



WAINWRIGHT

Mobility & Commuting Report

Table of Contents

Lived Here 1 Year Ago	4
Lived Here 5 Years Ago	5
Place of Work Status	6
Commute Destination	7
Main Mode of Commuting	8
Commute Duration	9
Time Leaving for Work	10

Executive Summary

Wainwright's 2021 mobility and commuting profile is defined by continuity and a strongly local orientation. Most residents had not moved in the previous year, and over a five-year horizon the largest group was still people who were already living in the community. That longer view also shows one notable exception to the general stability: movement from elsewhere within Alberta increased, while other migrant groups were smaller and mostly declined. The result is a place where resident retention remains the dominant feature, with recent population change appearing more tied to intraprovincial movement than to interprovincial or international inflows.

The labour force pattern follows the same local, settled character, though with some clear shifts in how work is organized. A usual workplace remained the main arrangement in 2021, but that group was smaller than in 2016, while working from home rose sharply and no fixed workplace also increased. Even with that change, employment and commuting were still anchored close to home. The largest commuting flow by far was within Wainwright itself, and smaller outbound flows to the wider census division, elsewhere in Alberta, or another province all remained limited and declined over time. Commuting distances were similarly compact: short trips of less than 15 minutes were the clear norm, while longer travel times accounted for much smaller groups and also fell across the period. Departures were concentrated in the standard morning peak, especially the 7 a.m. hour, with less weight in the earliest departure window than five years earlier.

Travel mode reinforces that picture of a compact, car-oriented labour market. Driving remained overwhelmingly the main way residents got to work, far ahead of walking, cycling, or riding as a passenger. Public transit, already marginal in 2016, fell to zero in 2021, leaving little modal diversity in the commuting mix. Across the report, Wainwright appears as a community with strong residential continuity, a labour market centered on nearby jobs, and a commuting pattern that has become somewhat more flexible in work location without becoming less local in its basic structure.

Lived Here 1 Year Ago

In Wainwright, non-movers were the largest group in 2021, at 5,380 people, up 7.9% from 2016. External migrants grew fastest to 30, while non-migrants, intraprovincial, and interprovincial migrants fell.

Wainwright's recent mobility profile is led by non-movers, meaning most residents lived in the same place one year earlier. In 2021, that group numbered 5,380 people, making it the clear largest category in the local population by mobility status. The smaller mover groups were all below that level. Non-migrants totaled 475 people, intraprovincial migrants 170, interprovincial migrants 135, and external migrants 30. Compared with 2016, non-movers rose from 4,985, while the other groups mostly contracted. The strongest change was in exter-

nal migrants, which increased from 25 to 30 people over the five-year period, a 20.0% rise. By contrast, non-migrants fell 11.2%, intraprovincial migrants declined 15.0%, and interprovincial migrants dropped 15.6%. That mix points to a population that remained relatively stable, with the largest share staying put. Taken together, the data show low short-term churn and a settlement pattern dominated by residents who did not move in the previous year.

