



NANTON

Workforce Report

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Executive Summary

Nanton's labour market in 2021 appears steady in its basic structure but more mixed in how work is carried out and how consistently residents are attached to it. Employment remained the dominant labour force status, with 1,045 employed residents, while the participation rate edged up to 64.2%, its highest point across the last three census years. At the same time, the employment rate continued a gradual decline over the decade, unemployment nearly doubled from 2016, and a sizable group remained outside the labour force. The result is not a sharply weakened labour market, but one in which stronger participation sits alongside softer employment outcomes.

That mixed picture is especially visible in work patterns. Nanton still centered on regular on-site employment, with most workers reporting a usual place of work, yet home-based work more than doubled and jobs with no fixed workplace also increased. Work activity shifted in a less stable direction as well: the largest group of residents aged 15 and over did not work during the reference period, that number rose notably over five years, and full-year full-time work declined while part-year or part-time work changed little. Even so, among those who were employed, permanent positions clearly outweighed temporary ones. The occupational and industry mix also suggests a broad rather than narrowly specialized local economy. Construction was the largest segment of the resident labour force in 2021, while employed residents were concentrated in trades, transport, sales and service, and business roles, with some fast growth in natural resource and agriculture-related occupations. A later employment snapshot for 2025 points to manufacturing as the clearest single sector, alongside health care, retail, and agriculture.

Nanton's education profile supports the picture of a community with a solid base of foundational credentials rather than a concentration at the highest academic levels. High school completion was the majority outcome among residents aged 15 and over, and the largest highest-credential groups were high school and college, with trades training also present. Smaller numbers held university degrees, and graduate credentials remained limited. Together, these patterns describe a town with broad workforce participation, a practical and diversified employment base, and signs that work has become somewhat more flexible and uneven than it was five years earlier.

Place of Work Status

In Nanton, usual place of work remained the largest group at 685 people in 2021, though down 10.5% from 2016. Worked at home rose to 170 people, up 126.7%.

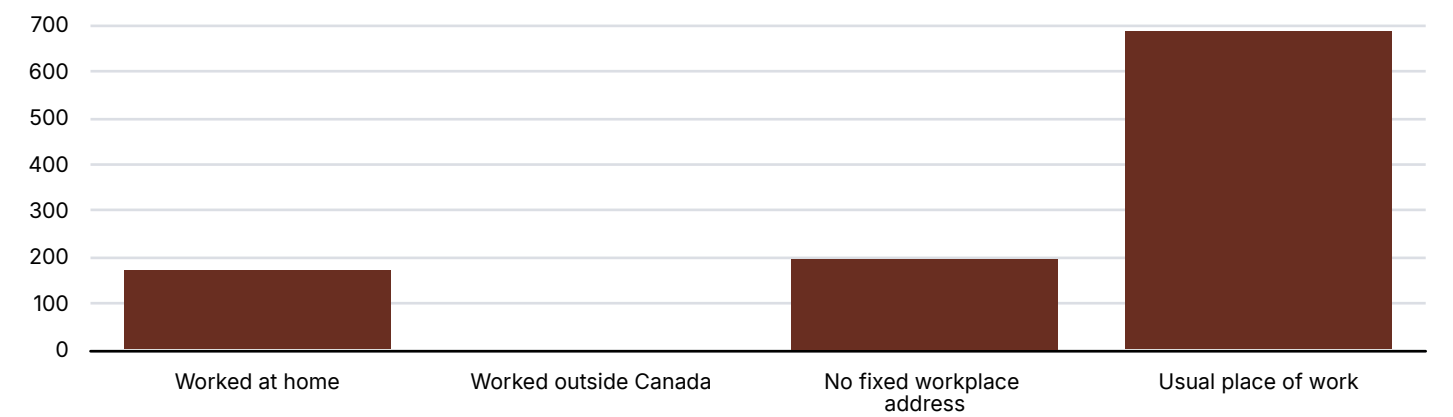


Figure 1.1: Shows whether people work from home, at a usual workplace, or at no fixed workplace. It helps indicate how work is organized across locations. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In 2021, Nanton's employed labour force aged 15 and over was concentrated in the usual place of work category, with 685 people. Another 195 people reported no fixed workplace address, while 170 worked at home. No one was recorded as working outside Canada. The pattern points to a mixed work structure, but with a clear center of gravity in regular on-site employment. Over five years, working at home rose by 126.7%, no fixed workplace jobs increased by 21.9%, and usual workplace work fell by 10.5%.

In Nanton, work is still centered on a usual workplace, but the 2021 profile also shows notable nontraditional arrangements among the employed labour force aged 15 and over. Of 1,050 people counted, 685 had a usual place of work, 195 had no fixed workplace address, and 170 worked at home. Over five years, home-based work rose sharply by 126.7%, while usual workplace work fell 10.5%. The pattern suggests a modest shift toward more flexible work locations.



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

High School Completion

In Nanton, high school graduates form the largest group among residents aged 15 and over in private households, with 1,405 people. Those without a certificate, diploma or degree number 385.

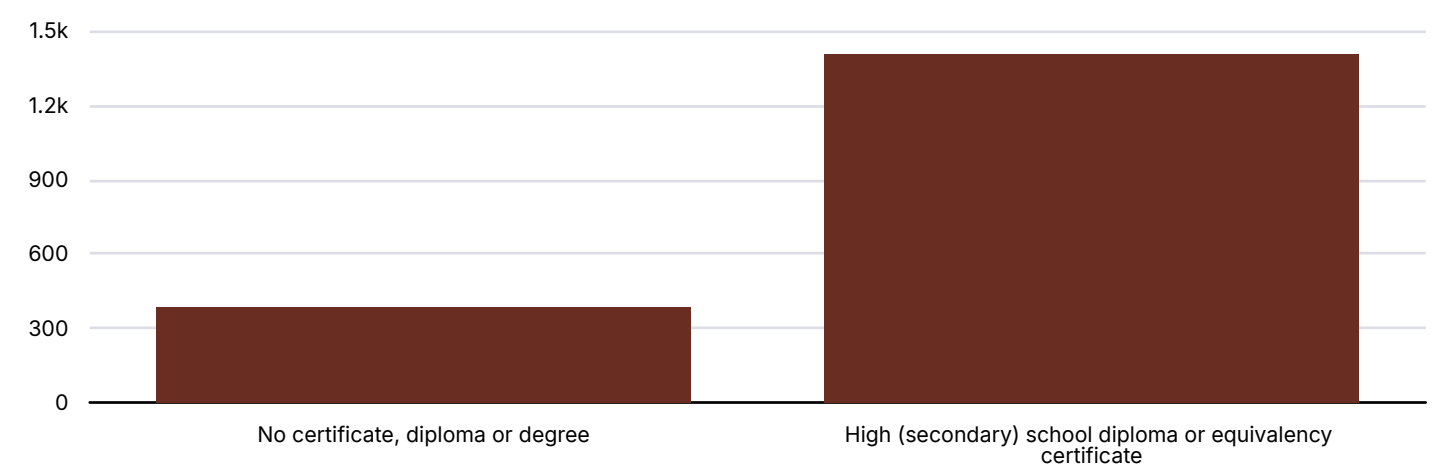


Figure 2.1: Shows whether residents have completed high school or an equivalent credential. It helps indicate a basic foundation for workforce participation and further study. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In Nanton, the 2021 census profile shows a clear split in high school completion among residents aged 15 and over in private households. A total of 1,405 people had a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, compared with 385 people with no certificate, diploma or degree. That means the completed-high-school group was much larger than the group without any credential. The data points to a population where secondary education completion is common, while a smaller segment remains without formal credentials. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.



Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Nanton)¹

Labour Force Participation Rate

Nanton’s labour force participation rate was 64.2% in 2021, up from 62.6% in 2016 and 63.2% in 2011. The five-year gain was 2.56%, indicating a higher share of working-age residents engaged in the labour market.

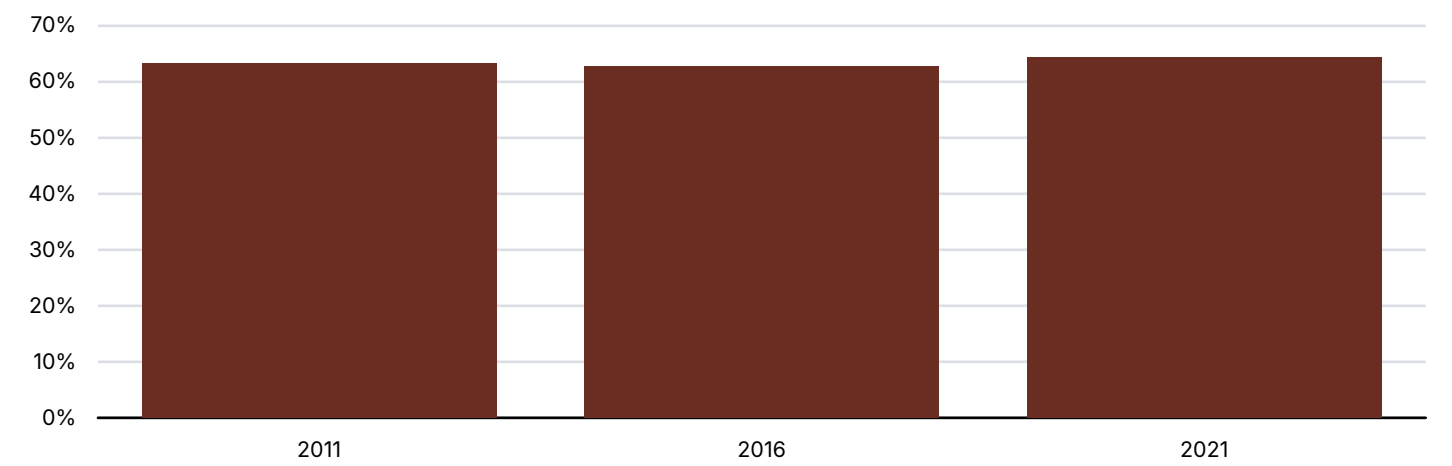
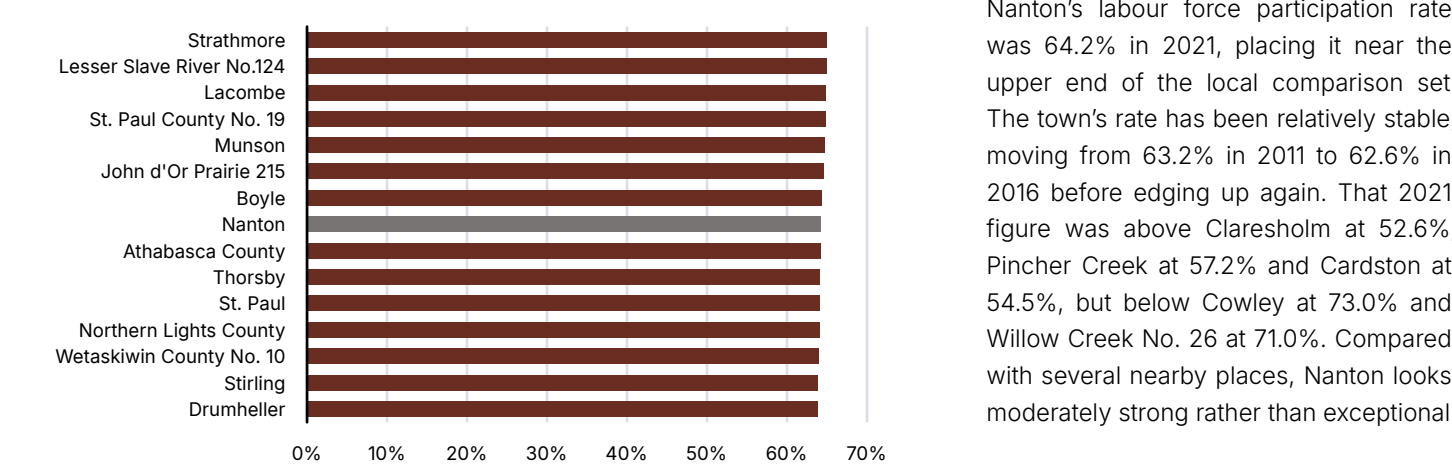


Figure 3.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed or actively looking for work. It helps indicate the level of labour market engagement. (Nanton, 2011-2021)¹

Nanton’s labour force participation rate was broadly stable across the last three census points, with a modest dip followed by a recovery. In 2011, the rate stood at 63.2%, easing to 62.6% in 2016 before rising to 64.2% in 2021. The 2016 reading was 0.95% below the 2011 level, while the 2021 figure was 2.6% higher than five years earlier. That leaves the 2021 rate as the strongest point in the series shown. The pattern suggests a labour market engagement rate that moved within a narrow band over the decade rather than shifting sharply in either direction.



Nanton’s labour force participation rate was 64.2% in 2021, placing it near the upper end of the local comparison set. The town’s rate has been relatively stable, moving from 63.2% in 2011 to 62.6% in 2016 before edging up again. That 2021 figure was above Claresholm at 52.6%, Pincher Creek at 57.2% and Cardston at 54.5%, but below Cowley at 73.0% and Willow Creek No. 26 at 71.0%. Compared with several nearby places, Nanton looks moderately strong rather than exceptional.

Figure 3.2: Comparison of Labour Force Participation Rate with other locations (Nanton, 2021)¹

Labour Force Status

In Nanton, employed residents remained the largest labour force group at 1,045 in 2021, up from 1,000 in 2016. Unemployment nearly doubled to 105, while those not in the labour force edged up to 640.

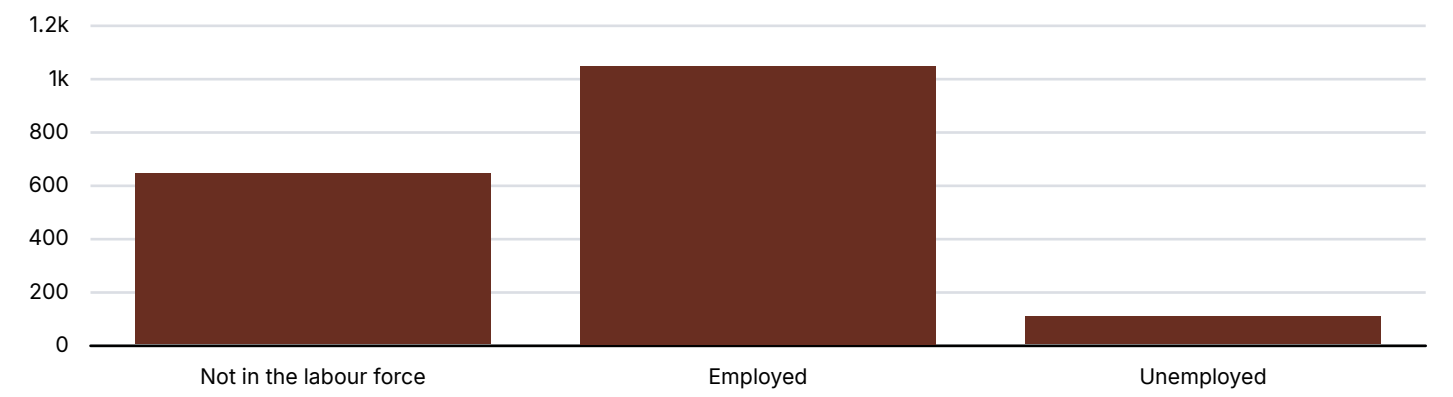


Figure 4.1: Shows whether residents are employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force. It helps indicate how people are participating in the labour market. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In Nanton, the 2021 labour force picture for people aged 15 and over was marked by a large group not in the labour force. There were 1,045 employed residents, 105 unemployed residents, and 640 people not in the labour force. That means employment was the largest category, while unemployment was relatively small. The distribution suggests a labour market with more residents attached to work than actively looking for it, though a substantial share remained outside the labour force. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

