

ALBERTA
SOUTHWEST

STAVELY

Industry Report

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Executive Summary

Stavely's 2025 economic picture is small in scale, narrowly structured, and marked by uneven movement rather than steady expansion. The town's business count recovered modestly to 120 establishments after a sharp drop in 2024, but it still remained below the levels seen in 2022 and 2023. Across both employment and business activity, the local economy is concentrated in a limited number of sectors, with very small firms dominating the business base. Most establishments have no employees, and many sectors are made up almost entirely of micro businesses, giving Stavely a commercial structure that is broad in name but thin in scale.

Employment is spread across a handful of sectors without a single dominant employer base. Retail trade, manufacturing, and construction account for the largest job totals, with public administration also playing a meaningful role. Construction stands out most clearly in the recent data: it is the town's strongest specialized sector, its concentration increased over the past year, and it remains the largest part of the resident labour force. Retail trade is also specialized and stable, while professional and technical services showed faster percentage growth from a small base. At the same time, several parts of the economy weakened. Manufacturing employment declined, other services fell sharply, and agriculture lost jobs even though it remained the most specialized sector and the largest source of business establishments. The result is a mixed pattern in which some areas strengthened, but gains were concentrated and not broadly shared across the local economy.

That tension between concentration and softness defines Stavely's current profile. Agriculture still anchors the business base, construction has become a more prominent source of momentum, and retail trade remains one of the town's main employment supports. Yet the underlying structure is still fragile: the labour force is distributed across relatively few sectors, several industries have no resident labour force at all, and many of the largest percentage changes come from very small job counts. Stavely therefore appears as a town with a clearly identifiable economic core, but one where recent change has been selective, volatile, and shaped by the limits of a very small employment and business base.

Business Establishments

Stavely had 120 business establishments in 2025, up 9.1% from 2024. That followed a 37.1% drop the year before, after 175 establishments in 2023 and 141 in 2022.

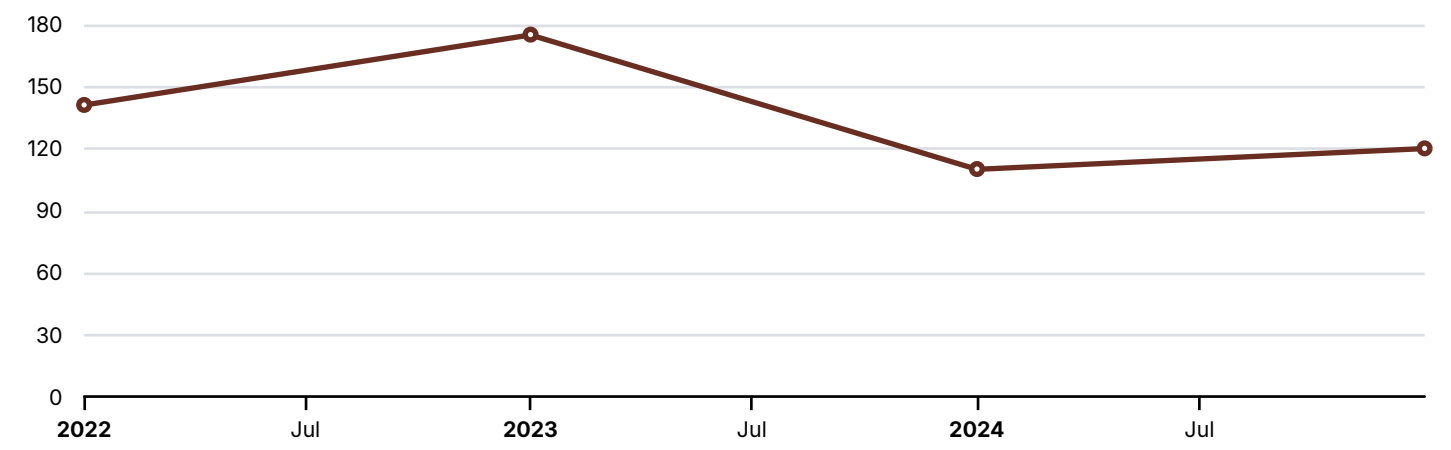


Figure 1.1: Shows the total number of active business establishments in the area, including those without employees. It helps indicate the scale and diversity of the local business base. (Stavely, 2022-2025)¹

Stavely’s active business base has moved sharply over the past four years. The town had 141 business establishments in 2022, rose to 175 in 2023, then fell to 110 in 2024 before edging up to 120 in 2025. That means the 2025 count remains below both 2022 and 2023, even after a 9.1% one-year increase from 2024. The pattern suggests notable year-to-year volatility rather than a steady trend.

Stavely had 120 active business establishments in 2025, up from 110 in 2024 after a sharper drop from 175 in 2023. That leaves it below several nearby places, including Cardston County at 411, Pincher Creek at 978 and Claresholm at 739, but above smaller communities such as Hill Spring at 66 and Fort Macleod at 726. The pattern is uneven rather than steadily rising.

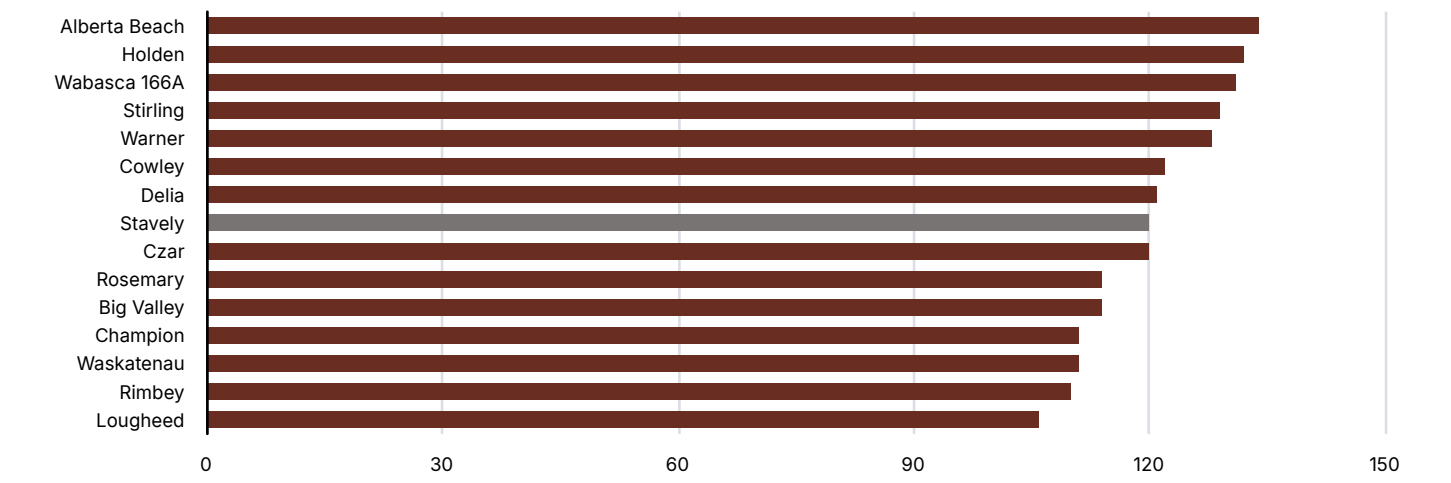


Figure 1.2: Comparison of Business Establishments with other locations (Stavely, 2025)¹

Resident Labour Force

Stavely's resident labour force remained led by construction with 50 people in 2021, up 66.7% from 2016. Retail trade rose fastest to 35 people, while manufacturing and health care each reached 30.

