

ALBERTA
SOUTHWEST

HILL SPRING

Mobility & Commuting Report

Table of Contents

Place of Work Status	4
Lived Here 1 Year Ago	5
Lived Here 5 Years Ago	6
Commute Destination	7
Time Leaving for Work	8
Commute Duration	9
Main Mode of Commuting	10

Executive Summary

Hill Spring in 2021 is characterized by a small, stable population and a very concentrated employment and commuting profile. Short-term mobility was minimal: most residents were living in the same place as one year earlier, and no recent migrants were recorded from within Alberta, from other provinces, or from abroad. Over a five-year horizon, the picture was still largely stable, though less static, with non-movers remaining the largest group and a smaller but notable presence of people who had moved from elsewhere in Alberta. Long-distance movement was absent in the reported counts, leaving Hill Spring's population profile defined more by continuity than by turnover.

The labour force data show a similarly narrow pattern. Employment was split mainly between people working at a usual place of work and a smaller group working from home, with no one recorded as having no fixed workplace or working outside Canada. The most pronounced change was the sharp decline in the number working at a usual workplace compared with 2016, which reduced the size of the village's on-site work base. Among those who commuted, travel was concentrated within nearby areas: some residents worked within Hill Spring itself, but a slightly larger group travelled to another census subdivision within the same census division, and none commuted farther within the province or beyond it. Departure times were even more concentrated, with recorded commuting clustered entirely in the 8 a.m. hour.

This tight concentration extends to how people travelled and how long trips took. Driving was the only commuting mode recorded in 2021, while walking and all other modes were absent. Commute durations were split between very short trips and moderate trips of 30 to 44 minutes, with no residents reported in the intermediate or longest categories. These patterns give Hill Spring the profile of a village with limited recent population churn, a modest labour force, and a commuting structure that is simple, local to nearby areas, and heavily dependent on private vehicles.

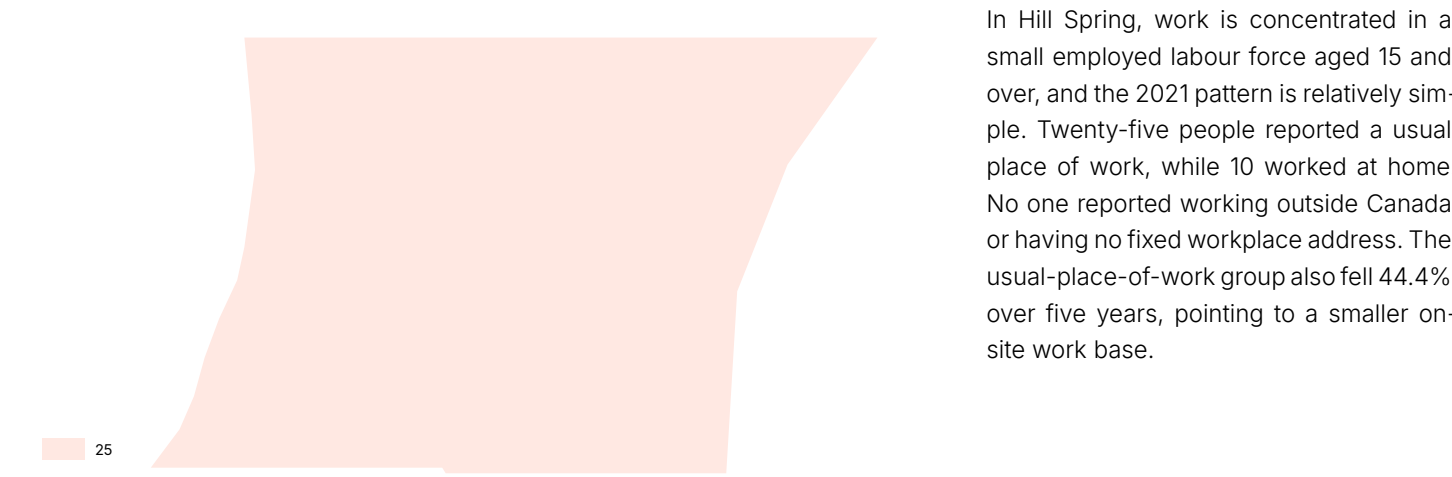
Place of Work Status

Hill Spring’s usual place of work remained the largest group in 2021 at 25 people, though it fell 44.4% from 45 in 2016. Worked at home rose to 10 people, while the other two categories stayed at zero.



