



PINCHER CREEK NO. 9

# Accommodation and Food Services

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## Executive Summary

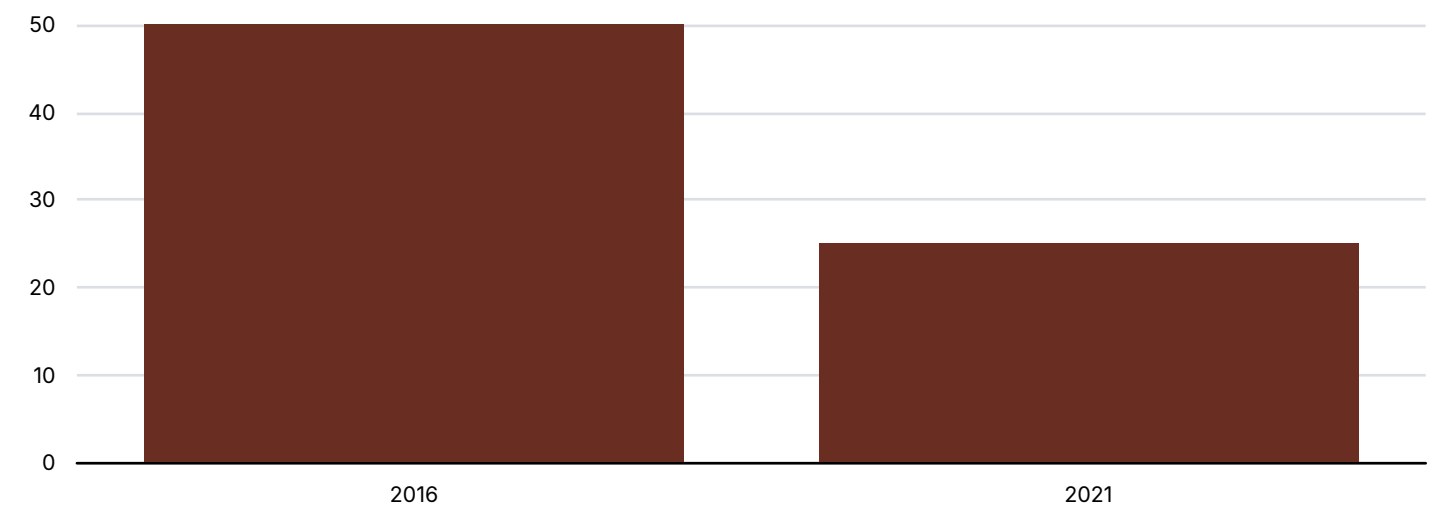
Pincher Creek No. 9's accommodation and food services sector is small, uneven, and narrowly structured, with recent data showing a modest local presence rather than a broad base of activity. The clearest shift on the resident side is a sharp contraction in the local labour force: resident workers in the sector fell from 50 in 2016 to 25 in 2021. That decline sits alongside a labour market gap ratio of 0.28 in 2021, indicating that local jobs slightly outnumbered resident workers. Within the available evidence, this suggests a sector that remains active in the area but is supported by a limited pool of local resident labour.

The business base tells a similar story of small scale and uneven continuity. Establishments fell from 7 in 2018 to 3 in 2021, then fluctuated between 3 and 4 through 2025, ending at 4. Employment followed a different pattern: after dropping from 11 in 2020 to 6 in 2022, it recovered to 11 in 2023 and then held steady through 2025. That leaves the sector with a very small but stable job count in recent years, even as the number of businesses remains below earlier levels. The structure of those businesses is also tight. In 2025, three establishments had no employees and one had 10 to 19 employees, pointing to a sector concentrated in micro-businesses with little evidence of a broader range of firm sizes. Within this compact base, full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places stand out as the sector's defining specialization, with a location quotient of about 1.5 in 2024 and only a slight increase from the year before.

Compared with nearby places, Pincher Creek No. 9 remains modest in both worker and establishment counts, but the most important feature is not simply its size. The sector combines a reduced resident workforce, a limited business base, and a small employment footprint that has recently stabilized after a dip. The result is a sector that is present and somewhat specialized, but still narrow in scale and uneven in how it has changed over time.

