



CARDSTON

Community Overview

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Executive Summary

Cardston is a small town with modest long-term growth and a generally steady social and housing profile, though several parts of that profile have shifted in recent years. Its total population rose from 3,549 in 2001 to 3,863 in 2025, after reaching a recent high in 2024 and then easing slightly. The population in private households also recovered after a mid-decade dip to reach 3,580 in 2021. Age patterns are mixed rather than strongly skewed in one direction. The median age remains above 40, pointing to a relatively mature population, but the largest age groups are in the school-age years, and some older age cohorts also expanded. This leaves Cardston older than some nearby places, but not among the oldest in the region.

The town's household structure remains centered on families and homeownership, yet the balance within that structure has been changing. Couple-family households still dominate, especially couples without children, but households with children declined while one-person households increased. Household size also shifted modestly toward smaller living arrangements, with growth in one- and two-person households and little change among larger households. Housing shows a similar mix of continuity and gradual change. Single-detached homes remain overwhelmingly dominant, while denser forms such as low-rise apartments grew from a much smaller base. Ownership still accounts for most households, but renter growth was much faster over the last five years, suggesting a somewhat broader tenure mix than before. At the same time, median dwelling values and monthly shelter costs both moved higher, with renter costs rising faster than owner costs.

Cardston's economic picture is stable but concentrated. The employment rate changed little and edged down slightly between 2016 and 2021, leaving the town in a middle position among nearby communities. Local employment is dominated by educational services, far ahead of any other sector, with health care and public administration forming the next tier. Among employed residents, sales and service occupations are the largest group, alongside sizable numbers in education, trades, business, and health. Demographically, the town remains strongly rooted in a non-immigrant, English-speaking majority, with only modest diversification through a growing immigrant population and growth in a few smaller language and visible minority groups.

Median Age

Cardston’s median age was 40.8 years in 2021, down 1.2% from 2016’s 41.3 years. Even so, it remained above 2011’s 38.4 years, showing a higher midpoint age over the decade.

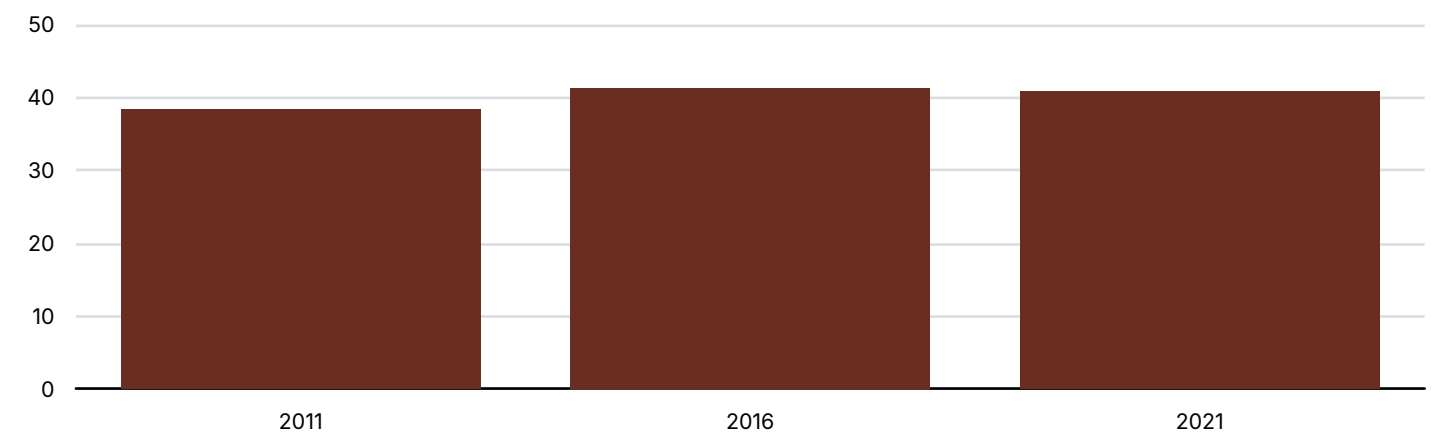


Figure 1.1: Shows the median age of residents. It helps indicate whether the population skews younger or older at the midpoint of the age distribution. (Cardston, 2011-2021)¹

Cardston’s median age has stayed above 40 years in each available census, pointing to an older age profile than a youthful one. The median was 38.4 years in 2011, rose to 41.3 in 2016, then edged down to 40.8 in 2021. That means the town aged by 2.4 years over the decade, even with a slight recent decline of 1.2%. The pattern suggests a population that remains relatively mature, with only modest change in the midpoint age.

Cardston’s median age sat at 40.8 years in 2021, placing it in the middle of the local comparison set. It is older than Cardston County at 36.4 years, but younger than several nearby municipalities such as Claresholm and Stavely, both at 54.8 years. The town’s median age edged up from 38.4 in 2011 to 41.3 in 2016, then slipped slightly over the next five years. That pattern suggests a population that remains relatively mature, but not among the oldest in the region.

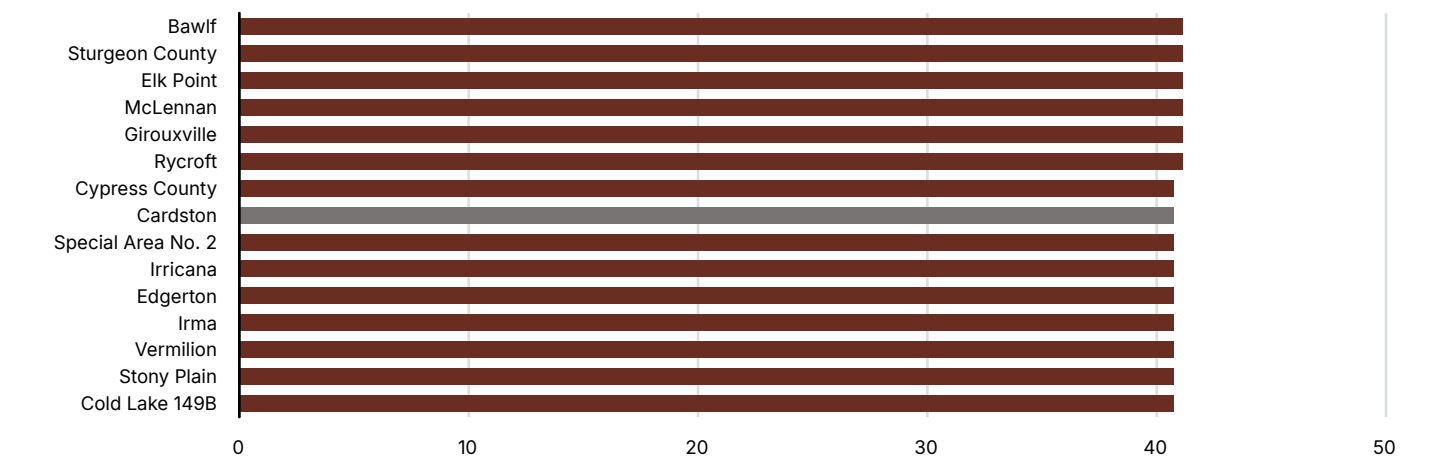


Figure 1.2: Comparison of Median Age with other locations (Cardston, 2021)¹

Immigrant Status

Non-immigrants remained the largest group in Cardston in 2021 at 3,225 people, up 4.0% from 2016. Immigrants rose to 350, while non-permanent residents fell to zero from 15.

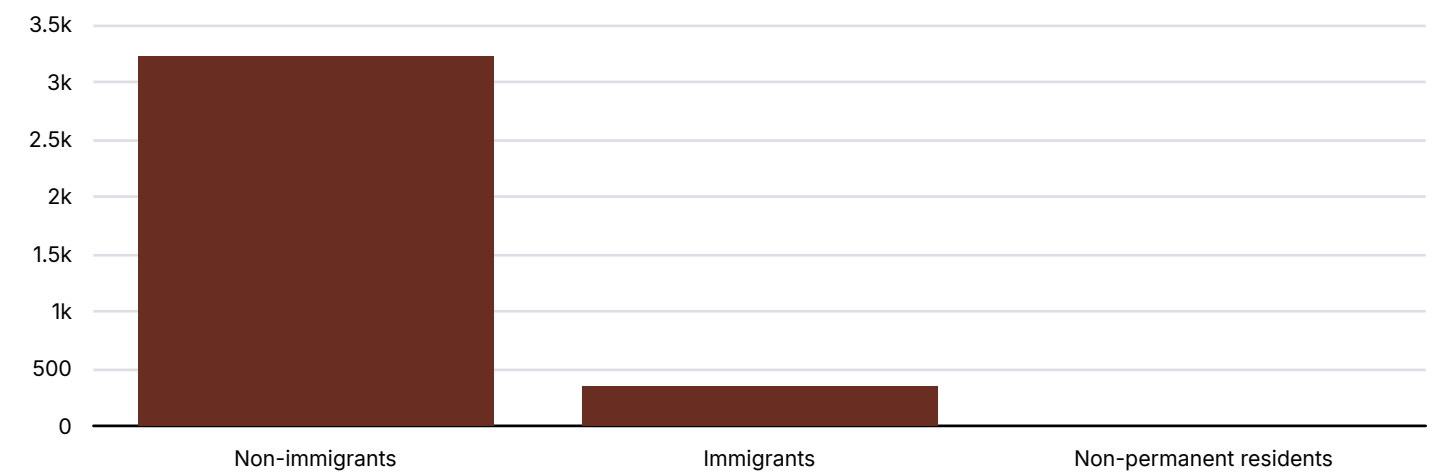


Figure 2.1: Shows whether residents are immigrants, non-permanent residents, or non-immigrants. It helps indicate the role of immigration in community growth and composition. (Cardston, 2021)¹

In 2021, Cardston's immigrant status profile was dominated by non-immigrants, with a much smaller immigrant population and no non-permanent residents recorded among people in private households. The pattern is stable but not static, with different directions of change across the three groups. Non-immigrants numbered 3,225, up 4.0% over five years. Immigrants totaled 350, a 25.0% increase. Non-permanent residents were 0, down 100.0% from five years earlier. This points to growth in the immigrant population alongside a larger base of long-term residents. The absence of non-permanent residents leaves the local profile concentrated in the two permanent-status groups. Cardston's recent change is shaped more by incremental growth than by broad diversification.

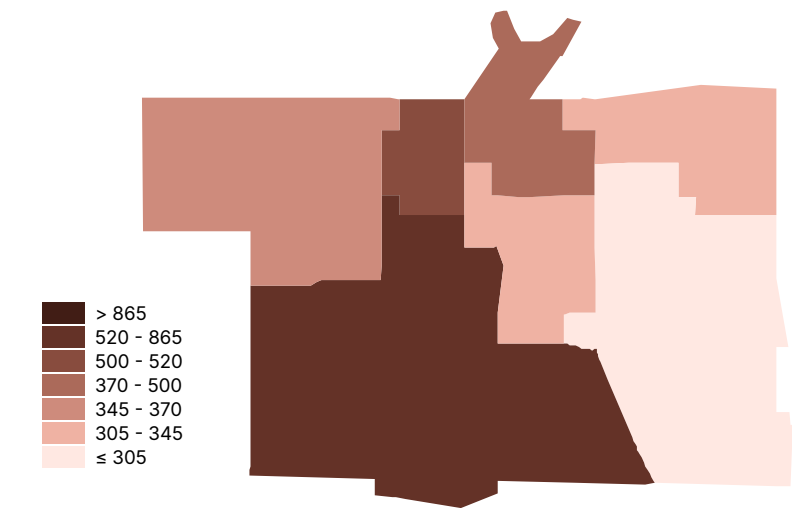


Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Immigrant Status - Non-immigrants (Cardston)¹

Cardston's population in private households is dominated by non-immigrants, with 3,225 people in 2021. Immigrants numbered 350, while non-permanent residents were absent. The 5-year change shows immigrants rising by 25%, non-immigrants increasing by 4.0%, and non-permanent residents dropping by 100%. That mix suggests immigration plays a limited but growing role in the community's composition. Within the local area, some smaller dissemination areas show faster immigrant growth than Cardston itself, while others changed little or declined. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

Total Population

Cardston’s population reached 3,863 in 2025, up 4.8% over five years. It rose from 3,549 in 2001, peaked at 3,903 in 2024, then edged down 40 people in 2025.

