

VERMILION

Mobility & Commuting Report

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Executive Summary

Vermilion in 2021 appears as a settled small-town labour market with strong residential continuity and a largely local pattern of work and commuting. Most residents had lived in the town one year earlier, and over a five-year horizon the largest group was again made up of people who had remained in the same place. Mobility was present, but it was modest beside this stable core and was weighted more toward movement within Alberta than toward arrivals from elsewhere in Canada or abroad. External and interprovincial migration were both comparatively small and had declined over time, leaving a picture of a community shaped more by continuity and nearby movement than by broad long-distance turnover.

That same local orientation carries through to employment and travel patterns, though with some noticeable shifts in how work is organized. Most employed residents still worked at a usual workplace, but that group had fallen since 2016 while working from home rose sharply and no-fixed-workplace employment also remained part of the mix. Even with that change, commuting continued to centre on work within Vermilion itself, far exceeding flows to other communities or provinces. Travel times were typically short, with by far the largest group reaching work in under 15 minutes, and the daily rhythm of departures remained concentrated in the early morning, especially between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. These patterns suggest a compact commuting environment in which work is still mostly close at hand, even as the traditional workplace model has weakened somewhat.

Commuting in Vermilion also remained overwhelmingly car-based. Driving was the dominant mode by a wide margin, while walking was present but much smaller and public transit was absent. Other modes accounted for only limited shares of the overall pattern. Although several commute and workplace measures declined over the five years, the broad structure of daily movement stayed consistent: short trips, local destinations, and a workforce still anchored in town, but with a clearer shift toward more flexible work arrangements. The overall picture is of a community with a stable resident base, limited short-term churn, and an employment geography that remains local even as work habits have become somewhat more varied.

Place of Work Status

Vermilion’s main workforce still centres on a usual workplace with 1,335 people, though that fell 18.6% since 2016; remote workers rose to 210 (+75%), and those working outside Canada dropped to zero (-100%).

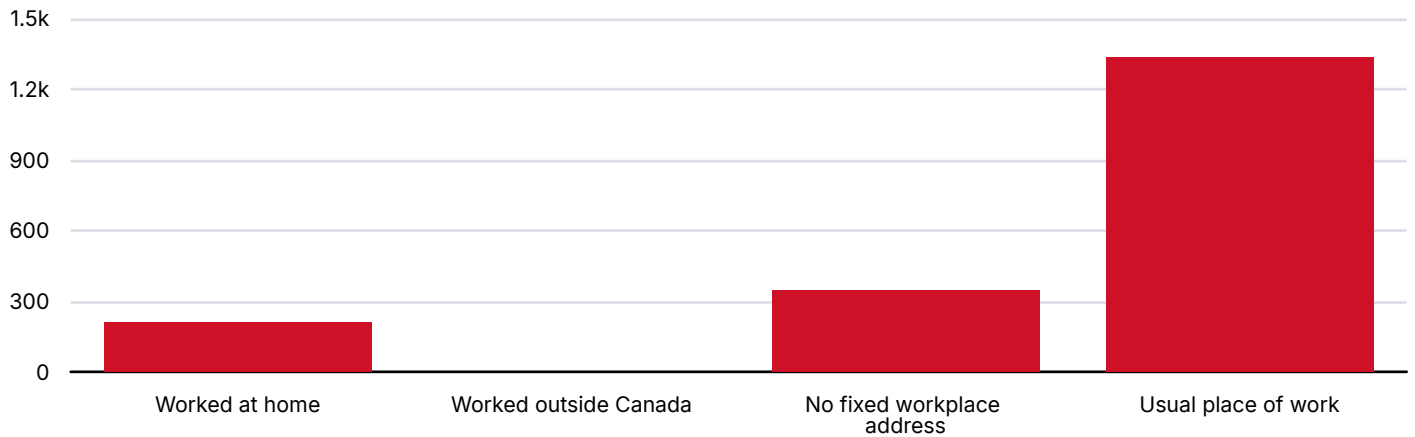


Figure 1.1: Shows whether people work from home, at a usual workplace, or at no fixed workplace. It helps indicate how work is organized across locations. (Vermilion, 2021)¹

