

ALBERTA
SOUTHWEST

WILLOW CREEK NO. 26

Community Overview

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Executive Summary

Willow Creek No. 26 presents the profile of a sparsely populated rural municipality that has grown modestly in recent years while keeping much of its underlying character intact. Its population recovered from an earlier decline, rose more clearly after 2016, and then settled into only slight recent change, reaching 6,225 in 2025, still just below its 2021 high. Within that stable overall size, the population in private households grew more noticeably between 2016 and 2021. The area also continued to age gradually rather than abruptly: the median age edged up to 41.6, and growth was strongest in several older age groups, even as children remained a visible part of the age structure. At the same time, the district remained very lightly settled, with a density of 1.4 people per square kilometre in 2021.

The social and housing profile is strongly rooted in long-established household patterns. Non-immigrants make up most of the population and increased over the period, while the immigrant population was smaller and declined. English remains the dominant mother tongue, with German also prominent, and the visible minority population is limited in size and concentrated in only a few groups. Households are still led by couples, especially couples without children, but recent growth has been strongest among one-person households, pointing to a broader mix of living arrangements than the family-centred structure alone would suggest. Housing follows the same pattern of continuity: it is overwhelmingly single-detached, strongly owner-occupied, and low density in form. Although median dwelling values fell between 2016 and 2021, values remained near the upper end of the local comparison set, while shelter costs rose for both owners and renters.

The local economy and workforce are shaped most clearly by agriculture and related activity. Employment by sector remains concentrated in primary industries and closely connected fields, with only a limited service-sector presence. Occupations show the same emphasis, with natural resources, agriculture, trades, and equipment-related work accounting for much of the employed population. Educational attainment is centered on high school, college, and trades credentials rather than university degrees. Household incomes are spread across a wide range but are concentrated in middle to upper-middle brackets. Against that backdrop, the employment rate softened from 2016 to 2021, leaving Willow Creek No. 26 with a picture of steady rural continuity marked by modest growth, gradual aging, and a durable agricultural base.

Median Age

Willow Creek No. 26's median age was 41.6 years in 2021, up from 41.1 in 2016 and 39.6 in 2011. The five-year change slowed to 1.22%, compared with 3.79% previously.

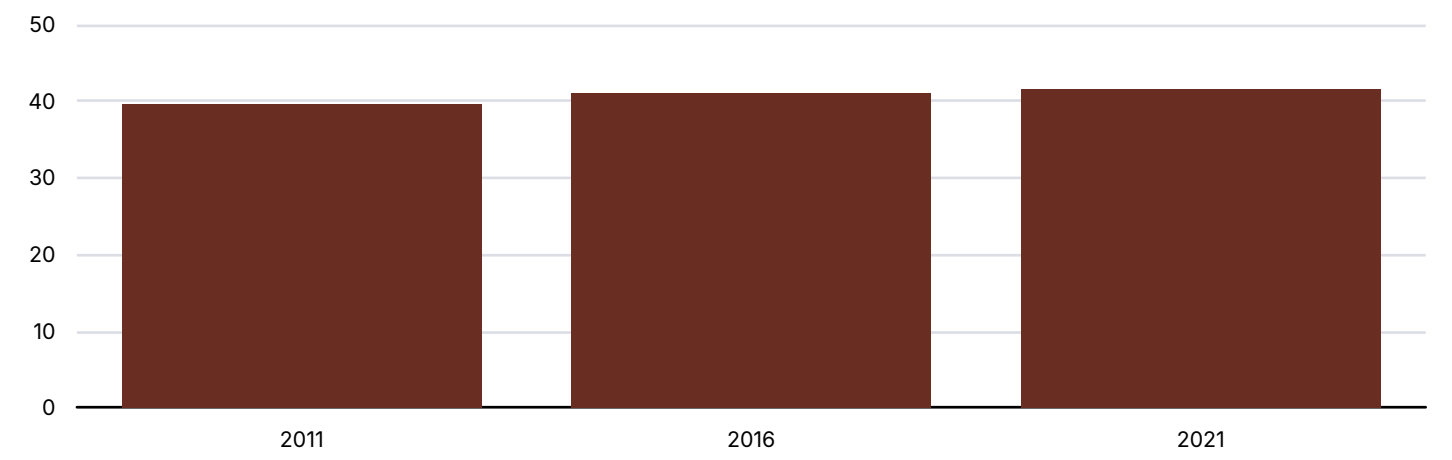


Figure 1.1: Shows the median age of residents. It helps indicate whether the population skews younger or older at the midpoint of the age distribution. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2011-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26 had a median age of 41.6 years in 2021, placing the midpoint of its population in the early forties. That was up from 41.1 years in 2016 and 39.6 years in 2011, showing a steady aging trend over the decade. The increase was modest but continuous, with a 3.8% rise from 2011 to 2016 and another 1.2% gain by 2021. The pattern suggests gradual population aging rather than a sharp shift.

Willow Creek No. 26 had a median age of 41.6 years in 2021, placing it in the middle of the local comparison group. Its median age rose from 39.6 in 2011 to 41.1 in 2016 and then edged up again over the next five years. That pattern is close to Fort Macleod at 42.4 years, but younger than Nanton at 52.8 and older than Cardston County at 36.4. The data points to a moderately mature population profile.

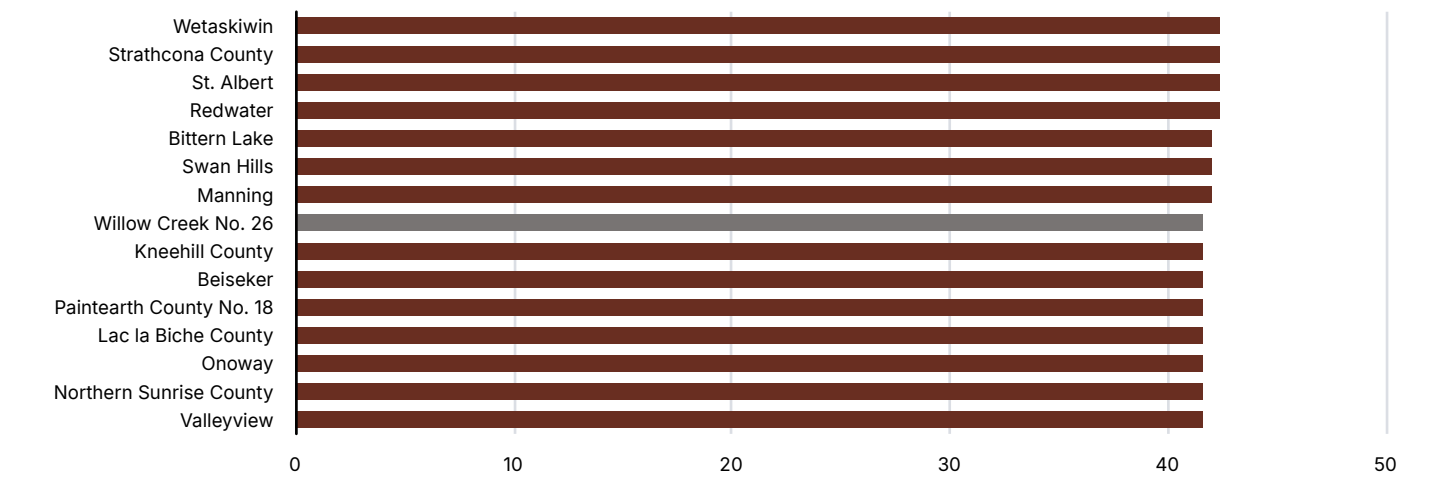


Figure 1.2: Comparison of Median Age with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Immigrant Status

Non-immigrants remained the largest group in Willow Creek No. 26, rising to 4,520 people in 2021, up 16.95% from 2016. Immigrants fell to 390, while non-permanent residents increased to 15.

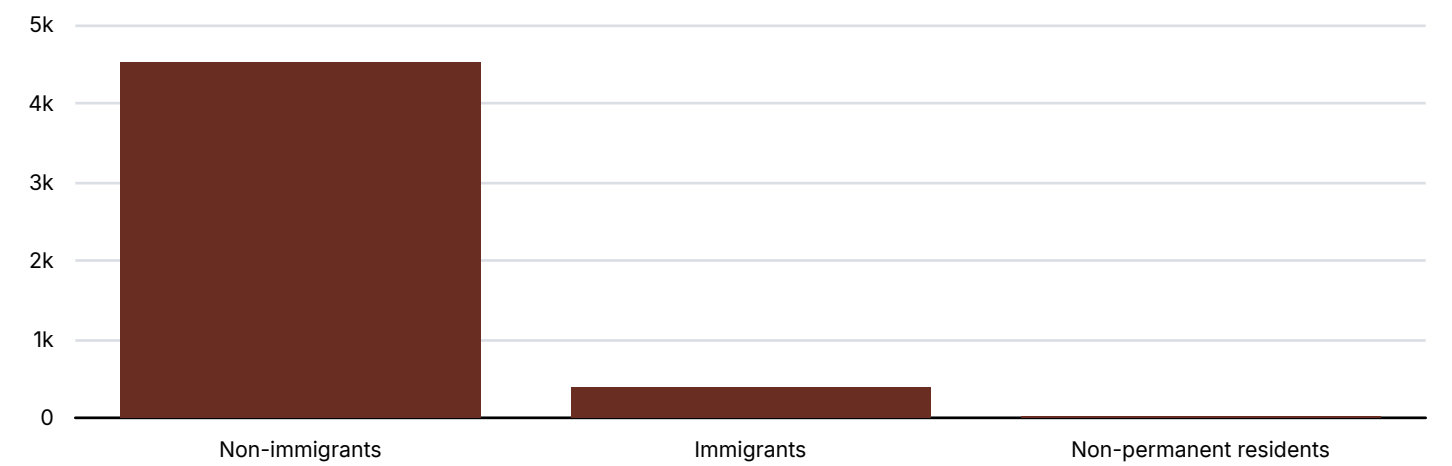
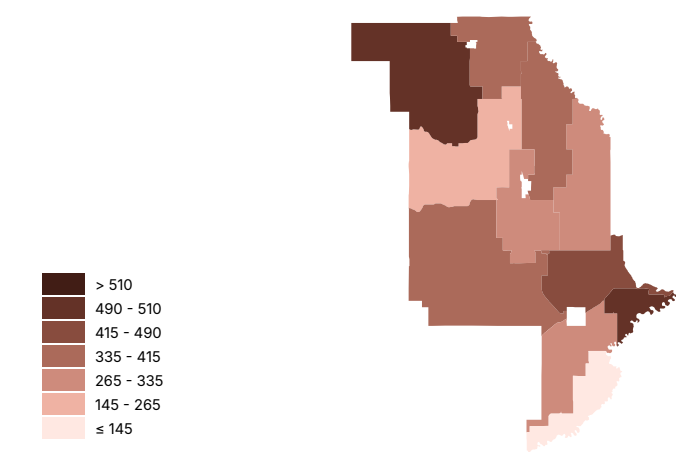


Figure 2.1: Shows whether residents are immigrants, non-permanent residents, or non-immigrants. It helps indicate the role of immigration in community growth and composition. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In Willow Creek No. 26, the 2021 immigrant-status profile was dominated by non-immigrants, who numbered 4,520 people and rose 16.9% over five years. Immigrants accounted for 390 residents, but that group declined 25.7% in the same period. Non-permanent residents were a small segment at 15 people, though they increased 50%. The pattern points to a community where the non-immigrant population is expanding, while the immigrant population is smaller and has recently contracted. Non-permanent residents remain present but limited in scale.



In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 was dominated by non-immigrants in the population living in private households, with 4,520 people. Immigrants accounted for 390 people, while non-permanent residents numbered 15. The 5-year change shows a mixed pattern: non-immigrants were up 17.0%, while immigrants fell 25.7%. Non-permanent residents rose from a very small base, increasing 50%. That points to a community where the resident base remained strongly rooted in non-immigrant population, with a smaller immigrant share and limited temporary-resident presence.

Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Immigrant Status - Non-immigrants (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Total Population

Willow Creek No. 26 had 6,225 people in 2025. The population was 0.8% above 2024 and 0.8% above five years earlier, after rising from 5,931 in 2001.

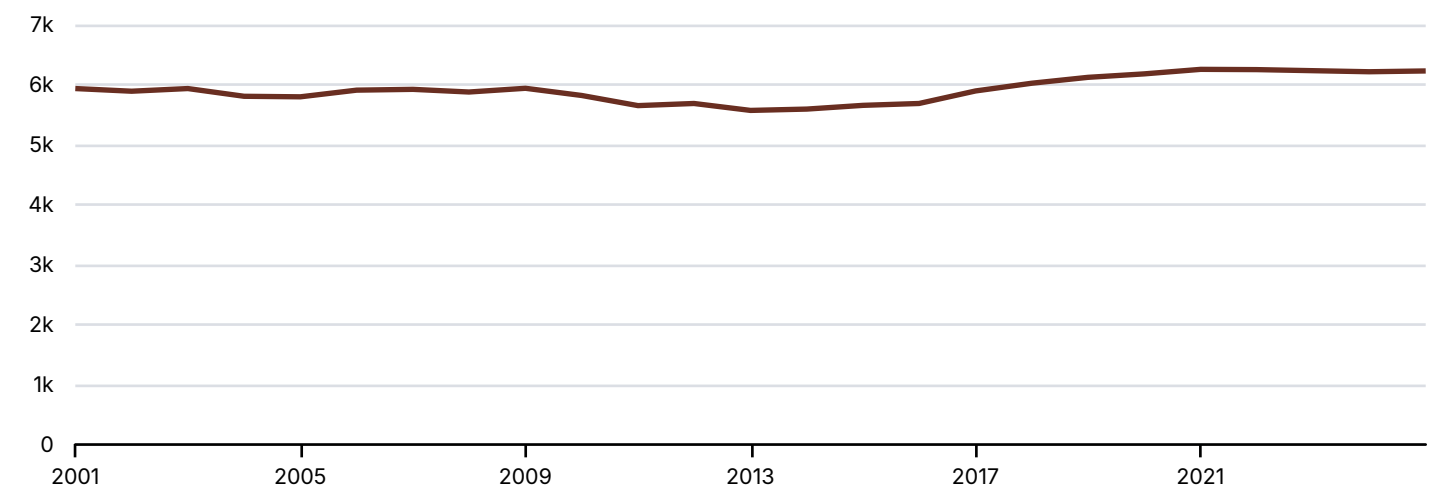
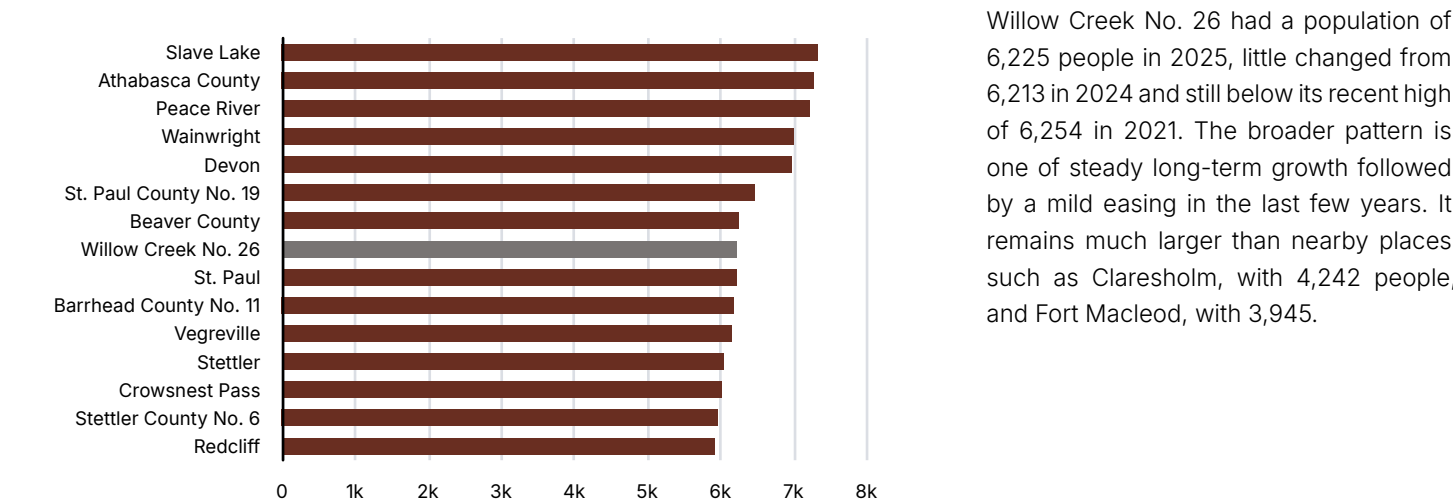


Figure 3.1: Shows the total number of people living in the area. It provides the basic population benchmark used across many other indicators. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2001-2025)²

Willow Creek No. 26’s total population has been fairly steady over the long run, but the pattern shifts from early declines to a clearer rise after 2016. The series starts at 5,931 people in 2001 and ends at 6,225 in 2025, with the most recent years showing slower movement. Population fell to 5,591 in 2014, then climbed to 6,254 in 2021. Since that peak, it has edged down to 6,213 in 2024 before a small rebound in 2025. The 5-year change figures reinforce that shift, moving from -5.8% in 2014 to 10.1% in 2021, then easing to 0.8% in 2025. The data points to a community that recovered from a mid-period dip and then settled into modest recent growth.



Willow Creek No. 26 had a population of 6,225 people in 2025, little changed from 6,213 in 2024 and still below its recent high of 6,254 in 2021. The broader pattern is one of steady long-term growth followed by a mild easing in the last few years. It remains much larger than nearby places such as Claresholm, with 4,242 people, and Fort Macleod, with 3,945.

Figure 3.2: Comparison of Total Population with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2025)²

Median Dwelling Value

Willow Creek No. 26's median dwelling value fell to \$360,000 in 2021, down 10.1% from 2016. That compares with \$400,490 five years earlier, showing a decline of \$40,490.

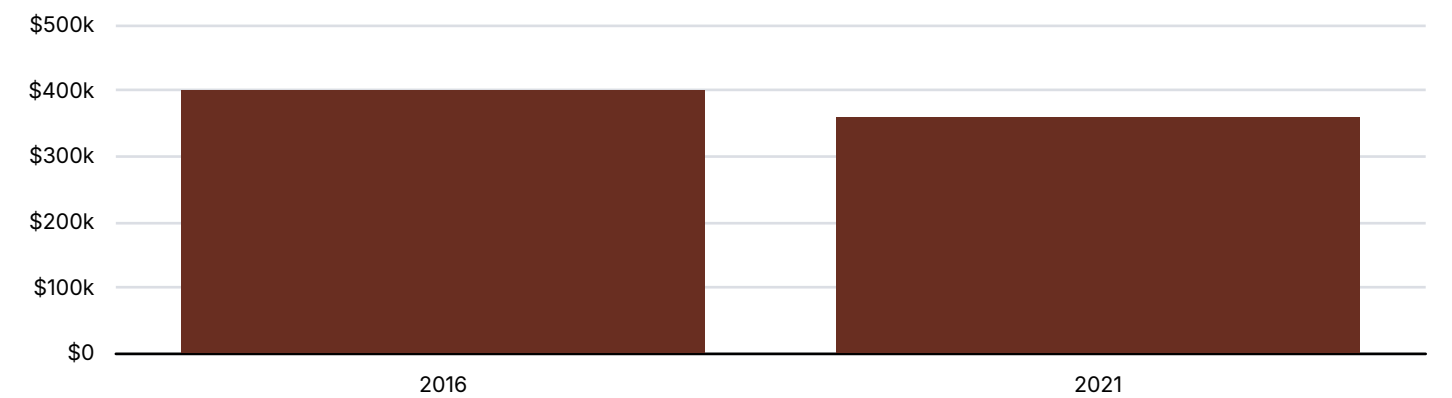


Figure 4.1: Shows the median value of residential dwellings. It helps indicate the typical price point in the local ownership housing market. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2016-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26's median dwelling value, measured for owner households in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings, declined over the five-year period shown. In 2016, the median was \$400,490; by 2021, it had fallen to \$360,000. That change represents a 10.1% decrease. The data points to a lower typical ownership housing value in 2021 than in 2016, with no other local trend measures provided. With only two vintages available, the main pattern is the downward shift in median value rather than a longer sequence of movement. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

Willow Creek No. 26 recorded a median dwelling value of \$360,000 in 2021 for owner households in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings. That was down 10.1% from \$400,490 in 2016. The figure sat above Cardston County's \$348,000 and well above Nanton's \$300,000, Claresholm's and Glenwood's \$250,000, and Fort Macleod's \$240,000. It remained below Pincher Creek No. 9 at \$400,000, placing Willow Creek No. 26 near the upper end of this local comparison set.

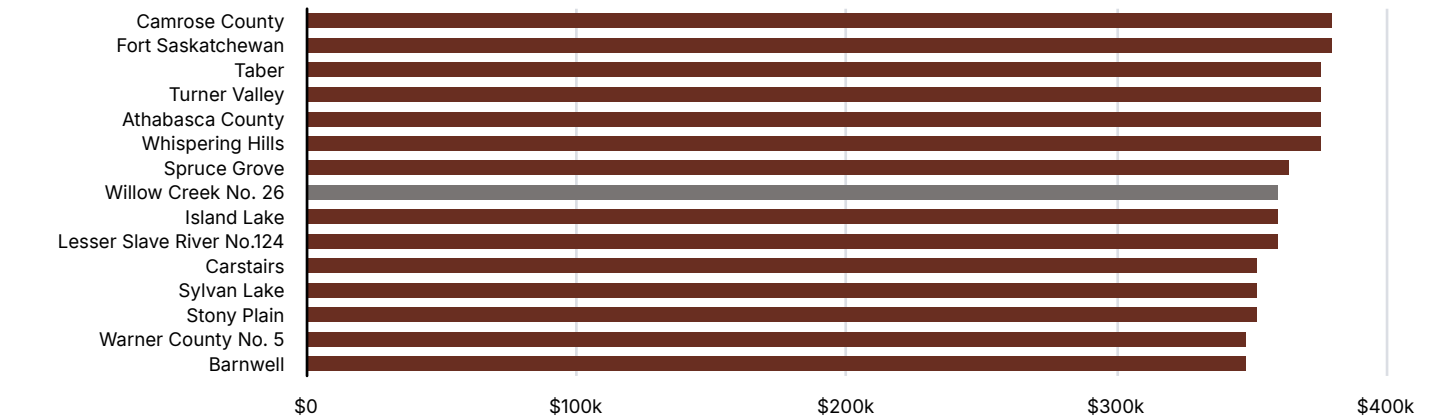


Figure 4.2: Comparison of Median Dwelling Value with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Household Type

Couple-family households without children were the largest group in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2021, at 735 households, up 10.5% from 2016. One-person households followed at 410, rising 20.6%.

