



VERMILION

Industry Report

Table of Contents

Business Establishments	4
Resident Labour Force	5
Star Sectors	6
Fastest Growing Sectors	7
Employment by Sector	8
Establishments by Sector	9
Establishments by Size	10
Labour Market Gap	11
Largest Sectors	12
Anchor Sectors	13
Micro Establishments Share	14
Specialist Sectors (LQ)	15
Declining Industries	16
Largest Industries	17

Executive Summary

Vermilion's 2025 economic picture is one of growth with clear concentration. The town has a larger business base than it did several years ago, despite pronounced swings from year to year rather than a steady climb. That uneven pattern also appears in employment, where a few sectors account for much of the local economy while others have weakened. The result is a community with visible momentum, but not one moving evenly across all parts of its labour market or business base.

Health care and social assistance stands at the centre of that picture. It is the largest employment sector by a wide margin and has expanded strongly over both the short and longer term, while also ranking as one of Vermilion's most specialized areas of employment. Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction is another prominent specialization, with a stronger current concentration than health care, although the two sectors show different growth paths. Outside those leading areas, the employment mix is more mixed. Retail trade and educational services remain major employers, but both have softened over time, and wholesale trade has weakened sharply despite still standing out in the town's job structure. Fast recent gains in manufacturing, accommodation and food services, and wholesale trade show that growth has not been confined to a single part of the economy, but those gains sit alongside declines in other important sectors and industries. Labour market balance is similarly uneven, with local jobs outnumbering resident workers most clearly in wholesale trade, finance and insurance, and health care.

The business base reinforces that same pattern of concentration combined with breadth. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting accounts for the largest number of establishments and remains a key area of specialization, while real estate, construction, retail, and transportation also hold meaningful shares of local businesses. At the same time, Vermilion's establishments are overwhelmingly very small, especially firms without employees, giving the town a distinctly small business profile. In combination, these patterns describe an economy anchored by agriculture and a few specialized employment sectors, led increasingly by health care, with recent expansion present but unevenly distributed across industries and firm types.

Business Establishments

Vermilion now hosts 1,121 active businesses, a 4.6 % rise from 2024 and 14.6 % growth since 2020, indicating a strengthening and diversifying local business base.

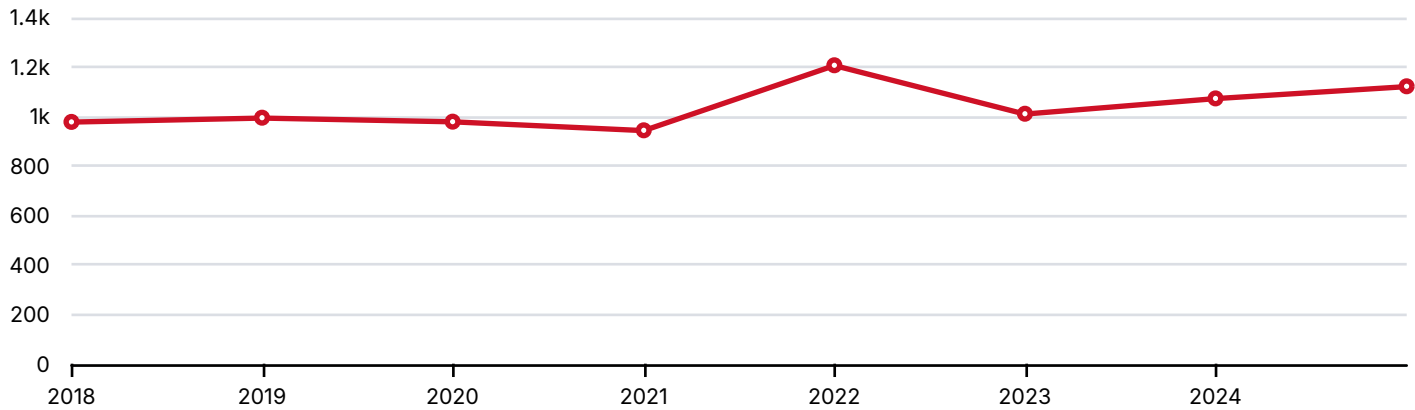


Figure 1.1: Shows the total number of active business establishments in the area, including those without employees. It helps indicate the scale and diversity of the local business base. (Vermilion, 2018-2025)¹

Vermilion’s business establishment count has been uneven but generally upward over the recent period, pointing to a modestly expanding local business base. The town had 977 active establishments in 2018, rising to 994 in 2019 before slipping to 978 in 2020 and 943 in 2021. The series then jumped to 1,206 in 2022, eased to 1,010 in 2023, and recovered to 1,121 in 2025. That leaves the 2025 total 14.6% above 2020 and 7.8% above 2024. The recent pattern suggests short-term recovery after volatility, rather than a steady climb.

Vermilion had 1,121 active business establishments in 2025, showing a local business base that expanded after a softer 2023. The count rose 4.6% from 2024 and 14.6% over five years, after dipping to 943 in 2021 and then rebounding sharply to 1,206 in 2022. The pattern is uneven within the subdivision. One area held 690 establishments, far more than any other, while another had 115 and several others were in the 40 to 80 range. This points to a concentrated business footprint rather than an evenly spread one.

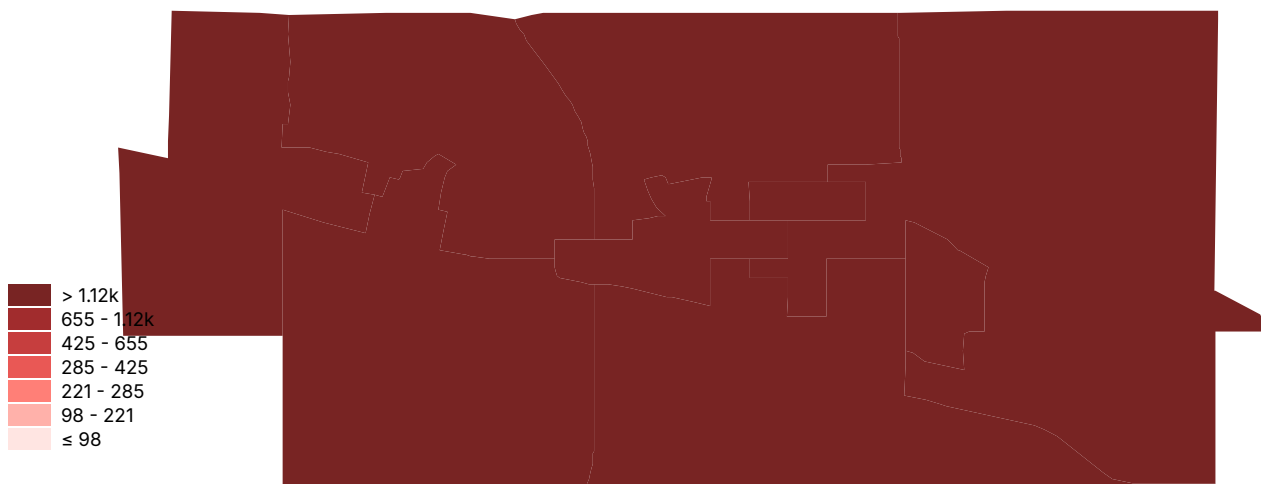


Figure 1.2: Distribution of Business Establishments (Vermilion, 2025)¹

Resident Labour Force

Health care and social assistance stays Vermilion’s biggest labour segment with 295 workers, unchanged since 2016. By contrast, real-estate and rental leasing fell to zero workers, a 100 % decline over the same period.

