

ALBERTA
SOUTHWEST

WILLOW CREEK NO. 26

Workforce Report

Table of Contents

Place of Work Status	4
High School Completion	5
Labour Force Participation Rate	6
Labour Force Status	7
Highest Education Level	8
Work Activity	9
Class of Worker	10
Employment Rate	11
Work Activity	12
Labour Force Participation Rate	13
Employment Rate	14
Labour Force Status	15
Resident Labour Force	16
Employment by Sector	17
Employed Residents by Occupation	18

Executive Summary

Willow Creek No. 26 presents a labour market profile rooted in steady employment and strong workforce attachment, while also showing some softening between 2016 and 2021. In 2021, most residents aged 15 and over were employed, unemployment was very small, and the labour force participation rate remained above seven in ten. Work was divided mainly between people with a usual place of work and a substantial number working at home, with far fewer residents reporting no fixed workplace or work outside Canada. The overall picture is of a community where work remains central to daily life, but where recent change has been uneven rather than uniformly strong.

That unevenness appears across several measures. Employment and participation rates both declined over five years, even as the number of employed residents rose and the labour force continued to be dominated by people in work rather than by unemployment. Work activity also shifted in mixed ways: full-year, full-time work increased modestly, part-year or part-time work fell, and the number of people who did not work rose sharply. At the same time, the local employment base still looks relatively stable in structure. Permanent positions far outnumbered casual, seasonal, short-term, or fixed-term roles, and the resident labour force remained concentrated in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, which was still the largest industry despite a decline from 2016. Other parts of the labour force moved in different directions, with gains in areas such as construction, manufacturing, health care, and public administration, alongside declines in transportation and warehousing. Occupation patterns reinforce this profile, with natural resources, agriculture, and related production work standing well ahead of other groups, followed by trades and transport.

Education adds an important part of the same story. High school completion was far more common than non-completion, and the largest reported education groups were high school and college credentials. University qualifications were present in smaller numbers, while trades credentials were less prominent and moved downward over the period. This leaves Willow Creek No. 26 with a workforce that appears broad enough to support several kinds of employment, but still most clearly shaped by practical, resource-linked work and a high level of labour market engagement, even as some headline indicators weakened between census years.

Place of Work Status

Willow Creek No. 26 had 1,340 people with a usual place of work in 2021, up 13.1% from 2016. Worked at home held at 1,035, while worked outside Canada fell to 10, down 50.0%.

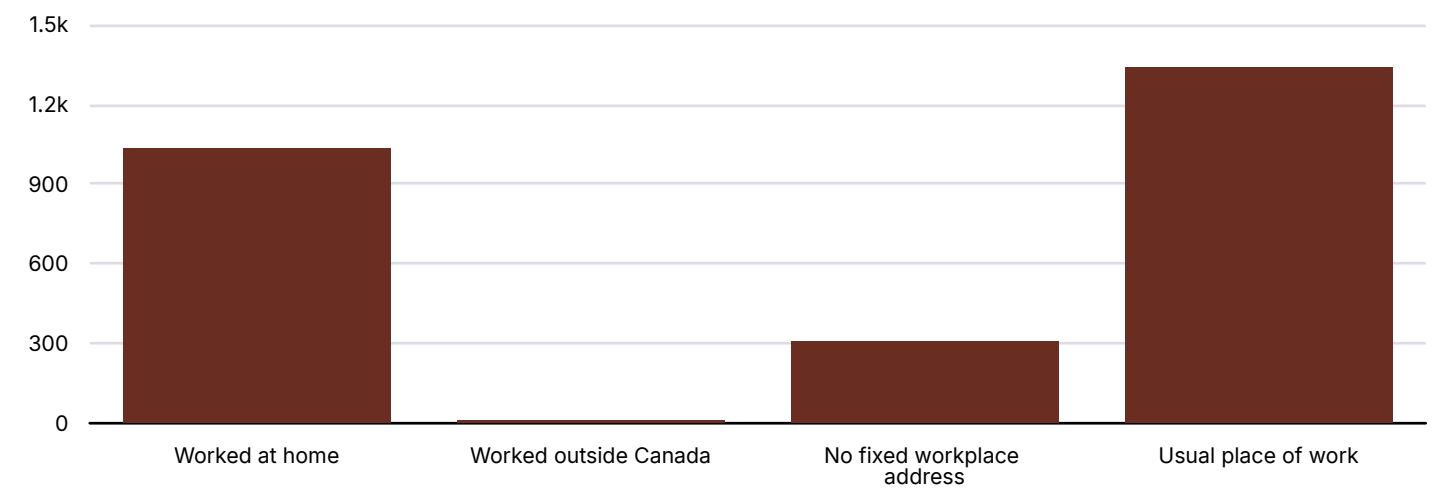
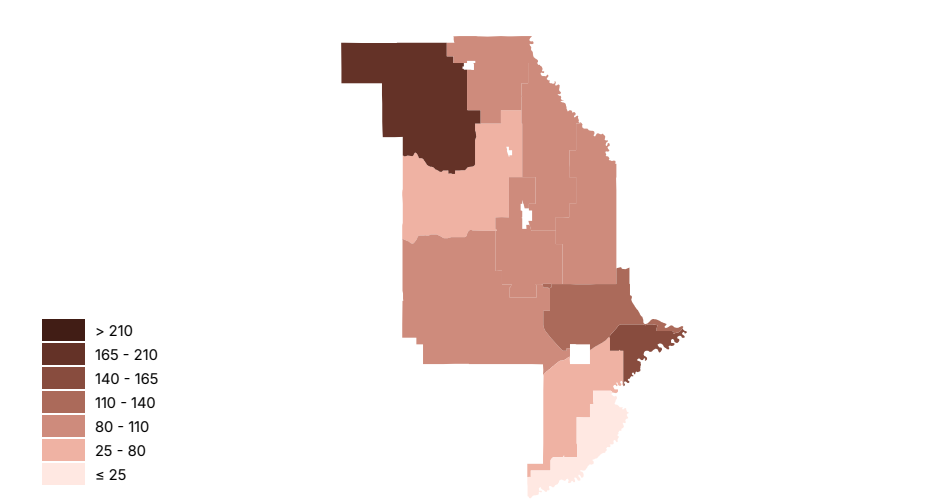


Figure 1.1: Shows whether people work from home, at a usual workplace, or at no fixed workplace. It helps indicate how work is organized across locations. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, work in Willow Creek No. 26 was concentrated in two main patterns: 1,340 people had a usual place of work, while 1,035 worked at home. That left smaller numbers for no fixed workplace address, at 305 people, and for work outside Canada, at 10. The five-year changes show a mixed picture. Usual place of work increased by 13.1%, while working at home was unchanged. By contrast, no fixed workplace address edged down 4.7%, and work outside Canada fell 50%. The data points to a largely stable local work profile with modest shifts over time.



In 2021, work in Willow Creek No. 26 was split between a usual workplace and home-based arrangements. The largest category was usual place of work, with 1,340 people, followed by 1,035 who worked at home. Another 305 people had no fixed workplace address, while 10 worked outside Canada. The 5-year change shows a mixed pattern: usual workplace employment rose 13.1%, home-based work was unchanged, and no fixed workplace slipped 4.7%. Work outside Canada declined 50%. The mix suggests a labour force with both fixed-site and remote working patterns.

Figure 1.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Place Of Work Status - Usual place of work (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

High School Completion

High school diploma holders were the largest group in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2021, with 3,175 people. That exceeded the 745 residents with no certificate, diploma or degree by 2,430.

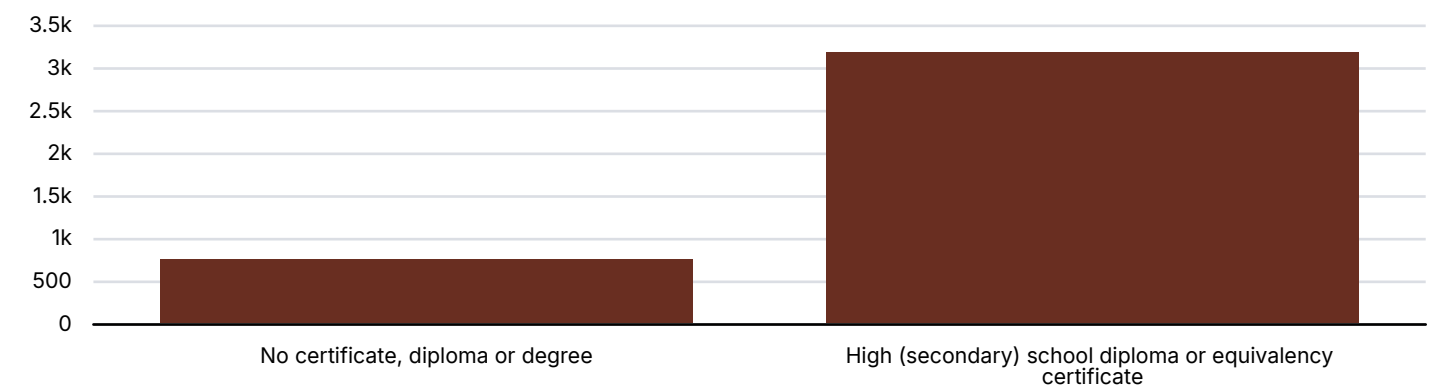


Figure 2.1: Shows whether residents have completed high school or an equivalent credential. It helps indicate a basic foundation for workforce participation and further study. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 showed a clear split in high school completion among residents age 15 and over living in private households. More people had a high school diploma or equivalency certificate than had no certificate, diploma, or degree. The location recorded 3,175 residents with a secondary school credential, compared with 745 who had none. That pattern suggests completion was more common than non-completion, but the dataset does not provide the full education mix for a broader comparison.