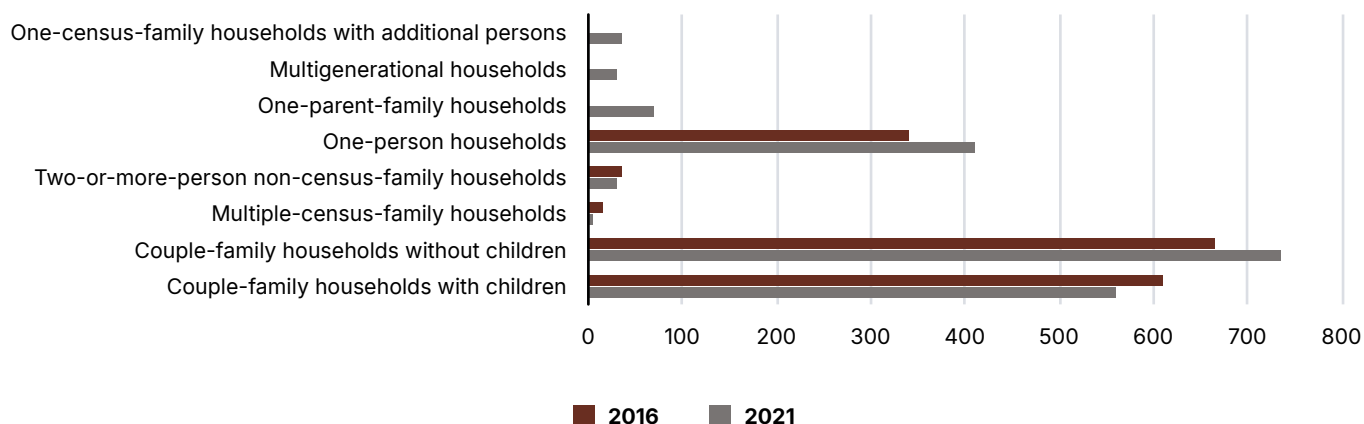


Figure 5.1: Shows the mix of household types, including one-person, family, and non-family households. It helps indicate how residents are organized across living arrangements. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2016-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26's household profile in 2021 was shaped by family households, especially couples without children. That group was the largest at 735 households, while couple-family households with children followed at 560. The clearest recent changes were in opposite directions. Couple-family households without children rose 10.5% over five years, and one-person households increased 20.6% to 410. By contrast, couple-family households with children fell 8.2% to 560, and multiple-census-family households dropped 66.7% to just 5. Smaller household forms remained limited, including 70 one-parent-family households, 30 multigenerational households, and 30 two-or-more-person non-census-family households. The mix points to a household structure that is still family-oriented, but with recent growth concentrated in childless couples and people living alone.

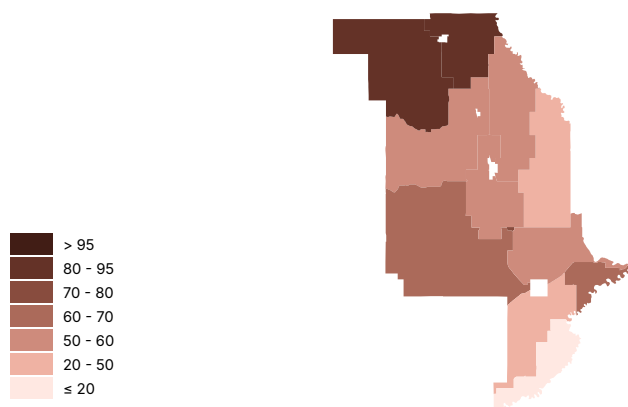


Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Type - Couple-family households without children (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Willow Creek No. 26's private households are dominated by family living arrangements, with couple-family households without children at 735 and couple-family households with children at 560 in 2021. One-person households are also substantial at 410, while one-parent-family households total 70 and multigenerational households 30. Recent change is mixed: one-person households rose 20.6% over five years, while couple-family households with children fell 8.2%. The pattern suggests a household mix led by couples, alongside a growing single-person segment and fewer households with children.

Dwelling Structure Type

Single-detached houses dominated Willow Creek No. 26’s occupied dwellings in 2021, with 1,775 units, up 16.4% from 2016. Movable dwellings numbered 95, while row houses fell to zero.

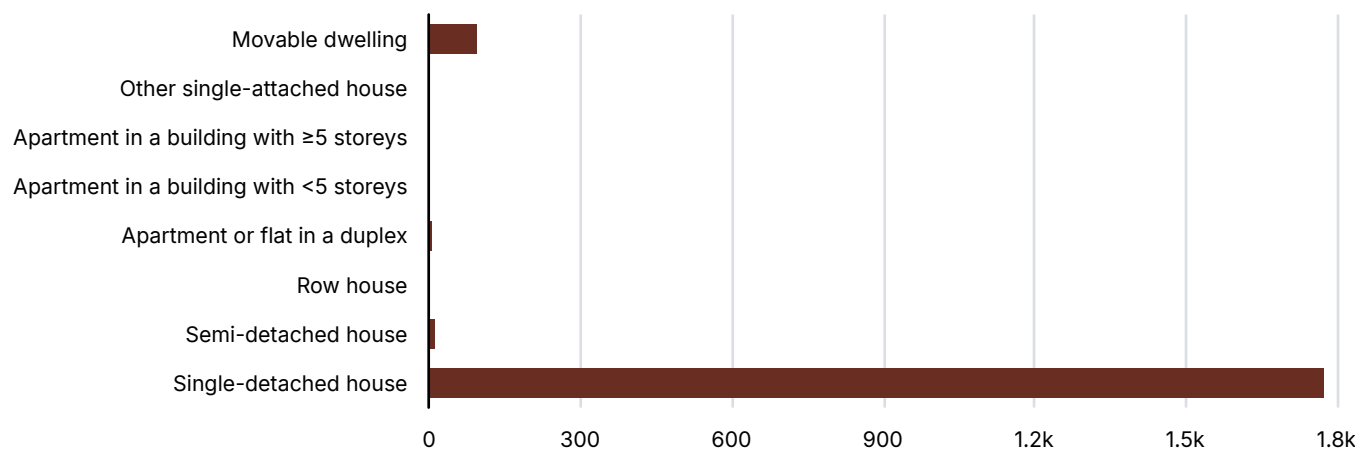
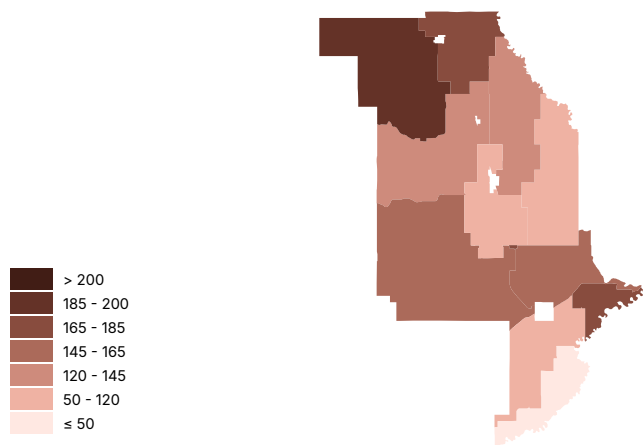


Figure 6.1: Shows the mix of dwelling structure types, such as detached homes, apartments, and other forms. It helps indicate the physical form of the housing stock. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26’s occupied private dwellings are dominated by single-detached houses, with 1,775 units in 2021. Movable dwellings are the next most visible type at 95 units, while semi-detached houses account for 10 units and apartment or flat units in a duplex for 5. The remaining structure types are absent or negligible in the dataset: row houses, apartments in buildings with fewer than 5 storeys, apartments in buildings with 5 or more storeys, and other single-attached houses all show 0 units. Over five years, single-detached houses rose 16.4%, while movable dwellings fell 9.5% and row houses and smaller apartments declined to zero.



Willow Creek No. 26’s occupied private dwellings are dominated by single-detached houses, with 1,775 units in 2021. Movable dwellings are the next largest form at 95 units, while semi-detached houses account for 10 and apartment or flat in a duplex for 5. Row houses and apartments in buildings of fewer than five storeys or five storeys and over are absent. The mix points to a housing stock concentrated in low-density forms, with very limited multi-unit structure.

Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Dwelling Structure Type - Single-detached house (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Housing Tenure

Owner households remained the largest tenure group in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2021, rising to 1,575 from 1,385 in 2016. Renter households also increased, from 290 to 315, while government-provided dwellings stayed at zero.

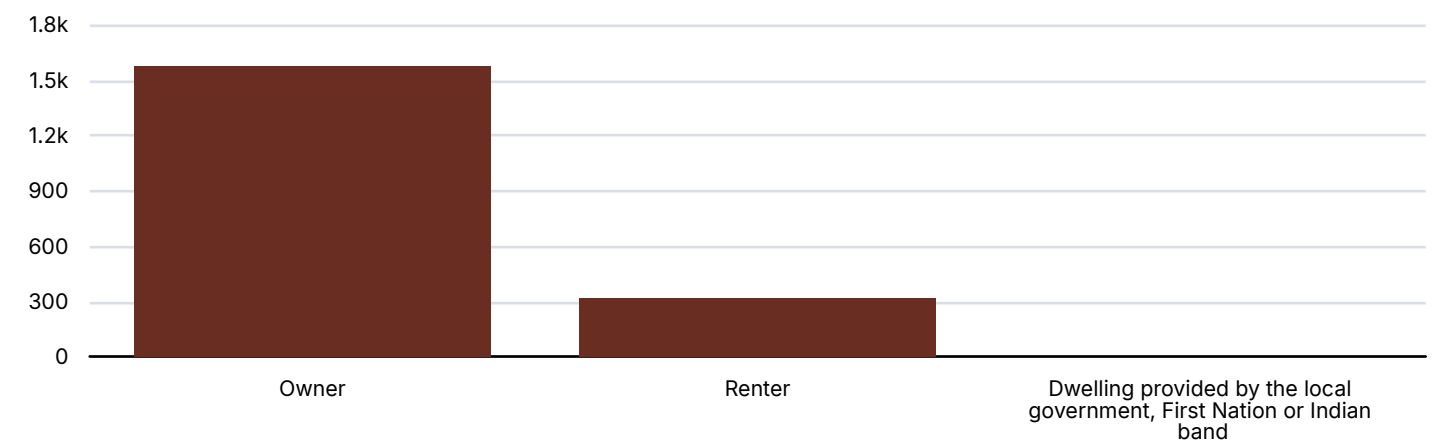
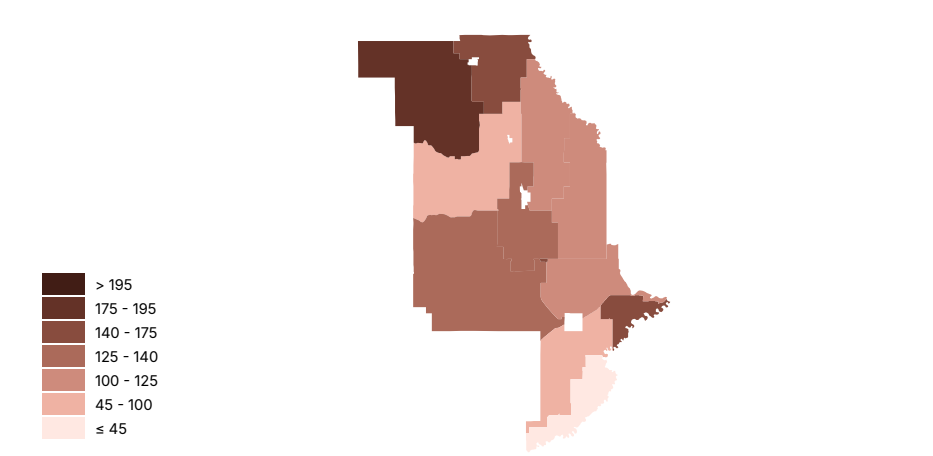


Figure 7.1: Shows whether households own or rent their homes. It helps indicate the balance between ownership and rental housing in the community. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, housing tenure in Willow Creek No. 26 was strongly owner-based, with 1,575 owner households compared with 315 renter households among private households. Both segments grew over the previous five years: owner households increased by 13.7%, while renter households rose by 8.6%. That means ownership expanded a little faster than renting during the period, keeping the tenure balance tilted toward owners. The pattern is relatively stable and concentrated, with ownership clearly accounting for most households and rental housing remaining a smaller share. The data also shows no households in dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band.



