

ALBERTA
SOUTHWEST

CROWSNEST PASS

Industry Report

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Executive Summary

Crowsnest Pass presents a local economy that has regained momentum after a mid-period setback, with business activity and employment now shaped by a narrower set of strong anchors. The business base reached 720 establishments in 2025, above both the previous year and the level recorded five years earlier, following a clear dip through 2022 and a steady recovery since then. That recovery sits on a very small-firm structure. Most establishments have no employees, and another large share have only a handful of staff, leaving larger employers relatively rare. Sectorally, the establishment base is broad enough to avoid dependence on a single type of business, but it is led by real estate and rental and leasing, with construction and agriculture also prominent by count.

Employment, however, is more concentrated. Health care and social assistance stands well above every other sector and has expanded rapidly in both size and concentration, making it the clearest force in the current local job mix. Public administration remains another major pillar and still shows the strongest specialization, but its concentration has been easing over time. Mining also continues to matter, both as the largest part of the resident labour force in 2021 and as a specialized sector in 2025, though its longer-term trajectory is more mixed than health care's. Outside those anchors, the picture is uneven rather than uniformly rising. Construction, finance, and educational services show growth in parts of the data, while retail trade, agriculture, and some visitor-oriented activities are softer. The same unevenness appears at the industry level, where a dominant health-related employer sits far ahead of a smaller group of public, service, and construction-related activities.

The broader impression is of a place whose economic profile has shifted toward care and public-serving functions while retaining an important resource and government presence. Public administration and health care both show labour market gaps above 2.5, indicating far more local jobs than resident workers in those areas, which reinforces their role as core employers. Crowsnest Pass is not defined by scale, but by concentration: a recovering business base, a strong small-enterprise presence, and an employment structure increasingly centered on health care, with other sectors moving on more mixed terms.

Business Establishments

Crowsnest Pass had 720 business establishments in 2025, up 3.9% from 2024 and 14.29% over five years. The series dipped to 595 in 2022 before rebounding to 693 in 2024.

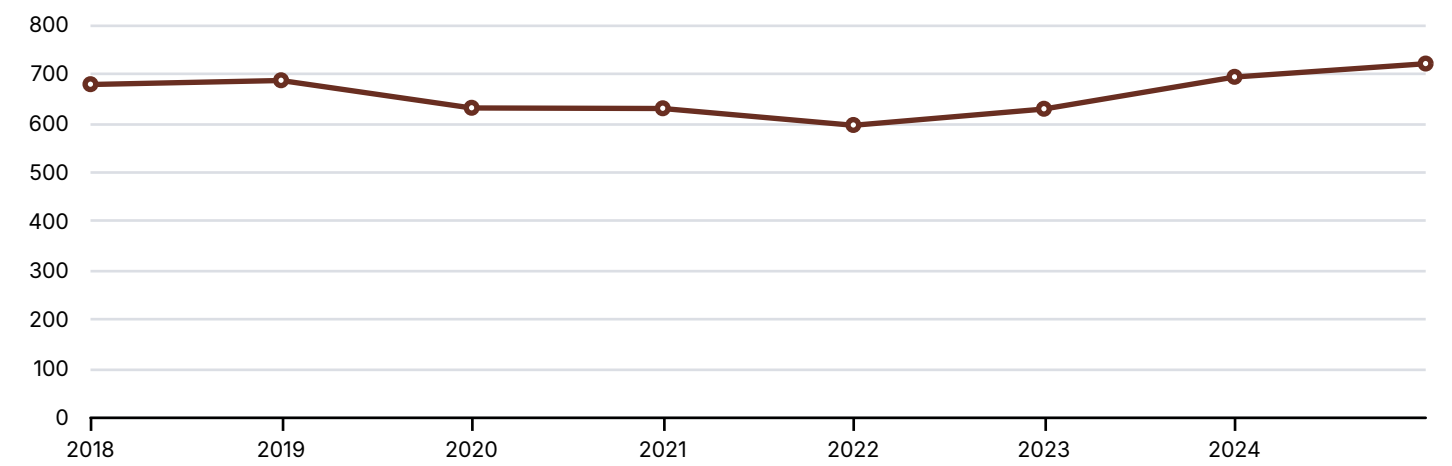
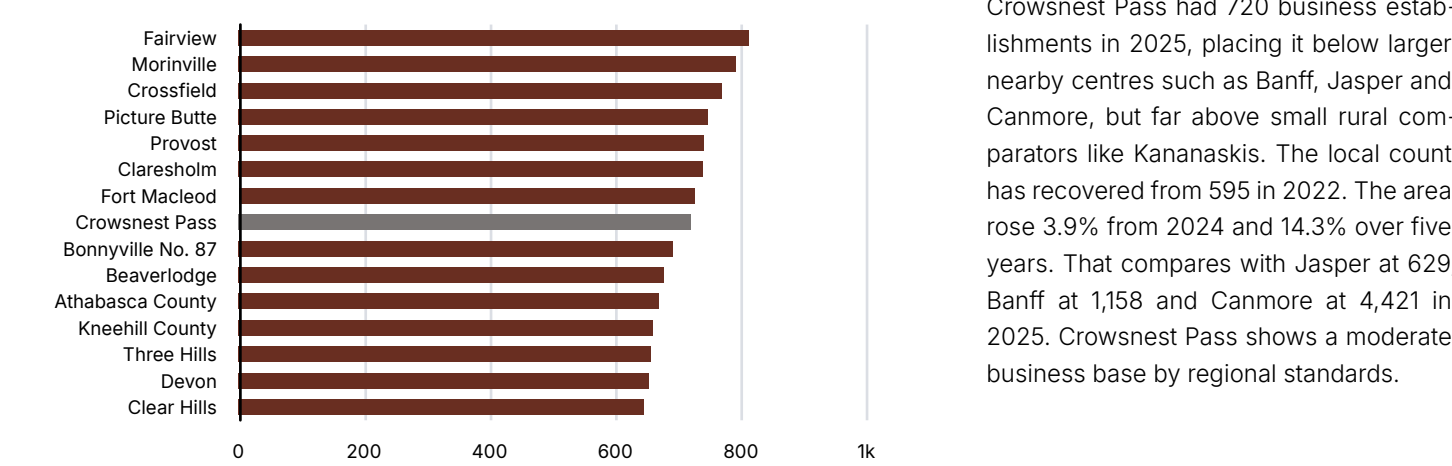


Figure 1.1: Shows the total number of active business establishments in the area, including those without employees. It helps indicate the scale and diversity of the local business base. (Crowsnest Pass, 2018-2025)¹

Crowsnest Pass had 720 active business establishments in 2025, up from 678 in 2018. The series shows a decline in the middle years followed by a clear rebound. After edging up to 686 in 2019, the count fell to 630 in 2020 and 629 in 2021, then reached a low of 595 in 2022. It recovered to 628 in 2023, rose to 693 in 2024, and added another 27 businesses in 2025. The 1-year change was 3.9% in 2025, while the 5-year change was 14.3%. That pattern points to a local business base that contracted temporarily before expanding again.



Crowsnest Pass had 720 business establishments in 2025, placing it below larger nearby centres such as Banff, Jasper and Canmore, but far above small rural comparators like Kananaskis. The local count has recovered from 595 in 2022. The area rose 3.9% from 2024 and 14.3% over five years. That compares with Jasper at 629, Banff at 1,158 and Canmore at 4,421 in 2025. Crowsnest Pass shows a moderate business base by regional standards.

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

Resident Labour Force

Crowsnest Pass’s labour force remained concentrated in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, with 515 people in 2021. Health care and social assistance had 385, while educational services rose to 185 from 95 in 2016.

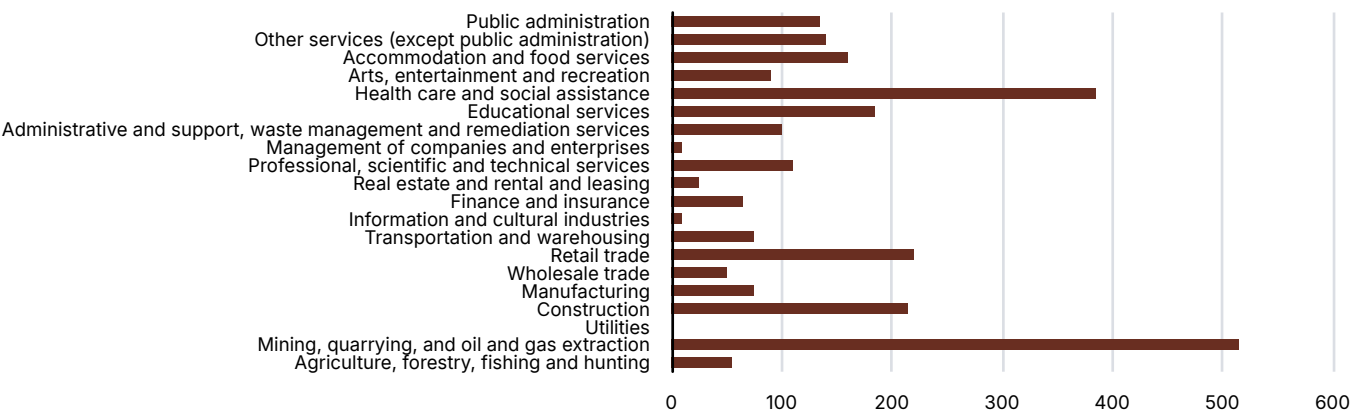


Figure 2.1: Shows the number of residents who are in the labour force. It helps indicate the size of the locally available workforce. (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)²

In 2021, Crowsnest Pass had a resident labour force spread across a mix of sectors, with mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction the largest at 515 people. Health care and social assistance followed at 385, while retail trade had 220 and construction 215. Over five years, educational services rose 94.7% and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting increased 83.3%, while utilities fell to zero.