Figure 1.1: Shows whether people work from home, at a usual workplace, or at no fixed workplace. It helps indicate how work is organized across locations. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In 2021, Hill Spring’s employed labour force aged 15 years and over was split mainly between a usual workplace and working from home. The largest reported group was people with a usual place of work, at 25, while 10 worked at home. No one was recorded as working outside Canada or having no fixed workplace address. The only change figure shows a sharp five-year decline for usual workplace employment, down 44.4%. With no comparable trend provided for the other categories, the data points to a noticeable shift in how work was organized, but only for that one category.



In Hill Spring, work is concentrated in a small employed labour force aged 15 and over, and the 2021 pattern is relatively simple. Twenty-five people reported a usual place of work, while 10 worked at home. No one reported working outside Canada or having no fixed workplace address. The usual-place-of-work group also fell 44.4% over five years, pointing to a smaller on-site work base.

Figure 1.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Place Of Work Status - Usual place of work (Hill Spring)¹

Lived Here 1 Year Ago

In Hill Spring, non-movers remained the largest group at 125 people in 2021, unchanged from 2016. Intraprovincial migrants fell from 15 to zero over the same five-year period.

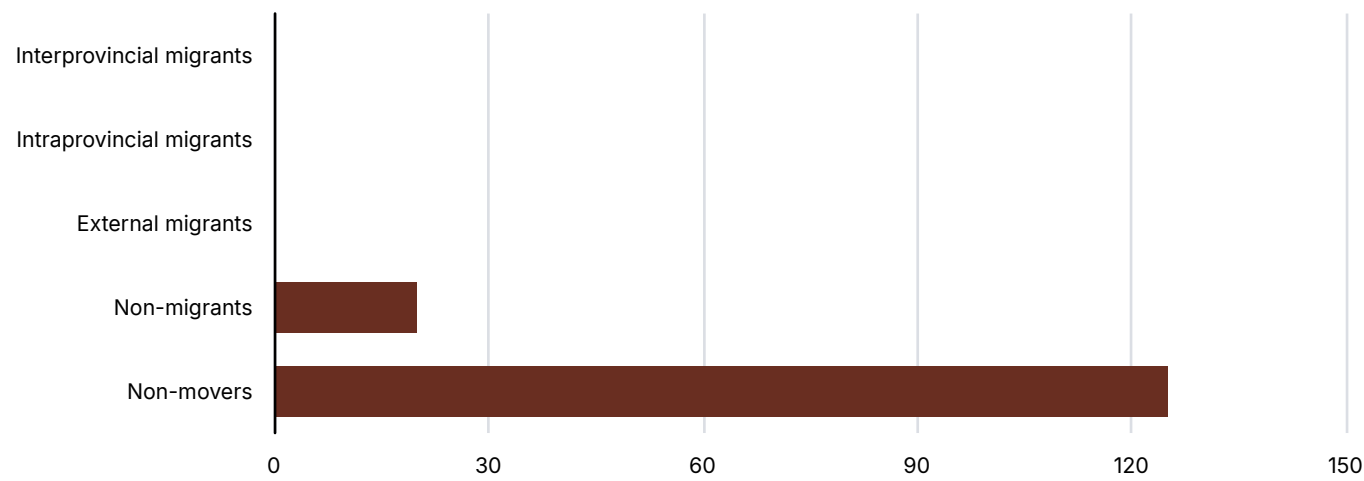


Figure 2.1: Shows where residents lived one year ago compared with their current location. It helps indicate recent mobility and short-term population churn. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In 2021, Hill Spring’s short-term mobility profile was dominated by non-movers. Among the total population, 125 people were counted as non-movers, while 20 were non-migrants. No residents were recorded as external migrants, intraprovincial migrants, or interprovincial migrants. That leaves the village with a very limited flow of recent arrivals from outside the community. The only change signal provided is for intraprovincial migrants, which shows a 100% decline over five years, though the current count is already zero. The pattern suggests low recent population turnover and little inward movement at the time measured.