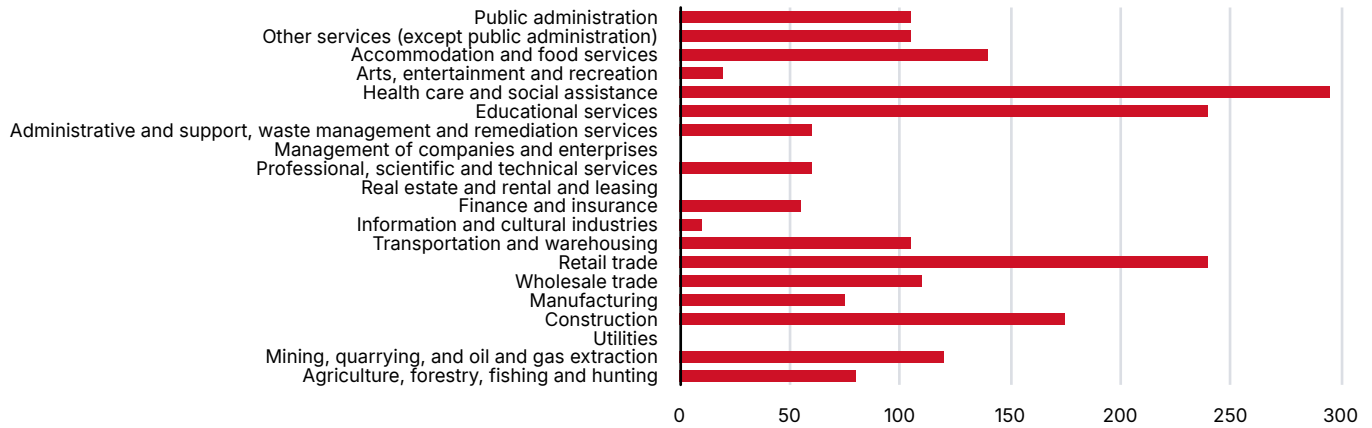
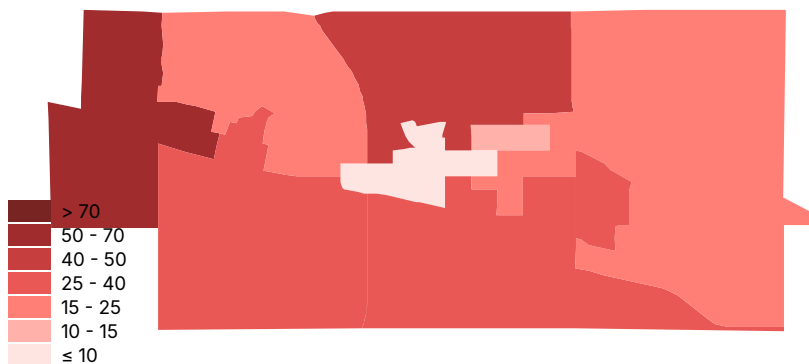


Figure 2.1: Shows the number of residents who are in the labour force. It helps indicate the size of the locally available workforce. (Vermilion, 2021)²

In 2021, Vermilion’s resident labour force was spread across a wide mix of industries, with health care and social assistance the largest at 295 people. Retail trade and educational services each accounted for 240 people, while construction had 175 and accommodation and food services 140. Smaller counts appeared in information and cultural industries at 10 and in utilities, real estate, and management of companies and enterprises at 0. Most sectors changed unevenly over five years. Manufacturing rose 66.7%, and public administration increased 31.3%, while retail trade fell 28.4% and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction declined 27.3%.



Vermilion’s resident labour force in 2021 was spread across several sectors, with health care and social assistance the largest at 295 people, followed by retail trade and educational services at 240 each. Construction had 175 and mining 120, while utilities, real estate, and management each showed no resident labour force.

Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Industry Sector - Health care and social assistance (Vermilion)²

Star Sectors

Vermilion’s economy is most specialized in mining, with a location quotient of 2.82 and a 36.9% one-year increase, while health-care also shows strong growth at a 1.97 quotient and 28.97% rise.

In Vermilion, the strongest star sectors in 2025 are concentrated in two industries: mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, and health care and social assistance. Both show above-average specialization within the employed population aged 15 years and over, with location quotients suggesting these activities are more prominent locally than in a broader reference area. Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction has a location quotient of 2.8, up 36.9% over one year and 7.0% over five years. Health care and social assistance stands at 2.0, with a

29.0% one-year increase and a 199.0% rise over five years. The short-term and longer-term changes point to different momentum, but both sectors remain strongly represented. The two sectors also differ in pace. Mining shows the higher current concentration, while health care has posted the sharper five-year increase. That combination suggests Vermilion’s specialist base is not limited to one type of activity. The pattern is one of strong specialization with recent growth in both areas, especially in health care over the longer term.

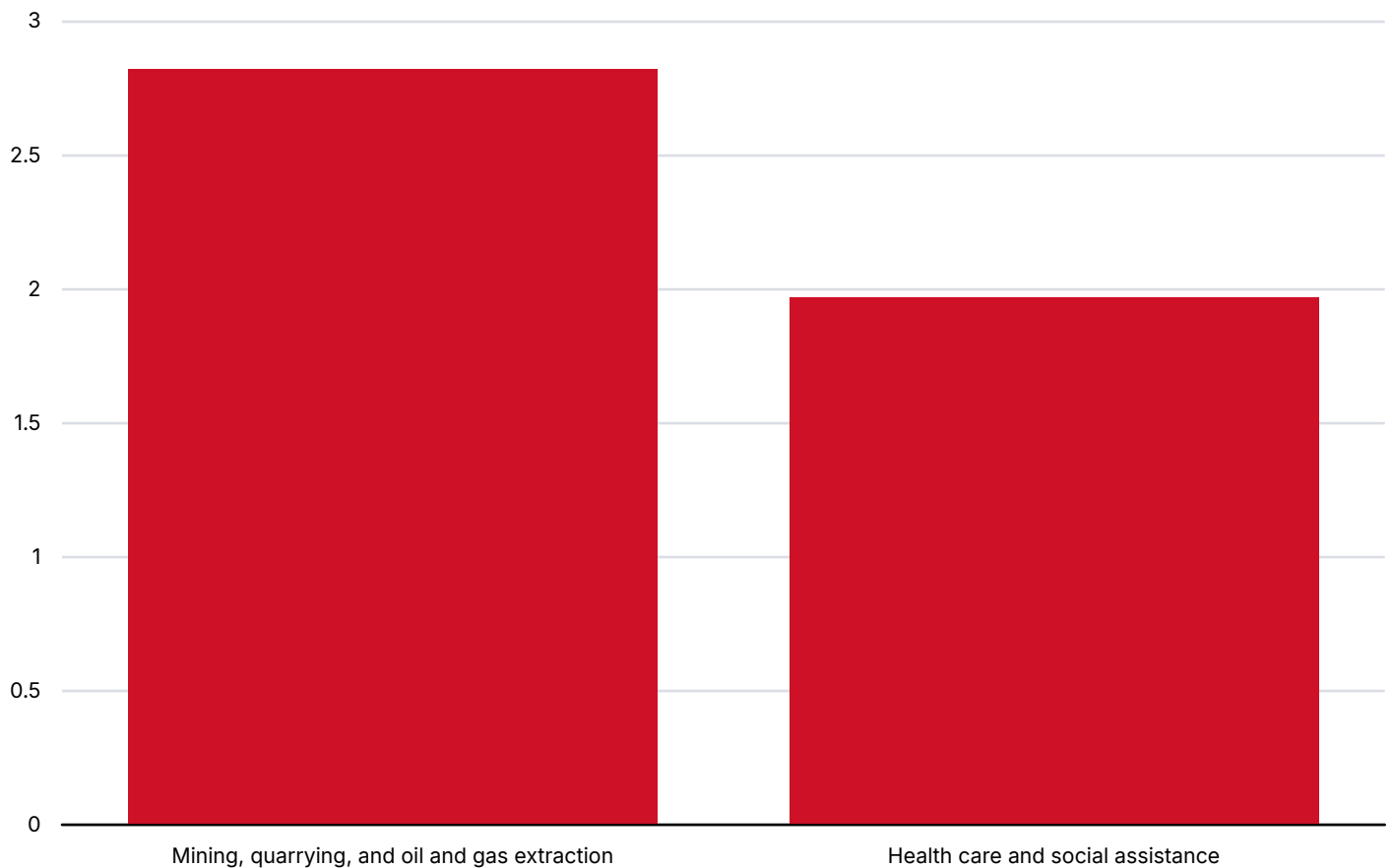


Figure 3.1: Shows major industry sectors where the local economy has strong specialization and increasing concentration or strong growth. Sectors are categorized based on specialization (location quotient) and recent employment growth or change in concentration. (Vermilion, 2025)³

Fastest Growing Sectors

Health care leads Vermilion’s employment with 720 jobs, rising 26 % in the past year and 233 % over five years. Mining, quarrying and oil-gas extraction grew fastest, adding 98 jobs and increasing 34 % year-over-year.