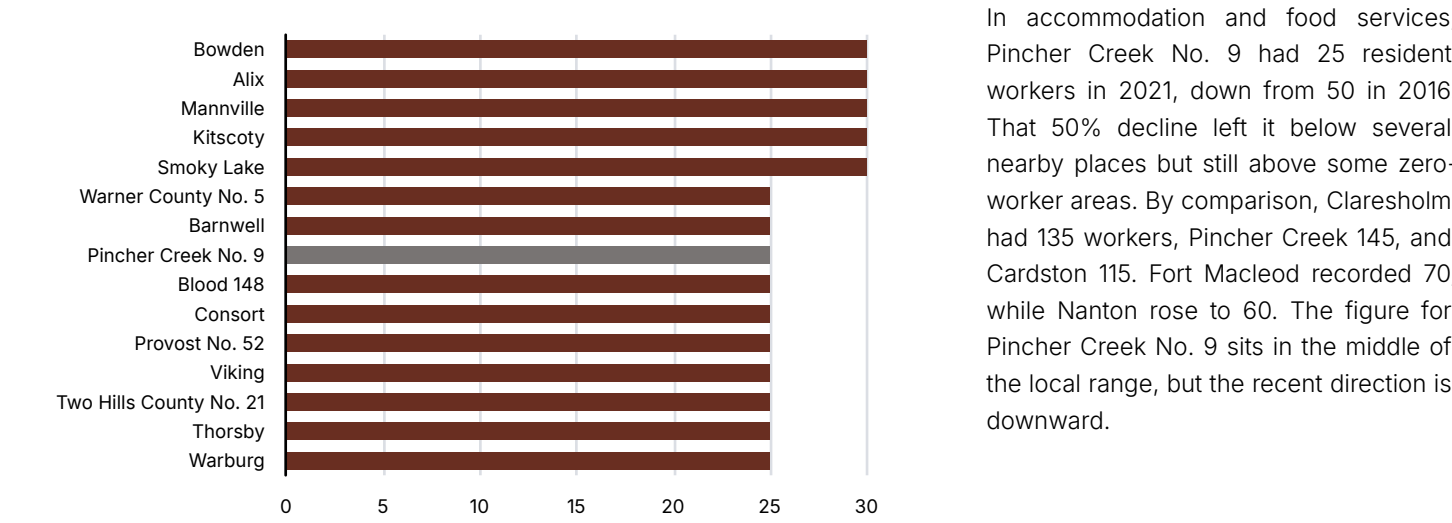
# Resident Labour Force in Sector

Pincher Creek No. 9 had 25 resident workers in this sector in 2021, down from 50 in 2016. The five-year change was -50.0%, showing the count halved over the period.



**Figure 1.1:** Shows the number of resident workers in a specific sector. It helps indicate how many local residents are employed in that part of the economy. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2016-2021)<sup>1</sup>

In Accommodation and food services, Pincher Creek No. 9 had 25 resident workers in 2021, down from 50 in 2016. That 50% five-year decline points to a smaller local resident labour force in this sector over the period. The figures are measured among the labour force aged 15 years and over, so they describe resident workers rather than jobs located in the area. With only two census points available, the clearest pattern is the contraction between 2016 and 2021, not a broader long-run trend.

