



WAINWRIGHT

Workforce Report

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Executive Summary

Wainwright presents a profile shaped by a solid secondary education base and a labour market that is concentrated in stable, established forms of work. In 2021, residents aged 15 and over were far more likely to have completed high school than to have no certificate, diploma, or degree, and the largest group by highest credential was also those whose education ended at the high school level. That remained the centre of the local education profile even as several postsecondary categories expanded between 2016 and 2021, including college, bachelor's, and graduate credentials. The result is a community where completed secondary schooling is the main educational foundation, with broader gains visible across higher levels of attainment rather than a shift away from that base.

The labour market shows a similar pattern of continuity with selective change. Permanent positions accounted for most workers in 2021, far outweighing casual, seasonal, and fixed-term jobs, which points to employment that is still anchored in ongoing roles. Most employed residents also continued to work from a usual place of work, although that category declined from 2016 while working from home and having no fixed workplace both increased. Across industries, the resident labour force was spread over a mixed base, with public administration, health care and social assistance, and retail trade among the largest areas in 2021. Within that mix, some service-oriented fields strengthened, especially health care, while several goods-related or resource-linked areas moved lower, including manufacturing and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction. The occupational pattern reinforces that picture: sales and service remained the largest occupation group, trades and transport formed another major block, and community-facing, administrative, and health-related work gained ground.

By 2025, educational services had become the largest employment sector, with health care and social assistance also occupying a prominent place. Smaller sectors showed sharper swings, but the broader picture is not one of rapid structural change. Wainwright appears as a community with a steady employment core, strong weight in public and service-oriented work, and a workforce whose educational profile remains led by high school completion even as postsecondary credentials have become more common.

High School Completion

In Wainwright in 2021, the largest education group was residents with a high school diploma or equivalent, totaling 3,975 people. This exceeded the 1,045 people with no certificate, diploma, or degree by 2,930.

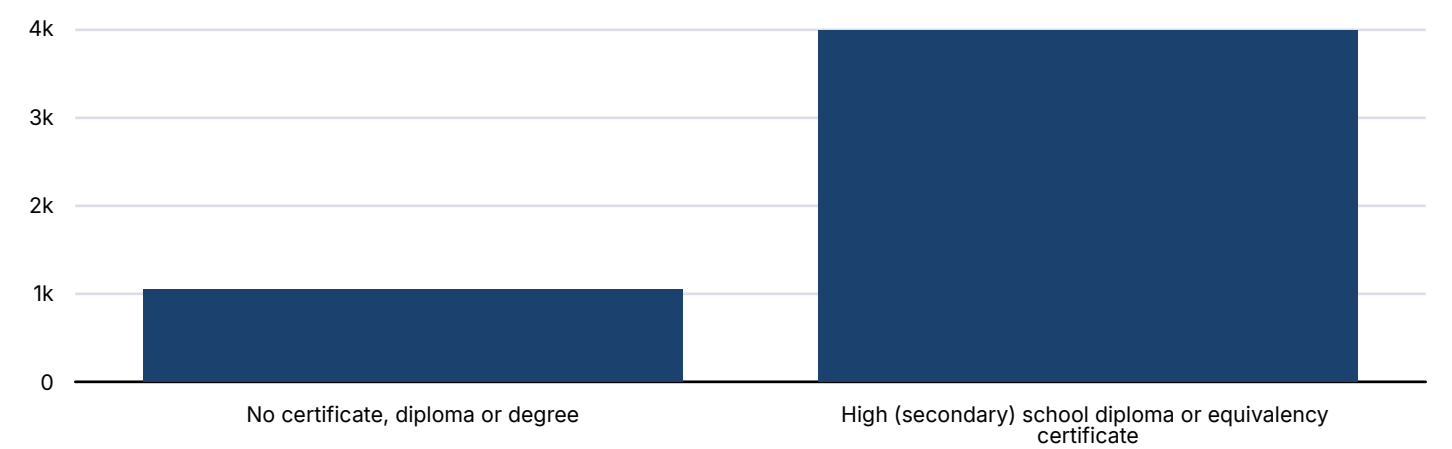


Figure 1.1: Shows whether residents have completed high school or an equivalent credential. It helps indicate a basic foundation for workforce participation and further study. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

In Wainwright, the 2021 picture of high school completion shows that the largest group among residents aged 15 years and over in private households had a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. That group numbered 3,975 people, which is the clear majority of the two categories provided. The remaining group, with no certificate, diploma or degree, included 1,045 people. Together, these figures suggest that high school completion was more common than non-completion in this population. With no comparison data or time trend included, the most notable feature is the size gap between the two groups. The distribution points to a community where completed secondary education forms the stronger base within the available data.

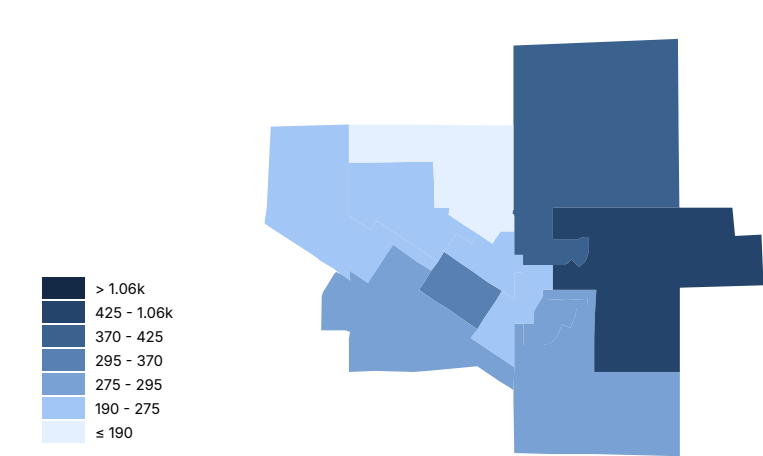


Figure 1.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Wainwright)¹

In Wainwright, high school completion is the larger part of the resident population aged 15 and over in private households in 2021. The biggest group is those with a high school diploma or equivalent, at 3,975 people, compared with 1,045 people with no certificate, diploma or degree. That pattern shows a population where completing secondary school is the common experience, while a smaller group remains without formal credentials. The data points to a clear educational base for work and further study, with completion clearly outnumbering non-completion.

Highest Education Level

Wainwright’s largest education group in 2021 was residents with a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, at 1,715 people, up 61.8% from 2016. College credentials followed at 905 people, while bachelor’s degrees reached 600 and apprenticeship or trades certificates totalled 565. Masters degrees rose to 70 and earned doctorates to 20.

Wainwright’s education profile in 2021 is led by residents whose highest credential is a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. That group is the largest at 1,715 people, and it also posted the strongest five-year increase among the categories shown. Several other credential levels are also sizeable. The college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma group reached 905 people, up 11.7% from 2016. Bachelor’s degrees rose to 600 people, a 26.3% increase, while apprenticeship or trades certificates or diplomas numbered 565 people,

down 5.0%. Masters degrees increased to 70, and earned doctorates to 20. Compared with 2016, the most visible shift is the jump in the high school category, from 1,060 to 1,715 people, alongside more moderate gains in postsecondary credentials. That pattern suggests growth across much of the education distribution, not just at one level. The data points to a population whose largest educational group remains at the secondary level, while higher credentials have also expanded over the five-year period.