Vermilion’s fastest growing sectors in 2024 were concentrated in manufacturing, wholesale trade, and accommodation and food services. In a labour market measured among employees aged 15 years and over, these sectors posted the strongest recent gains and shaped the short-term growth picture for the town. Manufacturing employed 188 people after a 84.3% increase over the previous year. Wholesale trade reached 333 employees, up 79.0%, while accommodation and food services had 324 employees and grew 77.0%. The three sectors are

relatively close in size, but wholesale trade and accommodation and food services had the larger workforces. The pattern points to broad-based expansion rather than growth confined to a single sector. Each of the top three sectors combined a substantial employment base with strong year-over-year growth, which makes them stand out together rather than in isolation. For Vermilion, the main feature is not just which sectors are largest, but which ones are expanding fastest at the same time.

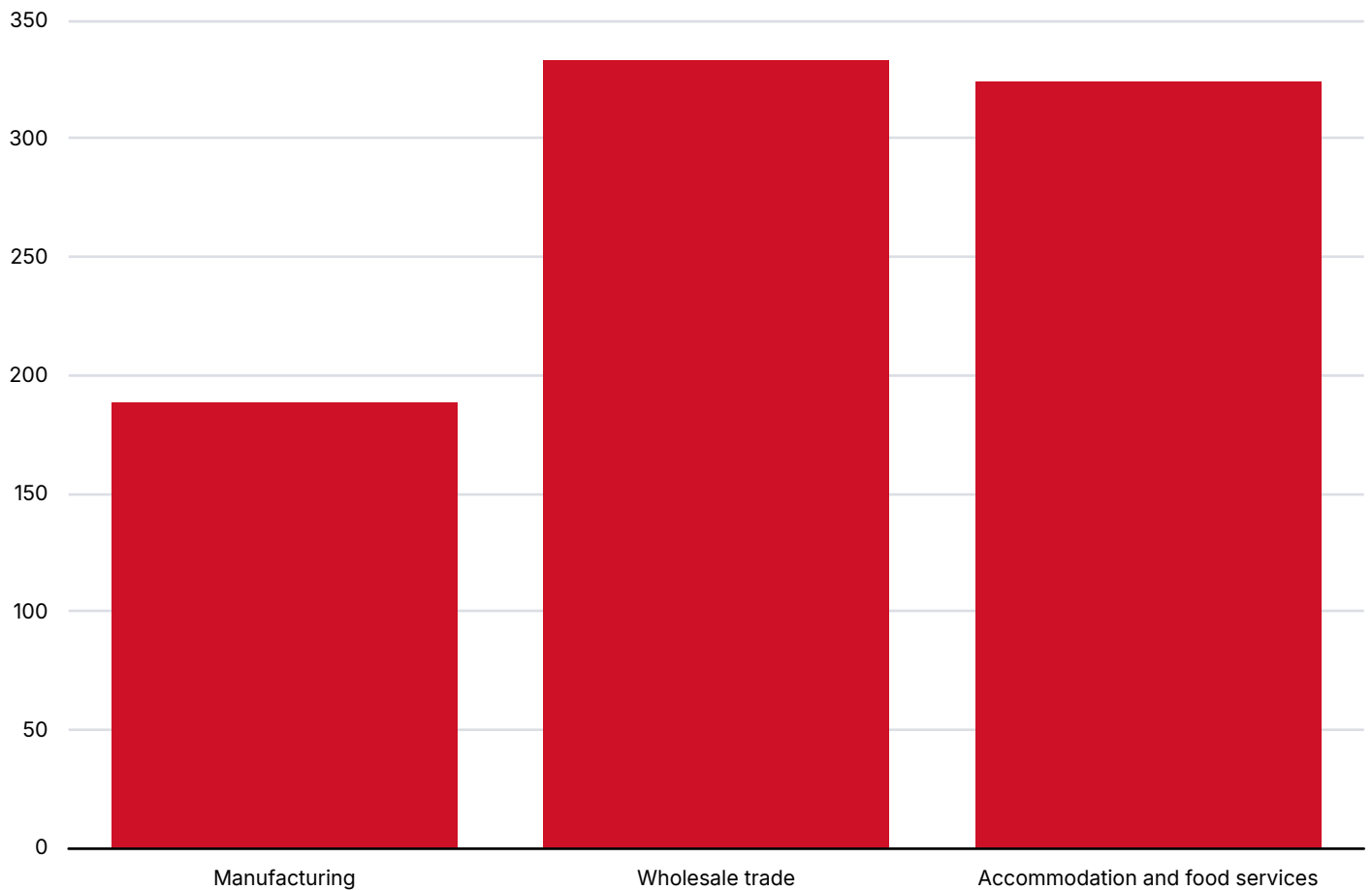


Figure 4.1: Shows sectors where employment has increased the most over the selected time period. It helps identify the main drivers of job growth in the local economy. (Vermilion, 2024)⁴

Employment by Sector

Health care and social assistance was the largest sector in Vermilion in 2025, with 720 people. It rose 26.3% from 2024 and 233.3% over five years, ahead of retail trade at 375.

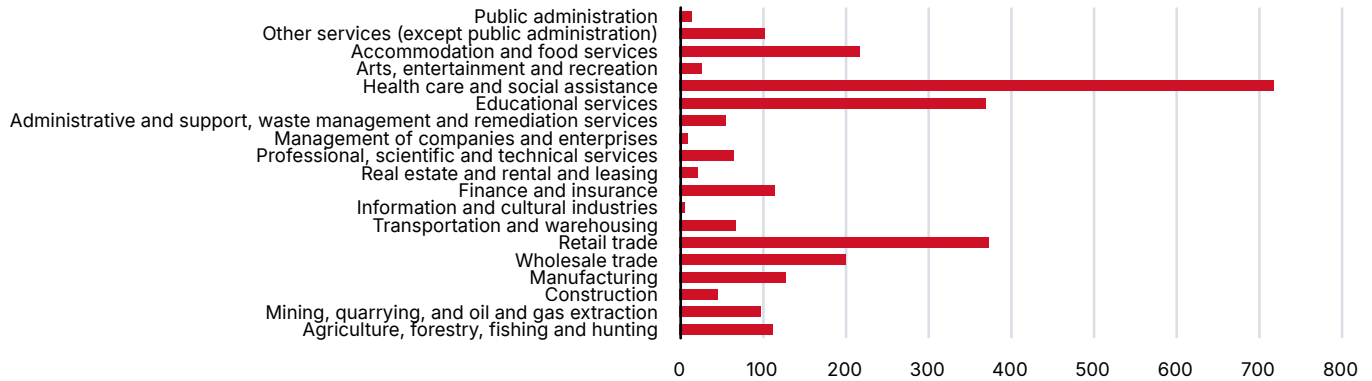


Figure 5.1: Shows how employment is distributed across industry sectors. It helps indicate which sectors account for the largest share of local jobs. (Vermilion, 2025)⁴

In Vermilion, employment in 2025 was concentrated in a few sectors, led by health care and social assistance with 720 people, followed by retail trade at 375 and educational services at 371. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting also remained sizable at 113, while wholesale trade reached 202. Recent change was mixed: health care grew 26.3% over one year and 233.3% over five years, while wholesale trade fell 39.3% in the past year and construction dropped 31.3%.

Employment in Vermilion is concentrated in a few sectors, with health care and social assistance the largest employer at 720 people in 2025. Retail trade and educational services follow closely, at 375 and 371. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting also remains important with 113 jobs, alongside wholesale trade at 202. Recent change is mixed. Health care rose 26.3% over one year and 233.3% over five years, while retail and education both declined over the same periods. Construction, wholesale trade and accommodation and food services also fell, suggesting a shifting local employment mix.

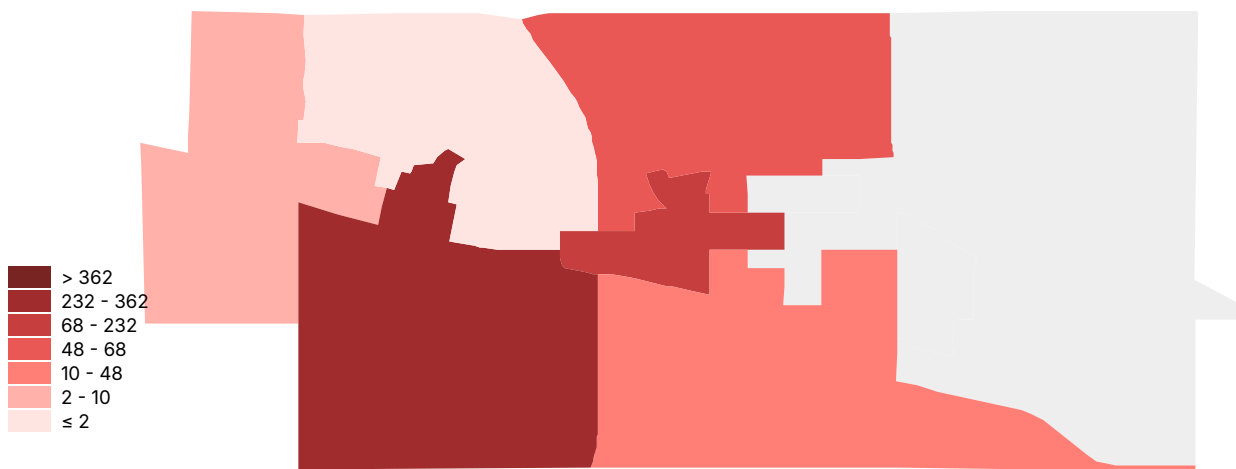


Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Health care and social assistance (Vermilion)⁴

Establishments by Sector

Agriculture dominates Vermilion's economy with 308 businesses, up 4.8% year-over-year, while the fastest-growing segment adds only 7 firms but surged 75%, showing strong niche expansion.

