

ALBERTA
SOUTHWEST

CLARESHOLM

Workforce Report

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Executive Summary

Claresholm's recent profile is shaped by a labour market that remains rooted in conventional, stable employment but has become less engaged over time. In 2021, work was still organized mainly around a usual place of work, with smaller groups working from home or without a fixed workplace, and home-based work had grown over the previous five years even as the larger workplace categories declined. Permanent positions strongly outweighed temporary ones, suggesting that when residents were employed, they were more often in ongoing jobs than in short-term arrangements. At the same time, the broader pattern was one of softer attachment to work than earlier in the decade.

That weakening appears across several measures. The labour force participation rate and employment rate both trended downward from 2011 to 2021, with the sharper deterioration occurring between 2016 and 2021. By 2021, the town was almost evenly split between residents who were employed and those not in the labour force, while unemployment remained comparatively small. Work activity shows the same direction: the largest group was people who did not work, and that group grew as both full-year full-time and part-year or part-time work declined. Within the employed population, the local workforce was concentrated in service, trade, and care-related roles rather than management or highly specialized professional fields. Health care and social assistance stood out as the largest sector in both the resident labour force and the later employment snapshot, with retail trade also playing a prominent role.

Education adds an important part of the picture. High school completion was the dominant attainment level, and residents with a diploma or equivalent clearly outnumbered those without any certificate, diploma, or degree. Beyond secondary school, the profile was led by college and other non-university credentials, with trades also present, while university degrees, especially advanced graduate qualifications, were much less common. Claresholm emerges as a town with a practical, mid-level educational profile and a workforce anchored in permanent, service-oriented employment, but also one where labour market participation and employment have moved steadily lower and non-participation now occupies a large share of community life.

Place of Work Status

Claresholm’s largest work status remained usual place of work at 1,140 people in 2021, down 6.9% since 2016. Worked at home rose to 115, up 43.8%, while no fixed workplace fell to 175.

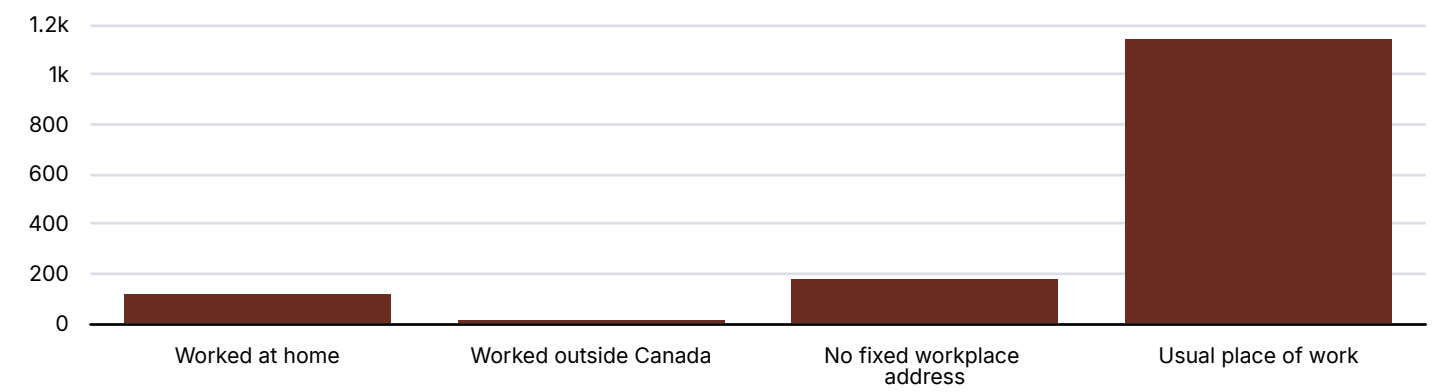


Figure 1.1: Shows whether people work from home, at a usual workplace, or at no fixed workplace. It helps indicate how work is organized across locations. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, work patterns among the employed labour force aged 15 and over were centered on the usual workplace in 2021, but home-based and mobile work were also present. The profile shows a mix of fixed and flexible arrangements. Usual place of work was the largest category at 1,140 people, while 175 had no fixed workplace address and 115 worked at home. Only 10 people worked outside Canada. Over five years, home-based work rose by 43.8%, while no fixed workplace and usual workplace both declined.

In Claresholm, the employed labour force aged 15 and over was still centered on a usual place of work in 2021, with 1,140 people in that category. Smaller groups worked at home (115), had no fixed workplace address (175), or worked outside Canada (10). Over five years, home-based work rose 43.8%, while usual workplace employment fell 6.9% and no fixed workplace declined 23.9%. The pattern suggests a modest shift in how work is organized locally.



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

High School Completion

Claresholm’s largest education group in 2021 was residents with a high school diploma or equivalent, at 2,295 people. That compared with 740 people with no certificate, diploma or degree, showing diploma holders outnumbered non-completers.

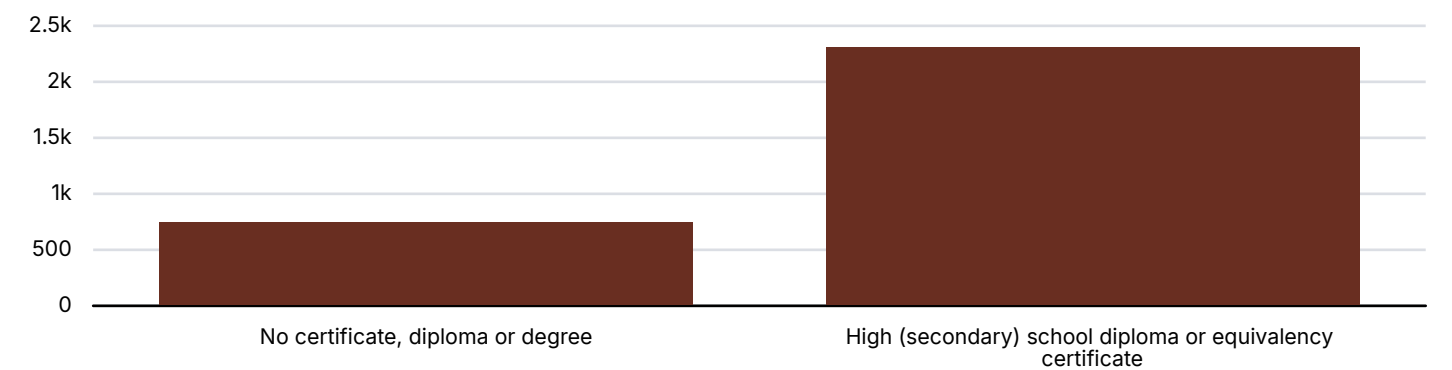


Figure 2.1: Shows whether residents have completed high school or an equivalent credential. It helps indicate a basic foundation for workforce participation and further study. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, high school completion in 2021 shows a split between residents with a secondary credential and those without one. Among people aged 15 and over in private households, 2,295 had a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, while 740 had no certificate, diploma or degree. The figures suggest that completed high school is the larger educational status in this group, but a substantial number of residents remain without that credential. The dataset does not provide earlier years, so it supports a single-year snapshot rather than a time trend.

In Claresholm, high school completion in 2021 was concentrated among residents aged 15 and over living in private households. Of 3,035 people in the dataset, 2,295 had a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, while 740 had no certificate, diploma or degree. That means 75.6% had completed high school and 24.4% had not. Across the included dissemination areas, the same pattern appears, with counts ranging from 80 to 155 without a credential and from 270 to 445 with one.



Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Claresholm)¹

Labour Force Participation Rate

Claresholm’s labour force participation rate fell to 52.6% in 2021, down from 55.3% in 2016 and 56.8% in 2011. The five-year decline was 4.9%, extending the earlier 2.6% drop.