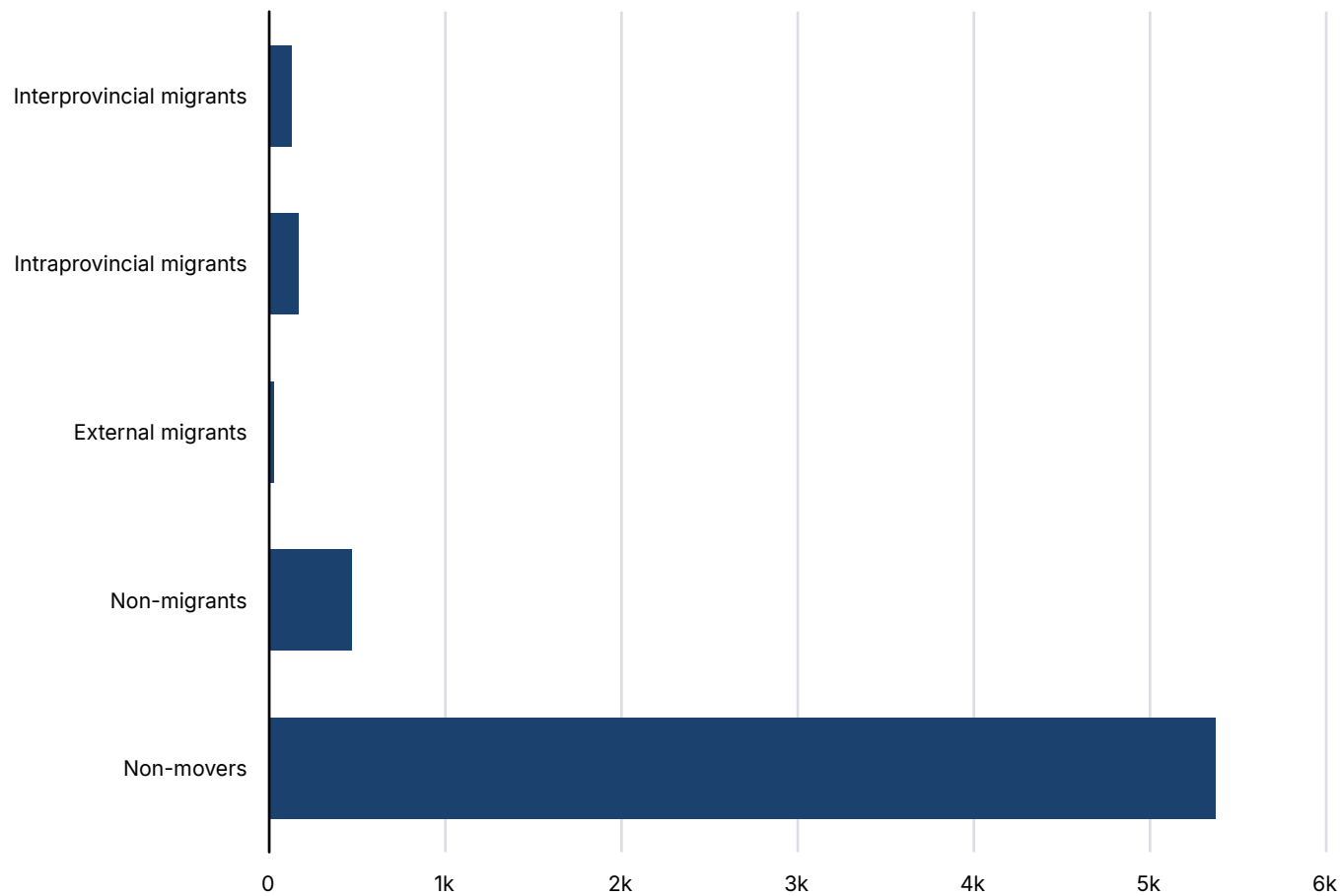


Figure 1.1: Shows where residents lived one year ago compared with their current location. It helps indicate recent mobility and short-term population churn. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

Lived Here 5 Years Ago

In Wainwright, non-movers were the largest group in 2021 at 3,090 people, up 10.8% from 2016. Intraprovincial migrants increased to 1,105, a 52.4% rise, while interprovincial migrants fell to 470 and non-migrants declined to 1,015.

Wainwright's mobility profile in 2021 is dominated by people who were already living there five years earlier. Non-movers are the largest group at 3,090 people, and they grew 10.8% from 2016. The next most notable shift is among intraprovincial migrants, which rose to 1,105 people, up 52.4% over the same period. By contrast, several other groups were smaller in 2021 and declined. Non-migrants numbered 1,015 people, down 16.1% from 2016, while interprovincial migrants fell to 470

people, a drop of 30.9%. External migrants were the smallest group at 175 people, down 28.6%. The pattern suggests a place where local continuity remains strong, but movement within the province has become more important over time. The rise in intraprovincial migrants stands out against declines in the other migrant categories. Taken together, the 2021 picture is one of stable resident retention alongside a notable shift toward more provincial in-migration.

