the data provided, the safest reading is that this table contains no reported household counts for Hill Spring in 2021.

Hill Spring’s 2021 household income profile is recorded as all zeros across every income group, from under \$5,000 to \$200,000 and over. Within the private household universe, no households are shown in any bracket. That pattern leaves no visible concentration in lower, middle, or higher income ranges. The same zero count appears in the subdivision and in its descendant dissemination area. With no non-zero values, the dataset does not support a distributional comparison or a read on income mix. The main takeaway is limited by the available figures: household income-group detail is not reported as present in this table.

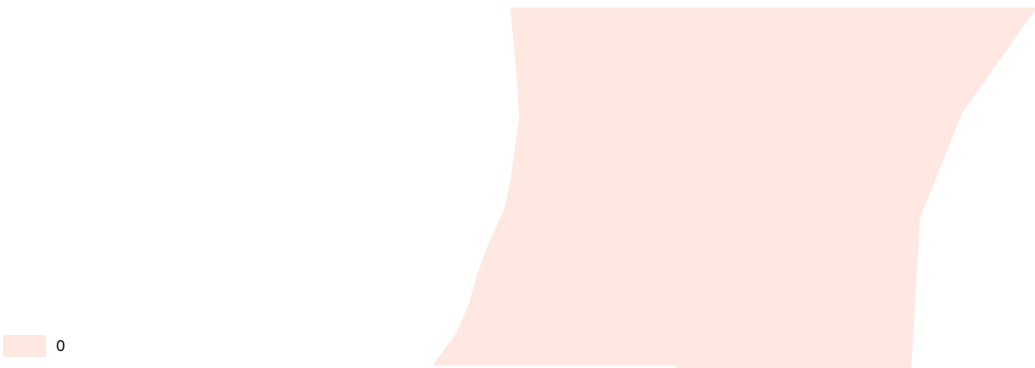


Figure 10.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Income Group Household - Under \$5,000 (Hill Spring)¹

High School Completion

Hill Spring’s largest education group in 2021 was residents with a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, at 105 people. Those without any certificate, diploma, or degree numbered 20, far fewer.

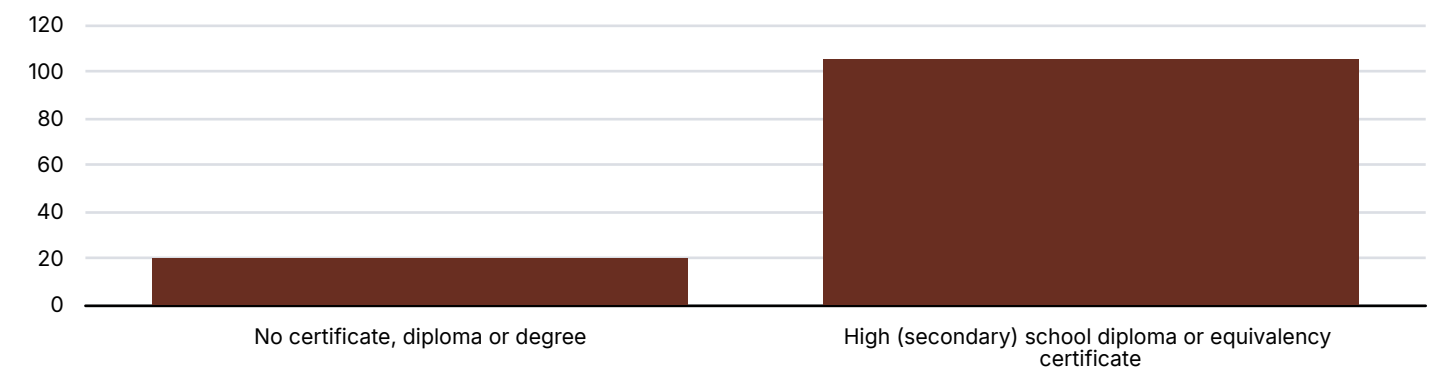


Figure 11.1: Shows whether residents have completed high school or an equivalent credential. It helps indicate a basic foundation for workforce participation and further study. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In Hill Spring, high school completion in 2021 was split between residents aged 15 and over with no certificate, diploma, or degree and those with a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. The latter group was larger, with 105 people, compared with 20 people without a credential. The data show a clear tilt toward completed secondary education, though it does not provide a full distribution beyond these two categories.