In 2021, Crowsnest Pass’s labour force was concentrated in a few sectors, led by mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction with 515 workers. Health care and social assistance followed at 385, while retail trade and construction were close behind at 220 and 215. Education services rose sharply over five years, up 94.7%, while accommodation and food services fell 38.5%, showing a mixed shift in sectoral size.

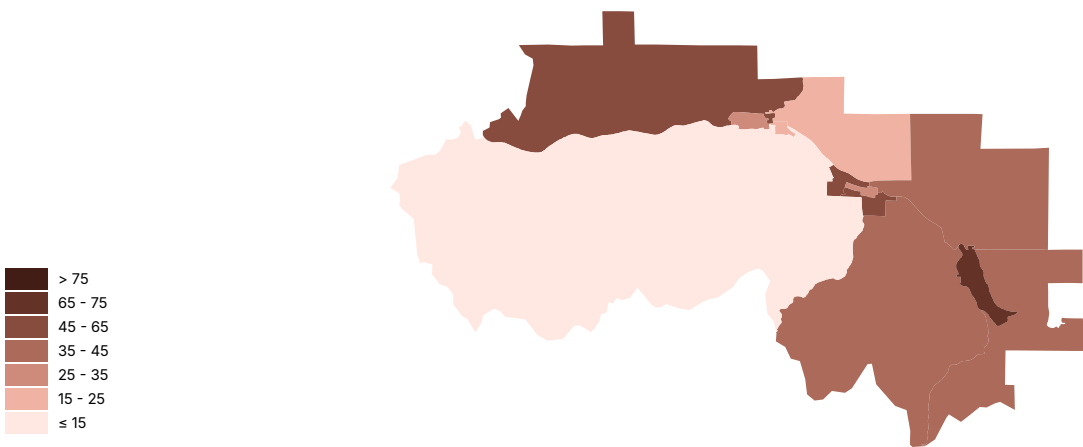


Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Industry Sector - Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (Crowsnest Pass)²

Star Sectors

Crowsnest Pass’s largest specialized sector in 2025 was health care and social assistance at 3.0 LQ, up 11.3% from a year earlier and 192.2% over five years. Mining followed at 1.8 LQ.

In Crowsnest Pass, the strongest specialized sectors in 2025 were health care and social assistance and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, both measured among employees aged 15 years and over. Health care and social assistance stood out as the more concentrated of the two, while mining remained specialized but at a lower level. Health care and social assistance had a location quotient of 3.0, with 11.3% one-year growth and 192.2% five-year growth in concentration. Mining, quarry-

ing, and oil and gas extraction posted a location quotient of 1.8, with 4.6% one-year growth and a 27.9% decline over five years. The contrast suggests that the local specialization profile has shifted more strongly toward health care and social assistance over the longer term, while mining has remained specialized but lost concentration over five years despite a recent uptick. For 2025, the main pattern is a rising health care concentration alongside a more mixed trajectory in mining.

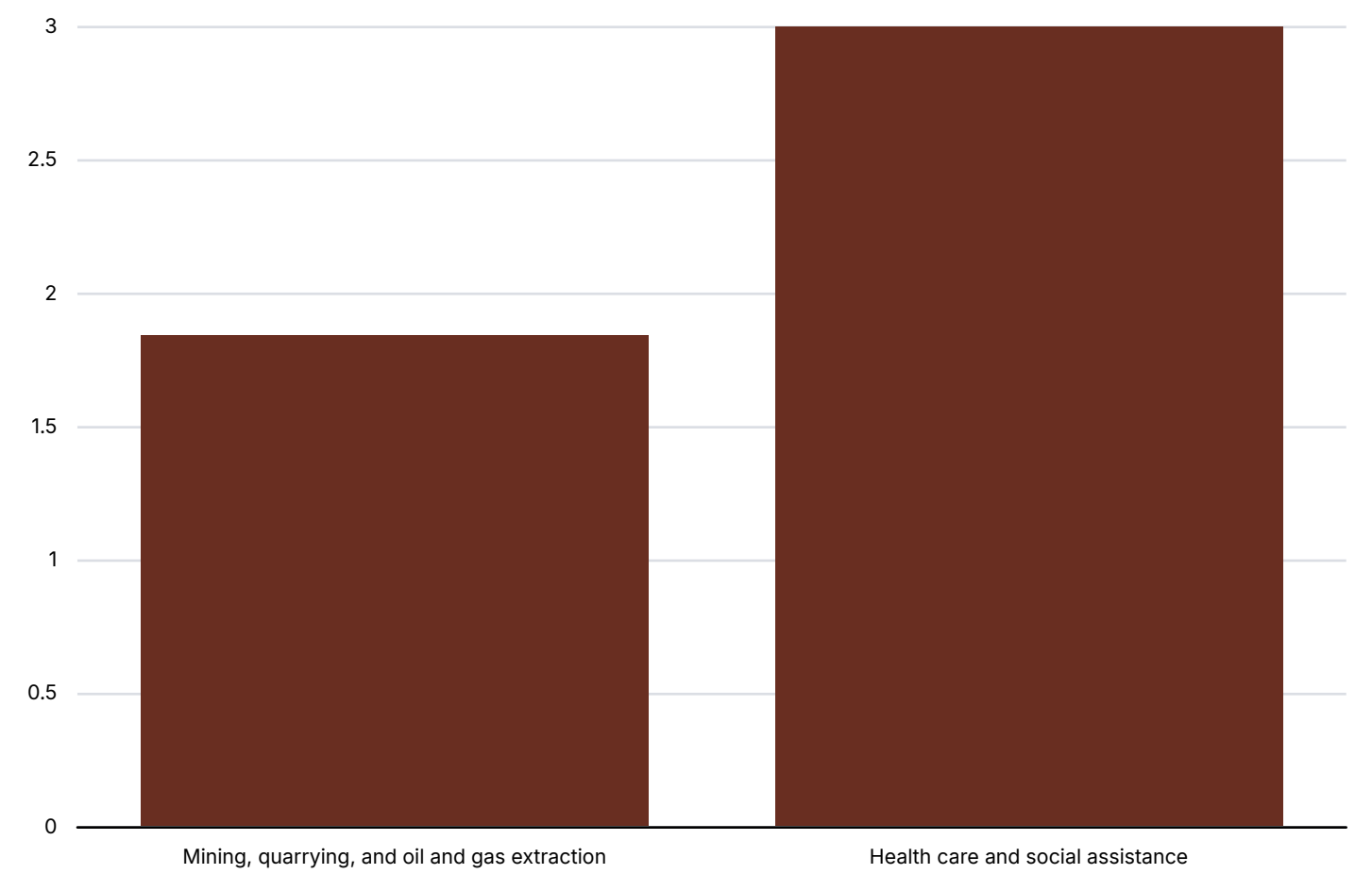


Figure 3.1: Shows major industry sectors where the local economy has strong specialization and increasing concentration or strong growth. Sectors are categorized based on specialization (location quotient) and recent employment growth or change in concentration. (Crowsnest Pass, 2025)³

Fastest Growing Sectors

Health care and social assistance led Crowsnest Pass with 978 people in 2025, up 26.2% from a year earlier and 336.6% over five years. Educational services had 18 people, rising 157.1% year over year.

In 2025, Crowsnest Pass’s fastest growing sectors were health care and social assistance, and educational services, among employees aged 15 and over. The two sectors differ sharply in scale, but both showed strong gains over the selected period. Health care and social assistance was the larger of the two, with 978 employees. It posted 26.2% growth over one year and 336.6% over five years. Educational services was much smaller, with 18 employees, but it recorded the sharper recent

increase at 157.1% over one year, alongside 20.0% growth over five years. The pattern points to growth that is concentrated in a few service sectors rather than spread evenly across the workforce. Health care and social assistance combines size with sustained expansion, while educational services stands out for a very rapid short-term rise from a small base. The local employment picture in these sectors is defined by strong momentum, but on very different scales.