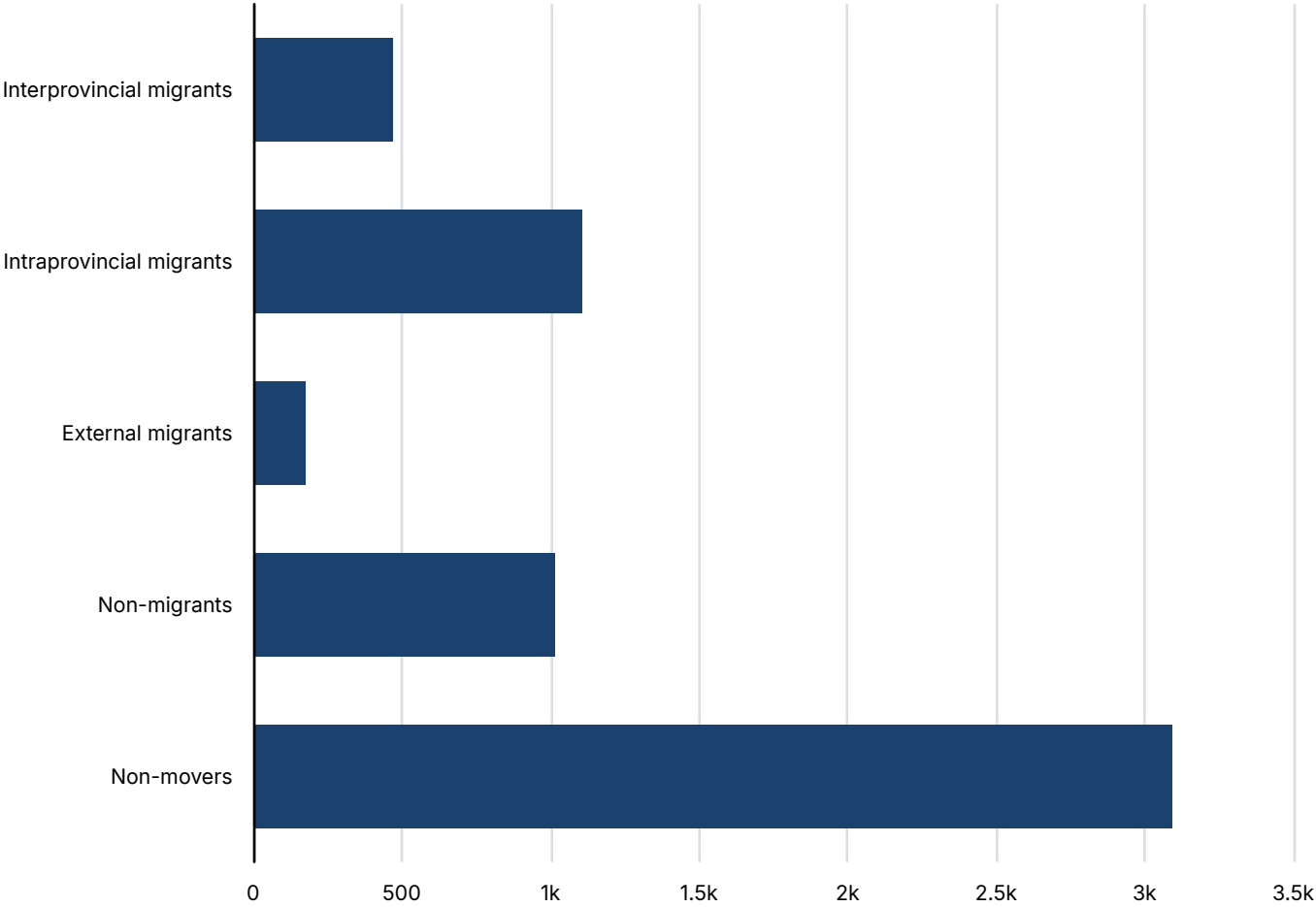


Figure 2.1: Shows where residents lived five years ago compared with their current location. It helps indicate longer-term mobility and migration patterns. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

Place of Work Status

In 2021, Wainwright’s employed labour force remained centered on a usual workplace, with 2,435 people, though this fell 12.6% from 2016. Working at home rose to 310, and no fixed workplace increased to 555.

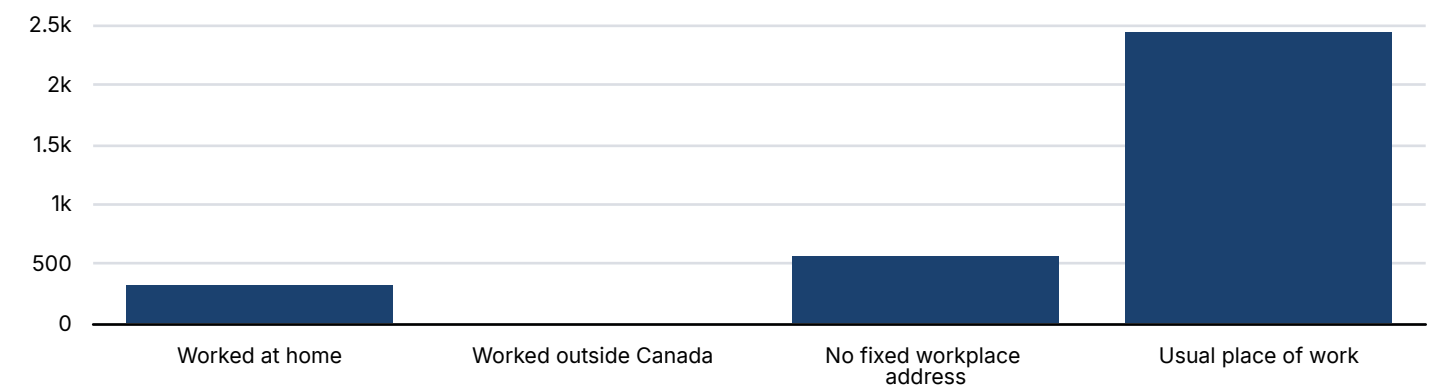


Figure 3.1: Shows whether people work from home, at a usual workplace, or at no fixed workplace. It helps indicate how work is organized across locations. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

In 2021, Wainwright’s employed labour force aged 15 and over was still dominated by people with a usual place of work, though that group was smaller than in 2016. It numbered 2,435 people, a 12.6% decline over five years. Working at home rose sharply from 110 to 310 people, an increase of 181.8%, while those with no fixed workplace grew from 475 to 555, up 16.8%. No one was recorded as working outside Canada in either year, suggesting a modest shift toward more flexible work arrangements.