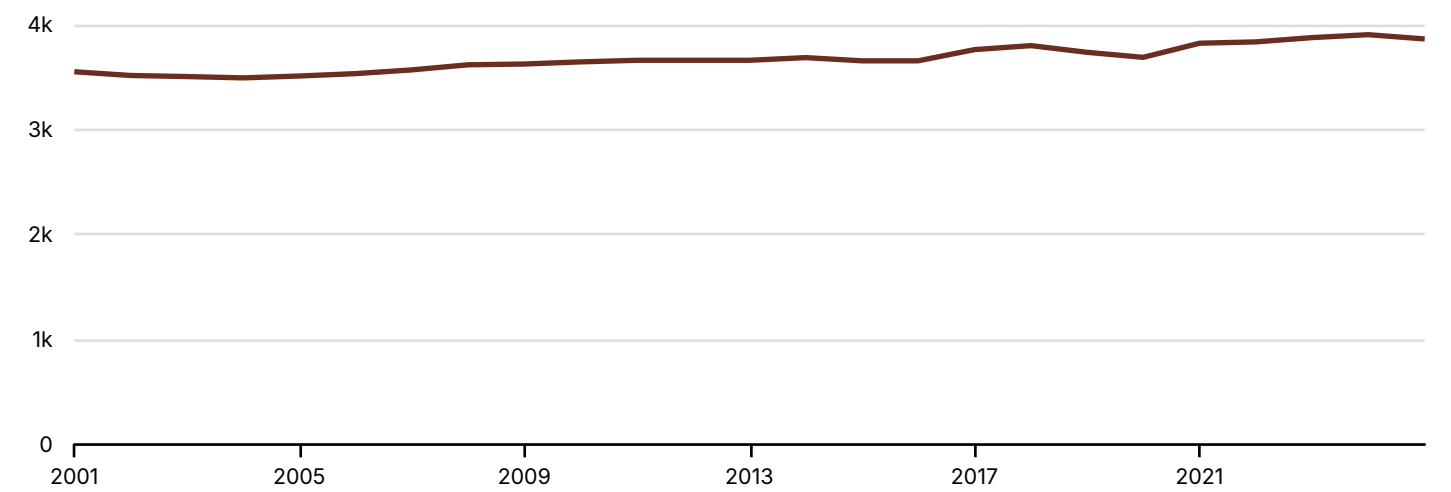
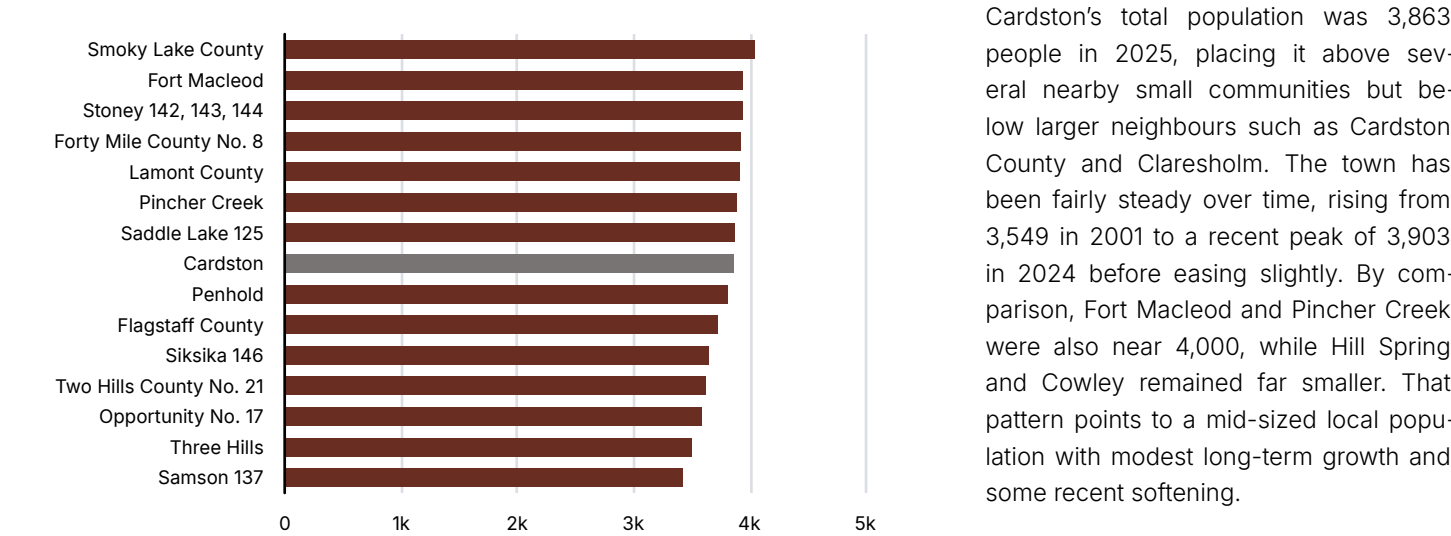


Figure 3.1: Shows the total number of people living in the area. It provides the basic population benchmark used across many other indicators. (Cardston, 2001-2025)²

Cardston’s total population shows a generally upward trend over the past quarter-century, with some short pauses along the way. The town began at 3,549 people in 2001 and ended at 3,863 in 2025, suggesting modest long-run growth rather than a sharp shift. The series moved down slightly in the early 2000s, reaching 3,491 in 2004, before recovering. By 2011, population had risen to 3,659, and it held near that level through 2016. Growth strengthened again after 2016, with 3,760 in 2017 and 3,799 in 2018. Recent years were also positive. Population reached 3,903 in 2024 before easing to 3,863 in 2025, still well above earlier levels.



Cardston’s total population was 3,863 people in 2025, placing it above several nearby small communities but below larger neighbours such as Cardston County and Claresholm. The town has been fairly steady over time, rising from 3,549 in 2001 to a recent peak of 3,903 in 2024 before easing slightly. By comparison, Fort Macleod and Pincher Creek were also near 4,000, while Hill Spring and Cowley remained far smaller. That pattern points to a mid-sized local population with modest long-term growth and some recent softening.

Figure 3.2: Comparison of Total Population with other locations (Cardston, 2025)²

Median Dwelling Value

Cardston’s median dwelling value reached \$280,000 in 2021, up 11.6% from \$250,878 in 2016. The five-year increase added \$29,122, placing the local ownership housing market above its earlier level.

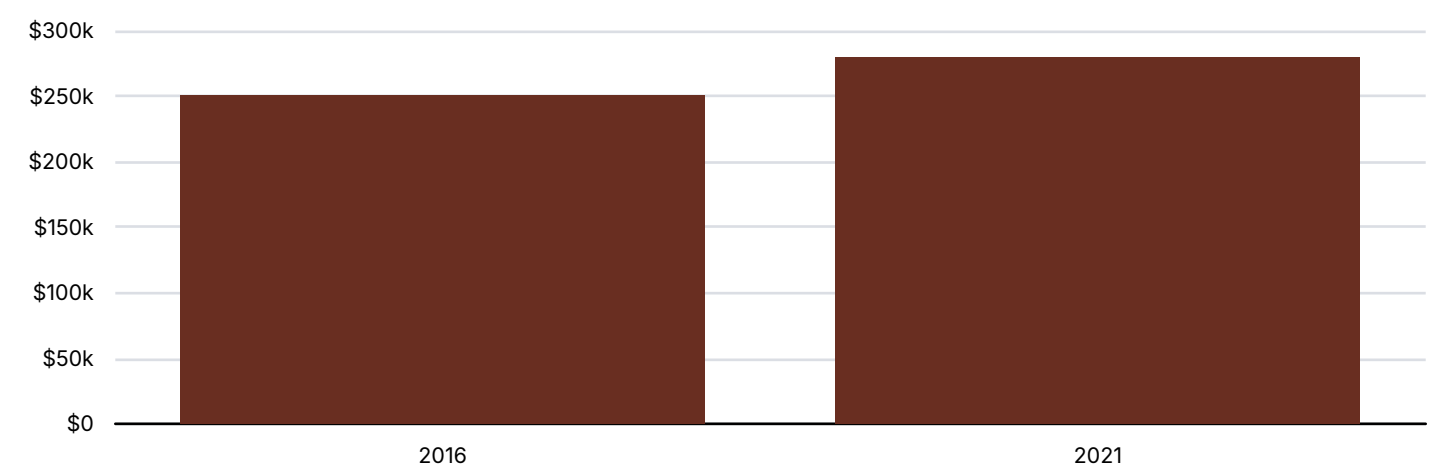
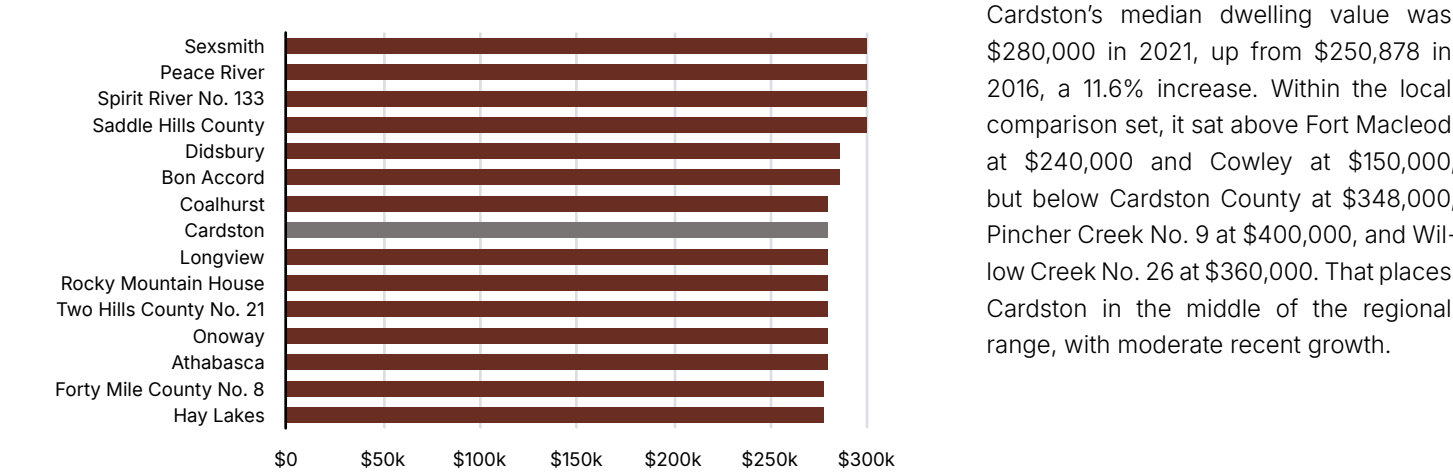


Figure 4.1: Shows the median value of residential dwellings. It helps indicate the typical price point in the local ownership housing market. (Cardston, 2016-2021)¹

In Cardston, the median dwelling value for owner households in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings rose between 2016 and 2021. The median increased from \$250,878 to \$280,000, a 11.6% gain over the five-year period. That change suggests a moderate upward shift in the local ownership housing market, at least in terms of typical dwelling value. The 2021 figure sits above the 2016 level by a noticeable margin, but the dataset does not provide a broader benchmark here, so the main story is the local increase itself.



Cardston's median dwelling value was \$280,000 in 2021, up from \$250,878 in 2016, a 11.6% increase. Within the local comparison set, it sat above Fort Macleod at \$240,000 and Cowley at \$150,000, but below Cardston County at \$348,000, Pincher Creek No. 9 at \$400,000, and Willow Creek No. 26 at \$360,000. That places Cardston in the middle of the regional range, with moderate recent growth.

Figure 4.2: Comparison of Median Dwelling Value with other locations (Cardston, 2021)¹

Household Type

Cardston's largest household type in 2021 was couple-family households without children, at 380 households, down 2.6% from 2016. Couple-family households with children fell to 340, while one-person households rose to 280.