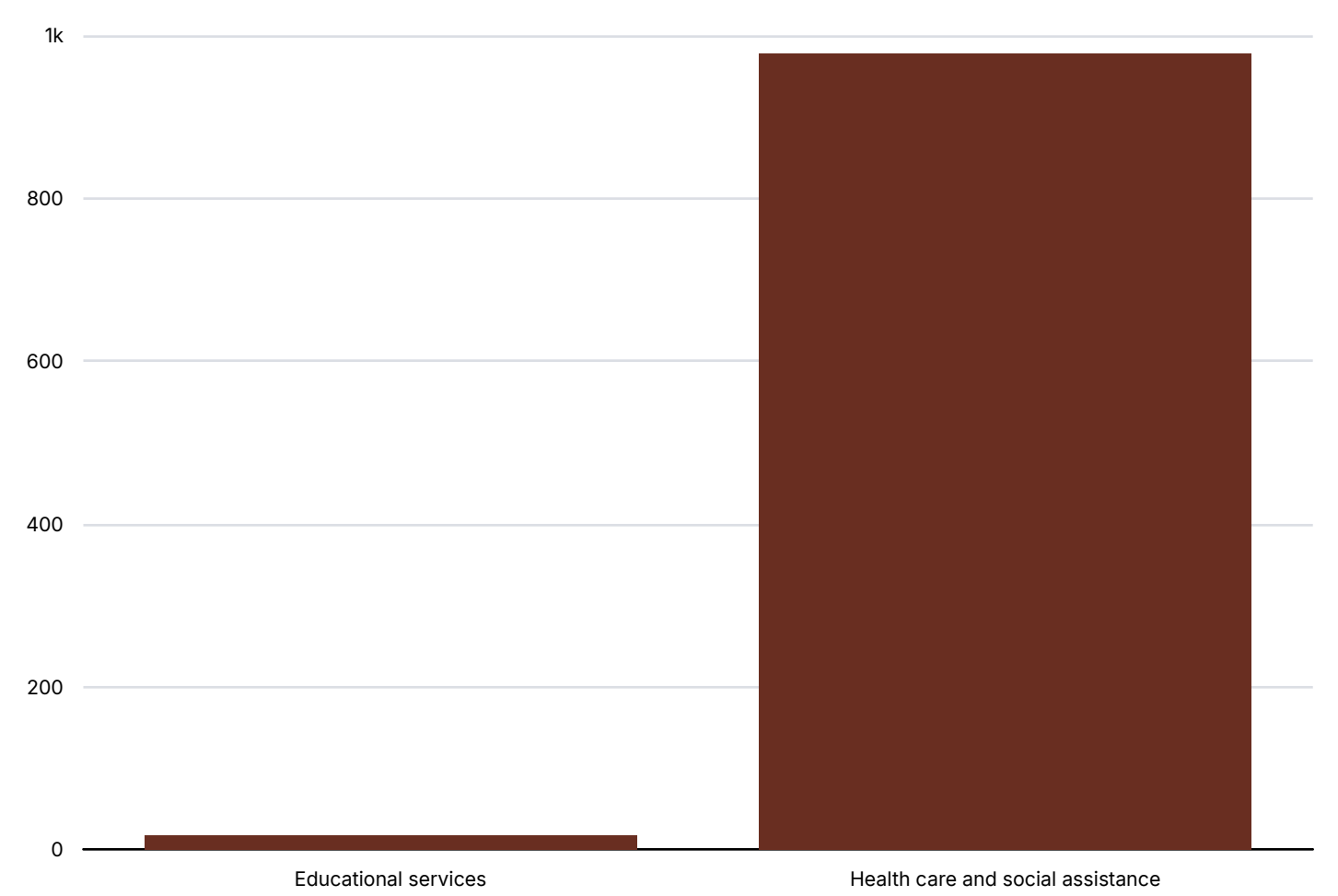


Figure 4.1: Shows sectors where employment has increased the most over the selected time period. It helps identify the main drivers of job growth in the local economy. (Crowsnest Pass, 2025)⁴

Employment by Sector

Health care and social assistance was the largest sector in Crowsnest Pass in 2025, with 978 people, up 26.2% from 2024 and 336.6% from 2020. Public administration followed at 365.

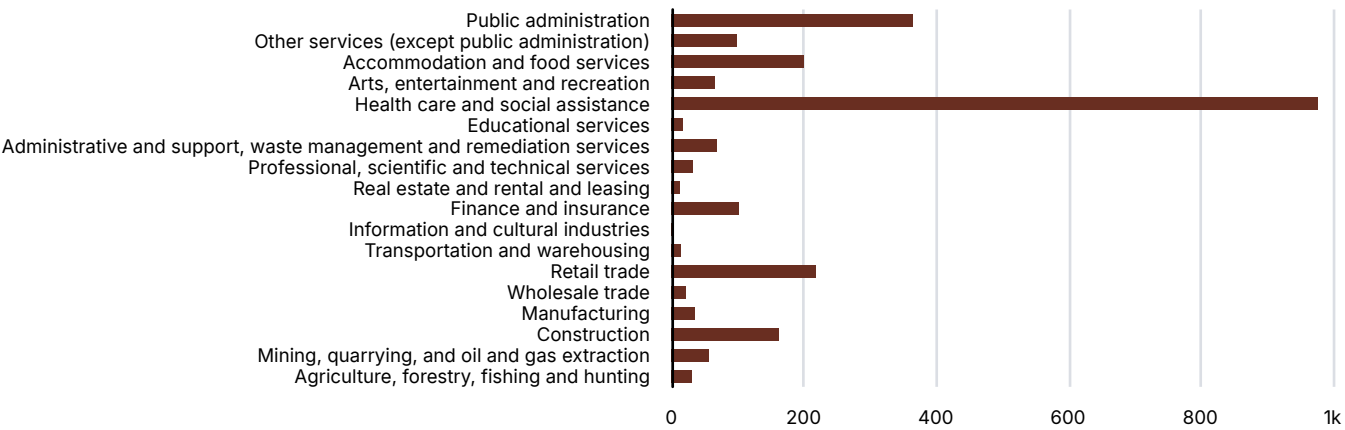
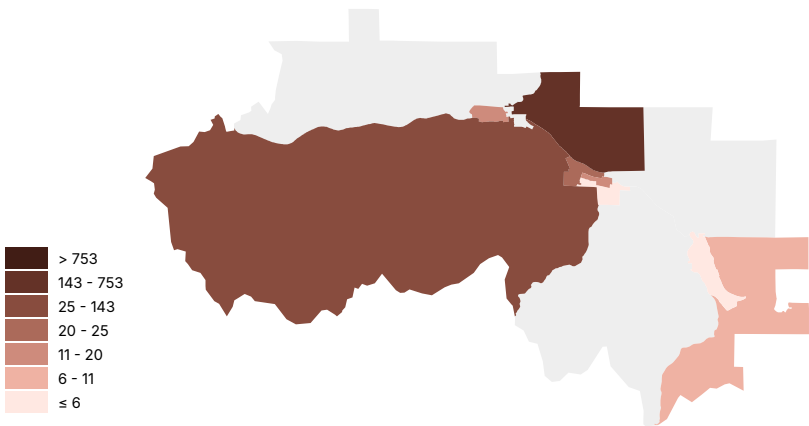


Figure 5.1: Shows how employment is distributed across industry sectors. It helps indicate which sectors account for the largest share of local jobs. (Crowsnest Pass, 2025)⁴

In 2025, employment in Crowsnest Pass was spread across a few clear anchors, with health care and social assistance standing out as the largest sector. Retail trade, public administration, and construction also accounted for substantial shares of local jobs. Health care and social assistance employed 978 people, followed by public administration at 365, construction at 162, and retail trade at 219. Finance and insurance reached 102, while accommodation and food services had 201. Several sectors were growing, including health care, finance, and educational services, while retail trade and agriculture were lower than a year earlier. The pattern suggests a local job mix shaped by a large service base, with some sectors showing strong recent momentum and others declining.



In 2025, employment in Crowsnest Pass was concentrated in health care and so- cial assistance, at 978 people, far ahead of public administration (365), retail trade (219), and construction (162). Finance and insurance also stood out at 102, with strong one-year growth of 14.6%. By con- trast, information and cultural industries remained minimal at 2.

Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Health care and social assistance (Crowsnest Pass)⁴

Establishments by Sector

Crowsnest Pass’s largest sector in 2025 was real estate and rental and leasing, with 125 businesses, up 8.7% from 2024 and 145.1% over five years. Construction followed at 81.

