



FORT MACLEOD

Demographics Report

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Executive Summary

Fort Macleod is a growing small town whose recent demographic profile combines strong population gains with a household structure that has changed only gradually. After earlier decline and recovery, population growth accelerated in the most recent years, reaching 3,945 in 2025 and rising sharply from 2020 onward. Beneath that growth, the town's basic household and family measures remained notably steady. Average household size returned to 2.4 in 2021 after only a slight dip in 2016, while average family size held at 2.9 across 2011, 2016, and 2021. Smaller living arrangements remain central to the community. One- and two-person households form the largest household groups, and two-person families are the most common family size.

The social profile is shaped by a mix of older and younger residents rather than by a single dominant age pattern. In 2021, age groups were spread fairly evenly, with the largest cohort at 60 to 64, but with several child, youth, and adult groups close behind. The median age, at 42.4, had declined from 2016, suggesting a younger midpoint after a period of aging. Family and living arrangements still lean strongly toward couple and family households, with married residents the largest marital status group and married or common-law partners the largest living arrangement category. At the same time, one-parent families grew quickly over the five years to 2021, and living alone accounted for a visible share of residents, adding to a picture that is not exclusively centered on traditional family households.

Fort Macleod also shows a clear Indigenous presence, especially through First Nations identity and ancestry, both of which increased strongly between 2016 and 2021. Christianity remained the largest religious affiliation, though a substantial number of residents reported no religion or secular perspectives. English overwhelmingly dominates the town's language profile, with smaller contributions from languages including Tagalog, Dutch, and Blackfoot, and the visible minority population is concentrated in a few groups led by Filipino residents. The result is a community that has been expanding in recent years while retaining a stable small-town household structure, modest diversity, and a demographic profile that balances established older households with continued family and population growth.

Average Household Size

Fort Macleod’s average household size was 2.4 people in 2021, unchanged from 2011. It dipped to 2.3 in 2016 before rising 4.35% over the next five years.

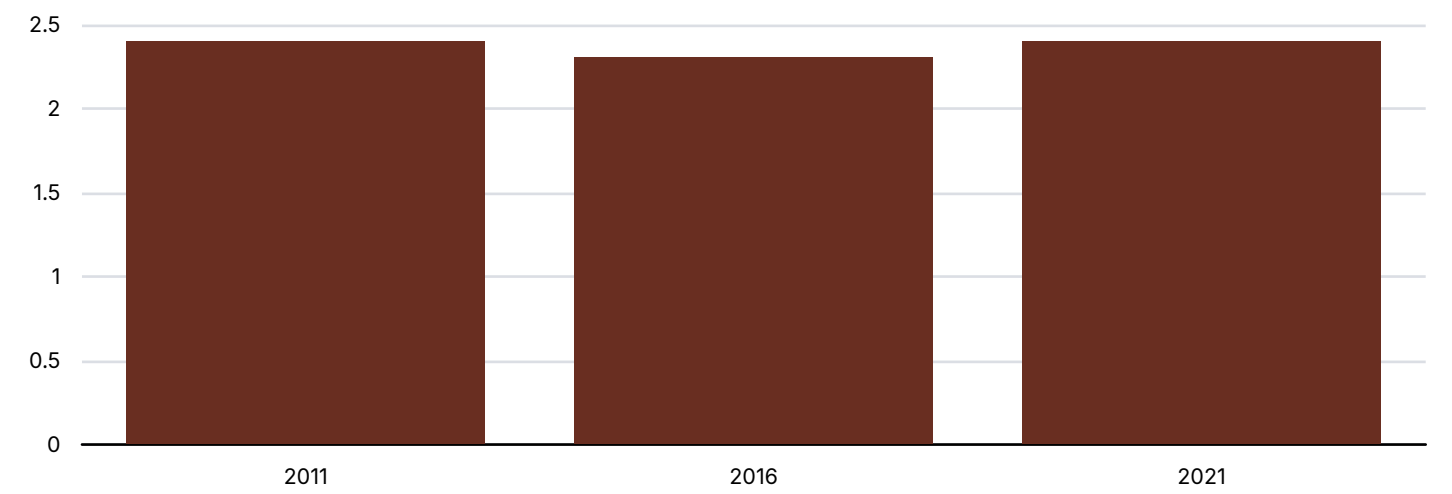
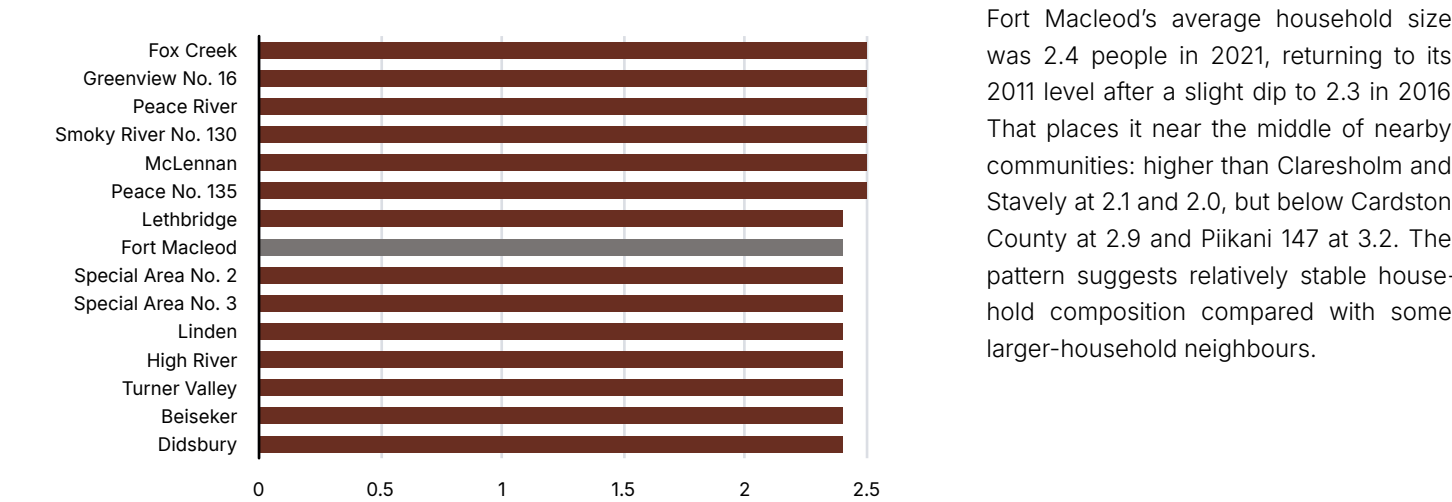


Figure 1.1: Shows the average number of people living in each household. It helps indicate typical living arrangements and the kinds of homes households may need. (Fort Macleod, 2011-2021)¹

Fort Macleod’s average household size has remained close to 2.4 people across the period shown, suggesting a fairly stable household pattern. In 2011, the average was 2.4 people per private household, then it slipped to 2.3 in 2016, before returning to 2.4 in 2021. The five-year changes were modest, at -4.2% from 2011 to 2016 and 4.3% from 2016 to 2021. The data points to short-term fluctuation rather than a sustained shift in household size. For planning purposes, the town’s household profile appears consistent, with only limited movement over time.



Fort Macleod’s average household size was 2.4 people in 2021, returning to its 2011 level after a slight dip to 2.3 in 2016. That places it near the middle of nearby communities: higher than Claresholm and Stavely at 2.1 and 2.0, but below Cardston County at 2.9 and Piikani 147 at 3.2. The pattern suggests relatively stable household composition compared with some larger-household neighbours.

Figure 1.2: Comparison of Average Household Size with other locations (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

Average Number of Children per Family

Fort Macleod’s census families with children averaged 1.9 children in 2021. That figure provides a simple measure of family size in the community, with no additional trend data available for comparison.

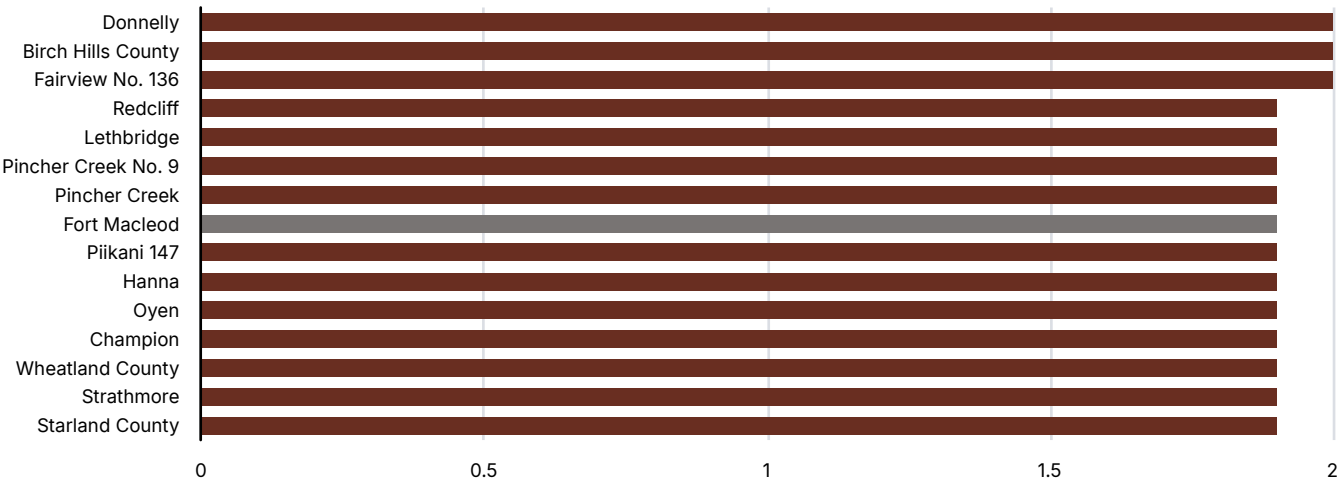
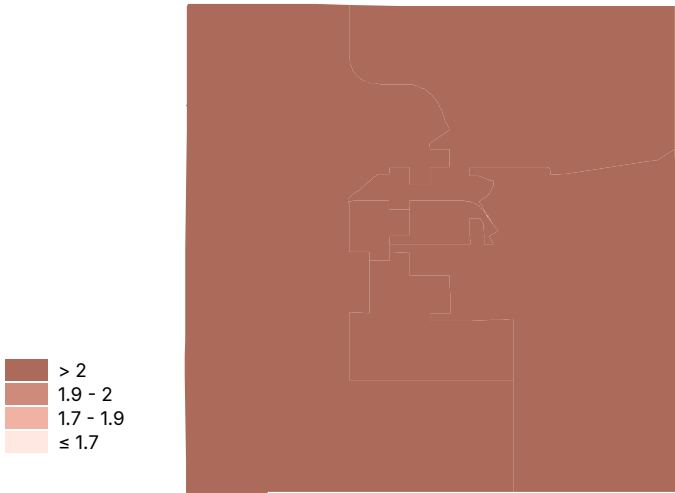


Figure 2.1: Comparison of Average Number of Children per Family with other locations (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

In 2021, Fort Macleod had an average of 1.9 children per family with children. That places it in the middle of the local comparison set, with a value close to several nearby communities and below some of the larger family averages seen elsewhere in the region. Fort Macleod matched Piikani 147 and Pincher Creek No. 9 at 1.9, and was just above Claresholm and Improvement District No. 4 Waterton at 1.8, as well as Nanton and Stavely at 1.7. It was below Cowley at 2.3, Cardston and Willow Creek No. 26 at 2.3, and Cardston County at 2.6. This points to a fairly typical family size profile rather than an outlier in the regional mix.



