



NANTON

Quality of Life Report

Table of Contents

Religion	4
Family Type	5
Ethnic Origin	6
Mother Tongue	7
Population Density	8
Highest Education Level	9
Household Type	10
Average Shelter Costs	11
Housing Tenure	12
Household Total Income Groups	13
High School Completion	14
Core Housing Need	15
Median Age	16
Age at Immigration	17
Immigrant Status	18

Executive Summary

Nanton is a small town with a settled, mature profile shaped by an older population, stable social patterns, and gradual rather than rapid change. Its median age reached 52.8 in 2021 after rising over the past decade, while population density edged down slightly, suggesting a community that has become a little less compact without changing its basic character. The population remains overwhelmingly non-immigrant, with immigrants forming a relatively small share and non-permanent residents only a very small presence. Religion is split almost evenly between Christian affiliation and no religion, and both the religious and cultural profile point to limited diversity, with English firmly dominant as mother tongue and ethnic origins still led by English, Scottish, Irish, and other long-established backgrounds.

Household and family patterns reinforce the picture of a town centered on smaller and older household forms. Couples without children were the largest family and household type, and one-person households were also a major part of the local mix. At the same time, married couples with children and couple-family households with children declined over five years, while one-parent families rose modestly. These shifts suggest less emphasis on larger child-rearing households than in the recent past. Housing follows a similarly steady pattern. Homeownership remains the dominant tenure by a wide margin, although renting also grew. Shelter costs for owners and renters were fairly close in 2021, but renter costs increased faster over the previous five years. Most households were not in core housing need, though a noticeable minority were, indicating that housing stress exists without defining the town's overall housing picture.

Education and income add to the sense of a community with a broad middle rather than sharp polarization. High school completion and college credentials were the most common forms of educational attainment, with trades credentials also present and university degrees forming a smaller share. Several education categories increased over five years, pointing to rising attainment across much of the population. Household incomes were spread across a range of middle and upper bands rather than concentrated in one bracket. The result is a town that appears socially stable, owner-oriented, and strongly rooted in longstanding local patterns, while still showing modest shifts in household structure, education, and housing costs.

Religion

In Nanton, Christian residents formed the largest group at 1,020 people in 2021, closely followed by 1,005 with no religion and secular perspectives. Other religions were much smaller, including 25 other and 10 Jewish residents.

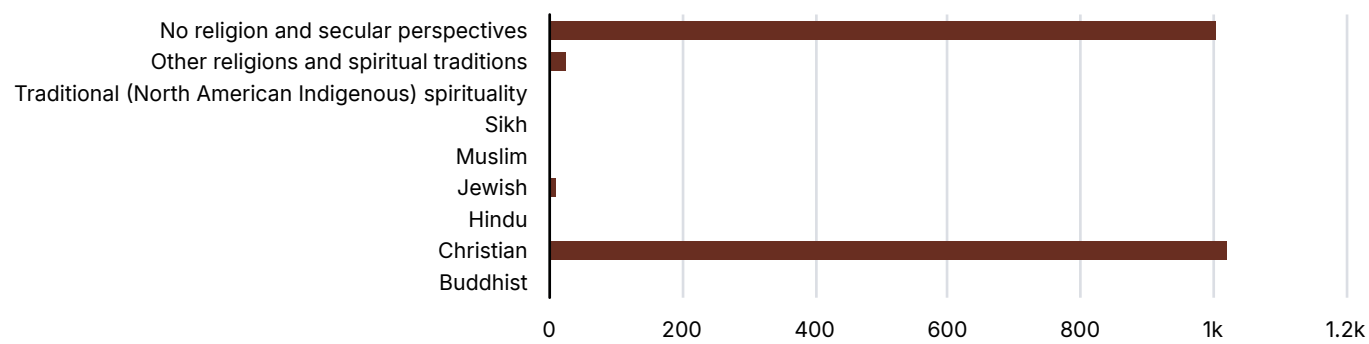


Figure 1.1: Shows residents' religious affiliation. It helps indicate the spiritual and faith-based diversity of the community. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In 2021, Nanton's religious profile was split between Christian affiliation and no religion or secular perspectives. Christians numbered 1,020 people, while 1,005 reported no religion. Smaller groups included 25 people in other religions and spiritual traditions and 10 Jewish residents; Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and Traditional North American Indigenous spirituality each recorded 0. The pattern suggests a near-even balance between faith-based and secular identification, with very limited representation from other traditions.

In 2021, Nanton's religious profile was nearly evenly split between Christian residents and those reporting no religion or secular perspectives. Christians numbered 1,020 people, while 1,005 reported no religion. Together, those two groups accounted for almost all residents in the private-household population covered by the census. A small number reported other religions, including 25 people in other religions and spiritual traditions and 10 Jewish residents. The remaining categories were recorded at zero. That pattern points to a community with limited religious diversity and a close balance between affiliation and non-affiliation. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.



Figure 1.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Religion - Christian (Nanton)¹

Family Type

Married couples without children were the largest family type in Nanton at 300 people in 2021, down 14.3% from 2016. Married couples with children fell to 160, while one-parent families rose to 75.

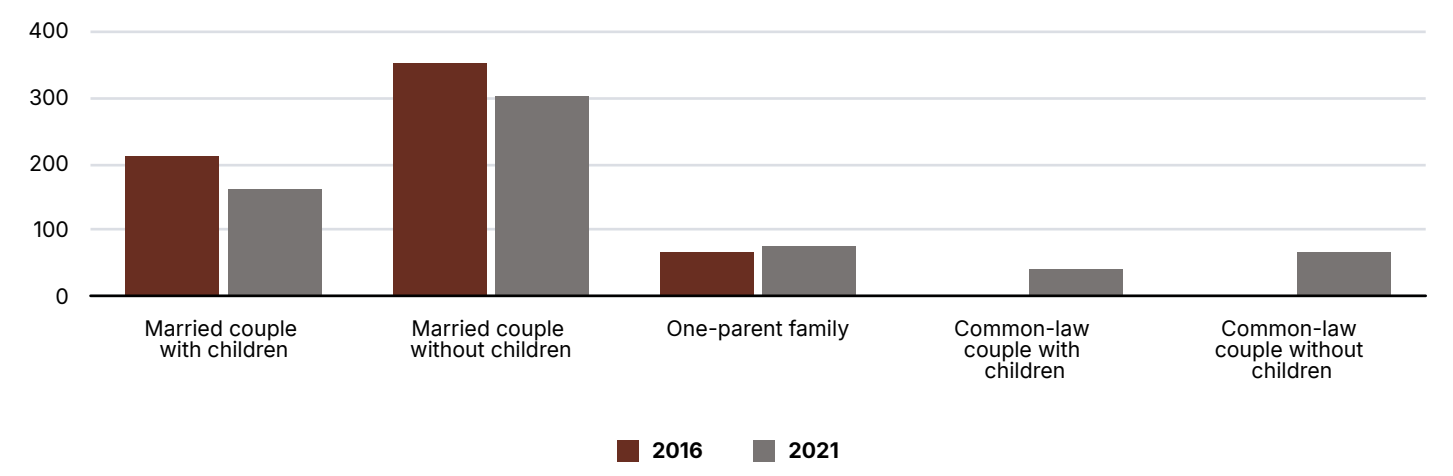


Figure 2.1: Shows the mix of family types, such as couple families and lone-parent families. It helps indicate the structure of family life in the community. (Nanton, 2016-2021)¹

In 2021, Nanton's census families in private households were led by couple families without children, a pattern that points to a family structure weighted toward adult couples rather than larger households. Married couples without children accounted for 300 people, while married couples with children numbered 160. The smaller couple categories were common-law couples without children at 65 people and common-law couples with children at 40. One-parent families totaled 75 people. Over five years, the picture shifted downward for the married-couple categories, with married couples with children falling 23.8% and married couples without children down 14.3%. One-parent families rose 15.4%, suggesting modest rebalancing within the local family mix.



Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Type - Married couple without children (Nanton)¹

Ethnic Origin

English was the largest ethnic origin in Nanton in 2021, at 755 people, nearly unchanged over five years at -0.7%. Norwegian rose to 160 people, the fastest increase, doubling over the period.

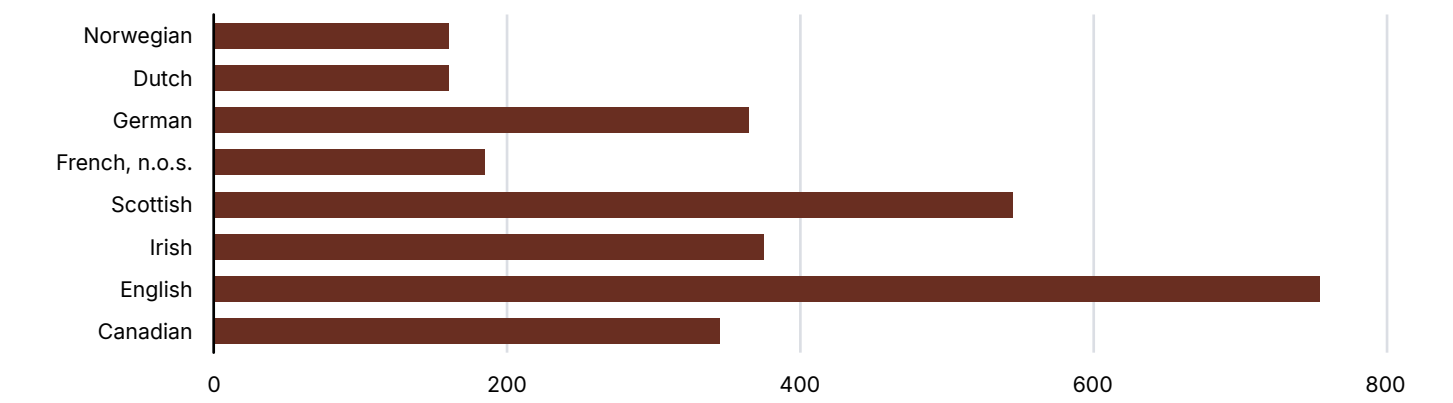


Figure 3.1: Shows the ethnic or cultural origins reported by residents. It helps indicate ancestry patterns and the community's cultural makeup. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In Nanton's 2021 census profile for population in private households, English was the most common reported ethnic origin at 755 people, followed by Scottish at 545 and Irish at 375. Several origins showed declines over five years, including Canadian at 345 people, down 43.4%, Irish down 21.1%, Scottish down 14.8%, and German down 17.1%. Dutch rose 6.7% to 160, while Norwegian doubled to 160. The mix points to a stable but shifting ancestry profile.

In Nanton, ethnic origin in 2021 was led by English, at 755 people, followed by Scottish at 545, Irish at 375, German at 365, and Canadian at 345. Smaller groups included French, n.o.s. at 185 and Dutch and Norwegian at 160 each. The pattern points to a broad mix with a clear English and British Isles presence. Recent change was uneven: Norwegian doubled over five years, while Canadian origin fell 43.4% and Irish declined 21.0%.



Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Ethnic Origin - English (Nanton)¹

Mother Tongue

English remained the largest mother tongue in Nanton at 1,925 people, down 2.5% over five years. Tagalog reached 30 people, rising 50%, while German also totalled 30 and grew 20%.

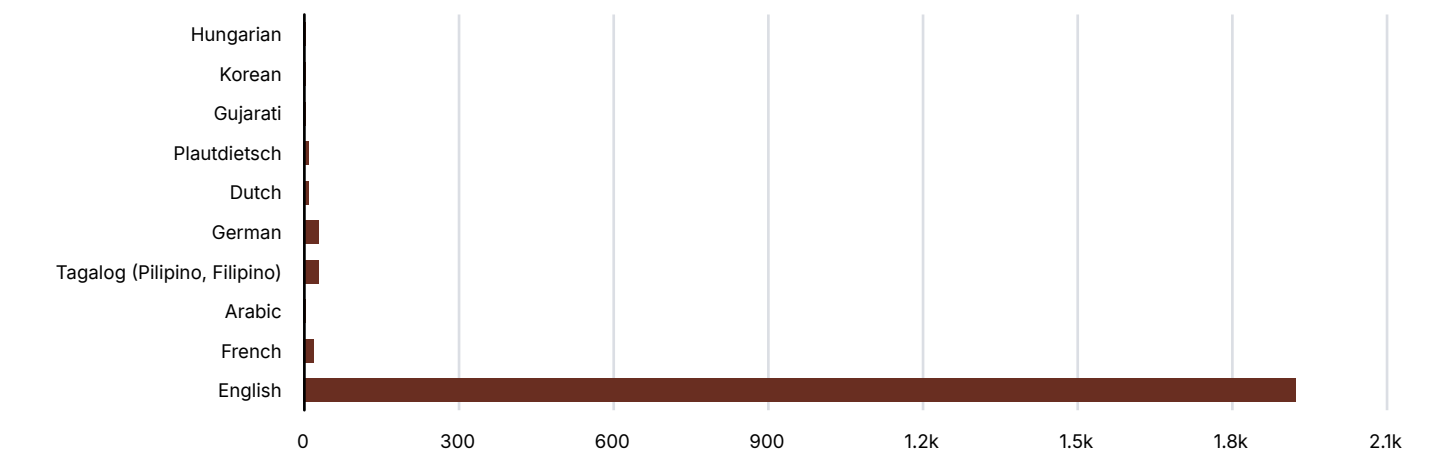
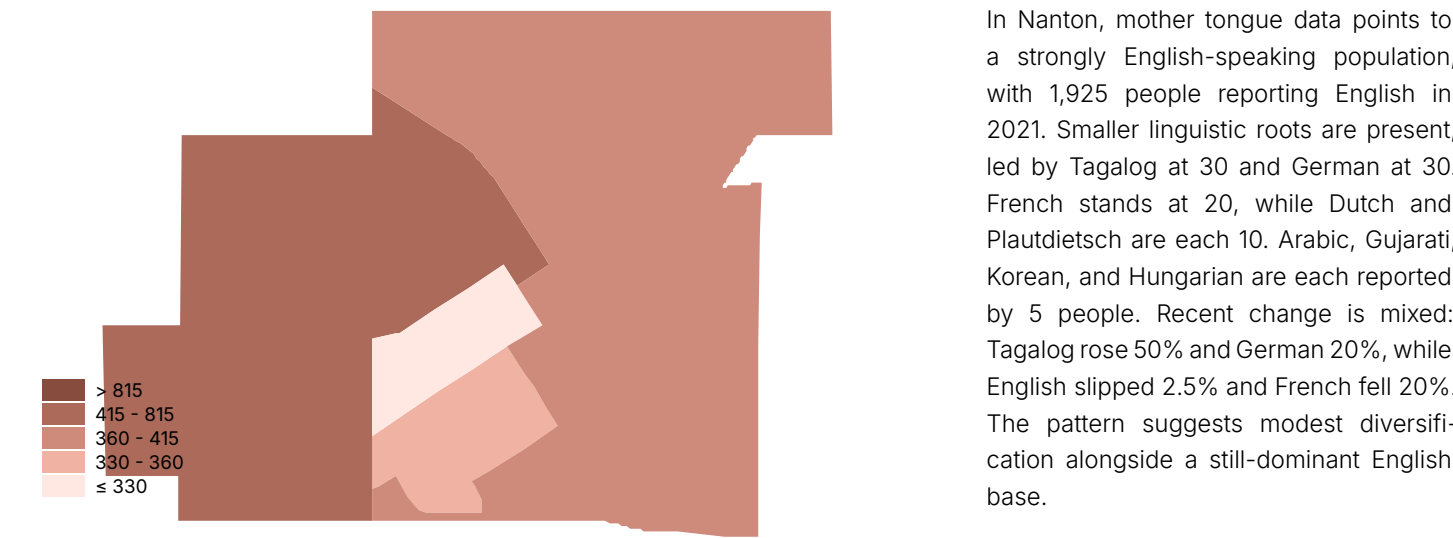