In Wainwright, among the employed labour force aged 15 and over in 2021, most people worked at a usual workplace, but the mix has shifted since 2016. Usual-place workers numbered 2,435, down 12.6% from 2,785. At the same time, 555 people had no fixed workplace address, up 16.8%, and 310 worked at home, a sharp 181.8% increase from 110. No one reported working outside Canada. The pattern suggests a smaller core of conventional workplace commuting alongside growing flexibility in where work happens.

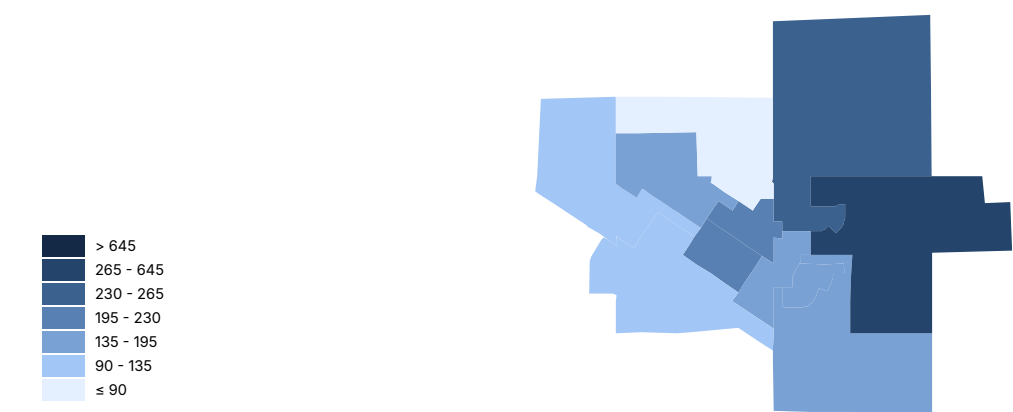


Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Place Of Work Status - Usual place of work (Wainwright)¹

Commute Destination

Wainwright’s largest commuting group was residents working within the census subdivision, totaling 1,875 in 2021, down 13.2% from 2016. Another 440 commuted within the census division, 80 elsewhere in Alberta, and 35 to another province or territory.

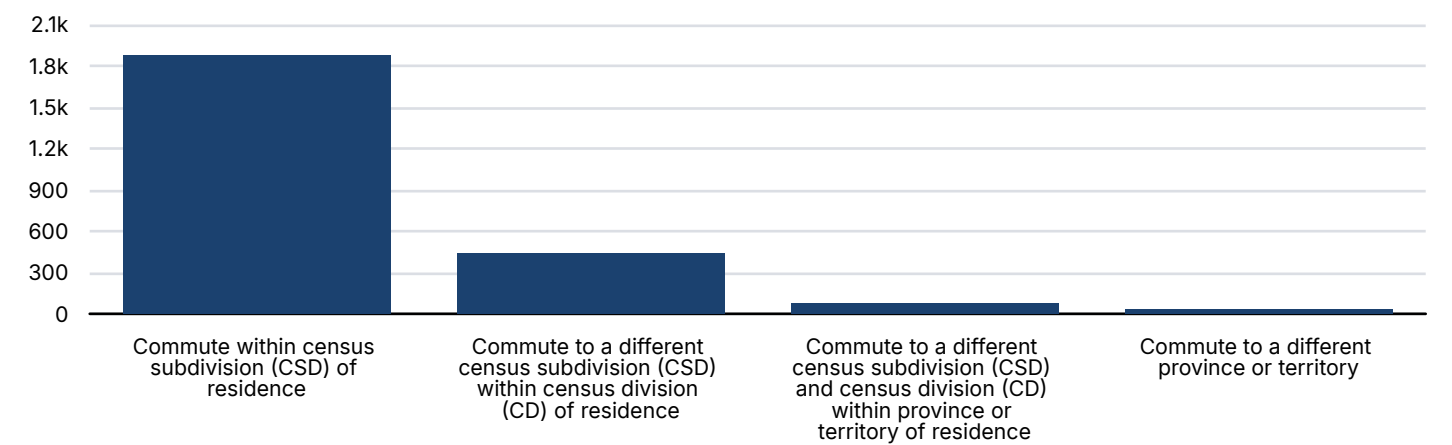


Figure 4.1: Shows where residents travel for work. It helps indicate whether the area functions mainly as a self-contained labour market or as part of a wider commuting region. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