In Vermilion, place of work in 2021 was concentrated in the usual workplace category, but the local pattern also included a notable share of home-based and no-fixed-location work. The picture is measured within the employed labour force aged 15 years and over. Usual place of work accounted for 1,335 people, compared with 345 with no fixed workplace address and 210 who worked at home. Only 0 people worked outside Canada. Over five years, home-based work rose 75, no fixed workplace increased 4.5, while usual workplace fell 18.6 and work outside Canada declined 100. The main shift is away from the usual workplace toward more flexible work arrangements.



In Vermilion, most employed residents aged 15 and over worked at a usual workplace in 2021, but work was spread across several arrangements. The town recorded 1,335 people at a usual workplace, 345 with no fixed workplace address, and 210 working at home. Over five years, usual workplace employment fell 18.6%, while home-based work rose 75%.

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

Lived Here 1 Year Ago

Most residents stayed put, with non-movers at 3,320 in 2021, up 3.9% since 2016, while external migrants dropped to just 10 people, an 83% decline. This shows low short-term churn.

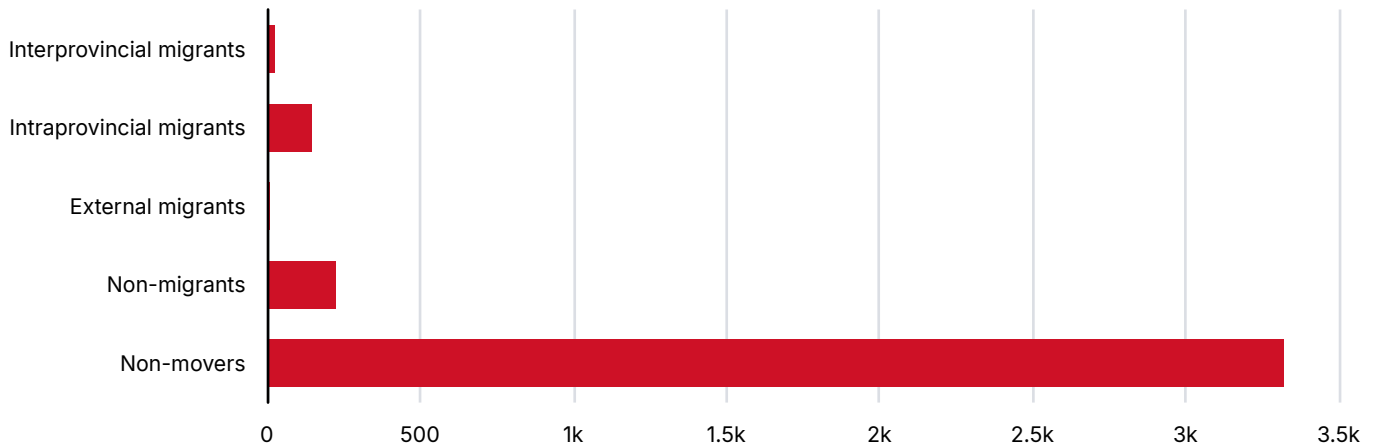
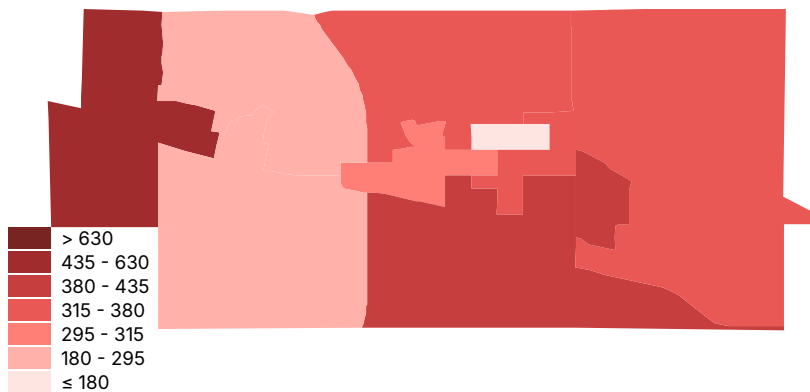


