

ALBERTA
SOUTHWEST

HILL SPRING

Accommodation and Food Services

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Executive Summary

Hill Spring's accommodation and food services sector is present in business and employment records, but only at a minimal scale. Across the most recent years shown, the village had one establishment and one job in the sector, with no year to year change from 2022 through 2025. That stability points less to an active or expanding local base than to a small, fixed footprint. The structure is equally narrow on the business side, with the entire sector represented by a single establishment in the smallest employee size class, indicating a micro-scale presence rather than a mix of firms.

The sector's most distinctive feature is not size but concentration. Hill Spring's accommodation and food services profile is highly specialized in recreational vehicle parks and recreational camps, which stands out as the only anchor industry identified in the data. In 2025, that specialization remained very strong, with a location quotient of 21.7, although it had eased from the previous year. The report therefore describes a local sector that is extremely focused rather than diversified: one very small establishment, one job, and one dominant industry shaping the entire profile. This makes the sector visible in structural terms even while it remains limited in absolute scale. Compared with nearby communities, which often record larger establishment and employment counts, Hill Spring sits at the low end of local activity in this field.

The resident labour force picture is even more limited. Hill Spring had no resident labour force in accommodation and food services in either 2016 or 2021, so the sector did not appear in the village's resident workforce at either census point. That absence, set alongside the later presence of a single establishment and job, leaves a picture of a sector that exists locally in a very narrow business sense but does not register as part of the resident labour force. Hill Spring's accommodation and food services activity is therefore best understood as stable, highly specialized, and extremely small, with continuity over time but little evidence of breadth or internal change.

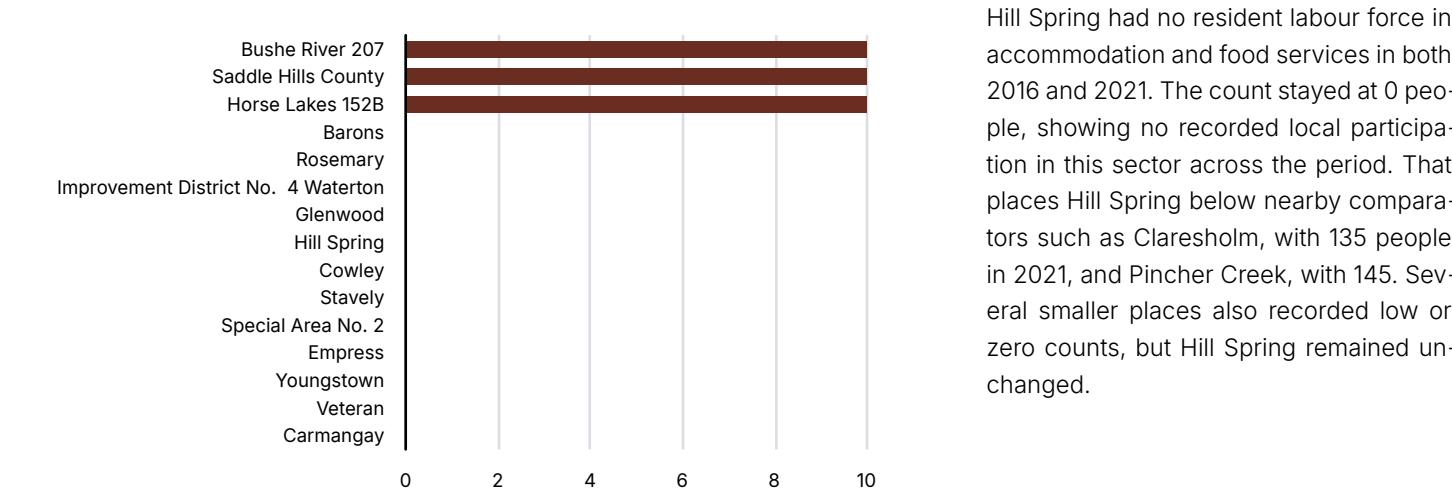
Resident Labour Force in Sector

Hill Spring recorded no resident labour force in this sector in 2021, unchanged from 2016. The count remained at 0 people across both years, showing no sector-specific resident workers in the period.