Wainwright’s commuting pattern in 2021 was still centered on work within the community, making it the largest destination group in the local labour force. The main shift since 2016 has been a decline in every commuting category, with the strongest drop in long-distance commuting. In 2021, 1,875 employed residents worked within the census subdivision, down 13.2% from 2,160 in 2016. Another 440 commuted to a different subdivision within the same census division, while 80 worked farther away within the province. Only 35 commuted to a different province or territory, after a 30.0% decline. The pattern points to a commuting profile that remains locally anchored, even as smaller outward-flows contracted. The largest group is still by far the in-community workforce.

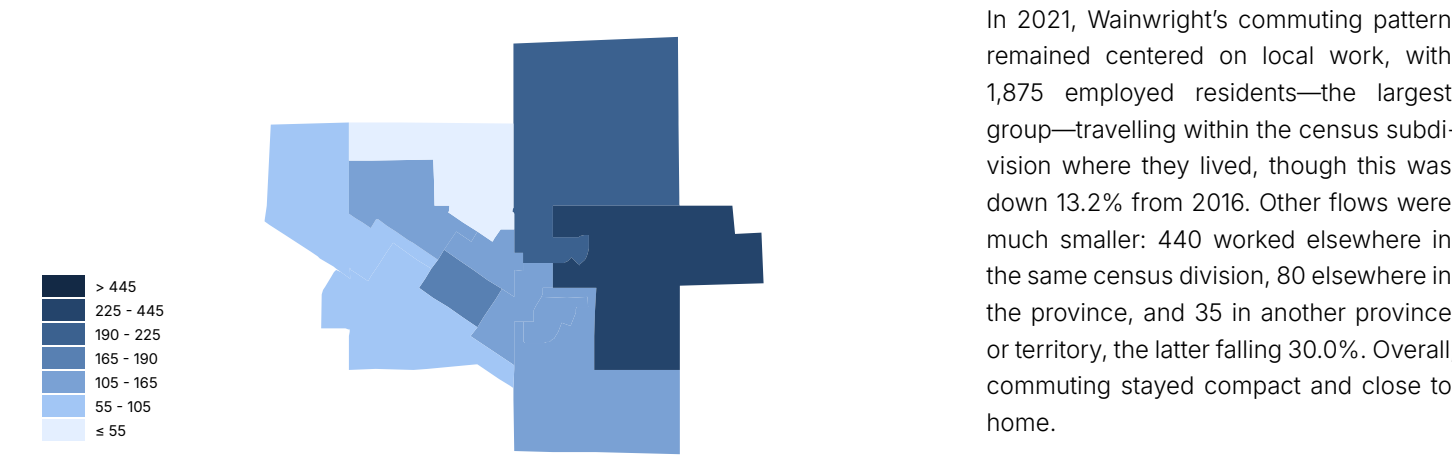


Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Commuting Destination - Commute within census subdivision (CSD) of residence (Wainwright)¹

Main Mode of Commuting

In Wainwright, driving remained the main commuting mode in 2021, with 2,510 people, down 8.4% from 2016. Walking was next at 205, car passengers totaled 190, cycling 40, and public transit fell to zero from 15.

Wainwright's commuting profile in 2021 was dominated by driving. Among employed residents with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address, 2,510 people reported travelling as a car, truck or van driver, far more than any other commuting mode. Walking was the next largest option at 205 people, while car, truck or van as a passenger accounted for 190 people. Over the past five years, the biggest change was a decline in

driving. The number of drivers fell 8.4%, from 2,740 in 2016 to 2,510 in 2021. Walking also dropped, from 260 to 205, a 21.2% decrease. Bicycle commuting rose slightly from 35 to 40, and passenger trips edged up from 185 to 190. Public transit showed the sharpest shift, falling from 15 commuters in 2016 to none in 2021. Overall, the commuting mix became even more concentrated around private vehicles, with very limited modal diversity.