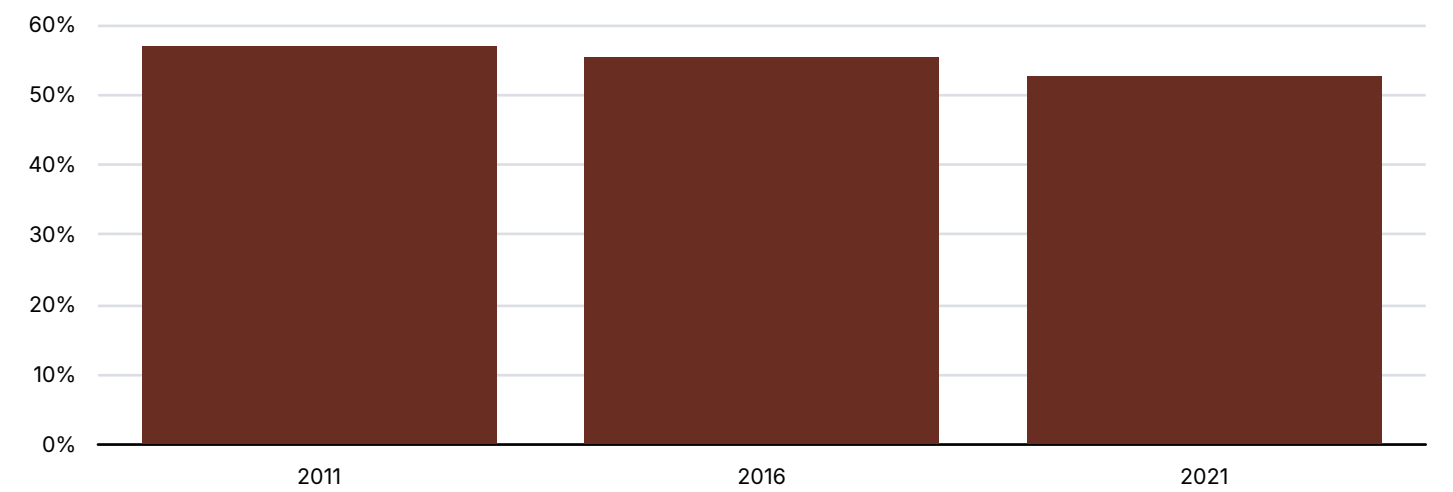
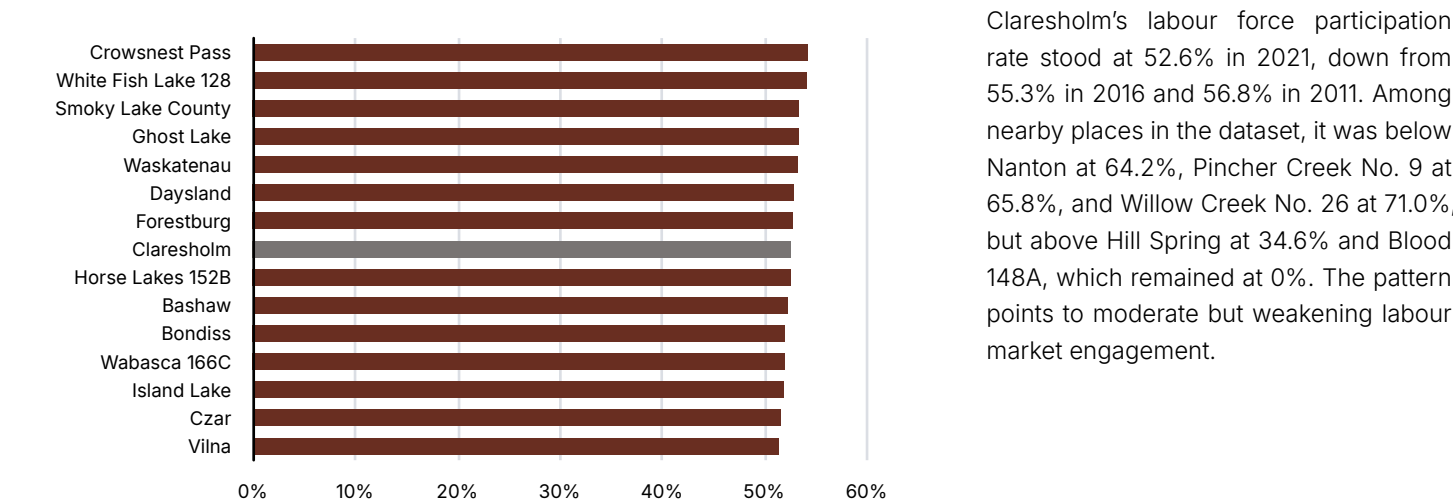


Figure 3.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed or actively looking for work. It helps indicate the level of labour market engagement. (Claresholm, 2011-2021)¹

Claresholm’s labour force participation rate has edged down over the past decade, showing a gradual softening in labour market engagement among the total population. The share was 56.8% in 2011, slipped to 55.3% in 2016, and reached 52.6% in 2021. The change was not abrupt, but the direction was consistent. Between 2011 and 2016, the rate fell by 2.6 percentage points, then declined by a further 4.9 points over the next five years. By 2021, the town was 4.2 points below its 2011 level. This pattern suggests a sustained downward trend rather than a short-term fluctuation.



Claresholm's labour force participation rate stood at 52.6% in 2021, down from 55.3% in 2016 and 56.8% in 2011. Among nearby places in the dataset, it was below Nanton at 64.2%, Pincher Creek No. 9 at 65.8%, and Willow Creek No. 26 at 71.0%, but above Hill Spring at 34.6% and Blood 148A, which remained at 0%. The pattern points to moderate but weakening labour market engagement.

Figure 3.2: Comparison of Labour Force Participation Rate with other locations (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Labour Force Status

In Claresholm, the largest group in 2021 was people not in the labour force at 1,440, up from 1,350 in 2016. Employed residents fell to 1,435 from 1,550, while unemployed rose to 160 from 120.

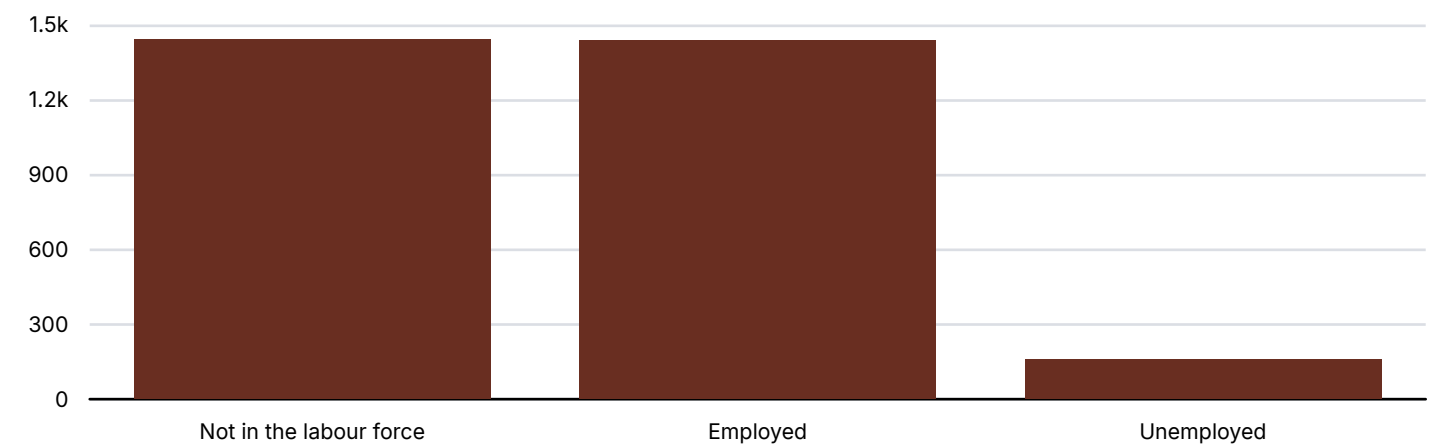


Figure 4.1: Shows whether residents are employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force. It helps indicate how people are participating in the labour market. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Claresholm’s labour force status in 2021 shows a fairly even split between residents who were not in the labour force and those who were employed, with a much smaller unemployed group. The figures are for the population aged 15 years and over. Not in the labour force accounted for 1,440 people, while 1,435 were employed. Unemployed residents numbered 160. Taken together, the employed and unemployed groups totalled 1,595 people, just ahead of those outside the labour force. With only one year of data, there is no time trend to describe. The snapshot instead points to a community where labour market participation and non-participation were nearly balanced. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.