In 2021, Fort Macleod had an average of 1.9 children per census family with children. That places the town in a fairly narrow range across its areas, where the reported values run from 1.7 to 2.1. Most of the local figures sit at 1.9 or 2.0, suggesting a largely consistent family size pattern rather than sharp variation.

Figure 2.2: Distribution of Average Number of Children per Family (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

Indigenous Ancestry

Fort Macleod’s Indigenous ancestry count was led by First Nations single ancestry at 400 people in 2021, up 128.6% from 175 in 2016. First Nations and non-Indigenous ancestry only reached 135, while Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry only fell to 30.

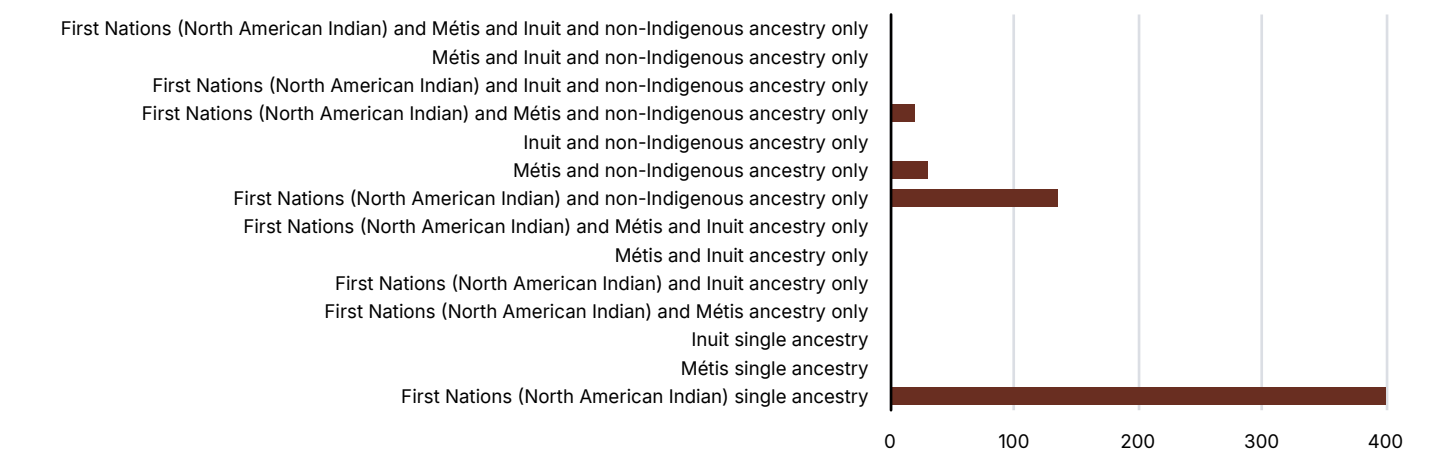
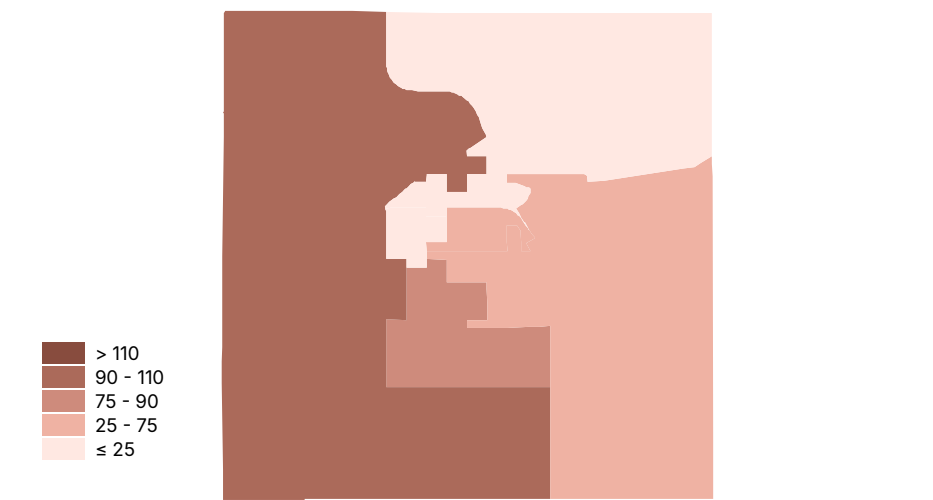


Figure 3.1: Shows residents with Indigenous ancestry. It helps indicate ancestral connections to First Nations, Métis, or Inuit peoples. (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

In 2021, Fort Macleod had a small but clearly concentrated pattern of Indigenous ancestry in the population living in private households. First Nations single ancestry was the largest category, at 400 people, while First Nations and non-Indigenous ancestry only accounted for 135 and First Nations, Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry only for 20. The recent trend was mixed. First Nations single ancestry rose by 128.6% over five years, while Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry only fell by 45.5% to 30 people. Several other ancestry combinations were recorded at zero.



In Fort Macleod, Indigenous ancestry is led by First Nations (North American Indian) single ancestry, with 400 people in 2021. Smaller counts appear for First Nations and non-Indigenous ancestry only (135) and Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry only (30), while Inuit categories are zero. Five-year changes are mixed: First Nations single ancestry rose 128.6%, and First Nations plus non-Indigenous ancestry increased 35%, but Métis and non-Indigenous ancestry fell 45.5%.

Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Indigenous Ancestry - First Nations (North American Indian) single ancestry (Fort Macleod)¹

Age Groups

Fort Macleod's largest age group in 2021 was 60 to 64 years at 230 people, up 12.2% from 2016. The fastest-growing group was 75 to 79 years, rising 39.1% to 160 people.

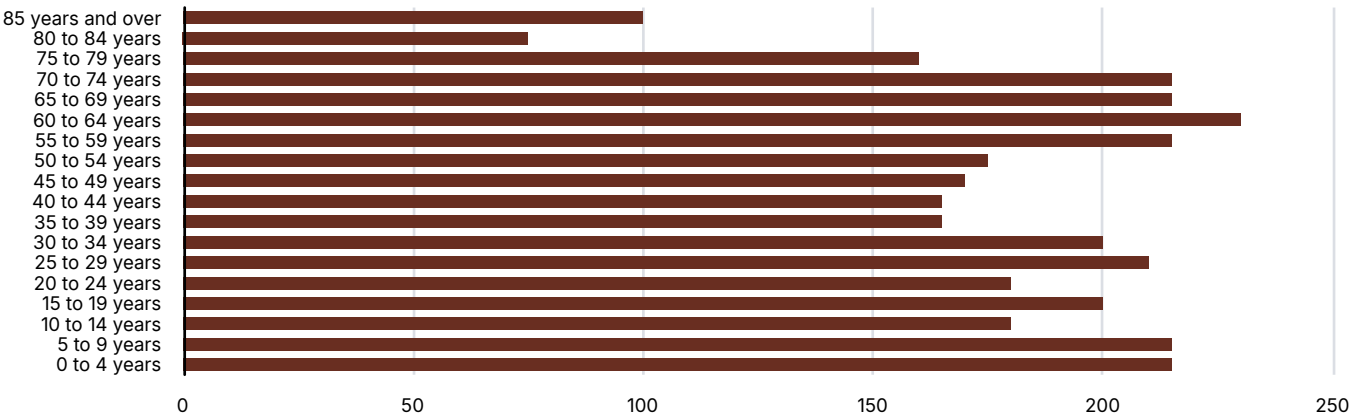


Figure 4.1: Shows how the population is distributed across age groups. It helps explain the community's age structure and stage of life profile. (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

Fort Macleod's 2021 age profile is fairly even across working-age and older groups, with several cohorts clustered around 165 to 230 people. The largest group is ages 60 to 64 at 230, while ages 0 to 4 and 5 to 9 each total 215. Over five years, growth was strongest in ages 5 to 9, 75 to 79, and 85 and over.

In 2021, Fort Macleod's age profile was spread across both younger and older residents, with several five-year groups clustering around 200 to 230 people. The largest cohort was 60 to 64 years at 230 people, while 0 to 4, 5 to 9, 15 to 19, 25 to 29, and 55 to 59 years were each at 215. Recent change was mixed. The 5 to 9 group rose 30.3%, and 75 to 79 years increased 39.1%, while 80 to 84 years fell 21.1% and 50 to 54 years declined 18.6%.

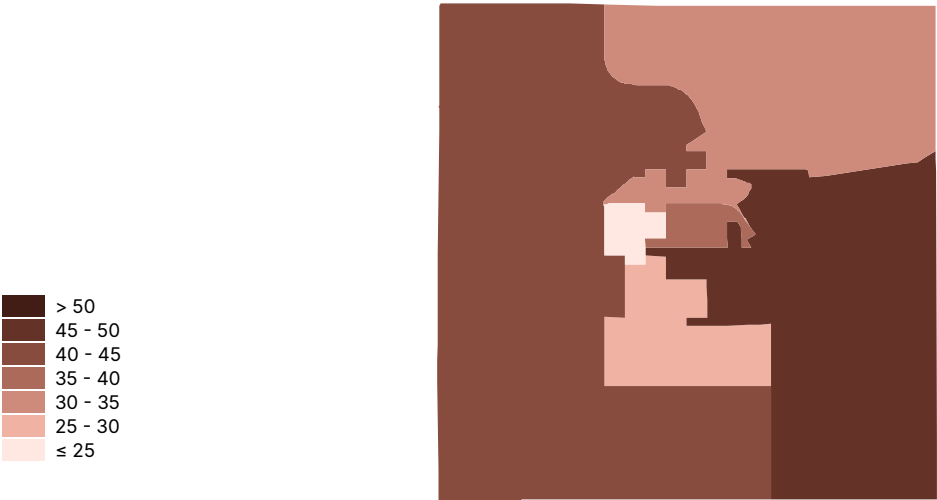


Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Age Group - 60 to 64 years (Fort Macleod)¹

Family Type

Fort Macleod’s largest family type in 2021 was married couples without children at 345 people, down 11.5% from 2016. One-parent families rose to 155, up 34.8% over five years.