In Willow Creek No. 26, high school completion is the larger of the two reported education groups for residents aged 15 and over in private households in 2021. There were 3,175 people with a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, compared with 745 without a certificate, diploma or degree. That means about 81% had completed high school and 19% had not. The distribution suggests a community where secondary education is common, with the completion group outweighing the non-completion group by more than four to one.



Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Labour Force Participation Rate

Willow Creek No. 26’s labour force participation rate was 71.0% in 2021, down 4.7% from 74.5% in 2016. The rate remained above seven in ten residents over the period.

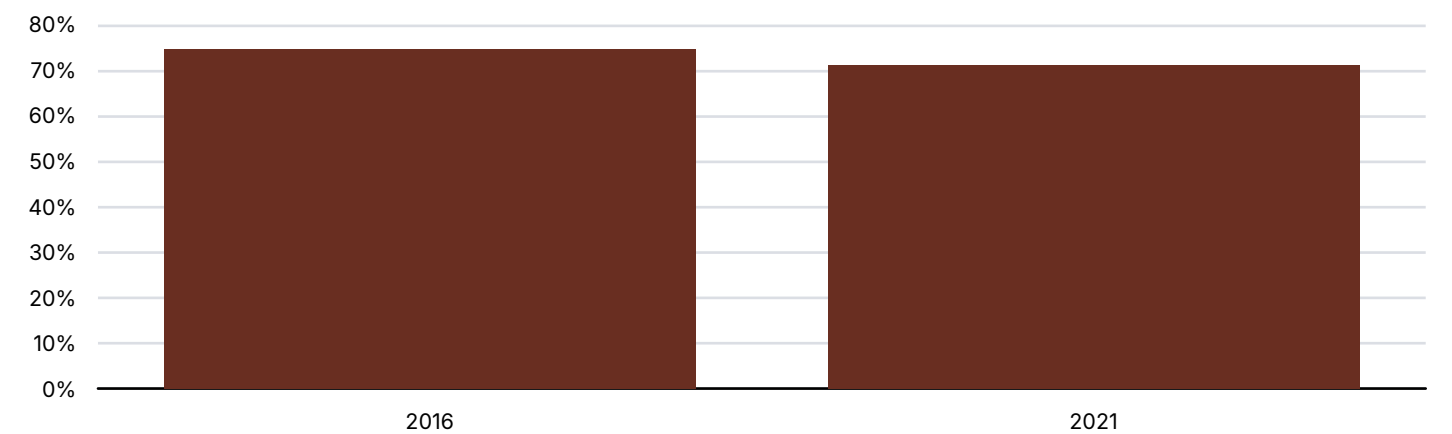


Figure 3.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed or actively looking for work. It helps indicate the level of labour market engagement. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2016-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26 recorded a labour force participation rate of 71.0% in 2021, showing the share of the working-age population that was employed or actively looking for work. The measure was lower than in 2016, when it stood at 74.5%. That five-year change of -4.7 percentage points points to a decline in labour market engagement over the period covered by the census. With only two observations available, the data show direction and magnitude of change, but not the reasons behind it.

Willow Creek No. 26 had a labour force participation rate of 71.0% in 2021, down from 74.5% in 2016. That 4.7% decline left the subdivision above several nearby places, including Claresholm at 52.6%, Pincher Creek at 57.2%, and Fort Macleod at 55.2%. It also remained higher than Cardston County, at 68.1%. The pattern suggests a still-strong level of labour market engagement, although the recent direction was downward.

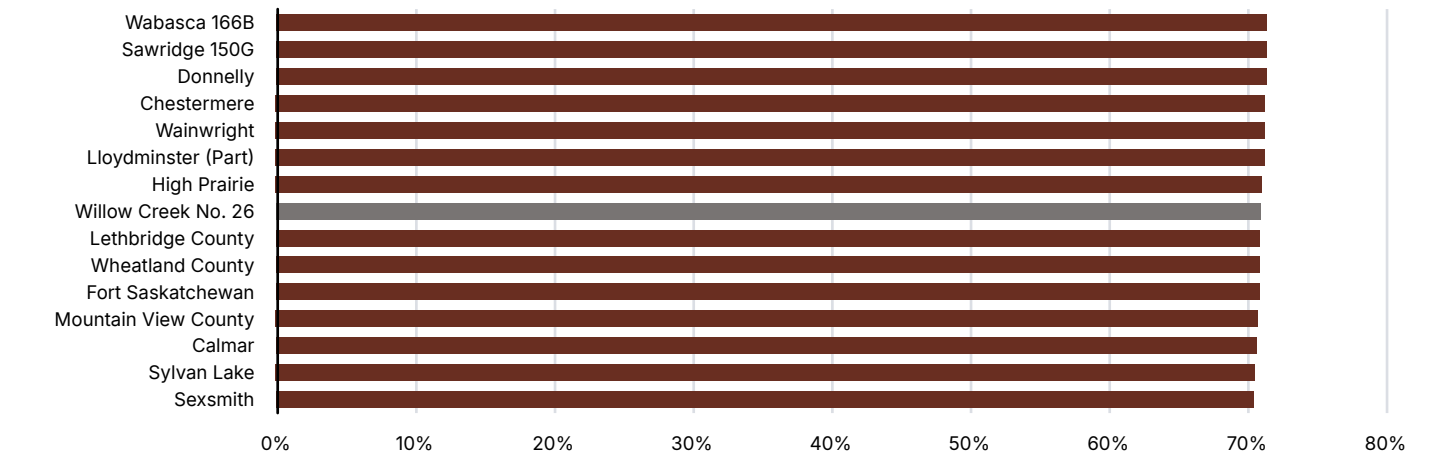


Figure 3.2: Comparison of Labour Force Participation Rate with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Labour Force Status

Employed residents were the largest group in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2021 at 2,695 people, up from 2,560 in 2016. Those not in the labour force also increased to 1,135, while unemployment held at 95.

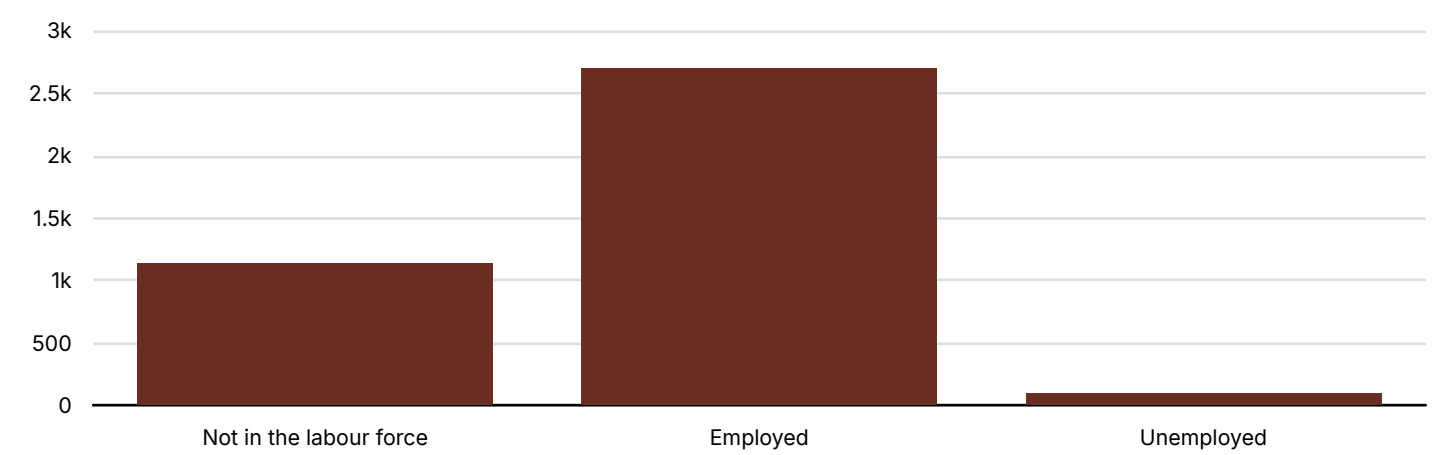


Figure 4.1: Shows whether residents are employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force. It helps indicate how people are participating in the labour market. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, labour force status in Willow Creek No. 26 shows a workforce profile dominated by employment, with most residents aged 15 and over counted as employed. There were 2,695 employed people, 1,135 not in the labour force, and 95 unemployed. That works out to about 68.7% employed, 28.9% not in the labour force, and 2.4% unemployed out of 3,925 people in this age group. With only one year of data, no time trend can be shown. The main pattern is a strong employment share and a very small unemployed group. This suggests a relatively stable labour force picture in 2021, but the dataset does not support any conclusion about why the balance looks this way.