In 2021, housing tenure in Willow Creek No. 26 was dominated by owner households. Of 1,890 private households, 1,575 were owners and 315 were renters, while no households were recorded in dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band. That pattern held across the smaller areas as well, with owner counts ranging from 45 to 195 households and renter counts from 0 to 40. Several areas showed owner growth over five years, though some recorded declines. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Housing Tenure - Owner (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Household Total Income Groups

Willow Creek No. 26’s largest household income groups in 2021 were \$125,000 to \$149,999 and \$150,000 to \$199,999, each with 170 households. The \$10,000 to \$14,999 group fell to 10, down 60% from 2016.

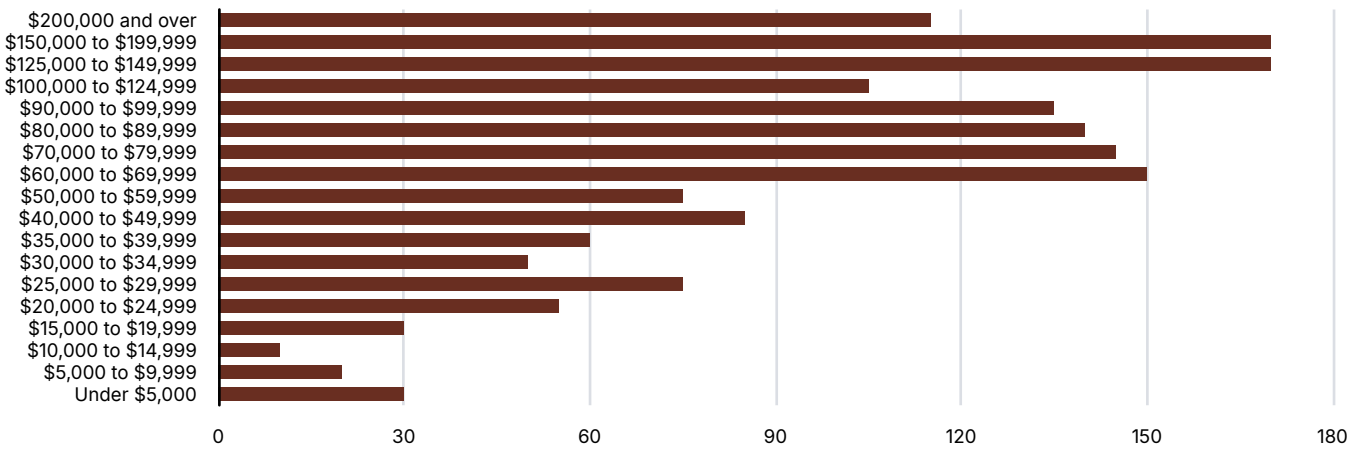
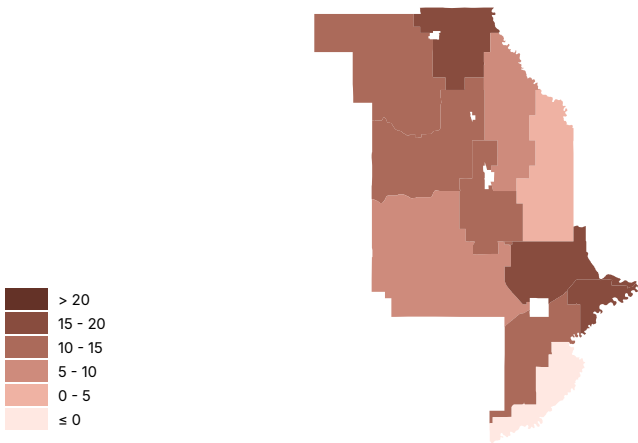


Figure 8.1: Shows households across total income groups. It helps indicate how household incomes are distributed from lower- to higher-income ranges. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, private households in Willow Creek No. 26 were spread across a wide range of total income groups, with the largest counts in the middle to upper-middle ranges. The biggest groups were \$125,000 to \$149,999 and \$150,000 to \$199,999, at 170 households each, followed by \$60,000 to \$69,999 at 150 and \$70,000 to \$79,999 at 145. Recent change was mixed. The under \$5,000 group rose by 50% over five years, while \$10,000 to \$14,999 fell by 60% and \$30,000 to \$34,999 dropped by 33.3%. Several higher-income bands also grew, including \$90,000 to \$99,999 at 42.1% and \$80,000 to \$89,999 at 40%.



In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 showed a broad household income spread across private households, with the largest counts in the \$125,000 to \$149,999 and \$150,000 to \$199,999 groups, at 170 households each. Another 150 households fell in the \$60,000 to \$69,999 range, while 115 households were at \$200,000 and over. The mix suggests a distribution centered in middle to upper-middle incomes.

Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Income Group Household - \$125,000 to \$149,999 (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Average Shelter Costs

In Willow Creek No. 26, owner shelter costs were higher than renter costs in 2021, at \$1,356 versus \$930. Over five years, owners rose 13.3% and renters 24.0%, narrowing the gap slightly.

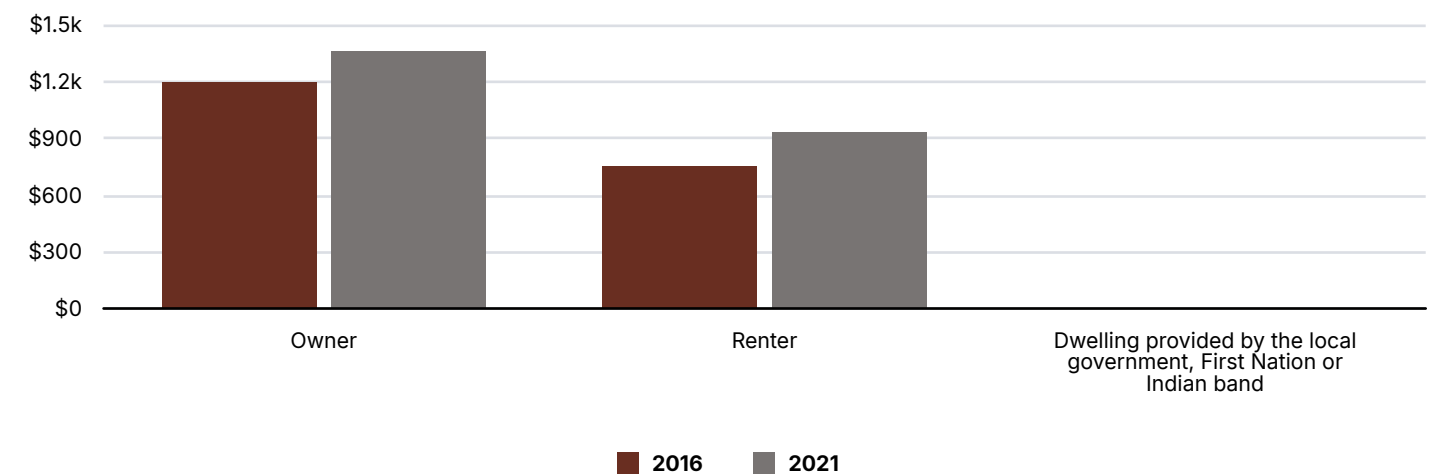
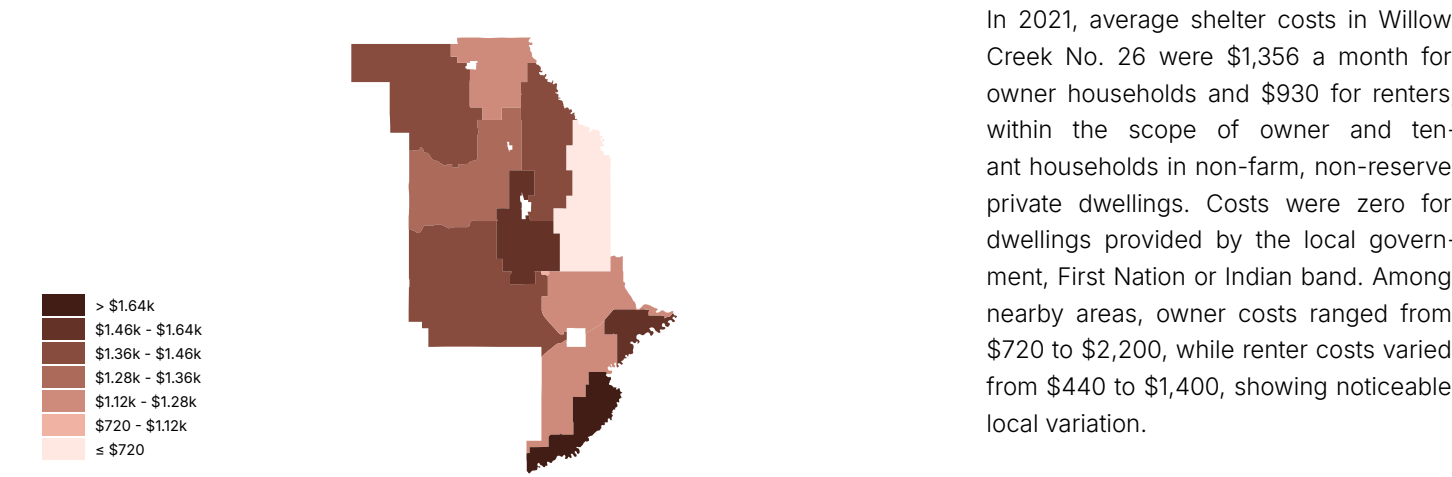


Figure 9.1: Shows the average monthly shelter costs paid by households. It helps indicate typical housing expenses faced by owners and renters. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2016-2021)¹

In 2021, average monthly shelter costs in Willow Creek No. 26 differed notably by tenure, with owners paying more than renters. The figures suggest a clear gap between the two household types. Owner households paid an average of \$1,356 per month, while renter households paid \$930. That is a difference of \$426. Both figures were higher than five years earlier. Owner costs rose 13.3% over the period, while renter costs increased 24.0%, a faster pace of growth. Households living in dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band recorded no shelter cost. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile



In 2021, average shelter costs in Willow Creek No. 26 were \$1,356 a month for owner households and \$930 for renters, within the scope of owner and tenant households in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings. Costs were zero for dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band. Among nearby areas, owner costs ranged from \$720 to \$2,200, while renter costs varied from \$440 to \$1,400, showing noticeable local variation.

Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Housing Tenure - Owner (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Population in Private Households

Willow Creek No. 26 had 4,925 people in private households in 2021, up 11.8% from 2016. The count changed little between 2011 and 2016, rising from 4,395 to 4,405.

