



CARDSTON COUNTY

Mobility & Commuting Report

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Executive Summary

Cardston County's 2021 profile is defined by stability in where people live and a work pattern that is still rooted in fixed workplaces, even as working from home has become a substantial part of local employment. Most employed residents were based at a usual workplace, but a large secondary group worked from home, which grew more quickly than other work arrangements over the previous five years. A smaller share reported no fixed workplace address, and none were recorded as working outside Canada. This leaves a picture of a county where the traditional workplace remains central, but the geography of work is no longer confined to a single setting.

That same balance between continuity and selective change appears in mobility and commuting. The largest share of residents had lived in the same place one year earlier, and non-movers also remained the biggest group over the five-year horizon, pointing to limited short-term turnover and a strong base of long-term residents. When movement did occur, it was more often within Alberta than from outside the province. The county's commuting pattern also extends beyond its own boundaries without becoming fully long-distance. The largest flow was to another census subdivision within the same census division, while fewer residents both worked within the county itself or travelled farther elsewhere in Alberta. Departures for work were concentrated in the early morning, especially around the 7 a.m. hour, and commute times were spread across short and mid-range trips, with the single largest group travelling less than 15 minutes but a meaningful number reporting longer journeys as well.

Travel to work in Cardston County was overwhelmingly car-based. Driving far exceeded every other commuting mode, while passenger travel and other methods accounted for only small numbers, and public transit, walking, and cycling were recorded at zero. Alongside the strong role of regional commuting, this reliance on private vehicles reinforces the county's practical, dispersed work geography. Cardston County emerges as a place marked by residential stability, employment connections that reach into the surrounding area, and a transportation pattern shaped much more by the car and the morning commute than by local workplace concentration alone.

Place of Work Status

In Cardston County, usual workplace was the largest work location in 2021 at 830 people, up 1.2% from 2016. Working at home rose to 570, while no fixed workplace reached 235 and worked outside Canada fell to zero.

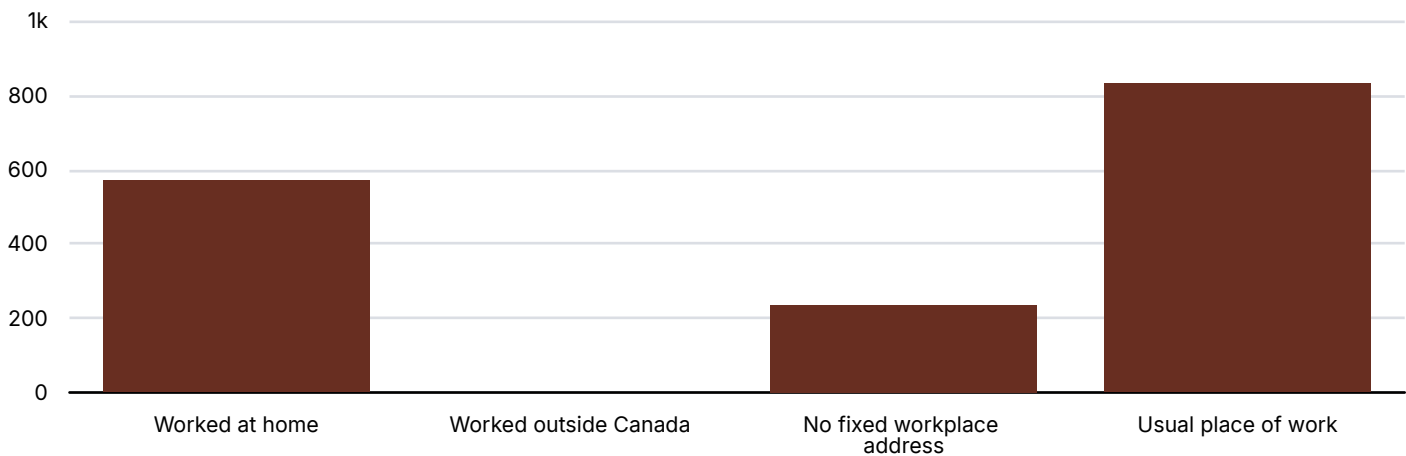
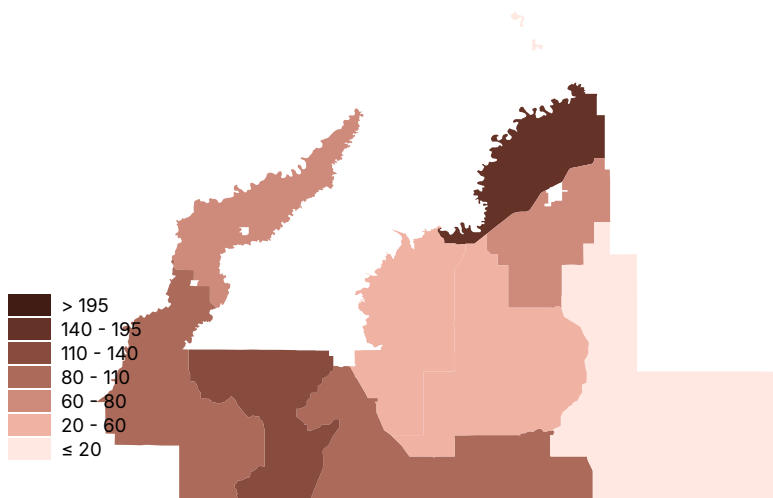