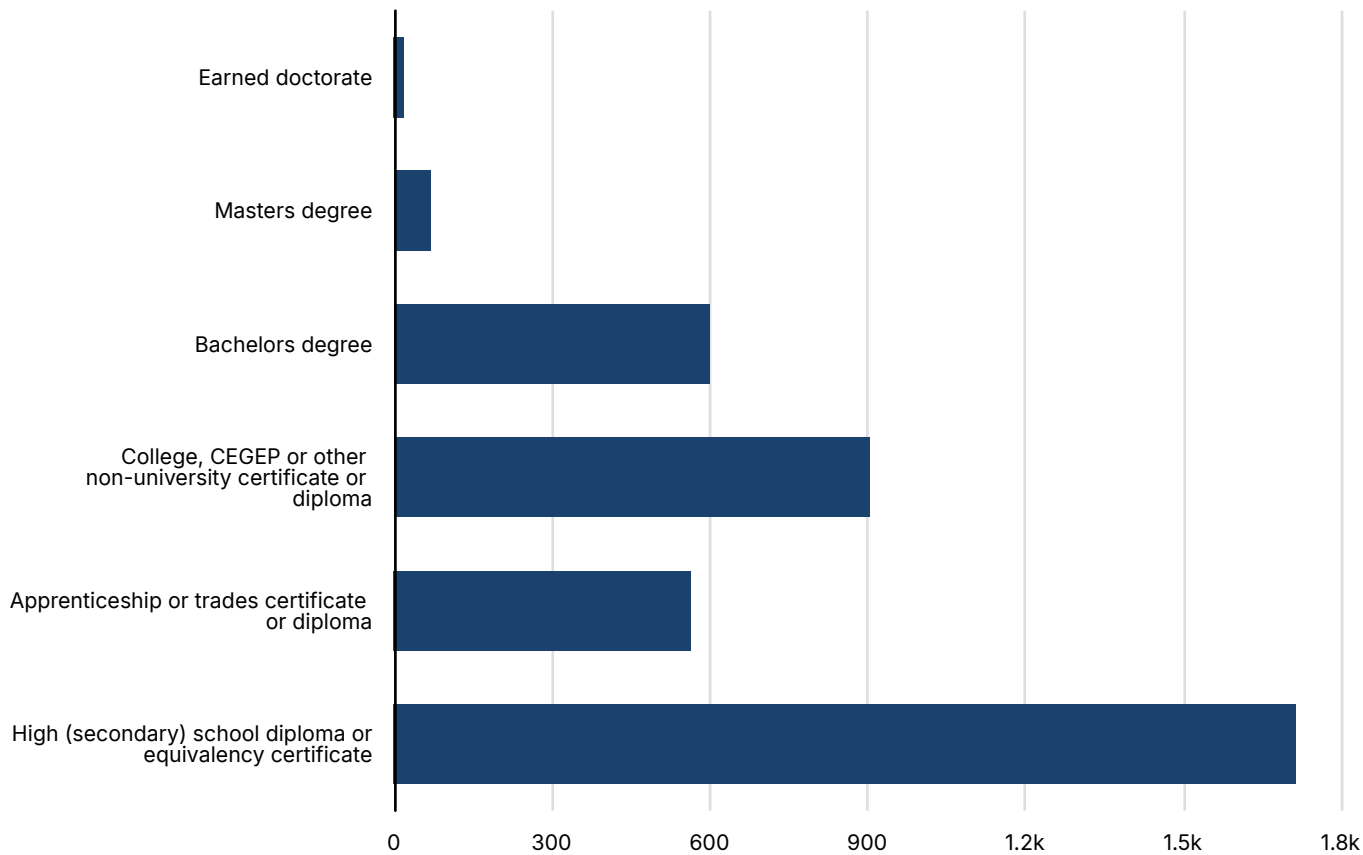


Figure 2.1: Shows the highest level of education completed by residents. It helps indicate the overall educational profile of the population. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

Class of Worker

In Wainwright, permanent positions were the largest class of worker in 2021, with 2,640 people. Casual, seasonal or short-term positions accounted for 365 people, while fixed-term positions of one year or more totaled 120.

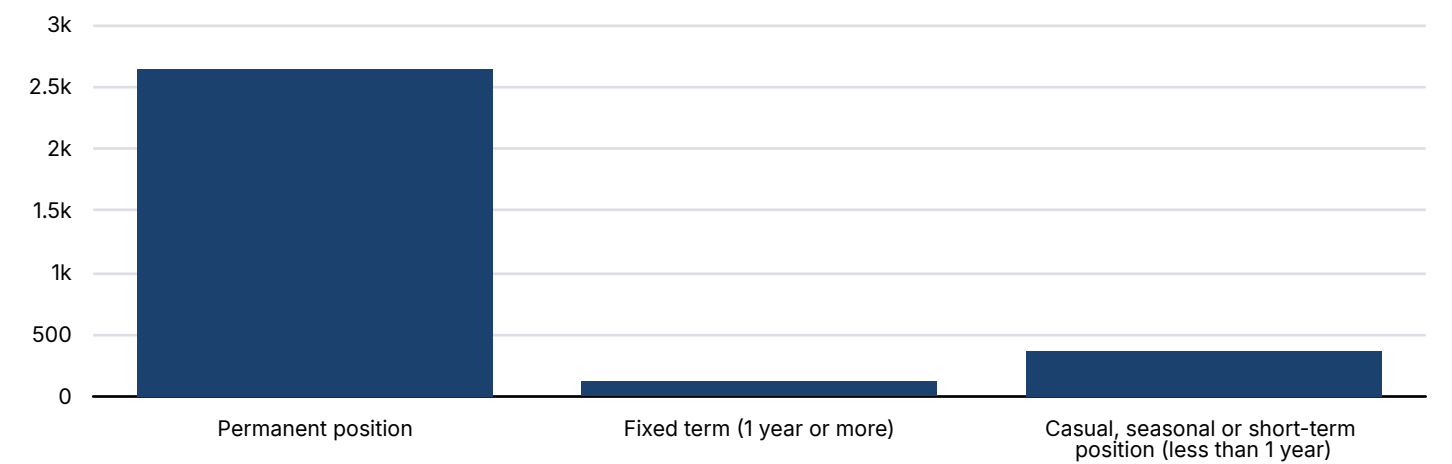
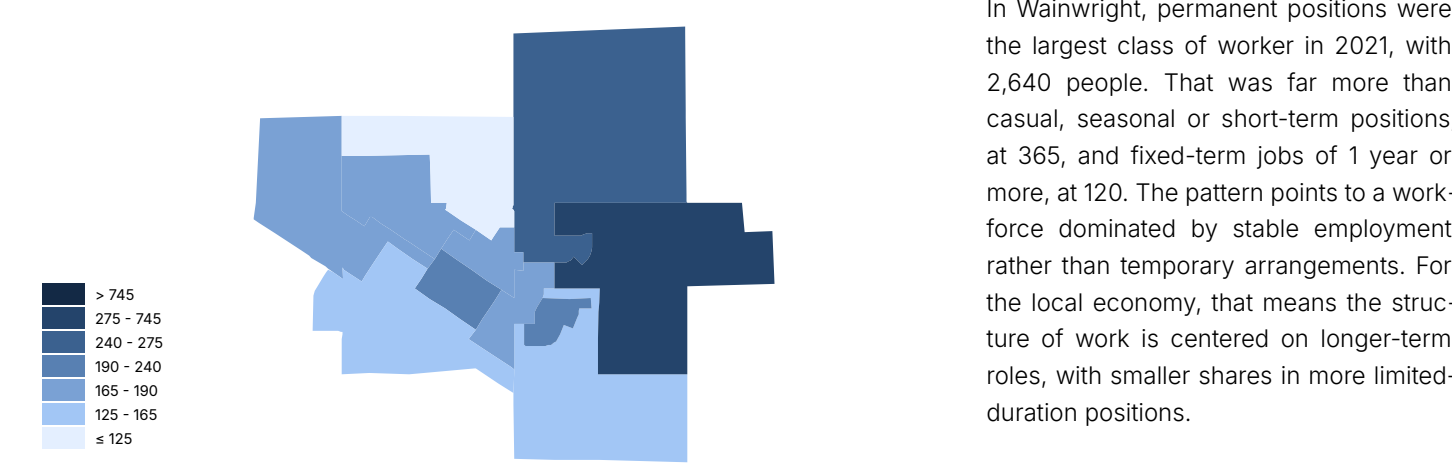