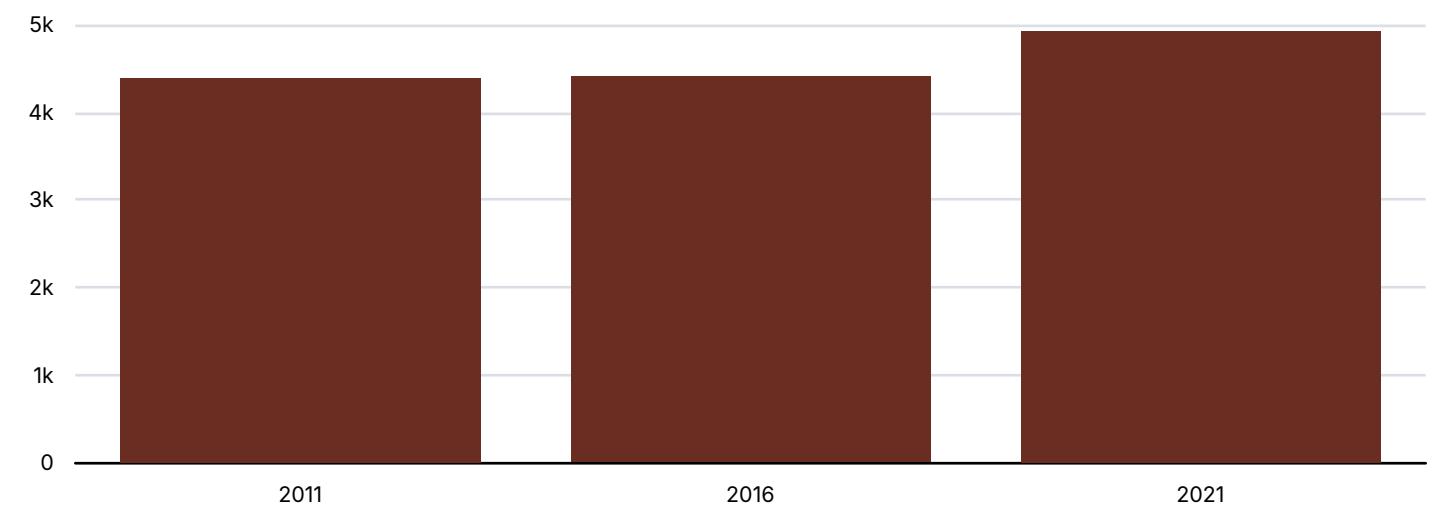
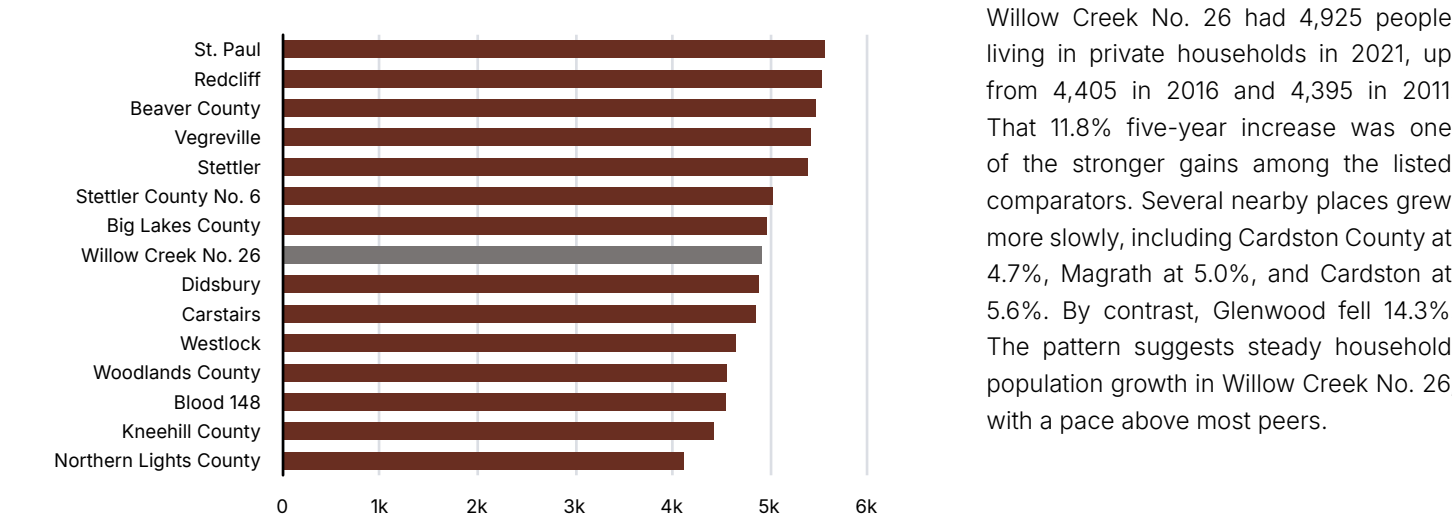


Figure 10.1: Shows the number of people living in private households. It helps indicate how much of the population lives in standard household settings rather than collective dwellings. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2011-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26’s population in private households was 4,395 people in 2011, edged up to 4,405 in 2016, and then rose more sharply to 4,925 in 2021. The change from 2016 to 2021 was 11.8%, following a near-flat 0.2% increase over the previous five-year period. That pattern shows a modest first step and then a stronger recent gain. With no benchmark or sublocation breakdown provided, the main story is the shift from stability to growth. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.



Willow Creek No. 26 had 4,925 people living in private households in 2021, up from 4,405 in 2016 and 4,395 in 2011. That 11.8% five-year increase was one of the stronger gains among the listed comparators. Several nearby places grew more slowly, including Cardston County at 4.7%, Magrath at 5.0%, and Cardston at 5.6%. By contrast, Glenwood fell 14.3%. The pattern suggests steady household population growth in Willow Creek No. 26, with a pace above most peers.

Figure 10.2: Comparison of Population in Private Households with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Employment Rate

Willow Creek No. 26’s employment rate was 68.7% in 2021, down from 71.8% in 2016. That five-year decline of 4.3% shows a lower share of the labour force employed.

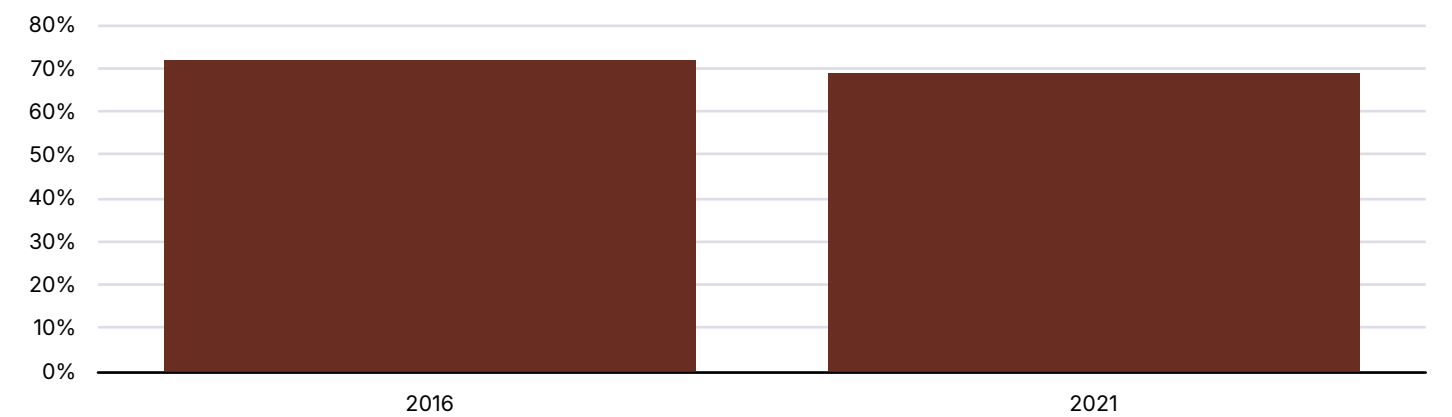


Figure 11.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed. It helps indicate overall labour market health and how fully local talent is being used. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2016-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26 had an employment rate of 68.7% in 2021, down from 71.8% in 2016. The five-year change was -4.3%, showing a clear decline over the period. For the labour force aged 15 years and over, the data points to a weaker level of employment in 2021 than five years earlier. With no benchmark in the dataset, the main pattern is the downward trend itself.

Willow Creek No. 26 had an employment rate of 68.7% in 2021 among the labour force aged 15 and over, down from 71.8% in 2016. That 4.3% decline over five years leaves it above several nearby places, but below the strongest local rates in the comparison set. Cardston County was at 65.1%, Pincher Creek No. 9 at 61.6%, and Nanton at 58.4% in 2021, while some communities were lower still, including Hill Spring at 30.8% and Blood 148A at 0%. The pattern suggests a relatively stronger local employment rate, though it softened over the period.

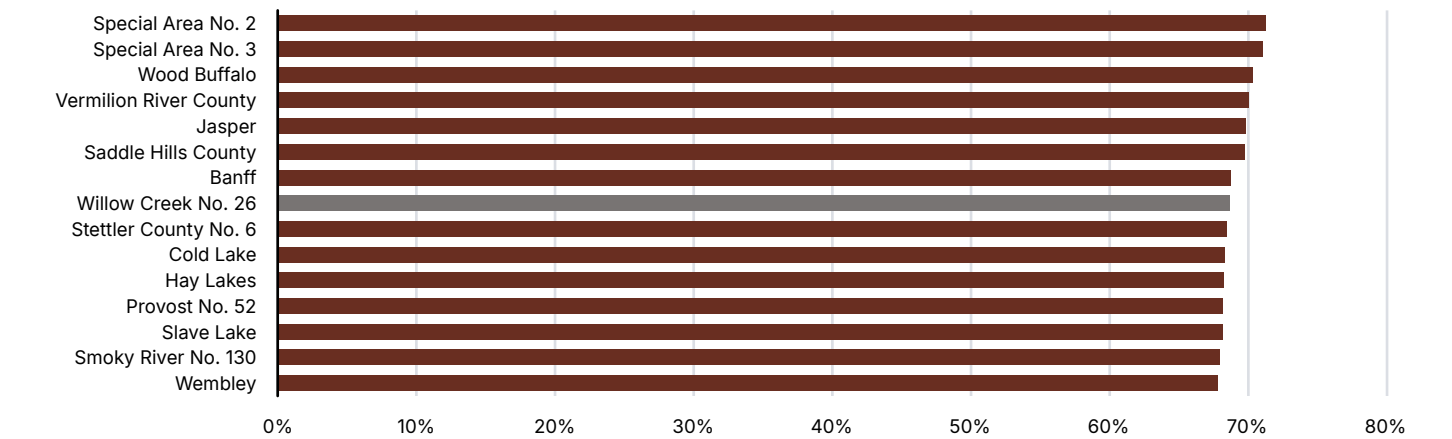


Figure 11.2: Comparison of Employment Rate with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Household Size

Two-person households remained the largest group in Willow Creek No. 26 at 820 in 2021, up 12.3% from 2016. Five-or-more-person households rose faster, reaching 250, while one-person households reached 410.

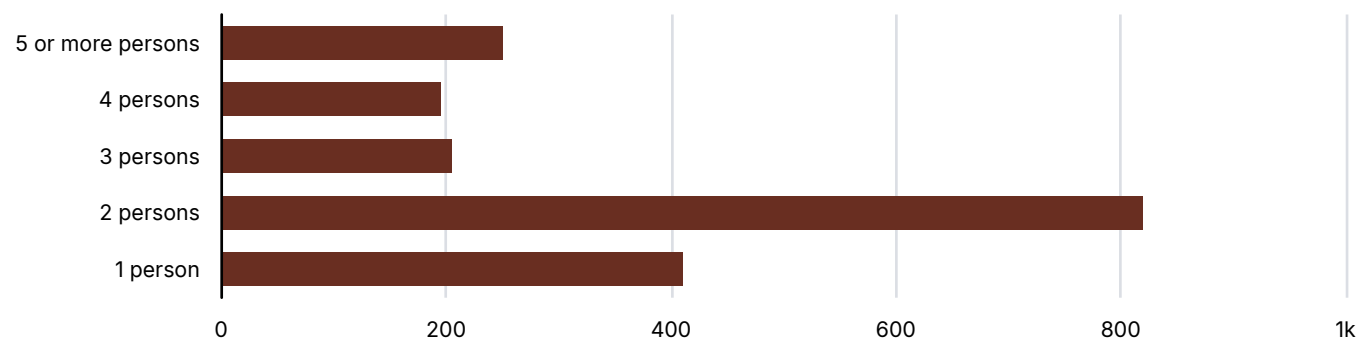


Figure 12.1: Shows the number of people living in households. It helps indicate common household arrangements and likely housing needs. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, household size in Willow Creek No. 26 was concentrated in smaller arrangements, with 820 two-person households and 410 one-person households. Three-person households numbered 205, four-person households 195, and households with five or more people totaled 250. Change over five years was strongest at the ends of the distribution: one-person households rose 20.6%, and five-or-more-person households increased 21.9%. Two-person households also grew 12.3%, while three-person households were flat.