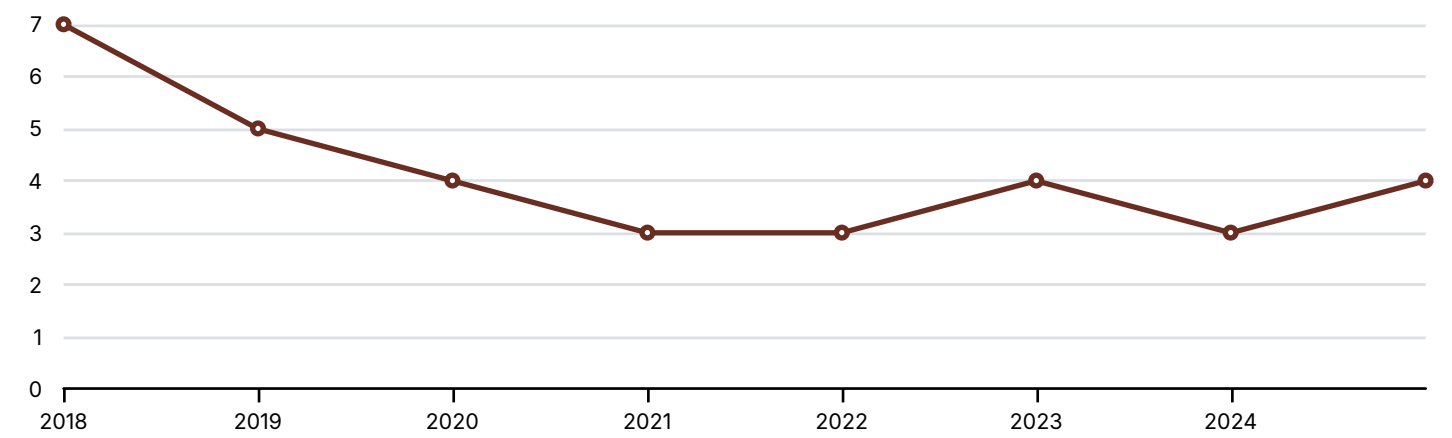


In accommodation and food services, Pincher Creek No. 9 had 25 resident workers in 2021, down from 50 in 2016. That 50% decline left it below several nearby places but still above some zero-worker areas. By comparison, Claresholm had 135 workers, Pincher Creek 145, and Cardston 115. Fort Macleod recorded 70, while Nanton rose to 60. The figure for Pincher Creek No. 9 sits in the middle of the local range, but the recent direction is downward.

**Figure 1.2:** Comparison of Resident Labour Force in Sector with other locations (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2021)<sup>1</sup>

# Establishments in Sector

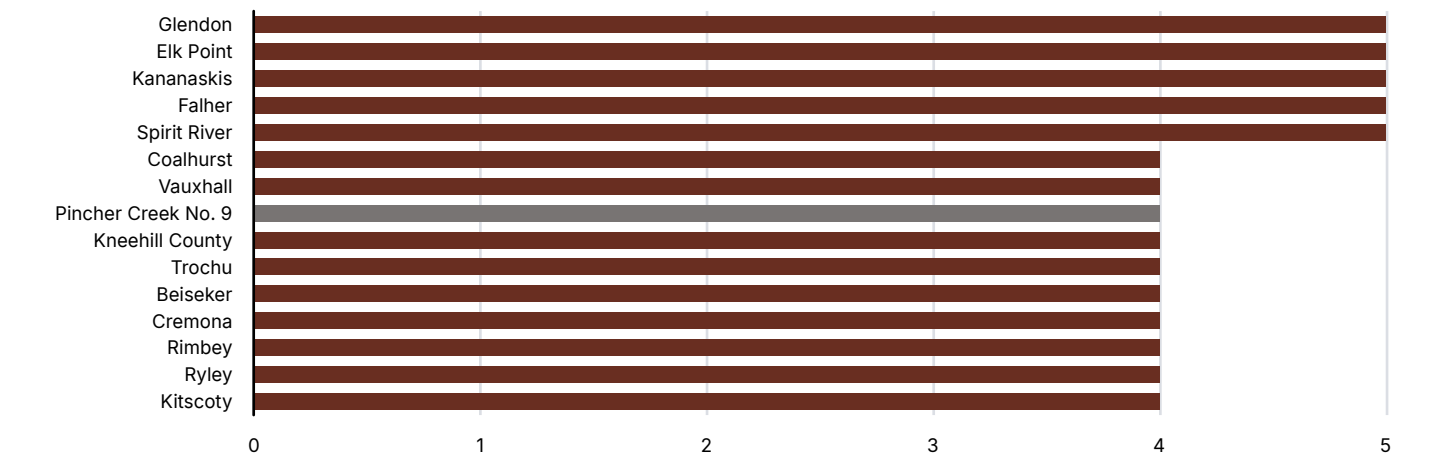
Pincher Creek No. 9 had 4 business establishments in 2025, up 33.3% from 2024. The count matched 2020 and 2023, but remained below 2018's 7 and 2024's 3?