Figure 4.1: Shows the first language learned and still understood by residents. It helps indicate the linguistic roots of the population. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In Nanton, mother tongue is dominated by English, with 1,925 people reporting it in 2021. Smaller language communities follow at a distance: Tagalog, German and Dutch each appear in the data, while French stands at 20 and Arabic, Gujarati, Korean and Hungarian are each listed at 5. The five-year changes point to mixed movement. English declined by 2.5%, French fell by 20%, and Korean dropped by 50%, while Tagalog rose by 50% and German increased by 20%. This suggests a largely stable linguistic profile, with modest shifts among smaller language groups.



In Nanton, mother tongue data points to a strongly English-speaking population, with 1,925 people reporting English in 2021. Smaller linguistic roots are present, led by Tagalog at 30 and German at 30. French stands at 20, while Dutch and Plautdietsch are each 10. Arabic, Gujarati, Korean, and Hungarian are each reported by 5 people. Recent change is mixed: Tagalog rose 50% and German 20%, while English slipped 2.5% and French fell 20%. The pattern suggests modest diversification alongside a still-dominant English base.

Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Language - English (Nanton)¹

Population Density

Nanton's population density was 423.9 people per square kilometre in 2021, down 3.1% over five years. It fell from 437.4 in 2016 and 443.9 in 2011, showing a gradual decline.

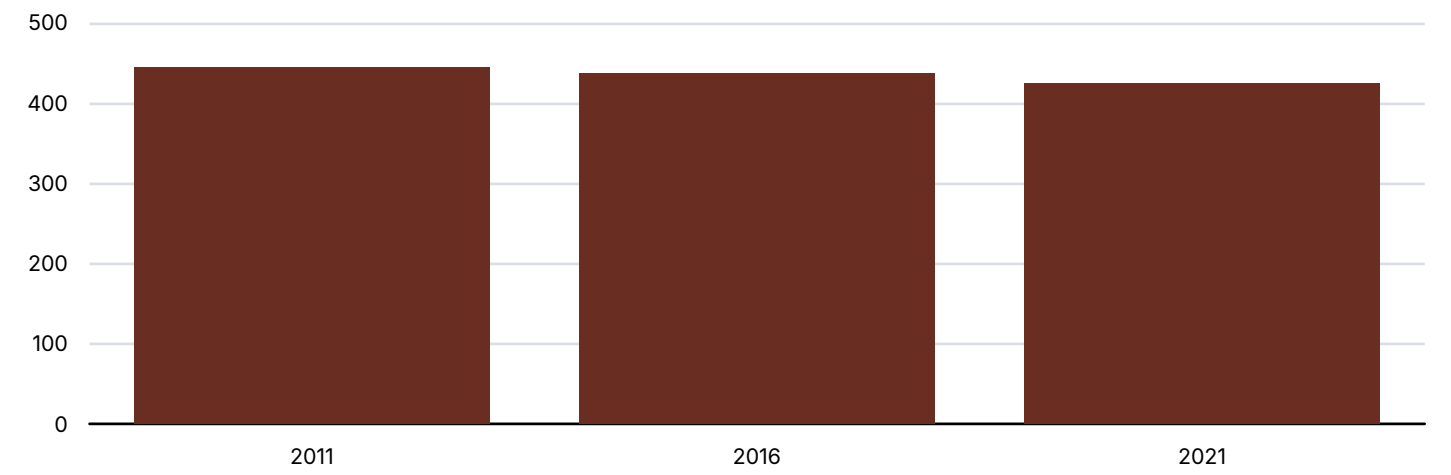
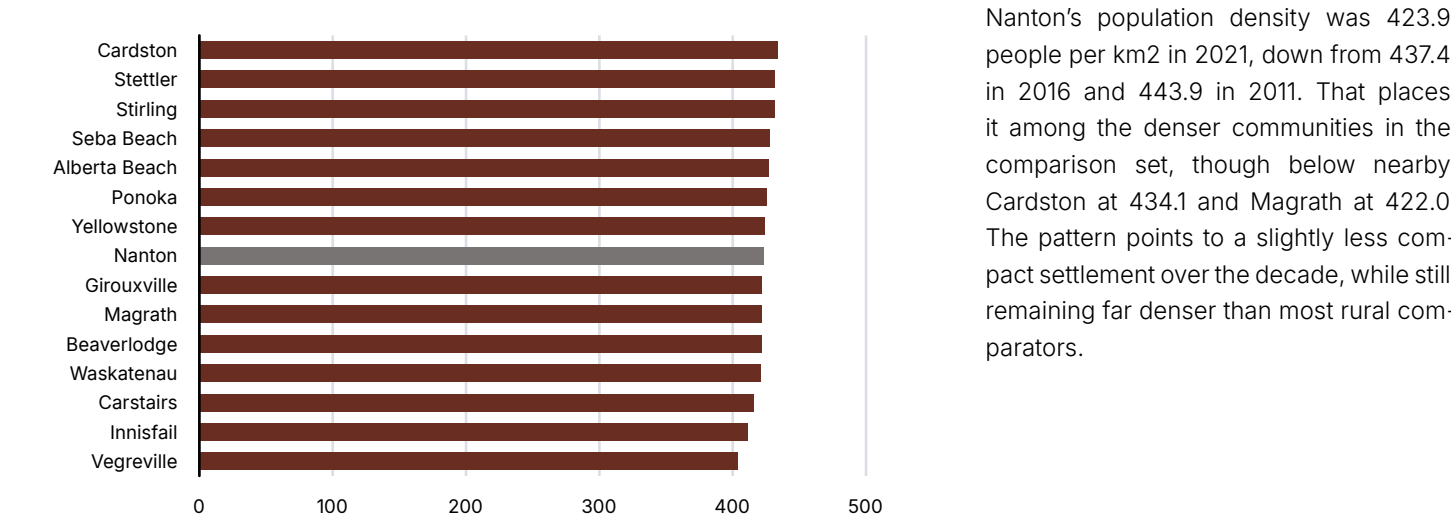


Figure 5.1: Shows how many people live per unit of land area. It helps indicate how compact or spread out the population is. (Nanton, 2011-2021)¹

Nanton's population density has edged down across the last three census points, showing a gradual easing in how tightly residents are concentrated. In 2011, the town recorded 443.9 people per square kilometre, falling to 437.4 in 2016 and 423.9 in 2021. The decline has been modest but steady. From 2011 to 2016, density slipped by 1.5%, then fell a further 3.1% over the next five years. Taken together, the figures point to a town that has become slightly less compact over time rather than denser. The 2021 level remains above the 2011 figure, but the recent direction is downward. For a density measure, that pattern suggests a slow spread in population relative to land area.