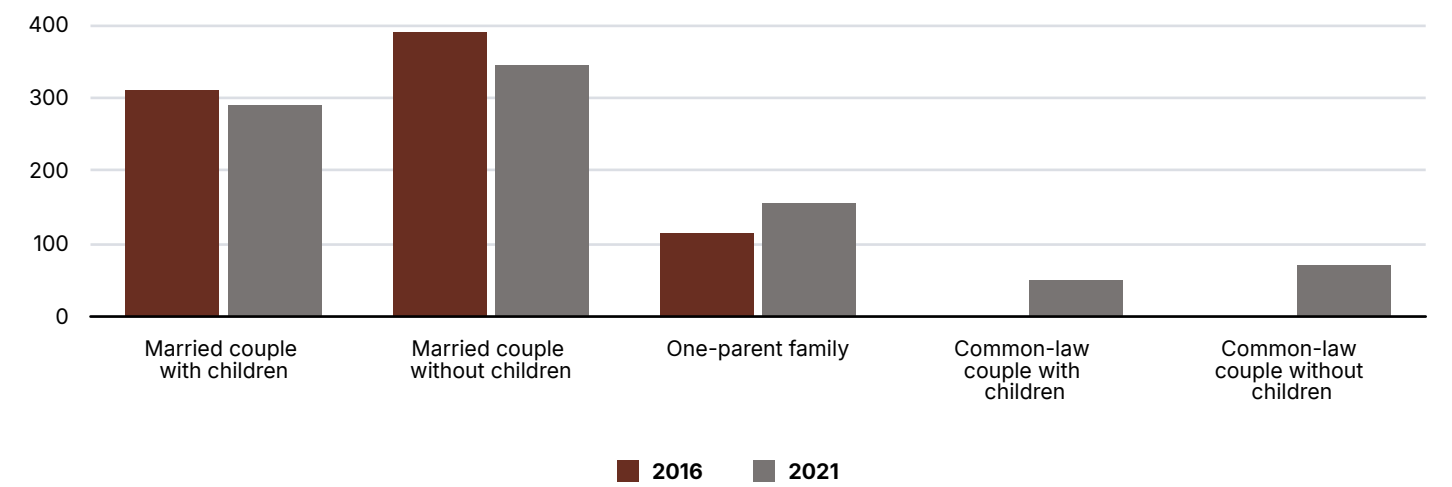


Figure 5.1: Shows the mix of family types, such as couple families and lone-parent families. It helps indicate the structure of family life in the community. (Fort Macleod, 2016-2021)¹

In 2021, Fort Macleod’s family profile was led by couple families, with 345 married couples without children and 290 married couples with children. Smaller groups included 70 common-law couples without children, 50 common-law couples with children, and 155 one-parent families. The five-year change was uneven across these types. Married couples with children fell 6.5%, and married couples without children fell 11.5%. One-parent families moved in the opposite direction, rising 34.8%. The common-law categories had no reported five-year change. The mix suggests a community where couple families remain dominant, while the lone-parent segment grew more quickly over the period.



Fort Macleod’s census families in private households were led by married couples without children, at 345 people, followed by married couples with children at 290 in 2021. One-parent families numbered 155 and posted the fastest five-year growth, up 34.8%. Common-law families were smaller, at 70 without children and 50 with children.

Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Type - Married couple without children (Fort Macleod)¹

Religion

Christian residents were the largest group in Fort Macleod in 2021, at 1,760 people. No religion and secular perspectives followed with 1,310, while traditional Indigenous spirituality accounted for 65 and other religions for 35.

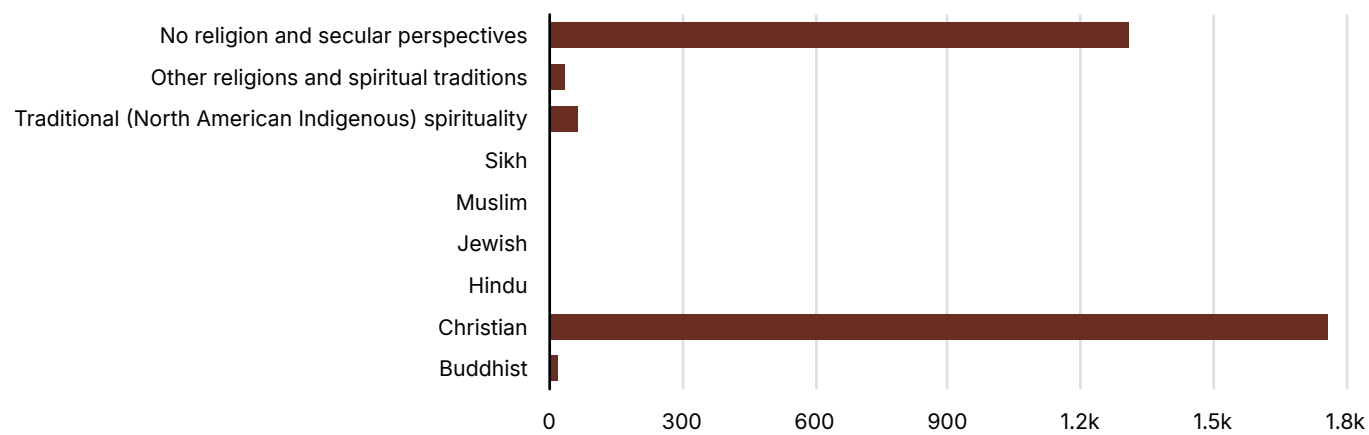
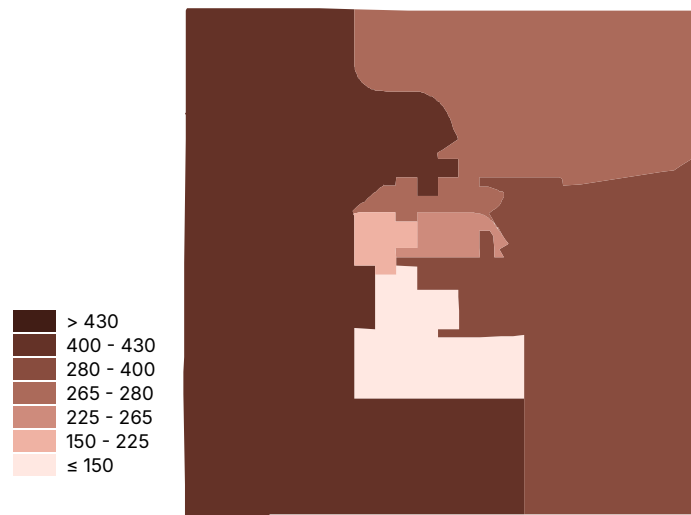


Figure 6.1: Shows residents' religious affiliation. It helps indicate the spiritual and faith-based diversity of the community. (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

Fort Macleod's 2021 religion profile shows a community where Christian affiliation was the largest category, with 1,760 people, while 1,310 residents reported no religion or secular perspectives. Smaller groups included 65 people identifying with Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality, 35 with other religions and spiritual traditions, and 20 Buddhists. Several affiliations were recorded at zero in the census profile, including Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh. The figures describe the town's religious composition in 2021, but they do not provide a time series, so longer-term change cannot be assessed from this dataset alone. The profile suggests a mix of religious identification and non-religious perspectives, with Christianity remaining the most common affiliation.



In 2021, Fort Macleod's religious profile was led by Christianity, with 1,760 people, followed by 1,310 residents reporting no religion or secular perspectives. Traditional North American Indigenous spirituality accounted for 65 people, while other religions and spiritual traditions totaled 35. Smaller affiliations were recorded at 20 Buddhists and no reported Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, or Sikh residents. The pattern points to a community that is largely Christian, with a substantial non-religious population and limited representation from other faiths.

Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Religion - Christian (Fort Macleod)¹

Mother Tongue

English remained the largest mother tongue in Fort Macleod at 2,775 people, up 13.0% over five years. Korean grew fastest among listed groups, doubling to 30, while French fell to 20.

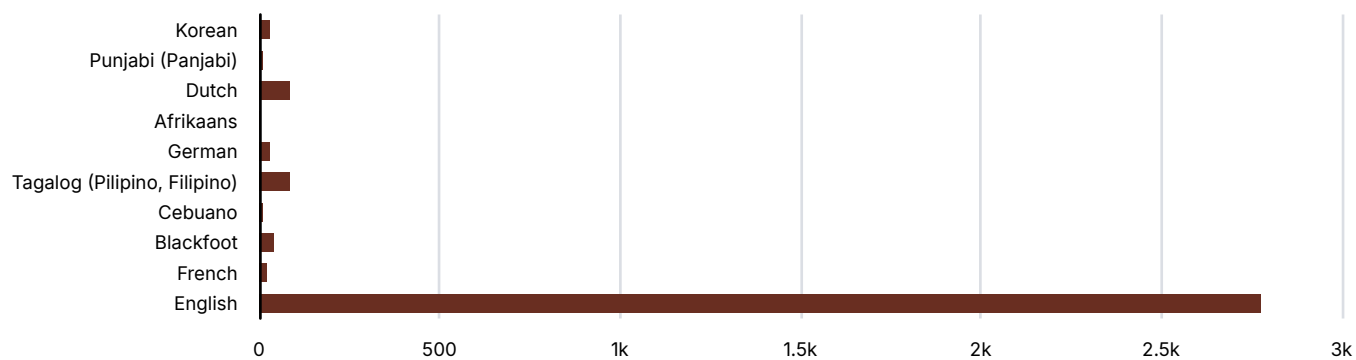


Figure 7.1: Shows the first language learned and still understood by residents. It helps indicate the linguistic roots of the population. (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

Fort Macleod's mother tongue profile in 2021 was led by English, with 2,775 people reporting it as their first language and still understood language. Smaller groups reported Tagalog, Dutch, Blackfoot, German, Korean, French, Punjabi, Cebuano and Afrikaans. The 5-year changes were mixed. English rose 13.0%, Blackfoot increased 14.3%, and Tagalog grew 6.3%. Korean and Punjabi both doubled from a small base, while Dutch fell 26.1%, German dropped 45.5%, and French declined 20.0%. These shifts point to modest change within a strongly English-dominant local profile. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile

In 2021, Fort Macleod's mother tongue profile was led by English, with 2,775 people reporting it as their first language. Smaller but notable counts followed for Tagalog at 85, Dutch at 85, Blackfoot at 40, German at 30, and Korean at 30. French was reported by 20 people, while Punjabi and Cebuano each had 10. Afrikaans accounted for 5. Across the descendant dissemination areas, English remained dominant, ranging from 345 to 575 people. The pattern points to a largely English-speaking community with a small mix of other languages, including Indigenous and international languages.



Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Language - English (Fort Macleod)¹

Visible Minority

Fort Macleod’s visible minority population was led by Filipinos at 150 people in 2021, up 50% from 2016. Korean residents rose to 35, while Black residents held at 10 and South Asian fell to zero.