Figure 2.1: Shows where residents lived one year ago compared with their current location. It helps indicate recent mobility and short-term population churn. (Vermilion, 2021)¹

In Vermilion, most residents in 2021 were non-movers, with 3,320 people living in the town both then and one year earlier. Among those who had moved, intraprovincial migrants made up the largest group at 145 people, while non-migrants numbered 225, interprovincial migrants 25, and external migrants 10. The 5-year change points to different recent patterns: non-movers were up 3.9%, while non-migrants fell 49.4%, external migrants fell 83.3%, intraprovincial migrants dipped 3.3%, and interprovincial migrants declined 37.5%. The mix suggests limited short-term churn outside the core stable population.



In Vermilion, most residents in 2021 were still living in the town one year earlier, with 3,320 non-movers in the total population. Recent movement was smaller by comparison. The town recorded 225 non-migrants, 145 intraprovincial migrants, 25 interprovincial migrants, and 10 external migrants. Across the local area, non-movers ranged from 180 to 630 people in the dissemination areas, showing uneven residential stability. The pattern suggests a population with a strong settled core and modest short-term turnover, especially within Alberta.

Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Mobility Status - Non-movers (Vermilion)¹

Lived Here 5 Years Ago

Vermilion’s resident base grew mainly because long-term stayers rose to 2,310 people, a 9.2% increase, while external migrants fell sharply to 90 people, dropping 43.8% over five years.

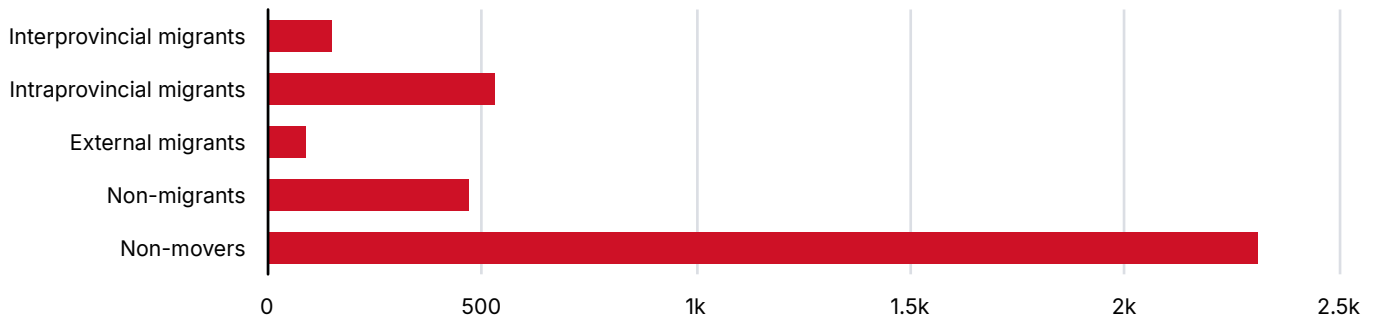


Figure 3.1: Shows where residents lived five years ago compared with their current location. It helps indicate longer-term mobility and migration patterns. (Vermilion, 2021)¹

In Vermilion, the 2021 census shows a population with a fairly stable five-year residence pattern, but mobility was still present. Non-movers were the largest group at 2,310 people, up 9.2% from five years earlier. Intraprovincial migrants numbered 530, rising 23.3%, while non-migrants were 470, down 38.2%. Interprovincial migrants accounted for 150 people, a 36.2% decline, and external migrants totalled 90, down 43.8%. The mix points to stronger movement within Alberta than from outside it.