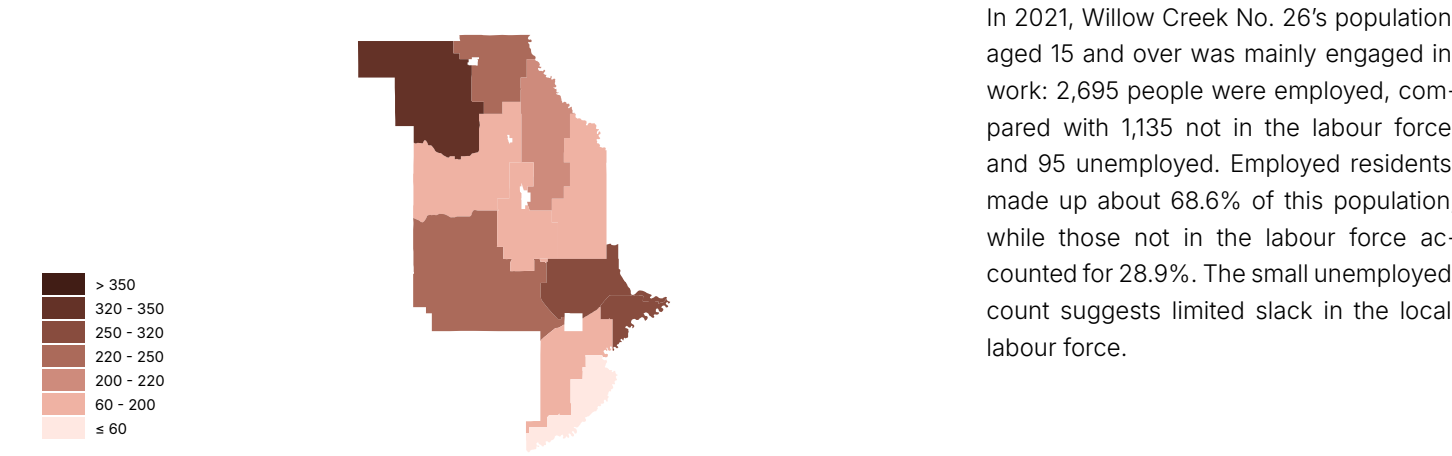


Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Labour Force Status - Employed (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Highest Education Level

In Willow Creek No. 26, high school diploma holders were the largest group in 2021 at 1,340 people, up 87.4% from 2016. College credentials followed at 920, while bachelor’s degrees totaled 355.

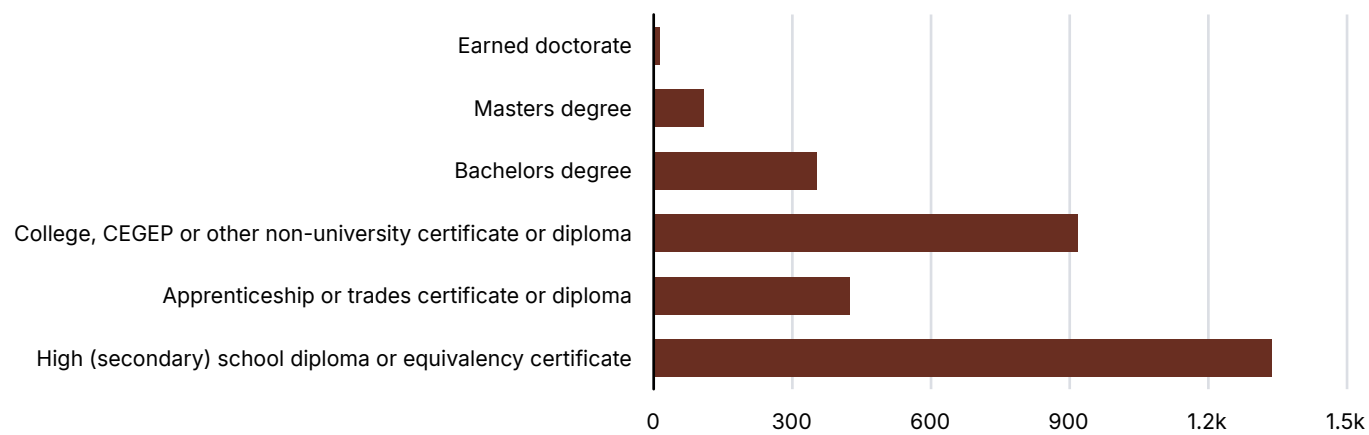


Figure 5.1: Shows the highest level of education completed by residents. It helps indicate the overall educational profile of the population. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In Willow Creek No. 26, the 2021 education profile is led by high school completion, with 1,340 residents aged 15 and over reporting a high school diploma or equivalent. College, CEGEP or other non-university credentials follow at 920, while apprenticeship or trades certificates total 425. University credentials are smaller in number, including 355 bachelor’s degrees, 110 master’s degrees, and 15 earned doctorates. The five-year changes show a mixed pattern: high school, college, master’s and doctorate counts rose, while apprenticeship or trades credentials declined and bachelor’s degrees increased only slightly. The mix suggests broad growth in several education levels, alongside weaker momentum in trades.

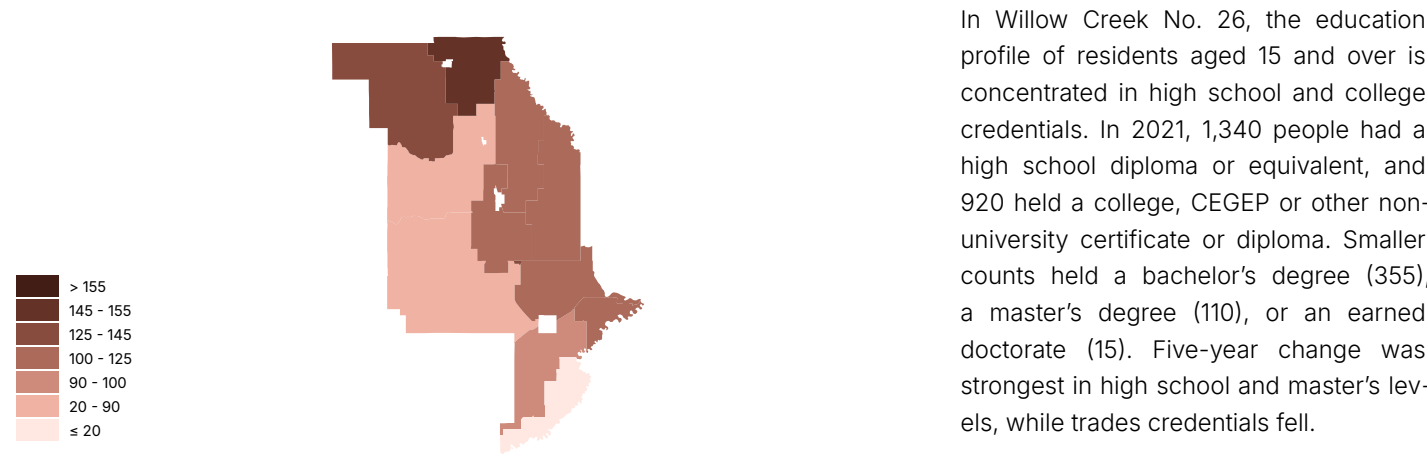


Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Work Activity

In Willow Creek No. 26, the largest group in 2021 worked full year full time, at 1,555 people, while 1,230 worked part year and/or part time and 1,145 did not work, up 68.4% from 2016.