In Nanton in 2021, labour force status for the population aged 15 and over was led by employed residents, with 1,045 people, followed by 640 not in the labour force and 105 unemployed. That mix shows a labour market where employment was the largest category, but a substantial group remained outside the labour force. Among the recorded categories, employment clearly outweighed unemployment, while the non-participating group was also sizable.



Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Labour Force Status - Employed (Nanton)¹

Highest Education Level

In Nanton, the largest group in 2021 had a high school diploma or equivalency, at 590 people, up 71.0% from 2016. College credentials followed at 400, while master's degrees rose to 35, a 250.0% increase.

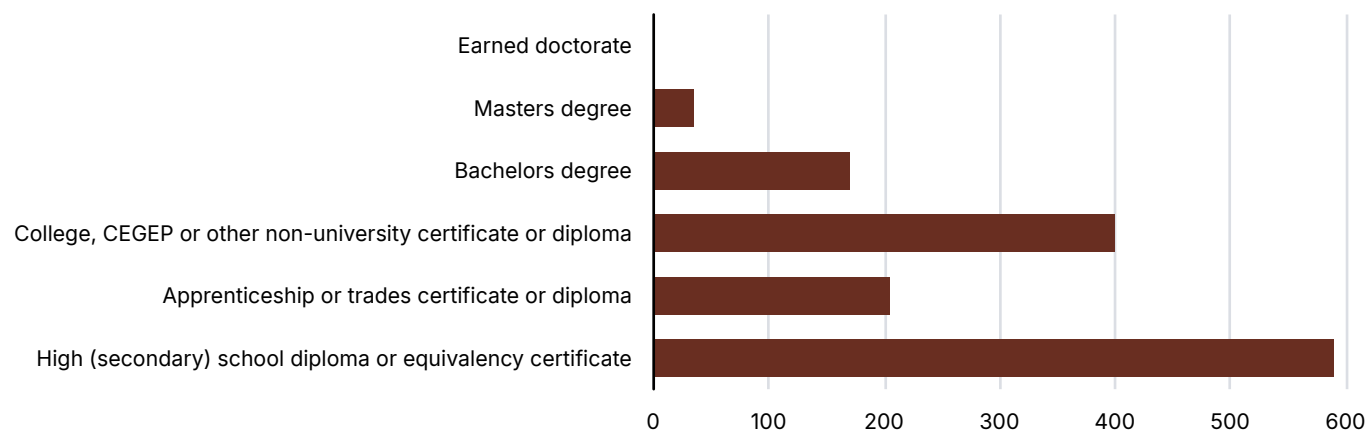
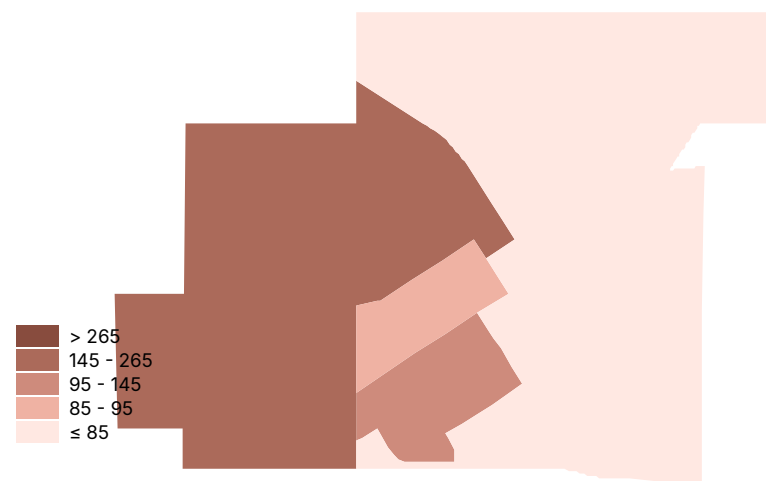


Figure 5.1: Shows the highest level of education completed by residents. It helps indicate the overall educational profile of the population. (Nanton, 2021)¹

Nanton's highest education profile in 2021 shows a community where completed secondary and postsecondary credentials are spread across several levels, with the largest groups holding a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, at 590 people, and a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma, at 400 people. Smaller counts appear at higher levels, including 205 with an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma, 170 with a bachelor's degree, 35 with a master's degree, and no earned doctorate reported. The five-year changes point to growth across most categories, especially at the master's level, which rose by 250%. This suggests a broadening educational mix rather than concentration in one credential level.



In Nanton, the 2021 education profile of residents age 15 and over is led by high school completion, with 590 people holding a high school diploma or equivalency. College, CEGEP or other non-university credentials follow at 400, while 205 have trades training and 170 hold a bachelor's degree. Only 35 have a master's degree, and none reported a doctorate.

Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Nanton)¹

Work Activity

In Nanton, the largest group in 2021 did not work, at 695 people, up 31.1% from 2016. Those working part year and/or part time numbered 585, while full-year full-time workers fell to 515.

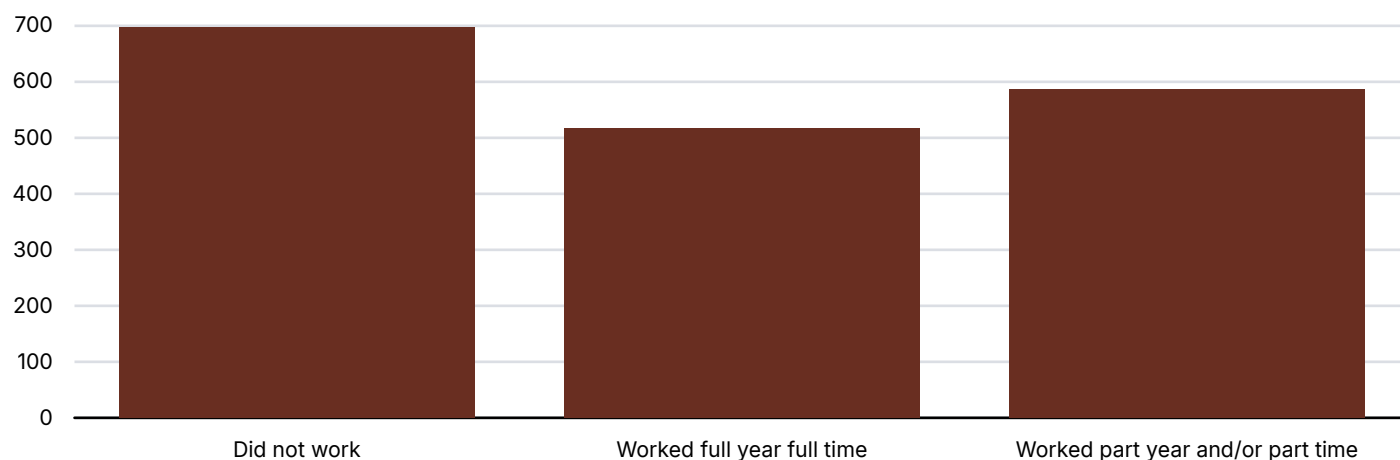


Figure 6.1: Shows the amount of work activity people had during the reference period. It helps indicate attachment to work over the year, not just at a single point in time. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In 2021, work activity in Nanton was mixed across the population aged 15 years and over. The largest group, 695 people, did not work during the reference period. Another 585 people worked part year and/or part time, while 515 worked full year full time. The 5-year changes show different directions within the pattern. The number who did not work rose by 31.1%, part year and/or part time work was essentially flat at 0.9%, and full year full time work fell by 11.2%. That points to weaker longer-term attachment to full-time work and relatively stable part-time or partial-year activity.