Vermilion’s five-year mobility profile shows a population that is more rooted than mobile, while still drawing a notable share of newcomers from within Alberta. In 2021, 2,310 residents had lived in the same place five years earlier, compared with 530 intraprovincial migrants, 150 interprovincial migrants, 470 non-migrants, and 90 external migrants. The strongest recent change is in local continuity: non-movers rose 9.2% over five years, and intraprovincial migrants increased 23.3%. By contrast, non-migrants fell 38.2%, interprovincial migrants declined 36.2%, and external migrants dropped 43.8%. This mix suggests stability with some provincial-level inflow, rather than broad long-distance turnover.

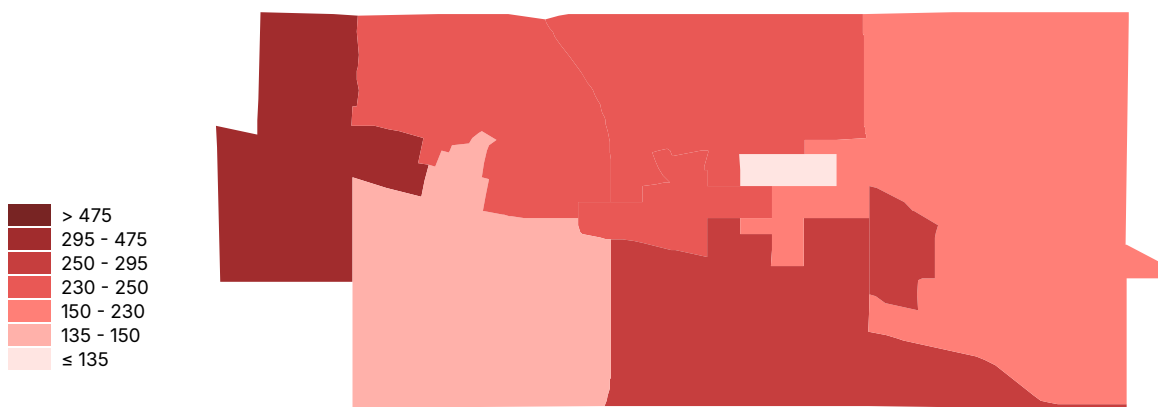


Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Mobility Status - Non-movers (Vermilion)¹

Commute Destination

Most Vermilion workers still commute within the town, but that group fell 19.7% to 1,100 people, while those traveling to another province grew 50% to 15 workers.

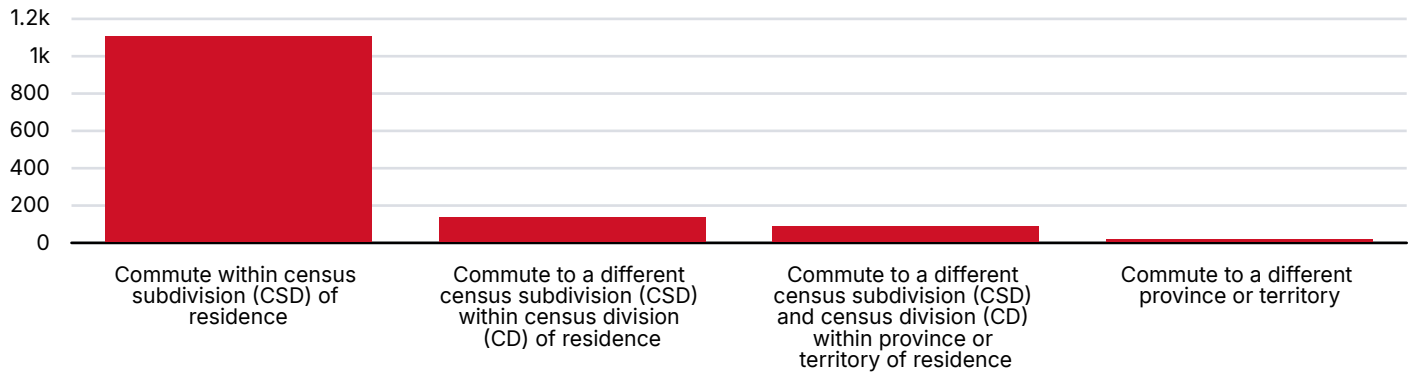


Figure 4.1: Shows where residents travel for work. It helps indicate whether the area functions mainly as a self-contained labour market or as part of a wider commuting region. (Vermilion, 2021)¹