In 2021, Claresholm’s population aged 15 and over was split almost evenly between people not in the labour force and those employed, with 1,440 and 1,435 people respectively. A much smaller 160 people were unemployed. That pattern suggests a labour market with participation balanced between work and non-participation, while unemployment remained a relatively minor share of the total. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile.

Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Labour Force Status - Not in the labour force (Claresholm)¹

Highest Education Level

Claresholm’s largest education group in 2021 was residents with a high school diploma or equivalency, at 960 people, up 104.3% from 2016. College credentials followed at 710 people, while bachelor’s degrees reached 255.

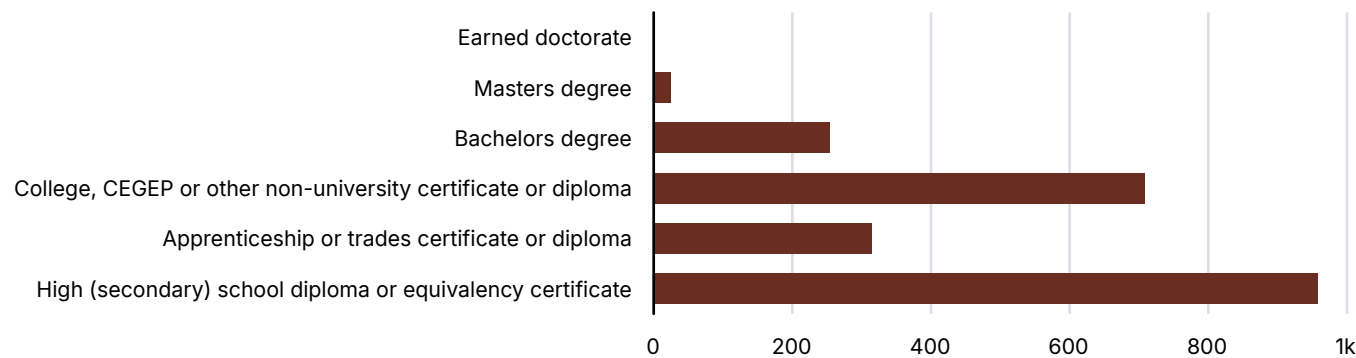


Figure 5.1: Shows the highest level of education completed by residents. It helps indicate the overall educational profile of the population. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, the 2021 education profile for residents aged 15 and over in private households is led by high school completion. The largest group has a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, at 960 people, followed by college or other non-university credentials at 710. Apprenticeship or trades certificates account for 315 people, and bachelor’s degrees for 255. Smaller groups include 25 people with a master’s degree and none with an earned doctorate. The five-year changes suggest stronger gains in high school, college, and bachelor’s attainment, while advanced degrees remain limited.

In Claresholm, the largest education category in 2021 was high school completion, with 960 residents. College, CEGEP or other non-university certificates and diplomas followed at 710, while apprenticeships or trades credentials accounted for 315 and bachelor’s degrees for 255. Graduate credentials were rare, with 25 master’s degrees and no earned doctorates. The pattern points to a profile led by secondary and postsecondary non-degree education, with relatively limited representation at the highest academic levels.



Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Claresholm)¹

Work Activity

Claresholm’s largest work-activity group was people who did not work, reaching 1,415 in 2021, up 19.9% from 2016. Full-year full-time workers numbered 865, while part-year or part-time workers fell to 755, down 19.7%.

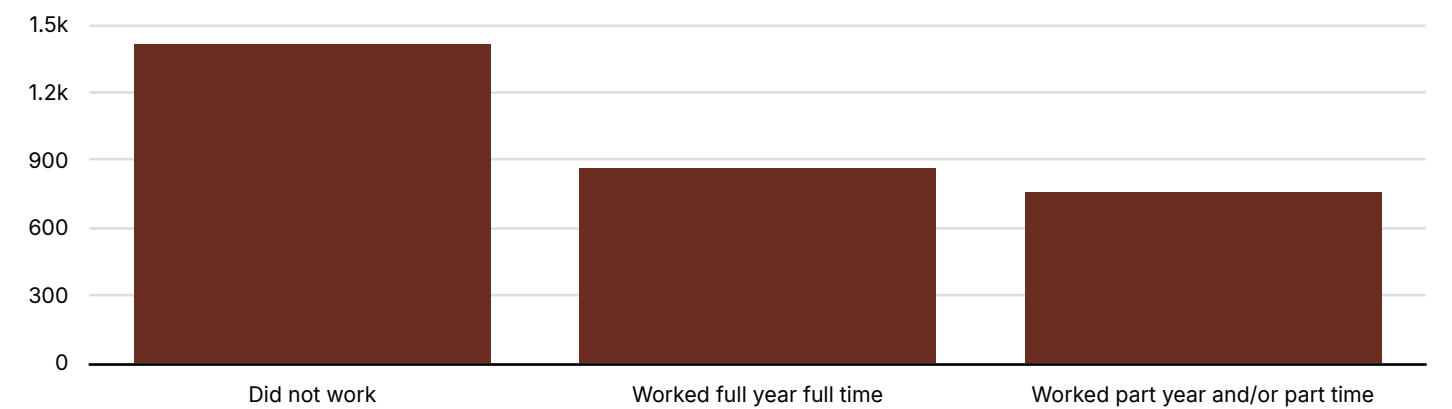


Figure 6.1: Shows the amount of work activity people had during the reference period. It helps indicate attachment to work over the year, not just at a single point in time. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm, work activity in 2021 showed a shift away from employment over the previous five years. Among people aged 15 and over, 1,415 did not work, up 19.9%, while 865 worked full year full time, down 3.9%. Another 755 worked part year and/or part time, down 19.7%. The pattern suggests weaker attachment to work during the period captured by the census. The largest group was those who did not work, and both working categories declined, with the sharper drop in part-year or part-time work.

In Claresholm, work activity in 2021 was split between people who did not work and those with some attachment to work. Among the population aged 15 and over, 1,415 people did not work, compared with 865 who worked full year full time and 755 who worked part year and/or part time. Over five years, the non-working group rose 19.9%, while full-year full-time work fell 3.9% and part-year or part-time work declined 19.7%.



Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Work Activity - Did not work (Claresholm)¹

Class of Worker

Claresholm’s largest worker group was permanent positions at 1,045 people in 2021. Casual, seasonal or short-term positions followed at 185, while fixed-term jobs accounted for 75, showing a clear concentration in permanent work.