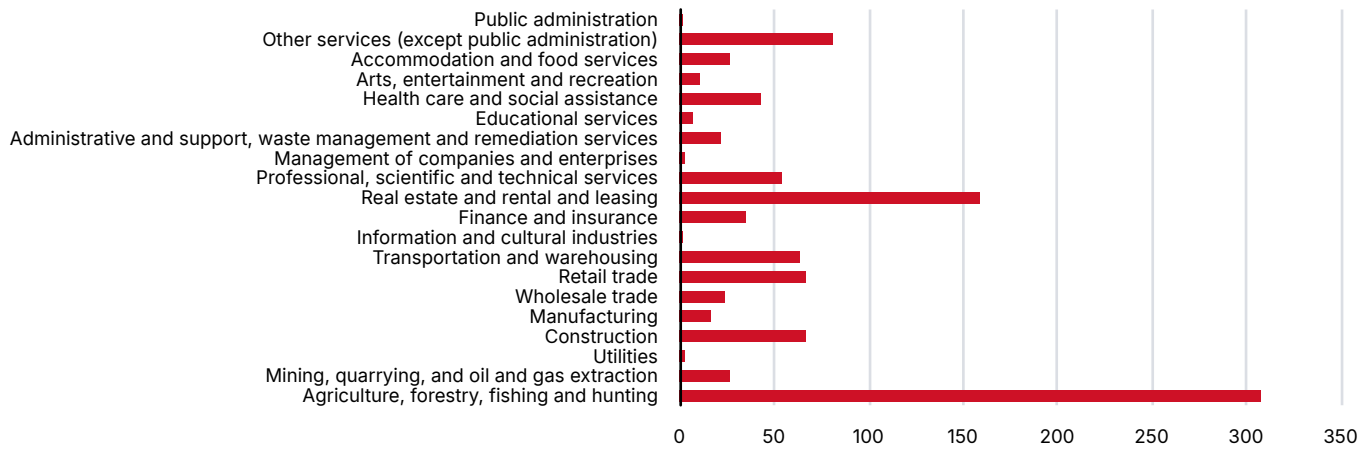


Figure 6.1: Shows how business establishments are distributed across sectors. It helps indicate the sector mix of the local business base. (Vermilion, 2025)¹

Vermilion's business base in 2025 is concentrated in a few sectors, led by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting with 308 establishments. Real estate and rental and leasing follows with 159, while other services and construction each account for 81 and 67. Retail trade and transportation and warehousing are also sizable at 67 and 64 businesses. Recent change is mixed. Educational services rose 75% over one year, manufacturing increased 30.8%, and professional services grew 12.5%. By contrast, construction fell 10.7% over the year and 22.1% over five years, while information and cultural industries declined 33.3% in both periods.

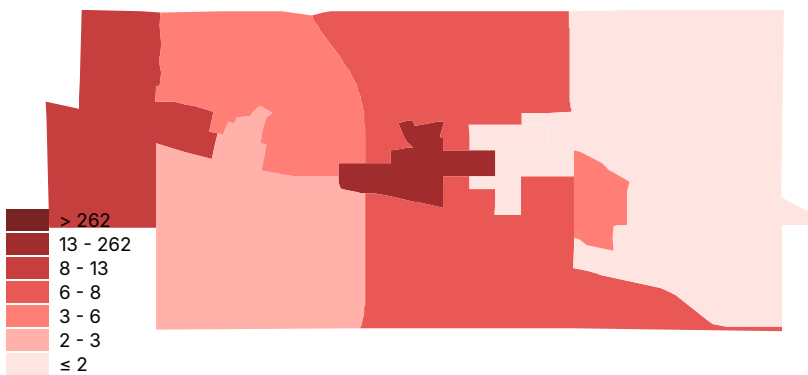


Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (Vermilion)¹

Vermilion's business base in 2025 is concentrated in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, with 308 establishments, far above any other sector. Real estate and rental and leasing follows with 159, while other services and construction add 81 and 67. Retail trade and transportation and warehousing each account for 67 and 64 establishments, respectively, while manufacturing is smaller at 17. The mix suggests a local economy led by primary-sector and property-related activity, with several service sectors providing support.

Establishments by Size

Vermilion’s economy is dominated by non-staffed firms, with 788 such establishments in 2025, a 5.2% rise from the previous year. The 10-to-19-employee group also grew, reaching 31 businesses, up 6.9%.

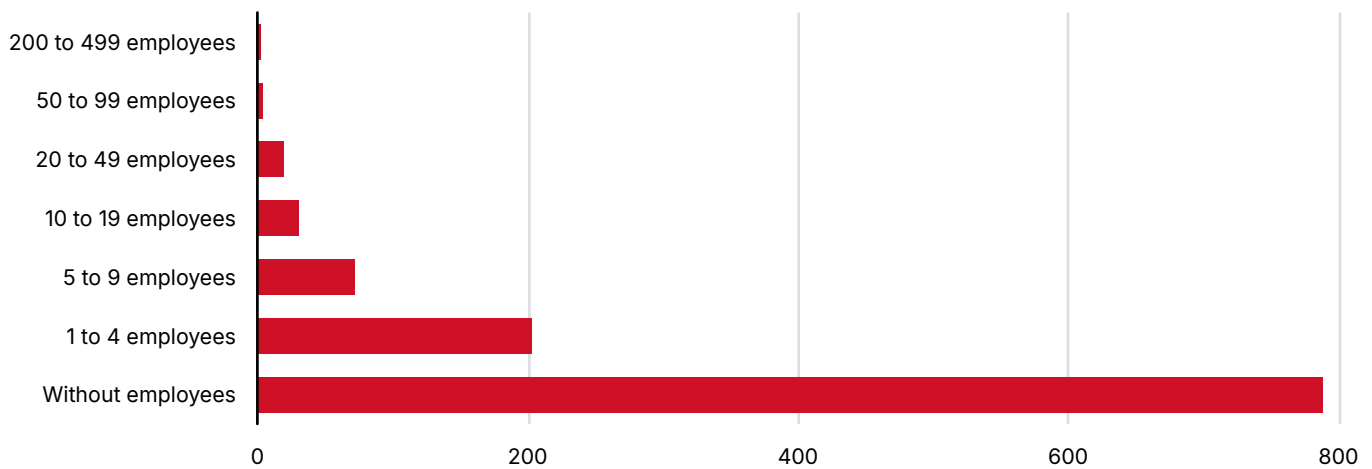


Figure 7.1: Shows how businesses are distributed by number of employees. It helps indicate whether the local economy is dominated by very small, small, or larger firms. (Vermilion, 2025)¹

Vermilion’s business base in 2025 is dominated by very small establishments. There were 788 without employees and 203 with 1 to 4 employees, far more than any larger size group. Mid-sized firms were much fewer, with 72 businesses in the 5 to 9 employee range, 31 in 10 to 19, and 20 in 20 to 49. Recent change was mixed: no-employee firms rose 5.2% over one year and 19.2% over five years, while 5 to 9 employee firms fell 4.0% over one year.

Vermilion’s business base in 2025 is dominated by very small establishments. Firms without employees account for 788 businesses, far more than the 203 with 1 to 4 employees and the 72 with 5 to 9 employees. The count drops quickly as size rises: 31 establishments have 10 to 19 employees, 20 have 20 to 49, and only 4 have 50 to 99. A further 3 are in the 200 to 499 range, showing a sharply small-firm profile.



Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Business Establishment Size - Without employees (Vermilion)¹

Labour Market Gap

Vermilion’s biggest labour-market gap is in wholesale trade, with a ratio of 3.52 jobs per resident worker, far above sectors like agriculture (0.70) and manufacturing (1.44). This suggests strong job demand outpacing local labour supply.

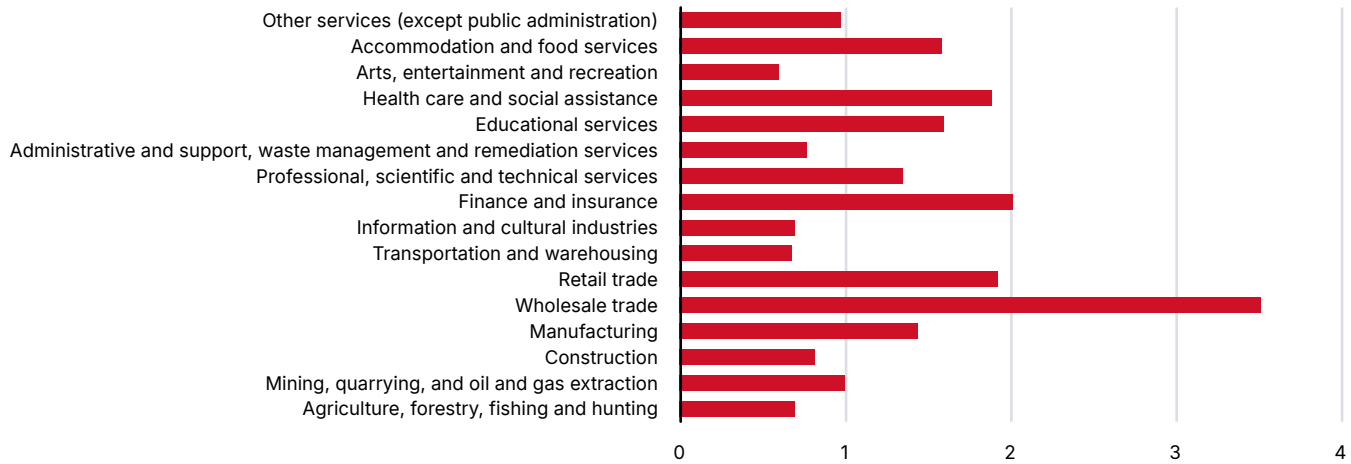


Figure 8.1: Shows the gap between the number of local jobs and the number of resident workers across all sectors. It helps indicate whether the area attracts workers in or sends workers out. (Vermilion, 2021)⁵

In 2021, Vermilion’s labour market gap varied widely by sector, with several areas showing more local jobs than resident workers. The largest gap was in wholesale trade at 3.5, followed by finance and insurance at 2.0 and health care and social assistance at 1.9. Educational services stood at 1.6, while manufacturing was 1.4. Smaller gaps appeared in arts, entertainment and recreation at 0.6 and transportation and warehousing at 0.7. The spread suggests an uneven balance across sectors rather than a uniform pattern.



Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Industry Sector - Educational services (Vermilion)⁵

Vermilion’s labour market gap in 2021 was uneven across sectors, with local jobs exceeding resident workers most clearly in wholesale trade, finance and insurance, and health care and social assistance. Ratios were 3.5, 2.0, and 1.9, respectively. Several sectors sat below 1.0, including arts, entertainment and recreation at 0.6, transportation and warehousing at 0.7, and construction at 0.8. This points to a mixed local job-resident balance rather than a single dominant pattern.

Largest Sectors

Health care and social assistance dominates Vermilion’s labour market with 720 employees, rising 26 % in the past year and 233 % over five years, while wholesale trade dropped 39 % to 202 workers.

In Vermilion, employment in 2025 was led by health care and social assistance, which had 720 employees aged 15 and over. That made it the clear largest sector in the local employment mix, well ahead of the next largest categories. Retail trade followed with 375 jobs, just ahead of educational services at 371. Wholesale trade employed 202 people, while accommodation and food services accounted for 218. These figures show a cluster of mid-sized sectors rather than a single broad base outside health care. The recent change picture was mixed.

Health care and social assistance grew by 26.3% over the past year and 233.3% over five years, while wholesale trade fell 39.3% in one year and 54.6% over five years. Retail trade and educational services also declined over both periods, and accommodation and food services rose over five years despite a recent drop. The pattern suggests a local employment structure that is becoming more concentrated in health care, with other major sectors showing uneven momentum.

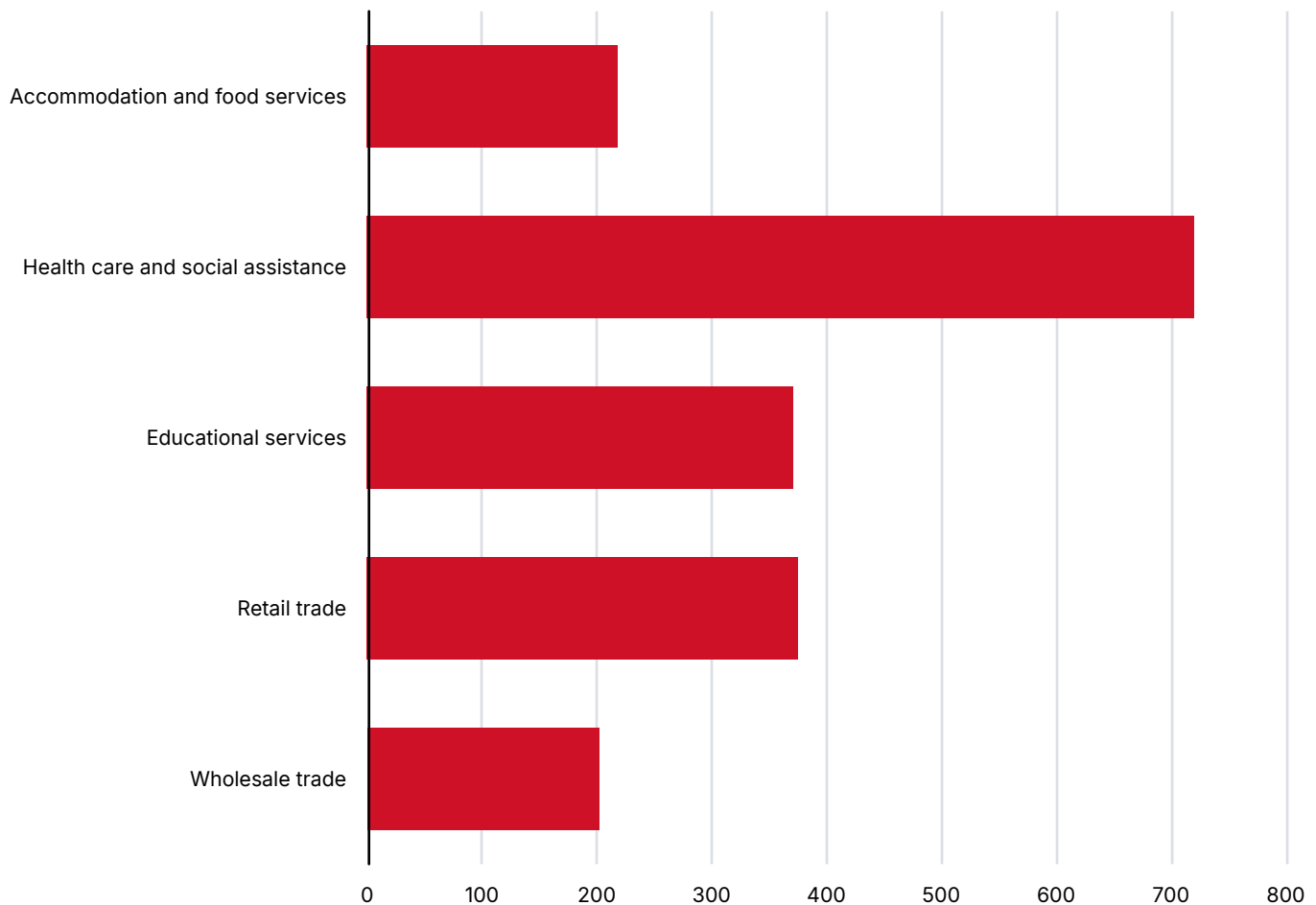


Figure 9.1: Shows the sectors employing the most people. It helps identify the largest pillars of the local economy. (Vermilion, 2025)⁴

Anchor Sectors

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting remains Vermilion’s most specialized sector with a location quotient of 1.84, though it fell 2.7% this year. Wholesale trade’s specialization dropped to 1.55, down 33.3% annually.