In Nanton, work activity in 2021 showed a mixed pattern among residents aged 15 and over. The largest group did not work, with 695 people, while 515 worked full year full time and 585 worked part year and/or part time. Over five years, non-working residents increased by 31.1%, full-year full-time workers fell by 11.2%, and part-year or part-time workers were nearly flat at 0.9%.

Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Work Activity - Did not work (Nanton)¹

Class of Worker

Permanent positions were the largest class of worker in Nanton in 2021, with 710 people. Casual, seasonal or short-term positions accounted for 125 people, while fixed-term roles totalled 30.

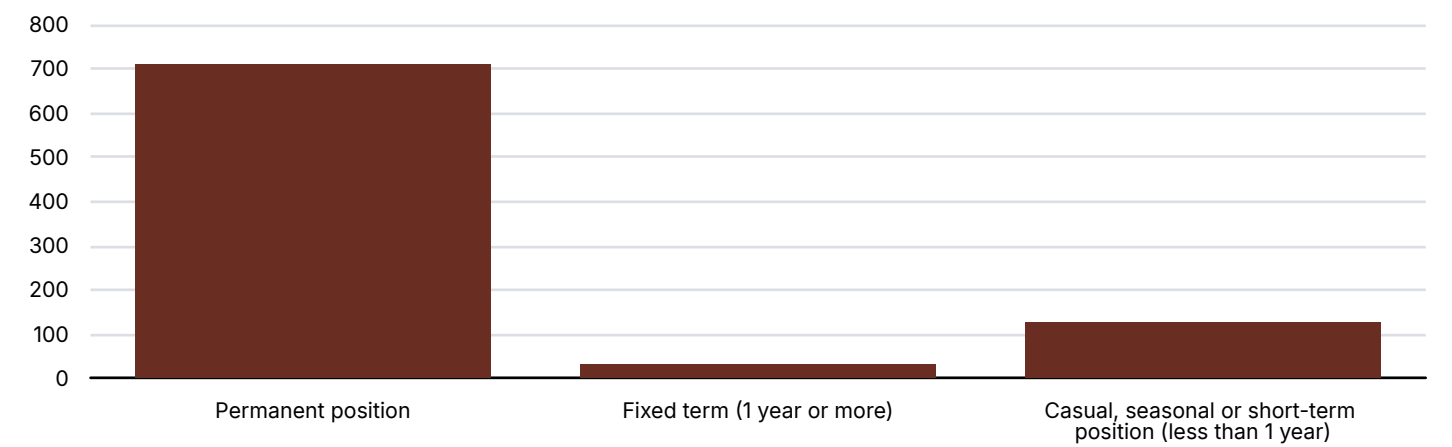


Figure 7.1: Shows whether workers are employees, self-employed, or unpaid family workers. It helps indicate the structure of work in the local economy. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In Nanton, the 2021 class of worker profile for people aged 15 and over is dominated by permanent positions. That pattern points to a workforce that is more stable than temporary, though some short-term work is also present. There were 710 workers in permanent positions, compared with 125 in casual, seasonal or short-term positions and 30 in fixed-term positions of one year or more. Permanent work clearly accounts for the largest share of the local employment mix. With only one year reported, the data do not show a trend over time. The main feature is the gap between permanent employment and the much smaller temporary categories. This suggests a labour force structure centered on ongoing positions, with limited fixed-term employment.



Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Class Of Worker - Permanent position (Nanton)¹

Employment Rate

Nanton's employment rate was 58.4% in 2021, down from 59.3% in 2016 and 59.6% in 2011. The five-year change was -1.52%, showing a gradual decline over the decade.

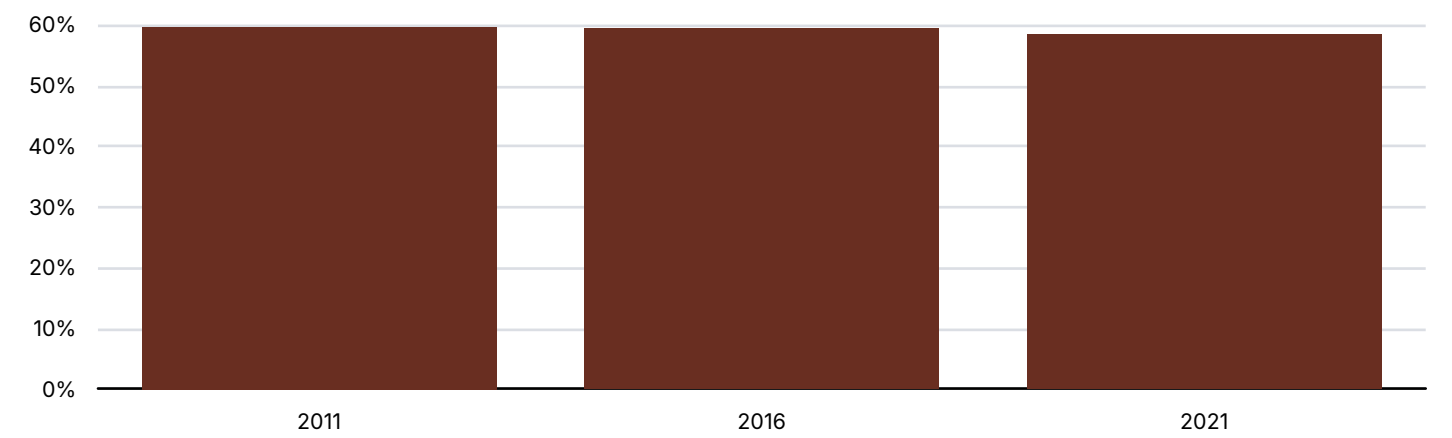


Figure 8.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed. It helps indicate overall labour market health and how fully local talent is being used. (Nanton, 2011-2021)¹

Nanton's employment rate was fairly stable over the decade, but it edged down gradually. In 2011, 59.6% of the labour force aged 15 and over was employed. The rate slipped slightly to 59.3% in 2016, a 0.5% change over five years, and then fell further to 58.4% in 2021, a 1.5% decline from 2016. The pattern shows a modest downward trend rather than a sharp shift.

Nanton's employment rate was 58.4% in 2021, down slightly from 59.3% in 2016 and 59.6% in 2011. That places it below several nearby places with higher 2021 rates, including Pincher Creek No. 9 at 61.6%, Cowley at 62.2%, and Cardston County at 65.1%. It was still well above lower-rate comparators such as Hill Spring at 30.8% and Piikani 147 at 33.2%. The pattern suggests a relatively steady rate in Nanton, but one that sits in the middle of the local range.