In 2021, Vermilion's commuting pattern was led by work within the town itself, with 1,100 residents commuting within the census subdivision of residence. Smaller numbers travelled farther: 130 commuted to another census subdivision within the same census division, 85 worked in a different census subdivision and census division elsewhere in the province or territory, and 15 crossed into another province or territory. The local pattern still centred on nearby work, but the longer-distance flows showed some outward commuting ties.

Vermilion's commute destination pattern suggests a largely local labour market in 2021, with most employed residents working within the census subdivision of residence. About 1,100 people commuted locally, compared with 130 who worked in another census subdivision in the same census division, 85 who travelled elsewhere in the province, and 15 who crossed a provincial boundary. The local commute base was still far larger than any outside flow, even as some longer-distance commuting grew over five years. This mix points to a community where nearby work remains dominant, while a smaller share connects to broader regional job markets.

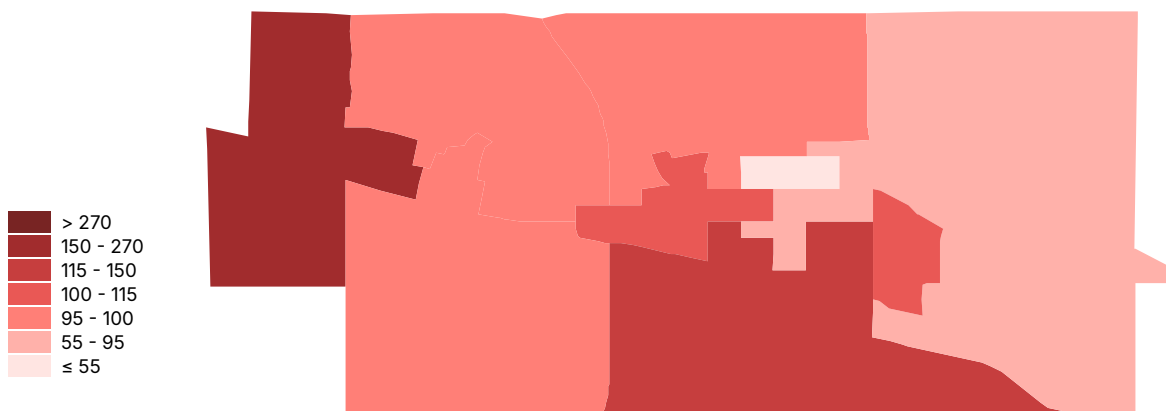


Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Commuting Destination - Commute within census subdivision (CSD) of residence (Vermilion)¹

Time Leaving for Work

Vermilion’s busiest commute window remains 7 a.m.–7:59 a.m., with 585 workers in 2021, a modest 2.5% drop since 2016; the 6 a.m.–6:59 a.m. slot fell sharply to 205, down 43.1%.