**Figure 2.1:** Shows the number of business establishments in a specific sector. It helps indicate the scale of business activity in that sector. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2018-2025)<sup>2</sup>

In accommodation and food services, Pincher Creek No. 9 had a small and uneven count of business establishments over 2018 to 2025. The total fell from 7 in 2018 to 3 in 2021, held at 3 in 2022, rose to 4 in 2023, slipped back to 3 in 2024, and returned to 4 in 2025. The recent pattern shows brief rebounds, but the longer movement remains below the 2018 level. That points to a compact sector with limited year-to-year stability.

Pincher Creek No. 9 had a small accommodation and food services base, with 4 businesses in 2025. That was up from 3 in 2024 and 3 in 2022, but below the 7 recorded in 2018. Compared with nearby places, it remained modest. Pincher Creek had 43 establishments in 2025, Nanton 19, and Fort Macleod 21, while Hill Spring had just 1. The pattern suggests a limited but slightly recovering local presence in this sector. Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register.



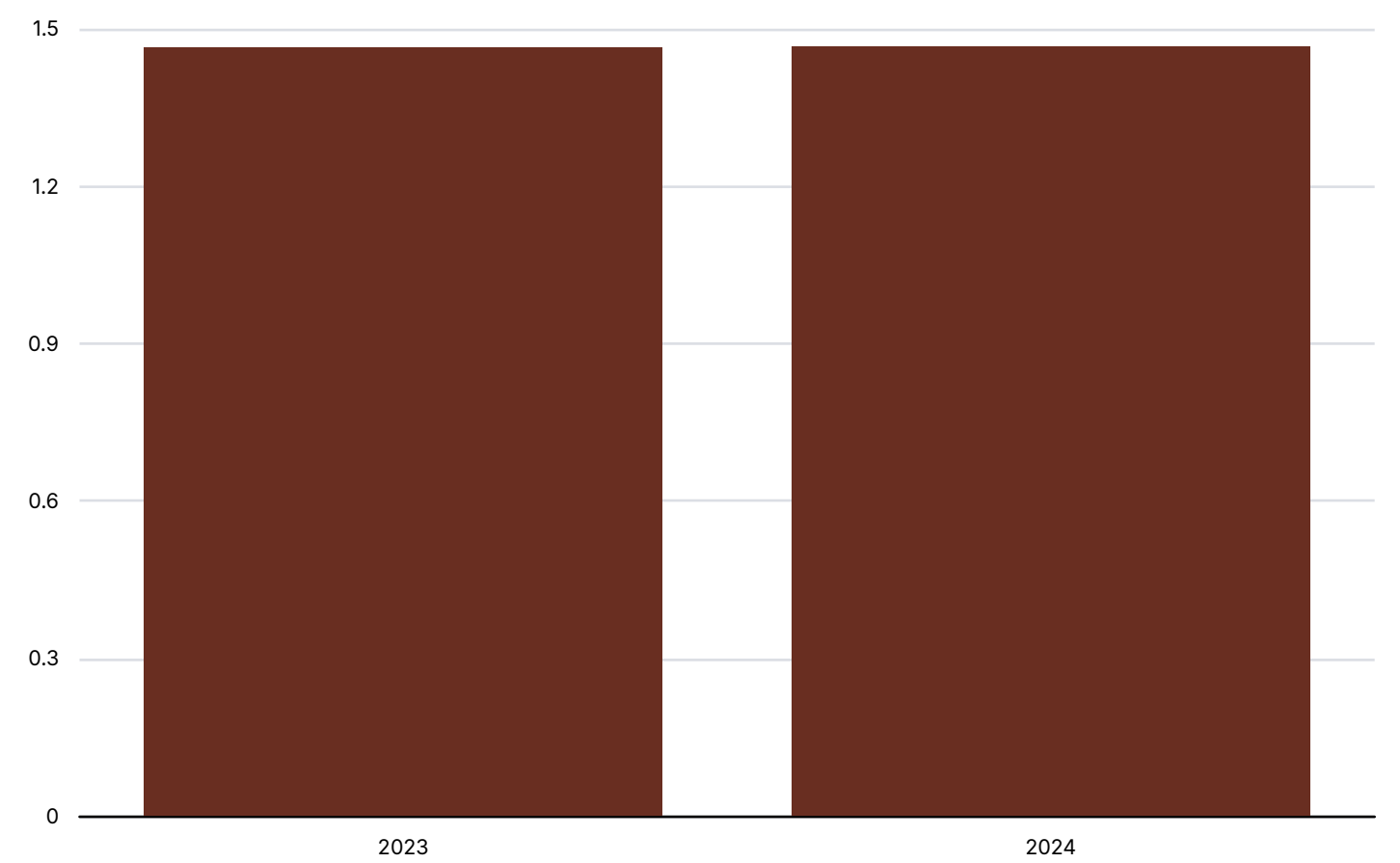
**Figure 2.2:** Comparison of Establishments in Sector with other locations (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2025)<sup>2</sup>