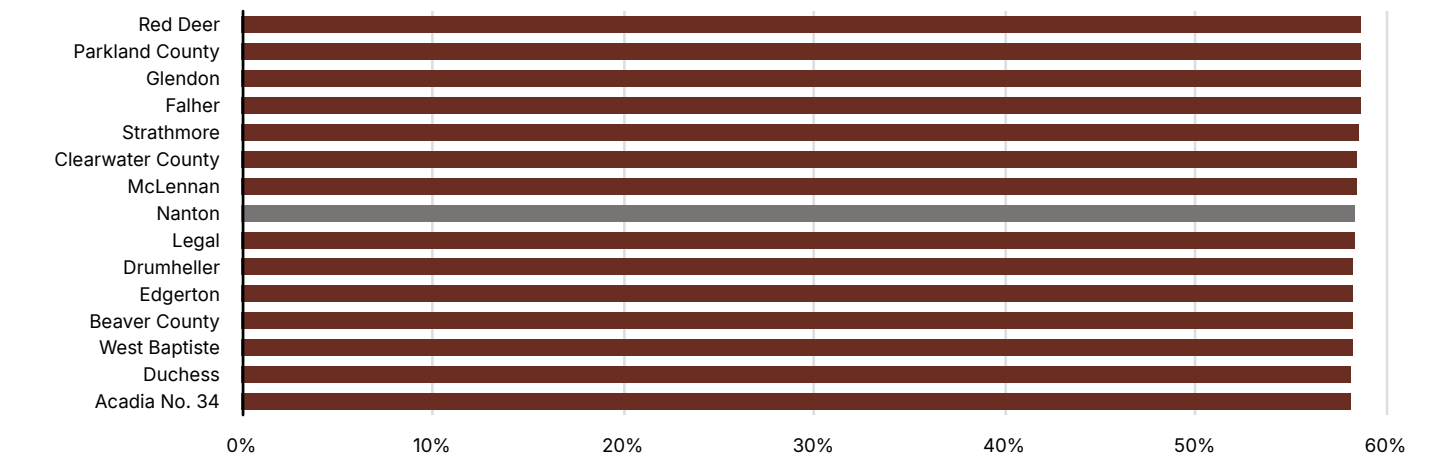


Figure 8.2: Comparison of Employment Rate with other locations (Nanton, 2021)¹

Work Activity

In Nanton, the largest group in 2021 did not work, at 695 people, up 31.1% from 2016. Those working part year and/or part time numbered 585, while full-year full-time workers fell to 515.

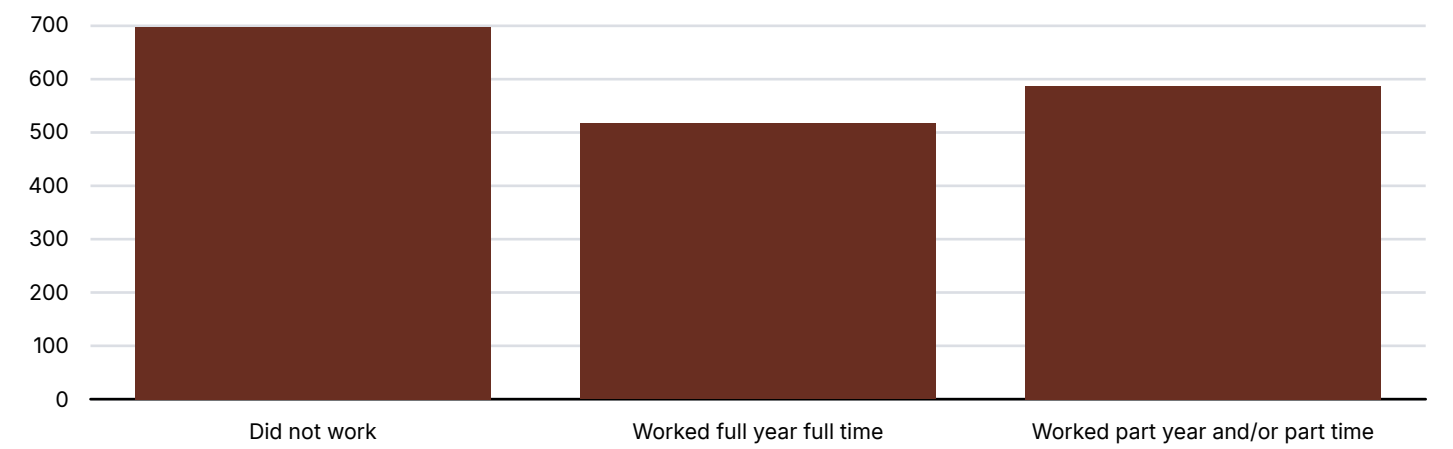


Figure 9.1: Shows the amount of work activity people had during the reference period. It helps indicate attachment to work over the year, not just at a single point in time. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In 2021, work activity in Nanton showed a mixed pattern among residents aged 15 years and over. The largest group did not work during the reference period, while smaller groups worked full year full time or part year and/or part time. 695 people did not work, a 31.1% increase over five years. Another 585 people worked part year and/or part time, up 0.9%. By contrast, 515 people worked full year full time, down 11.2%. The recent pattern combines a rise in non-working residents with a smaller decline in full-year full-time work. Part-year and part-time work was essentially stable. Taken together, the figures point to a work activity profile that shifted away from full-year full-time attachment between 2016 and 2021.



In Nanton, work activity in 2021 was mixed among residents aged 15 and over. The largest group did not work, at 695 people, while 515 worked full year full time and 585 worked part year and/or part time. The 5-year changes point in different directions: did not work rose 31.1%, full-year full-time work fell 11.2%, and part-year or part-time work was nearly flat, up 0.9%. That pattern suggests weaker attachment to full-year full-time work alongside growth in non-working residents. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Work Activity - Did not work (Nanton)¹

Labour Force Participation Rate

Nanton’s labour force participation rate was 64.2% in 2021, up from 62.6% in 2016 and 63.2% in 2011. The five-year gain was 2.56%, indicating a higher share of working-age residents engaged in the labour market.