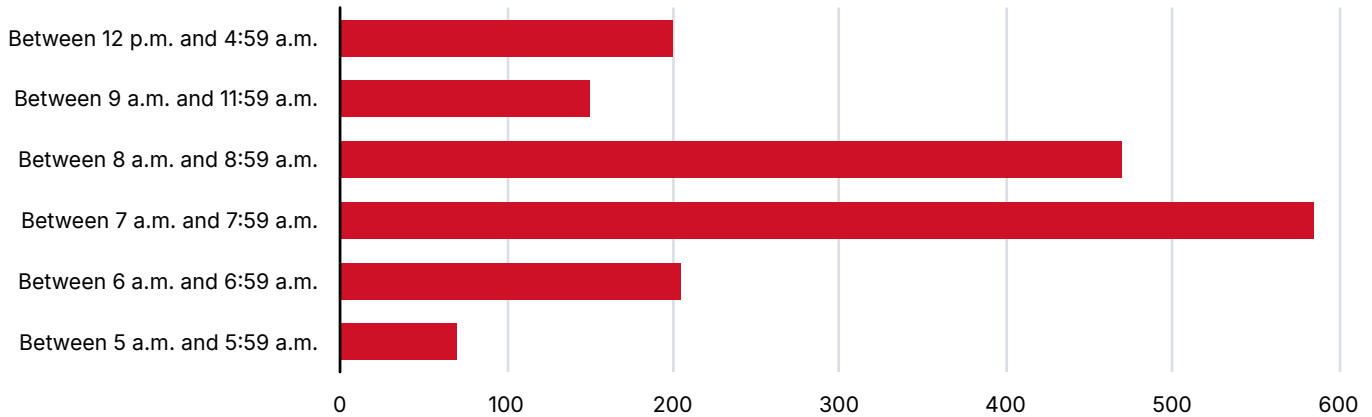


Figure 5.1: Shows the time of day residents usually leave for work. It helps indicate commuting patterns and peak travel demand. (Vermilion, 2021)¹

Vermilion’s work-leaving pattern in 2021 was concentrated in the morning, with the largest group leaving between 7 a.m. and 7:59 a.m. at 585 people. Another 470 left between 8 a.m. and 8:59 a.m., while 205 departed between 6 a.m. and 6:59 a.m. Later departures were smaller, including 150 people from 9 a.m. to 11:59 a.m. and 70 before 6 a.m. The 5-year change was mixed, with the 8 a.m. hour up 8.1% but 6 a.m. departures down 43.1%.

In Vermilion, most employed residents leave for work in the morning, with the main peak between 7 a.m. and 7:59 a.m. when 585 people depart. Another 470 leave between 8 a.m. and 8:59 a.m., while 205 start between 6 a.m. and 6:59 a.m. Later departures are smaller, with 150 between 9 a.m. and 11:59 a.m. and 200 between noon and 4:59 p.m. The pattern suggests a concentrated morning commute.

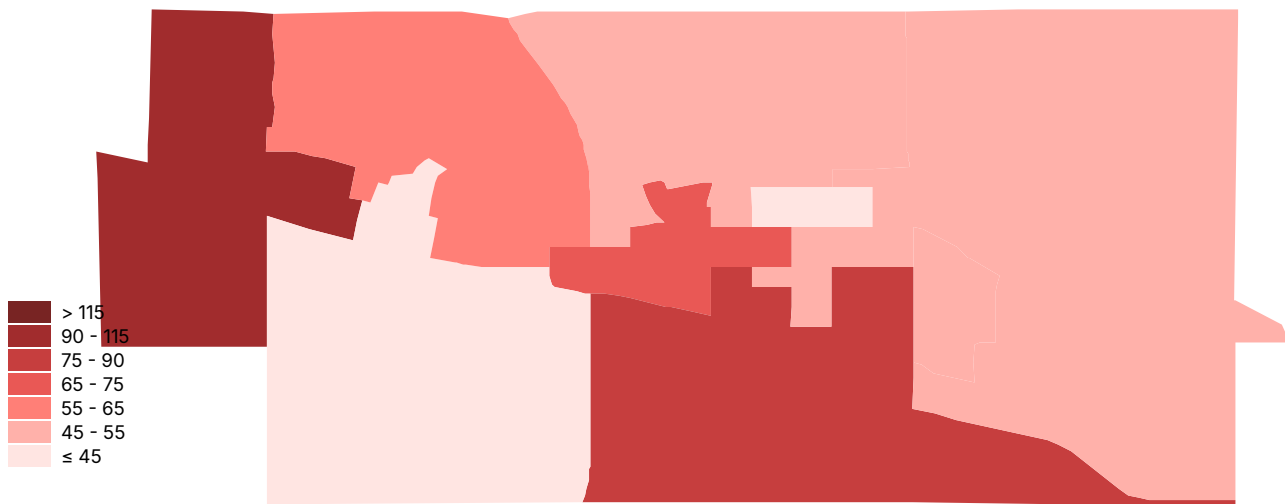


Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Time Leaving Work - Between 7 a.m. and 7:59 a.m. (Vermilion)¹

Commute Duration

Vermilion’s biggest commuter group remains those traveling under 15 minutes, now 1,225 people—a 14.6% drop since 2016; the longest-distance commuters fell sharply to 50 people, a 37.5% decline.