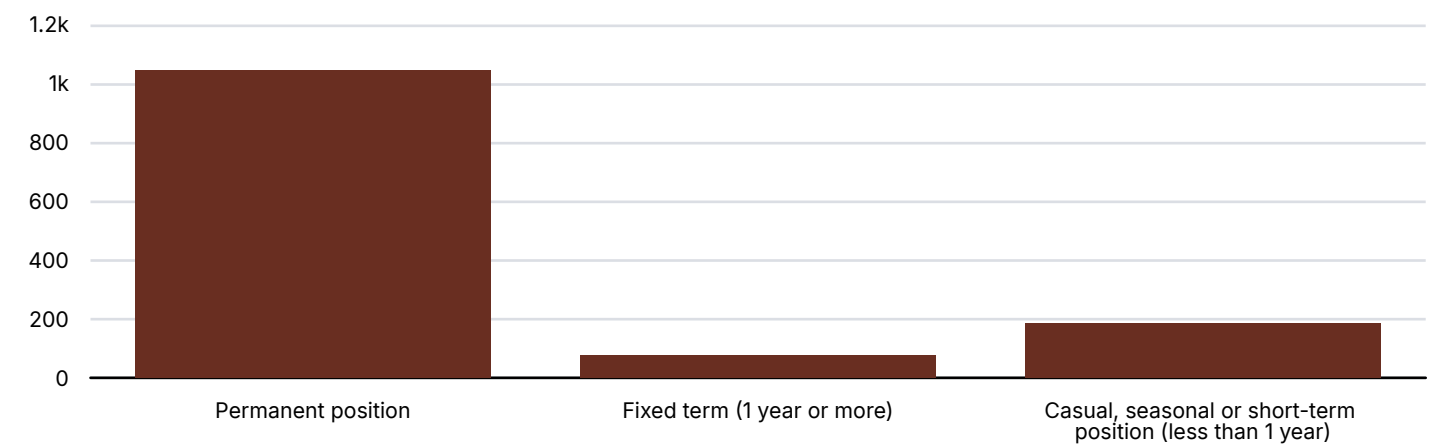


Figure 7.1: Shows whether workers are employees, self-employed, or unpaid family workers. It helps indicate the structure of work in the local economy. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In 2021, Claresholm’s workforce was dominated by permanent positions, showing a stable employment structure among residents aged 15 and over. That pattern is clear in the counts: 1,045 workers held permanent jobs, compared with 185 in casual, seasonal or short-term positions and 75 in fixed-term jobs of one year or more. The gap between permanent and temporary work is large, and the smaller categories point to a limited share of short-duration employment. The available data does not show unpaid family workers, so the picture here is limited to the reported job types. Taken together, the profile suggests a local labour market where ongoing positions far outweigh temporary arrangements.

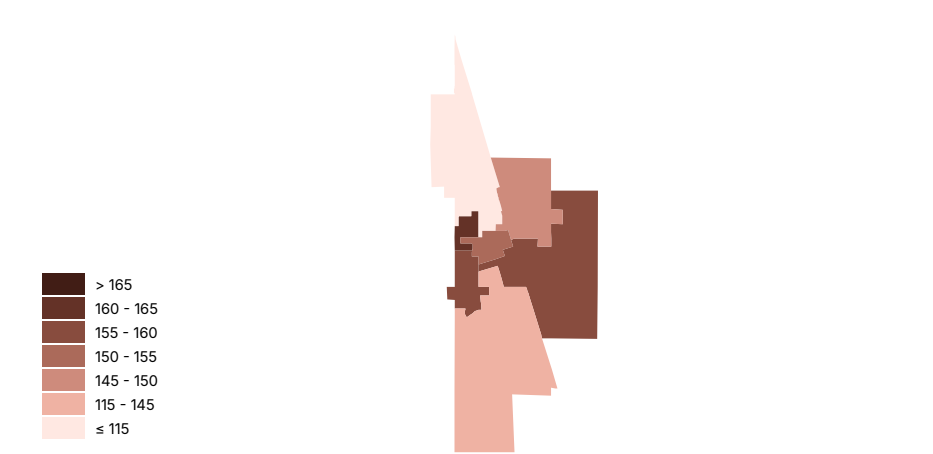


Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Class Of Worker - Permanent position (Claresholm)¹

In Claresholm in 2021, most workers aged 15 and over held permanent positions, making this the clear dominant class of worker. Permanent positions numbered 1,045 people, compared with 185 in casual, seasonal or short-term jobs and 75 in fixed-term jobs of one year or more. The gap between permanent and non-permanent work is substantial, with permanent jobs accounting for the large majority of reported workers in this profile. This pattern points to a workforce structure centered on stable employment, while shorter-term arrangements remain a smaller part of local working life.

Employment Rate

Claresholm’s employment rate was 47.2% in 2021, down from 51.3% in 2016 and 53.6% in 2011. The five-year decline was 8.0%, continuing a longer downward trend.

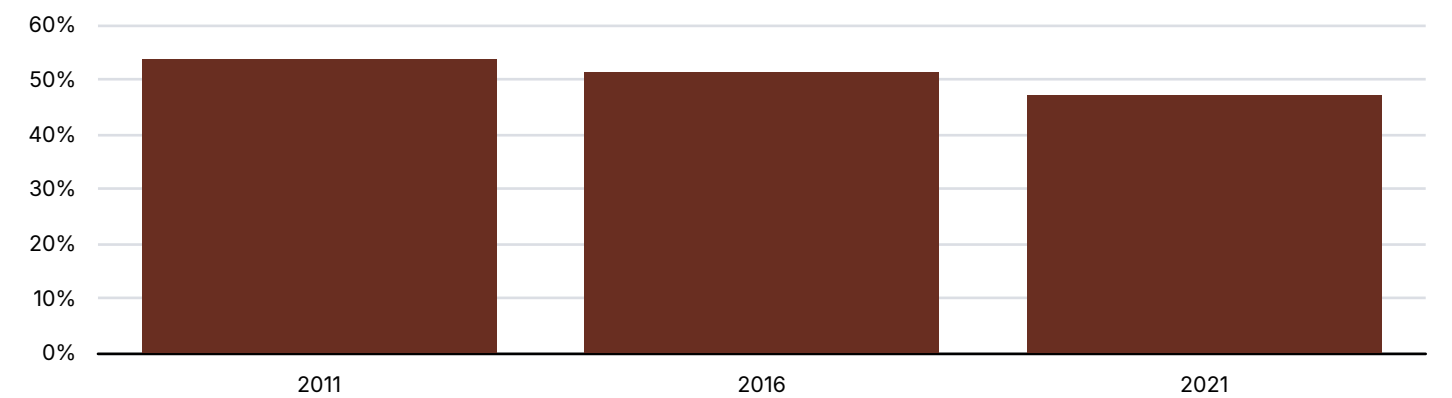


Figure 8.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed. It helps indicate overall labour market health and how fully local talent is being used. (Claresholm, 2011-2021)¹

Claresholm’s employment rate has moved down over the period shown, suggesting a weaker share of the working-age population was employed in 2021 than earlier census years. In 2011, the rate was 53.6%, then 51.3% in 2016, before falling to 47.2% in 2021. The five-year change was -4.3% in 2016 and -8.0% in 2021, showing the decline intensified in the later period. Within the labour force aged 15 years and over, the trend is clearly downward.

Claresholm’s employment rate, measured for the labour force aged 15 years and over, declined steadily across the three census points. It was 53.6% in 2011, 51.3% in 2016, and 47.2% in 2021. That 2021 level sat below several nearby places, including Nanton at 58.4%, Pincher Creek No. 9 at 61.6%, and Willow Creek No. 26 at 68.7%. It was also above some lower-rate comparators such as Hill Spring at 30.8% and Piikani 147 at 33.2%. The pattern points to a local employment share that has weakened over time and remains mid-range in the regional group.

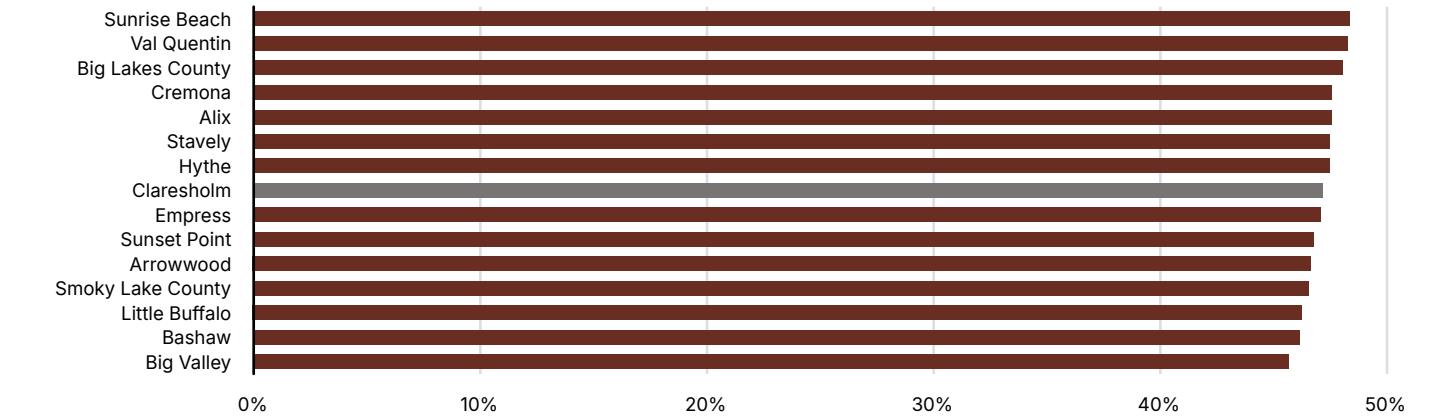


Figure 8.2: Comparison of Employment Rate with other locations (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Work Activity

Claresholm’s largest work-activity group was people who did not work, reaching 1,415 in 2021, up 19.9% from 2016. Full-year full-time workers numbered 865, while part-year or part-time workers fell to 755, down 19.7%.