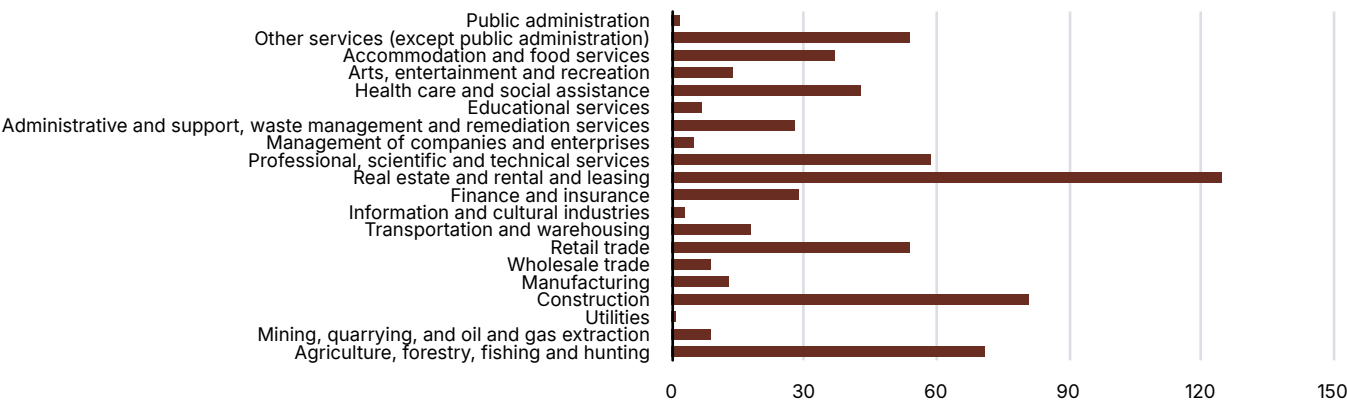


Figure 6.1: Shows how business establishments are distributed across sectors. It helps indicate the sector mix of the local business base. (Crowsnest Pass, 2025)¹

Crowsnest Pass’s business base in 2025 is led by real estate and rental and leasing, with 125 establishments, followed by construction at 81 and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting at 71. Several sectors grew over the year, including real estate and rental and leasing up 8.7%, health care and social assistance up 13.2%, and accommodation and food services up 12.1%. Longer-term patterns are more mixed: real estate rose 145.1% over five years, while agriculture fell 16.5% and transportation and warehousing declined 10%.

Crowsnest Pass has a business base that is spread across several sectors, but it is led by real estate and rental and leasing, with 125 establishments in 2025. Construction is next at 81, followed by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting at 71 and professional, scientific and technical services at 59. Several sectors moved in different directions. Real estate and rental and leasing rose 8.7% in one year and 145.1% over five years, while agriculture fell 2.7% over one year and 16.5% over five years. Retail trade and transportation also declined slightly.

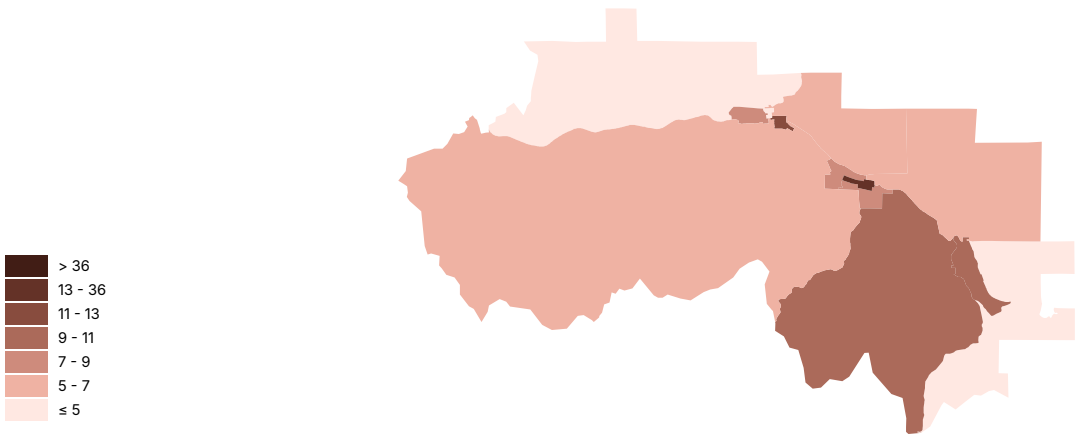


Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Real estate and rental and leasing (Crowsnest Pass)¹

Establishments by Size

Crowsnest Pass remains dominated by establishments without employees, at 479 in 2025, up 5.7% from 2024 and 20.4% over five years. The 50 to 99 employee group fell to one.

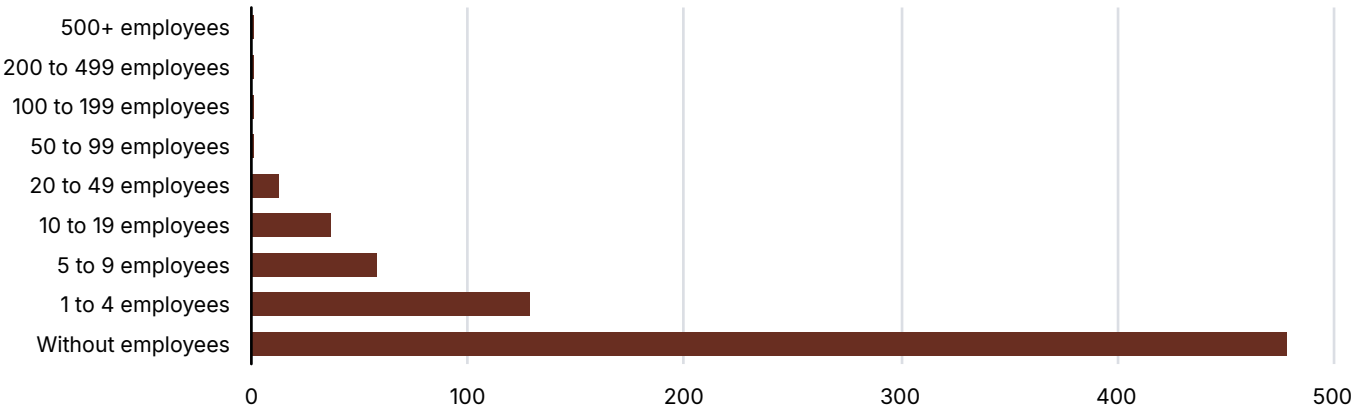


Figure 7.1: Shows how businesses are distributed by number of employees. It helps indicate whether the local economy is dominated by very small, small, or larger firms. (Crowsnest Pass, 2025)¹

In 2025, Crowsnest Pass was dominated by very small businesses. Establishments without employees numbered 479, and another 129 had 1 to 4 employees, far more than any larger size group. The 5 to 9 employee category stood at 58, while 10 to 19 employee firms totaled 37. Larger firms were rare, with only one establishment in each of the 50 to 99, 100 to 199, 200 to 499, and 500+ employee categories.

Crowsnest Pass is dominated by very small businesses in 2025. Establishments without employees lead at 479, followed by 129 firms with 1 to 4 employees and 58 with 5 to 9 employees. Larger businesses are rare: just 37 have 10 to 19 employees, 13 have 20 to 49, and only one establishment appears in each of the 50 to 99, 100 to 199, 200 to 499, and 500+ groups.

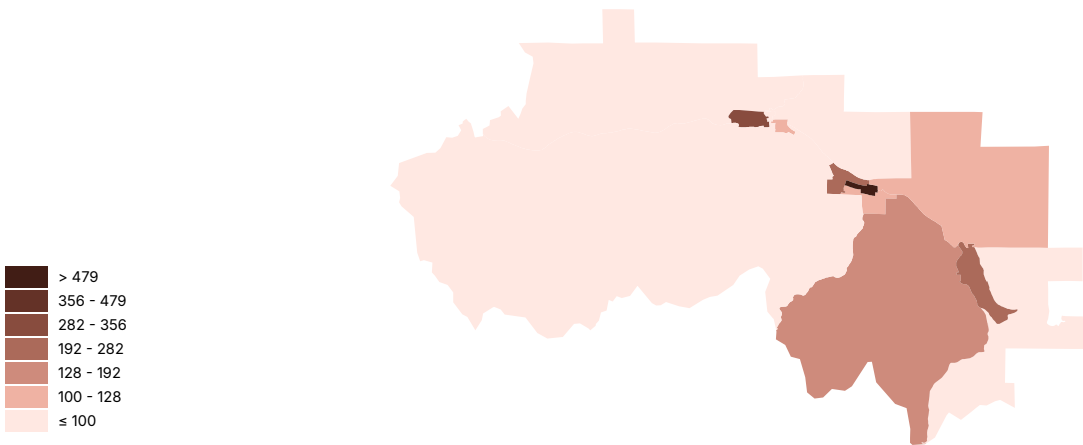


Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Business Establishment Size - Without employees (Crowsnest Pass)¹

Labour Market Gap

Crowsnest Pass had its largest labour market gap in public administration at 2.59, followed closely by health care and social assistance at 2.53. Educational services was lowest at 0.03, showing wide sector variation.