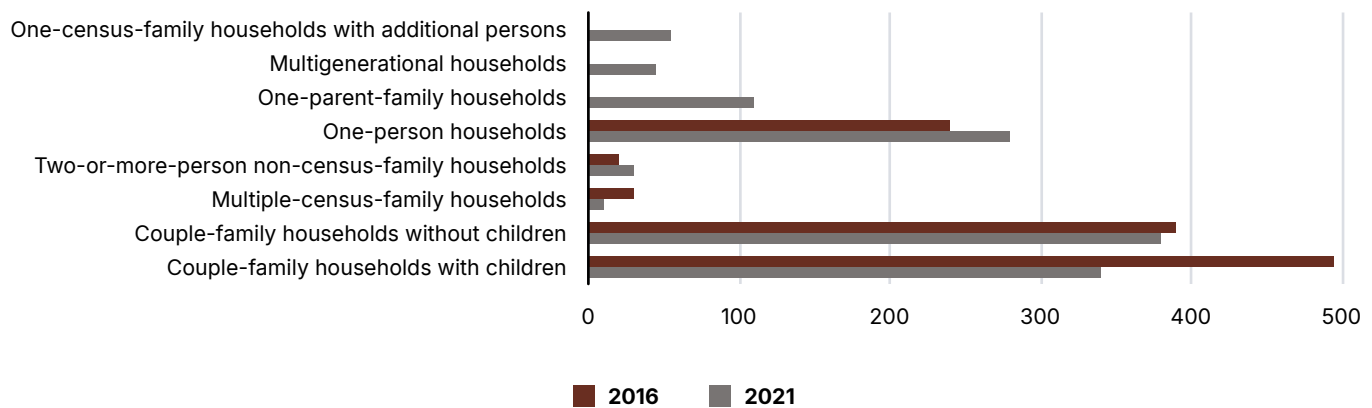


Figure 5.1: Shows the mix of household types, including one-person, family, and non-family households. It helps indicate how residents are organized across living arrangements. (Cardston, 2016-2021)¹

In Cardston, household type in 2021 was shaped by family households, but the recent trend shows a shift within the mix. Couple-family households without children were the largest group at 380 households, followed by couple-family households with children at 340 and one-person households at 280. Over five years, couple-family households with children fell 31.3%, while couple-family households without children were nearly flat at -2.6%. One-person households rose 16.7%, and two-or-more-person non-census-family households increased 50%. The smaller categories were limited in number: one-parent-family households totalled 110, multigenerational households 45, and multiple-census-family households 10, down 66.7%. This points to a household profile that remains family-heavy, but with growth in living alone and some smaller non-family arrangements. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

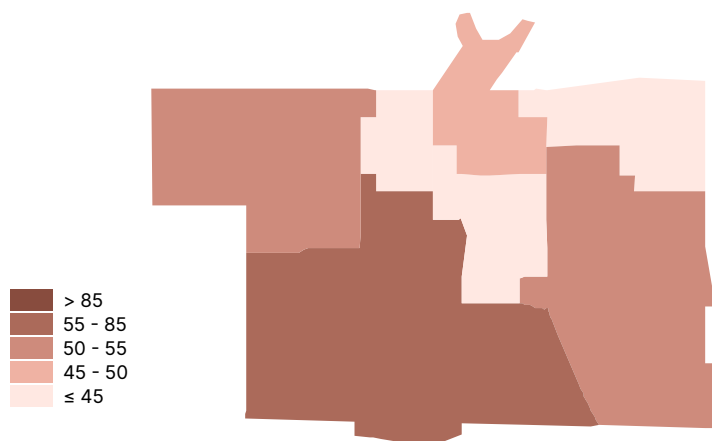


Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Type - Couple-family households without children (Cardston)¹

In 2021, Cardston's private households were led by couple-family households without children (380) and with children (340), giving the town a largely family-based household profile. One-person households were also notable at 280, while one-parent-family households numbered 110. Smaller categories included multigenerational households (45), one-census-family households with additional persons (55), and two-or-more-person non-census-family households (30). Multiple-census-family households were rare at 10. Compared with the pattern across its dissemination areas, Cardston shows a mixed structure, with family households still dominant but a visible one-person segment.

Dwelling Structure Type

Cardston’s housing stock remained dominated by single-detached houses, at 1,075 units in 2021, up 0.9% since 2016. Apartments in buildings with fewer than five storeys rose to 50 units, up 233.3%.

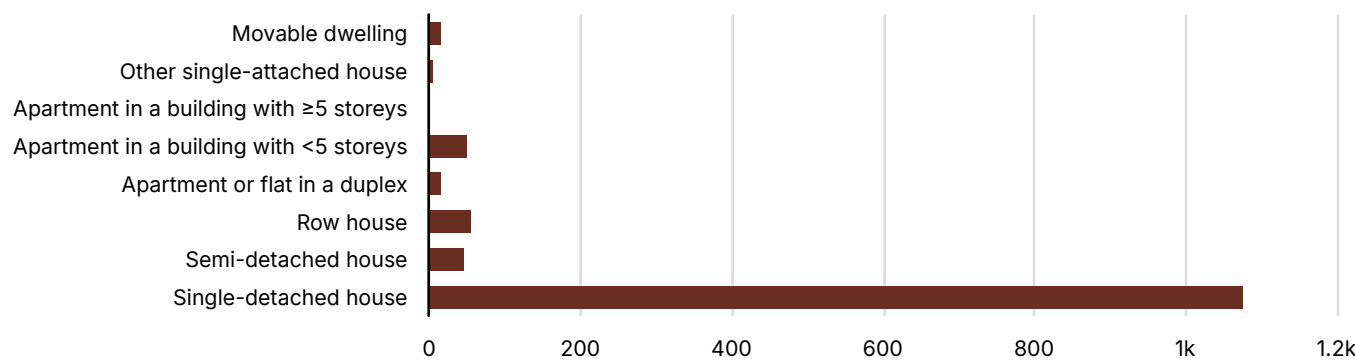


Figure 6.1: Shows the mix of dwelling structure types, such as detached homes, apartments, and other forms. It helps indicate the physical form of the housing stock. (Cardston, 2021)¹

In 2021, Cardston’s occupied private dwellings were dominated by single-detached houses, which numbered 1,075. The next largest forms were apartments in buildings with fewer than 5 storeys at 50, semi-detached houses at 45, and row houses at 55. Smaller segments included apartments in duplexes and movable dwellings, at 15 each, while apartments in buildings with 5 storeys or more were absent. Over five years, the stock grew most in low-rise apartments, up 233.3%, while semi-detached houses rose 80% and single-detached houses edged up 0.9%.

In 2021, Cardston’s occupied private dwellings were dominated by single-detached houses, which accounted for 1,075 units. Smaller forms made up a much thinner share of the housing stock: 55 row houses, 50 apartments in buildings with fewer than five storeys, 45 semi-detached houses, and 15 units each in duplex apartments and movable dwellings. The pattern suggests a strongly detached housing profile, with only limited room for denser forms. Five-year changes were mixed, including modest growth in single-detached homes and sharper gains in some smaller categories.



Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Dwelling Structure Type - Single-detached house (Cardston)¹

Housing Tenure

In Cardston, owner households remained the largest group at 930 in 2021, down 3.6% from 2016. Renter households increased to 330, up 61.0%, while government-provided dwellings stayed at zero.

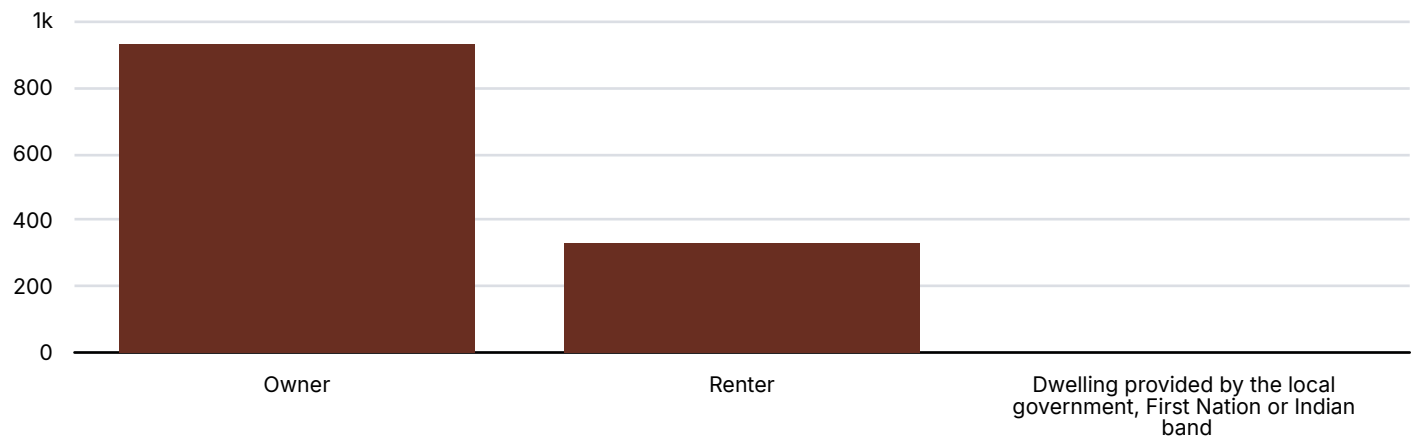
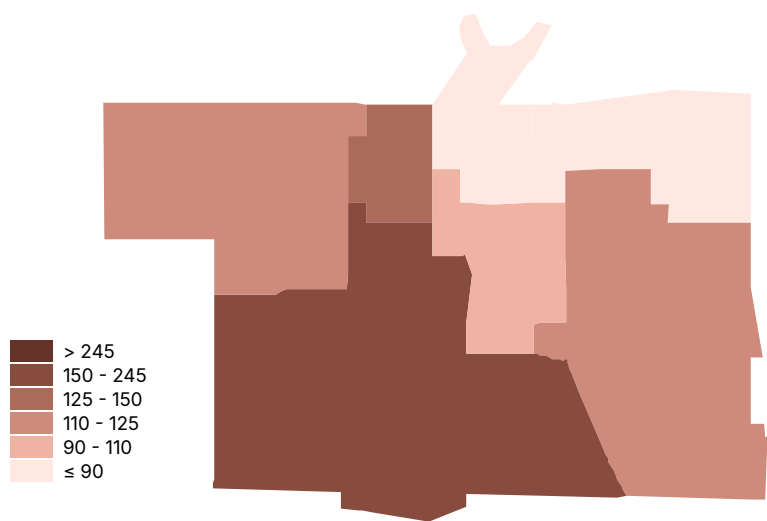


Figure 7.1: Shows whether households own or rent their homes. It helps indicate the balance between ownership and rental housing in the community. (Cardston, 2021)¹

In 2021, Cardston's housing tenure was still dominated by ownership, but the rental side showed much faster recent growth. Among private households, the town had 930 owner households and 330 renter households. The ownership count was down 3.6% over five years, while renter households rose 61.0% over the same period. There were no households reported as dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band. Taken together, the data show a tenure mix that remains ownership-heavy, but with rental housing expanding from a smaller base. That shift suggests a modest rebalancing within Cardston's housing stock, even as ownership remains the clear majority.



Cardston's private households are predominantly owner-occupied, with 930 owner households compared with 330 renter households in 2021. No dwellings were listed as provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band. The tenure mix is stable on the ownership side but has shifted more on the rental side: owner households were down 3.6% over five years, while renter households rose 61.0%. That points to a community where ownership still dominates, but renting has grown more quickly.

Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Housing Tenure - Owner (Cardston)¹

Household Total Income Groups

Cardston's largest household income group was \$150,000 to \$199,999 at 120 households in 2021, up 41.2% from 2016. The \$200,000 and over group rose faster, increasing 85.7% to 65 households.