Figure 1.1: Shows whether people work from home, at a usual workplace, or at no fixed workplace. It helps indicate how work is organized across locations. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In Cardston County, place of work in 2021 was split across a usual workplace, home, and no fixed workplace, within the employed labour force aged 15 years and over. The usual workplace category was largest at 830 people, followed by 570 who worked at home and 235 with no fixed workplace address. No one is shown as having worked outside Canada. The 5-year change points to growth in home-based work, up 25.3%, while the usual workplace rose 1.2% and no fixed workplace increased 6.8%. The zero count outside Canada suggests that category was absent in the available record.



In 2021, Cardston County’s employed labour force was centered on a usual place of work, with 830 people, while 570 worked at home and 235 had no fixed workplace address. No one reported working outside Canada. Among local areas, usual workplace remained the largest category in most dissemination areas, though home-based work was strong in several. The pattern suggests a work profile still anchored in fixed workplaces, with home-based work also a substantial part of employment.

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

Lived Here 1 Year Ago

In Cardston County, non-movers were the largest group at 3,055 people in 2021, up 6.3% from 2016. Non-migrants rose to 120, while external migrants fell from 15 to 0.

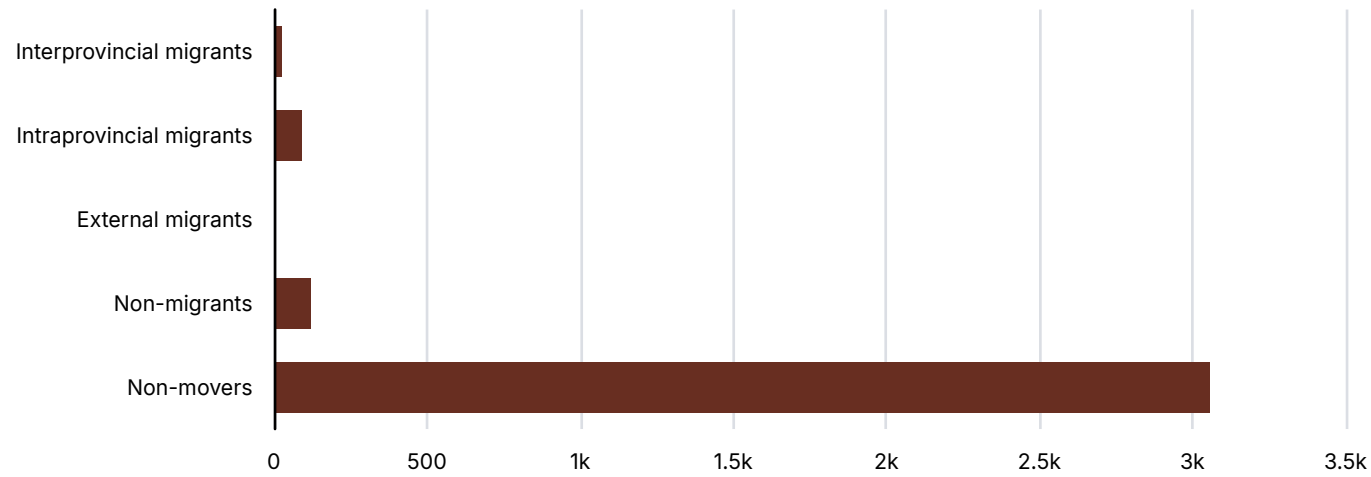
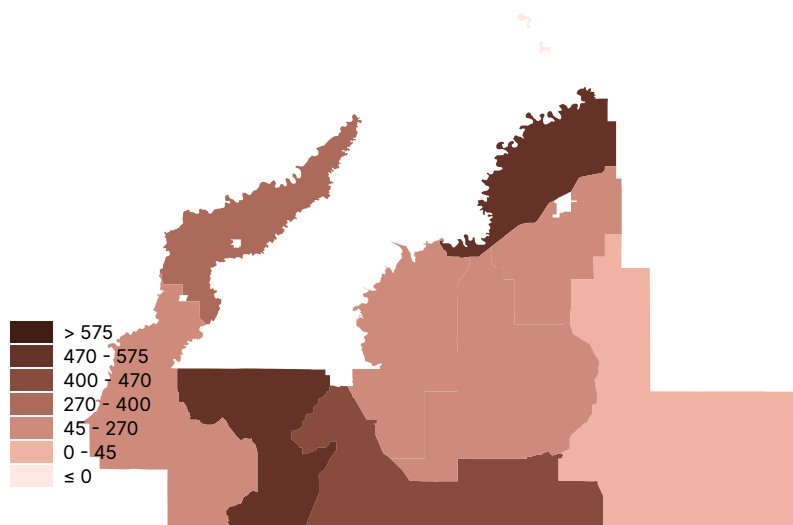