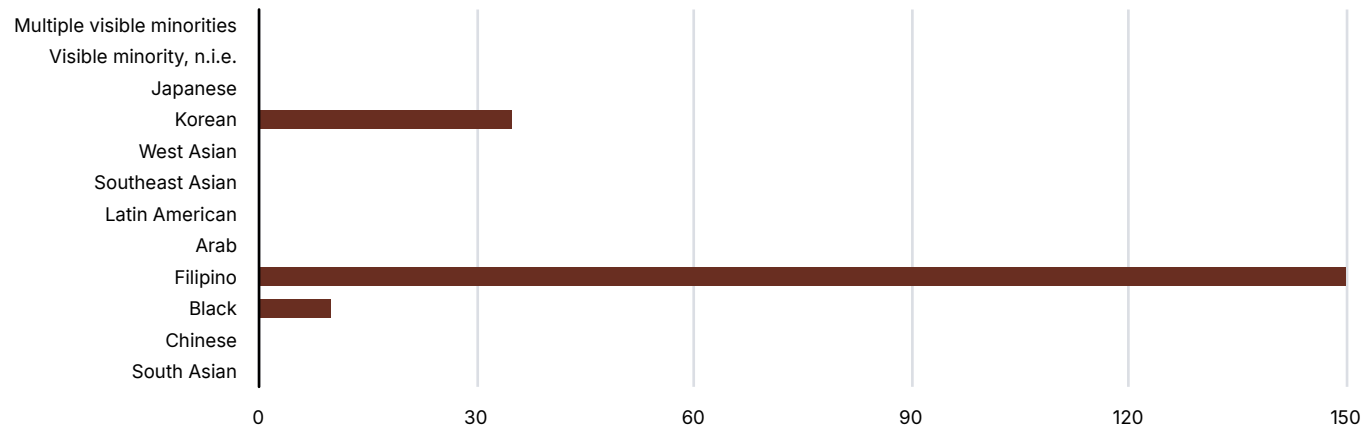
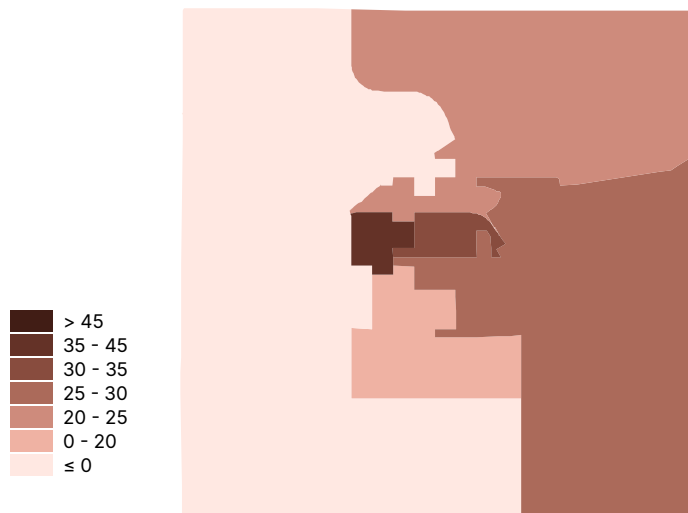


Figure 8.1: Shows residents who identify as belonging to visible minority groups. It helps indicate racialized population diversity in the community. (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

Fort Macleod’s visible minority population in 2021 was concentrated in just a few groups, with Filipino residents forming the largest counted group at 150 people. Korean residents numbered 35, while Black residents totaled 10. Several other groups were recorded at zero, including South Asian, Chinese, Arab, Latin American, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Japanese, visible minority, n.i.e., and multiple visible minorities. The 5-year change points to uneven movement. Filipino residents increased by 50 people, and Korean residents rose by 75, while Black residents were unchanged. South Asian residents fell by 100, although the 2021 count was zero. The pattern suggests a small, shifting visible minority profile rather than broad-based growth across all groups.



In 2021, Fort Macleod’s visible minority population in private households was concentrated in a few groups. Filipino residents were the largest group at 150 people, followed by Korean at 35 and Black at 10. Several other groups were recorded at zero. The pattern suggests limited diversity within this measure, with most of the count coming from Filipino residents. At the dissemination area level, the small totals were spread unevenly: one area had 45 Filipino residents, while another had 30 Filipino and 30 Korean residents.

Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Visible Minority - Filipino (Fort Macleod)¹

Indigenous Identity

Fort Macleod’s Indigenous population was led by First Nations residents at 495 people in 2021, up 120% from 2016. Métis remained at 50, while Indigenous responses not included elsewhere reached 10.

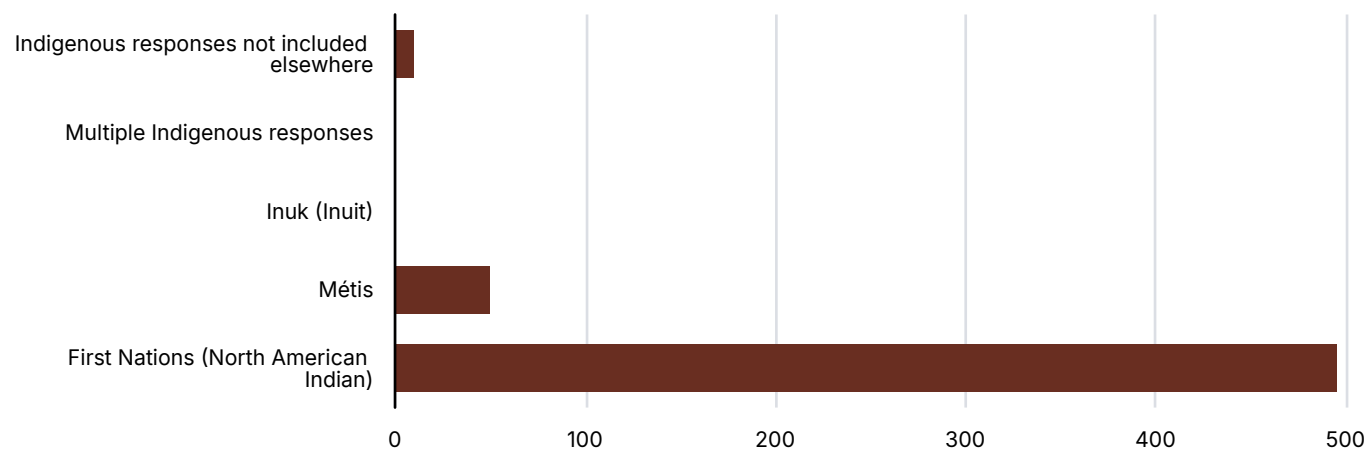
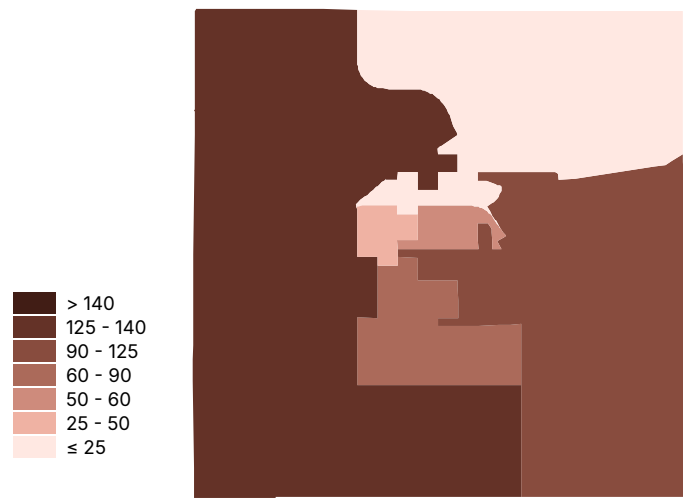


Figure 9.1: Shows residents who identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit. It helps indicate the presence of Indigenous communities in the area. (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

In 2021, Fort Macleod’s Indigenous identity profile was centered on First Nations residents, with 495 people identifying as First Nations (North American Indian). The town also recorded 50 Métis residents and 10 people in the category for Indigenous responses not included elsewhere. The 5-year change data shows movement only in the larger groups. First Nations increased by 120 people over five years, while the Métis count was unchanged at 50. Inuk (Inuit) and multiple Indigenous responses were both recorded at zero, and no 5-year change was shown for those categories.



In 2021, Fort Macleod’s Indigenous identity profile was led by First Nations residents, with 495 people, followed by 50 Métis residents and 10 people reporting Indigenous responses not included elsewhere. Inuit and multiple Indigenous responses were not reported. First Nations identification increased by 120 over five years, while Métis was unchanged.

Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Indigenous Identity - First Nations (North American Indian) (Fort Macleod)¹

Household Size

In Fort Macleod, 2-person households were the largest group in 2021 at 480, while 5-or-more-person households had the fastest five-year growth, rising 18.2% to 130. All household sizes increased from 2016.

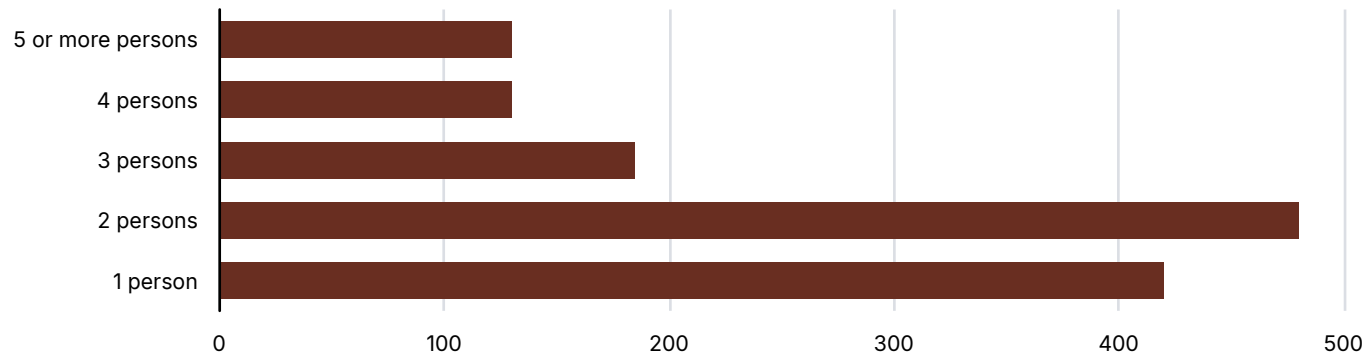


Figure 10.1: Shows the number of people living in households. It helps indicate common household arrangements and likely housing needs. (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

In Fort Macleod, the 2021 household size profile was led by one- and two-person households, with 420 and 480 households respectively. Smaller household types also formed a noticeable share of the total, including 185 three-person households and 130 each in the four-person and five-or-more-person categories. Over the past five years, all household-size groups grew, ranging from 3.2% for two-person households to 18.2% for five-or-more-person households.

In 2021, Fort Macleod’s private households were concentrated in smaller sizes, with 2-person and 1-person households forming the largest groups. There were 480 two-person households and 420 one-person households. Three-person households numbered 185, while 4-person households and households of 5 or more people each totalled 130. The pattern points to a household profile weighted toward smaller arrangements, with fewer larger households than smaller ones. That mix suggests housing demand in the area is likely shaped more by one- and two-person households than by larger family households.