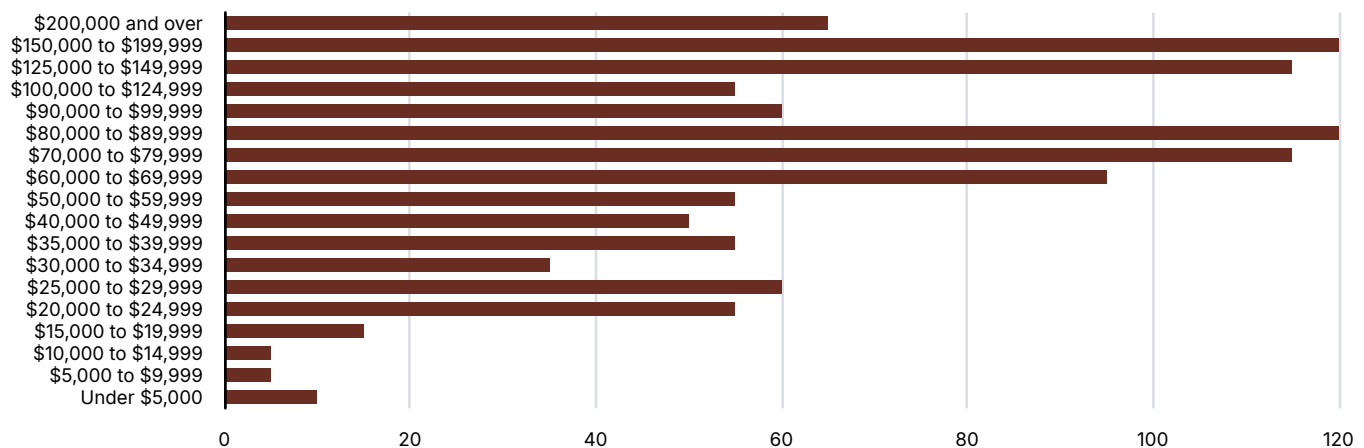


Figure 8.1: Shows households across total income groups. It helps indicate how household incomes are distributed from lower- to higher-income ranges. (Cardston, 2021)¹

In 2021, Cardston's household income profile was spread across a wide range, but the largest counts were in the middle and upper-middle brackets. The biggest groups were \$80,000 to \$89,999 and \$150,000 to \$199,999, with 120 households each, followed by \$70,000 to \$79,999 and \$125,000 to \$149,999 at 115 households each. Several lower-income bands were much smaller, including 5 households in both the \$5,000 to \$9,999 and \$10,000 to \$14,999 groups. Over five years, the strongest gains were at \$200,000 and over, up 85.7%, and \$80,000 to \$89,999, up 71.4%.

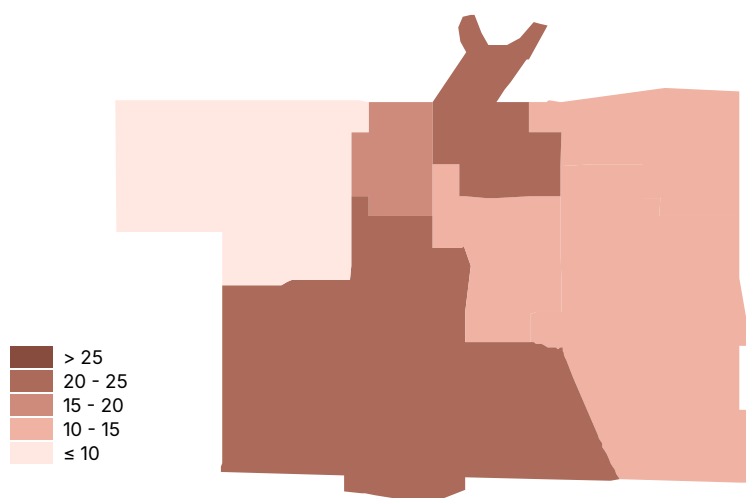


Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Income Group Household - \$80,000 to \$89,999 (Cardston)¹

Cardston's household income profile in 2021 was concentrated in the middle and upper-middle ranges, with the largest groups in \$80,000 to \$89,999 and \$150,000 to \$199,999, at 120 households each. Another 115 households were in both \$70,000 to \$79,999 and \$125,000 to \$149,999. Lower-income groups were smaller, while the \$200,000 and over group reached 65 households. The pattern suggests a broad spread across income bands, with noticeable strength in the middle and upper ranges.

Average Shelter Costs

In Cardston, average monthly shelter costs were higher for owners than renters in 2021, at \$1,164 versus \$1,040. Over five years, owner costs rose 19.3% and renter costs 27.1%.

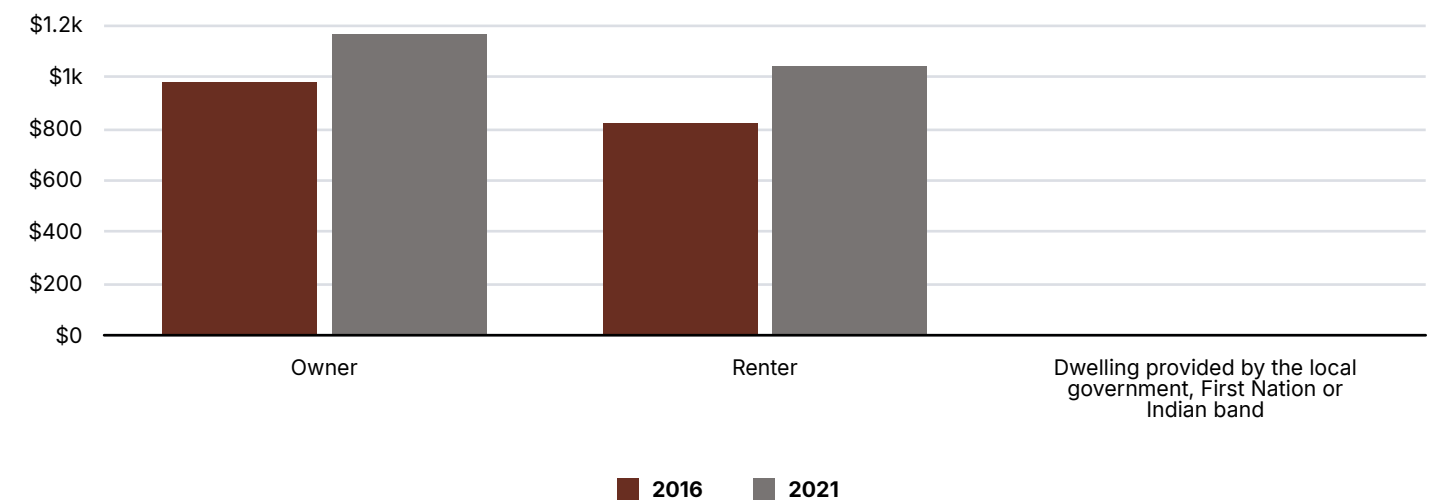


Figure 9.1: Shows the average monthly shelter costs paid by households. It helps indicate typical housing expenses faced by owners and renters. (Cardston, 2016-2021)¹

In Cardston, average monthly shelter costs in 2021 were higher for owners than for renters. Owner households paid \$1,164 per month, while renter households paid \$1,040. Over the previous five years, costs increased for both groups, with a 19.3% rise for owners and a larger 27.1% increase for renters. Households living in dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band were recorded at \$0, with no five-year change reported. The pattern shows moderate shelter costs by tenure, alongside stronger recent growth for renters than for owners.



In 2021, Cardston’s average monthly shelter costs were \$1,164 for owner households and \$1,040 for renter households, both measured among households in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings. The gap is modest, but owners still paid more than renters. Across nearby dissemination areas, owner costs ranged from \$900 to \$1,540, while renter costs ranged from \$900 to \$1,200. That spread suggests shelter costs varied meaningfully within the community rather than clustering at one level.

Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Housing Tenure - Owner (Cardston)¹

Population in Private Households

Cardston’s private-household population reached 3,580 in 2021, up 5.6% from 2016. That followed a 1.9% decline between 2011 and 2016, leaving the 2021 total above 2011’s 3,455.

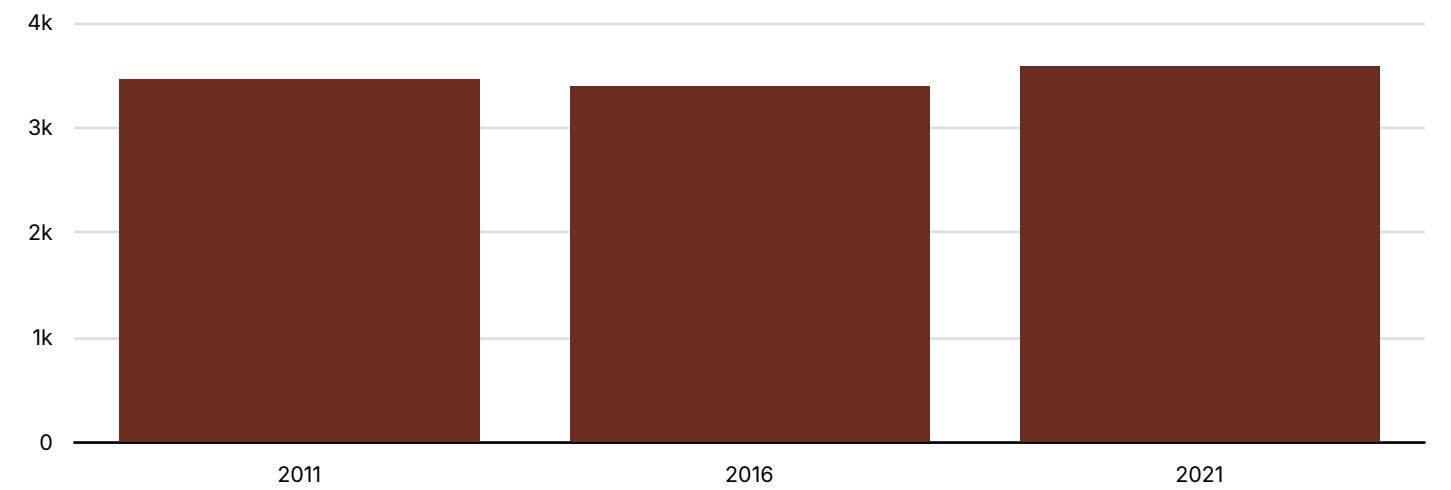
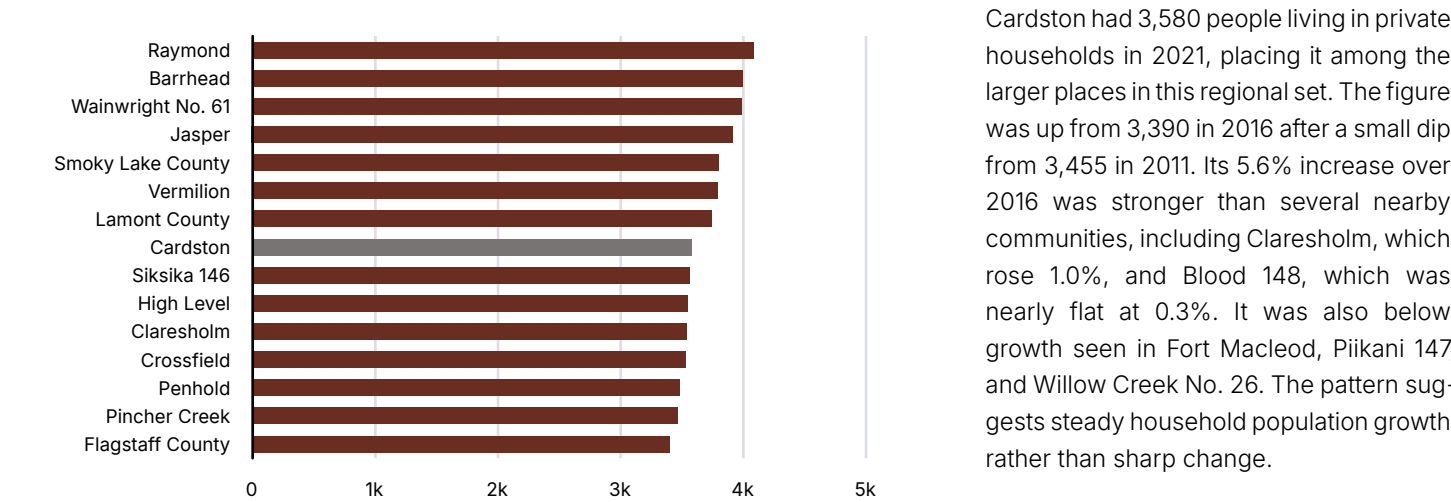


Figure 10.1: Shows the number of people living in private households. It helps indicate how much of the population lives in standard household settings rather than collective dwellings. (Cardston, 2011-2021)¹

Cardston’s population in private households was 3,455 people in 2011, dipped to 3,390 in 2016, and then rose to 3,580 in 2021. The series shows a modest decline followed by a stronger rebound over the decade. The five-year change moved from -1.9% in 2016 to 5.6% in 2021. That shift suggests the later period offset the earlier loss, leaving the 2021 total above both prior censuses. These figures describe residents living in private households, not the broader population in other living arrangements. Taken together, the numbers point to a relatively stable but slightly uneven trend over time.