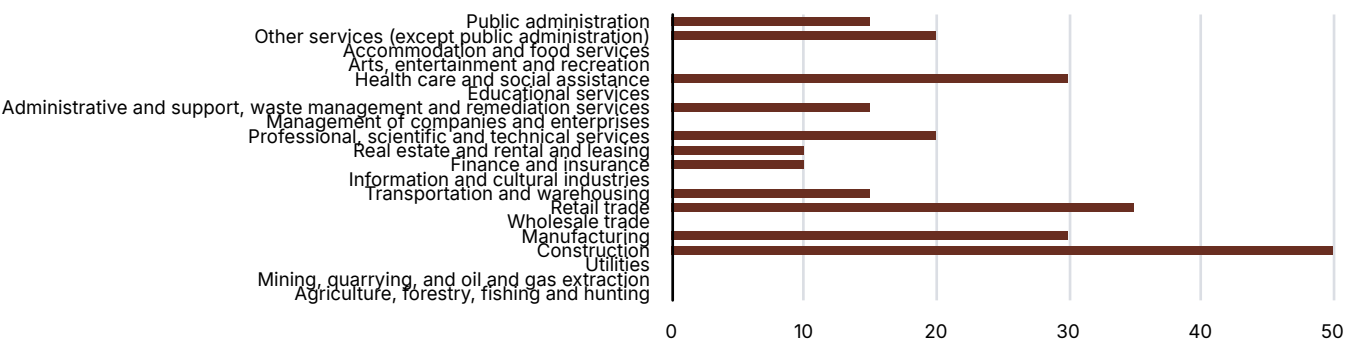


Figure 2.1: Shows the number of residents who are in the labour force. It helps indicate the size of the locally available workforce. (Stavely, 2021)²

In 2021, Stavely's resident labour force was small and unevenly distributed across industries, with activity concentrated in a few sectors. Construction was the largest employer category at 50 people, followed by retail trade at 35 and manufacturing and health care and social assistance at 30 each. Recent change was mixed. Retail trade rose the fastest over five years, up 250%, while manufacturing increased 200% and professional, scientific and technical services and health care both doubled. Several sectors had no resident labour force in 2021, including agriculture, mining, utilities, wholesale trade, information, education, accommodation and food services, and arts.

Stavely's resident labour force in 2021 was spread across a small number of sectors, with construction the largest at 50 people, followed by retail trade at 35 and manufacturing and health care and social assistance at 30 each. Professional, scientific and technical services accounted for 20 people. Several sectors had no resident labour force, including agriculture, mining, utilities and education, showing a narrow employment base within the labour force aged 15 and over.



Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Industry Sector - Construction (Stavely)²

Star Sectors

Stavelly’s largest star sector is construction, with a location quotient of 2.3918 in 2025, up 13.2% from a year earlier. Retail trade also remains specialized at 1.8522, though its annual change was 2.5%.

Stavelly’s star sectors are concentrated in two industries, both showing specialization within employment among people aged 15 years and over. Construction stands out most clearly, while retail trade also appears as a specialized part of the local economy. Construction has the stronger profile, with a location quotient of 2.4 and 1-year change of 13.2. Retail trade is also above the benchmark level at 1.9, with a smaller 1-year change of 2.5. Both sectors are therefore not only present, but more concentrated than would be expected from a typical local

employment mix. The short-term trend separates them. Construction shows much faster recent change in concentration than retail trade, suggesting a stronger upward movement over the past year. Retail trade is also increasing, but at a slower pace. Taken together, the pattern points to a narrow set of sectors with above-average local weight, led by construction. The data show growth in both areas, but the momentum is more pronounced in construction than in retail trade.

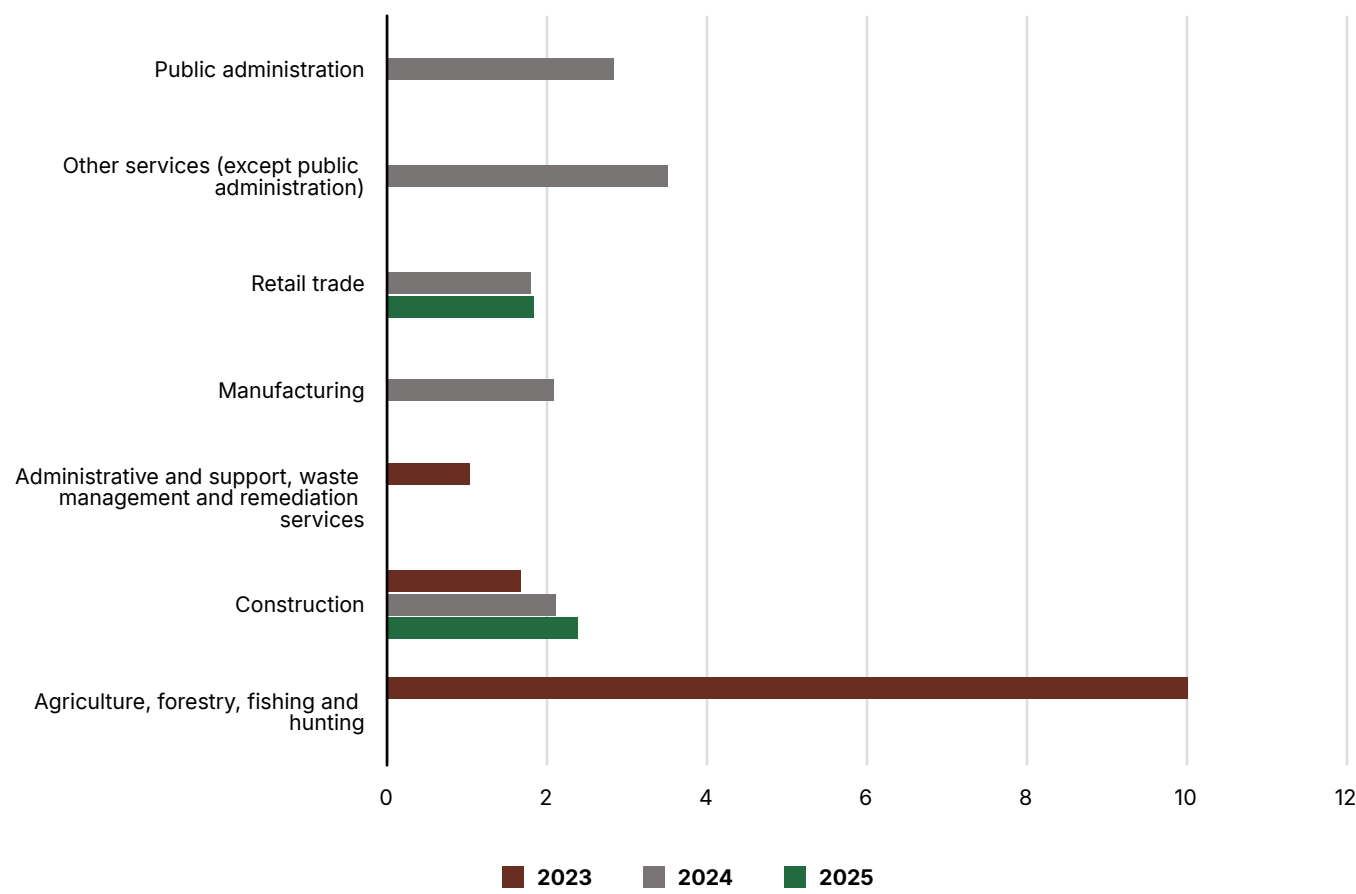


Figure 3.1: Shows major industry sectors where the local economy has strong specialization and increasing concentration or strong growth. Sectors are categorized based on specialization (location quotient) and recent employment growth or change in concentration. (Stavelly, 2023-2025)³

Fastest Growing Industries

Stavely’s fastest-growing industries were led by cattle ranching and farming at 12 people, up 300% from a year earlier. Oilseed and grain farming reached 9 people, while residential building construction and consulting each had 3, both up 200%.

In Stavely’s employment picture for people aged 15 and over, the fastest growing industries in 2025 were Residential building construction and Management, scientific and technical consulting services. Both industries employed 3 people and both posted a 200% one-year change, placing them at the top of the local growth list. The fact that the two leading industries are tied on both size and recent growth suggests a very concentrated pattern at the upper end of the ranking. Beyond these two categories, the dataset does not provide additional industry

detail, so the strongest signal is simply that growth was matched across a construction-related activity and a professional services activity. Because the employment counts are small, the percentage change can look large even when the absolute number of jobs remains limited. The data supports a short-term increase in both industries, but it does not show whether that momentum is broad-based across the rest of Stavely’s economy.