Figure 2.1: Shows where residents lived one year ago compared with their current location. It helps indicate recent mobility and short-term population churn. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In 2021, Cardston County’s recent mobility profile was dominated by residents who had already lived there a year earlier. Non-movers numbered 3,055, far more than any migrant group, while 120 people were non-migrants and 115 had moved in from elsewhere. The county recorded 90 intraprovincial migrants and 25 interprovincial migrants. External migrants were reported at 0. Over five years, non-movers rose 6.3%, non-migrants increased 33.3%, and both interprovincial migrants and external migrants declined. The pattern points to a population with limited short-term turnover and a strong base of residents who stayed in place.



In 2021, Cardston County showed limited short-term mobility in its total population. Most residents, 3,055 people, lived there one year earlier, while 120 were non-migrants, 90 moved from elsewhere in Alberta, and 25 came from another province. External migrants were zero, underscoring a pattern dominated by residents staying put rather than arriving from outside the country.

Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Mobility Status - Non-movers (Cardston County)¹

Lived Here 5 Years Ago

Cardston County’s largest group was non-movers at 2,315 people in 2021, up 7.4% from 2016. Intraprovincial migrants were the most changed group, rising 47.9% to 540, while other migrant groups declined.

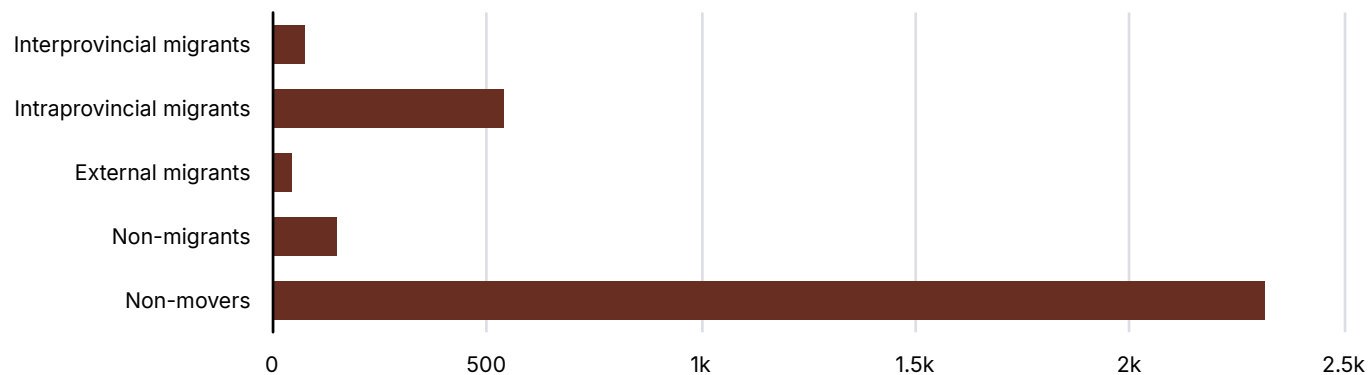