In Willow Creek No. 26, private households in 2021 were most often made up of two people, with 820 households, followed by one-person households at 410. Larger households were less common: 205 had three people, 195 had four, and 250 had five or more. The 5-year change points to growth at both ends of the distribution, especially one-person households, up 20.6%, and five-or-more-person households, up 21.9%. Two-person households also rose 12.3%. This pattern suggests the household profile is anchored by smaller living arrangements, while the largest households also expanded. Statistics Canada, Census Profile: 2021.



Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Size - 2 persons (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Highest Education Level

In Willow Creek No. 26, high school diploma holders were the largest group in 2021 at 1,340 people, up 87.4% from 2016. College credentials followed at 920, while bachelor’s degrees totaled 355.

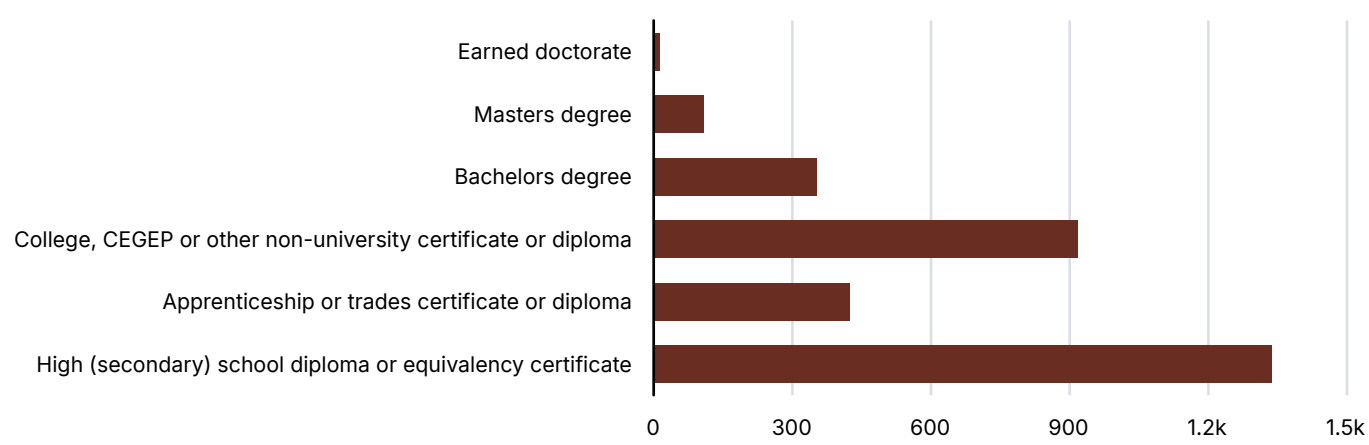
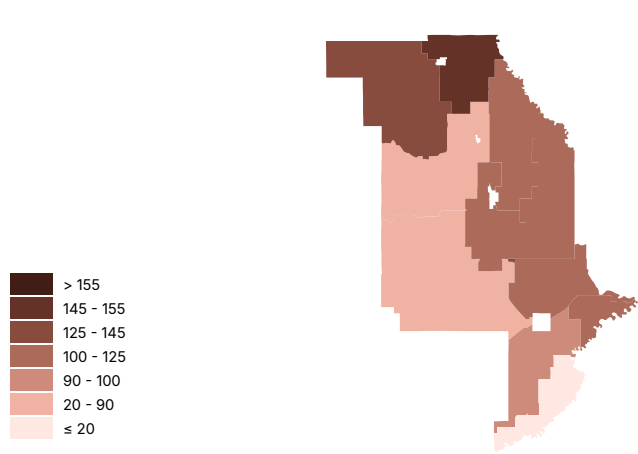


Figure 13.1: Shows the highest level of education completed by residents. It helps indicate the overall educational profile of the population. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In Willow Creek No. 26, the highest-education profile in 2021 was concentrated in secondary school, college, and trades credentials, with smaller numbers at the university level. Among residents aged 15 and over in private households, 1,340 people had a high school diploma or equivalent, 920 had a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma, and 425 held an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma. University credentials were less common: 355 people had a bachelor’s degree, 110 had a master’s degree, and 15 held an earned doctorate. The 5-year changes show uneven movement across levels, ranging from -14.1% for trades certificates to 87.4% for high school diplomas and 69.2% for master’s degrees.



In Willow Creek No. 26, the 2021 education profile is centered on mid-level credentials. High school completion is the largest category at 1,340 people, followed by college, CEGEP or other non-university credentials at 920 and apprenticeship or trades certificates at 425. Bachelor’s degrees total 355, while master’s degrees and doctorates are much smaller at 110 and 15.

Figure 13.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Population Density

Willow Creek No. 26 had 1.4 people per square kilometre in 2021, up 27.3% over five years. Density was unchanged at 1.1 in 2016 and 2011, then increased in the latest period.

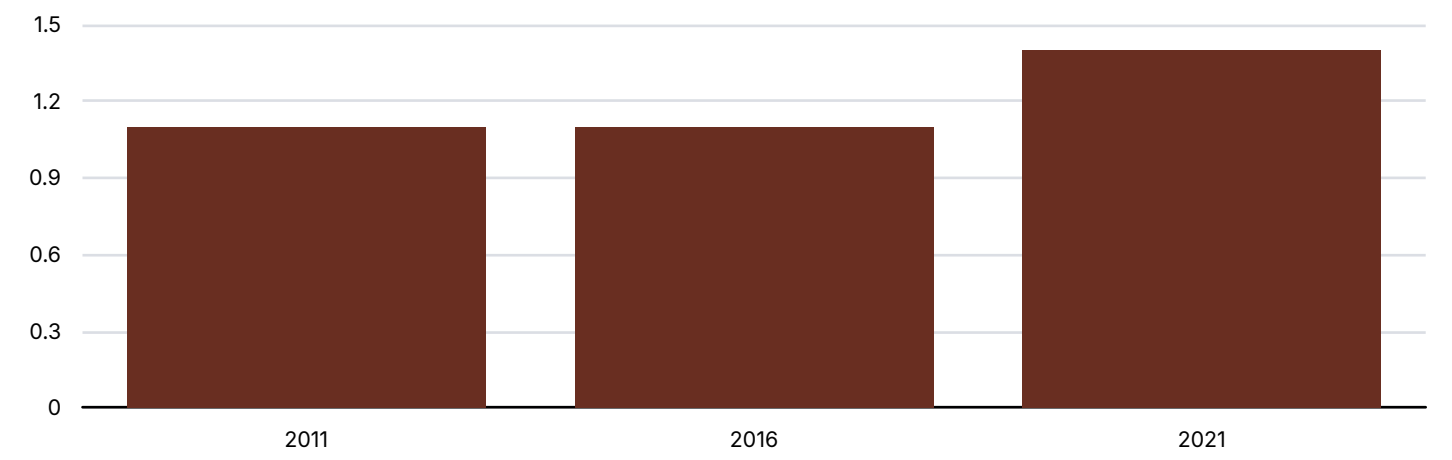


Figure 14.1: Shows how many people live per unit of land area. It helps indicate how compact or spread out the population is. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2011-2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26 had very low population density in each census year shown, with only 1.1 people per square kilometre in 2011 and 2016. By 2021, density had risen to 1.4 people per square kilometre. That represents a 27.3% increase over five years, but the absolute level remains sparse. The pattern suggests a small upward shift in settlement intensity rather than a major change in land use or population concentration.

Willow Creek No. 26 had a very low population density of 1.4 people per km2 in 2021, up from 1.1 in 2016 and 2011. That places it near the bottom of the comparison set, well below nearby communities such as Cardston County at 1.4 and far beneath denser places like Cardston at 434.1. The pattern points to a sparsely populated rural area.

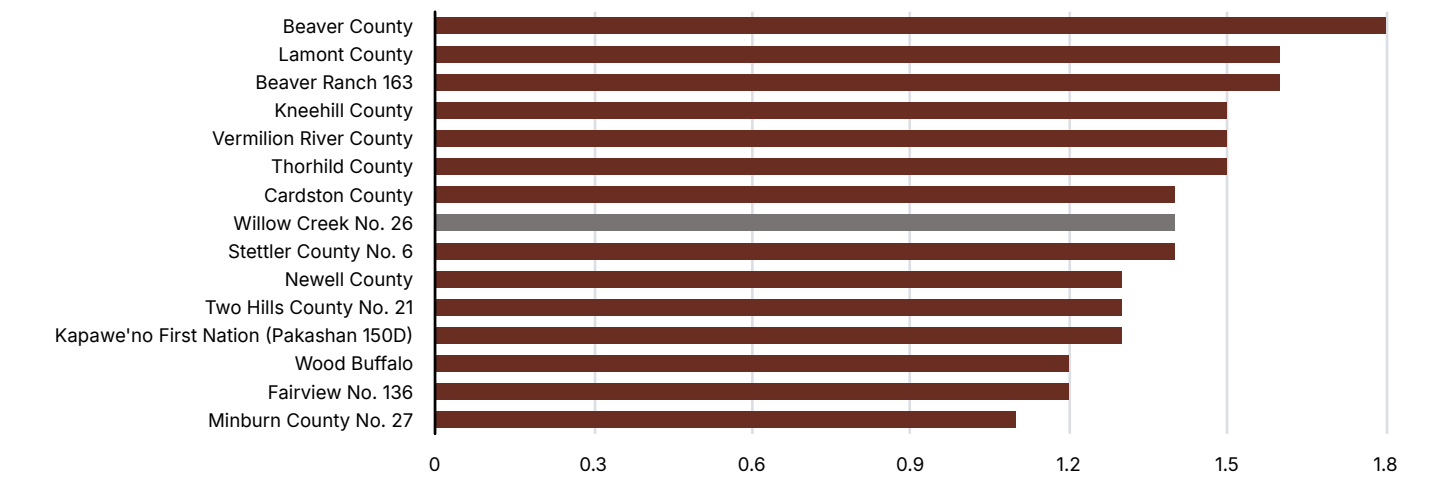


Figure 14.2: Comparison of Population Density with other locations (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Mother Tongue

English was the largest mother tongue in Willow Creek No. 26 at 4,385 people, up 8.9% over five years. German followed at 1,070, while Spanish rose to 25 people, a 400.0% increase.

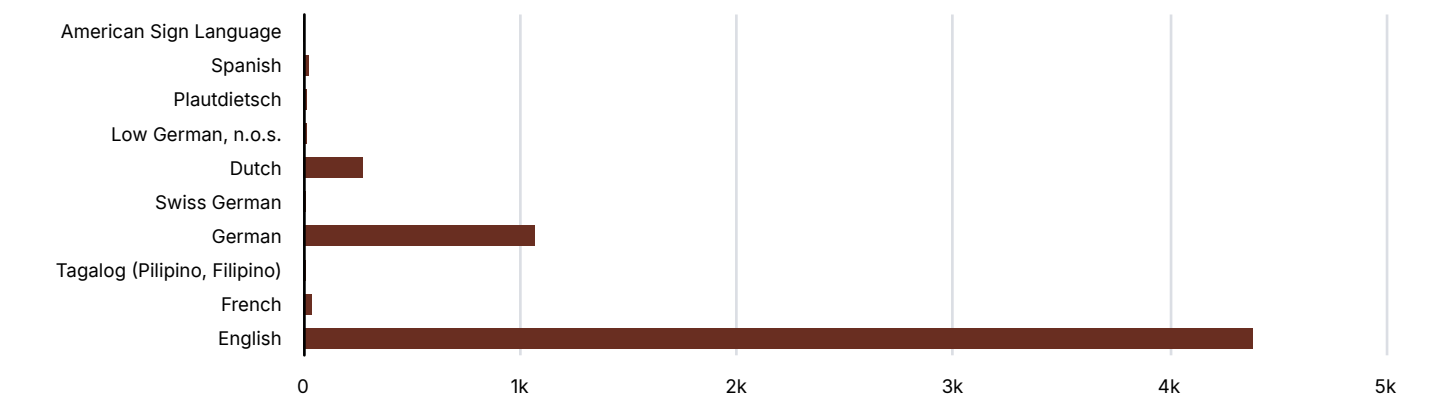


Figure 15.1: Shows the first language learned and still understood by residents. It helps indicate the linguistic roots of the population. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26’s mother-tongue profile was led by English, with 4,385 people, followed by German at 1,070 and Dutch at 275. English rose 8.9% over five years, while German grew 35.4% and Dutch increased 10%. Smaller language groups were limited in size, including French at 40 and Spanish at 25, though Spanish posted the fastest growth at 400%. The pattern points to a strong English base with notable growth in German-language roots.