In Hill Spring, the 2021 census profile shows a small but clear split in high school completion among residents aged 15 and over in private households. 105 people reported a high school diploma or equivalent, while 20 reported no certificate, diploma or degree. That means the completed-credential group is much larger than the no-credential group in this local population. With only these two categories provided, the pattern points to a community where high school completion is the more common educational outcome, though the dataset does not show any higher credentials or explain why the distribution looks this way.



Figure 11.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Hill Spring)¹

Core Housing Need

Hill Spring had no households in core housing need in 2021, and none were recorded as not in core need either. The dataset shows 0.0 households in both categories.



Figure 12.1: Shows the share of households living in housing that is unaffordable, unsuitable, or in need of major repairs. It helps indicate overall housing stress in the community. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

For Hill Spring, the 2021 core housing need data show no recorded households in either category: 0 households were counted as in core need and 0 as not in core need. Because both values are zero, the dataset does not provide a usable share or a trend over time for this measure. The result is best read as a very limited snapshot rather than evidence of housing conditions.

In Hill Spring, the 2021 core housing need data show no recorded households in either category within the census universe of owner and tenant households with income above zero in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings. That leaves little to interpret about housing stress from this table alone. Both “in core need” and “not in core need” are listed at zero households for the village, and the same pattern appears in the included dissemination area. With no counted households, the figures do not support a clearer assessment of housing conditions.

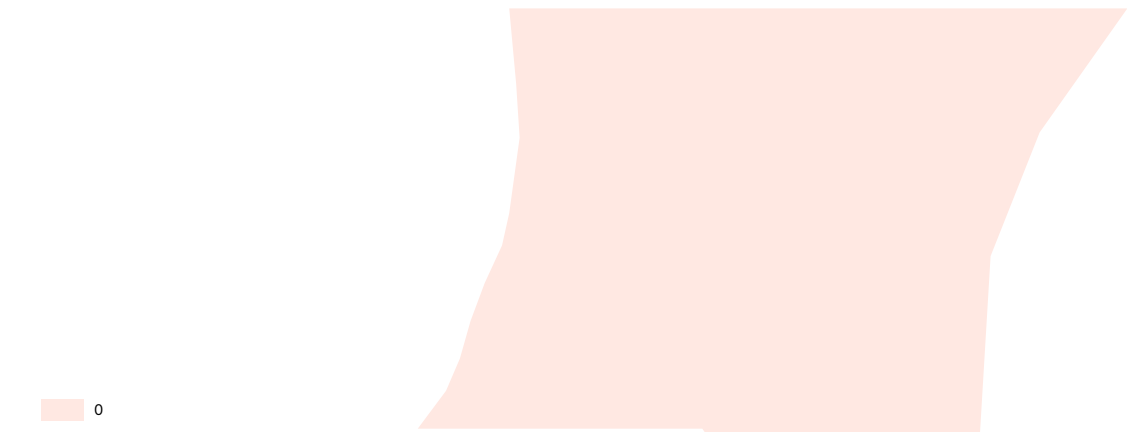


Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Core Housing Need - In core need (Hill Spring)¹

Median Age

Hill Spring’s median age was 54.8 years in 2021, down 7.12% from 2016’s 59.0 years. It remained above 2011’s 52.0 years, showing a higher midpoint age than a decade earlier.