Figure 1.1: Shows the number of resident workers in a specific sector. It helps indicate how many local residents are employed in that part of the economy. (Hill Spring, 2016-2021)¹

Hill Spring had no residents in the accommodation and food services labour force in either 2016 or 2021. In both census years, the count was 0 people, showing no change over the period. Within the labour force aged 15 years and over, this sector was absent from the local resident workforce at both points in time. Because the measure stays at zero across the two years, there is no short-term momentum to describe. The pattern is simple and stable: no resident employment recorded in this sector in either census year.



Hill Spring had no resident labour force in accommodation and food services in both 2016 and 2021. The count stayed at 0 people, showing no recorded local participation in this sector across the period. That places Hill Spring below nearby comparators such as Claresholm, with 135 people in 2021, and Pincher Creek, with 145. Several smaller places also recorded low or zero counts, but Hill Spring remained unchanged.

Figure 1.2: Comparison of Resident Labour Force in Sector with other locations (Hill Spring, 2021)¹

Establishments in Sector

Hill Spring had 1 business establishment in 2025, unchanged from 2024 and 2023. The count has remained flat since 2022, with no year-over-year change across the period.

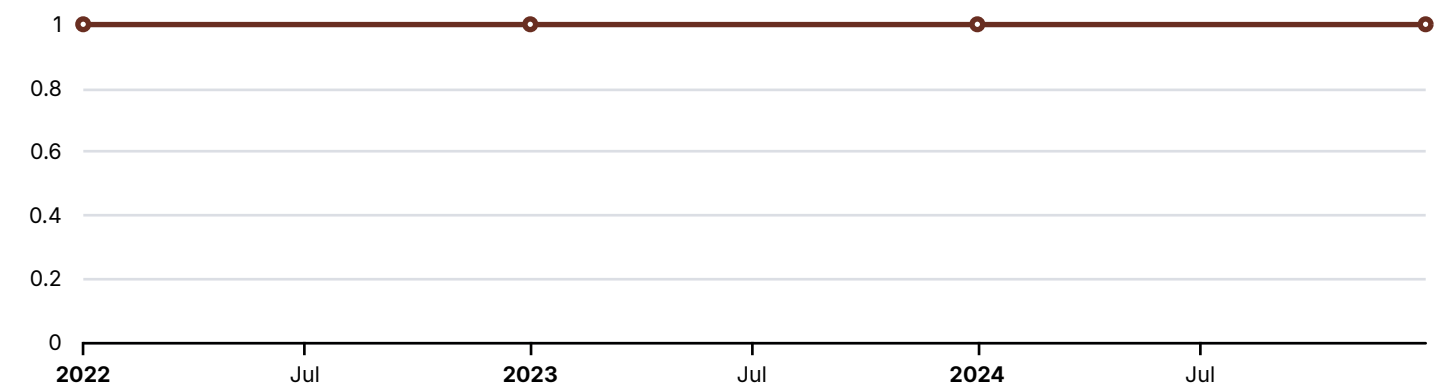


Figure 2.1: Shows the number of business establishments in a specific sector. It helps indicate the scale of business activity in that sector. (Hill Spring, 2022-2025)²

Hill Spring had one business establishment in accommodation and food services in each year from 2022 through 2025. The series is flat throughout the period, with no year-to-year change recorded in 2023, 2024, or 2025. Within this sector, the local business base remains very small and stable rather than expanding or contracting. The data show consistency over time, but they do not indicate any broader shift in activity.