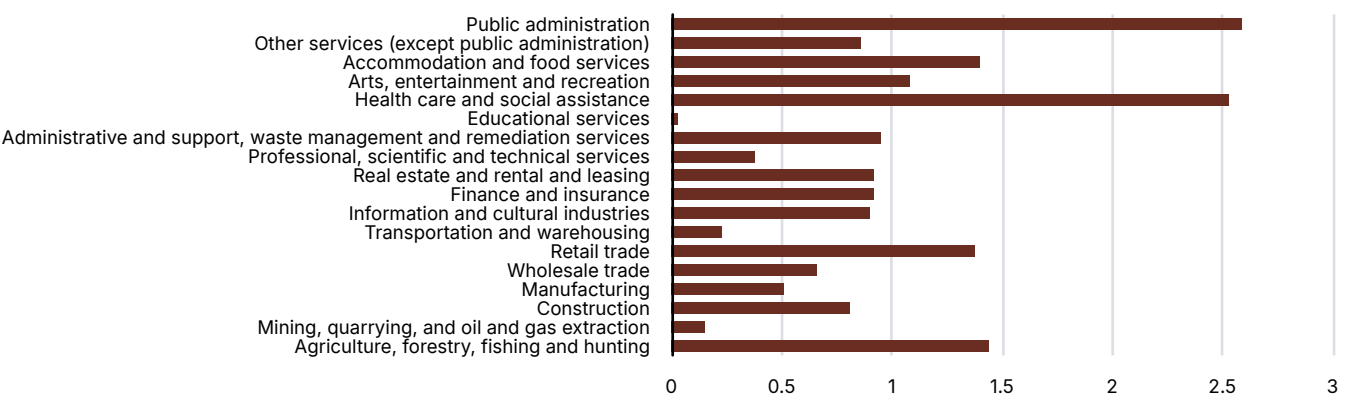


Figure 8.1: Shows the gap between the number of local jobs and the number of resident workers across all sectors. It helps indicate whether the area attracts workers in or sends workers out. (Crowsnest Pass, 2021)⁵

In 2021, Crowsnest Pass showed a mixed labour market gap across sectors, with some activities marked by relatively more local jobs than resident workers and others by the opposite pattern. Health care and social assistance had the largest ratio at 2.5, and public administration was close behind at 2.6. Agriculture, retail trade, and accommodation and food services were also above 1.0, while educational services was near zero at 0.0.

In Crowsnest Pass, the labour market gap in 2021 was strongest in public administration at 2.6 and health care and social assistance at 2.5, with agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting also elevated at 1.4. Retail trade and accommodation and food services were similarly above 1.3, while educational services was near zero at 0.0. The pattern suggests a local job base that is more concentrated in public-facing and essential services than in education or several business services.

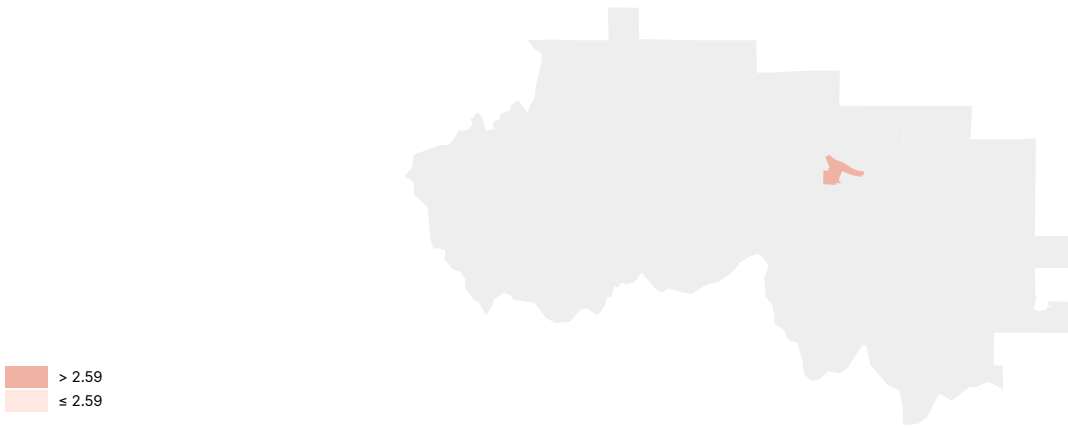


Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Industry Sector - Public administration (Crowsnest Pass)⁵

Largest Sectors

Health care and social assistance is the largest sector in Crowsnest Pass, employing 978 people in 2025. It also had the largest one-year increase, up 26.2%, and rose 336.6% over five years.

In Crowsnest Pass, employment among people aged 15 and over is concentrated in a few sectors, with health care and social assistance standing out as the largest employer in 2025. Public administration, retail trade, accommodation and food services, and construction also make up important parts of the local employment base. Health care and social assistance employed 978 people, well ahead of public administration at 365 and retail trade at 219. Accommodation and food services

accounted for 201 jobs, while construction employed 162. Recent change shows mixed momentum. Health care and social assistance rose 26.2% over one year and 336.6% over five years. By contrast, retail trade fell 5.6% in the past year and 31.4% over five years. Construction was down 1.2% in the past year but up 44.6% over five years. The pattern points to a local employment structure increasingly anchored by health care, while other sectors have been steadier or weaker over time.

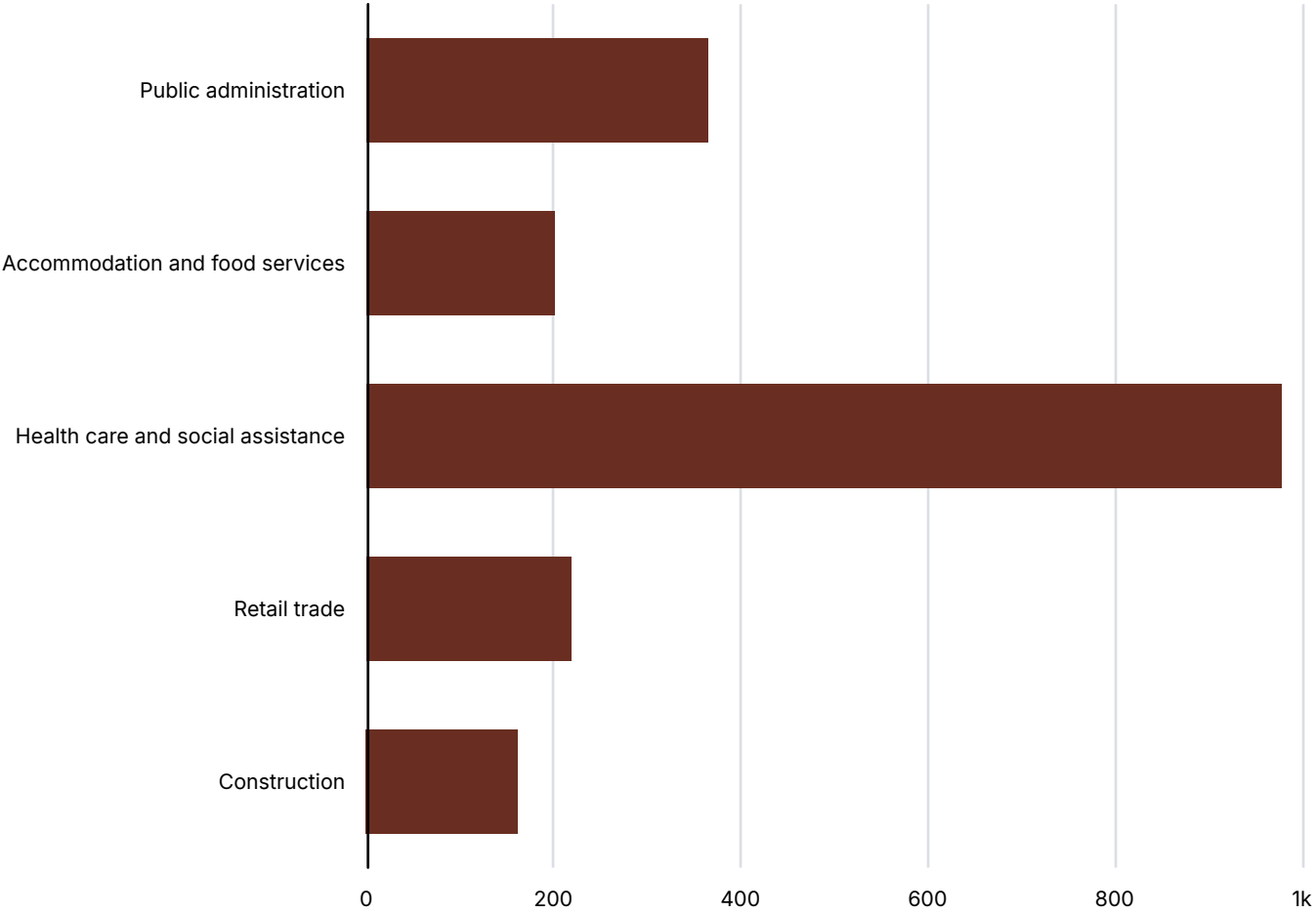


Figure 9.1: Shows the sectors employing the most people. It helps identify the largest pillars of the local economy. (Crowsnest Pass, 2025)⁴

Anchor Sectors

Crowsnest Pass’s largest anchor sector remains public administration at 3.1507, though concentration fell 12.5% in the past year and 47.6% over five years. Arts, entertainment and recreation was 1.3277, also down 39.8% yearly.