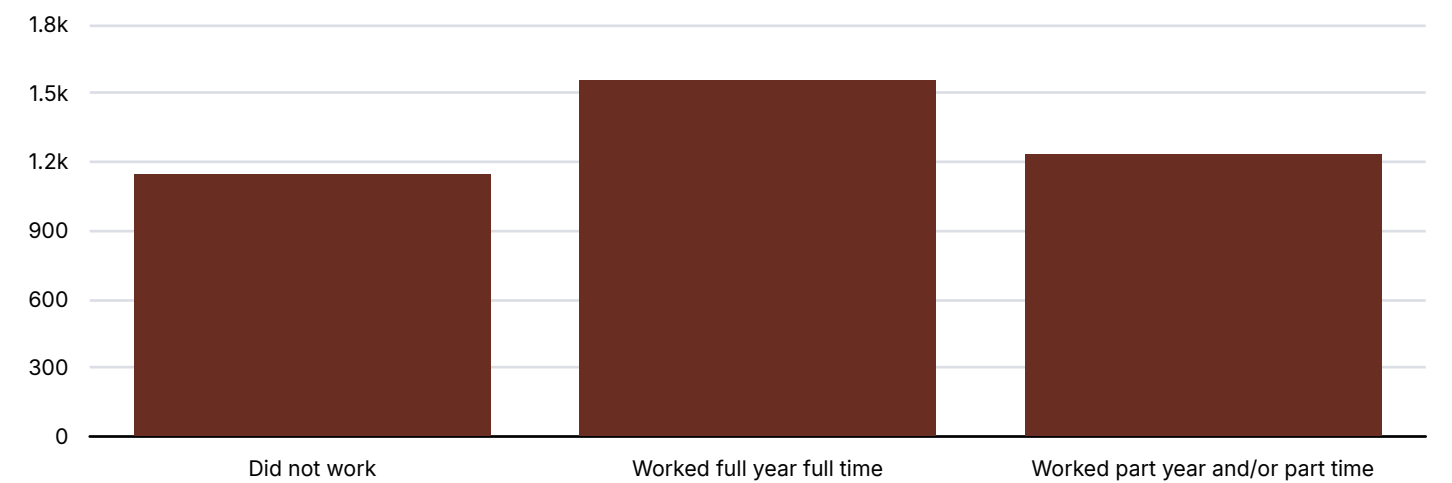
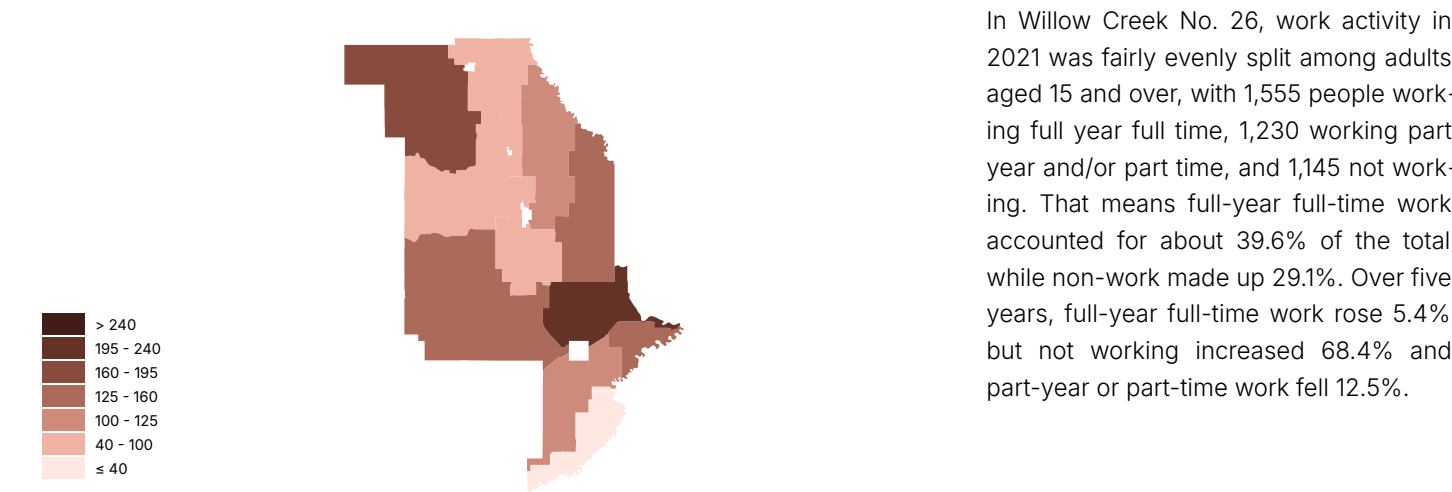


Figure 6.1: Shows the amount of work activity people had during the reference period. It helps indicate attachment to work over the year, not just at a single point in time. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In Willow Creek No. 26, work activity among people aged 15 and over in 2021 was split among three clear patterns. The largest group worked full year, full time, with 1,555 people, while 1,230 worked part year and/or part time and 1,145 did not work. The five-year changes point in different directions. Full-year full-time work rose 5.4%, and the number who did not work increased 68.4%. Part-year and part-time work fell 12.5%, suggesting a shift in the mix of activity over the period.



In Willow Creek No. 26, work activity in 2021 was fairly evenly split among adults aged 15 and over, with 1,555 people working full year full time, 1,230 working part year and/or part time, and 1,145 not working. That means full-year full-time work accounted for about 39.6% of the total, while non-work made up 29.1%. Over five years, full-year full-time work rose 5.4%, but not working increased 68.4% and part-year or part-time work fell 12.5%.

Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Work Activity - Worked full year full time (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Class of Worker

Permanent positions were the largest class of worker in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2021, at 1,235 people. Casual, seasonal or short-term positions followed with 275, while fixed-term roles numbered 85.

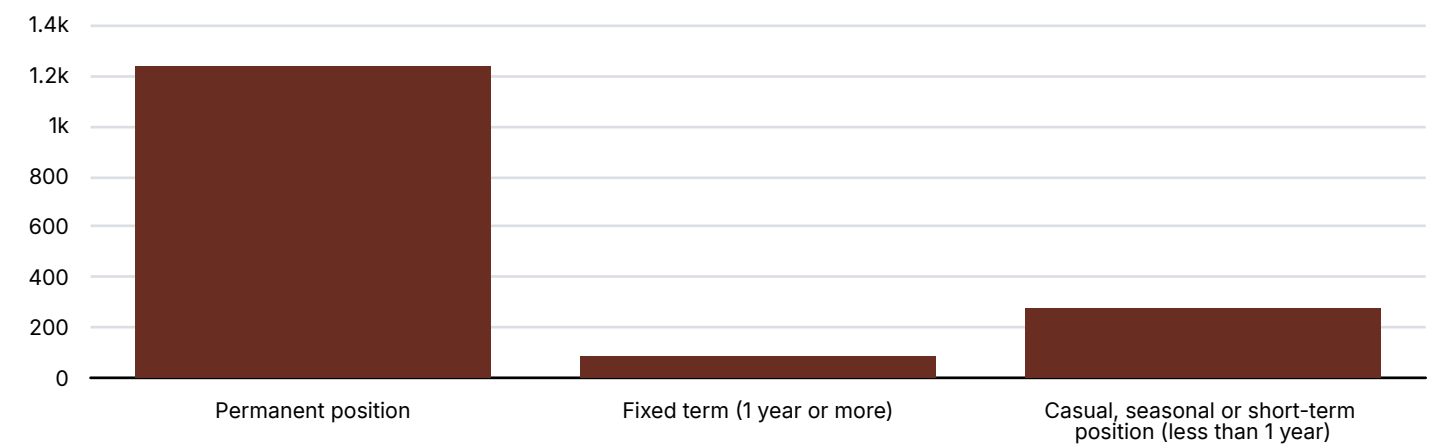


Figure 7.1: Shows whether workers are employees, self-employed, or unpaid family workers. It helps indicate the structure of work in the local economy. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In Willow Creek No. 26, the 2021 class-of-worker profile for the population aged 15 years and over was concentrated in permanent positions. There were 1,235 people in permanent jobs, compared with 275 in casual, seasonal or short-term positions and 85 in fixed-term jobs of one year or more. The pattern points to a workforce structure dominated by stable employment, with much smaller numbers in temporary arrangements. Because the dataset does not provide a full breakdown of all possible worker classes or a comparison benchmark, the safest reading is simply that permanent work was by far the most common arrangement among the categories reported.

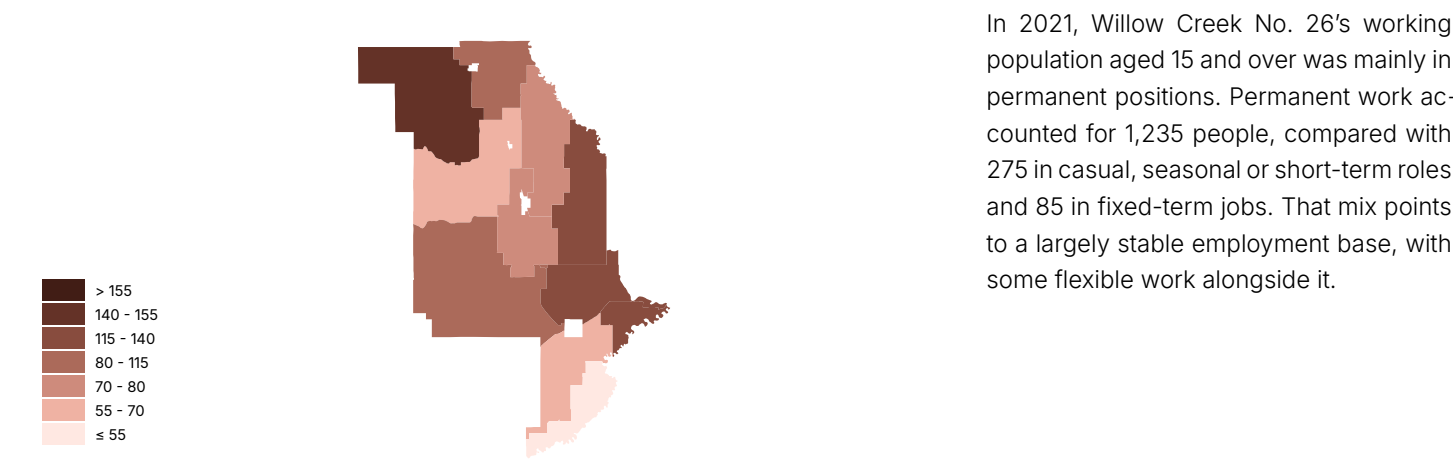


Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Class Of Worker - Permanent position (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Employment Rate

Willow Creek No. 26’s employment rate was 68.7% in 2021, down from 71.8% in 2016. That five-year decline of 4.3% shows a lower share of the labour force employed.