Nanton's population density was 423.9 people per km2 in 2021, down from 437.4 in 2016 and 443.9 in 2011. That places it among the denser communities in the comparison set, though below nearby Cardston at 434.1 and Magrath at 422.0. The pattern points to a slightly less compact settlement over the decade, while still remaining far denser than most rural comparators.

Figure 5.2: Comparison of Population Density with other locations (Nanton, 2021)¹

Highest Education Level

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

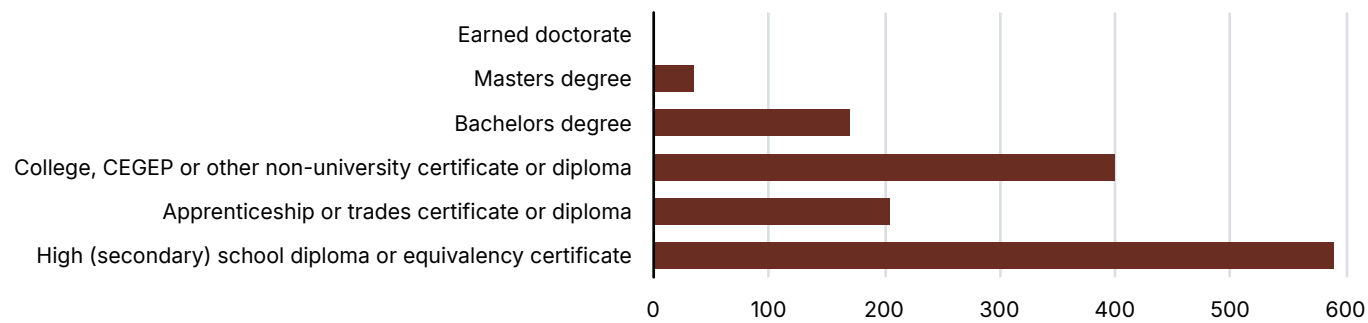


Figure 6.1: Shows the highest level of education completed by residents. It helps indicate the overall educational profile of the population. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In Nanton, the 2021 education profile for residents aged 15 and over in private households was led by high school completion and college-level credentials. High school diplomas numbered 590, while college, CEGEP or other non-university certificates or diplomas reached 400. Smaller groups included 205 with an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma, 170 with a bachelor’s degree, and 35 with a master’s degree. The 5-year changes were positive across the categories with reported change: high school diplomas rose 71.0%, college credentials 73.9%, apprenticeships or trades 17.1%, bachelor’s degrees 41.7%, and master’s degrees 250.0%. Earned doctorates were recorded at zero.

In Nanton, the educational profile of residents age 15 and over is led by high school and college credentials. In 2021, 590 people had a high school diploma or equivalency and 400 had a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma. Apprenticeship or trades certificates accounted for 205 people, while 170 held a bachelor’s degree. Graduate credentials were limited, with 35 master’s degrees and no earned doctorates. The pattern points to a broad middle of non-university attainment.



Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Nanton)¹

Household Type

In Nanton, couple-family households without children were the largest group in 2021 at 360 households, up 5.9% since 2016. One-person households were close behind at 280, while couple-family households with children fell to 180.

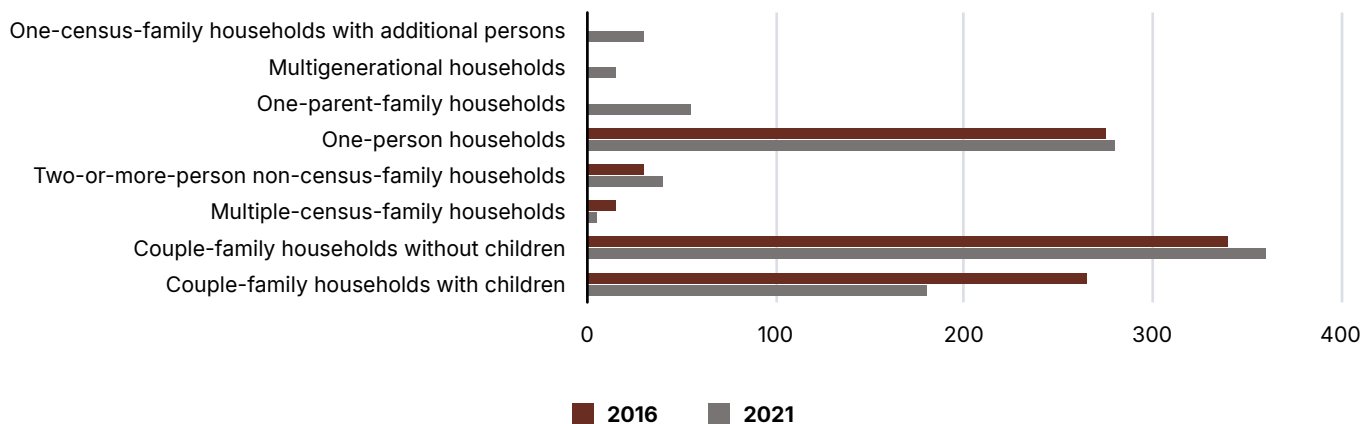


Figure 7.1: Shows the mix of household types, including one-person, family, and non-family households. It helps indicate how residents are organized across living arrangements. (Nanton, 2016-2021)¹

In 2021, Nanton's private households were most heavily concentrated in a few common living arrangements, with couple-family households without children and one-person households standing out. The mix suggests a community where family and solo living both play important roles. Couple-family households without children numbered 360, compared with 180 couple-family households with children. One-person households totaled 280. Over five years, couple-family households without children rose 5.9%, while one-person households increased 1.8%. By contrast, couple-family households with children fell 32.1%, and multiple-census-family households declined 66.7%. Two-or-more-person non-census-family households increased 33.3%. The pattern points to a shift toward smaller household forms and fewer child-rearing or extended-family arrangements in the town's 2021 household structure.



Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Type - Couple-family households without children (Nanton)¹

In Nanton, private households in 2021 were led by couple-family households without children, at 360 households, followed by one-person households at 280 and couple-family households with children at 180. Smaller categories included one-parent-family households at 55 and two-or-more-person non-census-family households at 40. The mix suggests a settlement where family households remain important, but smaller household forms also make up a clear part of the pattern. Over five years, households with children fell while one-person and child-less couple households grew.

Average Shelter Costs

In Nanton, average monthly shelter costs were higher for owners than renters in 2021, at \$1,196 versus \$1,130. Over five years, owner costs rose 5.6%, while renter costs increased 16.7%.