Figure 3.1: Shows where residents lived five years ago compared with their current location. It helps indicate longer-term mobility and migration patterns. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In Cardston County, most residents in 2021 were non-movers, with 2,315 people living in the same place they had five years earlier. Movement patterns were more mixed among newcomers and recent arrivals: 540 residents were intraprovincial migrants, while 150 were non-migrants, 75 were interprovincial migrants, and 45 were external migrants. The five-year change shows non-movers up 7.4% and intraprovincial migrants up 48.0%, while the other mobility groups declined.

In 2021, Cardston County’s recent residence pattern was shaped by long-term stayers and provincial movers. Non-movers numbered 2,315, while intraprovincial migrants reached 540, the largest mobile group. Smaller counts came from non-migrants at 150, interprovincial migrants at 75, and external migrants at 45. Five-year changes were mixed: intraprovincial migrants rose 48.0%, while non-migrants fell 37.5%. The profile suggests mobility was strongest within Alberta rather than from outside the province.

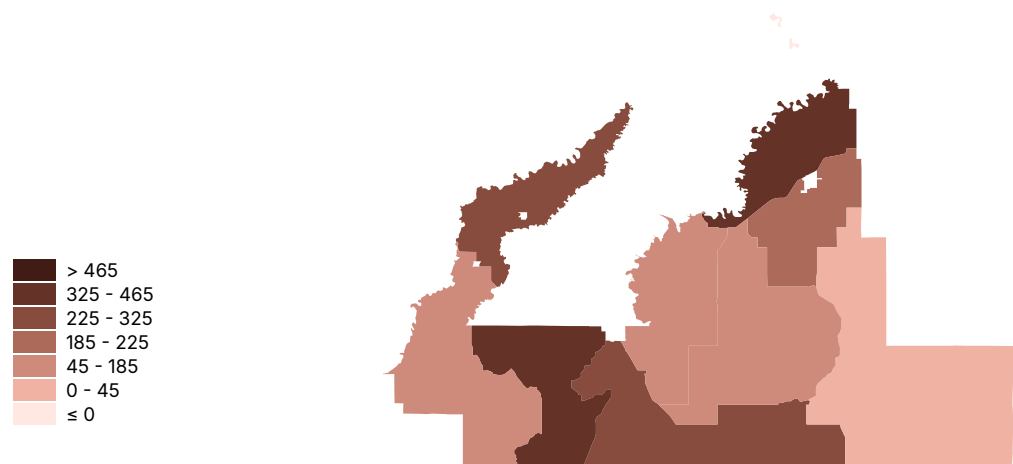


Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Mobility Status - Non-movers (Cardston County)¹

Commute Destination

In Cardston County, commuting to a different census subdivision within the census division remained the largest pattern at 485 people in 2021, unchanged from 2016. Cross-province commuting rose to 15 people, while in-province longer-distance commuting fell to 225.