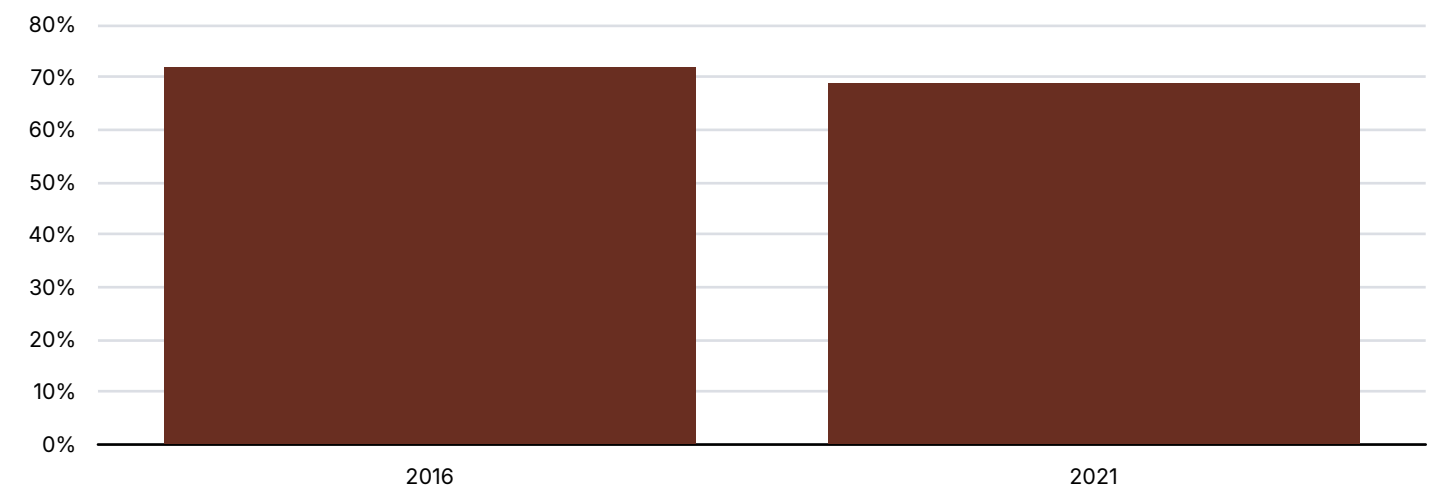
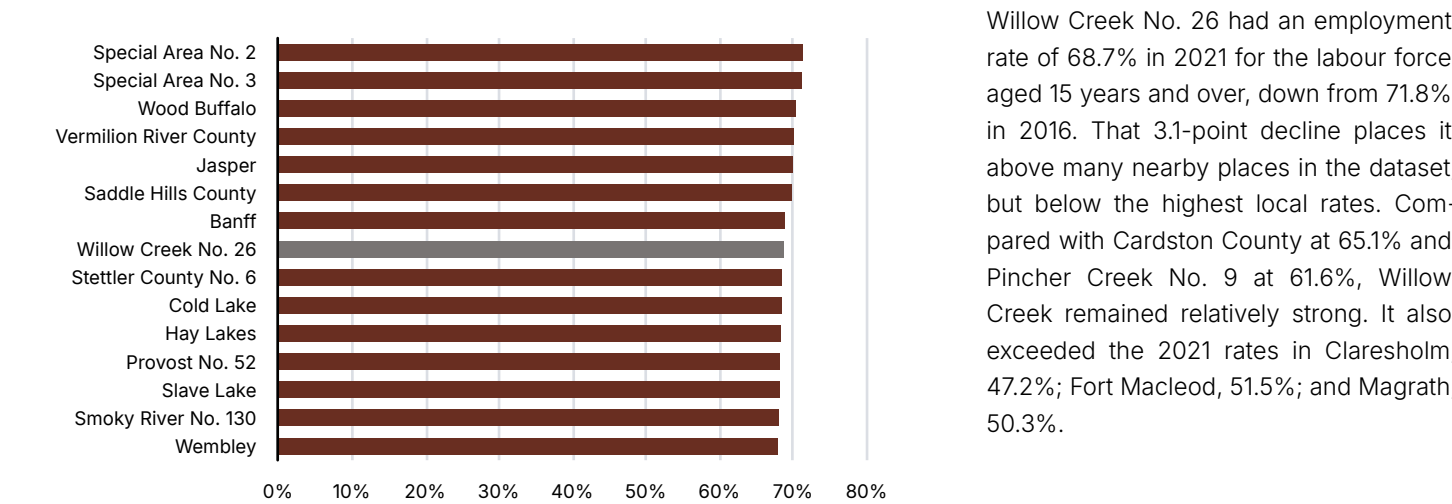


Figure 8.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed. It helps indicate overall labour market health and how fully local talent is being used. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2016-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26 had an employment rate of 68.7% in 2021 among the labour force aged 15 years and over. That was lower than its 2016 level of 71.8%, a decline of 4.3% over five years. The data points to a moderate softening in employment participation across the period, rather than a sharp shift. With only two observations, the pattern is mainly one of change over time: the local employment rate remained relatively high, but it moved downward between censuses. That makes the 2021 figure the lower point in the available series.



Willow Creek No. 26 had an employment rate of 68.7% in 2021 for the labour force aged 15 years and over, down from 71.8% in 2016. That 3.1-point decline places it above many nearby places in the dataset, but below the highest local rates. Compared with Cardston County at 65.1% and Pincher Creek No. 9 at 61.6%, Willow Creek remained relatively strong. It also exceeded the 2021 rates in Claresholm, 47.2%; Fort Macleod, 51.5%; and Magrath, 50.3%.

Figure 8.2: Comparison of Employment Rate with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Work Activity

In Willow Creek No. 26, the largest group in 2021 worked full year full time, at 1,555 people, while 1,230 worked part year and/or part time and 1,145 did not work, up 68.4% from 2016.

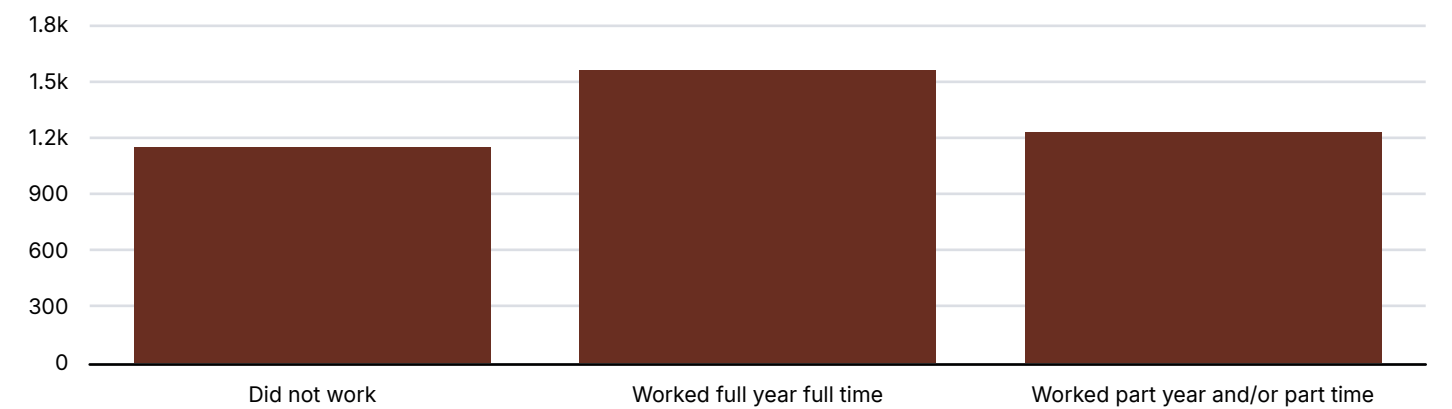


Figure 9.1: Shows the amount of work activity people had during the reference period. It helps indicate attachment to work over the year, not just at a single point in time. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In Willow Creek No. 26, work activity among people aged 15 years and over in 2021 shows a mix of full-year attachment and more limited participation. The largest group worked full year full time, at 1,555 people. Another 1,230 people worked part year and/or part time, while 1,145 did not work. Over five years, the “did not work” group grew by 68.4%, full-year full-time work rose 5.4%, and part-year or part-time work fell 12.5%. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

In 2021, work activity in Willow Creek No. 26 was split across all three categories, with 1,555 people working full year full time, 1,230 working part year and/or part time, and 1,145 not working. The five-year pattern was uneven: full-year full-time work rose 5.4%, while part-year and/or part-time work fell 12.5% and the number not working increased 68.4%. Across the included sub-areas, full-year full-time counts ranged from 40 to 240 people, showing that work activity varied within the subdivision.



Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Work Activity - Worked full year full time (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Labour Force Participation Rate

Willow Creek No. 26’s labour force participation rate was 71.0% in 2021, down 4.7% from 74.5% in 2016. The rate remained above seven in ten residents over the period.