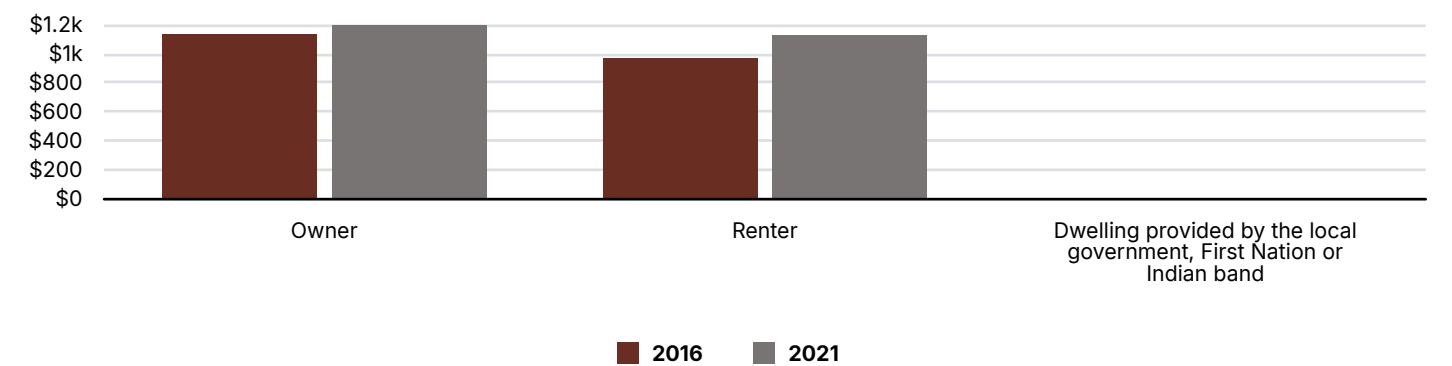


Figure 8.1: Shows the average monthly shelter costs paid by households. It helps indicate typical housing expenses faced by owners and renters. (Nanton, 2016-2021)¹

In 2021, average monthly shelter costs in Nanton were \$1,196 for owner households and \$1,130 for renters, both within the same general range. Owner costs were higher, but renters saw the sharper five-year increase at 16.7 percent, compared with 5.6 percent for owners. The category for dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band was recorded at \$0. These figures point to moderate but rising shelter costs, with rent increasing faster than owner expenses.

In Nanton, average monthly shelter costs in 2021 were slightly higher for owners than renters. For owner households, the average was \$1,196, while renter households paid \$1,130. Households in dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band recorded \$0. The 5-year change was modest for owners at 5.6%, but stronger for renters at 16.7%. Among the nearby areas shown, Nanton sits in the middle of the range: higher than some owner and renter averages, but below the highest figures. That mix suggests shelter costs are not uniform across tenures, with renters experiencing faster recent increases than owners.



Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Housing Tenure - Owner (Nanton)¹

Housing Tenure

Owner households remained the largest tenure group in Nanton at 765 in 2021, up 2.7% from 2016. Renter households also rose, reaching 185 and increasing 5.7% over the same period.

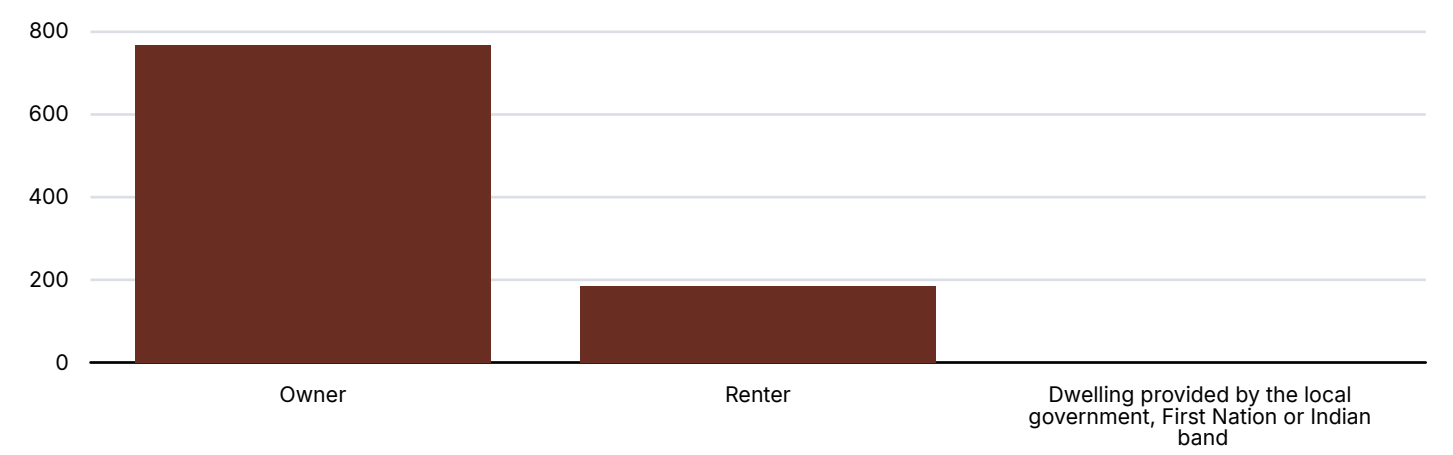
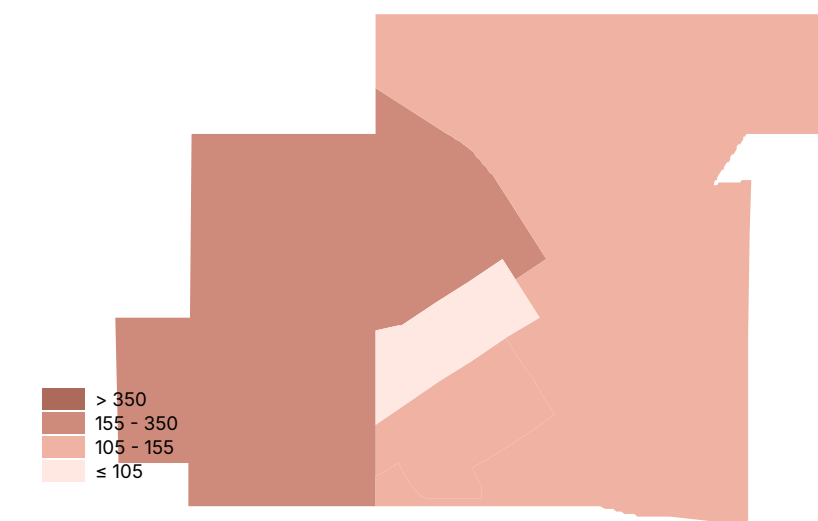


Figure 9.1: Shows whether households own or rent their homes. It helps indicate the balance between ownership and rental housing in the community. (Nanton, 2021)¹

Nanton's housing tenure profile in 2021 was clearly owner-oriented, with owner households far outnumbering renter households. The census counted 765 owner households and 185 renter households in private households. Change over five years was positive for both tenure types. Owner households were up 2.7%, while renter households increased more quickly, at 5.7%. The third tenure category, dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band, was recorded at zero households. That leaves the town's housing stock concentrated in the two main tenure types. The pattern suggests a stable ownership base with some recent growth in renting, but ownership remained the dominant form of housing tenure.