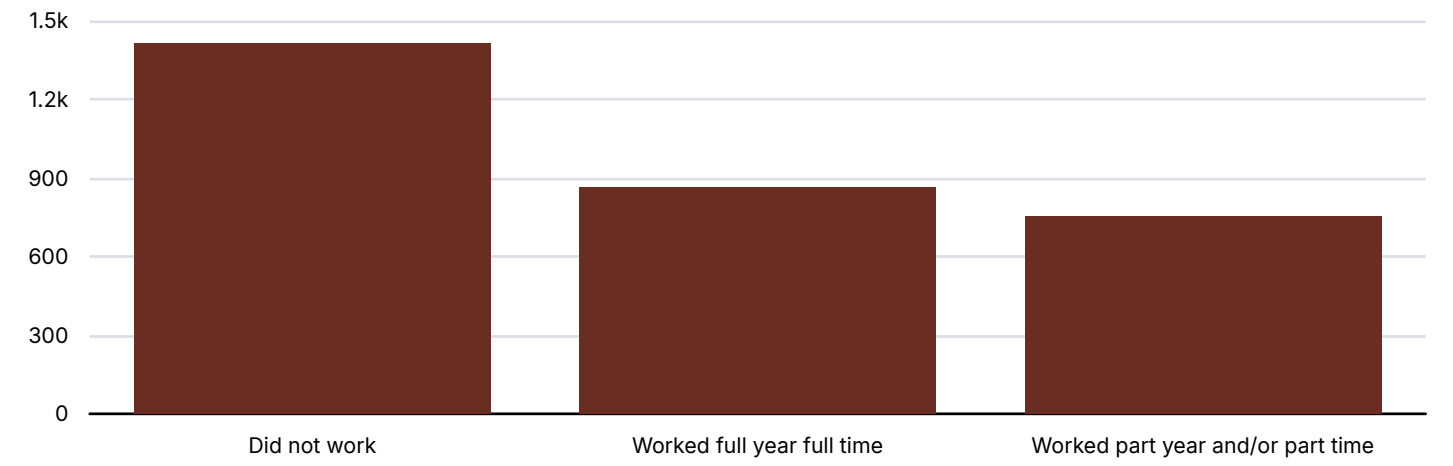
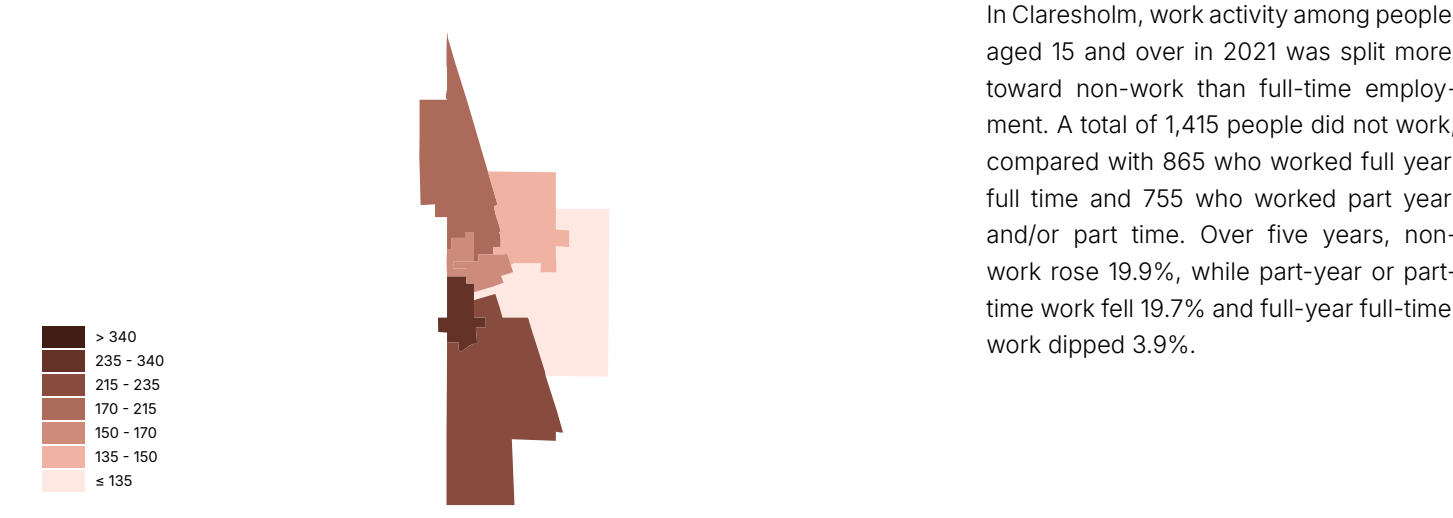


Figure 9.1: Shows the amount of work activity people had during the reference period. It helps indicate attachment to work over the year, not just at a single point in time. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In Claresholm in 2021, work activity among the population aged 15 years and over was centered more on people who did not work than on those with recent employment. The largest group, 1,415 people, did not work during the reference period, while 865 worked full year full time and 755 worked part year and/or part time. The longer-term change shows different directions across these groups: those who did not work were up 19.9% over five years, while full-year full-time workers were down 3.9% and part-year or part-time workers were down 19.7%. The pattern points to a weakening in partial and full-time attachment to work.



In Claresholm, work activity among people aged 15 and over in 2021 was split more toward non-work than full-time employment. A total of 1,415 people did not work, compared with 865 who worked full year full time and 755 who worked part year and/or part time. Over five years, non-work rose 19.9%, while part-year or part-time work fell 19.7% and full-year full-time work dipped 3.9%.

Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Work Activity - Did not work (Claresholm)¹

Labour Force Participation Rate

Claresholm’s labour force participation rate fell to 52.6% in 2021, down from 55.3% in 2016 and 56.8% in 2011. The five-year decline was 4.9%, extending the earlier 2.6% drop.