In 2021, Hill Spring showed very limited short-term mobility among its total population. Most residents were non-movers, with 125 people living there both one year earlier and at the census date. A further 20 people were non-migrants, while both external migrants and interprovincial migrants were recorded at zero. Intraprovincial migrants were also zero, down 100% over five years. This pattern points to a population that was largely stable over the prior year, with little inflow from outside the area or from elsewhere in Alberta.

Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Mobility Status - Non-movers (Hill Spring)¹

Lived Here 5 Years Ago

In Hill Spring, non-movers remained the largest group in 2021 at 95 people, down 9.5% from 2016. Intraprovincial migrants doubled to 40, while interprovincial migrants fell to zero.

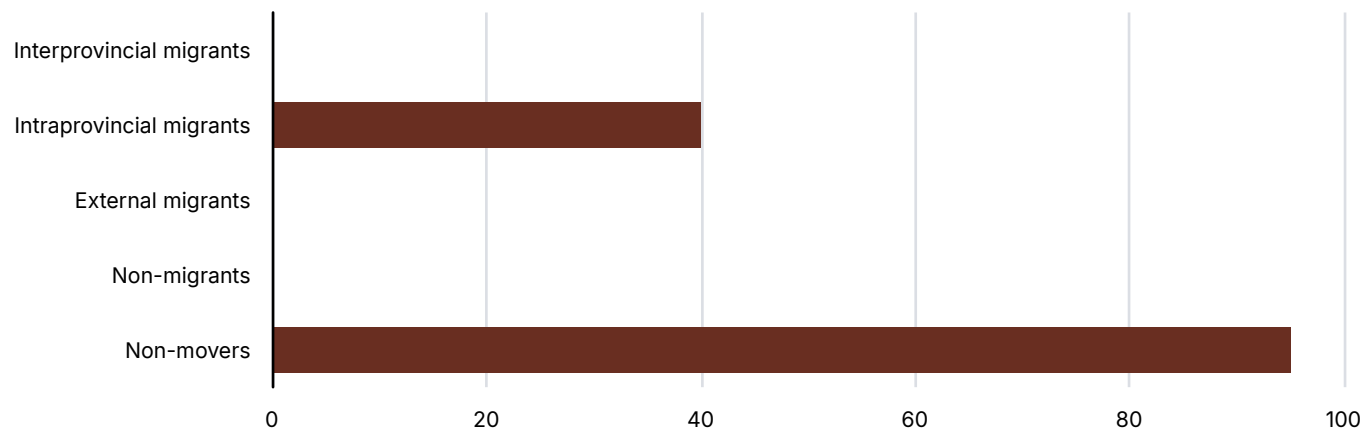


Figure 3.1: Shows where residents lived five years ago compared with their current location. It helps indicate longer-term mobility and migration patterns. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In 2021, Hill Spring’s “lived here 5 years ago” profile points to limited long-distance mobility and a noticeable tilt toward movement within Alberta. The largest group was non-movers, with 95 people, while intraprovincial migrants accounted for 40 people. The remaining categories were very small or absent. External migrants were 0, interprovincial migrants were 0, and non-migrants were also reported at 0. Change patterns reinforce that picture. Non-movers were down 9.5% from five years earlier, while intraprovincial migrants increased by 100%. Interprovincial migrants fell by 100%. Taken together, the data suggest that recent population movement in Hill Spring was mostly local rather than cross-border between provinces.