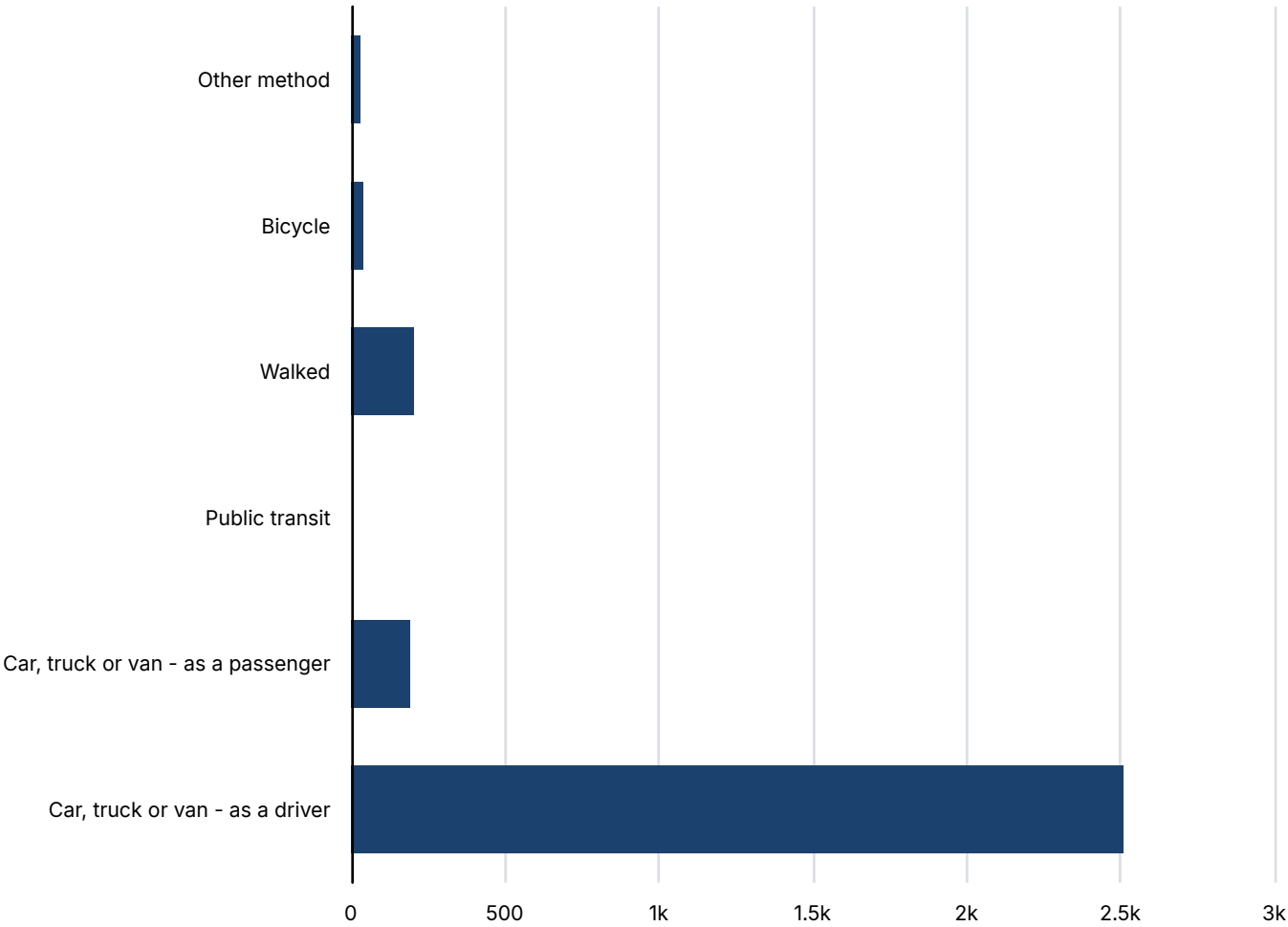


Figure 5.1: Shows the main mode residents use to get to work. It helps indicate dependence on driving, transit, walking, cycling, or other travel modes. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

Commute Duration

In Wainwright, the shortest commute was still the largest group in 2021, with 2,325 people, down 7.0% from 2016. Longer commutes were smaller and all declined over five years.

In Wainwright, commuting in 2021 was dominated by short trips to work. The largest group was residents who traveled less than 15 minutes, with 2,325 people. Longer commutes were much smaller by comparison, including 320 people in the 15 to 29 minute range and 120 people who traveled 60 minutes or more. The 5-year pattern points to broad declines across every commute band. The short-commute group fell 7.0% from 2016, while the 45 to 59 minute group dropped 18.2%, the sharpest decrease of the categories shown. The 30 to 44 minute group

also slipped, from 145 to 125 people. That mix suggests a commute profile centered on nearby jobs, with fewer residents in the longer-duration bands. The distribution is still clearly skewed toward shorter travel times, and the decline across all groups shows a smaller commuting population in 2021 than in 2016. For this aspect, Wainwright's commute pattern is short-distance first, with the most noticeable weakening in the mid-length commute range.