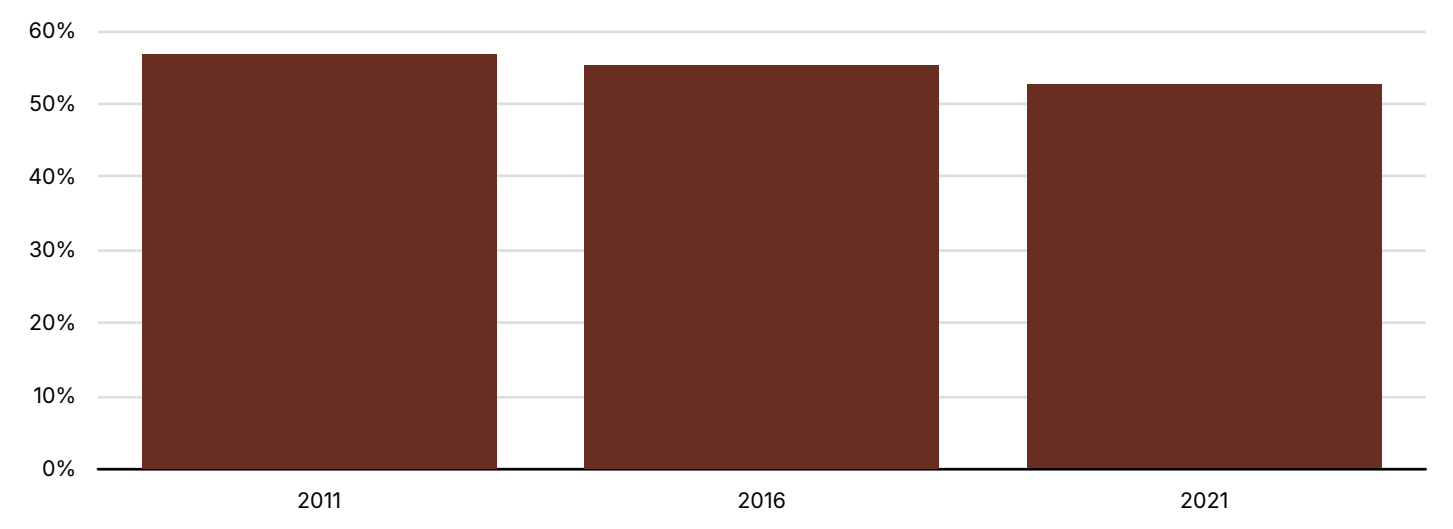
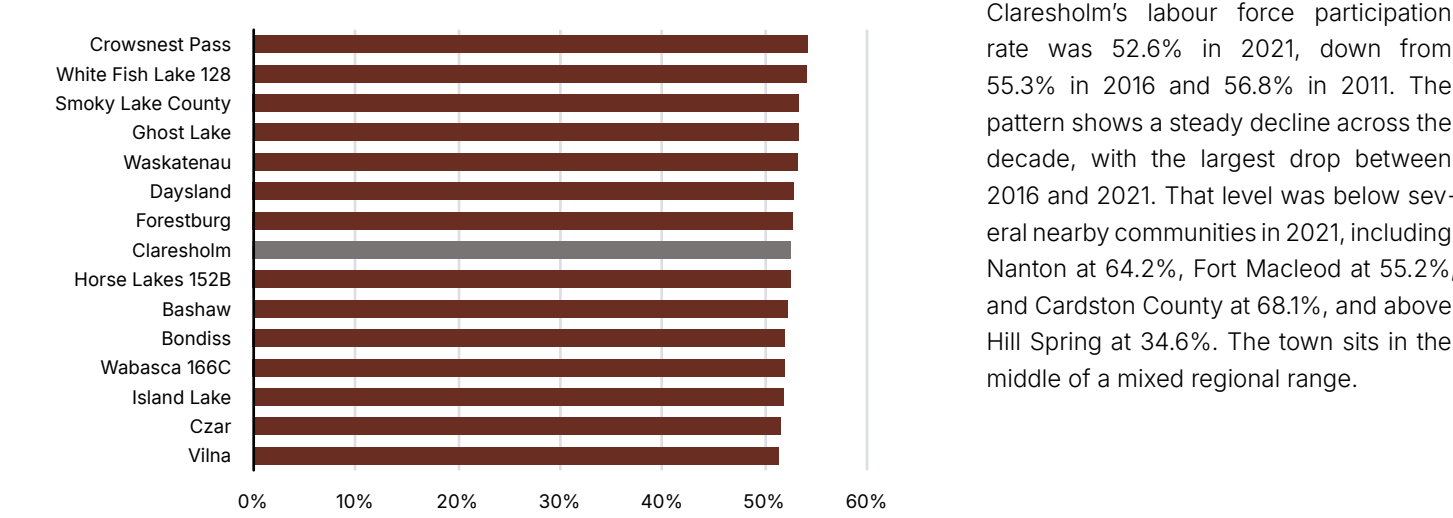


Figure 10.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed or actively looking for work. It helps indicate the level of labour market engagement. (Claresholm, 2011-2021)¹

Claresholm’s labour force participation rate has edged lower across the last three census years. In 2011, 56.8% of the total population was in the labour force. That share slipped to 55.3% in 2016 and then fell further to 52.6% in 2021. The five-year changes confirm the weakening trend: -2.6% between 2011 and 2016, and -4.9% between 2016 and 2021. The pattern points to a gradual decline in labour market engagement over the period, without showing a reversal in the latest census.



Claresholm’s labour force participation rate was 52.6% in 2021, down from 55.3% in 2016 and 56.8% in 2011. The pattern shows a steady decline across the decade, with the largest drop between 2016 and 2021. That level was below several nearby communities in 2021, including Nanton at 64.2%, Fort Macleod at 55.2%, and Cardston County at 68.1%, and above Hill Spring at 34.6%. The town sits in the middle of a mixed regional range.

Figure 10.2: Comparison of Labour Force Participation Rate with other locations (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Employment Rate

Claresholm’s employment rate was 47.2% in 2021, down from 51.3% in 2016 and 53.6% in 2011. The five-year decline was 8.0%, continuing a longer downward trend.

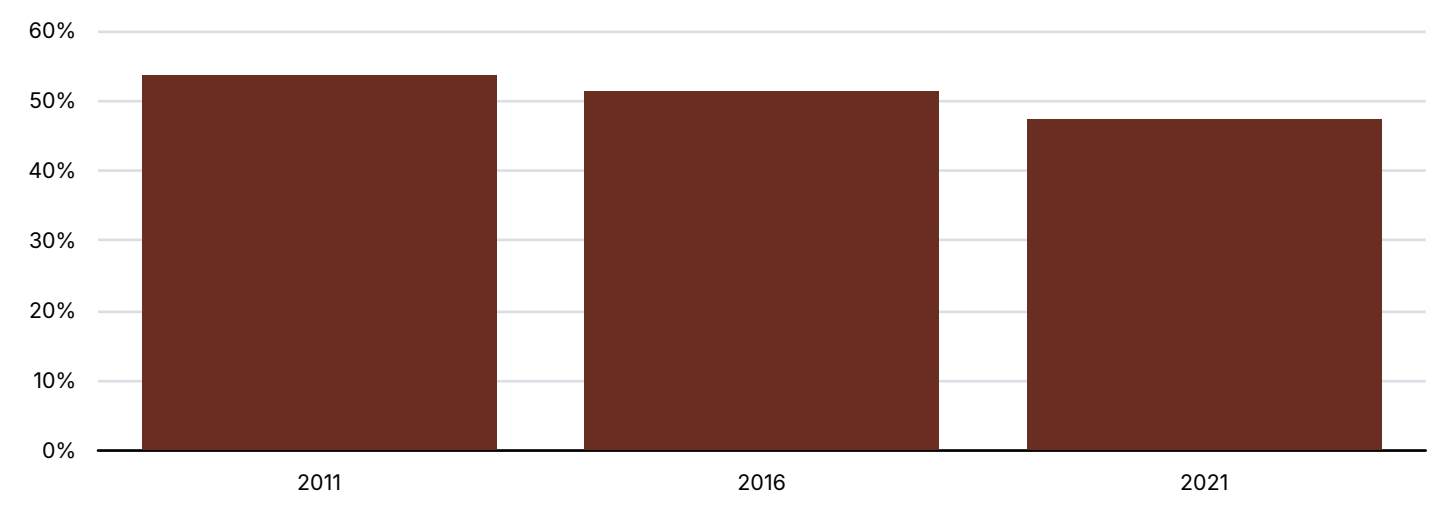
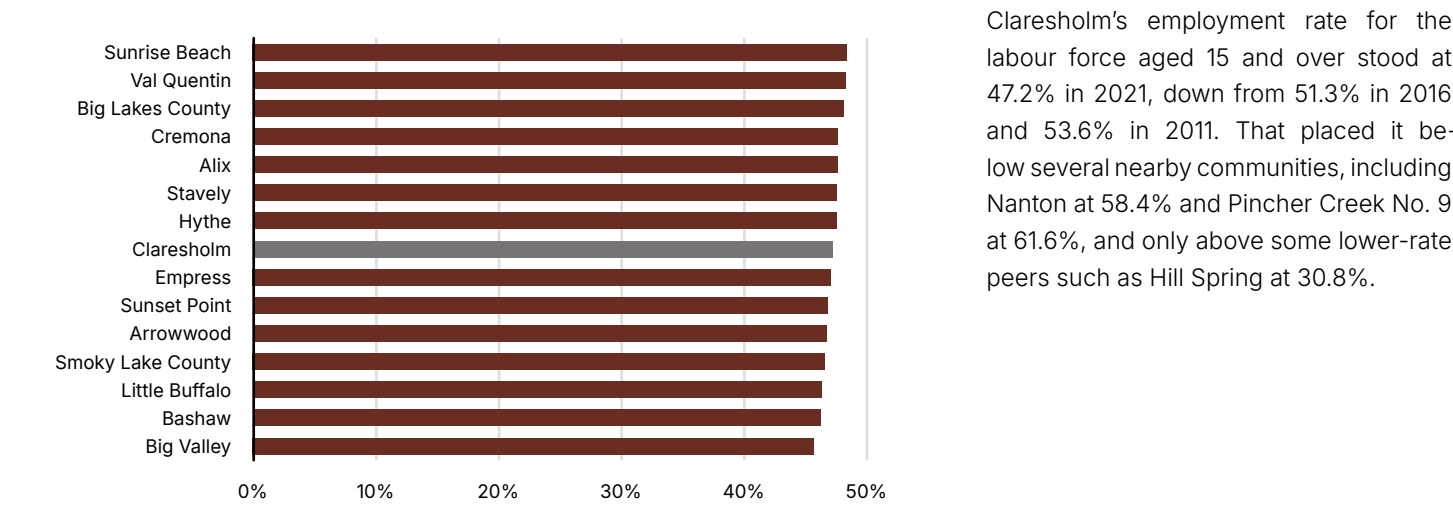