In Hill Spring, mobility over the previous five years points to a largely stable population with some inward movement from within Alberta. In 2021, 95 residents were non-movers, while 40 were intraprovincial migrants and no residents were recorded as non-migrants, external migrants, or interprovincial migrants. The pattern suggests most people had not recently changed location, with limited movement coming from elsewhere in the province.

Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Mobility Status - Non-movers (Hill Spring)¹

Commute Destination

In Hill Spring, the largest commuting group in 2021 was 15 people travelling to a different census subdivision within the census division, unchanged from 2016. The number commuting within the subdivision fell to 10 people.

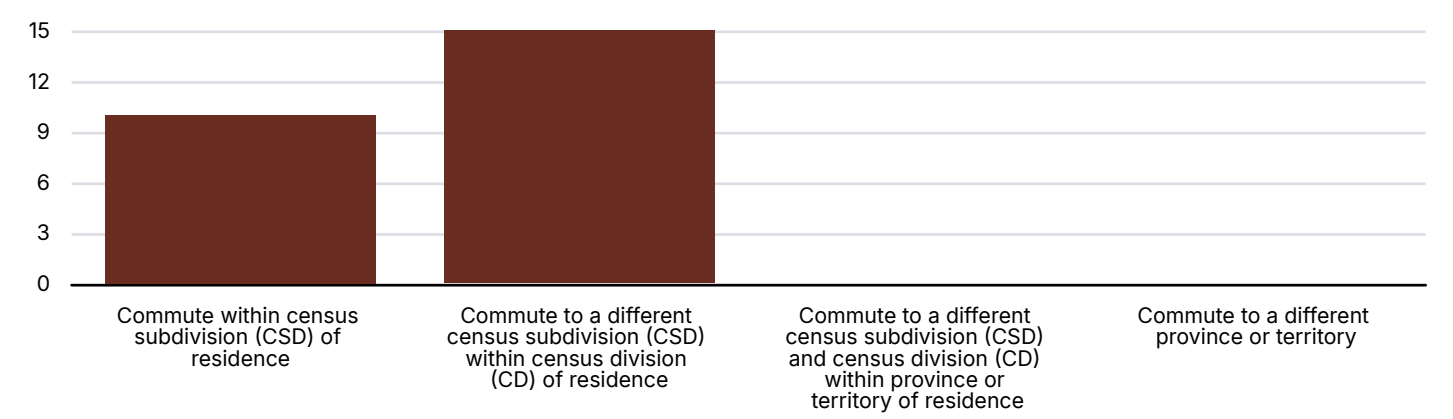


Figure 4.1: Shows where residents travel for work. It helps indicate whether the area functions mainly as a self-contained labour market or as part of a wider commuting region. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In 2021, Hill Spring’s commuting pattern was modest and inward-facing, but not entirely local. Ten employed residents worked within their own census subdivision, down 33.3% from five years earlier, while 15 commuted to a different census subdivision within their census division, unchanged over the period. No residents were recorded commuting to a different census division within the province or to another province.

In 2021, commuting from Hill Spring was concentrated within nearby areas. Among the employed labour force aged 15 and over with a usual place of work, 15 people travelled to a different census subdivision within the same census division, while 10 worked within Hill Spring itself. No residents commuted to another census subdivision and census division within the province, and none went to another province or territory. The pattern suggests a short-distance commute base.



Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Commuting Destination - Commute to a different census subdivision (CSD) within census division (CD) of residence (Hill Spring)¹

Time Leaving for Work

In Hill Spring, the largest commuting group shifted to 8 a.m. to 8:59 a.m., with 15 people in 2021, up 50% from 2016. The 7 a.m. hour fell to zero, down 100%.