Cardston had 3,580 people living in private households in 2021, placing it among the larger places in this regional set. The figure was up from 3,390 in 2016 after a small dip from 3,455 in 2011. Its 5.6% increase over 2016 was stronger than several nearby communities, including Claresholm, which rose 1.0%, and Blood 148, which was nearly flat at 0.3%. It was also below growth seen in Fort Macleod, Piikani 147, and Willow Creek No. 26. The pattern suggests steady household population growth rather than sharp change.

Figure 10.2: Comparison of Population in Private Households with other locations (Cardston, 2021)¹

Employment Rate

Cardston's employment rate was 50.5% in 2021, down from 51.2% in 2016. Over five years, the rate fell 1.37%, leaving just over half of the labour force aged 15 and over employed.

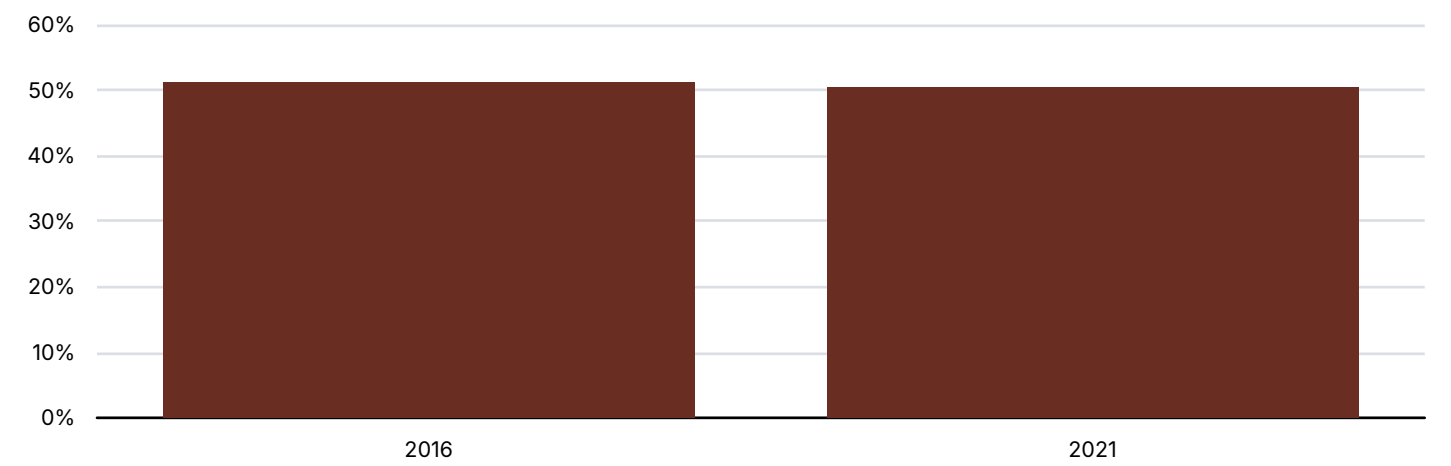
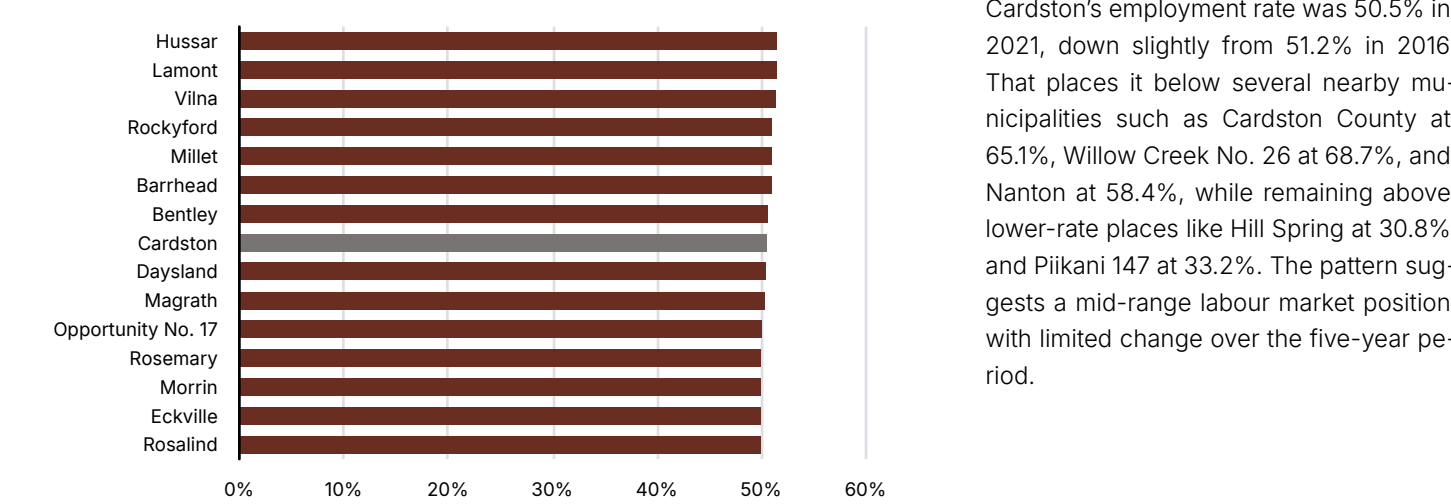


Figure 11.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed. It helps indicate overall labour market health and how fully local talent is being used. (Cardston, 2016-2021)¹

Cardston's employment rate was 50.5% in 2021, down slightly from 51.2% in 2016. The five-year change was -1.4%, showing a modest decline in the share of the working-age population that was employed. The pattern is steady rather than volatile. Even with the decrease, about half of residents aged 15 and over were employed in 2021, which places the town in a middle range on this measure without suggesting a sharp shift. The data point to a small softening in employment participation over the five-year period, but not a dramatic change.



Cardston's employment rate was 50.5% in 2021, down slightly from 51.2% in 2016. That places it below several nearby municipalities such as Cardston County at 65.1%, Willow Creek No. 26 at 68.7%, and Nanton at 58.4%, while remaining above lower-rate places like Hill Spring at 30.8% and Piikani 147 at 33.2%. The pattern suggests a mid-range labour market position with limited change over the five-year period.

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

Household Size

Two-person households remained the largest group in Cardston at 465 in 2021, up 6.9% since 2016. One-person households rose fastest, increasing 18.8% to 285, while larger households changed little.

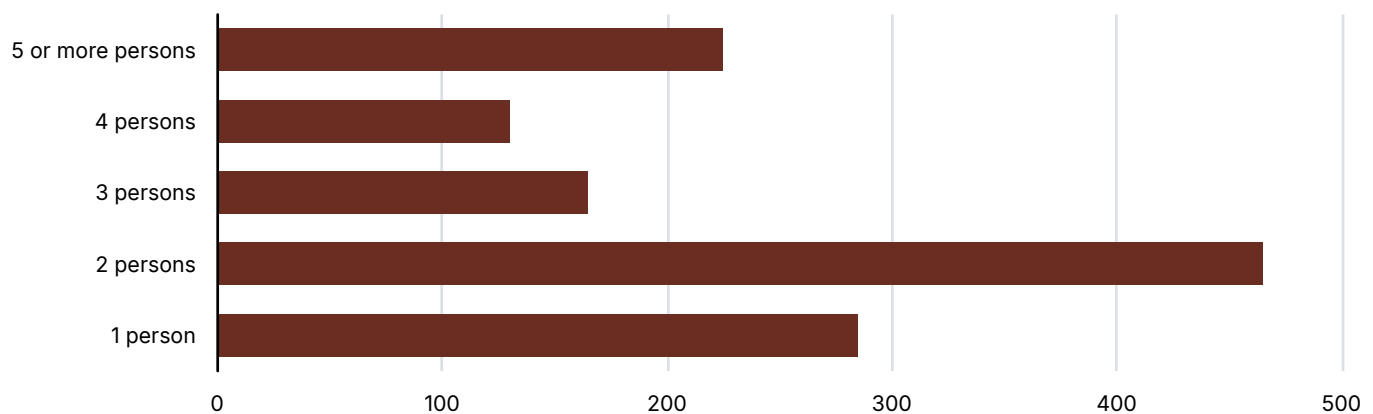
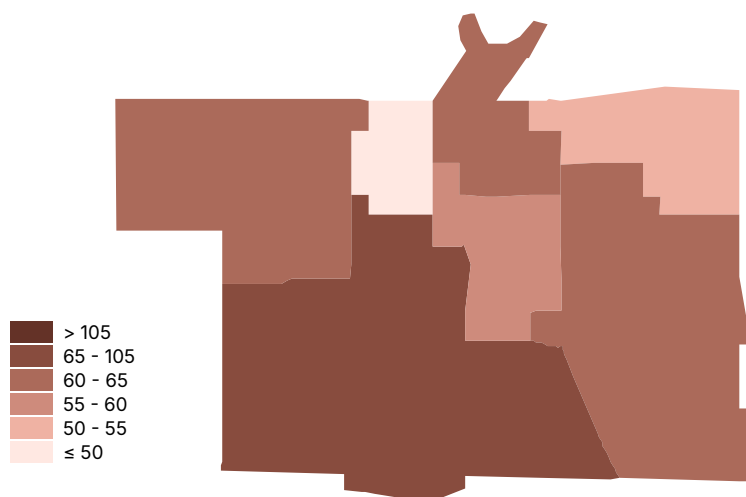


Figure 12.1: Shows the number of people living in households. It helps indicate common household arrangements and likely housing needs. (Cardston, 2021)¹

Cardston's household-size profile in 2021 was led by smaller households, with 465 two-person households and 285 one-person households. Three-person households numbered 165, while four-person households accounted for 130. Larger households were less common, with 225 households of five or more persons. Recent change points to growth in most household sizes over five years. One-person households rose 18.8%, four-person households increased 13.0%, and two- and three-person households grew 6.9% and 6.5%, respectively. The only decline was among households with five or more persons, down 2.2%. The pattern suggests a household structure centered on smaller living arrangements, with modest expansion across several categories and a slight easing at the largest size.



Cardston's household size profile in 2021 was led by two-person households, with 465 private households, followed by 1-person households at 285. Larger households were less common: 165 had three people, 130 had four, and 225 had five or more. The 5-year change shows modest growth in most categories, including 18.8% for 1-person households and 13.0% for 4-person households. Five-or-more-person households were the only group to edge down, by 2.2%. This points to a stable mix with some shift toward smaller household types.

Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Size - 2 persons (Cardston)¹

Highest Education Level

In Cardston, high school diploma or equivalency was the largest credential group in 2021 at 925 people, up 117.7% from 2016. College credentials followed at 495, while apprenticeships fell to 205.