Figure 11.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed. It helps indicate overall labour market health and how fully local talent is being used. (Claresholm, 2011-2021)¹

Claresholm’s employment rate has trended downward over the last decade, pointing to a weaker share of the working-age population in work. In 2011, the rate stood at 53.6% for the labour force aged 15 years and over. By 2016, it had slipped to 51.3%, a 4.3% five-year decline. The downward movement continued into 2021, when the rate fell to 47.2%, marking a further 8.0% five-year drop. The pattern is steady rather than abrupt: each census point is lower than the last. That makes the longer-term direction clear, even without any single sharp break. For Claresholm, the main story is sustained erosion in employment participation over time.



Claresholm’s employment rate for the labour force aged 15 and over stood at 47.2% in 2021, down from 51.3% in 2016 and 53.6% in 2011. That placed it below several nearby communities, including Nanton at 58.4% and Pincher Creek No. 9 at 61.6%, and only above some lower-rate peers such as Hill Spring at 30.8%.

Figure 11.2: Comparison of Employment Rate with other locations (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Labour Force Status

In Claresholm, the largest group in 2021 was people not in the labour force at 1,440, up from 1,350 in 2016. Employed residents fell to 1,435 from 1,550, while unemployed rose to 160 from 120.

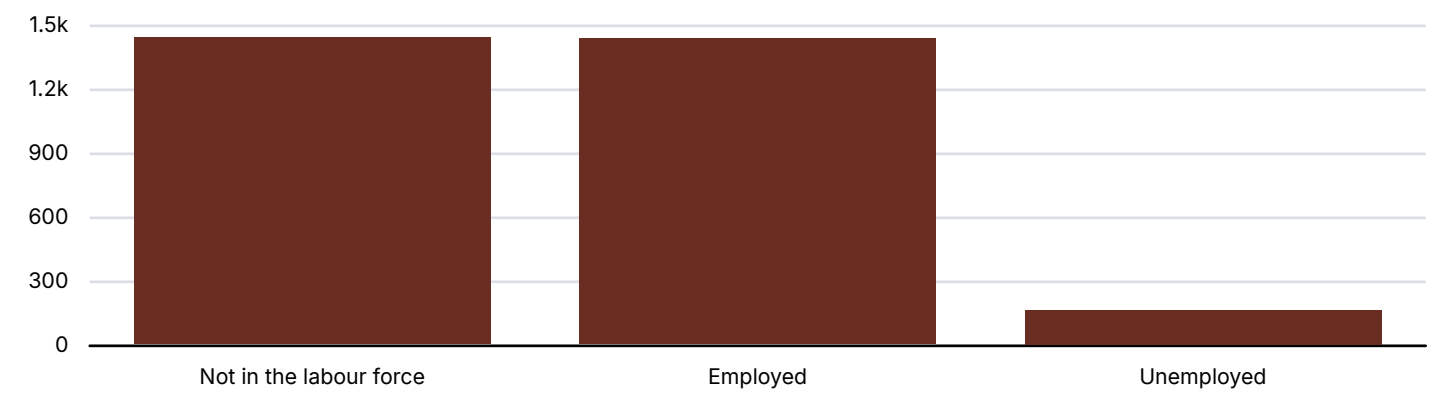


Figure 12.1: Shows whether residents are employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force. It helps indicate how people are participating in the labour market. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

In 2021, Claresholm’s labour force status profile was fairly balanced at the margin, but with a larger share of residents outside the labour force than in work. Among people aged 15 years and over, 1,440 were not in the labour force, 1,435 were employed, and 160 were unemployed. The available data provides a single Census snapshot, so it does not show time trends. It does show a modest gap between those not participating in the labour market and those employed, with unemployment remaining comparatively small.

In 2021, Claresholm’s labour force status among residents aged 15 and over was fairly balanced, with a slight edge for people not in the labour force. Of 3,035 residents, 1,440 were not in the labour force, 1,435 were employed, and 160 were unemployed. That works out to 47.5%, 47.3%, and 5.3% respectively. The near match between employed and not in the labour force suggests a community with both active workers and a large inactive share. The small unemployed group keeps the profile relatively steady, with no strong tilt in either direction.



Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Labour Force Status - Not in the labour force (Claresholm)¹

Resident Labour Force

Claresholm’s resident labour force in 2021 was led by health care and social assistance with 385 people, slightly below 2016’s 390. Retail trade rose to 240, while public administration increased to 95 from 55.

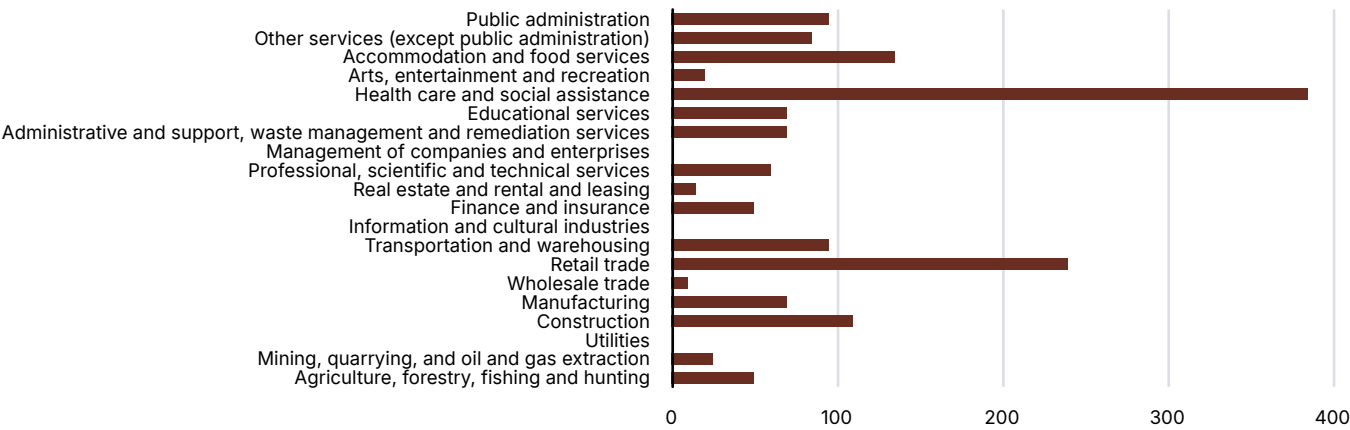


Figure 13.1: Shows the number of residents who are in the labour force. It helps indicate the size of the locally available workforce. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Claresholm’s resident labour force in 2021 was spread across a range of sectors, with health care and social assistance standing out as the largest employer group. Retail trade was the next largest, while construction and transportation and warehousing also held notable shares of the local workforce. Recent change was mixed. Public administration rose 72.7% over five years, real estate and rental and leasing increased 50.0%, and agriculture grew 42.9%. By contrast, wholesale trade fell 77.8%, mining declined 44.4%, and manufacturing was down 39.1%. The pattern suggests a labour force that has shifted unevenly across sectors, with gains in some service and public functions offset by losses in several goods-oriented activities.