Hill Spring had 1 business establishment in accommodation and food services in each year from 2022 to 2025, with no year-over-year change. That makes its local count very stable but also very small in scale. Compared with nearby places, Hill Spring sits at the low end: Cardston County had 7 establishments in 2025, while Cardston and Nanton each had 19, and Pincher Creek had 43. Several smaller comparators were also above Hill Spring at times, including Glenwood with 6 and Stavely with 1. The pattern suggests a very limited but steady presence in this sector.

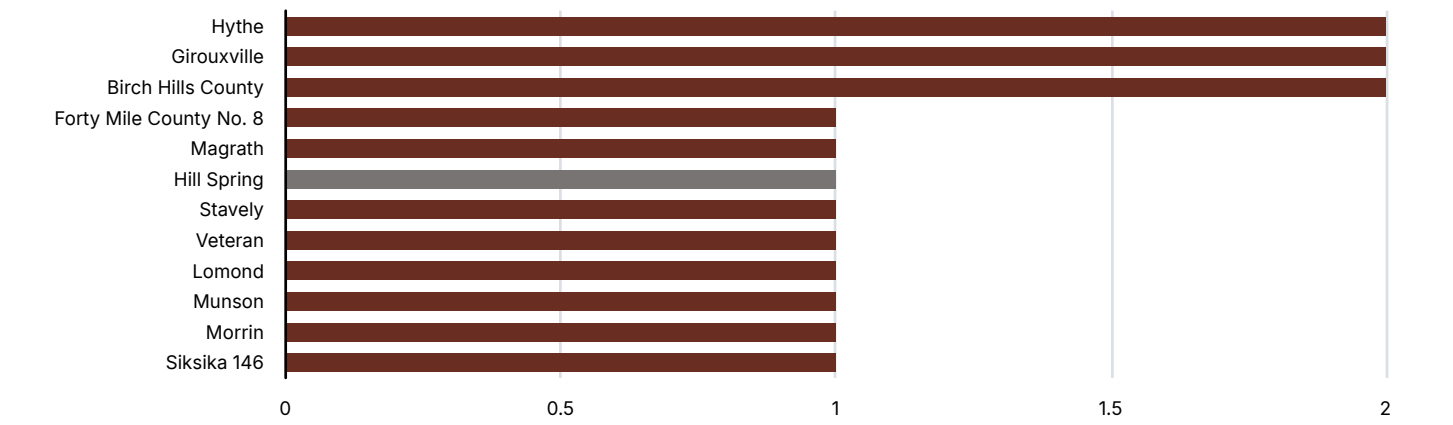


Figure 2.2: Comparison of Establishments in Sector with other locations (Hill Spring, 2025)²

Anchor Industries in Sector

Hill Spring’s largest anchor industry is recreational vehicle parks and recreational camps, with a location quotient of 21.7 in 2025. Concentration fell 23.8% from 2024, following 25.3 in 2023.

Hill Spring shows a narrow but pronounced specialization in accommodation and food services, led by recreational vehicle parks and recreational camps in 2025. Within this sector, the village’s profile is highly concentrated in that one 4-digit industry. The location quotient for recreational vehicle parks and recreational camps is 21.7, indicating a much stronger local concentration than the broader benchmark used in the dataset. At the same time, the industry’s 1-year change is -23.8%, showing

that concentration has eased over the past year. With only one industry listed for Hill Spring in this grouping, the main story is not diversity but scale and movement. The data point combines very high specialization with a recent decline, which suggests the industry remains central to the local sector profile even as its relative weight has fallen. For Hill Spring, the standout feature is still specialization, but the recent trend points to a cooling level of concentration rather than further growth.