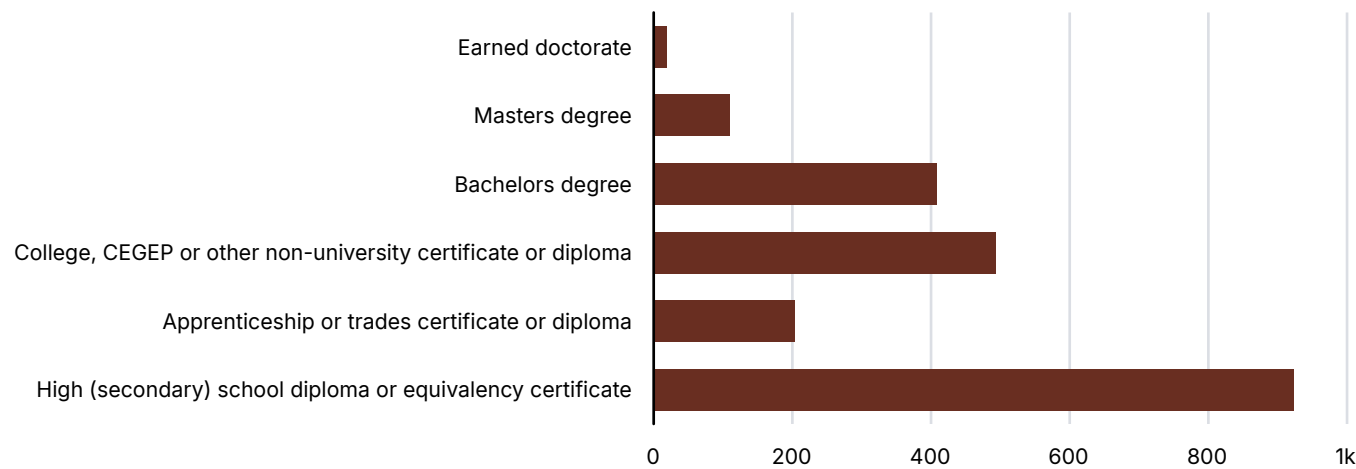
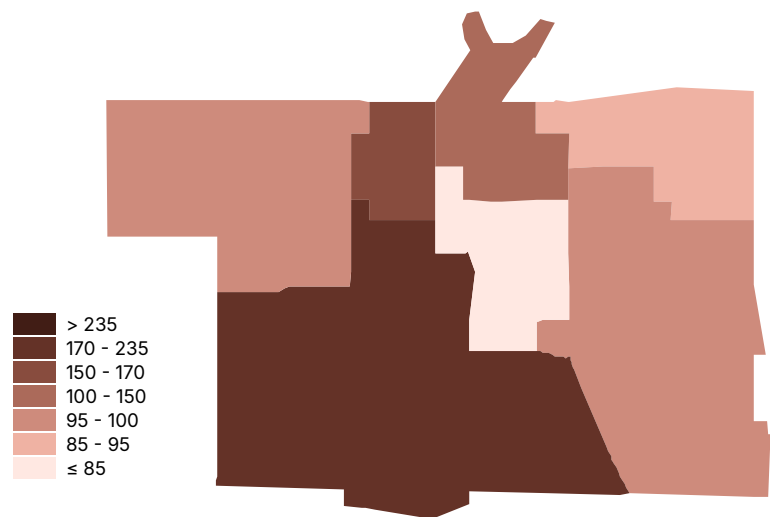


Figure 13.1: Shows the highest level of education completed by residents. It helps indicate the overall educational profile of the population. (Cardston, 2021)¹

In Cardston, the 2021 education profile for residents age 15 and over in private households was led by high school completion, with 925 people holding a high school diploma or equivalent. College, CEGEP or other non-university credentials followed at 495, while 410 had a bachelor’s degree. Smaller groups held a trades certificate or diploma, at 205, a master’s degree, at 110, or an earned doctorate, at 20. Over five years, several categories grew, especially high school and bachelor’s degrees, while trades declined.



In Cardston, the highest education profile in 2021 was led by high school completion, with 925 people holding a secondary diploma or equivalent. College, CEGEP or other non-university credentials followed at 495, and bachelor’s degrees totaled 410. Smaller groups held apprenticeships or trades credentials (205), a master’s degree (110), or an earned doctorate (20). The mix suggests a workforce centered on secondary and postsecondary qualifications, with fewer advanced degrees.

Figure 13.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Cardston)¹

Population Density

Cardston’s population density reached 434.1 people per square kilometre in 2021, up 3.98% from 2016. The earlier five-year period also rose, from 414.1 in 2011 to 417.5 in 2016.

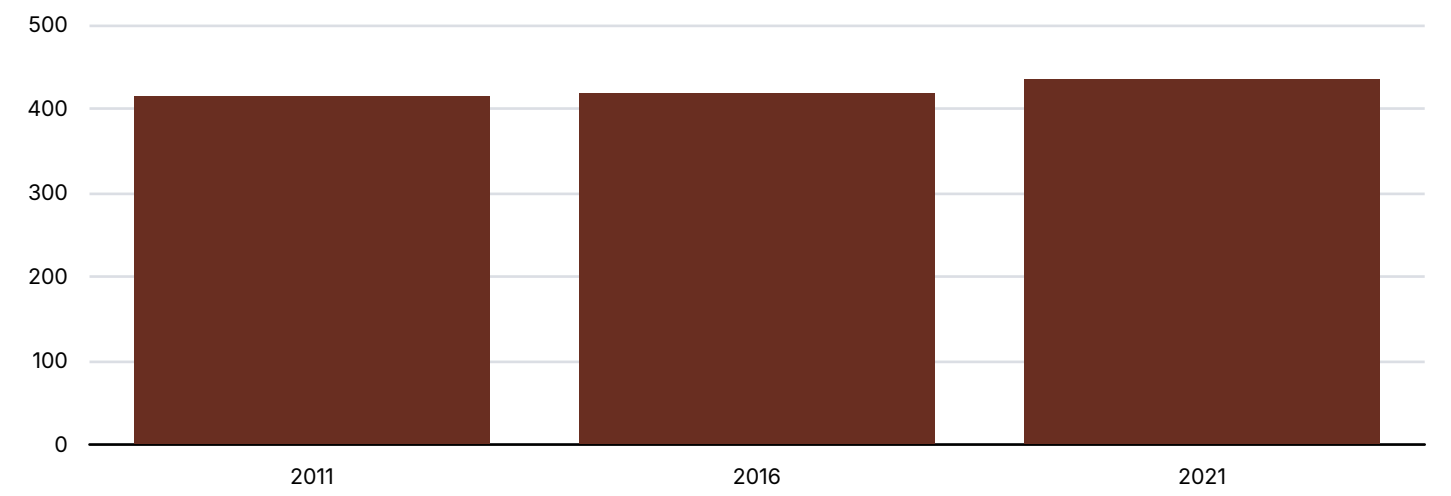
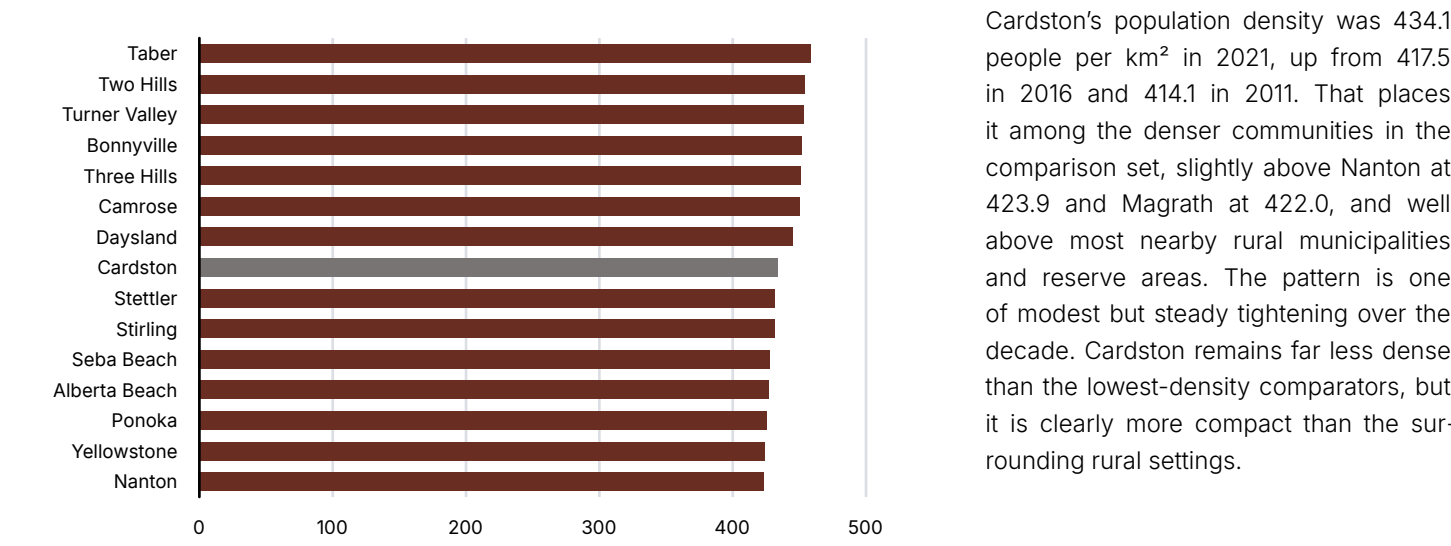


Figure 14.1: Shows how many people live per unit of land area. It helps indicate how compact or spread out the population is. (Cardston, 2011-2021)¹

Cardston’s population density has edged upward over the past decade, pointing to a modestly more compact settlement pattern. In 2011, the town recorded 414.1 people per square kilometre. By 2016, density had risen slightly to 417.5, a 0.8% increase over five years. The pace picked up by 2021, when density reached 434.1 people per square kilometre, up 4.0% from 2016. The trend is steady rather than abrupt, with the largest gain occurring in the most recent period. That pattern suggests gradual intensification of population on the existing land base rather than a sharp shift.



Cardston’s population density was 434.1 people per km² in 2021, up from 417.5 in 2016 and 414.1 in 2011. That places it among the denser communities in the comparison set, slightly above Nanton at 423.9 and Magrath at 422.0, and well above most nearby rural municipalities and reserve areas. The pattern is one of modest but steady tightening over the decade. Cardston remains far less dense than the lowest-density comparators, but it is clearly more compact than the surrounding rural settings.

Figure 14.2: Comparison of Population Density with other locations (Cardston, 2021)¹

Mother Tongue

English remained the largest mother tongue in Cardston at 3,410 people, up 2.1% over five years. Spanish posted the fastest growth among listed languages, rising 66.7% to 25 people.

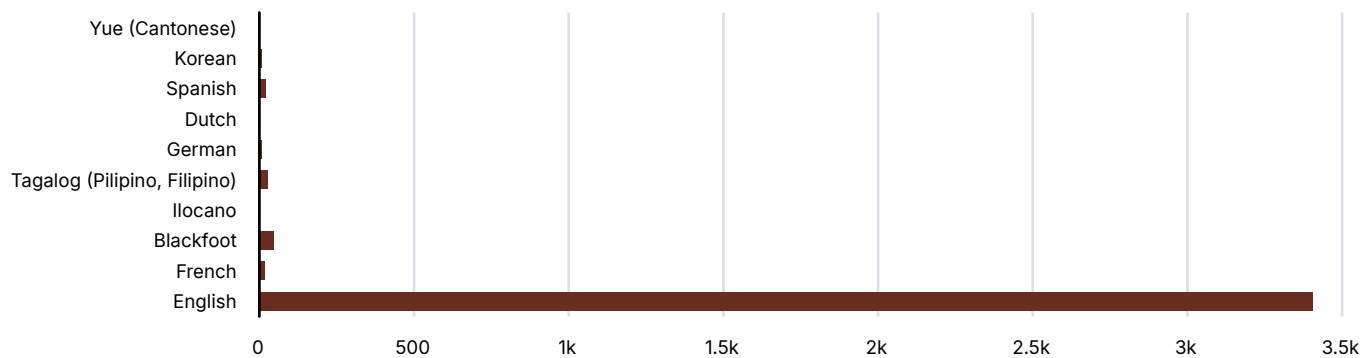


Figure 15.1: Shows the first language learned and still understood by residents. It helps indicate the linguistic roots of the population. (Cardston, 2021)¹

Cardston's mother tongue profile in 2021 was led by English, which remained the dominant language learned first and still understood by 3,410 people. Smaller language groups added limited but visible diversity, with Blackfoot at 50 people, Tagalog at 30, and Spanish at 25. Recent change was mixed. English rose 2.1% over five years, while Blackfoot grew 42.9% and Spanish increased 66.7%. In contrast, French and German both fell by 33.3%. The pattern points to a stable English base with modest growth in some minority languages.

Cardston's mother tongue profile in 2021 was strongly anchored by English, with 3,410 people reporting it as their first language learned and still understood. Smaller language communities included Blackfoot at 50, Tagalog at 30, Spanish at 25, French at 20, and German and Korean at 10 each. The 5-year change figures show mixed movement: English rose 2.1%, Blackfoot increased 42.9%, and Spanish grew 66.7%, while French and German each fell 33.3%. The pattern suggests a largely English-speaking community with some growth in smaller language groups.