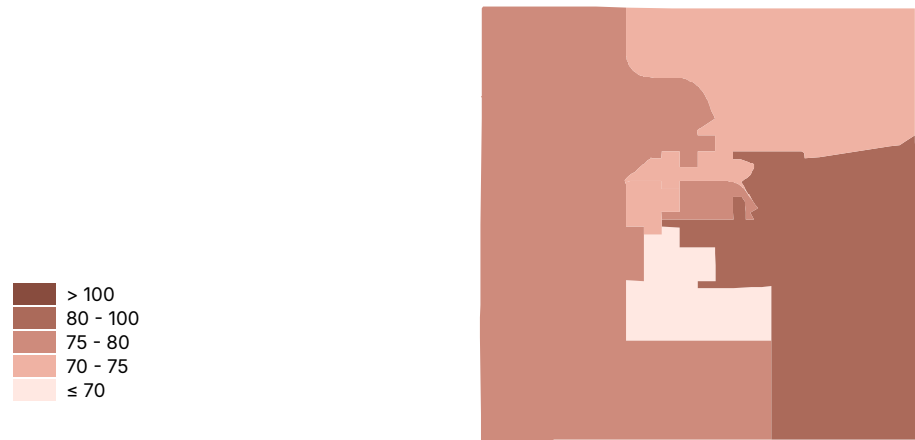


Figure 10.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Size - 2 persons (Fort Macleod)¹

Living Arrangement

Married spouses or common-law partners were the largest group in Fort Macleod in 2021, at 1,505 people. Children in two-parent families followed at 680, while 415 people lived alone.

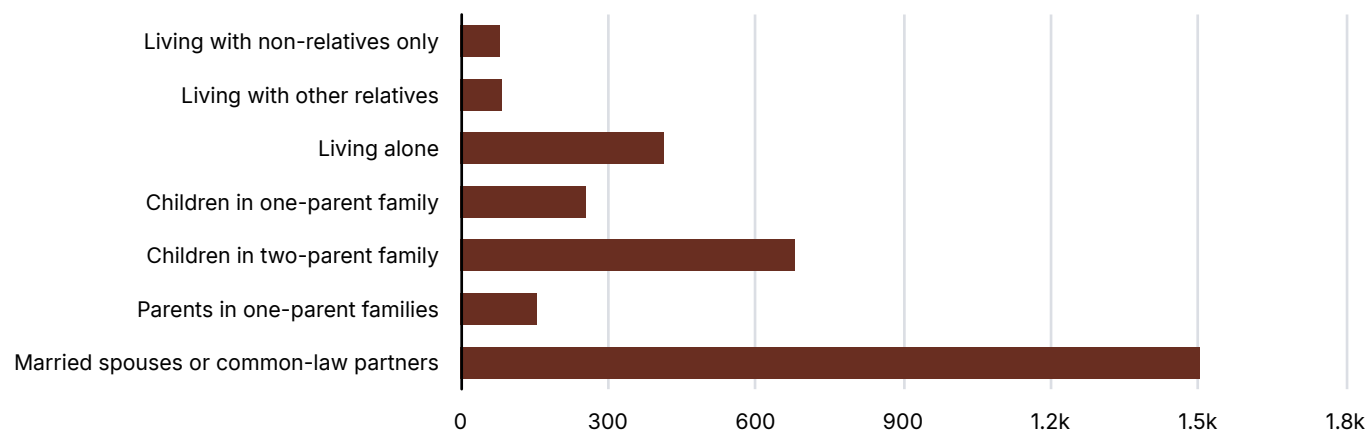


Figure 11.1: Shows residents' living arrangements, such as living alone, with family, or with others. It helps indicate household formation and support networks. (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

In 2021, living arrangements in Fort Macleod were centered on family households within the population in private households. The largest group was married spouses or common-law partners, at 1,505 people, followed by children in two-parent families at 680. Living alone accounted for 415 people, while children in one-parent families numbered 255. Smaller groups included parents in one-parent families at 155, people living with other relatives at 85, and those living with non-relatives only at 80. The pattern suggests a household structure dominated by partnered and family-based arrangements, with a smaller but notable share of residents living alone.

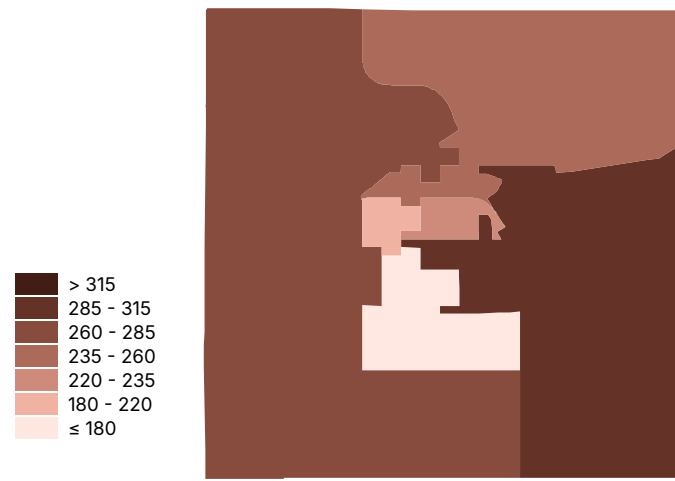


Figure 11.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Living Arrangement - Married spouses or common-law partners (Fort Macleod)¹

In Fort Macleod, 2021 living arrangements in private households were dominated by married spouses or common-law partners, at 1,505 people. Living alone was the next largest pattern, with 415 people, while children in two-parent families numbered 680. Smaller groups included children in one-parent families at 255, parents in one-parent families at 155, and people living with other relatives or with non-relatives only at 85 and 80. The mix suggests a household profile centered on couple households, with a smaller but visible share of solo living and one-parent family arrangements.

Marital Status

Married residents remained the largest group in Fort Macleod at 1,325 people in 2021, up 8.6% from 2016. The not married, not living common-law group totaled 1,115, while separated increased 30.8% to 85.

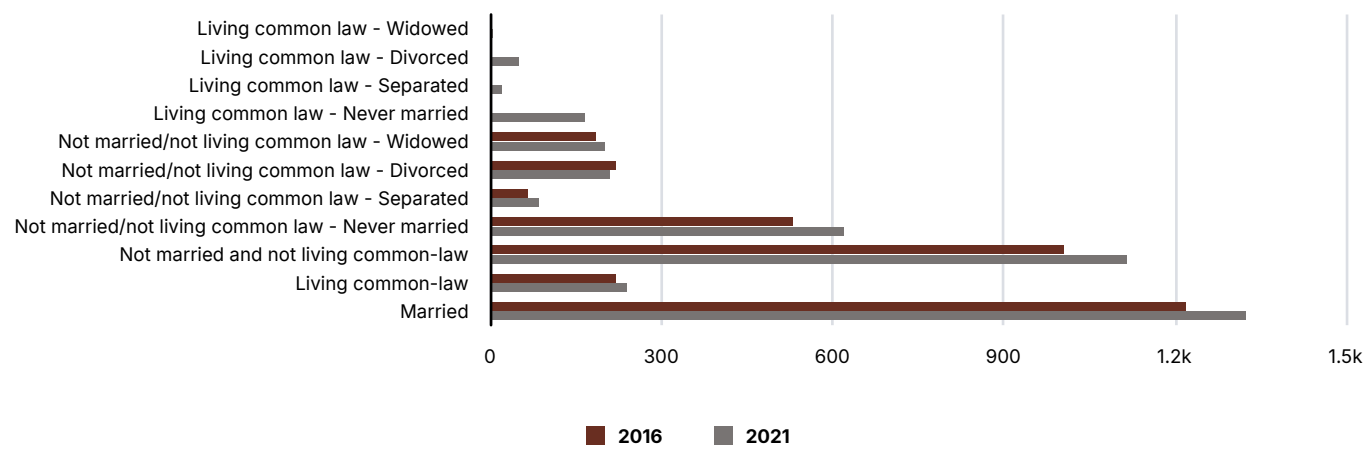
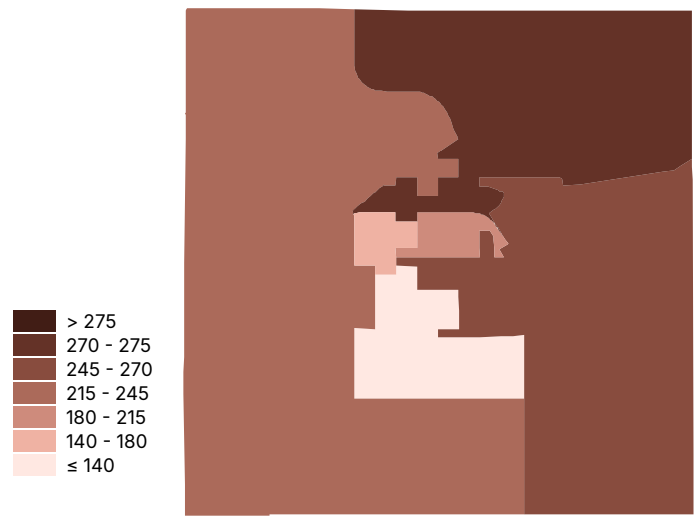


Figure 12.1: Shows the marital status of residents, such as single, married, divorced, separated, or widowed. It helps indicate relationship patterns and household formation. (Fort Macleod, 2016-2021)¹

In Fort Macleod, marital status in 2021 shows a population aged 15 and over that is mainly married, with notable shares who are not married or living common-law. The largest group is married at 1,325 people, followed by not married and not living common-law at 1,115 and living common-law at 240. Recent change is positive across most categories. Married rose 8.6% over five years, while common-law increased 9.1% and not married, not common-law grew 11.0%. Within the unmarried group, never married climbed 17.0% to 620 people and separated rose 30.8% to 85, while divorced fell 4.6% to 210. The pattern suggests modest growth across most relationship statuses, with the strongest momentum among those never married or separated.



In Fort Macleod, marital status in 2021 was fairly balanced within the population aged 15 and over, with 1,325 married residents and 1,115 who were not married and not living common-law. Another 240 people were living common-law. Married residents rose 8.6% over five years, while the not married group grew 11.0%.

Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Marital Status - Married (Fort Macleod)¹

Language Knowledge in Households

English was the largest household language knowledge group in Fort Macleod at 3,180 households in 2021, up 11.2% over five years. Korean changed most, rising 166.7% to 40 households.