In 2025, Crowsnest Pass shows three anchor sectors with above-average employment concentration among employees aged 15 years and over. Public administration stands out most clearly, while arts, entertainment and recreation and accommodation and food services also show specialization, though at a more modest level. Public administration has the highest location quotient at 3.2, but it also shows the sharpest recent softening, with a 12.5% decline over one year and a 47.6% decline over five years. Arts, entertainment and recreation registers an

LQ of 1.3, with a steep 39.8% one-year drop and a smaller 5.3% decline over five years. Accommodation and food services has an LQ of 1.1, down 6.0% over one year and 19.0% over five years. The pattern suggests that the strongest specialization is also the one with the weakest recent momentum. The other two sectors remain above parity, but both have eased over time. Taken together, the data point to a local economy where these anchor sectors still matter, even as their concentration has been trending lower.

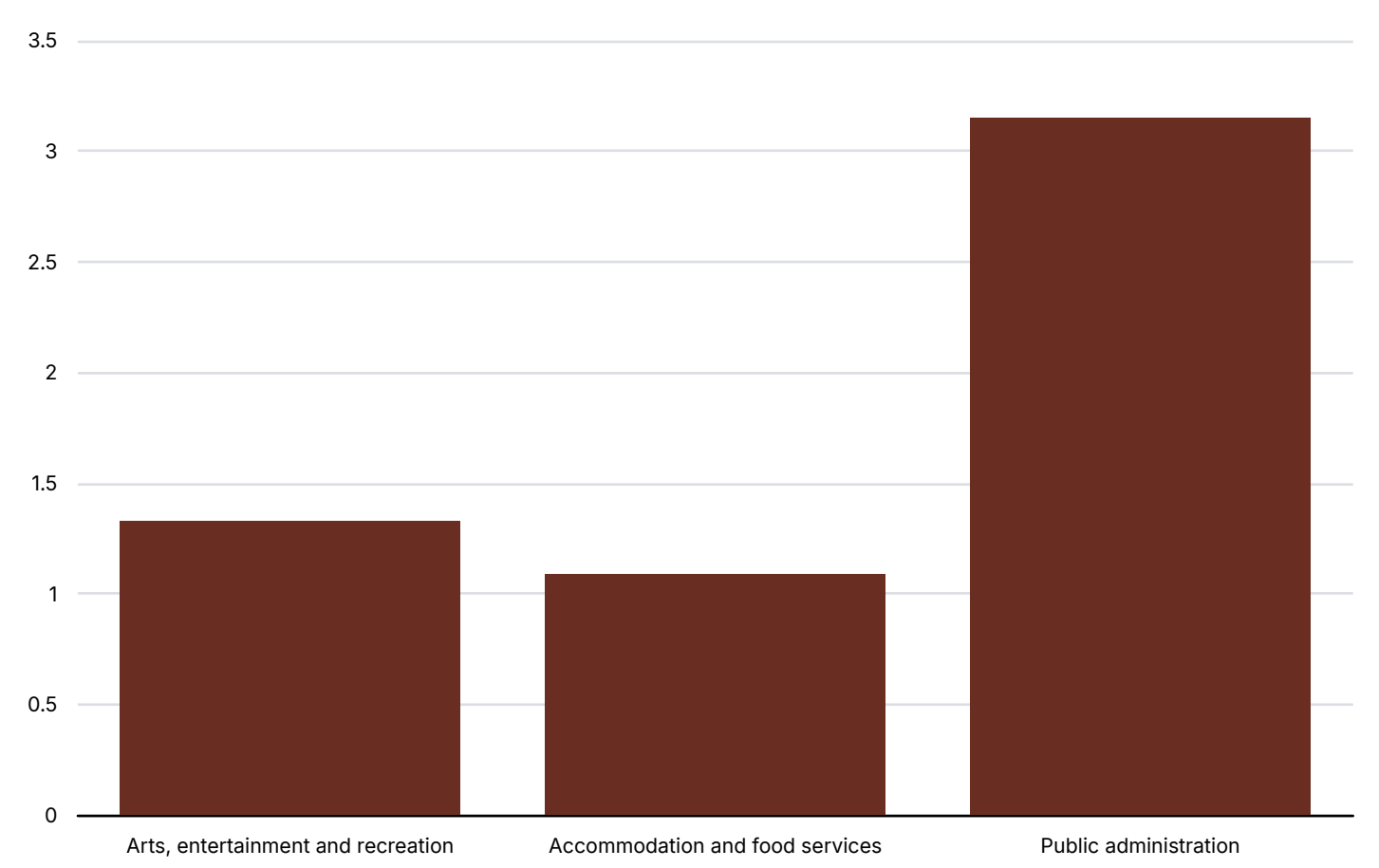


Figure 10.1: Shows major industry sectors where the local economy has strong specialization but relatively stable or declining concentration over time. Sectors are categorized based on specialization (location quotient) and recent employment growth or change in concentration. (Crowsnest Pass, 2025)³

Micro Establishments Share

Crowsnest Pass’s micro-establishment share in accommodation and food services reached 51.4% in 2025, up 30.5% from 2024 but still 9.5% below 2020. It remains far below the 100.0% peak in several sectors.

In Crowsnest Pass, the share of micro establishments in 2025 is high across most business sectors, but it varies notably by industry. Several sectors are at or near 100%, including utilities, information and cultural industries, and management of companies and enterprises, while agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting is also very high at 98.6%. Other sectors sit lower but still show a strong micro-business presence. Transportation and warehousing is at 94.4%, professional, scientific and

technical services at 96.6%, and construction at 82.7%. At the lower end, accommodation and food services is 51.4%, finance and insurance is 69.0%, and arts, entertainment and recreation is 64.3%. Recent change is mixed. Accommodation and food services rose 30.5 percentage points over 1 year, while finance and insurance fell 10.9 points. The pattern suggests a small-firm business base with sector-specific shifts rather than a uniform trend.