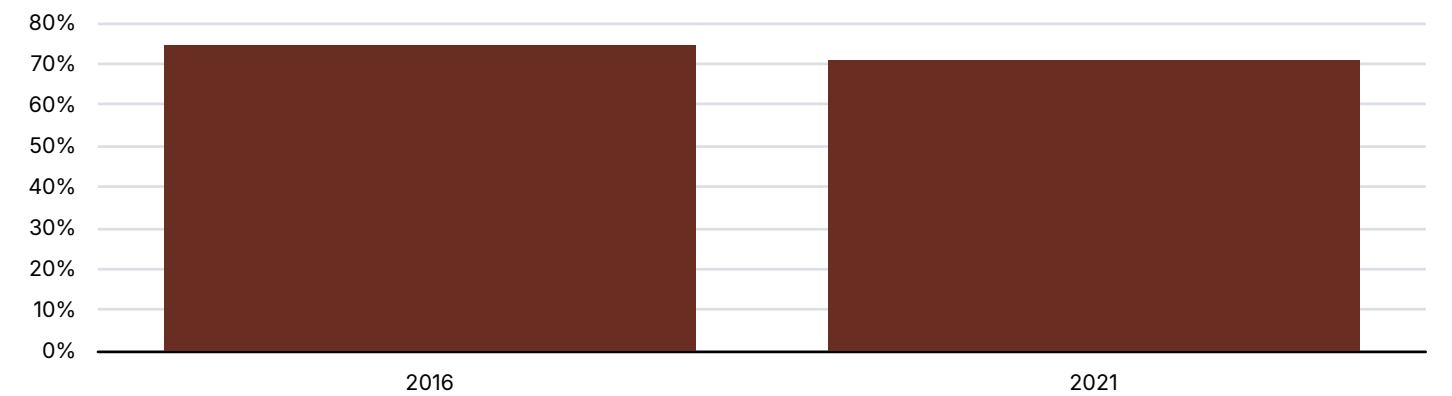


Figure 10.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed or actively looking for work. It helps indicate the level of labour market engagement. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2016-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26’s labour force participation rate remained high in both census years, but it eased over time. The share of the working-age population that was employed or looking for work was 74.5% in 2016 and 71.0% in 2021, a five-year decline of 4.7 percentage points. Even with that drop, the rate stayed above 70%, suggesting continued labour market engagement within the total population. The data points to a modest weakening rather than a sharp change.

Willow Creek No. 26 had a labour force participation rate of 71.0% in 2021, down from 74.5% in 2016. The 5-year change was -4.7 percentage points, pointing to a moderate decline in labour market engagement among the total population. Even with that drop, Willow Creek remained above several nearby places in 2021, including Claresholm at 52.6%, Pincher Creek at 57.2%, and Cardston at 54.5%. It was below Cowley at 73.0% and close to Nanton at 64.2%. The pattern suggests relatively strong participation, but with some softening over the five-year period.

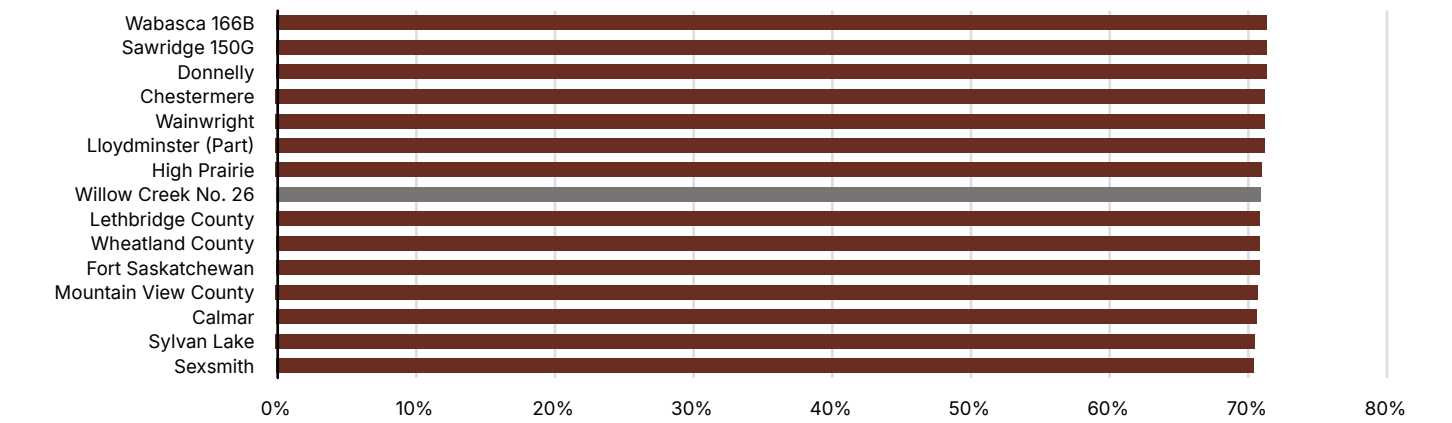


Figure 10.2: Comparison of Labour Force Participation Rate with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Employment Rate

Willow Creek No. 26’s employment rate was 68.7% in 2021, down from 71.8% in 2016. That five-year decline of 4.3% shows a lower share of the labour force employed.

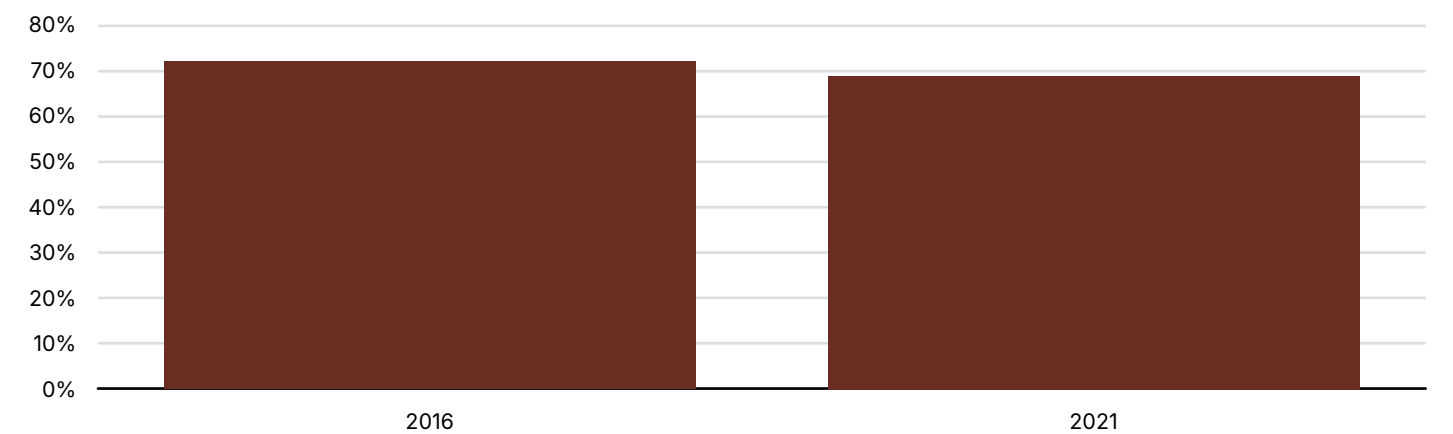


Figure 11.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed. It helps indicate overall labour market health and how fully local talent is being used. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2016-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26’s employment rate declined between the two census points, moving from 71.8% in 2016 to 68.7% in 2021. That leaves the share of the labour force aged 15 years and over who were employed lower by 4.3% over the period. The trend points to softer labour market participation in the working-age population, at least on this measure. With only two observations provided, the data show the direction of change clearly, but not the reasons behind it.

Willow Creek No. 26 had an employment rate of 68.7% in 2021, down from 71.8% in 2016, a decline of 4.3 percentage points. That level remained above several nearby places, including Cardston County at 65.1%, Cardston at 50.5%, and Fort Macleod at 51.5%, though it was below Cowley at 62.2%. Wait that's below? Need correct. I should avoid contradictions. Let's craft concise 60 words with comparisons.