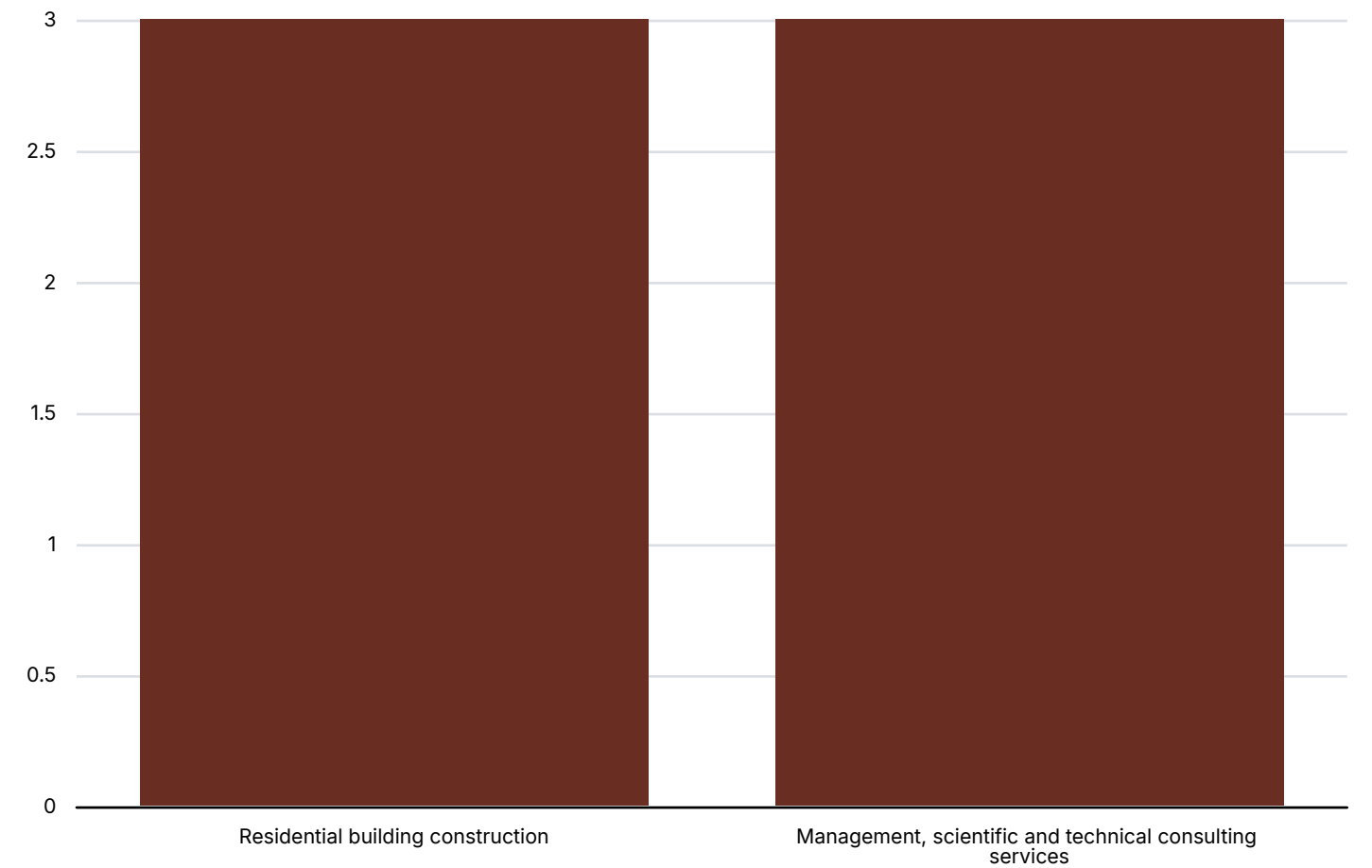


Figure 4.1: Shows industries where employment has increased the most over the selected time period. It helps identify where job growth is strongest in the local economy. (Stavely, 2025)⁴

Fastest Growing Sectors

Construction employed 19 people in Stavely, up 11.8% year over year, making it the largest growing sector. Professional, scientific and technical services added 5 workers, a 66.7% increase, while agriculture rose by 200.0%.

Stavely's fastest growing employment sectors in 2025 were construction and professional, scientific and technical services, both within employment for people aged 15 years and over. Construction was the larger of the two, with 19 jobs and a 1-year increase of 11.8%. Professional, scientific and technical services remained much smaller in absolute terms at 5 jobs, but it posted the sharper growth rate, up 66.7% over the same period. The pattern suggests that recent job gains were concentrated in a small number of sectors rather than spread broadly across

the economy. One sector contributed a modest but larger base of employment, while the other showed faster momentum from a low starting point. Because only two sectors are listed, the data do not show whether these gains were part of a wider expansion across the local labour market. What stands out is the contrast between size and growth: construction held the larger employment base, while professional, scientific and technical services grew faster in percentage terms.

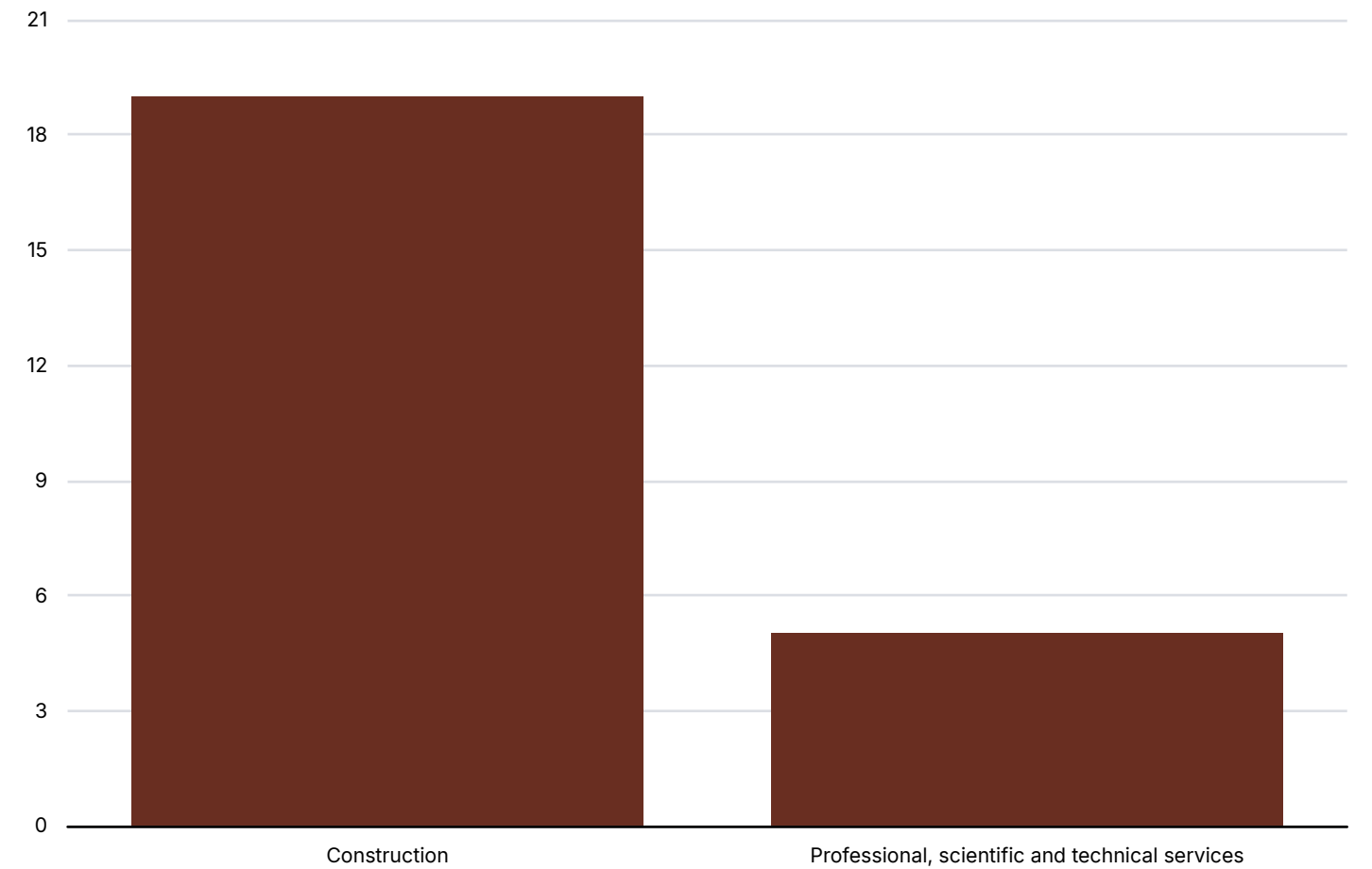


Figure 5.1: Shows sectors where employment has increased the most over the selected time period. It helps identify the main drivers of job growth in the local economy. (Stavely, 2025)⁴

Employment by Sector

Retail trade employed the most people in Stavelly in 2025 at 25, followed by manufacturing at 20 and construction at 19. Agriculture fell to 9, while public administration held at 15.