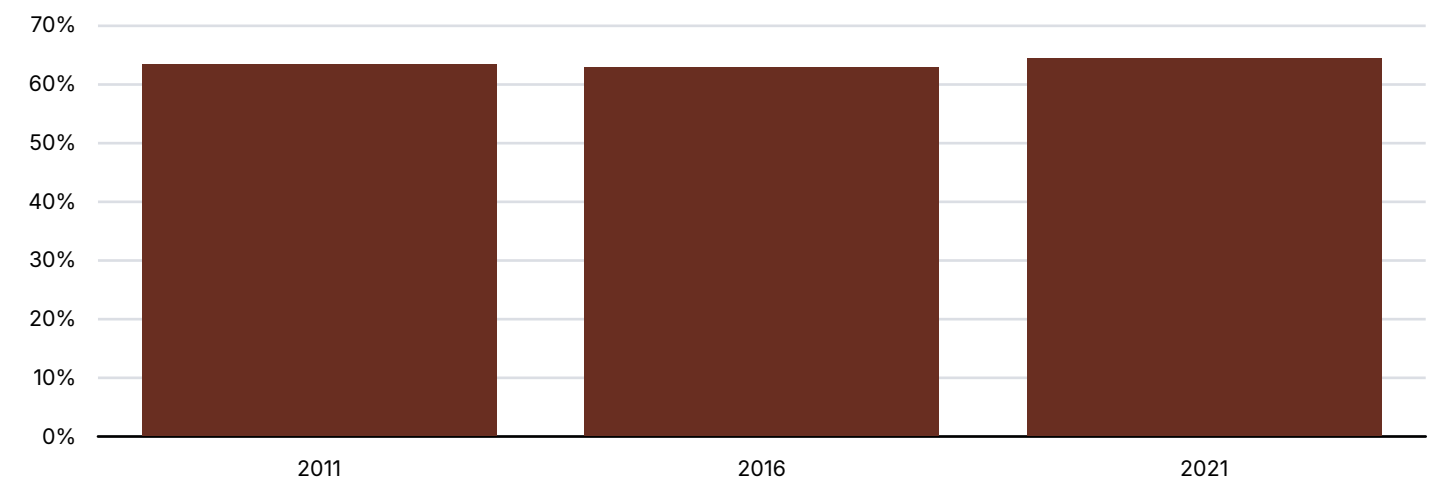
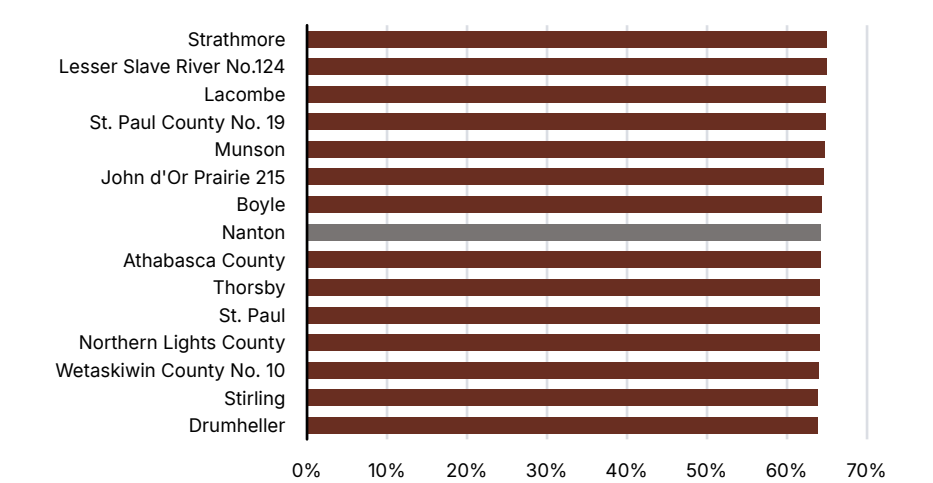


Figure 10.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed or actively looking for work. It helps indicate the level of labour market engagement. (Nanton, 2011-2021)¹

Nanton’s labour force participation rate was fairly steady across the census years, with only modest movement. It stood at 63.2% in 2011, eased to 62.6% in 2016, and then rose to 64.2% in 2021. That puts the 2021 rate slightly above both earlier points and marks the highest value in the series. The short-term pattern is a small decline followed by a stronger rebound. The 5-year change was -1.0% from 2011 to 2016 and 2.6% from 2016 to 2021, suggesting renewed labour market engagement after a brief dip.



Nanton’s labour force participation rate was fairly steady across the past decade, with a slight dip before a modest rebound by 2021. The town’s rate sat at 63.2% in 2011, 62.6% in 2016, and 64.2% in 2021. That 2021 figure was above Claresholm’s 52.6% and Pincher Creek’s 57.2%, but below Cowley’s 73.0% and Willow Creek No. 26’s 71.0%. Compared with nearby places, Nanton sits in the middle of the regional range rather than at either extreme. The pattern points to moderate labour market engagement, with only limited change over time.

Figure 10.2: Comparison of Labour Force Participation Rate with other locations (Nanton, 2021)¹

Employment Rate

Nanton's employment rate was 58.4% in 2021, down from 59.3% in 2016 and 59.6% in 2011. The five-year change was -1.52%, showing a gradual decline over the decade.

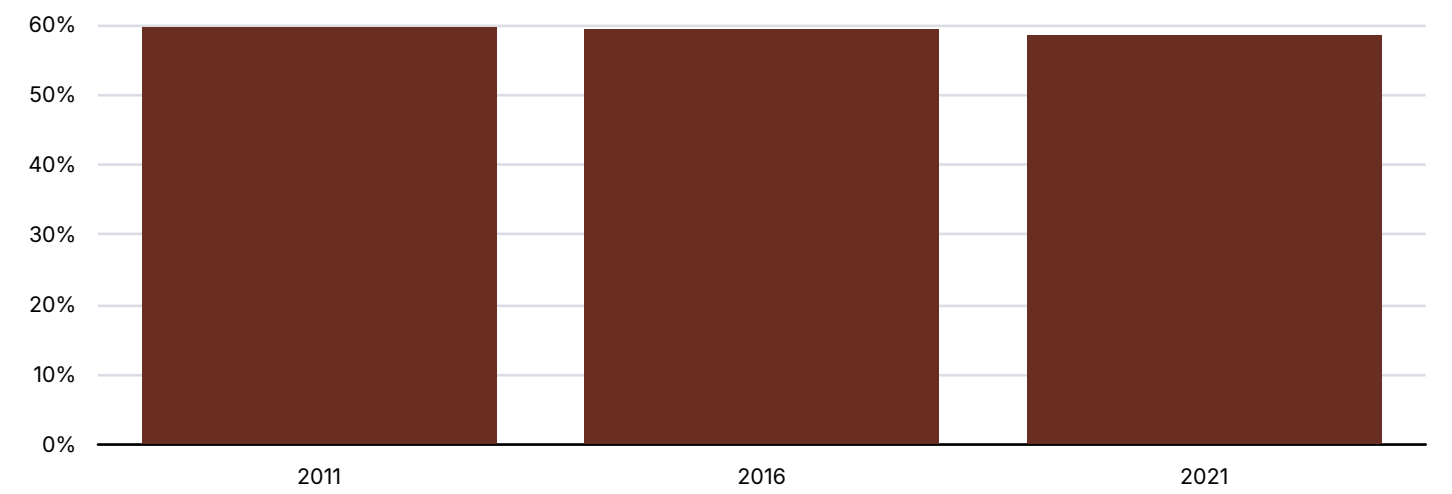
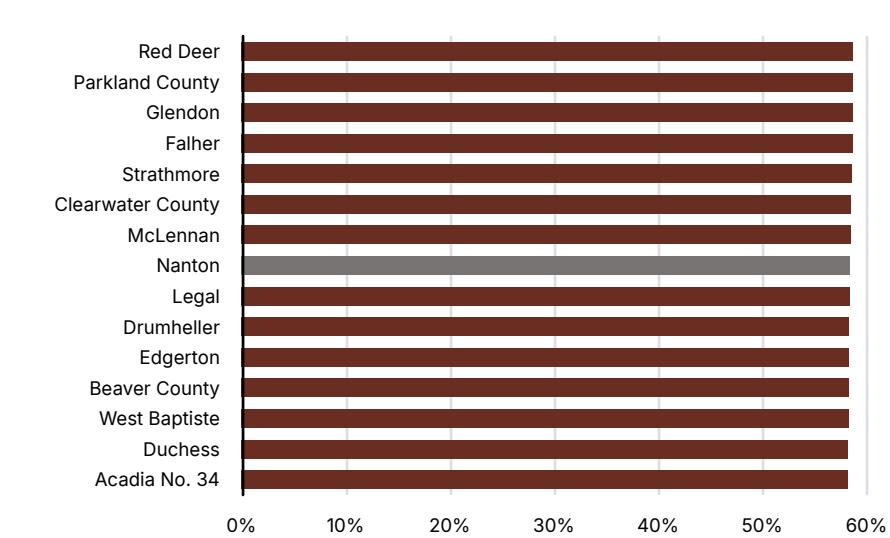


Figure 11.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed. It helps indicate overall labour market health and how fully local talent is being used. (Nanton, 2011-2021)¹

Nanton's employment rate for the labour force aged 15 years and over edged lower across the 2011 to 2021 period. It was 59.6% in 2011, slipped slightly to 59.3% in 2016, and then fell further to 58.4% in 2021. The changes point to a mild but steady downward trend rather than a sharp shift. The five-year change from 2011 to 2016 was -0.5%, followed by a larger -1.5% change from 2016 to 2021. That pattern suggests employment was somewhat less widespread by the end of the period, although the rate remained close to 60% throughout.