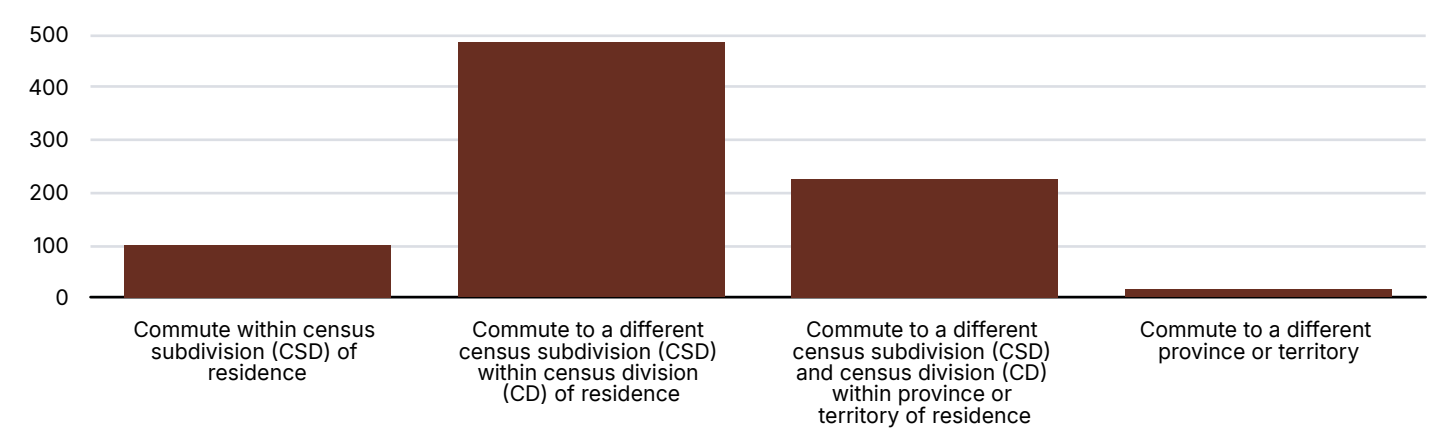


Figure 4.1: Shows where residents travel for work. It helps indicate whether the area functions mainly as a self-contained labour market or as part of a wider commuting region. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In 2021, commuting patterns in Cardston County show that most workers traveled outside their immediate census subdivision, while a smaller group worked close to home. The data suggest a commuter area that is connected to nearby places, but not entirely dependent on them. A total of 485 employed residents commuted to another census subdivision within the same census division, 225 traveled to another census division within Alberta, 100 worked within Cardston County itself, and 15 commuted to another province or territory. Over five years, commuting within the county rose 17.6 percent, while cross-province commuting increased 50.0 percent. The pattern points to limited local workplace retention alongside some longer-distance commuting.

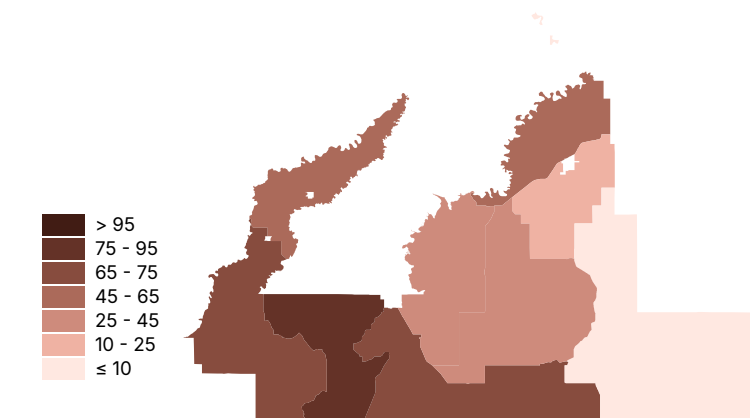


Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Commuting Destination - Commute to a different census subdivision (CSD) within census division (CD) of residence (Cardston County)¹

In 2021, Cardston County’s commuting pattern was dominated by trips to another census subdivision within the same census division, showing a largely local work geography. 485 residents commuted that way, compared with 225 who traveled elsewhere in Alberta, 100 who worked within the county, and 15 who crossed provincial lines. The local commute share was smaller than the regional commute share, and the 5-year change was flat at 0 for the largest flow. This mix suggests employment is spread beyond the county but still concentrated within the surrounding area.

Time Leaving for Work

In Cardston County, the 7 a.m. to 7:59 a.m. window remained the largest commuting group at 365 people in 2021, up 5.8% from 2016. The 5 a.m. hour fell to 45 people.