Figure 3.1: Shows whether workers are employees, self-employed, or unpaid family workers. It helps indicate the structure of work in the local economy. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

In Wainwright, the worker profile in 2021 was dominated by permanent positions, indicating a workforce mainly centered on ongoing employment rather than short-term arrangements for people aged 15 years and over. Permanent jobs accounted for 2,640 people. By comparison, much smaller numbers were recorded for casual, seasonal or short-term positions lasting less than one year, at 365 people, and fixed-term positions of one year or more, at 120. The large gap between categories shows a strong concentration in permanent work and a limited role for temporary employment in the local labour market.



In Wainwright, permanent positions were the largest class of worker in 2021, with 2,640 people. That was far more than casual, seasonal or short-term positions, at 365, and fixed-term jobs of 1 year or more, at 120. The pattern points to a workforce dominated by stable employment rather than temporary arrangements. For the local economy, that means the structure of work is centered on longer-term roles, with smaller shares in more limited-duration positions.

Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Class Of Worker - Permanent position (Wainwright)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.

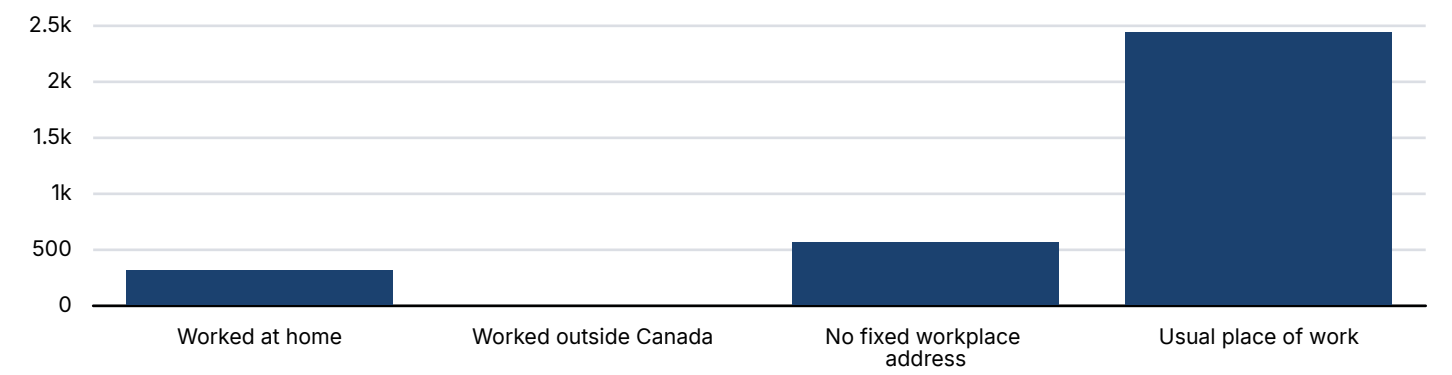


Figure 4.1: Shows whether people work from home, at a usual workplace, or at no fixed workplace. It helps indicate how work is organized across locations. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

In 2021, Wainwright’s employed labour force aged 15 and over was still dominated by people with a usual place of work. That group remained the largest at 2,435 people, even after a 12.6% decline from 2016. The clearest shift was in home-based work. The number who worked at home rose from 110 to 310, an increase of 181.8%. People with no fixed workplace also grew, from 475 to 555, up 16.8%. Taken together, the data show a workplace pattern that is still centered on usual workplaces, but with more flexible working arrangements than five years earlier.

In Wainwright, place of work in 2021 was still dominated by people with a usual workplace, but that group was smaller than five years earlier. There were 2,435 employed residents in that category, down 12.6% from 2016. By contrast, 310 people worked at home, up 181.8%, while 555 had no fixed workplace address, a rise of 16.8%. The pattern points to a more mixed work arrangement in the local labour force, with home-based work growing sharply even as the usual workplace remained the largest group. Worked outside Canada was unchanged at zero in both years.

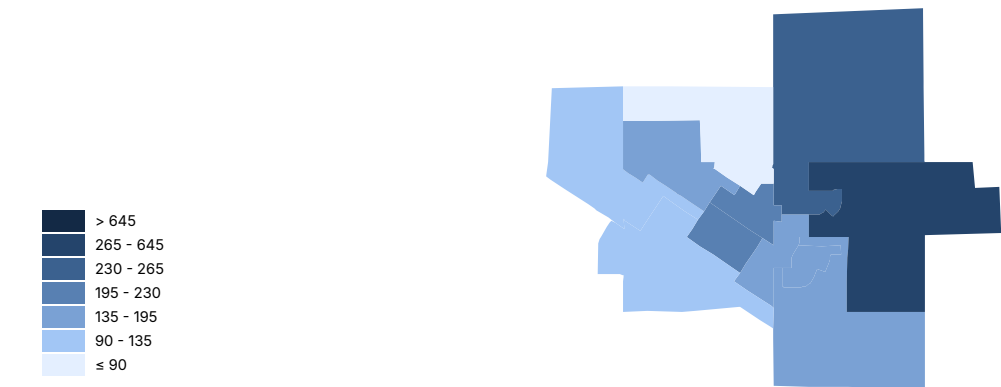


Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Place Of Work Status - Usual place of work (Wainwright)¹

Employment by Sector

Wainwright’s largest employment sector in 2025 was educational services, with 1,948 people, up 2.2% yearly and 6.0% over five years. Health care, social assistance, and retail trade followed.