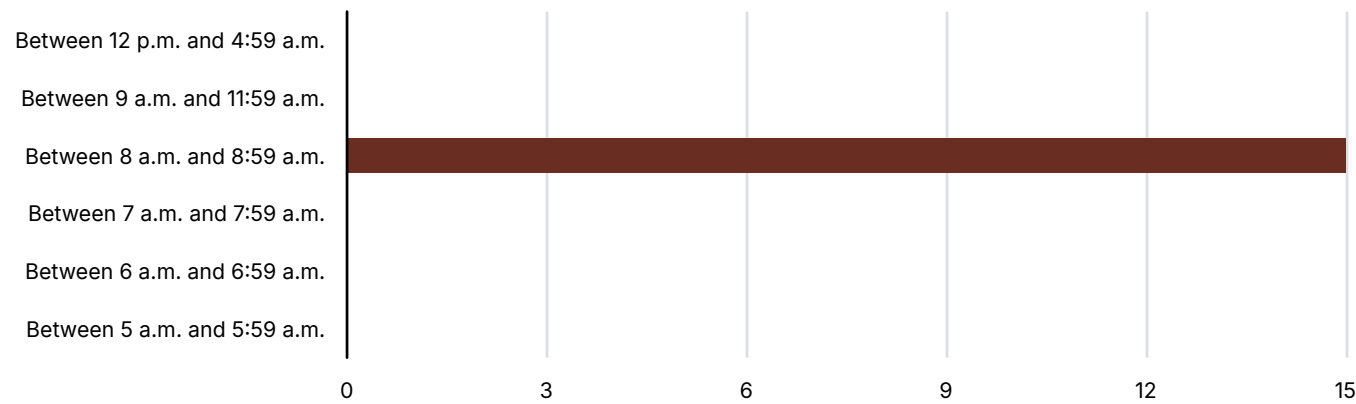


Figure 5.1: Shows the time of day residents usually leave for work. It helps indicate commuting patterns and peak travel demand. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In Hill Spring, commuting time is highly concentrated in the 2021 census among employed residents with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address. The only group with recorded departures is between 8 a.m. and 8:59 a.m., with 15 people, while all other listed time slots have 0 people. That 8 a.m. group is up 50% over five years, while several other periods fell by 100% from small bases. The pattern points to a very narrow morning departure window.

In Hill Spring, most employed residents with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address left for work at a very narrow time, with 15 people departing between 8 a.m. and 8:59 a.m. in 2021. Every other time band recorded 0 people, including the early morning, mid-morning, and midday-to-late-afternoon categories. That pattern suggests a highly concentrated commute window, with little observable spread across the day. The 8 a.m. hour also rose by 50% over five years, while several other periods fell to zero.

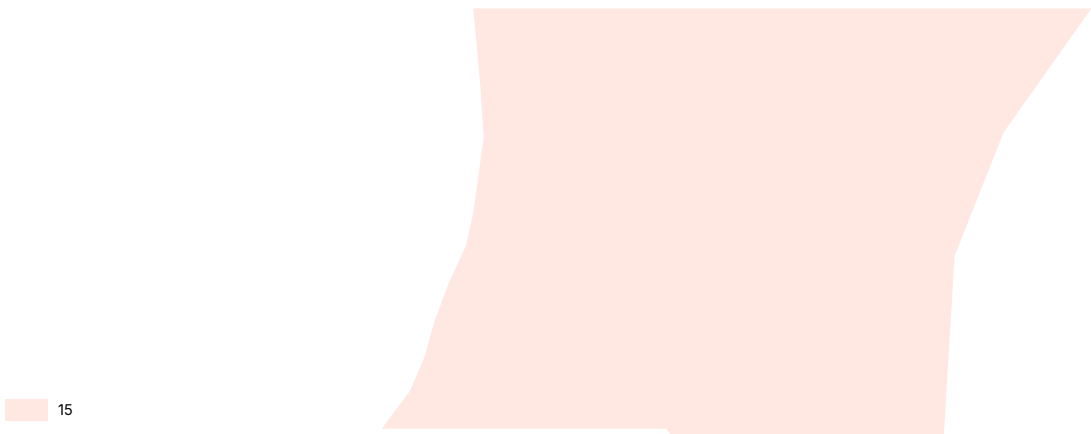


Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Time Leaving Work - Between 8 a.m. and 8:59 a.m. (Hill Spring)¹

Commute Duration

Hill Spring’s commute profile shifted toward shorter trips, with 10 people commuting under 15 minutes in 2021, down 50% from 2016. The 15 to 29 minute group fell to zero, while 30 to 44 minutes held at 10.