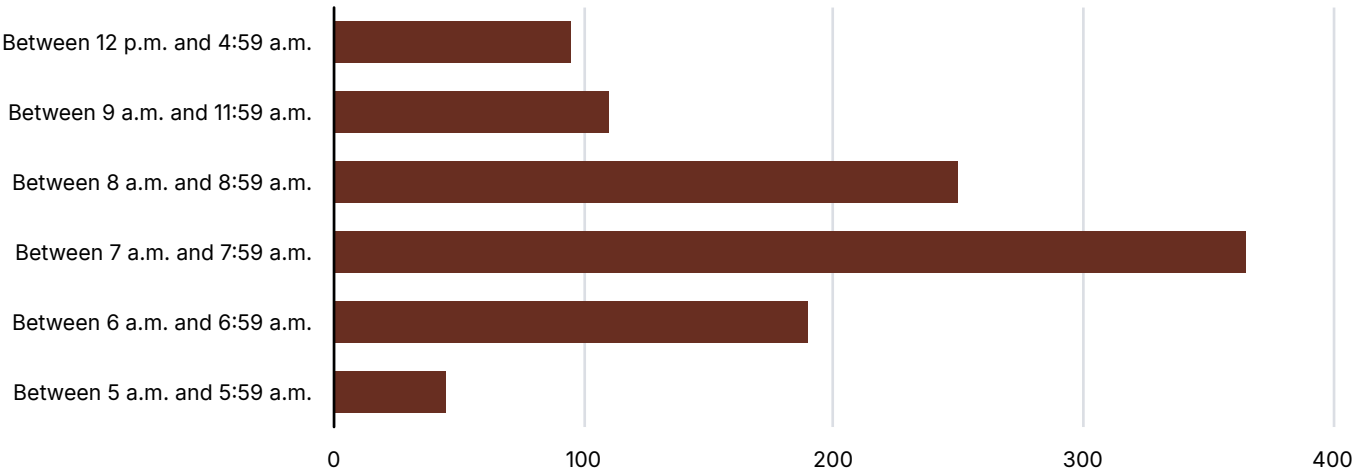
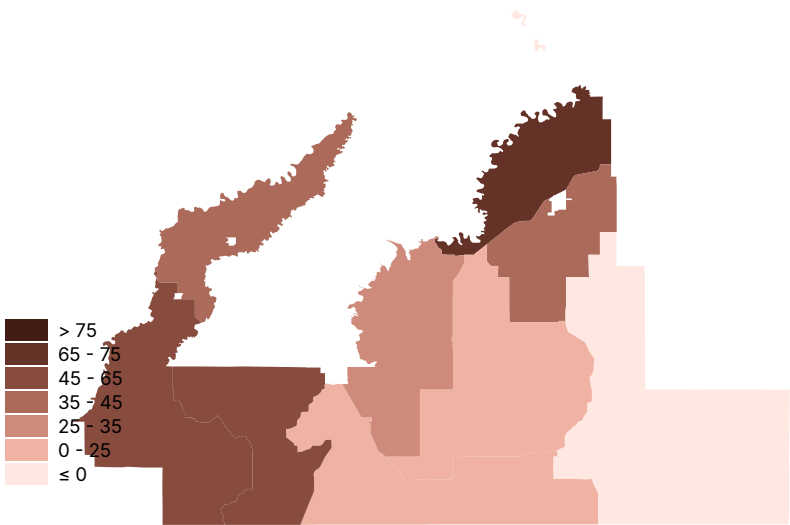


Figure 5.1: Shows the time of day residents usually leave for work. It helps indicate commuting patterns and peak travel demand. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In Cardston County, the 2021 commuting profile is most concentrated in the early morning. The largest group left for work between 7 a.m. and 7:59 a.m., with 365 people, followed by 250 between 8 a.m. and 8:59 a.m. Earlier departures were also common, with 190 leaving between 6 a.m. and 6:59 a.m. and 45 between 5 a.m. and 5:59 a.m. Recent change was mixed: the 7 a.m. hour rose 5.8% over five years, while the 5 a.m. hour fell 25%. The pattern points to a commute window centered on the first half of the morning, with smaller numbers spread across earlier and later times.



In 2021, Cardston County's work departures were concentrated in the early morning. The largest group left between 7 a.m. and 7:59 a.m. (365 people), followed by 8 a.m. to 8:59 a.m. (250) and 6 a.m. to 6:59 a.m. (190). The 7 a.m. peak rose 5.8% over five years, while the 8 a.m. group fell 12.3%.

Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Time Leaving Work - Between 7 a.m. and 7:59 a.m. (Cardston County)¹

Commute Duration

Cardston County's largest commuting group was under 15 minutes at 395 people in 2021, up 14.5% from 2016. The 45 to 59 minute group fell to 50, down 28.6%.