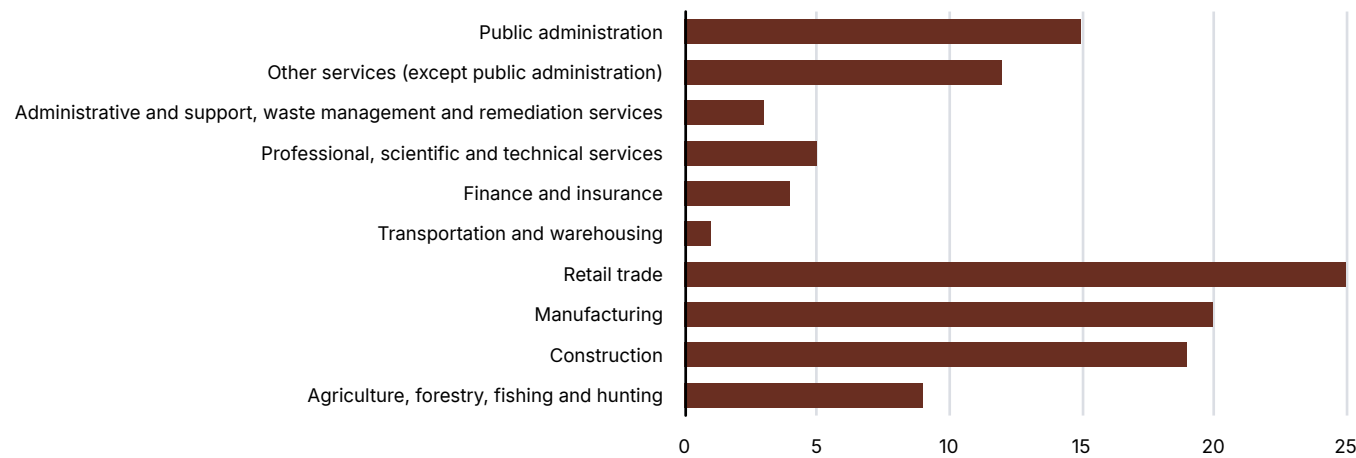
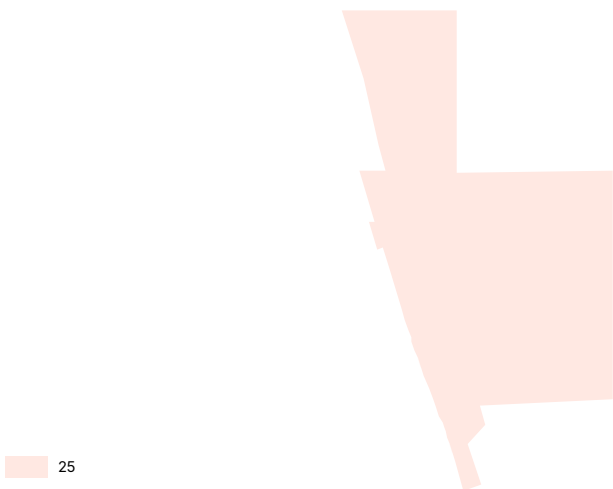


Figure 6.1: Shows how employment is distributed across industry sectors. It helps indicate which sectors account for the largest share of local jobs. (Stavelly, 2025)⁴

In Stavelly, employment in 2025 was spread across a relatively small set of sectors, with retail trade, manufacturing, and construction accounting for the largest local job totals. Retail trade had 25 people, manufacturing 20, and construction 19. Public administration followed with 15, while other services had 12 and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting had 9. Several smaller sectors changed unevenly over the year. Professional, scientific and technical services rose 66.7%, construction increased 11.8%, while agriculture fell 47.1% and other services declined 29.4%. Retail trade and public administration were unchanged, and transportation and warehousing remained at 1 person.



In 2025, Stavelly’s employment by sector was spread across a small set of industries, with retail trade the largest source at 25 people. Manufacturing followed with 20, construction with 19, and public administration with 15. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting accounted for 9 jobs, while transportation and warehousing had 1. The mix shows a modest concentration in retail, manufacturing, and construction.

Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Retail trade (Stavelly)⁴

Establishments by Sector

Stavely’s business base is led by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting with 45 establishments in 2025, up 15.4% year over year. Real estate follows at 17, while construction and professional services each have 8.

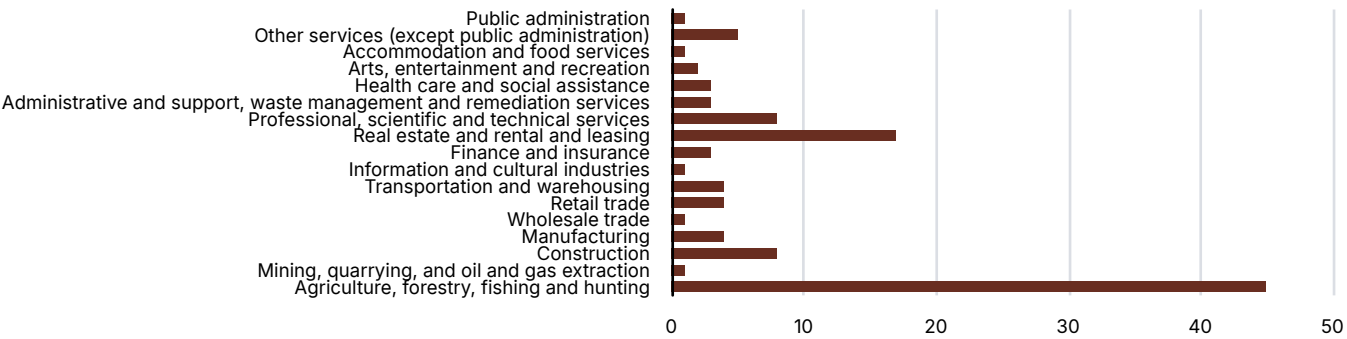


Figure 7.1: Shows how business establishments are distributed across sectors. It helps indicate the sector mix of the local business base. (Stavely, 2025)¹

In 2025, Stavely’s business base was led by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting with 45 establishments, followed by real estate and rental and leasing at 17. Construction and professional services each had 8, while most other sectors had five or fewer.

Stavely’s business base in 2025 was concentrated in a few sectors, led by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting. Real estate and rental and leasing also stood out, while several other sectors remained small. Agriculture accounted for 45 establishments, compared with 17 in real estate and rental and leasing and 8 each in construction and professional services. Retail trade and transportation each had 4. The same pattern appears in the local dissemination area, showing a consistent structure. Recent change was mixed, with gains in agriculture, manufacturing, retail and finance, and declines in mining, wholesale and accommodation.



Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (Stavely)¹

Establishments by Size

Stavely’s establishments remain concentrated in firms without employees, at 97 in 2025, up 9.0% from 2024. The 1 to 4 employee group rose to 17, while 5 to 9 employee firms fell to 1.