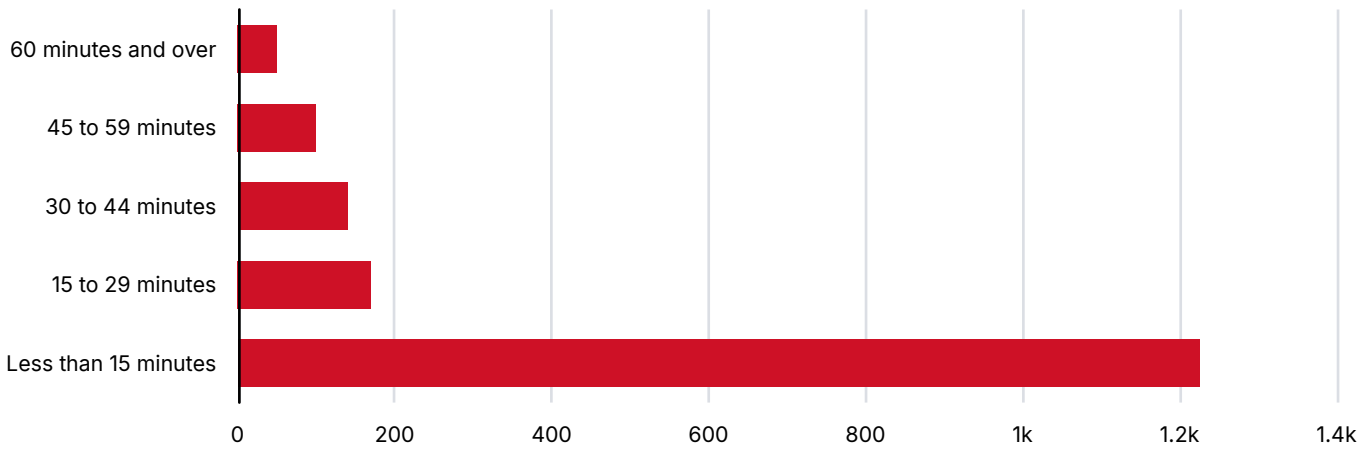


Figure 6.1: Shows how long residents typically spend travelling to work. It helps indicate commuting burden and jobs-housing balance. (Vermilion, 2021)¹

In Vermilion, commute duration in 2021 was concentrated in the shortest travel times, with most workers spending less than 15 minutes getting to work. Longer commutes were less common, suggesting a relatively compact commuting pattern within the employed labour force aged 15 and over with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address. There were 1,225 people in the under-15-minute category, compared with 170 for 15 to 29 minutes, 140 for 30 to 44 minutes, 100 for 45 to 59 minutes, and 50 for 60 minutes and over. Over five years, every category declined, including a 37.5% drop in the longest commutes.

In Vermilion, commute duration is concentrated in shorter trips among employed residents aged 15 and over. In 2021, 1,225 people usually travelled less than 15 minutes to work, far more than any other category. The next largest groups were 15 to 29 minutes at 170 people, 30 to 44 minutes at 140, and 45 to 59 minutes at 100. Only 50 people reported commutes of 60 minutes or more, and that category was down 37.5% over five years.



Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Commuting Duration - Less than 15 minutes (Vermilion)¹

Main Mode of Commuting

Driving remains the main commute mode in Vermilion, though it fell 4.6% to 1,445 drivers in 2021; passenger driving dropped 55.6% to 60, and public transit use fell to zero.