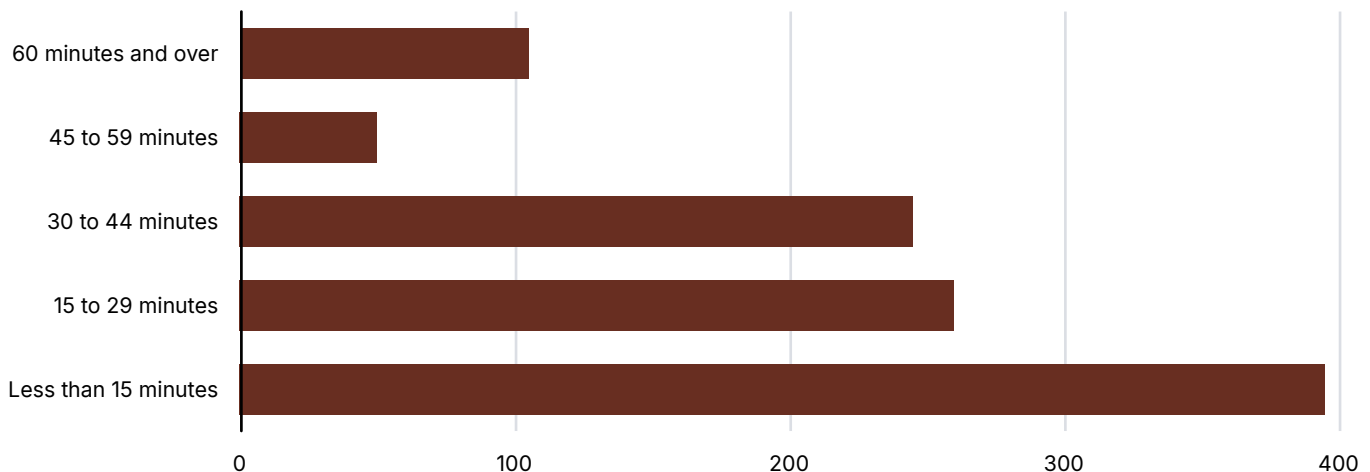
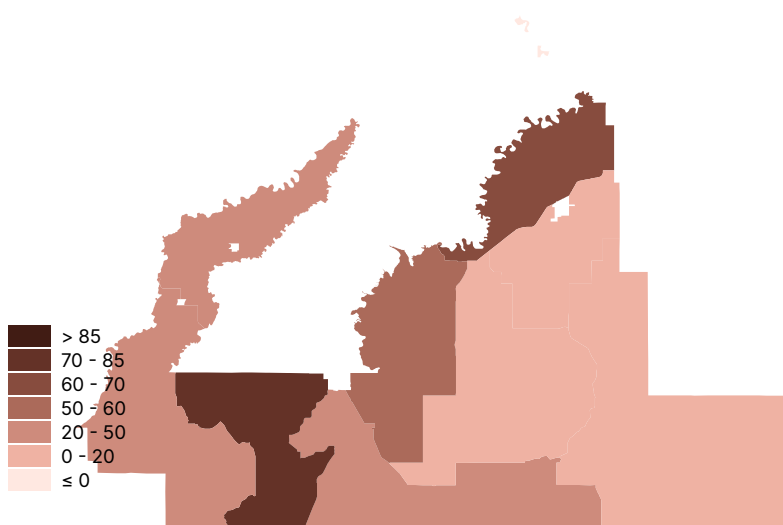


Figure 6.1: Shows how long residents typically spend travelling to work. It helps indicate commuting burden and jobs-housing balance. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In Cardston County, commuting times in 2021 were concentrated in the shorter and mid-range travel bands, with 395 employed residents reporting trips of less than 15 minutes. The next largest groups were 15 to 29 minutes at 260 people and 30 to 44 minutes at 245 people. The time pattern also changed over five years in mixed ways. The shorter 15 to 29 minute group fell 23.5%, while 30 to 44 minute commutes rose 22.5%. The 45 to 59 minute category declined 28.6%, but trips of 60 minutes and over increased 23.5%. The mix suggests shifting commuting lengths rather than a single clear direction.



In Cardston County, commute durations in 2021 were fairly spread across short, medium, and long trips among the employed labour force. The largest group had commutes of less than 15 minutes, at 395 people. Another 260 people travelled 15 to 29 minutes, 245 went 30 to 44 minutes, 50 had trips of 45 to 59 minutes, and 105 commuted for 60 minutes or more. This mix suggests no single commute pattern dominates, with shorter trips still the most common but a substantial share of residents facing longer travel times.

Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Commuting Duration - Less than 15 minutes (Cardston County)¹

Main Mode of Commuting

Driving was the main commuting mode in Cardston County in 2021, with 1,000 people, up 4.7% from 2016. Passenger commuting fell to 30, while walking and cycling dropped to zero.