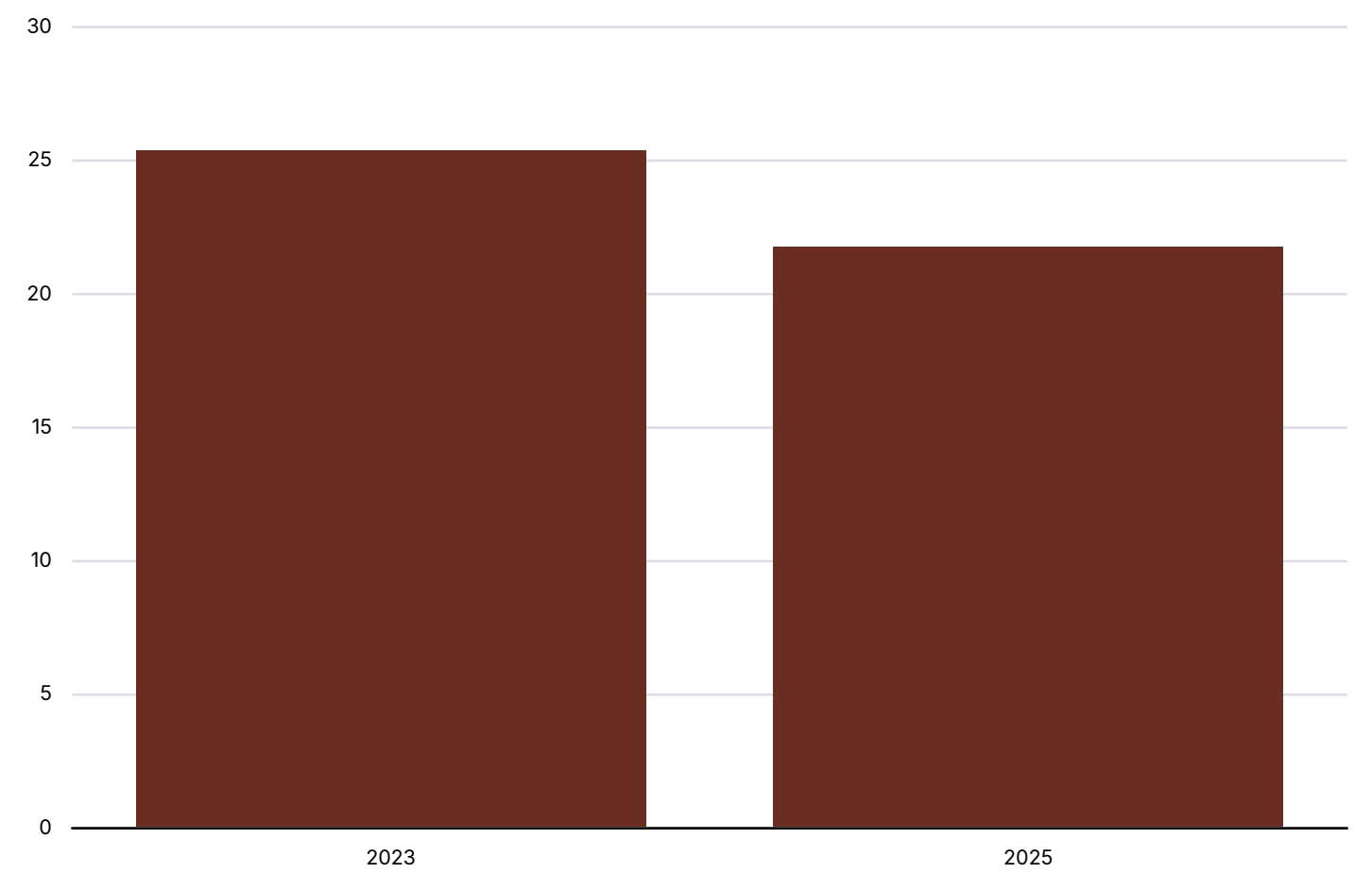


Figure 3.1: Shows industries within this sector where the local economy has strong specialization but relatively stable or declining concentration. Industries are categorized based on specialization (location quotient) and recent employment growth or change in concentration. (Hill Spring, 2023-2025)³

Employment in Sector

Hill Spring’s total industry employment remained at 1 person in 2025, unchanged from 2024 and 2023. The series also shows no year-over-year change from 2023 through 2025.