Wainwright’s 2025 employment mix is led by educational services, which remains the largest sector at 1,948 people. Its growth is steady rather than dramatic, rising 2.2% over the past year and 6.0% over five years. The fastest recent expansion is in finance and insurance, which reached 102 people after a 47.8% annual increase and 36.0% growth over five years. Health care and social assistance is also substantial at 863 people, up 30.4% in the past year and 62.5% over five years. Mining,

quarrying, and oil and gas extraction stands at 276 people, increasing 29.0% year over year and 70.4% over five years. Other sectors moved in mixed directions. Wholesale trade rose to 163 people, while transportation and warehousing dropped sharply to 144 after a 41.0% annual decline. Construction remained near 406 people, edging down 0.7%. Overall, the picture is a large, stable education base with faster shifts in smaller sectors.

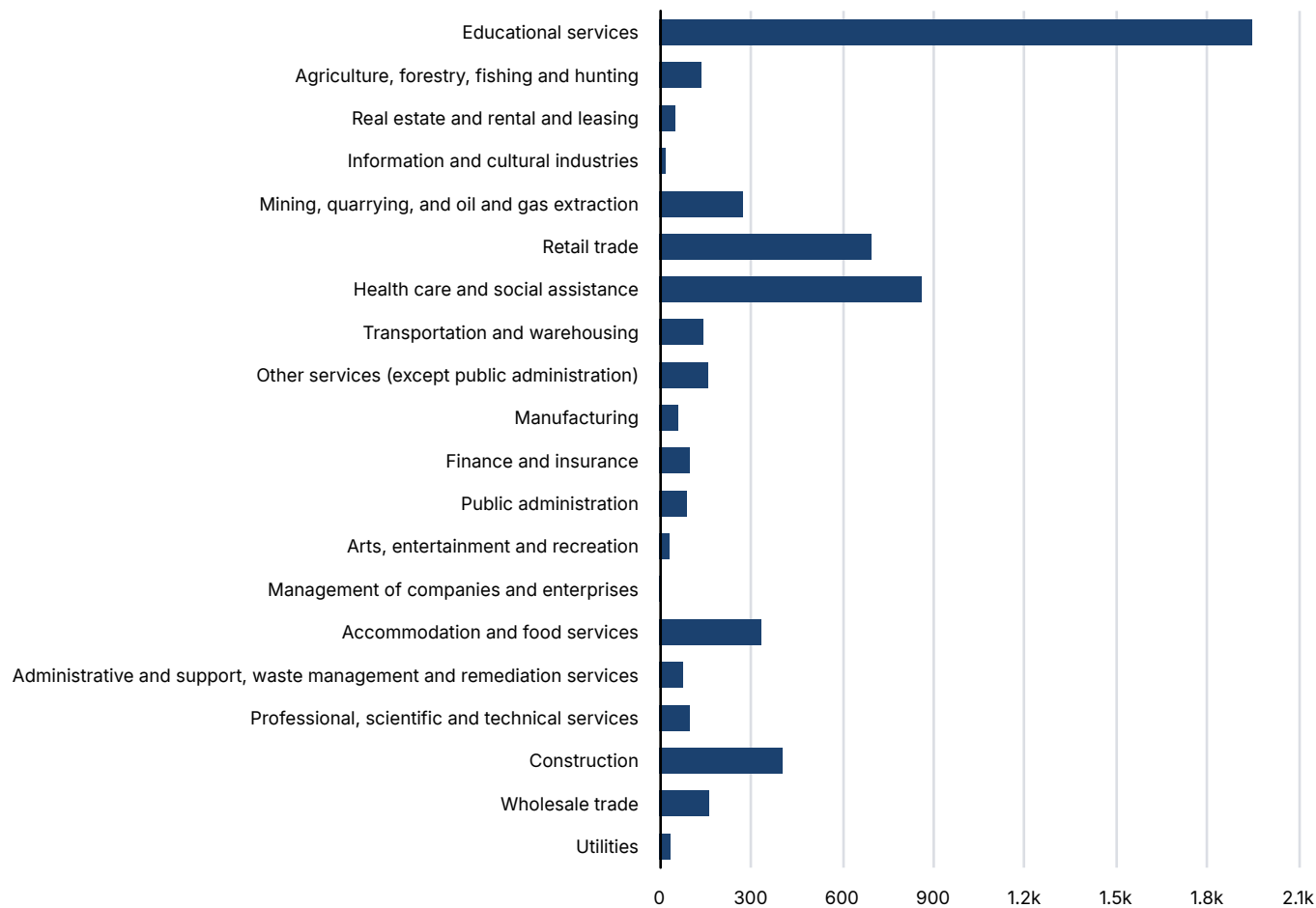


Figure 5.1: Shows how employment is distributed across industry sectors. It helps indicate which sectors account for the largest share of local jobs. (Wainwright, 2025)²

Resident Labour Force

In 2021, Wainwright’s largest resident labour force was in public administration, with 565 people, down 1.7% from 2016. Health care and social assistance rose to 500, while retail trade fell to 485.

Wainwright’s resident labour force in 2021 was spread across many industries, with public administration still the largest at 565 people. Overall change was modest, but several sectors shifted between 2016 and 2021. Health care and social assistance grew to 500 people from 345, while retail trade slipped to 485 from 545. Construction also edged down, from 310 to 290, and accommodation and food services fell from 340 to 260. In contrast, transportation and warehousing rose from 155 to 200,

and educational services increased from 150 to 180. Among smaller sectors, finance and insurance climbed to 115 from 65, and real estate and rental and leasing increased to 35 from 15. Manufacturing dropped from 110 to 50, and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction fell from 300 to 195. Overall, the labour force reflects a mixed employment base, with a few large service sectors anchoring the local economy.