# Star Industries in Sector

Full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places remained the leading specialized industry in Pincher Creek No. 9 in 2024, with a location quotient of 1.4663, up 0.14% from 1.4642 in 2023.

In Pincher Creek No. 9, the accommodation and food services sector shows one clear star industry in 2024: full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places. With a location quotient of 1.5, this industry stands above the broader employment pattern used in the comparison, pointing to a notable local concentration. The industry's location quotient was 1.4663, and its 1-year change was 0.14. Rounded for readability, that means the sector's specialization was about 1.5 and increased modestly over the year. No other industries were provided in the

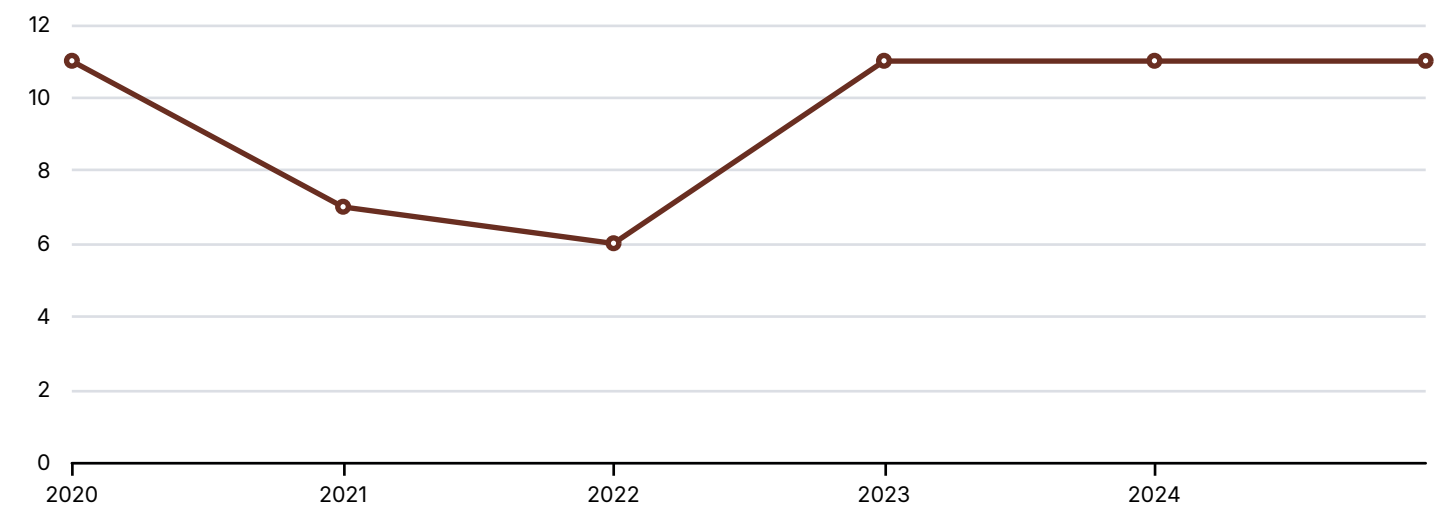
dataset for this sector, so the picture here is focused on a single category rather than a broader mix. The recent movement suggests the industry became slightly more concentrated in the local economy over the past year. Because the dataset includes only one industry, the evidence supports a narrow reading: this is a specialized part of the sector with mild upward momentum. For 2024, full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places are the standout industry within accommodation and food services in Pincher Creek No. 9.