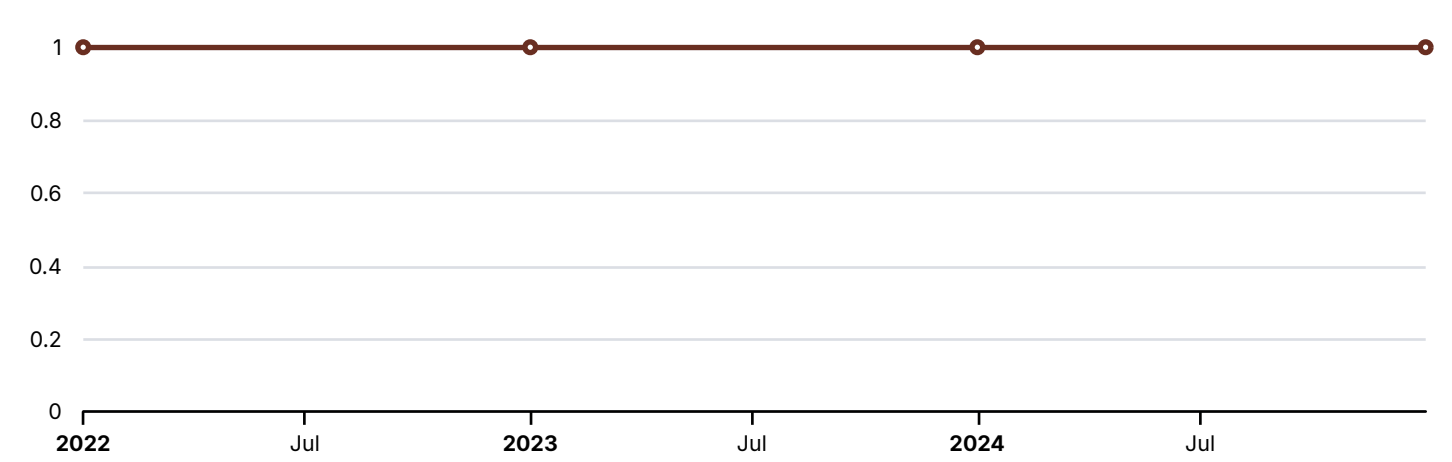
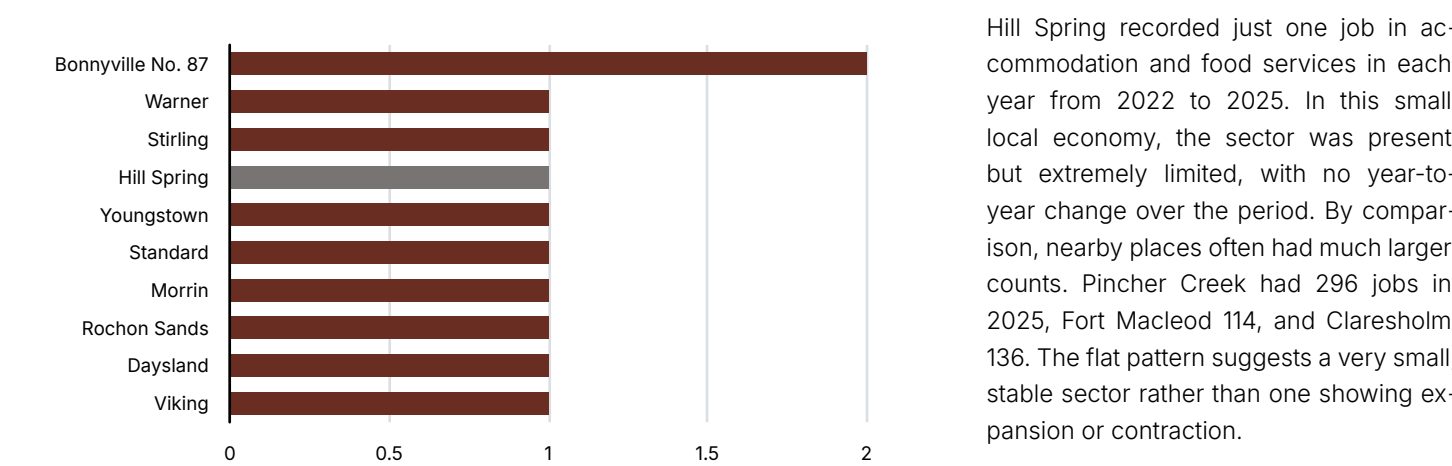