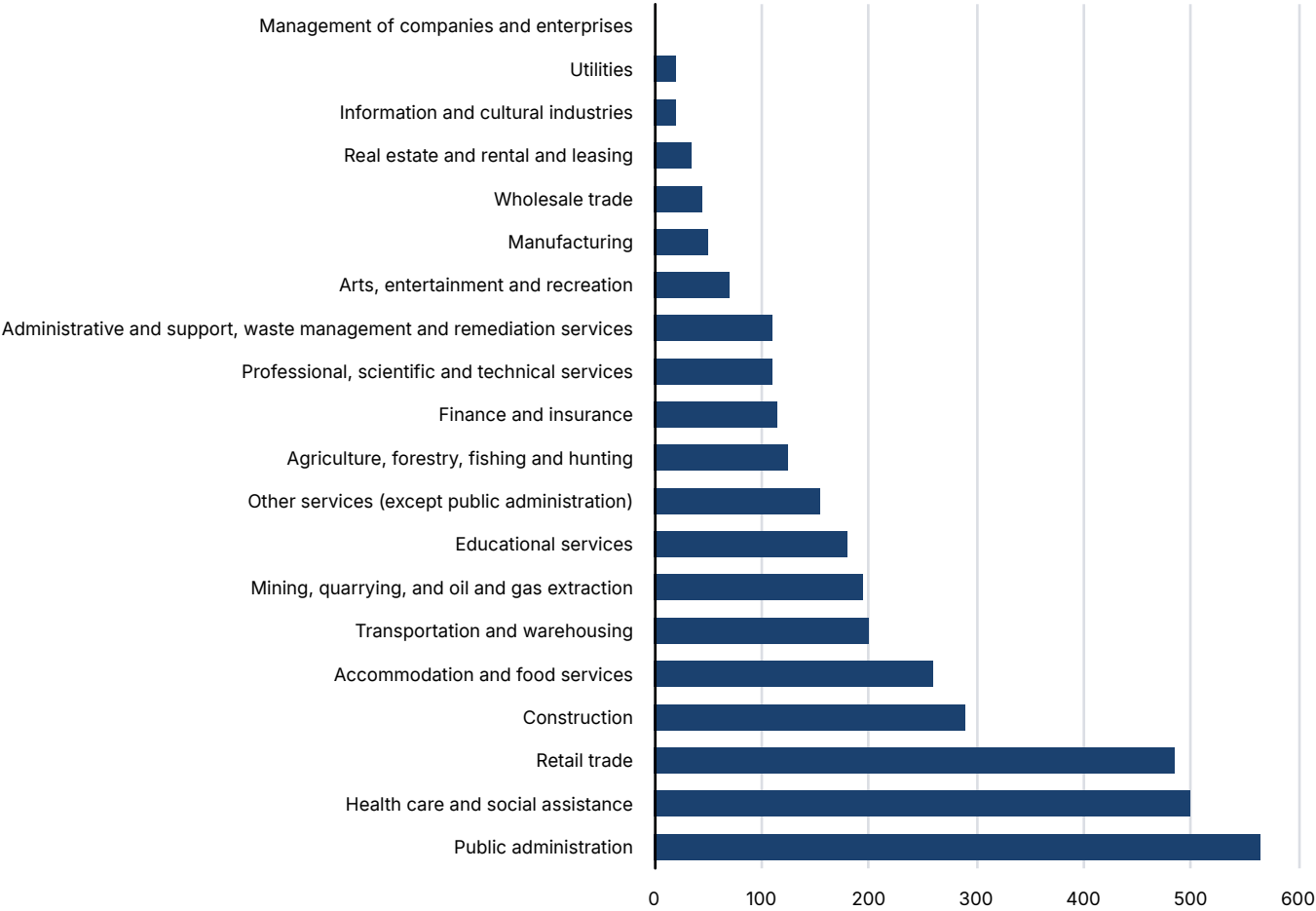


Figure 6.1: Shows the number of residents who are in the labour force. It helps indicate the size of the locally available workforce. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

Employed Residents by Occupation

Sales and service occupations remained the largest group in Wainwright in 2021 at 925 people, little changed from 920 in 2011 and 915 in 2016. The next largest groups were trades, transport and equipment operators at 730 people and occupations in education, law and social, community and government services at 530 people.

In Wainwright, employed residents in 2021 were concentrated in a few occupations, with sales and service occupations remaining the largest group at 925 people. Trades, transport and equipment operators, and related occupations formed the next biggest block at 730 people, followed by occupations in education, law and social, community and government services at 530 people. Several groups grew from 2016 to 2021. Business, finance and administration occupations rose to 500 people, up 29.9%. Health occupations increased to 300, and education, law and social, community and government services climbed

32.5%. Sales and service changed little, edging up 1.1% from 915. The sharpest shift was in legislative and senior management occupations, which fell from 410 people in 2016 to just 10 in 2021, a 97.6% drop. By contrast, natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations dipped slightly to 245, while manufacturing and utilities stood at 105. The pattern points to a workforce anchored in service and trades work, with notable gains in administrative, health, and community-facing occupations over the five-year period.

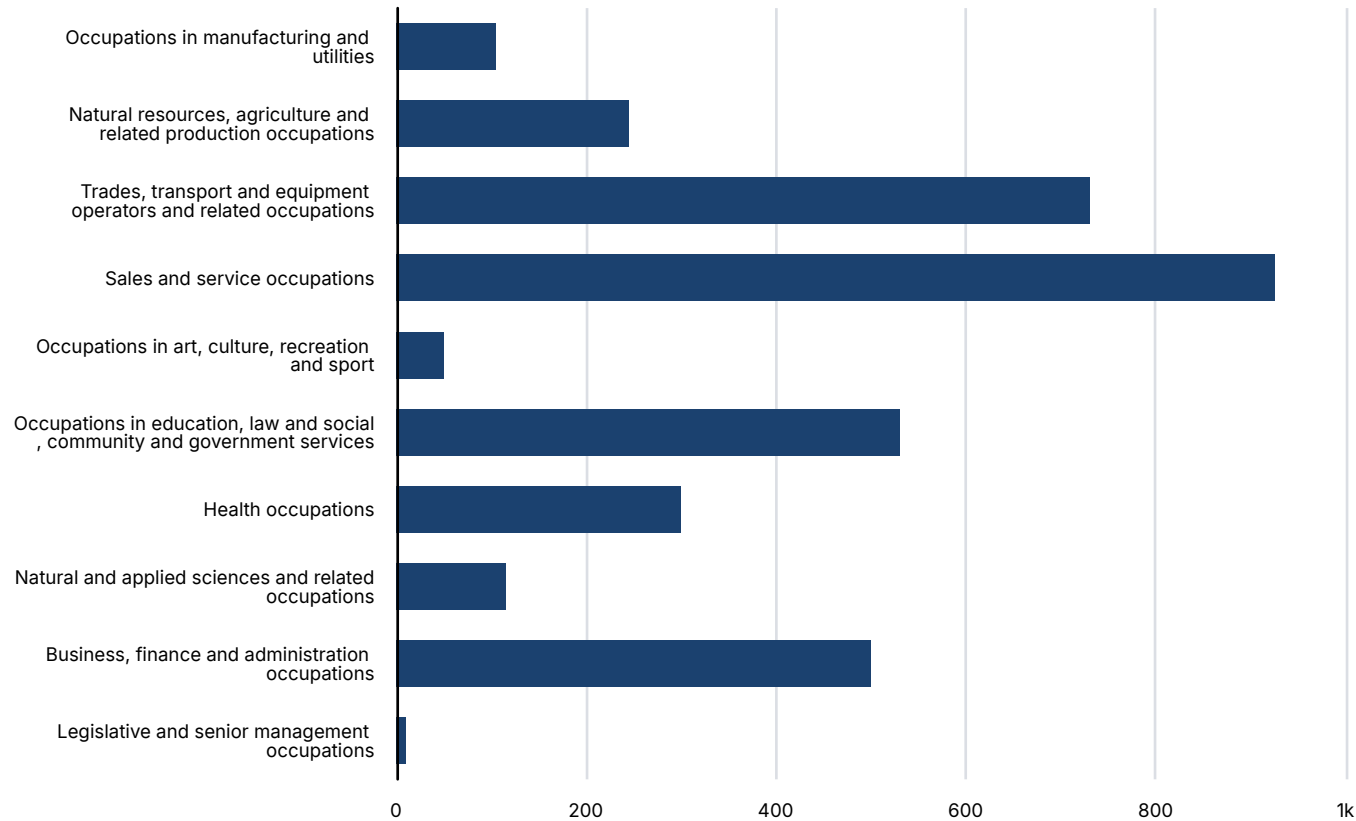


Figure 7.1: Shows the occupations held by employed residents. It helps indicate the community's skill mix and the kinds of work people do. (Wainwright, 2021)¹

Labour Force Status

In June 2026, employed residents remained the largest group in Camrose--Drumheller at 99,700, despite a 9.4% year-over-year decline. Those not in the labour force rose to 65,900, while unemployment fell to 6,400.