Nanton's employment rate was 58.4% in 2021, down from 59.3% in 2016 and 59.6% in 2011. That places it near the middle of the local comparison set: below Cardston County at 65.1% and Willow Creek No. 26 at 68.7%, but above Hill Spring at 30.8% and Piikani 147 at 33.2%. The pattern shows a slight recent decline and a modestly below-top-tier rate within the region.

Figure 11.2: Comparison of Employment Rate with other locations (Nanton, 2021)¹

Labour Force Status

In Nanton, employed residents remained the largest labour force group at 1,045 in 2021, up from 1,000 in 2016. Unemployment nearly doubled to 105, while those not in the labour force edged up to 640.

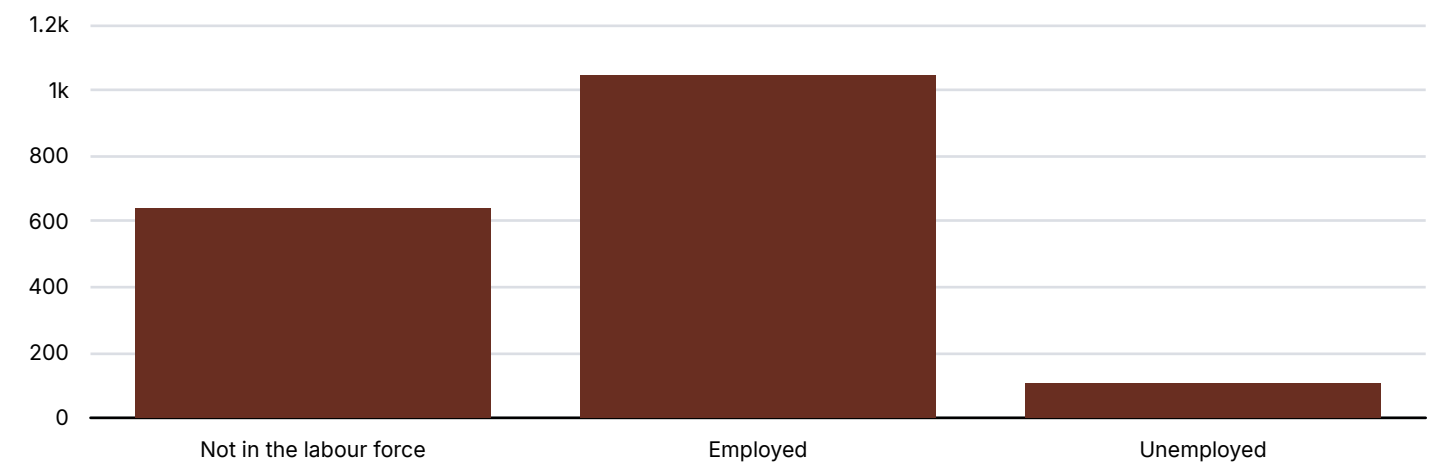


Figure 12.1: Shows whether residents are employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force. It helps indicate how people are participating in the labour market. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In 2021, Nanton’s labour force status for residents aged 15 years and over was marked by a clear tilt toward employment, with 1,045 people employed. A further 640 were not in the labour force, while 105 were unemployed. The gap between employed residents and those outside the labour force was substantial, and unemployment remained a small part of the local picture. These figures suggest a community where most people in the measured population were participating in work, alongside a sizable group not actively in the labour market. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.



Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Labour Force Status - Employed (Nanton)¹

Resident Labour Force

Nanton’s resident labour force was largest in construction at 125 people in 2021, up 4.2% from 2016. Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services rose 100% to 110, while retail fell to 105.

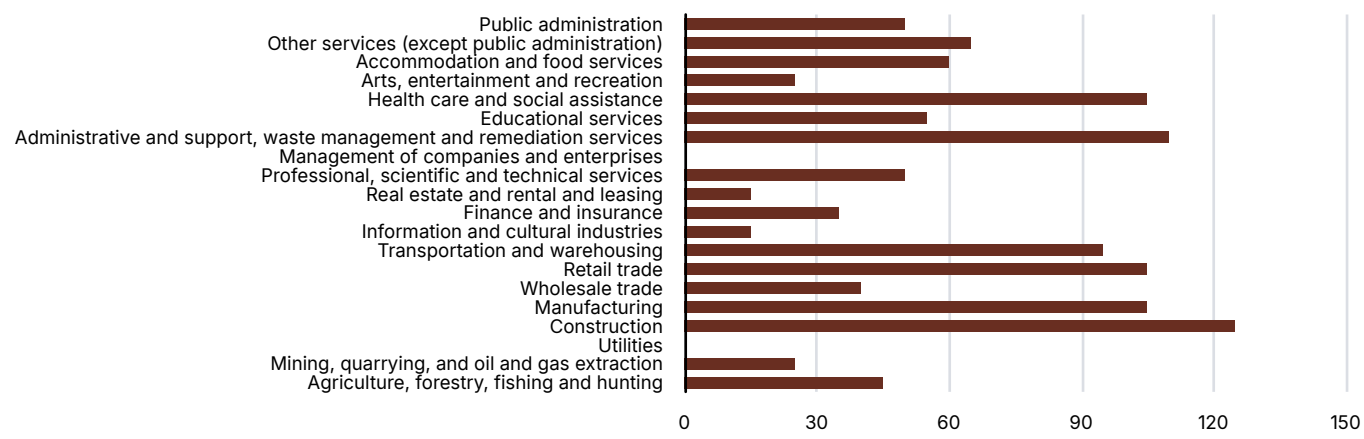


Figure 13.1: Shows the number of residents who are in the labour force. It helps indicate the size of the locally available workforce. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In 2021, Nanton’s resident labour force was spread across several sectors, with construction the largest at 125 people. Administrative and support services reached 110, while manufacturing and retail trade each had 105. Transportation and warehousing had 95 people, and accommodation and food services, educational services, and other services also stood out. Recent change was mixed: administrative and support services doubled, manufacturing rose 40%, and accommodation and food services also increased 100%, while retail trade fell 27.6% and utilities dropped to zero. The pattern suggests a labour force with a broad mix of activities and notable shifts in sector size over five years.



In 2021, Nanton’s resident labour force aged 15 and over was spread across a wide mix of sectors, with construction the largest at 125 people. Manufacturing and retail trade followed at 105 each, while administrative and support services also stood out at 110. Several sectors showed recent gains, including administrative and support services and accommodation and food services, both up 100% over five years. Manufacturing also rose 40%, while retail trade fell 27.6%. The pattern suggests a labour force that is diversified but uneven across sectors.

Figure 13.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Industry Sector - Construction (Nanton)¹

Employment by Sector

Manufacturing led employment in Nanton in 2025 with 199 people, up 89.5% from 2024 and 158.4% from five years earlier. Health care and social assistance followed with 143 people.