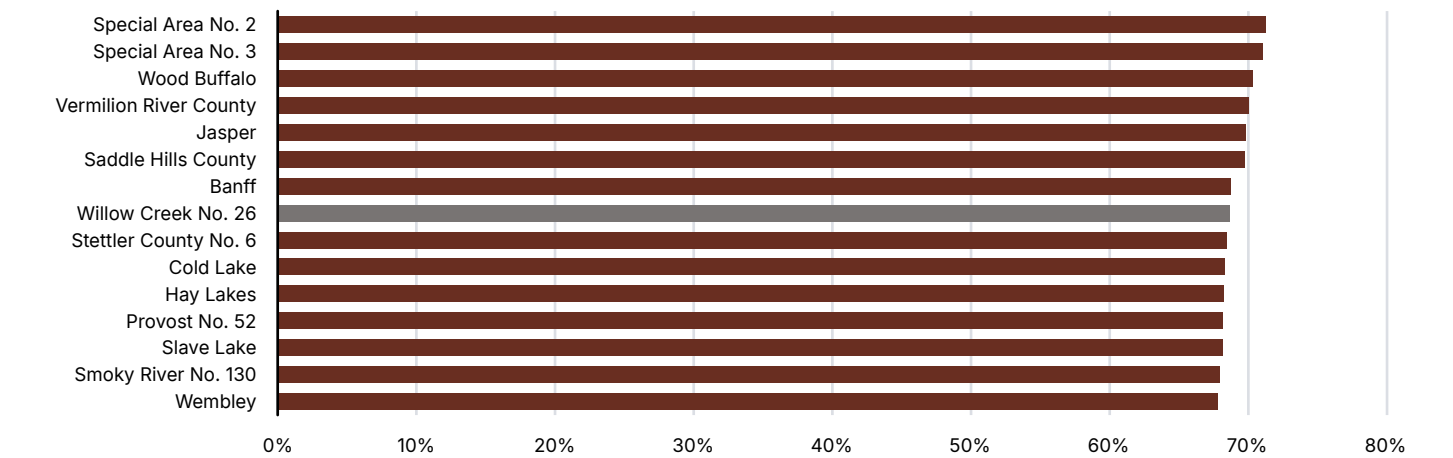


Figure 11.2: Comparison of Employment Rate with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Labour Force Status

Employed residents were the largest group in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2021 at 2,695 people, up from 2,560 in 2016. Those not in the labour force also increased to 1,135, while unemployment held at 95.

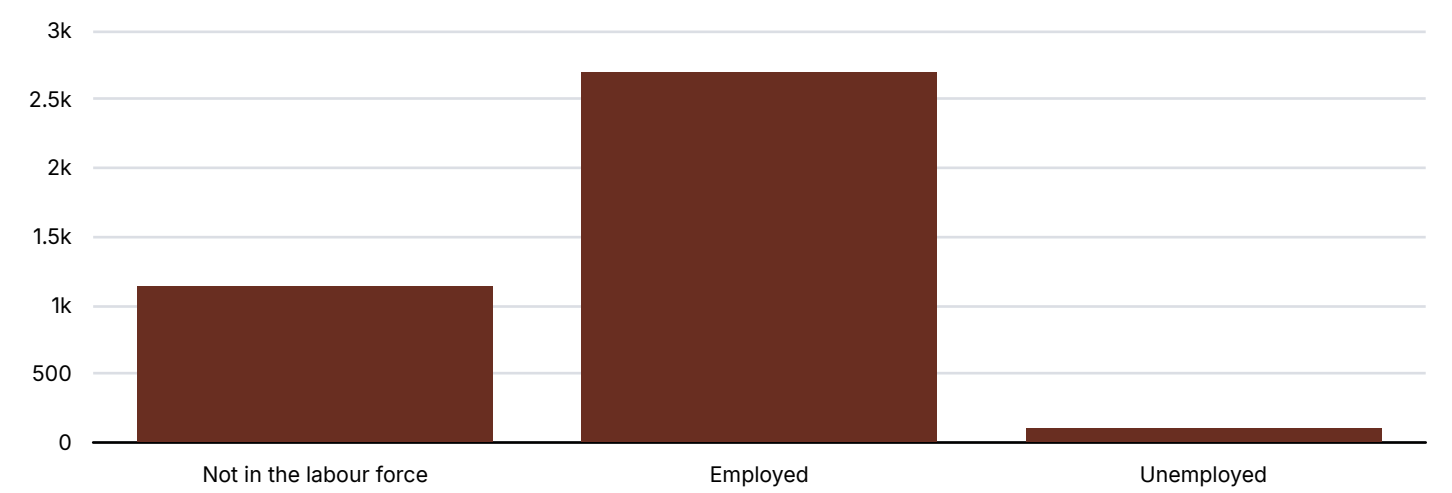
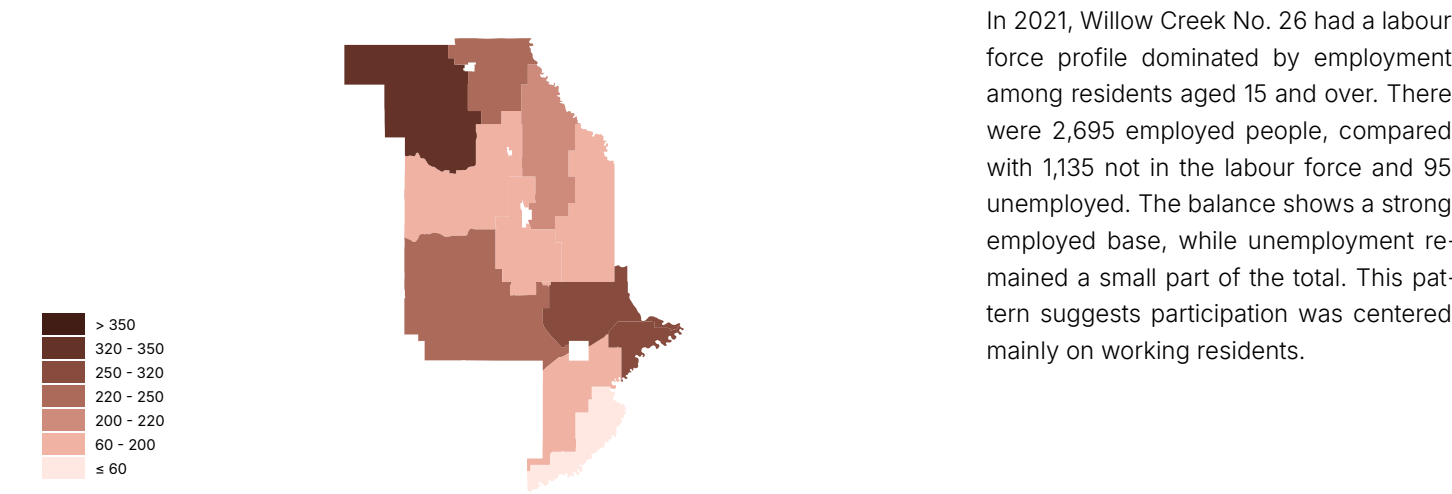


Figure 12.1: Shows whether residents are employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force. It helps indicate how people are participating in the labour market. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, labour force status in Willow Creek No. 26 was dominated by employment, with 2,695 residents aged 15 and over employed. A further 1,135 were not in the labour force, while 95 were unemployed. The gap between employed and unemployed residents was large, and the number outside the labour force was also substantial. Taken together, the figures show a labour market profile shaped more by employment than by unemployment, with the 2021 snapshot giving the clearest picture of participation.



In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 had a labour force profile dominated by employment among residents aged 15 and over. There were 2,695 employed people, compared with 1,135 not in the labour force and 95 unemployed. The balance shows a strong employed base, while unemployment remained a small part of the total. This pattern suggests participation was centered mainly on working residents.

Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Labour Force Status - Employed (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Resident Labour Force

Willow Creek No. 26's resident labour force remained led by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting at 995 people in 2021, down 6.1% from 2016. Public administration doubled to 60, the fastest five-year increase.

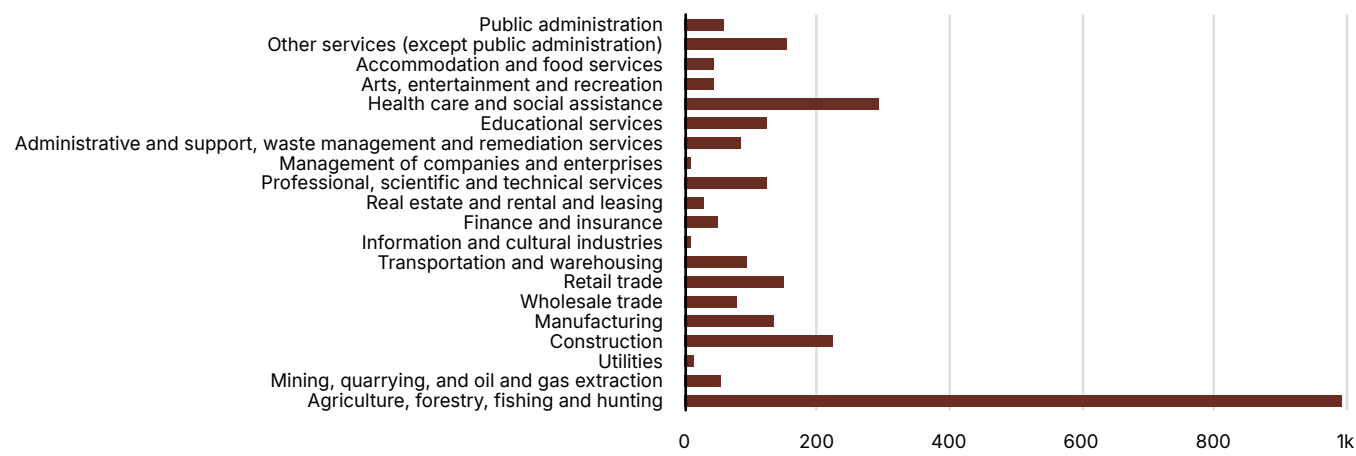
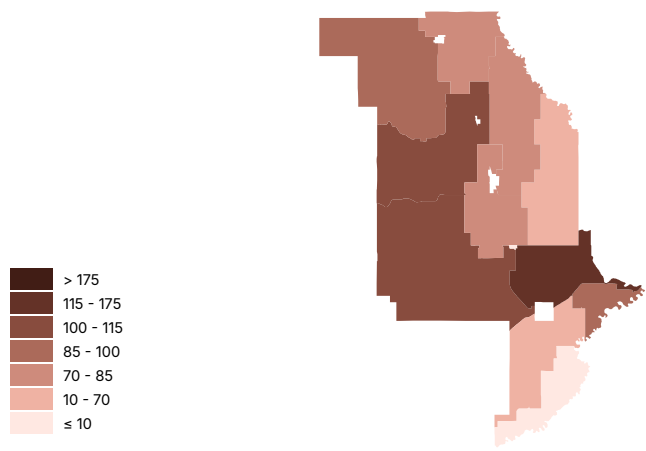


Figure 13.1: Shows the number of residents who are in the labour force. It helps indicate the size of the locally available workforce. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26 had a resident labour force of working-age people spread across a broad mix of industries in 2021, with agriculture still the largest single sector. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting accounted for 995 people, while health care and social assistance had 295 and construction 225. Over five years, the pattern was mixed: agriculture fell 6.1%, but construction rose 55.2%, manufacturing 58.8%, and health care 47.5%. The sharpest increase was public administration, up 100%, while transportation and warehousing declined 42.4%.