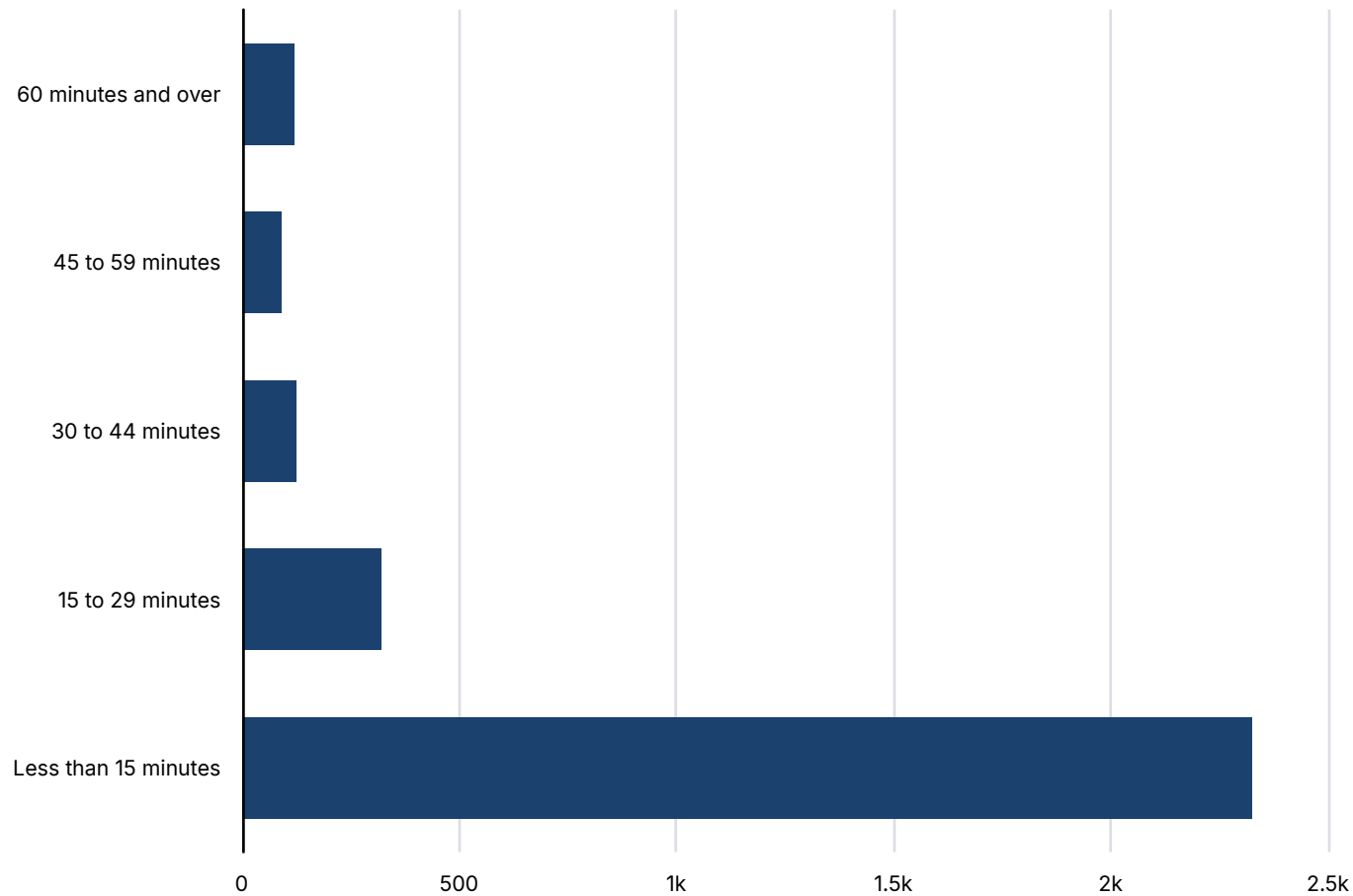


Figure 6.1: Shows how long residents typically spend travelling to work. It helps indicate commuting burden and jobs-housing balance. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

Time Leaving for Work

In Wainwright, the largest commuting group left between 7 a.m. and 7:59 a.m., rising to 995 people in 2021 from 930 in 2016. The 6 a.m. to 6:59 a.m. group fell to 515, the largest five-year decline.