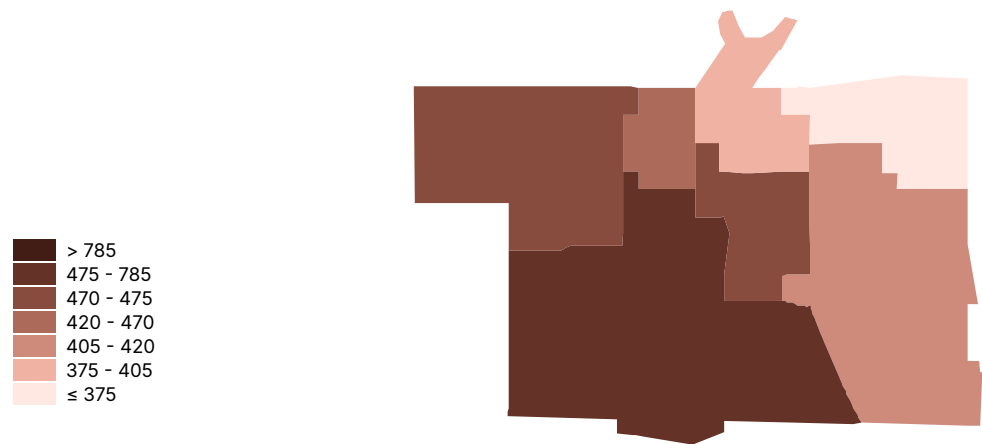


Figure 15.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Language - English (Cardston)¹

Visible Minority

Cardston’s largest visible minority group in 2021 was Filipino at 110 people, up 144.4% from 2016. Chinese followed with 30, while Latin American and Southeast Asian each counted 20 people.

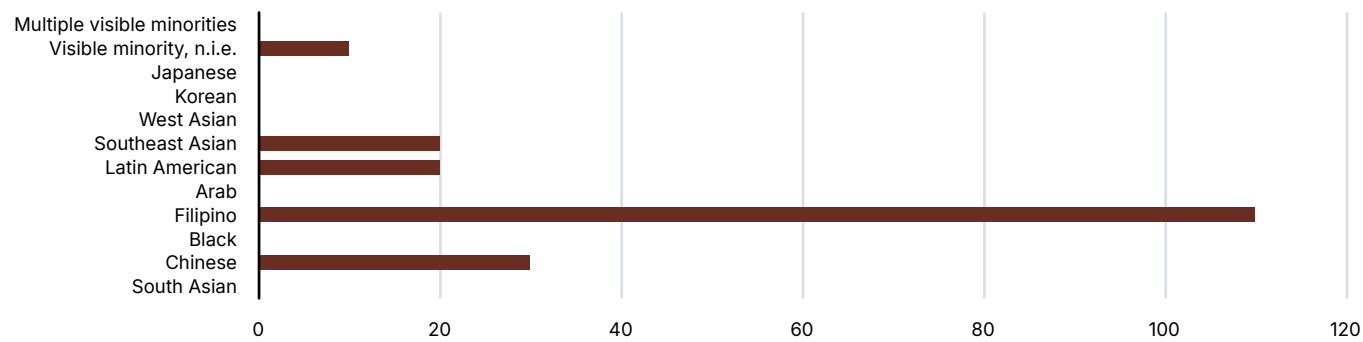


Figure 16.1: Shows residents who identify as belonging to visible minority groups. It helps indicate racialized population diversity in the community. (Cardston, 2021)¹

In Cardston, visible minority counts in 2021 were concentrated in a few groups, with Filipino residents numbering 110 and rising 144.4% over five years. Chinese residents totalled 30, up 20%, while Latin American and Southeast Asian residents each stood at 20, with Latin American up 100%. By contrast, South Asian, Black, Arab, West Asian, Korean, Japanese, and multiple visible minorities were at zero. The pattern points to modest diversity with growth in selected groups rather than broad-based change.

Cardston's visible minority population in private households was small in 2021 and concentrated in a few groups. The largest count was Filipino, at 110 people, followed by Chinese at 30. Latin American and Southeast Asian residents were both recorded at 20, while “visible minority, n.i.e.” accounted for 10. Several categories were absent, including South Asian, Black, Arab, West Asian, Korean, Japanese, and multiple visible minorities, each at 0. The mix points to limited racialized diversity, with one group clearly outweighing the others. Recent change was strongest for Filipino residents, up 144.4% over five years, while Chinese rose 20%.



Figure 16.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Visible Minority - Filipino (Cardston)¹

Age Groups

Cardston's largest age group was 10 to 14 years at 325 people in 2021, up 16.1% from 2016. The biggest change was 55 to 59 years, which fell 18.0% to 160 people.

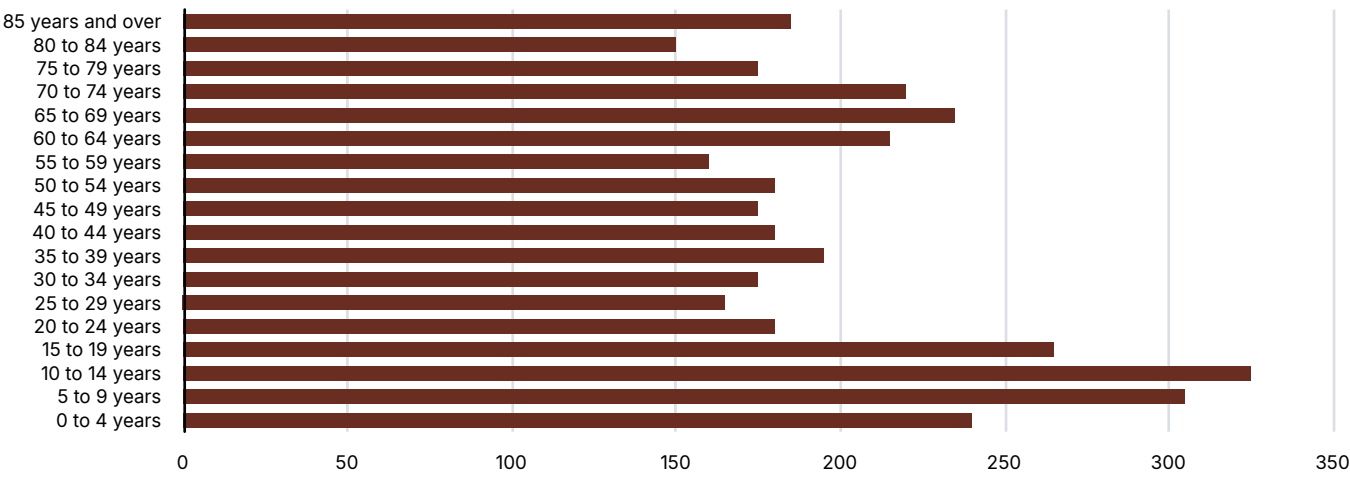
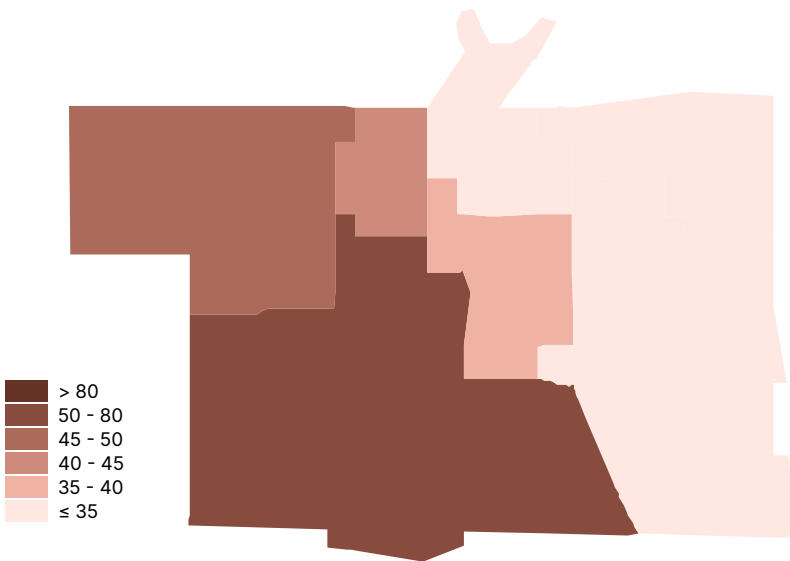


Figure 17.1: Shows how the population is distributed across age groups. It helps explain the community's age structure and stage of life profile. (Cardston, 2021)¹

Cardston's age profile in 2021 shows a community with strength across both school-age children and older adults, rather than a single dominant age band. The largest group was 10 to 14 years, with 325 people, followed by 5 to 9 years at 305 and 15 to 19 years at 265. Recent change was mixed. The 25 to 29 group rose 17.9% over five years, while 10 to 14 years increased 16.1%. By contrast, 55 to 59 years fell 17.9%, and 60 to 64 years declined 8.5%. Several older groups also grew, including 65 to 69 years at 9.3% and 70 to 74 years at 12.8%. The pattern suggests a population with notable movement in both younger and older ages.



In 2021, Cardston's population was spread across all ages, with the largest cohorts in childhood and older adulthood. Ages 10 to 14 were the biggest group at 325 people, while 5 to 9 had 305 and 65 to 69 had 235. The 55 to 59 group was the sharpest recent decline, down 17.9% over five years.

Figure 17.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Age Group - 10 to 14 years (Cardston)¹

Family Type

Cardston's largest family type in 2021 was married couples without children at 415 people, up 1.2% from 2016. Married couples with children fell to 360, while one-parent families rose to 155, up 24.0%.

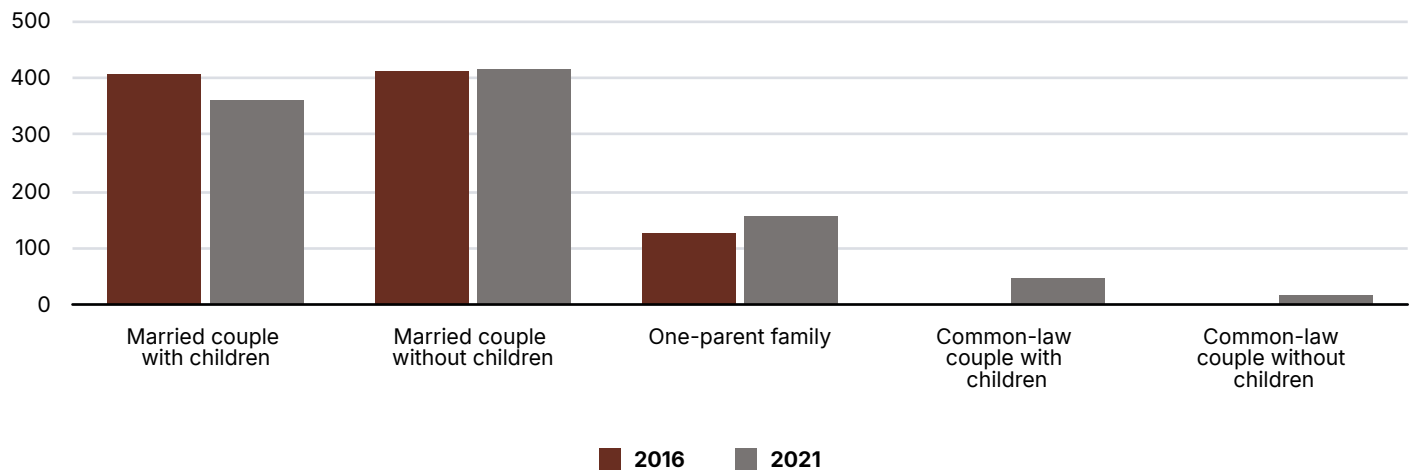


Figure 18.1: Shows the mix of family types, such as couple families and lone-parent families. It helps indicate the structure of family life in the community. (Cardston, 2016-2021)¹

In Cardston, family life in 2021 was centered on couple families, with married couples without children forming the largest group at 415 people and married couples with children close behind at 360. One-parent families accounted for 155 people, while common-law couples were much smaller groups, at 45 with children and 15 without children. The time trend was mixed. Married couples with children fell 11.1% over five years, while married couples without children edged up 1.2%. One-parent families increased 24%, suggesting a modest shift in the local family mix.