Figure 4.1: Shows the number of jobs in a specific industry sector. It helps indicate the scale of that sector within the local economy. (Hill Spring, 2022-2025)⁴

Employment in accommodation and food services in Hill Spring was unchanged across the four years shown. The sector accounted for 1 person in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, within the universe of employees aged 15 years and over. That pattern shows complete stability rather than growth or decline. Each year recorded the same count, with a 1-year change of 0 from 2023 onward. With only one job in the sector, the local employment base is very small and leaves little room for visible movement in annual estimates. The data suggest a steady but limited presence of accommodation and food services in the village. For Hill Spring, the main feature is consistency: one job, unchanged over time.



Hill Spring recorded just one job in accommodation and food services in each year from 2022 to 2025. In this small local economy, the sector was present but extremely limited, with no year-to-year change over the period. By comparison, nearby places often had much larger counts. Pincher Creek had 296 jobs in 2025, Fort Macleod 114, and Claresholm 136. The flat pattern suggests a very small, stable sector rather than one showing expansion or contraction.

Figure 4.2: Comparison of Employment in Sector with other locations (Hill Spring, 2025)⁴

Establishments in Sector by Number of Employees

Hill Spring’s business establishments are concentrated entirely in the 1 to 4 employee group, with 1 business in 2025. That count was unchanged from 2024 and 2023, after 1 in 2022.