In Nanton, housing tenure is strongly tilted toward ownership. In 2021, 765 private households owned their homes, compared with 185 renter households. No households were reported in dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band. Ownership also grew modestly over five years, up 2.7%, while renting rose faster, at 5.7%. That points to a housing mix that remains owner-heavy, even as the rental side expanded. The pattern suggests a community where owning is the dominant tenure, but rental housing has been gaining some ground.

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

Household Total Income Groups

In 2021, households in the \$125,000 to \$149,999 group were the largest at 80, while \$5,000 to \$9,999 doubled to 10, the fastest five-year increase.

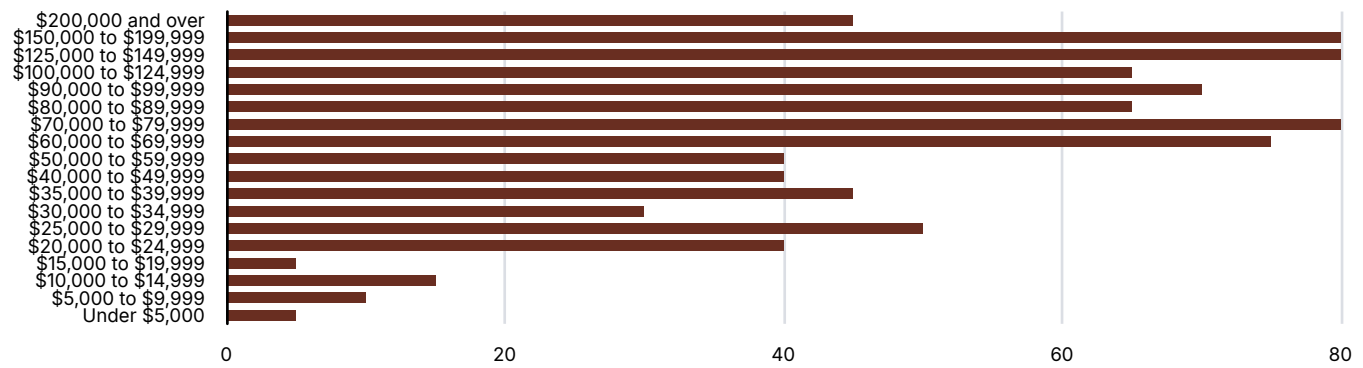


Figure 10.1: Shows households across total income groups. It helps indicate how household incomes are distributed from lower- to higher-income ranges. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In 2021, Nanton’s household income profile was spread across many bands rather than concentrated in one range. The largest counts were in the \$70,000 to \$79,999, \$125,000 to \$149,999, and \$150,000 to \$199,999 groups, each with 80 households, while \$25,000 to \$29,999 had 50. Several middle and higher brackets also showed increases over five years.

Nanton’s household income distribution in 2021 was spread across the middle and upper bands, with the largest counts in the \$25,000 to \$29,999, \$70,000 to \$79,999, \$125,000 to \$149,999, and \$150,000 to \$199,999 groups, each at 80 households or fewer. The smallest groups were the under \$5,000 and \$15,000 to \$19,999 bands, at 5 households each. Recent change was mixed. The \$5,000 to \$9,999 group doubled, while \$15,000 to \$19,999 fell by 83.3%. Higher-income groups generally strengthened, including gains of 44.4% in the \$100,000 to \$124,999 band and 33.3% in both \$125,000 to \$149,999 and \$150,000 to \$199,999 bands.



Figure 10.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Income Group Household - \$60,000 to \$69,999 (Nanton)¹

High School Completion

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

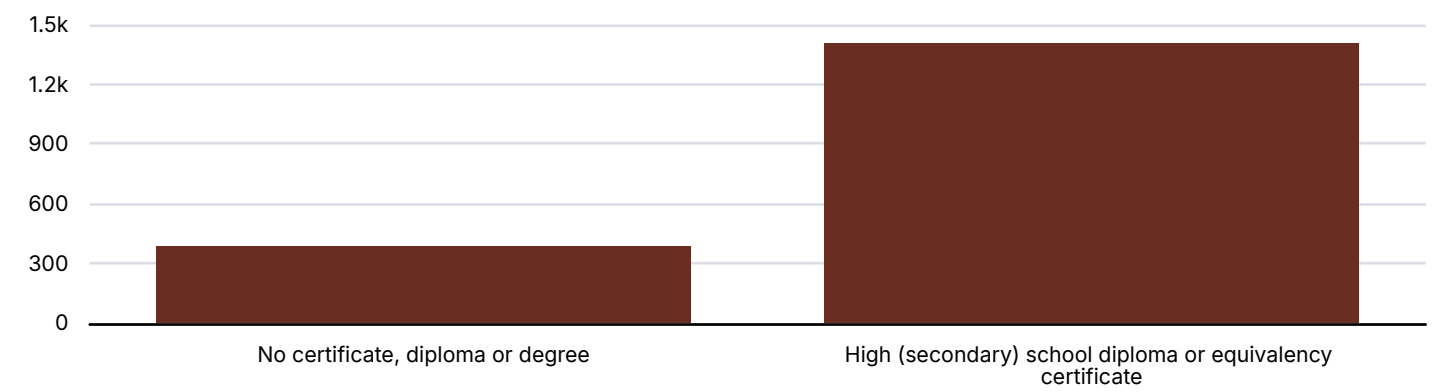


Figure 11.1: Shows whether residents have completed high school or an equivalent credential. It helps indicate a basic foundation for workforce participation and further study. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In 2021, Nanton's high school completion profile for السكان aged 15 years and over in private households shows more residents with a secondary credential than without one. The town had 1,405 people with a high school diploma or equivalency certificate and 385 with no certificate, diploma, or degree. That is the clearest pattern in the data available: a larger credentialed group, with the figures presented for a single year rather than a time trend. No comparative benchmark is provided, so the picture remains limited to Nanton's own 2021 distribution.

In Nanton, high school completion is the dominant educational outcome among residents aged 15 and over in private households. In 2021, 1,405 people had a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, compared with 385 who had no certificate, diploma or degree. That puts completion at 78.5% of the two reported categories. Among the smaller area breakdowns, the counts also tilt toward diploma holders, ranging from 205 to 630 with no-certificate counts of 60 to 150.



Figure 11.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Nanton)¹

Core Housing Need

In Nanton, most households were not in core housing need in 2021, with 815 households outside core need compared with 110 in core need. That split shows far more households in the lower-stress category.