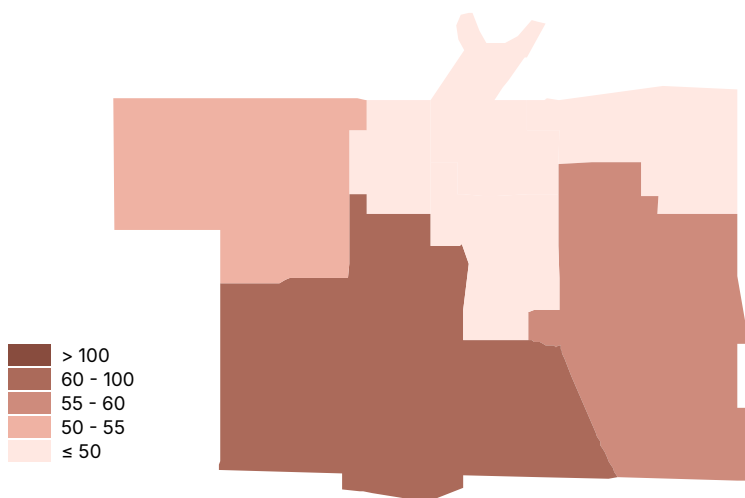


Figure 18.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Type - Married couple without children (Cardston)¹

In 2021, Cardston's family structure was led by married couples without children, at 415 people, compared with 360 married couples with children. One-parent families were smaller at 155, but they rose 24% over five years. Common-law families remained limited, with 45 with children and 15 without children. The pattern points to a household mix weighted toward couple families.

Ethnic Origin

Cardston’s largest ethnic origin group was English at 1,510 people, down 26.0% over five years. German followed at 635, while Canadian fell 47.2% to 475, the steepest decline reported.

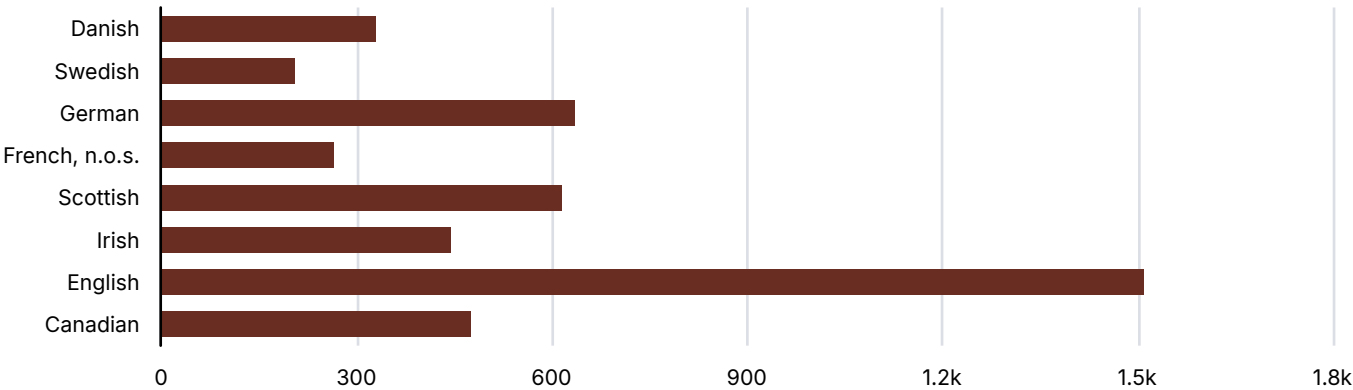


Figure 19.1: Shows the ethnic or cultural origins reported by residents. It helps indicate ancestry patterns and the community's cultural makeup. (Cardston, 2021)¹

In 2021, Cardston’s ethnic origin profile was led by English and German origins, with 1,510 and 635 people respectively. Scottish origin followed at 615, while Canadian origin accounted for 475 and Irish for 445. Smaller counts were reported for Danish, French, n.o.s., and Swedish origins. The 5-year changes show a mixed pattern: Irish and Danish origins increased, but Canadian, English, Scottish, German, and Swedish origins declined.

Cardston’s ethnic origin profile in 2021 is led by several long-established ancestries, with English the largest at 1,510 people, followed by German at 635 and Scottish at 615. Irish origin is also prominent at 445, while Danish stands out for recent growth, up 10% over five years to 330. By contrast, Canadian origin fell 47.2% to 475, and Scottish declined 34.9%. The pattern suggests a mixed ancestry base with some continuity and selective shifts, rather than a single dominant trend.



Figure 19.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Ethnic Origin - English (Cardston)¹

Employment by Sector

Educational services remained Cardston’s largest employer in 2025 at 1,448 people, up 2.9% from 2024 and down 1.0% over five years. Health care followed with 499, and retail had 192.

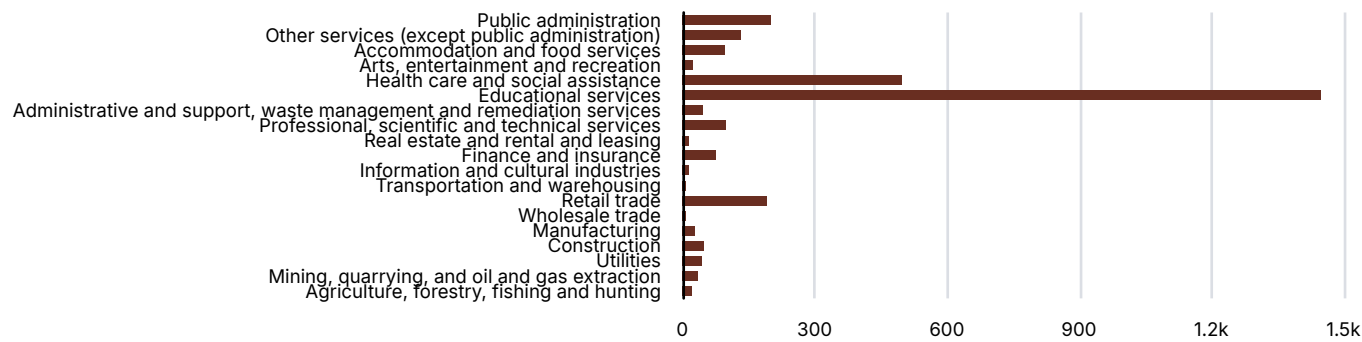


Figure 20.1: Shows how employment is distributed across industry sectors. It helps indicate which sectors account for the largest share of local jobs. (Cardston, 2025)³

Cardston's employment profile in 2025 is led by educational services, which accounts for 1,448 employees, far ahead of health care and social assistance at 499 and public administration at 200. Retail trade adds 192 jobs, while other large local sectors include finance and insurance at 77 and accommodation and food services at 96. Recent movement is mixed. Administrative and support services rose sharply, up 119.1% in one year and 130.0% over five years, while educational services was nearly flat over five years at -1.0%. Several smaller sectors also declined over five years, including agriculture, wholesale trade, and transportation.

Cardston's employment mix in 2025 is dominated by educational services, with 1,448 jobs in a universe of employees aged 15 and over. Health care and social assistance is a distant second at 499, while public administration has 200 jobs and retail trade 192. These sectors shape the local labour market more than any others. The pattern is highly concentrated, with service employment centered on education and care. Smaller sectors such as finance, professional services, construction, and agriculture add diversity, but they do not change the basic structure of local jobs.



Figure 20.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Educational services (Cardston)³

Employed Residents by Occupation

Sales and service occupations were the largest group in Cardston in 2021, rising to 450 people from 305 in 2016. Occupations in education, law and social services followed at 270, while legislative and senior management fell to 15.

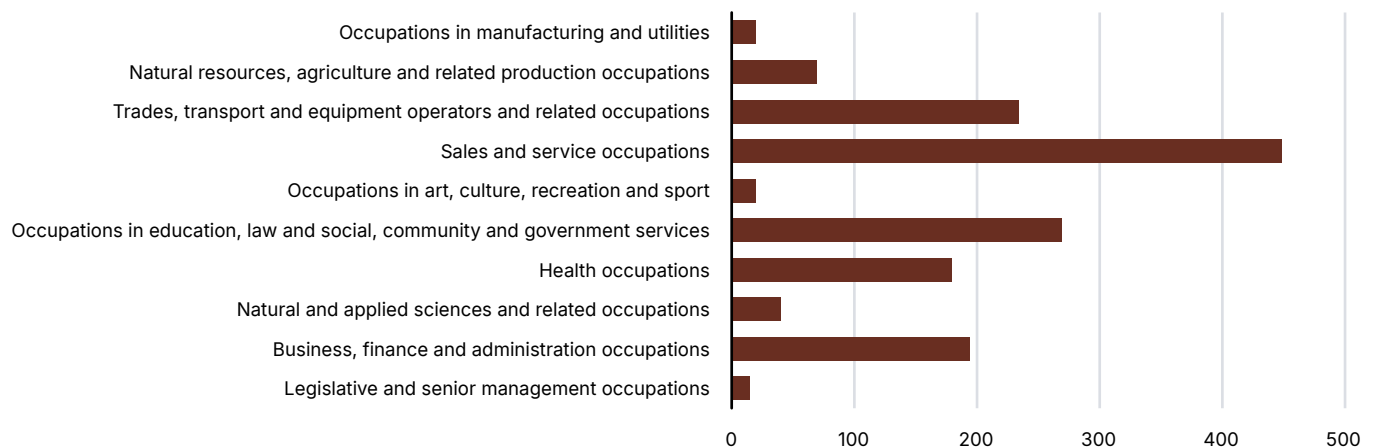


Figure 21.1: Shows the occupations held by employed residents. It helps indicate the community's skill mix and the kinds of work people do. (Cardston, 2021)¹

Cardston's employed residents in 2021 were concentrated in a few occupation groups, with sales and service occupations forming the largest block at 450 people. Education, law and social, community and government services followed at 270, while trades, transport and equipment operators accounted for 235 and business, finance and administration for 195. Health occupations also stood at 180. Over five years, sales and service rose 47.5%, the fastest growth among the larger groups, while legislative and senior management occupations fell sharply to 15. The mix points to a workforce that has shifted most visibly toward service work.

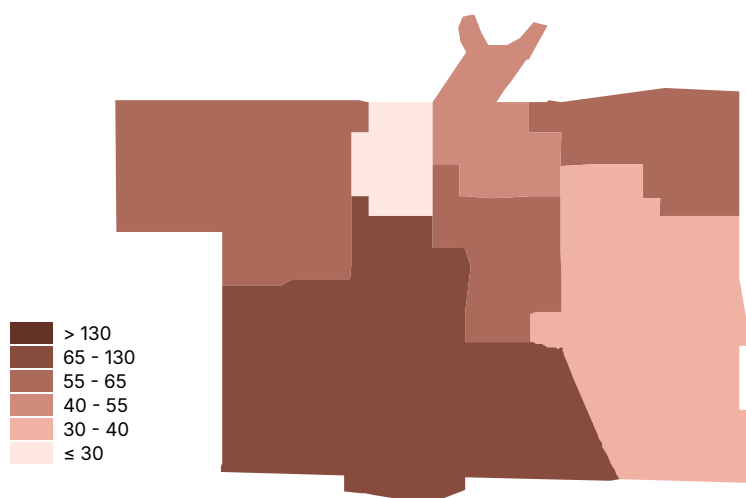


Figure 21.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Occupation - Sales and service occupations (Cardston)¹

Cardston's employed residents in 2021 were concentrated in a few occupations, led by sales and service occupations at 450 people. Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services followed at 270, with trades, transport and equipment operators at 235 and business, finance and administration at 195. Health occupations accounted for 180. At the other end, legislative and senior management occupations were only 15, while art, culture, recreation and sport and manufacturing and utilities each had 20. The mix points to a broad but service-leaning local workforce.

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.
2. Statistics Canada, Population Estimates, Tables 17-10-0005-01, 17-10-0150-01, 17-10-0148-01, 17-10-0152-01, and 17-10-0155-01. Published in Jan 14, 2026.
3. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Employment by Industry Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.

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