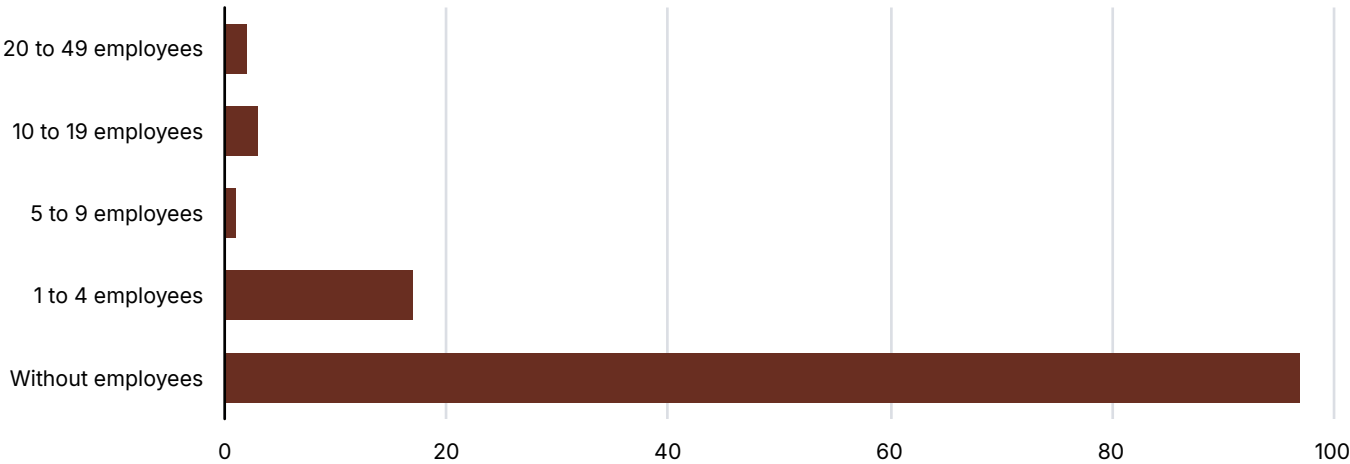
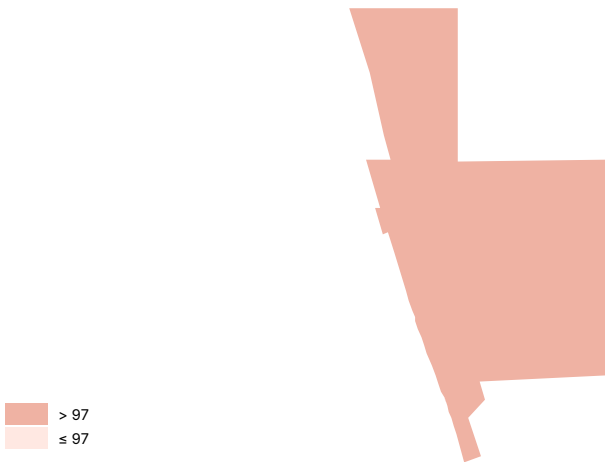


Figure 8.1: Shows how businesses are distributed by number of employees. It helps indicate whether the local economy is dominated by very small, small, or larger firms. (Stavely, 2025)¹

In 2025, Stavely’s business base was weighted strongly toward very small establishments. Firms without employees made up the largest group at 97 businesses, and the next tier, those with 1 to 4 employees, totalled 17. Larger counts were sparse: 3 businesses had 10 to 19 employees, 2 had 20 to 49, and just 1 fell in the 5 to 9 employee range. Recent movement was mixed, with no-employee firms up 9.0% and the 1 to 4 employee group up 30.8%, while the 5 to 9 group fell 66.7% and the two larger groups were unchanged.



Stavely’s business base in 2025 is weighted toward very small establishments, especially those without employees. The local count in that category reached 97 businesses, while 17 had 1 to 4 employees. Smaller firms beyond that are limited: there were 3 establishments with 10 to 19 employees and 2 with 20 to 49 employees. The 5 to 9 employee group numbered just 1 business. Recent change is mixed, with no-employee firms up 9.0% and 1 to 4 employee firms up 30.8%, while the 5 to 9 employee group fell sharply.

Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Business Establishment Size - Without employees (Stavely)¹

Largest Sectors

Retail trade employed the most people in Stavely in 2025, at 25. Manufacturing followed with 20 and construction with 19, while other services had the largest one-year decline, down 29.4% to 12.

In Stavely, employment in 2025 was concentrated in a few sectors, with retail trade, manufacturing, and construction forming the largest parts of the local employment base. The pattern is fairly balanced at the top, rather than dominated by a single sector. Retail trade employed 25 people, the highest count among the listed sectors. Manufacturing followed closely with 20 employees, while construction accounted for 19. Public administration employed 15 people, and other services, except public administration, had 12. The year-over-year changes show

mixed movement. Construction rose by 11.8%, while retail trade and public administration were flat. Manufacturing declined by 9.1%, and other services fell by 29.4%, the sharpest drop in the group. That mix suggests a local employment structure that is relatively small and diverse across several basic sectors, but with uneven recent momentum. Gains in construction were offset by softness in manufacturing and other services, leaving the overall picture one of modest concentration without clear broad-based growth.

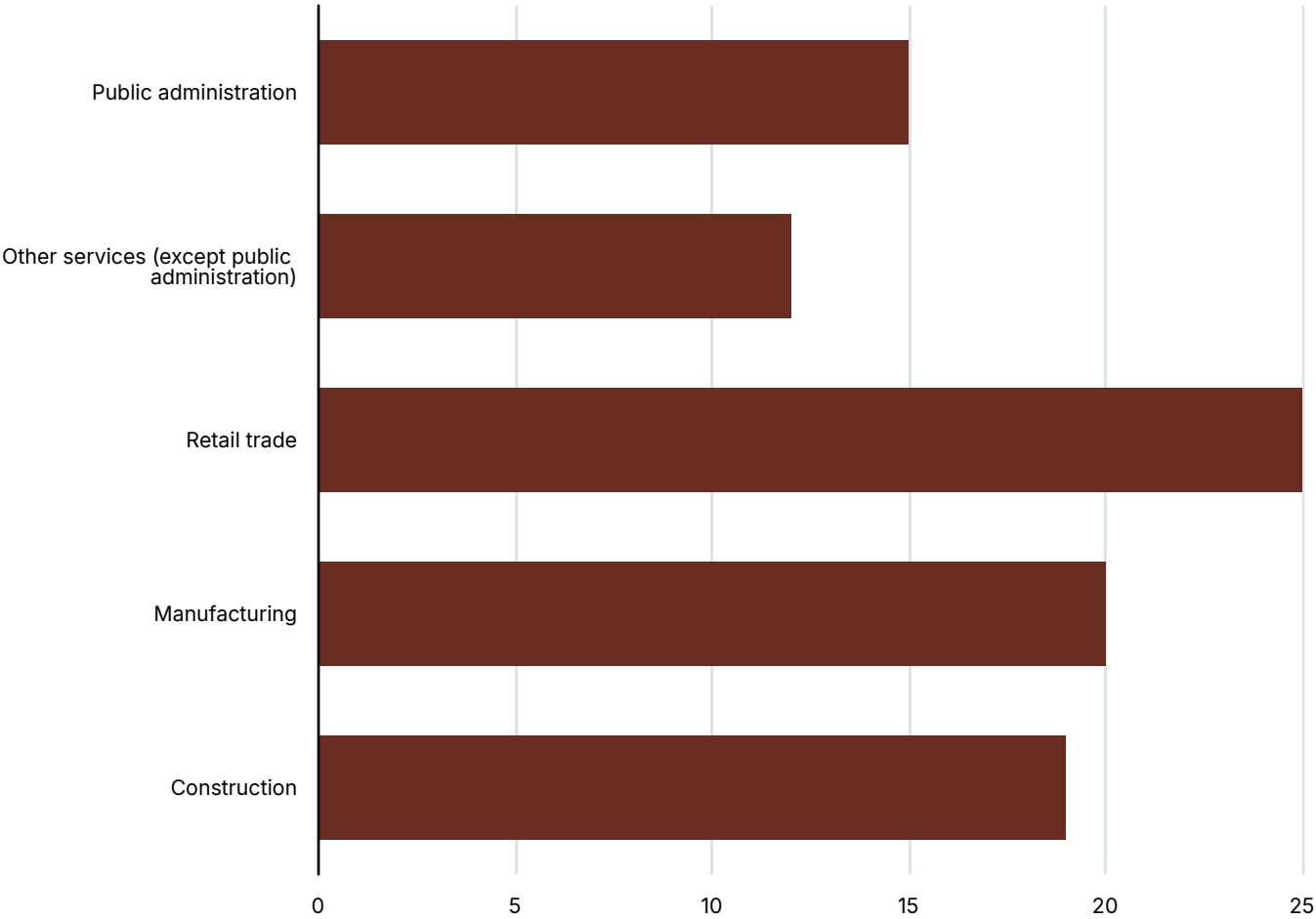


Figure 9.1: Shows the sectors employing the most people. It helps identify the largest pillars of the local economy. (Stavely, 2025)⁴

Anchor Sectors

Stavely’s largest anchor sector is agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, with a location quotient of 3.4814 in 2025, down 45.9% from a year earlier. Public administration and other services also remain specialized at 2.7352 and 2.4983.