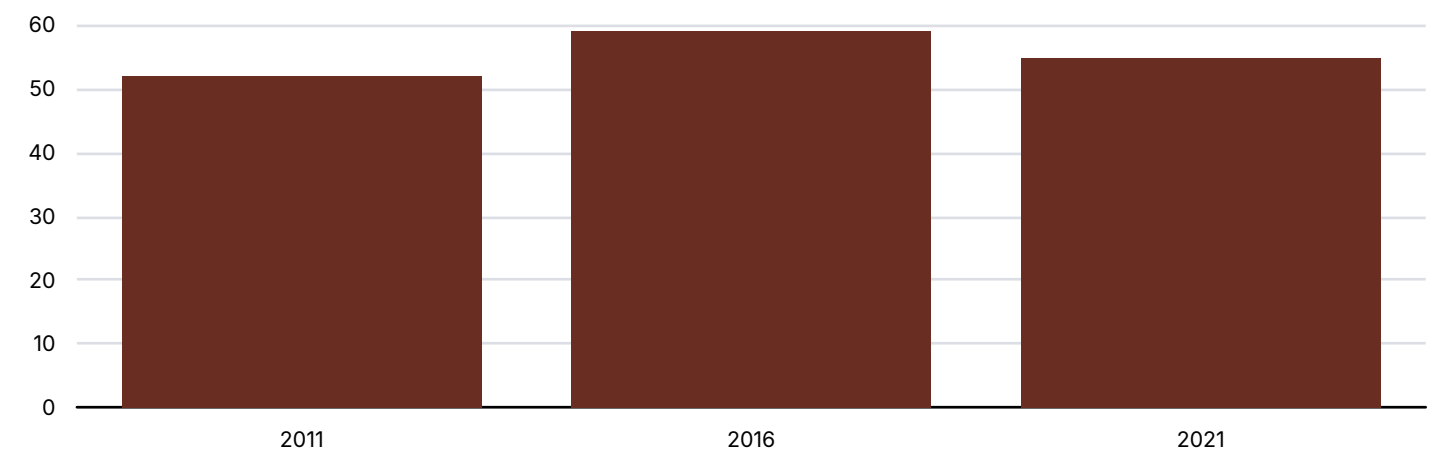


Figure 13.1: Shows the median age of residents. It helps indicate whether the population skews younger or older at the midpoint of the age distribution. (Hill Spring, 2011-2021)¹

Hill Spring’s median age has shifted noticeably over time, moving from 52 years in 2011 to 59 years in 2016 before easing to 54.8 years in 2021. The 2016 figure marked a 13.5% increase from 2011, while 2021 was 7.1% lower than 2016. The pattern shows a sharp rise followed by a partial reversal, leaving the community older in 2021 than at the start of the period, but younger than its peak.

Hill Spring had a median age of 54.8 years in 2021, placing it among the older communities in this comparison set. That was down from 59.0 in 2016, but still above its 2011 level of 52.0. It matched Stavely at 54.8 years and remained above Pincher Creek No. 9 at 49.6. The pattern points to a population midpoint that is older than many nearby places, even after the recent decline.

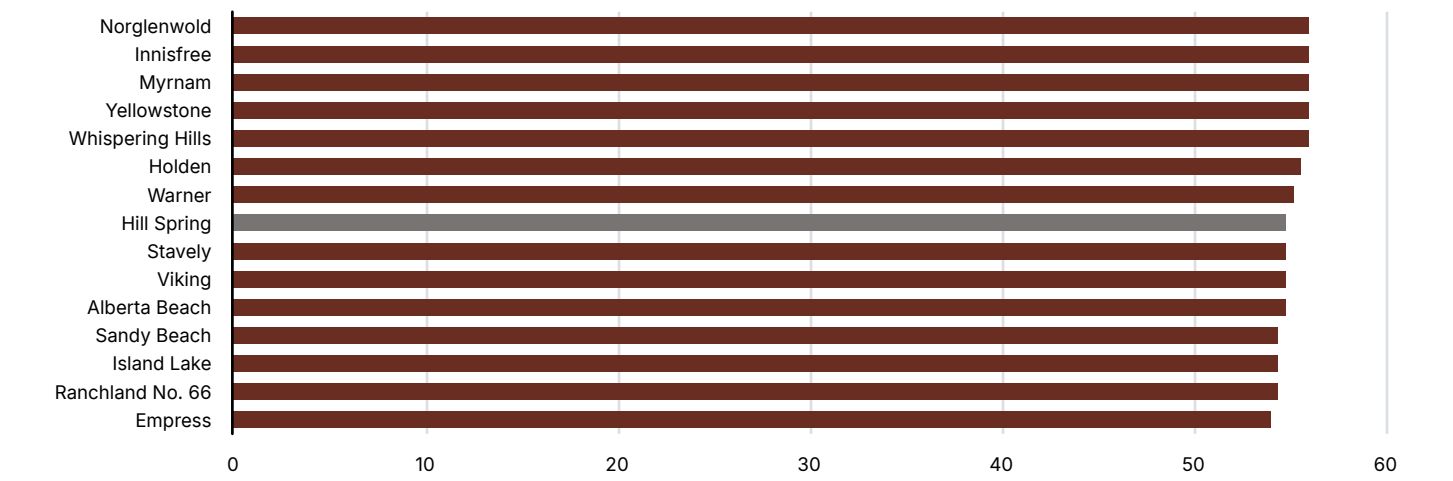


Figure 13.2: Comparison of Median Age with other locations (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