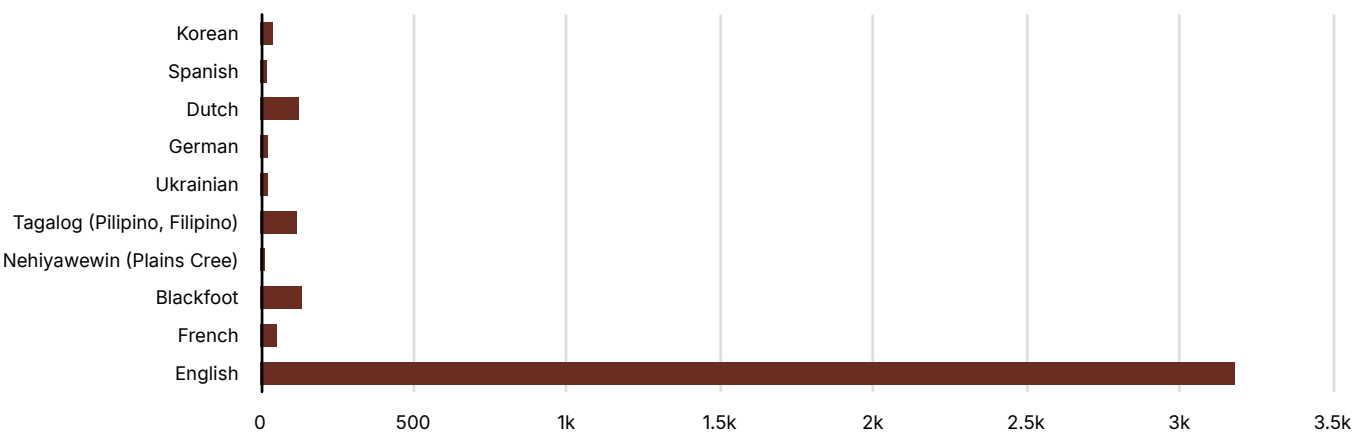
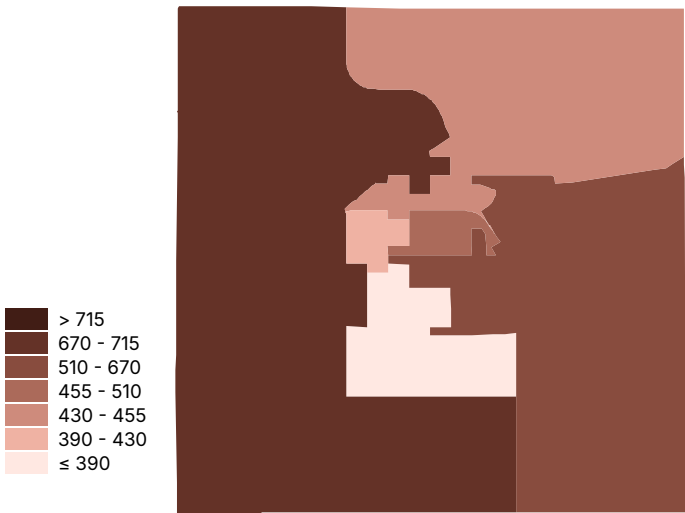


Figure 13.1: Shows the languages household members can speak. It helps indicate multilingual capacity and potential language access needs. (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

In Fort Macleod, household language knowledge in 2021 was led overwhelmingly by English, with 3,180 households. Several other languages were present in much smaller numbers, pointing to a limited but varied multilingual profile within private households. The next largest counts were Blackfoot at 135 households, Dutch at 125, and Tagalog at 120. French was reported in 55 households. Smaller figures included Korean at 40, Ukrainian and German at 25 each, Spanish at 20, and Nehiyawewin (Plains Cree) at 15. Recent change was mixed. Korean rose sharply over five years, while Blackfoot and Tagalog also increased. German and Spanish declined. The pattern suggests some languages gained presence even as others remained modest or fell.



In Fort Macleod's 2021 household population, English was the most common language knowledge, at 3,180 households. Smaller but notable counts were reported for Blackfoot (135), Dutch (125), and Tagalog (120), while French stood at 55. Recent change was mixed. Blackfoot rose sharply over five years, up 92.9%, and Korean increased 166.7%, while German fell 61.5% and Spanish declined 50.0%. The pattern suggests a multilingual mix that may shape language access needs.

Figure 13.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Language - English (Fort Macleod)¹

Household Type

One-person households were the largest group in Fort Macleod in 2021 at 415, up 10.7% from 2016. Couple-family households without children followed at 390, while multiple-census-family households fell to 5, down 50.0%.

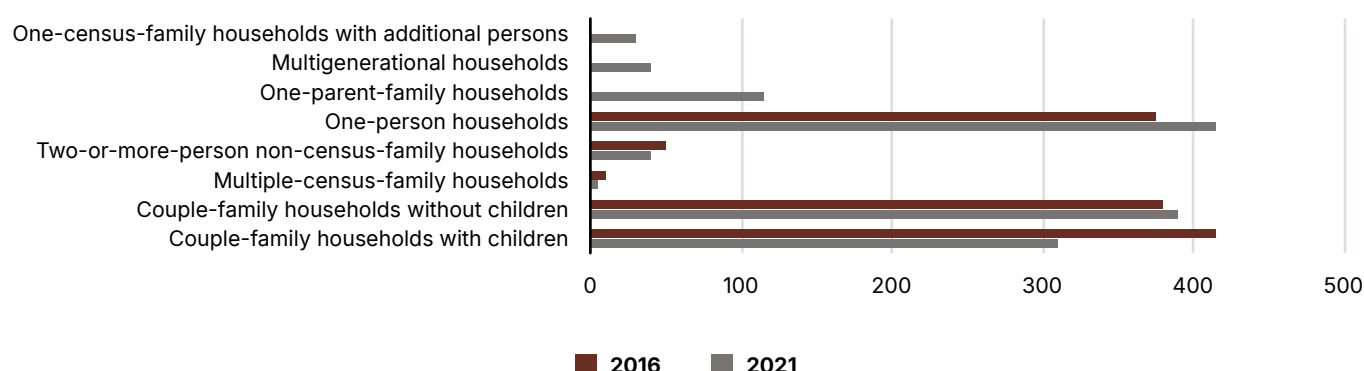


Figure 14.1: Shows the mix of household types, including one-person, family, and non-family households. It helps indicate how residents are organized across living arrangements. (Fort Macleod, 2016-2021)¹

In 2021, Fort Macleod's household mix was led by one-person households, at 415, followed closely by couple-family households without children, at 390. Couple-family households with children numbered 310 and fell 25.3% over five years, while one-person households rose 10.7%. Smaller categories included one-parent-family households at 115 and multigenerational households at 40. The pattern suggests a shift toward smaller living arrangements within private households. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

In 2021, Fort Macleod's private households were led by one-person households at 415, followed by couple-family households without children at 390. Couple-family households with children numbered 310, while one-parent-family households totalled 115. The mix points to a household profile with substantial single and couple living arrangements. Smaller categories were much less common: multigenerational households counted 40, two-or-more-person non-census-family households 40, one-census-family households with additional persons 30, and multiple-census-family households just 5.

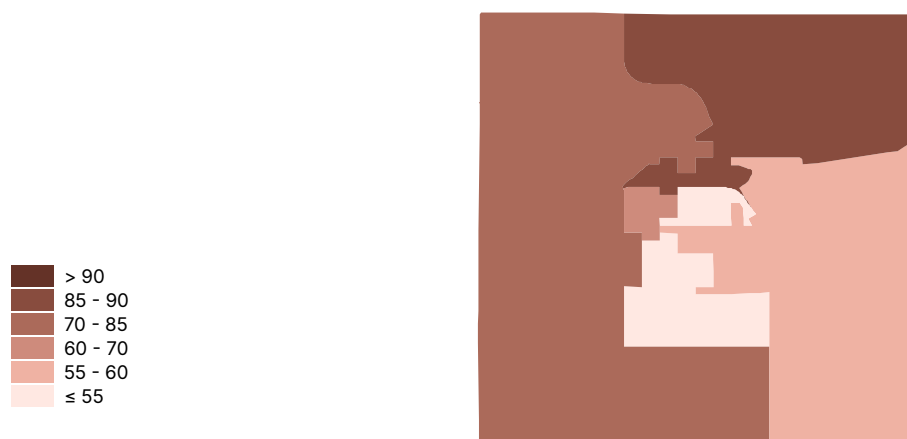


Figure 14.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Type - One-person households (Fort Macleod)¹

Average Family Size

Fort Macleod’s average census family size was 2.9 people in 2021, unchanged from 2016 and 2011. The measure held at 2.9 across the full five-year and ten-year periods.

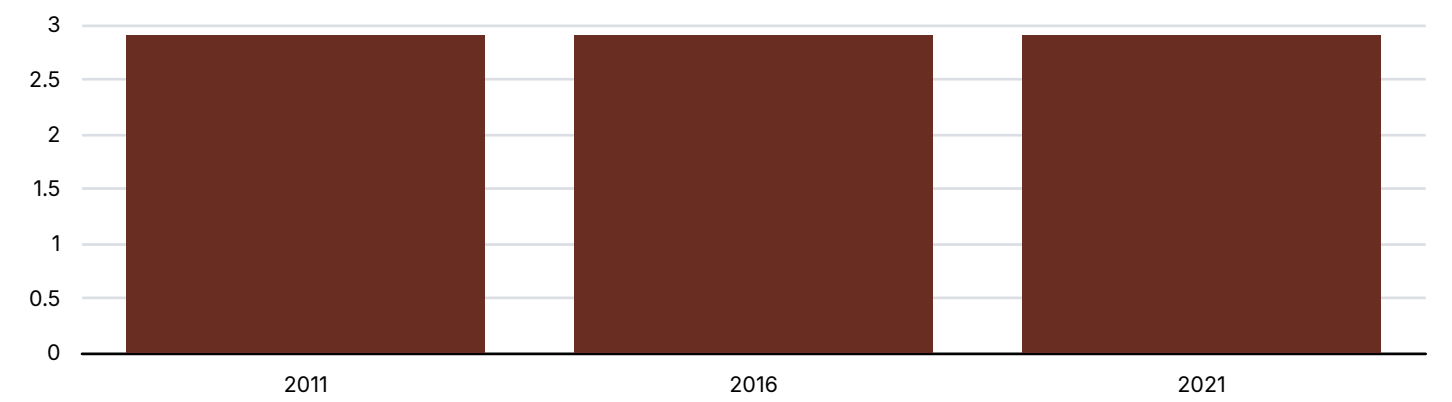


Figure 15.1: Shows the average number of people in family households. It helps indicate typical family living arrangements and space needs. (Fort Macleod, 2011-2021)¹

Fort Macleod’s average family size has been stable across the last three census counts, with no change in the measure over time. For families in private households, the figure stayed at 2.9 people in 2011, 2016, and 2021. That pattern suggests little movement in typical family living arrangements. The 5-year change was 0 in both of the latest intervals, matching the unchanged level across the full decade. With no rise or decline to compare against, the main feature is consistency rather than volatility. For this measure, Fort Macleod appears steady rather than shifting toward larger or smaller family households.

Fort Macleod’s average family size has been steady at 2.9 people across 2011, 2016 and 2021, showing no change over the five-year periods reported. That places it above several nearby municipalities, including Claresholm at 2.6, Pincher Creek at 2.8 and Stavely at 2.5 in 2021. It matches Hill Spring and Cowley in 2021 at 2.9, while remaining below Cardston County and Cardston at 3.2, and Magrath at 3.4. The pattern suggests a middle-range family household size for the town, with stability over time and a position that sits between smaller and larger family averages in the regional comparison.