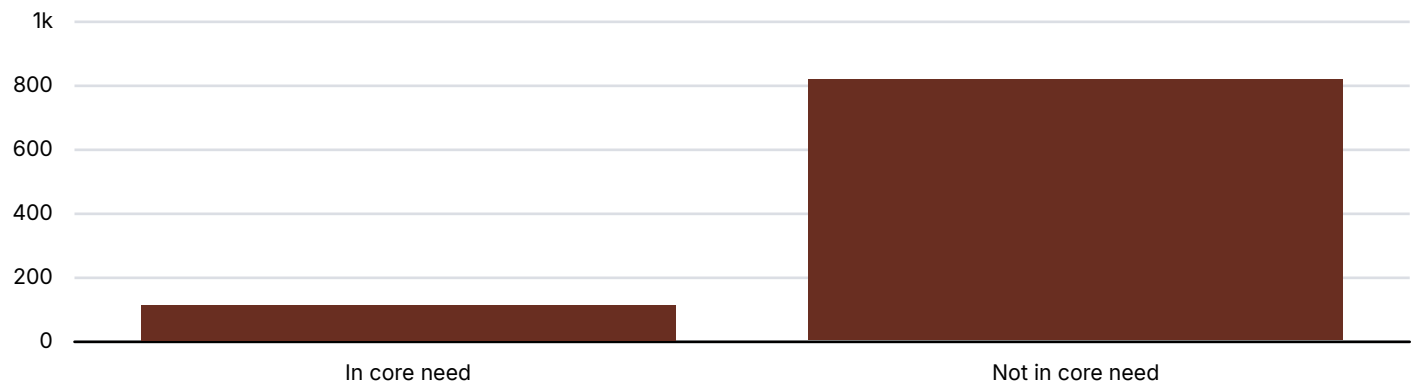


Figure 12.1: Shows the share of households living in housing that is unaffordable, unsuitable, or in need of major repairs. It helps indicate overall housing stress in the community. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In 2021, core housing need in Nanton was limited to a minority of households, with 110 households in core need and 815 not in core need. That means roughly 11.9% of the households in scope were facing housing that was unaffordable, unsuitable, or in need of major repairs, while about 88.1% were not. The figures describe the housing situation for owner and tenant households with income above zero in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings. The pattern points to some housing stress, but not a dominant one across the community.

In Nanton, core housing need affected 110 households in 2021, compared with 815 households that were not in core need. Within the town's dissemination areas, the counts ranged from 15 to 45 households in core need, while households not in core need ranged from 140 to 355. The pattern suggests housing stress was present but unevenly distributed across smaller areas. Because the data are limited to household counts, it does not show why the need was higher in some places than others.



Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Core Housing Need - Not in core need (Nanton)¹

Median Age

Nanton's median age was 52.8 years in 2021, up slightly from 52.7 in 2016 and 49.4 in 2011. The five-year increase was 0.2%, while the 2011 to 2021 rise was 3.4%.

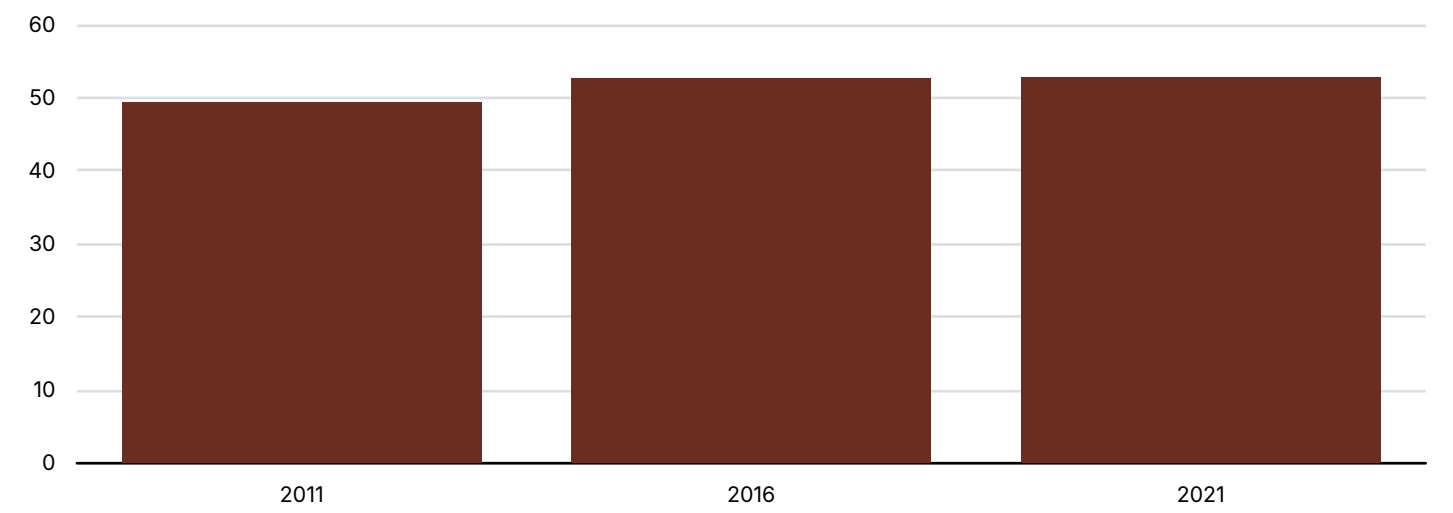
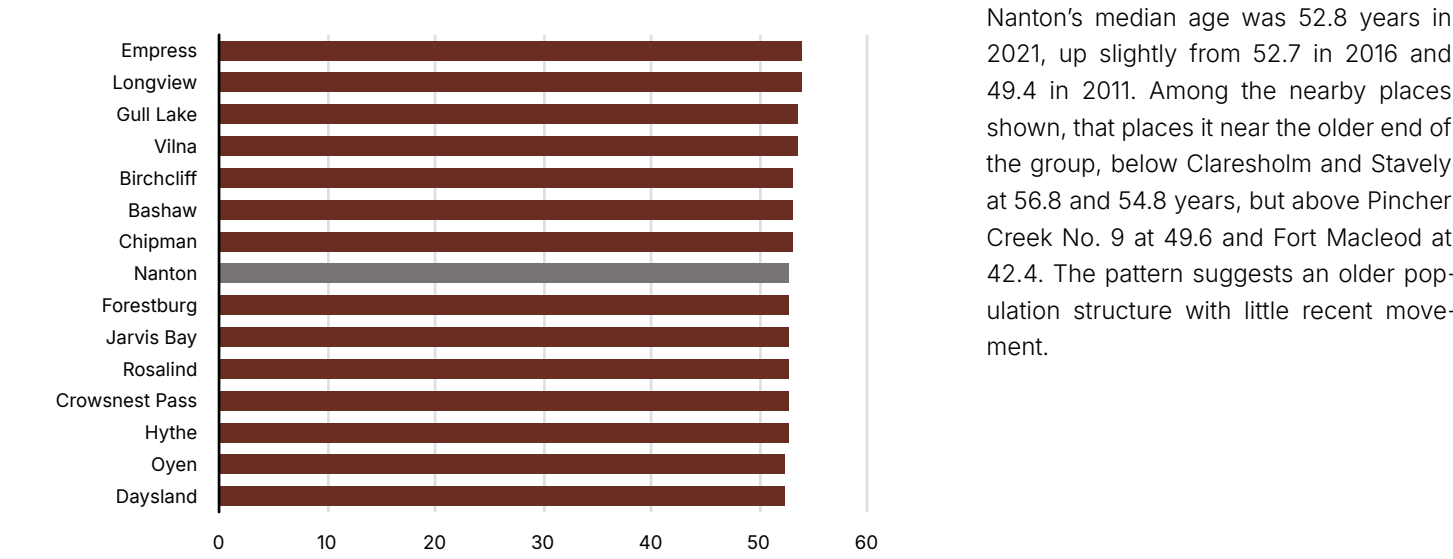


Figure 13.1: Shows the median age of residents. It helps indicate whether the population skews younger or older at the midpoint of the age distribution. (Nanton, 2011-2021)¹

Nanton's median age has trended upward, pointing to an older population midpoint over time. In 2011, the median age was 49.4 years. By 2016, it had climbed to 52.7 years, a 6.7% increase over the previous five years. The upward movement then slowed sharply, reaching 52.8 years in 2021, just 0.2% higher than in 2016. The pattern shows a clear rise followed by relative stability rather than continued rapid aging. For the total population, the town's median age remained in the low 50s across the 2016 to 2021 period.