In 2025, Vermilion’s anchor sectors were concentrated in a handful of industries with location quotients above 1, suggesting local specialization in several parts of the economy. The strongest concentration was in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, followed by educational services, wholesale trade, retail trade, and accommodation and food services. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting had the highest location quotient at 1.8, with a 1-year change of -2.7 and a 5-year change of 88.4. Educational services stood at 1.6, with changes of -5.4

and -8.4. Wholesale trade was at 1.5 but declined more sharply, at -33.3 over one year and -53.2 over five years. Retail trade was more moderate at 1.2, with declines of -6.3 and -26.3. Accommodation and food services was close to parity at 1.0, with a steep 1-year decline of -28.2 but a small 5-year increase of 1.9. The pattern suggests Vermilion retains specialization in a few anchor sectors, but recent concentration has weakened in most of them, especially wholesale trade and accommodation and food services.

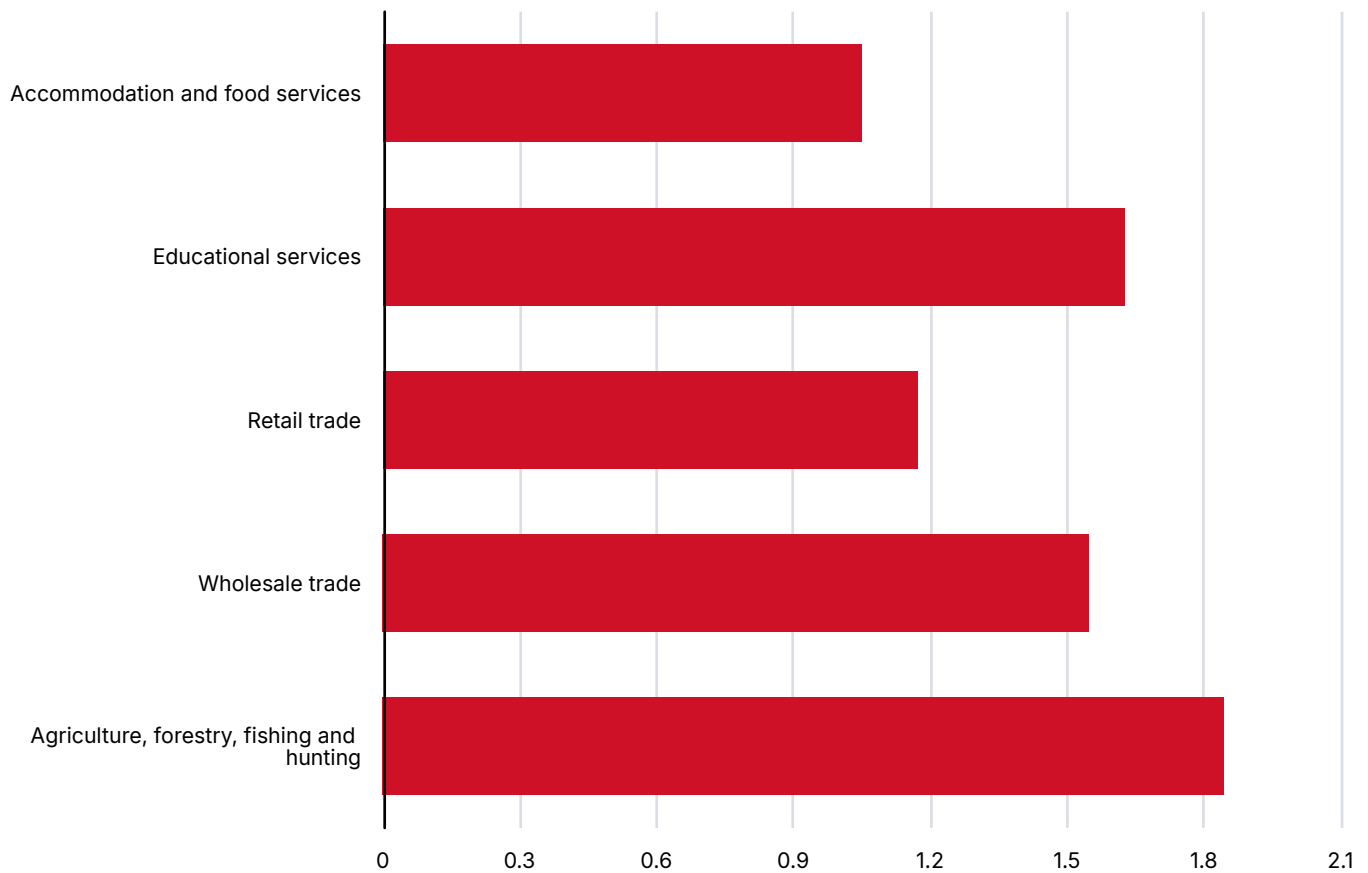


Figure 10.1: Shows major industry sectors where the local economy has strong specialization but relatively stable or declining concentration over time. Sectors are categorized based on specialization (location quotient) and recent employment growth or change in concentration. (Vermilion, 2025)³

Micro Establishments Share

Vermilion’s business base is entirely micro-firms, with a 100 % share in 2025. The most volatile segment is information and cultural industries, falling to 50 % and dropping 25.04 % that year.

In Vermilion, micro establishments made up very different shares of business bases across sectors in 2025, ranging from nearly universal in some fields to much lower in others. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting was at 98.7%, construction at 95.5%, and transportation and warehousing at 93.8%, while wholesale trade was much lower at 41.7% and management of companies and enterprises at 33.3%. Recent movement was mixed. Construction rose 5.3 percentage points over the past

year, retail trade increased 7.2 points, and educational services climbed 14.3 points. By contrast, wholesale trade fell 12.8 points, administrative and support services declined 12.0 points, and information and cultural industries dropped 25.0 points. The pattern suggests a business base where very small firms are especially common in several local sectors, but not evenly distributed. Some sectors also showed notable short-term shifts against longer-term declines.