In Wainwright, the 2021 commuting pattern is led by departures between 7 a.m. and 7:59 a.m., with 995 people in that window. That makes the early morning rush the clearest feature of the local time-of-day profile for workers with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address. The next largest group leaves between 8 a.m. and 8:59 a.m., at 590 people, while 6 a.m. to 6:59 a.m. accounts for 515. Later departures are smaller: 275 people leave between 9 a.m. and 11:59 a.m., and 415 people

are counted in the midday-to-late-night block as labeled. Compared with 2016, the strongest change is the 7 a.m. hour, which rose from 930 to 995 people, a 7.0% increase over five years. By contrast, 6 a.m. departures fell from 715 to 515, and 9 a.m. to 11:59 a.m. also declined, from 330 to 275. The pattern suggests a commute that remains concentrated in the standard morning peak, but with some shift away from the earliest departure window toward the 7 a.m. hour.

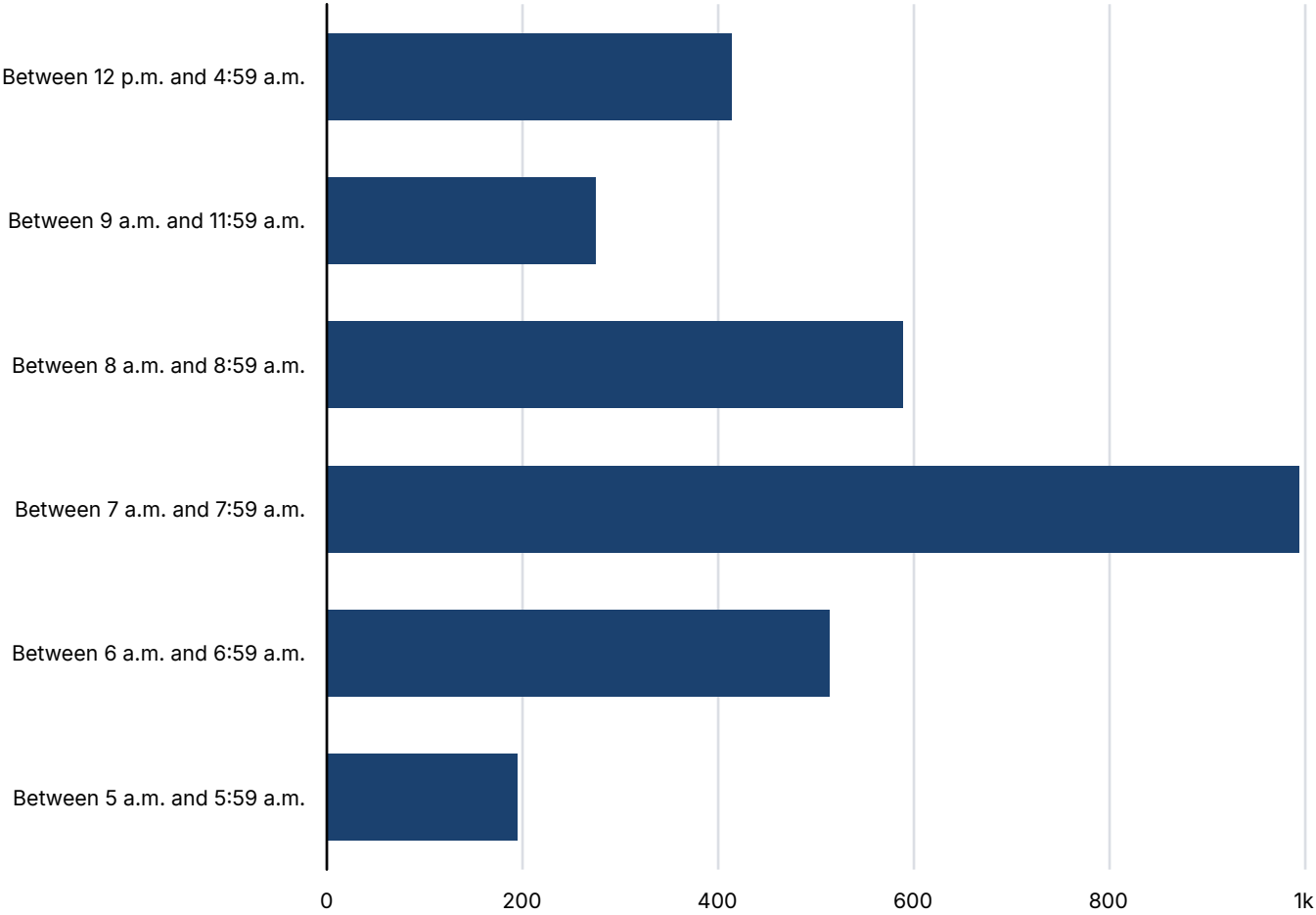


Figure 7.1: Shows the time of day residents usually leave for work. It helps indicate commuting patterns and peak travel demand. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

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.