Camrose-Drumheller’s labour force status in June 2026 shows a clear divide between a large employed population and a growing number of residents not in the labour force. Employment remains the largest category at 99,700 people, though it is lower than a year earlier. Meanwhile, the number not in the labour force has climbed sharply to 65,900. Year over year, employment fell 9.4%, while the not in the labour force group rose 19.4%. Unemployment was 6,400 people, down 4.5% from

the previous year. Altogether, these three groups total 172,000 residents aged 15 and over living in private households. This pattern differs from the broader trend in the data. Employment was generally above 107,000 through much of 2024 and 2025 before easing in early 2026, while the not in the labour force group rose from the mid-50,000s. The result suggests weaker labour force participation rather than a straightforward move into jobs.

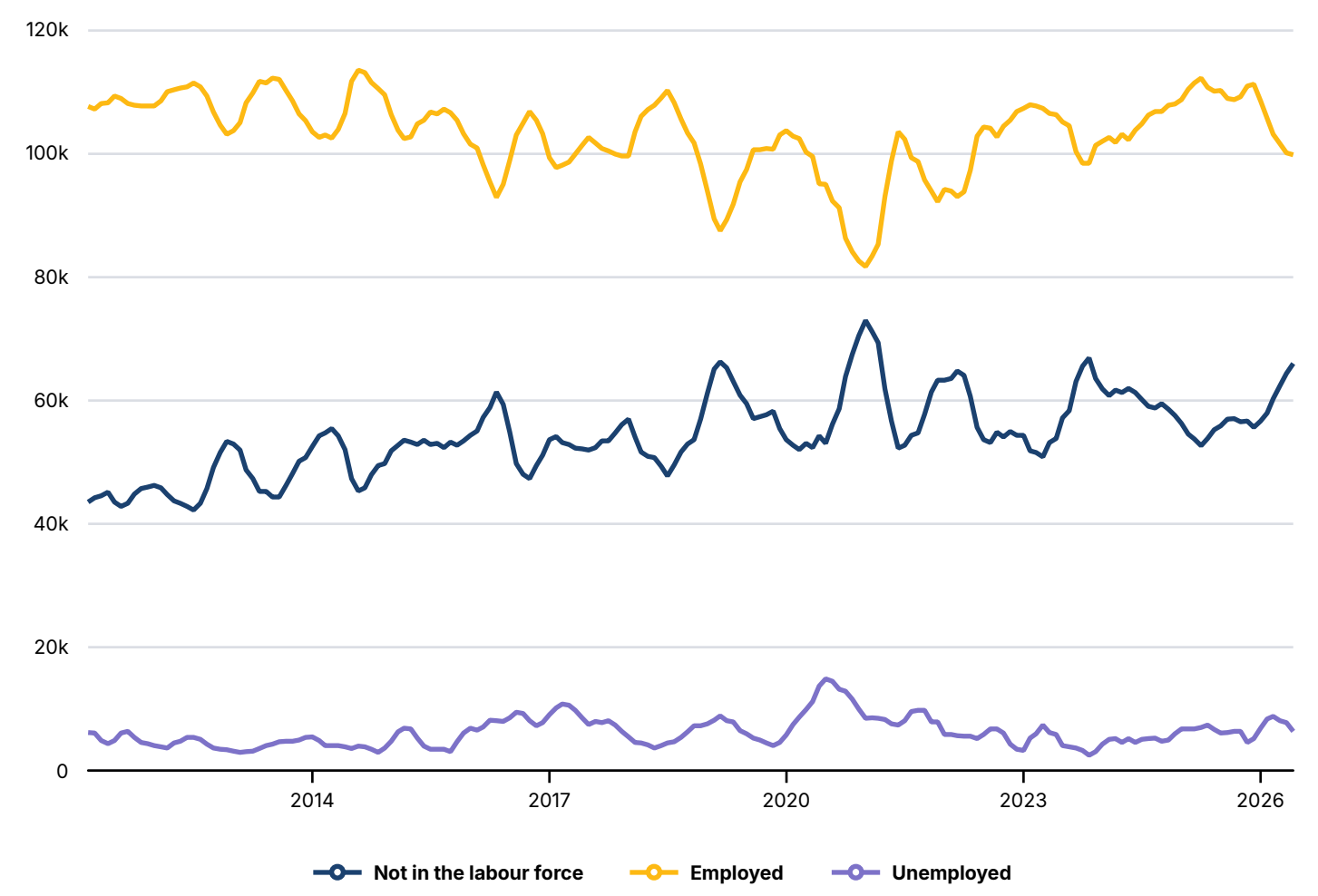


Figure 8.1: Shows whether residents are employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force. It helps indicate how people are participating in the labour market. (Camrose--Drumheller, 2011-2026)³

Work Activity

In Camrose--Drumheller, the largest group was people who worked full year full time, at 81,400 in June 2026, down 6.9% from a year earlier. Part year and/or part time workers numbered 18,200, down 19.5% year over year.

Camrose--Drumheller's June 2026 work activity profile is led by people who worked full year full time, totaling 81,400 residents. The smaller group, those who worked part year and/or part time, stands at 18,200. This split shows a clear tilt toward more continuous work attachment among residents aged 15 and over in private households. The full-year full-time group is down 6.9% from a year earlier, while the part-year and/or part-time group is down 19.5%. Even though both groups are below

last year's levels, the full-time category remains much larger, by more than four to one. Compared with the pattern seen in 2025, the smaller work-activity group has been more volatile, with several periods of strong year-over-year growth before easing again in 2026. The full-year full-time series has been steadier, with smaller swings and a more consistent concentration at a higher level.



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. (Camrose--Drumheller, 2011-2026)³

Labour Force Participation Rate

Camrose--Drumheller's labour force participation rate was 61.7% in June 2026, down 9.1% from a year earlier. The rate had been 67.6% in December 2025 and 69.4% in April 2025, showing a decline after that spring peak.