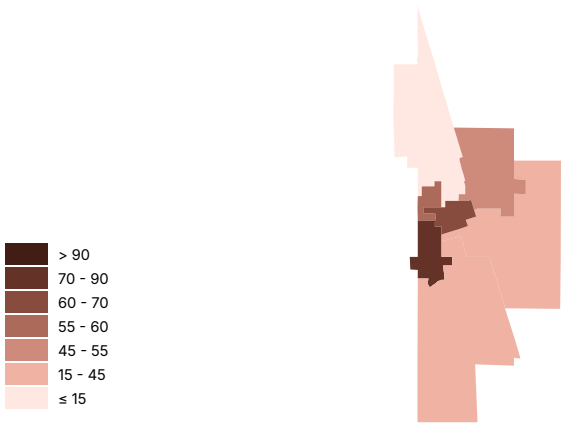


Figure 13.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Industry Sector - Health care and social assistance (Claresholm)¹

Claresholm’s resident labour force in 2021 was spread across a small set of major sectors, with health care and social assistance the largest at 385 people, followed by retail trade at 240 and accommodation and food services at 135. Construction and transportation also remained notable, at 110 and 95. The pattern suggests a mixed local workforce with both service and goods-linked employment. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile

Employment by Sector

Health care and social assistance remained Claresholm’s largest sector in 2025 with 1,780 people, despite a 1.6% annual decline. It still far exceeded retail trade at 282 and public administration at 240.

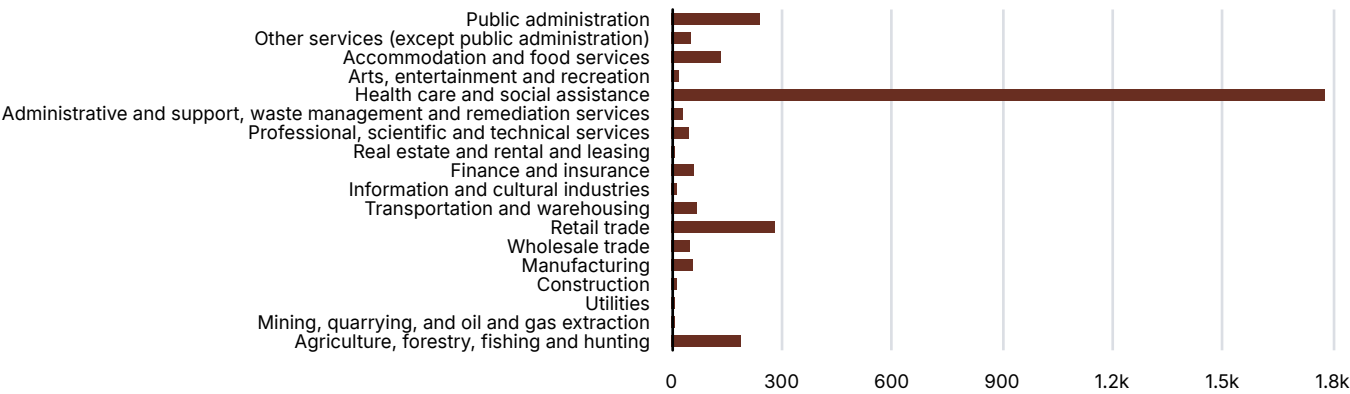


Figure 14.1: Shows how employment is distributed across industry sectors. It helps indicate which sectors account for the largest share of local jobs. (Claresholm, 2025)²

In Claresholm, employment in 2025 was concentrated in health care and social assistance, which accounted for 1,780 people, far ahead of retail trade at 282 and public administration at 240. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting also remained a major employer with 190 people. The sharpest long-term growth was in health care, up 808.2% over five years, while mining and wholesale trade fell markedly. The pattern points to a narrow set of dominant employers.

Claresholm’s 2025 employment profile is led by health care and social assistance, which accounts for 1,780 jobs and is far ahead of every other sector. Retail trade is the next largest at 282 jobs, followed by public administration at 240 and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting at 190. The recent pattern is mixed: health care is down 1.6% from a year earlier but still up 808.2% over five years, while retail is nearly flat and wholesale trade has fallen 52.3% in the past year.



Figure 14.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Health care and social assistance (Claresholm)²

Employed Residents by Occupation

Sales and service occupations were the largest group in Claresholm in 2021 at 500 people, up 8.7% from 2016. Health occupations followed at 255, while legislative and senior management fell to 20 people, down 85.2%.

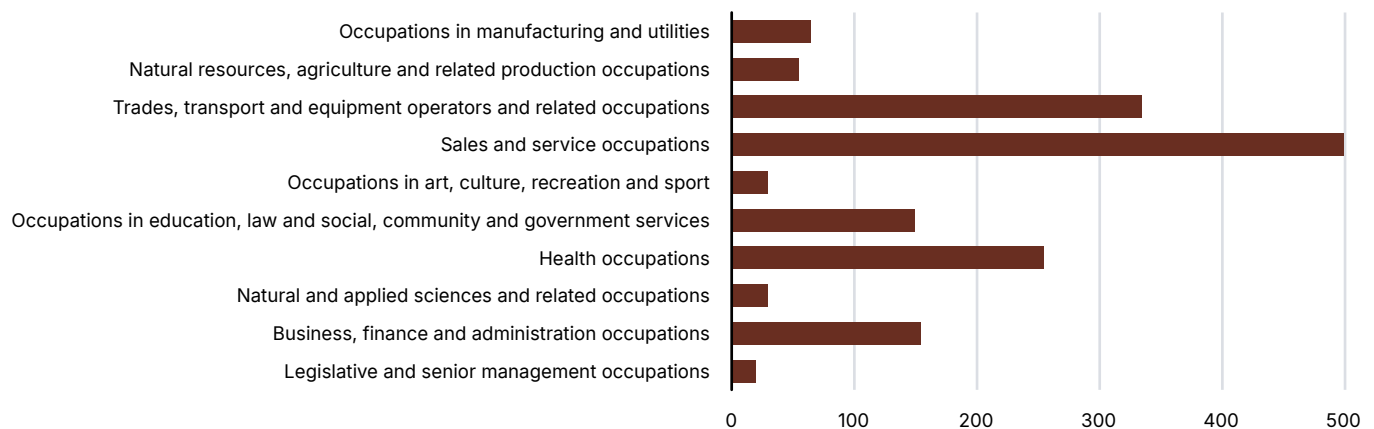


Figure 15.1: Shows the occupations held by employed residents. It helps indicate the community's skill mix and the kinds of work people do. (Claresholm, 2021)¹

Claresholm's employed residents in 2021 were concentrated in a few occupation groups, with sales and service occupations and trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations forming the largest blocks. Sales and service accounted for 500 people, followed by trades at 335 and health occupations at 255. Business, finance and administration employed 155 residents, while education, law and social, community and government services had 150. Over five years, health rose 24.4% and sales and service increased 8.7%, while legislative and senior management occupations fell 85.2%. The mix suggests a workforce that has grown more in care and service roles than in leadership or resource-based occupations.



Figure 15.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Occupation - Sales and service occupations (Claresholm)¹

Claresholm's employed residents in 2021 were concentrated in a few occupation groups, with sales and service roles forming the largest share of the local labour force aged 15 and over. Sales and service occupations accounted for 500 people, followed by trades, transport and equipment operators at 335 and health occupations at 255. This mix suggests a labour force weighted toward service, trade, and care work rather than managerial or specialized scientific roles. Smaller counts in management, science, and resource-based occupations point to a narrower presence in those fields.

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.
2. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Employment by Industry Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.

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