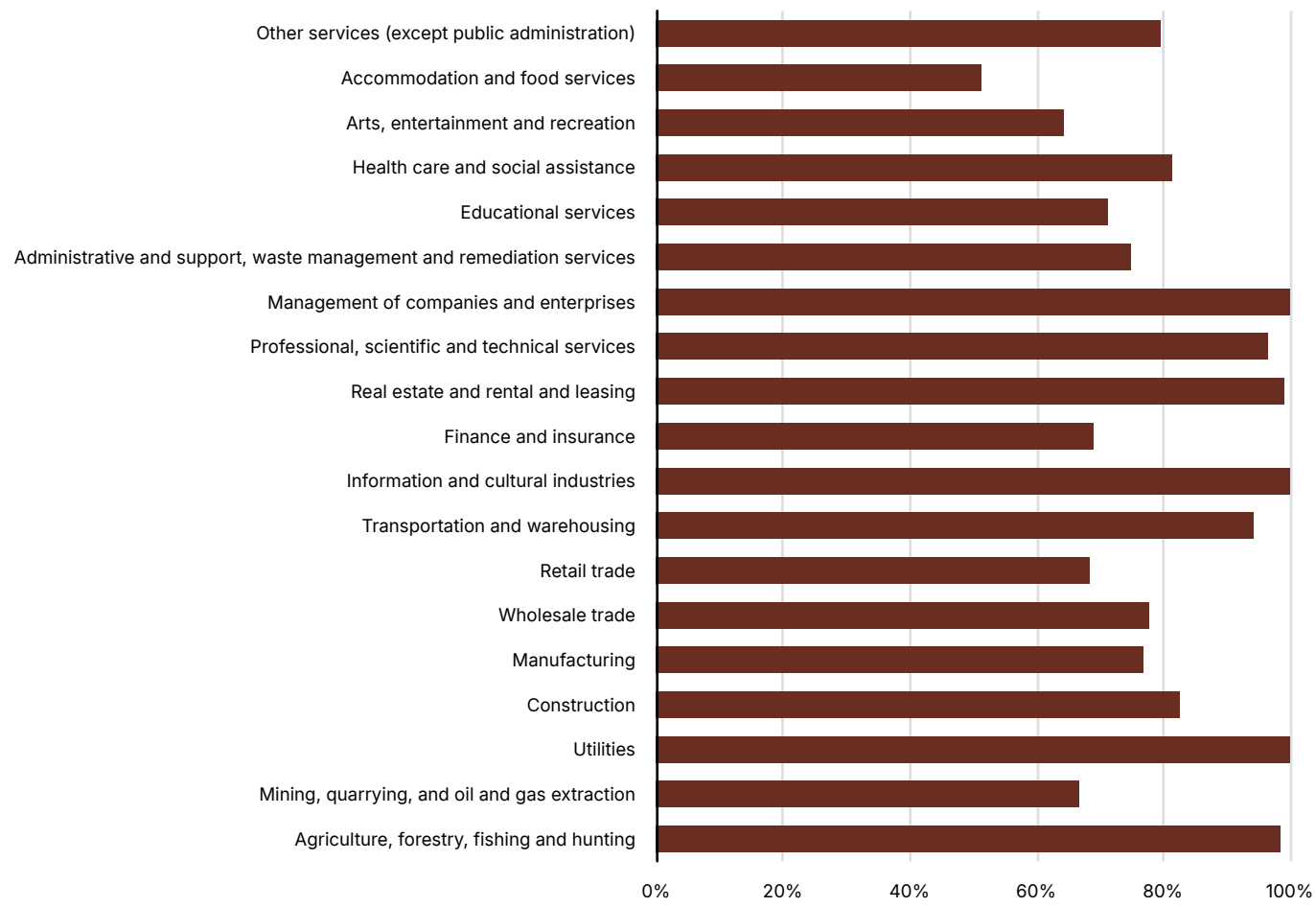


Figure 11.1: Shows the share of businesses with 0 to 4 employees. It helps indicate how much the local business base is made up of very small firms. (Crowsnest Pass, 2025)⁶

Specialist Sectors (LQ)

Public administration is the largest specialist sector in Crowsnest Pass, with an LQ of 3.1507, though it fell 12.5% in one year and 47.6% over five years. Health care follows at 2.9976.

Crowsnest Pass shows clear specialization in a small set of employment sectors, with public administration and health care and social assistance standing out most strongly in 2025. The location quotient pattern suggests these activities are more concentrated there than in Canada overall, while other local sectors sit much closer to the national norm. Public administration has the highest LQ at 3.2, despite a 12.5% decline over one year and a 47.6% drop over five years. Health care and social assistance follows at 3.0, and it has expanded by 11.3% in the

past year and 192.2% over five years. Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction is also elevated at 1.8, with modest one-year growth of 4.6% but a 27.9% five-year decline. Arts, entertainment and recreation and accommodation and food services are less specialized, at 1.3 and 1.1 respectively, and both have weakened over time. The recent mix points to a shifting profile: stronger concentration in care services, persistent but lower mining specialization, and softer positions in visitor-oriented activities.

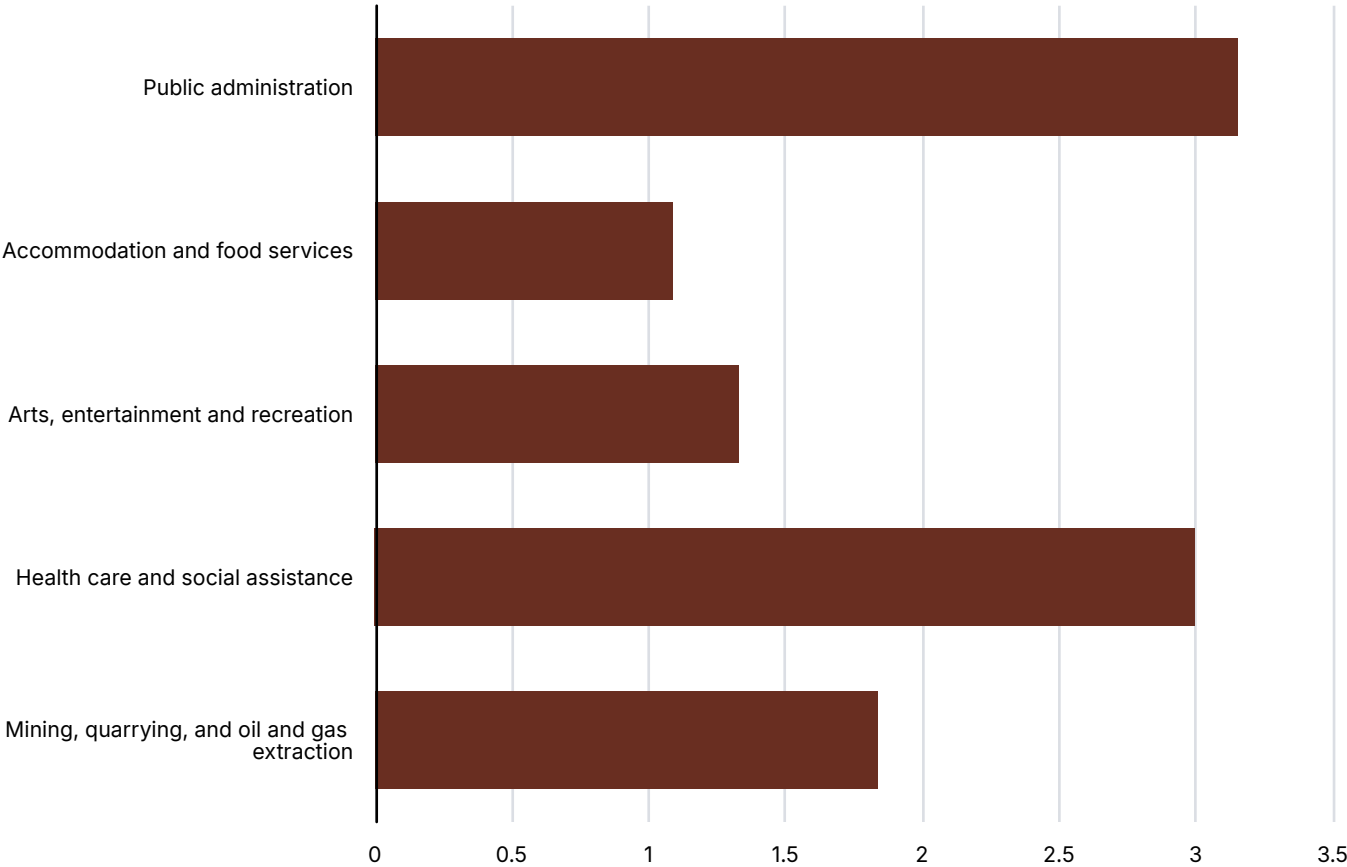


Figure 12.1: Shows sectors where the local economy has the highest level of specialization based on employment concentration compared with the national average. Sectors are categorized based on specialization (location quotient) and recent employment growth or change in concentration. (Crowsnest Pass,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

Declining Industries

In Crowsnest Pass, vocational rehabilitation services had the largest employment base among declining industries at 14 people, down 80.6% from a year earlier and 75.0% over five years. Logging fell to 2.

In Crowsnest Pass, the clearest job losses in 2025 were concentrated in a few industries, with declines measured among employees aged 15 years and over. The sharpest contraction was in Logging, which fell to 2 jobs after a 66.7% drop in the past year and an 87.5% decline over five years. Two other industries also lost ground. Foundation, structure, and building exterior contractors employed 3 people, down 72.7% in one year and 25.0% over five years. Vocational rehabilitation services stood

at 14 jobs, but still recorded an 80.6% annual decline and a 75.0% five-year drop. The pattern is mixed in one small segment of the local economy. Promoters of performing arts, sports and similar events employed 12 people, with a 73.3% one-year decrease, even though employment was 33.3% higher than five years earlier. These figures point to uneven and often steep recent losses in a limited set of industries rather than a broad decline across all employment.