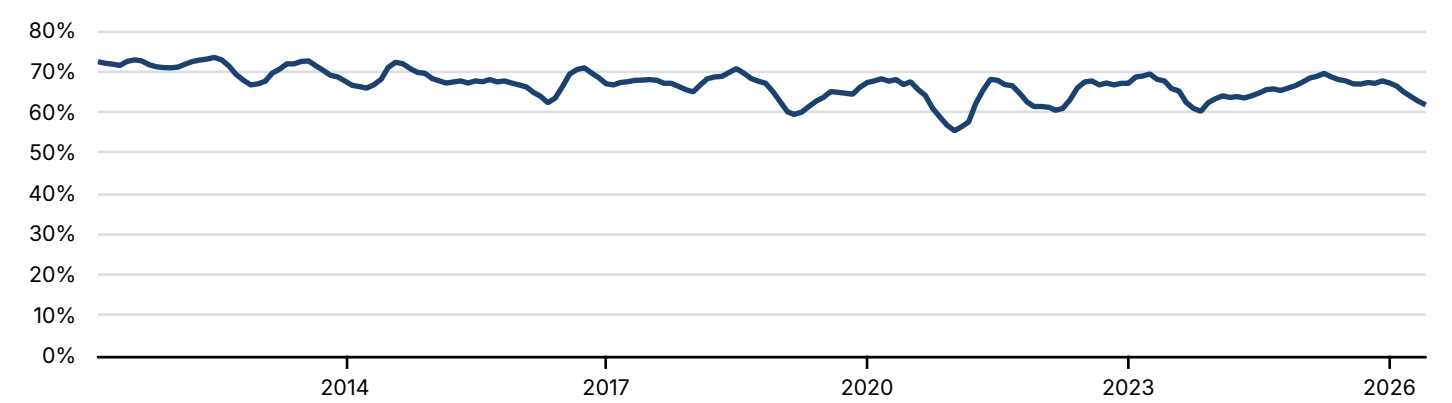


Figure 10.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed or actively looking for work. It helps indicate the level of labour market engagement. (Camrose--Drumheller, 2011-2026)³

Camrose--Drumheller's labour force participation rate stood at 61.7% in June 2026, showing a softer level of labour market engagement among residents age 15 and over in private households. The series has been volatile, but the most recent movement is clearly downward, with the rate 9.1% lower than a year earlier. Recent weakness followed a brief lift in 2025, when participation reached 69.4% in April before easing through the rest of the year. By early 2026, the rate had slipped from 67.1%

in January to 61.7% by June. That puts the latest reading below the mid- to high-60s range that dominated much of 2024 and 2025. The longer record shows that this is not the region's only downturn. Participation was above 70% in parts of 2011 to 2014, and the 2020 trough of 56.7% was followed by a strong rebound in 2021 and 2022. The pattern suggests a labour market that has recently lost some engagement, even after earlier recoveries.

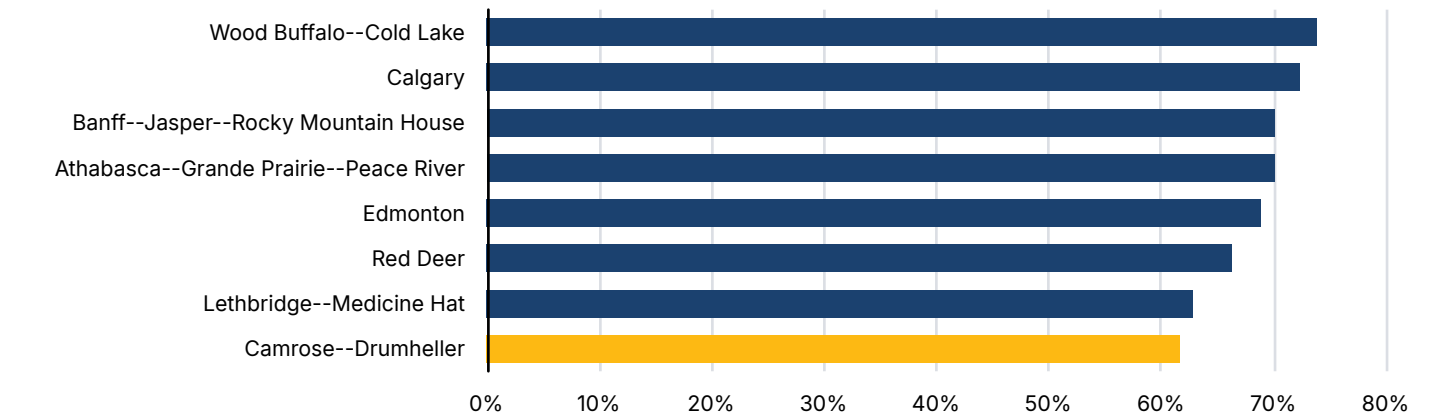


Figure 10.2: Comparison of Labour Force Participation Rate with other locations (Camrose--Drumheller, 2026)³

Employment Rate

Camrose--Drumheller's employment rate was 57.9% in June 2026, down 9.5% from a year earlier. The rate had reached 64.6% in December 2025, then declined through the first half of 2026 to 57.9%.

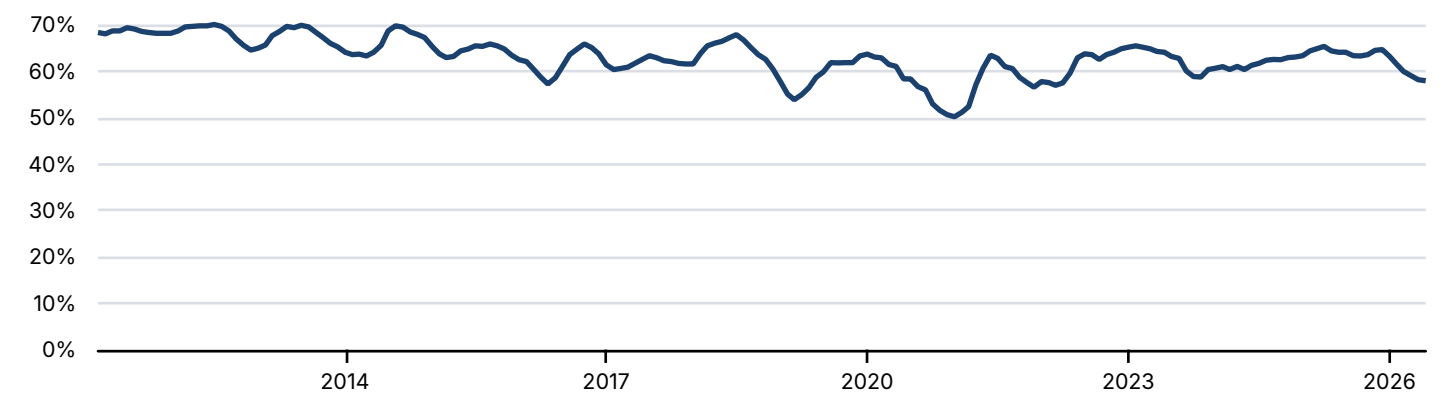


Figure 11.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed. It helps indicate overall labour market health and how fully local talent is being used. (Camrose--Drumheller, 2011-2026)³

Camrose-Drumheller's employment rate has weakened in the latest readings. In June 2026, 57.9% of the population aged 15 years and over in private households was employed, down 9.5% from a year earlier. The series shows a recent slide after a stronger stretch in late 2024 and 2025. The rate reached 64.6% in December 2025, then eased to 63.1% in January 2026, 61.4% in February, and 57.9% by June. That is a drop of 6.7 percentage points from the late-2025 peak. Earlier periods show more

volatility. The rate fell to 50.1% in January 2021 before recovering above 64% in 2022 and early 2023. It then softened again through late 2023 and much of 2024 before the 2025 rebound. The pattern suggests a labour market that has regained ground at times, but has not held those gains consistently. The current level is below the recent peak and signals reduced employment participation compared with a year ago.