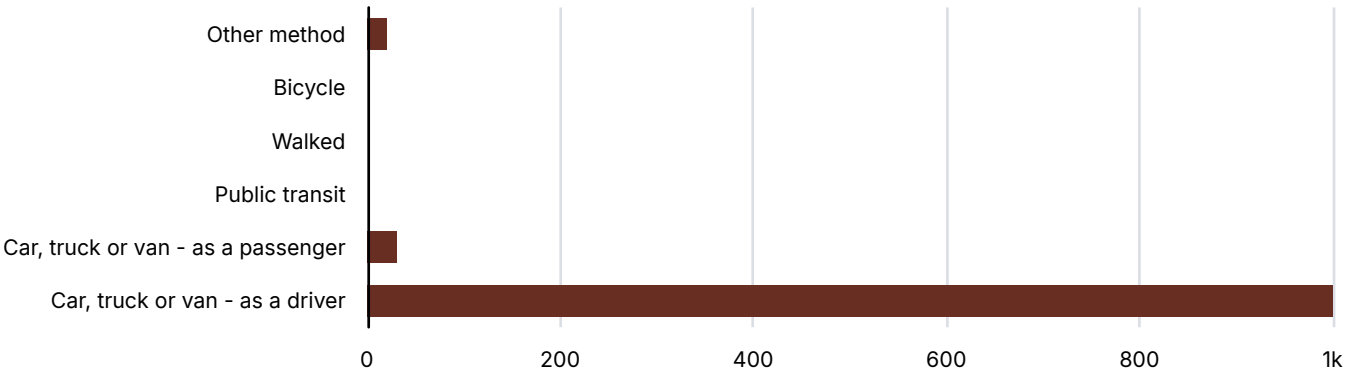


Figure 7.1: Shows the main mode residents use to get to work. It helps indicate dependence on driving, transit, walking, cycling, or other travel modes. (Cardston County, 2021)¹

In 2021, commuting in Cardston County was dominated by car travel. Among the employed labour force aged 15 and over with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address, 1,000 people usually drove a car, truck or van, while 30 rode as passengers and 20 used another method. Public transit, walking, and cycling each recorded 0 people. The 5-year change shows driving up 4.7%, passenger commuting down 25%, and walking and cycling falling to zero. This points to a highly concentrated commuting pattern.

In 2021, commuting in Cardston County was heavily centered on driving. Among the employed labour force with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address, 1,000 people reported commuting as a driver, far more than any other mode. Another 30 commuted as passengers, while 20 used another method. Public transit, walking, and cycling were each recorded at zero. The pattern suggests a very limited role for shared or active travel and a strong reliance on private vehicles.

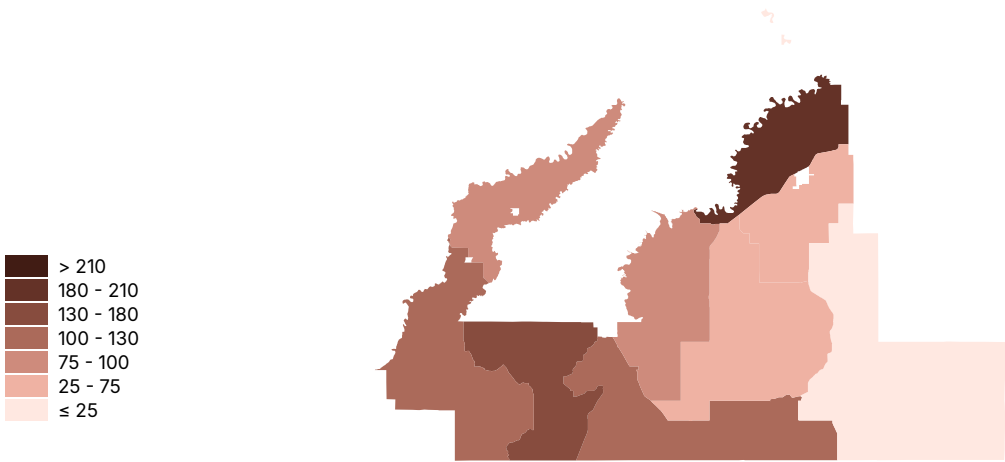


Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Commuting Mode - Car, truck or van - as a driver (Cardston County)¹

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.

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