Willow Creek No. 26’s mother tongue profile in 2021 was dominated by English, with 4,385 people reporting it. German was the next largest language at 1,070, while Dutch accounted for 275 and French for 40. Smaller counts included Spanish at 25 and Tagalog at 10. The pattern is concentrated but not monolingual. German showed the strongest 5-year growth among the larger languages, up 35.4%, while English also rose 8.9%. Spanish grew sharply from a small base, up 400%.



Figure 15.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Language - English (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Visible Minority

In Willow Creek No. 26, Filipino was the largest visible minority group in 2021 at 35 people. Latin American and multiple visible minorities followed, each with 10, while visible minority, n.i.e. fell to zero.

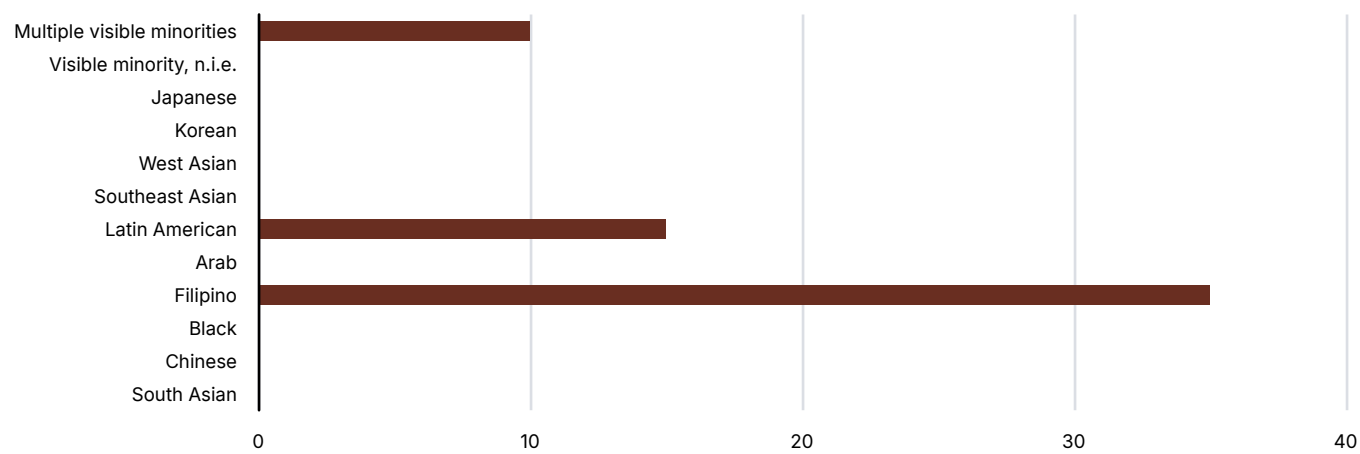
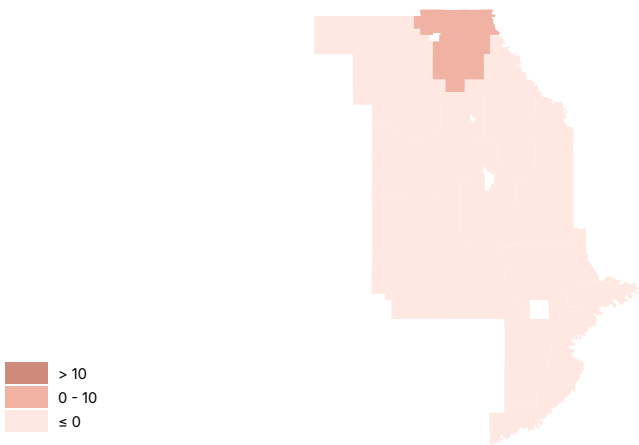


Figure 16.1: Shows residents who identify as belonging to visible minority groups. It helps indicate racialized population diversity in the community. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 had a small visible minority population in private households, with 35 people identifying as Filipino, 15 as Latin American, and 10 as multiple visible minorities. Several other groups recorded no population, including South Asian, Chinese, Black, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean, and Japanese. The 5-year change shows South Asian and visible minority, n.i.e. both fell by 100%, while the main remaining groups had no change reported. The pattern is narrow and concentrated rather than broadly diverse.



In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 had a small visible minority population in private households, with the count concentrated in a few groups. Filipino residents accounted for 35 people, followed by Latin American residents at 15 and people reporting multiple visible minorities at 10. Most other listed groups were recorded at zero, and the descendant areas were largely empty of visible minority counts.

Figure 16.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Visible Minority - Filipino (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Age Groups

Willow Creek No. 26’s largest 2021 age group was 65 to 69 years, at 475 people, up 58.3% since 2016. The 85-and-over group rose fastest, to 175 people, almost tripling.

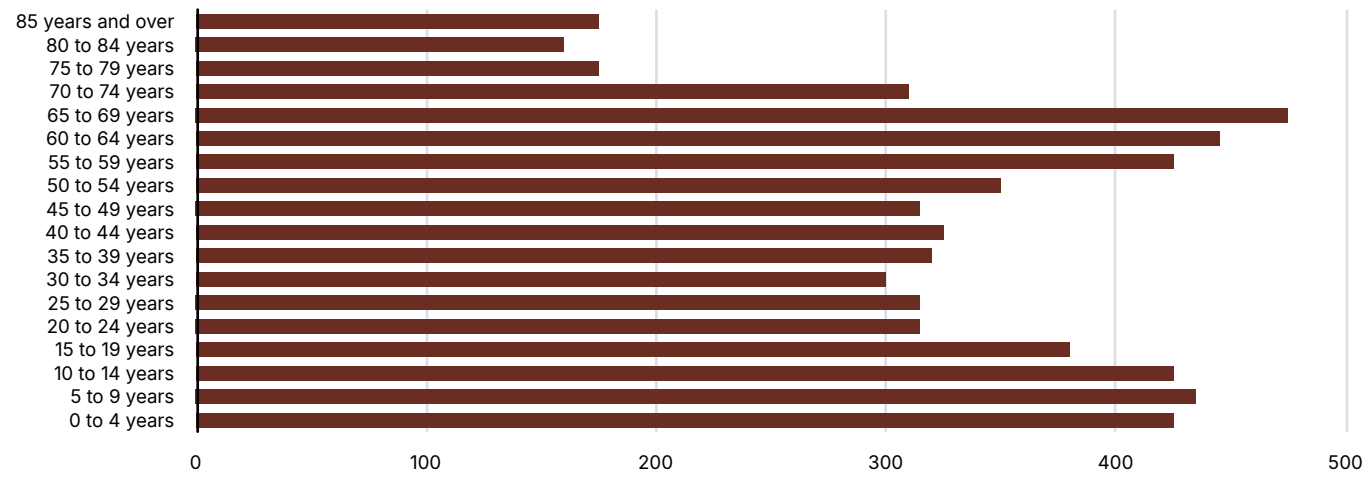
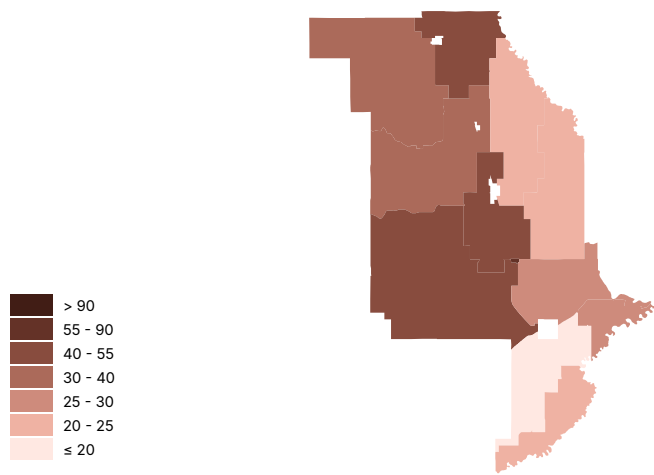


Figure 17.1: Shows how the population is distributed across age groups. It helps explain the community’s age structure and stage of life profile. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

Willow Creek No. 26’s age structure in 2021 shows a broad middle and older profile, with several age groups clustered in the 300 to 475 person range. The largest cohort was 65 to 69 years, at 475 people, followed by 60 to 64 years at 445 and both 5 to 9 years and 55 to 59 years at 425 each. Recent change was uneven. The strongest gains were among 85 years and over, up 191.7% over five years, and 80 to 84 years, up 68.4%. The 65 to 69 group also rose 58.3%. Younger adult groups grew too, but more modestly, while 50 to 54 years declined 7.9%.



Willow Creek No. 26 in 2021 shows a broad age profile, with sizeable cohorts across both children and older adults. The largest groups were ages 65 to 69 at 475 people, 60 to 64 at 445, and 5 to 9 at 435. Growth over five years was strongest at 85 years and over, up 191.7%, and 80 to 84, up 68.4%. The pattern suggests aging alongside continued growth among younger children.

Figure 17.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Age Group - 65 to 69 years (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Family Type

Married couples without children remained the largest family type in Willow Creek No. 26 at 665 people in 2021, down 2.2% from 2016. One-parent families rose to 90, up 5.9%.

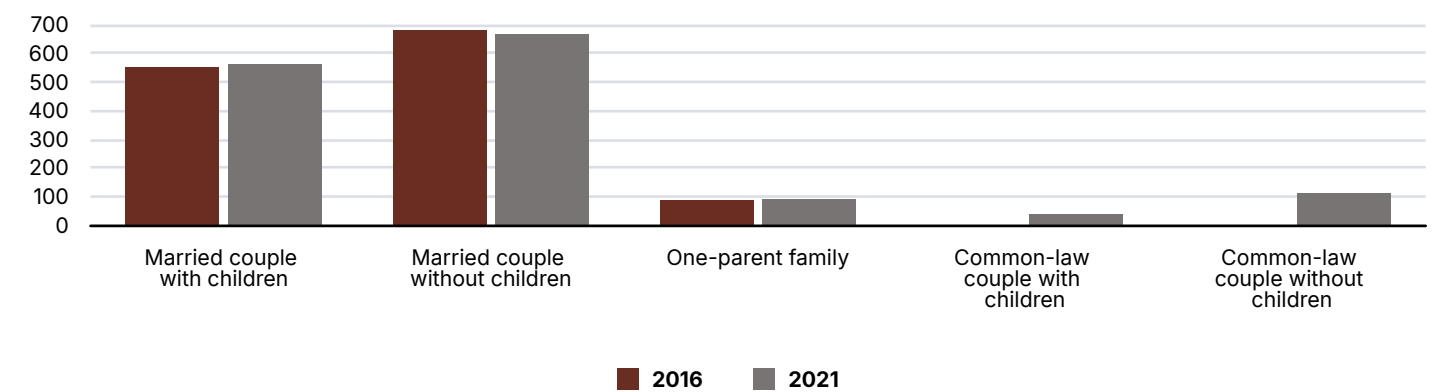


Figure 18.1: Shows the mix of family types, such as couple families and lone-parent families. It helps indicate the structure of family life in the community. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2016-2021)¹

In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26’s family profile was led by married couples without children, at 665 people, followed by married couples with children at 560. One-parent families numbered 90, while common-law couples were smaller groups: 110 without children and 35 with children. Over five years, one-parent families rose 5.9%, married couples with children grew 1.8%, and married couples without children fell 2.2%.