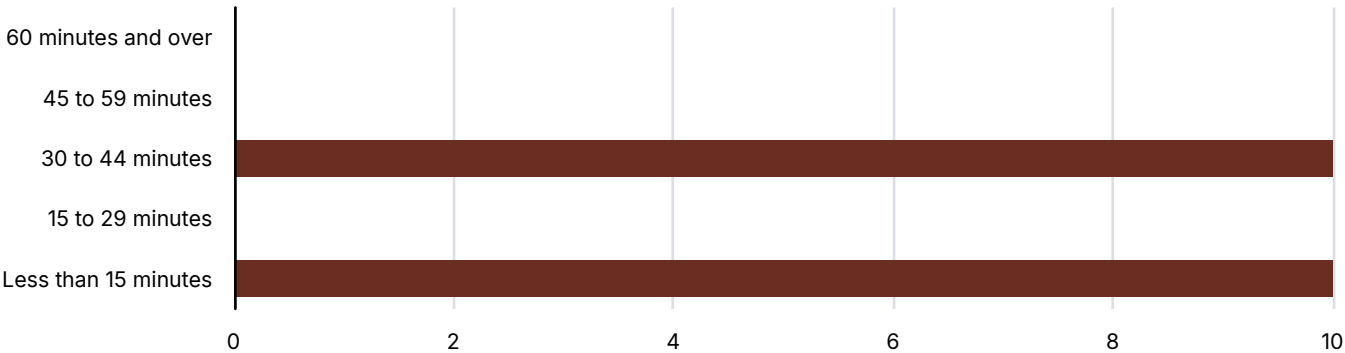


Figure 6.1: Shows how long residents typically spend travelling to work. It helps indicate commuting burden and jobs-housing balance. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In Hill Spring, commute duration in 2021 was concentrated at the shortest and mid-range travel times. The census counted 10 people commuting less than 15 minutes and 10 people travelling 30 to 44 minutes, while no residents were recorded in the 15 to 29 minute, 45 to 59 minute, or 60 minutes and over groups. The five-year change suggests a shift away from very short and longer commutes, with less than 15 minutes down 50% and 60 minutes and over down 100%, while 30 to 44 minutes was unchanged.

In Hill Spring, commute duration in 2021 was split between very short and moderate trips, with 10 commuters reporting less than 15 minutes and another 10 reporting 30 to 44 minutes. No one was recorded in the 15 to 29 minute, 45 to 59 minute, or 60 minutes and over groups. That pattern suggests a small commuting profile with limited spread across longer travel times. Compared with the descendant dissemination area, Hill Spring shows the same counts in the two reported categories, reinforcing a compact commute pattern rather than one dominated by longer trips.

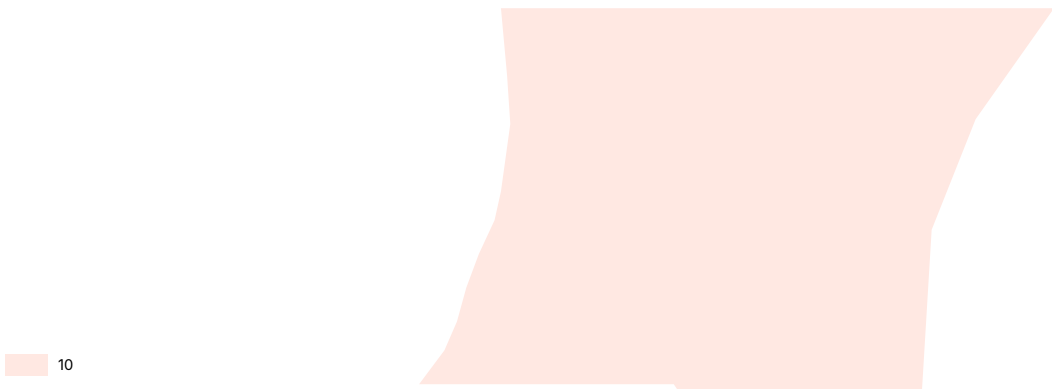


Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Commuting Duration - Less than 15 minutes (Hill Spring)¹