Age at Immigration

In Hill Spring, immigrants were mainly aged 25 to 44 at arrival in 2021, with 10 people. The under 5 and 45 years and over groups each fell to zero, down from 10 people in 2016.

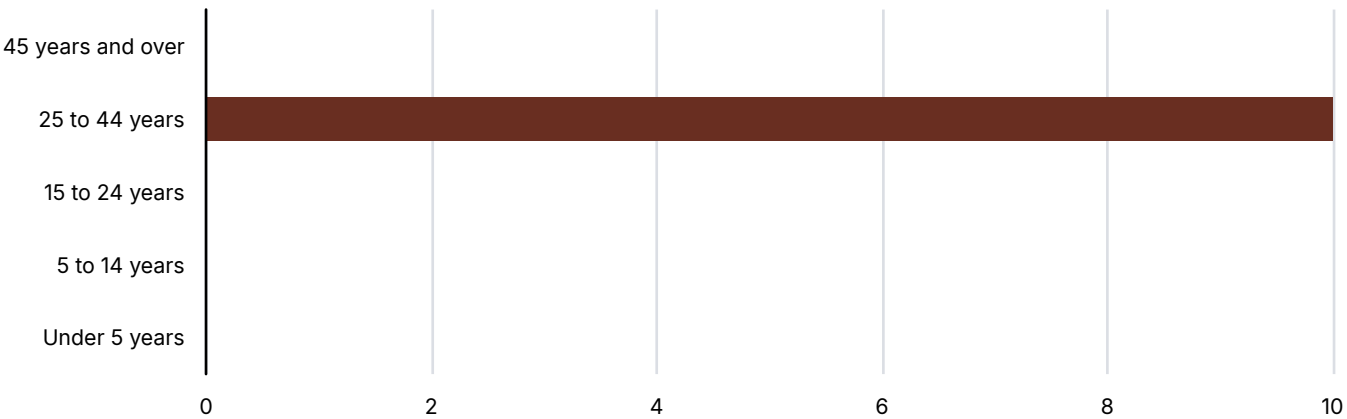


Figure 14.1: Shows the age at which immigrants first arrived in the country. It helps explain whether newcomers arrived mainly as children, working-age adults, or older adults. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In Hill Spring, immigrant arrivals were concentrated entirely in working-age adulthood in 2021. The 25 to 44 years group accounted for 10 people, while the under 5, 5 to 14, 15 to 24, and 45 years and over groups each recorded 0. The 25 to 44 years category also fell 60% over five years, and the under 5 and 45 years and over groups were down 100%. The pattern points to a very narrow age profile at immigration.

Hill Spring's immigrant population in private households is concentrated entirely in working-age arrivals. In 2021, 10 people first came to Canada at ages 25 to 44, while no immigrants were recorded in the under 5, 5 to 14, 15 to 24, or 45 and over groups. The 5-year change points to a narrower age profile than before. The 25 to 44 group fell 60%, while the under 5 and 45 and over groups each dropped to zero, showing that recent arrivals were limited to one age band.



Figure 14.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Age At Immigration - 25 to 44 years (Hill Spring)¹

Immigrant Status

Hill Spring’s population remained centered on non-immigrants, which rose to 115 people in 2021 from 110 in 2016, while immigrants held at 30 and non-permanent residents stayed at zero.