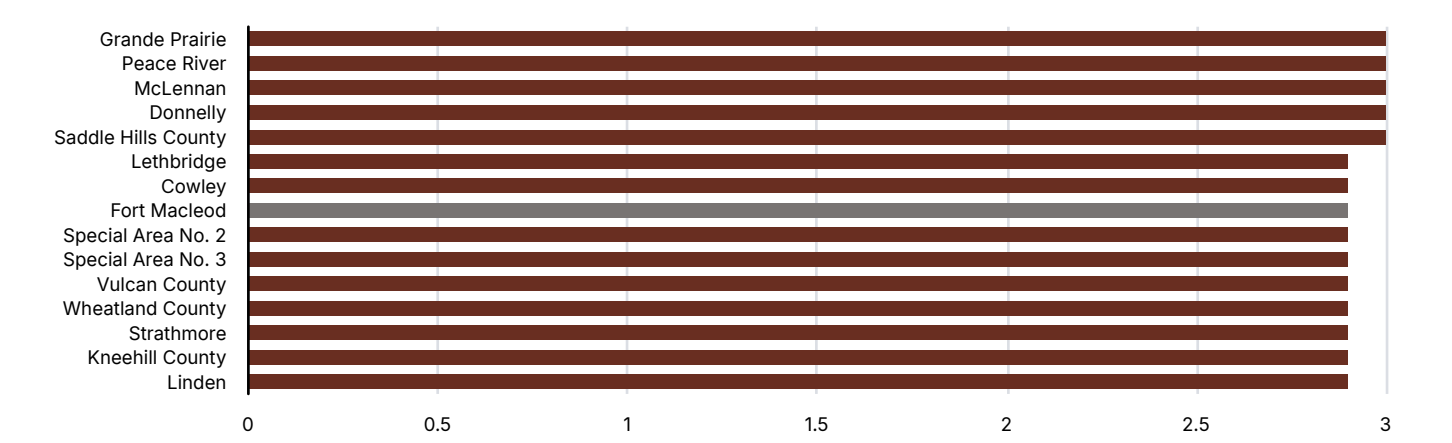


Figure 15.2: Comparison of Average Family Size with other locations (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

Total Population

Fort Macleod’s population reached 3,945 in 2025, up 22.0% over five years. Growth accelerated after 2020, rising from 3,233 in 2020 to 3,794 in 2024 before reaching 3,945.

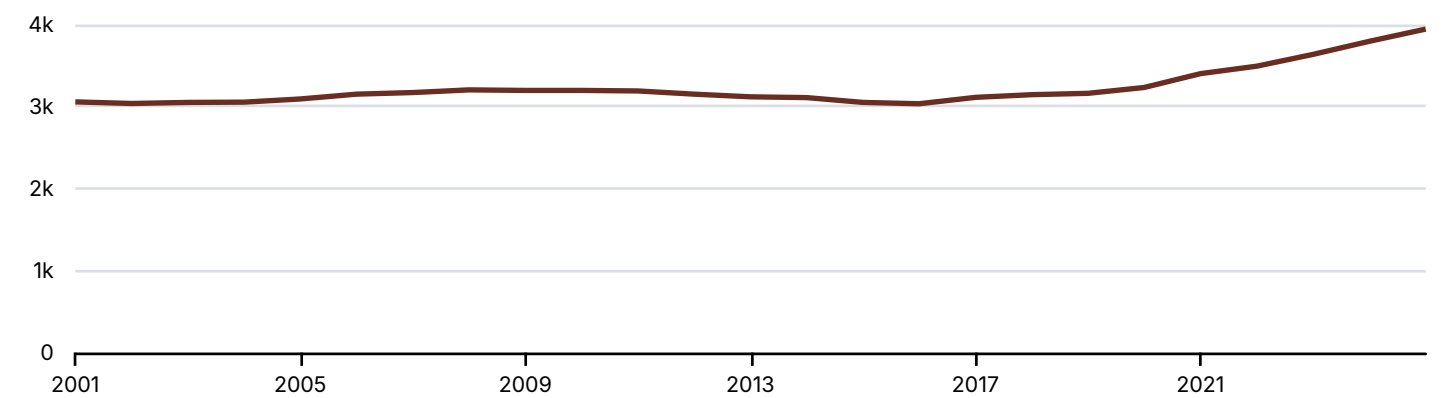


Figure 16.1: Shows the total number of people living in the area. It provides the basic population benchmark used across many other indicators. (Fort Macleod, 2001-2025)²

Fort Macleod’s total population shows a clear upward trend in the most recent years after a period of flatter movement and modest decline. The town reached 3,945 people in 2025, up from 3,794 in 2024 and 3,402 in 2021. Earlier in the series, population hovered near 3,000 to 3,200, dipping to 3,034 in 2016 before recovering. The strongest gains have come since 2020, with five-year change rising to 22.0% in 2025.

Fort Macleod’s total population has been rising steadily in recent years, after a period of decline and recovery earlier in the series. In 2025, the town reached 3,945 people, up from 3,402 in 2021 and 3,034 in 2016. That marks a 22.0% increase over five years. Compared with nearby places, Fort Macleod sits below Claresholm, Pincher Creek No. 9, and Cardston County, but well above Hill Spring, Cowley, and several smaller nearby localities. Its population is close to Pincher Creek and Cardston. The pattern suggests stronger recent growth than many peers, without making the town the largest in the area.

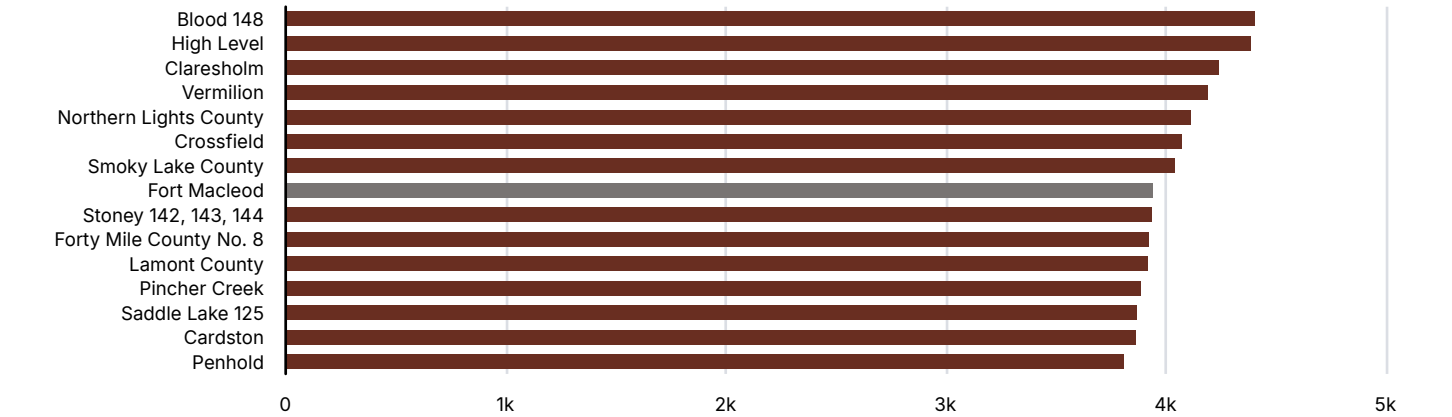


Figure 16.2: Comparison of Total Population with other locations (Fort Macleod, 2025)²

Primary Maintainer Age

In Fort Macleod, households maintained by people aged 65 to 74 were the largest group in 2021 at 285, up 26.7% from 2016. The 15 to 24 group was smallest at 70, despite a 40.0% increase.

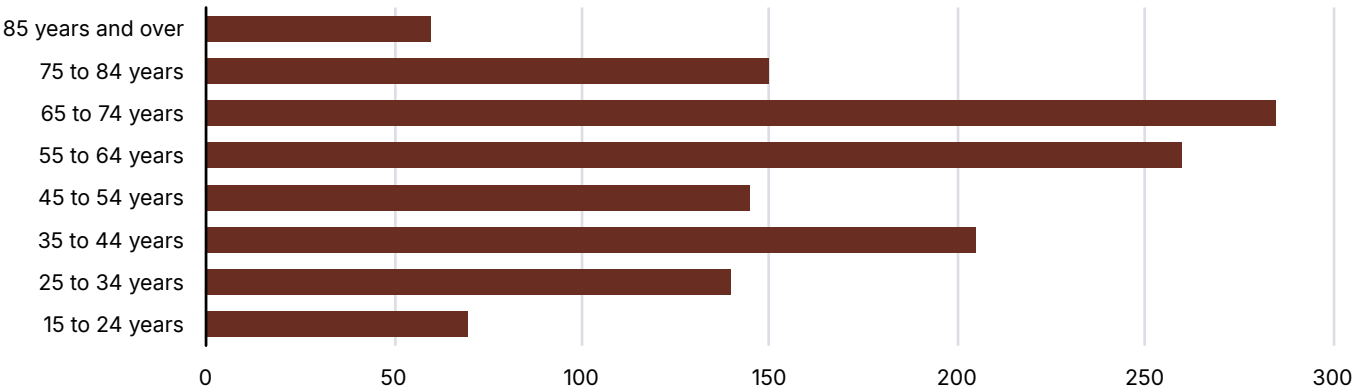


Figure 17.1: Shows the age of the primary household maintainer. It helps indicate which life stages are carrying primary financial responsibility for housing. (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

In 2021, Fort Macleod’s primary household maintainers were concentrated in older age groups. The largest group was 65 to 74 years, with 285 households, followed by 55 to 64 years at 260 and 35 to 44 years at 205. Younger groups were smaller, including 70 households among 15 to 24 years and 140 among 25 to 34 years. Over five years, the sharpest growth was among 15 to 24 years, up 40%, while 45 to 54 years fell 27.5%.

In 2021, Fort Macleod’s primary household maintainers were concentrated in older age groups, with the largest counts among those aged 65 to 74 years and 55 to 64 years. The 65 to 74 group reached 285 households, while 55 to 64 totaled 260. Younger groups were smaller: 70 households aged 15 to 24 and 140 aged 25 to 34. The age profile suggests housing responsibility is carried more heavily by later life stages than by younger households.

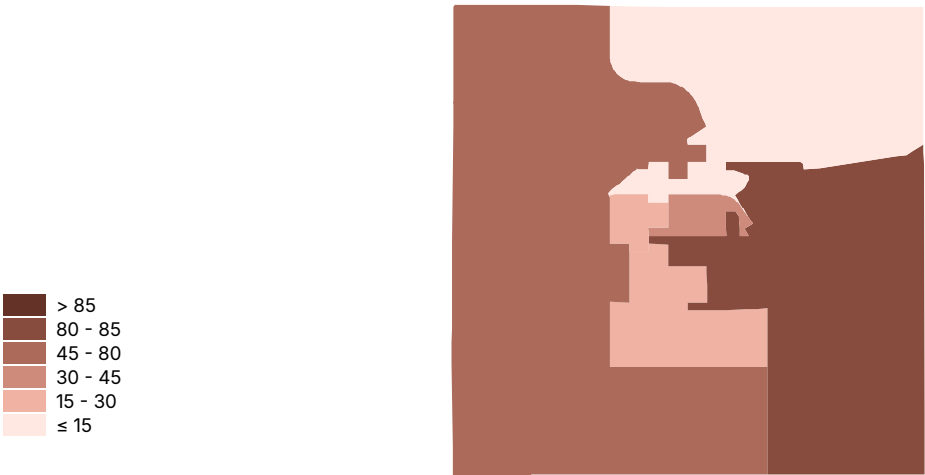


Figure 17.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Maintainer Age - 65 to 74 years (Fort Macleod)¹

Median Age

Fort Macleod’s median age was 42.4 years in 2021, down 6.19% from 2016. It had risen from 43.5 years in 2011 to 45.2 years in 2016 before declining.