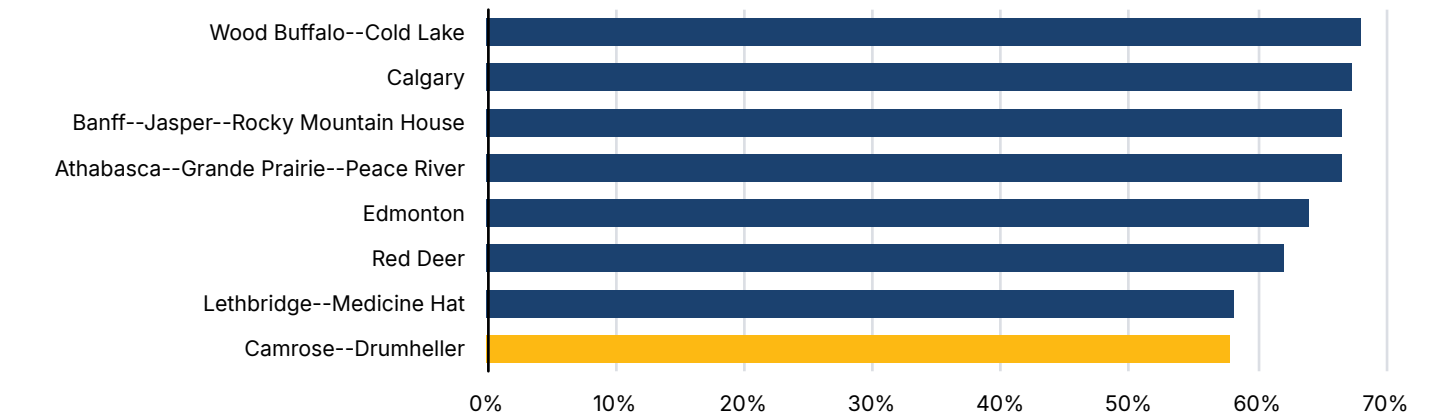


Figure 11.2: Comparison of Employment Rate with other locations (Camrose--Drumheller, 2026)³

Unemployment Rate

Camrose--Drumheller's unemployment rate was 6.0% in June 2026, up 5.3% from a year earlier. It was lower than the recent peak of 7.9% in March 2026, but higher than 4.5% in December 2025.

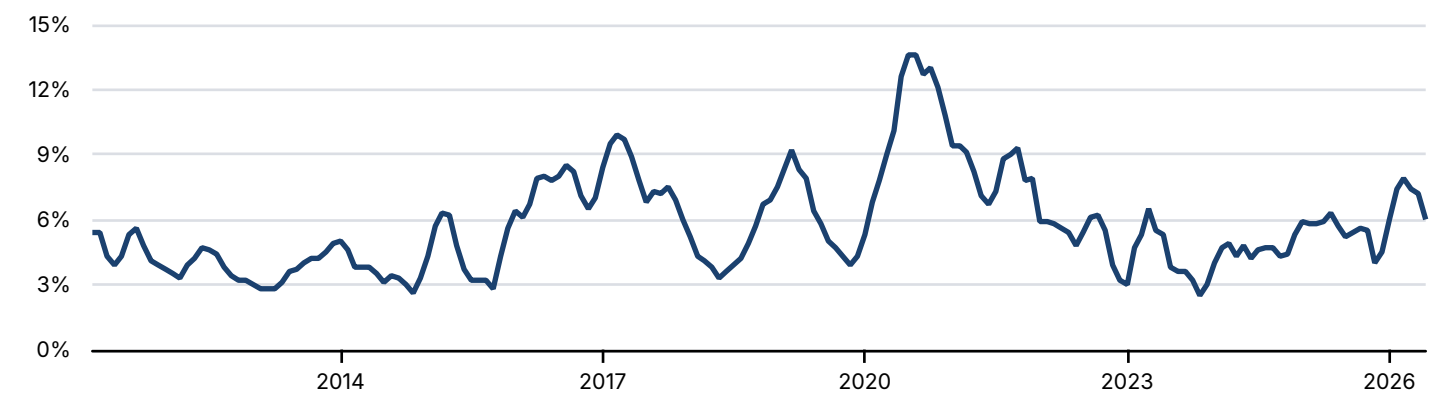


Figure 12.1: Shows the share of the labour force that is unemployed and actively seeking work. It helps indicate labour market weakness and job search pressure. (Camrose--Drumheller, 2011-2026)³

Camrose–Drumheller’s unemployment rate stood at 6.0% in June 2026 for people aged 15 and over in private households. The series reflects a labour market that has experienced sharp swings over time, with the latest reading higher than a year earlier and well below the peaks seen during earlier disruptions. Recent months show renewed pressure. The rate rose from 4.5% in December 2025 to 6.0% in June 2026. Before that, it had climbed to 7.9% in March and then eased to 2.5% in No-

vember 2023, showing how quickly conditions have changed from one period to the next. The 1-year change for June 2026 was 5.26%, meaning the rate was above its level a year earlier. The longer series shows similar volatility. Unemployment reached 13.6% in July and August 2020, then fell into the mid-single digits through much of 2022 and 2023. By June 2026, it had settled at a moderate level, but not a low one.

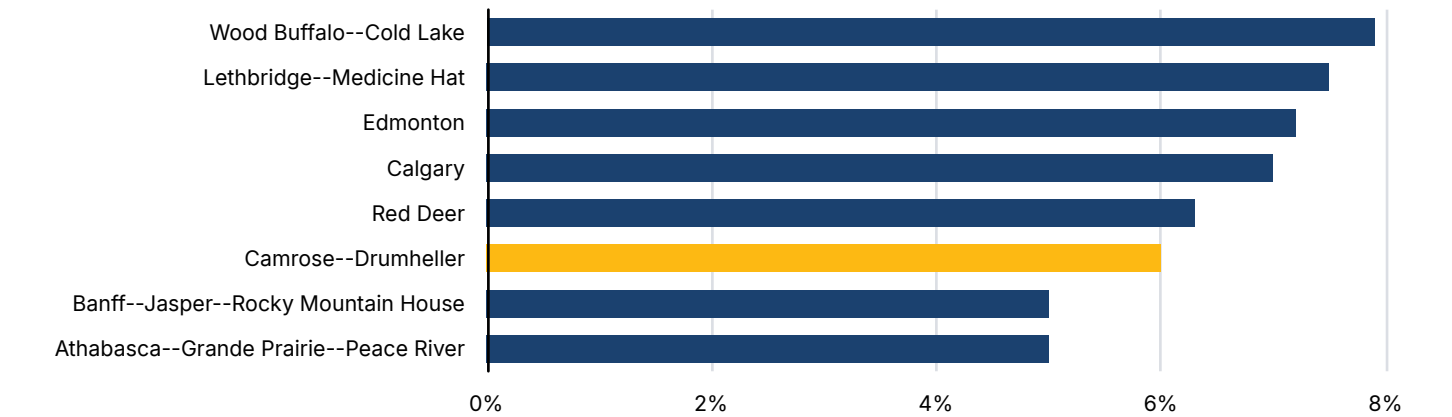


Figure 12.2: Comparison of Unemployment Rate with other locations (Camrose--Drumheller, 2026)³

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.
3. Statistics Canada, Labour Force Characteristics, Table 14-10-0462-01. Published in Jul 10, 2026.

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