**Figure 3.1:** Shows industries within this sector where the local economy has strong specialization and increasing concentration or strong growth. Industries are categorized based on specialization (location quotient) and recent employment growth or change in concentration. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2023-2024)<sup>3</sup>

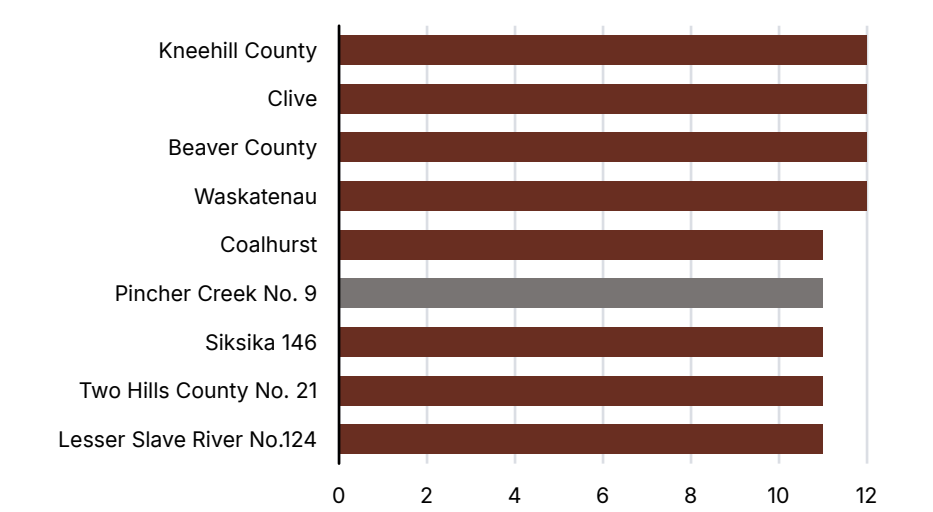
# Employment in Sector

Pincher Creek No. 9 recorded 11 jobs in 2025, unchanged from 2024 and 2020. Employment fell to 6 in 2022 before recovering to 11 in 2023 and holding there through 2025.



**Figure 4.1:** Shows the number of jobs in a specific industry sector. It helps indicate the scale of that sector within the local economy. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2020-2025)<sup>4</sup>

In Pincher Creek No. 9, employment in accommodation and food services has been small and fairly stable in recent years, with 11 people recorded in 2020, 2023, 2024 and 2025. The series dipped to 7 in 2021 and 6 in 2022 before recovering. That meant a 36.4% decline in 2021, followed by an 83.3% rebound in 2023. The most recent readings show no change in either 2024 or 2025, leaving the sector at 11 jobs. For employees aged 15 years and over, the pattern points to a modest but steady local presence.

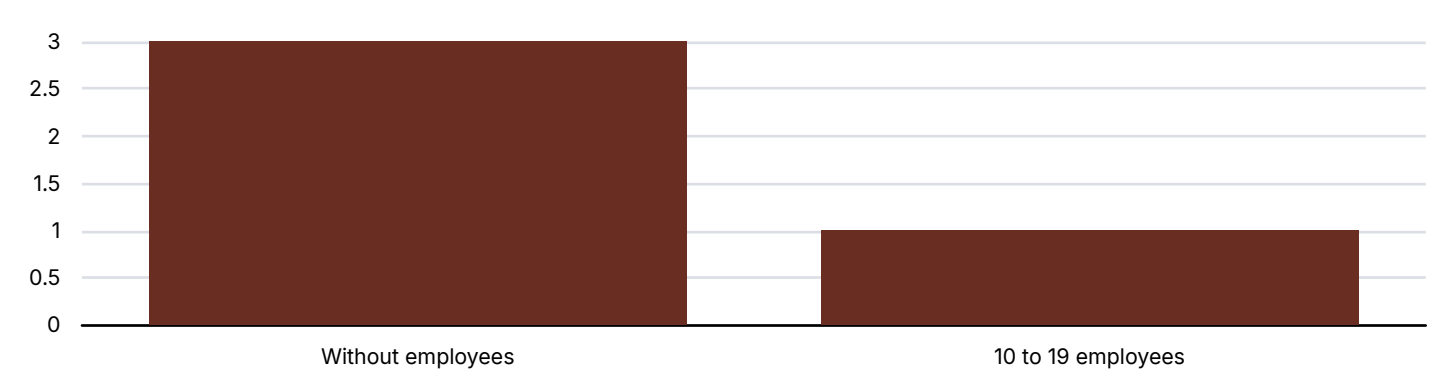


In Pincher Creek No. 9, employment in accommodation and food services was 11 people in 2025, unchanged from 2024 and the same as in 2023. The count had fallen to 6 in 2022 before recovering. Even so, it remains much smaller than nearby places such as Pincher Creek (296) and Claresholm (136), and well below Waterton (330). The pattern suggests a very small, stable local footprint in this sector.