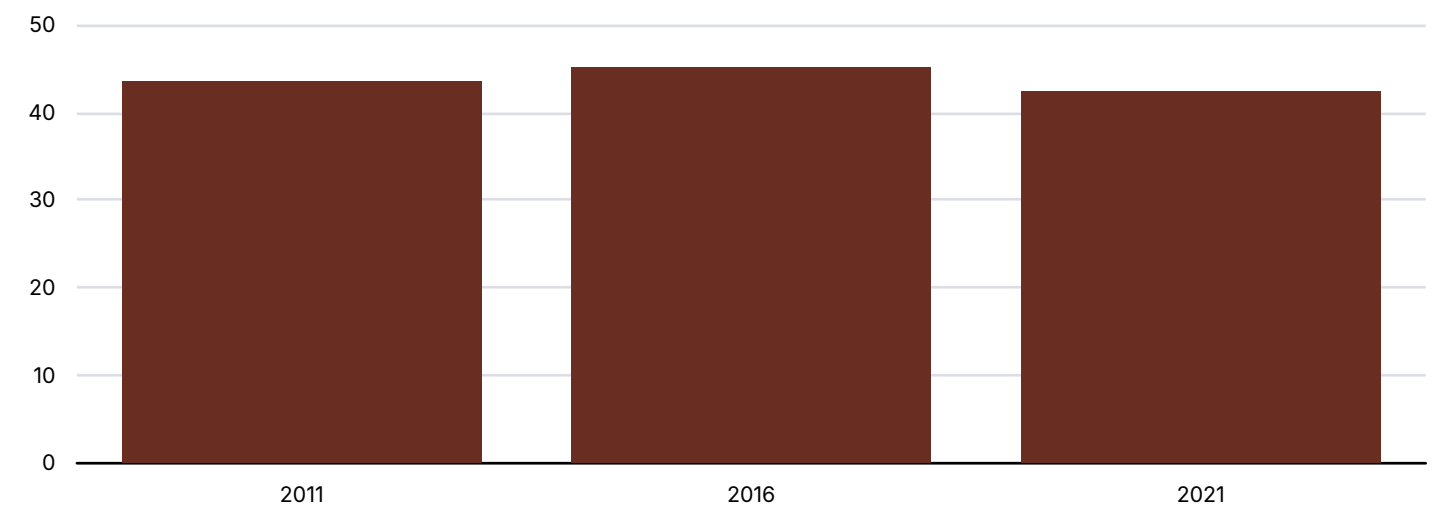
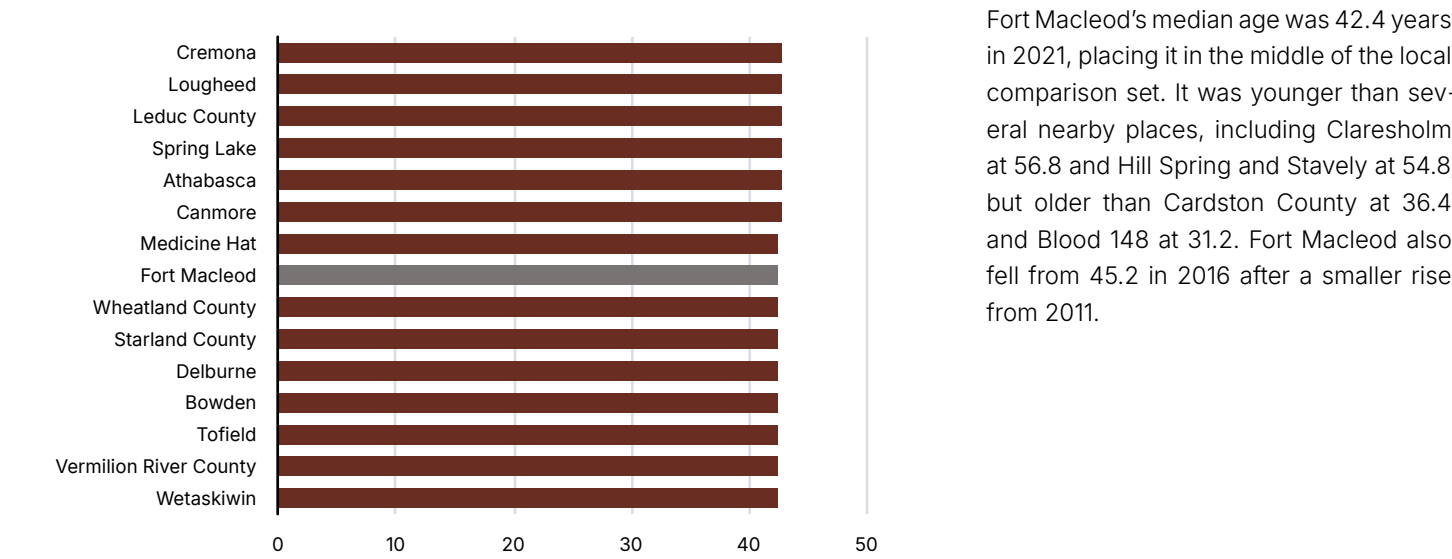


Figure 18.1: Shows the median age of residents. It helps indicate whether the population skews younger or older at the midpoint of the age distribution. (Fort Macleod, 2011-2021)¹

Fort Macleod’s median age has shifted modestly over time, moving within the low-to-mid 40s and suggesting a relatively older population midpoint. In 2011, the median age was 43.5 years. It rose to 45.2 years in 2016, then fell to 42.4 years in 2021. The change from 2011 to 2016 was an increase of 3.9%, followed by a decline of 6.2% over the next five years. That pattern shows a short period of aging followed by a younger midpoint in 2021, rather than a steady upward or downward trend.



Fort Macleod’s median age was 42.4 years in 2021, placing it in the middle of the local comparison set. It was younger than several nearby places, including Claresholm at 56.8 and Hill Spring and Stavely at 54.8, but older than Cardston County at 36.4 and Blood 148 at 31.2. Fort Macleod also fell from 45.2 in 2016 after a smaller rise from 2011.

Figure 18.2: Comparison of Median Age with other locations (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

Family Size

Fort Macleod's family households were led by 2-person families at 500 in 2021, up 8.7% from 2016. Three-person families grew fastest, rising 16.1% to 180, while larger households also increased.

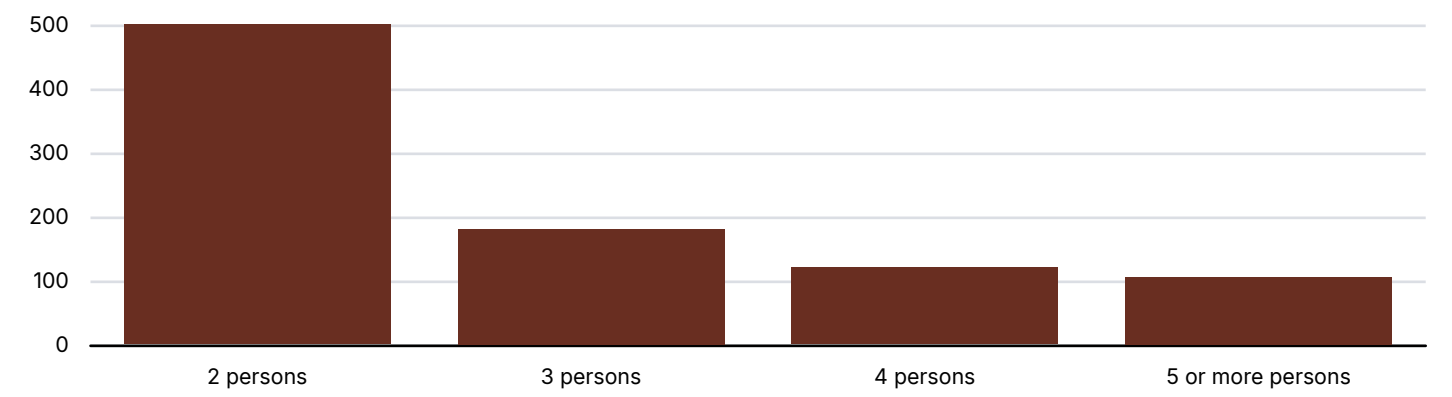


Figure 19.1: Shows the number of people in family households. It helps indicate household composition and the space families may need. (Fort Macleod, 2021)¹

In Fort Macleod, the 2021 family size profile was led by two-person families, with 500 households in that category. Three-person families accounted for 180, while four-person families numbered 120 and five-or-more-person families 105. The 5-year changes were positive across the board, rising 8.7% for two-person families, 16.1% for three-person families, 9.1% for four-person families, and 10.5% for larger families. That points to modest growth in each family-size group rather than a shift in mix.

In 2021, Fort Macleod's census families were most often small, with 2-person households dominating the mix. Larger families were present, but in lower numbers. The town recorded 500 two-person families, compared with 180 three-person families, 120 four-person families, and 105 families with 5 or more people. That pattern shows a clear tilt toward smaller family size rather than large household structure. Five-year change was positive in every group, suggesting growth across the family-size mix.

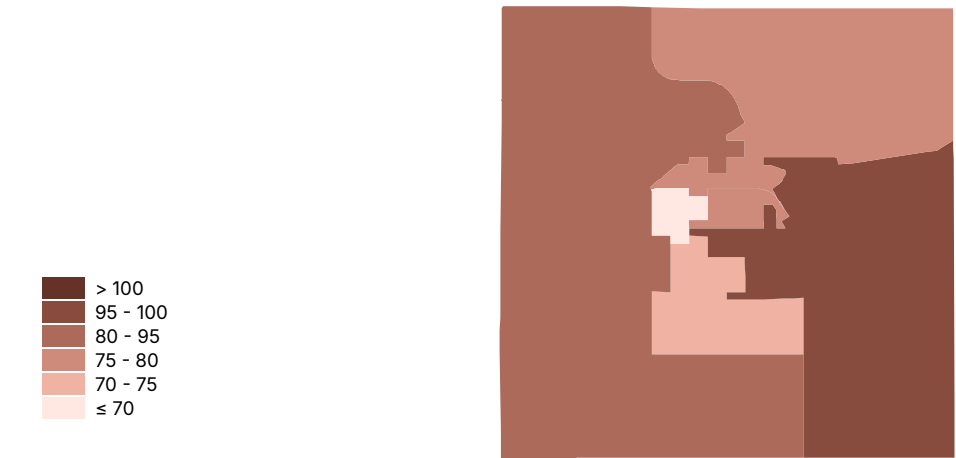


Figure 19.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Size - 2 persons (Fort Macleod)¹

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.

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