Main Mode of Commuting

In Hill Spring, driving remained the largest commuting mode in 2021, at 25 people, down from 30 in 2016. Walking fell to zero from 10, while other modes stayed at zero.

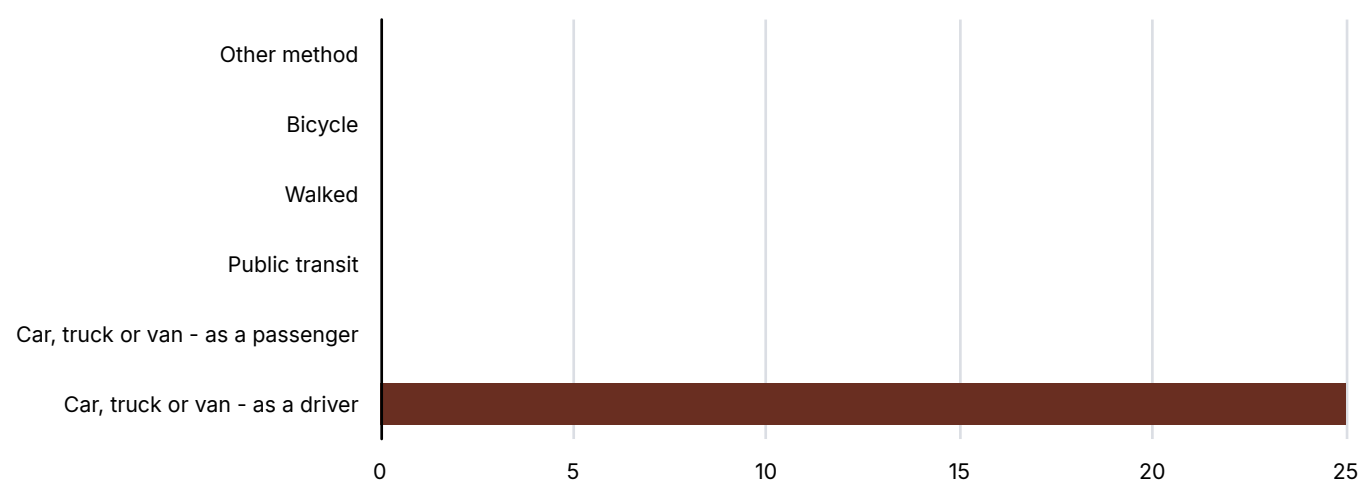


Figure 7.1: Shows the main mode residents use to get to work. It helps indicate dependence on driving, transit, walking, cycling, or other travel modes. (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

In Hill Spring, commuting is concentrated almost entirely in private vehicles. Among employed residents aged 15 and over with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address, 25 people reported driving a car, truck or van as their main mode of commuting in 2021. Other modes were not represented in the data, with 0 people using transit, cycling, or another method. Walking was also recorded at 0 people, down 100% over five years. Commuting as a passenger in a car, truck or van was likewise 0. The pattern points to a very narrow commuting profile, with driving the only mode shown.



Hill Spring’s commuting pattern is highly concentrated in private vehicles. In 2021, 25 employed residents aged 15 and over with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address drove a car, truck or van to work. No residents reported commuting as passengers, by public transit, bicycle, or other methods, and none walked. The only recorded change over five years was a 16.7% decline in driving and a complete drop in walking from a small base. The pattern suggests very limited mode diversity in this village.

Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Commuting Mode - Car, truck or van - as a driver (Hill Spring)¹

Data Sources

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

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