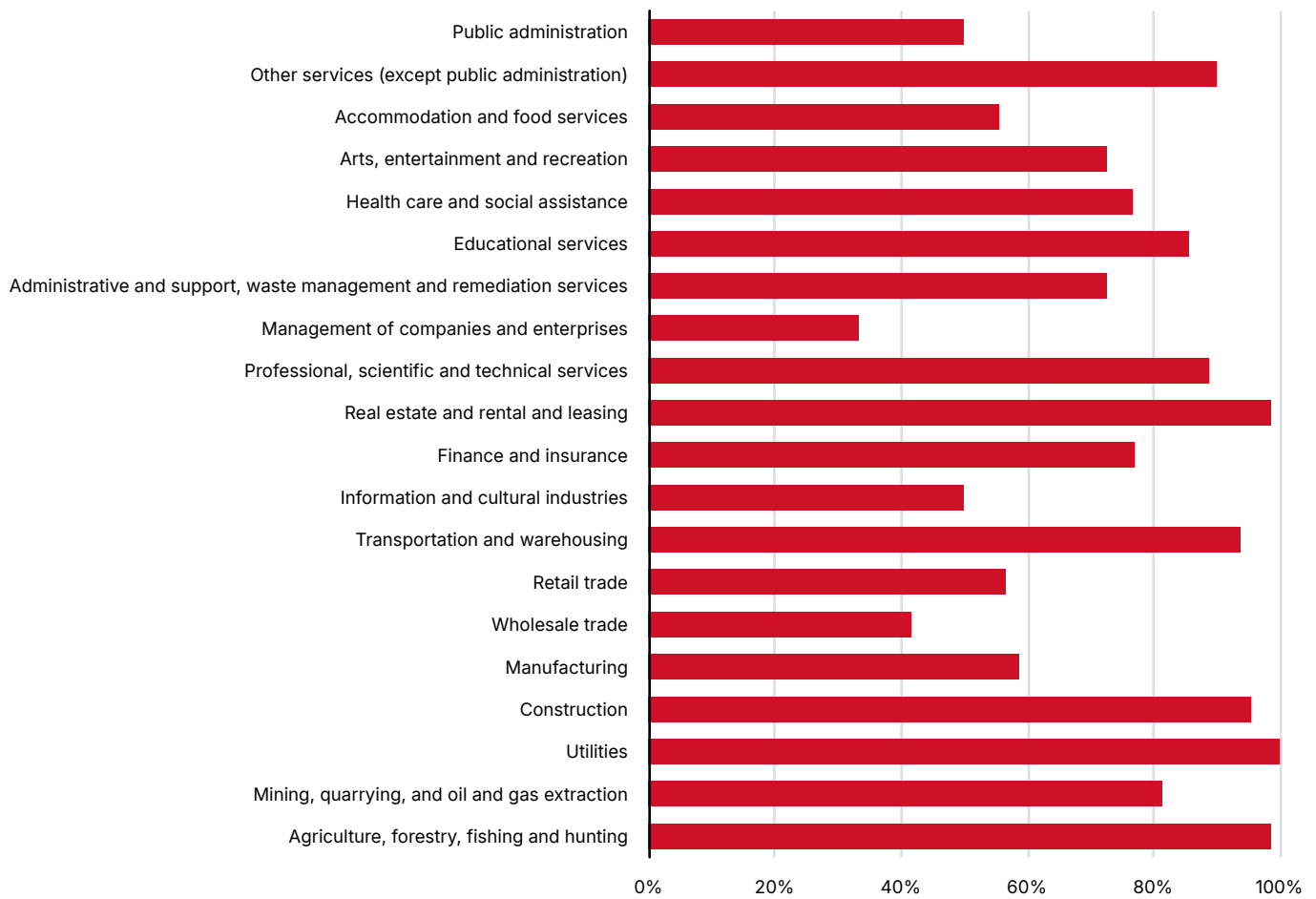


Figure 11.1: Shows the share of businesses with 0 to 4 employees. It helps indicate how much the local business base is made up of very small firms. (Vermilion, 2025)⁶

Specialist Sectors (LQ)

Vermilion’s most specialized sector is mining, quarrying and oil-gas extraction with a location quotient of 2.82, meaning employment concentration is nearly three times the national average, and it grew 36.9% over the past year.

Vermilion’s employment profile in 2025 shows a few specialist sectors, but none with extremely high concentration. The strongest location quotient is in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction at 2.8, followed by health care and social assistance at 2.0 and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting at 1.8. Recent change is mixed. Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction rose 36.9% in the past year and 7.0% over five years, while health care and social assistance increased 29.0% over one year and 199.0% over five years. Agriculture edged down

2.7% in the past year, though it remained far above its five-year level, which was up 88.4%. Other specialist sectors moved lower. Wholesale trade fell 33.3% over one year and 53.2% over five years, while educational services declined 5.4% and 8.3%. The pattern suggests a local economy with clear specialization in resource-related and care-related employment, alongside weakening concentration in wholesale trade and modest softening in education.

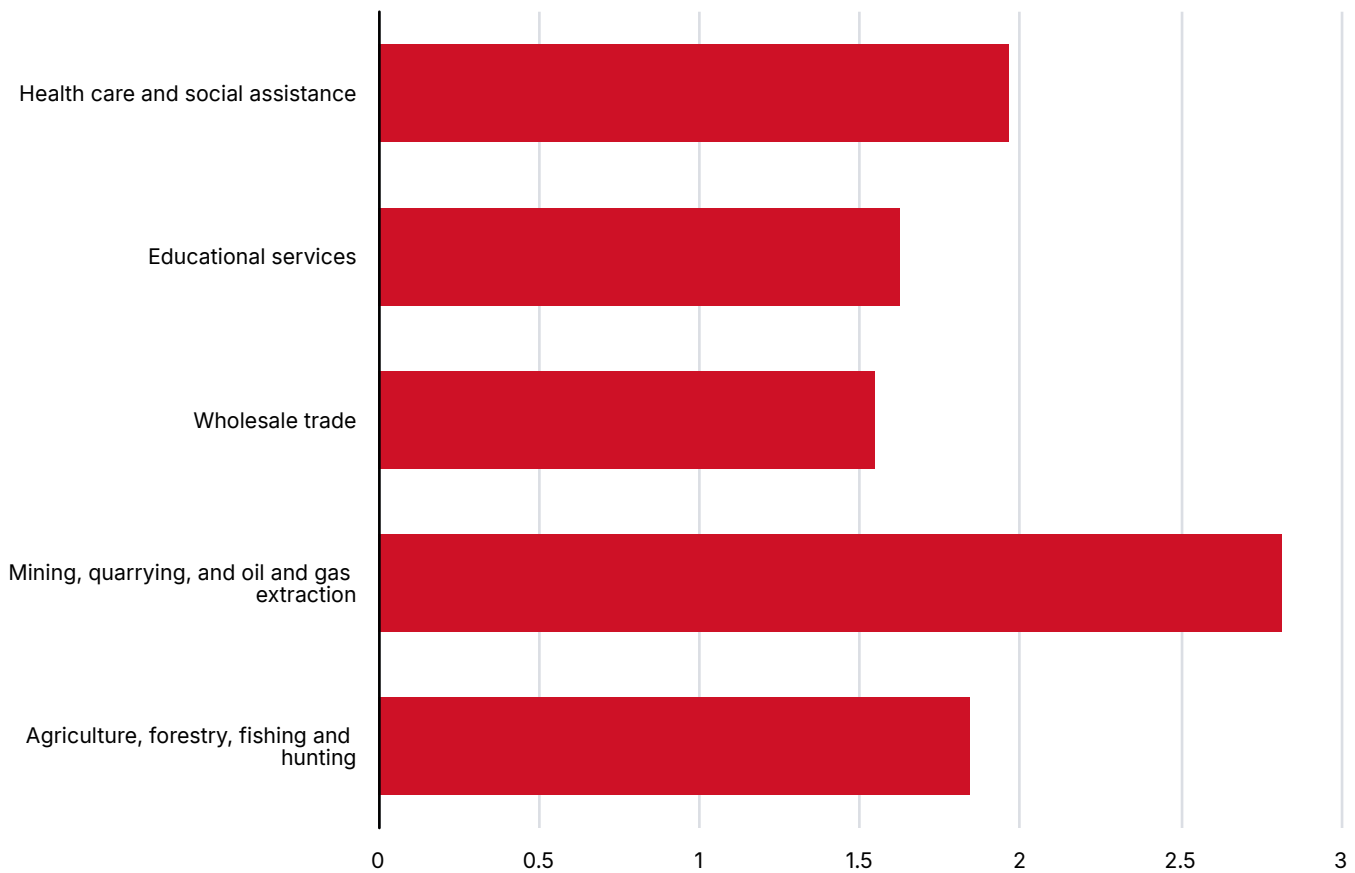


Figure 12.1: Shows sectors where the local economy has the highest level of specialization based on employment concentration compared with the national average. Sectors are categorized based on specialization (location quotient) and recent employment growth or change in concentration. (Vermilion, 2025)³

Declining Industries

Employment in Vermilion is sharply declining, with the agricultural supplies wholesale sector losing 35 jobs—a 78% drop over the past year—while lawn-and-garden retailers fell 80% with just one job left.

In Vermilion, the 2025 snapshot of employment among people aged 15 and over shows decline concentrated in a few small industries. The steepest losses are in retail and wholesale-related activities, while one construction-related category also fell sharply. Agricultural supplies merchant wholesalers employ 35 people, down 78.0% over one year and 74.1% over five years. Warehouse clubs, supercentres and other general merchandise retailers have 11 jobs, with a 77.5% one-year decline. Other specialty trade contractors stand at 5 jobs, down 72.2% in the

past year and 28.6% over five years. Two smaller categories also weakened. Lawn and garden equipment and supplies retailers have just 1 job after an 80% annual drop, though the five-year change is flat. Offices of physicians also report 1 job, down 66.7% in both the one-year and five-year periods. The pattern points to a narrow set of declining employers rather than broad-based losses across the whole economy. The biggest drops are concentrated in trade and related services, with some categories reduced to only a few jobs.