**Figure 4.2:** Comparison of Employment in Sector with other locations (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2025)<sup>4</sup>

# Establishments in Sector by Number of Employees

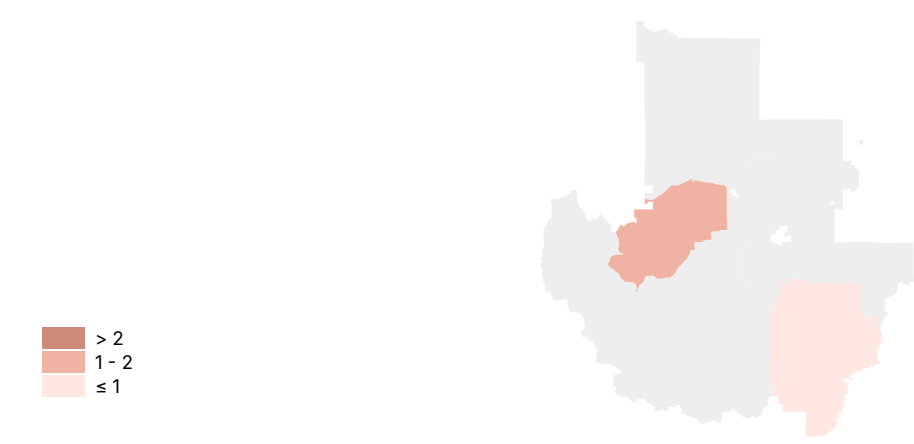
Pincher Creek No. 9’s establishments remain concentrated among firms without employees, with 3 in 2025. That group rose 50.0% from 2024 and was unchanged from 2020, while 10-to-19-employee firms held at 1.



**Figure 5.1:** Shows the number of business establishments in a sector by employee size class. It helps indicate whether that sector is made up mostly of small or larger firms. (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2025)<sup>2</sup>

In Pincher Creek No. 9’s accommodation and food services sector, the establishment count is small and concentrated at the lowest employee size classes. In 2025, there were 3 businesses with no employees and 1 establishment with 10 to 19 employees. The no-employee category rose 50% over the past year, while its five-year change was flat at 0%. The 10 to 19 employee group showed no change over either period. With only these size classes reported, the pattern points to limited recent movement and a very small base.

In 2025, accommodation and food services establishments in Pincher Creek No. 9 are concentrated in very small firms. The sector includes 3 establishments without employees and 1 establishment with 10 to 19 employees. That means 4 businesses are captured in the available size classes, with no evidence here of larger operators. The no-employee category also rose by 50% over the past year, while both size classes were unchanged over five years. The nearby dissemination areas show similarly small counts, reinforcing a low-scale business profile. For this sector, the local mix is narrow and tilted toward micro-businesses.



**Figure 5.2:** Distribution of Largest Group: Business Establishment Size - Without employees (Pincher Creek No. 9)<sup>2</sup>



# Sector Labour Market Gap

In Pincher Creek No. 9, accommodation and food services showed a labour market gap ratio of 0.28 in 2021, meaning jobs exceeded resident workers by less than one-third.