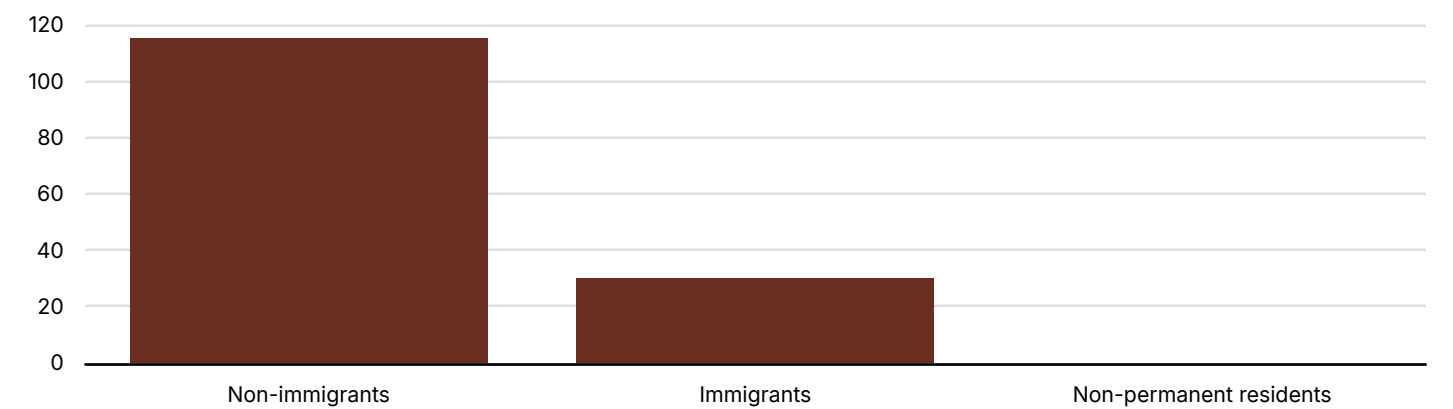


Figure 15.1: Shows whether residents are immigrants, non-permanent residents, or non-immigrants. It helps indicate the role of immigration in community growth and composition. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In Hill Spring, the 2021 census shows a small immigrant profile within the population in private households. Non-immigrants numbered 115 people and rose 4.5% over five years. Immigrants accounted for 30 people and showed no change over the same period. Non-permanent residents were not reported. The pattern suggests a community where non-immigrants remain the clear majority, while immigration contributes a smaller and stable share of residents.

In Hill Spring, immigrant status is straightforward and heavily weighted toward non-immigrants. In 2021, 115 residents were non-immigrants, compared with 30 immigrants and no non-permanent residents, within the population in private households. The 5-year change was 4.5% for non-immigrants and 0% for immigrants, suggesting stability rather than a sharp shift in composition. The profile points to limited recent change in the community’s immigrant mix.

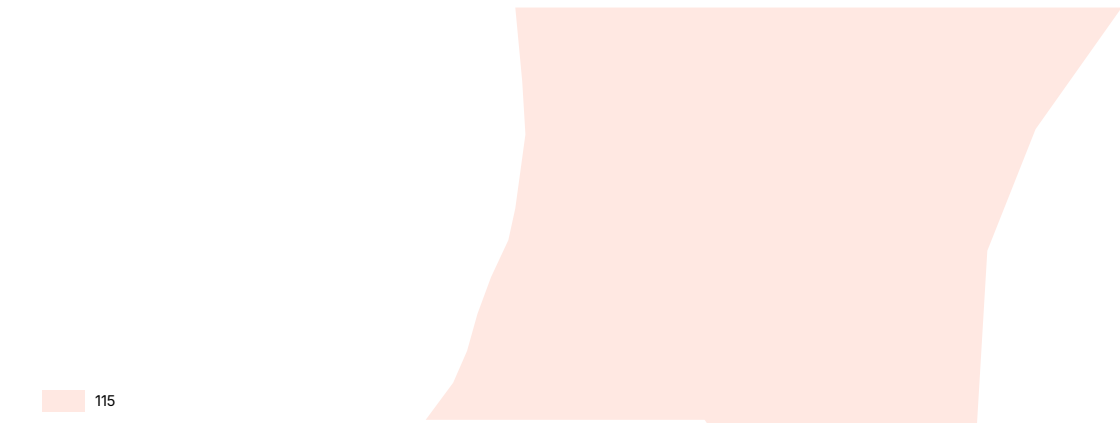


Figure 15.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Immigrant Status - Non-immigrants (Hill Spring)¹

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.

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