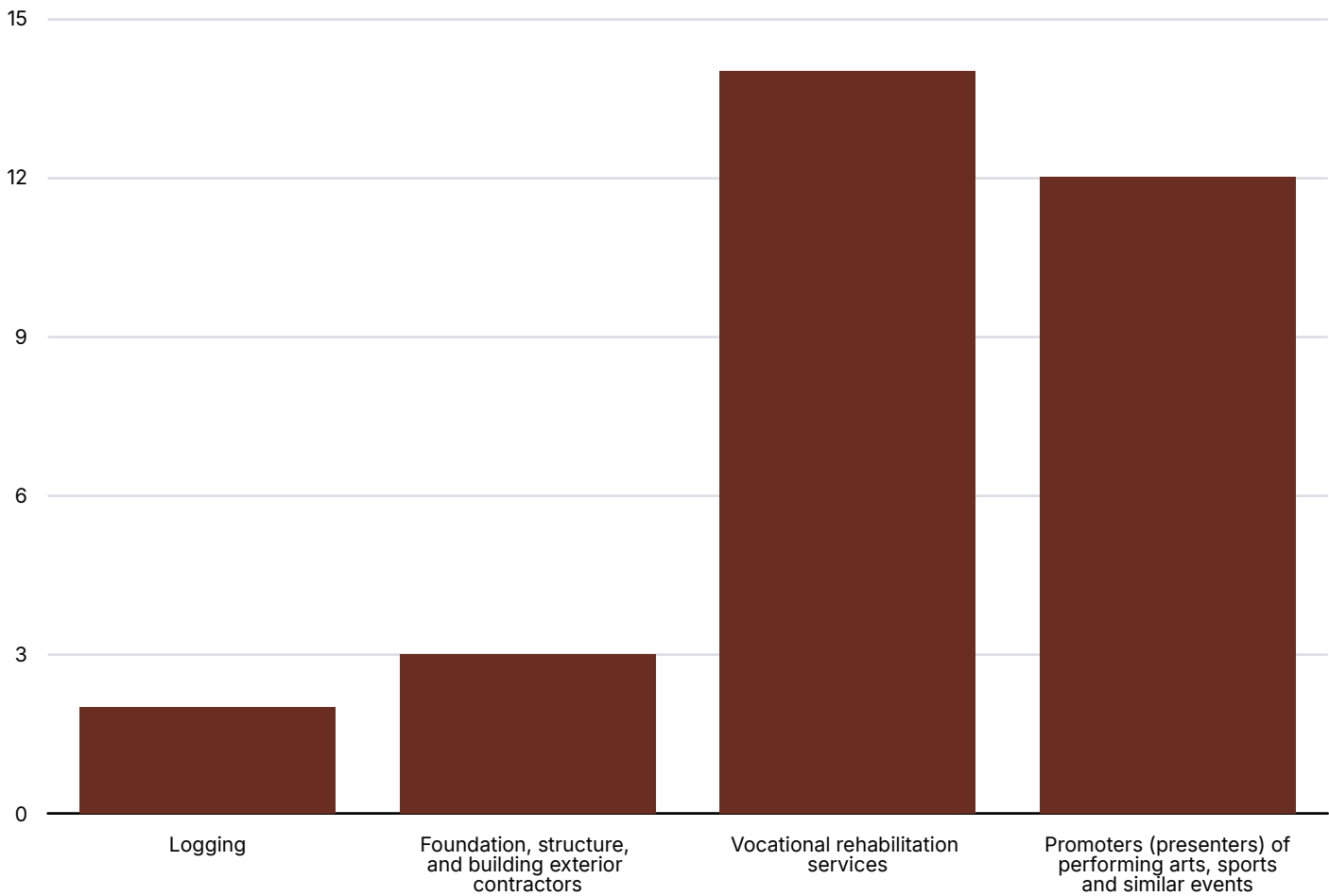


Figure 13.1: Shows industries where employment has decreased the most over the selected time period. It helps identify parts of the local economy that are losing jobs. (Crowsnest Pass, 2025)⁴

Largest Industries

Specialty hospitals employed 750 people in Crowsnest Pass in 2025, the largest industry by jobs. Employment rose 50.0% from a year earlier and 9,275.0% over five years, far outpacing other sectors.

Employment in Crowsnest Pass is highly concentrated in a few industries in 2025, with one clear outlier. Specialty hospitals account for 750 jobs, far ahead of every other listed industry. Public administration is the next largest source at 350 jobs, followed by community care facilities for the elderly and full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places, both at 131. Several other employers are much smaller: building equipment contractors have 66 jobs, grocery and convenience retailers 58, services to buildings and dwellings 52, support

activities for mining, and oil and gas extraction 49, depository credit intermediation 46, and building material and supplies dealers 40. The pattern is mixed over time. Specialty hospitals rose sharply, up 50.0% in one year and 9,275% over five years, while public administration was unchanged. By contrast, building material dealers and grocery retail declined over five years. That mix suggests a local employment base shaped by a dominant health-related employer, with smaller service and construction-related industries playing supporting roles.

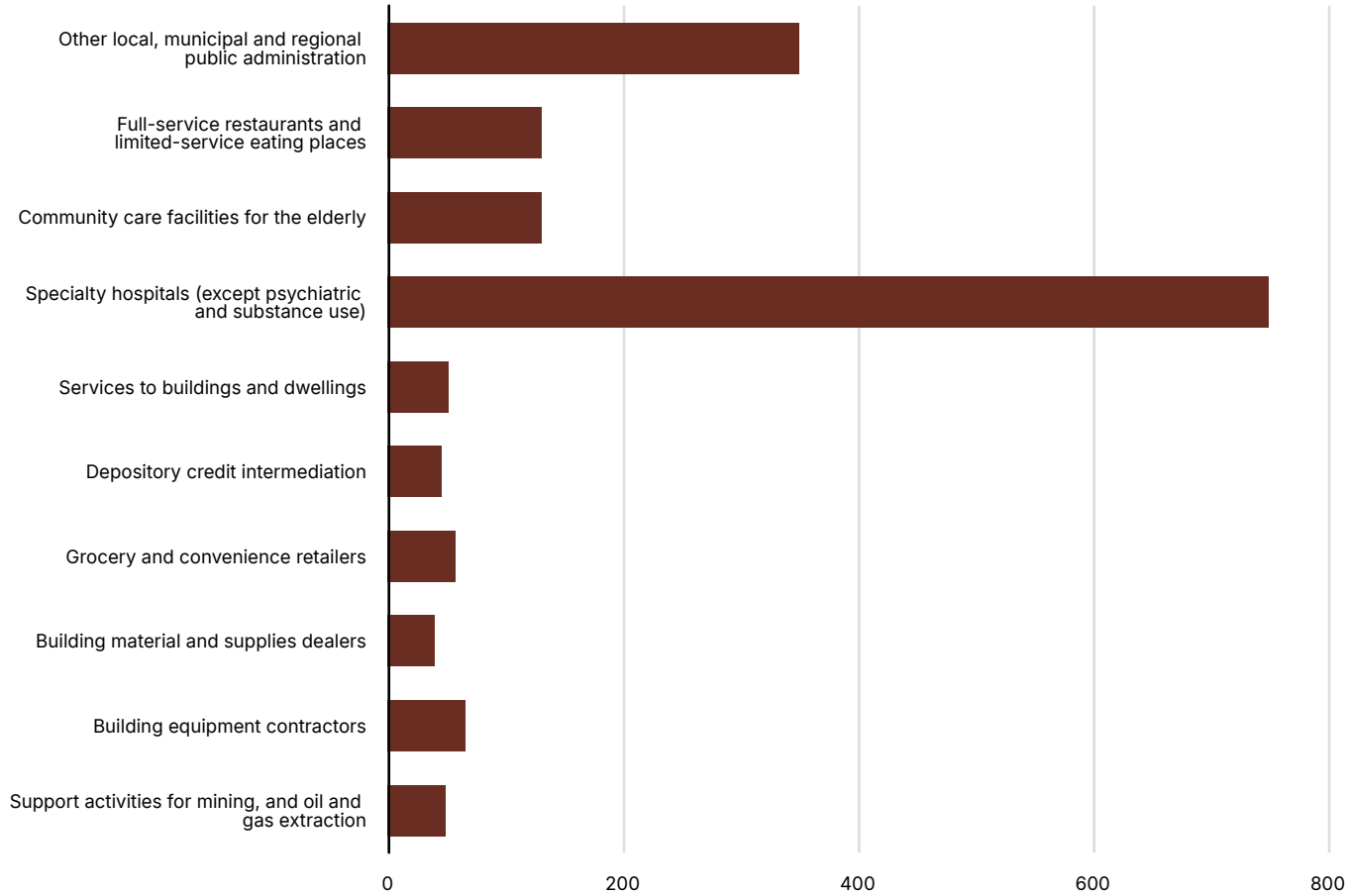


Figure 14.1: Shows the industries with the highest employment. It helps identify the biggest sources of jobs in the local economy. (Crowsnest Pass, 2025)⁴

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; Statistics Canada, Census Profile; Localintel, Labour Market Gap Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.
6. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Micro Establishments Share of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.

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