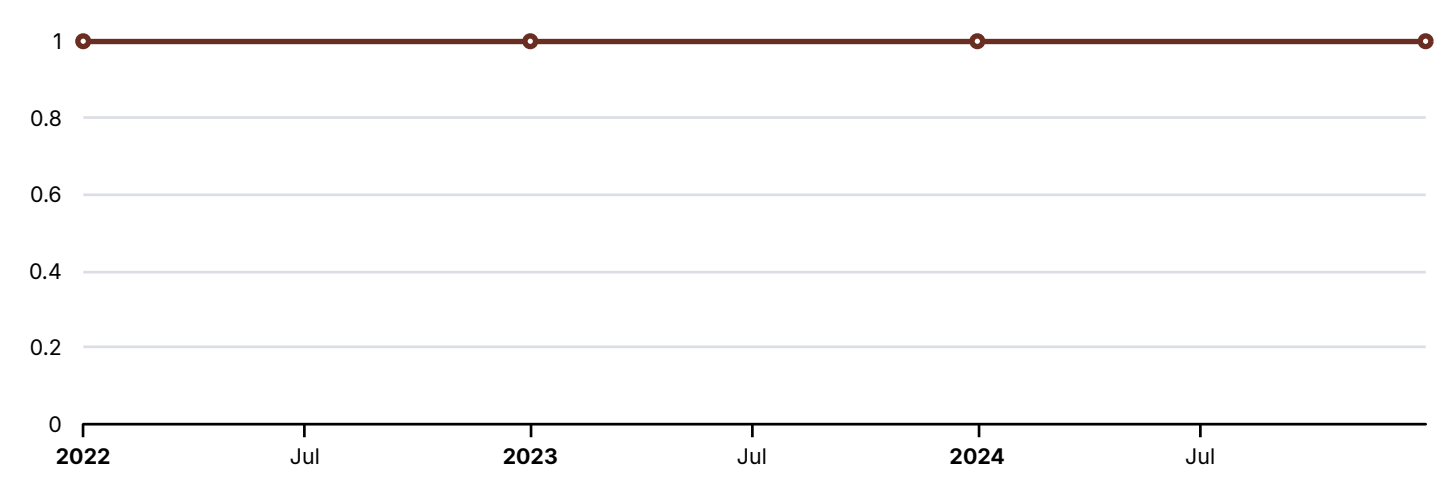
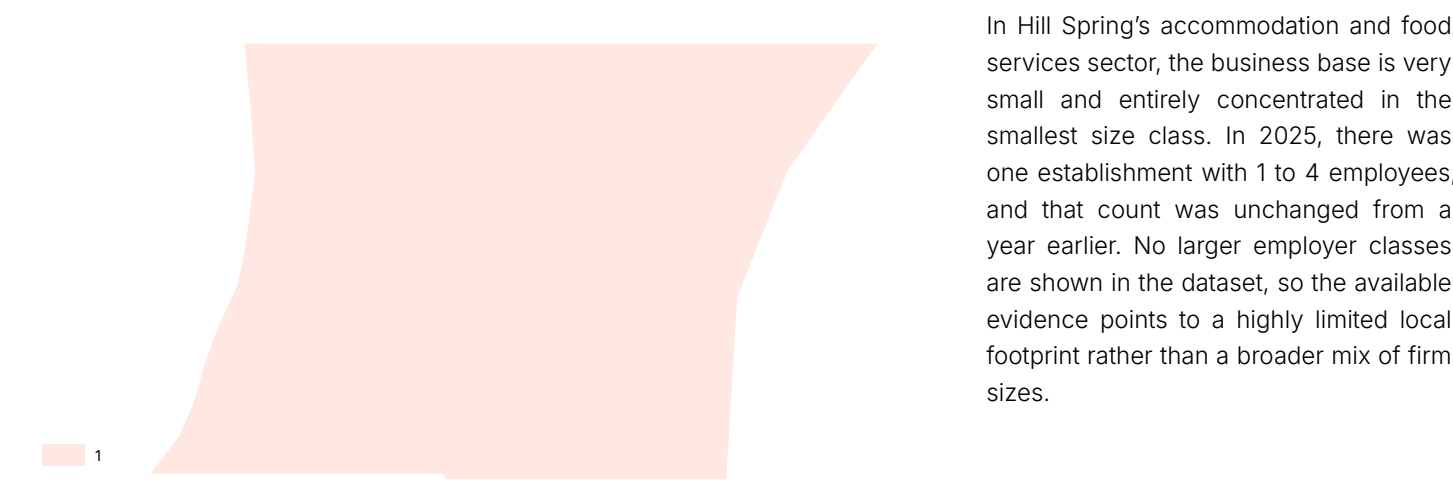


Figure 5.1: Shows the number of business establishments in a sector by employee size class. It helps indicate whether that sector is made up mostly of small or larger firms. (Hill Spring, 2022-2025)²

In Hill Spring’s accommodation and food services sector, the 2025 profile is very small and concentrated at the lowest employee size class. The village recorded one business establishment with 1 to 4 employees, and the count showed no change from a year earlier. With only one reported establishment, the data points to a sector made up entirely of micro-sized firms in this location. No larger employee categories are shown in the dataset, so there is no basis for describing a broader size mix or a shift in composition. For this indicator, Hill Spring’s recent pattern is stable and narrowly defined.



In Hill Spring’s accommodation and food services sector, the business base is very small and entirely concentrated in the smallest size class. In 2025, there was one establishment with 1 to 4 employees, and that count was unchanged from a year earlier. No larger employer classes are shown in the dataset, so the available evidence points to a highly limited local footprint rather than a broader mix of firm sizes.

Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Business Establishment Size - 1 to 4 employees (Hill Spring)²

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.
2. Statistics Canada, Business Register. Published in Jun 1, 2025.
3. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Employment 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.

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