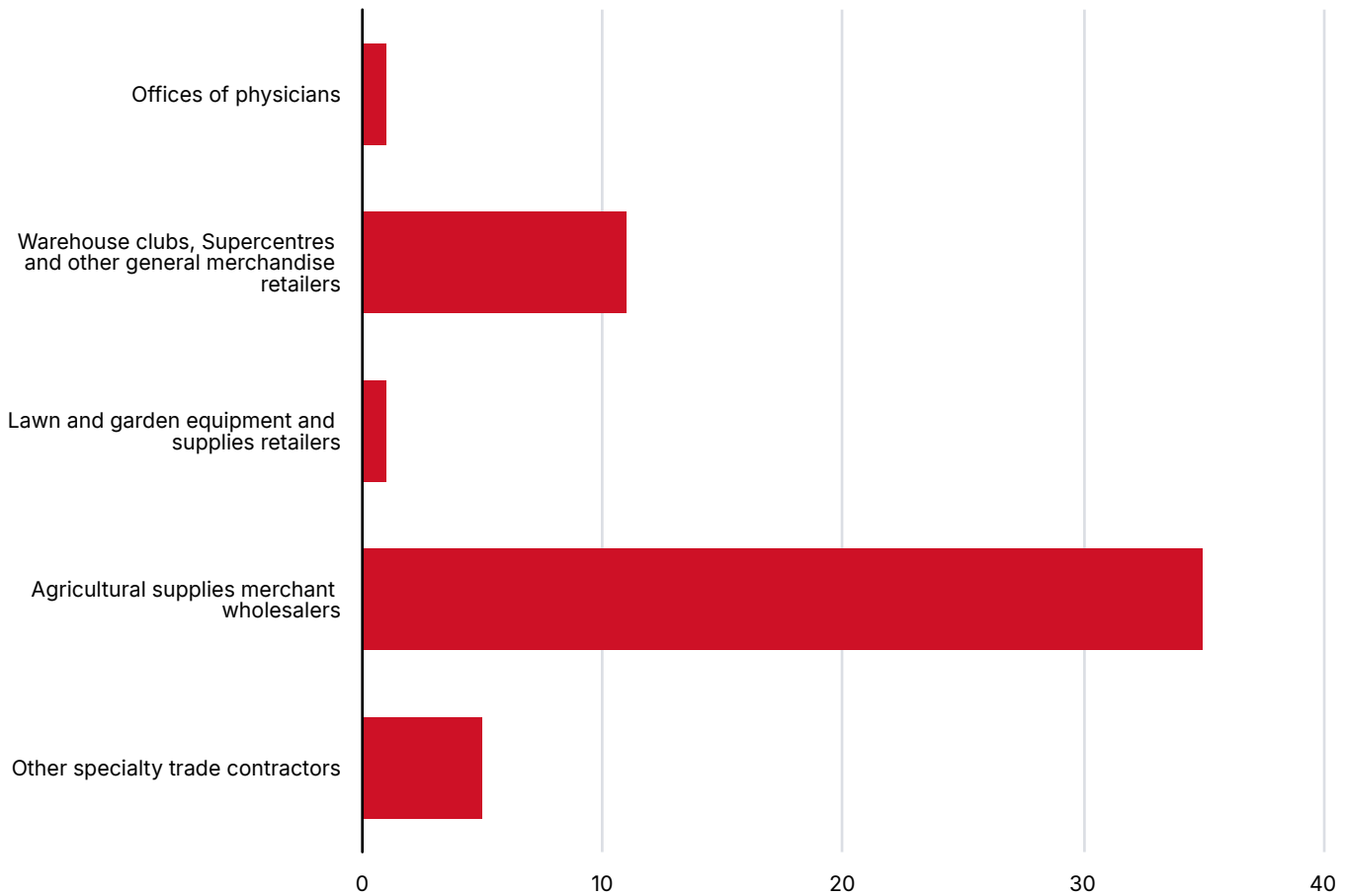


Figure 13.1: Shows industries where employment has decreased the most over the selected time period. It helps identify parts of the local economy that are losing jobs. (Vermilion, 2025)⁴

Largest Industries

Community colleges are Vermilion’s biggest employer with 370 jobs, though employment fell 7.7% last year; specialty hospitals saw the strongest growth, rising 75% to 350 jobs in 2025.

Vermilion’s employment profile in 2025 is led by a small set of industries, with education and health-related services standing out alongside several trade, manufacturing, and resource-linked activities. The largest employer in the dataset is community colleges and C.E.G.E.P.s, which accounts for 370 jobs. Health care is also prominent, with specialty hospitals at 350 jobs and out-patient care centres at 200. Among other sizable employers are full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places at 164, farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment merchant wholesalers at 109, and depository credit intermediation at 82. Recent change is mixed. Support

activities for mining, and oil and gas extraction rose by 46.3% over one year to 79 jobs, while specialty hospitals increased by 75% to 350. By contrast, community colleges and C.E.G.E.P.s declined 7.7%, automobile dealers fell 26.4%, and boiler, tank and shipping container manufacturing dropped 47.3%. The pattern suggests a local economy with concentrated employment in education, health care, and selected service and industrial branches, while short-term changes vary sharply across industries.

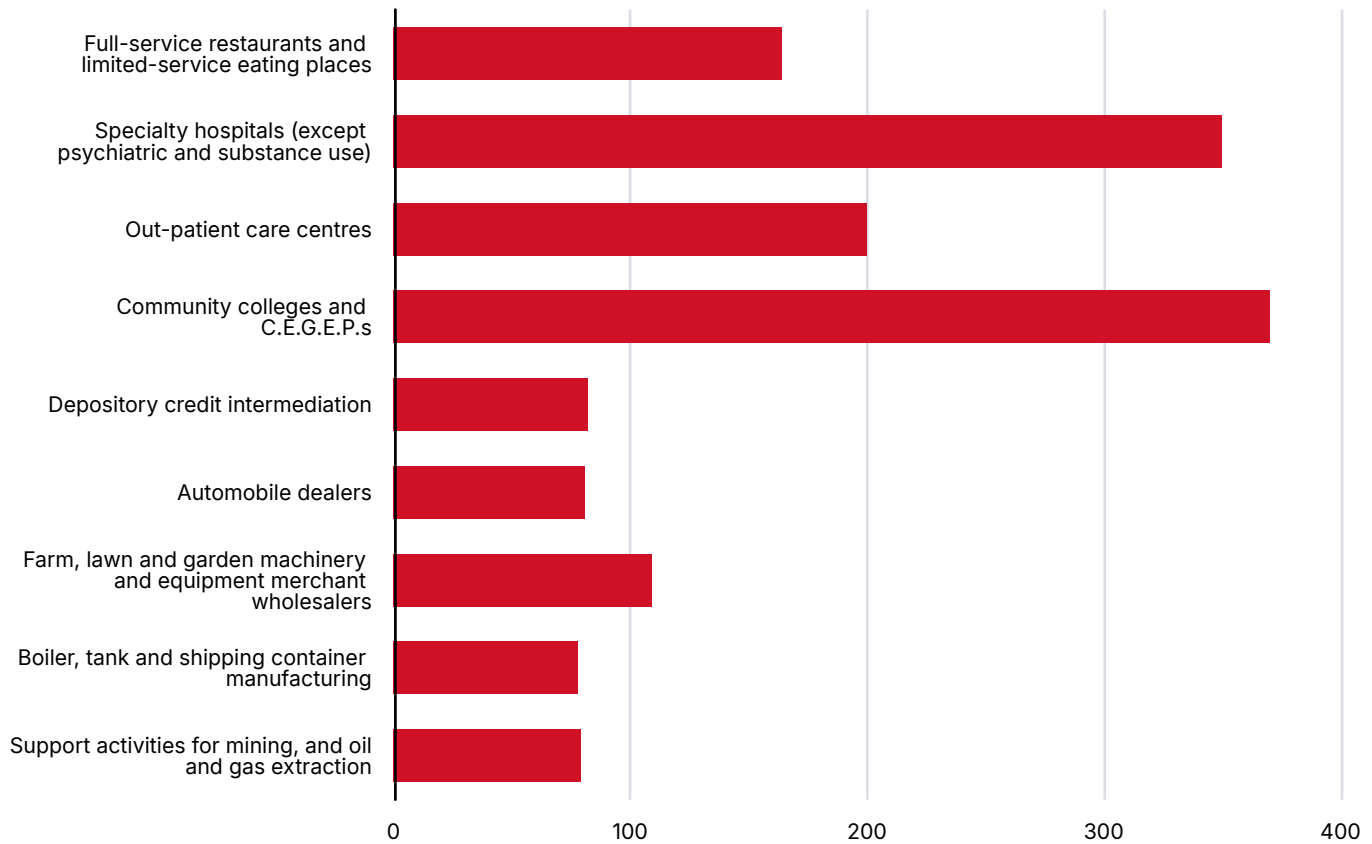


Figure 14.1: Shows the industries with the highest employment. It helps identify the biggest sources of jobs in the local economy. (Vermilion, 2025)⁴

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Business Register. Published in Jun 1, 2025.
2. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.
3. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Employment Location Quotient by Industry Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.
4. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Employment by Industry Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.
5. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Statistics Canada, Census Profile; Localintel, Labour Market Gap Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.
6. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Micro Establishments Share of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.

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