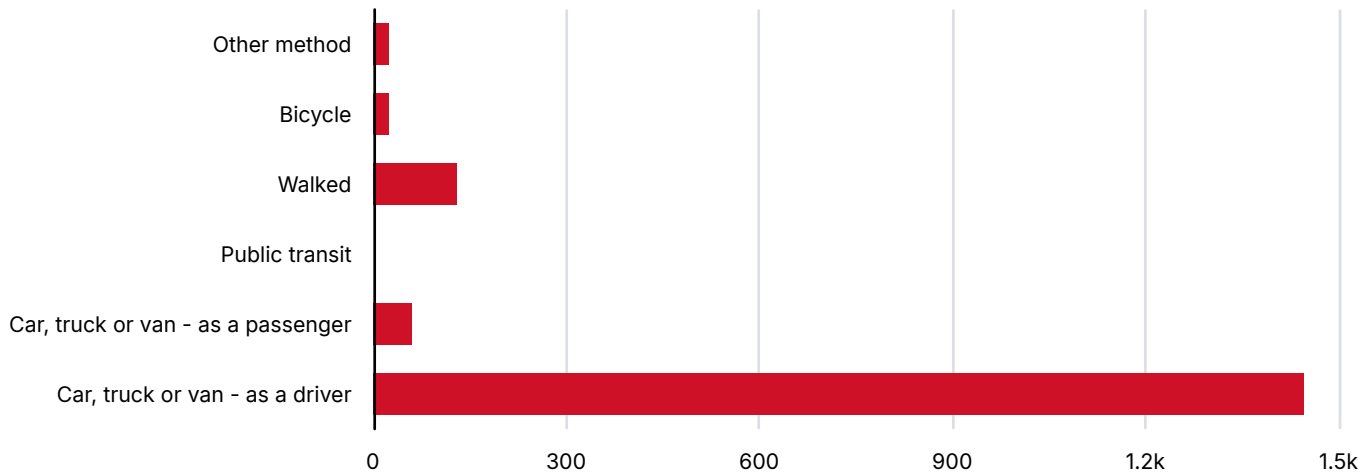
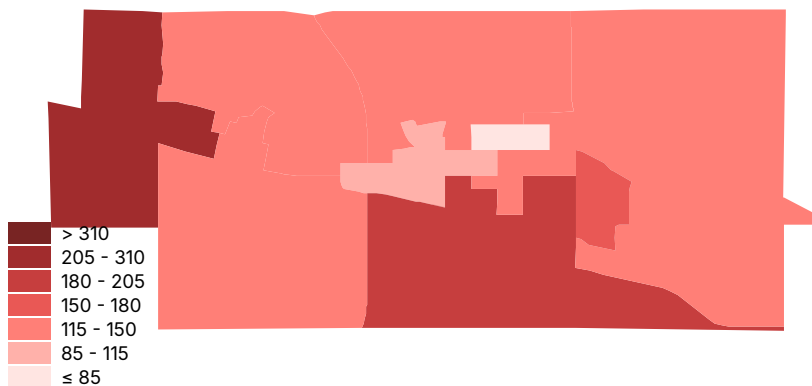


Figure 7.1: Shows the main mode residents use to get to work. It helps indicate dependence on driving, transit, walking, cycling, or other travel modes. (Vermilion, 2021)¹

In Vermilion, the main mode of commuting in 2021 was overwhelmingly by car, truck or van as a driver, with 1,445 people using that method. Walking was a distant second at 130, while car or truck as a passenger accounted for 60. Bicycle and other methods were each used by 25 people, and public transit recorded none. Over the previous five years, every mode shown declined, with transit falling to zero and passenger commuting dropping the most sharply. This points to a narrower commuting profile in 2021 than five years earlier.



In 2021, commuting in Vermilion was dominated by driving. Among the employed labour force aged 15 and over with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address, 1,445 people drove a car, truck or van as their main mode. Walking was the next most common option at 130 people, followed by 60 passengers, 25 cyclists, 25 using other methods, and no public transit commuters. The pattern points to a strongly car-based commuting profile. Secondary modes are present, but far smaller.

Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Commuting Mode - Car, truck or van - as a driver (Vermilion)¹

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.

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