In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 had a resident labour force of 2,585 people aged 15 and over. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting was the largest sector with 995 workers, followed by health care and social assistance at 295 and construction at 225. Compared with the rest of the mix, the labour force was still concentrated in primary and related rural activities. Over five years, construction rose 55.2% and health care increased 47.5%, while transportation fell 42.4%.

Figure 13.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Industry Sector - Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Employment by Sector

Agriculture remained the largest employer in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2025 with 288 people, despite a 3.4% annual decline. Wholesale trade followed at 42, while accommodation and food services rose to 8, up 700% from 2024.

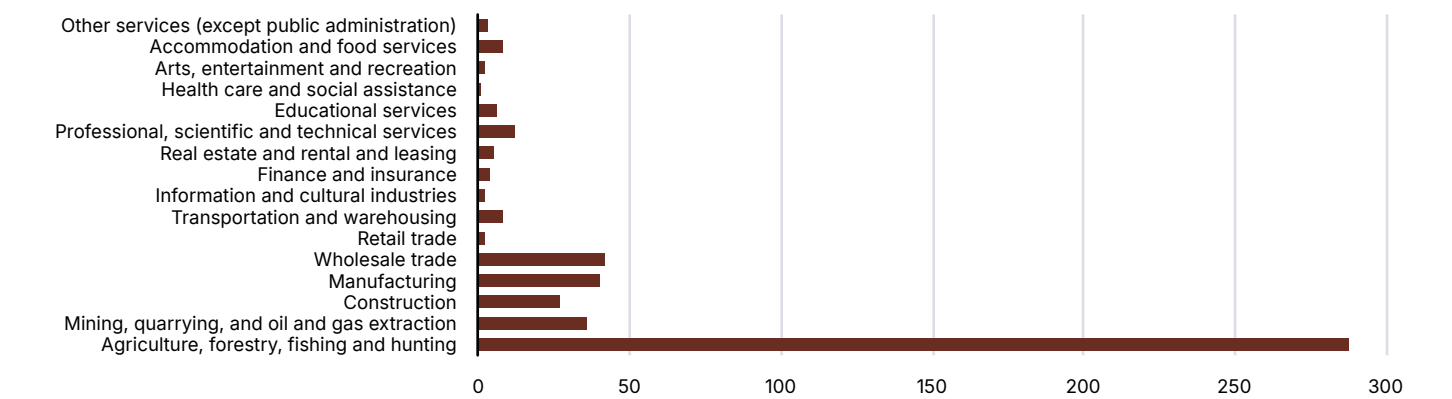


Figure 14.1: Shows how employment is distributed across industry sectors. It helps indicate which sectors account for the largest share of local jobs. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2025)²

In 2025, employment in Willow Creek No. 26 was concentrated in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, with 288 people, far more than any other sector. Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction followed with 36 workers, while wholesale trade had 42 and manufacturing 40. Several smaller sectors were volatile: accommodation and food services rose to 8 people after a 700% increase, while retail trade fell to 2. The profile points to a small, uneven local job mix.

In 2025, employment in Willow Creek No. 26 was concentrated in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, which accounted for 288 people, far more than any other sector. The next largest sectors were wholesale trade at 42 people, manufacturing at 40, and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction at 36. Growth was strongest in accommodation and food services, up 700%, and professional, scientific and technical services, up 140%, while retail trade fell sharply to 2 people.



Figure 14.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (Willow Creek No. 26)²

Employed Residents by Occupation

Willow Creek No. 26's employed residents were led by natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations at 955 people in 2021, up 135.8% from 2016. Trades followed at 575, while natural and applied sciences reached 75, up 200%.

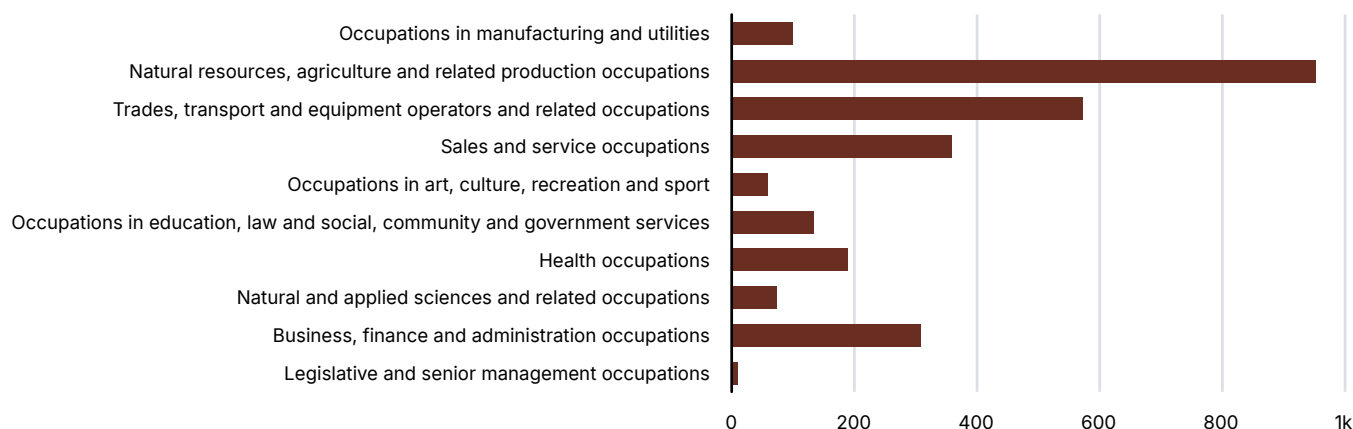
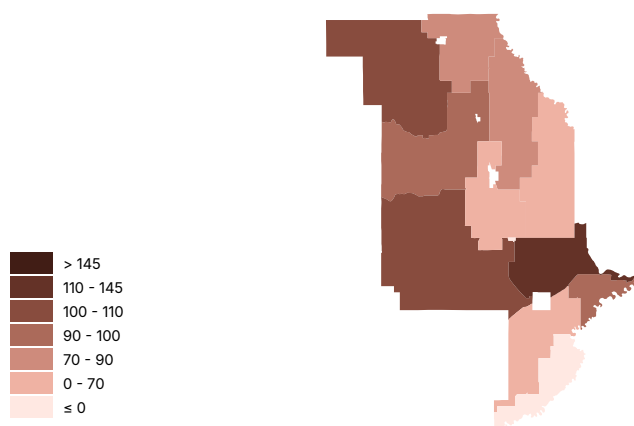


Figure 15.1: Shows the occupations held by employed residents. It helps indicate the community's skill mix and the kinds of work people do. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, employed residents of Willow Creek No. 26 were concentrated in a few occupation groups, with natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations the largest at 955 people. Trades, transport and equipment operators followed at 575, while sales and service accounted for 360 and business, finance and administration for 310. The five-year changes point to uneven shifts: natural resources and agriculture rose sharply by 135.8%, manufacturing and utilities increased 53.9%, and trades, transport and equipment operators grew 29.2%. By contrast, legislative and senior management occupations fell 98.7% to 10 people. The pattern suggests a workforce that has expanded most strongly in resource-linked work.



Willow Creek No. 26's employment profile is shaped most clearly by natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations, which account for 955 employed residents and post the strongest 5-year increase at 135.8%. Trades, transport and equipment operators follow at 575, while sales and service reach 360 and business, finance and administration 310. The mix points to a workforce concentrated in resource-linked and practical occupations.

Figure 15.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Occupation - Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.
2. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Employment by Industry Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.

Legal Notice and Disclaimer

This publication was created using the **Localintel Platform** and may include proprietary data, templates, and visualization elements licensed through it. This publication is provided for general informational purposes only. Localintel does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy, or suitability of this information for any particular purpose. No reuse, redistribution, or extraction of source data except as expressly permitted. Use of this publication is subject to applicable terms of use and restrictions available at localintel.com/terms.