Stavely’s anchor sectors in 2025 are concentrated in a small set of industries where employment remains more specialized than the broader benchmark, but recent change is weaker. The strongest specialization is in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, followed by public administration, other services except public administration, and manufacturing. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting has a location quotient of 3.5, the highest among the listed sectors, even after a 45.9% one-year change. Public administration follows at 2.7 with a smaller decline of 3.8%. Other services except public administration

stands at 2.5, down 29.1%, while manufacturing is at 1.9 and fell 8.4%. Taken together, the pattern shows that all four anchor sectors remain above the benchmark level of 1.0, but each recorded a negative one-year change. The largest specialization is also the sector with the steepest recent decline, which separates size from momentum. For Stavely, the data point to an economy whose core sectors are still clearly concentrated, but whose recent employment profile has softened across the board.

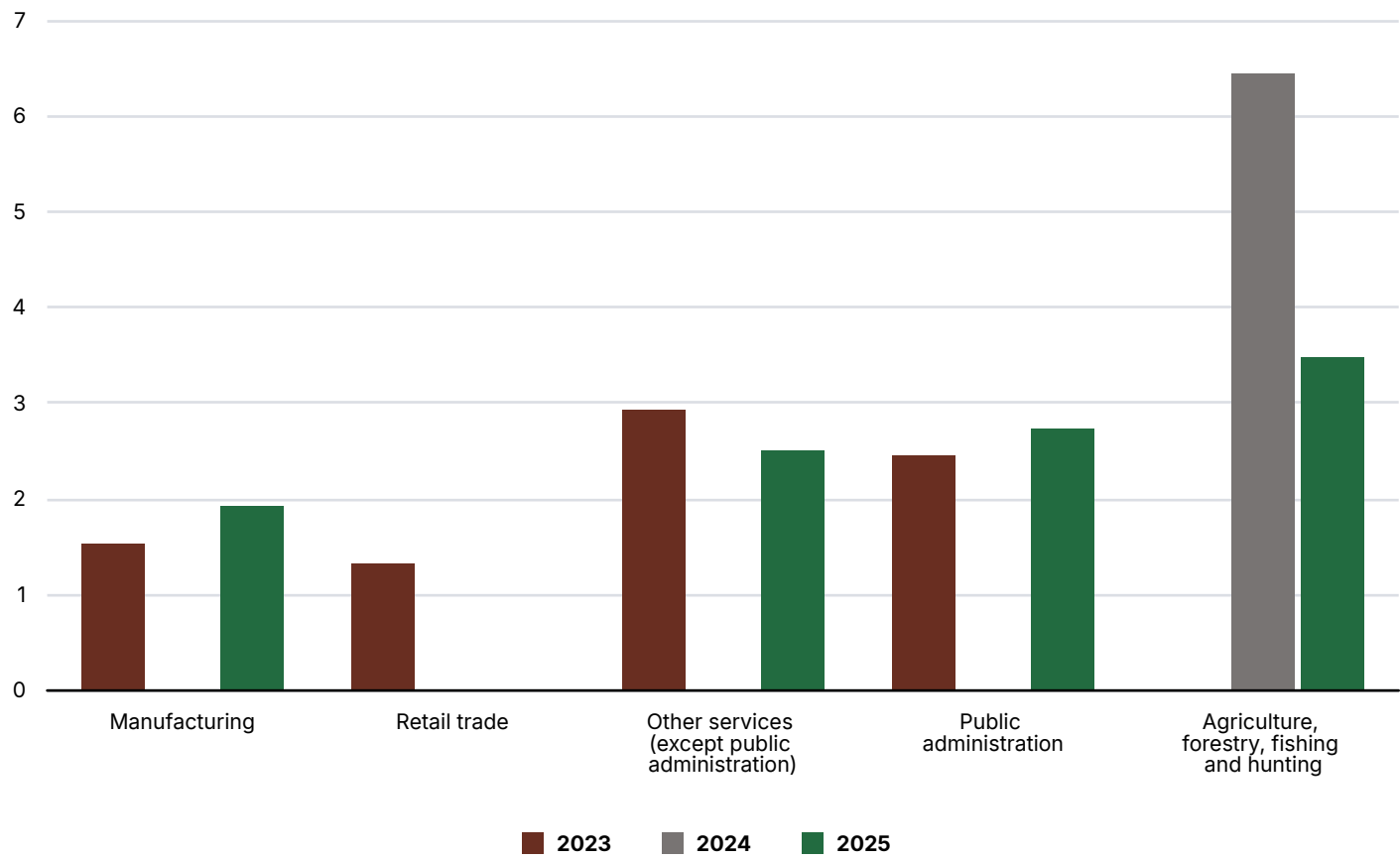


Figure 10.1: Shows major industry sectors where the local economy has strong specialization but relatively stable or declining concentration over time. Sectors are categorized based on specialization (location quotient) and recent employment growth or change in concentration. (Stavely, 2023-2025)³

Micro Establishments Share

Stavely’s micro-establishment share was highest in several industries at 100% in 2025. Manufacturing rose to 75.0% from 50.0% in 2024, while other services increased to 80.0% from 50.0%.

In 2025, Stavely’s business base was heavily concentrated in micro establishments, with several sectors made up entirely of firms with 0 to 4 employees. The share reached 100% in agriculture, mining, wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, information and cultural industries, finance and insurance, real estate, professional services, administrative support, health care, arts and recreation, and accommodation and food services. Other sectors were still dominated by very small firms, though not as completely. Construction and manufacturing

each posted a 75% micro share, while other services stood at 80%. Retail trade also remained mostly micro, at 75%. Recent movement was mixed. Manufacturing recorded the largest 1-year gain, up 50 percentage points, and other services rose 60 points. Retail trade increased 12.4 points. By contrast, construction edged down 3.6 points, while several sectors showed no change. The pattern suggests a local business structure where very small firms are the norm across most activities, with only a few sectors showing any meaningful deviation from that profile.