Willow Creek No. 26 has a family profile dominated by married couples, with and without children, among census families in private households in 2021. Married couples without children numbered 665, slightly above married couples with children at 560. One-parent families totalled 90, while common-law couples were fewer, at 110 without children and 35 with children. The five-year changes were mixed: married couples with children rose 1.8%, and one-parent families increased 5.9%, while married couples without children fell 2.2%. The pattern points to a community where two-parent families remain the main family form, with modest recent shifts rather than sharp change.



Figure 18.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Type - Married couple without children (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Ethnic Origin

English was the largest ethnic origin in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2021, at 1,350 people. Dutch followed at 1,150, while Canadian fell 44.0% over five years to 540 people.

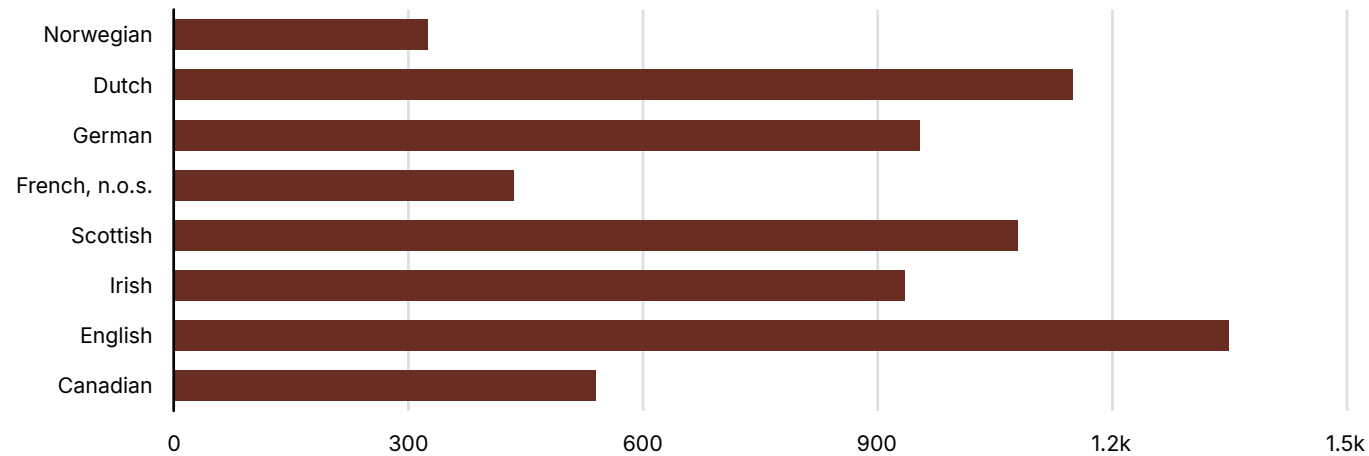
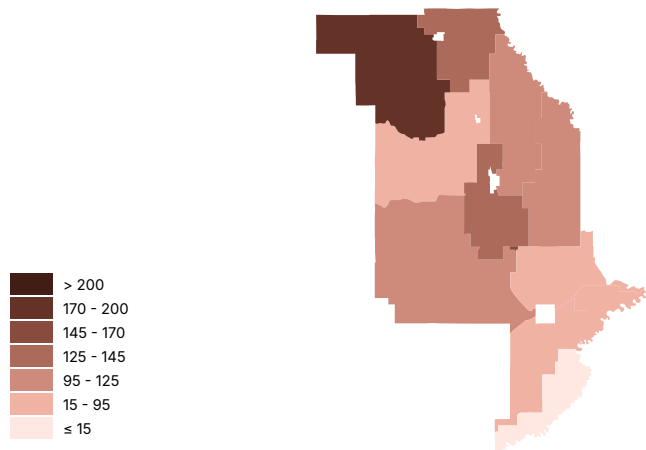


Figure 19.1: Shows the ethnic or cultural origins reported by residents. It helps indicate ancestry patterns and the community's cultural makeup. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 showed a varied ethnic origin profile within the population in private households, with several long-established origins standing out. The largest reported groups were English at 1,350 people, Scottish at 1,080, and Dutch at 1,150, while German and Irish were also prominent. Recent change was mixed. Irish rose 33.6% over five years and Norwegian increased 25.0%, while Scottish grew 14.9% and German 7.9%. English edged up 3.9%. Canadian was the main decline among the listed origins, falling 44.0% to 540 people. Dutch also slipped slightly, down 3.0%. The pattern suggests a shifting mix rather than a single dominant trend, with gains in several origins offset by a sharp drop in Canadian reporting.



In 2021, Willow Creek No. 26 showed a largely European ethnic-origin profile within the population in private households. The largest counts were English at 1,350 people, Dutch at 1,150, and Scottish at 1,080, while Irish reached 935 and German 955. Canadian origin was lower at 540, and Norwegian was 325. Compared with nearby areas, the pattern is mixed rather than uniform, with some origins rising and others declining over five years.

Figure 19.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Ethnic Origin - English (Willow Creek No. 26)¹

Employment by Sector

Agriculture remained the largest employer in Willow Creek No. 26 in 2025 with 288 people, despite a 3.4% annual decline. Wholesale trade followed at 42, while accommodation and food services rose to 8, up 700% from 2024.

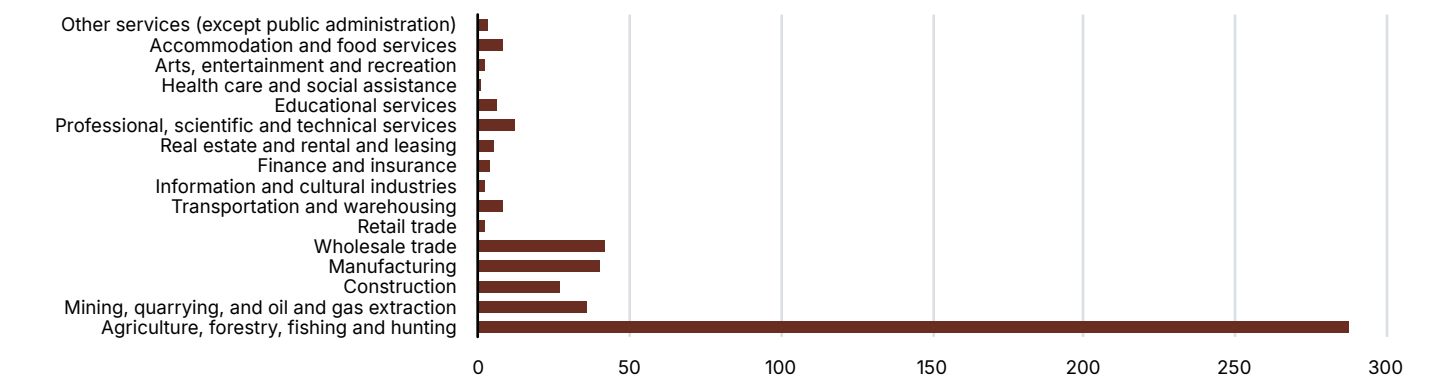


Figure 20.1: Shows how employment is distributed across industry sectors. It helps indicate which sectors account for the largest share of local jobs. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2025)³

In 2025, employment in Willow Creek No. 26 was concentrated in a few sectors, led by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting with 288 people. Mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction accounted for 36 jobs, while wholesale trade and manufacturing followed with 42 and 40. Recent movement was uneven: accommodation and food services rose sharply to 8 jobs, and professional, scientific and technical services reached 12, while retail trade fell to just 2.

In 2025, employment in Willow Creek No. 26 was concentrated in a few sectors, led by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting with 288 employees. Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction followed with 36, while wholesale trade and manufacturing recorded 42 and 40 jobs respectively. Smaller sectors included construction at 27 and transportation and warehousing at 8. Retail trade stood out at just 2 jobs. The pattern shows a local job base shaped mainly by primary and related activities, with limited presence in service sectors.



Figure 20.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (Willow Creek No. 26)³

Employed Residents by Occupation

Willow Creek No. 26’s employed residents were led by natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations at 955 people in 2021, up 135.8% from 2016. Trades followed at 575, while natural and applied sciences reached 75, up 200%.

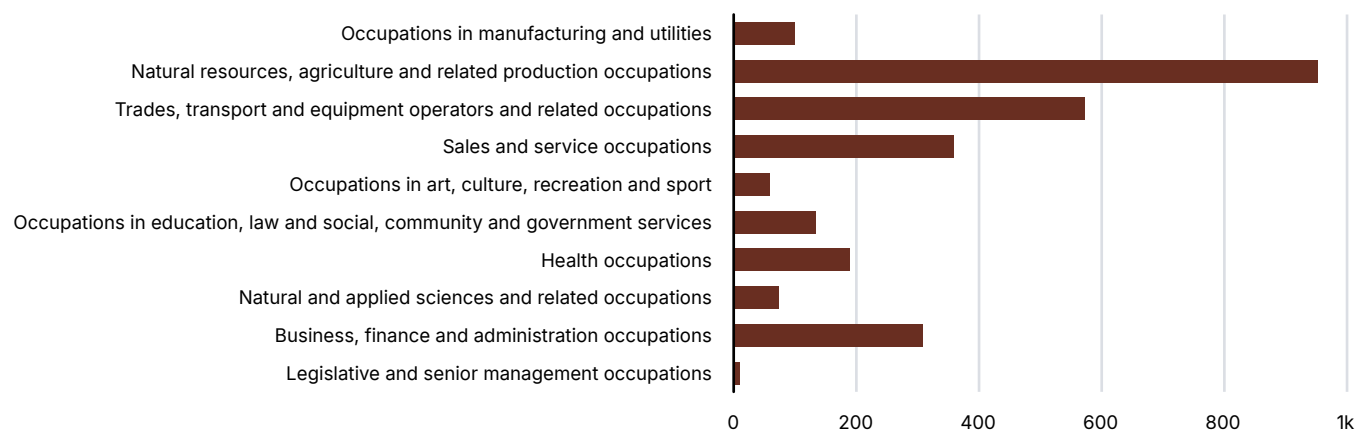
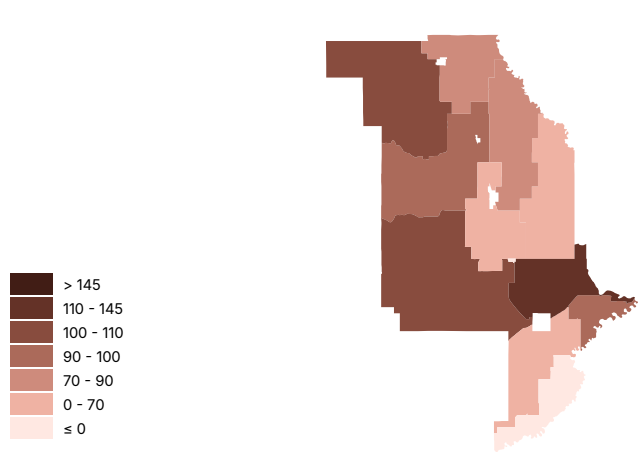


Figure 21.1: Shows the occupations held by employed residents. It helps indicate the community's skill mix and the kinds of work people do. (Willow Creek No. 26, 2021)¹

In 2021, employed residents of Willow Creek No. 26 were concentrated in a few occupation groups, with the strongest presence in natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations. That category counted 955 people and grew 135.8% over five years. Trades, transport and equipment operators followed at 575 people, up 29.2%, while sales and service occupations reached 360 and business, finance and administration occupations 310. Health occupations accounted for 190 people, and occupations in manufacturing and utilities rose to 100, up 53.9%. Legislative and senior management occupations were the smallest group at 10, after a sharp 98.7% decline.



In Willow Creek No. 26, employed residents in 2021 were concentrated in a few occupational groups, led by natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations at 955 people. Trades, transport and equipment operators accounted for 575, while sales and service and business, finance and administration reached 360 and 310. Health had 190. The mix points to a labour force shaped by resource and trades work.

Figure 21.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Occupation - Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations (Willow Creek No. 26)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.
3. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Employment by Industry Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.

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