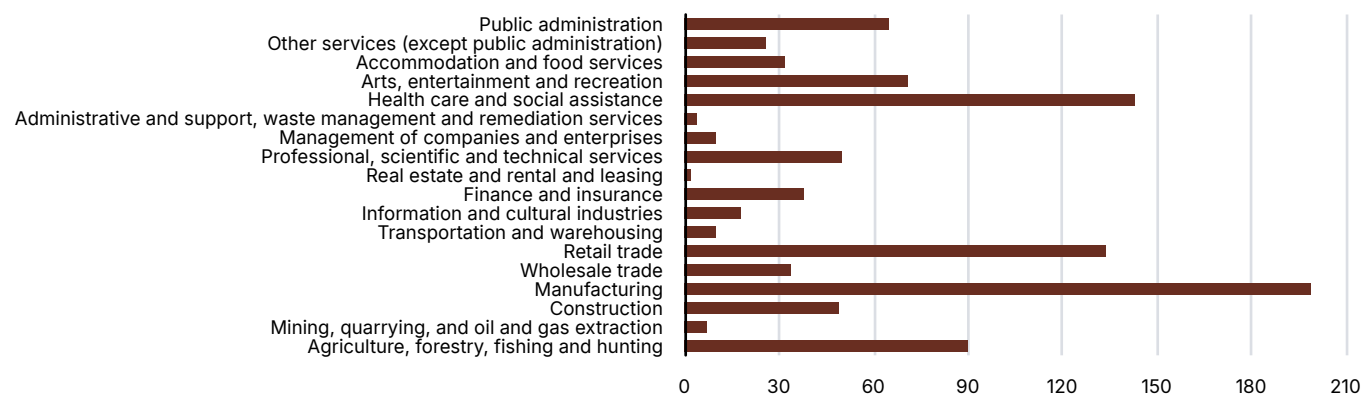


Figure 14.1: Shows how employment is distributed across industry sectors. It helps indicate which sectors account for the largest share of local jobs. (Nanton, 2025)²

In Nanton, employment in 2025 was spread across a few clear anchors rather than a single dominant sector. Manufacturing had the largest workforce at 199 people, followed by health care and social assistance at 143, retail trade at 134, and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting at 90. Recent change was mixed: manufacturing rose 89.5% from a year earlier, while agriculture fell 9.1% and construction declined 7.6%. Over five years, manufacturing and health care both expanded strongly.

Nanton’s employment mix in 2025 is spread across several sectors, with manufacturing the largest employer at 199 people. Health care and social assistance follows with 143, while retail trade accounts for 134 and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting for 90. Public administration adds 65 jobs. The pattern shows a town economy with both production and service employment, but manufacturing stands out as the clearest single sector.

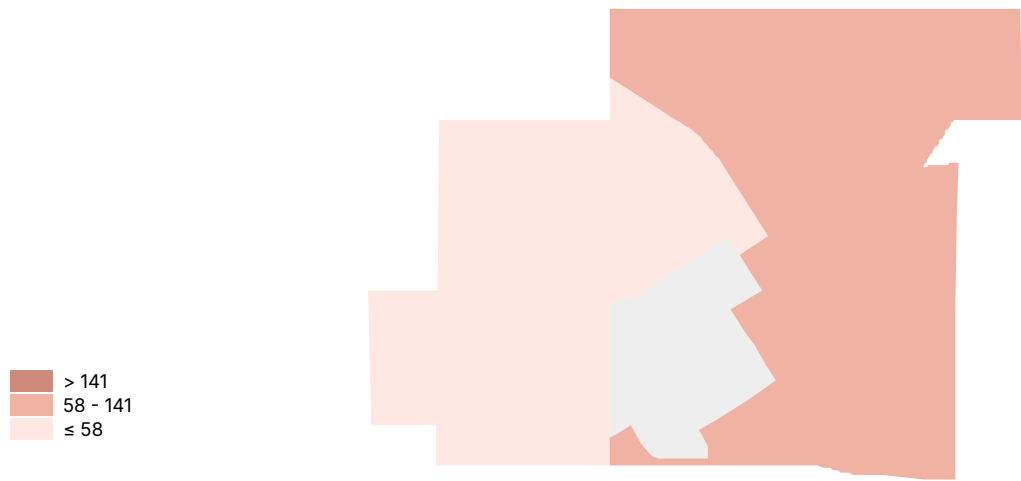


Figure 14.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Manufacturing (Nanton)²

Employed Residents by Occupation

In Nanton, trades, transport and equipment operators remained the largest occupation group at 275 people in 2021, while natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations grew fastest, reaching 115 people, up 187.5% since 2016.

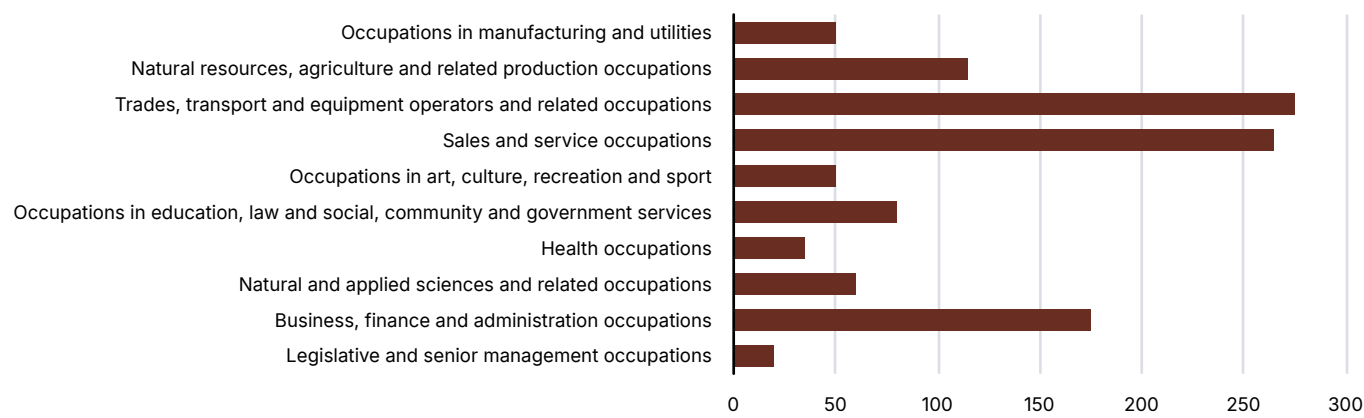


Figure 15.1: Shows the occupations held by employed residents. It helps indicate the community's skill mix and the kinds of work people do. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In 2021, Nanton's employed residents were concentrated in a few occupation groups, with the largest counts in trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations, at 275 people, and sales and service occupations, at 265. Business, finance and administration occupations followed at 175 people. Several smaller groups changed sharply over five years. Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations rose 187.5% to 115 people, while natural and applied sciences and related occupations increased 140% to 60. Sales and service occupations grew 26.2%. By contrast, legislative and senior management occupations fell 88.6% to 20 people, and health occupations declined 22.2% to 35. The pattern suggests a workforce tilted toward service, trades, and resource-linked work, with uneven growth across occupation types.



Figure 15.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Occupation - Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (Nanton)¹

In 2021, Nanton's employed residents were concentrated in trades, transport and equipment operator jobs, sales and service work, and business, finance and administration occupations. Those three groups accounted for 275 people, 265 people, and 175 people respectively, while natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations also stood out at 115. Growth was uneven: natural resources and agriculture rose 187.5% over five years, and sales and service increased 26.2%, while legislative and senior management occupations fell sharply. The mix suggests a workforce anchored in practical and service-based roles.

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.

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