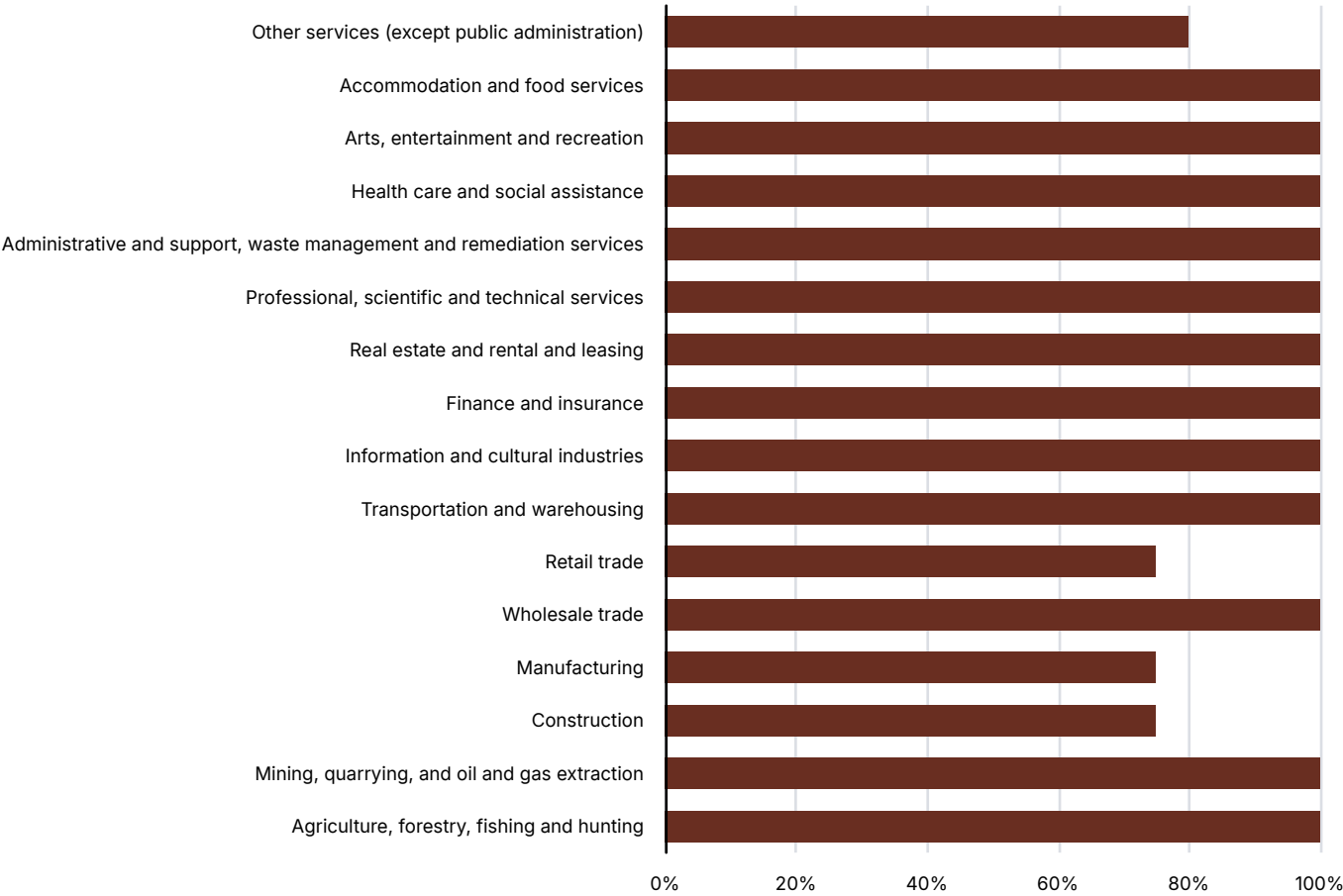


Figure 11.1: Shows the share of businesses with 0 to 4 employees. It helps indicate how much the local business base is made up of very small firms. (Stavely, 2025)⁵

Specialist Sectors (LQ)

Stavely’s most specialized sector is agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting at 3.48 LQ, though concentration fell 45.9% from a year earlier. Construction followed at 2.39 LQ and grew 13.2%.

Stavely’s employment structure in 2025 shows clear specialization in a small set of sectors, measured among employees aged 15 years and over. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting stands out most, with a location quotient of 3.5, far above the national norm and the strongest concentration in the dataset. Public administration follows at 2.7, while other services and construction are also above 2.0, at 2.5 and 2.4 respectively. Manufacturing is less concentrated than the other specialist

sectors listed, with an LQ of 1.9. Recent change adds a mixed pattern. Construction posted the strongest 1-year increase in concentration, up 13.2%, while agriculture fell sharply by 45.9% and other services declined by 29.1%. Public administration was close to stable at -3.8%, and manufacturing slipped by 8.4%. The data suggest a local employment profile that remains highly specialized, but with the most concentrated sector losing ground over the past year while construction strengthened.

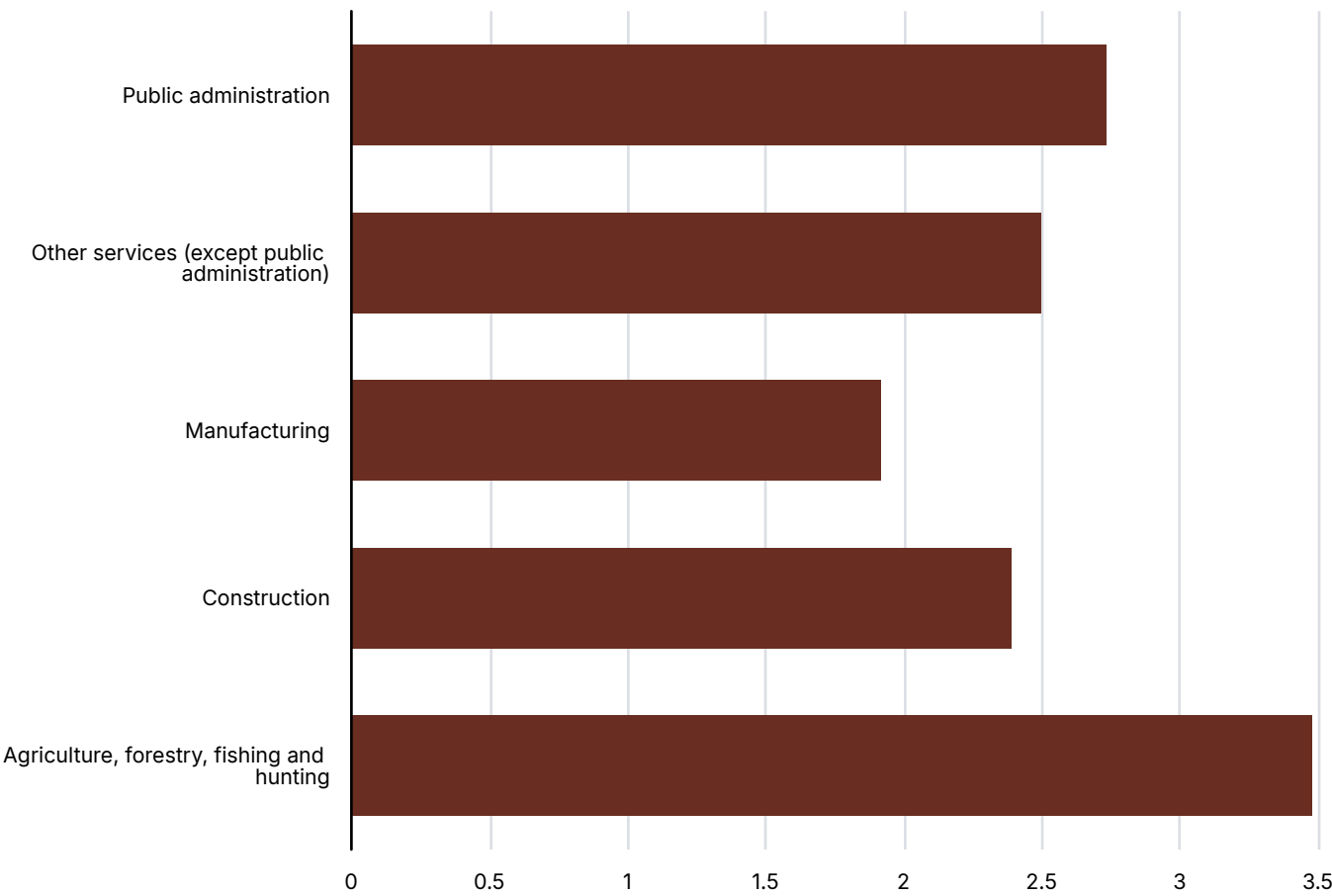


Figure 12.1: Shows sectors where the local economy has the highest level of specialization based on employment concentration compared with the national average. Sectors are categorized based on specialization (location quotient) and recent employment growth or change in concentration. (Stavely, 2025)³

Declining Industries

In Stavely, automotive repair and maintenance recorded the largest decline at 1 person, down 83.3% year over year. Support activities for animal production and oilseed and grain farming each fell to 3 people, while membership organizations dropped to 6.

In Stavely, the clearest employment declines in 2025 were concentrated in two industries within the employed population aged 15 and over. Both losses were sharp, but the larger reduction came from automotive repair and maintenance, which now has just 1 job after a steep one-year drop. Support activities for animal production also declined, with employment falling to 3 people. That represents a 62.5% decrease over the past year, while automotive repair and maintenance fell by 83.3%. The scale of these changes suggests that the most pronounced

weakness is not broad-based across many industries, but concentrated in a small number of local employers or occupations. Taken together, the data show a narrow set of industries carrying the most visible job losses in Stavely. Because the figures are so small, even modest absolute changes can produce large percentage swings, so the percentages should be read alongside the headcounts. The pattern points to fragility in a limited part of the local employment base rather than a wide decline across the whole town.