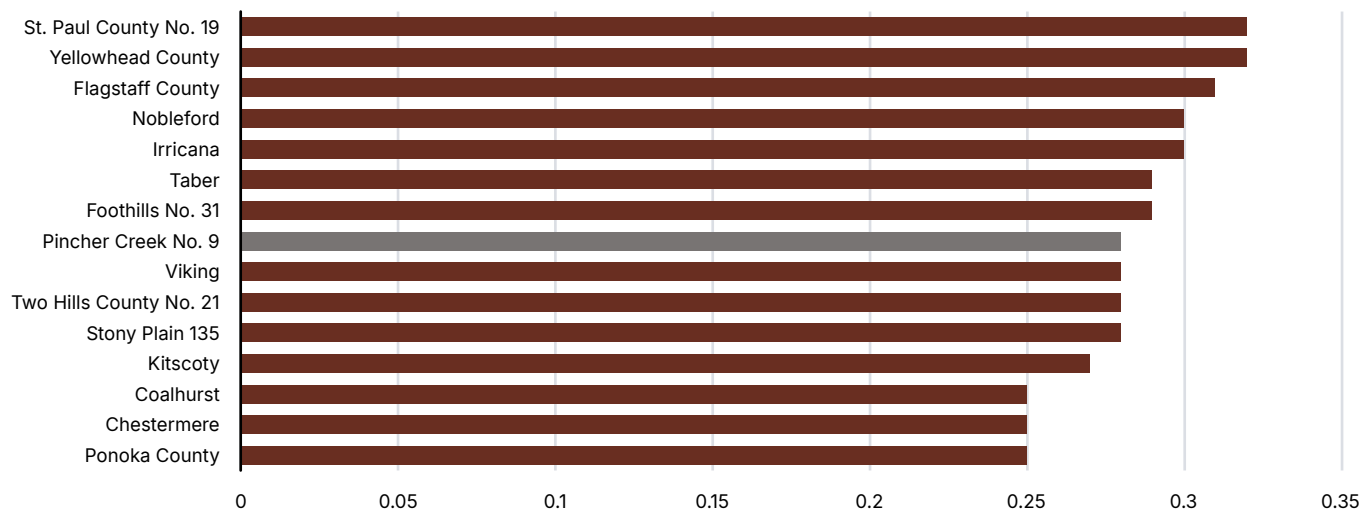
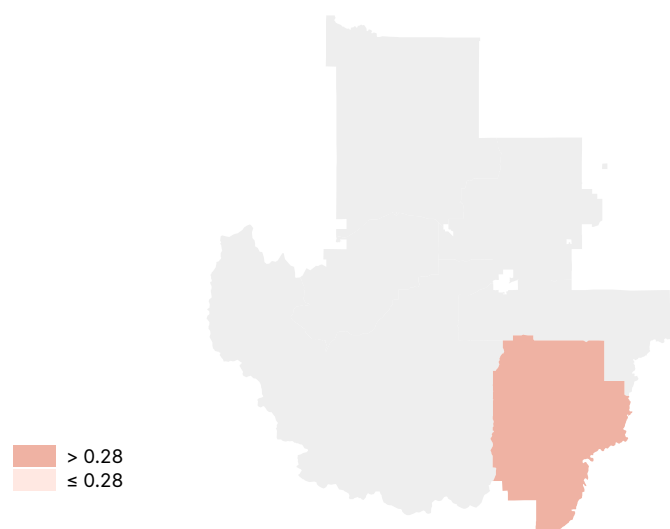


Figure 6.1: Comparison of Sector Labour Market Gap with other locations (Pincher Creek No. 9, 2021)<sup>5</sup>

In 2021, Pincher Creek No. 9 posted a labour market gap ratio of 0.28 in accommodation and food services, suggesting a relatively small gap between local jobs and resident workers in that sector. Among nearby places with data, the ratio was lower than in Nanton at 0.9, Cardston at 1.13, Claresholm at 1.39, and Fort Macleod at 1.66, but higher than Cardston County at 0.03 and Willow Creek No. 26 at 0.02. This places Pincher Creek No. 9 in the lower-to-mid range of the comparison set. The pattern points to a sector that is present locally, but not as strongly tilted toward labour mismatch as some neighboring communities.



In 2021, Pincher Creek No. 9 showed a labour market gap ratio of 0.28 in accommodation and food services, within the labour force aged 15 years and over. That low ratio suggests fewer local workers than jobs in the sector, pointing to reliance on in-commuters or workers drawn from outside the area. A descendant dissemination area recorded a higher ratio of 0.7, indicating some local variation, but both values remain below 1. Source: Statistics Canada and Localintel.

Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Industry Sector - Accommodation and food services (Pincher Creek No. 9)<sup>5</sup>

## Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.
2. Statistics Canada, Business Register. Published in Jun 1, 2025.
3. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Employment Location Quotient by Industry Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.
4. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Employment by Industry Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.
5. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Statistics Canada, Census Profile; Localintel, Labour Market Gap Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.

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