Nanton's median age was 52.8 years in 2021, up slightly from 52.7 in 2016 and 49.4 in 2011. Among the nearby places shown, that places it near the older end of the group, below Claresholm and Stavely at 56.8 and 54.8 years, but above Pincher Creek No. 9 at 49.6 and Fort Macleod at 42.4. The pattern suggests an older population structure with little recent movement.

Figure 13.2: Comparison of Median Age with other locations (Nanton, 2021)¹

Age at Immigration

In Nanton, immigrants were still most often 25 to 44 years old in 2021, with 80 people, though this fell 23.8% from 2016. The under-5 group doubled to 30, while 5 to 14 years rose to 65.

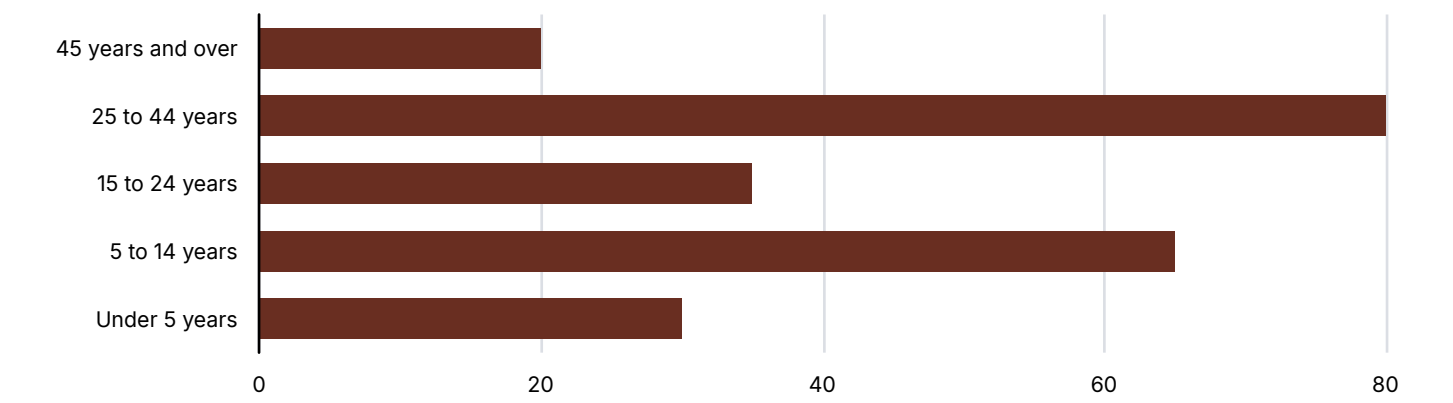


Figure 14.1: Shows the age at which immigrants first arrived in the country. It helps explain whether newcomers arrived mainly as children, working-age adults, or older adults. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In 2021, Nanton’s immigrant population in private households was concentrated in working-age arrivals, led by 25 to 44 years at 80 people and 5 to 14 years at 65. Smaller groups arrived under 5 years, at 30 people, and at 45 years and over, at 20. The 5-year change shows growth among children, with under 5 years up 100% and 5 to 14 years up 44.4%, while 15 to 24 years fell 36.4% and 25 to 44 years declined 23.8%.

In Nanton, the immigrant population in private households was concentrated in childhood and early adulthood in 2021. The largest group arrived at ages 25 to 44, with 80 people, followed by 65 who arrived at 5 to 14 years and 35 at 15 to 24 years. Another 30 came under age 5, while 20 arrived at 45 years and over. The 5-year change was strongest for those arriving under age 5, up 100%, while the 25 to 44 group fell 23.8% and the 15 to 24 group declined 36.4%.



Figure 14.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Age At Immigration - 25 to 44 years (Nanton)¹

Immigrant Status

Non-immigrants remained the largest group in Nanton at 1,870 in 2021, up 3.6% from 2016. Immigrants numbered 220, while non-permanent residents fell to 10, down 60% over five years.

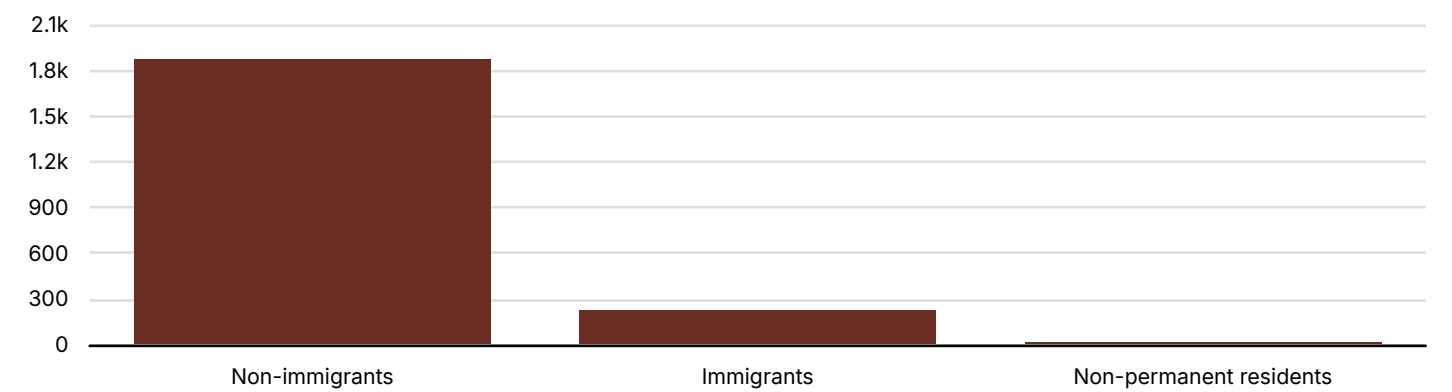


Figure 15.1: Shows whether residents are immigrants, non-permanent residents, or non-immigrants. It helps indicate the role of immigration in community growth and composition. (Nanton, 2021)¹

In Nanton, the 2021 picture of immigrant status is still dominated by non-immigrants. The town counted 1,870 non-immigrants, compared with 220 immigrants and 10 non-permanent residents in the population in private households. Over five years, all three groups changed, but not in the same direction: non-immigrants rose 3.6%, immigrants increased 2.3%, and non-permanent residents fell 60.0%. The pattern suggests a stable population base with a small immigrant share and a sharp drop in temporary residents.

In 2021, Nanton’s population in private households was made up mainly of non-immigrants, with 1,870 people in that category. Immigrants numbered 220, while non-permanent residents were a very small group at 10 people. Over five years, non-immigrants rose by 3.6%, and immigrants increased by 2.3%, while non-permanent residents fell by 60%. Among the nearby dissemination areas, immigrant counts ranged from 25 to 120, placing Nanton toward the higher end for this small-area pattern.



Figure 15.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Immigrant Status - Non-immigrants (Nanton)¹

Data Sources

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

Legal Notice and Disclaimer

This publication was created using the **Localintel Platform** and may include proprietary data, templates, and visualization elements licensed through it. This publication is provided for general informational purposes only. Localintel does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy, or suitability of this information for any particular purpose. No reuse, redistribution, or extraction of source data except as expressly permitted. Use of this publication is subject to applicable terms of use and restrictions available at localintel.com/terms.