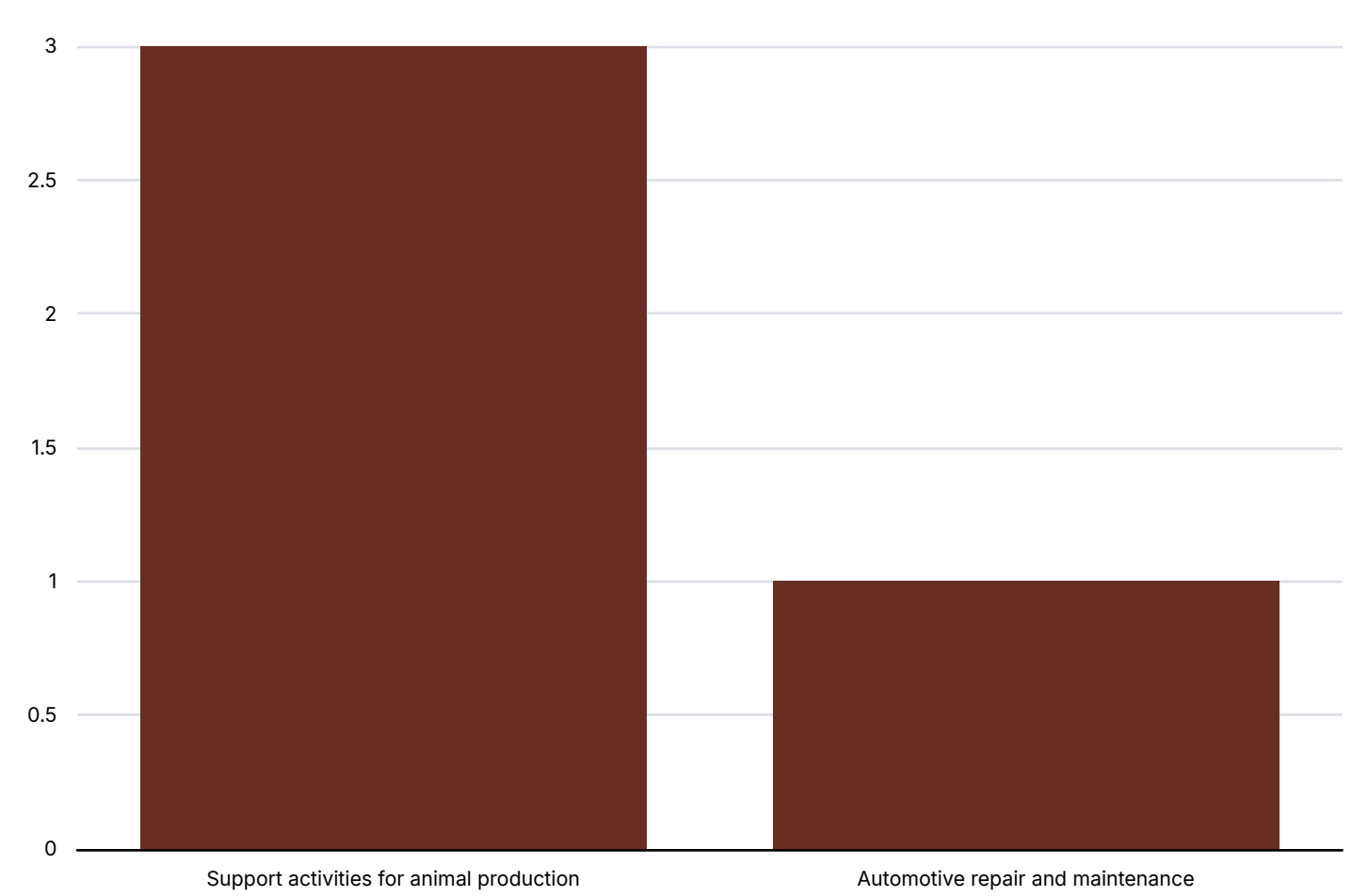


Figure 13.1: Shows industries where employment has decreased the most over the selected time period. It helps identify parts of the local economy that are losing jobs. (Stavely, 2025)⁴

Largest Industries

In Stavely, other miscellaneous store retailers employed the most people in 2025 at 24, while household and institutional furniture and kitchen cabinet manufacturing had 20, down 9.1% from 2024.

In Stavely's 2025 employment profile for employees aged 15 years and over, the largest industries are clustered in a small set of local services and goods-producing activities. No single industry dominates by a wide margin, and the leading employers are all relatively small in absolute terms. Other miscellaneous store retailers is the largest industry, with 24 people. Household and institutional furniture and kitchen cabinet manufacturing follows with 20, while two industries are tied at 15 each: other specialty trade contractors and other local, municipal and regional public administration.

Commercial and industrial machinery and equipment repair and maintenance employs 11 people, and depository credit intermediation has 4. Recent change is mixed but mostly flat. Four industries show no 1-year change, while furniture and kitchen cabinet manufacturing fell by 9.1%. That makes it the clearest recent decline among the largest employers. The pattern suggests a local economy with several small employment anchors rather than a single dominant industry.

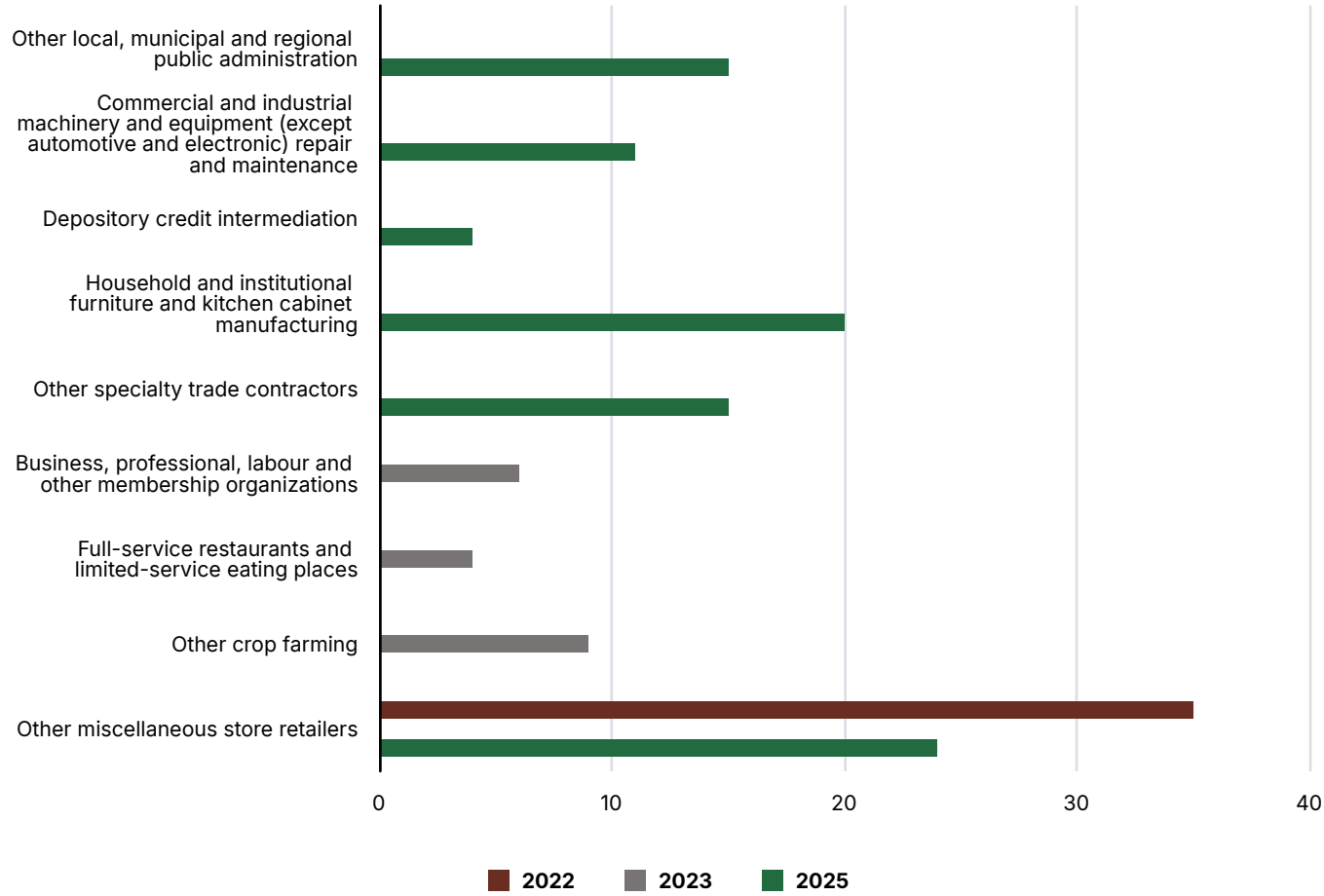


Figure 14.1: Shows the industries with the highest employment. It helps identify the biggest sources of jobs in the local economy. (Stavely, 2022-2025)⁴

Data Sources

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

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